

This PDF was generated on 30/01/2022 from online resources of
the **Qatar Digital Library**

The online record can be viewed at:

http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100105491453.0x000001

It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to
the Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone**

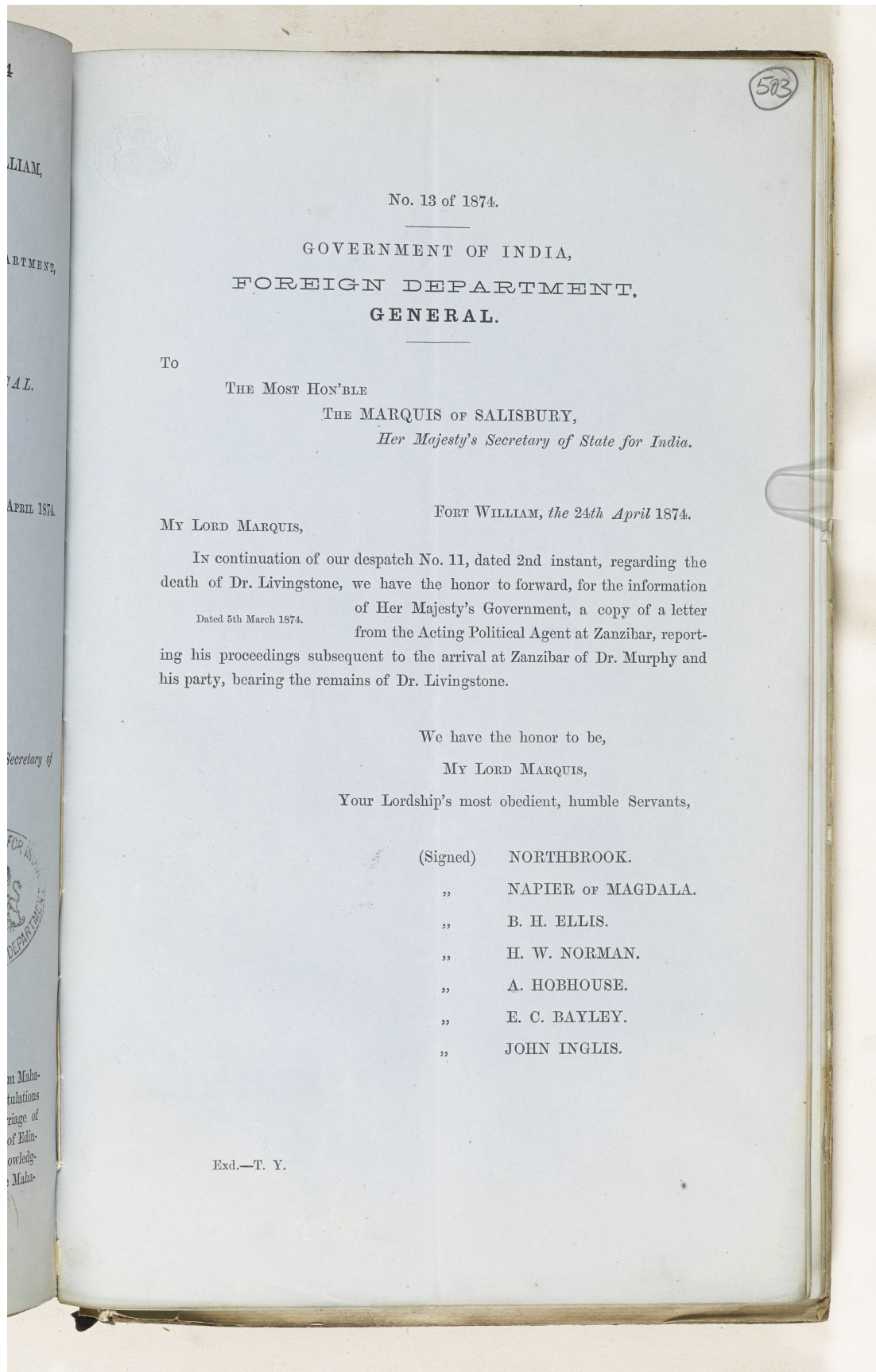
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/6/117, ff 503-507a
Date(s)	17 Apr 1874-16 May 1874 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (10 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



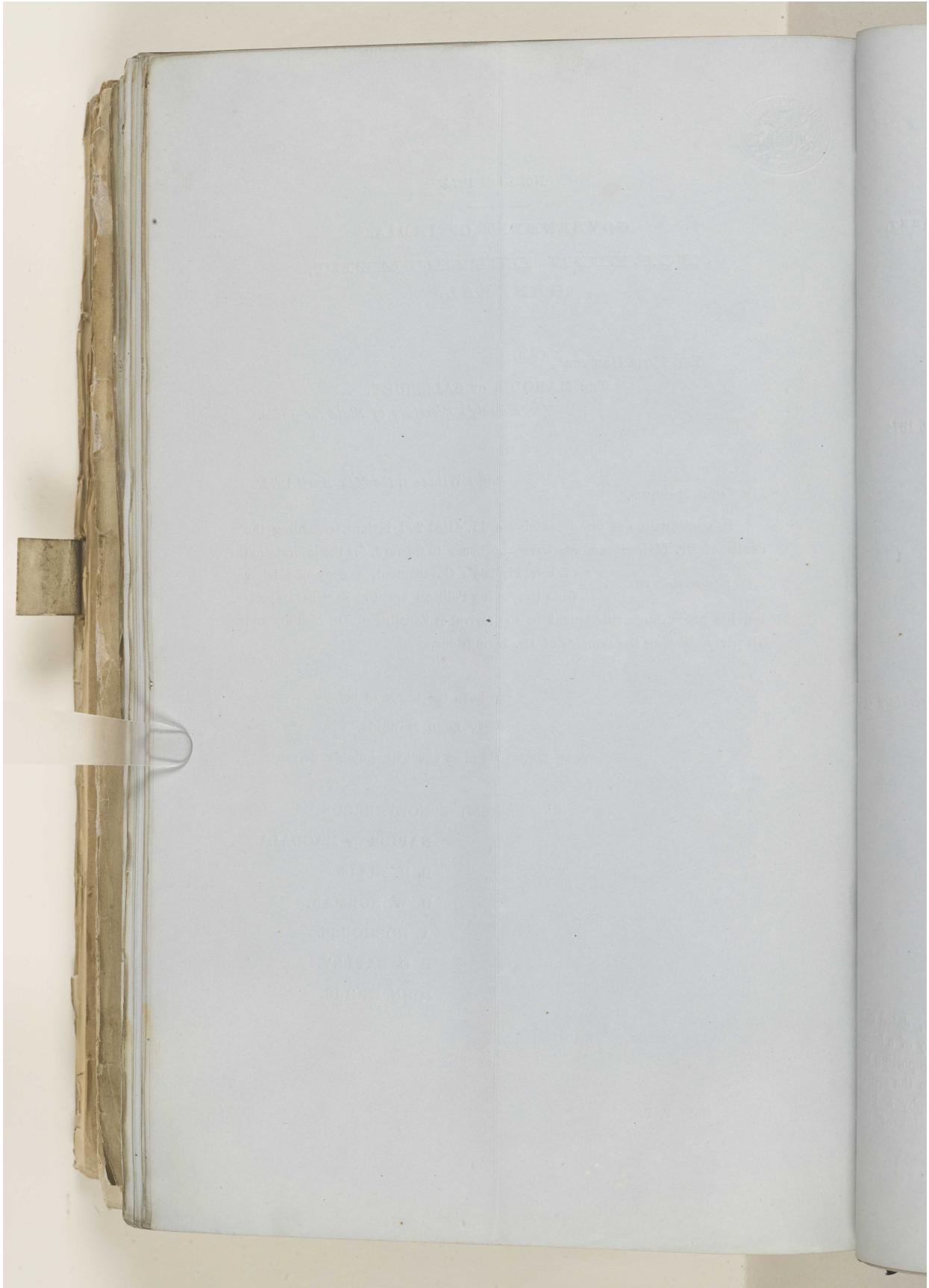
About this record

This item consists of copies of a General Despatch from the Government of India Foreign Department to the Secretary of State for India, dated 17 April 1874 and received via Brindisi on 18 May 1874, forwarding a copy of a letter from Captain William Francis Prideaux, Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, reporting his proceedings subsequent to the arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his party bearing the remains of Dr David Livingstone.

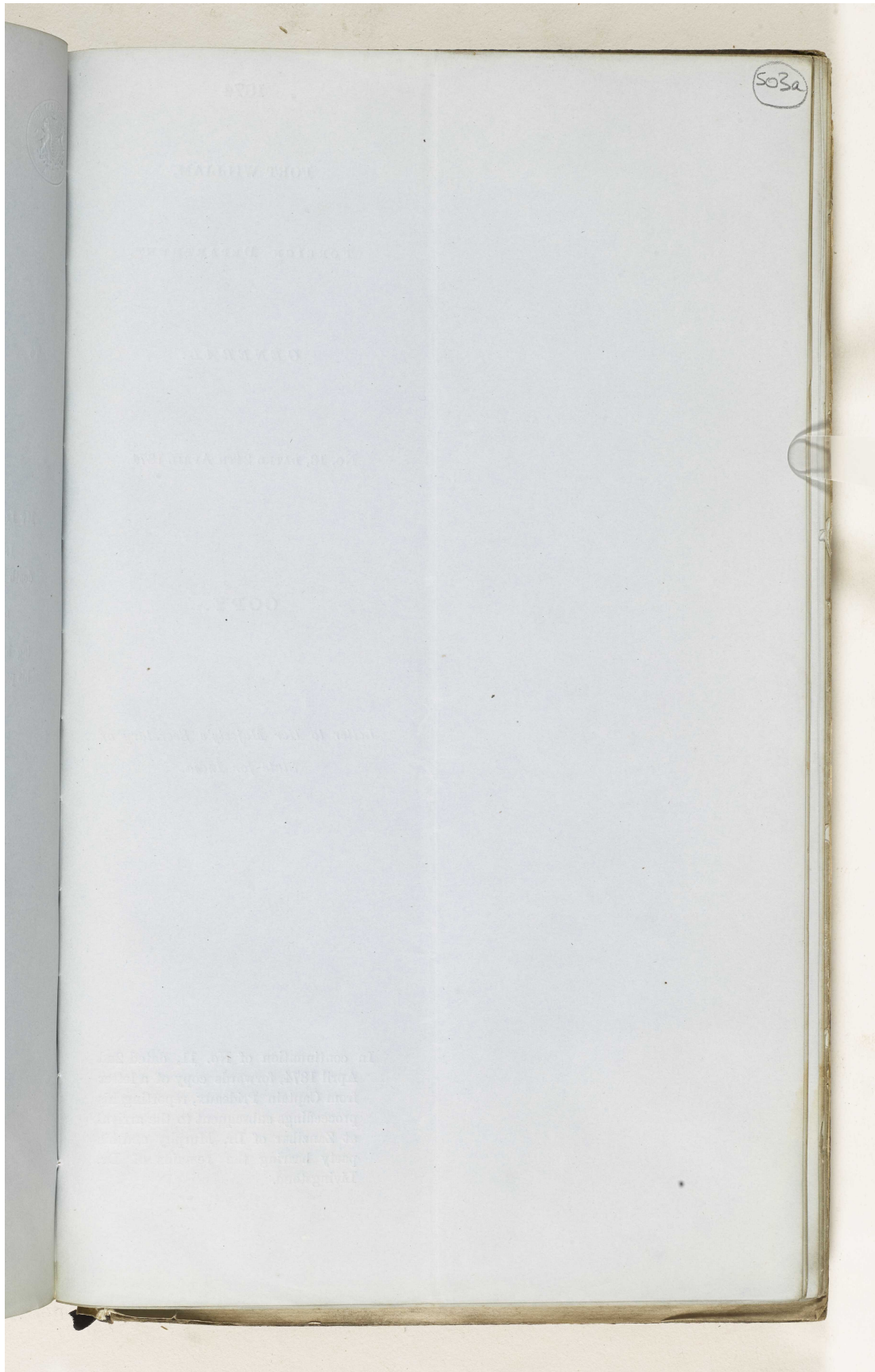
General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [503] (1/20)



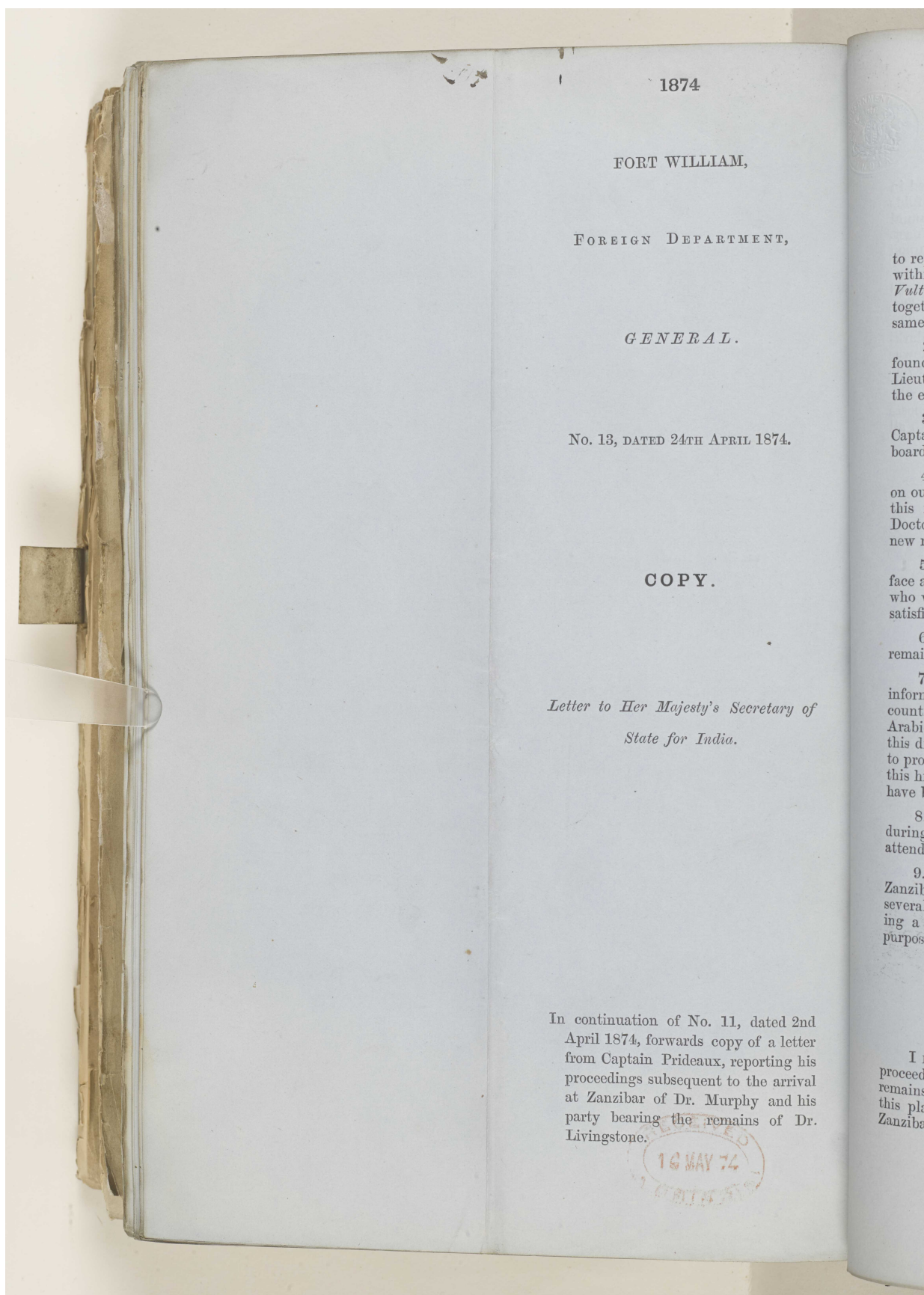
**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [503] (2/20)**



**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [503a] (3/20)**



**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [503a] (4/20)**



I
to rep
withi
Vultu
togeth
same
2
found
Lieute
the ev
3
Captai
board
4
on our
this n
Doctoi
new re
5
face ar
who w
satisfie
6
remain
7
inform
countr
Arabic
this dis
to proc
this his
have be
8
during
attenda
9
Zanzibe
several
ing a l
purpose

I H
proceede
remains,
this plac
Zanzibar

In continuation of No. 11, dated 2nd
April 1874, forwards copy of a letter
from Captain Prideaux, reporting his
proceedings subsequent to the arrival
at Zanzibar of Dr. Murphy and his
party bearing the remains of Dr.
Livingstone.

16 MAY 74

General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [504] (5/20)

504

No. 25, dated Zanzibar, 5th March 1874.

From—Her Majesty's Acting Political Agent and Consul-General, Zanzibar,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 21, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honor to report that on receiving intelligence that Lieutenant Murphy had arrived within a short distance of the Coast, Captain Brooke of Her Majesty's Ship *Vulture* was good enough to offer to convey across from Bagamayo that officer, together with the body and papers of the late Doctor Livingstone, and at the same time invited me to accompany him.

2. We arrived at Bagamayo in the afternoon of the 14th February, and found that the caravan had not yet reached that place. I sent a messenger to Lieutenant Murphy, and the whole party, after a forced march, arrived on the evening of the 15th.

3. A wooden shell was constructed during the night under the orders of Captain Brooke, all of whose arrangements for the reception of the body on board were most excellent.

4. As no leaden shell was procurable at Zanzibar, I gave orders immediately on our return for the construction of a zinc one and wooden outer coffin, and this morning the body, after being uncovered under the superintendence of Doctor Robb, whose report accompanies this despatch, was transferred to this new receptacle.

5. The features were scarcely recognizable, but there is no doubt as to the face and skull being those of a European of mature age. Doctor Christie also, who was personally acquainted with Doctor Livingstone, expressed himself as satisfied with respect to the identity of the corpse.

6. I am now anxiously awaiting instructions as to the disposal of the remains.

7. With regard to the exact locality of Doctor Livingstone's death, I am informed by the most intelligent of his servants that it took place in the country of Bisa (not Lobisa, as formerly reported by me on the authority of an Arabic letter) at the south-west corner of the Lake Bamba. Having arrived at this district from Ujiji, as detailed in his journals, it was the Doctor's intention to proceed in a north westerly direction to the country of Katanga. Beyond this his servants are entirely ignorant of his intended movements, although they have been carefully examined.

8. The exact spot in which he died will probably never be known, as during the last days of his life he was too ill to take any observations, and his attendants can only point it out in a general manner.

9. All his servants, including those sent by Mr. Stanley, crossed over to Zanzibar, and as they were entirely destitute, though large sums were due to several of them, I took upon myself the responsibility of paying them, drawing a bill upon the President of the Royal Geographical Society for that purpose.

No. 3, dated Zanzibar, 5th March 1874.

From—Civil Surgeon, Zanzibar,
To—Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that in compliance with your orders I proceeded this morning to open the package said to contain Dr. Livingstone's remains, in order to their identification, if possible, by Dr. Christie of this place, who is said to have been the last to see Dr. Livingstone alive at Zanzibar.

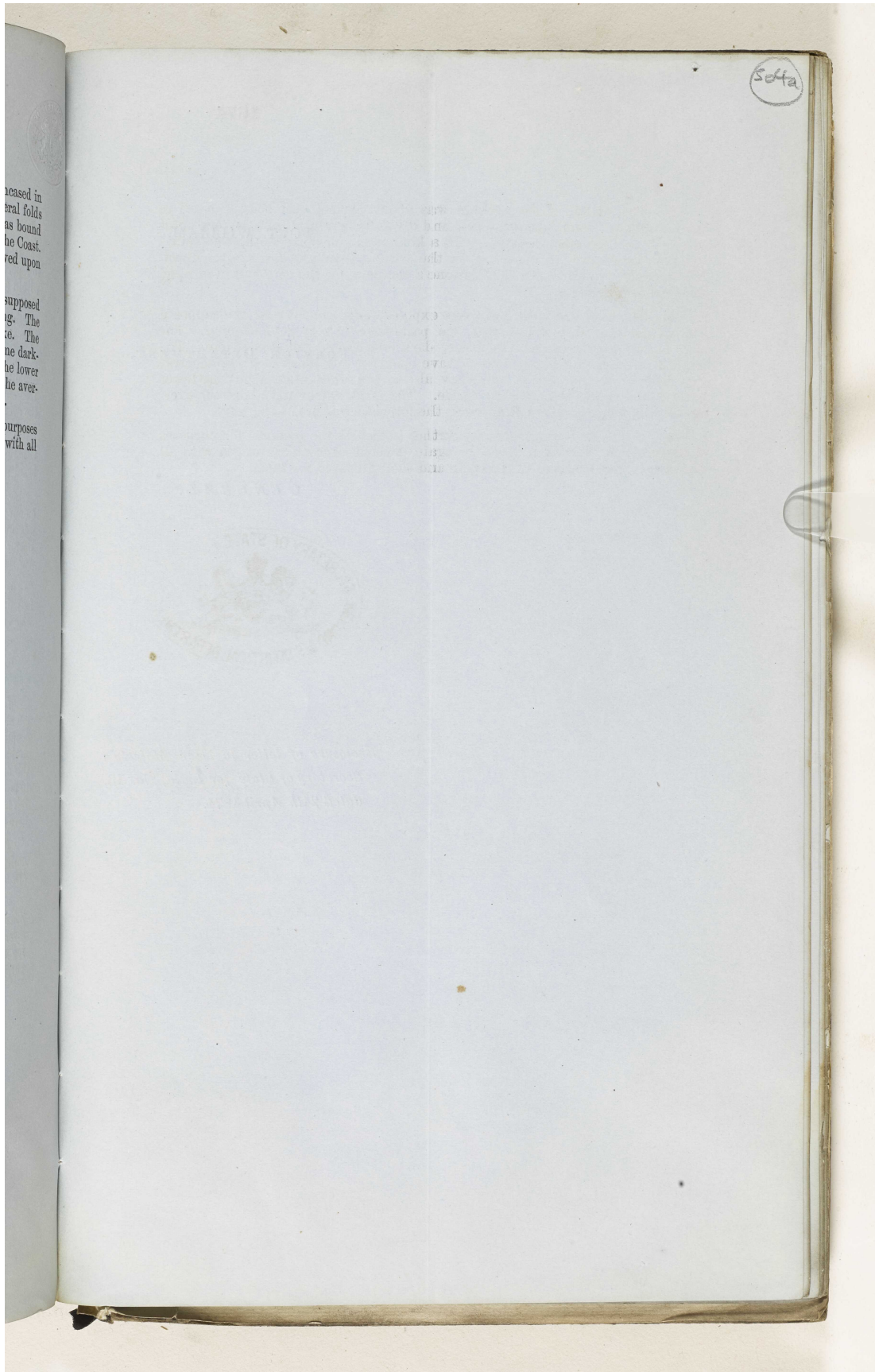
General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [504] (6/20)

2. The length of the package was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the body, encased in short lengths of some bark, was well and carefully wrapped up in several folds of cloth; and the whole, covered with a kind of rug or horse-cloth, was bound to a pole lengthways, in which fashion the body was brought down to the Coast. Much credit is due to Dr. Livingstone's servants for the care bestowed upon their master's remains.

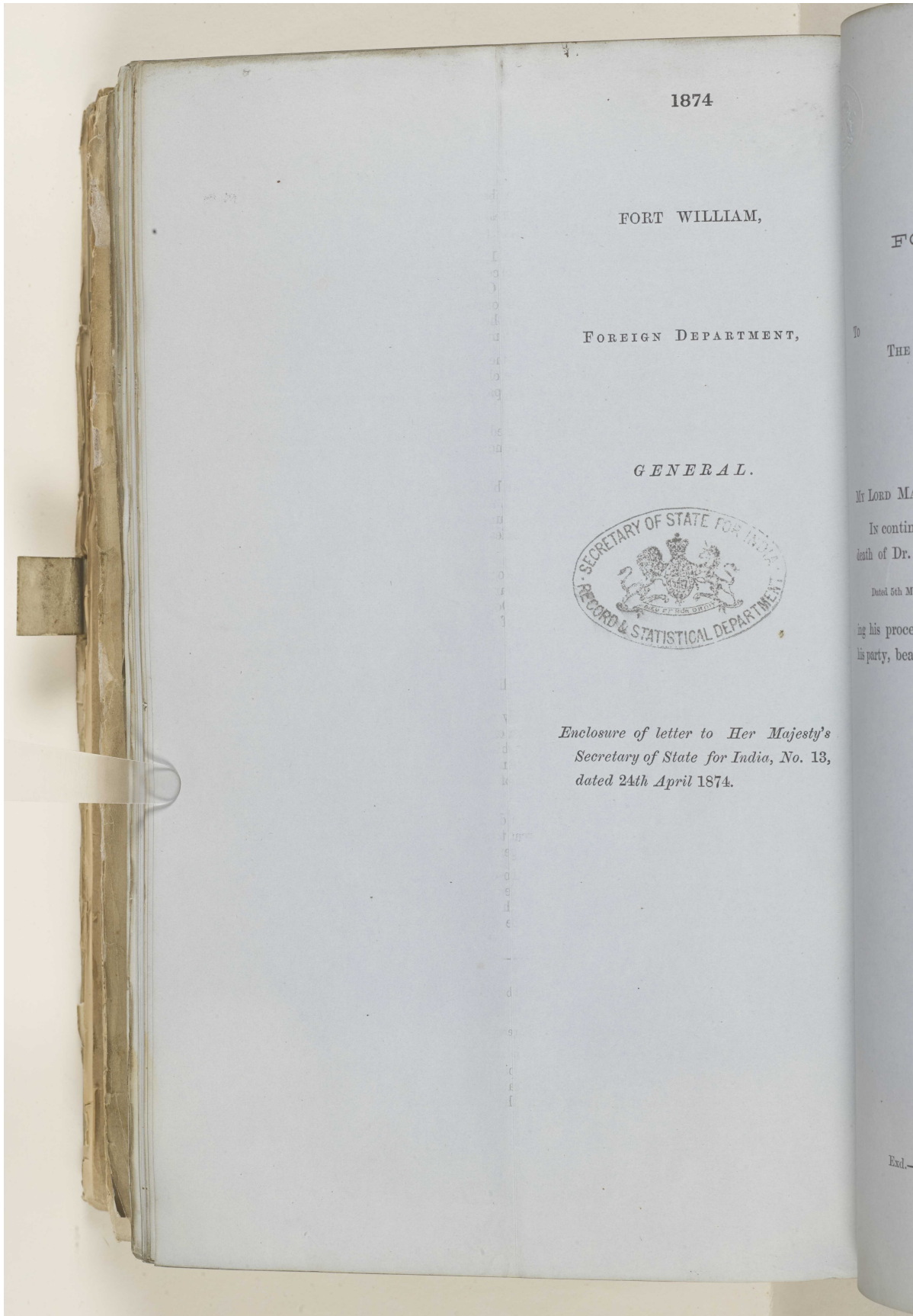
3. The head and neck only were exposed, and, considering the supposed time of death in May of last year, the parts were in very good keeping. The skin of the parts exposed was entire, dark brown, and parchment-like. The cheek bones were largish, and would have belonged to a broad face; some dark-grey hairs of the moustache, and a few also of the same colour about the lower parts of the cheeks were plainly visible. The head, apparently above the average in size, was that of an European; the forehead was broad and lofty.

4. It was deemed unnecessary further to disturb the remains for purposes of examination; they were therefore again covered over and arranged with all due respect, and enclosed in the coffin and shell prepared for them.

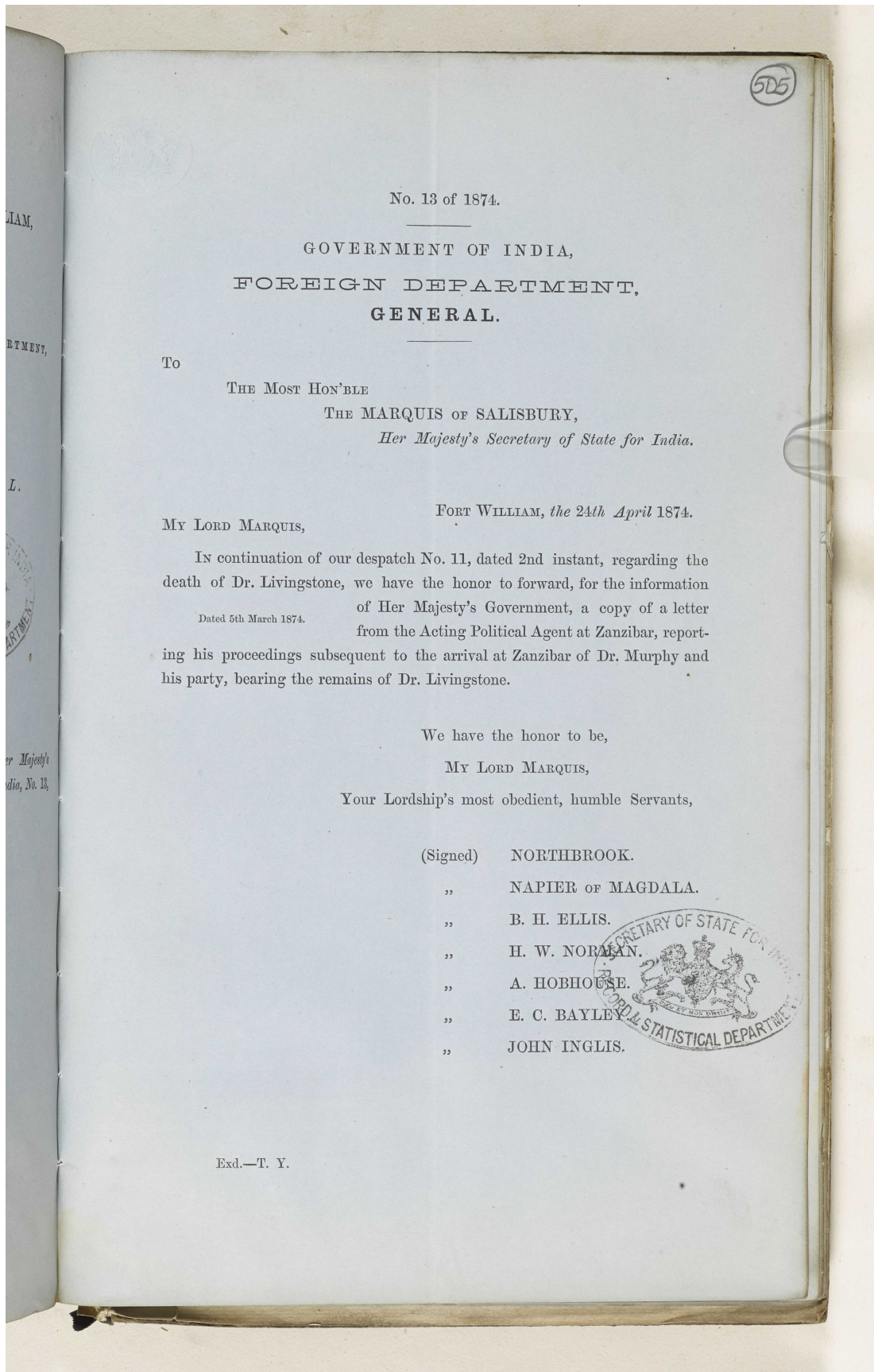
General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [504a] (7/20)



**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [504a] (8/20)**



General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [505] (9/20)



No. 13 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
GENERAL.

To

THE MOST HON'BLE
THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

FORT WILLIAM, *the 24th April 1874.*

MY LORD MARQUIS,

IN continuation of our despatch No. 11, dated 2nd instant, regarding the
death of Dr. Livingstone, we have the honor to forward, for the information

Dated 5th March 1874.
of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of a letter
from the Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, report-
ing his proceedings subsequent to the arrival at Zanzibar of Dr. Murphy and
his party, bearing the remains of Dr. Livingstone.

We have the honor to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servants,

(Signed) NORTHBROOK.

„ NAPIER OF MAGDALA.

„ B. H. ELLIS.

„ H. W. NORMAN.

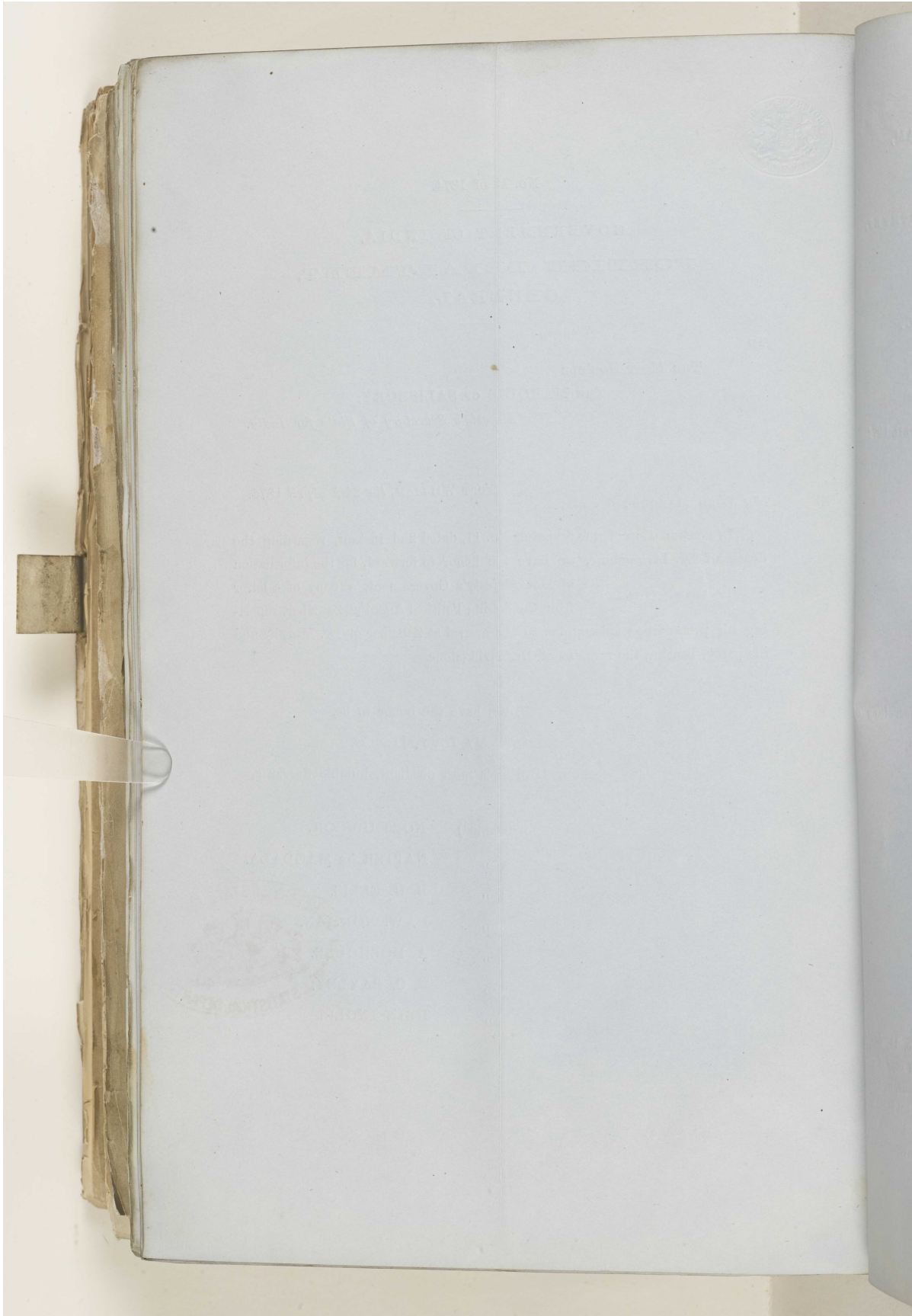
„ A. HOBHOUSE.

„ E. C. BAYLE.

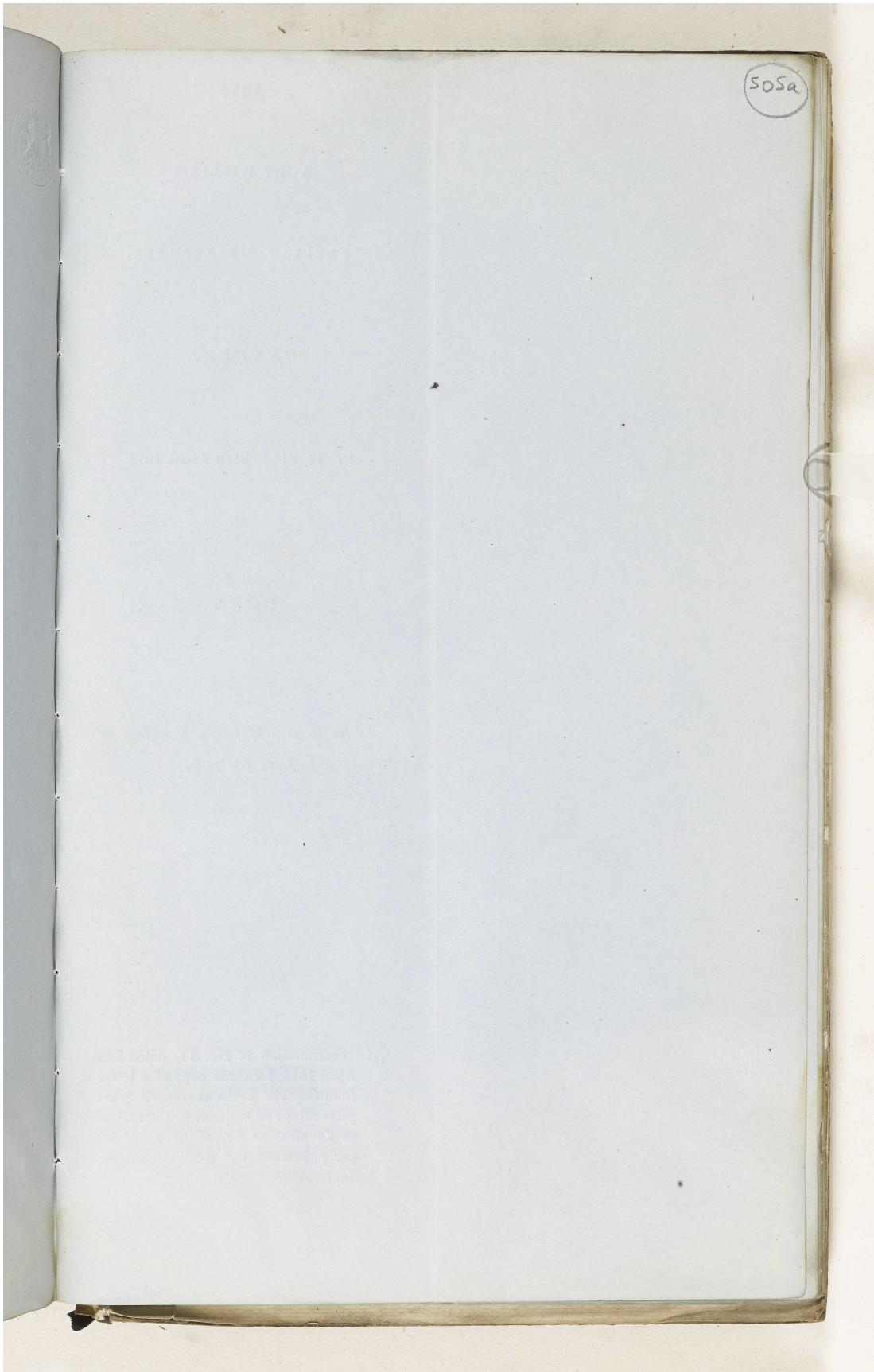
„ JOHN INGLIS.

Exd.—T. Y.

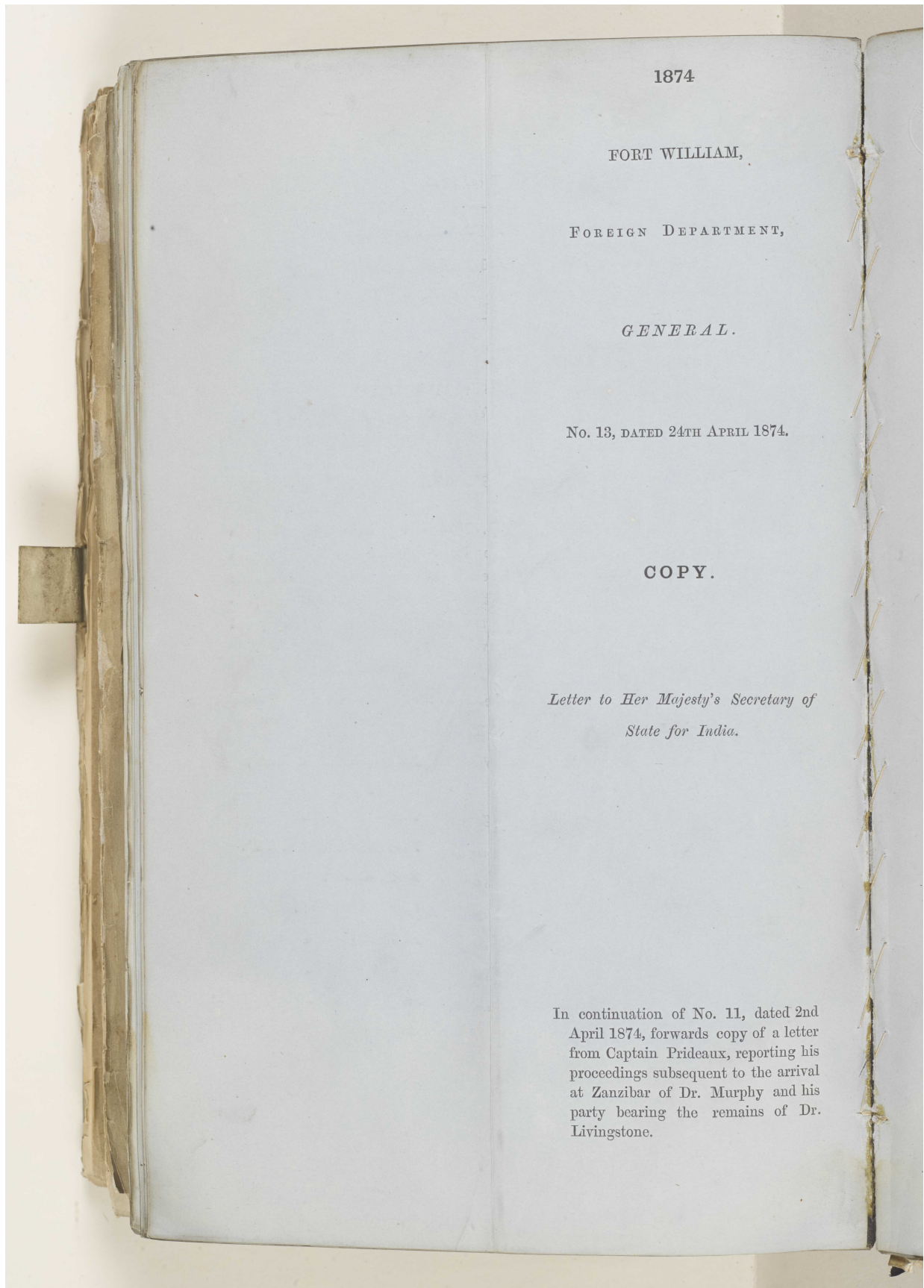
**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [505] (10/20)**



**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [505a] (11/20)**



General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [505a] (12/20)



General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [506] (13/20)

506

No. 25, dated Zanzibar, 5th March 1874.

From—Her Majesty's Acting Political Agent and Consul-General, Zanzibar,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

IN continuation of my letter No. 21, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honor to report that on receiving intelligence that Lieutenant Murphy had arrived within a short distance of the Coast, Captain Brooke of Her Majesty's Ship *Vulture* was good enough to offer to convey across from Bagamayo that officer, together with the body and papers of the late Doctor Livingstone, and at the same time invited me to accompany him.

2. We arrived at Bagamayo in the afternoon of the 14th February, and found that the caravan had not yet reached that place. I sent a messenger to Lieutenant Murphy, and the whole party, after a forced march, arrived on the evening of the 15th.

3. A wooden shell was constructed during the night under the orders of Captain Brooke, all of whose arrangements for the reception of the body on board were most excellent.

4. As no leaden shell was procurable at Zanzibar, I gave orders immediately on our return for the construction of a zinc one and wooden outer coffin, and this morning the body, after being uncovered under the superintendence of Doctor Robb, whose report accompanies this despatch, was transferred to this new receptacle.

5. The features were scarcely recognizable, but there is no doubt as to the face and skull being those of a European of mature age. Doctor Christie also, who was personally acquainted with Doctor Livingstone, expressed himself as satisfied with respect to the identity of the corpse.

6. I am now anxiously awaiting instructions as to the disposal of the remains.

7. With regard to the exact locality of Doctor Livingstone's death, I am informed by the most intelligent of his servants that it took place in the country of Bisa (not Lobisa, as formerly reported by me on the authority of an Arabic letter) at the south-west corner of the Lake Bamba. Having arrived at this district from Ujiji, as detailed in his journals, it was the Doctor's intention to proceed in a north westerly direction to the country of Katanga. Beyond this his servants are entirely ignorant of his intended movements, although they have been carefully examined.

8. The exact spot in which he died will probably never be known, as during the last days of his life he was too ill to take any observations, and his attendants can only point it out in a general manner.

9. All his servants, including those sent by Mr. Stanley, crossed over to Zanzibar, and as they were entirely destitute, though large sums were due to several of them, I took upon myself the responsibility of paying them, drawing a bill upon the President of the Royal Geographical Society for that purpose.

No. 3, dated Zanzibar, 5th March 1874.

From—Civil Surgeon, Zanzibar,
To—Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that in compliance with your orders I proceeded this morning to open the package said to contain Dr. Livingstone's remains, in order to their identification, if possible, by Dr. Christie of this place, who is said to have been the last to see Dr. Livingstone alive at Zanzibar.

1

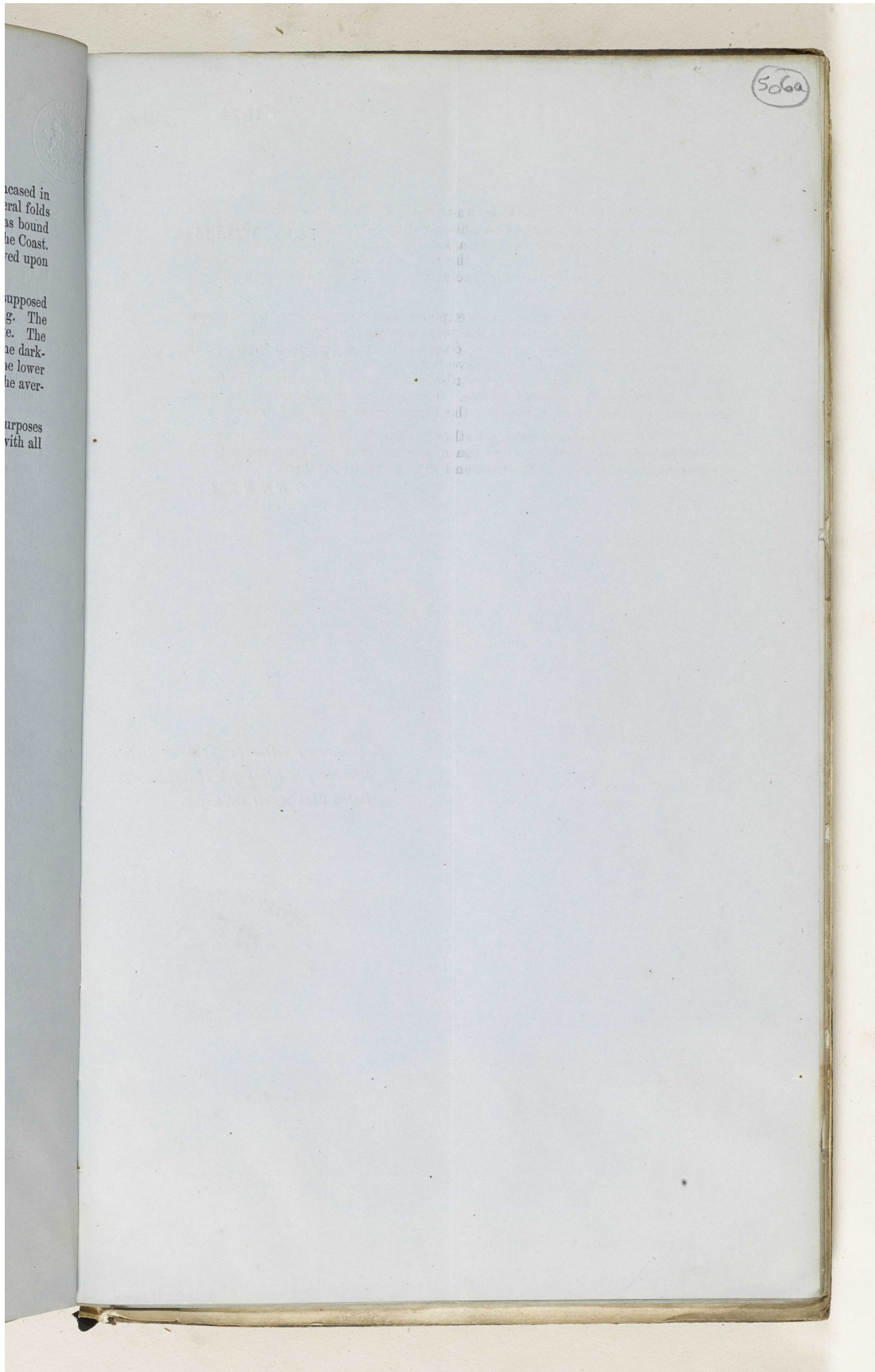
**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [506] (14/20)**

2. The length of the package was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the body, encased in short lengths of some bark, was well and carefully wrapped up in several folds of cloth; and the whole, covered with a kind of rug or horse-cloth, was bound to a pole lengthways, in which fashion the body was brought down to the Coast. Much credit is due to Dr. Livingstone's servants for the care bestowed upon their master's remains.

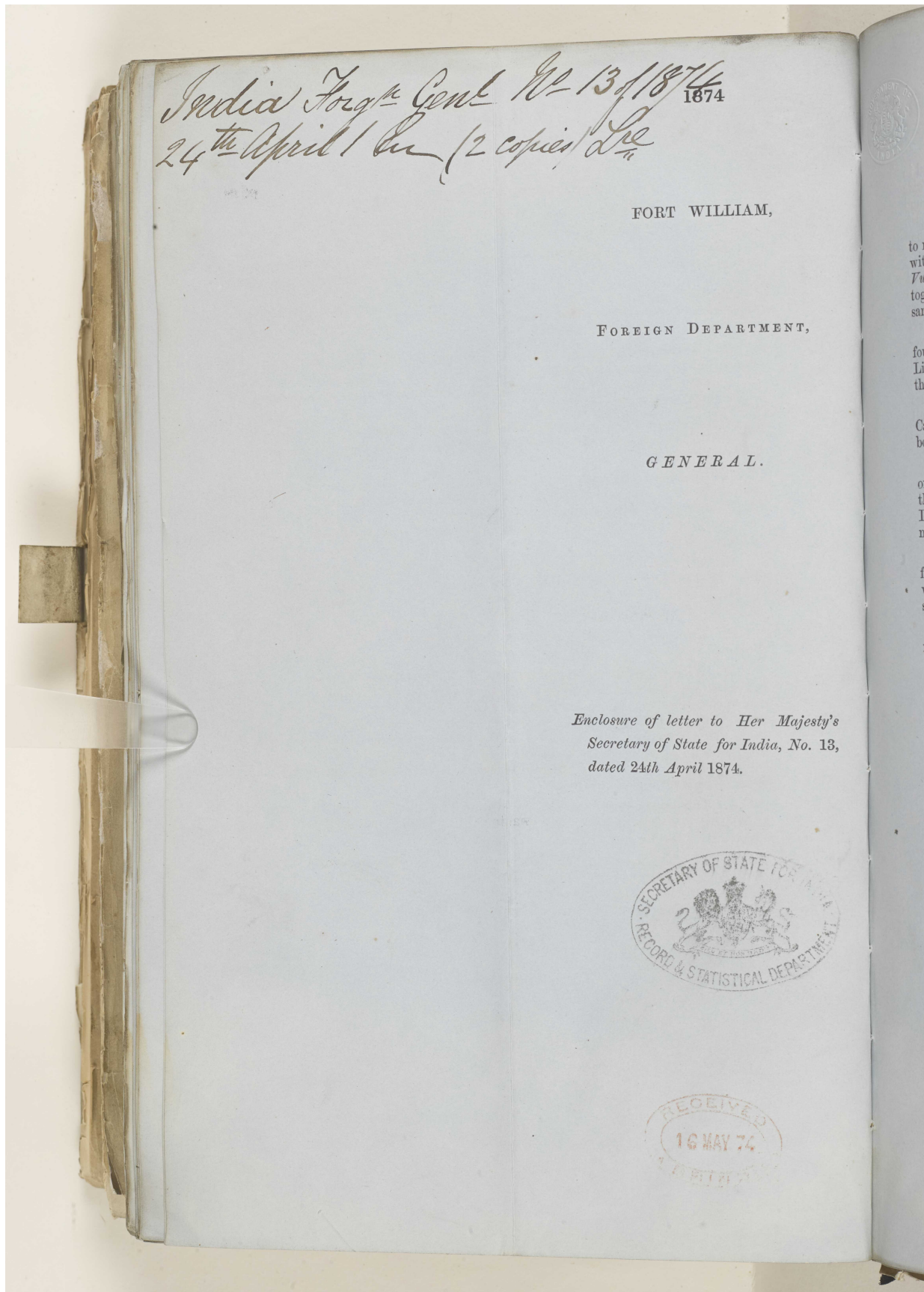
3. The head and neck only were exposed, and, considering the supposed time of death in May of last year, the parts were in very good keeping. The skin of the parts exposed was entire, dark brown, and parchment-like. The cheek bones were largish, and would have belonged to a broad face; some dark-grey hairs of the moustache, and a few also of the same colour about the lower parts of the cheeks were plainly visible. The head, apparently above the average in size, was that of an European; the forehead was broad and lofty.

4. It was deemed unnecessary further to disturb the remains for purposes of examination; they were therefore again covered over and arranged with all due respect, and enclosed in the coffin and shell prepared for them.

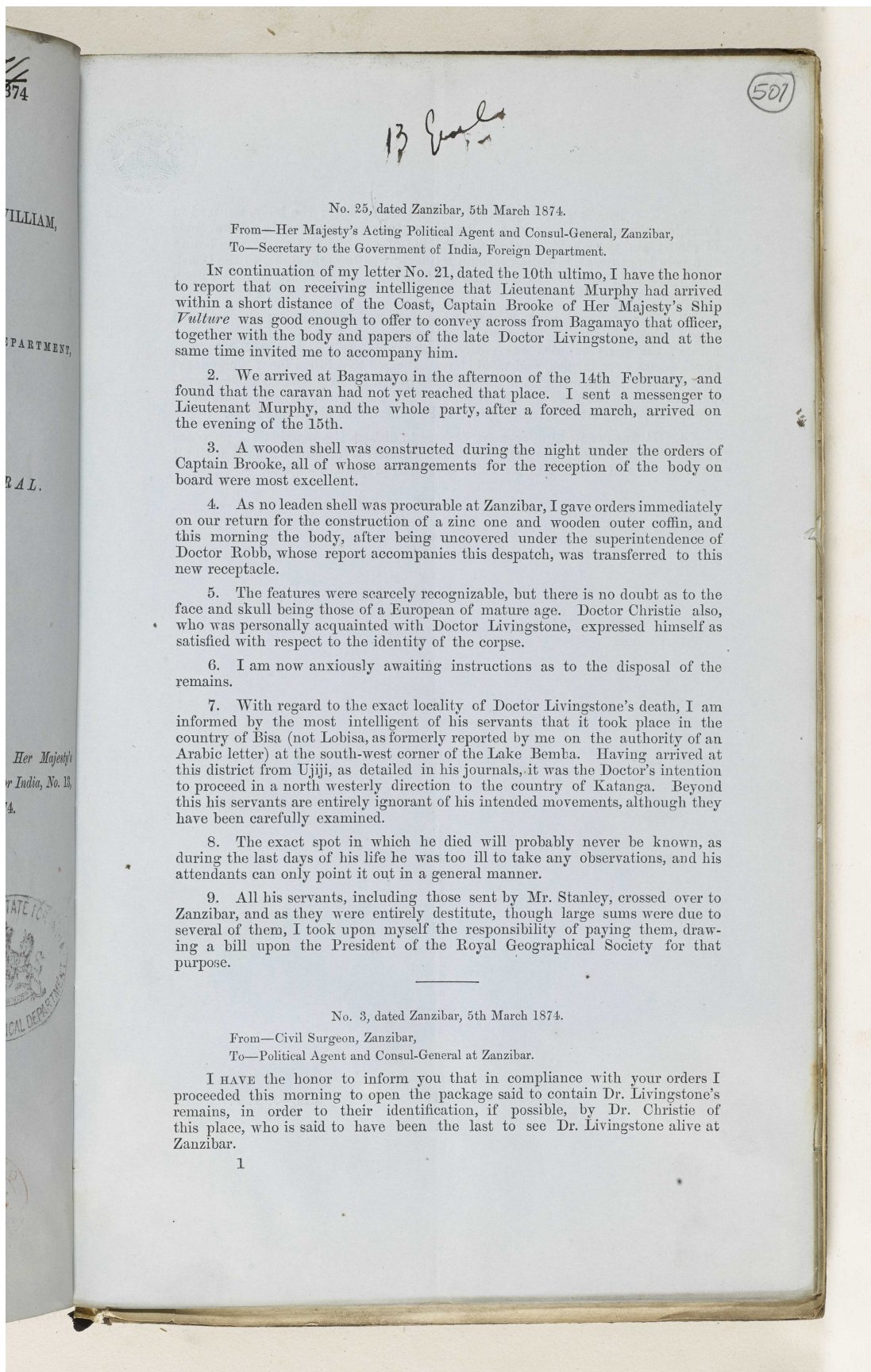
General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [506a] (15/20)



General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [506a] (16/20)



General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [507] (17/20)



No. 25, dated Zanzibar, 5th March 1874.

From—Her Majesty's Acting Political Agent and Consul-General, Zanzibar,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

IN continuation of my letter No. 21, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honor to report that on receiving intelligence that Lieutenant Murphy had arrived within a short distance of the Coast, Captain Brooke of Her Majesty's Ship *Vulture* was good enough to offer to convey across from Bagamayo that officer, together with the body and papers of the late Doctor Livingstone, and at the same time invited me to accompany him.

2. We arrived at Bagamayo in the afternoon of the 14th February, and found that the caravan had not yet reached that place. I sent a messenger to Lieutenant Murphy, and the whole party, after a forced march, arrived on the evening of the 15th.

3. A wooden shell was constructed during the night under the orders of Captain Brooke, all of whose arrangements for the reception of the body on board were most excellent.

4. As no leaden shell was procurable at Zanzibar, I gave orders immediately on our return for the construction of a zinc one and wooden outer coffin, and this morning the body, after being uncovered under the superintendence of Doctor Robb, whose report accompanies this despatch, was transferred to this new receptacle.

5. The features were scarcely recognizable, but there is no doubt as to the face and skull being those of a European of mature age. Doctor Christie also, who was personally acquainted with Doctor Livingstone, expressed himself as satisfied with respect to the identity of the corpse.

6. I am now anxiously awaiting instructions as to the disposal of the remains.

7. With regard to the exact locality of Doctor Livingstone's death, I am informed by the most intelligent of his servants that it took place in the country of Bisa (not Lobisa, as formerly reported by me on the authority of an Arabic letter) at the south-west corner of the Lake Bemba. Having arrived at this district from Ujiji, as detailed in his journals, it was the Doctor's intention to proceed in a north westerly direction to the country of Katanga. Beyond this his servants are entirely ignorant of his intended movements, although they have been carefully examined.

8. The exact spot in which he died will probably never be known, as during the last days of his life he was too ill to take any observations, and his attendants can only point it out in a general manner.

9. All his servants, including those sent by Mr. Stanley, crossed over to Zanzibar, and as they were entirely destitute, though large sums were due to several of them, I took upon myself the responsibility of paying them, drawing a bill upon the President of the Royal Geographical Society for that purpose.

No. 3, dated Zanzibar, 5th March 1874.

From—Civil Surgeon, Zanzibar,
To—Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that in compliance with your orders I proceeded this morning to open the package said to contain Dr. Livingstone's remains, in order to their identification, if possible, by Dr. Christie of this place, who is said to have been the last to see Dr. Livingstone alive at Zanzibar.

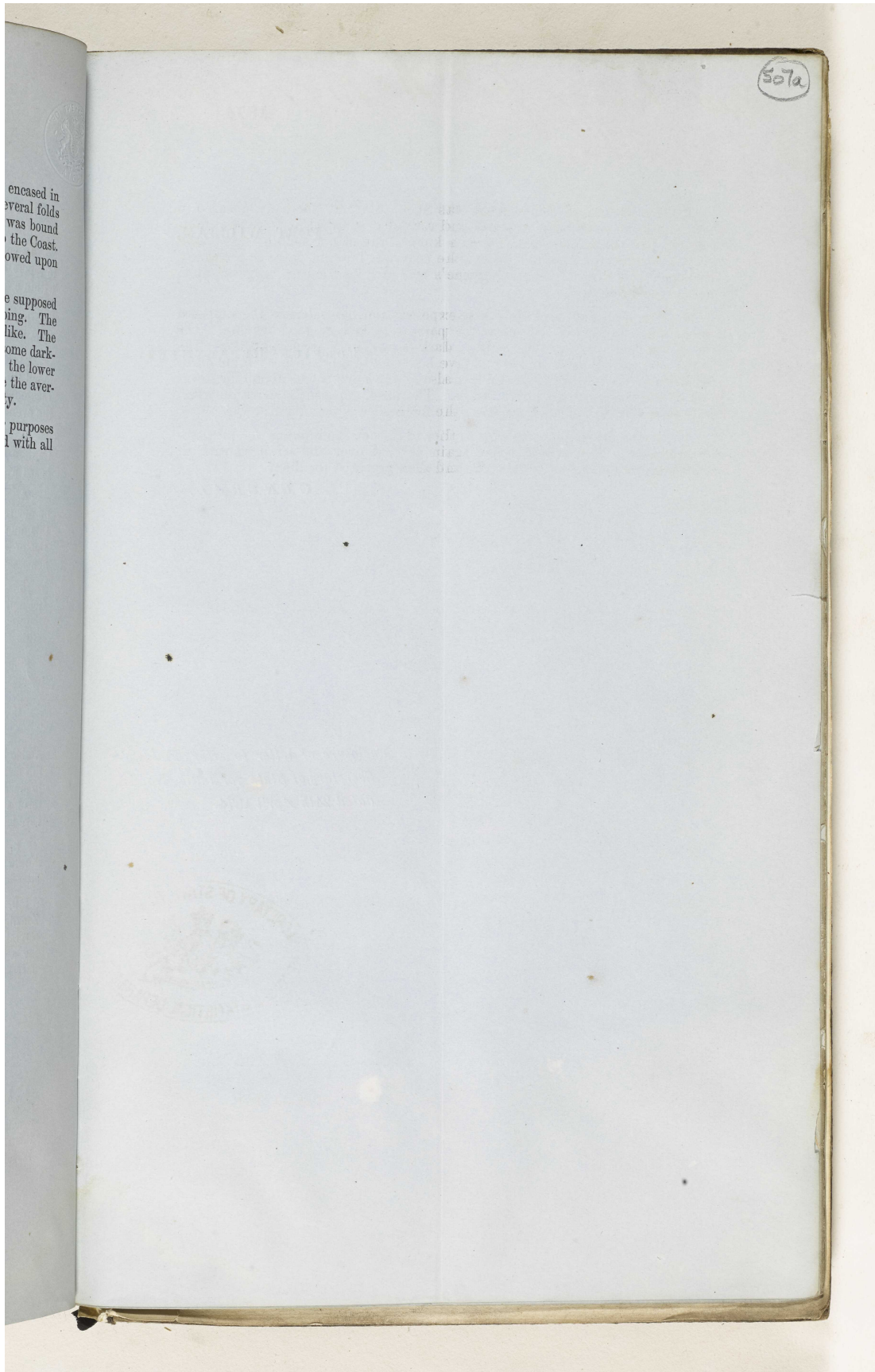
General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [507] (18/20)

2. The length of the package was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the body, encased in short lengths of some bark, was well and carefully wrapped up in several folds of cloth; and the whole, covered with a kind of rug or horse-cloth, was bound to a pole lengthways, in which fashion the body was brought down to the Coast. Much credit is due to Dr. Livingstone's servants for the care bestowed upon their master's remains.

3. The head and neck only were exposed, and, considering the supposed time of death in May of last year, the parts were in very good keeping. The skin of the parts exposed was entire, dark brown, and parchment-like. The cheek bones were largish, and would have belonged to a broad face; some dark-grey hairs of the moustache, and a few also of the same colour about the lower parts of the cheeks were plainly visible. The head, apparently above the average in size, was that of an European; the forehead was broad and lofty.

4. It was deemed unnecessary further to disturb the remains for purposes of examination; they were therefore again covered over and arranged with all due respect, and enclosed in the coffin and shell prepared for them.

**General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [507a] (19/20)**



General No. 13 of 1874, Forwarding a Copy of a Letter from Captain Prideaux,
Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, Reporting his Proceedings Subsequent to the
Arrival at Zanzibar of Dr Murphy and his Party Bearing the Remains of Dr
Livingstone [507a] (20/20)

