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‘Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British subject – Vol: 8’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2203/108141
Date(s)	16 Nov 1846-4 Mar 1847 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (6 folios)
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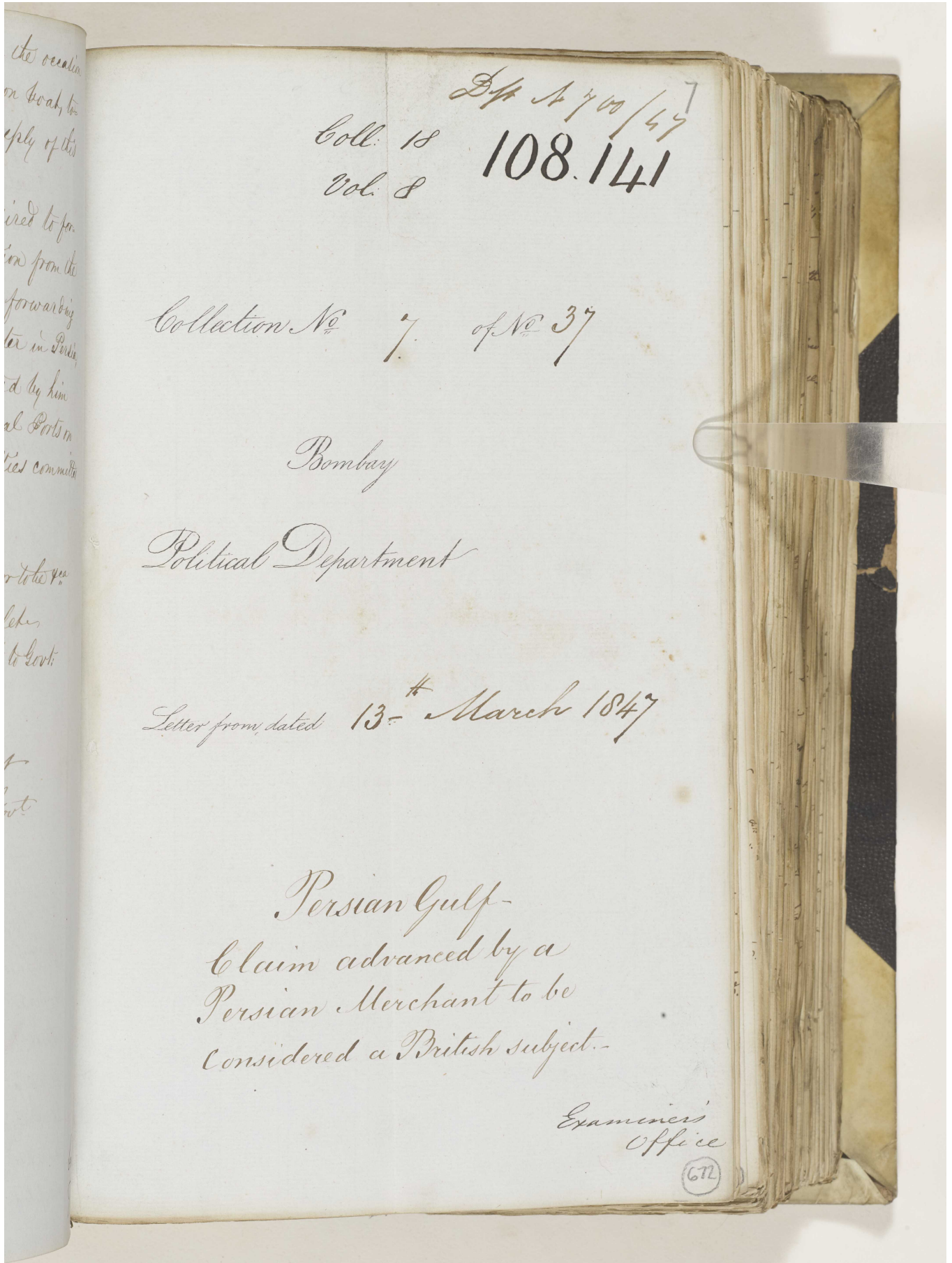
About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, consultations, and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay. These political letters appear in IOR/F/4/2203/108134. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; Major Samuel Hennell, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf; and Lieutenant-Colonel Justin Sheil, HM Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary at the Court of Persia [Iran]. It is the eighth in a series of thirty items.

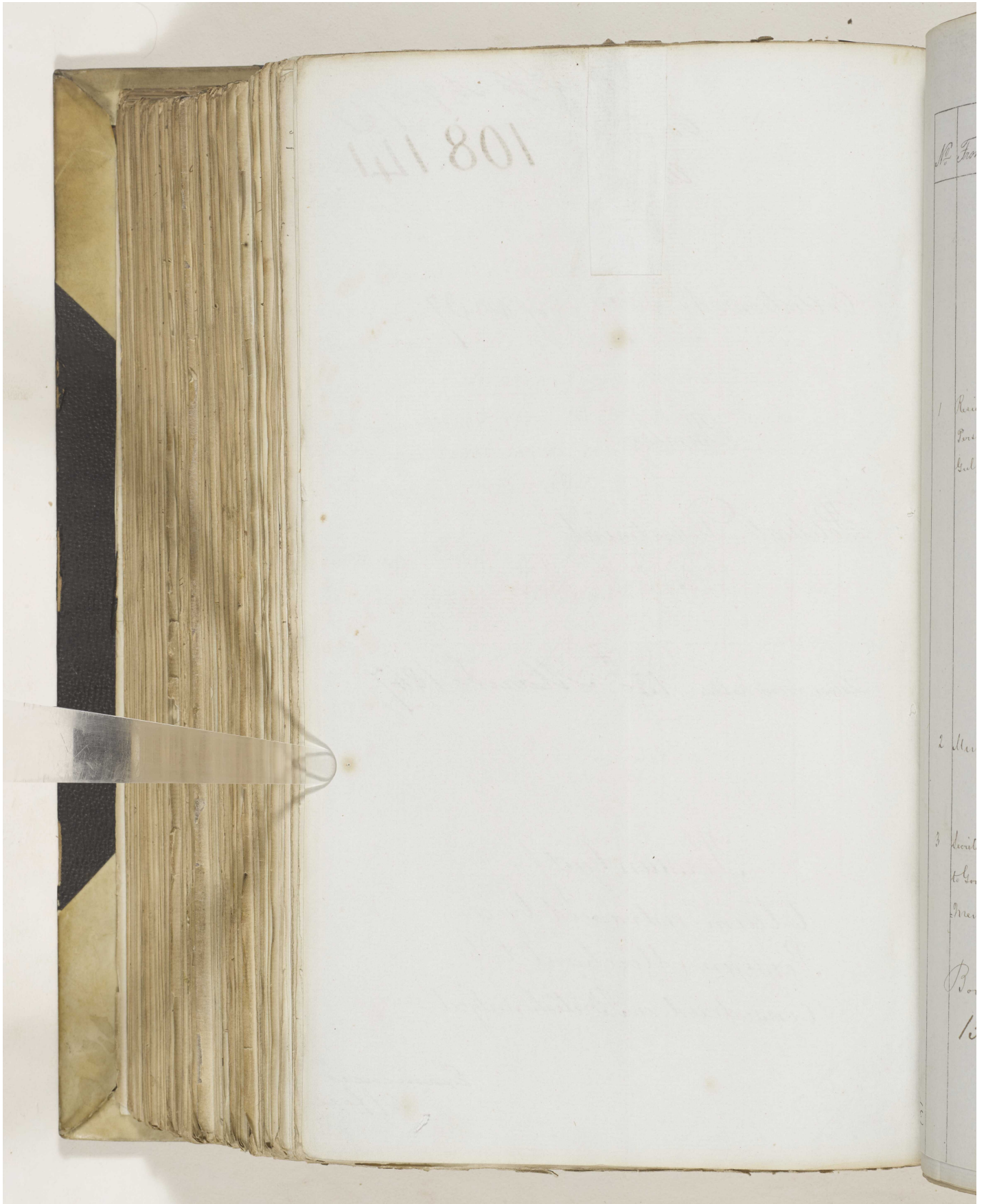
The item concerns a request by Meer Mahomed Hussein [Mīr Muḥammad Ḥusayn] to be considered a British subject, as he was born in India and had an Indian mother.

The item contains a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: ‘Draft 700/47, Coll[ection]: 18, Collection No 7 of No 37’.

'Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British subject – Vol: 8' [672r] (1/12)



'Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British subject – Vol: 8' [672v] (2/12)



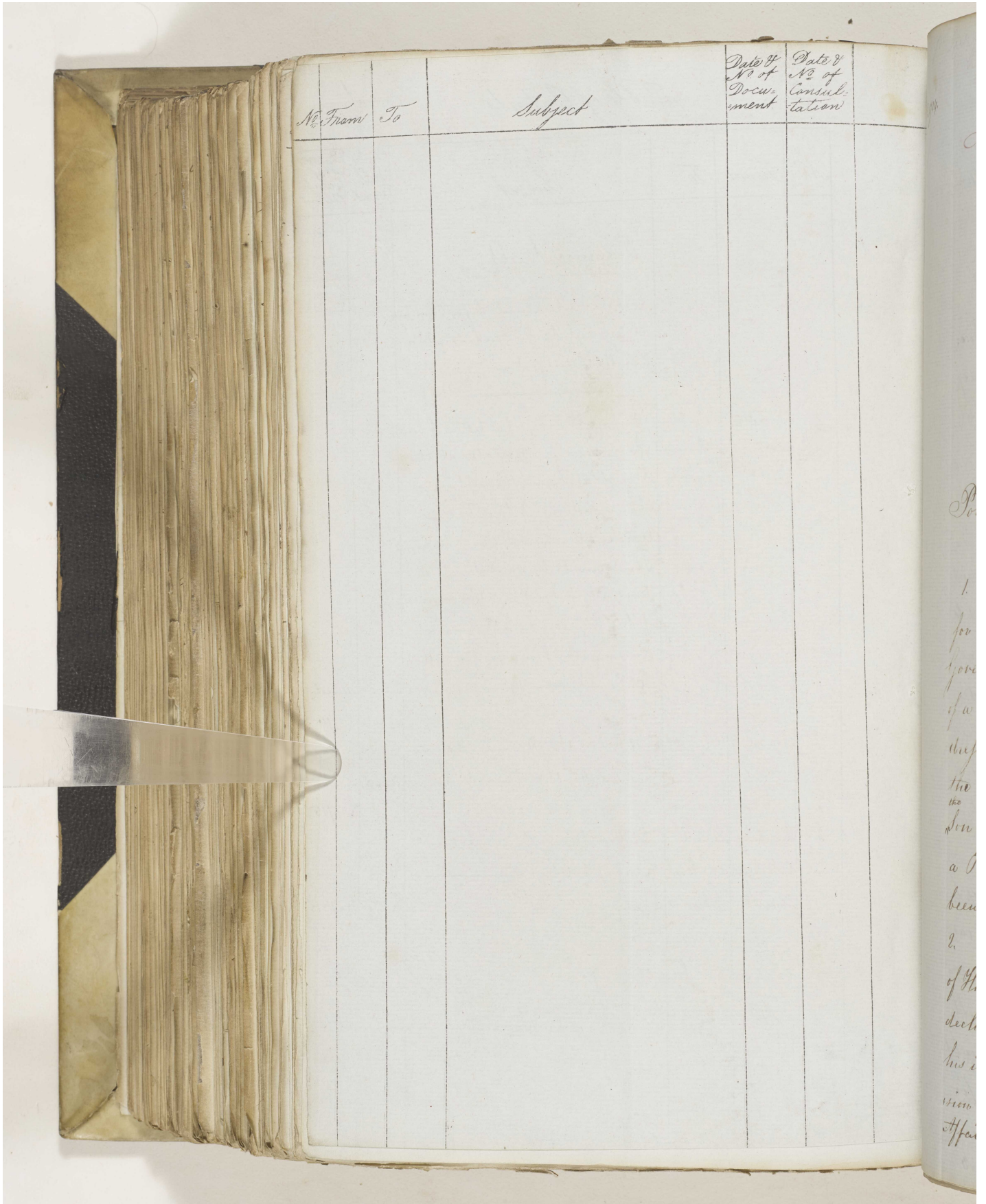
'Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British subject – Vol: 8' [673r] (3/12)

Table of Contents

No.	From	To	Subject	Date of No. of Docu- ment	Date of No. of Inclu- sion
			<u>Persian Gulf</u> Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British subject –		
1	Resident Secretary Persian to Govern- ment of the Gulf	Government	Submits copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Persia regarding a claim advanced by a Persian Merchant named Meer Mahomed Hussain to be considered a British subject on the grounds of his having been born in India and of an Indian Mo- ther. ———	Feb 3 rd No 20	March No 17/16
2	Minute by the	Honble the Governor	Concur- red in by the Board. ———	Mar 3 rd	" " " "
3	Secretary Secy to to Govern- the Govt ment of India		Submitting copy of the above letter. ———	" 14 th No 48	" " " " No 17/16
	Bombay Castle 13 th March 1816				
			Wharff Secretary to Government.		

and by
Stodart.
J. Hunter.

'Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British
subject – Vol: 8' [673v] (4/12)



<i>No. From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Date & No of Docu- ment</i>	<i>Date & No of Consul- tation</i>

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Extract, Bombay, Political Consultation, March 1847.
 Office No 70. of 1847.
 Cons. No 20. of 1847.
 From,
 Major Hennell,
 Resident in the Persian Gulf
 To,
 W. Malet, Esquire
 Secretary to Government,
 Bombay.
 Political Department. Bushire 3^d February 1847.
 Sir,
 1. I have the honor to transmit for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying Copy of a letter dated the 16th November 1846, addressed by me to Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Persia, relative to the Claim of ^{the} Son of a Persian Merchant, to be considered a British Subject, on the grounds of his having been born in India, and of an Indian Mother.
 2. At the same time I beg to enclose a copy of His Excellency's reply, dated the 8th November last, declining to acknowledge the Claim, but intimating his intention of referring the Question for the decision of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
 I have the honor to be Sir,
 Signed, J. Hennell
 Resident in the Persian Gulf
 Feb. 3^d February 1847.

N^o 410, of 1046.

From,

Major Kennell.

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To,

His Excellency

Lieut. Colonel Sheik.

Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary at the Court of Persia
Tehran.

Bushire 16th November 1046.

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency, that I have been applied to by Meer Mahomed Hashem, the Son of a Bushire Merchant named Meer Hyder, to be acknowledged as a British Subject, on the ground of his having been born in Calcutta, and his Mother being a Native of India--

2. Of the truth of these assertions, I entertain no doubt, but as the present case will establish a precedent likely to be productive of much embarrassment and trouble, I have informed the applicant, that I would lay his request before Your Excellency, for your decision and instructions thereupon.

3.

3. Meer Mahomed Hashim is a young Man of Nineteen Years of Age, and I am tolerably well assured, that the Claim now advanced by him to be acknowledged as a British Subject, is merely to forward the purposes of his Relations, who wish to purchase Horses in Shiraz, and up the Country in his name, and embark them for India, as British Property. — I have no doubt if the Claim of the applicant be admitted, that such goods as Cloths &c. &c. which under the Commercial Treaty are imported in the case of British Subjects on favorable terms, will be addressed to him from India, while all those other Articles, which, if introduced by Persian Merchants, pay only a trifling duty, will be forwarded in the name of his Father. In short, that Meer Hyder will avail himself of the rights and privileges of a British Subject, possessed by his Son, to serve his own purposes, at the same time, retaining in his own person the advantages accruing to Natives of Persia.

4. I need not do more than advert to the many embarrassments and difficulties likely to arise out of such anomalous circumstances, as well as the constant disputes and misunderstandings to which they will necessarily give birth, with the local Authorities.

at 675

At the same time I feel by no means certain, that the right claimed can be legally withheld. I therefore respectfully request Your Excellency will be pleased to favor me with your instructions for my guidance in this and other similar cases. -

Residency in the Persian Gulph. I have the honor to be Sir
Signed/ P. Hennell.
Resident in the Persian Gulph.

True Copy
Signed/ W. B. Kemball.
Majors Resident, Persian Gulph.

To,

Major Hennell
Political Resident
Bushire.

Dated, Tehran, 8th Dec^r 1846.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch N^o 410, of the 16th of November, I agree with your view of the embarrassment and constant collision with the Persian Authorities which would follow, from acknowledging Meer Mahomed Ghassem, to be a British Subject, while his Father, residing in the same place, is considered a Subject of the Shah. He is moreover a minor, and the motives

5

motives you alleges, for putting forth this claim, of depriving the Persian Government of the legal and fair duties on merchandize really belonging to his Father, deserve no countenance. —

I am equally ignorant with yourself, whether he has a legal right to this pretension, and pending a reference, which I shall make on the subject to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State. I have to instruct you not to acknowledge his claim to be reckoned a British Subject; I would make an exception to this decision, should he be on the point of suffering illegal personal violence from the Persian Authorities. —

Should his claim be finally acknowledged, and should there be, as you anticipate, an attempt to defraud the Persian Government of the Custom duties, it will be proper to call on him, to declare on oath, that the merchandize imported, or exported in his name, is really and actually his own, individual property, taking care that there should be no evasion by means of the chicanery in the Persian law called Hibbeh.

I have the honor to be &c

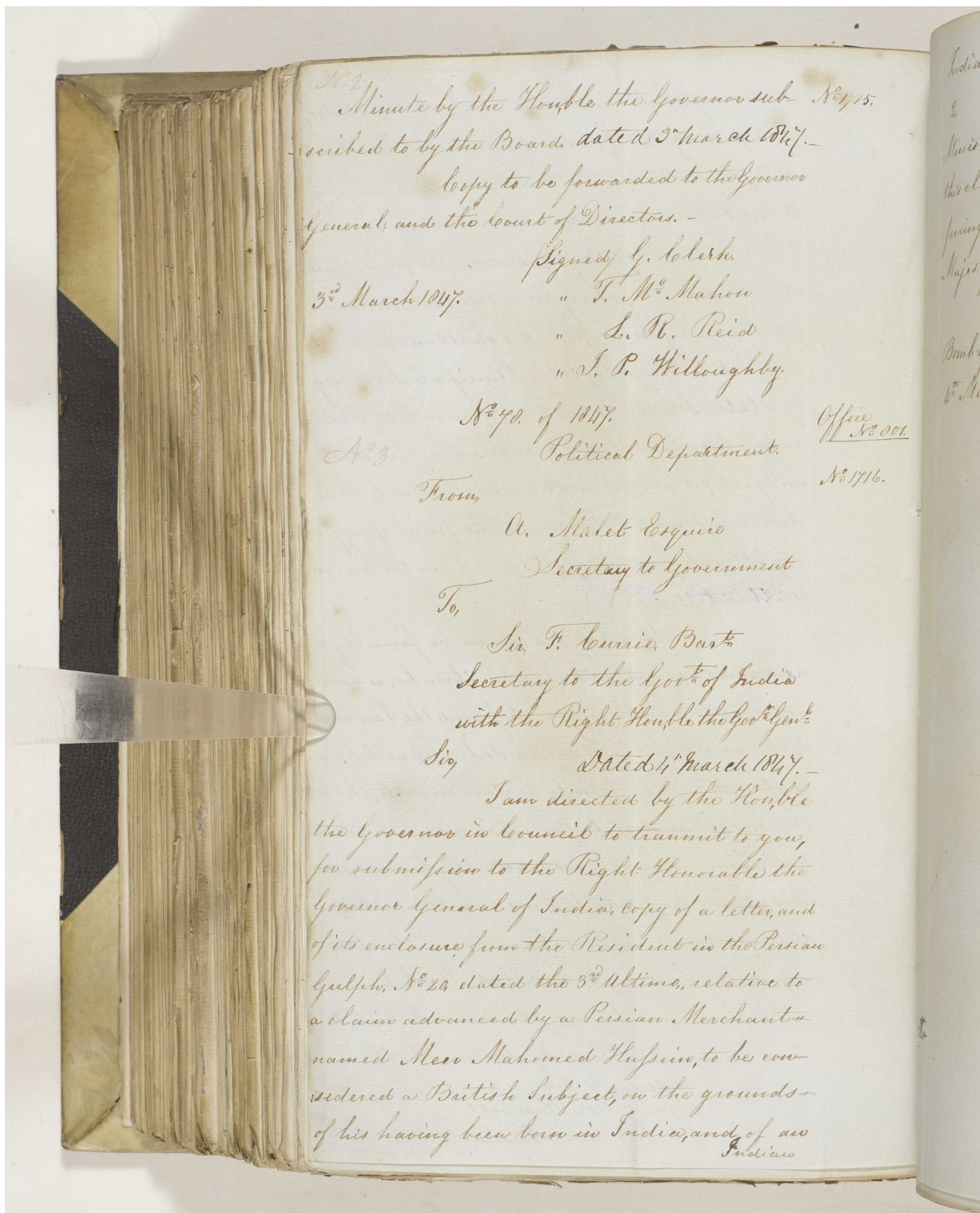
(Signed) Justin Sheil.

True Copy

Signed, U.B. Kemball.

Asst. Resident, Persian Gulf. Minute

(576)



Nº 2
Minute by the Honble the Governor sub Nº 15.
scribed to by the Board, dated 3rd March 1847.
copy to be forwarded to the Governor
General, and the Court of Directors. -

Signed/ G. Colerke.
3rd March 1847. " T. M. Mahon
" L. R. Reid
" J. P. Willoughby.

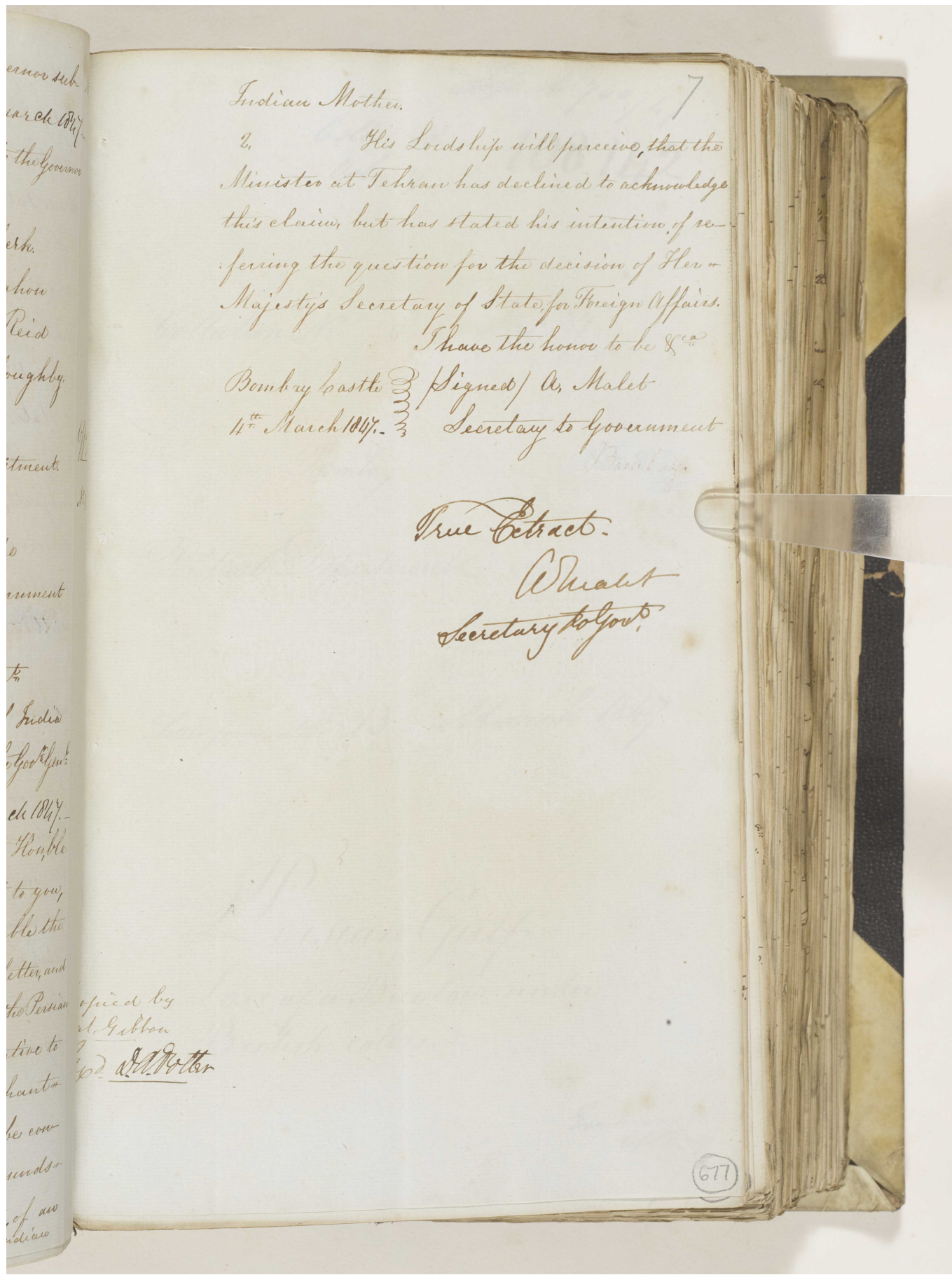
Nº 290. of 1847. Office Nº 001.
Nº 3 Political Department. Nº 1716.

From,
A. Malet Esquire
Secretary to Government

To,
Sir F. Courie, Bart.
Secretary to the Govt of India
with the Right Honble the Govt Genl.
Sir

Dated 14th March 1847.
I am directed by the Honble
the Governor in Council to transmit to you,
for submission to the Right Honorable the
Governor General of India, copy of a letter, and
of its enclosure from the Resident in the Persian
Gulph, Nº 20, dated the 3rd Ultimo, relative to
a claim advanced by a Persian Merchant
named Meer Mahomed Hussain, to be con-
sidered a British Subject, on the grounds
of his having been born in India, and of an
Indian

'Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British subject – Vol: 8' [677r] (11/12)



Indian Mother.

2. His Lordship will perceive, that the Minister at Tehran has declined to acknowledge this claim, but has stated his intention of referring the question for the decision of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, for Foreign Affairs.

I have the honor to be &c.

Bombay Castle (Signed) A. Malet
14th March 1847. Secretary to Government

True Extract.

Malet
Secretary to Govt.

677

copied by
A. Galban
A. Malet

'Persian Gulf – Claim advanced by a Persian Merchant to be considered a British
subject – Vol: 8' [677v] (12/12)

