

about it, said Mr. Savage, for our English gentlemen of the hill have revealed to them the whole mystery. Mr. Dupleix answered that nothing had been told them. Pardon me, replied Mr. Savage. I was present when some of our gentlemen took Mr. Morse to task for this matter. They blamed him for the way in which he had practised upon them, but (added) that he would not take advantage of it, since they had revenged themselves by the exposé they had made of all his secret manoeuvres to the gentlemen of the Pondicherry Council then at Madras. I am surprised, he continued, that so public a matter and which has been in the mouths of so many malcontents, is not known to you in all its circumstances; you know the public treaty of the eleven lacs; the secret article was that we were to give privately to Mr. La Bourdonnais one lac down, to save the town from pillage and secure private property from aggression.

"Did he receive the whole lac?" asked Mr. Dupleix.

"No, but to my knowledge he received in gold and silver as well as in diamonds eighty-five to ninety thousand pagodas, and if he had but waited a day longer the whole sum would have been paid."

"From whom was the sum levied? From the English residents? Were the Malabars made to contribute? I have not been able to clear up this point, but they complain loudly. And as to the Armenians what was extracted from them before they were let loose from prison?"

"I do not believe that till then anything had been got out of them, but if the town had remained in our possession, they would have been compelled to do as the others did."

"Who were those malcontents who cried out so much against Mr. Morse and his Council?"

"They were Messrs. Fawkes Junior and many others, because after contributing to the payment of this lac with their most clear and portable property, they saw by the way matters were going that their goods were going to be confiscated, nothing less than that. Don't ask me more about it, he continued, you will see all these underhand dealings in the English public papers next year; there have been so many complaints that they cannot fail to be noised about in Europe. I wish that all that has passed at Madras could be forgotten, I can only think of it with abhorrence."

"I asked him how many boxes of piastres there were in the Treasury the day when the town was taken."

"I cannot recollect the exact number, he said. But, Sir, I answered him by the minute of the deliberations, which is in your handwriting, there were in the last days of August eighteen boxes. This record goes as far as the sixth or seventh of September. Your . . . and no mention is made in it that piastres had been taken out of the Treasury. I have noticed in all this record that as soon as they were drawn, and even before, you did not fail to make an entry of it."