

1594

- 130 -

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.71.

..

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

No immediate necessity appearing to
exist for the proposed measure, I conceive thus
for in the Hon'ble Mr. Blane's Minute is.

16th September 1851.

signed/-A. Bell.

/True copy/

sd/-A. Malet,

Chief Secretary.

...

1595

- 131 -

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.72.

..

Minute by the Right Honorable the Governor concurred in by the Hoorable Mr. Blane dated 19th September 1851.

The substance of my minute appears to be concurred in by my colleagues Colonel Hennell may therefore be addressed accordingly the requisite communication should also be made to the Commander in Chief Indian Navy, and our proceedings be forthwith reported to the most noble the Governor General.

signed/-Falkland

19th September 1851

" D.A. Blane

seen

signed/-A. Bell,

/True copy/

sd/-A. Malet,

Chief secretary.

....

1596

- 132 -

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.72.

...

Minute by the Right Honorable the Governor,
concurrred in by the Honorable Mr. Blane dated 19th
September 1851.

The substance of ~~my~~ minute appears to be
concurrred in by my colleagues Colonel Hennell
may therefore be addressed accordingly the requi-
site communication should also be made to the
Commander in chief Indian Navy and our proceedings
be forthwith reported to the most noble the Governor
General.

signed/-Falkland

" D.A. Blane

19th September 1851.

seen

signed/-A. Bell.

/True copy/

sd/-A. Malet
Chief Secretary.

...

1597

- 133 -

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No. 73.

...

No. 334 of 1851

From

A. Malet Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government of
Bombay.

To

Lieutenant Colonel S. Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Secret Department,

Dated the 24th September 1851.

Sir,

No. 8, dated 18.6.1851
No. 9, dated 24.5.1851
No. 10, dt. 27th 5.1851
No. 11, dt. 7th July, 51
No. 12, dt. 9.7.1851.
No. 13, dt. 15.7.1851.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, relative to the affairs of Bahrein, and to communicate to you the following observations and instructions thereon.

2nd. Your endeavours to arrange matters between the sheikh of Bahrein and his relations in the island of Kenu, reported in the first of the above communications and your delay in pressing the Shaikh for payment of the sums due from the inhabitants of Dooah and Gutter, are approved by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council.

3rd. His Lordship in Council also deems very satisfactory, your proceedings connected with the visit of Ameer Fysul's Agent, reported in your letter of the 27th June, as being in strict accordance with

FOR. POLL. DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.73. contd.

...

trusts that the notice which has been taken by you of Lieutenant Manner's letter to the Governor of Kateef, will be sufficient. You should however always repress at once any inclination on the part of subordinate officers, to go beyond the strict intention of their instructions except in cases of great emergency.

4th. Up to this date, your proceedings were entirely of a mediatory nature, your good offices being directed to obtain redress for the fugitive relations of the Shaikh of Bahrein, and to make peace between that chief and the Wahabee Agent Ameer Fysul. It appears however from your letter of the 7th July, that you have been induced by the tenor of a communication from Lieutenant Colonel Sheil to alter the course of policy which you had till then pursued, and to interfere directly in favor of the Shaikh 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.

5th. As your measures were taken in consequence of a letter from Colonel Sheil, a copy of which has been furnished to Her Majesty's Government by that officer, the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council is pleased to permit you to maintain the attitude you have assumed, pending orders, which in con-

1599

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.73. contd.

....

expected to be issued to that officer, and communicated by him to you, or until you receive further instructions from this Government.

6th.. His Lordship in Council does not consider the circumstance of the refugees from Kenn coming into collision with the Bahrein fleet while seeking the Arab Coast, as calling for any interference on the part of Government, unless they had been expressly forbidden by you to repair to Kateef. If however after reaching Kateef, the refugees should give evidences of hostile intention of attacking Bahrein. This would form a separate matter for consideration. As Government however has already determined for the present to prevent any attack on Bahrein by the Wahabees, including of course their allies, no further notice of this point is deemed necessary at present, but if requisite you can submit any remarks on the subject, which you may deem proper.

Bombay Castle,
24th September 1851

I have the honor to be,
Sd/-A. Malet, Chief. Secy.

/True copy/

Sd/-A. Malet,
Chief Secy.

1600

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT.24.10.1851 No.74.

...

No.335 of 1851

Resolution of Government in the secret Department
dated the 24th september 1851.

Ordered, that Extract ~~from~~ para.11 from a Minute
by the Right Honorable the Governor dated the 14th
instant, be transferred to the Marine Department
that the best means of accomplishing the object of
Government may there ~~be~~ considered and adopted; the
secret Department being informed of the measures taken.

signed/-A. Malet,
Chief Secretary.

/True copy/

sd/-A. Malet,
Chief Secretary.

....

1601

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 24.10.1851, No.75.

..

/Copy/

No. 3197

From

The Secretary to the Govt. of India
with the Governor General.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay.

Foreign Department.

sir,

I am directed by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 24th Ultimo, No.206 together with its several enclosures relating to the measures taken to prevent the threatened attack on Bahrein by the Wahabee chief, and in respect to state that His Lordship considers the instructions issued by the Right Honible the Governor in Council to the Resident in the Persian Gulf to be judicious.

Simla,
the 14th October 1851

I have the honor to be,
Sd/-H.M. Elliot,
Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Governor General.

/True copy/

Sd/-E.C. Bayly
Under secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Governor General.

...

1602

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 28. NOV. 1851. No. 25.

...

Office No. 261 of 1851.

From

② Lieutenant Colonel Hennell

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

His Excellency,

Lieutenant Colonel Sheil C.B.

His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary

and Envoy Extraordinary at the

Court of Persia, Tehran.

Dated Camp near Bushire, 13th August 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the information of Your Excellency the accompanying copy of a despatch dated the 5th Instant with enclosures, addressed by me to the Chief Secy. to the Bombay Government, announcing to the conclusion of peace between the Ameer of Nedjd and the sheik of Bahrein.

2nd. Since the receipt of this satisfactory intelligence from the Arabian Coast, I have had an interview with Sheikh Abdool Rahman, a special Envoy from Ameer Fysul, He assured me that His Highness had been induced to relinquish his intentions against Bahrein solely out of consideration to the wishes of the British Government, as expressed to him through me.

/True copy/
Sd/-S. Hennell,

I have the honor to be,
Sd/-S. Hennell,

1603

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26 DEC. 1851, No.55.

Office No.5040 Duplicate No.263 of 1851

From

A. Malet Esquire,
Chief Secy. to Govt,
Bombay.

To

Sir H.M. Elliot K.C.B.
Secy. to the Govt. of India

with the Most Noble the Governor General,
Political Department, Camp

Dated 24th November 1851.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.207 dated
the 24th September last, I am directed by the Right
Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you

From the Resident in the
persian Gulf, dated
7th June 1851 with Encl.
Minute by the R.H. the G.G.
dt.17th sept.1851.
Minute by the Hon.Mr.Blane,
dated 20th sept.1851
To the Resident in the persian
Gulf, dt.16th Oct.No.371A.
From Major Hamerton No.16,
dt.18th Oct.1851.
Substance of a letter from
the Native Agent at Muscat
12th October 1851.

for submission to you
for submission to the
Most Noble the Governor
General of India, copy
of a Documents noted in
the margin regarding the
state of affairs between
Muscat and Sohar.

Bombay Castle,
24th November 1851.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-A. Malet,
Chief Secretary.

1604

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.56.

...

Office No.190 of 1856

Cons.No.6 of 1851.

From

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell,
Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

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

Bushire, 7th June 1851.

Secret Department,

sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the arrival at Muscat on the 11th ultimo of His Highness Syed Saad, accompanied by Major Hamerton Her Majesty's Consul and H.Cos. Agent.

2nd. Considering it advisable that Major Hamerton should be made fully aware of the state of affairs in the persian Gulf as connected with Muscat, I have addressed two letters No.188 and 189 under dates the 5th and 6th Instant to that officer I have now the honor to transmit copies of these despatches for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, and to be &ca.

Residency in the persian Gulf.

Signed/-a. Hennell,

Bushire 7th June 1851.

Resident in the persiangulf

1605

FORE.PODL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.56. contd.

....

Office No.188 of 1851

From

Lieutenant Colonel Hennell
Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

Major A. Hamerton,
Her Majesty's Consul and Hon'ble Co's
Agent in the dominions of H.H.
the Imam of Muscat.

political Department, Bushire 5th June 1851

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter under date the 14th ultimo, announcing the arrival of His Highness Syed Saeed, and yourself at Muscat.

2nd. The opportune presence of His Highness in his Arabian territories at the present juncture is highly satisfactory, and I cannot but hope, that guided by your able and judicious advice, the friendly relations which formerly subsisted between Muscat and Sohar, and which were so unfortunately broken by the faithless proceedings of His Excellency Syed Thowsyne towards the late Syed Humood ben Azan, may now be renewed and placed upon a permanent basis.

3. You will doubtless have learnt from the report of Khojeh Kiskaeb the Native Agent at Muscat,

...

that I visited that port in January last under the orders of Government, for the purpose of endeavouring to mediate a satisfactory and lasting peace between Syed Thoweynee and Syed Ges ben Azan.

4th. Under the excuse that His Highness Syed Saeed had interdicted any further steps in the quarrel, pending his expected arrival in these quarters, my propositions to open negotiations were politely declined by the Muscat authorities, who informed me they had already entered into an arrangement with the Sohar Chief, through the mediation of Sheik Saeed ben Tahnoon of Abcoothabee, to suspend further hostilities, and allow matters to remain on their present footing until the appearance of H.H. the Imam.

5th. In a subsequent interview with Syed Ges ben Azan, I found that such an arrangement had really been made. I took this opportunity of sending the Sohar Chief, regarding the terms of a more formal and permanent treaty, I found him willing to take the present position of affairs as the basis of negotiation, but to a suggestion that on receiving adequate pecuniary compensation from His Highness Syed Saeed for the injuries inflicted upon the conquests he had lately made, he returned a positive refusal to treat upon any such terms.

1607

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.56. contd.

.....

5th. How far the actual presence of His Highness Syed Saeed may change the feelings and views of the respective parties, remains to be seen. It is highly desirable that the Imam should not quit his Arabian Dominions without a full and friendly renewal of his relations with Sohar. I am of opinion that it would be best for all parties to conclude a peace upon the present status, as I am quite satisfied that an attempt on the part of Syed Saeed to recover by force of arms, the captured territory now in the possession of Syed Gas ben Azan, and Sheik Sultan ben Suggur, would involve His Highness in a great expenditure and worse position than he at present occupies. Independently of these considerations, the confusion and disorder likely to be produced by a renewal of hostilities between His Highness on the one side, and Syed Gas and Sheik Sultan ben Suggur on the other, are greatly to be deprecated. Without therefore in any way interfering with the independent action of the Imam, I would take the liberty of suggesting the prudence and expediency of shaping your counsels and opinions to His Highness as far as possible to lead to the desirable end of a renewal of friendly relations with the Government of Sohar, without having recourse to hostile measures.

I have the honor to be,

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident in Persian Gulf

1608

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.56 contd.

...

Office No.189 of 1851

Secret Department.

From

Lieutenant Colonel S. Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

Major A. Hamerton,
H.M. Consul and H.Co's Agent in the
Dominions of H.H. the Imam of Muscat,
Bushire, 6th June 1851.

Sir,

Knowing the interest felt by His Highness Syed Saeed in every thing connected with Bahrein, and the probability that overtures may be made to him to take a part in the events now proceeding in that quarter, I think it expedient that you should be made acquainted with the present position of affairs.

2nd. You are probably aware that the Wahabee Harrison which occupied Beynee has lately been expelled from Oman. With the ostensible view of endeavouring to reestablish his authority in that province, and enforcing the payment of the arrears of Zukat from Bahrein, Ameer Fysul the Wahabee Chief, a few months back marched with a force from Lahsah to the neighbourhood of Kateef. Alarmed at this movement, the Sheik of Bahrein blockades the port, and opened negotiations with the Ameer for an amicable arrangement. Having however now reason to think

1609

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.56. contd.

...

think that the object of the Wahabee is the possession of Bahrein, all negotiations have been broken off, and Fysul has moved his army to the Coast of Guttur, about half a days' march from Bidda. The Bahrein Chief however, having been largely reinforced by Sheik Saeed ben Tahnoon of Aboothabee, is now quite prepared to resist any attack.

3rd. Whatever success Ameer Fysul may obtain on the main land, it is obvious that unless largely supported by a naval force, he can do little against the Island of Bahrein itself. Although acting upon our policy of not interfering in the inland feuds and hostilities of the Chiefs on the Arabian Coast, we have exhibited no open opposition to this projected invasion of Bahrein by the Wahabees, it would be any thing but advantageous to the interests of the British Government that the ambitious views of Ameer Fysul should prove successful. He is known to be under the influence, and indeed to be a certain measure tributary to the Ottoman Porte, and as the latter Government has never abandoned its pretensions to the sovereignty of Bahrein, and the whole of the Arabian Coast, the occupation of that Island by the WAHABEES might seriously compromise our policy in the Persian Gulf. The maritime chiefs of the Oman coast having been interdicted by us from lending the aid of their naval resources to Ameer Fysul, the only quarter to which the

1610

FORE.POLL.DEPT. 26.12.1851, No.56. contd.

....

the sons of the late Ex-chief of Bahrein Abdoolah ben Ahmed two of the elder Brothers are now in the camp of the Ameer, and the remainder with a formidable body of their Uttoobee Adherents have for some years past resided on the Island of KENN, where they have the command of a large fleet of Native Vessels. So long as they remain upon Persian territory, the British Government has forbidden any aggressions on their part against Bahrein, but were they located upon the Arabian Coast, our grounds for interference between the rival families would cease. I am however now engaged in endeavouring to mediate an arrangement between the sons of the Ex-Chief, and the present Ruler of Bahrein, by which the latter is to restore a certain portion of the landed property belonging to his exiled relations. At present one side offers too little and the other demands too much, but I am not without hopes of eventual success in concluding an amicable agreement between the parties and thus relieve Sheik Mahomed ben Khuleefa from any further apprehensions from that quarter.

Bushire,

6th June 1851

I have the honor to be &c.

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident Persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Resident Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

Sd/-A. Malet,

Chief Secretary.

1611

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.57.

...

Minute by the Right Honorable the Governor dated 17th September 1851 concurred in by the Hon'ble Mr. Bell.

Colonel Hennell's communications to Major Hamerton may be approved, that of the 5th June No.188 being recorded in our proceedings relative to Muscat and Sohar and that of No.189 dated 6th June in those relative to Bahrein I had not read the latter when I recorded my Minute on Bahrein affairs, it explains Colonel Heneell's allusion to the probability of Turkish influence becoming paramount in Bahrein in case of its capture by Ameer Fysul.

17th September 1851

Signed/-Falkland,

" A. Bell.

/True copy/

sd/-A. Malet,

Chief secretary.

...

1612

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FORE.POLL.DEPT. 26.12.1851, No.58.

...

Minute by the Honorable Mr. Blane dated the 20th September 1851 concurred in by the Hon'ble Mr. Bell.

The grounds of apprehension of the extension of Turkish influence would seem to be equally applicable to the possession by Ameer Fysul of other places in the coast as well as of Bahrein.

signed/-D.A. Blane,

" A. Bell.

Seen.

signed/-Falkland.

/True copy/

Sd/-A. Malet,

Chief Secretary.

...

1613

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.59..

...

No.371A of 1851

Secret Department.

From

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

To

Lieutt.Colonel S. Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Dated 16th October 1851.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.6 dated the 7th June last, and to inform you that the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor in Council approves of the tenor of the two communications addressed by you on the 5th and 6th idem to Major Hamerton Her Majesty's Consul and Honorable company's Agent in the Dominions of His Highness the Imam of Muscat.

Bombay Castle,
16th October 1851

I have the honor to be,
signed/-A. Malet,

Chief Secretary.

/True copy/

sd/-A. Malet,
Chief Secretary

....

1614

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.60.

...

No.16 of 1851

political Department

From

Major Atkins Hamerton,

Her Majesty's Consul and Hon'ble Company's
Agent in the dominions of His Highness the
Imam of Muskat.

To

A. Malet Esquire,

Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay

Dated Muskat 18th October 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that His Highness the Imam returned to Muskat on Sunday the 12th instant; from Soham a place three hours westward from Sohar having taken the fort of Soham, His Highness repaired and strengthened it, and placed a garrison of his own troops in it, this although a small place, is one of much consequence. His Highness has also taken the Fort of Khabara, and garrisoned it with his own troops.

2nd. His Highness the Imam appears highly pleased with his success thus far; Saeed Keisbin Azan the chief of Sohar has not found that support from the different chiefs his neighbours, which they led him to expect, he is poor and unable to satisfy them, and to the astonishment

1615

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No. 60. contd.

..

upon whom he placed his chief hope of assistance deserted him, and came over to the Imam. On the 6th Instant a meeting took place between the Schaikh and the Imam on board a Begaree; anchored between Sohar and Boham, when they came to an understanding, and the next day Schaikh Sultan bin Suggur paid a visit to His Highness the Imam on board his Frigate the predmontese and remained several hours, His Highness the Imam assures me a true and perfect reconciliation has taken place between him and Schaikh Sultan bin Suggur - they had not seen each other for many years. Sultan bin Suggur, I am aware has for some time back been anxious to come to terms with the Imam, His Highness was terribly afraid of him, and not much inclined at first for a reconciliation with the Schaikh; and before leaving Muscat asked my advice on the subject, and afterwards wrote to tell me the Schaikh was inclined for the reconciliation and I told the Imam that as I had before advised him, I again did so, to arrange and come to terms with Schaikh Sultan bin Suggur, he has it in his power to do more harm to the Imam's cause, or to assist him than any other of the chiefs opposed to him as an Ally of or Saeid Keis the Chief of Sohar Schaikh Sultan bin Suggur wished to bring Saeid Keis bin Azan along with him to visit His Highness the Imam, and to settle the whole affair between them, and I understand he nearly succeeded. but Saeid Keis took fright at something or

1616

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 26.12.1851, NO. 60. contd.

...

or other, and went back, he came down to the beach with schaikh Sultan bin Suggur, had he come, the Imam told me he would have received him well and I am certain he would.

3rd. His Highness the Imam has withdrawn almost all his forces from the Sohar territory and has given Saeid Keis two months to consider whether he will, or not, accept the terms offered him by His Highness, which are fair, and liberal, Saeid Keis wants the Imam to give him back Soham and he to give up Shinas, but the Imam wishes to retain Saham and I think he should do so, it is close to the sea, easily defended from the land side, and has the best place to embark and disembark, and also for boats to lay at anchor close in shore or any other place along the coast - His Highness wishes to have possession of other places which are considered within the Sohar territory exclusive of Soham but these matters are as yet in progress of arrangement by the Chiefs friendly to both parties. His Highness does not appear inclined to be severe with Saeid Keis, the Sohar Chief the Imam says what he wants is to have all matters in dispute between his family and Sohar family properly adjusted, and a lasting and true friendly understanding between the two states, and between himself and Saeid Keis bin Azen.

1617

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No.60. contd.

....

4th. It is much to be desired that a lasting and true friendship, should be established between the Imam and the schaikh of Rasel Khyma, Sultan bin Suggur for if the schaikh and His Highness were to act in concert, their combined resistance would be a most serious check to the encroachments of the Wahabee Chief, the Ameer Fysul bin Turkee in this quarter of Arabia, but unfortunately sultan bin Suggur is himself a Wahabee, but not a very staunch sort of a one, and if he saw himself on a position to resist the Wahabee chief, there is little doubt but he would do so.

Muscat,
18th October 1851

I have the honor to be &ca.
sd/-Atkins Hanerton,
Major H.M.Consul and H.C.
Agent in the dominions of
H.H. the Imam of Muscat.

/True copy/
sd/-A. Malet.
Chief secretary.

....

1618

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 26.12.1851, No. 61.

...

No. 1325 of 1851

Persian Department.

Substance of a letter from Keskail bin Yusof Acting Native Agent at Muscat, to the Persian Secretary to Government dated 10th and received 29th October, 1851.

In my last letter I informed you that good understanding was about to be restored between His Highness Syud Saeed the Imam and Syed Kyse bin Azan. I now beg to state that through the instrumentality of Shaikh Sultan bin Suggur, good understanding has been restored between the parties. The port of Suhum has been restored to His Highness Syud Saeed. Syud Kyse however, had no interview with His Highness. His Highness has appointed Sautum bin Salim Chief of Suhum, and has nominated Shaikh Mahomed bin Hamud to command the troops at the port, which His Highness has had fortified. Wasir bin Rusheed has been appointed chief of Khaboora, and Rubia bin Hamud the Commandant of the troops there. Sultan bin Suggur accompanied His Highness the Imam and they arrived here this day. The ships - Fyze Alum "Gazul" and "Montes" have also arrived here.

1st November 1851.

Signed/-A. Richardson,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

/True copy/

1619

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. ~~25x12x185~~ 8.3.1850. 9-10.

...

No.9.

Office No.748

No.22 of 1850.

political Department.

From

A. Malet Esquire,
Chief secretary to Government.

To

F.J. Halliday Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India

Dated 18th February 1850.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.4 dated the 2nd January 1849 to the address of sir H.M. Elliot, a duplicate of which was forwarded to you on the same date, relative to the design of the ex-chief of Bahrein to re-establish his authority over that Island, I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to transmit to you for submission to the Hon'ble the president in Council copy of a communication from Captain Hamerton, Her Majesty's Consul and Hon'ble Company's Agent at Zanzibar No.16 dated the 26th October last, reporting that His Highness the Imam has promised that he will not act in this matter contrary to the wishes of the British Government.

Bombay Castle,
18th February 1850.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant

Sd/-A. Malet,
Chief secretary.

1620

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 8.3.1850, No.10.

...

No.16 of 1849

political Department.

From

Captain A. Hamerton,

Her Majesty's Consul and Hon'ble Company's

Agent in the Domimions of His Highness

The Imam of Muskat.

To

A. Malet Esquire,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Dated 26th October 1849.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No.11 of the 2nd January last forwarding copy of a letter in the Secret Department from the Resident in the persian Gulf dated 22nd October/48/ No.364 relative to the designs of the Ex-Chief, Schaikh Aba Ullah bin Ahmad (of Bahrein) for the re-establishment of his authority over the Island, and directing me to dissuade the Imam from taking any part in these proceedings.

I have the honor to state for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that I have done as directed, His Highness Will not he says act contrary to the wishes of Government,

Zanzibar,
26th October 1849

/True copy/

I have the honor to be &ca.
signed/-A.Hamerton,

" Capt.H.M.'s Consul and
H.C.'s Agent in the dominions

1621

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5.5.1854

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. ~~12,xx2x1854~~, No.12-13.

...

No.12-

Office No.80 No.30 of 1854.

From

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

To

C. Allen Esquire,
Officiating secretary to the
Government of India
Fort William,

Dated 6th March 1854.

sir,

In continuation of Mr. Secretary Goldmid's letter No.133 dated the 12th October 1853, regarding the deputation by the Chief of Bahrein of a person of Egypt in company with Beghet Effendi, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to enclose for submission to the Most Noble the Governor General of India in Council, copy of a communication from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, No.2, dated the 23rd January last, announcing the return of that person.

Bombay Castle,
6th March 1854

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-A. Malet,
Chief secretary.

...

1622

FORE.POLL.DEPT. 5.5.1854. No.13.

...

No.2 of 1854.

From

Captain A.B. Kembul,

Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

A- Malet Esquire,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Secret Department.

Bombay.

Dated, 23rd January 1854.

Sir,

With reference to my despatches to this Department Nos.5 & 7 dated 5th June and 27th July last, reporting that the Chief of Bahrein had deputed an envoy to Egypt in company with Behjut Effendi, the person who visited their island on a mission from Abbas pasha in May last, I have the honor to enclose for the information of govt. translated substance of a letter to my address from the British Agent there, announcing the return of the individual in question with the Viceroy's replies to the communications entrusted to his charge.

The correctness of Hajee Jasseem's information that Abbas pasha had declined the overtures of the Bahrein chiefs to assume virtually the protectorate of the island may be tested hereafter as well by the continuance of their refugee relatives at Demaum, as

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FORE. POIL. DEPT. 5. 5. 1854, No. 13. contd.

...

Ameer Fysul; through on this point it is probable that government may have received some positive intelligence from the British authorities in Egypt.

With respect to Rustam Effendi another of Abbas pasha's employe's lately arrived at Bahrein, our Agent in a former report mentioned that letters had been received from the individual being then at Jiboul Shummur, by Sheikh Mahomed ben Khuleefa, of which the contents had not transpired but which the latter had somewhat ostentatiously invested with political importance. It would now seem, however, that his mission has no other object than that professed for it, of purchasing horses for his master.

Residency in the Persian Gulf, I have the honor to be,
Bushire, 23rd January 1854. Sd/-A.K. Kemball,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Translated substance

From Hajee Jasseem,
Agent at Bahrein.

To

Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Datee 20th Rubeeool Saneh
20th January

Received 23rd January 1854.

Touching Rustom Effendi, Abbas Pasha's man,

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.13. contd.

...

and had addressed letters to the Chief of Bahrein before receiving their answers he proceeded to Nedjd to meet Fysul and now he has come with two followers to Bahrein, I do not observe that he is vested with any particular powers nor does he show any sign of being engaged in the business, before attributed to him, by Sheikh Mahomed bin Khuleefa but is provided with letters from Abbas pasha regarding 4 mares of very famous breed possessed by the sheikhs which he is directed to obtain either by purchase, or as a free gift. Sheikh Mahomed has deferred the matter pending the return of his brother Sheikh Ali from Guttur where the latter has been waiting until Abdullah ben Fysul should have passed on (to Nedjd): He may however, be looked for immediately as news has reached us from Kateef of Abdullah ben Fysul's having arrived at Sahlah. Sheikh Mahomed finds it hard to part with the 4 mares referred to which are the choice horses of his stud.

Rustam Effendis mission from Egypt being to purchase horses he will proceed hence to Nedjd where Fysul will furnish him with an escort to go among the Arabs.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854. No.13. contd.

...
Rustam Effendi's mission from Egypt being to purchase horses he will proceed hence to Nedjd where Fysul will furnish him with an escort to go among the Arabs.

On the 17th instant Ali Ben Ibrahim the Sheikh's Envoy, who accompanied Behjut Effendi to Egypt arrived from Bombay bringing Abbas Pasha's answers from Egypt he had travelled to Bombay per steamer. On the perusal of these communications Sheikh Mahomed ben Khuleefa manifested great delight, and fired a salute in order to give publicity to their receipt, but, sir, according to my information Sheikh Mahomed has failed to obtain compliance with his wishes from Abbas Pasha; the same being to be freed from the ascendancy of Fysul. - the removal of the refugees located at Demau and to be relieved from the control* of the English at sea, Abbas Pasha did not accede to their views, but intimated to their Envoy, "that it did not become him to interfere in the affairs of the chiefs with their subjects, moreover Fysul was his ally, and with respect to the English that their concerns and engagements were (in relation) with the Sultan and he could not meddle with such matters." In short Sheikh Mahomed ben Khuleefa has not gained the objects he sought, so at least is declared by people here though he gives out that all he desired from Abbas Pasha has been accomplished no

*The word used in either case is used signifying in hand.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.13. contd.

....

no one however has seen the letters, now have I ascertained precisely their contents.

The sheikhs, I understand have received from Abbas pasha, 5,000 Gold pieces of 5 Crowns each, equivalent to 25,000 Crowns, also a box set in jewels, 4 swords, a saddle, and dresses (men and women's) H.H. gave to their envoy a sum of money and dresses; and to each of his attendants a sword, a dress, and 200 Ghazees with 2,000 Ghazees for the expenses of their journey. According to the Envoy's account Abbas pasha intended in the first instance to send presents, not money, in return for the horses until he pointed out that the sheikh's desired money, or would not have sent him and though Bihjut Effendi pressed the point of the horses being presents the matter ended in the payment referred to. It is probable that Sheikh Mahomed ben Khuleefa instructed his envoy to be guided by the attention that might be paid to his proposals, otherwise to recover the price of the horses, for Bihjit Effendi, when here, offered them money and they would not accept it, and so probably he inferred that they did not want the price.

There came with Ali ben Ibrahaem a man from Egypt charged by Abbas pasha with letters and money for Rustam Effendi whom H.H. advises of certain horses said to be among the Howajir. His Highness

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.13. contd.

...

His Highness also mentions the subject in his communications to the sheikhs and begs them, as the Howajir are their dependents, to afford his Agent every assistance. This remittance is for the purchase of the horses in question, for the funds he brought with him were left by Rustam Effendi in Nedjd in the hands of Fysul's people upon whom he draws for the value of horses he purchases at Sahsha and in its neighbourhood.

/True translation/

Sd/-A.B.Kemball,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-H.F. Disbrow

Assistant Resident,

Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

Sd/-A.Malet,

Chief secretary.

...

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3.

...

Office No.123. No.49 of 1854.

From

H.S. Anderson Esquire,
Acting Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of India
In the Foreign Department,
Fort William,

Secret Department

Dated April 1854.

Sir,

AS connected with my letter dated the
12th instant, No.44 I am directed by the Right Honor-
able the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to
transmit to you, for submission to the Most Noble the
Governor General of India in Council, copies of two
letters with enclosures, since received from the Resident
in the persian Gulf, dated the 21st and 31st ultimo,
Nos. 9 and 26, and to state that this Government considers
the situations arising from the successful attack on
Bunder ^{Aba} ~~Pass~~, to have been properly referred, by the
Resident for the consideration of Her Majesty's charge'
d' affaires at Tehran, as it is only by the mediation
of that officer that protracted hostilities between the
Government of persia and Muscat can be avoided.

1629

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FORE.POLL.DDPTT. 8.5.1851 No.21-3 cond.

...

2nd. I am at the same time to state that the object of Captain Kembell having been pending the reference to Tehran to prevent the maritime tribes of Oman from taking any part in the contest now in progress his general proceedings and his instructions to Commodore Robinson, have been approved.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-H.S. Anderson,

Acting Secretary.

Bombay Castle,

18th April 1854.

....

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 5. 5. 1854, No. 21-3. contd.

...

No. 22.

No. 9 of 1851.

Secret Department.

From

Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

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

Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire, 21st March 1854.

Sir,

Although I have received no official communications on the subject from Commodore Robinson, I have learnt from some sources on which I can rely that the Chief of Abdoothabee having proceeded to Bunder Abbas with an armed force, that officer, in accordance with my instructions* of 24th ultimo, had intimated to him his disapproval of such a course, and required his immediate return to his own port.

*vide enclo. no. 7
S.D. of 2nd instant.

2nd. Had His Highness Syed Soweinee done me the honor to acquaint me with his intention to invite the aid of some of the maritime tribes of Oman, I should at once of course have submitted to him the objections which appeared to me to militate against the arrangement and thus have anticipated the necessity

1631

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

...

construed into unfriendliness, and which by its apparent bias in favr of the persian cause might even prejudice the interests of His Highness the Imaum. Nevertheless considering that His Highness is one of the oldest and staunchest allies of the British Government in this quarter, whose subservience to its views has ever ~~been~~ of the most marked character; and considering indeed that the sudden and unexpected attack of the persian Troops may have left the Muscat authorities no resources but to seek the nearest aid without reference to our policy, I trust I shall be deemed to have rightly appreciated the nature of our mutual relations, by hastening in the terms of a communication on which the enclosed is a translation to reassure them on the above point and to tender some explanation of the course which the British authorities in the gulf have found it necessary to pursue.

As bearing upon the quarrel between His Highness the Imaum and the persian authorities concerning Bunder Abbas, I beg to submit herewith a copy of a despatch addressed by me to Her Majesty's charge d' Affaires at Tehran, enclosing correspondence with the Chief of Charrack, a port on the persian coast on the subject of his being called upon to co-operate by sea on the side of the latter.

I have the honor to be,

~~Transskatko~~ FORE.POLL.DEPT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

...

Translation-

From

Captain A. B. Kemball,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

H. H. Syed Soweenee

Governor of Muscat

Dated 21st March 1854.

Intelligence has just reached me that Sheikh Saeed ben Tahnoon, Chief of Aboothabee, having just put to sea in his vessel for the purpose of conveying a body of fighting men to Bunder Abbas, Commodore Robinson, in accordance with his general instructions notified to that person that such a proceeding was irregular and could not be concurred in by him unless previously sanctioned by the Resident in the Persian Gulf. To obviate misapprehension I hasten to submit to your Highness certain explanation on this head, with the view of assuring you that the objections of the Commodore were prompted by no diminution of the friendly feeling which has ever been borne towards your Highness' father the Imam by the British Government, but were simply the result of the arrangements for the peace of these seas, which H. H. has uniformly contributed to establish and which have been maintained up to this date with such excellent

1633

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

...

Your Highness is aware that the tribes of Oman have long been bound by an engagement contracted with each other under the guarantee of the British Government to abstain in toto from hostilities at sea, and that prior to such engagement they had severally acknowledged the provisions of a Restrictive Line, beyond which their armed vessels should be interdicted from cruising. Now your Highness will readily understand that if one of these parties were at liberty to disregard the above obligations those entertaining contrary views would now, or on some other occasions, claim a like privilege, and becoming thus enlisted on opposite sides, they would at once lose the character of auxiliaries to assume that of Principals. Moreover the tribes on the Persian coast whom subjects of the Shah could no longer be restrained from engaging in the quarrel. The partizans on either side would soon cease to discriminate between friends and foes piracy would ensue - security for trade would be at an end, and in short that state of maritime disorder would speedily recur which it has cost the British Government so much trouble and anxiety to suppress.

But while I thus advert to the reasons which necessarily preclude the employment by sea of the tribes of Oman in a quarrel in which they have no concern, I beg your Highness to believe that, beyond

1634

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 5. 5. 1854, Nos. 21~~2~~3. contd.

...

the British Government has no desire to oppose your Highness' views, or to interfere with any measures that you may think it necessary tha you may think it necessary to adopt for the defence of your rights or the maintenance of your interests.

/True translation/

Sd/-A.B. Kemball,
Resident in the
persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-H.F. Disborne
Assistant Resident in the
persian Gulf.

...

1635

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

...

From

Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the persian Gulf,

To

William Taylour Thomson Esquire,
H.B. Majesty's Charge' d' Affaires,
at the Court of persia,
Tehran.

Residency in the persian Gulf,

Secret Department,

Bushire 15th March 1854.

Sir,

Adverting to my despatch in this Department dated the 27th ultimo relative to the maritime tribes on either shore of the Gulf being drawn into the quarrel which has arisen between the prince Governor of Tarsand the authorities of Muscat concerning Bunder Abbas, I have the honor to submit for your information copy and translation of a communication bearing upon this subject, which has been addressed to me by Sheikh, Hassan ben Abdullah, the Chief of Cherrack.

1/

2/-

A copy with translation of my reply is likewise enclosed, and its tenor I trust will be found to correspond with the language you may have yourself held towards the persian Ministers, in respect of the policy lately pursued by Talmash Meerza.

1636

FOR.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

....

My sentiments as expressed in the letter document, having been already verbally communicated to my visitor, his motive, I believe, for addressing me in writig was to arm himself with a valid and tangible excuse, such as might be afforded by my answer, for declining the expected requisition of the persian authorities. He mentioned that at the period of his leaving the lower end of the gulf, the Chief of Aboothabee, was preparing his vessels to proceed to the assistance of the Muscat forces at Bunder Abbas, but on a comparison of dates I am inclined to suppose that my letter* to Commodore Robinson of 24th ultimo would have reached its destination in time to anticipate this movement on the part of sheikh saeed ben Tahnoon.

Copy enclosed in letter above advertised to.

I have the honor to be &ca.
 signed/-A.E. Kemball,
 Resident &ca.

/True copy/

Sd/-H.F. Disbrowe
 Assistant Resident persian Gulf.

....

1637

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

Translation

From

sheikh Hassan bin Abdullah
Chief of Charrack

To

Captain A.B. Kemball,
Resident in the persian Gulf,

Dated 14th Jumadeeool Sane
14th March

After compliments, what is necessary for me to represent to your concerns the (affairs of the) sea. Now you are aware that I am a subject of persia, and the persians entertain many projects, and make many requisitions should it happen that an order were issued to me to put to sea in my vessels, and proceed against another port. Such as Bunder Abbas, or one of the island, or elsewhere, I should be at a loss what to do. I know not whether I should be held accountable if I obeyed their orders, and acted accordingly, or whether I ought to excuse myself (from obedience), for I am not acquainted with your views. I have no wish to commit injury or disorder, but if I am ordered what am I to do? I pray you to favor me with an answer that I may not expose myself to blame; I also beg of you to furnish me with a letter to the commodore informing him of the arrangement concluded between myself and you. I pray you not to

1638

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, No.21-3. contd.

...

Translation.

From

Captain A.B. Kemball,
Resident in the persian Gulf.

To

Sheikh Hassan bin Abdullah
Chief of Charrack

Dated 14th Jumadee ul sanee
14th January

After compliments,

Your letter dated this day has reached me, and I have understood its contents Doubless as a subject of persia it would be our duty to execute the injunctions you might receive from the persian Government, but I beg to observe that I see no ground for anticipating the contingency to which that if the tribes on either shore of the Gulf interfered in a matter in which they had no concern those on the opposite coast would claim a like privilege, and thus would the peace and security of these seas be violated which it is so much desired by the Governments both of persia and England should be maintained to guard therefore against eventualities of this nature it is certain that if the persian Government entertained an intention of prosecuting hostilities by sea it would according to the laws of war, publish the same for general information.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT.5.5.1854, NO.21-3.

...

No.23.

Office No.117 }
 } of 1854.
Cons.No.26 }

political Department.

From

Captain A.B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

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

Residency in the Persian Gulf.

Bushire, 31st March 1854.

Sir,

In continuation of the letters enumerated

No. 7 s.d. dt. 2nd March in the margin*, I have the honor to submit for the
18 information of Govt., copy of a letter with enclosures
No. 9 s.d. dt. 21st addressed by me this day to H.M. charge'd' affaires
March 1854. at Tehran.

I have the honor to be &c.

Sd/-A.B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Translation.

From

Moollah Ahmed
British Agent at Lingah.

To

1640

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.5.1854, NO.5 contd.

....

To

Captain A.B. Kembball,

Resident in the persian Gulf.

Letter dated 18th Jumadee-ul-sanee
18th March

received 28th March 1854.

After compliments,

On the 1st Jumadee ul sanee I went to Bossidore with the 8 slaves that were in my possession and waited upon the Commodore; I gave him all the news I possessed especially did I acquaint him with the movements of sheikh Saeed bin Tahnoon, how ~~he~~ left Aboothabee with his vessel and proceeded to Debai, and there ordered sheikh Saeed bin Butye to prepare his Buggarah and Troops, now the latter get ready his Buggarah, and his Brother Butye bin putye with forty followers accompanied sheikh Saeed bin Tahnoon to Bunder Abbas in order to give assistance to syed Mahomed bin Salim and to help him in defending his Fort (Bunder Abbas).

When the Commodore became acquainted with the above occurrences he wrote, there and there, to sheikh saeed bin Tahnoon, enjoining him to return to his seat; He also ordered me to proceed to Bunder Abbas, I accordingly left Bassidore and repaired to sheikh saeed bin Tahnoon at Bunder Abbas where I gave him the Commodore's letter. After perusal he said