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Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 6 Jul 1820

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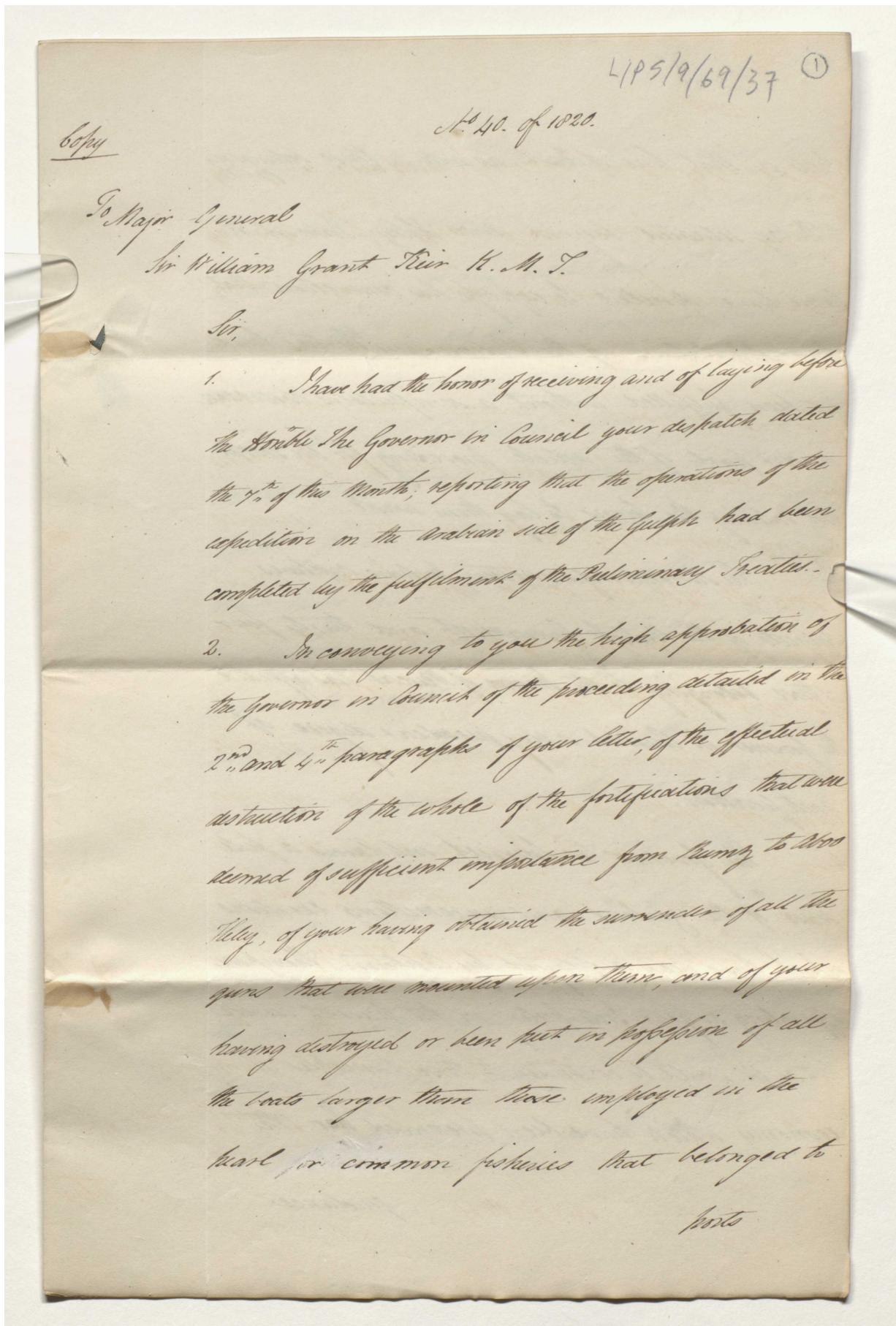


About this record

A copy of a letter from Francis Warden, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to Major-General William Grant Keir, Commander of the 1819 expedition to the Persian Gulf, sent from Bombay Castle and dated 28 February 1820.

The letter transmits the observations of the Governor of Bombay [Mountstuart Elphinstone] following the Gulf expedition. Subjects covered include: the release of Indian captives; the proposed appointment of Captain Thomas Thompson as a Political Agent in the Gulf; the future of Ras-ul-Khyma [Ra's al-Khaymah]; Keir's proposed action against Ramah bin Jauber [Rahmah bin Jābir al-Jalāhimah] in response to reported attacks on Persian [Iranian] ships; relations with the Persian Government in regard to 'anti-piracy' actions on the Persian coast; and hostilities between the Imaum [Imam] of Muscat and Bahrein [Bahrain].

The letter was enclosed in the letter of Henry Willock, HM Chargé d'Affaires in Persia, to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 6 July 1820 (IOR/L/PS/9/69/26 and 29).



parts in that line of coast, as well as those belonging to Dukey situated beyond Abu Hley; I am at the same time directed to express his conviction that these stipulations of the Preliminary Treaty have not been fulfilled, without a scrupulous observance on our part of the article providing for the troops not entering the towns to lay them waste.

3. The surrender of seventeen Indian captives subjects of the British Government, and thirty four of those belonging to the Imam of Muscat, has afforded the Governor in Council a very peculiar degree of gratification. -

4. The Governor in Council entertains a full sense of the zealous and unremitting exertions which have been displayed by Captain Thompson officiating as your Interpreter in the present service, but as it would be contrary to those principles of economy which have been prescribed for the
guidance.

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guidance of the Government by His Excellency the
Most Noble the Governor General in Council, and
as the formation of any additional establishment
in the Galle would be at variance with the
views and intentions of the Governor in Council,
he feels himself precluded from sanctioning the
selection of Captain Thompson as political
Agent for all matters connected with the
Arab tribes as a permanent appointment,
but so long as you may be absent from the
immediate range of that Officers Agency,
and Mr. Russes services being otherwise
engaged, the Governor in Council approves of
Captain Thompson being entrusted with the
duties you have committed to him. In any
permanent arrangement however for the Galle,
the control of its political concerns it is
desirable to continue where it has been so long
vested, in the Resident of Presque.

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5. The 9th and 10th paragraphs of your letter seem to require no instructions, it may be necessary however to remark, that the despatch of which you acknowledge the receipt in the 9th paragraph is not dated the 15th ultimo, January but of the preceding month of December, and that the prior despatch alluded to was one dated the 24th of November, vesting you with a discretion - any facility of making over Ras ul. Khayma to Sultan bin Suggur, or to any other Chief whom its inhabitants might select who was unconnected with the Mahabe, of which a copy is enclosed.

6. On the 13th paragraph of your letter regarding Kannah bin Sauber, the Governor in Council entertained every hope that the special forbearance with which that Captain was treated during the last expedition against the Boabomus on the ground of his never having been guilty of an act of piracy on British vessels, the permission granted

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granted to him to remain at Bushire after
having been compelled to retire from those
places, and his offers of cooperation with the Imam
of Muscat to act against the pirates were considerations
however sufficiently powerful to have restrained
him from the adoption of any measure that was
likely to embarrass the policy which the British
Government was pursuing for the suppression
of piracy in the Gulf of Persia; - the prosecution
of that object in concert with our ally the King
of Persia, necessarily imposes upon us an obligation
to protect the subjects and the vessels of that Govern-
-ment against attacks of a piratical or unprovoked
character; - on these grounds, and particularly in
reference to the terror of the communication you received
from Captain Bruce, the measures you have directed
to be pursued against Barmah bin Saaber were entirely
approved of, and the more especially so, under
the judicious precaution under which they were
decreed, namely, on the due authentication of
the

the acts of piracy imputed to him."

7th As the preliminary Treaty entered into with the Bahrein Council on the part of the Sheiks of that Island, and as their accession to the general Treaty do not involve the British Government in any pledge of protection against any vicissitudes which the Government of Persia or of Muscat may mediate against that Island, and being in general conformity with the policy prescribed for your guidance were approved by the Governor in Council.

8. The 10th & 11th paragraphs of your despatch require no reply.

9. On the 10th and 14th paragraphs the Governor in Council entertains a confident expectation that the communications that have been made to His Majesty's Envoy at Shiraz, and the precautions under which the operations on the Persian shores of the Gulf have been devised to be undertaken, will remove all grounds of jealousy and alarm in the Persian Court, and satisfy the Government that the result of the expedition will be equally conducive to the permanent interests of the Persian & British Governments.

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[4r] (7/8)

(4)

10. The Governor in Council approves of your endeavours to persuade the Imam of Muscat from attacking Bahrain, and trusts that you may succeed in that object;— Should you find it is obviously beyond the views of our policy to throw any obstacles in His Highness's way.— Beware however as you were from the tenor of Mr. Willock's dispatches of the feelings of suspicion which the Persian Government entertained of your intentions, you will no doubt have studiously abstained from affording any countenance to the prosecution of operations by the Imam against Bahrain.

11. The information afforded in the 20th paragraph of your letter, of the confidence with which we are regarded by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Ras ul. Whyma, is satisfactory to the Governor in Council, who is however anxious that an arrangement may be made that shall supersede the necessity for garrisoning that place with British Troops.

Bombay Castle
28th of February 1820.

I have the honor to be
signed - J. Warden
true Copy Chief Secy
signed J. Warden
Chief Secy.

Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 6 Jul 1820
[4v] (8/8)

