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Letter from Harford Jones to Jonathan Duncan

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About this record

A copy of a letter from Harford Jones, Resident in Bagdad [Baghdad], to Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay, sent from Bagdad and dated 17 August 1801.

The letter forwards copies of letters to the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company concerning Jones's dispute with the Pashaw [Büyük Sulaymān Pāshā, Governor of Baghdad]. Jones recommends granting the Pashaw's requests for supplies. Jones also proposes pressing for the removal of the French physician Outry and installing a guard at the Residency.

To
The Honble Jonathan Duncan Esq^r
President and Governor W^o. W^o.
in Council
Political Department. at Bombay.

Honble Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg permission to lay before your Honble Board Copies
of my Addresses of the 10th and 12th Instant, to the Honble the Chairman.

The last of these Addresses, throws a new Light on the business
in which I find myself unfortunately engaged with the Pashaw, and
places me in a Situation, to speak with a greater degree of Confidence
to your Honble Board than I otherwise should have thought myself
entitled, to have made use of, until I had been honored with your Sentiments
on my late proceedings.

Surrounded as this Government is at present by difficulties,
and distracted by Intrigues, I cannot when I reflect how necessary it is
for the national Interest to preserve as long as possible the Country in
Tranquillity suffer any personal Considerations to impede me rendering
the Pashaw (who I think is much to be pitied) any Service in my Power,
and in this view I respectfully recommend to your Honble Board, a
Compliance with such Wishes for Stuffs or other Articles as he may have
during the Course of our dispute expressed to you through the Resident
at Bussora.

It is not however to be concealed, that the Pashaw has been
lead to the most unjustifiable and outrageous Behavior, in respect to
me,

me, — behavior which if suffered to pass without a proper Satisfaction being obtained, must infallibly be to the great discredit of the national Character in these parts.

I flatter myself the Honble Board will not think it presumption, if I mention a few words, in respect, to the Nature of this Satisfaction. It is my opinion Government should take up the Pashaw's Actions in the same point of view, as I have done, to the Desit-dar; that is to say that they have been caused, by evil Counsellors; and should therefore endeavour to avail of those Advantages which the Pashaw's Conduct has given to put the Mission here on a determinate footing; and to strike at the Root of a party which (for purposes I can well guess tho' not easily prove) is hostile to its Establishment.

The Removal from Bagdad of Abeyou Dubry may with Justice, be insisted on. The Porte having formerly as I have proved granted a Consulary Brevet for Bagdad, to the French cannot refuse ^{us one} if it be applied for — and the Manner in which the Pashaw withdrew all Government Protection from me forms an unanswerable Argument, for fixing a Guard for the Resident or Consul.

To obtain these points which I may say a Concurrence of fortunate circumstances (though at much personal Trouble to me) has thrown almost into our hands, will be to obtain striking Satisfaction accompanied, by solid Advantages — for my own part, as a national Benefit I should view the Removal of Dubry alone, as worth all I have suffered.

Adieu Respect for your Honble Board my immediate Superior prevents me forwarding to the most Noble the Governor General, a set of the Papers transmitted with this Address, but I venture respectfully to solicit that you will indulge me so far as to lay them before his Excellency as speedily as possible.

As the Residence in Bagdad in the present Situation of the Mission is not very creditable, and highly unpleasant; and as the Intensions
of

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* From Miss Jones, which shall be able to conduct the post to the port of the
without inconvenience.

Intenseness of the heats, is now daily moderating I purpose early in next
Month encamping on the Banks of the Tigris a few Miles to the South-
ward of the Town, and remaining there until, I shall have the honor to
receive the Commands of my Honble Employers and Superiors. ^{* from this}

The Various Reports from Persia, which have circulated within
these two or three days in Town only tend to augment the Mystery we
have heard in for sometime, in respect to the State of the Kings health. I
have now two Messengers out besides a person lately sent to Hermandrah
the Return of some one of which I expect hourly.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest Respect
Honble Sir and Gentlemen
Your most obedient-hum^d. Servant
Harford Jones.

Bagdad
the 17. August 1801.

True Copy
Harford Jones

