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‘Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/1162/30463
Date(s)	11 Jun 1827-24 Jun 1829 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (15 folios)
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About this record

The item consists of extracts from a Government of Bombay Political Letter, extracts from the Government of Bombay Political Consultations, and copies of correspondence and minutes regarding the situation of the Bussora [Basra] Agency. The primary subjects are:

- The question of reducing or abolishing the Bussora Agency, and the decision to delay doing this as a result of the war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire
- The incomplete state of the Agency accounts, and requests from the Government of Bombay for an explanation for the large sums that have been disbursed.

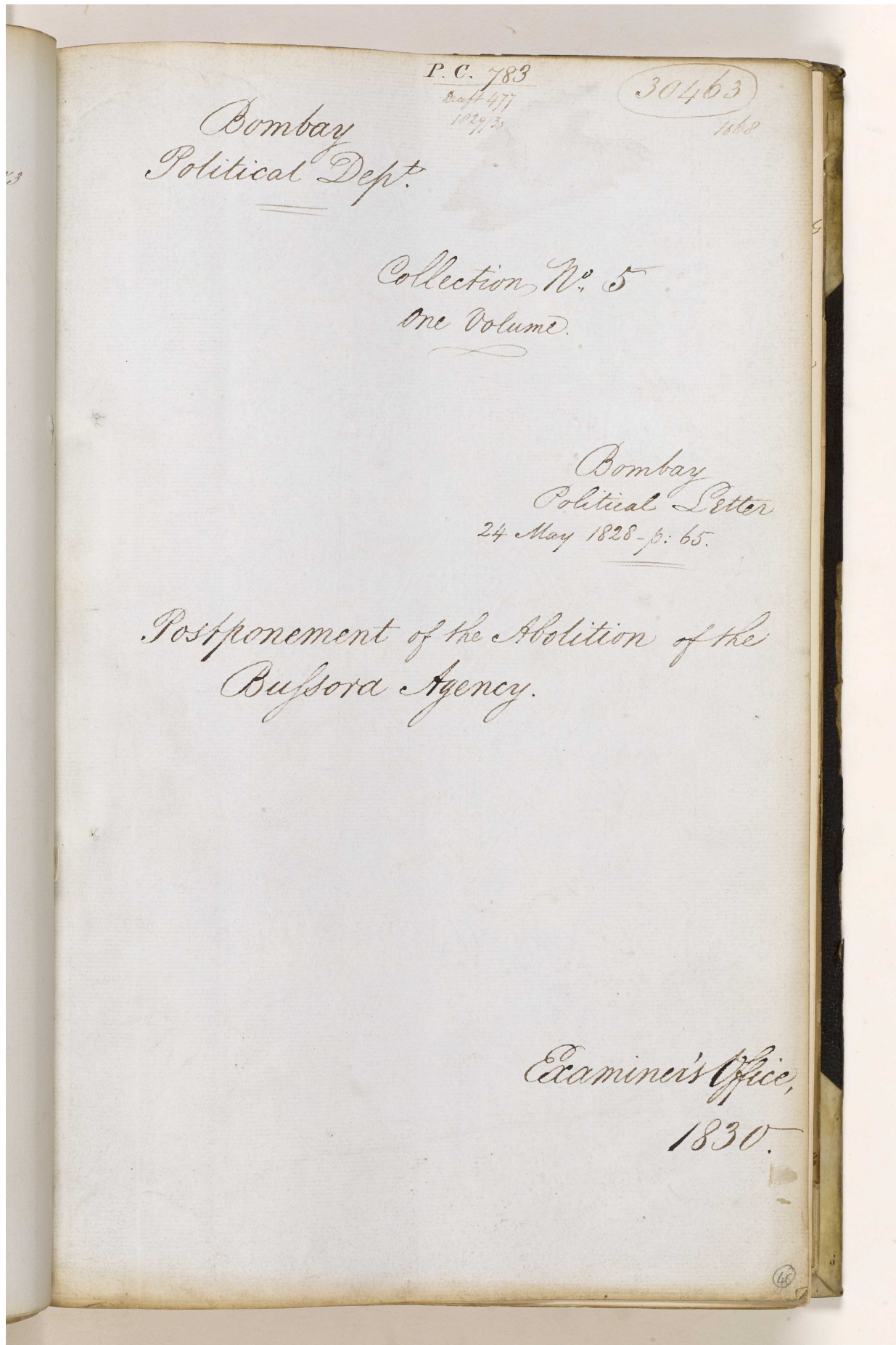
The correspondence also includes notifications from Major Robert Taylor, Political Agent at Bussora, and Barseigh Johanness [Khōjah Parseigh Johannes], Native Agent at Bussora, that Taylor has left Bussora for Baghdad, leaving Johanness in charge of the Bussora Agency.

The primary correspondents are: William Newnham, Chief Secretary, Government of Bombay; and John Wedderburn, Civil Auditor, Government of Bombay.

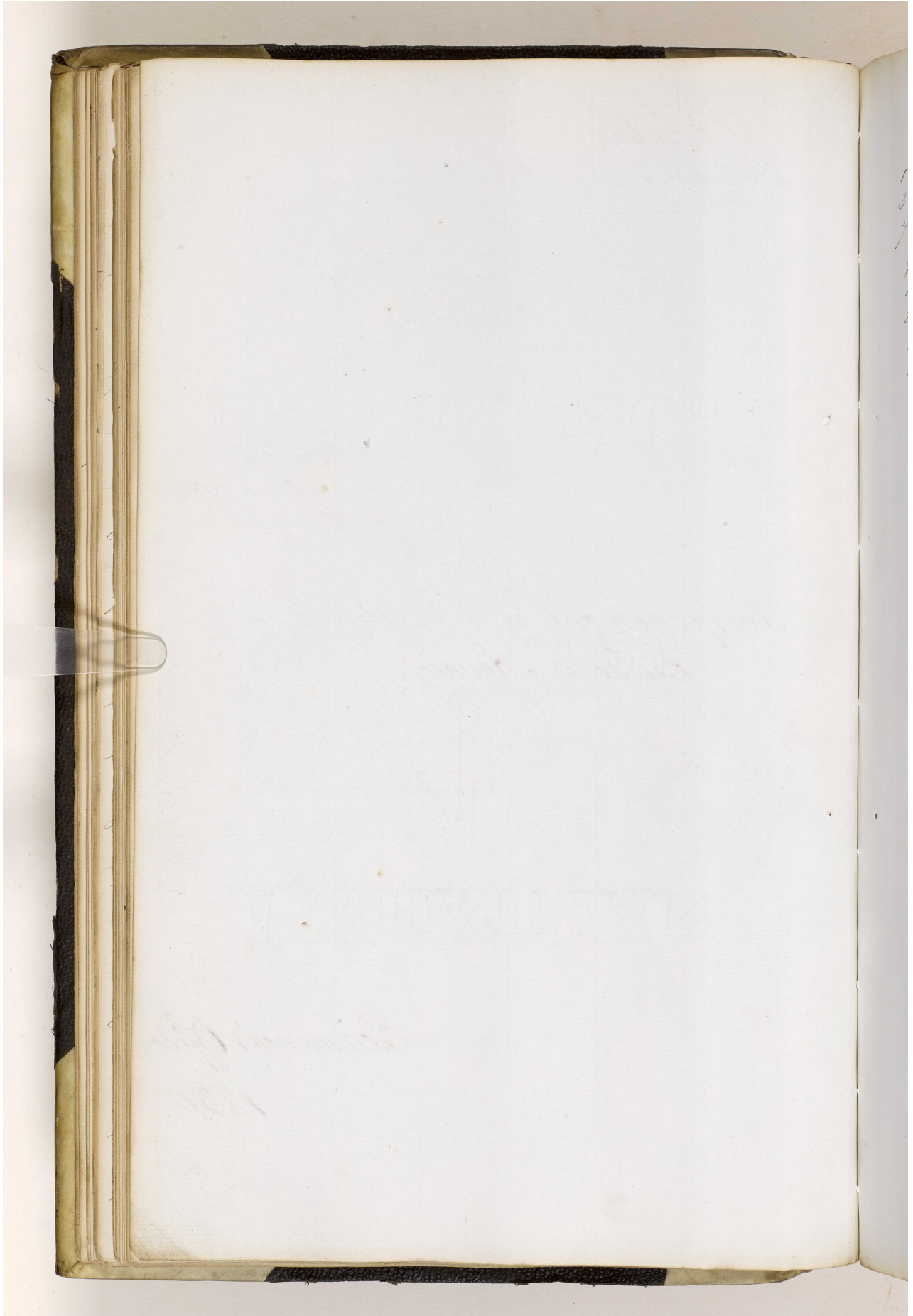
The item also contains a contents page (f 47) listing the collected documents and giving their page numbers within the item, and an ‘Audit on the Disbursements of the Political Agent at Bussora from 31st July 1826 to

30th April 1827' (ff 54-57).

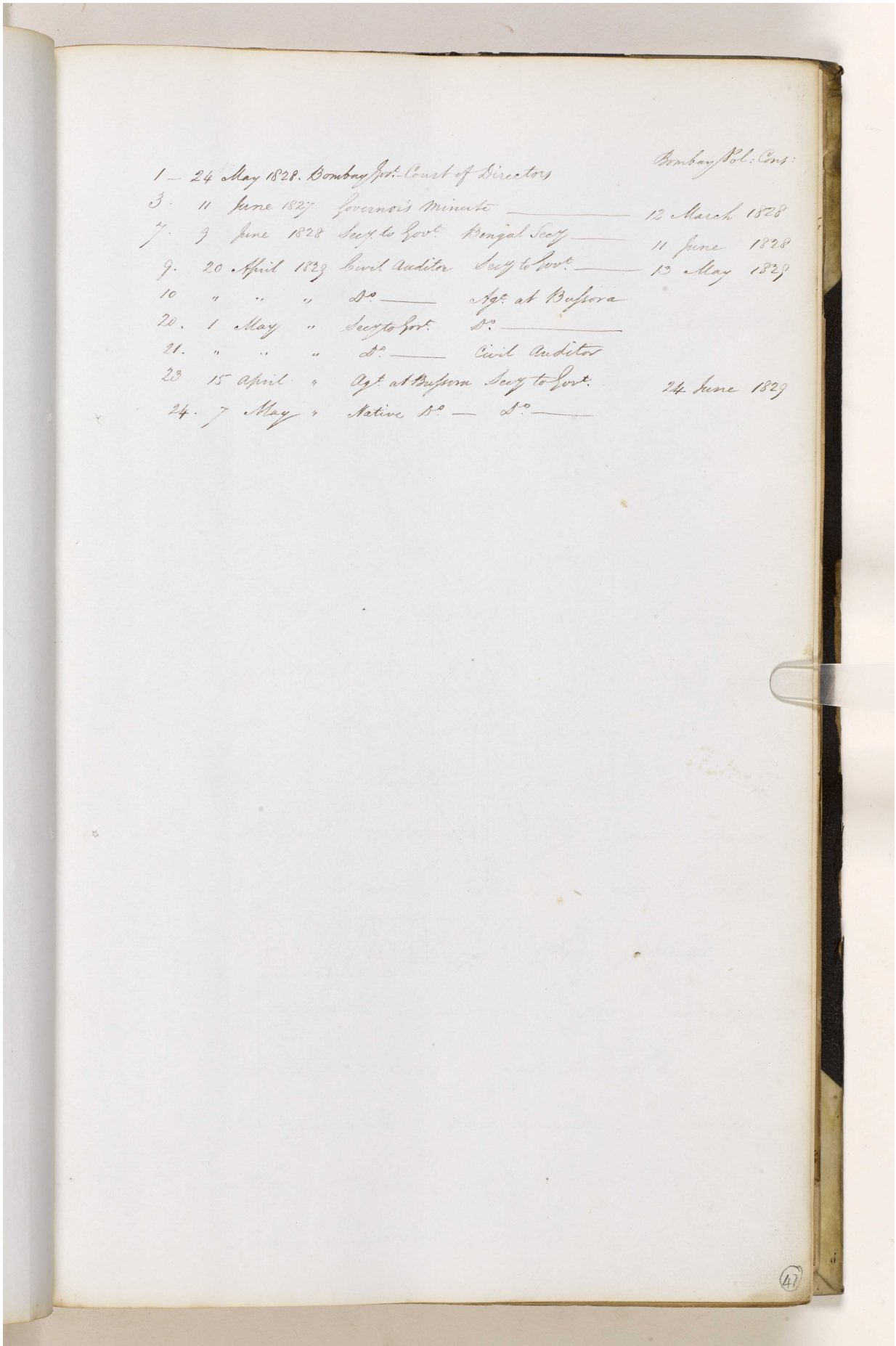
The title page (f 46) of the item contains the following references: 'P. C. 783', 'Draft 477', 'Collection No. 5', and 'Examiner's Office, 1830'.

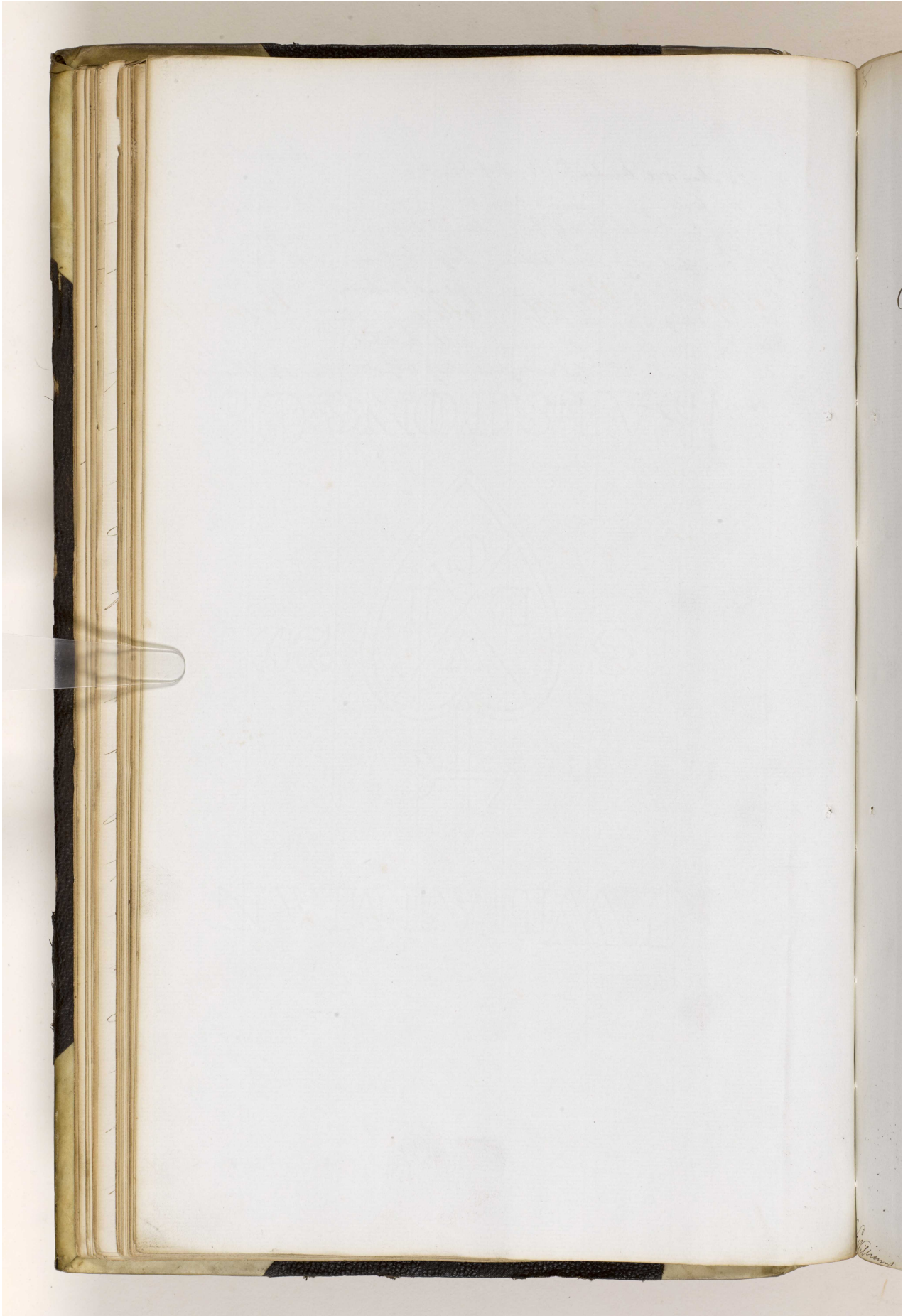


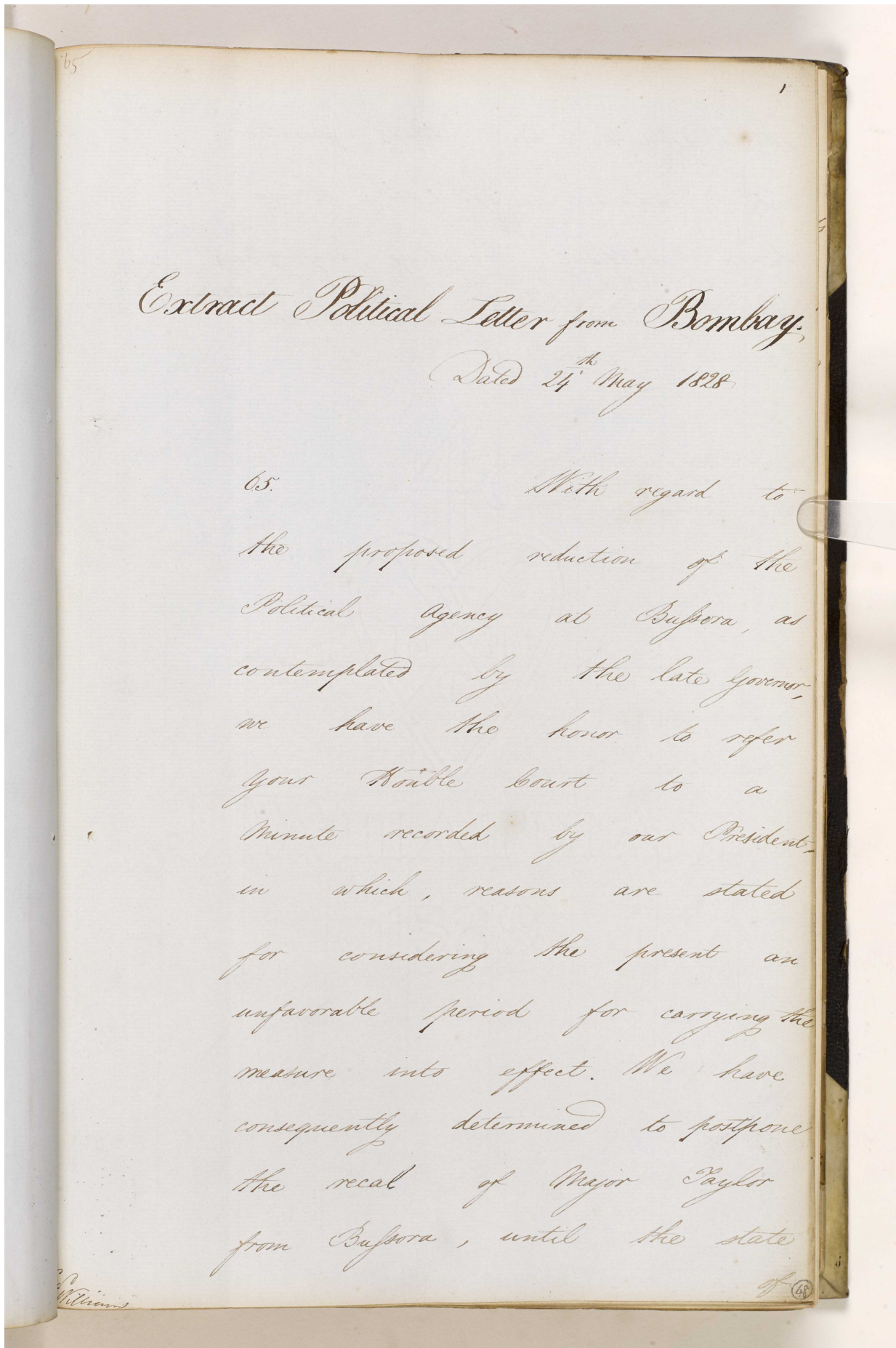
'Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.' [46v] (2/30)



'Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.' [47r] (3/30)







of affairs in that quarter
will admit of its being
done without creating impressions
very unfavorable to our interests.

12 Mar. 1828. 6

3

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

12th March 1828.

At 6

The following Extract from the Governor's Minute dated the 11th June, recorded in the Territorial Department 30th June 1827, regarding the abolition of the Bussora Agency is circulated for the final instructions of the Board.

9th I would not abolish Bussora at present, because Sir John Malcolm is so much fitter to decide on the necessity of the situation. We may take it as a prospective reduction, after deducting Persian

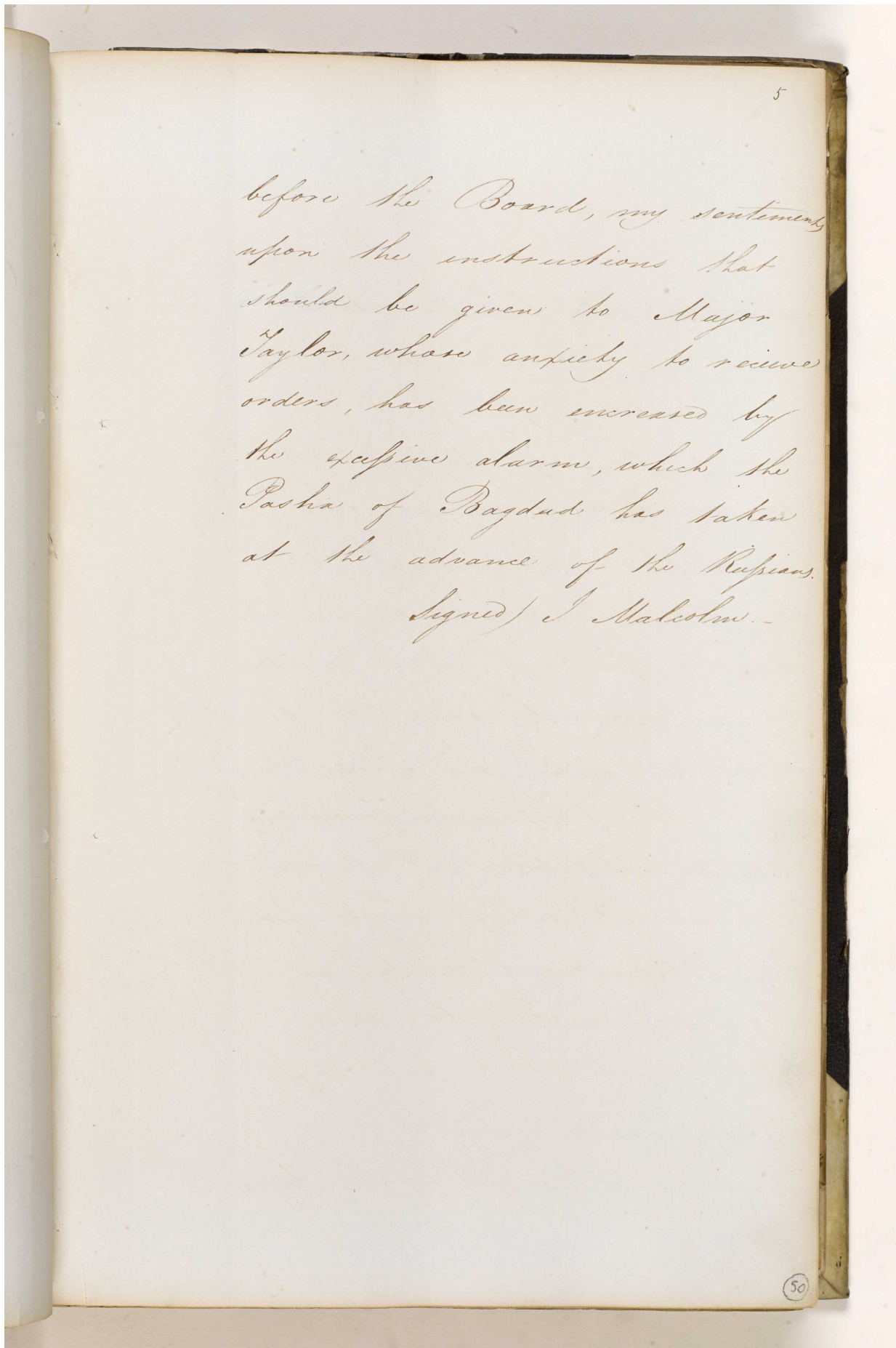
49

Pension $\$5,000$.

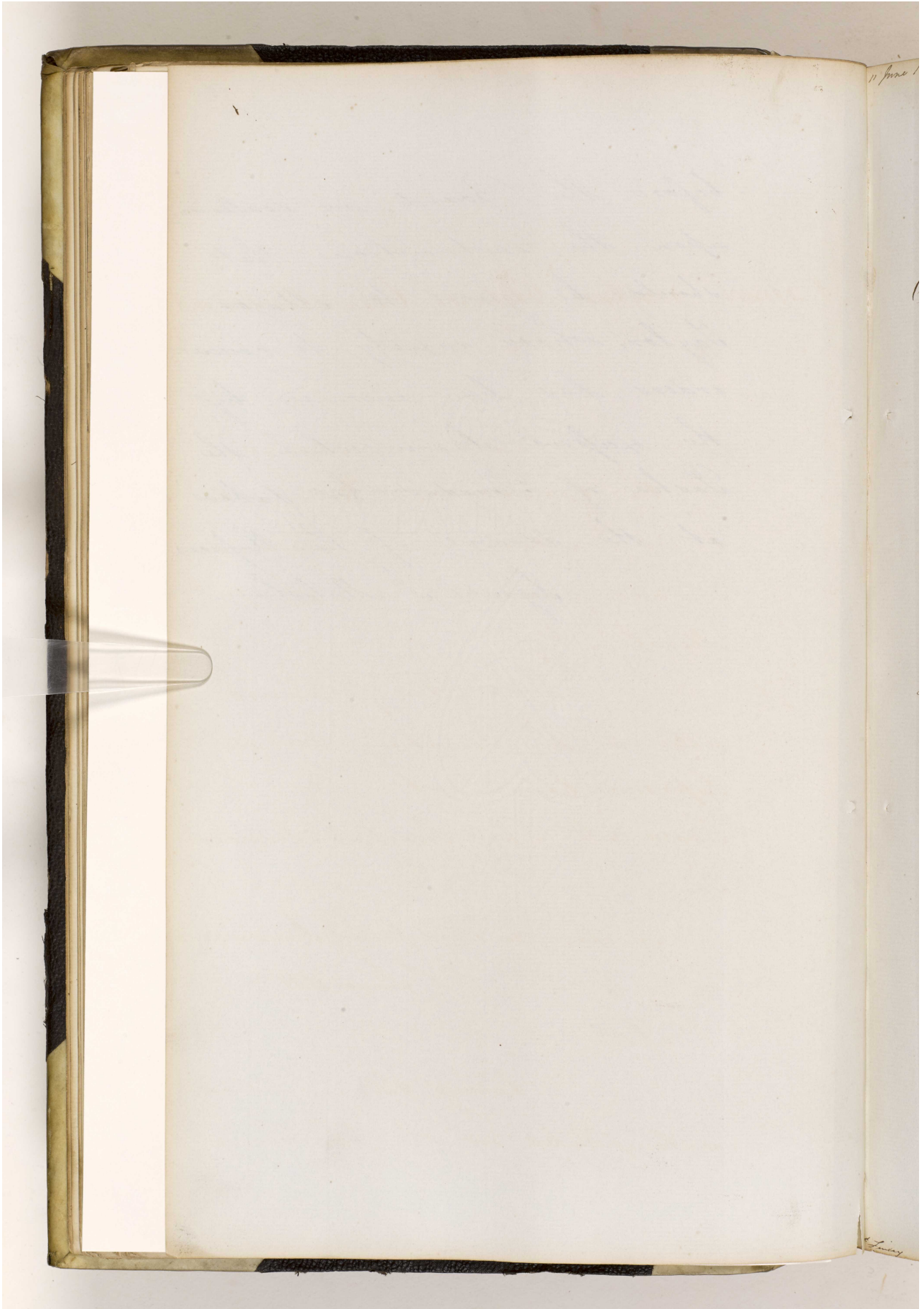
Minute by the President *not*
subscribed to by the Board.

Though I still keep
in view the prospect of
reducing the expense of our
Agencies in Persia and Turkey,
by another arrangement for
their duties, I do not think
at the present moment, when
Russia may be said to be
at War with the Porte &
when the Imperial forces
occupy Azerbyjan, that we
can recall Major Taylor from
Bussorah, without creating impressions
very unfavorable to our
interests in that part of
Asia.

I shall early lay
before



'Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.' [50v] (10/30)



11 June 1828. 71

7

Extract Bombay Political Consultations
11th June 1828.

Resumed consideration
of the Governor's Minute dated
the 1st March and recorded
in our proceedings of the 12th
March At 7.

10/11

Wrote the following
letter to the Secretary to the
Supreme Government.
From Mr Chief Secretary Newham
To

Secretary to the Supreme Government.
(9th June 1828)

Sir

Among the reductions
contemplated in the proceedings
of

51

of this Government in the
Month of June last year, the
abolition of the Political Agency
at Bussora, was calculated as
a prospective saving of Rupees
50,000, but the question was left
for final decision, until the
arrival of Major General Sir
John Malcolm. I have now the
honor to transmit to you,
for the purpose of being laid
before the Honble the Governor
General in Council, copy of
a Minute dated 6th, recorded
by the Honble the Governor
on the 12th March last, shewing
the grounds on which this
measure has for the present
been postponed.

Bombay Castle } I have B
9th June 1828 } Signed W. Munro
Chief Secretary

3 May 1829

12

May 1829. 35

9

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

13th May 1829.

N^o 35 From J. Medderburn Esq.

Civil Auditor

To Mr. Chief Secretary Newham.

(With enclosure 20th April 1829.)

Sir

With reference to
your communication to this
Office under date the 24th Sept^r
1827, and the very unsatisfactory
state of the Bussora accounts,
which for the want of explanation
on audits repeatedly called for,
are only papered up to the
31st July 1828, I conceive it my
duty, for the information of
the

52

The Honble Board, to forward
Copies of an Audit and Letter
this day addressed to the President.

Bombay Castle

I have the

Office of Audit

Signed J Medderburn

20th April 1829

Civil Auditor

From J Medderburn Esq.

#36

Civil Auditor

To Major R Taylor

Political Agent at Bussora

(20th April 1829)

Sir

I have now the
honor to forward an Audit
on the Disbursements from
the 1st of May 1826 to the
30th of April 1827 inclusive, which,
you will be pleased to return
to this Office as soon as
practicable, with such explanations

as

11

as you may have to offer

2 I have purposely
delayed auditing these accounts
in the hope, that before this,
you would have transmitted
to Government, a further and
more satisfactory explanation
for the large sums disbursed
on account of presents in
the last two quarters, amounting
in the aggregate to Rupees
14,187, and to which your particular
attention was called, in a letter
from Government dated 24th
Sept^r 1827, copy of which was
transmitted to this office.

3 The sums disbursed
on account of Packet Charges
in the quarters ending July
and October 1826, appearing
great

436

(5)

great, and on a comparative
view with charges of a
similar nature for 6 years
prior to these accounts -
exceeding the average considerably,
an explanation for the excess
is desirable. I have also to
notice, the want of receipts
for these charges, those only
for Provision money granted
to Messengers being regularly
forwarded.

Your Cash accounts
have been received at this
Office, up to January last,
but it does not appear that
you have afforded credit for
the check standing against
Mahomed Saleh of Rupees 464
or for the sum of 150 Rs
over

redrawn as Bussora allowance,
both of which were noticed
to you in my letter to you
under date 21st May last. I
regret extremely that you should
make this omission without
giving some explanation, as it
precludes the possibility of
proving your accounts, the very
backward state of which, I
beg to call your serious attention
to.

I have &c
Signed J Medderburn
Civil Auditor

Bombay Castle
Office of Audit
20th April 1829

Audit.

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Account on the Disbursements of the Political Agent at Bussora from 31st July 1826 to 30th April 1827. -

Subjects of Audit	Remarks by the Civil Auditor	Explanation by the Political Agent. -
<p>Quarter ending 31st July 1826. Charges & to ordinary</p>		
<p>14 Paid to Captain Maillard being the Resident's Refuge money to and from Bussora on duty. - - - - -</p>	<p>With reference to the Government Order under date the 18th August 1825 fixing the rates of Refuge money to be granted to Commissioners of the Honble Company's Ships there appears to be an overcharge on the amount of Rupees 133,1,34, you will therefore be pleased to mention at what rate Capt. Maillard charged for the period you were on Board, and as no account has been sent at this Office relative to the charge in question, an explanation for your having procured to Bussora will be required for the satisfaction of the Honble Board. -</p>	
<p>Quarter ending 31st January 1827</p>		

'Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.' [55r] (19/30)

The satisfaction of the Bussora Agency.

Bussora ending 31st January 1826

Account Presents - Nov ^r 1826.	
The Transport Camp at the Charts request -	
Annual Water Native Drings -	50 "
It is shew'd to the 4 principal Officers of the Bussora Agency that on their visit to the Bussora Agency to their being committed to the duty to accomplish the visit of Peace & amicable relations effected by the mission of the British Agent 1800 "	100 "
Confectionary for them and presents to servants -	50 "
Party presents during the month of December 1826	
Presents to 3 of the Mussulmans Officers in dress on their visit from their Master on Christmas day -	150 "
Officers and men of a Detachment of Arab Guards sent by the Governor to reinforce the Bussora Guard -	200 "
	2250 "
Car ^d for a	2250 "

With reference to a Government letter to this office dated 26th Sept 1827 for a copy of one which was transmitted to you in the same date, it appears that you have afforded an explanation for the excess in the amount debited on account of presents for this quarter, but which was not deemed sufficient by the Honble Board, it therefore remains for you to afford such further explanation for each of these charges as you may think best in their amount must remain to your personal debt until the instructions of Government be received to the contrary.

17

} For all charges of this nature the Commissioners
} receipt should be forwarded. —

76 3 68

The name of the same — 200 " "
The amount of the Officers Batta on a — 100 " "
The amount of the Batta of the Bussora Agency — 40 " "
The amount of the Batta of the Bussora Agency — 40 " "

Account Current Bombay

Amount paid to Lieut. Batta for the use of the Bussora
Company's Ship necessary as per Batta on 20

Quarter ending 31st April 1827

Account Presents

February 1827

24 persons attending a Horse & Gun which sent by
21. H. the Batta to the Agent as a mark of the
recognition of the Agents services in joining
the measures of the League against Bussora
during the late siege, vizt

5 cheques on Bussora to the Lieutenants & Superior
Officers attending the Public entry of the Horse
and Gun which at — 20 Rs 200.

11 Rs per cor — 20 — 200.

Money to the Assistant Troops

4 Musicians — 57

In money to his own request
to 24 Rs Paid Cheques the — 1500

His own request — 150

The Paid Cheques in lieu of
maintenances for 20 days — 300

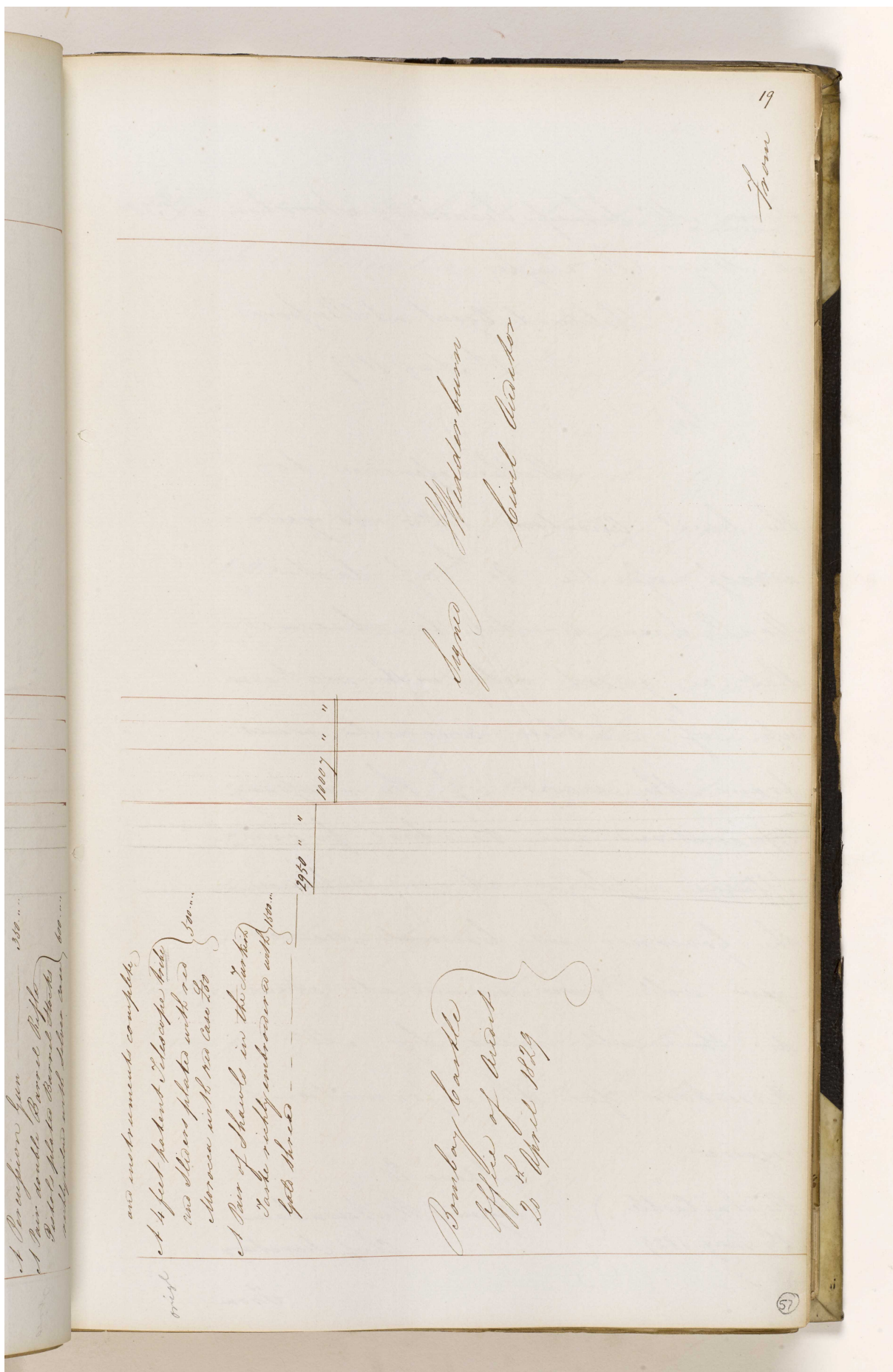
10 Rs per day

Petty presents the month — 50 — 2457 " "

March 1827

To the most confident Officer of the Batta
which by law who has always been a friend
to our interests at Bussora on his departure
from Bussora when he has come on
the officers of the Batta for maintaining
our establishment and interests at
Bussora

(58)



From Mr Chief Secretary Newnham N^o 38
To Major R Taylor.

Political Agent at Bussora
(1st May 1829)

Sir,

With reference to
the Civil Auditor's letter to your
address of the 20th of last
Month, I am directed to observe,
that as great delay in the making
up of Public Accounts, arises
from the want of the necessary
explanations and vouchers from
Officers employed at a distance,
the Governor in Council desires,
you will give immediate attention
to the call made by Mr
Medderburn for the information he
requires. -

Bombay Castle
1st May 1829

I have &c
Signed/ W Newnham
Chief Secretary

From

A 38

A^o 39 From Mr Chief Secretary Newham
To J Messerburn Esq

Civil Director

(1st May 1829)

Sir,

I am directed to
acknowledge the receipt of your
letter dated the 20th Instant with
its accompaniments, representing the
very unsatisfactory state in which
the Bussora accounts have been
rendered, and to transmit to you
copy of my communication to
the Political Agent of this date
on the subject -

Bombay Castle

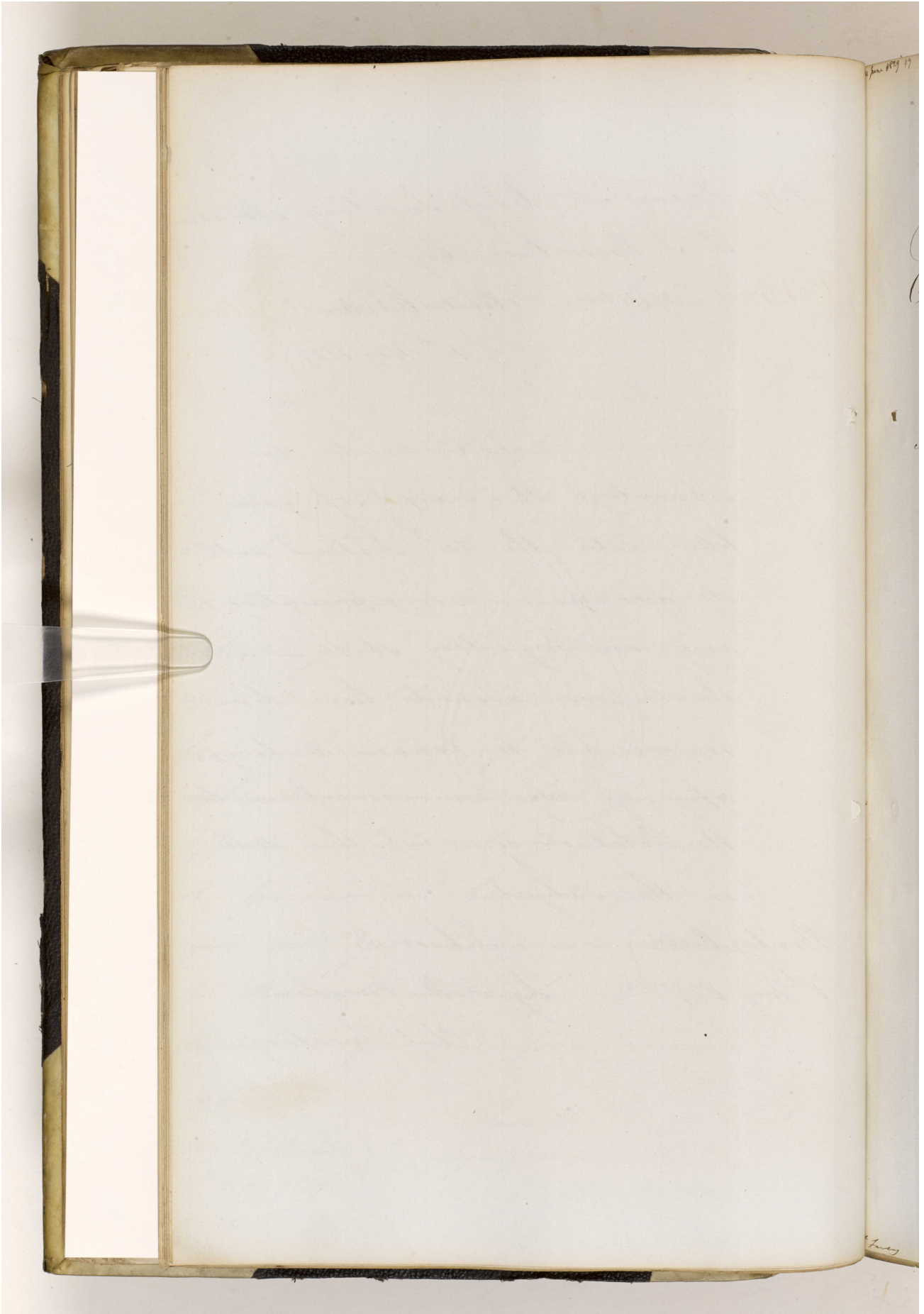
1st May 1829

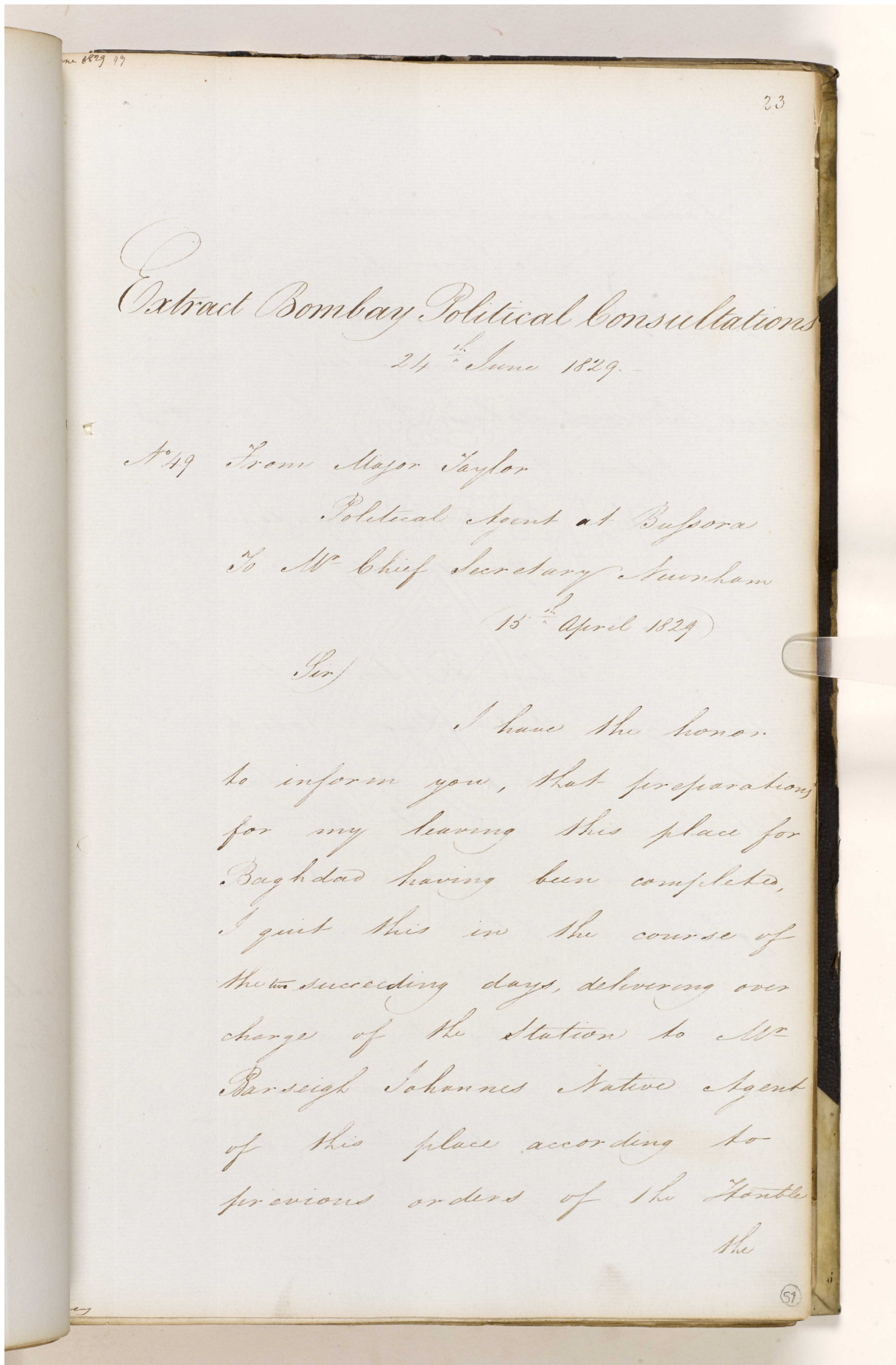
I have &c

Signed W Newham

Chief Secretary

'Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.' [58v] (26/30)





The Governor in Council.-
Bussora } I have the
20th April 1829 } Signed R. Taylor
Political Agent
From Barseigh Johannef }
Native Agent at Bussora }
To Mr Chief Secretary Newham
(7th May 1829)

Sir,
I have the honor to
inform you that Major Robert
Taylor the Political Agent has
left Bussora on the 20th
April last, to proceed to
Baghdad, and placed me in
the charge of the Residency-

I beg to enclose
a Packet of letters addressed
to you, which the Political
Agent has left with me;

and

'Postponement of the Abolition of the Bussora Agency.' [60r] (29/30)

