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APPENDICES

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WHEN I was in Pondicherry a learned French lawyer, who took most patriotic interest in the history of his countrymen in India, told me that there was in the archives some important evidence as to La Bourdonnais having taken a bribe. He also, with the characteristic generosity of his race, gave me the following authenticated copy of the document. The translation was made by Mr. Markheim, Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, whose death deprived that University of one of her brilliant sons.

"21 August, 1747. This day, twenty-first of August 1747, at four o'clock in the afternoon, I was summoned by Mr. Duplex to act as interpreter between him and Mr. Savage, formerly Councillor at Madras and now ready to leave on parole for Ceylon. Mr. Savage asked me to make his best thanks to the Governour for all the civilities which he had received from him, and on his own part to assure him of his everlasting gratitude. The Governour, after making response to this compliment, requested him as a proof of friendship to tell him how much Mr. Morse and the Madras Council had given privately to Mr. de La Bourdonnais, and to declare to him there and then, in a friendly way, and in secrecy, how the business had been done. Mr. Savage, very much surpris'd by this unexpected request, appeared to hesitate in his answer. I consented, he said, to all that was done, and I signed. What will Mr. Duplex think of me if I myself reveal operations at which I should be the first to blush. Never mind, replied Mr. Duplex, anybody would have done the same in your place; you did your best to extricate yourself, and to get out of the hands of the victor whose overtures you were obliged to accept, however inconsistent they might appear to you with straightforwardness and with your honourable sentiments which are known to me.

"This answer cleverly given reassured Mr. Savage. After several long-winded compliments he required of Mr. Duplex his word of honour that he would not mention the matter and made the same request of me. Mr. Duplex insinuated that he did not ask him the question with intent to use his name, but simply and solely, in order to get a clue; that he knew already a great deal, but in a confused way, and without being positively surc.

"Your Madras Council must have already written to you fully