

This PDF was generated on 11/05/2022 from online resources of
the **Qatar Digital Library**

The online record can be viewed at:

http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100038378586.0x0004a6

It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

Enclosure No. 121 to Letter of 14 December 1828

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/71/304
Date(s)	26 Nov 1828 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (8 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



About this record

Dispatch No. 121 from the East India Company Envoy to Persia [Iran], Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, to the Governor-General of Bengal, sent from Tabreez [Tabriz] and dated 26 Nov 1828.

Macdonald Kinneir discusses his conduct during the negotiations prior to the signing of the Treaty of Turkoman Chahee [Turkamanchay] and in relation to the abrogation of the third and fourth articles of the Definitive Treaty, which concern British subsidies and military aid to Persia.. The letter also reports: the withdrawal of Russian troops from Khoee [Khoy] in exchange for a large payment from Persia and an offer from General Paskevitch [General Ivan Fyodorovich Paskevich-Erivansky, Governor-General of Georgia] to gift the Shah [Fath-'Ali Shāh Qājār] 100,000 tomans on the receipt of this payment; developments in the war between Russia and Turkey [Ottoman Empire] [Russo-Turkish War, 1828-29]; and the movements of the Shah.

This document was originally enclosed in Macdonald Kinneir's dispatch No. 38 to the the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 14 December 1828 (IOR/L/PS/9/71/301 and 303).

Another version of this letter is catalogued as IOR/L/PS/9/71/302.

Duplicate
No 121 L/PS/9/71/304 ①

To
The Right Honourable
The Governor General
of India -
sea sea sea
Fort William

My Lord

It affords me relief, and satisfaction, to learn from Mr. Stirling's dispatch of the 27th June last, which I received only a few days ago, that my conduct during the progress of the negotiations which preceded the peace of Lucknow Chaker, has met the confirmation, and approval of the Supreme Government. —

Left at an essential period without instructions, either from England, or India, my efforts were mainly directed to avert, at least for a term, the entire dismemberment of

of a Kingdom, in the preservation of
which, we are supposed to be essentially
interested. - Whether in this difficult,
and delicate undertaking, my endeavors
were crowned with success, is for your
Lordship to determine. - But I hope
I may be forgiven the expression of my
conviction, grounded on incontrovertible
facts, that had I taken a different
course from that which I pursued,
the temper, and circumstances of the
times were such, that Persia, broken
by rebellion, and anarchy, must soon
have sunk into a dependency of Russia. -
The reigning dynasty would most
probably have been deposed, and
a Pageant of His Imperial Majesty
placed upon the throne in its stead.
An obscure descendant of the Suffidiah
family

(2) 3

family, now residing at Spahan, had indeed been already thought of for this purpose. —

In the 9th Para of the dispatch previously referred to, it is observed, that it would have been prudent to obtain the Shahs express sanction to the arrangement which I concluded with the Prince Royal, for the abrogation of the 3^d and 4th Articles of our Treaty. Fully admitting the force, and justice of this statement in ordinary cases, I yet, with every sentiment of respect, and deference, beg to urge in defence of my procedure, that had I in the present instance resorted to this measure, in opposition to the wishes of Akbar Meerza, my knowledge of the singular constitution of this Court

Court, less to the presumption, that
the orders of the same Authorities could
not have been carried into effect,
for the sum actually disbursed. —
The Prince, whose influence over his
father, is supreme in all matters
touching the foreign relations of the
Empire, would have found means
to frustrate the proposed measure,
unless he himself received the re-
-compense; while on the other hand,
nothing short of the embarrassments,
which pressed heavily upon him,
combined with his extreme anxiety
to procure the evacuation of Tabreez,
and Azerbaijan, could have induced
him to accede to the proffered terms,
at the time he did. —

So far, indeed, as relates
to

(3) 5

to these discussions, I must do him
the justice to say, that in all previous
conversations on this topic at Khass,
Beheraghan, and Turkaman Chakee,
he pertinaciously clung to his original
demand of 400,000 Tomans, which
he said, he considered a fair equivalent
for the heavy sacrifices the Shah
was called upon to make; since in
subsidy alone, he had already on
various occasions, received the sum
of Thirteen hundred thousand Tomans
(130,000) to say nothing of the duty of
mediation, imposed upon us by those
obligations from which we asked to
be relieved. - The change in his sen-
-timents was not optional - it was
forced on him by necessity. -

As our engagements were
of

of a nature, not only burthensome, but permanent, and as any sudden act of aggression on the part of Bupia, made us always liable to be involved in expense, or perplexity, I was I felt reluctant to forego an opportunity that might never return, of completing an arrangement, in all respects, so greatly advantageous to the British Government. But even then, I was, and pursued, the Firman which invested His Royal Highness with the fullest Powers in all matters connected with the Foreign Relations of the State, before I ventured to terminate the transactions, withholding at the same time the amount of the Bills of Exchange from the Seventh Order, when it passed through my hands, as a guarantee for the sanction of

④ 7

of the King - I may add, indeed, that during the whole period of my subsequent discussion at Tehraun, when I endeavoured to obtain the ratification of the Shah, neither His Majesty, nor any of his Ministers, manifested any inclination to impugn the right of the Prince to conclude the agreement which he had made with me; and had not Russia then declared war against the Turks, the ratification would, I doubt not, have been given without trouble or delay.

That Abbas Meerza from the first was buoyed up with hopes of a small additional equivalent, it would be vain, and unfair, in me to deny; but that such hopes were ever in the most distant degree fostered.

fostered, or encouraged by me, I positively
disavow, and Your Lordship and
Council is too well aware of the
light, and unscrupulous character
of the Persians, not to appreciate
the difficulty of repressing expectations,
in a Court, where impurity, and
sordid avarice, predominate over rectitude,
and honest feeling. —

In my official note
to His Royal Highness dated in March
last, I not only distinctly declare to
him, that more than 200,000 Tomans
could not be given as the price of
the annullments of the two Articles,
but also invite him again to re-
consider the question, before he affixes
his seal, and that of his Minister
to the Bond of abrogation. — The
kept

(5) 9

kept the Bills however, and sent me
the deed without further appeal, or
remarks. — The fact is simply this. —
The tide of misfortunes set against him,
and he was fain to accept in calamity,
what he rejected before his distresses
came upon him. — I earnestly hope,
therefore, that under this explanation,
I may stand free from blame in the
opinion of your Excellency. — It merits
your approbation, is the first wish
of my heart. —

B The promissory note for
50,000 Roubles transferred to General
Paskewitch, had no relation to this
compact. — The Paper was returned
a fortnight after it was delivered,
on the arrival of the treasure from
Tehraun. —

I am

I am happy to acquaint
your Lordship, that the district, and
fortress of Khaw, have at length been
evacuated by the Persian troops.—

The unmanly subter-
fuges by which the Shah has contrived
to evade a promise, he freely, and
spontaneously made, to furnish the sum
of 100,000 Tomans towards the liquidation
of the balance due to Persia on the
27th August last, threw unforeseen ~
obstacles in the way of an arrangement,
which, had His Majesty been pleased
to keep his word, would have released
him from his apprehensions of the
designs of his neighbours some time ago.—

As it is, the disbursement
of the Eighth Crore has fallen entirely
on the exhausted resources of the Prince,
who,

(6) 11

who, by a forced anticipation of the revenues of the Province, compulsory loans, and by melting the whole of his gold and silver Plate, including the golden throne of his Grandfather Aga Mahamed Khan, has, with great difficulty, raised the sum of 200,000 ^{of} Tomans, which together with the money paid by me, in ransom of our obligations, leaves a residue of 100,000 ^{of} Tomans still due to His Imperial Majesty. — In pledge of this residue, all the jewels of His Royal Highness, together with the ornaments of his wives, and Children, have been made over to M. Ghebaisdoff, under pain of forfeiture, if not redeemed before the Nou-voje. — On these conditions, the Imperial troops have quitted
the

the Country, and marched into the newly subjugated Provinces of Turkey, where the Natives would appear to receive their Conquerors with the same feeling of apathy, and indifference, as distinguished the Persians in the late war. —

On the dissolution of the congress of Beheraghan, and when I was on the eve of departure for Tehran, General Paskevitch of his own accord, requested me to tell the King, that provided the indemnity were duly and regularly paid, he would take upon himself to make His Majesty a present of 100,000 Tomans. — Having intimated this circumstance to M. D'Obrescoff after the signature of the peace, and arrival of the first instalment

⑦ 13

instalment, His Excellency replied, that the promise of the General, ought to be held sacred, and the amount of the intended gift deducted from the Eighth Crore. - This has not, however been done, nor can I recognize in the fraudulent pretext of the Russians to elude the question a greater regard for the faith of solemn assurances, than is usually displayed by the opposite Party. - Both seem equally wanting in that high sense of honour, which ought to guide the public actions of great Nations. -

Forward by this opportunity to Mr. Stirling, the latest Petersburg Gazette, and Paris Newspapers, which have recently reached me. - They contain all the authentic information

information I can afford Your Lordship
concerning the operations of the contending
Armies in Bulgaria. — It is stated
however in a private letter which I
have just received from Tiflis, that
a great battle had been fought in
the vicinity of Varna, which terminated
in the defeat of the Turks, the surrender
of that City, and the advance of the
Emperor at the head of his guards
upon Shumla. —

In this quarter, the
Campaign would appear to have
ceased by mutual consent, leaving
the Russians in full, and undisturbed
possession of the whole of the Eastern
shore of the Black-sea, together with
the Pashaliks of Akhalzike, Kars,
and Byzand, as far south as the
Marad

(8) 15

Morad, and margins of the lake of Van,
conquests, which lay open the weakest,
and fairest, provinces of Asia Minor
to the entrance of the Russians, at any
time they may deem it expedient to
invade them. —

The Shah is gone to
Sultanahad in Ferahoon, whence
he is not expected to return to
Zehraun much before the Mou-Lozy.

I have the honour to
write you with the greatest respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's

Most obedient

Humble Servant

(Signed) Macdonald
Ensay

Labreez

26. Moor 1828 - 3

Ed. Lab

