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‘Muscat. Soomallee Slave boy. Vol: 7’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2087/96926
Date(s)	17 Apr 1844-5 Dec 1844 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (10 folios)
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About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, consultations, memoranda, resolutions, and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai]. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; Rubil bin Uslan [Reuben bin Aslan], British Agent at Muscat; Yakoob bin Bushire [Yakub bin Bushehr], Acting British Agent at Muscat; and Philip LeGeyt, Senior Magistrate of Police in Bombay. It is the seventh in a series of nine items on the trade in enslaved people (the others are IOR/F/4/2087/96920, IOR/F/4/2087/96921, IOR/F/4/2087/96922, IOR/F/4/2087/96923, IOR/F/4/2087/96924, IOR/F/4/2087/96925, IOR/F/4/2087/96927, and IOR/F/4/2087/96928).

The item concerns the rescue of a Somali man named Ibrahim from slavery in Muscat by the British Agent Rubil bin Uslan, and his arrival in Bombay.

The item contains a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: ‘Draft 290/45, P.C. [Previous Communication] 4760’.

P B4760
Vol: 7
Ht 290/45

96926

Collection N. 5 of 8. 100.

Bombay.
Political Department.

Letter from, dated 31. December 1844.

Muscat.
Soomallee Slave boy.

Commissioner's Office (912)

by
H. H.
W. H.

'Muscat. Soomallee Slave boy. Vol: 7' [912v] (2/20)

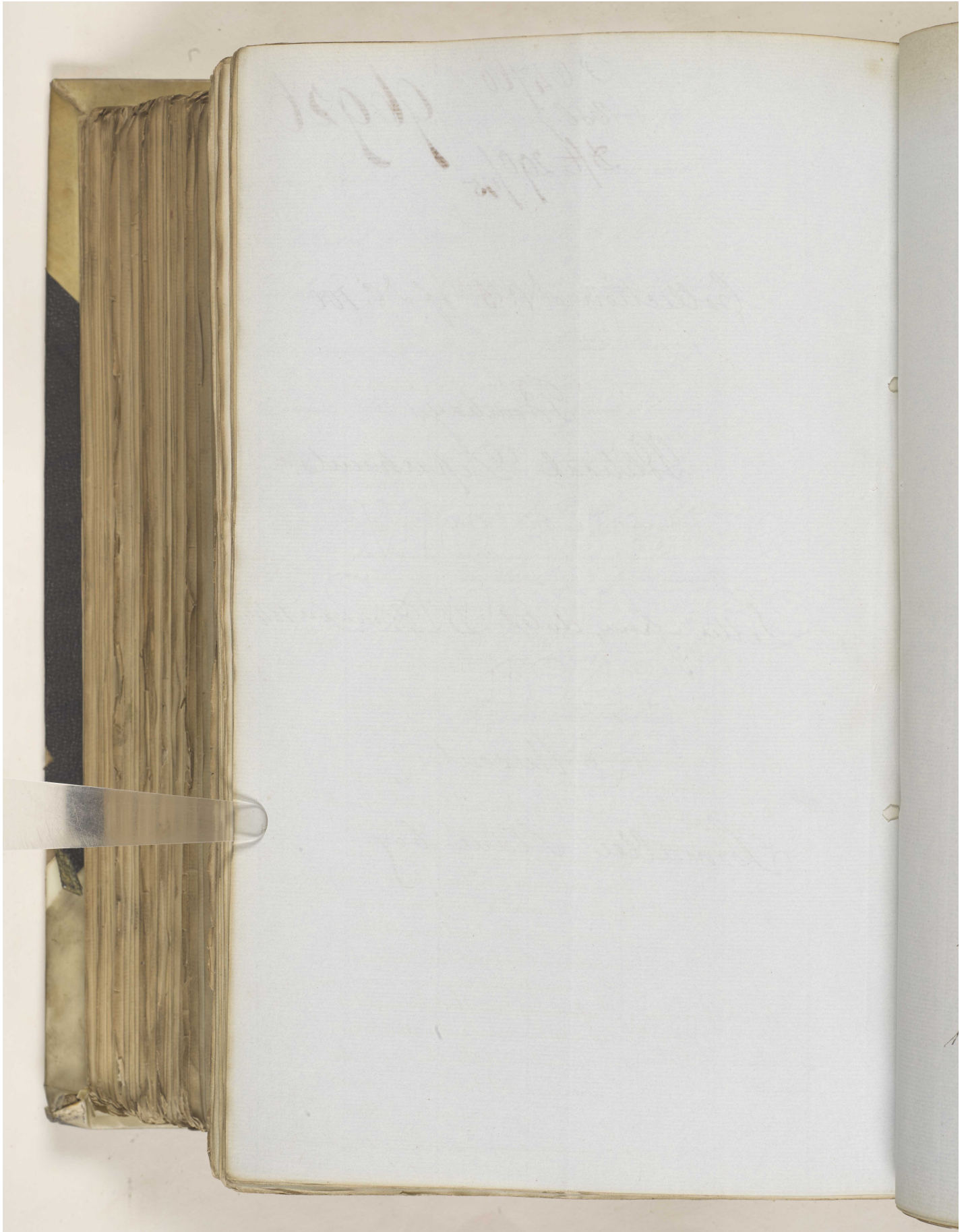


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2			Extract para. 3 ^d of a minute by the Hon ^{ble} the Governor subscribed to by the Honorable Mess ^{rs} Crawford & Reid	17 th Apr ^l	
3	Secy to Govt.	Residd ^t Persian Gulf	Transmitting for his information the above extract from a letter from the Native Agent at Muscat reporting the circumstances under which he lately rescued a Soomallee boy from Slavery at that place	21 st May	
4	Secy to Govt.	Residd ^t Persian Gulf	Ditto	21 st May	
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7			Resolution - Transfer to the Military Depart.	2 nd Nov ^r	N ^o 486
8	Senior Magistrate of Police	Chief Secy	Reporting that a liberated Soomallee slave brought down by the Hon ^{ble} Company's Schooner "Emily" has been delivered over to his charge	19 th Oct ^r	N ^o 336 & N ^o 487
9			Minute by the Honorable the Governor con- curred in by His Excellency the Com- mander in Chief and the Honorable Mr. Crawford	1 st Dec ^r	N ^o 559
10	Chief Secy	Senior Magistrate of Police	Informing him that he ought to have taken and submitted to Govt. the deposition of the slave and also to have reported his age - and request- ing him now to supply this omis- sion	1 st Nov ^r	N ^o 550

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N ^o .	From	To	Subject	Date	Date of
				Doc.	Cons.
11	Senior Magistrate of Police	Chief Secy	Forwarding a statement of the liberated Soomallee slave named Ibrahim lately arrived from Muscat in the Honorable Company's Schooner "Emily"	1844	1844
				10 Nov ^r	11 Dec ^r
12	Chief Secy of Police	Senior Magistrate	Informing him in reply to the above letter that Government approves of the arrangement he has made for providing for this individual	N ^o 556	N ^o 7003
				5 Dec ^r	N ^o 7003
	Bombay Castle				
	31 st Dec ^r	1844			

J. H. ...
Chief Secretary

Copy to
D. H. ...
Ex by ...

Extract Bombay Political
No. 1. Consultation 5th June 1844

Extract para: 3 of a letter from Rubil bin, M. Slav. Native Agent at Muscat, to the Persian Secretary to Government, dated 17th and received 29th April 1844.

3. On the 24th February last I learnt that a Soomallee slave had been sold to Matha bin Hishun, a Banian, who lives in my neighbourhood. On this information, I sent a man to enquire of Matha, whether the slave was really a native of Somal or not. Matha replied, that the slave was a Soomalie boy whom he, Matha, had received in satisfaction of a demand against his owner. Afterwards I took the boy from Matha, and told him, that I would keep him (the boy), for three days, in order to make enquiries regarding him. At last when I found that the boy was really a native of Somal, I had him released, he now lives with me, and I have purchased some clothes for him. I have written, to the Resident on the subject, and shall act according to his orders.

Signed W. Escombe
Secy. to Govt.

Extract
(114)

N^o. 2.

Extract para: 3^d of a Minute by the
Honorable the Governor, subscribed to by the
Board, dated the 21st May 1814.

3. Para: 3^d should be communicated
to Captain Hennell, and to Captain Hamilton,
there being at present no Native Agent at Mus-
cat, the writer of this letter having lately died,
no orders can at present be issued by Govern-
ment, on the subject of the last para:—

Signed, G. Arthur,

N^o. 3.

" J. H. Crawford,

" L. R. Meid,

21st May 1814.

N^o. 1772 of 1814

From E. H. Townsend Esquire

Secretary to the Government of Bombay
To Captain P. Hennell
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated 21st May 1814.

Sir, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor,
in Council to transmit for your information,
an extract para: 3^d from a letter from the late
Native Agent at Muscat, dated the 17th Ultimo,
reporting the circumstances under which he
lately rescued a Soomallee boy from slavery,
at that place.

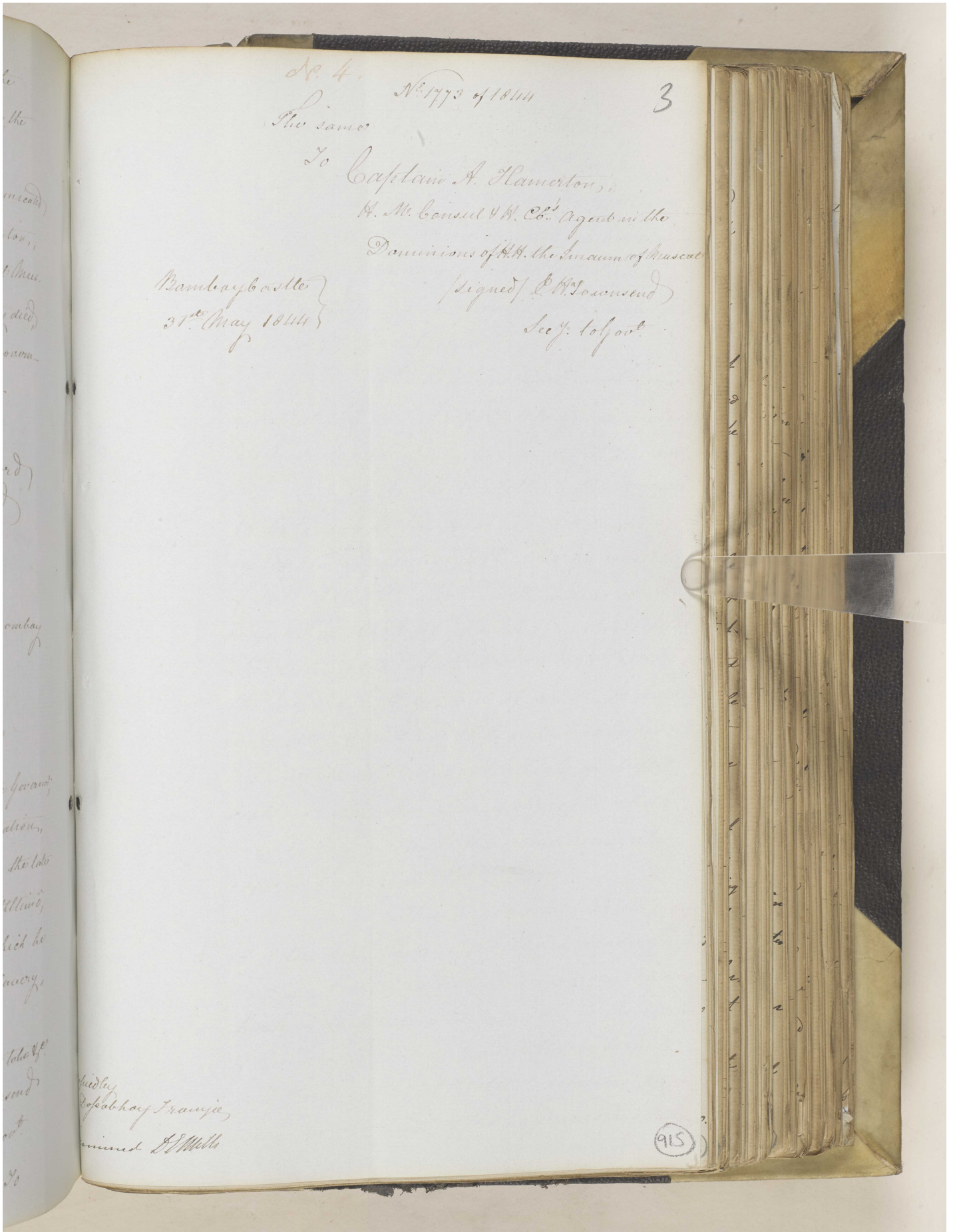
Bombay Castle
21st May 1814

I have the honor to be,
Signed, E. H. Townsend
Secy. to Govt.

To

Bomb. a
21st May

Francis
H. Mills



No 4. No 1773 of 1844

3

The same

To Captain A. Hamerton,
H. M. Consul & H. C. Agent in the
Dominions of H. H. the Sultan of Muscat

Bombay Castle
31st May 1844

(Signed) E. H. Townsend
Secy. to Govt.

915

Handed
Dofabhai Franja,
examined D. Mills



Extract Bombay Political 5

Ms. 6485

No. 5. Consultation 6th November 1844
Persian Department

Substance of a letter from Mja Kooob bin Kasha, Acting Native Agent at Muscat to the Persian Secretary to Government dated 14th September and received 7th October 1844

1. The Schooner Curlew whose arrival at this port I reported to you in my last letter, sailed for Zanzibar on the 15th Instant.

2. On the 16th Ultimo, the Mooruffa belonging to His Highness the Imam, sailed for Culebra with a Cargo consisting of Salt, dates &c. She was to undergo some repairs at that port. However on the 26th Ult. she returned as she had sprung a leak and the pumps had got out of order. It is now intended to send her to Bombay to be repaired. On the 11th Instant His Highness' Kefel Foolli, Nalkhoda Durcushurook which was taking mules to the Mauritius, also returned for similar reasons.

3. The Bugla which on its way to Aden with Government stores, made for this port as I wrote you some time ago, is re-embarking her Cargo and will sail in the course of this month. I shall hereafter inform you and the Resident of the total expenses I may incur on account of the passengers and the Cargo.

(1916)

11. I have sent per Schooner Emily,
Captain Ditchfield, a Soomallee slave,
whom the late Agent released from a Banian,
and regarding whom he wrote to you in his
letter dated the 17th April last. I have
written all the particulars regarding him
to the Senior Magistrate of Police.

Signed W. Escombe

N^o. 6. Secretary to Govt.

Minute by the Honorable the Governor, sub-
scribed to by the Board, dated 22nd October 1844

N^o. 6486

1. Para: 3 should be transferred to
the Military Department in continuation
of the transfer dated the 19th Ultimo, N^o. 2898.

2. The Senior Magistrate of Police
should be directed to report if the liberated
slave alluded to in the last para: has been
made over to him, and if so to forward his
deposition, and to state the mode in which
the senior Magistrate proposes to dispose of him.

Signed G. Arthur

22nd October 1844

J. McMahon

23rd November

W. Crawford

187.

N^o. 2364

Resolution of Government in the Political
Department dated the 2nd November 1844

N^o. 6487

Ordered that an extract para:
3 from a letter from the Acting Native Agent
at

at Muscat dated the 17th September last he
transferred to the Military Department, in
continuation of the transfer made to that
Department under date the 19th of the same
Month No 2898 ..

Bamburgh Castle }
2^d November 1841 }

Signed J. P. Willoughby
Chief Secy.

Spindles
Dofaboy Zanya,

signed J. Mills

(917)



Extract: Bombay Political
No. 8. Consultation 13th November 1844

No. 6559

No. 620 of 1844
From J. W. L. Esquire,
Senior Magistrate of Police
To, The Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay

Dated 19th October 1844
I have the honor to enclose, for
the information of the Honorable the Governor
in Council, an Arabic letter, with transla-
tion from the Native Agent at Muscat, and
to report, that the liberated Soomallee slave
therein alluded to, having reached this place
by the Honorable Company Schooner "Emily",
has been duly delivered over to my charge.

2. He has since his arrival been
placed under the charge of the Syrang of the
water Police; and he is now most anxious
to be permitted to provide for himself,
among his numerous Country men resi-
dent here, to which there appears to me to
be no objection.

Bombay Police Office
19th October 1844

I have the honor to be, &c.
Signed J. W. L. Esquire
Senior Magistrate of Police

Translation of an Arabic letter from the
Native Agent at Muscat to the Senior Magis-
trate of Police.

918
After

After compliments be it known,
that before this on the 21st. of Reijeb, I sent you
a letter with the statements of the emancipated
Indians by the Captain of the ship, "John
Adams". at the present date, I have ship-
ped a Somaltee who was emancipated
by Khaja Roobeil on the fifth of the suffer
1268, and I hereby acquaint the Honorable
Surbari that his former name was Ibrahim,
he is thirty years of age, a native of Moor
named Beclall had purchased him of Ko-
witee when he was five years old, and
he was taken to Muscat from the house
of Kooitee, while he was serving in his
house at Kooitee, one Shun Shan brought
him to Muscat where he was bought by a
woman she sold him to Kotha Banyan re-
siding in the neighbourhood of Robal, &
when Robal heard this he took him from
the Banyan and he was kept there until
the arrival of the Schooner "Emily", then he
was sent on board accordingly, I hope that
he will arrive in safety, dated the 11th. of Ramzan.

Yours Obedient Servant

[Signed] Yacoub Bushire

True Translation

[Signed] P. W. Selguyt

Senior Magistrate of Police

Minate

No. 9.

11

No. 6560

Minute by the Honorable the Governot;
Concurred in by His Excellency the Command-
-er in Chief and the Honorable Mr. Crawford
without date.

The Senior Magistrate of Police
should be informed that he ought to have
taken, and submitted to Government the
deposition of this liberated slave, and also
to have reported his age, since without this
information Government cannot decide
upon the propriety or otherwise of this person
being disposed of in the mode proposed.
This therefore should now be done.

Signed G. Arthur,
" J. McMahon.
" J. M. Crawford

No. 10.

No. 2433 of 1844

No. 6561

From J. P. Willoughby Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government Bombay
To, J. W. Le Gayt Esquire,
Senior Magistrate of Police

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter dated the 19th Ultimo,
No. 620, reporting that a liberated Soomal-
-lee slave brought down by the Honorable Com-
-pany's Schooner "Emily" has been delivered
over to your charge.

In reply I am desired to inform

you

419

you that you ought to have taken and sub-
mitted to government the deposition of the
slave, and also to have reported his age,
since without this information, the Honorable
the Governor in Council cannot decide upon
the propriety or otherwise of his being dispo-
sed of in the manner proposed by you.

You will therefore be pleased to sup-
ply this omission,...

I have the honor to be &c.

Bombay Castle } Signed J. P. Willoughby
8th November 1814 } Chief Secy.

Copied by
D. P. al-Hajj
Examined D. P.

13

Extract Bombay Political
No. 11 Consultation 11th December 1844
No. 656 of 1844
From P. W. De Soyuz Esquire
Senior Magistrate of Police
To, The Chief Secretary to Government
Dated 16th November 1844

Sir
In acknowledging the receipt of your
letter, No. 2423 dated the 8th Instant, I have the
honor, in obedience to the orders therein con-
veyed, to enclose, for the information of the
Honorable the Governor in Council, the statement
taken this day before me of the Soomallee liberated
slave brought from Muscat by the Honorable
Company's Schooner "Emity"

2. This individual is, I beg to state,
a person of exceedingly weak intellect, and
I have found it utterly impossible to get from
him any clear statement as to the manner
in which he was reduced to slavery, or as to
what befel him, during the period of about twen-
ty five years he appears to have been a slave.

3. He is at present employed as a Bat-
ta Larcaer, under the care of the Surgeon of the
Water Police, on the Ship "Anglia", and when
the time of his engagement shall have expired
on board that ship, other employment will
be obtained for him - till he will eventually be
able

able, it may be hoped, to take care of himself, & -
I have the honor to be &c.

Bombay Police Office / Signed / P. W. Le Geyt
16 November 1844 } Senior Magistrate of Police

The Statement of Ibrahim,
Soomallee taken, this 15th day
of November 1844, who saith;

I was born in the Country of the Soomaltees in
Apica - I am about thirty years of age, my pa-
rents were living when I left my Country.
I was then a child not more than five years
old, I was taken from my home by a Howitee,
whose name I do not remember. He kidnap-
ped me, and took me to his home. I was
taken to Muscat in a Bugla, by one Beelat
who had purchased me from the Howitee.
At Muscat, I was purchased by a woman,
and afterwards by one Natha Banyan. One
day Rubiel, the Sirrler's Agent called me,
he kept me in his house, took down my
statement, and afterwards sent me to Bombay
in a ship, &c. I now wish to be permitted to go
where I please. I wish for the present to be
allowed to remain in Bombay. -

Marked & of.

Taken this 15 day of November 1844

Before me

Signed / P. W. Le Geyt
Senior Magistrate of Police

From

Read by
H. S. M. ...

No. 12

15

No. 3099 of 1844

No. 7063

From J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government - Bombay
To, J. W. De Vere Esquire
Senior Magistrate of Police

Dated 5th December 1844

Sir,
I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter dated the 16th ultimo,
No. 656, forwarding the statement of the liberated
Soomallee Slave named Ibrahim, lately ar-
rived from Muscat in the Honorable Com-
pany's Schooner "Emily" and to inform
you that the Honorable the Governor in
Council approves of the arrangement you
have made for providing for this individu-
-al.

I have the honor to be,

Bombay Castle }
5th December 1844 }

Signed J. P. Willoughby
Chief Secy.

True Extract.

J. P. Willoughby
Chief Secretary.

Copied by
Joseph W. France
Examined S. Mill

(921)

