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Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in Tabreez, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company

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About this record

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia [Iran], Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in Tabreez [Tabriz], to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, of 10 May 1827, which was received from the Foreign Office on 9 July 1827. The letter originally enclosed a copy of Macdonald Kinneir's dispatch No. 46 to the Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government of India, George Swinton (now catalogued as IOR/L/PS/9/70/226). In the letter, Macdonald Kinneir reports that Abbas Meerza [Crown Prince of Persia, 'Abbās Mīrzā Qājār] has separated his armed forces to deploy them along the River Aras, and details the gathering of the Shah of Persia's army, in preparation for the advance of the Russian army [Russo-Persian War, 1826-1828]. Macdonald Kinneir includes estimates of the size of the armies of Abbas Meerza and the Shah, giving a breakdown of the composition of their forces

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John
Macdonald Kinneir, in Tabreez, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company
[1r] (1/4)

LIPS/9/70/225

①

Tabreez 10th May 1824

Honble Sir and Sirs

I have the honour to submit
to you a transcript of my despatch No 46
to the address of Mr Secretary Adventon. -

The refusal of the King
to afford him support from the south
has forced Abbas Meerza to separate his
regular Infantry, in order to garrison the
forts, and occupy the Passes, along the
line of the Road, which might have been
equally well defended by the Irregulars
of Irak and Mazenderan familiar with
that mode of fighting. - His Highness's
Army thus incurs the risk of being taken
in detail, in the same manner as the
Persians were at the beginning of the
war, since he has not at this moment
more than 5000 foot, and 14 or 12,000
horse under his personal command
to

To the Chairman & Members
of the Secret Committee
of the Honble E. I. Co. Directors
Sea Sea Sea

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in Tabreez, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [1v] (2/4)

to oppose to any Column, which may endeavour to penetrate into the Country south of the river. -

The distribution of his Army is as follows -

Biran	3,500
Sindarabad a fort in the vicinity of Biran	2,000
Abbasabad a fort on the craves near Mukshivan	1,500
Kelkber a position near the craves and the bridge of Khoda Aferen	2,000
Ardibel	1,500
Tabreez	4,000
Total Infantry - 14,700	

Tabreez	400
Khoe	120
Ardibel	100
Kelkber	100
Abbasabad	100
Biran	100
Total Artillery 920	

In Meskeen and Mogan	1400
In Karadagh and the vicinity of the craves	2000
Under the Lidar of Luman	5000
At Tabreez and in its vicinity under the personal command of the Prince	12,000

Total Cavalry 21,400

Total of the Army 37,020

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in Tabreez, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [2r] (3/4)

②

The Shah who has understood ordered his army to assemble in the plains of Sultanah on the 25th of this month, with soon afterwards advance to Sadehil or Bojan, as the movements of the Russians, or the course of events may render expedient. - A body of 10,000 men has we are informed already left Dehraun for this place, under the command of his Majesty's Grandson Sepul Mulk Meerza, but eventually to be placed at the disposal of Abbas Meerza. -

According to a return furnished to me by a confidential officer, on the accuracy of whose information every reliance may be placed, the King's Army under the most moderate computation amounts to at least 80,000 men, exclusive of the Contingents of Fard, Kermacen, and Azerbijan. -

Mazanderanes	8500
Semnosness and Sampines	2200
Lara Bag of Irak	14000
do of Khumaa	2500
Buchianes	4000
Total Infantry 31,200	

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in Tabreez, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [2v] (4/4)

Power in 31,200

Look Hood, and Look	}	34,400
Contingents		
Local Contingents		11,800
Kajars & Atrabadars		1,400
Spahis		1,000
Total Army		48,600
Total Army		49,800

These are, with few exceptions a motley, ill commanded, and undisciplined rabble, well calculated to devastate a country, and perhaps harass an enemy, but quite incapable of disputing a field of battle with European troops.

I have the honour to be
with the greatest respect
Your most Obedient
Faithful hum^{ble} Servant
John Kinneir

John Kinneir
to Mr Kinneir
17 May 1812

(Kinneir)

John Kinneir
to the
Secret Committee

Recd from the Persian Envoy
9 Aug 1812