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'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.'

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Written in	English in Latin
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About this record

The item consists of copies and extracts of correspondence and resolutions, cited in, or enclosed with, a Political Letter from the Government of Bombay to the East India Company Court of Directors, 29 August 1854. A copy of this letter can be found at IOR/F/4/2586/154786, alongside details of further enclosures. The item is the fifth in a series of nine items on events in the Persian Gulf 1853-54.

The item relates to reports from Khojeh Hiskale [Khawājah Ḥizqīl bin Yūsuf], British Agent at Muscat, to Captain Arnold Burrowes Kemball, Resident in the Persian Gulf, regarding the plunder of a vessel, the *Futh-el Khyer* [*Fath al-Khayr*], belonging to Ahmed bin Mahomed Ali el Bundayree [Aḥmad bin Muḥammad 'Alī al-Bundayrī]. The vessel was carrying cargo belonging to the British, ran aground off Soweih Beni boo Ali [As Siwayh, in Banī Bū 'Alī territory] on the Jaalan [Ja'alan, also rendered in text as Jaalun] coast, and was plundered by local inhabitants. Khojeh Hiskale's reports provide details of the incident and subsequent events.

Kemball forwards the reports to the Government of Bombay, alongside a copy of his letter to Syed Soweinee [Sayyid Thuwaynī bin Sa'īd Āl Bū Sa'īd], Governor of Muscat. He comments on:

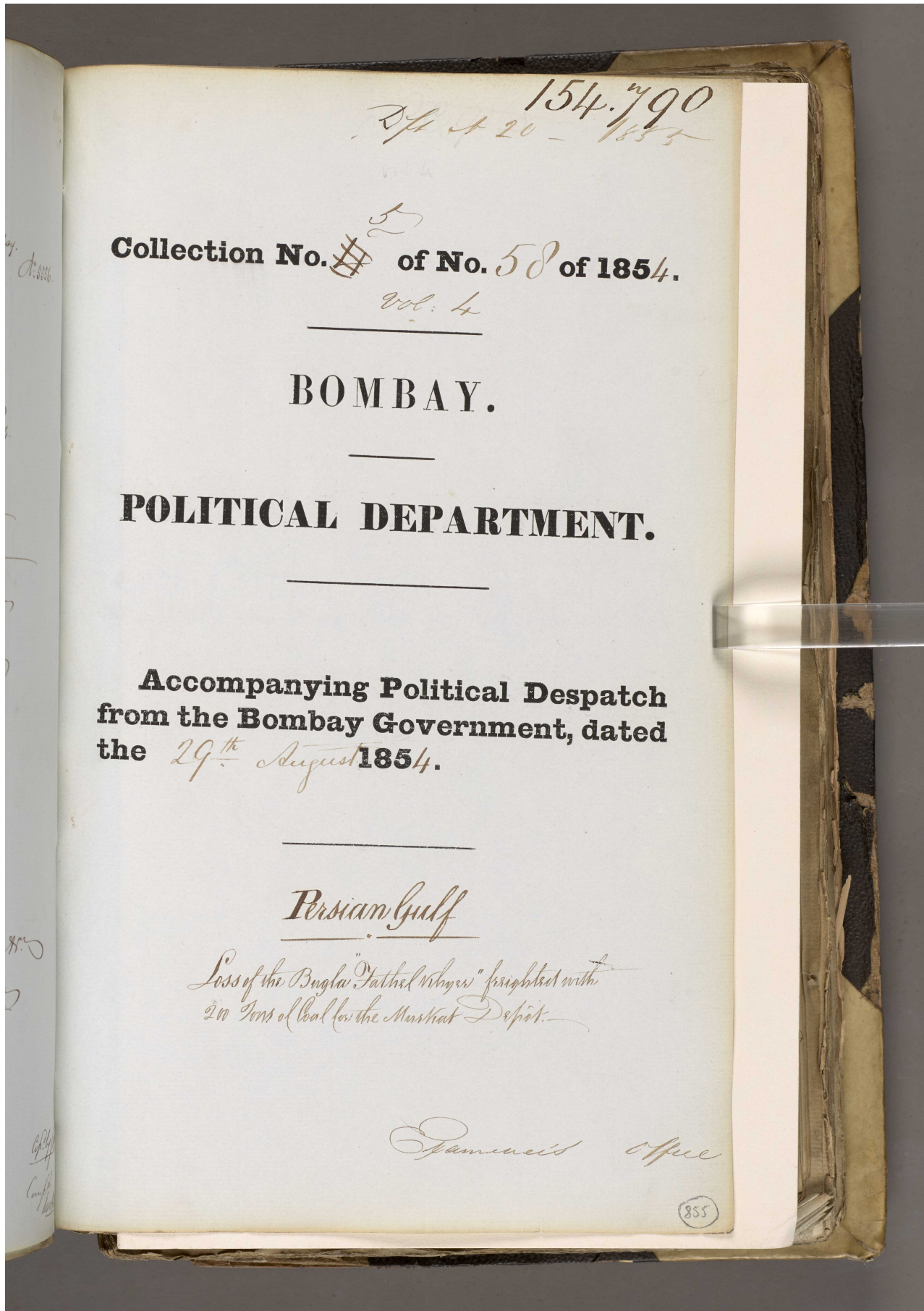
- A similar occurrence involving the *Centaur* in 1852 and his concern that, left unchecked, these kinds of occurrences will keep happening

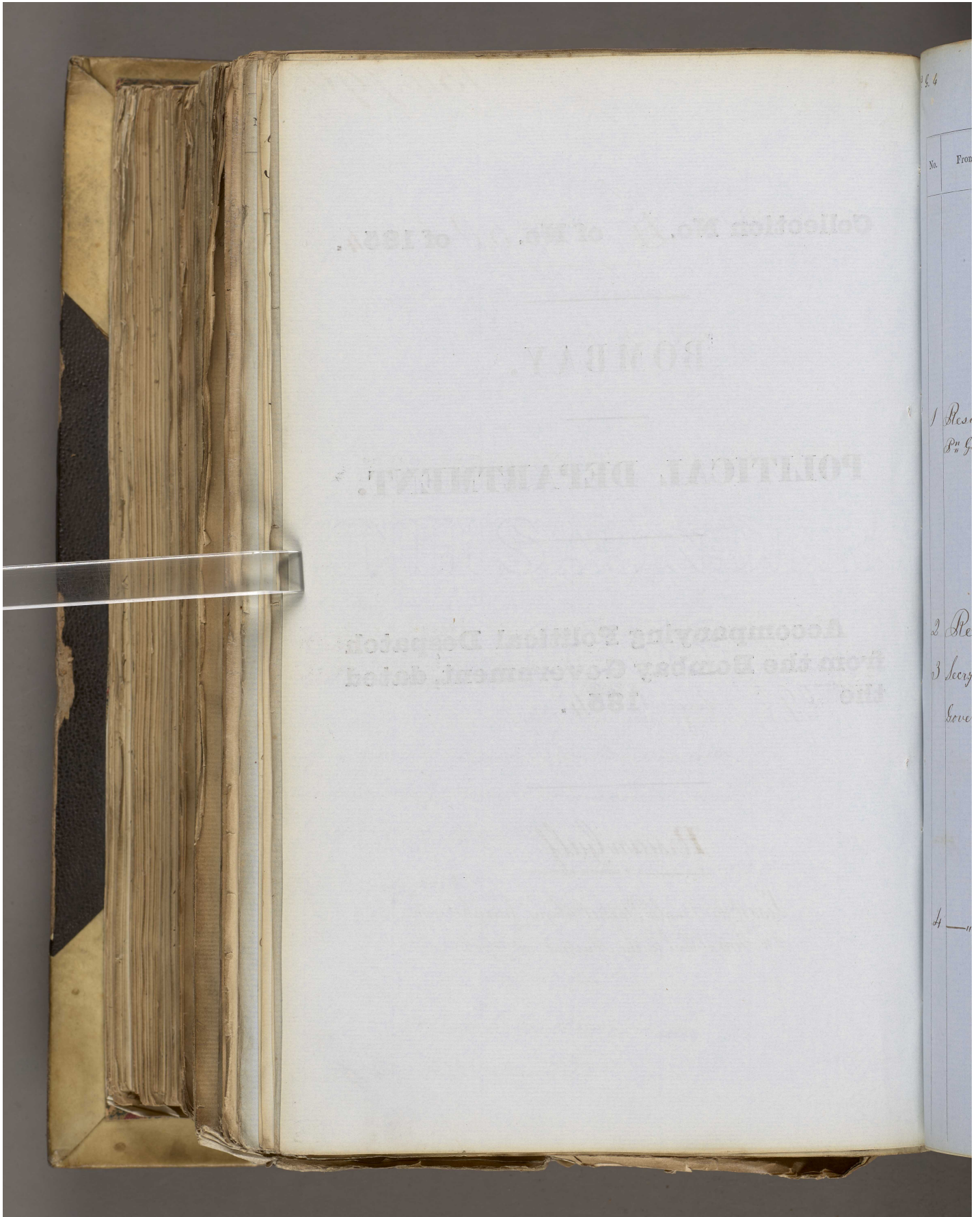
- Whether the Imaum [Imām] of Muscat has control or influence over the inhabitants of the Jaalan coast
- Measures the Government of Bombay should take, including the despatch of Indian Navy vessels to the region.

A resolution of the Government of Bombay is included in the item, alongside their subsequent letters to: Kemball; Major Atkins Hamerton, HM Consul and Company Agent in the Dominions of His Highness the Imaum of Muscat; Rear-Admiral Sir Henry John Leeke, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy; and the Military Board, Bombay.

The title page of the item contains the following references: 'Bombay Political Department', Draft Number '20 1855', 'Collection No. 5 of No. 58 of 1854', 'Vol: 4' and 'Examiner's Office'. Originally, the Collection number was given as '4' but this has been crossed out and replaced with '5'.

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal
for the Muskat Depot.' [855r] (1/24)





'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [856r] (3/24)

P. G. 4

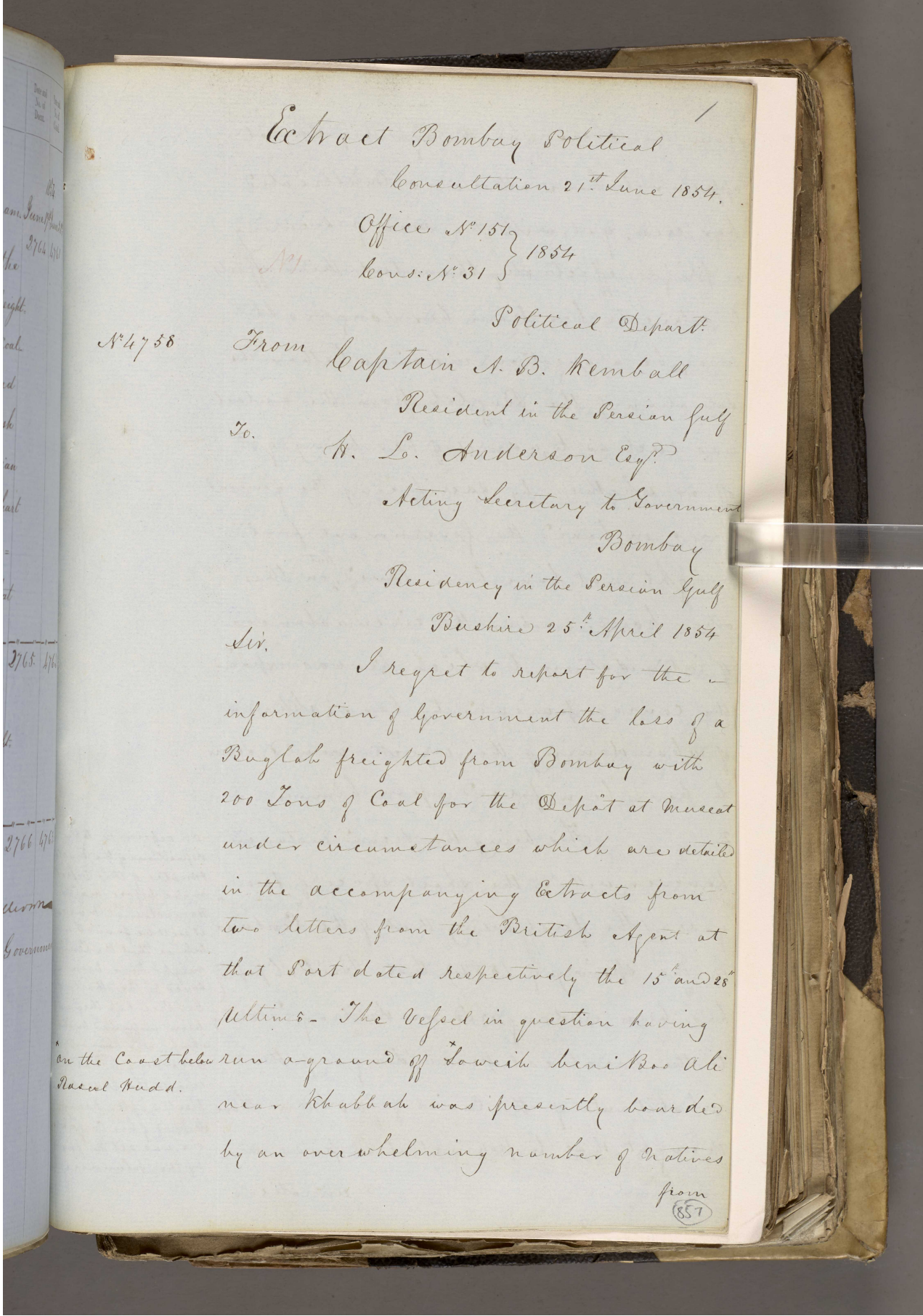
TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	From	To	Subject.	Date and No. of Docut.	Date and No. of Consul.
<u>Persian Gulf.</u>					
Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.					
1	Resident Persian Gulf	Acty Secy to Govt	Reports the loss of the Buglah "Fathel Khyer" freighted from Bombay, with two hundred Tons of Coal for the Depot at Muskat.	1854 Apr 25 th 151 31	1854 June 2 nd N ^o 4758.
2			Resolution by the Honorable Board	June 2 nd	" " "
3	Secy to Resd ^t in Govt	Resd ^t in Persian Gulf	Informing him that Govt approves of his proceedings consequent on the above event, and will await the result of his reference to the Governor of Muskat.	" 19 th 2763	" " " 4759
4	"	Her M ^{aj} Consul Muscat.	Transmitting copy of the above communication from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, and instructing him to make a communication of a certain purport	" 19 th 2763	" " " 4760

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [856v] (4/24)

No.	From	To	Subject.	Date and No. of Docut.	Date and No. of Consul.
				1854	
			purport to H. H. the Imam.	June 19 th	June 21 st
				2764	4761
5	Secretary of the Government	Commander in Chief	Informing him of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freight- ed from Bombay with coal for the Muskat Depot; and requesting him to furnish the Resident in the Persian Gulf with a copy of the chart mentioned in the accom- panying Extract from that officers letter.	"-"-"-"	"-"-"-"
				2765	4762
6	Secretary Government	Military Board	Informing them of the loss of the Bugla, freight- ed with 200 Tons of coal for the Depot at Muskat.	"-"-"-"	"-"-"-"
				2766	4763
			Bombay Castle,		
			29 th August 1854.		
				Shbrunon Secretary to Government.	
			for Secretary W. B. C. C. C.		
			W. B. C. C. C.		

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [857r] (5/24)



Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 21st June 1854.

Office N° 1517 }
N° 31 } 1854

N° 4758 From Political Depart:
Captain A. B. Kemball
Resident in the Persian Gulf
To. H. L. Anderson Esq.
Acting Secretary to Government
Bombay
Residency in the Persian Gulf
Bushire 25th April 1854

Sir,
I regret to report for the information of Government the loss of a Bugla freighted from Bombay with 200 Tons of Coal for the Depot at Muscat under circumstances which are detailed in the accompanying Extracts from two letters from the British Agent at that Port dated respectively the 15th and 28th Ultimo. The vessel in question having on the Coast been run aground off Toweh benit Koo Ali near Khabbah was presently boarded by an overwhelming number of natives

from
(857)

from the shore who, though they do not appear to have otherwise maltreated her crew, yet, with the view of securing a prize, effectually thwarted their efforts to extricate her from her danger. It may be a question indeed whether the situation of the Bugla from the outset was such as to admit of her being got off, or whether, by sacrificing the general cargo on board the government fuel might not have been saved, ^{but} on the other hand, under the circumstances of intimidation to which he was exposed the course pursued by her Nakhada of abandoning the wreck would seem to have been forced upon him.

2 This being the second instance however within the short space of two years (the first being that of the Centaur in the Spring of 1852) that British property has been endangered, or destroyed, owing to the piratical proceedings of the inhabitants of the Coast of Jualan Shore thought that to permit it to pass _{unnoticed}

on reference to the depositions of the Master & Mate of this vessel made before Major Hamerton at Muscat it will be found I believe that the Centaur might have been saved by the efforts of her crew had they not been impeded by the Arabs who boarded her according to native reports the vessel floated after being stripped of her cargo she was set on fire by the plunderers

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [858r] (7/24)

3
 unnoticed would be to afford undue encourage-
 ment to future depredations though with
 advertence to the jealousy H. H. the Sonaum
 might experience at a direct communication
 being made to the Chiefs in that quarter
 whose allegiance he may claim while
 unable to enforce it. I have confined myself
 for the present to addressing a letter to
 Syed Loweynee, of which I have the honor
 to enclose a translation. I must at the
 same time express my conviction that
 the authority of H. H. over the parties in
 question is virtually nil, and if he should
 decline responsibility on account of their
 acts it will still remain for the Gov^t
 to decide what steps, if any, should be
 taken to ensure a greater degree of
 respect to the British Flag, or greater
 consideration
 for British property hereafter.

3
 Hitherto, on occasions of a
 similar character, the difficulty of
 coercing a people from the sea, who
 possessed little or no trade, and who
 appeared to be only obnoxious to
 punishment

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [858v] (8/24)

punishment by means of operations on the land, has obliged the Government to remain passive. Its efforts have been in fact confined to communications with the Beni boo Ali Chief in order to engage his interests in the protection and preservation of the Crews and Property of English Vessels that might be cast away on the shores of his districts, and to persuade him of the greater advantage he would derive from the more effectual controul of his dependents with this object. but remonstrances of this nature have been either disregarded or forgotten on the next occasion which has presented itself for plunder, and it would be vain still. I think to count upon the forbearance of these rude tribes until they had been fully impressed with the dread of retaliation.

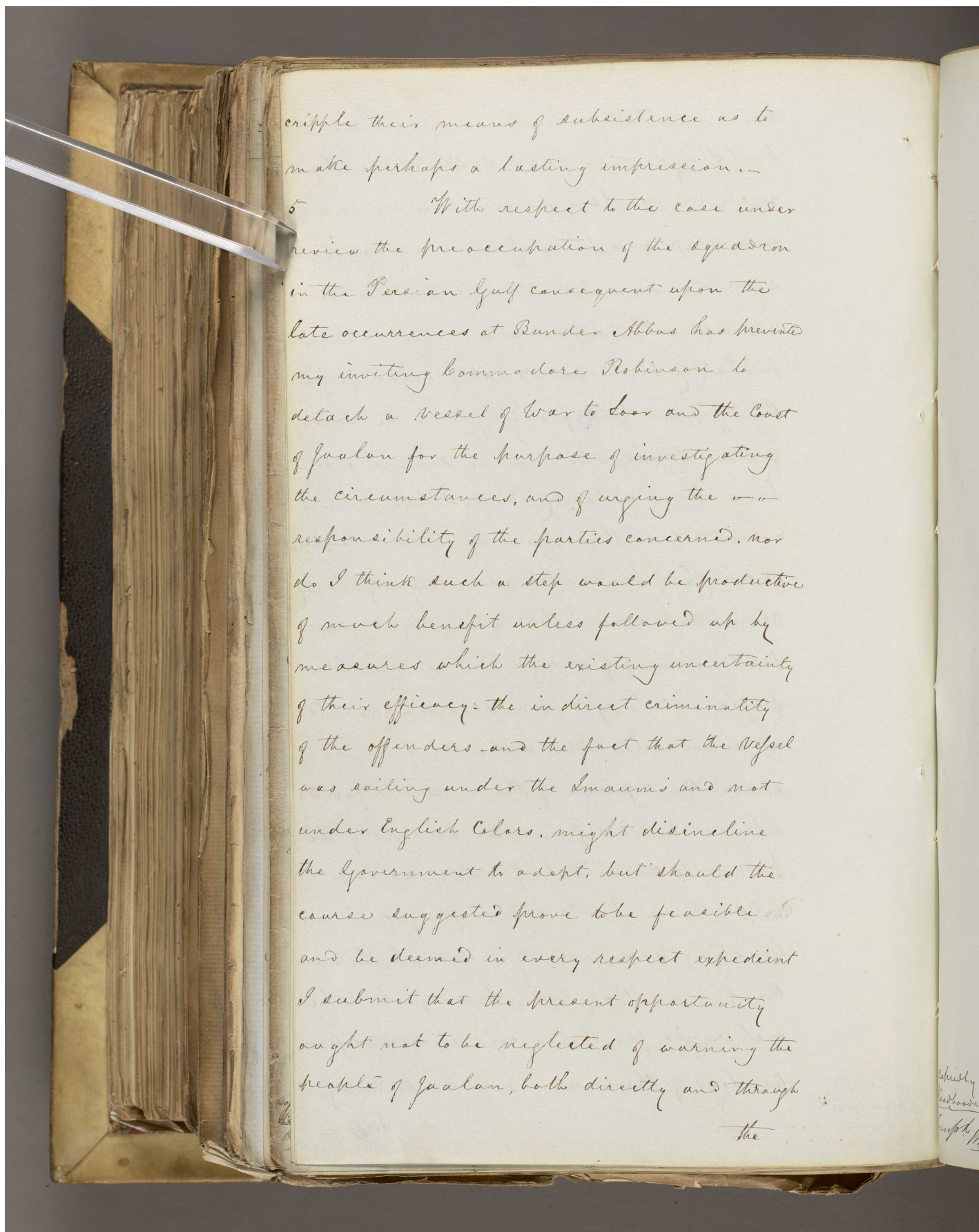
4 How far the inhabited spots on the Coast of Jaalan may be tangible to our improved naval resources, and open to the attack of Steamers like the "Medusa" drawing comparatively little water

Copied by
Woodward
Crompton
W. H. Potter

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [859r] (9/24)

water, or whether the property on shore, in buildings or in boats, destructible by such means. be of an extent to render our operations fully effective are questions I am not in a position at present to answer. The information required could probably be more readily obtained from the officers lately engaged on the Survey of that Coast who may be supposed to have particularly observed the points adverted to than from the native sources of which I propose to avail myself. I may remark however that where boats are forthcoming of a size and in number sufficient to assail a vessel aground at a considerable distance from the shore the capture of them would for the time at least deprive the owners of the power to do mischief, and if, as I am told, these boats are employed in a coasting trade with Muscat, whither in the season they carry dried fish to be exchanged for dates and other necessaries, the loss of them would so materially

cripple
859



cripple their means of subsistence as to
make perhaps a lasting impression. —

5 With respect to the case under
review the preoccupation of the Squadron
in the Persian Gulf consequent upon the
late occurrences at Bunder Abbas has prevented
my inviting Commodore Robinson to
detach a vessel of War to Coor and the Coast
of Zoolan for the purpose of investigating
the circumstances, and of urging the
responsibility of the parties concerned. nor
do I think such a step would be productive
of much benefit unless followed up by
measures which the existing uncertainty
of their efficacy: the indirect criminality
of the offenders — and the fact that the vessel
was sailing under the Imams' and not
under English Colors, might disincline
the Government to adopt, but should the
course suggested prove to be feasible
and be deemed in every respect expedient
I submit that the present opportunity
ought not to be neglected of warning the
people of Zoolan, both directly and through
the

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [860r] (11/24)

the Muscat authorities, of the consequences that would certainly attend a recurrence of the same unfriendly proceedings in future. It might be hoped, then, after one or two examples had been made, that the prospect of salvage so often held out as a reward for assistance rendered to English vessels in distress would be no longer slighted.

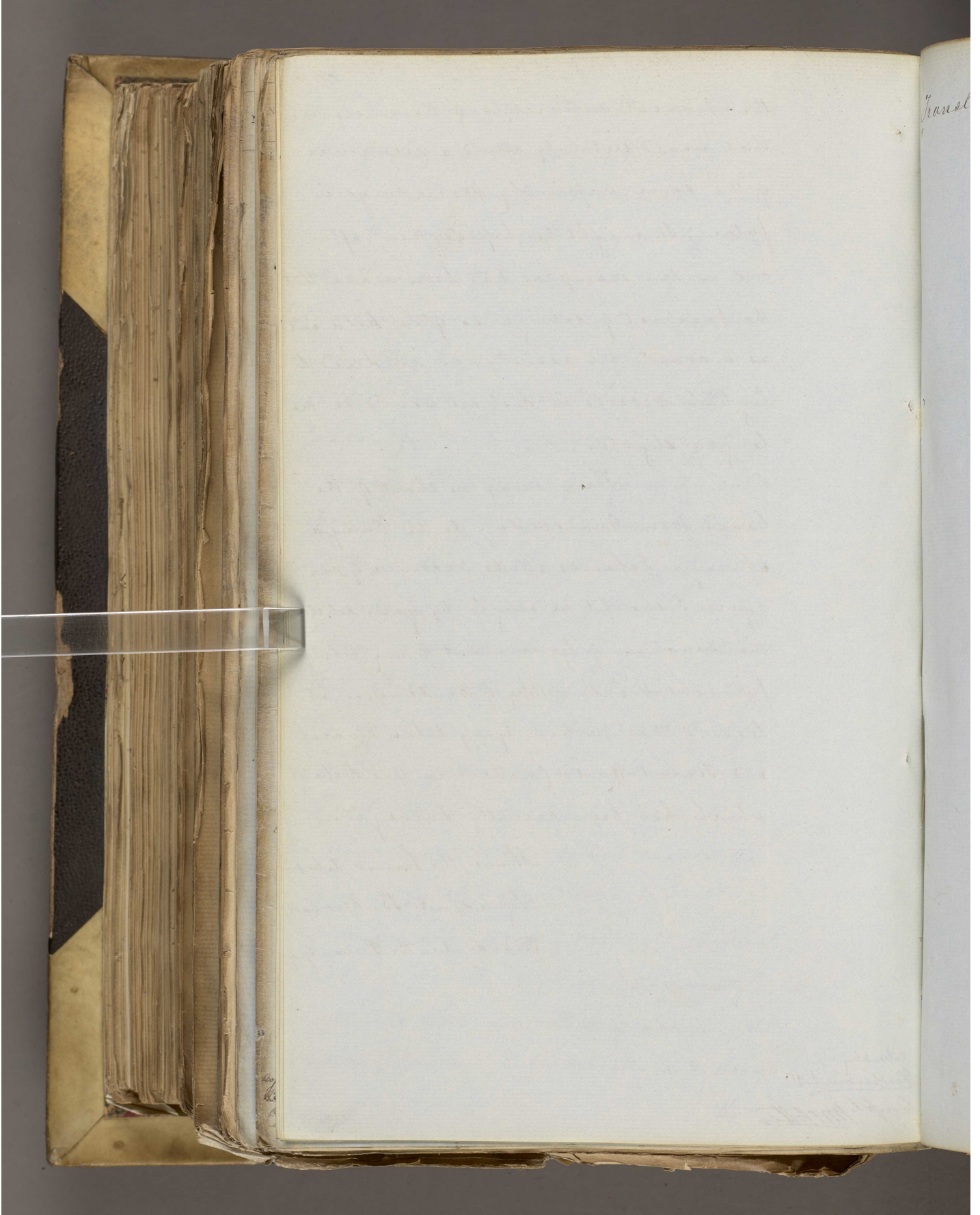
6 There being no chart of the coast from Muscat to the Kurrya Kurrya Islands in the Archives of my office I should be obliged by your soliciting the sanction of Government to my being furnished with a Copy of the same, or at least, of that portion lying below Muscat and Rasul Kudud (noticed in this despatch) which has been recently surveyed.

I have the honor to be
(Signed) A. B. Kemball
Resident in the Persian Gulf

copied by
Hassan bin L. 91
Compd. M. P. 10/10

(860)

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal
for the Muskat Depot.' [860v] (12/24)



Translated Extract From Khojeh Hiskale

Agent at Muscat

To. Captain A. B. Kemball

Resident in the Persian Gulf

Dated 15th Jumadeul Saanee
15th March.

On the 4th Instant came here Ali-
bin Ahmed el Maanee, Nakhoda of the
Buglah Fath el Khyer, belonging to Ahmed
bin Mahomed Ali el Rundergee, who re-
ported that on their arrival from Bombay
off a Place called Loweh Beni Boo-ali
East of Khabbah, at 10 O'clock at night on
the eve of the 22nd Jumadeul Awwal, being
then under easy sail they grounded unex-
pectedly on a sand Bank, their reckoning,
according to the Muallim, Ahmed bin
Abdullah el Maanee, putting them 7
zams (about 1/2 degrees) from the land.
At sunrise on the following day they were
approached by boats belonging to the aforesaid
place containing each from 5 to 15 men,
also by men swimming. These the crew
of the Buglah succeeded in keeping at
a distance by means of their Fire Arms.

But
861

reaching that Port the Nakhoda with
some of his men and the passengers came
on in boddwas to Muscat where they
arrived on the same day - the rest of the
crew prosecuted the journey overland -
They abandoned the Mashooah at Soor.
On coming here they gave notice to
Ahmed, the owner of the Buglah, who
represented the circumstances to his
Father Hajee Mahomed Ali and a report
was thereon immediately made to Syed
Loweynee. His Highness wrote letters
to the Governor of Soor, Kumood bin
Saeed, and to the Sheikh of Lavebeh,
Saeed bin Abdullah, also Sheikh &
Mahomed bin Ali bin Kumood bin
Alowee ul Jwalanee to Assist in
saving the Buglah and her cargo. I
will duty report to you the results

Translated Extract From the Same.

Dated 28th Lumadeel Saanee
28th March

Touching the Buglah of Ahmed

bin
862

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [862v] (16/24)

bin Hajee Mohomed Ali it is reported
by Saed ben Abdallah (who proceeded
on this business) that in hauling her
off from the spot, where she had grounded,
she parted in three pieces having
still all her gear on board. Hajee
Mohomed Ali has sent Carpenters to
secure her ribs, and planks, and bring
them here.

True translated Extracts

(Signed) A. B. Kemball

Resident Genl

"True Copy"

(Signed) W. F. Disbrowe

Asst. Resident Persian Gulf

Translation, from Capt. A. B. Kemball.

Resident in the Persian Gulf

To His Highness Saed Loweynee
Governor of Muscat

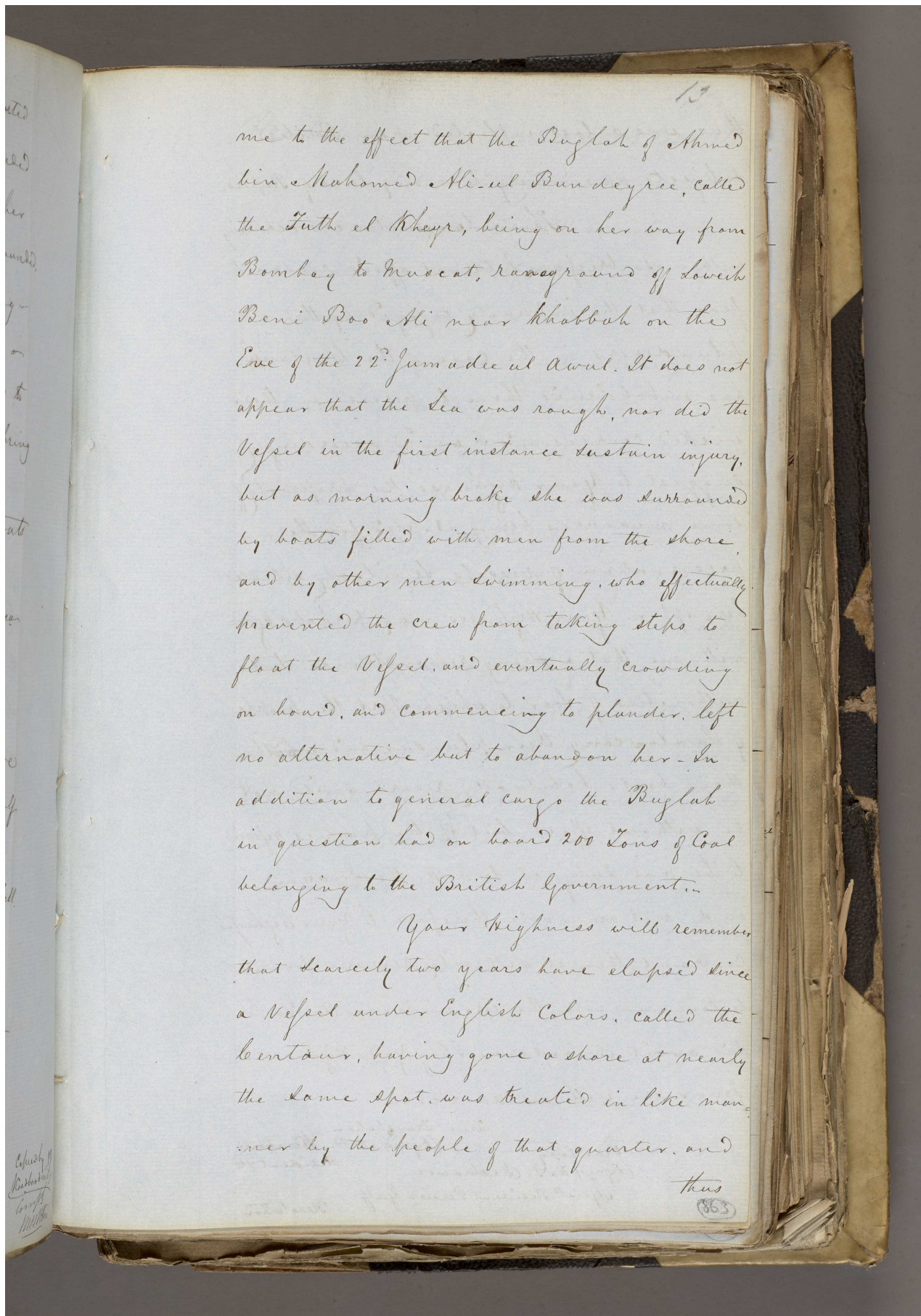
Dated Bushire 24th April 1854
25th Rejeb 1270

A. C.

Intelligence has reached
me

Copied by 97
Hoadbourn
C. M. P.
M. P. P.

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal
 for the Muskat Depot.' [863r] (17/24)



me to the effect that the Buglah of Ahmed
 bin Mahomed Ali-ul Bundegee, called
 the Fath el Khyer, being on her way from
 Bombay to Muscat, ran aground off Lowick
 Beni Boo Ali near Khabbah on the
 Eve of the 22^d Jumadee ul Awwal. It does not
 appear that the Sea was rough, nor did the
 Vessel in the first instance sustain injury,
 but as morning broke she was surrounded
 by boats filled with men from the shore,
 and by other men swimming, who effectually
 prevented the crew from taking steps to
 float the Vessel, and eventually crowding
 on board, and commencing to plunder, left
 no alternative but to abandon her. In
 addition to general cargo the Buglah
 in question had on board 200 Tons of Coal
 belonging to the British Government.

Your Highness will remember
 that scarcely two years have elapsed since
 a Vessel under English Colors, called the
 Centaur, having gone ashore at nearly
 the same spot, was treated in like man-
 ner by the people of that quarter, and

thus

863

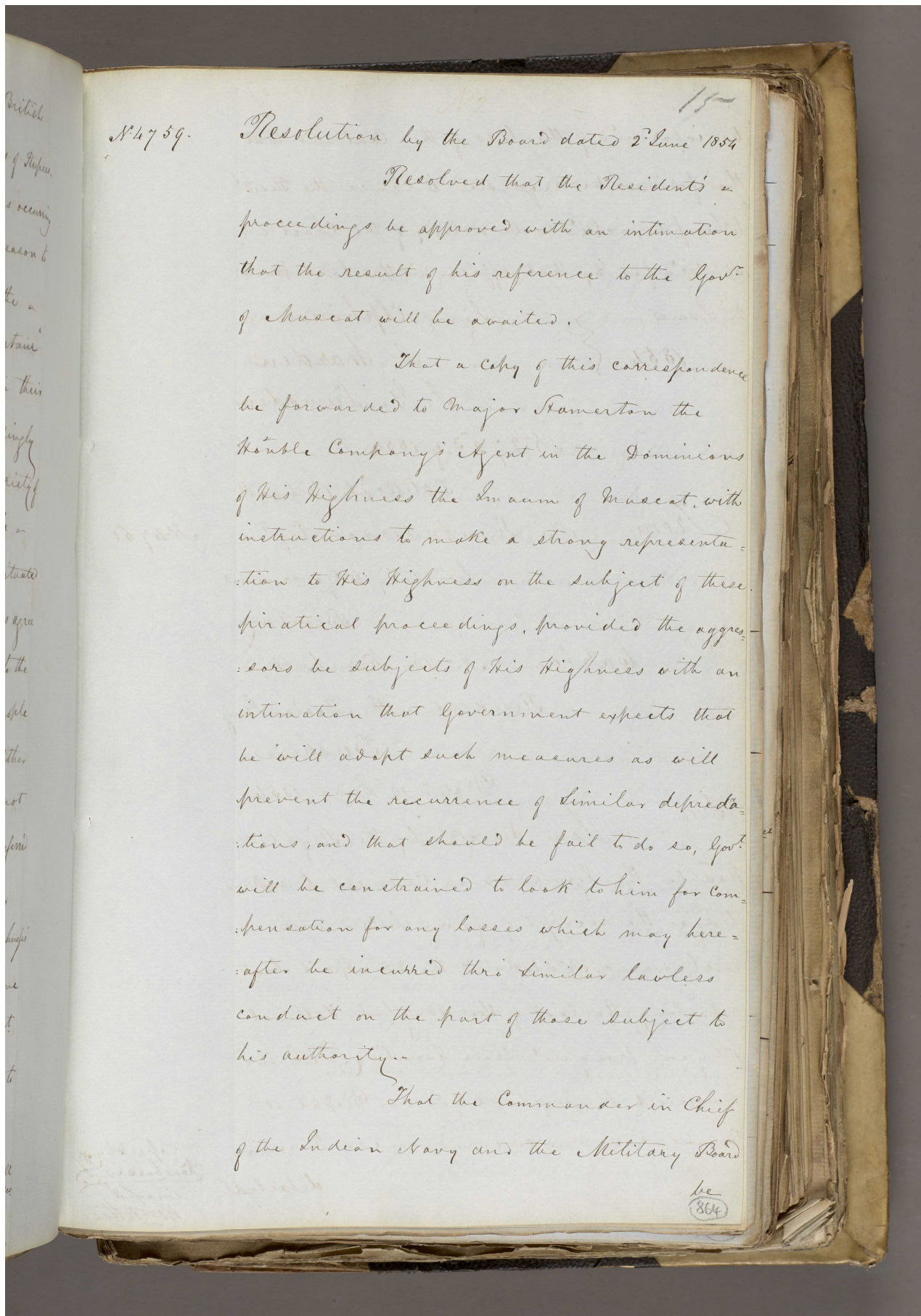
'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [863v] (18/24)

thus was a loss inflicted upon British subjects amounting to many laes of Rupees.

These two instances occurring within so brief an interval afford reason to fear that the impunity enjoyed by the "splunderers" in the case of the "Centaine" has emboldened them to persist in their wicked courses, and I would accordingly suggest to Your Highness the propriety of some measures being adopted for the preservation of vessels similarly situated hereafter. Your Highness may perhaps agree with me that a strong remonstrance to the authorities of Soor, to which Port the people of Saaloon carry their plunder, and whether their boats habitually resort, would not be without effect, but if the parties referred to be not subject to H. H. the Imam, and not amenable therefore to Your Highness's controul, then it will only remain for me to communicate the circumstances to Govt. and await its orders. I beg Your Highness to favor me with an answer.

True Translation
Signed/ A. B. Kemball
Resident
True Copy
Signed/ H. F. Dickson
Asst. Resident Persian Gulf
Resolution

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal
for the Muskat Depot.' [864r] (19/24)



'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [864v] (20/24)

be informed of the loss of this Coal and that
the former be requested to cause the Presid^t
to be furnished with a Copy of the Chart
applied for by that Officer in the last year:

2^d June } (Signed) Elphinstone
1854. } J. Warden

Ap³ } J. G. Lumsden
N^o 2763 of 1854.

Political Depart^t.

From N. L. Anderson Esq^r N^o 4760

Secretary to Government

Bombay

To, Captain A. B. Kemball,
President in the Persian Gulf
Bushire

Dated 19th June 1854.

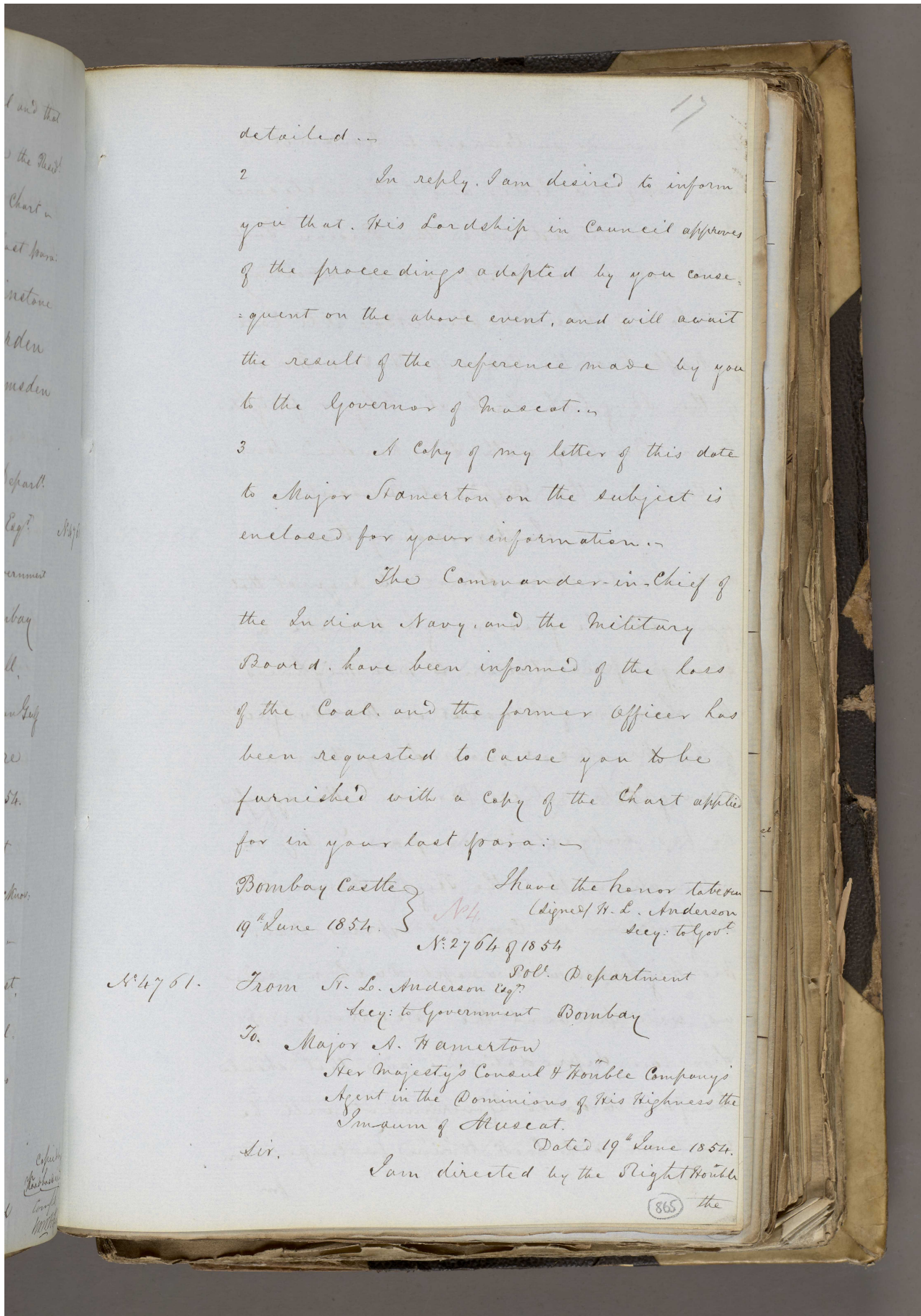
Sir,

I am directed by the Right
Honble the Governor in Council to acknow-
ledge the receipt of your letter, with
enclosures, N^o 31, dated the 25th April last,
reporting the loss of the Bugla "Fath-el-
Khyer," freighted from Bombay, with two
hundred tons of Coal for the Depot at
Muskat under circumstances therein

detailed

Copied by
Head Clerk in
Office
M. J. P. B. C.

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [865r] (21/24)



detailed --

2 In reply, I am desired to inform you that His Lordship in Council approves of the proceedings adopted by you consequent on the above event, and will await the result of the reference made by you to the Governor of Muscat.

3 A copy of my letter of this date to Major Hamerton on the subject is enclosed for your information.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, and the Military Board, have been informed of the loss of the Coal, and the former officer has been requested to cause you to be furnished with a copy of the Chart applied for in your last para. --

Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be
19th June 1854. } N^o 4. Signed W. L. Anderson
N^o 2704 of 1854 Secy: to Govt.

N^o 4751. From W. L. Anderson Esq^r Pol. Department
Secy: to Government Bombay
To Major A. Hamerton
Her Majesty's Consul & Honble Company's Agent in the Dominions of His Highness the Imam of Muscat.

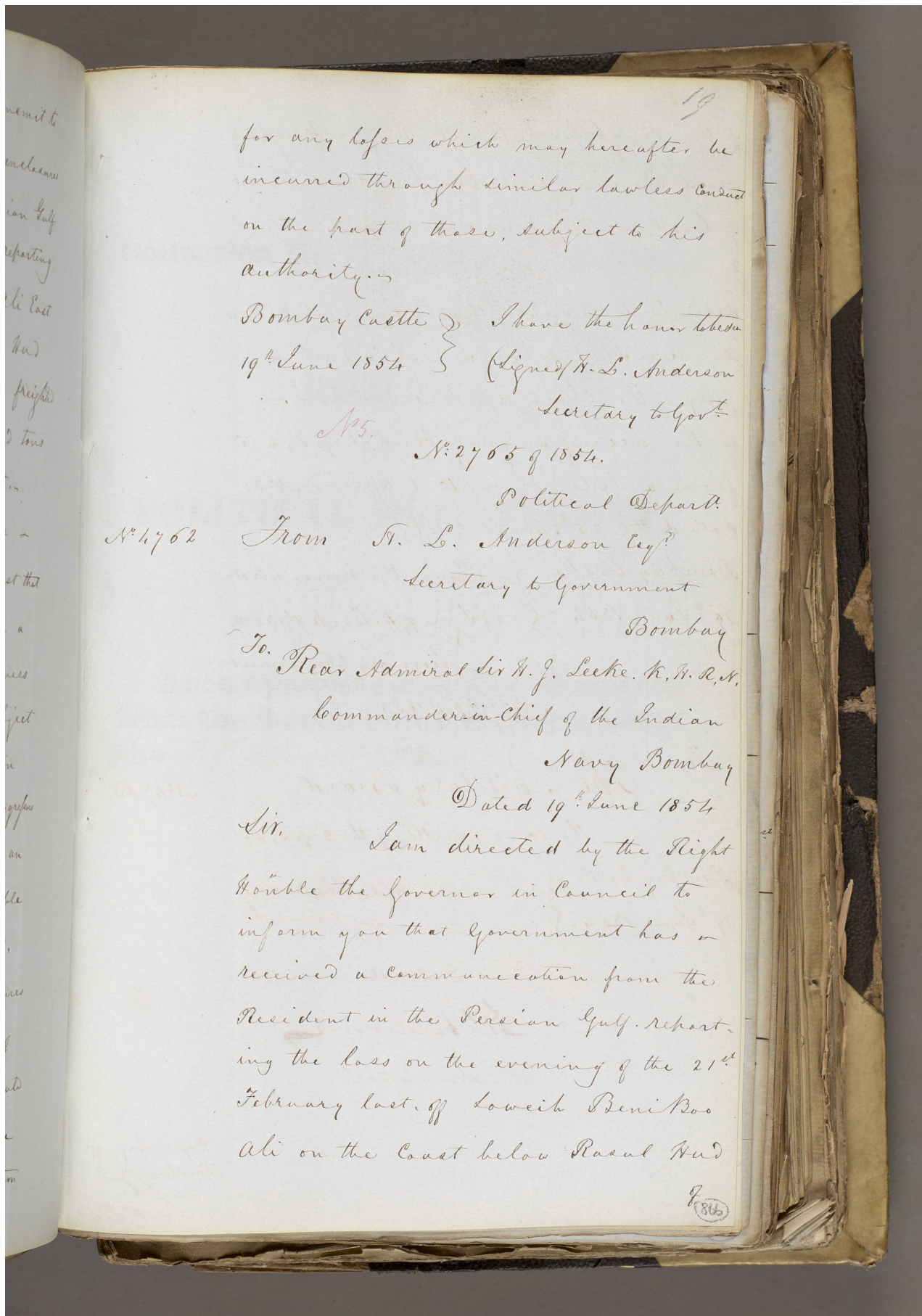
Sir. Dated 19th June 1854.
I am directed by the Right Honble

(865) the

the Governor in Council to transmit to you copy of a letter and of its enclosures from the Resident in the Persian Gulf N^o 31 dated the 25th April last, reporting the loss of Sawekh BenikBoo Ali East of Kabbah on the Coast of Nasal Had of the Buglah Fath-el-Khyer freighted from Bombay with two hundred tons of Coal for the Depot at Muscat.

2^d In forwarding these documents, I am desired to request that you will be good enough to make a strong representation to His Highness the Imam of Muscat on the subject of the piratical proceedings therein brought to notice, provided the aggressors be his Subjects, accompanied by an intimation that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council expects that, His Highness will adopt such measures as will prevent the recurrence of similar depredations, and that should he fail to do so Government will be constrained to look to him for compensation
for

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [866r] (23/24)



for any losses which may hereafter be incurred through similar lawless conduct on the part of these, subject to his authority.

Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be
19th June 1854 } (Signed) H. L. Anderson
Secretary to Gov^{ty}

N^o 5.

N^o 2765 of 1854.

Political Depart^t

N^o 4762 From H. L. Anderson Esq^r
Secretary to Government

Bombay

To Rear Admiral Sir H. J. Leeke, K. H. R. S.,
Commander-in-Chief of the Indian
Navy Bombay

Dated 19th June 1854

Sir,
I am directed by the Right
Hon^{ble} the Governor in Council to
inform you that Government has
received a communication from the
Resident in the Persian Gulf report-
ing the loss on the evening of the 21st
February last, of Loweik Beni Boos
Ali on the Coast below Rasal Hud

866

'Persian Gulf. Loss of the Bugla "Fathel Khyer" freighted with 200 Tons of Coal for the Muskat Depot.' [866v] (24/24)

20
of the Buglah Fath-el-Khyer, freighted
from Bombay with two hundred tons
of coal for the Muscat Depot.

2 I am at the same time
desired to request that you will cause
the Resident to be furnished with a
copy of the Chart applied for by him
in the accompanying Extract paras 5
from a letter from that Officer N^o 31,
dated the 25th April last.

Bombay Castle } Have the honor to be
19th June 1854 } (Signed) H. L. Anderson
Secretary to Government

N^o 2766 of 1854

To. The Military Board.

N^o 4763.

the same omitting the 2^d para:

Bombay Castle }
19th June 1854. } H. L. Anderson
Secy. to Govt.

True Extract

H. L. Anderson

Secretary to Govt.

Copies by
H. L. Anderson
1854
M. L. Anderson

Collectio

POLIT

Accor
from the
the 29th