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Enclosure to Political No. 191 of 1874, Regarding Bahrein and Guttur Affairs

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/6/121, ff 460-469a
Date(s)	23 Oct 1874 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (11 folios)
Copyright for document	Public Domain



About this record

This item consists of copies of a Political Despatch from the Government of India Foreign Department to the Secretary of State for India, dated 23 October 1874, regarding Bahrein [Bahrain] and Guttur [Qatar] affairs.

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ENCLOSURES NOS. 3 TO 5 will be found recorded in the printed Volume of Proceedings Political A., July 1874, Nos. 174 to 180.

ENCLOSURE NO. 6.

No. 1006-205, dated Bushire, 3rd September 1874.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, the following report regarding Bahrein affairs.

2. In my letters Nos. 685-145 and 763-157, dated 29th May and 12th June last, I reported on the subject of the apprehensions which had arisen of a hostile movement being made against Bahrein by Nasir bin Mobarik and the indirect messages sent to me by that personage.

3. In my letter dated 12th June I expressed the opinion that though it might be well for the Chief of Bahrein to make some allowance to Nasir bin Mobarik on condition of his residing out of Bahrein, this was a matter for the Chief's consideration, and I reported having abstained from entering into any communication with Nasir on the subject.

4. When proceeding in June last to Muscat I had an interview with Sheikh Esau, and took the opportunity to inform him of the message conveyed to me from Nasir. I found that the Chief had not received any similar proposals from his kinsman, and that he would be averse to making a settlement on Nasir. I explained to the Sheikh that I merely mentioned the circumstance for his information.

5. The reported movements of Nasir towards the sea-coast turned out unfounded, and that Sheikh is still residing at Lahsa.

6. On completion of the duty on which I proceeded to Muscat I returned to the Persian Gulf in the *May Frere*, and visited the Pirate Coast first and afterwards Bahrein, when I had again an interview with the Chief of the Island on the 5th August.

7. On this occasion I found some uneasiness prevailed on account of the restless movements of certain Bedouin Arabs of the Beni Hajir tribe on the Guttur Coast. Fears were entertained that a body of these Bedouins might succeed in obtaining boats and make a raid on the islands. I had previously addressed letters to the principal Sheikhs on the Guttur Coast, namely, Mahomed bin Thaneer of El Biddah, Mahomed bin Saeed Bookawara, and Jassim bin Mahomed bin Thaneer warning them against allowing the boats belonging to their districts to be used for piratical purposes. The answers received were satisfactory, and it appears that the Chief of El Biddah has acted faithfully, and been the means of preventing the Beni Hajir from obtaining boats at that place. The Chief of Bahrein had no immediate apprehension at the time of my visit, I enjoined him to exercise vigilance himself and promised that a Government vessel should call frequently.

8. After arrival at Bushire I despatched the *May Frere* on her way back to Muscat, instructing Captain Guthrie to call at Bahrein and remain there five days, proceeding on to Muscat if there was nothing to detain him longer at Bahrein.

9. On arrival at Bahrein on the 12th August Captain Guthrie found that a panic existed amongst the trading classes and others arising from fear of an attack being made by the Beni Hajir. Captain Guthrie consequently very properly decided to remain at Bahrein for further instructions, and reported the state of affairs and the steps he had adopted to allay the panic and support the Chief in his efforts to prevent the apprehended raid.

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10. On receipt of Captain Guthrie's report of the unsettled state of affairs I despatched the *Hugh Rose* to Bahrein.

11. From the various reports received it appears that the following are the facts of the case. A body of 300 or 400 of the Beni Hajir tribe assembled on the Guttur Coast, and made serious attempts to gain possession of boats with the intention of making a piratical raid on Bahrein. With these Bedouins were two relations of Nasir bin Mobarik, namely, Humad bin Abdullah, his uncle, and Salman bin Ahmed, a cousin. The proposed attack, however, seems to have been planned with the object of plundering Bahrein and not of any permanent conquest.

Certain parties of Arabs came by driblets to Bahrein from the main, avowedly to assist Sheikh Esau, but it is likely that many of these would join in any *emeute*.

The Guttur Arabs, Mahomed bin Thaneer and Mahomed bin Saeed, discouraged the attempted piracy and prevented the Beni Hajir obtaining boats. Jassim bin Mahomed, the son of the Chief of El Biddah, is however suspected of secretly favoring the Bedouins. Copies of the reports as per margin are annexed.

12. There can be no doubt that the opportune appearance of the *May Freere* and the prompt and zealous steps taken by Captain Guthrie to support the Chief had an excellent effect, and I would recommend this officer's conduct for the approval of Government.

13. From the report of Captain Campbell, Commanding the *Hugh Rose*, dated 24th August, it appears that Sheikh Esau had no further apprehensions of attack, and I trust the next reports will confirm this.

14. The *Hugh Rose* remains for the present at Bahrein, and I have instructed the Commander to avoid any communication with the Turkish Governors and to keep within Bahrein waters so far as this may be compatible with effectual suppression of piratical attempts.

15. The Senior Naval Officer has also arranged for a vessel of war to visit Bahrein at an early date.

Translated purport of a letter from MAHOMED BIN THANEE, Guttur, to the British Resident, Persian Gulf, Bushire, dated 25th Jemadee-ul-Awul 1291=10th July 1874.

I HAVE received your letter of 26th Rubee-ul-Sanee 1291. If any one has delivered to you any report concerning us, it is altogether false, for we can never go contrary to the order of the British Government. I beg you not to suspect us. One like you will never hear such false reports. You know very well that we have ever considered it our duty to submit to the orders of the Government from first to last.

Translated purport of a letter from MAHOMED BIN SAEED BOOKAWARA, Guttur, to British Resident, Persian Gulf, Bushire, dated 21st Jemadee-ul-Awul 1291=12th July 1874.

WITH regard to news there is nothing worth information now-a-days. Everything is well here.

Your letter dated 26th Rubee-ul-Sanee reached me 17th Jemadee-ul-Awul. As regards the sea affairs and the movements and prohibitions you mention, I am very glad to hear that you take such interest in the matter. You shall never see me doing contrary to what I have said. Let me always hear that you are doing well.

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Translated purport of a letter from AHMED ABDUR RUSSOOL, Bahrein, to British Resident, Persian Gulf, Bushire, No. 109, dated 6th August 1874.

THOSE coming from Guttur mention that Beni Hajir leaving Guttur nine days ago have gone towards Ojair. They say they had asked Mahomed bin Thaneec for some ships that they might on board thereof come to Bahrein, but the latter refusing said to them he could not afford to give. There being at that time two Bahrein ships anchored at Guttur, they asked Mahomed bin Thaneec to permit them to take the vessels, but he would not do it. The Nacodas of the two mentioned boats say Mahomed bin Thaneec warned them to take care in their leaving Guttur not to approach the land lest Beni Hajir who may be traversing this coast finding opportunity should seize upon their boats.

Translated purport of a letter from AHMED ABDUR RUSSOOL, Bahrein, to British Resident, Persian Gulf, Bushire, No. 110, dated 8th August 1874.

I HEAR Sheikh Esau, Chief of Bahrein, is certain that the Beni Hajir will appear from the side of Biddah, for he has heard they are traversing the beach to seize upon ships to pass thereon to Bahrein. If they be able to get on they may by means of that get many others. There have come many letters from Guttur in Sheikh Esau's name, &c., and also from bunyahs at Guttur to their brethren at Bahrein all confirming the reports given by the Nacodas of the boats going to and fro between Guttur and Bahrein.

It is said the Beni Hajir being tired of living at Biddah, and coming to Mahomed bin Thaneec they have asked him to furnish them with provisions, which to their disappointment he has refused. When they asked him to give them boats that they might cross to Bahrein, saying they did not intend to live in Bahrein and rule over it, they simply meant to plunder and kill the inhabitants and pass to the western coast, or themselves be all killed, he replied he could not do such a thing.

Those coming from Guttur mention that the people of Bahrein had two boats anchored in the port of Biddah; on the Beni Hajir's pointing to them, Mahomed bin Thaneec would not permit them to take the boats. After Sheikh Esau had been cautioned both by direct letters and by verbal communications through those coming from Guttur, he ordered to have the boat *Mussoowah* ready, and putting in it ten men with arms he instructed them to go about Bahrein westward, that the boats bringing Beni Hajir may not be able to draw near. He made also the jolly boat ready, and sent in it ten matchlockmen with Saaed bin Aamer the Bazaar master, ordering him to go towards Ojair to warn the Bahrein boats to be on their guard against the Beni Hajir lest coming to Ojair they may seize upon them and come on board them to Bahrein. Being warned by him the boats returned to Bahrein, so did the *Mussoowah* without meeting with anybody.

Besides these came a boom* belonging to the people of Koweit from Ojair to Agaria of Bahrein, having on board it 30 Arabs of the Ajman and Al-Murrah tribes, and another boat with 35 persons, being altogether about 70 souls (about 100 of them have remained at Ojair). The said tribes when leaving Ojair had been cautioned by the Chief of the place not to cross to Bahrein to frighten the Chief thereof, not having accepted the admonition he had spoken roughly to them, whereupon they ran up to him, so that he ran away from them, entering into his chamber he shut the door against them. The 100 persons mentioned above will by all means according to the report come to Bahrein. Though the Nacoda of the *Mussoowah* remonstrated against their being landed the seventy men were landed. Sheikh Esau is in great distress about them for he must feed them. Besides these there are about 400 miscellaneous Arab men already in Bahrein. According to a report these Arabs are vanguards of Nasir bin Mobarik from Hassa to Bahrein, and there is some secret between them.

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On the bunyahs receiving letters from their brethren at Guttur they being troubled came to Sheikh Esau asking him to let them take their property and go away. He replied he feared if they left his country the peace will break up, and there will be disturbances in the Government, assuring them that so long that his head was in existence they need not fear any wrong or damage concerning themselves and their property. Being satisfied with these reasons they gave up their intention.

To-day Raushed bin Jubr, Chief of the Naeem, with 80 men of his people, arrived from Guttur, having heard the news of the Beni Hajir's intended attack on Bahrein. Sheikh Esau is very glad to see Raushed, because the Naeem are of his party, and under a covenant with him, so that he can safely rely on them.

I hear Sheikh Esau intends to send his brother Khaulid to the Naeem in the Castle Morair, which according to Sheikh Esau belonged to his father.

He has also launched his *Buteel Samhar*, intending to send out his brother Sheikh Ahmed in it, with 80 men of his party with arms to go in circuit around Bahrein to discourage Beni Hajir.

When the Government Steamer *May Frere* came, Captain Guthrie visiting Sheikh Esau in his house, the latter begged the former to go on 14th August from Bahrein passing to Biddah and Doubah taking Sheikh Ahmed on board the steamer with him, that a report might spread abroad that there is a Government steamer in that part of the sea. The Captain complied with the request, provided Sheikh Ahmed would not land at Biddah to which the Sheikh consented. The voyage according to the Captain will last three days.

When the Bedouins who besides the Naeem have gathered in Bahrein, Sheikh Esau having called their Chiefs has told them that their coming to Bahrein is of no use to him as he has no enemy in the island but on the mainland. If they go and attack his enemy without, and some one of them bring him tidings of victory, he shall be very glad to give them some presents, or in other words to please them which cannot be done with less than 3,000 krans.

Captain Guthrie is intending to make a circuit around Bahrein in case he can get a good pilot, which Sheikh Esau has promised to procure for him.

Translated purport of a letter from AGHA AHMED, News-writer, Bahrein, to Resident, Bushire,
No. 111, dated 8th August 1874.

I HEARD from Khalfan bin Rashid al Soodan, who is located at Biddah, and who had arrived from Guttur, the following :—"Salman bin Ahmed, cousin to Nasir bin Mobarik, who is in Guttur with Hamad bin Abdullah, wished to hire my buggarah to take three persons to Debaye, but I suspected that there was something in it, as no Arab hired a buggarah for three persons, and that, perhaps, they intended to embark the Beni Hajir in the buggarah, and take possession of the buggarah by force, go to sea and create disturbances there, either to plunder any vessel which may come across them, or embark in her to go to Bahrein."

It is said that some of the Beni Hajir are still at Guttur with Hamad bin Abdullah and Salman bin Ahmed al Abdullah. I heard that the Beni Hajir when they left Guttur passed Khor Shajeyj in view of seizing some vessels.

Jassim bin Mahomed bin Sani arrived at Guttur from Lingah, he provides for the Beni Hajir and helps them, else they would not have remained near El Biddah.

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Translated purport of a letter from AGHA AHMED, News-writer, Bahrein, to Resident, Bushire,
No. 112, dated 9th August 1874.

NEWS reached from L'Hassa that intelligence had been brought there that Saood bin Feysul and his brother Abdulla bin Feysul had made up with each other. Saood being at Riadh and his brother Abdulla at Khusseem. It is said that a person arrived at L'Hassa from Saood to the tribe of Al Ejman, and it is his intention to take the tribe there (to Saood.)

It is reported from L'Hassa that Nassir bin Mobarik is there, and is in a state of disquietude and is waiting for a reply to his letter from Bushire for it has delayed. Burgeeah is in L'Hassa and borrows money from the people, for he is in want and the people advance him ; he is also in fear of Saood.

Translated purport of a letter from AGHA AHMED, News-writer, Bahrein, to Resident, Bushire,
No. 113, dated 11th August 1874.

I HEARD from those who arrived from Guttur that the Beni Hajir who went to the Shumal from Al Biddah have now returned to their former place. They continually ask for vessels from Jassem and his father, and it is their intention to cross to Bahrein. They asked Jassem why he did not give them his vessels to go over to Bahrein, he replied that he was incapable of doing so. They then said it is of no consequence whether you give your vessels or not ; if we only get one boat we shall go to the fishery, seize the boats and attack Bahrein. The next day after the above discussion, a boat was lying at anchor at Guttur, when a party of ten of the Beni Hajir suddenly rushed into the buggarah. On the people of the buggarah crying out for help, they left her and ran away. Mahomed bin Saneer has given notice to all in the place not to give a boat to the Beni Hajir. The Beni Hajir rob every night at Guttur ; they even robbed from the Turkish officer's house some gunnies of rice.

The bunyals of Guttur have written to those of Bahrein to be wary at all times as the Beni Hajir on getting boats will at once attack Bahrein. Jassem bin Mahomed bin Saneer apparently withdraws himself from the Beni Hajir, but at least he is with them. Hamad bin Abdulla and Salman bin Ahmed are at Guttur ; they always correspond with Nassir bin Mobarik as also Nassir bin Mobarik with Jassem bin Saneer. When he arrived from Lingah a courier arrived with letters for him, whom he despatched soon and replied to their letters.

Translated purport of a letter from AHMED, News-writer, Bahrein, to Resident, Bushire, No. 115,
dated 15th August 1874.

I HEARD from those who arrived from L'Hassa that Burgeeah, the Mute-sereef of that place, imprisoned 15 of the elders. It is said that he found out their inclinations towards Saood bin Feysul, and that they corresponded in secret with each other.

I hear that Saood is in Riadh, and it is his intention to attack L'Hassa ; he has assembled the Arabs about himself. A Kazee arrived by the kafilah from L'Hassa who had fled from that place through fear of Burgeeah. It is said that Menajee, cousin to Burgeeah, arrived at Kateef from L'Hassa, and is collector of revenues for Burgeeah at Kateef ; he now lives at Demam. It is reported from Kateef that the ship stationed at Ras Tanoora left for Busrah, and that another is to arrive in her place.

On 21st August a kafilah reached from L'Hassa, and it is said that Nassir bin Mobarik is in L'Hassa, but is preparing for a move, but does not say for what place.

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Translated purport of a letter from AHMED ABDUR RUSOOL, News-writer, Bahrein, to Resident, Persian Gulf, No. 120, dated 24th August 1874.

I LEARN that the bunyahs who are in Biddah wrote to the bunyahs in Bahrein that after the departure of the *May Frere* from Biddah, Jassem bin Mahomed bin Saneec sent a man in company with one of the Turks and told the bunyahs that their residing in Biddah gave him no benefit, but that they communicated the news of the place to all countries.

The bunyahs replied, very good, but they had claims in Biddah from Bin Sam's ryots, and that if they were paid their claims, they would leave.

Mahomed bin Saneec heard of this circumstance, and told the bunyahs not to give heed to any of these expressions and to be employed in their work, and he was dissatisfied with his son for his proceedings.

The bunyahs of Bahrein say that the object of Jassem in thus speaking to the bunyahs is to get them out of the country, so that he himself may benefit by the trade of the place.

Those of the Naeem who came from Guttur say that a kossid of the Naeem who has come to their Chief, Rashid bin Jubar, brought a message to the effect that the Beni Hajir who are at Doah, on hearing that Rashid had gone with 80 of the Naeem to Bahrein, they were pleased and happy, and that he should therefore lose no time in returning to Guttur. Rashid is now preparing to leave Bahrein with his following. Sheikh Khalid, the brother of Sheikh Ali, who proposed going to Guttur to live among the Naeem, has given up this intention.

Translated purport of a letter from SHEIKH ESAU BIN ALI, Chief of Bahrein, to Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 10th Rajub 1291=23rd August 1874.

I HAVE received your letter of 6th instant. You had asked for news of these parts, and I now communicate that I and others constantly receive letters and verbal communications from people arriving from Guttur, all making manifest that Hamad bin Abdullah and 400 of the Beni Hajir have collected near Jassem bin Sani in the Doah of Guttur, and that their intention is to come on Bahrein. If one boat be obtained by them, it is easy for them to seize other boats at sea. Some time ago they hired a boat belonging to Oman, but the Nakoda received warning not to let his boat to them, and he kept aloof. They are engaged in endeavouring to obtain a boat. Some of them are in the Khor Shajeyj. When the Government ship came here and I met Captain Guthrie and gave him this intelligence, we came to the conclusion that it would be good if the vessel went to Biddah and those parts in view to intimidating the enemy. I sent my brother, Sheikh Ahmed, with him. When they arrived at Biddah and remained one day and night there no one from the country went on board ship, and they asked my brother, Sheikh Ahmed, to go on shore, but he did not consent. The ship then returned to Bahrein in safety. No doubt the Captain will inform you what he heard from the bunyahs residing at Guttur. Sheikh Ahmed sends salaams.

No. 38, dated Bahrein, 14th August 1874.

From—Officer Commanding Her Majesty's D. V. *May Frere*,

To—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

ON the chance of this reaching you by buggalow which leaves to-day for Bushire I report as follows:—

Arrived on the morning of the 12th. Island, in a panic, expecting Beni Hajir from Al Biddah.

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One hundred men from Agair and Katiff have come over to Bahrein during the last ten days in driblets by Koweit boats. Bahrein boats have been forbidden to bring people on the Island (tribe Ajman).

Three days ago Rashid bin Jubber brought fifty men over from Zobareh, tribe Naimee, all have come unasked, but give out are going to assist Chief if Beni Hajir come over. Chief thinks more likely they will join in the scramble for loot.

I have persuaded bunyahs not to embark their goods yet, as only cause extra panic, to wait a few days until I see for myself, at present have promised I will wait here until the end of the month (require man-of-war here); got Chief to send his brother along with me, and start to-day for Al Biddah and Khor Shajeyj to warn Beni Hajir it is not safe to be found at sea, also warn pearl boats they are not to give their boats up to Beni Hajir. Will not allow Sheikh Ahmed to land at Biddah or elsewhere, but people may come off to see him.

Chief has two hundred men ready, but if it come to a scratch, doubts are entertained if one hundred would come to the front.

He has got one of his large butteels ready for sea and wishes to send her along with us. I think it better she should lay in Bahrein at present.

No. 44, dated Bahrein, 25th August 1874.

From—Officer Commanding Her Majesty's D. V. *May Frere*,
To—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

FINDING that the letter I despatched to you per buggalow, dated 14th August, has not reached you in time to receive an answer by Mail Steamer that arrived here on the 20th I recommence report of proceedings from first arrival.

BAHREIN, 12th August.—Arrived here 10 A.M. finding the place was in an unsettled state, had an interview with the Chief at 4 P.M. He informed me that he had letters (which he showed me) from Al Biddah. Beni Hajir gave out they did not intend to retain possession of Bahrein if successful in the contemplated raid on that place, but would be satisfied with a general slaughter, and carry off all goods they could lay their hands on.

The Chief of Al Biddah has refused boat publicly, but, it is surmised, would have no objection to their getting boats by nominal force and in such a style that he could not be implicated in the affair.

The plan of the Beni Hajir is to get possession of one boat, then go to the banks (being all armed men) and compel some of the large pearl boats to follow them to some previously determined point.

That is how Mahomed bin Khalifa and Nasir Mobarik succeeded in 1869 when they landed, killed the Chief, Ali, and plundered Bahrein.

Rashid bin Jubber with fifty men of Naeem tribe arrived from Zobayr on the 10th on the pretence of assisting the Chief of Bahrein, also during the last ten days about one hundred of the Ajman tribe have arrived from Ojair and Katiff in boats belonging to Koweit. They have arrived in tens and twelves. They give out they have come for charity. The Chief is afraid of them, and thinks they have come to join in the general loot.

Bahrein boats have been prohibited from bringing people on the island.

The Chief has launched and got ready one of his large boats; he has also two hundred men ready, but is afraid to prevent the pearl boats from going to sea, as he truly observes if they can't fish in the season, they will starve during the winter. After the fishing season is over, he will not be afraid of the Beni Hajir, as all his people will then be in the island.

After mature consideration I offered to take the Chief's brother (Sheikh Ahmed) down to El Biddah and all round by Ras Rekkam and on to Ojair if necessary; I would not allow him to land, but give him every facility for letting it be known he was on board, and communicate personally with boats at sea, and inform them that I would run down any boats I found at sea with Beni Hajir on board, or if he preferred, I would remain ten days at Bahrein and touch at El Biddah on my final departure from this place.

He asked me time to consider about sending his brother.

I thought it best to let the Beni Hajir know I am here, as one thing is certain, if they land while I am in the harbour, I can do nothing; but if I meet them at sea, I can stop them.

I had a deputation of bunyahs from the shore on the second day of our arrival, begging of me to remain at Bahrein. They read to me a letter received from their countrymen at El Biddah giving them notice of the threatened raid, and informing them that Mahomed Thaneec has refused them (Beni Hajirs) boats; but they threaten to take one by force, go to sea, and take the remainder.

They also informed me that they had been to the Chief to ask permission to embark their goods; they have five or six dondeys or buggalows close to the shore all ready for that purpose. The Chief had told them, as long as his head was on his shoulders they should not be touched, and for God's sake not to think of embarking their goods, as it would get the island a bad name and be the ruin of it. They asked me to speak to the Chief about allowing them to take their goods afloat. They have been plundered once by the Beni Hajir, and that was quite enough.

I told them that I was going to take the Chief's brother round the coast with me and they had better remain as if there was nothing the matter, as I was certain that as soon as they commenced to move their goods they would have trouble from the Ajman people who were now on the island. At all events they were to remain quiet until I came back, by which time I would have ascertained myself how matters stood.

Having embarked Sheikh Ahmed with five followers, Abdool Kurrin, the contractor, to interpret, and one bunyah, the latter for communication with the shore with British subjects, so that the Turks could not say I had landed Arabs on any part of their coast, we sailed for El Biddah at 4 P.M. of the 14th where we arrived at 8 A.M. of the 16th.

I sent the bunyah on shore, who returned at 5 P.M. with three other bunyahs belonging to El Biddah.

Also a man from Abdool bin Thaneec to see Sheikh Ahmed.

Information received from bunyahs was on the ship entering the harbour it caused some commotion in the town. Bunyahs were sent for, but could give no information.

The Commander of the Turks then came down to Mahomed bin Thaneec's house and told them not to put themselves out; they had only to say the word, and he would write them a few words on a slip of paper (showing out the size with his hand's finger), just send it off to the Captain, he will up anchor and be off at once. Bin Thaneec thanked him, told him to go back to his house and not trouble himself, as this was his work.

The Turks have thirty men here chiefly Arab soldiers.

The bunyahs, four in number, complained that they had been taxed by Mahomed bin Thaneec to the amount of seventeen dollars (7-53-2 each). Bin Thaneec had told them it was required for the Turks, and they would bear their share along with his people. It was no use their talking about their former

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immunities from taxation ; if they did not like it, they could leave the place, but as long as they remained, they must furnish their share.

At El Biddah, Beni Hajir tribesmen	...	...	...	300
Khor Shajeyj, " "	...	...	...	50
Wuckrah, " "	...	...	...	50
El Biddah, different tribes standing by to assist in the raid	...	...	...	400

A few days ago Salman bin Ahmed engaged a boat to convey him to Kor-al-Adayed. By-and-bye he said he had ten or fifteen Bedouins he wanted to take to that place. Mahomed bin Syud Bookwarrah on hearing of this sent for the boat Nacoda, and told him he was not to take those passengers, as they were telling lies, what they were really going to do was to seize some boats at sea.

On hearing this the Beni Hajir went to Jassim bin Thanee and asked him for a boat, they would go out and seize some boats, take them to Khor Shajeyj, and in the meantime the remainder of the Beni Hajir could go on to that place and meet the boats. He told them to keep quiet until the 25th of this month, and then he would give a boat.

Mahomed bin Syud heard of this, and sent word to Mahomed bin Thanee of his son's doings, at the same time telling that before he went to Bahrein he was first to quarrel, fight, and finish off me, Mahomed bin Syud and his followers. You are as well aware as I am that the Sircar's orders are we are not to go to Bahrein or assist any one going there.

We are not able to fight the English by sea ; our living is gained on the waters, and they have it in their power to stop it if we misbehave.

Mahomed bin Thanee told Bookwarrah not to take any notice of what his son Jassim said, as he was young and foolish. Bookwarrah replied it had already gone abroad all that his son had said, and he was not going to have his name mixed up with it. I would rather quit the place with all my people, then you can do as you like, for in cases like this if the English ship should come here on account of the Beni Hajir having got boats from El Biddah, their cannon balls can't distinguish innocent from guilty.

I told the bunyahs, if questioned on their return, they could say I have heard about the Beni Hajir movements, and would be found at sea prepared for them ; it would be quite easy for me to run their boats down.

Letters and messages passed betwixt Mahomed bin Thanee and Sheikh Ahmed. They suggested Sheikh Ahmed coming on shore, that I could not allow. I did not think it advisable to enter into communication with bin Thanee myself. Having remained twenty-four hours in El Biddah I returned to Bahrein, arriving there on the morning of the 19th. I came along the coast in 3 and 4 fathoms water as far as Zobarah ; speed four knots, anchoring at nights, so that the pearl boats and all the coast towns could see that the ship was on the coast, and from her slow movements, evidently in no hurry, but rather on the look-out for something.

No. 84, dated Bahrein, 24th August 1874.

From—Officer Commanding Her Majesty's *Hugh Rose*, B.M.,
To—Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I BEG to inform you of the safe arrival of the vessel under my command here on the 23rd instant at noon. The *May Frere* being on the harbour I handed over to Captain Guthrie your letter to his address. In the evening I called upon Sheikh Esau, and spoke to him of the state of affairs here.

He appears now to be perfectly confident that no demonstration will be made against the place, the mere fact of an armed vessel being here is sufficient

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to prevent it. So certain does he feel on this point that when I asked if it would be necessary to have a guard boat at night to intercept and examine any buggarhs entering the harbour, he replied he did not think it would. His own statement about the Beni Hajir is that there is about 300 men under Hamad bin Abdulla and Salman bin Ahmed at present collected at El Biddah, and that they have applied to Mahomed bin Jassim and Mahomed bin Syud Bookawarrah for boats to convey them here. Their demands have not been complied with by the Chief of Guttur, who is afraid of us making reprisals on his boats should he do so, but his son, Jassim bin Mahomed, though openly discountenancing their wish to embark against Bahrein, has hinted to them that by proceeding by land to Ojair their object might be easily accomplished thence, boats being very numerous at that port. The Beni Hajir expect to be supported by Nasir bin Mobarik, who is at present at Lahsa, but he does not know the number of his followers.

It is his belief that the raid would only be made for the sake of plunder, and if successful, they would immediately return to the mainland.

This corresponds with the information given me by the News Agent here. I am inclined to believe the actual danger has been considerably magnified by the fears of the people, and that the bunyahs have not been backward in spreading the panic. I have offered, if Sheikh Esau considers it would be of any use, to go down to Ojair to show the ship, and, if possible, return by the eastern side of the island; also to communicate with the Chief of Lahsa, and request him to do all in his power to prevent embarkation from the sea-board under his control. On this point, however, you will be the best judge as to whether instructions should be sent him through the Baghdad authorities or not. I do not anticipate any difficulties arising, and trust all will go on quietly to the end of the pearl fishery, when Sheikh Esau thinks he will be able to manage for himself, until that time the presence of one vessel will be all that is required. I will keep you informed by every opportunity of any matter of importance that may arise.

Enclosure No. 7.

No. 1039-209, dated Bushire, 12th September 1874.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

THE following report is in continuation of my letter No. 1006-205, dated 3rd September 1874, on the affairs of Bahrein.

2. In paragraph 13 of the above letter I stated that from the report of the Commander of the *Hugh Rose*, dated 24th August, it appeared that Sheikh Esau, Chief of Bahrein, had no further apprehensions of attack from the mainland.

3. On the 29th August, however, intelligence reached Bahrein that the Beni Hajir were again astir, and had succeeded in obtaining three boats at El Biddah, in which a portion of the tribe embarked and proceeded to Khor Shajeyj, and it was believed that it was the plan of the Bedouins to cross to Bahrein suddenly.

4. A fresh panic occurred in Bahrein, and a number of armed men were assembled for defence.

5. Captain Campbell, Commanding Her Majesty's *Hugh Rose*, B.M., on hearing the report of the Beni Hajir having embarked in boats, immediately consulted with Sheikh Esau, and after taking measures to prevent the town of Manamah being surprised during his absence, proceeded on the 30th to cruize off Khor Shajeyj. On reaching the latter place it was discovered that the Beni Hajir had abandoned the boats and proceeded overland towards the Fort of Zobarah.

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6. Captain Campbell did not consider it necessary to pursue the boats, as it was ascertained they had been coerced by the Beni Hajir raiders.

7. From other reports it appears that the boats were obtained at or near El Biddah, and two of them were Persian crafts, the third belonging to Dohat near El Biddah.

8. Between El Biddah and Khor Shajeyj the Beni Hajir met a vessel coming from Bahrein with specie and other property. This vessel they plundered.

9. The cause of the abandonment of the boats by the Beni Hajir near Khor Shajeyj is stated by some reports to have been the sudden appearance of the *May Frere*, which vessel had proceeded on 28th August from Bahrein and was coasting along the Arab shore.

10. It was asserted that Jassim bin Mahomed bin Thanee, son of the Chief of El Biddah, had connived at the proceedings of the Beni Hajir, but this does not seem to be proved, and is denied by Jassim himself, singularly enough the money stolen from the Bahrein boat belonged to this very Jassim, and he cites this incident as disproof of his implication in the piratical proceedings. On the other hand it is said that the money, or most part of it, has been restored to Jassim, and that this shows his friendly relations with the Beni Hajir.

11. The *Hugh Rose* returned to Bahrein on the 1st September, and the Commander was informed that the Beni Hajir were about to attack the Fort of Zobarah by land. It was considered probable that the capture of this place would enable the Beni Hajir to prosecute their enterprise against Bahrein, as they would then get possession of many boats and be able to cross the channel in a few hours. Captain Campbell accordingly decided on showing the *Hugh Rose* off that port.

12. Zobarah is held by the Nacem tribe, who are allies and in some degree dependents of the Bahrein Chief. The sovereignty over all this coast is undefined, but the Chiefs of Bahrein have always looked on Zobarah as a feudal dependency of Bahrein. Sheikh Esau accordingly allowed the body of the Nacem tribe who had come to his assistance to return to the relief of their

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17. The aim and object of these lawless Arabs has been the plunder of Bahrein. At the same time the members of the rival branch of the Bahrein Sheikhs family, the Al Abdullah, have, naturally, as the bitter enemies of Sheikh Esau, fostered and given direction to the rapacity of this body of marauders, in hopes of Bahrein being thrown into confusion to the damage and perhaps overturn of the present Rulers.

18. It may be that there are deeper springs at work instigating these movements against Bahrein. The open attempts of the Turkish authorities to obtain a footing in Bahrein having been foiled by the support accorded to the ruling Chief of the islands, it is not to be supposed those authorities look with a friendly eye on the Chief, nor that they would be sorry to see him ousted by the rival branch of the family, the leaders of which would probably be subservient to the Turkish interests, and might, perhaps, go so far as to profess allegiance to Turkey. It has been suspected that Bazee, the present Arab Governor of Lahsa, has sent instructions to endeavour to accomplish by intrigue the objects which the Turkish Government failed to obtain by more direct means with reference to Bahrein. I had previously to the occurrence of the late disturbances made inquiries on this subject, but without receiving any intelligence confirmatory of the suspicions of such intrigues.

19. From two independent sources it is reported that an emissary of the

* 1. Vide Captain Campbell's report No. 89, dated 7th September 1874.
2. Appendices F. and G. Translations of letters from Jassim bin Mahomed bin Thaneec.

Turkish Governor Bazee has countenanced the proceedings of the Beni Hajir.*

Jassim bin Mahomed bin Thaneec distinctly asserts in letters addressed to Captain Campbell, and to the News-writer at Bahrein, that the Agent of Bazee at El Biddah had influenced and abetted the Beni Hajir in their lawless aggressions. Captain Campbell was informed also at Zobarah that this person by name Nasir bin Jubr bin Salim had accompanied the tribe towards Zobarah. Considering the lawless nature of the object of the Beni Hajir, and their having engaged in open piracy on the sea, it might be deemed advisable to inquire from the Turkish Government as to the part taken by this Agent in the aggressive and piratical proceedings reported.

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24. The defeat of the Beni Hajir will probably put an end to their attempts against Bahrein for this season, and they may now put off further movements until next year. The Bahrein boats also having been recalled, the Chief has sufficient men to repulse the Beni Hajir if he can rely on them.

25. But whether further trouble is put off for a longer or shorter period I cannot but consider that the general aspect of affairs of Bahrein does not warrant hope of permanent stability of the present rule.

26. The dangers I allude to particularly are—

1stly.—The hostile Al Abdullah element ever on the watch for an opportunity, backed as that branch of the family is by the secret sympathy of Turkish authorities and of all who bear a grudge against the present ruler, and with at hand such instruments as the predatory Bedouins always ready for a fray, also, it is thought, with some influence in Bahrein itself.

2ndly.—The failure of Sheikh Esau, during his rule, hitherto to establish a firm position by gaining to his interests the principal Chiefs and tribes, and conciliating the good will of his people. Surrounded as he is with enemies without, it appears that Sheikh Esau has few persons of influence about him in whom he can trust.

27. The immediate crisis is, however, it is hoped, over, and I would respectfully beg to recommend to the notice of Government the zealous and energetic conduct of Captain A. Campbell, Commanding Her Majesty's Gun-boat *Hugh Rose*, B. M., whose exertions so much contributed to avert the danger from Bahrein.

P.S.—In paragraph 14 of my letter No. 1006-205, above quoted, I reported having instructed the Commander of Her Majesty's *Hugh Rose* to avoid communicating with Turkish Governors. Previous to the receipt of these instructions, however, Captain Campbell, being given to understand that there was much danger of the Beni Hajir obtaining boats at or near the Turkish port of Ajair, had addressed the Governor Bazeer requesting him to prevent this. A translation of this letter is annexed.

As intimated in my telegram dated 5th instant to your address, it appears to me that it might be useful were orders issued from Baghdad to the Turkish Governors concerned to co-operate so far as to forbid the Arabs embarking on piratical expeditions from Turkish ports.

N.B.—Copies forwarded to Bombay Government and India Office direct.

A.

No. 85, dated Bahrein, 2nd September 1874.

From—Commander, Her Majesty's G. B. "HUGH ROSE," B. M.,
To—Her Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following summary of proceedings here since I last addressed you on the 24th ultimo. Between that date and the 29th all was perfectly quiet; no news of the movements of the Beni Hajir was known in Bahrein.

About 7-30 P.M. of the 29th three men arrived from the Guttur Coast and brought news that the above tribe, about 300 strong, had captured six boats at El Biddah and proceeded to Khor Shajeyj on their way to Bahrein.

The information already detailed.

I then made the following suggestions, which the Sheikh approved of, and promised to assist me in carrying out :—

1st.—That he should at once send off boats on the look-out off Maharag.

2nd.—That I should proceed during the night towards Ras Rekkān in Her Majesty's vessel under my command to (if possible) intercept the boats. The Sheikh sending with me a person to represent him, a pilot, and the men who brought the news and was acquainted with the appearance of the boats.

3rd.—The two outer buoys to be lighted up at night to indicate the passage to the harbour.

The Sheikh did not consider it necessary that an armed boat should remain in the harbour; on this point, however, I did not agree with him and thought it advisable to have one, so accordingly despatched Mr. Cuthbert, 1st Officer, with some marines and lascar and six-pounder Whitworth gun on board the buggalow *Badrie* off Lingah, there to remain during my absence with orders to render such assistance as was possible to Sheikh Esau and to British subjects. As Sheikh Esau was of opinion that the Beni Hajir would at once start for Bahrein, I recommended that smart boats should meet me at the southern end of the Fusht-el-Debil, and inform me if any suspicious boats had passed during the night, in which case I would immediately return to Bahrein.

At 3 A.M. I weighed and proceeded by the south end of the Fusht-el-Debil towards Ras Rekkān. On sighting Guttal-Yeradeh, the informant drew my attention to two boats close to the reef, bore away for them, one made sail apparently to avoid us, fired over and brought her to boarded, and found she was a peaceful trader.

Then stood for the Guttur Coast, on reaching it off Khore Hassan sighted a boat rounding Ras Rekkān, immediately they perceived us they altered their course and ran their boat on shore at Ai-Ruaise, and I distinctly saw two persons jump overboard and make for the land. I then rounded the gunboat to and fired a shot in their direction, then a portion of the crew set off to us in their small boat, and came on board. All the Sheikh's people at first declared it was one of the boats we were after, so sent 2nd Officer to bring remainder of the crew on board before destroying the boat. However, in the interim the man who represented the Sheikh changed his opinion, so gave them the benefit of the doubt, and sent them back to their vessel. We then coasted round to Fuarrait, at which place a fishing boat had informed us we should find three craft with the Beni Hajir on board; this information proved incorrect. We anchored then for the night, and feeling certain that no vessels had passed me going towards Bahrein, I thought it advisable to go on the next day and examine the Khores Dakhirah and Shajeyj, but found nothing. At Shajeyj we were told that the Beni Hajir hearing the report of our guns across the peninsula had left the boats and were crossing by camels to attack Zobarah.

The boats immediately the Beni Hajir landed returned to El Biddah, where they had been taken from. I did not consider it necessary to pursue them further, as I found the crew had been coerced by the Beni Hajir. Mirza Abul Cassim wrote to the Chief of El Biddah a letter of remonstrance, and we returned to Bahrein, arriving on the morning of the 1st instant.

The excitement has considerably subsided, though business is still stopped, and numbers of armed men parade the streets; the Sheikh has recalled some of the pearl boats.

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Last night news came from Zobarah that the Beni Hajir were about to attack it, and at Sheikh Esau's request I am going over to-day to show the vessel; the particulars of the trip I will send you on my return.

B.

No. 85, dated Bahrein, 7th September 1874.

From—Officer Commanding Her Majesty's Gun-Boat *Hugh Rose*, B.M.,
To—Her Majesty's Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

AFTER forwarding my last Report bearing date of the 2nd instant, I proceeded immediately towards Zobarah arriving off that port at 7-30 P.M., of same day and anchored for the night. At daylight next morning I again weighed and took the ship as close to the shore in front of the fort as possible. Anchored again at 6-30 A.M. and sent a boat to communicate with the people in the fort, but found it impossible as the Beni Hajir were drawn up about 350 or 400 strong between the large fort and a small one close to the beach, and were at the time skirmishing with the occupants of the larger fort. On the return of the boat we went to "General Quarters" for practice and fired two rounds of shell from each gun. This apparently had the expected effect, viz., of intimidating the Beni Hajir, as they retreated some miles further inland. I again sent a boat on shore, and on the Naeem people observing it from the fort two of their principal men came on board and made the following statement:—

"On Tuesday, 1st September, the Beni Hajir, about 400 strong, appear before the small fort, having previously sent on a written summons from Nassir bin Jebr bin Salim, the Vakeel of Bazia at Biddeh (who with 30 Turkish subjects accompanied them), and the son of Abdullah bin Ahmed to abandon Naeem as they required it, we tore up the letter and made no reply to it.

The Beni Hajir sent mounted men to make a raid on our flocks, but we drove them off. They made no further attempt to attack us that night; but crossed to the northward of the town, burning a small village as they went.

Yesterday, 2nd September, they attacked the large fort with all their forces in three divisions and from three different points; they were, however, driven off with what loss we do not know. Our loss was one killed and three wounded.

In the evening about 7 they succeeded in gaining possession of the small fort which commands the landing place and some boats that are hauled upon the beach, but on hearing the report of your evening gun (which was the first intimation we had of the ship being in the vicinity) they abandoned it taking with them however everything of value it had contained, one prisoner, and destroying the water tank and doors. This morning, 3rd September, they attacked us again, and we were fighting until the ship fired the guns when they retreated to another fort about nine miles inland."

They further declared that had the gun-boat not arrived when she did they expected to have been driven out of the fort and cut to pieces that night.

After this interview I put them on shore again and promised to detain the vessel until the arrival (hourly expected) of their own people from the pearl banks, when they said they would be able to take care of themselves. At 2 P.M., the Buteel of Ahmed-i-Naemi having on board about 40 men, came in from the fishing grounds *viâ* Bahrein having heard the news there; she landed her men and sent them up to the fort.

At sunset 38 boats arrived (with Sheikh Ahmed of Bahrein) principally belonging to Naeem and its vicinity. In the evening Sheikh Ahmed came on board, and in conversation I found out from him that they had been joined by some boats of other ports as they came along. I strongly recommended him not to allow any one to land or take any part whatever in the fray except those

actually belonging to the place, in this he entirely agreed with me and promised, as soon as he could do so without giving offence, to send the boats in question about their work again.

On the following morning all the boats belonging to the place proceeded to disembark their men; and we had information from the shore that the Beni Hajir were still at the fort already mentioned.

All the inhabitants of the place having arrived, I did not consider the presence of the gun-boat any longer necessary. I therefore at 9-30 A.M. proceeded for Bahrein arriving there at sunset the same day.

Sheikh Ahmed remained behind to dismiss the boats and bring news of anything which might afterwards occur.

He arrived in Bahrein on the evening of the 6th and brought news of a fight having taken place, in which the Beni Hajir were worsted with the loss of 24 killed, wounded unknown, and leaving two prisoners in the hands of the Naemis.

They have retreated from the neighbourhood of Zobarah to some part of the Kutr coast, but of their exact whereabouts we have not as yet received any information.

Herewith I beg to enclose the accompanying letter received from Jassem bin Thance, of El Biddah, the contents of which together with the presence of the Turks with the Beni Hajir leave no doubt in my mind that their object in attacking Zobarah was to secure a place from which they might easily make a descent upon Bahrein.

In conclusion, I would beg to add that during the vessel's stay off Zobarah the most vigilant watch was kept on the shore for the appearance of anything like Turkish colors, but I am certain nothing of the kind was displayed.

C.

Summary of intelligence received from the News Agent at Bahrein on 5th September 1874.

29th August 1874.—A boat has arrived from Khor Shajeyj with intelligence that five days ago some of the tribe of the Beni Hajir with their Chiefs, Nassir bin Khaled and Beni Shahamam accompanied by Hamid bin Abdullah* and Sulman bin Ahmed, had arrived at Khor Shajeyj part by land and part by sea in three boats, two of which were Persian, and the third belonged to an inhabitant of Doah.† Jassem bin Mahomed bin Sani and his party are believed to have instigated this movement, and to have supplied them with money, dates, &c. On their way they pirated a Bahrein boat which was proceeding to Biddah with 400 Reals belonging to Jassem bin Mahomed bin Sani. Their number is computed at 300, but not all Beni Hajirs, as some of the other tribes had also joined them.

This intelligence caused great consternation in Bahrein during the night of the 29th August, and guns were fired as signal for an assemblage of the inhabitants of Bahrein, and about 300 men collected for the defence of the Island.

On 30th August Her Majesty's Gun-boat *Hugh Rose* went to cruise about Khor Shajeyj, and arrangements were made to prevent the island being taken by surprise during the absence of that vessel. About 800 armed men collected around Sheikh Esau bin Ali and declared they would fight to the death in his defence.

Abdool Rahman bin Feysul with 25 Nedjedes are also on the island. This person has been liberated by the Turkish Government and is on his way to Riadh to join his brother Saood.

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On 1st September *Hugh Rose* returned from her cruise, not having seen any of the Beni Hajir at Khor Shajeyj. It would appear that the Beni Hajir had embarked in a boat, but seeing the *May Frere*, which left Bahrein for Khor Shajeyj and Biddah on 28th August, they ran the boat on shore and fled inland, while the boatmen left in her steered off and sailed away.

It is reported that Zobarah has been surrounded by the Beni Hajir, and the Nacem Chief, who is in Bahrein, has begged that Sheikh Esau would aid him, as the garrison at Zobarah consisted of very few men, and would be compelled to capitulate, when it would be an easy matter for the Beni Hajir to seize the boats of the Al Chebeysa, of which there are many at Zobarah, and cross over to Bahrein. The Sheikh has promised to give assistance and is making arrangements accordingly.

The presence of Her Majesty's vessel *Hugh Rose* is essentially necessary at Bahrein to give confidence and preserve tranquillity.

The Sheikh has forbidden his people from leaving the island, and is anxiously awaiting the arrival of a vessel of war.

D.

Translated purport of a letter from AGHA AHMED ABDUL RUSSOOL, News-writer, Bahrein, to Resident, Bushire, No. 123, dated 2nd September 1874.

PEOPLE arriving from Guttur state that the Beni Hajir with Hamad bin Abdoollah and Salman bin Ahmed and some of the Al Murrah, accompanied by the Ameer appointed to Guttur by Bazee, the Mutasereef of Lahsah, and his 30 followers, making in all about 500 men, arrived at Khor Shajeyj. Part of these came by boats and part by land. It is said that Jassim bin Sani assisted them.

At Khor Shajeyj they espied the mushwa of Abdool Kurrim of Bushire, now residing at Bahrein, and pursued and captured it, plundering therefrom 2,000 and odd dollars, the property of Jassim bin Thancee, and some dates and cloth belonging to Bunyahs and to people of Bahrein.

The mushwa was then proceeding to Biddah, but the Beni Hajir seeing the Government vessel *May Frere* made for Khor Shajeyj, landed and escaped to the mainland.

About 1,000 and odd dollars of the cash plundered was restored to Jassim by the Beni Hajir.

It is also reported that Jassim bin Thancee has told the Beni Hajir that unless they prevail against the Nacem tribe at Zobarah and kill them, or come to some arrangements for peace with them, they will not be able to conquer Bahrein. The Beni Hajir have now gone against the Nacem at Zobarah.

Letters received by the Bunyahs from the Bunyahs residing at Guttur are to the effect that Jassim bin Thancee and the Ameer on part of Bazee have told them they must leave Biddah, and the keys of their shops have been taken from them. The Bunyahs consented to go on being assured in writing that their property remaining in the bazaar would be untouched. This was not acceded to. The Bahrein Bunyahs are further advised to send their property afloat, as there was a certainty of Beni Hajir attacking Bahrein.

E.

Translation of a letter from AHMED ABDUR RUSSOOL, News-Agent, Bahrein, to the Resident, Bushire, No. 122, dated 2nd September 1874.

BE it known that in my letter No. 121 I informed you of Sheikh Esau's being about to send one of his vessels with some of his adherents on board to

assist the tribe Naeem in Zobarah, at that time news was received that the Beni Hajir had reached Khor Shajeyj, so Sheikh Esau sent a boat to summon his pearl divers to Bahrein, most of them came. I hear that 80 men of the tribes Naeem and Chabasa have embarked with Sheikh Ahmed bin Ali and Khalid bin Ali in the boats named *Samhan* and *Jalwa* with the intention of landing at Zobarah. These two vessels have been despatched according to Sheikh Esau's statement to prevent the Beni Hajir seizing the boats of the tribe Chabasa and others, and then proceeding to invade Bahrein. When, however, the Beni Hajir see the preparations that have been made for the defence of the island they will doubtless lose heart and abandon their enterprise. The *Hugh Rose* went to Zobarah to-day reaching her destination in the evening. The Beni Hajir and an ally (or confederate) of Bazee had captured the fort of Zobarah and overcome the defenders. When the *Hugh Rose* approached and fired her gun on arrival the Beni Hajir fled to their companions who were besieging another fort called Morair. Fighting between the Naeem and the Zobarites continued all night. At dawn the *Hugh Rose* drew near the landing place at the moment when the besieged, owing to inferiority of numbers, were about to capitulate. The approach of the English vessel alarmed the Beni Hajir to such a degree that they took to flight towards the interior. It is reported that the Deputy of Bazee* and the Beni Hajir Chiefs wrote to the Zobarites previous to attacking the forts to say that if resistance were not offered, no injury should be done to them, and their object in coming to the spot was to facilitate operations against Bahrein. The Zobarites tore up the letter and detained the messenger thereof a prisoner.

* Bazee is Chief of El Hassa I believe.

The *Hugh Rose* returned to Bahrein on the 4th September.

Sheikh Ahmed is reported to be at a short distance eastward of Bahrein awaiting to be recalled. He returned to Bahrein on the 6th. I have been told that when reinforcements reached the Morair garrison they sallied forth, pursued the Beni Hajir fugitives for three hours, and ultimately coming up with them a fight ensued and twenty-five of the enemy were slain and several wounded. Three of the satellites of Bazee's Deputy were slain, and the Beni Hajir on asking for quarter were granted it, and having laden their dead and wounded on camels departed without molestation. Booty consisting of twelve camels and a small amount of cash fell into the hands of the Naeem. Three of the victors were wounded.

It is probable that the Beni Hajir have fled towards El Biddah.

F.

Translated purport of a letter from JASSIM BIN THANEE, Dowbah, Biddah, to CAPTAIN CAMPBELL, dated 20th Rujub 1291 = 2nd September 1874.

I HAVE received your letter and understood its contents. We will not attempt any disturbances, nor break the peace of the seas, nor plunder: this is all the talk of our enemies.

In regard to the Beni Hajir, God and his creatures know that it is now four months I am at enmity with them on account of their conduct towards us, that is, by taking forcible possession and plunder of our property. When we turned them away they used to plunder in the town and its environs. Bazee Pasha's man kept them near him. You know that we are dependents of the Ottoman Government, as also the Beni Hajir. We cannot coerce them without orders of the Government. To the best of my ability I protected my vessels and my men,† and these chartered a buggarah from the people of Fars and one from the people of Debaye and went away from us. Not knowing what their intentions were, they captured a mushwa and took possession of the letters; after reading the letters they found

† Beni Hajir.

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that what the boat contained belonged to me, they then tore the papers and took away the money, amounting to 2,000 dollars, and divided it amongst themselves. If I was friendly with them, or knew of their purposes, how was it possible for them to take my money. By this it will be perceived that these reports against me are false. May God keep me far from all falsehood and from all liars, and do not listen to my enemies. My vessels and my country will never commit any wrong action.

The Beni Hajir departed for the Shumal, and an Ameer, who had come on the part of Bazee, went after and came up to them, but we do not know their intentions in regard to the Nacem, whether it is good or bad. They have also taken some things from the mushwa. When she will return you will learn particulars.

We asked for assistance from Sheikh Esau to fight them*, and also his good-will towards us, but we gained nothing, as we and his† forefathers were united in friendship, and we relied on them always, and we want from him what was customary, to honor us and to help us against the Beni Hajir, but we obtained nothing. But the Beni Hajir are enemies to all. No one can eject them from this country, but Bazee's man, or orders from Bazee to do so. We will not be backward in our enmity towards them, as also to capture them, but Bazee's Ameer prevents us.

* Beni Hajir.

† Sheikh Esau.

G.

Translated purport of a letter from JASSIM BIN MAHOMED BIN SANI, to AGA AHMED, Bahrein, dated 20th Rujub 1291=2nd September 1874.

You know that the people of Bahrein accuse us of things that have not had place. And we never suspect anything. You are in authority. We find ourselves entangled in this business, and my object is to make known to you what has occurred in this place on the part of the Beni Hajir towards persons who are our dependents. They took property forcibly from them, and I had to quarrel with them and let them understand that they must not come into my country. They left and went to Aneyjeh, but I drove them out from that place also, and Salim bin

‡ Evidently Chief of the Beni Hajir.

who had obtained the same from Ben Zeyd and others, whereupon they searched and found the cash and distributed it amongst themselves and tore up the letters. They took very little from the mushwa itself, and released her. With the exception of my money the boat lost nothing.

We are at enmity with the Beni Hajir, and no one but the Ameer of Bazee sides with them.

The Beni Hajir have now gone to the northward with intentions against the Nacem. The Ameer is with them. I do not know what their object may be.

We, inshallah, will capture and imprison any of the Beni Hajir we may fall in with, and will not be wanting in showing our enmity to them.

You should side with us.

Enclosure to Political No. 191 of 1874, Regarding Bahrein and Guttur Affairs
[469v] (20/22)

H.

No. 85, dated Bahrein, 25th August 1874.

From—Officer Commanding Her Majesty's *Hugh Rose*,
To—Chief of Labsa.

It having been reported to me that certain evil disposed people of the Beni Hajir tribe under Hamad bin Abdoolla and Salman bin Hamad, at present at Guttur, meditate a marauding expedition against the inhabitants of Bahrein, and that it is their intention to obtain boats for their conveyance from the Port of Ojair, I have most respectfully to request you will express your disapproval of such proceeding, and caution the proprietors of boats at Ojair against allowing their craft to be used for such purpose, also to guard against the Beni Hajir taking them by stratagem.

The matter has been reported to the Resident, to whom I submit a copy of this request.

Enclosure No. 8.

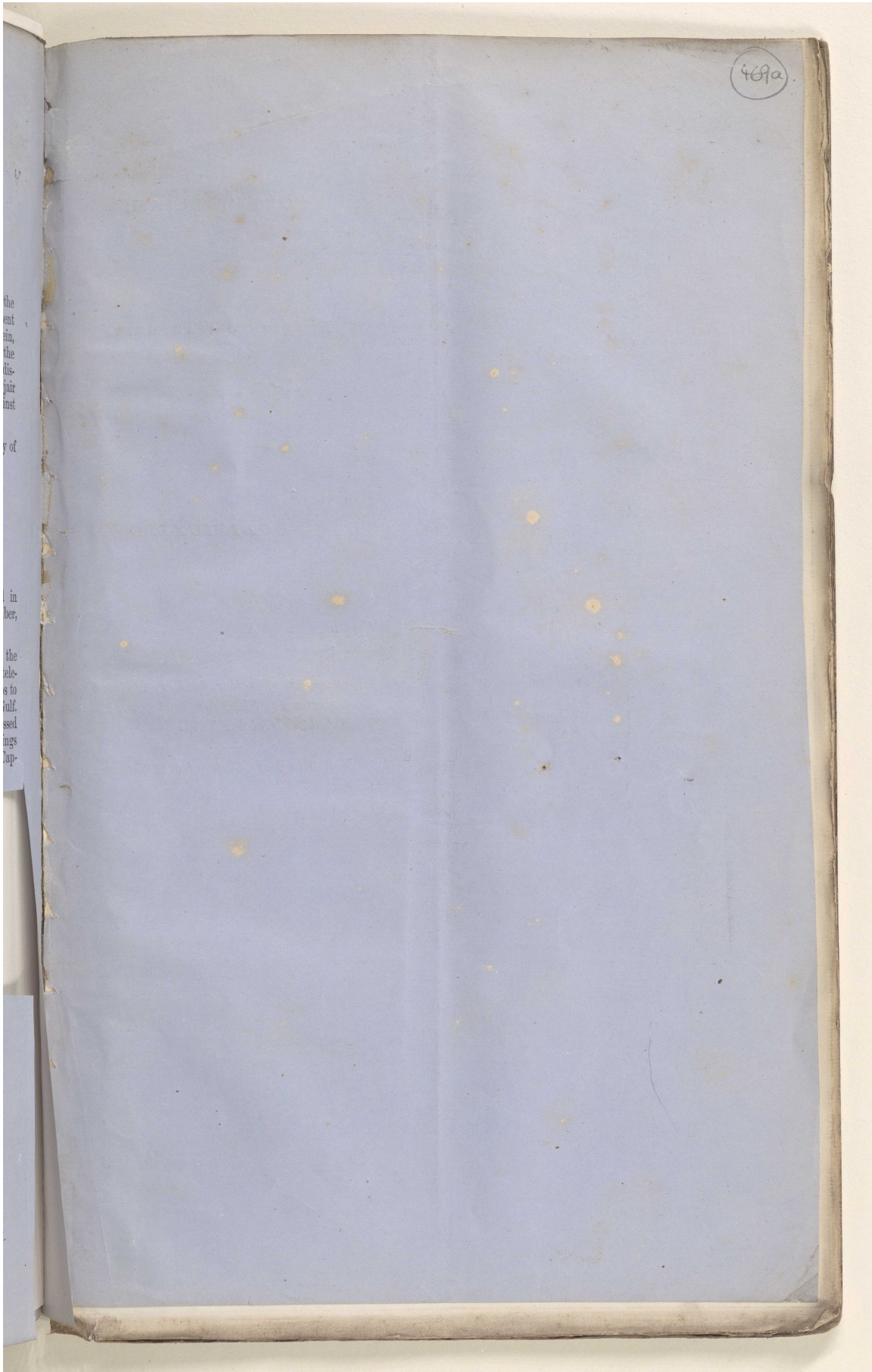
No. 2300P., dated Fort William, 21st October 1874.

From—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department,
To—Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I AM directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to acknowledge receipt of your letters, No. 1006, dated 3rd September, and No. 1039, dated 12th September, regarding the affairs of Bahrein.

2. These letters refer to a threatened attack on Bahrein by a party of the Beni Hajir tribe reported in your telegram of 5th September. In my telegram of 13th September instructions were given to you to take effective steps to defend Bahrein against aggression by any Chiefs or tribes of the Persian Gulf. His Excellency in Council is glad that in this instance the difficulty has passed over without the necessity of using force, and he approves of the proceedings of yourself and of Captain Campbell, Commanding the *Hugh Rose*, and Captain Guthrie, Commanding the *May Frere*.

Enclosure to Political No. 191 of 1874, Regarding Bahrein and Guttur Affairs
[469ar] (21/22)



Enclosure to Political No. 191 of 1874, Regarding Bahrein and Guttur Affairs
[469av] (22/22)

