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Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay

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Date(s)	23 Jun 1873 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and French in Latin
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About this record

This item consists of copies of a Political Despatch from the Government of India Foreign Department to the Secretary of State for India, dated 23 June 1873, forwarding copies of papers regarding the arrangements made for the accommodation and supervision of rescued enslaved people when landed from HM cruisers at Aden and Bombay [Mumbai].

Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay [361R] (1/8)

361

Enclosure No. 1.

No. 236 P, dated Fort William, 1st February 1873.

From—Offg. Under-Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.,
To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with the docket from this Department to your address, No. 180 P, dated the 24th of January 1873, regarding manumitted slaves, I am instructed to request that the Government of India may be furnished with a full report, showing what is done with slaves landed from Her Majesty's cruisers. His Excellency in Council will be glad to learn what regulations are in force for their supervision, and what special establishment is entertained for their reception.

Enclosure No. 2.

No. 2921, dated Bombay Castle, 13th April 1873.

From—Secretary to Government of Bombay,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Dept.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Captain Henderson's letter No. 236P, dated 1st February last, requesting information as to what is done with slaves landed from Her Majesty's cruisers; what regulations are in force for their supervision and what special establishment is entertained for their reception.

2. In reply, I am to forward to the Government of India, as answering the above enquiries in the case of Aden, the accompanying copy of a Report from Colonel Schneider, dated 1st ultimo, No. 75-283. With regard to slaves landed in Bombay, the enclosed letter, dated 1st instant, No. 707, from the Commissioner of Police, explains how they are disposed of.

3. In a further communication dated 17th idem, Mr. Souter gives the following replies to the second and third questions:—

"There are no special regulations in force for the supervision of the manumitted slaves when landed in Bombay.

"No special establishment is entertained, with the exception of a cook and one or two Hallalcore sweepers. And the slaves are guarded by a party of Police."

POSTSCRIPT.—I am to state that Sir Bartle Frere is about to submit proposals on the above subject.

No. 75-283, dated Aden, 1st March 1873.

From—Political Resident, Aden,
To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

IN reply to Government Resolution No. 1046, dated 17th February 1873, requesting information with respect to what is done with slaves landed from Her Majesty's cruisers; what regulations are in force for their supervision; and what special establishment is entertained for their reception, I have the honor to state that no manumitted slaves have been landed at Aden during the last four years, and that no special rules appear to have been laid down with respect to the reception of such as might be brought here by Her Majesty's cruisers, each case being dealt with according to its special requirements.

2. The usual practice was for the slaves to be immediately inspected by the Superintendent of the Medical Department on landing, and if that officer's report was favorable, they were located in different quarters of the town; if, on the contrary, any symptoms of disease were apparent amongst them, they were

Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay [361V] (2/8)

segregated on an island at the upper end of the harbour. Their food and lodging was always provided under contract with a merchant in the town; and if the number was large, a temporary establishment of peons was entertained to supervise their movements, and to afford them any assistance they might require.

3. On opportunities offering, the slaves were assigned for service amongst respectable inhabitants of the Settlement, the latter engaging to provide them with food, clothes and lodging until they arrived at an age to earn their own livelihood in any other capacity, or so long as they were content to remain in domestic service. When the number of slaves was in excess of that which could be locally provided for, they were under the orders and special sanction of Government shipped off for Bombay to the care of the Commissioner of Police, and several have been received into the Nassick Institution.

4. No permanent establishment for the reception of manumitted slaves has ever been maintained at Aden; and they have always been considered under the immediate charge of the Superintendent of the Indian Medical Department and the Assistant Resident, aided by such a temporary establishment of peons as stated above, as from time to time might be found to be needed.

No. 707, dated Bombay, 1st April 1873.

From—Commissioner of Police, Bombay,
To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

WITH reference to the Resolution of Government, No. 1046, dated 17th February last, on the subject of the disposal of the manumitted slaves captured by Her Majesty's cruizers, I have the honor to report that, on the arrival of a batch of Negroes, the practice has been to at once select and send all those of tender age, and for whom accommodation could be provided, to the African asylum at Nassick under the care of the Reverend W. Price; a good many have also been made over on application to the Roman Catholic Priests who have placed them in the Roman Catholic Orphanage of Bandora.

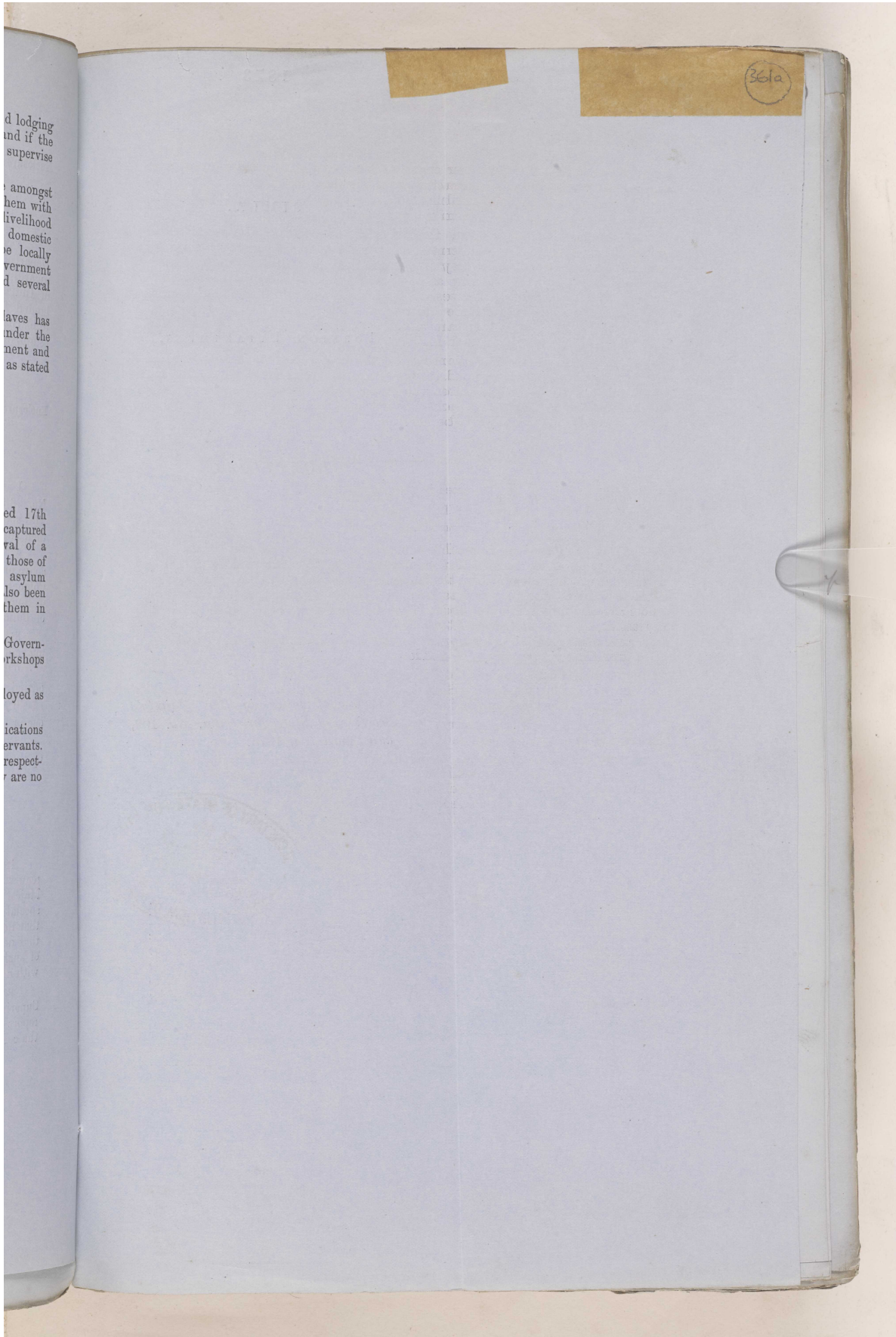
2. Of the adults, a number of both sexes have been employed at the Government model farm in Khandeish. Some have been apprenticed at the workshops of the Railway Companies, and a few have been taken into the Police.

3. Those above 10 and under 16 years of age have mostly been employed as domestic servants by Europeans and Natives residing in India.

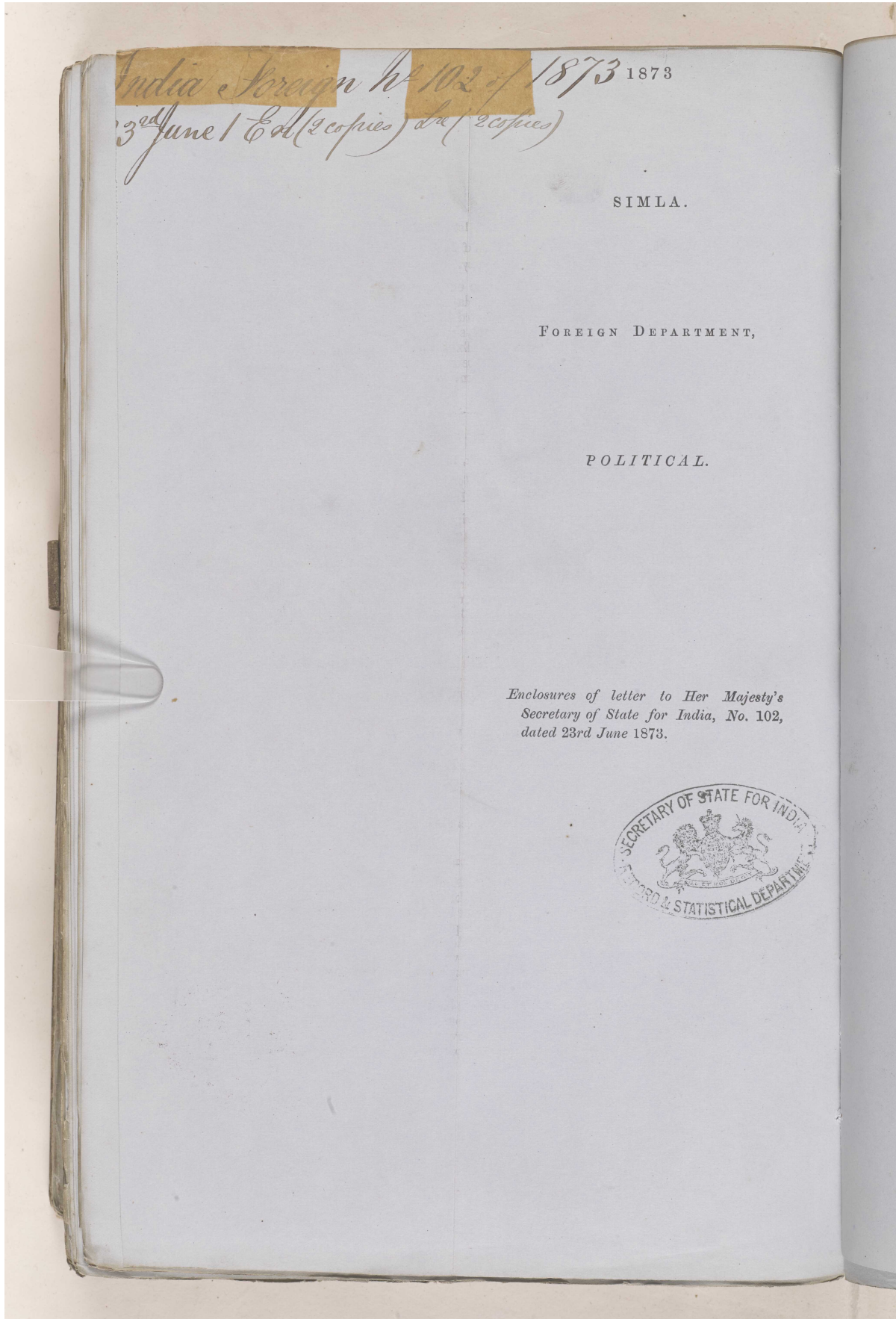
4. On the arrival of a batch of manumitted slaves innumerable applications are received from Natives for children whom they desire to bring up as servants. Every care, however, is taken to entrust them to those only of known respectability, and it is always explained to the children in such cases, that they are no longer slaves, and free to leave their employers whenever they chose.

Exd.—T. Y.

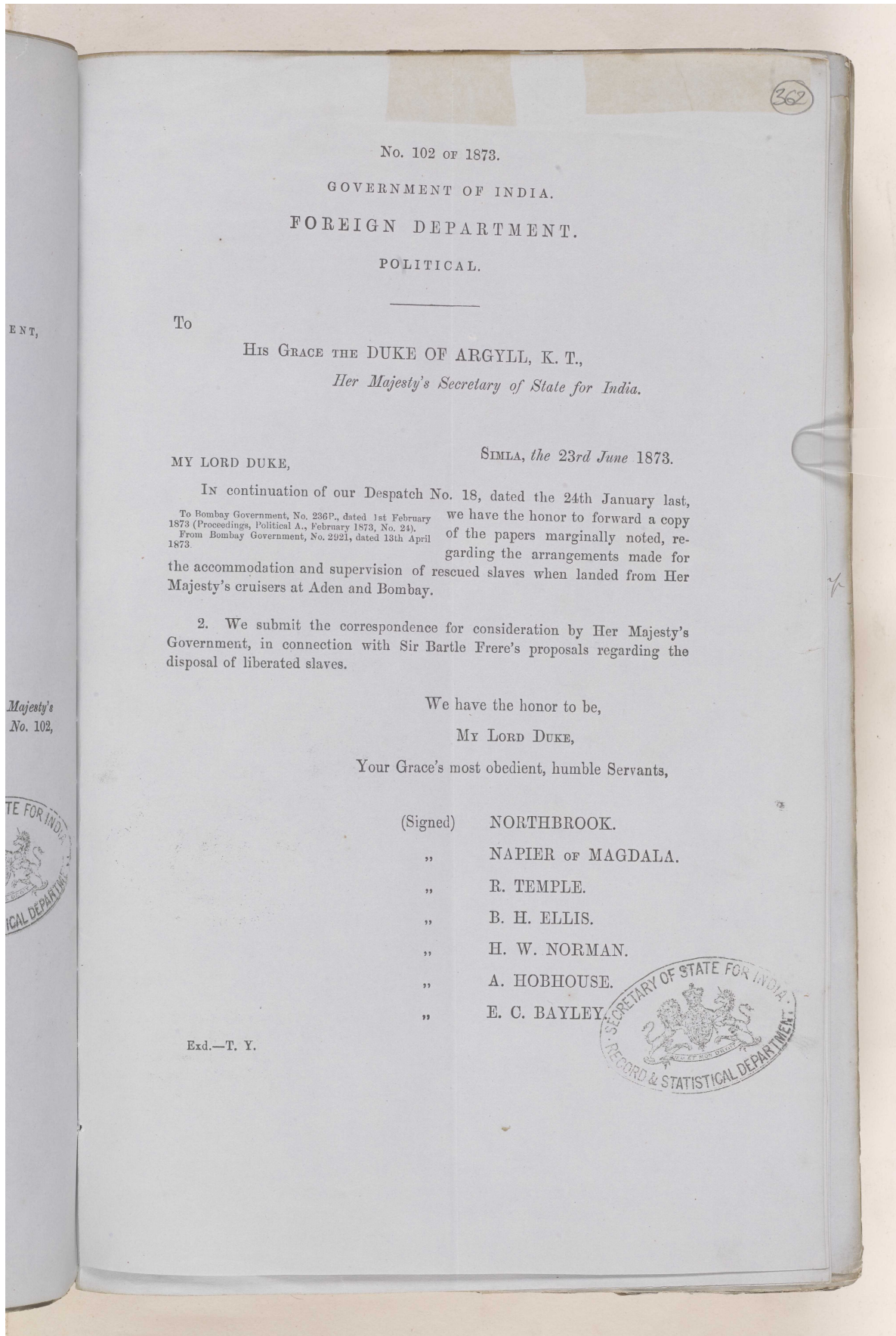
Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay [361aR] (3/8)



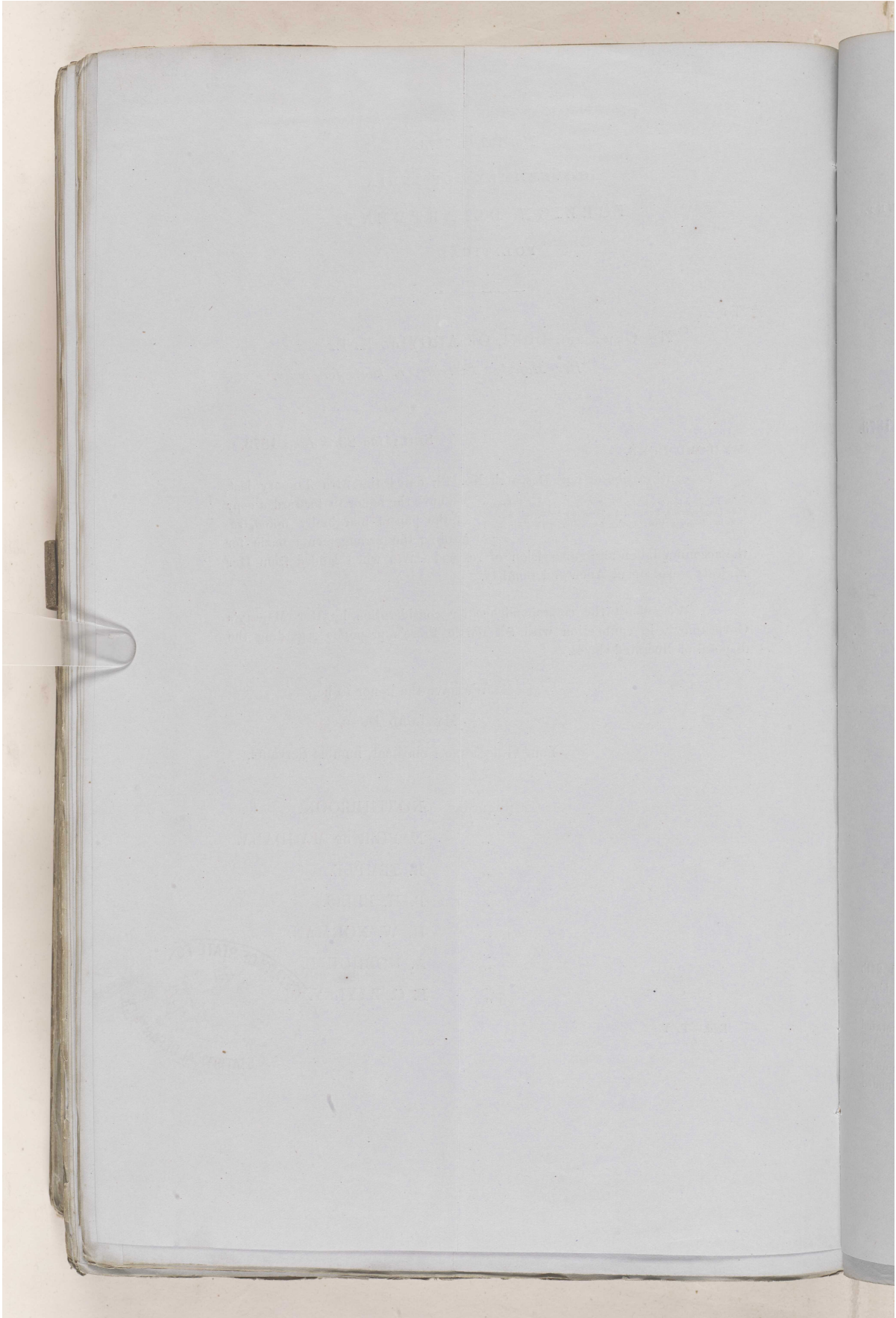
Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay [361aV] (4/8)



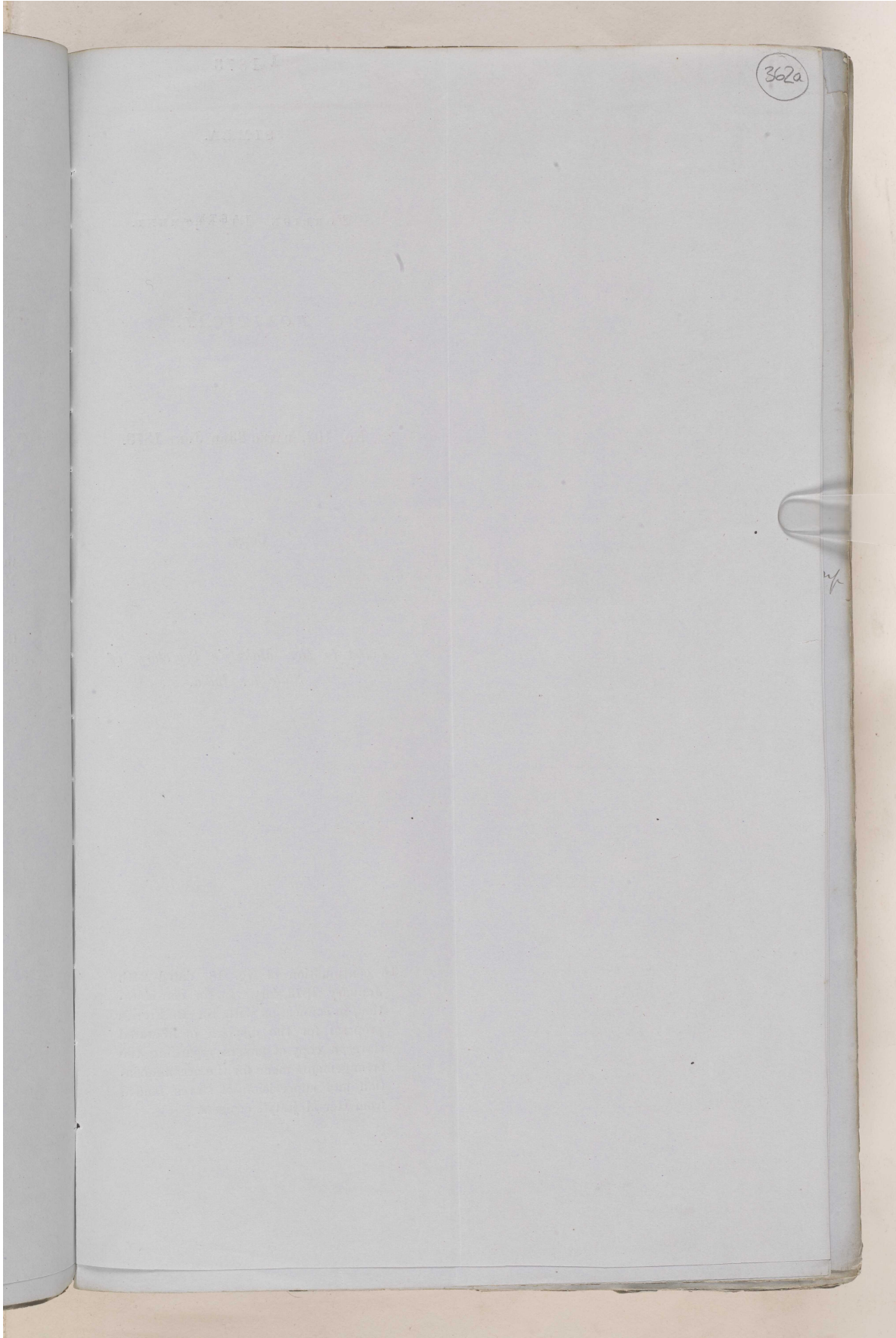
Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay [362R] (5/8)



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Political No. 102 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of Papers Regarding the Arrangements Made for the Accommodation and Supervision of Rescued Enslaved People when Landed from HM Cruisers at Aden and Bombay [362aR] (7/8)



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