

of which are endorsed by Cogan. Only the last bears a date, 22nd July, 1639, where July is probably a slip for August, since Day did not reach Madras until the 27th July:—

'The firman granted Mr. Day for priviledges in Medrasspatam¹ by the Nague Damela Vintutedra.

(O.C., No. 1690, 22nd July [? Aug.], 1639.)

'Firman granted by Demela Vintatedro Nague unto Mr. Francis Day, Cheife for the English In Armagon, in behalfe of the Honble Company for their trading and fortificating at Medraspatam, to this effect as followeth:—

'Whereas Mr. Francis Day, Captain of the English at Armagon, upon great hopes by reason of our promises often made unto him, hath repaired to our port of Medraspatam and had personall Conference with us in behalfe of the Company of that Nation, Concerning their trading in our territories and freindly Commerce with our subjects; wee, out of our spetiall Love and favour to the English, doe grant unto the said Captain, or whomsoever shall bee deputed to Idgitate the affaires of that Company, by vertue of this firman, Power to direct and order the building of a fort and Castle in or about Medraspatam, as they shall thinke most Convenient, the Charges whercof, untill fully and wholly finished, to bee defrayed by us, but then to bee repaied when the said English shall first make their entrance to take possession thereof. And to make more full Expression of our effectio[n] to the English Nation, wee Doe Confirme unto the said Mr. Francis Day, or whatsoever other Substitutes or Agents for that Company, full power and authority to governe and dispose of the Government of Madraspatam for the terme and space of two yeares Next Insueing affter they shall be seated there and possesst of the said fortifications; and for the future by an Equall Division to receive halfe the Custom and revnewes of that port.²

'Moreover, Whatsoever goods or Merchandize the English Company shall either Import or Export, forasmuch as Concernes the duties and Customes of Medraspatam, they shall, not only for the Prementioned two yeares in which they Injoy the Government, but for ever after, be Custom free. Yett if they shall Transport or bring any commodities up into, or through my Countray, then shall they pay halfe the duties that other Merchants pay, whether they buy or sell the said Commodities either in my Dominions or in those of any other Nague whatsoever.

'Also that the said English Company shall perpetually Injoy the priviledges of mintag[e] without paying any Dewes or duties whatsoever, more then the ordinary wages or hire unto those that shall Quoynce the moneyes.

'Iff the English shall Acquaint us before they deliver out any moneys to the Merchants, Painters, Weavers, &c., which are or shall hereafter reside in our prementioned port or teritories, and take our word for their sufficiency and honest dealing, then doe wee promise, in case those people faile in their

¹ The first instance of the use of the name which has been traced. The early Portuguese writers do not mention the place.

² Later documents show that, while the British charged customs on all imports and exports, the Naik was entitled only to half of such portion of the dues as was paid by owners who were not inhabitants of Madras.

performances, to make good to the English all such sumes of money as shall remaine on their Accounts, or Else deliver them their persons, if they shalbe found in any part of my teritories.

'That whatsoever provisions the English shall buy in my Countray, either for their fort or ships, they shall not be liable to pay any Custom or Dutyes for the same.

'And if any shipp or vessell belonging to the English (or to any other Countray whatsoever which tradeth or shall come to trade at that port) shall by misadventure suffer shippwrack and bee driven upon any part of my teritories, they shall have restitution upon Demand of whatsoever can bee found remaining of the said wrack.

'Dated the 22th July, 1639.'