proceeded to Hajm via Rustak, and laid siege to that fort cutting off all communication, and supplies from it for eight days. When the provisions with the besieged were exhausted, as only 3 Moorees of rice remained they sent to the people of another tribe to request them to intercede in their behalf in concluding a peace with Sheik Hamood. A treaty was accordingly effected.

4th I hear that the Resident in the Persian Gulf has intercepted an open letter addressed by Mahomed Ali Pacha to Khorshied Pacha, in which the latter has been prevented from moving against Bahrein.

5th The person who was deputed by the people of Bahrein to Muscat to implore assistance received a reply from the [illegible] Highness [illegible] and was dismissed with a present.

10th While concluding this letter I received information to the effect that a Boat had arrived at this place from [illegible]

Ibrahim

Ibrahim Pacha junior, the Nagrada of which is named Sut Koolla. The boat is laden with Gunpowder, and shots and shells. He had 3 Turks on board, it is intended to land the Powder, and Shells at Rutef.

As the Vessel by which I send this letter leaves immediately I am not able to gather further intelligence.

2261

True Extract

L. A. Reid

Acting Chief Secretary

1

To
Messrs Cook & Co

Sirs

2262

You will be pleased on receipt of this to send a proper person with syces to the Political Deptt. to receive charge of Eight Arab Horses recently arrived from the Imam of Muskat for the Governor General & keep them at Livery until further Orders

Desptd. 15th Octr

C.C. 15th Octr 1836

I am &c
(signed) C.E. Trevelyan
Deptty Secy to Govt

Chief Mr

To
Capt. Cook &c &c

2263

Sir,

You will be pleased to deliver over charge of the Horses & Mares belonging to Govt. now standing at Dinapore at your Stables, to any person, whom the Commissary General may send to receive charge of them.

Dispd. 17th Oct.

C. C. 17 Oct. 1836

Lambton

2264

To

The Commissary General

Sir

I am directed to request that you will take charge for account of Government, of Six Arab Horses and Two Arab Mares received from the Imam of Muskat standing at Livery in Messrs Cook & Co's Stables. –

You will further be pleased to furnish for the consideration of His Lordship in Council, a report as to the best mode of disposing of the Horses & Mares in question, whether by sale or by appropriating them to any and what Department of the Public Service. –

Date 17th Oct.

I have &c

Council Chambers
17 October 1836.

(Duplicate)

No. 1685

2265

Bombay Castle
22nd November 1839.

Secret Department.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to transmit to you for the information of the Right Honble the Governor General of India, extract (paras 1 to 5 and 10 & 11) from the translation of a letter from the Native Agent at Muskat dated the 25th Ultimo conveying the news of that quarter up to that date.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
your most obt. Servant
J. P. Reid
Acting Chief Secretary.

To, The Secretary with the Right Honble the Governor General of India.

4 Enclosures

Duplicate

No. 1446 of

Bombay Castle 7th Sept. 1839.

22.66

Secret Department

Sir,

With reference to the despatch from the Resident in the Persian Gulf dated the 21st Ultimo No. 85, a Copy of which accompanied my letter dated the 2nd Instant [illegible] directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to transmit to you for the purpose of being submitted to the Right Honble the Governor General of India Copy of my Communication of the date to that Officer, relative to the encroachments of Khorshid Pasha —

2nd I am on this occasion desired to state that it is presumed by this Government that His Lordship is aware

To

The Secretary with the Right Honorable The Governor General of India

Simla

aware that His Highness the Imam of Muscat is closely connected with Mahomed Ali Pasha by marriage.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

[illegible] Secretary

Ex

[illegible]

2267

No. 26 of 1833.

Pol. Depart.

2268

To
Charles Norris Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay.

Sir

I have the honor to submit a translation of a letter from His Highness the Imaum of Muscat acquainting me of the situation he has been placed in by the advance of the Wahabee Army into the Province of Oman. A memorandum of my conversation with the bearer of H. Highness' letter together with a draft of my reply is likewise enclosed.

2. The nature of the relations existing between his Highness and the British Government are defined in the Political despatch of 11th February 1826. Subsequent instructions under date 12th April & 11th October 1830 would however appear to contemplate a possible conjuncture under which an armed interference in H. H.'s support might

ought be deemed incumbent.

A rupture with this fanatical and restless sect the only one perhaps at the present day seeking to propagate its doctrines by the sword may possibly be averted for a time by the conciliatory policy adopted by His Highness; but British assistance or a renewed success of the Egyptian arms to the North can alone enable him effectually to resist their encroachments. It is even to be feared that little immediate confidence can be accorded to their forbearance if circumstances were to place the Town and Shipping of Muscat within their reach and it may therefore be deserving of early consideration what course it would be advisable to pursue in such an emergency.

4 Any material increase to their power at sea would in all probability be found adverse to the British interest, but the evil might perhaps be more easily rectified by

the

the direct exertion of our own
thereby precautionary interference for
the support of His Highness' independence
At the same time arguments are not
wanting to recommend the opposite con-
clusion and assistance afforded to an
ancient ally must be allowed a pre-
ference over most other causes of ap-
peal to arms. For the present however
H. Highness has selected his own
course, and pending the uncertainty of
any positive necessity for our intervention,
I am of opinion that it is the most
advantageous for both parties and
have accordingly expressed myself
to that effect in reply to His Highness
communication which may I hope
be in concurrence with the senti-
ments of Government.—

I have the honor &c
Signed/ D. A. Blane
Resr in the Pr Gulf

Translation

2270

No. 47 of 1833.

To

The Resident at Bushire.—

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 25th June forwarding translate of one from the Imaum of Muscat of the 23rd May, regarding the increasing power of the Wahabees and the advance of their whole army into the Province of Omaun together with a Memorandum of your conversation with His Highness's Agent on the subject.—

2d. His Lordship in Council approves of your proceedings and of the judicious advice given by you to the Imaum.—

3d. Reference has been made to the Supreme Government on the subject of assisting the Imaum against the encroachments of the Wahabees, the result

of

which will be made known to you hereafter.—

Bombay Castle
12th September 1883.

I have the honor to be &c
Signed John Bax
Secy to Govt

True Copy

John Bax
Secretary to Government

2272

2273

Translation of a private communication in the Imaum of Muskat's own handwriting to his Agent in Bombay Agha Mahomed Shoostery for the Hon'ble the Governor information being in reply to some proposition made thro' the same channel to His Highness respecting the total suppression of the Slave trade throughout the Imaum's Dominions.—

We now write this in reply to the proposition for the entire suppression of the Slave trade made thro' you by the Hon'ble the Governor.—

You are well acquainted with the fact that the Chief revenue and advantage derived from Zanzibar, arises from the Sale of Slaves; but that notwithstanding this, on Captain Moresby's coming here (to Muskat) some time ago, and on his requesting us to assist to some Agreement on this point (the abolition of the Slave trade as respected Europeans) we fell upon this, our own accord, and consented to Captain Moresby's proposition, in order that we might satisfy & please the British Government at the present moment they appear to desire this prohibition to be universally extended, i.e. to Asiatics and

Mussulmans

Mussulmans as well as Europeans) you know well what a weighty matter this is with mussulmans and that to them it appears a very harsh measure, should such a measure be adopted the whole (Mahometan) world will become our enemies - some overtly & some secretly and the case of one who becomes viewed as an universal enemy is very difficult notwithstanding which by reason of the friendship I entertain for the English nation & the alliance I hold with them I would not mind incurring any risks.

This matter might accordingly be arranged on either of the following conditions.

1st That the British Government bind themselves to defend me against either mine or their enemies both by land and by Sea

2nd Or if they consider the above proposition inexpedient then let them give me the Country of the Portuguese (Mozambique &c) according to Captain Owens promise to me.

3rd Or if this also be impracticable let then (the British Government) make a provision (in Money) for me that we may then go to Zanzibar & reside there

2275

I give up our ~~Country~~ Native

My wishes are centered in nothing except the acquisition of the good will and friendship of the British nation - Should we however remain in Oman (after the prohibition of the slave trade) all the Musulmans would then become our enemies - nor have we the means of resisting them -

The English are well acquainted with the fact that on Bonaparte acting in opposition to the will of his nation his own people even become his enemies rose against him and without it being necessary for other Sovereigns to lay hold of him his own nation having ceased him delivered him into the hands of his foes. -

I do not at the present moment entertain a single opinion opposite to theirs, nor are my intentions or wishes in opposition to theirs, nor do I think any one person of their own nation can be as sincere a friend or better affected to their Government than I am -

Further - It should be known that last year all the Chiefs and religious persons of Oman held a

meeting

2275

meeting where they asserted that they perceived the hands of the English Nation were becoming strong at Bombassa (i.e. that they were interfering in support of their own interests there) and that they apprehended that they (the English) would also covet some thing more than that, (Bombassa) (meaning Muskat,) and they intimate that should I not be strong enough to prevent the English, (from seizing this territory) they would leave them to themselves, in order that they might connect themselves with others (the Turks) who would prohibit the English from further encroachments on our rights. I replied to them that this arrangement was impracticable, and that while I possessed [illegible] I would not consent that we should connect ourselves with the Turks or others. I also stated that we knew not nor did there exist any nation that could be more friendly or kind to us than the British.

We will never oppose the Governor's views or intentions whatever they may be. I shall follow his

his advice in all the above points and we trust that he will be satisfied with the course we have pursued.

2277

True Translation
Signed/ W. H. Watten
P. Secy to Govt

Compd. H.G.

Substance of a letter from Syyud Mahomed bin Salim, the Imaum's Regent at Muskat to the Honble the Governor. Dated 17th Ramzan or 13th March 1830.

2278

A.C.

This letter is written to enquire after your health Honble Sir which is the chief object of our prayers to God. There is no news in this quarter at present which is worthy of being communicated to your Excellency. We have however written to Syha Mahomed to mention as few circumstances.

You Honble Sir have probably heard of the disturbances which have taken place in these parts. We therefore trust that by the assistance of your Government all our affairs will be amicably settled. This letter is accordingly written for your information.

We trust that we shall constantly

have

I have the pleasure of your correspondence

Yca Yca Yca

Sugt W. H. Walker

P. Secy to Govt

2279

Chief Secy

2279

अभिलेखागार

2280

Translate of a written communication from Syd Mahomed Shoostry His Highness the Imaum of Muskat's Agent at Bombay to the Honble the Governor Dated 8th Shawal or 2nd April 1836

A.C.

The Imaum's Regent at Muskat desired me to inform the Honble the Governor, of events which have probably already reached His Excellency's ear, these are that subsequent to His Highness the Imaum's departure from Muskat Hamed Bin Omar raised disturbances in that Country and having collected a force, seized several Forts belonging to His Highness in Dahar and that he is meditating the perpetration of further acts of violence, that on the breaking out of these troubles against Mahomed Bin Sultan His Highness Regent marched against him from Muskat in the direction of Giba and Maorsaima that after long discussions it was settled

that

that peace be concluded on condition that they (the Rebels) should defer proceeding to further aggression until Syud Syeed (the Imaum's) return and that this truce should last for the period of three Months; that subsequently however advices have been received to the effect, that Sultan bin Suggur the Joasmee has formed the design of proceeding from Rasool Khyma to Muskat, with the view of assisting Hamood bin Azan in his Rebellious undertaking and also with the object of getting possession of Dibba and thereafter Seapoli of His Highness.

In consequence of this intelligence, the Regent has directed me to intimate to the Honble the Governor that in consideration of the intimate connection of His Highness with the British Government, of the implicit attention paid by him in every instance to its requests and wishes of the mutual family

so long subsisting between both Governments, and of the circumstance of Syyud Syeed's enemies taking advantage of His Highness's absence to injure him and to plunder him of his territory, it is incumbent on the Hon'ble the Governor to afford His Highness every possible aid and assistance and it is accordingly solicited that two of the Government bruzzes be sent to Mushal in order that should Soolan Bin Sugur attempt to seize Dibah and Khorfugan they may prevent the accomplishment of his object, and also that by the adoption of such a measure the friendship and good will of the British Government to His Highness's Government may be made generally apparent, and consequently His Highness's enemies deterred from continuing these violent attacks on His Highness's country.

Sd/ W. H. Wathen
P. Secy to Govt.

7

2283

No. 46 of 1830.

Political Department

To

The Resident in the Persian Gulf

Sir,

In transmitting to you the documents noted in the Margin I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to signify to you that he considers the British Government to be so far bound to and connected with its ally the Imaum of Muscat as to prevent his ruin and downfall by every means in its power, without therefore considering it necessary that you should interfere on account of any partial disorders in His Highness's territories, the Governor in Council has no hesitation in authorizing and directing you to inform Sultan bin Sugar, Hamood bin Ali and any other Chieftains, that the British Government will not permit any act which you may deem calculated to annihilate or seriously, not permanently

From the Agent at Muscat 12th March 1830.
From Lyne Mahoney Shesby dated 2d April 1830.

permanently to weaken the Imaum's Power.

You will explicitly inform the Chieftains in question that inattention to your prohibition or refusal to submit to the Arbitration of the British Government will be treated as an act of hostility.

An attack of Muscat it is hoped may not be contemplated, but should it be so you will take immediate measures to prevent a proceeding that would among other effects disturb so seriously the commerce with the Gulf. There is every desire on the part of this Government to preserve neutrality but it must be well satisfied of the justice of the grounds on which his enemies proceed before it can permit a Prince with whom it has so long maintained an intimate and beneficial alliance to be ruined by this combination of his Enemies.

This dispatch will be conveyed to you by the Royal Tiger which will it is probable

2284

9

2285

Indable be [illegible] those interested in the

1st proximo

Bombay Castle

12th April 1830

I have &c

Sd C. Norris

Chief Secy

True Copies

[illegible]

Secy to Govt

2285

Political Dept. No 58

2286

To Charles Norris Esq.
Chief Secy to Govt
Bombay

Sir/

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying letter from His Highness the Imaum of Muscat, from which it will be observed that he has returned to Muscat, after having made an arrangement of the affairs of his disturbed districts.—

2 [illegible] Agent at Muscat states in a letter, that the terms of the agreement of his Highness with the tribes of Ghaf are, that the undermentioned districts formerly possessed by their father shall belong to them viz. Kizza, Kabaora, Raokees

and

and Sohar, and that Lekrab Alghallah, formerly also belonging to their father, shall belong to His Highness the Imam, he also receiving 8000 German Crowns of annual revenue from the districts held by them. —

3. With regard to Owaik, it seems probable that it will be given back to Sied Bin Hillal, who will in all likelihood be released, after a consultation among the relations, at the wish of his Highness Thuwaini. —

4 The different Tribes of which the State of Muscat is composed, seem almost universally to have avoided, or delayed to take an active part in the quarrel among relations, doubtless with a feeling that each Tribe might remain more independent, if not a rival, whilst a division continue in the State. Also for fear of the distraction of the Members of one family in the contest,

and

2287

the consequence of the blockade from the other to the Chesapeake & Potomac relationship, and in which case they might be punished for the side they had taken. —

5 Our avowed determination not to permit the interference of Foreign Tribes must have given great security to this Region, & it is not raising taken a doubt, if he seriously wished to do so, within the time he did, would been a proof of the weakness or inefficiency of his Naval means, in spite of boasts & his officers being of such a powerful description in the home service. He even either could not, or did not, wish to maintain any thing like a strict blockade. But the two principles were singular, for he used to intimate when his ships were in water, and were permitted

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Imaum of Muscat dated 25th Safer 1th August 1830 to the Resident in the Persian Gulf Received 28th August 1830.

AC

The principal object of my writing at this moment is to enquire after your welfare in which I always feel the greatest interest.

At a fortunate hour your letter which was written in English respecting the strength of our friendship was received. My heart was gladdened and my eyes made bright by it. I fully understood its contents and was delighted in an extraordinary manner by its receipt. This is the description of things I wish for and delight in and please God I shall always act according to what you have written and your judgment which is better than all.

From arrival at Muscat I heard of the letter you had written to the Arab Sheikhs

2290

Wishes respecting their not interfering.
He also is aware of those acts that hadhoped for
from you.

Your letter of 12th Moharrum
14th July has also been received and understood.
you write that a due arrangement of affairs
is good, and ever since I have come to these
parts, all my efforts have been made towards
bringing that about, and I have arranged
them properly so far as was in my power
I spend always our most exertions to
perform your wishes.

A true translation
Sd. D. Wilson
Resd in the P. Gulf.

2290

15

2291

No. 397 of 1830

Political Department

To

The Resident in the Persian Gulf

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st August last giving a view of the decreasing power of the Imaum of Muscat and of the dissensions which exist for apprehending the reappearance of the Wahabees in strength on the shores of the Gulf.

The Honble the Governor in Council would be glad to learn that the Imaum who is the most unshaken and valuable in that part of the World and the most attached to the British Government should lose any share of that power and influence the exercise of which cannot fail to be as it always has been beneficial to the interests of the British Nation and to the cause of civilization, but he would still not be disposed to interfere in any war in which the Imaum

were

2292

are to be involved in it, it should clearly appear that the total damage could not otherwise be prevented.

I have &c.

Bombay Castle, Sign'd C. Norris

11th October 1838. Chief Secy

True Copies

Wm Bird

Secretary to Govt.

2292

Muscat

1

2293

To,
John Bax, Esqr
Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 12th September last, with its several enclosures, on the affairs of Muscat, and to communicate in reply, as follows

2. The Right Honble the Governor General in Council is not prepared to sanction the employment of the British troops for the purpose

2293

of maintaining the integrity of the Continental possessions of the Imam of Muscat. If we were once to commit ourselves by a declaration of our intention to support that Chief, this line of policy must be followed up at any expence, and it is impossible to set limits to the waste of blood and treasure which might ensue in consequence.

3. The Wahabees evidently exist in considerable force, and the Imam has acknowledged their ascendancy by entering into tributary engagement with

with them, and engaging to hold his forces at their disposal for carrying on offensive operations against their Enemies. If both parties are left to themselves, a sense of mutual interest will probably lead them to abstain from carrying to extremity any differences that may hereafter arise between them; whereas, if we were to make an offer of military assistance to the Imam, he would probably avail himself of the support of our Alliance to rid himself of the burden

burden of the connection which he has been forced to enter into with the Wahabees, and we should become involved in a series of distressing operations carried on at a distance from our resources and under great natural disadvantages from the heat of the climate and the nature of the Country, against a brave people with whom we have ourselves no cause of dispute of any kind —

4. Our concern is only with the Maritime Commerce of the Gulf, and as long as that is

is not molested; it matters
not to us whether one
power or another holds
dominion on its shores.
Even if the Wahabees were
to get possession of the
harbor of Muscat, an
event, of which the
Imam himself does
not appear to enter=
=tain any apprehen=
=sion, it does not of
necessity follow that
they would commence
a system of piracy.—
It is more probable
that, being already
sensible, from their
recollection of past
events in the Gulf, of
our maritime superiority,
they

2298

No. 29.

To,

The Secretary to the Supreme Government

Fort William

~~Political Department~~

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honble the Governor in Council to request you will submit for the information of His Lordship the Governor General in Council the accompanying copy of proceed of the political condition of the several states connected with the Western and North Western Frontier of British India drawn up by the Persian Secretary to this Govt.

2298

I have &c
J. C. Norris
Chief Secy

Bombay Castle
9 January 1834

2299

Precis of the Political Condition of the Several States connected with the Western and North western Frontier of British India in 1834.

The Eastern Coast of Africa from Mozembique to near Socotra, called by the Arabs the Swahil, is, with some trifling exceptions more or less subject to the authority of His Highness the Imaum of Muscat. In consequence of some demonstrations of insubordination on the part of his Mombasa Tributories, the Imaum has proceeded to that quarter with his Fleet, and is expected to make some considerable stay at Zanzibar.

During the past year an american Cruizer with her Tender called at Mus Kat & it is asserted that the Imaum entered into a treaty with the Americans. the Chief article of which was to allow them to establish a Factory at Zanzibar & to have a Port there.

The town of Mokha was by the last accounts still in the hands of the Albanians who rebelled

two

two years since against the Pacha of Egypt - their ships however had been all destroyed and it was expected that the Pacha's Troops would occupy Mokha within a very short period.

The Port of Mukulla was still in the hands of its venerable Nakeeb or Chief Abdoor Rub, and the other petty states on that coast were in the same position as before.

Muskat has been left by the Imaum under a Regency composed of His Highness' son Saleeh and of his nephew. The interior of Oman was almost entirely in the hands of His Highness' rebellious relations - scarcely any thing except the Port of Muskat and the Village of Boorka remaining to the Imaum.

In the Gulf of Persia Soolieman bin Seggar had failed in several predatory attempts on different places but by the last accounts still shewed a very strong disposition to renew them & to commence piracy on an extensive scale.

The son of the Viceroy of Persia was still in

in possession of Bushire though Sheik Nasir the heir of the late Sheik, was making preparations for another attack on that place. —

2301

The South of Persia was in a very unsettled state and the country very insecure, people suppose that some eventful crisis is at hand in that country the trade of Bushire had in consequence suffered much.

A violent enmity had broken out between His Royal Highness the Viceroy of Fars and the Imaum of Muskat in consequence of His Royal Highness having given the Imaum's wife (his daughter) to another noble, the Persian Divines having declared that first marriage void on account of the Imaums not being a genuine Mussulman. —

+ A.A. is of the Benjaque or Khandjah sect being descended from those who deserted Ally when he submitted his claim to the Califate to arbitration, this the sect is considered heretical by the Persians.

The Viceroy had sent Troops to seize Bunder Abbas and the

and the other places on the Coast of Persia which had been held for many years in farm of the Persian Government by the Imaum.

2302

The Kraun and Beloochistan are plunged in barbarism and are almost impossible from the predatory habits of the numerous petty Chiefs by whom they are ~~ruled~~

The Province of Las.

The small state of Bela bordering on the Western frontier of Scinde, is an exception - it enjoys peace and security under the paternal sway of Jaum Meer Khan its Lord. The Port of Vonmeeany has of late years much increased in importance, in consequence of its being the principal emporium for Merchandize on its way from Bombay to Kabool, Candahar and even from Central Asia. It is also by this route that the Pilgrims from Central Asia come to Bombay. Merchants and ~~this period~~ this route to the Indus & Scinde, owing to the little security to be found in the latter country and the proverbial treachery of the Governments and natives. —

Further

Further on land is the Beloochee Principality of Kelate Nusseer - its present Chief is Mehrab Khan Baroohee. —

The Chief of Sinde Meer Mosraad Ally being deceased has been succeeded by his sons and Nephews who appear to have agreed to govern the Country conjointly as their predecessors did. Their names are Meer Sobdar - Meer Moohummed Meer Noor Mahomed and Meer Nusseer Khan How long this state of things will continue is very doubtful - at present they are constrained to remain on good terms for the sake of mutual defence against one who may prove their common enemy that is the Ex King of Kabool who last year seized the City of Shikarpoor on the pretence of an expedition to recover the Kingdom.

The rulers of Northern Sinde are the Meers Hoosseen and Mobarick sons of Meer Sohrab of Khairpoor.

Western Sinde is under Meer Ally Mosraad son of Meer Thara of Meerpoor.

Shah Shooja the Ex King is still at