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## Letter from Harford Jones to Alexander Stratton

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/76/251
<b>Date(s)</b>	4 Jul 1802 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (2 folios)
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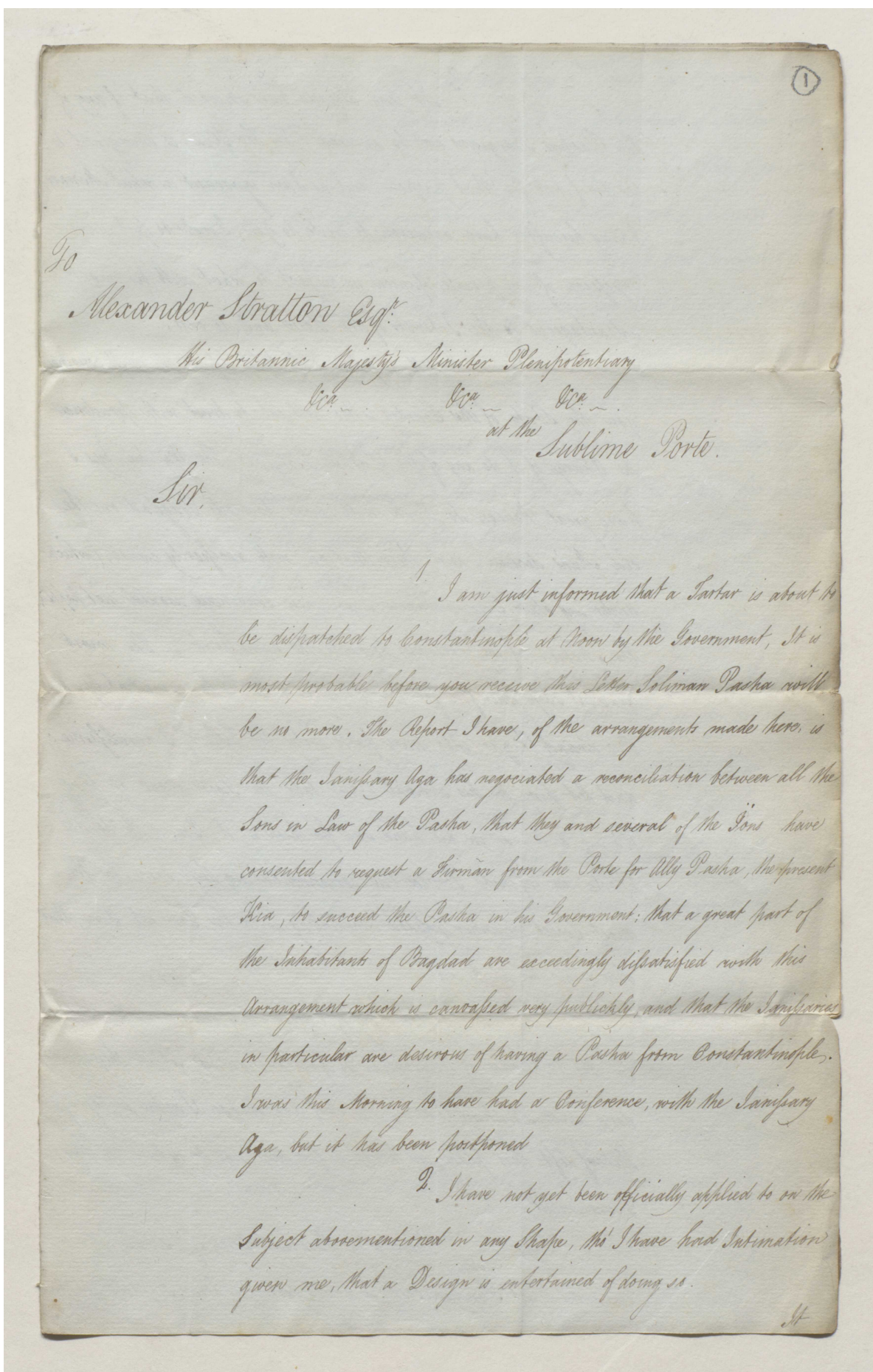


### About this record

A copy of a letter from Harford Jones, Resident in Bagdad [Baghdad], to Alexander Stratton, HM Minister Plenipotentiary to the Ottoman Empire, sent from Bagdad and dated 4 July 1802.

The letter concerns the expected death of Soliman Pasha [Büyük Sulaymān Pāshā, Governor of Baghdad] and succession of Ally Pasha [‘Alī Pāshā al-Kahyah]. Jones suggests that Stratton should encourage the Porte [Government of the Ottoman Empire] to take control of Bagdad on Soliman Pasha’s death to forestall attacks from the Wa-ha-by [Wahhābī movement] or Persia [Iran]. The letter also forwards reports of Persian military movements and French activity in Bagdad.

A duplicate of this letter dated 4 August 1802 can be found in IOR/L/PS/9/76/261.



3. It has already been observed that if any of the Pashas Georgians are to succeed him the Kia, is imagined to be the fittest for that purpose; and as I am ignorant in what manner, I may hereafter have occasion to write to you, I wish to put you in possession of my private opinion in respect to what will be most advantageous to the Interests of the Porte and to ours.

4. All my late dispatches I presume will convince you the State of this Country is too critical to trust with prudence the Charge of it to any of the Pashas Georgians. The Ma-ha-bys I have great Reason to think will move, towards Bagdad on the old Man's decease, and their Motion will necessarily cause, (which under any other Circumstances; I am now convinced would not happen) the Motion, of the Persians towards the same point — The most prudent step therefore for the Porte to take, is to immediately send the Grand Vizier into these parts with the Title of Generalissime; and let him on his arrival either take the Government or bring *W* — a *W* — a in his hand and fix him in it, You will do the Porte an infinite Service, in communicating these Ideas, in the most secret manner possible, concealing with the Greatest Care, that they originate with me.

5. The King of Persia, has ordered several Whans in the Province of Arrabajar to fall on Culbis which they have done, and Ibrahim Pasha, the chief Courdistan Pasha, in consequence thereof left this place in haste a few days ago to return to his Government.

6. There is a Persian Army of 15,000 Men encamped at Pandaxoon, a short distance from Isfahan — I have reports

reports, but no Letters that the King of Persia has been uniformly  
successful to the Eastward — that the Inhabitants of Meshed received  
him, that he had recalled Nadir Meerza who had fled from thence,  
and that after saying his Prayers, at the Tomb of Imamu Reza  
and staying in the City three days his Majesty had proceeded towards  
Herat. I wish to repeat however these are only Reports; but seemingly  
well founded.

There is the strongest Reason to think the  
Persians will not march towards Bagdad but under the circum-  
stances mentioned in the 4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph of this Letter; but unless  
the Porte asserts itself those Circumstances I conceive are but too proba-  
ble to happen.

I should have written the greater part of  
this Letter in the Cypher Number 11; had I known a Copy of it  
in your Possession. If you have either that, or the Admiralty  
Book Cypher, I beg of you to employ it in conveying to me such  
Reply as you may find it necessary to give to this Letter.

It is proper to hint there has been within  
these few days (at least I have reason to suspect it) an active  
Communication with the French Commissaire through the means  
of one Lucas Alexar an intriguing fellow. But I conceive you will  
easily learn whether Citizen Ruffin is taking any and what Steps  
in the Affairs of Bagdad.

I flatter myself you will approve  
my present Communication and allow me the Honor  
of

Letter from Harford Jones to Alexander Stratton [2v] (4/4)

