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‘Affairs of the Persian Gulf. Vol: 1’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2302/118727
Date(s)	31 Aug 1848-17 Jan 1849 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (13 folios)
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About this record

This item consists of copies of political letters from the Governments of Bombay to the Court of Directors of the East India Company. The enclosures to these letters are contained in the subsequent items. It is the first in a series of fifty-one items on the Persian Gulf.

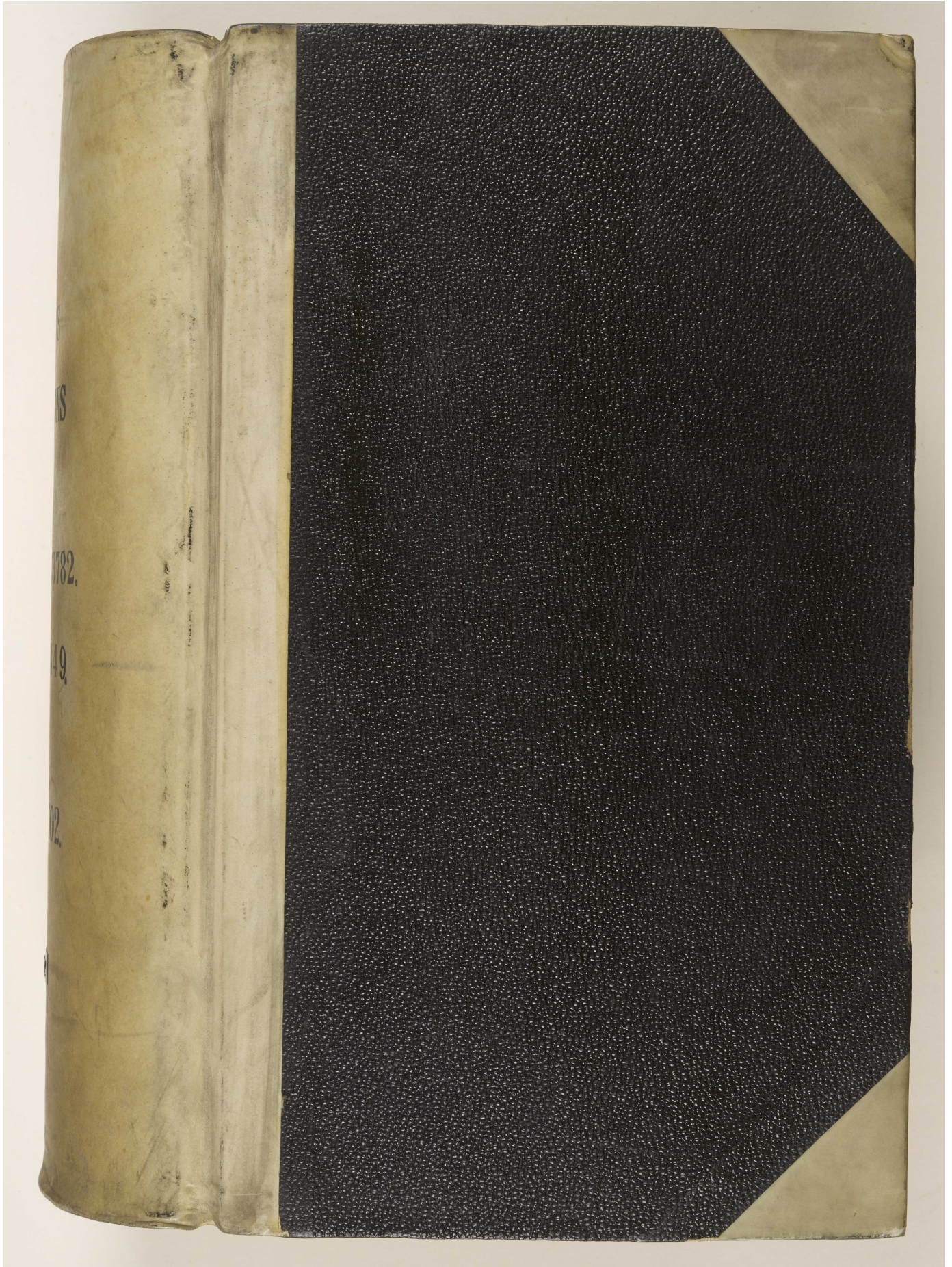
The item concerns:

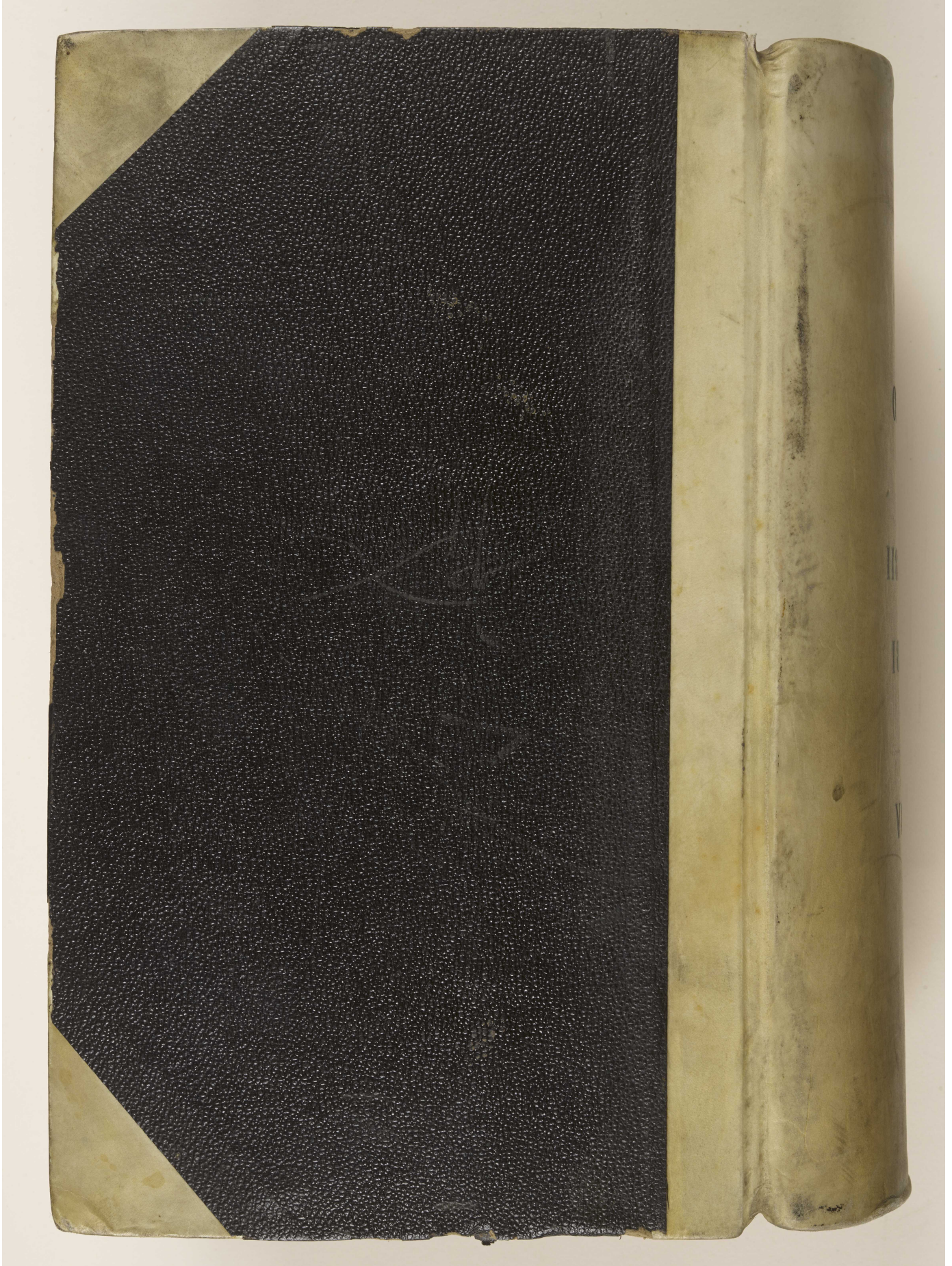
- News of cruises made by British ships in the Gulf
- Reports of interviews between Captain Samuel Hennell, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and the shaikhs of the Gulf
- Intelligence from the British Agent at Muscat
- An unsuccessful attempt by the Governor of Shargah [Sharjah] to capture Ejman [Ajman]
- Papers carried by British vessels and those departing from ports belonging to the Imam of Muscat
- The projected arrival of a French consul at Zanzibar

- Mercantile affairs
- Defeat of bin Mootluk [Sa'd bin Muṭṭlaq] against Sohar [Suhar]
- 'Piratical' proceedings off Bahrein [Bahrain]
- Capture of Brymee [Al Buraymi] by the Chiefs of Sohar and Aboothabee [Abu Dhabi], and the subsequent intention to regain Brymee by a confederation of Omani tribes and the Chief of Rasul Khyma [Ra's al-Khaymah]
- Agreements between Gulf states and Ameer Fysul [Amīr Fayṣal bin Turkī bin 'Abdullāh Āl Sa'ūd]
- Relations between the new and old chiefs of Bahrein
- Discontent with Muscat at Soor [Sur]
- Cholera at Lingah [Bandar-e Lengeh]
- Death of Shaik Abdool Azeez bin Rashid [Shaikh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Rāshid al-Na'īmī, Shaikh of Ajman].

The item contains a contents page and the title page of the item contains the following references: 'Collection No 17' and 'Draft no 465 of 49'.

'Affairs of the Persian Gulf. Vol: 1' [front] (1/32)







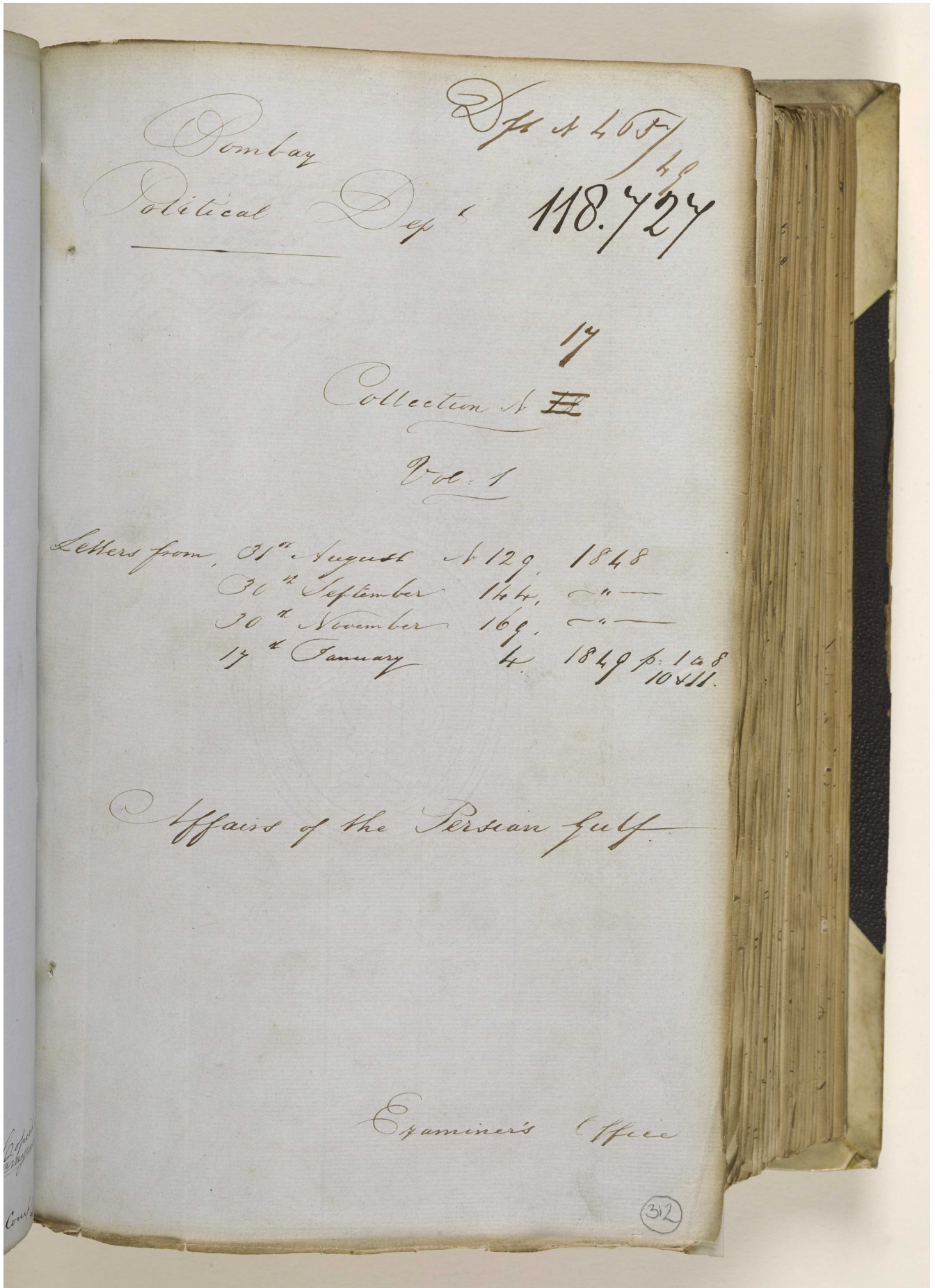
'Affairs of the Persian Gulf. Vol: 1' [edge] (4/32)

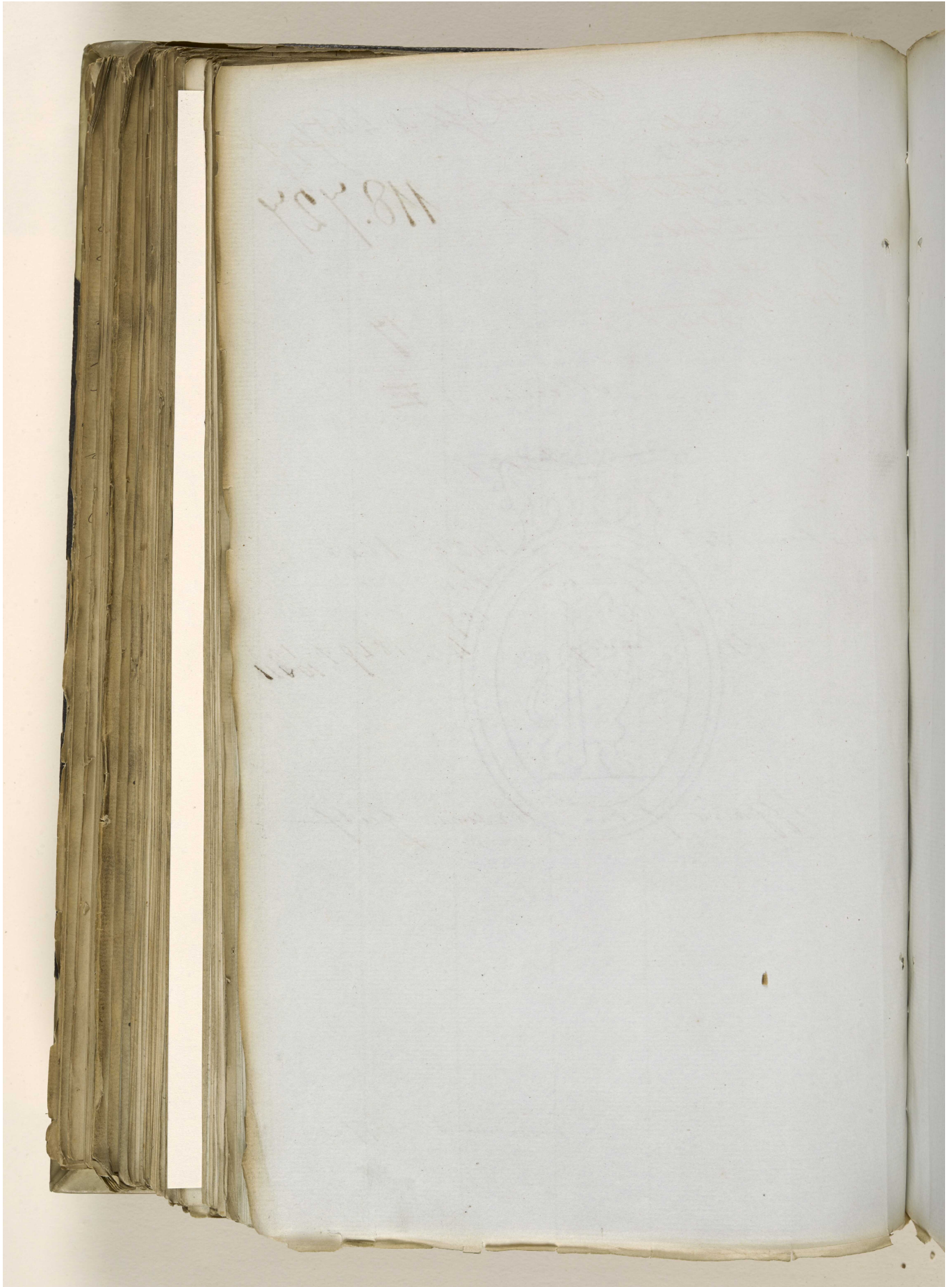


'Affairs of the Persian Gulf. Vol: 1' [head] (5/32)



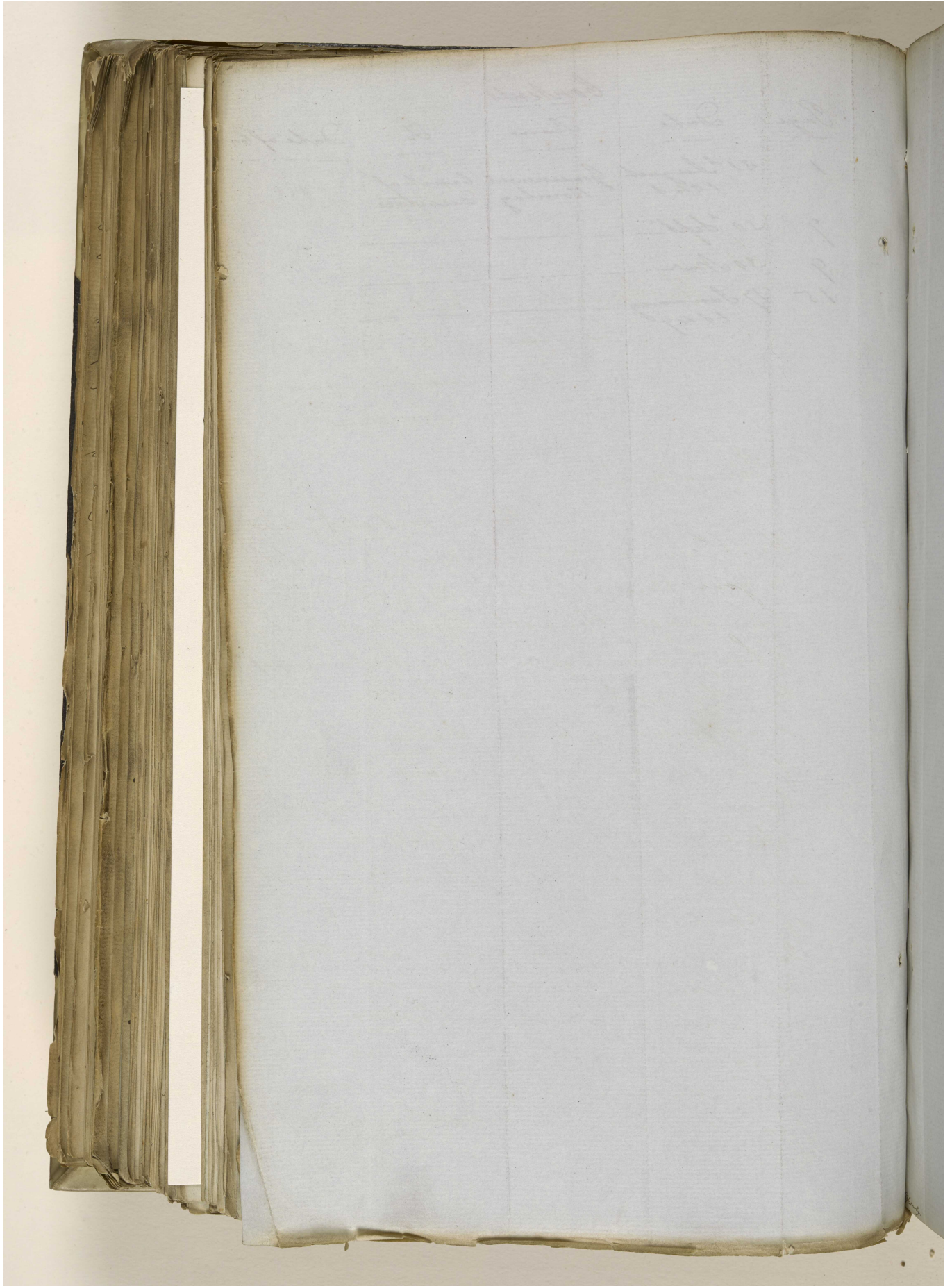






<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>		<u>Date of Cont</u>
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1	31 st August 1848	Government	Board of Bombay Directors	
7	30 th Sept	---	---	
9	30 Nov	---	---	
15	17 January 1849	---	---	

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Coln 10 Vol 1

Political Department
31st August (A.129) 1848.

To

The Honorable the Court of Directors
For Affairs of the Honorable
East India Company
London.

Honorable Sir,

With our despatch dated
the 16th June A.78 of 1847, we forwarded
to your Honorable Court, copy of a report
from Major Kennell, Resident at Bushire,
of his proceedings while on his annual
tour during the months of April and
May preceding, to the Arabian Coasts
of the Persian Gulf. We have now the
honor to forward copy of a similar
report from the same Officer, during his
annual tour in the Gulf in the month
of April 1848.

2. The general results
exhibited in the above report are in
our opinion most satisfactory, and as
confirmatory of this opinion, we beg to
draw attention to the following extract
from the report: The "demeanour of all the
"Chiefs was characterized by much friendliness,
and

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"and by many expressions of devotion to the
"British Government. All irritation arising
"from the degree of surveillance now
"exercised by us over their maritime affairs,
"appears to have vanished away. Indeed,
"I should rather say that a conviction
"of the value of the protection afforded
"by us to their Trade and Pearl Fishery,
"was on the increase. No better proof
"of this need be called for, than the
"extreme rarity of any occasions for
"our interference."

3. The next beg to forward
in Collection No 2, copy of a letter from
Commodore Hawkins of the Indian Navy,
Commanding the Indian Naval Squadron
in the Persian Gulf, reporting the
particulars of a Cruise which he made
off the Persian and Arabian Coasts during
the months of March and April last,
on board the Double Company's Sloop of
War "Clive" in company with the Honble G.
Schoner "Constance". We consider the
intelligence contained in this report to be
satisfactory.

4. In Collection No 3, we beg to
forward copy of a letter from Major
Hennell dated the 25th March last, reporting
the particulars of the recent failure of a
stratagem on the part of Shark Abdulla
bin

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bin Sultan, Acting Governor of Shargah,
to surprise and capture the fort of Ajman.

5. We have the honor to forward
in Collection No. 4 copy of a letter from Major
Hemmel dated the 29th April last, reporting
the particulars of two interviews, on that
and the preceding day, with the Chief
of Lingah. We beg to refer to our Chief
Secretary's letter to Major Hemmel dated the
27th June last, communicating the instructions
of Government upon the points embraced
in this report requiring notice.

6. In Collection No. 5, we beg
to forward translations of six news letters
from the Native Agent in Muscat, reporting
on the state of Affairs in that quarter
between the 6th February and the 2^d July 1848.

7. In continuation of the
proceedings which formed Collection No. 11,
accompanying our despatch dated the 31st
January No. 21 of 1848, we beg to forward,
copy of a letter from Captain Hemerton,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul and Honorable
Company's Agent in the Dominions of H. H.
the Imam of Muscat, reporting that
His Highness the Imam has made it a
rule that vessels belonging to H. H.'s subjects
from all his ports shall henceforth be
required to carry papers authenticated by
that Officer. We have communicated this
resolution

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resolution to the requisite authorities.

8. In a letter from Lieut. Colonel Farrant, Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Tebran, dated the 8th Feb^y last, we were informed, that he had a few days previously received an intimation from Count Sartiges who had lately been accredited to the Court of Persia, as Envoy Extraordinary from the French Government, that he was expecting the arrival at Tebran of presents for the Shah, in charge of a Monsieur Duau, who was proceeding to Zanzibar, he having been appointed Consul at that place for His Majesty the King of the French; We have furnished Captain Hamerton with a copy of this letter.

9. As connected with the 2^d para. of our dispatch to the Honorable the Secret Committee dated the 9th March, No 20 of 1848, we beg to state that on the 23^d March last, we received an application from Messrs Leroux Hunter & Co Merchants at the Presidency for permission to export to Bushire for the use of the Persian Gov^{ty}. 50 Cases of Muskets which had lately arrived in Bombay from England consigned to their care. Under the circumstances explained by Messrs Leroux, Hunter & Co we have permitted these arms to be forwarded to Bushire

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Bushire, but we have informed those Gentlemen, that in the event of their being desirous hereafter of making any similar consignments to Bushire, it will be necessary for them to produce the authority of Her Majesty's Envoy at the Court of Tehraw, or the instructions of your Honorable Court to this Government, since otherwise we shall feel precluded from sanctioning the despatch of such Articles from Bombay.

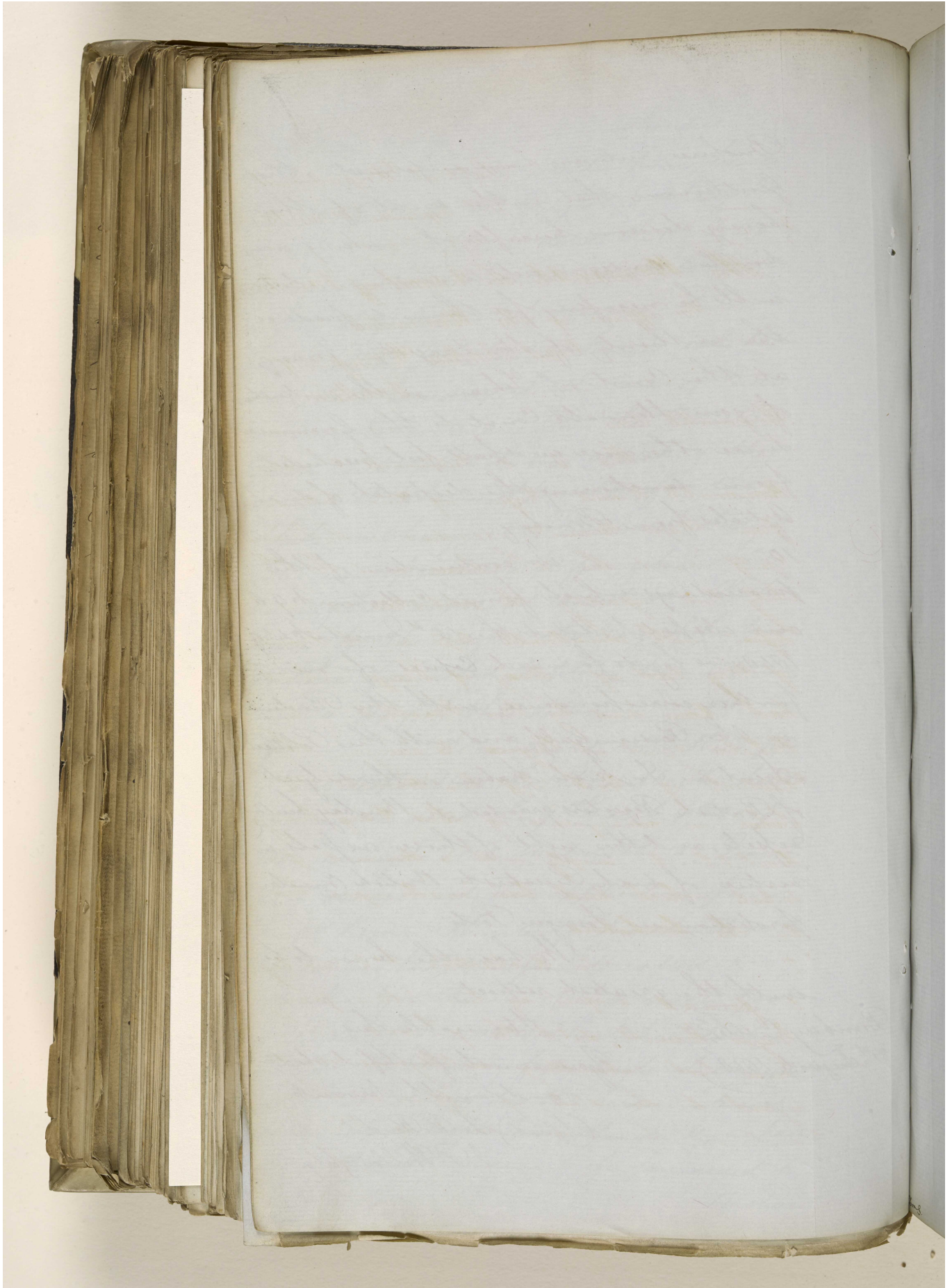
10. In continuation of the proceedings which formed Collection No 9 to our despatch, dated the 15th March A.D. of 1840, we beg to forward Copies of our further correspondence with the Resident in the Persian Gulf and with the Political Agent in Turkish Arabia, on the subject of British Registers granted to Bombay built vessels, and the right of those vessels in virtue of such Registers to British Consular protection in Foreign Ports.

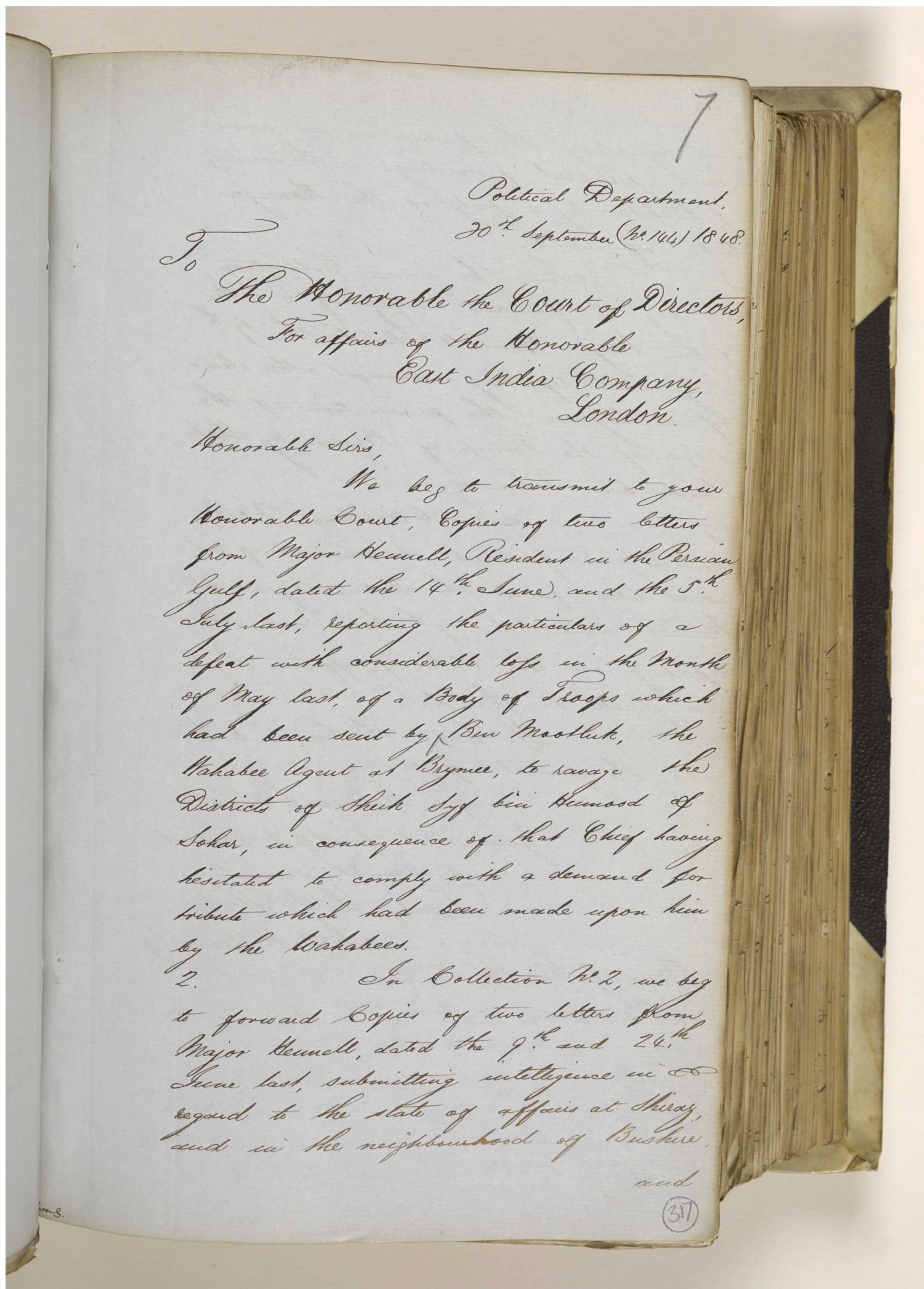
We have the honor to be,
with the greatest respect,

Bombay Castle,
31st August 1840.

Honorable Sir,
Your most faithful, obed^t
and humble Servants.
(Signed) L. R. Reid
" J. P. Willoughby

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Political Department,
30th September (No. 144) 1848.

To
The Honorable the Court of Directors,
For affairs of the Honorable
East India Company,
London.

Honorable Sirs,

We beg to transmit to your
Honorable Court, Copies of two letters
from Major Kemell, Resident in the Persian
Gulf, dated the 14th June, and the 5th
July last, reporting the particulars of a
defeat with considerable loss in the month
of May last, of a Body of Troops which
had been sent by Bin Mooluk, the
Wahabee Agent at Brymee, to ravage the
Districts of Sheik Juff bin Ahmed of
Sohar, in consequence of that Chief having
hesitated to comply with a demand for
tribute which had been made upon him
by the Wahabees.

2. In Collection No. 2, we beg
to forward Copies of two letters from
Major Kemell, dated the 9th and 24th
June last, submitting intelligence in
regard to the state of affairs at Shiraz,
and in the neighbourhood of Bushire,

and

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and reporting the particulars of some recent piratical proceedings in the vicinity of Bahrein, by a party of the Howajie tribe of Arabs.

3. In the same Collection, we beg to forward copy of a letter from Major Keenell, dated the 17th July last, reporting amongst other items of intelligence, the prosecution of the siege of the Forts of Bymee by Sheik Saed bin Tabnoon.

4. In Collection No. 3, we beg to forward translation of a news-letter from the Native Agent at Muscat, dated the 14th June last, so reporting on the state of affairs in that quarter on that date.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful, obedient
and humble servants,
(Signed.) L. R. Reid.

J. P. Willoughby.

Bombay Castle,
30th September, 1848.

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Political Department
30th November (N^o 169) 1848

To

The Honorable the Court of Directors
For Affairs of the Honorable
East India Company
London.

Honorable Sirs,

In continuation of enclosure
N^o 5 to collection N^o 2 accompanying our despatch
dated the 30th September last, N^o 144, we beg to
forward to your Honorable Court copies of two
letters from Major Hennell, Resident in the
Persian Gulf, dated the 1st and 25th August last,
the former reporting the capture on the 20th
June last of the Frigate of Brynsee by the
Coalesced Tribes of Oman under Sheik Syffier
Hannood of Sohar and Sheik Saed bin
Tahnoun of Abokhabeer and the latter
communication stating the nature of the
effect this occurrence has produced on the
mind of the Maritime Chiefs of Oman.

2. In collection N^o 2 we beg to
forward copy of a letter from Major Hennell
dated the 21st August last, reporting his having
received intelligence from the Native Agent
at Bahrein, that an offer has been made by
the Chief of that Island to Amer Beyul to
join him in any expedition he may
contemplate

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contemplated against Oman. In reply we have directed Major Hemmell to use all his influence to prevent the Chief of Bahrein from undertaking any maritime operations of this nature, we have forwarded a copy of Major Hemmell's letter and of our reply to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, with the remark, that we are of opinion, that it is advisable to prevent even by resort to force, if necessary, any warlike operations from Bahrein by sea against the Coast of Oman.

3 We next beg to forward copy of a letter from Major Hemmell, dated the 5th October last, reporting the commencement of hostilities between Sheik Saed bin Tabnoon, the Chief of Absoothaber, and Sheik Sultan bin Suggur, the Chief of Rasel Ghayma. We have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, with an intimation that, under the circumstances stated by Major Hemmell, and more particularly with reference to the spirit in which the Arab Maritime Force has hitherto been maintained, we concur in the views expressed by that Officer on the subject, and in the propriety of his resolution to intimate to Sheik Sultan bin Suggur in the event of his contemplating any measures for the transport of a Redjee force by sea to Oman, that such a step cannot
be

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be sanctioned by the British Government, and that if necessary, it will be opposed; as the adoption of this course might, however, ultimately oblige Government to use force against the Soasnee and Debraje Chief, we deemed it necessary to submit the case for the consideration and orders of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India.

4. In a letter dated the 1st August last, Major Hemmell has reported that from late accounts from the Arabian Coast, it appears, overtures have been made by Shaikh Soobah, the Chief of Howest to Shaikh Mahomed bin Elhulcepa, the ruler of Babrien, for a reconciliation with his grand uncle, Shaikh Abdoolah bin Ahmed, the ex Chief of that Island, which have been declined by the chief, who has however offered the ex Chief an adequate allowance for his maintenance.

5. In Collection N^o 5, we forward copy of a letter from Major Hemmell dated the 24th July last submitting translation of a communication from the Native Agent at Muscat, dated the 17th of the preceding month, reporting the particulars of the energetic measures taken by His Highness Seyd Saweynee, the Governor of that place, to quell the refractory and turbulent spirit lately exhibited by the Inhabitants of Soor, a Port

lying (51)

lying between Muscat and Rasul Head.

6. In a letter dated the 1st September last, Major Hemmell has reported the receipt by him of intelligence from Shargah, of the continued tranquillity of the maritime affairs in that quarter, up to the 19th of the previous month.

7. We regret to state that in a letter dated the 22nd September last Major Hemmell has reported the receipt by him on the same day, of intelligence from Lingah, to the effect that the cholera had broken out with such violence in the District of Minoo near Bunder Abbas, as for eight days to carry off about 300 persons per diem and that amongst the victims to the disease, were Shaik Kubbhan (the son of the Governor of Bunder Abbas) and Shaik Ahmed Abdool Ruzool, the Governor of Minoo. In the same letter, Major Hemmell states that it has been commonly reported, that the cholera has visited other ports on the Arabian Coast, but has disappeared from all excepting Amulgavine, where it still existed to a limited extent and that so far as he has been able to learn, the direction of the progress of the cholera, appears to be southward and easterly.

8. We next beg to forward copies of two letters from Major Hemmell dated the 10th

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10th and 24th July last, the former submitting
copy of a letter from Commodore Hawkins (late)
Commanding the Indian Naval Squadron
in the Persian Gulf, reporting particulars
of his proceedings in the River Euphrates
during the month of June and in the early
part of July last, and the latter forwarding
copy of a letter which he (Major Hemmell) -
addressed on the 18th July last to Commodore
Hawkins on the occasion of that Officer
resigning the command of the Squadron in
the Persian Gulf.

9. In collection 9 we beg to forward
copy of a letter from Major Hemmell, -
dated the 1st August last, submitting in
confirmation of enclosures Nos 3 & 4 to our
despatch to the Honorable the Secret Committee,
dated the 30th January No 11 of 1847, manuscript
of a communication which he addressed on
the 1st August last to Lieut. Col. Garrault,
Her Majesty's Charge d'Affairs at the Court
of Persia, on the subject of the claim
proposed by the British upon the Persian
Government on account of the value of the
Vessel and Cargo belonging to Hajee Yacoub
a dependent of the British Government, which
Vessel was piratically wrecked and plundered
in the year 1846, by some of the inhabitants
of Kirah, an island town on the Coast of
Pers.

In
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10. In continuation of our despatches
noted in the margin, we beg to forward in Collection No 10 an extract from our further proceedings on the subject of the Dutch Barque "Lorkas".

Collection No 11 to despatch dated the 16th March No 45 of 1848 and Collection No 13 to despatch dated the 31st August No 129 of 1848.

11. In Collection No 11, we beg to forward translations of two news letters from the Native Agent at Muscat dated the 31st July and the 16th August last, reporting on the state of Affairs in that quarter in those dates.

We have the honor to be, with
the greatest respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful obedient,
and humble servants,

(Signed) Falkland

Bombay Castle,
30th November, 1848.

Willoughby Cotton

L. K. Reid

J. P. Willoughby.

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Extract Political Letter from
Bombay 17 January (4) 1849

1. In continuation of our despatch dated the 30th November, No. 169 of 1848, we beg to submit to your Honorable Court extracts from our proceedings on the affairs of the Persian Gulf, subsequent to that date.

2. In Collection No. 1, we beg to forward copy of a letter from Major Rennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 6th November last, submitting a communication from the Native Agents at Shargah, reporting the particulars of a confederacy forming amongst the tribes of Oman at the instigation of Sheik Sultan bin Sagger (Chief of Ruvel Khyma) for the purpose of repelling the Troops of Sheik Saeed bin Saknoon, the Beni-yas Chief, from his recently acquired possessions of Buzmed. In the same letter the Native
Agent

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Agent states; perfect tranquillity prevails at sea, and the people are distributed abroad in search of their livelihood, and pursuing their vocation on the Pearl banks, and no piracy or irregularity of any kind has occurred."

3 In a letter of the following date (November 7th) Major Hennell has forwarded a further communication from the Native Agent at Shargah containing intelligence of the projected march of the confederate tribes upon Buzance for the purpose of effecting the above object. In the same letter Major Hennell reports the death on the 27 September last, in an unsuccessful attack upon the people of Mureeah of Shaik Abdool Azeez bin Rashid, Chief of Yman, who has been succeeded in the chieftainship by his brother Muameed bin Rashid.

4 In Collection No 2, we beg to forward copy of a letter from Major Hennell dated 22nd November last, submitting copy of a recent correspondence between himself and Major Rawlison C. B. Political Agent in Turkish Arabia, with reference to some vexatious opposition having been offered by Sheik Sabir of Mohunra to the trade of British subjects with that port, and reporting it to be his intention

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intention to despatch the Honorable Company's
Sloop of War "Elphinstone" and brig "Euphrates"
to Mohumrah to give effect to the remonstrance
which Major Rawlinson has found it
necessary to address to the Chief of that
place, on the subject. We have informed
Major Hennell that instructions from
Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Tehran should
have been awaited by himself and
Major Rawlinson in this affair; and
that we are not disposed to approve
of the despatch of the Squadron to
Mohumrah, if acquiescence in Major
Rawlinson's measures, should not have
been intimated to him (Major Hennell)
by Colonel Garrant previously to its sailing;

5. In Collection No. 3, we beg to
forward copies of two letters from Major
Hennell dated the 21st and 23rd November
last, communicating the latest intelligence
which had on those dates reached him
in regard to the state of Affairs at Shiraz
and at Tehran.

6. In continuation of the 3rd
para. of our despatch dated the 30th Nov^r
last No. 169, we beg to forward in Collection
No. 4, copy of a letter from Major Hennell
dated the 4th of the same month, from
which it would appear that neither
Sheik Sultan bin Suggar (Chief of Ruvel Khuzestan)

nor
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nor Sheik Fakhtoon (Chief of Debay) have any intention, as was previously supposed, of employing their vessels in conveying the Redd Croops of Amser Fysul from Kuttef to the Coast of Oman. With reference to this subject, we beg to forward in the same collection, copy of a letter from Mr Elliot, Secretary, to the Gov^r of India, with the Right Honourable the Governor General dated the 16th ultimo concurring with this Government in opinion, that it would be proper for Major Hennell to intimate to these Chiefs, that in the event of this measure being attempted by them, the same would be forcibly opposed by Government, but that Major Hennell should be enjoined not to engage in hostilities unnecessarily. We have accordingly made an intimation to Major Hennell to this effect.

We have the honor to forward in Collection No 5, copy of a letter from Major Hennell, dated the 27 Oct^r last, reporting the particulars of an interview which he had on the preceding day at the Bushire Residency with Sheik Allee bin Shuleefa, a brother of Sheik Mahomed the Chief of Bahrein, by whom he had been deputed to visit
Major

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Major Hennell for the purpose of consulting that officer on the points mentioned in his letter. We have approved of Major Hennell's proceedings on this occasion.

In a letter dated the 4th September last, Major Hennell drew the attention of Government to some recent partial proceedings to the detriment of some British subjects, of His Highness Syed Sowany, son of His Highness the Imam of Muscat, ^{and Governor of Muscat,} in the division of the property of a merchant and Banker of Muscat, named 'Dhurumsee' amongst his creditors. We have communicated the particulars of this case to Captain Hamerton, Her Majesty's Consul and Honble Company's Agent in the Dominions of His Highness the Imam, with instructions to bring the same to the notice of His Highness, at the same time pointing out the injustice that will be done by such an unequal distribution of the insolvent's assets among his creditors as that directed by His Highness Syed Sowany, and requesting justice for such of them as may be entitled to British protection. We have at the same time intimated to Captain Hamerton that the course pursued by His Highness, Syed Sowany, on the above occasion, is in contravention of

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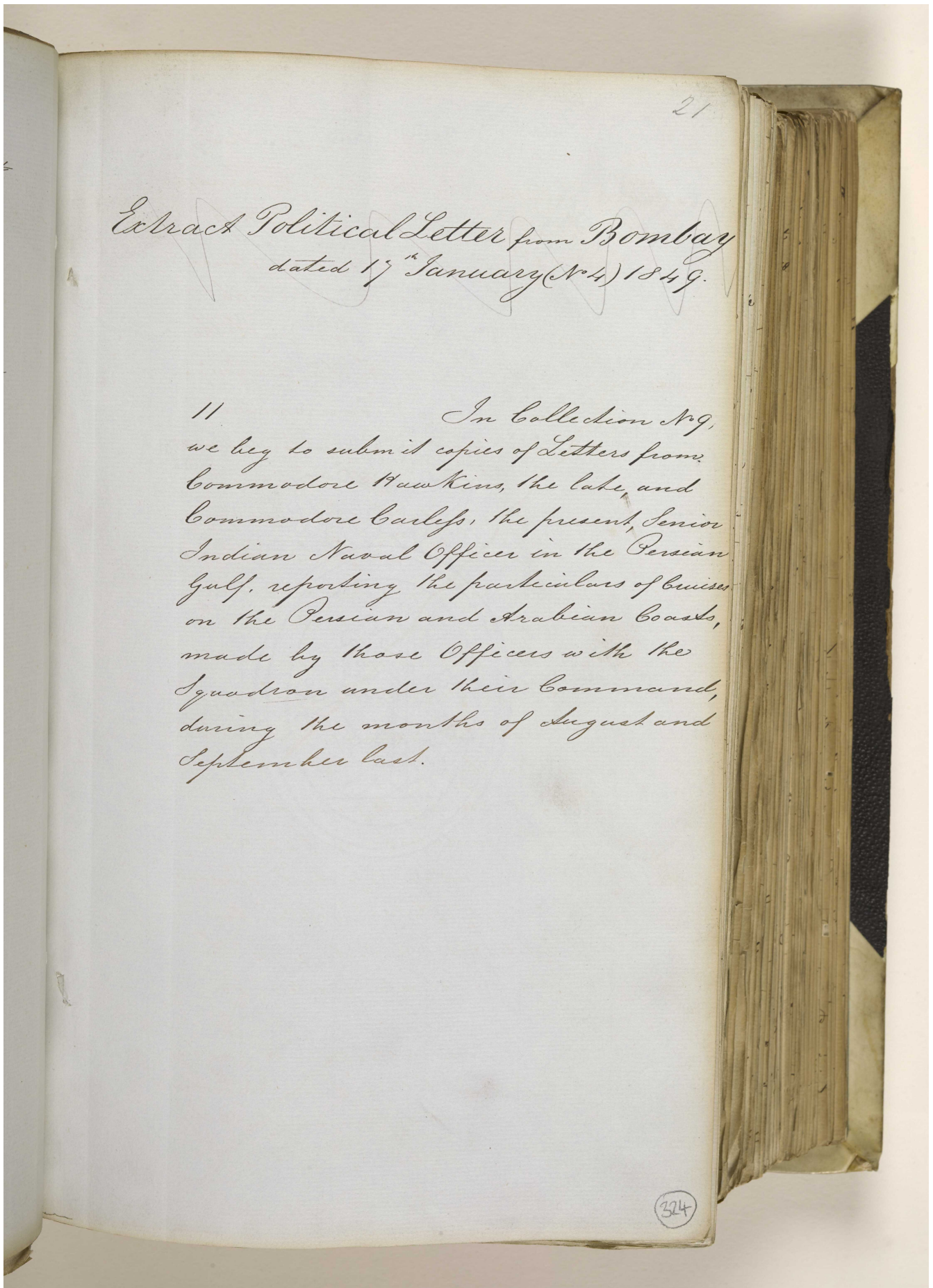
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of the VIII Article of the Commercial Treaty concluded between the British Government and the Imam on the 31st of May 1839.

9. Under the circumstances mentioned in the proceedings which form Collection A.7, we have with the concurrence of the Right Honble the Governor General of India, as an encouragement for the establishment of a regular mercantile steam communication with the Persian Gulf, agreed to grant to the owners of the private Steamer "Sir Charles Forbes", belonging to Bombay, on their consenting to the conditions we have prescribed, a gratuity of two hundred Rupees on the conclusion of each trip they may cause that vessel to make to Bushire and back to Bombay.

10. We beg to forward in Collection A.8, translations of five news letters from the Native Agent at Muscat, dated the 17th July 14th & 30th September and 13th & 17th October 1848, reporting on the state of affairs in that quarter on those dates.

11. In Collection A.9, we beg to submit copies of letters from Commodore Haikeris, the late, and Commander Carle, the present, Senior ^{Indian} Naval Officer in the



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Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 17th January (No. 4) 1849.

11 In Collection No. 9,
we beg to submit copies of Letters from
Commodore Hawkins, the late, and
Commodore Carlefs, the present, Senior
Indian Naval Officer in the Persian
Gulf, reporting the particulars of Cruises
on the Persian and Arabian Coasts,
made by those Officers with the
Squadron under their Command,
during the months of August and
September last.

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