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**‘Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.’**

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2550/149211
Date(s)	12 Apr 1853-23 Nov 1853 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (21 folios)
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About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, minutes, and consultations cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay to the East India Company Court of Directors. These political letters appear in IOR/F/4/2550/149197. It is the fifteenth in a series of sixteen items on the Persian Gulf.

The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Government of India; Captain Arnold Burrowes Kemball, Resident in the Persian Gulf; Major Atkins Hamerton, HM Consul and the Company's Agent in the Dominions of the Imam of Muskat [Muscat]; and Sheikh Sultan ben Suggar, chief of Rusulkhymah [Shaikh Sulṭān I bin Ṣaqr al-Qāsimī, Ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah].

The item concerns:

- The efforts to obtain reparations for ships seized by the people of Charrack [Bandar-e Charak]
- The failure of an attempt by a group of men from the Tungistoon [Tungistan] tribe to rescue their chief, Bauker Khan [Bāqir Khān Tangistānī], who is being held prisoner in Bushire [Bushehr]
- The effects of the recent earthquake in Sheeraz [Shiraz], and the resignation of Feerooz Mirza [Fīrūz Mīrzā Nuṣrat-al-Dawlah, text includes multiple spellings], the Prince Governor of Fars

- A 'piracy' committed near to Zanzibar, and the question of whether Sheikh Sultan ben Suggar is liable to pay compensation.

The item contains a table of contents (f 635), and the title page (f 634) contains the following references: Draft Number '358 - 1854', 'Collection No. 10 of No. 109 of 1853. Vol. 15' and 'Examiner's Office'. The collection number was originally given as '3' but this has been crossed out and replaced with '10'.

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [634r] (1/42)

149.211

¹⁰
Collection No. 5 of No. 109 of 1853.

^{Vol. 15}
Bombay

Political Department.

Accompanying Political Despatch
from the Bombay Government, dated
the 20th November 1853.

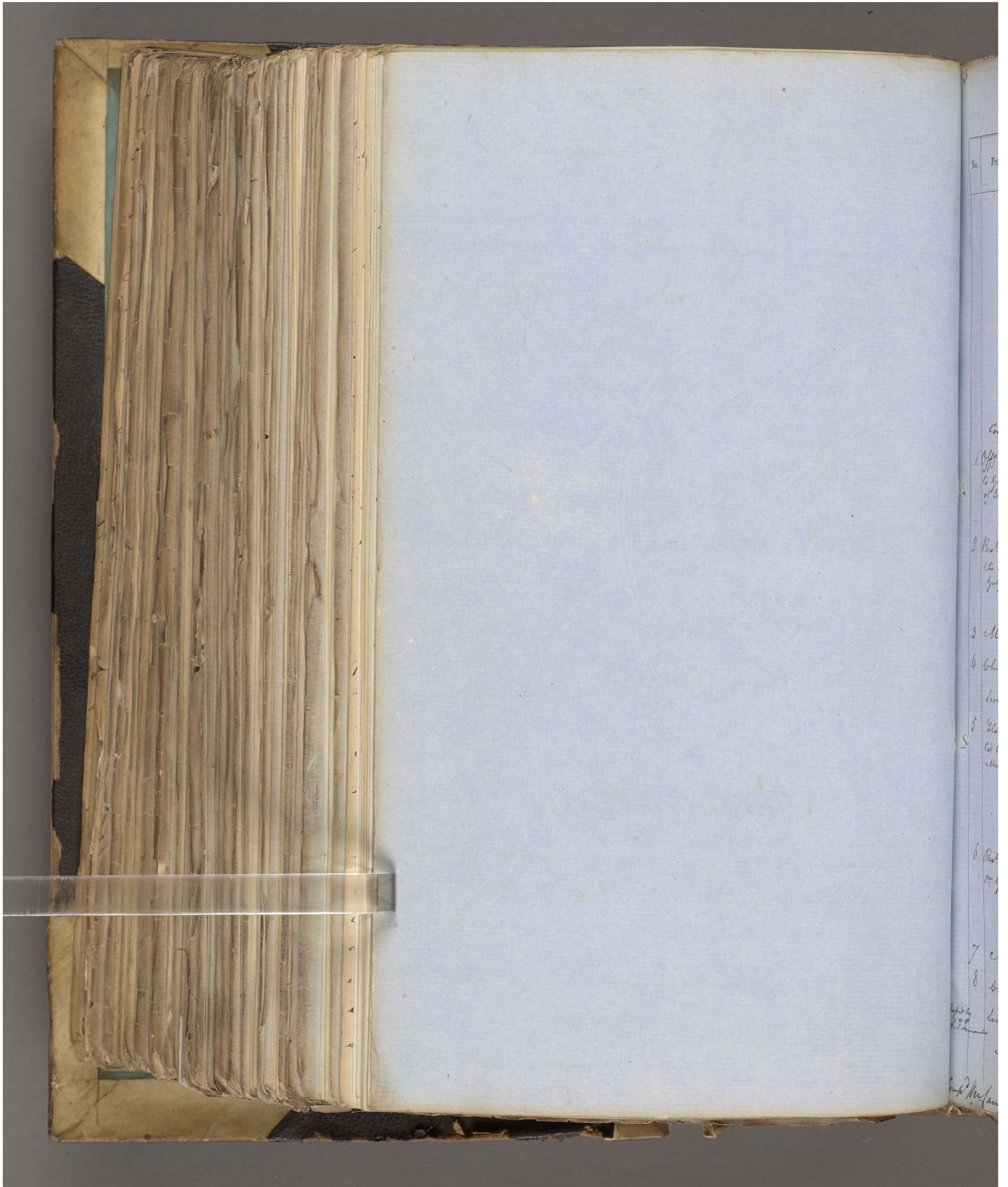
Persian Gulf

Relative to an act of piracy committed on the
African coast, by a Ras-el-Khymah
boat &c.

Examiner's Office

(634)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [634v] (2/42)



'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [635r] (3/42)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	From	To	Subject.	Date and No. of Docut.	Date and No. of Consul.
<u>Persian Gulf.</u>					
<i>Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast, by a Ras-el-Khymah boat</i>					
1	Offg Secy to Govt of India.	Chief Secretary	Replying to the letter from this Government N ^o . 38, dated the 24 th Ultimo	1853, 1712.	1853, 3907.
2	Resid in the Persian Gulf.	Chief Secretary	Forwards copies of letters addressed by him to Her Majesty's Charge de Affairs at Tehran	April 12 th 1712.	May 18 th 3907.
3	Minute by the Honorable Board			July 18 th 1854, Sept 2 nd	Sept 29 th 7280, 7281.
4	Chief Secretary of India	Offg Secy to Govt	Forwards copy of the above letter and of its enclosures	12 th 125.	7282.
5	Honorable C ^o s Adj ^t Muskat	Chief Secretary	On the subject of the plunder of a Sansibar Buteel by a Buggora of Rasjel-Khymah	July 7 th 171.	Nov 23 rd 3432.
6	Resid in the Persian Gulf	Chief Secretary	On the subject of the plunder above alluded to	Sept 20 th 73.	9173.
7	Minute by the Honorable Board			Nov 7 th	9171.
8	Chief Secretary of India	Resid in the Persian Gulf.	Approving of his proceedings	21 st 4997.	9175.

W. P. Maffison
Bombay Castle
20th November 1853.

Wheeler
Secretary

(635)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [636r] (5/42)

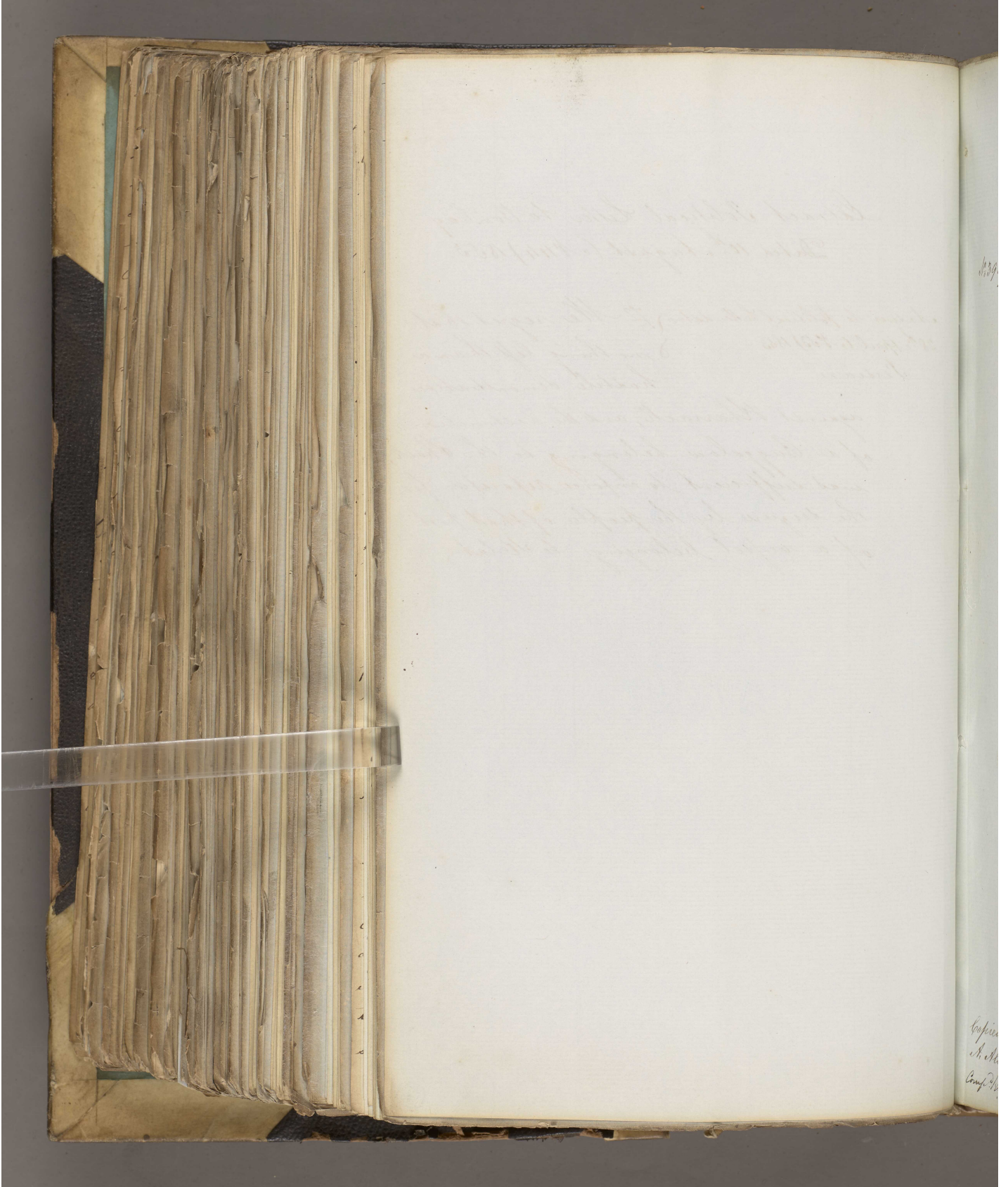
Extract Political Letter to Bombay
Dated 10th August (A/114) 1853.

Answer to Political Letter dated 7th } We regret that
28th April (A/53) 1853 } nothing left than a
Persian } hostile demonstration
against Tharrack, and the destruction
of a Buggalow belonging to the Shait,
was sufficient to enforce reparation for
the seizure by the people of that port
of a vessel belonging to Melat.

Bombay

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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [636v] (6/42)



'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [637r] (7/42)

Extract Bombay Political
consultation 18th May 1853.

N^o 1712 of 1853.

Foreign Department

N^o 3907 From C. Allen Esquire.

Officiating Secretary to the Government
of India.

To A. Malet, Esquire.

Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay.

Dated Fort William the 12th April 1853.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 24th ultimo, N^o 38, and in reply to intimate that the Governor General in Council approved of the proceedings of the President in the Persian Gulf and of Commodore Robinson, in exacting reparation from the Chief of Charriack, for the maritime aggressions of his dependants on the people of Kilat.

Fort William

The 12th April
1853

I have the honor to be Sir,

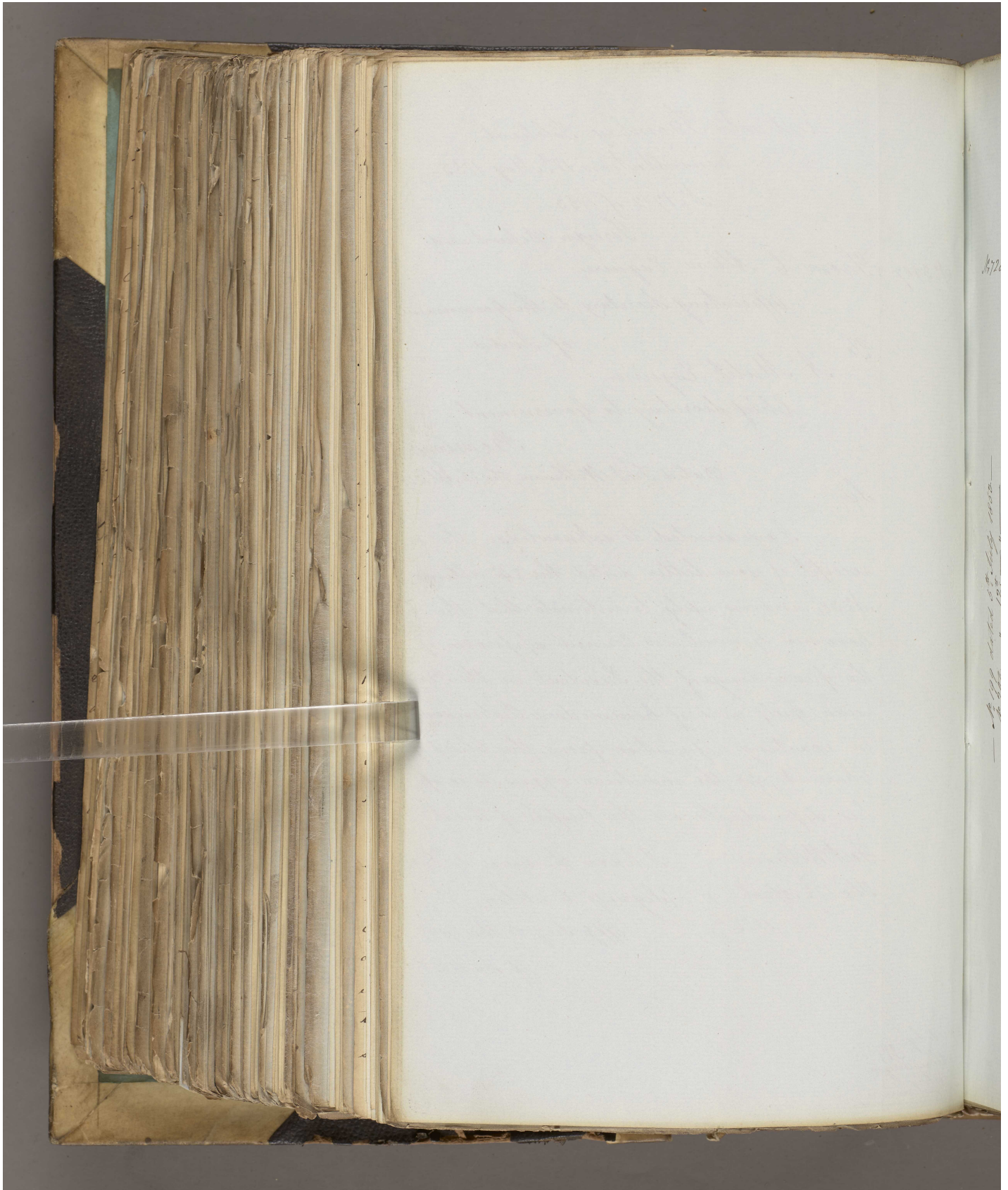
Signed C. Allen,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt^{rs}
of India,

Copied by SB
A. Albuquerque.
Conf. H. S. P. 1853

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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [637v] (8/42)



'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [638r] (9/42)

5-
Extract Bombay Political
consultation 29th September 1853.

Office N^o 207 of 1853.

Cons: N^o 54 of 1853-

N^o 7280 From Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf
To

A. Malet Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

Dated 18th July 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward here-
with for the information of the Right Hon^{ble}.
the Governor in Council, Copies of the letters
noted in the Margin addressed by me to
Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of
Persia-

Residency in the Persian Gulf
Bushire 18th July 1853 } I have the honor to be
signed A. B. Kemball.
Resid^t in the Persian Gulf.

N^o 199 of 1853.

From Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.
N^o 199 N^o 200 N^o 201

To,

(638)

N^o 199 dated 5th July 1853.
N^o 200 " 12th " "
N^o 203 " 14th " "

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [638v] (10/42)

To

William Taylour Thomson Esquire.
Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires
at the Court of Persia, Tehran,
Dated 5th July 1853.

Sir,

Adverting to my letter to A. E. Coq
Sheik N^o 1 of 3rd January 1853 I have the
honor to acquaint you that Sheikh Sultan
been Abdulla the Chief of Beharrack, &
having restored the buteel captured by his ^{in March 1853}
people from the Beni Numad Tribe, has
resumed the pledge furnished to Comma-
ndere Robinson as security for his so doing,
the receipts of the Parties on either side /1
are herewith enclosed. - /2

2 I take this opportunity also to inform
you of the restitution by the same indivi-
dual of the boats he more recently carried
off from Kelat, as reported in my despatch
N^o 2 of 4th January last, during my stay at
Massidore on the occasion of my late
tour of the Gulf I received a visit from
Sheikh Hassan ben Abdulla, who came
to represent the hardship of his being
called upon to restore property fairly taken
from his enemies as he said, by land,
and to ask whether I would still press
my

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [639r] (11/42)

my requisition - As he admitted that his boats had cooperated with the land force, that they had towed away the captured Suggorahs, and had also been laden with the spoil - I pointed out that there was but one course open to him of redeeming his character and of relieving himself from further demands. The fulfilment of the promise he thereon made to afford compliance - I am happy to say, has been since, reported to me by the Agent at Lingah.

3. I may mention that Sheikh Mussan bitterly lamented the folly of his locum tenens at Charrack in not having paid attention to the claims preferred by Commodore Robinson, and he assured me that I should not again have to complain of maritime irregularities, on the part of himself or his dependants. I venture to hope that the lesson which has been read to this Chief, will ensure peace & tranquillity in the Persian coast for a long time to come.

Residency on the Persian Gulf
Wushire 5th July 1853

I have the honor to be &c.
Signed A. B. Kemball.
Resid. in the Persian Gulf.

True (639)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [639v] (12/42)

(True Copy)

Signed A. F. Disbrow,
Asst. Resid. Persian Gulf,
No. 200 of 1853.

From Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf

To
W. J. Thomson Esquire.

N. M. Gorge d' Affaires at the
Court of Persia, Tehran,

Sir,
Dated 19th July 1853.

I have the honor to report that
at dawn on the morning of the 29th ultimo,
a party of men of the Sungistom Tribe,
about 100 strong, attempted to surprize
the Charbooy or Square Fort situated at
the eastern end of the main wall of Ba-
-shire with the view of rescuing their chief
Wanther Khan, who is there kept a prisoner.
The alarm being given however, the scheme
miscarried; and they were compelled to
retire with two of their number wounded,
by the fire of the Guard in possession of
the towers-

+ one is said to
have since d^e

2. The assumed negligence of the
garrison during the fast of Ruzman -
seems

Copied by
A. M. H. G. G.
Capt. W. J. Thomson

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [640r] (13/42)

seems to have encouraged Ahmed Khan
to try the effect of a coup de main; his efforts
at least extended no farther, and though
himself present at the head of a consider-
-able body without the walls of the town
to cover the retreat of the assailants, he
manifested no disposition to carry out
his purpose by force -

3. Bunker Khan being suspected
of a secret understanding with his son,
was, in the first instance, loaded with
chains, and subjected to a more rigorous
confinement, but this treatment has been
again relaxed on his taking oath in the
usual manner, that he was not privy to the
Enterprise - Since the above date the
Tungistances have remained inactive; they
and the petty depredations reciprocally in-
-flicted by his retainers, and those of a
pretender to the chiefship of the tribe
set up by the Duraya Begger in an ad-
-joining district, Ahmed Khan and his
followers have abstained from any
further irregularities likely to compromise
his

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one is said
have seen
Copied by
A. M. H. G.
Copied by

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [640v] (14/42)

his father-
 Presidency in the Persian Gulf
 Wusboire 12th July 1853. } I have 8^{co}/₇
 } Signed A. B. Kemball,
 } Resident. 8^{co}/₇
 (True copy)
 Signed A. F. Disbrowe
 Assist^t. Resident Persian Gulf
 N^o 203 of 1853.
 From Captain A. B. Kemball,
 Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

W. J. Thomson Esquire.

A. M^o Charge d' Affaires at the
 Court of Persia, Tehran.

Dated 14. July 1853.-

Sir,

I have the honor to submit herewith for your information, translated Extracts from a Precis of Intelligence received from the British Agent at Shiraz on the 24. ultimo-

2 Much Misery and destitution continue to prevail in the city consequent upon the late awful calamity, and little progress having been made in the reconstruction of their dwellings, the Inhabitants, I am told, are beginning to

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [641r] (15/42)

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to suffer from the effects of exposure to the weather during the excessive heats of Summer. Their ills would seem to be aggravated by the undue interference exercised by the Persian Ministers with the administration of the Prince Governor of Fars, which has so much disgraced N. B. N. as to render him indifferent to the affairs of the Province, and driven him to propose to relinquish his Office.

3. In a letter to myself, Feerooz Mirza, after alluding to the difficulties of his position, informs me confidentially, that he has tendered his resignation. I would join hope that His Royal Highness's proposal, which is probably made with a view rather to obtain for himself a greater consideration hereafter at the hands of the Shah's advisers, than with any intention of its being seriously entertained, may be productive of the desired result. The success which has generally attended his Government, and the attention and good will, which have uniformly

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [641v] (16/42)

uniformly characterized his intercourse
with this Residency, would lead me to
view his retirement with sincere regret.
Residency in the } I have &c.

Persian Gulf } signed A. B. Kemball,
Bushire 14. July 1853. } Resident &c.

(True copy)

Signed A. F. Disbrowe.

Asst. Resid. Persian Gulf.

Collected by
A. M. B. ...
Comp. M. ...

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [642r] (17/42)

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Translated Extracts from Precis of intelligence forwarded by the British Agent at Sheeraz to Captain A. B. ^{Keble} Resident in the Persian Gulf dated, Shabani 1269. Received June 24th 1853.

1 On Thursday $\frac{3^{rd} \text{ Shabane } 69}{11^{th} \text{ May}}$ H, R, H, Feeroz Meerza despatched Meerza Beg, one of his own people from the Camp to the Capital, "via, Sheeraz". As far as has been ascertained it appears that this express Messenger, was Bearer of Letters to the Ministers of State, wherein H, R, H, wrote word that, 'owing to the Plague of Locusts, the Earthquake, and the Blight, which in addition to the swarm of Locusts, had this year attacked the crops, he was unable to undertake further, the Government of the Province of Fars, and begged most earnestly that they (the Ministers) would be pleased to accept of his resignation, they had it in their Power to appoint whomsoever they thought fit, to come and rule the Province in his stead'. The fact is, that irrespective of all the calamities, both celestial and terrestrial that have ruined the Country of Fars,

the
(642)

Collected by
A. B. Keble
Camp

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [642v] (18/42)

the Prince is vexed and disgusted at the irregularities committed by the Sadr-i-Azim. So much latitude, has the latter in his avarice encouraged generally among the people here, that no one listens to the Governor, moreover he wishes his own relations to usurp all the power, and to fatten upon the Province.

2 On Friday ^{12th May} ~~14th Shaban~~ Abao Turas, High Priest of the Province of Fars, repaired in company with all classes of people, both male and female, that had survived the Earthquake to a spot without the city, called "Nuslalee" for the purpose of invoking the Deity to spare his people from another Earthquake.

As up to the present time shocks, more or less violent in their nature, have been constantly felt, the inhabitants are compelled through fear, to dwell either in the open air, or on the heaps of Ruins, being thereby exposed to the pernicious effects of a burning sun by day, and a bitter cold by night. They are utterly destitute and reduced to a state of beggary - he who toils not in the day time starves at nightfall,
indeed

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [643r] (19/42)

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indeed most of the inhabitants have been driven to flight through hunger, some are still fleeing, and some are dying from actual want.

3 On saturday ^{5 Shaban 69}_{13th May} it was said, that Ghulam Houssein Khan, son of the late Ibrahim Khan who was, in the time of Fatah Alee Shah Governor of Kirman, brought on the part of the Sirdar presents to H, R, H, Feeroz Mirza, consisting of a shawl Dikhen cloth, a cloak some Camlet stuff and Antkars, all of Kirman manufacture. Ghulam Houssein Khan is busying himself to acquire a knowledge of the affairs of Fars, and is secretly setting on foot intrigues to persuade the people to declare for the Sirdar. When the Prince was last in Bushire, one Mahomed Alee likewise deputed to H, R, H, by the Sirdar, arrived on the 14th Rujub in that town.

The purport of the letters with which he was charged, and which he presented to H, R, H, was to the effect that if he, (the Prince) required either guns or regular Troops for despatch to Bunder Abbas, he had to give intelligence

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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [643v] (20/42)

telligence and they would be sent;-
A curious proposal considering the relative situations of Bushire and Bunder Abbas. It is plain, as usual, in such cases, that Mahomed Alee is a secret spy, though an accredited emissary, a fact which seems to have been discovered by H, R, H. He is in constant correspondence with the Persian subjects engaged in trade here. It is probable that these proceedings are carried on at the instigation of the Sadr-i-Azim.

4 On Wednesday $\frac{9^{\text{th}} \text{ Shaban } 119}{17^{\text{th}} \text{ May}}$ about noon. The Prince arrived at the Bagh-i-man, and took up his residence in Tents that were (ready) pitched (for his reception) in the Anzer abad.

I went outside the Gate to meet H, R, H, it so happened that on this very day a swarm of locusts had attacked and was devouring the crops around the city. The land owners stood at the corners of the corn fields where (they knew) the Prince would pass, and gave way to lamentations and wailings. On the one hand were collected

crowds
H. by R. M.
Com. / M.

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [644r] (21/42)

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crowds of people, venting forth com-
plaints against the Kashkace Eels
who had plundered their property;
On the other hand was spread before
the view, the utter desolation of the
city. Every thing on every side, as
the Prince advanced, betokened the
gloom, misery and wretchedness
that prevailed, and every thing tended
to render H, R, H, utterly dejected and
sad.

5 On Thursday $\frac{10 \text{ shabau } 69}{18^{\text{th}} \text{ may}}$ H,
R, H summoned into his presence Mirza
Mahomed Khan, Beglar Beggee, son
of the Haje Kowani, and enjoined
him to proceed to Sheeraz, and cheer
up the inhabitants, telling them that
"the ministers of state will surely
give you relief, for I, your Prince
and Governor, have brought, and
shall again beseech them to incline
favourably towards you."

H, R, H desired the Beglar Beggee
to publish this to all the people

6 On Friday $\frac{11^{\text{th}} \text{ shabau } 69}{19^{\text{th}} \text{ may}}$ early in
the day Mirza Mahomed Khan Beg-
lar Beggee, went to his tent for the pur-
pose of bathing.

About noon he came out of the
Bath

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [644v] (22/42)

Bath, and repaired to the tent where lived his wife, family and household, no sooner had he got inside, than, he fainted.

Medical aid was procured, but proved of no avail, and he died. Mirza Mahomed Khan was of all the Kapee Kowans, the best, the most approved, the most talented, and the most experienced.

He was far superior to his Father and all the great men of the Province. He was the Pillar and support of the Kapee Kowans, whose affairs will now certainly fall into disorder.

7. On Wednesday after noon ^{16th Shaban} _{24th May} H. R. became viz, to the city, from the Bagli-i-man with a view to inspect the amount of injury done to the Public Buildings in the late Earthquake. The buildings of the late Kereem Khan Waked suffered more than any other edifice.

Abdullah Khan, head Architect has drawn out a calculation, shewing that the cost of rebuilding the Mosque would amount to 20,000 Tomans

True Translated Extracts
True Copy. signed H. F. Disbrowe
signed H. F. Disbrowe. Asst. Resident of
Asst. Resident Persian Gulf.

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [645r] (23/42)

19

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N^o 7281. Minute by the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor
concurring in by the Hon^{ble} Mr. Blane
dated 2^d September 1853.-

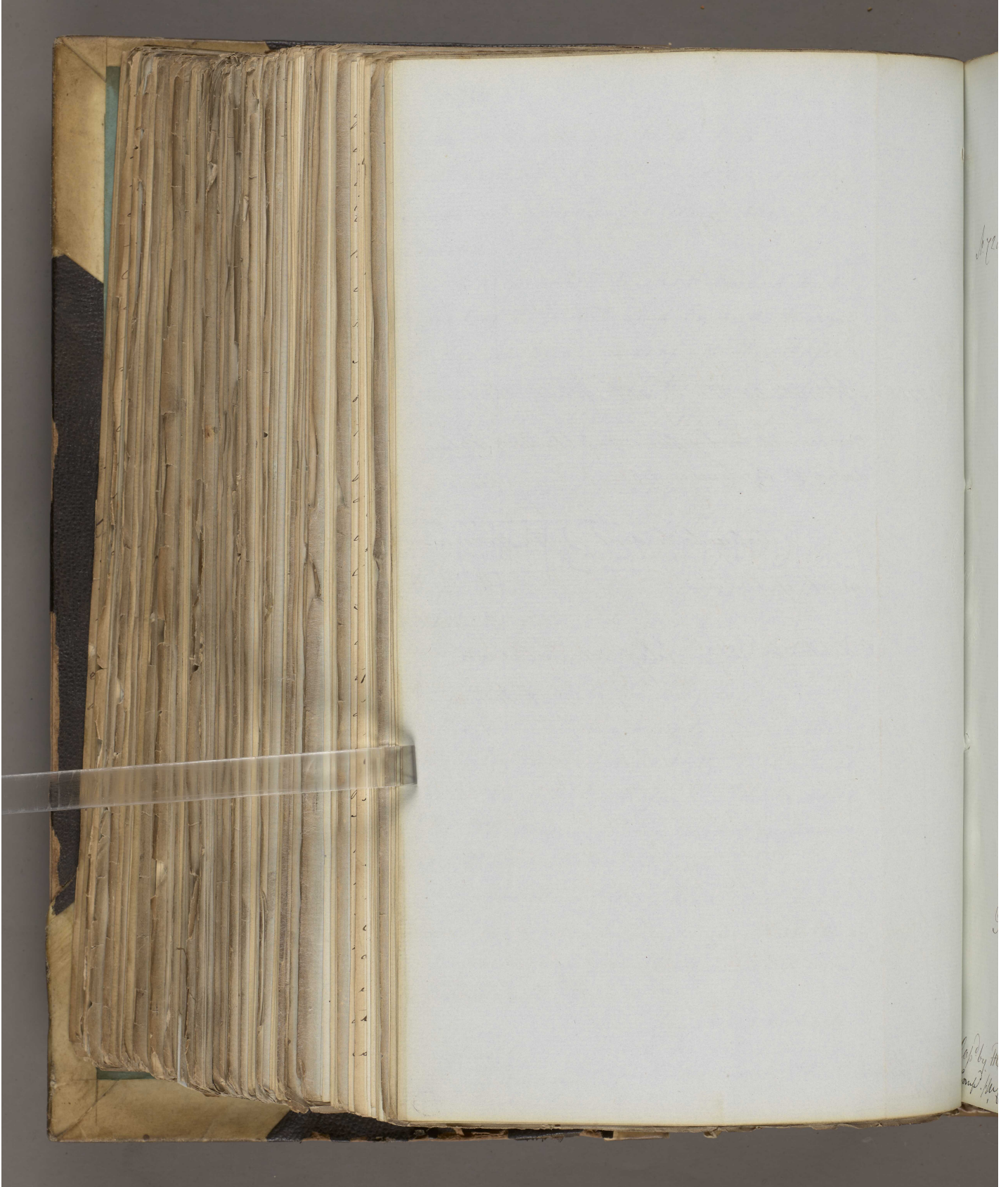
Copies to be sent to the Govern-
-ment of India-

2^d September 1853. Signed/ Falkland,
(11) D. A. Blane,

Copied by
A. Albuquergue
Com^d D. H. A. A. A.

(645)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [645v] (24/42)



'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [646r] (25/42)

21

N^o 125 of 1853.

Political Department.

From

N^o 7282

A. Malet Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

To

C. Allen Esquire,
Officiating Secretary to the,
Government of India,
Fort William.

Dated 12th September 1853.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honble the
Governor in Council to transmit to you for
subscription to the Most Noble the Governor
General of India in Council copy of a letter
from the Resident in the Persian Gulf N^o
54 dated the 18th July last forwarding trans-
cripts of three communications N^{os} 199, 200,
7203 addressed by him on the 5th, 12th and 14th
of the same month to Her Majesty's Mi-
nister at the Court of Persia.

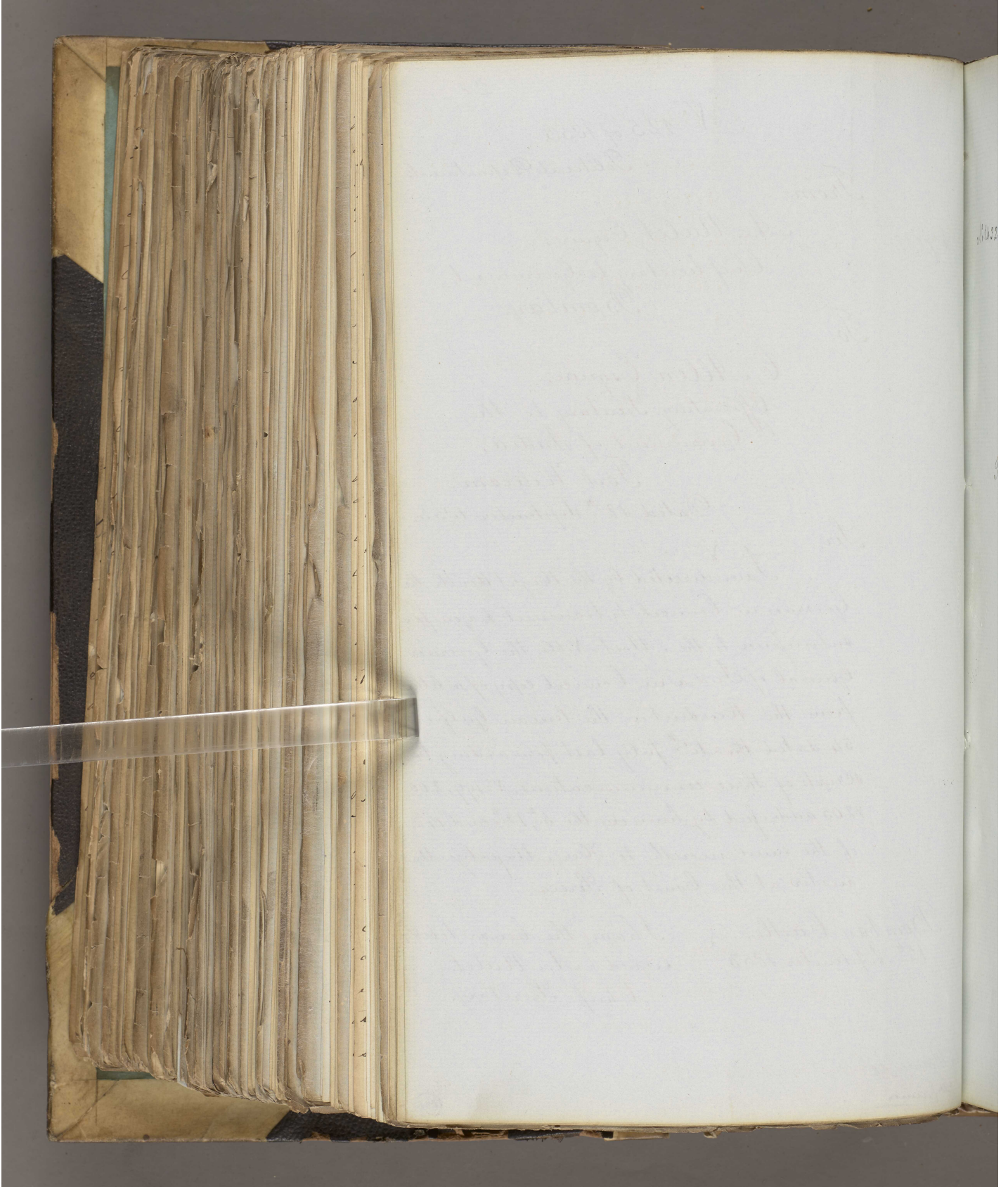
Bombay Castle. 3
12th September 1853. 3

I have the honor to be
signed / A. Malet.
Chief Secretary.

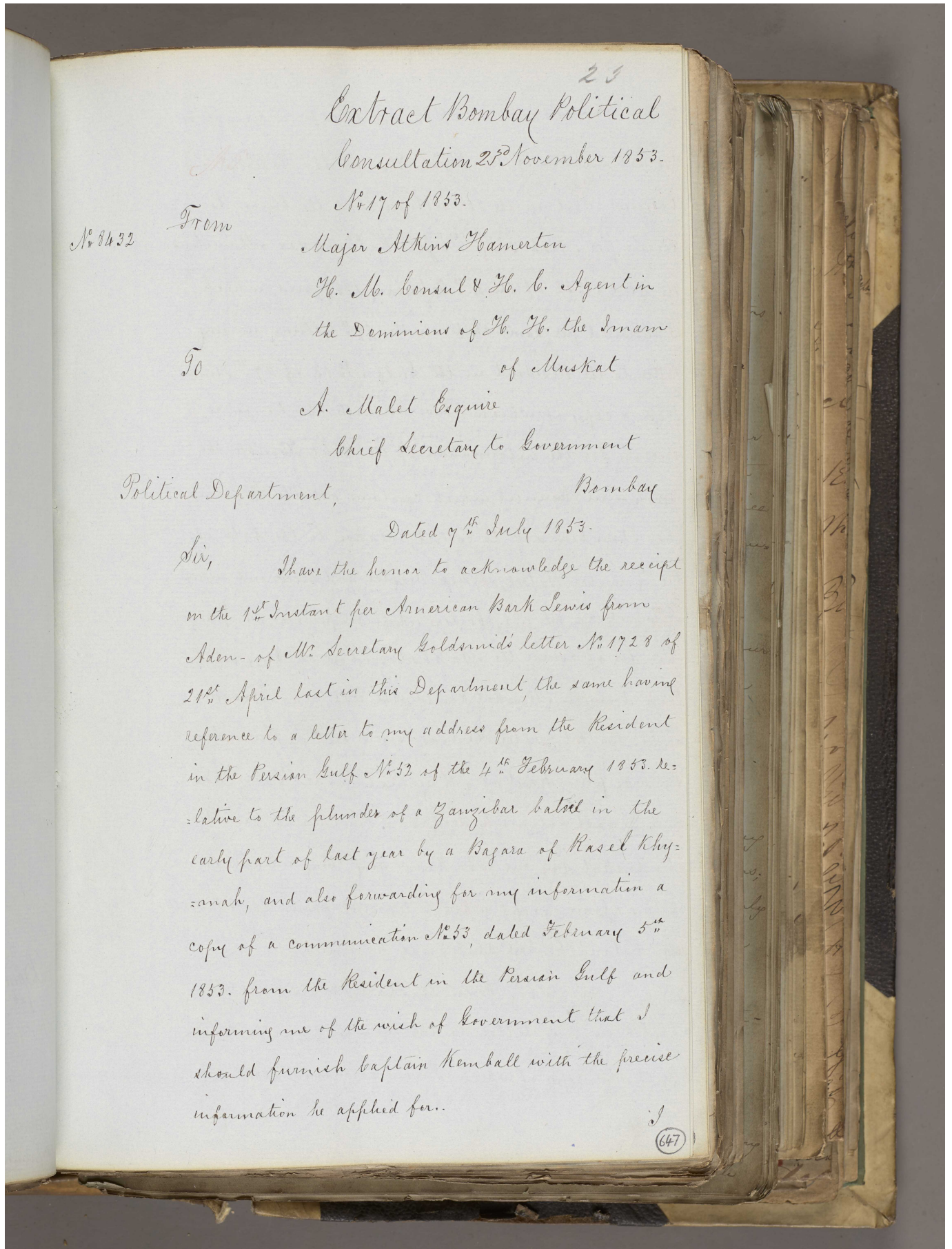
Sp by Thomas, J.B.
ms. J. J. J. J.

(646)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [646v] (26/42)



'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [647r] (27/42)



N^o 8432

From

To

23

Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 25th November 1853.

N^o 17 of 1853.

Major Atkins Hamerton
H. B. Consul & H. B. Agent in
the Dominions of H. H. the Imam
of Muskat
A. Malet Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government

Political Department,

Bombay

Dated 1st July 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
on the 1st Instant per American Bark Lewis from
Aden - of Mr. Secretary Goldsmith's letter N^o 1728 of
21st April last in this Department, the same having
reference to a letter to my address from the Resident
in the Persian Gulf N^o 53 of the 4th February 1853. re-
lative to the plunder of a Zanzibar boat in the
early part of last year by a Bazara of Ras-el-Khy-
zanah, and also forwarding for my information a
copy of a communication N^o 53, dated February 5th
1853. from the Resident in the Persian Gulf and
informing me of the wish of Government that I
should furnish Captain Kamball with the precise
information he applied for.

J.
(647)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [647v] (28/42)

2 I have now the honor to inform you for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council - that on the 20th ultimo I had the honor to receive per Arab ship Saizal Kabban, via Mauritius, the letter N^o 52 of the 4th February 1853, and which I answered per same ship on the 27th ultimo, in my letter to the Resident in the Gulf N^o 13 of 27th June 1853, a copy of which I have herewith the honor to enclose for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council which contains all the information I have been able to collect, relative to the fate of the Zanzibar Batoel, of her Master and crew and much of which could only be learned from persons at Zanzibar, for of course the Nakhoda whose statement I took down in Muskat could not tell what became of his Batoel - after he was taken out of her when she was plundered at Mayenwah near Zanzibar and I most solemnly declare I could not find at Muskat any one who knew any thing whatever of this affair except what I learned from the Nakhoda who declared he had stated all he knew -

3 They leave to state that I have detailed in my letter to the Resident in the Persian Gulf, the copy of which I now forward, all and every

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [648r] (29/42)

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every particular I have been able to discover relative to this affair.-

I have the honor to be &c.

Zanzibar }
7th July 1853.

Signed Atkins Hamerton Major
G. M. Consul and G. Agent
in the Dominions of H. H. the
Imam of Muskat

From

No 13 of 1853.

Major Atkins Hamerton
G. M. Consul & G. Agent
in the Dominions of His Highness
the Imam of Muskat.

To

Captain A. B. Kemball
Resident Persian Gulf Bushire
Political Department,

Dated 27th June 1853.

Sir, I had the honor on the 26th Instant to receive per Arab Ship Fair Kubban via Mauritius - your letter dated Bushire 4th February last No 52 of 1853, together with its enclosures as per margin.

Translated enclosure from Kojah Hiskell Agent at Muskat to Capt. A. B. Kemball Resident in the Persian Gulf of 19th Sept^r 1852. and copy in Arabic.

Translation Extract from letter from Kojah Hiskell Agent at Muskat to Capt. A. B. Kemball Resident

and in reply have now the honor to inform you that on the receipt of

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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [648v] (30/42)

of your letter N^o 208
of the 21st June 1852
together with a duplicate
of the same (the
original I received
on the 18th August
1852) Hajah Hiskell the Agent at Muscat came to me
holding in his hand a letter which he said he had
received from you and said that you had instructed
him to investigate the affair of the plunder of a Zanzibar
Vessel some time since near Zanzibar. I replied to him
that you had written to me on the subject and that
you had in a private note to me told me that you
had ordered him to conduct this enquiry as you sup-
posed it possible that I had left Muscat. I told the
Agent Hajah Hiskell to do as you had desired him
and to conduct the enquiry and further told him
the proper way to act in such cases was first to make
the affair known to His Highness the Imam, telling
him that he ought not to cite to his presence the
subjects of the Imam to question them on affairs
of business without the sanction of the Imam or his
authorities. that no Consul or Agent had a right
to do so, and he went to the Imam accordingly next
day the Imam's minister Saed Mahommud bin Saed
Sheriff called on me saying the Sakhsoda of the Batel
Munsoore

Resident in the Persian Gulf 2^d Sept^r
1852- and copy in Arabic.
Translation. Copy of a letter from His
Highness the Imam of Muscat to Hajah
Yaacob Agent at Shargah. and copy
in Arabic.

copied by
J. B. ...

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [649r] (31/42)

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Minscora. Ali bin Ahmed was ready to come and tell me all he knew of the affair of the piracy, but that he could not understand him that he did not speak Arabic he was an Auzhaanee (a Sohanna man) but that there was an interpreter who spoke the Auzhaanee I said let us have them and send for the Agent Kojah Gbeskell who could not at the time come. I took down the statement of the Nakhoda Ali bin Ahmed Auzhaanee. and some time after when Kojah Gbeskell came I told him the Nakhoda had been here and that I had taken his statement and desired Kojah Gbeskell to write it out which he did sentence by sentence as I spoke or read it to him and told him that the Nakhoda could only account for 8 men himself who landed at Soor, and 5 men who threw themselves into the sea at Soor and swam ashore making six. and the two men who remained in the Bagara of Ras el Khymah who he named. the Nakhoda's son Saïd bin Ali and Kamees bin Schaikh Ali. in all eight men taken out of the Batel at the island of Meegewah near Zanzibar I declare I at the time supposed that all this was perfectly understood by the Agent Kojah Gbeskell I said to him now you know all you can write

it
(649)

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [649v] (32/42)

it to Captain Kemball. about the fate of the plundered Begara we had not then any means of ascertaining what became of her. I have since ascertained that she was brought into Zanzibar by some Sheheere men (people of Maculla so called here) and the two Slaves who escaped at the Island of Mayewa are also safe and with their master Said bin Athman who is a native of the island of Lohanna and a subject of His Highness Sultan Selim of Lohanna. the Begara did not belong to a subject of the Imam of Muscat. the Vessel was in these parts on a trading voyage and while waiting for the proper season to return to Lohanna, these sorts of Vessel are frequently chartered by people here for short coasting voyages. this Begara the Monsoon has been sold to one Mahomed bin Abdul Kadir who is a sort of Agent for Lohanna men at Zanzibar. he says that the people taken out of the said Begara Monsoon all arrived safe except one Slave who the Nakheda declares ran away from him at Muscat perhaps he sold him. there were only eight men taken out of this Begara the Monsoon near Mayewa close to the northern part of Zanzibar. the craft was quite uninjured when brought into Zanzibar

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [650r] (33/42)

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Zanzibar, and I am told that such a craft constructed in the best way and all equipped for sea with sail rigging and anchor would cost 200 two hundred dollars, and seventy 70 dollars is considered a good price for all the articles taken from her by the Ras-el-Khymah men.

2 The man mentioned by the Nakheda as taken out of the vessel when plundered and who he calls in his statement Kamees bin Ali (one of the two who were carried away from Soor) is a native of Ras-el-Khymah. An Arab who has resided here many years, and acts as a broker and interpreter for the Gulf people who come down here.

3 With reference to the 9th para: of your letter I beg leave to state that I am at a loss to suggest any mode other than the one you now adopt of making the Ras-el-Khymah pay for any piracy they commit when discovered. they have been in the habit of stealing slaves from these countries for centuries perhaps since they first ever came down to these quarters, but of late years they have stolen but a very few compared to former years they continually steal slaves from each other when their boats are at anchor.

In conclusion I beg leave to state that I

shall
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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [650v] (34/42)

shall be exceedingly grieved should you fall under the displeasure of His Lordship in Council for any thing connected with this affair. as the delay is entirely to be attributed to my want of penetration and sagacity in not seeing the importance of the business and my foolishly considering that the delivery of the statement of the Nakhoda to the Agent Hojah Shekell for your information which I considered embraced all the information we could then obtain and which he certainly appeared at the time to understand. I shall forward a copy of this letter for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council and trust the above explanation will remove the displeasure of Government from you.

I have the honor to be Sir

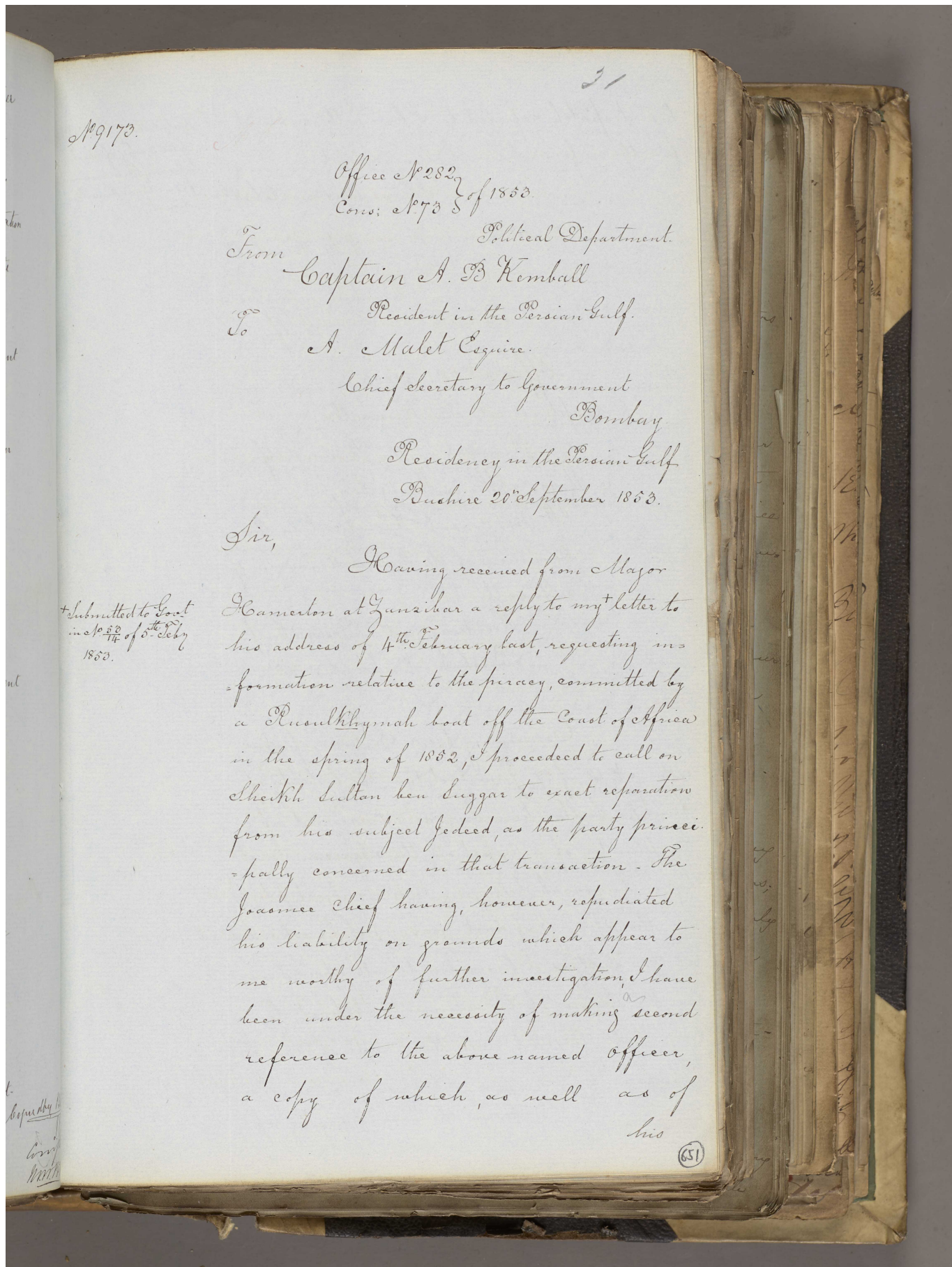
Zanzibar }
27th June 1853. } /Signed Atkins Hamerton
Major G. M. Consul & G. C. Agent in the dominions of His Highness the Imam of Muscat

(True copy)

/Signed Atkins Hamerton, Major
G. M. Consul & G. C. Agent in the
dominions of H. H. the Imam of Muscat.

Copied by
1853
1853

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [651r] (35/42)



19170

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Office No 282
Cons: No 73 of 1853

From Political Department
Captain A. B. Kemball
To Resident in the Persian Gulf.
A. Malet Esquire.
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay
Residency in the Persian Gulf
Dushire 20th September 1853.

Submitted to Govt
in No 914 of 5th Feb
1853.

Sir,
Having received from Major
Cameron at Zanzibar a reply to my letter to
his address of 4th February last, requesting in-
formation relative to the piracy, committed by
a Ras-el-Khymah boat off the Coast of Africa
in the spring of 1852, I proceeded to call on
Sheikh Sultan ben Suggar to exact reparation
from his subject Jodeed, as the party princi-
-pally concerned in that transaction. The
Joasme chief having, however, repudiated
his liability on grounds which appear to
me worthy of further investigation, I have
been under the necessity of making second
reference to the above named officer,
a copy of which, as well as of
his

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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [651v] (36/42)

his^d despatch referred to, I herewith submit, ^{dated the 27th June 1853, copy of which has already been received from Major Hamerton direct.}
for the information of Government.

I have the honor to be, &c.

Signed, A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian
Gulf.

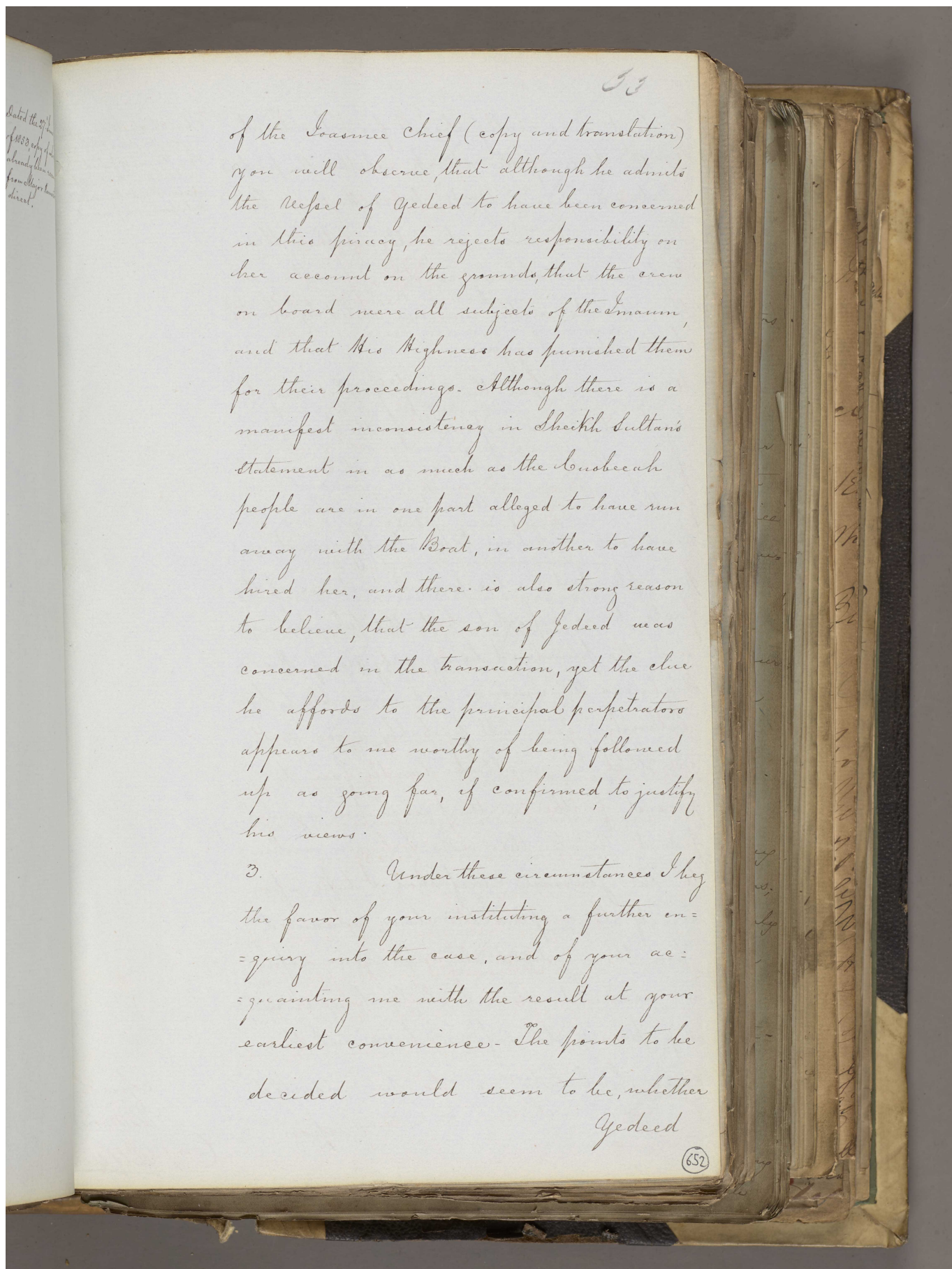
From Office N^o 281 of 1853.
Captain A. B. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.
To Major Atkins Hamerton,
H. M.'s Consul & H. C. Agent in the
Dominions of His Highness the Imam of
Muscat.
Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire, 20th September 1853.

Sir,
Conceiving from the tenor of your
letter, N^o 13, of 27th June last, that the liability of
Sheikh Sultan ben Suggar, on account of
the plunder of a vessel on the African coast
by a huggarah belonging to his subject Jaded
in the spring of last year must be estimated
at 190 Dollars, I proceeded to call upon him
in the terms of the annexed abstract to
pay that amount into the hands of Commodore
Robinson.

2.

From the accompanying reply
of

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [652r] (37/42)



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of the Soasnee Chief (copy and translation)
you will observe, that although he admits
the vessel of Yedeed to have been concerned
in this piracy, he rejects responsibility on
her account on the grounds, that the crew
on board were all subjects of the Imam,
and that His Highness has punished them
for their proceedings. Although there is a
manifest inconsistency in Sheikh Sultan's
statement in as much as the Sobbech
people are in one part alleged to have run
away with the Boat, in another to have
hired her, and there is also strong reason
to believe, that the son of Yedeed was
concerned in the transaction, yet the clue
he affords to the principal perpetrators
appears to me worthy of being followed
up as going far, if confirmed, to justify
his views.

3. Under these circumstances I beg
the favor of your instituting a further en-
=quiry into the case, and of your ac-
=quainting me with the result at your
earliest convenience. The points to be
decided would seem to be, whether
Yedeed

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'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [652v] (38/42)

Yedeed was really absent from his boat at the time of the attack, whether the parties on board were subjects of His Highness the Imam, and more especially, whether His Highness has already exacted reparation at their hands in the manner stated by Sheikh Sultan been suggest-

Sheikh Sultan admits in a letter dated 1827 that the son of Yedeed was on board at the time, but avers that he was the only person present.

4. That the Chief of a Port may be legitimately held responsible for the proceedings of every boat which leaves it, and consequently for the character of those to whom she is hired out, I believe to be strictly correct in principle, but in the present instance, if the facts be as reported, both the plunderers and the plundered being subjects of His Highness the Imam and amenable to his authority, you will probably agree with me that it would be hardly fair to persist further in the prosecution against Yedeed. Under this view I have written to the Joasme Chief, that I take upon myself to suspend the claim advanced upon this individual until your reply is received, when I shall have it in my power to inform him, whether his liability is to be insisted upon

*Copied by
W. H. M.
Comp. [Signature]*

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [653r] (39/42)

upon.

I have the honor to be Dear
(Signed) A. B. Kemball.
Resident.

(True copy)
(Signed) H. F. Durbrowe.
Agent Resident Persian Gulf.

Value of Property taken from the Boat 70 Dollars.
Value of Slave lost to the owners,
and supposed to have been sold by
the Nakhoda of Ben Yedeed's Boat
at Muscat. _____ 30 -- "

Amount paid for the purchase of
the vessel by the Agent of the Tribe
to whom she belonged residing at
Zanzibar, to be accounted salvage
to the Finders _____ 90 -- "
Total _____ 190 Dollars

Translation from Sheikh Sultan ben Saqqar
chief of Ras-el-Khymah.

To Captain A. B. Kemball
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated 26th Rilkhaadeh
31st August 1863

A.C.

I have lately received your letter, dated
26th Shaamil, and have understood all you wrote.
Touching the affair of Yedeed. ibn. Khushuf, of
whom

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whom you spoke at the time of our meeting-
It is true you directed me to keep my eye
on his boat which was not to leave the place-
I detained her a whole year up to the present
time, but received no intimation from you of
the exact amount claimed- Now you are rulers
and wise people possessed of judgment, wisdom
and sagacity- What though Jeddah were the
owner of the boat, the people of Busbecah left
him behind at Zanzibar, and ran away with
his vessel, the same being Mahomed ben
Nasir and her crew, who are all people of
Batnah, natives of Busbecah and subjects of
Saeed ben Sultan. On their arrival hearing
of the circumstances I took from them the
slaves they had stolen, and sent them to
Muscat to Syed Saeed- who deputed parties
to Busbecah and seized those whom he
considered the offenders and fined them,
and punished them himself. Again this
year during the trading season having as-
certained, that the aforesaid Mahomed
ben Nasir was at Zanzibar, he sent for
him, but he fled to the island of Kibithra.
Then he despatched a boat in quest of
him, and they brought him aboard, and
he imprisoned him on the Jegerah of
Zanzibar

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [654r] (41/42)

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Zanzibar, this is notorious and can be proved. Now, if these people were the subjects of Syed Saed, who prosecuted them himself, and Jeddah was not with them, they having hired the vessel for a fixed sum and having themselves committed the act, not Jeddah, the Buggarah is so much wood and not, I presume, liable to a penalty. Further Jeddah is still striving to recover the hire of the Buggarah, which has not been paid him - he is prostrate and does not possess a bag of dates of the size of the Batmah bags. By the great God being pressed by his creditors. I myself paid money for him on account of the Pearl Fishery; if this then be the case, that the affair proceeded from the subjects of Syed Saed, how can I be subjected to a fine, unless, indeed, it be by force without regard for justice? May God preserve you from being guilty of oppression and tyranny! For the rest whatever may appear to you proper, your judgment is best and you will decide correctly. I have come to an understanding with Commodore Robinson to refer the matter to you - you are possessed of a right judgment. May peace be over upon you.

True Translation

(Signed) W. F. Disbrowe } Signed A. D. Kemball.
Assistant Resident Pers. consulf. Resident &c

(654) Minute

'Persian Gulf. Relative to an act of piracy committed on the African coast by a
Ras-el-Khymah boat.' [654v] (42/42)

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Minute by the Honble Mr. Blane, concurred in by the Honble Mr. Warden, dated the 7th November 1852. No 9174.

The Resident's proceedings may be approved.
7th November 1852. Signed/ D. A. Blane.
" I. Warden.

48 No. 14997 of 1852. Political Department
From A. Malet Esquire Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay No 9175.
To Captain A. D. Kemball,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated the 21st November 1852.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 702, dated the 20th September last, relative to the piracy committed by a Ras-el-Khymah boat off the African coast in the spring of 1852, and to inform you, that the Right Honble the Governor in Council approves of your proceedings.

Bombay Castle, } I have the honor to be Dear
21st November 1852. } Signed/ A. Malet,
chief secy.

True Extract

W. Mason

Chief Secretary

copied by
W. Mason
Comp. W. Mason