

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

...

property belonging to the passengers but refused saying the Buggalah had been with the Imam at Sharein, but it was shen to him that it was then at Bussorah and that it went from thence to Muscat and Bombay, The present Chief of Morbut is the Cousin of Syud Mahomed.

/Signed/ D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

/True copies/

Sd/- D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No.14.

Extract of a letter from Captain S.B. Haines Commanding H.C. Sy. Ship Benares to Major D.Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf dated Bushire August 10th 1829.

I have the honour to report the arrival of the Hon'ble Company's surveying ship Benares and to inform you of my proceedings.

Agreeably to your order of the 23rd of July I weighed at day light on the 24th and anchored off the Island of Kharrack at Sunset the same evening on the 26th. P.M. the Government Schooner Fly anchored in company, and her commander delivered to me your official letters of the 25th also a letter to the Sheiks of Sharga and Aboothabee and to the Government Agent at the former place.

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On the 27th A.M. I weighed immediately a breeze spring up though not filled with water as I thought the completion of it would retard the service in company with the Fly which vessel I soon found was very unequal to us in sailing, and made the best of our way to Eharein. I anchored at sunset well in and kept lights up after dark, but from her very inferior sailing she could not stem the tide and was obliged to anchor about 7 miles outside from whence she required two tides to work in, so that the whole day would have been lost had I not sent on shore for the Agent and a boat to bring the 1st Native Assistant on board the Benares, who the same afternoon sent a message to know when Sheikh Abdoolah Ben 'hmed' would find it convenient to see him. He waited on him the next day with your letter the result of which was the immediate delivery of part of the plundered property the rest he has retained until he hears your decision, what passed during the conference will be fully reported to you by him.

On the restitution of the property I ordered it to be sent with all despatch on board the Fly, to the Commander of which vessel I had, when inspecting her to see what room could be made given the necessary, directions She was filled on the evening of the 4th the next day I received the remainder on board the Benares, excepting 13 loose Bales of cotton which would have completely, 223 filled my Upper deck- I therefore directed the Agent to keep it under his charge with an opportunity offered

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offered of sending it over by by a boat.

The property shipped on board the two vessels  
is as follows:

Benares	Numbers	Fly	No.
Chests ..	4	Cinnamon in chests	82
Pepper in bags	113	Pepper in Bags	36
Cinnamon in bags	25		
Ditto in Boxes	5		
Saffron in bags	4	Saffron in Bags	44
Cotton in Bundles	3		
Cotton in bags	4	Spices in Bags	2
Carpets & Copper ware in bag	1		
Large copper Dishes	2	Cash of Steel	1
Carpet	1		
Clothse Baskets	2		
Copper Deg	1		

During the 6th and 1st Native Assistant was  
on shore waiting for Abdoolah Ben Ahmed's answer which  
he brought off at 3 P.M. the tide then making against  
us, I was not able to weight till day light the next  
day, when we weighed in company but it falling calm at  
8 A.M. and the tide against us we were obliged to anchor.  
At 1 P.M. a light N.W. Ely. breeze springing up we  
weighed and worked out between the reefs and were clear  
out before dark. Prior to our leaving the anchorage

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...

I took the 1st Native Assistant on board the Benares for, from her superior sailing. I thought it probable we should arrive perhaps a day sooner and knowing you would be anxious to hear the result of our late proceedings as soon as possible besides by my making the best of my way, the vessel would be sooner able to perform any other service. The Fly was in sight till 11 A.M. on the 8th and clear of all danger having given her commander the best directions for his passage, there is little doubt but she will arrive very soon.

Repairs and improvements are making in the defences of the Town of Manamah, they are building a wall near five feet thick round it with a circular tower, at each angle, as well as a few intervening ones from what is already finished I should imagine it is intended only for small arms, as no appearance of embarrasures were visible, it is of poor materials principally sand, stone, and mud.

The wall round the Town of Maharraj is much the same, the new Fort near it is by far the best fortification they have though I should think not tenable for any length of time against great guns. It is nearly square and double with a ditch between the outer and inner walls, the inner is by far the most elevated, but used only for musketry, the outer is also for the same but has a circular tower at each angle mounting one gun they have a supply

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only inhabited by the Sheikh and some of his followers on whose fidelity he can place the most implicit reliance There were 26 Buggaloes /greater part very large/ and 14 Batellah hauled up and near 1500 hundred boats out on the Pearl fishery.

The latter part of your orders regarding my visit to the other parts of the Arabian Coast has not been performed from the above circumstances.

/True Extract/

Sd/-D.Wilson,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No.15.

Translation of a letter from Shaik Abdoola ben Ahmed to Major Wilson Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 5th - - - - Suffer or 6th August 1829.

After compliments,

Your letter dated the 19th July together with the one brought by Moola Mahomed has been received. With respect to what you say touching plunder and piracy I beg to state that from the period engagements have subsisted between us, and the English we have interfered with no one, but we are men who repel aggression to the utmost of our power when committed upon us by such as Syud Saed or Tahnoon as we cannot submit to it, otherwise we only retaliate the injuries we receive. With respect

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...

you mention your wish to receive that portion belonging to the Inhabitants of Bushire and Bussorah and to give it over to the owners yourself. To this can be no objection and accordingly Moollah Mahomed will convey to ~~you~~ you very article in my possession bearing the marks of the people of Bussorah, Bushire, &ca. &ca. The Moolla will make you acquainted with the particulars as I have taken from him a receipt for the whole. A portion of the property bears the marks of Banians and Loodiyans &ca. &ca. who reside in Muscat, and Multra and are subjects and dependents of Sued Saed and consequently my enemies, this I have taken and Moolla Mahomed will communicate the list to you. The Banians and Loodiyans here as well as your man Cundoo have seen the marks, and that the things belong to the Inhabitants of the two places above mentioned, and consequently are the property of those between whom and myself a lawful and acknowledge war exists.

/True translation/

Sd/-S.Hennell,

Asstt. to the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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To

The Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated the 13th August No.71 with its

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....

proceedings of the fleet of Abdoolla Bin Ahmed, the Chief of Bahrein, against the state of His Highness the Immaum of Muscat, and to acquaint you that nothing could have been more judicious than the measures adopted by you with regard to the Sheikh of Bahrein, which have been such as to shew the policy of maintaining a supremacy in the gulf, without which our trade with Persia and Eastern Turkey would soon be ruined. I am therefore directed by the HonOurable the Governor in Council to express to you his entire approval of your proceedings on this occasion.

Bombay Caste.  
21st september 1829.

I have the honour to be,  
Signed/ C.Norris,  
Acting Chief Secretary.

/True copy/

Sd/-

Acting Chief Secretary.

...

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No.27. Office No.4508 No.9 of 1845.

From

H. Escombe Esquire,

Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

To

F. Currie Esquire,

Secretary to the Govt. of India

with the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

Camp,

Dated 22nd September 1845.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, copies of two letters with enclosures, from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 5th & 11th ultimo, Nos.87 & 92, reporting the murder on the 4th of the preceeding month, of Shaik Khuleefa Bin Shakhboot the Chief of Aboothabee, and influential member of the Benyas Tribes at the instigation of the murdered chieftains Nephew, and of my reply of this date.

I have the honor to be,

Bombay Castle,

Sir,

22nd September 1845.

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-H. Escombe,

Secy. to Government.

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FOR.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, Nos.27-30. contd.

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No.28.

Office No.347 of 1845

Cons.No.89 of 1845

Political Department.

From

Major Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To

J.P. Willoughby Esquire,  
Chief Secy. to Government,  
Bombay.

Dated 5th August 1845.

Sir,

For some days past reports have been current in this quarter, that „Shaik Khuleefa bin Shakboot the Chief of Aboothabee, and his brother Sultan, had been assassinated by an influential member of the Banyas Tribe, at the instigation of their nephew, the son of the late Shaik Tahnoon.

2. It is with much regret that I have now to report for the information of the Honourable the Governor in Council the confirmation of these rumours, as contained in the accompanying translated Extract of a letter from the Native Agent at Bahrein dated the 20th Ultimo.

3. — Shaik Tahnoon, the former Chief of Aboothabee, having fallen by the hands of Shaik Khuleefa it was fully to be anticipated that his nephew would take the earliest opportunity of revenging the murder of his father. The death of this

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, nos.27-30. contd.

...

his gallantry, firmness and prudence, had raised it to me of the most powerful of the Maritime and inland communities of the Persian Gulf. With reference to our own policy in this quarter the demise of Shaik Khuleefa is much to be regretted. He thoroughly understood and appreciated the power of the British Government and has ever since the outbreak in 1835, exhibited an earnest wish to seek its countenance and friendship under his firm and prudent rule, the Benyas have for the last 9 years, committed fewer aggressions at sea of a piratical character, than any other Maritime arabs in the Persian Gulf, excepting the Inhabitants of Kowit, and I now await with some little anxiety the nomination of his successors the future good conduct of the tribe, will be greatly influenced by the personal character of the individual who may be raised to the chieftainship.

Residency in the Persian  
Gulf, Bushire,  
5th August 1845.

I have the honor to be,  
Sd/-S.Hannell,  
Resident in Persian Gulf.

....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, Nos.27-30. contd.

...

Translated extract of a letter from Hajee Jassim, Agent at Bahrein to Major Hennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 14th Rubjub 20th July.

On the 9th Rujub arrived also at Bahrein a buteel from Aboothabee, bringing intelligence that Esai bin Khaled of the Aboo Futtah had killed Khuleefa bin Shakboots and his brother Sultan. He had treacherously invited them to an entertainment at some place, and on their separating thence, had with twelve men fallen upon and killed them both on the spot. Esai bin Khalid has written a letter to the Sheikhs al Khuleefa informing them of what God had willed to pass between him and Khuleefa, adding that his relations with them would continue the same as had existed between them and Khuleefa bin Shakboot, and that whatever had been settled on the part of the latter with them would be held valid by him or even more, that in short their condition was one.

/True translation/

Sd/-A.B. Kemball,

Asstt.Resident, ~~Px~~.Persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-A.B. Kemball,

Asstt.Resident Persian Gulf.

/True copy/

Sd/-W.Escombe,

Secretary to Government.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, No.27-30/ contd.

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No.29.

Office No.354 of 1845

Cons.No.92 of 1845.

From

Major Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

J.P.Willoughby Esquire,  
Chief Secretary to the Governement of Bombay

Dated 11th August 1845.

Sir,

The enclosed translations of two letters dated the 15th and 16th ultimo, from the Native Agent at Shargah, Moollah Housin, will make the Hon'ble the Governor in Council, aware of the circumstances attending the assassination of the Beniyas Chief Shaikh Khuleefa, and his Brother Sultan, by Esai bin Khalid on the 4th July last.

2nd. Up to the date of the Agent's letter, I am happy to say, the general tranquillity remained uninterrupted, and this startling event has not produced the division and confusion in the Beniyas, Tribe, I was apprehensive would take place, on the murder of two such popular and influential chiefs, as Shaikh Khuleefa and his Brother.

FOR.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, Nos.27-30FC, contd.

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3rd. For the present, Shaik Esai bin Khalid appears to have been generally recognised as Chief of Aboothabee, and judging from the tone of his letter to my address (a translation of which is now transmitted) he would seem to be a person of prudence and decision, and moreover quite alive to the necessity of preventing any acts of a piratical character being committed by the Beniwas.

4th. The deceased Shaik Khuleefa has no son old enough to contest the supreme authority in the tribe with Esai bin Khalid, but it is unlikely that the sons of the late Shaikh Tahnoon /the former chief of the Beniwas) will submit quietly to the usurpation of that person. The re-occupation of Adeed by the Moobaribat and ul-Gubarat Tribes, as alluded to by the agent is greatly to be deprecated as likely to lead to a renewal of a system of isolated cases of piracy which gave us considerable trouble in 1837 and which was only finally put a stop to, by the capture of Adeed by Shaikh Khuleefa, and the removal of all the inhabitants to Aboothabee, where they were immediately under his own eye.

5th. It is not my intention to reply to the communication from Esai bin Khalid for the present, but should I find he has a fair prospect of being able to maintain

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...

maintain his position as Chief of the Beniayas. I shall do so, and take that opportunity of impressing upon him, the expediency of adopting effective measures to prevent the relocation of any portion of his dependants at Adeed or its neighbourhood.

Residency in the  
Persian Gulf,  
Bushire, 11th  
August 1845.

I have the honor to be &ca,  
Sd/-S.Hennell,  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

....

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, Nos.27-30/ contd.

...

Translated substance of a letter from Moollah Hussein, Agent at Shargah, to Major Hennell Resident in the Persian Gulf dated 15th July 1845.

After the assistant Resident's departure I was preparing to proceed to Ejmaun, Amulgavin and Ras-ul-Khyma, to ascertain the state of affairs, enquire into the proceedings of the Crews of the vessels lately arrived from Zanzibar, and the coast of Africa, and make over to the several Shaikhs the Government presents consigned to them when I learnt of an important occurrence at Aboothabee, 11 men related to Khuleefa bin Shakboot and his Brother Sultan, vizt. Esai bin Khalid and his two sons (being Esai sons of a sister of Shakboot) Khalid bin Esai Zeab son of a Brother of Shakboot bin Turowee, son of a sister of Shakboot, Aukash, son of Paternal uncle of Shakboot, and the son of Mahomed bin Suggur, Brother of Shakboot two men of the Muzareeah, and Mugrin bin Gharrim, head of the Huwamil. The above eleven (only 10) had for a long time held together and agreed on the first good opportunity to assassinate Khuleefa and his brother Sultan, and passes themselves of their property, horses and Camels, and instal Esai bin Khalid as Chief of Aboothabee, in the place of Khuleefa and Sultan, over all the Beniyas, Citizens and Bedowins, and the remainder become his colleagues.

FORE.POLL.DEPTT. 13.12.1845, Nos.27-30. contd.

...

Sultan was aware of the enmity borne him by Esai bin Khalid and his sons and their desire to put him off his Guard and stay him, and had earnestly solicited his Brother Khulleefa to bansih them and the others abovementioned from Aboothabee, but without effect, as he did not believe they would be guilty of such a crime. Both he and Sultan having from the period of their first assuming the chief authority treated them with great favor and kindness and considered them in the light of colleagues, being in constant intercourse, and eating with them, which precluded any suspicious in the mind of Khuleefa Esai and his Brother conspirators thus lived quietly at Aboothabee, entertaining secret enmity against them, until the inhabitants were separated, the Pearl Drivers distributed at sea, and the Landmen and Redowing distributed, in the Date Grooves at Sua, Thufrah, Khutun and in the districts of the Zowahir-Shakboot himself had gone to the Date Groves he possessed at Beymee, and none were left at Aboothabee, but Khuleefa bin Shakboot his brother Sultan and a few persons such as merchants, the heads of the Tribes and those non-effective for the Fishery, and also some Bahreinees and foreigners.

Esai bin Khalid now viewing the opportunity of the place being denuded of inhabitants determined to assassinate the two Sheikhs. On Friday the 28th Jumadee ool Sanee (4th July) a little before midday the whole including