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‘Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship “Centaur” of Calcutta, lost near-’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (28 folios)
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About this record

The item consists of copies and extracts of correspondence and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, a Political Letter from the Government of Bombay to the East India Company Court of Directors, 2 October 1852, and found at IOR/F/4/2504/142185. It is the third in a series of sixteen items about the Persian Gulf.

The item relates to investigations into the plunder of the *Centaur*, a merchant vessel under British protection, at Al Khabba [Ra's al Khabbah, also rendered in text as Alkhabba]. As the vessel was carrying the entire season's worth of indigo, particular attention is given to the location and retrieval of this stolen material. The Government of Bombay receives reports:

- From Captain Arnold Burrowes Kemball, Resident in the Persian Gulf, regarding ports where indigo has been imported and the actions he has taken to retrieve the cargo
- From Captain Atkins Hamerton, HM Consul and Company Agent in the dominions of the Imaum of Maskat [Imām of Muscat], regarding the actions taken by himself and the Imaum, Saeid Saeid [Sayyid Sa'īd bin Sulṭān Āl Bū Sa'īd], amid reports that the principal perpetrators were people of the Beni boo Ali [Banī Bū 'Alī] of Jalan
- From Kojah Heskial bin Eusoph [Khawājah Ḥizqīl bin Yūsuf], Native Agent at Muscat, regarding the results of his enquiries at Soor [Sur] where he was assisted by the Imaum's nephew, Saied Hamed

bin Salem bin Sultan [Sayyid Ḥamad bin Sālim Āl Bū Saʿīd].

All reports contain details of the numerous rumoured perpetrators. Hamerton's report also contains details of political sensitivities surrounding the investigations, including an agreement drawn up between himself and the Imaum (folios 1122-1123).

Additionally, the item includes correspondence from parties invested in the retrieval of the cargo: W[illiam?] F[rederick?] Fergusson, Secretary, Insurance General Committee of Calcutta; and Hajee Mahomed Hashim Namajee [Ḥājī Muḥammad Hāshim Namājī] and Hajee Mahomed Kurrim Namajee [Ḥājī Muḥammad Karīm Namājī], Persian [Iranian] merchants based in Bombay [Mumbai].

The title page of the item contains the following references: 'Bombay Political Department', 'Draft No. 350 of 1853', 'Collection No. 1 of No. 92', 'Vol: 3', and 'Examiner's Office'.

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1103r] (1/56)

142187
D/4/350-1852

Collection No. 1 of No. 92.
Vol. 3
Bombay

Political Department.

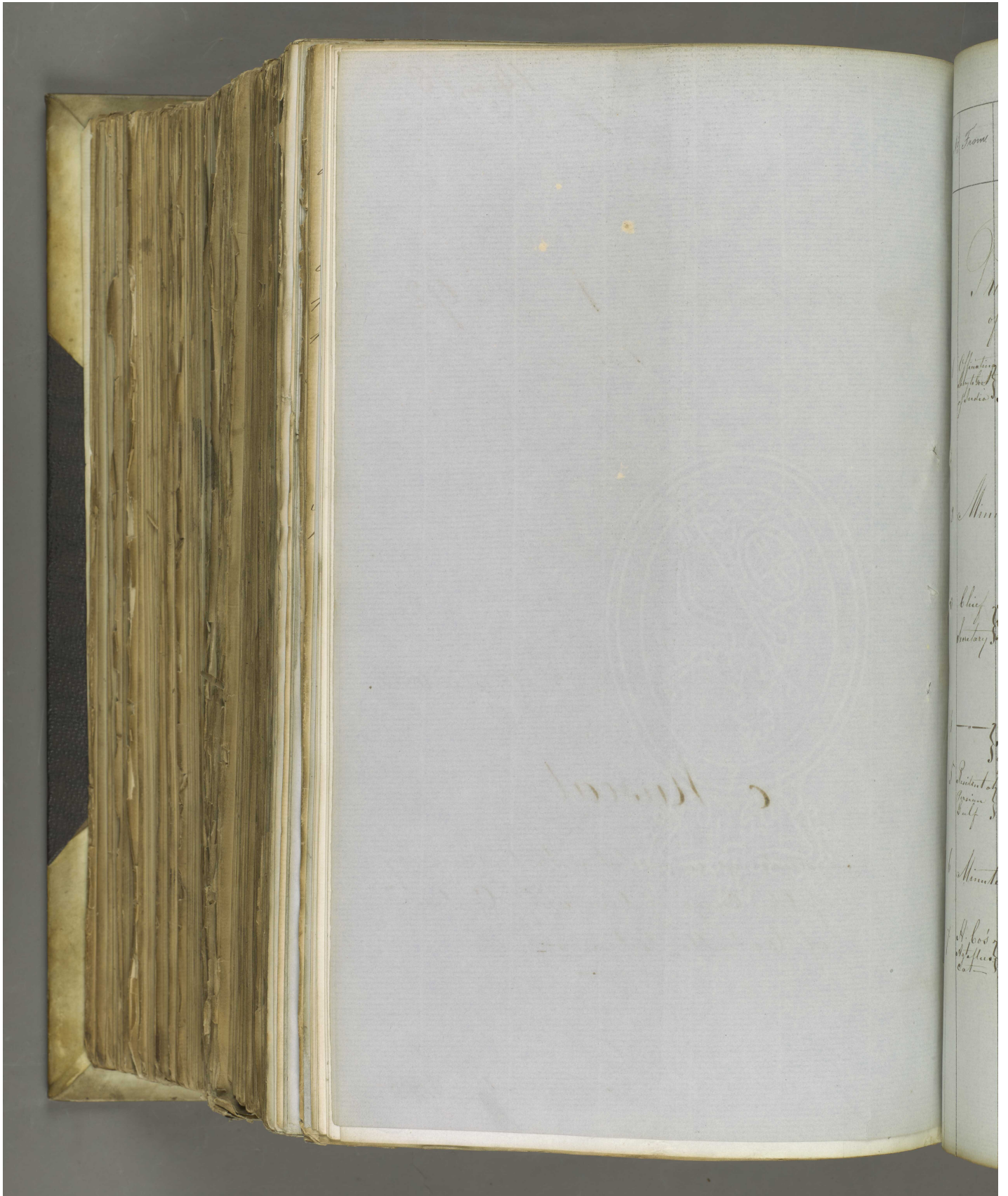
Letter from, dated 2^d October 1852.

Muscat.

Proceedings connected with the recovery
of the Cargo of the Ship "Centaur"
of Calcutta, lost near—

Examiner's Office
(1103)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1103v] (2/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1104r] (3/56)

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No.	From	To	Subject	Date & No of Docum.	Date & No of Cons.
<u>Muscat</u>					
Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship "Centaur" of Calcutta lost near-					
1	Officiating Chief Secretary of India	Secretary	Transmitting copy of a letter from the Secretary Insurance Genl Committee at Calcutta relative to the property plundered from the "Centaur"	1852	1852
2	Minute by the Right Honble the Governor		concerned in by the Honble M ^{rs} Blane and Sell	21 July	Augt.
3	Chief Secretary	Honble Secretary	Forwarding an Extract from the letter of the Secretary Insurance Genl Committee for explanation & Remarks	11 Augt.	
4	Officiating Chief Secretary of India		Informing him of the proceedings adopted	16 2596	" "
5	President of the Board	Chief Secretary	Reporting measures adopted for the recovery of some portions of the plundered Cargo of the "Centaur"	15 118 2597	" "
6	Minute by the Honble. M ^{rs} Blane		concerned in by the Honble Board	15 265	15 th Sept. 2597
7	H. C. of India	Chief Secretary	Reporting all information obtained relative to the plunder of the Cargo of the "Centaur" by forwarding a report from the Native Agent and copy of a statement drawn up by himself	15 Sept. 2597	15 th Sept. 2597
			Minute	27 Augt. 2597	" "

(1104)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1104v] (4/56)

No.	From	To	Subject	Date & No. of Docum.	Date & No. of Cons.
8	Minute by the Right Honble the Governor			1852 no date	1852
9	Honble Chief Secretary		Reporting the manner in which the Ship Centaur & her Cargo were disposed of by Sheikh Mohammed of the Bishoo Ali of Salan.	18 Sept. 1852	15 Sept. 1852
10	Minute by the Right Honble the Governor			no date	
11	Petition from Hajee Mohammed Hassan, Hajee Mohammed Hussain, Hajee Mohammed Hussain, Hajee Mohammed Hussain		Request to be considered & minute for compensation for losses sustained by the plunder of the "Centaur & Banga" by coolies.	27 July 1852	11 July 1852
12	Minute by the Honble Mr. Wilson		concerned in by the Honble Mr. Wilson	3 Aug. 1852	11 July 1852
13	Chief Secretary		Transmitting copies of the Secretary of India about 2 letters from Major Sturton, and of 1 from the Resident Persian Gulf, with their enclosures, & of the above petition from two Persian Merchants to the Honble Mr. Wilson.	15 Sept. 1852	15 Sept. 1852
14	Reply to the above petition from two Persian Merchants		Informing them that copy of their petition has been sent to Calcutta for submission to the Most Noble the Governor General in Council.	15 Sept. 1852	15 Sept. 1852

Bombay Castle
2^d October 1852
copy by Mr. Brant
Chief Secretary

W. W. W. W.
Chief Secretary

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1105r] (5/56)

Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 25th August 1852.

M. N. 2455.

From: The Officiating Under Secretary to Govt. of India.

To: The Chief Secretary to Government. Bombay

Foreign Department Dated Fort William the 20th July 1852

Sir,

In continuation of the letter dated 2nd Instant N. 2228, I am directed to transmit for the consideration of the Right Honble the Governor in Council the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary Insurance General Committee at Calcutta regarding the property plundered from the "Centaur".

Dated 12 July

Fort William
The 20th July 1852

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) W. Cotton Kerr.

Offy Under Secy to Govt of India

[Copy] Calcutta 12th July 1852.

Charles Allen Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

I am directed by the Insurance General Committee on behalf of the Underwriters and others concerned in the Ship "Centaur" to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd Instant, and to express their thanks to the Most Noble the Governor General in Council for the measures he has ordered to be adopted for the recovery of the property plundered from the "Centaur", on the

Coast

(1105)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1105v] (6/56)

Coast of Arabia, and which if followed up without delay, may, they hope, be successful.

The parties concerned will of course be prepared immediately to pay salvage on Indigo or other property recovered.

The Committee trust that His Lordship the Governor General in Council will remark on the conduct of the Gentlemen holding the Office of the Honble. Company's Agent and Her Majesty's Consul at Muscat, who himself states, that within 120 Miles of him, British property in the hands of Plunderers, of the value of nearly to one hundred thousand Pounds was selling for less than five per cent of its value and yet never made an effort to recover a chest.

The Committee would consider that under such circumstances it was the duty of a British Consul and of the Agent of the Honble East India Company to make every attempt to redeem the property. And should the Most Noble the Governor General in Council coincide in this opinion, they trust that instructions will be given to prevent for the future such neglect, and abandonment of the interests of the Merchants and Underwriters, as appears to have occurred in the present instance -

I have the honor to be very

Signed/ W. J. Ferguison

Secy Insurance Comttee

True Copy/
Signed/ W. Selvon Kerr.

Offy Under Secy to Govt of India.

Minute

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1106r] (7/56)

N^o 2 3
Minute by the Right Honble the Governor, concurred
in by the Honble Messrs Blane and Bell, dated 11th
August 1852.

1. Paras. 3 and 4 of Mr Ferguson's letter, should
be communicated to Major Harnerton for his remarks
and explanations.

2. The Government of India to be informed -
/Signed/ Falkland
11th August 1852 } -- D. A. Blane
-- A. Bell

N^o 3. N^o 3596 of 1852
From, A. Malet, Esquire, Political Department -
To, Chief Secretary to Government - Bombay -
Major A. Harnerton.

Her Majesty's Consul and the Honble Co's Agent in the
dominions of H. H. the Imam of Muscat.
Dated 19th August 1852.

Sir,
In continuation of my letter N^o 3159 dated the
17th Ultimo, relative to the wreck and plunder of the British
Ship "Centaur" on the Coast of Arabia, I am directed by the
Right Honble the Governor in Council to forward to you,
for your remarks and explanations, an extract from a
letter from the Secretary Insurance General Committee at
Calcutta to the address of the Secretary to the Government of
India, dated the 12th Idem.

Bombay Castle }
19th August 1852 }

I have the honor to be &c
/Signed/ A. Malet
Chief Secretary
Office

(1106)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1106v] (8/56)

Office No 9597. No 103 of 1852.
Political Department.
From, A Malet Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government Bombay.
To, W. Seton Karr, Esquire,
Off^r Under Secy to Govt of India -
Fort William

Dated the 19th August 1852

Sir,
I am directed by the Right Honble the
Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter No 2455 dated the 20th Ultimo, on the subject
of the wreck and plunder of the British Ship "Centaur"
and to inform you, for submission to the Most Noble
the Governor General of India in Council, that an extract
paras. 3 & 4 from the letter from the Secretary Insurance
General Committee, therewith forwarded, has been trans-
mitted to Major Munro, Hon^{ble} Mr Consul and the
Hon^{ble} Company's Agent in the Dominions of His High-
ness the Imam of Muscat for his remarks and explanations.

I have the honor to be &c

Bombay Castle }
19th August 1852 }

/Signed/ A Malet
Chief Secretary

Copies by Malet
Curran
M. Malet

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1107r] (9/56)

Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 15 September 1852

N^o 5

Office N^o 265 of 1852.
Cons. N^o 52 of 1852.

N^o 7277

From

To

Captain A. B. Kemball
Resident in the Persian Gulf.
A. Mallet Esquire.

Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay.
Residency in the Persian Gulf.

Political Department - Bushire 17th August 1852.

Sir

In reply to your instruction under date 17th July last N^o 3160 in this Department giving cover to correspondence on the subject of the wreck of the British Merchant vessel "Centaur" near Rasul Audd. I have the honor to state for the information of the Right Honble the Governor in Council that as the only mode which appeared practicable from this quarter of carrying into execution the orders therein conveyed to the effect that my utmost endeavours should be directed to recover any portion of the plundered cargo of that ill-fated vessel which might come within my knowledge I have addressed Requisitions to the several Chiefs on the Arabian coast and have obtained orders of similar purport from the Prince Governor of Iars to the Persian Authorities on the opposite shores intimating to each the expectation of the British Government that he will seize and detain for eventual restitution to its owners any consignments of Indigo which may be brought this year to his territories and which from the circumstances of this commodity being imported only to the Persian Gulf from

Buzgal

(1107)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1107v] (10/56)

Bengal while the "Centaur" was freighted with the whole supply of the season could be easily traced & identified as the property of the Under writers who insured her Cargo from Calcutta -

2. These documents (being Duplicates of the former of which the originals have been already transmitted) I now forward to their destinations by the A. C. Steam Frigate "Dun" accompanied with intimations to our Agents at Singah and Shargah to be on the watch for importations of Indigo within the limits of their surveillance respectively & if any should be effected to take steps through the medium of the local Authorities to ensure its seizure -

3. On the previous passage of the "Dun" on her way to Bussorah I had addressed an instruction to the above effect to the Acting Agent at that Port & as this document embodies the substance of the Communications subsequently made by me to the Governor of Sars and to the Independent Arabian Chief, beg herewith to submit a copy for the information of Government.

4. Although the steps now detailed have been taken with all the promptitude of which circumstances would admit preceded by a Requisition upon Sheikh Sultan ben Suggur the Joasnee Chief as already reported for the restitution of a quantity of Indigo which is alleged to have been removed from the wreck of the "Centaur" by a vessel belonging to Busel Whymah on her return home from Razzibar I must still express my conviction that no material benefit may be expected to result therefrom - However conflicting otherwise the reports which have reached me from various quarters upon none of which perhaps implicit reliance can be placed all seem to combine to certify the facts that a portion only of the cargo of the "Centaur" amounting -

23/10/56
Dun
HISLIRBY

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1108r] (11/56)

Amounting to not more than one half was conveyed to the shore by the plunderers in consequence of the vessel having gone to pieces or being burnt before the rest could be landed & that of such portion the better Piece Goods and other general Merchandise being immediately apportioned to individuals were so scattered and dissipated in the interior as to be no longer tangible. With regard to the Indigo Major Hamerton in his report to Government intimates that the Chests on being landed were broken up on the beach as being too heavy in the bulk to be transported by Camels and in such a state in whatever way it may have been disposed of its discovery or detection afterwards would seem to be morally impossible.

5. The same officer however in a private communication to my address of a subsequent date having mentioned rumours of a quantity of this Article having found its way to Pussulhymah Lingah and even to Mussoorah I venture to think I have adopted the measures best calculated to carry out the wishes of Government with a view to its recovery. I have the honor to be &c.

Residency in the Persian Gulf, / Signed A. B. Kemball
Bushire 17th Augt 1835. / Resident in the Persian Gulf

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Read by all the
Officers
at the field

(1108)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1108v] (12/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1109] (13/56)

No 241 of 1852. 9

From,
To, Captain A. B. Kemball
Resident in the Persian Gulf
J. G. Taylor Esquire,
Her Majesty's Vice Consul & Honble
Company's Agent, or Clerk in charge.
Bussorah.
Residency in the Persian Gulf
Sir, Bussorah 31st July 1852.

In anticipation of orders which in all probability will be presently communicated to you from Bagdad, I have to instruct you after the receipt of this letter to keep a careful watch upon importation of Indigo which may be effected this season into the Port of Bussorah & I desire in the event of any such importations coming to your knowledge that you will immediately place yourself in communication with the local Government with the view of inducing it to seize the consignments & to place them in safe custody until a reference can be made to the Superior British & Turkish Authorities at Bagdad regarding their disposal.

2. The motive of this procedure is to be laid to the circumstances of the wreck of the British Merchant vessel "Centaur" laden principally with the commodity above mentioned and bound from Calcutta to the Persian Gulf, on the Coast of Batimah, and the subsequent plunder of her cargo by the lawless Arab tribes inhabiting those shores. the details of which doubts have already reached you thro' the medium of common report.

3. Should the occasion then arise for your making an appeal to the Governor of Bussorah you will be good enough

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1109v] (14/56)

enough to explain to that Functionary that the Persian Gulf receives Indigo from no other part of the world except Bengal & the Cargo of the "Centaur" comprised the whole supply of the season - It is therefore certain that whatever Indigo is this year imported into Bussorah or other Ports on the River Euphrates is stolen property & can be traced & identified as belonging to the Underwriters British Subjects, who insured it from India Being an Article nearly indestructible of little or no use in the barbarous Country into which it has been cast, the plunderers who have got possession of it must bring it to other Ports for sale where it would be the duty of course of all friendly Authorities to seize and detain it - Should you have the good fortune to effect any seizures you will be pleased at the time to record carefully the names of the parties who have attempted the importation as well as the Ports from whence the consignments have come & you will inform those concerned that the Indigo being British Property must necessarily & of right be eventually surrendered to its owners but that any claims ^{that} might advance to indemnification on being declared would receive all the attention and consideration they might appear to deserve, in communication with the Chiefs or States to whose controul themselves are amenable.

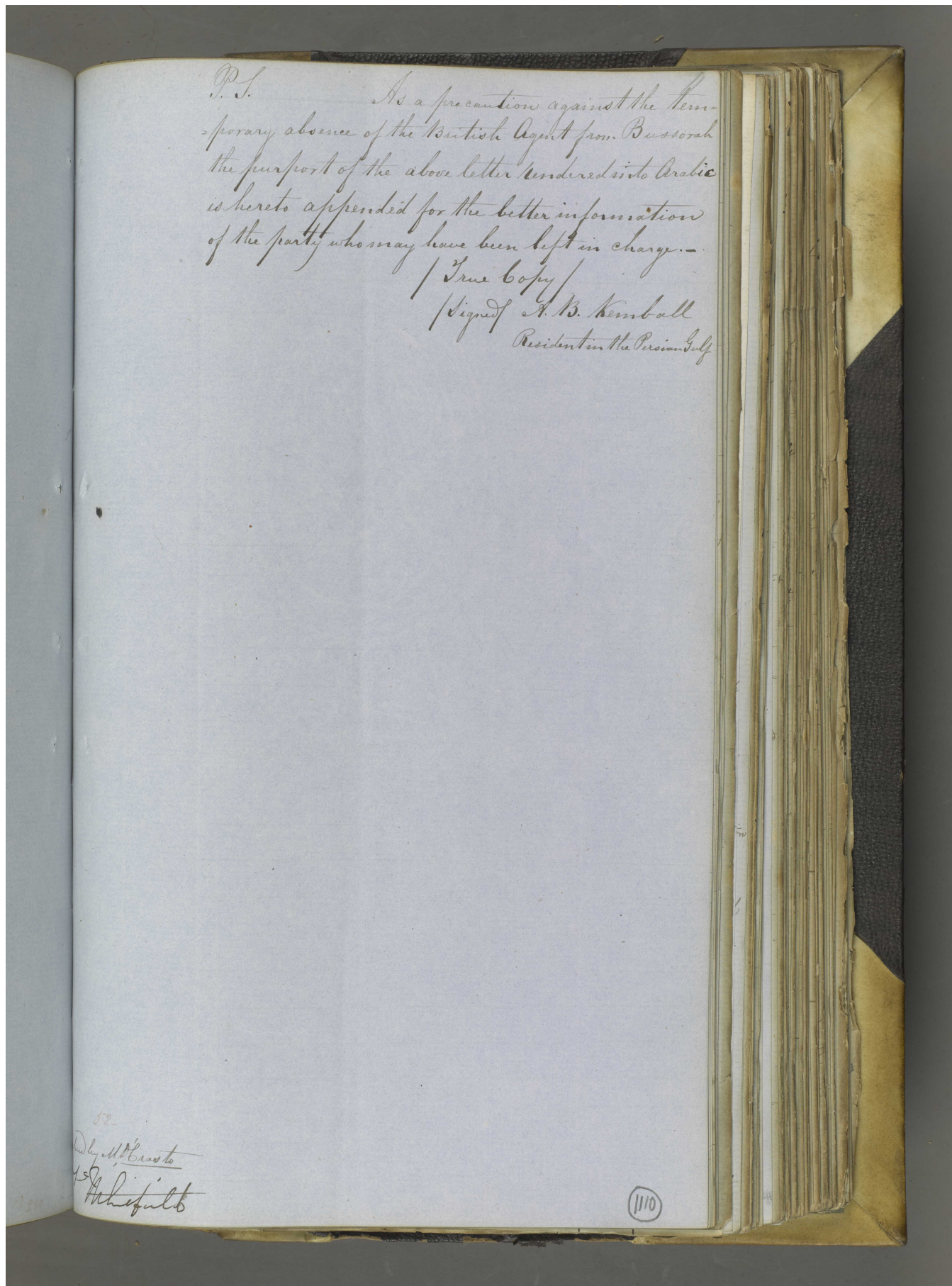
It would be of advantage if you could extend your observation and enquiries for the attainment of the objects above contemplated, to the Port of Mochumrah.

Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Bussorah 31st July 1832.

I have the honor to be
Signed A. B. Kimball
President &c
As.

will have to
be
the
part

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1110r] (15/56)



P.S. As a precaution against the temporary absence of the British Agent from Bussorah the purport of the above letter rendered into Arabic is hereto appended for the better information of the party who may have been left in charge.
/ True Copy /
/ Signed / A. B. Kemball
Resident in the Persian Gulf

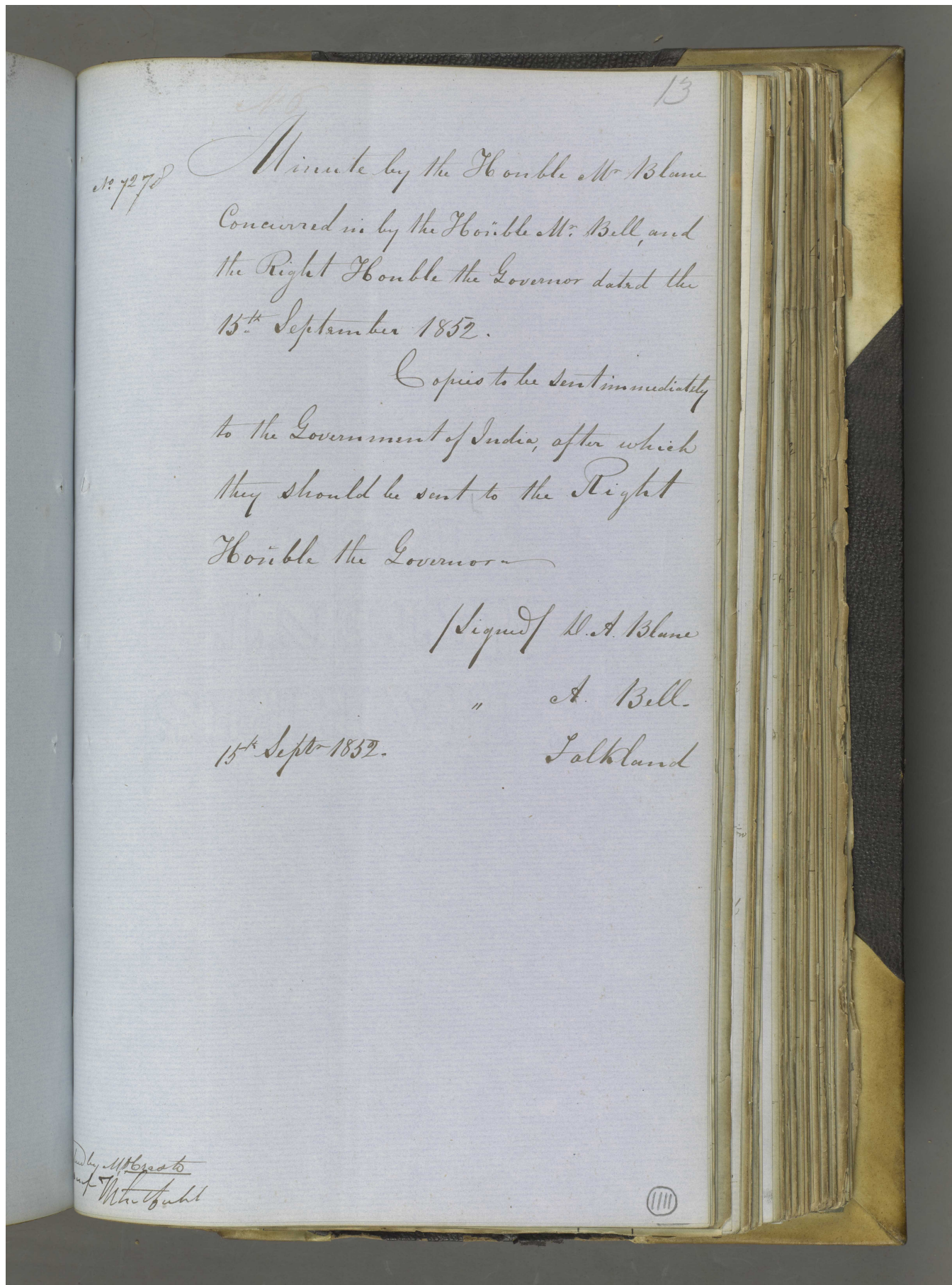
52.
Duly attested
15/56
A. B. Kemball

(1110)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1110v] (16/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1111r] (17/56)



no 7278

Minute by the Honble Mr Blane
Concurred in by the Honble Mr Bell, and
the Right Honble the Governor dated the
15th September 1852.

Copies to be sent immediately
to the Government of India, after which
they should be sent to the Right
Honble the Governor.

Signed W. A. Blane

" A. Bell

15th Sept 1852.

Salkland

By Mr. Blane
and Mr. Bell



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1111v] (18/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
'Centaur' of Calcutta, lost near-' [1112r] (19/56)

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Extract Bombay Political

Consultation 15th September 1852.

N^o 7

N^o 27 of 1852.

N^o 7279

From Major Atkins Hasmerston

Hers. Majesty's Consul and Honble Co^s

Agent in the dominions of His Highness

To, the Imam of Muskat.

A. Malet Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government Bombay

Political Department

Muskat 27th August 1852

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter in this Department N^o 3159 of the
17th July last together with its enclosures - A copy of
a representation from the owners and underwriters
of the Ship "Centaur" and the Cargo, destroyed and
plundered by the Beddu of the Beni boo Ali at Alkhalla
where the vessel was stranded in May last and also a
copy of the opinion of the Advocate General Calcutta
on the subject submitted for his consideration and
directing me to require of His Highness the Imam of
Muskat, to use his best endeavours to find out, and
punish the perpetrators of this outrage; and to adopt
measures

(1112)

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'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1112v] (20/56)

measures to recover, as much as possible, of the cargo,
particularly the Indigo, which, the underwriters state,
must be brought to Muskat and other ports in the
Persian Gulf.

2. I have the honor to report for the information
of the Right Honble the Governor in Council as
follows, that from the moment the loss of the Centaur
was known at Muskat, I explained to His Highness
the Imam that the Government would expect
him to do all in his powers to assist in saving any
part of the cargo which might from time to time be
brought into his territories, under any circum-
stances - and if he had any influence with the
Sheikhs of the Beni Boo Ali, to exert it to cause their
people to give up the plunder, His Highness at once
said, that force alone would save the vessels and
cargo; but a force such as an English Ship of war
could furnish, but that the time of three or four
days would suffice for the Beddu to ruin and destroy
every thing, and which from all accounts up to the
present time appears to be the truth - The Beddu
do not collect and take care of the cargo, they plunder
from vessels; they at once break up and tear to pieces
all and every thing they get possession of - it will
be

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'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1113r] (21/56)

17
be found that as they took the Indigo from the vessel
they did not carefully land it and store it with
a view to selling it at a future time, as is supposed
by the underwriters and owners, but they threw the
Chests into the sea, and into their boats, and the
moment they reached the shore they broke the Chests
in pieces, and even broke the cakes of indigo to
divide them, every one on the beach, men, boys
and even the women, asserting their claim to
a share of every article as it came ashore - and
this is the way they always do, and immediately
in order to get all they can, every one for themselves
before the Schaiiks arrive, whose portion is
considered one fifth of the whole plunder, as
soon as they, the Beddu, came in numbers from
the Shore on board the vessel, and before the
Master and the Crew left her, they commenced
throwing the Indigo Chests into the water to float
them to the Shore, and in the presence of the
Master and Crew they took a web of broad cloth,
the property of one of the passengers and cut it
into small pieces, so small as to be of no apparent

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(1113)

use

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1113v] (22/56)

use to any one / every man taking a piece as his
Share - on their invariable principle of
a Division of every thing - great efforts have
been made by the Hojah Merchants of India, resid-
ing here, and in Muttra / the next town to
Muskat / to buy up the Indigo; but not one has
succeeded; the reports are, that the whole of
it taken by the Beddu has been broken into small
pieces for the purpose of being divided, and only
to be obtained in small quantities - but the
fear of going amongst the beddu of the Beni
boo Ali prevents any one going to them; and
they will not bring it into Soor for fear of
having it taken from them in consequence of
the Imams's strict orders to the Schaikhs of
Soor his subjects; yet it is possible that small
quantities will be brought even into Soor by
stealth, which would in all likelihood
happen in a similar case under a
much better organized Government -
than exists in any part of the Imams's
territories - I am informed "

by

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Copied by A. P. H. H. H. H.
C. P. H. H. H. H.

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1114r] (23/56)

19
the Arab Merchants here, many of whom are interested in the loss of the "Centaur" some personally, and others Agents for Merchants in Pusheer, and Pussorah; that nothing like one third of the Cargo has been obtained by the Pedder of the Beni boo Ali and that every article they got out of the vessel was ruined as a merchantable article; indeed, they tell me that they see no chance of any thing being recovered, and I am also informed that but a small quantity of Cargo has been procured from the vessel; the Pedder broke the Indigo chests to pieces in the hold of the ship, and cut up a quantity of Silk Cloths, with a view to keeping the matter a secret from their neighbours; and reports say that Indigo in small quantities is picked up along the shore.

3rd
" I beg to assure Government that

(1114) as

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1114v] (24/56)

as far as His Highness the Imam
had it in his power he rendered every
assistance, but the people who committed
this outrage are not His Highness's subjects,
or in any way subject to his control, and
to use force, or to attempt to punish
the Beddu of Al Khabba, who are of
the Beni boo Ali of Salan, who profess
the Wahabee tenets of Mahammedanism,
cannot be expected of His Highness the
Imam of Maskat. In the first place
the Imam is not prepared to, nor does
he possess the means to punish the Beni
boo Ali; and, in the second, any attempt
on his part would beyond all doubt plunge
him into difficulties with the whole of
the Wahabee tribes of all Arabia.
On the arrival of the Master and Crew
of the "Centaur" at Maskat on the 19th
May last from Al Khabba His High-
ness the Imam behaved in the most
kind.

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'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1115r] (25/56)

kind and liberal way to the Master,²⁴
Captain Salmon, and his Crew, and caused
a vessel to be prepared and sent her with
Captain Salmon and his Crew, with a
number of his own people, to endeavour
to reach Al Khabba and see if it was
possible to save any of the Cargo; but
from the state of the weather, it was
found to be impracticable to reach in
time to be of any use; and on the 29th
of May the vessel returned to Maskat.
In the mean time information reached
us at Maskat of the vessel being
destroyed and not to be seen. Many re-
ports were in circulation of the ship
being on fire. but they were not true.
At that time the force of the Monsoon
had reached, and a strong South East
wind caused a heavy surf on the
beach. on the 3rd June the Honble
Company's Brigantine of War "Tigris"
arrived at Maskat and the Commanding
officer, Lieutenant Tronson, reported that
he had been the day before at Al.
Khabba, but did not see a vestige of
the ship "Centaur", and it was then only
19, nineteen, days from the day the ship
stranded. Lieutenant Tronson heard of the
Circumstance

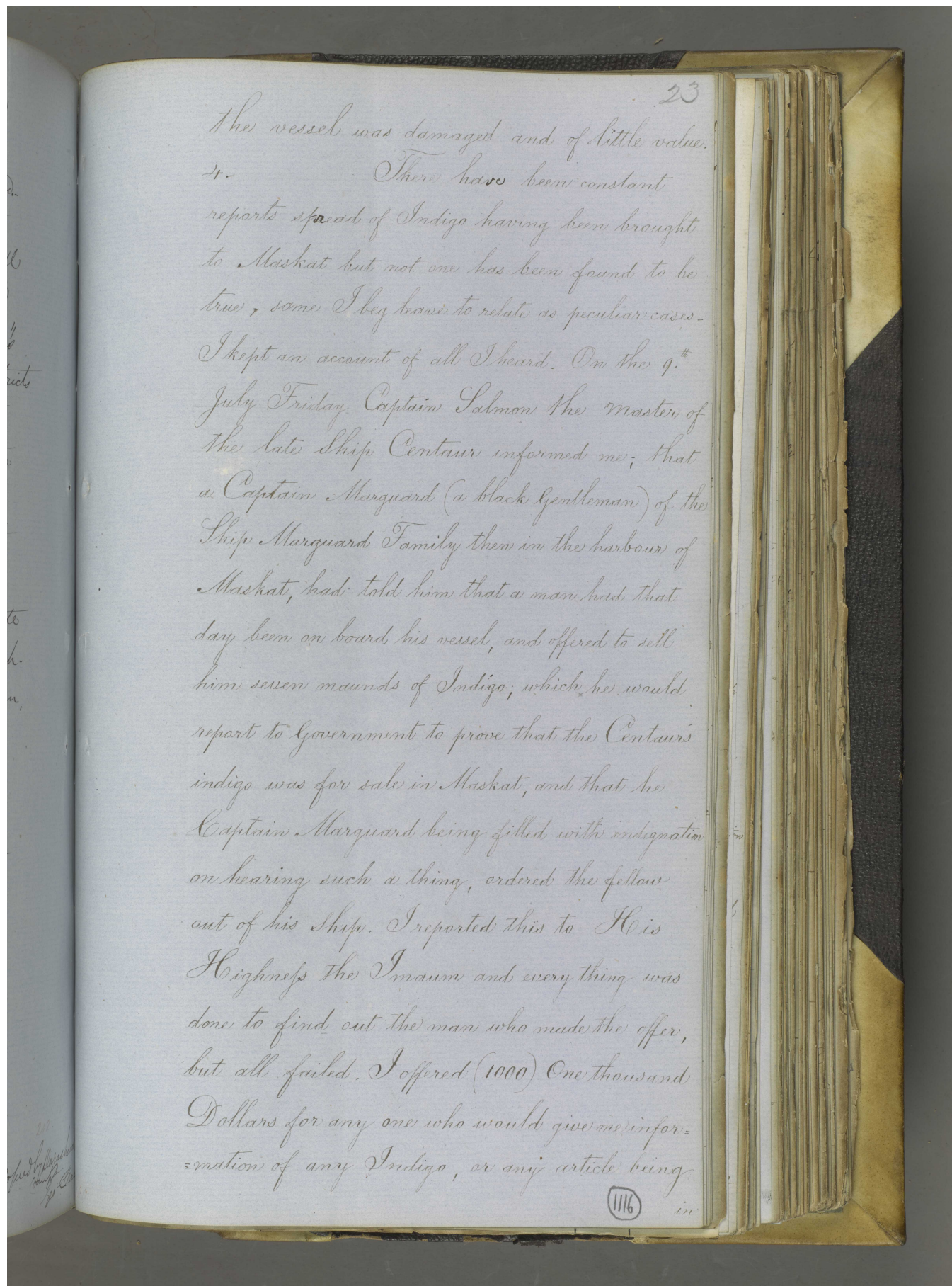
(1115)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1115v] (26/56)

circumstance while cruising off Sahar,
and at once made for Al Khabba in order
to render assistance but ere he arrived
all remains of the vessel had disappeared.
His Highness the Imam wrote to all the
SchaiKhs under his control at Soor and all
along the Coast of Arabia, to secure all
Indigo or any other article of the "Centaur's"
Cargo which might arrive within the districts
under their respective orders; and wrote to
them in a most stringent manner, telling them
that he would most certainly punish severely
any one who would be proved to be guilty
of any Connivance, or any Contravention
of these orders, and His Highness also wrote
to Mahammed bin Ali bin Hammodeh
the SchaiKh of the Beni boo Ali of Jala,
strongly advising him to try and make
his people give up any part of the
"Centaur's" Cargo they might have, and
I also wrote to him but he took no notice
of either the Imam's or my letter, and
all persons well acquainted with these
people say the SchaiKh in this instance
could effect but little, for all the
Mischief was done in the Course of four days
from the time the vessel stranded, and that what
ever the Pedder took from

202.
Copied by Barachana
from

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1116r] (27/56)



23

the vessel was damaged and of little value.

There have been constant reports spread of Indigo having been brought to Muskat but not one has been found to be true, some I beg leave to relate as peculiar cases. I kept an account of all I heard. On the 9th July Friday, Captain Salmon the master of the late Ship Centaur informed me; that a Captain Marguard (a black gentleman) of the Ship Marguard Family then in the harbour of Muskat, had told him that a man had that day been on board his vessel, and offered to sell him seven mounds of Indigo; which he would report to Government to prove that the Centaur's indigo was for sale in Muskat, and that he Captain Marguard being filled with indignation on hearing such a thing, ordered the fellow out of his ship. I reported this to His Highness the Imam and every thing was done to find out the man who made the offer, but all failed. I offered (1000) One thousand Dollars for any one who would give me information of any Indigo, or any article being

1116

in

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship

 "Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1116v] (28/56)

in Maskat or Multra and if I found any,

 the money to be paid and all secrecy observed

 and no questions asked; but I did not receive

 information, and the Inaam promised to

 reward handsomely any person who would give

 him private information as to Indigo being

 in any part of his territories. On the 13th July

 Rajah Haskial informed me he had heard

 that one Mahammed Ali Bunderie Kubbabee

 a Persian Merchant here had sent a man called

 Ali bin Ahmed to Soor with (1000) One thousand

 Dollars to buy indigo for himself. Mahammed

 Ali Kubbabee Abdullah Schaikh Ali Ahmed

 Mahammed and Ahmed Abdul four persons.

 I brought this to the notice of the Inaam and

 all were examined and declared they had no part

 in the transaction, that the man Ali bin

 Ahmed said to be sent to Soor was there at his

 date grove; which proved to be true, and he

 was brought from thence; and the other four men

 swore solemnly on the Koran after the manner

 of their faith before the Schaikhul Islam;

 that they had not sent any one whatever

 to

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1117r] (29/56)

25

to buy Indigo for them, these men swore
in the Imaums house in my presence.

5. On the night of the 14th July
Captain Salmon Master of the late Ship
Centaur told me that Kojah Haskial bin
Eusoph the Native Agent had got most
positive information, and that he had heard
it from other quarters - that, the Godowns of
Bheejah; a Bannian one of the principle men-
-chants in Maskat, (who is an underwriter for
Native vessels, and who conducts business for
the Imaum) contained a large quantity of the
centaurs Indigo and that it was sewed up in
galeemas (a sort of coarse carpet stuff) in order
to deceive people as to the real contents of the
packages - and early in the morning I went for
the Imaums Minister, and requested him to report
the circumstance to the Imaum. he did so and
returned to me instantly, saying the Imaum
had ordered the go-downs to be at once searched,
and requested me to appoint some person to be
present on my part, I sent for the Native
Agent Kojah Haskial and sent him on my
part, and the godowns were searched, and

the
(1117)

the goods, bales, and parcels of every kind were
thoroughly over hauled, and the Agent Hojeh
Heshial returned and said they did not find a
vestige of Indigo in any of the Godowns =
His Highness then said that any time of
the night or day he would have any place
searched where there was the least suspicion
of any part of the Centaur's Cargo concealed,
that the temptation was great - to cause people
to do wrong, but that by the assistance of God
all should be done in his power to prevent
such a crime being committed, as appropriating
to ones own use, the Cargo of the Centaur; which
was in the sight of the Almighty a double
sort of robbery - reports of the most extravagant
and absurd nature have constantly been in
circulation of large Store Houses at Soor being
filled with Indigo and people buying it
for almost nothing His Highness the
Imaum requested me several times to send
some person to Soor to see as to the truth
or otherwise of these

re =

copy by P. M. ...
Centaur

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1118r] (31/56)

27

Reports; that they certainly were not true, but that
His Highness much feared some of his enemies or
the enemies of his family might write or say
that which might produce an ill feeling towards
him in the minds of the members of Government,
and I then said that for His Highness' satisfaction
I would send on my part our Native Agent Gleshtial
bin Ensof, but that some person well worthy of
trust must go with him. The Imam said I will
send Gleshtial bin Salem my own Brother's son with
him; whenever you like and I accordingly desired
Gleshtial bin Ensof to hold himself in readiness
to proceed to do so with His Highness. Said Gleshtial
bin Salem the Imam's Nephew - he said he wanted
a day or two to prepare himself, in the evening
he came to me and said he had told the Imam's
Minister he would not want a boat from the
Imam, that he would go in the launch of the
ship Franjee Cawasjee which I told him
I would not allow him to do, that he must
go in the Imam's boat, and why I did
so, was for the following reason. -

The ship Franjee Cawasjee be-
longe to four Brothers, Arab Merchants re-
siding at Muscat and is sailed under
British colors, the Register is in the
name 1118

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1118v] (32/56)

name of the youngest Brother Hajee Ibrahim bin Jinnal; he resided some time at Calcutta and thus procured a British Register, these Brothers are wealthy & all respectable men, they own several ships and sail some under Arab colors; and some under English, but they are at the head of a sort of opposition; which exists in Muscat, and this man Hajee Ibrahim bin Jinnal, the ostensible owner of all their ships under British colors, is a sort of Mentor to the Agent Glesdial bin Eussoph, and moves him to conduct himself in a way he ought not to do towards the Imams' authorities; and hence arises the hatred and ill feeling, which exists between our Agent and the Imams' people; which ought not to be, and would not exist if he were not so much under the influence of this man Hajee Ibrahim and others; who seeing the weak point of poor Glesdial make a sort of tool of him, and therefore I would not allow the Government Agent

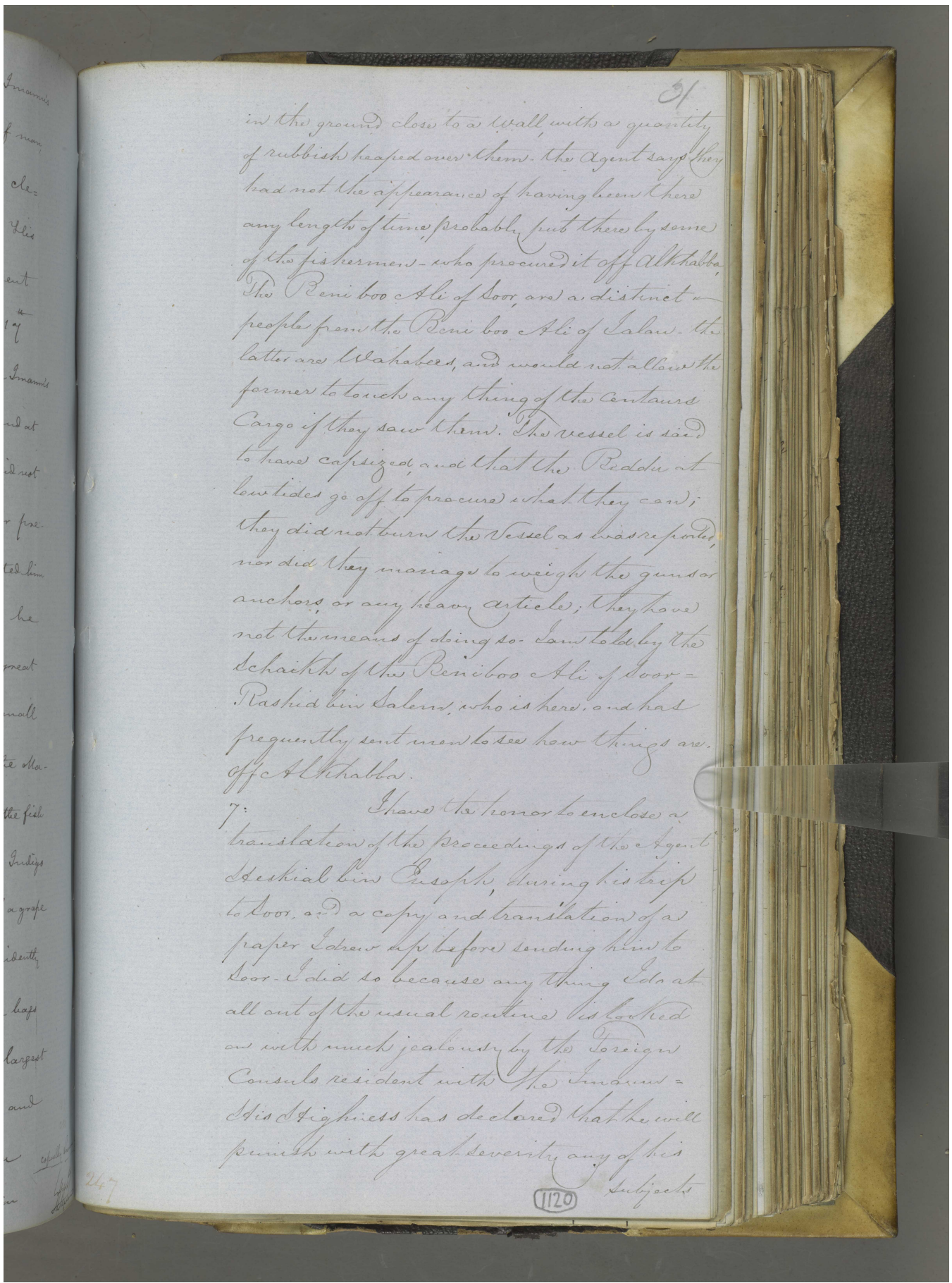
'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1119] (33/56)

29
to go in his boat, nor to appear openly
to have any concession, as far as I could
prevent him, with Hajee Ibrahim bin
Imam or any private individual in matters
connected with the discharge of his public
duty; The Imam felt hurt at the Agents
declining to go in one of his boats; but I
told him it was all a mistake on the part
of the Agent - The Boat prepared for him was
exactly the same as the one prepared for the
Imam's own nephew - indeed the Agent him-
self acknowledged that it was even a better
one; I am thus particular in detailing this
circumstance with a view to prevent misre-
presentation hereafter.

6
On the 2nd August, all at length
being prepared, I sent the Agent to go ac-
-companied by and under the special charge
and protection of His Highness Saïed Hamad
bin Sahim bin Sultan; the Imam's own
Nephew, and the Agent Gledial bin Cu-
-soph appears to have discharged this
duty well, I drilled him thoroughly before
he started as to how he was to conduct
himself

(1119)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1120r] (35/56)



31

in the ground close to a wall, with a quantity
of rubbish heaped over them. The Agent says they
had not the appearance of having been there
any length of time, probably put there by some
of the fishermen - who procured it off Alkhabba.
The Beni boo Ali of Soor, are a distinct
people from the Beni boo Ali of Salaw. the
latter are Mahabees, and would not allow the
former to touch any thing of the Centaurs
Cargo if they saw them. The vessel is said
to have capsized, and that the Reddu at
low tides go off to procure what they can;
they did not burn the vessel as was reported,
nor did they manage to weigh the guns or
anchors, or any heavy article; they have
not the means of doing so. I am told by the
Schaiikh of the Beni boo Ali of Soor -
Rashid bin Salim, who is here, and has
frequently sent men to see how things are
off Alkhabba.

I have the honor to enclose a
translation of the proceedings of the Agent
Heshial bin Euseph, during his trip
to Soor, and a copy and translation of a
paper I drew up before sending him to
Soor. I did so because any thing I do at
all out of the usual routine is looked
on with much jealousy by the Foreign
Consuls resident with the Indians -
His Highness has declared that he will
punish with great severity any of his
Subjects

1120

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1120v] (36/56)

Subjects who may be proved to have taken
any part in the plunder of the Centaur;
and he has taken great pains to discover
if such has been the case but as yet no
person has been discovered to have done so.
The Pemi boo Ali of Salaw would not suffer
the Soor people to interfere with them in any
way.

In conclusion I beg leave to men-
tion for the information of the Right Honible
the Governor in Council that the lives of the
Master and Crew of the Centaur were
saved by Saied bin Nassur Lembee, one of
the Soor men who was returning from
Makella with three other Soor boats and
saw the Centaur ashore and the boats around
her; and knowing how things were he went
to her and finding the Alhabba men
had determined to put the Captain and
all his people to death at Sundown after
the tow Wahabee Custom he told Captain
Salnow who was already aware of it and
his people also and managed to take them
all off in his boats and brought them to
Masbat. The Soor people have also saved
the lives of the Master/Captain's Bertram
passengers and crew of the American
Raketa-plata which got on shore in
September 1850 On the Mezarah Shoal
off the Coast of the Pemi boo Ali Country
and the Soor men also saved the lives
of

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1121r] (37/56)

33

of the crew of the *Ragla Agamb* in
June last, when she got on the *Mazera*
Shoal but the *Redder* totally destroyed
the vessel and plundered the cargo -
The *Nakhoda* told me they tore every
thing to pieces; This *Beulah* was under
British Colors. His Highness the *Emam*
rewards his subjects of *Coor* for those acts,
which are done by his orders. -

Muskat }
27th August 1852.

I have the honor to be Sir
Signed / *A. Hamerton Knigge*
Sd. Mil. Consul & B. C. C.
agent in the dominions of
H. H. the *Emam* of *Muskat*

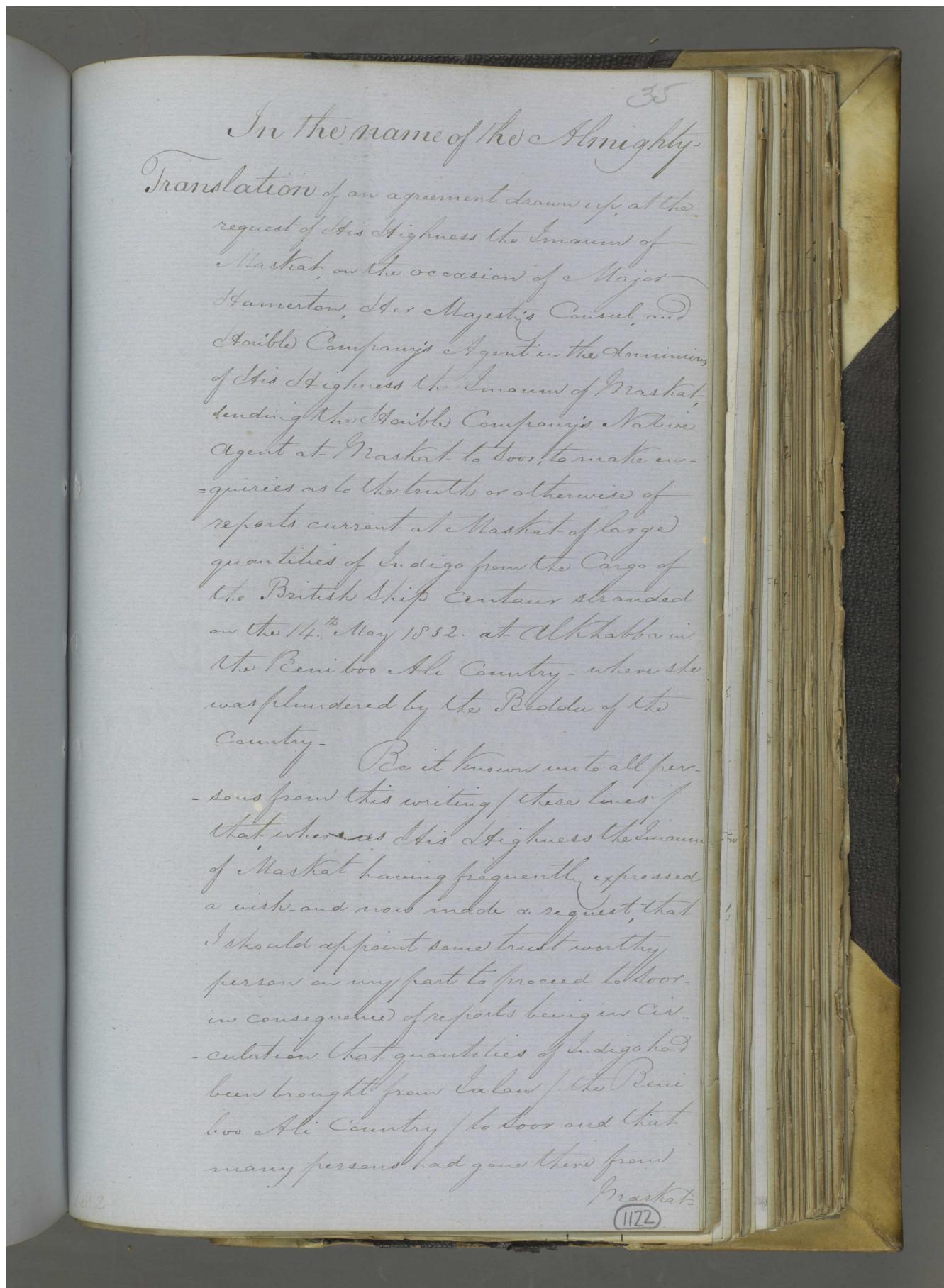
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(1121)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1121v] (38/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1122r] (39/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1122v] (40/56)

Maskeat and other places to buy it. I have
therefore agreed to do so, and appoint Ho-
-jeh Ischeilbin Euseph on my part
to accompany His Highness Sa'id
Sa'id bin Saleh bin Sultan appointed
on the part of His Highness the Emam
of Maskeat, to proceed to Soor, to search
and enquire as to the truth of the reports
and C. Atkins Hamerton Major Esq.
Majesty's Consul and Agent for the
Government of India with the Emam
of Maskeat, do hereby publicly declare
and make known that Her Majesty's
Government and the Government
of India do not assume or assert their
right to search or to send persons to search
under any circumstances in any part of
the territories of His Highness the Emam
of Maskeat. Unless by and with the
consent and permission of His High-
-ness the Emam for so doing - and
which in this present case His Highness
now grants and freely permits - and I
have duly informed Kojeh Ischeilbin
Euseph, that he is not at liberty to
search or send any one to search any
place without the sanction of His
Highness Sa'id Sa'id bin Saleh
bin Sultan - but in every place where-
-soever and whensoever Kojeh Ischeil
may have any cause to suspect that
Indigo

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1123r] (41/56)

39

Indigo or any other article of the Cargo
of the Vessel of the Centaur, may be con-
-cealed, he shall require permission to
search from His Highness Saïed Hamud
who is ordered to grant it. and it shall
not be necessary for Kajeib Hiskeil
bin Euseph to explain to any one; what
his reason may be for his wishing to
search any place whatsoever, he may
think fit to do - but only as before stated.
make a requisition on His Highness
Saïed Hamud bin Saleem bin Sultan
for permission to do so; which will
at once be granted to him -

dated 13th Shawal 1268. at Muskat
2^d August 1852. —

Seal of H. H.
the Emam.

Signature *Alkhis Hamerton*
Major H. M. Consul &
H. C. Agent in the
dominions of H. H.
the Emam of Muskat

copied by
Nillobad
and F. W. ...

(1123)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1123v] (42/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1124r] (43/56)

Translation

39

Statements of Heshill bin Enasiph, Heshill Company's Native Agent at Muscat
of his proceedings at Soor. where he went by order of Major Hamerton - His M.
Consul and H. C. A. in the Dominions of His Highness the Governor of Muscat,
in order to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the reports current at Muscat,
of large quantities of Indigo being stored, and for sale there, from the Cargo
of the British Ship Centaur - stranded at M. Whalben, in the Wami near the
Country and plundered and destroyed by the Arabs of that Country.
Dated at Muskat - 10th Ghilhad 1268 - 23rd August 1852.

By order of Major Hamerton, His Majesty's Consul and Heshill Company's Agent,
I Heshill bin Enasiph went from this (Muscat) to Soor, to learn as to
the Indigo of the Centaur, in Company with His Highness said Hamad
bin Salem bin Sultan, on the 15th Shawal 1268, 2nd August, 1852, and we
arrived at Soor on Thursday 18th Shawal (5th August at the fourth hour of
the day about 10 A. M.) and landed at a place called Wahab Miragh, from
thence we went into the Fort, where there is a Wagan, and many people
living there - we staid there until near evening (4 P. M.) the Waddan
of the shore, the Gambes arrived, and with them Schawich said bin Abu
Ullah Gambes - to visit His Highness said Hamad bin Salem bin Sultan -
A little while afterwards came Schawich Washill bin Salem, one of the
Wami bin Abi al Soor - and during the visit His Highness said Hamad bin
Salem bin Sultan asked them about the Indigo - whether they had received
any, or could give any news of it; whether any had been brought to Soor,
or if they knew of any one had any - they all said they had not seen any
nor did they know where there was any - His Highness said Hamad bin
Salem bin Sultan conjured them to tell if they knew - but they all
(1124) declared

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1124v] (44/56)

declared they had no knowledge of it - His Highness Said Hamid bin Saleh bin Sultan
then ordered them to search and make enquiry if any person had any. They said
they would please God do so, they then went away and we went to sleep. On the
next morning Friday. I asked His Highness Said Hamid bin Saleh bin Sultan
to give me a horse outside the Town, he ordered the Walker to get one ready and
at mid-day I went into it, next day Saturday a man of the Foulie, a blind beggar,
man, came to me, his name is Hamid bin Hamid, and I talked to him as to whether
the Indigo. at first he said the Friends of Sultan is poor, the Indigo was made
into three shares, for the Sultan or Sultan and one share for the inland. I asked
him if he knew for certain if any Indigo had been brought to Soor, he replied
I see not but I heard that the Maulana of Muscat was coming here, and that
the Indigo was taken to the hills, on the 22^d Shawal (9th August), I went with
His Highness Said Hamid bin Saleh bin Sultan, to the hills, where the Friends
are, to a place called Mamburumthal and went into the house of Said bin Abu
Allah. the Shaikh's were then assembled, and His Highness Said Hamid
bin Saleh bin Sultan questioned them all as to the Indigo, if any person had
any, they replied we have searched and enquired as you desired us and we
have not heard of any. we stood there all day but neither I, nor His Highness
Said Hamid could find out any thing of Indigo being in the place - and we
then returned to our houses, I continued making enquiries, when a man came
who said his name was Saleh bin Yehanno a Malakho, he said I will tell
you must declare by the Almighty not to tell any, because here are the Friends,
who would most certainly kill me, he then told me that in two hours there
was Indigo, the one of Mohammed Humabe, and the other houbie. I went
to His Highness Said Hamid bin Saleh bin Sultan that same day 25th Shawal
(12th August) and told him I wanted to search a place with his permission,
he instantly appointed Nafar bin Hamid Alawalhi, with four other men
and also two of his own men to accompany me - and we all went to the place
told to me, and searched, and dug up the ground, but we did not find any thing -
I then returned and sent for my informant Saleh bin Yehanno. he said
he was just there but would come in an hour in the evening, after
Sunset he came. I told him he had told me there was Indigo in a certain
place. that I have searched but found none. this is not right. if you know
where there is any, tell me truly he then said I know where there is some,
this is true, but you understand - I told him if I find any, then if
you

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1125r] (45/56)

you want ten dollars or something more - and he then directed a place to which
 I sent out (my people that he might see it, and in the morning on Friday, I
 went to the Highness Said Hamid bin Salim bin Sultan and got men and axes
 to dig and search in the place pointed out - I went and dug and found a bag -
 I opened it and found in it three small bags of Indigo all which I opened
 and took out three small pieces and went to Said Hamid bin Salim bin Sultan
 and told all to him, he sent for the bags, and they were brought, we supposed
 them to contain about four and a half or five mannis of Muscat - about
 forty five lbs English weight - Said Hamid bin Salim bin Sultan said to me
 will you take this Indigo - I said I have no orders to do so, he then said he
 would take it and ordered Masfur bin Hamid Alawahi to take it to the Mayor
 and have it weighed and wrote the weight - I took away with the sanction
 of the Highness Said bin Hamid bin Sultan the three small pieces - he said
 I will send for all the people of the Mayor inside and out and see whose
 this is, and tell you - I then returned to my house and paid the ten dollars
 to Salim bin Yahya the Willoughby - at five o'clock the Waller of Goa
 Said Hamid came to me and said, Said Hamid bin Salim bin Sultan
 sends his compliments to you saying he has seen for all the Mayor
 people but cannot find out where this Indigo is - near sunset the Highness
 Said Hamid bin Salim bin Sultan came and said I sent to tell you I
 cannot find out where this Indigo is - I said yes, and then said I was
 wished to return, and the Highness Said Hamid replied we must delay
 a little; an order has arrived from the Imam (the Imam) for me
 to try and settle the dispute between Said bin Abu Allah, and his
 people and the Bin bin Ali of Goa, Schawch Mashid bin Salim's people,
 but please God tomorrow we will go, on the 2nd Mawal in August the
 letter from yourself reached me, by the bedon of Mashid of Matra
 Nakhoda Mohammed bin Mubarrak, when I received it I went to the
 Highness Said Hamid bin Salim bin Sultan and told him, a letter
 had arrived from the Mar-Devs, read it, he did so, and said he had
 determined (1125)

520

430

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1125v] (46/56)

determined to start to night, but the wind was too strong - please God tomorrow
morning we will go and on Sunday the 20th Shawwal 15th August at 1/2 past
9 o'clock we embarked, and arrived on Wednesday 1st Zilhad - 17th August,
at Muskat.

Muskat

(signed) Hassan bin Ismael

17th Zilhad 1268

23rd August 1852

"Free translation"

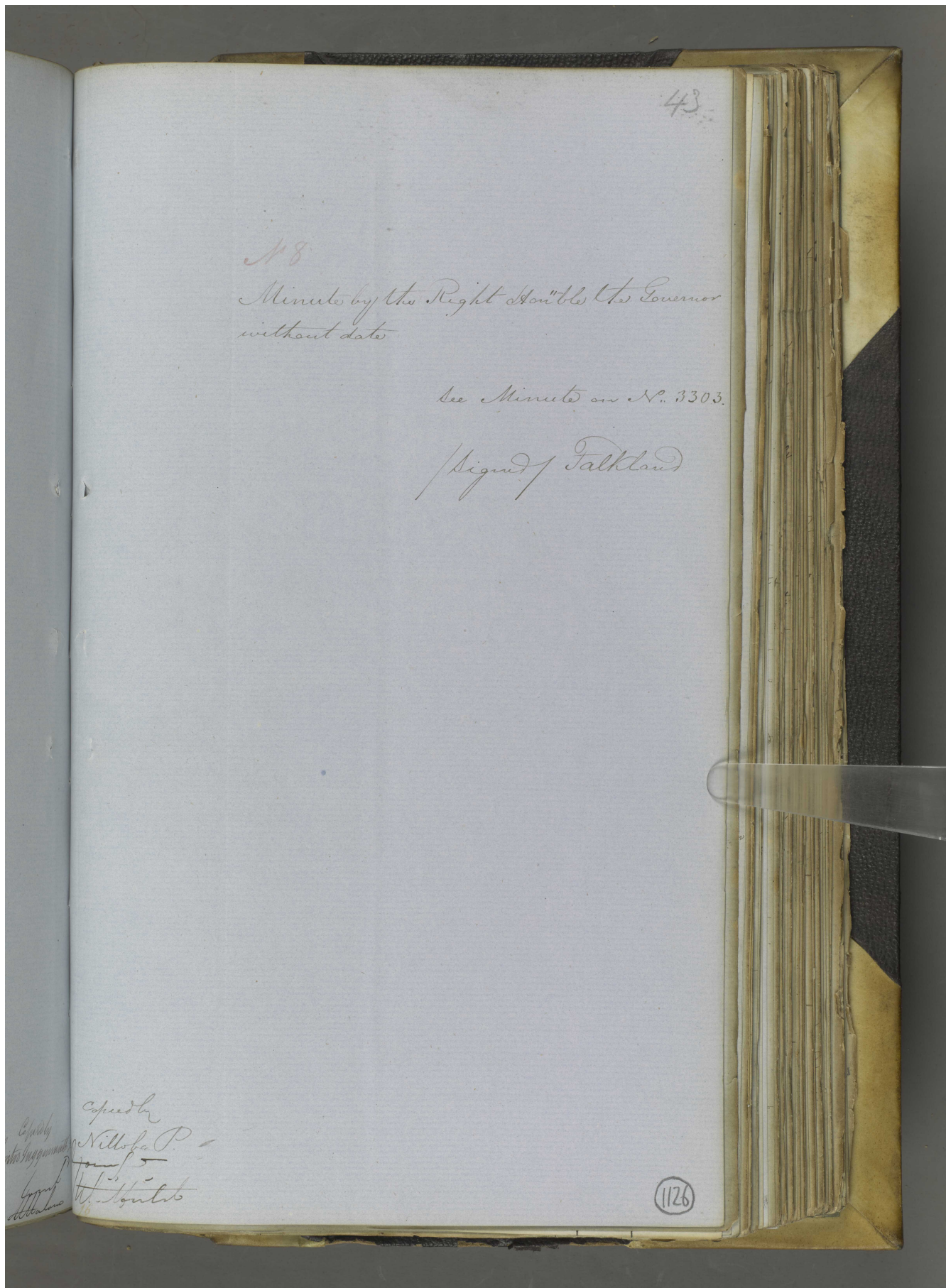
(signed) Atkins Hamerton

Major

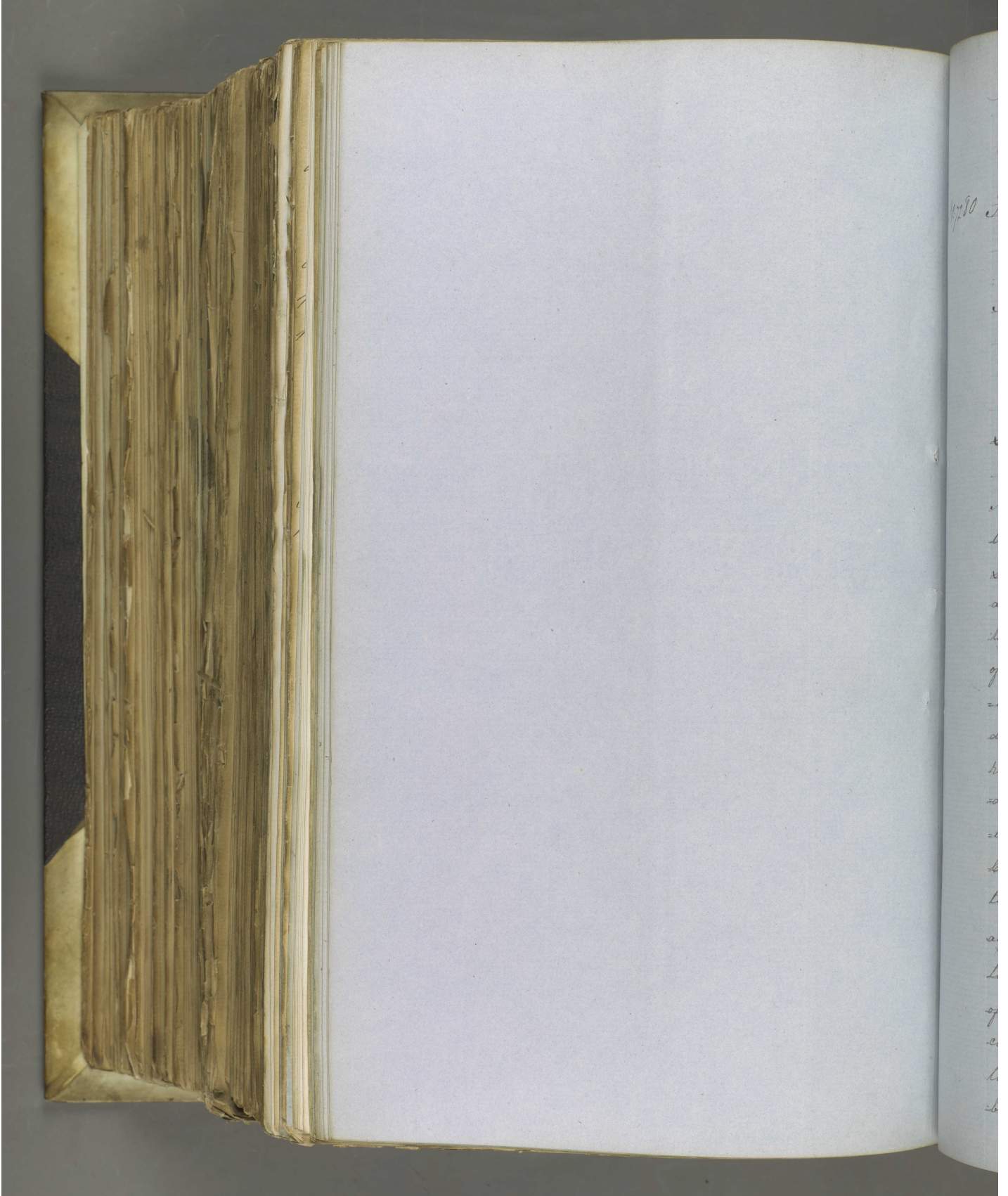
H. M. P. and H. P. agent

Copyed by
H. M. P. and H. P. agent
Nillofa
Lynn
at Calcutta

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1126r] (47/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1126v] (48/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1127r] (49/56)

Extract Bombay Political 40

Consultation 15th September 1852.

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No. 54, of 1852

No. 7280 From Major Atkins Hamerton

H. M. Consul, and H. C. Agent in the dominions of H. H. the Imam of Muscat.

To,

A. Malet, Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government Bombay

Dated 6th September 1852.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honble the Governor in Council, that His Highness the Imam sent a confidential person, one Amcer bin Salim bin Khamis Ischugel, a man, the Imam ever as a spy, and who can go, where others could not with safety, to make enquiries as to what had been done with the cargo of the Ship "Centaur", destroyed by the Beddes of the Beni-bos Ali tribes at al Khabla in May last, and his report dated 15th Zil Kadd 1268 / 31st August 1852 / has just been received; he states that Mahammed bin Ali ben Hammoo-deh, the Shaikh of Jalam, the Beni bos Ali, sold or partitioned to eight men, the "Centaur" and all her remaining cargo - one of whom was his own son Khamis bin Ali, and that they have broken up the vessel and taken out of her all they could, and took everything to Jalam but before the Shaikh took charge of the vessel and cargo, the Beddes of the immediate place, Al Khabla, had destroyed a very considerable quantity of the goods they were able to procure, they hove into the sea cases containing Silks & Dacca embroidered Muslins of great value, and wet and ruined

(1127)

them

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1127v] (50/56)

them. and divided everything amongst themselves. & also that a
Pagla from Zanzibar to Bas el Rhyma, in the Persian Gulf,
stopped at al Khabba, and took cargo out of the Centaur, which
she is supposed to have sold at Sohar, but as yet we have no
authentic information; this subject is now under investiga-
-tion. it is reported that the Pagla sold at Sohar from fifteen
hundred to two thousand dollars worth of Indigo and
silk cloths at Sohar but I much doubt if there are people
at that place, able to buy anything like such an amount
of Goods.

Muscat

6. Sept. 1852

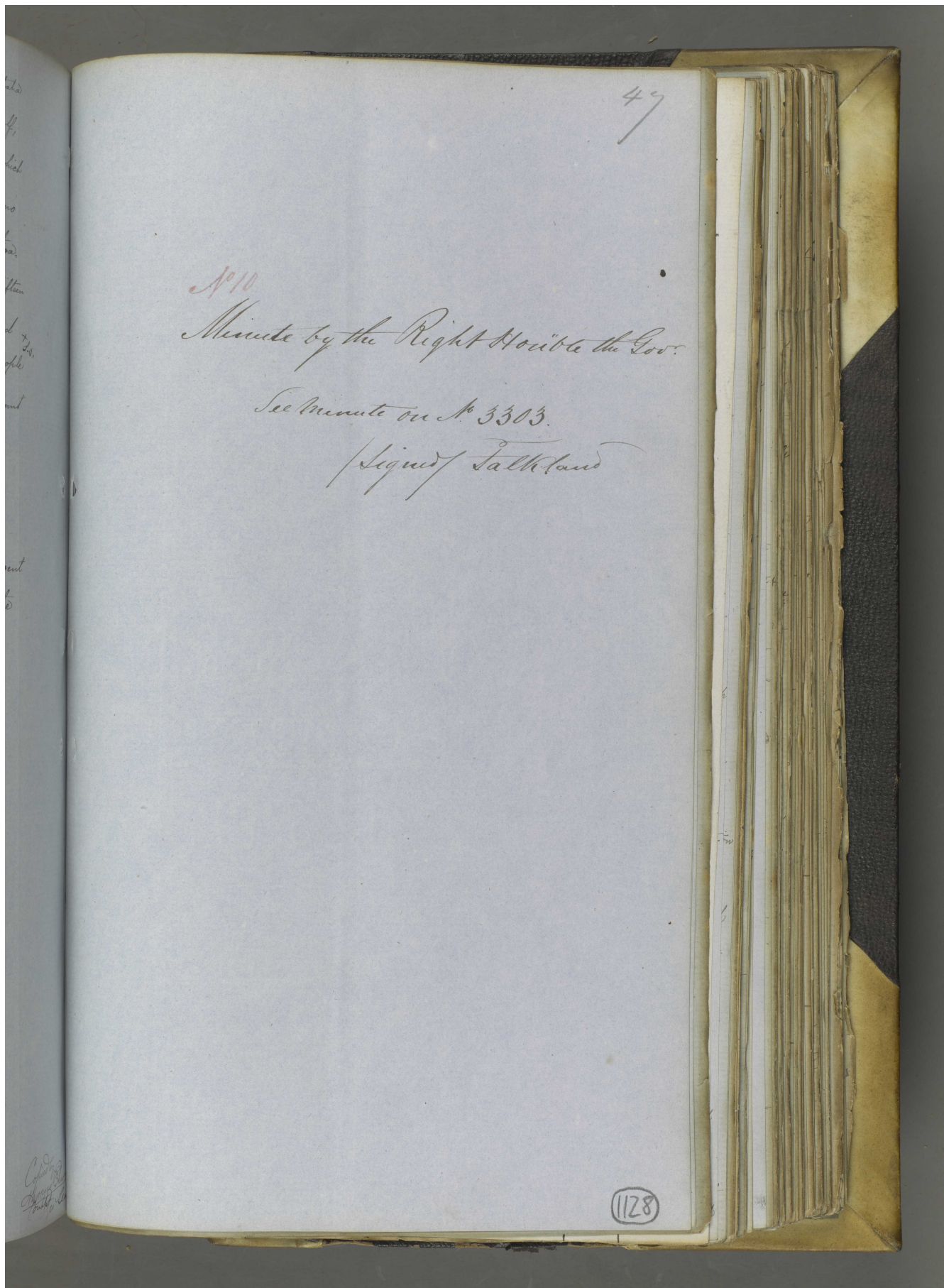
I have the honor to be Sir

Yours Obediently
Atkins Hamerton

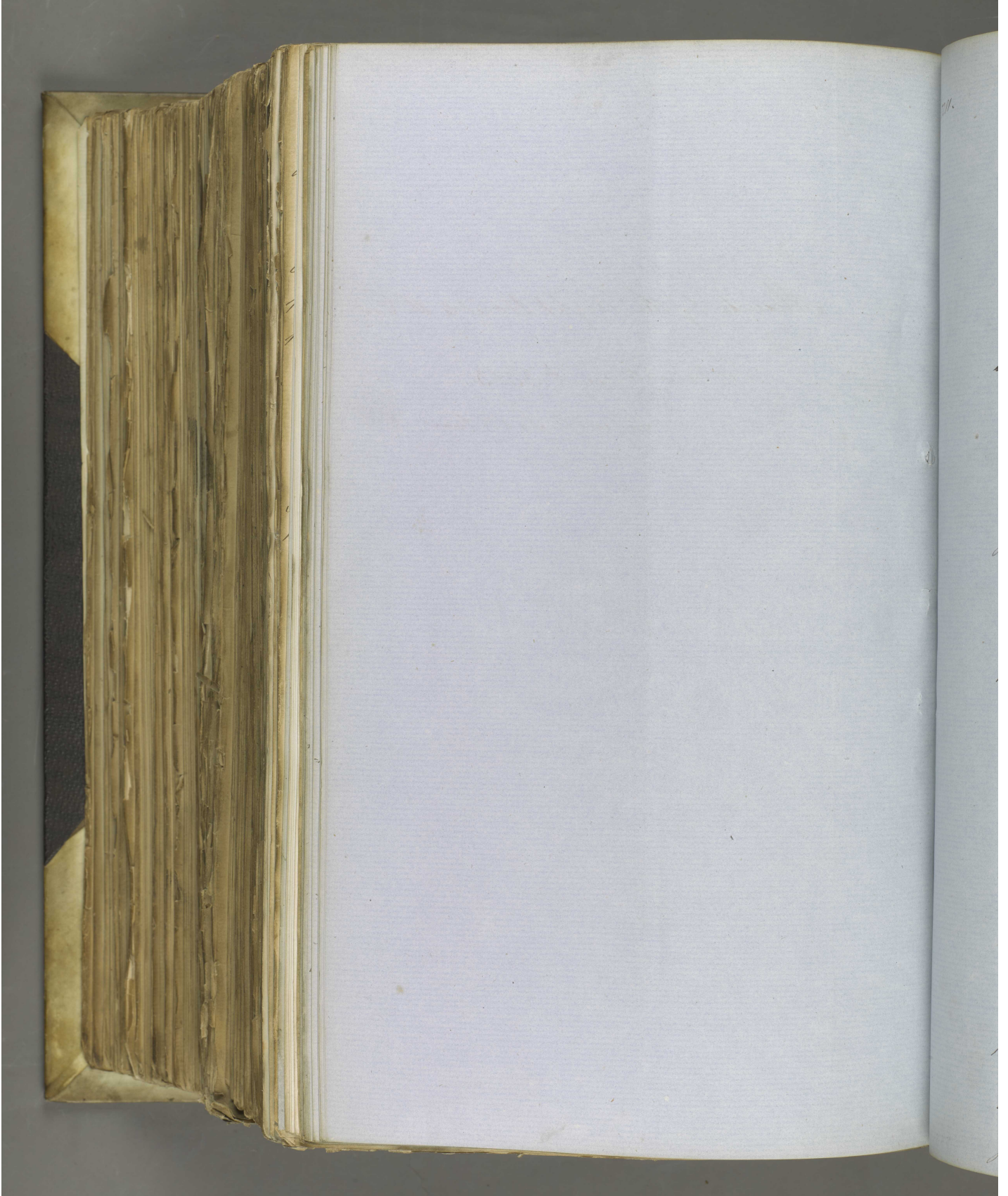
Major, H. M. Consul & H. C. Agent
in the Dominion of H. H. the
Sultan of Muscat.

Copied by
H. M. Consul
Muscat

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1128r] (51/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1128v] (52/56)



'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1129] (53/56)

No 7281.

Extract Bombay Political ⁴⁹

Consultation 15th September 1832

Petition from Hajee Mahomed Hashim Namajee
and Hajee Mahomed Kurrim Namajee of Bombay Persian
Merchants and inhabitants.

To The Honble Viscount Lord Falkland G. C. B.
President and Governor in Council

8/2 8/2 8/2

Dated 21st July 1832.

Sheweth,

That your petitioners are Persian Merchants
and have been trading and residing in Bombay under
British protection for these last 20 years since.

Some time in the month of April last
your petitioners' agent at Calcutta on their account &
shipped on board the Ship Centaur for Bussier 27 chests
of Indigo of the value of Rupees 1000. Your petitioners
are sorry to learn that the said vessel was plundered by
pirates near Muscat and all her cargo taken away by
them.

Your petitioners in the month of May
last also shipped from Bombay on board the Bugala
by Capt. Navoda Abdul Kurrim under British Colour,
bound for Bussier the mentioned goods.

25 Bundles of Piece Goods

38 Chests of Tea

1 Cask of red lead

1 Chest of books.

Valued at Rupees 7000 which vessel was also as your
petitioners was informed plundered by the same pirates
and at the same place. Thus your petitioners suffered
a loss of Rupees 23000. they therefore humbly employes
your Honble Board will be pleased to add their names
to

(1129)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1129v] (54/56)

to those of the other claimants intending to seek Com-
pensation for the said loss by the endeavours and
protection of the enlightened British Government.

Bombay 21st July 1832.

And your Petitioners as
in duty bound will ever pray

Hajee Mahomed Hashim Namajee

Hajee Mahomed Hussein Namajee.

Minute by the Honorable Mr. Blane concerned N^o 7282.
in by the Honble Mr. Bell dated 3rd August 1832

This paper may be sent to the Government
of India with the next communication we may have
occasion to address to them on the subject.

3rd August 1832.

Signed D. A. Blane.

J. A. Bell.

N^o 13

Office N^o 3980

N^o 113 of 1832,

N^o 7283.

Political Department

From A. Malet Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government

To

C. Allen Esquire

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India
Fort William

Sir

Dated 15 September 1832.

With reference to my letter N^o 85 dated
the 17th July last, I am directed by the Right Honble the
Governor in Council to report the return to Bombay,
yesterday of the Honble Company's Steam Frigate "Queen"
from the duty on which, consequent on your letter dated
the 2nd July last N^o 2228, she was despatched to the Persian
Gulf, and to transmit to you for submission to the
most Noble the Governor General of India in Council
copies of two Letters from the Honble Company's Agent
in

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1130r] (55/56)

51

in the dominions of His Highness the Imam of Muscat
Nos 27 and 34, dated the 27th ultimo and 6th instant the
former with enclosures on the subject of the plunder of
of the Cargo of the British Ship "Centaur".

2. I am desired also to forward copy of a letter
with enclosure from the Resident in the Persian Gulf
No 265 dated the 17th ultimo on the same subject.

3. I am further on this occasion instructed
to transmit copy of a petition from Hajee Mahomed
Hashim Namjee and Hajee Mahomed Kurim Namjee
Merchants of Bombay, dated the 21st July last on the
subject of their alleged losses by the wreck of the Centaur
and requesting that their names may be added to the
list of claimants for compensation

Bombay Castle,
15th Sept 1852

I have the honor to be Sir
Yours
A. Malet
Chief Secretary.

No 114

No 3981 of 1852.

Political Department

From A. Malet Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government.

To Hajee Mahomed Hashim Namjee
and
Hajee Mahomed Kurim Namjee

Bombay
Dated 15th September 1852.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the
Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your
petition dated the 21st July last on the subject of your
losses by the plunder of the Ship Centaur and Dugla
Agob in the Persian Gulf and to inform you that
a copy thereof has been forwarded to Calcutta to day

(1130)

'Muscat. Proceedings connected with the recovery of the Cargo of the Ship
"Centaur" of Calcutta, lost near-' [1130v] (56/56)

5th day for submission to the most Noble the Governor
General of India in Council.

Bombay Castle
15th Septe 1832.

Shave the honor to be Dec
Signed J. A. Allet
Chief Secretary
True Extract

Wm
Chief Secy

Copied by
J. A. Allet
J. A. Allet