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'Slave Trade'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2033/92119
Date(s)	21 Sep 1842-28 Dec 1843 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (27 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, consultations, minutes, and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai]. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Government of India; the East India Company Court of Directors. It is the first in a series of five items concerning the trade in enslaved people (the others are IOR/F/4/2033/92120, IOR/F/4/2034/92121, 92122, and 92123).

The item concerns:

- The liabilities of British subjects at Muscat concerning enslaved people
- The rescue of an Indian girl who was sold at Muscat by the sister of the Imam of Muscat [Sayyid Sa'id bin Sultan Al Bu Sa'id]
- The importation of six enslaved people from Zanzibar into Mandavee [Mandvi]
- The prevalence of the trade in enslaved people in Portuguese settlements in India
- The punishment of those convicted of importing enslaved people into Aden
- The rescue of Indian children kidnapped and sold at Muscat

- Possible penalties for boats carrying enslaved people in the Red Sea or Persian Gulf
- The agreement between the Imam of Muscat and the French at Bourbon [Réunion] about importing free labourers into Bourbon.

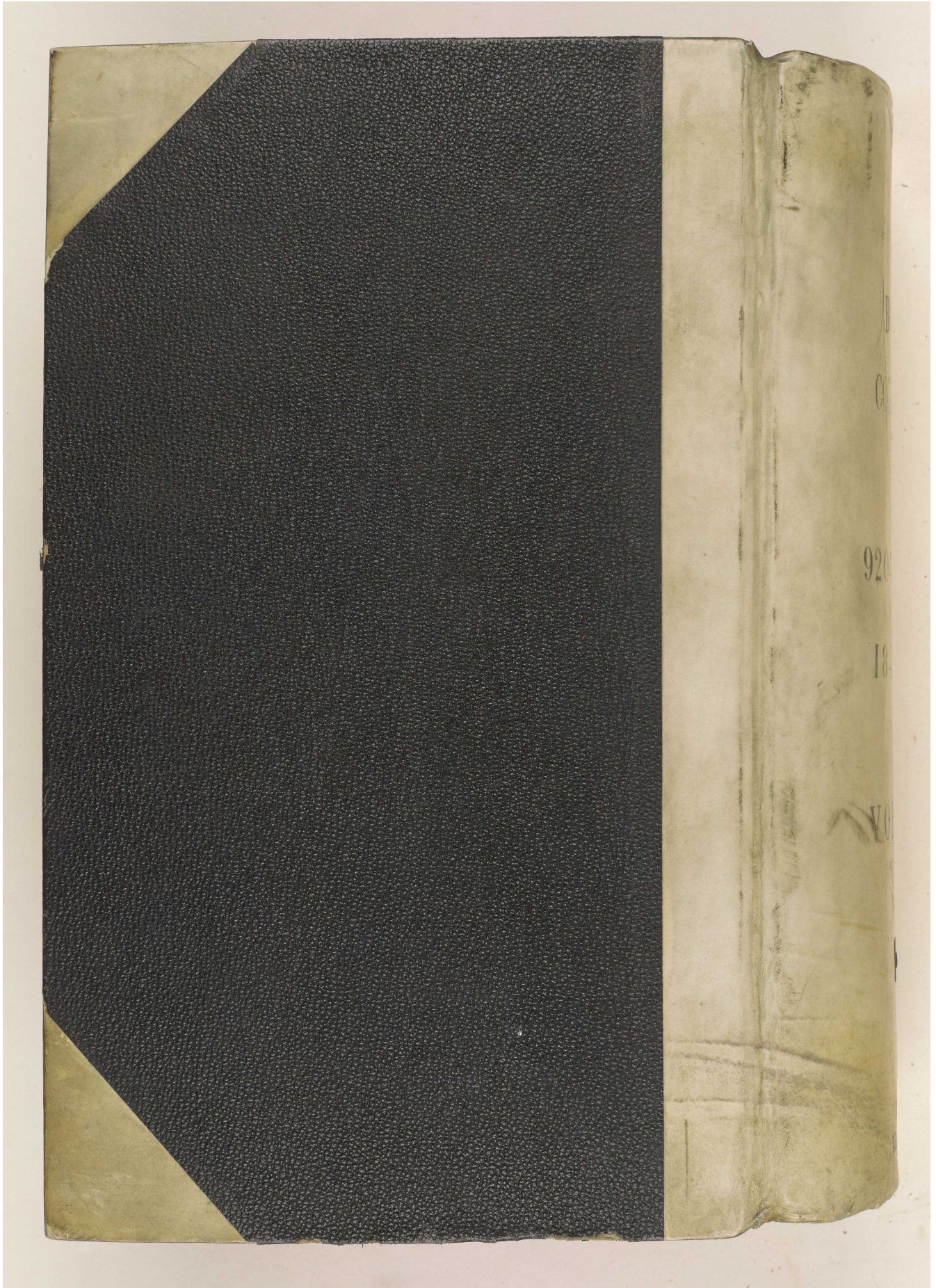
The enclosures to the letters in this item are contained in the subsequent items.

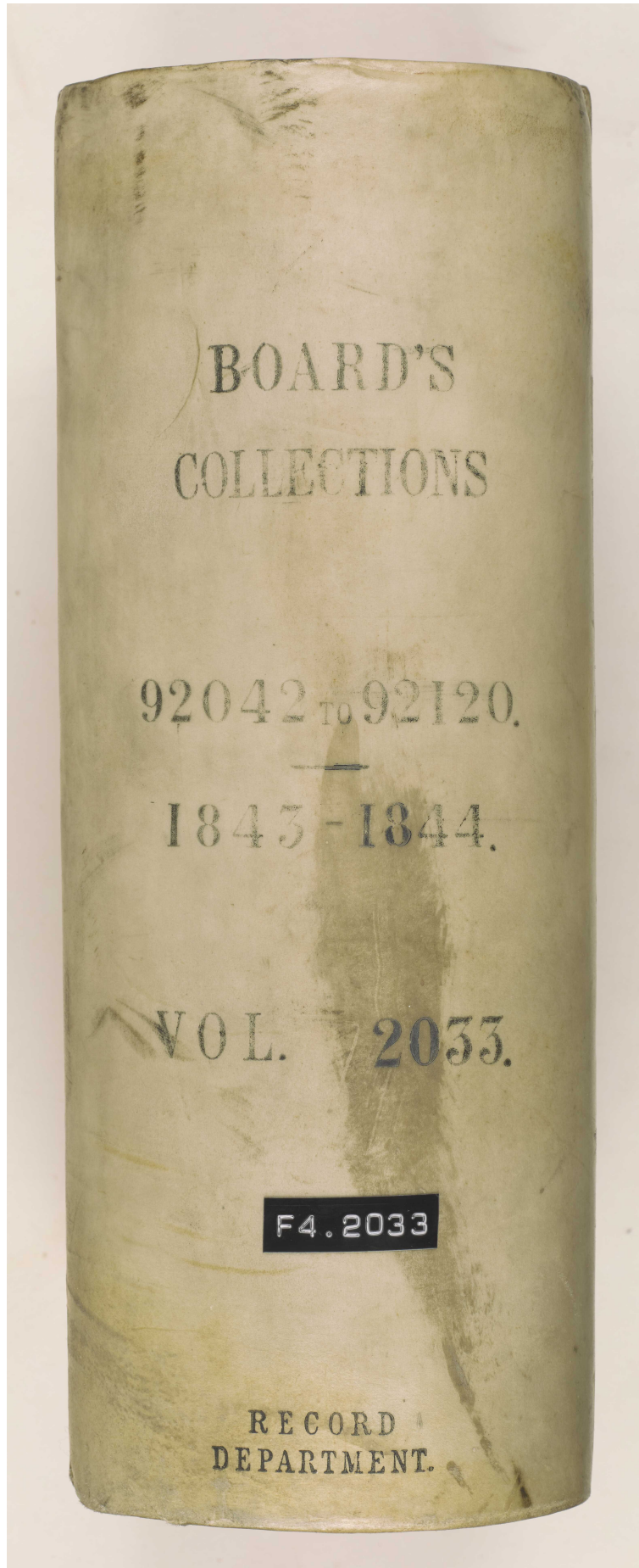
The item includes a contents page and the title page of the item contains the following references: 'Draft 253, P.C. [Previous Communication] 4278, [Season 18]44', 'Vol: 1', and 'Examiner's Office'.

'Slave Trade' [FRONT] (1/60)



'Slave Trade' [BACK] (2/60)





'Slave Trade' [EDGE] (4/60)

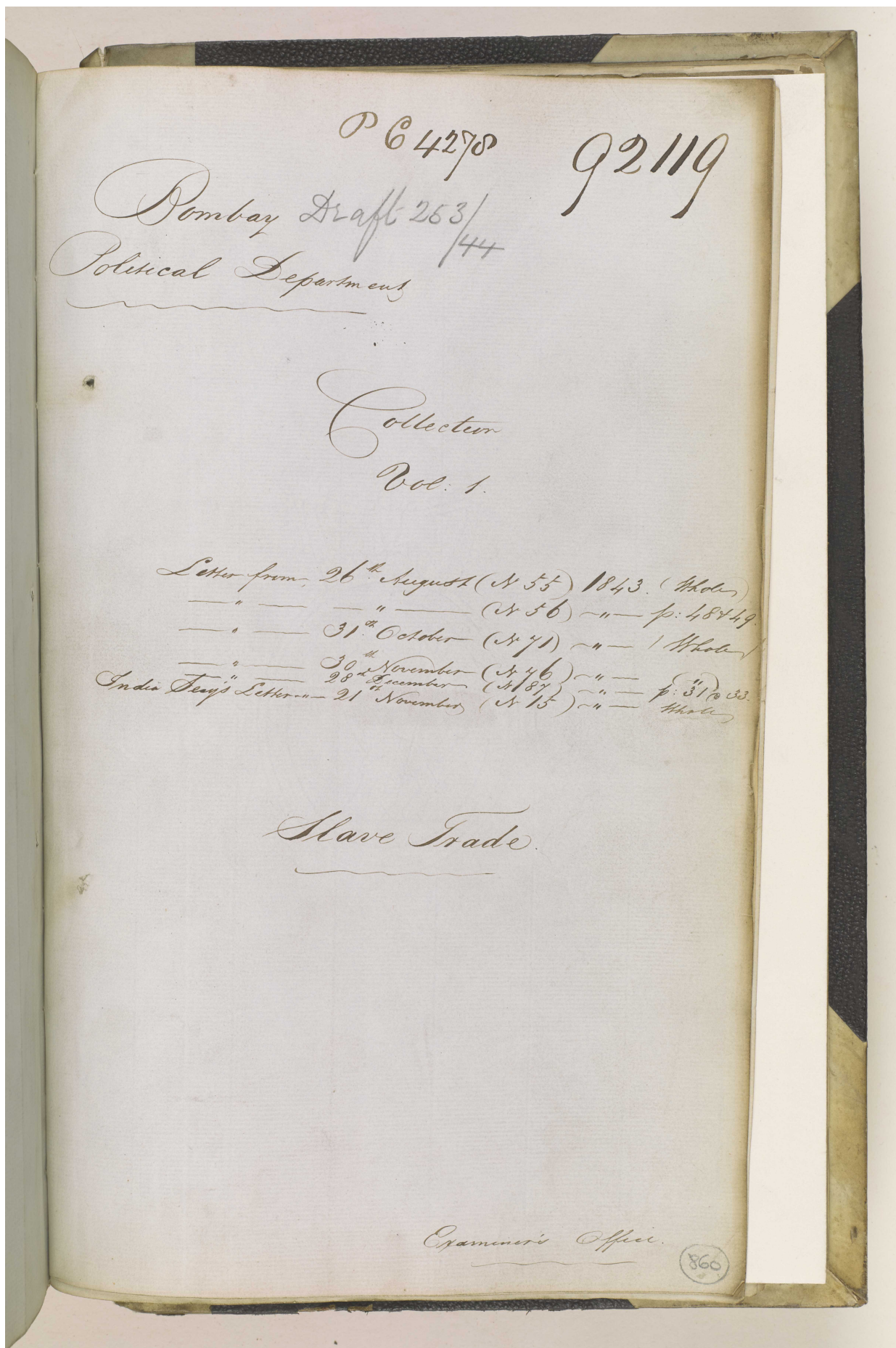


'Slave Trade' [HEAD] (5/60)

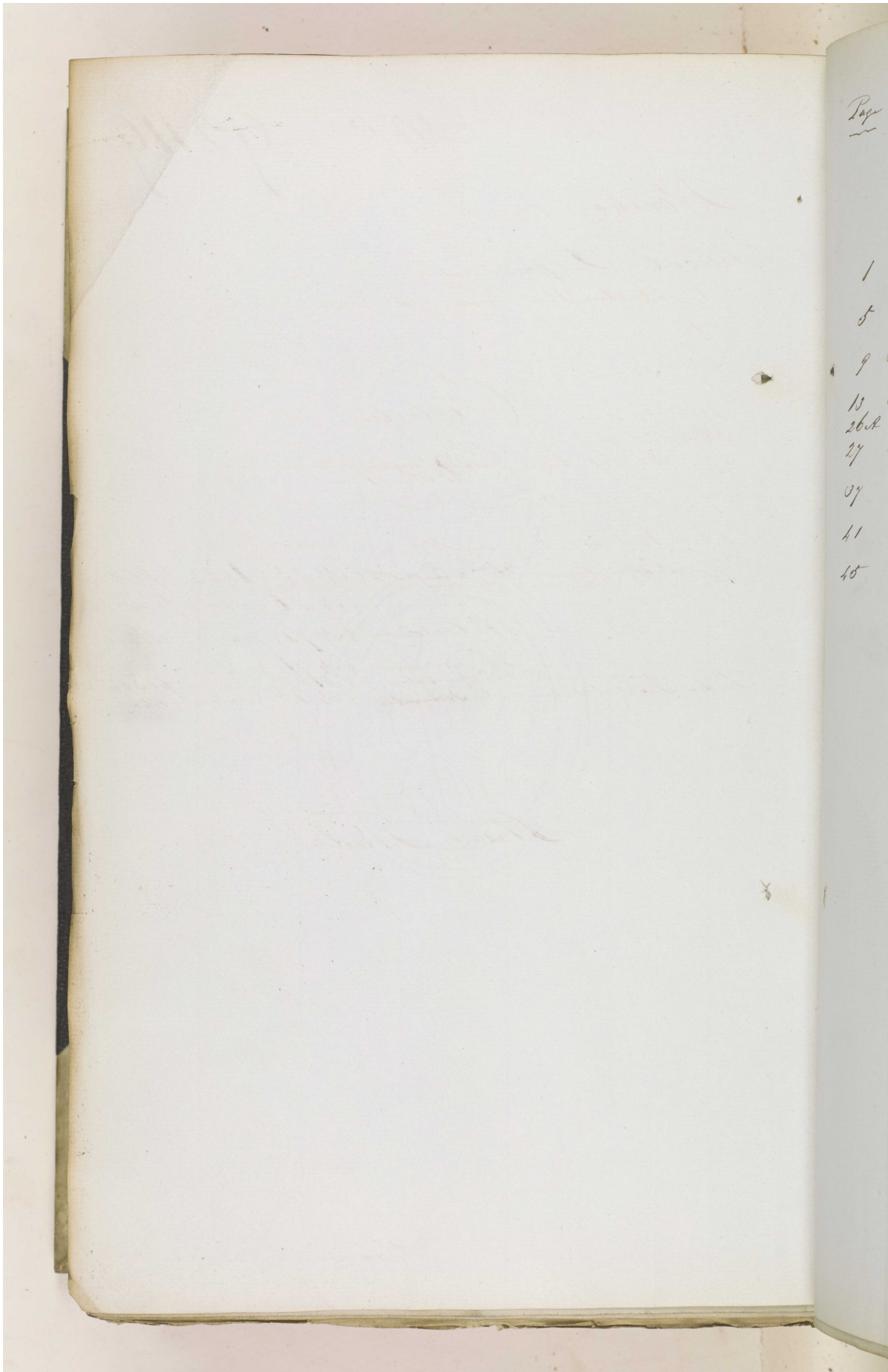


'Slave Trade' [TAIL] (6/60)



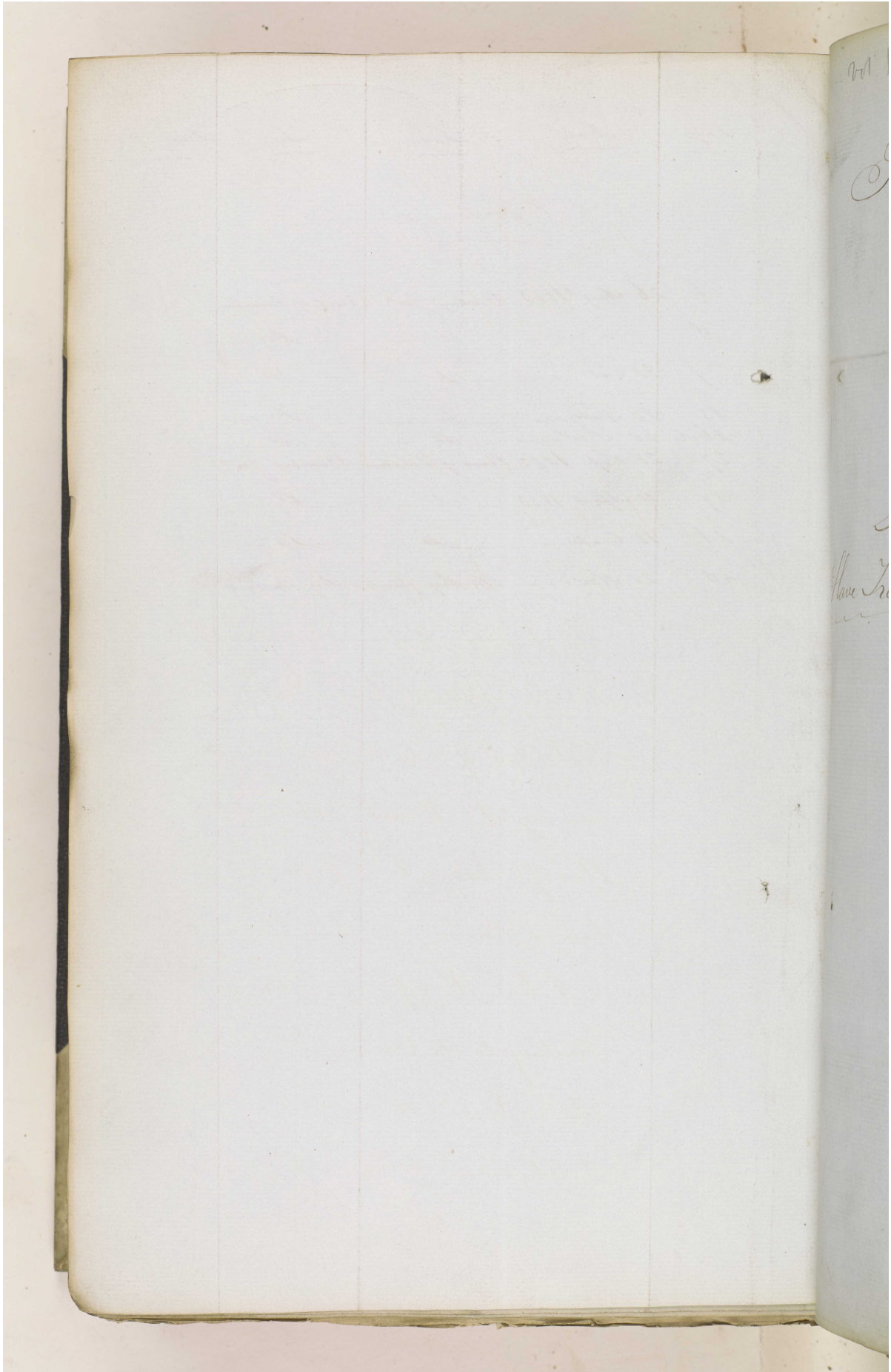


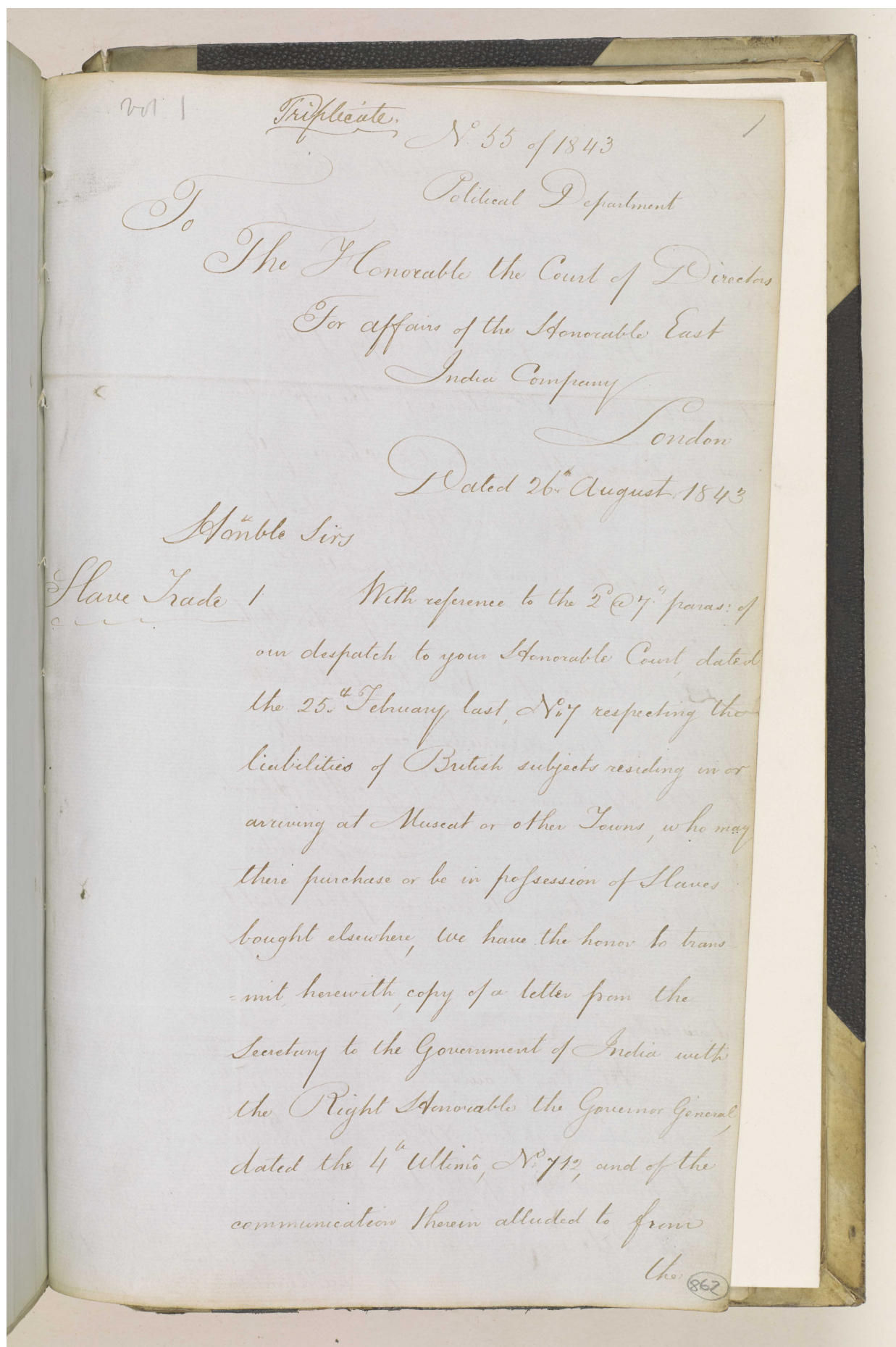
'Slave Trade' [860v] (8/60)



<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date of Cont</u>
<u>Contents.</u>				
1	26 Aug 1843	Bombay Govt	Court of Directors.	
5	-----	Do	-----	Do
9	31 Oct	-----	Do	-----
13	30 Nov	-----	Do	-----
26 & 28	Dec	-----	Do	-----
27	21 Sep: 1842	Court of Directors	Bombay Govt.	
37	11 April 1843	-----	Do	-----
41	18 Oct	-----	Do	-----
45	21 Nov	Offy Secy	Genl Secy Melville	

'Slave Trade' [861v] (10/60)





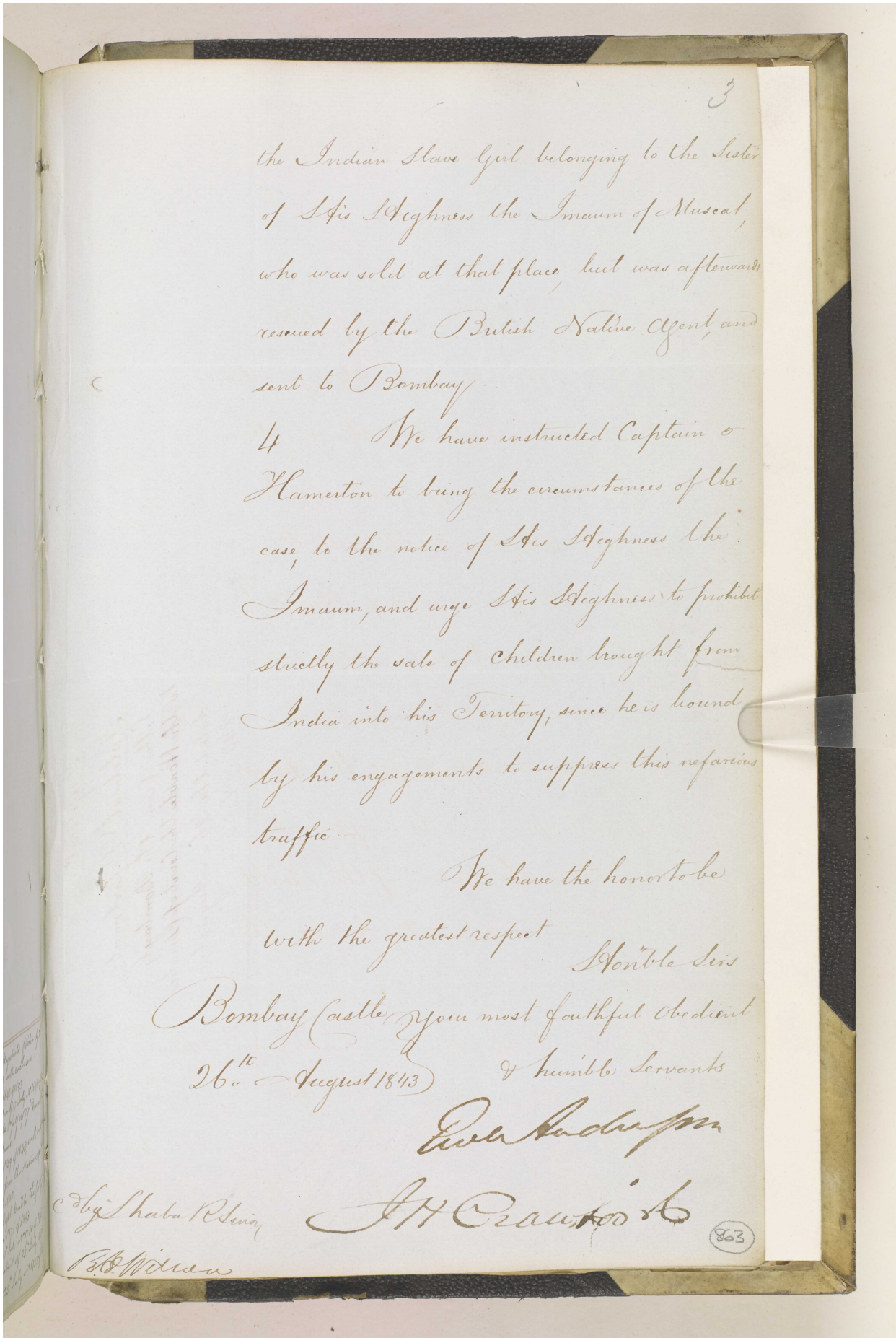
the Advocate General at Calcutta, containing
his opinion on the subject, concurring in by His
Lordship

2 We have forwarded a copy of the
above letter and of its enclosure for the information
and guidance of the Assistant in Charge of the
Residency in the Persian Gulf, and also to
Her Majesty's Consul and Honorable Com-
pany's Agent in the Dominions of His High-
ness the Imam of Muscat, and the latter
Officer has been instructed to communicate
to His Highness, such part of Mr. Advocate
General Lyall's opinion as he may consider
expedient as being the decision of the Right
Honorable the Governor General of India, on the
above subject

3 Adverting to our letter &
dated the 3rd March last N^o 17, we
beg to transmit copies of the documents
noted in the margin, regarding
the

* From the Senior Magistrate of Police of 26th
June N^o 274 of 1843 with enclosures -
To do of 17th July N^o 1643 of 1843
To the Post at Guadior of 17th July N^o 1644 of 1843
From the Off^r of the Post in the Bay of of 27th March N^o.
141 of 1843, with enclosure
From do of 5th April N^o 159 of 1843, with enclosure
Translation of a letter from the Native Agent at
Muscat of 17th June 1843.
To the do with the Right Hon^{ble} the Gov^l Gen^l.
India of 25th July N^o 176 of 1843
To Captⁿ Hamerton of 25th July N^o 1730 of 1843.
To the Post at Hyderabad of 25th July N^o 1731
of 1843.
To the Advocate Gen^l. of 25th July N^o 1733 of 1843

Shahab
Wolcott



3
the Indian Slave Girl belonging to the Sister
of His Highness the Imam of Muscat,
who was sold at that place, but was afterwards
rescued by the British Native Agent, and
sent to Bombay.

4 We have instructed Captain
Hamerton to bring the circumstances of the
case, to the notice of His Highness the
Imam, and urge His Highness to prohibit
strictly the sale of Children brought from
India into his Territory, since he is bound
by his engagements to suppress this nefarious
traffic.

We have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
Your humble Servants

Bombay Castle your most faithful obedient

26th August 1843

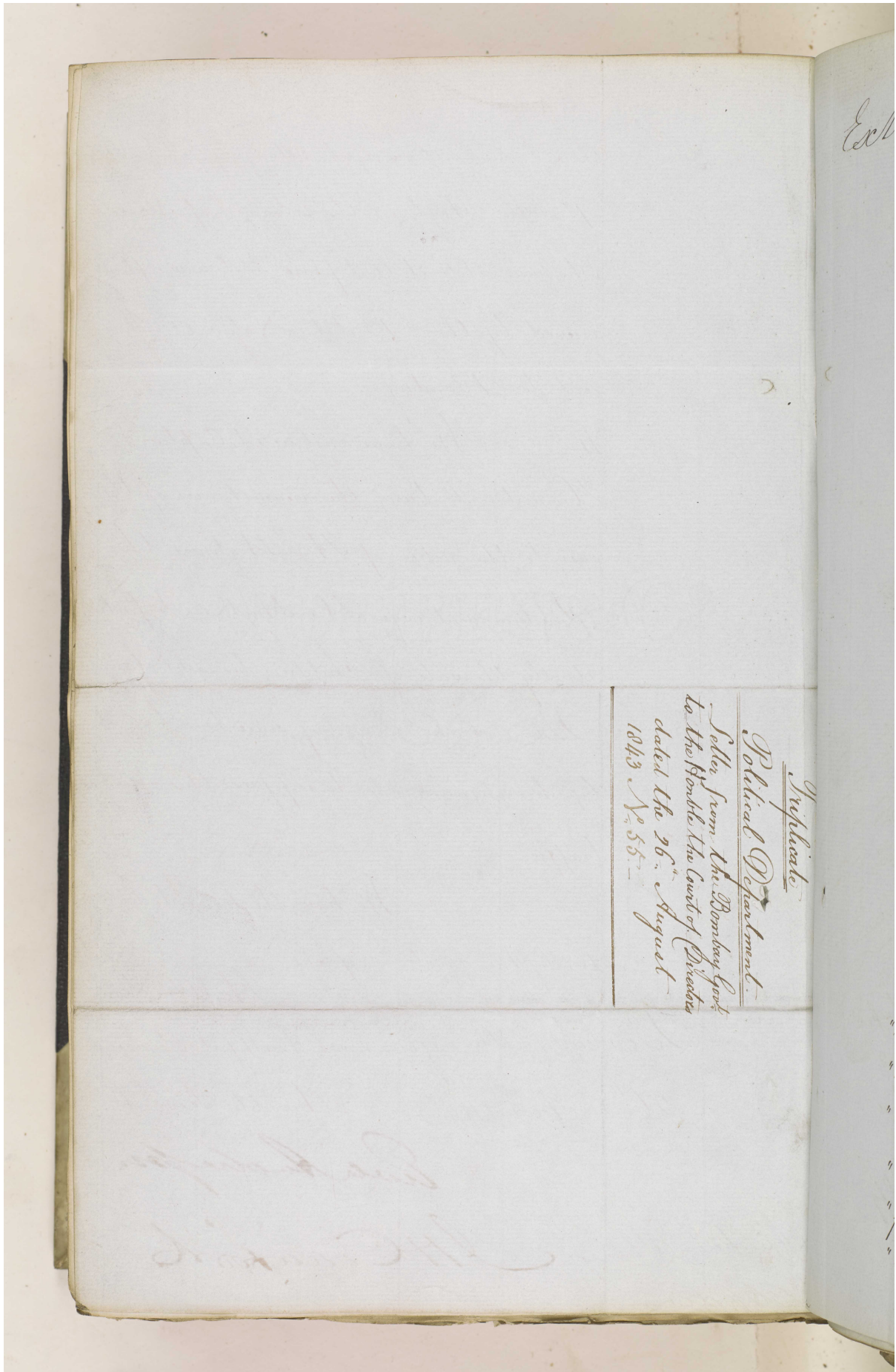
J. Crauford

J. Crauford

863

By Shaba P. S. ...
P. S. ...

'Slave Trade' [863v] (14/60)



5

Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 26th August (N^o. 56) 1843

Para: 48

We beg to report that on an examination of the Political weekly Diary submitted by the Political Agent in Cutch for the week ending the 18th June last, we found the following entry relative to a conversation which had taken place on the 13th of the same month between the Political Agent and His Highness the Rao on the subject of the importation from Zanzibar to Mandavee, during the past season of six slaves. His Highness in a private conversation informed me that he had just received a report that during the past season 6 slaves had been imported into Mandavee under the following pretexts. Five of them had long been the property of certain Merchants

(864)

"Merchants of Mandace who
"had shops at Zanzibar and
"these Slaves had been placed
"there to take care of their Shops.
"One Slave was a present to an
"individual who was without heirs
"or children. His Highness desired
"my opinion on the subject."
"I pointed out to
"His Highness that if the impor-
"tation of Slaves were once admitted
"on any such pretexts means
"would be found to render the
"prohibition nugatory. That it was
"highly impolitic in my opinion
"even to permit slaves who had
"been removed from Mandace
"to their own Country to be re-
"imported as it would open the
"door to abuses though His Highness
"I added expressed himself assured
"of the truth of the information
"he had given me, he would,
"I conceived act rightly and gratify
"the British Government if he
"peremptorily

"peremptorily ordered them to be
 "taken charge of in the mean
 "while and returned to their own
 "Country immediately after the
 "Monsoon and if he distinctly
 "intimated that on no pretext
 "whatsoever were Slaves allowed to
 "be landed in Cutch. His Highness
 "cheerfully consented to act as I
 "requested and the Slaves in
 "question will be sent back to
 "Zanzibar at the close of the
 "Monsoon."

Para 49 We have informed
 Mr. Lumsden with reference to this
 entry that he ought to have
 brought this subject to the
 special notice of Government
 in the form of a separate report.
 We have at the same time
 directed Mr. Lumsden to rectify
 this omission and in submitting
 his report upon this subject
 to include every particular
 within his knowledge connected
 with

865

with the transaction alluded
to any further proceedings we
may adopt on the receipt of
Mr. Lumsdens report will hereafter
be reported to your Honorable
Court.

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N^o 71. of 1843.

Political Department

To.

The Hon^{ble} the Court of Directors,
For affairs of the Hon^{ble} East,
India Company.

London

Dated the 31st October 1843.

Hon^{ble} Pers,

Aden.

1. Our last letter to your Hon^{ble} Three cases of Slave Court, relative to the Slave trade, is dated dealing detected at. the 26th August last, N^o 55, we now beg

to transmit, copies of three despatches from Captain Haines, Political Agent at Aden, dated the 26th ultimo, N^{os} 81, 82 and 83, reporting his proceedings in three cases of Slave dealing at that place.

2. In the first of these cases, the seller of the Slave boy was absent from Aden when Slavery was publicly prohibited. we have therefore as a special case, committed the punishment of one year's imprisonment with hard labor, proposed by Captain Haines, to imprisonment for a period

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period of six months with hard labor, but directed that the grounds of this lenient sentence be made public at Aden.

3. We have further directed that on the return to Aden from Calcutta, of Ali Abdulla the purchaser of the above mentioned Slave boy, he should be proceeded against, and on conviction be suitably punished; copy of Captain Haines letter has however been forwarded to the Government of India, in the hope that as Ali Abdulla is stated to have taken the boy to Bengal, he may be brought to justice at Calcutta.

4. In his letter, No. 82, Captain Haines reports that he has released three boys from slavery, their owner having fled inland immediately on the commencement of the investigation of the case of the Slave boy, alluded to in the preceding paras: we have approved of Captain Haines' proceedings on this occasion.

5. In his letter, No. 83, Captain
Haines

Haines reports the result of his enquiry into the conduct of Abdoola Ali, the Nagoda of the Bugla called "Aden" who was detected introducing Slaves into that Port. As this Individual is stated to be an old man of the age of 70 or 75 years, and as Captain Haines fears that the punishment of imprisonment, if inflicted on him would cause his death, we have not deemed it expedient at this early stage of our proceedings to deal severely with him, but have directed that a heavy fine be imposed on him, and that he be informed that if he should again be found engaged in the traffic of Slaves, he will not be so leniently dealt with.

6. We have at the same time informed Captain Haines, that should Abdoola Ali not have any interest in the Bugla "Aden", the Owners of that vessel should be clearly given to understand, that if any Slaves are hereafter found on board of her, she will be confiscated; we have further directed the issue of a public notice (867)

notice, intimating that for the future, any boats or vessels resorting to Aden with Slaves on board, will be seized and confiscated, and that all persons aiding or abetting in the importation of Slaves will, in addition to the forfeiture of the boat or vessel in which they are brought, be severely punished.

7. We have further directed that Abdee. Rhee and Sallem Ornee - ran, the two other individuals convicted of having been concerned in introducing Slaves into Aden, be each imprisoned with hard labor for a period of one year.

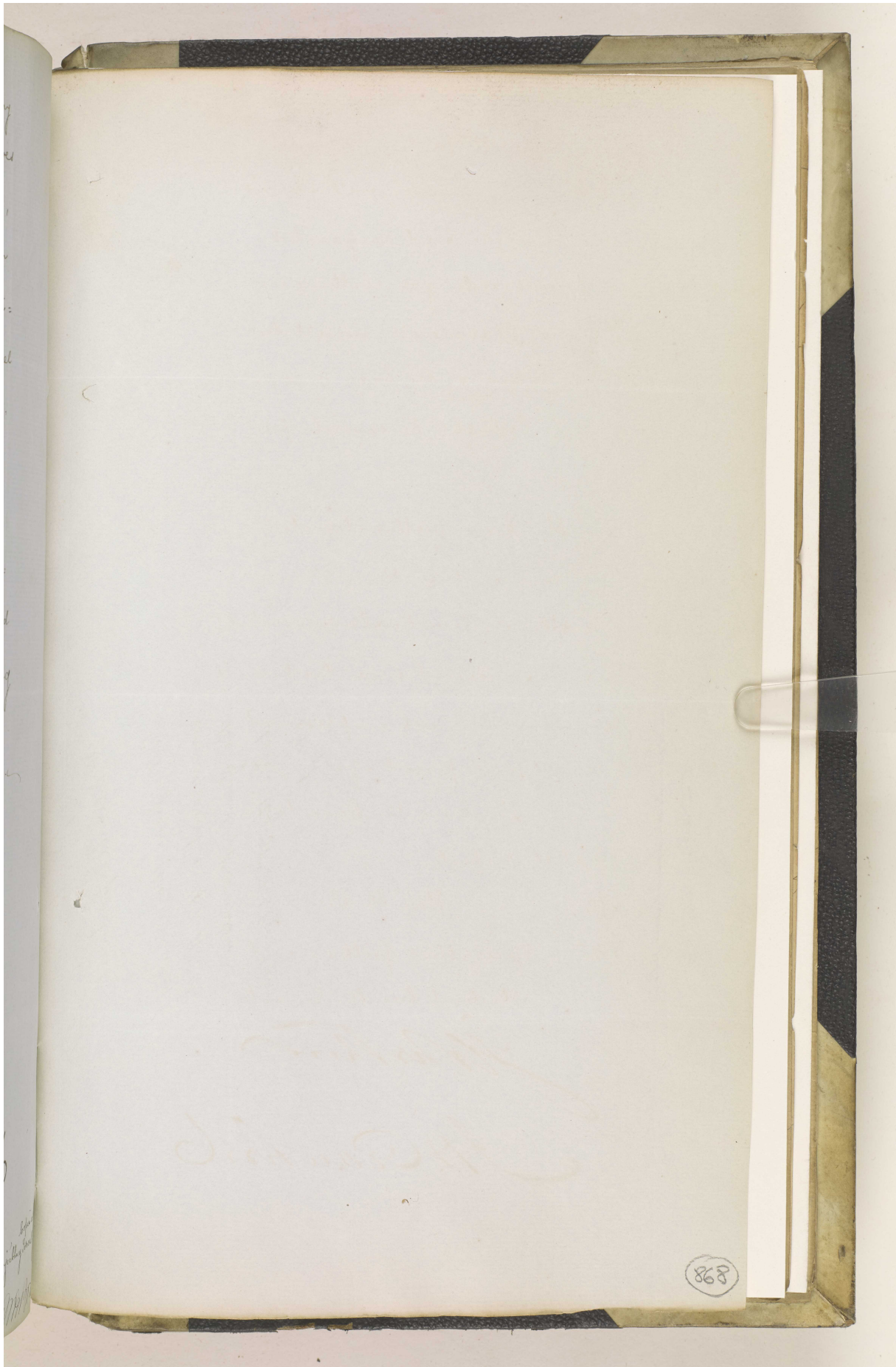
We have the honor to be with the greatest respect

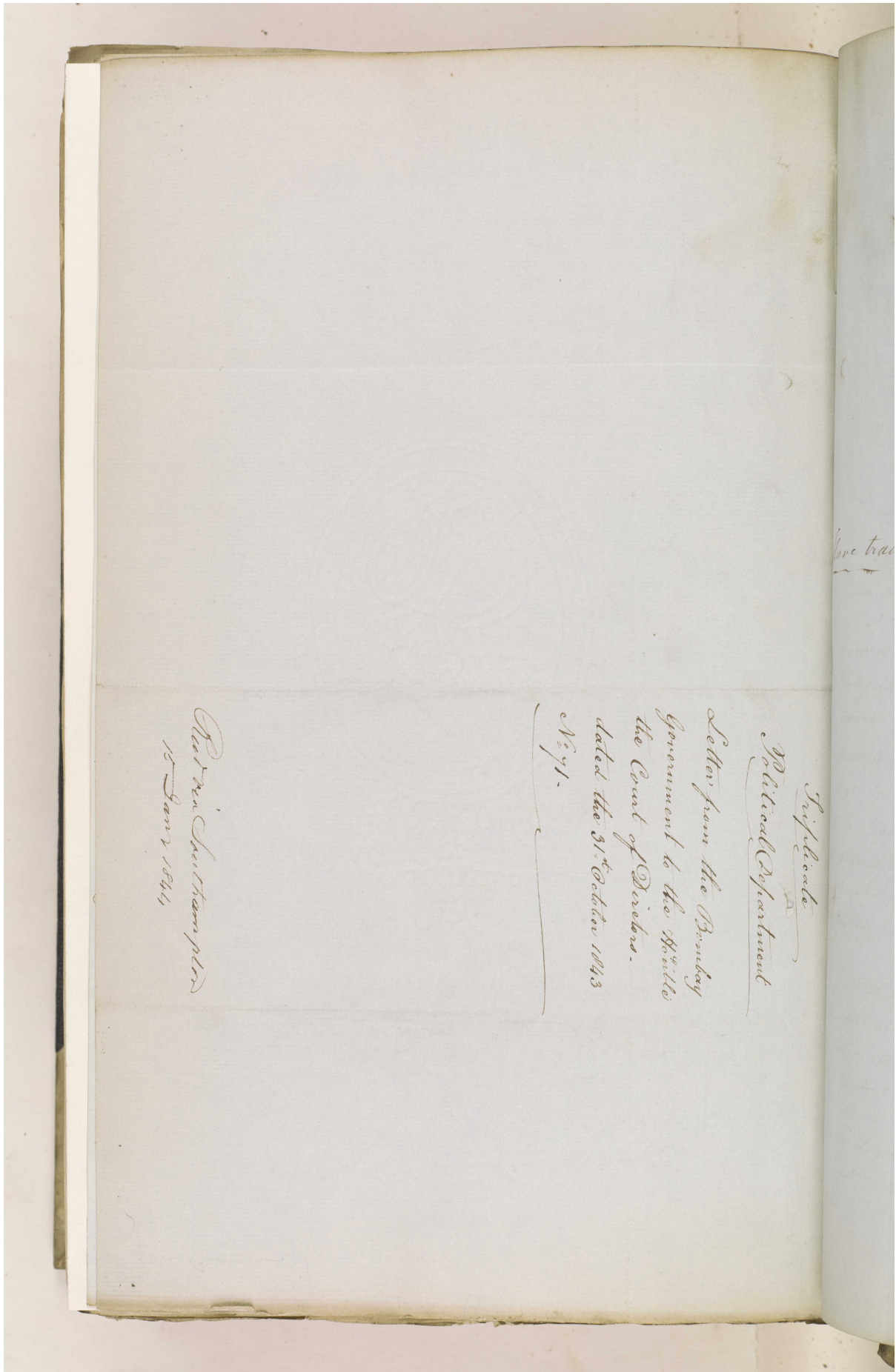
Bombay Castle } Hon^{ble} Gens.
31th October 1843 } Your Most faithful and
Obedient humble Servants

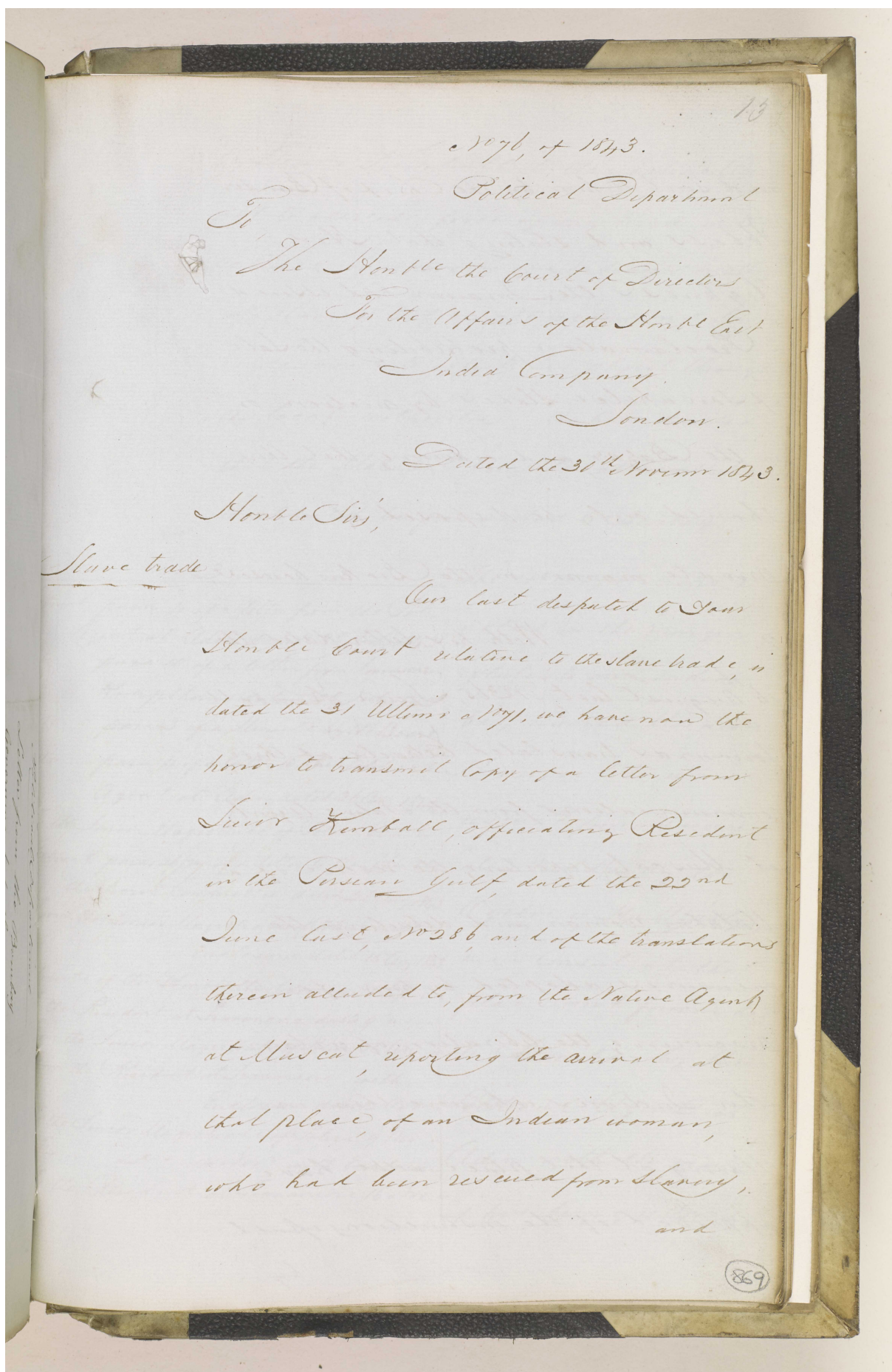
J. W. P. [Signature]
A. H. [Signature]

copied by
Sheerjeebhoy Sorabjee
[Signature]

'Slave Trade' [868r] (23/60)







and sent to him by the Chief of Border
Abbas, and stating that His
Highness the Imam had issued
a Proclamation, prohibiting the Sale
of Sawahlee Slaves by auction or
in the Bazar, and ordering that they
should only be disposed of in a
private manner in the Brothers houses.

2. With his letter dated the
16th August last, 1835, Sir J. Kimball
forwards translated Extracts of three
communications from the native Agent
at Muscat, reporting the rescue of a
Malabar woman and detailing the
measures adopted by him for
procuring the liberation of certain
other Indians who were then in
Slavery at that place & he has
approved of the instructions issued
by

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by Sir Kenneth to the Native Agent,
not to exercise force of any kind in the
release or recovery of Indians or others
in Slavery, but on all occasions to
endeavour to effect his object through
the local authorities - We have decided
that the Malabar female above alluded
to should be forwarded to Bombay.

3

<p>Actual para 4 of a letter from the Pol Agent at Aden dated 28 July 1843</p> <p>do para 10 of a letter from Commr Kempthorne dated 28 July 1843</p> <p>do para 3 of a Minute by the Board</p> <p>do para 4 of a letter to the Political Agent at Aden dated 26 Aug 1843</p> <p>to the Senior Magistrate of Police 26 Aug "</p> <p>Actual para 26/27 of a letter to the Honble the Secret Committee dated 26 Aug 1843</p> <p>from the Senior Magistrate of Police with Enclosure dated 15 Aug 1843</p> <p>Minute of the Honble the Governor 1 Sep "</p> <p>to the Resident at Travancore dated 9 "</p> <p>from the Senior Magistrate of Police 26 Aug "</p> <p>from the Resident at Travancore with Enclosure dated 12 Oct "</p> <p>to the Senior Magistrate of Police 9 Nov "</p> <p>from do 14 do with Enclosure</p> <p>to the Resident at Travancore 16 do "</p>	<p>The correspondence noted in the margin, relates to an Indian boy named Moedun Stoomer who was rescued from Slavery at Sudda by Mr Agilvie, Sen Magistrate's Vice Consul at that place and forwarded to Bombay by the Political Agent at Aden, with the view of his being restored</p>
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(870)

to his relations. —

4. From the Statement made by this boy before the Senior Magistrate of Police at Bombay, it appears that his Parents resided at Alleppee on the Malabar Coast, and that he was Kidnapped from that place by an Arab, and taken to Sudda. This boy will either be made over to his relations when they are discovered, or be otherwise suitably provided for. —

5. Adverting to the 3rd & 4th paragraphs of our despatch, dated the 26 August last, 1855, we beg to transmit, Enclosed from our subsequent proceedings as noted in the margin, connected with the Indian Slave Girl belonging to the Sister of His Highness the

From the Secretary to the Gov of India dated — 19 Aug 1853
From the Resident at Hyderabad dated — 12 Aug " " Minute by the Board 9 Sep " To the Resident Hyderabad 26 " " To the Magistrate of Poona 26 " " To the Collector of Customs 26 " " To the Secy of Continental Customs 26 " " From the App. Resident in the Persian Gulf — 20 June Minute by the Board with hand date To the App. Res in Persian Gulf 26 Oct From Secy with enclosure 20 Jul

the of Poona
Hussain Khan
Candish
Shelapoor
Rahagham
Samarah
Sind

17
the Maum of the cat, who was sold at that place,
and afterwards released through the intervention
of the British Native Agent there and sent to
Bombay.

6.

We have issued a circular
of Poona to the several Magistrates under this Presidency,
Shimnuggur
Candish mentioned in the Margin, directing them to
Sholapur
Rahagum, exercise the utmost vigilance in detaining
Sunnah
Sunnah) all arabs passing through the Districts
within their respective jurisdictions, and
ascertaining whether they have any
Kidnapped Children in their possession;
We have at the same time directed the
Collector of Customs, the Senior Magistrate
of Police and the Collector of Continental
customs to instruct their Establishments
to exercise similar vigilance in
preventing Children being carried away
by Arabs leaving India through the
Sea Ports under this Presidency.

7.

With his letter dated the

2nd

(871)

2nd August last 1732, Lewis & Kimball
forwards translated Extracts of two letters
from the Native Agent at Muscat together
with translation of a communication
addressed by him to the Governor of
that place, relative to four Indians
said to be in Slavery there; we have
forwarded copies of these documents
to Captain Hamerton, His Majesty's
Consul and Trade Company's
Agent in the Dominions of His Highness
the Imam of Muscat, and directed
that officer to furnish the Imam,
with a copy of the letter addressed by
Lewis & Kimball to the Governor of that
place, with a request that His
Highness will take such notice
as he may consider proper of the
steal which was shewn to Commodore
Lawe in the instance alluded to by
Lewis

19

Sir's Remball.

8. In forwarding with his letter
dated the 19th September last No 415,
translated Extract, of a communication
from the Native Agent at Moseat, &
complaining of the impudently conduct
of the local authorities at that place,
Sir's Remball observes that the
successful operations of the Native
Agent in effecting the liberation of
Slaves, have it is asserted given great
offence to the authorities at Moseat, and
that if the reason assigned be true,
their dislike has recently been displayed
in an overt act of oppression towards
a personal friend of the Agent.

9. Sir's Remball states
that the slaves liberated by the Agent,
are (with the exception of two of the
Somallee tribe) natives of India
and

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and British subjects, and that the
traffic in Africans so lucrative to
the Imam, has hitherto been un-
interrupted on the Western side of
the restrictive line from Cape Del
gado to Pussin -

10 We have forwarded a
Copy of Sir's Kemball's letter and
of its enclosures, together with an
Extract of a subsequent communication,
from the Native Agent, to the address
of our Persian Secretary, dated the
26th Ultimo, complaining of the
opposition on the part of the
Governor of Busent to his rescuing
the four Slaves alluded to in
paragraph of this dispatch,
to Captain Assurton, with
instructions to take a convenient
opportunity

21.

opportunity of bringing their contents to the special
notice of the Imam in the hope that His
Highness will issue strict orders to his
authorities at Muscat, to adhere to the existing
Treaty against the Slave Trade.

11. The Native Agent having in
his letter last alluded to, brought to our notice
the kindness and hospitality shown by
Syed Sawayne the Governor of Muscat and
his officers to the crew of the Merchant Vessel
"Sir James Cockburn" lately wrecked on the
Island of Soonda, an Honorable President
in communicating to Syed Sawayne the
thanks of this Government for his friendly
assistance, availed himself of the opportunity
of expressing his regret at the frequent instances
of Slave dealing which have lately been
brought to notice in violation of the existing
Treaty with His Highness the Imam,
as well as the confident hope of Government
that that Treaty will be carefully observed
for the future - a copy of this letter has
been

873

been forwarded to Captain Hamerton for
his information -

12. In his letter noted in the
margin, the Native Agent at Muscat, ^{423 Sep 1843}
^{24 Oct "}
^{27 " "}
reports the liberation of four Slave Children
who were made over by him to the Master
of the Honorable Company's Schooner
"Emily" for the purpose of being conveyed
to Bombay, one of these Children we
regret to state died on the passage,
and the remaining three were on their
arrival here, placed under the charge
of the Senior Magistrate of Police and
will be eventually restored to their parents
or otherwise provided for.

13. With reference to the 1st
2nd paragraphs of our Despatch to
your Honorable Court dated the
26th

23

26th August last 1855, respecting the conduct of
of British Subjects residing in or arriving at
Muscot or other Towns, who may have purchased
or be in possession of Slaves bought elsewhere;
we have the honor to transmit copy of a letter
from our Advocate General, submitting his
opinion on the subject.

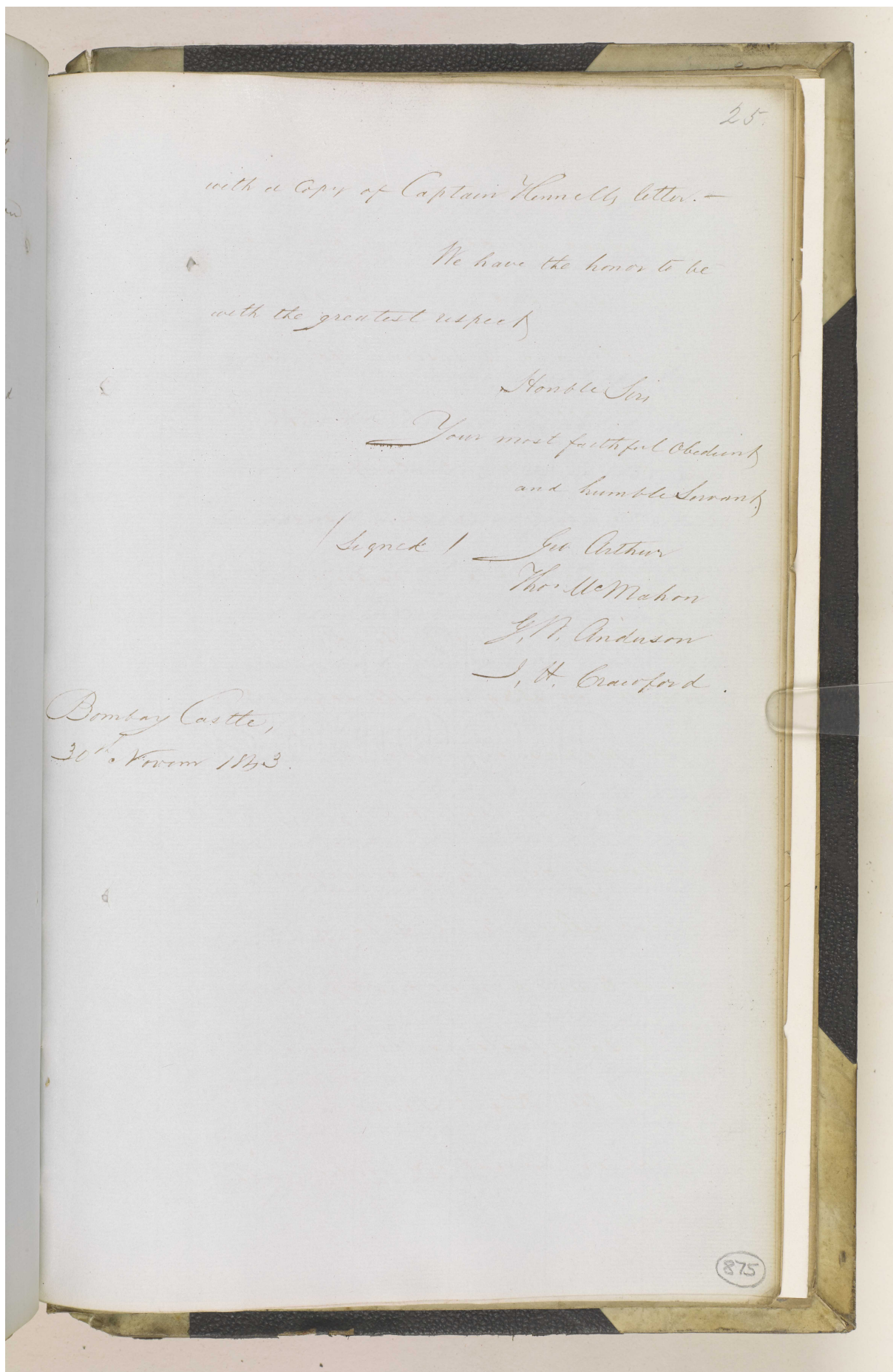
14. With reference to the 12th paragraph
of our letter to the address of the Honorable
the Secret Committee, dated the 30 March 1842,
of 1842, and to your Honorable Courts
despatch, dated the 21st September following,
at 15, relative to the traffic in smaller
Slaves carried on by the Joasmee in
the Persian Gulf, we beg to state that
on the 21st ultimo, we called upon Captain
Hornell who was then at the Presidency
to submit for the consideration of Govt
any remarks which he might have to
offer with reference to the sentiments
contained

(874)

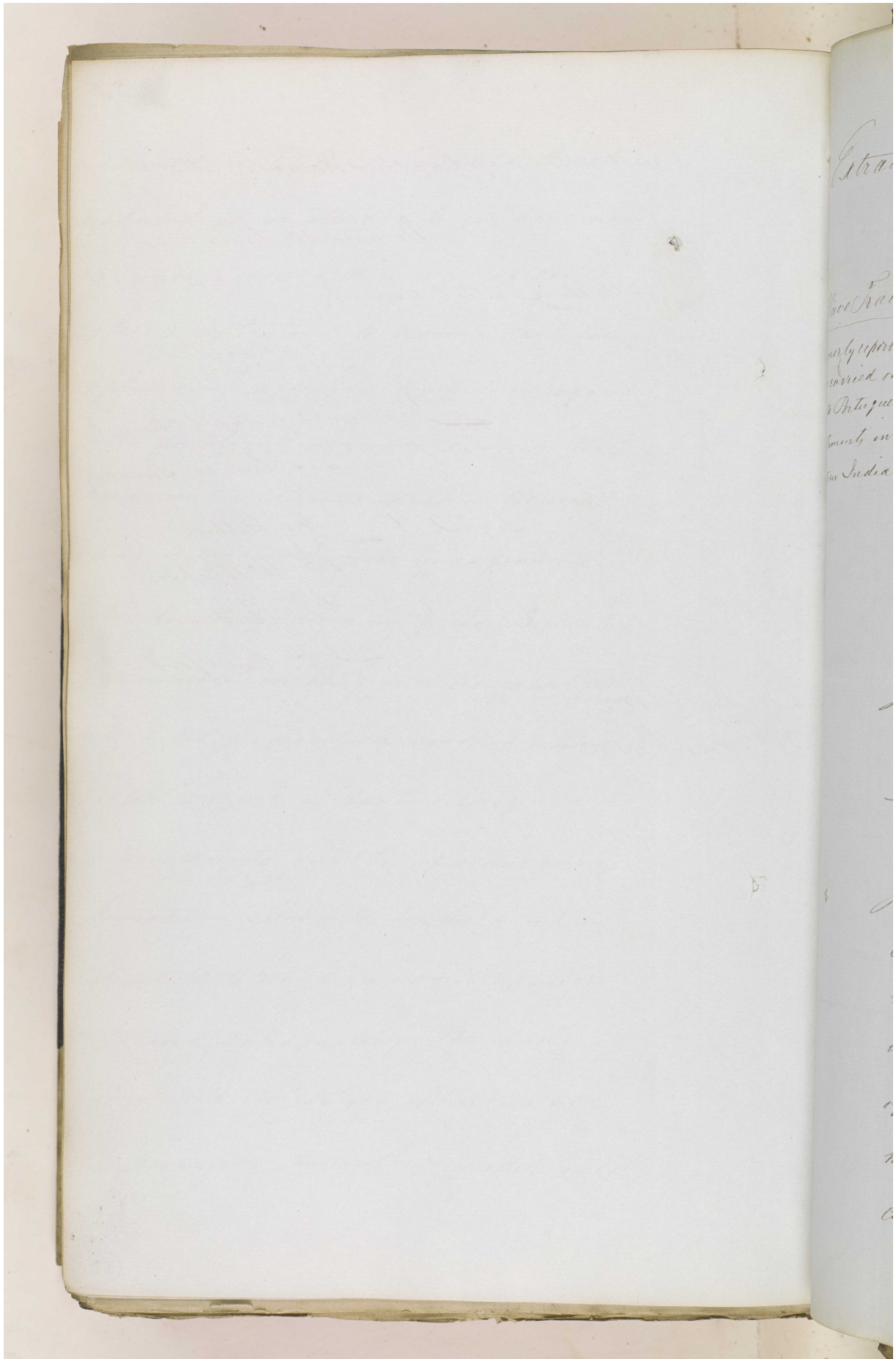
contained in Your Honorable Courts
 despatch above alluded to; we have now
 the honor to forward a copy of that
 Officers reply, and to observe that the
 explanation afforded by him in regard
 to the penalty to be imposed upon the
 Chiefs in the Persian Gulf in the event
 of an infraction of the engagements
 entered into by them with the British
 Government in 1839, and the extent to
 which the proposition made by him
 for the seizure of boats belonging to
 Individuals guilty of conveying
 Somatter Slaves to the Gulf was
 intended to reach, is in our opinion
 clear and satisfactory. We have
 furnished the Right Honorable
 the Governor General of India with

a

Permy C
 W. P. P. P.



'Slave Trade' [875v] (38/60)



26 A

Extract Bombay Political Letter

Dated 25th Decem^r 1841, 1843.

Slave Trade

Formerly reported 31.

to be carried on
in the Portuguese

Settlements in
Western India.

On the receipt of Your
Honorable Courts despatch dated
the 17th November 1841 of 1841, we
forwarded an extract para 25, relating
to the Slave Trade, alleged to be carried
on at the Portuguese Settlements of
Demaun and Diu to the Agent for the
Governor at Surat, and the Political
Agent in Kattywar -

32.

We have now the honor to
submit copy of a letter dated the 1st
June 1842, from Captain Jacob, then
officer in charge, Political Agent at Rajate,
reporting his visit to Diu and an
interview he had had with the Governor
of that Settlement, who had assured
him that the importation of Slaves at
that place had ceased, the Political
Agent,

(876)

'Slave Trade' [876v] (40/60)

Agent further reports that this information
had been corroborated by the testimony
of other parties residing at Dew:-

33. As the Agent to the
Governor has not replied to our
communication on this subject we
have called upon that officer to report
whether he has obtained any information
respecting the Slave trade formerly
reported to be carried on in the Portuguese
settlements of Western India, and have
at the same time instructed him to endeavor
to check the traffic, should there be
reason to believe that it still exists.-

Slave

Politics

27

Political Department
21 September / 1842.

Our Governor in Council at
Bombay

Slavery and the Slave Trade

1. The undermentioned letters
and paragraphs relate to Slavery
and the Slave Trade

Political Letters from Bombay dated

18 June / 1841	No 37
28 August / 1841	No 50
11	paras 129 to 132
28 August / 1841	No 53
29 September / 1841	No 62
	paras 57, 76, 143, 144 & 163
27 November / 1841	No 72
	paras 22, 23, 88, 81, 82
28 February / 1842	No 9
30 March / 1842	No 17

Secret

(877)

Secret Letters from Bombay dated ¹² 30 Augst / 1841
¹² 29 Oct^r / 1841 "
¹² 31 " / 1841 "
 paras 43, 44
¹² 30 November / 1841 "
 " " / 1841 "
 paras 10, 13, part of 14, 18, 16, 25
¹² 31 December / 1841 "
 paras 1 to 29
¹² 31 January / 1842
 paras 1 to 4
¹² 28 February / 1842 "
 paras 1 to 8 & 17 to 19
¹² 30 March / 1842 "
¹² 30 April / 1843 "
 paras 1 to 6 & 8

Secret Letters from the Government of India dated ¹² 16 Nov^r / 1841
¹² 16 Dec^r / 1841 "
¹² 18 April / 1842

2. The subjects embraced by these communications may be arranged under the following heads.

3. First; the orders of our Government and proceedings of your local officers in cases of demands made.

made by native chiefs for ²¹
the surrender of fugitive slaves.

4. In all such cases you
have followed the course which
has already obtained our sanction;
you have negatived the application
leaving the Chiefs to their evil
remedy if they chose to make
use of it.

5. Secondly; the rescue of
various boys and women from
slavery, under circumstances of
considerable diversity, and the
measures taken to restore these
persons to their families and
homes, or when this could not
be done, to provide them with
protectors and means of livelihood.

6. Under this head all the
proceedings reported have our
entire approval.

7. Thirdly; proceedings having
in view the enforcement of the
anti-slave trade treaties and the
punishment of persons who have
offended

offended either against those treaties or against our own laws on the subject of slavery.

8. Under this head (the case of Ghulam Reza, an agent of one of the Amiers of Sind, being reserved for separate reply) only one case remains to be noticed.

9. It was ascertained that two vessels belonging to a subject of Sooltan bin Suggur, the chief of Sharga and Rasool Khyma, had brought for sale from the coast of Barbarra several persons of the Soomalee tribe in violation of the treaty of 1839, by which that Shaikh in conjunction with other Arab chiefs agreed to abolish the Slave Trade in respect of the tribe in question.

10. After much evasion Sooltan bin Suggur delivered
up

up four of these captives³¹
who were sent back to
Barburra on board Her Majesty's
Ship Endymion. You have not
been successful in obtaining the
restoration of any others.

11. Captain Hennell, in
his letters of the 1st and 3^d of
October 1841, gave it as his
opinion that "the only method
" of compelling the Sheik to take
" effectual measures for putting an
" end to these evil practices on
" the part of his subjects, is the
" infliction of a fine of twice
" the market value of each
" unhappy individual who has been
" dragged away into slavery, in
" direct violation of a solemn
" engagement". And that "in cases
" where the Soomalees themselves are
" surrendered, a sum equal to
" their value might be demanded,
" in order to defray the expense
" of their return to their native
" land."

(879) 12.

12. The Governor General in Council was disposed to "rest satisfied with the restoration of the Slaves, or the value of such as are not forthcoming."

13. There is no difference here in point of principle. The only difference is as to the amount of penalty to be imposed.

14. We are inclined to agree with Captain Henscell, as we think that something more than the restoration of the slave should be required in every case. On this question, you will, therefore, make a fresh reference to the Government of India.

15. Captain Henscell suggested as an alternative, calculated to check the trade in slaves, "the seizure of the boats belonging to individuals guilty of

33
 " of bringing up Soomaloes
 " Slaves to the Gulf, after it is
 " once proved that they had been
 " concerned in the traffic." The
 " Governor General remarks that
 " we must be content to resort
 " to such stringent measures only
 " against those who are pledged
 " by Treaty to abstain from the
 " Slave trade."

10. We presume that
 it was only to such that
 Captain Hennell intended his
 proposition to apply; and we
 trust that every practicable
 measure will be adopted for
 checking the baneful traffic.

14. From the facts stated
 the traffic in slaves even as
 carried on by subjects of our
 ally the Imam of Muscat,
 appears to be more extensive,
 and attended with more revolting
 circumstances, than we were
 previously aware of

880 18.

18. Lastly; the intimation made, to the Emperor of the intention of Her Majesty's Government, to suppress altogether the slave trade by sea; the dissatisfaction with which he received this announcement, the resolution which he adopted of sending an ^{Em} Envoy to England; and the opinions of your local officers respecting the practicability, or policy of an extension of our Anti-Slave Trade operations in that part of the world, both as respects the Arab tribes, and the Governments of Turkey and Persia.

19. This great question being one rather of national than of Indian policy, and its decision resting of necessity with Her Majesty's Government exclusively, we have no instructions to address to you on the subject

20.

20. ³⁵ We have, however to
direct your earnest attention
to the accompanying copy of
a letter, dated the 27th of July,
last, which has been addressed,
by order of the Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs, to the Board
of Commissioners for the affairs
of India. The Earl of Aberdeen
points out the unfavorable effect
which, the existence of Slave
trading from or to Bombay is
likely to have on any negotiations
with Foreign Chiefs for the
suppression of such traffic.
We concur with His Lordship
in the expression of regret that
the practice of kidnapping
children, for the purpose of
exporting them as slaves is
believed still to linger within
the East India Company's possessions,
and we direct that every exertion
be made by our officers for its
complete eradication.

(881) 21.

21. We also transmit,
for your information, a copy
of an Act recently passed ^{346 Vic}
by Parliament giving to our ^{Cap 101}
Governors and other Officers
the same powers for the more
effectual suppression of the
importation of slaves, as are
possessed by the persons exercising
authority in Her Majesty's Colonies.

We are your loving
friends,

London } /Signed/ S. L. Lushington
 } " J. Cotton
21 Sept^r 1842. } Hea Hea Hea

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Political Department
11th April (N^o: 9) 1843

Our Governor in Council
at Bombay

Secret Letters dated 23rd May
(N^o: 58) 1842 Paras: 1 & 9
and 21, 22.
" " " " 17th June (N^o: 68) 1842
(Entire)
26th August (N^o: 93) " "
Paras Nos 3 & 10 " "
30th September N^o: 106 " "
Paras 1 & 7

Political Letter dated 30th Nov^r:
N^o: 116 1842 (Entire)
Legislative Letter from the Gov^t: of
India dated 22nd April (N^o: 9) 1842
Para 69

Para: 1 The Letters
and Paragraphs noted
in the margin
relative to the Slave
Trade.

2 The most important
part of the information
which they contain
relates to the trade in
kidnapped children which

is ascertained to exist very extensively in
India and especially in the Nagari
Territory, from which several of the
Hindoo girls who have been liberated
from Slavery in Arabia through the
interference of our Officers had been
originally brought. Major General Fraser

has
932

has furnished such particulars as he could obtain respecting this traffic which he states to be chiefly carried on (in the Nizam's Territory) by Arabs. There can be little hope under a Government like that of the Nizam of destroying this evil at its source, but regulations might possibly be introduced which would render the passage of kidnapped children through our Territories, for sale there, or for exportation from India, much more difficult than it seems to be at present. You already have the subject under consideration, and you should report your views upon it to the Supreme Government with a view to the adoption of some general measure

3 We transmit for your information and guidance a copy of a correspondence which has passed between her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Ali Ben Nasir, Envoy from the Imam of Muscat chiefly relating to the suppression of the Slave trade. We think it probable that the result of the

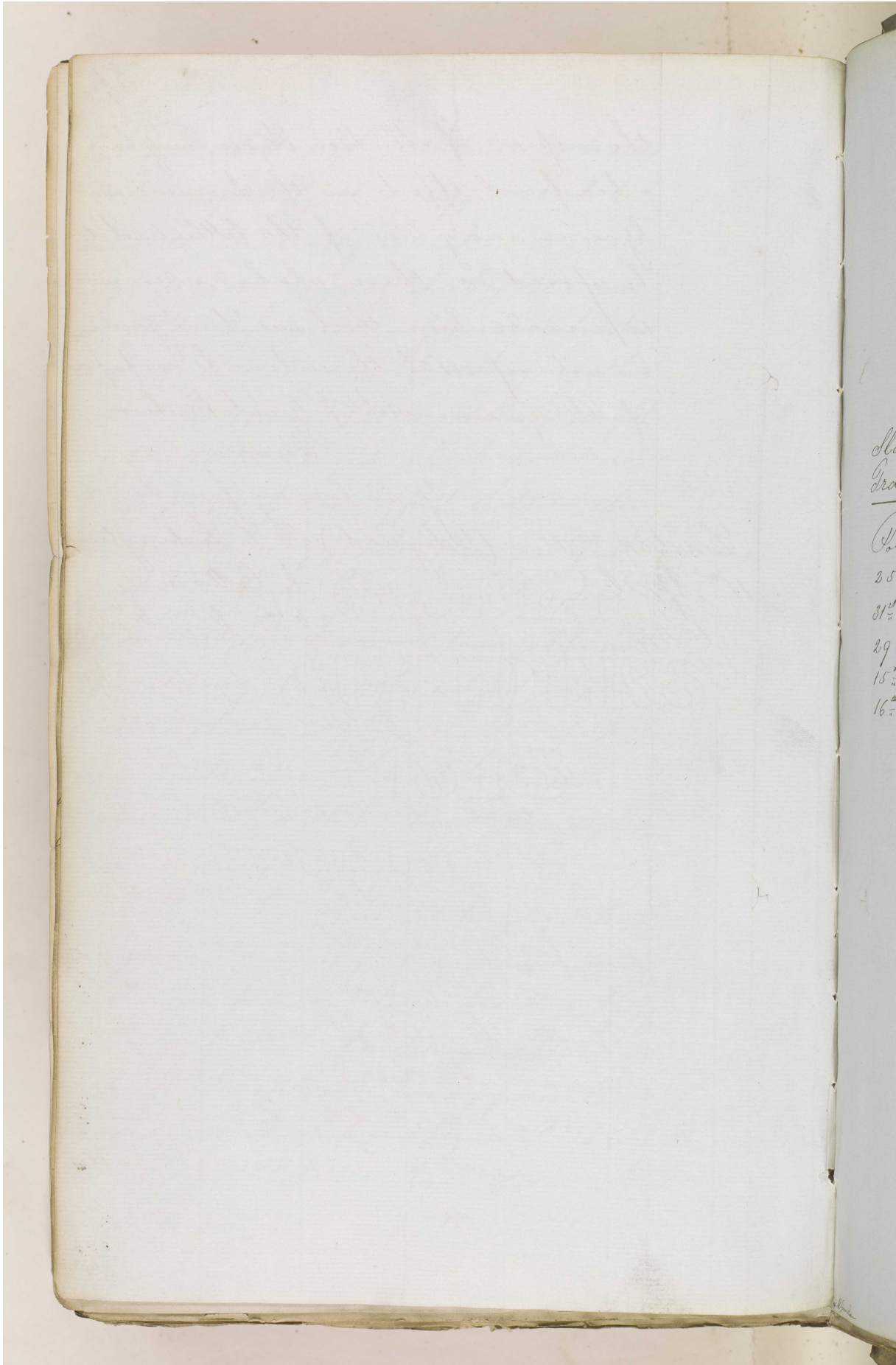
34
the mission of Ali Ben Nasir may have
a beneficial effect on the Imam's mind
by convincing him of the little trust to
be reposed in those who had endeavoured
to persuade him that our Local Government
do not represent the sentiments and purposes
of the Government of Great Britain
We are,

London
11th April
1843

Your loving friends
(Signed) J. L. Lushington
J. Cotton
J. C. J. C. J. C.

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'Slave Trade' [883v] (54/60)



41.

Political Department
18th October (No. 19) 1843

Slave Trade Our Governor in Council
at Bombay

Political Letters dated	Para: 1	We now
25 th February (No. 7) 1843	}	reply to the letters
31 st March (No. 17) " "		enumerated in the
29 th April (No. 21) " "		margin on the subject
15 th June (No. 31) " "		of the Slave trade.
16 th " " No. 34 " "		

2 We request to learn that the number of Slaves brought to Zanzibar in the year 1842/43 for exportation to the Northward was far greater than usual.

3 We are ignorant what effect the notification since issued by order of the Imam of Muscat forbidding "the Public Sale of Slaves" is intended to have on this traffic or whether the prohibition extends to Zanzibar.

4 (884)

4 You have submitted to the Governor General a proposal for the issue of a proclamation declaring that all slaves found on board vessels in the Red Sea or the Persian Gulph, after a certain date will be seized and liberated except in the cases of Vessels belonging to Nations with whom special engagements exist in regard to Slavery and the Slave Trade

5 The Governor General however very rightly refused to sanction this strong measure without special orders from England.

6 The convention recently concluded by the French Government of Bourbon with the Imam of Muscat for the exportation of free laborers from his Dominions to the French Colonies, has nothing in it ostensibly or necessarily tending to promote the Slave Trade. By connivance however or even laxity on the part of the French Colonial Authorities, it would at once be rendered a
most

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most powerful means of extending that traffic. So far as the prevention of such a result may rest with the Imam, the influence of your Government should be unceasingly exerted to that end. Captain Hamerton should at least use such means as he proposes of ascertaining that the persons conveyed to Bourbon are really free Agents and if not should urge the Imam to prevent their deportation. His Highness being bound by Treaty to suppress all traffic in Slaves between his Dominions and Christian Countries as well as all Slave Trade by his Subjects South of a line drawn from Cape Delgado to Pusein

7 We regret that in the recent treaties by which some of the Arab Tribes consented to renounce the purchase and sale of persons of the Soomalee tribe, the words used were such as to leave it doubtful or whether the penalties denounced were those of piracy or merely of ordinary theft. We desire to receive

the
885

the remarks of Captain Hennell
who negotiated the treaties on the
doubts raised by Lieutenant Colonel
Robertson. The difference however is
not of primary importance if even
the minor punishment can be really
enforced. It is a more serious omission
that the penalties apply only to the
purchase and sale of Soomalees but
not to stealing or kidnapping them.
This however must always have been
considered an offence and we presume
that the contracting parties will not
raise any serious objection to the
infliction of the same penalties on
those who kidnap, as on those
who purchase a Soomalee Slave.

We are

Your loving friends

London }
18th October }
1843 }

(Signed) J. Cotton
" J. Shepherd
" & co & co

See
page
24th
to
page
27th
to
page
28th

See
the

22
5/11

45

Fort William

21st November 1843 - (No. 15)

To

J. C. Melville Esq.
Secretary to the
East India House.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you
will submit to the Honorable the Board of
Directors for their information; the accompanying

two copies of the proceedings of this Government,
from Bombay of 24th Sept.

relative to a Despatch received from the
Bengal Govt. Secretary to Government of Bombay, reporting

the proceedings of the Political Agent at Aden,
of 20th Novr.

respecting a certain transaction said to have
taken place at that settlement; involving a
charge of slave dealing against the supercargo
of the "Aden Merchant."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. Currie

off. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Fort William

The 21st Novr. 1843.

22
5-86

886

'Slave Trade' [886v] (60/60)

