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## Letter from Harford Jones to Marquess Wellesley

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### About this record

A copy of a letter from Harford Jones, Resident in Bagdad [Baghdad], to Marquess Wellesley, Governor-General of Bengal, sent from Bagdad and dated 9 May 1802.

The letter contains a report on affairs in Bagdad. It covers:

- Internal affairs of the Government of Bagdad, including: the health and family of the Pashaw [Büyük Sulaymān Pāshā, Governor of Bagdad]; the distribution of key posts in the Government; the public attitude towards the Pashaw; and likely successors to the Pashaw, in particular the Kia Aly [‘Alī Pāshā al-Kahyah, Chief Minister of Bagdad] and Abdullah Aga [‘Abdullāh Āghā], Governor of Merdin [Mardin]
- The relations of the Government of Bagdad with Persia [Iran] and the Wa-ha-by [Wahhābī movement], in particular relating to an attack on Meshed Hossein [Shrine of Imām Huṣayn bin ‘Alī, Karbala] by the Wa-ha-by. Includes an extract in French from a 1796 report by the Pashaw to the Porte [Government of the Ottoman Empire] concerning the feasibility of military action against the movement
- The state of affairs in Bagdad and its dependencies, including: the defences of Bagdad, Bussora [Basra], and Hillah [Al Hillah]; plague; affairs in Coordistan [Kurdistan]; and the attitude of local tribes towards the Government of Bagdad and the Wa-ha-by.

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To  
His Excellency  
The Most Noble Marquis Wellesley K. P.  
Governor General  
G<sup>ca</sup> G<sup>ca</sup> G<sup>ca</sup>  
at Fort William  
My Lord,

Still deprived of your Excellency's Commands  
promised Commands on the subject of "our political Relations  
with the Pashas of Bagdad". I could wish to have postponed  
laying before you any detailed statement of the Situation of Affairs  
here, until I might have had the honor to receive them. Circumstances  
however are so much altered within these few months, and indeed  
I may say within these few days that I conceive deferring this task  
to a future Period would be a neglect of my duty.

With your Excellency's permission I would  
divide the detail I propose laying before you under three  
heads.

1<sup>o</sup> The domestic State of this Government.

2<sup>a</sup> Its exterior Relations.

and

3<sup>a</sup>

3<sup>d</sup>. The State of the Country under the Government of Bagdad.  
1.<sup>o</sup> Your Excellency knows that the Pasha is a person greatly advanced in Years; my late addresses have spoken of his increasing infirmities, and I am now sorry to confirm what I formerly mentioned from Report, that His Highness has totally lost the use of his body from the Waist downwards. The Pasha the eldest of the former is near 72 Years old, the two others are infants, and the four daughters has in all seven children, three Sons and four Daughters are married or affianced to the following of his Officers.

To the Kia or Minister ————— married.

To Selim Beg, late Muzaleem of Bupora. — married.

To Daoud Aga, Kasmadar ————— affianced

To Niseef Aga, Kapjeetar Kizly ————— affianced.

The Pasha's principal Counsellors are the Mestreff Effendy, sometime since made Defterdar Effendy, Mohammed and Abdul Aziz Beg. The Government of the two principal Dependencies, that is to say, Bupora and Morden, are at present filled by Kegeem Beg, and Abdullah Aga.

From the time of my arrival at this Court to the present moment, the Pasha has more particularly devolved himself and his affairs to the Council and management (for the Minister in this Respect has never been more than a Shadow) of two Persons; the late Divan Effendisi, who was suspected to have died poisoned, and the present Defterdar Effendy, who was brought forward on the Divan Effendisi's decease. Consecutive Acts of Imprudence, Folly and Injustice had lessened that respect for his person and Government, which the Pasha has been near

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Twenty Years in acquiring, and his late disgraceful desertion of the City, his unjust and inhuman Orders, after quitting it himself on account of the Plague, that no one else should be permitted to do so, and his shameful negligence in respect to Meshed Hofsein, have given the death blow to his Character whether as a good Man or a good Governor; and whether he is called away from hence, whether it be by the course of Nature, or by orders from the Porte, he will feel in that moment the sad reflection of having out lived his Character, his Reputation and his Honor.

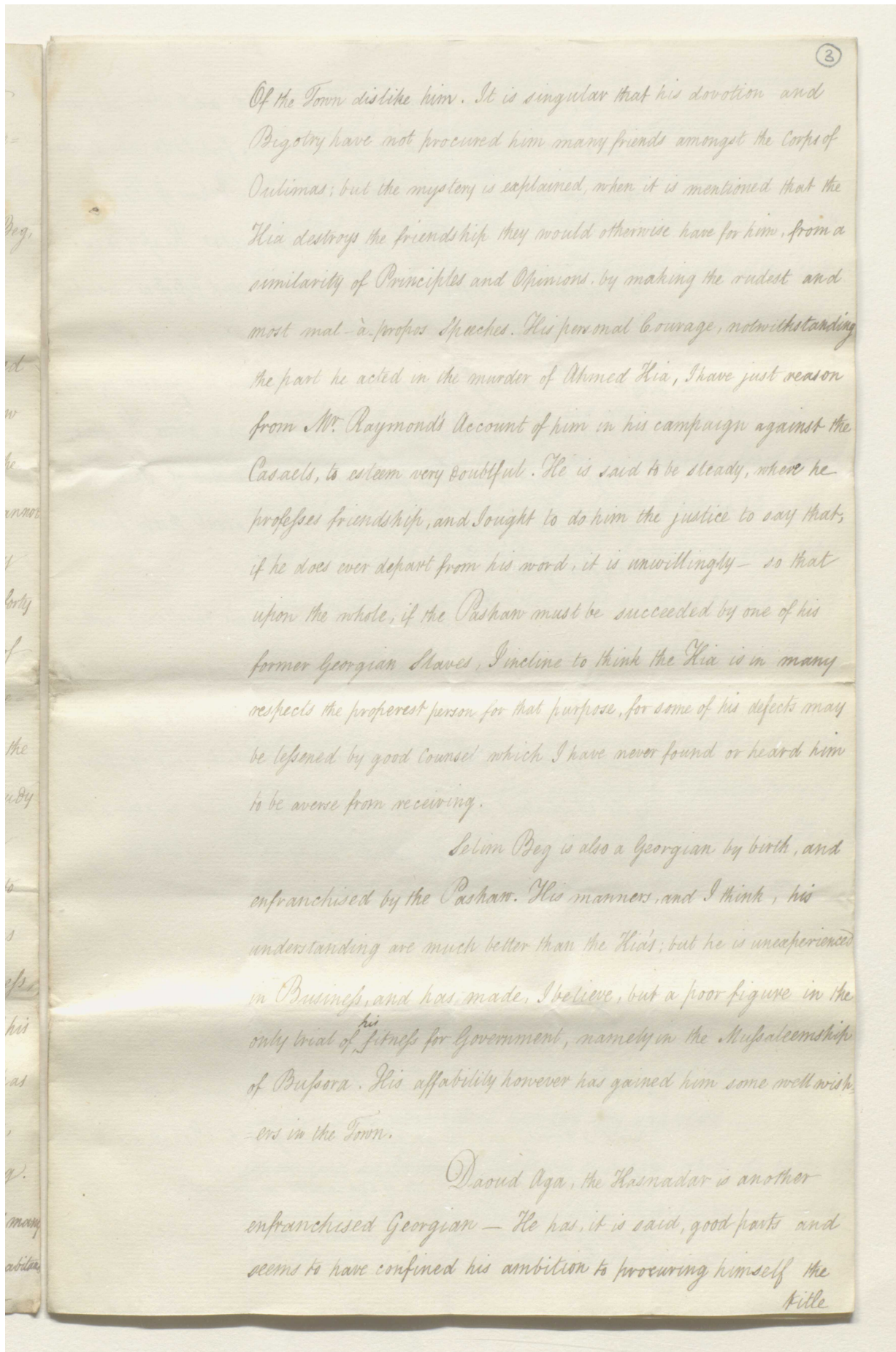
The domestic Embarrassments which the Pashaw has to struggle against, are the consequences of the Plague, which has made its appearance in this City; the divisions, which from separate Interests, prevail in his Harem and amongst his Sons-in-law and Counsellors; the turn against him of popular opinion in this City; and the ill-favored state (I have great reason to think) his Affairs are in at Constantinople. It is more than probable his Infirmities will soon remove him from the midst of these difficulties, but if they should not, I cannot conceive the Porte will, or indeed can support him against the loud complaints which will be made against him from all Mohammedan Countries on the affair of Meshed Hofsein.

In what manner soever we shall lose him the public here have long talked of a number of pretenders to the Succession, and have fixed them to be his eldest Son, his Sons in law and Abdullah Aga, the late Muzaleem of Brufora. It is in a paper

Paper of this sort alone that I could venture to trouble your Excellency with a short sketch of characters, which are only interesting from the situation of those to whom they belong.

The Pashaw's eldest Son's name is Aghad Beg, and his early age makes it unnecessary to say more than he is reported to be a boy of some parts and good dispositions.

The Hia, whose name is Aly, was raised to this dignity, and married to the only Daughter the Pashaw had born in Wedlock, in consequence of the part he acted in the massacre of Ahmed Hia, of whose character and abilities I cannot presume your Excellency to be ignorant. He is a Georgian by birth, was a Slave to the Pashaw, and may be probably about forty years of age. He is neither a man of Business, nor a man of pleasure. He has not parts for the one, and his fanaticism prevents his being the other. During the time of his servitude in the Palace, he applied himself particularly, it is said, to the study of the Koran, its Commentaries and Glosses, which, acting on parts more than commonly circumscribed, has caused him to consider the Orthodox Profession and Exercise of Islamism, as containing every excellent Accomplishment a man can possess, has given him a prejudice against Persons of other Sects of his own Religion, which often impolitically manifests itself and has given him a detestation and Abhorrence of Christians and Jews, which he frequently does not chuse the most proper time of expressing. His behaviour in public is in general puerile and disgusting; and many amongst those belonging to his own household, but most of the Inhabitants



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Of the Town dislike him. It is singular that his devotion and  
 Bigotry have not procured him many friends amongst the Corps of  
 Oulimas; but the mystery is explained, when it is mentioned that the  
 Kia destroys the friendship they would otherwise have for him, from a  
 similarity of Principles and Opinions, by making the rudest and  
 most mal-à-propos Speeches. His personal Courage, notwithstanding  
 the part he acted in the murder of Ahmed Kia, I have just reason  
 from Mr. Raymond's Account of him in his campaign against the  
 Casacks, to esteem very doubtful. He is said to be steady, where he  
 professes friendship, and I ought to do him the justice to say that,  
 if he does ever depart from his word, it is unwillingly - so that  
 upon the whole, if the Pashaw must be succeeded by one of his  
 former Georgian Slaves, I incline to think the Kia is in many  
 respects the properest person for that purpose, for some of his defects may  
 be lessened by good Counsel which I have never found or heard him  
 to be averse from receiving.

Selim Beg is also a Georgian by birth, and  
 enfranchised by the Pashaw. His manners, and I think, his  
 understanding are much better than the Kia's; but he is unexperienced  
 in Business, and has made, I believe, but a poor figure in the  
 only trial of <sup>his</sup> fitness for Government, namely in the Muzalceemship  
 of Bupsora. His affability however has gained him some well wish-  
 -ers in the Town.

Daoud Aga, the Rasmadar is another  
 enfranchised Georgian - He has, it is said, good parts and  
 seems to have confined his ambition to procuring himself the  
 title

Title of Moollah or learned - He is mild and even elegant in his Manners, but has neither the experience, fortitude, nor decision, which are requisite in the high Station of Pashaw of Bagdad.

Nusef Aga, the Kapjeclar Kisary is like the Kasmadar, an enfranchised Georgian - and professes neither parts nor experience. He is brutish and disgusting in his Manners, and his Haughtiness and self conceit, if they can be equalled by any other quality he professes, must be by his ignorance alone. His personal Courage however is said to be great. His age and that of Selim Bey and Daoud Aga are nearly the same, that is about thirty four or thirty five Years.

I now come to present your Excellency with a Character, one of the most extraordinary that I have ever known during my Residence in these Countries, I mean that of Abdullah Aga, the present Governor of Mardin, a Character, with which your Excellency by the Dispatches from the Resident at Buzora, must, in some degree, be acquainted, a Character, which I really doubt being able in my delineation to do complete justice to.

Abdullah Aga, is a native of Bagdad born of one of the most respectable families in the City, and was appointed from the Office of Kasmadar to the Pashaw, to that of Mufaleem of Buzora, which he filled for many years with superior credit to himself and the greatest advantage to the Pashaw, his Master. He is about forty two years of age, coarse in his person, but most engaging and interesting in his manners and conversation: knowing  
and

and practising the great and invaluable Secret of accommodat-<sup>(4)</sup>  
-ting himself to his Company without the smallest loss of his own  
dignity. He is a man of letters, a politician, a financier and a  
Merchant. He has procured himself what people in these Countries  
seldom think of, a tolerable, distinct and correct notion of the State of  
Europe — he has been at uncommon pains to obtain some Ideas of  
Geography; and he is the only Turk I ever conversed with, that had  
a knowledge of the local Situation and relation <sup>of the Provinces</sup> of his own Empire.  
He is liberal in his religious Opinions, and would if Policy could  
warrant it, be still more so — He is liberal to his people without  
being profuse, and has the happy Talent of combining great expense  
with the most exact Economy — He is always happy to receive  
information in whatever shape, or by whomsoever it may be offered  
to him — and is seldom or ever contented with knowing a thing  
superficially or by halves. In his Government at Boforra, he was  
prompt, decisive and vigilant, and contrived to procure himself  
a great Character for good faith, humanity and justice — He has  
been accused of being avaricious, but he certainly never gratified  
that passion by extortion and oppression; and tho' he amassed  
immense Sums at Boforra, they were neither drawn from the  
public Revenue of the Pashaw, nor from the private purse of the  
Inhabitants; for he greatly increased the one, and afforded a  
security to the other, which had been long unknown — He  
increased his fortune at Boforra by means which the barbarous  
Ignorance of other Mussalcoons prevented their seeing; and which,  
had they seen, it would still have required abilities as strong and  
as



As good as Abdallah Aga's to have taken advantage of. He has been reproached with timidity — he never shewed it any act of his Government, and whatever personal Acts his apprehension of the malevolence of this Government towards him, may have caused him to commit, great allowance for his Situation ought to be made; and if it is fair to estimate the Wisdom of Conduct by the event, his conduct where he has been most censured appears now to have been most sage. He is (very much to the credit of the Resident at Busora) most firmly attached to the English and their Interests, justly and on conviction of the truth of it, considering the latter as inseparably connected in these Countries with those of the Porte.

Your Excellency will now permit me to pass to a recital of what I hear as the probabilities of each Parties success.

It is evident the Pashaw, if he ever did hope that the Government of Bagdad would be continued in his family, in the person of his Son, must have entertained those hopes, when his Affairs wore a very different appearance both here and at Constantinople to what they do at present, when he was beloved here and respected there: at present therefore it is needless to trouble your Excellency with the prospect of a Boy of twelve, obtaining the Government of a Country, so deranged in all its parts as Bagdad and its Dependancies.

The Aga's hopes, I am told, rest much on  
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The access which it is probable his Situation may give him to the Pashaw's Treasures, on his decease; on the assurances of Support he is said to have obtained from the Sanisary Aga, the Defterdar Effendi and Mohammed Beg; and on the advantage he has of having more people attached to his Service, than either of the other Sons in Law of the Pashaw.

I incline however to think that the Sanisary Aga is either not engaged to support the Kia's pretensions; or if he has made any such engagement, it is for the purpose of amusing him — My opinion in this Respect is founded on a Message he sent me the other day, when a Report was spread in Town of the Pashaw having died in his Camp — the Substance of it was — "that his thoughts turned (he believed) the same way as mine, and that a man always repented forming connections with fools".

It is however not to be doubted that the Defterdar Effendi and Mohammed <sup>Beg</sup> have engaged themselves to support the Kia; but their Characters are such, particularly that of the former, that I cannot think they will be able to give him much assistance in his views, for tho' they are now both of them in possession of much Influence they are neither beloved, nor respected, nor will their efforts, admitting them to be as powerful as they can be imagined, be able to stem or turn the current of popular Opinion.

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It is also <sup>to be</sup> remarked that the office of the one, (I believe), and the consequence of the other ceases on the death or change of the Pashaw — a case far different to that of the Sanibary Aga, whom your Excellency knows, by the Consens of the Empire, takes charge for the Porte of the City, the Palace and the Treasures, if he can get at them, of the late Pashaw, until a new Pashaw be appointed — His assistance therefore to whomsoever he shall lend it, is an affair of the greatest importance — <sup>The</sup> Chiefest Men of the City being Sanibaries, who look up to their Aga, and particularly to the present, who is a man of great sense and ability, and is both respected and beloved.

What are the foundations on which Selim Beg, Daoud Aga and Nesuf Aga build their hopes, I am ignorant, further than the weak ones of being Sons-in-law to the Pashaw, and some trifling Cabals, which they may each have formed amongst the Georgians in the Palace, which from frequently canvassing, they have each in their own opinions magnified into powerful means of Success.

It is some time since I have indirectly heard that the Porte, on some cause of discontent with the Pashaw, was desirous of ascertaining whether, in the event of a Firmann for the Pashalick being sent to Abdullah Aga, he would undertake to support it: but within these few months, all Eyes have been directed towards him, all hopes of seeing any thing like Prosperity and Tranquillity restored  
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to this Country have rested in him. Holding the situation I do, I cannot suppose it will be deemed impertinent to offer an opinion in this occasion; but when I find this opinion backed by the concurring Sentiments of the majority of every Sect and every Clafs of people interested in the Event, I feel I may deliver it with a greater degree of freedom and boldness. If the conservation of these Countries be an object to the Porte; if the Restoration to Confidence and Tranquillity, of the Inhabitants of them, and to preserve a decisive and preponderating Influence in them be an object to us, I am convinced no time whatever, My Lord, should be lost in procuring for Abdullak Aga the Government of them — The Porte is infinitely more interested to make this appointment than we are, My Lord, that it should be made, and I wish with your Excellency's permission to repeat that, if there yet remains a possibility of her retaining this Country, she has apparently no other means of doing so than appointing Abdullak Aga to the Government of it. Abdullak Aga will certainly make every arrangement human Prudence can suggest for preventing the further progress of the Wa-ha-bys, and probably his excellent Character may induce those Sectararies to listen to Negotiation; for which at present there are fair Grounds: on this, My Lord, depends the conservation to the Porte of these Countries.

2<sup>o</sup>. Its exterior Relations.

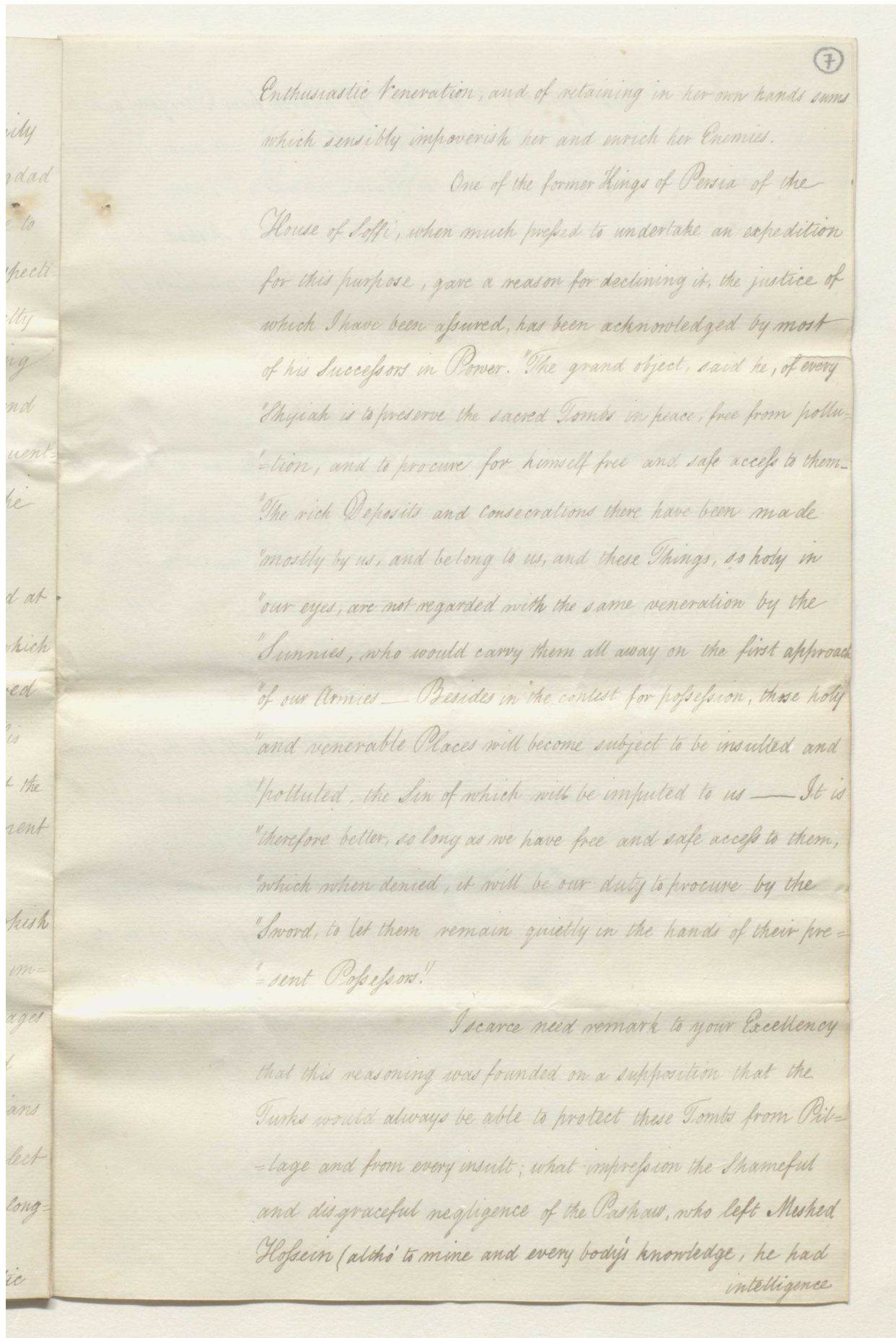
The only ones of consequence and worth noticing, which the Government of Bagdad has, are with Persia

Persia and the Ma-ha-bys.

From the time the present royal family came to the supreme power in Persia, the Pashaw of Bagdad has been obliged to manage every circumstance relative to the Natives of that Country, with more delicacy and circumspection, than was formerly manifested towards them. It is pretty generally credited that, had the Uncle of the present King lived much longer, he would have attacked Bagdad, and the conduct of Fath Aly Shah, the present King, has frequently given cause of uneasiness and apprehension to the Pashaw.

Considering what has lately happened at Meshed Kofein, considering the arrogant manner in which the Pashaw last year was advised to refuse the proffered Assistance towards guarding the Sacred Tombs, which His Majesty then offered, it appears far from improbable but the good understanding between Persia and this Government will soon be broken.

Considering the Imbecility of the Turkish Empire throughout its Eastern Frontier, considering the immense wealth, annually drained from Persia by Pilgrimages made to, and permission to bury at the Sacred Tombs; and considering the infatuated Devotion with which the Persians regard them, it appears strange that Persia should neglect such an opportunity of recovering Countries formerly belonging to her, of possessing herself of the objects of her most  
enthusiastic



Enthusiastic Veneration, and of retaining in her own hands sums  
which sensibly impoverish her and enrich her Enemies.

One of the former Kings of Persia of the  
House of Soffi, when much pressed to undertake an expedition  
for this purpose, gave a reason for declining it, the justice of  
which I have been assured, has been acknowledged by most  
of his Successors in Power. "The grand object, said he, of every  
"Shyiah is to preserve the sacred Tombs in peace, free from pollu-  
"tion, and to procure for himself free and safe access to them.  
"The rich Deposits and consecrations there have been made  
"mostly by us, and belong to us, and these Things, so holy in  
"our eyes, are not regarded with the same veneration by the  
"Sunnies, who would carry them all away on the first approach  
"of our Armies — Besides in the contest for possession, these holy  
"and venerable Places will become subject to be insulted and  
"polluted, the Sin of which will be imputed to us — It is  
"therefore better, so long as we have free and safe access to them,  
"which when denied, it will be our duty to procure by the  
"Sword, to let them remain quietly in the hands of their pre-  
"sent Possessor."

I scarce need remark to your Excellency  
that this reasoning was founded on a supposition that the  
Turks would always be able to protect these Tombs from Pil-  
-lage and from every insult; what impression the Shameful  
and disgraceful negligence of the Pashaw, who left Meshed  
Hofacem (altho' to mine and every body's knowledge, he had  
intelligence

Intelligence of the Ma-ha-by's march from Derryga) guarded by no more than 60 miserable Musqueteers, will make on the mind of the King and people in Persia, remains to be known — and whether the accident which has happened to Meshed Kofsein, and the alarms which, with reason, may be entertained for Mesh-ed Aly and Hazermeon, may not, supposing the reasoning of <sup>the</sup> old Soffi King to have been the policy Persia has hitherto adopted in respect to them, abolish a further adherence to it.

With respect to the Ma-ha-by, it is useless to recapitulate to your Excellency the faults and absurdities this Government have committed in all their transactions with that extraordinary People for some time past, but at the present moment, it is important to know what are the real means proposed by the Pashaw of making any head against them. On this occasion, he shall speak for himself, for the following is an extract from his Exposé to the Porte, made in 1796.

"Le nombre et la force de Behabis sont très considérables: leur montures sont des chameaux, qui ne boivent en hiver que tous les quinze ou vingt jours, et en été tous les quatre ou cinq, qui ne mangent guères plus à proportion, et qui parcourent en très peu de temps un désert immense et aride, où il n'ya d'autre eau que celle des puits qu'on ne trouve encore que tous les deux ou trois jours."

"Il faut traverser ce désert pour se rendre à Derraye' distante de 22 Couaks de Baspora, il y en a dix huit chacen

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chacun de huit heures, de cette dernière Ville à Bagdad, et si  
 "la Porte elle même a reconnue l'impossibilité d'aller attaquer  
 "Derraye' par Saksá, quoiqu'il n'en soit éloigné que 7 à 8 Conaks  
 "et qu'il forme un Gouvernement plus grand que Bassora, à  
 "plus forte raison, n'est il pas possible d'y marcher par Bagdad  
 "et Bassora. On peut juger facilement, s'il faut faire marcher  
 "des troupes Ottomannes, quel doit être leur nombre, attendu celui  
 "des Tehabis, et leur force: combien il faudra de vivres, d'eau,  
 "d'Artillerie, de munitions et combien de milliers de bêtes de somme  
 "pour le transport de tous ces objets, comme il est difficile de se  
 "procurer tant d'animaux, et combien enfin il faut compter peu  
 "sur les Tribus Arabes, qui ont toutes les yeux sur les Tehabis, et  
 "dont la plupart ont embrassé la nouvelle Doctrine, les unes  
 "publiquement, les autres en secret, de façon qu'il faut unique-  
 "ment se borner à une simple défense."

The piece which contains the Pashaw's  
 'Exposé', finishes thus — "L'Exposé du Pacha de Bagdad à  
 "été lu dans le Consed. du 10.<sup>me</sup> Juin. Il a été d'abord critiqué,  
 "on a fini par l'approuver, et il a été résolu que le Chirif de la  
 "Meque, l'Imaum de Muscat, et le Pacha de Bagdad agiroi-  
 "ent ainsi de concert avec celui de Saksá". Your Excellency will  
 pardon me the expression, but the Porte might as well for  
 any good purpose, that could have attended it, have resolved  
 that the Hottentots should attack the Esquimaux, and with  
 pretty much the same chance of the Resolution being obeyed.

3.<sup>o</sup> The present state of the Country under  
 the



the Government of Bagdad.

I do not know that I can commence this Division of my Letter more properly than by endeavouring to give your Excellency some ideas of the seat of the Government itself.

The Fortifications of Bagdad, tho' most truly contemptible in the eyes of an European, are never the less sufficient to defend it against the Efforts of any Eastern Army; but other Circumstances render it evident that, were it blockaded for but a few days, it must surrender. The Population on both sides the Tigris does not exceed 120,000 Souls, for the support of which almost every necessary Article is brought from such a distance, and in such a manner, that the interception of these indispensable Supplies would be easy to the Enemy. The single Article of Fire Wood is brought from a distance of 100 to 200 miles; Wheat is either brought from Courdistan, or the Country surrounding Mousul; Rice principally, from the Country between Hillah and Samawat. With an Enemy before its Walls, the want of forage would prevent the possibility of bringing any number of Cattle into Town, and those flocks, which did not fall into the Enemies hands, the Arabs would most assuredly drive off to Places of security in the Desert. The Plague has, My Lord, at the moment I am addressing your Excellency, carried off near 2000 Souls, we hope the approaching heats will check its present progress, but we know to certainty that its Ravage meet  
Autumn

Autumn and Spring will be dreadful. 9

The Pashaw probably at the beginning of a Blockade might mount about 2000 horse, within the Town, the Janissaries, undisciplined and unruly, who probably, when distressed by the inconveniences of a Siege, would turn, like a wounded Elephant, on their own party, may amount, to between 6000 and 7000; these with five hundred Ragamuffins under the names of Baratalies, Tiffangees &c. compose what it is a shame to dignify with the name of, Garrison.

In respect to Bussora, your Excellency no doubt has received from the Resident there more correct and detailed Accounts of its present Situation than I am able to give; but my own opinion is that it is as weak, defenceless, and hazardous a one as can well be imagined; besides which, this unfortunate City can hardly hope to escape next year the Visitation we are now suffering of the Plague

The Cities of Merdin and Herkook which dependencies on this Government, come so little within the prospect of this Paper that it is scarcely worth mentioning them, but the Town of Hillah on the Euphrates is without Walls, without other means of defence. I have not a doubt on my mind, if things are left to go on in their present train, but the Wa-ha-by, during the course of the Summer, will make himself master of it. The moment that Event takes place, Bagdad will begin to feel straitened for Provisions, and the Casael Arabs, who, from being Shyiahs, might naturally be expected to surpass every other Tribe

Tribes of dependent Arabs in their Willingness and steadiness to encounter the Ma-ha-by, will have no other alternative than Submission to them or extermination. I fear your Excellency will think I err if I tell you the Government here is so besetted as not to perceive the importance of the Post of Kildah, but on my honor, My Lord, this is the case.

The principal Military Assistance which in case of need the Pashaw makes use of, is drawn from Courdistan, the great<sup>est</sup> part of which Country is now under the Government of Bagdad — That part of it, which forms a part of the Turkish Empire, is divided into Pashalicks, Sangiacks, and other species of feudatory Possessions — The Policy by which the Pashaw of Bagdad has hitherto preserved his Authority there, is that of alternately elevating and deposing its chiefs — From time immemorial there have always been two families or two Branches of the same family with equal pretensions to each Pashalick or Sangiack — and consequently one may say there is a Pashaw or Sangiack Resident, and another expectant, who always resides, until this Government have occasion for him at Bagdad — Discontents and jealousies have manifested themselves to a considerable extent amongst the Chiefs of Courdistan, and altho' the Pashaw, since his departure from Bagdad has brought several of them to his Camp, it is a well known fact, that these Persons measure their tribute, and obedience according to the strength of the Arm which enforces it.

The principal Tribes of Arabs dependant on  
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this Government and inhabiting the eastern Banks of the Tigris are the Beniam and Shumer. The deposed Shaik of the former has within these few days attacked the Shaik lately appointed by the Pashaw, and the Country from Coole to Gheban, from Gheban to the environs of Haviga is in an actual state of confusion. The Shumer Arabs have been, on many occasions, so cruelly treated by this Government, that I make no doubt of their joining the Ma-ha-by whenever an opportunity shall offer.

On the Euphrates, and between the Euphrates and Tigris, to the Southward of Bagdad, the principal Tribes are the Casael, the Monteficks and the Mydan. The Casael Arabs possess a but little Territory on the western Banks of the Euphrates. The tribe is numerous; the men composing it, are brave and war-like. Their Country extends to the Southward as far as Samavat and abounds in grain, Herds and Flocks. They are Shiaks, and when the Persians, under Sadek Khan, attacked Bussora, these Arabs joined him, and were the principal means of his Success. The injuries and extortions they have lately suffered from this Government, will at all events make them cool in its defence, and if the Ma-ha-by's will receive their submission, they will probably be eager to rid themselves of Turkish Tyranny.

The Montefick Arabs possess the Country nearly from Samavat to the Walls of Bussora, and have hitherto been the Bulwark of this Government, against the Ma-ha-by's; it is most interesting therefore to know what effect the Ma-ha-by's late increase of wealth, power and reputation will produce on this

this

this Tribe. The Government here has not certainly now the means of rendering them any effectual assistance, they apparently are much too weak to defy the threats of Ma-ha-by, and being so, are probably too wise to decline his invitations to Submission and Pradelytism. Should this happen, your Excellency, from that moment, must look on Persora as lost to the Turks - I cannot conclude this short and imperfect Account of the Urabs under the Pashaw's Government, without repeating his own emphatical Words - "enfin il faut seu compter sur les Tribus Arabes qui ont toutes les yeux sur les Wahabis" which is verified, since the Affair of Meshed Kopsin, by two of the neighbouring small Tribes having embraced their doctrines and received their protection.

I must trust to your Excellency's condescension to excuse the great length of this Letter, and though I am sensible I have presented but an imperfect picture of Affairs here, yet I would willingly hope it is sufficiently correct to give your Excellency some idea of their critical Situation.

I have the honor to be  
with profound Respect  
My Lord,  
Your Excellency's  
most devoted and  
obedient humble Servant  
signed Harford Jones

4P519/76/29  
Enclosure in Letter from  
Bagdad dated 15 May 1802  
D. Ireland. 26 July  
1802.

Bagdad  
the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1802

From Wm  
Harford Jones