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### **‘Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named “Noorah”. Vol: 8’**

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/F/4/2087/96927
<b>Date(s)</b>	2 Dec 1843-29 Nov 1844 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (12 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; Captain Samuel Hennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf; Lieutenant Arnold Burrowes Kemball, Assistant Resident in the Persian Gulf; Lieutenant Draper commanding the East India Company sloop *Cootie*; and Philip LeGeyt, Senior Magistrate of Police in Bombay. It is the eighth 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/4/2087/96926, and IOR/F/4/2087/96928).

The item concerns the rescue of an Indian woman named Noorah from slavery in Muscat after her brother Yussoof [Yusuf] brought her situation to the attention of Draper, and her 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’.

PC4760

vol: 8

5/1290/45

96927

Collection No. 6 of 8. 100.

Bombay -  
Political Department.

Letter from, dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 1844.

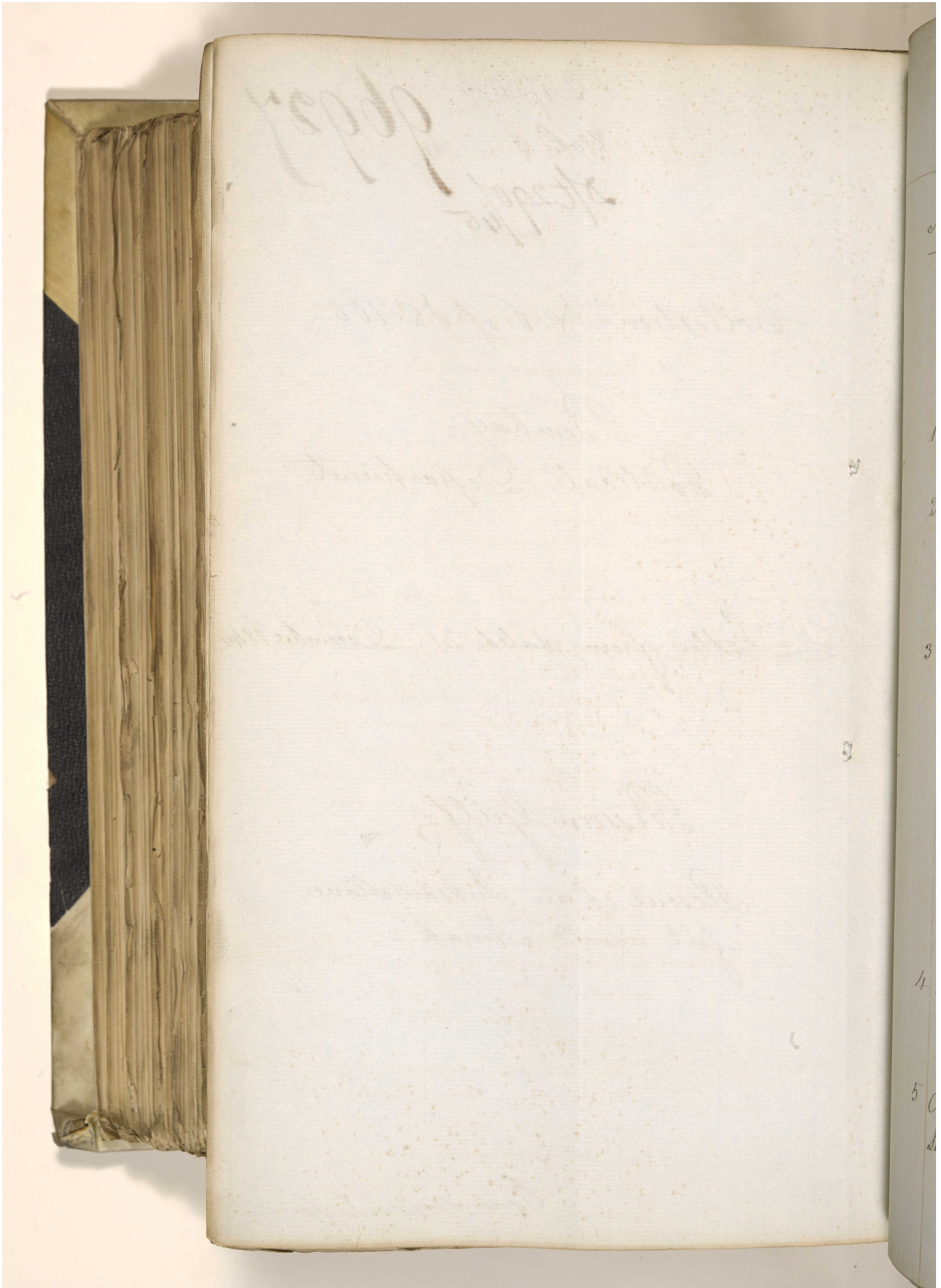
Persian Gulf.

Rescue of an Indian Slave  
girl named "Noorah".

Examiner's Office

922

'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [922v]  
(2/24)



## Table of contents.

N <sup>o</sup> .	From	To	Subject.	Date of Doc.	Date of N <sup>o</sup> of Cons.
<u>Persian Gulf</u>					
Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah"					
1	Resid <sup>t</sup> Persian Gulf	Chief Secy	Reporting the proceedings adopted for rescuing an Indian girl named "Noorah" from slavery	1844 11 June	1844 28 Aug
2	Secy to Gov <sup>t</sup> Persian Gulf	Resid <sup>t</sup> Persian Gulf	Informing him that Government approves of his proceedings as reported in the above letter and awaits his further report on the subject	N <sup>o</sup> 295	N <sup>o</sup> 5073
3	Resid <sup>t</sup> Persian Gulf	Chief Secy	Reporting in reply to the above letter, that advantage will be taken of the steamer "Auckland" touching at Bahrein on her way to Bombay, to request the Senior Naval Officer in the Gulf to instruct Commander Ormsby to receive the slave girl "Noorah" on board that vessel and having conveyed her to the Presidency to make her over to the charge of the Senior Magistrate of Police	20 Aug	N <sup>o</sup> 2647 N <sup>o</sup> 5074
4	Minute		by the Honorable the Governor concurred in by His Excellency the Commander in Chief and the Honorable Mr. Mansford	18 Oct	13 Nov N <sup>o</sup> 495 N <sup>o</sup> 5004
5	Chief Secy of Police	Senior Magistrate	Requesting him to receive charge of the slave girl above alluded to from Captain Ormsby Commanding the Honorable Company Steam Frigate "Auckland" and requesting him to take the depositions of	No date	N <sup>o</sup> 5565

'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [923v]  
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N <sup>o</sup>	From	To	Subject	Date of Doct.	Date & N <sup>o</sup> of Cons.
5	Senior Magistrate of Police	Chief Secy	of this female as to the circumstances under which she was reduced to slavery and forward the same to Govt. Forwarding the deposition made before him by the Indian Female named "Noorah" who was rescued from slavery at Bahrein	1844 11 Nov <sup>r</sup> N <sup>o</sup> 3454	1844 13 Nov <sup>r</sup> N <sup>o</sup> 506
7			Minute by the Honorable the Gov <sup>t</sup> concurred in by His Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Honble M <sup>rs</sup> Crawford	16 <sup>th</sup> N <sup>o</sup> 554	4 Dec <sup>r</sup> N <sup>o</sup> 7013
8	Chief Secy	Senior Magistrate of Police	Requesting him in reply to the above letter to endeavour to obtain some situation for the female therein alluded to, and in the mean time to maintain her at the expense of Gov <sup>t</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> "	N <sup>o</sup> 7014
9	Do <sup>r</sup>	Resid <sup>t</sup> Persian Gulf	Transmitting with reference to his letter N <sup>o</sup> 129 dated 18 Ultimo copy of the communication N <sup>o</sup> 554 from the Senior Magistrate of Police and of the reply thereto	27 <sup>th</sup> "	"
Bombay Castle				N <sup>o</sup> 3573	N <sup>o</sup> 7010
31 Dec <sup>r</sup> 1844					

*H. H. H. H.*  
Chief Secretary

Copied  
H. H. H. H.  
E. H. H. H.

Extract Bombay Political

Consultation 28<sup>th</sup> August 1844.

N<sup>o</sup> 1 Office N<sup>o</sup> 295 of 1844.

Cons: N<sup>o</sup> 45 of 1844.

N<sup>o</sup> 5073.

From, Captain L. Kennell

To, Resident in the Persian Gulf.

J. P. Wileoughby Esquire

Chief Secretary to the Government of  
Bombay

Sir, Dated Birmingh<sup>m</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> June 1844.

I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that on the 2<sup>d</sup> December last, I received a communication from Lieutenant Draper, Commanding the Honorable Company's Sloop Crote dated the same day (a copy of which is herewith forwarded) stating that a native of India, calling himself Yooseof, had made his appearance at Bahrein, and had claimed a slave girl of a Bahrein Merchant named Syed bin Jassim, as his sister, "Noorah", who, he stated, had been stolen from her parents in her Infancy, and whom he had been seeking for several years in vain.

2. The story although corroborated by the Girl, was sufficiently improbable, but having reason to think that the said Yooseof, was a runaway Sailor who had decamped

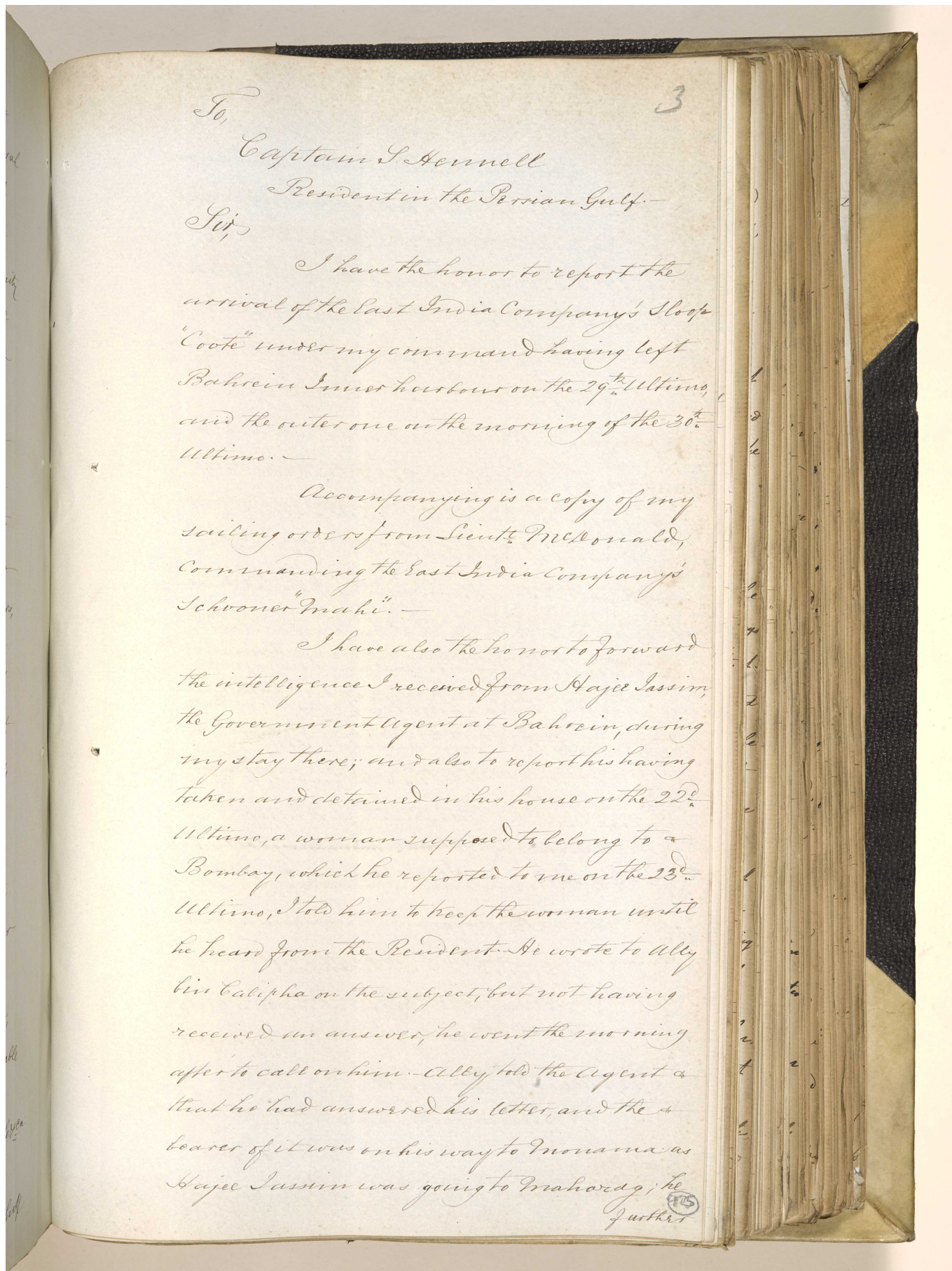
with (924)

with some property from the Merchant's  
Barge Columbia, and the opinions of se-  
veral persons who had seen the Girl Noorah  
being that she was decidedly a native of  
India, I directed the Agent at Bahrein  
to detain them both until an opportunity  
offered for sending them over to Bushire  
in order that the case might be enquired  
into.

3. I now do myself the honor to  
transmit for the information of Govern-  
ment a copy of a report on this subject  
by my Assistant Lieutenant Kemball a-  
dated the 28<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, from which it appears,  
that the man Yors of had left Bahrein  
and that the state of his repeated sisters'  
health prevented her being brought over to  
Bushire, on board the Honorable Company's  
Sloop "Uphinstone".

4. Under all the circumstances  
of the case, it is my intention to direct the  
Agent to send the woman in question over  
to Bushire so soon as her health will ad-  
mit and as she wishes to return to India,  
to forward her to Bombay by the first favorable  
opportunity which may offer.

Residency in the } I have the honor to be  
Persian Gulf Bu- } signed J. Hemmell  
shire 11<sup>th</sup> June } Resident in the Persian Gulf  
1844. }  
To,



To, 3  
Captain S. Hennell  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.  
Sir,

I have the honor to report the arrival of the East India Company's Sloop "Coot" under my command having left Bahrein Inner harbour on the 29<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, and the outer one on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ultimo.

Accompanying is a copy of my sailing order from Lieut. McDonald, Commanding the East India Company's Schooner "Mahe".

I have also the honor to forward the intelligence I received from Hajee Jassin, the Government Agent at Bahrein, during my stay there; and also to report his having taken and detained in his house on the 22<sup>d</sup> Ultimo, a woman supposed to belong to a Bombay, which he reported to me on the 23<sup>d</sup> Ultimo, I told him to keep the woman until he heard from the Resident. He wrote to Ally bin Calipha on the subject, but not having received an answer, he went the morning after to call on him. Ally told the Agent that he had answered his letter, and the bearer of it was on his way to Monama as Hajee Jassin was going to Mahorag; he  
Further



further said with regard to the woman, if the agent could find out that the person who claimed her as his sister, was her brother, he might keep her, but requested that he would write to the Resident to ask him to send the above person to Bussorah to obtain the money from said Aschem, that had been paid to him by said bin Sassin for the woman "Noora" I afterwards assembled the parties concerned in the above, at the agent's house and took their evidence in the presence of Hajee Sassin and myself, which I beg to forward together with a letter I wrote to Mahomed bin Calipha at Mahragan answer to which I have not received, but the agent informed me who has since seen him, that he told him that what his Brother ally had said might be done—

East India Company } I have the honor to be &c  
-my's Sloop Coote } signed J. S. Draper  
Buckingham Roads } Lieut. Commanding East  
Dec. 2<sup>d</sup> - 1843 - } India Company's Sloop Coote

True Copy

signed A. B. Warball  
Assistant Resident Persian Gulf

To,

Captain J. Hurrell  
Resident in the Persian Gulf  
Buckingham Roads.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that on landing  
on

5  
on this island I lost no time in enquiring  
after Noorah, the Indian slave girl recovered  
from the house of one Saïed bin Sassin, and  
Ersay, the Indian Boy who originally dis-  
covered and claimed her as his sister, as  
reported by Lieutenant Draper J. N., and found  
that the latter had some time previous with-  
out the Agents knowledge embarked in a Bug-  
gulah for Muscat, telling Noorah that he  
would shortly return, and that the former had  
only 2 days before been delivered of a child  
of whom she was enceinte by one of the African  
Slaves belonging to her late Master.

Noorah understands no language  
but Arabic, but bears decidedly in my opinion  
an East Indian Cast of features. She stated,  
that so many years having elapsed since she  
was kidnapped, she had lost all knowledge  
of her mother tongue, and forgotten as well  
the names of her parents, as that of the vil-  
lage in which they resided, which she be-  
lieved, however, not to have been very distant  
from the island of Bombay.

On my asking her whether in  
the event of her Brother's not returning a-  
greeable to his promise, she would still  
desire to proceed to India, she replied in  
the affirmative.

Under these circumstances and  
Believing <sup>926</sup>

'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [926v]  
(10/24)

Believing her from her appearance, and  
not on account of Euseuf's tale to which not-  
withstanding her corroboration of it, little cre-  
dit can be obviously (it appears to me) be at-  
tached, to be a native of India. I have directed  
Hajee Jassim to retain herself and her in-  
fant under his care (her situation not ad-  
mitting of her removal at present if such  
such should have been contemplated) until  
he should again make his appearance,  
and then despatch them all in the first boat  
leaving for Bushire, unless in the mean  
time, he received other specific instructions  
from yourself.

I have the honor to be Dear  
Bahrain signed A. B. Kemball  
28<sup>th</sup> May 1844. Assistant President  
Persian Gulf.

True Copy  
signed A. B. Kemball  
Assistant President  
Persian Gulf.

Evidence taken in the presence of Scout  
J. S. Draper and Hajee Jassim British  
Agent at Bahrain at the house of the latter  
November 24<sup>th</sup> 1845.

A woman that was taken from the house of  
Said bin Jassim at Bahrain, by order of Hajee  
Jassim, British Agent at Bahrain is called  
The

7  
She states her name is Noorah,  
and says that an Arab of Bussorah, by  
name Said Hashem, took her away in the  
night while she was playing near her Fa-  
ther's house at Colabah; does not recollect  
how long ago; she was very young at the  
time Said Hashem took her to Bussorah,  
and he sold her to Said bin Jassim, and in-  
-habitant of Bahrein, who married her to  
one of his slaves, with whom she has been  
living since; she states she does not know  
her brother's name, but on his calling her  
Noorra, said her name was Noorra. She was  
questioned whether she could speak  
Hindustanee, she replied, "a little"; we found  
she could not hold conversation in it, and  
she gave her evidence in Arabic. It is the  
opinion of the Agent and myself in look-  
-ing at her face that she is an Indian.

The supposed brother of the  
woman Noorra called

He states his name is Youssouf  
son of Mahomed Ally a Lascar at Colaba  
Lighthouse Bombay; says he is 18 years of  
age, and that he has been <sup>4 years</sup> looking after his  
sister in Arabia, Four months ago at the time  
of the Pramazan a seedy belonging to an  
Arab Bagalah in Bombay, told him his  
sister was at Bahrein; he left Bombay  
in 927

in the Ship "Columbine" as a servant to an Arab Merchant whom he accompanied to Bunder Abbas and Bushire, left him at the latter place and came to Bahrein. On his landing at this place he sat down by the beach, shortly afterwards a man came and asked him why he sat there, he replied "I am sitting here", he then asked him if he wanted employment, he replied "yes", he then went with the man to the house of Said bin Jassin and there saw his sister. The woman Noorah acknowledges the person called Youssuff to be her brother.

Said bin Jassin being dead his wife by name Lady is called.

States that Said bin Jassin bought the woman Noora when a girl at Bussorah 40 years ago; she was then young; she does not know whether she was an Indian or not; 2 years after she was married to her husband's slave; during the fight at Monama she was stolen by the Bedouins and taken to Gutter where she afterwards went and bought her again, having been with them 20 days.

The man called who took the person Youssuff to Said bin Jassin's house

States his name is Mustafa a sailor belonging to Muscat, from whence he came in a Bagalah; is residing for the time at the

at the house of Said bin Jassim saw the  
lad Yousoff sitting by the sea side; asked  
him what he was doing there, he replied "I  
am poor" and he took him to the house of Said  
bin Jassim where he gave him some coffee  
and a Calian. After he had been there  
about an hour a woman came in with a  
Musak of water on her back the lad Yousoff  
when he saw her said "She is my sister" and  
she said "He is my brother" and they em-  
braced each other.

The woman Noosa states that  
she wishes to go to Bombay.

E. J. C. Sloop Cooté } signed J. J. Draper  
November 25<sup>th</sup> 1843. } Lieut. Commanding  
Bahrein Inner Harbour } E. J. C. Sloop Cooté.  
True Copy

signed A. B. Kemball  
Assistant Resident

N. 2. Persian Gulf.

N<sup>o</sup> 2647 of 1844.

From, E. A. Townsend Esquire  
Secretary to the Government of,  
Bombay.

To, Captain S. Hennell  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 1844.

Sir,  
I am directed to acknowledge  
the receipt of your communication dated  
928 the

'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [928v]  
(14/24)

the 11<sup>th</sup> June last, N<sup>o</sup>. 295, regarding an In-  
-dian slave girl named "Noorah", dis-  
-covered at Bahrein, and to inform you  
that the Honorable the Governor in Council  
approves of the proceedings therein detailed,  
for rescuing this girl from slavery, and  
will await your further report on this  
subject.

I have the honor to be &c  
Bombay Castle } signed G. H. Townsend  
26<sup>th</sup> August 1844. } Secy to Gov<sup>ty</sup>

Copied by  
Mordah

Examined D. L.

Extract Bombay Political

Consultation 13<sup>th</sup> November 1844.

N<sup>o</sup>. 9. Office N<sup>o</sup>. 495 of 1844.

Cons. N<sup>o</sup>. 129 of 1844.

From, Captain S. Hennell

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To, J. P. Willoughby Esquire

Chief Secretary to the Government of  
Bombay

Dated Bussire 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1844.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Townsend's letter to my address N<sup>o</sup>. 2044 in this Department under date the 26<sup>th</sup> August last, intimating that the Honorable the Governor in Council awaits my farther report upon the subject of the Indian Slave girl named Noorah discovered at Bahrein.

2. In reply I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that I have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Honorable Company's Steam Frigate Auckland touching at a Bahrein on her way to the Presidency to request the Senior Naval Officer in the Gulf to instruct Commander Ormsby to receive the girl Noorah on board that vessel, and having conveyed her to the Presidency,

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'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [929v]  
(16/24)

to make her over to the charge of the Senior  
Magistrate of Police.

I have the honor to be  
signed of J. Hennell  
President in the  
Persian Gulf.

Minute by the Honorable the Governor N<sup>o</sup> 6605  
concurred in by His Excellency the Com-  
mander in Chief and the Honorable Mr.  
Crawford. dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 1844.

Copy to be sent to the Senior Ma-  
gistrate of Police with orders to receive  
charge of this female and take and submit  
her deposition to Government when fur-  
ther orders will be issued.

signed of G. Arthur

J. McMahon

N<sup>o</sup> 5 J. H. Crawford

N<sup>o</sup> 3454 of 1844.

From, J. P. Willoughby Esquire

N<sup>o</sup> 6606.

Chief Secretary to the Government of  
Bombay

To, P. W. Selgey Esquire  
Senior Magistrate of Police

dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1844.

Sir, I am directed by the Honorable the  
Governor in Council, to transmit to you  
copy of a letter from Captain Hennell  
President in the Persian Gulf, N<sup>o</sup> 129 dated  
the

'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [930r]  
(17/24)

13  
the 18<sup>th</sup> ultimo and to request that you will  
be pleased to receive charge from Com-  
mander Ormsby, Commanding the  
Honorable Company's Steam Frigate  
Auckland of the liberated Slave Girl therein  
alluded to named "Noorah".

The Governor in Council at  
the same time requests that you will take  
the deposition of this female in regard to  
the circumstances under which she was  
sold into Slavery and forward the same to  
Government when you will be furnished  
with instructions for her disposal.

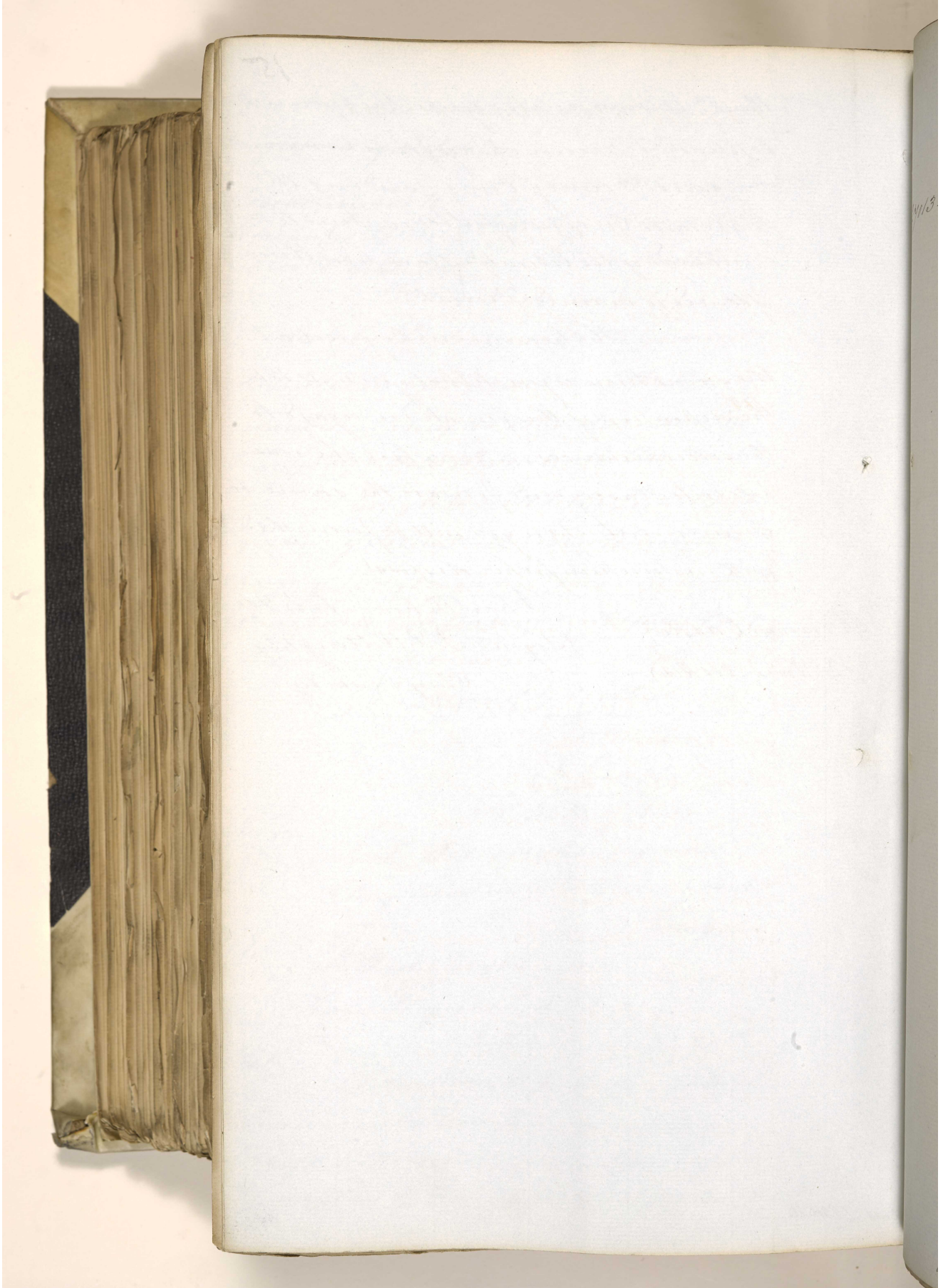
Bombay Castle  
11<sup>th</sup> November 1841

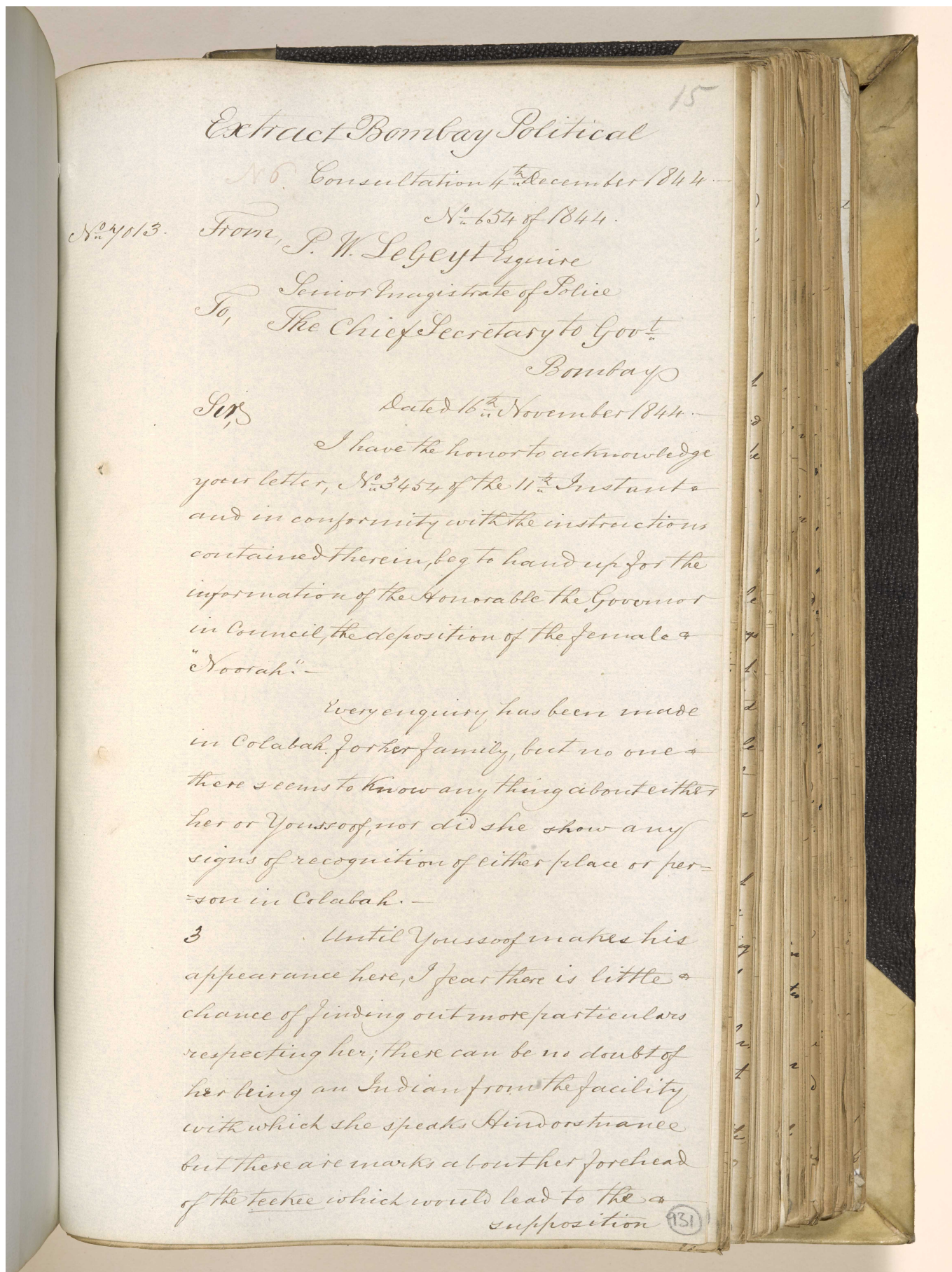
I have the honor to be Dear  
/ Signed J. P. Willoughby  
Chief Secretary

Received by  
Noorah R.  
Signed J. P. Mills

930

'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [930v]  
(18/24)





15  
Extract Bombay Political

No. 6 Consultation 4<sup>th</sup> December 1844

No. 654 of 1844.

No. 4/13.

From, P. W. Legeyt Esquire  
Senior Magistrate of Police  
To, The Chief Secretary to Govt  
Bombay

Sir, Dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 1844.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 3454 of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant and in conformity with the instructions contained therein, beg to hand up for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the deposition of the female "Noorah".

Every enquiry has been made in Colabah for her family, but no one there seems to know any thing about either her or Yousoof, nor did she show any signs of recognition of either place or person in Colabah.

3 Until Yousoof makes his appearance here, I fear there is little chance of finding out more particulars respecting her; there can be no doubt of her being an Indian from the facility with which she speaks Hindoostanee but there are marks about her forehead of the teekee which would lead to the supposition

(931)

supposition that she was originally a Hindoo

Bombay

Police Office

16<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1844.

I have the honor to be

Signed P. W. Segeyt

Senior Magistrate of Police

The statement of Totma alias Noora woman taken this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1844, who saith: I have no recollection of my parents nor of the place of my birth, when I was very young, I was at Bussorah: I was a slave in the family of Syed Hashem of that place. He sold me to Syed bin Jassin, who took me to Bahrein. I was many years in his house, and I there became the mother of two children. One day about a year ago, when I was in the road at Bahrein, a person named Youssouf, came up to me and said that I was his sister. He asked me by whom I had been made a slave; I told <sup>him</sup> that when made a slave I was too young to know any thing of my parents. He said that I was his sister, and the daughter of Mahomed Ali of Bombay. Youssouf then made application to the Native agent of the Sircar, who took me from my master and kept me in his own house. I remained in the agent's house several months, and I was lately sent to Bombay in a steamer. The said Youssouf who claimed me as his sister was a Sascar on a Native Vessel and told me that he was

17  
was going to Muscat. I do not know that he  
is expected in Bombay; he did not tell me that  
he intended to come to Bombay. The father of  
my children is a seeder, a slave of the said  
Syed Jassim. I now wish to join my brother  
the said Youssouf, who told me that he lived at  
Muscat. I will stay in Bombay if it is the  
Sircar's pleasure. Further I say not.

Taken this 15<sup>th</sup> day } Mark O of  
of November 1844 } Fatima Woman  
Before me  
Signed J. W. Sobeyt  
Senior Magistrate

N<sup>o</sup> 7. of Police.

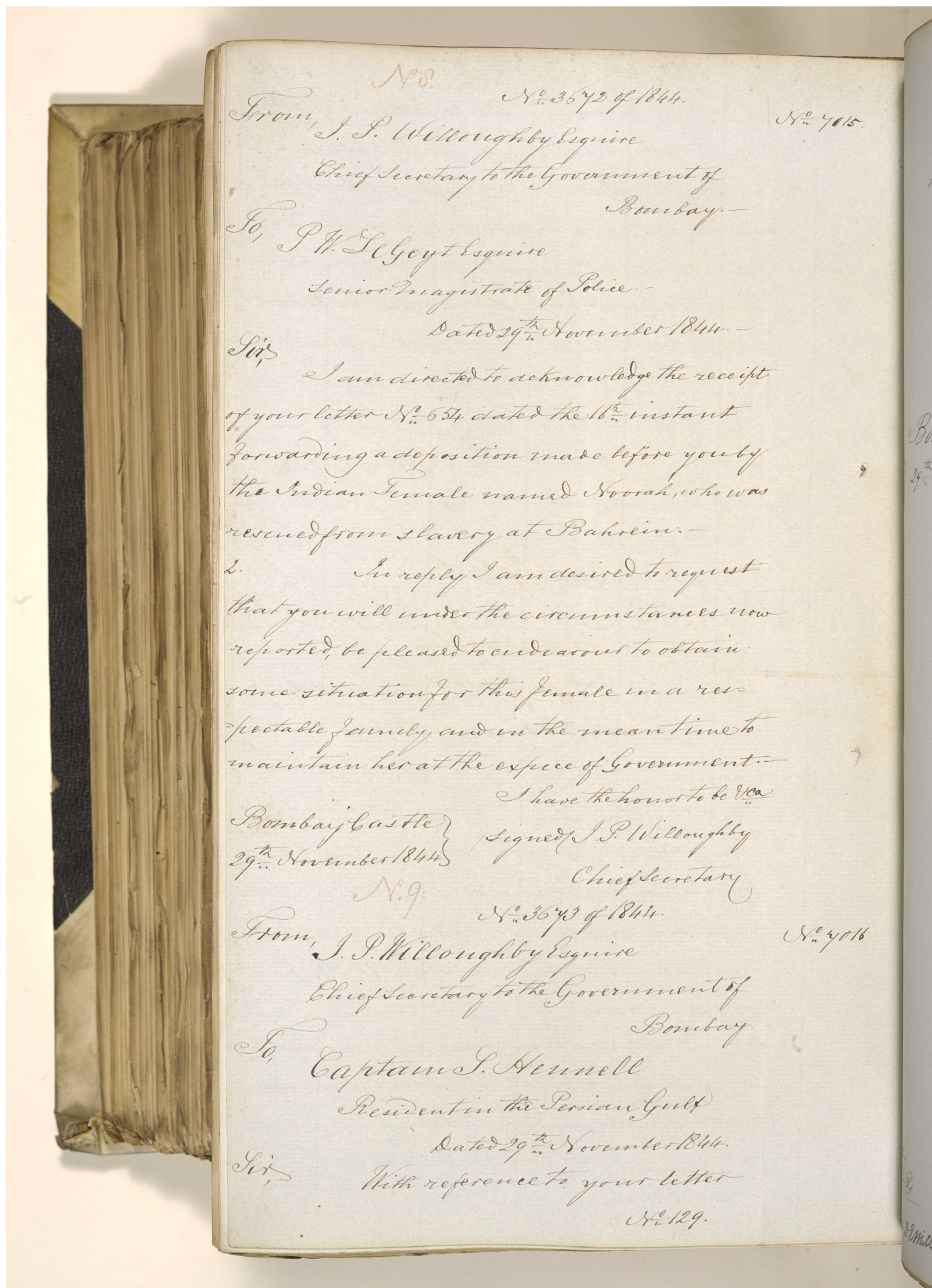
Minute by the Honorable the Governor  
concurred in by His Excellency the Com-  
mander in Chief and the Honorable Mr.  
Crawford dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 1844.

The best course we can adopt in  
this case is perhaps to direct the Senior  
Magistrate of Police to endeavour to ob-  
tain some situation for this female in  
a respectable family and in the mean  
time she should be subsisted at the expense  
of Government.

2 Copy of this letter and of our reply  
should be sent to the President in the Persian  
with reference  
Gulf to former correspondence.

26<sup>th</sup> November } signed G. Arthur  
1844 } " F. McMahon  
" J. W. Crawford

(932)



'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [933r]  
(23/24)

19  
N<sup>o</sup> 129 dated the 18<sup>th</sup> Ultimo relative to the  
Indian female named Noorah rescued  
from slavery at Bahrein, I am directed  
by the Honorable the Governor in Council to  
transmit for your information, copy of a  
communication from the Senior Magistrate  
of Police dated the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, and of my reply  
thereto of this date on the subject.

Bombay Castle }  
29<sup>th</sup> November 1844.

I have the honor to be  
signed J. P. Willoughby  
Chief Secretary

True Extract.

J. P. Willoughby  
Chief Secretary.

Examined by  
Morobu R.  
Examined J. Mills

933



'Persian Gulf. Rescue of an Indian slave girl named "Noorah". Vol: 8' [933v]  
(24/24)

