

the Right Honble the Governor General,  
 and in furtherance of the views ex-  
 -pressed by His Lordship as referred  
 to in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Para. of your letter, I am  
 decidedly of opinion that a perma-  
 -nent addition to our Naval Force  
 in this Gulf would produce the best  
 possible effect, to what extent such  
 additions could be furnished from  
 the Indian Navy when the armed  
 steamers now building are ready  
 for employment, will of course be  
 best known to the Honble the Governor  
 in Council, but I consider that an  
 available Force sufficiently strong  
 to allow two effective vessels to be  
 cruising on the Arabian Coast two  
 to be stationed in Bassadore, and  
 two in the Northern part of the  
 Gulf occasionally visiting the  
 principal Ports in company would  
 create a strong moral effect and  
 conduce in a material degree  
 to strengthen the impression it  
 is so desirable to maintain  
 that our determination to resist  
 Mahomed Ali's plans of aggression  
 remains

6

remain uncharged, assuming  
 therefore that only four cruisers  
 of the same class as the *Tiger*  
 and the *Clive* can be appropriated  
 for the duties of this quarter from  
 the Indian Navy, I would recom-  
 mend that four of Her Majesty's  
 vessels namely two 18 Gun Sloops  
 and two of the new class 10 Gun  
 Barges should be sent out for the  
 special service of the Persian Gulf.  
 This would form an aggregate  
 of eight vessels, and would be  
 sufficient to allow the whole  
 of the squadron to be relieved  
 in turn once every six or seven  
 months, instead of the ships being  
 detained in the Gulf as circum-  
 stances have lately rendered  
 necessary, upwards of two years so  
 long as Mahomedally holds his  
 present position in central India  
 and on the coast such an ar-  
 rangement as the above might be  
 considered permanent, for the  
 adequate effect would be produced  
 by Her Majesty's vessels making

their appearance in these Seas and  
 those almost immediately taking  
 their departure. In the event how-  
 ever of the great European Powers  
 assuming Arabia and Syria  
 to the Porte and their leading to the  
 withdrawal of the Egyptian Troops  
 from Mehad and the shores of the  
 Persian Gulf the necessity of ad-  
 ducing a call upon Her Majesty's  
 Navy would cease, as four Vessels  
 stationed in the quarter would  
 then be adequate, which number  
 might be further reduced to three  
 on the re-establishment of friendly  
 relations with Persia. Under present  
 circumstances however the constant  
 presence of an effective Vessel of war  
 at Kannah cannot be dispensed  
 with.

Although it is material an  
 accession to naval means in  
 the quarter as has referred to in  
 the preceding Part, would have  
 its desired influence upon the  
 Egyptian authorities yet I consider  
 it my duty to leave that to  
 the

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improvement

impression it would at first make  
 upon the minds of the maritime  
 Arabs, would be soon weakened  
 by the continued occupation of  
 the seaports of Katsuf, Sobot and  
 Ajzer by Kharshid, Fakhir and  
 the unimpeded communication  
 between these and the Egyptian  
 Ports in the Red sea. I am per-  
 -fectly well aware that we possess  
 no right under present circum-  
 -stances to stop this, but every one at  
 all acquainted with the character  
 of the natives of this part of the  
 world, will be fully sensible of the  
 impracticability of making them  
 understand our code of interna-  
 -tional law, or compel them that  
 where Power exists, any other reason  
 than a dread of consequences could  
 intervene to prevent its exercise.

6. On the subject of stationing  
 a British Agent near the sea and  
 person at Muscat adverted to  
 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Para of your letter, I have  
 the honor to state that in the  
 present posture of affairs such

a circumstance appears to me to be likely  
 to be attended with many advan-  
 -tages, and at this time when there  
 is an Agent from Khorsed Pasha  
 at the Levant capital, holding out  
 every temptation, and using every  
 inducement to persuade His High-  
 ness to separate in the promotion  
 of Mahomed Ali's ambitious &  
 ambitious in the quarter its early  
 adoption became in my opinion  
 desirable. I have accordingly availed  
 myself of the authority conveyed  
 in the 5th Para of your letter, to direct  
 Captain B... of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regt  
 that upon this duty, and now do  
 myself the honor to enclose for the  
 information of the Honble the Gov.  
 in Council, a copy of the instructions  
 I have furnished that Officer together  
 with a translation of my letter  
 to the same, and I beg leave to  
 be directed.

In taking the 5<sup>th</sup> Para of the  
 Secretary's Minute, and perceiving the  
 basis of the instructions, it appeared  
 to me advisable to refer to the uncertainty  
 of

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of the continuance of the British  
 Agent at Muscat, in the event of  
 the Imam's return to Zanzibar, as  
 I thought it might perhaps have  
 escaped the notice of the Govt, that  
 the Residence of His Highness in  
 Muscat, now rarely exceeds a few  
 months, while long periods elapse  
 between his visits to that Port from  
 Zanzibar, which I should be deemed  
 to consider his permanent place  
 of abode as the individuals of the  
 Imam's family, who are usually  
 left in charge of the local authority  
 during his absence from Muscat,  
 take no steps under the special  
 sanction of His Highness, it appears  
 to me there would be little use  
 in maintaining a British Agent  
 there, while the Imam is away on  
 the African Coast. In fact the  
 advantages of this appointment will be  
 derived from this appointment,  
 by giving opinion almost altogether  
 in the personal influence which  
 it is to be hoped Capt. Hamerton  
 may succeed in securing over  
 His

As Highness's Keeping affairs in the  
train was well known

8. In view of the dropping the letters  
to Captain Huxton which forms  
a copy of the 101 to this dis-  
patch I had an interview with  
that officer and communicated  
to him the Memorandum regarding  
the ex-matters which occurred bet-  
ween the years 1807 and 1809 in  
respect to the British Agents who  
were formerly detained at Muscat  
as referred to in the 6<sup>th</sup> Para. of your  
letter. The perusal of this document  
made no change in the reading  
expressed by Captain Huxton  
to take charge of the duties entrusted  
to him and which he said, he was  
prepared to execute insofar as his  
abilities and strength would per-  
mit and that he referred to either  
files or documents

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The further of the British  
Agents to be placed under the im-  
mediate surveillance of the British  
Agents at Muscat should I think  
be done at this time the last  
Part

Secret

91

2569

To, Captain A. Hamerton  
15<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. I.

Karrak.

Sir,

Under the instructions of the  
Honorable the Governor in Council, I  
have the honor to acquaint you that  
you have been selected for the per-  
formance of certain political duties  
at the capital of His Highness the  
Emir.

2. The object of deputing you  
to Muscat is, that you may assume  
charge (subject to the general superin-  
tendence of the Resident in the Persian  
Gulf) of our political relations with  
His Highness in the province of Oman,  
and along such a portion of the Coast  
as may be more conveniently controlled  
from Muscat than Karrak.

3. The credentials which in the  
first instance are now furnished to you,  
convey little more than the assurances  
of



of the most cordial and friendly feeling on the part of the British Government towards that of the Emperor and State as the reason of your deputation to his Capital, that it is thought highly expedient in the present state of affairs, that the alliance between the two States should be made clearly apparent, and that His Highness should have near his person a confidential and capable agent with whom he may converse, or through whom he may fully and instantly communicate with the Government in case of any difficulty.

You will of course make it your constant study to cultivate a close, intimate and confidential intercourse with the Emperor so as to convince His Highness that the promotion of his real welfare and interests is considered a primary and important object of the British Government.

W. Pitt Rivers

5. Whether it will consist with the views of the Government to maintain a British Office, as its agent at Alessandria in the event of the Sultan returning to Ganybar, will depend upon circumstances, all arrangements would be highly conducive to the public interests, if you could succeed in establishing a friendly influence with those Members of the family of Mustapha, who are likely to be left in charge of his Arabian possessions during his absence. I would further remark that the opinion of the Port and Sultan possess considerable influence in the Senate Council, and therefore you will would materially promote the objects of your Mission.

6. You are already aware that between the years 1807 and 1809 no less than four Casualties (probably incurred by the Senate) occurred in regard to the different European Officers who were stationed at Alessandria.

The Sultan's  
aunt

It is however the opinion of the  
 Honble the Governor in Council that  
 the greater knowledge which we have  
 since gained of this part of Arabia  
 may perhaps advise of your moving  
 about in His Highness's Territories  
 and should such prove necessary to  
 quit them altogether during the  
 unhealthy season. In adopting the  
 former alternative you will of course  
 be careful to avoid exciting the Sultan's  
 jealousy, and constantly remember  
 that it is to the influence it is hoped  
 that your personal intercourse with  
 His Highness may enable you to  
 acquire, that we may best expect  
 to forward the views of the British  
 Government.

Taking into consideration  
 the climate and the necessity which  
 will exist for you to leave Meccah  
 occasionally, the Honble the Governor  
 in Council is pleased subject to the  
 confirmation of the Right Honourable  
 Governor General of India, to refer  
 to you a consolidated allowance of

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Properties (300) Eight hundred per Mensem  
while employed upon this duty, in  
addition to which, on your embarkment  
in any of the Honourable Company's  
Vessels of Sea, the established allowance  
for the entertainment of an officer  
of your rank, will be defrayed by  
Government.

The mode in which your  
affairs interconnect with this Residency  
shall be carried on, may be arranged  
hereafter. For the present, you will  
send the post-off to correspond directly  
with the Bombay Government, fur-  
nishing me with copies of your  
communications for my information.

Enclosed I have the honour  
to send you a letter of credentials to  
Mr. [unclear] the [unclear] of [unclear]  
the contents in all material points  
are the same as those detailed in the  
[unclear] of this letter.

6  
Lieut. Col. Hughes having  
inclosed with my application by  
[unclear] your services at my disposal, I  
have the honour to request that you will  
make

make arrangements with the Master  
of the Barge the Herbert Compton  
for your conveyance to Muscat, that  
being the only suitable opportunity  
for your joining your station, likely  
to offer for a considerable time. The  
sum disbursed by you for passage  
money, will of course be a public charge.

Residence in the <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ the honor title <sup>of</sup>  
Sir Isaac Gifford (signed) of Her Majesty  
13<sup>th</sup> April 1840. Resident Genl

I draft letter from Capt. J.  
Herb. Resident in the Persian  
 Gulf to His Highness the Amir  
dated 13<sup>th</sup> April 1840.

A.C. I have had the honor to  
receive the confidential letter from your  
Highness dated the 17<sup>th</sup> September  
informing me that the Egyptian  
Commander had not relinquished his  
designs upon Bahrain or Oman, but  
that you could not communicate with  
me on the subject on your former  
leaving, but that it would be desirable

opened and its contents become public.

I have long been sensible of the inconvenience attending the want of some medium of communication with your Highness by which affairs of importance could be transacted without the risk of their being intercepted by letters being tampered with and it was therefore with no common feelings of satisfaction and pleasure that I received the commands of the Right Honble the Governor General of India to enjoin to your Highness the assurance of the most cordial and friendly feeling on the part of the British Government and at the same time to inform your Highness that it is thought highly important in the present state of affairs that the close alliance between the two states should be made clearly apparent and that your Highness should have near your person a confidential and capable Agent with whom you may consult and through whom you may fully and instantly communicate

communicate with the Government  
in India in any difficulty.

To fill this important office  
Capt. Hamerton has been selected  
as possessing the requisite qualifications  
and experience, and as I feel satisfied  
that officer will make it his constant  
study to strengthen and promote the  
intimate union and amity which have  
so long subsisted between your Highness  
and the British Government, I beg  
to express my earnest hope that your  
Highness will attribute to your  
confidence and friendship.

(Signed) J. Hamerton  
President of the Council

True Copies  
(Signed) J. Hamerton  
President of the Council

28th of 1840

Political Dept

To,

J. P. Wallingford Esq

Secretary to Government

Bombay

Sir

Forwarding Extract  
of letter from the  
Native Agent at  
Muscot regarding  
the marriage with  
the daughter of  
the King of Persia  
which

Enclosed I have the honor to forward  
for the information of the Honorable the Gov<sup>r</sup> in  
Council, an extract from a translation of a  
letter from the Native Agent at Muscot. The  
intelligence conveyed in which, will, if well found  
it explain the great interest manifested by  
His Highness the Amir in the marriage of the  
late Aga Jamal to whom and his deep dis-  
pleasure when he heard of the murder of that  
Personage at Bushire.

Although not the slightest intimation  
was given to me while at Muscot that His  
Highness had entrusted Aga Jamal with the  
delicate Commission of negotiating a marriage  
between himself and one of the relatives of  
His Majesty Allahabad Shah. I think it by no  
means improbable, as the Amir appears at  
all times to have entertained an earnest  
desire

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desire to form a matrimonial alliance with  
 the Royal Family of Persia. The hope of  
 concluding this marriage also accounts for His  
 Highness having sent the presents to the Shah,  
 mentioned in my letter from Muscat N. 131,  
 Secret Department, under date the 15<sup>th</sup>  
 December last, which at that time appeared  
 to me inexplicable.

Residency in the Persian Gulf  
 Karakoram March 1840  
 I have the honor to be  
 Signed J. Hensell  
 Resident in the Persian Gulf

1923  
Post Department

J. P. McLaughlin Esq  
Secretary to Government

Dear Sir,  
I have the honor to report  
the formation of the Honorable the  
Governor in Council the arrival on  
the 11th instant of the British  
and Chinese Regular Troops at Peking.

I am at a loss to explain the cause  
of the sudden reinforcement of the  
troops of Peking which is that the  
His Majesty's Government has become alarmed  
in consequence of the unfounded reports  
and rumour by which has been  
spread in the minds of the public  
that the Chinese are about to  
attack the British Legation  
at Peking.

Patna

C. Narain Singh  
Chief Clerk to the  
Govt of  
Bihar.

2580

Sir,

I am pleased to  
acknowledge the  
receipt of two letters  
from you dated  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 40,  
with their original  
enclosures from  
the Resident at  
Muzaffarpur. These  
documents have  
been received &  
returned herewith  
for the purpose  
of their being dis-  
posed of in the  
manner directed  
in the copy sent to you.

Yr Obedt  
Servt  
C. Narain Singh

10/2/40