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'Persian Gulf – Affairs of.'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, minutes, and consultations cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay. These political letters appear in IOR/F/4/2174/105546. It is the twenty-fifth in a series of forty-five items on the Persian Gulf.

The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Government of India; Major Samuel Hennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf; John Croft Hawkins, Commodore Commanding Indian Naval Squadron, Persian Gulf; and Syed Soweeynee, Prince Regent of Muscat [Sayyid Thuwaynī bin Sa'īd Āl Bū Sa'īd, Governor of Muscat].

The item concerns:

- The punishment inflicted on Salmin bin Towfeak [Sālmīn bin Tawfīq], a servant of Syed Soweeynee, for his ill treatment of Khojah Hiskiall [Khawājah Ḥizqīl bin Yūsuf, also rendered as Khojah Hiskael], Native Agent at Muscat
- The interference of Commodore Hawkins in 'the settlement of the Banian Heerjee [Hīrjī]'s pecuniary transactions with the Muscat authorities'
- A report that Shaik Sultan ben Suggur [Shaikh Sulṭān I bin Ṣaqr al-Qāsimī of Ra's al-Khaymah and Sharjah] has broken a promise previously given not to continue constructing a fort between Shargah

[Sharjah] and Debaye [Dubai].

The item contains a table of contents (ff 492-493), and the title page (f 491) contains the following references: 'P C [Previous Communication] 5507, Coll. 7, Vol. 25', 'D/t 197/47', 'Collection No. 1 of No. 75' and 'Examiner's Office'.

PC 5307

Col. 7

Vol. 25

105570

Dt 197/47

Collection No. 1 of No. 75

Bombay

Political Department

Letter from dated 20th May
1846

Persian Gulf
Affairs of.

Examiner's
Office

(491)

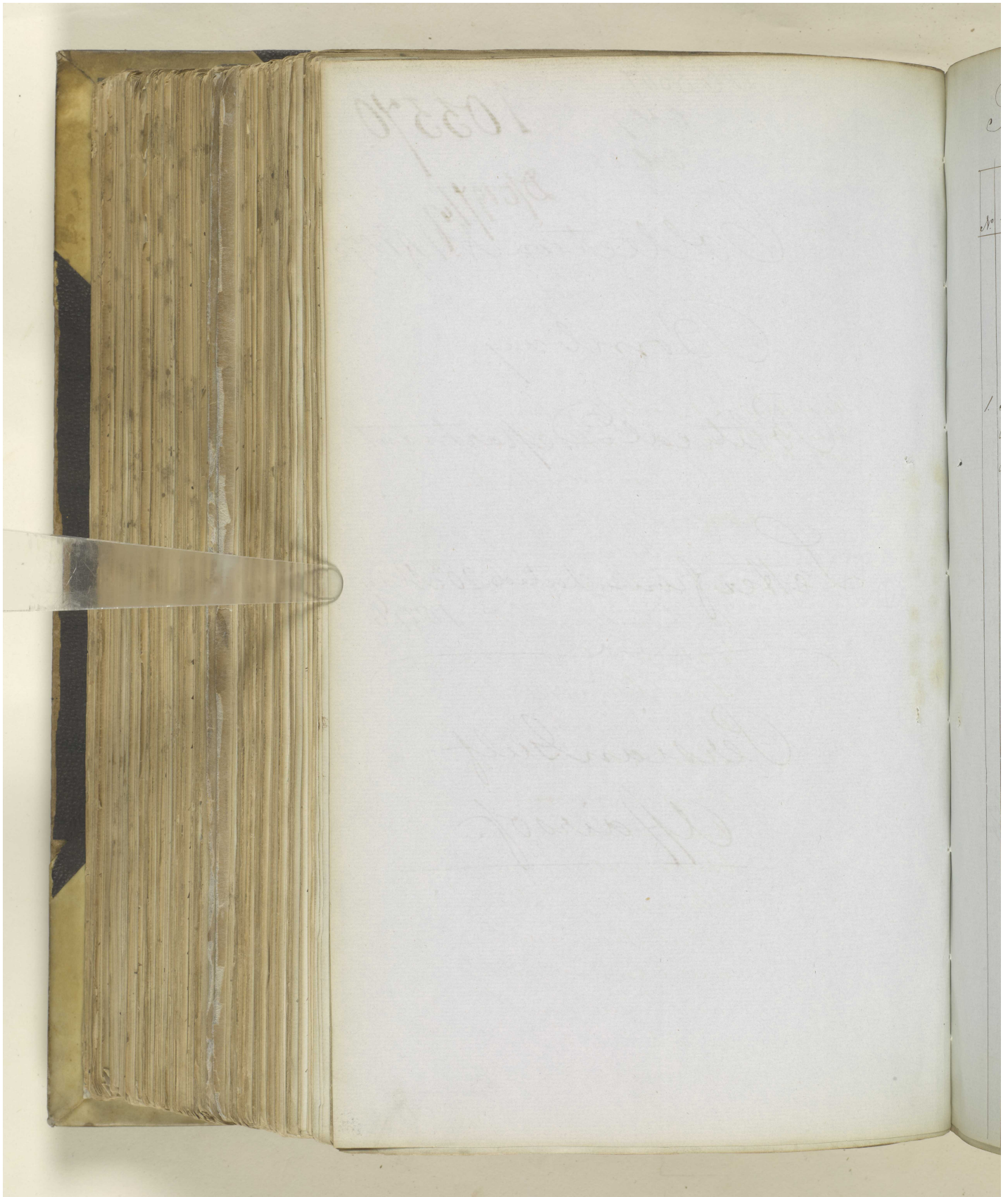


Table of Contents.

No.	From	To	Subject	Date & No. of Document	Date and Number of Correspondence
			Persian Gulf Affairs of		
1.	President to Chief Persian Secretaries Gulf.	to Govt.	Reports the return to Bushire of the H.C. Schooner "Oliver" Commodore Hawkins encloses copy of a report of the Commodore's late Tour on the Arabian Coast together with translation of a letter from the Governor of Muscat, between whom & the British Native Agent at that Port, the Commodore had effected a reconciliation, adds that the same Chief is constructing a fort between Margah & Debaige notwithstanding his promise to Commodore Blackwood to desist from this undertaking, but the President anticipates much good	1846	1296

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No.	From	To.	Subject	Date & No of Document	Date & No of Cons.
1.			good from the approaching visit in this quarter of his Assistant Sicut ^r Kimball who will shortly proceed on his usual Annual Tour of the Gulf.	Feb ^r 20 th N ^o 2916	May N ^o 3904
2.			possible the Minutes by the Gov ^r . concurred in by the Hon. M ^r Willoughby.	May 13	May N ^o 3905
3.	Secretary to Gov ^r . Persian Gulf.	President	Acknowledging his letter of 20 th Feb ^r last, with enclosure from Commodore Hawkins, and in reply the progress of Gov ^r . is expressed at the hostile preparations of the passee Chief, and that Gov ^r . will await a report of Sicut ^r Kimball's proceedings on the subject.	May 18. N ^o 1956	May N ^o 3906
4.	Secretary to Gov ^r . Indian Navy.	Supt.	Requesting him to furnish Gov ^r . with copies of the two letters of 24 th & 26 th January last from Commodore Hawkins to his (the Supt's) address detailing the Commodore's proceedings at Muscut.	May 18. N ^o 1954	May N ^o 3907
			In		

No.	From.	To.	Subject.	Date and No. of Document.	Date and No. of Cons.
5.	Under Secy with the Secy to Governr General Bombay	Chief Secy Govt.	In reply to Govt. letter N ^o 51 of 19 th Feb ^r last, states that the Gov ^t . General considers that the insult offered to the British Native Agent at Muscat, as therein alluded to, was trivial, and the interference of the Agent unnecessary, as also that the course pursued in this case, 1846. 1846. by the Bombay Gov ^t . in this case seems judicious.	Mar. 20.	May N ^o 3901.
6.			Minute by the Honble the Gov ^t . concurred in by the Honble Mr. Willoughby.	May 20.	May N ^o 3902.
7.	Secretary Resident to Govt. Persian Gulf.		Acknowledging his letter of 21 st & 29 th Nov ^r last, relative to the ill treatment of the Honble Company's Native Agent at Muscat from the authorities at that place, and in reply transmits for the Persi. Govt's information, copy of Correspondance on this subject, with the		

Supreme

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No.	From	To.	Subject	Date No. of.	Date No. of. Documt. Cont.
			<p>Supreme Government of India: together with a re- quest to communicate these sentiments to the Native Agent at Muscat. May 18. May No. 1955. No. 3903</p>		
	<p>Bombay Castle 20th May 1846.</p>				<p>W. Hall Secretary to Government.</p>
					<p>Compd by Sargan</p>

Persian Gulf. 1-

Office N^o 60 of 1046
Cons: N^o 20 of 1046.

From

Major Stannell
Resident in the Persian Gulf

To

J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Chief Secretary to the Government of
Bombay.
Bussine 20th February 1046.

Political Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the return to this Port on the 17th Instant, of the H. C. Sloop *Oliver*, under the command of Commodore Hawkins, a copy of whose letter to my address of that days date communicating the particulars of his late Tour on the Arabian Coast, I now do myself the honor to enclose for the information of the Hon^{ble} the Governor in Council.

2.^d As the full details of Commodore Hawkins proceedings were forwarded by that Officer to the Superintendent of the Indian Navy in two despatches dated the 24th and 26th January last from Muscat, by the H. C. Brig *Ligria*, His Honor in Council will doubtless have been already made aware of them by Captain Sir Robert Oliver. It is therefore needless to burden the records

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records of Government with additional copies of these documents. I may however remark, that the removal of the coolie existing between H. H. Syad Loownee, and the British Agent at Muscat, by the intervention of Commodore Hawkins, and the satisfaction afforded by His Highness for the insult offered to Khogah Hiskah, by the corporal punishment of the offender, are circumstances of a very gratifying character. The example thus made, will I doubt not greatly improve the position of our Agent at Muscat, and tend to extend the influence of the British Government in that place.

3^d I learnt with regret from Commodore Hawkins's letter that Sheik Sultan bin Suggur had broken his promise to Commodore Sir Henry Blackwood, and that he had determined to recommence the construction of the Fort between Shargah and Dabagz. I have little hope therefore of effecting an amicable settlement of this affair. As soon however as the H. B. Sloop Clive has refitted my Assistant Lieut. Kimball will proceed to the Arabian Coast on the usual Annual Tour, and may perhaps succeed in inducing the Soasmeer Chief to postpone his design until the termination of the Pearl Season.

Residency in the Persian Gulf
Bushire 20th January 1863

I have the honor to be
Signed / P. Hamell
Resident in the Persian
Gulf.

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P.S. Enclosures Nos 2 and 3 are translations of letters from A. H. Syrd Lowman, in reply to a communication to him of the 24th November last which was forwarded as an accompaniment to my despatch of the same date to your address No 121 in this Department.

A.C. Sloop Oliver.

Bushire February 17th

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 13th January from Kishm, I have the honor to acquaint you, that I accompanied A. M's Ships some distance to the Eastrd of Cape Sack a great improvement having taken place in the steering and sailing of the "Fox" (owing to her having taken in water at Kishm) it was then considered unnecessary for me to proceed further with them.

Commodore Sir Henry Blackwood having furnished me with a copy of your letter to him, and having intrusted me with the further accomplishment of your views, contained therein; I parted company with A. M's Squadron on the 15th Ultime, at 4 P.M.; and on the following morning at daylight, anchored off Sohar, where I was joined by the "Lignis". For the full particulars and results of my visits to Sohar and Misaf,

I,
Major L. Hannell
Political Resident Persian Gulf

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I herewith furnish you with copies of my letters
to Sir Robert Oliver by which you will see your
wishes have been enforced and complied with.

On the 27th January, having despatched
the "Ligria" to Bombay, I left Muscat, (with
the Constance in Company) for the stations.
On the 31st the wind heading me into Bunder
Abbas, I took the opportunity of Anchoring at
that place, and delivering your letter to the
Sheik; having received his reply, I weighed
again the same night.

On the 2^d Instant the wind continu-
ing adverse for Bassidore, I proceeded to the
Arabian Coast, and showed my colors to the
Forts of Rasal Khima, Ul Umrah, Mulgarine,
Dabaier, and Sharga; firing Guns occasionally
to make them show their colors which they did,
and returned the guns at 7 P. M. being off Shar-
ga, I fired shotted guns, and rockets, and
burnt blue lights, for our Agent; which were
replied to from the shore with guns, and fire-
lit. From hence I despatched the Constance
to Abothaber, with your letter to the Sheik. On
the following morning Sheik Muektob, from
Dabaier, and shortly afterwards our Agent ac-
companied by the Moonsher of Sultan bin Suggur
came on board, Sheik Muektob informed me,
that on the preceding day, Sultan bin Suggur
had broken the truce which had been made
between the two Parties by Sir Henry Blackwood,
This

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this was confirmed on our Agents coming on board.
At first I would not receive the person sent
by Sultan bin Suggur, and sent him back into
his boat but, previous to our Agents leaving, I
sent for him, and desired him to acquaint Sultan
bin Suggur, that his infraction of a solemn com-
pact would be fully reported to you, and to desire
him to desist from building the Fort until your
decision had been received. It is my impression
that they are building this Fort to hand over to
Said ben Muttok and the Shirk of Debaire ap-
pears to be apprehensive that such is their intention.
He says, that, with the assistance of the other Chiefs,
he intends to resist it. It does not seem to have
been the fault of the latter, that this Truce has
been broken.

On the 1st Instant I anchored off Sharga
and sent your letter, with an Officer to the Shirk;
having received the reply, I again weighed and pro-
ceeded to Bassadore; where on the 7th the *Constantia*
joined me with the replies to your letters to the
Shirk of Abothaba. Lieutenant Rennie re-
ports all was quiet there, and the Officer sent
with your letters was received with civility and
respect.

Having left instructions for Lieut.
Rennie to proceed again to Sharga, on the 20th
Instant and should our Agents give him any
information, of sufficient importance to require
your immediate attention, to transmit it by

Crossed

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Coast to Bushire; I left Bassadore on the 10th
Instant. Having encountered a very heavy
North Wester in which our rigging and sails suf-
fered considerably I shall require a few days
to repair the damage.

I trust the measures I have through-
out adopted for the fulfilment of your wishes
will be satisfactory.

I beg to enclose the letters re-
ceived from the different Chiefs, and our Agent
at Muscat and Sharga Thirteen in No.

The Mail per "Tigris" was forwarded
to Bombay in A. M. S. Fox.

I have the honor to be
Signed / John Croft Hawkins
Commodore Commanding Sea.

True Copy
A. B. Kimball
Asst. Resident, Persian Gulf.

Translation of a letter from His Highness
Syed Lowyere Prince Ragan of Muscat to
Major Hannell, Resident in the Persian Gulf,
dated 25th Mohorrum, 24th January 1846.

A. G.

I was much gratified at the
receipt on the 23rd January of your letter dated
24th November, and fully understood its contents,
especially

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 especially what you intimated with reference
 to the discourtesy shewn by me, to the Agent
 of the British Government, in the surrounding
 his house with troops; the inattention to his re-
 presentations; and the striking and abusing him.
 God preserve us. How could you believe that we
 should permit of such proceedings as these
 towards even the meanest of the servants of the
 Agent of the Exalted Government, and such a
 close and long standing alliance, existing
 between us. We ever exert ourselves and endeavour
 to give satisfaction to the Government. It is far
 from us to consent to such acts as these.

In accordance with your requi-
 sition to inflict corporal punishment upon
 Salmin bin Loupak I did so in the presence of
 the Commodore and the Government Agent, un-
 til they themselves pronounced it sufficient. It
 is much agreeable to me ever to act in a manner
 to give satisfaction to the Government, particularly
 in whatever you may consider advisable for
 me. With regard to Shirjee. Had I not attended
 to the representations of the Government Agent,
 How had I left him in his house from that
 time till now, and he having, moreover, accounts
 and claims to settle. The house of the Government
 Agent was not surrounded with troops. - On
 his first leaving (the customs) a report having
 spread, that he had engaged a vessel with
 the intention of decamping without (making) a
 settlement.

settlement, those possessing claims upon him laid wait for him on the way; but when it was ascertained that he had entered the house of the Government Agent, I forbade all the claimants, and left him to the responsibility of the Government Agent, and represented the case. However you will learn the facts. At the present date Mirza is in the house of Khojah Niskiall and has not left it. Such is the true state of the case.

I some time since transmitted a letter from my Father His Highness the Imam, of whose receipt you have not advised me. I beg you will inform me, on this point.

True translation
Signed/ A. B. Hamball

/True Copy/
Signed/ A. B. Hamball
Asst. Resident Persian Gulf.

Translation of a letter from His Highness Syad Sowryur, Prince Regent of Muscat to Major Hamball, Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated 27th Mohurram 26th January.

A. C.

I beg to inform you that Commodore Hawkins sent to me this day on the subject of Mirza Bayan, that he was
desirous

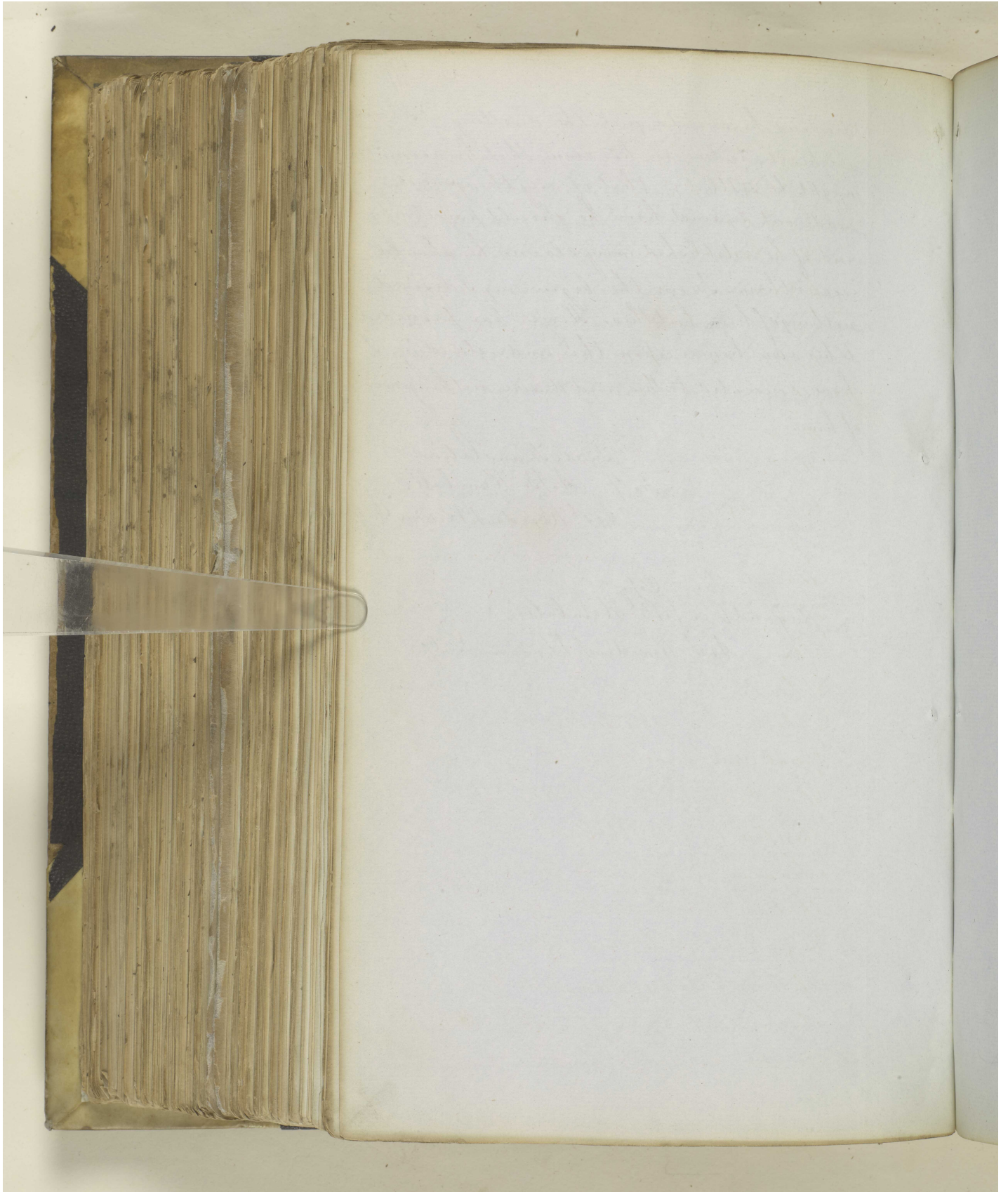
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desirous he should quit the dwelling of Khajah
Hiskiall, to live in his own, that his accounts
might be settled, - that if any thing were
made out against him he should pay it up;
and if he established any claims he should
recover them. From the beginning I desired
nothing of him but this. Kirjer has proceeded
to his own house upon this understanding. I
have consented to this and desire nothing more
of him.

True Translation
Sig^d A. B. Hamball.
Asst. Resident Persian Gulf.

True Copy
Signed A. B. Hamball
Asst. Resident Persian Gulf.

Copied
By Pittcher
for G. H. Allen

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N^o 2
Minutes by the Hon^{ble} the Governor con-
curred in by the Hon^{ble} Mr. Willoughby,
dated 13th May 1846.

With a letter dated the
29th November last, Major Hennell forwarded
to Government copy of a communication from
which the following is an extract, which he
had on the same day addressed to Lieutenant
Stephens of the Indian Navy, commanding
the Honorable Company's Brig of war "Sizis",
then Senior Naval Officer in the Persian
Gulf. "A gross insult having been offered by
"a person named Salmin bin Sowfeah, a
"dependent of Syed Soweynee, the Governor
"of Muscat, to the British Agent at that Port,
"I have suggested to His Highness the propriety
"of his marking his disapproval of the conduct
"of his servant by inflicting an adequate cor-
"poral chastisement on him, in the presence
"of a Naval Officer, and Khaja Nesmail. I
"therefore beg that the "Sizis" may touch at
"Muscat on her way to the Presidency, and
"that on her arrival there, the Commandant will
"be good enough to wait upon Syed Soweynee, and
"referring to the suggestion made by me, regarding
"chastisement of Salmin bin Sowfeah, simply
"request to be made acquainted with the conten-
"tious of His Highness in this respect. The result of
such (499)

"such enquiry will of course, be reported by
"the Commander to the proper Quarter, for the
"information of Government, on his arrival in
"Bombay."

2. In a letter dated the 26th
January last, Khojah Mestkil, Acting Native
Agent at Muscat, addressed the following letter
to Government; "On the 21st instant, the Brig
"Syris" Captain Stevens arrived here - an hour
"and a half after sun set the Olive Commodore
"Hawkins arrived here, accompanied by the
"Schooner Constance. - I have received by this op-
"portunity a letter from the Residents in the
"Persian Gulf and beg to enclose a copy of it.
"The Commodore did not fire a salute on the
"day of his arrival, but desired to have an interview
"with Syud Shoenee, the following day at 4/1/2
"of Clock P. M. accordingly the Commodore
"went to Syud Shoenee and having sent for
"Salim bin Soufekt, who had beaten me,
"wished Syud Shoenee to flog him, and he
"accordingly gave him two dozen lashes in the
"presence of all - I was also present there - afterwards
"when the Commodore was going away, Syud
"Shoenee said that he had many things to say
"to him, and wished to have a meeting with him
"on board the "Olive" - The following day a salute
"was fired and afterwards the Commodore
despatched

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"dispatched me, and Moonshee Mahomed,
 "Ally to say to Syud Shoonee, that if he wished,
 "he might go on board the Olive. Accordingly
 "Syud Shoonee, and Mahomed bin Sabir
 "went on board, and had a long conversation
 "with the Commodore. When they were returning,
 "they invited the Commodore, to an entertain-
 "ment at their house. On the 25th instant, the
 "Commodore went to the entertainment taking
 "me, and other officers with him. The next day
 "the Commodore sent Moonshee Mahomed
 "Ally, to tell Syud Shoonee to appoint two
 "Muselmans to examine the accounts of Heerjee
 "Banian who would also name two Banians
 "on his part, and if any balance should appear
 "to be due to him by Heerjee, to recover it without
 "having recourse to any violent means, and if
 "Heerjee should appear to have any claim
 "against him to liquidate it, that Heerjee might
 "pay the troops, or himself. (Syud Shoonee,) to
 "pay the troops and to give the remainder to
 "Heerjee. In reply Syud Shoonee, said that
 "as he had no good Muselman accountants,
 "he would appoint Banians on his part. The
 "Commodore agreed to this and directed me
 "and Moonshee Mahomed Ally to take
 "Heerjee to Syud Shoonee, and to request him
 "to secure Heerjee from every molestation. Accord-
 "ingly, (500)

"Accordingly we took Heerjee to Syud Shooceer
and he agreed to do what the Commodore
wished."

3. On receipt of the above letter,
I recorded a Minute, from which the following
is an extract; "we must wait for the Resident's
report on this subject."

"But under our present in-
formation I am sorry that the Commodore
interfered in the settlement of the Bavian
Heerjee's pecuniary transactions with the
Miscat authorities."

4. In the absence of
Commodore Hawkins's two letters to the
Superintendent of the Indian Navy, dated the 24th and 26th January last,
alluded to in the 2^d para: of Major
Hennell's letter, copies of which have not
been forwarded to Government, it is im-
possible to say whether or not the Commodore
was acting under any instructions he may
have received from the Resident in inter-
fering in the pecuniary transactions above
alluded to; The Superintendent of the
Indian Navy should therefore be requested
to furnish Government with copies of these
letters.

5. The information in
the

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the 3^d para: of the Resident's letter is greatly
to be regretted, Major Hennell should be in-
formed that the result of Lieutenant Trouball's
expected interview with the Souvance Chief
will be awaited.

(Dated 15th May 1846.) (Signed) G. Arthur
No. 1956 of 1846. / of J. P. Willoughby
From, Political Department

A. Malet Esquire
Secretary to Government of
Bombay
To, Major S. Hennell
Resident in the Persian Gulf
(Dated 18th May 1846.)

Sir,
1. I am directed by the Honble
the Governor in Council to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter, N^o. 68, dated the 20th
February last, forwarding copy of a communica-
tion from Commodore Hawkins of H^{is} Highness,
reporting the particulars of his late tour on
the Arabian Coast, together with translations
of two communications from His Highness
Syed Souvance, dated the 24th and 26th of the
preceding month.

2. In reply I am desired to
acquaint you that the information contained
in (501)

in the 3rd para: of your letter in regard to
the determination of Sheik Sultan bin a
Suggir to recommence the construction of
the Fort between Sharjah and Delage is
greatly to be regretted, and that Government
will await from you a report of the result
of your Assistant, Lieutenant. Kowalls
expected interview with that Chief on
the subject.

Bombay Castle I have the honor to be Sir
18th May 1846 (Signed) A. Malet

N^o 4 Secretary to Govt
N^o 1987 of 1846.
From, Political Departt

A. Malet Esquire
Secretary to Government
Bombay

To,
Captain Sir R. Oliver, B. A.
Superintendent of the Indian
Navy.

(Dated 18th May 1846.)

Sir,

As it appears from a letter
from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, that
two letters were addressed to you by Commodore
Hawkins under dates the 24th and 26th of
January last, containing details of his proceedings
at

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at Muscat, I am directed by the Honourable
the Governor in Council to request that you
will be pleased to forward copies of these
letters for the information of Govern-
ment.

Bombay Castle I have the honor to be Sir
18th May 1846 S / signed / A. Malet
Secretary to Government

Copy by
Rajeshwar Nath Dasgupta
Ex^o R. Elder

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Extract Bombay Political
Consultation May 1846.

N^o 5 N^o 550 of 1846.

N^o From, The Under Secretary to the Govt of India
with the Governor General,
To J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay
Foreign Department.
Camp Dukhunc Serai 20th
March 1846.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the
19th February N^o 51, relative to the ill treat-
-ment received by the Native Agent at
Muscat from the authorities at that
place, I am desired to observe that in the
opinion of the Right Honble the Governor
General the case appears to have been of
a trivial nature and the interference on
the part of the Agent uncalled for. I am
also desired to state that the course pursued
by the Bombay Government in the matter
seems judicious.

Camp Dukhunc }
Serai The 20th }
March 1846 }
I have the honor to be &c
Signed W. Edwards
Under Secy to Govt
of India. with the
Gov^r General.

Minute (503)

N^o 6
Minute by the Honble the Governor subscribed
to by the Honble M^r. Willoughby dated 13th
May 1846.

Copy of our letter of the 19th
February last, and of this reply should now
be forwarded to the Resident in the Persian
Gulf for information, and in order that
the sentiments of this Government which have
been concurred in by the Governor General in
regard to the error committed in the first
instance by the Native Agent at Muscat,
may be communicated to him -

Signed G. Arthur
" J.P. Willoughby

N^o 7
N^o 1955 of 1846

Political Departt.
From A. Mallet Esquire N^o.
Secretary to Government
Bombay
To Major S. Hennell
Resident in the Persian
Gulf.

Dated 18th May 1846.

Sir,

I am directed by the
Honble the Governor in Council to acknow-
ledge the receipt of your letters N^{os} 121 &
123, dated the 24th and 29th November last,
relative

Original
A.B.
C.W.

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relative to the ill treatment received by the
Honble Company's Native Agent at
Muscat from the authorities at that
place, in consequence of his having inter-
-fered on behalf of a Banian named
George Kepsawje -

2. In reply, I am desired to
transmit for your information, the copy
of a letter addressed by Mr. Chief Secretary
Willoughby under date the 19th February
last to the Secretary to the Government of
India with the Right Honble the Govern-
General, and of a communication in reply
from Mr. Under Secretary Edwards, N^o. 559,
dated the 20th of the following month con-
-taining His Excellency's sentiments on
the subject -

3. The Governor in Council
requests that you will communicate to
the Native Agent at Muscat, the senti-
-ments of this Government concurred in by
the Right Honble the Governor General,
in regard to the error committed by him in
the first instance in interfering on behalf
of the Banian above named -

Bombay Castle I have the honor to be &c.
18th May 1816 - Signed J. Malet

Secy to Govt.
True Extract -

Wharlet
Secy to Govt. (504)

Copied by
H. D. [unclear]
C. W. [unclear]

