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**‘Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa.’**

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/F/4/617/15321
<b>Date(s)</b>	15 Jul 1815-4 Apr 1821 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (21 folios)
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**About this record**

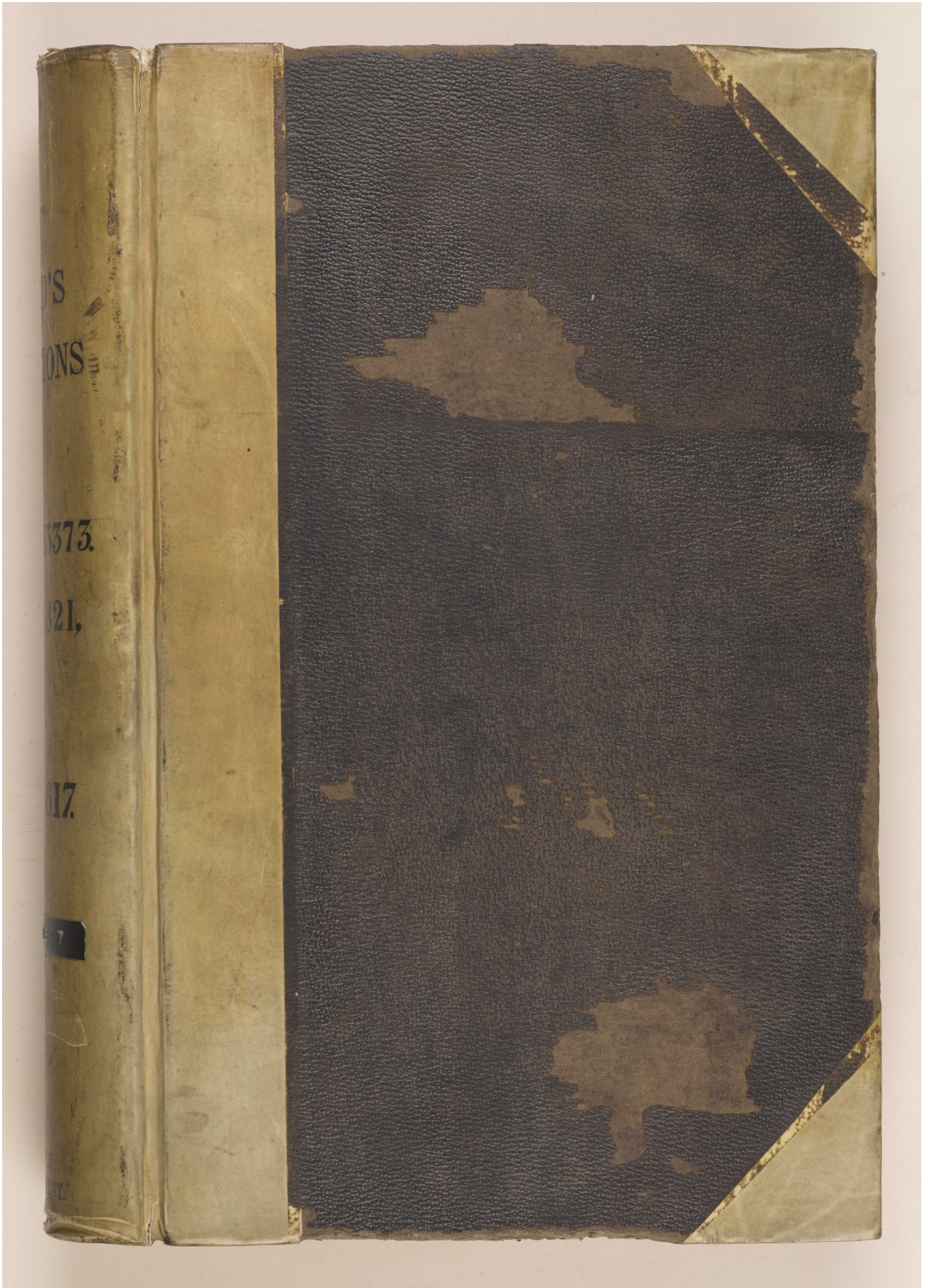
This item contains graphic descriptions of slavery.

The item consists of copies of correspondence, minutes, and consultations, cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai]. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the African Institution, London; the Imaum [Imam] of Muscat [Sayyid Sa‘īd bin Sulṭān Āl Bū Sa‘īd]; the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

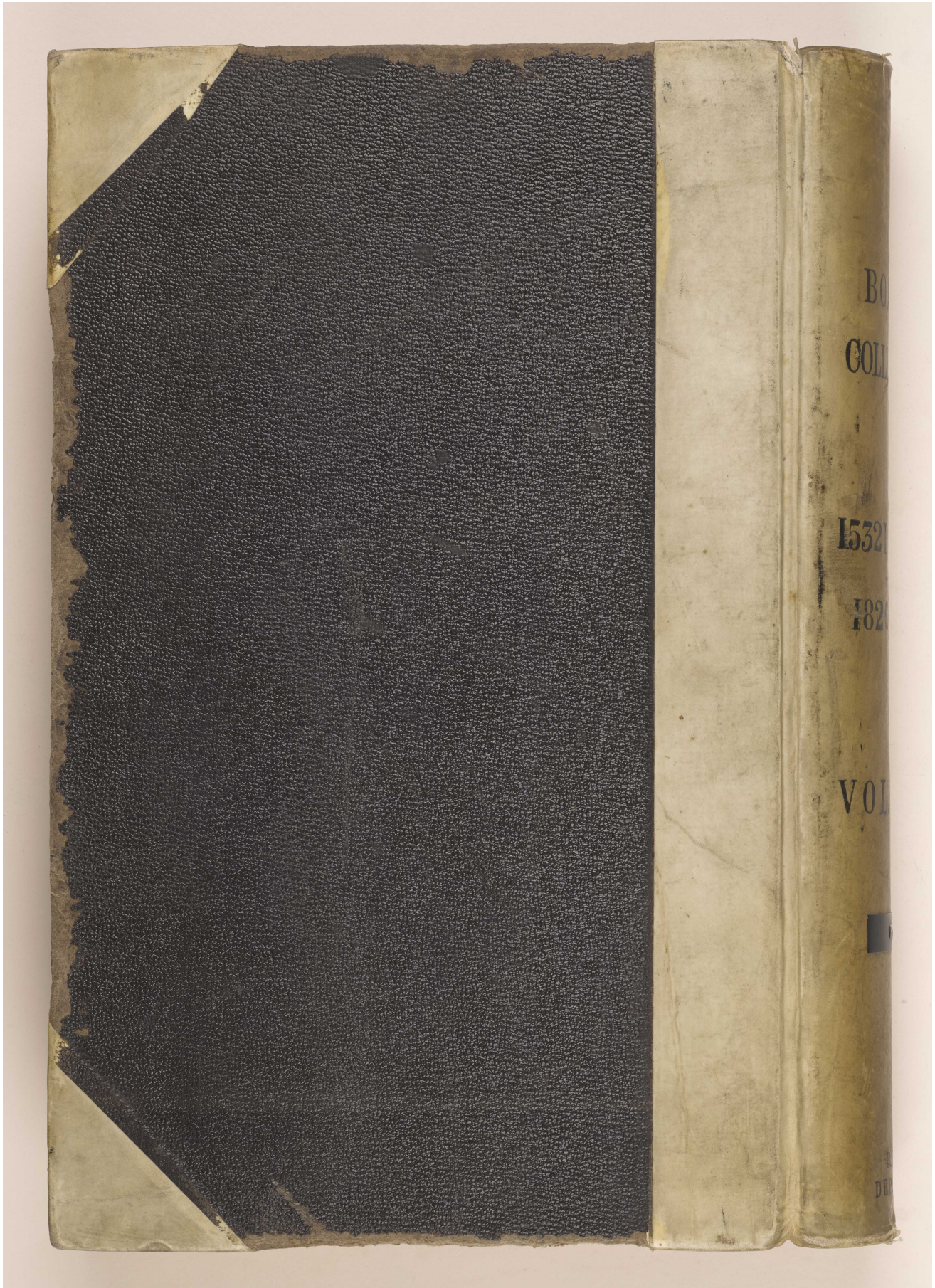
The item concerns the request of the African Institution that the East India Company use their influence over the Imaum of Muscat to persuade him to abolish the trade in enslaved people in Zanzibar [Zanzibar]. The previous efforts of the East India Company and the reply of the Imaum of Muscat are included. The African Institution appends a long description of Zanzibar, including its rulers, natural resources, and trade, especially the trade in enslaved people and the process of selling them.

The title page of the item contains the following references: ‘Draft 220, [Season] 1820/21’ and ‘Examiner’s Office April 1821’.

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [front] (1/55)



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [back] (2/55)



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [spine] (3/55)



**'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [edge] (4/55)**



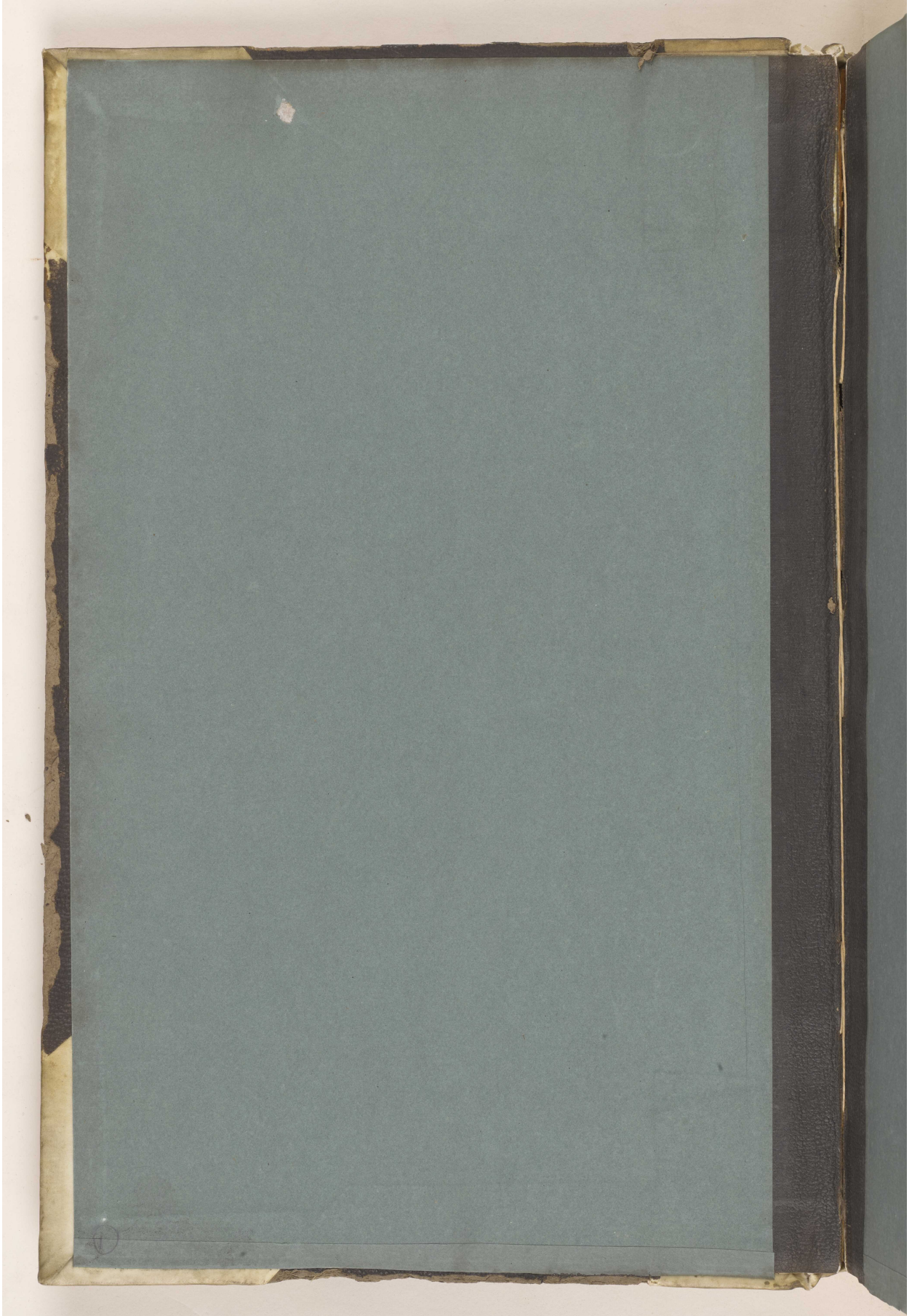
**'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [head] (5/55)**



**'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [tail] (6/55)**

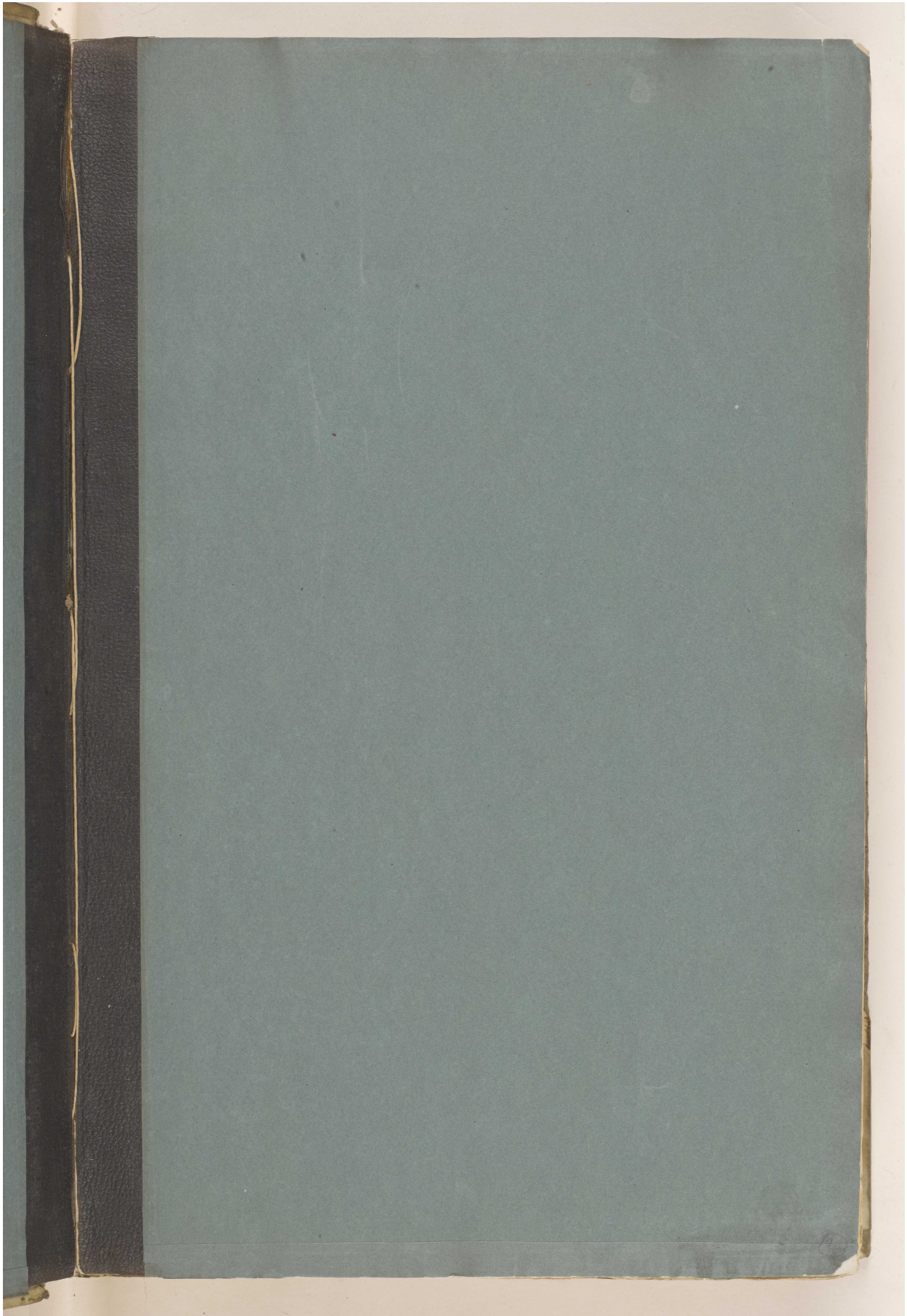


**'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [front-i] (7/55)**

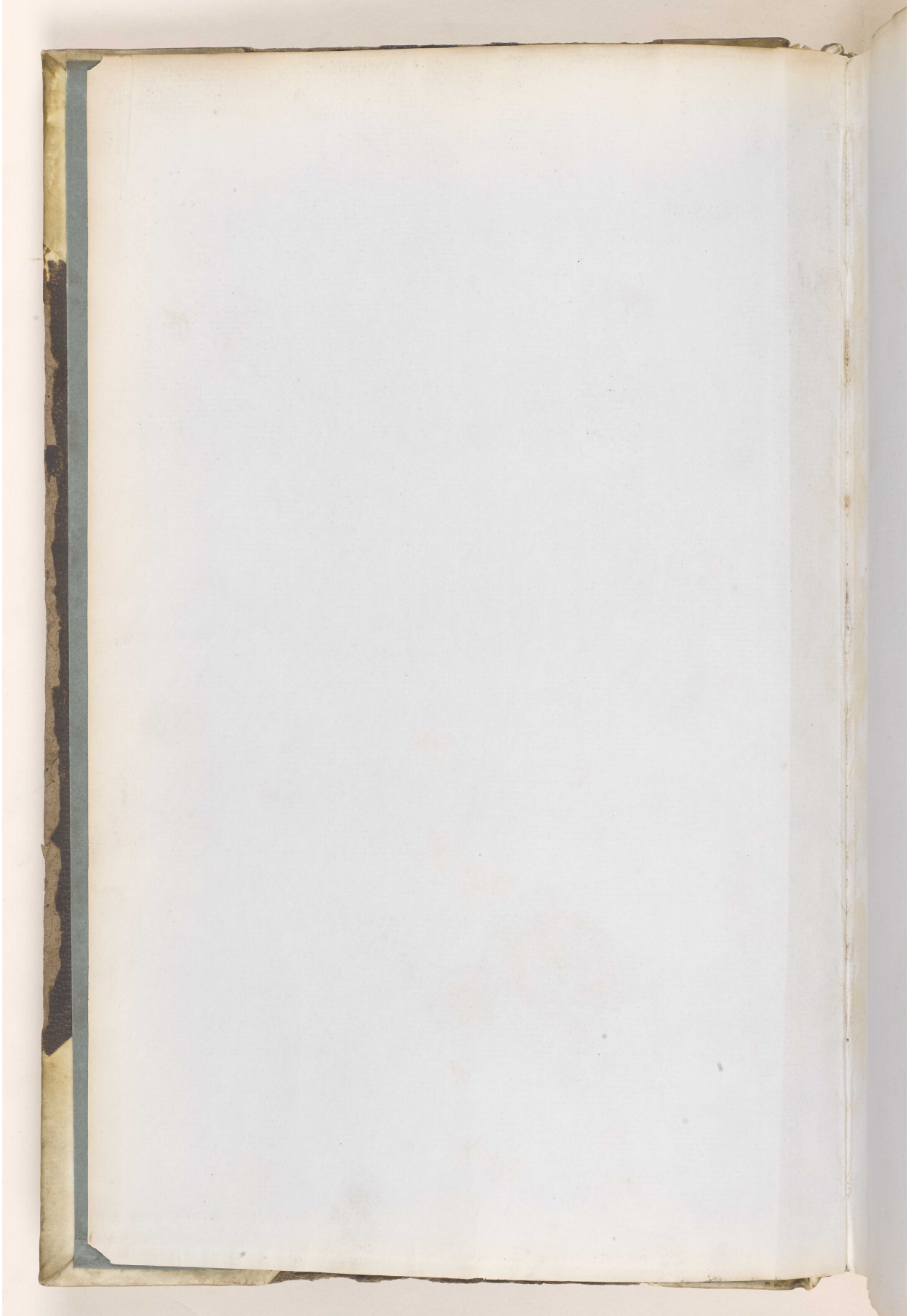




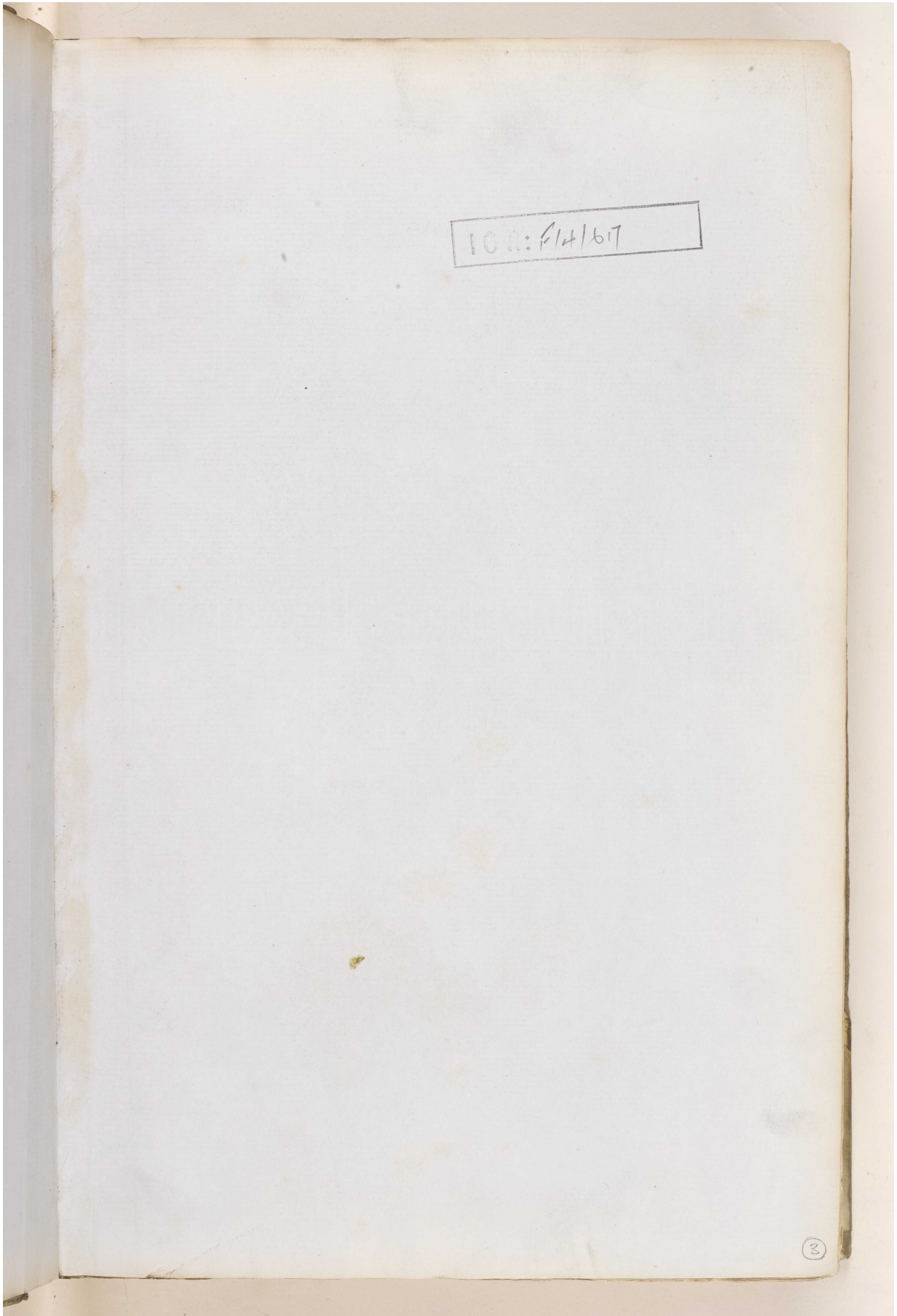
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [2r] (8/55)



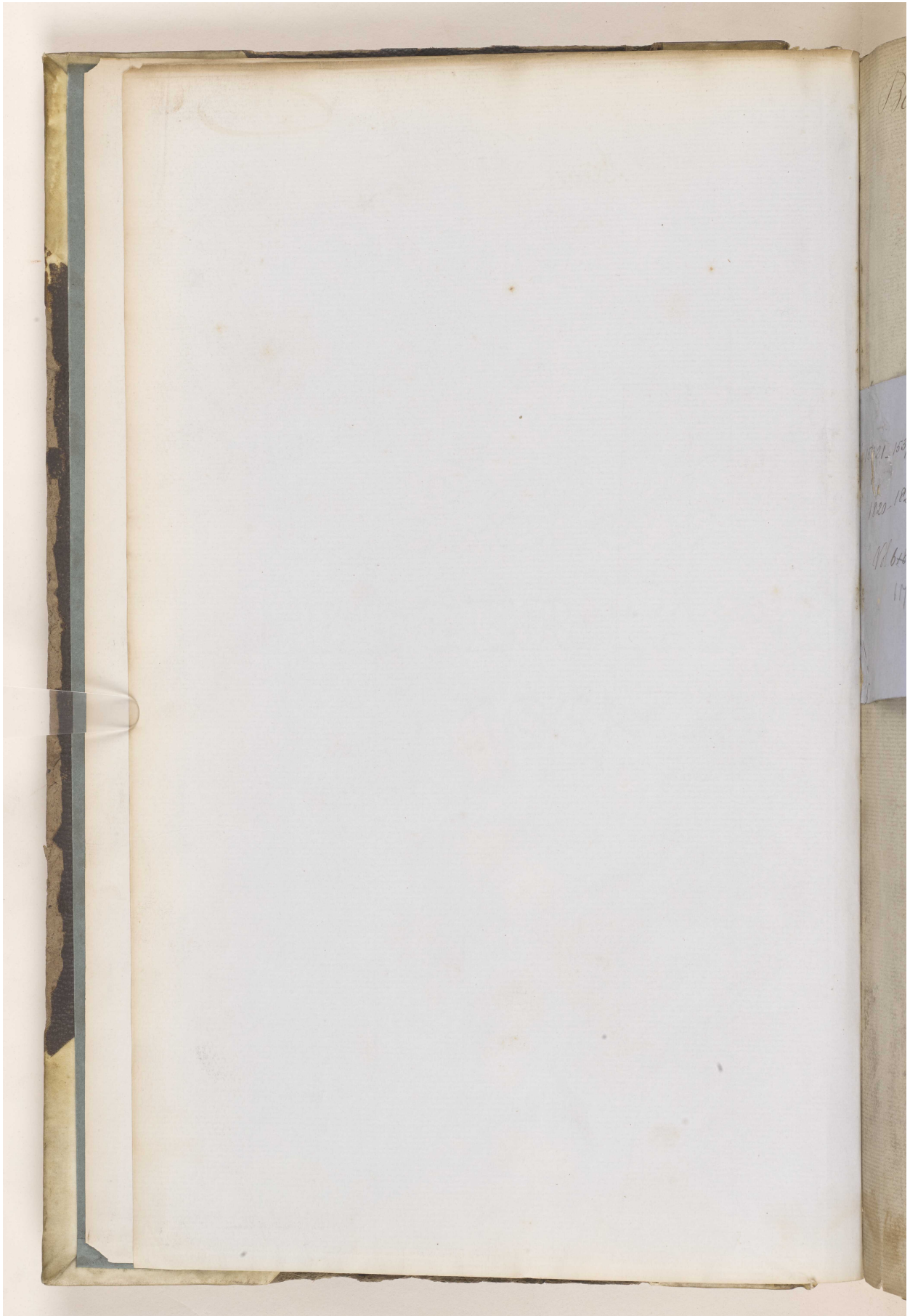
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [2v] (9/55)



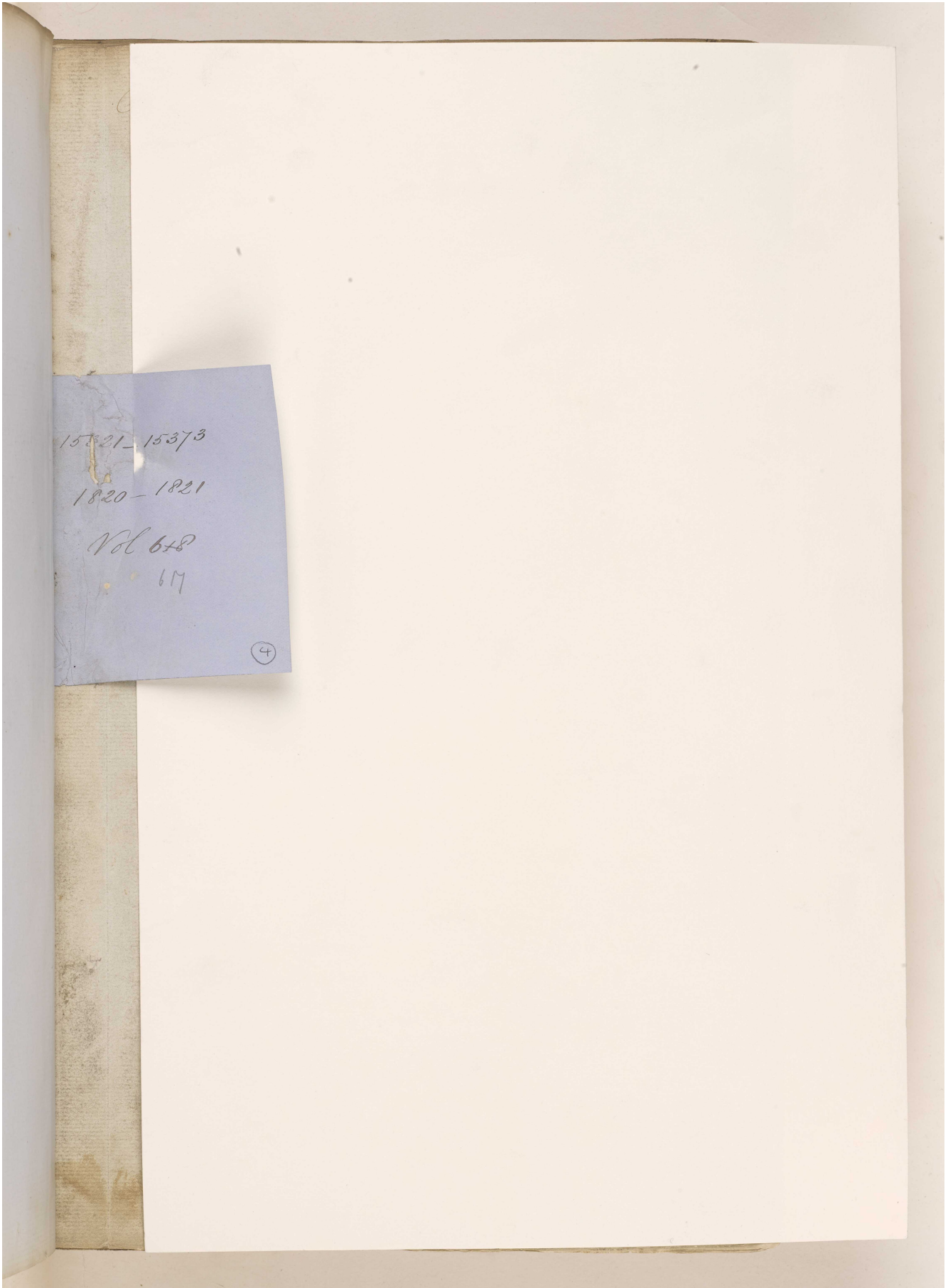
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [3r] (10/55)



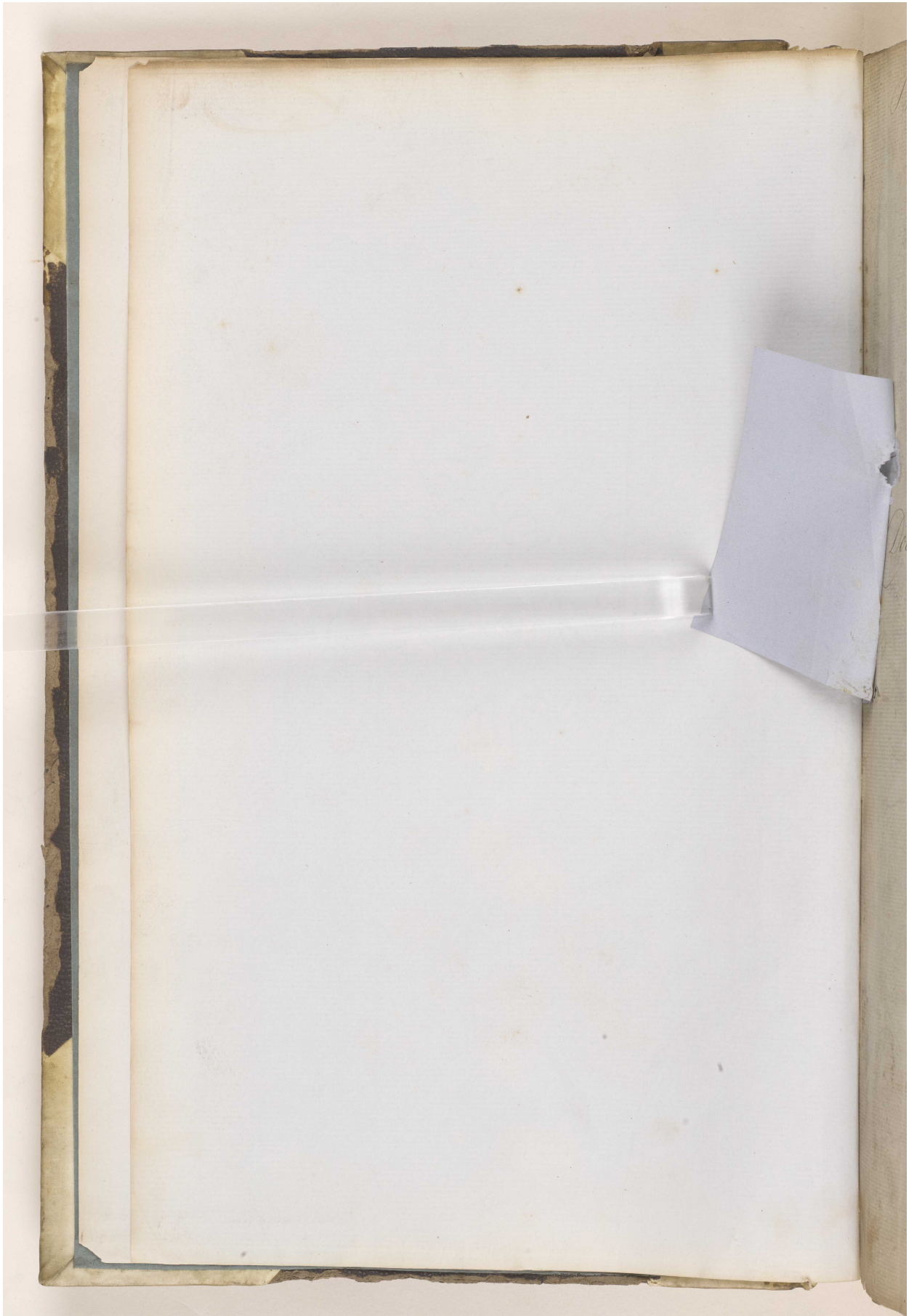
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [3v] (11/55)



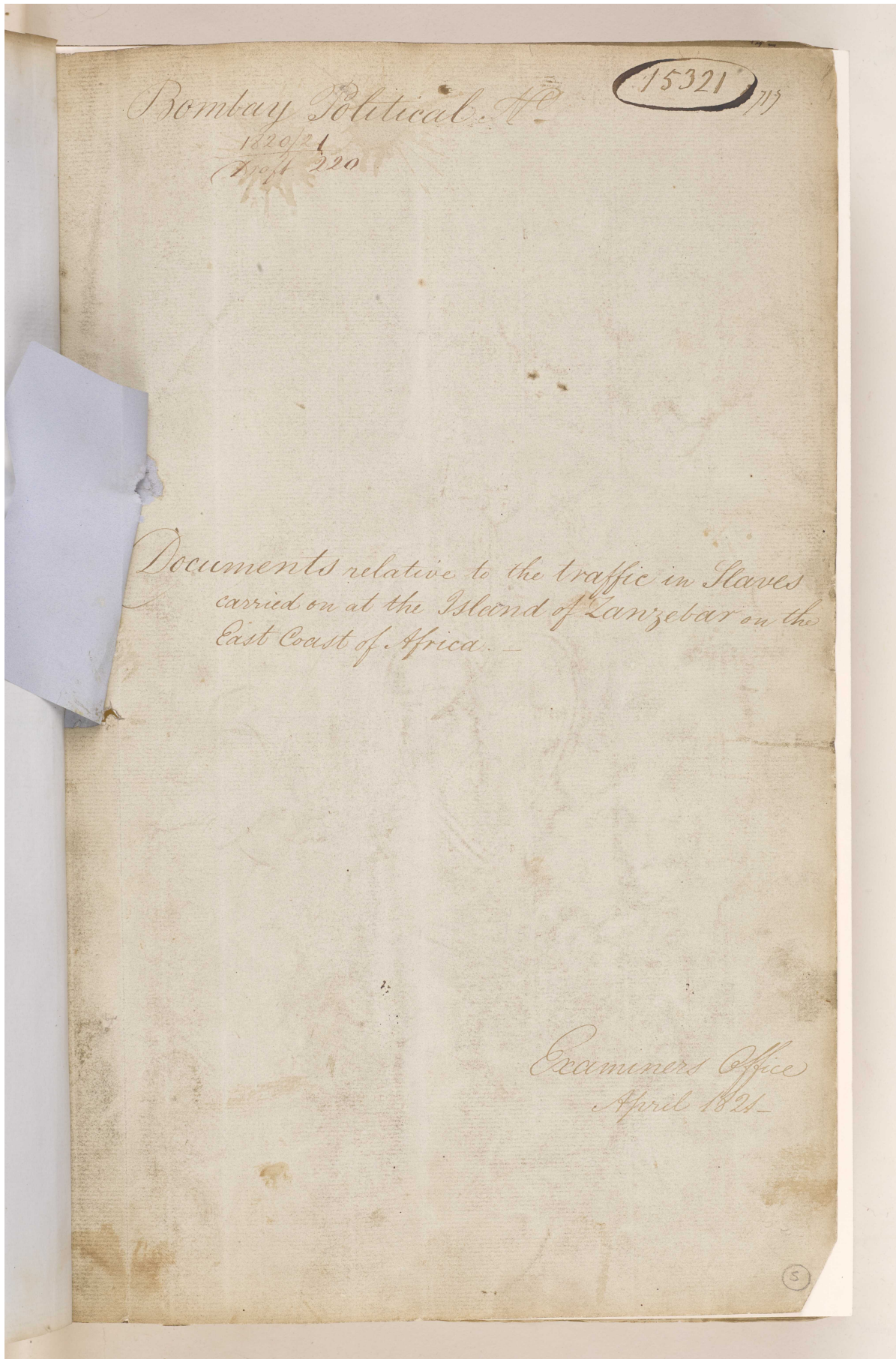
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [4r] (12/55)



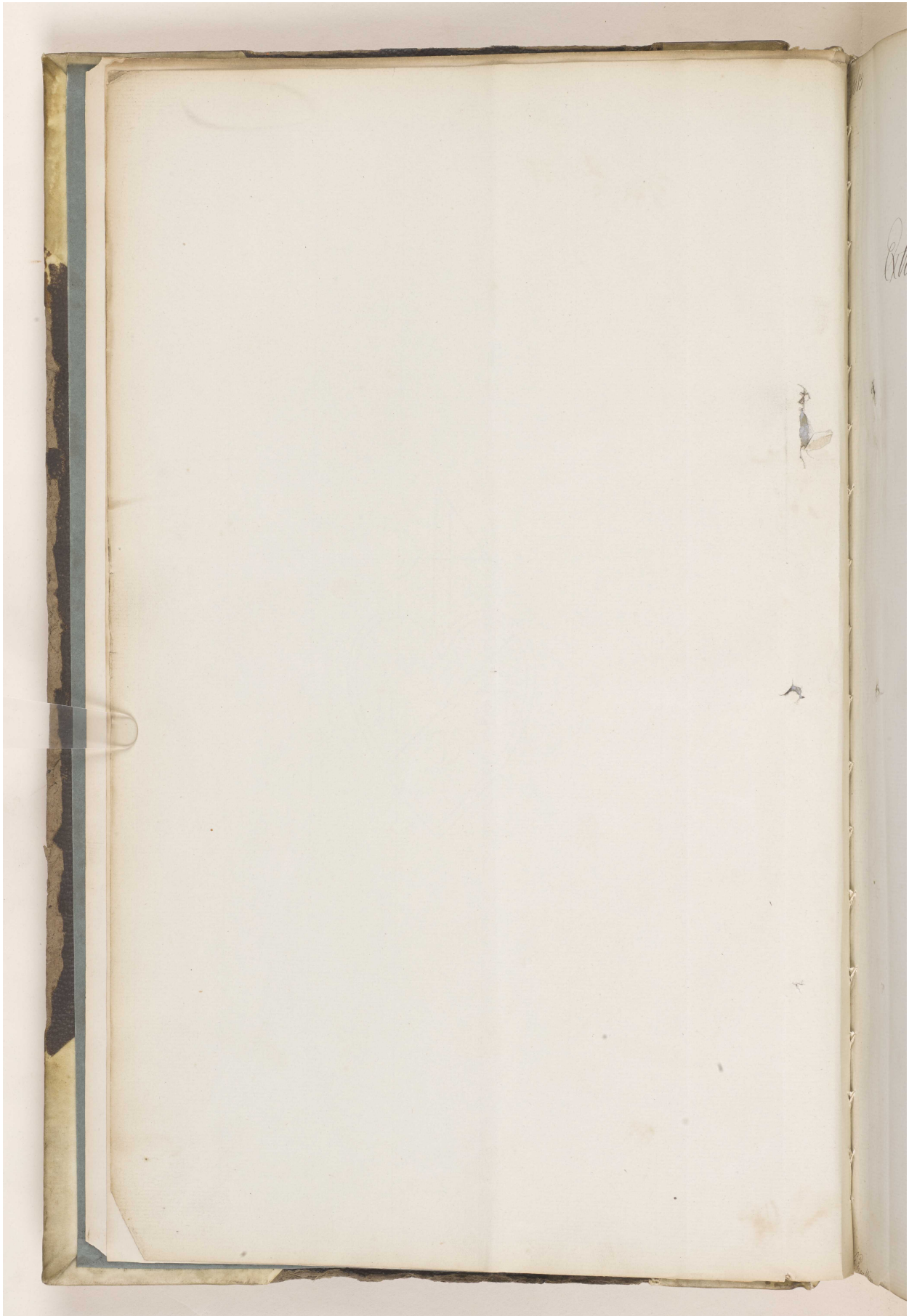
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [4v] (13/55)



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa.' [5r] (14/55)



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [5v] (15/55)





'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [6r] (16/55)

*Extract Bombay Political Consultations*

*26<sup>th</sup> July 1815*


*Recorded the following letter*

*from the Right Honble the Governor to the  
Imam of Muscat dated 15<sup>th</sup> July*

*Copy of a letter from the Right Honble  
Sir Evan Nepean Bart, Governor of  
Bombay, to His Highness the Imam  
of Muscat - Dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 1815.*

*A. C.*

*Although several months  
have elapsed, since I have had  
occasion to address your Highness,  
I have not been less attentive to the  
events which have been passing in*

*the* 

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa.' [6v] (17/55)

the vicinity of Muscat; and it has  
proved a great source of satisfaction  
to me to learn, from Mahomed  
Alee Khan, your Highness's Agent  
at this Presidency, the success your  
Highness has recently obtained over the  
Loasnee fleet, success which will  
ultimately lead, I hope, to the  
complete destruction and suppression  
of that dangerous nest of freebooters  
and to the future security of the  
navigation of the Gulph, but upon  
this point I shall probably have  
an opportunity of writing your  
Highness again, ere long.

In the mean time  
I beg leave to recur to a subject  
in which this Government addressed  
you

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [7r] (18/55)

3

you so long ago as the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1822  
(23<sup>d</sup> Mohurrum 1227 of the Hijree) your  
Highness will immediately perceive from  
this reference that I allude to the  
inhuman traffic which for so many  
years existed not only among the  
Nations of Asia, but also among  
those of Europe. It is however  
gratifying to me to be enabled  
to assure your Highness that  
this Commerce so repugnant to  
every principle of humanity has been  
annihilated in almost all the civilized  
World; and anxious as I am that  
a Sovereign of your Highness's  
enlightened understanding, and one  
so intimately connected with the  
Company's Government, should not  
only

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa.' [7v] (19/55)

only be exempt from the imputation  
of tolerating it, but should also  
have the merit of interdicting it  
within the limits of his authority, -  
having moreover lately learnt that  
a vessel with a vast number of  
Slaves on board from Zanzibar to  
Muscat has been taken by the  
Socomees, and every soul on board  
barbarously put to death, I feel the  
strongest inducement to recommend  
to your adoption an example so  
worthy of imitation as that which  
the abandonment of this trade by  
the principal powers of Europe affords,  
under an assurance that your  
acquiescence in this proposition will  
be extremely gratifying to the British Government.

(U. huc leg.)  
Signed R. J. Woodwin  
Secy & Transl in the Office of Country Correspondence

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

13<sup>th</sup> December 1819.

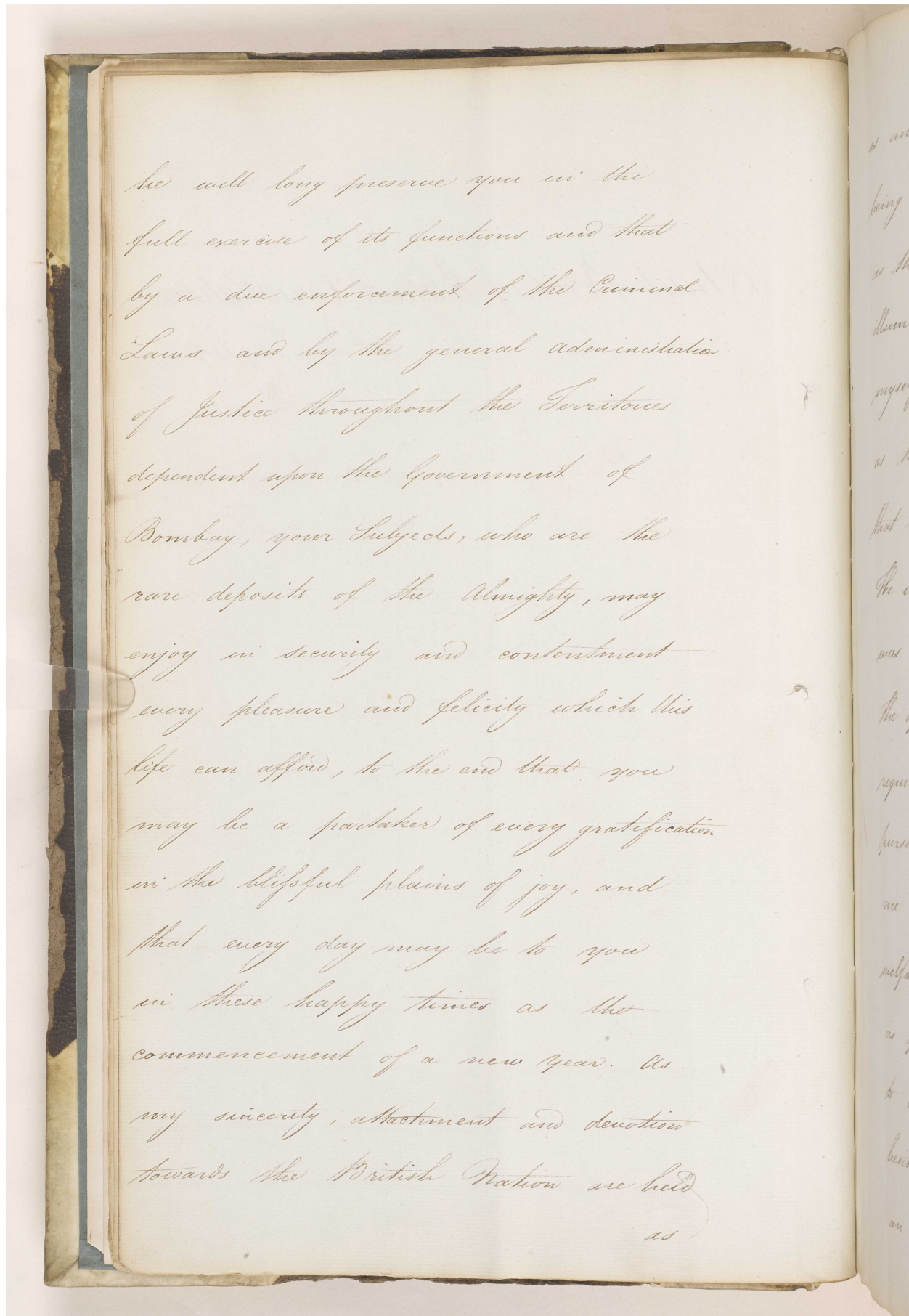
Read the following Letter  
from the Imam of Muscat dated the  
5<sup>th</sup> November.

A. C.

I have heard, at the  
present happy moment, that you  
have arrived at Bombay, to assume  
charge of the Government and I take  
God to witness that this agreeable  
intelligence has proved highly gratifying  
to me, and in offering you my  
congratulations on your succession to  
this high Office, I pray God that

he  
8

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa.' [8v] (21/55)



he will long preserve you in the  
full exercise of its functions and that  
by a due enforcement of the Criminal  
Laws and by the general administration  
of Justice throughout the Territories  
dependent upon the Government of  
Bombay, your Subjects, who are the  
rare deposits of the Almighty, may  
enjoy in security and contentment  
every pleasure and felicity which this  
life can afford, to the end that you  
may be a partaker of every gratification  
in the blissful plains of joy, and  
that every day may be to you  
in these happy times as the  
commencement of a new year. As  
my sincerity, attachment and devotion  
towards the British Nation are held  
as

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [9r] (22/55)

7

as an inheritance from my ancestors,  
being as conspicuous to all mankind  
as the brightness of the Sun which  
illuminates the World, I persuade  
myself they are as manifest to you  
as the Meridian Sun and consequently  
that they stand in need of no illustration.  
The intelligence of your good health  
was also extremely gratifying to me.  
The approved rules of friendship  
require that you should, at all times  
pursue this line of conduct, affording  
me the pleasure of hearing of your  
welfare, and considering this Country  
as your own, you must continue  
to command my Services without  
hesitation, by which you will confer  
an obligation upon me, and under  
this

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [9v] (23/55)

the blessing of Heaven I shall be at  
all times firm and faithful to my  
engagements with the Honorable Company's  
Government and I trust there will  
not be any interruption to the  
existing good understanding between  
the two States.

Minutes }  
13<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> }

Ordered the Secretary  
in the Office of Country Correspondence  
be desired to prepare the usual reply  
to the preceding Letter for the Governor's  
Signature.



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [10r] (24/55)

African Institution  
20<sup>th</sup> March 1821

Sir,

We the President &  
Vice Presidents and Directors of the  
African Institution, have the honor to  
submit to your notice, and to that of your  
Honorable Court, a copy of a Memoir  
communicated to us respecting the Slave  
Trade carried on at Zanzebar on the  
East Coast of Africa.

In addressing the rulers  
of British India on this subject we  
are aware that their humane policy  
has already prohibited all exportation  
or importation of Slaves along the  
shores of their extensive dominions. But

To the Chairman of the  
Honorable the Court of Directors  
of the East India Company.

10

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [10v] (25/55)

it appears on the opposite side of the  
Indian Ocean, and along the Eastern Coast  
of Africa, the Slave trade still prevails to  
a great extent; and in particular that  
the fertile and beautiful Island of  
Zanzibar on that Coast though capable  
of maintaining an ample legitimate  
commerce, is made the Theatre of a large  
and active traffic in human Beings &  
attended with all its customary horrors.

This Island is represented  
to be under the Government of the Imam  
of Muscat; a Chief who has experienced  
and still enjoys the favor and protection  
of the East India Company. - And we  
have ventured to hope that if the evils  
which the Slave Trade inflicts on Eastern  
Africa and particularly on a detached  
portion

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [11r] (26/55)

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portion of it ruled by an ally of the East India Company were brought distinctly under the view of those who manage its affairs; the beneficent principles which have actuated them in the Government of their own dominions might induce them to interpose their powerful mediation with the Imam of Muscat for the entire abolition of the Slave trade at Zanzebar.

This hope has been greatly strengthened by the circumstance that in a Treaty recently entered into with the Chiefs of some Arab tribes, inhabiting the borders of the Persian Gulph; the Political Agent of the East India Company (Captain Thompson) has procured the insertion of an Article

Article 9 in (11)

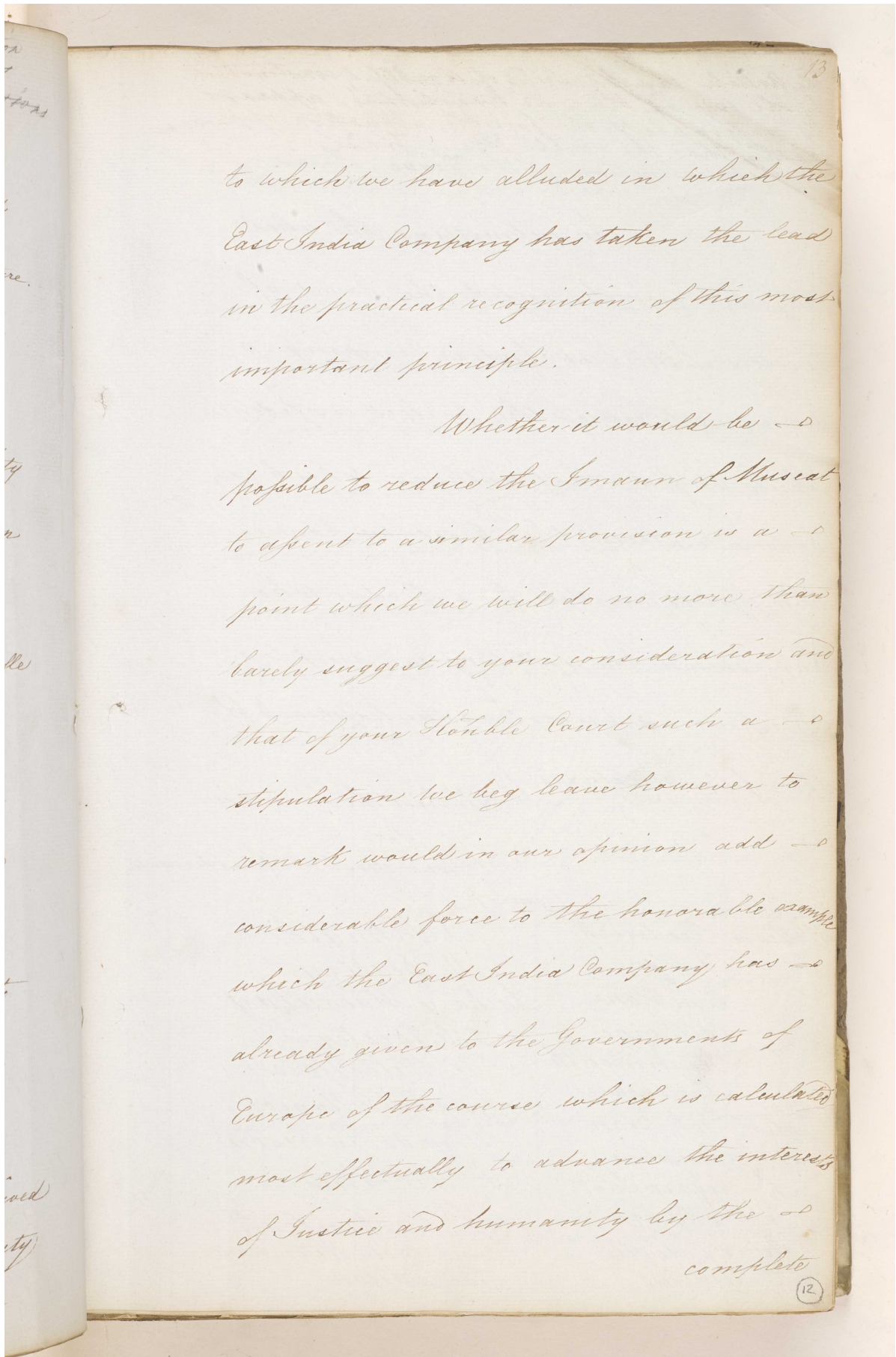
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [11v] (27/55)

The word, though rendered of doubtful construction by the use of the word "transporting", appears to contemplate the forcible abduction of persons rather than the usual Slave Trade - in which those Chiefs agreed to -

stigmatize the Slave Trade as piracy and to abstain from the practice of it in future.

The solicitude felt by the African Institution to induce the Powers of Europe to recognize the identity of the Slave trade with piracy, is shown by the accompanying address to the Sovereigns assembled at Aix la Chapelle in 1818. That solicitude is founded on the conviction that until the slave trade shall have been pronounced piracy by the common consent of nations, means will still be found to elude all municipal enactments or international conventions for its suppression. We have therefore derived peculiar satisfaction from the Treaty to

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [12r] (28/55)



to which we have alluded in which the  
East India Company has taken the lead  
in the practical recognition of this most  
important principle.

Whether it would be  
possible to reduce the Island of Muscat  
to a point to a similar provision is a  
point which we will do no more than  
barely suggest to your consideration and  
that of your Honble Court such a  
stipulation we beg leave however to  
remark would in our opinion add  
considerable force to the honorable example  
which the East India Company has  
already given to the Governments of  
Europe of the course which is calculated  
most effectually to advance the interests  
of Justice and humanity by the  
complete

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [12v] (29/55)

complete extinction of the Slave Trade

In submitting the whole subject to you Sir, and to the Court of Directors of the East India Company I permit us to express the perfect confidence which we feel; that nothing which can be done to attain the object we have in view will be omitted by a Body who have shown how well they can employ their power in promoting the happiness of their fellow creatures.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servants,

(Signed)

William Frederick

Proflyn

Compton

Calthorpe

Seignmouth

Sansdowne

Alca<sup>r</sup> Johnston

J. F. Buxton

P. Heare Junr

Sa<sup>r</sup> Stephen

Pastor Corbett

W<sup>m</sup> Smith

J. R. Smyth

W. Dealtry

Lachary Macaulay

F. F. Forster

W. Wilberforce

Joseph Phillimore

Thomas Harrison

J. Williams

J. Mackintosh

Edward Beattie Wilbraham

Tho. Dalton

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [13r] (30/55)

15  
Observations on the Slave Trade carried  
on at Zanzebar.

The Slave Trade is carried on  
along the whole extent of the East Coast of  
Africa wherever there is a harbour or an  
anchorage in which Vessels can traffic  
with safety; but I select one spot as  
peculiarly calling for the attention of the  
African Institution and the British  
Government.

The Island of Zanzebar or  
Zingebus (as it is called by the Natives) is  
situated between the Latitudes of  $5^{\circ} 40'$  and  
 $5^{\circ} 00'$  South and  $39^{\circ} 45'$  East Longitude  
in a direction nearly N. N. E. and S. S. W.  
and distant from fifteen to twenty miles  
from the Continent.

The appearance of this  
Island (13)

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [13v] (31/55)

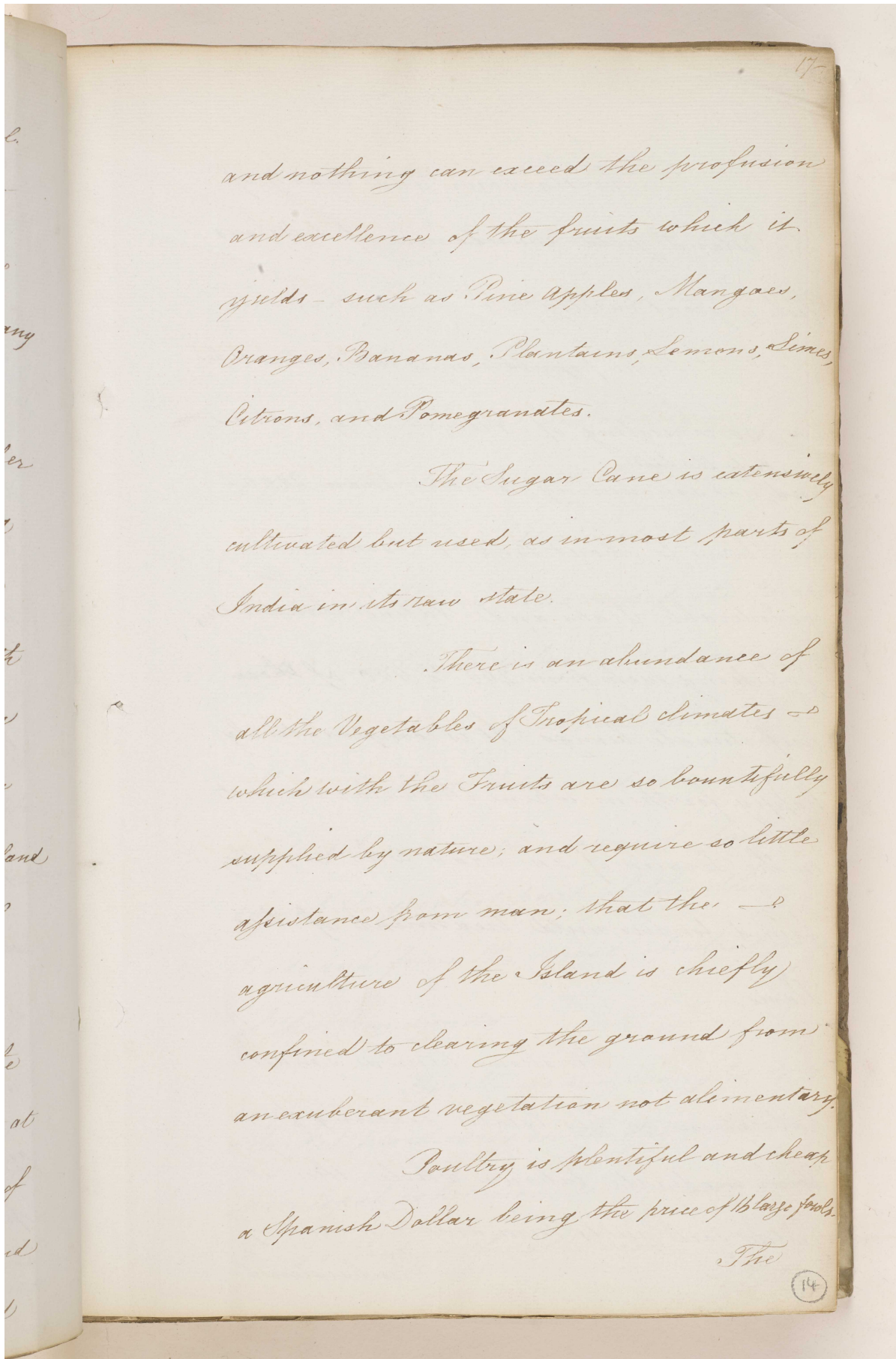
Island on approaching it, is very beautiful.  
It is generally low, but rises towards the  
centre into gentle eminences richly &  
clothed by nature, and displaying in many  
parts the richest cultivation.

From March to September  
the rains perennially fall, but during  
the other months of the year, there are  
occasional showers which uniting with  
the waters of numerous springs form  
several fertilizing streams flowing in  
various directions throughout the Island  
and preserve a delightful picture of  
never fading verdure.

Towards the Coast the  
soil is generally light and sandy, but at  
a little distance inland it is composed of  
a rich black mould. Cocoa nuts abound  
and



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [14r] (32/55)



and nothing can exceed the profusion  
 and excellence of the fruits which it  
 yields - such as Pine Apples, Mangoes,  
 Oranges, Bananas, Plantains, Lemons, Limes,  
 Citrons, and Pomegranates.

The Sugar Cane is extensively  
 cultivated but used, as in most parts of  
 India in its raw state.

There is an abundance of  
 all the Vegetables of Tropical climates &  
 which with the Fruits are so bountifully  
 supplied by nature; and require so little  
 assistance from man; that the  
 agriculture of the Island is chiefly  
 confined to clearing the ground from  
 an exuberant vegetation not alimentary.

Poultry is plentiful and cheap  
 a Spanish Dollar being the price of 16 large fowls.

The

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'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [14v] (33/55)

The Harbour and Coasts of the Island yield abundance of delicious fish of great variety.

The population is computed to be 200,000 consisting of Natives, Negro Slaves, <sup>Arabs the least</sup> and ~~not~~ amounting to more than 2000 - the Slaves to about 150,000 Some considerable Arabs and Native Landholders possessing each from 200 to 400 of these unfortunate beings. It is comparatively happy for them when their lot is cast in the Service of an Arab who is justly famed for his mild treatment of his Slaves.

He allows him a small habitation on his Estate, exacting from him moderate labour while the fertile soil yields him ample means of subsistence

subsistence with little trouble.

The poor Negro therefore under  
an Arab Master appears to enjoy ease  
and content.

Numbers unhappily were  
differently situated, and the account given  
by Captain Smee of the East India  
Company's Marine, who visited the Island  
in 1811, is sufficient to harrow the hardest heart.

A considerable number of  
Merchants from Cutch and Suincee occupy  
the best houses in the town of Zanzebar,  
engross the greatest part of the Slave  
trade and form the most opulent part  
of the Community.

The Slaves are brought to the  
Market place early in the day but the  
principal exhibition commences about  
3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

They

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [15v] (35/55)

They are ranged in a line  
composed of both sexes and all ages —  
beginning with the least and increasing  
to the rear, according to their size

To set them off to the best  
advantage their skins are cleaned and  
burnished with oil, their faces painted  
with red and white stripes; their woolly  
hair plaistered and filled with a yellow  
powder, esteemed among the poor creatures  
as a mark of beauty and elegance, their  
hands and feet ornamented with rings  
and bracelets, and round their loins is  
wrapped a new striped or plain coloured  
cloth.

At the head of the File  
stands the proprietor, and on each side  
two or three of his domestic slaves armed  
as a guard.

Thus

Thus arranged the procession  
begins and passes through the Market  
place and principal street, the owner in  
a sort of a song sounding the good qualities  
of his Slaves, and proclaiming the prices  
that he had been offered for them.

When one of them strikes a  
spectator's fancy, the line is halted, and an  
examination ensues, which for minuteness  
is not equalled in any Cattle market in  
Europe. The purchaser first ascertains  
that there is no defect in the faculties  
of speech and hearing, and takes the  
assurance of the seller that the slave  
neither snores nor grinds his teeth in  
his sleep, which are deemed great  
objections, and then he proceeds with his  
examination.

The

16

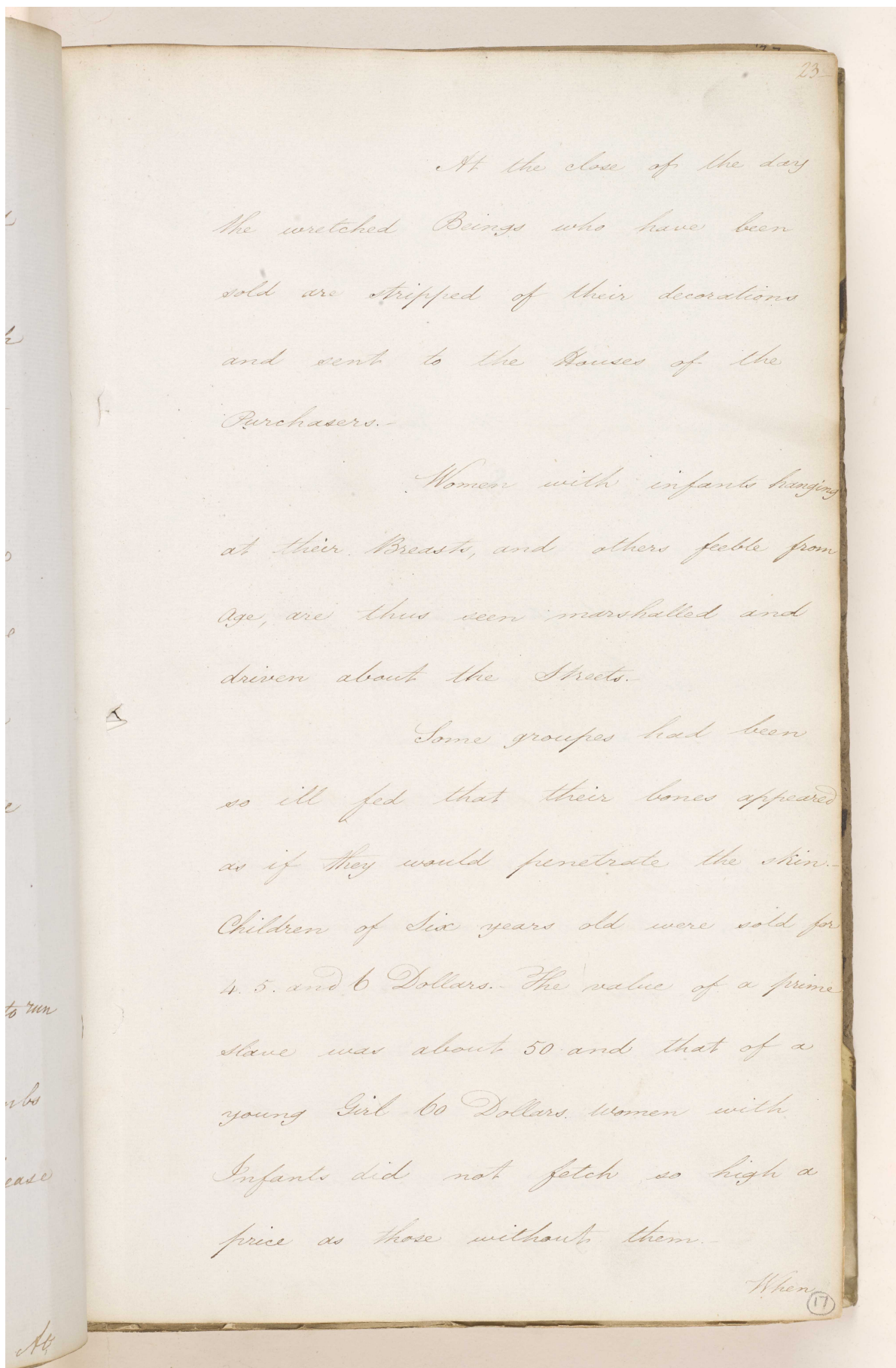
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [16v] (37/55)

The Mouth and teeth —  
are inspected, and afterwards every  
part of the body in succession,  
not excepting those parts which  
a sense of decency in the most  
savage Tribes conceal from view;  
and which perhaps the very  
slave so inspected would not  
expose without a blush which  
the lighter cheeks of his future  
Master could not display.

After this he is made to run  
and if there be no defect in the limbs  
and no indication of any disease  
the bargain is concluded.

At

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [17r] (38/55)



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [17v] (39/55)

When a Slave dies his  
Body is often allowed to putrify on the  
Beach; not a rag of Cloth nor is  
handful of Earth being laid over it.  
In consequence of this disgusting  
and revolting practice, the Stench  
about the Town is intolerable; and,  
co-operating with the noxious effluvia  
arising from <sup>the</sup> decayed vegetable matter, <sup>which</sup>  
floats down the stream in the  
rainy season, together with the  
filthiness of the low Houses and  
narrow Streets, tends to produce Fevers  
and Dysenteries which make dreadful  
ravages among the Inhabitants.

In this may not the  
hand of Providence be seen rendering  
the very objects of their cupidity the  
means



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [18r] (40/55)

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means of their destruction?

The various Tribes of Slaves  
brought annually to Zanzebar for sale;  
and of which 10,000 are supposed to be  
sent annually to India, Muscat, Bourbon,  
and the Isle of France, could not  
be accurately described.

They are brought from  
the Continent some three Months  
Journey from the Coast, these are  
called Meechairs and their Country  
furnishes Ivory and Gold.

The Meechairs are two Months in coming

The Mee, a hoo 50 days,

The Mee, gee doo one Month,

The Goroos fifteen days

The Doai ten days, and are said to be Cannibals

The Jiggia four days, & the Mojeir bans three

These (18)

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [18v] (41/55)

There are only a few of the different Tribes who inhabit the Country directly inland from Zanzebar, the interior of which is represented to be extremely fertile, and abounding with cattle and Elephants.

The Town of Zanzebar is situated on the S. W. side of the Island. It is large and chiefly composed of Huts. The few stone Houses which are seen belong to the Merchants from Cutch, Scind, and the Arab Residents.

The Fort which was of Portuguese construction is a square Building, with a Tower at each corner and a Battery in an outwork towards the Sea, in which are mounted four or five Guns of large

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [19r] (42/55)

24  
large Calibre, and of French manufacture.

The Harbour of this beautiful  
Island is capacious and excellent. The  
Tides rise between 2 and 3 fathoms, and  
at a small expense. Docks might  
be constructed capable of admitting  
Ships of the largest burthen.

The Sovereignty of the Island  
belongs to the Imaum of Muscat,  
who appoints at pleasure the Hakim  
or Governor, his Vizier, and three or  
four Officers, who collect the Customs,  
but maintains no description of  
Military Force.

The Akheems Slaves,  
amounting to about 500 are all armed  
and serve as Soldiers. He himself is  
an Canuck Slave of the Imaum.

His (19)

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [19v] (43/55)

His ruling passion is the love of Power,  
for the preservation of which he lives  
like a Beggar, his savings and  
extortions being transmitted to Muscat  
as the price of his situation. The  
people who live under his  
Government despise and detest him.

The trade here, (as at  
most of the Ports on the East  
Coast of Africa) is chiefly in the  
hands of the Arabs from Muscat  
and Maculla, and of adventurers  
from Scind, Cutch and Surat.

The principal Imports  
are Surat and Cambay Cloths, to the  
value of 12 Lacs of Rupees annually.  
Cotton - Beads - Sugar - Grain - Iron and  
Lead.

The

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
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The exports consist of Slaves,  
Ivory, Rhinoceros's Hides, and Horns, Cowries,  
Wax, Turtle Shells &c.

The value of the duties so  
annually collected are computed to be  
150,000 Dollars, and the rate paid is  
5 per Cent.-

The ordinary annual Nett Revenue  
derived by the Imams from this  
possession is 60,000 Dollars but levies  
of money are frequently made upon  
the inhabitants on various pretences,  
and when Captain Amee was there,  
a ship arrived from Muscat, with  
a demand of 25,000 Dollars, for the  
avowed purpose of enabling the  
Imams to resist the encroachments  
of the Mahabees, but the real object  
was (20)

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
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was supposed to be to purchase  
a Cargo for the very Ship that  
brought the demand.

An additional tax was  
immediately imposed, and the principal  
men of the District were ordered  
to collect it, and held responsible for  
its payments, at a stated period under  
pain of imprisonment. - The Surat  
Traders were on this occasion called  
upon to contribute 3500 Dollars as  
their quota, but Captain Amee very  
properly afforded them that protection  
to which they were entitled from a  
British Officer and remonstrated with the  
Mahum on the injustice of demanding  
any thing from these peaceable  
Traders, beyond the established duties  
of

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
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of the Port.

In march 1811 when that  
Officer was at Zanzebar with two  
of the East India Company's Cruizers,  
there were lying in the Harbour for  
the purpose of Commerce 50 Vessels  
of different sizes, containing about  
10000 Tons.

In addition to these, &  
numerous small coasting Craft are  
continually arriving and departing.

In some seasons 100 large  
Shoos have arrived there, from India,  
and Arabia.

It must be very evident  
from what has been already stated,  
that the slave trade is not necessary  
to the prosperity of this Island, that  
the

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [21v] (47/55)

the Commercial spirit of the place if rightly directed would find its best interests in the pursuit of other objects. -

The articles of Import and Exports, of which a part has been enumerated; abundantly shew that a very lucrative commerce might be prosecuted untainted by the guilt of that nefarious, and inhuman traffic.

Along the whole range of the Eastern Coast there will not be found a Port by its many advantages, so inviting to Commercial enterprize

It ought then to excite equal astonishment and regret, that an extensive and populous Island so richly gifted by nature; and so admirably





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ally of the East India Company;  
and of late years has been  
indebted for his existence as a  
sovereign to their protection. His  
principal ship for war and  
commerce, was recently built in the  
Company's Dock yard at Bombay;  
and all his applications for supplies  
from the arsenal are immediately  
granted.

Indeed the intimacy  
between the Imaum and the Bombay  
Governor, has been such, and the  
confidence of this Mahometan in  
Christian benevolence so great, that  
he has (contrary to all usage)  
been in the practice of sending  
his sister, to whom he was much  
attached

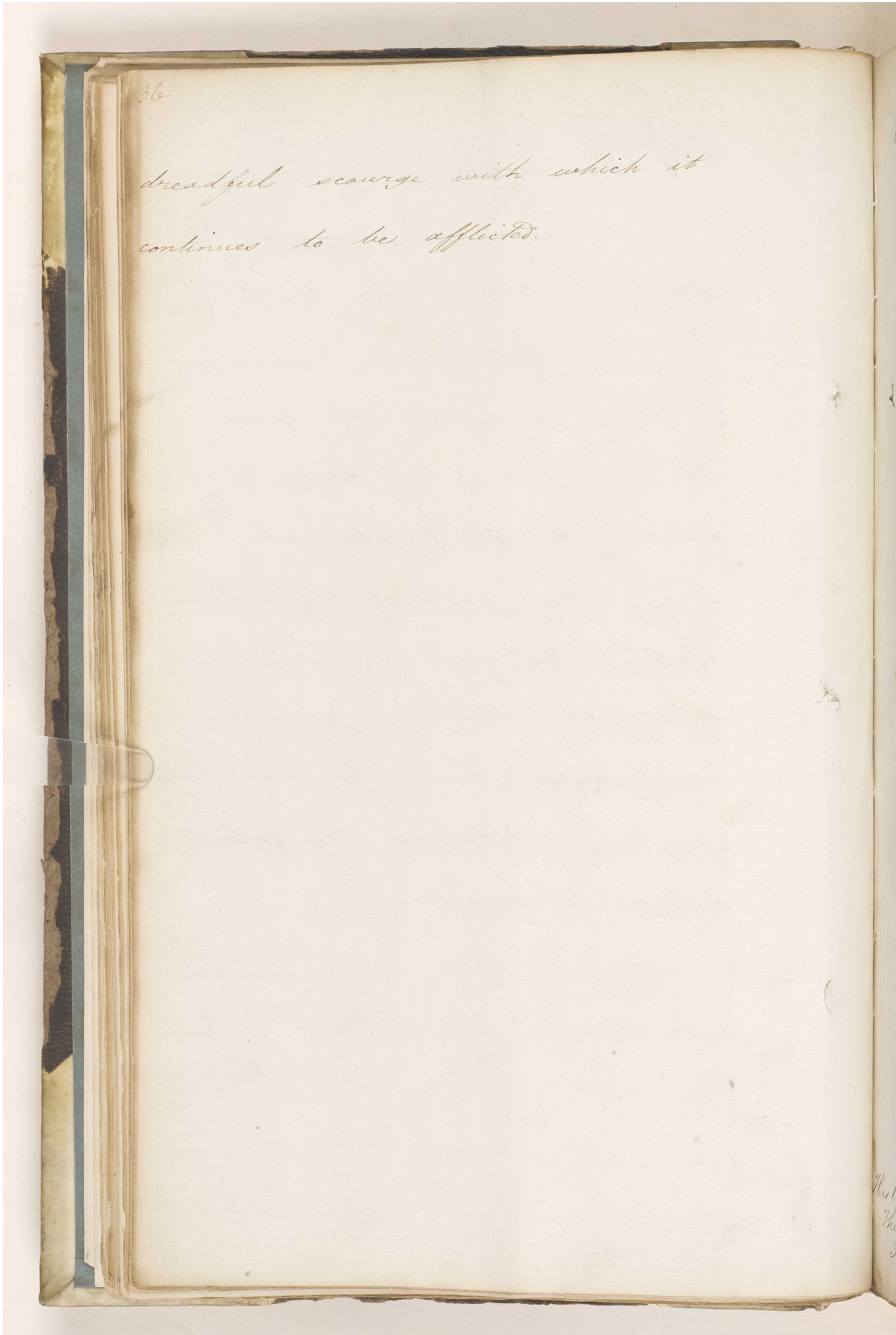
'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [23r] (50/55)

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attached, annually to Bombay, with a large suite, there to pass some Months for the benefit of her health.

The British Government therefore have only to express, to the Emperor their desire, that the Slave trade at Zanzebar should cease, and I am confident, that he would readily enter into a Treaty with them for that purpose, and so readily agree that the East India Company's Vessels of War should enforce its execution.

At all events the trial should be attempted; and a beginning made to free the Eastern Coast of Africa from the dreadful

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [23v] (51/55)



'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa.' [24r] (52/55)

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Copy/ 1820/21  
Soft. 220

East India House  
the 4. April 1821.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive and to lay before the Board of Directors of the East India Company the letter from your Royal Highness's the Vice Presidents and Directors of the African Institution under date the 20<sup>th</sup> ultimo transmitting Copy of a Memoir respecting the Slave Trade carried on at Zanzibar on the Eastern Coast of Africa and expressing a hope that the East India Company may be induced to interpose their mediation with the Emperor of Muscat for the entire abolition of the Trade at the abovementioned Island.

I am requested to convey to your Royal Highness and to the Vice Presidents and Directors of the African Society the expression of the Court's most cordial concurrence in the benevolent views entertained by the Members of that Institution

Iu

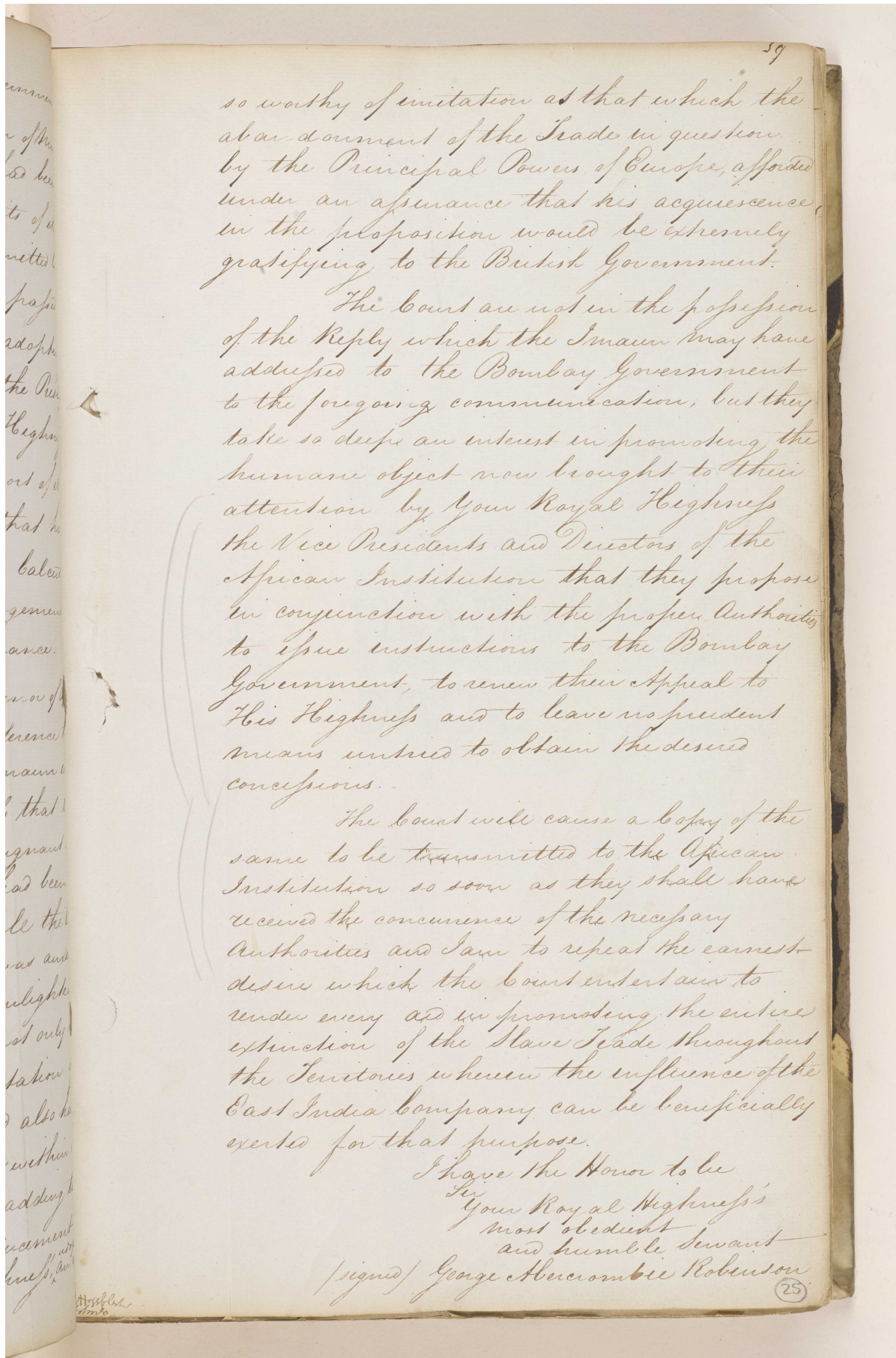
is Royal Highness  
The Duke of Gloucester &c. &c.  
President of the African Institution

(24)

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [24v] (53/55)

In February 1812 the Government of Bombay informed the Governor of Mysore that the Traffic in Slaves had been prohibited within the limits of its authority and also transmitted Copy of a Regulation subsequently passed by the Supreme Government adopting the same measures for the Presidency of Bengal requesting His Highness to give publicity to the purport of it in his Dominions in order that his Subjects who should resort to Calcutta might not by its infraction incur the Penalties of the Ordinance.

In July 1815 the Governor of Bombay (Sir Evan Nepean) with reference to the letter addressed to the Governor in 1812 acquainted His Highness that the Traffic in Slaves so repugnant to every principle of humanity had been annihilated in almost all the civilized Parts, and stated that he was anxious that a Sovereign of his enlightened understanding should not only be exempt from the imputation of tolerating it but should also have the merit of interdicting it, within the limits of his Authority, adding that he felt the strongest inducement to recommend to His Highness, an example



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so worthy of imitation as that which the  
above document of the Trade in question  
by the Principal Powers of Europe, afforded  
under an assurance that his acquiescence,  
in the proposition would be extremely  
gratifying, to the British Government.

The Court are not in the possession  
of the Reply which the Imam may have  
addressed to the Bombay Government  
to the foregoing communication, but they  
take so deep an interest in promoting the  
humane object now brought to their  
attention by Your Royal Highness  
the Vice Presidents and Directors of the  
African Institution that they propose  
in conjunction with the proper Authorities  
to issue instructions to the Bombay  
Government, to renew their Appeal to  
His Highness and to leave no prudent  
means untried to obtain the desired  
concessions.

The Court will cause a copy of the  
same to be transmitted to the African  
Institution so soon as they shall have  
received the concurrence of the necessary  
Authorities and I am to repeat the earnest  
desire which the Court entertain to  
render every aid in promoting the entire  
extinction of the Slave Trade throughout  
the Territories wherein the influence of the  
East India Company can be beneficially  
exerted for that purpose.

I have the Honor to be  
Your Royal Highness's  
most obedient  
and humble servant  
(signed) George Abercrombie Robinson (25)

'Documents relative to the traffic in Slaves carried on at the Island of  
Zanzebar on the East Coast of Africa.' [25v] (55/55)

