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‘Muscat. Extortion of the Farmer of Customs at-’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2122/100084
Date(s)	5 Mar 1845-9 Jun 1845 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (6 folios)
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About this record

The item consists of copies and extracts of correspondence and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, extracts from a Bombay [Mumbai] Political Consultation, 9 June 1845. The papers contained in this item are partial enclosures to a Political Letter sent from the Government of Bombay to the East India Company Court of Directors, 10 June 1845. A copy of this Political Letter can be found at IOR/F/4/2122/100076, alongside details of further enclosures.

The item relates to a letter written by Captain Atkins Hamerton, HM Consul and the Company's Agent in the Dominions of the Imam of Muscat, reporting on a conversation he had with the Imam on the subject of the extra payment of duty enforced by the Farmer of Customs at Muscat on goods on board the British vessel, the *Columbia*. The consequences of this conversation are also included in the item.

The correspondents are: Hamerton; the Imam of Muscat [Sayyid Sa'īd bin Sulṭān Āl Bū Sa'īd]; and the Government of Bombay.

The title page of the item contains the following references: 'Bombay Political Department', 'P.C. [Previous Communication] 5061, Draft 29/46, Coll[ection]: 23, Vol: 9', 'Collection No. 8 of No. 62' and 'Examiner's Office'.

PB5061
Coll. 23
Vol. 9
A 29/46

100084

Collection No. 8 of No. 62.

Bombay
Political Department.

Letter from, dated 10. June 1845.

Muscat.
Extortion of the Farmer
of Customs at —.

Examiner's Office

(498)

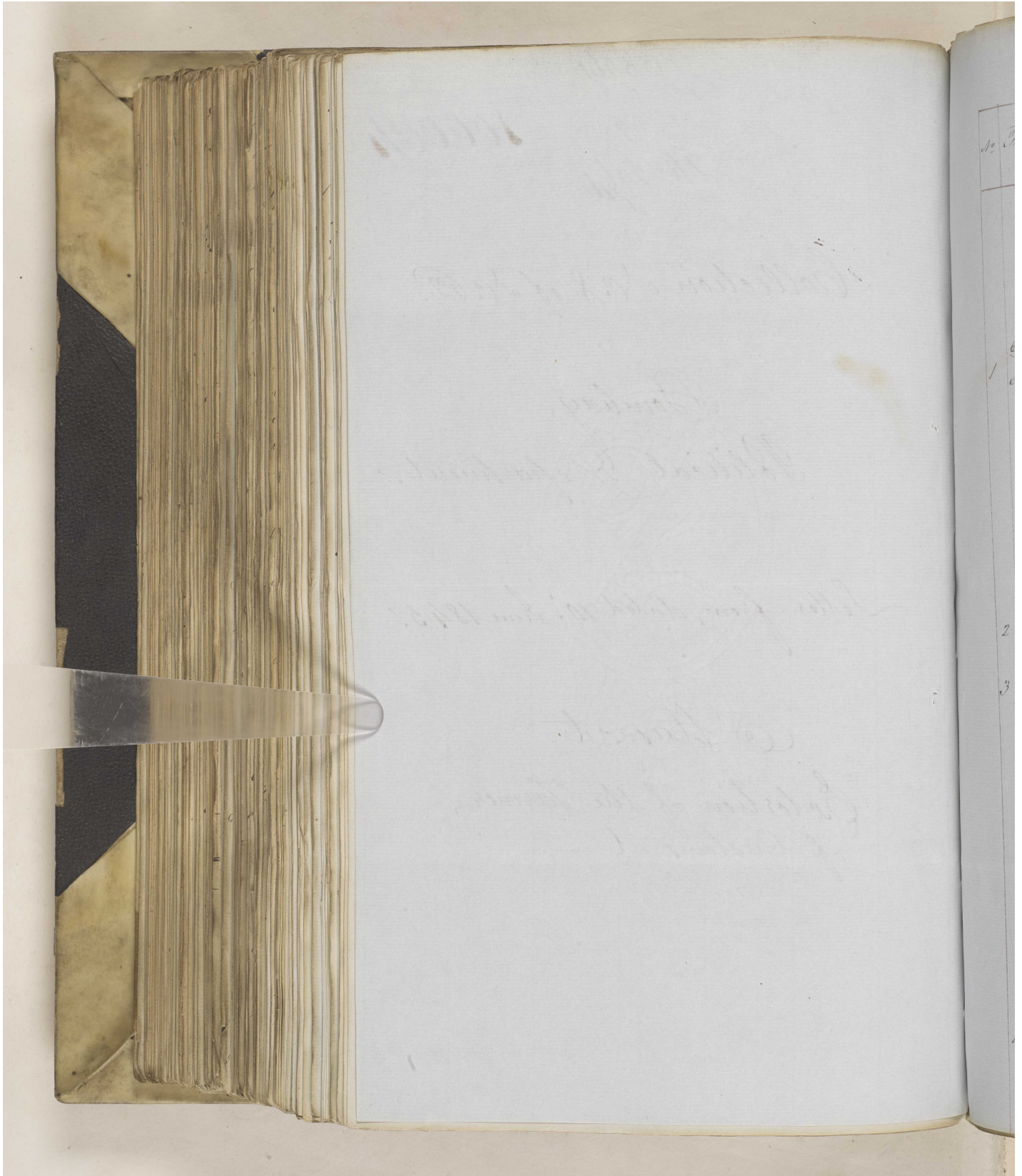
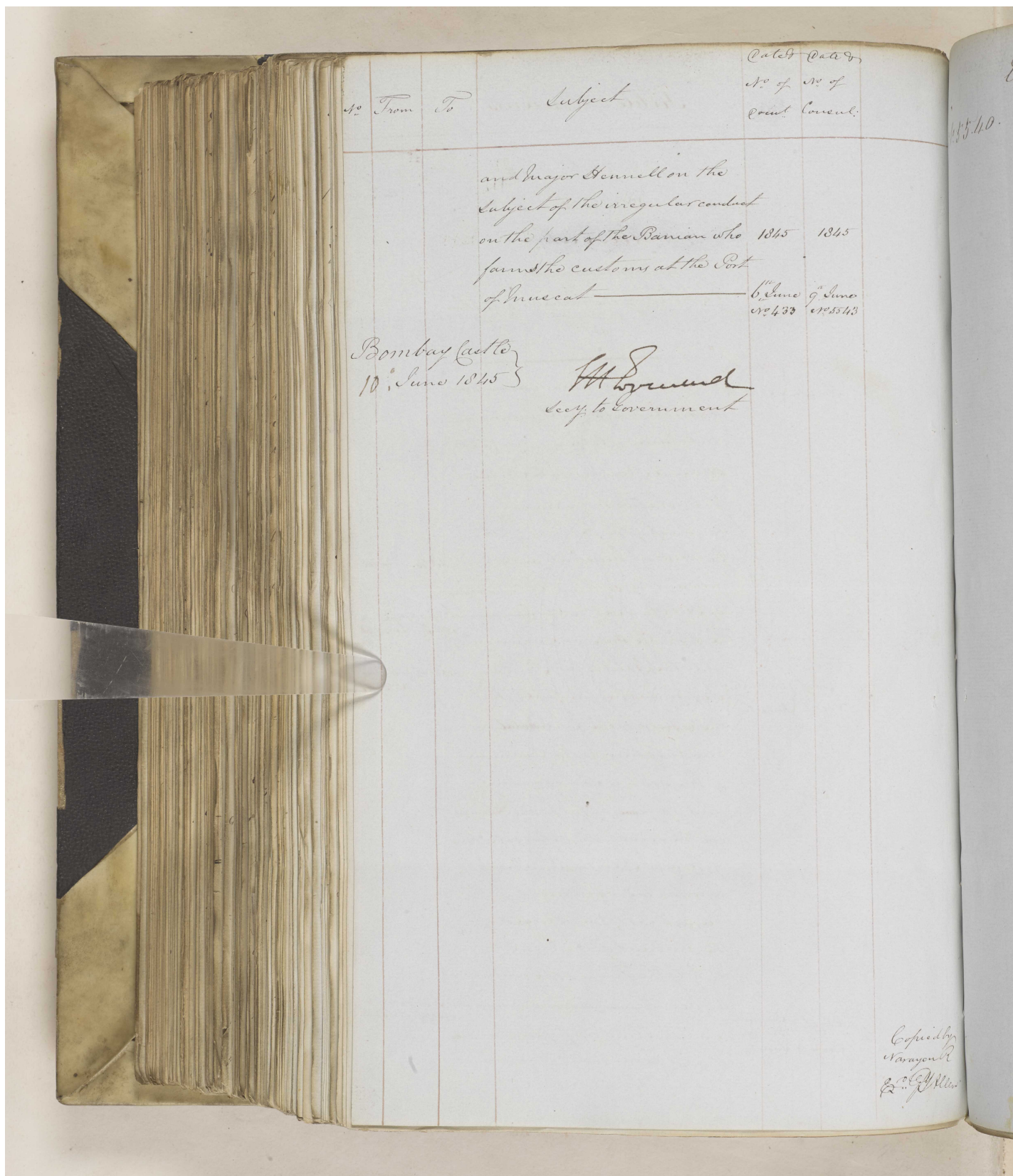


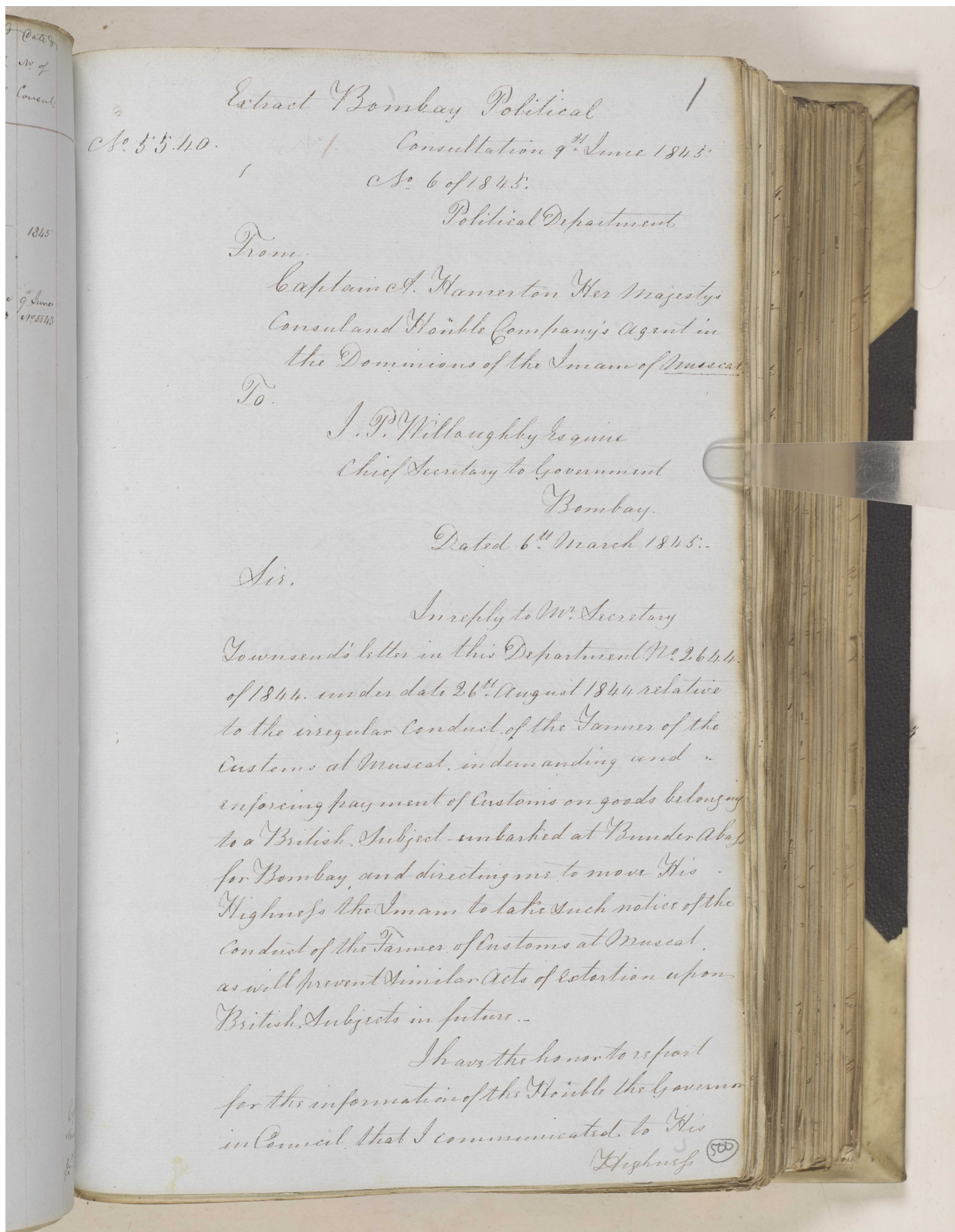
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No	From	To	Subject	Date no. of Docum.	Date no. of Cont.
<u>Muscat</u>					
<u>Extortion of the farmer of Customs at</u>					
1	Captain Hamerton	Chief Secy.	Reporting his having communicated to His Highness the Imam the substance of letters from Capt. Sennell Resident at the Persian Gulf relative to the irregular conduct of the farmer of the customs at Muscat and forwarding copies with translations of His Highness' reply	1845 no. 6	1845 no. 5540
2			Minute by the Honble the Gov. concurred in by the Honble Mr. Reid		no. 5541
3	Chief Secy.	Captain Hamerton	Informing him in reply that the result of the representation made by him to the Imam of Muscat is satisfactory, and approves of his proceedings on the occasion apprising him of Major Sennell having reported to Government on 1 st August last, the refusal of the amount of the excess of duty by the farmer of Customs Muscat		no. 5542
4	Chief Secy.	Secy to the Govt of India	Submitting copy of correspondence to and from Capt. Hamerton and		

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'Muscat. Extortion of the Farmer of Customs at-' [499v] (4/12)





Extract Bombay Political
No. 5540. Consultation 9th June 1845.
No. 6 of 1845.
Political Department
From:
Captain A. Hamerton Her Majesty's
Consul and Honble Company's Agent in
the Dominions of the Imam of Muscat.
To:
J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay.
Dated 6th March 1845.

Sir,
In reply to M^r. Secretary
Townsend's letter in this Department No. 2644
of 1844, under date 26th August 1844, relative
to the irregular Conduct of the Farmer of the
Customs at Muscat, in demanding and
enforcing payment of Customs on goods belonging
to a British Subject embarked at Bunder Abbas
for Bombay, and directing me to move His
Highness the Imam to take such notice of the
conduct of the Farmer of Customs at Muscat,
as will prevent similar Acts of extortion upon
British Subjects in future.

I have the honor to report
for the information of the Honble the Governm
in Council that I communicated to His
Highness (500)

Highness the Imam the substance of the
letters from Captain Hammett Resident in the
Persian Gulf of the 17th June 1844 to H. W.
Said Thumense Governor of Muscat and
Secretary to Government Bombay, respectively,
when His Highness said; he had before heard
of this transaction and had written strong
letters on the subject to the Authorities at Muscat,
and requested me to furnish him with a
translation of the letters, which I did and
do myself the honor to enclose copies of my
letter marked A with translation and of
H. W. the Imam's reply marked B. also with
translation -

In the course of conversation
with His Highness on Monday last (the 3rd
Instant) His Highness said, that many
unpleasant things had happened lately,
but that his people did not yet rightly
understand the Treaty or the nature of Treaty.

Zanzibar
6th March
1845.

I have the
/Signed/ J. Hammett Capt.
H. W.'s Consul and H. Co's
Agent in the Dominions
of the Imam of Muscat.

A.

Translation of a letter from Captain
Hammett

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Hamerton dated 5th March 1845. to His Highness
the Imam forwarding at the request of His
Highness the Imam translations of Captain
Hennell's letters of the 14th June 1844. to the Chief
Secretary to Government Bombay, and H. H.
Said Thuwaine Governor of Muscat respectively

A. H.

I beg to trouble your Highness
with this letter in conformity to the wishes of
your Highness expressed to me on Monday,
(where I had the honor of an interview with
your Highness) that I should make a translation
of the two letters one from Captain Hennell to
the Honble the Governor in Council in Bombay,
relative to the extortion & oppressive conduct
of the Bunder Master at Muscat towards
British Subjects, and the other letter of the
same date 14th June 1844 - 30th Lands al-awal
1960. to His Highness Said Thuwaine.

I have now the honor to inform
your Highness that I have received the orders
of the Honble the Governor in Council at Bombay
to bring this matter to the notice of your
Highness and to express on the part of the
Honble the Governor of Bombay, that the
Government hope and expect your Highness
will take such notice of the conduct of
the

(501)

of the Custom Master as will
prevent a recurrence of such Conduct.

May God increase your prosperity
and Sulam &c. &c.

(This Translation)
Signed/ A. Hamerton.

B.

Translation of a letter from H. H. the
Imam dated 23rd Suffer 1261. 3rd March 1845:
in reply to a letter from Captain Hamerton of
the same date 3rd March 1845:-

A. H.

Your Excellent letter reached
me, and your friend understood the contents
and as the Bonian the Custom Master at
Muscat, and his improper Conduct towards
the Subjects of the Sircar, - I received the
Account of his Conduct, in a letter from Hejee
Yacoub and I wrote to my Sons that if he
(the Custom Master) had not desisted
from such practices to, at once turn him
out of his Situation, - and I have received
an Answer that he now is obedient (behaves
properly) and even now I will again
caution him, that such a thing may not
again happen, for if so, I will punish
him severely. -

Whatever

Whatever you may require of me.
Please God, I am ready. Peace be on you.

Seal of
Imam

(True Translation)
(Signed) A. Hamerton

No. 5541 Minute by the Honble the Governor
concurred in by the Honble W. Reid. dated
4th June 1845.

1. In a subsequent letter Major
Kinnell has reported, that the Customs
Farmer at Muscat, afterwards refunded this
reaction.
2. The result of the representation
made by Captain Hamerton to His Highness
the Imam on this Subject is satisfactory,
and that Officer's proceedings may be approved.
3. Copy to be sent to the Govern^t
of India.

(Signed) G. Arthur
(") S. W. Reid.

No. 5542. No. 2816 of 1845.

Political Department.

From J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government Bombay
To Captain A. Hamerton.
H. M. Consul and H. M. Agent in the
Dominions of H. H. the Imam of Muscat
Zanzibar.

Dated 6th June 1845.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge
the

(502)

the receipt of your letter dated the 6th March,
last, N^o 6, reporting the result of the representation
made by you to His Highness the Imam
in regard to the irregular conduct on the
part of the Farmer of Customs at Muscat,
in demanding and enforcing payment of
duty upon goods belonging to a British
Subject embarked at Bandar Abass for
Bombay.

In reply I am desired to
inform you, that the result of the representation
made by you to the Imam on this Subject,
is satisfactory and that the Hon^{ble} the
Governor in Council approves of your proceedings
on the occasion.

I am at the same time
desired to apprise you that Major Hennell
the Resident in the Persian Gulf, reported
to Government on the 1st August last, that
the Custom Master at Muscat had refunded
the amount exacted in excess of the proper
duty, by the Farmer of Customs, in the case
above alluded to.

Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be
6th June 1845. } Signed / J. P. Willoughby
Chief Secretary

CS. 5543.

O.C. 2817.

No 433 of 1845.

Political Department

From J. P. Willoughby Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government

To

F. Currie Esquire

Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William

Dated 6th June 1845.

Sir,

I am directed by the Hon^{ble}
the Governor in Council to transmit to you

From the Resident in the Persian Gulf
dated 17th June No 302 of 1844--
To Do. Do. d/ 26th August No 2643 -- "
To Capt. Hamilton d/ 26th August No 2644 -- "
From the Resident in the Persian Gulf,
dated 1st August No 379 -- "
To Dilla Do. d/ 5th Oct. No 3081 -- "
From Captain Hamilton d/ 6th March
No 6 of 1845 -- "
To Dilla - Dilla -- -- "

for submission to the
Right Hon^{ble} the Govern^r
General in Council Copy
of a Correspondence noted
in the Margin, on the
Subject of the irregular

conduct on the part of the Persian who farms
the Customs at the Port of Muscat, in demanding
and enforcing payment of Custom duties in
receipt of the rates prescribed by the Treaty upon
goods belonging to a British Subject, embarked
in the Ship "Columbia" at Bunder Abass for
Bombay --

Bombay Castle
6th June 1845

I have &c.

Signed J. P. Willoughby
Chief Sec^y

True Extracts

W. Currie
Secy to Gov^r

Copy by Affaire
Gunnesh
to h. Sirim

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'Muscat. Extortion of the Farmer of Customs at-' [503v] (12/12)

