

No. 201. From C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, with the Governor General, Simla,—No. 99, dated the 4th May 1866.

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In reply to your letter, No. 266, dated the 14th March last, I am directed to forward, for submission to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Pelly in explanation of his proceedings and general policy in connection with the recent quarrel between the Muscat State and the Wahabee Power.

2. The Hon'ble the Governor in Council trusts that this explanation will be quite satisfactory to the Government of India, and enable His Excellency the Viceroy in Council to relieve Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly of whatever censure may be implied in the communication to which it refers.

3. There can, the Hon'ble the Governor in Council thinks, be no doubt that, in acting as he did, Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly simply carried out the same policy which our Government has followed for many years past on the North-East Coast of Arabia; that the measures he adopted were warranted by his instructions and by the traditions of his Office; and that, but for the murder of the Sultan of Muscat, a crime which could not possibly have been foreseen, and against which he could not guard, the result would, on the whole, in all human probability, have been highly successful, notwithstanding the unfortunate failure of the *Highflyer's* boats to capture Demaum. For this failure the Governor in Council cannot hold Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly answerable, as it appears to have been mainly attributable to the incautious daring of the gallant Officers employed.

4. Referring to the 7th paragraph of your letter under reply, I am desired to state that the telegram alluded to was duly received, and was considered to have been disposed of intermediately, as the Government of India had been put into possession of all communications that had been received from, and all that had been addressed to, Colonel Pelly on the subject in question.

5. I am desired to add that one of Colonel Pelly's Reports, to which he refers in his letter* now forwarded, has not been received by this Government, and he has accordingly been requested to furnish a duplicate of it by an early opportunity.

* No. 55, of the 21st December 1865.

No. 202. FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, Political Resident, Persian Gulf, to C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, Political Department, Immediate,—No. 19, dated Bombay, the 25th March 1866.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter, as per margin, enclosing copy of a letter from the Government of India, No. 266, dated the 14th instant.

2. I bow respectfully to the censure passed on me by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, although, had an opportunity for explanation been afforded me, I should not have despaired of modifying some of the views expressed by His Excellency; and even now that judgment has been passed, I beg leave, with the permission of Government, to submit a few remarks which

seem necessary to a full statement of facts and to the justification of my official character, hitherto unimpugned during a term of 26 years.

3. The Government of India imply that my mission to Muscat was one of enquiry and report, which I unexpectedly converted into a rupture with the Wahhabees.

4. It is true that in one of their letters the Government of Bombay directed me to enquire and report fully concerning the Wahhabee and Muscat differences; but it is no less true that the Government of India in a previous letter, dated the 8th of November 1865, No. 940, had transmitted to me a telegram from Sir Charles Wood requesting the Senior Naval Officer to proceed to the Coast of Arabia, and to take, in concert with me, such measures instrumental as we might think likely to promote an arrangement, providing, however, that nothing was to be undertaken on land.

5. In transmitting the above documents, the Government of Bombay expressed a hope that, on the arrival of a vessel of Her Majesty's Navy on the Arabian Coast, I should be in a better position to judge what was desirable to be done.

6. In a subsequent letter* Government pointed out to me the murder and plunder of the British Indian subjects by the Wahhabees, and reminded me that the Wahhabee Ameer had failed of proposing any reparation for the injury done to our subjects, or in regard to compensation for the subjects who had been killed.

7. On the arrival of Her Majesty's Steam Ship *Highflyer* in the Gulf, I found that her sailing orders tallied with mine, permitting the Officer in Command to use force on my requisition and limiting him only in regard to operations on land.

8. I ventured to think that the foregoing instructions contemplated not only enquiry and report, but action. I submitted a series of Reports† accordingly, and meditated such proceedings as might, under the given restrictions, be best adapted to save our ally, the Sultan of Muscat, from the annihilation which then imminently threatened his territories under Wahhabee invasion.

9. The Government of India remark in their 2nd paragraph on my interpretation of our Treaty relations with Muscat, and remind me that our liability to aid the Sultan had been decided in the negative under a letter dated 1st February 1834.

10. I respectfully submit that I believe I was myself the first to point out to the Government of India the existence of a document dated in December 1825, and which negatived our liability to aid the Sultan by land; and in previous and subsequent Reports I have endeavoured, to the best of my ability, to explain to Government the aspects which our relations with Muscat wore, not to me, but to all tribes and parties concerned.

11. But whatever might be the qualifications given in correspondence in the year 1825 or 1834 to our Treaty obligations with Muscat, I went on what I believed to be my instructions. And in any case the book of Treaties published under the authority of the Government of India, during the past year contains a printed copy of our Treaty with Muscat, and the second Article of this Treaty runs to the following effect:—

“From the recital of the said Nawab my heart has become disposed to an increase of the friendship with that State, and from this day forth the friend of that Sirkar is the friend of this, and the friend of this Sirkar is to

† No. 50, of 26th November 1865.
„ 55, of 21st December „
„ 5, of 16th January 1866.
„ 7, of 12th February „

Vide my letter, No. 55, of 21st December 1865.

be the friend of that; and, in like manner, the enemy of that Sirkar is the enemy of this, and the enemy of this is to be the enemy of that."

And I deferentially submit that to have postponed the provisions of this authorized publication of 1865 in favour of certain unpublished correspondence closing 30 years ago might have brought down on me censure not less strong than that now passed on me.

12. Paragraphs 3 and 5 of the letter from the Government of India summarize the naval operations on the Coast of Arabia, and animadvert on my alleged deviation from rule in not accompanying *Highflyer*.

13. I beg to submit that when, about 10 years ago, our vessels of war blockaded these same Wahhabee Ports and destroyed the inner Demaum Fort, the Resident remained at Bushire, and Government approved his proceedings; *secondly*, that when during a series of years the Resident had occasion habitually to send vessels of war to check or punish the Arabs of the littoral, it was never the practice for him to proceed on board: he made no complimentary tour of inspection per annum, and this was all; *thirdly*, in the present instance my special mission was to Muscat, and subsequent events must, I think, have fully satisfied Government that the urgent entreaties of the Muscat Authorities for me to remain on their coast were not without cause; *fourthly*, Government will bear in mind that when *Highflyer* first met me, and requested me to state in writing what were my views in regard to the Muscat and Wahhabee disturbances, I replied as follows:—"I understand that Her Majesty's Government will not do anything by land to aid the Sultan of Muscat, but that they are prepared to aid him on the sea-board with the presence of a ship of war.

"The only points where the Wahhabees can be touched from seaward are their ports of Ojair and Kateef, and so far as my unprofessional eye can see, the only method by which a ship of war can aid the Sultan in his present crisis is by blockading the Wahhabee Ports until the Wahhabee Government comes to terms. Complicated with the Wahhabee invasion, is the butchery of one British Indian subject and the plunder of 10 or more others at the port of Soor on the Muscat Coast by the Wahhabee Troops. If you blockade, the arrangement of this matter might be included in the general settlement. If you do not blockade, it would be for you to give to the matter such consideration as you may deem fit, and may be enabled to, under the orders you have received from the Commodore. It will probably be obvious to you that it could not be advisable for the English Government to commence any active operations which it might not be convenient to carry to a conclusion. To act otherwise would be to confirm the impression already too prevalent of our own absence of Naval power, and would leave our ally the Sultan more than ever liable to Wahhabee aggression."

The Officer in Command rejoined that *Highflyer's* time in the Persian Gulf was limited; that he had no reason to suppose that any vessel of war was coming up to take her place; that he could not recommend the establishment of a blockade which could not be enforced after *Highflyer's* departure; but that, in regard to the insults inflicted on our subjects, he would be happy to assist me either by confiscating the shipping at Kateef, or by destroying the Wahhabee Forts. I possessed no authority whatsoever over Her Majesty's Naval Officers, and I had simply to elect between two courses—either to request the *Highflyer* to return to Bombay, or to acquiesce in such hurried operations as Naval authority considered it could carry out under the orders of the Commodore. To have returned *Highflyer* to Bombay would have laid me open to a just rebuke for having failed to accept such naval instruments as were available for supporting Muscat and

Vide Captain Pasley's letter of 6th January 1866, former accompaniment to my letter, No. 3, of 16th January 1866.

vindicating the murder and plunder of our subjects. In accepting the *Higflyer's* services, I could not, of course, anticipate that she would fail. To have postponed her movements would not have induced her to accept my method of procedure, but would, on the contrary, have simply retained her idle in the Gulf during the time allowed her by the Commodore, and there would have been no chance of her return; for Government are, I believe, aware that the ships of Her Majesty's Naval Service are not permitted to remain in the Persian Gulf during the hot season, which extends from April to November. The best evidence that my letter to the Ameer was not ill-suited to the object in view lies in the fact that, while the Wahhabee Ameer had remained deaf to all former communications, he now speedily offered to accept my mediation as between him and Muscat, and to endeavour to recover the plundered property, following his offers by the despatch of a negotiator.

14. The 6th paragraph of the letter of the Government of India alleges that I did not allow the Ameer sufficient time for his reply. Captain Pasley, on the other hand, alleges that the Demaum Fort was reinforced owing to the delay caused by my letter. But I would respectfully remind Government that I had, during a period of two years, been striving my utmost to restore our relations with the Wahhabee Power, rudely shaken before my arrival in the Gulf. That in so far as my own political charge was concerned, I had succeeded in restoring these relations by seeking at the hazard of my life an interview with the Ameer in his capital; that in so far as my own duties were concerned, all was peace with the Wahhabees. But Government, considering that I should postpone my local interests to those of the general good, deputed me to a separate jurisdiction, that of Muscat, to uphold her in a quarrel with the Wahhabees. That, in furtherance of this policy, I had addressed polite letters to the Ameer for the adjustment of differences; that Government had eventually forbidden any further friendly communication with the Wahhabee Ameer; and that my letter, now condemned by the Government of India, was necessary in the form of a categorical demand, affording, indeed, time for a reply, but taking care also that no unnecessary delay should take place, lest Her Majesty's ship of war should sail away in obedience of orders from the Commodore, and leave my letter an idle threat.

15. As regards the notice given at Soor, I would submit that it was quite feasible for the Soorees to have met the demand at once; and the best proof of this is, that when they found I had acted, and might act again, they came to Muscat with the balance due. Soor is distant from Muscat only 90 miles. In any case my demand on the Soorees was delivered to them on the 17th of January 1866; my attack on them was made after a period of about four weeks, on the 11th of February; and during the interval they were repeatedly warned by the Muscat Authorities to give satisfaction.

16. As regards my general policy, it is difficult to allude to it without seeming egotism. But Government are well aware that, prior to my arrival in the Gulf, the fine and punishment of the Arabs had been habitual; that after my arrival I held the Gulf for three years without any naval aid, and without once fining or punishing any man whatsoever. Having passed single-handed through more warlike and fanatical tribes than any European now living, it is to be supposed that I cannot but have studied their several characters; and that, if I have deviated from my habitual policy of gaining my ends by gentleness, and by that personal power which an English gentleman can generally exert among barbarians, I have so deviated, not from any personal feeling, but because I had instructions so to do, while the instruments for so doing were furnished by Government. Arab tribes are not to be judged of by the wild inhabitants of British India, and if you are compelled to threaten them, you cannot threaten in vain without loss of reputation and subsequent ill effects.

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17. I remark that Commodore Hillyar has expressed an opinion as to where the Resident in the Persian Gulf should be, and for what he is responsible. I would submit that no Officer just arrived from England, however able or experienced, can be expected to know my duty better than myself; and as I should hesitate to suggest to the Commodore at what part of his station the flagship should be, so would I claim for a Political Officer standing alone during a crisis and watching 2,000 miles of coast line permission to take his own points of observation. I venture respectfully to submit that, so long as I am your representative in the Gulf, I am the best judge responsible always to the Governments at Bombay and Calcutta, and to Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran, and Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for India and Foreign Affairs, as to where I ought to be and what I ought to do.

18. The concluding paragraph of the letter from the Government of India describes the letters received from the Wahhabee Ameer as inconclusive, as those letters relate to a mediation in which the Governments of India, Muscat, and Nejd are concerned. It seems unavoidable that a letter offering to accept mediation by one party should be inconclusive until the offer should be accepted by the two other parties.

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No. 29. From J. W. S. WYLLIE, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, with the Governor General, to the Secretary to Government, Bombay,—No. 1173, dated Camp Agra, the 24th November 1866.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 226, dated 15th ultimo, submitting, with the strong support of the Government of Bombay, another protest from Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly against the censure expressed by the Government of India on certain points in his recent proceedings in the Persian Gulf.

2. The censure in question was originally conveyed to the Bombay Government by my letter, No. 266, dated the 14th March last. Colonel Pelly, in reply, submitted an explanation which the Bombay Government considered perfectly satisfactory, but which the Government of India, for the reasons specified in my letter, No. 529, dated 23rd May 1866, could not view in the same light.

3. On the 8th August your letter, No. 169, informed the Government of India that the Governor of Bombay in Council had no wish to prolong the discussion on the particular acts under review, and bowed to the decision of the Supreme Government, but that nevertheless His Excellency in Council would not of his own judgment have regarded Colonel Pelly as liable to any blame in the matter. No answer was sent to this letter, because the Governor General in Council, after giving all the facts adduced in Colonel Pelly's favour the fullest consideration, was unable to modify the condemnatory view already taken, and concurred in the opinion of the Bombay Government that further discussion was inexpedient.

4. As, however, the point has again been raised in your letter under acknowledgment, I am desired to intimate that the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council maintains unmodified the orders issued in my two letters dated 14th March and 23rd May. His Excellency in Council at the same time gives Colonel Pelly credit for zeal and energy, and for an anxious desire to secure the necessary relations of the British Government with the Persian, Muscat, and Wahhabee Rulers.

5. The present state of affairs in the Persian Gulf is regarded as satisfactory. The Governor General in Council hopes that it may not be in Syud Toorkee's power again to disturb the maritime peace. And His Excellency in Council would be glad to receive any information which it may be in Colonel Pelly's power to furnish as to the progress of events in Nejed. Nothing having been heard of the Wahhabee Envoys since the 4th May last, the date of Colonel Pelly's letter to your address, No. 48, it is presumed that Colonel Pelly, acting upon the discretion left to him in my letter, No. 602, dated 11th June, has judged it unadvisable to press a demand for compensation against the Wahhabee Ameer.

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No. 27. From C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, with the Governor General,—No. 226, dated the 15th October 1866.

In continuation of previous correspondence relating to Muscat affairs, I am directed to forward to you, for submission to the Government of India, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 36, dated the 13th ultimo, in which Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly reports that he has recognized Sayed Saulem as Sultan of Muscat in the usual form, and submits reasons for a modification of the censure conveyed to him by the Government of India. Copy of a subsequent communication from the Political Resident, No. 83, dated the 21st ultimo, reporting on the state of affairs at Muscat and in the Gulf, is also enclosed.

2. In forwarding these documents I am desired to express the earnest hope of this Government that the explanation now submitted, and the final result of Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly's labours, as now reported, may be held to modify the censure passed on him in the letters of the Government of India, dated the 14th March and 23rd May 1866, and to entitle him to the approbation of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

Nos. 266 and 529.

No. 28. From LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf, to CHARLES GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay,—No. 36, dated Muscat, the 13th September 1866.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter, No. 2329, of the 1st instant, relative to the recognition of Sayed Saulem as Sultan of Muscat. The previous letter, No. 523, of the 21st May last, which you refer to as having been already communicated to me, has not reached me, and I would solicit the favour of a copy.

2. In obedience to the instructions now acknowledged I proceeded to Muscat, and arriving here on the 10th instant recognized Sayed Saulem as Sultan of Muscat in the usual form. Sayed Saulem was desirous that I should, in the first instance, pay him a visit of condolence on the death of his late lamented father. I explained that my present instructions did not go quite so far as this, but that if he so desired, it would be my duty to refer the question. Sayed Saulem waved the pretension, the recognition took place, and the English Flag was hoisted at the Consulate. Sayed Saulem has handed me two letters which he has received from the Wahhabee Ameer, expressing good will and a desire to renew previous friendly relations.

The Ameer appears in these communications to discountenance his Lieutenant at Beragmee, and desires relations direct with the Sultan. This is so far satisfactory.

3. It is now very agreeable to me to be able to report that the problems proposed to me by Government last autumn are completely solved. The Wahhabees have desisted from their measures for destroying the Government of our ally, the Sultan of Muscat. The Wahhabee troops have retired from the Muscat territory. The Wahhabee Ameer has sent Envoys to apologise for injuries done to our subjects; has given written assurances of not

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again molesting our ally; has apologised for injuries already committed, and has submitted, in brief, to every conditions which the Government of India permitted me to require. Those who injured our subjects at Soor have been punished, and the Sultan of Muscat now starts afresh as master within his own frontiers, so far as external enemies are concerned; and if Government should feel satisfied with this general result, I shall not regret any little inconvenience which may have befallen me in restoring affairs within the jurisdiction of the Political Agent for the Muscat territories.

4. The Government of India having, however, found occasion during the course of my proceedings to censure me, I would now, on the conclusion of my mission, most respectfully recapitulate the points of censure. The Government of India considered—

1st.—That my attack on Soor followed too closely on my letter of demand for reparation, that letter being dated 11th February.

But I would deferentially submit that in a more recent letter the Viceroy in Council has, I believe, stated that his condemnation was based principally on a report of the Commodore, and without knowledge of my previous demand, dated beginning of January, and I would now only respectfully remark that in paragraph 15 of my Report, No. 3, of the 16th January, I had informed Government that I had despatched Her Majesty's Steamer *Berenice* with a letter of demand to the Soorees, and had submitted a copy of that letter *in extenso* as an appendix.

2nd.—The Government of India considered that to make a demand for compensation for the property plundered from our subjects by the Wahhabees was inexpedient.

But I would respectfully remark that in a more recent letter the Government of India have ruled that I should have discretionary power in making this demand.

3rd.—The Government of India considered that my letter to the Wahhabee Ameer demanding an apology for the outrages committed on our subjects, and written assurances that no similar outrages and butcheries should in future take place, was exaggerated and ill-judged.

But under correction I would remark that the event has shown that while the Wahhabee Ameer had treated all previous demands on the part of the British Authorities with silent indifference, he yielded to my demand, and sent Envoy's to wait on me at Bushire, who acquiesced, not only in the demands I made, but further gave written assurances of refraining from molesting our allies for the future; and as these negotiations were carried on with the knowledge of the Government of India, I venture to hope that His Excellency in Council eventually deemed the demands to be reasonable, and the Wahhabee's acquiescence in them satisfactory.

4th.—The Government of India censured me for not accompanying the *Highflyer* to Dummaum, and added that if I could not go, then I should have postponed her departure until I could go.

But more recently and without any suggestion on my part Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, in communication with the Viceroy in Council, has appointed two Assistants for my Establishment on the specified ground of their being needed for going on board ships of war, thereby recognising, I venture to infer, the impracticability of the Resident, left to himself, fulfilling such duties. While in a subsequent letter Government declare that the vessels of war are not under the orders either of the Local Government or of the Government of India, and that the orders of the Admiralty forbid the

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Commodore Commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces in these seas from keeping a man-of-war in the Persian Gulf in the hot weather.

5th.—The Government of India implied that I had no authority to use force, that my duty was to report.

But I would respectfully submit that I had enquired and reported, and expostulated during months, and that when I myself found, and when I saw that Government acknowledged, that all gentle means were vain, I submitted, six weeks before any force was used, a letter summarizing the course I proposed to pursue, and begging that if anything were to be said, I might be favoured with a telegram. I received a ship of war; her Commander held authority to use force, and a telegram from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India authorized me in concert with the Senior Naval Officer to take such measures instrumental as I might think likely to promote an arrangement between the Wahabee Chief and the Imaum, but not to undertake anything by land.

6th.—The Government of India held that I had placed my own interpretation on our Treaty relations with the Sultan of Muscat, whereas a letter, dated 1st February 1834 and documents therein referred to, showed that we are not liable to afford the Sultan active aid.

I respectfully submit that the 2nd Article of our Treaty with Muscat runs as follows:—"From the recital of the said Nawab my heart has become disposed to an increase of the friendship with that State, and from this day forth the friend of that Sirkar is the friend of this, and the friend of this Sirkar is to be the friend of that Sirkar, and in the same way the enemy of this is to be the enemy of that."

I was unable to understand this Article otherwise than as committing the contracting parties to a defensive and offensive alliance, an interpretation, I would remark, which seems to receive some support from a letter of the Government of India written only in April last, and declaring it to be a political necessity that we should not "throw the Ruler of Muscat under the influence of the French or any other Foreign Power."

Again, as regards the letter of 1834, I would submit that the balance of authority before me was as follows:—

A Book of Treaties published under authority last year containing the above 2nd Article, but making no allusion to the unpublished letter of 1834.

A Minute by His Excellency in Council stating "our intention scrupulously to fulfil our Treaty engagements."

That I was sent to the Muscat Sultan's side; I reported proceedings and intentions; I received instructions from the Secretary of State authorizing me in concert with the Naval Authorities to use measures instrumental, provided I attempted nothing by land. A ship of war arrived; her Commander had permission to use force. The occasions for force were the perseverant invasion of our ally, threatening him from day to day with destruction, and the plunder and butchery of our own subjects.

An unpublished letter of 1834.

I would respectfully submit to Government whether, if sheltering myself under the unpublished letter of 1834, I had sent back their ship of war, declined to aid the Sultan, and allowed him (as he assuredly would have been) to be crushed by the Wahabees, whether Government would have approved my proceedings?

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5. In conclusion, I have had the honour of serving Government beyond their frontiers in many capacities. And, perhaps, few who have not gone through this description of service can thoroughly appreciate what climates, banishment, and roughing it involves. The reward of an Officer so serving lies in the recognition of his Government; and I trust that on a full review of my proceedings in relation to Muscat and the Wahhabees, His Excellency the Viceroy in Council may decide that I have endeavoured to do my duty.

- As Political Secretary to Sir James Outram in Persia.
- As Secretary of Legation at Teheran.
- As Chargé d'Affaires at Teheran.
- On special duty through Persia and Afghanistan.
- On special duty to the Comoro Islands.
- As Political Agent at Zanzibar and East Coast of Africa.
- As Resident in the Persian Gulf.

From LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf, to C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay,—No. 83, dated British Residency, Bushire, the 21st September 1866.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at Bushire yesterday, passing a week at Muscat *en-route*. All matters were there satisfactorily arranged, as reported in my letter now quoted.

2. From Muscat I proceeded to the Telegraph Station at Mussendom, where I found everything in order, and the gun-boat at her post.

3. It is agreeable to me to report that all the Arab tribes round the Gulf are perfectly quiet and show a conciliatory disposition; and though, as Government are aware, nothing can possibly be more adverse to my feelings and views than to use force against orientals, yet I think that His Excellency in Council will probably concur with me in considering that a review of the present settled aspect of affairs in these regions, compared with the aspect which they wore this time last year, shows that a show of force was really necessary, and that the method taken, although attended with incidents which I could not foresee, has not the less been completely successful.

4. At the request of the Prince Governor of Fars I am now proceeding to meet him at Shiraz, and it is agreeable to me to add that His Royal Highness evinces a very friendly disposition in regard to all matters on the Persian littoral.

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Mr. Sandison's proceedings regarding property of late Abdool Ali Khan.

No. 4.—To Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

29th March 1864, No. 335.

Proceedings, March 1864, No. 267.

Forwards copy of the above letter, and requests him to make the application as solicited.

No. 5.—From Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

28th June 1864, No. 74.

Proceedings, July 1864 (A.), Nos. 22-3.

With reference to the foregoing, forwards copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Consul at Jedda showing that the matter has been referred to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 6.—From Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

23rd May 1866, No. 117.

Proceedings, June 1866 (A.), Nos. 17-18.

Sends copy of the reply from Her Majesty's Consul at Jedda to the reference made to him on the subject of the late Abdool Ali Khan's property.

No. 7.—From Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

19th May 1868, No. 117.

Forwards copy of a further letter from Agent at Jedda on the above subject.

No. 8.—To Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

12th June 1868, No. 611.

Sends him copy of the foregoing. Brings to notice that Mr. Sandison has not yet remitted to India the balance of the amount which he received from the authorities at Mecca, and requests him to call upon that gentleman for an explanation of his proceedings.

Breach of maritime truce by Chiefs of Bahrein and Aboothabee.

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No. 92.

No. 128, dated 6th June 1868.

From—C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government of Bombay.

To—Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Dept., with the G. G.

In continuation of the papers forwarded with my letter No. 37, dated the 13th February last, I am directed to transmit, for submission to the Government of India, the enclosed copy of a further letter, with accompaniment, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 55, dated the 9th ultimo, relative to the breach of the maritime truce on the Guttur coast of the Chiefs of Bahrein and Aboothabee.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly has been informed that he may address the Sheikh of Bahrein as proposed by him.

No. 93.

No. 55, dated 9th May 1868.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

To—Secretary to Government of Bombay, Political Dept.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the Government Resolution as per margin concerning a piratical attack on the Guttur coast by the Sheikhs of Bahrein and Aboothabee.

No. 383, dated 13th February 1868, Political Department.

2. The Native Agent on the Arab coast has since seen the Sheikh of Aboothabee, and reports that he appeared alarmed at what might be the consequences of his flagrant breach of the maritime truce on the Guttur coast. But down to this date I have not received any reply from the Sheikh to my letter of 21st January last.

3. Meantime, however, the Native Agent and others have collected a mass of details and evidence concerning the attack on Guttur, and I have now the honor to annex a very clear and careful Report drawn up by my 1st Assistant, Captain Way, and based upon the Native Agent's Reports, which latter, however, are too voluminous to inflict upon His Excellency in Council.

No. 73, of 23rd April 1868.

4. Government will observe from Captain Way's Report that the total of loss sustained under this piracy, and in so far as ascertained by the Native Agent, amounts to Krans 11,11,926 $\frac{1}{4}$, and includes "property of every description, from vessels, pearls, gold, and jewellery, to the rafters and doors of the houses, and even date poles."

5. But I have reason to believe that there are other sufferers who are afraid to come forward, lest the Sheikhs should afterwards retaliate on them. Concerning one of these sufferers, who is a substantial merchant residing at Lingah, Captain Way reports as follows:—

"Mahomed bin Saeed Boo Kowarah is afraid to give information, alleging, as his reason, that formerly when Captain Jones was Resident satisfaction and compensation were obtained from the Chief of Bahrein for acts similar to those lately committed, but on the last occasion none was received, and the informers incurred the enmity of the Chief, and that he fears a like result in the present instance."

6. Another sufferer is a British Indian subject, who complains to me that he has lost Krans 500.

7. Government will further observe, it is the Sheikh of Bahrein (who for a long series of years has been a source of disturbance) who planned and is at the bottom of the present act of piracy.

Breach of maritime truce by Chiefs of Bahrein and Aboothabee.

8. His Excellency in Council may, perhaps, deem proper to consider whether or not I should be authorized to address to the Bahrein Chief a letter similar to that I addressed to the Chief of Aboothabee, and which Government have approved.

Vide paragraph 2 of enclosure to Government Resolution No. 521, dated 28th February 1868, Political Department.

No. 73, dated 23rd April 1868.

From—1st Assistant Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

To—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to submit the British Agent's Reports regarding the late attack on Guttur by the Chiefs of Bahrein and Aboothabee.

2. These Reports date from the time the British Agent heard of the Chief of Bahrein call on the Chief of Aboothabee for assistance; much of the information therein contained has been, therefore, already submitted to you.

3. From the whole of the Reports and the evidence the circumstances of the case appear to be as follows:—

4. One Ali bin Jhamir-al Naimee, of the Bedowins of Guttur, having been seized and sent to Bahrein by Sheikh Ahmed bin Mahomed bin Sulman, the representative of the Chief of Bahrein on the Guttur coast, for going to his tribe, the Naims of Wakra, the Naims and the people of Beddur, Doha, and Dongha, combined and demanded his release: their demand was refused, and they then determined to turn Sheikh Ahmed out of Wakra.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.

5. Sheikh Ahmed, hearing of their determination, left with his family and goods in two boats, escorted by 30 men, for Khor-i-Hossan.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.

6. On arrival at Khor-i-Hossan, Sheikh Ahmed caused the boat in which he had come to be seized and the escort to be detained, and reported what had occurred to the Chief of Bahrein.

Vide accompaniments A., C.

7. Upon receiving the report the Chief of Bahrein released Ali bin Jhamir, and sent a friendly letter by him to the chief men in Guttur, desiring a continuance of friendship and inviting some of them to visit him in Bahrein.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.

8. In answer to the invitation Rashid bin Sabhur was sent by the Guttur people to Bahrein to explain matters, and make apologies for having turned Sheikh Ahmed out of Wakra.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.

9. The apologies and explanations were received, and the Chief, swearing to keep peace with the Guttur people, invited Jasim bin Mahomed to Bahrein to enter into some new arrangement regarding the carrying on of affairs on the coast.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.

10. Jasim accordingly proceeded to Bahrein, and, on arrival, was seized and cast into prison.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.

11. A force of 1,500 men in 24 vessels under command of the Chief's brother, Sheikh Ali bin Kalifa, was then sent to Ras-i-luffan, and assistance solicited from the Chiefs of Aboothabee and Debay. A force also proceeded by land under Sheikh Ahmed bin Mahomed bin Sulman.

Vide accompaniments E., A., B., C., F., I.

12. Under the declarations of peace made by the Chief, the boats on the coast had again proceeded to sea, and it is estimated that 30 of them were fallen in with and captured by the Bahrein fleet *en route* to, and off, Ras-i-luffan.

Vide accompaniments A., B., C.