

time the important object, of preventing the
 Navy being at any time made use of to forward
 the designs of Foreign Powers, attained.

3 In the present constitution however
 of the Mercantile Navy; I can hardly hope that
 much advantage would be derived from the
 Vessels being merely placed under the direction
 of the British Commanding Officer, without
 any steps being taken to increase their effici-
 -ency. Comparatively formidable as the Naval
 strength of His Highness may appear judg-
 -ing from the number & description of ships
 composing it, yet so wretchedly has it ever
 been handled as to have lost almost all its
 terrors in the eyes of the crews of this Gulf.
 I have been assured by competent authorities
 that while the appearance on the coast of an
 armed Vessel carrying the British Ensign
 never fails to produce an impression of fear
 & respect on the minds of the inhabitants.
 6 the Red Flag of His Highness is viewed
 with unconcern & indifference. Still I am
 of

of opinion that did it consist with views of
 the Government to lend the Imam a certain
 number of Commissioned & Warrant Officers
 from the Indian Navy, to be employed solely
 as instructors on board such of the Muscat
 Ships as His Highness might be induced
 to attach to the British Squadron in the Gulf
 that the most beneficial results might be an-
 ticipated. Constantly cruising in company
 with the skilfully managed Vessels of our
 own Navy, a spirit of zeal & emulation would
 soon be excited, which if encouraged & assisted
 by Instructors of temper & discretion would
 I feel satisfied work a great change in the
 Morale of the Imams maritime Force. Such
 an arrangement would unquestionably require
 both care & prudence to introduce as the Arabs
 are proverbially averse to every sort of discipline
 and therefore any improvements in the present
 State of the Muscat Navy could only be
 created by the exercise of much tact & judg-
 ment in the part of those engaged in
 bringing

bringing it about. The employment however of
 Foreign Naval Instructors has answered
 well in the Egyptian Ships of War, and if
 the Imam could be brought to afford it his
 real support I have no doubt of the attempt
 being eventually attended with success. I
 have supposed these Officers to be furnished
 His Highness at the expense of the Govern-
 ment, on the condition of a certain number of
 his Vessels being placed at the disposal of
 the Commanding Officer in these Seas, which
 dischargement, as sooner or latter tending to
 diminish the calls upon our own Naval re-
 sources, it might be worth while to make. It
 must however be remembered, that the cons-
 tant employment of two or three Vessels
 would involve a very considerable expendi-
 ture which I am inclined to doubt the Imam
 willing to incur. Some ten or twelve
 years ago when Muscat was the perman-
 ent Residence of His Highness, his

Ships

Ships of war were frequently cruising
 about the lower part of this Gulf. Patterly
 however since the decided preference
 he has given to his possessions on
 the African Coast, their cruises have
 been confined to an occasional transit
 at long intervals between Muscat and Zanzibar
 at which places, on their arrival they are
 completely dismantled & laid up, until an
 occasion arises for their being again employed.
 From this system the expenditure of stores
 in the marine department of the Imam
 is comparatively small, and as above remarked
 it is to be doubted how far he would cordially
 lend himself to the adoption of an arrange-
 ment involving ^{so} great an increase.

4 Under the circumstances mentioned by

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