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## Letter from William Digges Latouche to the Secret Committee

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/76/27
<b>Date(s)</b>	24 Apr 1783 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (2 folios)
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### About this record

A copy of a letter from William Digges Latouche, Resident at Bussora [Basra], to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies [East India Company], dated 24 April 1783.

The letter forwards news received from Mrs Marianna Abbott in Aleppo, including:

- News of the signature of preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and Spain and France [American War of Independence, 1775-1783], which Latouche is arranging to transmit to India
- The death of John Abbott, Consul at Aleppo, and his widow Mrs Marianna Abbott's assumption of his duties in transmitting correspondence.

Another copy of the same letter can be found in IOR/L/PS/9/76/28.

To  
The Honble the Secret Committee  
of the Honble the Court of Directors  
for Affairs of the Honble United  
Company of Merchants of England  
trading to the East Indies.

Honble Gentlemen.

Early this Morning a Pair of Messengers for Aleppo, were on the Point of departing with my Address of Yesterday, when I received a Letter from Mr<sup>s</sup> Abbott, dated the 20<sup>th</sup> March, inclosing Extract of one from Mr<sup>s</sup> Herbert Esq<sup>r</sup> His Majesty's Plenipotentiary at Paris to Sir Robert Sturloe, dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, wherein he advises that the preliminary Articles of Peace had been signed between His Majesty, and the most Christian and Catholic Kings; also Extract from a Letter from Sir Robert Sturloe dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, accompanying an Extract of Intelligence of Lott which Copies are now enclosed.

I have the same Opinion of the Scheme mentioned in these two last Papers, as Sir Robert Sturloe appears to have - I shall however be careful in forwarding Copies of them to my Honble Superiors, together with Extract of Mr<sup>s</sup> Herbert's Letter - I intend dispatching them immediately to Muscat with Orders to the Broker there to forward them, if possible by the Way of Scindry, if no direct Conveyance should offer, though I have little Hopes of their reaching Bombay sooner than other Copies which I shall send by the first English Ship, that may depart from hence.

Mr<sup>s</sup> Abbott at the same Time informs me of the Death of her late worthy Husband, John Abbott Esq<sup>r</sup> Consul at Aleppo, which unfortunately happened the 25<sup>th</sup> of last Month, after an Illness of twenty one Days. She informs me, that she has acquainted Your Honors of this melancholy Event, and requested that your Pockets, may be directed to her Care, in the same Manner, as to her

late



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late Husband, untill his Successor shall be appointed by the Levant  
Company. she makes a Request of the same Nature to me, and I  
make no Hesitation to comply with it, untill I receive your Orders,  
not only because I consider such a Compliance as a just  
Compliment to the Memory of a Gentleman, who on every Occasion  
had so warmly exerted himself in your Service; had shewn so close  
an Attention to your Interest; and was so deservedly esteemed  
by every One who had the Honor of knowing him, but because  
I have an entire Confidence in Mr. Atbolls own Discretion and  
good Management, in forwarding my Dispatches.

I am with the greatest Respect.

Honble Gentlemen

Your Faithful Obedient humble Servant.

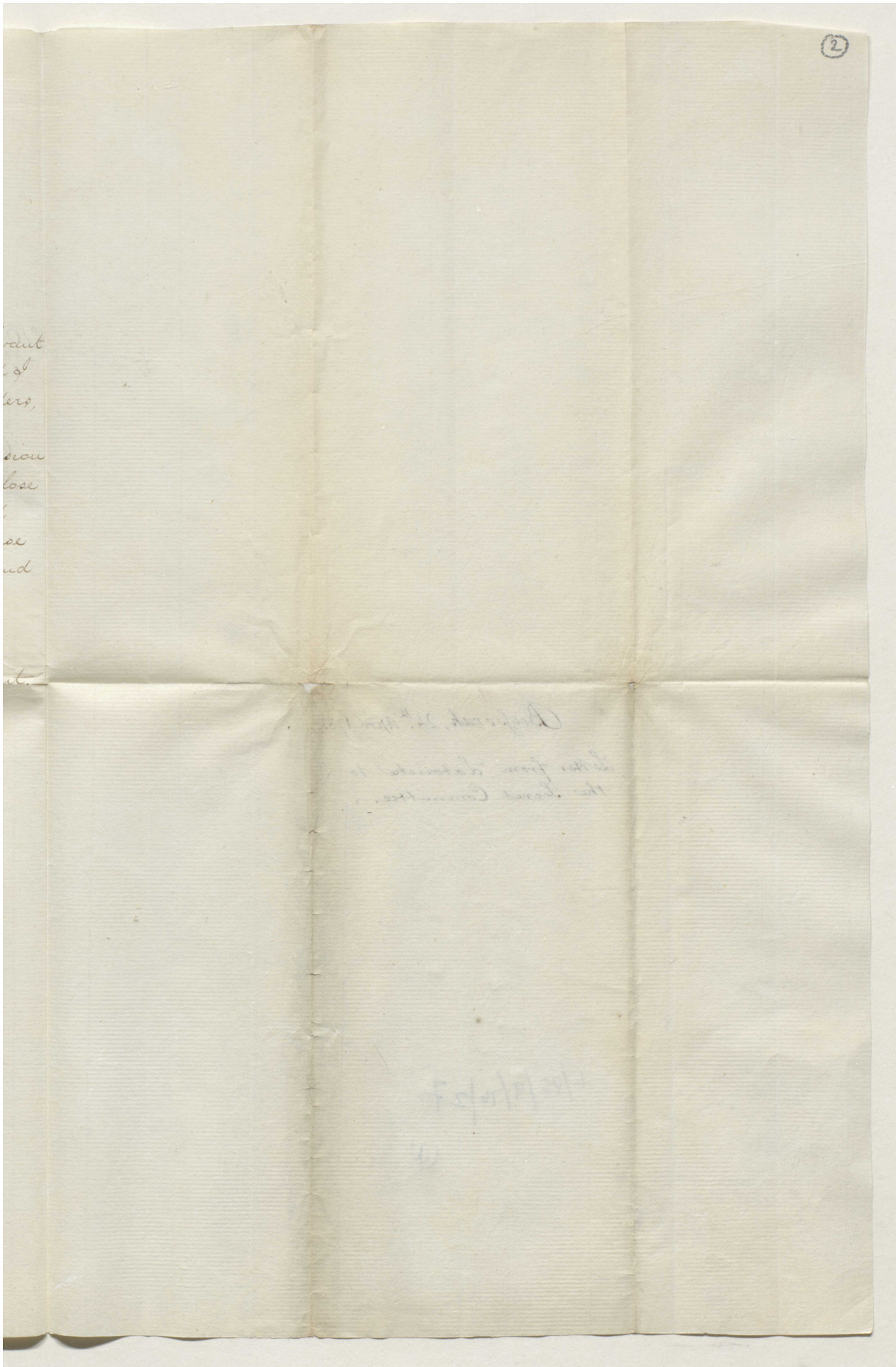
William Digges Latouche

Bussora

the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1732.



Letter from William Digges Latouche to the Secret Committee [2r] (3/4)





Letter from William Digges Latouche to the Secret Committee [2v] (4/4)

