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Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea

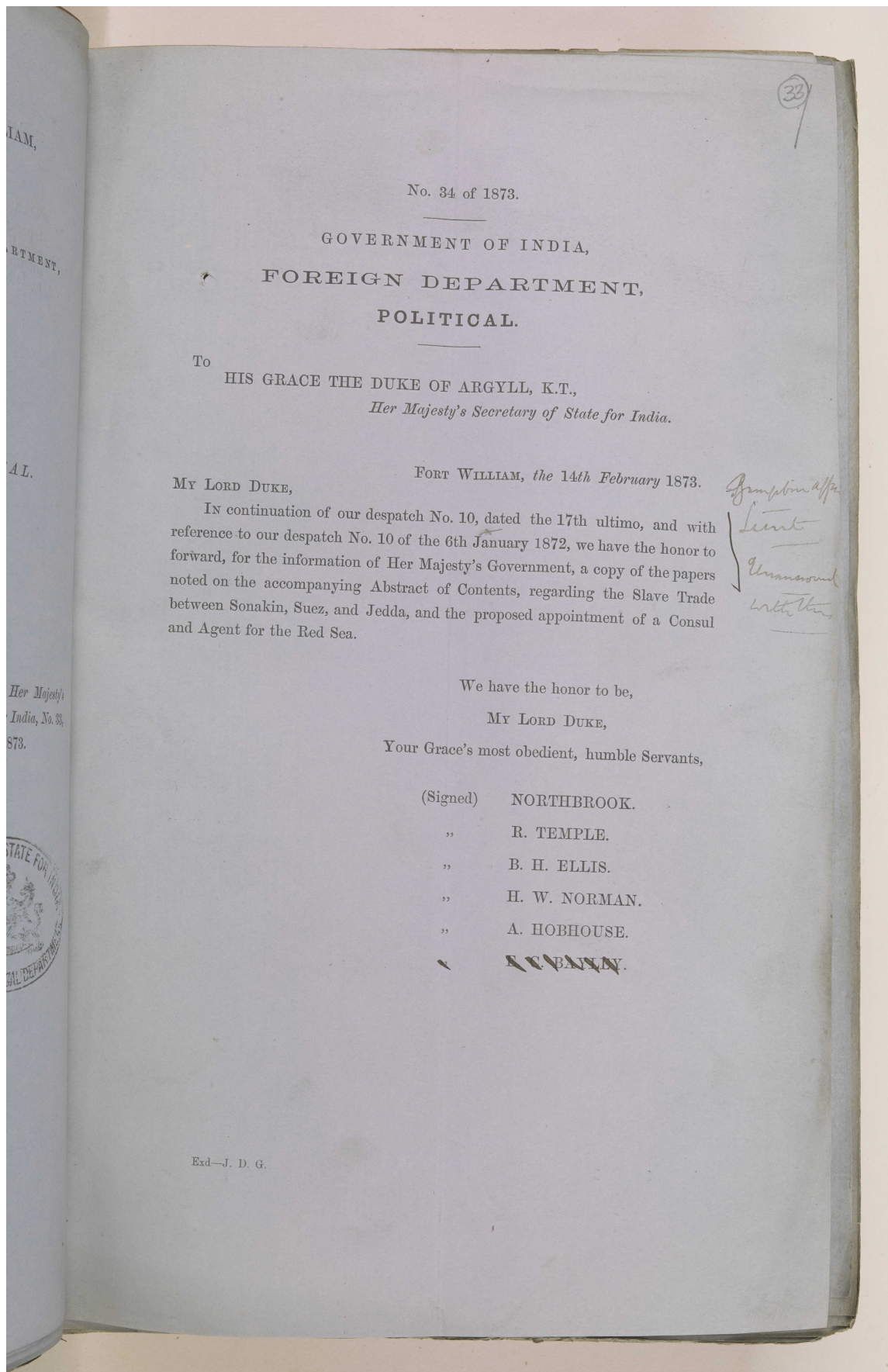
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/6/107, ff 33-36
Date(s)	14 Feb 1873-10 Mar 1873 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (6 folios)
Copyright for document	<u>Unknown</u>



About this record

This item consists of copies of a Political Despatch from the Government of India Foreign Department to the Secretary of State for India, dated 14 February 1873 and received via Brindisi on 10 March 1873, forwarding copies of papers regarding the trade in enslaved people between Sonakin [Sawakin], Suez and Jedda [Jeddah], and the proposed appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea, in continuation of Despatch No. 10 of 17 January 1873, and with reference to No. 10 of 6 January 1872.

Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [33r] (1/12)



No. 34 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 14th February 1873.

MY LORD DUKE,

In continuation of our despatch No. 10, dated the 17th ultimo, and with reference to our despatch No. 10 of the 6th January 1872, we have the honor to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the papers noted on the accompanying Abstract of Contents, regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez, and Jedda, and the proposed appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea.

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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.

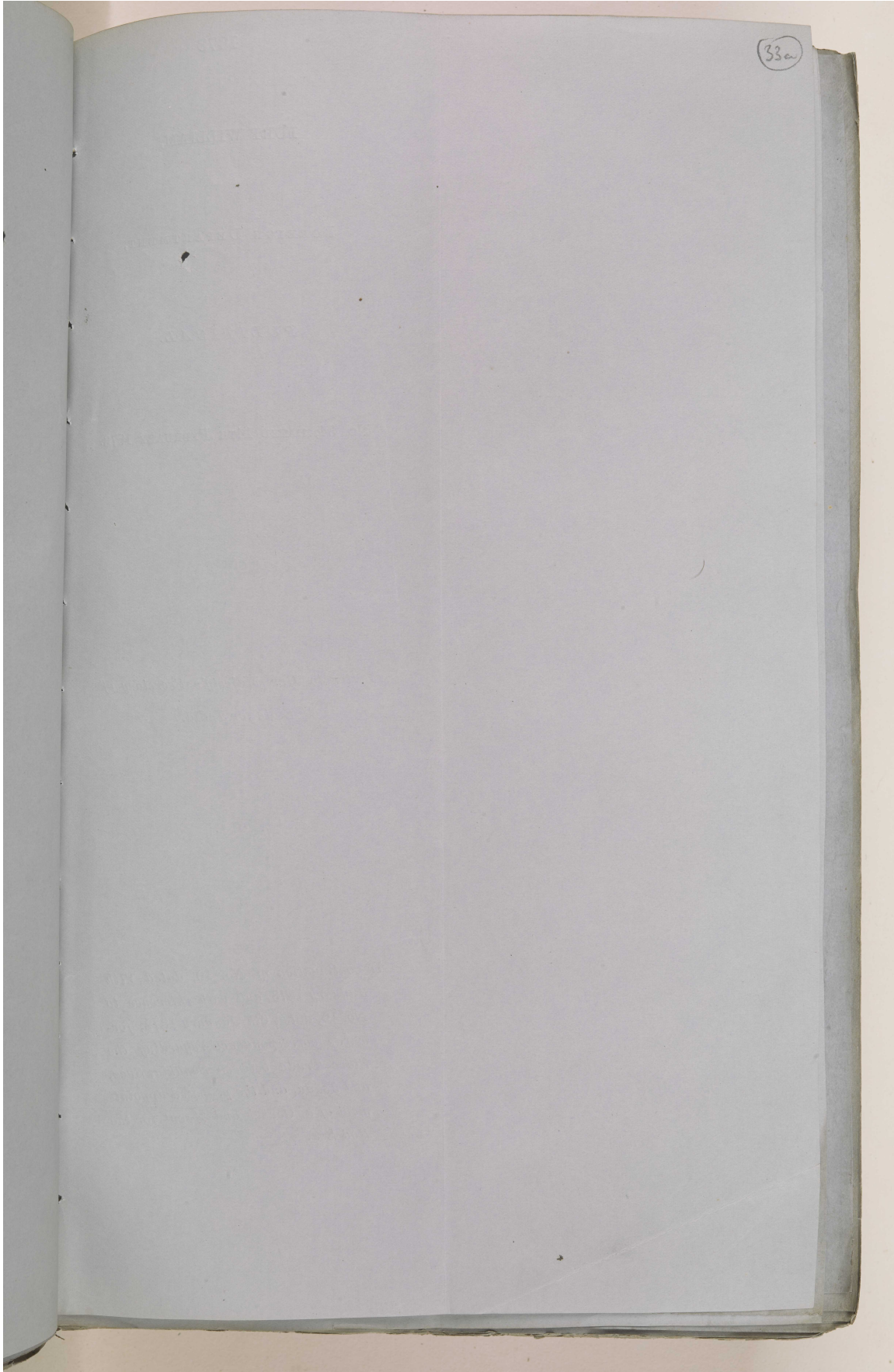
„ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

Exd—J. D. G.

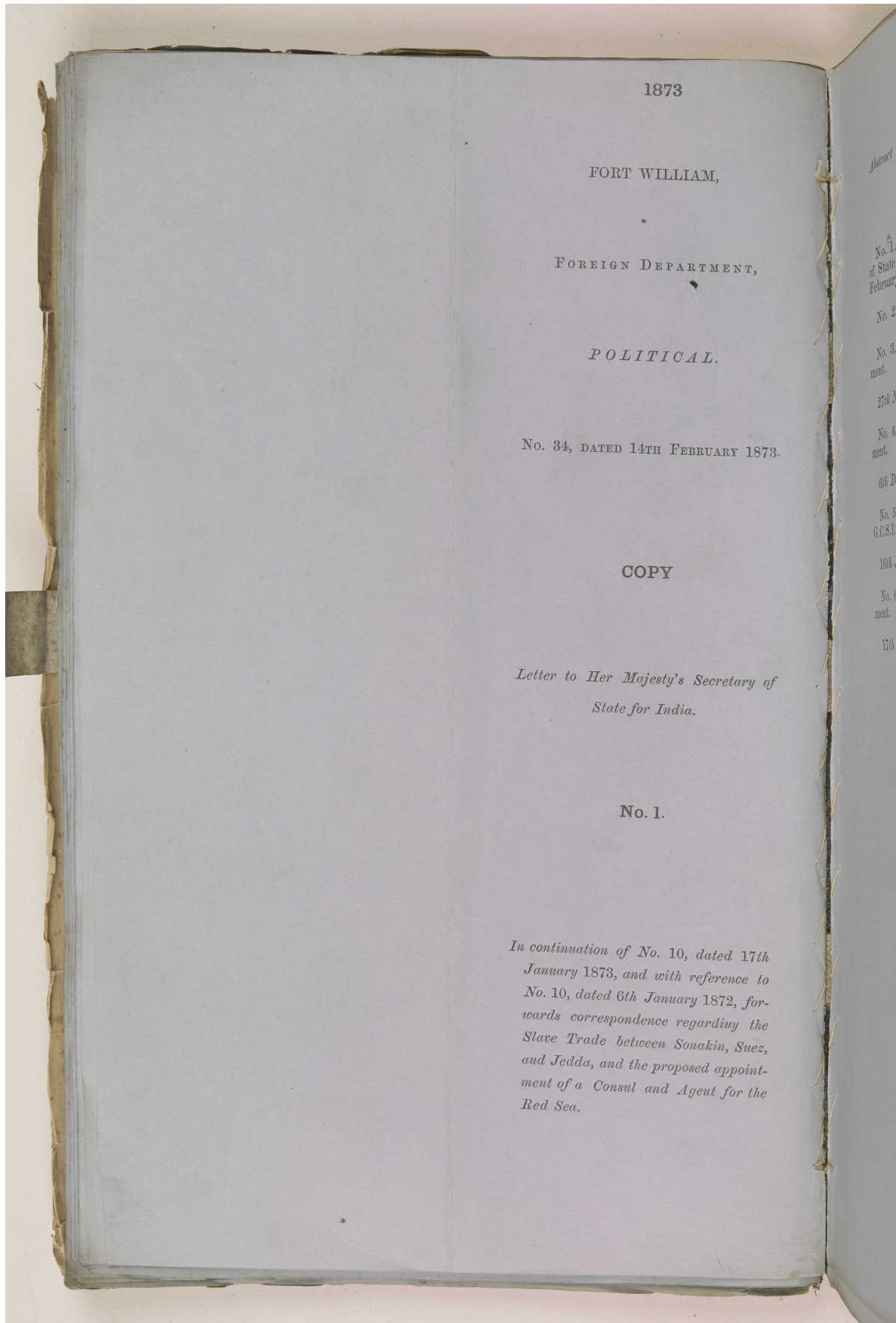
Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [33v] (2/12)



Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [33ar] (3/12)



Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [33av] (4/12)



Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [34r] (5/12)

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Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 34, dated 14th February 1873.

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 34, dated 14th February 1873. Forwards a copy of the undermentioned papers:—

No. 2. _____ Abstract of Contents.

No. 3.—From the Bombay Government. In continuation of No. 6049, dated 13th December 1871, forwards correspondence regarding the slave traffic between Sonakin, Suez, and Jedda.
27th November 1872, No. 6938.

No. 4.—From the Bombay Government. With reference to the above, states that the Resident at Aden has been instructed to bring the subject to the notice of Sir Bartle Frere.
6th December 1872, No. 8028.

No. 5.—To Sir Bartle Frere, G.C.S.I., and K.C.B. Forwards the above correspondence, and requests the favour of his views thereon.
16th January 1873, No. 101P.

No. 6.—From the Bombay Government. In continuation of No. 6938, dated 27th November 1872, forwards papers relating to the appointment of a Consul and Agent at Jedda.
17th January 1873, No. 296.

(Signed) P. D. Anderson

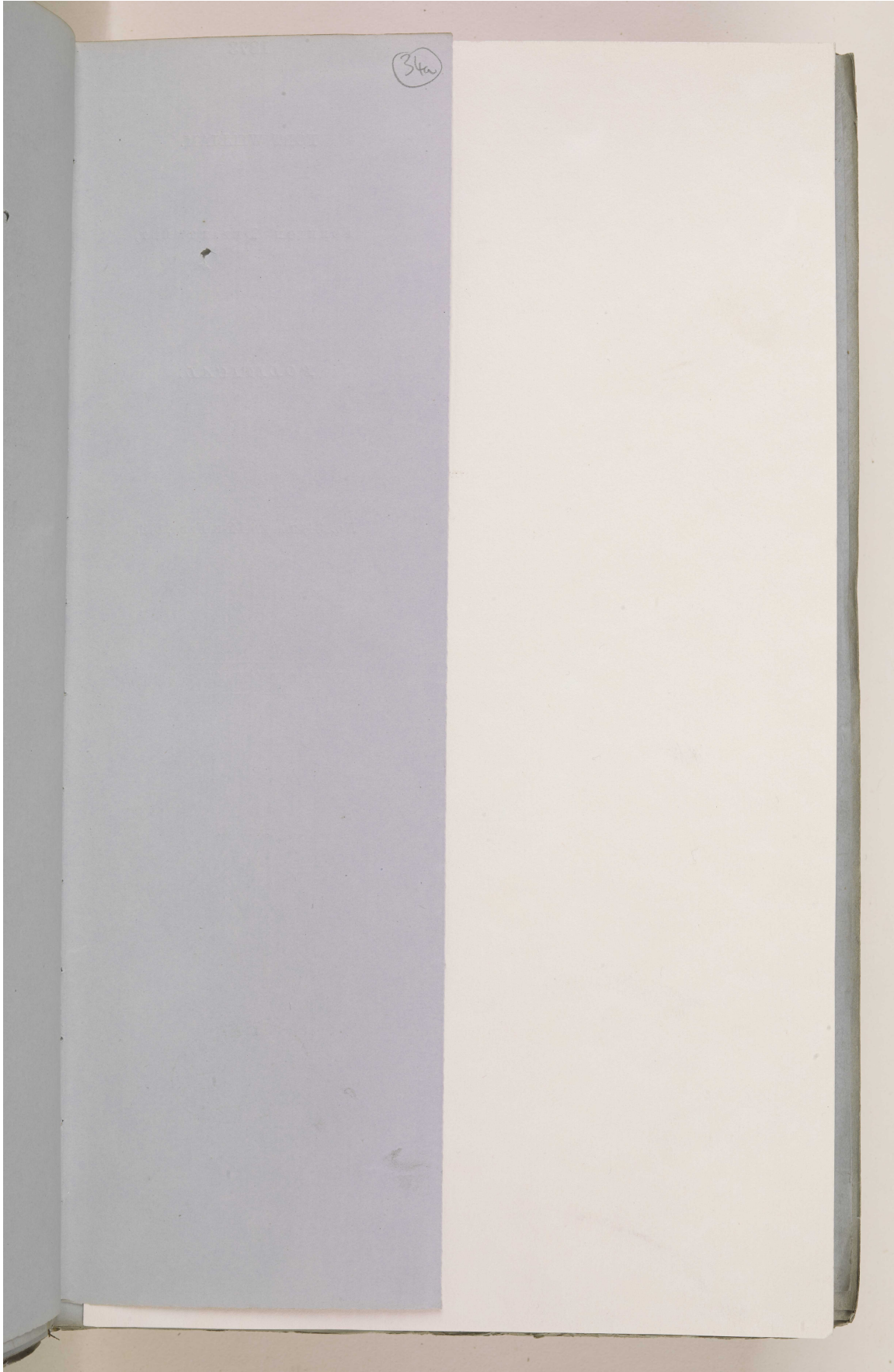
Offg. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Exd.—J. D. G.

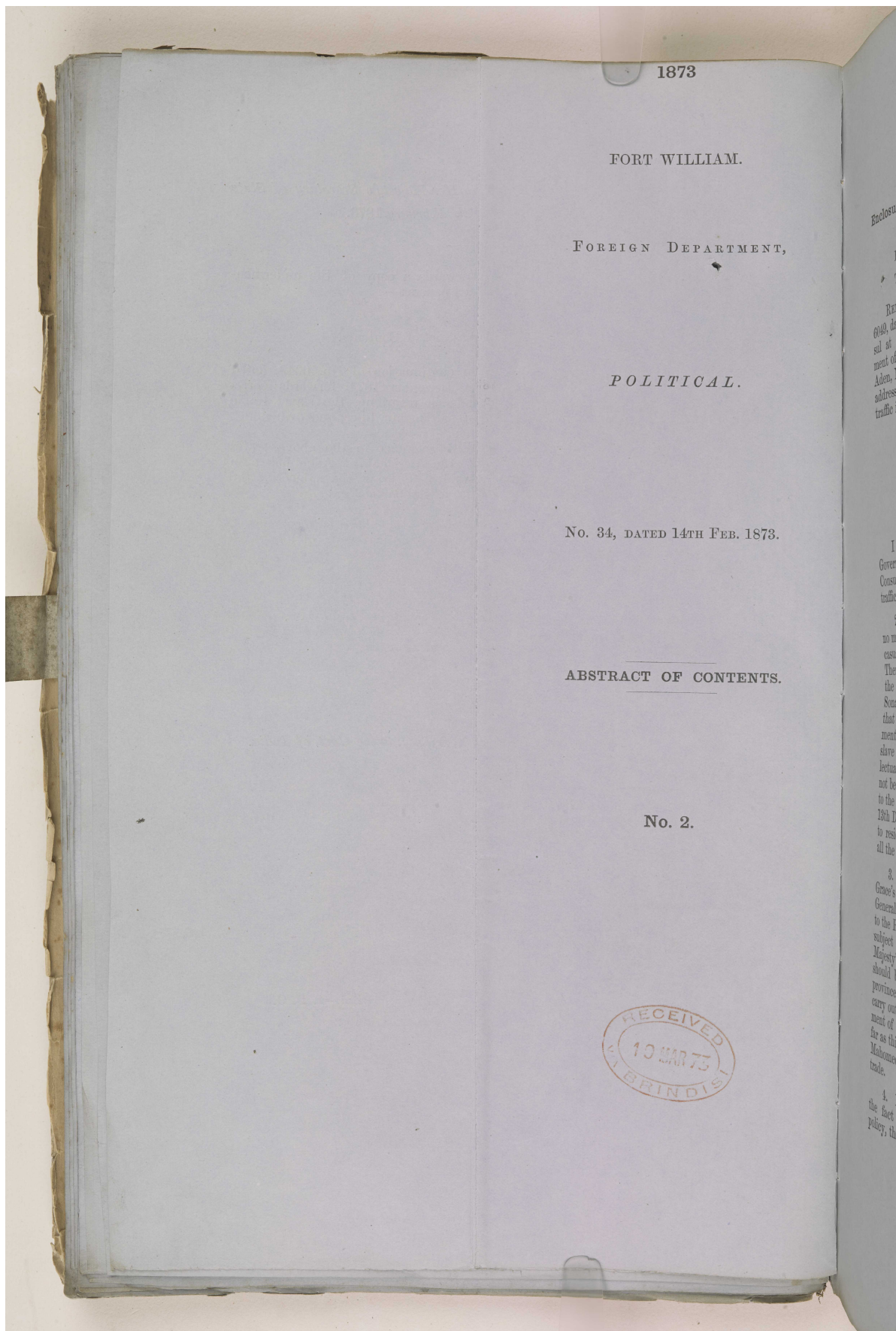
Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [34v] (6/12)



Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [34ar] (7/12)



Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [34av] (8/12)



Political No. 34 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Slave Trade between Sonakin, Suez and Jedda, and the Proposed Appointment of a Consul and Agent for the Red Sea [35r] (9/12)

Enclosure No. 3.

No. 6988, dated Bombay Castle, 27th November 1872.

From—Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

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

REFERRING to the papers forwarded with the letter from this Office, No. 6049, dated the 13th December 1871, relative to the proposal to station a Consul at Jedda, I am directed to transmit to you, for submission to the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Political Resident at Aden, No. 243-889, of the 9th instant, giving cover to a communication to his address from the Consular Agent of Greece at Sonakin on the subject of the traffic in slaves between that port and Suez and Jedda.

No. 243-889, dated Aden, 9th November 1872.

From—Political Resident, Aden,

To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copy of a letter, dated 8th September 1872, from the Consular Agent of Greece at Sonakin to my address, on the subject of the traffic in slaves between that port and Suez and Jedda.

2. Whether the statements made in this letter are correct or not I have no means of ascertaining, and such information as might be acquired on the casual visit of a Government Steamer to the port would be of little value. There can, however, be no doubt that in the absence of any repressive measures the Galla and White Nile slave trade, of which the natural outlet is the port of Sonakin, will continue to exist, and I think it right to suggest to Government that whatever may be the results of the efforts which Her Majesty's Government may now be making with a view to the suppression of the East African slave trade, the Red Sea traffic, which on account of the physical and intellectual characteristics of the Galla race, is of a peculiarly repulsive nature, will not be affected thereby. I have therefore to invite the attention of Government to the correspondence ending with Government Resolution No. 6048, dated the 13th December 1871, and to urge the early appointment of a Consul and Agent to reside principally at Jedda, but to be invested with powers extending over all the Turkish and Egyptian ports in the Red Sea.

3. With reference to the opinion of the Duke of Argyll expressed in His Grace's letter No. 70, of the 8th June 1871, to the address of the Governor-General of India in Council, that such an officer should be politically subordinate to the Resident at Aden, I would recommend that any correspondence on the subject of the slave trade should be conducted through the channel of Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, and that the Resident at Aden should be kept informed from time to time of the sanitary condition of the provinces on the coasts of the Red Sea and the measures taken at Jedda to carry out the provisions of the "Native Passenger Ships' Acts" for the enforcement of which a British Agent at that port is urgently needed. At present so far as this Residency is aware, British interests at Jedda are represented by a Mahomedan merchant and broker who has a personal interest in the pilgrim trade.

4. My reason for making the above recommendation is that in addition to the fact that the suppression of the slave trade is a question of Imperial policy, there is regular postal communication between Egypt and the Ports of

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Jedda, Mussowa, and Sonakin, whereas direct intercourse between Aden and these ports is only carried on by means of Native craft of rare and uncertain intervals and by Native passenger ships during one season of the year.

5. A copy of this despatch, with its enclosure, will be forwarded direct to His Grace the Secretary of State for India in Council.

Dated Sonakin, 8th September 1872.

From—Consular Agent of Greece,
To—His Excellency the Governor of Aden.

I HAVE the honor to inform Your Excellency that the trade of the slaves in this town is quite free, and as the sailing steamers on this coast are belong to the Egyptian Government, the merchants bring them on board impudently as they are, at the present of the Governor,* so every fortnight she'll have to take at least 40, 50, and sometimes 100 of these poor creatures except what the Sambuks (run all ships) take as many as a flock and transport them to Jedda, where they sell them.

Delivering my message according my duty I leave it upon the kind affections of Your Excellency as I am unable to prevent it.

Please accept my kind regards, and believe that I am ever, &c.

Enclosure No. 4.

No. 8028, dated Bombay Castle, 6th December 1872.

From—Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

REFERRING to the report from the Political Resident, Aden, regarding the traffic in slaves between the ports of Sonakin, Suez, and Jedda, forwarded with this Office No. 6938, dated 27th ultimo, I am directed to state that Colonel Schneider has been instructed to bring the subject of this report under the notice of Sir Bartle Frere on his arrival *en route* to Zanzibar.

Enclosure No. 5.

No. 101P., dated Fort William, 16th January 1873.

From—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department,
To—HIS EXCELLENCY SIR BARTLE FRERE, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., &c., Zanzibar.

I AM directed to forward copy of the letters marginally noted relating to the slave trade between the Governor of Sonakin and Jedda, and to request that Your Excellency will favour the Government of India with an expression of your views on the subject.

2. It seems to His Excellency in Council that the trade in question could more effectively be reached by arrangements between the Foreign Office and the Porte than by a Consul at Jedda with Consular powers in Ports which he can rarely visit.

No. 102P.

COPY forwarded to the Bombay Government for information, in reply to No. 8028, dated 6th December 1872.

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Enclosure No. 6.

No. 296, dated Bombay Castle, 17th January 1873.

From—Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

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

WITH reference to the papers forwarded with this Office letter No. 6938 of the 27th November last, regarding the appointment of a Consul and Agent at Jedda, I am directed to transmit herewith, for submission to the Government of India, copy of a letter, with enclosure, from the Political Resident, Aden, No. 278-1022, dated the 31st ultimo.

No. 278-1022, dated Aden, 31st December 1872.

From—Political Resident, Aden,

To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

I HAVE the honor to report, with reference to my letter No. 243-889, dated 9th November 1872, that I have received a petition from a large number of merchants at Jedda, representing that, in consequence of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at that Port being unacquainted with the Arabic and Hindostani languages, their interests fail to receive due attention at his hands, and requesting that the present Consular Agent, Mahomed Hafiz-ood-deen, may be appointed permanently to that post. The memorialists, a large number of whom, judging by their signatures, are not British subjects, state in a letter which covers this petition that they have addressed communications of a similar purport to the Government of India and to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt.

2. A translation of the petition is annexed for the information of Government.

Substance of a petition addressed to the Political Resident at Aden by certain merchants and others at Jedda.

As it is well known to all that the British Government is merciful and just, and that its desire is to preserve peace and happiness among its subjects and to keep the management of their affairs in perfect order and regularity, we the undersigned subjects of the English Government feel incumbent on us to make the Government acquainted with our condition. The Consul at Jedda is quite unacquainted with the Arabic and Hindostani languages, and it is very difficult to make him understand whenever we happen to have any business with him. When he has to explain our affairs to the Turkish Government or to any other, he may explain them in a sense contrary to our intention from not knowing the language. We consequently lose our rights and our business is interrupted. The Agent left by the Consul here by name Mahomed Hafiz-ood-deen is a respectable man and is well acquainted with all kinds of business; especially, he knows the Arabic, Hindostani, and Malayan languages. Since he has been made Agent our business has gone on very well, and we therefore request Your Excellency to keep Hajee Mahomed Hafiz-ood-deen always at Jedda and thus to give effect to our desires, for which we shall be very thankful.

(Sd.) HAJEE ABDULL MAULA MAYMAN, & 36 OTHERS.

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