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**Political No. 13 of 1873, Supplying Information Required by the Lords of the
Treasury, with Regard to Expenses Incurred on Account of 'Liberated'
Enslaved People, and Expressing the Opinion that the Amount in Question
should be regarded as an Imperial Charge**

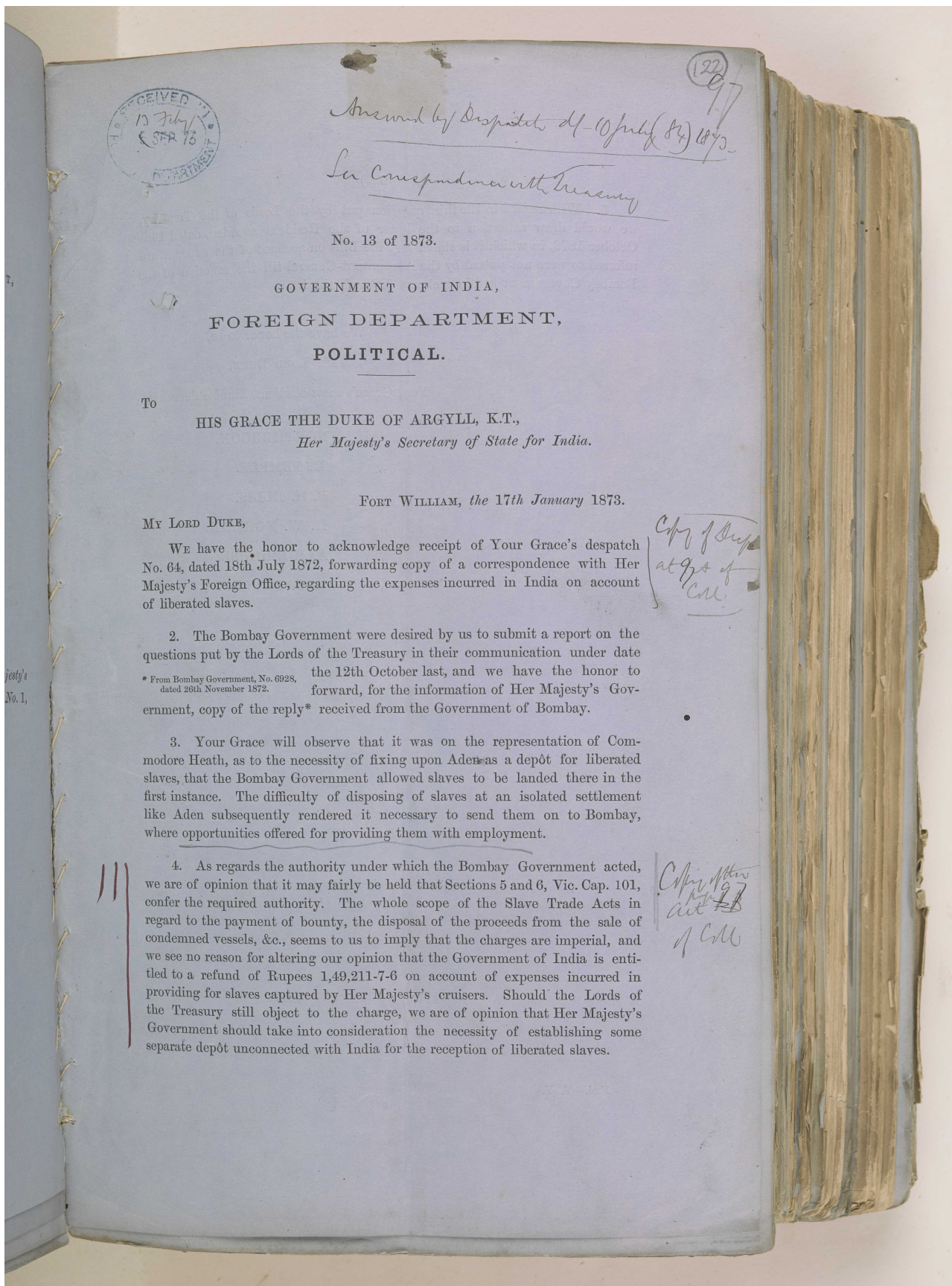
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About this record

This item consists of a copy of a Political Despatch from the Government of India Foreign Department to the Secretary of State for India, dated 17 January 1873, supplying information required by the Lords of the Treasury, with regard to expenses incurred on account of 'liberated' enslaved people, and expressing the opinion that the amount in question should be regarded as an imperial charge. The despatch replies to despatch No. 64 of 18 July 1872.

Political No. 13 of 1873, Supplying Information Required by the Lords of the Treasury, with Regard to Expenses Incurred on Account of 'Liberated' Enslaved People, and Expressing the Opinion that the Amount in Question should be regarded as an Imperial Charge [122r] (1/10)



No. 13 of 1873.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
POLITICAL.

To
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

FORT WILLIAM, the 17th January 1873.

MY LORD DUKE,

WE have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Grace's despatch No. 64, dated 18th July 1872, forwarding copy of a correspondence with Her Majesty's Foreign Office, regarding the expenses incurred in India on account of liberated slaves.

2. The Bombay Government were desired by us to submit a report on the questions put by the Lords of the Treasury in their communication under date the 12th October last, and we have the honor to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copy of the reply* received from the Government of Bombay.

3. Your Grace will observe that it was on the representation of Commodore Heath, as to the necessity of fixing upon Aden as a depôt for liberated slaves, that the Bombay Government allowed slaves to be landed there in the first instance. The difficulty of disposing of slaves at an isolated settlement like Aden subsequently rendered it necessary to send them on to Bombay, where opportunities offered for providing them with employment.

4. As regards the authority under which the Bombay Government acted, we are of opinion that it may fairly be held that Sections 5 and 6, Vic. Cap. 101, confer the required authority. The whole scope of the Slave Trade Acts in regard to the payment of bounty, the disposal of the proceeds from the sale of condemned vessels, &c., seems to us to imply that the charges are imperial, and we see no reason for altering our opinion that the Government of India is entitled to a refund of Rupees 1,49,211-7-6 on account of expenses incurred in providing for slaves captured by Her Majesty's cruisers. Should the Lords of the Treasury still object to the charge, we are of opinion that Her Majesty's Government should take into consideration the necessity of establishing some separate depôt unconnected with India for the reception of liberated slaves.

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(2)

5. With regard to the third question put by the Lords of the Treasury, we would draw attention to the letter of the Resident at Aden, dated 16th October 1872, in which it is stated that the Bills on account of the expenditure referred to were not passed by the Accountant-General till the sanction of the Bombay Government had in each case been obtained.

We have the honor to be,

MY LORD DUKE,

Your Grace's most obedient, humble Servants,

(Signed) NORTHBROOK.

” R. TEMPLE.

” B. H. ELLIS.

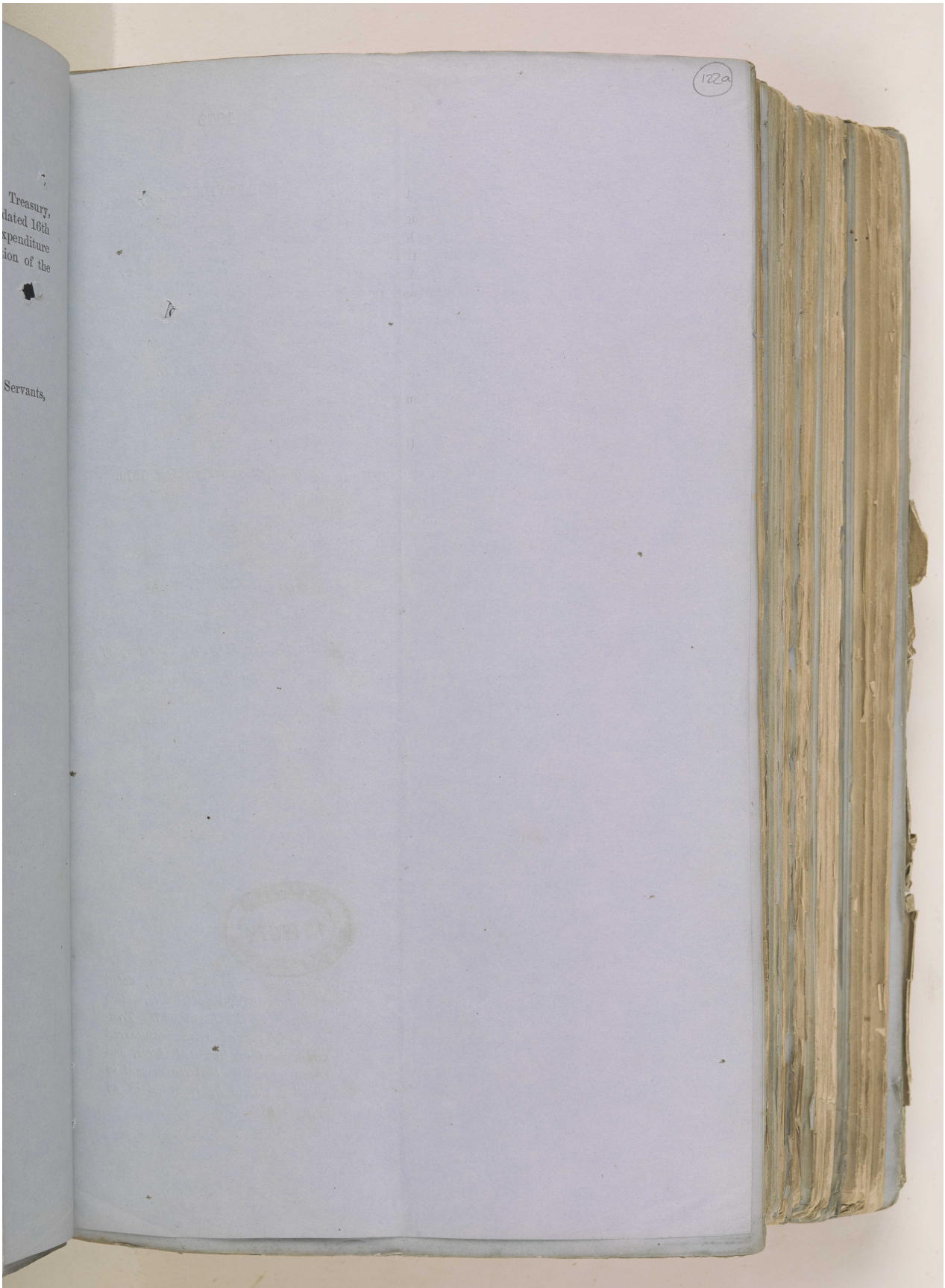
” H. W. NORMAN.

” A. HOBHOUSE.

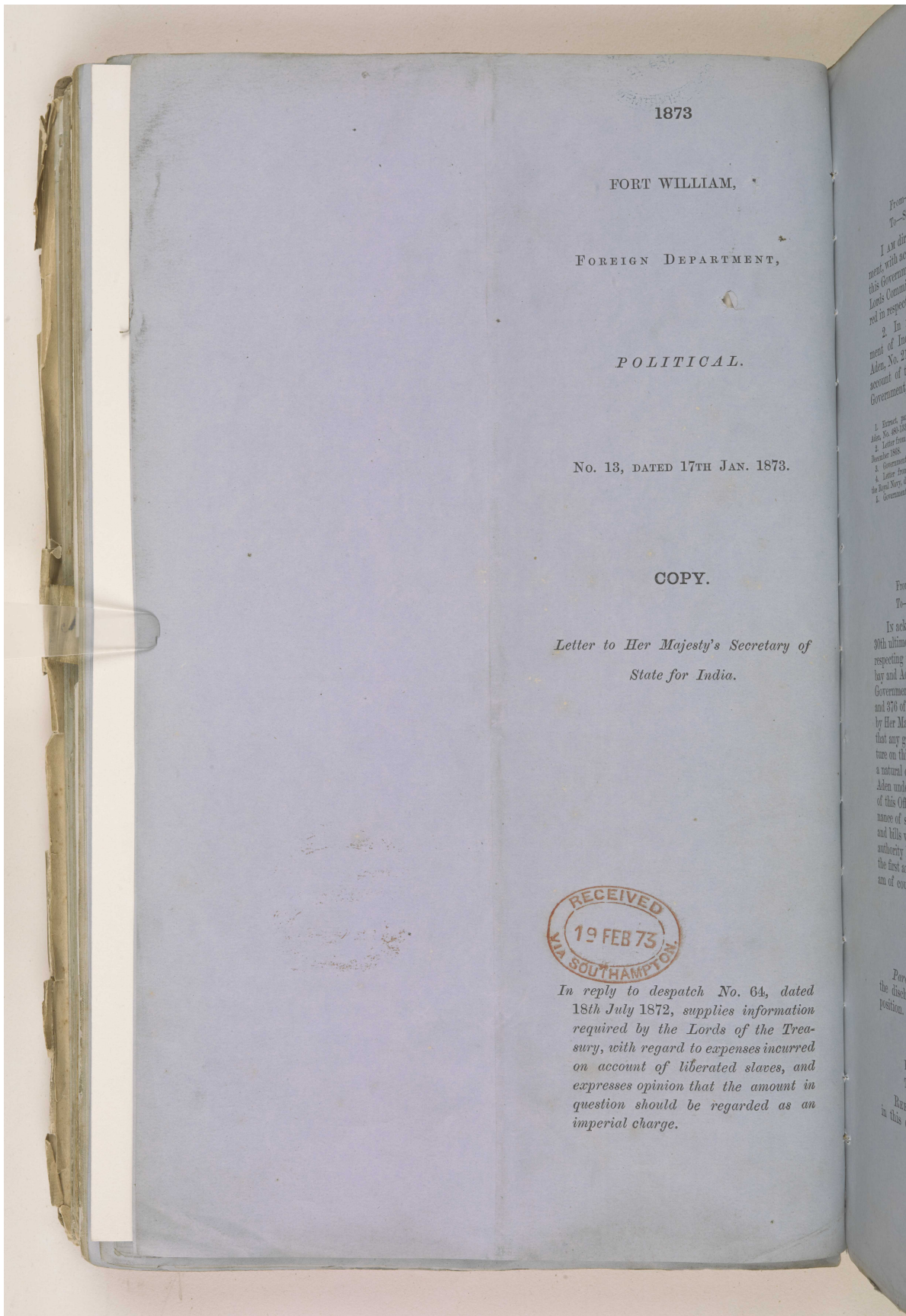
” E. C. BAYLEY.

Exd.—T. Y.

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Political No. 13 of 1873, Supplying Information Required by the Lords of the Treasury, with Regard to Expenses Incurred on Account of 'Liberated' Enslaved People, and Expressing the Opinion that the Amount in Question should be regarded as an Imperial Charge [122av] (4/10)



Political No. 13 of 1873, Supplying Information Required by the Lords of the Treasury, with Regard to Expenses Incurred on Account of 'Liberated' Enslaved People, and Expressing the Opinion that the Amount in Question should be regarded as an Imperial Charge [123r] (5/10)

(123)

No. 6028, dated Bombay Castle, 26th November 1872.

From—Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, with the G. G.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. LePoer Wynne's endorsement, with accompaniments, No. 1958P., dated the 16th September last, in which this Government are requested to furnish a report on certain questions put by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, relative to the expenses incurred in respect of liberated African Slaves at Bombay and Aden.

2. In reply I am desired to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the enclosed copy of a letter from the the Political Resident at Aden, No. 218-815, dated the 16th ultimo, and to state that the expenditure on account of the slaves was incurred under the authority and by the officers of Government, as the landing of the slaves at Aden from Her Majesty's vessels-

1. Extract, paragraph 6, from a letter from the Political Resident, Aden, No. 480-1335, dated the 18th December 1868.
2. Letter from Political Resident, Aden, No. 489-1370, dated 24th December 1868.
3. Government Resolution, No. 112, dated 13th January 1869.
4. Letter from Commodore Commanding the Indian Division of the Royal Navy, dated the 19th January 1869.
5. Government Resolution, No. 376, dated 4th February 1869.

of-war left no other course open but sending them to Bombay. As explaining this point, I am to enclose copy of papers as specified on the margin, which includes the Resolutions to which reference is made by Brigadier-General Schneider.

No. 218-815, dated Aden, 16th October 1872.

From—Political Resident, Aden,

To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

IN acknowledging the receipt of Government Resolution No. 5668 of the 30th ultimo, giving cover to copy of a correspondence from the Indian Office, respecting the expenses incurred on account of liberated African Slaves at Bombay and Aden, I have the honor to observe that, beyond the orders given by the Government of Bombay in their Resolutions Nos. 112 of the 13th January 1869, and 376 of the 4th February following, that all manumitted slaves landed at Aden by Her Majesty's cruisers should be forwarded to Bombay, I cannot ascertain that any general authority was ever delegated to the Resident to incur expenditure on this head. That expenses were necessarily incurred on this account was a natural consequence of the establishment of a Court of Vice-Admiralty at Aden under Her Majesty's Letters Patent; but I find on reference to the records of this Office that, whenever charges on account of the transport and maintenance of slaves were incurred, a report was made to the Government of Bombay and bills were not passed by the Accountant-General until the sanction of that authority had been obtained. The above will, I trust, be a sufficient answer to the first and third of the questions submitted by the Treasury; to the second, I am of course unable to afford a reply.

No. 480-1335, dated 18th December 1869.

Extract, paragraph 6, of a letter from the Political Resident at Aden.

Para. 6.—I purpose submitting to Government a report on the subject of the discharge of cargoes of slaves by Her Majesty's ships at this isolated position.

No. 489-1370, dated Aden, 24th December 1868.

From—Political Resident at Aden,

To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

REFERRING to paragraph 6 of my letter No. 480-1335 of the 18th instant, in this department, I have the honor to report, for the information of His

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Excellency the Governor in Council, that Captain DeKantzow, Commanding Her Majesty's ship *Star*, has informed me Her Majesty's ship *Daphne* is expected to arrive here immediately with between 3 and 400 slaves captured from dhows on the East Coast of Africa. As I have already a balance in my hands of former captures of about 30, in addition to 129 brought by Her Majesty's *Star*, I consider this large number of slaves will be a greater burden than Her Majesty's Government could expect this isolated settlement to bear. I cannot yet find suitable employment and protection for the slaves landed in March last even. In addition to this I have the cargo already landed, and with those expected I consider that I shall be placed in further difficulties. I am of opinion that the landing of slaves at this port to be kept a considerable time under surveillance is to the unfortunate beings a state of slavery. Aden is already glutted, and it is quite impossible to keep a proper supervision over the liberated slaves, distributed as they are in all parts of this settlement. I maintain that the slave handed over and assigned for service to private individuals is in a worse position than one that is purchased. A man will take care possibly of property for which he pays. This may not be the case where the supervision cannot be carried out in every individual case. Were we in a position here to educate the slaves I consider we should be doing what was right by them. Such means not being at our disposal, I propose sending to Bombay all those now left on my hands, and any cargoes that may arrive for the future. In Bombay there are certainly better means for properly providing for and educating these people. I may observe that it is a source of anxiety to provide for the already overgrowing population of Aden. These difficulties are, in my opinion, so grave that I submit this matter for the earnest consideration of Government, with a view to this settlement being relieved from the discharge of liberated slaves from Her Majesty's ships: the vessels might come here for adjudication, but I would submit that some other place for the discharge of their cargoes might be assigned. Another reason which influences me to urge this is, that the slaves frequently arrive with epidemic disease amongst them. We have no country or space beyond such as is within the fortifications, and we are thus further placed in difficulties, and rendered liable to a visitation from a scourge in our limited position. I shall with anxiety await orders with reference to the disposal of liberated slaves.

No. 112, dated Bombay Castle, 13th January 1869.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Political Dept.

READ—

No. 489-1370, dated 24th December 1868.

From—Political Resident at Aden.

Represents the great inconvenience and difficulty experienced in the disposal of the large number of slaves brought to Aden by Her Majesty's ships captured from dhows, and submits, for orders, a proposal for sending to Bombay all those slaves now left on his hands, and any cargoes of them that may arrive for the future.

RESOLUTION.—The Resident should be requested to forward to Bombay all manumitted negroes landed at Aden by Her Majesty's cruisers.

Copy of the present and previous letter referred to should be sent to the Commodore Commanding the Indian Squadron for the favor of his remarks and suggestions on the important subject brought to notice by Sir E. Russell.

Copy should also be sent to the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, with a view to consideration of the steps to be taken on the arrival of the liberated slaves. No less than 500 of them are apparently to be expected.

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Dated H. M.'s Ship *Octavia*, Bombay, 19th January 1869.

From—Commodore Commanding the Indian Division of the Royal Navy,
To—His Excellency the Governor of Bombay.

IN reply to letter No. 113 of 1869 from Mr. Secretary Gonne, and its enclosures from Sir E. Russell, on the subject of the disposal, &c., of captured slaves, I beg in the first place to inform Your Excellency that the liberated slaves which Sir E. Russell expected to receive at Aden from Her Majesty's *Daphne* have all been landed at the Seychelles.

2. With respect to the general question raised by Sir E. Russell in No. 489-1370, I am unable to point out any port which could be substituted for that of Aden as a primary depôt for liberated slaves without diminishing to a serious extent the efficiency of the squadron employed in their liberation.

3. It is essential to the health of the crews of our men-of-war that captured slaves who are frequently diseased, and always most filthy in their personal habits, should be landed with as little delay as possible, and it is equally essential to the carrying out of the service with efficiency that the vessels should speedily return to their cruising ground. For these purposes Seychelles towards the south and Aden towards the north are well suited, and the one or the other is chosen by the Commander of the capturing vessel according to the position of his ship and the monsoon which may at the time be blowing.

4. There are, both at the Seychelles and at Aden, small islands which can be, and indeed are, used for the purposes of quarantine, and it is an incidental advantage that complete isolation can be carried out when any epidemic disease is brought to either settlement.

5. I have never personally had an opportunity of investigating the condition of liberated slaves, but I have heard that there is a general opinion in conformity with that of Sir E. Russell, that their condition as freemen is not superior to that from which they have been removed.

6. I am not aware of the wording of the orders in Council referred to in the 5th Geo. IV., Cap. 113, for regulating the "protecting and providing for" captured slaves; but it is the undoubted duty of England to do all that can be done in this direction and if (as implied by Sir E. Russell) the education and training which ought to be given to these unfortunate creatures before launching them into a new world, where all, even the language is strange to them, cannot be afforded at Aden, then I think they ought as soon as possible to be transferred to Bombay, where I presume there is a regularly organized system of registration and supervision of apprentices.

No. 376, dated Bombay Castle, 4th February 1869.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Political Department.

READ—

Dated the 19th January 1869.

From—Commodore Commanding the Indian Division of the Royal Navy.

In reply to the Government letter No. 113 of 1869, offers remarks and suggestions on the communications from the Political Resident at Aden, relative to the great inconvenience and difficulty experienced in the disposal of the large number of slaves captured from dhows and brought to Aden by Her Majesty's ships.

RESOLUTION.—Extract, paragraph 1, should be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, for information, in connection with the Government Resolution No. 112 of the 13th ultimo.

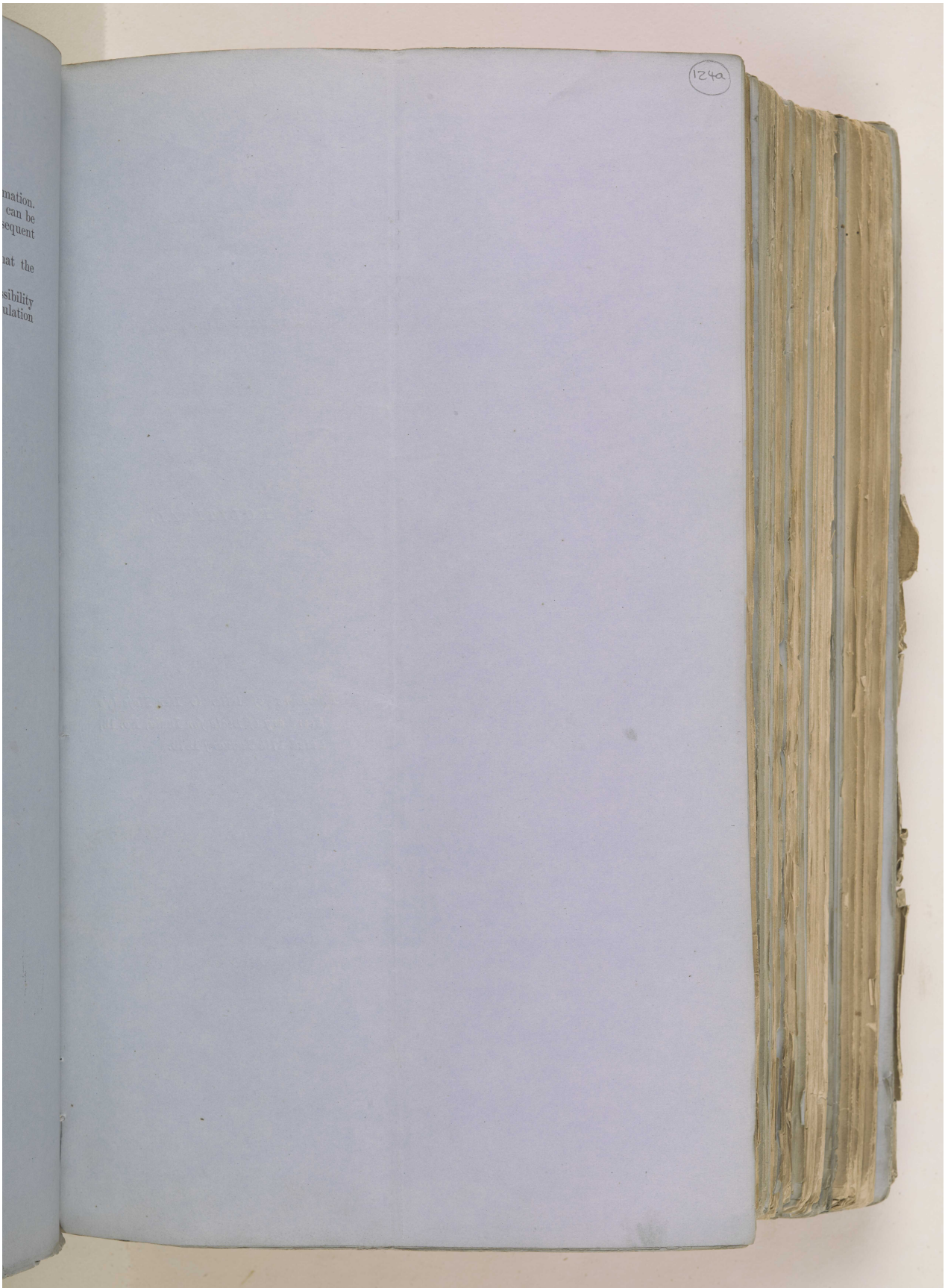
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Copy should be forwarded to the Political Resident at Aden for information. It appears clear that Aden should be a place where the liberated slaves can be landed in the first instance. The difficulty is as regards their subsequent disposal.

No better suggestion can apparently be made at present than that the slaves should be sent on convenient opportunities to Bombay.

A reference should be made to the Revenue Department as to the possibility of starting a Negro Settlement in some part of the Presidency where population is wanted.

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