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**Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at
Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a
Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the
Independence of Persia**

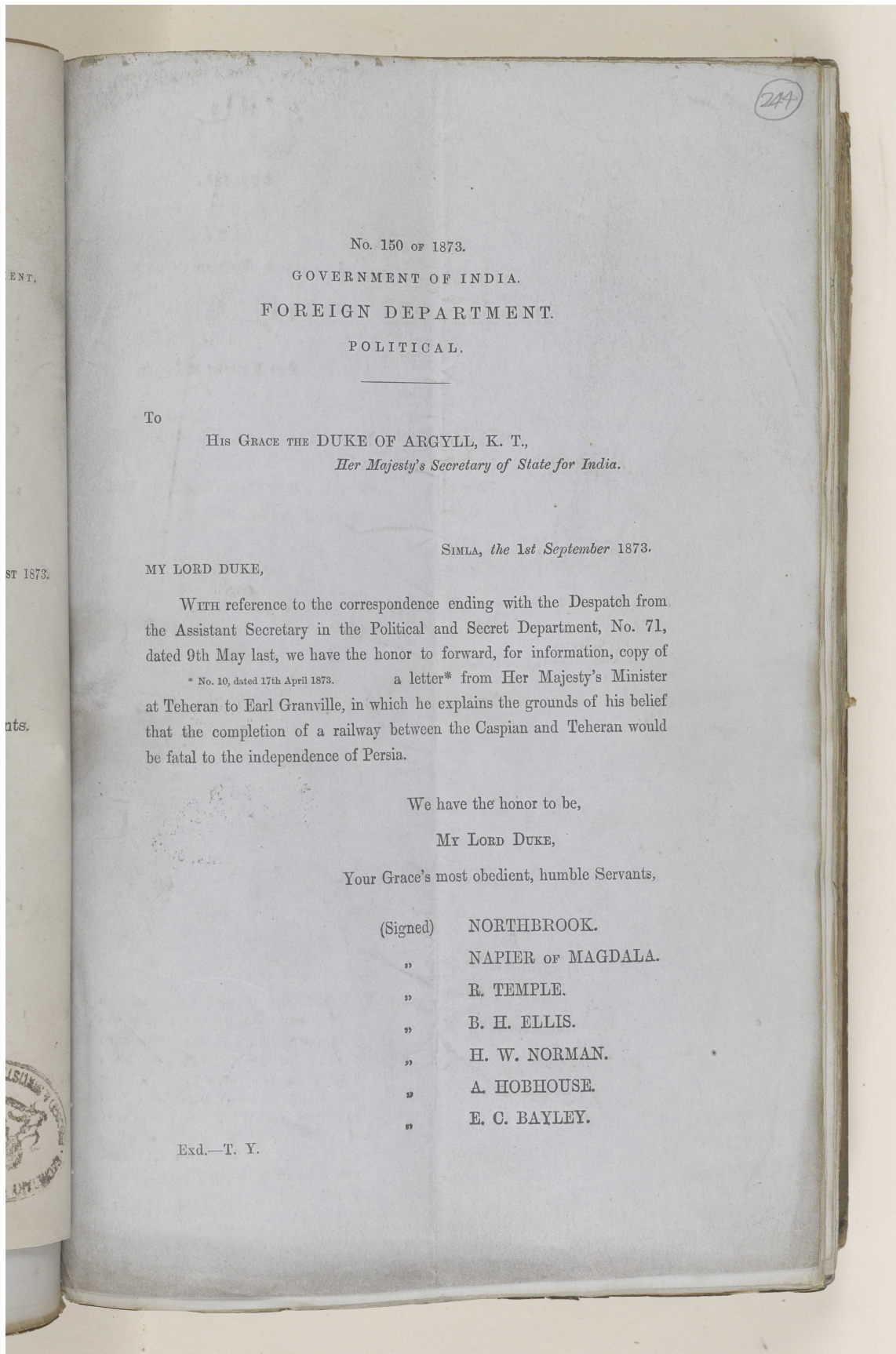
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/6/111, ff 244-248
Date(s)	1 Sep 1873-30 Sep 1873 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (7 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



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 1 September 1873 and received by the India Office Secret Department on 30 September 1873, forwarding copies of a letter from the Minister at Teheran [Tehran] to Lord Granville, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, explaining the grounds of his belief that the completion of a railway between the Caspian [Sea] and Teheran would be fatal to the independence of Persia [Iran].

Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of Persia [244r] (1/14)



No. 150 OF 1873.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
POLITICAL.

To
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K. T.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

SIMLA, the 1st September 1873.

MY LORD DUKE,

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with the Despatch from the Assistant Secretary in the Political and Secret Department, No. 71, dated 9th May last, we have the honor to forward, for information, copy of
* No. 10, dated 17th April 1873. a letter* from Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran to Earl Granville, in which he explains the grounds of his belief that the completion of a railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be fatal to the independence of Persia.

We have the honor to be,

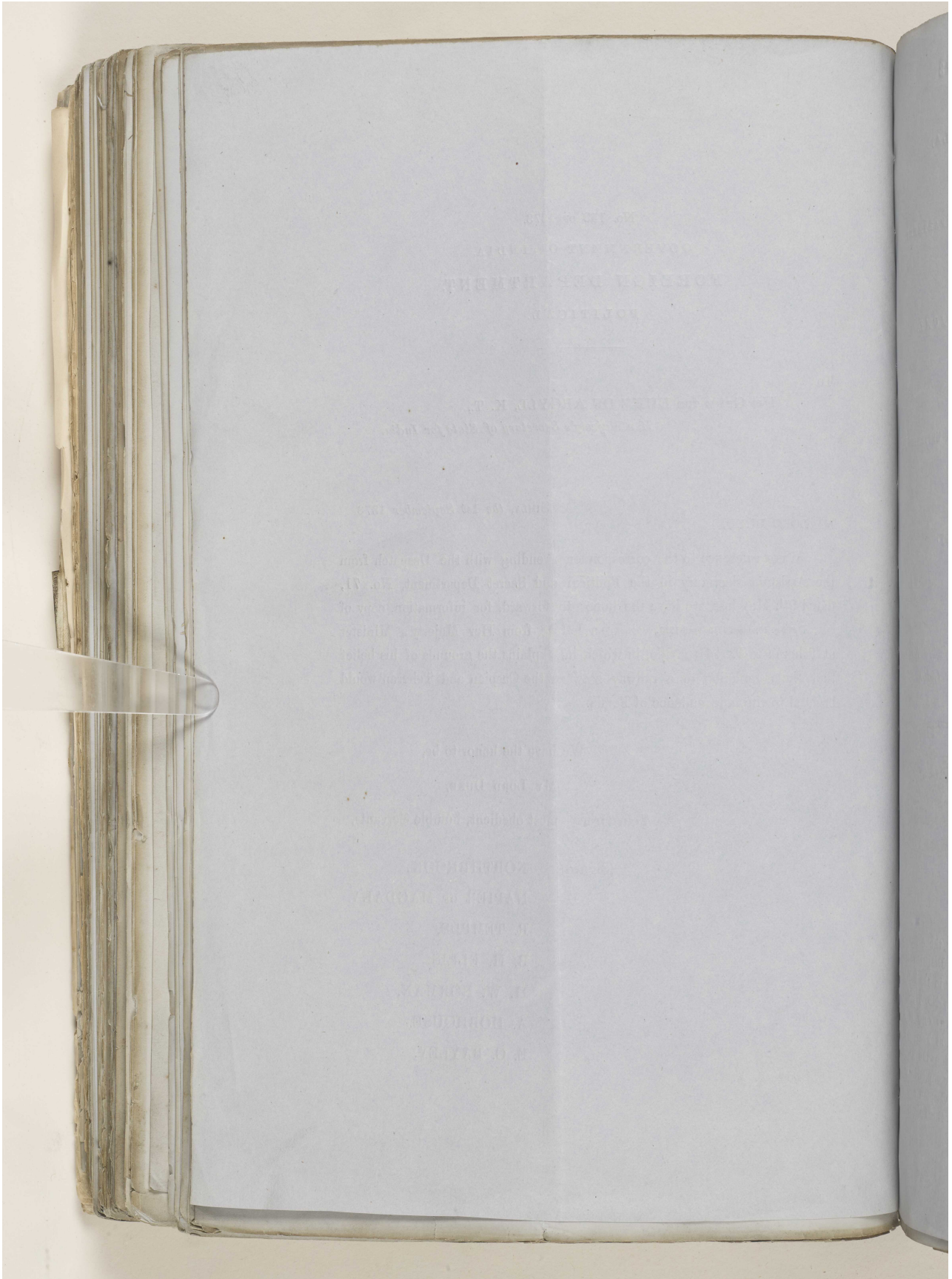
MY LORD DUKE,

Your Grace's most obedient, humble Servants,

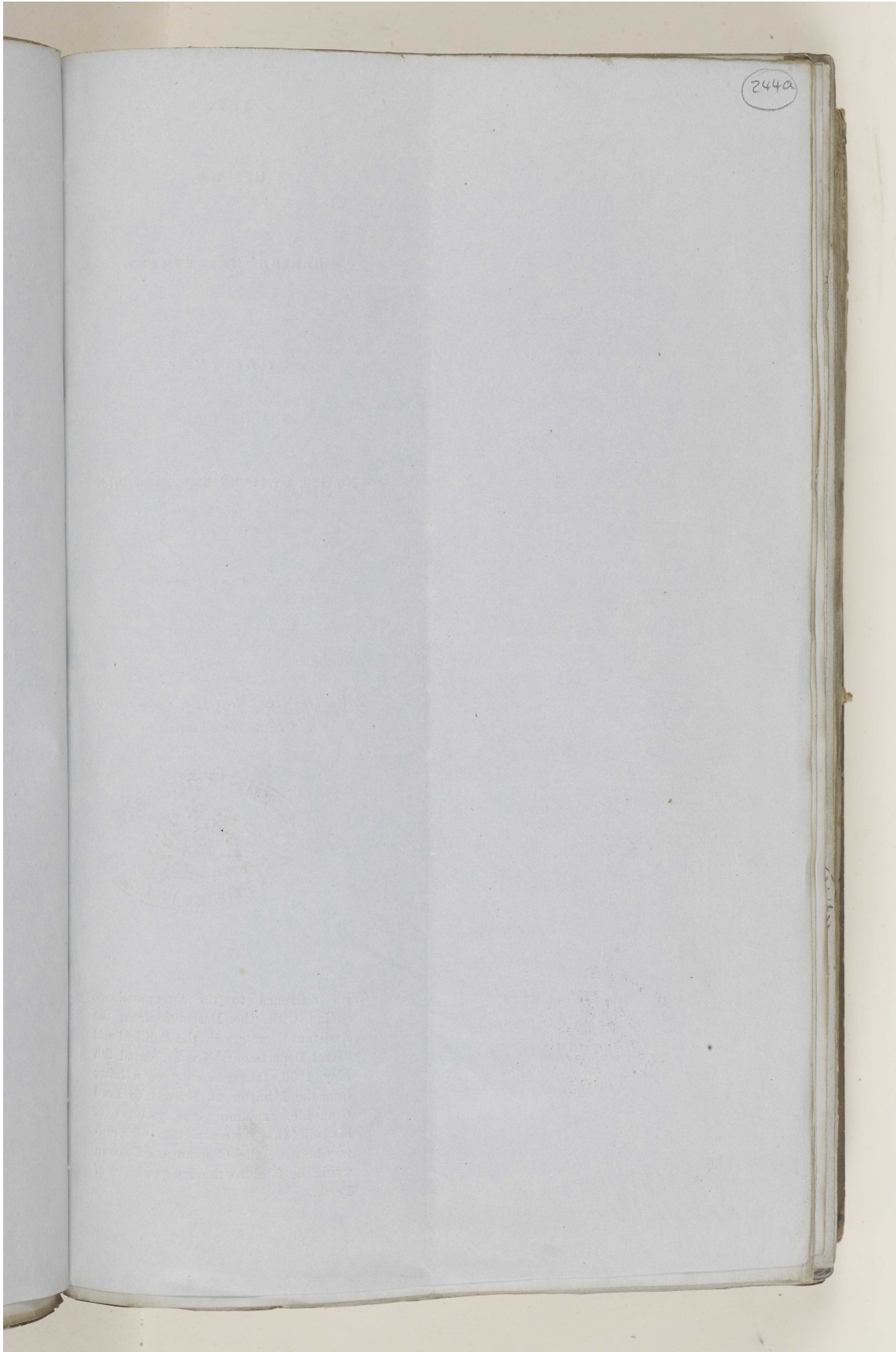
(Signed) NORTHBROOK.
" NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
" R. TEMPLE.
" B. H. ELLIS.
" H. W. NORMAN.
" A. HOBHOUSE.
" E. C. BAYLEY.

Exd.—T. Y.

Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at
Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a
Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of
Persia [244v] (2/14)



Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at
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Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of
Persia [244ar] (3/14)



Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of Persia [244av] (4/14)

India For^m N^o. 150 of 1873
1st Sept. 1 En. D^{re}

1873

SIMLA.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

POLITICAL.

No. 150, DATED 1ST SEPTEMBER 1873.

Copy.

Letter to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.



With reference to the correspondence ending with the Despatch from the Assistant Secretary in the Political and Secret Department, No. 71, dated 9th May 1873, forwards copy of a letter from the Minister at Teheran to Lord Granville, explaining the grounds of his belief that the completion of a railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be fatal to the independence of Persia.

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Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at
Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a
Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of
Persia [245r] (5/14)

245

No. 10, dated Teheran, 17th April 1873 (Confidential).

From—Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran,
To—Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

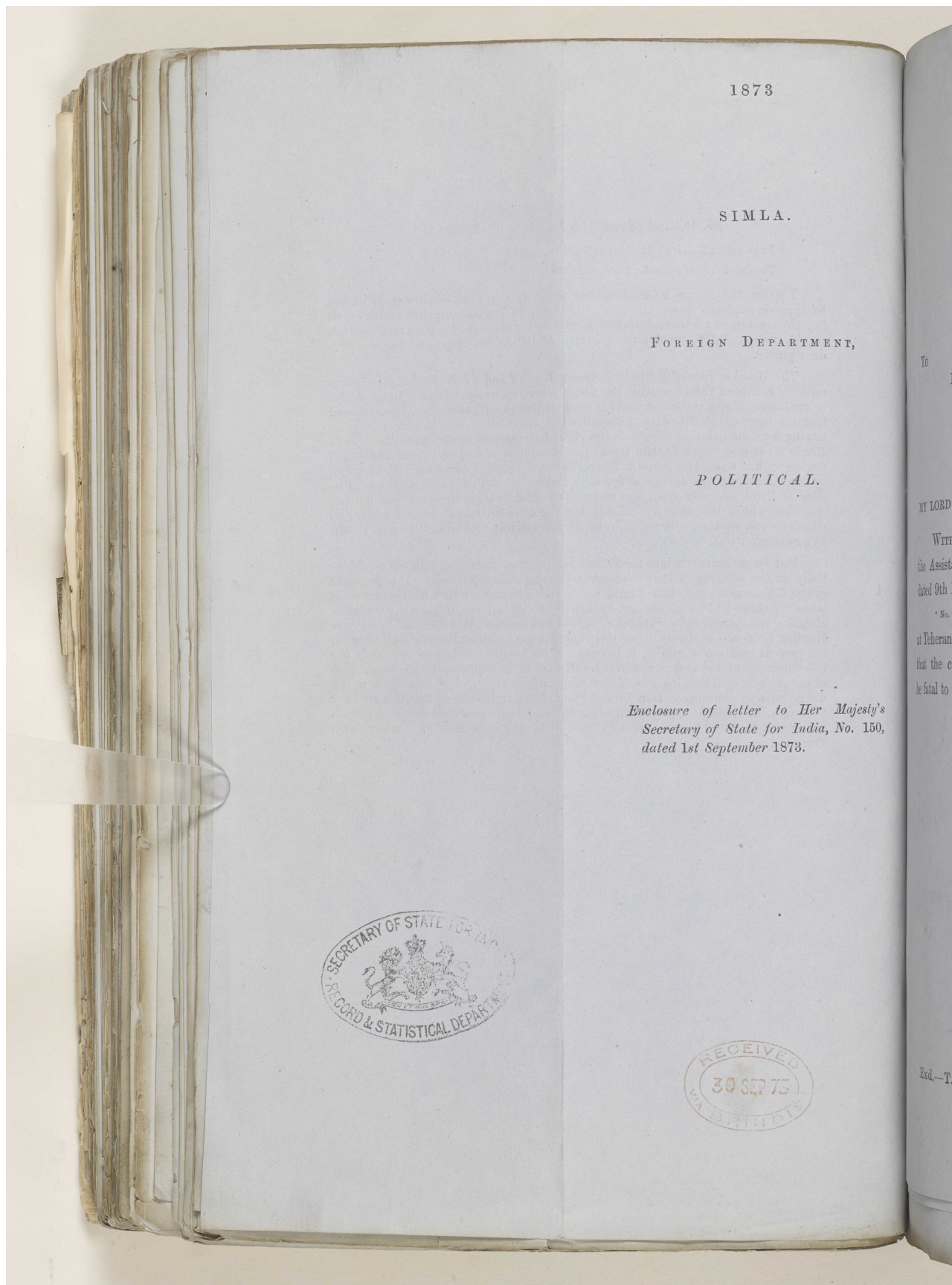
I HAVE the honor to explain the grounds upon which I stated, in my telegraphic cyphered despatch to Your Lordship of 7th instant, that under existing circumstances the completion of a railway between the Caspian and Teheran would, in my opinion, involve the question of Persia ceasing to be an independent power.

The Russian line of Railway between Rostoff and Vlady Kafkaz, the great military centre of the Caucasus, has already been commenced and will no doubt be continued along the coast until it reaches Bakoo. If, therefore, the proposed line connecting Resht with Teheran were completed, the Reuter Company having by concession of the Shah the right to construct such other railways in Persia as it may deem fit, the Resht line would as a matter of course be connected with Astara, the present Russo-Persian frontier town on the Caspian, by that Company and the same town by Bakoo by the Russians. This would be done at little expense from the abundance of forest timber and the natural facilities which the country affords for the construction of such a work, and thus Teheran would be brought into direct railway communication with St. Petersburg itself.

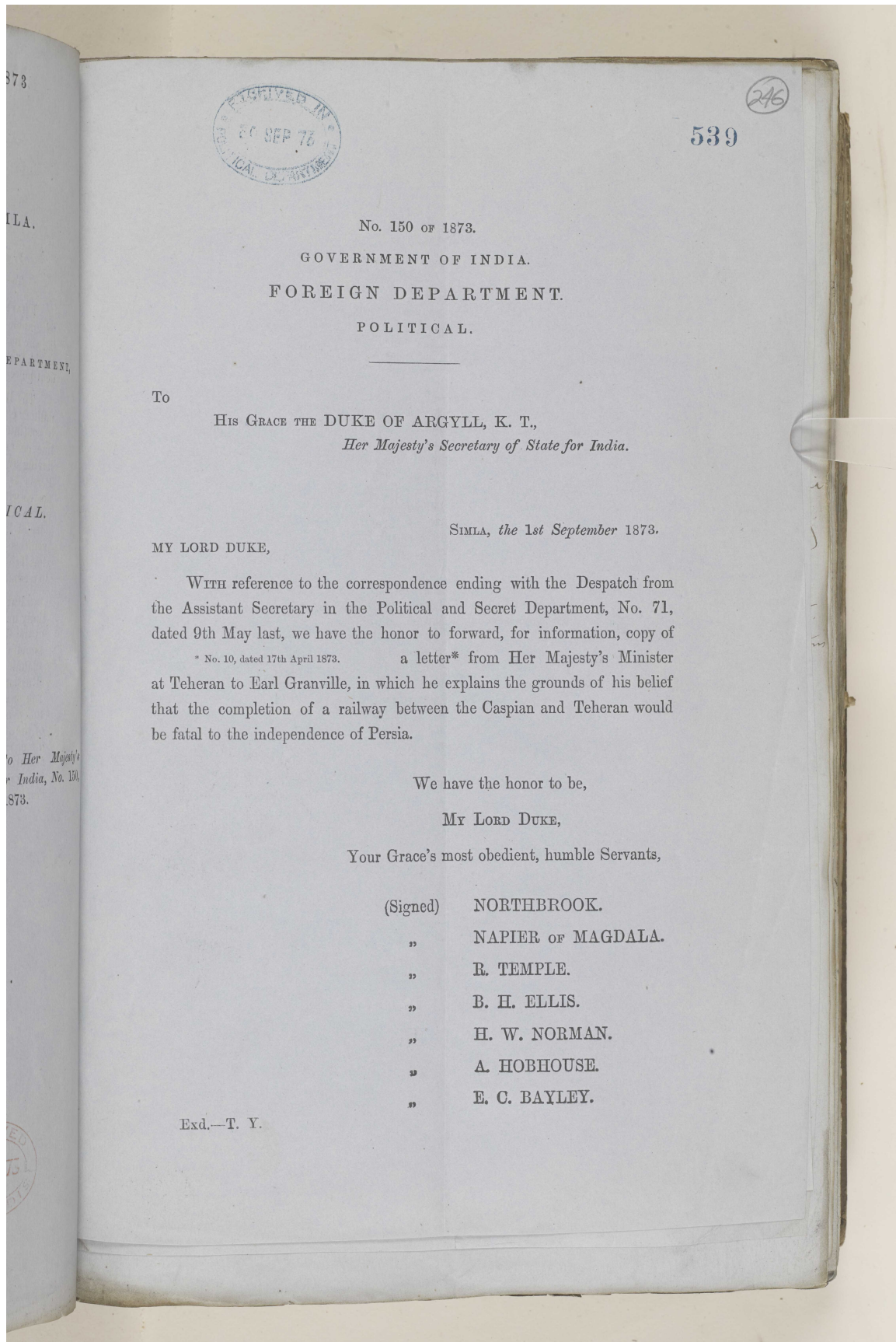
But on several occasions the Grand Vizier, when speaking with me confidentially on the position of Persia towards Russia, with reference to the presence of the Russians on the Attreks did not hesitate to declare that his Government standing alone had no choice but eventually to yield, even if Russia, instead of claiming the Attrek as her frontier, should announce that Astarabad itself was Russian territory, and this being the view taken by the Persian Minister in the present position of affairs, it is only too obvious not only how seriously the independence of the country would be affected if, in addition to the occupation of the Attrek, and domination of the Goorzaun Valleys, her capital were by direct railway communication brought under the influence of Russia's military resources, but also how powerfully that state of dependence would affect British policy and interests in Central Asia, as well as the relations of Turkey with Persia.

Exd.—T. Y.

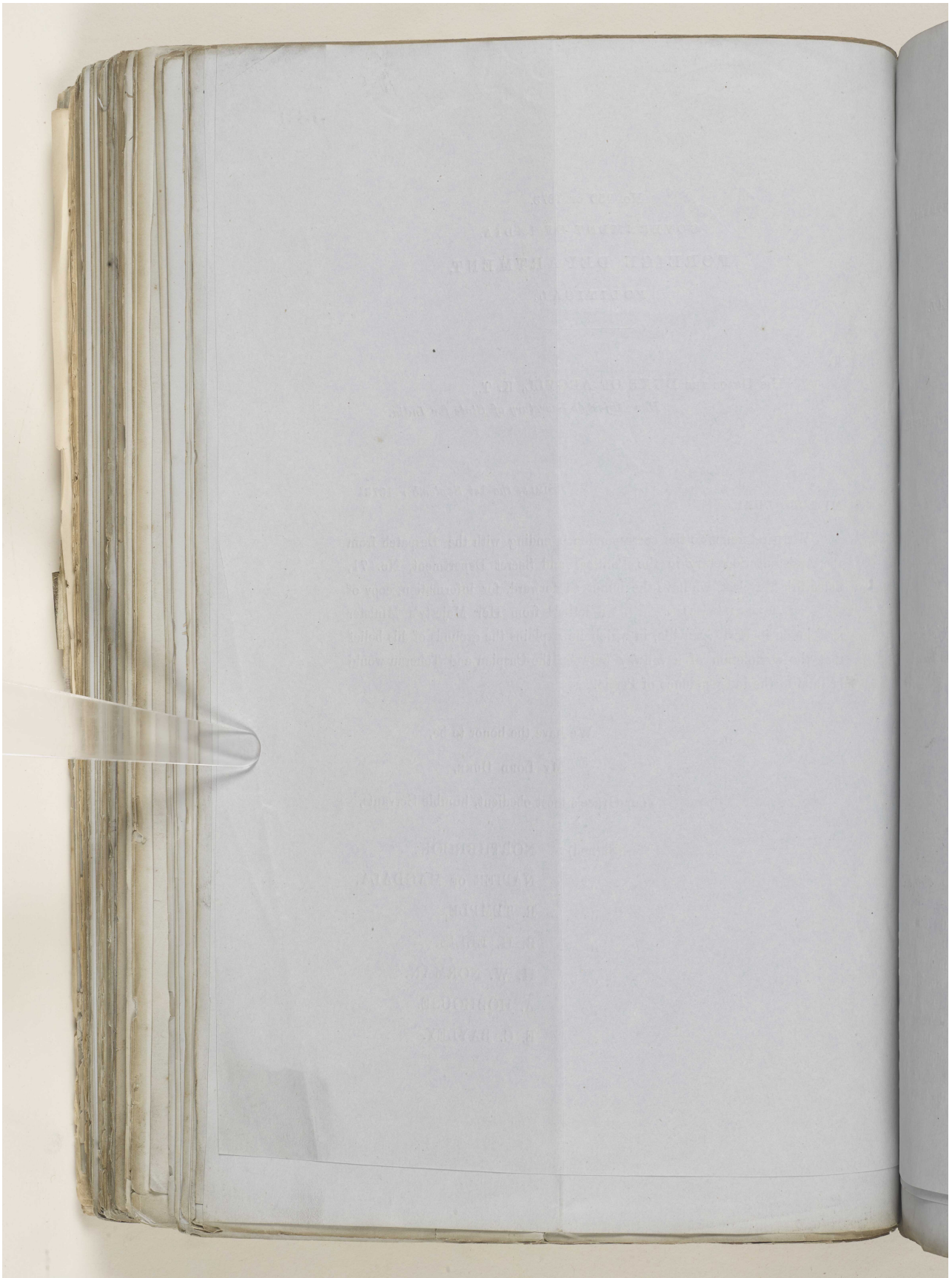
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Persia [245v] (6/14)



Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of Persia [246r] (7/14)



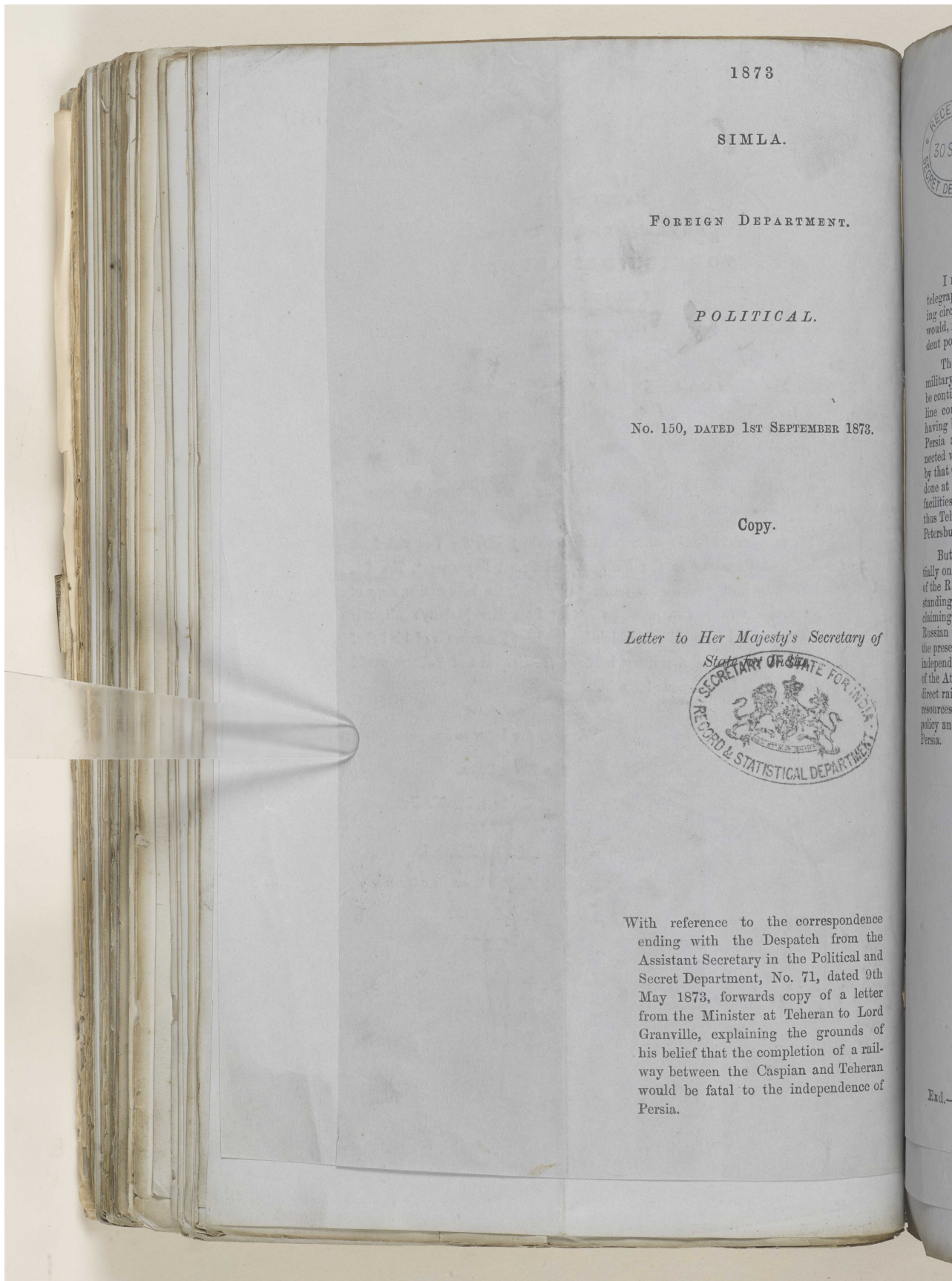
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Persia [246v] (8/14)



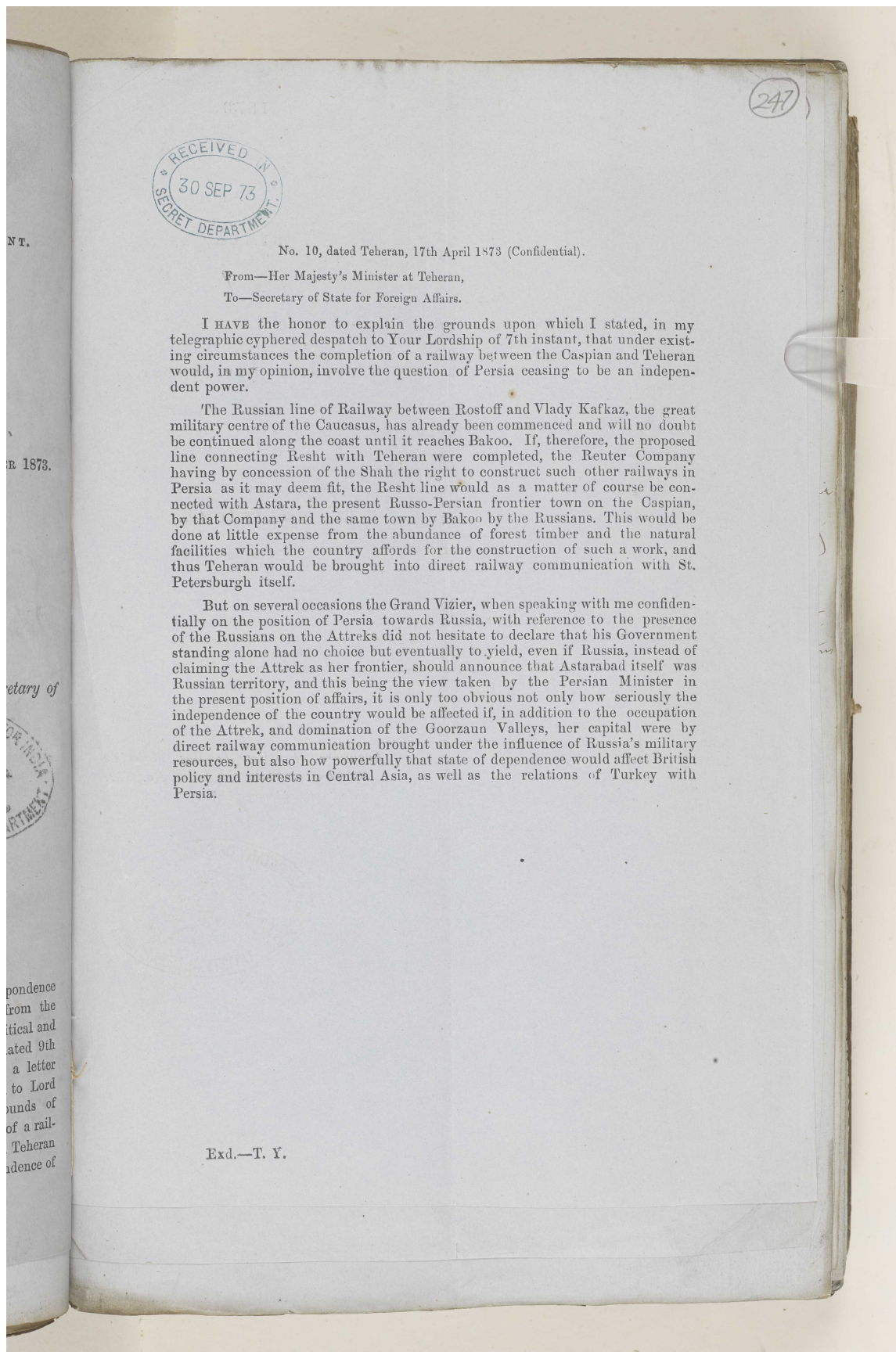
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Persia [246ar] (9/14)



Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of Persia [246av] (10/14)



Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at
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Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of
Persia [247r] (11/14)



247

No. 10, dated Teheran, 17th April 1873 (Confidential).

From—Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran,

To—Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

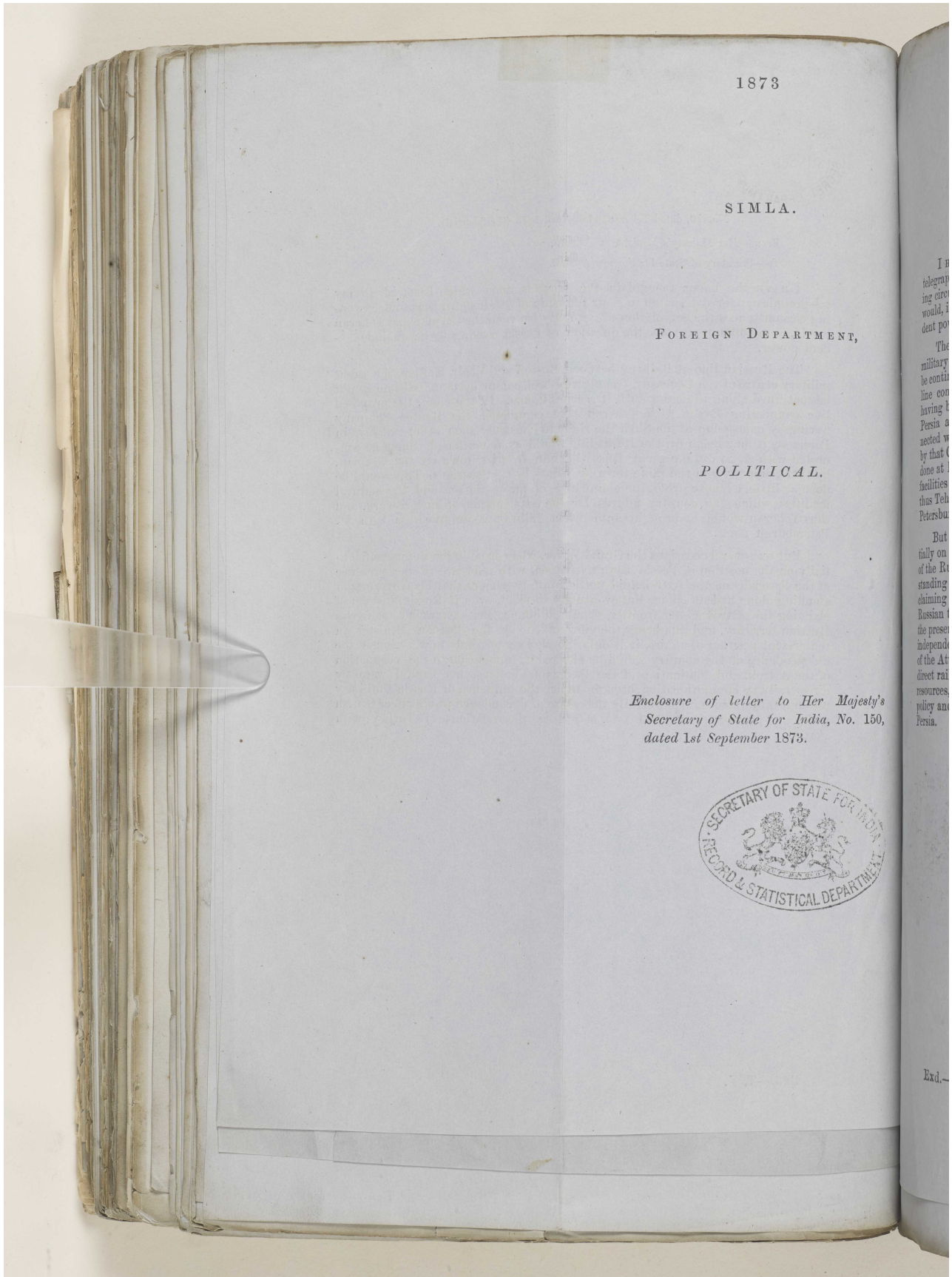
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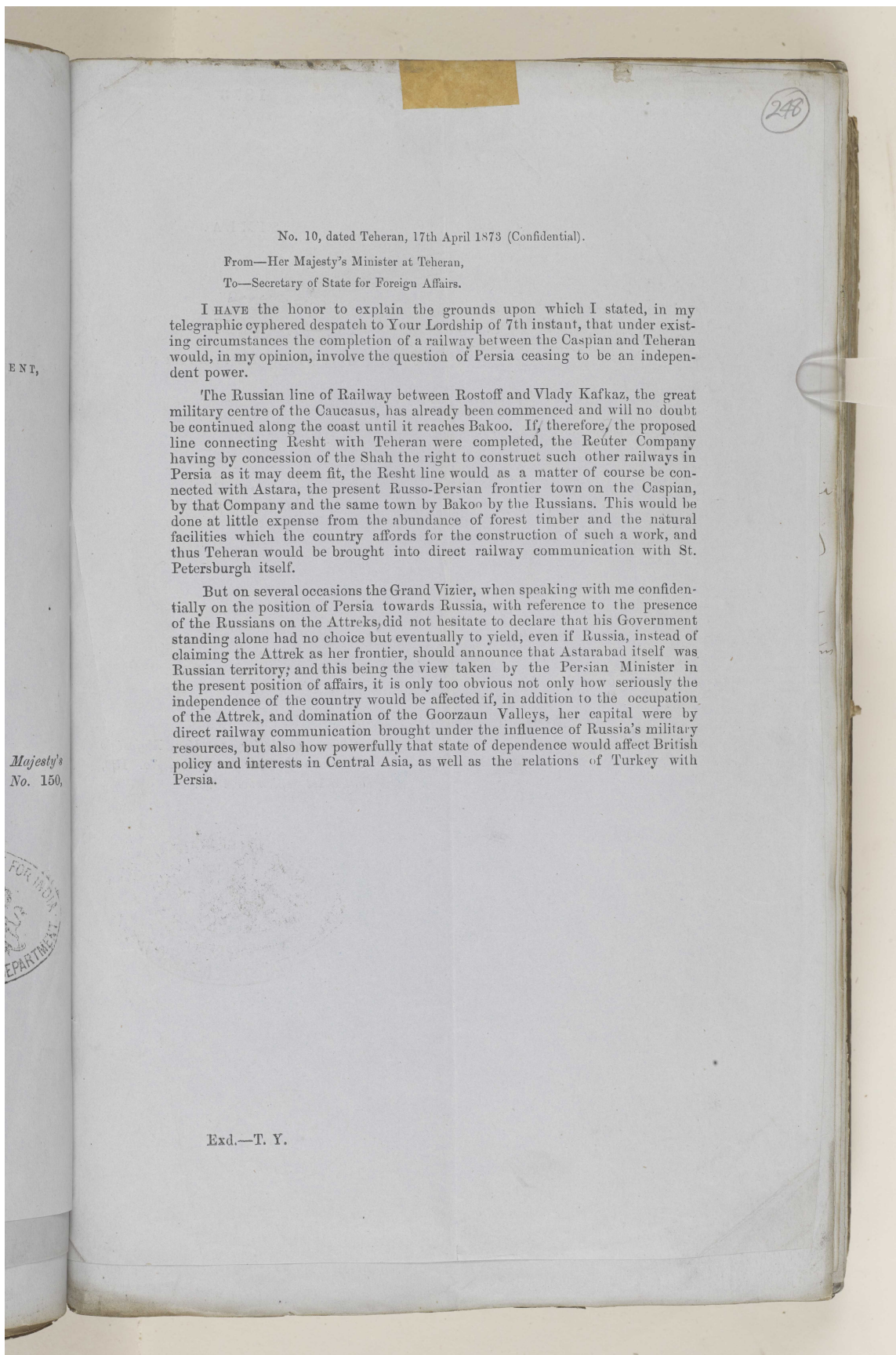
But on several occasions the Grand Vizier, when speaking with me confidentially on the position of Persia towards Russia, with reference to the presence of the Russians on the Attreks did not hesitate to declare that his Government standing alone had no choice but eventually to yield, even if Russia, instead of claiming the Attrek as her frontier, should announce that Astarabad itself was Russian territory, and this being the view taken by the Persian Minister in the present position of affairs, it is only too obvious not only how seriously the independence of the country would be affected if, in addition to the occupation of the Attrek, and domination of the Goorzaun Valleys, her capital were by direct railway communication brought under the influence of Russia's military resources, but also how powerfully that state of dependence would affect British policy and interests in Central Asia, as well as the relations of Turkey with Persia.

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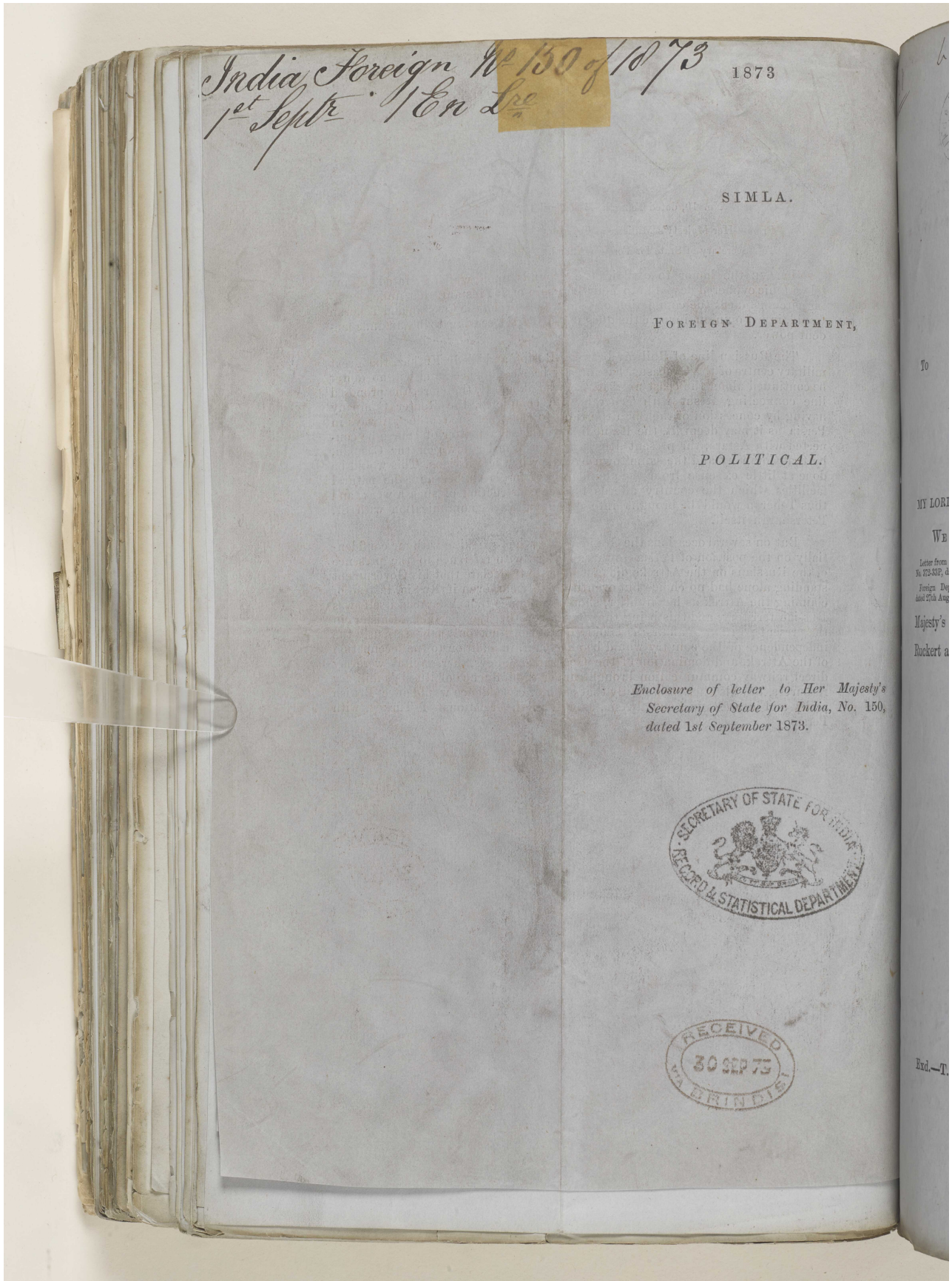
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Political No. 150 of 1873, Forwarding Copies of a Letter from HM Minister at Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of Persia [248r] (13/14)



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Teheran to Earl Granville, Explaining Why he Believes the Completion of a
Railway between the Caspian and Teheran would be Fatal to the Independence of
Persia [248v] (14/14)



*India Foreign No 150 of 1873
1st Sept. 1873*

1873

SIMLA.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

POLITICAL.

*Enclosure of letter to Her Majesty's
Secretary of State for India, No. 150,
dated 1st September 1873.*



To
MY LORD
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Letter from
No. 272-331, d
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