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Enclosure in the Letter from John Malcolm, 16 Nov 1802

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About this record

A copy of a letter from Captain John Malcolm, former Envoy of the Supreme Government of India to Persia [Iran] to Lieutenant Charles Pasley, sent from Bombay [Mumbai] and dated 30 October 1802, concerning the death in Bombay of the Persian Ambassador to India [Hājī Muhammad Khalīl Khān Qazvīnī]. The letter directs Pasley to accompany the Ambassador's body to Nejed [Najaf] and contains instructions relating to this mission.

The letter was enclosed in Malcolm's letter to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 16 November 1802.

LPS/9/67/52

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Secret Department.

To,

Lieutenant Charles Parkes,

Sir,

1. Circumstances have occurred which have made me judge it expedient to direct you to proceed with the party who convey the body of the late Persian Ambassador to reject the destined place of his Interment

2. As you are sent upon this occasion chiefly with a view to mark the respect which the British Government pay to the memory of the deceased; you must constantly regulate your conduct by a consideration of this circumstance, and adopt no measure that is not calculated to improve such an impression.

3. The Relations and adherents of the late Ambassador who have informed me that they are highly gratified by your Deputation may perhaps on your arrival at Busbora express a wish from religious or other motives that you should not accompany the
corpse

course any farther. you will consider it your duty to pay
the strictest attention to any suggestions of this nature
and by no means proceed when there is the most distant
cause to apprehend that by so doing, you might offend
the Religious prejudices of those with whom you are placed.
But should they on the contrary solicit your attendance
to Bagdad, or even to Mejet you will of course comply
with their wishes.

4. In the event of the Persians who attend
the body of the Ambassador being restrained by religious
motives from wishing you to accompany them beyond
Buspora at Bagdad, but being at the same time desirous
that you should send an Agent of the Mahomedan faith
on the part of the English Government to the place of
Interment, you are authorized to send such a person
and to furnish him with such instructions as the circumstances
of the moment appear to you to require.

5. In case that you may be at no loss for
a proper Agent to send on this Mission I shall order my
Moorshie Mahoumud Ghassem to attend you, and you
may

(2)

man next better confident of his zeal and fidelity in
fulfilling that or any other Duty upon which you may
have occasion to employ him. He is indeed from his
character attachment and local information peculiarly
qualified to be useful to you on this Service.

6. The late melancholy event and all the
circumstances which have attended it, make it both
expedient and politic, to mark, by some liberal acts
of immediate bounty the sincere respect which the
English Government entertain for the Memory of the late
Ambassador and to connect by some lasting proofs of
generosity, the remembrance of his unhappy fate, with
that of the greatness and munificence of the Government
in whose Territories he perished.

7. Acting upon this principle it may be
adviseable that you should either distribute or direct
the distribution of Alms to the Poor at the place of the
late Khans interment and also that an annual
establishment of a liberal nature should be made to
one of the principal Mooshtaheds or Moollahs at Mejer for
the

the purposes of charity and devotion at the Tomb of the
deceased Ambassador. with respect to the first of these
measures you will consider yourself at liberty, if you
find it accordant with the wishes of the Persians who
attend the corpse, to expend in the mode best suited to the
occasion, a sum not exceeding Fifteen thousand Rupees;
and you may so far agitate the latter subject as to
inform yourself of the Moostahed or Moulah at Mejeb
who is from character and edibility, the most proper Person
to be employed as the dispenser of the annual liberality
of the British Government, in order that you may be
prepared to carry into execution the eventual commands
of His Excellency the most Noble the Governor General, to
whom it is my intention to recommend the Policy of -
granting the sum of Ten thousand Rupees p annum for
this establishment.

I. In distributing Alms as well as informing
any Arrangement for a more permanent charity you
must be particularly cautious in informing yourself
of the disposition of those who are to profit by such
liberality

liberality, which is by no means to be extended to Persons
of whose receiving it with proper impressions there can be
a moments doubt. (3)

9. During the period you are at Aboosheher
where the vessel which carries the Khanns corpse will
touch as well as during your stay at Busfora and Bonydad
you will endeavour to diffuse a correct and proper impression
among all Ranks of Persons in that Quarter, respecting the
Occurrence of the late Khanns death and the Subsequent
conduct of the English Government. I enclose for your information
and guidance upon this Subject, Copies in Persian and
English of the Declaration of his Excellency the most noble
the Governor General to the surviving Relations and attendants
of the Persian Ambassador, as well as of his Lordships Letter
to the King of Persia and it is my particular desire that
all communications upon the late Event should be made
in the very spirit of the principles which you will find
stated in these Papers which are equally calculated by
their truth and Justice to conciliate the Minds of the Inhabitants
of Persia and to Support the honor and dignity of the
British

British Government.

10. In order that you may be informed in the fullest manner of every measure that has been adopted since the death of the late Ambassador, Mr. Dunean has directed the secretary of this Government to furnish you with copies of all communications which have been made to the Gulph since that event occurred.

11. I transmit you a Copy of my Journal since my arrival at Bombay and desire you will regulate your conduct to all Persons belonging to the Persian Embassy agreeable to those rules which you will from that Document see that I have observed.

12. It appears an Object of Consequence to obtain the most correct information of the real disposition and feeling of the Natives of Persia upon the late Occurrence to this point I wish to direct your particular Attention, and for this purpose, I would recommend your keeping a regular and minute Journal of your proceedings which you will find useful in many other respects besides that here stated.

Yours

(4)

13. You will be permitted to draw the same pay which you at present receive as my Secretary and charge your expences while employed upon this duty. But I need hardly inform you that it is expected these will be regulated by the most strict attention to Economy.

14. You will make it your duty to correspond Publicly with the Secretary to Government in the Political and foreign Department to whom you will transmit Monthly accounts in which must be included the pay and Expences of Mahomed Ansum who has been directed to attend you upon this Mission.

15. You will communicate freely and confidentially with Mr. Manesty and Mr. Jones Residents at Basora and Bagdad, and benefit by the advice which the great local knowledge and approved abilities of those Gentlemen enable them to give you for the guidance of your conduct and you will pay particular deference to any Opinions they offer connected with the local impressions, which are likely to result from the measures which you may propose to adopt in consequence of these Instructions.

Instructions.

N^o. 2.

16. You will return to India as soon as you can consistent with the complete accomplishment of the chief Objects stated in this letter and as it may be desirable that you should communicate in Person the particular circumstances which have attended your Mission, you will lose no time after your return in repairing to Fort William.

17. A variety of Circumstances may no doubt arise which would render a compliance with the directions conveyed in this letter, impracticable; whilst events may occur that are not provided for in your instructions; In either case you will exercise your discretion, and I am confident in the hope, that you will display such zeal and ability in the execution of the duties now committed to your charge as will recommend you to the future notice of his Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General.

Bombay
30th October 1802.

I am Sir,
your most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) John Malcolm,

a true Copy
John Malcolm

Enclosure in the Letter from John Malcolm, 16 Nov 1802 [5r] (9/10)



