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Copy of a Letter from the Resident at Bushire, William Bruce, to HM Minister to Persia, James Morier

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/68/184
Date(s)	4 May 1815 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
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About this record

Copy of a letter from the Resident at Bushire [Būshehr], William Bruce, to HM Minister to Persia [Iran], James Morier, of 4 May 1815. The letter relates to the affair concerning the debts and imprisonment of Mahomed Nebbee Khan [Muḥammad Nabī Khan] (see IOR/L/PS/9/68/181). The letter details the circumstances surrounding the delay to the release of Khan from imprisonment, and Bruce's difficulties in releasing Khan's assets for the purpose of realising the sum he had paid in advance for his release.

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, to HM Minister to Persia, James Morier [1r] (1/8)

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L/PS/9/68/184
(4 ff.)

Bushire 4th May 1815

①

Sir

In transmitting to you the enclosed copy of a letter from H. E. Sir Gore Buseley to me under date 24th March 1814 and copy of my address in consequence to the Right Honourable the Earl of Moira, under date 1st May 1814 it becomes incumbent on me to state to ^{you} the reasons for the delay which has occurred in the release of Mahomed Nebber Khan as also for his still being obliged to remain in Sanctuary at Shiraz. As I conceive the Pizam ud Dowlah will either previous to his arrival at Tehran or after it acquaint H. M. the King of Persia that I have withheld paying the whole of H. E. Sir Gore Buseley's last draft on me for Subsidy and as His Majesty is most probably not acquainted with the real cause for the Balance being withheld it becomes necessary for me to give you a statement of particulars to enable you to meet such representations as may be made to you.

Previous to my leaving Tehran last
Year

Wm James Morier Esq
to the Secy

year, I waited on Nizam ud Dowlah and acquainted
 him with the orders I had received from Sir
 Gore-buseley to withhold from his first draft for
 Subsidy, such amount as I had advanced for the
 release of Mahomed Nebbee Khan, until such time
 as he was liberated and made over to me to enable
 me to realize the amount I had advanced for
 his release. — The Minister desired me to remain
 perfectly satisfied that after his arrival at
 Shiraz he would send Mahomed Nebbee Khan and
 Family down to me at Bushire and that I might
 dispose of them in any way I thought proper —
 with this assurance I left Tehran — after the
 return of the Minister to Shiraz he acquainted
 me of the drafts he had on me and requested I
 would send orders for payment without ever
 noticing any thing regarding Mahomed Nebbee
 Khan drawing on me at the same time for
 considerable sums in favor of individuals
 which I accepted and paid and wrote to
 him in reply that the whole amount of
 Sir Gore's Bills on me excepting such as had
 been advanced on account of Mahomed Nebbee
 Khan would be discharged immediately, but
 that

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that this amount would be withheld agreeable to the orders I had received and had acquainted him with at Tehran. Several letters passed between us on this subject he trying by all the arguments in his power to induce me to pay the whole amount of the drafts, but with which I of course refused compliance.

In the interim I had dispatched Cojea Arratoon to Bombay to realize Mahomed Nebbee Khan's property and come to some settlement with Mahomed Ali Khan Shushhance the Agent of Mahomed Nebbee Khan and in whose hands the latter's Ships and property were.

Cojea Arratoon after an absence of seven months returned without having been able to come to any terms with Mahomed Ali Khan. The ostensible reason of his failure was that his own claims against Mahomed Nebbee Khan were very great, and which could only be adjusted by himself, therefore he would not give up any portion of the property in his possession without his claims being regularly admitted by Mahomed Nebbee Khan and which of course could only be done by his being perfectly released.

Notwithstanding this, actuated with the same

same feeling with which I undertook this very trouble-
some business last year, the settlement of Mahomed
Nebbee Khans unfortunate concerns, and which is still
attended with a great deal of litigation and trouble.
I agreed with the Minister after his arrival here
to make good the amount balance to him in
different articles which I would take up from the
merchants here if he would release the Khan and
send him down, and that I would undertake
the disagreeable duty of recovering the amount
hereafter from Mahomed Ali Khan Shushtanee and
which is not unattended with great risk.

As it is necessary for me to state that the greatest
portion of the advance made by me last year
was from the Mission funds so that in fact
this Draft that the Nizam ud Dowlah holds has
been paid in advance and what is now
wanting is Mahomed Nebbee Khans assets
which had he been liberated would long ere
this have been realized. — The Minister agreed
to this but as usual has failed in his part
of the engagement, i.e. the liberation of
Mahomed Nebbee Khan, as he has left Shiraz
and poor Mahomed Nebbee is still in Sanctuary,
you will observe by the copy of my address
herein.

③

herin enclosed to the Supreme Government. The grounds on which I have drawn for Mahomed Nebbee Khans Pension in advance up to the 25th July 1872, and which has been accepted on the terms stated, and which if fulfilled will be duly paid by me, if not will again be brought to the A. C. credit.

The last Bill drawn by H. E. Sir Gore Ouseley on me is for 84,000 Tomans, and which stands as follows Vizt.

Draft. _____ 84,000

Paid on account and duly entered on the back of the Draft _____ 50,265

Retained on account of Ordnance supplied the Persian Government _____ 11,159 61,424

Remains to be realized _____ Tomans 22,576

from Mahomed Nebbee Khans Property, the whole sum advanced by me last year was 33,735 Tomans

in part of which I have received the amount of the above Ordnance part from His Pension

and part Property recovered here — The Balance 22,576 still remains to be realized, and

which is not unattended without great difficulty. And as I have already had very considerable

trouble and anxiety in this disagreeable duty

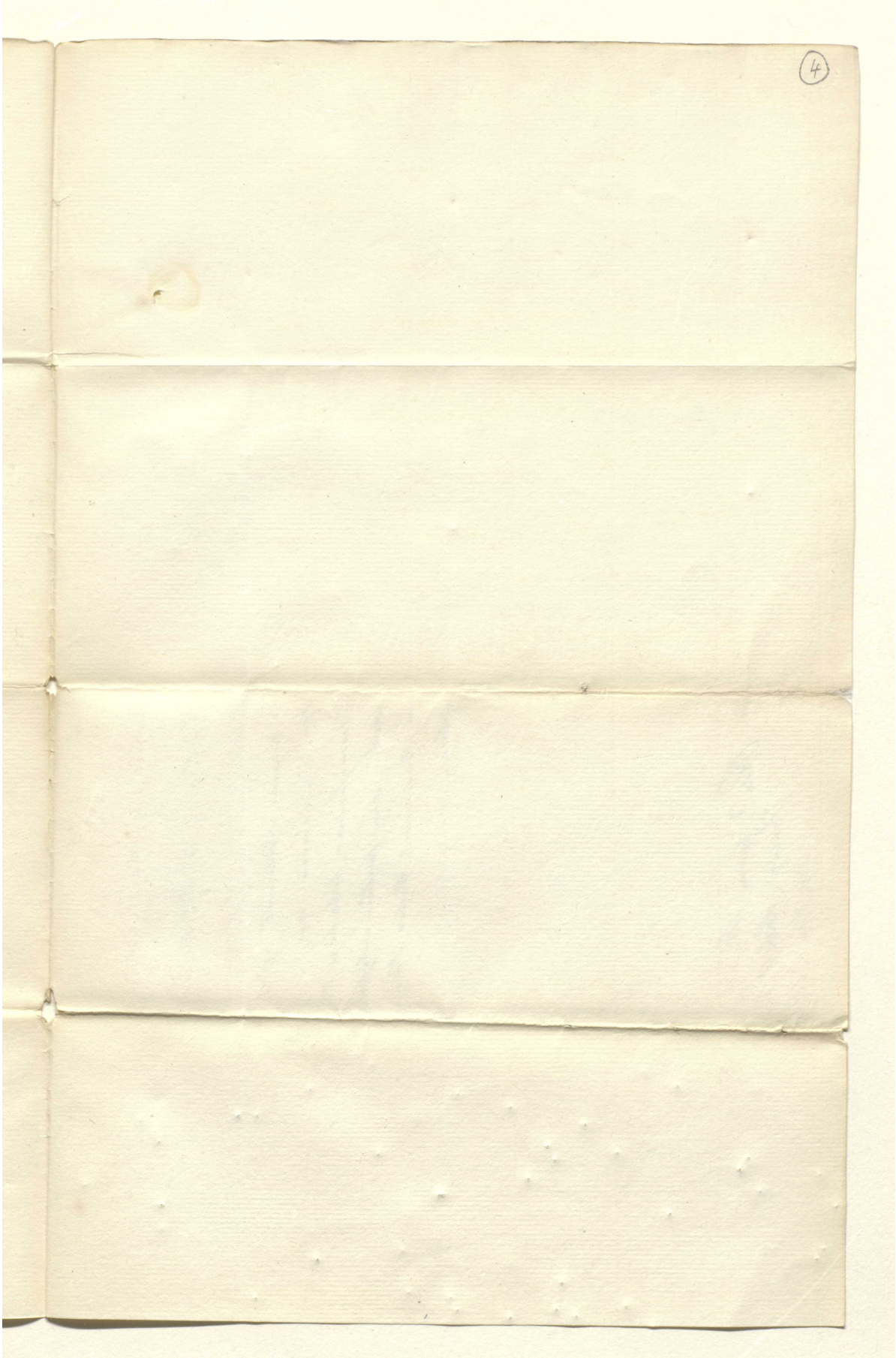
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duty I beg to be allowed to decline any further
interference particularly as the Nizam and
Dowlah has now by his marriage with Mahamed
Nebbee Khan's Sister, become a relation, and can
therefore with greater propriety send a Person
to Bombay duly authorised to come to a regular
legal adjustment with Mahomed Ali Khan
and whenever he thinks proper to release
his new Brother in Law, I am ready to come to a
settlement for such portion of his Pension &
as I have in my possession.

I have the honor to be
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(signed) Wm Bruce
Resident

Copy of a Letter from the Resident at Bushire, William Bruce, to HM Minister to
Persia, James Morier [4r] (7/8)



Copy of a Letter from the Resident at Bushire, William Bruce, to HM Minister to
Persia, James Morier [4v] (8/8)

