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'Persian Gulf – Arabian Chieftains. Vol: 3'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/1767/72463
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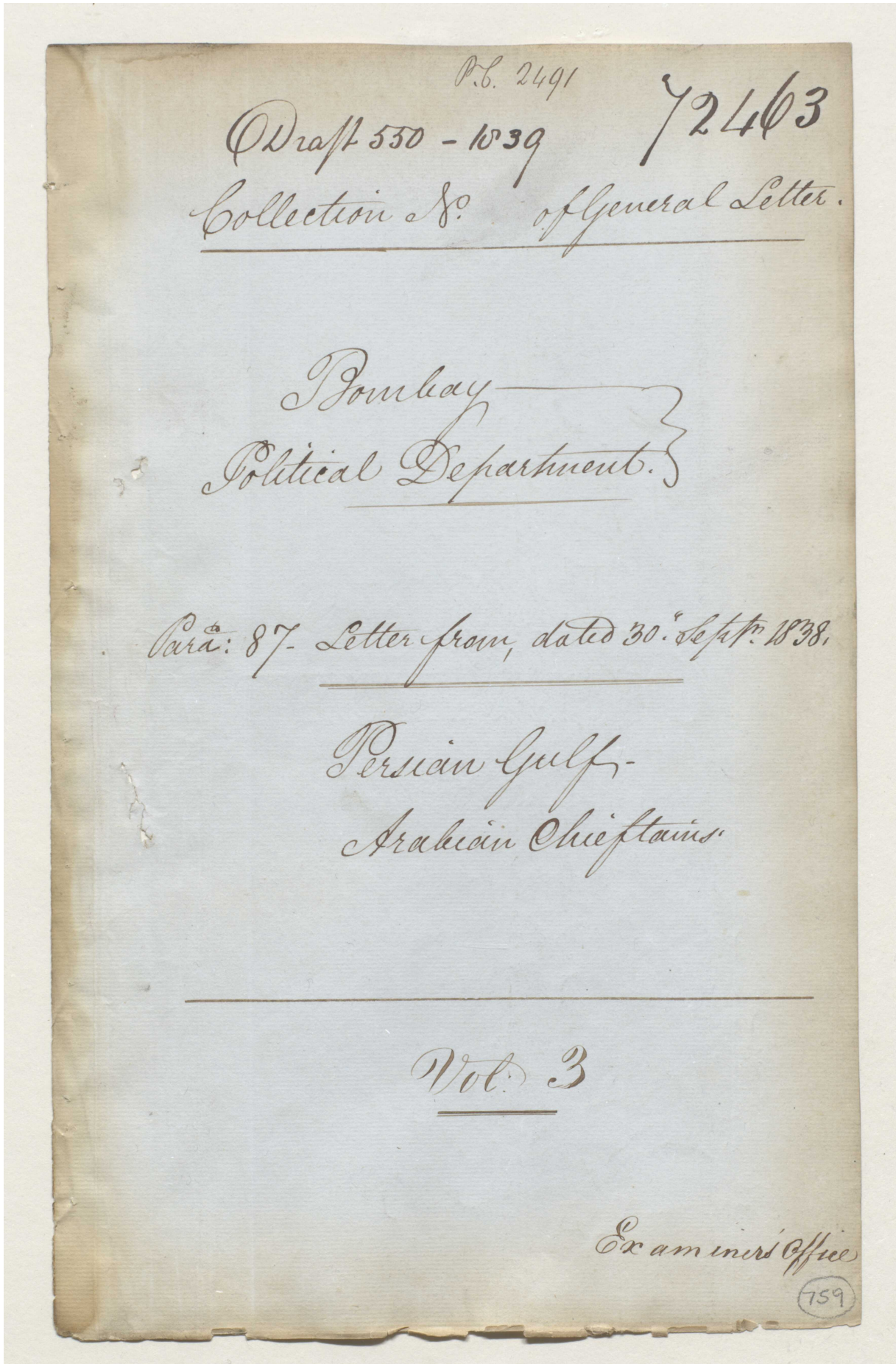


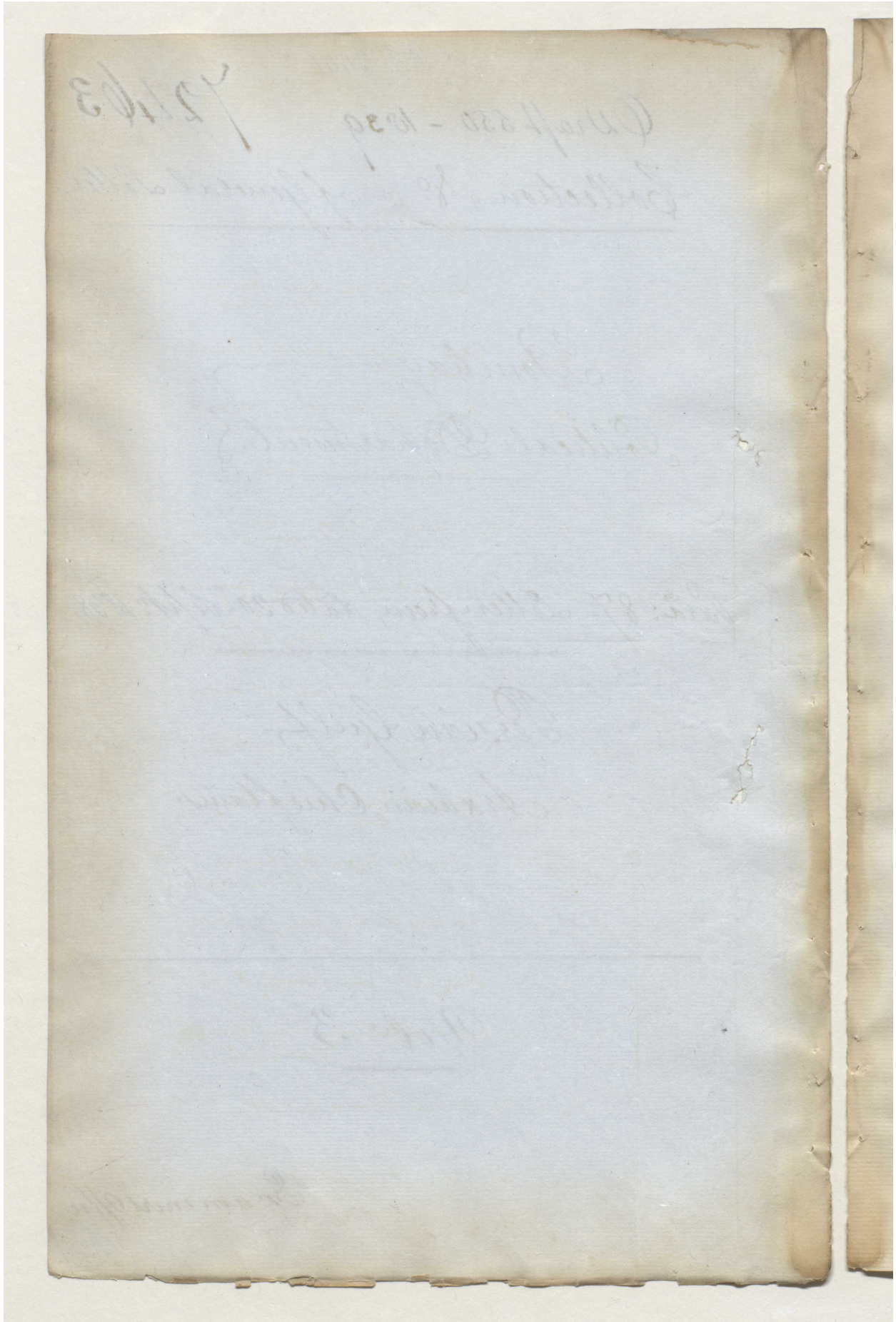
About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, consultations, memoranda, resolutions, and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai]. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; Sheikh Sultan bin Suggur [Shaikh Sultan I bin Saqr al-Qasimi, Shaikh of Ra's al-Khaymah]; Captain Samuel Hennell, Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf; the Government of India; and the Court of Directors of the East India Company. It is the third in a series of ten items on the Persian Gulf (the others are IOR/F/4/1767/72461, IOR/F/4/1767/72462, IOR/F/4/1767/72464, IOR/F/4/1767/72465, IOR/F/4/1767/72466, IOR/F/4/1767/72467, IOR/F/4/1767/72468, IOR/F/4/1767/72469, and IOR/F/4/1767/72470).

The item concerns Hennell's efforts to negotiate a renewal of the previous year's truce between the maritime shaikhs for the duration of the pearling season (April to November 1837), and proposals for a permanent maritime truce. It also contains a list of presents given to the shaikhs, and proposals for a neutral line along the Gulf to protect trade by prohibiting vessels of war from cruising between the line and the Persian [Iranian] Coast.

The item contains a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: 'Draft 550, 1839, P.C. [Previous Communication] 2491'.





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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
24th May, 1837.

From S. Kennell, Esq^r
N^o 2286. Officiating Resident in the
Persian Gulf,
To Mr. Secretary Willoughby.
(31st March, 1837.)

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that on the 26th Instant I embarked at Bushire, on board the Honorable Company's Vessel of War Clive, for the purpose of visiting the Chiefs on the Arabian Coast, with the view of endeavoring to induce them to consent to a renewal of the truce of last year, which had been found by experience to have been attended with such general, and beneficial results for the two seasons it has been in operation.

operation.

2. On the afternoon of the 30th Instant, we fell in with the Honorable Company's Ship of War Elphinstone, and upon communicating with her, I found that Commodore Pepper was on board, with the intention of proceeding to Bushire in order to consult with me upon the best method of carrying into effect, certain measures directed by the Government with reference to the raising of the wreck of the ill-fated "Tigris", and the bringing down the Euphrates Steamer from Bagdad to Mohumrah. Unfortunately however none of the packets or letters for the Bushire Residency were on board the Elphinstone, they having been left in the Honorable Company's Brig of War Tigris, which had taken her departure from Bassadore the day before the former vessel sailed from that station. Under these circumstances adverting
to

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to the necessity, of one of the
Vessels of War being stationed at
the Southern extremity of the
Gulf for the protection of the
Trade, and the probability that
the Tigris might have proceeded
on to Bushire, I considered it
advisable to return to the latter port
in Company with the Commodore, and
accordingly having proceeded on
board the *Elphinstone* last night,
the *Clive* was despatched to Bassorah
with instructions to visit the
Arabian Coast on her way down.

3. As soon as possible after
my arrival at Bushire, and
having carried into effect any
instructions that I may receive from
the Right Honorable the Governor in
Council, with reference to the Tigris,
and Euphrates Steamers, I purpose
proceeding in my visit to
the Arabian Coast on board
the Honorable Company's *Shook*

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of War Alphinstone.
Honorable Company } I have &
Hoop of War }
Alphinstone } (Signed) J. Kennell,
31st March, 1837. } Off^r Resident
in the Persian Gulf.

From Mr Secretary Willoughby
To the Acting Resident
in the Persian Gulf. N: 2219.
(20th May, 1837)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter dated the
31st March last N: 31, and to acquaint
you that the Right Honorable the
Governor in Council, approves of
your Proceedings therein reported
relative to your visit to the Arabian
Coast.

Bombay Castle } I have &
20th May, 1837. } (Signed) J. P. Willoughby
Secy to Gov^r

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
21st June 1837.

From the Acting Resident in Persian Gulf
No 256 To the Secretary to Government Bombay,
(29th April 1837.)

Sir,

Adverting to my letter No 24
in this Department under date the 31st
March last I have the honor to
report for the information of the Right
Honorable the Governor in Council that
on the 10th April I embarked on board
the Honorable Company's Ship of War
Elphinstone with the intention of visiting
the Maritime Chiefs upon the Arabian
Coast, and having touched at Lingah
on my way down proceeded on to
Masqadoc where we arrived on the 13th
Instant. While at anchor off this station,
waiting for the Sloop of War Chive to
join company, I received a letter from
Sheik Sultan ben Suggur the Chief of
Rasel Whymah of which the accompanying is

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a translation and which I now do myself the honor to forward as a gratifying proof of the essential benefits which have been experienced from the establishment of the Peace for the Pearl Fishing season for the two last years, and likewise as showing how highly its advantages are estimated by the most powerful Chief on the Arabian Coast, whose opinions must necessarily influence those of the Sheiks - subordinate to himself.

2. On the 15th the Clive and Elphinstone cast anchor off the Seaman's Capital of Rasel Khymah, which I was happy to observe appeared to be in a flourishing condition numerous stone buildings, now occupying the places of many of the Cadjan Huts, in which the bulk of the population had resided for many years subsequent to the last expedition

3. The next morning Sheik Sultan accompanied by his youngest son and Moonshie came on board the Elphinstone, after the usual compliments, I intimated to him that agreeably to his wishes I had left Bushire for the purpose of personally ascertaining

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ascertaining, how far the Arabian Chiefs
on the Coast were favourably disposed towards
a renewal of last year's Peace for the
present, pearl season. He replied there
could be only one opinion entertained
among, the well disposed of the advantages
which had attended its establishments, but,
that of course it was not viewed with
so favorable an eye by those who wished
to take advantage of times of disturbance, to
prosecute their nefarious designs upon the
lives and properties of their more peaceable
neighbours. Having affixed his seal to the
several copies of the Peace which had
been prepared for that purpose, I took the
opportunity, of bringing to his notice two
trifling cases of piracy, one of which
had been committed by the people of
Gheera upon a Bunderabbap Wajel near
Bimsoz, and the second by an inhabitant
of Juzerutool Heumrah upon a Swick
boat in the neighbourhood of the Suwardy
Islands. The Chief acknowledged that my
statements was correct, and added that the
parties concerned in them had been seized

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and put into confinement, that full compensation in money, and goods had been already, afforded to the Sheik of Banderabhap, and that with reference to the second case, the owner of the vessel seized on that occasion was now in Raul Whymah, and that the full amount of his loss should be made good to him. In reply, I said that however satisfactory, it was to learn that such prompt measures had been taken to afford redress in the cases in question yet, that now the Sheik's reputation for the good and orderly conduct of his subjects for the last two years stood so deservedly high, it was to be regretted that the irregular proceedings of a few evil disposed characters should be allowed to compromise it, and therefore it was advisable that the persons concerned in the late robberies, should be punished either in purse or person, in addition to their being, compelled to restore the plundered property. After readily assenting to this remark, the Sheik informed me that positive information had

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had been received of the capture of
Mombasa by His Highness the Imam
principally by the gallant behaviour of
Esa ben Parsif and his followers. On being
questioned as to the state of Mejd, he said
that he had received information of the capture
of Jusum by Sheik Whaled and that this
Chief was advancing upon Durayal. Before
the interview concluded I gave him a copy
of the Government's proclamation prohibiting
Arab adventurers from resorting to India. On
perusing it he said that these individuals
mostly came from Socalla and the
neighbourhood of Moscha and that but few
if any, proceeded from this part of Arabia.
Previously to taking his departure he pressed my
acceptance of a Horse which I declined
receiving, telling him that the most satisfactory
proof he could give of the friendly feelings
he bore to the British Government would
be the steady maintenance of such a system
of vigilance and strict control over his
subjects and dependants, as would prevent
any repetition of acts of the nature of those
I had been under the necessity of bringing to
his

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his notice. After some general remarks the Sheik took his departure apparently, much gratified by, my, presenting him with a few articles I had brought with me for that purpose.

11. On the 16 and 17th Instant, I was visited by Sheik Abdoolah ben Rasheed of Amulzavin, Sheik Saleh bin Saggur of Shungab and Sheik Muckattem of Delage. On these several occasions while affixing their seals to the documents prepared, the subject chiefly dwelt upon by the Chiefs was the pleasure they derived from the prospect of the Prince for the presents pearl fishing season being renewed, and the great advantages derived from it since it had been brought into operation. To my surprise no complaints were made against each other. Sheik Saleh bin Saggur indeed hinted that his brother Sheik Sultan was not sufficiently energetic in his treatment of cases of piracy, and having furnished me with a list of the property plundered from the Bunderabbay boat, which had been recovered, he expressed his dissatisfaction at the conduct

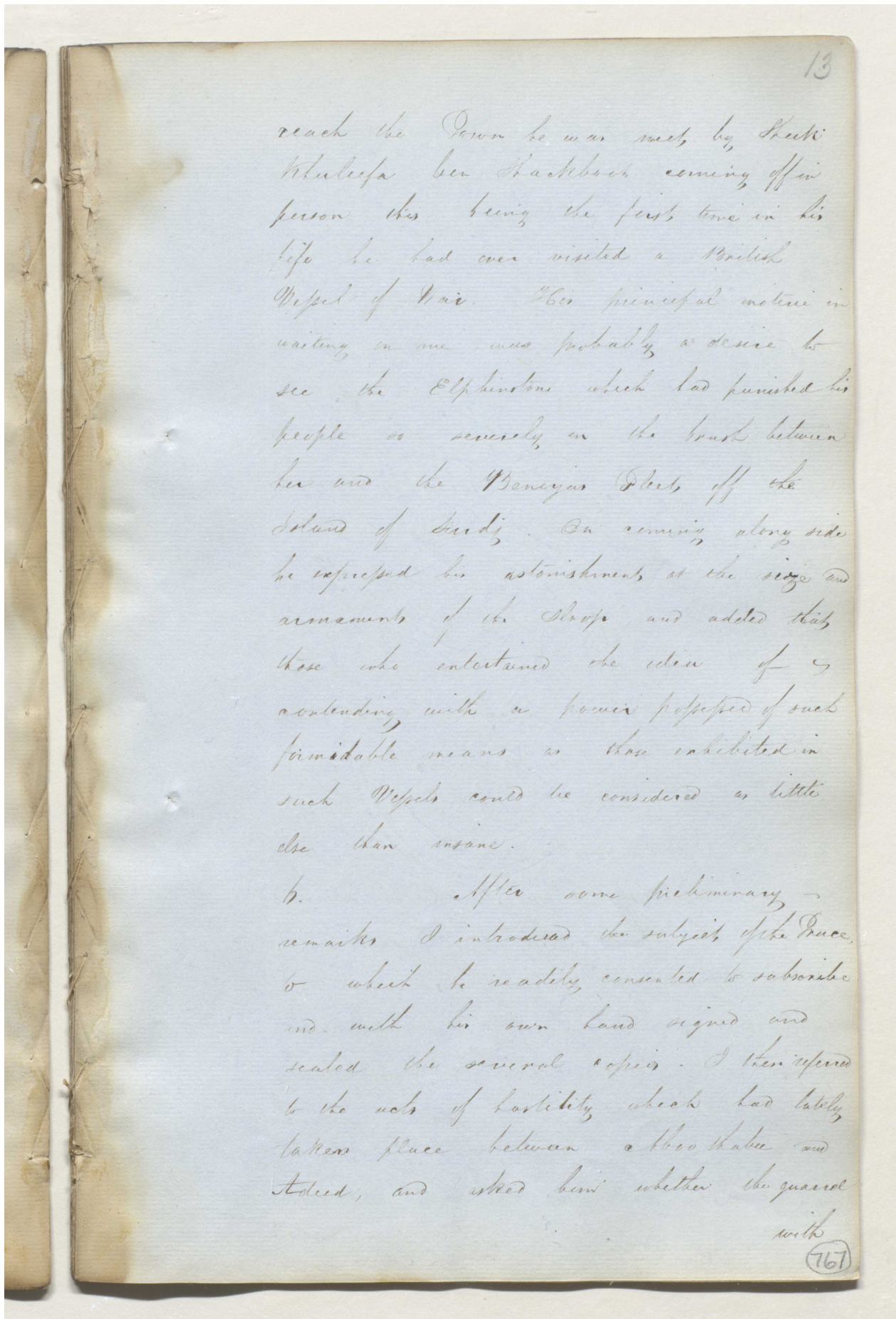
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conduct of the people of Heera, who had been principally concerned in this affair and although his own dependents, he pressed me to make an example of them by sending and destroying their Boats. This however I declined doing, on the ground that I had already entered into definitive arrangements regarding them with their feudal superior the Chief of Ras el Muzmah who after affording restitution of the goods taken by them and making other arrangements to my satisfaction, would have reason to feel hurt if I were to adopt such severe measures without further provocation, I however addressed a letter to Hussein bin Ahmed the Sheik of Heera, in which I informed him that full restitution of the property plundered by his dependents from the Bander Abbas Bagfa having been made that at the intercession of Saik Sultan bin Suggar I should inflict no further punishments upon him at present, but that in the event of any other act of Piracy being committed by those under his authority, the boats of the offending parties should

Should
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should certainly, be burnt or destroyed. On the occasion of these several visits I took the opportunity of handing to each of the Chiefs a copy of the Government's Proclamation on the subject of Arab adventurers being prohibited from resorting to India, at the same time explaining the objects for which it had been issued. They all assured me that its contents should be made generally known to all their subjects and dependents.

3. On the 18th Instant, the Honorable Company's Vessel of War Effingham and Cleve anchored off Abuthabee, and shortly afterwards Iud bin Sulaim a confidential agent of the Chief came on board with a complimentary note from Sheik Khulafa bin Shacboot, inviting me to land. On declining this invitation I desired him to inform the Sheik, that my present object in visiting his ports was to renew the Peace of last year and that my Arabian Mercury would go on shore the next morning for the purpose of communicating with him on the subject. The next day to my great surprise before the Mercury could reach



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 reach the Town he was met, by Sheikh
 Khatifa bin Shakhbush coming off in
 person this being the first time in his
 life he had ever visited a British
 Sloop of War. His principal motive in
 waiting on me was probably a desire to
 see the Elphinstone which had punished his
 people so severely in the bout between
 her and the Beneyas Fleet off the
 Island of Surt. On coming along side
 he expressed his astonishment at the size and
 armaments of the Sloop, and added that
 those who entertained the idea of
 contending with a power possessed of such
 formidable means as those exhibited in
 such Sloops could be considered as little
 else than insane.

b. After some preliminary
 remarks I introduced the subject of the Peace
 to which he readily consented to subscribe
 and with his own hand signed and
 sealed the several copies. I then referred
 to the acts of hostility which had lately
 taken place between Abou Thaber and
 Adood, and asked him whether the quarrel

with
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with the 92 Juharab could not be
suspended until the termination of the
Pearl Fishery. This he replied, under the
circumstances of so much blood having been
shed on both sides was impossible and
that he only waited for my permission
to send a force to blockade Aden, at
the same time he wished that the
neighbouring Chiefs should be forbidden to
break it. I answered that a real
blockade would be recognized but not a
nominal one to which the Sheik assented.
I then told him that I had been
obliged to make a further reference to the
Government on the subject of the claims
still remaining unsettled on accounts of the
Piracy committed upon the *Qura* Daulat
1835 and that I was daily expecting a
reply. He answered that he could only
say they had already given up every
thing they possessed of the least value and
that nothing now remained with them but
the large Bagla on the stocks which had
been offered for the acceptance of the
Sikar, I replied that it was still
uncertain

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uncertain whether the Government would accept it or not. but that under any circumstances they had only to blame their own lawless and piratical proceedings for all that they had since suffered. The Sheik then produced a note from the Bahrein Chief acknowledging the justice of certain claims made by a native of Absothaba against one of his subjects and which he had engaged to settle last Pearl Fishery but had not done so. I took a copy of this document and promised to write to Sheik Abdullah bin Ahmed upon the subject. Iba Isalmah (the companion of Isa bin Parsif) then pressed very earnestly for permission to prosecute hostilities against the Sheik of Bahrein but was informed that under the circumstances of himself and Tribe residing in Absothaba, the Government had determined to discountenance any attempts of that nature.

7. Having thus met the Chiefs on the Arabian Coast and procured their signatures to the Peace for the present year with the exception of Sheik Rasheed bin ⁽¹⁶⁸⁾ Humud

Humed of Eyman who was absent, in the interior, I sent back Sherallah Hadjein the object at Buzak to that place on board the Honorable Company Ship of War Clive with instructions immediately on the return of the Eyman Sheik to wait upon him and having obtained his seal to the several copies of the Duce to forward one to each of the parties to it, accompanied by a letter from myself in which I endeavoured to impress upon them the necessity of their strictly adhering to the engagements so solemnly entered into.

8. Parting company with the Clive (which after landing the objects was to return to her station at Bapadore) we proceeded on our return passing between the Islands and the shore and after a slow passage owing to light air and calms arrived at this Port on the 28th Instant.

9. Upon the whole I have every reason to feel satisfied with the results of my visits to the Arabian Coast. The Chiefs appeared contented, and their subjects prosperous

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prosperous and flourishing, and altogether a
general wish for peace and tranquillity,
was exhibited, which I never before observed,
and which I consider exceedingly gratifying,
I think there is every probability of a
quick Pearl Fishery, although there is some
little risk of its being interrupted by the
warfare carrying on between Ad-ded and
Abulhabib, still as I have already
observed in a former communication, I do
not anticipate that any evils will arise
from the hostilities which may not be
repressed or counteracted by a strict and
vigorous surveillance being kept up over
the parties concerned in them.

18 In doing myself the honor
to enclose a Translation of the Peace as
established for the present year I at the
same time beg respectfully to submit
a Statement of presents made to the different
Arab Chieftains, and others, on the occasions
of their visiting me, and the distribution
of which is tending to cultivate and maintain
the good will and friendly feelings of
those personages towards the British Government,
with
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will I trust, receive the sanction of the
Right Honorable the Governor in Council.
I have the honor to be
Residency in the }
Persian Gulf } (Signed) J. Connell
Buckin 29th April 1837. } Officiating Resident in the P. Gulf.

Translation of a Letter from Sheik Sultan
bin Suggar Chief of Rasul Whyma to
the Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf
Dated 20th Gil - 3625, or 5th April 1837.

I beg to bring to your
recollection that the period assigned for
the Peace which you so kindly established
among the pacificated Arabs expired last
Shaban and that as yet I do not
observe that you are taking any steps
to confer the favor of a renewal of
it upon us. The most gratifying
pleasure that I can experience is the
establishment of Peace and tranquillity, and
the removal of discord and ill will from
every place whether at sea or land.
In the event therefore of your considering
it advisable to renew what formerly existed,
I beg to assure you, that in so doing you
will

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will fulfil our most earnest desires.
I trust that you will not believe the
misrepresentations of interested persons, who
would wish to make you believe that I
am a lover of confusion and disorder, for
if you do so my only refuge is in the
Almighty. Should you however have
determined not to renew the Truce as
formerly, I beg you will have the goodness
to acquaint me with your intentions.

True Translation

(Signed) J. Kennell
Officiating Resident in
the Persian Gulf.

Translation of the terms of a Truce commencing
on the 7th April and ending 29th November
1837 agreed upon by the Chiefs of the
Arabian Coast, in the presence of Captain
J. Kennell the Officiating Resident in the
Persian Gulf dated Honorable Company's
Ship of War Elephantine.

Whose seals are herewith
attached viz. Sultan ben Sauger Shakh
of the Soosnee Tribe, Khuleefa bin Shakhboob

Chief
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Chief of the Maniyas, Mukhtom bin Butayn
the Chief of the Boo Belasa Dika, and
Debaye Rashed bin Humaid the Chief of
Eymam and Abdollab bin Rashed
Chief of Abmuljein being fully impressed
with a sense of the evils suffered by our
subjects and dependents in consequence of
their being debarred from carrying on the
Pearl Fishery on the Banks during a
state of hostilities among ourselves and duly
appreciating the general advantages that
would be derived from the establishment of
a Truce during the Fishing season we do
hereby agree to, and bind ourselves down
to observe the following conditions.

- 1st That from the 1st Moharrum
A H 1263, or 7th April 1837) there shall
be a cessation of hostilities at sea between
our respective subjects and dependents, and
that from the above date until the 30th
Shaban A H 1263, or (17th November 1837),
an inviolable Truce shall be established
during which period our several claims
upon each other shall rest in abeyance.
2. That in the event of any
one

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one of our subjects or dependents —
committing an act of aggression by sea
upon those of the parties to this engagement,
we will immediately afford full redress upon
the same being brought to our notice

3. That in the event of an act of
aggression being committed at sea upon any one
of our subjects or dependents, who are parties
to the Peace we will not proceed to
retaliate it immediately, but will inform the
Residents at Muskeir or the Commodore at Bussarah,
who will forthwith take the necessary steps for
obtaining reparation for the injury, inflicted upon
it being satisfactorily proved.

4. That on the 30th Rajab 1253 by
the blessing of providence we will endeavour to
arrange either an extension of this Peace or a
firm and lasting peace but in the event of our
not being able to come to a satisfactory arrangement
regarding our respective claims among ourselves we
hereby bind ourselves to give notice on or about
the above date to the Residents of Muskeir of
our intentions to renew hostilities after the expiration
of the term now fixed upon for the Peace vizt. the
30th Haban 1253.

True Translation
(Signed) J. Hennell
Off. Resident, 5-54

True Copy
(Signed) J. Hennell
Officiating Resident, Persian Gulf

(20) Seal of Sultan bin Suggar
(20) Seal of Abdollah bin Rasheed
(20) Seal of Alustom bin Butayr
(20) Seal of Khalifa bin Kachaboo

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Appropriation

Appropriation of presents made by the Officiating Resident
March and April 1837, submitted for the sanction of

Date	Description of Presents	To whom given	On what
1837	None		
February	None		
March	None		
April 14	6 yards of Black Cloth 1 Three barrelled Rifle 2 Canisters Powder 3 Scissors 3 Pentknives	Sheik Sultan bin Saggar Chief of Rasul Khaymah	On his visiting the Honorable Company for the purpose of last year's Peace.
" 15	6 yards Scarlet Cloth 3 Pen-Knives 3 Scissors 2 Canisters Powder	Sheik Abdoullah bin Rasheed Chief of Amul garrum.	— 20 — 50
" 17	3 yards Scarlet Cloth 1 Pair of Pistols 3 Pentknives 3 Scissors 2 Canisters Powder	Sheik Saleh bin Saggar Chief of Khargab.	— 20 — 50
" "	3 yards Scarlet Cloth 3 Pentknives 3 Scissors 1 P. Pistols 2 Canisters Powder	Sheik Mutekhtoon Chief of Debagy	— 20 — 50
" "	3 yards Scarlet Cloth 3 Scissors 3 Pentknives 1 Canister Powder	Sheik Rasheed bin Humaid Chief of Bymax	The Sheik being absent charge of the Khargab him as a token of approval his Dependents.
" 18	6 yards Buff Cloth	Muollat Kotspeem Agah of Khargab.	As a drop of honor in efficient and zealous had discharged his duties

Total Company, Rasheed Eight

I do hereby certify upon my honor that the
above charges are just and correct and that
the sums stated have been exclusively expended
for the purpose therein mentioned.

(Signed) J. Bennell
Officiating Resident in
the Persian Gulf

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residents in the Persian Gulf in the months of February,
Government.

occasion	Purchased or Procured	Price or estimated value.		
		Rs	As	Pis
Residents on board the Vessel of War <i>Elphinstone</i> arranging a renewal of — — — — — — — — — —	Purchased	73	2	9
	"	225	"	"
	"	4	15	4
	"	2	10	3
	"	2	10	3
	"	73	2	7
	"	2	10	3
	"	2	10	3
	"	4	15	4
	"	26	9	5
the articles were sent under for largely to be presented to of the good conduct of — — — — — — — — — —	"	17	11	3
	"	2	10	3
	"	2	10	3
	"	4	15	4
	"	36	9	5
	"	2	10	3
	"	2	10	3
	"	73	2	9
	"	1	15	4
	"	36	9	5
appreciation of the very manner in which he during the past year	"	2	10	3
	"	2	10	3
	"	2	7	8
	"			
		808	6	7
		83	6	5
		221	3	6
		120	"	"
		44	5	7
		87	12	10
hundred and sixty-five two annas and eleven Pies		865	2	11

Residency in the Persian Gulf
Bashree 30 April 1837.

Erson receipt

(signed) J. Linnell

Officiating Resident, Persian Gulf

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Erson

From the Chief Secretary, to Governments
To the Acting Residents in Persian Gulf. 62552
Dated 7th June 1837.

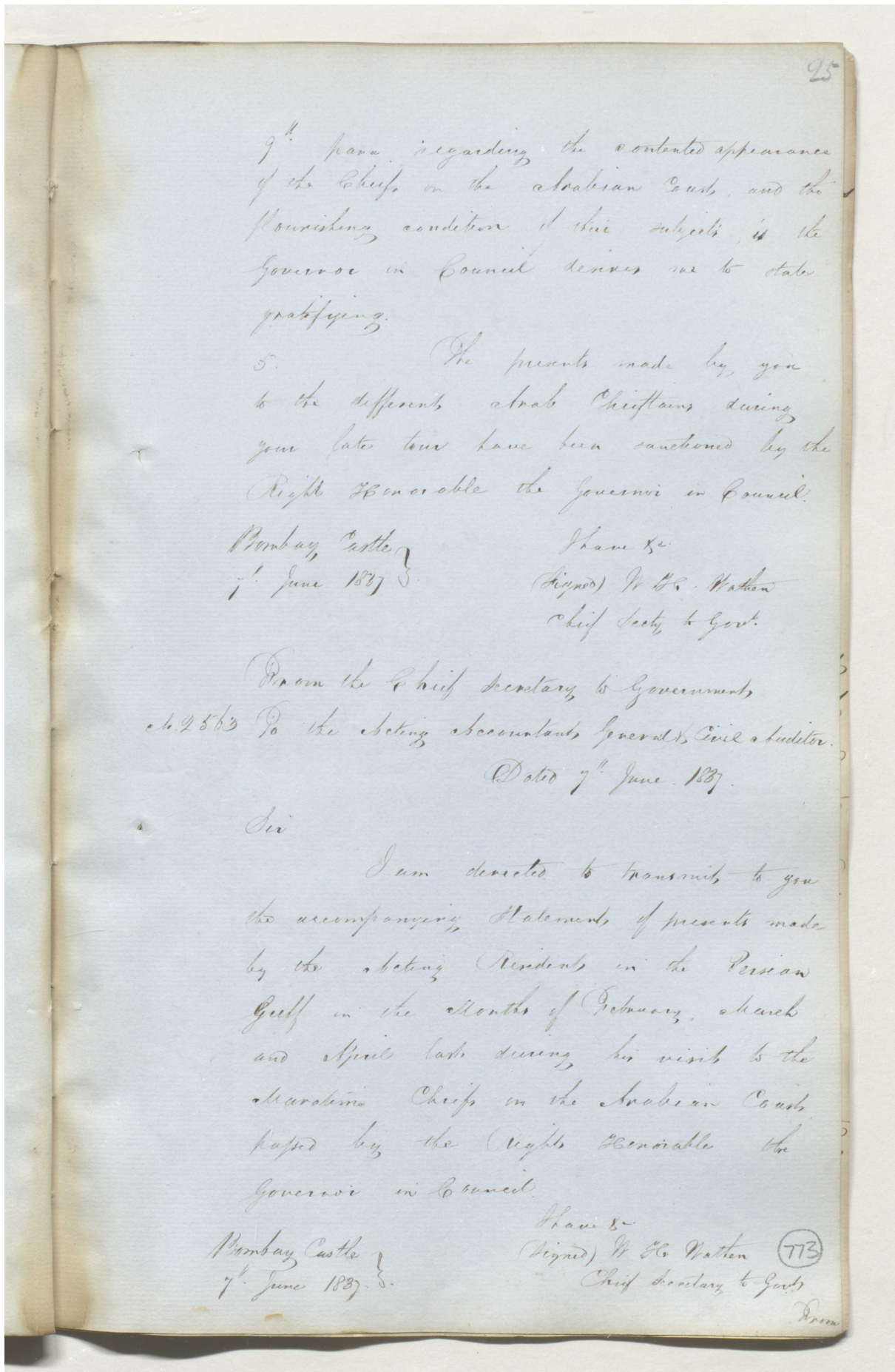
Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter dated the 29th
April last, at 25 with enclosures reporting
the results of your visit to the Maritime
Chiefs on the Arabian Coast, and to
communicate to you the following observations
and instructions thereon.

2. The Governor in Council
desires me to inform you that the letter
received by you from Sultan ben Sa'ud
urging a renewal of last year's truce,
the information as to the flourishing appearance
of Rasool Rhyrna and the accounts of
your interview with its Chief alluded
to in para 1c3 of your report, is
very satisfactory.

3. The Governor in Council
approves of your proceedings at your interviews
with the Sheiks of Ahmed gavin, Shargah
and Debagh as detailed in the 1st para.

4. The opinion expressed in the



From the Chief Secretary, to Government
To the Secretary, to the Government of India No. 2564
(1st June 1837)
Sir,

I am directed by the
Rights Honorable the Governor in Council
to transmit to you for the purpose of
being laid before the Rights Honorable
the Governor General of India in Council
copy of a letter from the acting Resident,
in the Persian Gulf dated the 29th April
last, with enclosures reporting the results
of his visit to the Maritime Chief
on the Arabian Coast, and my reply,
of this date.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. G. Walker
Chief Secretary, to Government

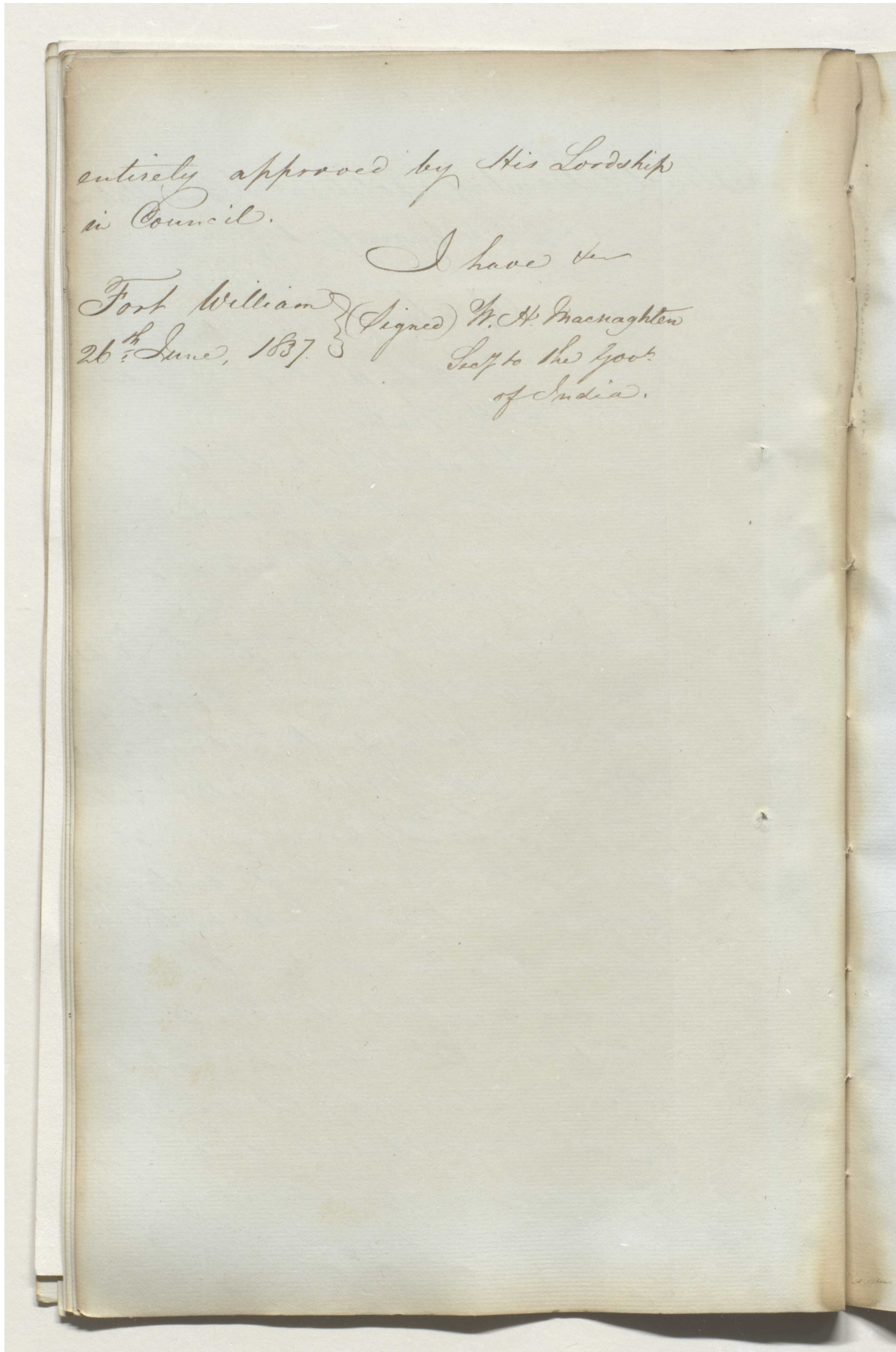
British Castle
7th June 1837.

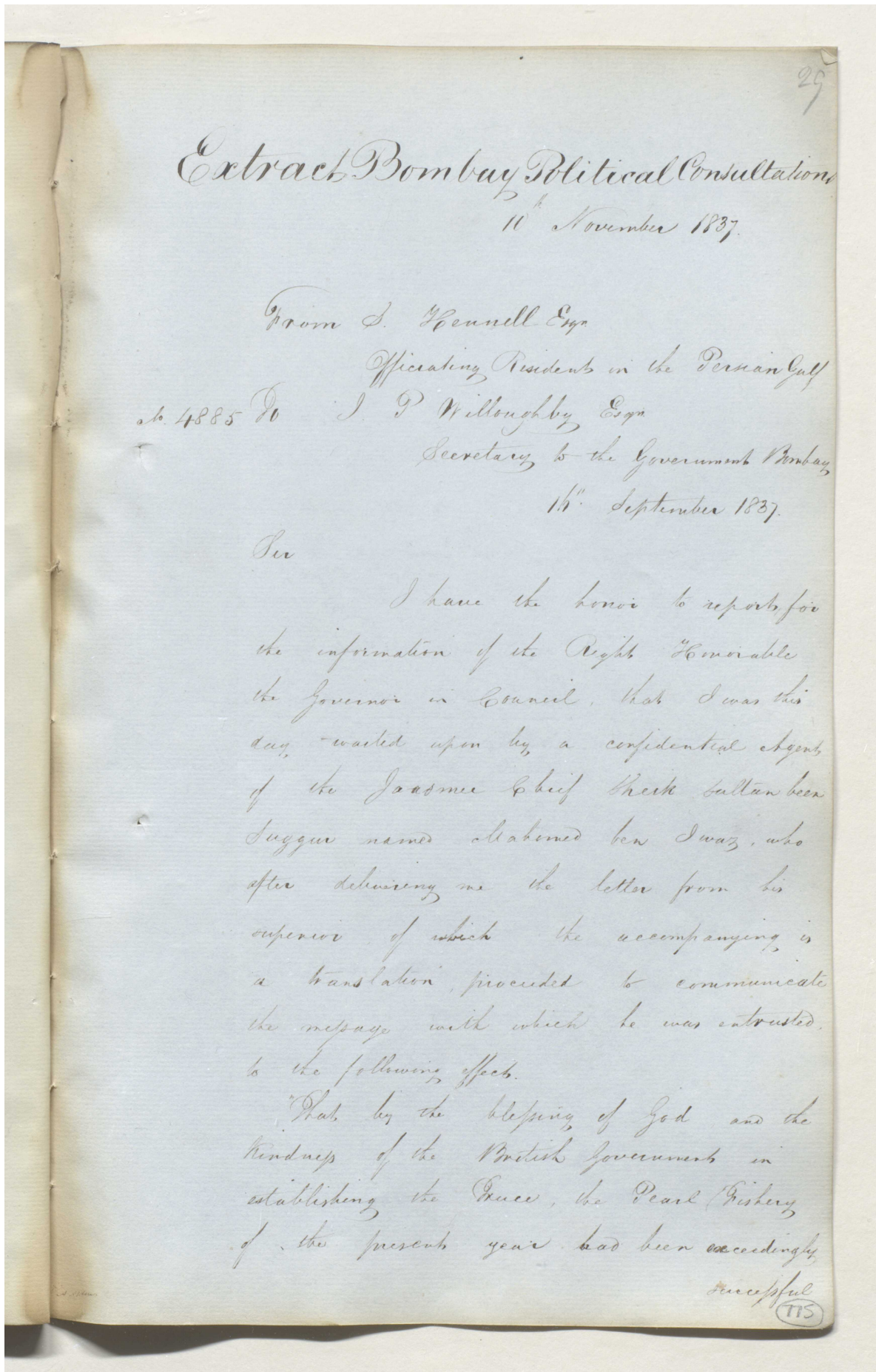
27
Extract Bombay Political Consultations
2nd August, 1837.

From W. A. Macnaghten, Esq^r -
No. 3410. Secy to the Gov^r of India,
To W. A. Wathen, Esq^r -
Chief Secy. to the Gov^r
of Bombay.
(26th June, 1837.)

Sir,
I am directed by the Right
Honorable the Governor General of
India in Council to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter dated
the 7th Instant, forwarding Copy
of a letter and of its enclosures
from the Acting Resident in the
Persian Gulf, reporting the result
of his visit to the Maritime
Chiefs on the Arabian Coast,
together with copy of your letter
in reply, the tenor of which, I
am desired to observe, is
entirely

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
10th November 1837.

No. 4885 To
From J. Hennell Esq
Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf
J. P. Willoughby Esq
Secretary to the Government Bombay,
15th September 1837.

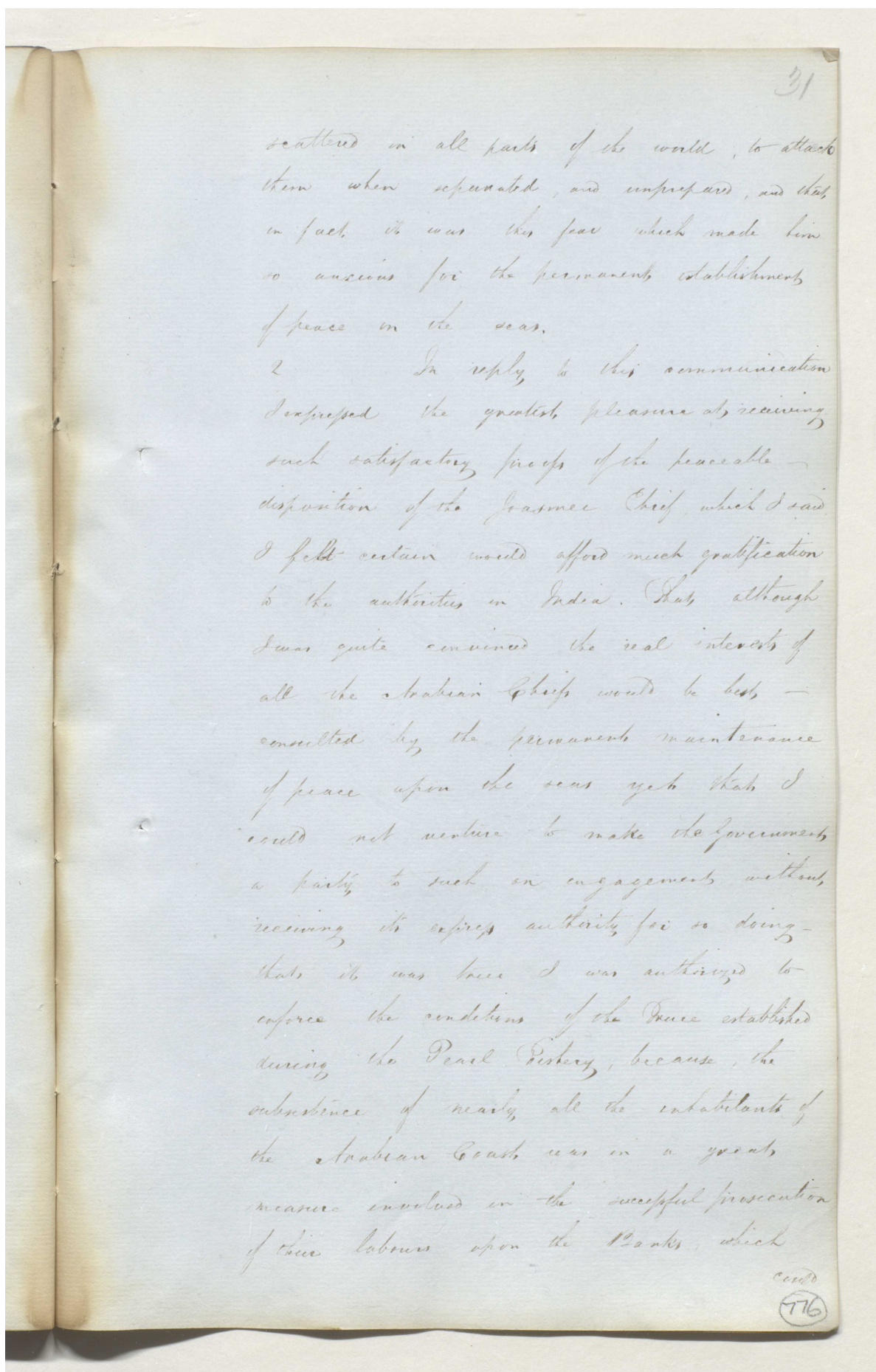
Sir

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that I was this day, waited upon by a confidential agent of the Jaasme Chief Sheik Sultan being suggested named Mahomed ben Swaz, who after delivering me the letter from his superior of which the accompanying is a translation, proceeded to communicate the message with which he was entrusted, to the following effect.

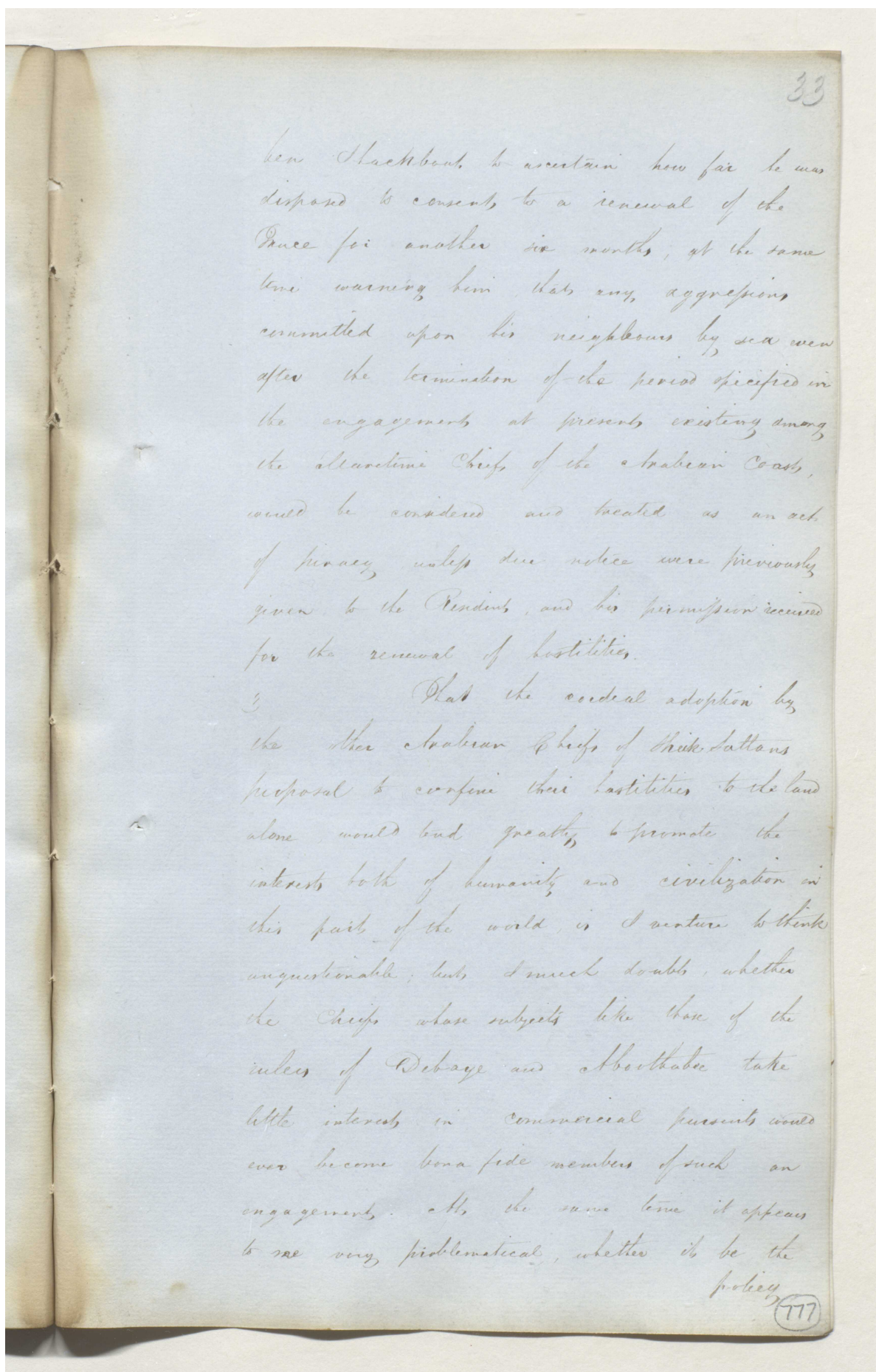
That by the blessing of God and the kindness of the British Government in establishing the Peace, the Pearl Fishery of the present year had been exceedingly

successful
115

successful, and that the Sheikh was so sensible of the benefits derived from the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the Gulf, that he was desirous in and should be put to fighting by sea altogether, and that a general agreement should be entered into by the Chiefs on the Arabian Coasts, to confine their wars upon each other entirely to the land, with the understanding, that any aggression at sea should be immediately treated by the British Government as an act of piracy, and redress enforced accordingly; in short, that the Peace instead of being established for six months, should be made perpetual. The Sheikh's agents went on to say, that of late years the subjects of his superior had greatly extended their commercial dealings in all quarters, that the season for their proceeding to the Coasts of India, Africa &c. was now approaching, that in the course of about ten weeks more the term of the Peace would expire, and he was apprehensive lest the Meniqas (who were little employed in trading pursuits) should take advantage of his Vessels being scattered



could only be carried on under the confidence of perfect security, but that, considering the irascible temper and jealous feelings of the different Chiefs and the enmities that would constantly exist between these dependents in consequence of their inland feuds and quarrels, it was more than doubtful whether the British would be, becoming a party to the total suppression of lawful and acknowledged war, sea, take upon itself the arduous and difficult office of perpetual arbiter in all collisions that might occur among the Vassals of the parties concurring in such an arrangement. I added, that, I was on the point of visiting the Presidency, and would take that opportunity of learning the sentiments of the Government upon the Chief's proposal, and that, as in all probability, Colonel Skinner or myself would be in the Gulf before the termination of the Peace, such steps as might be in accordance with the views of the authorities in India could then be taken. I concluded by saying, that, in order no time might be lost, I would write to Sheikh Khalifa
beon



policy of the Government to place itself in such immediate contact with the disputes and quarrels of these restless and turbulent characters, as would be implied in its becoming a guarantee of the Maritime peace, and pledging itself to afford redress on the occasion of all acts of aggression that might be committed upon each other by sea in future without reference to the expediency of each individual case.

4. Under all considerations I would respectfully submit an opinion that the same objections do not exist to the Resident, using his best endeavours to persuade the Chiefs of the Arabian Coast, who are Members of the present Peace, to consent to its renewal for another six months, under the proviso that in the event of its being infringed by any one of the parties it must be left entirely to the discretion of the British Authority, whether he will take steps himself to enforce redress for the complainants, or simply afford his permission to their adopting their own measures to obtain satisfaction.

5. One of the reasons which induces me ^{to} think that Sheikh Khuleefa will not

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not become a cordial subscriber to a renewal of the Peace, in the ardent desire he entertains to reduce Debagh once more to its former dependence upon Abothabeh.

This Peih, which lies a few miles to the westward of Shargah, was captured by the late Beni-yas Chief Dahnoon, and remained in the possession of his Tribe until his murder by his brother Khulifeh on which occasion the Boo Del-aga who formed its Garrison threw off their allegiance upon Abothabeh, and formed a close alliance with the Joasmees. The hatred now subsisting between the Beni-yas and Boo Delasa is extreme, and their feud is carried on inland with great intractancy, although from the dread of their power they do not commit aggressions upon each other by sea.

As a question of general policy, the advantages of Debagh remaining an independent place in alliance with Shargah, or becoming again subjects to the Beni-yas, are so nearly balanced, as to render it a matter of indifference to us as to which party may hold it. In the first points of

(778)

since the separation of the Territories of
Sheik Khalifa, and Sheik Sultan bin
Suggur, by those of an independent power
prevents the collisions which were formerly
constantly taking place between those two
Chiefs. On the other hand the possession
of Debaya by the Beniya, would render
that Tribe much more tangible by us
than they are at present and consequently
bring them more effectually under our
control. Our Ships of War can be
without much risk within gunshot of
Debaya, but extreme measures against
Abutrabee if ever unfortunately necessary,
must be carried on by boats, which
with reference to the dangerous nature of
the Coast, the distance the Vessels lie off,
and the brave and determined character
of the Inhabitants would be an operation of
considerable difficulty and risk.

I am &c.

Residency in the
Persian Gulf
Muscat 16 Sept.
1837

(Signed) J. G. Cannell
Off. Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Translation of Letter from Sultan bin
Suggur to Officiating Residents in the Persian
Gulf

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Gulf dated 25 Jumadiah ul awwal or 27th August, 1837.

A. C.

The letter you sent reached on the 10th Rabi' ul awwal (14th July) and its contents were fully comprehended. Relative to the prohibition of plunder and piracy, our sentiments continue the same as represented at our interview, and should it be carried into effect (the Truce made permanent) it will confer prosperity on the Country. You are aware that the present is the season in which the people travel and are scattered, and you also know the state of the Banijar, that they have no connections (Commercial) and that, that Island of theirs is their boundary. Besides some one else urges them to raise disturbances and troubles and he gives them things to the extent of his ability, both privately and publicly. We relying on providence, have no fear from them, all but our people will be scattered in distant places such as India, Yaman, Ham Arabian Coast of the Red Sea, and Lawahel (Zanzibar &c)

Alluding to His Highness the Imam

and
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and the period of their absence will be long and they will be unacquainted with changes that may take place after their departure. On their return they will be unprovided with warlike implements and unprepared for war, thinking that the same safety and security will prevail as when they left. Therefore it will be necessary to inform them before they leave, so that every one may make the necessary arrangements. You are yourself acquainted with the state of affairs, and should the Peace be made perpetual and a permanent peace be established, so that the poor might live in peace and safety, and bloodshed be put a stop to agreeably to universal wish, it will not be unacceptable to us. On the contrary, we most earnestly desire it. I do myself the pleasure of sending the bearer of this to inform him always, to wait on you, that he may become fully acquainted with your sentiments on the subject. He will explain.

(True Translation)

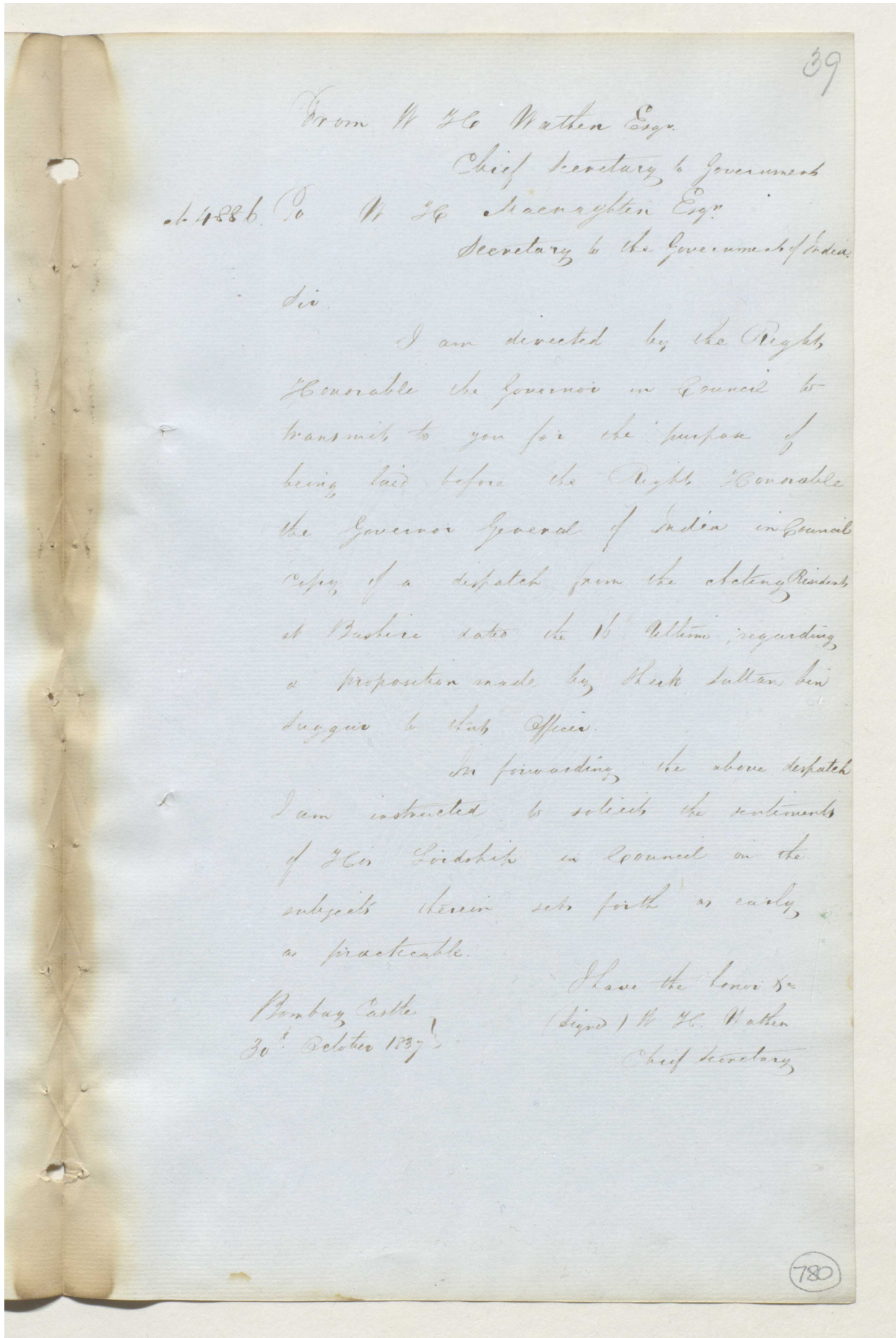
(Signed) D. Mackenzie

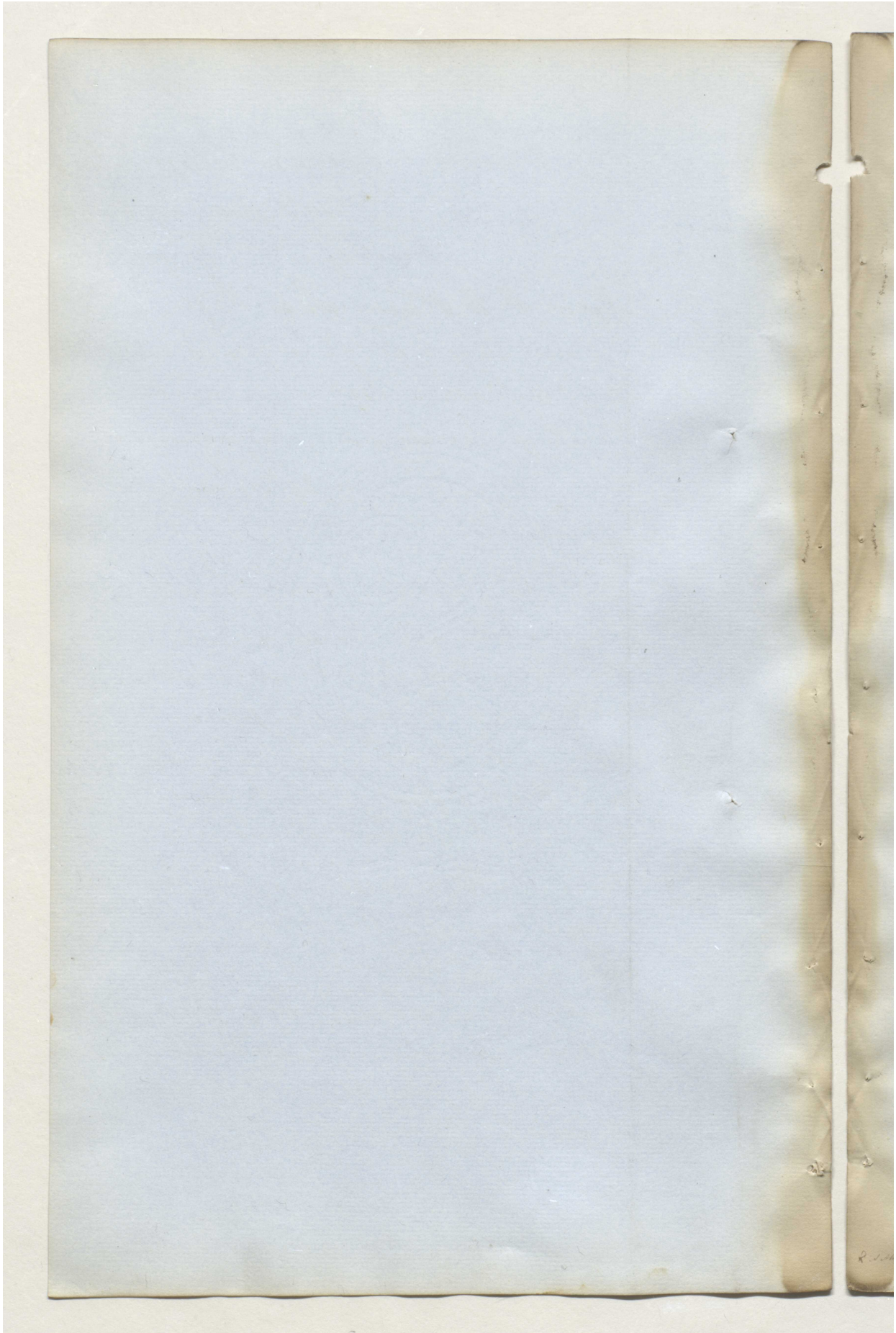
Acting, Asst. to the Resident,
in the Persian Gulf.

(True copy) J. H. Bennett

Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(From)





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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
10th January 1838

From W. H. Macnaghten Esquire
Secretary to the Governor General of India
No 18 To W. H. Wathen Esq^r
Chief Secretary to Government.
(29th November 1837)

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures under date the 30th ultimo, respecting the maintenance of peace among the Arab Chieftains on the coast of the Persian Gulf, originating in a proposition from Sheik. Sultan bin Sugga.

2 The Right Honorable the Governor General desires me to request you to inform the Right Honorable the Governor in Council what the views taken by the Resident at Bushire with regard to the proposition above noted is in his opinion a correct one, and the course of policy he recommends the most advisable.

3 It would be on every account most inexpedient that the British Government

should

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should become involved as perpetual
reference in the hands of a restless and
turbulent people whose stakes are even engaged
in petty warfare one with the other. But
the occasion which now offers of checking
this spirit of hostility with a view to
preserving the commerce of the Gulf from
internal aggression, will enable the British
Government to come forward in the favorable
character of a mediator without inducing
the necessity of future interference, should the
mediation prove unsuccessful.

44 His Lordship is therefore of opinion
that no time should be lost in apprising
the Resident at Bushair of the approval
of the policy which he recommends, and
authorizing him to act in conformity with it.
Camp at Lydatra, (Signed) W. H. Macnaghten
29th November 1837 Secy to Gov^r Gen^l of India

From J. P. Willoughby Esq^r Secy to Gov^r
To the Acting Assistant Resident in Charge No. 19
Persian Gulf (4th January 1838)

Sir

With reference to Captain Hennell's letter

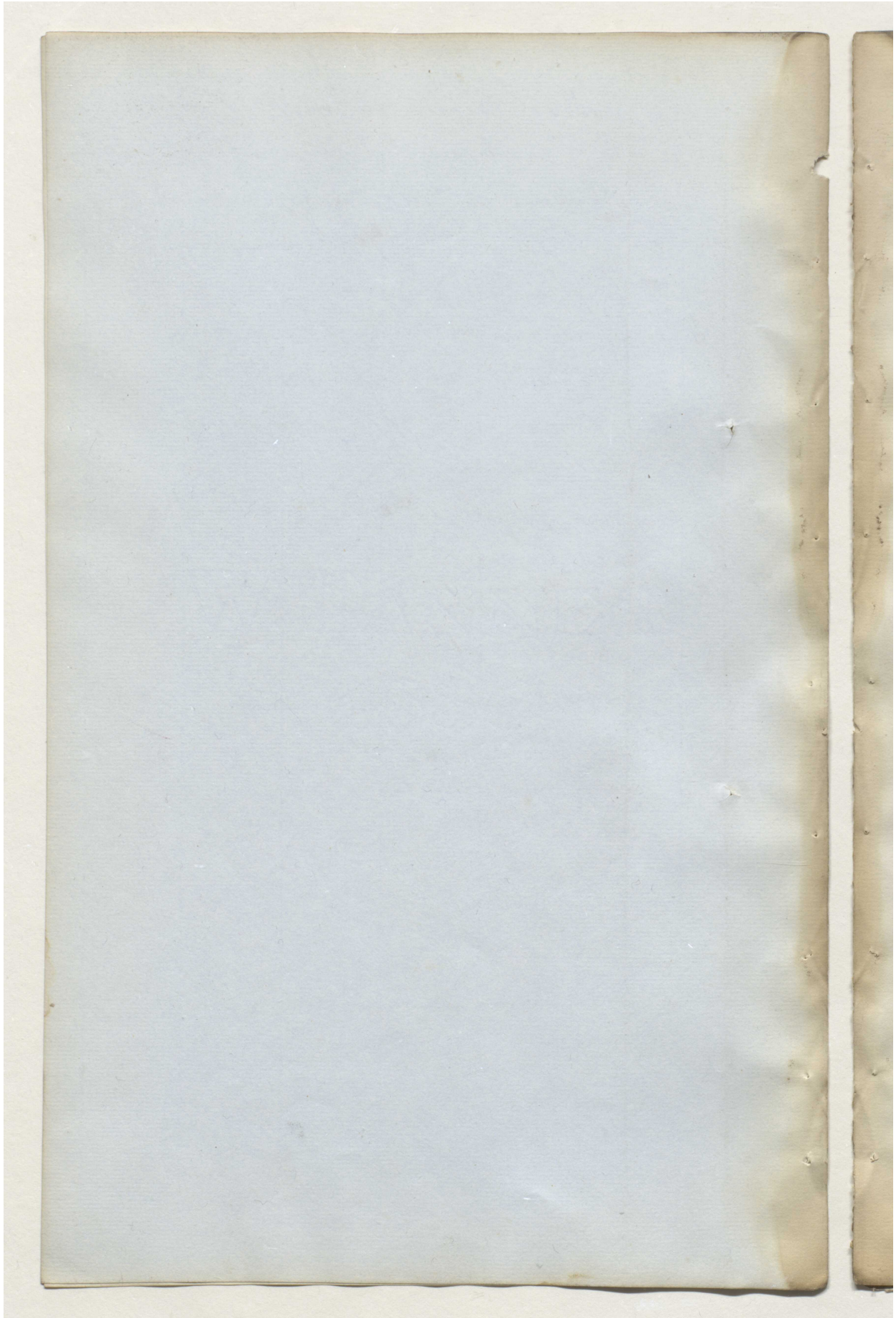
dated

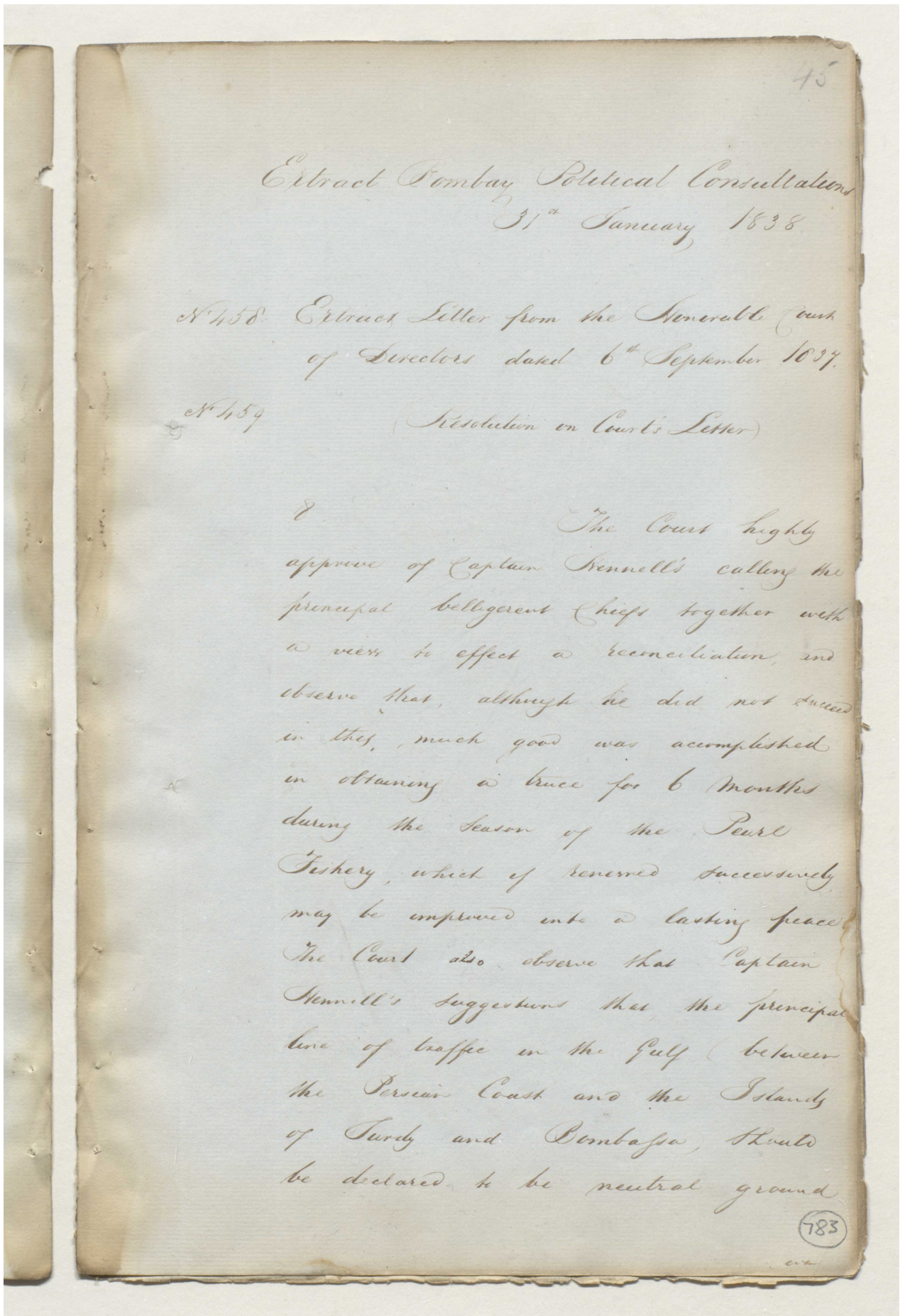
43

dated 16th September last. No 83 respecting
the maintenance of peace among the Arab
Chieftains on the coast of the Persian Gulf,
originating in a proposition from Sheikh
Sulthan Bin Saggan; I am directed by
the Right Honorable the Governor in Council
to transmit for your information and
guidance copy of a communication from
the Secretary to the Governor General of
India, dated Dec 29th November 1837 on
the subject

Bombay Castle (Signed) J. B. McLaughlin
14th January 1838 Secy to Government.

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even in time of acknowledged war,
appears very valuable, if the line can
be sufficiently defined and the consent
of the Chiefs obtained to the proposition.

From J. P. Wellbough Esq^r N 460
Secy to Govt,

To the Acting Assistant in charge of
the Agency, Persian Gulf
(27th January 1838)

Sir,

I am directed by the Right
Honble the Governor or Council to transmit
to you the accompanying copy of a
Despatch from the Honble the Court
of Directors dated 6th September last,
on the Affairs of the Persian Gulf,
and to request that, you will furnish
Government with a Report on the
Subject treated on in the 8th page
thereof.

Bombay Castle
(27th January 1838)

Signed, J. P. Wellbough
Secy to Govt,

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Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 31st January 1838

No 460 From J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Secretary to Government

To, The Acting Asst in Charge of the Residency
Persian Gulf

Sir,

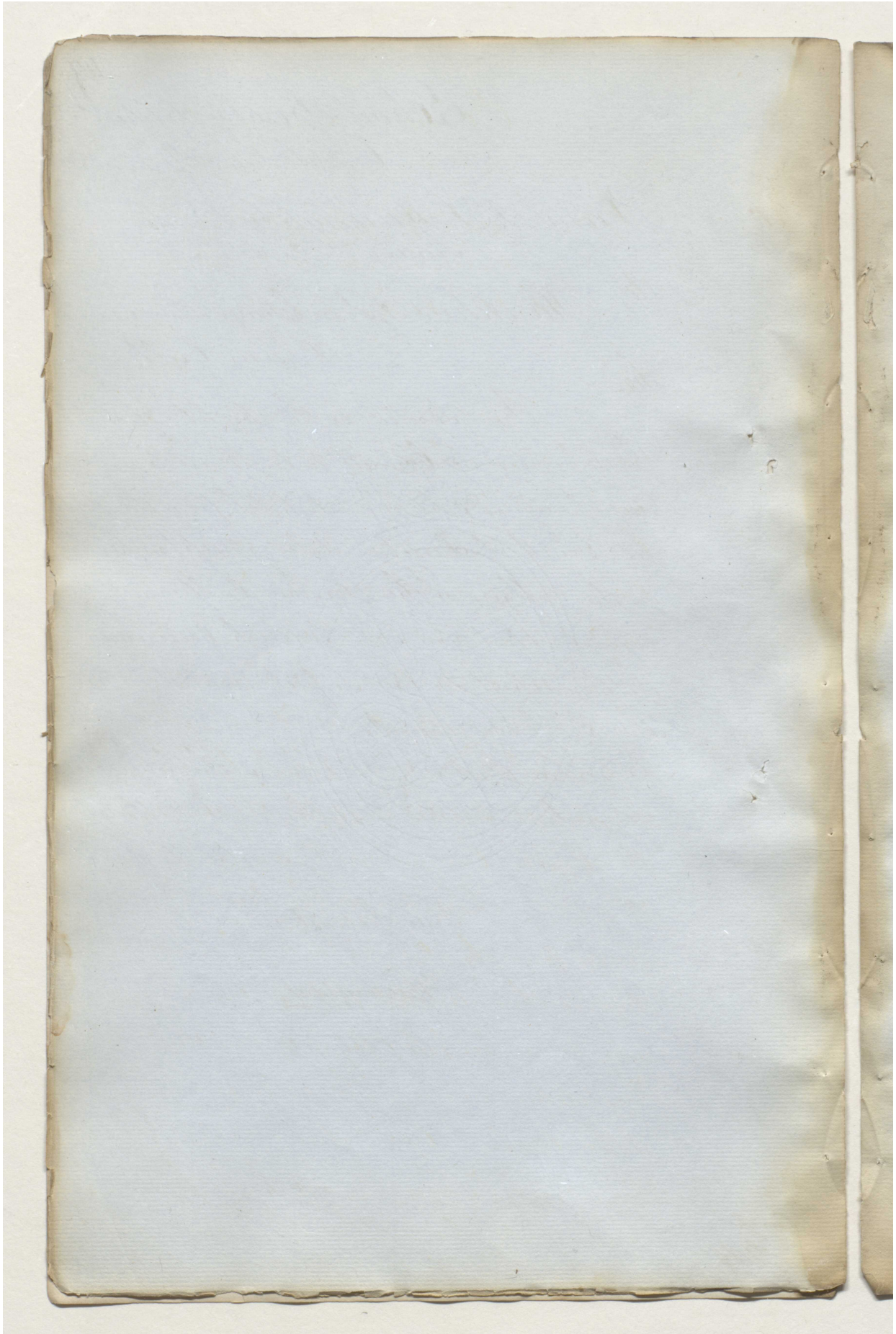
I am directed by the Right Hon^{ble}
the Governor in Council to transmit to you the
accompanying copy of a despatch from the Hon^{ble}
the Court of Directors dated 5th September last
on the affairs of the Persian Gulf and to
request that you will furnish Government
with a report on the subject treated on in
the 8th para thereof.

Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be
27th January 1838 } signed J. P. Willoughby
Secretary to Gov^{ts}

True Extract
J. P. Willoughby
Secretary to Gov^{ts}

Comp^d
R.H.

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Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 11th July 1838

From Captain Connell
Officially Resident in the Persian Gulf

To J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter n^o 183 in this department under date the 27th January 1838 to the Officer in Charge of the Bushire Residency enclosing a copy of a despatch from the Hon^{ble} the Court of Directors dated the 5th September 1837 on the affairs of the Persian Gulf, and conveying the directions of the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor in Council that a report should be made upon the subject treated on in the 8th paragraph of the Court's Communication.

Adverting to the first subject referred to in the Paragraph to which my attention is thus directed viz^t the result which may be anticipated from a cessation of Hostilities among the belligerent Tribes of the Arabian Coast, during each succeeding Pearl Fishery, it may be perhaps only necessary to observe, that the renewal of the

(785) True

Trade established in 1835 for four successive seasons and its gradual extension from 6 to Eight and eventually to twelve months, has been already fully reported upon in my several letters addressed to the Government during that period.

3^d Touching the second subject, which approves of the suggestion made for the principal line of Traffic in the Gulf lying between the Persian Coast and the Islands of Surdy and Bamesa, being declared neutral Ground within which the belligerent Tribes should be prohibited from cruising, provided the limits can be sufficiently defined and the consent of the Arab Chiefs obtained I beg with much respect to offer the following remarks.

4^d In the course of the interview which I held with the principal Maritime Arabian Sheiks at Bassadore in May 1833 ^{In former} ^(called) I fully explained to them that the recent outbreak of the Beni Yas Tribe of Aboothabee had sufficiently proved the necessity of further measures being adopted for the preservation of the general tranquility as well as for the protection of the Trade of the Gulf with

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With this view it was I added my intention to recommend to the Government that a certain distance from the Persian Shore, should be considered as neutral ground, and that no war vessels, even during the period of open Hostilities should be allowed to cruise within the space formed by the Coast on one side, and the Islands of Surdy and Bomasa on the other. To this intimation no objection whatever was raised by the assembled Chiefs who all expressed their readiness to give their assent to any arrangements the British Government might consider best adopted to meet the objects proposed as I could not then however, be aware of the light in which the proposition above referred to might be viewed by the Right Honble the Governor in Council, I did not ask for the consent of the respective Sheiks in writing considering that as a Truce for six months had just been established there would be sufficient time afforded, to receive the instructions of the Government upon the subject, before a renewal of Hostilities amongst the belligerent Tribes was likely to take place.

5th
786

3rd Shortly subsequently to this meeting the state of my health obliged me to leave the Gulf but the suggestions on the above subject as submitted in the 6th paragraph of my despatch of the 21st May 1835, having been ^{in former} approved of by the Right Hon^{ble} the Govern^r in Council, the Resident Major Marison, upon his arrival in the Gulf, proceeded to carry them into effect. This he appears to have done (with some modifications) in a personal communication held with the respective Chiefs about the close of the year 1835 but in the absence of any written document bearing the seals of those who assented it is to be presumed that the question of the restrictive line was discussed and settled verbally. To a certain extent at least, it is evident that the modifications proposed by Major Marison were admitted by Shaikh Sultan bin Suggud, the leading Chief on the Coast of Oman, whose only objection appears to have been that the commencement of the restrictive line from Shaum would prevent his sending his war vessels round Cape Mussendani, when he had occasion to do so, for purposes connected

Reported to Gov^r in letter dated 7th Jan^y 1836 and approved of in Chief Comm^{rs} communication No 763 1836 Dept^y 30th April of the same year

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connected with the protection of his territories in
the neighbourhood of Kharfahan.

in former letters
Having concluded his arrange-
ments on the Arabian coast, Major Morrison on the 19th January 1835 addressed
a letter to Commodore Peffer, requesting him
to issue instructions to the naval force in the
Gulf to carry them into effect. In consequence of
some irregular proceedings on the part of the
relations of Shaikh Abdollah bin Ahmed, the
restrictive line was subsequently made applic-
able to Howillah and Bahrein by being ex-
tended from Howillah ten miles north of
Ras Ruman, through the Island of Kraing to
Rasgood on the main a measure, which was as-
sented to by the Utloabee Chief, in a letter dated
in former letters
the 26th March 1835 and which as far as related
to the vessels from Howillah, received the sanc-
tion of Government conveyed in your commu-
nication No. 573 in this department under
date the 13th April of the same year.

Upon the whole, the restrictive
line under its several modifications as above
detailed, and passing through a number of
fixed points may be considered as sufficiently
desired for our objects. From the preceding
statement however it will be observed that
(781) although

although the concurrence of the Arabian Chiefs
in its establishment may be considered by im-
plication to have been offered, yet, that with the
exception of a letter from Shaikh Abdoollah bin
Ahmed of Bahrein, we hold no written documents
in which their consent has been formally given.
The absence of Hostilities by sea for the last
three years has, I am happy to add, prevented
any occasion for our Vessels of War using
coercive measures for maintaining the neutrality
of the principal line of traffic in the Gulf,
while the establishment of a Truce for the
ensuing twelve months will I trust continue
to render their interference unnecessary. I
would however respectfully suggest, in the
event of the Arabian Chiefs applying for
permission to declare war against each other
at any future period, that a written and
formal recognition of the restrictive line,
and neutral ground be required from each
Shaikh, preparatory to the authority requested
being afforded.

Residency in the
Persian Gulf
Bushire 15th May 1838.

I have the honor to be
(signed) J. Hennell
Officiating Resident
in the Persian Gulf

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123354 From L. R. Reid Esquire.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
To, The Officiating Resident,
in the Persian Gulf
Sir, I am directed to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter dated the 13th May last
relating to the affairs of the Persian Gulf, and
to acquaint you that the Right Honble the
Governor in Council approves the measures
suggested by you in the last para respecting
the future course to be pursued in the event of
the Arabian Chiefs applying for permission
to declare war against each other.
Bombay Castle, I have the honor to be
11th July 1838. Signed L. R. Reid
Act^g Chief Sec^y to Gov^t

123355 From L. R. Reid Esquire
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
To, The Secretary with the Right,
Honble the Governor General of India,
11th July 1838.
Sir, I am directed by the Right Honble
the Governor in Council to transmit to you
for submission to the Right Honble the
Governor General of India copy of a
dispatch from the Officiating Resident
at Bushire dated the 3rd May last relative
to

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to the affairs of the Persian Gulf and of
my reply of this date on the subject

Bombay Castle
11th July 1838

I have the honor to be
Signed S. A. Reid,
Actg. Chieftain to Govt

True Extract-

"Unlawfully
Secy to Govt."

Compd
R. H. B.

57

Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 5th September 1838

N^o. 4396. From W. H. Macnaghten Esquire
Secretary to Government of India
with the Governor General

To L. R. Reid Esquire
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 11th ultimo, transmitting copy of a despatch from the officiating Resident at Bushire dated the 13th May last, relative to the affairs of the Persian Gulf and in reply to state that the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor General of India approves the tenor of the letter written in reply to the officiating Resident.

Simla
The 2^d August 1838. } I have the honor to be
signed W. H. Macnaghten
Secretary to Gov^t of India
with the Governor Gen^l

True Extract-

"
J. H. M. S. P. S.
Secretary

Compd.
R. S. C.

(789)

