

3981

Affairs in Persian Gulf.

of Saood bin Fysul had arrived at Bahrein, I lost no time in addressing the Chief in a friendly but serious manner, advising him wholly to refrain from in any way committing himself whether by word or by deed.

Copy of my letter enclosed.

4. In replying to the Commander of Her Majesty's *Maggie* I requested him also to impress on the Chief the contingencies consequent on a breach of neutrality, and the necessity for his being most vigilant in preventing his islands being utilized by the belligerents.

5. I trust that the tenor of my advice to the Chief may be approved.

No 35

Dated Bahrein, 10th July 1871.

From—F. PROBY DOUGHTY, Commander of Her Majesty's Ship *Maggie*,

To—LIEUT.-COL. LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Poltl. Resident, Persian Gulf.

HEARING that there is a boat going this afternoon to Bushire, I have the honor to forward to you the following gleanings of intelligence obtained by the Moonshee, Hajeè Cassim, supplied to this ship. I have no means of ascertaining the correct spelling of proper names, but trust they may be intelligible as written :—

The *Hugh Rose* with Major Smith left this anchorage on the 5th instant. On the 6th it was reported on shore at Bahrein that news had been received *via* Ajeejr by people arrived from Lahsa that Abdullah bin Fysul had been killed in action fighting against his brother at Rowaiza, also that many people had been killed on either side. The next morning I moved round to Kateef to hear what might be said there, also to ascertain if Major Smith's Moonshee had heard this report and sent you word.

At Kateef sent Moonshee on shore; the following is his report :—

Major Smith's Moonshee had left for Bahrein. Fight between Saood and Abdullah bin Fysul confirmed, but instead of at Rowaiza it was believed to have taken place in the valley called Negaar, and that Saood had been severely wounded; but it was generally believed that Abdullah had been killed, and this wise :—The brothers had two fights; in the first "Saood" had been worsted, losing "Fellah," son of Sheikh Ejeman, and a son of the Bedouin Sheikh, Rahakah, besides several others of note. Upon this he fell back till reinforced by another party of Bedouins, when he stood his ground and gave battle again. In this second fight Abdullah met "Saood" at the moment of their crossing swords. Sheikh Rahakah came up and speared Abdullah, who fell from his horse; seeing who it was over him, he asked for quarter, offering anything. Rahakah said, "my father you have slain and my son you have slain," and with his sword he cleared the score.

This intelligence appears to have been brought by Bedouins arriving; it was not supposed that any written account had arrived.

It was also reported at Kateef that many had fallen on either side; that Saood had been badly wounded in the leg by Abdullah, and that his people had carried him to "El-Riad" for change of air and quiet.

That the Bedouins that served Abdullah deserted at his death to Saood.

That the Turkish Commander-in-Chief (Ferak Pasha) is repairing the forts at Lahsa; that Ferak Pasha intends marching on El-Riad about the 15th of September, and that he is to be assisted by the Bedouins from Medjaz *via* Medina; and that he has ordered Ibrahim Beg (Governor of Kateef) to send him all the troops he has, leaving only three hundred for him to garrison his forts and keep the country quiet. To this movement it is objected, that with his camels, horses, and mules, &c., he will not be able at this season to find water for their support.

That the Bedouins that joined Ferak Pasha at first are discontented and wish to leave, but are detained. That Mahomed bin Thoweynee of Biddah has

सहायिका, सुराहत राप्तर कामिनाया  
भारत सरकार के कार्यालय

said to Ibrahim Beg that the English had asked for money (?); that if the Turks considered it as one of their places, they had better send soldiers there to keep it. It is further reported that Ibrahim Beg intended sending down some two hundred people under the command of Abdullah bin Subah of Koweit to mark out convenient sites for barracks, &c.

That Bin Thenneeyan, cousin of Saood, came to the people of Guttur wanting to buy provisions having with him a party of men. The people of Guttur would not allow them to enter the town, upon which Bin Thenneeyan intimated that he should seize if they would not sell, so got peaceably what they wanted.

That an order had been sent from Baghdad through Koweit to Ferak Pasha, recalling him to Baghdad, together with Suleiman Zohair, Sheikh of Zohair, near Busrah, who is on the Pasha's staff, and brought 500 men with him; but they seem so little to like their employment, that by small numbers they mostly deserted.

The Mobarek bin Subah, Sheikh of Koweit, is still at Lahsa.

That Ibrahim Beg is reported to have said that the Turks will not interfere with Bahrein if the Chief remains quiet.

That a round tower is to be built at Sihah and two at Demaum.

That Ibrahim Beg has appointed three to form a Council of Government for Kateef under the titles of Beg, Affendi, Aga.

The Beg—Sheikh Ahmed bin Mahdey.

Affendi—Said Majid.

Aga—a merchant of Kateef.

This Committee have examined the date groves and fruit gardens; they have pronounced them in a flourishing state. Ibrahim, under these circumstances, has claimed 10 per cent. of trees (their produce).

That Ibrahim Beg has restored landed property taken from people of Kateef by the Wahabees some eight or ten years since.

That Nauser bin Mobarek bin Abdullah, with the tribe of Beni Hajjer, has been appointed to guard the caravans between Lahsa and Ojeyr; he was brought to Ferak Pasha's notice by Mobarek bin Subah. Report from Lahsa that one-third of the Turkish troops are sick.

That Turks and others at Kateef have been much given to fermented liquors; that several burglaries have been committed and street disorders, in consequence of which Ibrahim Beg has issued stringent orders. Officers getting drunk are to be reduced, Privates flogged, and others to be chained by the leg and sweep streets; and houses are appointed for those who want a long drink, which they are not to leave till they are sober.

*Bahrein.*—I arrived at this anchorage on the 9th. That a son of Saood's, Abdool Azeez, a boy of eight or nine years old, arrived here on the 7th with 15 servants as body-guard on the plea of seeking cooler weather than he had had at Guttur. Supplies of sheep and goats are stopped from Kateef.

A report arrived yesterday that a Buggareh, laden with coffee some six weeks since at Deyyer for Bushire, was compelled through stress of weather to anchor at Kangun; that while there she was boarded by some of the inhabitants, her cable cut, plundered, and one man murdered. Under Ras Tennrah were anchored the Turkish sailing transport *Khoja Beg* and the Steamer *Athor*. The *Brussa* was reported to have left for Busrah. A small River Steamer (Tug) was anchored off Kateef Fort.

No. 36.

No. 918-452, dated Bushire, 19th August 1871.

From—LIBUT.-COL. LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Polt. Resident, Persian Gulf,  
To—COMMANDER F. P. DOUGHTY, R.N., Her Majesty's Ship *Maggie*, Bahrein.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter as per margin,  
and am obliged by the items of intelligence  
therein contained.

Dated Bahrein, 10th July 1871.

3983

Affairs in Persian Gulf.

2. Oblige me by most seriously impressing on the Chief of Bahrein the advisability of his absolutely refraining from in any manner or degree interfering with the affairs of the mainland, and of his refraining from permitting his islands to be made in any way a basis of operations.
3. The Chief could not, perhaps, consistently with the rights of hospitality, refuse shelter to an individual seeking it.
4. But I would advise him on no account to permit any armed men, provisions, or ammunitions of war to leave his islands for the coast of Kateef and Ojejr.
5. Pray impress on the Chief the consequences contingent on a breach of neutrality, and the necessity of his being most vigilant in preventing his islands being utilized by the belligerents.
6. I think the Chief would do well to keep his war crafts afloat, and station them at points whence they could observe any parties endeavouring to land on or quit the islands. But we could only suggest this.
7. I have asked Captain Lodder, Senior Naval Officer, to meet you at Bahrein deeming you would wish to consult with him on the state of your crew, as reported in your letter of the 2nd instant. I am glad to learn from your present letter that your men are improved in health
8. Should Captain Lodder arrive at Bahrein, oblige me by showing him this letter, adding that the reports I receive induce me to think the position of the Turkish expedition may become complicated.
9. It is very desirable that we keep Government thoroughly informed.

P.S.—*Hugh Rose* leaves Bushire to-day for Bahrein and takes on board all stores, mails, &c., for *Bullfinch* and *Maggie*.

It is advantageous to keep the intelligence Moonshees apart, otherwise they echo each others reports.

When they are obliged to report through separate channels, a spirit of emulation replaces that of copying.

They should always be on the alert ashore, in the coffee shops, at the Durbars, and everywhere, where news is to be gleaned.

No 37

No. 919-453, dated Bushire, 19th August 1871.

From—LIEUT.-COL. LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Pold. Resident, Persian Gulf,  
 To—COMMANDER E. F. LODDER, R.N., Commanding Her Majesty's Ship *Bullfinch*  
 and Senior Naval Officer, Her Majesty's Ship present in the Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to enclose a copy of a telegram which I addressed to you at Jask.

2. *Hugh Rose* leaves this to-day for Bahrein, and I am requesting her Commander to take across any stores, mails, &c., which may have arrived here for Her Majesty's Ship *Maggie* and for the ship under your command.

3. I beg that you will oblige me by causing Her Majesty's ships under your command to cruize, as arranged for in your letter of 8th July 1871 to my address.

4. The cruizing ground between Ras Tannoora and Rekkon, with Headquarters at Bahrein, is of more importance at present than is that of the Pirate Coast. If, therefore, you find yourself compelled to remove Her Majesty's Ship *Maggie* from her station at Bahrein, I beg you will replace her by Her Majesty's Ship *Bullfinch*.

5. Should Her Majesty's Ship *Maggie* have to move out of the Gulf, I beg you will oblige me by requesting her Commander to endeavour to show his ship along the Pirate Coast from Debai to Ras-ool-khyma, as I think you did not visit that coast after leaving Bushire.

शुद्धिकर, सुभाषित राष्ट्रिय अभिजातिका  
 भारत सरकार के कार्यालय  
 National Archives

3984

Affairs in Persian Gulf.

6. I am instructing the Commander of the Marine Gun-boat *Hugh Rose* to return to Bushire by the 2nd proximo, or sooner, if he have any matter of special and immediate importance to report. *Hugh Rose* would bring across any mails, &c., which you might cause to be delivered to her Commander, and would in like manner take back to Bahrein any mails, &c., arriving at Bushire by the next steamer from Bombay.

7. You will observe from a letter I am to-day addressing to the Commander of Her Majesty's Ship *Maggie* that I deem the position of the Turks and Arabs on the Kateef coast to be complicated, and that it is very desirable that Bahrein should keep free of every semblance of interference, and from any appearance of breach of neutrality.

No 38

Translated purport of MIRZA ABOOL CASSIM's Report, to Resident, Persian Gulf, dated Bahrein, 8th August 1871. Received 16th August 1871.

I HAVE heard from Kateef that Ibrahim Beg gives out that he has received orders from the Turkish Government that so long as the Chief of Bahrein refrains from interfering in the affairs of Saood and in giving annoyance to the Turkish Government he would not be touched. But if he be found helping Saood and interfering in his affairs, it would be necessary to take another course.

If this be true, in the first instance the son of Saood is now present at Bahrein and intends obtaining provisions for his followers of the Ejman and Murrah tribes located at Guttur. There is no doubt that Sheikh Esau will supply these provisions.

2ndly.—Many Bedouins of Saood's party have arrived at Bahrein awaiting intelligence; if they hear of the arrival of Saood at Lahsa, they will join him there.

3rdly.—Sheikh Esau when in mejlis and surrounded by all sorts of people, friends, and foe, speaks in favour of Saood, praying that he may be successful, and speaks ill of the Turks.

There is no doubt that those who hear him communicate his sayings here and there, especially the Arabs, who, when they once hear anything, magnify it ten times and make it reach the party interested.

I have heard *via* Ojeyr that orders have been received for Ferak Pasha to seize Nauser bin Mobarek. He was seized accordingly.

Sheikh Esau returned from hunting to-day and met the son of Saood.

News received from Kateef to effect that many of the Beni Hajjer who were in the fight with Abdullah fled to Kateef after the defeat.

Letters have been sent to Baghdad by the Steamer *Aloos*.

Orders have been received by Ibrahim Beg from Lahsa to send the troops in Kateef to his aid at Lahsa. The troops leave to-morrow, about 800 in all.

The Turkish authorities showed alarm on hearing of the defeat of Abdullah and success of Saood.

Abdullah bin Suneyan, with the Ejman tribe located at Kateef, hearing of the death of Abdullah left their place and intended to join Saood whose subjects they are.

A boat arrived from Aboothabee containing letters for Saood for despatch by Sheikh Esau. These letters contained complaints against Mahboob, lately placed in Beraymee by the Aboothabee Chief on the part of Saood.

It is reported the sickness has disappeared from Oman, and that the divers are employed fishing.

Affairs in Persian Gulf.

3985

No. 39.

No. 433, dated <sup>1st Jemadec-oos-sanee 1288.</sup>  
18th August 1871

From—LIEUT.-COL. LEWIS FELLY, C.S.I., H. B. M.'s Poltl. Resident, Persian Gulf,  
To—SHEIKH ESAU BIN ALI, Chief of Bahrein.

I HAVE earnestly to impress on you that if you understand and value your own interests, you should on no account interfere with the affairs of Nejd and the Turks, nor in any way allow your island to become a point whence men or provisions be sent to the mainland.

I hear the child of Saood bin Fysul is come to Bahrein. If he remain there quietly, it is well. But you cannot permit him to depart with any warlike following without endangering the safety of your own rule and territory.

I have again earnestly to impress on you to absolutely refrain from giving any cause of annoyance, either by word or by deed, to either of the belligerent parties.

Is it true that the Turks have seized Nauser bin Mobarek ?

No. 40.

No. 1023-273, dated Bushire, 12th September 1871.

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

REFERRING to my letter as per margin, and more particularly to my letter No. 973-253, dated 28th of August 1871. to the Chief of Bahrein, a copy of which formed an Appendix to my letter, I have now the honor to enclose a translated purport of a reply I have received from the Chief dated the 24th ultimo, giving assurances of his resolve to observe a strict neutrality in regard to the contest now proceeding between the Turks and Wahabees.

No. 41.

Dated <sup>7th Jemadec-oos-sanee 1288.</sup>  
24th August 1871 Received 1st September 1871.

Translated purport of a letter from SHEIKH ESAU BIN ALI AL KHALEEFA, to Resident, Persian Gulf.

I AM, thank God and the British Government, in security and in good health, my islands and subjects are also secure and at peace.

I have received your letter of the 1st Jemadec-oos-sanee per Captain Guthrie, and was very happy to learn from it your advice to refrain from interfering with the Turkish Government in view to enjoying peace and quietness. It is well known that I have warned all not to commit themselves in any way, especially in regard to what may be opposed to the wishes of the British Government. I will not swerve from your advice, and am obedient to all your commands, great and small, as we are subjects of the British Government. I keep myself aloof from the Turks and the Nejdees, and am thankful for the peace I enjoy.

The son of Saood has come here. He is a child with ten followers, and has been compelled to seek protection here. I wrote to you in my previous letter of his arrival, and enquired whether I should let him remain here, or excuse myself from keeping him. He is not mixed up with the proceedings of the Bedouins. I have set about turning the Bedouins out, and do not care to see them at all, as only loss accrues from their presence.

Thanks to the Sirkar I have no need of them or any one else.

In regard to Nauser bin Mobarek, I heard last time that he was under surveillance, so that he may not be able to leave Lahsa, but I have not yet heard of his imprisonment.

3986

MARCH 1872.

Affairs in Persian Gulf.

S. 42.

No. 42.

No. 2810P., dated Fort William, 30th December 1871.

From—C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.,

To—W. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

I HAVE laid before the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council your letter No. 5712, dated the 28th ultimo, forwarding a copy of two further communications from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf relative to the position of affairs at Bahrein, &c.

2. His Excellency in Council observes that these letters from Colonel Pelly are dated respectively the 14th and 28th August 1871, but were despatched so late as to reach this Government only on the 2nd December. They contain many items which are of considerable interest, and which throw much light on the tendency and proclivities of the Chief of Bahrein. His Excellency in Council looks upon these items of intelligence as important, and regrets very much that he was not made acquainted with them before.

3. I am to remark that delay in the submission of documents of the nature referred to not only detracts from their interest, but renders the conduct of affairs of delicacy and moment a matter of no little difficulty. In March

\* From Secretary to Government of Bombay, No. 95, dated 16th March 1869.  
To Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 430, dated 25th March 1869.

1869\* the Bombay Government proposed to forward, on receipt, all letters of importance from the Persian Gulf, Aden, &c., and to submit their views on such communications in a subsequent despatch, an arrangement which was fully approved by the Government of India. But in letter No. 2117P., dated 5th December 1870, the Government of India found it necessary to call attention to the delay which had, notwithstanding, been suffered to occur in the transmission of important papers; and quite recently† His Excellency in Council had occasion to notice the omission to send some despatches from Colonel Pelly till they were specially called for by this Office.

† Letter No. 2703 dated 19th December 1871.

4. I am accordingly directed to request that the arrangement approved, as above mentioned, in letter No. 430, dated 25th March 1869, may be adhered to, letters from the Persian Gulf containing information of importance or interest being on receipt forwarded to the Government of India. An intimation being at the same time made in cases in which it is intended that the opinion of the Bombay Government should follow.

9

Exd.—J. T. F.

वर्षा १९०५, सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार  
भारत सरकार के आदेश  
Eight years in the National Archive

3987

1097.

No. 950-105, dated Bushire, 7th August 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith translation of a letter dated 20th June last, addressed to me by Sheikh Zaid-bin-Khulifah, Chief of Aboothabee, on the subject of his complaints against certain persons whom he asserts to be his subjects, and who have settled at a place called Odeyd on the Arab Coast westward of Aboothabee.

2. The correspondence noted in the margin, of which for convenient reference copies are annexed, will explain how this matter stood a year ago.

3. The Chief of Aboothabee subsequently at an interview with Colonel Pelly at Muscat again pressed the matter on Colonel Pelly's notice. The reply he received induced him to elect to defer any action against Odeyd.

4. In June last I visited this Chief, who brought this matter forward. Not having the correspondence on the subject before me, I excused myself from giving any opinion.

5. The object of this Chief's frequent references to the Resident is this: he wishes to attack the inhabitants of Odeyd, and to send an expedition by sea for that purpose, as on account of the numerous creeks a land expedition is impracticable. Before taking such a step he considers himself bound by his crucial engagements to consult the Resident, and demand his permission to do so.

6. I respectfully solicit the instructions of Government to the terms in which I should reply to the Chief of Aboothabee's present application.

1098.

Translated purport of a letter from ZAID-BIN-KHULIFAH, Chief of Aboothabee, to Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 24th Rubi-ool-awul 1290 = 20th June 1873, received 10th July 1873.

LET it not be hidden from you that the time when I, Colonel Pelly, and yourself met at Muscat, you were aware of what passed between us concerning my country Odeyd and of the turbulent people living there. It is not a secret from you that Colonel Pelly said on his return from his voyage he will do something to meet my wishes. You also know what it is. It is now necessary to inform you that you will oblige me by doing what is necessary.

1099.

No. 1255, dated Bombay Castle, 29th February 1872.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Political Department.*

READ the following:—

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 247-52, dated 11th March 1871.

Reports his proceedings in connection with a complaint of the Aboothabee Chief that certain Arabs and others had entered his territories and settled at a point named Odeyd, and which Settlement the Chief more than once represented was in many respects inconvenient to him, detracting severely from the prosperity of his principal township, and affording refuge to parties fleeing their territories, &c.

3988

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 848-219, dated the 31st July 1871.

Submits, with reference to his report No. 247-52 of 1871, copy of a report from his Assistant, Major Smith, regarding the affairs of Odeyd in relation to the Chief of Aboothabee.

States that the supposition is that if Aboothabee now attempt to coerce the colonists they will accept the Turkish flag, and so further complicate matters, and solicits instructions as to the position he should observe towards the Aboothabee Chief and the colonist. Makes remarks.

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 1224-359, dated 1st November 1871.

Submits, with reference to his letter No. 848-219 of 31st July 1871, translation of a letter from the Chief of Aboothabee, urgently desiring an intimation of the views of Government regarding the dispute between him and the colonists at Odeyd.

RESOLUTION.—It does not appear in what manner Government could intervene in this matter, or with what object the Chief has addressed Colonel Pelly. Further information is awaited.

(True Extract,)

(Sd.) W. WEDDERBURN,

Acting Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay.

No 100,

No. 3297, dated Bombay Castle, 5th June 1872.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Political Department.

READ the following :—

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1228P., dated 31st May 1872, stating, in reply to this Government letters Nos. 1261 and 2584 of 1872, that as no attack has been made by the colonists at Odeyd upon the Chief of Aboothabee by sea, it does not appear that any action on the part of the Resident in the Persian Gulf under the Maritime Truce is called for; and adding that it will be unnecessary for Colonel Pelly to interfere unless he apprehends a breach of the peace at sea between the parties, but that he should report at once if there is any overt action indicating the intention of the Turks to establish their supremacy at Odeyd.

RESOLUTION.—Copy should be forwarded to Colonel Pelly for guidance.

(True Extract,)

(Sd.) J. WALKER,

for Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay.

No 101,

No. 1029-117, dated Bushire, 20th August 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, a précis of intelligence received from the Bahrein News Agent.



3989

2. It will be observed that the News Agent states that it was reported at Kuteef that Turkish troops were about to be sent to Oman under Ferek Pasha; also that at Ojair, which is a part of Nejd further south than Kuteef, it was rumoured that Turkish troops had embarked thence for Guttur in view of a move on Oman. It was further rumoured that the "people of Oman" had sent in their submission, and desired permission to hoist the Turkish flag.

3. In a semi-official letter dated 7th, Major Grant writes as follows:—"I asked a Nakhoda of Hajee Abdool Nubbee, who is said to be a trustworthy man, to bring me what news he could from Kuteef. He returned yesterday, and says that the people were talking of an intended expedition of the Turks to Aboothabee, and that a steamer with a few troops on board sailed southward from Kuteef when he was there. If they are making a move in that direction, you will probably hear of it sooner than I will."

4. Although these reports being from hearsay cannot be considered reliable, still I cannot but feel apprehensive that there is some foundation for the statements so persistently made. I have accordingly instructed Major Grant to proceed to such points of the Arab Coast as he considers advisable, and ascertain whether there is truth or not in the rumours.

5. I have also considered the matter sufficiently serious to require to acquaint Government by telegram. A copy of this communication is attached.

6. It is almost certain that in the present position of affairs the Turks would not send a *hostile* expedition against Aboothabee, or any other Oman seaport. If any despatch of troops in that direction be contemplated, it will doubtless be under cover of an invitation from the Arabs themselves, and it may be worth while to consider whether there is any likelihood of such an invitation being given.

7. I consider that the present condition of the affairs of the Aboothabee Chief might lead to Turkish intervention in one of three eventualities—

*1stly.*—The Arab settlers of Eb-Odeyd might seek Turkish protection against the Chief of Aboothabee should the latter attempt to coerce them.

*2ndly.*—The Chief of Aboothabee might ask aid of Turkish troops or vessels to coerce Odeyd. (With regard to the dispute between the Chief of Aboothabee and Odeyd, I would beg reference to my letter No. 950-105, dated 7th instant, and accompaniments.)

*3rdly.*—The Chief of Aboothabee might be induced to invite Turkish intervention in the affairs of Oman.

I am disinclined to think this Chief would be so reckless, but the Oman Arabs are notoriously short-sighted, and will often sacrifice much for momentary gratification. Sheikh Zaid-bin-Khulifah cherishes the most bitter hatred against Debaye on one side. On the other side he is discontented about the Forts of Bereymee. In former times Sheikh Zaid exercised much influence over a branch of the Naéem tribe which now holds Bereymee. He was in the habit of visiting that place yearly and residing in the Fort, but latterly he has been excluded. It is not to be overlooked therefore that an understanding between Sheikh Zaid and the Turks with the object of placing Bereymee in the hands of the latter might have attractions for both sides.

8. In September of last year, the Chief of Aboothabee, when on a visit to Muscat, informed me he had a letter from some Turkish authority, which he viewed as an invitation to recognize the supremacy of the Ottoman Government. A report of this was made and forwarded to the Government of Bombay by the Resident with his letter No. 1613-443, dated 5th October 1872. Sheikh Zaid afterwards, I recollect, personally consulted Colonel Pelly as to what reply he should send to the said letter.

9. There is no doubt, I think, that the Turkish Arabian authorities consider both Aboothabee and Bereymee as portions of the province of Nejd,

3990

and that they would gladly seize any favorable opportunity of possessing themselves of especially the latter place.

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*P.S.*—As the mail is closing, I have received a report from the 1st Assistant Resident, who is now at Bahrein, dated 16th August. Major Grant had ascertained that no considerable body of Turkish troops had hitherto been despatched southward from Kuteef. A person who had been sent to Guttur for intelligence reported that the rumour of some movement towards Oman was also current at that place. It was said letters had been written by Turkish authorities to Aboothabee, Debaye, and Shargah.

This is, however, still merely rumour.

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*No. 10102,* Précis of news received from Bahrein Agent in August 1873.

*1st August.*—Abdoollah-bin-Feysul said to be still near Kowait, and to have attacked and plundered the El Ejman tribe who had been encamped in his vicinity.

Abdoollah and Saood said to be corresponding in view to peace, but such an event considered improbable, as they have no faith in each other.

Abdool Azeez, the son of Saood-bin-Feysul, has left Bahrein with 50 or 60 followers with the intention of joining his father in Nejd by way of Suffenah.

*2nd August.*—Sixteen prisoners are said to have been taken to Kuteef from Ojair in Turkish ship *Assoor* for conveyance to Baghdad. The prisoners are supposed to be from Lahsa and Nejd.

It is reported from Kuteef that the ship *Assoor* returned to Ojair for the purpose of taking to Oman a body of troops which had arrived from Lahsa. Ferek Pasha, the person who conquered Lahsa, is to arrive at Kuteef, and take command of the troops proceeding to Oman.

*3rd August.*—A wealthy inhabitant of Lahsa, named Hemlee, is said to have fled the place from fear of annoyance at the hands of the Turks, and arrived at Bahrein, where the Sheikh Esan-bin-Ali has allowed him to remain.

*4th August.*—News from Ojair to effect that *Assoor* embarked troops at Ojair, and went to Guttur, intending thence to proceed to Oman, but number of troops not known, although said to have arrived from Lahsa and pure Turks. Troops had given out that people of Oman had sent in their submission, and sought aid and permission to hoist the Turkish flag, and that this had induced the Turkish Government to meet their wishes.

The Naem tribe have located themselves in the old Fort of Zobareh on the Guttur coast, but only four hours' sail from Bahrein in fair weather. The Chief of Bahrein being in friendly terms with this tribe, has aided them in workmen for the repair of the fort. The climate of Zobareh being good, it is believed most of the people of Guttur will congregate here, if the Chief of Naem makes his settlement at this place.

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*No. 10103,* No. 2570 P., dated Simla, 27th October 1873.

From—Secretary to Government, Foreign Department,  
To—Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

In acknowledging receipt of your letters noted in the margin, and in continuation of my letter No. 2072 P., dated 9th September last, I am directed to state that, in the absence of reliable information, His Excel-

No. 950-105, dated 7th August 1873.  
No. 1029-117, dated 23rd August 1873.

3991

lency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council considers it unnecessary at present to take any action with respect to the rumoured movement of Turkish troops on Oman. Your communications under acknowledgment will be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

2. With regard to the application of the Chief of Aboothabee for permission to attack Odeyd, I am to refer you to the instructions conveyed in my No. 1228 P., dated 31st May, to the Bombay Government. No answer need be given to the Chief unless he presses for one. In this event he should be told that not only will the Government of India give no countenance to any expedition on his part by sea, but that they will take active measures to prevent it.

*See 104*

No. 1188-144, dated Bushire, 19th September 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persiau Gulf,  
To—Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department.

WITH reference to previous reports as per margin, I have now the honor to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, a letter No. 40, dated 3rd instant, from Major Grant, reporting the information he acquired on the Oman Coast concerning the alleged designs of the Turkish authorities of extending their influence to Oman. Translations of letters addressed to the Chiefs of Debaye and Aboothabee by a Turkish officer, named Yusuff Effendi, and of a letter addressed to me by Sheikh Zaid-bin-Khulifah of Aboothabee, are attached.

2. It appears from the correspondence that the Turkish authorities of Nejd are endeavouring to establish a friendly understanding with the Trucial Chiefs of Oman for political or commercial purposes. According to the wording of Yusuff Effendi's letters, the latter object is in view, but at the same time I understand the words used to inquire after "rates" and "news" taken in conjunction may refer to the state of affairs or popular feeling.

3. It will be observed the Chiefs of Debaye and Aboothabee disclaim any wish to enter into relations with the Turkish authorities, and I feel sure none of them would at present trust themselves in the hands of the Turks.

4. I do not feel sure that the Chief of Aboothabee does not know more about this Turkish correspondence than he pretends. Expressions in Yusuff Effendi's letter to him might lead one to think previous letters had passed, and it is somewhat significant that the Turkish officer should wish this Chief to write letters to the others.

5. Whilst these letters do not themselves prove any intention of the Turks to interfere politically in Oman, yet, coupled with the generally received reports, I think there is ground to view their operations in that quarter with vigilant distrust.

6. It is for Government to decide whether it would be advisable to obtain from the Turkish Government an explanation of their proceedings.

*( See docket below )*

*See 103*

No. 40, dated Bahrein, 3rd September 1873.

From—First Assistant Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to report that in obedience to your instructions conveyed in your letter No. 991-338, dated 15th August 1873, I proceeded in Her Majesty's *May Frere* to visit the Oman coast on the 29th ultimo.

*No. 2649 P. dated Simla the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 1873.*

*Endorsed by Foreign Dept.*

भारत सरकार, मुंबई  
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3992

2. I proceeded first to Shargah, where I saw the Native British Agent, who told me that he had heard nothing of the rumoured Turkish movements towards Oman, and that he had no reason to suspect that any of the Trucial Chiefs were corresponding with the Turkish authorities.

3. On the evening of the same day I proceeded to Debaye. The Chief was unable to call on me owing to his being laid up with fever, but Mirza Abdool Cassim visited him on shore, and returned in the evening with the copy of a letter which the Chief had received that day from the Turkish authorities at Guttur. This copy, with translate, I now enclose for your information. The Mirza says that the Chief stated repeatedly that he had held no intercourse of any kind with the Turkish authorities, and was quite at a loss to understand the meaning of their letter. The Mirza also says that he saw a sealed letter from the Turkish authorities addressed to the Chief of Shargah. I wrote a letter to that Chief requesting him to send the letter to Bushire as soon after perusal as possible.

4. From Debaye I went to Aboothabee, where I arrived on 30th ultimo. The Chief came to call on me, and brought a letter in original, which he had received from the Turkish authorities at Guttur. This letter, with translate, I now forward. The Chief declared that he was quite unable to understand the meaning of the letter, or the reason why it had been sent to him, as he has never had any communications whatever with the Turkish authorities.

5. The *May Frere* on her return to Bahrein, where I intended to disembark, met with bad weather, which delayed her some time; she arrived at Bahrein at sunset on the 3rd instant.

*e/106*

Translated purport of a letter from YUSUFF EFFENDI, Yawar (Assistant) of His Excellency FEREK PASHA, to SHEIKH HASBER-BIN-MUKTOON (Chief of Debaye).

At this date, the 5th day of Jemadi-ool-sani 1290 (30th July 1873), I arrived with the Government vessel at Guttur. I heard from some (people) that you wished to have an interview with the Pasha. I do not know what day you will come. If you will come, I will take the Government vessel and come on your account. You should soon write to me a letter, and "Inshallah" (D. V.) After a month I will come with the Government vessel to your parts, and you will in a pleasant manner embark, and have an interview with the Pasha. You should write a letter to Ferek Pasha, and send it to Guttur, so that Ali Effendi may forward it to the Ferek. As regards prices (of merchandize) and news, write a letter soon, &c. Dated 5th Jemadi-ool-sani 1290 (30th July 1873).

*e/107*

Translated purport of a letter from YUSUFF, Yawar of FEREK PASHA, to SHEIKH ZAID-BIN-KHULIFAH (Chief of Aboothabee).

I MENTION to you (I remind you) regarding the townships of Oman, that you should write letters to them. As regards prices and news of Oman, you should soon write to me a reply. I am now going to El-Hassa, and whatever the news, write to the Kol-Aghasee Ali Effendi at Guttur. I have at this date, the 5th day of Jemadi-ool-sani 1290, come with the Government vessel to Guttur, and enquired about you, but heard no news. You should on receipt of this letter return a reply with prices to the Ferek Pasha, sending it to Kol-Aghasee Ali Effendi, who will forward it to El-Hassa. Dated 5th Jemadi-ool-sani 1290 (30th July 1873).

*e/108*

Translated purport of a letter from SHEIKH ZAID-BIN-KHULIFAH, Chief of Aboothabee, to COLONEL E. C. ROSS, Acting Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 6th Rujub 1290 = 31st August 1873; received 8th September 1873.

MAJOR GRANT came here, and I saw him. He enquired for news, and I told him all the news of these parts.

3993

As regards the Turks, I have no information about them. But in these days I received a letter from one Yusuff Effendi, whom I do not know. This letter will reach you by the hand of your Assistant, and Inshallah, you will learn its purport. You know we are poor people (divers) seeking a livelihood, and always keep to our agreement with the Sirkar without infracting it.

*10209,*  
Translated purport of a letter from the British Agent, Arab Coast, Shargah, to the Resident Persian Gulf, No. 127, dated 6th Rujub 1290 = 31st August 1873.

IN reference to your letter No. 407, concerning Chief of Aboothabee, and his communications with the Turkish Government, nothing is certain, but it is rumoured that he is in correspondence with the Turkish authorities at Guttur.

There is nothing known concerning the intended move of the Turks to Oman, but sometimes letters arrive from them, and it is their wish to interfere in the affairs of the Chiefs. The Chiefs do not agree to the domination of the Turks; from Debaye to Ras-el-Khyma all are of one mind. Their only fear is from the Chief of Aboothabee, who may introduce the Turks there.

The Fort of Bereymee is now in possession of the Chief of Shargah; the enmity between the Chiefs of Shargah and Aboothabee is on account of the Fort of Bereymee; the latter has always an eye over it, but as yet has not been able to do anything to it, nor to the tribe, Naeem, who are there, and the Beni Chaab.

*10410,* No. 202, dated Camp Agra, *21* November 1873.

From—Government of India,  
To—Secretary of State for India.

IN continuation of our Despatch No. 130, dated 28th July last, we have the honor to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the papers specified in the accompanying Abstract of Contents relating to affairs in Nejd and Bahrein, and rumoured movements of Turkish troops on Oman.

*10411,*  
*Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 202, dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 1873.*

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 202, dated *21<sup>st</sup>* November 1873. Forwards copies of the under-mentioned papers:—

No. 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Abstract of Contents.

No. 3.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. Forwards copies of three letters from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf regarding a dispute between the Chief of Aboothabee and the colonists of Odeyd.  
29th February 1872, No. 1256.  
(Proceedings, Political A., March 1872, Nos. 868-878.)

No. 4.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. With reference to above, forwards copy of further letter from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, on the subject.

2nd May 1872, No. 2584.  
(Proceedings, Political A., June 1872, Nos. 66-67.)

3994

No. 5.—To the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

31st May 1872, No. 1228P.

(Proceedings, Political A., June 1872, No. 68.)

In reply directs that Colonel Pelly should not interfere unless he apprehends a breach of peace at sea. Any attempts of the Turks to establish supremacy at Odeyd to be at once reported.

No. 6.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

7th August 1873, No. 943-98.

(Proceedings, Political A., September 1873, No. 62.)

Forwards, with remarks, copy of a précis of intelligence from the Assistant Resident, Bahrein, regarding Nejd affairs.

No. 7.—Telegram from Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

16th August 1873.

(Proceedings, Political A., September 1873, No. 61.)

Intimates that frequent rumours reach Bahrein of intended move of a Turkish detachment from Nejd to Oman Coast, and offers remarks relative thereto.

No. 8.—To Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

9th September 1873, No. 2072P.

(Proceedings, Political A., September 1873, No. 64.)

With reference to above, states that further information will be awaited on the subject.

No. 9.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

7th August 1873, No. 950-105.

Submits, for the orders of Government, translation of a letter from the Chief of Aboothabee, relative to his complaints against certain persons whom he asserts to be his subjects, and who have settled at Odeyd.

No. 10.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

20th August 1873, No. 1029-117.

Forwards, with remarks, a précis of intelligence from the Bahrein News Agent, and communicates substance of a report from the First Assistant Resident, Bahrein, dated 16th August 1873.

No. 11.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

27th October 1873, No. 2570P.

Acknowledges receipt of above, and states that it is premature to address the Porte about rumoured movements of Turkish troops on Oman. Regarding application of Aboothabee Chief to attack Odeyd, refers to previous orders and directs that the Chief may be informed that any expedition by sea will be prevented.

3995

No. 12.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

19th September 1873, No. 1188-144.

(Copy to Political Agent, Turkish Arabia.)

With reference to previous reports, transmits a letter from Major Grant reporting the information he has acquired on the Oman Coast concerning the alleged designs of the Turkish authorities of extending their influence to Oman. The Chiefs of Debaye and Aboothabee disclaim any wish to enter into relations with the Turkish authorities.

Note.—Copies of the papers entered as Nos. 3 to 5 in this Abstract are not sent. They will be found recorded in the Volumes of Proceedings as indicated opposite those numbers.

*No 19*

No. 348-16, dated Bushire, 22nd March 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for submission to Government, translated purport of letters received by me from the Chief of Shargah, and our Native Agent on the Pirate Coast, concerning the slave-trade on that Littoral.

N.B.—Copy forwarded to India Office direct.

*No 20*

Dated 25th Zilhaj 1289 = 26th February 1873.

Translated purport of a letter from SALIM BIN SULTAN, Chief of Shargah, to Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I WAS very happy to receive your letter of 15th Jemadi-ul-Sani, with two copies of Treaties entered into by my father, Sultan bin Suggur.

I beg to inform you that as regards fresh importations of male and female slaves I have prohibited all my subjects and the vessels in my territories from trading in slaves.

All slaves that come into my territories I seize according to the terms of the Treaty and make over to the Government Agent.

The Government Agent has no doubt informed you that I seized the slaves that were brought to my territories in a British vessel, and made them over to the Agent.

You may rest assured that I shall carry into effect whatever the Government may desire, and am always happy to receive your commands.

*No 21*

No. 32, dated 26th Zilhaj 1289 = 27th February 1873.

Translated purport of a letter from Native Agent, Arab Coast, to Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I HAVE received your letter of 10th Zilhaj.

My reasons for not giving you intelligence about slaves was owing to the vessels engaged in this trade having gone to Africa, but none had returned to the Arab shore again.

I have also not received any intelligence from the persons I have placed in the surrounding countries for this purpose; no slaves having been brought I failed to send any report. But I am not unmindful of my instructions, and will send a report hereafter monthly.

*No 22*

No. 6-152, dated Zanzibar, 1st April 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Agent and Consul, Zanzibar,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to report that on my return from Mombassa, on the African Coast, where I had been called to join His Excellency Sir Bartle Frere,

3996



3997

I communicated to His Highness Syed Burgash that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General had been pleased to appoint me as Agent at Zanzibar.

2. His Highness the following day addressed me a complimentary letter, acknowledging the appointment, expressing at the same time his confidence that our old friendship and long acquaintance would secure and strengthen the good relations of the two countries.

*No 23*

No. 8-160, dated Zanzibar, 3rd April 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Agent and Consul, Zanzibar,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to report having published to the Indian community here the proclamation of His Highness the Rao of Kutch, dated 16th December 1872, warning his people residing in Zanzibar not to engage, either directly or indirectly, in the slave-trade, and pointing out the danger incurred by their doing so in any way.

In order to make the substance of this notice fully known, I have, before posting at the door of the English Consulate, caused it to be read in public by the various Indian communities, and had copies in Guzeratee prepared to be sent to various places on the Coast, particularly to Quiloa, the centre of the traffic.

The publication of this notice of His Highness will, I imagine, be productive of a great effect in deterring Indians from dealing with Arabs of doubtful character, but of whose slave-trading there might be difficulty in getting legal proof.

*No 24*

No. 492-32, dated Bushire, 21st April 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf;  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of translated purport of a letter received from Sheikh Zayed bin Khuleefa, Chief of Aboothabee, consenting to observe the terms of the Treaty for prohibiting importation of slaves in his territory.

Dated 5th Mohurram 1290 = 5th March 1873.

N. B.—Copy forwarded to India Office direct.

*No 25*

Translated purport of a letter from SHEIKH ZAYED BIN KHULEEFA, Chief of Aboothabee, to Acting Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 5th Mohurram 1290 = 5th March 1873.

BE it known to you that I received a letter from Colonel Pelly, Resident in the Persian Gulf, in regard to the Treaty about importation of slaves.

This Treaty exists intact, and I am always careful to see that it is not infringed.

No. 146SP, dated Simla, 4th July 1873.

Endorsed by the Foreign Department.

Copy forwarded to the Bombay Government for information.

3998

No 26

No. 555-41, dated Bushire, 3rd May 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for submission to the Right Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, a copy of the letter noted in the margin, which I have received from the Acting Political Agent at Muscat, with enclosures, being copy in Arabic and English of the Treaty entered into by His Highness Syed Toorkee, Sultan of Muscat, with His Excellency Sir Bartle Frere, Her Britannic Majesty's Special Envoy for the suppression of slave-trade, and also copy and translation of a proclamation issued by His Highness, abolishing the traffic in his dominions.

No 27

No. 173-69, dated Muscat, 18th April 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Agent and Consul, Muscat,  
To—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I DO myself the honor to forward herewith, for your information, copy of the Treaty in Arabic and English entered into by His Highness Syed Toorkee with His Excellency Sir H. B. E. Frere, Her Majesty's Special Envoy to Zanzibar and Muscat, for the more complete suppression of the slave-trade in His Highness' dominions.

2. His Excellency Sir B. Frere, before his departure, gave me certain instructions with regard to this Treaty, requesting me at the same time to furnish you with a memorandum of them, to the effect that until the Treaty had been submitted to and ratified by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and until further orders and directions had been received from Government on the subject, I was not to consider the provisions of it in force, or to act upon it in any way.

3. Further, that as His Highness Syed Toorkee had so frankly and unhesitatingly responded to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government in this matter, it was advisable he should be met in the same spirit when carrying the Treaty into effect, that it was not intended to authorize any unnecessary interference or intrusion, or generally any precipitate and arbitrary measures calculated to cause disaffection among His Highness' subjects and embarrassment to him in his relations with them; and that I was to be careful to avoid as far as possible any annoyance or irritation to His Highness.

4. I need hardly observe that His Excellency's instructions will be most carefully observed by me.

5. His Highness yesterday issued a proclamation, abolishing all traffic in slaves in his dominions from henceforth, copy and translation of which are herewith appended. As this has been entirely spontaneous on the part of His Highness, I trust it will be taken as an indication of his full and earnest intentions to carry out his engagements to the utmost.

TREATY.

PREAMBLE.

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and His Highness the Syed Toorkee bin Syed, Sultan of Muscat, being desirous to give more complete effect to the engagements entered into by the Sultan and his predecessor for the perpetual abolition of the slave-trade, they have agreed to conclude a Treaty for this purpose which shall be binding

3999

upon themselves their heirs and successors, and Her Majesty the Queen, &c., having appointed as Her Plenipotentiary Sir H. B. E. Frere, K.C.B. and G.C.S.I., he having communicated to the Sultan of Muscat his full powers found in good and due form, and the aforesaid Sultan of Muscat, Syed Toorkee bin Syed, acting on his own behalf, they have agreed upon and concluded the following articles :—

ARTICLE I.

The Import of Slaves from the Coasts or Islands of Africa or elsewhere into the dominions of Muscat, whether destined for transport from one part of the Sultan of Muscat's Dominions to another, or for conveyance to foreign parts, shall entirely cease, and any vessels engaged in the transport or conveyance of slaves after this date shall be liable to seizure and condemnation by all such Naval and other officers or agents, and such Courts as may be authorized for that purpose on the part of Her Britannic Majesty, and all persons hereafter entering the Sultan's Dominions and dependencies shall be free.

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ARTICLE II.

The Sultan engages that all public markets in his Dominions for Slaves shall be entirely closed.

ARTICLE III.

The Sultan engages to protect to the utmost of his power all liberated Slaves; and to punish severely any attempt to molest them or reduce them again to slavery.

ARTICLE IV.

Her Britannic Majesty engages that Natives of Indian States under British protection shall, from and after a date to be hereafter fixed, be prohibited from possessing Slaves; and in the meanwhile from acquiring any fresh Slaves.

ARTICLE V.

The present Treaty shall be ratified by Her Majesty, and the Ratification shall be forwarded to Muscat as soon as possible.

In witness whereof Sir H. B. E. Frere, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, &c., and Syud Toorkee bin Said, Sultan of Muscat, on his own behalf, have signed the same and have affixed hereto their respective seals.

Done at Muscat, this fourteenth day of April 1873.

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE.

L. S.

No 29

PROCLAMATION.

To all whom it may concern let it be known that we have entirely forbidden all traffic in Slaves either publicly or privately, and that in the event of our finding any one engaged in the same in our dominions or dependencies he will forfeit his property as well as his personal safety.

No 30

No. 556-42, dated Bushire, 3rd May 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I do myself the honor to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Right Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of a report \* by the Political Agent

\* No. 174-70, dated 18th April 1873.

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at Muscat, of the events and proceedings connected with the visit of His Excellency Sir Bartle Frere on Special Mission to Muscat.

No. 31

No. 174-70, dated Muscat, 18th April 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Agent and Consul at Muscat,  
To—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to report, for your information, the following events and proceedings connected with the visit of His Excellency Sir H. B. E. Frere, G.C.S.I. and K.C.B., on a Special Mission to Muscat.

2. Her Britannic Majesty's *Enchantress*, with His Excellency and suite on board, arrived in Muscat harbour on Saturday, the 12th instant, at 3 P.M., and was received with salutes from Her Majesty's *Vulture* and His Highness' forts.

3. The same afternoon Colonel Pelly, the Political Resident, accompanied by myself, paid a visit to His Highness Syed Toorkee. Colonel Pelly explained to His Highness the object of the Mission, and submitted to him a rough draft of the Treaty it was proposed to make to ensure the effectual abolition of the slave-trade. His Highness expressed his perfect willingness to meet the wishes of Government in every way, and consented at once to sign the Treaty, attaching at the same time his seal and signature to the draft submitted to him.

4. The next day His Highness sent a deputation, consisting of Nasir bin Ali, the Wullee of the town, and three others, on board Her Majesty's *Enchantress*, to welcome His Excellency Sir B. Frere and Mission to Muscat.

5. On Monday, the 14th instant, at 8 A.M., His Excellency Sir B. Frere, accompanied by the members of the Mission and the officers of Her Majesty's ships in harbour, proceeded to the palace to pay His Highness a visit, in the course of which His Excellency delivered to His Highness letters from Her Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and for India, and the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. The Treaty was then produced and signed by His Excellency Sir B. Frere in presence of all, and a copy handed to His Highness.

6. The visit of ceremony over, His Excellency Sir B. Frere entered upon a private conversation with His Highness, during which, among other subjects, His Highness Syed Toorkee alluded to the lease of Bunder Abbass, the Charbar question, the unceasing intrigues against him of Syed Salim and Syed Abdool Azeez, and to the Zanzibar subsidy.

7. After leaving the palace His Excellency received a deputation from the British subjects at the Political Agency.

8. At 4 P.M., His Highness Syed Toorkee returned His Excellency's visit on board Her Majesty's *Enchantress*. He was accompanied on the occasion by Syed Saeed bin Mahomed.

9. On Tuesday evening His Highness Syed Toorkee gave an entertainment to His Excellency and party at the palace.

10. His Excellency Sir B. Frere, having accomplished the object of his Mission here in concluding a Treaty, took his departure from Muscat for Kurra-  
chee on Wednesday morning, at 10 A. M.

11. I earnestly believe and trust that the result of His Excellency's Mission to Muscat will prove of lasting benefit to this country, not only in the humane object of extinguishing the horrors of the slave-trade, but also in tending to strengthen and consolidate the power of its Sultan, His Highness Syed Toorkee, who has always shown so much good-will towards the British Government, and who, more than any of his father's sons now living, appears able and fitted to rule.

No. 32.

No. 614-51, dated Bushire, 17th May 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the  
No. 70, dated 1st Rubbee-ul-awul 1290 (= 29th April 1873). Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, translated purport of a report as per margin, received by me from the Native Agent on the Arab Coast, concerning the slave-trade.

N.B.—Copy forwarded to India Office direct.

No. 33.

Translated purport of a letter from British Agent, Shargah, to Resident, Persian Gulf, No. 70, dated 1st Rubbee-ul-awul 1290 (= 29th April 1873).

No slaves have been brought by the vessels of Oman which have come from Ras Aseer, Bunder Aloola, and Socotra. Two vessels also of Ras-el-khyma, which have arrived from Zanzibar, have brought no slaves, but were laden with rafter.

No. 34.

No. 63, dated Simla, 7th July 1873.

From—Government of India,  
To—Secretary of State for India.

IN continuation of our Despatch No. 55, dated 16th ultimo, we have the honor to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the papers specified in the accompanying Abstract of Contents, relative to the slave-trade in Zanzibar and the Persian Gulf, and miscellaneous matters connected with Sir B. Frere's mission.

No. 35.

Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 63, dated 7th July 1873.

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 63, dated 7th July 1873. Forwards copies of the under-mentioned papers:—

No. 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Abstract of Contents.

No. 3.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. Forwards translated purport of letters received from the Chief of Shargah and the British Native Agent on the Pirate Coast, concerning the slave traffic on that Littoral.  
22nd March 1873, No. 348-16.

No. 4.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Political Agent and Consul at Zanzibar. Reports that on communicating to His Highness Syed Burgash that His Excellency in Council had been pleased to appoint him (Dr. Kirk) as Agent at Zanzibar, the Sultan sent him a complimentary letter, acknowledging the appointment.  
1st April 1873, No. 6-152.

4002

N<sup>o</sup> 368

No. 1256, dated Bombay Castle, 29th February 1872.

From—W. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay,  
To—H. LEPOER WYNNE, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

As requested in your telegram dated the 16th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of the letters from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, noted on the margin, referred to in the enclosure to this Office letter No. 643, dated the 31st ultimo.

- (1.) No. 247-52, dated the 11th March 1871, with enclosures.
- (2.) No. 848-210, dated the 31st March 1871, with enclosures.
- (3.) No. 1224-353, dated the 1st November 1871, with enclosure.

2. It does not appear to His Excellency the Governor in Council in what manner the British Government could intervene in the matter referred to in these letters, or with what object the Chief of Aboothabee has addressed Colonel Pelly. His Excellency in Council will therefore await further information.

N<sup>o</sup> 369

No. 427-52, dated British Residency, Persian Gulf, Camp Mandanee, 11th March 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, Political Department.

A COMPLAINT was made to me some months ago by the Chief of Aboothabee that certain Arabs and others had entered his territories and settled at a point named Adeyd. And the Chief on more than one occasion represented that this settlement was in many respects inconvenient to him, detracting severely from the prosperity of his principal township, and affording refuge to parties fleeing their creditors, &c.

2. Being uncertain whether Adeyd did *bona fide* belong to Aboothabee, and being desirous further of ascertaining whether the Chief's apprehensions were well founded, I requested Major Smith, on his recent visit to the Arab Coast, to give attention to these questions.

X 3. Major Smith arrived at the opinion that Adeyd did belong to Aboothabee, and that the Chief's township was seriously injured in its trade, &c., by the new settlement. Further, that persistence in the maintenance of the settlement would sooner or later lead to collision by sea.

4. For the moment I begged the Aboothabee Chief to refrain from action by sea, and prosecuted my own enquiries from numerous independent sources at various points of the Gulf.

5. The information I collected was wholly to the effect that Adeyd belonged to Aboothabee, while the Guttur Chief, whose territories are on one side conterminous with the district of Adeyd, ignored all connection with it.

6. Under these circumstances, I addressed a letter to the persons settling at Adeyd, cautioning them that if they chose to settle within the territories of the Aboothabee Chief, they should conform to his rule.

7. I replied in a similar sense to the complaint of the Chief of Aboothabee, and transmitted my letters through our Native Agent on the coast. Copies of my letters are appended.

N<sup>o</sup> 370

No. 105, dated 12th Zilhaj 1297.  
4th March 1871.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, C.S.I., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
To—Arabs and others settling at Adeyd

A It is some time since I heard of your settling at Adeyd, and representations and protests have been made to me from more than one quarter, but I delayed acting until I should become thoroughly convinced as to whether Adeyd does or does not belong to Aboothabee; on careful enquiry all testimony concurs in considering Adeyd to be part and parcel of the territories of the Aboothabee

Dispute between Chief of Aboothabee and Colonists of Adeyd.

4003

Chief. If, therefore, you desire to settle at Adeyd, you should do so with the consent of the Aboothabee Chief, and subordinate yourself to his rule. If you do not, there is risk that the Aboothabee Chief, who has now fulfilled the conditions of the maritime truce by referring the question to the Resident, may afterwards find himself obliged to coerce you.

I place full confidence in your peaceful wishes and in your common sense, and shall be glad to hear from you at your early convenience. A

*No. 104*

No. 104, dated 12th Zilhaj 1287.  
4th March 1871.

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

To—SHEIK ZEID BIN KHALEEFA, Chief of Aboothabee.

I HAVE received your various letters concerning the affairs of Adeyd, and have hitherto done no more than request you to observe the peace at sea.

My object in delaying has been to ascertain in detail the facts of the Adeyd question.

I understand from the Chief of Guttur, whose territory is conterminous with that of Adeyd, that Adeyd forms no portion of Guttur territory, all other testimony concurs in considering Adeyd to belong to you. I consider, therefore, you are quite justified in requiring any and all persons settling at Adeyd to subordinate themselves to your rule.

I am addressing the colonists at Adeyd in this spirit, and I enclose a copy of my letter for your information.

I would request, in the interests of all concerned, that before taking any active measures you should await the result of my letter to Adeyd, and I will afterwards convey to you the tenor of the letter I receive.

I am writing to the British Agent at Shargah on this subject, and desiring him to transmit my letter carefully to Adeyd.

*No. 106*

No. 106, dated 12th Zilhaj 1281.  
4th March 1871.

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

To—British Agent, Arab Coast.

I HAVE received your letter concerning the affairs of Adeyd, and I now enclose under flying seal two letters to the addresses respectively of the Chief of Aboothabee and the colonists at Adeyd.

You will peruse these letters, retain copies of them, and carefully transmit the originals to the addressees.

You can also add anything from yourself impressing on the colonists the justice and necessity of submitting to the rule of the Chief within whose territories they desire to settle.

*No. 848-219*

No. 848-219, dated Bushire, 31st July 1871.

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

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

REFERRING to my Report as per margin, concerning the affairs of Adeyd in relation to the Chief of Aboothabee, I have now the honor of enclosing, in original, a Report which I have received from Major Smith on his return from a visit to Adeyd in the Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*.

2. My previous Report above referred to sketches the features of this case in so far as it is affected by the provisions of the maritime truce. And since

4004

the date of submitting my Report I have not ceased to counsel directly and indirectly a peaceful adjustment as between the Chief of Aboothabee and the colonists at Adeyd.

3. Down to date my efforts have been successful. But the case now appears liable to complication from the presence of a Turkish force on the coast.

4. The position taken up by the Aboothabee Chief is, as before submitted, briefly this:—That Adeyd belongs to him; that it has now been colonized by certain Arabs, who owe him allegiance; that in conformity with the terms of the maritime truce he has referred the case to the British Resident; and that having thus fulfilled his crucial obligations, the colonists must either submit to his rule, or failing to do so, he claims to move along his coast line and coerce them.

5. I am of opinion that there is much truth and reason in the statements and arguments of the Aboothabee Chief.

6. On the other hand, the Adeyd colonists contend that Adeyd does not belong to Aboothabee; that they are desirous of living as an independent society under the crucial flag; and that they have been offered, but have as yet declined, the protection of the Turkish flag.

7. The supposition is that if Aboothabee now attempt to coerce the colonists, they will accept the Turkish flag, and so further complicate matters.

8. I have the honor respectfully to request instructions as to the position I should observe towards the Aboothabee Chief and the colonists.

9. It is obvious that the offer and acceptance of the Turkish flag may complicate matters, not only at Adeyd, but at any other points on the Arab Littoral.

10. For instance, while on the one side a Chief willing to accept that flag for temporary purposes may argue that the Turkish Expedition is operating by land, and is therefore apart from the sphere of our policy and action, on the other side, a Chief injured or aggrieved by such acceptance of Turkish protection may argue that the Turkish Expedition, having reached the Arabian Coast by sea, and could not, unless by such movement by sea, have placed itself in a position to foster dissension among, or coerce, the Littoral tribes.

11. I beg that this letter may be read in connection with my Report on Guttur affairs sent by this opportunity, and also in connection with my letter giving enclosure to the communication made by the Pasha of Baghdad to Colonel Herbert, insinuating what the ideas of Turkey are in regard to the dependencies of Nejd.

No. 847-218, dated 31st July 1871.

No. 846-217, dated 31st July 1871.

*M. S. S.*

No. 26, dated on Board H. M. S. *Hugh Lasc*, off Adeyd, 21st July 1871.

From—MAJOR SIDNEY SMITH, Her Britannic Majesty's Assistant Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

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

In continuation of my report now noted I have the honor to inform you that I had a prolonged interview on the 21st instant with Buttye bin Khadem, the Head of the Al Kabeyasat tribe, that have colonized Adeyd in the Aboothabee territory, some notes of what passed are appended.

2. As you are fully acquainted with the subject, I may condense by saying that the Adeyd people not only absolutely refuse to submit to Aboothabee, but state that they are in their own right at Adeyd, and independent. The head of the colony defined his limits as follows: *viz.*, from Ras-ul-Hala, midway to Wukra in Guttur, continuously along the southern coast through Adeyd to a point abreast of the island of Seir Benyas. He further claims the Isles of



Dalma and other islets within that circuit, hitherto unquestionably belonging to Aboothabee.

3. Buttye bin Khadem stated that the above limits constituted the ancient homes of the Al Kabeyasat, and they would maintain them against Aboothabee, who was not their Chief; that in short, he, Buttye, was the real Chief of the said district; he would do everything that the Resident desired, and not think of breaking the peace at sea; in fact, he was so poor, as might be seen, that he had no power to do so, and as he had received a truce flag, which he always hoisted at sea, he only looked to the British. As to Aboothabee, although he had many of their women and much of their property as hostages, yet they cared not, so long as they were clear of him, &c.

4. Buttye then admitted he had been offered the Turkish flag by the Guttur Chief, but had refused it saying he was under British protection. This, however, was clearly put forward in hopes of gaining his point in regard to casting off allegiance to Aboothabee. Should Buttye find his claims to independence not recognized by the Residency, there can be little doubt as to the course he will take.

5. The Adeyd question having taken this new phase, I have not considered it advisable to see Aboothabee further instructed, and am accordingly returning to Bahrein to communicate with you.

6. It is not my province to comment, but it will not escape you that the suspicions aroused as to the real objects of the present Turkish Expedition are not a little strengthened by what is taking place in the Guttur and Adeyd, and it requires considerable faith to believe that an expedition on such a large scale was organized for the purely philanthropic object of restoring tranquillity in Nejd.

Dated 4<sup>th</sup> Jemadi-ul-Awwal 1298.  
23rd July 1871.

From—BUTTYE BIN KHADEM,

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

Your Assistant, Major Smith, visited me, and wished to make an amicable arrangement between me and Zeid bin Khaleefa. I replied—"Well, but Zeid desires to harm us, and you should not permit him. Had we formerly seen that Zeid went on well with people, we should not have left him, but for his oppression. We are poor people; should Zeid state that Adeyd is his, it is not true; it is the territory of our ancestors, and he has no right over us. Our people are poor, and have hardly enough to eat. We have nothing to give Zeid bin Khaleefa. I ask of God and Government that no heavier burden may be laid on us than we can support.

"We are not Zeid's subjects, but are subjects of Government, and we will do whatever you order, and you must not give Zeid power over us."

Notes of conversation between MAJOR SMITH and BUTTYE BIN NEHEEMAN, Head of Colony at Adeyd, taken 21st July 1871 Khor Adeyd, by MIRZA ABUL CASSIM.

MAJOR SMITH enquired if Buttye had received the Resident's letter.

Buttye said, "yes, the reply has been sent, the delay in reply was that we had cholera here."

Major Smith said that Adeyd was in Aboothabee territory, and it was usual for people to obtain permission of the Chief of any place they chose to settle in.

Dispute between Chief of Aboothabee and Colonists of Adeyd.

400.6

Buttye replied that Adeyd belong to his ancestors of old, and their people had resided there, of which they possessed proofs. The KabeySAT did not return to Adeyd until receipt of the Resident's letter\* to us to effect that if we chose to occupy our ancient homes, we could do so. "We can prove that these are our ancient homes."

\* 27th August 1869.

Major Smith said he was desirous, if possible, of settling matters between Zeid and the KabeySAT amicably, and that they ought to acknowledge Zeid's authority.

Buttye said—"Zeid only wishes to destroy us."

Major Smith said—"No, if you acknowledge his authority and come to the usual arrangement obtaining everywhere between the Chiefs and their subjects, there would be no difficulty, and Zeid will agree."

Buttye said—"We are poor, and we have only some 12 pearl boats,† and we through poverty have nothing through famine to eat but grass and fish, and we possess nothing that Zeid would accept from us. Zeid has our date trees, women, property, &c., at Aboothabee. Zeid is a tyrant, and we only left him through his great oppression." Major Smith offered to take a Vakeel on their part to Aboothabee, and see what could be done towards settling their disputes.

† He has more.—S. S.

Buttye said—"If you will stop Zeid by sea, I do not care about him by land."

Major Smith replied—"If Adeyd is in his territory, he has a right. Zeid has been asked to await your reply."

Buttye said—"If the Residency require anything, I am ready to pay, but will give Zeid nothing, as we are not his subjects. I have received a communication from Jassim bin Tani that he intends sending me the Turkish flag, but up to this I have not accepted it. The flag is still at Biddah. It is possible they may oblige me to accept it."

From what passed between Major Smith it seems that the Buttye wants to be Chief himself, and that the usual dues should be paid to him.

Should Buttye find himself opposed, he will accept Turkish flag.

Buttye complained to the Sahib that Ras-ul-Hala between Adeyd and Wukra is his boundary on that side, and that Wukra people ought not to be allowed to fish within his limits. Buttye continued that his territory extended towards Aboothabee so far as Zeid Baiyas.‡

‡ A modest request for some half of Aboothabee territory.

*1871*

No. 1224-353, dated Gwaaur, 1st October 1871.

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

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

No. 848-219, dated 31st July 1871.

REFERRING to my letter as per margin and previous correspondence concerning the dispute between the Chief of Aboothabee and the colonists at Adeyd, I have now the honor to enclose a translated purport of a letter which I have received from the Chief of Aboothabee urgently desiring an intimation of the views of Government on this subject.

2. I fear this delicate question may now be complicated by the presence of the Turkish flag in the Gulf. Rumours or reports have on more than one occasion reached me to the effect that the colonists at Adeyd hoist the Turkish flag on Fridays. These reports may not altogether be reliable, but be they what they may, it is plain that the notion of so doing has been entertained.