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## 'Demi-officials on Meywar affairs after death of Maharana Shunbao Singh'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	Mss Eur F126/75
<b>Date(s)</b>	14 Oct 1874-31 Oct 1874 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file, 3 items (18 folios)
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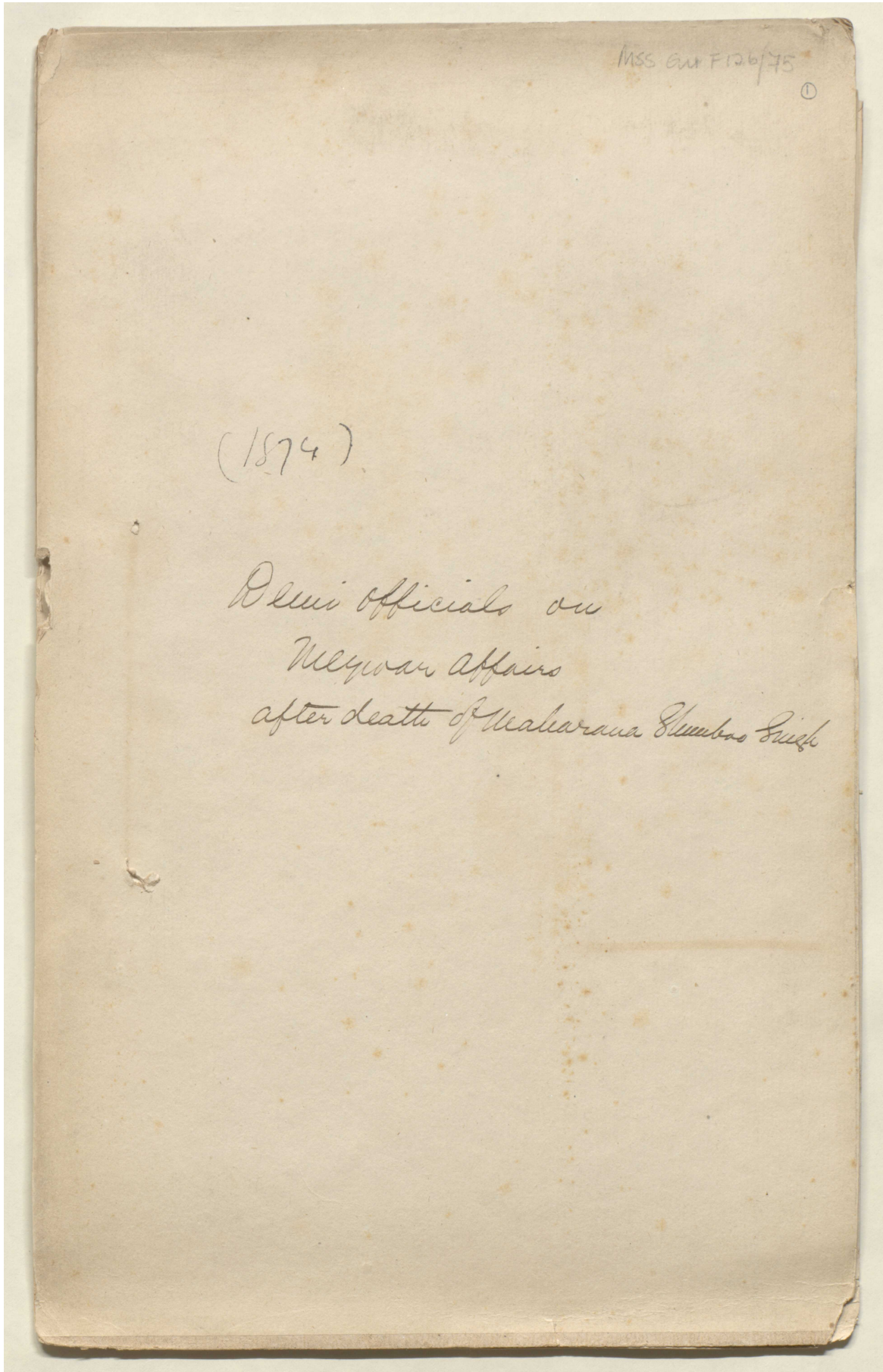


### About this record

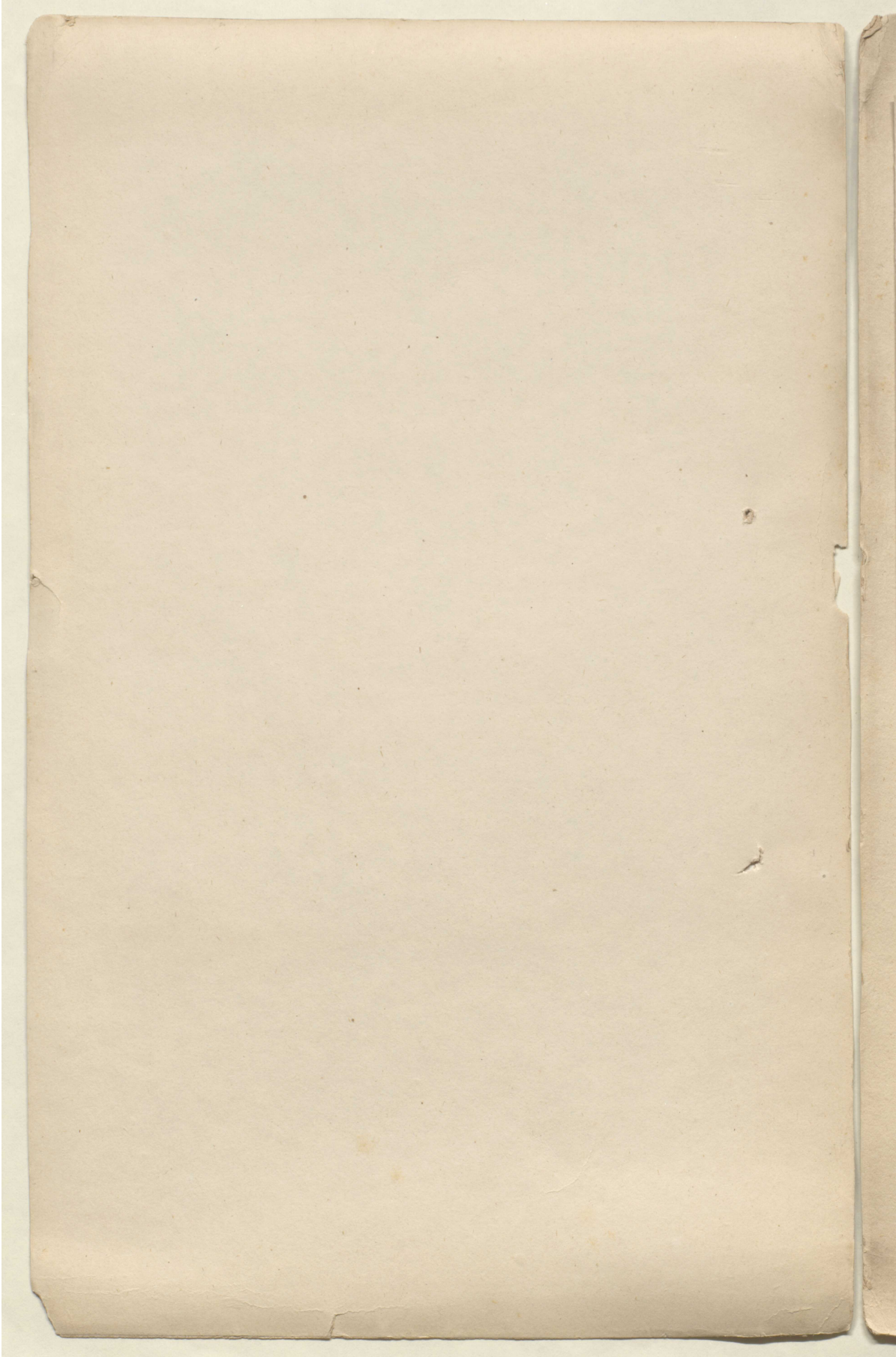
Demi-official letters from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti on the state of Meywar [Mewār] affairs following the death of Maharana Shunbao Singh [Shambhu Singh].

The letters discuss the circumstances of the Maharana's death and claims that his death was as a result of witchcraft; the potential successors to the throne and the difficulties in removing one of the claimants to the throne from Oodeypore [Udaipur, Mewar].

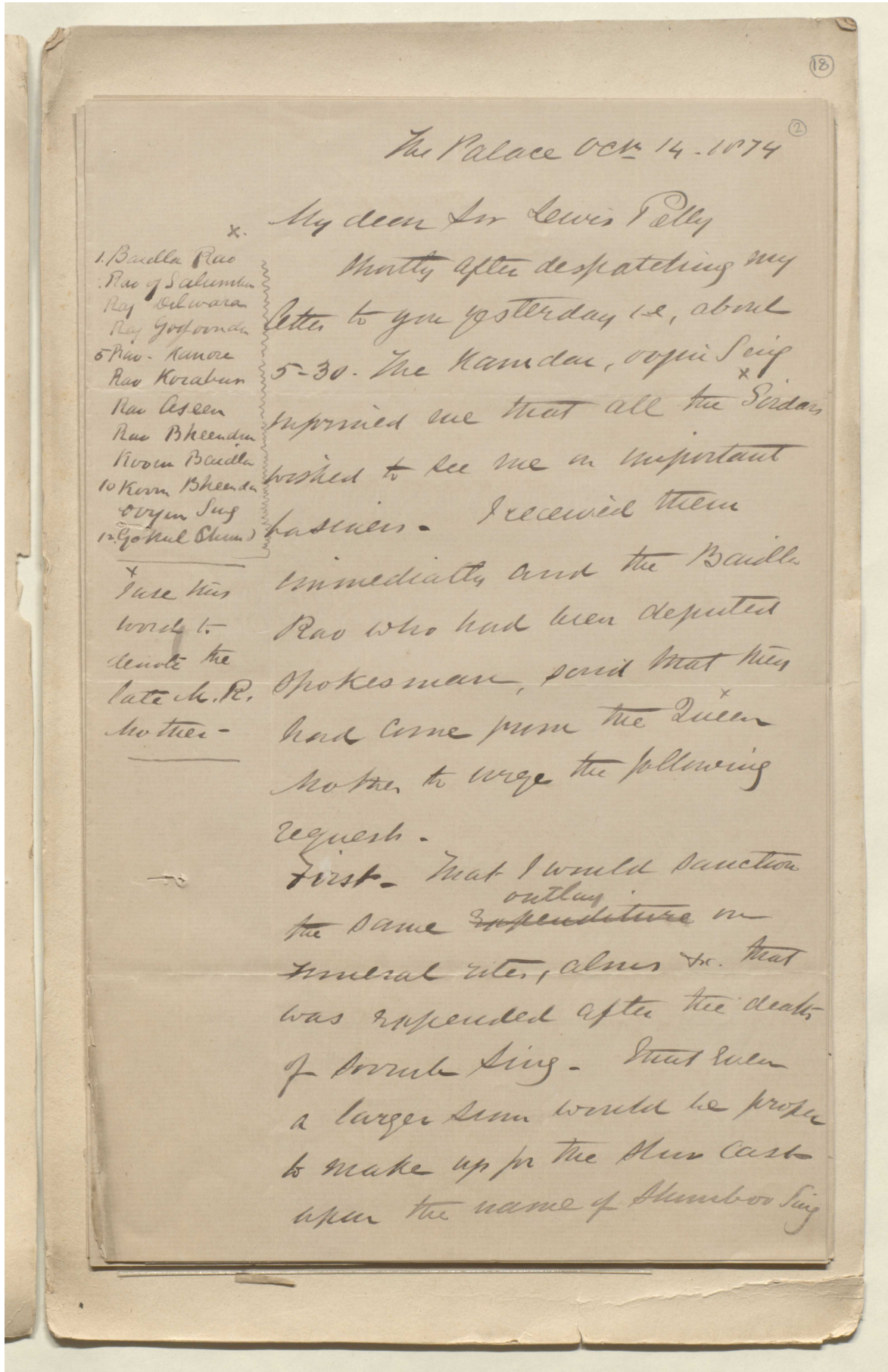
'Demi-officials on Meywar affairs after death of Maharana Shunbao Singh' [front]  
(1/36)



'Demi-officials on Meywar affairs after death of Maharana Shunbao Singh'  
[front-i] (2/36)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [2r] (1/10)



The Palace Oct. 14. 1874

My dear Sir Lewis Pelly

- 1. Bailla Rao
- 2. Rao of Salamban
- Rao Belwara
- Rao Godwanda
- 5. Rao - Kanore
- Rao Korabun
- Rao Aseen
- Rao Bheendun
- Rao Bailla
- 10. Rao Bheenda
- Rao Sing
- 12. Goval Chum

Shortly after despatching my  
letter to you yesterday i.e. about  
5-30. The Kamdar, <sup>of</sup> Raj  
informed me that all the Sardars  
wished to see me on important  
business. I received them

These men  
wished to  
denote the  
late M.P.  
Mother -

immediately and the Bailla  
Rao who had been deputed  
spokesman, said that they  
had come from the Queen  
Mother to urge the following  
request -

First - That I would sanction  
the same <sup>outlay</sup> expenditure on  
funeral rites, alms &c. that  
was expended after the death  
of Dooda Sing. That also  
a larger sum would be proper  
to make up for the <sup>loss</sup> cast  
upon the name of Akhbar Sing

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [2v] (2/10)

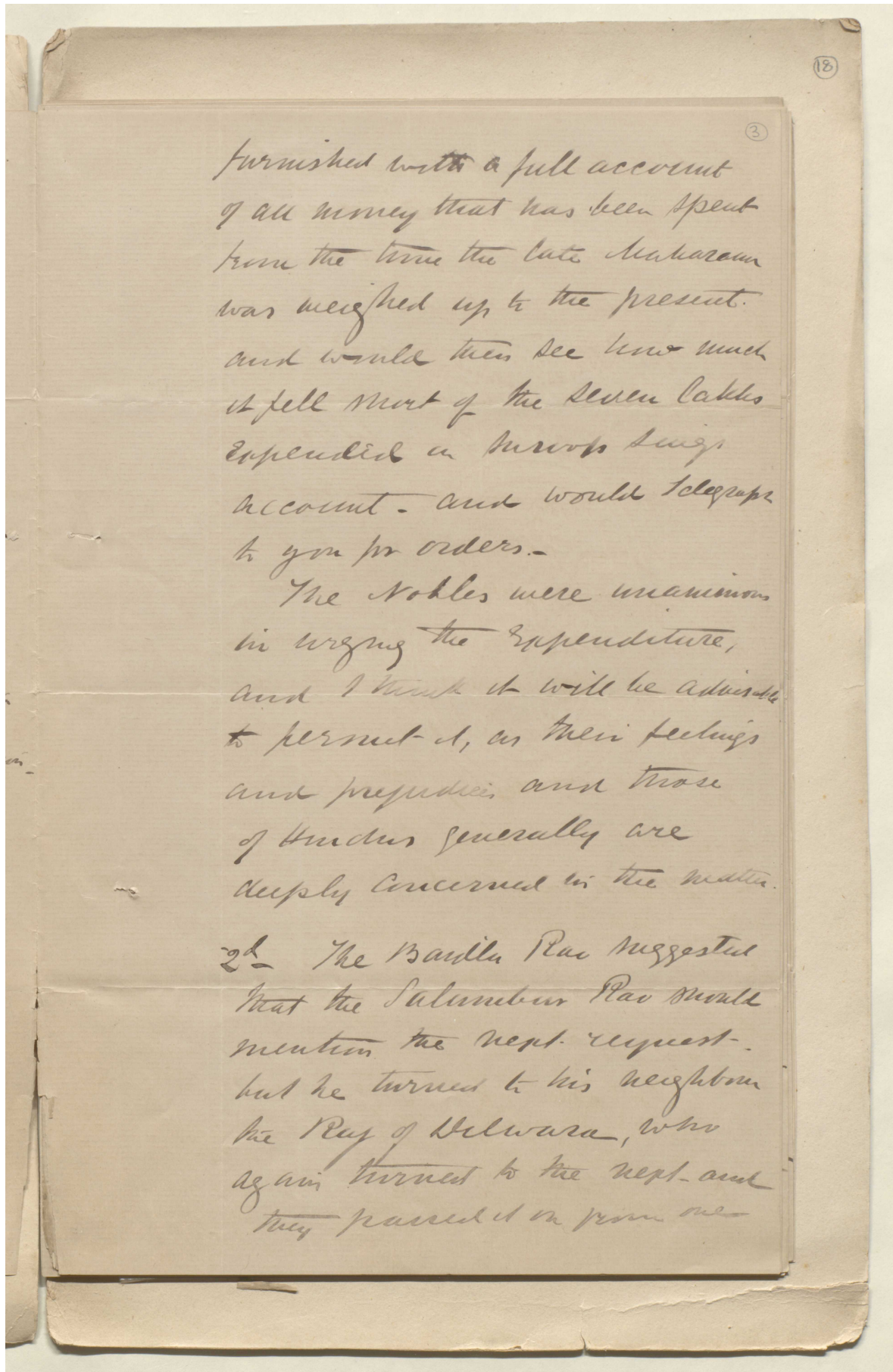
the late Maharana by my  
having prevented the performance  
of the sacred rites of Suttie -  
They now wished to give to  
Every Brahmin man, woman  
and Child, who would come  
to receive it the sum of ten  
Rupees and to spend more  
money in general alms giving.

I replied that seven lakhs  
which were expended in alms  
the after the death of Suror-  
Sing had been set aside for

Vide Govt  
Luncheon Report  
date 15 Febry  
1882 - on  
State of Jaipur  
on Shimbor  
Sing, accation.

that purpose by the Maharana  
himself during his last illness.  
The Brahmins had already  
received three rupees each from  
the money against which the  
late Maharana was bequeathed.  
and it was not in my power  
to sanction any further expenditure  
beyond that which was absolutely  
necessary. That I must be

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [3r] (3/10)



furnished with a full account  
of all money that has been spent  
from the time the late Maharaja  
was weighed up to the present.  
and would then see how much  
it fell short of the seven lakhs  
expended in Surwar's Survey  
account. and would telegraph  
to you for orders.

The Nobles were unanimous  
in urging the expenditure,  
and I think it will be advisable  
to permit it, as their feelings  
and prejudices, and those  
of Hindus generally are  
deeply concerned in the matter.

2<sup>d</sup> The Baulda Rao suggested  
that the Salumber Rao should  
mention the next request.  
but he turned to his neighbour  
the Rao of Belwara, who  
again turned to the next and  
they passed it on from one

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [3v] (4/10)

to the other, and I saw there  
was something disagreeable  
to be said. They all begged  
the Baidla to speak out.

- I wrote down her words as  
soon as I could do so and  
they were nearly as follows -

- He said - "The <sup>(late)</sup> Maharajah  
"Mother delegates us to  
"represent to you, who were  
"her son's friend, that Maharaj  
"Johun Sing, Mhetra Purnmal  
"and Steamath had conspired  
"against the life of her late  
"son through witchcraft -  
"that he is dead, and they  
"remain unpunished - and

"that it was well to his name - <sup>were as a</sup>  
"they should be immediately <sup>strong justice</sup>  
"imprisoned in the Haroam - <sup>Prisoners</sup>  
"condemned <sup>to death</sup>

- I asked each man separately  
if he concurred in the views  
above expressed - and wrote  
the reception of the Baidla Pao

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [4r] (5/10)

18

4

who made no reply, they said  
it ought to be done -

I replied, as regards Panna case,  
I had proved to the late Maharaja  
Jana, in the presence of the  
Bardla Rao, that the letter  
on which the charge of witchcraft  
was founded was a forgery -  
and the Bardla Rao corroborated  
my statement. With reference  
to Maharaj Solum Sing and  
Shamunath - If they actually  
believed that witchcraft existed  
and that a man by putting  
a piece of steel through a  
small figure made of gold  
or any other substance, could  
thereby destroy the life of  
another - they must do  
justice to all alike and  
as I had a list of nobles  
including Maharaj Solum  
Sing and several of those



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [4v] (6/10)

accused of the same crime  
then present, they should all  
be put into the Hamann  
together - The Bardla Rao  
laughed but the others seemed  
to think it serious -

I then told them that the  
British Government would  
not permit such a charge  
to be entertained against  
anyone, that it was a  
cowardly, spiteful way  
of gratifying revenge, and  
it was their interest to  
put down such abominable  
accusations with a strong  
hand, as they were  
present was <sup>liable</sup> subject to  
the same accusations being  
brought against him things  
sincerely - I then <sup>requested</sup> advised  
them to inform the  
Queen Mother that I could

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [5r] (7/10)

(18)

(5)

not as he proposed - and  
begged that no improper  
a request might never  
again be made to me -

This morning when out  
sketching a message was  
brought to me privately  
from Jodhun Singh requesting  
an audience - I replied that  
I could not see him &  
advised him to leave  
today's proceedings.

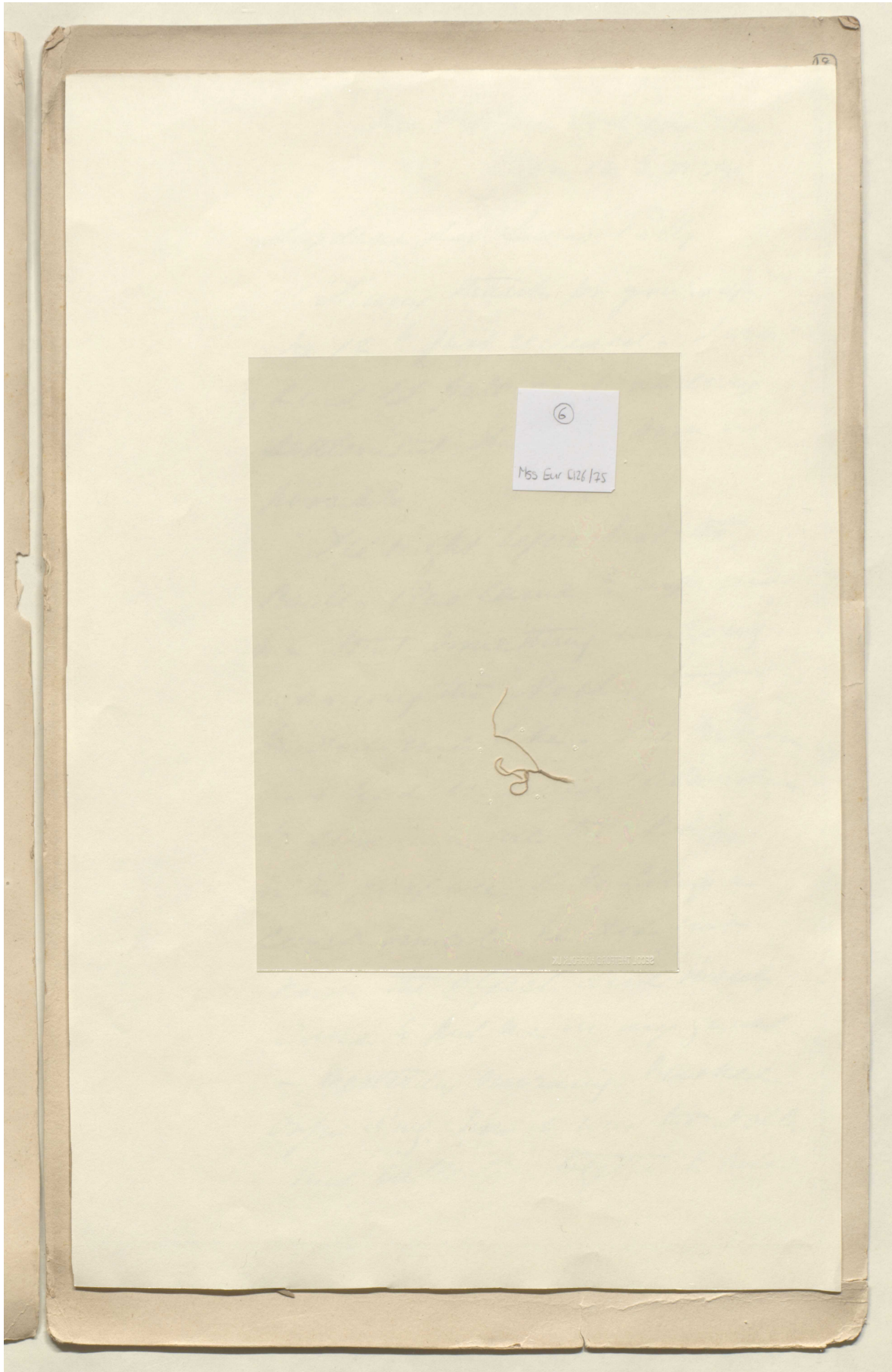
Half an hour afterwards  
I received a message from  
the Queen Mother that  
she heard Jodhun Singh  
had asked for an audience  
and she hoped I would  
not grant it -

- She has had unlimited  
power, and the people  
about the Palace cannot

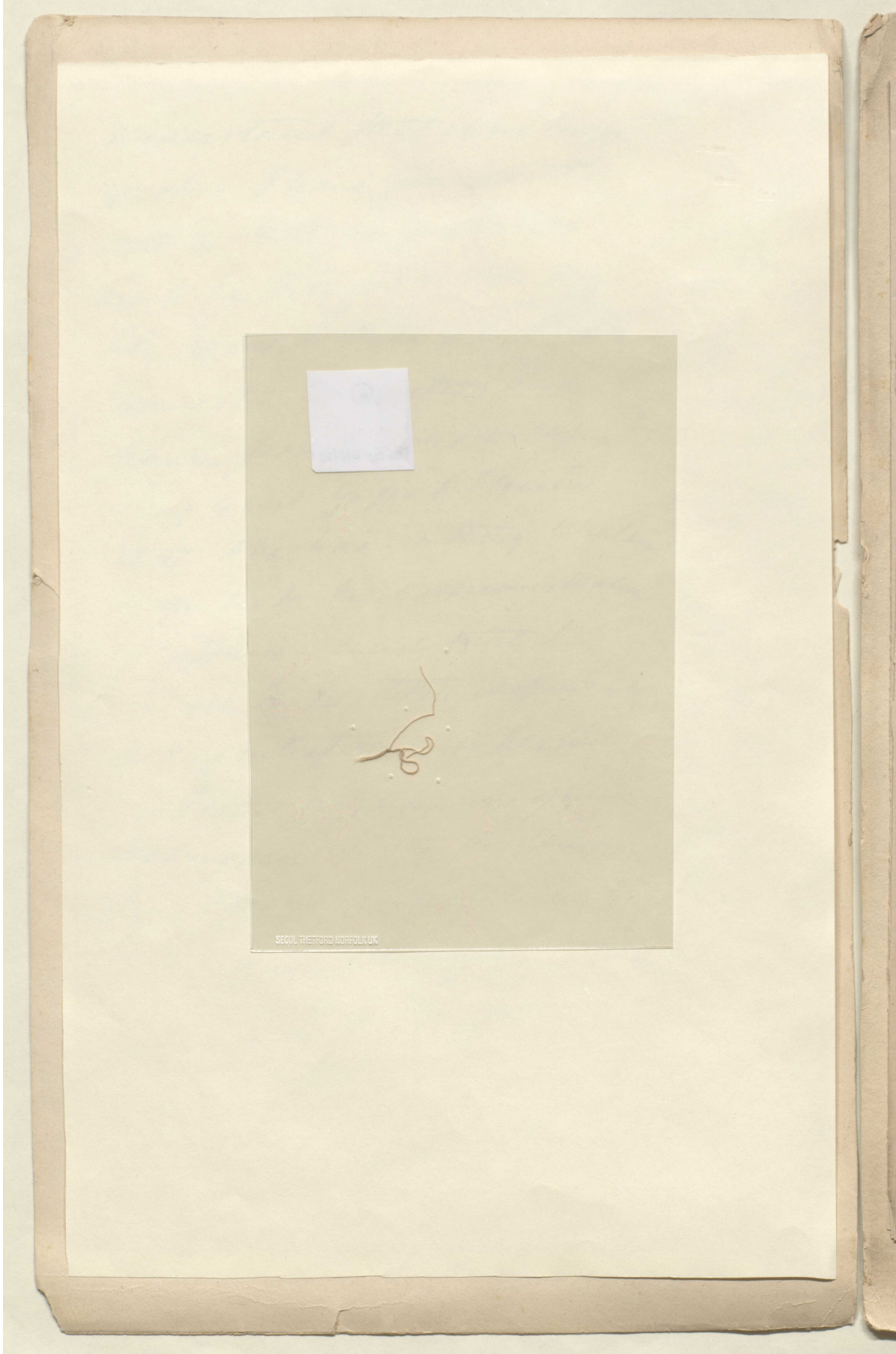
Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [5v] (8/10)

understand that it no longer  
exists - I have given strict  
orders that no messages  
are to be brought to me from  
her, except those of a <sup>purely</sup> strictly  
domestic character, and  
have pointed out to both  
myself and Gopal Chund  
that she has nothing whatever  
to do with the administration  
of affairs - and that I  
shall hold them responsible  
if any interference is permitted  
- I trust you approve of my  
having sent in the two Campans  
from Khanwar yesterday -  
Yours sincerely  
J. A. Wright

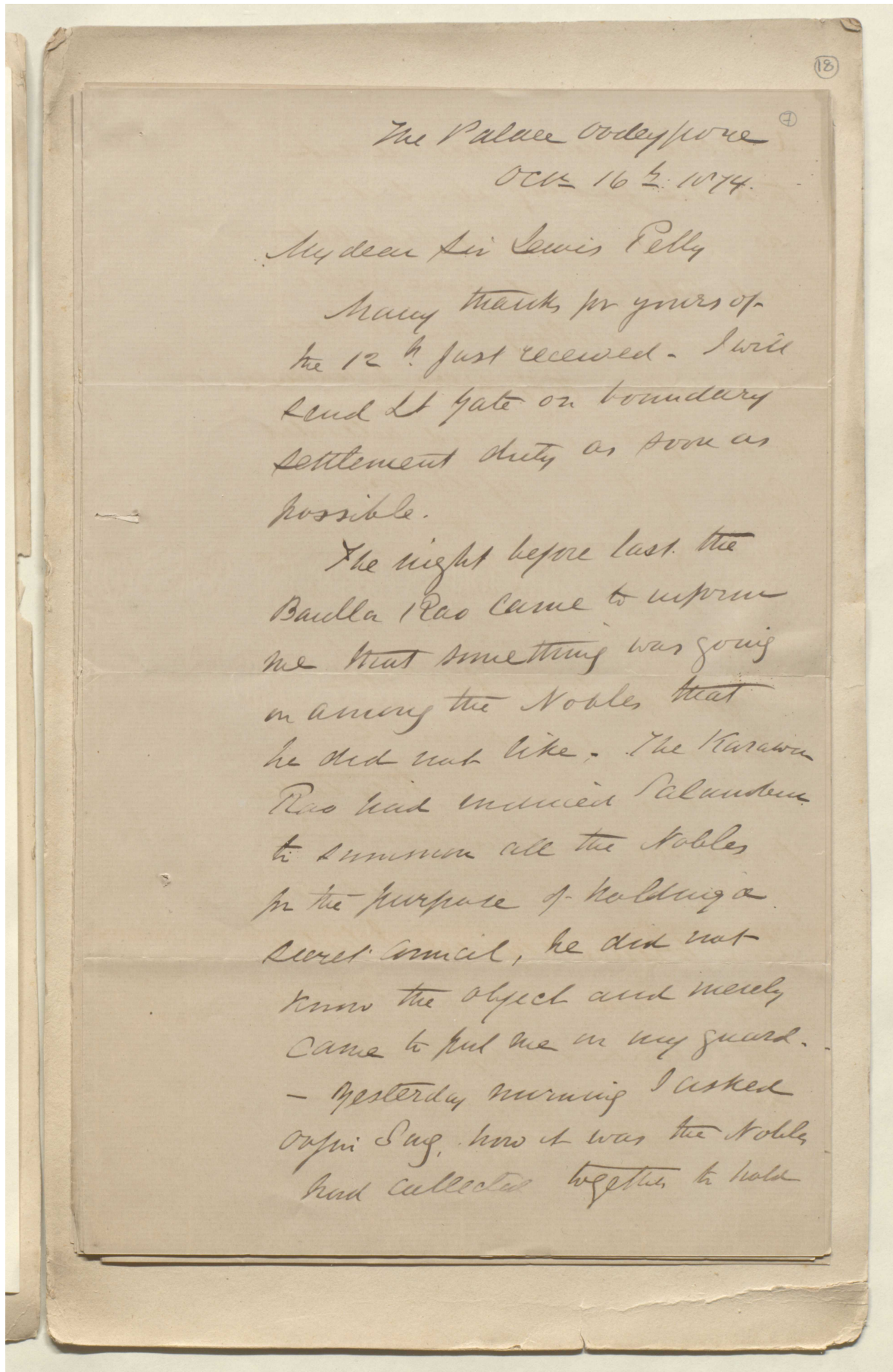
Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [6r] (9/10)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [6v] (10/10)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [7r] (1/8)



The Palace Cooleypore <sup>4</sup>

Oct- 16<sup>th</sup> 1874.

My dear Sir Lewis Pelly

Many thanks for yours of  
the 12<sup>th</sup> just received. I will  
send Lt Gate on boundary  
settlement duty as soon as  
possible.

The night before last the  
Baulla Rao came to inform  
me that something was going  
on among the Nobles that  
he did not like. The Marwar  
Rao had induced Palambur  
to summon all the Nobles  
for the purpose of holding a  
Secret Council, he did not  
know the object and merely  
came to put me on my guard.  
- Yesterday morning I asked  
Oopri Singh how it was the Nobles  
had collected together to hold

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [7v] (2/8)

a Secret Council and he had  
told me nothing about it. -  
He replied that they had not  
met, but he had come for the  
purpose of telling me he had  
just heard they were to assemble  
in the afternoon, and intended  
coming to me afterwards,  
and again urge the imprison-  
ment of Sohan Sing and the  
others on the charge of witchcraft  
- I replied that I should  
always be glad to meet the  
Nirdars whenever they wished  
to see me, but in this case  
if they merely intended repeating  
their former request I hoped  
they would not give themselves  
the unnecessary trouble  
of coming to me, as I had  
given my final decision

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [8r] (3/8)

18

8

which nothing would induce me  
to alter - The Bardia Ras again  
came last night, and told  
me that he attended the  
meeting and asked why  
they had been summoned  
The Korawm Ras replied that  
they should all take oaths on  
the Gauges to be of one mind  
and tell me distinctly that  
they would have their wishes  
carried out - The Deelwan  
Raj said that he did not  
see what they were to take  
their oaths upon the Gauges  
about, that the Pal Agent  
had more power than any of  
them and had acted fairly  
by promising to obtain sanction  
for the expenditure of a sum  
equal to that which was spent  
on funeral rites, &c. after the Suroop  
Suraj



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [8v] (4/8)

death and would <sup>begin</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>take</sup> ~~any~~  
 any charge made against  
 Maharaj So-kim Singh, and  
 Purna Lal, unconnected  
 with witchcraft - "What more  
 was required." - The Kharwar  
 Rao urged them to reflect that  
 they were Rajpoots, but the  
 Kharwar Rao sided with  
 Deewan, ~~for~~ so we would  
 take the oath and they broke  
 up without coming to me.  
 The Boudla then went to  
 the Tenam - entrance and  
 begged the Queen Mother  
 not to incite the Kharwar  
 Rao & others to resist the  
 Pol. Agent's authority, she  
 replied that <sup>she</sup> had not done  
 so and was satisfied with  
 my decision.

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [9r] (5/8)

(18)

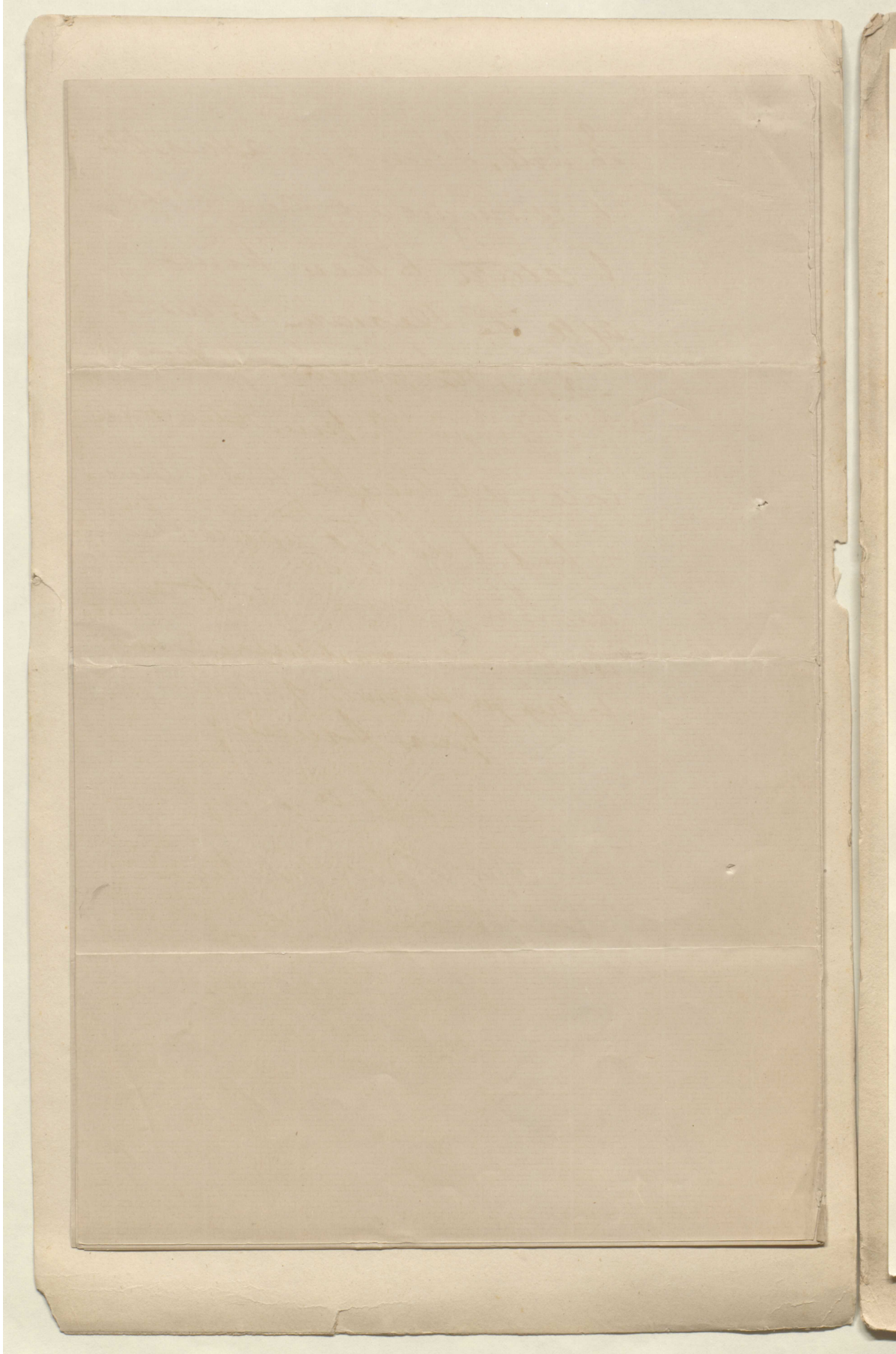
(9)

It will, I think, be advisable  
to recommend the Chiefs  
to return to their homes  
after the Desiam is over.  
- And the presence of the  
two Companies from Khairpur  
will add weight to the advice  
- but I do not apprehend  
the least constraint to ~~the~~  
Authority and merely write  
to keep you informed of what is going on  
Yours sincerely  
J. A. Wright

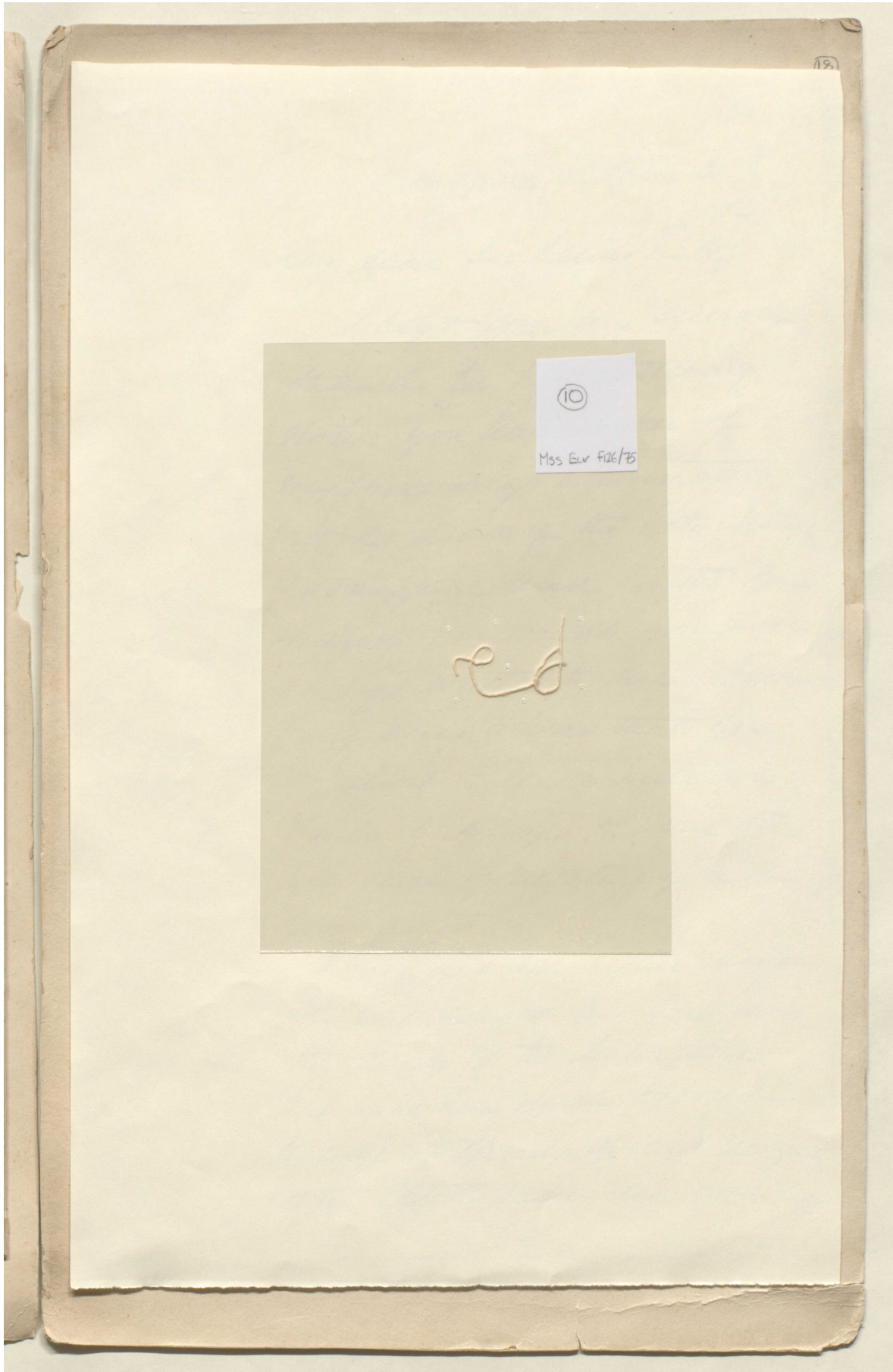
Copy to Mr. Nicholson  
for info in am in JP

74 110/74  
Done

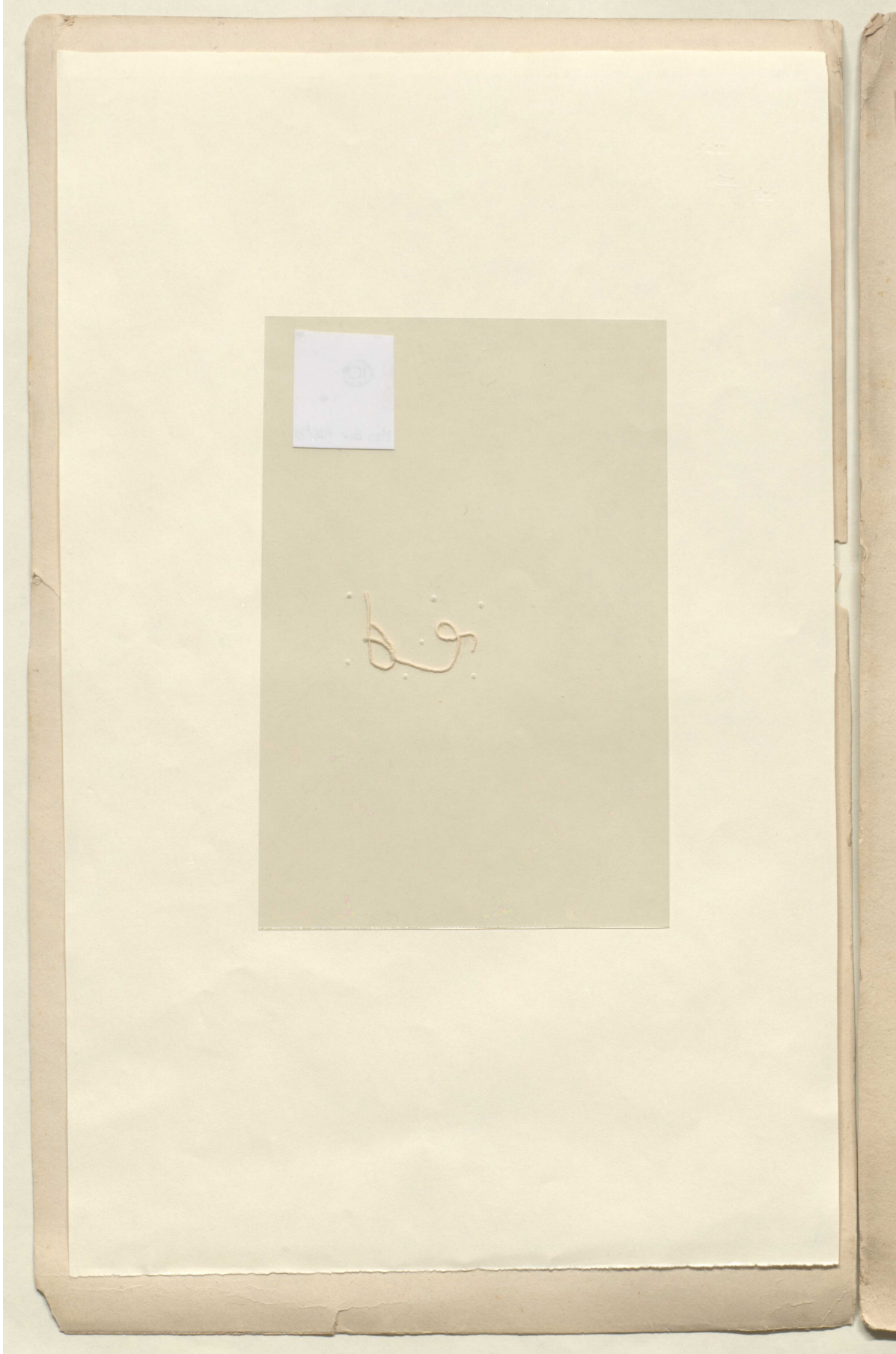
Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [9v] (6/8)



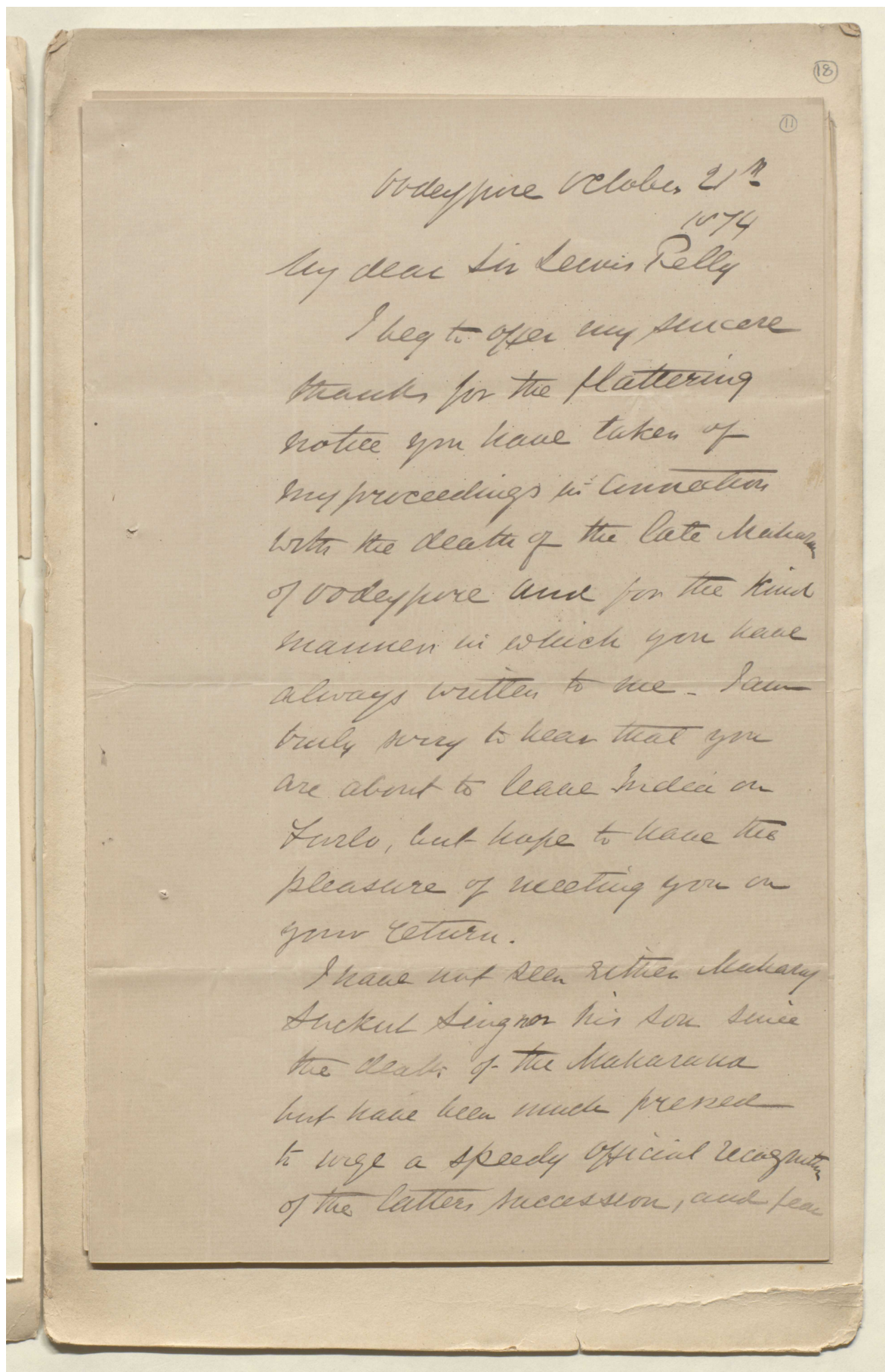
Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [10r] (7/8)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [10v] (8/8)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [11r] (1/12)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [11v] (2/12)

That delay in doing so may cause  
a complication. Maharaj Pokhun  
Sing having formally claimed  
the Throne as reported in my  
Official of yesterday, and Telegram  
of the 19<sup>th</sup>. The widow of Maharaaj  
Samratt Sing and Maharaj  
Ankhat Sing accuse Pokhun  
Sing of robbery among other  
crimes, both urge me to insist  
upon his disorging at once, and  
there is such a bad feeling  
against him generally that  
I not only consider his life  
in danger while here, but  
his present is the cause of  
much disquiet and ~~the~~ <sup>constant</sup>  
dangerous reports, with which  
I have not troubled you, but  
will mention one to show the  
style - A servant of Mr. Adwaja  
informed him that he heard  
a jagar calling out at the

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [12r] (3/12)

(18)

(12)

pitch of his voice that, the Pol  
 Agent Sahib, Punna Lal and  
 Maharaj Bohun Singh had pointed  
 the late Maharaja to put  
 the latter upon the Throne &c.  
 Mr. Adwyce endeavoured  
 to find out the Jagee but the  
 Town being filled with these  
 people was of course unrecapful  
 This occurred the day Bohun  
 Singh sent a messenger to me  
 to request an audience.

In your official letter regarding  
 the establishment I proposed  
 for the gate to assist in defining  
 the Meywar Marwar boundary  
 you decided that it was too  
 extensive and I have reduced  
 it accordingly, altho' it is exactly  
 the same allowed to the  
 Central India boundary  
 settlement Officer.



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [12v] (4/12)

I hope you will kindly allow  
it to have the services  
of a surveyor who I had  
already engaged believing  
that it was necessary to do so.  
His assistance will not only  
expedite the work but enable  
it to give a more  
correct idea of the boundary  
than he otherwise could do.

The cost of the establishment  
including wages of the surveyor  
is within the sum agreed upon  
by the two States -

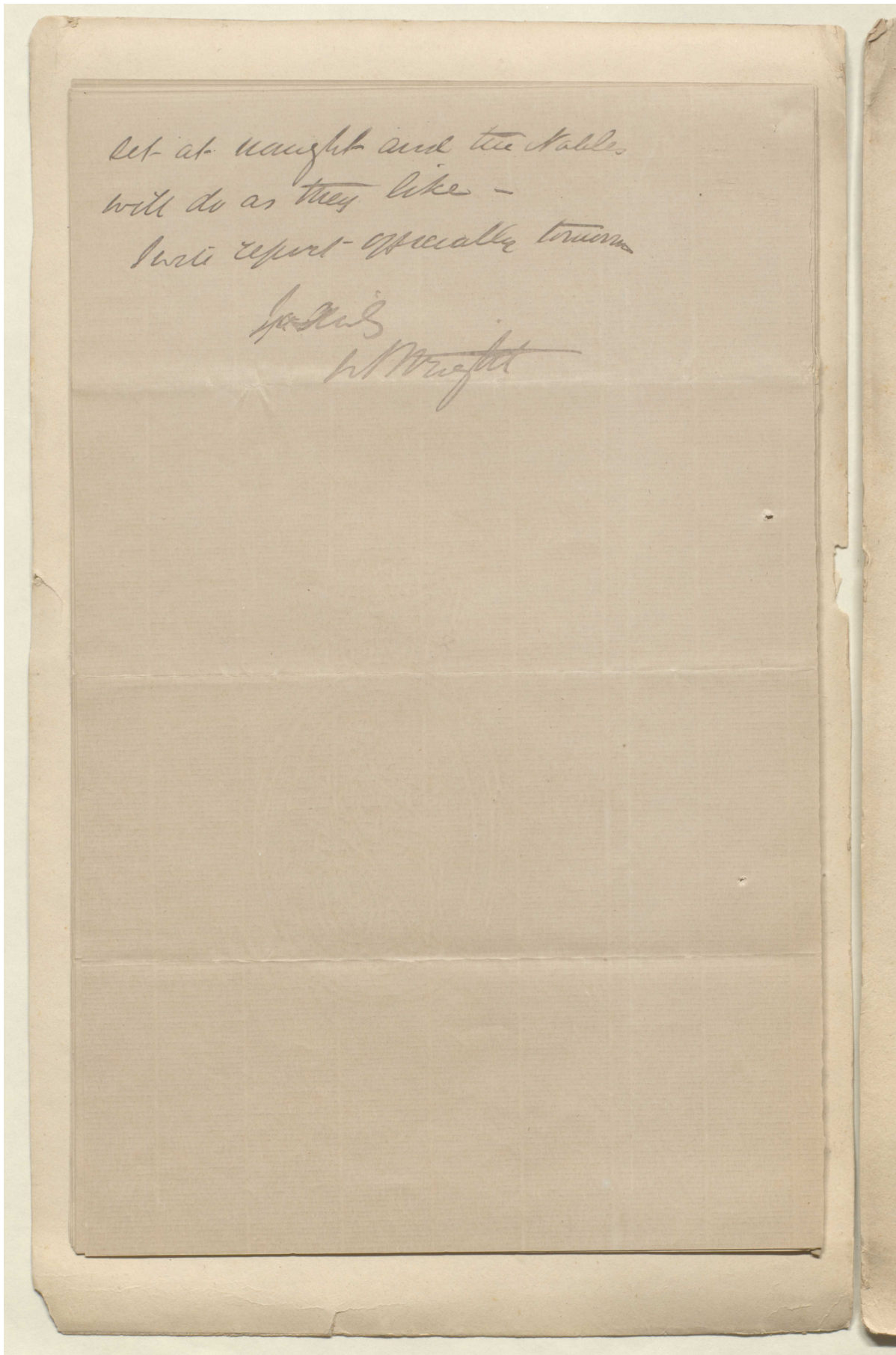
With kind regards  
Yours sincerely

J. A. Wright.

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [13r] (5/12)

18  
13  
I enclose my letter to include  
translations of a reply just  
received from Maharaja Sobun  
Sing to my letter of the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
The Maharaja is evidently  
determined not to leave Oodeypore  
if he can help it, probably  
hoping that Govt. will not  
satisfy the annuities of  
Surjam Sing. He has a  
number of Wulātees in his  
employ, has a considerable  
amount of ready money  
and is therefore dangerous  
in original. I enclose my reply which  
I trust you will approve,  
it will be translated word  
for word into Hindustani  
and sent to Sobun Sing -  
If he is permitted to  
disregard repeated orders  
now authority will be

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [13v] (6/12)



Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [14r] (7/12)

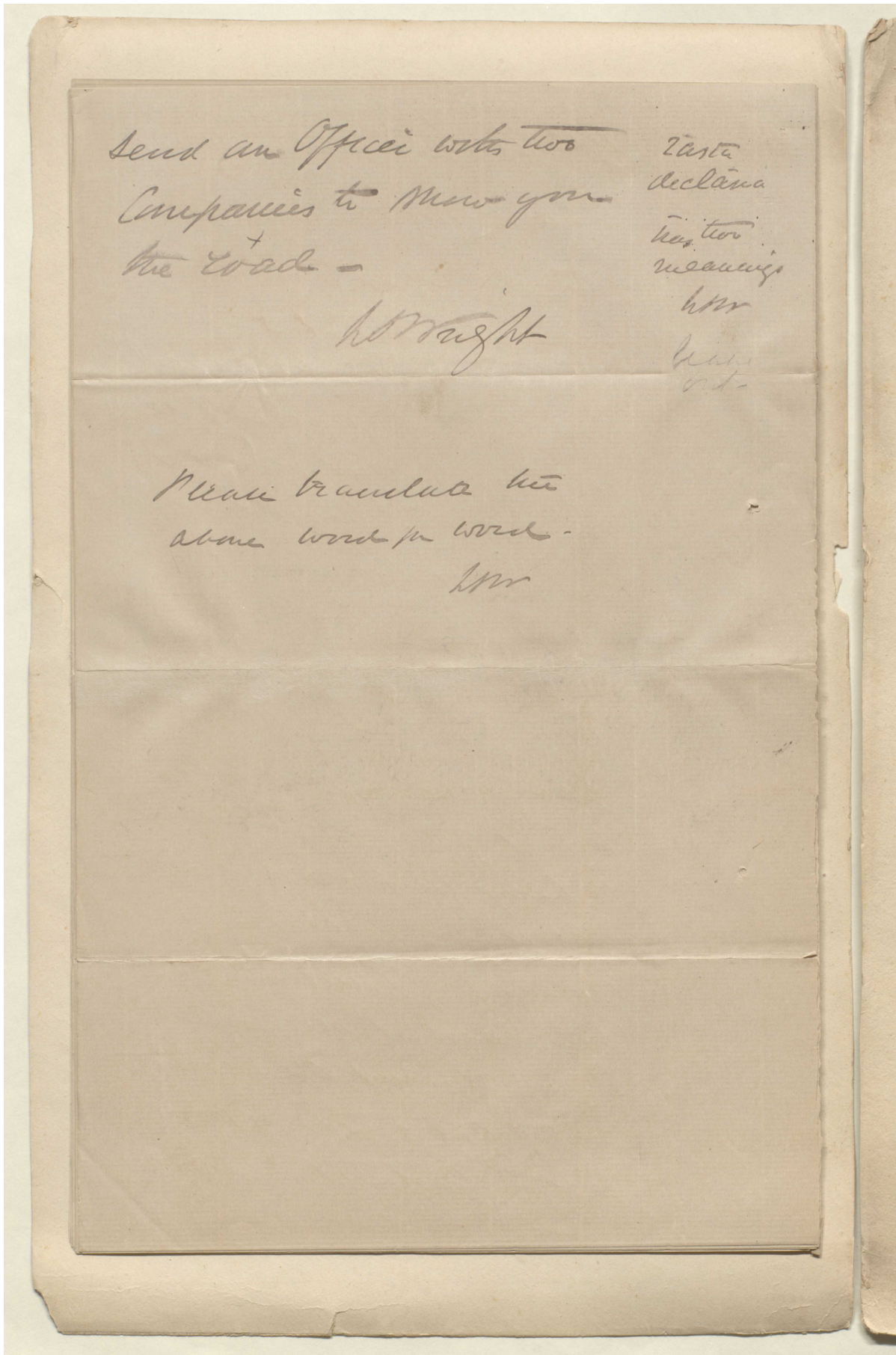
In answer of whom I say  
After Compliments.

I have just received your  
Letter in reply to mine of  
Yesterday - the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst.

I have already informed  
you that I cannot see  
you at present, and I  
never alter my decision  
- I also told you it was  
necessary for you to  
leave today, and  
mean what I say.

You excuse yourself  
for not going on the plea  
of being unprovided with  
Carriage - I have given  
orders for Camels to be  
provided at once, and  
if you do not leave this  
by the afternoon of the  
24<sup>th</sup> instant I will

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [14v] (8/12)



Send an Officer with two  
Companies to show you  
the road -

J. Wright

zasta  
declana  
na tar  
mashayq  
hmr  
hmr  
out

Please translate the  
above word for word -  
hmr

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [15r] (9/12)

15  
18  
Translation of a Khurata from Maharaj  
Johun Sing to the address of Colonel J. A.  
Wright, Political Agent Meerwar dated  
Aasj. Sudda: 11<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1981 or 21<sup>st</sup> October  
1884.

After Compliments:

I was much pleased yesterday  
Evening to receive your letter No. 4197  
of the 18<sup>th</sup> last regarding my rights  
to the throne of Meerwar & other matters  
& will obey your orders to the letter.

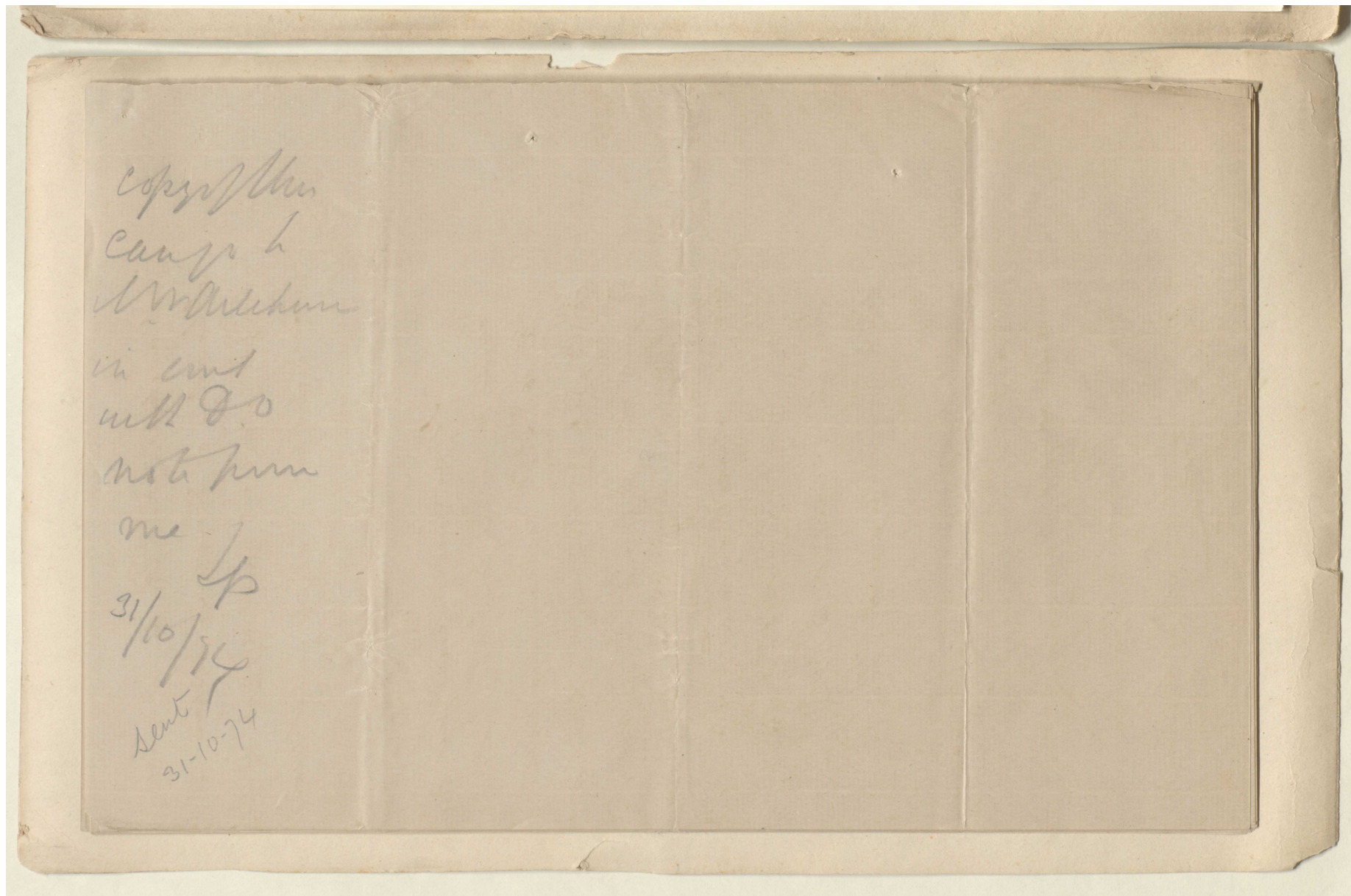
The time allowed for my departure  
has now almost expired & I shall  
have much trouble through want of  
Carriage. I trust therefore you  
will extend the period for a few  
days.

I will start after paying you  
a visit & I have no excuse to offer  
for not going to Bagore.

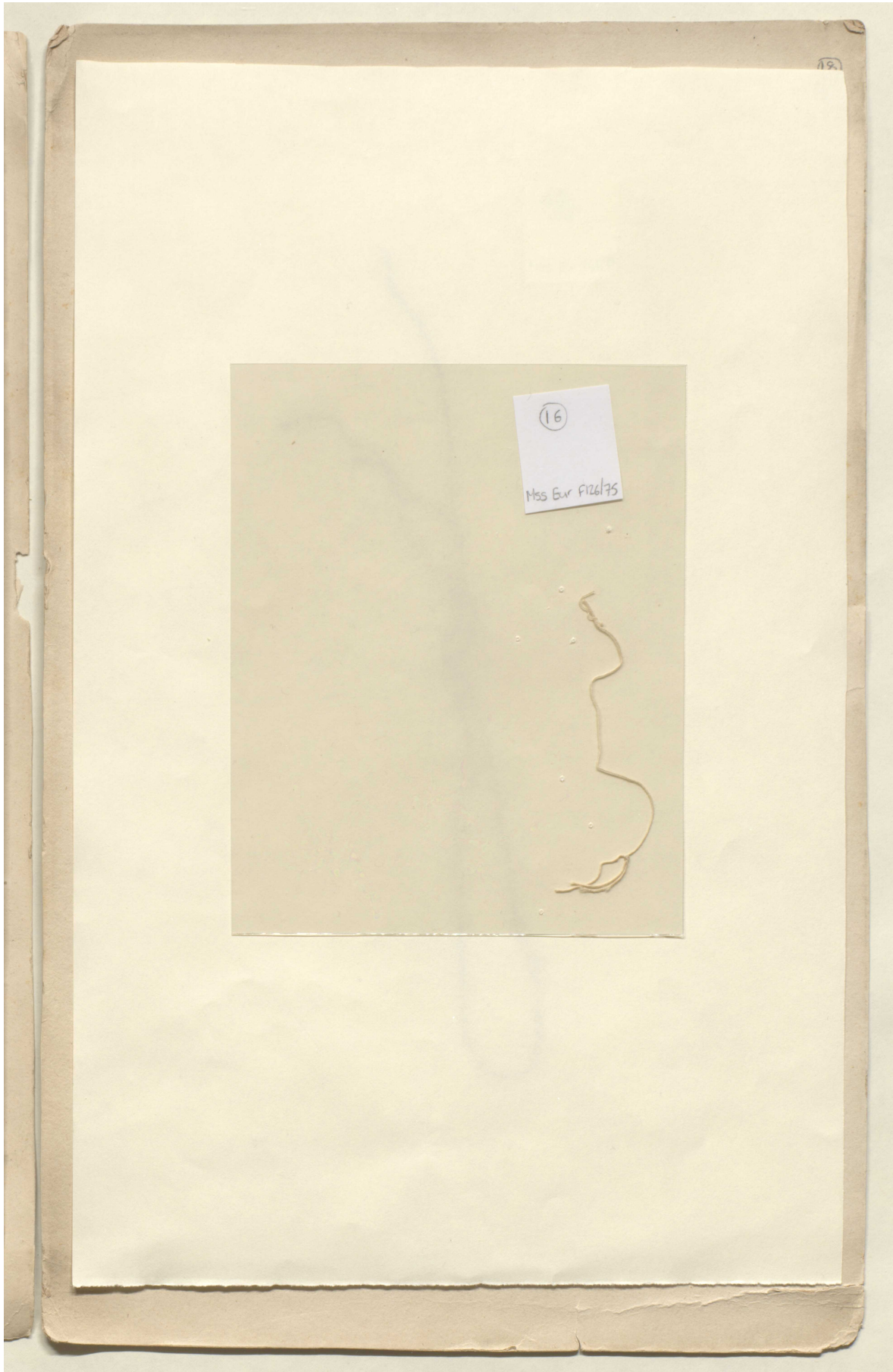
Translated

Chas. S. Gabe Esq  
Political Agent

Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoiti to Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor-General at  
Rajputana [15v] (10/12)

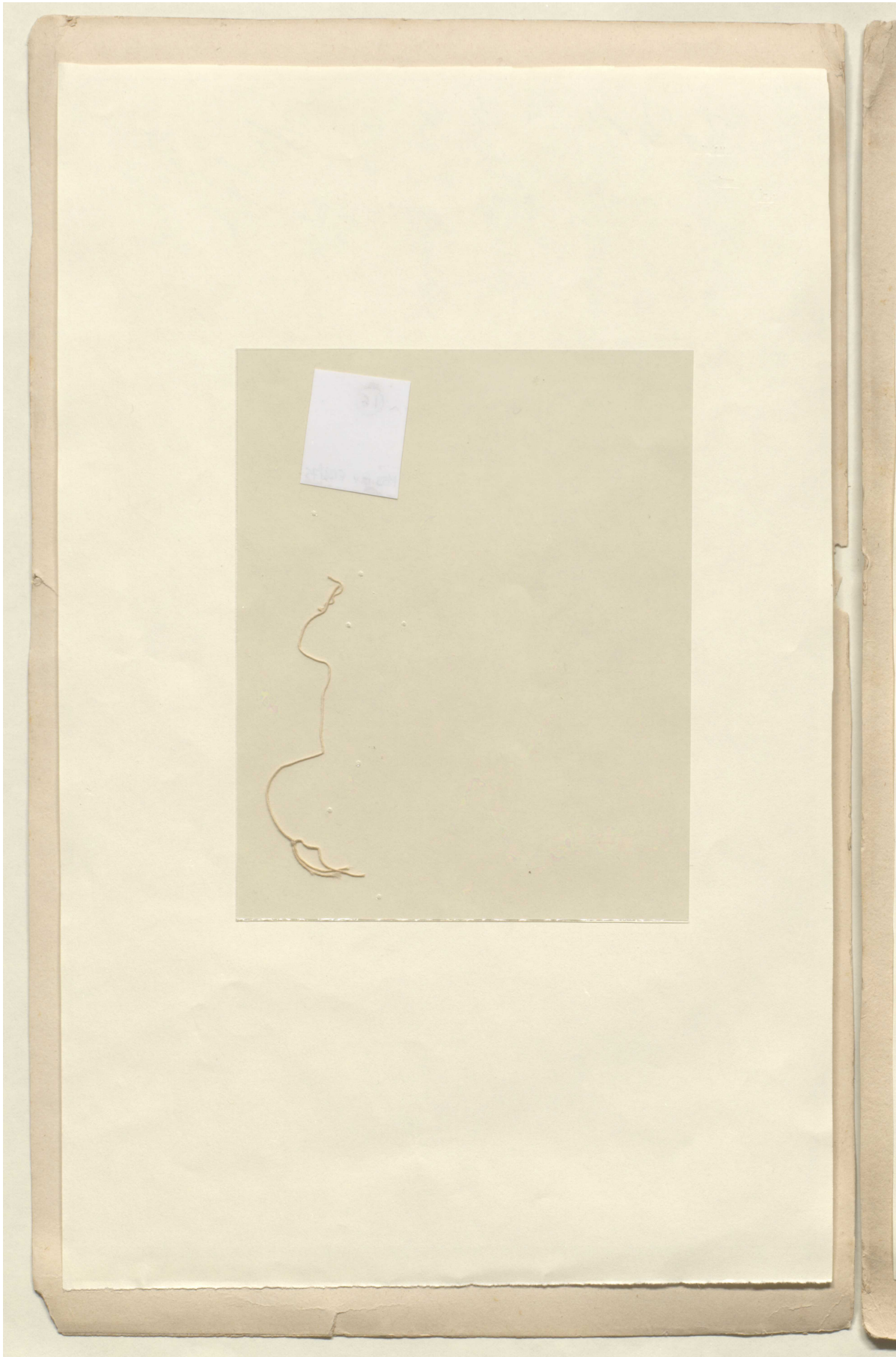


Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [16r] (11/12)

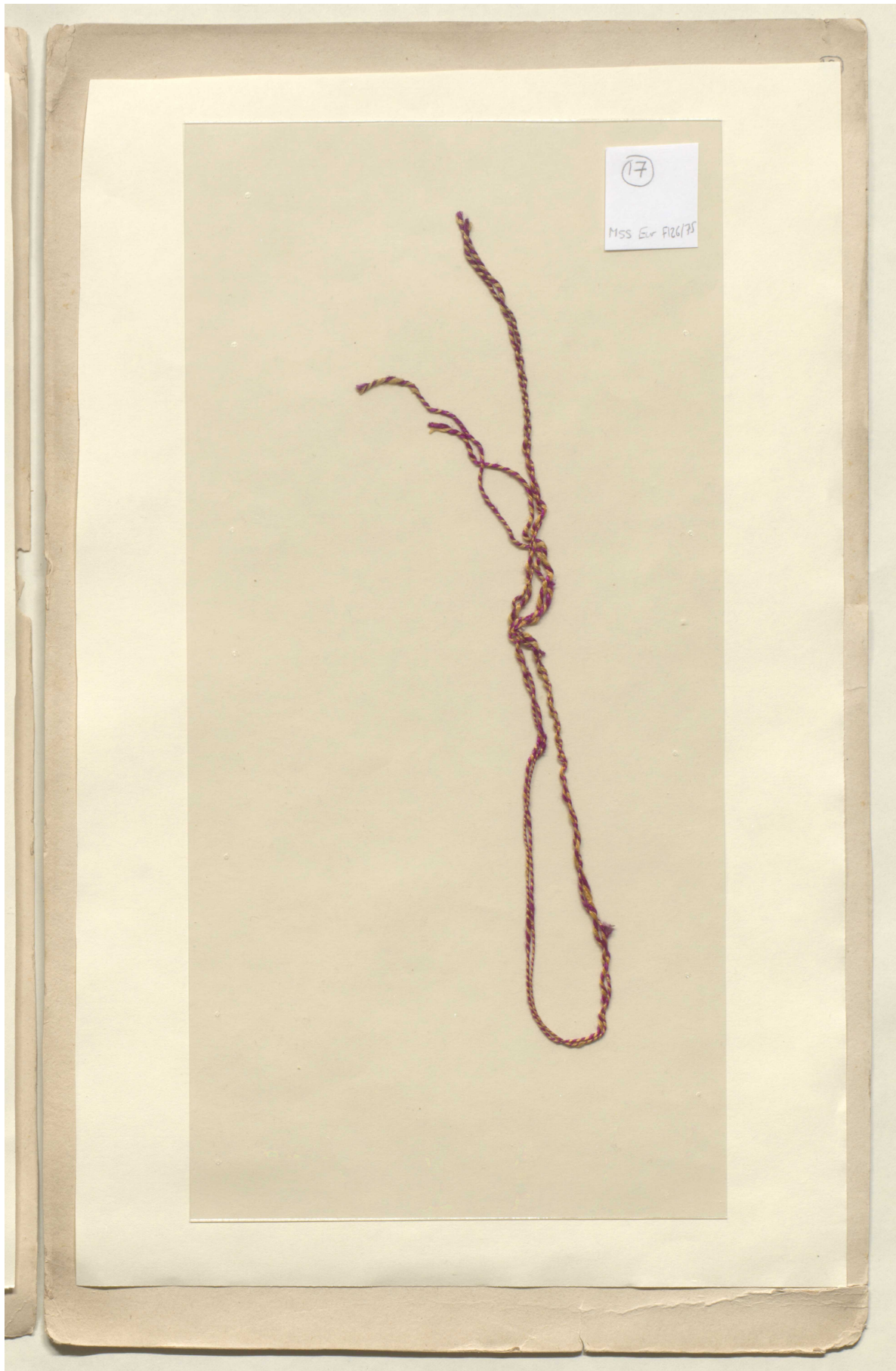




Letter from Colonel John Allen Wright, Political Agent, Haraoti to Lewis Pelly,  
Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana [16v] (12/12)



'Demi-officials on Meywar affairs after death of Maharana Shunbao Singh' [17r]  
(33/36)





'Demi-officials on Meywar affairs after death of Maharana Shunbao Singh'  
[back-i] (35/36)

