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Letters from William Digges Latouche to the Court of Directors

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/76/20
Date(s)	27 Jun 1781-5 Jul 1781 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (2 folios)
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About this record

Two letters from William Digges Latouche, Resident at Bussora [Basra], to the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies (East India Company).

The first letter, dated 27 June 1781, covers subjects including:

- Intelligence from the Coromandel coast concerning French movements and the conflict with Heyder Ally [Haydar 'Alī, Ruler of Mysore]
- The movements of ships at Bombay [Mumbai] and Muscat
- The return to Bussora of hostages who were taken to Schyras [Shiraz] by Persian [Iranian] forces in 1776.

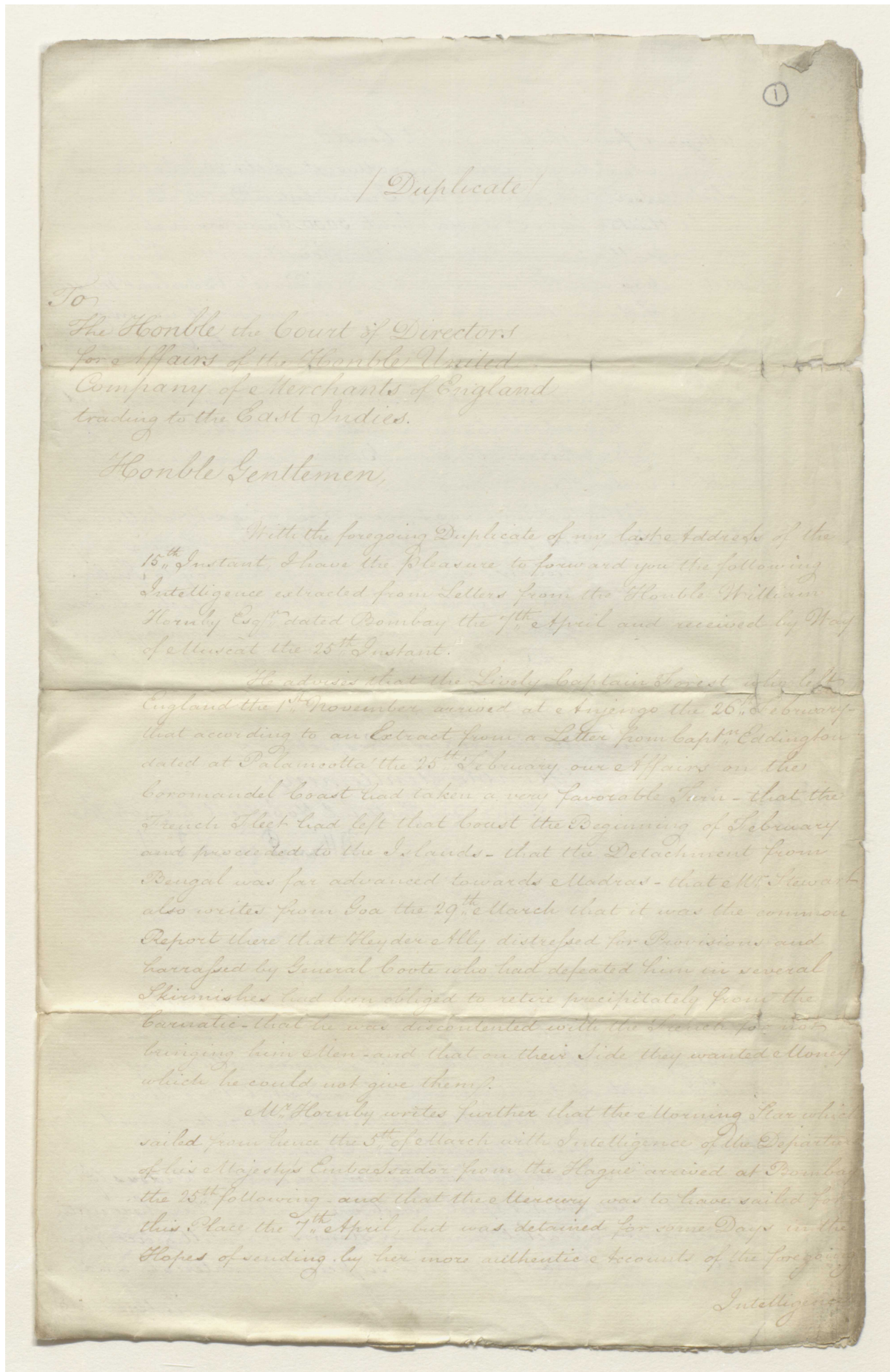
The same letter can be found in two parts in IOR/L/PS/9/76/12 and IOR/L/PS/9/76/15.

The second letter, dated 5 July 1781, covers subjects including:

- The transit via Bussora of dispatches to and from India
- The movements of British travellers towards India

- The arrival in Bussora of a consignment of woollens
- Dutch vessels at Muscat.

Letters from William Digges Latouche to the Court of Directors [1r] (1/4)



Letters from William Digges Latouche to the Court of Directors [1v] (2/4)

Intelligence from the Coromandel Coast.

According to Letters from Muscat of the 20th of May no English Vessel, had arrived from India, but a Dutch Ship had brought thither from Batavia about 3000 Canisters of Sugar and other Goods - the having intercepted therefore the Letter from the Dutch Ambassador to the Commanders of Dutch Vessels at Muscat advising of the Rupture with England as mentioned in my Address of the 1st of May may prove a very fortunate Circumstance.

The Ship of Bussora who were sent up to Schiras on the Capture of the Town by the Persians in 1776 having obtained their Liberty from Sadro Khan arrived here the 24th Instant - when they left Schiras Affairs in Persia continued in their usual Uncertainty.

Hitherto I have no Advice regarding Mr. Sullivan after his Departure from Constantinople, neither have I any Accounts of the Foreigners said to be coming this Way to India.

I have received a Letter from Muscat which advises that the Morning Star had arrived there from Bombay the 20th of May in Search of a Packet - I suppose she has returned with Messrs. Jewin and Smyth who would most probably arrive there a few Days afterwards.

I am with the greatest Respect

Honble Gentlemen

Your very faithful & obedient humble Serv^t

William Digges Latouche

Bussora

the 21st June 1781.

Honble Gentlemen

I had the Honor of writing to you the 24th Ultimo an Enclosing Duplicate, and accompanying you will be pleased to receive a Packet from my honorable Superiors at Bombay received the 1st Instant at Night by your Honors Ship the Mercury commanded by Captain Applegath - the Duplicate received at the same Time will follow in a few Days.

The Honble the Select Committee in their Orders of Mercury dated the 4th April direct me to detain here until I shall receive a Packet from your Honors or Intelligence from England that I may judge to be sufficiently material and

interesting

(2)

interesting to warrant her Dispatch - I therefore purpose keeping her until the arrival of M^r. John Sullivan which may be daily expected.

Mess^{rs}. Benfield and Seton, according to a Letter from the Resident at Bushire dated the 16th Ultimo departed from thence the 14th of Betsy, and according to a Letter from M^r. Irwin dated Muscat the 21st May, he was at that Time on the Point of Departure with M^r. Smith to go from thence for Bombay, on the 14th of May. The Dow^{ry} which M^r. Woolley proceeded from hence was spoke with the 21st May near Kishune by the Sattley & Lombard from Surat which arrived at Bushire the 15th Ultimo on her Way to Bushora.

The Honble the President and Council of Bombay have consigned me by the Mercury the following Woollens on Your Honor's account Viz^t

Coarse Cloth	—	17	Bales.
Ditto middley	—	12	ditto.
Fine Cloth	—	14	ditto.
Superfine Cloth	—	5	ditto.
Handker	—	42	ditto.
		122	Bales.
Perpets	—	113	ditto.
		235	ditto.

these Your Honor may be assured I shall dispose of as soon and as advantageously as possible. the Mercury also brought to Bushire 28 Bales Broad Cloth and 20 Bales of Perpets.

By the Mercury I received a Letter from P. D. Bonnavaux Esq^r dated Ponnah the 25th February enclosing one from your Secretary to me of the 9th July 1779. Your Honor will be informed of the fault of Captain Bonnavaux not having delivered it to me when at Buzora from a copy of his above mentioned Letter which is now enclosed.

Captain Applegath informs me that he left at Muscat two Dutch Vessels, which had arrived from Batavia some Days before, and that the account of the Pruffles with Holland was not known at Muscat. Captⁿ Applegath sailed from thence the 30th May.

I am with the greatest Respect,

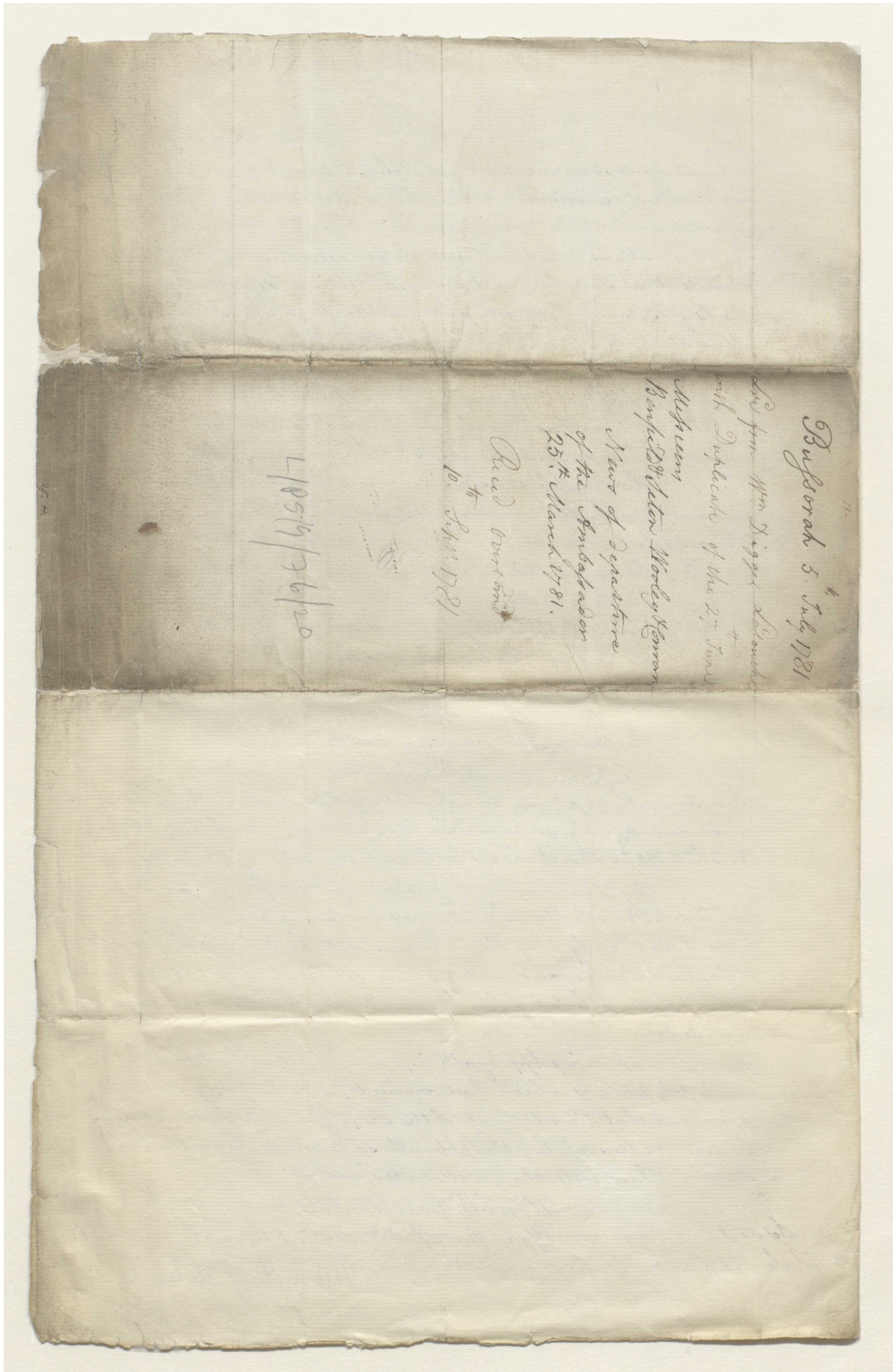
Honble Gentlemen

Your faithful & obedient humble Servant

William Digges Latouche

Bussora
5th July 1781.

Letters from William Digges Latouche to the Court of Directors [2v] (4/4)



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Dufourak 5th July 1781

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