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‘Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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Date(s)	28 Jan 1819-29 Nov 1820 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
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About this record

This 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 and Claudius James Rich, British Political Agent in Turkish Arabia.

The majority of the item concerns relations between Persia and the Pachalic [Pashalik] of Bagdad [Baghdad], military manoeuvres of Persia and the Ottoman Empire, and the tensions between the two states caused by:

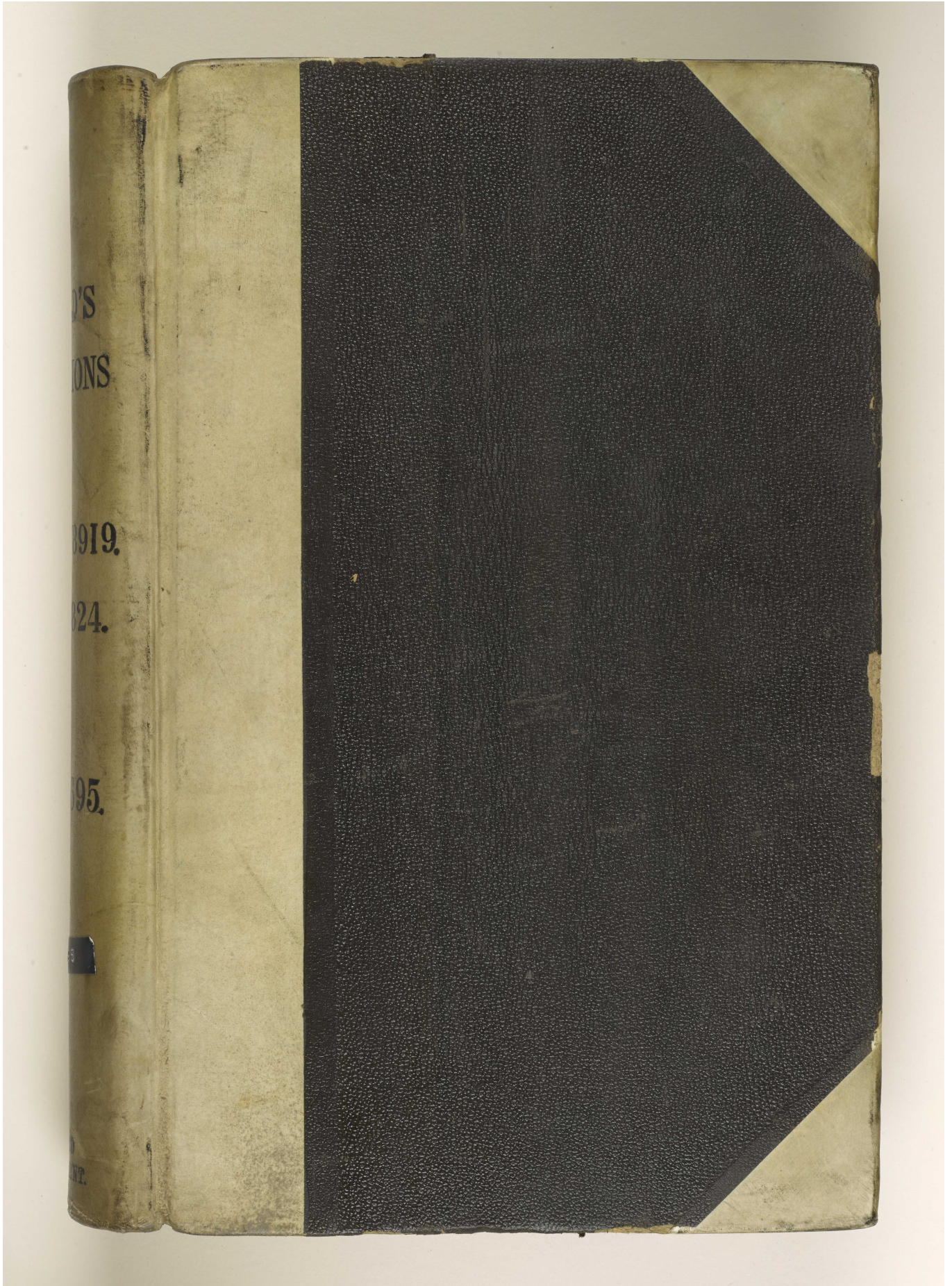
- The flight of Hassan Beg [Bey], the brother of the Pacha of Courdestan [Kurdistan], from Mahomed Ali Mirza to the Pacha of Bagdad
- The accusations of Mahomed Ali Mirza that the Pacha of Bagdad is encouraging a band of counterfeit coiners
- The Pacha of Bagdad's proclamation inciting the chiefs of the Province of Rewandiz [Rawandiz] to desert the Persians
- Disputes over the governorship of Sulimania [Sulaymaniyah] and Courdestan.

The rest of the item concerns:

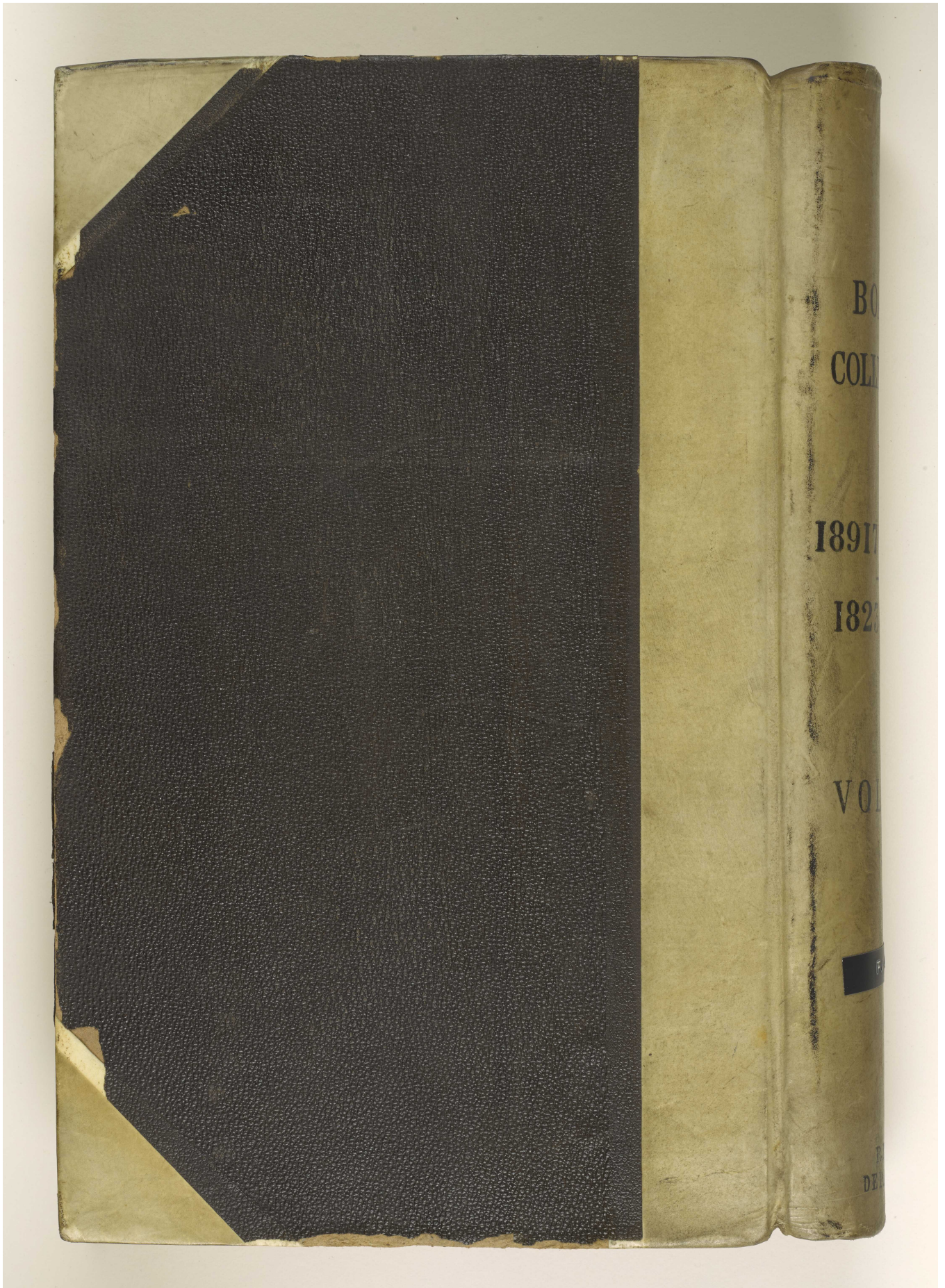
- The arrival and treatment of the French when visiting the Pacha of Bagdad [Pasha of Bagdad, Dawud Pasha]
- The position of Mahomed Ali Mirza [Dowlatshah], Prince of Kermanshah, in Persia [Iran], and his protection of Kelb Ali Khan, the alleged murderer of Captain Grant and Mr Fotheringham, members of Sir John Malcolm's embassy
- The involvement and influence of Russia on Persia, and Russian interest in Kharezin [Khorasan], Bokhara [Bukhara] and Afghanistan
- The civil and political disorder prevailing around Bagdad
- Russian support for Mahomed Ali Mirza as the heir to the Shah of Persia, instead of Abbas Mirza, and the friendship between Mahomed Ali Mirza and Yermolov [Aleksy Perovich Yermolov, Russian Ambassador to Persia].

The item includes a contents page and the title page of the item contains the following references: 'Draft 38, P.C. [Previous Communication] 61, [Season 18]23/4' and 'Examiner's Office 1822'.

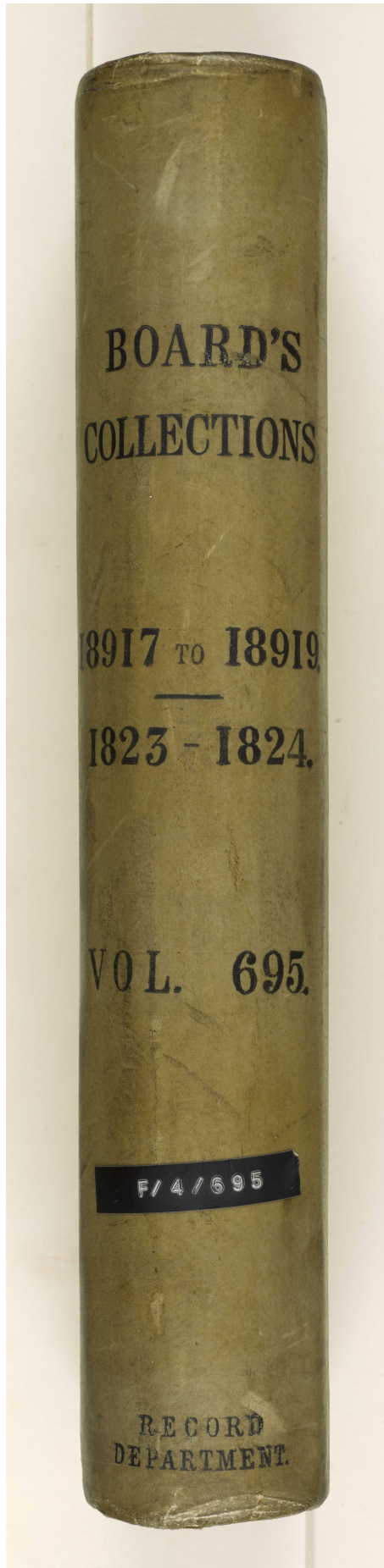
'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [front] (1/82)



'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [back] (2/82)



'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [spine] (3/82)



'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [edge] (4/82)

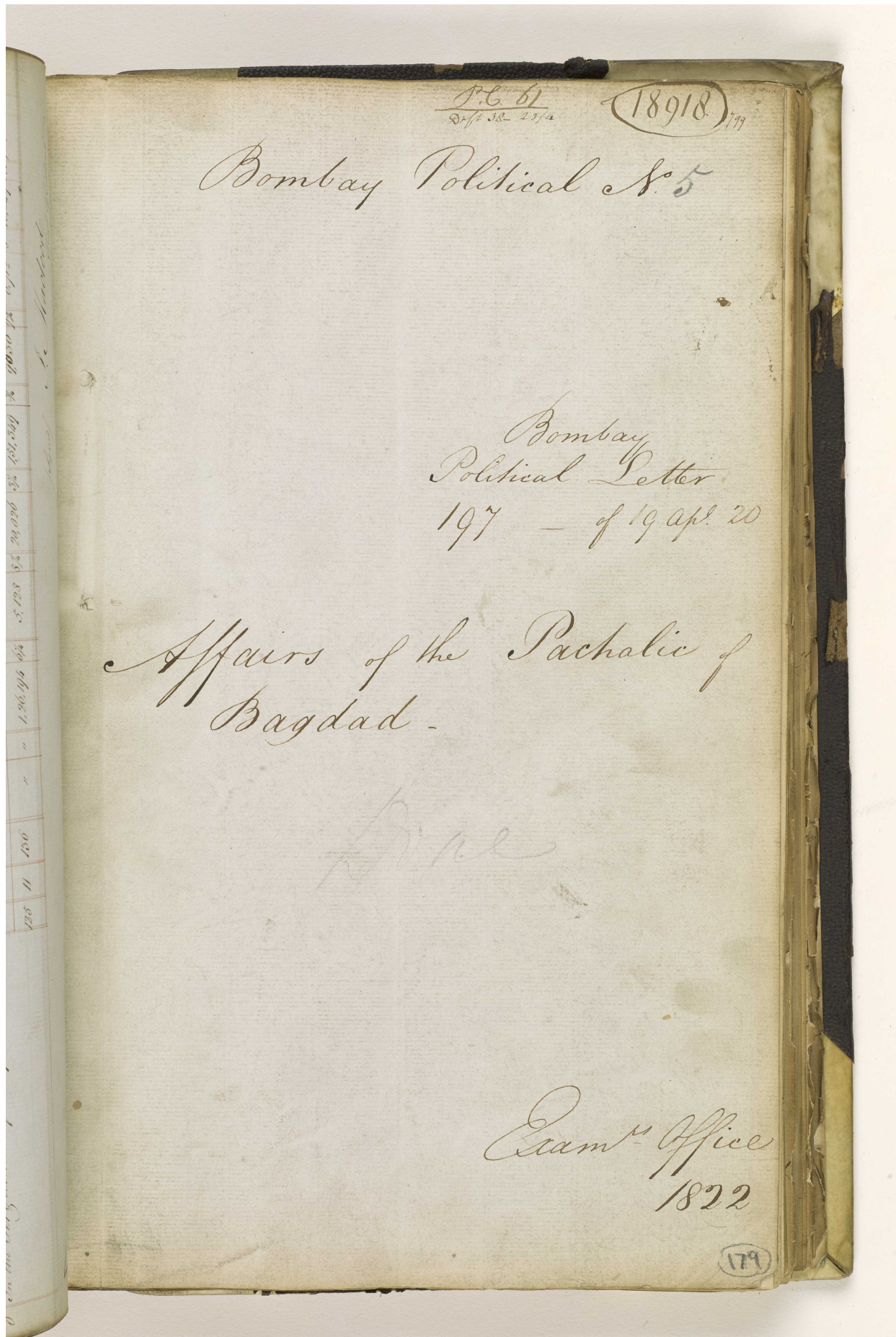


'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [head] (5/82)



'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [tail] (6/82)







'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [180r] (9/82)

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'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [180v] (10/82)



Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 19th April 1820.

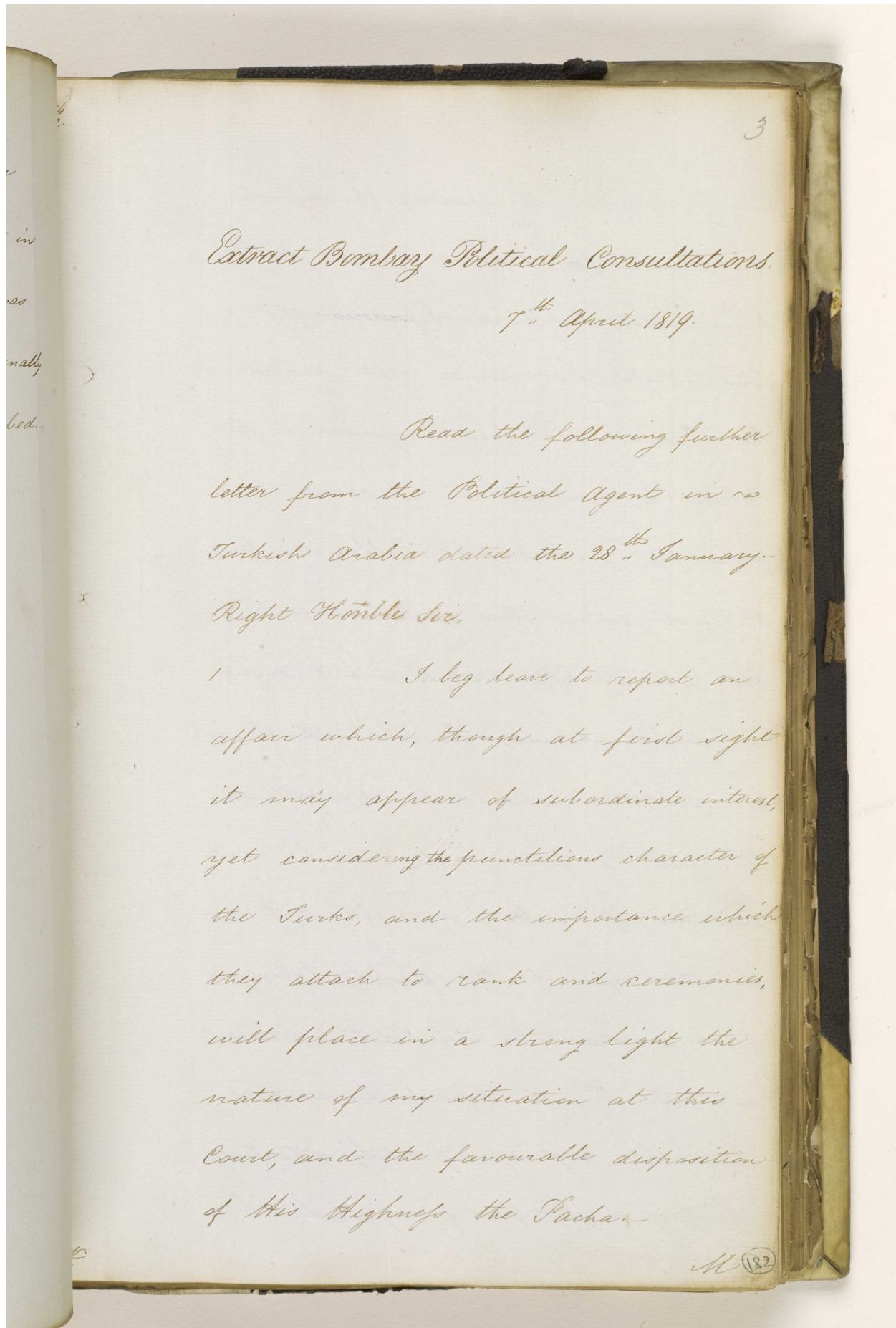
197. Since we last brought under
your observation the affairs of the
Pachalic of Bagdad in the 133^o to 137^o.

Pol. Co. 576 Paragraphs of our letter of the 7th
17th April 1819
folio 2675
No 33. January 1819, several Despatches have
14th Aug^r
folio 4185
No 49. been received from the Resident on
1st Nov^r
folio 5877
5535. the subject, which do not however
No 59.
31st Dec^r
folio 7137. require any particular notice. The Prince

Keimanshaw's ambitious designs on the
Territory of the Pachalic are pointed
out by the Resident. He had entertained
a number of French Officers in his
service; but it appears by the latest
accounts that an adjustment of all
differences (81)

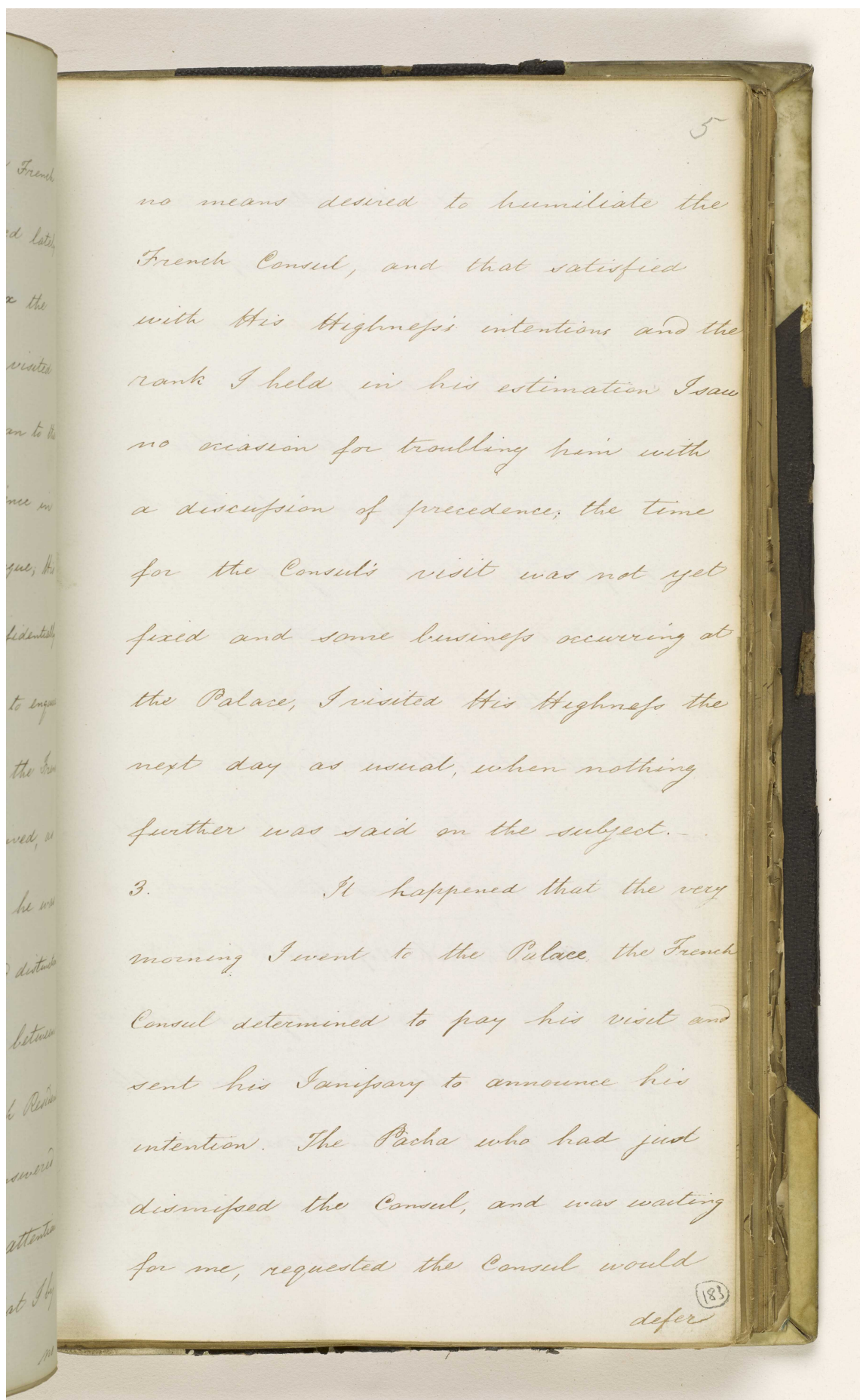
'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [181v] (12/82)

differences had taken place between
Persia and the Pachalic; and that in
its external relations the Pachalic was
restored to tranquillity; although internally
the Country was considerably disturbed.

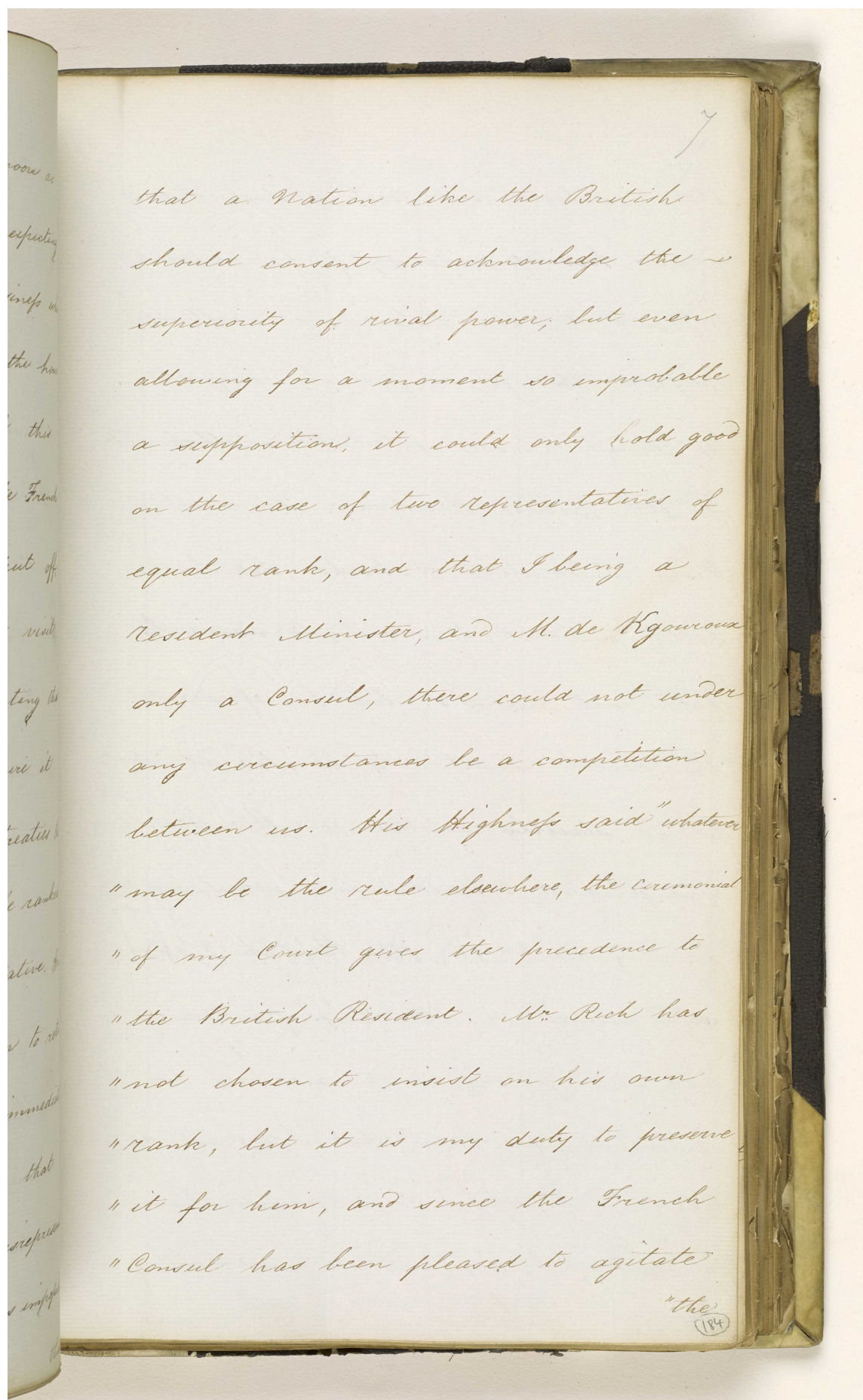


2. M. Oubrey the French
Vice Consul for Bagdad arrived lately
from Aleppo. M. de Kouroua the
Consul who has never yet visited
the Pacha sent his Dragoman to the
Palace to demand an audience in
order to present his Colleague; His
Highness upon this sent confidentially
the Dewan Effendesi to me to enquire
in what manner I wished the French
Representative should be received, as
it was a first visit, and he was
desirous of making a marked distinction
in the eyes of the people between
his reception of the British Resident
and the French Consul; I answered
that His Highness's friendly attention
was extremely gratifying, that I by

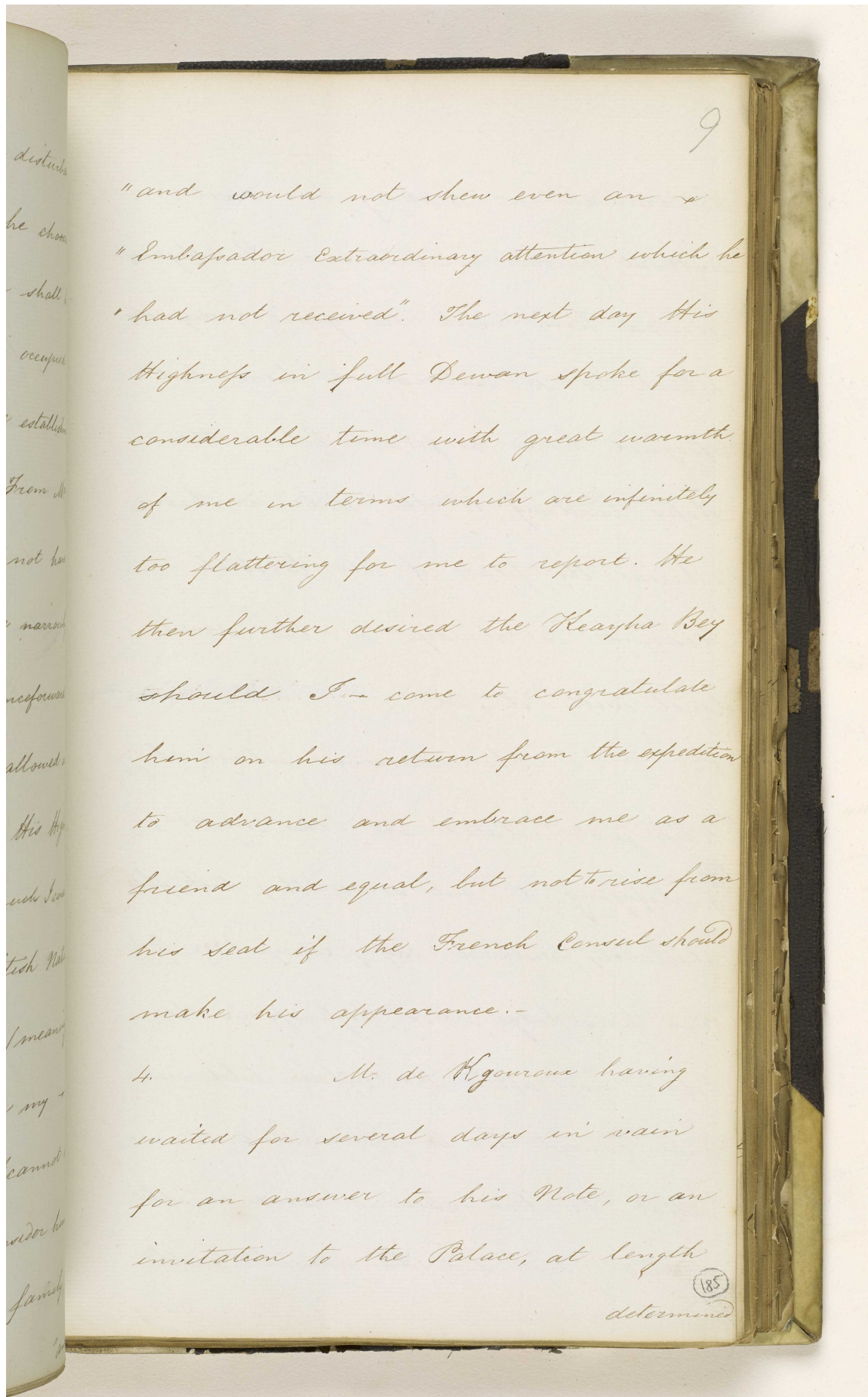
no



defer his visit till the afternoon as
 he was then every moment expecting
 me to speak to him on business which
 would detain him till past the hour
 of audience. However natural this
 circumstance might appear the French
 Consul felt hurt at being put off,
 and instead of making his visit,
 sent an official Note importing that
 throughout the Ottoman Empire it
 was ordained by existing treaties that
 any French Agent was to be ranked
 above all British Representative. His
 Highness who did not deign to return
 an answer to the Consul immediately
 remarked to his Ministers that
 there must be some gross misrepresentation
 in this statement, that it was impossible
 that

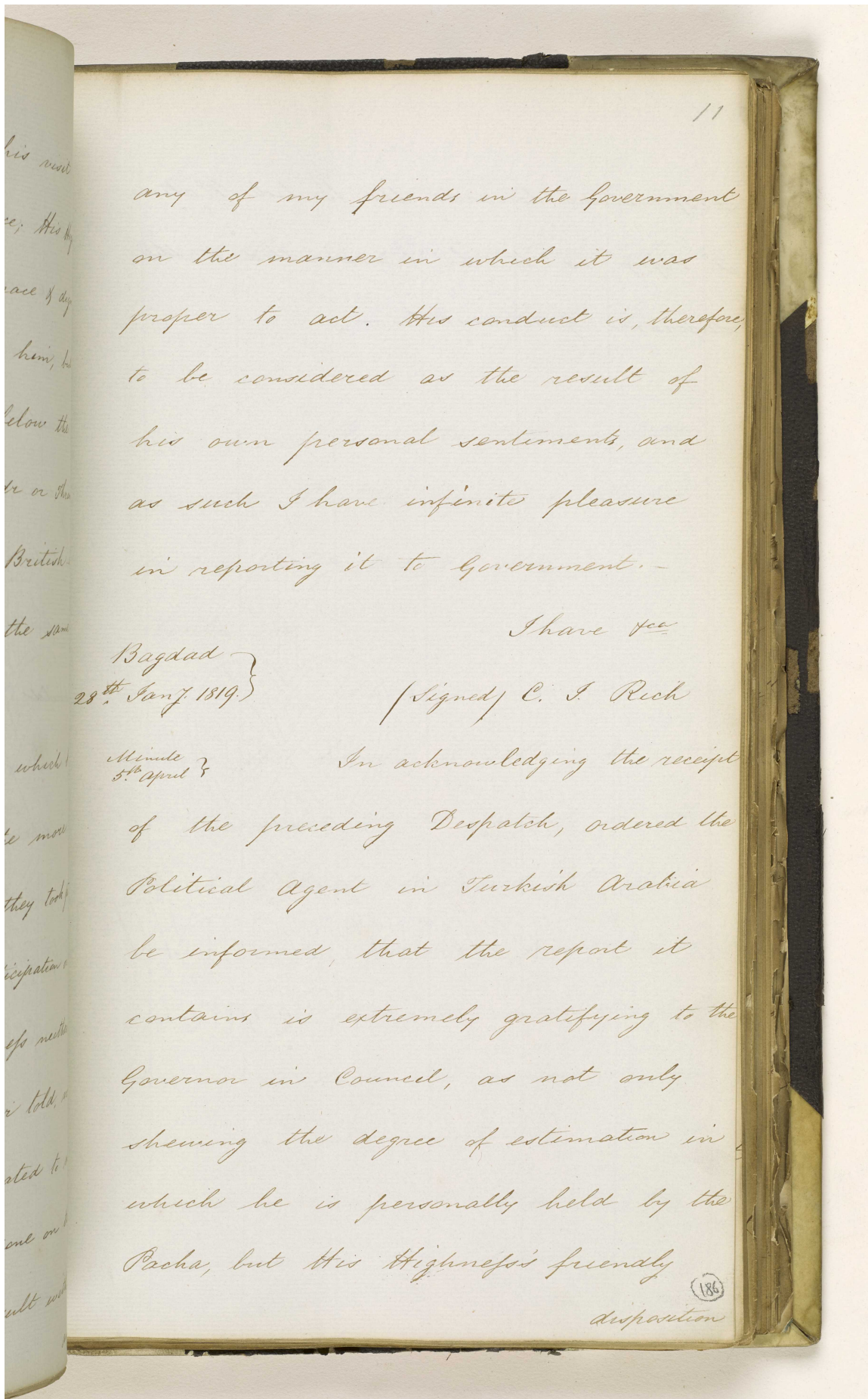


"the question and create a disturbance
"about his precedence; if he chooses
"to come to the Palace, he shall be
"assigned the place formerly occupied
"by French Consuls before the establishment
"of the British Residency. From Mr.
"Rich's moderation I should not have
"felt inclined to investigate narrowly
"into such minutiae, but henceforward
"the Consul shall only be allowed what
"he is strictly entitled to". His Highness
"was pleased to add. "so much I consider
"as my duty to the British Nation.
"with respect to the Bey's (meaning
"me) own person, such are my
"sentiments for him, that I cannot do
"him too much honor, I consider him
"as a member of my own family,
"and



determined on making his visit
without further remonstrance; His Highness
received him with the grace & dignity
which is so natural to him, but
assigned him a place below the
steps leading to the Sadr or Throne,
whereas the place of the British
Resident is always on the same
level with it. —

5. The occurrences which I
have just related are the more
gratifying to me, since they took place
absolutely without my participation or
even knowledge: His Highness neither
before nor after the affair told, nor
even caused to be insinuated to me,
what he had said or done on the
occasion, nor did he consult with
any



any of my friends in the Government
on the manner in which it was
proper to act. His conduct is, therefore,
to be considered as the result of
his own personal sentiments, and
as such I have infinite pleasure
in reporting it to Government.

I have see

Bagdad }
23rd Jan^y 1819.

(Signed) C. J. Rich

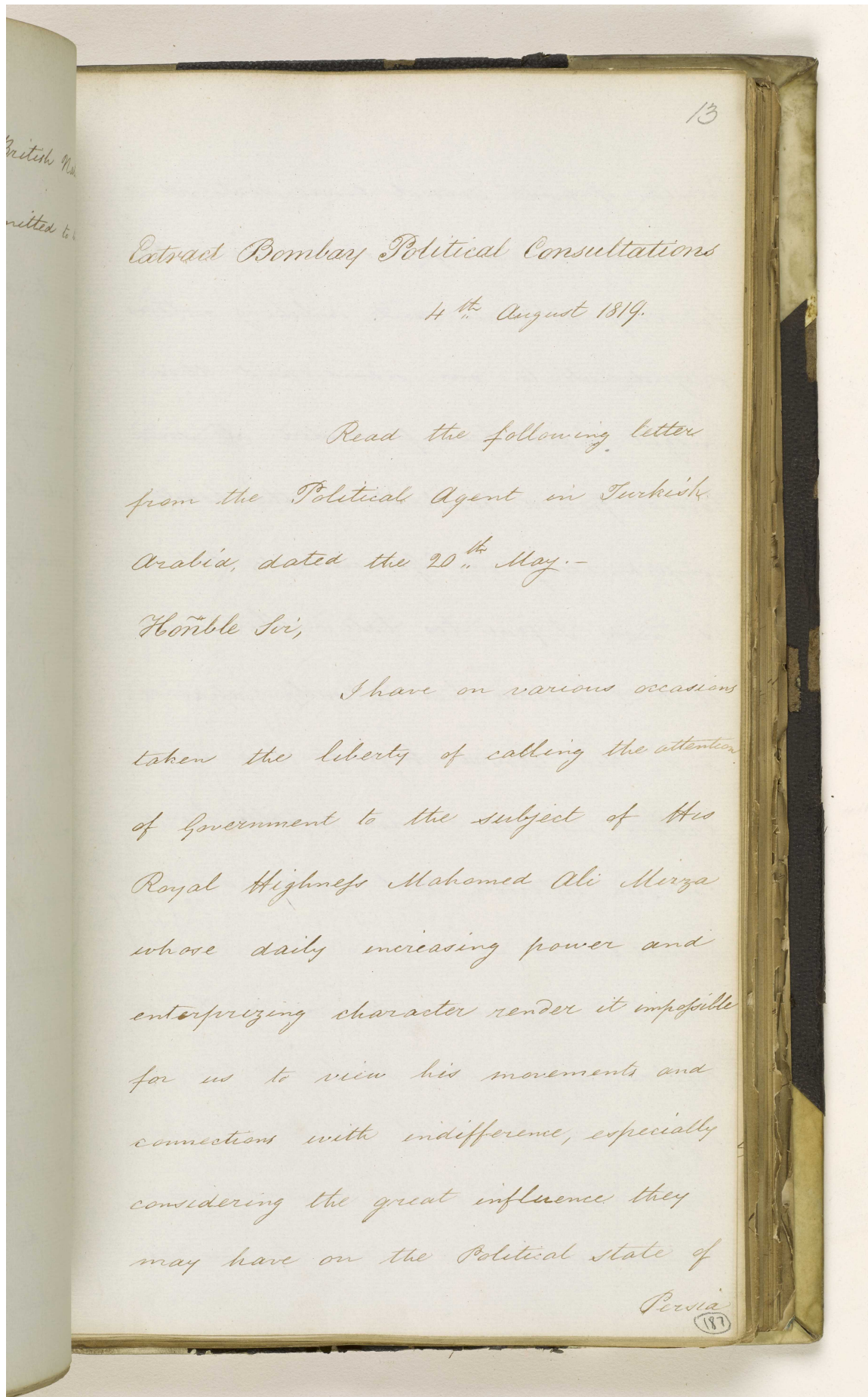
Minute }
5th April

In acknowledging the receipt
of the preceding Despatch, ordered the
Political Agent in Turkish Arabia
be informed, that the report it
contains is extremely gratifying to the
Governor in Council, as not only
showing the degree of estimation in
which he is personally held by the
Pacha, but His Highness's friendly
disposition

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'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [186v] (22/82)

*disposition towards the British Nation.
A copy is to be transmitted to the
Supreme Government, —*

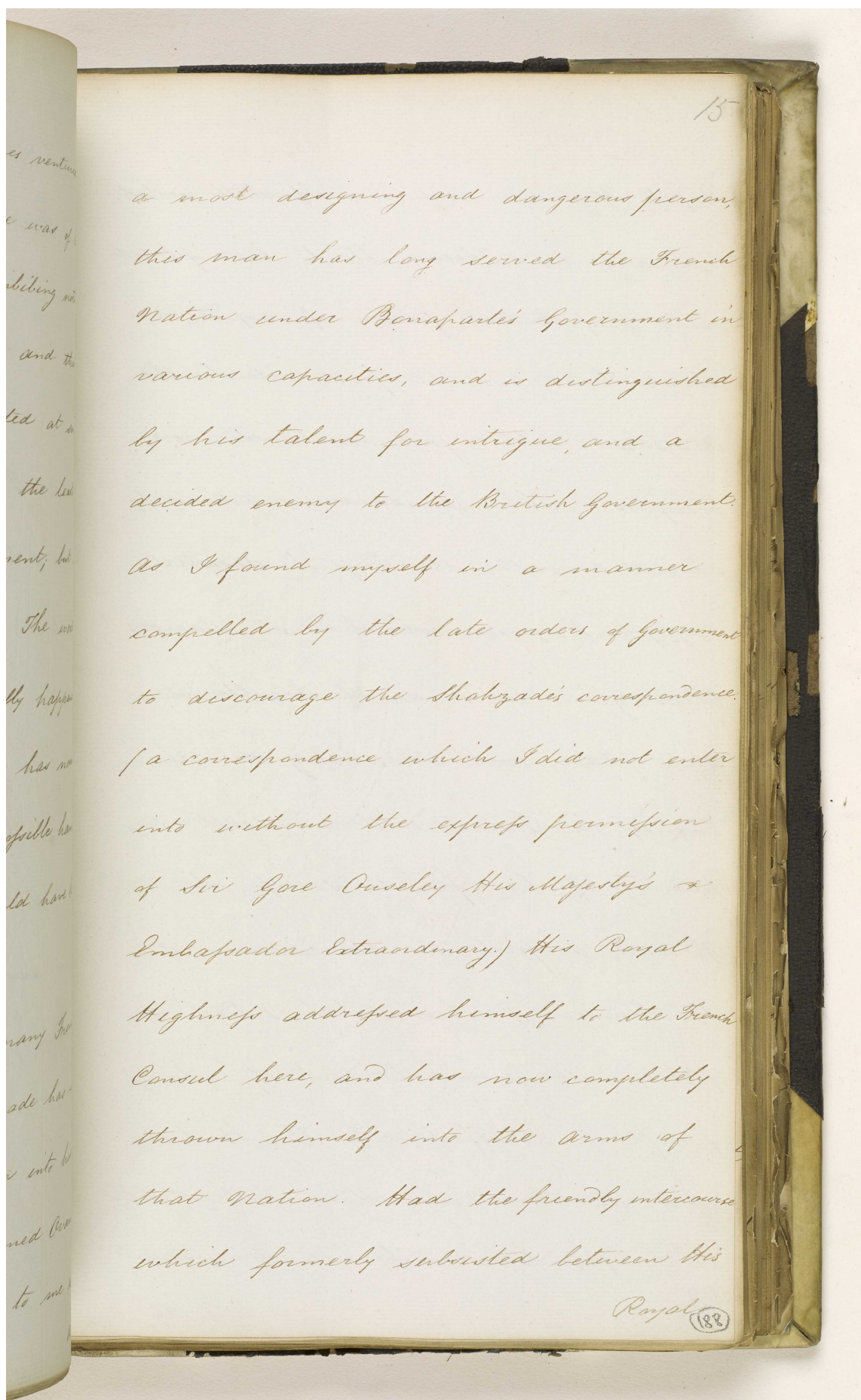


'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [187v] (24/82)

Persia. I have several times ventured to represent the danger there was of his forming alliances and imbibing notions prejudicial to our views, and this might have been prevented at some former period without in the least compromising our Government; but it is now I fear too late. The worst that I foresaw has actually happened, and His Royal Highness has now fallen into the worst possible hands for our interests, that could have been apprehended. -

Besides the many French Officers whom this Shahzade has engaged, he has lately taken into his service an Armerian named Orannes Muradian who is known to me as

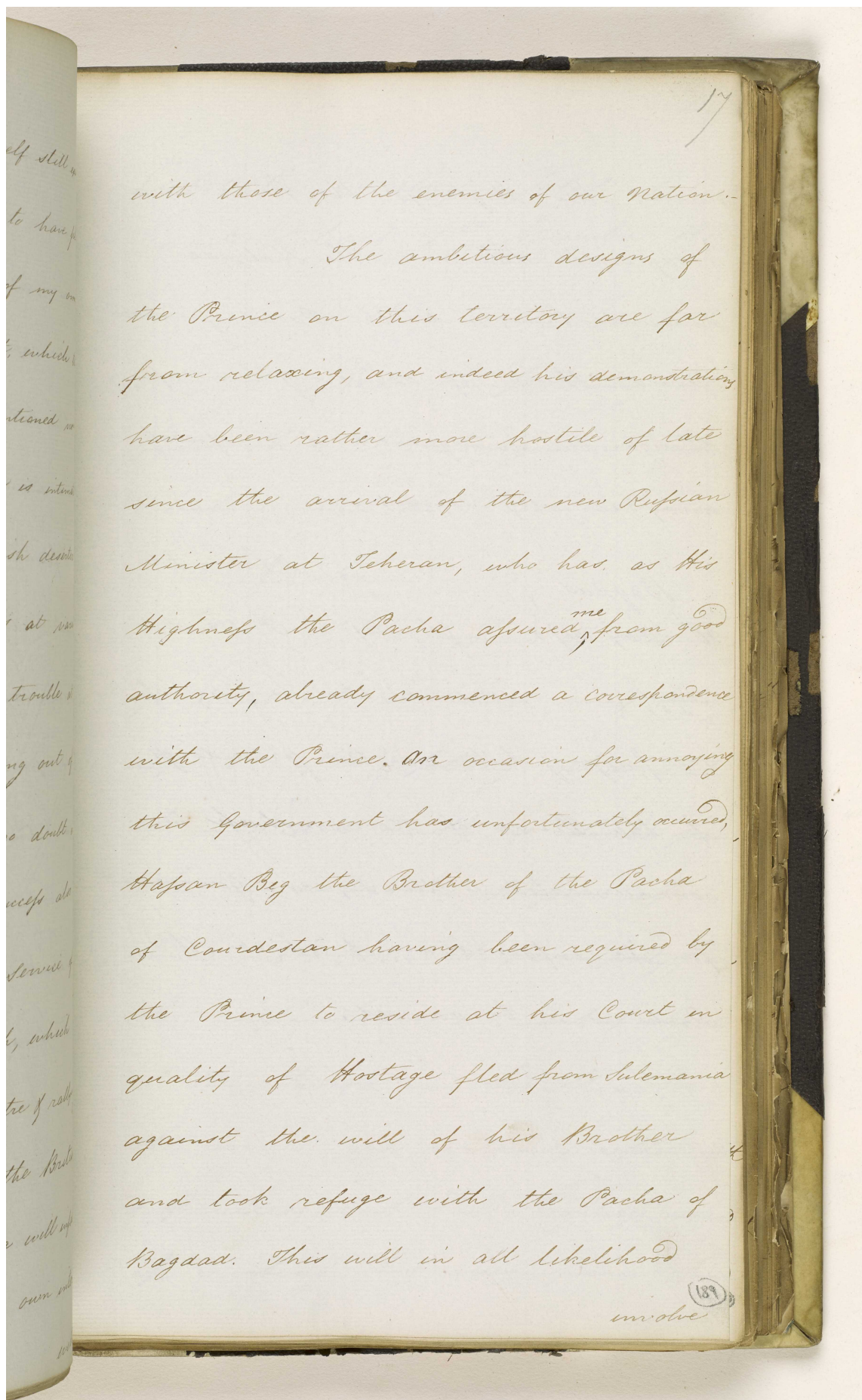
a



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 a most designing and dangerous person,
 this man has long served the French
 Nation under Bonaparte's Government in
 various capacities, and is distinguished
 by his talent for intrigue, and a
 decided enemy to the British Government.
 As I found myself in a manner
 compelled by the late orders of Government
 to discourage the Shahrzade's correspondence
 (a correspondence which I did not enter
 into without the express permission
 of Sir Gore Ouseley His Majesty's
 Ambassador Extraordinary.) His Royal
 Highness addressed himself to the French
 Consul here, and has now completely
 thrown himself into the arms of
 that Nation. Had the friendly intercourse
 which formerly subsisted between His

Royal (188)

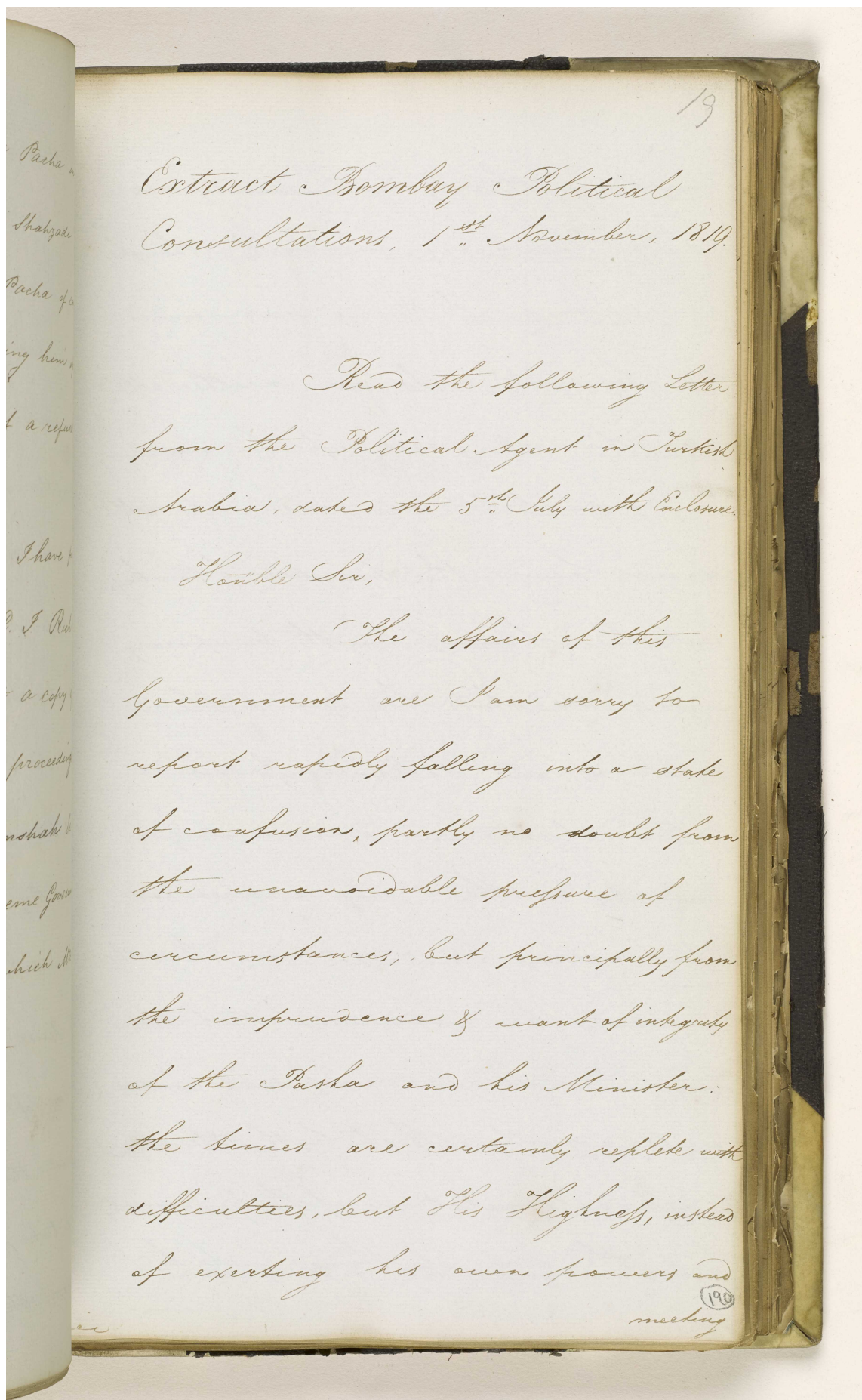
Royal Highness and myself still existed,
I should have been able to have placed
some confidential person of my own
about him in the post, which the
Armenian I have just mentioned now
occupies. This Armenian is intimately
connected with the English deserter
Sergeant Raymond who has at various
times given us so much trouble at
this place, and who being out of
employ in France, will no doubt on
hearing of his friends success also
procure a post in the service of
the Prince of Hermanshah, which
place will become the Centre of rallying
point of disaffection to the British;
and Mahomed Ali Mirza will infallibly
be taught to identify his own interests
with



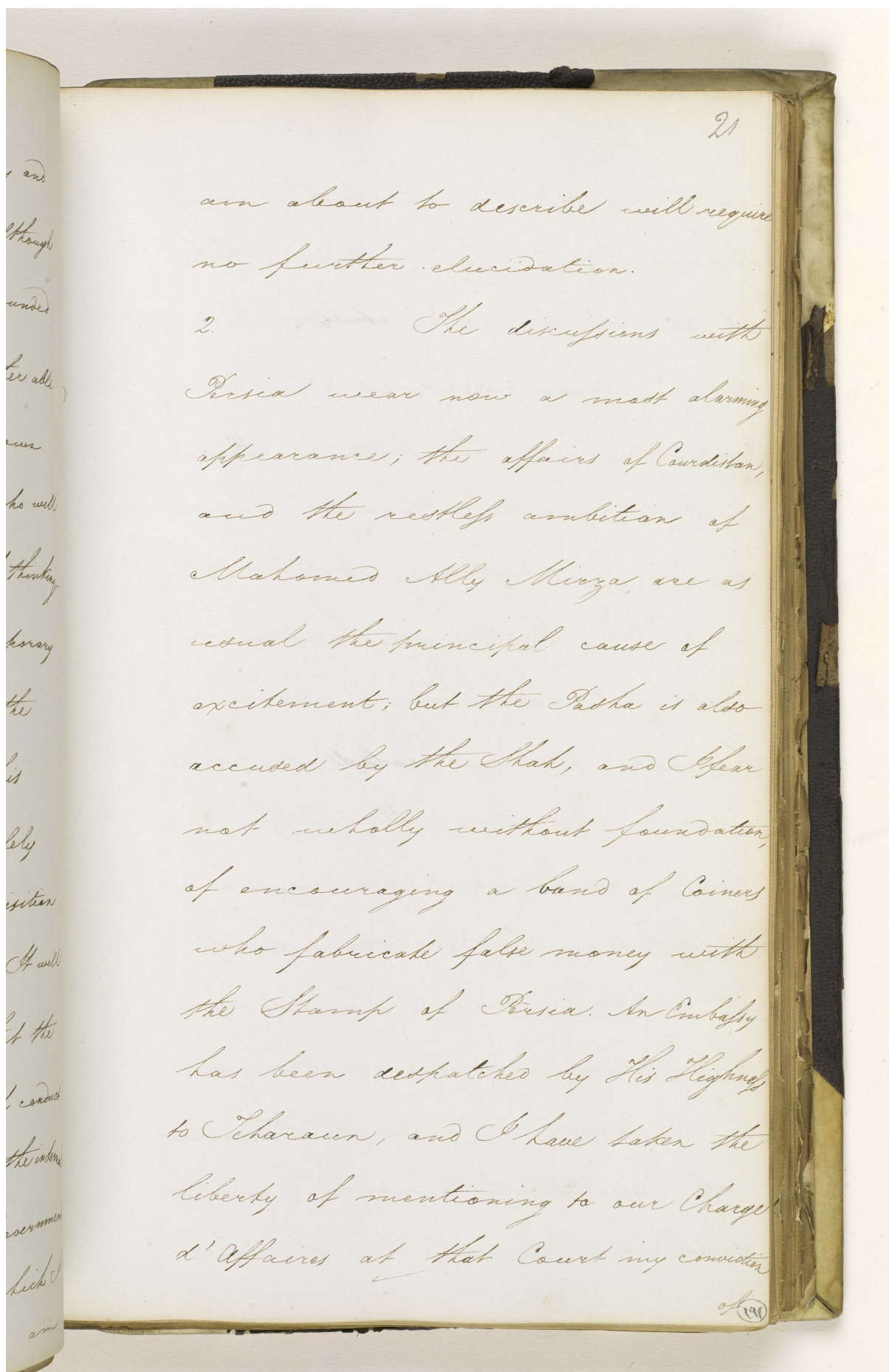
involve His Highness the Pacha in a disagreeable dilemma. The Shahzade demands him, and the Pacha of course cannot think of delivering him up, though the consequences of a refusal may be very serious. —

I have the
Bagdad }
20th May 1819 } (Signed) C. J. Rich

Minute }
29th July } Ordered that a copy of the foregoing letter on the proceedings of the Prince of Hermanshah be communicated to the Supreme Government for its information, of which Mr. Rich is to be advised. —



meeting them with steady and
well combined measures, although
conscious of being surrounded
by Servants who are neither able
nor honest, gives up his own
judgment to any one who will
save him the trouble of thinking -
satisfies himself with temporary
expedients, shuts his eyes to the
exactions and violence of his
Mamelukes, - and seems solely
intent on the hasty acquisition
of money by any means. It will
readily be conceived that the
evil consequences of such conduct
will equally affect both the internal
& external relations of the Government,
and the state of things which I
am



of the expediency of assisting in
 tranquillizing the irritation which,
 at present, prevails between the
 two Countries, connected as they
 may be on the part of Persia
 with the new alliance and secret
 designs of Russia. But Candistan
 and the Prince of Kermenshab
 will I fear prove insurmountable
 barriers to any solid or lasting
 accommodation. The Pasha has
 lately succeeded in regaining
 possession of the principality
 of Arbil, which he had by a
 temporary arrangement resigned
 to Mahomed Pasha of Sulimania,
 (the capital of Candistan,) and has
 deposed Osman Beg, the Chief
 of

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of Kery Langak and brother of
 Mahomed Pasha. In order to
 carry this last deposition into effect
 His Highness has sent up his Piny
 Chal with Proclamations addressed
 to all the Mountaineer Chiefs of
 the Province of Kermanshah, calling
 on them, in the name of their
 allegiance & religion, to assist
 their liege Lord the Pasha of
 Bagdad, and to desert the standard
 of him who is protected by the
 Persians, the enemies of their faith
 and race: the result of this mission
 is not yet known, but it is supposed
 His Highness will follow it up
 by deposing Mahomed Pasha himself,
 and investing one of the Chief Sana
 family

family, (for the Courts would accept
of no other,) now residing in
Bagdad, with the Government of
Sulimania: the line of conduct
which the Shahzada will adopt
on this occasion will most
probably be to support Mahomed
Pasha, or set up in his room
Suliman Pasha, also of the house
of Bebe, - a stronger and more
powerful adherent of Persia than
even Mahomed Pasha himself,
and who has lately left his
Government of Tehad to follow
up his interest at Hermandeh.
The Shahzada is assembling his
troops, and the Pasha also talks
of preparing for a Campaign,
but

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but it is not likely he will
take the field in person.

3. I may take this
opportunity of mentioning that,
having lately received information
of undoubted authority that the
Shahzada of Kermanshah openly
protected the atrocious Foll Ali
Khan, the murderer of Mess^{rs} Grant
& Fotheringham, I lost no time
in communicating the same to
His Majesty's Charge d' Affaires at
Tehraun, with all the necessary
detail, for which I respectfully
beg leave to refer to the annexed
copy of my Letter to that Gentleman.

4. The domestic state
of that Country is in an equally

bad (19)

bad condition with its foreign
politics. In the City all business
is at a stand, the Police is
almost null, and none but the
evil disposed feel confidence. In
the Country the exactions of tyrannies
exercised by the subordinate Officers
of Government on the Peasantry
and inoffensive pastoral tribes
are without a parallel even in
the annals of this wretched
Government. The Outlaw, Sid
Salah, at the head of a desperate
gang of ruffians, ravages the
District of Mendeli. The Marid
Desert has become impassable,
except by an army, from the
incursions of the Mountaineers,

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of Senjar, who infest it in parties
of several hundred, and have
entirely cut off more than one
Caravan: among the severe losses
sustained by the Merchants from
these depredators, I have to regret
that of a Tartar, who was plundered
of Despatches he was bringing to
the Presidency from the Honble
Company's Agent at Constantinople.
I have taken all the measures
necessary on this occasion to procure
the recovery of the Papers, should
they not have been destroyed by
the Banditti, of which I fear
there is but small chance.

Bagdad
the 5th July 1819.

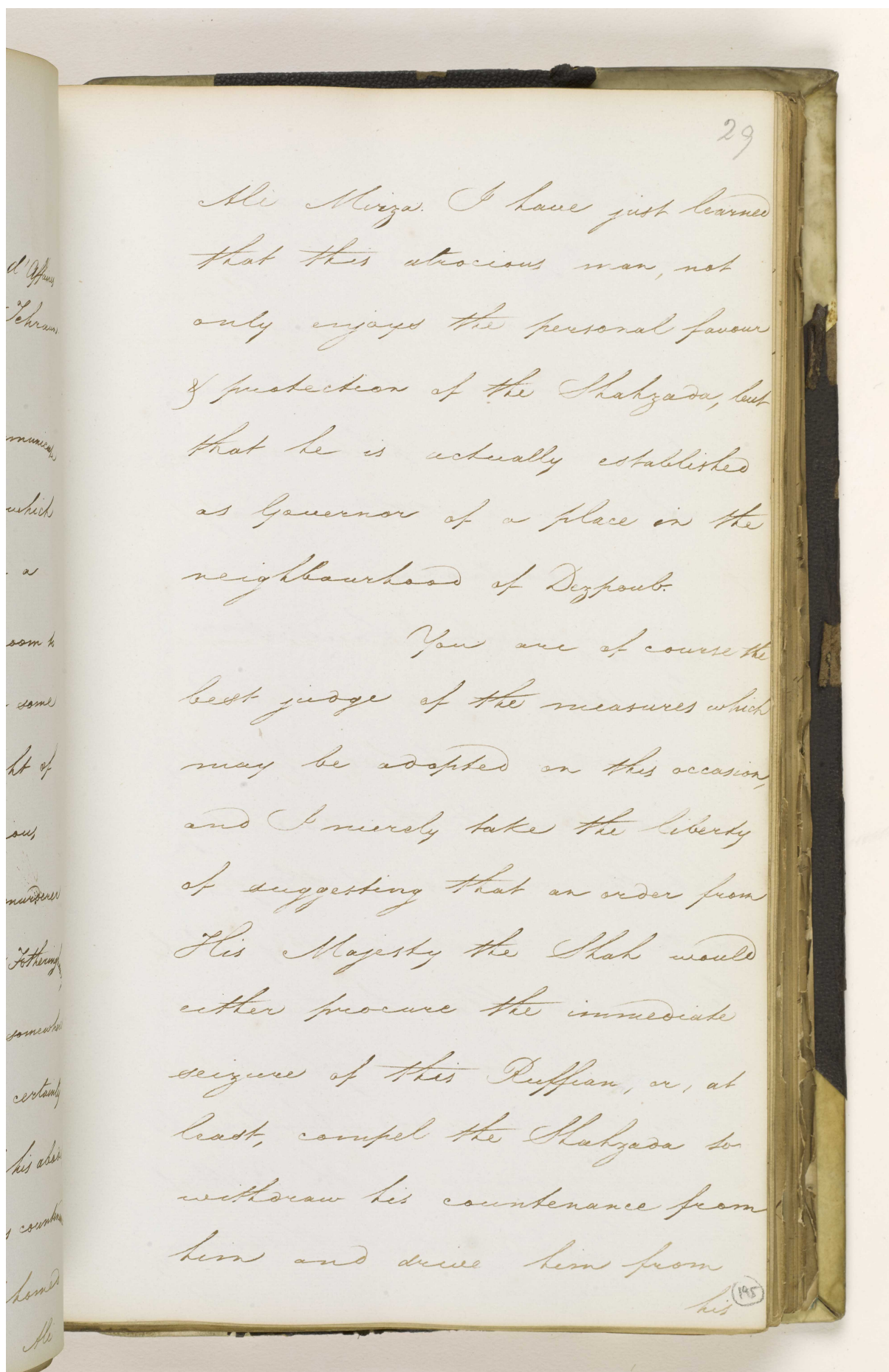
I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. Rich

Co (146)

To
Henry Willock Esq
His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires
at the Court of Teheran.

Sir,

I hasten to communicate
an article of intelligence which
has just reached me from a
quarter which leaves no room to
doubt of its correctness. For some
time past I had lost sight of
the motions of the notorious
Kell Ali Khan Feili, the murderer
of the unfortunate Grant of Fotheringham;
I only knew that he was somewhere
in Leresan, but I had no certainty
as to the exact place of his abode,
nor whether or no he was countenanced
by His Royal Highness Mahomed
Ali



his Territories. The person from whom I procured this intelligence is, for obvious reasons, desirous that his name should be concealed, but you may place implicit confidence on the accuracy of the information.

Bagdad } I have, &c.
3rd July 1819. } (Signed) C. J. Rich

P.S. (4th July.) I have just learnt, in addition to the above intelligence, that the names of the places, with the Government of which Kell Ali Khan has been invested by His Royal Highness, are Kurd, Dinarwend, and Shouhan, he himself residing at the Castle of Saar. He has enjoyed these Governments about two years.

The

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The bearer of this is an
express Cofed, named Ali Kiza, who
will await your orders.

(Signed) C. Sat. Rich.

Ministry
28th Oct.

In acknowledging
the receipt of the preceding Despatch,
ordered ^{that} the Political Agent in
Turkish Arabia be informed that
the Governor in Council approves
of the communication which he
has made to His Majesty's Charge
d'Affaires at Ibraun, regarding
the protection afforded by the
Shahzada of Kermanshah to Kell
Ali Khan, under a hope that,
if nothing further should result,
that notorious Offender will, at
least, not be countenanced by the

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Prince when he is apprized of
the atrocity of his Crimes.

Mr. Pich is to be,
at the same time, informed
that a Copy of his Despatch
has been transmitted to the
Supreme Government, in order
that His Lordship in Council
may be apprized of the state
of the Pachalic, and the distractions
which prevail, which it is
perceived have led to the interruption
of the communication with
Constantinople.

Read the following
Letter from the Political Agent
in Turkish Arabia dated 10th
July.

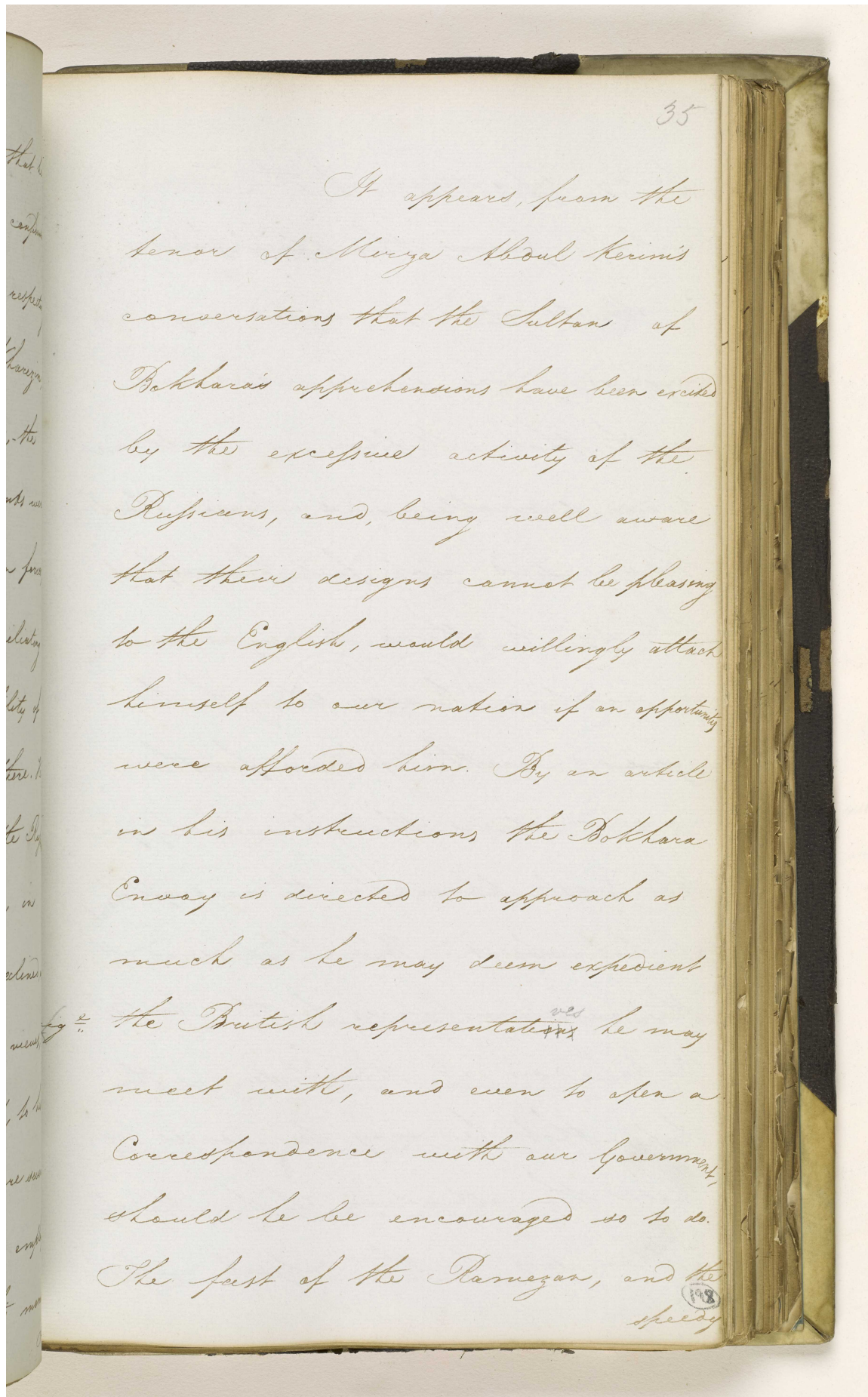
Humble Servt

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Honble Sir,

I have often had occasion
to mention to Government my
suspicions grounded on intelligence
collected from the numerous Uzbeks
and Afghans who visit Bagdad,
that the Russian Agency in the
Countries lying between that Empire
and Hindostan was at this time
peculiarly active. I have lately
received a confirmation of my
suspicions in the positive information
communicated to me by Mirza Abdul
Kerim, a Page of Bokhara, and
Secretary of Legation to the Embassy
from Sultan Hyder to the Porte,
a very intelligent man, who resided
at Petersburg for a considerable
time.

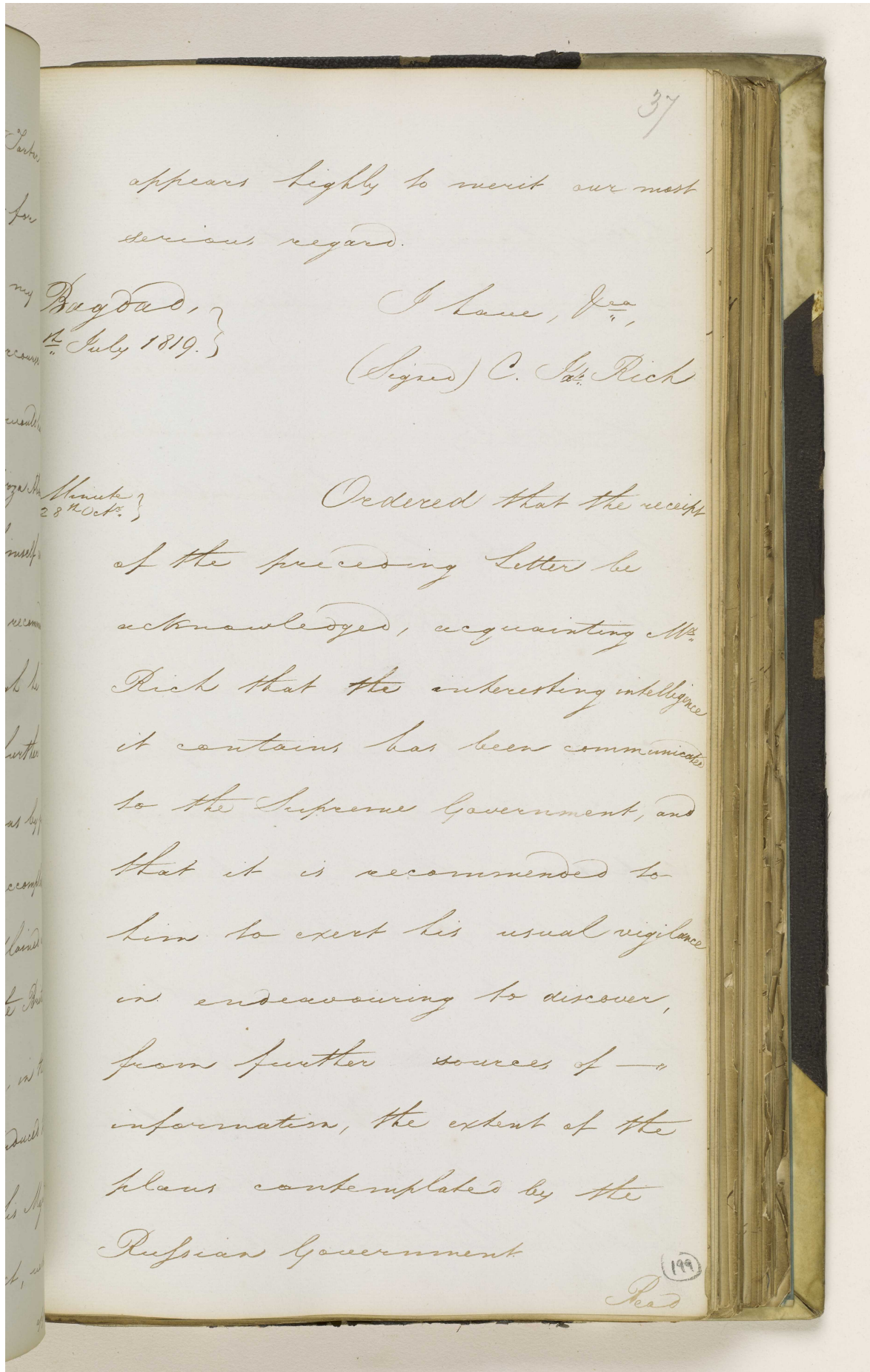
since. He informed me that he
was frequently consulted confidentially
by the Russian Ministry respecting
the state & resources of Kharezin,
Bokhara, and Afghanistan, - the
resistance these Governments were
likely to oppose to European forces,
the best means of conciliating
them, - and the practicability of
forming establishments there. He
was further offered by the Russian
Ministry a Secret Agency in
Afghanistan, which he declined, as
not according with his views,
but he assures me that, to his
certain knowledge, there are several
Native Agents of Russia employed
in those Countries at this moment.
A



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It appears, from the
 sense of Mirza Abdul Kerim's
 conversations that the Sultan of
 Bokhara's apprehensions have been excited
 by the excessive activity of the
 Russians, and, being well aware
 that their designs cannot be pleasing
 to the English, would willingly attach
 himself to our nation if an opportunity
 were afforded him. By an article
 in his instructions the Bokhara
 Envoy is directed to approach as
 much as he may deem expedient
 the British representatives ^{and} he may
 meet with, and even to open a
 Correspondence with our Government,
 should he be encouraged so to do.
 The fast of the Ramazan, and the ¹⁸
 speedy

speedy departure of the Tartar
Embassy from this place for
Constantinople, prevented my
engaging in such intercourse
with that Mission as would have
been desirable, and Mirza Abdul
Kerim did not feel himself at
liberty to attend to my recommendation
of visiting India, though he
agreed with me, on further
consideration, that it was by far
the best plan for the accomplishment
of his object. But I explained all
the circumstances to the British
Embassador at the Porte, in the
hope that he may be induced to
call the attention of his Majesty's
Ministers to the subject, which
appears



Read the following
Letter from the Political Agent
in Turkish Arabia, dated the
25th August.

Honble Sir,

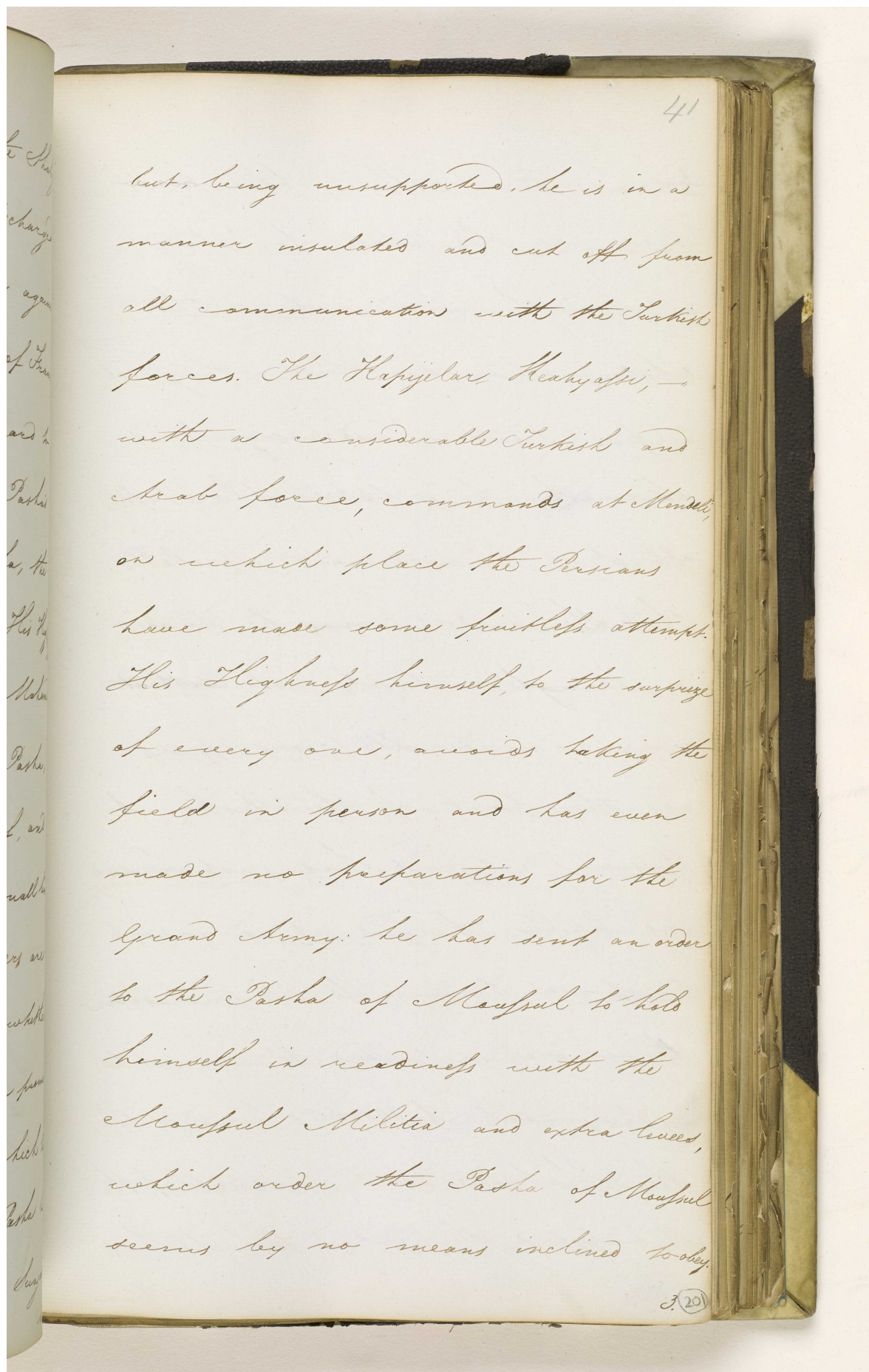
On the 5th ultimo
I had the honour of laying
before you a Report of the
Affairs of this Government, its
attempt to place a new Governor
in Candahar, and consequent
dispute with Persia. In continuation
of that Report I have now the
honour to inform you, that
the Shah, who, on all former
occasions has affected openly to
disavow the turbulent conduct
of the Shahzada of Kermanshah,
has

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has now, for the consideration of
10,000 Tomans, paid him by his son,
not only gives him his permission
to support Mahomed Pasha of
Candistan against the Turkish
Government, but has even promised
to supply him with an auxiliary
force from his own Army: a
large body of the Shahzade's
Troops, among which is one
of the new Battalions with
their field Pieces under the
command of a French Officer,
is stationed on the Mendil
frontier: another French Officer
has been sent with the Persian
Division to the frontier of
Kerkook: three more remain
about

about the person of the Shahzade
and one has been discharged
for refusing to serve against
the Porte, the Ally of France.

2. With regard to
the Division of the Pasha's
forces, Abdullah Pasha, the
Courdish Chief, whom His Highness
destines to supplant Mahomed
Pasha, with Mahomed Pasha,
another Courdish Chief, and
their retainers, and small body
of Turks & Arab fusiliers are
stationed at Kerbook whether
they are sent with a promise
of further support which has
been fulfilled. Hassan Pasha has
taken possession of Hemy Sujak,
but



3. Affairs have now
been in this state for above
a month, and such is their
dilatatory character that nothing but
a few desultory and insignificant
skirmishes have taken place. after
all, it is by no means improbable
that the quarrel may be made
up, though certainly not without
very considerable concessions
on the part of the Pasha. A
Persian Agent has just arrived
in Lown charged, it is said, to
propose terms of accommodation:
these are reported to amount to
a payment of 80,000 Lmanas to
the Shahzada on account of the
stipulated Subsidy, which has
been

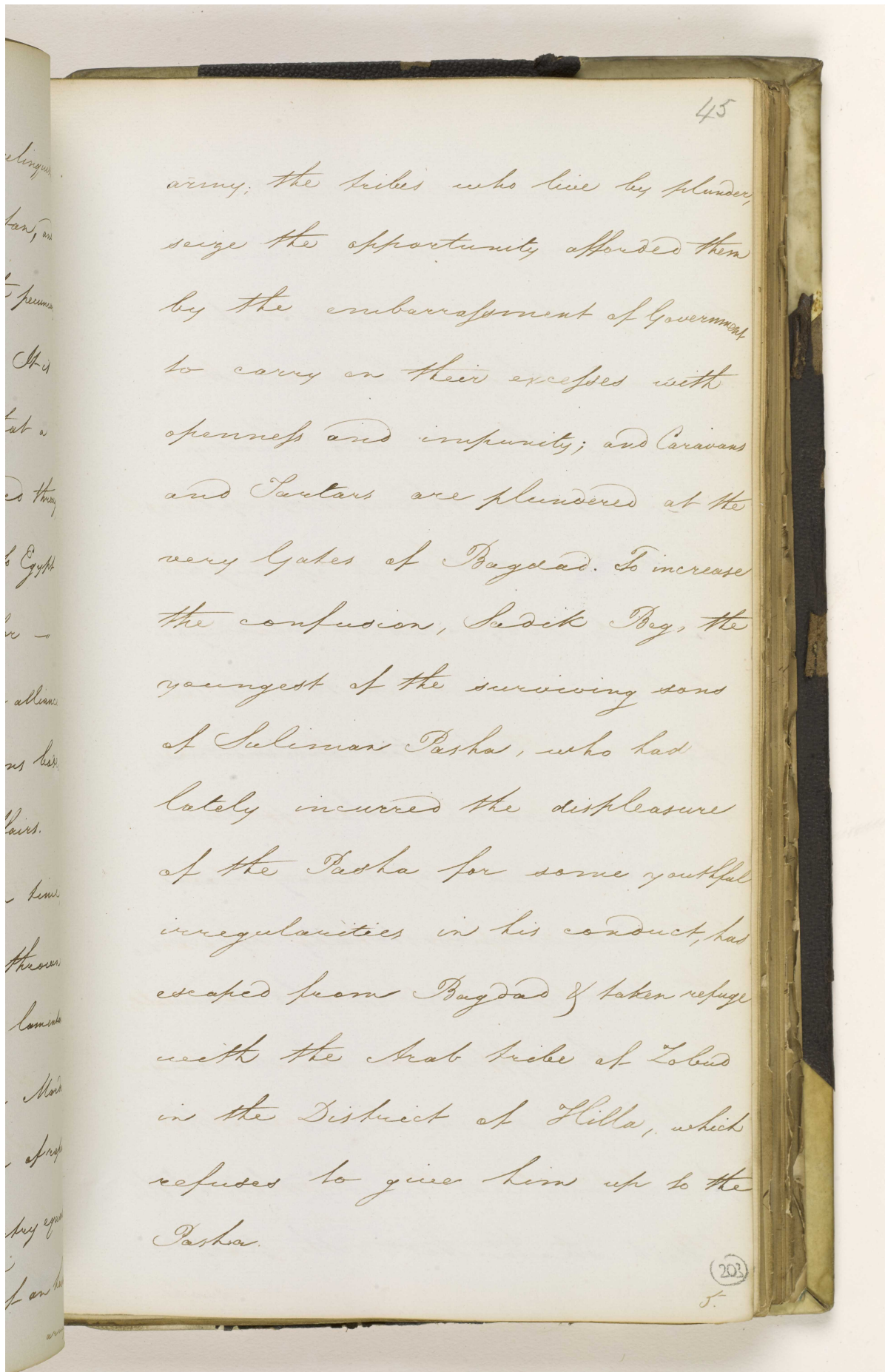
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been for some time past withheld,
and an immediate cession of
the Frontier fortresses of Mundeli
Kerow and Tissa to remain in
the occupation of the Persians,
till the required sum of money
shall have been paid. The reinstatement
of the Courdish Princes upheld by
the Persians in their Governments
of Suliman King Sarjak, and Abdul,
is of course considered as a
sine qua non of the accommodation.
So what extent these terms may
be complied with, it is difficult
to say, at present; but it appears
probable that, unless the Porte
immediately interferes in favour
of the Pasha, His Highness will,

at
(101)

at least, be compelled to relinquish
his attempt on Courdestan, and
satisfy some part of the pecuniary
demands of the Shahzada. It is
reported from Aleppo that a
Persian Agent had passed through
that City on his way to Egypt
charged with presents for
Mahomed Ali Pasha: an alliance
between these two persons bodes
no good to Maman affairs.

4. In the mean time,
these discussions have thrown
the Country into the most lamentable
state of confusion. From Mardin
to the Sea all is a scene of rapine
and desolation; the Peasantry equally
suffer by the presence ^{of a friendly or} of an hostile
army



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army; the tribes who live by plunder, seize the opportunity afforded them by the embarrassment of Government to carry on their excesses with openness and impunity; and Caravans and Tartars are plundered at the very Gates of Bagdad. To increase the confusion, Sedick Bey, the youngest of the surviving sons of Sulimani Pasha, who had lately incurred the displeasure of the Pasha for some youthful irregularities in his conduct, had escaped from Bagdad & taken refuge with the Arab tribe of Lohud in the District of Hilla, which refuses to give him up to the Pasha.

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5.

5. The distress of the Country
has been greatly increased by
the most tremendous hot
summer that I have ever known,
even in this parched Country.
My dullest thermometer, placed
in the coolest part of my house,
rose to 120, and at midnight
I have seen it at 188 in the
open air. In the commencement
of August, we had a storm
accompanied by heavy rain,
an occurrence totally unprecedented
in this climate at this season,
and the effect on the burning
soil already overheated by the
fierce Simoom was exactly that of the
hottest steam-bath. The people
died

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dropt down dead in multitudes, both
in the Country and in the very
Streets of the City from intense
heat: one small Caravan lost
22 Persons in this manner in
the three last days of its march
to Bagdad; and every hour
brought accounts of some fearful
accident of this nature. The River
rose in one night two yards
and a half above its bed, and
became of a turbid colour:
the waters were so offensive
that it was impossible to drink
of them. The People exclaimed that
the day of judgment was at hand,
deprecatory hymns were chaunted
from the Minarets, and the
upmost

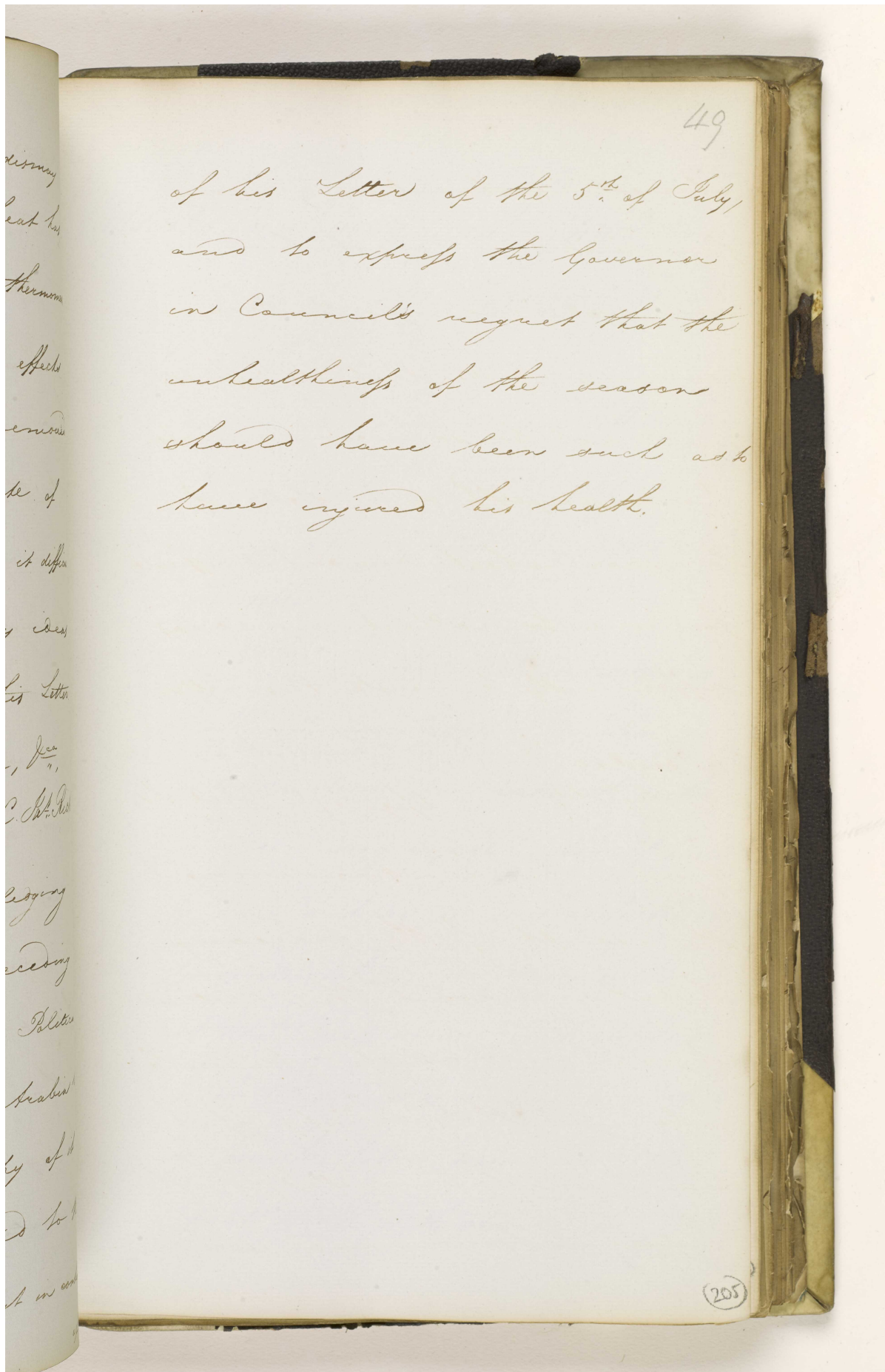
utmost consternation & dismay
prevailed. The great heat has
now subsided, and the thermometer
remains at 105, but its effects
will not be so soon removed.
I am myself in a state of
languor which renders it difficult
for me to collect my ideas
sufficiently to write this Letter.

Bagdad
25th Augth 1819.

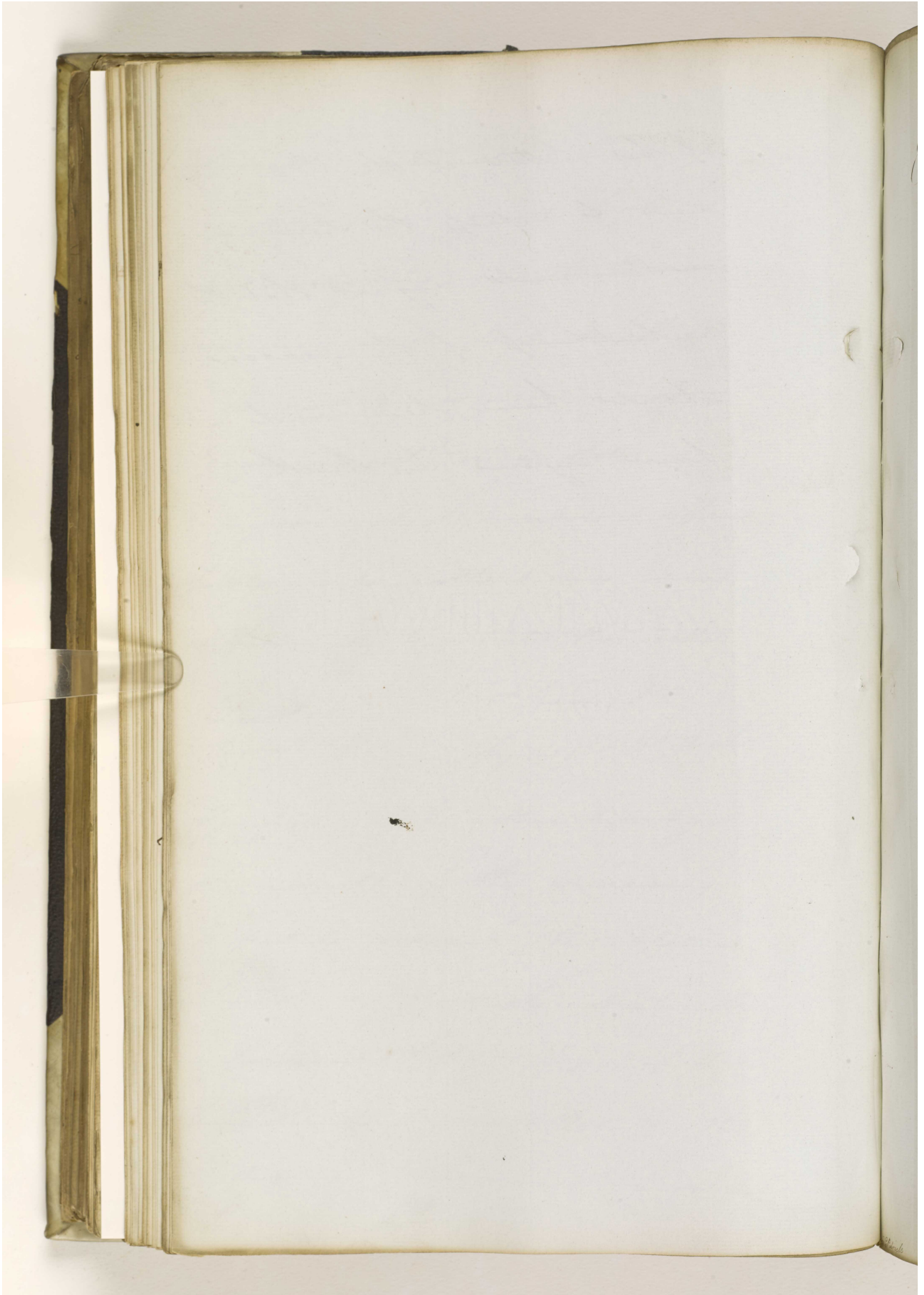
I have, &c.
(Signed) C. St. Rich

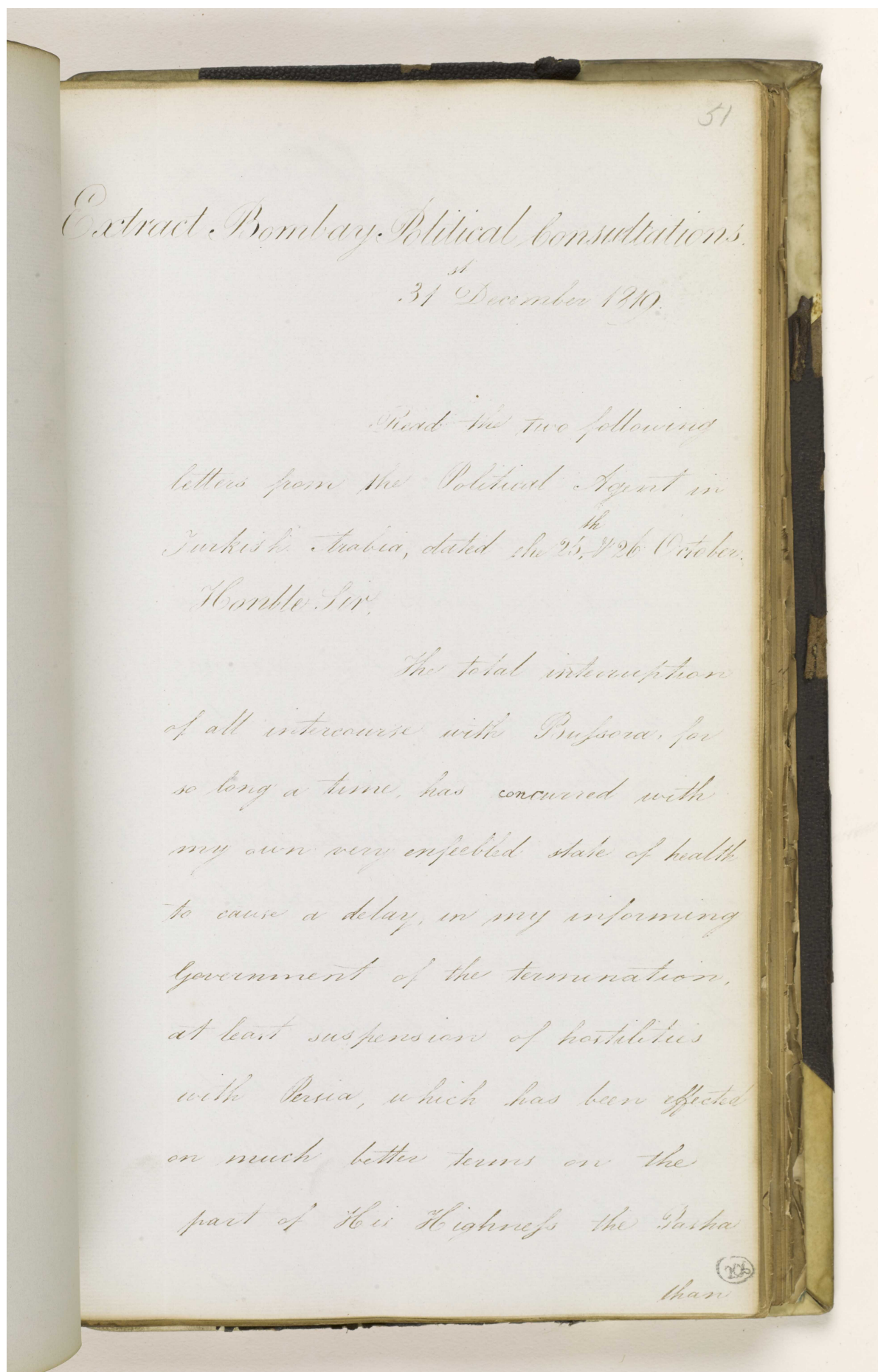
Ministry
28th Oct.

In acknowledging
the receipt of the preceding
Despatch, ordered ^{that} the Political
Agent in Turkish Arabia be
informed that a Copy of it
has been transmitted to the
Supreme Government in continuation
of



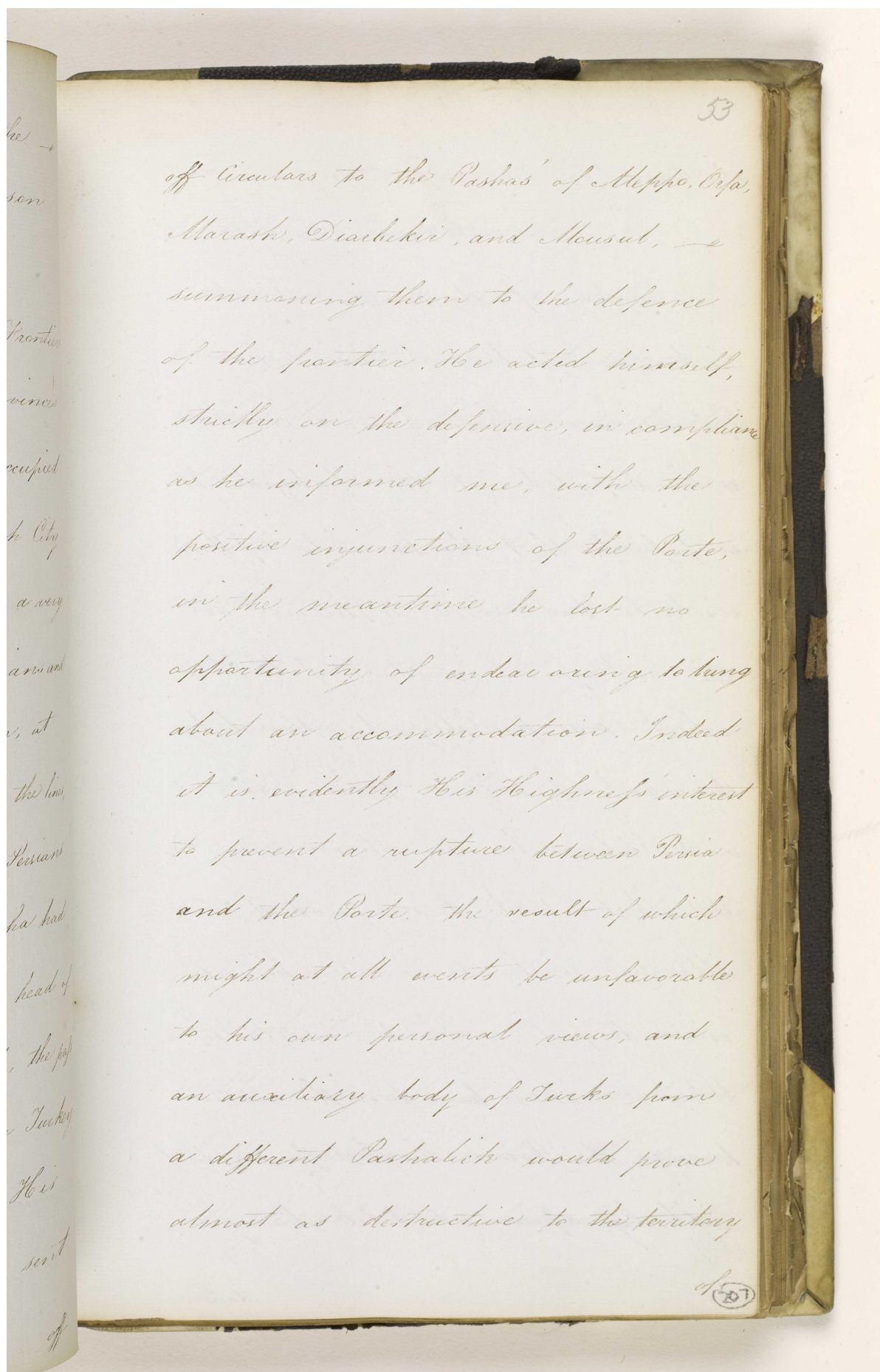
'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [205v] (60/82)





than the aspect of affairs at the
commencement, gave every reason
to hope.

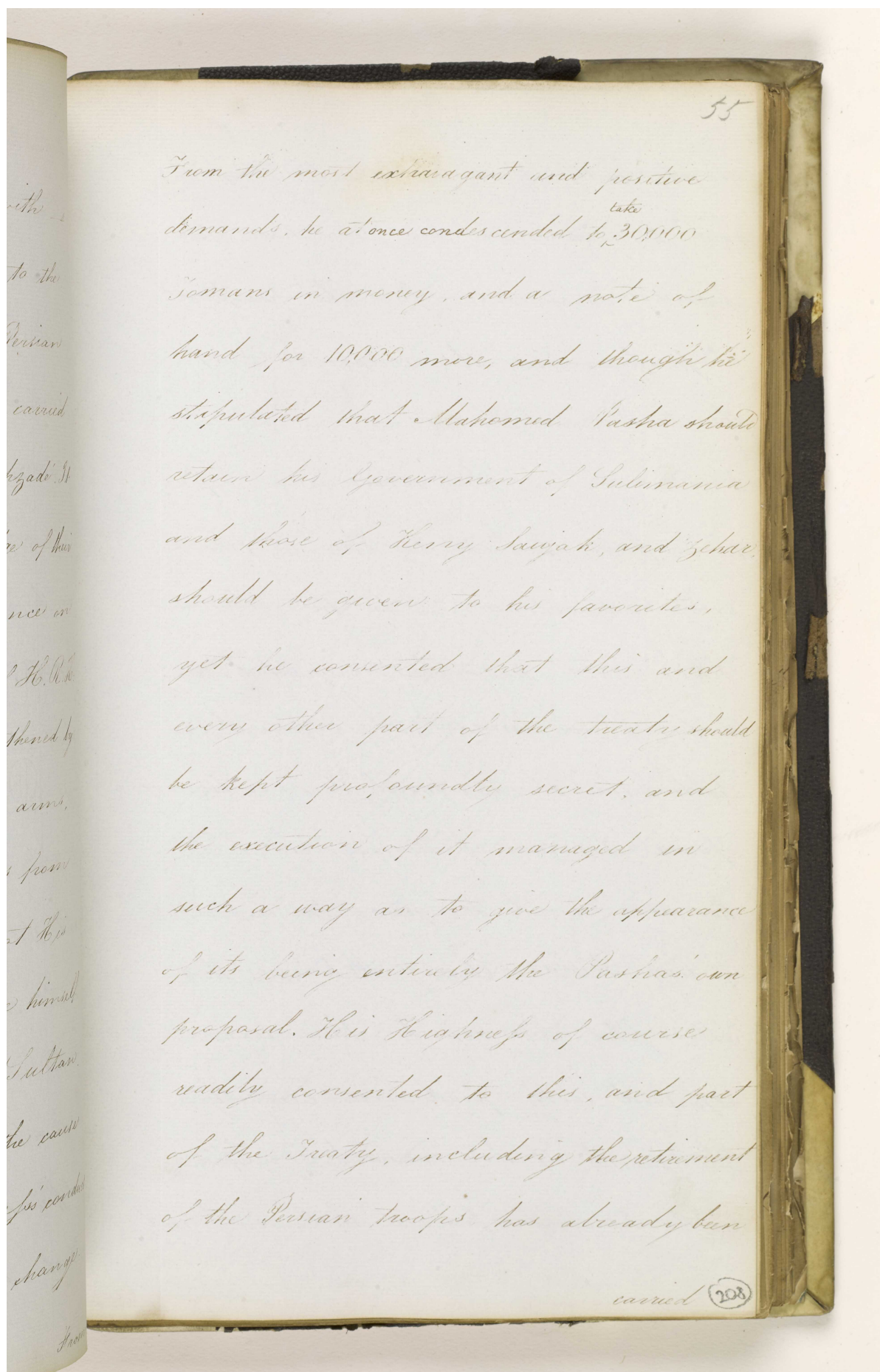
2 The Turkish Frontiers
of the central and lower Provinces
of Bourdistan, were already occupied
by Persian Troops. The Turkish City
of Harkook was invested by a very
large combined force of Persians and
Counds. Mondeli and Tejsan, at
the southern extremities of the lines,
were also surrounded by the Persians
alone. The Prince of Hermansha had
in person advanced at the head of
the main army to Kerrind, the pass
which separates Persia from Turkey
in the direct line, and His
Highness the Pasha had sent
off



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of Circulars to the Pashas of Aleppo, Orfa,
Marash, Diarbekir, and Mossul, —
summoning them to the defence
of the frontier. He acted himself,
strictly on the defensive, in compliance
as he informed me, with the
positive injunctions of the Porte,
in the meantime he lost no
opportunity of endeavoring to bring
about an accommodation. Indeed
it is evidently His Highness's interest
to prevent a rupture between Persia
and the Porte. the result of which
might at all events be unfavorable
to his own personal views, and
an auxiliary body of Turks from
a different Pashalik would prove
almost as destructive to the territory

of Bagdad, as a Persian Army.
3 A Courier with
Duplicates of the Circulars to the
Pashas, was taken by the Persian
Patrols near Herkook, and carried
with despatches to the Shahzade. It
is possible that the knowledge of their
contents had some influence on
the subsequent conduct of H. R. H.
which was probably strengthened by
the want of success of his arms,
and I believe, by intimations from
the Shah, that it was not His
Majestys wish to involve himself
in a dispute with the Sultan.
Whatever may have been the cause
however, His Royal Highness's conduct
suddenly experienced a total change.

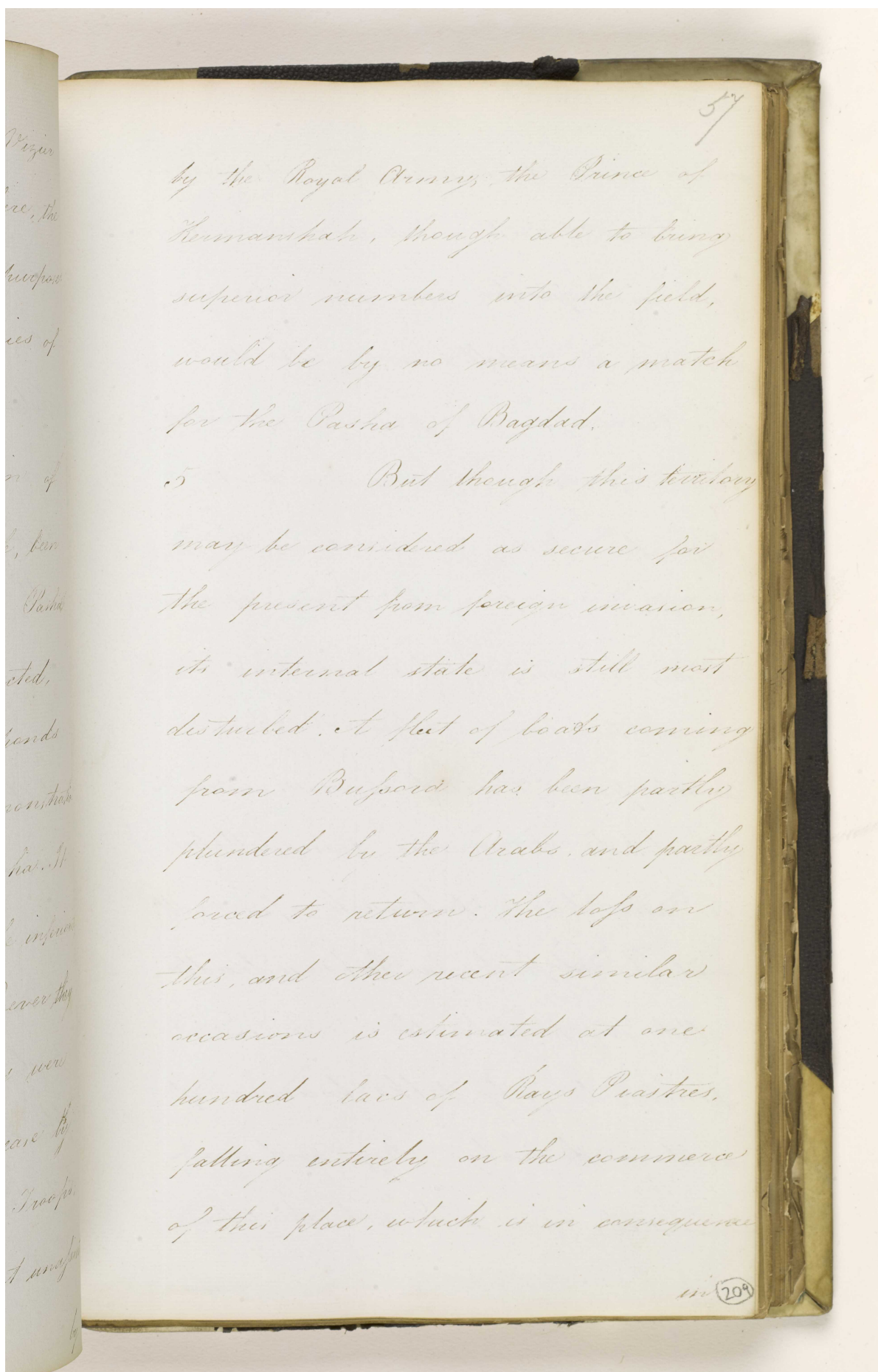
From



carried into effect. The Sheads' Vizier
and his Treasurer are now here, the
former ostensibly for the purposes
of performing the ceremonies of
the Cashoor at Hehala.

4 The conclusion of
this affair, has on the whole, been
more advantageous to the Pasha
than could have been expected,
and by no means corresponds
with the threats and demonstrations
of the Prince of Germanshar. It
has also served to prove the inferiority
of the Persian Army. Whenever they
attempted an attack, they were
repulsed with prodigious ease by
the worst of the Turkish Troops;
and I am confident that unassisted

by

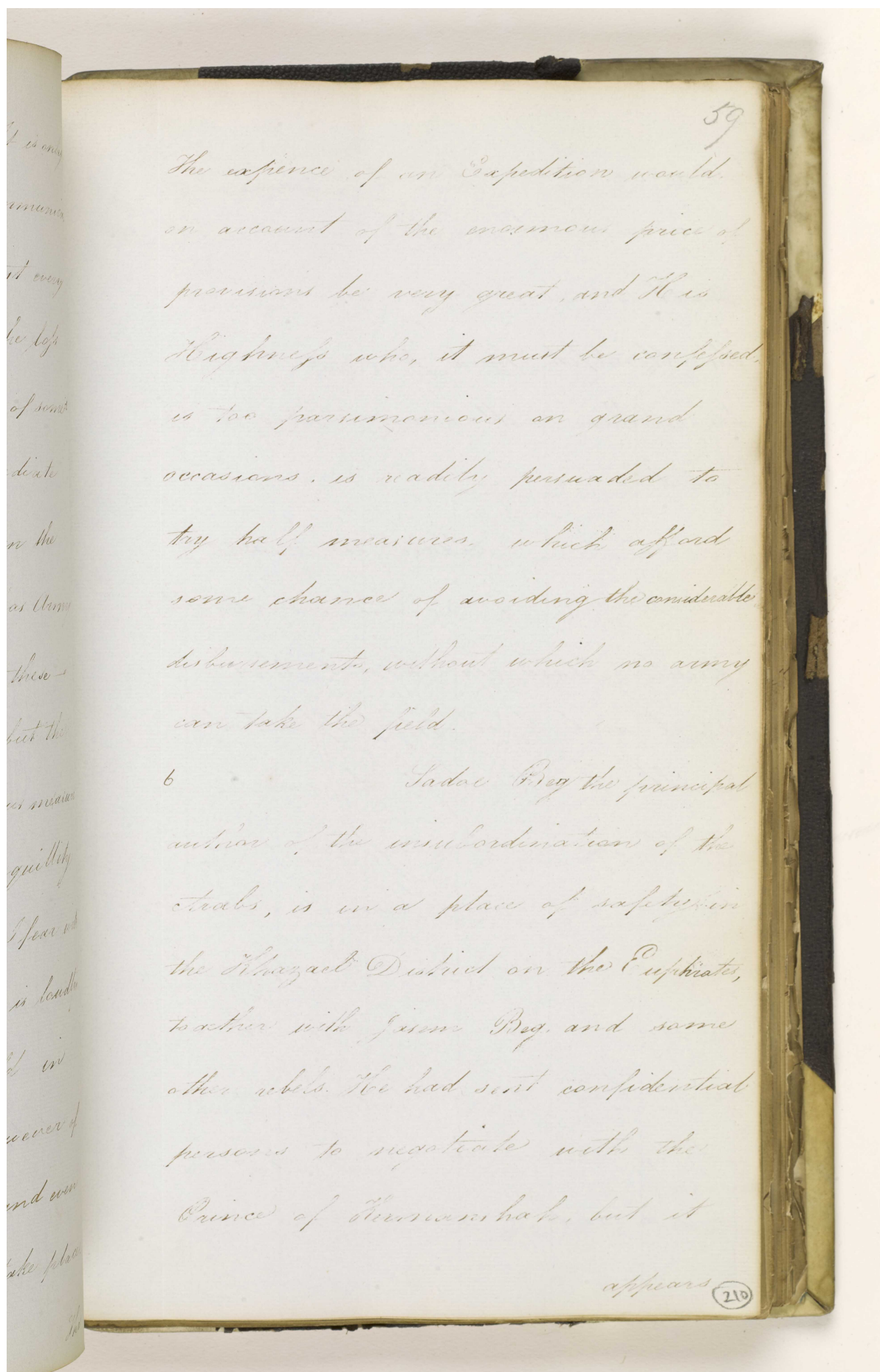


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by the Royal Army, the Prince of
Kumarskah, though able to bring
superior numbers into the field,
would be by no means a match
for the Pasha of Bagdad.

5 But though this territory
may be considered as secure for
the present from foreign invasion,
its internal state is still most
disturbed. A fleet of boats coming
from Bupord has been partly
plundered by the Arabs, and partly
forced to return. The loss on
this, and other recent similar
occasions is estimated at one
hundred lacs of Rays Prasties,
falling entirely on the commerce
of this place, which is in consequence

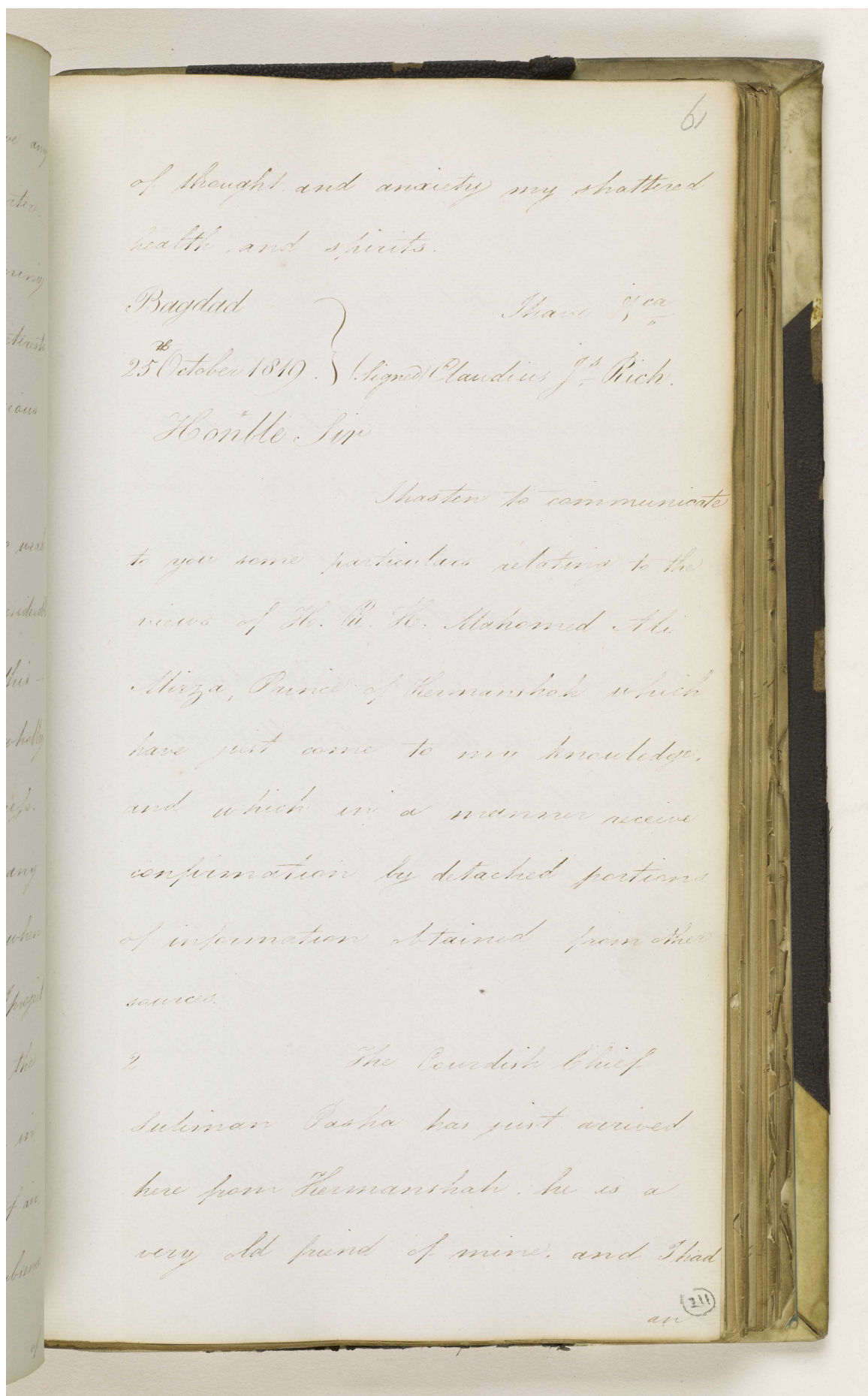
in the most deplorable state. It is only
by chance that we have communications
with any quarter, and almost every
day brings intelligence of the loss
of a Courier, or the plunder of some
Caravan, even in the immediate
vicinity of this Capital. Even the
auxiliary Troops of the Pashas Army
are deeply implicated in these
enormities, and nothing but their
most prompt and vigorous measures
are likely to restore tranquillity
in any degree, but such I fear will
not be adopted. The Pasha is loudly
called on to take the field in
person, he only talks however of
sending the Kiahya Bey, and even
so much, I fear will not take place.

The



appears that he did not receive any
encouragement in that quarter.
Should he succeed in winning
the Montefik Shik to his interests,
his rebellion will become serious
indeed.

I am in so weak
a state that it is with considerable
difficulty I have got through this
report, and I feel myself wholly
unable to attend to business.
Should the roads open in any
direction, and affairs permit, when
the weather becomes cooler, I project
an excursion somewhere in the
Pachalik for a short time, in
order to restore by change of air,
exercise, and a temporary absence
of



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of thought and anxiety my shattered
health and spirits.

Bagdad } I have rec^d
25th October 1840. } (Signed) Claudius J. Rich.

Honble Sir

I hasten to communicate
to you some particulars relating to the
views of H. B. H. Mohammed Ali
Mirza, Pasha of Hermanshah which
have just come to my knowledge,
and which in a manner receive
confirmation by detached portions
of information obtained from other
sources.

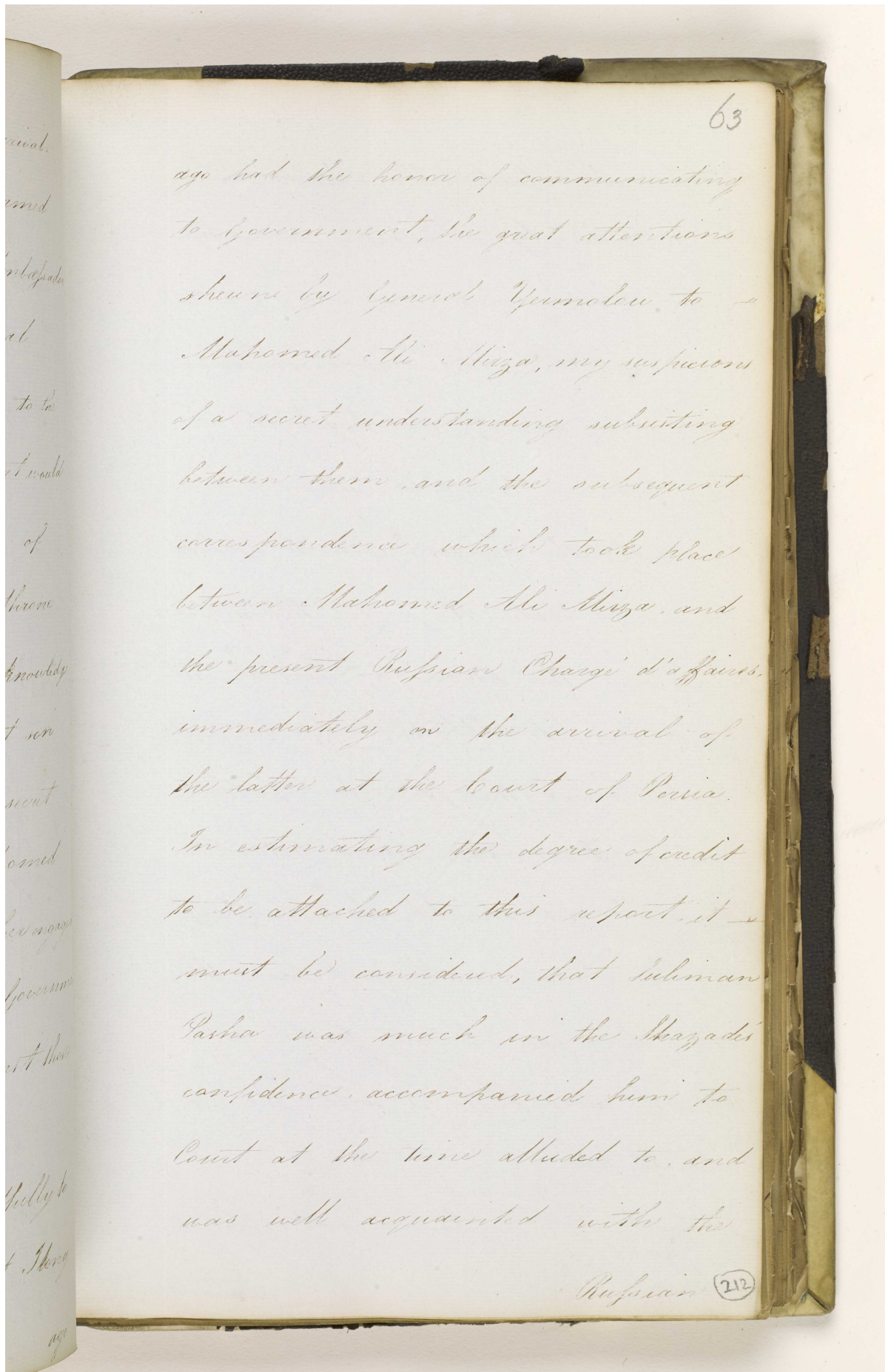
2 The Curdick Chief
Suliman Pasha has just arrived
here from Hermanshah, he is a
very old friend of mine, and I had

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an

an interview with him on his arrival,
in the course of which he informed
me, that the late Russian Ambassador
at the Court of Persia, General
Zemlov, explicitly declared to the
Shah, that the Russian Court would
not receive the succession of
H. R. H. Abbas Mirza to the Throne
of Persia, but could only acknowledge
the claims of the Shah's eldest son
Mahomed Ali Mirza. In a secret
communication with Mahomed
Ali Mirza himself, he further engaged
on the part of the Russian Government
to support his claims against those
of H. R. H. Abbas Mirza.

3 I beg respectfully to
recall your recollection, that I long

ago



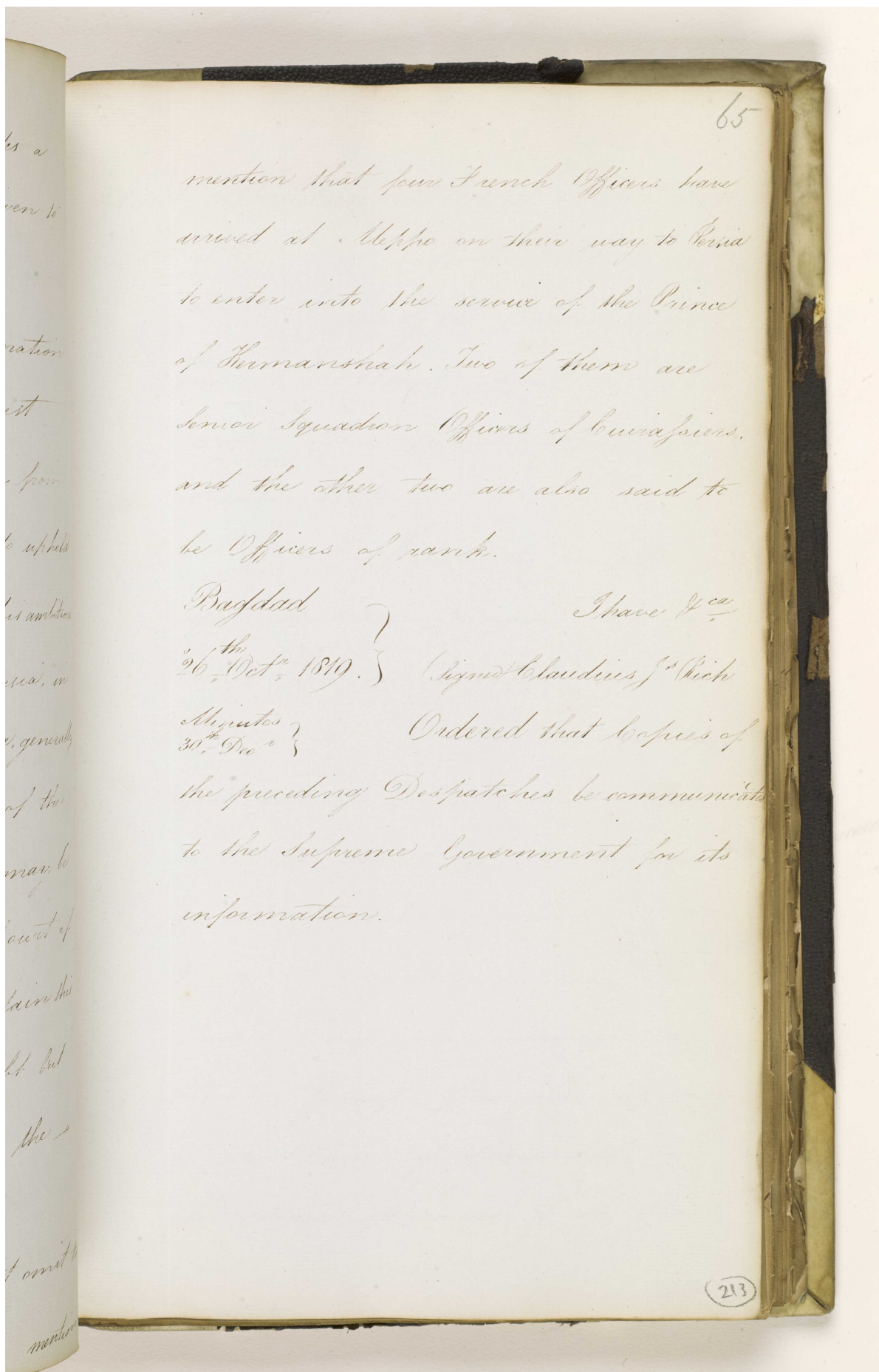
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ago had the honor of communicating
to Government, the great attentions
shown by General Yumolew to
Mahomed Ali Miza, my suspicions
of a secret understanding subsisting
between them, and the subsequent
correspondence which took place
between Mahomed Ali Miza, and
the present Russian Charge d'affaires,
immediately on the arrival of
the latter at the Court of Persia.
In estimating the degree of credit
to be attached to this report, it
must be considered, that Suliman
Pasha was much in the Bagdad's
confidence, accompanied him to
Court at the time alluded to, and
was well acquainted with the
Russian (212)

Russian Ambassadors. He is besides a
serious man by no means given to
careless talking.

4 This information
appears to me of the highest
importance. It would seem from
this, that the Russians wish to uphold
Mahomed Ali Mirza in his ambitious
view on the throne of Persia, in
opposition to Abbas Mirza, generally
considered as the favorite of the
English. From this, much may be
inferred, and should the Court of
St. Petersburg, really entertain this
idea, there can be no doubt but
it will accomplish it, with the
utmost ease.

5 I must not omit to
mention



'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [213v] (76/82)



67
Extract Bombay Political Consultations,
29th November 1820

Read the following letter
from the Political Agent in Turkish
Arabia dated the 15th September
Honbl^{ty} Sir

I have the honor to
inform ^{you} that, the discussions between
Persia and His Highness the Pasha
of Bagdad, concerning this Country,
have for the present terminated in
the tacit consent of His Highness
to the old order of things.

2 Mahomed Pasha the
Curdish chief, was encouraged to
liberate himself from his subjection
to the Prince of Semanskah, by
the solemn assurances of the Pasha

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of Bagdad that the Prince's
pretensions were wholly unauthorized
by the Shah who had acceded to
all the propositions of the Porte,
and that the Pasha of Bagdad
had an army ready to take the
field to support Mahmud Pasha,
should he find occasion to demand
it.

The Kurdish chief
suffered himself at first to be deceived
by these assurances. The remonstrance
of his counsellors, and the hostile
preparations of the Shahzade at
length opened his eyes, and he
fortunately saw his errors before
it was too late. On demanding the
promised succours from the Pasha

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of Bagdad, the Highness at once
lowered his tone, and desired
Mahmud Pasha to make the best
terms he could for himself with
the Persians, as it was totally
out of his power to assist him
for the present. The Persian
Minister has in consequence returned
to this place, and the tribute to
^{Ali Mirza}
Mahmud, is to be paid as before.

With respect to the
interior of the Bagdad Government,
it is far from being in a tranquil
state. The assistants in charge at
Basrah, will have already
informed you of the insurrection
of the Rejades at that place; and
in the upper provinces the Arab
shebet

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exhibit almost an equal spirit of
 insubordination. Two causes may be
 assigned for the disorders which
 now prevail, - His Highness's manifest
 dislike to take the field in person,
 and the injudicious selection of
 Ministers and officers into whose
 hands his great administration he
 Business, induces him to resign
 himself entirely, without the possibility
 of appeal. His chief financial and
 confidential Minister, the Khaznadar,
 is a person of the most offensive
 character, who has rendered himself
 hateful to every description of
 inhabitants of Bagdad, and yet,
 against this man, it is quite
 impossible to obtain redress. The
 Khaznadar

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Khaznadar is at present labouring,
avowedly, to annul all the rights
and privileges of Europeans, and
reduce them to the condition of native
Original Capitation subjects. Though I have
repeatedly warned the Pasha of
his man's designs, and their consequences,
I regret to say, that his Highness
has by no means shown a proper
determination to repress them
Palestina I have &c

the 15th Sept^r 1820 (signed) G. J. Rich

Minutes } Ordered that Copies of the
24th Nov } preceding despatches on the affairs of
the Pachalic of Bagdad, be communicated
to the Honorable the Governor and the
Supreme Government.

LH

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'Affairs of the Pachalic of Bagdad' [216v] (82/82)

