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## Copy of a Letter from the Resident at Bushire, William Bruce, in Tehran, to HM Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia, Sir Gore Ouseley

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/68/181
<b>Date(s)</b>	20 Mar 1814 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (5 folios)
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### About this record

Copy of a letter from the Resident at Bushire [Būshehr], William Bruce, in Tehran, to HM Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia [Iran], Sir Gore Ouseley, of 20 March 1814. The letter concerns the affair of the imprisonment of the Vizier of the Governor of Fars, Mahomed Nebee Khan [Muḥammad Nabī Khan] for indebtedness by the Governor of Fars, Hussein Ali Mirza (see IOR/L/PS/9/68/136). The letter details Bruces's intervention in the affair, at Ouseley's request, in which he acted as an adjudicator in the dispute and paid off some of Khan's debts in advance, in order ensure Khan's release and maintain British prestige in Persia.

The letter was enclosed in the letter of HM Chargé d'Affaires to Persia, Henry Willock, to HM Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Viscount Castlereagh, of 4 December 1818 (see IOR/L/PS/9/68/179), which was received on 29 April 1819.

Copy of a Letter from the Resident at Bushire, William Bruce, in Tehran, to HM  
Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia, Sir Gore Ouseley [1r] (1/10)

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L/PS/9/68/181

Tehran 20<sup>th</sup> March 1814

(1)

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of Your  
Excellency's Commands under date 5<sup>th</sup> May last, and  
which I had the honor to receive on the 9<sup>th</sup> August  
advising me that at the earnest solicitations of  
Abdel Rahime Khan the son of Mahomed Nebbee  
Khan for you to interfere in his Father's behalf  
to save him from the enmity and oppression  
of Hopain Ali Mirza the Prince of Shiraz, Your  
Excellency had deemed it advisable to have me  
nominated joint Commissioner with Amin ud  
Dowlah for the inspection of Mahomed Nebbee  
Khan's accounts as Vizier of Fars, enclosing the  
Shah's Rukum to Amin ud Dowlah acknow-  
-ledging my right as Commissioner, and whether  
the result prove favourable or otherwise to  
Mahomed Nebbee Khan must in all cases  
cover the British Government with praise  
and honor, in having been the means of  
seeing justice done to an individual (who  
otherwise must inevitably have fallen a victim  
to the grossest corruption oppression and  
avarice

H. C.  
Sir Gore Ouseley Bart  
He He He



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avarice) whose only claim to the protection of the  
British Government is that he is the object of their  
bounty in consequence of having once gone on  
an Embassy to the Seat of the Supreme Government  
in India; further recommending the strictest  
impartiality in my adjustment of accounts, as  
the Shah had so far condescended as not only  
to allow of Your Excellency's interference, but in  
some measure to abide by your decision, Your  
Excellency therefore did not wish him to be a  
loser of any part of his just claim on Mahomed  
Nebbe Khan at the same time conceiving  
that the Prince's claim of 362,000 Tomans is  
as unfounded as it was meant to be enormous  
and oppressive, you therefore directed I would  
not admit any charges that were not satisfac-  
torily substantiated deeming it unnecessary  
to point out to the very great credit which  
the present interference must reflect upon  
the British Government, and that it was on  
this account Your Excellency had chiefly nominated  
me for so troublesome an undertaking confident  
from experience that my zeal and activity for  
the fame of my Noble Employers would at once  
induce me to set about it.

In



(2)

In compliance therefore with Your Excel-  
lency's Commands I have the honor to acquaint  
you that I arrived at Shiraz on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
and immediately undertook the duty I had  
been nominated to, and which I should have  
much sooner got through, had I not unfortu-  
nately been attacked with a most severe illness,  
during which my life was despaired of, brought  
on by my anxiety and trouble in the adjust-  
ment of the accounts, which confined me  
to my room almost entirely, from the 10<sup>th</sup> September  
to the period of my leaving Shiraz the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>  
after innumerable discussions with the Minister  
and Prince both personally and by message,  
and examinations of Khans, Zabuts &c I  
succeeded in reducing the Princes demand  
against Mahomed Nebbe Khan from the  
enormous sum of 362,000 Tomans to 106,700  
which the latter allowed to be just.

The Prince and Minister as Your Excel-  
lency will suppose (and who had used  
all their artifice and power to establish the  
whole amount against him, and in fact  
previous to my arrival had actually compelled  
him



him to sign a bond acknowledging the whole  
amount) were highly offended and displeas'd  
with me for so very large a reduction, but I was  
not to be moved, nor would I admit of any fur-  
-ther charge; After finding all their endeavours  
ineffectual to increase this sum, they agreed  
to liberate Mahomed Nebbee Khan, if I would  
make good the amount, but this I refused  
to comply with, under the idea that Mahomed  
Nebbee Khan had the means of doing it  
himself but finding after the most minute  
enquiries regarding his property that it  
would be utterly impossible for him to  
liquidate this claim without my assistance,  
and to leave him in confinement at the  
mercy of his enemies who were determin'd  
either to have his life or the amount, I deem'd  
it advisable after the most serious delibera-  
-tion, having observed the very great effect  
which Your Excellency's humane interference  
in the behalf of this unfortunate man, had  
made on the Inhabitants of Fars, and conse-  
-dering the tenor of Your Excellency's address  
dated



(3)  
dated Hammadan 15<sup>th</sup> June calling on me to state  
whether I could if necessity required collect grain  
and provisions sufficient in Bahrain, Busora,  
and Dashtistan for a Bazar for 10 to 15,000 Men,  
and having learnt the French Army under  
Bonaparte had taken the City of Moscow and  
which had caused great sensations in the  
Persian Court, I conceived a more favorable  
opportunity of establishing our influence on  
a firm footing in a very large portion of the  
Empire of Persia could not offer, and which  
would be such that upon whatever terms we  
might remain on in this Country we could  
always calculate of having the Province of  
Fars completely at our command whenever  
requisite. I consequently made a proposal to  
the Minister for the liberation of Mahomed Nabee  
Khan and his dependents on the following  
terms, as literally nothing would ultimately go  
out of the Public Pocket more than an advance  
of a few Years Pension, which is secured on  
two good lives, that of Mahomed Nabee  
Khan and his Son Abdel Rahime Khan and  
that there was even a prospect of a portion of  
part of the advance Pension being reduced when  
ever his Property should be turned into Cash.  
The



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The arrangement I proposed is as follows.

amount of the adjustment of accounts due	Tomans	
Government	106,700	
amount due by Bond to Amin ud Dowlah	14,000	
	<u>120,700</u>	
amount agreed to be paid by me on account Mahomed Nebbee Khan's property	18,000	
amount of Estates and House sold at Shiraz	7,000	
amount of Age Mahomed Ismail's assistance to his Uncle	20,000	
amount of a Bond debt due by Mahomed Hopain Khan to Mahomed Nebbee Khan and made over to Amin ud Dowlah	15,000	
amount to be paid by Mahomed Jaffer Khan on account Bushire deficiency	10,000	
amount advanced on account Mr. Nebbee Khan's Pension being up to the 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 1822	14,000	
Amount paid by Mr. Nebbee Khan	2,000	86,000
Balance to be deducted by Amin ud Dowlah.	Tomans	<u>34,700</u>

At the same time I was to have a complete written  
acquittal from the Prince and Ministers of all  
claims on the part of the Persian Government  
against Mahomed Nebbee Khan and his dependants  
and they were to be released from confinement and  
to be allowed to get their livelihood in any way  
they



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(4)

they thought proper, my proposal was rejected as  
the reduction I insisted on was too great, they  
agreed to strike off 10,000 Tomans and used  
all their influence to persuade me to consent;  
but without effect, sending all their endeavours  
in vain they at length agreed upon condition  
that I would also pay the Kings Officers who  
had been sent to enforce the amount their  
fees, with a small private claim of the Prince  
Hajan Ali Mirza which after a great deal of  
altercation I consented to, as the whole did not  
amount to more than 2000 Tomans.

Accordingly on the 18<sup>th</sup> of No<sup>v</sup> I released  
Mohamad Nebber Khan and his Son Abdel Rahime  
Khan from confinement and carried them to  
their own House, and a few days afterwards  
procured a Khalaat from the Prince for each  
and had them publicly carried through the  
Town to his Presence — The rejoicings  
occasioned by this throughout the Town of  
Shiraz is hardly to be expressed and the  
only conversation to be heard amongst all  
ranks was in praise of the Noble Company  
Your Excellency, and the British Government,  
After



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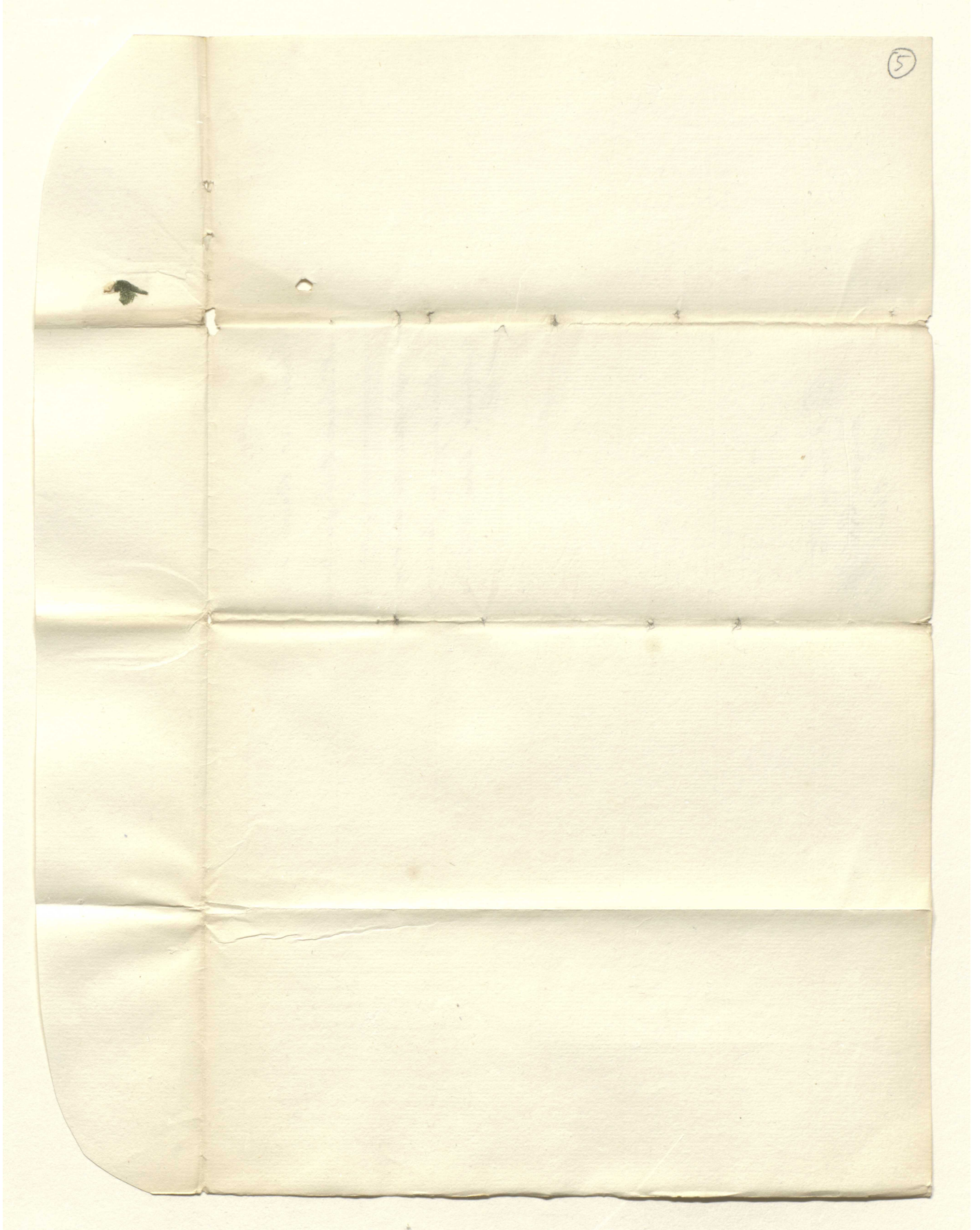
After having arranged matters for the payment  
of the amount I had agreed to, and received the  
requisite papers of clearance for Mahomed  
Nebbee Khan, from His Royal Highness the  
Prince and Minister, I left Shiraz on the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>  
(although in a very weak state of health) for this  
Place, that I might have the honor of laying  
all particulars of my proceedings at Shiraz  
before Your Excellency whose approbation it  
has been my study to merit and should  
I only have been fortunate enough to have  
succeeded shall consider myself well rewarded  
for all the anxiety and trouble which I have  
had in the adjustment of an account of  
such magnitude with a Government predis-  
-posed to throw every obstacle in their  
power in the way of truth and investigation  
on purpose to ruin and destroy the unfor-  
tunate individual under dis grace.

I have the honor to be  
Sir Sir Sir

(signed) W<sup>m</sup> Bruce  
Resident.

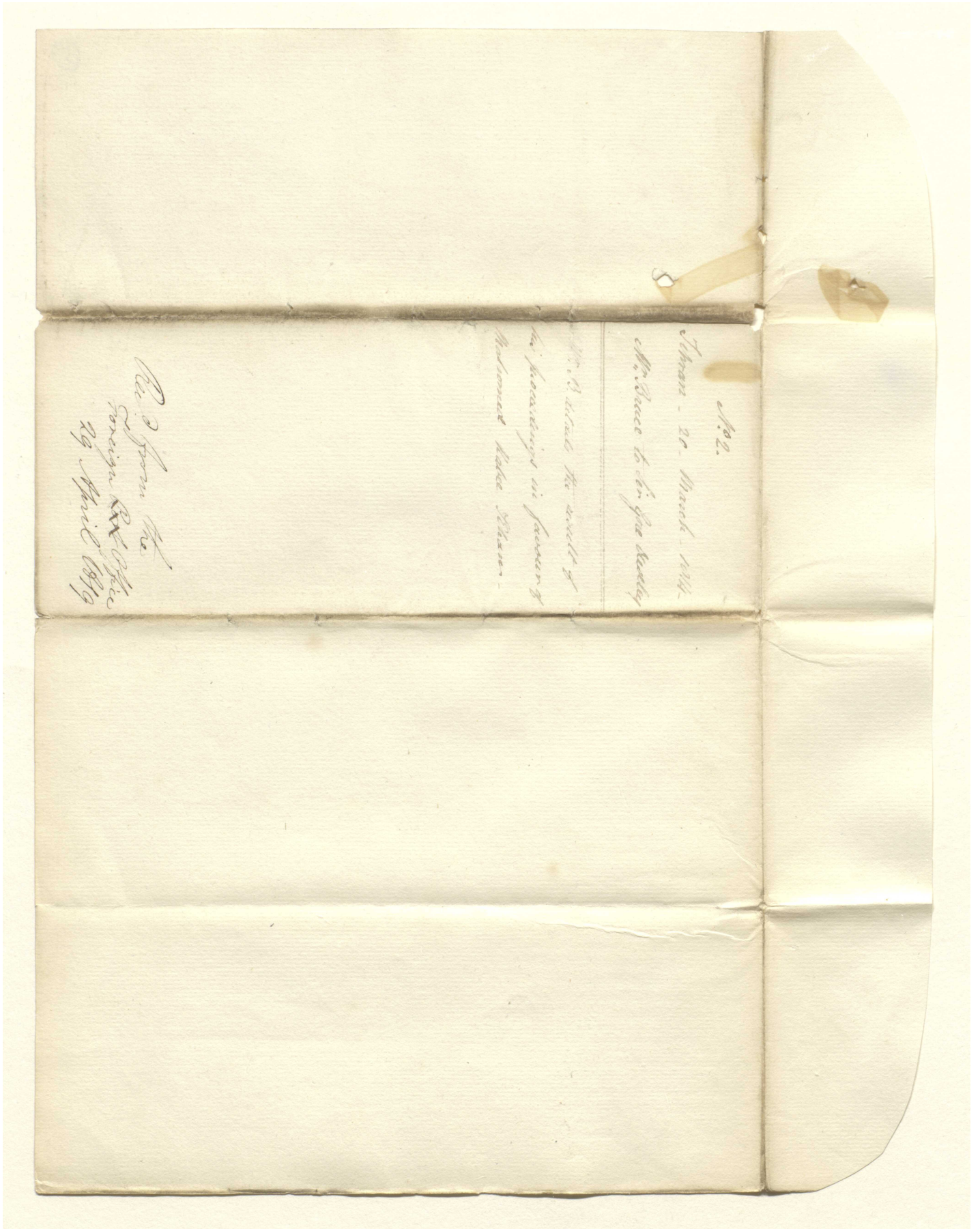


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Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia, Sir Gore Ouseley [5r] (9/10)





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Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia, Sir Gore Ouseley [5v] (10/10)



Recd from the  
Foreign Office  
19 April 1849

No. 2.  
Tehran - 20 March 1849  
Wm Bruce to Sir Gore Ouseley  
I have the pleasure  
to acknowledge in favour of  
Mahomed Kaka Khan -