

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 15 JANUARY 1835, Nos.25-29. contd.

...

All our correspondence from Persian speaks of approaching anarchy in that country, the merchants there inform their principals in this city that there is a general preparation in the mercantile community to wind up their accounts with the view of coming to this city; this was exactly the case half a century past, during the troubles of Agha Mahomed Khan the uncle of the present Shah.

In this state of things the Government here appears to be quite at its ease as to any probability of harm from Persia.

Baghdad,
5th September 1834.

I have &ca.
Sd/-R. Taylor, Lt.Col.
Poll.Asstt. Turkish Arabia.

To

Lieutt. Colonel Taylore,
Poll.Asstt, Turkish Arabia.

My dear Sir,

The disturbed state of the southern provinces still occupy public attention and has called for the immediate presence of Mahomed Ali himself who with a squadron and about 10,000 men are now at Juffa and intends coming here and going to Aleppo. Till the Pacha's arrival Ibrahim was in a trying situation being in effect shut up in Jerusalem, and his communications with the court interrupted with three thousand

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...

advantage over the Mountainers, and is now at Nablous. The insurrections however is far from being over, as the insurgents defeated in one place concentrate in another, and the whole country to the south of the Dead Sea, is plunged in it troops are now being sent against the mountainers above tripoli and the auzuries, ~~xxx~~ but the want of concert between their parts will subject them to an easy reduction.

This state of affairs, however is far from being favorable to the Pacha, as, in the event of another collision with the Porte he would have the whole country against him. Believe me ~~in~~ my dear Sir,

Damascus,
23rd July 1834.

Yours &ca.
Signed/- J.W. Farren,

/True copies/

Sd/-R. Taylor, Lt. Coll.

P.A. Turkish Arabia.

/True copies/

Sd/-W.H. Wathen,

Secretary to Government.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15 JANUARY 1835, Nos.25-29.

...

No.27. To

No.65.

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay,
Political Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward extracts of letters to my address from the Consuls General of His Majesty for Turkey and Syria, which will show that the packets of the Forbes steamer had reached Constantinople in safety on 1st August last in twenty two days from the dispatch from hence, that they would leave Constantinople by King's messenger on 12th August and be in London before the close of that month. Also that the dispatches for His Majesty's Consul General for Egypt reached Damascus on the 31st July last, and were despatched the next day by post to Alexandria.

I have the satisfaction also to say that I am adopting, on conjunction with the Agent in Syria, means for a quick and regular post between this City, and the capitals of that country and Egypt which in the present state of public affairs, appears to be an arrangement of the first importance.

I have the honor also to forward some highly useful remarks on the past between Constantinople and England by the Consul General.

Baghdad, 20th Sept.1834.

I have &ca.

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...

Extract of a letter from the His Majesty's Consul General
Dated Constantinople 11th August 1834.

I had the honor of receiving on the 1st Instant
your Despatch No.34 of the 7th ultimo by Kuragoolah Turtar
accompanying two packets or mails No.1 and 2 addressed
to the Honorable Court of Directors, concerning the for-
warding of which, as they were represented by you to
contain only dispatches and of great importance, I con-
sidered it proper to communicate with the His Majesty's
Ambassador.

His Excellency was pleased to express his
opinions that it would not be proper to expose dispatches
from India to the chance of being examined by the Austrian
Authorities in their passage through that country, and
that as a King messages would be dispatched in a few days,
he would allow me to send the Packets to London with
him.

This opinion agreeing entirely with my own
impression, I consequently accepted His Excellency's offer
Circumstances have tended to delay the departure of the
messenger, but he would positively depart tomorrow and
you may I think, expect that the Packets will be in
London before the last day of this month.

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...

They would not have proceeded quicker if I had dispatched them the day after their arrival here, for they must have remained at the Suzaretto on the Austrian frontier, until my application to the ~~XXXX~~ Embassy at Vienna for a confidential persons to be sent to receive them at the frontier was attended to.

This precaution would have been necessary after the expression of the Ambassadors, opinion on the expediency of preventing the inspection of the Dispatches by the Austrian authorities, and it was adopted by me on a former occasion forwarding important Dispatches received from Persia.

The Packets will now be delivered together with the Ambassadors dispatches to a King Messenger who is waiting at the Frontier in pratique and who will only be delayed the necessary time after this arrival there to witness the opening of the several enclosures their fumigation and resealing.

Extract of a letter from His Majesty's Consul General of Syria Dated Damascus 2nd September 1834.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 7th July and its enclosures.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15 JANUARY 1833, Nos.25-29. contd.

...

They arrived on the evening of Thursday the 31st July the original including a Packet addressed to Colonel Campbell, but not mentioned by you, were forwarded the next day by the post to Alexandria and duplications of your official letter to that Gentlemen and that from the Secretary addressed to your (which you left open for my perusal } were sent, by Sin to Juffa and previous to the 19th were received and forwarded from thence by post.

I am surprised that I have not yet had any acknowledgement from Colonel Campbell of their arrival.

Extract of a letter from His Majesty's Consul General dated Constantinople the 11th August 1834.

My official letter will inform you what I have done with the large Packets which you assure me contain despatches of the first importance, and in your private letter you say that they contain only despatches. It was therefore necessary to be very particular respecting their mode of transmission from hence.

The label of direction affixed to each Packet describes it as a "Mail" and if they contain letters it is to be regretted that I was not informed of that circumstances and authorized to open the packets, and transmit the letters by Post, which might have been done separately or collectively in a bag to the India House. The

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...

Government would not learn much from the private correspondence of Merchants, and individuals and the letters would now have been in the Frontiers.

I apprehend, that the wax cloth envelopes will not be permitted to pass the frontier, and I shall therefore send some strong packing papers to the messenger in order that their contents may be repacked in it.

As you may not be well acquainted with our overland post establishment, I will trouble you with a letter of information respecting it.

The Austrian Government has by treaty the right of keeping up a Post letter Establishment between her frontier, and this city.

There is a post office at the Austrian ~~authorities~~ Ministers hold here at which letters are delivered with the payment of a rate of postage which franks them to Vienna, or (if destined for other parts of Christendom/ through the Austrian States leaving all other intermediate rates to be satisfied in the country to which the letters are directed.

The ~~letters~~ undergo a fumigation on their arrival in the Austrian territories at the Sazzaretto of Simhu, where every letter is opened previous to fumigation and afterward sealed with the seal of the sanitary office they are then forwarded to Vienna.

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....

Now it is suspected that Dispatches and papers, or letters which may be considered of importance are not resealed at Simlin, but that they are sent on to Vienna open, and by an Estafette, who precedes the common post, with the Court dispatches and arrives at Vienna about 24 hours before the post, giving sufficient time for reading, and copying such dispatches at the Chancellerie d' Etat as may appear to be deserving of that attention - a duplicate Simlin Lazzaretto seal is then employed, and letters directed to Vienna are thereby delivered with those, which came forward in the regular post office mail - some people suppose that this scrutinizing operation takes place occasionally at Peters ward in a Post Establishment between ~~xxxxxx~~ Simlin and Vienna. To prevent these liberties being taken with their dispatches the French and English Embassies have generally a Cabinet messenger waiting at Simlin in pratique that is to day out of quarantine who attends to the receipt of the packet which are sent to him from this city, is present at the opening fumigating and resealing of the contents in which purified state he receives them and sets off on his journey, it is by such a messenger, that your Packets will proceed. The messenger who carries thence to his brother Conrice at Simlin will after ten day's purification take the place of his predecessors and wait for the next Packets to be

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....

be sent by the ambassador. These details may enable you to give useful limits to government for the transmission of future packets, letters might safely be forwarded to the Post, which departs weekly, and if the road between this and your city would remain decently open. This channel for correspondence would be found to be the most regular and the cheapest. I ought to add on the subject of purification of dispatches, that when our Ambassador sends packets by a messenger they are not opened, but pierced and thre fumigated provided His Excellency certifies that there is nothing but paper in them, they must be distined for England.

/True copies/

Sd/-R.Taylor, Lt.Coll.

P.A.Turkish Arabia.

/True copies/

Sd/-L.R. Reid,

Secretary to Government.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15 JANUARY 1835, Nos.25-29. contd.

...

No.28.

No.66.

Political Department.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Bombay.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit copies and Extracts of my latest intelligence of Political events in Persia, Egypt and Syria, which all speak too plainly to be misunderstood an inevitable proximate collision between the Souldan and Mahomed Ali, and the consequent intanglement of the European powers on one part or the other.

The professions of Candour and justice put forth on usual by Russia, ~~and~~ will, it is to be feared, as in past conjunctions of importance, be too long listened to secure ~~to~~ ourselves and France a favourable state of con-
cedences for opposing her unmeasured ambition.

I have &ca.

Baghdad, 21st

Sd/-R.Taylor, Lt.Coll.

September 1834.

P.A. Turkish Arabia.

Copy of a letter from His Majestys Consul General
at Alexandria dated 14th June 1834.

To

Colonel R. Taylor,

Political Agent Turkish Arabia.

Sir,

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...

mentioned your No.22 of 10th March to the Chief Secretary to Government at Bombay, I took the opportunity of sounding the Viceroy about it on the day before yesterday when I was alone with him for nearly an hour. I told him that I had heard from an undoubted source that one of His Highness' Agent had been sent to Muscat, from whence he had been to the Shaikh's of the Chaoband Montifick Arabs and from thence to Baghdad after which he was to proceed to Persia. The Pasha replied to me nearly as follows. Ah, I know that affairs. Do you not remember that at Thubia you saw a person with me and that I told ~~xxx~~ you that he was sent by the Emam of Muscat who is my friend and who expressed his regret that I had not asked him /the Emam/ for vessels for my operations in the red sea instead of bringing them there. At the same time the ~~xxxxx~~ Imam wrote me that there had arrived at Muscat a man with a letter from me, and who asked from him /the Emam/ other letters to forward him to Persia. That man was really the bearer of one of my letter but under the following circumstances, he came to Egypt on the part of Daoud Pasha, or Pacha of Baghdad, new Pacha of Brussa, in order for me to give him some employment, but deeming him a rogue /Muzivir/ I did not wish to employ him. In order to get rid of him I offered him some money. He accepted it and intriated me to give him letters of recommendation to the Emam of Muscat which I did, and on his arrival at Muscat he wished to intrigue in the strength of that letter

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....

But on my receiving the letter of the Emam, I replied to him that I had not any thing to do with that man and that the letter which I sent by him was one of simple recommendation."

Now I wishto remark that Daood had been formerly Governor of Baghdad and if the man sent by him was a rogue why did Mahomed Ali give to him letters of introduction. However Mahomed Ali has certainly not any designs against your Pachalie at present, but in the event of a war he would wish to know the state and feelings of Baghdad in order to act hereafter as circumstances might direct. His whole force in Syria does not exceed 25,000 and those are so scattered that he has not 4000 in any our point, and certainly much fewer on the nearest point, to your frontier. But to suppose that Mahomed Ali cease to intrigue or at least ~~net~~ to ascertain the state of his neighbours is what I never can expect, I should think that any letters to the Prince of Sheraz must be with the view of ascertaining the state of Persia and its feelings towards Russia, in case of war. I shall however not lose sight of this affairs of the spy and trust that you will with your usual kindness inform me of what you may learn regarding this spy either from Tehran or other parts.

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The conduct of mahomed Ali is not of a nature to afford a pretext for Russian interference in consequence of the late treaty between the Emperor and the Port, nor can I learn that Russian Consul General here has ever complained of Mahomed Ali's conduct. But in fact very little would serve Russia for a pretext, disposed as she is to encroach and extend her Southern frontier in every direction.

have
I ~~xxx~~written to Mr. Farren to request him to make the best possible arrangement for forwarding our correspondence to and fro - as far as the correspondence between this and Damascus by the Pacha's carriers, it is quite secure, but from Damascus to Baghdad, I must entirely trust to the arrangement to be made by Mr. Farren.

The Admiral has left Malta with his Syadriou /6 sail of the line/ for Vourla and I daily expect a vessel from him whether there will be peace or war with Russia, I cannot say, but I think that it must eventually and in ~~esse~~ rupture and if so, the sooner the better.

Lord Ponsonby has sent to me a copy of the treaty concluded by Ahmed Pach at St. Petersburg in January last and ratified at Constantinople of 23rd March. By this the Russians have gained an accession of territory on their Georgia frontier and are now in fact in the plains of Aemenia, and the routes to Erzeroum and Baghdad may be said to be open to them, they have also reserved to themselves

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....

Lord Ponsonby also writes to me "You will have heard that the Russians propose to force the Shah to pay his debt to them in August next, or to exact the Province of Ghlan from him by that possession, they will command every thing between the Caspian and India the Petersburgh treaty you will see yours even Baghdad to them.

Signed/-P.Campbell, Coll.

Copy of a letter from the Envoy at Tabruz dated 30th August 1834.

To

Lieutt. Coll. R. Taylor,
Political Agent Turkish Arabia,
Baghdad.

Sir,

These geneleman are placed under the care of Ismail Khan (Culaee) who has been directed to proceed to Baghdad for the small arms and accoutrements that have so long been there, but necessity added to a spirit of acturity which is beginning, I am happy to say to prevail for the reorganization of their army and reequip-ment of their artillery and arsenal has at length induced this government to send for what the Shah and many of his sons would gladly have paid for long since as the inportunities I received, to despose of them to various applicants after the death of Abbas Münze has been

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...

It is quite impossible for any best an eye witness and one whose enquiries give him an interest in the welfare of his country to imagine the object state of poverty to which this province is induced from the cursed system of administration to which it has for the last three years been subjected and the extent of speculation practiced to the benefit of a few who aware of the common practice of obliging such people to disgorge their illegal gains have wisely converted them into lands and houses, which though easily upon are not so easily converted into cash which the pressing emergencies of the Government at this crises require. The revenues even for the present year have been forstalled by many months by the cormarants who were in authority before the arrival of the prince Royal and His Royal Highness ~~friendship~~ finds himself in possession of the beautiful government of his late father with an empty treasury. A host of military and civil servants clamorous for their arrears of pay and oppressed and spirit broken peasantry and an arms in a worse state than of it never existed, for with the feelings which we entertain a British officers can never expect and cannot zealously attempt to enforce subordination amongst an unpaid unfed and unclothed soldiery. The avance of the Shah is most deplorable and nothing will induce him to part with his treasure to promote the time and absolute interests of his nattion or to establish on a fine basis the power and influence of his heir, tho' perhaps there never

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...

an account of national benefit could be obtained with so little exertion and so small a sacrifice.

The crore of Russia fell due on the 17th instant but the **R**ussian Envoy merely pressed on that occasion for the small balance still due upon the 3rd Crow which was paid and the jewells which had been for so many years in pledge under the special care of Mr.Nisbit, were restored some days since to the Persian Government.

The subject of the last Crore has not however yet been agitated, but the general belief is that it will not be pressed and I hear from good private authority that the probable arrangement will be a remission of 1,00,000. Tomany and the bance to be paid by instalment in ~~four~~ years. The existence of this debt is a heavy mill stone round the neck of Mahomed Mirza, but he has no alterative but to accept of such terms as Russia may offer and trust to that vaunted alremency and magnanimity of the Emperor which always has for its objects the ruin of those who trust to it.

Russia would war against her own policy were she to demand the payment of the Crore on the possession of territory in lieu thereof, for so long as she can hold the one interrarium over this unhappy country she will have a plausible pretext for interference in its affairs and whilst the conciousness of this burthen induces towards her on external observance of conciliation and

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smothered embers of jealousy and hatred which are really cherished. During the absence of our mission at Tehran, and the extraordinary weakness of the local Government in Azerbejan, the Russian Envoy has not been idle in his endeavours to establish an influence in the province but I cannot find that he has succeeded, on the contrary ~~that~~ it appears to me both from enquiry and observation that the proceedings of many people who thought to avail themselves of the confusion occasioned by the late Prince Royal's death and who is is supposed were instigated by Northern Influence, have rendered themselves alike suspected by Government and odious to the people, and perhaps led to that earnest desire so frequently communicated to me at Tehran that the British Mission would no longer absent itself from Tabreez.

I am anxiously looking for dispatches from home in the hope that the Government, relieved from the ~~embarrassment~~ of all questions of importance in Western Europe may be able to turn that their thoughts seriously to this country, and in fact, to the generally. The tone which the Cabinets of England and France have assured has had a most marked effect in arresting the rapid march of Russian influence both in Persia and Turkey, but those over-tacts on the part of the Emperor are but a veil to the game he is clandestinely playing, and it is by the excuse of one insidious, policy under the garb of friendship that he undermines the independence of this Eastern empire.

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...

to counteract them must involve a great expense, the alarms and apprehensions they ought to create, are not duly considered or sensibly felt, tangible succoes would be of use here to enable the Heir to receive the succession without foreign aid, and to maintain his position against internal opposition, but as a general question in the present state of affairs, if Persia is to be left to herself, the safety of constantinople may in great measure be said to involve that of Persia, for if British Influence is dirven ~~and~~ from the former plan, I do not conceive it possible that the politics of this country can be longer connected with those of Europe.

Subsequent to the arrival of the Prince Royal at Tabreez, he found the treachery of some of his brothers, of which previous reports had reached him, confirmed, and he consequently them and sent them as state Prisoners to the fortress of Ardabil where they are closely confined and watched and many of their adherents have been severely punished.

By the last accounts from Tehran, the „Shah had resolved on proceeding to Ispahan for which place the Tajid Dowlet ~~had~~ already set out and when he had directed the troops of Calum Rao to meet him, with a view, it is said to coerce the Firman Firma into the payment of his arrears of revenue amounting now to about 6,00,000 Fss This prince has sent a person with a congratulatory letter

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...

letter and presents to the Prince Roya, and all other Princes of the blood, save these under the influence of the Zillah Sultān and of Kirmanshah have followed the example. You have probably heard of the plunder of the valuable caravan by the Koords within the Turkish frontier and of the mission of the Ameer-i-Nizam to meet the Serasker of Arzeram to obtain restitutions of the property and to march the Koords (Jellalles) within the Persian dominions by force, as they are declared to be subjects of the Government.

The above authorities have I believe, met but the result of their conference is unknown, the private letters make me uneasy as to the issue, and I fear the matter may be mismanaged; but as far as I can yet learn the Turks have the best of the agreement, if justice is to decide the question.

Fraser has returned from Khorassan and is now in his way to this place viz Nizanderan and Ghilan. He states to me in a note, that Khorassan is disturbed even to the gates of Ashabad, but gives no detail; nor does this correspond with the positive intelligence of the submission of the Khans of Kelaut, and Derégauz to the authority of the River Royal which he himself confirms. Shajah-ool-Mulk has invaded Gandahar and it was currently believed in Musked and Tehran that the government of India were secretly supporting him to recover his dominions inclusive of Herat which he has already taken.

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Rashid Pasha has had some success against the Koords, and is still receiving reinforcements from Constantinople it is believed that Baghdad is his ulterior object to strengthen and secure it against an intention as dubious, and there is an idea very prevalent both in Europe and in the east, that he is acting under French influence, and will again come to blows with the Sultan.

The pilgrims who have just returned from Mecca speak in the highest terms of Ibrahim Pacha, who, it ~~was~~ would appear has treated and ~~protected~~ them in a manner quite uncommon in the East. They assert also, that the ~~Md.~~ Ali resolved to destroy Damascus in revenge for some insult offered to him there.

A Russian Brig of War has lately visited Fribezonde, and it is said that a Russian Frigate is to be in station there the plans of the Emperor are not distinctly known, but the return of Mr. Bontanieff to Constantinople will perhaps develop them.

Sir J. Rowley was, however, with his squadron about Smyrna and Greece, and was expecting re-inforcements. Extract of a letter from Constantinople dated 11th August 1834.

One fleet, or rather squadron, remains in the Anchipilago, cruising on the neighbourhood of the Island of Mitylene and occasionally visiting the Bay of Smyrna

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....

heard report of a French squadron being to join our Admiral but nothing has yet appeared although the newspapers have given accounts of great bustle and preparation at the Port of Tonlon.

The Naval demonstration has therefore been exclusively british. If you ask me the object of it, I cannot tell you. The troops sent early in the springs to Reshid Pacha at Sivas served to create suspension, that the Seraker might be ordered to proceed in your direction professed by to be in readiness to act against your Arab invaders, but really to encourage by his presence in the frontiers of Syria, the inhabitants of that province whose aversion to Mahomed Ali's rule was there well known. The probable inteference of Russia if a Collision between the Porte and the Egyptian Pacha were to take place, rendered expedient, no doubt, the perparation of means of interference on our part; but whether or not their were other reasons for displaying a naval force in this vicinity I cannot say.

The troubles in Syria will have been made known to you from Aleppo and you will perhaps at this moment be better informed on the subject than we are here.

We know that Mahomed „Ali had gone to Jaffa with a strong reinforcement to assist Ibrahim Pacha, who we are told was still blockaded, or obliged to hold himself at Jerusalem.

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...

A circular note was addressed the 1st ultimo by Mahomed Ali's minister to the Foreign Consults at Alexandria, communicating intelligence of an amicable arrangement having been made by Ibrahim Pacha with the Syrian rebels.

We are disposed here to discredit the fact announced of peace being made.

Reports rather incline us to apprehend that Md. Ali had not been able to advance with his reinforcement from Jaffa to assist Ibrahim at Jerusalem. If such should be the case, the Syrian revolt is more serious than we had expected it would be. The Port, as you may imagine is fully alive to the importance of the present position of affairs, Their ships have not been laid up since the events of last year, and a part of them have been constantly kept ready for almost immediate service and they will sail during this week, it is said and supposed for the Syrian Coast, to be ready no doubt, to act if success appear certain either in assisting the Syrians or in expelling the inhabitants of Candia who are also disgusted with the measures of Egyptain Pacha.

The presence of our squadron is therefore now really necessary. If a new conflict between the Sultan and Mahomed Ali should ensue, the measures of Russia must be watched. Her alliance with the Sultan is defensive, so that if the latter should provoke hostilities in the