

التي يجري تمديدها في شاطئ مكران .

و إن الغاية الحقيقية لخطاب الحاكم الفارسي هي الإستيلاء على ميناء شبهر Chahbor مع أنها لم تزل تحت سيادة إمام مسقط منذ مائة سنة . من هنا كتب إمام مسقط إلى الحكومة الإنجليزية يطلب منهم المشورة للرد على خطاب الحاكم الفارسي و إرسال جند للدفاع عن تلك الميناء .

تحدث هذه الوثيقة أيضاً عن إعلان سراح عبدالله بن فيصل في بغداد و توجهه منها إلى البحرين حيث أقام فيها مدة طويلة يتبين الأوضاع المتوترة داخل الجزيرة العربية فقد كان الأتراك أرسلوا جيوشهم إليها على طريق البر و البحر و قام عبدالله بتجنيد أربع أو خمس مائة شخص في البحرين لإحداث الفتن ضد الحكومة التركية .

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address of Fereck Pasha, authorizing him to place any of the sons of Fysul he may think proper as Imaum of Nejd, returning himself to Bagdad with Suleman bin Zoheyr; the Turkish troops to remain where they are.

When this letter arrived at Kowait the cossid says he was called by Mahomed bin Subah, and told he must convey the letter himself to Lahsa and deliver it into Fereck Pasha's hands.

I have heard the above from the cossid himself.

The steamer-of-war *Maggie* anchored off Dahrein yesterday at noon.

No. 129. Dated 23rd Jemadec-ool-Awwal 1288, received 16th August 1871.
10th August 1871

Translated purport of a letter from MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM MOONSHEE to Resident, Persian Gulf.

I SEND you letters by this boat containing news.

I hear from Kateef that the steamer *Assour* has embarked 400 troops, intending to land them at Ojair for despatch to Lahsa; 200 troops remain at Kateef. Those who died at Kateef and are still sick number 200 men, being originally 800.

The *Bronza* steamer left for Busreh.

Abdullah bin Subah excused himself from going to Biddeh.

I enclose copy of a letter from Jassim bin Mahomed bin Sance, which he had addressed to Abdur Rahman bin Ahmed, Chief of the Bin Murrah tribe, located near Kateef. He writes to the Bedouins in this strain, while at the same time he seeks the aid of the Turks to exterminate them.

No. 130. Dated 3rd Jemadec-ool-Awwal 1288, received 16th August 1871.
21st July 1871

Translated purport of a copy of a letter from JASSIM BIN MAHOMED BIN SANEE to ABDUR RAHMAN BIN AHMED-UL ASHKER, Chief of the Bedoos (received in a letter from MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM.)

I HAVE received your letter and understood its contents.

My country is denuded of provisions and I have to ask you to excuse me if I cannot allow you to pass through it. I am your friend and consider myself dependent on you. Your tribe have attacked and plundered my cattle. I trust in God and look for peace from you as I have done you no wrong.

Bin Ghuttum was turned out of my country by order of Saood when I found your inclinations were towards another. The sign of friendship is the return of the property plundered.

No. 131. Dated 24th Jemadec-ool-Awwal 1288, received 16th August 1871.
11th August 1871

Translated purport of a letter from MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM MOONSHEE to Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE received news to-day from Kateef that—

Suleman bin Zoheyr and Munsoor, the Chief of the Montefik, arrived at Kateef from Lahsa and left in the same day in one of the Turkish steamers for Busreh, no one knew on what business.

The Turkish steamers were anchored at Kateef last night. They did not fire their usual gun as they used to do at nine every night.

I enclose a Notification.

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NOTIFICATION.

THIS Notification is dated ^{20th Mohurram 1298} 20th April 1871; was translated by Major Smith, is addressed to the inhabitants of Nejd, copy was sent to Government in Resident's despatch of 3rd July 1871.

No. 132.

Telegram, dated 16th August 1871.

From—PELTY, Bushire,
To—Political Secretary, Bombay.

OFFICIALLY reported by special boat on authority of Arabs arrived at Bahrein and Kateef from interior that in severe action between the brothers, Abdullah bin Fysul was killed and Saood wounded, supposed mortally; he had returned to Riadh.

No. 133.

Telegram, dated 17th August 1871.

From—PELTY, Bushire,
To—Political Secretary, Bombay.

CHIEF of Bahrein confirms news of Abdullah's death; does not notice Saood's wound, but says Saood returned to capital and will proceed towards Lahsa.

Abdullah's adherents apparently passing over to Saood; Turkish Commander at Lahsa calling for reinforcements; his troops sickly. Bedouins plundering along south of Turkish line of communications and in Guttur.

No. 134.

Telegram, dated 22nd August 1871.

From—PELTY, Bushire,
To—Political Secretary, Bombay.

NATIVE report continues to assert death of Abdullah and wounding of Saood; peace at sea and British interests generally undisturbed down to date. Reports of *Maggie* crew better. *Bullfinch* returned to Gulf. Cholera prevails throughout length of Arab Coast.

No. 135.

No. 977-257, dated Bushire, 28th August 1871.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELTY, C.S.I., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf,

To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Dept.

At the moment of closing the post, I have received from the Residency Mirza at Bahrein a series of reports concerning the affairs of the Turkish expedition, and from which I beg to enclose extracts of translated purports, in continuation of my letter now marginally noted, and its enclosures.

No. 974-254, dated 28th August 1871.

2. Time does not admit of my commenting on these reports, nor would it be easy to give the miscellaneous information they contain in more concise form.

3. I question the Turkish force being able to move with its guns from Lahsa into Nejd, so long as the hot weather lasts. The tract to be traversed is, in many places, covered with loose sand, and water is extremely scarce.

P.S.—I beg to enclose also a translated purport of a letter, which I have received from the Chief of Bahrein on the same subject.

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N^o 135

Extracts from translated purports of letters received from MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM, Moonshee at Bahrein.

13th August 1871.—A boat arrived from Kowait; from what the people report it would appear they believe the death of Abdullah bin Fysul to be a fact.

Some people have arrived from Ejman; they say when Abdullah bin Fysul was killed, Saood wished that his body should not be buried, so that all Nejd may know for certain that he had died. For one day his body remained unburied. Some Sheikhs, who were present, remonstrated at this, when the body of Abdullah bin Fysul was allowed to be buried. These people say they buried the body of Abdullah bin Fysul with their own hands.

The fight took place between Abdullah and Saood on the 2nd Jemadee-ool-Awul. About 1,000 persons and many Chiefs were killed on both sides. Those who were with Abdullah bin Fysul were the Al Subeeah, the Kahtan, the Kowajir, and some of the Nejd people. Those who were on Saood's side were the Ejman, Dowasir, Murrak, and Kusseem.

Saood returned to Riaz and wished to kill those of the Al Subeeah and others who had originally gone to the Turks and joined Abdullah bin Fysul. Saood wrote also to the Al Durveysh tribe, telling them that he left Kateef and Lahsa in their charge, but that the enemy had got possession of those places and wanted them to aid him—they consented.

It is stated that the Durveysh tribe is a very large, powerful, and warlike tribe, and reside near Kateef. If this be true, Saood may be able to effect something; it is generally believed they will help Saood.

Intelligence from Kateef report that all the boats there have been put under embargo. Oman divers were in these boats. It is the intention to purchase dates for them. Some of the boats that pass between Bahrein and Kateef and Guttur are to be employed by the Turks in conveying provisions and tents for the army to Ojair; others say to Guttur.

14th August 1871.—Intelligence has been received from Kateef that Saood bin Fysul has written to Fereck Pasha at Lahsa to effect that if he was still instructed by his Government to proceed to Nejd to arrange peace and to place Abdullah bin Fysul as Deputy in Nejd, he begged to inform him that Abdullah was dead, and that he was the eldest surviving son of Fysul. That if he wished Saood to have the Government of Nejd that it would not be bad and he should be pleased. That he was ready to keep the Government on the same terms as his father held it, and that, perhaps, more might be obtained from him; but that if he wished to keep the government of the place, this would not be possible, as such was not the custom, and that he had a priority of claim to any other person.

Fereck Pasha, on receiving this letter, immediately sent it to Kateef, from whence the Steamer *Aloos* was to convey it to Busreh.

Ibrahim Beg has sent the whole of the troops that were at Kateef to Ojair, from whence they were to go to Lahsa. Saood has also written a polite letter to his brother, Mahomed bin Fysul, telling him that they should act together. Fereck, on becoming aware of this, feared Mahomed might act treacherously and ordered his imprisonment.

The Pasha is very much afraid of Saood, because his party was engaged with Abdullah, but now they are free to engage with the Turks, either by effecting a peace or preparing for war.

After nine days the Sobcil will appear and ten days after that date the heat will begin to decrease in Nejd.

If a peaceful arrangement cannot be effected, and war be inevitable, it is believed that Saood will send his uncle Jelowee and Abdullah Toorkee to the Durveysh tribe, instructing them to go and take Kateef, as the Turks have received no reinforcements and the taking of Kateef is an easy matter for the

Bedoos. If Kateef be taken Saood will himself march on Lahsa, and if unable to take, it will besiege it as all the Bedoos have now sided with Saood. The people of Lahsa too will not fight against Saood, and if he appear against them they will return. The Bedoos are now scattered; some of them are at Ojair and some in parts of Kateef they had no Chief from the first, and are now certain that they have no one but Saood bin Fysul bin Toorkee to look to. Under any circumstances after 20 days Saood will make a move.

The Pasha, who is at Lahsa, and the one who is at Kateef are in much fear, and have asked for more troops from Bagdad. It is reported there is much sickness at Bagdad and that on this account the Bagdad Pasha intends coming to Busreh and is willing that Saood should meet Fereck Pasha.

No 137

Extracts from: Moonshee's reports continued.

August 16th, 1871.—You will receive enclosed all the news I have heard in Bahrein, also a letter which I have received from one of my friends in Kateef, containing some intelligence; hereafter I shall write reports daily morning and evening.

Should there be any communication of importance to make, it will become necessary to engage a special boat. But news if not of much importance I shall send by any opportunity offering.

It sometimes happens that no boats leave this for Bushire. I trust if delay ensue on this account you will not blame me, as I am not negligent in obtaining intelligence and write what happens every day.

ENCLOSURE.

August 14th.—It is reported the Turks intend to hold the government of Kateef and Lahsa in their own hands, appointing either Abdullah or Saood to rule there and control the Arabs and the ryots.

It is reported the Pasha of Bagdad will arrive here in a steamer about the 1st proximo.

August 17th.—Some of the Kateef people, who are considered the party of Abdullah bin Fysul have kept secret the circumstances of his death. But it is believed as a fact in all parts without any doubt.

ENCLOSURE.

August 13th.—In regard to Abdullah and Saood I hear Abdullah was defeated or killed. This is reported by the Bedoos.

A boat arrived from Bushire with a letter from Bahooz Saheb, complaining against Ahmed bin Hudeed, and requesting that his date-trees may be attached and the case tried at Kateef. The letter is from the Wullundeez and apparently true, as I before told you.

I hear from the camp that the original guns and the horses they have in the country are to be sent to Bagdad with half a Regiment.

August 17th.—A cossid from Saood arrived at Lahsa on the 10th August with letters from Fereck Pasha and a letter for Mahomed bin Fysul and letters for the principal men of Lahsa. Saood informed them of the death of his brother, Abdullah bin Fysul and his own victory. In his letter to Mahomed bin Fysul he advised him to gain his liberty.

Fereck Pasha seized all the letters and ordered all those who were favourable to Saood to leave Lahsa.

Another cossid was sent by Saood to Guttur to Abdullah bin Theneyon and the Bedoos, informing them of what had taken place between himself and his brother, Abdullah bin Fysul.

The Turkish troops in Ojair suffer much from want of water, such water as there is in Ojair being brackish; also the troops have asked to be relieved. Orders have been received to relieve them once a month.

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Four Turks arrived at Bahrein with the intention of hiring boats for the purpose of conveying provision to Ojair from Kateef. They pay very high; almost the prices of the vessels chartered.

August 19th.—News arrived to-day that the small Turkish steamer that took in troops at Kateef for Ojair arrived west of Bahrein off a village named Akariyath for the purpose of taking water, as there is no water at Ojair; after filling up with water she went to Kateef.

News arrived from Kateef that one of the Turkish ships arrived at Kateef from Busreh with two regiments of Turkish soldiers who are to proceed to Ojair and thence to Lahsa.

No. 138 Dated ^{27th Jemadee-el-Awwal 1298}_{16th August 1871}, received 27th August 1871.

Translated purports of Reports from MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM, Moonshee.

MERCHANTS have arrived from Lahsa with dates for sale. They say the death in fight of Abdullah bin Fysul is correct. That Fereck Pasha received a letter from Bagdad, saying that a Pasha with forces would be sent to Lahsa from Bagdad. On the arrival of this Pasha, Fereck Pasha should proceed with forces to Nejd; the other Pasha to remain at Lahsa. That Turkish vessels of war to cruize about at sea in Busreh, Oman, and Muscat would also be sent. The people of Lahsa are very happy at the manner they are ruled by the Turks and their being free from oppression. Saood bin Fysul has left Riaz and proceeded to a village named Kherj, near Riaz, in view to collecting the Bedoos and Arabs together.

Many boats have arrived at Ojair from Kateef with Jedoos, Getch, and provisions. The *Assoor* has troops on board. Their intention is to erect a fort near the water wells and to make other wells.

The kafilas that come to Ojair from Lahsa are escorted by about 400 Turkish Cavalry. The kafilas are to take back the baggage of the Turks as the roads are not safe from the Bedoos.

It is said the Turks have no intention of having Saood as Ruler in Nejd and intend to fight with him. Saood also is preparing for war. God knows which side will be victorious. A fight will shortly take place between them. The Bedoos are afraid of the cannon which the Turks have with them at Lahsa.

If the Turks intend proceeding to Riaz from Lahsa, the Bedoos will attack them, for they will not be able to carry their guns with them, the roads being uneven.

16th August 1871.—It is reported that cholera has broken out in a village called Mebrez near Lahsa and that none of the inhabitants have remained; the houses are all empty. Many die about Lahsa daily, 300 in all have died. The cholera disappears for a short time and comes again, for about ten days 10 or 15 persons die daily. A little cholera still exists in Ojair and Kateef; it has not gone beyond Lahsa.

The death of Abdullah bin Fysul is not believed at Beddah. They have written many letters to Fereck Pasha and Ibrahim Beg, asking for help and have received no reply. They are in much fear. At first a number of people used to hoist the Turkish flag. This week the flags were not put up, and have much decreased. They do not give out their intentions, for, if Saood succeeds in becoming Ruler of Nejd, he will destroy them all.

A boat arrived from Ojair with Ferhan bin Kheirullah, who with all the Bedoos who are dependents of Saood are at Bahrein awaiting news of Saood.

Ferhan bin Kheirullah was attached to Fysul; he became Ameer for Saood at Lahsa and had some Nejdees with him. Fereck Pasha at first gave him a khillut and treated him with respect. But when news of the fall of Abdullah was received, he ordered him and his party to be turned out of Lahsa fearing treachery as they were partial to Saood.

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No. 139. Dated 29th Jemadec-ool-Awwal 1288, received 27th August 1871.
17th August 1871

Translated purport of letter from SHEIKH ESAU, Chief of Bahrein, to Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE written all the news I had in previous letter. It is not necessary to repeat the same now.

We and the people of the islands are at peace; thanks to the Sirkar.

I informed you of what happened in Nejd between Saood and Abdullah, the sons of Fysul; news follow each other that Saood was victorious and Abdullah died.

I enclose a letter which contains certain remarks.

It is reported that the people of Guttur have sent to the Pasha some individuals, that a consultation then took place about Bahrein, and that letters have been written and sent on this subject to Bagdad by the hand of Zaheyn. I do not know the contents of those letters. But you know the temperament of Jassim bin Saneec.

After the corroboration of the death of Abdullah bin Fysul the Pasha turned out of Lahsa those parties who were favourable to Saood, viz., Ameer Ferhan bin Kheirullah and his attendants.

The young son of Saood and others have now come to me at Bahrein in the boats that pass to and fro. If their remaining at Bahrein be not advisable, I await your advice that I may excuse myself if necessary.

No. 140. Dated 22nd Jemadec-ool-Awwal 1288.
10th August 1871

Translated purport of enclosure from MAHOMED BIN ALLI DAYIZ to SHEIKH ESAU, Chief of Bahrein.

AFTER a person arrived from Guttur in the Turkish camp, a mejlis was convened, and it was determined that letters should be written to the Pasha of Bagdad and the Sultan. These letters were written and sent four days ago by the hand of Ben Zaheyr *via* Kateef.

I thought it necessary to let you know this that you may not be ignorant of this matter.

After the receipt of news from the south they changed their plans and were alarmed. They took Moobaruck bin Subah into the fort with them.

No. 141. No. 5688, dated Bombay Castle, 25th November 1871.

From—W. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
To—C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

IN continuation of my letter No. 5177, dated the 27th ultimo, I am directed to forward to you, for submission to the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a letter, with enclosures, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 1080-292, of the 23rd September last, relating to the position of affairs as between the Turks and Wahabees.

No. 142. No. 1080-292, dated Bushire, 23rd September 1871.

From—LIEUT.-COL. LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Political Resident, Persian Gulf,
To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

REFERRING to my letter as per margin, and to other reports and No. 1024-274, dated 12th September 1871. to telegrams concerning the posture of affairs as between the Turks and Wahabees, I have now the honor to enclose translated purports of reports received from the Residency Mirza at Bahrein, dated and enclosure dated 31st August 1871. as now noted.

A. dated 1st September 1871.

B. " " " "

C. " " " " and enclosure dated 31st August 1871.

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2. The principal point in these reports is the statement received from Kateef, and derived therefore from Turkish sources, to the effect that Abdullah bin Fysul was not killed, but reached the Turkish camp at Lahsa.

3. The condition of Major Smith's health not having permitted of my re-deputing him to Bahrein, combined with the circumstance of the sudden withdrawal of both Her Majesty's ships-of-war from the Arab Coast left me dependent on a Mirza, and the Marine Gun-boat *Hugh Rose* for observation and intelligence.

4. Both the Commander of *Hugh Rose* and the Mirza have steadily adhered to their work, and have shown great zeal and diligence in endeavouring to submit detailed and accurate intelligence.

5. But it is, of course, under present circumstances (as I have already more than once stated) very difficult to sift the truth from among the numerous falsehoods reaching the coast line through Turkish and Arabian Channels.

6. It will be observed that the Mirza still hesitates to give credence to the Turkish report of Abdullah being alive. On the other hand, I myself lean towards the presumption that Abdullah is alive, though defeated, and at the mercy of the Turks.

7. At the same time, if my presumption were tested by what appears in the written reports I have received, the balance of circumstantial evidence would be found in favour of the assumption that Abdullah is dead.

8. In one of his reports the Mirza suggests my deputing a person to collect intelligence in the Turkish camp at Lahsa. But I think this course might give rise to misapprehensions just at present.

9. Our policy being limited to the maintenance of the peace at sea, to the observation of Treaty obligations with the trucial Chiefs, and to counselling these Chiefs to a course of strict neutrality, any proceedings which may have place in the interior of Arabia, though doubtless of interest, do not directly and materially affect the objects of our policy.

10. It is rumoured in Bushire, but the rumour wholly requires confirmation, that the Turkish expedition of the Red Sea, having made peace with the Asseer Tribe, has pushed forward a force to Glussim, and will thence invade Nejd, in view to effecting a combination with the Turkish force from the Persian Gulf at the Wahabee capital, Riadh.

11. A copy of my telegram, relating to the subject of this letter, has been separately submitted by post.

P.S.—It is reported from Kowait that Saood is in the neighbourhood of Lahsa with a following said to consist of from fifty to sixty thousand men. But all reports from the interior require to be received with much caution.

N^o 143

A.

Enclosure to letter, dated 1st September 1871.

From—MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM, Moonshee of Bahrein,
To—Resident, Persian Gulf.

REGARDING the reported death of Abdullah bin Fysul I did not write of it without most careful enquiry and comparison; more than 300 persons testified to the truth of the report and their testimonies tallied exactly.

They stated that they had actually seen Roughan, Chief of the Ejman, kill Abdullah bin Fysul and drink his blood, and that Saood forbade his burial; further that the Arabs had then joined Saood, and that they (the narrators) had buried the corpse.

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Likewise the Kowait reports went to prove that the force that had been with Abdullah bin Fysul after his being killed fled into Kowait borders from which Abdullah's death was made manifest; also in Guttur, Kateef, and Hasa the report was credited.

When Fereck Pasha heard of Abdullah being killed, he ordered away Ferhan bin Keirullah, with all Saood's friends, out of Hasa, and collected people for the protection of the district as he feared Saood.

Similarly the merchant's correspondence was to above effect.

From all this testimony Abdullah bin Fysul's being killed appeared clear; copies of the merchant's letters I have already forwarded to you.

The news of Abdullah's being killed was published everywhere and believed in, and I had no recourse but to inform you accordingly.

This day, however, I have received a letter from Kateef, in which it is stated that Abdullah bin Fysul had arrived at Hasa, and that former reports were untrue. This is very surprising, and it is hard to know how such lies are penned, for when a body of people testify on oath that they have seen Abdullah bin Fysul killed, and in all places the statement is believed, also at same time Saood's friends are expelled from Hasa, and all reports tally thereon, where can the mean between truth and lies be found?

Under such difficulties it is very hard to always find the right of a case, and one can but report to best of one's ability.

By statements of passengers arrived from Kateef it appears that after Abdullah bin Fysul's arrival at Hasa Fereck Pasha ordered he should be imprisoned, together with his brother, Mahomed bin Fysul.

The Pasha also, they say, sent a messenger with twenty-five horses and a piece of cloth for Saood bin Fysul, to meet his arrival at Lahsa.

It would appear that Fereck Pasha desires to get all the descendants of Fysul into his hands, after which he could act as he chose, as there are none in Nejd except Fysul's descendants who would fight the Turks.

I enclose two letters from Kateef, and hope you will receive them and peruse.

B.

Dated 1st September 1871.

A. C. 11/11/71.
I HAVE learnt that the Chebissa and Albu Kowara had a fight at sea. The Bukowara lost 18 men and the Chebissa five. After this the Bukowara beached their boats and landed, followed by the Chebissa; when ashore they fought again, but the result indecisive; but the Chebissa are full of fight and want a decisive ending.

News has come from Kateef that when Abdullah bin Fysul approached Hasa the Pasha with his forces went out for the entry (istickbal) of Abdullah bin Fysul.

When the people saw the Pasha go out to meet Abdullah they also went out to join the procession.

When Fereck Pasha returned with Abdullah bin Fysul, he ordered the troops to disarm the people who had gone out to meet Abdullah bin Fysul; they were disarmed accordingly.

Fereck Pasha observed that it was not needful for the people to carry arms as they were not soldiers.

Abdullah bin Fysul complained against a person named Ahmed bin Mehdi bin Nusrallah residing at Kateef, that he had a claim against him for some 30,000 dollars, and that he had bonds to prove this. Fereck Pasha wrote to Ibrahim Beg to send the person to Hasa, and this afternoon they embarked him on the steamer *Assur*, with about 400 troops, and the vessel proceeded to Oojair en route to Hasa.

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Fereck Pasha then ordered Abdullah bin Fysul and Mahomed bin Fysul to be imprisoned; he also wrote to Saood bin Fysul that he (the Pasha) was deputed by the Ottoman Government to place Abdullah bin Fysul in the Imamship of Nejd, but that he had since ascertained that the people did not wish for Abdullah, but that they desired him (Saood), on which account he, Saood, should come to Hasa as quickly as possible, and that his brothers Abdullah and Mahomed were in his (Pasha's) hands as prisoners.

The messenger went to Saood. It seems probable Saood will listen to them and come in; should Saood arrive at Hasa the war will be ended, as the Turks will have their own way, as there are none to oppose the Sultan other than Fysul's descendants, or to manage the Wahabees.

I enclose a Kateef letter, dated 2nd September 1871.

News has come from Kowait that when they learnt for sure that Abdullah bin Fysul had reached Hasa, Mahomed bin Subah ordered salutes to be fired.

C.

No. 145.
Dated 15th Jemadec-ool Saneec 1288
1st September 1871

Translated purport of a letter from MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM, Moonshee of Bahrein, to Resident, Persian Gulf.

I RECEIVE daily most various reports, but none that appear reliable. Should you think it proper I would send a Hasa man *via* Ojair to collect news in Hasa. A 100 krans would effect this, and the man would return with information in a few days. Similarly, Mahomed ben Ali, whom I arranged for at Kateef, apparently is trading in a small way on his own account, but secretly sends me information and is not suspected. The arrangement we made was that I should monthly pay him 10 krans, and that his letters may be forwarded to you. Should you now see fit I will despatch a man to Hasa. There is small chance of your receiving reliable news in any other away.

No. 146.
Dated 12th Jemadec-ool Saneec 1288
31st August 1871

Translated purport of a letter from MAHOMED BIN ALI NEHAYLEE to MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM, Bahrein.

I RECEIVED your letter, and was glad to hear concerning bin Muskoonah relations. From his letter to Abdullah bin Subah it appears the Pasha is visiting Abdullah bin Fysul. From Muskoonah's speech it seems that the Pasha went to meet Abdullah bin Fysul and give him a dress of honor and give him a flag, and said the army was at his disposal; that he should collect the Bedouins and follow his brother, that the rule rested with him, and other affairs as he saw them.

Abdullah bin Fysul met Abdullah bin Subah at night, and they had a conversation. I think that they want Abdullah bin Fysul to attack his brother and the Bedouins and tribes.

It is doubtful if the tribes will support Abdullah, as it is said that when they told Abdullah he was to hold the power, he asked for the register of the date plantations, as the Turks had received half the tribute therefrom.

They replied that the register, &c., regarded the Sultan; such were the orders, and they had no instructions to make over the register, but they would write. Abdullah should go after his brother and afterwards things would go well, and the authority be with him.

Similarly, Abdullah bin Fysul claimed against Ahmed bin Mehday on an old debt. They replied if the claim was susceptible of proof by documents, all right.

They accordingly sent to Ibrahim Beg to forward Ahmed to Hasa; at this date Ahmed is at Ibrahim Beg's house. They will send him to Hasa on Friday.

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No. 147. No. 5691, dated Bombay Castle, 27th November 1871.

From—W. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
To—C. U. ARCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

In continuation of my letter No. 5688, dated the 25th instant, I am directed to forward to you, for submission to the Government of India, copy of a further letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 1163-327, dated the 7th ultimo, and of its enclosures, regarding the affairs of Bahrein in connection with the Turkish expedition to Nejd.

No. 148. No. 1163-327, dated British Residency, Bushire, 7th October 1871.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

In continuation of my letter as per margin* and previous correspondence

* No. 1080-292, dated 23rd September 1871.

† Dated 25th, 28th, and 29th September 1871.

‡ Captain Guthrie's letters Nos. 7, 8, and 9, dated 14th, 16th, and 26th September 1871, respectively.

Residency Mirza's News-reports, dated 16th and 25th September, with enclosures.

concerning the affairs of Bahrein and Nejd, and in reference also to my most recent telegrams now marginally noted,† I have the honor to enclose copies of three reports received from the Commander‡ of Her Majesty's Marine Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*, and also translated purports of some communications received from the Residency Mirza deputed to Bahrein.

2. More documents have been received from the Mirza and others, but their contents are of a conflicting and unreliable character, and it appears unnecessary to transmit them to Government.

3. The points of interest in the correspondence now enclosed seem to be—

1stly.—The renewed rumour of the intention of the Pasha of Bagdad to visit Kateef.

2ndly.—The announcement of the arrival of Turkish reinforcements at Kateef.

3rdly.—The seeming insecurity of the roads towards Lahsa, which would seem to render it dangerous for a small detachment to attempt to reinforce any main body in the interior.

4thly.—The letter from Saood himself to a Chief in Kateef, declaring himself to be supported by the tribes of Nejd and his intention to fight.

5thly.—The renewed report from Guttur to the effect that Abdullah bin Fysul had died suddenly, while the reports from Lahsa are quite silent concerning this alleged fact, the existence or otherwise of Abdullah forms the subject of as many contradictory reports as did that of his father, the late Ameer Fysul, at the conclusion of 1865. It seems to be possible that Abdullah may have become a kind of political card intended to regain sovereignty, to be pensioned or to die, according as policy and military success or failure may seem to dictate; and

6thly.—The notice of an embarrassment which induced the Chief of Bahrein to meditate immediately visiting me at Bushire. The embarrassment appears to have been disposed of and an amicable arrangement to have been arrived at between the Chief and his relatives.

4. The Bahrein islands still continue tranquil and the maritime peace undisturbed.

5. I respectfully trust that this condition of affairs may be deemed satisfactory by higher authority, especially when it shall be borne in mind that six

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months have now elapsed since the commencement of the Turkish expedition; that during the first two of these months our interests on the Arab Coast were not protected by any vessel, and while during the larger portion of the remaining four months the Gun-boat *Hugh Rose* has been the only vessel on the Bahrein Station.

No. 149.

No. 7, dated Bahrein, 14th September 1871.

From—CAPTAIN W. GUTHRIE, Commanding H. M.'s Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*,

To—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to report, in continuation of letter No. 6 of 1871, Hamed bin Hadied (Bahreinee) reports to the Moonshee as follows:—

Ebrahim Bushabia (inhabitant of Bushire) has been in communication with the Dutch Consul there, to the effect that I, Ebrahim Bushabia, am a Turkish subject, and that Hamed bin Hadied of Bahrein was my Agent at that place; he has goods or property of mine in his possession which he will neither pay for or give up possession of; but Hamed bin Hadied has goods or property at Kateef and requests that Ebrahim Beg (Turkish Governor at that place) should be communicated with as to the facts, the property of Hamed bin Hadied held in possession as a counter-measure until he has settled the Bahrein debt.

The Dutch Consul in his capacity as Turkish Agent has written to Ebrahim Beg stating the case, and that such may be done as a counterpoise to the Bahrein claim.

On hearing of this Hamid bin Hadied proceeded to Kateef and sold his property there at once.

Ebrahim Beg did not put any stoppage on the sale; he merely said he did not know Mr. Kenn as Turkish Agent, and could take no orders from him in the affair.

Hamed bin Hadied then visited Abdulla bin Souba (Chief of Kowait) in substance the following conversation passed between them:—

Chief, what are they doing at Bahrein? How are affairs there? Why are ships constantly there? Hamed can't tell him much about it, but thinks Bahrein is under the care of the English.

The Chief said it came to his knowledge that Saood had first offered the protectorate of Nejd to the English if they would assist him, he wrote to Bagdad to that effect, hence the present expedition; to be first in the field; now he has told the Turks that the best thing they can do is to make Abdulla bin Fysul Ameer; give him two regiments and four guns; that is quite sufficient for him to maintain himself against all comers; the Ameer to pay tribute and all expenses connected with the troops.

It is no use the Turks keeping the country; they would require a large force to keep the people down and the revenue would not cover the outlay.

It was useless to put any one over Abdulla bin Fysul.

Hamed was not aware that there was any agreement betwixt Saood and the English, but he knew that all the letters from the Resident to the Chief of Bahrein were that Sheikh Esau was to keep himself apart from the present quarrel betwixt the two brothers and the Turks.

The Chief then said that Bahrein must be paying the English to look after Bahrein so well.

Hamed thought the English were not poor, but were rather more likely to give money to Sheikh Esau than to take it, and that they were chiefly interested in keeping the peace at sea.

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Chief Hajee Abdul Nubbee of Bushire last year gave 2,000 bags of rice to Saood by the Resident's orders, but he has got no money for it, yet the Chief was going to report the English to the Turks.

Hamed thought the Chief's mind was beginning to wander, and thought it best to remain quiet.

Reported the Turks say that in another ten days they won't be able to stay in Kateef on account of the periodical sickness that prevails at the end of the date season there, and to which strangers are more liable than the inhabitants.

Season of sickness lasts 40 days; (symptoms) swelling of the belly and boils lasting 12 months.

Where they are going to when they have to leave Kateef on account of this sickness no one can tell me.

Bahrein is but slightly affected with this disease; when it prevails, however, to convince me I am to be shown a specimen of swelled belly, which will be interesting no doubt to medical science as regards its relations to the end of the date season.

No signs of *Bullfinch* or *Magpie*; all quiet at Bahrein; received last night by buggalow your two letters addressed to Captain Lodder and Commander Doughty respectively.

No. 150

No. 8, dated Bahrein, 16th September 1871.

From—CAPTAIN W. GUTHRIE, Commanding Her Majesty's Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*,
To—LIEUT.-COL. LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Polt. Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to report in continuation of No. 7 of 1871, dated Bahrein, 14th.

On the 14th news arrived by Bedouin that a friend of Saood, residing on the Guttur Coast, had a messenger from Saood, saying that he had got all the people of Nejd on his side; they were eager to fight the Turks. In a few days they march from Riaz on Lahsa for that purpose.

A letter from Abdulla bin Theniyan (Chief of the Bedouin tribe residing in the interior of the Guttur Coast) to Sheikh Fahad at Bahrein is to the effect that all the Nejd people are with Saood (towns great and small risen in his favour); they have lots of guns (artillery); where they have got them did not say, (if it is the artillery that the Egyptians left there many years ago in their campaign when they took that place, the carriages can't be of much account) however, they consider themselves strong and eager for the fray with the Turks.

A boat from Lingah reports cholera very severe there and at Minow on the South Arab Coast likewise from Debay to Batinah Coast.

15th. Mirza brought off a letter to-night to show me it was from Saood to Abdullah bin Theniyan, who has forwarded it to the Chief of Bahrein for his perusal, it is as follows:—

TO THENIYAN—"I am well: I send you a messenger named Shereda, with orders for him to receive from you all the fighting utensils (swords and pistols, &c.) also another man named Mahomed bin Hagerees; give him all the horses you have; send food and water with them. I have given them orders to bring them on to Kerja; you are to remain where you are; don't quit on any account. I intend leaving Riaz by the time the messengers reach you; be quick and give the arms and horses.

"All the towns, great and small, are on my side, they will fight (Jahad) their enemies as it is for their homes, wives and children. I feel my cause strong. God will give me strength.

"Give my salaams to my son, Abdool Azeez, and all my friends.

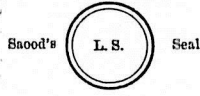
वर्षाधिकार, सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार
राज्य सरकार के कार्यालय

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“ My sons and Abdool Rahman bin Fysul, Toorkee, Saood bin Jellowee Fahad bin Abdulla, Mashoud, Theniyan, Sheikh Abdool Luteef, all send their salaams to you.”



I enclose a letter I have received from the Chief, 10 A.M.; he wanted me to take him on to Bushire as he wants to see you personally at once, he could not communicate or trust his writers with it even.

I sent him a message that I could not quit Bahrein under present circumstances without your orders, and if he could not trust his own people he might confide in the Moonshee, so that I might have an idea of the importance of the case, otherwise I could not take upon myself the responsibility of leaving the station or chartering boat.

I think there has been some quarrel this morning betwixt him and his brother Hamed; got up with sore heads, I hope it will blow over, or keep quiet until Major Smith appears.

No. 157.

Dated 30th Jemadec-oes-Sanee 1288.
15th September 1871

Translated purport of a letter from SHEIKH ESAU BIN ALI, Chief of Bahrein, to CAPTAIN W. GUTHRIE, Commander H. M.'s Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*.

I BEG to inform you that when the Resident came here I did not find an opportunity of telling him what I had on my mind.

Thanks to God the courses which hindered my speaking to the Resident have now been removed, and it is necessary that I should meet the Resident, and make known to him what I wish to communicate.

It is not possible for me to go in the boats that proceed from this place, unless it be in your ship and in your company, as I will gain my object earlier. I am happy to inform you that I have made up my mind to go as quick as possible, and the vessel should be ready to proceed by noon this day. I will meet you an hour after noon and await your reply as quick as you can send it.

No. 152.

Dated Bahrein, 26th September 1871.

From—CAPTAIN W. GUTHRIE, Commanding Her Majesty's Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*,
To—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to report, in continuation of my letter No. 8 of 1871. On the 19th report is that Sheikh Esau has written to his brother Ahmed, offering him half the island of Bahrein, and to settle their quarrel it has been accepted; the reason why there is a difference betwixt them not known.

News from Ojair is that the Al Ejman Al Moora made a foray against all Soubazah and carried off all their camels and other stocks.

From Bushire report here is that a Turkish Commodore with two men-of-war had arrived at Bushire from Jeddah, the Commodore had told Hajee Abdol Nubbee he was going to Bussorah, then to embark Midhut Pasha of Bagdad, take him along the whole of the Arab Coast to visit (Bahrein included, &c.)

Mahomed bin Thorneymenee has been trying to settle the quarrel without success that occurred betwixt Al Chebissa and Al Bookwara; he told Al Chebissa you killed one man, Al Bookwara killed one of yours in return that is according to law, let it rest at that.

Al Chebissa scorned the proposition; they had only killed an insignificant person; Al Bookwara should have been satisfied with the same, but now they

व्यक्तिगत, सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार
भारत सरकार के तहत

No. 295.

No. 448, dated 22nd October 1869.

From—C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
To—C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept., with G.-G.

IN continuation of previous correspondence, I am directed to forward, for submission to the Government of India, the enclosed copy of a letter, with accompaniments, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 184, dated the 5th instant, connected with the piracy of Mahomed bin Khalifah at Bahrein.

No. 296.

No. 184, dated 5th October 1869.

From—LIEUT.-COL. LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Poltl. Resdt. in the Persian Gulf,
To—C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

REFERRING to previous correspondence concerning the piracy of Mahomed bin Khalifah at Bahrein, I have now the honor to enclose a note of a conversation I have recently had with Syud Majid, late Minister or Agent of the Chief Ali bin Khalifah.

No. 141, dated 16th August 1869.	
" 159 " 28th " "	
" 165 " 11th Sept. "	
" 181 " 25th " "	

This Agent, who is probably better informed than any other person of the circumstances of the recent piracy, has just joined me from Kateef, whither he fled upon the seizure of Bahrein by Mahomed bin Khalifah. It appears that the Wahabee Governor of Kateef was desirous of detaining this Agent, but some of his friends having had the wit to run a native craft into Kateef with a pretended call from me, the Governor permitted the Agent to embark.

The Agent states positively that Mahomed bin Khalifah was killed within a few days of the attack by Mahomed bin Abdoollah, and that the person now in chains, in Mahomed bin Khalifah's fort, is *the son* of Mahomed bin Khalifah.

The object of Mahomed bin Abdoollah in thus murdering the man whose cause he had only a few days before traitorously espoused was his hope that the brothers Ali and Mahomed being disposed of, the Khalifah branch of the family would be lost, and that his own branch might then seize power in his own person.

The statement of the Agent emphatically confirms what I have before submitted concerning the complicity of the Wahabee authorities in the piracy. There seems, indeed, little room for doubting that this piracy was inspired by Wahabee counsels, and that the object of the Wahabee Government was to disturb a Chief who was showing himself favourable to trade and faithful to his crucial engagement.

I learn from telegrams recently received from you and from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India that a naval force will be sent to the Gulf as soon as practicable.

The piracy having been successfully completed and the plunder carried off, the question of delaying the punishment by a week or even a month is not, I think, of importance as compared with that of punishing effectually when we shall punish.

I am respectfully of opinion that the mode of punishment should be somewhat as follows:—

1stly.—To blockade and otherwise use force against Bahrein until the leaders of the piracy, *viz.*, Mahomed bin Abdoollah, Nassir bin Mobarik, also Mahomed bin Khalifah himself, supposing him to be still alive, should be surrendered.

2ndly.—And supposing the choice to be eligible on general considerations, to recognize the son, Esau, of the late Chief Ali bin Khalifah, as Chief.

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3rdly.—To come to an understanding with whatever Chief may be recognized, to the effect that the estates and other available property of the pirates and traitors, Mahomed bin Khalifah, Mahomed bin Abdoollah, and Nassir bin Mobarik, should be considered as forfeited, and that the produce or value of such property should be applied, in the first instance, towards the reimbursement of persons plundered. But I would exclude from claimants to such compensation such persons as may have implicated themselves in the purchase of plundered property at nominal rates.

4thly.—I think Kateef and the other Wahabee ports on the main coast line, opposite Bahrein, should be blockaded until plundered property, there deposited, be restored; until the Bedouins, who took part in the piracy, be publicly and severely punished; and until the Kateef Governor be removed in disgrace.

Two vessels of war would be required at least, and it will also be essential, as suggested in my letter No. 181, dated 25th September, that they should be accompanied by one or more of very light draughted steam craft. The presence of the Gun-boat *Clyde* would also be very advisable, as she draws little water, is now in good steaming trim, and her Commander is well acquainted with the Bahrein waters. The port of Kateef is unapproachable unless by craft of the lightest draught.

To carry out these measures effectually and completely might possibly take time, while to commence operations and hurry over them, or leave them incomplete for want of time, would, in my opinion, have only less inconvenient consequences than to leave them wholly unattempted. I would therefore most respectfully and strongly recommend that the Admiralty and Commodore of the Indian Squadron be moved to so frame the sailing orders issued to the Commanders of vessels detached on this duty as that those Commanders should not feel themselves bound to quit the Gulf by any specified date. The cold weather is now approaching, and the month of November and the early portion of December is, I believe, considered the season when naval operations can be most readily conducted, as the climate is then cool, while the winter gales are not yet set in.

Finally, I would suggest that, pending the arrival of the ships, I should be authorized to address to the trucial Chiefs in general, and also to the Wahabee Government, letters summarizing briefly what had happened, and intimating the resolve of Government to punish adequately. Should Government approve this suggestion, I would solicit the favour of a telegram to such effect.

MEMORANDUM.

SYUD MAJID, who was Wazeer to the late Sheikh Ali, having arrived at Bushire from Kateef, waited on the Resident to-day, 1st October 1869, and in conversation regarding the recent attack by Mahomed bin Khalifah on Bahrein made the following statements:—

“When I heard preparations were being made by Mahomed bin Khalifah and Nassir bin Mobarik at Kateef, I warned Sheikh Ali of the danger. He said, they could not succeed in their attempt against Bahrein, as he had received letters from the Wahabee Ameer assuring him that he could not countenance Mahomed, and would even prevent his movements if he intended any against Bahrein. I told Sheikh Ali that from the information I had received from private sources, I believed the professions of the Ameer were false, and the Wahabees were greatly concerned in the matter and were already aiding Mahomed by every means. Sheikh Ali rejoined that he did not fear, even if the Wahabees interested themselves with Mahomed, as he was confident that not a boat would venture to put to sea with armed men when the Ameer was under engagement with the British Government to prevent all hostile movements by sea against their allies, and that the British Government would doubtless punish the Ameer or any one else who attempted such movements.

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"Sheikh Ali was too confident of the Wahabees, but I had my doubts about them, and when Captain Way arrived with the steamer at Bahrein, I persuaded Sheikh Ali to request Captain Way to remain there for a few days, as I knew that so long as the Government steamer was there, Mahomed or others would not move out from Kateef. Captain Way was accordingly requested to remain until we communicated with you, but he said he was a Government servant, and had work elsewhere. I even requested him to remain for at least two or three days, but he did not think it proper to do so. As soon as Mahomed heard of the steamer's departure, he moved out from Kateef.

"It was through the treachery of Mahomed bin Abdoollah that Sheikh Ali was killed. On hearing of Mahomed bin Khalifah's arrival at Ruffah, Sheikh Ali sent for Mahomed bin Abdoollah, being doubtful of his faithfulness. Mahomed bin Abdoollah obeyed the summons, and swore that he was faithful, and gave his oath on it. Sheikh Ali and Mahomed then went out together to Ruffah, but the latter at once joined the enemy and became the cause of Ali's death by ordering the enemy to attack him. He may now deny all this, and state that he had no hand in the matter, he may profess friendship and allegiance to the British Government, he may promise to the Bahrein and Guttur people to become a good and just Chief over them, but his statements are and will prove to be false, since throughout his life he has been treacherous and false to the Sheikhs and people of Bahrein.

"The report that Mahomed bin Khalifah has been killed is quite true, and his son Khalifah is at present in prison and in irons at Bahrein. Esau, the son of Sheikh Ali, is in Guttur. He has a few wounds. He is the man suited as a Chief for Bahrein. He would respect your Treaties and subjects. He would fulfil the engagements entered into by his father last autumn; and he would, even if you so wished, arrange for some compensation being given from the revenues of the private estates of the Sheikh Mahomed and others for the losses incurred by your subjects and others in the late plunder at Bahrein.

"There is a Sheikh of some influence at Bahrein known by the name of Nassir bin Ahmed Al-e-assfoor, who, taking advantage of the disturbed state of affairs, caused more loss to the British and other subjects than would have occurred by the plunder of the Bedouins alone. He, in fact, guided the Bedouins as to what and where to plunder. The town of Manemah was given up to plunder for three days, and after that 'Aman' was proclaimed, and confidence was given to the people.

"On the assurance of 'Aman' some people, who, during the disturbance, had hid under-ground some of their pearls and other valuables, were taking them out to remove them elsewhere, but this Sheikh Nassir told the Bedouins to go and plunder them. There seems to be an understanding between him and the Bedouins, as a great part of this plunder was purchased by Nassir at about $\frac{1}{100}$ of the actual price from the Bedouins, who were quite ignorant of the value of things, and were willing to get rid of their bulky plunder for a trifling sum of money. I had myself occasion to send a servant to bring out some valuables which I had secreted in my house, and Sheikh Nassir seized my servant and the valuables, and imprisoned the servant, who is up to this day in prison.

"From Bahrein I fled to Kateef and was living afloat, but the Sheikh invited me on shore, and I could not refuse to go. He asked me to go to see him, and although I hesitated at first, yet I had to go and see him. He asked me, what happened at Bahrein? I told him he must surely know it, and why he asked me. He denied all knowledge of the affair. I said how was it possible for the Howajir tribe to leave the vicinity of Kateef without his knowledge, and if they had really gone without his knowledge, why did he not call them back from Bahrein when he heard them go there. I concluded my conversation with him by saying if he was in earnest that he knew nothing about these movements, then it would be advisable for him to order all the plunder that has been and is being daily brought to Kateef to be taken charge of and placed in safe custody,

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and to report to the Ameer and the Resident for orders as to the disposal of the plundered property. I added that the British Government will eventually demand this property, and then he, the Governor of Kateef, would be in a position to state that, in the first instance, he was ignorant of what passed, but that when he saw the plunder brought to the Ameer's territory he secured it.

"Shortly after the interview with the Governor of Kateef the people advised me to leave the place, as I would be killed if I remained there. I then wished to leave, but was prevented. Subsequently a boat was leaving for Bushire, and the crew having of themselves given out that I was ordered by the Resident to go to Bushire, I was permitted to leave.

"I am now here with this only shirt on my back, and have lost all the property I possessed."

No. 297.

No. 454, dated 23rd October 1869.

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

To—C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept., with G.-G.

REFERRING to the letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 184, dated the 5th instant, copy of which accompanied my letter No. 448, of the 22nd idem, regarding the piracy of Mahomed bin Khalifah, I am directed to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, that this Government propose to authorize Colonel Pelly to issue the Notification suggested in the concluding paragraph of his letter.

2. I am desired to add that the *Hugh Rose* will be ordered to Bombay for repairs as soon as possible, but at present she is needed at Muscat, and other vessels of light draught are available.

No. 298.

Telegram dated 12th November 1869.

From—Governor of Bombay, Mahableschwur,

To—Viceroy, Calcutta.

LORD CLARENDON informed Persian Chargé that, though we claimed to punish Chief of Bahrein ourselves if necessary, Government would, if practicable, inform Persian Government of their intention to do so. It will therefore be requisite to telegraph to Chargé of Teheran immediately, and this should of course come from the Government of India. Colonel Pelly and Captain Douglas telegraph very important not to await instructions by mail steamer, and I propose to telegraph to him as follows:—

Proceed forthwith to Bahrein with *Dalhousie*, *Clyde*, and *Hugh Rose* in company with *Daphne* and *Nymph* placing the vessels of this Marine under Captain Douglas' command. Captain Douglas has been requested to take all such measures as he may think necessary, and in concert with him, you will demand the immediate surrender of Mahomed bin Khalifah whom you will send forthwith to Bombay. The payment of a sufficient sum as an indemnity for British subjects, those who have trafficked in the plunder will not be indemnified. The payment by Mahomed bin Abdoollah and Munsir bin Mobarick each of a sum not less than 5,000 Crowns as a fine for the breach of the maritime truce. Esau, the son of the late Chief, to be recognized as Chief, and payment secured by the two Chiefs abovenamed, and of the Chief of Ruffah of 10,000 Crowns in such instalments as may be possible in three years. Ascertain, if possible, whether any Persian authority was aware of, or instigated, Mahomed's attack. If the above instructions approved, telegraph simple assent immediately.

I should wish to add to the instructions proposed that the amount of fine on Mahomed bin Abdoollah and Mobarick, and question whether any payment should be made by the three Chiefs as left to Colonel Pelly's discretion, though the latter thought advisable.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1869.

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No. 299.

Telegram dated 13th November 1869.

From—Viceroy, Calcutta,
To—Governor of Bombay, Mahableschwur.

AUTHORIZE Pelly by telegraph to act in conformity with first of the four recommendations made as to punishment in his letter No. 184, of 5th October.

His second recommendation as to Esau seems reasonable, and he may act on it if circumstances seem favorable, after he has acted on his first recommendation, and provided he is of opinion that the feelings of the people favour the change.

His action on third recommendation must depend entirely on circumstances.

As to fourth recommendation, the blockade of Kateef and Wahabee ports cannot be decided on until effect of operations at Bahrein is ascertained. Great care should be taken in making any communication to Wahabee Ameer, but crucial Chiefs may be addressed as suggested.

Pelly should as far as possible keep Government informed by telegraph.

No. 300.

No. 1605, dated Fort William, 13th November 1869.

From—C. J. ARCHISON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.,
To—C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

IN forwarding a copy of a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in regard to Bahrein affairs, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council thinks it desirable that the intimation to be made to the British Minister at Teheran should proceed from Colonel Pelly in the manner prescribed in Mr. Grant Duff's letter of 21st April 1869, which formed one of the enclosures of the Secretary of State's Secret despatch No. 5, of 30th April, a copy of which was forwarded to you with this Office letter No. 786, dated 7th June last.

No. 301.

Telegram dated 13th November 1869.

From—Viceroy, Calcutta,
To—Governor of Bombay, Mahableschwur.

INSTRUCT Pelly by telegraph to notify to the British Minister at Teheran, for the information of the Shah's Government, that, under orders from India, he is about to call the Chief now in possession of Bahrein to account for breach of the maritime peace and unprotected attack on Ali bin Khalifah who was placed in power by British Government.

See despatch from Secretary of State No. 5, of 30th April 1869, sent with letter from Government of India, No. 786, dated 7th June.

Pelly should do this by telegraph.

Reply, the remainder of telegram will be sent shortly.

No. 302.

No. 1607, dated Fort William, 14th November 1869.

From—C. U. ARCHISON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.,
To—C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council now directs me to reply to your letters noted in the margin relative to the affairs of Bahrein, and in doing so to review briefly the circumstances which have rendered it necessary for the British Government to call to account the Chief now in possession of that island.

2. When measures were adopted last year to exact satisfaction from Mahomed bin Khalifah, then Chief of Bahrein, for acts of piracy which he had

No. 416, of 4th October 1869.
" 437, " 15th " "
" 418, " 22nd " "
" 454, " 23rd " "

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S I. 302.

Bahrein Affairs.

committed, he fled from the island; and his brother, Ali bin Khalifah, and the other Sheikhs of Bahrein executed an agreement with Colonel Pelly that Mahomed bin Khalifah was to be permanently excluded from all participation in the affairs of Bahrein, and in case of his returning to Bahrein was to be seized and made over to the Resident.

3. Subsequently,* at the earnest request of Ali bin Khalifah, who believed he could keep a better control over his brother if he resided at Bahrein than elsewhere, Mahomed bin Khalifah was allowed to return. He soon, however, began to intrigue, and Ali bin Khalifa, found it necessary to deport him to Kowait, from which place he afterwards removed to Kateef, in order to be near Bahrein and watch events.

4. On 11th September last you reported by telegraph that Mahomed bin Khalifah had attacked and plundered Manemah, one of the principal towns in Bahrein. It appears that Mahomed bin Khalifah had a relation named Nassir bin Mobarick at Kateef, who had married a Bedouin woman of the Howajir tribe, which owns allegiance to the Wahabee Ameer. These two Chiefs wished the Howajir tribe to assist in an attack on Bahrein, but they refused to do so without an order from the Ameer of Riad. Such an order, it is said, Nassir bin Mobarick procured during a recent visit to Riad. This point, however, has not been definitely ascertained; and, at any rate, the Ameer professes a desire to restrain his subjects from committing aggressions by sea in accordance with an engagement he entered into in 1866. Be this as it may, Mahomed bin Khalifah and Nassir bin Mobarick, with a considerable force of the Howajir tribe (said to be about 500 men), having seized five boats, embarked in these and in four other boats which they had procured and sailed for Bahrein. On landing, they marched to Ruffah, a fortress then held by Mahomed bin Abdoollah, a subject of the Chief of Bahrein, but of doubtful fidelity. In an engagement which ensued between the invaders and Ali bin Khalifah, the Chief of Bahrein, which was mainly brought about by treachery on the part of Mahomed bin Abdoollah, the Bahrein force was defeated, the Chief, Ali bin Khalifah, one of his sons, and several other Sheikhs were killed, and the rebels took the two chief towns of Bahrein, viz., Manemah and Maharaj. The former town (Manemah) was given up to plunder, in the course of which no distinction was observed between the property of British subjects and that of others. The entire amount of the booty has not been ascertained, but claims have been put in to the extent of 21,53,797 Krans,* or upwards of twelve lakhs of rupees.

5. Thereafter, Mahomed bin Abdoollah seized Mahomed bin Khalifah and threw him into prison, along with Khalifah, one of his sons. According to the most reliable information, he put Mahomed bin Khalifah to death a few days after, his object being to secure the Government of Bahrein for himself. He is now ruling in Manemah, where, however, he has little or no control over the Bedouins.

6. When Colonel Pelly received information of this daring violation of the maritime peace, he sent Captain Way in the *Dalhousie* to make all possible enquiries at Bahrein and bring away those British subjects who might wish to leave. Not one of them, however, availed himself of the offer. It appears that both at Bahrein and the port of Kateef the plundered property is being openly sold at one-fifth of its value, and the native British subjects prefer to remain and run all risks, which they have been told will be entirely on their own heads, in the hope of picking up the plunder cheap.

7. The punishment which Colonel Pelly suggests for this unprovoked outrage is the following:—

“*Firstly*, to blockade and otherwise use force against Bahrein until the leaders of the piracy, viz., Mahomed bin Abdoollah, Nassir bin Mobarick, also Mahomed bin Khalifah himself, supposing him to be still alive, should be surrendered.

Exd.—J. T. F.

सर्वाधिकार सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय ज्ञानसंस्थान
भारत सरकार के पास

"*Secondly*, and supposing the choice to be eligible on general considerations, to recognize the eldest son, Esau, of the late Ali bin Khalifah, as Chief of Bahrein.

"*Thirdly*, to come to an understanding with whatever Chief may be recognized, to the effect that the estates and other valuable property of the pirates and traitors, Mahomed bin Khalifah, Mahomed bin Abdoollah, and Nassir bin Mobarick, should be considered as forfeited, and that the produce or value of such property should be applied, in the first instance, towards the reimbursement of persons plundered," except those who have bought plundered property at nominal rates.

"*Fourthly*, to blockade Kateef and the other Wahabee ports on the mainland till the plundered property there deposited is restored, the invading Bedouins are publicly and severely punished, and the Kateef Governor is removed in disgrace.

"*Lastly*, pending the arrival of the ships, that he should be authorized (by telegraph) to address the Chiefs who are parties to the maritime truce and the Wahabee Government letters summarizing very briefly what has happened, and intimating the resolve of Government to punish adequately.

8. A telegram, of which I enclose a copy, has already conveyed to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay the decision of the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council on Colonel Pelly's proposals. With reference to the telegram of the 12th instant from His Excellency the Governor, His Excellency the Viceroy in Council is of opinion that Colonel Pelly's demand for the surrender of the offenders should not be limited to Mahomed bin Khalifah, regarding whose fate there appears to be some uncertainty; but must include Nassir bin Mobarick who aided Mahomed bin Khalifah in the attack on Bahrein, and Mahomed bin Abdoollah to whose treachery to his Chief the success of the attack is mainly to be attributed.

9. His Excellency in Council gathers from Colonel Pelly's reports that Esau, the eldest son of the late Chief, is of mature age. The proposal to recognize him as Chief in succession to his father is reasonable. After the surrender or capture of the three leaders in the attack has been effected, Colonel Pelly may recognize Esau as Chief, if circumstances seem favourable, and if he is of opinion that the feelings of the people are in favour of that course.

10. But His Excellency in Council is not in a position to pass any definite decision on Colonel Pelly's proposal to require the Chief whom we may recognize to confiscate the estates and property of the offenders as indemnity to those who have been plundered. The propriety of such a course must depend entirely on circumstances which cannot at present be foreseen. His Excellency in Council, however, does not think it expedient to demand payment of a fine which, in all probability, could not be paid.

11. As regards the proposed blockade of Kateef and the other Wahabee ports, His Excellency in Council is of opinion that no measure of this kind should be undertaken till the effect of the operations at Bahrein is ascertained. As the fort of Maharaj and the cannon were destroyed last year, His Excellency in Council does not anticipate any serious opposition to Colonel Pelly's proceedings; still His Excellency in Council does not think that Colonel Pelly has sufficient means to carry out operations simultaneously against Bahrein and the Wahabee ports. Moreover, the extent to which the Governor of Kateef and the Ameer of Riad are implicated in the attack on Bahrein, and the precise relations of Kateef to Riad, are matters of doubt, and His Excellency in Council desires that any operations against Kateef and the other ports be postponed until after the settlement of matters at Bahrein and receipt of a report, which Colonel Pelly can submit by telegraph, as to the necessity of the measure and the complicity of the Governor of Kateef in the outrage for which we are exacting satisfaction.

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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

S.I. 302-304.

Bahrein Affairs.

12. His Excellency in Council has already intimated by telegraph that Colonel Pelly may address the trucial Chiefs (who it is satisfactory to learn have shown no disposition to violate their engagements) in the terms suggested in the last paragraph of his letter No. 184, dated 5th October. But in the present uncertainty as to the measures which it may be needful to adopt with respect to the Wahabees, Colonel Pelly will see the necessity of great caution in making any communication to the Wahabee Ameer.

13. I am directed to draw your attention to the fact that, although your series of letters respecting Bahrein affairs extends over nearly the whole month of October, and although Colonel Pelly's letter containing definite recommendations for the punishment of Mahomed bin Khalifah and others is dated 5th October, and was forwarded by you on the 22nd, His Excellency has not had the advantage of being placed in possession of the opinion of the Bombay Government till the 13th November, and then only by telegraph. Further, from the enclosure of your letter No. 471, dated 4th November, which will be separately answered, His Excellency in Council observes that, in your instructions to Commander Douglas, which are not dated, you referred to the case of Bahrein, and, after intimating the probability of an expedition being undertaken, you directed Commander Douglas to take no further steps for this purpose until His Excellency the Governor should have had an opportunity of communicating with the Viceroy and giving further instructions. Under these circumstances, it would have materially assisted His Excellency in Council in arriving at a conclusion in this important matter, had a copy of the instructions to the Commander of the *Daphne* been communicated to this Government with an expression of opinion on the part of the Bombay Government on the day on which they were issued.

14. His Excellency in Council directs me to add that communication by telegraph on such important subjects is attended with great disadvantage, and should not be resorted to whenever time admits of the transmission of a letter by post.

No. 303.

No. 24, dated Fort William, 16th November 1869.

From—Government of India,

To—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Secretary of State for India.

In continuation of our despatch dated 4th October 1869, No. 325, relative to the state of affairs at Bahrein, we have the honor to forward a copy of the further papers specified in the accompanying Abstract of Contents, and to invite the attention of Your Grace to the telegrams dated 13th November and our letter to the Government of Bombay dated 14th idem, No. 1607, which contain our instructions as to the course to be adopted by the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No. 304.

Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 24, dated 16th November 1869.

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 24, dated 16th November 1869.

Forwarding a copy of the undermentioned papers:—

No. 2. _____

Abstract of Contents.

Copy.

Abstract translation of an Arabic letter dated 9th Shawul 1279 (corresponding with 29th March 1863) from Sultan Feroz Khan Sultan Agub, Imam of Muscat, to the address of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay.

After Compliments,

I have received a letter from Ibrahim Khan, Governor of Bampur, a copy of which I forwarded to Captain Dierbrow, Agent at Muscat, and I have despatched a reply to Rumshee with letters to the Commissioners in Sind.

I believe the Agent at Muscat is aware of the accounts received by me regarding the present state of affairs.

I cannot answer the Persian Governor until I hear from your Excellency.

Yours abstract Translation
 Fido Me Melville
 Agent Commissioner

Copy

Immediate

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N^o 56 of 1863.

From,

Captain Herbert Dismore

Acting Political Agent

To

Muscat.

S. Mansfield, Esquire

Commissioner in Charge

Secret Department.

Sir,

Dated Muscat 30th March 1863.

In my letter to your address N^o 54 of 1863, I communicated to you the nature of a rumour existing at this Port regarding certain movements of the Persians in Beloochistan, owing to the construction of our Telegraphic wire on the Arabian Coast. The present despatch forwarded "express" by one of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat's vessels of war will make known to you that, not only was the rumour in question correctly founded, but that Persian proceedings in the quarter referred to threaten, if left unchecked, to produce

serious

serious complications, which, unless skillfully handled, may prove detrimental to the interests of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat, detrimental to the tranquillity of Mehran and Beloochistan generally, and detrimental to the success of our Electric Telegraph now under construction on the McRae shore. —

2. From the enclosed copy and translation of a letter recently received by His Highness Syed Feroz, you will observe that the Governor of Bampur, a Persian Military Officer, declares his intention to establish himself at His Highness' port of Chahloor, unless His Highness consents to prevent us from erecting our telegraphic wire - Chahloor, too, though, so far as I can gather it has continued in the undisputed possession of the Rulers of Muscat for the last hundred years, is distinctly called by the Bampur Governor territory

territory lent, it is true, to the Sultan of Muscat, but nevertheless territory under the protection of Persia. —

The receipt of the above letter has naturally caused His Highness considerable anxiety, and has led to his deputed his Wazir to place the document before me, and solicit my opinion with respect to the reply I deem it prudent it should be forwarded to the writer thereof, also to inquire whether I consider it advisable that His Highness should send troops across to Chabbor for purposes of defence. The questions proposed to me involved points of evidently a most delicate character, points which, under ordinary circumstances, I should, perhaps scarcely have felt justified in furnishing replies to. Thrown, however, as His Highness apparently has been into a position of embarrassment by our proceedings in

* from Mullaga, His Highness' country seat. —

connection

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connection with Telegraphy on the
McKean shores and on territory professedly
belonging to His Highness, I should
it seems to me, have shown myself
wanting in generosity, if not in fairness,
had I refused to submit to His
Highness the opinion I hold on the
subject of his difficulties. Viewing the
matter in this light, I have responded
to His Highness' wishes, and for
your information I do myself the honor
respectfully to forward herewith a Document
exhibiting the character of the Counsel
I ultimately submitted.

A. I now proceed to offer a
few general remarks. —

B. I perceived the letter addressed
to His Highness the Sultan by the
Persian Military Governor of Kampoos
was not stated to have been written by