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

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/71/17
<b>Date(s)</b>	25 Jun 1827-29 Aug 1827 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
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### About this record

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia [Iran], Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan [Ujan], to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, of 25 June 1827, which was received from the Foreign Office on 29 August 1827. Macdonald Kinneir reports his recent communications with the Shah of Persia [Fath-'Alī Shāh Qājār], in which the Shah expressed his feelings of frustration, dismay and abandonment at the fact that Persian requests for assistance in the war against Russia [Russo-Persian War, 1826-1828] have not been answered by the British Government. He also reports that the former Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Ephriam Gerrish Stannus, who is returning to Britain, has been charged with a message for the British Government from the Shah, so as to avoid the dispatch of a Persian envoy to Britain. Macdonald Kinneir indicates that the failure by the British Government to reply has caused the Shah and the Prince Royal [Crown Prince of Persia, 'Abbās Mīrzā Qājār] to question the sincerity of Britain's 'friendship' with Persia, and points to the seriousness of the situation regarding the war with Russia, indicating that 'a crisis seems to be near at hand'.

This document also originally enclosed a copy and a translation of a note from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Macdonald Kinneir (now catalogued as IOR/L/PS/9/71/18-19).

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [1r] (1/12)

Camp Oojan June 25<sup>th</sup> 1827

4PS/9/71/17

Honorable Sir, and Sirs.

In my despatch of the 23<sup>d</sup> of April last I had the honor to lay before you, the substance of a conversation which I held with the Prince Royal, in which His Royal Highness, freely expressed his sentiments, on the line of policy which had been adopted by Great Britain towards Persia <sup>during</sup> the last years, and intimated an intention to send a Mission to England. This measure he was induced to abandon, only from the <sup>low</sup> confidence with which he held on the assurances I then gave him, that satisfactory intelligence might speedily be expected from the British Government, and that I would forward an urgent request, that the letters of His Royal Highness and of the Persian Ministers, which had so long remained unanswered, might receive the early consideration of His Majesty's Ministers, and of the Honorable Court.

The Chairman & Members  
of the Secret Committee  
of the Honorable Court of East India Directors.



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [1v] (2/12)

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. I embarked from Tabreez towards this place, where I arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup> and on the morning of the following day proceeded some miles on the road to Tehran, to meet His Majesty, The Shah, whom I attended into Camp, and with whom I had a long interview in horse-back and afterwards in his apartment.

His Majesty though perfectly polite, and even friendly to me personally, could not conceal the anxiety and embarrassment which the state of his affairs had caused him, and openly avowed the mortification which he felt, at the apparent abandonment of his interests by the British Government.

His Majesty repeated also that had been urged by the Prince Regent in the course of negotiation to which I have referred, and dwelt with much bitterness on the neglect with which his communications had been treated by the authorities in England.

I represented the distance, the delays which would unavoidably occur in the deliberations on matters of so much importance, and the changes which had taken place in the Cabinet, but these reasons were insufficient to satisfy His Majesty, for the length of time



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [2r] (3/12)

time which had elapsed since an answer <sup>(2) 3</sup>  
to his letters might have been expected -  
and his feelings were too deeply wounded  
to be calmed by any arguments which I  
could address, in the total absence of all  
official communication from my superiors.

In my subsequent conversations with  
the Ministers, I found, that a person had  
already been selected to proceed on a  
Mission to England, and that my inability  
to state on the authority of my Government  
any thing which might induce His Majesty  
to think it unnecessary to act on  
this determination, left me no choice,  
but to endeavour by an exertion of personal  
influence with the Ministers to dis-  
suade the Shah from carrying into effect  
the measure he had contemplated -

I therefore availed myself of the pre-  
sence of Lt. Colonel Thomas C. B.  
 lately Political Resident in the Per-  
sian Gulf, who was here on his way  
to Europe, and who from his previous  
situation, had been fully acquainted  
with all the occurrences at this Court.  
and I suggested to the Persian Ministers  
the advantage which might be derived  
from entrusting so distinguished, and  
intelligent an Officer with what  
ever representations His Majesty  
might



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [2v] (4/12)

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might desire to make to the authorities  
in England -

I have much pleasure in stating,  
that I have succeeded in effecting this ar-  
-rangement, and that for the present the  
-Missioner of an Envoy to England has been  
-delinquished - but I cannot conceal  
-from your Honorable Court, my Convic-  
-tion, that unless I shall have it in my  
-power, before many weeks are passed,  
-to intimate to His Majesty, that some  
-measure indicating a lively interest  
-in the welfare of Persia has been adopte-  
-ed by the British Government, it will  
-be quite impossible for me any long-  
-er to prevent the Shah, & the Persian  
-Royal from pursuing their original  
-intention -

An official note, which has been  
-addressed to me by His Persian Majesty's  
-Ministers / Copy and translation of  
-which I have the honor to enclose /  
-together with the verbal Message  
-which was entrusted to Colonel Stan-  
--ness in my presence by the Shah,  
-and which the Colonel will have the  
-honor to communicate, will con-  
-vey the feelings of His Majesty and of this  
-Court more pointedly than any detail  
-which I could offer -



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [3r] (5/12)

(3) 5

It is with much regret, that I feel myself compelled by a sense of duty to represent to Your Honourable Court, that the circumstances in which I am placed are not only extremely delicate and embarrassing, but that my personal exertion which I can make, may be inadequate to the preservation of our influence at this Court, unless I am honoured with your maintenance and support, and furnished with instructions on some of the important points which I am continually called upon to discuss with the Persian Government.

When it was first intimated to the Shah, that the conduct of his relations with Great Britain, was to be transferred from His Majesty's Ministers to the Honourable East India Company, one of the objections to the measure, which was urged with most pertinacity was the fear that your Envoy might not enjoy the same influence with his Government, or have the same confidence reposed in him by his Superiors, as had been conceded to His Majesty's Ministers, and though this impression was happily removed



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [3v] (6/12)

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 I cannot on the arrival of this <sup>news</sup> ~~Dispatch~~.  
 I may not venture to conceal, that the  
 marked silence which has been observed  
 on all the subjects on which I have had  
 occasion to make reference, and the  
 unusual delay which has occurred  
 in replying to the various Communi-  
 = cations of the Shah, the Prince Royal,  
 and the Persian Ministers, on matters  
 of more urgent importance than any  
 that have of late years been discussed  
 between the Cabinets - has awakened  
 the fears which had been lulled, and  
 given rise to doubts of the Sincerity  
 of that friendship which England  
 has professed to feel towards Persia,  
 and which the more elevated Secle  
 of the <sup>news</sup> ~~Dispatch~~ was intended to vince -  
 The State of Affairs here is urgent,  
 and the necessity to adapt some de-  
 = cursive measure is felt to be im-  
 = perative, the Chief Authorities  
 are therefore, anxious and impa-  
 = tient, and with the usual weak-  
 = ness of Asiatics, they are pre-  
 = pared to run from one extreme  
 into the other - They perceive no  
 alternative



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [4r] (7/12)

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Alternative to that of leaving on the  
friendship of England, or trusting to the  
mercy of Russia; and if they are cut off  
from all hope of support from the for-  
-mer, I see no reason to doubt that  
they will have recourse to the latter.

Erivan is now closely invested by the  
Russian force, and we have received  
intelligence of the advance of General  
Paskevitch, with a reinforcement  
of four thousand men, and a battering  
train. The Shah will, <sup>in</sup> a few days,  
have assembled an army of <sup>about</sup> forty thou-  
-sand men at this place, but he has  
not yet determined whether he will  
lead them into the field, or send the  
greater part in advance under  
the command of one of his Generals.  
Should His Majesty decide on mo-  
-ving in person to Erivan, he would  
be exposed to a total disorganization  
of his Army in the event of disaster,  
and perhaps even consequences still  
more serious. While, on the other  
hand, his want of confidence in  
the Prince Regent, and indeed in  
all his leaders, has induced him  
to believe, that unless he accomplishes



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [4v] (8/12)

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accompanies the troops, nothing suited  
to the exigency of the occasion will be  
effected. Under all circumstances  
a crisis seems to be near at hand,  
and I feel that the <sup>regime</sup> of the  
the course which England has  
determined to adopt, will be  
increased as the peril becomes  
more imminent.

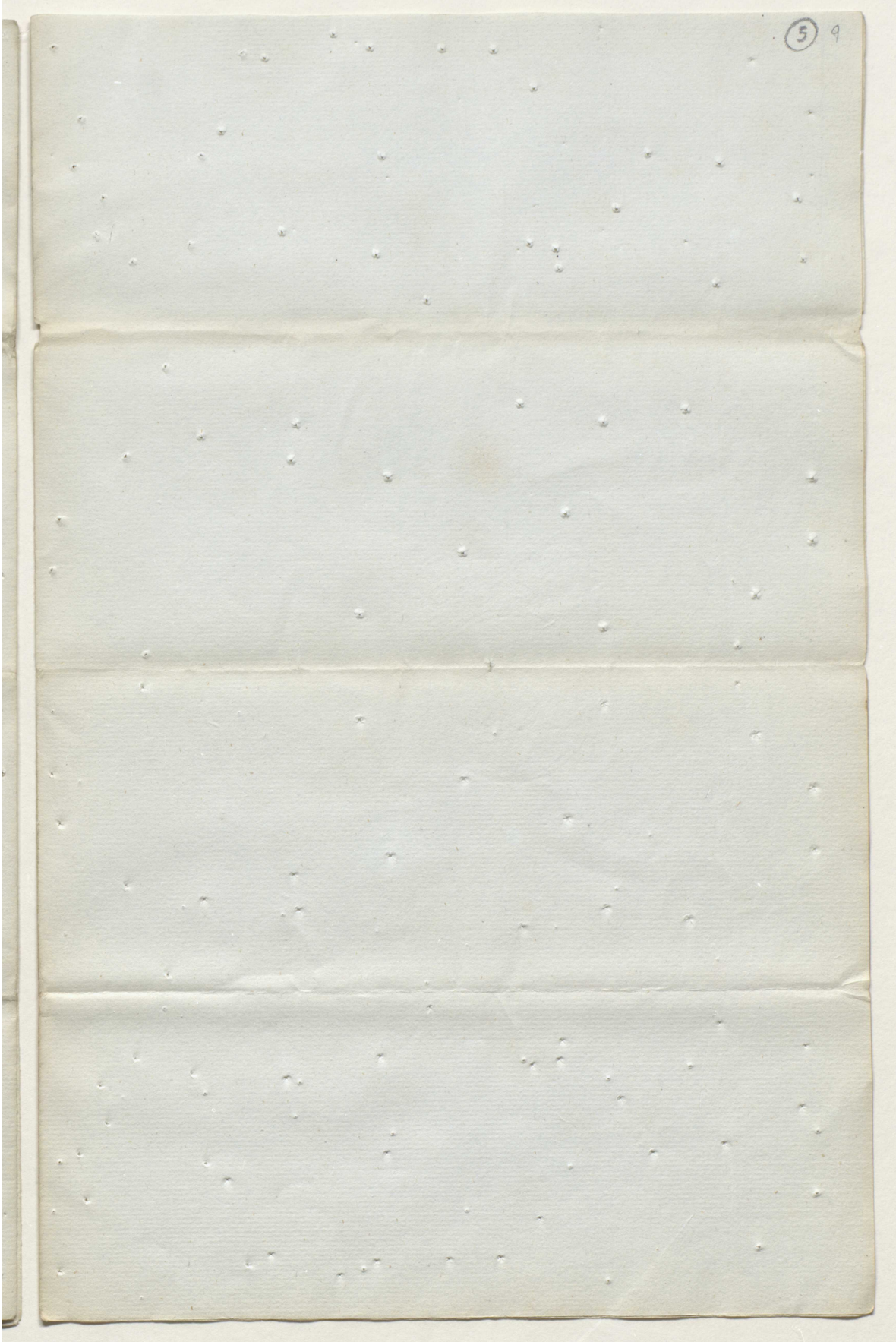
I have the honor to be with  
the greatest respect.

Honorable Sir, & Sirs  
Your most Obedient  
humble servant.

I have the honor  
to be

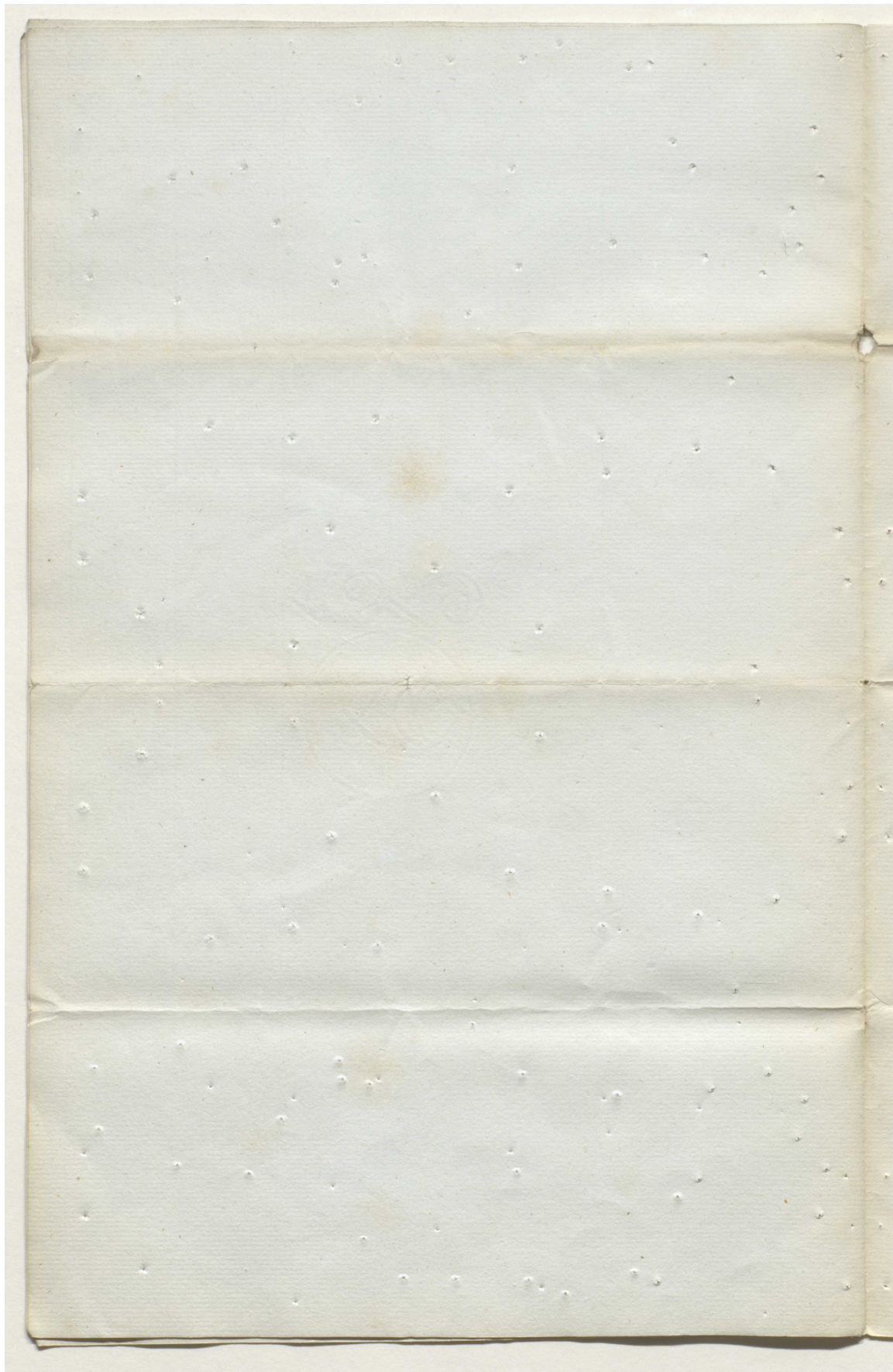


Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [5r] (9/12)

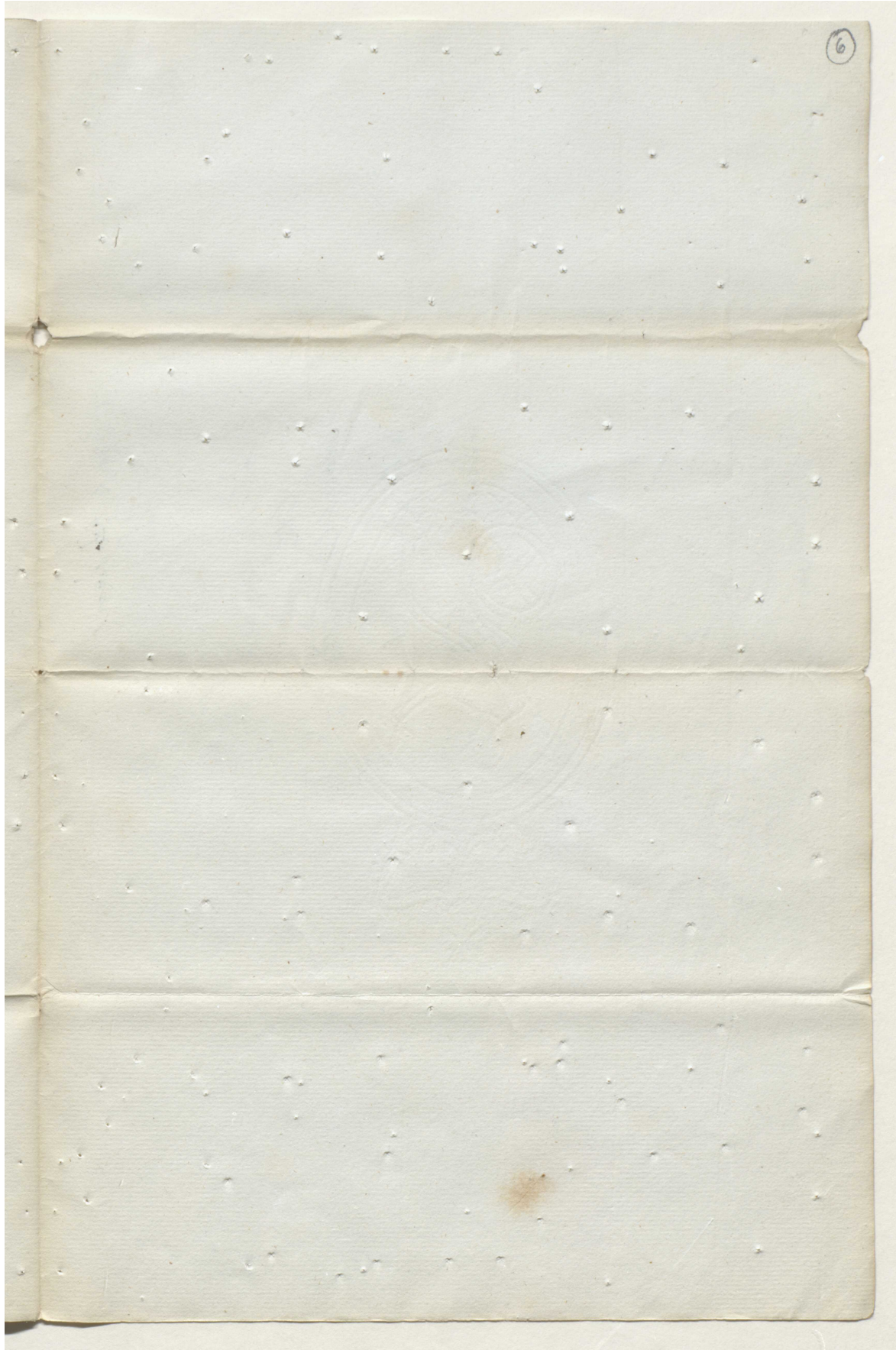




**Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [5v] (10/12)**



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Ojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [6r] (11/12)





Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in camp at Oojan, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [6v] (12/12)

