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No. 51

No. 4, dated Baghdad, 30th January 1873.

From—Political Agent in Turkish Arabia,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for submission to His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of a despatch, No. 2, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

No. 52

No. 2, dated Baghdad, 21st January 1873.

From—Her Majesty's Consul-General, Baghdad,  
To—Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

IN my despatch No. 22, dated 16th July 1872, I reported that the reconciliation between the two sons of Feysul, Abdulla and Saood, was not then complete; and that a person named Haji Ahmed Khan, who was formally Minister to Syud Saeed at Muscat (I should have also said of Syud Thoweynee), and more lately had been Governor of Bunder Abbass under the Persian Government, had arrived at Baghdad on the 12th idem as Agent of Saood to treat with His Excellency Reouf Pasha.

Nothing had been accomplished in regard to his mission when I quitted Baghdad on the 4th October to proceed to the Turco-Persian frontier, but on my return I found that Abdool Rehman, the youngest son of Feysul, had a short time previously arrived here to endeavour to complete arrangements for the recognition of his brother Saood by the Ottoman Government as Kaimakam of Nejd.

I am unable as yet to ascertain how this negotiation is progressing, but I learn from these gentlemen that hostilities have again broken out between the two brothers, and that about the middle of last November Saood encountered his brother Mahomed, who is an adherent of Abdulla, near Kharij, and with the aid of Shammar Arabs captured that place, while Mahomed and his followers fled pursued by the Shammar, who killed four of his people and took prisoners Abdulla ibn Toorkee, uncle of the sons of Feysul, and two other men of importance, Feysul-el-Mobarek and Mahomed-el-Baital.

Saood is now reported to be in possession of the province of Kharij, and to be marching upon, if he has not already attained possession of, Riadh, to which place he has been invited by the people.

Abdulla is supposed to have found refuge in the Jibil Shammar.

A messenger or agent has lately arrived from him to negotiate with the Governor-General with the view of obtaining his own restoration to the Government of the province of Nejd, and promising to give as good terms as may be offered by Saood.

It is not known which brother His Excellency will support, but as it would be a very costly undertaking both in men and money to attempt to reinstate Abdulla by force of arms, it seems probable that negotiations will be prolonged till such time as one of the brothers may have established his unquestionable supremacy.

Meanwhile the condition of the Turkish troops occupying El-Hassa has been improved by the exertions of His Excellency Reouf Pasha, who has been assiduous in arranging for their proper supply of all necessaries.

But the occupation of that portion of the country of Nejd is a galling thorn in the side of the people, while it must be costly to the Ottoman Government, and the province will never pay the cost of its retention; and sooner or later it can scarcely be doubted that an effort will be made to drive away the troops and employes thereby leading to further disturbance, bloodshed, and pecuniary cost.

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Probably if the Ottoman Government were to recognize Saood on his undertaking to pay a reasonable revenue, withdraw its troops from El-Hassa, and leave him to establish his own power, Abdulla would soon disappear from the field, tranquillity would be restored to the country, and a hope would exist for its continuance for some time at least, while the supremacy of the Ottoman Government would be recognized.

So long as Saood is unrecognized and the Ottoman troops remain in occupation of El-Hassa disturbances will always be imminent.

No 53

No. 5, dated Baghdad, 12th February 1873.

From—Political Agent in Turkish Arabia,

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

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for submission to His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of a despatch, No. 5, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

Dated 5th February 1873.

No 54

No. 5, dated Baghdad, 5th February 1873.

From—Her Majesty's Consul-General, Baghdad,

To—Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

In continuation of my despatch No. 2, dated 21st ultimo, I have the honor to report that I have now received the following further particulars regarding the movements of Saood ibn Feysul, which are said to have been obtained from a messenger, named Romeshed, sent by Abdulla to Mahomed Pasha at El-Hassa, viz.—

That he has now possession not only of Kharij, but also of El-Hareck, Aflaj, and El-Wadee, which I presume to mean El-Wadee Dowasir, as it is said he holds all the country immediately to the south of Riadh.

That he has marched to Dhermah or Doromah, about three hours' distance from Riadh, where he was encamped.

That in the engagement reported in my last, Abdulla ibn Toorkee and Mahomed-el Baital, therein said to have been made prisoners, were killed, as also El-Hamedee, Abdulla's standard bearer, Ibrahim-es-Saleh, Soliman ibn Ambar, and Abdool Aziz ibn Swelim, and several others whose names are not given.

I am further informed that His Excellency Reouf Pasha has sent to Abdool Rehman, for transmission to his brother Saood, a letter encouraging him to hope that the sanction of the Sublime Porte may be obtained for his nomination as Kaimakam of Nejd, but stating that the Turkish troops will not be withdrawn from El-Hassa.

This last resolve is, I think, to be regretted.

I should perhaps mention that under instructions from Her Majesty's Government of India, I avoid conversation with the Governor-General of this Province on the subject of Nejd, and am therefore unable to write with any confidence regarding the action or views of His Excellency.

No 55

No. 37, dated Fort William, 10th April 1873.

From—Government of India,

To—Secretary of State for India.

In continuation of our despatch No. 25, dated 28th February last, we have the honor to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the further papers noted in the accompanying Abstract of Contents, regarding the Turkish expedition to Nejd.

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*Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 37, dated 10th April 1873.*

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 37, dated 10th April 1873. Forwards a copy of the undermentioned papers:—

No. 2. .... Abstract of Contents.

No. 3.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

*17th February 1873, No 1037.*

With reference to his No. 42, dated 7th January 1873, forwards copy of a letter and of its accompaniment from the Acting Political Resident, Persian Gulf, reporting intelligence regarding the affairs of Nejd.

No. 4.—From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

*22nd February 1873, No. 223-4.*

Forwards copy of a Precis of Intelligence from the Acting Resident, Bahrain, from the 16th January to the 3rd February 1873, regarding the affairs of Nejd.

No. 5.—From the Political Agent, Turkish Arabia.

*30th January 1873, No. 4.*

Forwards a copy of his despatch No. 2, dated 21st January 1873, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, containing intelligence regarding the affairs of Nejd.

No. 6.—From the Political Agent, Turkish Arabia.

*12th February 1873, No. 5.*

Forwards a copy of his despatch No. 5, dated 5th February 1873, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting movements of Saood-bin-Feysul.

1 9  
No. 3701, dated Bombay Castle, the 20th June 1872. 39

From—C. GONNE, Esq, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Dept.  
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

In continuation of previous correspondence, regarding the affairs of Bahrein in relation to the coast of Kateef, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter No. 861—217, dated 1st instant, from Colonel Pelly, enclosing translation of a letter to his address from a Kateef Chief, named Abdullah ben Sulleyman Al-e-Aghee, expressing a desire to remove with his family and settle at Bahrein, as also his reply thereto.

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No. 861—217, dated Bushire, the 1st June 1872.

From—COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, c. s. I., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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

In continuation of previous correspondence concerning the affairs of Bahrein in relation to the Wahabee (now Turkish) coast of Kateef, I have the honor to enclose translated purport of a letter wherein the writer, a Chief hitherto residing in the neighbourhood of Kateef, expresses a desire to remove with his following and settle at Bahrein.

2. I have given only a verbal reply, and this to the effect that the migration of the writer does not concern me; and that, if the Chief of Bahrein be willing that he should settle within his territory, no objection will be offered on my part. The desire of this Chief to remove from Turkish rule is significant.

Translated purport of a letter from ABDULLAH BEN SULLEYMAN AL-E-AGHEE, to HAJEE ABDUL NUBBEE BEN HAJEE MAHOMED ALI,—dated the 8th "Safar" 1289 (corresponding to the 17th April 1872).

AFTER COMPLIMENTS,—I wished to come and pay you my salams personally, but could not do so on account of illness.

You are aware that I and my people have been residing in Dareyn since the last 18 years, and have been dependants of Faysul and his descendents. We have all, great and small, experienced their goodness during our residence at Dareyn.

At present, my friend, the state of affairs and government have undergone a change, and my people are desirous of removing from Dareyn. They have, with myself, considered the matter, and decided on settling on the Island of Bahrein. But it does not appear to us well to take up residence on the island, without the permission of higher authority. We, therefore, deem it necessary to inform you of our intention, and request the favor of your communicating with the Sahib (Colonel) Pelly, and intimating to him our desire to enjoy his friendship and protection in preference to those of others. We hope you will obtain from him a paper to the address of his Agent at Bahrein, acquainting him that Abdullah ben Sulleyman and his people are the dependants (or protegés) of the Sirkar, and are desirous of removing from Dareyn to Bahrein.

Should the Sahib (Colonel Pelly) wish me to come to Bushire and communicate with him direct, please let me know by the bearer, our friend Hamad ben Abdul Kadir bin Hadeed, and I shall come accordingly.

Salams, &c., &c., &c.

( True translated purport )

(Signed) GEORGE LUCAS,  
Residency Interpreter, Bushire.

व्यक्तिगत, सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार  
भारत सरकार के अधीन

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