

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.11.1837, Nos.9-12. contd.

....

No.10.

/Copies/

/No.83 of 1837/

Political Department.

To

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay,

Dated 16th September, 1837.

Sir,

I have the honour to report for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council that I was this day wanted upon by a confidential Agent of the Jasmee Chief, Sheikh Sultan bin Suggur, named Mahomed bin Iwaz, who after delivering me the letter from his superior, of which the accompanying is a Translation, proceeded to communicate the message with which he was entrusted to the following effect.

That by the blessing of God, and the kindness of the British Government in establishing the Truce, the Pearl Fishery of the present year had been exceedingly successful, and that the Sheik was so sensible of the benefits derived from the maintenance of peace, and tranquility in the Gulf, that he was desirous an end should be put to fighting by sea altogether, and that a General Agreement should be entered into by the Chiefs on the Arabian Coast, to confine their wars upon each other entirely to the Land, with the understanding, that any aggression at sea should be immediately treated by

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redress enforced accordingly, in short that the Truce instead of being established for six months, should be made perpetual. The Sheikh's Agent went on to say that of late years the subjects of his superior had greatly extended their commercial dealings in all quarters, that the season for their proceeding to the Coasts of India, &c. was now approaching that in the course of about ten weeks more the terms of the Truce would expire, and he was apprehensive lest the Beni-yas /who were little employed in trading pursuits/ should take advantage of the vessels being scattered in all parts of the world, to attack them when separated, and unprepared, and that in fact it was this fear which made him so anxious for the permanent establishment of peace on the Seas.

2nd. In reply to this communication I expressed the greatest pleasure at receiving such satisfactory proofs of the peaceable disposition of the Joasmee Chief, which I said, I felt certain would afford much gratification to the authorities in India. That although I was quite convinced the real interests of all the Arabian Chiefs would be best consulted by the permanent maintenance of peace upon the Seas, yet, that I could not venture to make the Government, a party to such an engagement, without receiving the express authority for so doing - that it was true I was authorized to enforce the conditions of the truce established during the Pearl Fishery,

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inhabitants of the Arabian Coast was in a great measure involved in the successful prosecution of their labours, upon the Banks which could only be carried on under the confidence of perfect security, but that considering the irrasible temper and jealous feelings of the different ~~xxx~~ chiefs, and the enmit that would constantly exist between their dependants in consequence of their inland feuds and quarrels, it was morethan doubtful whether the Sirkar would, by becoming a party to the total supression of lawful and acknowledged war by sea, take upon itself the arduous and difficult office of perpetual arbiter in all collisions that might occur among the vessels of the patties concurring in such an arrangement. I added that I was on the point of visiting the Præsidency, and would take that opportunity of learning the sentiments of the Governmant upon the Sheikh's proposal, and that as in all probability Colonel Morison or myself would be in the Gulf before the termination of the Truce, such steps as might be in accordance with the views of the authorities in India could then be taken I concluded by saying that in order no time might be lost, I would write to Sheikh Khuleefa ben Shaiboot to ascertain how far he was disposed to consent to the renewal of the Truee for another six months at the same ~~xx~~ time warning him, that any aggressions committed upon ¹⁶⁸ his neighbours by sea even after the termination of the period specified in the engagements at present existing

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be considered and treated as an act of piracy, unless due notice were previously given to the Resident, and his permission received for the renewal of hostilities

3. That the cordial adoption by the other Arabian Chiefs of the Sheikh Sultans proposal to confine their hostilities to the land alone, would tend greatly to promote the interests both of humanity and civilization in this part of the world as I venture to think unquestionable, but I much doubt whether the chiefs whose subjects like those of the rulers of Debaye and aboothabee take little interest in commercial pursuits, would ever become bonafide members of such engagement. At the same time, it appears to me very problematical, whether it be the policy of the Govt. to place itself in such immediate contact with the disputes and quarrels of the restless and turbulent characters, as would be implied in its becoming a guarantee of the maritime peace, and pledging itself to afford redress on the occasion of all acts of aggression that might be committed upon each other by sea in future, without reference to the expediency of each individual.

4. Under all consideration I would respectfully submit an opinion that the same objections do not exist to the Resident using his best endeavours to persuade the chiefs of the Arabian Coast who are members of the present Truce; to consent to its renewal for another six months, under the proviso, that in the event of its being infringed by

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take steps himself to enforce redress for the complainants or simply affording permission to their adopting their own measures to obtain satisfaction.

5. One of the reasons which induces me to think that Sheikh Khuleefa will not become a cordial subscriber to a renewal of the Truce, is the ardent desire ~~he~~ entertains to reduce Debaye once more to its former dependence upon Aboothabee. This fort which lies a few miles to the Westward of Shargah was captured by the late Benyas chiefs Tahmon, and remained in the possession of his tribe until his murder by his brother Khuleefa, on which occasion the Boo Telasa, who formed its garrison, threw off their allegiance upon Aboothabee, and formed a close alliance with the Joasmees. The hatred now subsisting between the Benyas and Boofelasa is extreme, and their feud is carried on in land with great inveteracy, although from the dread of our power, they do not commit aggressions upon each other by sea.

6th. As a question of general policy, the advantages of Debaye remaining an independent place in alliance with Shargah or becoming again subject to the Benyas are so nearly balanced, as to render it a matter of indifference to us as to which party may hold it. In the first point of view the separation of the territories of Sheikh Khuleefa and Sheikh Sultan ben Suggur by those of an independent power, prevents the collision which were

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...taking place between those two chiefs

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would render that tribe much more tangible by us than they are at present and consequently being them more effectually under our controul. Our ships of War can be without much risk within gun shot of Debye, but extreme measures against Abbothabee, if even unfortunately necessary must be carried on by boats, which with reference to the dangerous nature of the Coast, the distance the vessels be off, and the brave and determined character of the Inhabitants, would be an operation of considerable difficulty and risk.

Residency in the
Persian Gulf,
Bushire 6th,
September 1837.

I have &ca.
Sd/ S. Hennell,
Offg. Rest. in the Persian Gulf.

Translation of a letter from Sultan bin Suggur to the Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 25th Jumada-awul or 27th August 1837.

After compliments,

The letter you sent reached on the 10th Rubea-
Ulaanee /14th July/ and its contents were fully comprehended Relative to the prohibition of plunder and piracy our sentiments continue the same as represented at our interview and should it be carried into effect (the Truee made permanent) it will confer prosperity on the country you are aware that the present is the season in which the

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the state of the Banyas, that they have no connections /commercial/and that, that Island of theirs is their boundary. Besides some one else* urges them on to raise disturbances, and troubles, and he gives them things to the extent of his ability both privately and publickly. We relying on providence, have no fear from them all but our people will be scattered in distant places, such as India, Yemen #Shani /Arabian Coast of the Red Sea/ and Sowahil/ Zanzibar &ca/ and the period of their absence will be long and they will be unacquainted with changes that may take place after their departure on their return they will be unprovided with warlike implements, and unprepared for war thinking that the same safety and security will prevail as where they left. Therefore it will be necessary to inform them before they leave, so that every one may make the necessary arrangements you are yourself acauainted with the state of affairs, and should the Truce be made perpetual and a permanent peace be established, so that the poor might live in peace and safety and bloodshed be put a stop to agreeably to universal wish, it will not be unacceptable to us, on the contrary we most earnestly desire it. I do myself the pleasure of sending the Bearer of this Mohomedbin Swaz, to wait on you that he may become fully acquainted with your santi-ments on the subject. The rest will he explain.

1 Alluding to
H. Highness
the Imaum.

/True translation/ 172

Sd/-T. Mackenzie.

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No.11.

No.2062

Bombay Castle, 31st October 1837.

Political Department.

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Fort William.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th September last, forwarding copy of a Resolution of the same date, arranging for the conduct of the business of the Supreme Government, during the absence from the Presidency of Fort William, of the Right Honourable the Governor General, and to acquaint you for the information of His Lordship in Council that, as far as this Government is concerned, the orders contained in the above Resolution will be acted upon from the date specified.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-W.H.Weathen

Chief Secy. to Govt.

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No.12.

Copy

No.152 of 1837

Secret Department.

To

W.H. Manchnaghten, Esquire,

Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor to transmit, for the purpose of being laid before the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Acting Resident at Sattara, dated the 20th Instant, commenting on Dr.Milve's Letter to your address dated the 7th instant.

Poona,

I have &ca.

23rd October 1837

- - Sd/-J.P.Willoughby

Secy. with the Right Honourable
the Governor General.

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FORE. POL. DEPT. 15.11.1837, nos.9-12. contd.

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To

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,
Secretary with the
Right Honourable the Governor
Poona.

Sir,

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, no.136 of the 13th instant, in the Secret Department, together with its accompaniments as noted

*Letter from Dr. Milve to Mr. Chief Secy. Wathen under dated 7th Oct. 1837,

Letter from Dr. Milve to Mr. Secy. Macnaghten, under dated 7th Oct. 1837, with two accompaniments.

in the margin*, and I beg to request you will have the goodness to lay before the Right Honourable the Governor the following remarks upon the same.

2. It appears to me that, with the exception of the accompaniments to Dr. Milves' letter marked No.2, the whole of this present representation is merely a repetition of what has been before brought forward by that Gentleman in his communications to Supreme Govt. under dated the 19th of July and the 18th and 23th ultimo, and reported upon in my replies under date the 27th ultimo and the 3rd and 11th instant.

3. I feel little doubt but that these replies will be found to continue a satisfactory refutation of the calumnies so boldly set forth on such slender grounds

17.5

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 1837, Nos.9-12. contd.

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the attention of Government, except by adverting to the only two points throughout the whole of this mass of assertion which appear new all the rest having as far as I see been fully in sifted and reported upon by the commissioner last year.

4th. These points are the recantation of the witness Koosheea and the Zeebanee No.2 now forwarded by Dr.Milve of Anna Naik Surraff. A reference, however, to the extraordinary circumstances attending the seizure and confession of the witness Kosheea, as well as to the fact of his evidence having after so long a period, been so firmly substantiated both by Abba Maruck and by his master Govind Row himself fully establish his veracity, Koosheea is now living in Sattara, and exposed to all the influence that can be practised upon him. But he firmly and unequivocally desires ever having made the statement alluded to and I beg to add, that as I know both I consider him for more entitled to credit than Nirro Punt Buddamkur. The Zubanee of the Surraff is scarcely worth any comments for it is impossible that the conclusive testimony now before Government regarding the attempts to temper with the Native Officers and Sepoys of the 23rd Regiment both by the Raja and his Minister can be shaken by each evidence as that.

5. I may, observe, however, that the plot is not so incredible and Dr.Milve, would fair with it to be considered on the contrary it formed part of an extended system of intrigue then in progress here. for purposes

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 15.11.1837, Nos.9-12. contd.

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purposes hostile to the British Government and it is a curious proof of the fallacy of Doctor Milve's assertions regarding the innocence of the Dewan, that there should now be in the hands of Government, a document drawn up by the very person himself containing of all confusion of the whole of this transaction, and confirming the evidence of the Soobidars, which is stated by Dr.Milve to be so unworthy of belief.

6. I would willingly now conclude, but I feel it incumbent on me to call the attention of Government to the language in which Dr.Milve has permitted himself to indulge in the 8th para. of his letter now under reply, which must doubtless, strikes Govt. as of an extraordinary nature, even if the charges so confidently brought forward by Dr.Milve on such vague and unsatisfactory proof were true they could scarcely be stigmatized in stronger terms but being false. I trust such language will meet with the condemnation it merits.

Sattara Residency,

20th October 1837.

/True copy/

Sd/-J.P.Willoughby

Secy. with the Right Honorable the Governor.

I have &ca.

Sd/-C.Ovans,

Acting Resident.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT.17.Jan.1833, No.7.

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No.7.

To

/Copy/

W.H. Wathen Esquire,

Chief Secy. to Government,

Bombay.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures under date 30th ultimo, respecting the maintenance of peace among the Arab Chieftains on the coast of the Persian Gulf, originating in a proposition from Sheikh Sooltan Bin Suggur.

2nd. The Right Honourable the Governor General desires me to request you to inform the ^{Right} Hon'ble the Governor in Council that the view taken by the Resident at Bushire with regard to the proposition above noted, is in his opinion a correct one, and the course of policy he recommends the most advisable.

3rd. It would be on every account most inexpedient, that the British Government should become involved as perpetual referee in the feuds of a restless and turbulent people, whose tribes are ever engaged in petty warfares one with the other. But the occasion which now offers of checking this spirit of hostility with a view to preserving the commerce of the Gulf from internal aggression will enable the British Government to come forward in the favorable character of a mediator without inducing the necessity of future interference, should the mediator

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...

4th. His Lordship is therefore of opinion that no time should be lost in apprising the Residant at Bushire of the approval of the policy which he recommends and authorizing him to act in conformity with it.

I have &ca.

Sd/-W.H.Macnaghten,

Secy. to the Govr. Genl.

of India.

Camp at Sydabad,

the 29th November, 1837.

/True copy/

Sd/-W.H.Macnaghten,

Secy. to the Govr. Genl. of India.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, Nos.3-4.

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No.3.

No.1124

Political Department

Bombay Castle, 21st September 1829.

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Supreme Government at
Fort William.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you for the purpose of being laid before the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, copy of a despatch from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, reporting the proceedings of the fleet of Abdoola Bin Ahmed the Chief of Bahrein against the state of His Highness the Imaum of Muscat, and of my reply of this date.

2nd. In transmitting this dispatch, I am directed to observe that it is a striking instance both of the necessity of our maintaining a naval supremacy in the Gulf of Persia and of the happy operation of the system of reliefs lately established which always makes two cruizers disposable for an emergency. It is quite evident that prompt and vigorous application has on this occasion not only obtained a restoration of plundered property that a recognition of our superiority more calculated than all other causes to suppress piracy and prevent heavy expenditure in restoring security to the commerce carried on

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No.4.

No.171 of 1829

Political Department.

To

William Newnham Esquire,
Chief Secretary to the Government,
Bombay.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to lay before the Honourable the Governor in Council, the accompanying correspondence and papers respecting certain proceedings of the Fleet of Abbdoola Ben Ahmed the Chief of Bahrein during a late cruize which was avowedly undertaken against the state of His Highness the Imam of Muskat.

2nd. These documents together with the notes which I have made in their margins, and the following observations, will I trust enable the Honourable the Governor in Council to form a true judgement respecting the nature of these disagreeable occurrences.

3rd. A vessels called "Derweish" the property of a person named Syed Mahomed, and belonging to a place called Morbut which is situated on the coast of Hadramant, was at Bombay in the month of April or May last, and there took on board a cargo and passengers for various places. Intending it is said first to touch at Muskat, next to come to Bushire, and then to proceed to Bahrein.

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4. This vessel having left Bombay fell in with the Bharein fleet under the personal command of the Chief of that place off Rasul-Had. The fleet closed on the Moorbut vessel and hailing, demanded from whence she came, and that she should immediately lower his sail whilst this was in the act of being done, two or three matchlocks are said in the confusion and fright to have been discharged by the Morbut boat, and immediately she was boarded on all sides by the Bharein Flæet. About twelve of the crew of the vessel thus boarded were put to death, and 10 or 12 wounded; among the former was Syud Mahomed himself the owner. The vessel being thus captured some of the chief of Bharein's men were placed on board and the whole flæet proceeded to that part of the Coast of Mickran which is near the entrance of the Persian Gulf.

5. Off a place called Koe Mubarrack two ships belonging to the Imam of Muskat appeared, and commenced an action with the Bahrain fleet. About this time all the valuable articles of the Cargo of the Morbut vessel were transshipped into those of Bharein, and when only a little rice in bulk remained a hole was knoked in her bottom, and she was sunk. The crew was landed on the coast of Mickran. The Bharein fleet having escaped from the ships of His Highness the Imam of Muskat reached that Island on the 11th of June.

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6. I have mentioned these circumstances first in point of order from their belonging to the most important occurrence, but it likewise appears that the Bharein fleet fell in also off Rasul-Had with an Aweesey /or small vessel/ said likewise to belong to Morbut. From this vessel a quantity of cotton, ghee, fish, and Drugs were taken, but it was afterwards permitted to proceed on its voyage.

7. It is most material to observe that the Chief of Bahrein has never "proclaimed or avowed" that a war existed between him and Morbut which he is bound to do

Art.2nd. If any individual of the people of the Arabs contracting shall attack any that pass by land or sea of any nation/ whatsoever in the way of plunder and piracy, and not of acknowledged war, he will be accounted an enemy of all mankind and shall be held to have forfeited both life and goods. An acknowledged war is that which is proclaimed avowed and ordered by Governments against Governments, and the killing of men and taking of goods without proclamation avowal and the orders of the Government is plunder and piracy.	to previous to proceeding to hostilities by the general treaty concluded by Sir William Grant Keir with the
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Arabian States, and to which Treaty the Chief of Bharein acceded by his own signature on the 23rd February 1820.

8. It will likewise be observed that there was a ~~Bharein~~ Merchant on board the largest of the Morbat vessels
*Vide Agent's letter No.4 & statement No.13 given by a man of board the Bugla when taken. and that he had with him

cargo also for Bharein. This is a strong indication that there was not even a suspicion that a quarrel existed /83

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9. These facts have satisfied my mind perfectly that the objectionable acts of the Chief of Bharein above represented are most clearly piratical, and as such I have considered it my special duty to call him to an account for them.

10. My object has been to proceed in my demands for restitution with moderation and caution, but in the most direct manner rather however keeping within the bounds to which I was entitled to go than exceeding them and not advancing one assertion or taking one step for which I had not the strongest reasons and the cleared right and justice.

11. My first letter to the Bahrein chief was founded on the accompanying extract of a letter from the Agent at Bharein, and is as it will be observed somewhat in the nature of a protest as I had not when it was written information sufficiently detailed to enable me to make specific claims. The Chief's reply to this letter, now forwarded appears in no way satisfactory. The Agent's letter however which enclosed it furnishes, as will be observed, some additional particulars.

12. The Government ship Benares having reached this place on the 8th ultimo, I resolved to send her to Bharein with further communications; I accordingly addressed the accompanying letter to Captain Haynes who sailed for Bharein on the 12th Ultimo, conveying the

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observed is more peremptory and enters more into particulars than I had the means of doing in my first.

13. On Captain Haynes's return he made the annexed general report of his proceedings, and brought the accompanying letters from the Bharein chief, and our Agent there.

14. It will be observed that none of the things demanded were then sent, although there were strong symptoms that the demand was seriously made.

15. A further step therefore became necessary carrying with it additional proofs that I was disposed to push, matters still farther, and I accordingly resolved to make the best display in my power and to try the effect of sending two vessels, as it seems important that every measure should be resorted to, likely to obviate the necessity of again employing force in support of that moral ascendancy, which has so effectually served our purposes for years.

16. In the maintenance of these views I sent the Benares back to Bharein accompanied by the Schooner Fly. Neither vessel it is true is of much warlike force, but they are both known to be government vessels, and as such carrying respect along with them. On this occasion I addressed the accompanying letter to Captain Haynes of the Benares.

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17. It will be observed that I first protested then I sent a ~~Government~~ vessel to convey a letter that was delivered by the usual Agent, lastly I sent two government vessels and the 1st Native Assistant of this Residency to deliver the annexed more peremptory letter, I preferred an inferior Agent on this occasion that I might husband the means at my disposal of producing an effect in making demands which thus gradually rise and put on a more positive shape as information is accumulated. I beg to solicit the attention of the Government to the accompanying instructions which were given to the Native Assistant in writing.

18. As connected with the subjects now under discussion I beg leave to forward a paper of information which I have obtained from a person who was on board the large Morbut vessel when it was captured.

19. On the 10th Instant the Benares returned to this place and Captain Haynes made a very satisfactory report of his proceedings of which the accompanying is an extract.

20. The Native Assistant brought back the enclosed answer from the Chief of Bharein.

21. It will doubtless be very gratifying to the Government to be the means of restoring so much property to its real owners, whilst the well timed concession of the Bharein Chief makes ultimate proceedings an object

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object of infinitely less importance than if, he had contumaciously persisted in retaining the entire fruits of his piratical proceedings. Besides the property, now brought and which may perhaps be valued at Persian Rupees 8,300. The Native Assistant was the means of procuring restitution of property to a considerable amount belonging to Bharein Merchants who had not dared to ask it from the Chief, their conqueror, the Utoobee Shaik. He likewise caused to be delivered upto a relation /who resides at Bharein/ of Syud Mahomed the owner of the Morbut Vessel, the two Kinnees/~~slave~~ women/and the slave mentioned in my second letter to the Chief.

22. I purpouse distributing the property brought here, to its different owners whenever they can produced reasonable proof of what may belong to them; in the mean time I have directed it to be placed in a store room in this town, but I fear there will be great difficulties in distinguishing property, the marks having been obliterated the boxes broken, and the bags torn and changed.

23. Our whole policy in this Gulf having for these last nine years been directed against piratical proceedings, to have abstained from noting the Bharein chiefs conduct would in my humble opinion have been to abandon that policy which has cost us such very great pecuniary sacrifices and by this creating in the minds of the people of these uncivilized countries a blief that their

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1838, no.3-4. contd.

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should incur the hazard of being forced before long, once more to assert our supremacy by a powerful effort, that under few circumstances could be made without great cost and much intermediate loss of character.

24. But although there is certainly a point beyond which we cannot afford even with our high character, to temporise, still there are various degrees in which any system of policy may be supported, and I now beg to solicit the orders of the Government respecting the lengths it may be pleased to go on the present occasion.

25. I am not prepared to affirm that our resting satisfied only with what we have now forced from the Chief of Bharein, would not impose upon us the necessity of ere long giving a stronger proof of our strength, but I believe that our demonstrations and the success attending upon them on the present occasion, will produce a conviction that we have not abandoned our views of maintaining the suppression of piracy. If this Gulf had not been considerably unsettled by the late wars, this conviction might certainly have been made to answer all our purposes; whether it shall also in its present state, will be for the consideration of the government.

26. From what I can learn I believe that the property given up by the Chief of Bharein is all that could be expected in kind any future demands must therefore be answered in money, which probably increases considerably

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may alter the view of the question; for any amount now forced from the Chief of Bhareih in hard cash would probably not be paid from his own treasury, but taken by him from the weakest of his subjects, the Bhareinees, the conquered race, in the way, of contributions, as it is not probable that the UtobeeTribe the conquerers, could be made even by their chief, to contribute any cash.

27. Still if there should arise any claims of British subjects in the cases under discussion, they might I conceive with perfect justice be enforced since the question would be whether our own subjects or the subjects of the delinquent should suffer, but the Government may choose to stop at any particular point in pushing measures dictated by views of liberal policy, and from which other powers benefit, when these measures may only shift the burden of sufferings from the subjects of one foreign state to those of another. In such a case we surely might confine ourselves with every right to the extent of interference the Government may think necessary to support our own views.

28. From the want of perfect information I have been forced, as will be observed, to confine my demands in some measure to such portion of the Cargoes of the Morbut vessel as was forthcoming, I have no means on which I could found an estimate either of the total value of the Cargoes, or of the value of the vessel which was destroyed. I must therefore depend on whatever information may be sent from

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I presume could be obtained from the custom House.

29. I now take the liberty most respectfully to express an opinion that the final determination of the government should be communicated in a letter from the Honourable the Governor to the Chief of Bharein, and should any further demands be made, I conceive there should be in this gulf, and at my disposal, the means of immediately enforcing them particularly as the Chief of Bharein seems to have acquired considerably higher ideas of his own consequence and strength, since the late occurrences between him and His Highness the Imam of Muskat. In the mean time I purpose informing the Chief that his having so far complied with the demands made upon him obviates my being obliged, in conformity to my order to proceed against him forthwith, and that I have therefore made a reference to the Government to ascertain the total amount it may be pleased to demand, which will be communicated hereafter.

30. The easiest means of enforcement in our power seems to be that of blockading the Island, or rather one end of it where the Town of Manamah and Island of Maharaj are situated. The object of this blockade might extend only to stopping all commercial intercourse with other places.

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31. To effect this blockade, three efficient sloops of war would probably be necessary aided from time to time by the Commodore's vessel from Bassadore, and the Fly Schooner from hence if required, I speak of course with due deference on this subject, from not being a Naval Officer. The probable number of large vessels belonging to Baharein are as follows:

12 Large Vessels the property of the Chief Sheik /
Abdoolah Ben Ahmed, and the other Shaiks his
relativons mounting in all about 50 Guns.

21 Large merchant vessels now in Bharein

500 Common fishing and cargo boats.

1500 Pearl fishing boats

32. The government is aware that the Naval System of relief adopted for this Gulf admits of the means of increasing the number of vessels in it by the detention of those which may be dispatched monthly from Bombay. Under the routine operation of the system it would take three months to accumulate three disposable vessels, but it will be for the government to determine whether the requisite force should accumulate, or be sent at once from Bombay, the objection to the accumulation is the long time it would require, which would occasion an apparent delay or hesitation in bringing matters to a close.

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....

33. I have as yet mentioned only the blockading of Bharein, and I trust and believe that this measure would obtain the desired objects, in case of the mere appearance of the vessels not doing so. But it may unfortunately be necessary, to resort to and consequently we should be prepared for still more severe measures the rigor of which most unfortunately could not I fear be confined to the Chief of Bharein himself, I allude to the destruction by burning or otherwise of the vessels belonging to that place, an enterprise which I consider perfectly practicable by naval means the only ones of course which I have contemplated.

34. If this measure of destroying the vessels could be confined to those of the chief and his relations, there would be much greater advantages in carrying it into effect without extending it to others, but when once recourse is had to fire under such circumstances, who can say to what it would extend? The Government should understand likewise that it is not by any means improbable that the Town of Manamah would also be burnt in destroying the vessels hauled up there.

35. Under these circumstances, and with this information it will remain for the government to determine whether our general policy, and the avowed principle of the suppression of piracy require that we should proceed in spite of the disadvantages and probable sufferings above pointed out. At all events I conceive that it is against the

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830. nos.3-4. contd.

...

the Utoobee Tribe our proceedings should be directed as far as we can descriminate. The enormities practised by it towards the original inhabitants of Bharein, far exceed what I have ever heard of tyranny in any other part of the world.

36. Should the destruction of the Bharein vessels be determined on after the trial and failure of the blockade of that Island, which as I have before observed I can hardly suppose, I conceive that the addition to the swuadron of a small vessel to throw carcass shells, and rockets would be most necessary.

37. I beg to suggest likewise that I should be furnish- ed with a map of Bharein on a large scale, and that a copy of the same should be sent to the Senior Marine Officer in the Gulf.

38th. The 7th Artile of the General Treaty wit the Arab Tribbes entitles us to call upon those who have acceded to it for their coop-

eration in punishing those who may commit breaches of it inthe way of plunder andpiracy, but it is obvious that in many cases our attempting to engage these tribes in war might be alluded with many serious evils. However the spirit of this Article would unquestionably entitle us to call upon those who have signed the Treaty to assist us in

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

from all friendly intercourse with Bahrein after what has occurred, until we may obtain satisfaction and this is the greatest length to which I should feel inclined to go towards demanding cooperation, unless the government be pleased to order otherwise.

39. I trust that I have now fulfilled the object which I had in view, and which was to make the Honourable the Governor in Council fully acquainted with all the information I have been able to acquire, accompanied by occasional illustrations, and arguments, that he may be enabled to judge with advantage both of the justice and necessity of an appeal to force on the present occasion, should the Chief of Bahrein persist in refusing what may be deemed a proper atonement for his piracies, and consequent breach of Treaty.

Residency in the Persian Gulf
Bushire, 13th August 1829.

I have the honor to be

Sd/-D.Wilson,
Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

No.1.

Extract of a translation of a letter from Pahman Acting Agent at Bahrein to Major Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf dated the 16th June 1829.

On the 11th instant Shaik Abdoolla ben Ahmed arrived here with seven vessels from his Cruise, and I delivered your letter to him. Off Koariat he fell in with a Bugla belonging to Sued Mahomed of the people of Murbat Shaik

FORE.POLL.DEPTT.5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

immediately closed and desired the Bugla to lower her sail whether she were friend or enemy; to this intimation no notice was taken and I hear that 25 matchlocks were fired and that they had one man killed and 10 wounded. The Bugla and Bateel then attached and boarded her Sued Mahomed the owner and 6 of the Crew were killed and about 10 or 12 wounded. The prize was taken in company with the Fleet as far as Koh Moobaruk, where they anchored and the Krany and all the crew of the Bugla, together with the wounded men were landed. While they were thus anchored, two of the Imam's vessels /moofussffa and Prince of Wales/ came in sight and on their approaching, the Sharein Fleet weighted and stood in shore into 3 fathoms water, where they brought up. The ships then opened thrie fire from a distance. Finding theselves pressed by the Imam's vessels the Utoobees took out of the captured Bugla all the Sugar, Cloth, two or three chests of Cashmere Shawls, and a quantity of Rice and embarking it all on board their own fleet scuttled the Bugla, with the remainder of the rice in her.

True Extract of a translation

Signed/-S.Hennell,

Asstt.to the Rest. in the Pn. Gulf.

....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

No2.

Copy of a letter from Major D. Wilson, Resident in the Persian Gulf to Abdoolla Ben Ahmed chief of Bharein dated Bushire 26th June 1829.

After compliments.

Certain information has reached me that during your late Cruize you have attacked, plundered, and killed the men of Boats belonging to people and places between whom and your self there was no acknowledged and known war existing. This is Piracy and those who commit such acts cannot be considered in any other light than Pirates

You attacked a boat belonging to Syud Mahomed a person of Murbat that was coming from Bombay, and proceeding to Muskat /where it had a perfect right to do as a neutral vessel) was coming to this place and Busserah, and to other places in these seas. It is certain that not satisfied with firing at this vessel and thus killing her people you boarded and took possession of her killing Syud Mahomed himself, six of her crew, and wounding many others you then took the vessel away to a place near Kho Mubarrak and sunk her. Worse than this what can there be? and at the same time there was on board your vessel, people who have been denounced to you as murderers and plunderers.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

It is now my duty to acquaint you that you will be made responsible for the people who have thus been unjustly killed for every portion of the vessel you have destroyed; and for every dinar's worth of the Cargo which belonged to those that were not at war with you, so soon as I have made an account of the sum that is claimed I shall make another communication to you on this subject.

In the mean time I protest most strongly against your sending out any vessels that will commit such acts, and acquaint you that the British vessels have orders to attack and destroy all who may be guilty of simiar piracies.

Signed/-D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No.3.

Translation of a letter from Shaik Abdoolla ben Ahmed the Chief of Bahrein to Major Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 2nd Mahorram or 4th July 1829.

After compliments,

Your letter has been redeived with respect to the situation of affairs between us and Sued Saed, we have informed you time after time that we are peaceable people, who have no interest in wickedness. This man /Sued Saed/ injured us, and our territories, we sent to you intelligence of his doing so. without cause. but God

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

you that we should fight against this man and his follower the same as they fought against us; this you permitted and we accordingly did so.

With respect to the affairs of the Bugloe of Syed Mahomed, I beg to inform you that one of our vessels met her at night to the Eastward of Soor. We called out to her for an answer before anything took place and we said to them. O Master of the Bugla if you are a friend let down your sail that we may learn who you are, and whence you are from; to this no other answer was returned than a discharge of matchlocks and great guns, which caused 15 of our men to fall, of which number those who died, and those who were wounded still remain, when they displayed this conduct, we knew that they were enemies and attacking them, God brought that to pass between us, which did pass in the night. To the truth of this statement people of Bushire who were on board the Bugla at the time are witnesses. If we were men speaking to them, and answered by matchlocks and cannon by which our people were killed how were we to restrain ourselves from them; this is the affair. It however cannot be that when /others/ injure and attack us you do not forbid them, and when we exact retribution for their oppression you desire us to leave off, and tell us not to injure them, this thing is not correct. If you be men /who/ wish our detreiment, tell us in order that we may know, but if you be men who / 98 walk in the way of justice this is not the road we also

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

Bugla near Soor, we brought her opposite the Khoh, where we fell in with Sued Saids Ships /the Prince of Wales/ and the Moosaffa/ which had been cruizing for us, we fought with them from day light till eveing. Before the action the Bugla was injured and a quality of water got in, which increased greatly through the leaks, she also, as well as our vessels received some of the shot from the Sued's ships, whilst we were busily engaged in fighting the water had entered in large quantities, and on the action being concluded after sun set, we perceived she was sinking we therefore took out some of the Cargo, which was on board but the greater portion sunk with her. This is what happened were not the people of Merbat and those of Shahier, along with Sued Syed's Forces when they came up against Bharein. This therefore is their doing and what took place from them towards us on the commencement of the war. In the course of our Cruize we fell in with many vessels belonging to Bushire Congoon and Barbara &ca. and as we knw them to be our friends, we did not injure them. God willing you will have correct information. The above is what happened to the owner of the Bugla with respect to the injuries and defects in her ask some of the people of Bushire &ca. and they will tell you about them.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

P.S. With respect to our situation with you a Treaty subsists between us which God willing we will not infract. This is known to the Sultan of the English, if therefore anything has happened or any order been given by him touching us let us know, and God willing we will send a messenger to him who on his arrival shall declare what is between himself and us, and we will inform him of all that has taken place and by God's grace, he will return an answer as to how it is to be, and we may know our situation, otherwise this state is not what is correct.

No.11.

Extract of a Translation of a Letter from the Acting Agent at Bahrein to Major D.Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 2nd Maharam or 4th of July 1829.

Touching what you mention respecting the Bugla belonging to Sied Mahomed of Murbat, I beg to state that I reported the particulars via Congoon, I have however obtained the following additional information from a Bahrein merchant by name alli ben Abdool Russool, who was a Passenger in that vessel. He states that she had a very large Cargo on board; shipped from Bombay, of which 20 sealed Chests of cloths, some boxes of Cinamon and 120 Candies of Pepper, were destined for Bushire. About 20 Candies of Sundries belonging to Indian, and other merchants of Muscat. A quantity of Bakam, Ebony and Sandal wood belonging to Shaik Zahee, some Cashmere Shawls and Sundries were shipped

FORE.POOL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

shipped on board for Busserah. My informant had with him also a quantity of plain and coloured cloths suited for the Bharein market. The remainder of the cargo consisted of Rice, the property of Sued Mahomed himself, together with some Cashmere Shauls. He further states that Sheik Abdoolah ben Ahmed detained the Cranny of the Bugla 5 days on board, the Tuwaeelah and according to that persons Book removed all the Sundries and cloth together with 2,000 morahs of rices, to his own vessel. The rest of the Rice and some Bakum and Sandalwood remained in the Bugle- soon afterwards the Imam's ships arrived when Shaik Abdoolah Be Ahmed sunk the merbat vessel and anchored off Koh Moobarak and there landed the remainder of the Sailors together with the Cranny. With respect to the Awwesey, which I mentioned before Shaik Khulleefa's batell captured her near Soor; I understand she belong to the people of Merbat, and had a cargo of cooton Ghee and fish, all of which, was seized and the people with their boat set at liberty. The whole of the Cargoes both of the Bugla and Awasy have been put aside by Shaikh Abdoolah and no portion of them distributed.

True translation & Extract of a Translation.

Signed/-S.Hennell,

Asstt. to the Resident in the

Persian Gulf.

FOR.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

No.5.

To

S.B. Haynes Esquire,
Commanding H.C.Ship of War,
Benares.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you that the ship under your command is required to proceed to Bharein so soon as the circumstances of the service will permit.

„The enclosed is a despatch addressed to the Agent at Bharein, and it contains a letter to the Shaik of that place making a peremptory demand upon him for some property belonging to people of different places in this Gulf that was seized on board vessels belonging to the Chief of Morbut, which **Abdoolla Ben / Ahmed's** fleet fell in with near Rasul-Head, during its late Cruize. There is likewise another letter to **Abdoolla Ben Ahmed** on a different subject and as I am very anxious to get answers to both of these letters, the Agent has been instructed to procure them as soon as he possibly can and to deliver them to you, and you are requested to return to this place with them.

The agent has been also instructed to ~~receive~~ receive the above mentioned property in the event of **Abdoolah Ben Ahmed** offering it, and I beg to state that I con-

FOR.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

receiving on board, and conveying to this place, any portion of it that may not be of a very inconvenient description.

It is possible that Abdoolla Ben Ahmed may feel somewhat alarmed and displeased at this demand being made upon him; I have therefore to request that the utmost caution may be observed in your intercourse with the shore.

Residency in the
Persian Gulf, Bushire
11th July 1829.

I have &ca. &ca.
Sd/-D.Wilson,
Resident in the Persian Gulf

No.6.

Copy of a letter from Major D. Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf to Abdoolla Ben Ahmed Shaik of Bharein, dated Bushire 11th July 1829.

After compliments,

Your letter of the 2nd Mohurram has been received and I cannot help expressing my astonishment that you should attempt to justify your conduct in the affair of the Morbat Buggalah, which you must know cannot be excused in any way. I shall first proceed to offer some observations on what you have written, and from which you will observe that I am perfectly acquainted with the whole of the circumstances: you state that discharges of matchlocks, and

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

and great guns were made on your vessels, and that fifteen of your people were killed. The great guns of the Morabat vessel were all in the hold and you must mean that all the people killed were of that vessel for fourteen of them, including the worthy Syud Mahomed himself were killed and their blood is upon your head. When you had thus entered this vessel in the night and ascertained that she was not an enemy although you treated her as such, what did you do? Did you do the best you could to repair the mischief you had done? No, to the killing of the men you added the plundering of the property even when some part of that property was consigned to your own place Bharein, and belong to a man whose name I know, and yet you attempt to say that my demand upon you on this account is not in the way of justice, you took the boat to Kho Mubarruck, placed her between you and the ships of Syed Syud took out all the things that were valuable of the Cargo, put these things on board your own boat the Toweelah, and others, and then sunk the Morbut vessel, is this an act that can be justified? I desire to know what has become of the two Ranees/ slave women/ and the slave that belonged to the worthy Syud that was killed. You ask were not the people of Morbut with Syud Syud's army when he came up against Bharein; to this I answer no, the people of Morbut do not in any way belong to Syed Syud.

9.04

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

It is now necessary that I should desire you to give up all the property still in your possession, and subject to your power, of what was taken from the above mentioned vessel and belongs to people of the different places in this neighbourhood to which it had been consigned which you will not have the smallest difficulty in distinguishing since you have the Duftur of the Kranny. The Shawls the cloth, the Cinnamon, the pepper, the Bakum, the ebony, the Sandal wood, the rice, all are required from you, or the full value in money and that without delay, for how can I continue to look upon you as heretofore until this most terrible affair be settled in a most satisfactory manner? It is now my duty to mention another demand which I have upon you, and that is for the Cargo of the Awwesey that was plundered by Shaik Khalfa's vessel off soor and consisted of cotton, ghee &c &c &ca.

In the conclusion of your letter you ask me what orders I have. In reply I beg to acquaint you that they are most peremptory, and positive not to permit acts similar to those above mentioned to be committed by any person and when I know such wickedness to be in contemplation, to employ the force which I have, and which is ample, to prevent them from being committed and to obtain restitution which I once more demand in this case; the agent of the Government has instructions to receive the property. As I am desirous of having your answer on

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, Nos.3-4. contd.

....

an this and other matters as soon as possible I send the government sh p the Benares to you, and have requested the „Captain to bring back an answer to this place as soon as possible that I may know how to proceed for, I have an earenest desire to remain on the most friendly terms with you, whilst at the same time I must obey my orders, and I trust that when I may make my report of all these circumstances to Bombay I may be enabled at the same time to assure the government of your readiness to repair in every way the evils that have come to pass; God send that this may be the case, for there is nothing we love more than peace.

Signed/-D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No.7.

To

Major D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in obedience to your order of the 11th Instant I weighed the Honourable Company's ship under my command at day light on the 12th and proceeded to Bharein/between the Shoals of which anchorage I anchored at sun set the next day. On the following morning I forwarded your despatch by my Senior Lieutt. Weighed the vessel and worked into the

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

.....

16th when having received Abdollah Ben Ahmed's answer, I made the best of my way to this Port against constant North and N.N.E. Winds.

Abdollah Ben Ahmed's letter will inform you I have none of the goods, mentioned in the 3rd paragraph of your letter on board, and his reason for not delivering them up. His excuse relative to his having had fifteen of his men shot by the Moorbut Boat, I am informed is not correct, having had only three wounded /one of which is since dead/ in the skirmish that took place on his capturing the vessel, seven of the opposite party were killed, His was Boats at present are all hauled up.

The Agent informed me that a report was prevalent, that a quarrel had taken place between the Shaikhs of Debay and Shargah, and that the former was blockaded by the latter, and every likelihood of being shortly in his possession, hostilities having commenced.

Accompanying I beg to forward the usual reports with Shaikh Abdolla's answer.

Hon'ble Comy. Survey

I have &ca.

Ship Benares Bushire

Sd/-S.B. Haines

Roads July 21st, 1829.

Lieutt. Commanding.

.....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, Nos.3-4. contd.

....

Translation of a letter from Shaik Abdoola Ben Ahmed
Chief of Bharein to Major D.Wilson Resident in the
Persian Gulf dated 13th Mohurram or 15th July 1829.

After compliments,

Your letter by the ship has been received with respect to the affair of the Bugla of the Morbut Syud I acquainted you with the particulars of what took place between us in a former communication, and that which I detailed to you was what occurred you state that the cannon of the Sueds Bugla were shut up but I inform you that our men were not killed /by anything/ excepting the cannon, and matchlocks, which they discharged upon us from the top of the Poop and from within the Towalkee above the same place, to this we have witnesses, We did not fire once upon them until they had began and discharged their guns and small arms on us and killed our people. By God we speak the truth in what we relate as an answer. With respect to the things that we embarked from the Bugla, they are a mere trifle, not like what you have been informed. The greatest portion of the Cargo was sunk with the Bugla the day we were engaged in fighting the ships of sued sued the chief of Muscat. If among what we embarked from the (Morbut) vessel any thing belongs to our friends such as the Shaik of Bushire we are willing to give it, when it is proved. If we have anything belonging to the people of Bahrein they are one

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, Nos.3-4. contd.

..

owner of the Aweesey which was taken by the Bateel, I inform you that nothing was taken from it but a small quantity of Luban which was restored to the owner when he came to Bahrein. The people of Morabut and Makulla are dependents of the Imam and some of them, were on board his ships the Shan and the Buglas the day he came up against Bahrein with his forces. We do not hope from you, Oh friends that you should believe all the lies that our enemies, and those that hate us, communicate to you. If therefore ye be men desirous of our injury and averse to our friendships without cause let us know in order that we may be acquainted. We answered you in the letters which we sent formerly but have not yet received the reply. Look over our communications again and give the answer due consideration for we replied to you before but have had no return.

No.9.

Translation of a letter from the Acting Agent at Bahrein to Major D.Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 15th July 1829.

After compliments,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter by the Benares. The two letters to Shaik Abdoola I delivered and was informed that the answer would be given the next day. This morning Hajee Aboo Shahab brought a letter which he said was the reply to your communication, he did

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

The answer to the letter by the Euphrates I enclosed in one from myself and sent by a Ghomcha /small boat/ on the 14th I understand that a person whose property was board the captured Awwesey /boat/ has come to Bahrein, and that they have given him a small quantity of Kundar or mistic, and that as to the rest of the Cargo, they told him that it had been laden on board Syed Mahomed's Bugla, and sunk with that vessel. Shaik Abdulla has communicated to you the particulars respecting the cargoes of the Bugla, and Awwesey. He has also given a hint on the subject of peace; as far as I know, the whole of the words of it are agreeably to his own wishes with respect to the Bugla he says that he was not to blame you will understand ~~this~~ letters.

-/ True translation/

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Asstt. to the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No.10.

To

S.B. Haynes Esquire,

Acting Commander

Benares.

Sir,

I have the honour to intimate that the ship under your command is required to proceed to the Arabian

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, Nos.3-4. contd.

....

The Government Schooner Fly which conveys this to you is placed under your orders for the purpose of accompanying your ship to Bahrein.

You are already aware that a demand has been made on the chiefs of Bahrein for certain property piratically seized by him during his late cruize, and I now beg to acquaint you that I have by the present opportunity again written a most pressing demand to him for the restitution of this property and have sent Moola Mahomed the 1st Native Assistant of this Residency, to convey this letter to Bahrein to obtain without unnecessary delay an answer to the same and to collect information respecting the state of affairs there.

Moola Mahomed has orders to acquaint you immediately after seeing Abdoolah Ben Ahmed or hearing from him, whether his manner and what he may say, indicate the probability of the property being delivered in a reasonable time, and at all events Moola Mahomed is to do his utmost to obtain an answer to my letter after allowing the usual time of a day or two for the chief's consideration. The moment he has received the answer and collected the information required he is directed to re-embark when you will give the orders you may deem necessary for the ships. You will observe that this inferior agent is to be looked upon in the light of a person that is the bearer of a letter with precise instructions and no discretitory power. 211

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...

Should any of the property be delivered up, I have to request that you will use your discretion in either receiving it on board the Benares, or ordering it on board the Fly as you may deem best for the service. You are likewise further requested to use your discretion in returning with your own ship to this place with the property, or despatching the Fly alone. In the latter case you are requested to give the fly the advantage of your presence or instructions to the extent you may judge necessary on her way back. The Native Commander having had few opportunities of making himself acquainted with the navigation of this Gulf.

The demand made in my letter to the Chief of Bahrein is peremptory but not couched in my friendly language, and it is the earnest wish of the government to avoid if possible all interruptions to the amicable relations that at present subsist between us and the Arabian states, nor do I at this moment contemplate being obliged to adopt any thing like hostile proceedings. At the same time I have to request that the utmost caution may be continued in your intercourse with the shore, as you very considerably observed on your late visit to Bahrein.

War I regret to say still continues to exist between His Highness the Imam and Abdoolah Bene Ahmed nor have I heard of peace having been made between the latter and Thanoon.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

I shall now proceed to enumerate the other places which you are required to visit subsequently.

Aboothabee The accompanying letter is to the address of Shaik Thanoon of that place, but should he not be present it will not be necessary to wait for an answer, I have lately been informed by Shaik Sooltan Ben Suggur that a peace has been concluded between himself and Shaik Thanoon, but I presume that war still continues between the latter and the Shaik of Bahrein.

Sharga - The accompanying letter is to the address of Moola Hoosein the Agent there, who has instructions to give you information of any thing particular which may have occurred.

Rasul Khymah. The accompanying letter is to the address of Shaik Sultan Ben Suggur, should he not be present, it will not be necessary to wait for an answer. One important object being served by one of our vessel being seen there as well as at Aboothabee. The war between Ben Suggur and His Highness the Imam of Muskat still continues.

As it is considered an object of importance by the Government that the places just enumerated should be visited, I beg to intimate that nothing but the obvious advantage of the service should prevent their being so on this occasion.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

....

From Rasul Khymah you are required to proceed to Bassadore where the senior marine officer will give what instructions the state of affairs may render necessary.

I beg to acquaint you that a particular report of this visit to the Arabian Coast is required to be delivered to the Senior Marine Officers at Bassadore, for transmission here for the eventual information of the Government.

Should you on the present occasion hear of any acts of the above mentioned Belligerents that shew a tendency towards piracy, you are required to endeavour all in your power to get the best information respecting them.

Residency in the
Persian Gulf, Bushire,
25th July 1829.

-I have &ca.
Sd/-D. Wilson,
Resident in the Pn.Gulf.

No.11.

Copy of a letter from Major D.Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Shaik Abdoolah Ben Ahmed Chief of Bahrein dated Bushire 23rd July 1829.

After complements,

The Government ship Benares has brought me your reply to my letter dated 11th July and I regret to say that it is most unsatisfactory. In all that you have

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, no.s3-4. contd.

...

the counsel of bad men, who you have thus permitted to lead you astray from your true interest, which are in great danger of being seriously injured from your good disposition becoming suspected.

We have already amply discussed the manner in which the Piracies were committed during your late Cruize that they were Piracies your own words are fully sufficient to prove, if farther proof could be wanted. I shall therefore confine myself now to what is required from you.

The 2nd article of the Treaty which you have subscribed is as follows:

Article 2nd. "If any individual of the people of the Arabs contracting shall attack any that pass by land or sea of any nation whatsoever in the way of plunder and Piracy and not of acknowledged war, he shall be accounted an enemy of all mankind and shall be held to have forfeited both life and goods. An acknowledged war is that which is proclaimed, avowed, and ordered by Government against government, and the killing of men and taking of goods without proclamation, avowal, and the orders of a government, is plunder and Piracy."

I once more demand that you shall deliver up all the property belonging to the people of Bushire, Bussorah and every other place between yourself and whom there was no war "proclaimed and avowed", which property was

FORI.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

was piratically seized during your late Cruize. There is neither justice nor honour in the manner in which you have twice already evaded this demand.

I send this by Moolah, Mahomed and a servant of the government, to whom you will deliver the things now required and in your possession.

I have already told you, and now repeat that it is the desire of the Government to remain on the most friendly terms with all the Arabian States, but that desire never can be so strong as its determination to suppress plunder and piracy. Of this you must be convinced from the manner in which it has so long continued to act. I sincerely hope that your conduct on the present occasion will enable me to satisfy, the Government that you are not one who persists in evil, but on the contrary that you make the best reparation for it in your power.

/Signed/ D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No.12.

Instructions to Moola Mahomed 1st Native Assistant of the Residency in the Persian Gulf.

You will proceed to Bahrein in the government vessel the Fly.

Your first object must be to see the Agent and

FORE.POLL.DEP'TT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

...

if this be not certain the letter for Abdoolah is to be sent by another messenger.

The Principal objects for which you are sent are that you may convey the above mentioned letter to Abdoolah Ben Ahmed and receive the plundered property that may be delivered to you.

If the property be not given, you are if possible to ascertain what Abdoolah's real views and intentions respecting it are, whether he be ignorant enough to contemplate resisting this demand and the point up to which he is likely to go, you will give him the impression that we are perfectly serious in our demands.

It is not necessary to point out to him what is so obvious, that the consequences of our finding it necessary to pursue any measures against him would be most hurtful to him in every way.

Our claims respecting the Piracies do not include the property of the two states of Muscat and Aboothabee with which he was avowedly at war, but they include that of all others. You may point out that the property was shipped at our own port of Bombay. The thing most pressingly wanted at present, is the property now existing in the possession of Abdoolah. The question of the property destroyed and of the vessel is not likely to be settled at present, the information respecting it is not yet complete enough to enable me to enter into the discus-

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 5.11.1830, nos.3-4. contd.

.....

point you will say that you are sent to get the property known to be in Abdoolah's possession, and that nothing farther could be said until I saw the amount of that.

You will be careful not to go beyond these instructions in anything. The object is to accomplish what is required with the least possible trouble or effort on our part, every word said above this is unnecessary and wrong. Above all you must recollect we never like to threaten, although it is necessary sometimes to say what we will do, that people may for their own sakes understand that we are serious and that we will fulfil what we say.

You will clearly understand that the question of the peace between Muscat and Bharein, has no connexion with our demands, respecting the Piracies. My ideas respecting the peace remain exactly as you have seen them expressed in the letters written to Abdoolah and if after a disposition being shewn to give up the article demanded any questions may be asked respecting the peace you are at liberty to say so, but to all question prior to that of every kind you will reply that nothing can be said until the matter of the piracies be in the way of being settled.

The clear proof that we have been sincere in our neutrality between the Imam and Abdoolah is our not having given any advice respecting the mode of conducting

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would have made an end of Abdoolah's power for ever. On the contrary, we advised the Imam strongly not to undertake it, but we then had no reason for being angry with him for doing so, as we had not given any advice respecting the entering into the treaty with Bharein.

Even should you get little or none of the property you are to leave all the subjects open and are not in any way authorised to say, anything conclusive on the contrary, you are to recollect the object in sending you is that you may convey the latter and acquire information particularly respecting the things mentioned in my letter to the Agent of the 21st July 1829 You have no authority either to promise or to threaten we are not desiraous of seeking a quarrel, but if possible to get what is wanted without one, it is easy to quarrel at any hour, but that hour, I hope is not the present.

You will write down your observations daily; every kind of information is desirable, of boats, popula- tion, resources, trade, opinions, feelings nothing is too minute.

You will not remain at Bharein a moment beyond what is necessary to give Abdoolah Ben Ahmed a reasonable time to give up the property and to consider of an answer. You will acquaint Captain Haynes immediately after you 219 have either seen or heard from Abdoollah Ben Ahmed, whether you think it likely the property will be given up in a day or two more time

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desired answer. Captain Haynes will give any orders that may be necessary respecting the disposal of the property you will let Captain Haynes know when you want to go on shore, and keep him acquainted with any thing extraordinary which may happen.

Residency in the Persian Gulf.	Sd/-D.Wilson,
Bushire,	Resident in the
23rd July 1829.	Persian Gulf.

No.13.

Bushire 22nd July 1829.

Information obtained from a person named Abdoolah who was a passenger on board a Murbat Buggala (large vessel) when it was taken by Abdoolah Ben Ahmed the Chief of Bahrein off Ras-ul-Head.

The Buggalah Derveish belonged to Syud Mahomed of Morabut. It loaded at Bombay a cargo of Sundries, Cloth, Cotton, spices, drugs and rice. Aga Mahomed Shoostry shipped the cotton, other mogul /persian and Arab/ merchants shipped the rest. All the Rice in Bulk and some of the Rice in Moorahs belonged to Syud Mahomed himself the owner of the vessel, the Syud had likeiwise Cloth/woollen/ and shawls. The vessel left Bombay and reached Rasul Had in twenty one days, it was bound for Muscat, Bushire, Bahrein/ Busserah &ca. one Bharein merchant was on board he had shipped bales of dyed cloths and turmerick. About midnight off Rasul Had

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the vessel was hailed by two Buggalabs, 3 Bateels and 2 Buggaras they on board the Morbut vessel answered, that they were from Bombay and belonged to Syud Mahomed Murbaty, they weretold to lower their sail and had commenced to do so, but the vessels closing on them, in the confusion four slaves fired off their matchlocks, when they were boarded on all sides, no cannon were fired as they were below one was got up but not used. Little or no resistance was made, few had any kind of arms, the crew and passengers were killed on all sides when the vessel was boarded. Many threw themselves into the Sea twelve men including Syud Mahomed himself were killed Informant himself was wounded quarter was given in Abdoolah Ben Ahmed's name. Plundering immediately began and the stripping of the passengers, and breaking open their boxes. This was soon stopped and fifty of Abdoolahs men sent on board to take possession of the vessel and he /the Chief of Bharein) seized all the property himself including what had been plundered by his people. The whole fleet sailed for Khoe Moobarie, when they were at anchor near that place Abdoollah's vessels transshipped and divided the greater part of the Cargo among themselves A little rice in bulk and oter triffls remained on board the Morbat Buggalah when the Imam's ships appeared. About this time the informant was landed along with others at their own request on the coast near Khoe Mobarrack. Abdoolah Ben Ahmed was intreated to give up the property