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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127.contd.

...

6th. No communication has yet been addressed to any of the parties supposed to be implicated as the subject appears to offer a favourable opportunity for introducing the question of abolishing all traffic in slaves on the part of the Arab chiefs or those under their authority as directed by Mr. Chief Secretary ~~wixk~~ Wathens letter of the 30th October last.

Residency in the Persian Gulf, I have the honor to be,  
Bushire, 28th February 1838. Sd/-T. Mackenzie,

Acting Asstt. Incharge of  
the Residency in the  
Persian Gulf.

.....

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

.....

No.1.

Translated extract of a letter from the Agent at Muscat to the Acting Assistant Encharge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf dated 1st Shabon or 30th November 1837.

Relative to the acts of the Joasmees in the direction of Sowahil on the coast of Barbarah I have made much enquiry and I have heard that the Joasmees, the past season brought some young girls abyssinian and soomalee but it is reported that they purchased them with money. I made enquiries from some men from Singah and they said that they did bring 4 or 5 young girls from Soomal. On the 26th April a Bugarah from Shargah arrived on board of which were some friends of whom I made enquiry they replied that they did bring some of those young girls to Shargah Raselkhymah and Ajman but that they purchased them. Also the son of "Ali Ben Alek went as passengers in the Bugla of Salimal Aweid and there are with them 4 or 5 young girls from Soomal-but they did not sell them on the Oman Coast they proceeded to Russorah there to dispose of them. The Patil of Ben Targ was also in their fleet so far as I have been able to learn this affair is not unfounded but is not true to the extent stated of 233 young girls apparently only 20 or 30.

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 15.2.1841, Nos. 127. contd.

....

Translated Extracts of a letter from the Agent at Shargah to the Acting Assistant Incharge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf dated 13th Ramazan or 12 December 1837.

States that during the last three months he has been endeavouring to procure information relative to the circumstances complained of by the person from Barbarrah (Abdulla ben Awaz) but that as he has not been able to learn anything of the matter that he is not aware of any one of the name of Khames a subject of Sultan ben Sugur who trades in the direction of Mascat that there is a person named Salneen ben Khamis but that he is not a man who would be guilty of such an act (plundering Abdulla ben Awuz as stated by himself) expresses his surprise that such a statement should have been made by Abdulla bin Awuz at Bushire as to (agent) was at Rasulkhymah at the time of his arrival and invited him to make known his complaints, but that he made no mention of the treatment he had been subjected to by Khames only stating that during the last three years the subjects of Sultan ben sugur and others besides from Batinah & Co. have been in the habit of trading in the direction of Barbarrah and stealing women under the pretence of marriage and conveying them to their own country for sale. That it is true they are brought

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, Nos.127. contd.

....

brought from that quarter for sale of Bussorah, Coast of the province of Tars &c. but that those who do bring them assert that they are all abyssinians. That it is difficult to distinguish between the two as the color of the abyssinian and soomal is the same. That women are purchased at Barbarah which country is not like other countries having forts doors &c. The Chiefs of that quarter also do not have custom houses &c. nor know what may be imported or exported about half a Tar Sakh intervenes between their places (towns) and most of them are thieves and mischief makers. When traders visit that quarter they arrive at night and land their goods at night, so that no one knows what is brought by them when they leave in like manner they take their departure at night and no one knows what they carry along with them. It is stated that two women from Barbarah are now in Shargah and the remainder have been sent to Kait and Bussorah.

/True translated extract/

Sd/-I. Mackenzie,

Acting Asstt. Incharge &c.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1941, Nos.127. contd.

...

Translated extract of a letter from the Agent at Muscat to the Acting Assistant Incharge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf dated 28th Showal or 25th January 1838.

Relative to Abdulla ben Awaz Soomalie he arrived on board of a Barhein Bugla on the 20th Instant. He waited on me and reported the incidents that had befallen him. He came a second time and stated that of the young women he is in search of were in Muscat, and requested permission to go and find themselves which I granted him, In the course of a couple of days he returned and said that he had discovered one of the young women I desired him to bring her that I might make enquiry relative to the affair which being done she stated that she was a soomalee and that she was from Barbarrah that one of the people of so called Alliben Seid ben Isa stole her that he was the navigator on board a vessel belonging to Koit commanded by an Abyssinian called Mahaboob, who gave them permission to seize whomever they could that she with 7 others were carried away and conveyed first to Soor and afterwards to Muscat. that she was taken to the sons of bin Isa and Amber Tahalet who discovered that she was a Soomalie and did not want her. Afterwards that she was kept for some time at Sidab (place near Muscat) that another is in possession of Ahmed ben Seif ben Hausel of Muttra and is married to

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127, contd.

....

to one of his servants and a third in the hands of the sister of Jawie in Muttra, who has been seen by Abul Nebbie Beloochee where the remainder are she does not know Abdulla bin Awaz having made enquiry regarding the one who was with the sister of Jawie was informed that she had been sold. The one in the hands of Ahmed ben Seif still remains with him, I recommended Abdulla bin Awaz to remain in Muscat until the arrival of the Resident but he said that the season would be over and that between him and Captain Hennell there was an agreement. I myself made enquiry of people from Koit and they stated that, that boat was the property of Yacob bin Ghanun Kailee, and that she was commanded by his slave of those 8 young women 4 were sold between Sour and Sohar, and the remaining 4 went to Koit, where they (the crew of the Bugla) were questioned about the affair and they replied that they had purchased them with money.

/true extract/

Sd/-I.Mackenzie

Acting Asstt.Incharge.

/True copies/

Sd/-I.Mackenzie,

Acting Assistant Incharge of the Residency  
in the Persian Gulf.

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FORE.POOL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, Nos 127. contd.

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No.673 of 1838

Political Department.

From

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,  
Secretary to Government.

To

The Officiating Resident in the  
Persian Gulf,

Dated 16th April 1838.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledged the receipt of Mackenzie's letter dated the 28th February last on the subject of the slave trade carried on at the Ports in the Persian Gulf and to inform you that the Right Honourable the Governor in Council very much fears that little can be done to effect the suppression of this nefarious traffic, but that as long as a hope remains government are unwilling to abandon it, you are therefore requested to submit your opinion in detail on the points adverted to in the communication now acknowledged and at the same time suggest any measures which may occur to you as likely to mitigate the evil.

Bombay Castle,  
16th April 1838.

I have the honor to be,

Sd/-J.P.Willoughby

Secy. to Government.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd..

.....

No.15 of 1838

Political Department.

From

Captain S. Hennell,  
Officiating Resident in the  
Persian Gulf.

To

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,  
Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Dated 28th April 1838.

Sir,

With reference to my letters to your address under date the 24th September 1837, and 10th January 1838 both in this department, I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, that the information which my enquiries have elicited during my recent visits to Muscat and the arabian coast touching the complaint of a person named Abdulla bin Iwaz of the Abduction of a number of girls from the coast of Barbarra, all tends to confirm the opinion expressed by Mr. Mackenzie the 2nd and 3rd and 4th and 5th paragraphs of his dispatch No.6, Political Department dated the 28th February 1838.



FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

....

2nd. Although unable to bring any positive or direct proof against the subjects of Shaik Sultan bin Saggur still I am inclined to concur in the general opinion entertained in the gulf that instances of five persons being kidnapped and brought away for sale from the coast of Barbarrah, do some times occur among the Joasmaes. I therefore considered it my duty to introduce the subject on the occasion of the interference held with their chief on the 17th instant. After touching generally upon the complain preferred against his subjects by Abdullah bin Iwaz last year, I expressed in the strongest possible terms, the indignation felt by the government concerning that such an infamous and nefarious practice had been carried on although so expressly for-bidden by the 9th article of the Treaty subscribed by the independent arabian chieftains of the gulf. The shaik, after a general denial of the accusation and affirming that the subjects of His Excellency the Imaum and those of Koweit, were the individuals principally concerned in this traffic, endeavoured to convince me that he was fully impressed with the wickedness; and enormity of such proceeding and must went on to say that to prevent the possibility of any of his people participating in them he had despatched his confidential Meerze to Zanzibar, for the purpose of entering into arrangements, with His Highness the Imam of Muscat, to the effect that in future no vessel from the Joasmae Ports should be per-

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

permitted to visit the african coast without carrying a special written authority from himself that upon the arrival of such vessels in any of the possessions of the Imam His Highness or his Locum Teneus, should assign fixed place for the residence of their crews during their stay and further that upon their return to the gulf, the Nakhoda of each Boat would be required to produce a written document under the seal of His Highness certifying that his crews had conducted themselves with peace and quietness and that none of his people had been guilty of stealing or surreptitiously carrying away slaves, either by force or fraud. The Shaik added, that to enforce these propositions he had offered the Imam full authority to punish to the utmost extent every /one of his subjects who might be guilty of their infraction. I replied that this proof of the sincerity of his sentiments was satisfactory and as it was now evident that we had both the same object in view, he could have no objection to afford his consent to any further arrangements which might tend to put an end to the atrocious practice complained of: I therefore recommended that ~~he~~ she should concede to our cruizers the right of a searching and detaining his vessels upon the high seas in all cases where their crews were open to the suspicion of being

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

being engaged in the kidnapping of slaves and at the same time to admit the further right of seizing and confiscating them in case these suspicions proved to be well founded. Upon the Shaik unhesitatingly expressing his acquiescence, I produced the agreement (of which the accompanying is a copy) after making his Moonshee read it aloud, he affixed his seal to two copies one of which he retained himself, and the other is now deposited in the records of the Residency.

3rd. It will be observed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council that the document above referred to, does not in the slightest degree but the government or pledge it to any specific line of policy with reference to the slave trade, which it is something gained towards a check and may at a future period, from the bases of more general and comprehensive negotiations for the suppression of this detestable traffic.

4th. In doing myself the honor to intimate that a similar agreement to the one above referred to has been signed by Shaik Rashed bin Humaed, Shaikh Mukhtoom bin Butye and Shaik Khylaeefa bin Shackboot, the chiefs of Ejman, Debaye, and Boothabee and expressing a hope that the steps I have taken may be honored by the approval of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

Residency in the Persian Gulf, I have the honor to be,

Bushira, 22nd April 1838

Sd/-S.Hennell,

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...

Article of agreement entered into by Shaik Sultan bin Suggur - dated Shargah the 22nd Muharrum A.H.1254 or 17th April A.D. 1839.

In the event of vessels connected with my ports, or belonging to my subject coming under the suspicion of being employed in the carrying off (literally stealing) and embarkation of slaves, men, women or children, I Sultan bin Suggur Shaik of the Joasmae, tribe do hereby agree to their being detained and searched whenever, and wherever, they may be fallen in with on the seas by the cruizers of the British government, and further that upon its being ascertained that the crews have conveyed off (literally stolen) and embarked slaves, their vessels shall be liable to seizure and confiscation by the aforesaid cruizers sealed. (L.S.)

by Sultan bin Suggur,

/True copy/

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Offg. Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

No.1346 of 1838

Political Department.

From

I.R. Reid Esquire,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government

To

The Officiating Resident in the

Persian Gulf,

Dated 11th July 1838.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 28th April last, No.15 with its enclosure, on the subject of kidnapping slaves from the coast of Barbudra by the Joasmans, and to inform you that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council highly approves of your having entered into an agreement with the chief of the tribe for permitting our cruizers to search and detain his vessels upon the high seas in all cases where their crews are open to the suspicion of being engaged in the Kidnapping of slaves and to confiscate such vessels in case such suspicion are proved to be well-founded.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT.15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

2nd. The Governor in Council further instructs me to request that you will still act according to the Instructions of Government conveyed to you in Mr. Secretary Willoughby's letter dated the 16th of April last, on the subject of the slave trade carried on at the Ports in the Persian Gulf.

Bombay Castle,  
11th July 1838.

I have the honor to be,  
Sd/-L.R.REID,  
Acting Chief Secretary to Govt.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

No.72 of 1838

Political Department.

From

Captain S. Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,  
Secretary to the Government  
Bombay,

Dated the 3rd September 1838.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your letter No.1846 in the Department under dated the 11th July 1838, approving of the agreement entered into with the Sultan ben Sugguz prohibiting the kidnapping of slaves from the Coast of Barbarra, and further directing me to act according to the ~~wi~~ instructions of government conveyed in your letter of the 18th April 1838.

2nd. The instructions thus referred to I conclude are those directing me to submit my opinion in detail on the points adverted to in Mr.Mackenzie's communication dated the 28th February 1838, and at the same time to suggest any measures which might occur to me as likely to mitigate the evil of the slave trade

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1941, No.127. contd.

....

3rd. For the convenience of reference I shall proceed to notice the several subjects alluded to by Mr. Mackenzie by drawing them up in one column, and making such remarks as they may appear to call for on the opposite side.

1st. Mr. Mackenzie states, that with reference to the accusation of Abdollah ben Iawaz against the Joasmees regarding the abduction of a number of his country women and their maltreatment of himself, it would appear either the tribe were innocent of the charge or had found means of concealing the truth from the govt. Agent at Shargah.

On this point I have already reported to the government, that in the absence of direct proof against the subjects of sheik sultan ben suggur I was of opinion that instances of free persons being stolen and brought away for sale, had sometime occurred among the Joasmees and it was this belief /which led me to enter into the agreement with themembo of the general treaty prohibiting the stealing for purposes of traffic not merely of free persons but those coming under the denominations of slaves whether men, women or children.



FORE. POLL. DEPT. 16.2.1841 No.127. contd.

...

2nd. That it would appear that a disgraceful traffic in young females, probably both by stealth and purchase is carried on not only in the territories of the joasmoes but every port of consequences in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Mackenzie is right in stating that this traffic in young women does exist in all the principal ports, but the greatest part of these females consist of negroes with a few Abyssinians procured by purchase and who are considered by the Mahomedan faith as legitimate Bonds women. Instances have as stated before taken place of somalees being brought for sale but they are rare, and in some of the ports on the Persian Coast were the circumstances to come to the knowledge of the Chief they would be immediately set at liberty.

3rd. That had the Sheik of Koweest been a member of the general treaty entered into by Sir W. G. Keir with the pacificated arabs the conduct of some of his subjects

Unquestionably the proceedings of the subjects of the Sheik of Koweest in stealing the seven sommalee girls from the coast of Barbarrah, as reported by the native agent at Muscat would come under the 9th article

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

somalees would by the 9th article of that agreement have been come under the denomination of Piracy.

such be considered as piracy. But the rule of Koweest is not a member of the treaty in question and more over calls himself a dependent of the Turkish Government I propose however writing to him on the subject and requesting him to exert his influence to put an end to such atrocities.

4th. That the Somalees from whom a great part of the supply seems to be drawn are a free people and as they cannot become slaves without violence consequently those conveyed to Persian gulf must be either kidnapped or purchased while prisoners of war and that to this practice a degree of moral turpitude attaches which if insisted upon would tend considerably to diminish the

In making this observations Mr.Mackenzie I conclude means that a great part of the supply of those who were originally "Hoor" or free is taken from the somalees in contradistinction to the supply of negroes and Abyssinians who come under the denomination of "Abeed" or Bondsmen. The proportion of the "Sommalee" to the two latter, is perhaps as one in one hundred and these are as Mr.Mc Observes, probably either kidnapped purchased as

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

....

Mohomedan law the sale of free persons as slaves is expressly forbidden, but I doubt whether in actual fact, any great degree of moral guilt is considered to be incurred by mussulmans who engage in this traffic. Those who profess to act up to the tenets of the Koran will not purchase or sell an individual of this ~~sex~~ description, but the practice of disposing of persons of war as Bondsmen, is not confined to Africa. I am myself aware of two instances in this country in which Persian and Arab women and children taken on the occasion of the capture of Bunder Dillum by the troops of the Prince of Shiraz and that of Mohumiah by the present Pasha of Baghdad were carried away and sold as slaves.

FORE. POLL. DEPT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

.....

5th. That the subject appears to offer a favorable opportunities for introducing the question of abolishing all traffic in slaves on the part of the arabian chiefs as those under their authority.

I have the already in my letter to government of the 10th January last fully recorded my opinion regarding the impracticability of a abolishing the traffic in slaves on the part of the Arabian chiefs without the payment of a large sum of money as an undemnification for the sacrifice made by them in surrendering a practice in no way opposed to their own faith in compliance with the religious views and opinions of others. At the same time I expressed my belief that even were this indemnification afforded causes beyond our controul would prevent any benefit being derived from its payment.

4th. The only measures I can suggest as likely to mitigate the evil of this nefarious traffic, independently of the agreement entered into this year by the Arabian chiefs, who are members of the General Treaty, vizt. that prohibiting the kidnapping of slaves under penalty of the seizure and confiscation of the vessels of these concerned are Firstly

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841. No.127. contd.

...

Firstly to endeavour to induce His Highness the Imam to extend the treaty concluded by Captain Moresby of H.M.Ship Menai in 1822, so as to include in its provisions the Provinces of Cutch and Kattywar; an object which would be effected by extending the line without which His Highness vessels engaged in the slave trade, are liable to seizure, from Din Head its present limit to Karachee; or in the event of this not being attainable, to the mouth of the Indus-Secondly, to obtain the consent of the Arabian chiefs who are not subjects of Persia or Turkey, to the adoption of the same restriction line. Thirdly to have the right of search of all vessels found without the proscribed limits and open to the suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade conceded to us by Treaty on the parts of His Highness the Imam, and the maritime arabian chiefs; Fourthly, to endeavour to negotiate an agreement by which the purchase or sale of somaloes or such other inhabitants of the African Coast as may come under the Mahomedan denominations of "Hood" or Free shall be considered as equivalent to an act of Piracy and punished accordingly.

Residency in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire 3rd September 1833

Bushire, 3rd Sept. 1833.

I have the honour to be &c.

Sd/- S. Hensell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

....

No.2378 of 1838

Political Department.

From

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,  
Secretary to Government.

To

The Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
Dated the 12th December 1838.

Sir,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 3rd September last submitting your opinion upon certain points adverted to by Dr.Mackenzie in his communications of the 21st February 1838 regarding the abduction of young females from the coast of Barbarrah and suggesting measures likely to mitigate the evil of the slave trade in these quarters.

2. With reference to that part of the 3rd paragraph of your communications noticing Mr.Mckenzie's remark that a disgraceful traffic in young women is carried on in every part of consequence in the Persian Gulf, I am desired to observe that it appears to government highly improbable that the protection secured to the negroes of the coast of Barbarrah under the Treaty with Sir W. Genc Kair, excludes the Abyssinians, many

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

many of whom are Christians and have the strongest claim to the protection of the British government, but upon the point however you are requested to favour government with your opinion.

3rd. Adverting to the remedial measures suggested by you in your letter dated the 10th January last, I am directed to inform you that the Governor in Council is not at all inclined in favour of making pecuniary compensation to the Arab chiefs in the Gulf to induce them to renounce all participation in this revolting trade.

4th. With reference to the last para of your report I am desired to inform you that in regard to those states who have not come under compact to abandon the slave trade measures only of a persuasive nature and not those of a compulsory kind, should be resorted to, and the governor should be resorted to, and the Governor in Council sees no reason why in any new engagements which maybe made, the ports on the coast of Muscat should not be included.

5th. I am on this occasion desired to request that you will never cease to use your utmost exertions to advance the important object of restricting and suppressing this hateful traffic, on every opening that may

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. cntd.

.....

evil, than is suggested in the 4th paragraph of your letter, the Governor in council directs that the measure proposed in this communication be attempted as soon as possible and which it is hoped you will succeed in carrying into effect.

6th. The african children however must be held to be free and should be included in the engagements unless the ~~knowledge~~ any obstacle may exist, not now within the knowledge of government, and should any such obstacle appear to exist, you are requested to exert every endeavour on your part to remove the same.

7th. In conclusion I am desired to intimate to you that the Honorable the Governor in Council approves of your intention to invite to the ruler of Kowest regarding the proceedings of his subject in stealing somallee girls, from the coast of Barbarra and requesting him to exert his influence to put an end to such atrocities in future but you are requested not to lose sight of the Abyssinian's.

Bombay Castle,  
12th December 1838.

I have the honor to be,  
Sd/-J.P. Willoughby,  
Secretary to Government.

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FORE.POLL.DEP'TT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

No.60 of 1839

Political Department.

From

Captain S. Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

J.P. Willoughby Esquire  
Secretary to Government,  
Bombay,

Dated 19th July 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge ~~thaxxx~~ your letter No.2378 in this department under date the 12th December last, upon the subject of the slave trade carried on in the gulf of Persia.

2nd. Adverting to the 2nd paragraph of your communication, I beg respectfully to observe that in noticing Mr. Mackenzie's remark regarding a disgraceful traffic in young women being carried on in every part of consequence in the Persian Gulf I did not for a moment mean to imply that the protection accorded to the Negroes of the coast of Barbary under the treaty with Sir W. Grant Keir, excluded the Abyssinia. The carrying away a native of Abyssinia force is by that treaty, equally an act of piracy as

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

....

3rd. The Honorable the Governor in Council may rely with confidence upon my gladly availing myself of every opening which may offer to use my utmost exertions in the restriction and suppression of a traffic so opposed to all the best feelings of the humanity. A great advance would be made in this important object, if the Imam were persuaded to extend the line beyond which the vessels of His Highness engaged in the slave trade are liable to seize, from Din Head to Cape Guedel on the coast of Mehra. I have ~~xxx~~ long been looking for the return of His Highness to Muscat in order to have an opportunity of personally communicating with him upon the subject but judging from the manner in which his return has been procrastinated, it would at most appear as if Syed Said were determined not to revise his Arabian territories although, it is again currently reported he intends shortly to do so. I found during my late visit to Muscat that it was perfectly useless discussing any question of this nature with the regency of that place, as they always gave out that they could not act in any affair, excepting under the special authority and sanction of His Highness the Imam.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

4th. With regard to the maritime arabian chiefs ,  
 I have much satisfaction in enclosing the accompanying  
 arabic copies and a translation of engagements which  
 have been entered into by Shaik Khulaefa of Aboothabee,  
 Shaik Mukhtoom of Debay, Shaik Abdollah of Amulgaveen,  
 and Shaik Sultan of Rasul-Khymah. The first article  
 of these engagements gives our vessels the right of  
 search beyond a line drawn from Cape Delgado to cape  
 Geeadel. The second renders any vessel belonging to the  
 above chiefs, found with slaves on board beyond the  
 limits specified, liable to seizure and confiscation, the  
 third makes the sale of somaloes an act of piracy.

5th. The restrictive line and other remedial  
 measure suggested by me in my letter of the 3rd September  
 1838 have thus been agreed to by the principal arabian  
 chiefs of the gulf and with these concessions I was  
 obliged to remain satisfied for the present as with  
 reference to the intrigues now carrying on among them  
 by the emissaries of Khooshid Pasha, it appeared to me  
 impolitic to press them in further upon a subject they  
 at all times approach with suspicion and reluctance.

Residency in the  
 Persian gulf,  
 Karrack, 19th July 1839.

I have the honor to be,  
 Sir - S. Hamell,  
 Resident in the Persian  
 Gulf.

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 erring to copies  
 engagements  
 ered into by  
 bian chiefs reg-  
 ing Slave Trade.

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FORE. PO/LLDEPIT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

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Translation of an agreement entered into by Shaikh  
Shaikh Sultan bin Suggur chief of Rassel Khymah  
dated off Rassel Khymah, 3rd July 1839.

I Sultan bin Suggur Shaikh of the Joasmea  
tribe, do hereby declare that I bind and pledge myself  
to the British Government in the following engagements.

First - That the government cruizers whenever  
they may meet any vessel belonging to myself or my  
subjects beyond direct line drawn from Cape Delgado,  
passing two Degrees seaward of the Islara of Socatra,  
and ending at Cape Guadel, and shall suspect that  
such vessel is engaged in the slave trade, the said  
cruizers are permitted to detain and search it.

2nd. - Should it on examination be proved,  
that any vessel belonging to myself or my subjects,  
is carrying slave trade, whether men, women or child-  
ren, for sale, beyond the aforesaid line then the  
Government cruizers shall seize and confiscate such  
cruizers and vessels and her cargo. But if the afore-  
said vessel shall pass beyond the aforesaid line,  
owing to stress of weather, or other case of necessity  
not under controul then she shall not be seized.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No. 127. contd.

...

3rd. As the selling of males and females whether grown up or young who are "Hoor" or Free, is contrary to the Mahomedan religion, and whereas the Soomalee Tribe is included in the "ahrar" or Free, I Sultan bin Suggur, do hereby agree that the sale of males, and females whether young or old, of the Soomalee tribe, shall be considered as piracy, and that after 4 months from this date, all those of my people connected or convicted of being in such an act, shall be punished the same as pirates.

/True translation/

Sd/-S. Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Note - A similar agreement to the above was entered into by Shaik Khuleefa bin Shahbacoot on the 1st July 1839 and by Shaik Mikhtoom of Debaye and Shaik Abdollah bin Rashid of Amulgavine on the 2nd of the same month.

/True copy/

Sd/-Resident in the Persian Gulf.

...

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FORE.POLL.DE TR. 15.2.1941, No.127. contd.

.....

No.1796 of 1839

Political Department.

From

W.S. Royd Esquire,  
Acting Secretary to Government of Bombay.

To

The Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Dated the 21st October 1839.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures, dated the 19th July last, No.60, and to request that you will be pleased to embrace the first paragraph opportunity of inducing His Highness the Imam of Muscat, to extend the line of prohibition of the Slave trade by his subjects, from Dkn Head to Cape Gadel on the coast of Mekran.

2nd. The engagements entered into by the principal maritime arabian chiefs, regarding slave trade, are considered by the Governor in Council highly satisfied and he is pleased to approve the whole of your proceedings.

3rd. The superintendent of the Indian Navy has been requested to issue the necessary instructions to the officers commanding the Honorable company's vessels of

of the parties of the engagements

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FORE.POLL.DETT. 15.2.1841, No.127. contd.

...

above adverted to.

Bombay Castle,  
the 21st October 1839.

I have the honor to be,

Sd/-W.S.Boyd.

Acting Secretary to Govt.

/true copies/

Sd/-L.R. REID,

Chief Secy. to Govt.

....

1375

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.2.1841, No.127 contd.

...

List of documents forwarded with the letter to the Officiating Secretary to Government of India dated 27th July No.1660 of 1840 A.D.

- No.1 From the Offg. Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 24th September 1837.
- No.2 Reply to dated 9th December 1837.
- No.3 From the officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 10th January 1838.
- 4th. Reply to dated 6th March 1838.
- No.5 From the Acting Assistant in charge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf dated 28th February 1838 with enclosures.
- No.6 To the Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 16th April 1838.
- No.7 From Ditta Ditta Ditta dated 28th April 1838. with enclosures.
- No.8. Reply to dated 11th July 1838.
- No.9. From the Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 3rd September 1838.
- No.10. Reply to dated 18th December 1838.
- No.11 From the Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 19th July 1839 with enclosures.
- No.12 Reply to dated 21st October 1839.

.....



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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4 DEC. 1847, Nos.2-19.

....

No.2. Office No.318. No.201 of 1847.

From

A. Malet Esquire,  
Secretary to Government of Bombay.

To

H.M. Elliot Esquire,  
Secretary to the Government of India,  
with the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

Secret Department,

Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you for submission to the Right Honourable\* the Governor General of India copies

- Dated the 7th April 1847, No.1. of five letters as
- do- the 11th May 1847, No.4
- do- the 14th May 1847, No. 5 per margin, from
- di- the 24th May 1847, No.7
- do- the 27th May 1847, No.10 Major Hennell, Resi-

dent in the Persian,

Gulf connected with the slave trade in that quarter.

2nd. With his letter dated the 7th April last, Major Hennell submits copy of a recent correspondence between himself and the Hon'ble Mr. Wellesley, Her Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople, and Major Rawlinson, Political Agent in Turkish Arabia, on the subject of the ports having recently consented to put a stop to the traffic in African slaves which has hitherto been carried on at the ports in the Persian Gulf,

1377

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

3rd. With his further letter upon the same subjects, dated the 27th May last, Major Hennell has forwarded copy of a letter from Her Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople dated the 21st of the preceding month, intimating that the sublime porte has issued orders to the Pacha of Bagdad, not to do more at present, than prevent slave vessels under Foreign Colours, from landing their Cargoes in Turkish Ports on the Euphrates.

4th. In his letter dated the 11th May last, Major Hennell communicates the gratifying intelligence that at present personal interviews with the ex-maritime arab chiefs in the Persian Gulf enumerated in the margin, he

The chief of Rasulkhyma & Shargah	had succeeded in
The Chief of Amulgawice	inducing each of
The chief of Ejmen	them to enter into
The Chief of Dabaya	a separate engagement
The Chief of Abrothabas	binding himself to
The Chief of Subreni	

prohibit from and after the 10th December 1847, the importation of slaves from the African Coast, or elsewhere on board of his vessels and those of his subjects, and giving full authority to the Hon'ble Company's Cruizers to detain and examine all such vessels suspected of being engaged in the slave trade, and to seize and confiscate them, should they be found violating the terms of the engagement now subscribed to.

1378

FORE.POLL.DEP'T. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

5th. With his letter dated the 14th May, Major Hennell transmits copy of a communication which he addressed on the 8th of the same month, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, announcing the above intelligence, and containing a "sketch of the statistics of the slave trade in the Persian Gulf and the relations hitherto subsisting between the British Government and the several Chiefs occupying its shores."

6th. I am also directed to transmit to you for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General, copies of the minutes recorded by the Hon'ble the Governor and the Hon'ble Mr. Willoughby as per margin,	
Minute by the Hon'ble the Governor, dated 25th ultimo concurred in by the Hon'ble Mr. Reid.	consequent on the receipt of Major
Minute by the Hon'ble the Governor dt. 26th ultimo concurred in by the Board.	Hennell's letters, and to state that
Minute by the Hon'ble Mr. Willoughby dated 30th Ultimo.	orders to the effect therein
Minute by the Board dated 4th Inst.	directed have

this day; been issued from this Department. The two points alluded to in the 4th para of the Hon'ble Mr. Willoughby's Minute dated the 30th Ultimo, will be referred for the orders of the Home authorities by the next overland mail.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

...

The Governor in council begs to solicit the authority of the Right Honourable the Governor in General for the publication in the Bombay Government Gazette of the engagements now entered into by the Maritime Arab Chiefs of the Persian Gulf.

Bombay Castle,  
17th July 1847.

I have &ca.  
Signed/-A.Malet,  
Secretary to Govt.

/True copy/  
Signed/-A. Malet,  
Secy. to Govt.

....

1379

- 55 -

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

...

The Governor in council begs to solicit the authority of the Right Honourable the Governor in General for the publication in the Bombay Government Gazette of the engagements now entered into by the Maritime Arab Chiefs of the Persian Gulf.

Bombay Castle,  
17th July 1847.

I have &ca.  
Signed/-A.Malet,  
Secretary to Govt.

/True copy/  
Signed/-A. Malet,  
Secy. to Govt.

....

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

No.3.

Office No.148A of 1847

Cons.No.1 of 1847

From

Major Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

A. Malet Esquire,

Secretary to Government Bombay.

Secret Department,

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for the information of the Honourable the Governor in Council, copies of a Despatch with enclosures to my address dated the 9th February last, from the Honourable Mr. Wellesley, Her Majesty's charge d' affairs at Constantinople and also of two letters Nos.7 & 8 in this department from the Political Agent in Turkish Arabia, dated the 10th & 17 March, on the subject of the suppression of the Africa slave trade in the Turkish Ports in this quarter enclosures No.4 & 5 are transcripts of my replies to these communications.

2nd. From a perusal of the correspondence now forward His Honor in Council cannot fail to perceive that how important the concession made by the Ottoman Porte, in abolishing the Traffic of black slaves by its own vessels and in its own Ports, still that so long as the right

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847 No.2-19. contd.

....

right of carrying on this trade is maintained by Persia, and the Arabian Maritime Chiefs of the Gulf, but a small advance has been made towards the attainment of our views for its total suppression. To prove this, I have only to state that little more than 100 slaves are annually imported by vessels under Turkish colours while in 1845, one thousand seven hundred and eighty africans were brought up from Zanzibar, for sale, by those belonging to the Arab Ports of this quarter, and the average number annually imported with Persia was until the last year, reckoned at about 1150 Negroes and 80 Abbyssinians exclusive of those brought by the numerous Pilgrims from Mecca and Kerbella.

3rd. The Honourable the Governor in Council is doubtless aware, that in the existing state of our relations and engagements with the Arabian Chiefs of the Persian Gulf, there is nothing to prevent them from bringing any number of slaves into this quarter for sale, so long as they abstain from forcibly carrying them away, or their vessels are not found beyond a certain restrictive line drawn from Cape Delquardo on the African, to Cape Pussain, on the Mikran Coast, however desirable therefore it may appear, that while the Turkish local authorities of Bussorah should confine themselves to carrying out the Sultan's Firman for the abolition of the slave trade, by simply preventing foreign vessels employed in this

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

.....

right executive measures for its suppression in our own hands, it is obvious, that unless much more ample powers than those we at present possess are extended to us by the independent arab chiefs on the coast, we can afford little aid or support to the Turkish functionaries, in carrying out the humane and Philanthropic orders of the Ottoman Porte.

4th. Under these considerations, I have ventured to think that I should be acting in accordance with the known views of the British Government, were I to take upon myself the responsibility, in the absence of definite instructions, of endeavouring to obtain from the Maritime chiefs of the Arabian Coast, such a modification of the engagements at present existing on the subject of the slave trade, as may so far as they are concerned, remove every obstacle to the entire development of the object of Great Britain, for the complete suppression of this hateful traffic. It is therefore my intention to avail myself of the opportunity of my approaching conferences with the Arab Shaikhs, to bring this subject fully before them, in the hope, that under the altered state of circumstances arising from the Sultan of Turkey, and the Imam of Muscat having come into the views of the British Government



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FORE. POLL. DEPT. 4.12.1847, No. 2-19. contd.

...

British Government for the abolition of the African  
slave trade I may be able to obtain from them all the  
concessions which may be requisite for the full attain-  
ment of our objects on this important point.

Hon'ble Companys sloop of war. I have &ca.  
Elphinstone at Sea, signed /-S. Hennell,  
7th April 1847. Resident in the  
Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

S/-S. Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

....

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

...

No.1.

To

Major Hennell,  
E.I. Company's Resident,  
Beshire.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that in consequence of orders received from H.M.'s Principal Secretary of state for Foreign Affairs, I have been in communication with the Ottoman Government to obtain its cooperation, for the protection of the African Slave Trade at its Ports within the Persian Gulf.

I am happy to convey to you the intelligence, that the Sultan has consented to put a stop to this trade in the above mentioned Ports.

The enclosed extracts from my despatches to Viscount Palmerston on the subject will put you in possession of the Sultan's intentions, and of the means we will employ to put them in execution.

You will observe that I have promised secrecy with respect to the Sultan's firman. I have therefore to request that if you send copies of it, and the Viceregal Letters which accompanied it, to the East India Government you will be so good as to do it in a secret despatch.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. 4.12.1847, No. 2-19. contd.

...

Her Majesty's or the Honorable Company's vessels are empowered from the end of May/say 1st of June/ to stop and send into a Turkish Port, all Turkish vessel, engaged in the African slave trade. The slaves found on board such vessels are to be sent back to the place from whence they were taken, and the vessels themselves are to be confiscated for the benefit of the Ottoman Government and the captains of them are to be punished.

We must not be ever expect that all this will take place so regularly as it is laid down, we shall, no doubt, have difficulties to contend with in the beginning and I cannot sufficiently recommend prudence and caution in any remonstrances. You may be called upon to make on account of any violation of the Portus orders. The idea of slavery is so interwoven with the whole social condition of Turkey, that the prevention of it, even on this limited scale, may at first produce discontent on the spot where it is felt.

It seems to me that our main object should be the restoration of the slaves to their homes, and I think that it should be the point upon which you should principally insist, when those engaged in the trade see that we are determined to put a stop to it, they will gradually give it for some more profitable expectation.

1386

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. 4.12.1847, No. 2-19. contd.

....

Extract.

Extract of a Despatch to Lord Palmerston, dated Constantinople February 1st 1847.

Although the Ottoman Government has agreed in deference to your Lordships wishes, to cooperate with Great Britain for the suppression of the African Slave Trade within the Persian Gulf, its consent has only been obtained on the condition that the Imperial Firman and Vizirial Instructions on the subject, to the Pasha of Bagdad shall not be made public, consequently in enclosing translations of these documents, I have most respectfully to request that your Lordship will consider the communication of them as secret.

Your Lordship will not find it possible that the Firman and instructions imply the right rather than give the right to British men of war to stop Turkish vessels engaged in the trade. In order to clear up the point, I directed Mr. Pisani to point out the difference to Aali Effendi, H. E. gave Mr. Pisani the most satisfactory response on the subject, as your Lordship will see by Mr. Pisani's official report, a copy of which I have the honor to annex.

1387

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FORE.POLL.DEP'T. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

.....

It was not without difficulty that I obtained Aali Effendé's consent to inserting the final clause in the Vizirial instructions, which orders that all slaves landed from a vessel that may have escaped the Cruizers, shall be sent back to the place from whence they were taken.

/True copy/

Signed/- A.B. Kemball,

Assistant Resident Persian Gulf.

Extract.

Although I have abstained from unnecessarily troubling your Lordship with any details, respecting the progress of the negotiation to induce the Porte to co-operate with Her Majesty's Govt. for the suppression of the African slave trade within the Persian Gulf it is not to be inferred that I have been guilty of backbiting with the Government.

I am happy to add the happy result of these negotiations is most satisfactory. The Sultan desirous of showing his anxiety to meet the wishes of the Queen and of proving the friendly spirit, which animates his conduct towards Great Britain, has consented that the importation of African slaves into Her Majesty's

1388

FORE. POLL. DE IT. 4. 12. 1947, No. 2-19. contd.

...

Although I have taken the liberty of enjoining secrecy with respect to the documents issued by the Porte, it is not necessary that you should appear to be ignorant of their existence, on the contrary it is as well that the authorities should know that you are in possession of them, and if circumstances require it, you should not hesitate to produce them. For this purpose you will find copies in the Turkish language as well as translations annexed.

You will of course take the necessary measures for informing our cruisers of the powers granted to them by the Porte, with respect to the appearance of Turkish vessels to Cruise with ours. I have not such hope of an desirable promise being ever realized.

I need hardly add that you will always find Her Majesty's employ ready to give you all the assistance in its power.

Constantinople,  
February 9th, 1947.

I have &c.  
Ed/-H. Mollisley,

/Inis 2221/  
Ed/-A. R. Kemball,  
Asst. Resident Persian Gulf.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

Majesty's ports within the Persian gulf, shall cease, and His Highness has further been pleased to order that some ottoman vessels shall be sent into the Persian gulf in the ensuing spring, to cruize with those of Her Majesty's in order to prevent a continuance of this nefarious traffic within those waters.

I have not hesitated to express in Her Majesty's name as well as on behalf of the British Government, the sincere pleasure with which this signal proof of the Sultan's friendship will be received by them, and I have assured both the grand Vizier, and Aali Effendi, of the satisfaction which will at all times be inspired by the sight of the Ottoman Flag floating at the side of the British last more particularly when they are united in a service so hallowed as the prevention of a traffic be equally repulsive to both Christian & Mussulman. Aali Effendi has fixed the end of May, as the time

June 12,  
May 30,  
Jemazel Achar 22

on which the Sultan orders shall come into operation in order that those who are engaged in the traffic

may have time to adopt some other employment.

I propose taking the earliest opportunity of communicating to the East India Company's Agent at Bushira, the intentions of the Ports in this matter.

/True copy/

Sd/-A.E.Kemball,

1390

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

No.3.

Translation of an Imperial Firman addressed to the  
Valee of Bagdad, dated in the beginning of Sefa 1263  
or end of January 1847 communicated the 23rd January  
1847. -

To the Valee of Bagdad, ordained (that)  
whereas although special conventions have been entered  
into between the British Government and certain Rulers  
in Africa, for the purpose of preventing the exporta-  
tion of Black Slaves, from that country to/the ports  
of/America, and to other places, certain merchant ships  
contrive to Kidnap slaves from the African Coast and  
continue to transport them to other places, owing to  
which the provisions of theaforesaid conventions cannot  
be carried into execution, a request has been therefore  
lately made on the part of the British Government,  
that the necessary measures should be adopted in this  
matter bymy sublime Porte with reference to those  
places, and whereas the inhuman and barbarous treatment  
adopted with regard to the kidnapped slaves in the  
places to which they are transported is not like unto  
/that adopted towards/ slaves coming to these places  
and that the prevention thereof would be both just and  
compassionate. It is therefore my supreme and Imperial  
will that the slave trade carried on, on the aforesaid  
coast by the Merchant vessels, under my Imperial flag.



FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

...

/vessels/ acting in contravention to this prohibition and captured by the ships of my Imperial Fleet which by the Grace of God are to be sent into those waters or taken by the British ships of war cruizing in those parts and delivered up by them to the authorities of my Royal Ports in the Gulf of Busra, be taken possession of by my subline Ports, and that the captures ~~thereof~~ be punished that those whom it may concern thereof, and that the utmost care and attention be paid to the full and perpetual observance of the present prohibition and to the punishment of those acting in contravention thereto as aforesaid.

You therefore who are the Valies of the aforesaid will act conformably ~~hereto~~ and beware of transgressing/ these orders/.

/True copy/

Sd/-A.B. Kemball,

Assistant Resident Persian Dlf.

.....

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

.....

Translation of a communication made by the Porte to Her Majesty's Embassy.

A vizirial letter dated the 10th Safer/27th January 1847/ has been addressed to the Valee of Bagdad as follows:-

An imperial firman just issued concerning the prohibition to the exportation of Black slaves from Africa to America and other places is herewith transmitted to your Excellency, and it is the supreme command of His Majesty that you should be careful to enforce the orders contained in it.

Without entering into unnecessary details /on the subject/ with your Excellency it is necessary to observe, that as the publication of this Imperial Firman will not be without its objections, you should keep it by you and without any reference whatever, thereto, duly issue the orders contained in it to the authorities of such places as may be requisite.

His Majesty has moreover ordered that towards next spring some vessels of the Imperial Fleet should be sent /God willing/ to superintend the full execution of this interdiction, as well as to promote the welfare of those coasts as heretofore and whereas it would be

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

be productive of loss to some of His Majesty's subjects ignorant in the beginning if the prohibition of the execution thereof were to be enforced contemporaneously with its promulgation, the publication of these orders are to be made by you on the receipt of this despatch You will also make known that they are to be in full vigor four months after the date they are to be in full vigor four months after the dates hereof, that is after the 10th of Saffer /27th January 1847/ and that the slaves which may be on board any merchant vessels under the Ottoman Flag which shall have dared to act in contravention thereof after the expiration of the aforesaid period, and which having escaped the vigilance of the authorities on their passage, may enter any of the Turkish Ports, shall be taken possession of and detained.

You will also adopt suitable measures for sending back to the place from which they may have been kidnapped the slaves arriving in any of His Majesty's Ports.

/True copy/

Signed/- A.E. Kimball,

Assistant Resident, Persian. Gif.

....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1947, No.2-19. contd.

.....

Copy

To

The Honourable Henry Wellesley,  
&ca. &ca. &ca.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you, on the part of Aali Effendi Minister for Foreign Affairs, the enclosed official copy of a Firman directed to the Governor of Bagdad about the slave trade.

In delivering to me the copy of the Firman, His Excellency, Aali Effendi said, that if it is well understood that this Firman fully authorised British men of war to seize any ship under Ottoman Colours which may be found Acting contrary to the sultans commands, such as are expressed in this Firman.

Pera.

I have &ca.

23rd January 1847.

Sd/-Frederick Pissani,

/True copy/

Sd/-A.S. Kamball,

Assistant Resident in Persian Gulf.

.....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847 No.2-19. contd.

...

No.7 of 1847.

To

Major S. Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
Bushire.

Sir,

Having been directed by the Honorable Mr. Wellesley to forward after perusal the accompanying Packets to your address, and to append any observations which my local experience may lead me to consider necessary I proceed to offer a few general remarks, on the subject of His Excellency's despatch.

And. Upon perusing the various enclosures to Mr. Wellesley's letter to your address, you will perceive that His Excellency in the measures adopted by him for aiding in the suppressive of the slave trade at the mouth of the Euphrates, has proceeded on the erroneous impression that the traffic is principally carried on by Turkish subjects, and in Turkish vessels.

The orders contained in the Sultan's firman, and in the Vizirial Instructions are in every instance hampered with the clause under Turkish Colors and although therefore, the future exclusion from the slave trade of the Boats of Bussorah and Koweit, maybe considered

FORE. POLL. DEPT. 4.12.1847, No. 2-19. contd.

.....

considered absolute, still as the river will remain open to Arab and Persian vessels, I fear that no great result can be expected, according to the best information. I can obtain there are but two boats which carry on the slave trade from the African Coast under Turkish colours, while those which enter the Bussorah river annually with slaves on board under the Persian or Arab flags, amount at the lowest estimate to 50. If this statement be correct, the inadequacy of the present orders to the end in view requires no comment, but I cannot depend altogether on my information, and would suggest therefore, that it should be either verified or amended by your detailed exposition to the Hon'ble Mr. Wellesley at the statistics of the Traffic.

3rd. The most important question however, which you will have to consider is, in how far it may accord with our Treaties and with a general view of expediency, to permit the Porte (supposing her to be so inclined) to inflict upon the independent arabs importing slaves to Bussorah, these penalties to which she has declared her own subjects to be liable. The opinion which I have been led to form from the perusal of the voluminous slave correspondence of the Persian Gulf presented to

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

to Parliament in 1844, is, that we should merely require the Porte to shut the Euphrates generally against the importation of slaves, and that all executive measures for carrying out the suppression of the Traffic, should then remain exclusively in our own hands: but in this as in all other points connected with the subject under discussion, your experience and knowledge are so far superior to my own, that I really hesitate to intrude my opinions on you.

4th. With regard also to the restoration of the liberated slaves to Africa, I cannot concur in the expediency of leaving so important a subsidiary measure in the hands of the Turkish authorities. Mejih Pasha has declared his utter inability to fulfil the instructions addressed to him in this respect, and I would recommend therefore that you acquainted the Honorable Mr. Wellesley whether any or what facilities may exist for the accomplishment of the end in view under our own supervision, or, which would I think be preferable through our own direct agency.

5th. In conclusion I have the honor to furnish you with translation of the note which has been addressed by Mejih Pasha to the Governor of Bussorah in conformity with the Constantinople order.

I have &c.

Sd/-H. Rawlinson.

British Legation

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

.....

Translation of a Note addressed by His Excellency  
Nejib Pasha to the Governor of Bussorah dated Bagdad  
Rubi-el-Aweel 6, 1263 (February 22nd, 1847).

The Regulations of Government render it desirable that measures should be taken to prevent the continued importation of the black slaves into Bussorah from the African Coast, in transit to these parts, but at the same time it becomes us to proceed with caution, for as a number of our subjects are supposed to be occupied in the trade, and as they must have embarked their capital in it, without being aware that they were incurring risk, the abrupt publication of an order prohibiting the traffic and attaching penalties to those engaged in it, would subject the parties in question to unmerited loss, under such circumstances we think it right that four months warning / to commence from the 10th of Sefar/ should be publicly given, and that the restrictions which we may think it necessary to impose upon the traffic, should not come into operation till the expiration of that period, but if after having received this warning, any parties should be rash, enough to contravene our orders by continuing to import black slaves into Bussorah, in vessels under Turkish colors then we are determined that such vessels shall be confiscated, that the slaves shall be restored to their homes, and that the parties conducting the



1399

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

.....

On the receipt of this letter, you will accordingly distinctly inform the merchants of Bussorah and Koweit, and the captures of all vessels in your quarter, which carry on Trade under Turkish Colors, that you have received instructions from us to adopt measures for the suppression of the further import of the African Black Slaves that an interval has been allowed of a few months /as above stated/ in order to admit of the parties engaged in the trade, making the necessary arrangements for its discontinuance and that after the date on which the prohibitory order may come into operation, if any Turkish subjects should presume to act in contravention, and should continue to import slaves from the African Coast in vessels under Turkish Colors, such vessels will be confiscated, the Captain will be severely punished, and the slaves will be returned to the place from which they were exported.

You will take particular care in attending to this order, and in seeing that its provisions are duly carried out.

/True translation/

Sd/-H. Rawlinson,

P.A. Turkish Arabia.

/True copy/

Sd/-A. B. Kemball,

Assistant Resident Persian Gulf.

1400

FORE.POLL.DEPT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19; contd.

....

No.8 of 1847.

To

Major S. Hennell,  
Resident &ca. &ca  
Bushire.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.7 of the 10th Instant, I have now the honor to furnish you with extract from a Despatch which I have this day addressed to H.M. Minister at the Porte, reporting a conversation which I have held with Najib Pasha on the subject of the suppression of the slave trade at Bussorah, and the modification which it has been proposed to introduce in the ports' instructions on the subject, with a view to the exclusion from the river, of Arab and Persian Vessels with slaves on board.

2nd. You will observe that I have purposely avoided entering upon the question as to whether arab and Persian vessels found with slaves on board, either on the high seas or in the Bussorah river; can be condemned as Pirates, the exercise of Turkish jurisdiction is not proposed to be carried any further at present, than in refusing a passage up the river, to vessels with contraband articles on Board, but this refusal simple as it is and in entire consonance with the principles of trade, will at any rate of

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

.....

most profitable market, and in the event of the Indian Govt. being prepared to authorize more active measures, it will also, I think strengthen your hands considerably in your preliminary dealings with the Arab Chiefs.

I have &ca.,  
Signed H. Rawlinson,  
Political Agent,  
Turkish Arabia.

British Residency,  
Bagdad,  
March 17th, 1847.

/True copy/

Sd/ A. S. Kamball,  
Assistant Resident, in the  
Persian Gulf.

....

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

...

Extract from a Despatch No.14, from Major H.C.Rawlinson, Consul at Bagdad to His Excellency the Hon'ble H.Wellesley, H.M. Minister, Plenipotentiary at Consple - dated Bagdad March 17th 1848.

"When I explained to His Excellency that the traffic was almost exclusively in the hands of independent arab and Persian chiefs, and that the orders in consequence in their present shape threatened to be inoperative, he made some observations which appeared to me to be desiring of considerations- he remarked in the first place that he regarded the Sultan's Firman as the acknowledgement of a general principle rather than as a prohibition against a particular branch of commercial enterprize; that such being the case, it could not be conceived, the Porte would permit a principle imposed as a law upon her own subjects to be violated by foreigners in the Turkish Territory; that in fact the interdiction on the importation of slaves, whether thus considered as a point of law, or on the other hand as a mere regulation of Trade, having been made applicable to Turkish subjects must be a fortiori apply to foreigners in Turkish Ports. It would be monstrous he continued to suppose that an act which subjected a Turkish Captain to the Punishment of Piracy, could be perpetrated in Turkish waters by an Arab or a Persian with impunity; and in this view he added, he thought he should be justified even without any extension or modifications of the present

1403

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

Persian vessels with slaves on Board, with the same rigour as it would be shut against slave vessels under Turkish colours. Finding His Excellency in a temper which augured as well for the eventual accomplishment of our views, I did not think it advisable to expatiate on the supposed rights of the Arab chiefs, with which it has hitherto proved so difficult to deal. I merely observed that although on the ground both of National Law and Commercial Precedent, his argument was inadmissible still in the present state of affairs, the infliction of the penalty of confiscation upon Arab Vessels might lead to disagreeable consequences, and recommended accordingly that he should postpone for a time any attempt to carry such a measure into effect. I thought it preferable, I said, that he should point out to his government the defect in the original instructions and that he should suggest his being furnished with authority to direct the captain of the Turkish Guard ship before the Haffer, to search all vessels bound for Bassorah which might enter the Euphrates, and to refuse a passage to any boat under Arab, Persian or African colours which might have slaves on board, slaves considered as an article of Trade having been declared to be contraband in the Turkish Ports.

1404

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FOREIGN POLL. DEPT. 4.12.1847, Nos. 2-19. contd.

...

"His Excellency promised to address the Porte in this sense by the present post, and if he rests his application on the ground that no article contraband in a Turkish cannot be admissible in a foreign vessel, and that vessels with such prohibited articles on board cannot be allowed to anchor in Turkish waters, perhaps the great object we have in view, the closing of the Turkish market against Black slave may be attained without its being necessary to promulgate a general law against the importation or sale of africans at Bussorah. At the same time Your Excellency will see, that if Persian should decline to imitate the liberality of the Porte, in respect of the prohibition of the slave trade from the African Coast her occupation of Mohammurah and the right which we have obtained for her of a free navigation of the Shatel arab as far as that port will prevent a most serious impediment to the further development of our views. It can hardly be supposed that she will be inclined to avail herself of her right of navigation to continue this infamous traffic at Mohumurah after it has been suspended at Bussorah but if she should thus abuse the support that, in a very different view, we have afforded her, the fruits of Turkish concession to whatever extent it may be carried or in whatever spirit it may be executed, will be almost entirely lost to us."

\* 1405

FORE.POLL.DEPIT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

....

During my interview with Nejib Pasha, His Excellency further consulted me on the clause in the Vizirial instructions which is intended to provide for the restorations to their Homes of slaves rescued from Vessels under Turkish

\*In the translation the phrase under Turkish Colors is omitted but it occurs in the original. Colors\*. He intended he said to point out to the Turkish Government that he had neither any means at his disposal for

carrying these orders with effect, nor if a detachment of the Ottoman Fleet were ordered to the Gulf, would it, be conceived be possible for Turkish officers totally unacquainted with the African Coast, and with the parties residing there to identify the families or tribes or even the Ports from which the slaves had been brought. He should proposed he added, that in lieu of burthening the Turkish Government with this responsibility, the slaves rescued at Bussorah should receive from the Governor papers of manmission, and should then be left at liberty to take service with Persian or Turkish masters or to return to their homes in the Bouts which convey pilgrims from the gulf to the red sea. Major Hennell to whom I have conveyed your Excellency's packet, and whom I have invited to consider this question with his utmost care, will be able to give a more sound opinion in it, than I have any means of forming at Bagdad, but I still

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1857, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

still remain under an impression that it would be desirable for our own cruizers or steamers to be employed in transporting the liberated slaves from the Persian Gulf to the African Coast, where through the medium of our agents at Zanzibar at Berberah and at Zeylah arrangements might be made for their restoration to their homes and families. at any rate the retention of the parties of Bussorah with no other security than their papers of manmission would be liable, I should fear to great abuse, and if the unfortunate africans trusted to the arab means of transport, for a return voyage to their native land, it would merely be to exchange the slavery of Bagdad and Bussorah for that of Yewah and Oman.

/True extract/

Sd/-H.Rawlinson,  
 Poll.Agent Turkish Arabia.

/True copies/

Signed/- A. Kimball,  
 Asstt.Resident Persian Gulf.

....



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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.s.2-19. contd.

No.141 of 1847

Secret Department.

From

Major Hannell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

The Hon'ble Henry Wellesley,

Her Majesty's Charge D' affairs at

The Ottoman Porte.

Sir,

I had the honor yesterday, of receiving your despatch No.1 under date the 9th February last, informing me, that in consequence of orders received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign affairs, you had been in communication with the Ottoman Government, to obtain its cooperation for the prevention of the African slave trade at its ports within the Persian Gulf, and that the latter had consented to put a stop to that trade in the above mentioned ports.

2nd. In taking the liberty of offer in my warm congratulations on the success which has so unexpectedly attended your negotiations with the Turkish Government, I have the honor to inform you, that previously to the arrival of the Bagdad mail, all the arrangements for my embarkation tomorrow, for the purpose of proceedings on the annual

1408  
FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...  
annual tour of the persian gulf had been made, I consider it therefore advisable, that I should suspend a detailed reply to your despatch, until I have ascertained by a personal communication with the several independent maritime chiefs of the Arabian Coast how far their views may be influenced, and their measures affected by the agreement of the 2nd October 1845. entered into between Her Majesty's Government and the Imam of Muscat, for the termination of the export of slaves from the African dominions of His Highness, and the knowledge that the future continuance of this hateful traffic has been stringently prohibited by the Turkish Government.

3rd. For the present therefore, it may be sufficient to express my entire concurrence in the general opinion stated by Major Rawlinson in his despatches to me No.7 and 8 dated the 10th and 17th ultimo copies of which have doubtless been already transmitted to you. I agree with that officer in the expediency of merely requiring the Turkish Government to shut its ports in this quarter against the importation of slaves, and of retaining exclusively in our own hands and all the executive measure for carrying out the suppression of the traffic, but it may be necessary to remark that under the existing treaties with the maritime arabian chiefs we possess no right or authority to interfere with their vessels carrying slaves for sale, so long as they are not found beyond

1409

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

beyond certain limits which include the whole of the Persian Gulf, unless therefore they can be prevailed upon either to form new engagements, or to modify existing ones, the putting down the traffic in slaves on the arabian coast with the turkish dominions, must rest altogether in the revenue police regulations of the latter power unaided by us.

4th. I conceive that abstractedly speaking the Porte has the unquestionable right to enforce its own fiscal rules within its own dominions even to the extent of seizing and confiscating such foreign vessels as directly and after due warning, wilfully infringe, its revenue laws, under other circumstances, I should ~~have~~ have felt disposed to advocate a more stringent measure, than the mere exclusion of Arab Craft carrying slaves from the Euphrates. Considering however the naval weakness of the Turkish Govt. in this quarter contrasted with the maritime power resources proposed by the Arabian Chiefs of the Persian Gulf it would be both inexpedient and impolitic in its attempting to enforce so severe a regulation as that of seizure and confiscation, A fleet of native vessels from Res-el Khyma, shargah or 'boothabee, would hold the local authorities of Bussorah at defiance, and if provoked to retaliatory measures might do very great injury to that Port, by blockading the river, and destroying the date groves. In the event how-

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos. 2-19. contd.

....

Government to interfere no such apprehension need be entertained as in all probability the knowledge that the Porte would be supported by us in its efforts for the suppression of the slave trade, would of itself be sufficient to prevent any attempt to violate the Revenue laws established on the Euphrates.

5th. In respect to the ultimate disposal of the liberated slaves, I entirely concur with Major Rawlinson in his opinion of the unexpediency of allowing this measure to remain in the hands of the Turkish authorities, as it is one that would certainly be abused in every possible way. It is in all points of view advisable, that any subsidiary arrangements having in contemplation the above object, should rest with ourselves. The subject is however deserving of more consideration than the limited time available for the completion and transmission of this letter will allow, and I shall therefore reserve any further observation upon, this, and other points referred to in your despatch, until my return from the Arabian coast.

6th. Before however concluding I think it right at once to record my decided opinion, that unless the Shah of Persia can be induced to follow the laudable example set him by the Turkish Monarch, by prohibiting the Traffic in slaves with Mohamurah, and other Persian Ports, the advantages we have already gained will be neutralized in  
I feel assured unless this concessio

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

....

concession he obtained from the Court of Tehran, that Persia will avail herself to the full extent of the advantageous local position of Mohumarah to carry on the trade in Humna Flesh, and thus as justly observed by Major Rawlinson present a most serious impediment to the further development of our views.

Residency in the Persian Gulf. I have &ca.

Bushire, 2nd April 1847.

Sd/-S. Hannell,

Resident in the Persian gulf

/True copy/

Signed<sup>d</sup>-A.B. Kamball,  
Assistant Resident in the  
Persian Gulf.

.....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

...

No.142 of 1847.

To

Major Rawlinson C.B.  
Political Agent,  
Turkish Arabia  
Baghdad.

Secret Department.

Sir,

I yesterday had the honor to receive your two despatches Nos.7 and 8 in this department under date the 10th and 17th March respectively, the 1st forwarding a packet to my address from the Honorable Mr. Wellesley, accompanied by a few general remarks from yourself on the subject of that Gentleman's communication, and the second in continuation of the above, enclosing an extract from a despatch dated the 17th ultimo addressed by you to H.M. Minister at the Porte reporting a conversation held by you with Mejih Pasha relative to the suppressive of the slave trade at Bussorah.

2nd. My immediate departure for the Arabian Coast on the Annual tour prevents my answering your despatch in detail, but the enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Wellesley

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 8.12.1847, Nos.2-19. comtd.

.....

Mr Wellesley will make you aware, how completely consonant our views are, with reference to the measures contemplated by the Turkish Government for the suppression of the slave trade in this quarter of its dominions.

Residency in the

Persian Gulf,

Bushire, 2nd April 1847.

I have &ca.

Sd/- S. Hannell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-A.B. Kemball,

Assoc. Resident Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

Sd/- A. Malet,

Secretary to Government.

.....

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos. 2-19. contd.

....

No. 4.

Office No. 174 of 1847

Cons. No. 4 of 1847

From

Major Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

A. Malet Esquire,  
Secretary to the Government,  
Bombay.

Secret Department.

Sir,

Adverting to my dispatch to your address No. 1 in this Department dated the 7th ultimo, intimating my intention, under the circumstances therein stated of endeavouring to obtain from the Arabian Chiefs in the Persian Gulf, a modification of the relations at present subsisting between them and the British Government, in respect to the slave trade, it is with sincere gratification I have the honor to report for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council, that I have succeeded in persuading the several chiefs notified in the margin, to enter each into a separate engagement binding himself to prohibit altogether the importation of slaves from the African Coast, or elsewhere, on board his vessels and those of his subjects, and moreover giving full authority to our cruisers, not only to detain and examine all such vessels suspected of being engaged in the slave

Chief Sultan bin Sa-  
id of Rasel Khyma  
d Shargah  
Chief Abdollah bin  
Pasline  
Chief of Amulgavine  
Chief Azzeez bin Rashid  
Chief of Ejman.  
Chief Muktoom bin Butya  
Chief of Debaye  
Chief Saad bin Tahnoon  
Chief of Absoothabee  
Chief Mahomed bin  
Waleefa Chief of  
Ahrein.

to seize and confiscate them should



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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

should they be found violating the terms of the engagement now entered into, being in fact equivalent to the total abolition of this nefarious traffic, on the part of themselves, and their dependents.

2nd. Enclosure No.1 is a copy and translation of this important document, as executed by Sheik Sultan bin Suggur the chief of the Isamic Tribe all these authenticated by the other sheiks are, with the exception of dates and names exact transcripts of the one now forwarded.

3rd. It would be needless to trouble the Government, with a detail of the arguments used by me in bringing about this desirable arrangement suffice it to say they were of a strictly persuasive character, I am aware these new obligations have been entered into by the Arab chiefs unwillingly, but their reluctance was overcome partly by a desire to mark their deference for the views and wishes of the British Government, and partly by the impression, that these engagements would form additional guarantees for the maintenance of their independence. It was however urged, that it would be unjust to make such vessels as had already proceeded to the African coast this season, liable to the penalties of an *ex post facto* law, and I therefore consented that its provisions should not come into operation before the commencement of the new year of the Hajira 1264, or the 10th December next. I had the less objection to fixing

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

....

must elapse before I can be honored by the receipt of the approval of government to the result of these negotiations and its sanction received for the issue of the necessary instructions for carrying the new arrangements into effect.

4th. I beg to remark that till the present time, the Chief of Barain has been no party to the several engagements entered into by the maritime Sheikh regarding the slave trade subsequently to the general treaty of 1820. From this circumstance, and from the known proud and haughty character of the present ruler of that Island, I hardly hoped to be able to induce him to follow the example of the others. I met however with less difficulty than I anticipated, although he hesitated for some time and made my Memonchah explain the several clauses fully, I am inclined to attribute the comparatively little opposition he made, to becoming a party to the arrangements, to the alarm which the pretensions advanced by the Ottoman Porte/ communicated in a separate despatch had inspired him.

5th. In consenting to the total abolition of the hitherto lucrative traffic in slaves, the maritime sheikhs have unquestionably made no small sacrifice both of their interest and prejudices. I would therefore respectfully suggest for the consideration of the Honorable the Governor in Council, whether the occasion be not of sufficient importance to call for an acknowledgement, direct from the government,

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fore.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, No.2-19. contd.

....

government in the shape of a letter to each of the parties  
 subscribing the engagements accompanied by an appropriate  
 present, to mark its sense of the sincere proof now afford-  
 ed of their desire to be guided by its views and to culti-  
 vate its friendship and good will. In case His Honor  
 in Council should see fit to receive this suggestion favor-  
 ably, I have taken the liberty of annexing a list of  
 such articles of Presents, as I have reason to think  
 would be considered acceptable. „The gifts made by me  
 in my late visit were only those usually presented on the  
 occasion of the annual tour.

Residency in the  
 Persian Gulf,  
 Bushire,  
 11th May 1847.

I have the honor to be,  
 Sd/-S.Hannell,  
 Resident in the Persian  
 Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-S.Hannell,  
 Resident in the Persian Gulf.

....

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

Translation of an engagement entered into by Sheik Sultan bin Suggur Chief of Ras-al-Khymah, and Shargah for the abolition of the African Slave Trade in his Ports.

It having been intimated to me by Major Hannell, the Resident in the Persian Gulf, that certain conventions have lately been entered into by His Highness the Imam of Muscat, and other powers, with the British Government, for the purpose of preventing the exportation of slaves from the African Coast and Elsewhere, and it having moreover been explained to me, that in order to the full attainment of the objects contemplated by the aforesaid conventions, the concurrence and co-operation of the Chiefs of the several ports situated on the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf are required - accordingly I, Sheik Sultan bin Suggur chief of the Joasnee Tribe, with a view to strengthen the Bond of Friendship, existing between me and the British Government, do hereby engage to prohibit the exportation of slaves from the coasts of Africa, and elsewhere, on board of my vessels, and those belonging to my subjects or Dependents, such Prohibition to take effect, from the 1st Day of Moharrum 1264 A.H./or 10th December 1847 A.D./

1419

FORE.POLL.DEPTT: 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

And I do further consent, that whenever the Cruisers of the British Government, fall in with any of the vessels or those belonging to my subjects or dependents, suspected of being engaged in the slave trade, they may detain and search them and in case of their finding that any of the vessels aforesaid have violated this engagement, by the exportation of slaves from the Coasts of Africa, or elsewhere, upon any pretext whatever, they /the Government Cruisers/ shall seize and confiscate the same.

Dated this 14th day of Jumadae-ool-uwwal  
1263 A.H. or 30th day of April 1847. A.D.

/True translation/

Signed/-S. Hannell,

Resident in the  
Persian Gulf.

( S E A L )

Sheikh Sulcan been Suggur.

....

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

.....

Debayee.

Sheik Muktoom's engagement is dated 14th  
Jumadee-coh-uwul 1263 or 30th April 1847.

—

Ejman

Sheikh Abdool Azeez's engagement is dated 15th  
Jumadee-coh-Uwwul 1263 or 1st May 1847.

—

Amulgavine.

Sheikh Abdoolillah ben Rushid's engagements  
is dated 15th Jumadee-coh uwul 1263 or  
1st May 1847.

—

Aboothabee.

Sheik Saced ben Tahnoon's engagement is  
dated 17th Jamadee-coh Uwul 1263 or  
3rd May 1847.

—

Bahrain.

Sheikh Mahomed ben Khuleefa's engagement  
is dated 22nd Jumadee-coh Uwul 1263 or  
8th May 1847.

—

/True copy/

Signed/-A.B. Kimball,

Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

....

List of articles suitable as presents to the Maritime Arabian Sheiks, on the occasion of their abolition of the slave trade.

Sheik Sultan ben Suggur

A Cashmere shawl either red or white with border - about Rupees 150.

A plain full sized strong gold Hunting watch - Rupees 250

A Telescope Rupees 50 430

Sheikh Sased ben Tahnoon

The same as the above ..... 430

Sheik Abdollah ben Aashed

°A double barrel gun with Flintlocks-200

1 shawl as above ... 100 300

Sheik Azeez ben Aashed

1 Shawl as above ... 100

A good full sized silver hunting watch 150 250

Sheikh Muktoom ben Butya

A shawl Rs. 100

A watch Rs. 150 250

Sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa

The same as Sheik Sultan ben Suggur 430

Residency in the

Signed/-S.Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian gulf.





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FORE.POLL.DEP'T. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

From

Major Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To

The Hon'ble H. Wellesley,  
Her Majesty's Charge D'Affaires,  
at the Ottoman Porte,  
H.C.Sloop of War Alphinstone.

Sir,

In my despatch to your address under date the 2nd Ultimo, I was necessitated by the pressure of my early departure on duty from Bushire for the Arabian Coast, to confine myself to little more than an acknowledgment of your letter dated the 9th February last, and a succinct exposition of the reasons which led me to concur in the opinions expressed by Major Rawlinson, touching the nature and degree of controul it was desirable the Turkish authorities should exercise in the River Euphrates, over Arab Vessels attempting to violate the prohibition lately promulgated by the Ottoman Porte against the African slave trade.

2nd. Before entering further into the subject of your Despatch to my address above referred to, it may not be considered irrelevant to it, if I proceed to give a slight sketch of the statistics of the slave trade in the Persian Gulf, and the relations hitherto subsisting between the

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FGRE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

...

the British Government and the several chiefs occupying its shores.

3rd. The principal parts in the Arabian coasts lying between the embanchure of the Euphrates, and the entrance of the persian gulf are Koweit, Kuteep, Bahrein, Aboothabee, Debaye, Shargah, Ejman, Amulgavine and Rasel Khy-mah. With the exception of Koweit which carries the Turkish Flag, and Kateef which is the sea port of Ameer Fysul the Wahabee chief of Medjd, all the others are possessed by independent maritime tribes, governed by their own Sheiks, and having intimate relations with the British Government.

4th. Prior to the year 1820, the principal occupation of these Tribes was piracy, which at length reached such a pitch of audacity, as to compel the Indian Government to adopt stringent measures for its suppression. The Naval and Military operations undertaken with this object having been successful, the several piratical states entered into a general treaty with us, binding themselves to abstain from a recurrence to their former lawless practices. In this document a clause was inserted, which although expressed in somewhat ambiguous terms, has always been held to prohibit the kidnapping of men, women, and children, for the purpose of making them slaves, under the pains and penalties attached to acts of Piracy.

1425

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos. 2-19. contd.

...

5th. In the year 1838, the attention of the Indian Government having been drawn to the extent of the slave trade carried on by the maritime arabs of the Persian Gulf, the Political Resident was instructed to endeavour to check it as far as possible, accordingly in July 1839, that officer succeeded in persuading the principal sheiks of the Arabian Coast, to subscribe a new engagement, the first article of which gave British Cruisers the right of search, beyond a line drawn from Cape Dellgado in Africa passing two degrees eastward of the Island of Socatra to Pussein on the Mekran Coast, The second rendered vessels carrying slaves belonging to the Arab Chiefs or their subjects, found beyond the limit above specified, liable to seizure and confiscation and the

\*A Mahomedan Tribe in the neighbourhood of Barberah and Zeylah.

third article made the traffic in \*Soomalees an act of Piracy.

6th. Up to this time, therefore, it will be observed, that although the Principal Arabian Chiefs of this quarter have entered into engagements with the British Government to confine their traffic in human flesh within certain limits, they have been guilty of no breach of Treaty, and rendered themselves liable to no penalty, for exporting slaves from the African Coast, and bringing them up for sale to the Persian Gulf, unless they had been kidnapped. Their vessels were liable to seizure and confis-

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847 Nos.2-19. contd.

....

line referred to in the preceding paragraph.

7th. In the year 1843, thirteen vessels /exclusive of those from Koweit/ proceeded from the Arab Ports of the Persian Gulf to the African Coast, and brought up 1780 slaves for sale. The measures however taken by us for the suppression of the traffic in Soomalies from Berberah and Zeyleh were so far effectual, that not a single individual of that class was carried away.

8th. With reference to the number of vessels under Turkish colours now engaged in the slave trade in this gulf, I am at present unable to afford accurate information but from a statement drawn up of the native Boats carrying slaves which touched at \*Kurrack on their way to the

\*While that Island was occupied by British Force.

Euphrates during three months in the year 1841, it appears that out of 117 vessels carrying 1217

slaves 6 only belonged to Kowit, having cargo of 103 Individuals for sale. It is probable that not more than half that number is now employed.

9th. The number of slaves annually imported into the ports on the Persian Gulf coast of this gulf, has until the last year, been considered to average 1150 Negroes and 80 Hubshees or Abyssinians. This amount does not include the slaves brought by the numerous Persain pilgrims from

1427

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

....

10th. Having thus made you in some measure aware of the extent to which the slave trade was carried on, and the nature of our relations with the independent arabian sheiks of the Persian gulf in respect to the traffic in question up to this time, it is with sincere satisfaction that I am now able to acquaint you, with the successful result of my endeavours to persuade the several chiefs specified in the margin\* to join in the humane efforts of the British

Sheikh Sultan bin Sugur Chief of Rasel Khymah.	Government by consenting
Sheik Abdoollah bin Rashid Chief of Amugaine.	each in a separate agree-
Sheikh Azeez bin Rashed chief of Ejman.	ment to the total aboli-
Sheik Muktoom bin Bytya Chief of Debay.	tion on the part of them-
Sheikh Saeed bin Tahnoon chief of Aboothabee	selves and their subject-
Sheik Mahomed bin Khuleefa chief of Bahrein.	of the African Slave
	Trade. Enclosure No.1

\*This document from the enclosure to the letter to the Government dated 11th May 1847 No.4, Secret Department.

is a translation of the engagement entered into by the chief of the

Joasmee tribe, Sheik sultan bin Sugur, and excepting in the names and dates, is verbaton the same as all the others. You will observe, that its provisions will not come into operation until the 10th December next, or the commencement of the new Mahomedan year, I was induced from two considerations to fix this date, the first that several months would probably elapse before these engagements could receive the approval of the Indian Government and the

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 4.12.1847, Nos.2-19. contd.

....

effect and the second, that some of the Arab Boats had already proceeded to the African coast, and their chief urged, that it would be contrary to justice to make them liable to the penalties of the violation of an order of which they were necessarily ignorant at the time of their departure.

11th. The important concession now obtained from the maritime chiefs of the Persian Gulf, which authorizes the seizure and confiscation by our ships of war of their vessels engaged in the slave trade, entirely removes the difficulty to in the 3rd paragraph of my Despatch of your address of the 2nd ultimo, and by enabling us to retain in our own hands the principal executive measures required for the suppression of this traffic in Arab Boats, will render it unnecessary for the Turkish authorities of Bagdad and Bussora to do more, than prohibit them from ascending the river. Even under the contingency of the Ottoman Porte refusing to relinquish its right to subject Foreign Vessels carrying contraband cargoes to the operations of the same fiscal regulations as those imposed upon its own subjects, we have acquired by the engagements now concluded with the Arab sheiks such a right of interference as would enable us effectually to protect the Turkish functionaries from the otherwise probable consequences of their subjecting Arab vessels found entering their ports with slaves, to the stringent penalties of seizure and confiscation,

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...

be more expedient, that the power should be retained  
us, as being closely connected with our policy for  
suppression of Piracy in this quarter.

12th. Enclosure No.2 is a copy of the letter dated  
7th Instant, which under the authority conveyed in the  
5th and 9th paragraphs of your despatch of the 9th F  
last, I have addressed to Commodore Hawkins, the Officer  
Commanding the squadrons of the Indian Navy in the Persian  
Gulf I would however respectfully submit for your con-  
sideration whether it might not be advisable to suspend  
active interference on our part, until the termination  
of the present season. In the event of any of the vessels  
from Koweit having proceeded to the African Coast before  
the receipt of the orders for the abolition of the trade  
in African slaves by vessels under the Turkish flag,  
they might with some justice complain of being subjected  
to the operation of an *ex post facto* law moreover, before  
full instructions can be issued to our cruizers for  
guidance in carrying into effect the new duties which  
devolve upon them, it will be necessary that certain  
matters of detail relating to the carrying of properly  
attested muster rolls by Turkish vessels, to enable  
commanders of our ships of war to distinguish between  
numerous Africans employed as part of the crews, and  
slaves embarked for the purpose of sale should be ascertained  
by the Political Agent in Turkish Arabia, with the

