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authority from the Persian Government.
 I perceive, too, that it was worded in
 a tone devoid of propriety, and devoid of
 the respect due to His Highness. It
 was further clear to me after reflection
 that it would be unbecoming the
 dignity of His Highness the Sultan, as
 an Independent Sovereign, to exchange
 angry epistles, or to enter into particulars
 with a Persian subordinate officer who
 chose, professedly on his own responsibility,
 to address His Highness on matters
 so important and so delicate as those
 forming the subject of his communication.
 I could almost have wished, indeed
 that His Highness should not have
 condescended to reply at all to his

Persian

Persian correspondent. Such a course, however might perhaps, have scarcely been prudent. All things taken into consideration, therefore I entertain the hope that the style of rejoinder arranged in consultation with His Highness's Vizier will be deemed to have been not unsuitable.

And as regards my advice to the Sultan to await the receipt of intelligence from Kusahee, to exercise moderation, and not to dispatch troops to Shahbar at present, I trust this course, too, will be honored with approval.

His Highness, Syed Towayze, is of opinion, and I likewise am of opinion, that the Governor of Punjab, though he does not state the fact in his letter, has nevertheless in reality been acting under secret instructions conveyed to him either by the Supreme Government of Persia, or the local Government of Gurd. My experience, too, of Persian character had me to suspect that the language he holds may after all be merely the empty language of bluster, intended to intimidate the Sultan of Muscat and peculiar to the arrogance of the Persians.

Promising facts to stand as

I represent, and supposing no intention to exist on the part of the Government of Bombay or of Persia to occupy Chahbar, I conceive that moderation on the part of His Highness Syed Towaynee will in the actual stage of affairs be the wisest course His Highness can pursue.

Reverse the picture, and suppose the Persians to have an idea or an intention of eventually occupying Chahbar, still it appears to me that a temperate line of behaviour will, as matters now stand, be most advisable for His Highness.

I proceed to shew why - At present the Establishment at Chahbar is I believe, merely on a peace footing, and could scarcely offer active resistance.

Persian occupations, therefore, not fraught with embarrassments, would probably be a bloodless one, and the difficulties in the way of matters reverting to their original status, id est of Chahbar reverting to the possession of the Sultan of Muscat, would by no means, I trust be insurmountable. Did His Highness send across to Chahbar a body of troops inadequate for the purposes of defence against attack, it is possible that

collision

collision with the Persians, and perhaps bloodshed and defeat in consequence, might result to His Highness's dependents. If, on the other hand, His Highness despatched troops sufficient to secure his position against attack, still collision and bloodshed might possibly ensue; open enmity might be engendered between His Majesty the Shah of Persia and His Highness the Sultan of Muscat; we might by force of circumstances be drawn into the quarrel, and complications of long standing and innumerable might be the result. To the above observations, I will add that I have reason to suspect that, should His Highness send troops to Kohabar, a portion of the line of policy he might feel inclined to adopt, would be to endeavor to fan into a flame the feeling of aversion said to be held towards the Persians by a large body of people in Mekran & Beloochistan.

I conclude by remarking that I anxiously look for your instructions, and that I have to solicit you will do me the kindness to forward a copy of this despatch with its enclosures to

His

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His Excellency the Governor in Council
of Bombay. The reason I trouble you
with this request is, that I am anxious
the "Lioness," His Highness the Sultan's
Vessel, should leave as early as possible,
and time will not conveniently admit
of my preparing the several documents
for submission to Government.

I am intimating that I shall
transmit a copy of this despatch for
the joint information of Her Majesty's
charge d'affaires at Uchian, and
Colonel. Kelly, acting Political Resident
at Bushire.

I have &c.
Signed H. Osborne,
acting Political Agent
Muscat.

P.S. I forward, as Enclosure No. 3,
transcript of a letter from Meer
Abdullah dated 11th Rabi-ul-Khatem 1279
/2nd March 1863/ to His Highness Syed
Sowquer. Possibly this chief is the
Meer Abdullah adverted to by the
Reverend Percy Fodger in his
letter to Government, No. 9 of 1861,
as a powerful Beloocher chief, and

+ No. of June 3rd
from adu to
A Kinlock Forbes
Esq. Acting Secy.
to Govt. Bombay.

an

C. C. Stettell

an efficient ruler, who became tributary to Persia about the year 1448. This chief mentions amongst other matters in his letter that, at his intercession, Ibrahim Vishang, Governor of Pimpoon, consented to refrain from taking up his position at Shabar, on the condition that His Highness Syed Towayee should not give access to the English in Shabar or neighbouring tracts for the purpose of constructing a telegraphic wire.

Signed St. Disbrowe
acting Political Agent
Muscat

True copy

Signed M. Melville
Assistant Commissioner