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### 'Slave Trade Vol: 1'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/F/4/2280/116915
<b>Date(s)</b>	28 Feb 1848-14 Nov 1848 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (11 folios)
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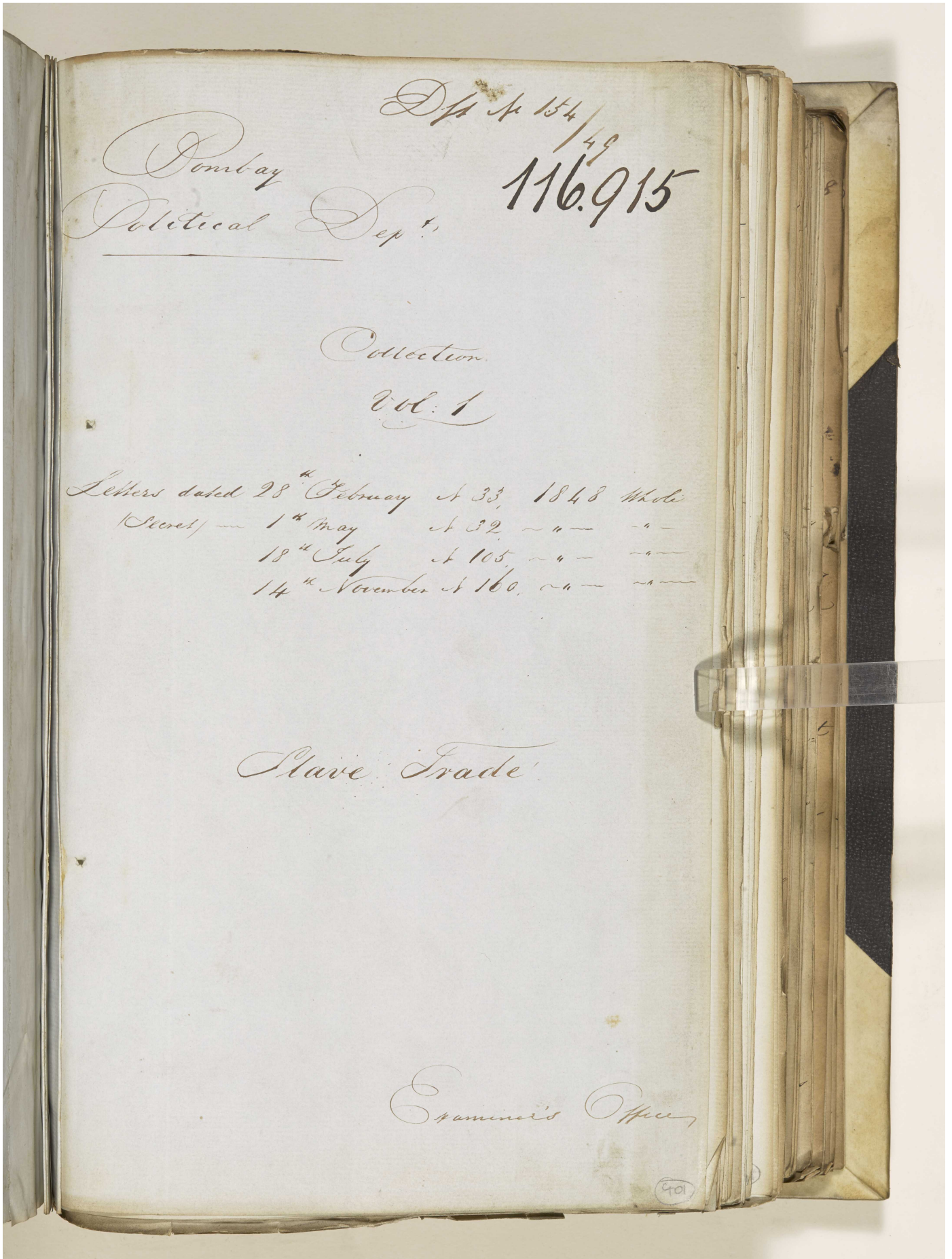
#### About this record

This item consists of copies of political letters from the Government of Bombay and other correspondence to the Court of Directors of the East India Company. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Court of Directors; and Major Samuel Hennell, British Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. The enclosures to these letters are contained in the subsequent items. It is the first in a series of five items.

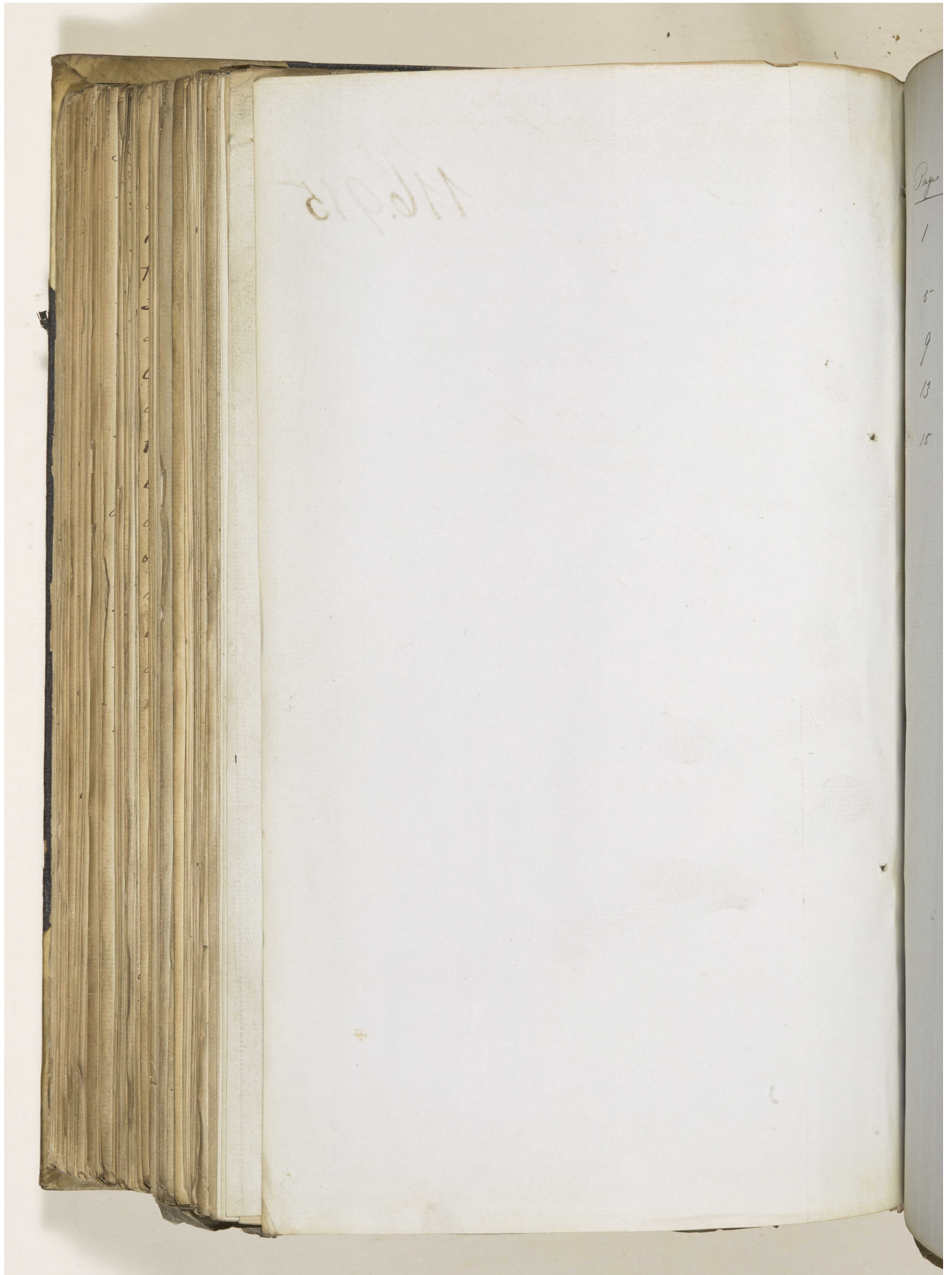
The item concerns:

- The release of five buggalows [baghlahs] captured by the East India Company schooner *Mahi* with 59 enslaved people on board
- The growth in the trade in enslaved people on the Persian Coast
- A request by the Court of Directors to provide them with copies of the treaties made with the shaikhs of the Arabian Coast concerning the trade in enslaved people.

The item contains a contents page and the title page of the item contains the following reference: 'Draft no 154/49'.







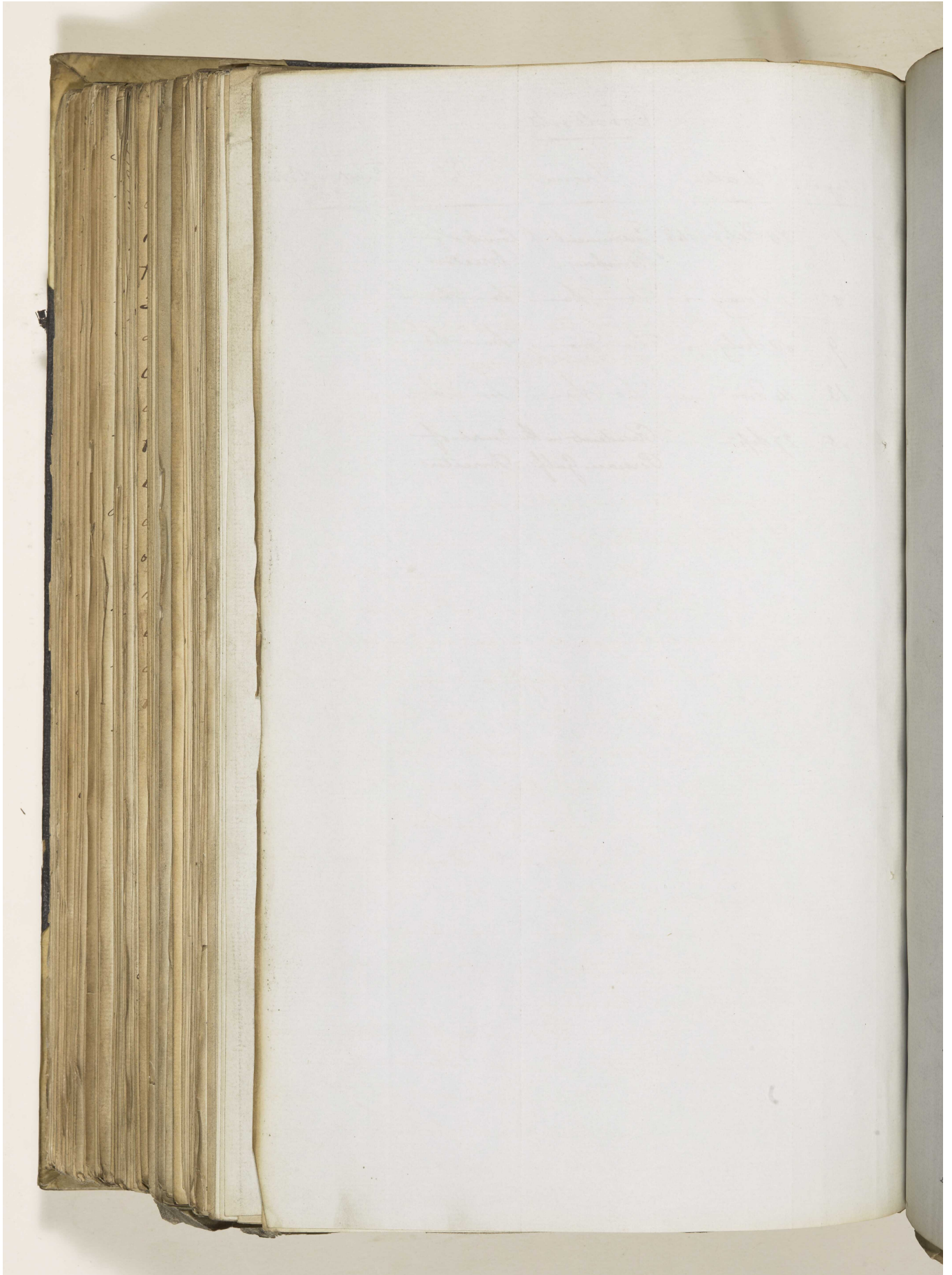


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<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date of Cons.</u>
1	20 Feb: 1848.	Government of	Court of	
		Bombay.	Directors.	
5	1 May -	Do Do	Do Do	
9	18 July -	Do Do	Do Do	
13	14 Nov -	Do Do	Do Do	
15	27 Sept -	President in the Court of	Persian Gulf. Directors.	

(42)







vol 1  
Political Department  
28<sup>th</sup> February (N<sup>o</sup> 33) 1848

To the Honorable the Court of Directors  
For Affairs of the Honorable East  
India Company  
London

Honorable Sirs,

1 In our despatches to your Honorable Court dated the 30<sup>th</sup> October last N<sup>o</sup> 135 and to the Honorable the Secret Committee dated the 31<sup>st</sup> December last N<sup>o</sup> 107 we reported our proceedings connected with the disposal of the fifty nine liberated slaves therein alluded to, and at the same time stated that as an act of grace we had for the reasons therein mentioned, authorised the release of the fine Bengalees which were seized by the Honorable Company's schooner "Mahi" and sent down to Bombay with these slaves on board.

2 We now beg to transmit copy of a letter from Major Kennell, President in the Persian Gulf, dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> December last forwarding translation of a communication to  
his



his address, from His Highness the  
Governor of Muscat, requesting that  
as these five Vessels when seized  
had Abyssinians on board of them  
and it not being then generally  
known that any prohibition existed  
against the traffic in Abyssinian  
Slaves, the captured Vessels might  
be released Major Kennell, in reply  
informed the Governor of Muscat,  
that by the wording of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article  
of the Treaty concluded between Her  
Majesty's Government and His Highness  
the Imam of Muscat under date  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1845. British Vessels  
of War are authorised to seize and  
confiscate any vessels belonging to His  
Highness, or His subjects carrying on  
the Slave trade except within the  
limits therein specified. We have  
approved of the tenor of this reply  
but as already reported to your Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Court we had previously authorised  
the release of these Vessels.

3<sup>rd</sup> With a Letter dated  
the 27<sup>th</sup> November last Major Kennell  
forwarded copy of a Despatch which  
he addressed on the preceding day  
to Her Majesty's Minister at the  
Court of Persia bringing to the  
notice of his Excellency that the  
traffic



3  
 traffic in Slaves by the inhabitants  
 of the Persian Coast has greatly  
 increased since the adoption of  
 measures for its suppression on the  
 Arabian Coast of the Gulf and suggesting  
 that the Chiefs on the Arabian Coast  
 who recently entered into engagements  
 with the British Government for  
 the suppression of the Slave trade  
 he recommended to consider all  
 Africans brought into their Ports for  
 sale by Foreigners as contraband, and  
 to confiscate them as such.

4  
 On receipt of the  
 above letter our Honorable Pres<sup>ts</sup>  
 recorded a Minute dated the 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Ultimo, in which His Honor observed  
 that the above result was to be  
 expected in consequence of the incom-  
 pleteness of the arrangements made  
 for the suppression of the Slave  
 trade in the Gulf owing to the  
 Persian Government having  
 declined to become a party to the  
 arrangement. This Minute was  
 concurred in by His Excellency the  
 Commander in Chief and by the  
 Honorable Mr Reid.

5  
 The Honorable Mr  
 Willoughby in a Minute dated the  
 20<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, remarked that Major  
 Kennell



Hennell's suggestion to Her Majesty's  
Minister at the Court of Persia above  
alluded to is worthy of serious &  
consideration, and unless that  
suggestion can be adopted the recent  
agreement entered into with the  
Chiefs on the Arabian Coast of the  
Gulf against the traffic in Slaves  
will practically become of little  
value. This Minute has been concurred  
in by the Board. We beg to solicit  
the serious attention of your Honble  
Court to this subject.

We have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect  
Honorable Sirs,

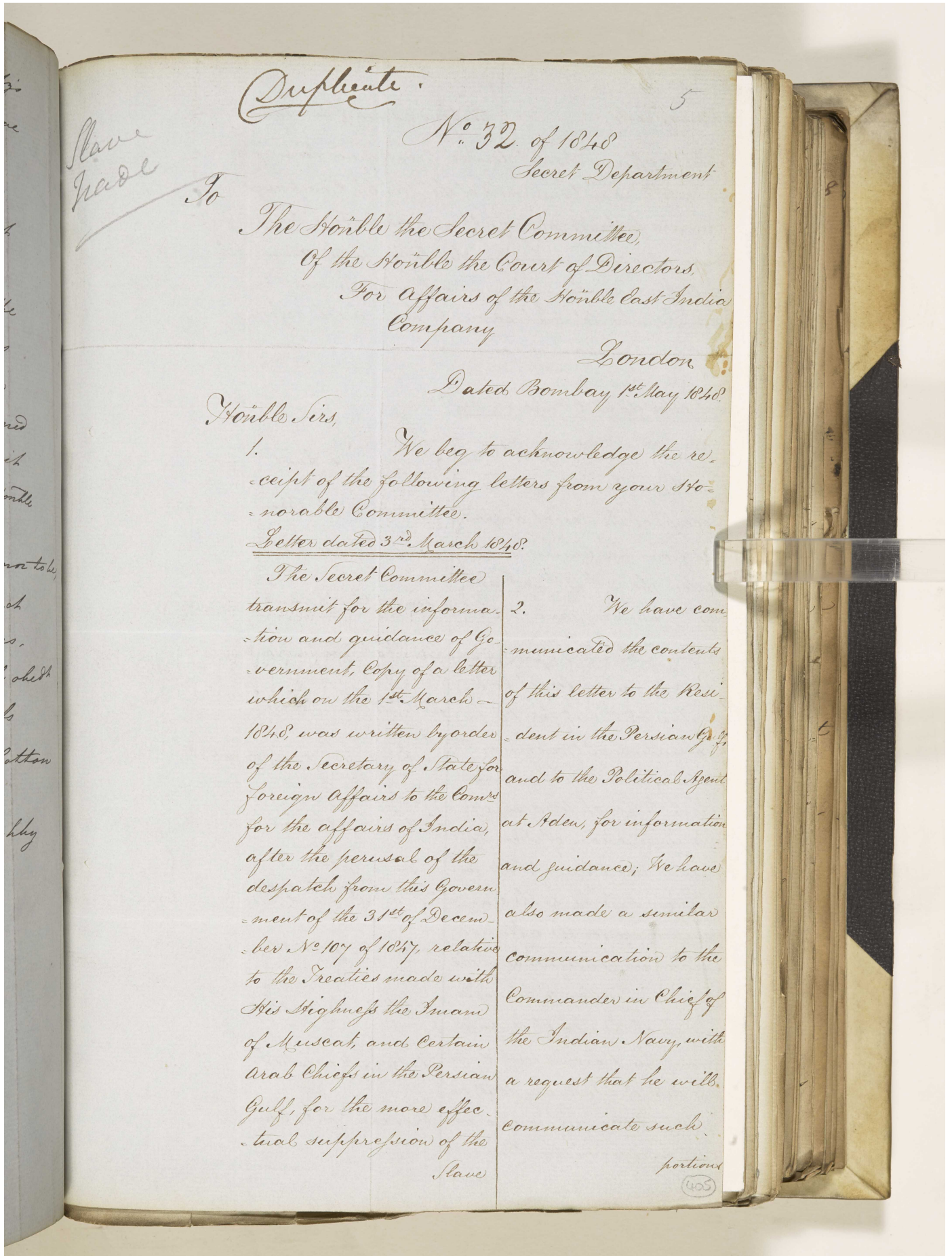
Your most faithful obed<sup>t</sup>  
and humble servants

(Signed) Willoughby Cotton  
" L. R. Reid

J. F. Willoughby

Bombay Castle }  
28<sup>th</sup> February }  
1848 }







Slave Trade.

portions as may be requi.

site, to officers of that Service proceeding from time to time in Command of the Honble Company's Cruizers to the Persian Gulf, and Red Sea. We have also communicated this letter to the Advocate General, for information, and for any remarks, should such occur to him, with reference to the intimations it contains.

Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 1840.

Para 1. The Secret Com-  
mitter acknowledge the  
receipt of the Secret despatches  
es from this Government  
dated the 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and  
25<sup>th</sup> January, and 1<sup>st</sup> Febru-  
ary Nos 2 @ 6 of 1840.

3. We have  
furnished the Resi-  
dent in the Per-  
sian Gulf, and  
the Political Agent

Para 2. The Secret Com-  
mitter transmit for the in-  
formation of Government  
Copy of a letter, written on  
the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1840, under  
the instructions of Her Ma-  
jesty's Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs, to the Com-  
missioners for the affairs of  
India, in consequence of the  
communication to him of so  
much of the Secret despatch  
from this Government dated  
the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1840, as  
relates to the seizure of a ves-  
sel engaged in the Slave  
Trade

at Aden, with  
a Copy of this  
letter, with in-  
structions to endea-  
vour to give ef-  
fect to the wishes  
of Her Majesty's  
Government, com-  
municated



Trade belonging to Hadji  
Ali Shermashki, a Chief on the  
Abyssinian Coast, not allied  
by treaty, to the British Go-  
vernment.

communicated in  
the latter part of  
Mr Under Secre-

tary Stanley's letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ultimo.

We have the honor to be  
with the greatest respect,

Bombay Castle  
1<sup>st</sup> May 1818

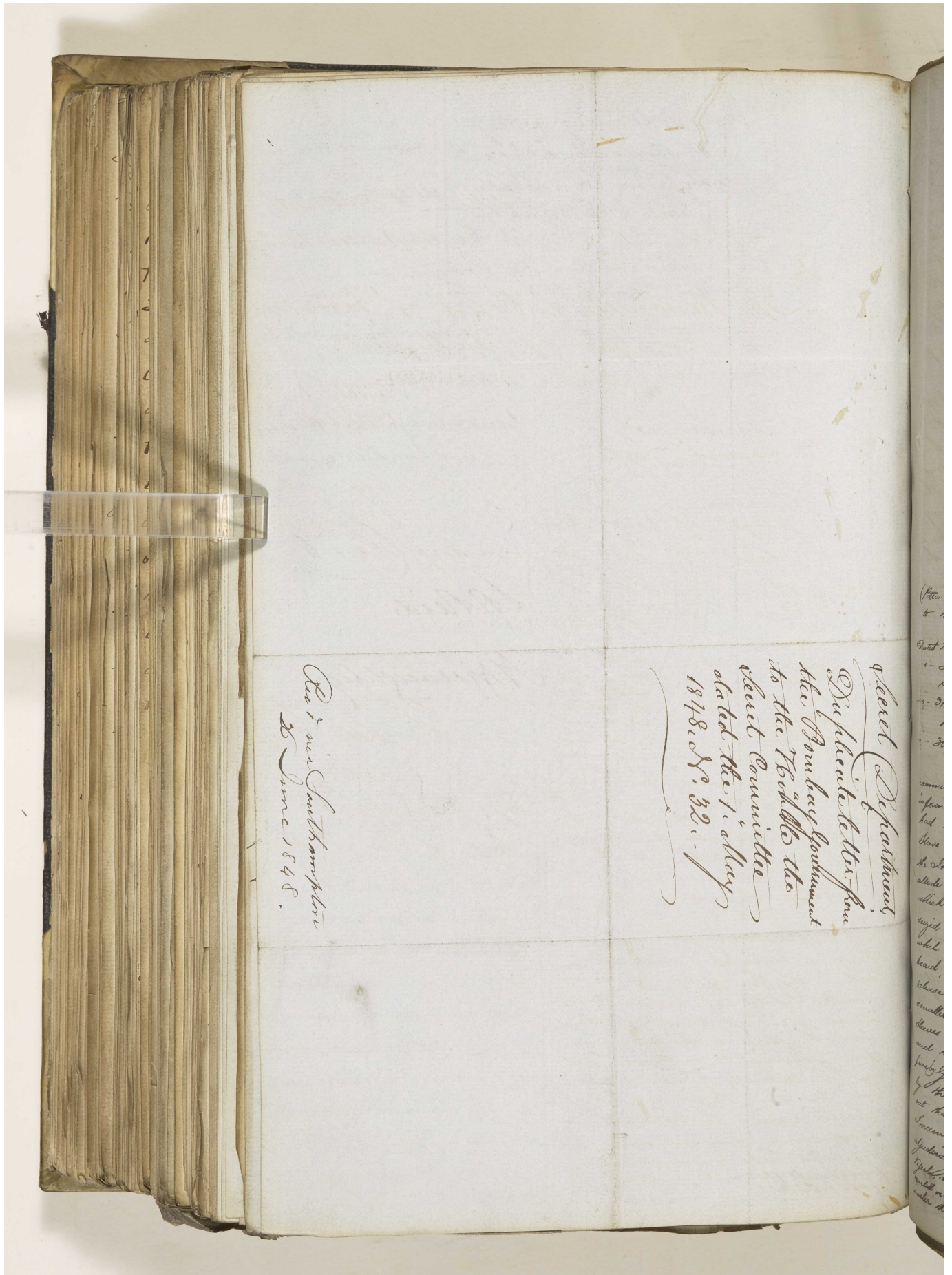
Honble Sirs,  
Your most faithful, obedient  
and humble Servants

James Clerk  
J. A. Reid  
J. W. Crockett

Ed. M. P. P. P.

(406)







9

Political Department,  
18<sup>th</sup> July (N<sup>o</sup>. 105) 1848.

To  
The Honorable the Court of Directors  
For affairs of the Honorable  
East India Company,  
London.

Honorable Sirs,

We beg to acknowledge the  
receipt of your Honorable Court's Dispatch,  
dated the 10<sup>th</sup> May, N<sup>o</sup>. 16 of 1848.

(Para: 1) The Court proceed to reply  
to the Dispatches and Paragraphs  
Bills  
Dated 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. N<sup>o</sup>. 128 of 1847, from this  
- - 30<sup>th</sup> " " 135 - - - - - Government  
Secret, noted in  
- - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. N<sup>o</sup>. 107 - - - - - the margin  
Marine, related to  
- - 30<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. " 92 - - - - - the Slave  
part of para: 2. Trade.

(2) The Court observe that  
those  
communications furnished them with  
information of the first seizure which  
had taken place under the late  
Slave Trade Treaty with His Majesty  
the Emperor of Maroc, and they  
allude to the circumstances under  
which Capt. Lowe of the Indian Navy  
seized 11 vessels belonging to Maroc  
while proceeding with Slaves on  
board, to Baborah, and the subsequent  
release by him of six of the  
smaller vessels after removing the  
Slaves from on board of them  
and the release of the remaining  
five by Government, partly occasioned  
by the Advocate General pointing  
out that the Treaty with the  
Emperor provides no tribunals for  
adjudicating on seizures and condemning  
vessels, and that the Supreme Court  
could not sustain cases of seizure  
under the Treaty.

2. We have  
forwarded a Copy  
of this letter and  
of its enclosures to  
the Commander-in-  
Chief of the Indian  
Navy, for his  
information and  
guidance, accompanied  
by a request  
that he will  
cause the instructions  
requisite, with  
reference to the 5<sup>th</sup>  
para: of the Right  
Honorable

(3)

(5)



Honble Mr. Stanley's  
letter of the  
1<sup>st</sup> March last,  
to be issued to the  
Officers of the Indian  
Navy.

3. We have also  
forwarded a copy  
of your Honble  
Court's letter to our  
advocate General  
and to Captain  
Hawerton, Her  
Britannic Majesty's  
Consul and Honble  
Company's Agent  
in the Dominions  
of His Highness  
the Imam of  
Muscat.

4. We  
further beg to  
state that we  
have furnished  
Major Russell  
with a copy of  
his letter with  
instructions to forward  
with the least  
practicable

(3) This difficulty, the Court  
state, has been brought to the  
notice of Her Majesty's Govt,  
and they (the Court) transmit  
for the information and guidance  
of His Government, Copy of a  
letter which has been written  
thereon by order of the Secretary  
of State for Foreign Affairs to  
the Board of Commissioners for  
the Affairs of India.

(4) The Court allude to Capt.  
Lowes having brought to the  
notice of Government, the  
inadequacy of the Naval Force  
in the Persian Gulf for the  
purpose of suppressing Slavery  
and refer to the circumstances  
of this subject engaging the  
consideration of Government.

(5) The Court remark that the  
observations of Major Russell  
on the extreme difficulty of  
checking the Slave Trade which  
it is permitted to be carried  
on by Persian Subjects, will,  
they have no doubt, meet with  
due attention from Her Majesty's  
Government.

(6) The Court forward Copy  
of a letter received by the Commissioners  
for the Affairs of India from  
Her Majesty's Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs, respecting  
the legislative measures in  
contemplation for giving effect  
to the new Treaty with the  
Arab Chiefs.

(7) The Court  
state that  
Government will  
perceive that  
it is necessary  
that a full and  
perfect Copy  
of

Order Dispatc<sup>d</sup>  
from His Govt  
16<sup>th</sup> June 1807,  
forwarding a Copy  
& English Version of  
this engagement.



of each of these Treaties should be transmitted to them, and they further desire that this may be done without delay.

(C) With reference to the concluding para: of Mr. Stanley's letter, The Court state that it is sufficient to observe that the Supreme Courts of the various Presidencies are Vice-Admiralty Courts, and therefore competent for the exercise of the jurisdiction which Her Majesty's Government desire to confer on some tribunal in India.

practicable delay to the Honble Court direct through the Political Agent, Turkish Arabia, attested Copies accompanied by English Translations of each of the engagements called for by your Honorable Court in

para: 7, and to

report to Government when he has complied with these instructions. As it is probable that no vessel will be proceeding from Bombay to Bushire until after the Monsoon, we have in order to prevent delay furnished these instructions to Major Ansell by the present Overland Mail through Major Rawlinson, via Suez.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

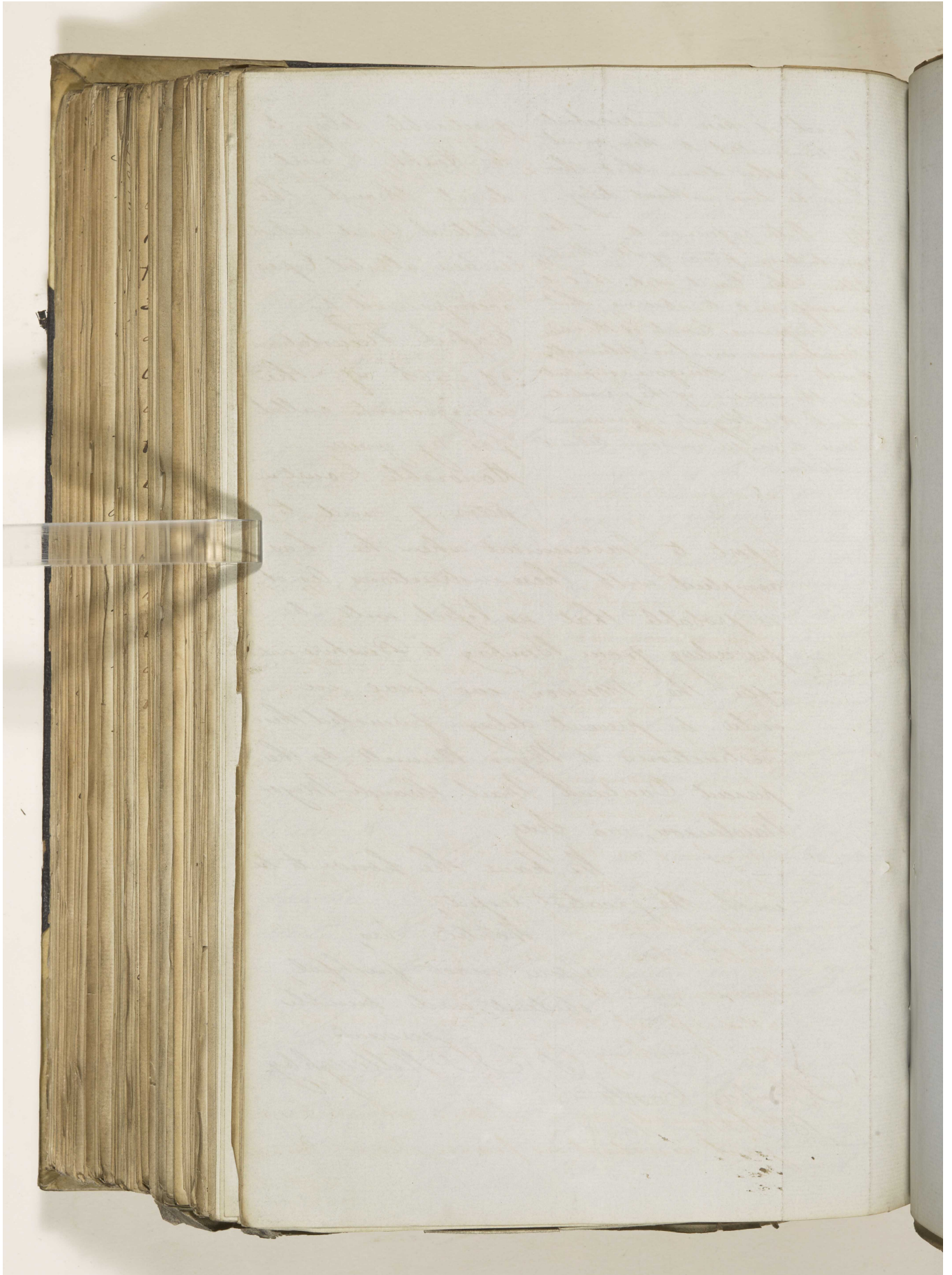
Honble Sirs,

Your most faithful, obedient, and humble servants,

(S) J. P. Willoughby.

Bombay Castle }  
18<sup>th</sup> July 1840 }







13  
Political Department  
14<sup>th</sup> November (No 160)  
1848.

To  
The Honorable the Court of Directors  
For Affairs of the Honorable  
East India Company,  
London.

Honorable Sir,

1 In the 4<sup>th</sup> Para:  
of our Despatch dated the 18<sup>th</sup> July  
No. 105 of 1848, we stated that  
in order to prevent delay, we  
had directed Major Hennell, the  
Resident in the Persian Gulf, to  
forward to your Honorable  
Court, direct, through the Pall  
Agent in Turkish Arabia, attested  
copies, accompanied by English  
translations of each of the  
Treaties with the Maritime Arabian  
Chiefs of the Persian Gulf, for the  
suppression of the Slave Trade,  
called for in the 7<sup>th</sup> Para: of your  
Honorable Court's Despatch to the  
address of this Government dated  
the 10<sup>th</sup> May No. 16 of 1848.

2 We have been  
informed in a Letter which has  
just reached us from Major Hennell,  
dated



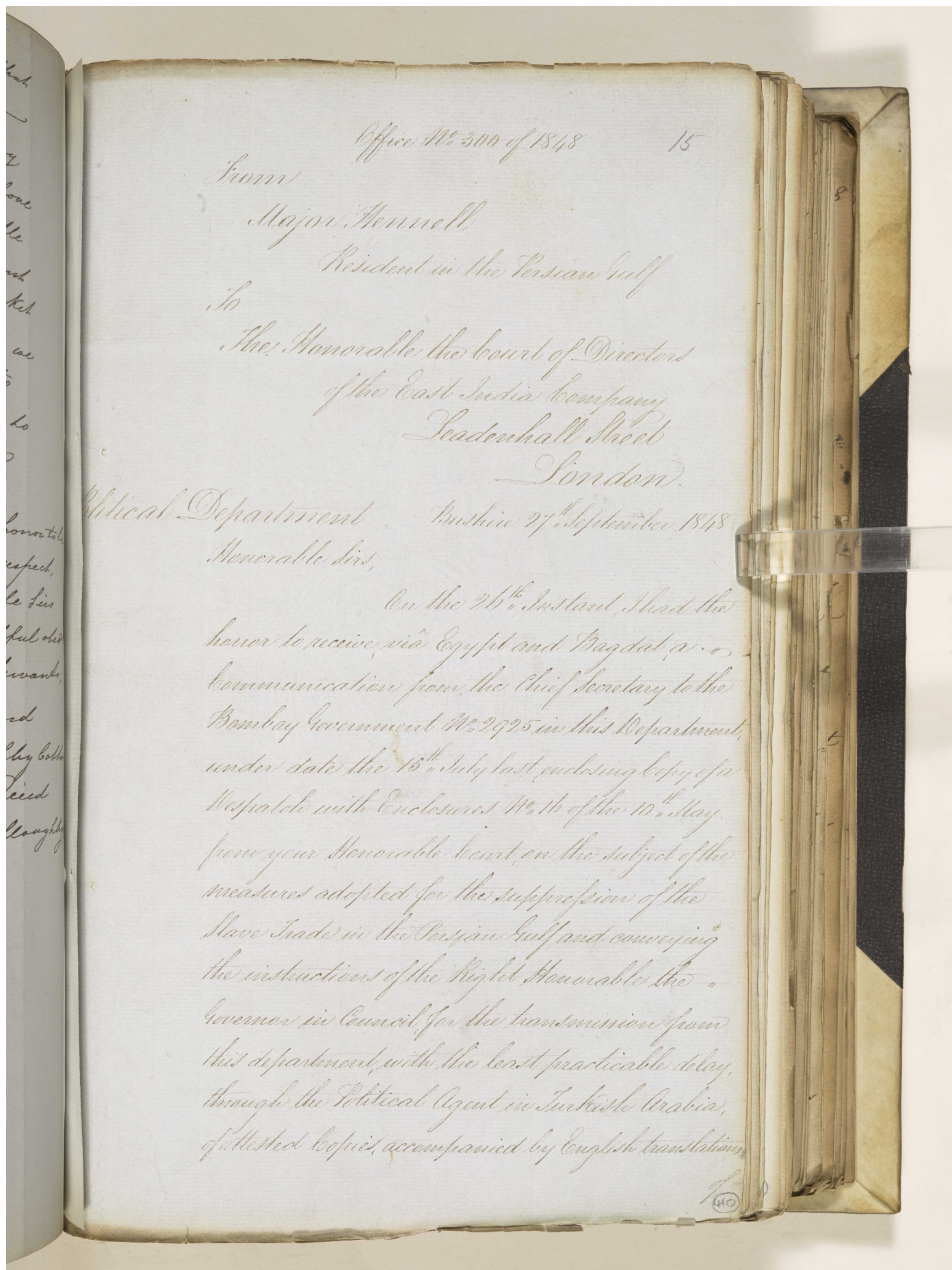
dated the 28<sup>th</sup> September last, that  
in conformity with the above  
instructions, he on the preceding  
day, forwarded copies of the above  
documents to your Honorable  
Board; in order to guard against  
the possibility of the above packet  
not reaching its destination, we  
have deemed it advisable to  
forward copies of its contents to  
your Honorable Board by the  
present Carland Mail.

We have the honor to be,  
With the greatest respect,  
Honorable Sirs  
Your most faithful obedts  
and humble Servants;

(Signed) Falkland

Bombay Castle, } "	Willoughby Cotton
14 <sup>th</sup> November, } "	L. R. Dried
1848. } "	J. P. Willoughby





Office No 300 of 1848

15

From

Major Hennell

Resident in the Persian Gulf

To

The Honorable the Court of Directors  
of the East India Company  
Leadenhall Street  
London.

Political Department Bushire 27<sup>th</sup> September 1848

Honorable Sirs,

On the 26<sup>th</sup> Instant, I had the honor to receive, via Egypt and Bagdad, a communication from the Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government No 2925 in this Department, under date the 15<sup>th</sup> July last, enclosing copy of a Despatch with Enclosures No 16 of the 10<sup>th</sup> May, from your Honorable Court, on the subject of the measures adopted for the suppression of the Slave Trade in the Persian Gulf and conveying the instructions of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council for the transmission from this department, with the least practicable delay, through the Political Agent in Turkish Arabia, of attested copies, accompanied by English translations.

LHO



of each of the Engagements alluded to by Your  
Honorable Board in the 7<sup>th</sup> Paragraph of your  
despatch.

2. In compliance with these  
instructions, I have herewith the honor to forward  
to your Honorable Board, Authenticated transcripts  
with translations of the Engagements for the  
suppression of the Slave Trade in this quarter,  
entered into with the British Government by the  
several Arabian Maritime Chiefs of the Persian  
Gulf, as notified in the Margin.

1/26/  
Shah Sultan bin  
Chief of Ras ul Muzay  
Shah Abdullah bin  
Chief of Amulgaroon  
Shah Abdul Aziz bin  
Nasir, Chief of Oman  
Shah Sultan bin  
Chief of Ras ul Muzay  
Shah Saad bin  
Chief of Ras ul Muzay  
Shah Mahmud bin  
Shulafa, Chief of Ras ul Muzay

3. In transmitting these documents, I  
would beg most respectfully to observe, that the Arabic  
Words corresponding to the expression in the translations  
"Sailors of the British Government," are always fully  
understood by the Maritime Arabs of the Persian Gulf,  
to include both Her Majesty's Ships, and those belonging  
to the Indian Navy.

I have the honor to be  
Residency in the Persian Gulf, Honorable Sir  
Bushire 27<sup>th</sup> September 1818  
Your most obedient  
humble Servant  
Resident in the Persian Gulf



