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## Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, 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/9/71/21
<b>Date(s)</b>	10 Jul 1827-18 Sep 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, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee [Lake Urmia], to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, of 10 July 1827, which was received from the Foreign Office on 18 September 1827. The letter concerns the ongoing war between Russia and Persia [Russo-Persian War, 1826-1828], detailing the failure of the Russian siege of Erivan [Yerevan], and the subsequent movement of Russian troops, commanded by General Paskevitch [General Ivan Fyodorovich Paskevich-Erivansky], to Nukshirvan [Nakhchivan]. The letter also reports: the onset of disease in the Russian army; the arrest of General Benkendoff [General Konstantin Khristoforovich Benkendorf] for his conduct in battle against the Persians (see IOR/L/PS/9/71/11); and the presence of the Archbishop of Tiflis [Tbilisi] in General Paskevitch's camp, through whom Paskevitch is purportedly corresponding with the 'principle Armenians' in Persia and the adjacent provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

The letter originally enclosed copies of the following documents:

- Macdonald Kinneir's dispatches Nos. 53 and 54 to the Chief Secretary to the Government of India, George Swinton (now catalogued as IOR/L/PS/9/71/22-23)
- Correspondence between General Paskevitch and Macdonald Kinneir (now catalogued as

IOR/L/PS/9/71/24 and 27)

- A letter from General Paskevitch to Abbas Meerza [Crown Prince of Persia, ‘Abbās Mīrzā Qajār] (IOR/L/PS/9/71/25)
- A letter from Abbas Meerza to his Vizier (IOR/L/PS/9/71/26).

Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [1r] (1/8)

L/PS/19/71/21

Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee 10 July 1837- (1)

Honble Sir and Sirs-

The Sirdar reports that on or about the 25<sup>th</sup> of June General Krakevitch assumed the personal command of the Troops before Erivan and that his arrival was announced by a summons to the Garrison to surrender on conditions of being allowed to retire with their private property and the honours of war... To this summons the British

Enclosures.  
Despatches nos. 53 & 54 to  
Mr Genl. Dainton  
nos. 49 & 50 to the Envoy  
nos. 51 & 52 to Mr Genl. Dainton

Chief returned for answer that he was now an old man to whom life was no longer an object, that the town had been entrusted to his care by his Sovereign, whose confidence it were base to betray and that it was his duty no less than his determination to defend the Forts to the

To The Chairman and Members  
of the Secret Committee  
of the Honble Court of C. S. Directors  
En. J. M. Kinneir



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [1v] (2/8)

<sup>2</sup> the utmost of his power. -

The following night was employed by the Russians in advancing their approaches and in the construction of new batteries from which for four or five successive days a heavy but fruitless fire was opened on the works, not a single man having suffered from its effects, and the walls sustaining no further injury than the partial destruction of the upper part of the parapet. -

The Lidar indeed represents the fire of the place as superior to that of the besiegers whose batteries he says he at length succeeded in silencing. - Be that as it may the siege was raised on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst. and the Imperial Army after an investment of 2 months during which period no effort was made by the Persians for the relief of the garrison, broke up from before the place and abandoned the enterprise. -

General



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [2r] (3/8)

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General Paskevitch with the larger proportion of his Troops took the road to Mukshivan, the sick and infirm were sent to Eutchelessia, and a strong detachment with drew towards Aheran and Loree with the intention I imagine of keeping open the communications with Tiflis, and of protecting the convoys expected from that city. - This is the third time the Russians have failed in their endeavours to capture Erivan in itself a paltry Fortrefs, that could not have withstood the regular attack of a British Army for more than ten or at the furthest twenty days. -

The heat of the weather, the unhealthy climate at this season of the year, the depopulated state of the surrounding Country, and perhaps the approach of the Shah have eluded their

their



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [2v] (4/8)

" Their hopes, and for a time suspend-  
ed the apprehensions of His Majesty  
for the safety of his most important  
barrier. - Their batteries and  
trenches, have since their departure  
been levelled or filled up by the Sirdar  
who is occupied in repairing the damage  
done to the walls and who has collected  
upwards of three thousand shot and  
shells expended by the enemy during  
the siege. - Several carts with some  
bags of flour were left in the Camp,  
and according to the letter of Hoopsein  
Khan the gabions and fascines removed  
into the town will serve his garrison as  
fuel for a year to come. -  
A Georgian Noble  
man who has deserted to the Persians  
states that before he quitted the Russian  
Camp General Benkendorf the 2<sup>d</sup> in  
Command had been placed in arrest for  
his conduct in the action against Ghaflan  
Khan and that disease had begun to  
make



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [3r] (5/8)

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make considerable progress amongst the Troops. General Paskevitch would seem, for the present, to have established himself at Brakshivan, where his communications by way of Ganja and Sheesha will be more open than by Aheran and Loree the whole of the territory around Erivan displaying the aspect of a desert.

I lay before your Honble Committee the reply of His Excellency to my letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

In his answer to that of Abbas he signifies his earnest desire for Peace provided it be concluded in a manner worthy of the honour and consistent with the interest of his Country. - A copy and translation of his letter is herewith enclosed for the information of your Honble Committee.

Stavros Archbishop of Tiflis and acting Patriarch of Etchmias-Gen is I am told in the camp of Genl. Paskevitch

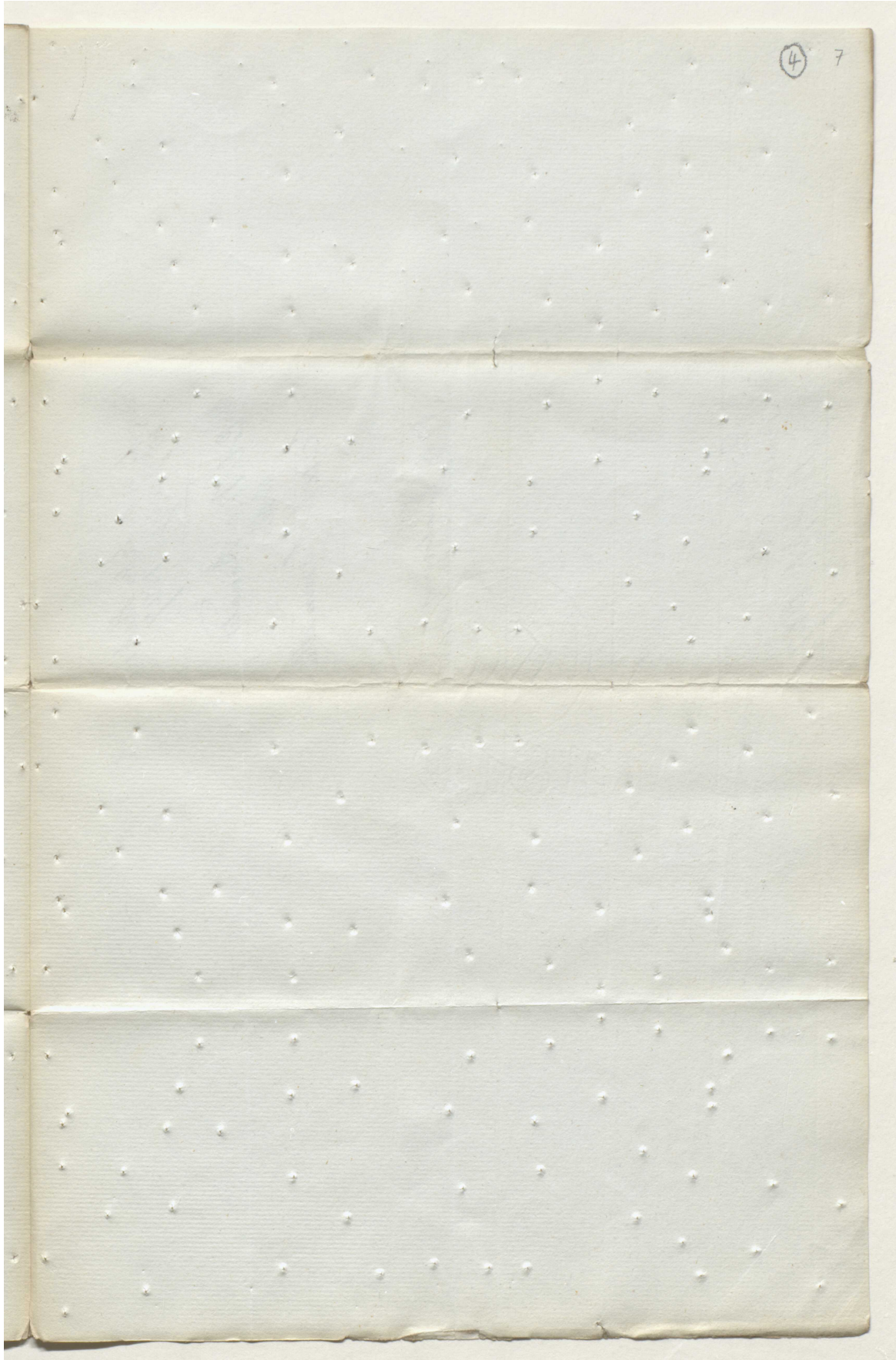


Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [3v] (6/8)

6  
Paskevitch who through the mediation  
of this able and indefatigable Prelate  
carries on a secret and extensive cor-  
respondence with the principal Ar-  
menians as well in Persia as in the  
adjacent Turkish Provinces. - The na-  
ture of this correspondence is not known  
to the Persian Government but these  
unhappy Christians are suspected  
perhaps wrongfully of furnishing the  
General with every species of informa-  
tion regarding the actual state of this  
Country and the movements of its  
armies. - I have the honor to be  
with the greatest respect  
Honble Sir & Mrs  
Your most obedient  
 humble Servant  
Sharroofa



Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [4r] (7/8)





Letter from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp on the borders of the Lake of Shahee, to the Secret Committee of the East India Company [4v] (8/8)

