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Letter from Harford Jones to John Philip Morier

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/76/127
Date(s)	10 Jun 1800 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (2 folios)
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About this record

A copy of a letter from Harford Jones, Resident in Bagdad [Baghdad], to John Morier, Attaché with the army of the Vizier [Yūsuf Zīa al-Dīn Pāshā, Grand Vizier to the Ottoman Sulṭān] in Egypt, sent from Bagdad and dated 10 June 1800.

The letter concerns potential assistance from the Pashaw of Bagdad [Büyük Sulaymān Pāshā, Governor of Bagdad] to the Vizier's campaign against the French occupation forces in Egypt. Jones expresses doubts about the loyalty of Timour Aga [Tīmūr Āghā], whom the Pashaw is rumoured to be sending to support the Vizier, and describes problems facing the region including plague and a Yezeedee [Yazīdī] rebellion.

To
J. P. Morier Esq^r

Esq. Esq. Esq.

Sir

By Means of M. Barker our Pro. Consul at Aleppo, I have been regularly made acquainted with the contents of your late important dispatches to India and I have communicated to this Government, those parts of them with which it was proper the Pashaw should be made acquainted.

I have uniformly endeavoured according to the Tenor of my Instructions, to excite the Pashaw, to afford, all Assistance in his Power & the Efforts, the Ottoman Ministry have made for driving the French out of Egypt; and tho' his Highness has not sent a detachment of Troops, to join the Viceroy's Army, yet the Succours he has afforded the Porte in Money have been very far from unacceptable or unserviceable.

I am,

B. M. Jones does not wish to claim any merit from the circumstances but it is a fact that since by Ben Jones at Baghdad the Pashaw has supplied the Porte & the Pasha with 100,000 Livres of Pistols & 100,000 Livres of Money, more than he sent to them otherwise during the whole Siege.

①

The present State of this Country is such that I do not know I could conscientiously advise the Pashaw, to comply with the requisition, that has ^{been} made, to him for a Body of Troops. A disagreeable accident which happened lately at Meshed Ally between some Arabs, of the Sect of Whabees, and the Inhabitants of that place is not quite adjusted. The approach of the Plague, is gradually throwing things into Confusion, and if the Government, had not been equally vigilant and decisive, the discontent which people expressed in consequence, of the disastrous Reports received from Egypt, would a few days ago have produced very serious Disturbances. The Pashaw however by punishing some capitally and banishing others has apparently checked the Machinations of the ill affected, the Number of which I am sorry to say is not small.

I have had it hinted to me, that it has been proposed to the Pashaw to send Simour Aga, to join the Vicer, with a couple, of thousand Men, and that in such case, the Vicer would confer on him the dignity of Pashaw, and the Government of Orfa. You know I presume that this person headed a most formidable Rebellion, against the Pote, and that he was obliged by Necessity, to seek Refuge at Bagdad in the Year 1792. As it has been long imagined, that an Idea was entertained of procuring for him the Pashalick of Orfa, I have taken some pains to find out the Character, and disposition of the Man. His Mind is exceedingly embittered against the Pote for keeping him as he terms it so long in Prison at Bagdad, and there is strong Reason, to believe were he at Liberty and placed in any Situation, which gave him Power his first Object

Object would be to revenge (altho' properly he had forfeited his Life) what he
publicly names his cruel Treatment. Impatience and Pride, are striking ⁽²⁾
features in the Character of Timour Aga, and his Connection with the
different Tribes of Circassians, Turcomans, and Arabs, dispersed through
Circassia, and Mesopotamia joined to his intriguing & restless
Spirit might if he were at Liberty afford him the Means of doing the
State the most serious, and alarming Mischief, especially in these Times
when her Affairs in Asia, are embarrassed, and the Trade of the Inhabitants
of the Singarian Mountains are in Rebellion. In short when I oppose
the possible Evil which this Man if at Liberty will have it in his Power
to commit, to the positive good that can attend his being sent to
Jaffa with 2000 Men, I think to suffer him to leave Bagdad in these
Times would be the Excess of Imprudence, and bad Policy. for if he be
as he certainly is, insensible of the weighty obligations the Pashaw
conferred on him when in distress, how can it reasonably be supposed
that he will entertain a proper Sense, of a Promotion, and Power which
he will hardly fail to imagine nothing but the Exigency of Affairs has
procured?

The Pashaw assures me, he is sincerely interested for the
Honor of his Country, and I have no doubt, in case of need and of
Application being made, of his being ready to afford such pecuniary
Assistance as might be in his Power - indeed the Motive of the present
Despatch of the Tartar Agasi is of this Nature. J

I have thought it proper to give you these few hints on the
state of this country as from its having been exempt from the calamities
of War you might judge the Pashaw's capacity to succour the Kurds
greater than it really is.

The last accounts I have from India, are extremely favorable,
and I flatter myself we shall soon have news from you equally agreeable
and pleasing

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your very humble servant

Harford Jones.

Bagdad
the 10. June 1808.

Inu bky
Harford Jones

Mr Jones to Mr Morier
with the Major's Army
Capt. 10 June

of Jones's in my opinion

See the Aug. 1808

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