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Doctor Duffins. There was to-day a Meeting of the Directresses of the female Asylum. When Mrs Duffin, who is one of the Directresses came Home, Mrs Davidson, the President came along with her to tell me, that by the unanimous Consent of 12 Directresses a Letter had been wrote to the Governors of the Institution, ^{requesting of them} to engage me to take Charge of this Charity, and to request, that I would not decline it. I told my friends my ^{business} at Vepery, and how far I might venture to engage in any more Labour. I told them at once that if it was required of me to live at the Asylum I could not accept of the Charge.

Febry 20. Friday. Received Letters from Mr Pasche of the 5th of 88. and from D. Gaskin of the 21st of that Month which both gave me great Concern on account of some Difficulties, which they still find in my general Mission Accounts.

Febry 21st. Saturday. In the Afternoon I went to the Hospital, near the northern Gate of the Black Town, where a number of sick People are fed, that remain of those, who were maintained there during the late War and famine by Subscription, upon the Desire of an old heathen Woman, whose Children are Christians, and who has been before dissuaded from Christianity by her Relations, but is now desirous of dying a Christian, and hath for this end desired the Catechist of Thorukhupottai to instruct her. I appointed a Day for this Service, when her Christian Children shall be present. Whilst I was talking to her, there came several other sick People about me desiring

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desiring Baptism, that they might die as Christians. This induced me to appoint certain Hours in the Week, when Nallappen who lives near, is to instruct these People. But he is not faithful and hardly any one is faithful at Madras. I am therefore oblig'd to get Assistants from Nag^m & Tranq^r.

Feb^y 22. Sunday. Amongst the Christians of Vepery are Arch-thieves they have robbed my House, during my Absence almost of every thing, that was in it. Their Leader is the youngest Son of Kurupadam the first Catechist. He was found out, convicted before his own family, and confined. They begged to be permitted to carry him to Tranquebar in order to send him from thence to a distant Country by Sea. All was ready for his Departure. This Night he made his Escape, probably by the Help of his Father and family, who corrupted his keepers. For here is nothing but Corruption. This Evening I began my English Lectures upon the Request of several families that live at

Vepery.

Feb^y 25. Wednesday. I happen'd to meet an Alderman of the Mayor's Court, who said to me: Mr. Fabricius deals with you as Pharaoh with the Children of Israel. For yesterday was brought into the Court a Bond by which he hath mortgaged the Mission house in which you live, and the ground belonging to it. In the Evening I visited the Hospital mentioned under the 21st — I prayed, exhorted & christen'd 2 sick People.

Feb^y 27. Friday went to the Court House, saw Mr Fabricius mortgaged Bond, which he has given in April last, subjecting his Successor to the Payment of a Bond of above 1000 Pag^{rs} Principal