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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.64. c ontd.

...

Translation of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hennell Resident in the persian Gulf to Sheikh Mahomed ben Khuleefa Chief of Bahrein dated 24th June 1851.

After Compliments,

Sheik Abdoola Azeez and confidential Agent of His Highness Ameer Fysul having been sent by him on a mission to express to him the great desire entertained by the British Government, that the misunderstanding at present existing between yourself and His Highness should be brought to an amicable termination. Sheik Abdool Azeez has assured me that although the Ameer has very gre t cause or complain an account of the non-fulfilment of engagements entered into by you with him, and the consequent heavy expences he has been put to, still in compliance with the desire of the British Government he is willing to receive and ente tain any reasonable advances which you may make for a reconciliation. As it is obviously for your interest that you should be upon friendly terms with a powerful neighbour like Ameer Fysul I would strongly recommend a conciliatory line of conduct. I have had some conversation in this subject with your Agent Sheik Humood ben Maomed, who will doubtless communicate the particulars to you.

/True translation/

Sd/-S.Hennell, Resident, PESSIAN GULF.

/True copy/

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FORE.POLL.DEPT. 24.10.1851, No.64. contd.

...

Translation of a letter from Ameer Fysul, Rule of Nedjd, to Lieutt.Coll. Hennell, Resident in the persian Gulf, dated 31st May 1851, received 20th June 1851.

After compliments,

In the course of past years, the English Government havehad many communications, and much correspondence with us. Some in the time of our ancestors and some in the time of ourselves, and all relating to peace and the agreement which have been established between us, viz. that they should not interfere with our subjects or the inhabitants located on the shores of Arabia, and those under our authority, and connected with us. On our part we were not to interfere with the British Government and those under their orders, and connected with them on the seas and elsewhere we have faithfully performed our engagements without interruption. We forbade all those connected with us, and our subjects viz: the people of Oman, Jaalan, and Yemen to act no variance to the above. For this is in accordance with the Mahomedan religion, and agreeable to that wisdom which is opposed to wickedness and evil desires. He who is destitute of faith or belief, is not accounted worthy by me of religion, no confidence can be placed in such a our, by the nobles of states, and those entrusted with their affairs. At this time, a variety of irregularities has been committed by the

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.64. contd.

..

It also appears that the Agents of the English Government have paid attention and listened to the words of these disturbers. We had heard these reports before but would not place any reliance on them, and did not, in the absence of proof, concede they had any foundations. Now however some of these have been ascertained by us to be true. If it appears advisable to you, this should be reported to the sirkar, that orders may be issued to all their Agents in this sea, and on the shores of Arabia, that they should pay no attention, nor heed any one who may desire to excite disturbance among my subjects, and those under my authority, whoever they are, from the people of Bahrein, along the whole coast of Arabia. This will be in accordance with the peace that existed before regarding the coast of Oman, Jaalan, Yemen &c. On the receipt of the orders from the sirkar communicate them to us.

Enclosures.

We have now sent to you Sheik Abdool Azeez ben Sheik Abdooliah, that he may be more fully explain to you our sentiments.

/True translation/

Signed/-James Edward, Accountant &c.

/True copy/

sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.65. contd.

...

Office No.210 of 1851

Cons.No.10 of 1851.

From

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

A. Malet Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay,
Camp near Bushire.

Secret Department.

27th June 1851.

Sir,

In the 2nd para. of my despatch to your address No.9 in this Department under date the 24th Instant, I report the observations made by Sheik Abdool Azeez, the envoy from Ameer Fysul, upon a letter said to have been writt then by the Commander of one of the Honourable Company's Vessels of War to the Governor of Kateef, interdicting him from allowing any of his Vessels to put to sea, although that port was then blockaded by the Bahrein fleet.

2nd. The letter above referred to was written by Lieutenant Manners, the officer in command of the Honourable Company's Brigantine Tigris, at the time he proceeded over to the Arabian Coast to furnish the Maritime Chiefs of ~~Buttur~~ Buttur for their complicity with

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.65. contd.

....

3. Having been made aware by the Bahrein Agent that some communications had passed between Lieutenant Manners and Sheik Billal, the Governor of Kateef regarding which no official report had reached me, I took an opportunity of privately speaking with that officer on the subject. He saw and acknowledged at once the irregularity of his having addressed a communication of this nature, without being in possession of any authority for so doing but explained that the error in judgment arose from his desire to promote as he thought, the views of the Government, being under the impression that they were decidedly averse to any attack upon Bahrein from that quarter.

4th. The zeal and energy at all times displayed by Lieutenant Manners in the execution of the duties entrusted to him while on this station, satisfy me that his having addressed the letter in question, was prompted solely by his wish to advance the interests of his Government,

Residency, Persian Gulf.

I have the honor to be,

Camp near Bushire,

Sd/-S.Hennell,

27th June 1851.

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

...

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66.

...

Office No.226 of 1851

Cons.No.11 of 1851.

From Secret Department

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

Arthur Malet Esquire,

Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay

Camp near Bushire, the 7th July 1851.

Sir,

Herewith I have the honour to forward for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council the accompanying copy of a letter dated the 11th June from Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Persia to my address, giving cover to a transcript of a despatch from His Excellency to the Right Hon'ble Viscount Palmerston of the same date, on the subject of the threatened invasion of Bahrein by Ameer Fysul the Wahabee Chief.

2nd. This dispatch came to hand a few hours only after Sheik Abdool Azeez, the Wahabee envoy, had taken his departure for Kateef, with my replies to his master's written and verbal communications as reported to Government in my letter No.9 in this Department under date the 24th ultimo. I regret it did not reach me prior to his leaving Bushire. Although I gave both Sheik Abdool Azeez, and the Ameer an explicit intimation

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

....

the authority of His Highness over Bahrein and the Arabian Coast nor would see with indifference that Island fall into the possession of any Foreign power I did not in the absence of specific instructions from Government on this point, take the decided tone I should otherwise have done.

3rd. The opinion expressed by Colonel Sheil in his despatch to Viscount Palmerston, relative to the expediency or delaying an attack upon Bahrein, until the receipt of instructions from His Majesty's Government, or the Government of India coincides entirely with mine. Fortified therefore by the knowledge of His Excellency's sentiments on this matter, and considering moreover that three or four months must elapse before I could receive orders from India, I have not hesitated to take upon myself the responsibility of carrying into effect more active measures than those I have hitherto adopted.

4th. The enclosed copy of a letter dated the 1st Instant addressed by me to Commodore Porter, the Commanding Officer, of the Squadron of the Indian Navy on the Persian Gulf will make His Lordship in Council acquainted with the steps I have now taken to secure Bahrein from an invasion for the present. I do not

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

...

secure Bahrein from an invasion for the present. I do not apprehend any collision between our vessels and those of the Ameer. The presence of our squadron in Bahrein Harbour, and the explicit intimation given to His Highness in a letter to him of the 1st Instant, that the commanding officer has been instructed to delay his boats in case he should persist in the invasion of that Island will I feel assured suffice to prevent his making the attempt. I have the honor to enclose a copy of this communication for the information of Government and to be,

&ca. &ca.

Sir,

signed/ S. Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Residency - Persian Gulf,

Camp near Bushire,

7th July 1851.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTTL 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

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To

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Sir,

I enclose for your information a copy of
a despatch I have addressed to Viscount Palmerston
in consequence of the observations you have made
relative to the island of Bahrein in your private
letter to me of the 19th of May.

Ispahan,

I have the honor to be, &ca.

JUNE 11, 1851.

signed/- Justin Sheil

/True copy/

signed/-S.Hennell

Resident in the persian Gulf.

...

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

....

Copy

No.101.

To

The Right Honourable
The Viscount Palmerstones.
&ca. &ca. &ca.

My Lord,

With reference to your Lordship's dispatch No.26 of the 12th of February, inclosing a copy of a despatch to Sir Startford, Canning, in which it is stated that Her Majesty's Govt. would not acquiesce in my arrangement which should place Bahrein under the dominion or protectorship of the porte, I beg leave to enclose an extract from a private letter which I have received from the Resident in the persian Gulf relative to that Island.

Colonel Hennell says that Ameer Fysul, the head of the Wahabees, was preparing to attack the sheik of Bahrein with a probability of success, and it was his opinion, the island would become a Turkish dependency should the promised Ottoman Steamers arrive in the persian Gulf.

Colonel Hennell adds that he had no instructions to interfere to prevent an attack on that Island, and I infer it was his intention to remain inactive.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66 contd.

...

I have no authority over the Resident in the persian Gulf in matters unconnected with persia, otherwise with this clear expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government before me, I would direct that officer to delay the Wahabee vessels, or any other attacking force until he should receive instructions from Her Majesty's Government or from the Government of India.

I propose to send Colonel Hennell, a copy of this despatch for his information.

I have the honor to be,
sd/-Justin Snel.

/True copy/

sd/-S. Hennell,

Resident in the persian Gulf.

Ispahan,

June 11th, 1851.

...

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

....

No.219 of 1851

Residency in the persian Gulf,
Bushire, 1st July 1851.

To

Commodore porter,
Commanding Indian Naval Squadron,
persian Gulf.

Secret Deptt.

Sir,

In an official communication of the 11th ultimo received the day before yesterday from Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of persia, His Excellency expresses a strong opinion, in substance that considering the opinion, in substance that considering the adverse, views entertained by Her Majesty's Government in respect to Bahrein coming under the dominions or protectionship of the porte, it is advisable steps should be taken to delay the Wahabee Vassels, or any other force attacking that Island, until the receipt of instructions from the Home or Indian Government.

2nd. A sufficient time not having elapsed since the dispatch of my reports to Bombay relative to the advance of the Wahabee Chief to the Arabian Coast and his views upon Bahrein for replies to be received by me, and such a contingency as the conquest of that Island by Ameer Fvsul. not having been contemplated.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 24. 10, 1851, No. 66. cond

.....

contemplated, I have no precise instructions from Government touching the measures to be adopted in the event of the Ameer persisting in the invasion of Bahrein still as my views on this subject coincide entirely with those of Colonel Sheil I cannot hesitate, supported as I am by the official expression of His Excellency's opinion, to act upon the suggestion conveyed in his letter. For this purpose, it appears to me the first step to be taken is the assembling all the vessels of War under your command at Behrin should you concur with me on this point, I would request that the Honorable Company's sloop "Clive" be despatched to join the "Tigris" at that Island as early as possible practicable. By the immediate departure of a Cossid to Lingah instructions may be forwarded to the Hon'ble Company's vessel "Euphrates" and "Constance" to join you with all possible despatch.

3rd. I have addressed a second letter to Ameer Fysul informing him that if he persists in attempting to invade Bahrein, after having been made so fully aware of the repugnance of the British Government to such a proceeding, his vessels will be delayed by the British squadron stationed there for that purpose.

4th. It will be an object of some importance to prevent the Bahrein sheik from relaxing his exertions for the defence of his possessions which he will be

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

...

be inclined to do, when he sees the squadron assemble in his harbour. He should therefore be encouraged to spare us pains and to avail himself of all his own resources for this purpose. In the event however of Ameer Fysul paying no regard to our remonstrance, and attempting to cross over from the main land to invade Bahrein I have the honour to request you will do all in your power to delay his vessels, so far as this can be done by the employment of your naval means, confining any coercive measures entirely to the sea.

5th. I have written to the Chiefs of Doab and Bidda to the effect, that although it was not the intention of the British Government to interfere in the quarrel between the two branches of the Uttoobee tribe, so long as this was confined solely to themselves, still they cannot be permitted to place their maritime resources at the disposal of a foreign power, and therefore they are interdicted under pain of incurring the severe displeasure of the British government, from employing their vessels for the invasion of Bahrein.

6th. In the event of your having any communication of importance to make to me the Agent at Bahrein has been instructed to take up a boat for the conveyance if you are of opinion that it would be expedient to diminish the strength of the squadron by despatching a vessel of war. should however an application be

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.66. contd.

....

be made by Ameer Fysul's envoy for a passage to Bushiire in order to communicate with me from his master, this object might be of sufficient consequence to authorize a compliance with his request.

7th. On the receipt of authentic information that the Wahabee chief has broken up his forces and left the coast for the interior you will be pleased to make such arrangement for the return of the vessels of the squadron to their respective stations as you may consider advisable.

I have the honor to be,

Sd/-S. Hennell,

Resident in Persian Gulf

/True copy/

Sd/-S. Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

...

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24 OCTOBER 1851, No.66. contd.

...

Translation of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hennell Resident in the persian Gulf to His Highness Ameer Fysul Regent of Nedjd dated 1st July 1851.

After compliments,

Since the departure of your envoy Sheik Abdool Azzez with my letters to you of the 24th~~y~~ ultimo, I have received instructions not to allow your vessels to invade Bahrein until the orders of Her Majesty's Government can be received on this subject. I trust however the verbal and written communications entrusted to Abdool Azzez will induce you to show your regard for the friendship and goodwill of the British Government by abstaining from any hostile measures against that Island. In the event however of your not regarding my request that you should refrain from the invasion of Bahrein, I am under the necessity of informing you, that the English Squadron has been stationed there for the purpose of delaying your vessels until the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government can be made known.

/True translation/

sd/-S.Hennell, Resident-persian Gulf.

/True copy/

sd/-S.Hennell, Resident in persian Gulf.

/True copies/

sd/-A.Malet,

Chief Secretary.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 28 NOV. 1851, No.22.

...

Office No.385 Duplicate
No.239 of 1851

From

A. Mallet Esquire,
Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay.

To

Sir H.M. Elliot K.C.B.,
Secretary to Government of India,

Secret Department,

with the most noble the Governor General,
dated 25th October 1851.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No.206, dated the 24th ultimo, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you for submission to the Most Noble the Governor General of India, copies of three despatches, No.227, 234 and 261, addressed by the Resident in the Persian Gulf, under dates the 8th and 12th July and the 13th August last, to Her Majesty's Minister plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary at the Court of Persia, relative to the affairs of Bahrein.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

BOMBAY CASTLE,
25th October 1851

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-A.Mallet
Chief Secretary.

...

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 28 NOV. 1851, No.23.

....

Office No.227 of 1851.

From

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To

His Excellency
Lieutenant Colonel Sheil C.B.,
Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary
and Envoy Extraordinary at the Court
of Persia, Tehran,
Camp near Bushire, 8th July 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 11th ultimo, enclosing for my information a copy of a despatch addressed by you to the Right Hon'ble the Viscount Palmerston, in consequence of the observations made by me relative to the Island of Bahrein, in my private communication of the 10th May.

2nd. I now do myself the honor to transmit for the information of your Excellency the enclosed transcript of a letter dated the 7th instant to the Bombay Govt. reporting the measures adopted by me subsequently to the receipt of your letter for the temporary protection, of Bahrein from the invasion threatened by the Wahabees.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 23 Nov. 1851, No.23. contd.

...

3rd. In order that your Excellency may be made more fully aware of the actual position of affairs, as connected with the subject, I now do myself the honour to enclose copies of two despatches to the Bombay Government, No.8 and 9 in the secret Department dated the 18th and 24th June respectively. These letters report the particulars of the interviews held by me with Envoys from Sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa, the present chief of Bahrein, and Ameer Fysul, the Wahabee Ruler of Nedjd.

I have the honor to be &ca.

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident &ca.

/True copy/

Sd/-S.Hennell

resident in the persian Gulf.

/True copies/

Sd/- A. Malet,

Chief secretary.

...

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 28 NOV. 1851, No.24.

...

Office No.234 of 1851

From

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

His Excellency,
Lieutt.Colonel Sheil C.B.
Her Majesty's Minister plenipotentiary and
Envoy Extraordinary at the Court of
persia,
Tehran,
Camp near Bushire, 12th July 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that the sons of the Ex-Chief of Bahrein, the late sheik Abdoolah ben Ahmed, who with their followers, ~~have~~ for several years resided on the island of Kerm, have lately left that place with a fleet of 18 or 20 bouts for the purpose of joining the wahabee ameer, and aiding him in his intended invasion of Bahrein, By late accounts from that quarter, I learn that they have succeeded after a severe action, and much loss on both sides, in forcing the Bahrein blockading fleet off Kateef and entering that port.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 22 Nov.1851, No.24. contd.

...

2nd. I now beg to forward for the information of your Excellency, a copy of a letter* of this days' date, addressed by me to the Commodore of the Squadron of the Indian Navy at Bahrein, requesting him to take possession of any of the Kenn vessels he may find cruizing off that port; and also suggesting the expediency of a vessel of war being stationed in the Khor or Channel of Kuteef, to prevent the egress of the Wahabee Fleet.

I have the honor to be &c.

sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident &Ca.

/True copy/

sd/-S.HENNELL,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

sd/-A.Malet,

Chief Secretary.

.....

Enclo:No.1 in letter NO.13, dated Secret Deptt. 15th July 1851.

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FOREIGN DEPT. 24 OCT. 1851. No.62.

...

Office No. 336 Duplicate
No. 206 of 1851.

From

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

To

Sir H.M. Elliot, K.C.B.,
Secretary to the Government of India
with the Most Noble the Governor General,
Camp

Secret Department,

Dated 24th September 1851.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.137, dated

the 23rd June last, I am directed by the Right Honorable

the Resident in the Persian Gulf,
do- dated 18th June 1851, No.8
do- dated 24th June 1851, No.9
do- dated 27th June 1851, No.10
do- dated 7th July 1851, No.11
do- dated 9th July 1851, No.12
do- dated 15th July 1851, No.13.
Minute by the Right Hon'ble the Governor,
dated 14th Sept. 1851
do- by the Hon'ble Mr. Blane, dated 16th
September 1851.
do- by the Hon'ble Mr. Bell, dated 16th
September 1851
Further Minute by the Right Hon'ble the Governor
dated 19th Sept. concurred
by the Board.
do- the Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated
24th Sept. 1851, No.334
Resolution dated 24th September 1851, No.335.

the Governor in Council
to transmit to you,
for submission to the
most noble the Governor
General of India, a copy
of the document noted
in the margin, on the
subject of affairs at
Bahrein, / the Persian Gulf.

Bombay Castle,

I have the honor to be, Sir

24th September 1851

Your most obedient servant,

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24 OCT. 1851, No.1851, No.63.

...

Office No.203 of 1851.

Cons.No.8 of 1851.

From

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

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

Dated 18th June 1851.

Secret Department,

Sir,

I regret to inform for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that the position of the sheik of Bahrein in respect to Ameer Fysul, the Wahabee Ruler, has very much changes for the worse, owing to the unexpected and treacherous defection of Ben Sane, the Chief of Doab, and other influential Arabs of Bidda, in consequence of which that important place has fallen into the possession of the Ameer.

2nd. This information was communicated by sheik Humood ben Mahomed, who was dispatched on a special mission to me by sheik Mahomed ben Khulesfa, ostensibly to discuss the proposition, I had lately made to him to assign his fugitive relations on the Island of Keun, an income of 10,000 Crowns a year, provided they ceased their intrigues, and consented to live for the future on

FORE.POOL.DEPT. 24.10.1851, No.63. contd.

...

satisfied however that the real object of sheik Humood's mission, was to communicate the circumstances of Bidda having fallen into the hands of Ameer Fysul, and to ascertain whether the government would interdict the fugitive Uttoobees in Keun, from joining the revolted Arabs of Bidda. In the course of his interview with me, the sheik dwelt strongly upon the desire of his chief to be considered a dependant of the English, and his dread of being brought under the authority of the Ottoman porte. He said it was contrary to the policy of the British Government, that an inland power like that of the Wahabees, should be permitted to possess itself of such an important Island as Bahrein. There could be no question he remarked, that once established there, Fysul would quickly extend his conquests along the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf, as far as Muscat, an extent of aggression upon friendly allies, which he felt assured, would be altogether repugnant to the views of the English in these quarters, and which he trusted would induce them to interfere actively to prevent the Ameer from carrying out his aggressive policy. Sheik Humood then referred to the propositions made by me, for an amicable settlement of the differences between his chief and the sons of the late Abdoollah ben Ahmed on Keun. He said that sheik Mahomed was quite willing to be guided by my advice, but he wishes to draw my attention to the fact, that while one portion of

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.63. contd.

...

of the family of the ex-chief was negotiating with me for a friendly arrangement, the other was in the camp of Ameer Fysul and actively engaged in instigating and aiding him in his designs against Bahrein under present circumstances therefore the sheik was unwilling to make any overtures, as they would certainly be attributed to the loss of Bidda. In conclusion my visitor begged I would favor them with my advice and opinion, in the existing posture of affairs.

3rd. In reply after expressing my regret that the Bahrein sheik should have sustained such a severe blow as the defection and loss of the important position of Bidda, I proceeded to touch upon the other points brought forward, by saying that however sensible the British Government might be of the preference shown to it by the Bahrein sheik, a distinct intimation had nevertheless been given that the offer of placing himself under its protection could not be accepted that the policy hitherto pursued both with reference to Ameer Fysul and the other chiefs of Arabia had been to refrain from all interference with their proceedings, so long as the peace and safety of the seas were not affected by them. I said, that in my opinion the Government would be anything but pleased to bear there was a probability of Bahrein falling into the possession of Ameer Fysul, but that without further instructions, it was quite out of my power to take any

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.63. contd.

....

therefore the sheik must depend upon his own resources. I then referred to the subject of his relations in Kenn, and pointed out to my visitor how greatly the complexion of their affairs was altered by Bidda having fallen into the possession of the wahhabees. The Government I observed, had indeed interdicted them from any aggressive measures against Bahrein, so long as they enjoyed an asylum on persian Territory, but that it had always been fully and generally understood, that provided they obtained a location on the Arabian Coast, the British authorities would no longer interfere in what so far at least as related to themselves, could only be considered as a family quarrel. I quite agreed, I remarked, that it would not be politic at the present conjuncture for any direct propositions to be made on behalf of the Bahrein sheik to his relations in Kenn, but that I would, if such a step were considered advisable despatch a special Cossid to that Island with a reply to their last letter. In this I could intimate that taking into consideration as mediator, the large sum of 20,000 Crowns a year demanded by them, and the amount offered by the sheik of Bahrein, I considered, that an income of 10,000 Crowns per annum would be a fair compromise and that I was prepared to make necessary arrangements for settling the same, so soon as they were joined by their two brothers now in the camp of Amest Fysul. This suggestion was promptly accepted by sheik Humood and was subsequently acted upon by me.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. 24. 10. 1851, No. 63. c ontd.

...

4. To the enquiries made by me relative to steps sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa proposed taking in the present crisis, my visitor replied, that a strong naval force had been despatched to blockade Bidda which was nearly unprovided with provisions and should this blockaded not be raised by the Uttoobees in Keun joining the rebels, they had no doubt the place would be reduced to extremities in less than a month. He said that Sheik Ally had been unfortunately persuaded by the treacherous counsels and oaths of fidelity of the faithless Ben Sane and his followers, to dismiss their Beniyes Allies, but that they daily expected, in compliance with the urgent requisition sent down to Aboothabee for their recall, that a large reinforcement would speedily be despatched from that quarter. His Highness the Imam also, he added, was very favorably disposed towards the present chiefs of Bahrain, and would probably assist them with one or more of his vessels, provided the British Government made no objection thereto. I replied that His Highness was a free Agent and that no opposition would be offered to his aiding the Bahrain Sheik if he thought proper.

5th. In the course of conversation sheik Humood wished to know whether under the treacherous conduct of the inhabitants of Doah and Guttur, I still held Sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa to his engagement for the payment on their behalf of the 900 Crowns levied on them as fines for their

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.63. contd.

...

replying in the affirmative the sheik said, that at the present time his chief was obliged to pay large disbursements on account of the necessary preparations to repel the aggressions of Ameer Fysul, he therefore hoped, that I would not press the immediate payment of the sum for which he had become responsible. To this I at once consented and promised not to urge the performance of his engagement, until he was free from the embarrassments which at present surrounded him.

6th. Herewith I have the honor to forward for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council translations of the substance of the two last reports from the Agent at Bahrein: the first of the 2nd Instant communicating the defeat of a party of the Ameer's Troops in a skirmish near Bidda; and the second dated the 8th detailing the occurrences which subsequently took place and which have so greatly changed the face of affairs in that quarter.

I have the honor to be,
Residency in the Persian Gulf. Sd/-S.Hennell,
Bushire, 18th June 1851. Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 24.10.1851 No. 63. contd.

...

Translated substance of a letter from Hajee Jasseem Agent at Bahrein to Lieutenant Colonel Hennell Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 2nd and received 2nd June 1851.

I beg to report that a man has now come from Bidda with letters to his brother from Sheik Ally ben Khuleefa, intimating that 60 Horsemen made a sudden attack upon Doah. A party of horse, and foot went out to meet them, and a Skirmish ensued; the former were defeated with a loss of 15 men and 9 Horse killed, besides several wounded. Of the Sheik's people one was mortally, and another slightly wounded; and two horses killed. Before this, the Sheiks had not been prepared for an attack; they are now however ready and are waiting for another from Ben Saood's forces. If they do not come, the Sheiks intend to proceed and attack them. At present the troops belonging to the Sheiks are numerous consisting of the people on the Guttur Coast, and the Beni-yas Sheik Ally ben Khuleefa has informed Sheik Mahomed, that the forces of Ben Saood are of no importance, and that he can overpower them as his army is very large. He has sent for the horses, powder and rice. When Sheik Ally's letter was received the Horses &c. &c. were embarked Sheik Mahomed had originally intended, if hostilities broke out, to proceed himself. He has now abandoned this plan as Sheik Ally has written to him to say that his presence was not necessary at Biddeh, and that, please God.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851. No.63. contd..

....

please God, he would soon hear of his success. He has further written to say that he had twice received letters from Jabr Naeemee, who wished to come on the part of Ben Saood on account of peace, but that he had, refused to receive, or to give him a safe conduct. The sheiks are now very strong their forces numerous, and they are inclined to fight subsequently to the arrival of H.H. the Imam of Muscat; an Buglah has arrived here from that port, bringing letters for the sheiks from His Highness with a supply of powder lead and four guns, and intimating that he was one with them, and would supply them with whatever they required, as he had the same friendship towards them as formerly. The affairs of the sheiks are now prosperous and they are well pleased. They have granted permission for the divers of Bahrein to proceed to the Banks and do not care about the war with Ben Saood, because they have been joined by sheik Saeed and his people. At first they were perplexed, and doubted much of the people of Guttur. At present those disposed to treachery have abandoned their intentions. It remains however to be seen how matters will turn out hereafter. At present it would appear as if the forces with the sheiks would be able to conquer Ben Saood. To judge from the words of sheik Mahomed the wahabee ruler is extremely weak, and be therefore wishes to defeat and annihilate him, so that he may not b

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.63.

...

Translated substance of a letter from Hajee Jasseem Agent at Bahrein to Lieutt. Coll. Hennell Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 8th and received 18th June 1851.

I previously reported to you the treachery of the people of Quttur towards the sheikh on the 6th June sheik Ally arrived at Bahrein, and had an interview with his Brother sheik Mahomed, and communicated to him all the particular of his expulsion from Biddah. It appears that a party of men from Dowah treacherously supervised and took possession of the *Boorj-e-Mah- Under these circumstances being unable to oppose them while Fysul was in the neighbourhood he had been obliged to evacuate the Fort, accompaniedly Hamdan ben Tahnoon and his followers when seik ally Ben Khuleefa arrived at Bahrein the inhabitants were filled with alarm. The sheik have prepared vessels to proceed to Biddah, because Fysul is now there along with Moobarek ben Abdooliah. All the inhabitants of Quttur are with Ben Saood, and they have Boats. The sheik are greatly surprised and perplexed at the treachery of the people of Biddah. They intend to proceed to that place and guard Bahrein by strongly blocking the coast of Quttur, since the departure of sheik ally from Biddah, some men have come over from that place and report, that Ameer Fysul is still in the camp but that Moobarek ben Abdooliah and some followers have arrived at Dooah on the part of the Ameer, the former was displeased with Ma.omed ben Sasse, for not serving sheik ally, and

The tower which commands the walls.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.63. contd.

...

not be able to return to this quarter. He says he will not now make peace. The sheiks are now using all exertions to carry on hostilities with ben Saood.

/True translation/

Sd/-J. Edwards,

Accountant.

/True copy/

Sd/-S. Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

Sd/-A. Malet,

Chief Secretary.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.63. contd.

....

and has ordered him and his people to wait on Fysul, but they have refused to do so. There are dissensions among them and Ben Saood has no confidence in them because they allowed sheik Ally to go free. All the sheiks vessels have proceeded to Biddah. The divers also of the Boo samait have returned, and they are all in Bahrein, they have informed sheik Mahomed they are ready to perform any orders that he may issue; he has sent them to Biddah where many vessels are assembled. Sheik ally is also with them. The sheiks have been displeased with Hajee Yoosoof ben Ibrahim, and Jasseem ben Mahomed Suggur, accusing them of being secretly in favour of Mahomed ben sanee, with whom they correspond. It is said that Hajee Yoosoof on hearing of the arrival of Ben Saood in these parts wrote to his vessels at Lingah to remain there, and not to come to Bahrein and thus has offended the sheikhs. They have forcibly embarked him and Jasseem ben Mahomed Suggur on board the Bugla. "Towelah" with Sheik Ally. The coast of Guuttur is now in great confusion. Hamdan ben Tahnoon has returned to Aboothabee with the intention of coming back after severe days. He wants to have an interview with his brother Saeed ben Tahnoon collect Troops and return.

/True translation/

Sd/-James Edwards,

/True copy/

Accountant &ca.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.67.

...

Office No.228 of 1851

Cons;No.12 of 1851.

From Secret Department.

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

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

Camp near Bushire, 9th July 1851.

Sir,

In the 3rd para. of my despatch to gave address No.8 in this Department under date the 18th ultimo, I reported my having despatched a Cossid to the sons of the Ex-Uttoobee Chief in Keun, with certain propositions regarding the payment of an annual stipend for their support and subsistence by Sheik Mahomed bin Khuleefa the present Ruler of Bahrein.

2nd. This Co ssid has now returned from Charrack, bringing information from the Sheik of that place to the effect that shortly after the arrival of Sheik Mochbaruk ben Abdoollah there, with the views of Bidda having revolted to the wahabee Chief, all his brothers with their followers, in a fleet of twenty five Boats quitted Keun with the intention of joining Ameer Fysul whither they proposed doing this via Bidda ookateef

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FORE.POLL.DEPT. 24.10.1851, No.67. contd.

...

most inevitable come into collision with the Bahrein blockading forces off both these ports.

3rd. The sheik of Charrack having made himself acquainted with the contents of my letter to the sons of the Ex-Bahrein Chief, despatched it after them. But undersuch an open and direct infraction of one of the principal conditions upon which Sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa had consented to assign his relations an annual stipend namely that they should all fix their residence on the Island of Kenn and cease all further intrigues with the wahabees, I do not consider they passes any further claim upon the good offices of myself, or the liberal intentions of their relations of Bahreins.

Residency persian Gulf. I have the honor to be &ca.
Camp near Bushire, Sd/-S.Hennell
9th July 1851 Resident in the persian Gulf.

/True copy/
Sd/-A. Malet,
Chief secretary.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851. No.68.

....

Office No.236 of 1851

Cons.No.13 of 1851.

From

Lieutt.Colonel Hennell,

Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

A. Malet Esquire,

Chief secretary to the Govt. of Bombay

Secret Department,

Dated Bushire 15th July 1851.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch to your address No.12 in this Department under date the 9th Instant I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the Fleet under the command of sheik Moobaruk ben Abdollah, subsequently to quitting Kenu, unexpected attacked the Bahrein vessels blockading Kaseef and after a severe action and much loss on both sides, succeeded in forcing the blockade, and joining the Wahabee naval force lying in that Harbour.

2. This movement of the sons of the ex-Bahrein Chief is most irregular and is in direct opposition to the repeated injunctions of the British Government that no aggression of any kind, either against Bahrein, or the vesels belonging to that Island, should be committed by them. so long as they enjoyed an asylum upon the

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.68 contd.

....

the persian Coast. What adds greatly to the irregularity of this proceeding is the circumstance, that I was negotiating at their own request and with every prospect of success, a peaceful and amicable adjustment of their claims upon Sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa. It was fully understood by them, that should this negotiation fail, they were to be permitted to embark with their families and under the convoy of one of our vessels of war, proceed over to locate themselves upon some part of the Arabian Coast. At the present time, they have left all their families behind them in Keen under the implied security, that we will not permit the Bahrein Sheik to act against that Island.

3rd. Considering therefore the importance of taking immediate measures to prevent this accession of naval force enabling the wahabees to invade Bahrein, and also the expediency of making the displeasure of the Government at this breach of faith, I have despatched a special boat to that Island, with instructions to command one porter, to capture any vessel belonging to Sheik Moobaruk ben Abdoolah or his dependents, he may find cruising near Bahrein. At the same time, I have suggested the advantage of stationing one of the vessels of the squadron in the khor or channel of Kateef to prevent the egress of the wahabee fleet, now so greatly augmented by the accession of the Keen vessels.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.68. contd.

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4. I now beg to enclose a copy of my instructions to commodore porter dated the 12th instant, which I respectfully hope may meet the approval of His Lordship in Council.

I have the honor to be, &c.

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident in the persian Gulf.

Residency in the persian Gulf,

Bushire,

15th July 1851.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851 .No.68. contd.

....

Office No.233 of 1851
Residency in the persian Gulf.
Camp near Bushire, 12th July 1851.

To

Commodore Porter,
Commanding Indian Naval,
Squadron, persian Gulf.

Sir,

I have received information that the Uttoobee fugitive on the Island of Kenn under their leader Sheik Moobaruk ben Abdoolah have quitted that place, and after a se ere action with the Bahrein Fleet off Kateef ha e forced the Blockade and united their force to that of Amser Rysul.

This movement has taken place not only in direct opportunity to the reiterated injunction of the British Government, that they should not avail themselves of their asylum on the persian Coast, to commit any aggressions against Bahrein but also at a time, when I was engaged at their own request in mediating an amicable adjustment of their quarrel with their relations, the present sheiks of that Island.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.68 contd.

...

3rd. Under these circumstances the honor to request that you will capture any vessel belonging to Sheik Mobaruk ben Abdooliah or his dependents you may find cruising in the neighbourhood of Bahrein, and having dismissed the commanders and crews, retain such vessels until the orders of government regarding their disposal be received.

4th. I would further suggest for your consideration the expediency of stationing a vessel of war in the Khoor of Kateef to prevent the egress of the naval force of the Wahabees now so materially augmented by the accession of the Kenu Boats.

I have the honor to be &ca.

sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident &ca.

/True copy/

sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

sd/- A. Malet,

Chief Secretary.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.69.

...

Minute by the Right Honourable the Governor
dated 14th September 1851.

8, 18th June 1851
9, 24th June 1851
10, 27th June 1851
11, 7th July 1851
12, 9th July 1851
13, 15th July 1851.

1st. We have 6 letters from Colonel Hennell relative to the affairs of Bahrein.

2nd. Colonel Hennell's endeavours to arrange matters between the sheikh of Bahrein and his relatives in the island of Kana reported in his first letter, and the delay in pressing the shekh for payment of the sums due from the inhabitants of Dooah and Guttur may be approved.

3rd. I also deem very satisfactory his proceedings connected with the visit of Ameer Fysul's Agent, reported in his letter of the 27th June, as in strict accordance with our policy in the Persian Gulf, the notice taken by Colonel Hennell or Lieutenant Manners' letters to the Governor of Kateef will probably be sufficient but Colonel Hennell should be informed that he must ever repress at once any inclination on the part of subordinate officers, to go beyond the strict intention of their instructions, except in case of great emergency.

4th. Up to the date of the last of these letters, Colonel Hennell's proceedings were entirely of a mediatory nature, his good offices being directed to obtain redress for the fugitive relatives of the shekh of Bahrein, and to make peace between that chief and the Wahabees Agent, Ameer Fysul.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.69. contd.

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5th. In his letter of the 7th July Colonel Hennell reported that shortly after the departure of Ameer Fysul agent, the date of which is not mentioned, but may have been shortly before the 24th of June, he received a letter from Colonel Sheil, the tenor of which induced him to alter the course of policy hitherto pursued and to interfere directly in favor of the shekh of Bahrein, by sending the whole of the Persian Gulf squadron to that quarter with orders to prevent the invasion of Bahrein by Ameer Fysul.

oop "Olive"
 ig. "Tigris"
 hooner "Cons-
 nce".

6th. On the 9th July Colonel Hennell reported that the relatives of the shekh of Bahrein had left the island of Kenu, with 25 boats and on the 12 idem he reports that after a severe action with the Bahrein fleet off Koteef they had succeeded in joining their force to that of Ameer Fysul.

7th. There is no information before Government to show that the porte has at present any intention to endeavour to impress her sovereignty on Bahrein, and I presume that Colonel Hennell is stating this to Colonel Sheil, must have contemplated it as an alternative which the shekh would have accourse to rather than encounter the Wahabee Agent without such powerful aid as would give him some hopes of success.

8th. The papers transmitted with the despatch from the Hon'ble the secret Committee dated 21st February 1851

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.69. contd.

...

more especially the closing sentence of the 2nd para. of Viscount Palmerston's letter to Sir Stratford Canning dated 12th February 1851, induce me to consider it probable that Colonel Hennell's attitude with respect to the Wahabee Agent, will be approved by Her Majesty's Government, and I am of opinion that he should be permitted to return it, pending the orders which in consequence of Colonel Sheil's reference, will doubtless be issued either to that officer or to the government of India.

9th. In respect to the refugees from Kenn, we determined on the 23rd June last that they should be permitted a safe transit in peaceable guise from Kenn to the Arab Coast. They have in the mean time while seeking this coast come into collision with the Bahrein fleet, but unless they had been expressly forbidden by the Resident to refrain to Kateef this does not afford a cause of quarrel between us and them.

10th. Supposing the Refugees however after reaching Kateef should give evidence of hostile intention of attacking Bahrein, this would become a separate question. We have however determined for the present to prevent attack on Bahrein by the Wahabees, including of course their allies, so that no further notice on this point is at present necessary and if requisite Colonel Hennell can make any remark that he may deem proper on this subject.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.69. contd.

...

11th. It is possible that matters may have ere this terminated, and that any addition to our means in the gulf may no longer be necessary; for although we have received a letter from Muscat /from His Highness the Imam/, dated the 27th August, we have no later letter from Bushire than the 15th of July, in the uncertainty therefore of the actual present state of matters at Bahrein, I propose to request the commoander in chief Indian Navy to send the steamer which is to tow up the iron boat for the relief of the "Nitocris", at the earliest date which he may consider will be safe forwarding our instruments to Colonel Hennell, and reporting our proceedings to the Hon'ble Secret Committee, and the most Noble the Governor General of India.

14th September 1851. /Signed/- Falkland

/True copy/

sd /-A. Malet,
Chief secretary.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.70.

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Minute by the Hon'ble Mr. Blane dated 16th
September 1851.

Colonel Hennell's interference between the
Wahabee and the sheik of Bahrein having originated
in communication from Colonel Shiel, I concur in leav-
ing matters as they are until informed of the senti-
ments of her Majesty's Government, though I should
otherwise have looked upon the measure as at variance
with the policy we have laid down for ourselves in
that quarter. A mere threat to call in a third party
might if attended to, involve us in every quarrel along
the Coast of that most unsettled part of Arabia.

16th September 1851.

signed/-D.A. Blane,

/True Copy/

sd/-A.Malet,

Chief Secretary.

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