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## Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin

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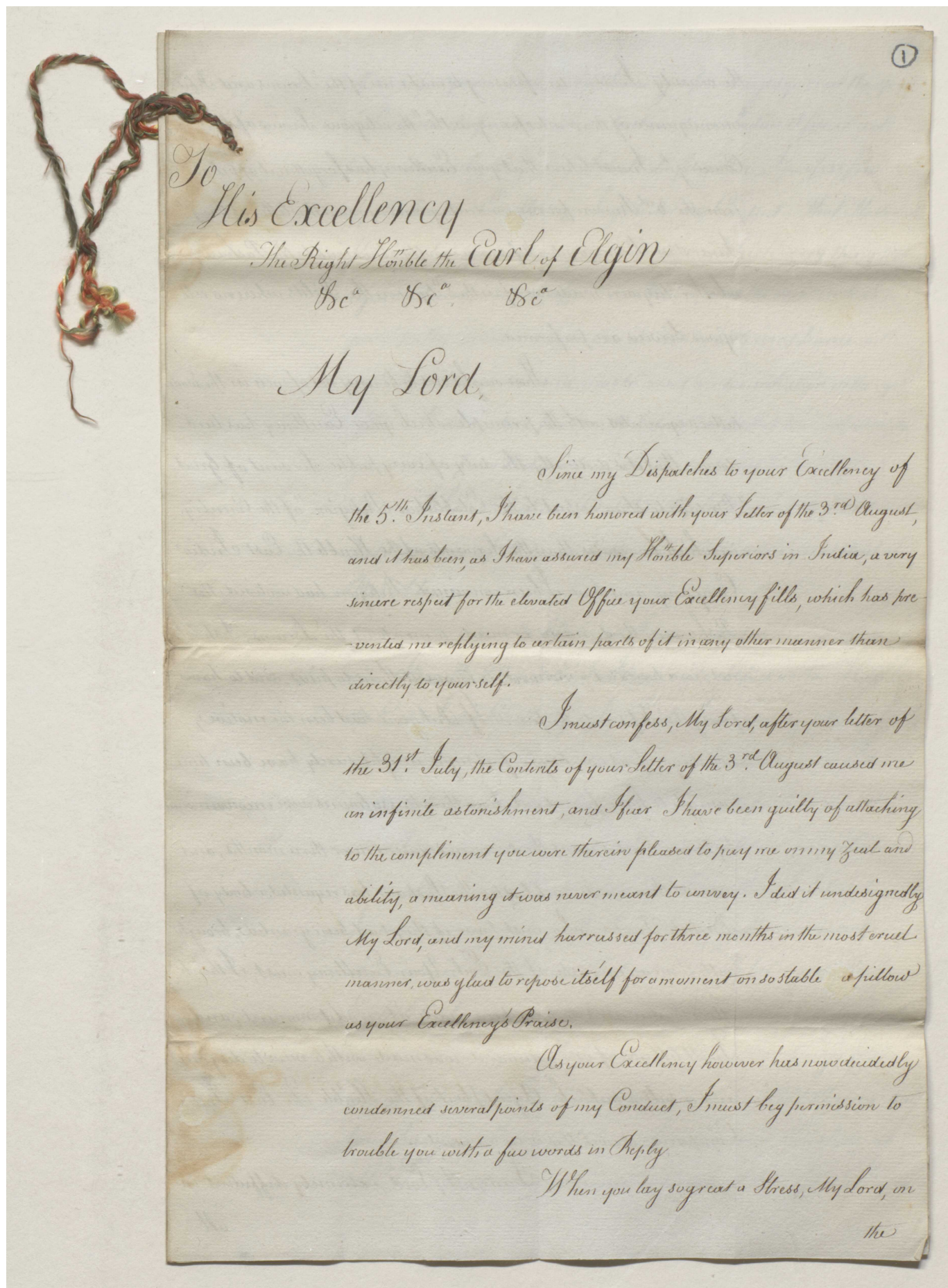


### About this record

A copy of a letter from Harford Jones, Resident in Bagdad [Baghdad], to Lord Elgin, HM Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, sent from Bagdad and dated 15 September 1801.

In response to Elgin's letter of 3 August (catalogued as IOR/L/PS/9/76/174), Jones objects angrily to the censure of some aspects of his conduct during a dispute with the Pashaw [Büyük Sulaymān Pāshā, Governor of Bagdad].

Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [1r] (1/8)





Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [1v] (2/8)

the necessity I was under of ceasing to make use of the Drums and Pipes, in consequence of their interfering with "the religious Services of the Country." I must believe that your Excellency has forgotten it appears from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reason for my conduct, given to you in the letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> June, these Drums and Pipes were equally obnoxious to the Pashaw, whether they were made use of in the City or in the Fields where no religious Services are performed.

There ought not to be any Set of men in the world better acquainted with the principle which your Excellency has laid down "that it is distinctly the duty of every public Servant of Great Britain to shew respect to the Established Religion" of the Country in which he resides than the Servants of the Honble the East India Company, and had I been convinced Religion had motivated the Pashaw in the demand he made to me about the Drums, I should not have hesitated a moment to have cut them to pieces, and to have flung the Pipes into the fire. If Religion had been the motive, two days, if not two days a fortnight might surely have been time enough to have found out how the Mussulmans were inconvenienced by them. But it seems the discovery required near three months, and was not then made, until after the Pashaw has requested a body of British Troops, who must have, if they had been granted, brought with them an increase of the Evil. Your Excellency must, I think, allow the demand to have been made at an odd moment, and I will tell you if ever a demand was made with a view to disgrace and insult a public Agent/beit of the Honble the East India Company/ it was this very demand.

I am, My Lord, extremely diffident in  
all



Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [2r] (3/8)

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all cases of my own opinion, but having a few days ago read the speech in Parliament of a man whose least word on Indian Affairs will become an oracle, long after I shall be forgotten, I confess no offence to your Excellency's Joy in my Conduct. That illustrious Statesman has perceived the great importance which every thing that regards Persia, is to our affairs in India, and the reason which principally caused me to decline an immediate compliance with the Pashaw's demand, was to avoid an humiliation in the eyes of those Persons, who a few months before, had formed the most advantageous ideas of our Nation from the Conduct and proceedings of Captain John Malcolm. But this, My Lord, is not the first time that a pretence of Religion has been made to cover a great deal of Rascality.

As far as I have interfered in the affair of your Baratte Morad Coir, I have no doubt, but as the Honble the East India Company's Resident, I was wrong - but if you will be pleased, My Lord, to advert to your Correspondence with me on this subject and the trouble you gave me on it for three months, you will perceive it was your Excellency who led me nay solicited me to interfere in the Transaction of a Baratte. In future however I promise on my honor, My Lord, that I will never assist, countenance nor trouble myself about any one belonging to the English Embassy.

The paragraph of your Excellency's letter which respects Doctor Outry, who if he knew the title your Excellency has given him, would be much in the same Situation as M<sup>r</sup>. Fourdain, when addressed by the title of mon Gentilhomme

causes



Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [2v] (4/8)

causes me an astonishment I have difficulty to express, and when  
 your Excellency lays to me as a fault having endeavoured to supplant  
 him with the Pashaw, I must yet suppose if your Excellency was  
 acquainted with this fellow's Character, you would, provided I  
 took no dishonest means to effect my purpose, rather ascribed than  
 to blame me for the effort. But know, my Lord, the wish to profit  
 by the Skill of an English Medical Gentleman originated with the  
 Pashaw - he had expressed it even before my arrival at Bagdad,  
 I did nothing more than convey these wishes to my Superiors, they  
 with that uniform and liberal attention to the Pashaw, which he  
 has so well repaid, sent him a Gentleman graduated in one of the  
 first universities in the world, and whose manners are as amiable  
 as his abilities are eminent. He attended the Pashaw with unremitting  
 assiduity for near four months - his attendance was never refused,  
 it was always ready on one condition, and I doubt whether the  
 power or authority of any prince would have prevailed on Doctor  
 Mead to attend conjointly with Doctor Rock.

Your Excellency is pleased to term the part  
 I acted in this affair an Intrigue and to say that I have furnish-  
 -ed the Pashaw with a powerful weapon against me, in having  
 refused to supply him with Doctor Short's Medicines. I shall  
 add little on this point to what I have already ventured to re-  
 -mark to the most Noble the Governor General, except that, had  
 Doctor Short sent those Medicines, Outry or Doctor Outry  
 having carried that point, would in a few days have sent him  
 a prescription to make up, and then bragged of it to his worthy  
 Republican Elves in the Coffee Houses of Bagdad. I may  
 be



Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [3r] (5/8)

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be wrong; My Lord, but I have always thought, if there is any thing  
 a man in this world can call his own, it is his knowledge and Science, and  
 surely it would be cruel and unjust to ask him to make use of it for the  
 Credit and Benefit; it is a shame almost in this case to say of a  
 Rival; Your Excellency has no doubt remarked that the Pashaw  
 was told any simple Medicines in the Company's Stores were at  
 his Service.

Your Excellency is also pleased to say my  
 "Conduct herein must have been felt by the French as by myself to be  
 "an effort affecting the National Interests of the two Countries at  
 "Bagdad." Untill I read this passage, My Lord, I thought my  
 duty on the point of national Interests was plain and simple—  
 to cherish, and if possible, extend the one, and to counteract the other;  
 by all fair means in my power. But although the French have  
 invaded and insulted the Turks, and are at war with us, your  
 Excellency, if I understand the Paragraph, <sup>right</sup> would blame me for  
 any attempt to injure the present and future Interests of the Republic  
 at Bagdad. A true Englishman, My Lord, as a person not very  
 ill informed of the Interests of my Country in this part of the  
 World, or of what is going on immediately under my own eyes,  
 I take this opportunity of saying publicly that the Honorable  
 East India Company ought to insist on the immediate removal  
 of Cetry from Bagdad; and I will pledge myself to them  
 that they have the means in their own hands of effecting it,  
 without giving your Excellency any trouble in the business.

Having said thus much on the points where  
 your Excellency has thought proper to blame my Conduct, I must  
 add



Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [3v] (6/8)

add that I draw, and I think very fairly, this general inference from your Letter that being only the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the East India Company's Resident, I may be affronted, insulted, defamed or injured in any shape without the possibility of the Porte being compelled to make the Pashaw give any satisfaction for it. In this case, I can tell you, My Lord, that the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company without the smallest infraction of the Treaties between Great Britain and the Porte, have the means in a small space of time of compelling both the Porte and the Pashaw to give them proper and adequate Satisfaction for his past Conduct, and to make him in future pay that attention to their servant stationed at Bagdad which on every account is his due.

But, My Lord, when you express yourself convinced that the late Transactions here have been either desired or fomented by the French Interest, was there now any in which you could lend me your assistance in arresting their progress? I will tell your Excellency freely that the Pashaw and the whole Town of Bagdad from your Correspondence with the Pashaw consider you as engaged to him to procure my recall: and for my own part, if the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company are of the same opinion in respect to my late Conduct, as your Excellency, or if they decline procuring one way or other, signal satisfaction for what has lately happened, I hope I shall be relieved from acting any part in the disgraceful Scenes that are preparing.

Your Excellency admits my position has been one of much difficulty - I have felt it - but I have seen and felt it has been one that the manifestation of the least degree of spirit,
   
 from



Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [4r] (7/8)

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from any Quarter would have put an end to.

I have long recommended to my Superiors to obtain an acknowledgement from the Porte of their Establishment here. The Company, My Lord, have no commercial Interests at Bagdad, but they have great and important political ones, and on my word to whomsoever the care of those shall be entrusted, a greater Establishment and a greater degree of State will be necessary than to Agents of the same rank in Europe or in the Levant.

I have the honor to be  
with profound Respect  
My Lord  
Your most devoted  
and  
most obedient  
humble Servant  
Harford Jones.

Bagdad  
the 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1801.

True Copy  
Harford Jones



Letter from Harford Jones to Lord Elgin [4v] (8/8)

