

ransom of Madras. He also gave me an authentic copy of the document, a translation of which is printed in the Appendix.

During one of my visits to Pondicherry, General Macleod, R.A., the Consular Agent, informed me that Ranga Pillai, the chief broker who transacted business with the natives for the Pondicherry Government, and was on intimate terms with Duplex and his wife, had left a most important diary. In 1892 General Macleod and myself brought to the notice of the Madras Government the existence of the diary, and it was suggested that the matter which it contained was of such interest and value that it was highly desirable that a copy of it should be obtained, and a translation made of this and published. The Madras Government, which was then presided over by Lord Wenlock, readily adopted the suggestion, and after considerable research the undoubted originals of volumes i. and ii. and the last volume were discovered. They have been transcribed, and five volumes of translation published. This diary, from which I have often quoted, is of considerable historical value.

The work begun by me at Pondicherry was continued at Paris, and I desire to tender the expression of my gratitude to the French officials for their constant kindness and assistance. I am also deeply grateful to French Ministers for the indulgence accorded me to copy a certain number of documents. The limit of space has allowed me to print only two of them in the Appendix.

During a term of special duty in England, I was employed in examining and summarising the State Papers relating to Clive and the epoch covered by his career in India, kept in the Archives of the India Office. A large number of most important original documents—some of them extracts from the Orme Manuscripts—were copied and forwarded to me when I returned to India. My intention was to use them to illustrate the Introduction to a selection of State Papers dealing with Clive. But, before I could mould the Introduction into form, General Sir George Chesney, K.C.B., at that time Military Member of the Government of India, re-