

Records of Fort St George

DIARY

AND

CONSULTATION BOOK

OF

1703

WITH INTRODUCTION

BY

J. J. COTTON, M.A., I.C.S.

*Curator, Madras Record Office*

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MADRAS

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS

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## INTRODUCTION.

"Give to my brave  
Employers of the East India Company  
The last remembrance of my faithful service".

*Dryden, The Tragedy of Amboyna.*—

In this Volume are reprinted the Diary and Consultation Book of the President and Council of Fort St. George for the year 1703. It was the fifth year of the Governorship of Thomas Pitt, known both then and afterwards as the Great President, and celebrated through his descendants. He had just beaten off Daud Khan, Nawab of the Carnatic, and in spite of his blockade of Madras had managed during it to send home in the care of his son Robert the famous Pitt diamond. In the Consultation for 13th May the late troubles are delicately alluded to as "the time of the hurry when Dowed Cawn was here."

The principal historical events of the year are the Warr and the Union. The former was the War of the Spanish Succession so well sketched by Macaulay in his essay reviewing Lord Mahon's history of that great struggle; and the Union was the amalgamation of the two rival East India Companies, the Old and the New. On the 28th of June news was received of Sir George Rooke's capture of the Spanish galleons at Vigo Bay and the event was duly celebrated on the 30th by a treat at the Garden where the Queen's and the Right Honourable Company's health were drunk with Great Guns and other tokens of rejoicing. The last event to be so commemorated had been the death of King William and the accession of Queen Anne on the 17th of September 1702 when 101 cannon were discharged with many "hussaws" and all Europeans of "fashing" were invited to the Company's Bowling Garden where they drank the Queen's health and prosperity to Old England. It was after the late King that Fort William in Calcutta takes its name.

In many of his proceedings Governor Pitt gives us a taste of his quality. The Dewan's Peons who had tied leaves in the Company's towns (which was the customary formula for taking possession) after being kept in irons in the Fort were released on the ground that being servants they had only obeyed their master's order but were warned that if they ever repeated the offence they must certainly lose their heads. Similarly Pitt and his Council took it on themselves to open the Packet directed to Bombay which had come by the ship Howland and extract the letters addressed to Fort St. George and Bengal which they found inside. The translate of the President's letter to the Foujdar of Tripassore on page 82 shows his defiance of any aggression, and in the same way when the Governor of San Thomé had detained some people who had gone to the festival, the Free Guard Company were turned out to be in readiness to march there to fetch them if they were not delivered back. In his dealings with the Country Powers Pitt always showed himself a master of men, and Salmon his contemporary who had known him in Madras writes, "I still see the Governor, methinks, coming upon parade and haranguing the troops in their respective languages before they embarked, in such terms as induced the soldiers to express the utmost contempt of the danger they are entering upon and seemed to foretell the success they afterwards obtained." Had a man of his kidney commanded Madras when it was attacked by Labourdonnais, there would have been no surrender and the keys of the Fort would not have found their way to Pondicherry.

There are incidental references in these pages to persons of interest. Nicolao Manucci is mentioned on pages 1 and 16 and his Garden is prominently figured in the plan of the City of Madras which was made by Pitt's orders. Thomas Pitt's cousin John, President for the New Company at Masulipatam, is the subject of severe remarks which cease however on his death at Durumpaut "from a fitt of Apoplex" in March. Nor did Pitt's animosity to John prevent him giving his son George Morton Pitt a seat in Parliament for Old Sarum and using his influence to appoint him Deputy Governor of Fort St. David in 1723

from which position he rose in 1730 to be Governor of Fort St. George. The Patriarch (page 84) who visited Pondicherry on his way to China and from there sent a present of "jocollet"\* to the Governor was Cardinal de Tournon. Pitt accepted the chocolate but declined to let Padre Michel Ange go to Pondicherry; the result of which was an interdict in the following year which however had very little effect on the masterful Governor. Another reference to the French is found in the visit of the "Second of Pollicherry", Mons. de Chalonge, to St. Thomas's Mount and thence to Mons. Chardin's Garden, he being ill of consumption from which he died five days later. This is the same "French Second" who was too sick to go to the Nabob Daud Khan in the Consultation for February 14, 1702. A memorable event is recorded on December 13 when the grandson of the Naick who had granted the first cowle to the Company came to pay the Governor a visit and received a present of 5 yards of scarlet, 2 swords, gold chains, pagodas 110 and one prospective glass. His son "Vencatty Putty Naigue" visited Governor Elwick in 1724.

The Company having no plate for their general table except what was battered and worn, melted down the old pieces and bought the set of plate which the President had brought out with him. One of the items is a Monteth or scalloped basin for cooling glasses. Wood's Life (1683) says, "This year came up a vessel or Bason notched at the brims to let drinking glasses hang there by the foot so that the body or drinking place might hang in the water to cool them. Such a bason was called a Monteigh from a fantastical Scot called Monsieur Monteigh who at that time or a little before wore the bottome of his cloake or coate so notched." There is no allusion in this volume to diamonds but a curious reference occurs to hats; "the Company having sent out some hatts for souldiers for which there is little or no use here, resolved the same be sold at outery for the most they can get, they being a perishable commodity". They must have been common articles, unlike the Scarlet Coats and Beaver Hats which had been provided to the Portuguez and English officers in the previous year as a gratuity for their readiness to serve the Garrison. Charles Lockyer in his account of the Trade in India (1711) talks of the St. Georgeans as being cloth'd in red, so that the European garrison must have made a brave show.

A curious incident is reported on April 28th of a scandalous paper dropped in the Town objecting to the collection of money for the Black Town Wall. The petition is entered in full in that day's proceedings and will strike the reader as a very capable representation of the grievances of the townspeople, written by some European and addressed not to the Governor but to Francis Ellis Esquire and Council of Fort St. George. Trouble was also experienced in realising the debt due from the Joint Stock merchants and it is observed when one side put in their answer to the other's petition that "both one and the other being stuff so full of lyes, it is very difficult to tell who is in the right". These Chetties were so obstructive that six of them were "confined to the Browne Godowne," which must have been a sort of Black Hole, for after four months one of them died there, the Council refusing permission for his body to be burned till they got security for the debt. Possibly the greatest sensation of the year is the narrative of the taking of the frigate Pembroke, George Weoley, master, by Pirates at Mayotta on the 10th of March 1703. This will be found on pages 38 to 40 and Mr. Weoley who was detained by the Pirates to serve them as pilot escaped and is found again on page 88. Mayotta is one of the Comoro islands.

Among the articles included in the Paymaster's Account is a new item of black stone which occurs three times and reappears in an order for black stone

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\* In 1705 the Rev. Philip Hickeringill says in his Priestcraft, "Bless the Mahometan Coffee and the Popish Spanish Chocolate." The ecclesiastical fondness for this beverage appears at a very early date. President Methwold and Council at Surat writing to the Factors at Ahmedabad, Feb. 20, 1636, speak of certain packs sent by the caravan for transmission to the Padres at Agra, containing books, church ornaments, wine, strong waters, physic, and "one tynne pott sowd upp in gunny, which containeth a composition which they call chuculatta." In 1636 chocolate was unknown to Englishmen except by repute. Pepys Diary, 24th Nov. 1664, notes, "To a coffee-house to drink jocolatte. very good." Talboys Wheeler misread the word in the Consultation of Nov. 22, 1703, as jocola, and hence Hobson-Jobson (first edition) queries "Jocola. We know not what this word is, perhaps "toys'."

for the Bengall House and Chapell which was eventually loaded on board the Colchester. As usual the Consultations contain a number of rare and interesting words, such as 'risgo' for 'risk', on page 40 and 'drums with snaires' on page 11. A snare is the catgut stretched across the lower head of a drum to make it resonant, and the snare drum was the common military drum as distinguished from the bass drum. The strangest domestic occurrence is that of Mr. Adrian Plymour who on June 10 paid 56 pagodas into the Company's cash for his wife's passage from England, a soldier having "listed" in England and proved to be a female with whom he lived on board and married at Fort St. George on June 5. Several deaths are recorded in this volume: Mr. Thomas Mathews, Junior Merchant on employ at the Sea Gate, May 6; Captain or Lieut. John Wyatt, July 14; Mr. John Pitt, May 8 at Durampaut who was succeeded by Mr. William Tillard; Surgeon Royer whose death at Fort St. David is advised on August 30 and Mr. Charles Atkins ordered in his place; and lastly Mr. John Haynes whose death at Fort St. David is reported on December 24. "God make us mindfull of our own mortallity" as the Company's Servants of Hoogly say in their Factory Records under date September 27, 1679.

There are no tombstones of 1703 extant. The Registers of St. Mary's Church in the Fort record 19 burials, 15 marriages and 17 christenings as follow:

*Burials: 1702-3:*

- January 14. Thomas Wright, buried by James Wendey.
- January 22. Henry Burton, infant, buried by George Lewis.
- January 24. John Brown, buried by James Wendey.
- January 25. Philip Weston, buried by James Wendey.
- February 3. Elizabeth Wheeler, buried by George Lewis.
- February 19. William Mackqueen, buried by George Lewis.
- February 22. John Dory, buried by James Wendey.
- February 26. Maud Fleetwood, buried by James Wendey.
- March 14. John Wesendonck, buried by George Lewis.
- March 25. John Watts, buried by George Lewis.
- May 2. Jacob de Banc, infant, buried by George Lewis.
- May 7. Thomas Matthews, buried by George Lewis.
- June 12. Violante Stephenson alias Wesendonk, buried by George Lewis.
- July 10. Rachel Mary Magdalen Gray, buried by James Wendey.
- July 22. John Wyatt, Lieutenant, buried by James Wendey.
- November 27. Mary Ratcliffe, buried by James Wendey.
- December 15. William Fleetwood, buried by James Wendey.
- December 23. Daniel Wiseman, buried by George Lewis.
- December 30. William Veres, buried by George Lewis.

*Marriages: 1702-3.*

- January 18. Peter Lilly & Ann George, married by George Lewis.
- February 2. John Bouchier & Mary Strangeways, married by George Lewis.

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- February 9. John Meverell & Elizabeth Stilgoe, married by James Wendey.
- April 2. Samuel Wood & Mary Turian, married by James Wendey.
- June 2. Thomas Curgenwin & Rachell Dobyms, married by George Lewis.
- June 5. Adrian Playmer & Anne Daccour, married by George Lewis.
- June 22. John Alston & Hannah Akid, married by James Wendey.
- July 12. Andrew Gatts & Margaret Alleyn, married by George Lewis.
- July 27. Josiah Lafraila & Anna d'Rosario, married by George Lewis.
- August 13. Ralph Ottey & Mary Gressam, married by George Lewis.
- September 20. Joseph Jones & Maria Alnes, married by George Lewis.
- November 17. John Pigrum & Eleanor Preston, married by James Wendey.
- November 25. John Thomas & Catherine Benson, married by James Wendey.
- December 9. Richard Gulliver & Mary Allairi, married by James Wendey.
- December 14. Nicholas Isaac & Ann Cornelle, married by George Lewis.

*Christenings:*

- January 14. William son of William and Lucy Mayhew; Baptiz'd by James Wendey; Charles Alleyn & Robert Atkinson, godfathers; Elizabeth Dobyms, godmother.
- January 14. John son of William and Antonia Forder; baptiz'd by James Wendey; George Harris and George Kimball, godfathers; Eleanor Voy, godmother.
- January 19. Thomas son of Henry and Elizabeth Harnett; baptiz'd by George Lewis; Henry Sinclare and John Wyatt, godfathers; Sarah Haddock, godmother.
- January 29. Frances daughter of Henry and Ann Griffith; baptiz'd by James Wendey; John Affleck, godfather; and Elizabeth Phrip and Jane Dixon, godmothers.
- May 1. Jacob son of Jacob and Anne Bane (De Banc); baptiz'd by George Lewis. (Died and buried the next Day, see Burials).
- May 22. Mary daughter of Edward and Mary Fleetwood; baptiz'd by George Lewis; Matthew Empson, godfather; Ann Griffith and Jane Dixon, godmothers.
- May 26. Ann daughter of Charles and Mary Alleyn; baptiz'd by James Wendey; John Affleck, godfather; Elizabeth Trenchfeild and Frances Proby, godmothers.
- June 2. Abraham son of Caleb and Mary Clark; baptiz'd by George Lewis; Joseph Scotterall and Thos. Gray, godfathers; Susanna Defestro, godmother.
- June 15. George son of George and Lucy Lewis; baptiz'd by George Lewis; George Herron and Thomas Wigmore, godfathers; Mary Magdalen and Elizabeth Brennock, godmothers. (The Chaplain's son; an extra godmother is noticeable.)
- July 12. Ann daughter of Manuel and Elizabeth Meyer; baptiz'd by George Lewis; Isaac George, godfather; Ann George and Ann Lillie, godmothers.
- July 18. Ann daughter of Nathaniel and Domingo Bullfeild; baptiz'd by James Wendey; Henry Lambert, godfather; Ann Turville, godmother.
- July 31. Robert son of Thomas and Frances Wright; baptiz'd by George Lewis; Edward Bulkeley and William How, godfathers; Mary Caryl, godmother.
- August 4. Jane daughter of Charles and Cornelia Bugden; baptiz'd by James Wendey; Matthew Empson, godfather; Jane Dixon and Theophila Heathfeild, godmothers.
- August 9. Sara daughter of Matthew and Dianah Dgees; baptiz'd by George Lewis; Joseph George, godfather; Ann George and Sarah Jacob, godmothers. (The Matthias Dies of page 56).
- September 7. Johanna, daughter of Thomas and Rebecca.....; baptiz'd by George Lewis; John Harvey, godfather; and Evah Grosen and Mary Wood, godmothers (The missing name is certainly Dutton, Thomas Dutton having married Rebecca Thomas, July 23, 1699.)
- November 19. Lucy daughter of Gabriel and Lucy Poirier; baptiz'd by George Lewis; George Herron, godfather; Elizabeth Empson and Lucy Lewis, godmothers.
- November 27. John son of Paulus and Maria Maesman; baptiz'd by James Wendey; Ralph Ottey and Ralph Buckle, godfathers; Violante Plumb, godmother.

The one interesting name in this List is Abraham son of Caleb Clark, who was a grandson of the poet Milton and clerk to St. Mary's Church to which position that of school-master was sometimes added. In the margin of the Register adjoining the entry of the burial of Mary, Caleb's daughter, on December 15, 1716, is this note: "Deborah, third daughter of Milton, the poet, by his

first wife was married to Abraham Clarke, weaver in Spitafields, by whom she had issue the above Caleb Clarke of this Parish ; anno 1717 : born unto him sons and daughters as testified by this Register."

If Milton's descendant represents the old Roundhead stock at Fort St. George, he finds himself in the best Cavalier company with Mr. Theo. Oglethorpe, Writer, who applies on pages 20 to 22 to goe a voyage to China. He neither went the voyage nor continued to serve the Company, for his father died on 10th April 1702-3, two days after the petition was penned. He was the third son of General Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe (1650-1702) Captain of lifeguards to Charles II and Colonel of the Holland Regiment or Buffs under James II; and the quondam Writer on £5 per annum sat in Parliament as member for Haslemere in succession to his father and elder brother Lewis (1681-1704), who is mentioned in Evelyn's Diary as fighting a duel with Sir Richard Onslow, member for Guildford and the second of the three Onslows to be whig Speaker of the House of Commons. Theophilus the Writer became A.D.C. to the Duke of Ormonde and afterwards joined the Jacobite Court of St. Germain's, where he died about 1718. Even more remarkable was the career of the youngest brother, General James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785), A.D.C. to Prince Eugene at the siege of Belgrade, founder of the American colony of Georgia and for 32 years member for Haslemere.\* Dr. Johnson wished to write his life and his name is enshrined in a couplet of Pope, "One, driven by strong benevolence of soul, Shall fly, like Oglethorpe, from pole to pole". The two Wesleys, John and Charles, joined this paladin of philanthropy in his colony, where negro slavery and rum were strictly prohibited, and later on came Whitefield who declared, "the deliverance of Georgia from the Spaniards cannot be paralleled but by some instance out of the Old Testament". He has another link with Madras in his marriage (1738) to Elizabeth the only surviving daughter and heiress of Sir Nathan Wright, sometime Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to William III and Queen Anne and junior counsel for the Crown at the trial of the Seven Bishops (Sancroft, Ken, Turner, Lloyd, White, Lake, Trelawney). John Evelyn writes in May 1700, "Serjeant Wright at last accepted the Greate Seale". Two of his sons, Robert and Thomas Wright, were Factors at Fort St. George and one of them Third of Councill in this place and Warehousekeeper throughout these Consultations, with the Hon'ble Thomas Pitt, Esq., President and Mintmaster.

For the benefit of the student or researcher who desires to follow up the events narrated in this volume, reference may be made to Chapters I to V of Vol. II of Colonel Love's Vestiges of Old Madras; Mrs. Penny's Fort St. George, Chapter XIII; Talboys Wheeler's History of Madras, Chapters XVIII and XIX; Sir Charles Lawson's Memories of Madras, Chap. II; Sir Cornelius Dalton's Life and Times of Pitt, Chapters XII to XVI; and the Diaries of Streynsham Master edited by Sir R. C. Temple where in the foot notes information will be found about many of the Company's servants named in these pages.

A few errata have crept in, principally of proper names :

Page 7. Martha Laige for Martha Large (widow of Peter Large).

Page 17. Black spine for black stone.

Page 35. Mr. John Fuxon for Juxon.

Page 39. Saul for Yaul (Yawl).

Page 63. Willman for Wiseman.

Page 70. Pauviet for Paulus Rosairo.

Page 75. Mrs. for Mr. Tillard.

Page 88. Browen for Bowen.

Page 90. Sicca for Swordes.

The names of country ships provide the greatest conundrums. The Indian vessel Bombooprau (p. 18) which reappears on p. 65 as Bomrepaum is probably the Bamboo prau or prow, from the Malay prahu, and in a previous

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\* Ludovicus (1698) and Jacobus (1714) Oglethorpe were both Gentleman Commoners of O.C.C. Oxford, and the General, though a nor founder, kept his name on the books for 13 years.

volume mention is made of the "Parr\*" Lockyer Watts, master, trading from the same place Pegue. Captain Tyler's Bombay ship the Rupartle (pp. 27, 45) is the Gujerati name Ruparel, meaning "abundance of silver" and the Brigantine-Sail Fish commemorates the basking shark or the xiphias. The term was applied to any fish with a large dorsal fin; "the Dutch calling the *Histiophorus Zeyl-visch*, because it is said to raise the dorsal fin like a fan and use it like a sail". The Sweepstake (pp. 16, 29) was a common name for a ship, even in the King's Navy, between the 15th and 17th centuries. But most interesting of all is the Briggantine Nos. Senh' Pillaro S<sup>t</sup>. Augo, Senhior Domingo, Master, which arrived in this road from Atcheen, March 9, 1702-3 (p. 12). Her full title is Nossa-Seuhora Pillaro Santiago. In the Cathedral at Santiago behind the high altar is a chapel dedicated to La Virgen del Pilar, in memorial of her descent from heaven on a pillar when visiting St. James the Elder (Santiago), the Patron and Captain General of Spain, at Zaragoza. The Pillar itself is at Zaragoza and the curious will find an account of it in the second volume of Richard Ford's Handbook to Spain, written in his liveliest manner. Religious names were often given to ships: and sometimes irreligious, as the Devil of Delft. A historic entry in the Fort St. George Diary for July 22, 1731 reads: "Ship Vierge D'Grace Came in from Pondicherry, having Monsr Dupleix on board Going Directore to Bengall."

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\* Mr. A. T. Pringle has an excellent note on Parr on p. 166 of the Diary and Consultation Book for 1634 (First Series, Vol. III. 1895).

15th March 1927.

J. J. COTTON.



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