

Colonel Pelly's visit to Riad about the Wahhabee attack on Sohar.

properly Imam. He is now approaching 70 years of age, and, though blind, is at once respected and feared by both Bedouins and settled Arabs within the circle of his extensive dominions.

From Abdelazeez above named came one Saood,\* and from him Abdoollah. It was this Abdelazeez and his son, Saood, who extended the Wahhabee dominions until they embraced nearly the whole of the Peninsula of Arabia, including the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, but not including Yama or the Hadramant. Subsequently, and after protracted resistance, the Wahhabees were overcome by Ibrahim, Pasha of Egypt. Saood dying, Abdoollah, together with his brother, Khaulid, were carried prisoners to Constantinople. Ibrahim Pasha then destroyed the old Wahhabee capital, Dereyeeah, and levied a tribute on the Wahhabee power.

At the first rise of the Wahhabee sect, the family of Abd-al-Wahab were associated in power and authority with the family of Ben Saood; the former holding spiritual sway, and the latter temporal. This double form of Government has, however, passed away. Abd-al-Wahab had three descendants, Sheik Mahomed, Sheik Hassan, and Abdal Rahman: the last named is now 90 years of age, resides in a retired manner on his own estate near Riad, and is the sole living representative of the family of Abd-al-Wahab.

Feysul, the descendant of Ben Saood, enjoys the title of Imam, or religious leader; he is in all respects absolute in his dominions. The Cazyship resides in a subordinate family, and though the tenets and practice of the Wahhabee sect continue to be the severest among all Mahomedans, yet the Imam brooks no opposition, whether from Mollah or from the numerous members of his family,

Geographically considered, Nejed, as the term implies, means *the highlands* in the heart of Arabia: so considered it would include the Towaij hills and the Aaredh on its eastern frontier; Kharij and Howleh on its southern; Ard, Washm, and Kaseem on its western frontier; and Jubbal Shummin on its northern.

Politically considered, the present frontiers of Nejed coincide with the existing frontiers of the Wahhabee Ameer, and are as follows:—

On the west, a line drawn nearly north and south between Hejaz on the one side and the Wady Dowasser and Hazm-ar-Rajee hills on the other. Wady Dowasser is on the southern extremity of this frontier, and Jowf-al-Amir on its northern extremity.

On the south Nejed is bounded by the Rob-al-Khali or Great Desert from the Wady Dowasser on its western extremity, to an undefined point in the desert towards the Persian Gulf.

On the east the Nejed frontier comes down to the Persian Gulf from Koweit on the northern extremity of this line down to Aboothabee. Passing Aboothabee, the frontier line keeps a little inland behind the *quasi*-independent maritime Arab settlements on the pirate coast, until it reaches Bereymah, where the frontier line turns south-east and runs behind the hills of the Muscat dominions of Oman.

On the north the frontier line of Nejed stretches from Jowf-al-Amar above named to the immediate neighbourhood of Koweit, on its eastern extremity.

The Wahhabee power of Nejed within the above limits may be considered as a confederation of Arab tribes, whether Bedouin or settled, subdued to one autocratic will, and bound together by motives of interest and religion for common defence and for aggression in common. The tribes so confederated

\* Saood was about to conquer Yemen when he was recalled to his capital by the news of his father's death.

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are now noted below.\* Those residing in the highlands proper of Kaseem, Washm, Aaredh, &c., and in the adjacent cultivated valleys, are mainly settled. But on the wide plains which surround these highlands the Arab is a pastoral wanderer, and from the nature of the climate and country will probably remain so: for instance, on the great plains stretching between Kerseit and Riad the two tribes, Al Motair and As Sebaa, wander during the winter and spring, then bring down their produce, whether of wool, rowghun, horses, flocks, &c., to Koweit and the shore line, selling, as opportunity may offer and taking back with them to their summer haunts, dates, coffee, a few piece-goods, bamboos for spears, and other necessary articles. In passing through a country like Nejed, much depends on the season of the year. Pass through the highlands in winter, and you may scarcely meet a Bedouin. You may pass through the lower plains in summer with the same result. Return to the highlands in summer and to the lowlands in winter, and you may fall in with black tents at all points.

Those tribes who are under direct confederation of the Ameer yield him certain revenue, whether in kind, horses, or service, and are guaranteed certain assignments, whether of dates, cultivable land, or pasturage. But these tribes do not represent all the Ameer's relations; he has others less close, but still direct, as follows:—

*1stly.*—The tribes of Jubbul Shummur yield him tribute and expect military aid in the hour of need.

*2ndly.*—Certain tribes are allowed to graze unmolested by the confederate tribes within or near the frontier of Nejed; but if a tribe of this class should be attacked by a tribe not under authority of the Ameer, the latter would not interfere.

*3rdly.*—Tribes such as the large tribe of Dhuffeer, with whom the Ameer engages on the one side that they shall not molest the confederate tribes, and on the other hand that the confederate tribes shall not molest them.

*4thly.*—Tribes who are independent within themselves, whose Chiefs the Ameer has not authority to remove, but who nevertheless pay him tribute, although they cannot claim protection or aid. Under this class fall the Sultan of Muscat, the maritime Arab settlements of the pirate coasts, and the Chieftain of the Bahrein islands, all of whom pay tribute as now noted below.†

The richest province under the Ameer's rule, and that which boasts the most skilled labour, is that of Al-Ahsa, inclusive of Kateef. It is at Al-Ahsa that the Arab head-dress, the "Cheffiah," and the "Aba" or cloak are made, and it is here also that are found by far the most extensive date groves.

The Amir has two military out-posts; the one at Bereymah, *astride* of the promontory of Mussendom between the Muscat territories and those of the maritime Arabs, and the other at Al-Hufuf, chief town of Al-Ahsa. It is said that the military requirements and administration of these and other provinces swallow up a large portion of the revenue, and it is added that these two military deputies, who are brothers, might possibly become independent if the rule of Nejed were to devolve on any person less able and less liked than Ameer Feysul.

The Ameer himself in turn is *alleged* to pay a tribute of ten thousand dollars per annum to the Turkish Government; he also, it is said, sends annually presents of Nejed horses. A Deputy comes to Riad annually for these horses and tribute, and it is said that the horses which he took back two years

\* Al Amoor, As Sebaa, As School, Aul Shaumer, Aul Ojman, Motair, Beraih, Harb, Shammar Aneyzeh, Aul Marrah, Kahtain, Ottaibeh, Ad Dowasser.

† Sultan of Muscat 6,000 dollars; Chief of Bahrein 4,000 dollars; Maritime Chief from Bas-al-Khaimah to Abouthabee 12,000 dollars.



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ago were so little approved at Constantinople that enquiries were made as to the falling off of the breeds. The explanation given was, that the demand for good horses from British India is greater than the supply. The Porte prohibited the export of horses from Nejed for a period of four years.

As regards trade, Kateef is considered as the most direct port of the Nejed dominions; some trade also goes on with Koweit; traffic also, no doubt, finds its way along the various pilgrim routes which pass to Mecca through Nejed, whether from Persia or Turkish Arabia. The Wahhabees receive their coffee, of which they drink an immoderate quantity, from Yemen by way of Sanaa and Nejran, the Wahhabee traders receiving it at the latter point, or at their own frontier of Dowasser. The Arabs of the Littoral smoke freely, obtaining the tobacco for their Nargheel from the Persian Province of Lar, and that for their pipes from Mosul, or from Yemen, by sea. In the interior smoking is strictly prohibited, as is also the wearing of silk and swearing. A Bedouin or other Wahhabee found smoking would be killed. An amusing story was related to me yesterday of a man who complained to the Ameer's son that one of his neighbours smoked. "How do you know it?" asked the Ameer. "I smelt it," replied the man. "Then you entered your neighbour's private apartment," rejoined the Ameer. "No," said the man; "I just put the tip of my nose in." Whereupon the Ameer ordered the executioner to snip off the tip of the complainant's nose, so as to save it from the temptation of sniffing in another man's harem for the future.

I append a rough sketch map of Nejed. You will observe that it differs considerably from the Chart. I believe this sketch to be proximately correct, but I cannot positively vouch for its accuracy. I hope, however, that in a few days the position of the capital may be determined scientifically.

I do not find that a man of the Wahhabee confederation would object to marriage with a woman from a tribe other than Wahhabee. A settled Arab, whether Wahhabee or otherwise, would probably object to his daughter marrying a Bedouin. But this, not on account of religious or tribal prejudices, but from disinclination to subject his daughter to Bedouin life.

There seems to be a good deal of quiet fun going on under the strict and fanatical exterior of the Wahhabees. They are warlike Mahomedan Quakers. The tribes to the northward are much freer in their ideas or no ideas. A Mollah from Wahhabee went to convert some of the Aneyzeh tribes. He pointed out to them that those who pray and fast go to heaven, while those who neglect these pious offices go to hell. He reminded them that they neglected both the prayer and fast. Good, said an old Aneyzeh. But who is the Vakeel for getting into heaven? The Prophet Mahomed, replied the Mollah. And do you suppose, asked the Chief, that when he sees us, Aneyzehs, coming on our thorough-bred horses he won't be very glad to open the door and let us in?

(Sd.) LEWIS PELLY, *Lieut.-Col.*,  
*H. M.'s Resdt., Persian Gulf.*

*Camp en route to Riad, 14th Feb. 1865.*

THERE are two sources of confusion in the statement of distances in Arabia:—

1st.—A man who rides post tells you the distance in day's journey according to his rate of travelling; the caravan traveller does the same: for instance, a courier tells you it is two days' journey from Kateef to Al-Hufuf and four days' from Al-Hufuf to Riad; a caravan man, on the other hand, would say four days to Al-Hufuf and seven to Riad.

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2nd.—The second source of confusion results from the distance being measured to the nearest boundary of a district, instead of to its chief town; for instance, in going from Bunder Abbas to Minow the people tell you that the distance is twelve fursacks, and when you cover that distance, the guide points to a small watercourse as the beginning of Minow, being, in fact, the first land watered from the Minow River. The town of Minow itself is three fursacks further on.

(Sd.) LEWIS PELLY.



REFERENCES TO FORMER CASES.  
S. I. of 1870, Nos. 305-309.

Rf. R. Nos.

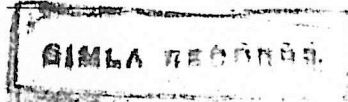
GOVT. OF }  
INDIA. }

1869

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Nos. 388-403.

*Bahrein Affairs.*

LIST OF PAPERS.

- No. 388.—From Secy., Bombay Govt., No. 455 of 26th October 1869—Stating, with reference to the postscript of the Persian Gulf Resident's letter No. 181, forwarded with letter No. 437 of 1869, that that officer's reply to the inhabitants of Bahrein in regard to their offer of the island to the British Govt. has been approved by the Bombay Govt. Acceptance of the sovereignty of the island declined.
- No. 389.—Telegram from Govr., Bombay, of 17th November 1869—Stating his telegram has evidently been misunderstood, the notification to Shah and demand of three Chiefs was ordered according to the Viceroy's instructions before telegraph was issued and acknowledgment received from Colonel Pelly who sailed for Bahrein next day. *Nymph* still at Angaum awaiting instructions as to blockade.
- No. 390.—Telegram to Secy., Bombay Govt., of 19th Nov. 1869—Enquiring when the *Nymph* leaves Augaum.
- No. 391.—Telegram from Secy., Bombay Govt., of 20th November 1869—Instructions of 14th November as to blockade sent to *Nymph*, which will wait at Angaum till known if you have further orders, she then rejoins Colonel Pelly.
- No. 392.—Telegram to Secy., Bombay Govt., of 23rd November 1869—Replying that there are no further instructions regarding blockade than those conveyed in letter of 14th instant, and directing the *Nymph* to be sent to join Colonel Pelly.
- No. 393.—Telegram from Govr., Bombay, of 24th November 1869—Communicating substance of a telegram from Colonel Pelly, reporting the capture of an armed buglow under Arab colours attempting to pass blockade carrying on board a man who said he had a dress of honor and letter promising countenance and support to the Pirate Chief, Mahomed bin Abdoollah. Colonel Pelly instructed to take possession of the letter.
- No. 394.—Telegram from Secy., Bombay Govt., of 20th November 1869—Telegram from Bahrein from Colonel Pelly of 21st November. Surrender of Moharag Ports. Mahomed bin Khuleefah on board *Daphne*, and Captain Douglas will take him to Bombay. Orders solicited on the matter of the Dyer craft running the blockade with an alleged letter from the Govr.-Genl. of Southern Persia, as also about Wahabee blockade.

REFERENCES TO LATER CASES.

Rf. R. Nos.

*Pol. & Priv. Secy. 7/77 - No 37/41.*  
*10 Hall: I Oct 1869 - 26/28*

TAKEEDS.

KEEP-WITHS PRINTED.

KEEP-WITHS NOT PRINTED.

- Col. Pelly's tel. of 8th Dec. 1869, No. 395.
- Tel. from Bombay Govt. of 9th Dec. 1869, No. 398.
- Tel. from Col. Pelly of 8th Dec. 1869, No. 400.
- Tel. from Bombay Govt. of 21st Dec. 1869, No. 403.
- Tel. from Col. Pelly of 7th Dec. 1869, No. 403.

- No. 395.—Telegram from Secy., Bombay Govt., of 8th December 1869—Transmitting Colonel Pelly's telegram regarding success at Bahrein.
- No. 396.—Telegram to Secy. of State of 9th December 1869—Communicating the foregoing intelligence from Colonel Pelly regarding his success at Bahrein.
- No. 397.—Telegram to Colonel Pelly, Angaam, of 10th December 1869—Expressing satisfaction at the contents of his telegram communicating his success at Bahrein, and congratulating him.
- No. 398.—Telegram from Secy., Bombay Govt., of 9th December 1869—Communicating substance of a telegram from Colonel Pelly regarding the Persian letters addressed to Mahomed bin Abdoollah.
- No. 399.—From Secy., Bombay Govt., No. 528 of 2nd December 1869—Submitting observations on letter No. 1613 of 1869 from the Govt. of India on the subject of the position of Persia with regard to Bahrein.
- No. 400.—Telegram from Colonel Pelly, Angaam, of 8th Dec. 1869—Forwarding telegram addressed to the Bombay Govt. regarding Wahabee blockade and Kateef.
- No. 401.—Telegram to Colonel Pelly of 10th Dec. 1869—authorizing him to write to Ameer of Riad that the pirates for Bahrein embarked from his dominion, and Naseer bin Mobarik and his followers have now fled back there, also that much plunder has been sent there; further, to express hope that this may be prevented in future, but to make no threat.
- No. 402.—To Secy. of State, No. 42 of 14th December 1871—In continuation of No. 25 of 16th November 1869, forwarding a copy of the above correspondence relative to Bahrein affairs.
- No. 403.—Abstract of Contents.

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No. 388.

No. 455, dated 26th October 1869.

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

REFERRING to the postscript of the letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 181, dated the 25th ultimo (copy of which accompanied my letter No. 437, of the 15th instant), I am directed to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, that Colonel Pelly's reply to the inhabitants of Bahrein, with reference to their offer of the island to the British Government, has been approved by this Government.

2. Colonel Pelly has been instructed distinctly to inform the petitioners that the British Government cannot accept any proposal such as that now made.

No. 389.

Telegram dated 17th November 1869.

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

You have evidently misunderstood my telegraph. The notification to Shah and demand of three Chiefs were ordered according to your instructions before I telegraphed, and acknowledgment received same afternoon from Pelly, who sailed next day for Bahrein. I wished to explain grounds why I proposed instructions in the form I did.

*Nymph* still at Angaum, awaiting instructions as to blockade.

No. 390.

Telegram dated 19th November 1869.

From—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta,  
To—Secretary to Government, Mahableshwur.

WHEN does *Nymph* leave Angaum?

No. 391.

Telegram dated 20th November 1869.

From—Political Secretary, Mahableshwur,  
To—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

INSTRUCTIONS of November 14th as to blockade sent to *Nymph*, which will wait at Angaum till known if you have further orders. She then rejoins Colonel Pelly.

No. 392.

Telegram dated 23rd November 1869.

From—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta,  
To—Political Secretary, Bombay, Mahableshwur.

No other instructions regarding blockade than those in letter of 14th November. *Nymph* should join Colonel Pelly.

No. 393.

Telegram dated 24th November 1869.

From—Governor, Mahableshwur,  
To—Viceroy, Calcutta.

COLONEL PELLY telegraphs as follows:—"An armed buglah under Arab colours attempted to pass blockade; she was boarded, and found to carry a man

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who said he had a dress of honor and letter promising countenance and support to the Pirate Chief in possession, Mahomed bin Abdoollah. The man stated he believed the letter came from one Mehdee Khan, formerly a Persian Envoy to Bahrein, but that he had no authority from the Shah's Government. Captain Douglas and I have detained the buglah, and send special boat to solicit instruction concerning the suspicious document and its bearer; meantime, we refrain from demanding either document or dress, and treat bearer with complete politeness. Important. Dated Bahrein, 19th November 1869." Message ends.

The following reply has been sent to Colonel Pelly:—"As Mehdee Khan has no authority from Persian Government, take possession of letter."

No. 394.

Telegram dated 28th November 1869.

From—Secretary to Government, Bombay, Guneshkhund,  
To—Viceroy, Calcutta.

THE following message received from Colonel Pelly:—"Bahrein, 21st November. We ran the boats into the Moharrag Forts two nights ago, and the garrison surrendered. Mahomed bin Khuleefah, this arch-pirate; is now on board *Daphne*, and Captain Douglas will take him to Bombay; all goes better than I expected. But delay has previously complicated affairs: still it is not quite impossible that we may be completely successful, at the same time I think there will be a struggle here within 48 hours. *Nymph* and *Hugh Rose* are still waiting orders at Angaum. I hope Your Excellency may deem well to give them their Wahabee blocking orders or the reverse as soon as convenient. After the greatest forbearance it appears necessary to run *Clyde* and the boats in and destroy Nassir bin Mobarik's Fort to-morrow morning; but this is easy. The affair of the *Dyer* craft that ran the blockade and carried suspicious paper is delicate. Captain Douglas and I have refrained from interference in the political question pending orders from Government. We have simply detained the *Dyer* craft as running the blockade, breaking the peace at sea in defiance of Government orders, and asserting itself to have on board a document alleged to emanate from the Governor-General of Southern Persia, and which might, if we allowed the craft to go into Bahrein, compromise the Persian Government in reference to ours. Captain Douglas and I have declined to receive any document from this craft. We confine ourselves to maintain the peace at sea and the blockade. If the Viceroy ask questions concerning this document, and order me to hold it, I think it might prove important."

No. 395.

Telegram dated 8th December 1869.

From—Assistant Political Secretary, Bombay,  
To—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

COLONEL PELLY telegraphs:—"Bahrein Harbour, 2nd December 1869. I respectfully report Your Excellency's instructions concerning Bahrein have been executed with complete success. Mahomed bin Khuleefah was surrendered by garrison of Moharrag Fort. Sheikh Nassir was surprised at sea. Mahomed bin Abdoollah, the Chief in possession, was out-manceuvred and surrendered himself. Nassir bin Mobarik was shelled out of his fort, and subsequently from another retreat with loss. A demonstration by the gun-boats then compelled him to embark with his followers and fly to the Wahabee coast. All the prisoner Chiefs are on board, and will go to India. Esau bin Ali, son of the late Chief, was invited over from Guttur, and assumed the Government of these islands. This is the 2nd of December, under the conditions named in my recommendation of 5th October. He was popularly welcomed, and all the town and shipping instantaneously hoisted flags. The Persian letters to the pirate Chief were obligingly made over to me by the latter and are important. Captain Douglas contused by explosion of mine, but is all right again."

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JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1869.

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No. 396.

Telegram dated 9th December 1869.

From—Viceroy, Calcutta,  
To—Secretary of State, London.

COLONEL PELLY telegraphs that the instructions concerning Bahrein have been executed with complete success. Mahomed bin Khulcefah was surrendered by garrison of Moharrag Fort. Sheikh Nassir was surprised at sea, but escaped to Wahabee coast. Mahomed bin Abdoollah, the Chief in possession, has surrendered. The prisoner Chiefs are on board, and will go to India. Esau bin Ali, son of the late Chief, was invited over from Guttur, and assumed the Government of the islands. He was popularly welcomed.

No. 397.

Telegram dated 10th December 1869.

From—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta,  
To—COLONEL PELLY, Angaam.

YOUR telegram of 8th. Viceroy has learned with great satisfaction your success at Bahrein, and congratulates you.

No. 1823P.

Copy forwarded to Bombay Government for information.

No. 398.

Telegram dated 9th December 1869.

From—Assistant Secretary, Bombay,  
To—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

COLONEL PELLY telegraphs:—"Angaam, 8th. Your telegram of 24th November. Rather than take final possession of letters, it seemed simpler to accept transmitting change and hand them in *statu quo* to addressee, Mahomed bin Abdoollah, who in turn has favoured me with them. The letters themselves assert Mehdee Khan to be deputed to the Persian ports and islands, but there is no direct firman from Shah's Government. Mehdee Khan's letter to Mahomed bin Abdoollah congratulates him on his descent on Bahrein, and sanctions his appointment to Rulership of Bahrein. A subsequent letter from Mehdee Khan addressed to me after learning my arrival at Bahrein at variance with previous communication. I am bringing all these letters to Bombay for consideration of Government, and meantime make no reply to Mehdee Khan."

No. 399.

No. 528, dated 2nd December 1869.

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

I HAVE placed before the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council your letter dated the 16th instant, No. 1613, on the subject of the position of Persia with regard to Bahrein, and am instructed to submit the following observations in reply:—

2. A reference to the telegram sent by the Right Hon'ble the Governor, to His Excellency the Viceroy, will show that no suggestion was made that the Viceroy should address the Shah of Persia, but that the direction to the *Chargé d'Affaires* to notify intention as to Bahrein should come from the Government of India, and not from the Government of Bombay.

3. The Circular to the Chiefs, to which reference is made in your concluding paragraph, was suggested by Colonel Pelly under the anticipation that naval

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operations would not immediately take place from the absence of sufficient vessels for that purpose, and seemed inappropriate when the vessels were present and operations on the point of being commenced.

No. 400.

Telegram dated 3th December 1869.

From—COLONEL PELLY,

To—Foreign Secretary.

YOUR telegram of to-day. I respectfully submit subjoined copy of my telegram to Bombay Government concerning Wahabee blockade and Kateef:—

“Your telegram of 24th November. The Ameer has written to me wholly disclaiming all part in Bahrein piracy, though public opinion suspects him of having connived at the move. I would not advise blockade during winter, but would suggest that Government instruct me to address His Highness stating that the pirates embarked from his dominions, and that both Nassir bin Mobarik and his followers have now fled back there; also that much plunder has been sent there. The letter might add that if any future attack on Bahrein by sea emanated from Wahabee coast, Government would hold His Highness responsible and blockade his ports during the pearl and date harvest seasons. Check to Wahabees advisable.”

No. 401.

Telegram dated 10th December 1869.

From—Foreign Secretary, Calcutta,

To—COLONEL PELLY, Angaam.

YOUR telegram of 8th. Viceroy authorizes you to address Ameer of Riad, stating that the pirates embarked for Bahrein from his dominions, and that Nassir bin Mobarik and his followers have now fled back there; also that much plunder has been sent there. Express hope that any action of the kind may in future be prevented, but make no threat.

No. 1821P.

Copy forwarded to Bombay Government for information.

No. 402.

No. 42, dated Fort William, 14th December 1869.

From—Government of India,

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

IN continuation of our despatch dated 16th November 1869, No. 25, we have the honor to forward a copy of the papers specified in the accompanying Abstract of Contents, relative to the affairs of Bahrein.

2. Your Grace will have learnt from the Viceroy's telegram of 9th December that Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly has successfully carried out the instructions of Government; that Mahomed bin Khuleefah and Mahomed bin Abdoolah have been made prisoners; and that Esau bin Ali, the son of the late Chief, has assumed the Government of Bahrein.

3. We have authorized Colonel Pelly to address a letter to the Ameer of Riad stating that the pirates concerned in the late attack on Bahrein embarked for that place from his dominions; that one of them, Nassir bin Mobarik, with his followers, has fled back there; and that much of the plunder has been openly taken to Kateef. We have also directed Colonel Pelly to express a hope that such proceedings may be prevented in future, but we have not thought it advisable to hold out any threat to the Ameer.

Exd.—J. T. F.

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8181 vests in the National Archives  
Government of India.



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No. 403.

*Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 42, dated 14th December 1869.*

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 42, dated 14th December 1869. Forwarding a copy of the undermentioned papers:—

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

No. 3.—From Secretary to Government of Bombay. Relative to the offer to the British Government of the sovereignty of Bahrein by the inhabitants of the island having been declined.  
26th October 1869, No. 455.

No. 4.—Telegram from the Governor of Bombay. Intimates that the Notification to Shah of Persia and the demand for the three Chiefs of Bahrein were ordered according to Viceroy's instructions before he telegraphed. The *Nymph* is still at Angaum, awaiting instructions as to blockade.  
17th November 1869.

No. 5.—Telegram to Secretary to Government of Bombay. Enquiring as to when the *Nymph* will leave Angaum.  
19th November 1869.

No. 6.—Telegram from Secretary to Government of Bombay. Replies that the *Nymph* will await further orders at Anguam, and then she will rejoin Colonel Pelly.  
20th November 1869.

No. 7.—Telegram to Secretary to Government of Bombay. That there are no other instructions regarding blockade than those in letter of 14th November. Wishes the *Nymph* to join Colonel Pelly.  
23rd November 1869.

No. 8.—Telegram from Governor of Bombay. Reports the capture of an armed buglah under Arab colours attempting to pass blockade with a man on board, who said he had a dress of honour and a letter promising support to the pirate Chief, Mahomed bin Abdoollah. Informs that Colonel Pelly has been requested to take possession of the letter.  
24th November 1869.

No. 9.—Telegram from Secretary to Government of Bombay. Informs of the surrender of Maharag Forts, and that Mahomed bin Khuleefah was on board the *Daphne*, and would be taken to Bombay. Orders solicited as to the craft running the blockade with an alleged letter from Governor-General of Southern Persia, and also about Wahabee blockade.  
28th November 1869.

No. 10.—Telegram from Assistant Secretary to Government of Bombay. Regarding the success at Bahrein.  
8th December 1869.

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- No. 11.—Telegram to Secretary of State for India. Communicates intelligence from Bahrein. Mahomed bin Khuleefah and Mahomed bin Abdoollah have surrendered. Sheikh Nassir was surprized at sea, but escaped to Wahabee coast. Esau bin Ali, son of late Chief, has assumed the Government.  
9th December 1869.
- No. 12.—Telegram to Colonel Pelly. Expresses great satisfaction at his success at Bahrein, and congratulates him.  
10th December 1869.
- No. 13.—Telegram from Assistant Secretary to Government of Bombay. Regarding the Persian letter to Mahomed bin Abdoollah.  
9th December 1869.
- No. 14.—From Acting Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay. Submits observations on the position of Persia with regard to Bahrein.  
2nd December 1869, No. 528.
- No. 15.—Telegram from Colonel Pelly. Regarding the Wahabee blockade and Kateef.  
8th December 1869.
- No. 16.—Telegram to Colonel Pelly. In reply, authorizes him to write to Ameer of Raid, stating pirates for Bahrein embarked from his dominions, and Nassir bin Mobarik has fled back there, and also that much plunder has been sent there. To express hope that this may be prevented in future, but to make no threat.  
10th December 1869.

SINCE RECEIVED

Muscat Treaty.

No. 248. From W. H. HAVELOCK, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to Government of India, in the Foreign Department, Fort William,—(No. 62, dated the 26th December 1863.)

In consequence of the receipt of your letter, No. 263, dated the 15th May last, an application was made to Mr. Badger for a copy of the Treaty between Persia and Muscat relating to the farm of Bunder Abbas, an authentic version of which document appears to have been obtained by that gentleman while temporarily in charge of the Muscat Zanzibar Commission.

2. I am now directed to transmit copy of a letter from Mr. Badger, dated the 1st September last, enclosing transcript of a communication addressed by him to this Government from Aden, No. 10, dated the 5th June 1861, to which a translation of the Treaty between Persia and Muscat relative to the farm of Bunder Abbas is appended.

3. This latter communication was duly received in Bombay and referred to Captain Felix Jones, Resident in the Persian Gulf, for any explanation which he had to offer with reference to the allegations contained in it respecting his public conduct and proceedings in the Persian Gulf.

4. Captain Jones's reply and the other papers connected with the subject appear subsequently to have been mislaid.

5. In transmitting copies of Mr. Badger's letters dated the 1st September last and the 5th June 1861, I am desired to state, for the information of the Government of India, that before their receipt by His Excellency in Council it had been intimated to Captain Felix Jones that he would not be re-appointed to his office as Resident in the Persian Gulf after the completion of 35 years of service, which were completed on the 14th July 1863.

No. 249. From REVEREND G. P. BADGER, to H. L. ANDERSON, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay,—(dated London, 17, Dawson Place, Bayswater, the 1st September 1863.)

In reply to your letter No. 2307 of 1863, I have the honor to inform you that a copy of the Treaty referred to in the original Persian, together with an English translation of the same from an Arabic version, furnished me by His Highness the Sultan of Muscat, was posted by me at Aden as the Appendix to an official letter to the address of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government on the 5th June 1861.

To provide against the possibility of that letter having miscarried (though I can hardly conceive such an accident probable), I forward you herewith a complete copy of the same, with the exception of the Persian draft of the Treaty, of which I have no transcript, having transmitted to Government, as above stated, that handed to me by Seyyed Thoweynee.

From REVEREND GEORGE PERCY BADGER, in charge Muscat Zanzibar Commission, to A. K. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Bombay,—(No. 10, dated Aden, the 5th June 1861.)

It is not of choice that I am made the medium of forwarding to Government the list of grievances contained in the accompanying letter (Appendix

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No. 121 in Proc.  
July 1863. 12/12/64

सर्वाधिकार सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार  
भारत सरकार



## Muscat Treaty.

A.) from the Sultan of Muscat, neither in doing so is it my object to pronounce an opinion on the validity or otherwise of the charges which are therein brought against Captain Jones. The Hon'ble the Governor in Council will doubtless give His Highness's communication that attention which it deserves, and judge of its contents with impartiality and justice: but the occasion affords me a fitting opportunity for venturing a few remarks on our past and present policy in the Persian Gulf; and deeming myself bound, in the responsible position in which Government has been pleased to place me for the time being and in the interests of the public service, not to withhold information which may be useful to the State, I trust that the following observations may meet the approval of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council:—

2. It is a subject of general notoriety that the Arab tribes in the Persian Gulf are greatly dissatisfied with the proceedings of the Resident at Bushire and his native agents on the coast. The Chiefs complain that his assumption of authority over them is arrogant in the extreme, and that his *surveillance* far exceeds the limits of the intervention which they were induced to accord to the British Resident by the Treaty of May 1853, and that they are reduced thereby to a state of the most abject submission to his absolute control. Mr. Rassam informs me that several Chiefs from the Gulf came to Muscat for the purpose of laying their grievances in these respects before Brigadier Coghlan; Mr. Rassam prudently declined seeing them, and they had left before my arrival at Muscat: the universal complaint is that Captain Jones's treatment of them is most arbitrary, and that they have no means of redress. A report, they say, is transmitted to the Resident by one of his native agents (whose characters, by the way, are lightly spoken of), that a Chief or member of a certain tribe has trespassed on some other tribe, and forthwith a man-of-war is dispatched to the place to levy a fine on the alleged culprits. This interference, they assert, is not confined to reputed outrages by sea, but extends to their mutual relations on shore, and that punishment is not preceded by full and impartial investigation.

3. I cannot vouch for the truth of these statements, but I can testify to a general feeling of discontent prevailing among the Arabs owing to our actual policy in the Persian Gulf: the system of fines is carried out to a very questionable extent, Chiefs and tribes being largely mulcted by the Resident for trivial offences and payment extorted under menace. Very lately the young Chief of Debaye was fined 100 dollars for firing from his fort on the buteel of another tribe with which he was at variance as it passed along the coast; another was obliged to pay 300 dollars on the charge of having plundered a flock of sheep from a neighbouring territory: last year also the old Chief of the Joasem was summoned before Captain Jones, who insisted on his immediate payment of a similar fine; in this instance, however, on the money being paid, a present of greater value was bestowed upon the Chief,—a singular proceeding to say the least of it. Some idea may be formed of the extent to which the system is carried from the fact—well known, of course, to the Government—that there are at this moment several thousand dollars in the Residency treasury at Bushire, collected from the fines levied in the Persian Gulf.

4. I fully concur in the necessity of stringent measures to curb the turbulent and warlike spirit of the maritime Arab tribes, as well for the security of our trade in the Persian Gulf, as for the general prosperity of the inhabitants themselves. I am also aware that, by the Treaty of May 1853, several of the Arab Chiefs in the Gulf have agreed to the arbitration of the British Resident at Bushire under certain circumstances. Article III. of that Treaty is as follows:—

“That, in the event of an act of aggression being committed at sea by any of those who are subscribers with us to this engagement upon any of our sub-

## Muscat Treaty.

jects or dependants, we will not proceed immediately to retaliate, but will inform the British Resident or the Commodore at Bassadore, who will forthwith take the necessary steps for obtaining reparation for the injury inflicted, provided that its occurrence can be satisfactorily proved."

The wording of this Article is fairly susceptible of conferring on the Resident an almost unlimited right of intervention in the maritime affairs of the subscribing Chiefs, but in the opinion of the latter they thereby constituted the Resident a mediator or arbitrator between them, and not a penal judge over them. They allege that they understood his intervention to be restricted to cases of common plunder or piracy on the seas, and, moreover, that they never intended it to apply to their mutual transactions on shore, or to deprive themselves thereby of the right of engaging in legal hostilities with their enemies either by sea or land.

5. I leave it with Government to decide how far the Arabs are justified in their interpretation of the Article above quoted, and how far the Resident may be deemed to have exceeded the powers intended to be conveyed by its provisions. My own strong conviction is, from extensive personal experience with Arab tribes, as well as from all I have heard of that particular locality, that the influence of the British Resident in the Gulf would be far more generally beneficial if his proceedings were carried on in a more courteous and conciliatory spirit, and his arbitrations coupled with fewer exactions. In the actual temper of the maritime Chiefs the presence of any other naval power in the Persian Gulf would be hailed by them as a welcome opportunity for breaking off all friendly relations with the British.

6. In proof of this latter remark, I may instance the case of the Sheikh of Bahrein, who is not a party to the Treaty of 1853. Government is doubtless aware of the extraordinary proceedings of that Chief in having recently placed himself first under the protection of Persia and then of Turkey. Commander Cruttenden informs me that in an interview which the Sheikh sought with him at Bahrein and in the presence of the native British Agent, he declared that his simple motive for having appealed to those foreign powers was in order to rid himself of the unwarrantable interference of Captain Jones with the internal affairs of his Government, and to be protected against any repetition of the arrogant treatment which he had received at his hands; contrasting it at the same time with the consideration and deference which had always been manifested towards him by preceding Residents at Bushire.

7. It will be perceived from the attached letter from Seyyed Thoweynee that His Highness also has had cause to complain of similar unjustifiable officiousness. I am unable to offer any opinion on the real merits of the Coomzar case, referred to by His Highness, but Government is aware that a similar case occurred lately, when Captain Jones sent a threatening letter to the Chief of that place (which is within the territory and jurisdiction of Seyyed Thoweynee), enclosing copy of another which he had forwarded to His Highness, wherein he tells the latter that he shall fine each of the boats reported to have been engaged in an alleged outrage on an adjoining town in the sum of fifty dollars, and that he purposes dispatching the Persian Gulf Squadron to enforce it. On further examination, however (carried on by Commander Cruttenden, then senior Officer in the Gulf), it was fully proved that no outrage whatever had been committed: such wanton and unauthorized invasion of the prerogative of an independent prince with whom we are in friendly alliance is much to be deprecated, and His Highness Seyyed Thoweynee has urgently begged that Government will protect him from similar insult in future.

8. But I proceed in the next place to notice more particularly the serious consequence which in his letter to my address Seyyed Thoweynee attributes to the indiscriminate prohibitory power exercised by the Resident in the Persian Gulf. I see no reason to doubt His Highness's statement that, on the occasion



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referred to, the Beni Yas were prohibited under the usual threats from proceeding to join Seyyed Saeed's forces: the motive was probably an apprehension of piracy, for I cannot believe that any British functionary, unless so ordered, would designedly have played into the hands of the Persians against our faithful ally the Sultan of Muscat. Nevertheless, such is averred to have been the result of the Resident's interference: Seyyed Saeed was obliged to conclude a Treaty with the Persians on terms most disadvantageous to himself, and in many respects most unfavorable to ourselves: the annual charge for the farm of Bunder Abbas was raised from 6,000 to 16,000 tomans, and the islands of Ormuzd and Kishm, to which the Sultan had a just hereditary claim, and on the latter of which our naval station has existed for nearly a century with the sanction of successive rulers of Muscat, were ceded to the Persians. By this Treaty, moreover, Seyyed Saeed binds himself and his successors to hold Bunder Abbas against all comers, and not to allow the Agent of any foreign Government to pass there; whereas by our Treaty with the Sultan of Muscat in 1798 that sovereign felt himself competent to grant us the privilege of building and arming a fort at Gombroon and of keeping a garrison there.\*

\* See *Persian Gulf Selections*, page 249.

9. I procured from Seyyed Thoweynee a copy of the Treaty of 1856 between the late Seyyed Saeed and the Persian Government, and attach it herewith (Appendix B.), together with an English translation made from an Arabic version, which was also given to me by His Highness. My impression is that this document has never yet been submitted to Her Majesty's Government, and I, therefore, beg to draw the particular attention of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council to the obvious purport of several of its stipulations, which, taken in conjunction with the policy of Persia in the Gulf and to the eastward of her land frontier, are suggestive of ulterior designs in those quarters. It is well known that the Persians meditate a military occupation of Bahrein, and the Sheikh of that island, dreading the consequences of his late foolish appeal to Persia, has very recently written to engage Seyyed Thoweynee on his side, offering him the sovereignty of the island, rather than that it should fall into the hands of the Persians: this fact was told me by His Highness himself. It is further reported that the Persian Government has purchased four ships-of-war in Europe, and that they are shortly expected at Bushire, where the Shah intends to inspect them. These movements obviously indicate an attempt on the part of Persia to establish a supremacy over the tribes in the Gulf. Meanwhile, by Article XIII. of her late Treaty with Muscat, the naval forces of the Sultan are engaged to defend her line of coast from Bunder Abbas to Jashk, including the islands of Ormuzd and Kishm, against attack from all quarters.

10. Viewed in connection with the advance of the Persian army towards the eastward of Kirman, the stipulation contained in Article IX. of the Treaty under notice is equally suggestive of further meditated encroachment in that direction. That Article distinctly provides for the passage of troops through Bunder Abbas towards Mekran, Beloochistan, and even Cutch (Gondaba), that is, in a line towards the Indus, which may eventually be found more practicable than any more northern route. The Persians have already reduced the Ameer of Bolaide, whose territories extend about sixty miles along the coast, and placed the province of Geh under tribute. According to credible information collected at Muscat, they have also advanced from Bumpore and occupied Serbaz, completely routing the Beloochees. To the south they are reported to be in force as far as Nusserabad, having subjugated all the country to the westward, and to be meditating an attack on Kedge, the capital of the Khan of Khelat's Mekran territories; while on the north they have very lately retaken the district of Dizzeh from Azzad Khan, a firm ally of the Dost, and are acting in concert with the Jam of Herat and Afzul Khan, who are said to be marching in force on Candahar. The report communicated by Major Green respecting this latter movement was confirmed to me at Muscat by several Beloochee



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Chiefs, apparently well acquainted with the course of current events in Mekran and Beloochistan.

11. Whilst hesitating to attach any serious or immediate political consequences as regards British interests in the east to these encroachments of Persia in Central Asia, I nevertheless deem the subject of sufficient importance to evoke the vigilance of Her Majesty's Government; and as regards the proceedings of the same power in the Persian Gulf, I respectfully submit that they supply a strong motive for the adoption on our part of a vigorous yet discreet policy, such as may tend to conciliate the maritime Arab tribes in that quarter and confirm them in their attachment to the British Government.

APPENDIX A.

From HIS HIGHNESS SEYYED THOWEYNEE, Sultan of Muscat, to REVEREND GEORGE PERCY BADGER, Commissioner of the British Government,—(written on the 4th Elkaada 1277, the 15th May 1861.)

WE are induced to inform you, in order that you may communicate the same to the British Government, that in the year 1271 (1855-1856) there was war between us and the Persian Government about Bunder Abbas; and that on that occasion, when we called upon the Arabs, who form the principal strength of our army, and who have been our allies from the remotest time until now, namely, the Beni Yas, who inhabit Aboothaby and Debaye, Captain Jones, the Resident, interfered, and forbade their joining us at Bunder Abbas, and his letter to that effect is still preserved by the Beni Yas. On account of this prohibition our late father was obliged to yield to the Persians and to concede all their demands, unwillingly consenting to the terms of the Treaty which was then drawn up between them and His Highness. Thereon our late father, Seyyed Saeed, returned to Muscat, from whence he subsequently proceeded to Zanzibar, intending on his arrival there to complain to the British Government of Captain Jones, whom he regarded as the cause of his being obliged to succumb to the Persians. Seyyed Saeed did not live to reach Zanzibar, and you are well acquainted with our affairs since that period, and are aware that we have had no opportunity of preferring a complaint on the subject to the British Government. We therefore avail of the present occasion to make this statement to you, in order that you may submit the matter to the British Government, and that they may be cognizant of what was done by their Agent, and how we became thereby bound to the Persians: part of our territory has been alienated from us, and the tribes, if called upon, would not join us, for, were they to do so, they would be fined.

Again, in the year 1274 (1858), Captain Jones went to our territory at Coomzar and exacted a fine from its inhabitants; we judged, of course, that the people of Coomzar were to blame and deserved punishment: nevertheless, is it proper that Captain Jones, without reference to us and without our knowledge, should levy fines from our subjects?

When we subsequently met him at Bunder Abbas we requested him to restore the fine, and he promised to forward the amount from Bassadore. On his arrival there we sent our man Hilal to him for the purpose, but he neither returned the fine nor sent us any reply, and thus the matter stands at present.

Again, we have to complain of the conduct of Captain Jones towards our deputy, Sekr bin Abdallah, when he absconded from Kishm without our knowledge, and proceeded first to Bushire and then to Bassadore. On that occasion Captain Jones wrote to inform us that Sheikh Sekr had appealed to him, but that he had declined to interfere between him and me. On the receipt of that letter we dispatched our man Derweesh to Bassadore to take Sheikh Sekr back to his own place, with directions to seize his vessel in the

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## Muscat Treaty.

event of his contumacy. When our man Derweesh reached Bassadore, Sheikh Sekr refused to obey our orders, and the former accordingly proceeded to seize his ship; whereupon Khodadad, who is there on the part of Captain Jones, interfered and prevented him, obliging him to return to Muscat without it, whereby our dignity was lowered in the eyes of our people. Subsequently we received another letter from Captain Jones, apologizing for the conduct of Khodadad on the ground of his inexperience and ignorance in such matters, and stating that he would have displaced him had it not been that he was an ignorant and incapable individual. Surely a man who is thus avowedly incapable should not be placed by Captain Jones in a place where he can do such things; for our part we feel confident that the British Government will not approve of such proceedings, and hence we have judged it fit to make these things known to you, in order that you may be fully aware of our situation, and that some arrangement may be made in our behalf with regard to such matters; for, indeed, we and our territories are suffering much damage from such measures as these pursued against us. May you be preserved in safety.

From your loving friend.

## APPENDIX B.

Treaty between His late HIGHNESS SEYYED SAEED and the Persian Government relating to Bunder Abbas, &c., translated from an Arabic version supplied by His HIGHNESS SEYYED THOWEYNEE, Sultan of Muscat,—(written in the month of Shaaban 1272 (1856).

DRAFT of the conditions to be required of the Imam of Muscat by the Ministers of the kingdom of Iran. On his acceptance of the same the Government of Bunder Abbas and its dependencies, as also of the two maritime islands,\* together with Eiseen, Jazian, Shemeel, Minan, and Biyaban, places belonging to the Supreme Government, may be given to any Arab Chief whom His Highness the Imam may appoint thereto for the space of the twenty years during which the said places are to be under his administration.

*Article 1.*—The Governor of Bunder Abbas shall be subject to the Supreme Government, and shall render obedience to the Governor of Shiraz; he shall, moreover, give a written declaration to the Ministers of the State that he is under the jurisdiction of the Government of Iran.

\* The sum charged for the farm.

† i. e., per annum.

‡ These sums still exacted, though the offices are reported to have been abolished.

*Article 2.*—The amount of the Maliyat,\* the gratuity to the Sadr-el-Azam, and the presents to the Shiya-ool-Moolk, shall be as follows†:—

Maliyat	...	...	12,000 tomans.
‡ Gratuity to the Sadr-el-Azam	...	2,000	„
„ to the Governor of Shiraz	...	1,500	„
‡ „ to the Shiya-ool-Moolk	...	500	„

In all, 16,000 tomans.

*Article 3.*—The ditch round Bunder Abbas shall be filled up with earth, and no other ditch shall be dug there.

*Article 4.*—For the space of twenty years the selection of the Governor over Bunder Abbas and the other places above named shall be vested in the Imam and his sons; at the expiration of the said twenty years these countries must be restored to the Ministers of the State in a prosperous condition, and it shall rest with them to decide whether they shall again be made over to him (the Imam) or not.

*Article 5.*—The flag of the State, with a certain number of men to guard it, and also an Officer to see that the flag is respected, shall be maintained (at Bunder Abbas); also a special courier, who shall bring the Government Des-

## Muscat Treaty.

patches to Bunder Abbas every month ; and on festivals and on the birthdays of the Shah a salute shall be fired ; a gun shall also be fired at sunrise and at sunset throughout the year.

*Article 6.*—The subjects residing in the above-named places, who are now under the Governor of Bunder Abbas, but who were latterly in the service of the State§ shall not be molested in any way, neither shall they be subjected to any annoyance, but shall be treated with all kindness.

§ This refers to some who took part against the late Seyyed Saeed during his late expedition to Bunder Abbas.

*Article 7.*—The Governor of Bunder Abbas shall not interfere in any way beyond the limits of Bunder Abbas and of the places named in the Treaty of the late Khakhan Feth Alee Shah.

*Article 8.*—Should the Governor of Shiraz, or the Governors of Laristan, see fit to visit any of the above-named places, either for pleasure or on hunting excursions, they shall receive the courtesies and compliments due to Governors.

*Article 9.*—Should the Governors of Fars or the Governors of Kirman on any important occasion wish to dispatch troops towards Cutch, or Mekran, or Beloochistan, they shall be treated with the respect due to Governors, and shall be supplied with provisions, guides, and escorts.

*Article 10.*—Should the Governor of Shiraz have cause to complain of the conduct of the Governor of Bunder Abbas, the Imam of Muscat, on being informed thereof, shall, without any excuse, immediately remove him, and shall appoint another person in his place, who shall also be subject to the Governor of Shiraz, as were the Governors who preceded him.

*Article 11.*—Should any of the subjects of Laristan, or of Es-Sebaa, or of any part of the province of Fars, or any of the subjects of Kirman, take refuge within any of the above-named limits, the Governors of those places, on being apprised thereof, shall send them back to their respective homes.

*Article 12.*—This Treaty regarding Bunder Abbas, and all the conditions therein set forth, are to be held as restricted to the person of Seyyed Saeed, who is now living, and to his children, and as applicable to them and to them only: should any other rule over Muscat, Bunder Abbas and the islands are not to be his, but they are to be at the disposal of the Ministers of the State.

*Article 13.*—Whilst Bunder Abbas, and Shemeel, and Minan, and the two maritime islands, shall be in the hands of any Officer of the Imam of Muscat, he shall not give passage there to any agent of the foreign Governments, but he shall engage to guard and protect the above-named places both by sea and land. And wherever there is a safe anchorage in any of the places under his jurisdiction, he shall maintain ships-of-war there, always ready to prevent the entrance of any foreign enemy, and shall especially guard against treachery at all times and by all available means; and further, he shall not suffer any enemy from among the Arabs or from any foreign State to enter the above-named limits; and should they attempt to enter the soil of Iran, he shall not permit it, but shall prevent their doing so.

*Article 14.*—The Imam of Muscat has not the right to make over Bunder Abbas and the other places above named to any foreign Government, or to any other parties, even under the foregoing conditions. The jurisdiction over them is confined to himself personally, to those appointed by him, and to his kinsmen, subject to the conditions above set forth.

*Article 15.*—The Banyan who farms the customs of Muscat shall not levy any Duty on goods which do not enter Muscat, and which are taken to India or elsewhere.

*Article 16.*—The property seized at Kishm\* shall be sent to Bunder Abbas and shall be made over to Abdool Mahomed, the head of the merchants, who shall send it to Bushire, in order that it may be restored to its owners at Teheran.

\* During the late war between Seyyed Saeed and the Persians.



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SHEIKH MAHOMED BIN ABDULLA OF  
DEMAUM.

*From Turkish Arabia, No. 46, dated 4  
December 1861.*

Progs., 1861, October, Nos. 70-73.

COLONEL KEMBALL, Political Agent, Turkish Arabia, has forwarded a copy of a letter addressed by him to the British Ambassador at the Porte,

“regarding the alleged objects of the visit of the British Resident in the Persian Gulf, accompanied by several of Her Majesty’s Indian Naval Vessels, to Demaum.”

Colonel Kemball was informed by the Governor-General of Bagdad that the Sheikh Bahrein, accompanied by the Resident in the Persian Gulf, and five British ships-of-war, proceeded to Demaum to demand the surrender of Mahomed bin Abdulla, who had been allowed by the Wahabee Chief, Fysoo Beg, to take refuge there. The Governor-General of Bagdad claimed Demaum as a part of the Turkish dominions.

Colonel Kemball informed him, in reply, that he would write to the Resident on the subject, and that, in the meantime, he was certain that the Resident could have no other object in view than to maintain the integrity of the Island of Bahrein (which, he observed, was an independent principality, having treaty relations with Great Britain), and to preserve peace and general security on the waters of the Persian Gulf, which was of importance to every power having commercial interests on the shores of that sea.

Colonel Kemball has sent a copy of the above correspondence to the British Ambassador at Constantinople, in anticipation of a reference which might be made to His Excellency by the Porte. Colonel Kemball observed that Ameer Fysul, who has given refuge to Mahomed bin Abdulla, is a tributary of the Turkish Government, and that

P.—198-201—February.

Exd.—R. T. B.

the coast between Kateef and Demaum is amenable to his sway; but that if he were to resort to his former piratical practices, the Porte has not the means of coercing him. On the other hand, it is probable that the Porte may even be disposed to countenance the attempt of Ameer Fysul to extend his rule, or, in other words, to establish its own authority, nominally, over the independent Island of Bahrein.

The correspondence in this Office on the above subject was reported to the Secretary of State on the 23rd November.

The former note will show more fully that, in spite of the repeated warnings of the British Government, Mahomed bin Abdulla, the Chief of Demaum, aided by his Wahabee neighbours, had made extensive preparations to get possession of Bahrein, and had seized several vessels bearing Turkish colors and one belonging to a Persian port, when the British squadron in the Gulf interposed. The Resident, with the approval of Government, has requested Mahomed bin Abdulla to withdraw from Demaum, and to settle in any place except between Grane and Aboothabee, informing him at the same time that the Chief of Bahrein had agreed to settle upon him \$3,000 a year, and that if he refused those terms, he would be deported. This decision has also been communicated to the Wahabee Ameer.

It will be seen from Captain Jones' report of October 1859, that Mahomed bin Abdulla was believed to be only a tool in the hands of the Wahabee Patriarch and Ruler of Nejd, Ameer Fysul, and that the extension of the Wahabee power in that part of the Gulf is simply equivalent to the extension of piracy.

(Sd.) C. U. A.

10-2-62.

COLONEL KEMBALL should have been informed by the Resident, Persian Gulf, upon

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all points. It is very essential that where the Agents of the British Government are in contact with Arab Chiefs, whose relations to the Porte are uncertain, that there should exist between the British Agents constant and confidential intercourse. The isolated position and action of British Agents may result in unexpected difficulties if they are ignorant of each others proceedings.

(Sd.) H. M. D.

11-2-62.

YES, a copy of Colonel Kemball's letter should be sent to Bombay with instructions to that effect both as to the past and the future.

Colonel Kemball should also be informed direct as to what has been ordered in regard to Mahomed bin Abdulla.

(Sd.) C. B.

24-2-62.



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No. 46, dated Baghdad, 4th December 1861.  
From—LIEUT.-COL. A. B. KEMBALL, C.B., Political Agent in Turkish Arabia,  
To—COL. H. M. DURAND, C.B., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for submission to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, regarding the alleged objects of the visit of the British Resident in the Persian Gulf, accompanied by several of Her Majesty's Indian Naval Vessels of War, to Demaum.

कॉम्प्यूटर, ग्रंथालय सेवा विभाग  
एन एच आर ए प्रभाग  
कॉपीराइट वेस्ट्स इन द नेशनल आर्काइव्स  
of India. Government of India.

No. 38, dated Bagdad, 4th December 1861.

From—LIEUT.-COL. A. B. KEMBALL, C.B., Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad,  
To—HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR H. L. BULWER, G.C.B., Her  
Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

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IN anticipation of a reference which I apprehend may be made to Your Excellency by the Porte, regarding the alleged objects of the visit of the British Resident in the Persian Gulf, accompanied by several of Her Majesty's Indian Naval vessels-of-war to Demaum, I have the honor to submit herewith to Your Excellency copies and translations of a correspondence which has passed between myself and the Governor-General of Bagdad on the subject.

Nos. 1 and 2.

Although I am aware from report that Captain Jones has proceeded to Demaum, a small fort and village situated on the Arabian Coast over against the S. W. extremity of the Island of Bahrein, I possess no information of the particulars of the expedition or of the nature of the offence given to the British Government by Sheikh Mahomed bin Abdulla, the refugee Chief, who is located there. That Ameer Fysul, the Wahabee Chief, is a tributary of the Turkish Government, and that the coast between Kateef and Demaum is amenable to his sway cannot, I believe, be disputed; but it is certain, I may observe, that the Porte does not itself possess the means of coercing, or punishing, its tributary, should he evince an inclination to resort to his former piratical practices; while, on the other hand, it is probable, that the Porte may even be disposed to countenance the attempt of Ameer Fysul to extend his rule, or in other words, to establish its own authority, nominally, over the independent Island of Bahrein.

Your Excellency will observe that I have solicited explanations from the British Resident in the Persian Gulf, and his reply on receipt will be immediately submitted to Your Excellency.

No. 1.

Translation of a letter from HIS EXCELLENCY AHMED TEROFIK PASHA, Governor-General of Bagdad, to COLONEL A. B. KEMBALL, C.B., Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, dated 25th Jemadel Awel 1278.

I LEARN by letters from Bussorah that one of the (Sheikh Zadeh) hereditary Sheikhs of Bahrein, in any case the cousin of the present Sheikh, having sought refuge with Fysul Beg, the Kammakam of Nejd, who had assigned to him a residence at a village called Demaum. The Sheikh of Bahrein took umbrage at this arrangement, and being averse to this person's residing at Demaum, entered into communication with the British Consul at Bushire, and requested the removal of the said refugee either to Koweit or to some other spot (town) in Nejd. Accordingly the British Consul taking five ships-of-war with him has proceeded to Demaum to cause the said refugee to withdraw from that place, or in the event of opposition to employ force against Demaum. Now seeing that the said place is part of the hereditary dominions of the Sultan, and that perfect alliance and friendship are existing between the two Governments, it is incredible that the said Consul should thus *proprio motu* have proceeded taking with him vessels-of-war as above stated, and the accounts received therefore cannot be regarded as perfectly well founded. Accordingly I find myself under the necessity of enquiring from you, who doubtless possess information on the subject, whether it be true that the said Consul has proceeded to the above-mentioned place in the manner reported, and if so, what may be the cause of his visit.

No. 2.

Reply to the foregoing letter.

In reply to Your Excellency's letter dated yesterday, I have the honor to state that I have received no information from the British Resident in the

1

वर्षाधिकार सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार  
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of India. Government of India.

22

3697

Persian Gulf as to the objects of his visit to Bahrein. I purpose, however, to communicate to that officer the contents of your letter, and to solicit such explanations on the subject as he may desire to offer.

In the meantime I may venture to assure Your Excellency that the said British Resident can have no other designs but to maintain the integrity of the Island of Bahrein, which is an independent principality, having treaty relations with Great Britain, and to preserve peace and general security on the waters of the Persian Gulf, which must be an object of no less advantage to other powers, having commercial interests on the shores of that sea, than to the British Government.

BAGDAD,  
The 30th November 1861.

(Sd.) A. B. KEMBALL,  
H. M.'s Consul-Genl., Bagdad.

2  
Exd.-J. D. G.

सर्वाधिकार सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार  
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Fort William  
Foreign Dept  
Political

The 28<sup>th</sup> February 1862.

3698

No 200

23

To

The Political Agent  
Turkish Arabia

Sir,

In reply to your letter  
No 48 dated 4<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> last  
forwarding a copy of your  
despatch to H. H.'s Ambassador  
at Constantinople regarding  
the alleged objects of the  
visit to Demam of the  
British Resident in the  
Persian Gulf, ~~accompanied~~  
~~by several of H. H.'s Naval~~  
~~vessels of war~~, I am directed  
by the Gov<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> in Council  
to

des 1/3/62

3699

to forward for your information  
a copy of a letter this day  
addressed to the Secretary  
to the Gov<sup>t</sup> of Bombay on the

subject. ~~and to state that~~

2. ~~With respect to the object of the Brit<sup>ish</sup> Expedition from  
in spite of the repeated~~ *to inform you that*

warnings of the British  
Gov<sup>t</sup> Mahomed bin Abdulla,  
the Chief of Deraun, aided  
by his Wahabee neighbours,  
had made extensive pre-  
parations to get possession  
of Behrein, and had seized  
several vessels bearing  
Turkish Colors and one  
belonging to a Persian  
port, when the British  
Squadron

## محتويات الوثائق التاريخية موجزاً

٣٥٧٨. ٣٥٧٦ تتضمن هذه الوثيقة ترجمة رسالة بعثها إمام مسقط إلى الحاكم العام للهند، وقد ذكر فيها عزمه على الاستيلاء على جزيرة البحرين و طلب مشورته بهذا الخصوص .
٣٥٨٠. ٣٥٧٩ تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن إمكانية نشوب الحرب على جزيرة البحرين ، كما تذكر سياسة الحكومة الإنجليزية ري مثل هذه الأوضاع المتفجرة .
٣٥٨٢. ٣٥٨١ تتحدث هذه الوثيقة أن عبدالله بن احمد رغم كبر سنه لا يزال يحتفظ بقواه الفكرية و العملية و يمكن له أن يقوم على أي عمل في أي وقت .
٣٥٨٥. ٣٥٨٣ تتضمن هذه الوثيقة نبأ عن عبدالله بن احمد لشن هجوماً على جزيرة البحرين حالما يشعر أن عمله هذا يؤدي إلى نتيجة ايجابية .
٣٥٨٧. ٣٥٨٦ تتضمن هذه الوثيقة رسالة بعثها المقيم الإنجليزي إلى عيسى بن طريف يستفسره عن أنباء و تقارير متضادة و صلته عنه . كما تتضمن إذن الكولونيل روبرتسن له لتقديم العون إلى محمد بن خليفة في حربه مع عبدالله بن احمد .
٣٥٨٩. ٣٥٨٨ تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن مندوب أرسله فيصل سعود مع رسائله إلى عمان و قد ذكر فيها وصوله إلى مدينة الرياض و القضاء إلى بني سونيان .
٣٥٩٢. ٣٥٩٠ تتضمن هذه الوثيقة ترجمات تقارير العملاء الإنجليز الخاصة بشئون قطر، و هي تتحدث أيضاً عن نشوب نزاع بين عيسى بن طريف و خليفة و هو ما يمكن أن يعم السواحل العربية كلها بالهلاك و الدمار .
٣٥٩٤. ٣٥٩٣ تتضمن هذه الوثيقة تفاصيل توظيف البواخر الإنجليزية المتواجدة في خليج فارس في مختلف المهمات البحرية و الموانئ التي زارتها هذه



- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن رغبة رئيس البحرين للتعاون مع الأمير فيصل في مهمة حربية ضد عمان. ٣٥٩٧.٣٥٩٥
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن إرسال خمسين فارساً و جواداً من مدينة بونا إلى مدينة عدن. ٣٦٠٠.٣٥٩٨
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن ضرورة و حكمة اتخاذ بعض الإجراءات للضمان على أمن البواخر الإنجليزية الحربية التي تزور الموانئ الفارسية و مدن السواحل العربية بين حين و آن. ٣٦٠٣.٣٦٠١
- تتضمن هذه الوثيقة نبأ إنتهاء الخلافات بين إمارة دبي و أبي ظبي و اطمئنان الحكومة الإنجليزية عليها. ٣٦٠٤
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن قيام الصلح و إصلاح ذات البين بين رؤوساء إمارة دبي و أبوظبي. ٣٦٠٥
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن بعض الإجراءات التي قام بها المقيم البريطاني في جزيرة البحرين. ٣٦٠٦
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن تخلي رئيس جزيرة البحرين عن القيام بعمليات بحرية ضد عمان. ٣٦٠٧
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن تدمير المدينة الساحلية الفارسية بونگون على أيدي قوات دشتي. ٣٦٠٨
- تتحدث هذه الوثيقة عن الزيارة غير المتوقعة للشيخ عبدالله بن احمد إلى نابند (?) و قيامه بإلغاء القبض على ثلاث سفن صغيرة لجزيرة البحرين. ٣٦١٠.٣٦٠٩

(Copies)

3576  
3702

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Imam  
of Muskat to the Right Honble the Governor General  
of India.

R.C. The cause of writing these  
letters of friendship is to enquire after your  
state and circumstances; and should you  
desire to know how your friend is, then know  
that through the grace of God and the prosperity  
of that Government (the British) I am in  
perfect health and happiness. Now your  
Excellency will receive herewith a copy of a  
letter which I have sent to the Right Honble  
Viscount Palmerston. I have informed him  
of my desire to take Bahrain. I beg of  
your Excellency to read the letter and write  
us and inform us of what you think best  
for me to do. I thus trouble you but pray  
excuse me, and whatever your Excellency  
requires of me much or little the sign rests  
with you, and peace on you now & hereafter.

Written  
22 Rube' al Akh'ir 1265  
18<sup>th</sup> March 1849.

From the Expectant slave  
of God's mercy  
M Sa'id bin Sultan.

(Translation)  
M A. Hamerton



Translation of a letter from His Highness the  
Sultan of Muscat to the Right Honorable  
Viscount Palmerston.

A. C.

Afterwards, the cause of writing these  
words of friendship is to enquire after your  
state and circumstances. Now be it known  
(not concealed) to you that with reference  
to Bahrein the people of the same are at  
variance one with the other, and most of  
them have left the place because they are  
in perplexity [in great distress] perhaps  
their circumstances are as well or better  
known to you as to me, therefore should  
you think it advisable for me, and should  
you be perfectly satisfied that I should  
proceed to Bahrein (for the purpose of  
talking it) I beg of you to send me  
your opinion on the subject and write  
to me - but if you think it not proper  
for me to do this, and that it is more  
proper that I should refrain from this  
business and remain quiet, then write  
me to that effect and also tell me whether

the



the people who have left Bahreen have  
 your permission to accompany me because  
 they have come here to me and their desire  
 is to assist me and go with me (to take  
 Bahreen.) I thus trouble you with this  
 affair but pray excuse me, and whatsoever  
 you require of me much or little the sign  
 rests with you, and peace on you.

3678

3704

Written  
 at Bahrein 1265  
 15 March 1849.

From the Deputant slave  
 of God's mercy  
 D. Saad bin Sultan.

(True translation)  
 of the above

(True Copies)

*[Signature]*  
 Sent by the Com. of India  
 with the Governor General.

31 *[Signature]*

2/  
No. 224 of 1843.

3579  
3705

From, the Secretary to the Government of  
Bombay

To, Lieutenant Colonel N. D. Robertson

Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 1843.

Political Departments:-

Sir,

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 100, dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> November last forwarding copy of a communication from your Assistant Lieutenant Campbell of the 4<sup>th</sup> of the same month; and in reply to inform you that the Honorable the Governor in Council approves of that Officer's proceedings at Bahrein as therein reported.

2. Adverting to the prospect of war at Bahrein, I am desired to refer you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> para of my letter No. 3158, dated the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, in which you were informed that it is the policy of the British Government to abstain from all interference with quarrels by land, and that you watch the proceedings of the contending parties and secure the observance by all of the existing Maritime engagements.

6

In



~~3560~~  
3706

3. In a letter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1840 J<sup>r</sup> McKenzie, then in temporary charge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf & solicited instructions in regard to the course & which he should pursue, in the event of an expected collision between the Chief of Bahrein and his grand nephew Mahomed bin Kulsafa, and, in reply, under date the 14<sup>th</sup> of the following month, that Officer was informed that the former Chief by his past conduct, was not entitled to any support from the British Government. - This decision was approved of by the Home Authorities. -

4. The Governor in Council therefore does not see any reason for altering the past policy of Government in regard to this Chief, and the system of non-interference should be continued to be observed. -

Have the hon<sup>r</sup> to be, &c.  
Bombay Castle } [signed] J. P. Willingdon  
Secretary to Government.  
January 1843

True Copy

[Signature]  
Secretary to Government

Replied by  
Ant. Gonzalez

424 Sobanovan



1) N<sup>o</sup>. 196 of 1842.

3581  
3707

From Lieut. Col. H. W. Robertson

To, Off<sup>o</sup>. Resid<sup>o</sup>. in the Persian Gulf

J. P. Wiltoughby Esquire

Secretary to Government

Bombay

Dated 22<sup>d</sup>. November 1842.

Sir

I have the honor with reference to my letter N<sup>o</sup>. 180 dated the 31<sup>st</sup>. ultimo, to enclose a copy of a report from my Assistant Lieutenant Hemball, of his proceedings at Bahrein.

2. In a private communication, Lieutenant Hemball informs me that "Abdoolah 'ben Ahmed still retains all his faculties and is evidently a shrewd intelligent man". I mention this, as bearing some reference to my remarks respecting his old age, in the 7<sup>th</sup>. paragraph of my letter to the Honorable the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, a copy of which accompanied my letter N<sup>o</sup>. 95 dated the 8<sup>th</sup>. Instant to your address.

5

3<sup>o</sup>.

3.

I solicit the instructions of your  
on the subject of the references made to me by Sheikh  
Abdolla bin Ahmed, stated by my Assist<sup>ts</sup> and  
beg leave to remind you of the correspondence noted  
in the margin respecting the footing on which our  
Genl Tarraf occupied the island of Kenu, and the  
nature of our former interference in the quarrels  
of the Al. Allee and Mthoolie Tribes.

~~3562~~  
3708

\* Capt<sup>l</sup> Genelle  
Letters 12, 55, 128, 153,  
140 of 1839 Genl Dept.

4. It is evident I think, that if Abdolla  
bin Looneyaw the Ruler of Nedjda has any ability, he  
can hardly fail in now gaining an ascendancy  
over Bahrein either by aiding Mahomed bin  
Khuleefa, and by force of arms - or by deserting him  
to support Sheikh Abdolla, under the condition of  
Sheikh Abdolla acknowledging his supremacy;  
a dilemma into which the Sheikh may be driven  
from his unpopularity at home, and the combined  
strength of his opponents in War. -

Residency Pers Gulf  
Bushire 22. Nov. 1842.

I have the honor  
Signed H. D. Robertson  
Off<sup>r</sup> Resid<sup>t</sup> Persian Gulf

Office N<sup>o</sup> 226 of 1843.

Cons: N<sup>o</sup> 92 of 1843.

From Lieutenant. J. B. Kemball.

Assistant Resident in the Persian  
Gulf in Charge.

To J. P. Willoughby Esquire.

Secretary to the Government of  
Bombay.

Political Department.

Dated Bushire 3 August 1843

Sir,

I have the honor to report for  
the information of your authority, that the vessel  
reached this morning from Bassidor, and  
the Coast where she had shown herself at all  
the principal Ports, and touched at Amilga  
vine and Bahrein. No further intelligence of  
importance has reached us.

The affairs of the latter place  
remained in statu quo, it was expected that  
Abdullah bin Alushi would ere long attack  
Bahrein when a successful result may be  
anticipated.

J. B. Kemball

वर्नायकार सुरेन्द्र रायदास अभिलक्षणाथ  
भारत सरार क...

37  
3583  
3709 3709



2 The Merchant Parque Anno by  
which this dispatch is forwarded starting this  
evening for the Presidency. I am unable to  
forward more than translations of Mahomed  
bin Khulifas letter to my address and of  
my intended reply.

3 I beg to enclose extracts from  
Commander Porter's letter and Lieutenant Macdonald's  
report relating to the sickly state of Bassidore  
during the present season. The fever seems  
to have attacked a very large number but has  
not, I am happy to add, as yet caused  
any mortality.

4 The European crew of the *Albatross*  
with the exception of two men are now  
convalescent. It is my intention to retain  
that vessel in these parts where she will  
have a better climate and the benefit of  
Mr. Dabington's Medical aid for a time  
(unless her services be urgently required  
elsewhere) instead of returning her to  
Bassidore.

3584

3710



3585

3711

39

I have the honor to be &c.

Signed J. A. B. Newball

Assistant Resident Persian

Gulf in Charge

Residency in the  
Persian Gulf District  
3<sup>rd</sup> August 1843.

Copied by  
Amesbury  
W. H. M.

12



Translation of a letter from Lieutenant A. B. Kimball  
Assistant Resident in the Persian Gulf in charge to  
Esau bin Sauf of Guase dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 1843

3566

3712

A.C. So many contradictory reports have reached  
me regarding your intentions and movements that  
I have determined upon addressing you in order  
to learn the truth by your answer -

When I met your friend, Sultan  
bin Sulaiman at Guase he informed me  
that you were going to settle with your tribe  
at Bassaba, if not at once, certainly after  
the Pearl Fishery - my advice are friend  
as much as I can, that you lose no time in doing so. It is  
true that Colonel Robertson granted permis-  
sion that you should take over your armed  
boats to the assistance of Mahomed bin  
Khalifa against Abdullah bin Ahmed -  
you did so, gained your object, and have re-  
turned to Guase - now you should either  
remain there quiet and peaceably interfering  
in no way in the Affairs of any of the  
Chiefs of the Arabian Coast, or proceed with  
your