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Board's Collections Vol 257

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/257
Date(s)	20 Feb 1796-20 Feb 1808 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 volume (358 folios)
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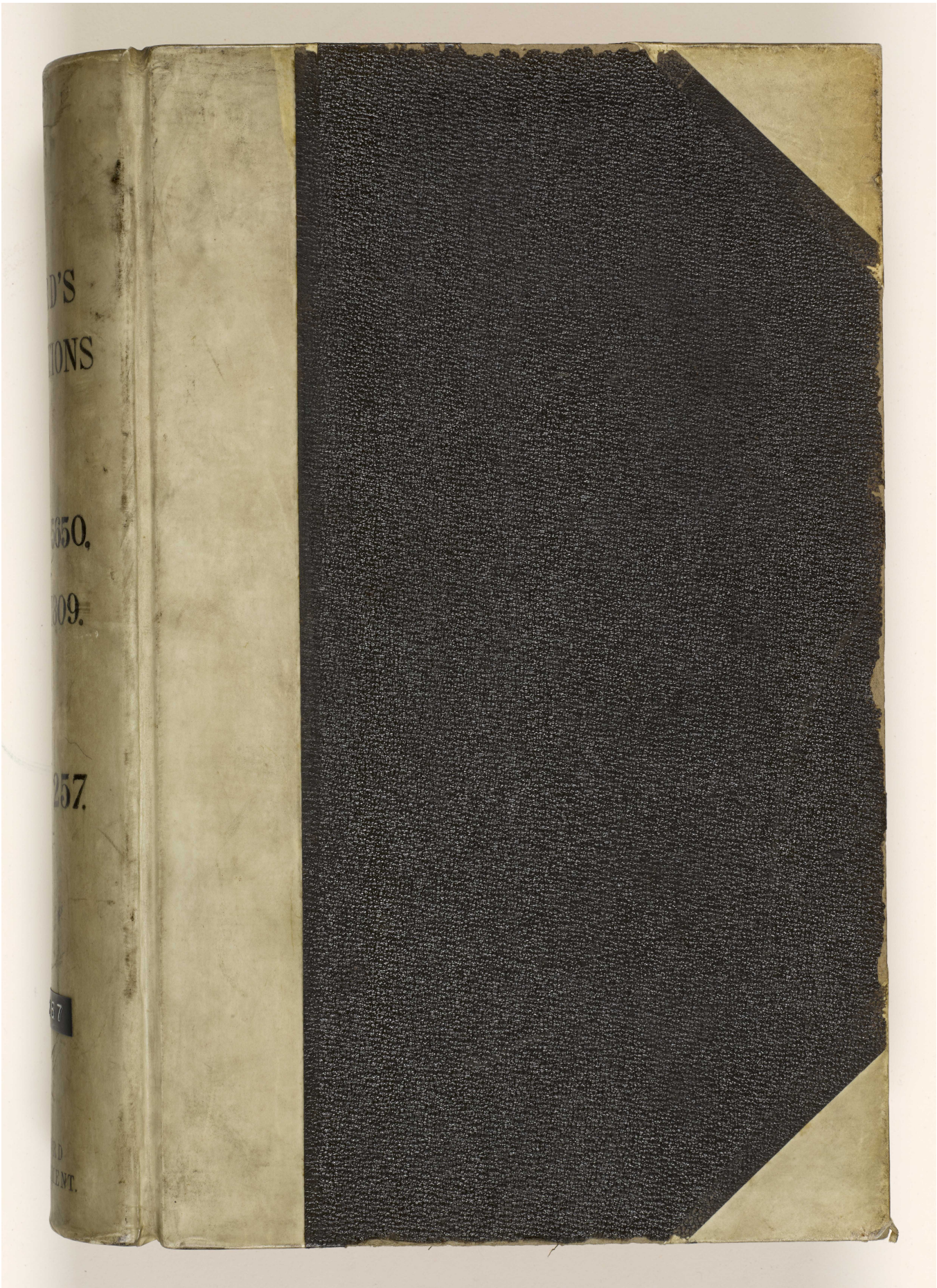
About this record

This volume consists of three items which are copies of correspondence, minutes, and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, letters from the Governments of Bombay and Bengal. The items are:

- IOR/F/4/257/5647 'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796'

- IOR/F/4/257/5648 'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea'

- IOR/F/4/257/5650 'The French Brig La Vigilante with her Crew delivered over to the Imaum of Muscat to enable him by her restoration to appease the resentment of the French excited by his having compelled the Brig to leave the Cove of Muscat which led to her capture by His Majesty's Ship Concorde'.



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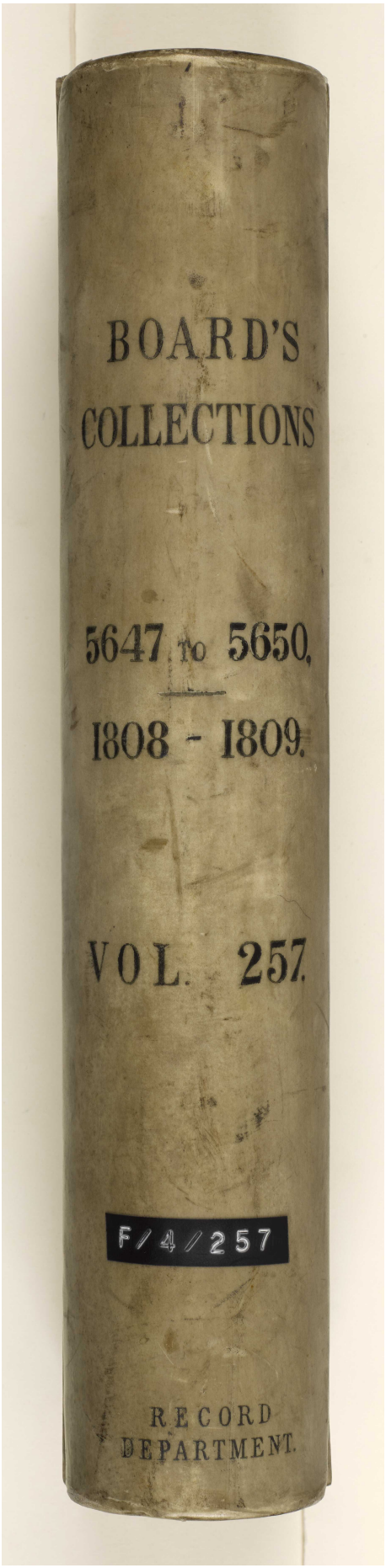

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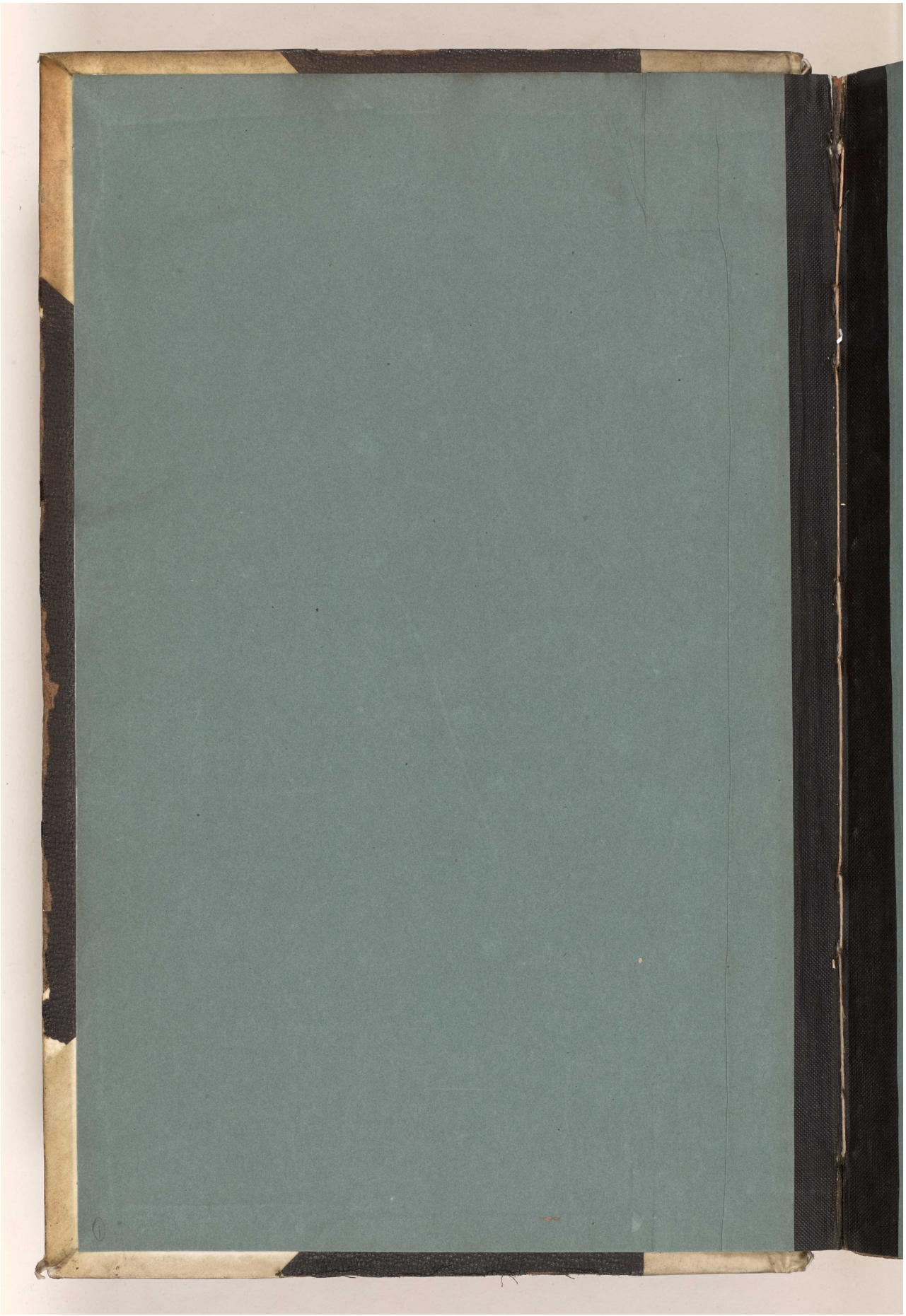

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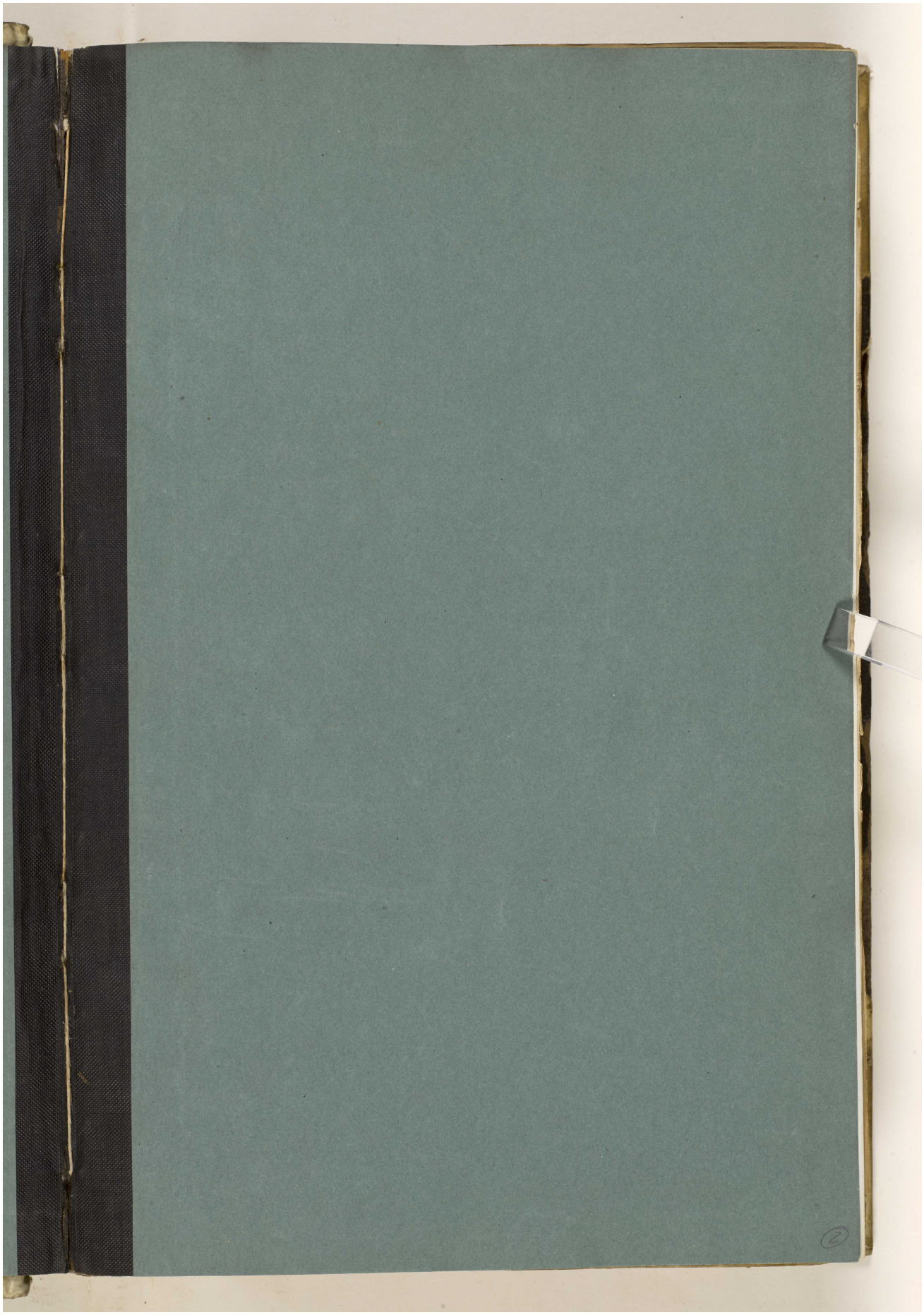

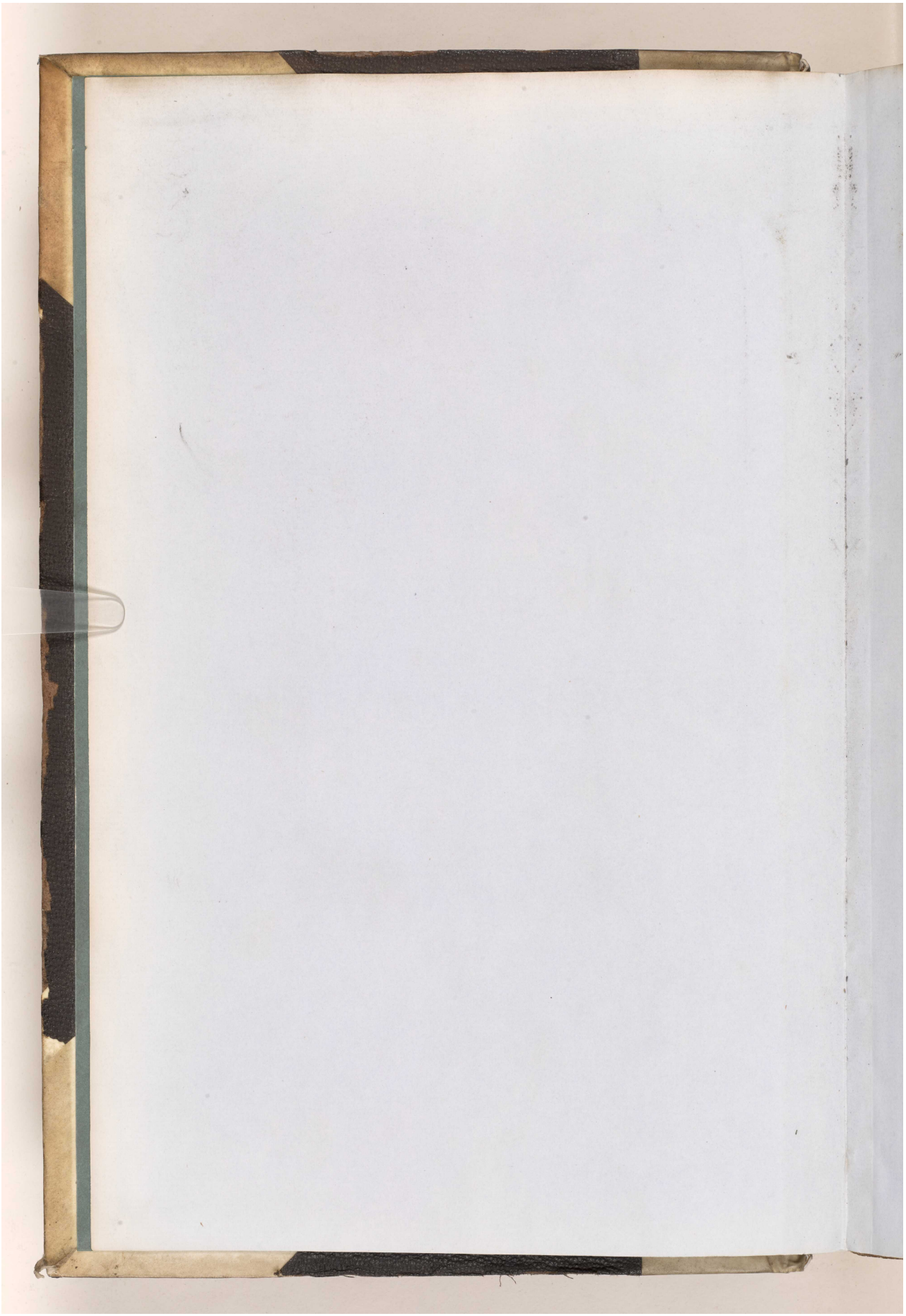

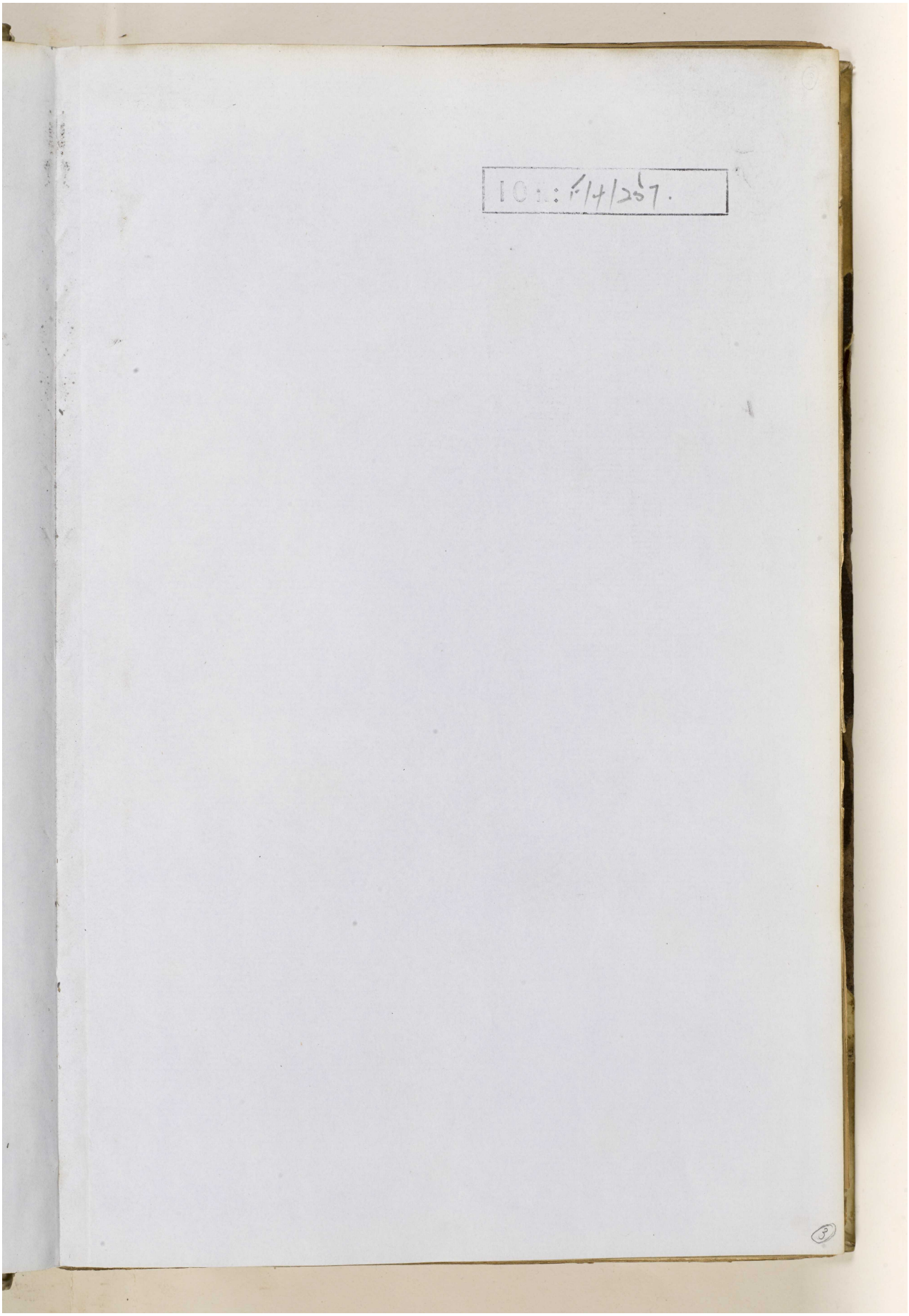

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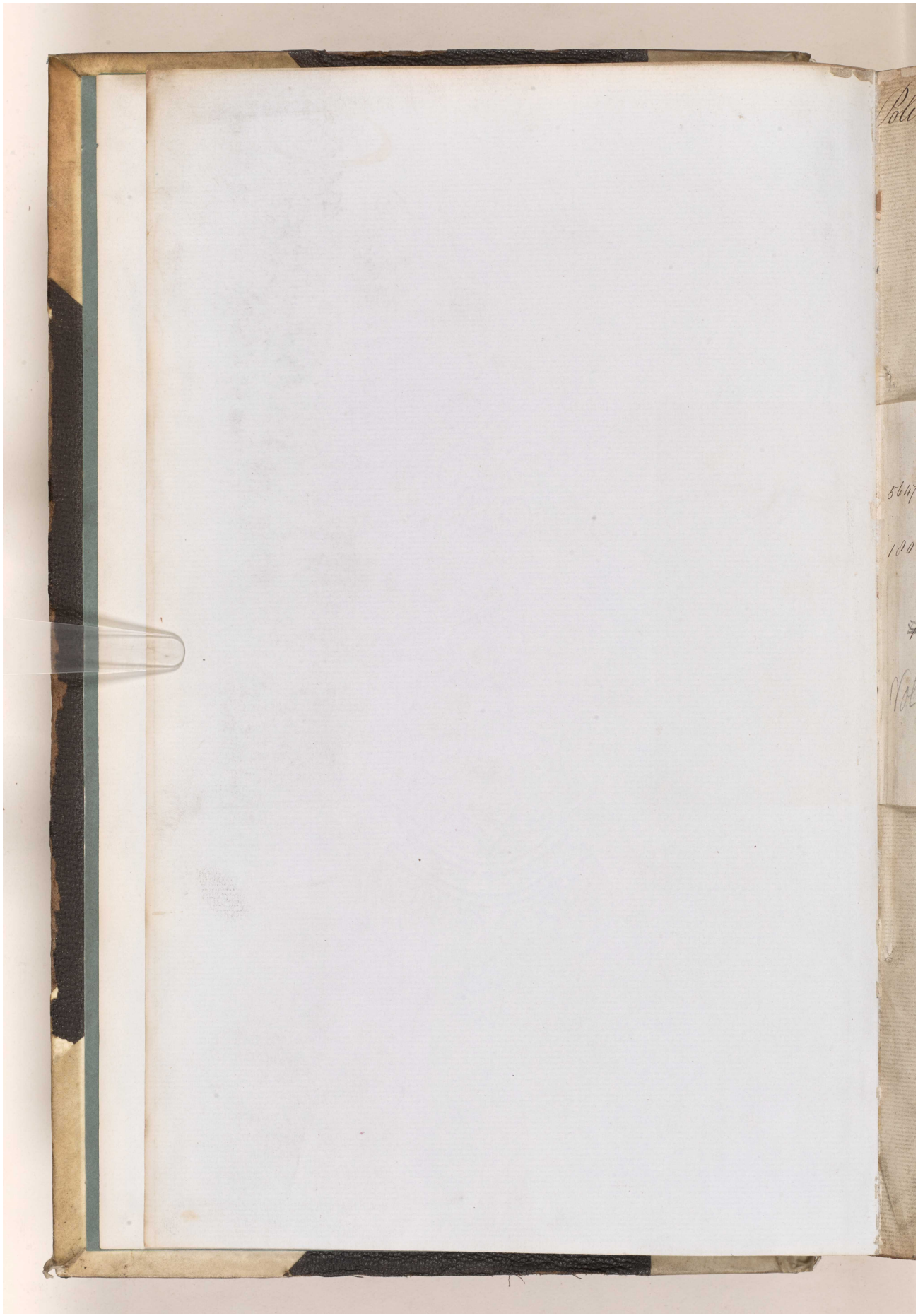

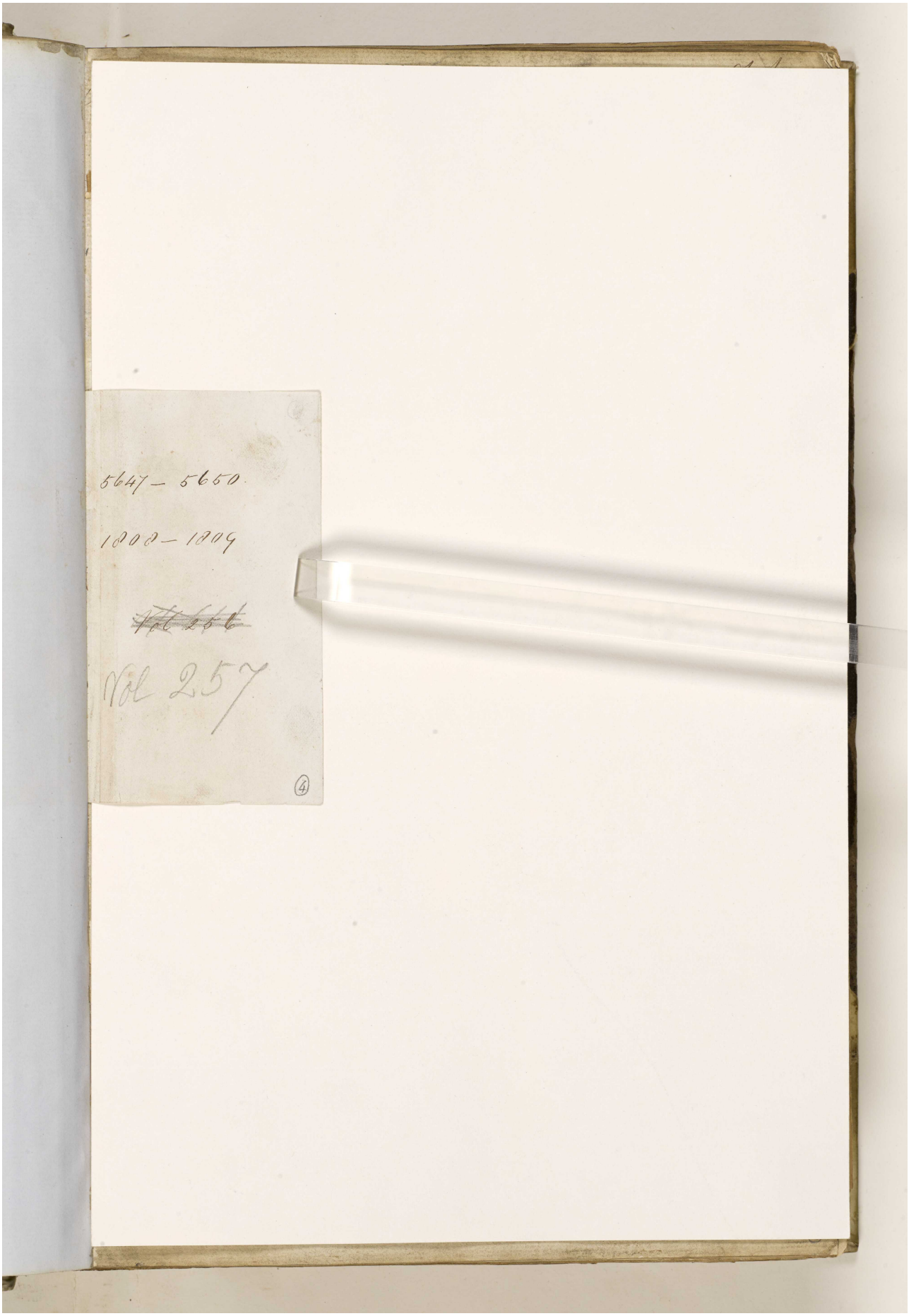

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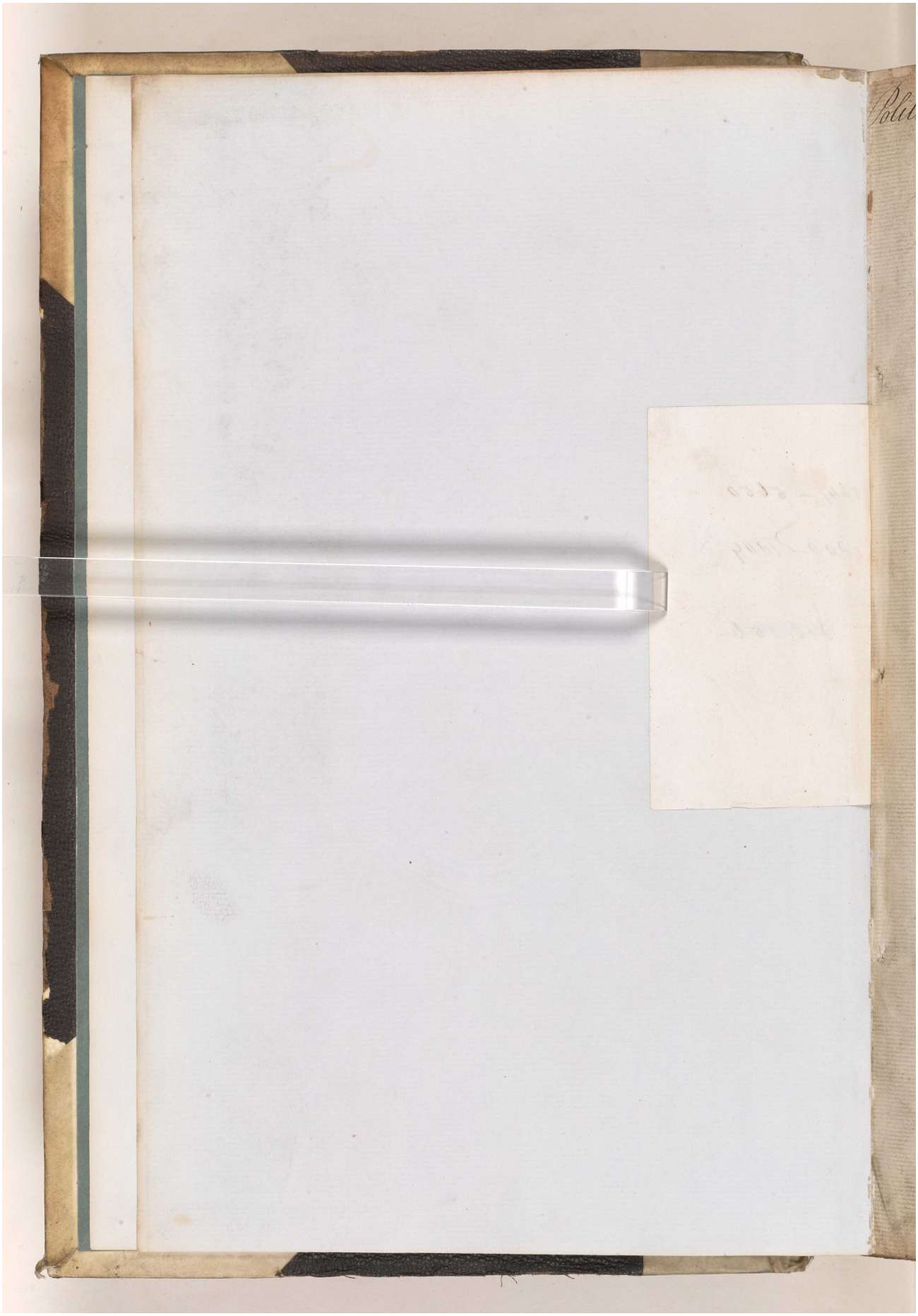

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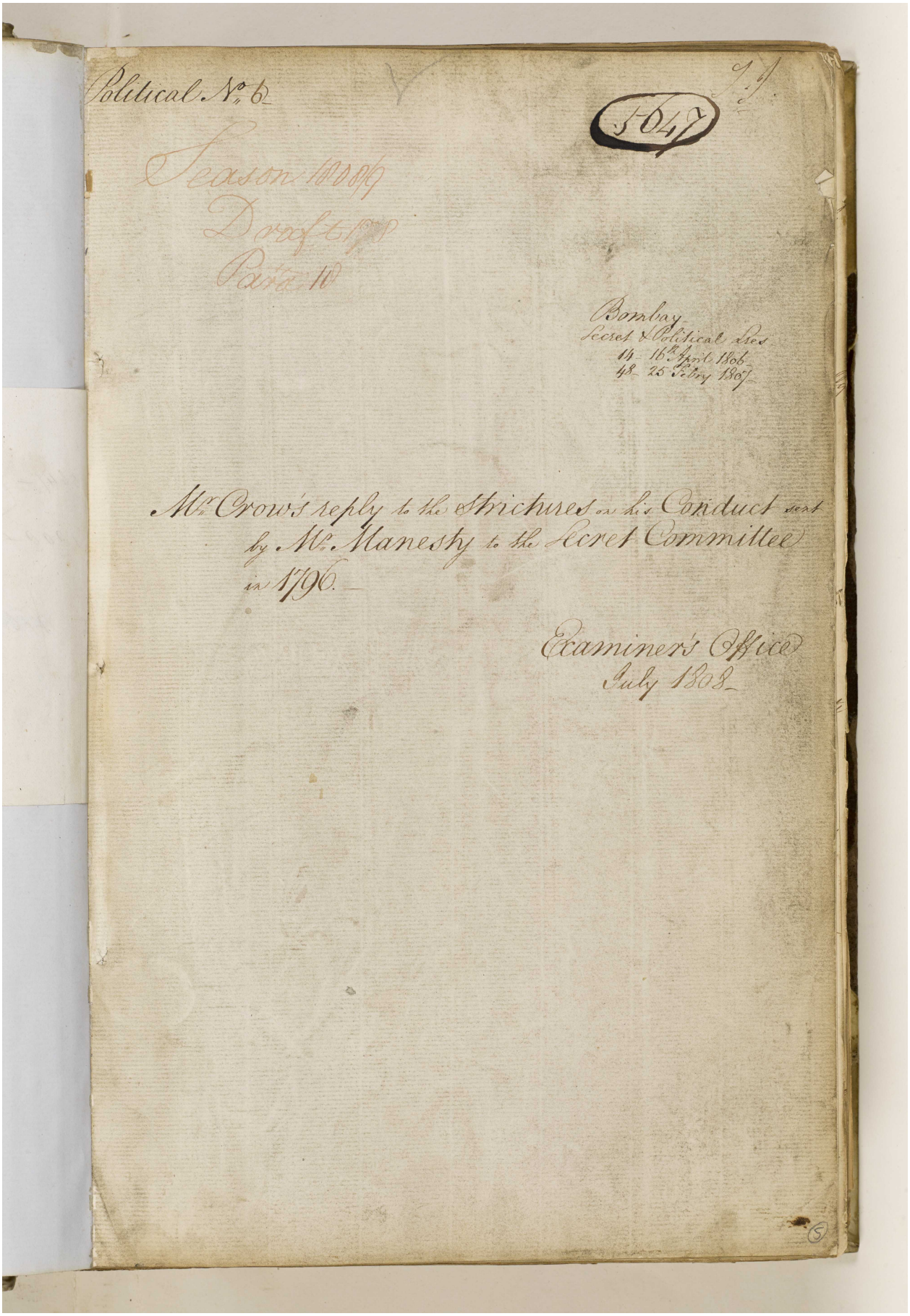

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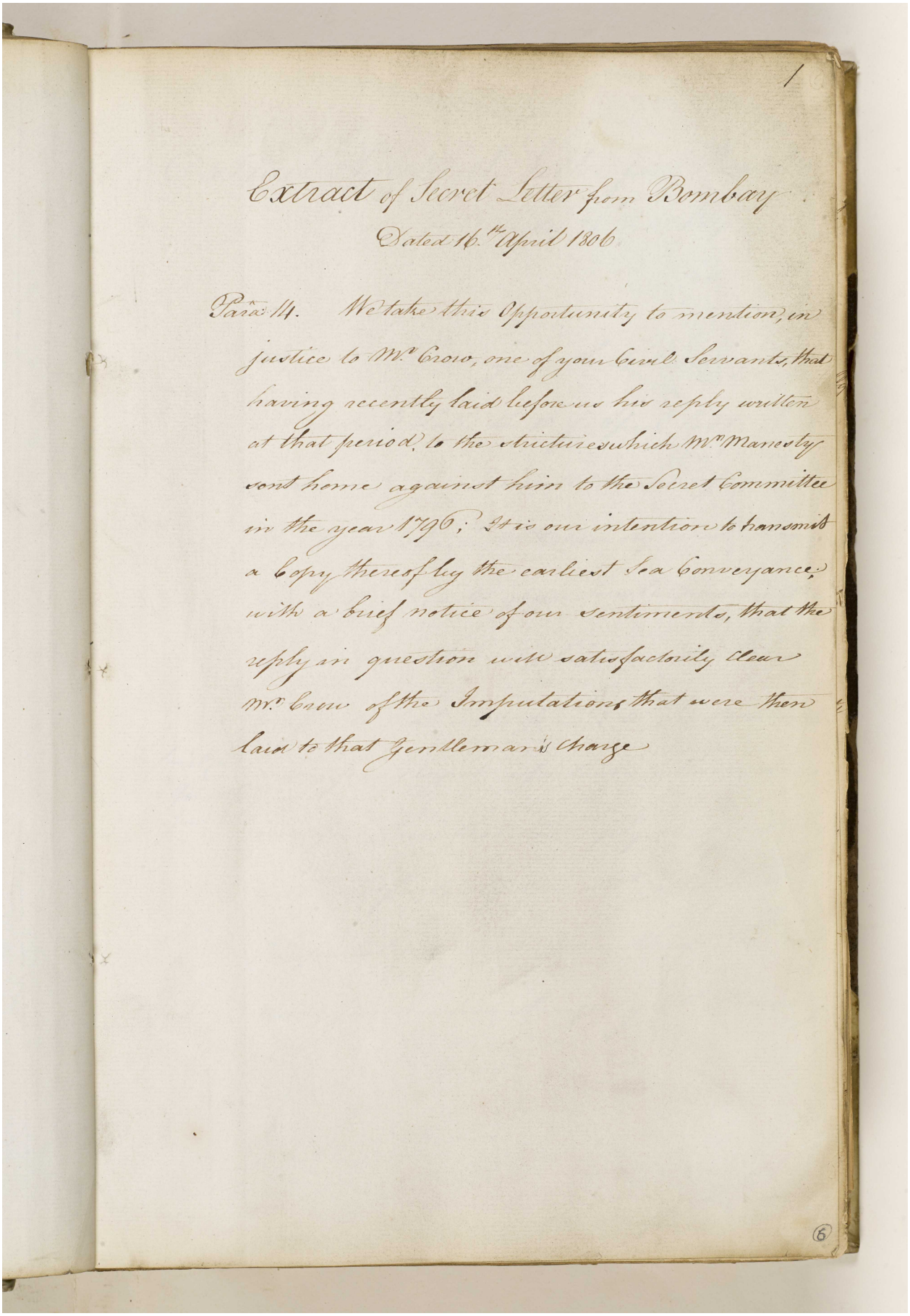
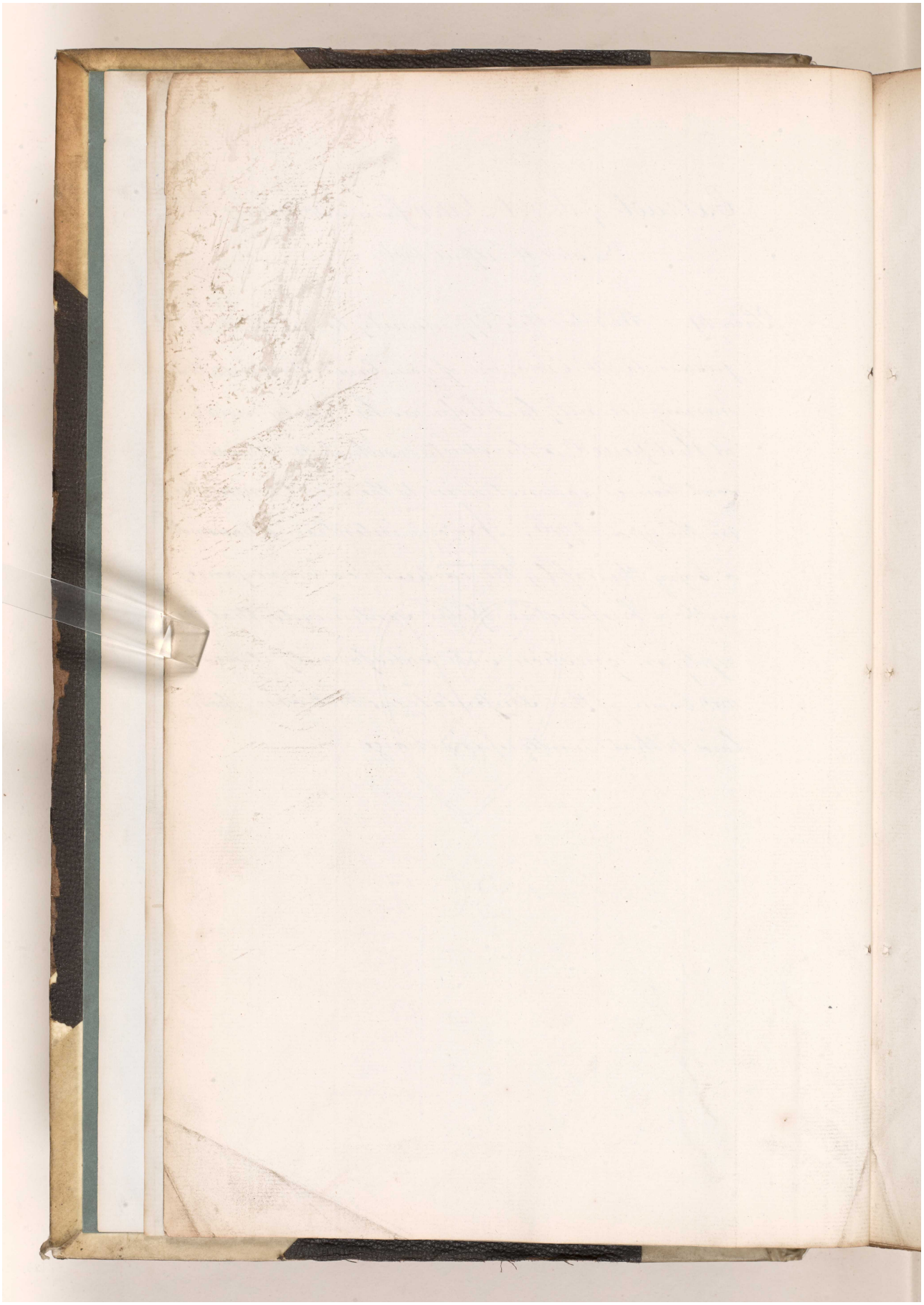
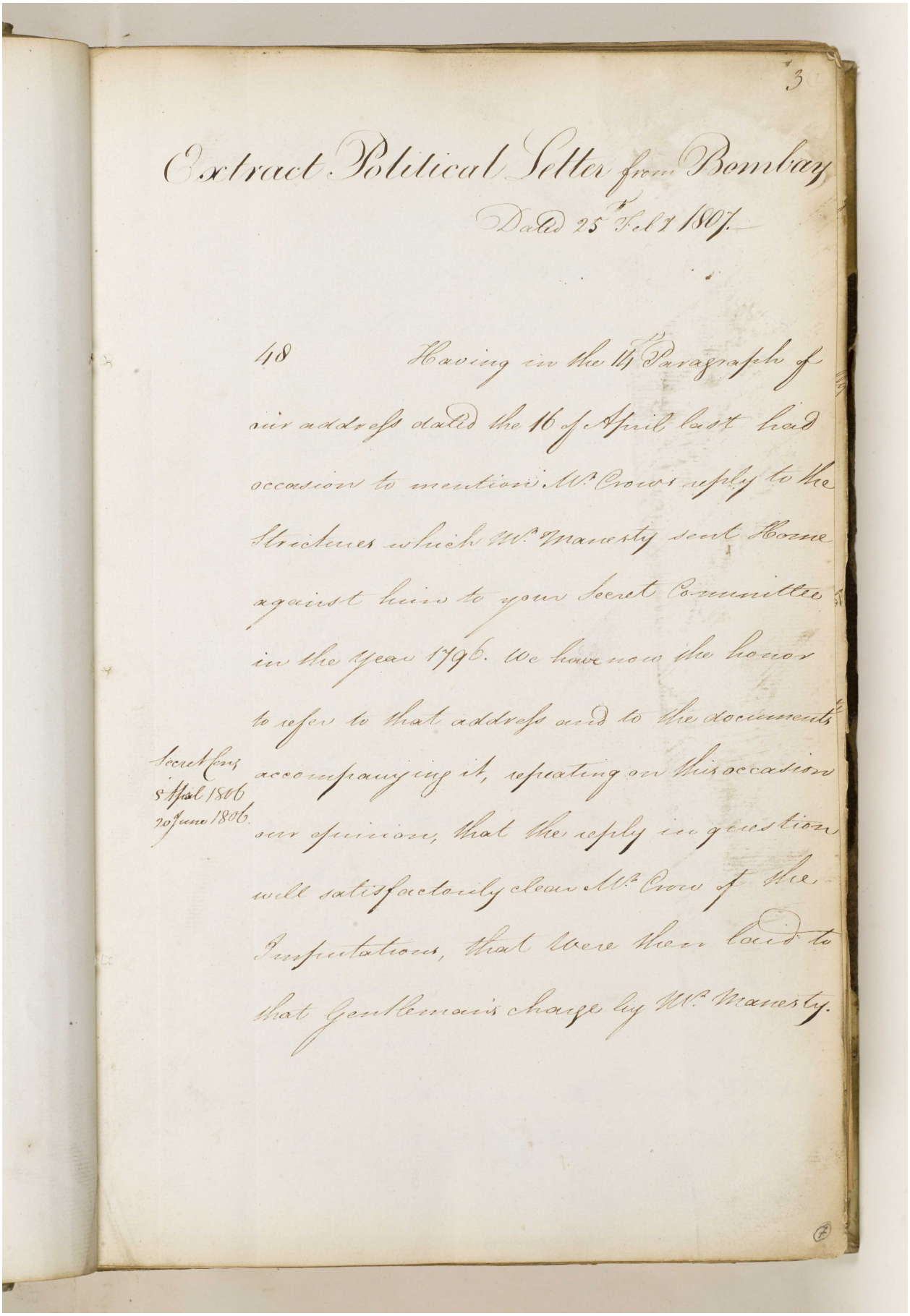


Extract of Secret Letter from Bombay
Dated 16th April 1806

Para 14. We take this Opportunity to mention, in justice to Mr Crow, one of your Civil Servants, that having recently laid before us his reply written at that period, to the strictures which Mr Manesty sent home against him to the Secret Committee in the year 1796; It is our intention to transmit a Copy thereof by the earliest Sea Conveyance, with a brief notice of our sentiments, that the reply in question will satisfactorily clear Mr Crow of the Imputations that were then laid to that Gentleman's charge





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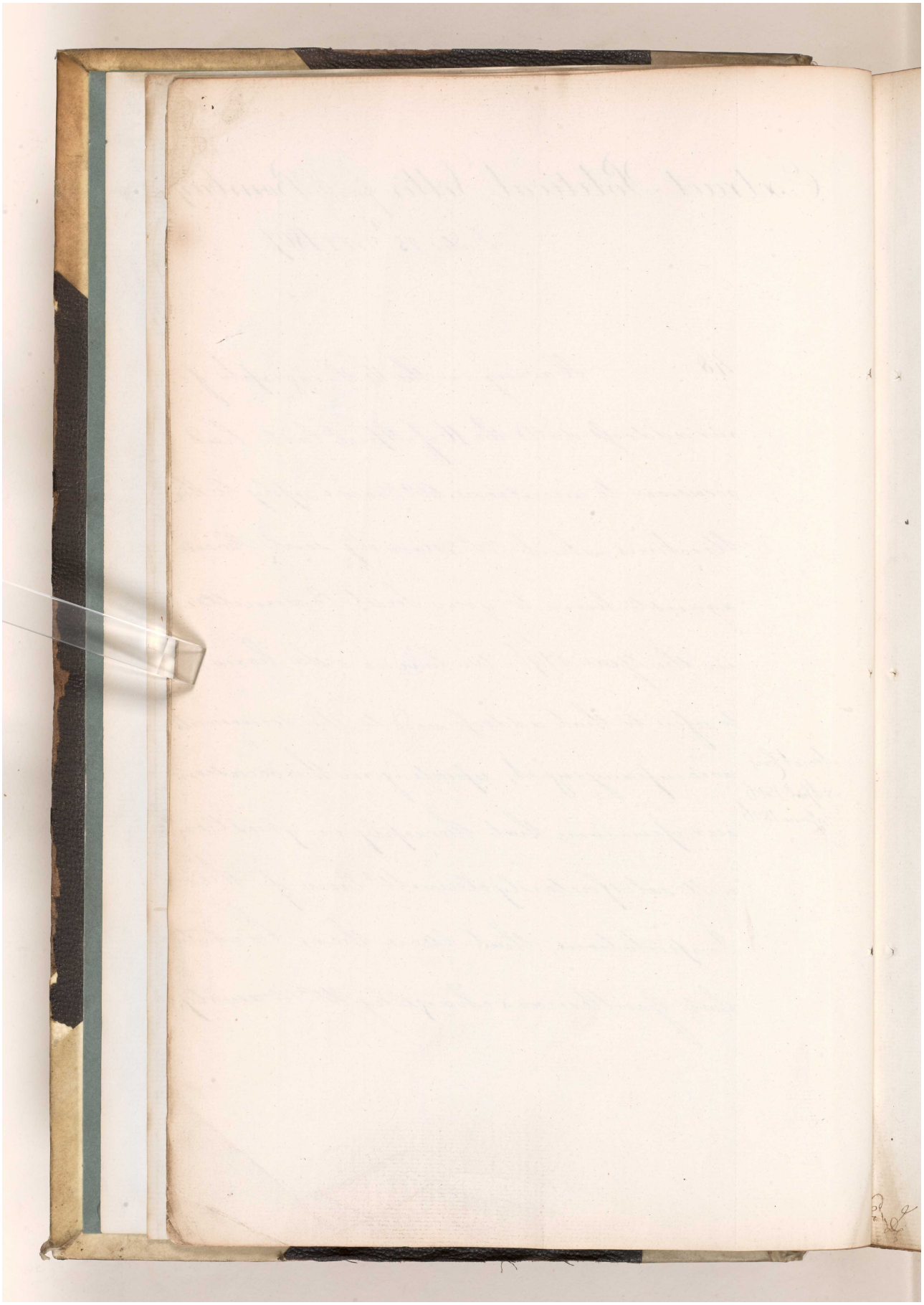
Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 25th Feb.y 1807.

48 Having in the 4th Paragraph of our address dated the 16th of April last had occasion to mention Mr. Crow's reply to the Strictures which Mr. Manesty sent Home against him to your Secret Committee in the year 1796. We have now the honor to refer to that address and to the documents accompanying it, repeating on this occasion our opinion, that the reply in question will satisfactorily clear Mr. Crow of the Imputations, that were then laid to that Gentleman's charge by Mr. Manesty.

Secret Cons.
8 April 1806
20 June 1806.



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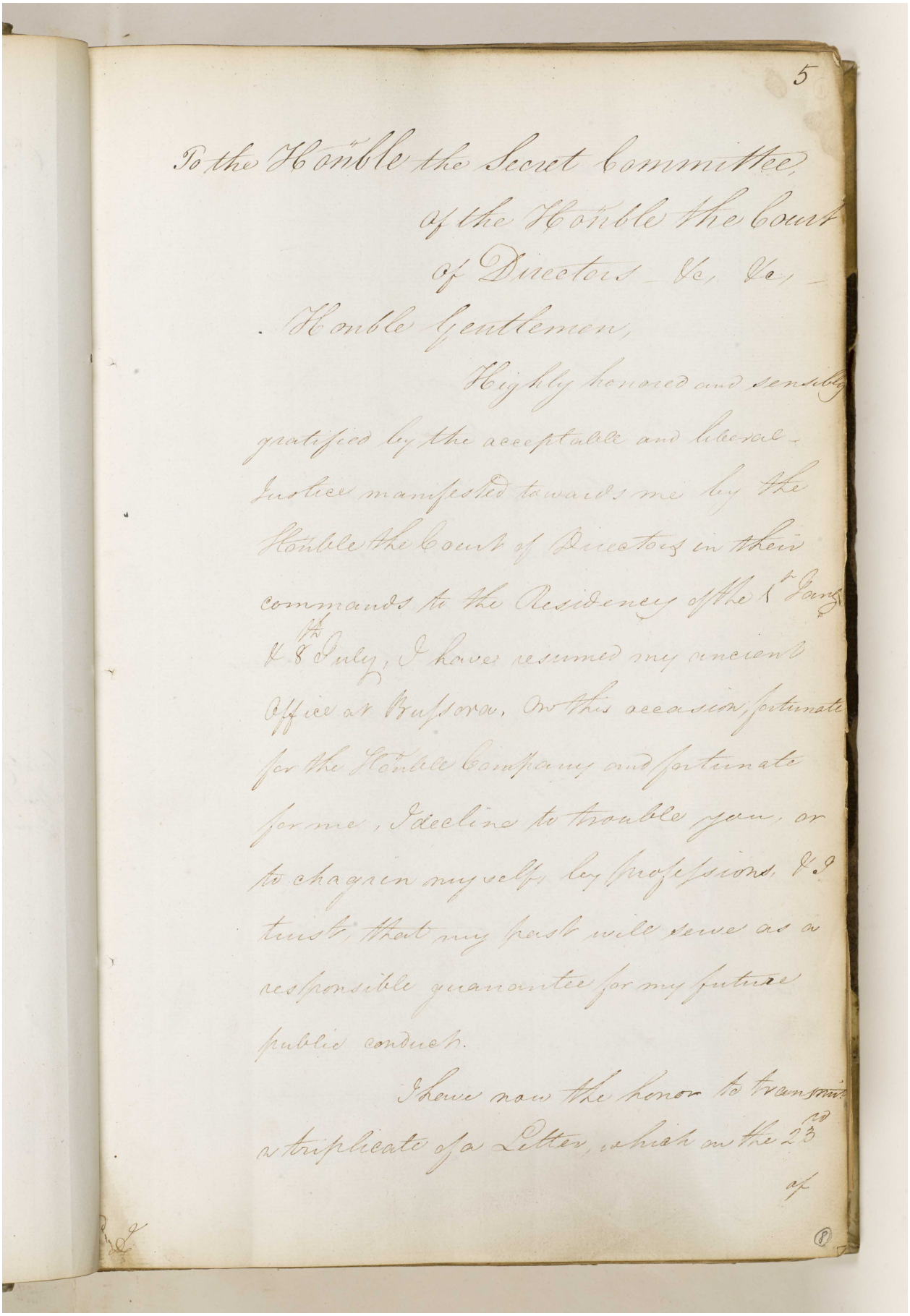


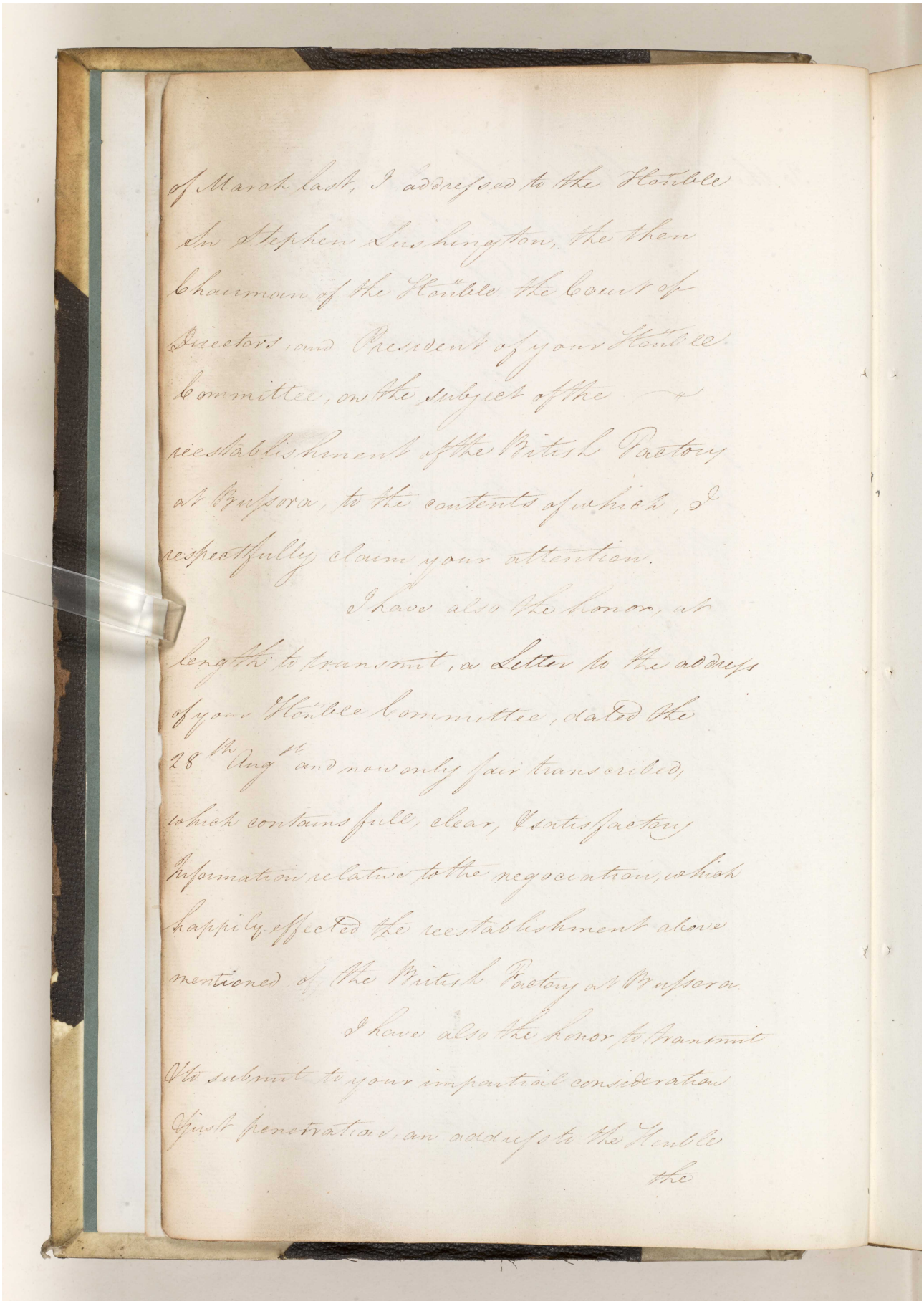
5

To the Honble the Secret Committee,
of the Honble the Court
of Directors &c &c &c

Honble Gentlemen,

Highly honored and sensibly gratified by the acceptable and liberal Justice manifested towards me by the Honble the Court of Directors in their commands to the Residency of the 1st Jany & 8th July, I have resumed my ancient Office at Bussorah. On this occasion, fortunate for the Honble Company and fortunate for me, I decline to trouble you, or to chagrin myself by professions, &c. I trust that my past will serve as a responsible guarantee for my future public conduct.

I have now the honor to transmit a triplicate of a Letter, which on the 23d of



of March last, I addressed to the Honble
Sir Stephen Lushington, the then
Chairman of the Honble the Court of
Directors, and President of your Honble
Committee, on the Subject of the
reestablishment of the British Factory
at Bussora, to the contents of which, I
respectfully claim your attention.

I have also the honor, at
length, to transmit, a Letter to the address
of your Honble Committee, dated the
28th Augt and now only fair transcribed,
which contains full, clear, & satisfactory
Information relative to the negociation, which
happily effected the reestablishment above
mentioned of the British Factory at Bussora.

I have also the honor to transmit
& to submit to your impartial consideration
& just penetration, an address to the Honble
the

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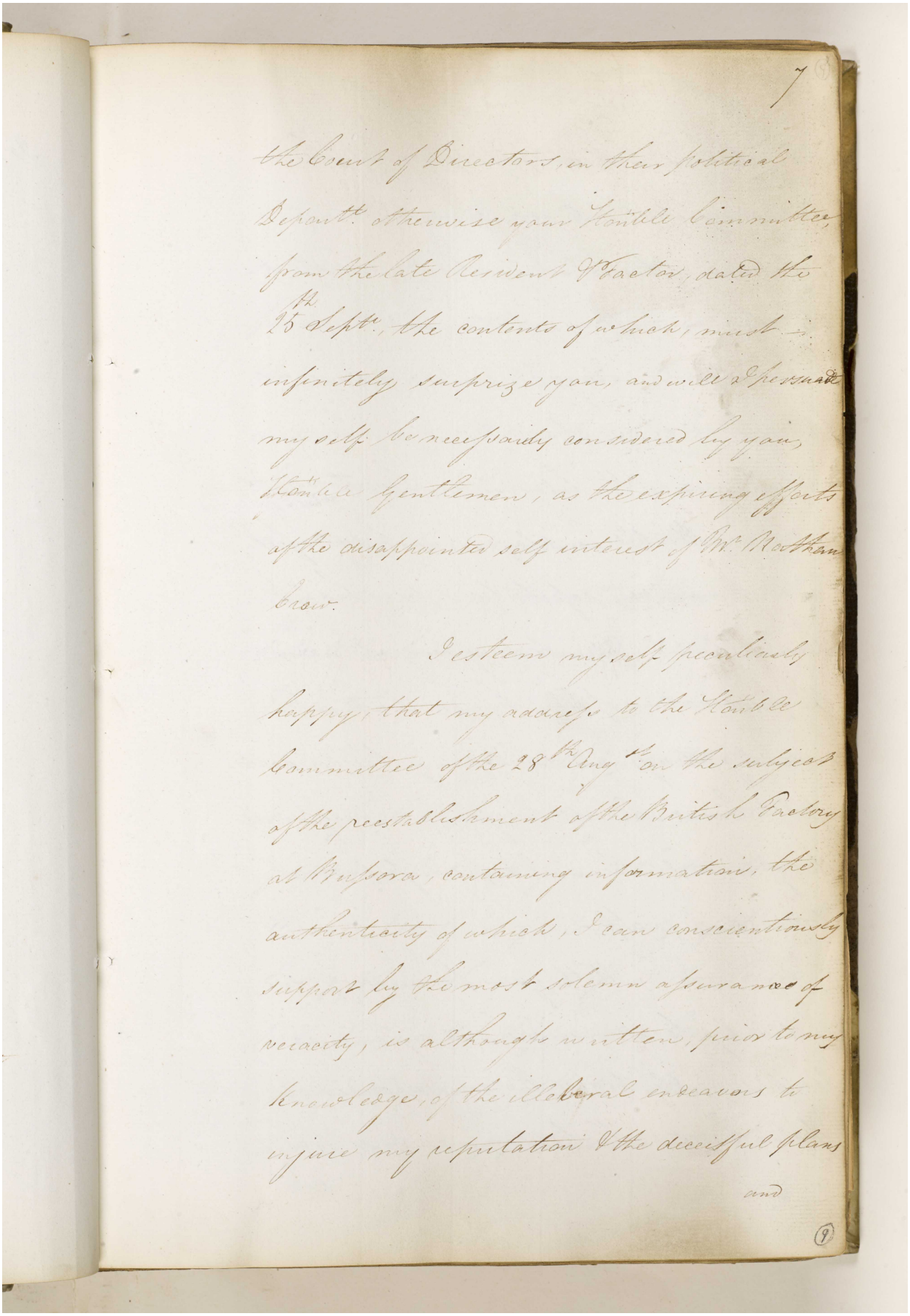

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the Court of Directors, in their political
Depart.t otherwise your Honble Committee,
from the late Resident & Factor, dated the
25th Sept.r, the contents of which, must
infinitely surprize you, and will I presume
my self be necessarily considered by you
Honble Gentlemen, as the expiring efforts
of the disappointed self interest of Mr. Northam
Crow.

I esteem my self peculiarly
happy, that my address to the Honble
Committee of the 28th Aug.t on the subject
of the reestablishment of the British Factory
at Bussora, containing informations, the
authenticity of which, I can conscientiously
support by the most solemn assurances of
veracity, is although written, prior to my
knowledge, of the illiberal endeavors to
injure my reputation & the deceitful plans

and

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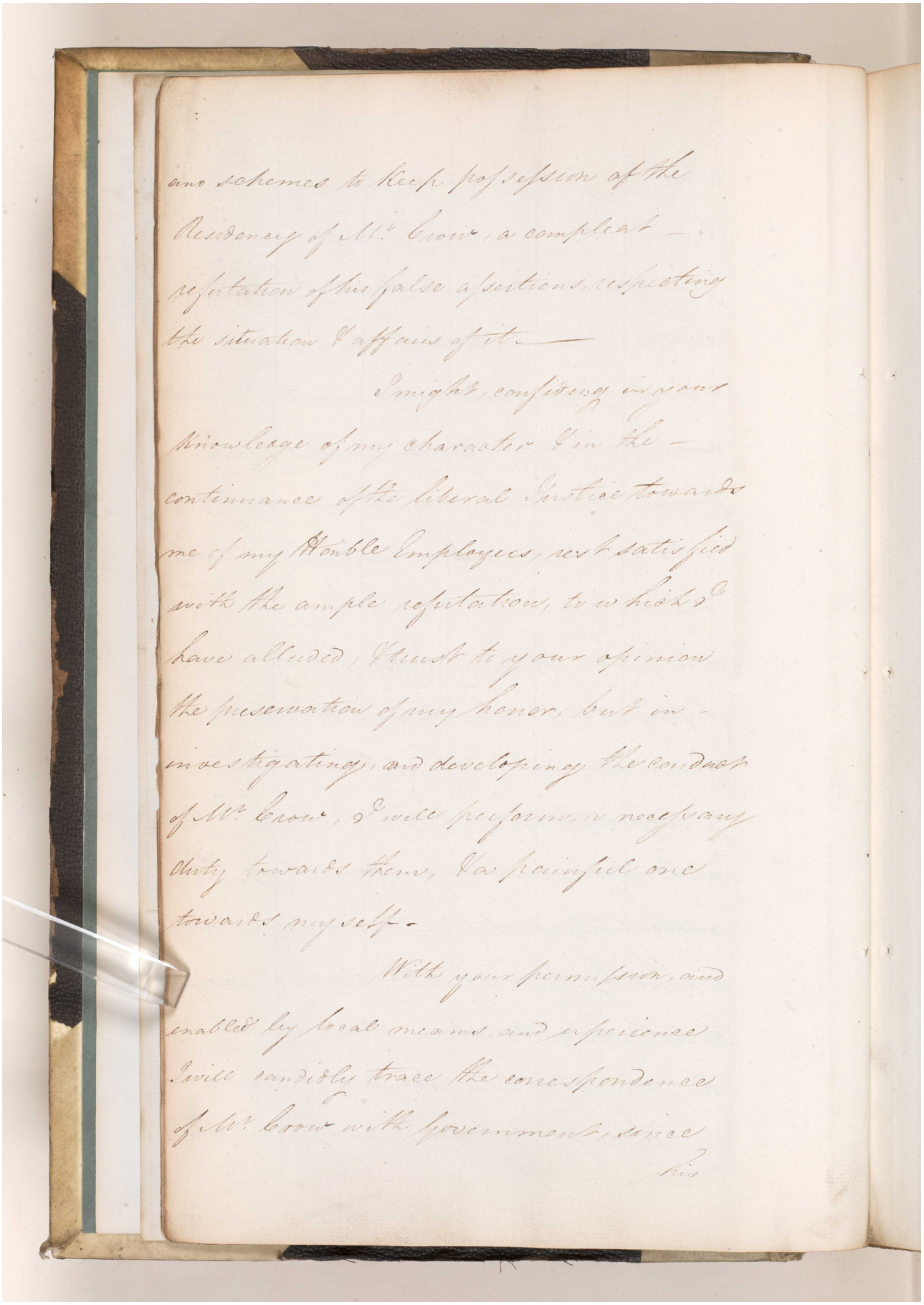
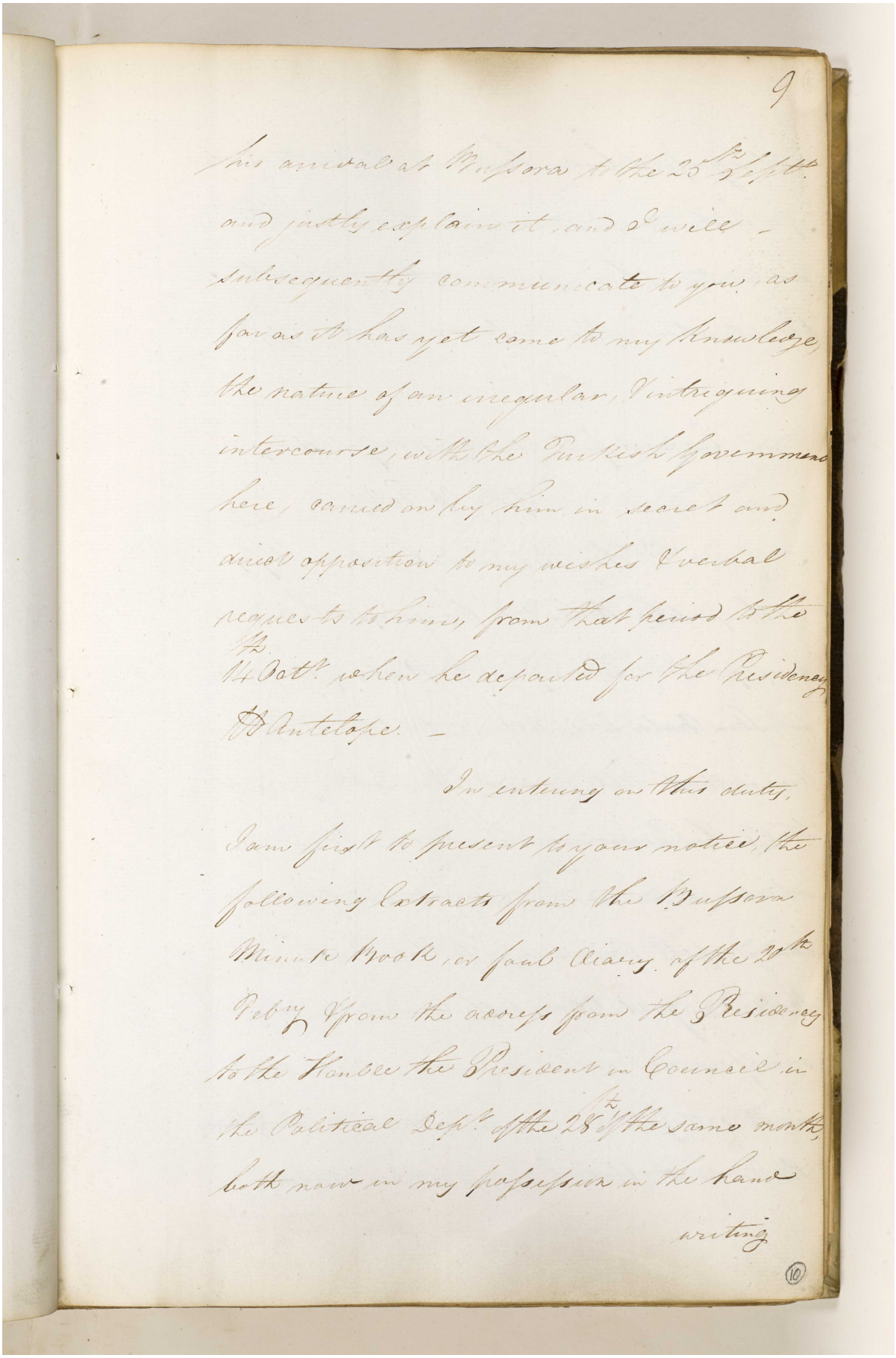


and schemes to keep possession of the
Residency of Mr. Crow, a compleat —
refutation of his false assertions respecting
the situation & affairs of it —

I might, confiding in your
knowledge of my character & in the —
continuance of the liberal Justice towards
me of my Honble Employers, rest satisfied
with the ample refutation, to which I
have alluded, I trust to your opinion
the preservation of my honor, but in —
investigating, and developing the conduct
of Mr. Crow, I owe performance necessary
duty towards them, & painful one
towards myself —

With your permission, and
enabled by local means and experience
I will candidly trace the correspondence
of Mr. Crow with Government, since
his



his arrival at Bussora to the 25th Septr. and justly explain it, and I will subsequently communicate to you, as far as it has yet come to my knowledge, the nature of an irregular, & intriguing intercourse, with the Turkish Government here, carried on by him in secret and direct opposition to my wishes & verbal requests to him, from that period to the 14th Octr. when he departed for the Presidency ~~to~~ Antelope. —

In entering on this duty, I am first to present to your notice, the following Extracts from the Bussora Minute Book, or foul Diary of the 20th Febry & from the address from the Presidency to the Honble the President in Council in the Political Dept. of the 28th of the same month, both now in my possession in the hand

writing

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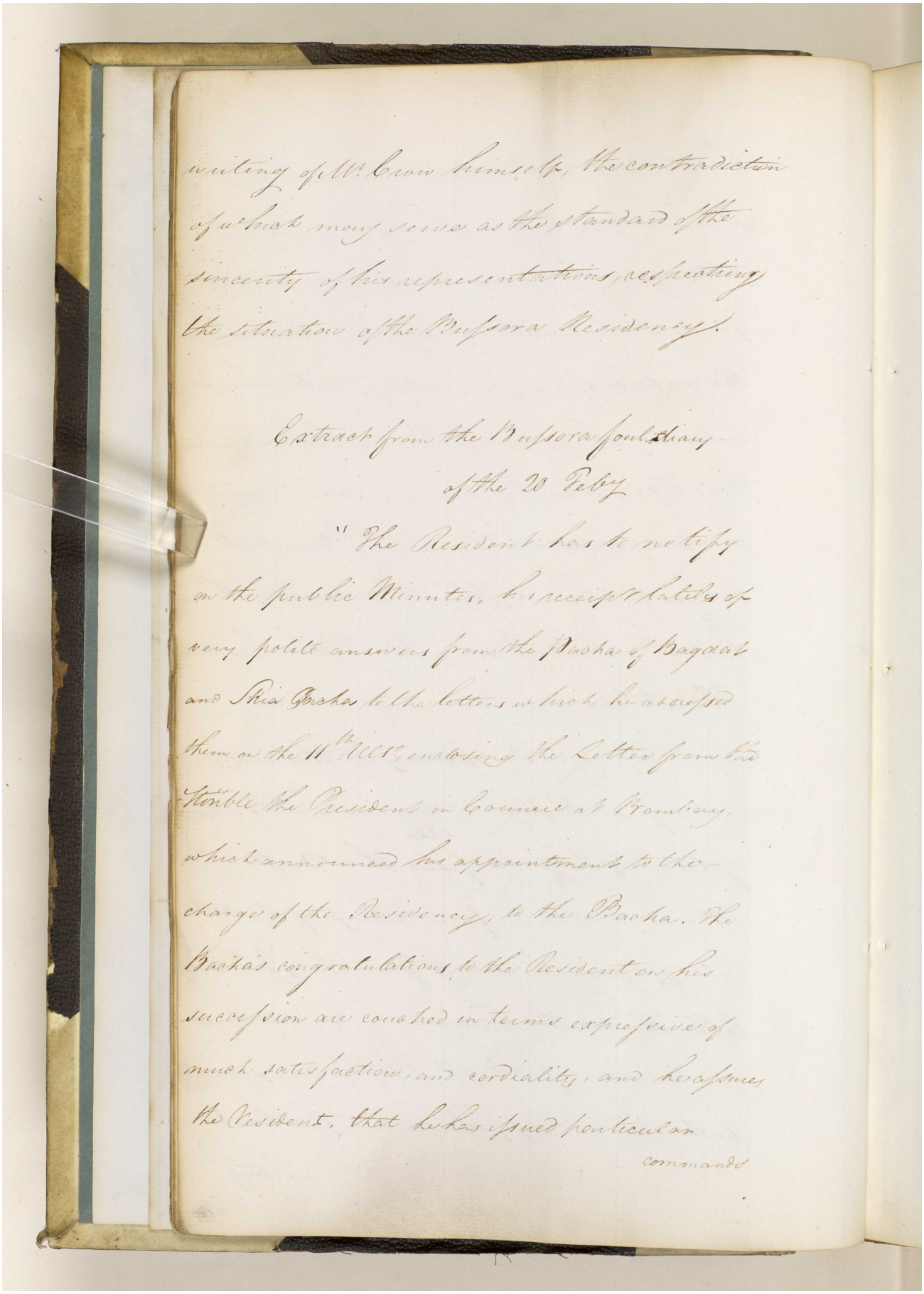
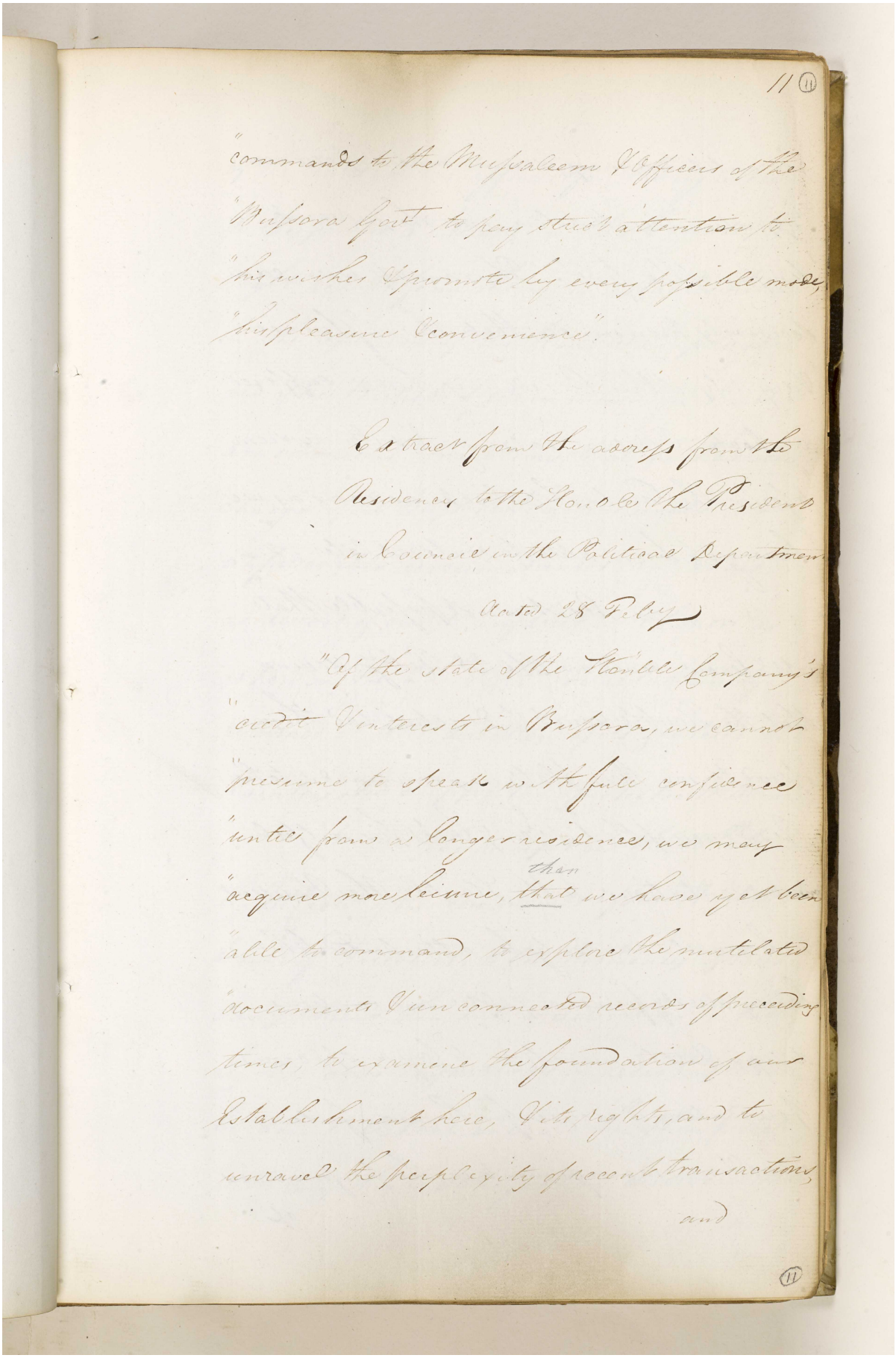


writing of Mr Crow himself, the contradiction of which may serve as the standard of the sincerity of his representations respecting the situation of the Bussora Residency.

Extract from the Bussora Consultations of the 20 Feby

"The Resident has to notify on the public Minutes, his receipt lately of very polite answers from the Pacha of Bagdad and Syria Pacha to the letters which he addressed them on the 11th Nov.r enclosing the Letter from the Honble the President in Council at Bombay, which announced his appointment to the charge of the Residency, to the Pacha. The Pacha's congratulations to the Resident on his succession are couched in terms expressive of much satisfaction, and cordiality, and he assures the Resident, that he has issued particular commands

'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [11r] (13/232)



"commands to the Mussaleem & Officers of the "Bussora Govt to pay strict attention to "his wishes & promote by every possible mode, "his pleasure & convenience".

Extract from the address from the Residency to the Honble the President in Council in the Political Department

dated 28 Feby

"Of the state of the Honble Company's "credit & interests in Bussora, we cannot "presume to speak with full confidence "until from a longer residence, we may "acquire more leisure, than that we have yet been "able to command, to explore the mutilated "documents & unconnected records of preceding times, to examine the foundation of our Establishment here, & its rights, and to unravel the perplexity of recent transactions,

and

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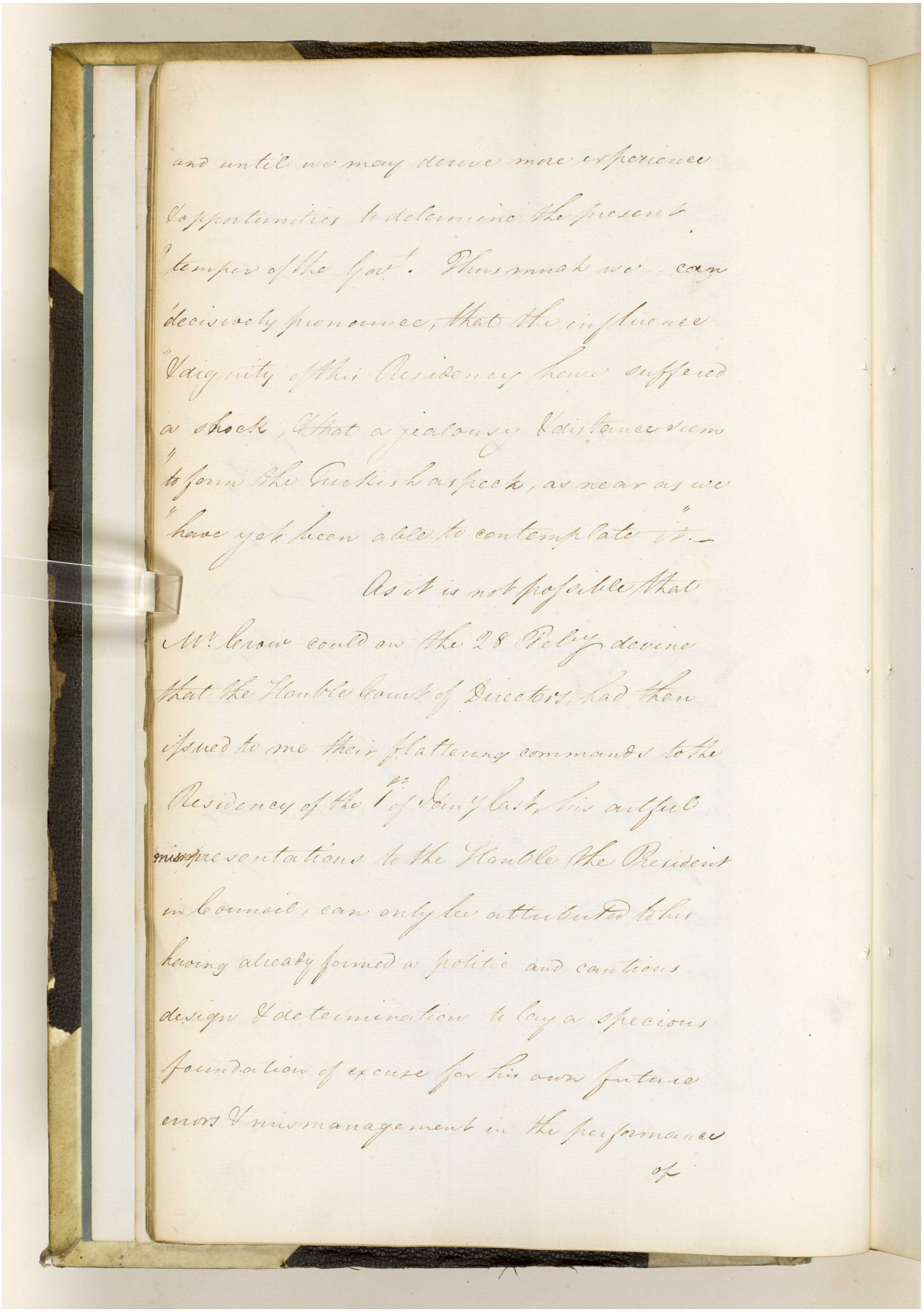

and until we may derive more experience
& opportunities to determine the present
temper of the Govt. Thus much we can
decisively pronounce, that the influence
& dignity of this Residency have suffered
a shock, that a jealousy & distance seem
to form the Turkish aspect, as near as we
have yet been able to contemplate it.—

As it is not possible that
Mr Crow could on the 28 Feby deem
that the Honble Court of Directors, had then
issued to me their flattering commands to the
Residency of the 1st of Jany last, his artful
misrepresentations to the Honble the Resident
in Bussorah, can only be attributed to his
having already formed a politic and cautious
design & determination to lay a specious
foundation of excuse for his own future
errors & mismanagement in the performance
of

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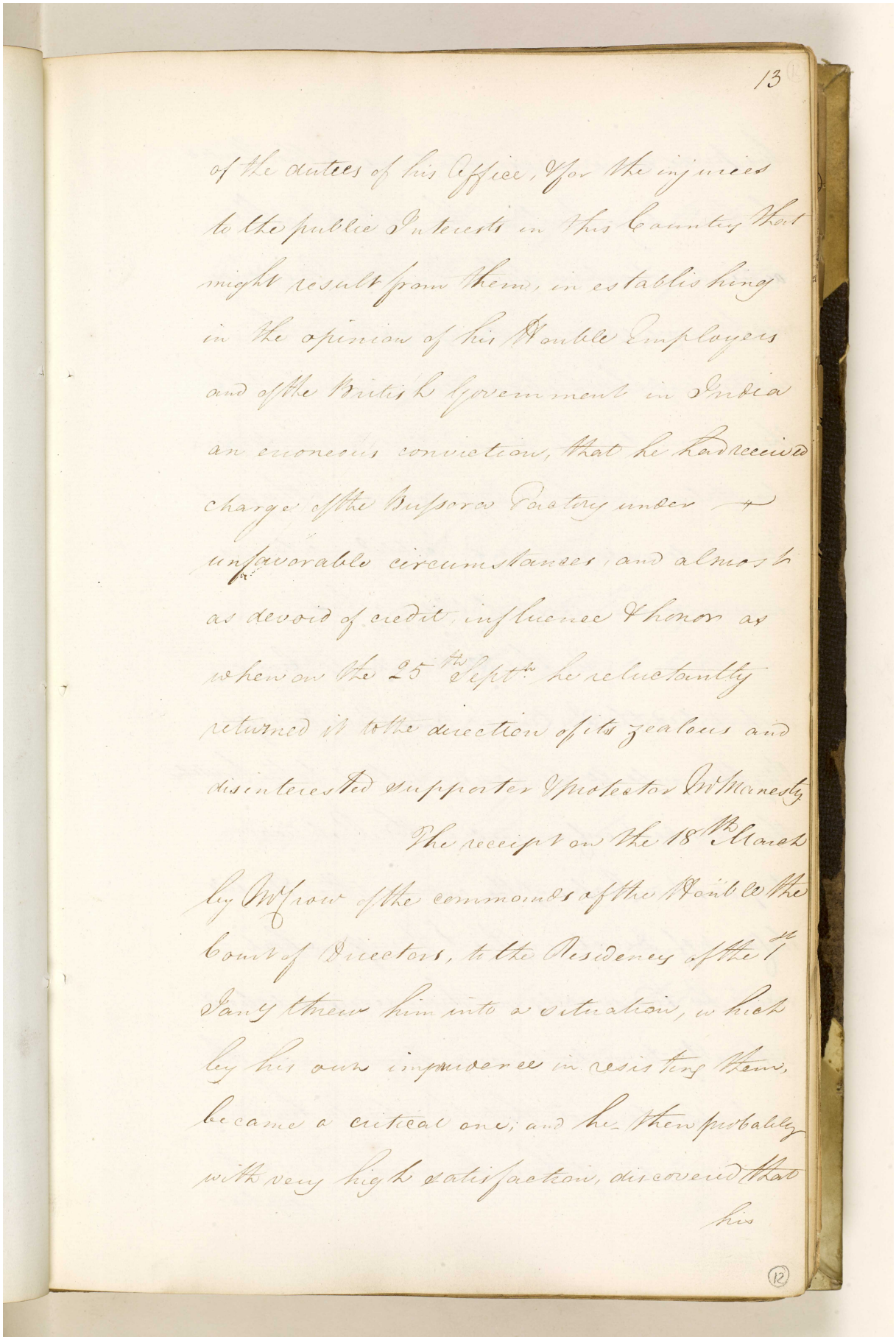

of the duties of his Office, for the injuries
to the public Interests in this Country that
might result from them, in establishing
in the opinion of his Honble Employers
and of the British Government in India
an erroneous conviction, that he had received
charge of the Bussora Factory under
unfavorable circumstances, and almost
as devoid of credit, influence & honor as
when on the 25th Sept. he reluctantly
returned it to the direction of its zealous and
disinterested supporter & protector Mr Manesty

The receipt on the 18th March
by Mr Crow of the commands of the Honble the
Court of Directors, to the Residency of the 1st
Jany threw him into a situation, which
by his own imprudence in resisting them,
became a critical one; and he then probably
with very high satisfaction, discovered that
his

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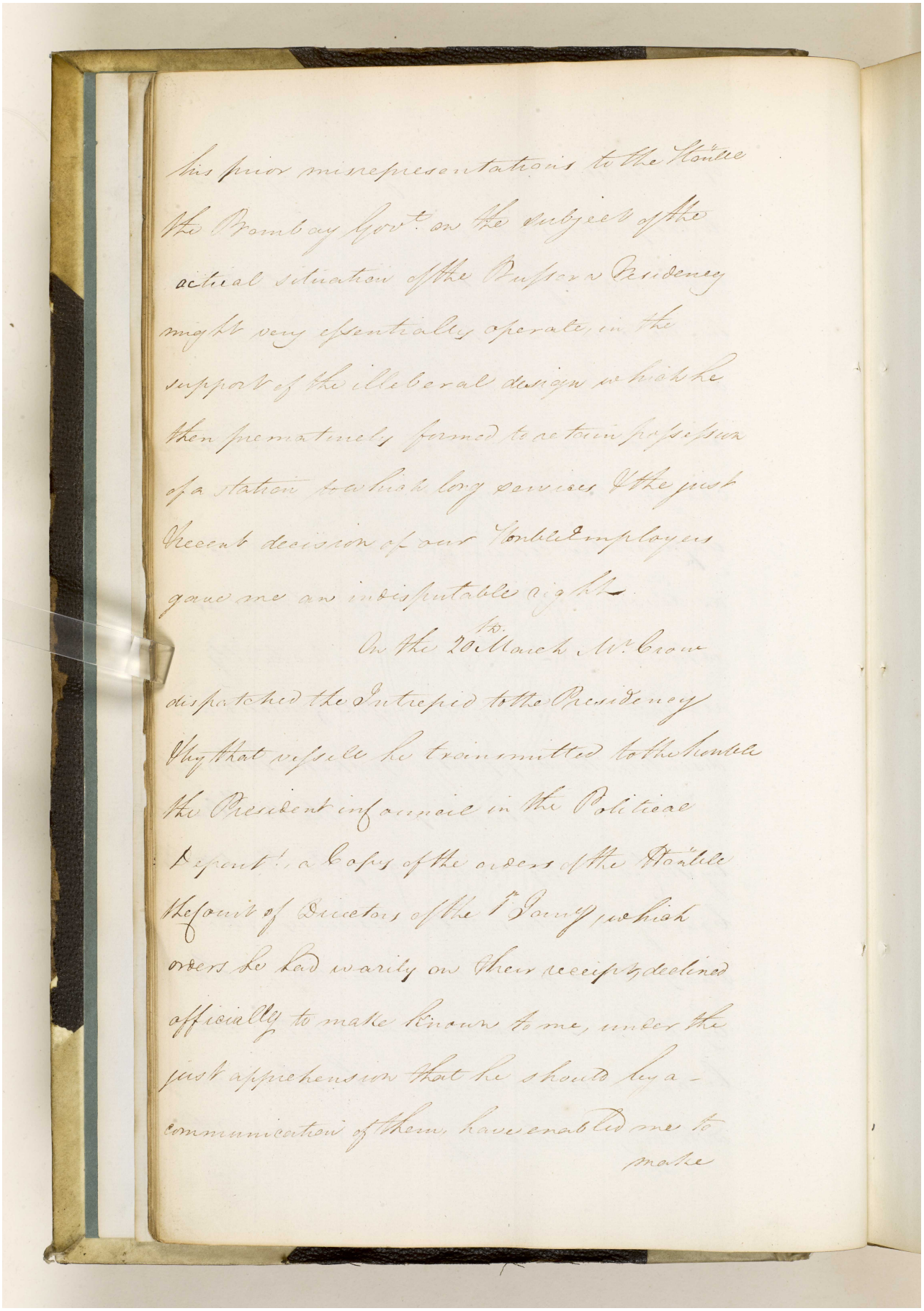

his prior misrepresentations to the Honble
the Bombay Govt. on the subject of the
actual situation of the Bussora Residency
might be very essentially operate in the
support of the illiberal design which he
then prematurely formed to retain possession
of a station to which long services & the just
recent decision of our Honble Employers
gave me an indisputable right.

On the 20th March Mr. Crow
dispatched the Intrepid to the Residency
(by that vessel he transmitted to the Honble
the President intimation in the Political
Department) a Copy of the orders of the Honble
the Court of Directors of the 7th January which
orders he had warily on their receipt declined
officially to make known to me, under the
just apprehension that he should by a
communication of them, have enabled me to
make

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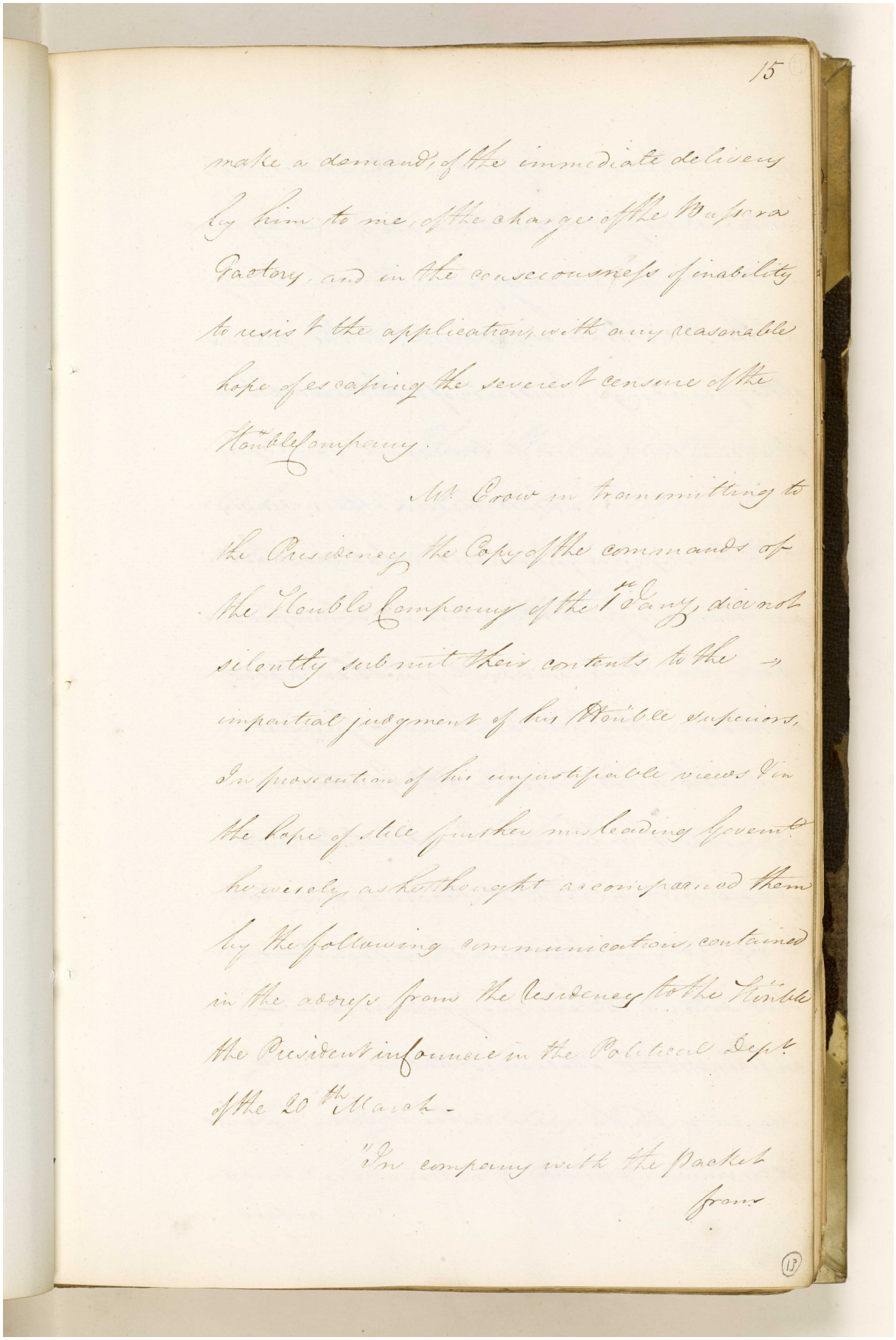

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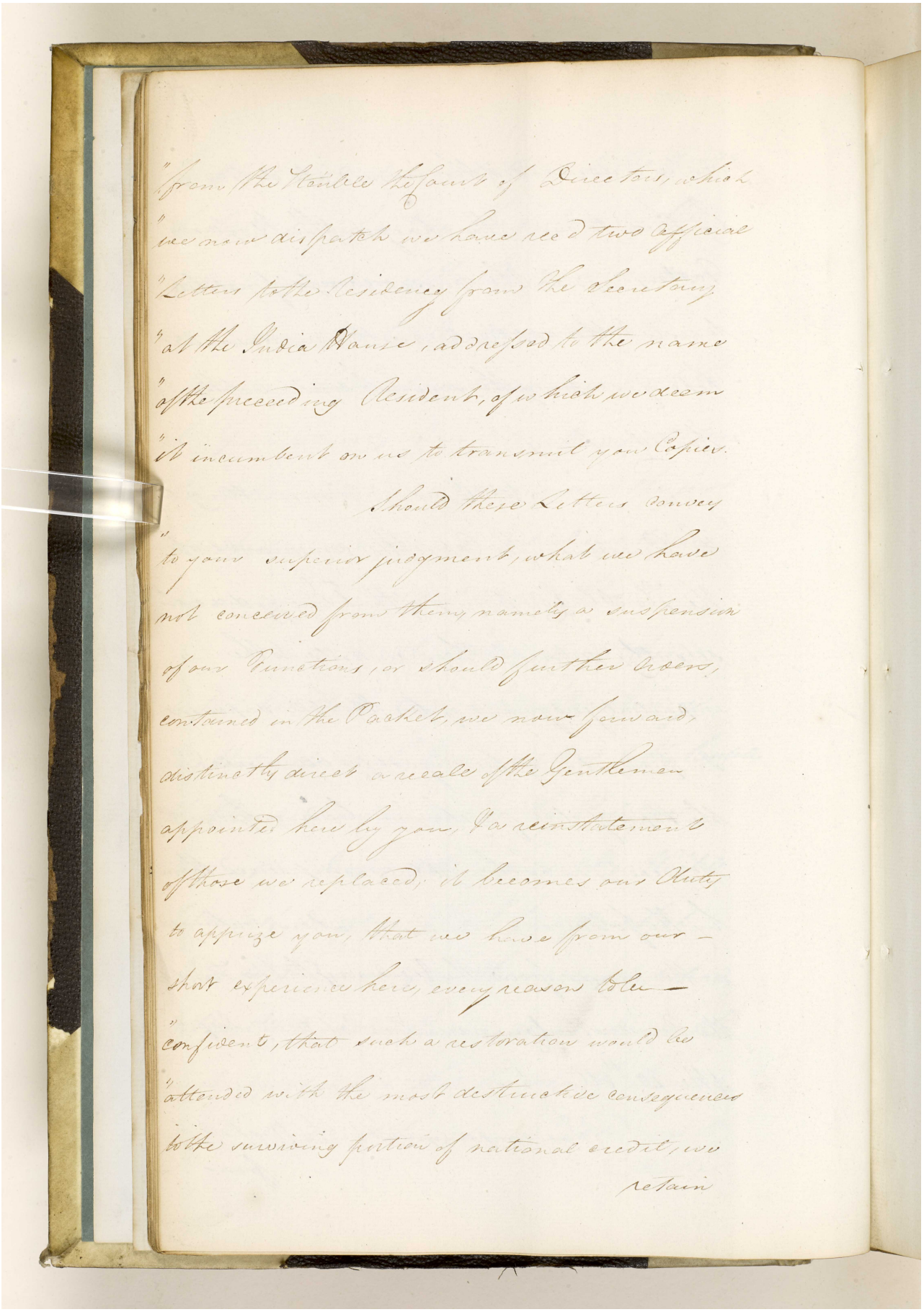
make a demand of the immediate delivery
by him to me, of the charge of the Mysore
Factory, and in the consciousness of inability
to resist the application, with any reasonable
hope of escaping the severest censure of the
Honble Company.

Mr Crow in transmitting to
the Presidency the Copy of the commands of
the Honble Company of the 1st Jany, did not
silently submit their contents to the
impartial judgment of his Honble superiors,
In prosecution of his unjustifiable views in
the hope of still further misleading Government
he wisely as he thought accompanied them
by the following communications, contained
in the accounts from the Residency to the Honble
the President in Council in the Political Dept
of the 20th March -

"In company with the Packet
from

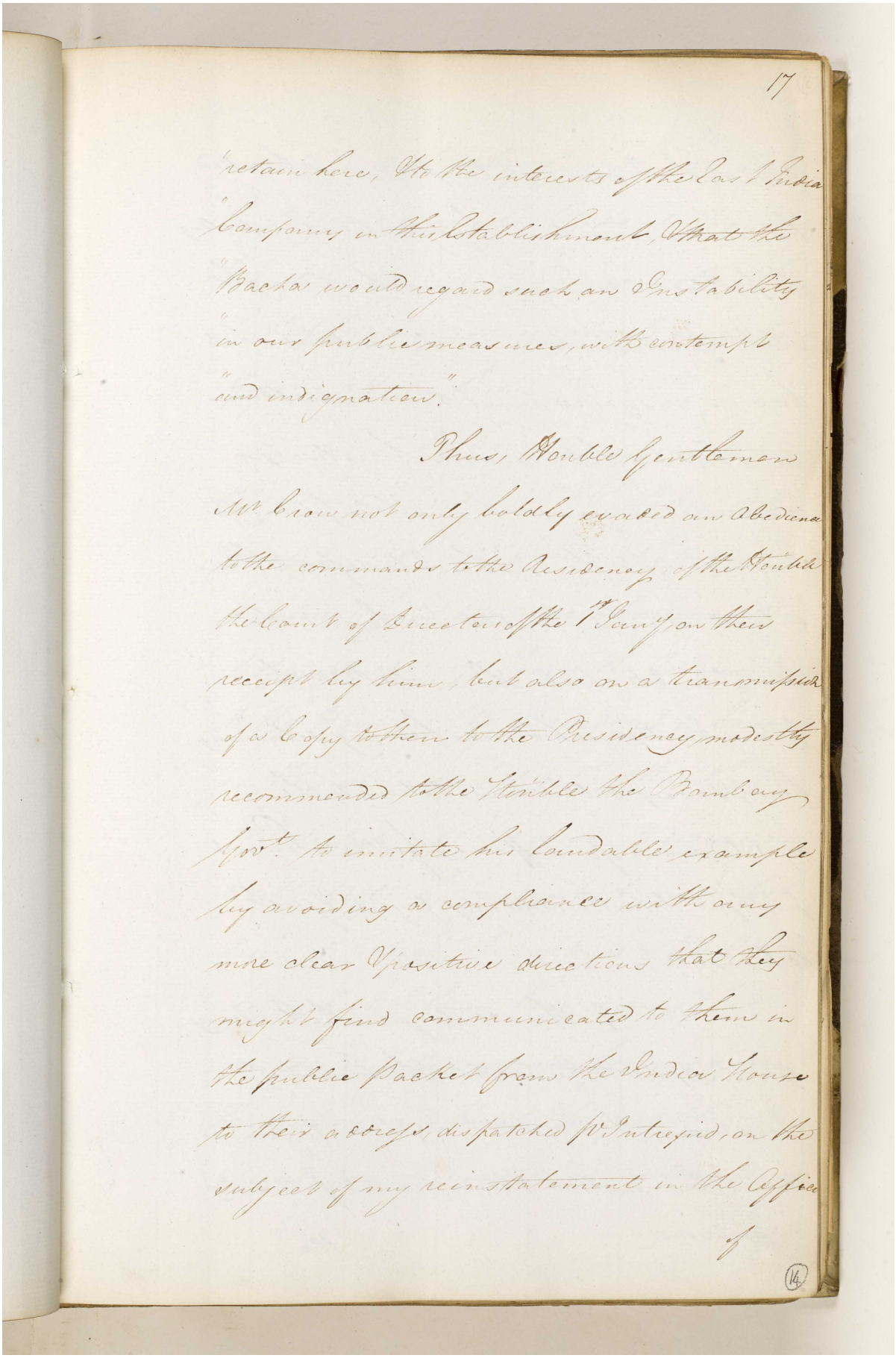
(13)



"from the Honble the Court of Directors, which
"we now dispatch we have recd two official
"Letters to the Residency from the Secretary
"at the India House, addressed to the name
"of the preceeding Resident, of which we deem
"it incumbent on us to transmit you Copies.

Should these Letters convey
"to your superior judgment, what we have
not conceived from them, namely a suspension
of our Functions, or should further Orders,
contained in the Packet, we now forward,
distinctly direct a recall of the Gentlemen
appointed hereby you, to reinstate us
of those we replaced, it becomes our Duty
to apprize you, that we have from our —
short experience here, every reason to be —
"confident, that such a restoration would be
"attended with the most destructive consequences
to the surviving portion of national credit, we
retain

'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [14r] (19/232)



"retain here, & to the interests of the East India
"Company in this Establishment, & that the
"Bacha would regard such an Instability
"in our public measures, with contempt
"and indignation."

Thus, Honble Gentlemen
Mr Crow not only boldly evaded an Obedience
to the commands to the Residency of the Honble
the Court of Directors of the 1st Jany on their
receipt by him, but also on a transmission
of a Copy to them to the Presidency modestly
recommended to the Honble the Bombay
Govt. to imitate his laudable example
by avoiding a compliance with any
more clear & positive directions that they
might find communicated to them in
the public Packet from the India House
to their address, dispatched pr Intrepid, on the
subject of my reinstatement in the Office

of

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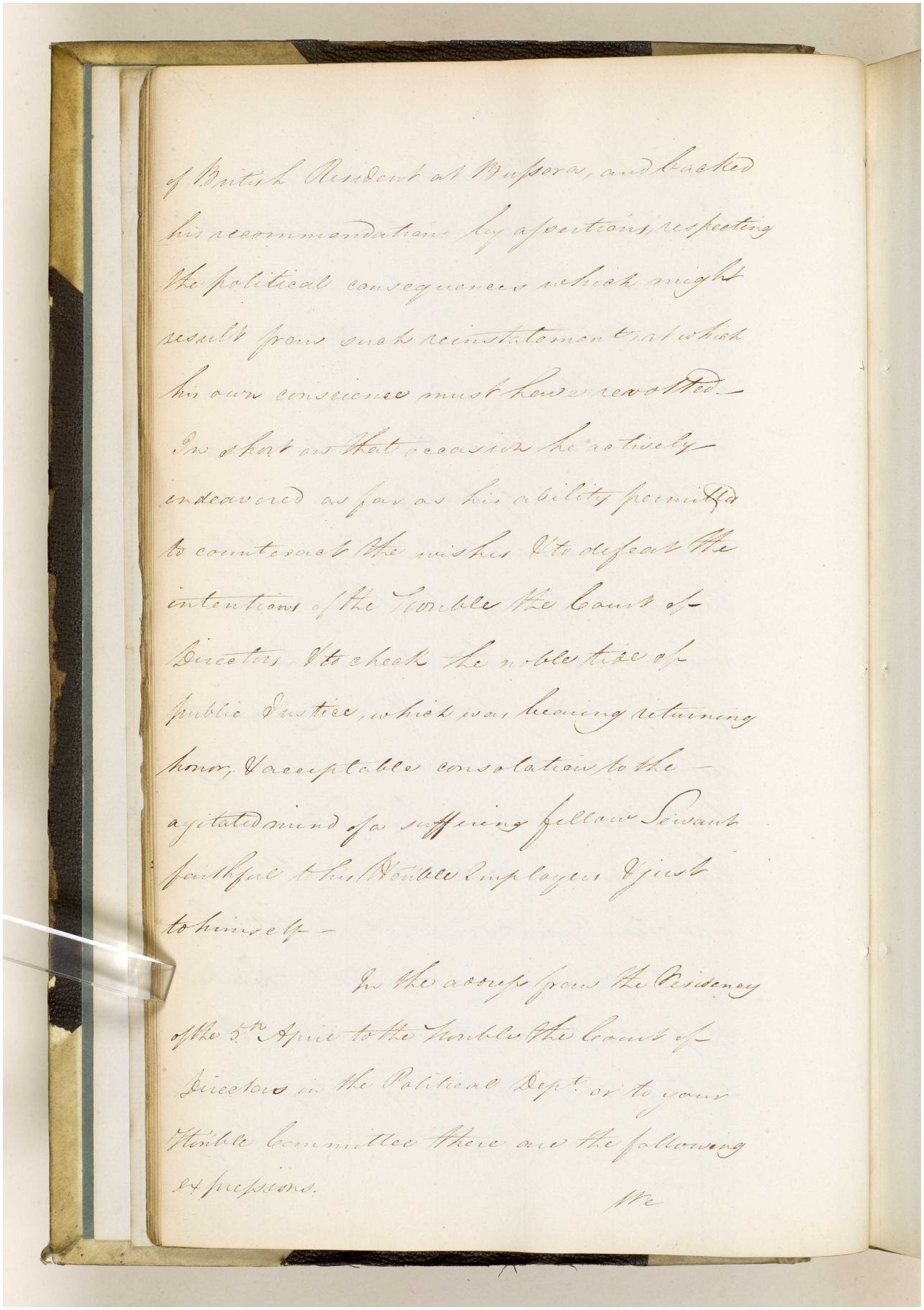

of British Resident at Mysore, and backed his recommendations by assertions, respecting the political consequences which might result from such reinstatement that which his own conscience must have revolted — In what on that occasion he actively endeavored as far as his ability permitted to counteract the wishes & to defeat the intentions of the Honble the Court of Directors & to check the noble tide of public Justice, which was beaming returning honor, & acceptable consolation to the agitated mind of a suffering fellow Servant faithful to his Honble Employers & just to himself —

In the accounts from the Residency of the 2d Apric to the Honble the Court of Directors in the Political Dept. or to your Honble Committee there are the following expressions.

We

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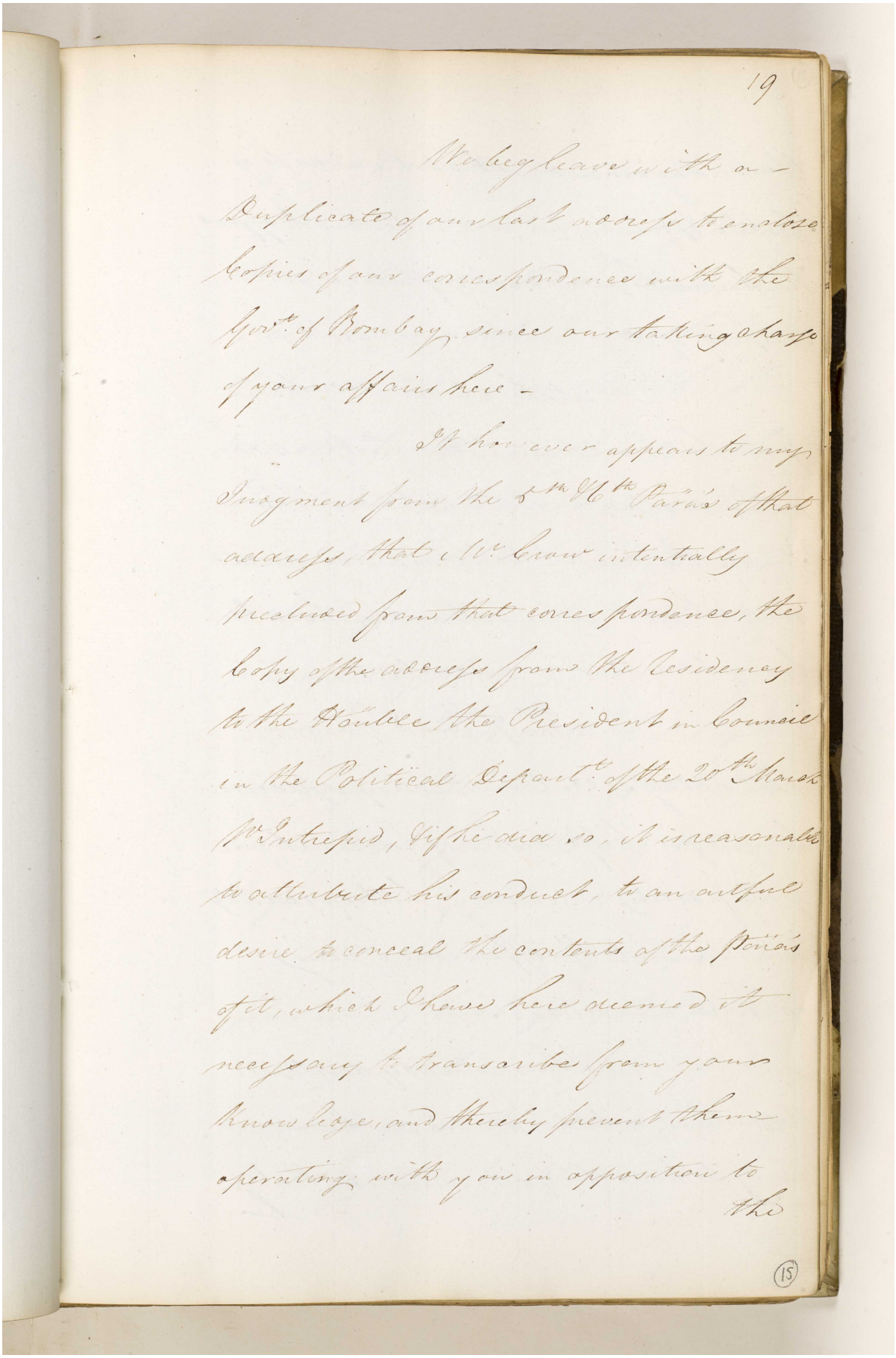

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We beg leave with our
Duplicate of our last address to enclose
Copies of our correspondence with the
Govt. of Bombay since our taking charge
of your affairs here -

It however appears to my
Judgment from the 5th & 6th Paras of that
address, that we know intentionally
precluded from that correspondence, the
Copy of the address from the Residency
to the Honble the President in Council
in the Political Depart. of the 20th March
Mr Entrepid, if he did so, it is reasonable
to attribute his conduct, to an artful
desire to conceal the contents of the Paras
of it, which I know here deemed it
necessary to transcribe from your
knowledge, and thereby prevent them
operating with you in opposition to
the

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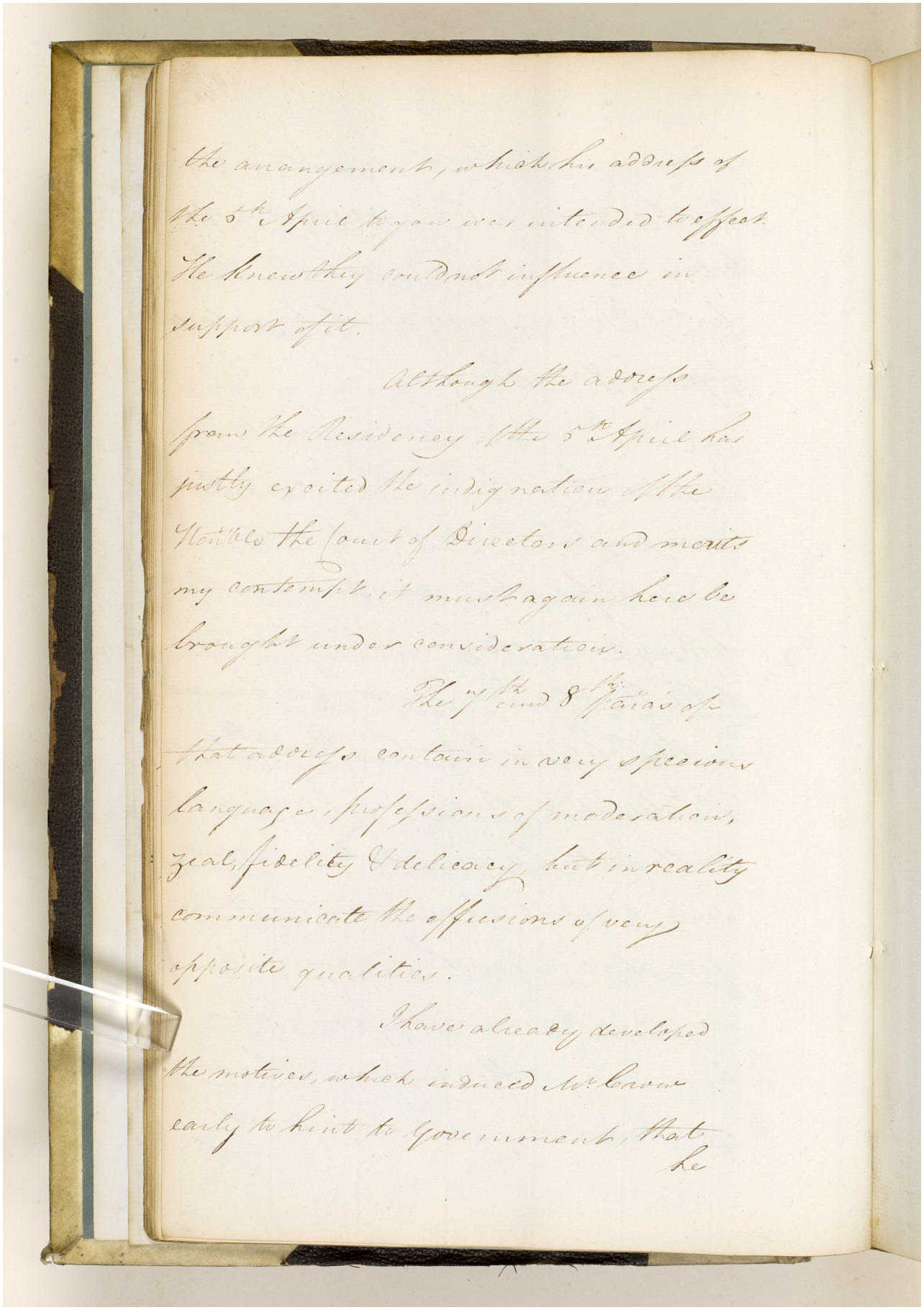

the arrangement, which this address of the 5th April to you was intended to effect. He knew they could not influence in support of it.

Although the address from the Residency of the 5th April has justly excited the indignation of the Honble the Court of Directors and merits my contempt, it must again have to be brought under consideration.

The 7th and 8th Paras of that address contain in very specious language professions of moderation, zeal, fidelity & delicacy, but in reality communicate the effusions of very opposite qualities.

I have already developed the motives, which induced Mr Crow early to hint to Government, that he

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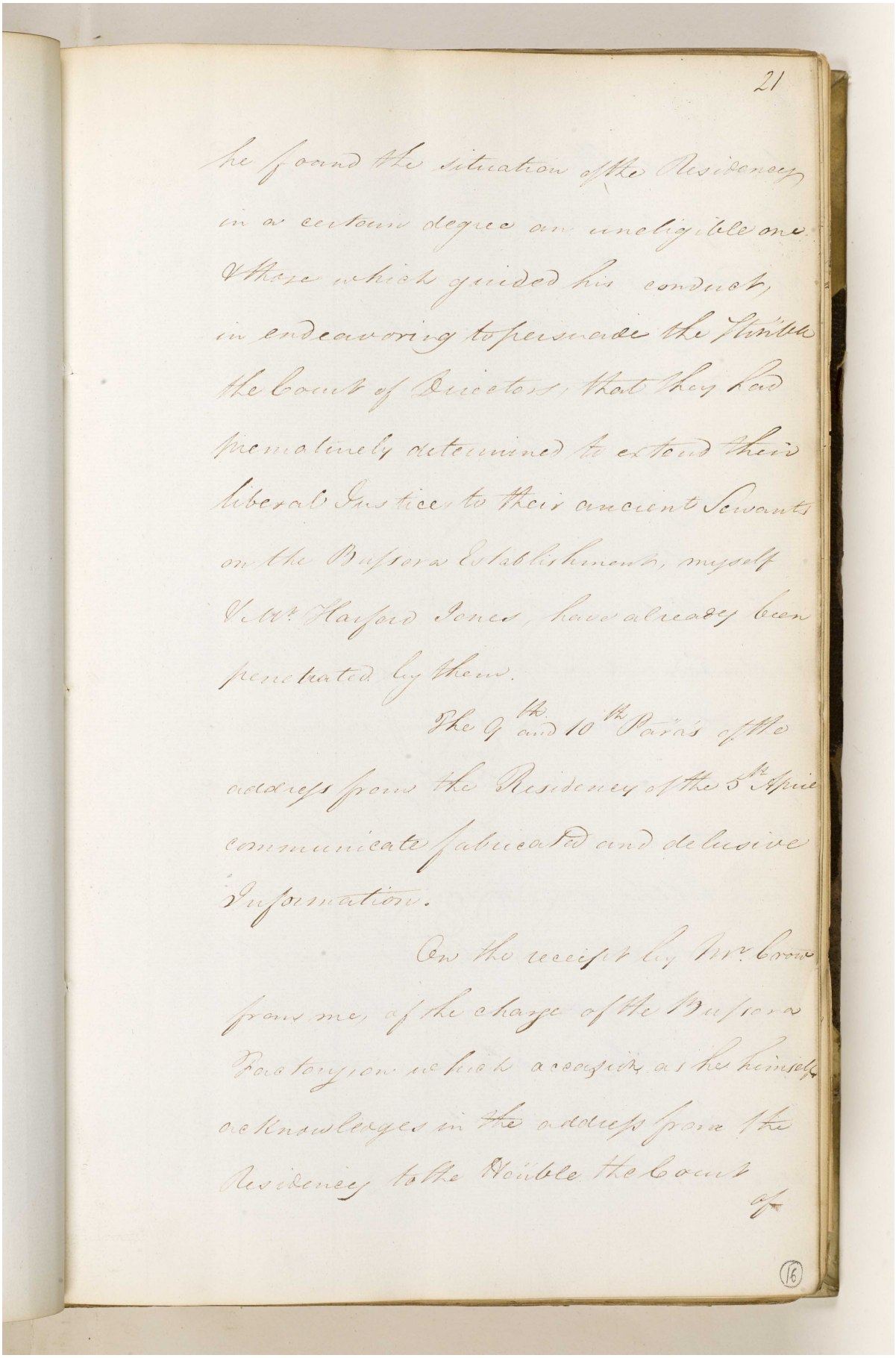

he found the situation of the Residency
in a certain degree an unenviable one.
& those which guided his conduct,
in endeavoring to persuade the Hon'ble
the Court of Directors, that they had
prematurely determined to extend their
liberal Justice to their ancient Servants
on the Bussora Establishments, myself
& Mr. Harford Jones, have already been
penetrated by them.

The 9th and 10th Para's of the
address from the Residency of the 5th April
communicate fabricated and delusive
Information.

On the receipt by Mr. Crow
from me, of the charge of the Bussora
Factory, on which occasion as he himself
acknowledges in the address from the
Residency to the Honble the Court
of

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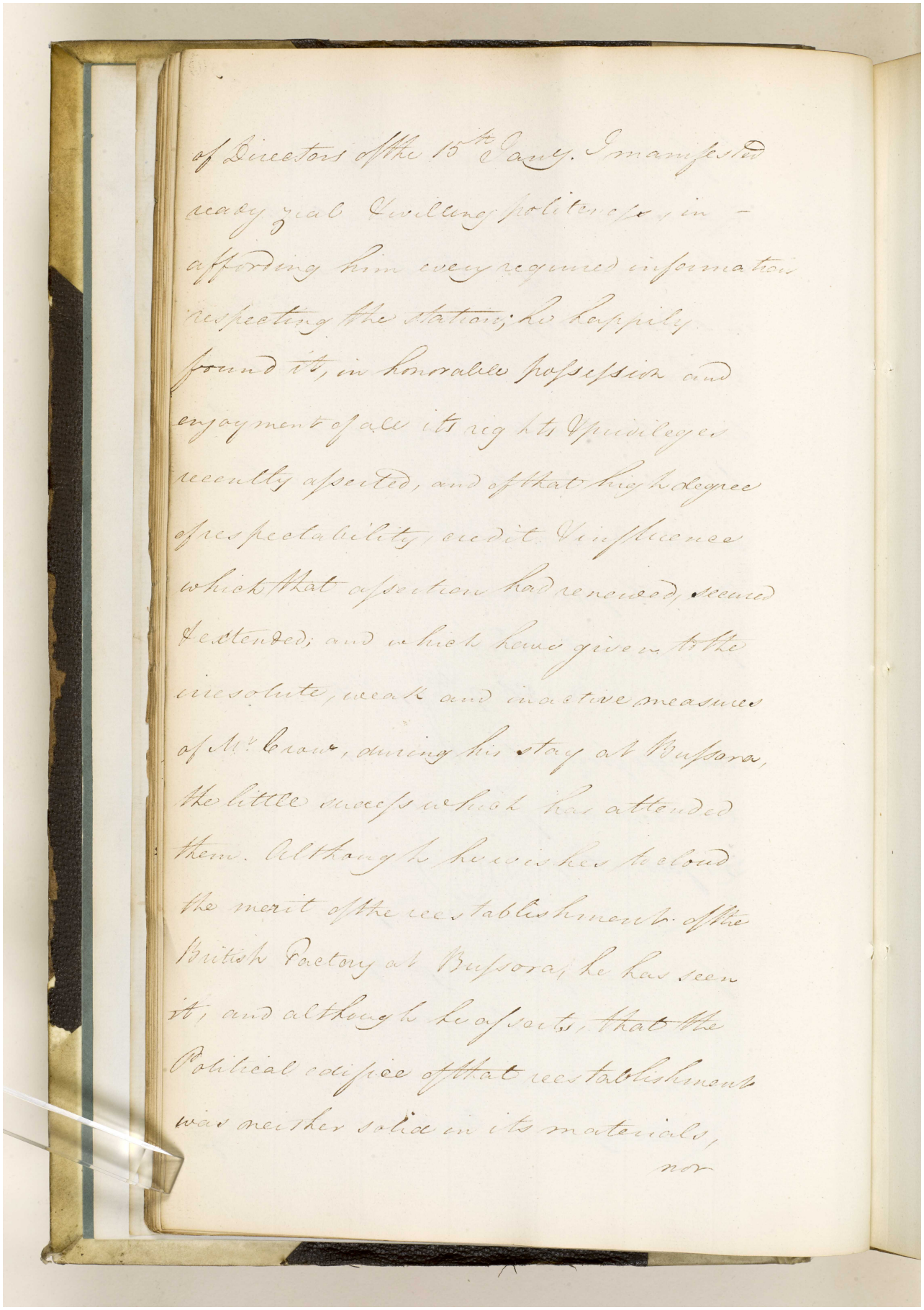

of Directors of the 15th Jany. I manifested
ready zeal & willing politeness, in
affording him every required information
respecting the station; he happily
found it, in honorable possession and
enjoyment of all its rights & privileges
recently asserted, and of that high degree
of respectability, credit & influence
which that assertion had renewed, secured
& extended; and which have given to the
irresolute, weak and inactive measures
of Mr. Crow, during his stay at Bussora,
the little success which has attended
them. Although he wishes to cloud
the merit of the reestablishment of the
British Factory at Bussora, he has seen
it, and although he asserts, that the
Political edifice of that reestablishment
was neither solid in its materials,
nor

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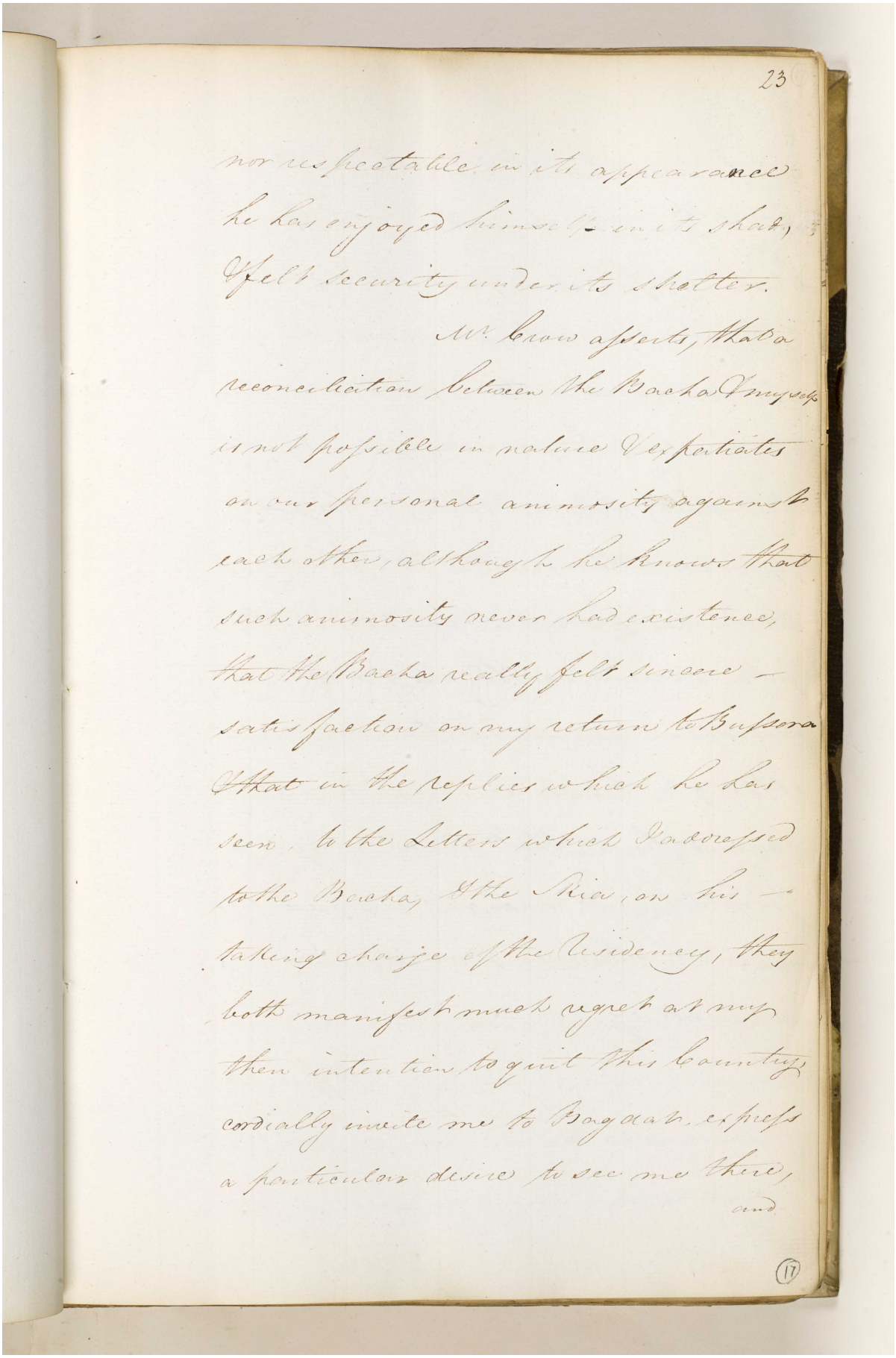

nor respectable in its appearance
he has enjoyed himself in its shade,
& felt security under its shelter.

Mr. Crow asserts, that a
reconciliation between the Bacha & myself
is not possible in nature & expostulates
on our personal animosity against
each other, although he knows that
such animosity never had existence,
that the Bacha really felt sincere
satisfaction on my return to Bussora
& that in the replies which he has
seen, to the Letters which I addressed
to the Bacha, & the Nica, on his
taking charge of the Residency, they
both manifest much regret at my
then intention to quit this Country,
cordially invite me to Bagdad, express
a particular desire to see me there,
and

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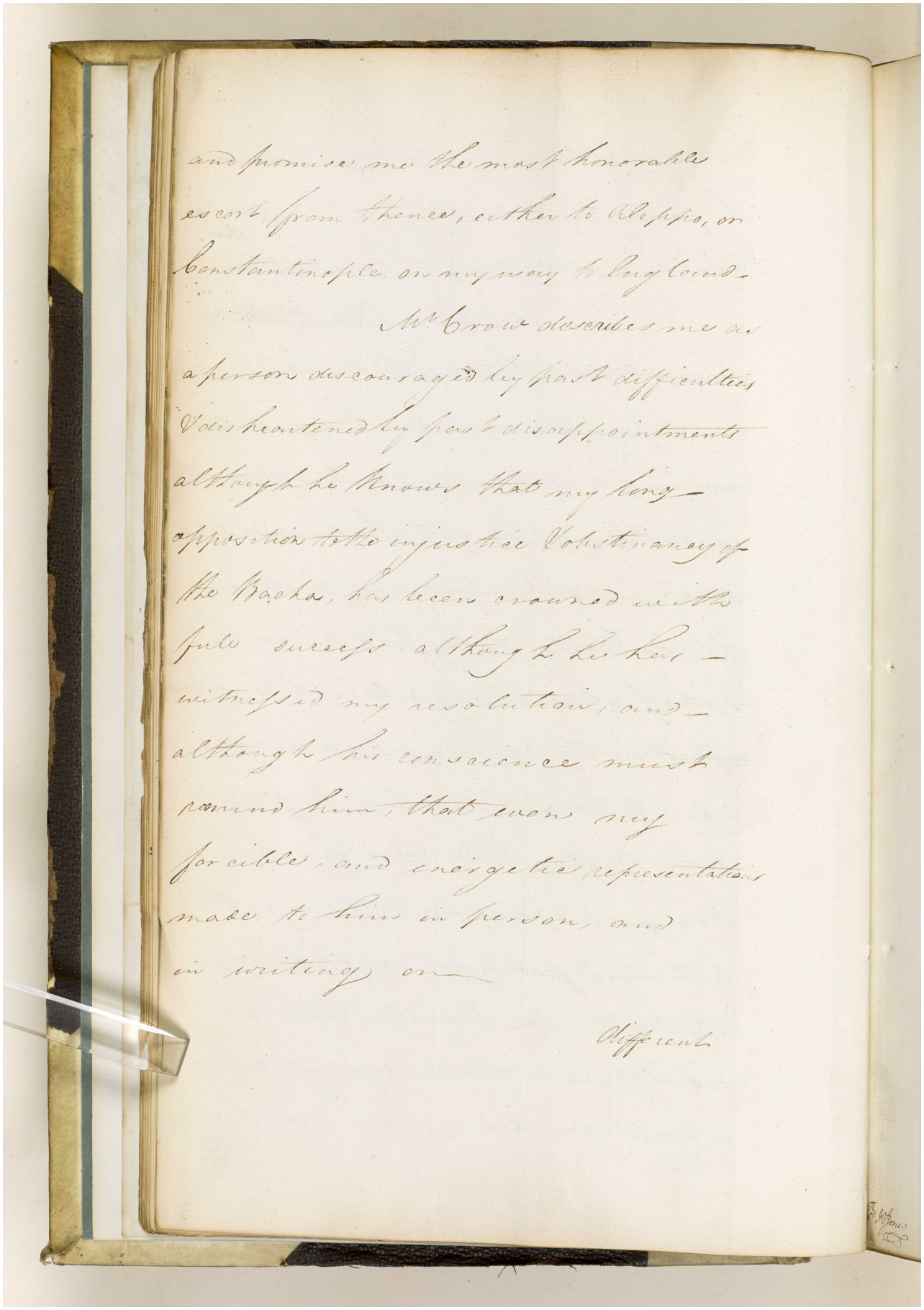

and promise me the most honorable
escort from thence, either to Aleppo, or
Constantinople on my way to England.
Mr. Crow describes me as
a person discouraged by past difficulties
& disheartened by late disappointments
although he knows that my long
opposition to the injustice & obstinancy of
the Basha, has been crowned with
full success, although he has
witnessed my resolution, and
although his conscience must
remind him, that even my
forcible, and energetic representations
made to him in person, and
in writing on

Different

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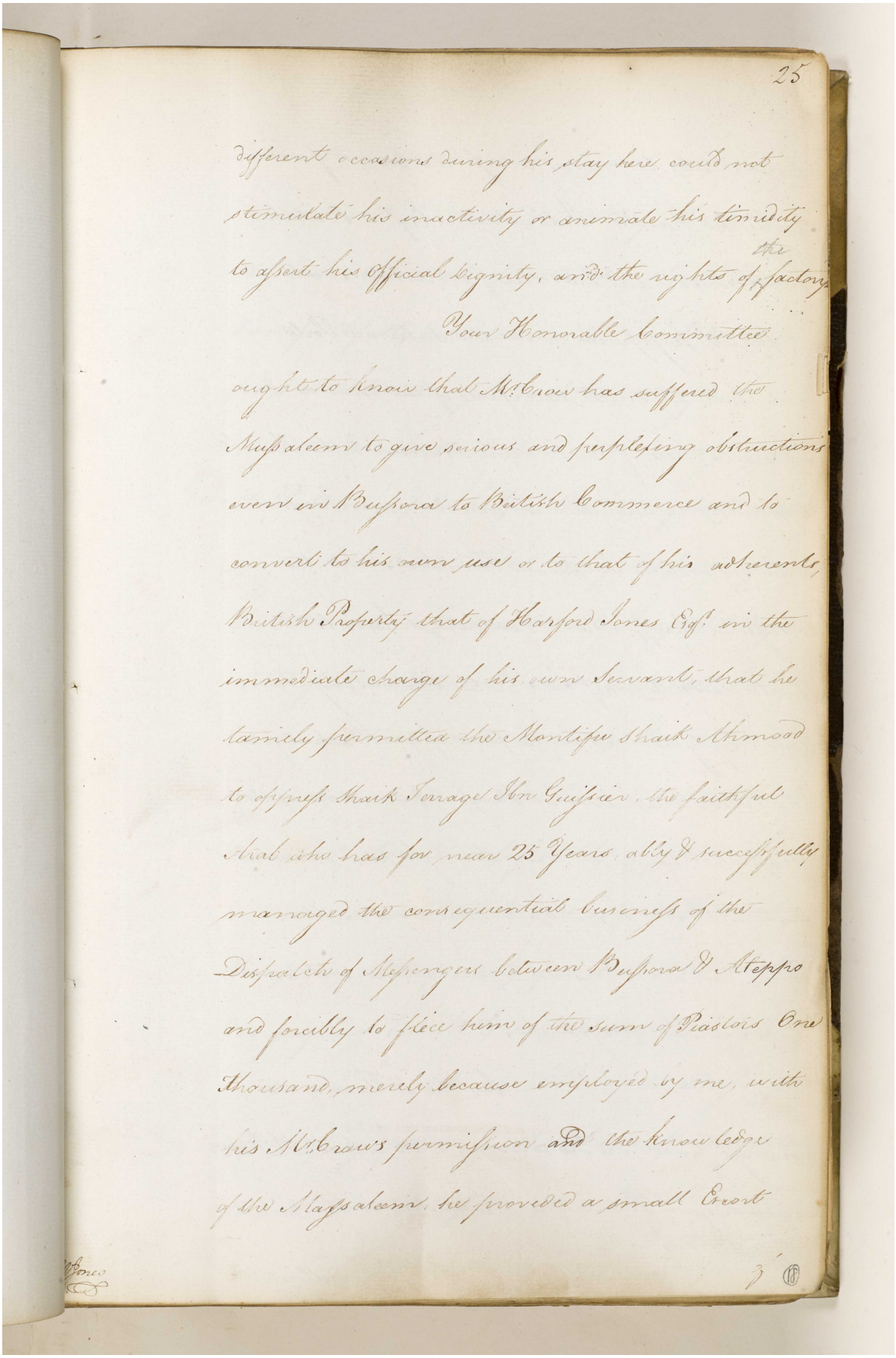
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [18r] (27/232)



different occasions during his stay here could not stimulate his inactivity or animate his timidity to assert his Official Dignity, and the rights of the factory.

Your Honorable Committee ought to know that Mr Crow has suffered the Mussaleem to give serious and perplexing obstructions even in Bussora to British Commerce and to convert to his own use or to that of his adherents, British Property that of Harford Jones Esqr in the immediate charge of his own Servant, that he tamely permitted the Montifu Shaik Ahmood to oppress Shaik Terrage Ibn Guissier, the faithful Arab who has for near 25 Years ably & successfully managed the consequential business of the Dispatch of Messengers between Bussora & Aleppo and forcibly to fleece him of the sum of Piastors One Thousand, merely because employed by me, with his Mr Crow's permission and the knowledge of the Massaleem, he provided a small Escort

Jones

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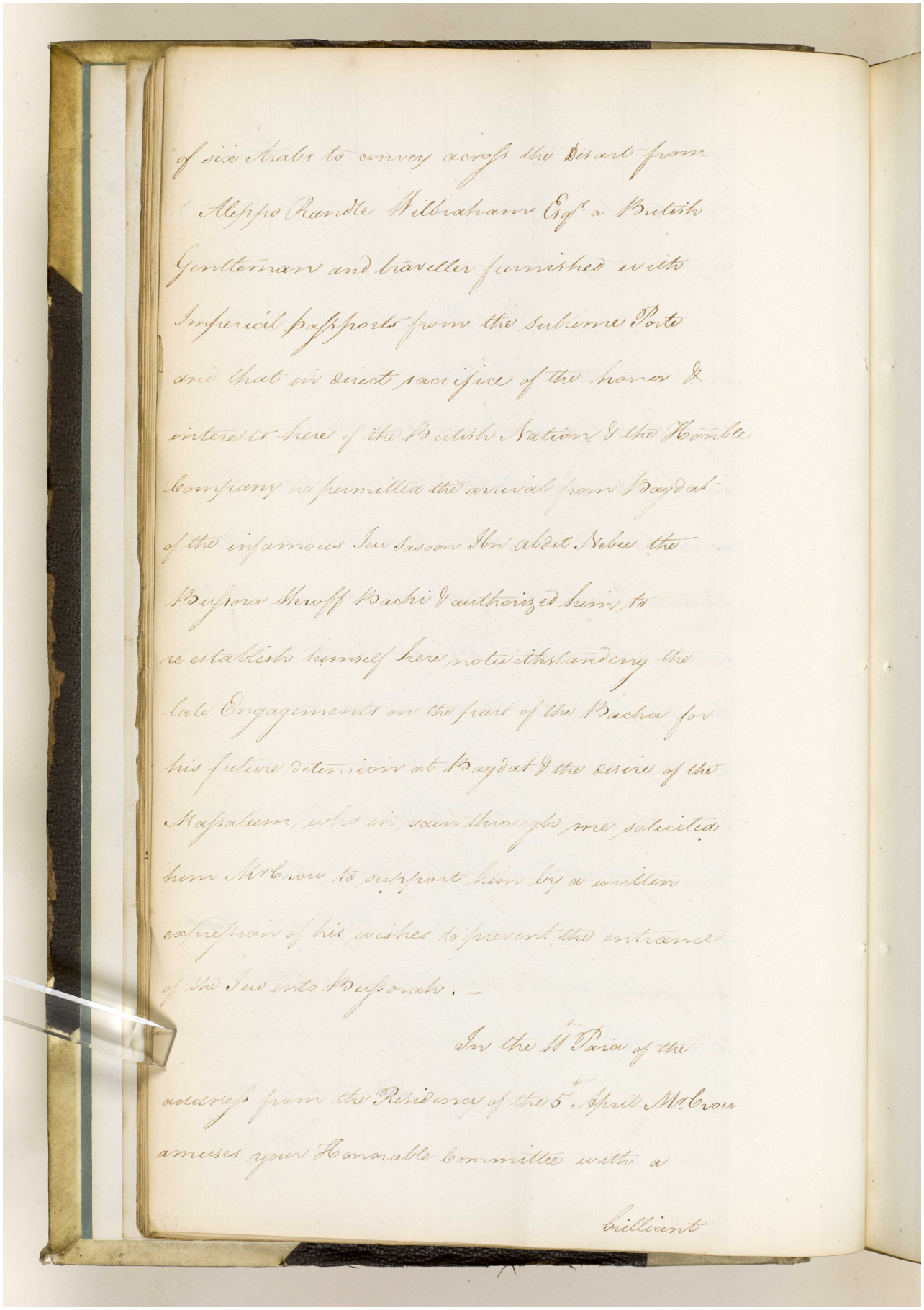

of six Arabs to convey across the Desart from Aleppo Randle Wilbraham Esqr. a British Gentleman and traveller furnished with Imperial passports from the Sublime Porte and that in direct sacrifice of the honor & interests here of the British Nation & the Honble Company he permitted the arrival from Bagdat of the infamous Jew Sasoon Ibn Abdit Nebee the Bussora Shroff Bachi & authorized him to re establish himself here notwithstanding the late Engagements on the part of the Bacha for his future detention at Bagdat & the desire of the Massaleem, who in vain through me solicited him Mr Crow to support him by a written expression of his wishes to prevent the entrance of the Jew into Bussorah. –

In the 11th Para of the address from the Residency of the 5th April Mr Crow amuses your Honorable Committee with a

brilliant

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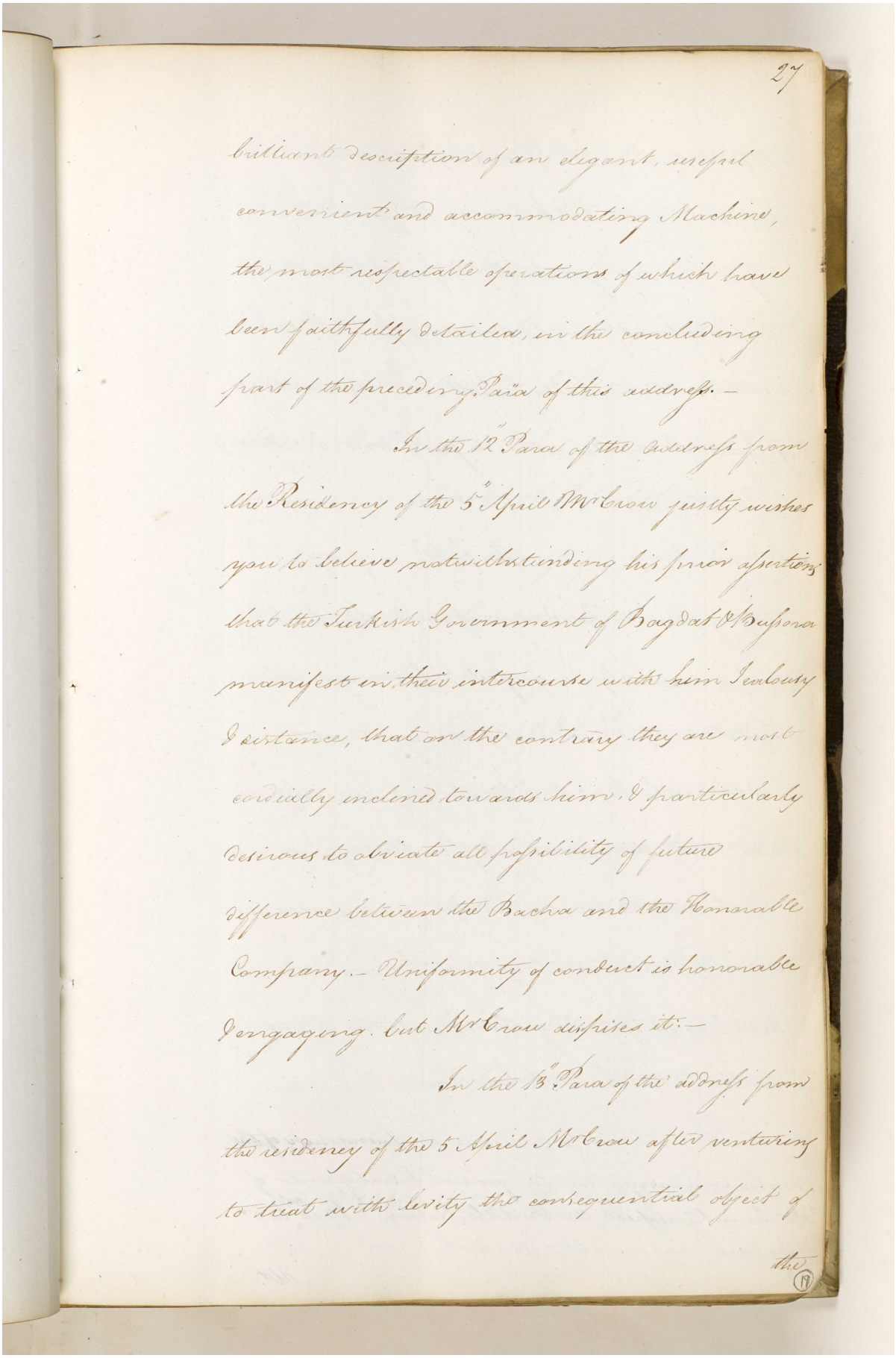

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brilliant description of an elegant, useful convenient and accommodating Machine, the most respectable operations of which have been faithfully detailed, in the concluding part of the preceding Para of this address. —

In the 12th Para of the address from the Residency of the 5th April Mr Crow justly wishes you to believe notwithstanding his prior assertion, that the Turkish Government of Bagdat & Bussora manifest in their intercourse with him Jealousy & distance, that on the contrary they are most cordially inclined towards him, & particularly desirous to obviate all possibility of future difference between the Pacha and the Honorable Company. — Uniformity of conduct is honorable & engaging. but Mr Crow disputes it: —

In the 13th Para of the address from the residency of the 5 April Mr Crow after venturing to treat with levity the consequential object of

the

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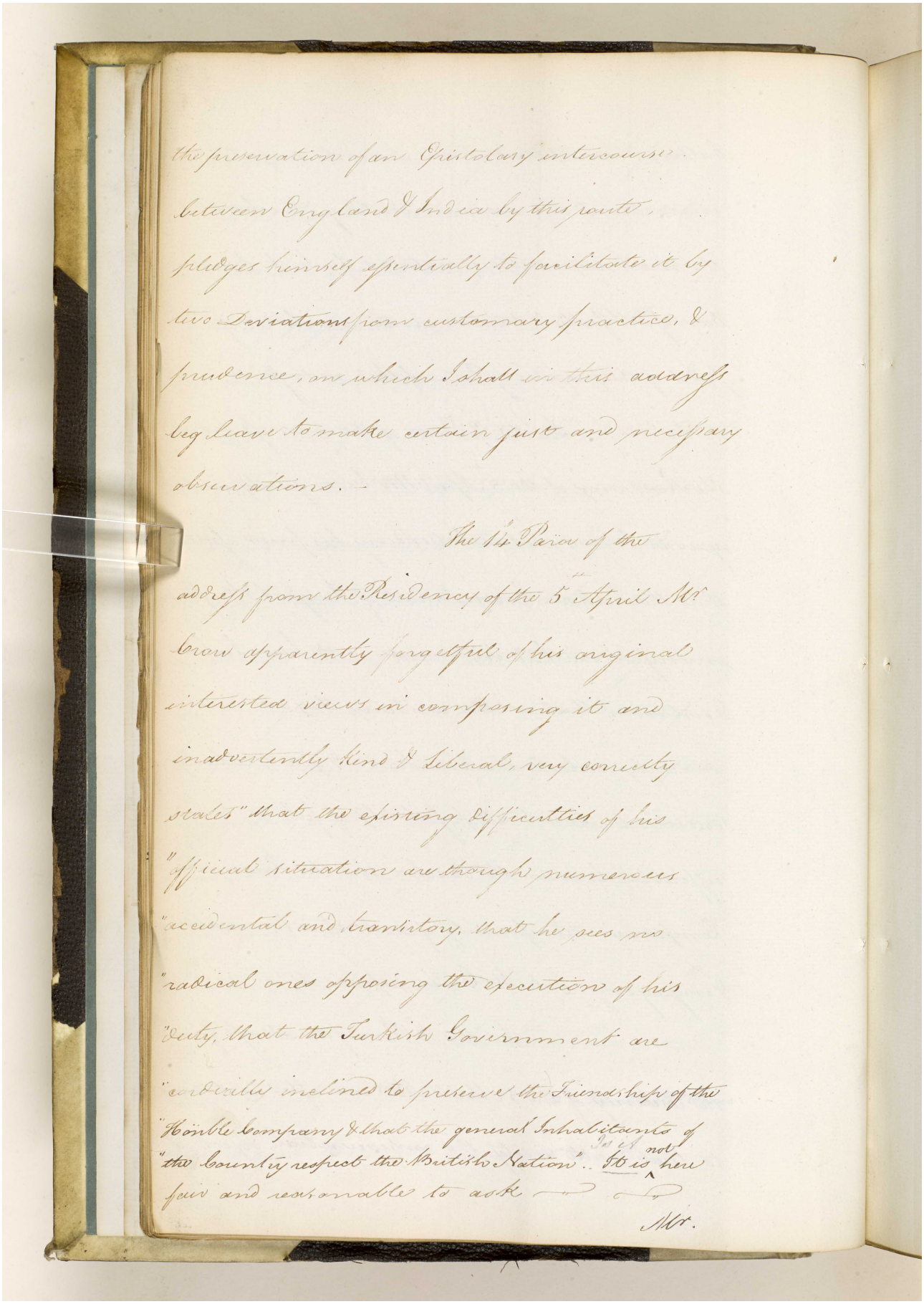

the preservation of an Epistolary intercourse
between England & India by this route,
pledges himself essentially to facilitate it by
two Deviations from customary practice, &
prudence, on which I shall in this address
beg leave to make certain just and necessary
observations. —

The 14th Paira of the
address from the Residency of the 5th April Mr
Crow apparently forgetful of his original
interested views in comparing it and
inadvertently kind & Liberal, very correctly
states "that the existing difficulties of his
"official situation are though numerous
"accidental and transitory, that he sees no
"radical ones opposing the execution of his
"duty, that the Turkish Government are
"cordially inclined to preserve the Friendship of the
"Honble Company & that the general Inhabitants of
"the Country respect the British Nation".. It is not here
fair and reasonable to ask —

Mr.

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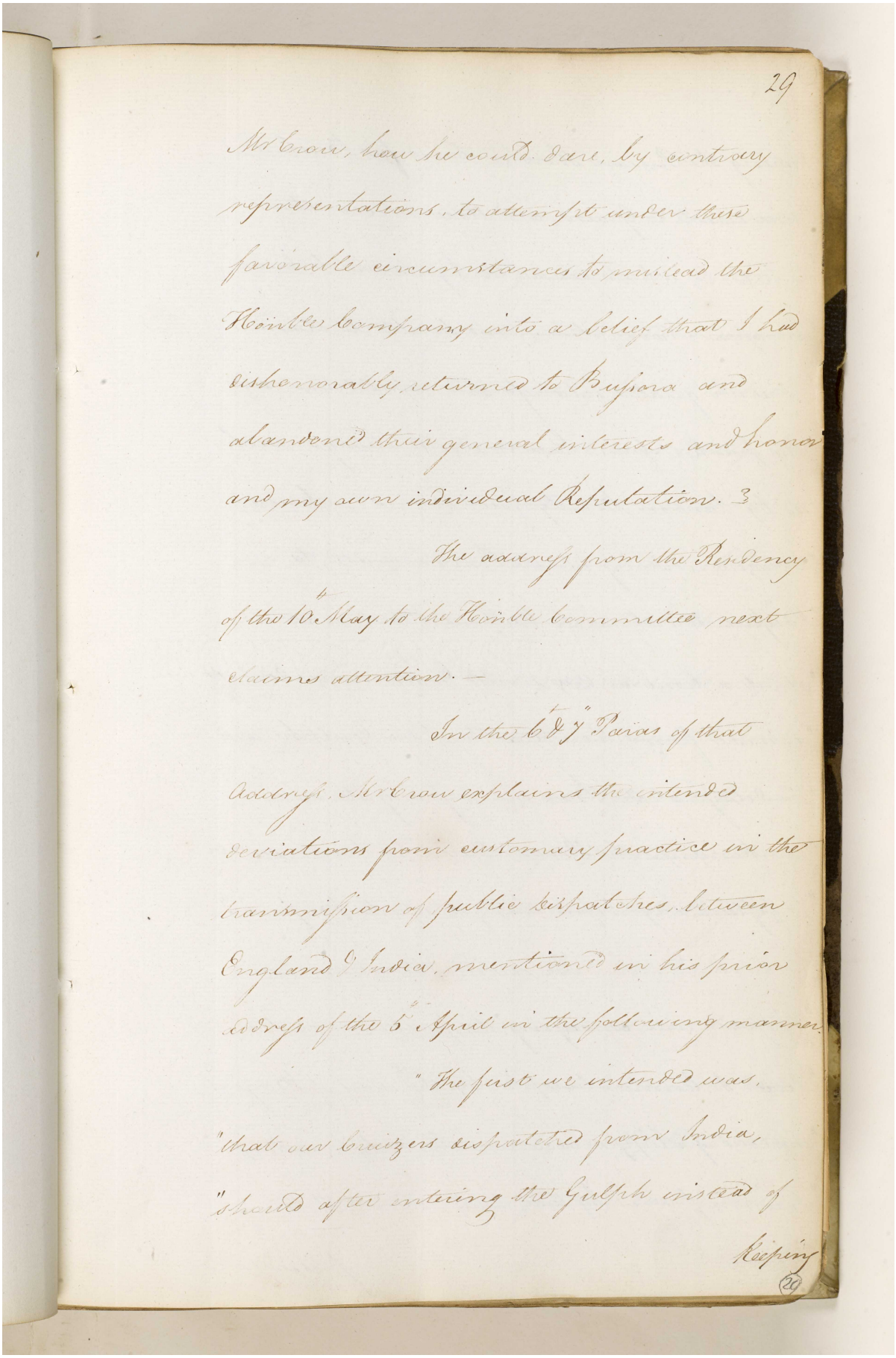

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Mr Crow, how he could dare, by contrary
representations, to attempt under these
favorable circumstances to mislead the
Honble Company into a belief that I had
dishonorably returned to Bussora and
abandoned their general interests and honor
and my own individual Reputation. 3

The address from the Residency
of the 10th May to the Honble Committee next
claims attention. —

In the 6th & 7th Paras of that
Address, Mr Crow explains the intended
deviations from customary practice in the
transmission of public dispatches between
England & India, mentioned in his prior
Address of the 6th April in the following manner.

"The first we intended was,
"that our Cruizers dispatched from India,
"should after entering the Gulph instead of
keeping

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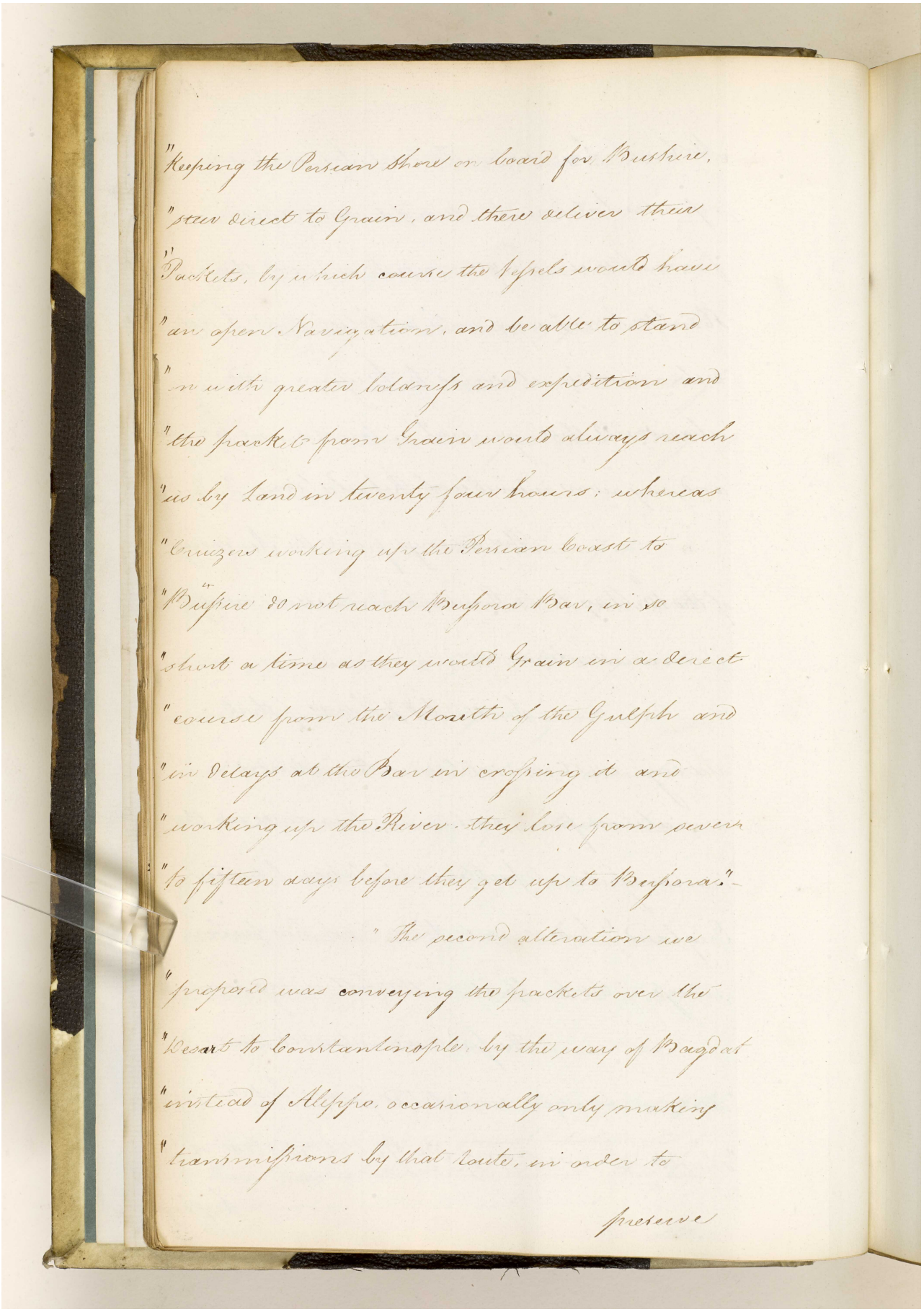

"Keeping the Persian Shore on board for Bushire,
"steer direct to Grain, and there deliver their
"Packets, by which course the Vessels would have
"an open Navigation, and be able to stand
"in with greater boldness and expedition and
"the packets from Grain would always reach
"us by Land in twenty four hours: whereas
"Cruizers working up the Persian Coast to
"Bushire do not reach Bussora Bar, in so
"short a time as they would Grain in a direct
"course from the Mouth of the Gulph and
"in Delays at the Bar in crossing it and
"working up the River they lose from seven
"to fifteen days before they get up to Bussora."

"The second alteration we
"proposed was conveying the packets over the
"Desart to Constantinople by the way of Bagdat
"instead of Aleppo, occasionally only making
"transmissions by that Route, in order to

preserve

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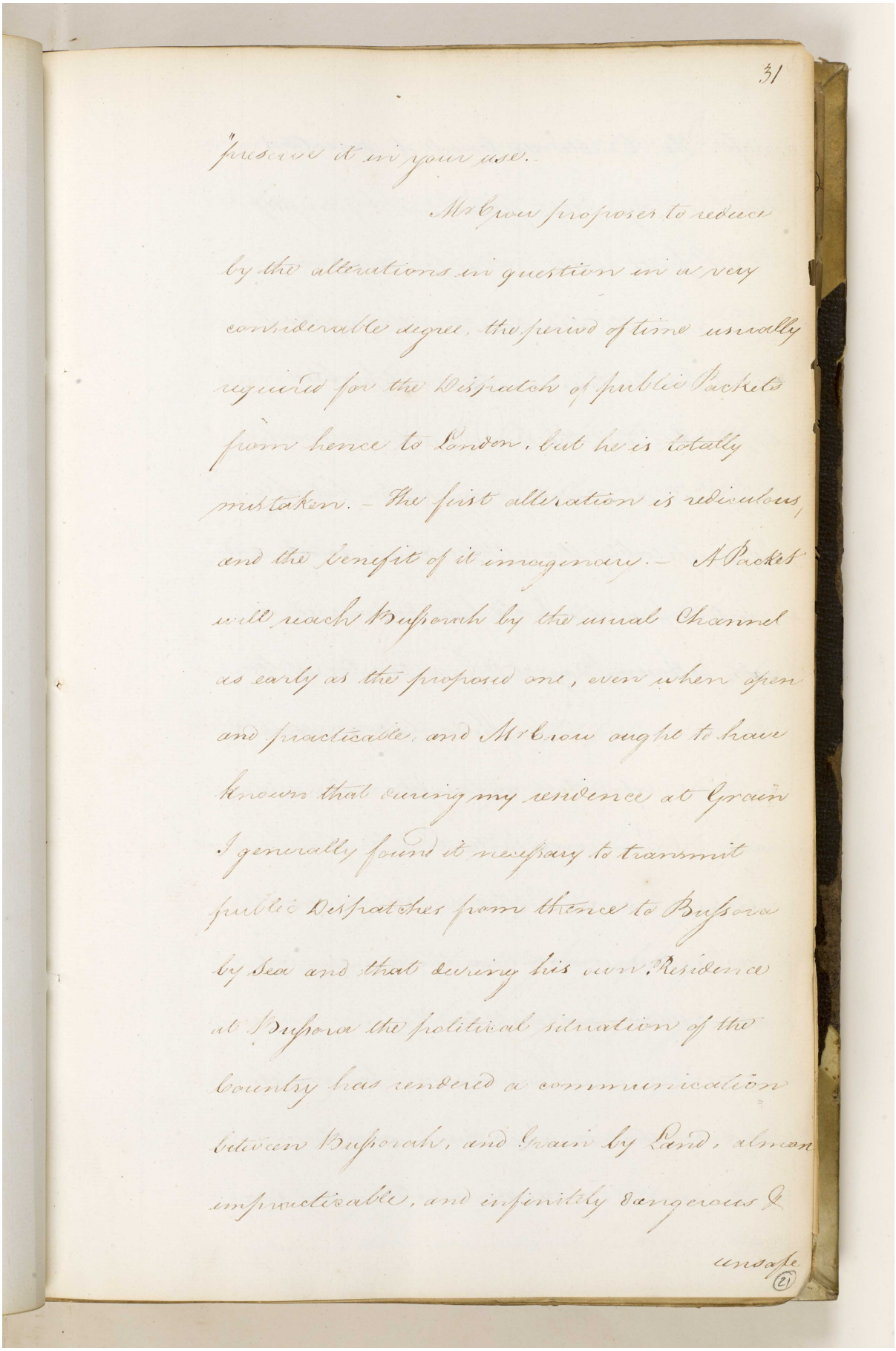

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preserve it in your use.

Mr Crow proposes to reduce by the alterations in question in a very considerable degree, the period of time usually required for the Dispatch of public Packets from hence to London, but he is totally mistaken. – The first alteration is ridiculous, and the benefit of it imaginary. – A Packet will reach Bussorah by the usual Channel as early as the proposed one, even when open and practicable, and Mr Crow ought to have known that during my residence at Grain I generally found it necessary to transmit public Dispatches from thence to Bussora by Sea and that during his own Residence at Bussora the political situation of the Country has rendered a communication between Bussorah, and Grain by Land, almost impracticable, and infinitely dangerous &

unsafe

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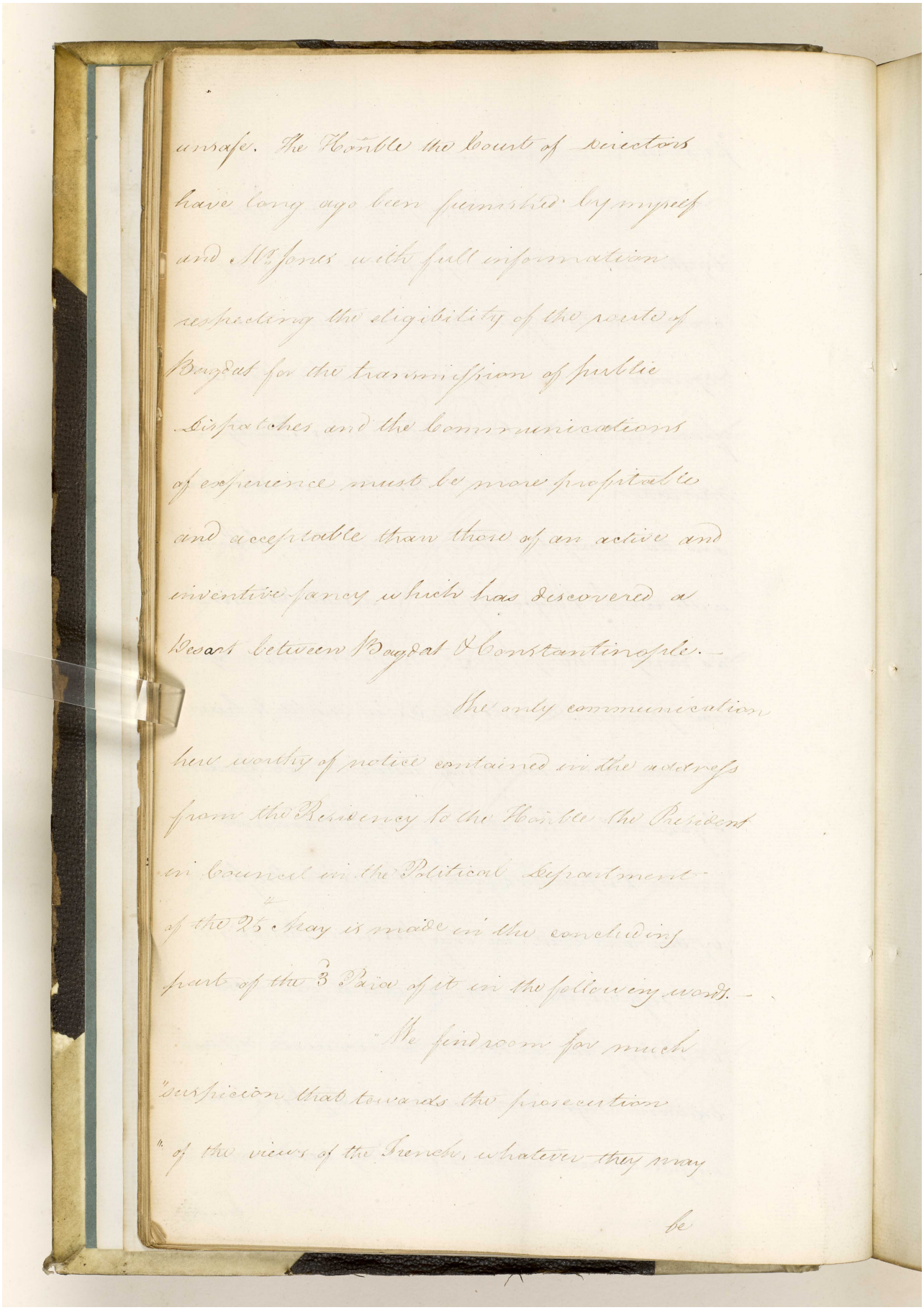

unsafe. The Honble the Court of Directors
have long ago been furnished by myself
and Mr Jones with full information
respecting the eligibility of the route of
Bagdat for the transmission of public
Dispatches and the Communications
of experience must be more profitable
and acceptable than those of an active and
inventive fancy which has discovered a
Desart between Bagdat & Constantinople.—

The only communication
here worthy of notice contained in the address
from the Residency to the Honble the President
in Council in the Political Department
of the 25th May is made in the concluding
part of the 3 Para of it in the following words.—

"We findroom for much
"suspicion that towards the prosecution
"of the views of the French, whatever they may

be

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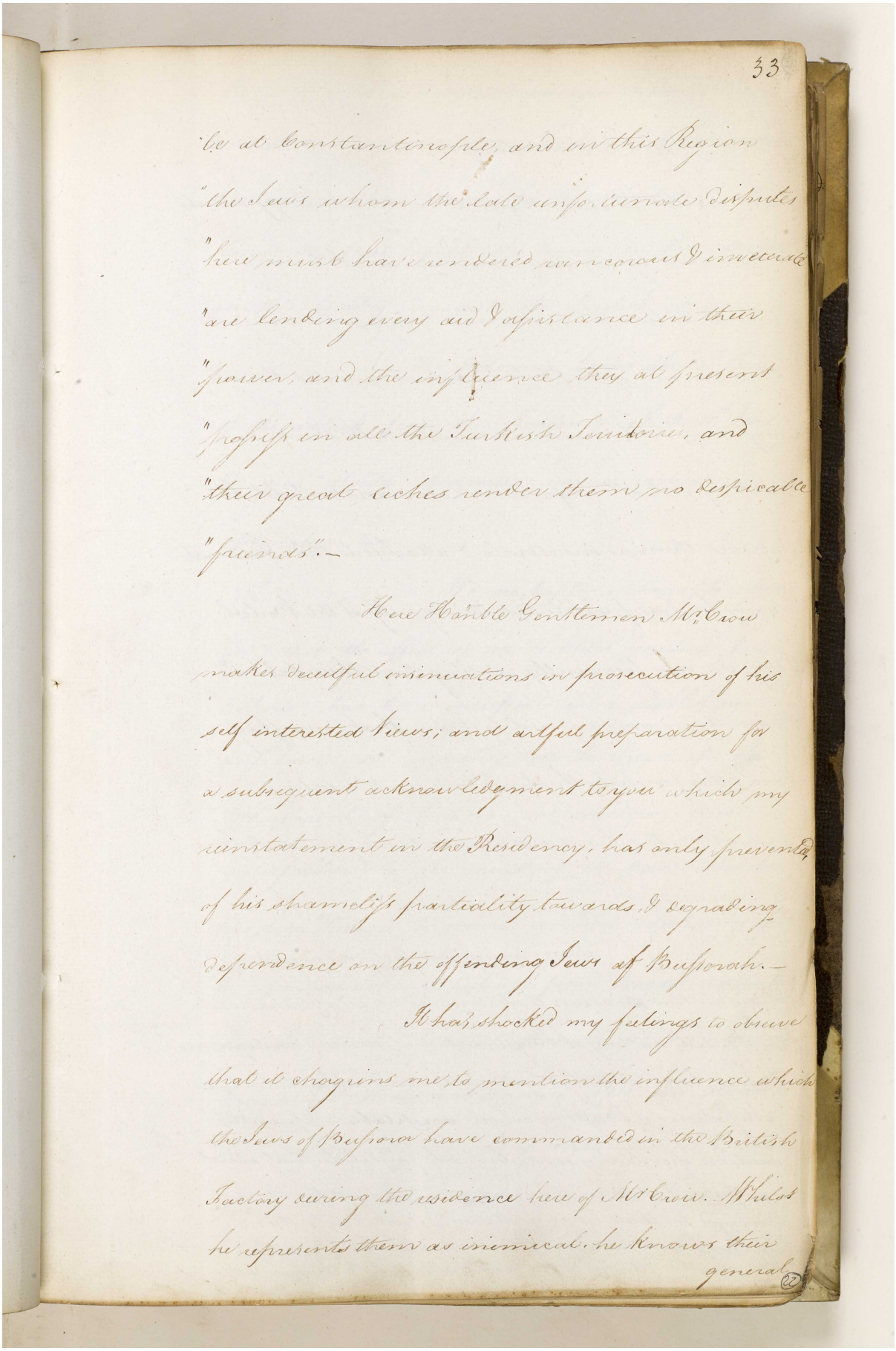

be at Constantinople, and in this Region
"the Jews whom the late unfortunate disputes
"here must have rendered rancorous & inveterate
"are lending every aid & assistance in their
"power, and the influence they at present
"possess in all the Turkish Territories, and
"their great riches render them no despicable
"friends".—

Here Honble Gentlemen Mr Crow
makes deceitful insinuations in prosecution of his
self interested views, and artful preparation for
a subsequent acknowledgement to you which my
reinstatement in the Residency, has only prevented
of his shameless partiality towards, & degrading
dependence on the offending Jews of Bussorah.—

It has shocked my feelings to observe
that it behoves me to mention the influence which
the Jews of Bussora have commanded in the British
Factory during the residence here of Mr Crow. Whilst
he represents them as inimical, he knows their
general

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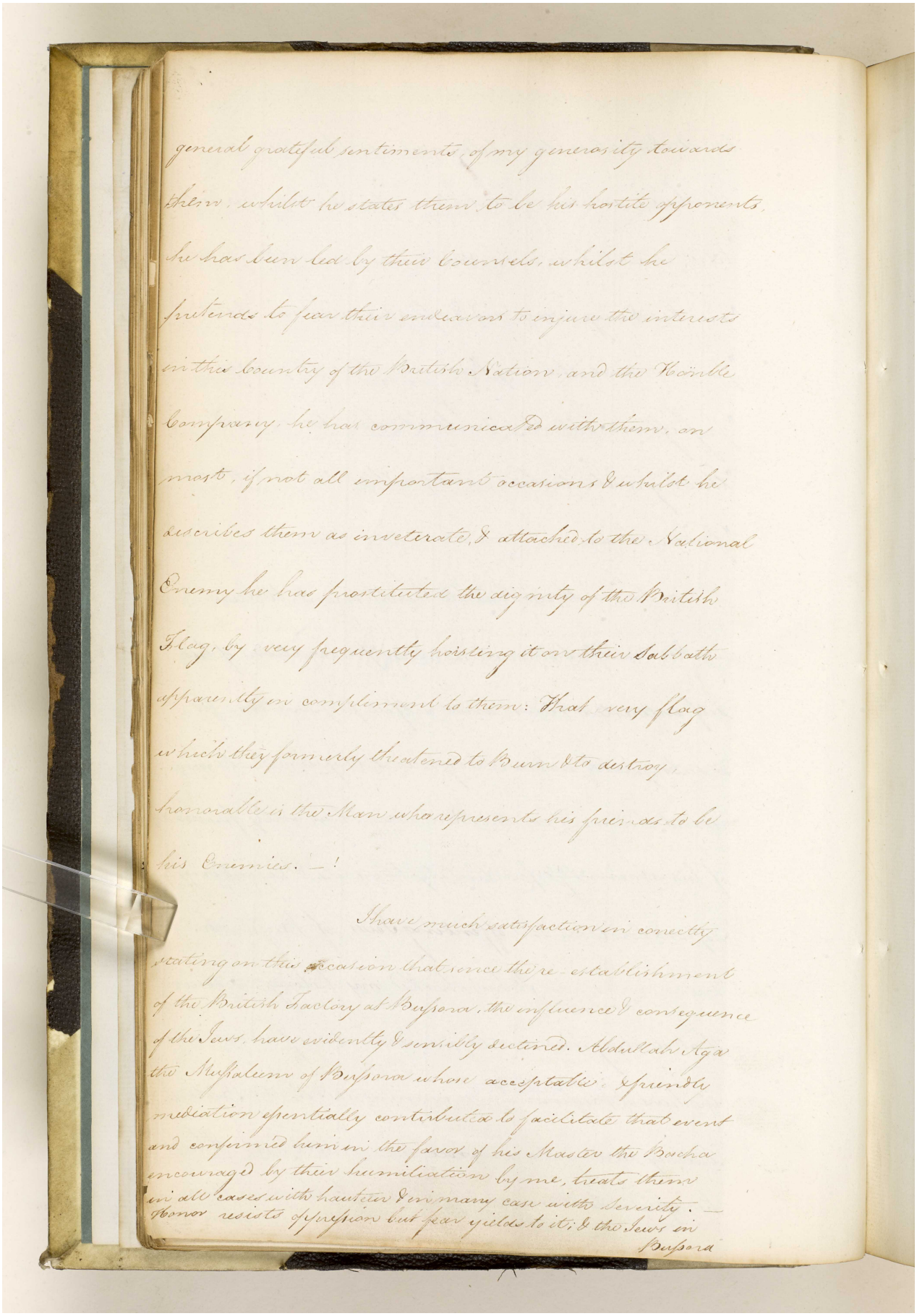

general grateful sentiments of my generosity towards them, whilst he states them to be his hostile opponents. He has been led by their counsels, whilst he pretends to fear their endeavors to injure the interests in this country of the British Nation, and the Honble Company, he has communicated with them, on most, if not all important occasions & whilst he describes them as inveterate, & attached to the National Enemy he has prostituted the dignity of the British Flag, by very frequently hoisting it on their Sabbath apparently in compliment to them: That very flag which they formerly threatened to burn & to destroy, honorable is the Man who represents his friends as to be his Enemies. —!

I have much satisfaction in correctly stating on this occasion that since the re-establishment of the British Factory at Bussora, the influence & consequence of the Jews, have evidently & sensibly declined. Abdullah Aga the Muffalem of Bussora whose acceptable & friendly mediation essentially contributed to facilitate that event and confirmed him in the favor of his Master the Bacha encouraged by their humiliation by me, treats them in all cases with hauteur & in many case with severity. — Honor resists oppression but fear yields to it; & the Jews in Bussora

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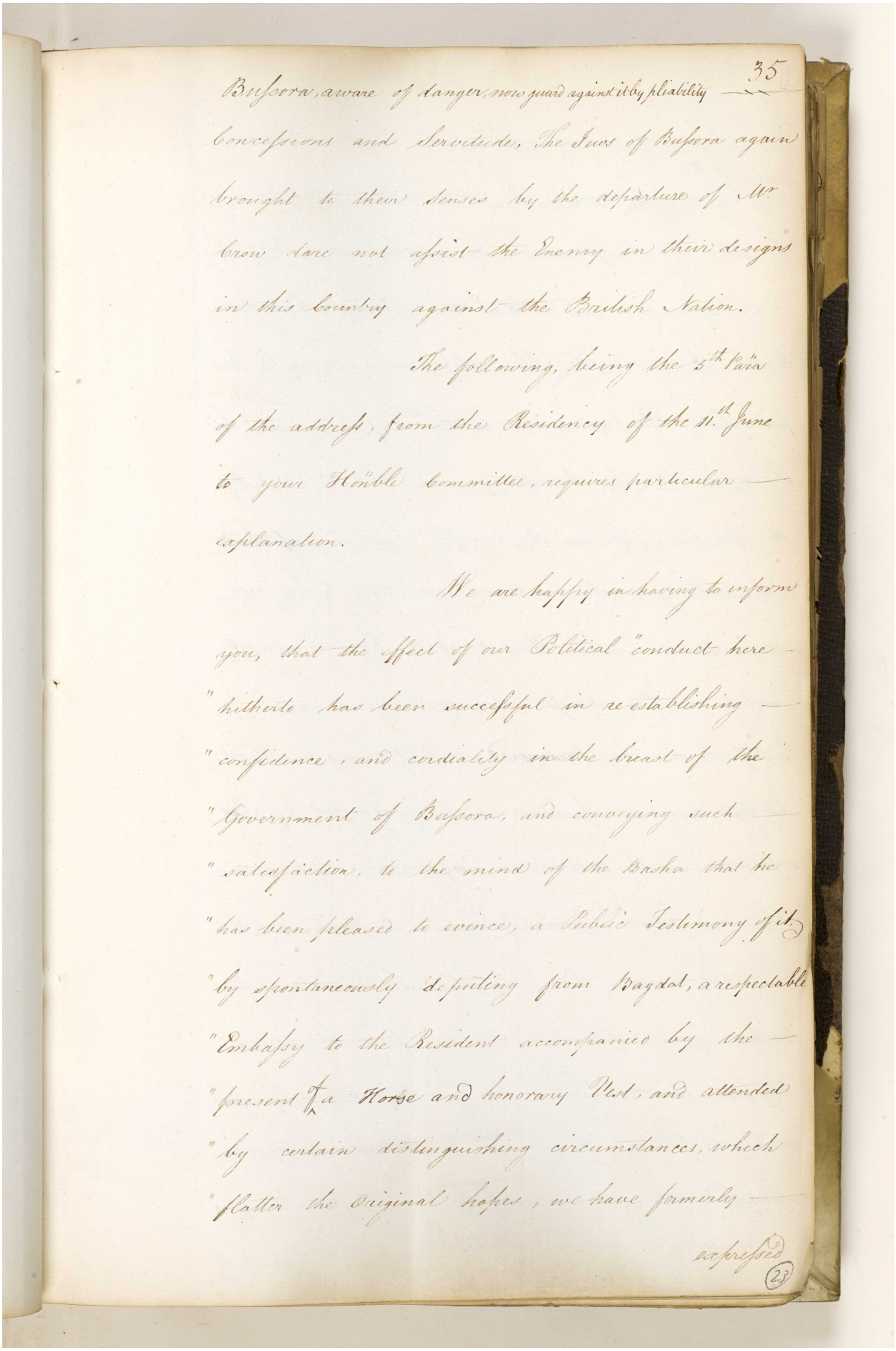

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Bussora, aware of danger, now guard against it by pliability
Concessions and Servitude, The Jews of Bussora again
brought to their Senses by the departure of Mr
Crow dare not assist the Enemy in their designs
in this Country against the British Nation.

The following, being the 5th Para
of the address, from the Residency of the 11th June
to your Honble Committee, requires particular
explanation.

We are happy in having to inform
you, that the effect of our Political "conduct here
"hitherto has been successful in re establishing
"confidence, and cordiality in the breast of the
"Government of Bussora, and conveying such
"satisfaction, to the mind of the Basha that he
"has been pleased to evince, a Public Testimony of it
"by spontaneously despatching from Bagdad, a respectable
"Embassy to the Resident accompanied by the
"present of a Horse and honorary Vest, and attended
"by certain distinguishing circumstances, which
"flatter the Original hopes, we have formerly
expressed

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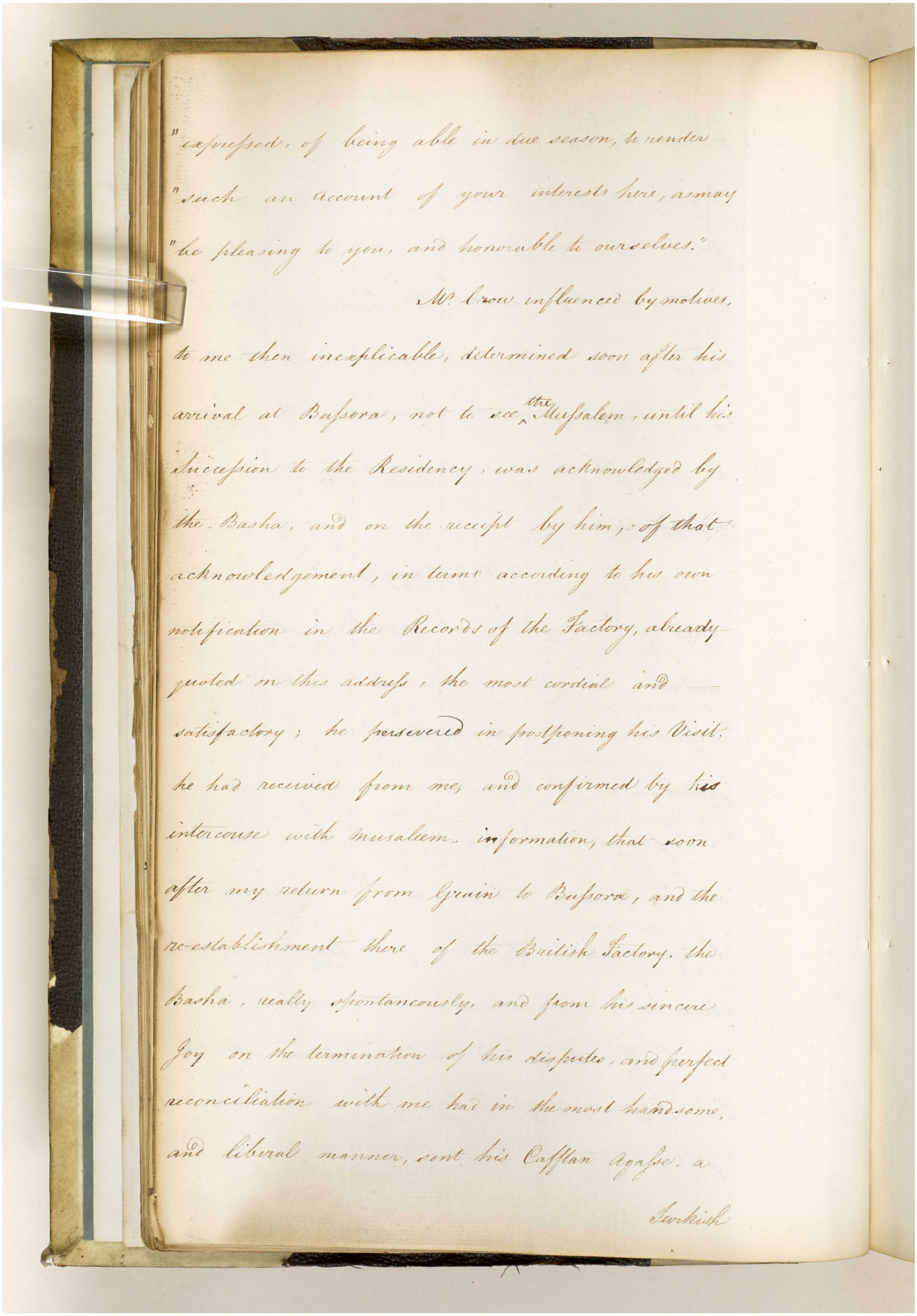

"expressed, of being able in due season, to render
"such an account of your interests here, as may
"be pleasing to you, and honorable to ourselves."

Mr Crow influenced by motives,
to me then inexplicable, determined soon after his
arrival at Bussora, not to see the Mussalem, until his
succession to the Residency, was acknowledged by
the Basha, and on the receipt by him, of that
acknowledgement, in terms according to his own
notification in the Records of the Factory, already
quoted in this address; the most cordial and
satisfactory; he persevered in postponing his Visit:
he had received from me, and confirmed by his
intercourse with Mussalem. information, that soon
after my return from Grain to Bussora, and the
re-establishment there of the British Factory, the
Basha, really spontaneously, and from his sincere
Joy on the termination of his disputes, and perfect
reconciliation with me had in the most handsome,
and liberal manner, sent his Cafflan Agafse, a

Turkish

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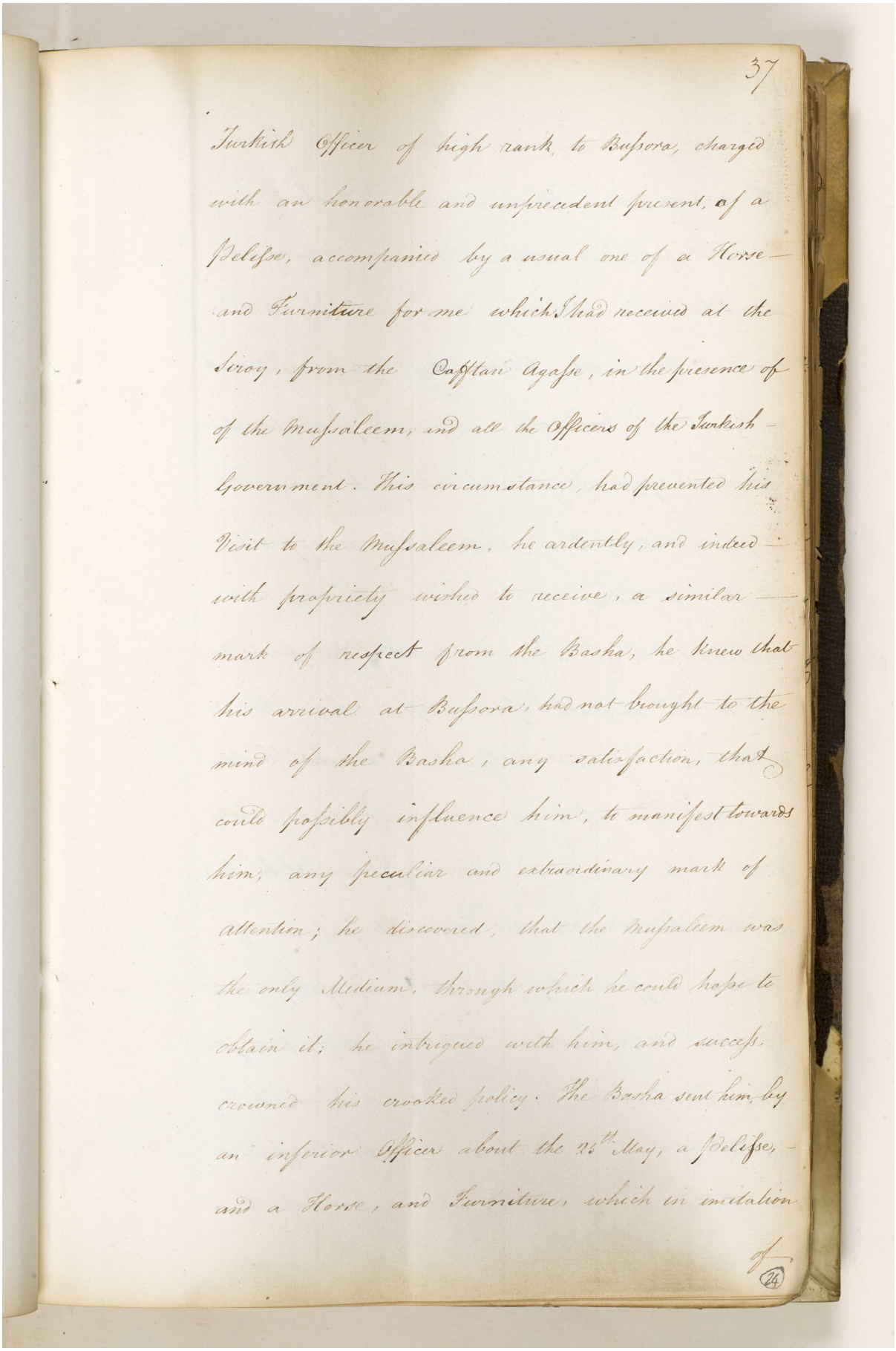

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Turkish Officer of high rank to Bussora, charged with an honorable and unprecedent present, of a Pelisse, accompanied by a usual one of a Horse and Furniture for me which I had received at the Serey, from the Capitan Agase, in the presence of of the Mussaleem, and all the Officers of the Turkish Government. This circumstance, had prevented his Visit to the Mussaleem, he ardently, and indeed with propriety wished to receive, a similar mark of respect from the Basha, he knew that his arrival at Bussora, had not brought to the mind of the Basha, any satisfaction, that could possibly influence him, to manifest towards him, any peculiar and extraordinary mark of attention; he discovered, that the Mussaleem was the only Medium, through which he could hope to obtain it; he intrigued with him, and success crowned his crooked policy. The Basha sent him, by an inferior Officer about the 25th May, a Pelisse, and a Horse, and Furniture, which in imitation

of

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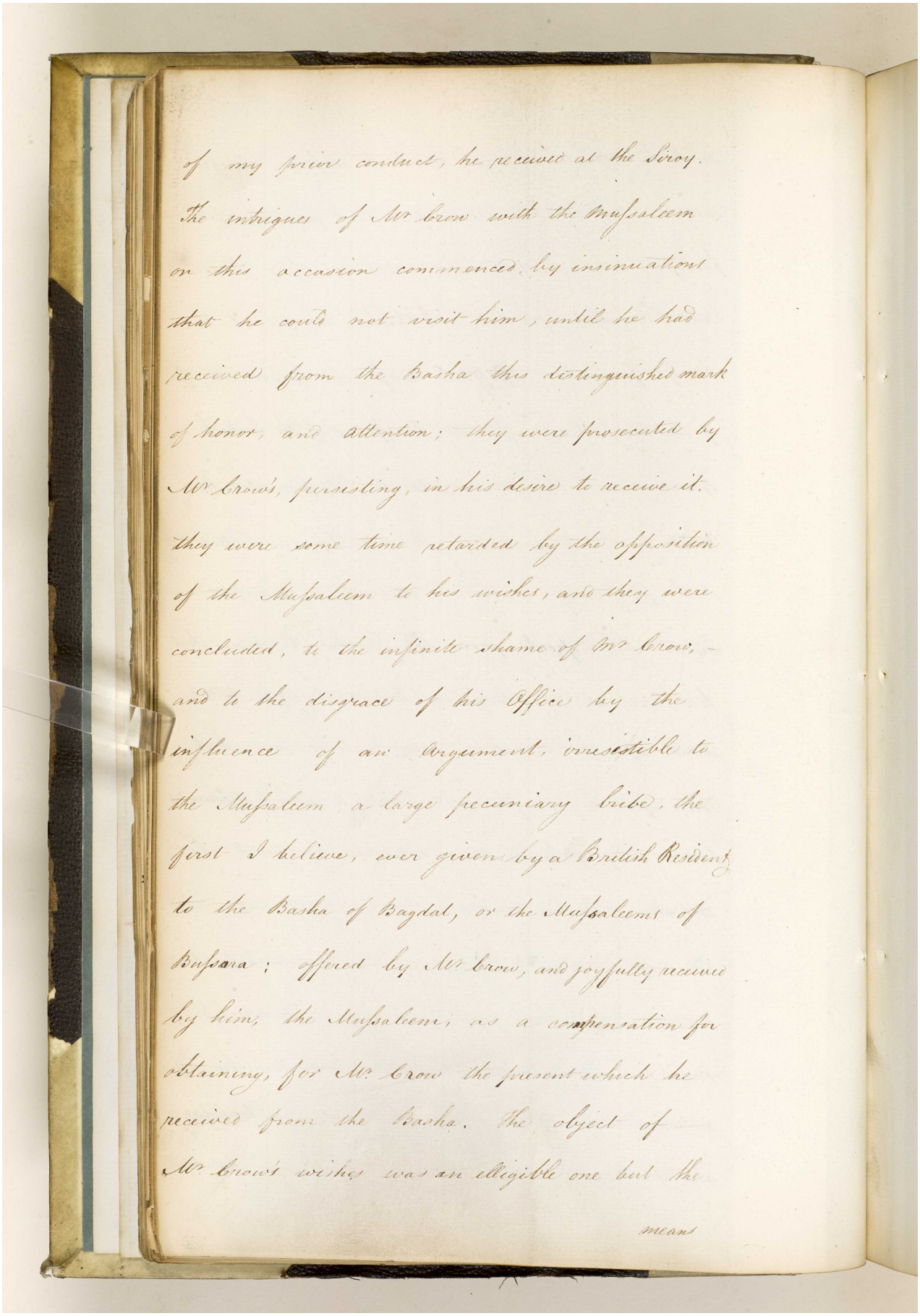

of my prior conduct, he received at the Seray.
The intrigues of Mr Crow with the Mufsaleem
on this occasion commenced by insinuations
that he could not visit him, until he had
received from the Basha this distinguished mark
of honor, and attention; they were prosecuted by
Mr Crow's persisting, in his desire to receive it.
they were some time retarded by the opposition
of the Mufsaleem to his wishes, and they were
concluded, to the infinite shame of Mr Crow, —
and to the disgrace of his Office by the
influence of an Argument, irresistible to
the Mufsaleem a large pecuniary bribe, the
first I believe, ever given by a British Resident
to the Basha of Bagdat, or the Mufsaleems of
Bufsora; offered by Mr Crow, and joyfully received
by him, the Mufsaleem, as a compensation for
obtaining, for Mr Crow the present which he
received from the Basha. the object of
Mr Crow's wishes was an illegible one but the

means

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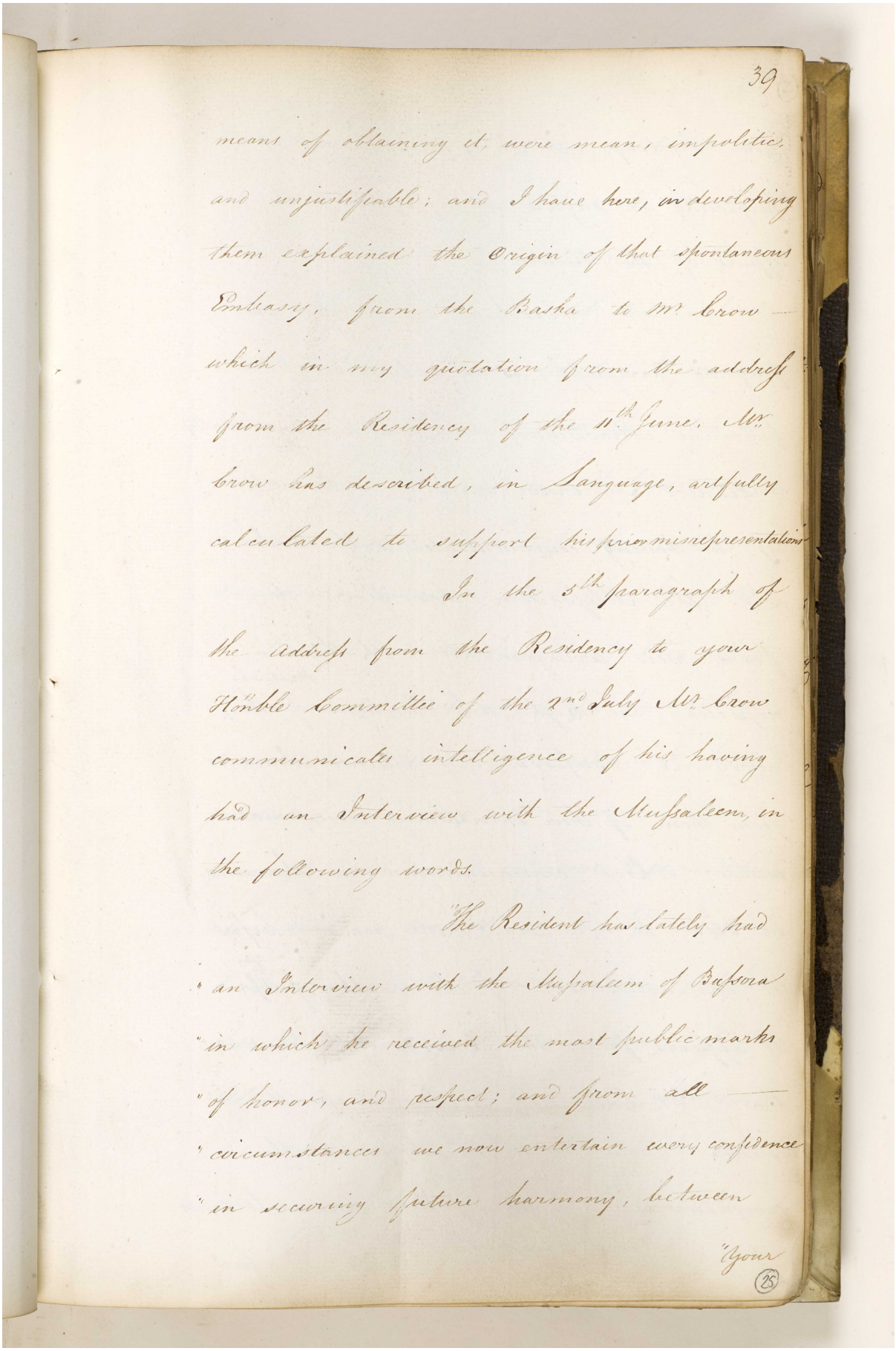

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means of obtaining it were mean, impolitic, and unjustifiable; and I have here, in developing them explained the Origin of that spontaneous Embassy, from the Basha to Mr Crow — which in my quotation from the address from the Residency of the 11th June, Mr. Crow has described, in Language, artfully calculated to support his prior misrepresentations

In the 8th paragraph of the address from the Residency to your Honble Committee of the 2nd July Mr. Crow communicates intelligence of his having had an Interview with the Mufsaleem, in the following words.

"The Resident has lately had
"an Interview with the Mufsaleem of Bafsora
"in which he received the most public marks
"of honor, and respect; and from all —
"circumstances we now entertain every confidence
"in securing future harmony, between

"Your

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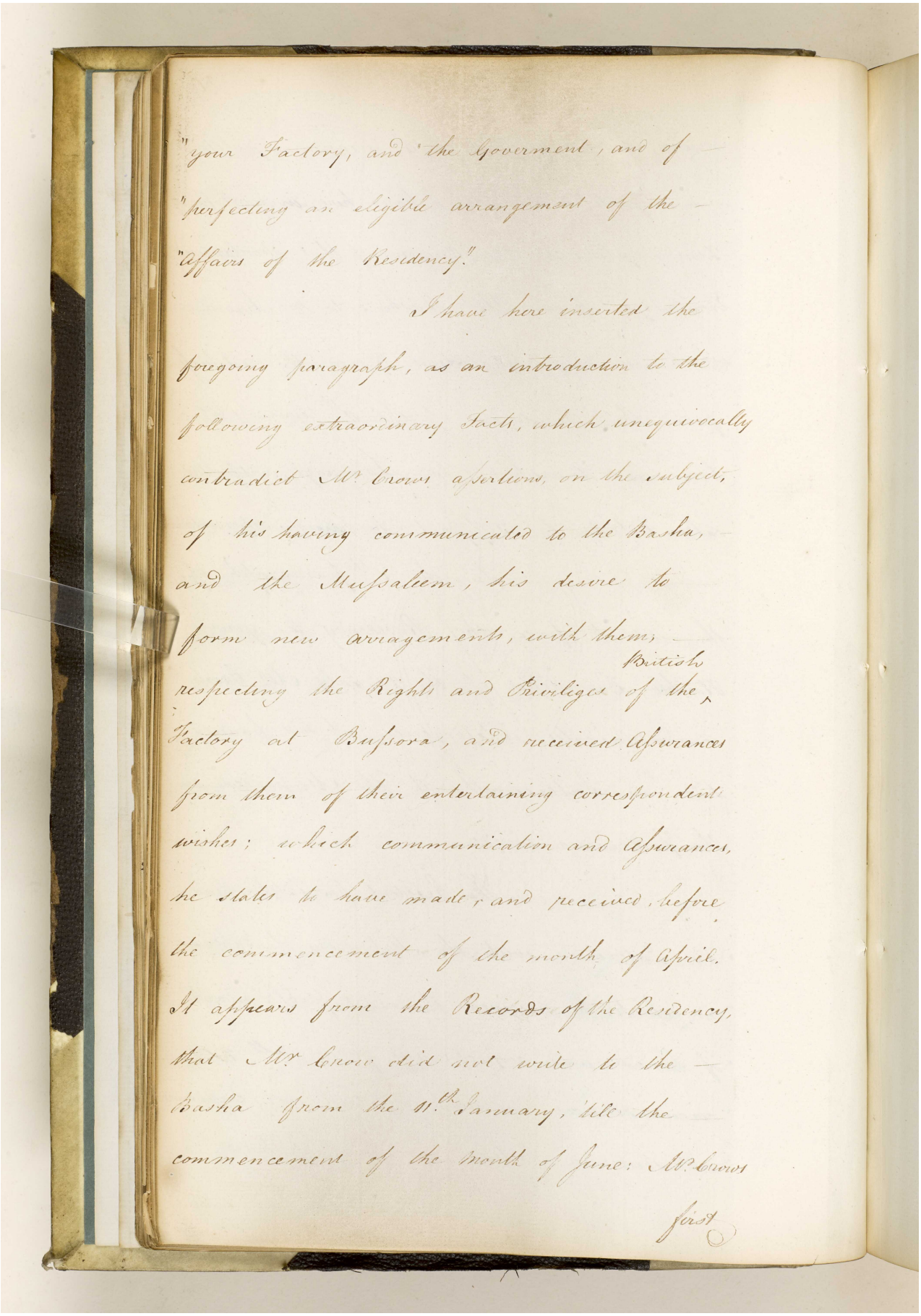

"your Factory, and the Goverment, and of
"perfecting an eligible arrangement of the
"affairs of the Residency."

I have here inserted the foregoing paragraph, as an introduction to the following extraordinary Facts, which unequivocally contradict Mr Crows asertions, on the subject, of his having communicated to the Basha, and the Mufsalleem, his desire to form new arrangements, with them, respecting the Rights and Priviliges of the British Factory at Bufsora, and received Afsurances from them of their entertaining correspondent wishes; which communication and Afsurances, he states to have made, and received, before the commencement of the month of April. It appears from the Records of the Residency, that Mr Crow did not write to the Basha from the 11th January, till the commencement of the month of June: Mr Crows first

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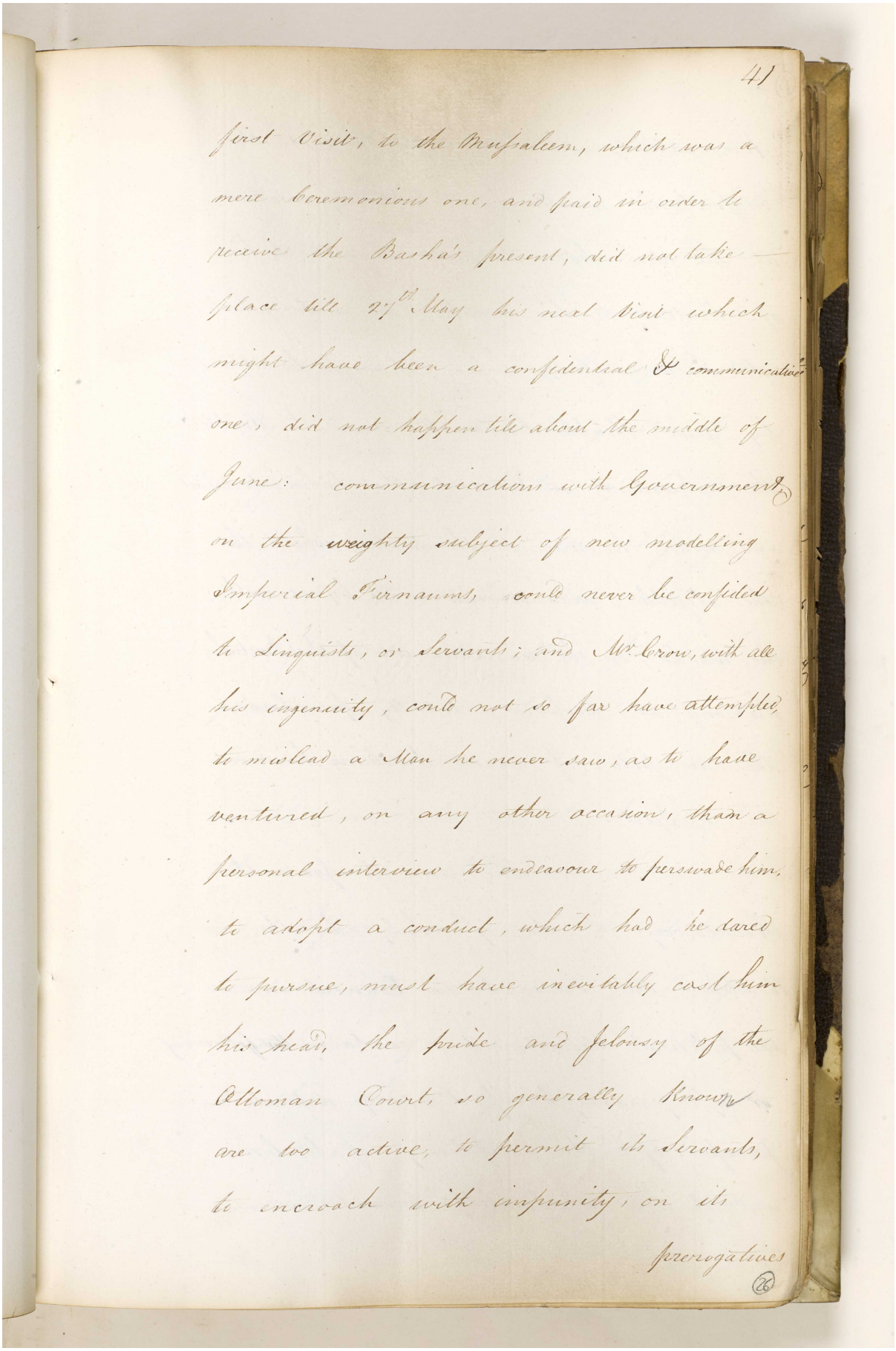

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first Visit, to the Mufsalem, which was a mere Ceremonious one, and paid in order to receive the Basha's present, did not take place till the 27th May his next Visit which might have been a confidential & communicative one, did not happen till about the middle of June: communication with Government on the weighty subject of new modelling Imperial Firmauns, could never be confided to Linguists, or Servants; and Mr. Crow, with all his ingenuity, could not so far have attempted to mislead a Man he never saw, as to have ventured, on any other occasion, than a personal interview to endeavour to persuade him, to adopt a conduct, which had he dared to pursue, must have inevitably cost him his head, the pride and Jelousy of the Ottoman Court, so generally known are too active, to permit its Servants, to encroach with impunity, on its

prerogatives

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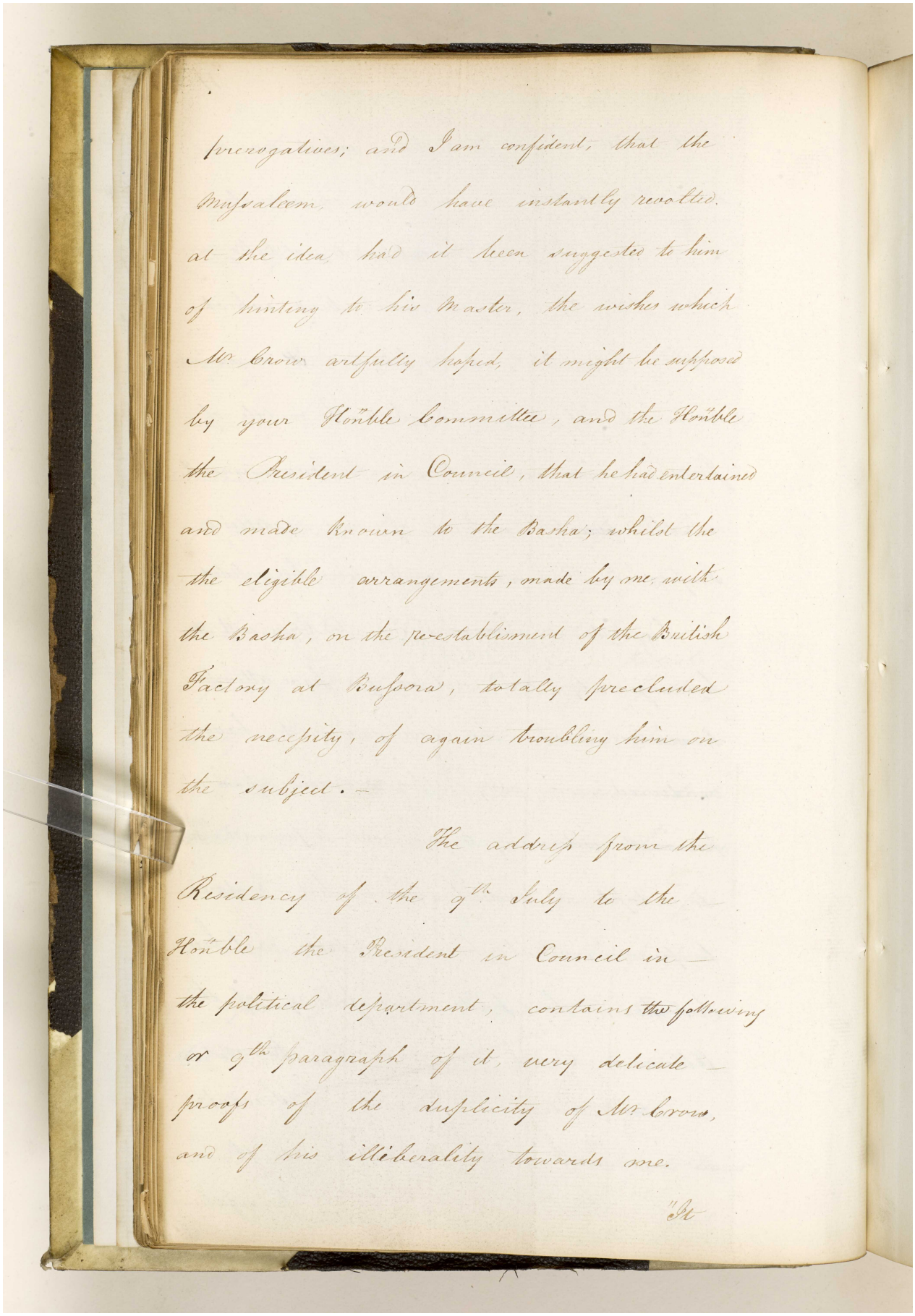

prerogatives; and I am confident, that the Mussaleem would have instantly revolted at the idea had it been suggested to him of hinting to his Master, the wishes which Mr Crow artfully hoped, it might be supposed by your Honble Committee, and the Honble the President in Council, that he had entertained and made known to the Basha; whilst the the eligible arrangements, made by me, with the Basha, on the re-establishment of the British Factory at Bussora, totally precluded the necessity, of again troubling him on the subject. —

The address from the Residency of the 9th July to the Honble the President in Council in the political department, contains the following or 9th paragraph of it, very delicate proofs of the duplicity of Mr Crow, and of his illiberality towards me.

"It

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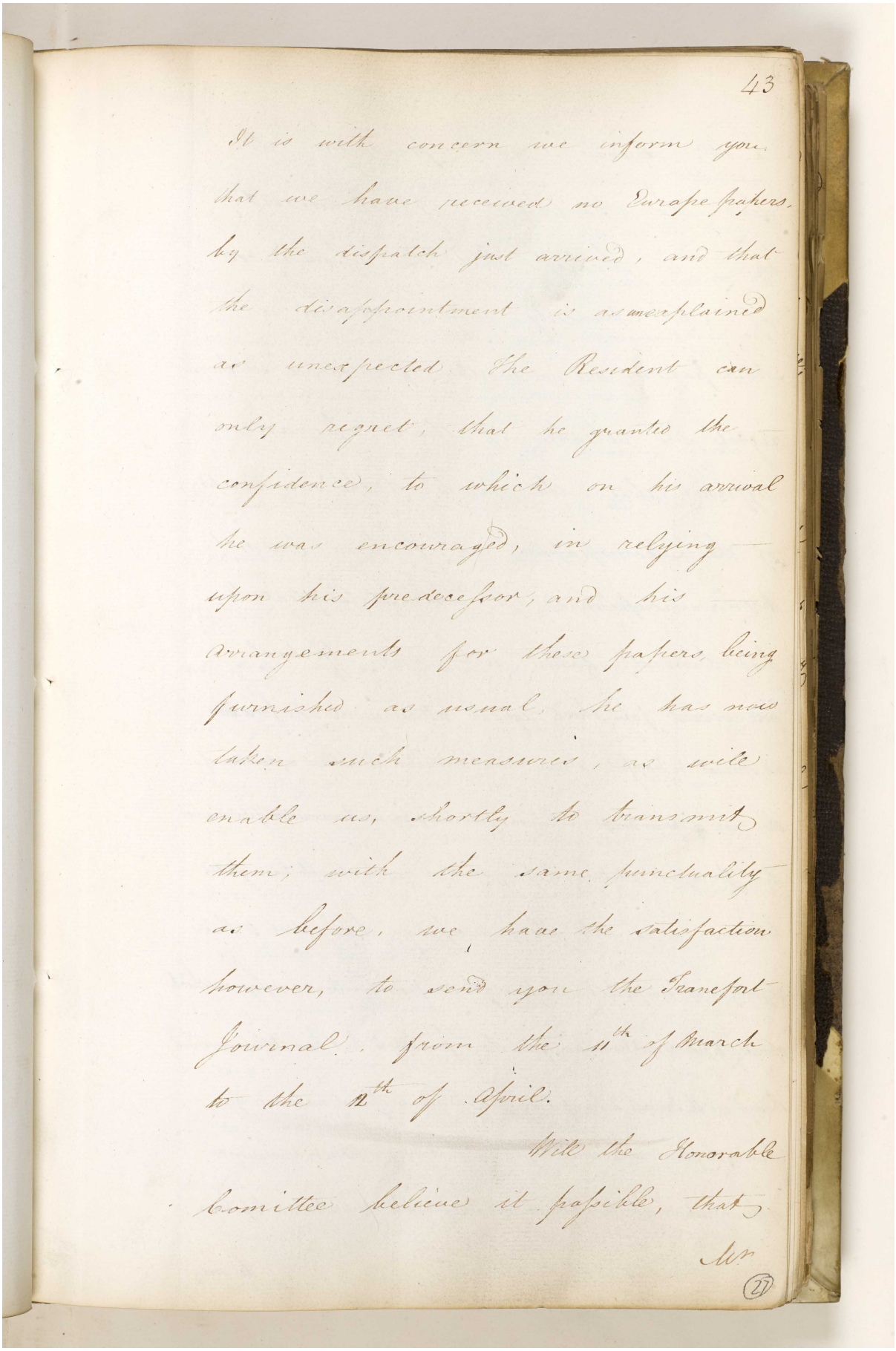

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It is with concern we inform you that we have received no Europe papers, by the dispatch just arrived, and that the disappointment is as unexplained as unexpected. The Resident can only regret, that he granted the confidence, to which on his arrival he was encouraged, in relying upon his predecessor, and his arrangements for these papers, being furnished as usual, he has now taken such measures, as will enable us, shortly to transmit them; with the same punctuality as before, we have the satisfaction however, to send you the Bombay Journal, from the 11th of March to the 12th of April.

With the Honorable Comittee believe it possible, that Mr

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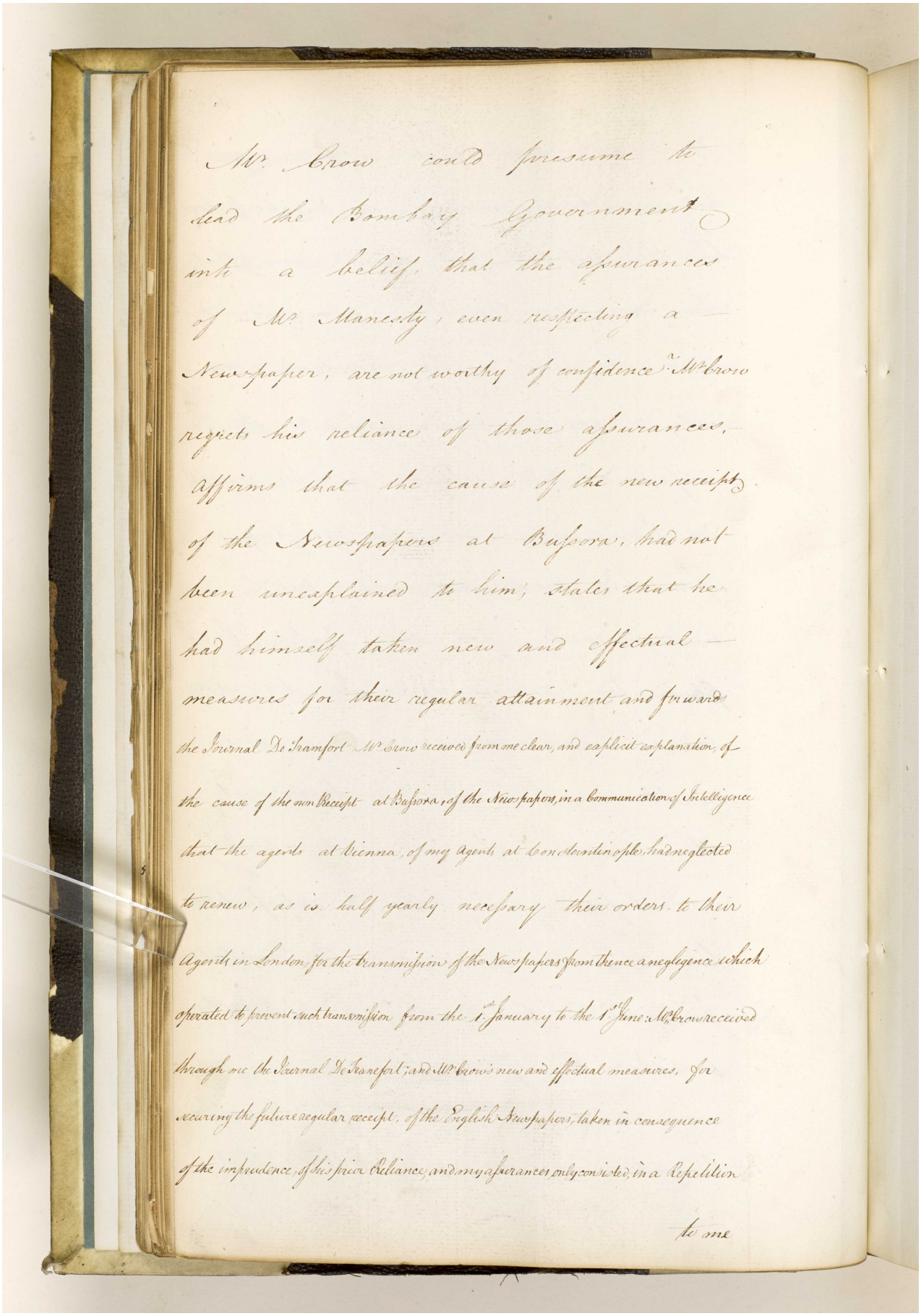

Mr. Crow could presume to
lead the Bombay Government
into a belief, that the assurances
of Mr. Manesty, even respecting a
Newspaper, are not worthy of confidence. Mr Crow
regrets his reliance of those assurances,
affirms that the cause of the non receipt
of the Newspapers at Bussora, had not
been unexplained to him; states that he
had himself taken new and effectual
measures for their regular attainment, and forwards
the Journal De Francfort Mr Crow received from me clear, and explicit explanation, of
the cause of the non Receipt at Bussora, of the Newspapers, in a Communication of Intelligence
that the agents at Vienna, of my agents at Constantinople, had neglected
to renew, as is half yearly necessary their orders to their
Agents in London, for the transmission of the Newspapers from thence a negligence which
operated to prevent such transmission from the 1st January to the 1st June: Mr Crow received
through me the Journal De Francfort; and Mr Crow's new and effectual measures, for
securing the future regular receipt, of the English Newspapers, taken in consequence
of the imprudence of his prior Reliance, and my assurances only consisted, in a Repetition
to me

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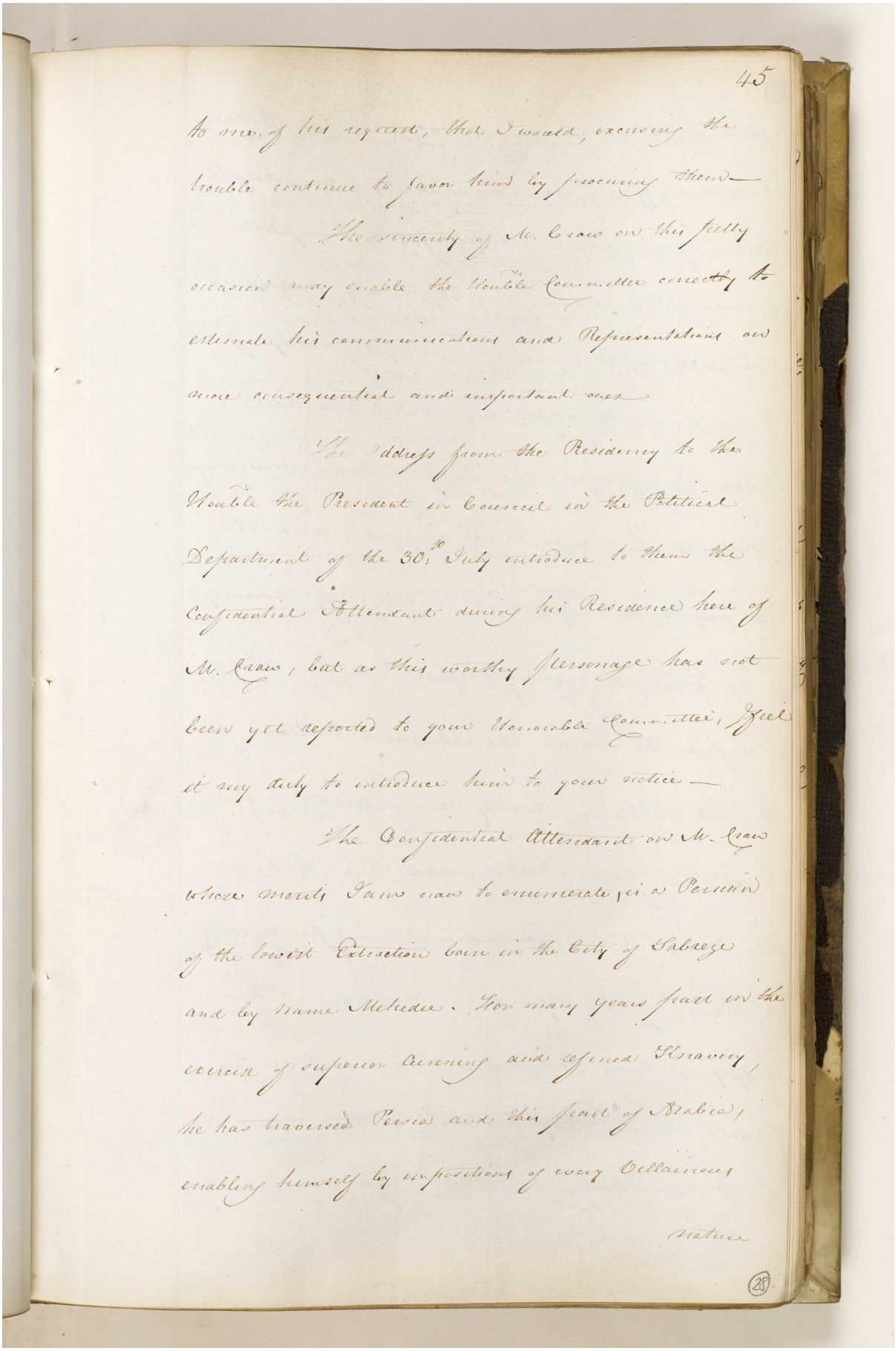

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to me, of his request, that I would, excusing the
trouble continue to favor him by procuring them—

The sincerity of Mr Crow on this fitting
occasion may enable the Honble Committee correctly to
estimate his communications and Representations on
more consequential and important ones—

The address from the Residency to the
Honble the President in Council in the Political
Department of the 30th July introduce to them the
Confidential Attendant during his Residence here of
Mr. Crow, but as this worthy personage has not
been yet reported to your Honorable Committee, I feel
it my duty to introduce him to your notice—

The Confidential Attendant on Mr. Crow
whose merits I am now to enumerate, is a Persian
of the lowest Extraction born in the City of Tabreez
and by name Mehedee. For many years past in the
exercise of superior cunning and refined Knavery,
he has traversed Persia and this part of Arabia,
enabling himself by impositions of every villainous

Nature

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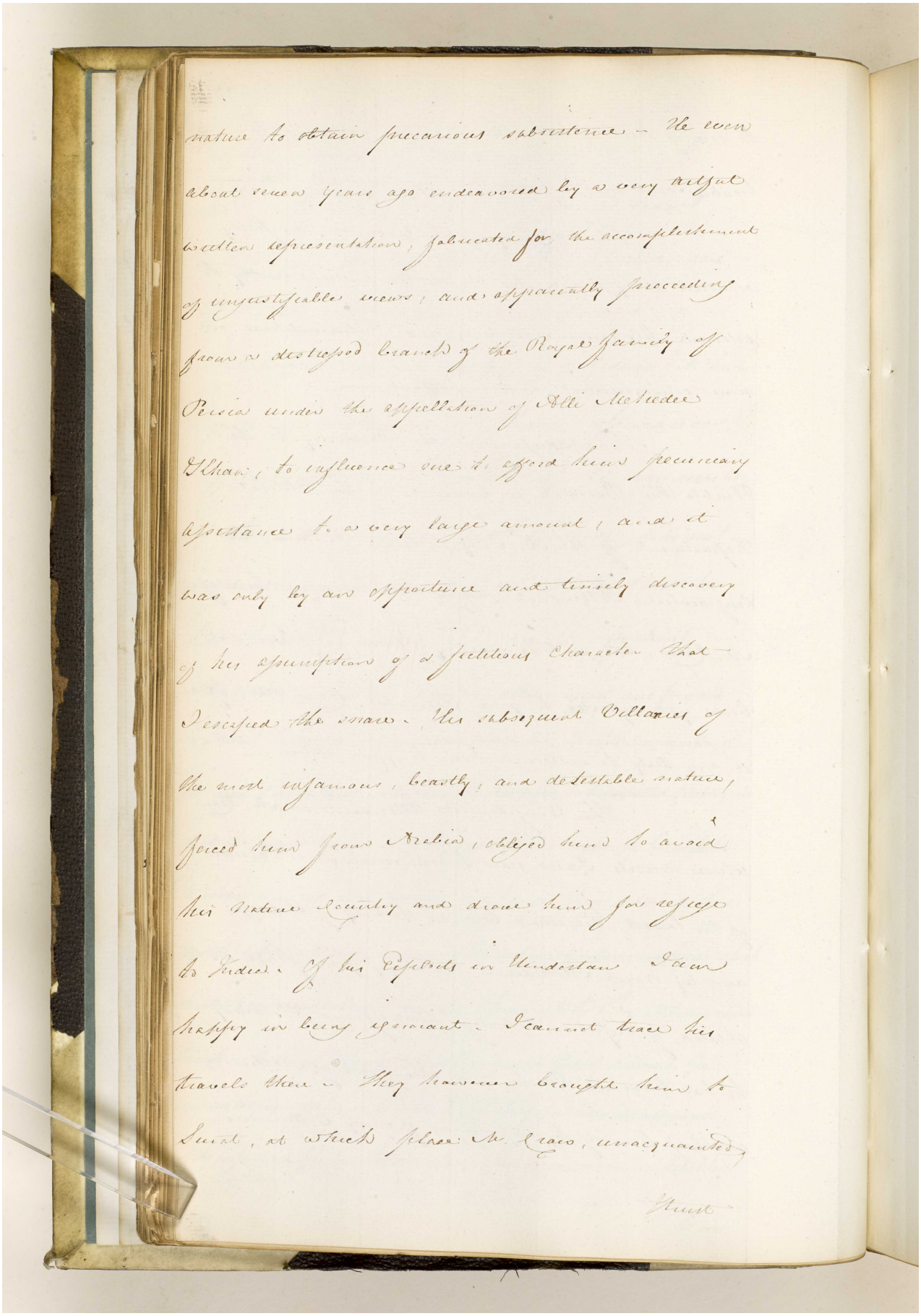
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [28v] (48/232)



nature to obtain precarious subsistence – He even about seven years ago endeavored by a very artful written representation, fabricated for the accomplishment of unjustifiable views, and apparently proceeding from a distressed branch of the Royal family of Persia under the appellation of Alli Mehedee Ghan, to influence me to afford him pecuniary assistance to a very large amount, and it was only by an opportune and timely discovery of his assumption of a fictitious character that I escaped the snare. His subsequent Villanies of the most infamous, beastly, and detestable nature, forced him from Arabia, obliged him to avoid his Native Country and drove him for refuge to India. Of his Exploits in Hindostan I am happy in being ignorant. I cannot trace his travels there. They however brought him to Surat, at which place Mr Crow, unacquainted,

Trust

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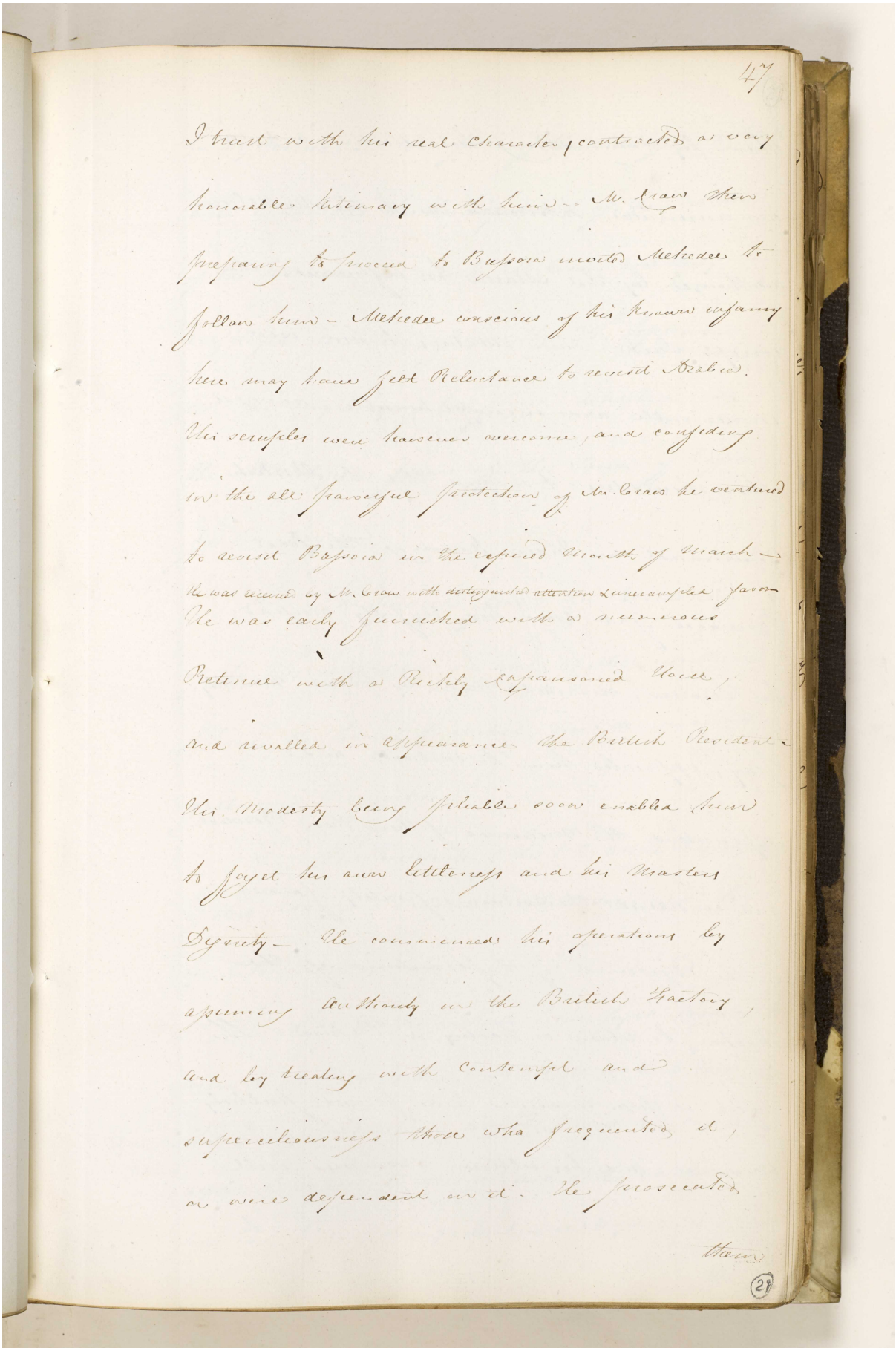
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [29r] (49/232)



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I trust with his real Character, contracted a very honorable Intimacy with him — Mr. Crow then preparing to proceed to Bussora invited Mehedee to follow him — Mehedee conscious of his known infamy here may have felt Reluctance to revisit Arabia. His scruples were however overcome, and confiding in the all powerful protection of Mr. Crow he ventured to revisit Bussora in the expired Month of March — He was received by Mr. Crow with distinguished attention & unexampled favor. He was early furnished with a numerous Retinue with a Richly Expansioned House, and rivalled in appearance the British Resident — His Modesty being pliable soon enabled him to forget his own littleness and his Masters Dignity — He commenced his operations by assuming authority in the British Factory, and by treating with contempt and superciliousness those who frequented it, or were dependent on it. He prosecuted

them

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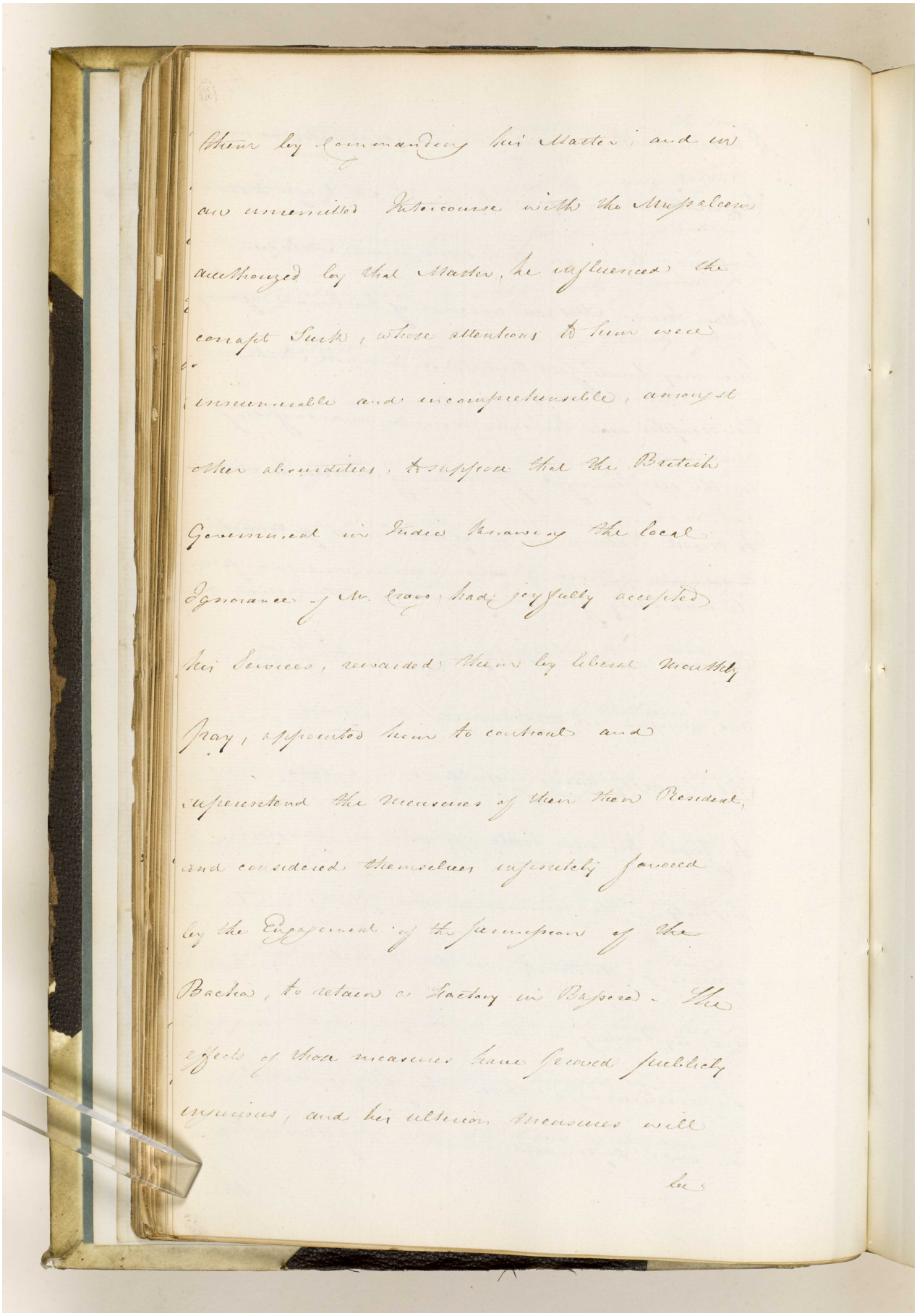

them by Commanding his Master; and in an unremitted Intercourse with the Mussalcem authorized by that Master, he influenced the corrupt Sirk, whose attentions to him were innumerable and incomprehensible, amongst other absurdities, to suppose that the British Government in India knowing the local Ignorance of Mr Crow, had joyfully accepted his Services, rewarded them by liberal monthly pay, appointed him to controul and superintend the measures of their then Resident, and considered themselves infinitely favored by the Engagement of the permission of the Bacha, to retain a Factory in Bassora. The effects of those measures have proved publicly injurious, and his ulterior measures will

be

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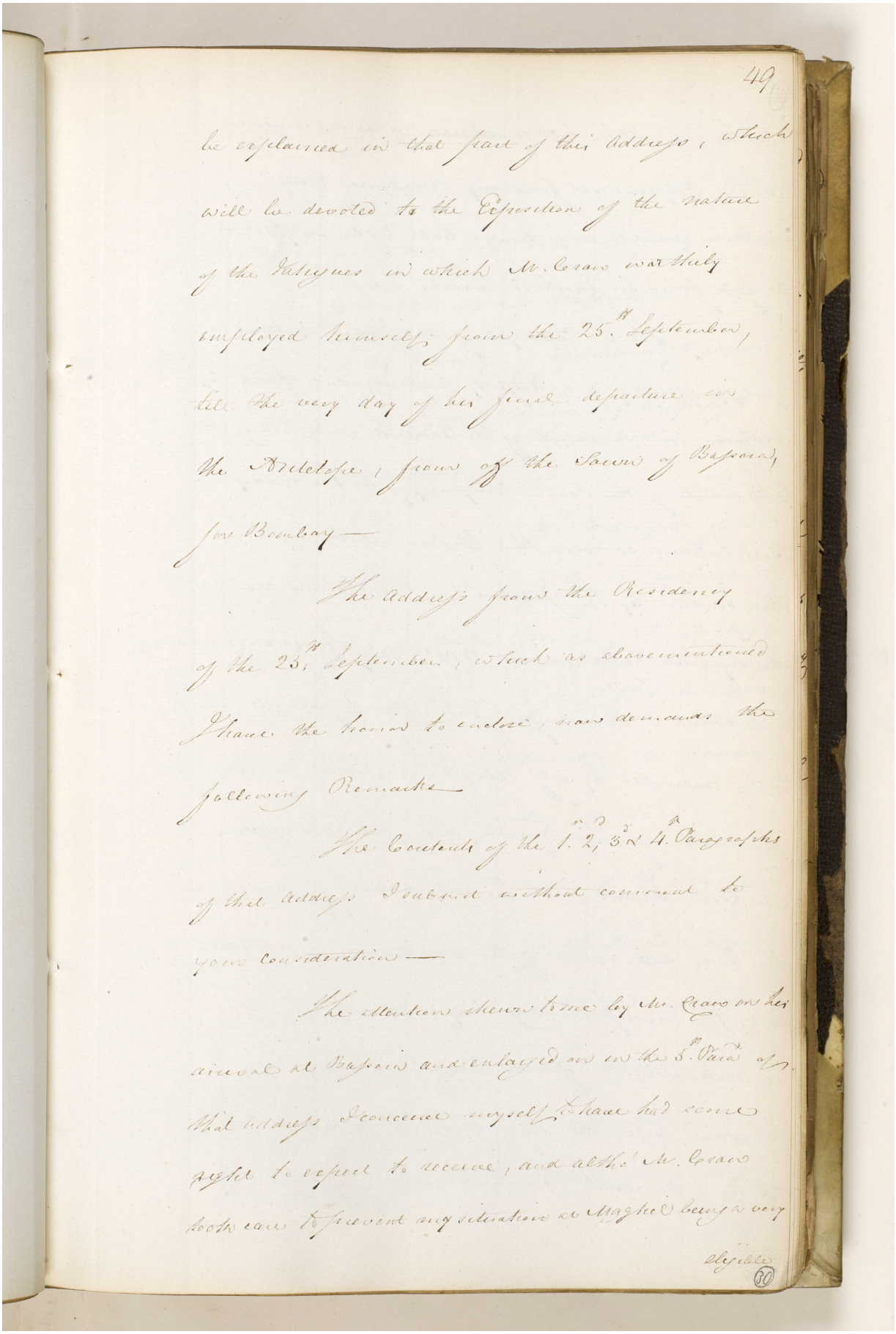
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [30r] (51/232)



be explained in that part of this Address, which will be devoted to the Exposition of the nature of the Intrigues in which Mr. Crow worthily employed himself from the 25th September, till the very day of his final departure in the Antelope, from off the Town of Bassora, for Bombay —

The Address from the Residency of the 25th September, which as abovementioned I have the honor to enclose, now demands the following Remarks —

The Contents of the 1st 2d, 3d & 4th Paragraphs of that Address I submit without comment to your consideration —

The attention shewn to me by Mr. Crow on his arrival at Bassora and enlarged on in the 5th Para of that Address I conceive myself to have had some right to expect to receive, and altho' Mr. Crow took care to prevent my situation at Maghil being a very

eligible

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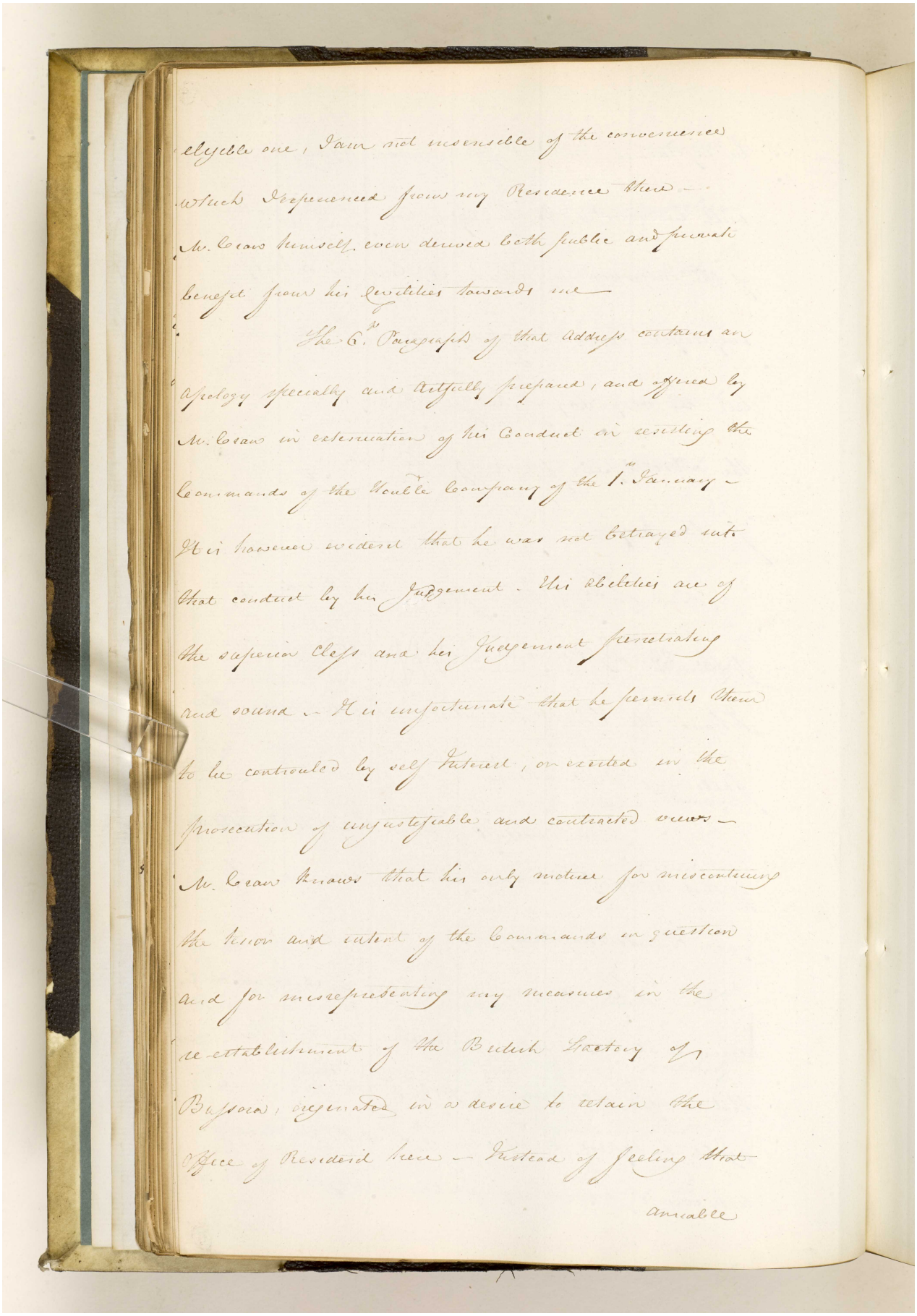

eligible one, I am not insensible of the convenience which I experienced from my Residence there — Mr. Crow himself, even denies both public and private benefit from his civilities towards me —

The 6th. Paragraph of that address contains an Apology specially and artfully prepared, and offered by Mr. Crow in extenuation of his Conduct in resisting the Commands of the Honble Company of the 1st. January — It is however evident that he was not betrayed into that conduct by his Judgement. His abilities are of the superior class and his Judgement penetrating and sound — It is unfortunate that he permits them to be controuled by self Interest, or excited in the prosecution of unjustifiable and contracted views — Mr. Crow knows that his only motive for misconstruing the tenor and extent of the Commands in question and for misrepresenting my measures in the re-establishment of the British Factory of Bussora, originated in a desire to retain the Office of Resident here — Instead of feeling that

amiable

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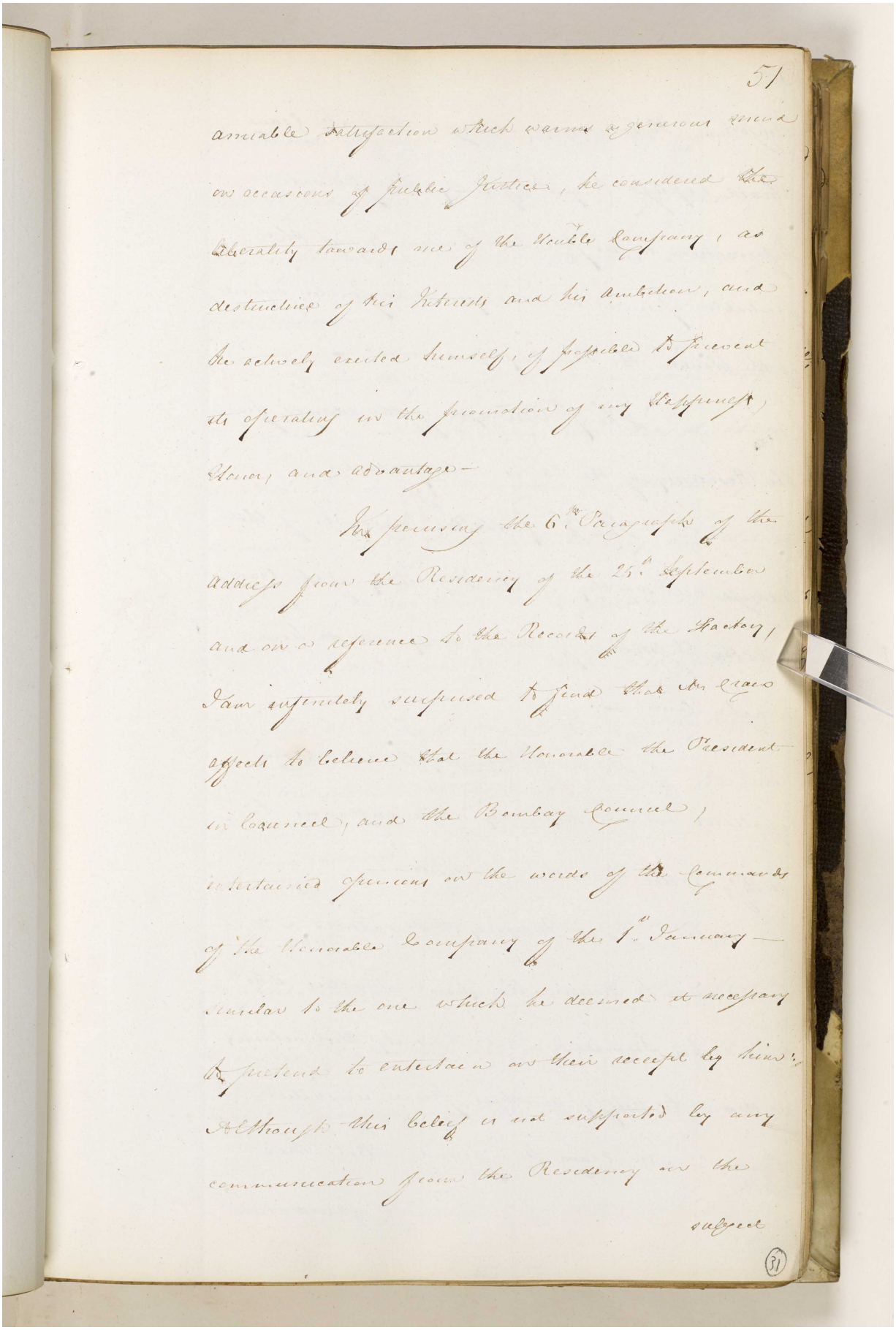

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amiable satisfaction which warms a generous mind
on occasions of public Justice, he considered the
liberality towards me of the Honble Company, as
destructive of his Interests and his Ambition, and
he actively exerted himself, & succeeded to prevent
its operating on the promotion of my Happiness,
Honor and Advantage—

In perusing the 6th Paragraph of the
address from the Residency of the 25th September
and on a reference to the Records of the Factory,
I am exceedingly surprised to find that Mr Crow
affects to believe that the Honorable the President
in Council, and the Bombay Council,
entertained opinions on the words of the Commands
of the Honorable Company of the 1st January—
similar to the one which he deemed it necessary
& pretended to entertain on their receipt by him:
Although this belief is not supported by any
communication from the Residency on the
subject

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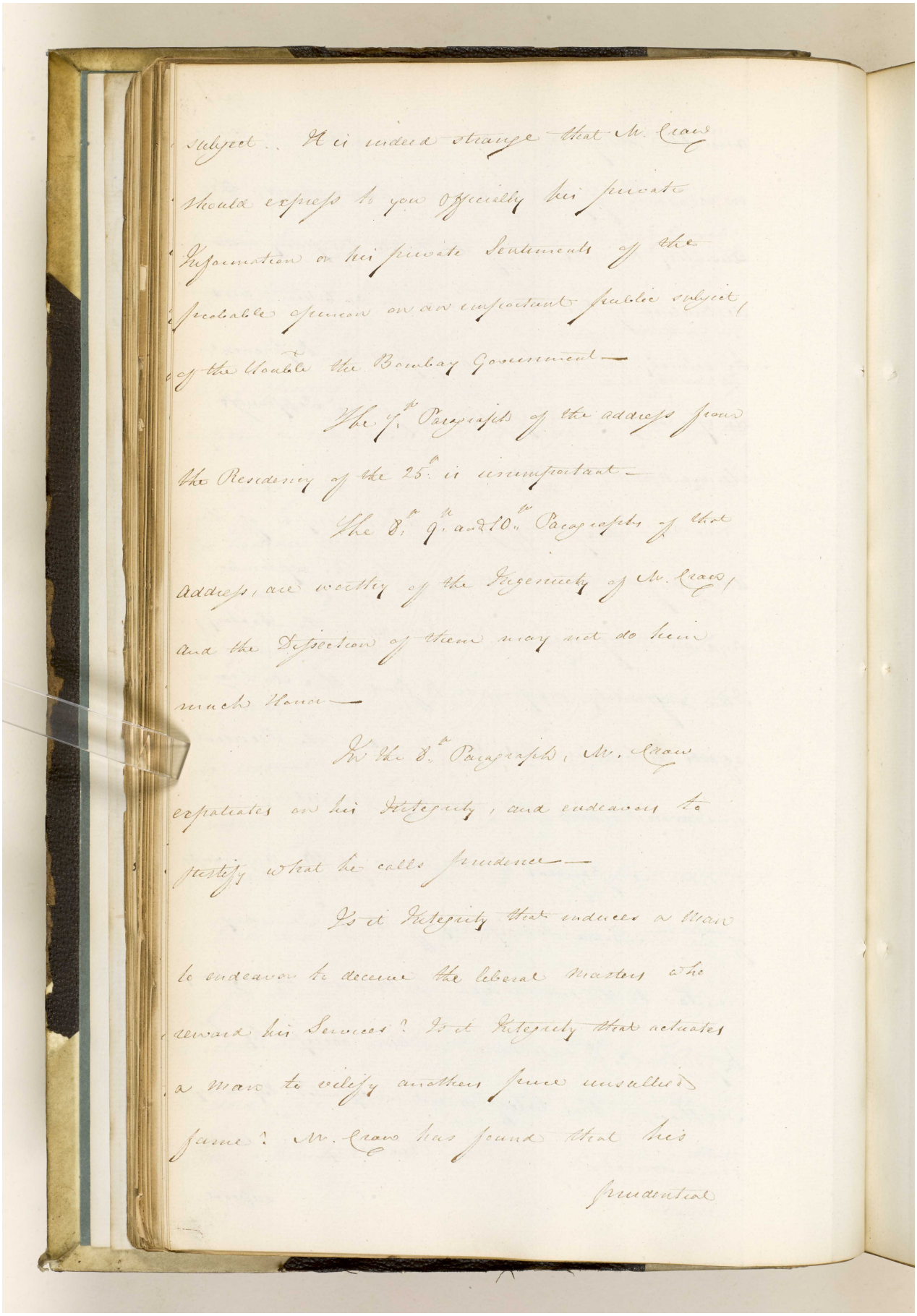

subject. It is indeed strange that Mr. Crow should express to you officially his private Information or his private Sentiments of the probable opinion on an important public subject, of the Honble the Bombay Government —

The 7th Paragraph of the address from the Residency of the 25th is unimportant —

The 8th 9th and 10th Paragraphs of that address, are worthy of the Ingenuity of Mr. Crow, and the Dissection of them may not do him much Honor —

In the 8th Paragraph, Mr. Crow expatiates on his Integrity, and endeavors to justify what he calls prudence —

Is it Integrity that induces a Man to endeavor to deceive the liberal Masters who reward his Services? Is it Integrity that actuates a Man to vilify anothers pure unsullied fame? Mr. Crow has found that his

prudential

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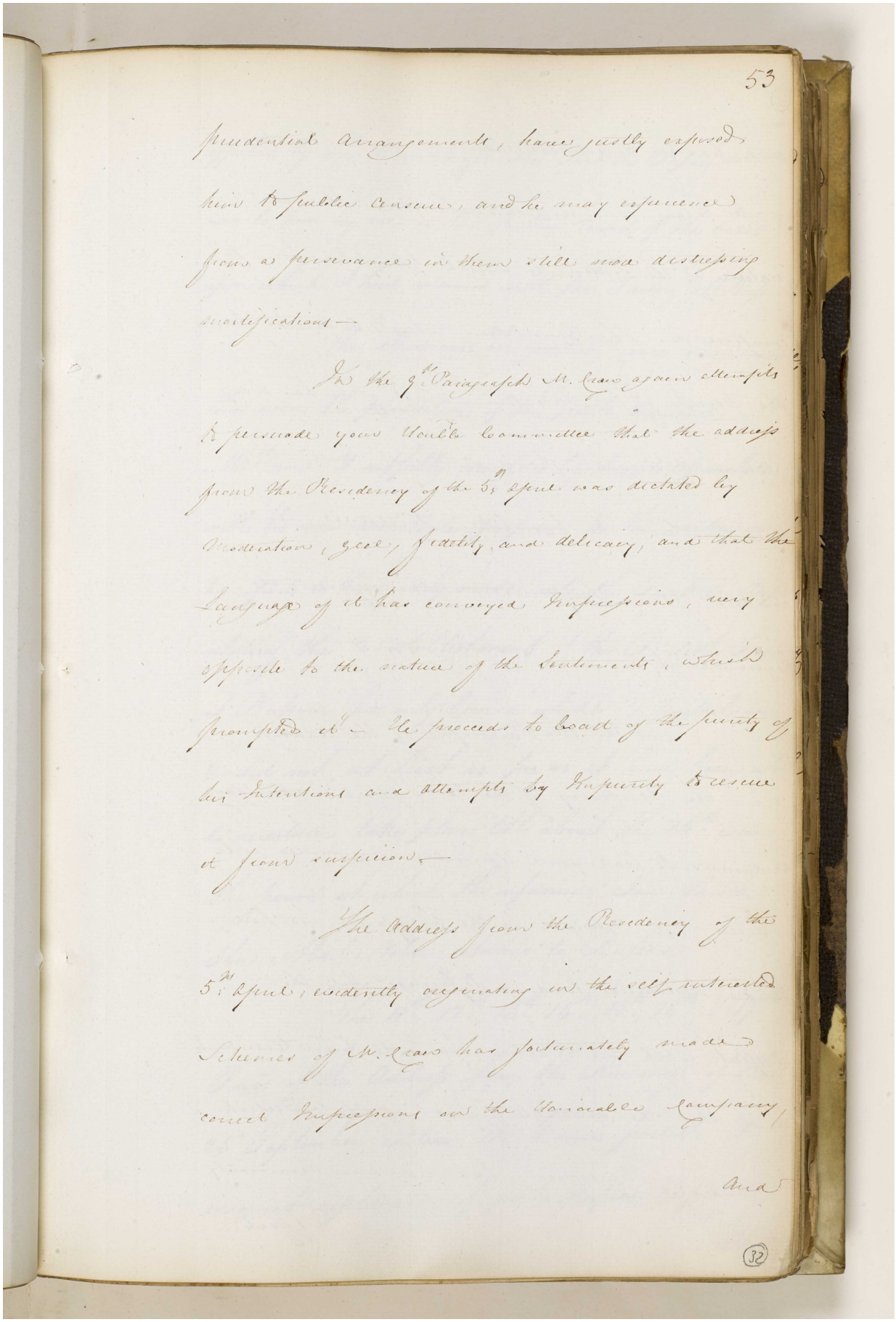

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precautionary arrangements, have justly exposed him to public censure, and he may experience from a perseverance in them still more distressing mortifications —

In the 9th Paragraph Mr. Crow again attempts to persuade your Honble Committee that the address from the Residency of the 5th April was dictated by Moderation, zeal, fidelity, and delicacy, and that the Language of it has conveyed Impressions, very opposite to the nature of the Sentiments, which prompted it — He proceeds to board of the purity of his Intentions and attempts by Impurity to censure it from suspicion —

The Address from the Residency of the 5th April, evidently originating in the self contended Schemes of Mr. Crow has fortunately made correct Impressions on the Honorable Company,

And

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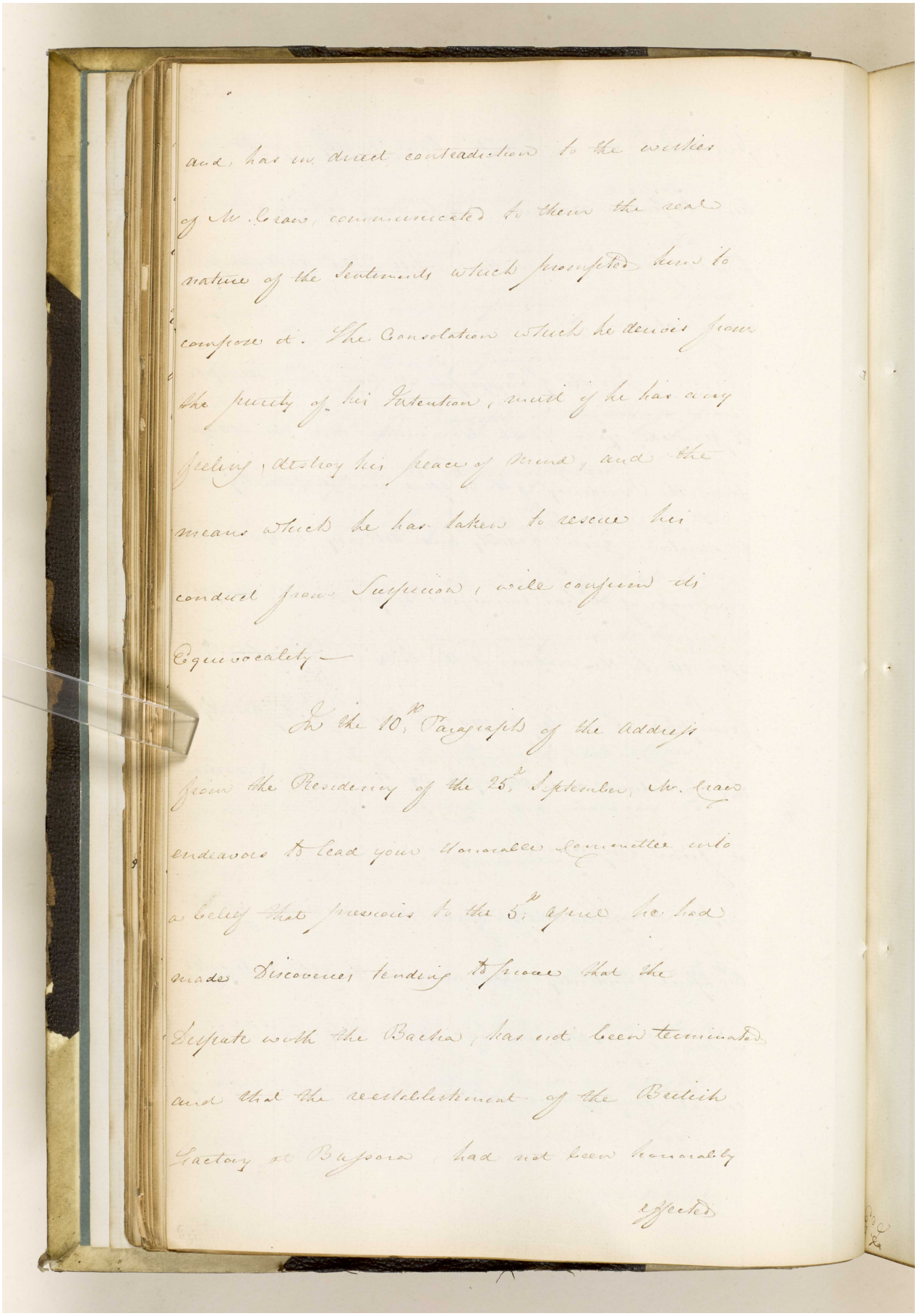

and, has in direct contradiction to the wishes
of Mr. Crow, communicated to them the real
nature of the Sentiments which prompted him to
compose it. The Consolation which he derives from
the purity of his Intention, until of he has any
feeling, destroy his peace of mind, and the
means which he has taken to rescue his
conduct from Suspicion, will confirm its
Equivocality —

In the 10th. Paragraph of the address
from the Residency of the 25th. September, Mr. Crow
endeavours to lead your Honourable Committee into
a belief that previous to the 5th. April he had
made Discoveries tending to prove that the
Dispute with the Bashaw, has not been terminated
and that the reestablishment of the British
Factory at Bussora, had not been honorably
effected

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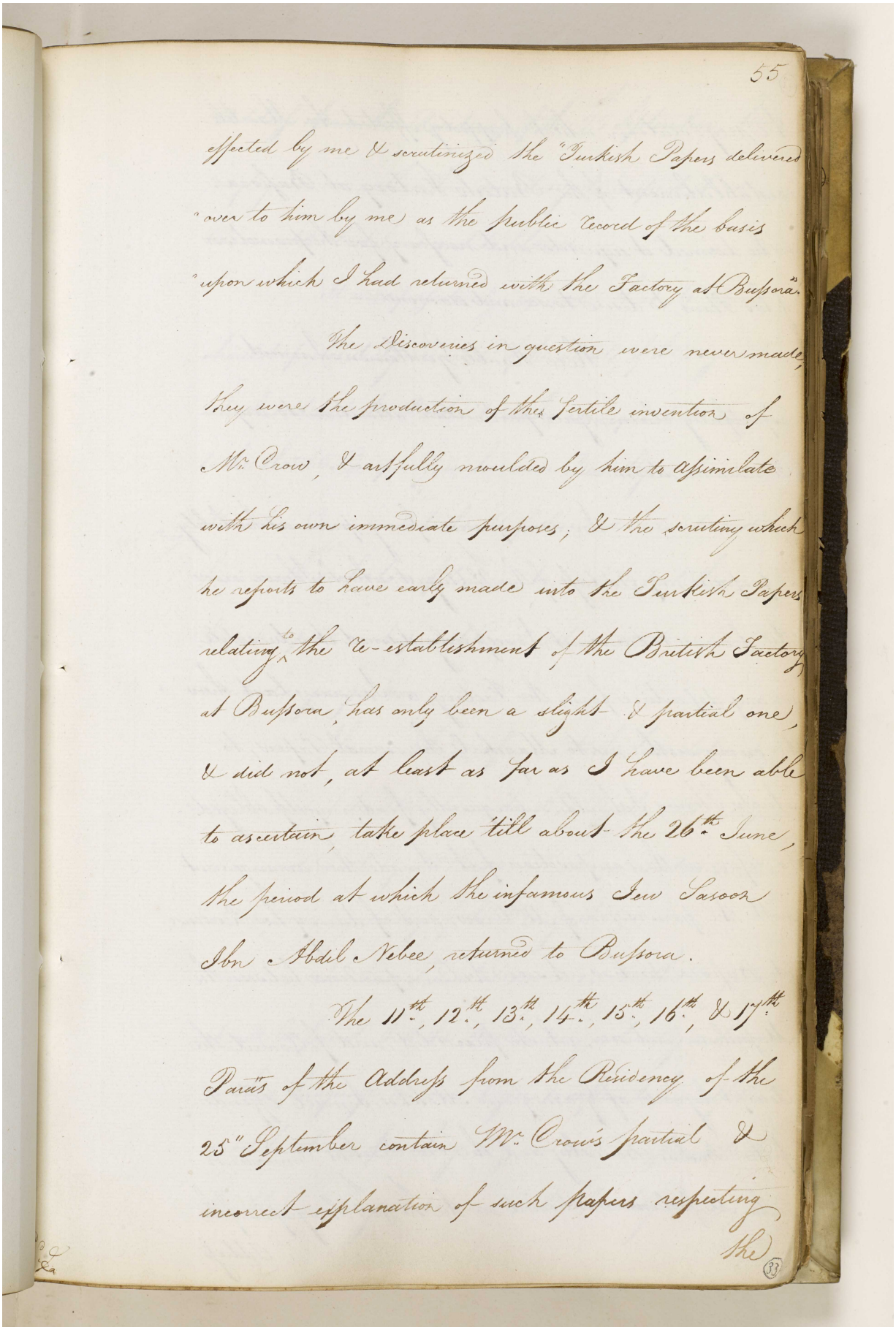

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effected by me & scrutinized the "Turkish Papers delivered
"over to him by me as the public record of the basis
"upon which I had returned with the Factory at Bussora."

The discoveries in question were never made,
they were the production of the fertile invention of
Mr. Crow, & artfully moulded by him to assimilate
with his own immediate purposes; & the scrutiny which
he reports to have early made into the Turkish Papers
relating to the re-establishment of the British Factory
at Bussora, has only been a slight & partial one,
& did not, at least as far as I have been able
to ascertain, take place till about the 26th June,
the period at which the infamous Jew Sasoon
Ibn Abdil Nebee, returned to Bussora.

The 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, & 17th
Paras of the Address from the Residency of the
25th September contain Mr. Crow's partial &
incorrect explanation of such papers respecting
the

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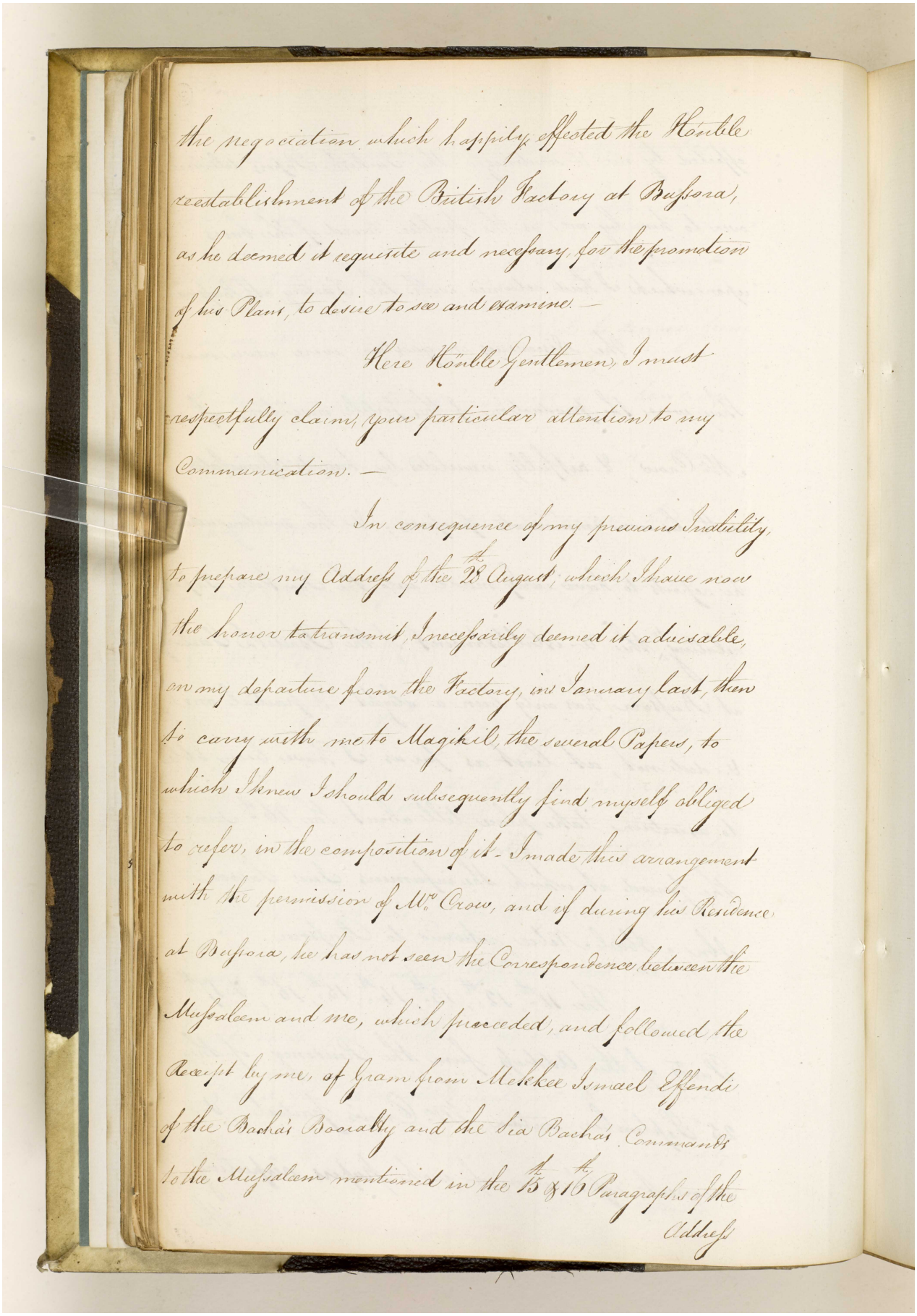

the negociation which happily effected the Hon'ble reestablishment of the British Factory at Bussora, as he deemed it requisite and necessary, for the promotion of his Plans, to desire to see and examine. —

Here Hon'ble Gentlemen, I must respectfully claim, your particular attention to my Communication. —

In consequence of my previous Inability, to prepare my Address of the 28th August, which I have now the honor to transmit, I necessarily deemed it advisable, on my departure from the Factory, in January last, then to carry with me to Magikil, the several Papers, to which I knew I should subsequently find myself obliged to refer, in the composition of it - I made this arrangement with the permission of Mr. Crow, and if during his Residence at Bussora, he has not seen the Correspondence between the Mussaleem and me, which preceded, and followed the Receipt by me, of Gram from Mekkee Ismael Effendi of the Bacha's Booralty and the Sia Bacha's Commands to the Mussaleem mentioned in the 15th & 16th Paragraphs of the Address

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'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [34r] (59/232)

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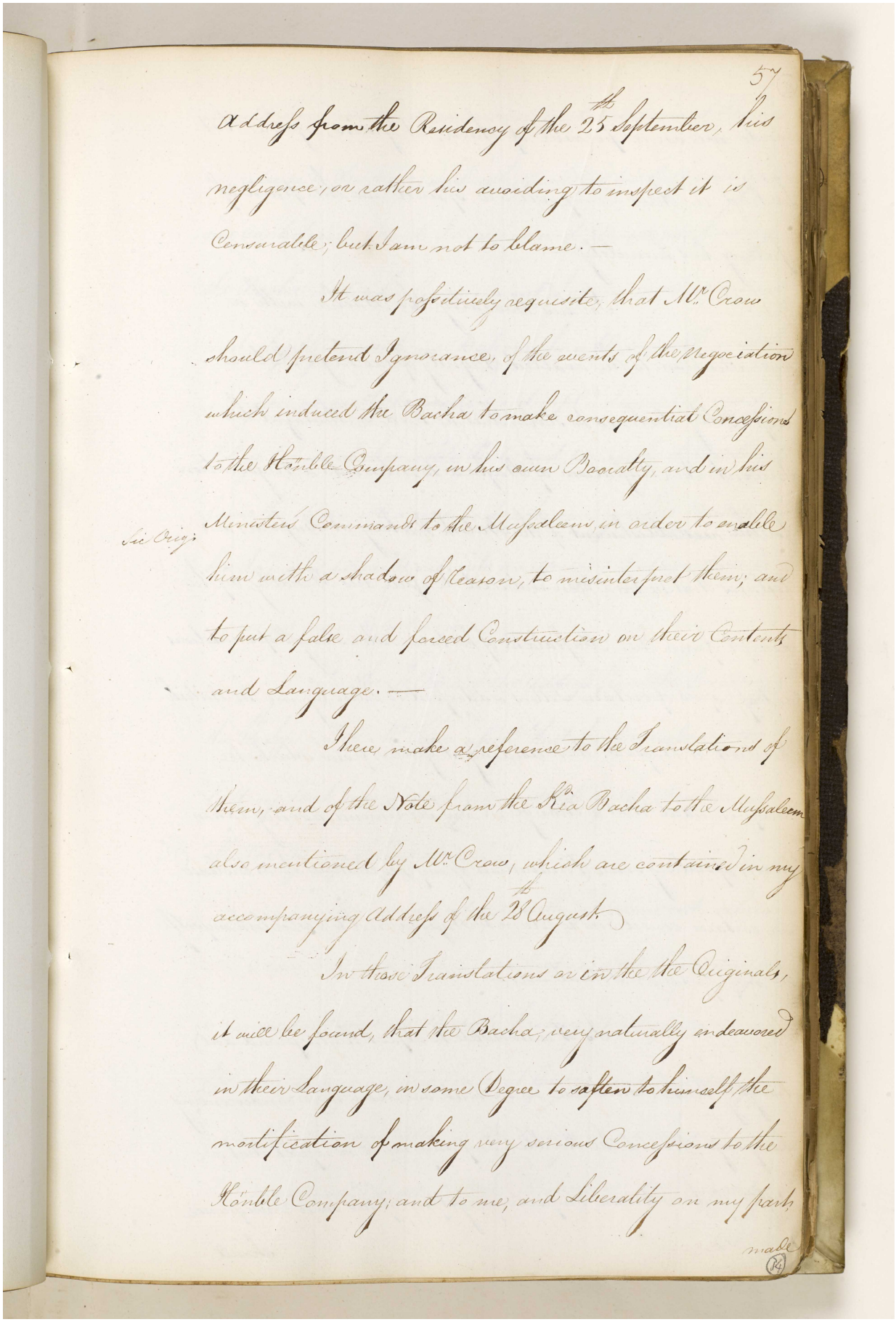

Address from the Residency of the 25th September, his negligence, or rather his avoiding to inspect it is Censurable; but I am not to blame. —

It was possitively requisite, that Mr. Crow should pretend Ignorance, of the events of the Negociation which induced the Bacha to make consequential Concessions to the Hönble Company, in his own Booratty, and in his Ministers Commands to the Mussaleem, in order to enable him with a shadow of reason, to misinterpret them; and to put a false and forced Construction on their Contents and Language. —

Sic Orig.

There make a reference to the Translations of them, and of the Note from the Kia Bacha to the Mussaleem also mentioned by Mr. Crow, which are contained in my accompanying Address of the 28th August.

In those Translations or in the the Originals, it will be found, that the Bacha, very naturally endeavored in their Language, in some Degree to soften to himself the mortification of making very serious Concessions to the Hönble Company; and to me, and Liberality on my part,

made

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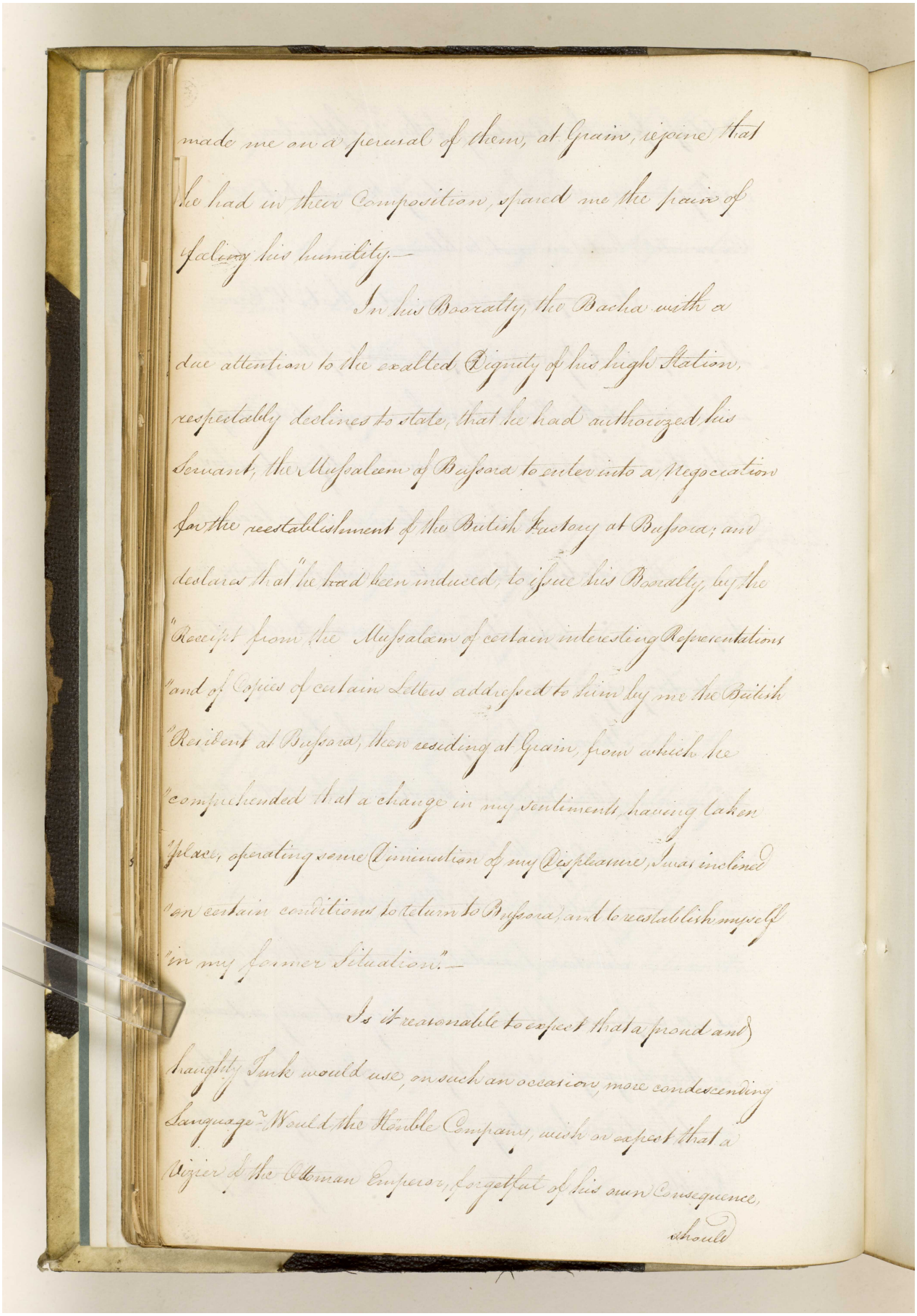

made me on a perusal of them, at Grain, rejoine that he had in their Composition, spared me the pain of feeling his humility.—

In his Booralty, the Bacha with a due attention to the exalted Dignity of his high Station, respectably declines to state, that he had authorized his Servant, the Mussaleem of Bussora to enter into a Negociation for the reestablishment of the British Factory at Bussora; and declares that "he had been induced, to issue his Booralty, by the "Receipt from the Mussaleem of certain interesting Representations "and of Copies of certain Letters addressed to him by me the British "Resident at Bussora, then residing at Grain, from which he "comprehended that a change in my sentiments, having taken "place, operating some Diminution of my Displeasure, I was inclined "on certain conditions to return to Bussora, and to reestablish myself "in my former Situation".—

Is it reasonable to expect that a proud and haughty Turk would use, on such an occasion, more condescending Language?—Would the Hönble Company, wish or expect that a Vizier of the Ottoman Emperor, forgetful of his own Consequence,

should

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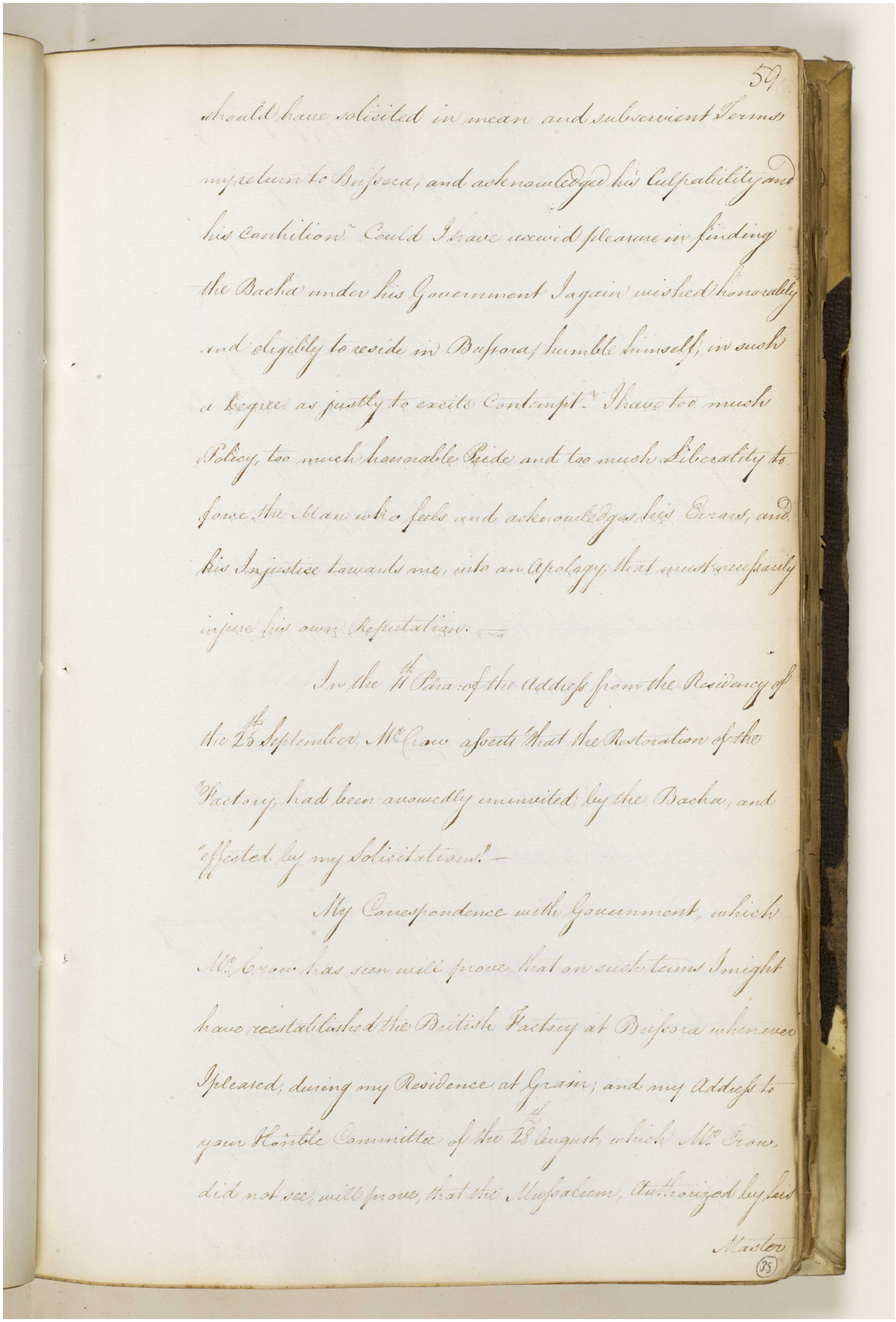

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should have solicited in mean and subservient Terms my return to Bussora, and acknowledged his Culpability and his Contrition. Could I have received pleasure in finding the Bacha under his Government I again wished honorably and eligibly to reside in Bussora, humble himself, in such a Degree as justly to excite Contempt. I have too much Policy, too much honorable Pride and too much Liberality to force the Man who feels and acknowledges his Errors, and his Injustice towards me, into an Apology that must necessarily injure his own Reputation. —

In the 11th Para: of the Address from the Residency of the 25th September, Mr Crow asserts "that the Restoration of the Factory, had been avowedly uninvited by the Bacha, and effected by my Solicitations." —

My Correspondence with Government, which Mr Crow has seen will prove, that on such terms I might have reestablished the British Factory at Bussora whenever I pleased, during my Residence at Grain; and my Address to your Honble Committee of the 28th August, which Mr Crow, did not see, will prove, that the Mussalleem, Authorized by his Master

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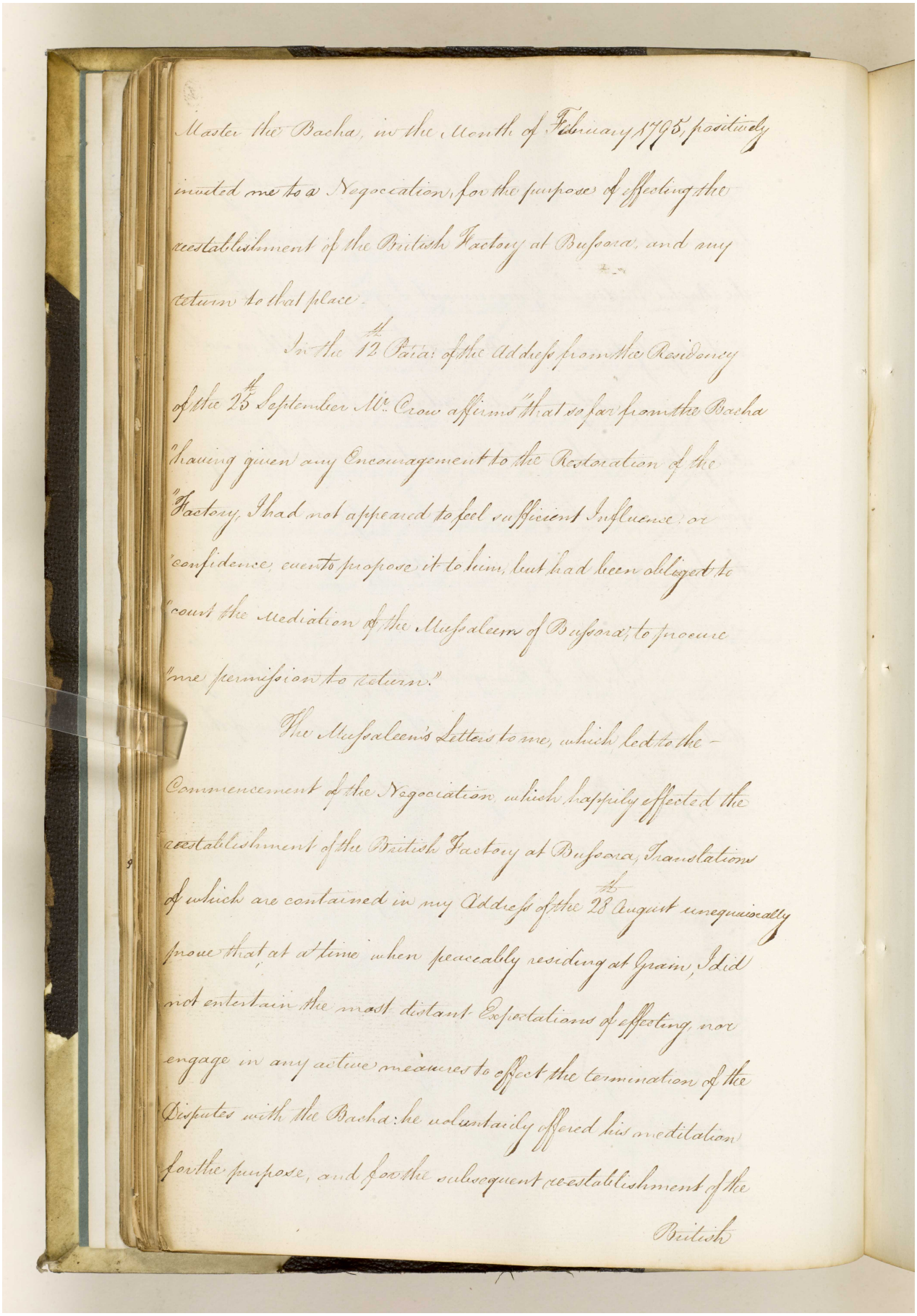

Master the Bacha, in the Month of February 1795, positively invited me to a Negociation, for the purpose of effecting the reestablishment of the British Factory at Bussora, and my return to that place.

In the 12th Para: of the Address from the Residency of the 25th September Mr. Crow affirms "that so far from the Bacha "having given any Encouragement to the Restoration of the "Factory, I had not appeared to feel sufficient Influence or "confidence, even to propose it to him, but had been obliged to "court the Mediation of the Mutsaleem of Bussora, to procure "me permission to return."

The Mutsaleem's Letters to me, which led to the Commencement of the Negociation which happily effected the reestablishment of the British Factory at Bussora, Translations of which are contained in my Address of the 28th August unequivocally prove that at a time when peaceably residing at Grain, I did not entertain the most distant Expectations of effecting, nor engage in any active measures to effect the termination of the Disputes with the Bacha: he voluntarily offered his meditation for the purpose, and for the subsequent reestablishment of the British

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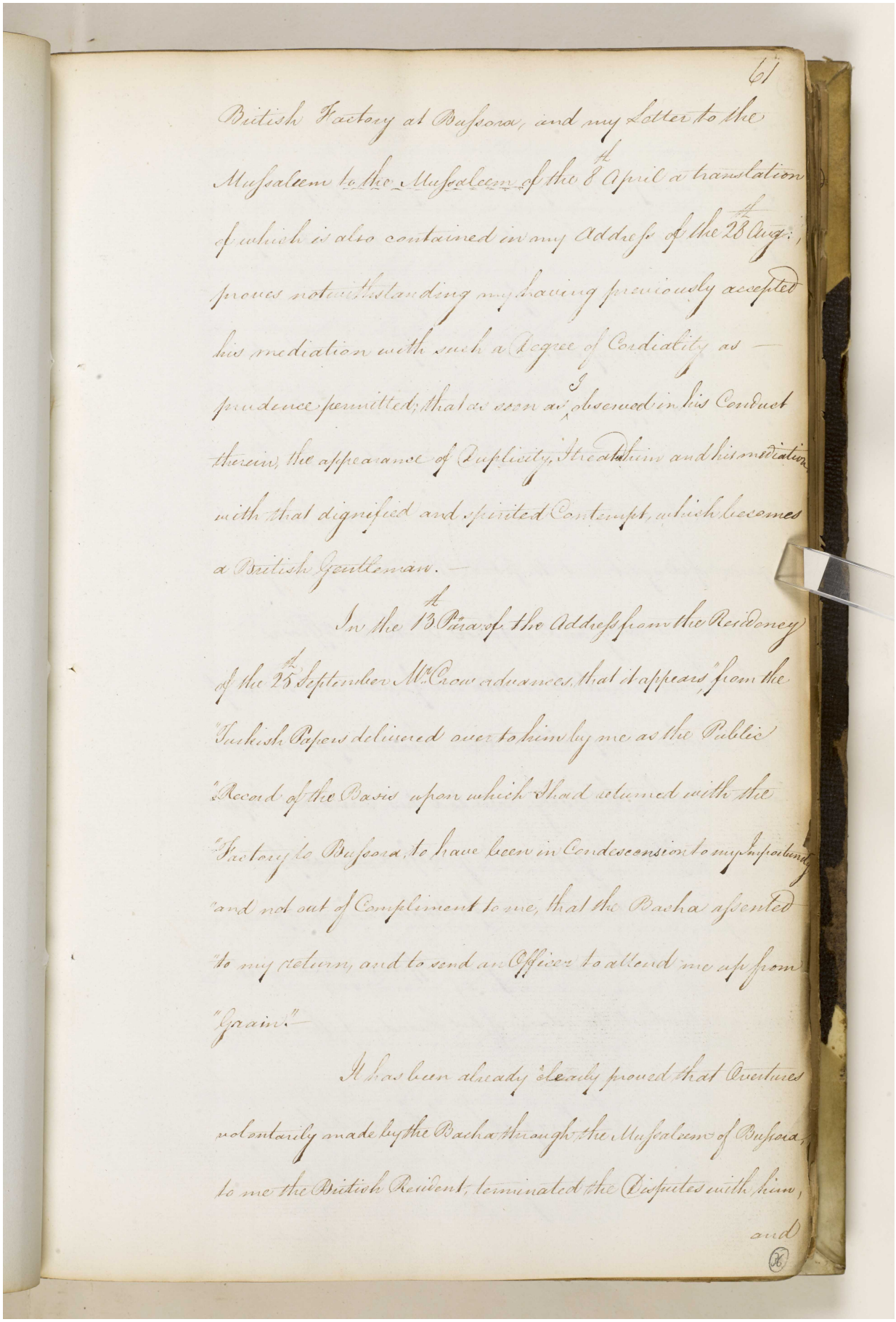

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British Factory at Bussora, and my Letter to the
Mussalem to the Mussalem of the 8th April a translation
of which is also contained in my Address of the 28th Aug.;
proves notwithstanding my having previously accepted
his mediation with such a degree of Cordiality as —
prudence permitted; that as soon as I observed in his Conduct
therein, the appearance of Duplicity, I recalled him and his mediation
with that dignified and spirited Contempt, which becomes
a British Gentleman. —

In the 13th Para. of the Address from the Residency
of the 25th September Mr. Crow advances, that it appears "from the
"Turkish Papers delivered over to him by me as the Public
"Record of the Basis upon which I had returned with the
"Factory to Bussora, to have been in Condescension to my Importunity
"and not out of Compliment to me, that the Pasha assented
"to my return, and to send an Officer to attend me up from
"Grain."

It has been already clearly proved that Overtures
voluntarily made by the Pasha through the Mussalem of Bussora,
to me the British Resident, terminated the Disputes with him,
and

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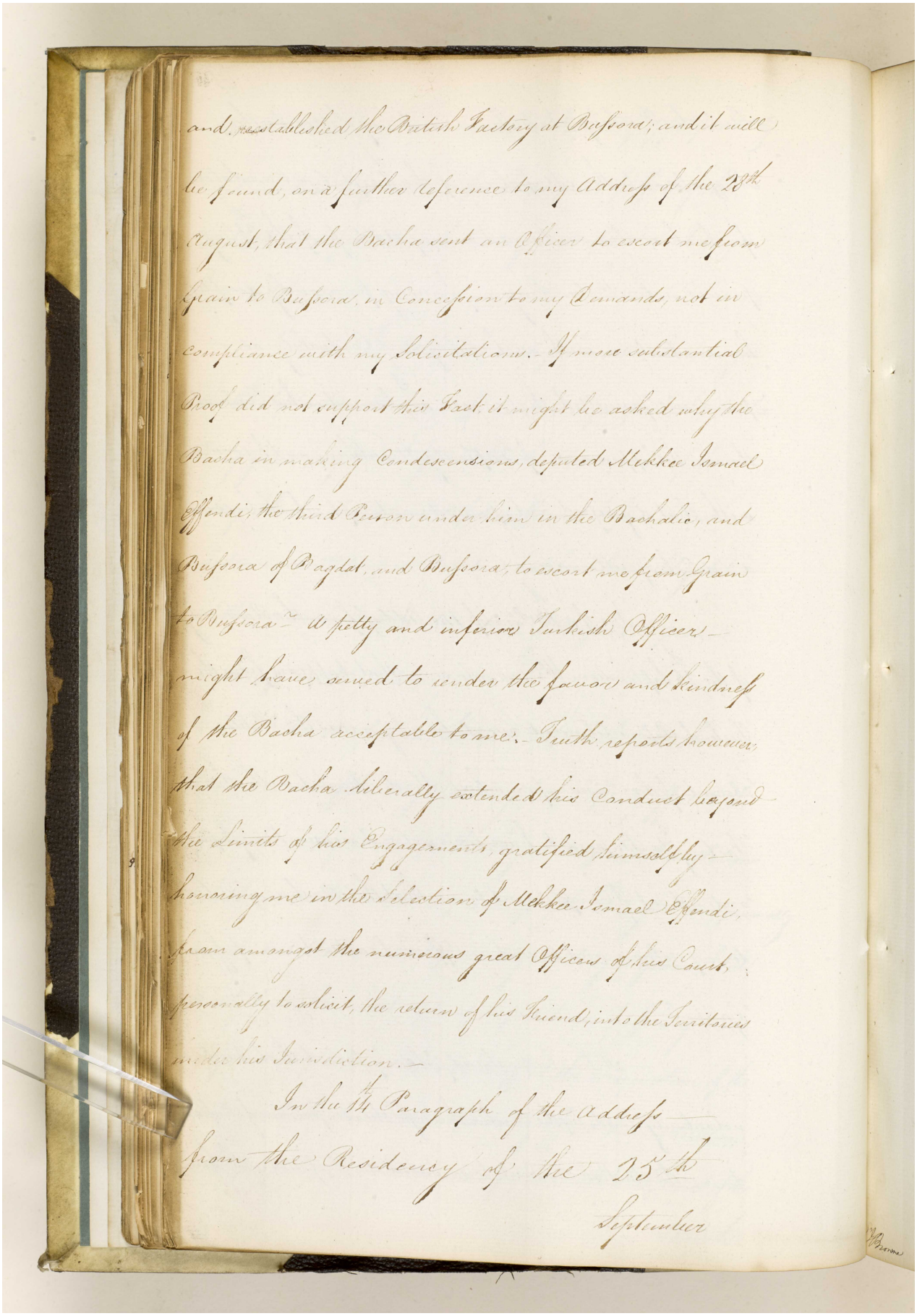

and reestablished the British Factory at Bussora; and it will be found, on a further reference to my Address of the 28th August, that the Bacha sent an Officer to escort me from Grain to Bussora, in Concession to my Demands, not in compliance with my Solicitations. If more substantial Proof did not support this Fact it might be asked why the Bacha in making Condescensions, deputed Mekkee Ismael Effendi, the third Person under him in the Bachalic, and Bussora of Bagdat, and Bussora, to escort me from Grain to Bussora? A petty and inferior Turkish Officers might have served to render the favors and kindness of the Bacha acceptable to me. Truth reports however that the Bacha liberally extended his Conduct beyond the Limits of his Engagements, gratified himself by honoring me in the Selection of Mekkee Ismael Effendi, from amongst the numerous great Officers of his Court, personally to solicit the return of his Friend, into the Territories under his Jurisdiction.

In the 4th Paragraph of the Address from the Residency of the 25th September

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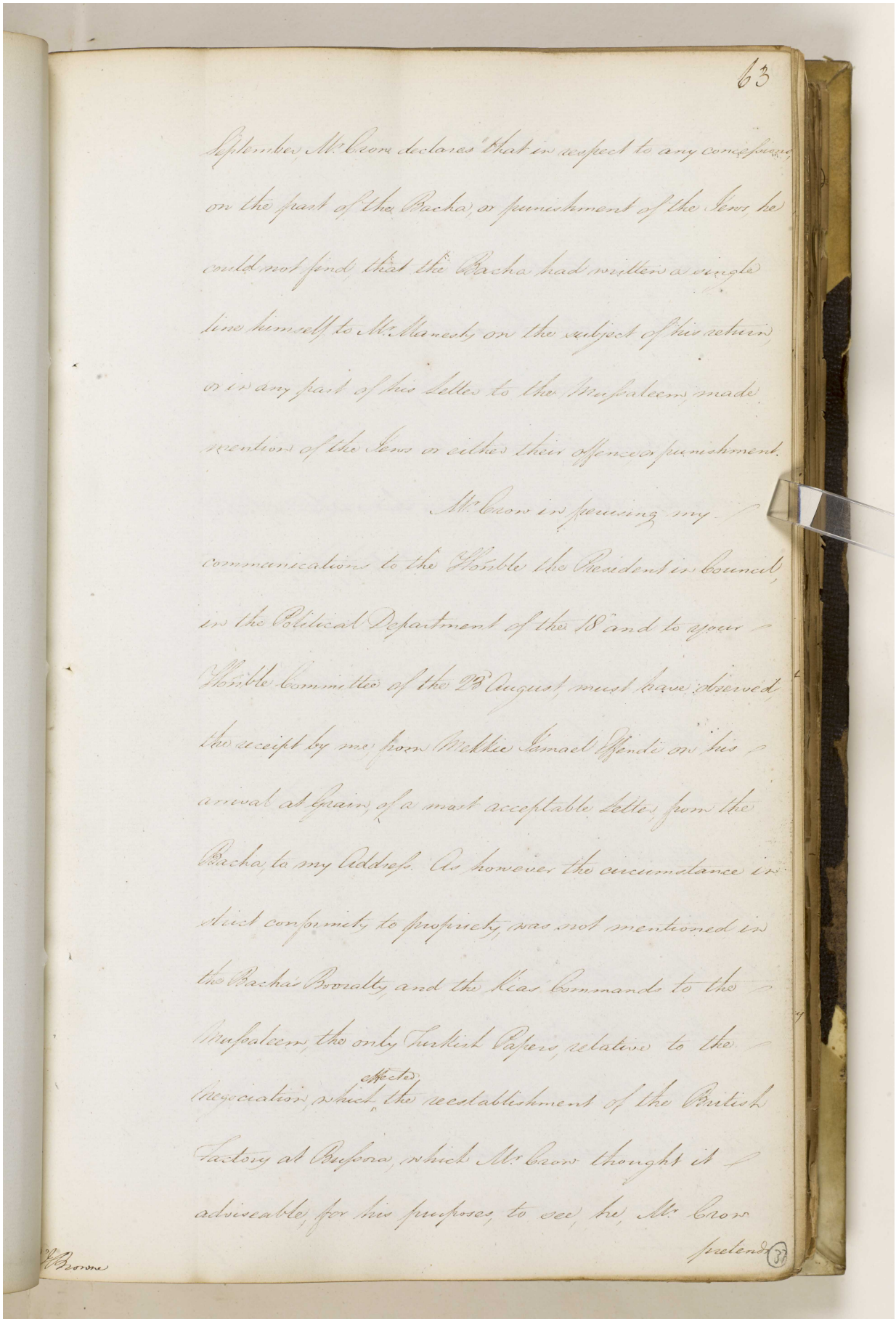
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [37r] (65/232)



September, Mr Crow declares that in respect to any concessions on the part of the Bacha, or punishment of the Jews, he could not find, that the Bacha had written a single line himself to Mr Manesty on the subject of his return, or in any part of his Letter to the Mussaleem, made mention of the Jews or either their offence or punishment.

Mr Crow in perusing my communications to the Honble the President in Council, in the Political Department of the 18th and to your Honble Committee of the 23d August, must have observed, the receipt by me, from Mekkie Ismael Effendi on his arrival at Grain, of a most acceptable Letter, from the Bacha, to my Address. As however the circumstance in strict conformity to propriety, was not mentioned in the Bacha's Booralty, and the Kias Commands to the Mussaleem, the only Turkish Papers, relative to the Negociation, which effected the reestablishment of the British Factory at Bussora, which Mr Crow thought it adviseable, for his purposes, to see, he, Mr Crow

pretends

J Browne

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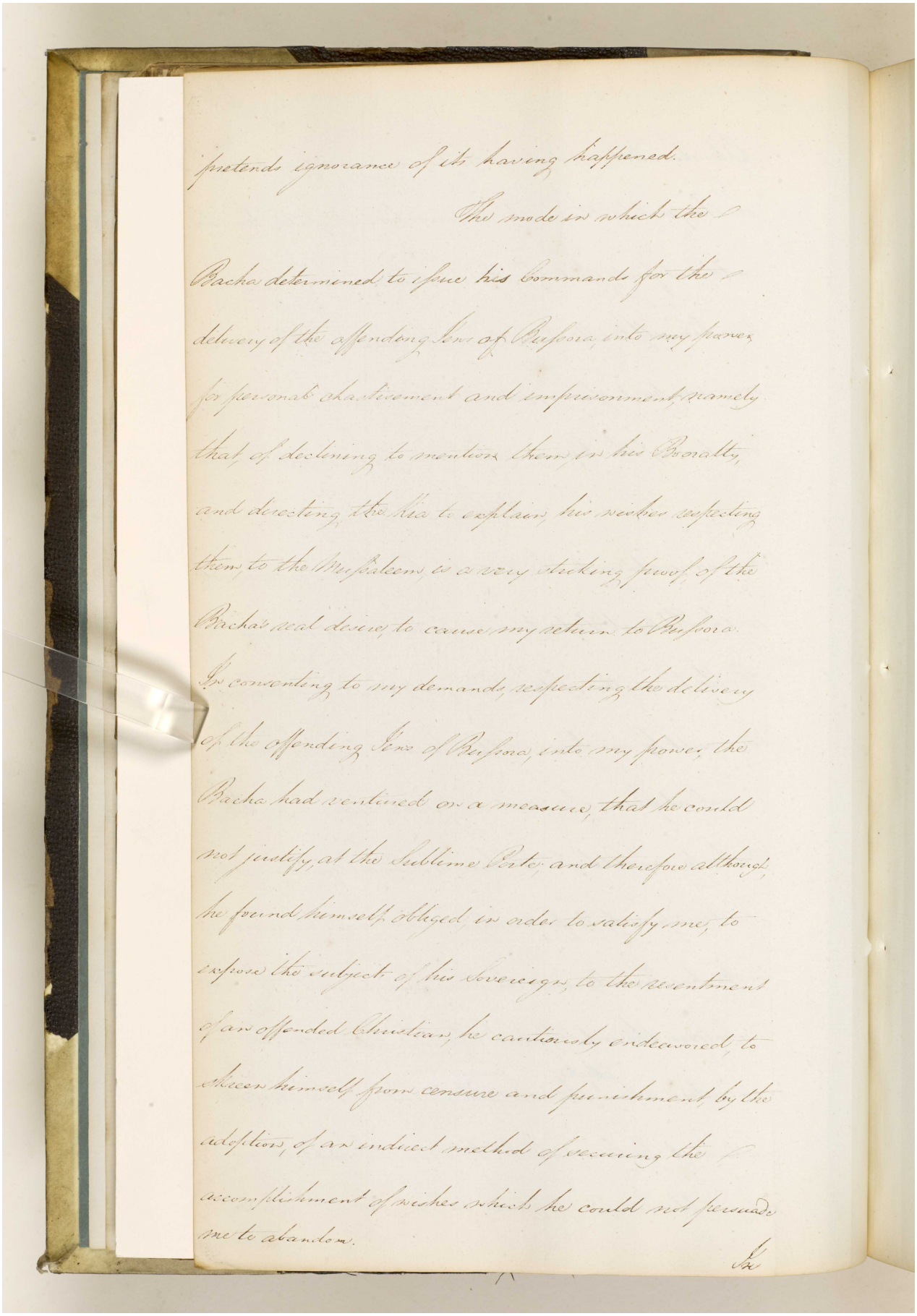

pretends ignorance of its having happened.

The mode in which the Bacha determined to issue his Commands for the delivery of the offending Sons of Bussora into my power for personal chastisement and imprisonment, namely that of declining to mention them in his Firmaun, and directing the Kia to explain his wishes respecting them to the Mutsellem, is a very striking proof of the Bachas real desire to cause my return to Bussora.

In consenting to my demands respecting the delivery of the offending Sons of Bussora into my power, the Bacha had sentenced on a measure, that he could not justify, at the Sublime Porte, and therefore although he found himself obliged in order to satisfy me, to expose the subject of his Sovereign, to the resentment of an offended Christian, he cautiously endeavored, to skreen himself from censure and punishment by the adoption of an indirect method of securing the accomplishment of wishes which he could not persuade me to abandon.

&c

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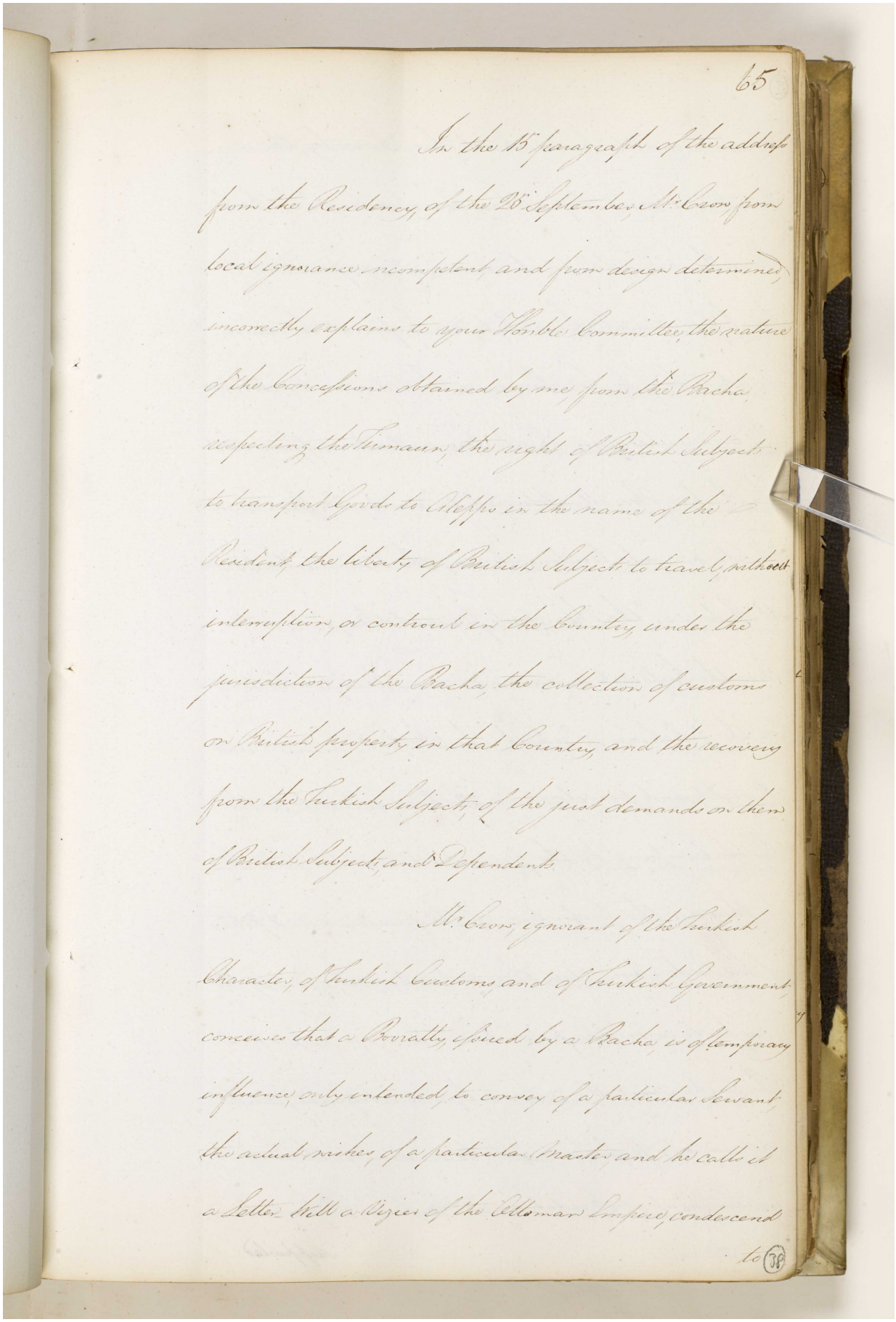

65

In the 15 paragraph of the address from the Residency of the 26th September Mr Crow from local ignorance incompetent and from design determined, incorrectly explains to your Honble Committee, the nature of the Concessions obtained by me from the Pacha respecting the Firmaun, the right of British Subjects to transport Goods to Aleppo in the name of the Resident the liberty of British Subjects to travel without interruption, or controul in the Country under the jurisdiction of the Pacha, the collection of customs on British property in that Country, and the recovery from the Turkish Subjects, of the just demands on them of British Subjects, and Dependents.

Mr Crow, ignorant of the Turkish Character, of Turkish Customs and of Turkish Government conceives that a Firmaun issued by a Pacha is of temporary influence, only intended to convey of a particular Servant the actual wishes of a particular Master, and he calls it a Letter. Still a Vizier of the Ottoman Empire, condescends to

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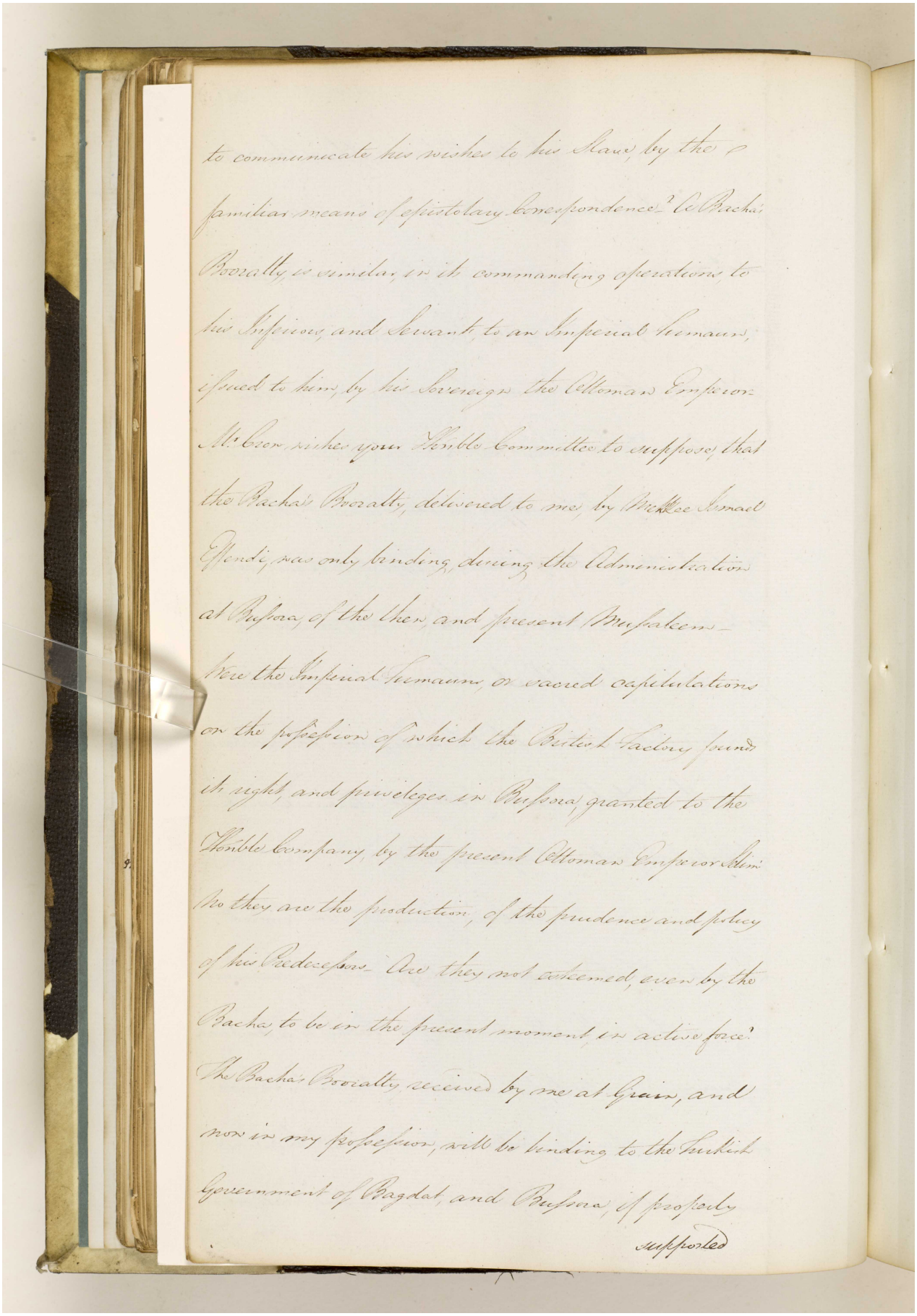
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [38v] (68/232)



to communicate his wishes to his Slave, by the familiar means of epistolary Correspondence? A Bacha's Booratty is similar, in its commanding operations, to his Inferiors, and Servants, to an Imperial Turmaun, issued to him, by his Sovereign the Ottoman Emperor. Mr Crow wishes your Honble Committee to suppose, that the Bacha's Booratty, delivered to me, by Mekkee Ismael Effendi, was only binding, during the Administration at Bussora, of the then, and present Mussaleem. Were the Imperial Turmauns, or sacred capitulations on the possession of which the British Factory founds its right, and priveleges in Bussora, granted to the Honble Company, by the present Ottoman Emperor Selim? No they are the production, of the prudence and policy of his Predecessors. Are they not esteemed, even by the Bacha, to be in the present moment, in active force? The Bacha's Booratty, received by me at Grain, and now in my possession, will be binding to the Turkish Government of Bagdat, and Bussora, if properly

supported

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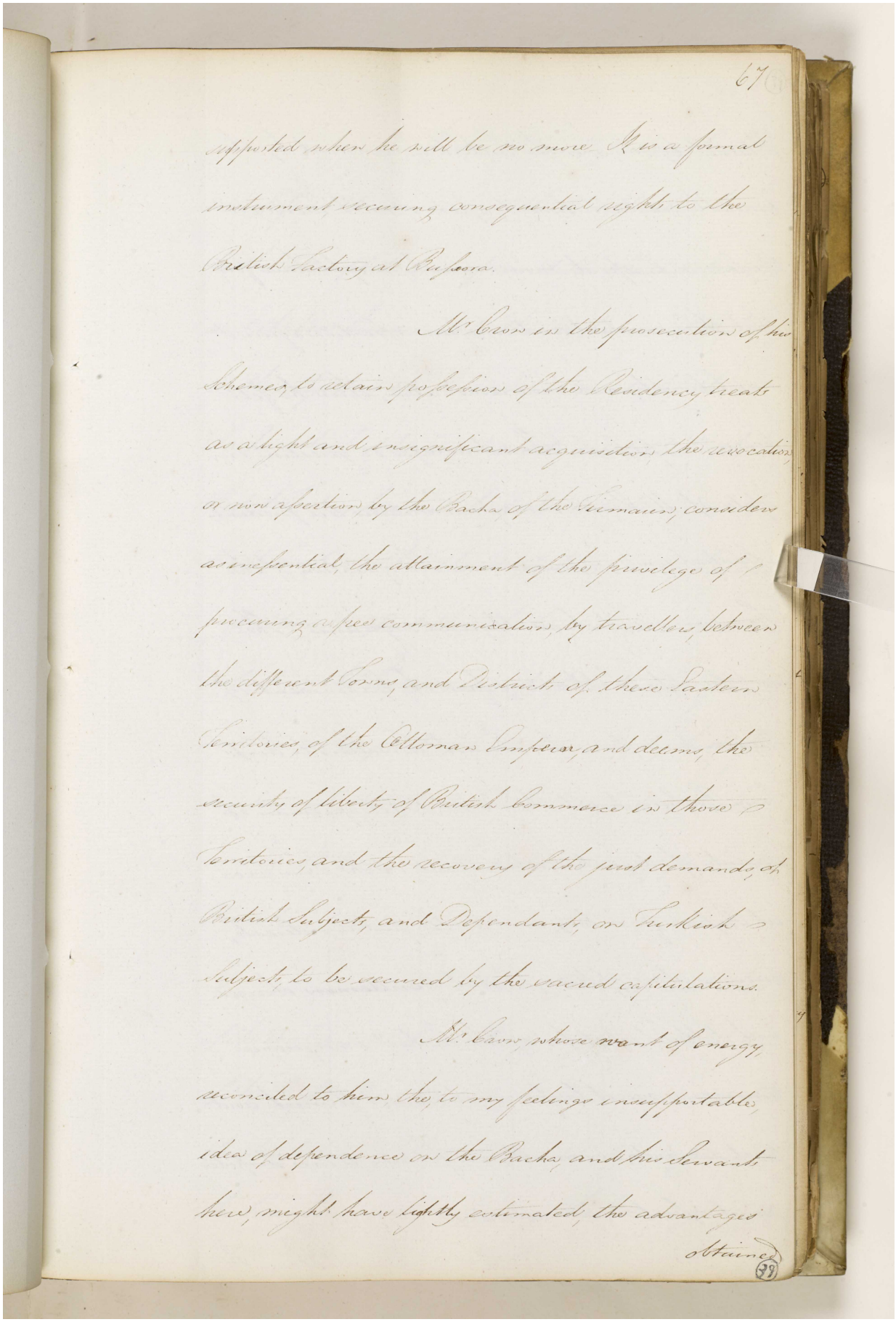

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supported when he will be no more. It is a formal
instrument securing consequential rights to the
British Factory at Bussora.

Mr Crow in the prosecution of his
Schemes, to retain possession of the Residency treats
as a slight and insignificant acquisition, the revocation
of new assertion by the Bacha of the Firmaun; considers
as inessential, the attainment of the privilege of
procuring safe communications, by travellers, between
the different Towns, and Districts of these Eastern
Territories, of the Ottoman Empire, and deems the
security of liberty of British commerce in those
Territories, and the recovery of the just demands of
British Subjects, and Dependants, or Turkish
Subjects, to be secured by the renewed capitulations.

Mr Crow, whose want of energy,
reconciled to him the, to my feelings unsupportable,
idea of dependence on the Bacha, and his Servants
here, might have lightly estimated, the advantages
Attained

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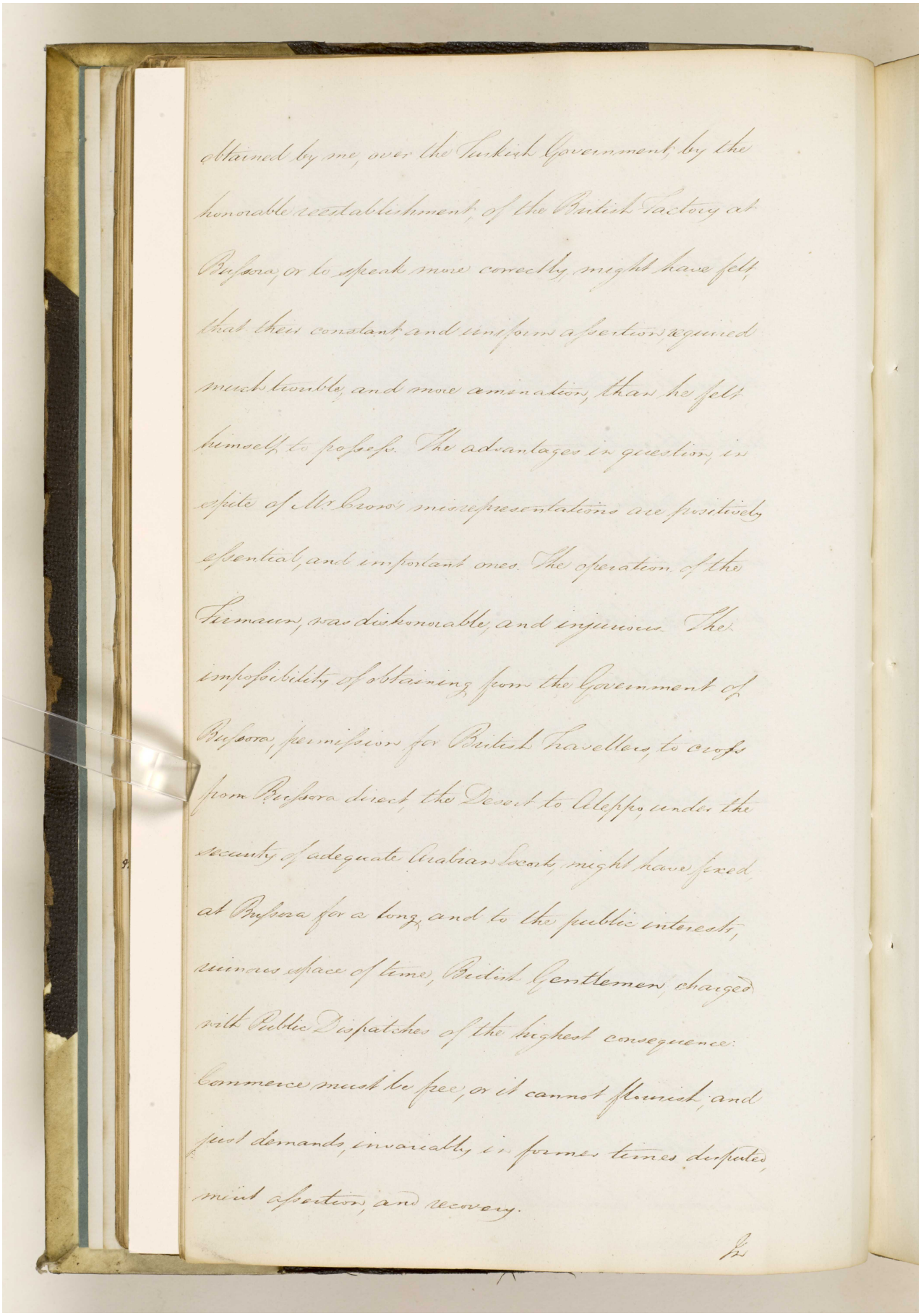

attained by me, over the Turkish Government, by the honorable reestablishment, of the British Factory at Bussora, or to speak more correctly, might have felt that their constant and uniform assertion, required much trouble, and more examination, than he felt himself to possess. The advantages in question, in spite of Mr Crow's misrepresentations are positively essential, and important ones. The operation of the Firmaun, was dishonorable, and injurious. The impossibility of obtaining from the Government of Bussora, permission for British Travellers, to cross from Bussora direct the Desert to Aleppo, under the security of adequate Arabian Escorts, might have fixed at Bussora for a long, and to the public interests, ruinous space of time, British Gentlemen, charged with Public Dispatches of the highest consequence: Commerce must be free, or it cannot flourish, and just demands, invariably in former times disputed, must assertion, and recovery.

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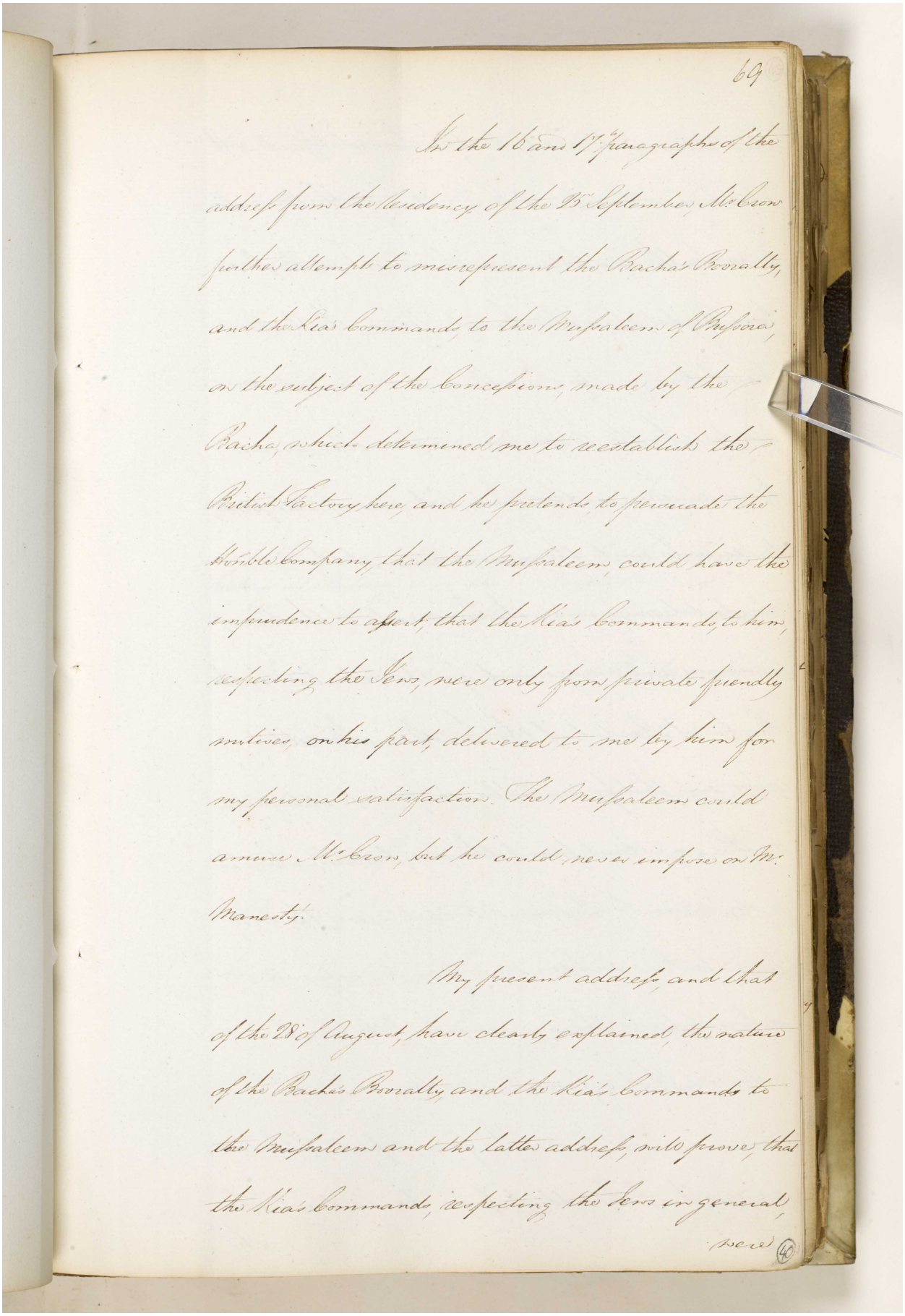
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [40r] (71/232)



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In the 16th and 17th paragraphs of the address from the Residency of the 25th September, Mr Crow further attempts to misrepresent the Bacha's Boorally, and the Kia's Commands, to the Mussaleem of Bussora, on the subject of the Concessions, made by the Bacha, which determined me to reestablish the British Factory here, and he pretends, to persuade the Honble Company, that the Mussaleem, could have the imprudence to assert, that the Kia's Commands, to him, respecting the Jews, were only from private friendly motives, on his part, delivered to me by him for my personal satisfaction. The Mussaleem could amuse Mr Crow, but he could never impose on Mr Manesty.

My present address, and that of the 28th of August, have clearly explained, the nature of the Bacha's Boorally, and the Kia's Commands to the Mussaleem and the latter address, will prove, that the Kia's Commands, respecting the Jews in general,

were

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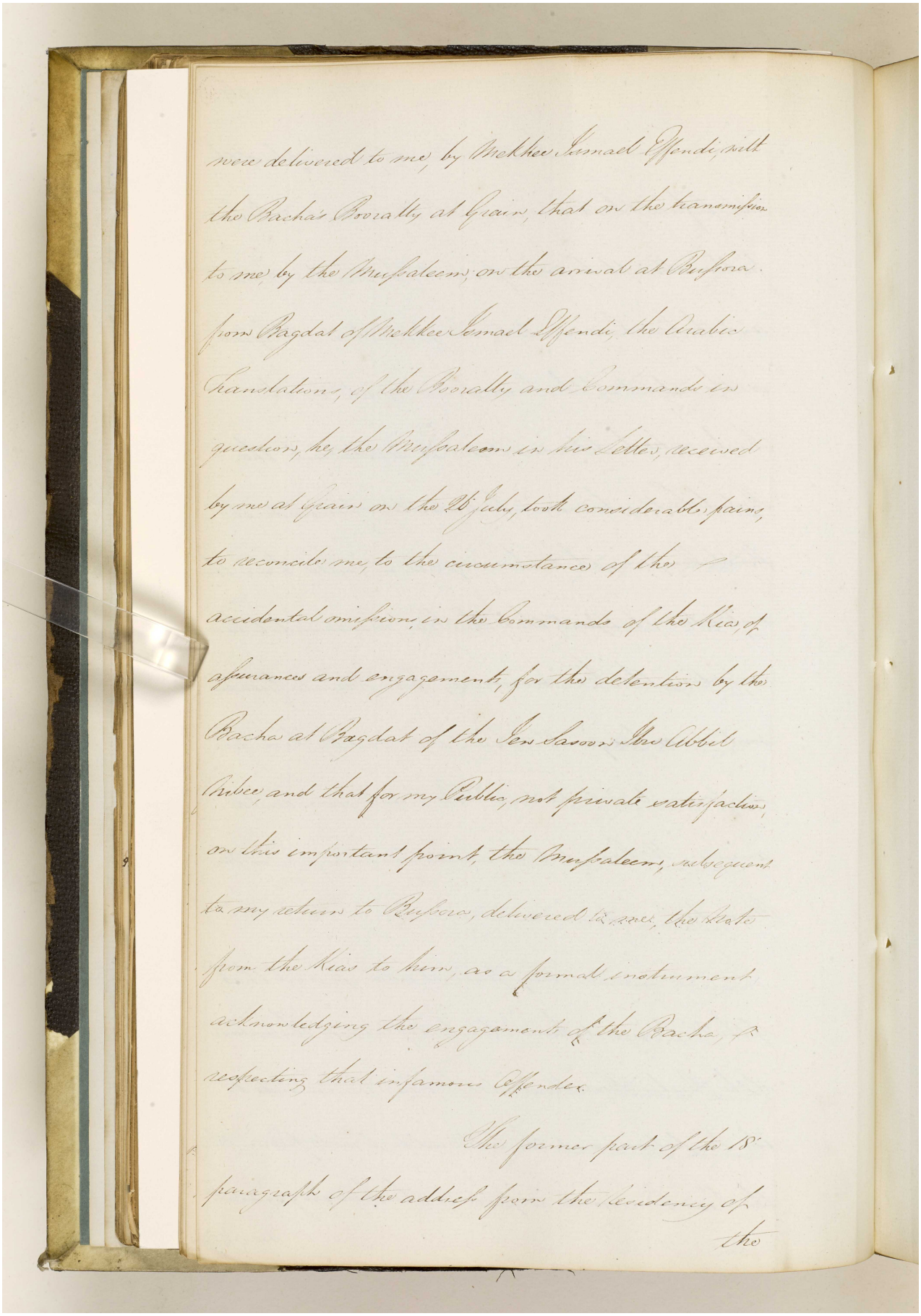

were delivered to me, by Mekkee Ismael Effendi, with the Bacha's Booratty at Grain, that on the transmission to me by the Mussaleem, on the arrival at Bussora from Bagdat of Mekkee Ismael Effendi, the Arabic Translations, of the Booratty and Commands in question, he, the Mussaleem in his Letter, received by me at Grain on the 26 July, took considerable pains, to reconcile me, to the circumstance of the accidental omission, in the Commands of the Kia, of assurances and engagements, for the detention by the Bacha at Bagdat of the Ien Sasoon Ibn Abbil Nibee, and that for my Public, not private satisfaction, on this important point, the Mussaleem, subsequent to my return to Bussora, delivered to me, the Note from the Kias to him, as a formal instrument acknowledging the engagements of the Bacha, & respecting that infamous Offender.

The former part of the 18th paragraph of the address from the Residency of the

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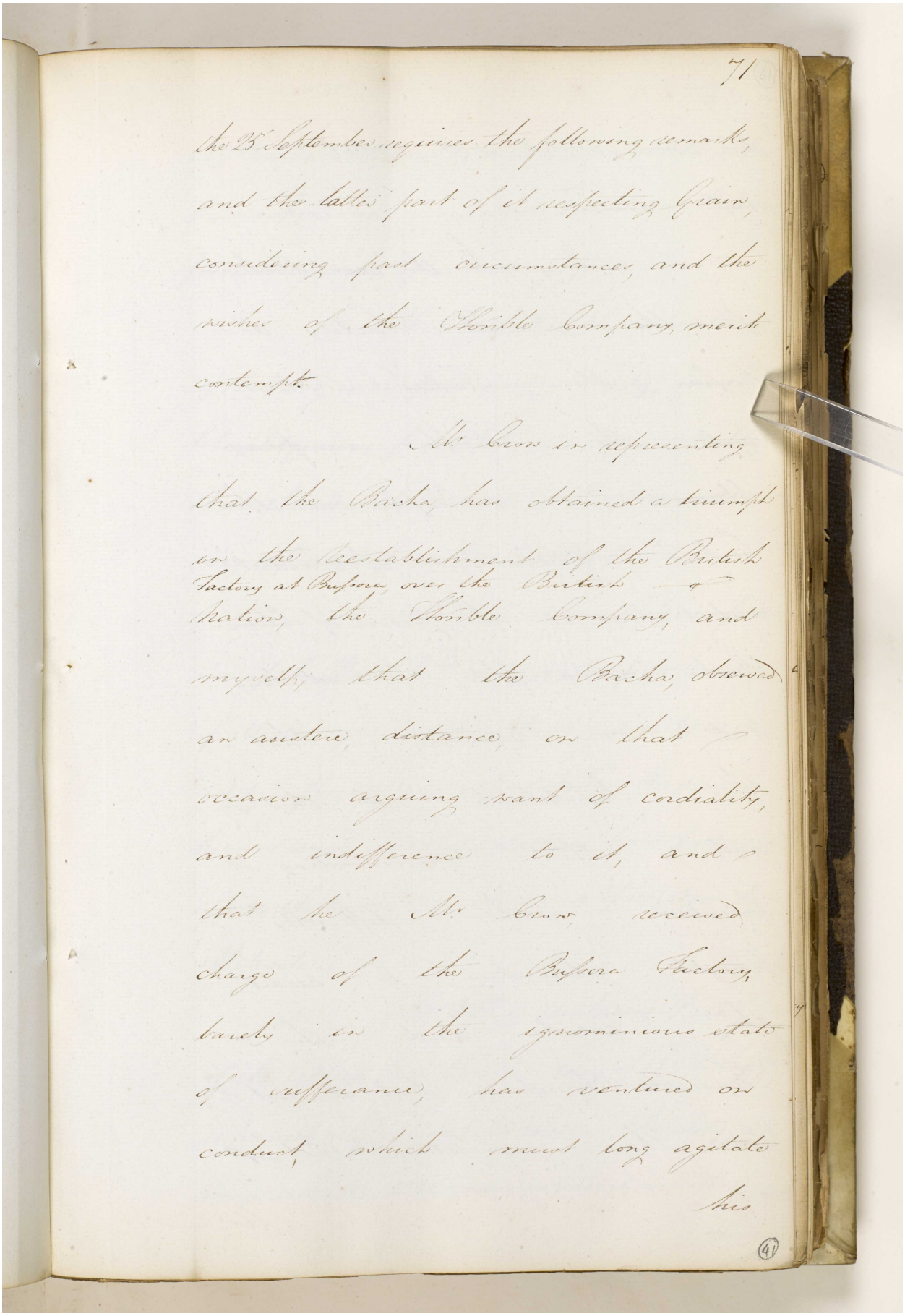

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the 25 September requires the following remarks,
and the latter part of it respecting Grain,
considering past circumstances, and the
wishes of the Honble Company, merits
contempt.

Mr Crow in representing
that the Bacha has obtained a triumph
on the Reestablishment of the British
Factory at Bussora, over the British —
Nation, the Honble Company, and
myself; that the Bacha, observed
an austere distance, on that
occasion arguing want of cordiality,
and indifference to it, and
that he Mr Crow received
charge of the Bussora Factory,
barely in the ignominious state
of sufferance, has ventured on
conduct which must long agitate
his

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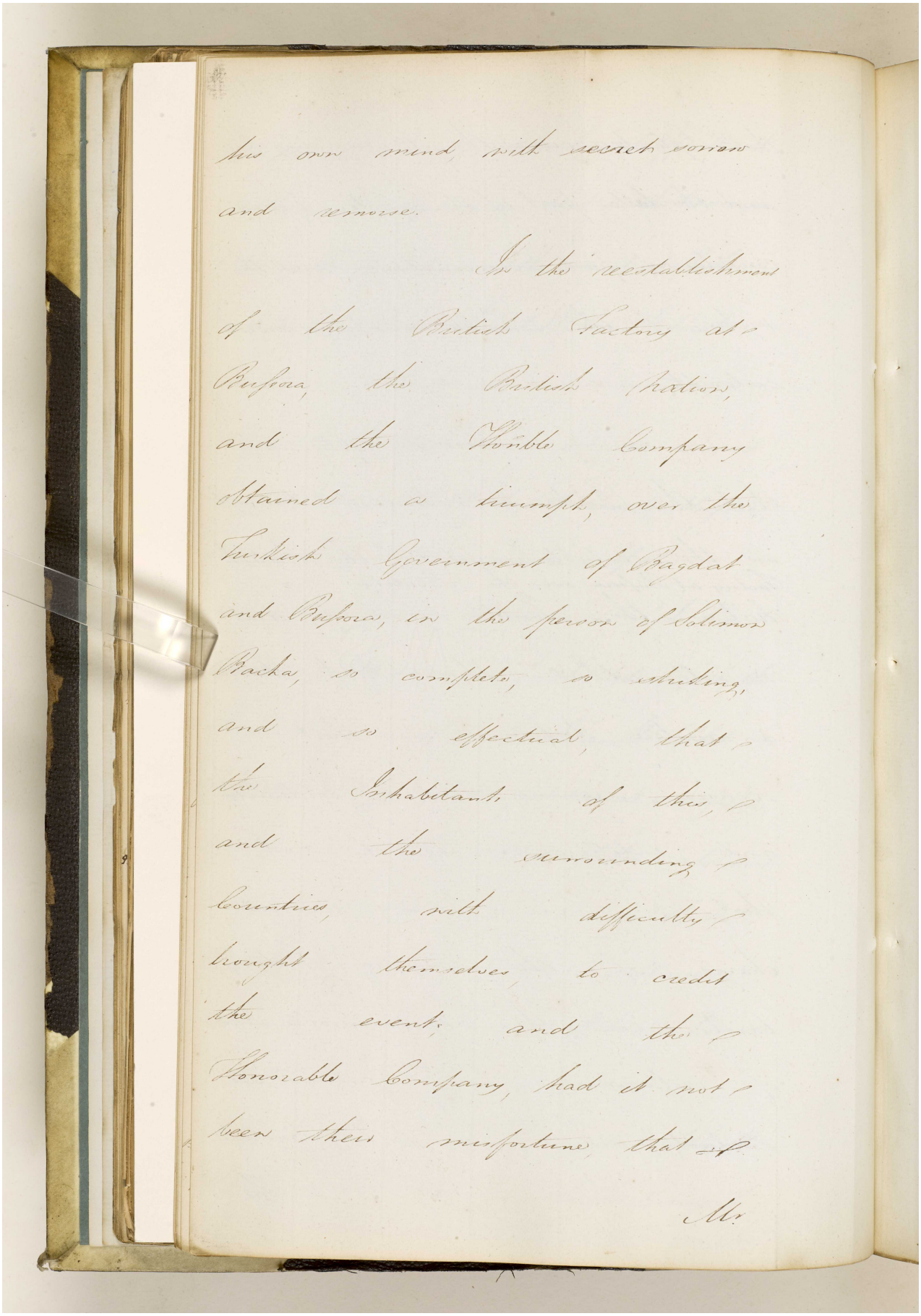

his own mind, with secret sorrow
and remorse.

In the reestablishment
of the British Factory at
Bussora, the British Nation,
and the Honble Company
obtained a triumph, over the
Turkish Government of Bagdat
and Bussora, in the person of Soliman
Backa, so complete, so striking,
and so effectual, that
the Inhabitants of this,
and the surrounding
Countries, with difficulty
brought themselves, to credit
the event; and the
Honorable Company, had it not
been their misfortune, that

Mr

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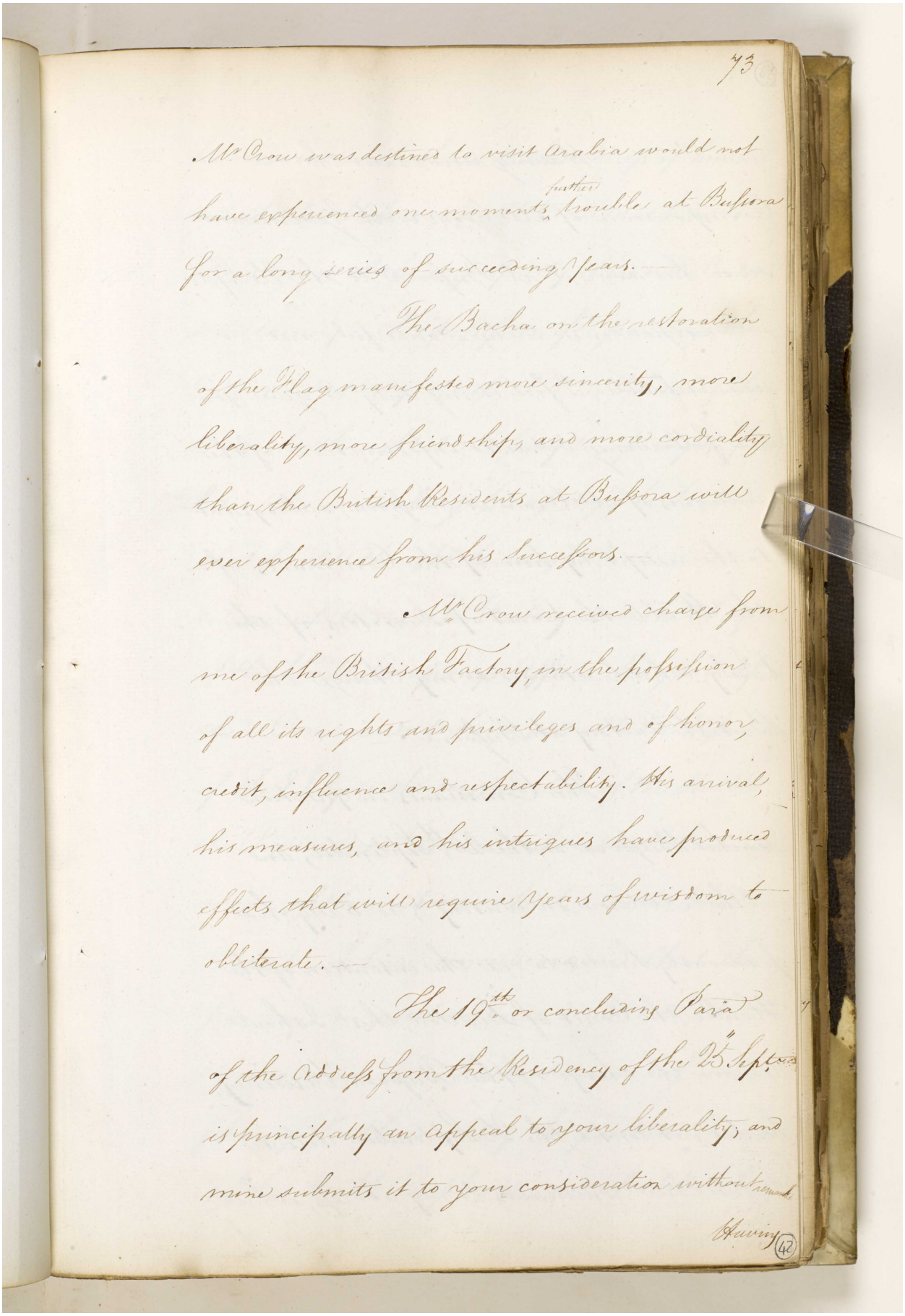

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Mr Crow was destined to visit Arabia would not have experienced one moments further trouble at Bussora for a long series of succeeding years.—

The Bacha on the restoration of the Flag manifested more sincerity, more liberality, more friendships and more cordiality than the British Residents at Bussora will ever experience from his Successors.—

Mr Crow received charge from me of the British Factory, in the possession of all its rights and privileges and of honor, credit, influence and respectability. His arival, his measures, and his intrigues have produced effects that will require years of wisdom to obliterate.—

The 19th or concluding Para of the Address from the Residency of the 25th Sept. is principally an Appeal to your liberality, and mine submits it to your consideration without remark

Having

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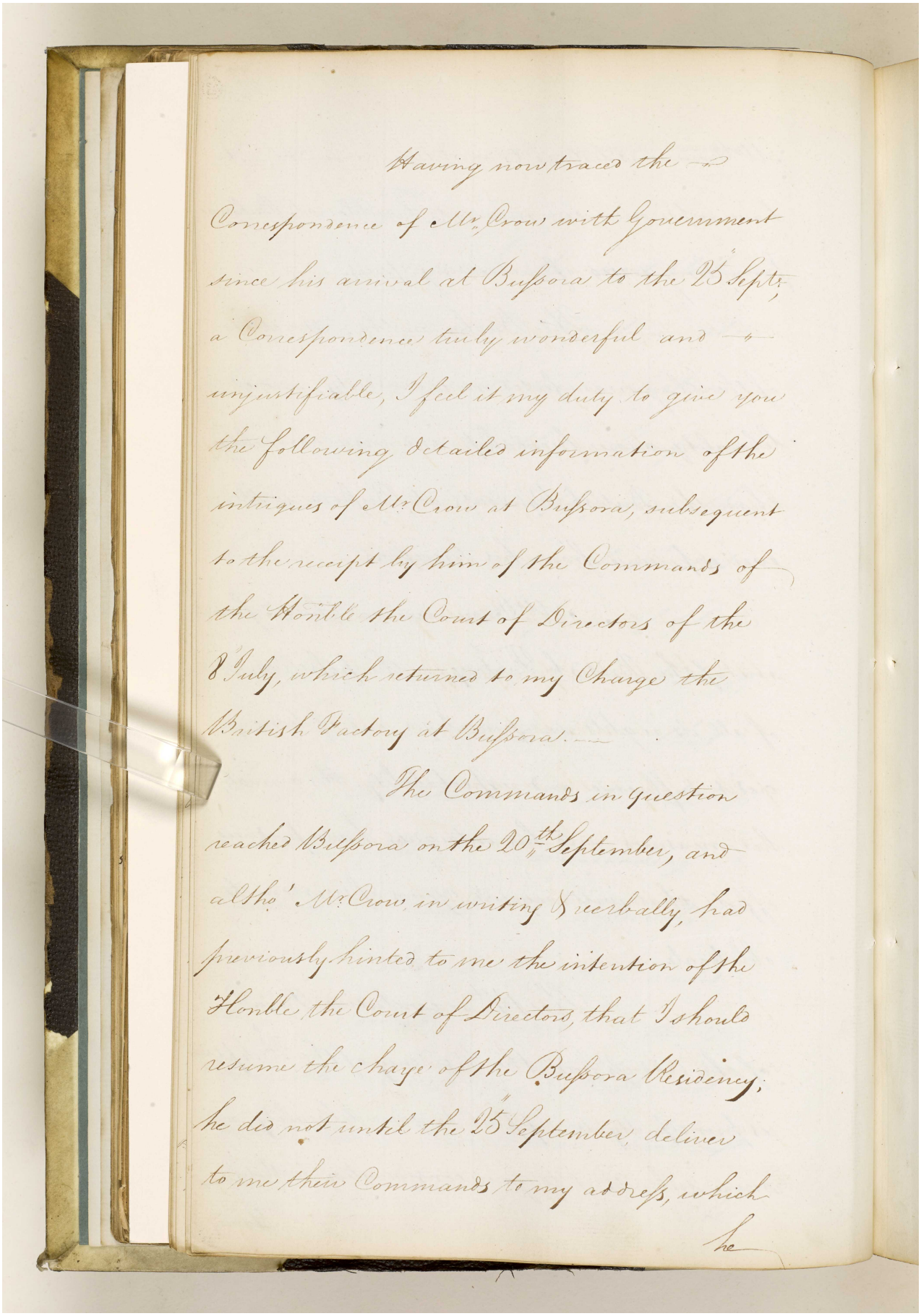

Having now traced the
Correspondence of Mr Crow with Government
since his arrival at Bussora to the 25th Sept.r
a Correspondence truly wonderful and
unjustifiable, I feel it my duty to give you
the following detailed information of the
intrigues of Mr Crow at Bussora, subsequent
to the receipt by him of the Commands of
the Honble the Court of Directors of the
8th July, which returned to my Charge the
British Factory at Bussora.

The Commands in question
reached Bussora on the 20th September, and
altho' Mr Crow, in writing & verbally, had
previously hinted to me the intention of the
Honble the Court of Directors, that I should
resume the charge of the Bussora Residency;
he did not until the 25th September deliver
to me their Commands to my address, which

he

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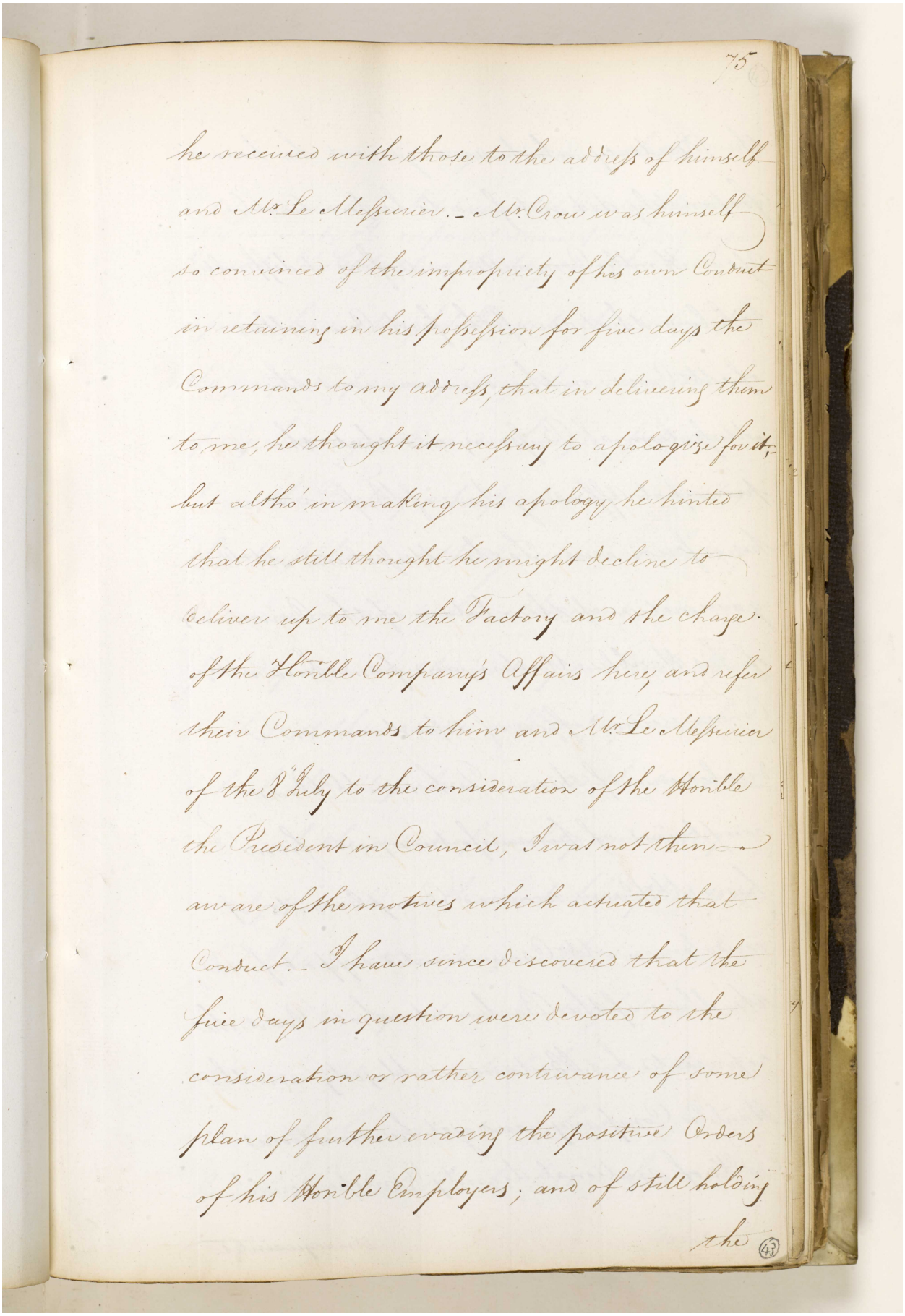

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he received with those to the address of himself and Mr Le Messurier. – Mr Crow was himself so convinced of the impropriety of his own Conduct in retaining in his possession for five days the Commands to my address, that in delivering them to me, he thought it necessary to apologize for it. – but altho' in making his apology he hinted that he still thought he might decline to deliver up to me the Factory and the charge of the Honble Company's Affairs here, and refer their Commands to him and Mr Le Messurier of the 8th July to the consideration of the Honble the President in Council, I was not then aware of the motives which actuated that Conduct. – I have since discovered that the five days in question were devoted to the consideration or rather contrivance of some plan of further evading the positive Orders of his Honble Employers; and of still holding the

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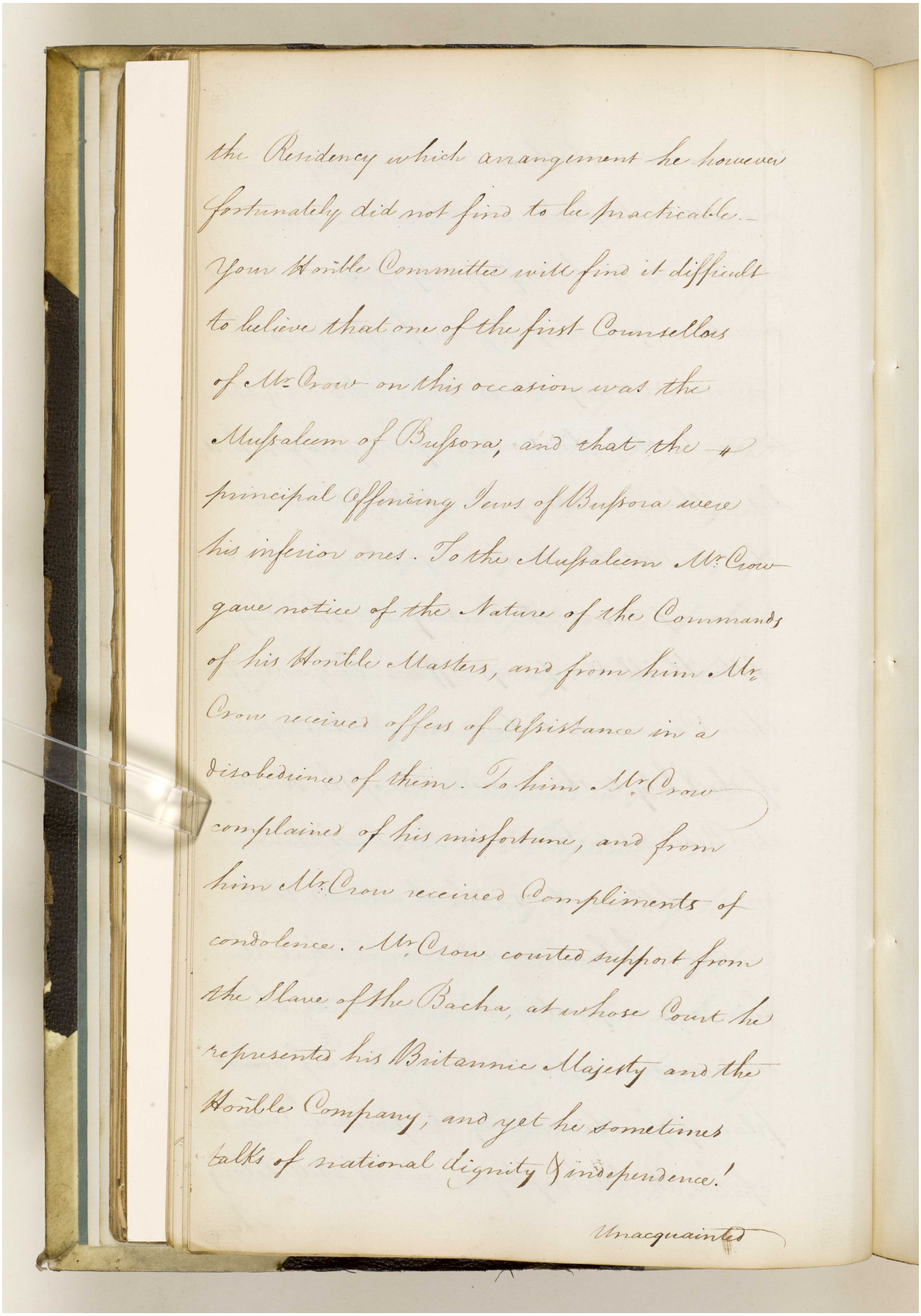

the Residency which arrangement he however fortunately did not find to be practicable.— Your Honble Committee will find it difficult to believe that one of the first Counsellors of Mr Crow on this occasion was the Mussalem of Bussora, and that the 4 principal offering Jews of Bussora were his inferior ones. To the Mussalem Mr Crow gave notice of the Nature of the Commands of his Honble Masters, and from him Mr Crow received offers of Assistance in a disobedience of them. To him Mr Crow complained of his misfortune, and from him Mr Crow received Compliments of condolence. Mr Crow counted support from the Slave of the Bacha, at whose Court he represented his Britannic Majesty and the Honble Company, and yet he sometimes talks of national dignity & independence!

Unacquainted

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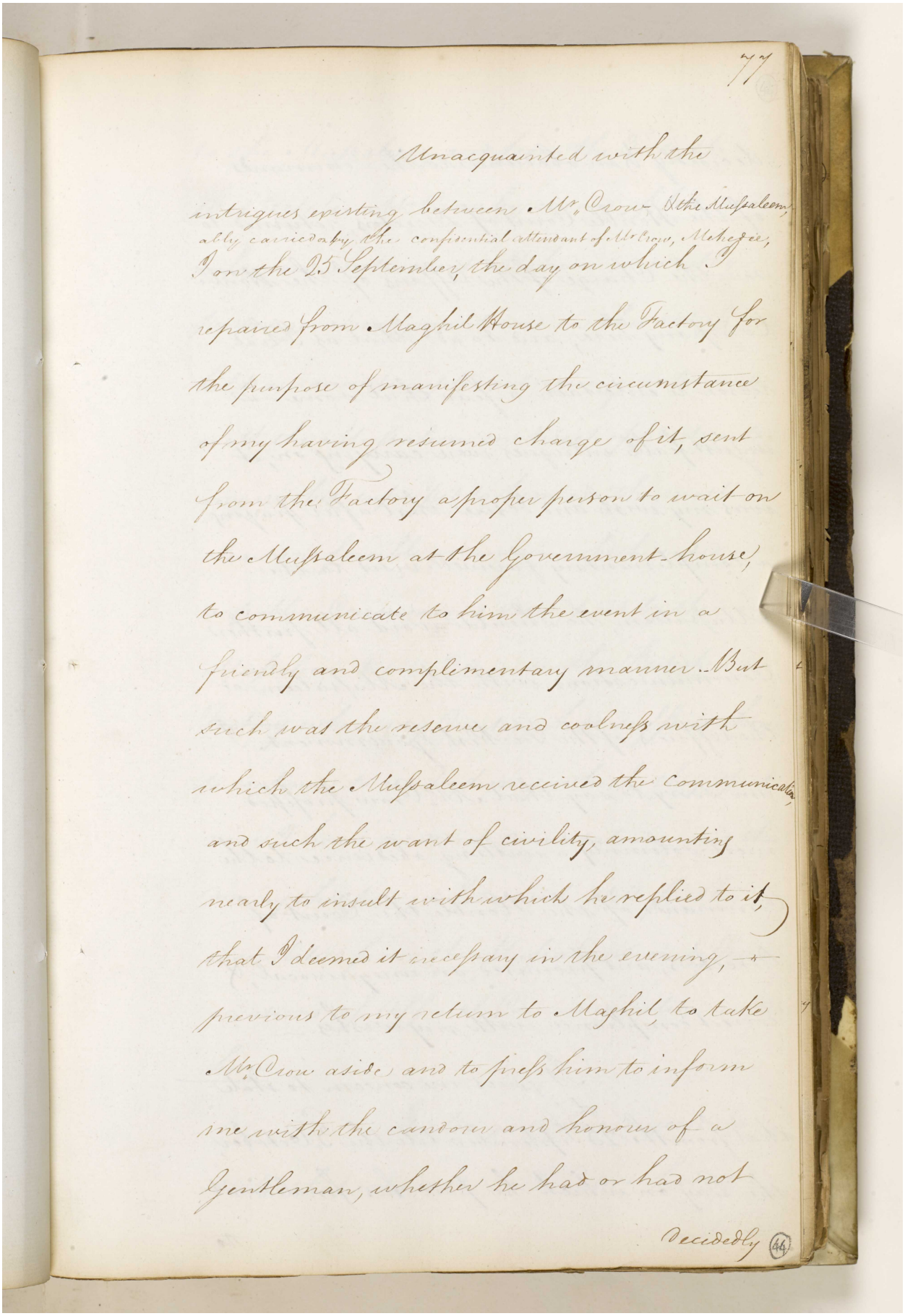

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Unacquainted with the
intrigues existing between Mr Crow & the Mussaleem,
ably carried on by the confidential attendant of Mr Crow, Mahegee,
I on the 25 September, the day on which I
repaired from Maghil House to the Factory for
the purpose of manifesting the circumstance
of my having resumed charge of it, sent
from the Factory a proper person to wait on
the Mussaleem at the Government-house,
to communicate to him the event in a
friendly and complimentary manner. But
such was the reserve and coolness with
which the Mussaleem received the communication,
and such the want of civility, amounting
nearly to insult with which he replied to it,
that I deemed it necessary in the evening,
previous to my return to Maghil, to take
Mr Crow aside and to press him to inform
me with the candour and honour of a
Gentleman, whether he had or had not
decidedly (44)

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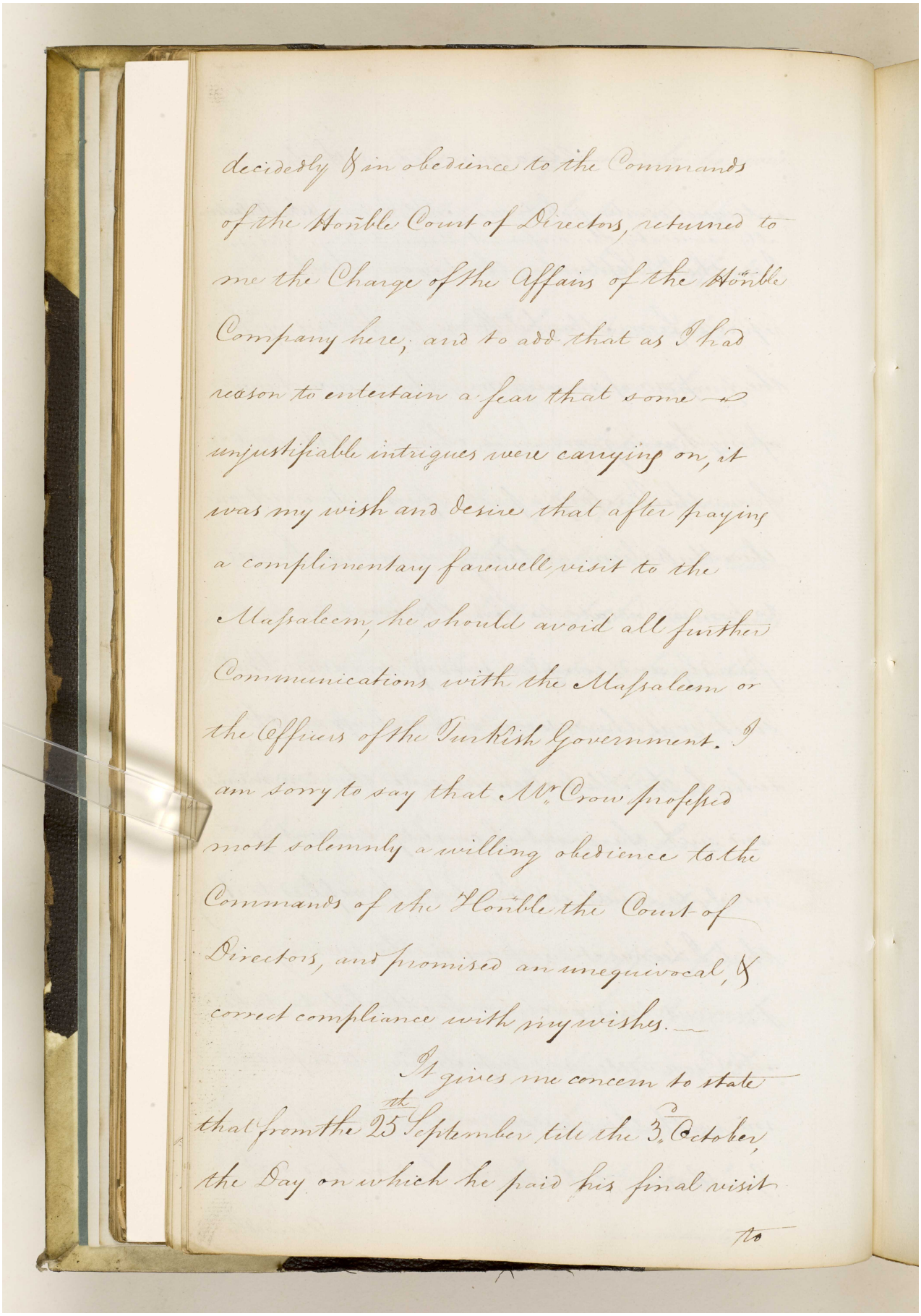

decidedly & in obedience to the Commands
of the Honble Court of Directors, returned to
me the Charge of the Affairs of the Honble
Company here; and to add that as I had
reason to entertain a fear that some
unjustifiable intrigues were carrying on, it
was my wish and desire that after paying
a complimentary farewell visit to the
Mafsalcem, he should avoid all further
Communications with the Mafsalcem or
the Officers of the Turkish Government. I
am sorry to say that Mr Crow professed
most solemnly a willing obedience to the
Commands of the Honble the Court of
Directors, and promised an unequivocal, &
correct compliance with my wishes.

It gives me concern to state
that from the 25th September till the 3d October,
the Day on which he paid his final visit

to

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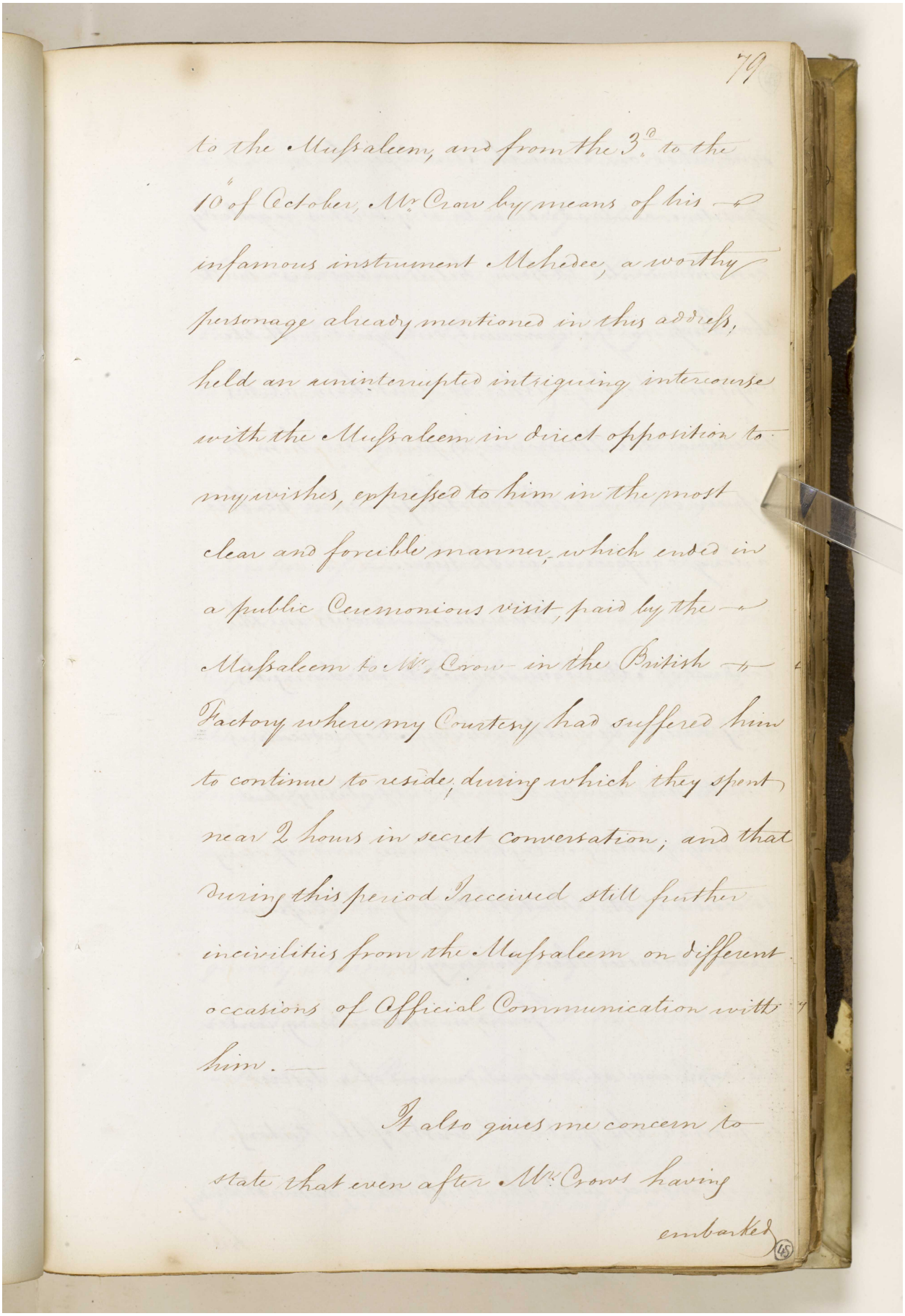

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to the Mussaleem, and from the 3d. to the
10th of October, Mr. Crow by means of his
infamous instrument Mehidee, a worthy
personage already mentioned in this address,
held an uninterrupted intriguing intercourse
with the Mussaleem in direct opposition to
my wishes, expressed to him in the most
clear and forcible manner, which ended in
a public Ceremonious visit, paid by the
Mussaleem to Mr. Crow in the British
Factory where my Courtesy had suffered him
to continue to reside, during which they spent
near 2 hours in secret conversation, and that
during this period I received still further
incivilities from the Mussaleem on different
occasions of Official Communication with
him. —

It also gives me concern to
state that even after Mr. Crows having
embarked

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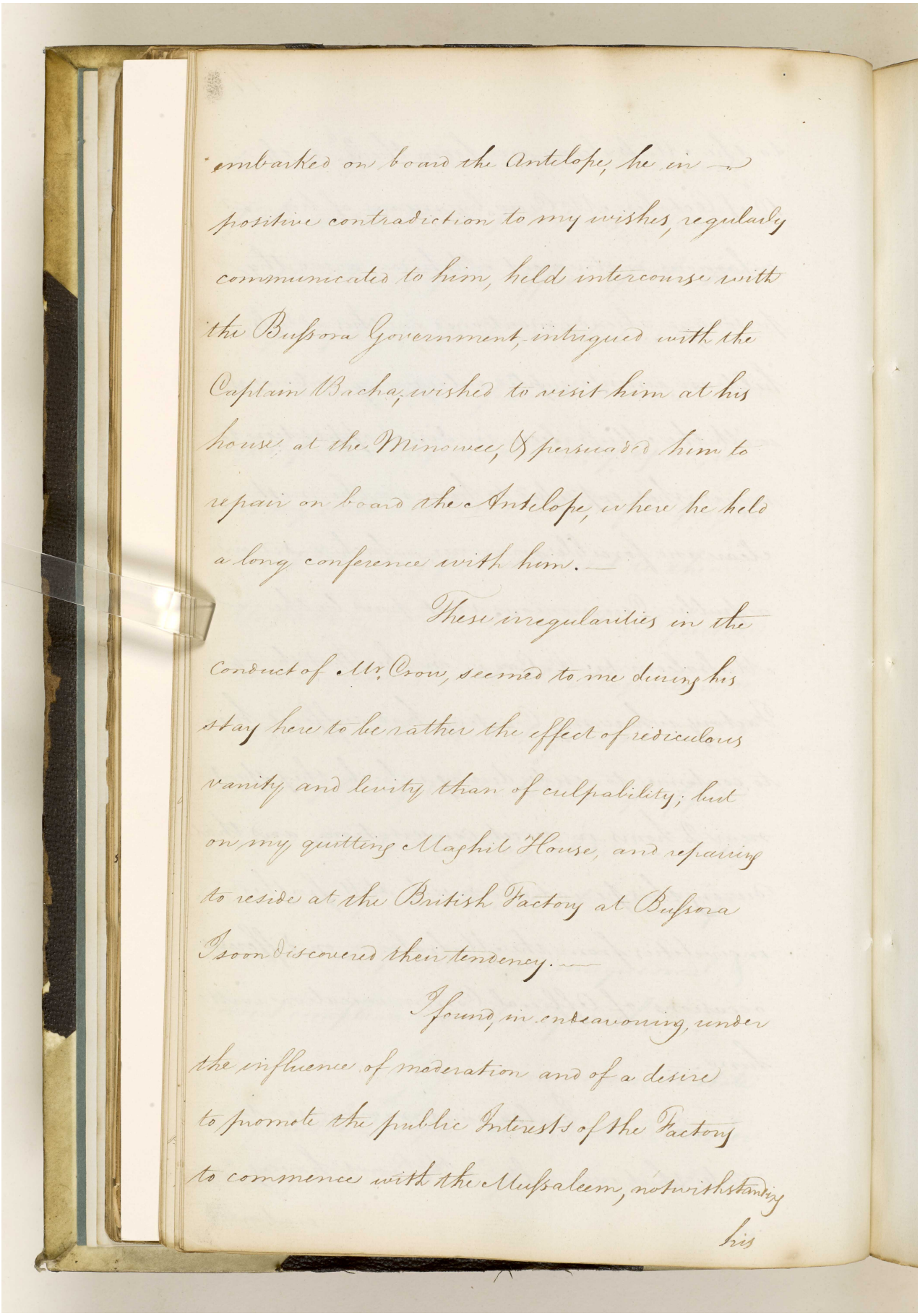

embarked on board the Antelope, he in positive contradiction to my wishes, regularly communicated to him, held intercourse with the Bussora Government, intrigued with the Captain Bacha, wished to visit him at his house at the Minowey, & persuaded him to repair on board the Antelope, where he held a long conference with him.—

These irregularities in the Conduct of Mr. Crow, seemed to me during his stay here to be rather the effect of ridiculous vanity and levity than of culpability; but on my quitting Maghil House, and repairing to reside at the British Factory at Bussora I soon discovered their tendency.—

I found, in endeavouring, under the influence of moderation and of a desire to promote the public Interests of the Factory to commence with the Mussalcem, notwithstanding his

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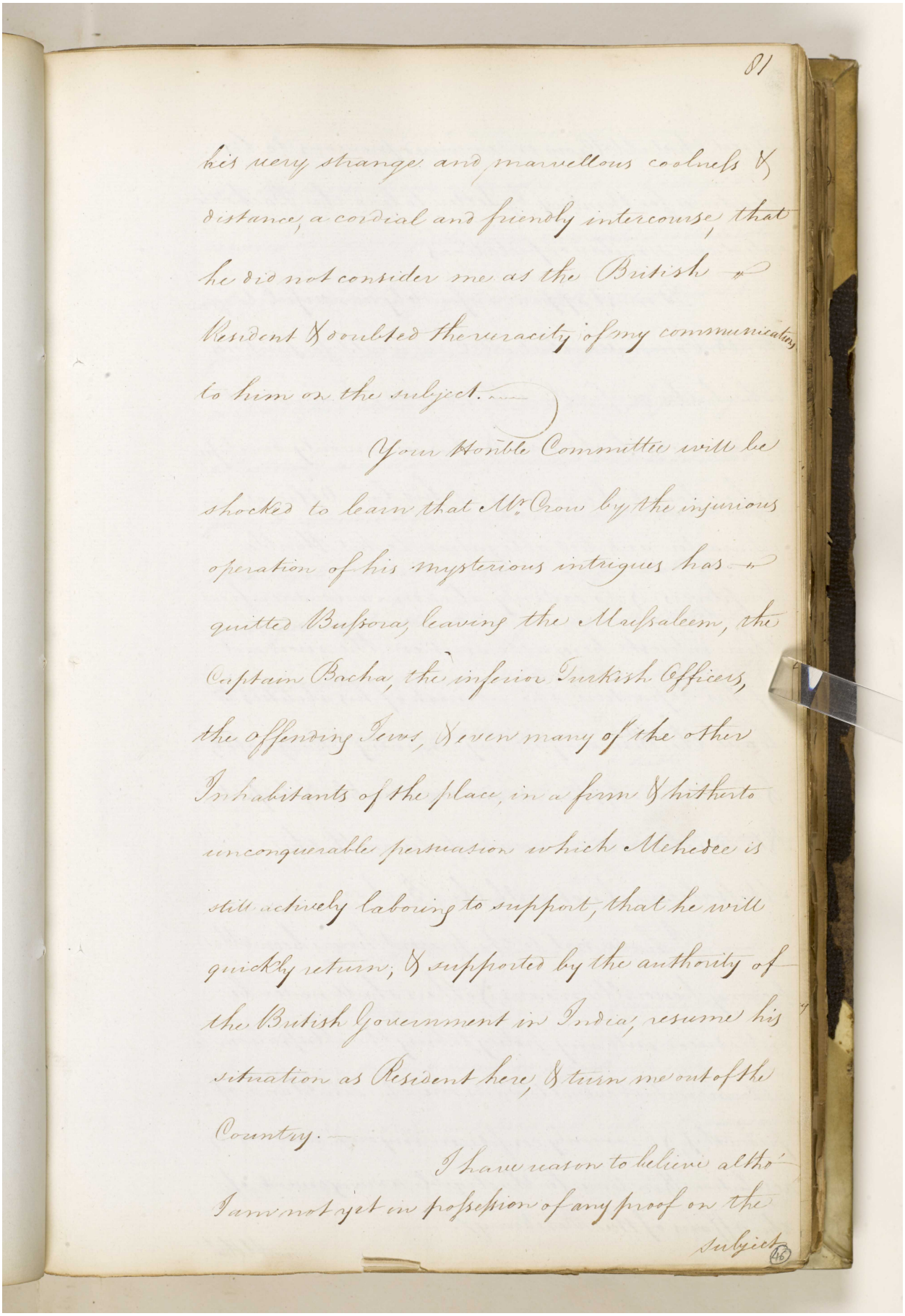

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his very strange and marvellous coolness & distance, a cordial and friendly intercourse, that he did not consider me as the British Resident & doubted the veracity of my communications to him on the subject.—

Your Honble Committee will be shocked to learn that Mr. Crow by the injurious operation of his mysterious intrigues has quitted Bussora, leaving the Mussaleem, the Captain Bacha, the inferior Turkish Officers, the offending Jews, & even many of the other Inhabitants of the place, in a firm & hitherto unconquerable persuasion which Mehedee is still actively laboring to support, that he will quickly return, & supported by the authority of the British Government in India, resume his situation as Resident here, & turn me out of the Country.—

I have reason to believe altho' I am not yet in possession of any proof on the subject

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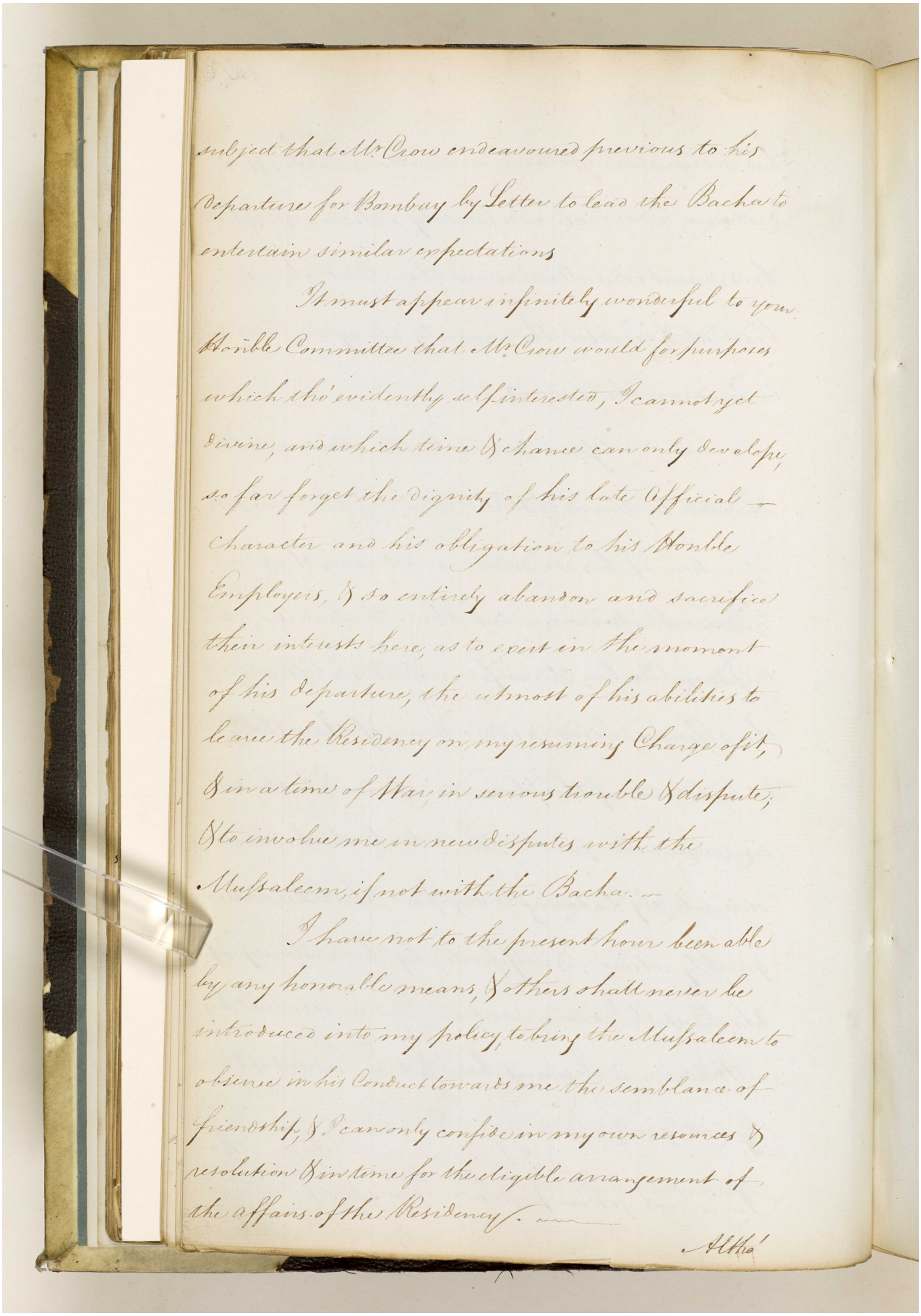

subject that Mr Crow endeavoured previous to his
Departure for Bombay by Letter to lead the Bacha to
entertain similar expectations

It must appear infinitely wonderful to your
Honble Committee that Mr Crow would for purposes
which tho' evidently self interested, I cannot yet
divine, and which time & chance can only develope,
so far forget the dignity of his late Official
Character and his obligation to his Honble
Employers, & so entirely abandon and sacrifice
their interests here, as to exert in the moment
of his departure, the utmost of his abilities to
leave the Residency on my resuming Charge of it,
& in a time of War, in serious trouble & dispute,
& to involve me in new disputes with the
Mussaleem, if not with the Bacha.

I have not to the present hour been able
by any honorable means, & others shall never be
introduced into my policy, to bring the Mussaleem to
observe in his Conduct towards me the semblance of
friendship, & I can only confide in my own resources &
resolution & in time for the eligible arrangement of
the affairs of the Residency.

Attha'

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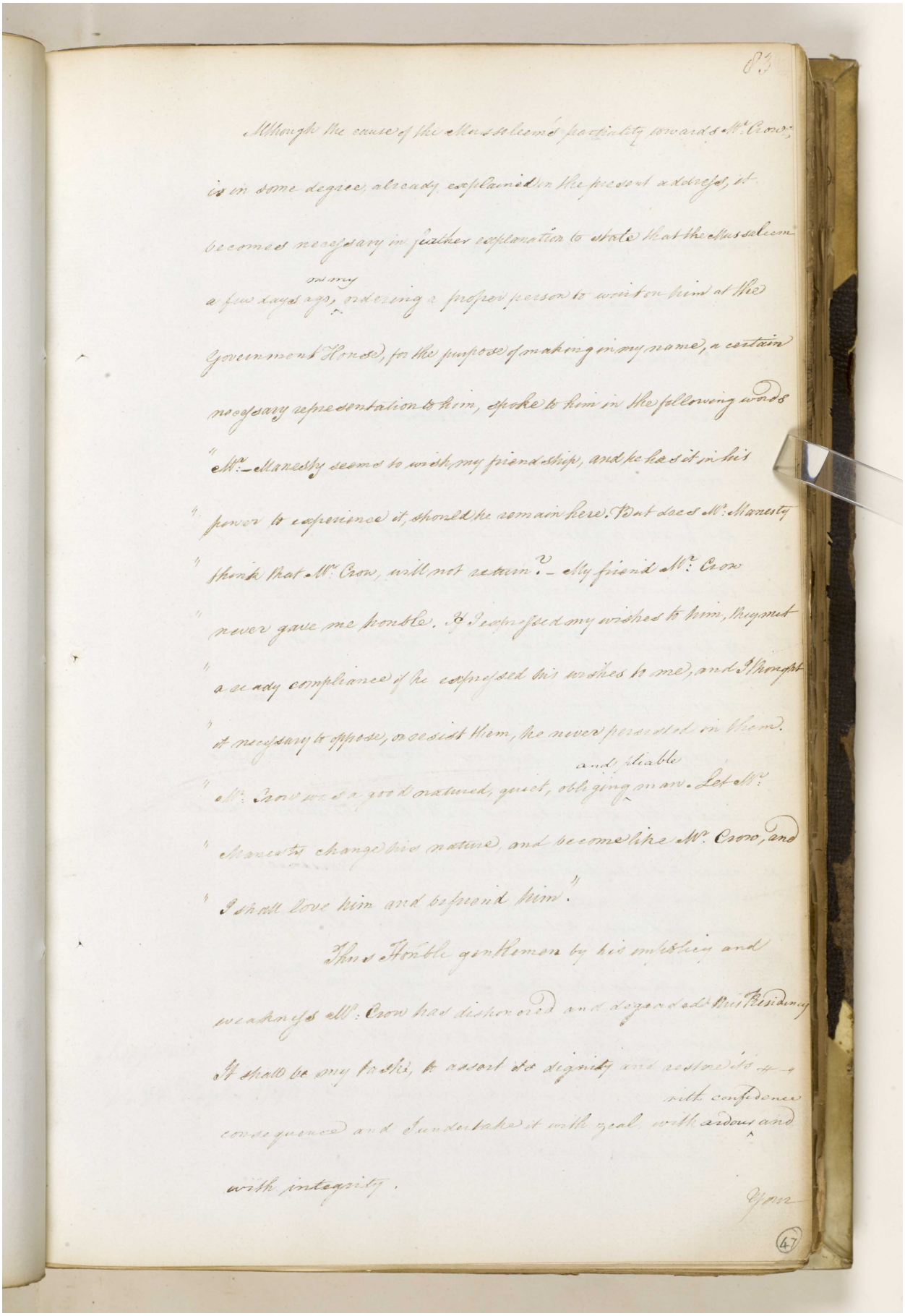
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [47r] (85/232)



Although the cause of the Mussoleem's partiality towards Mr. Crow, is in some degree, already explained in the present address, it becomes necessary in further explanation to state that the Mussoleem a few days ago, on my ordering a proper person to wait on him at the Government House, for the purpose of making in my name, a certain necessary representation to him, spoke to him in the following words "Mr. Manesty seems to wish my friendship, and he has it in his "power to experience it, should he remain here. But does Mr. Manesty "think that Mr. Crow, will not return? – My friend Mr. Crow "never gave me trouble. If I expressed my wishes to him, they met "a ready compliance if he expressed his wishes to me, and I thought "it necessary to oppose, or resist them, he never persisted in them. "Mr. Crow was a good natured, quiet, obliging and pliable man. Let Mr. "Manesty change his nature, and become like Mr. Crow, and "I shall love him and befriend him."

Thus Hon'ble gentlemen by his impolicy and weakness Mr. Crow has dishonored and degraded this Residency It shall be my task, to assert its dignity and restore its consequence and I undertake it with zeal, with ardour with confidence and with integrity.

Your

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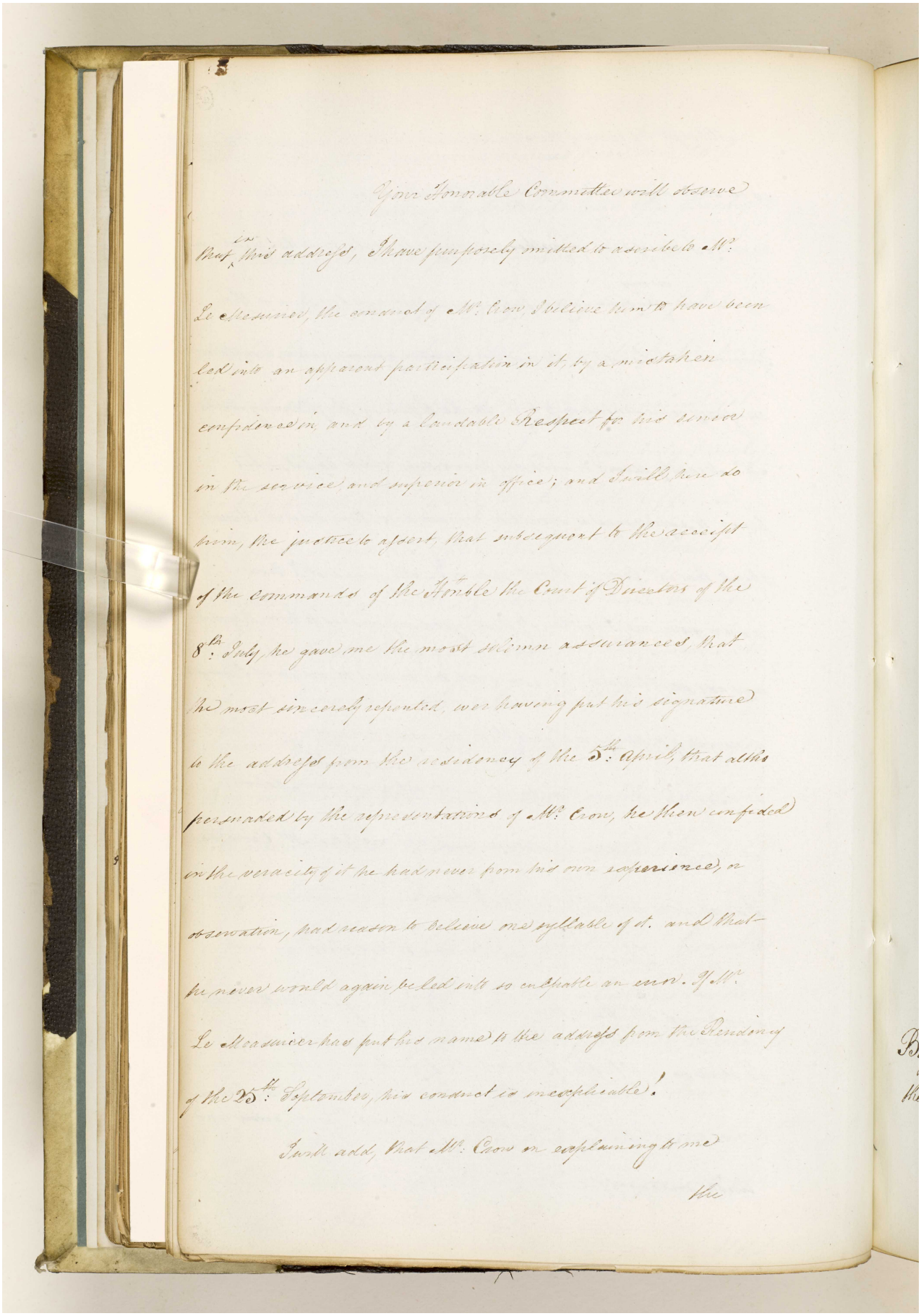

Your Honorable Committee will observe
that in this address, I have purposely omitted to ascribe to Mr.
Le Messurier, the command of Mr. Crow, I believe him to have been
led into an apparent participation in it, by a mistaken
confidence in, and by a laudable Respect for his service
in the sea service, and superior in office; and I will here do
him the justice to assert, that subsequent to the receipt
of the commands of the Honble the Court of Directors of the
8th. July, he gave me the most solemn assurances, that
he most sincerely repented, ever having put his signature
to the address from the residency of the 5th. April, that all his
persuasions by the representations of Mr. Crow, he then confided
in the veracity of it he had never from his own experience, or
observation, had reason to believe one syllable of it, and that
he never would again be led into so culpable an error. If Mr.
Le Messurier has put his name to the address from the Residency
of the 25th. September, his conduct is inexplicable!

I will add, that Mr. Crow in explaining to me
the

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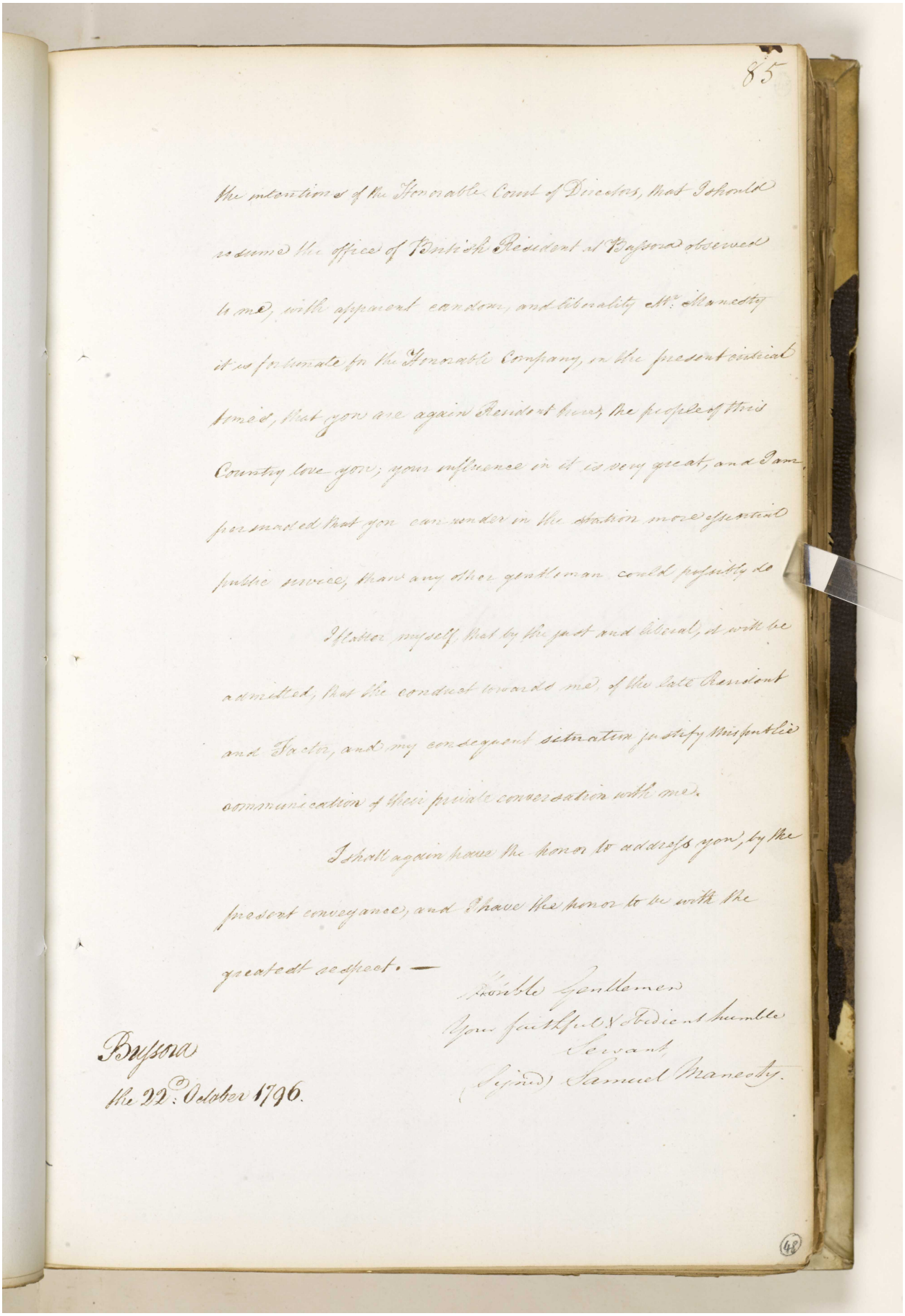
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [48r] (87/232)



the intentions of the Honorable Court of Directors, that I should resume the office of British Resident at Bussora observed to me, with apparent candour, and liberality Mr. Manesty it is fortunate for the Honorable Company, in the present critical times, that you are again Resident here, the people of this Country love you; your influence in it is very great, and I am persuaded that you can render in the station more essential public service, than any other gentleman could possibly do

I flatter myself that by the just and liberal, it will be admitted, that the conduct towards me, of the late Resident and Factor, and my consequent situation justify this public communication of their private conversation with me.

I shall again have the honor to address you, by the present conveyance, and I have the honor to be with the greatest respect. —

Honble Gentlemen
Your faithful & obedient humble
Servant,
(Signed) Samuel Manesty.

Bussora
the 22d. October 1796.

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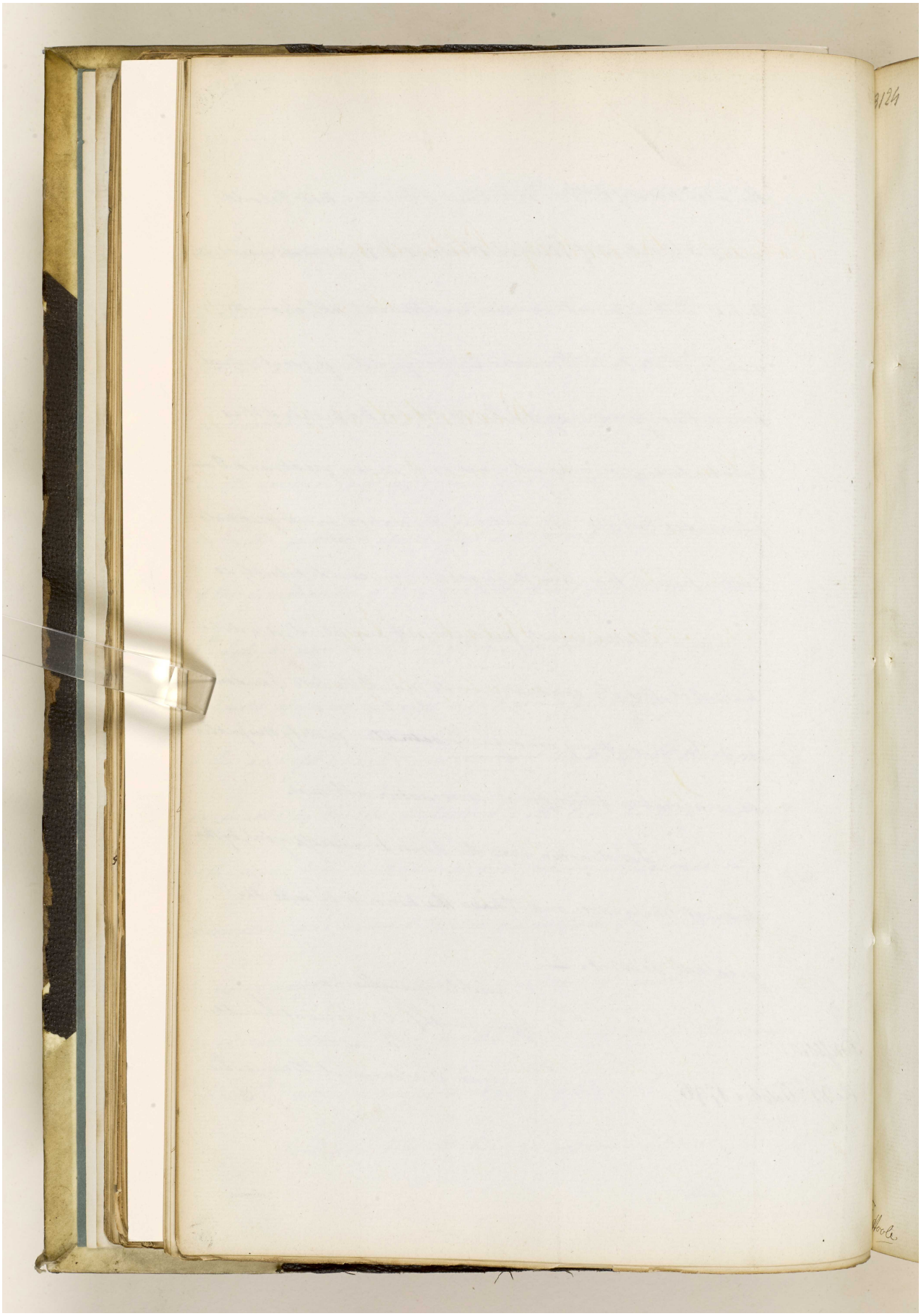

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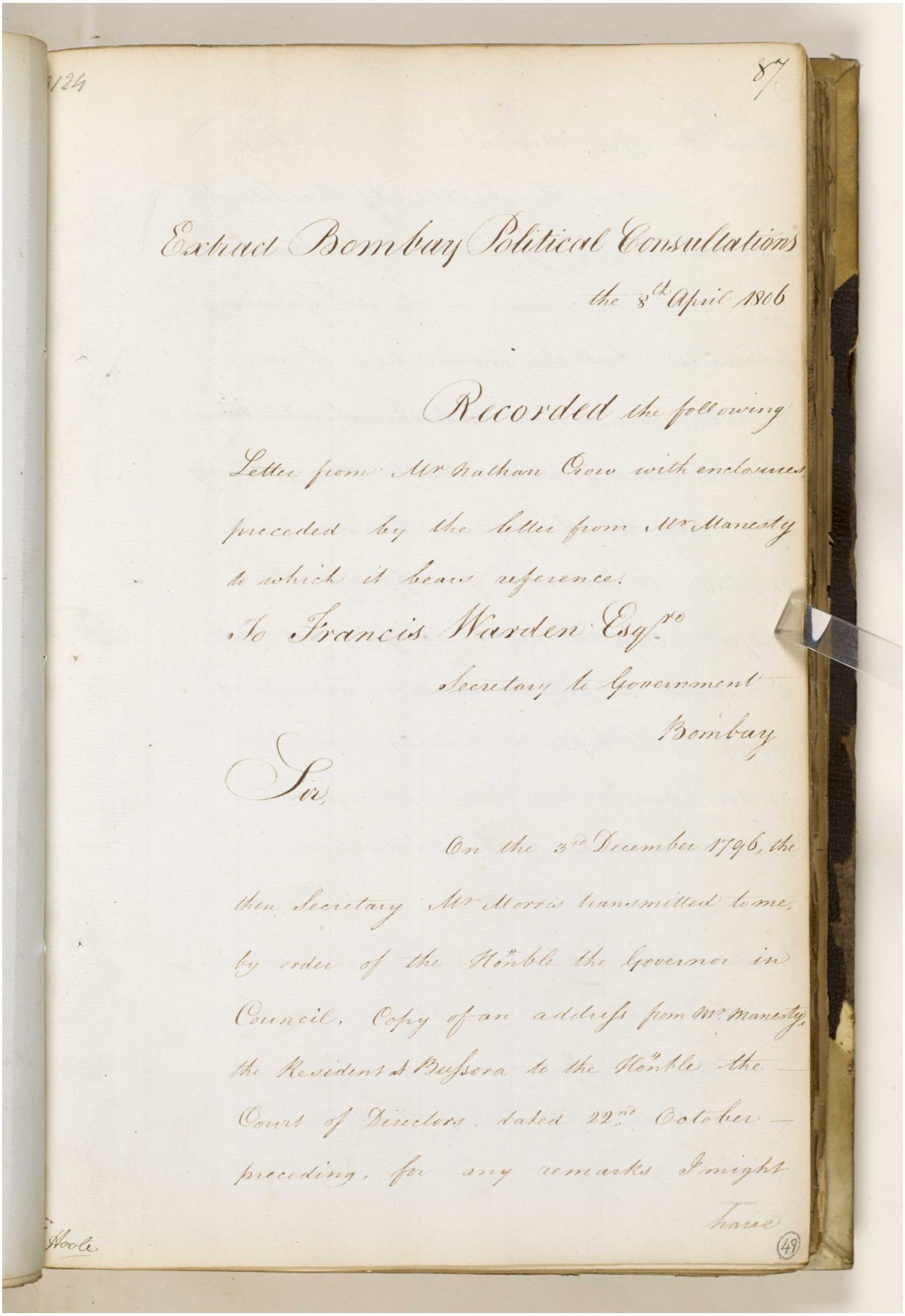

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 8th April 1806

Recorded the following
Letter from Mr Nathan Crow with enclosures
preceded by the letter from Mr Manesty
to which it bears reference.

To Francis Warden Esqr.
Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir,

On the 3rd December 1796, the
then Secretary Mr Morris transmitted to me,
by order of the Honble the Governor in
Council, Copy of an address from Mr Manesty,
the Resident at Bussora to the Honble the
Court of Directors, dated 22nd October
preceding, for any remarks I might
have

Hoole

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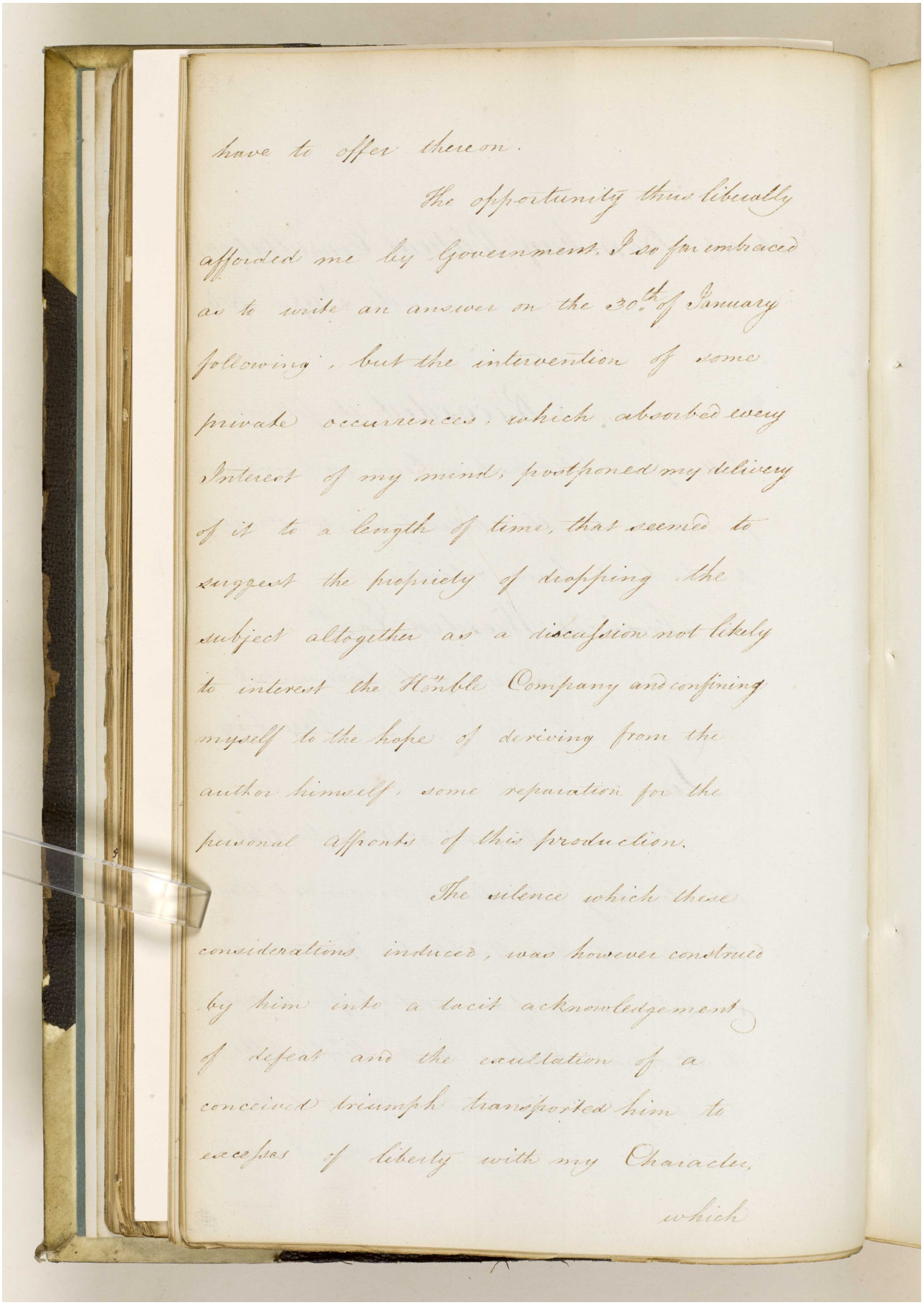
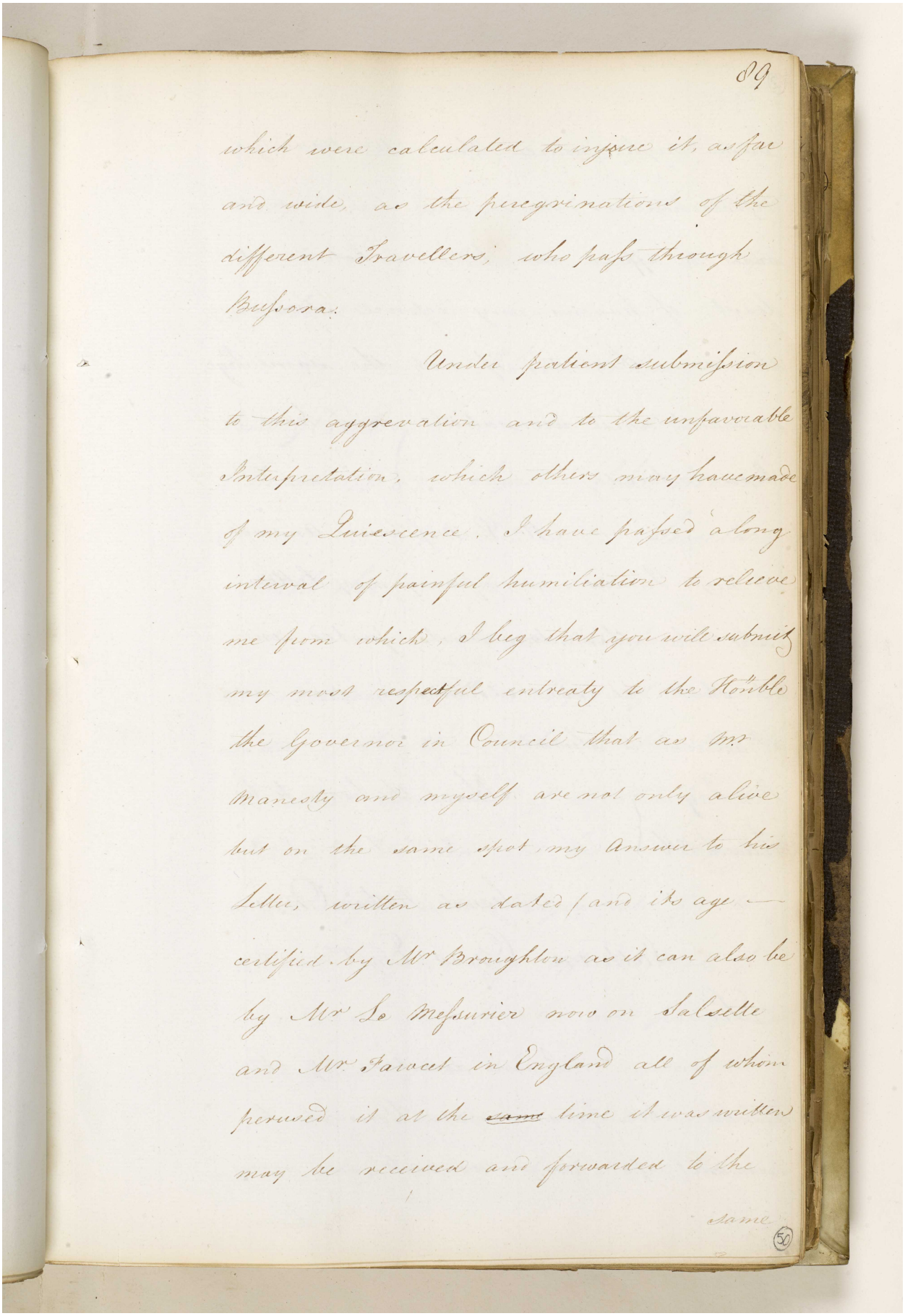


have to offer thereon.

The opportunity thus liberally afforded me by Government I so far embraced as to write an answer on the 30th. of January following, but the intervention of some private occurrences, which absorbed every Interest of my mind, postponed my delivery of it to a length of time, that seemed to suggest the propriety of dropping the subject altogether as a discussion not likely to interest the Honble Company and confining myself to the hope of deriving from the author himself, some reparation for the personal affronts of this production.

The silence which these considerations induced, was however construed by him into a tacit acknowledgement of defeat and the exultation of a conceived triumph transported him to excesses of liberty with my Character,

which



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which were calculated to injure it, as far and wide, as the peregrinations of the different Travellers, who pass through Bussora.

Under patient submission to this aggrevation and to the unfavorable Interpretation, which others may have made of my Quiescence, I have passed along interval of painful humiliation to relieve me from which, I beg that you will submit my most respectful entreaty to the Honble the Governor in Council that as Mr Manesty and myself are not only alive but on the same spot, my Answer to his Letter, written as dated (and its age certified by Mr Broughton as it can also be by Mr De Mesurier now on Salsette and Mr Farrant in England all of whom perused it at the ~~same~~ time it was written) may be received and forwarded to the

same

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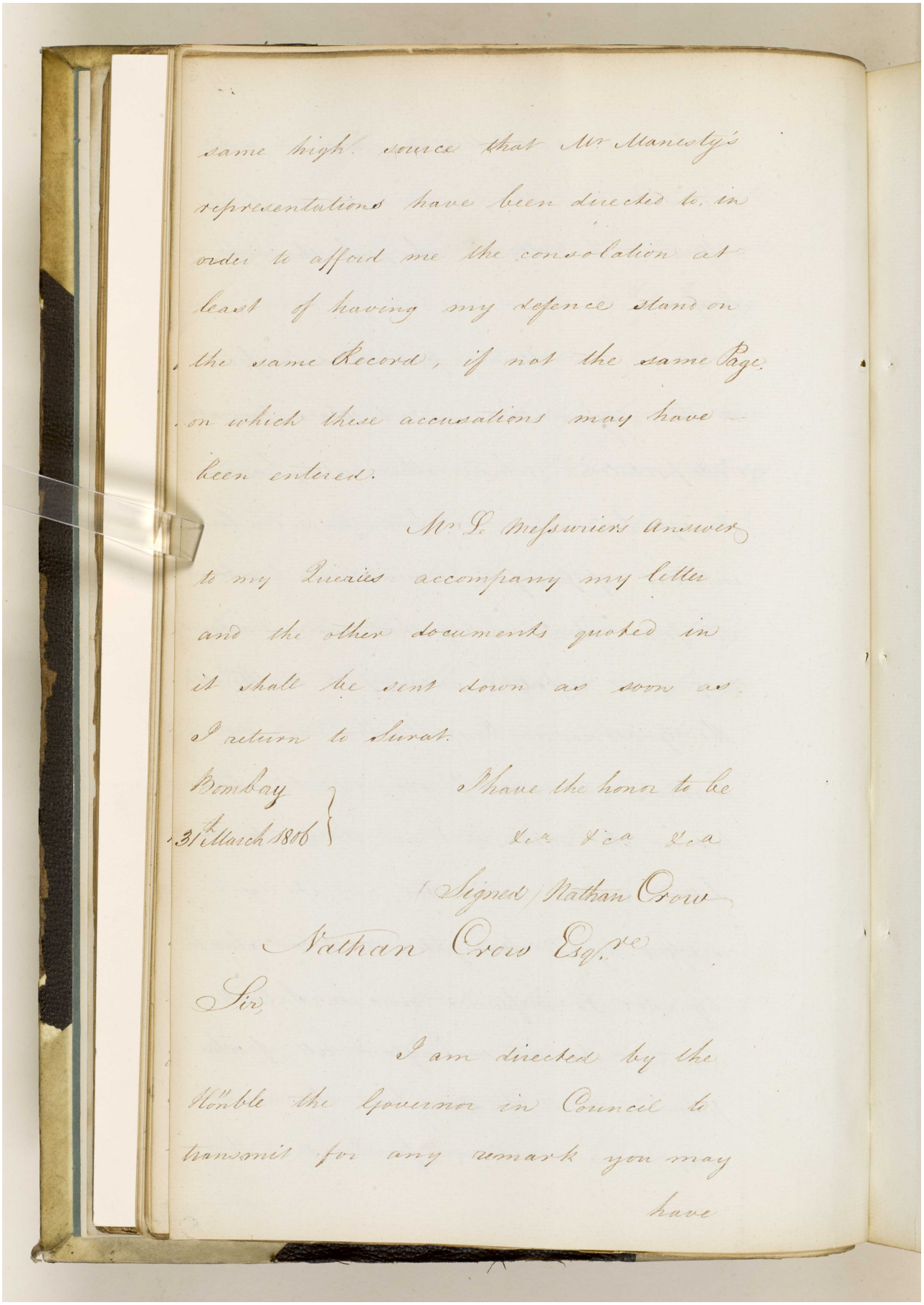

same high source that Mr Manesty's representations have been directed to, in order to afford me the consolation at least of having my defence stand on the same Record, if not the same Page on which these accusations may have been entered.

Mr Le Messurier's Answer to my Queries accompany my letter and the other documents quoted in it shall be sent down as soon as I return to Surat.

Bombay
31th March 1806

I have the honor to be
&ca &ca &ca

(Signed) Nathan Crow

Nathan Crow Esqre

Sir,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor in Council to transmit for any remark you may have

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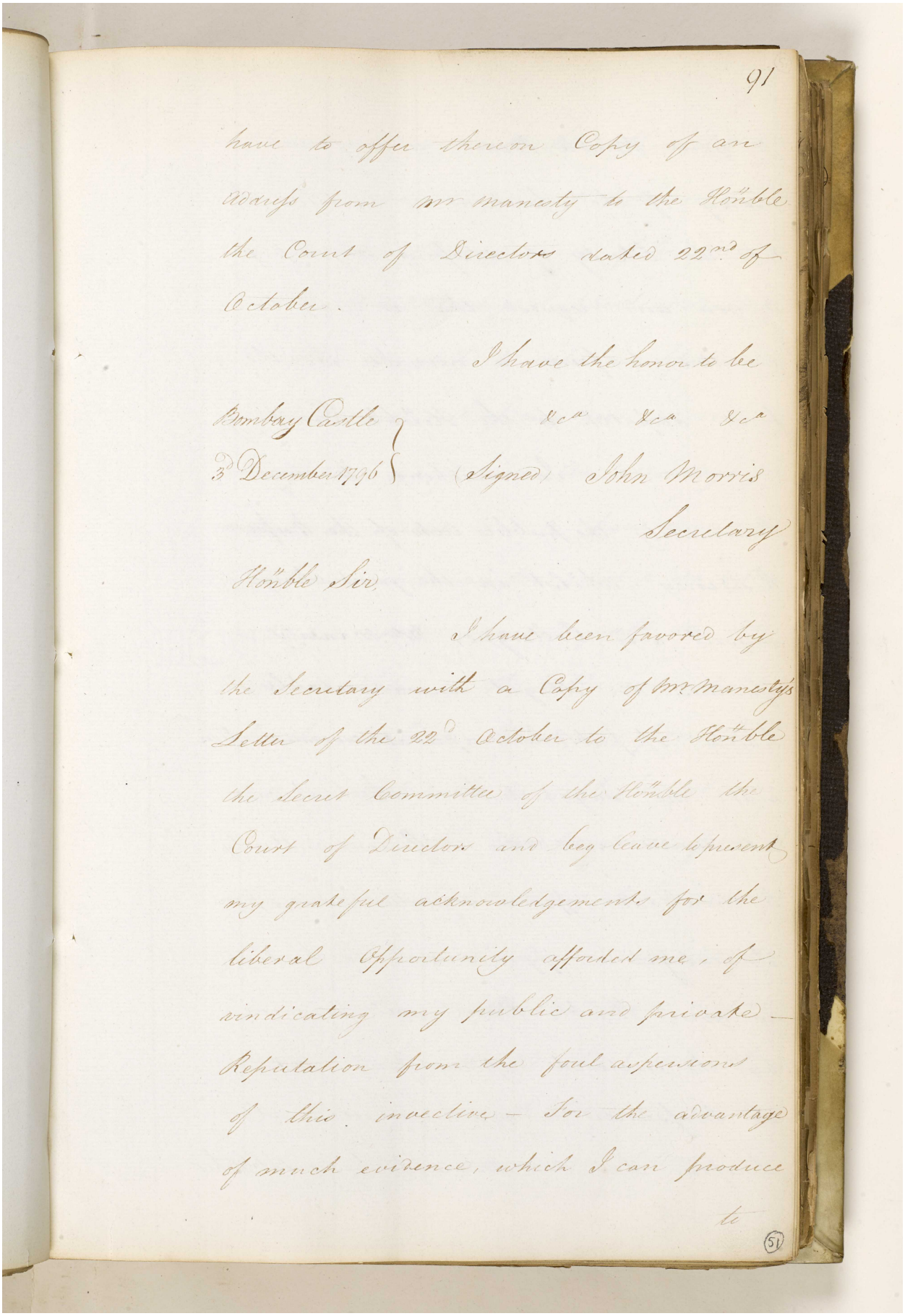

have to offer thereon Copy of an
address from Mr Manesty to the Honble
the Court of Directors dated 22nd of
October.

I have the honor to be

Bombay Castle
3d December 1796

&c &c &c
(Signed) John Morris
Secretary

Honble Sir

I have been favored by
the Secretary with a Copy of Mr Manesty's
Letter of the 22d October to the Honble
the Secret Committee of the Honble the
Court of Directors and beg leave to present
my grateful acknowledgements for the
liberal Opportunity afforded me, of
vindicating my public and private
Reputation from the foul aspersions
of this invective — For the advantage
of much evidence, which I can produce
to

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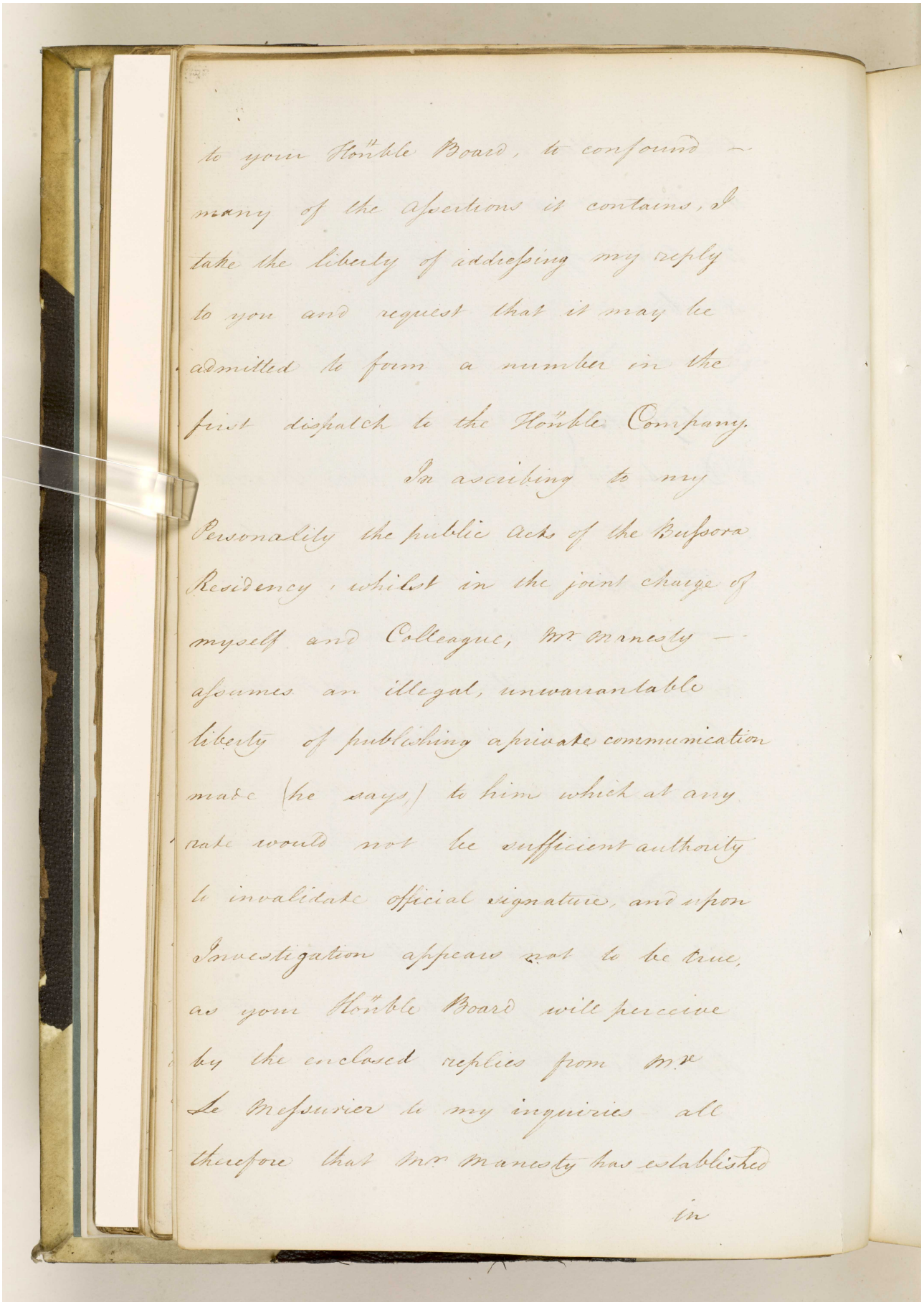

to your Honble Board, to confound —
many of the assertions it contains, I
take the liberty of addressing my reply
to you and request that it may be
admitted to form a number in the
first dispatch to the Honble Company.

In ascribing to my
Personality the public acts of the Bussora
Residency, whilst in the joint charge of
myself and Colleague, Mr Manesty —
assumes an illegal, unwarrantable
liberty of publishing a private communication
made (he says) to him which at any
rate would not be sufficient authority
to invalidate official signature, and upon
Investigation appears not to be true,
as your Honble Board will perceive
by the enclosed replies from Mr
Le Messurier to my inquiries — all
therefore that Mr Manesty has established
in

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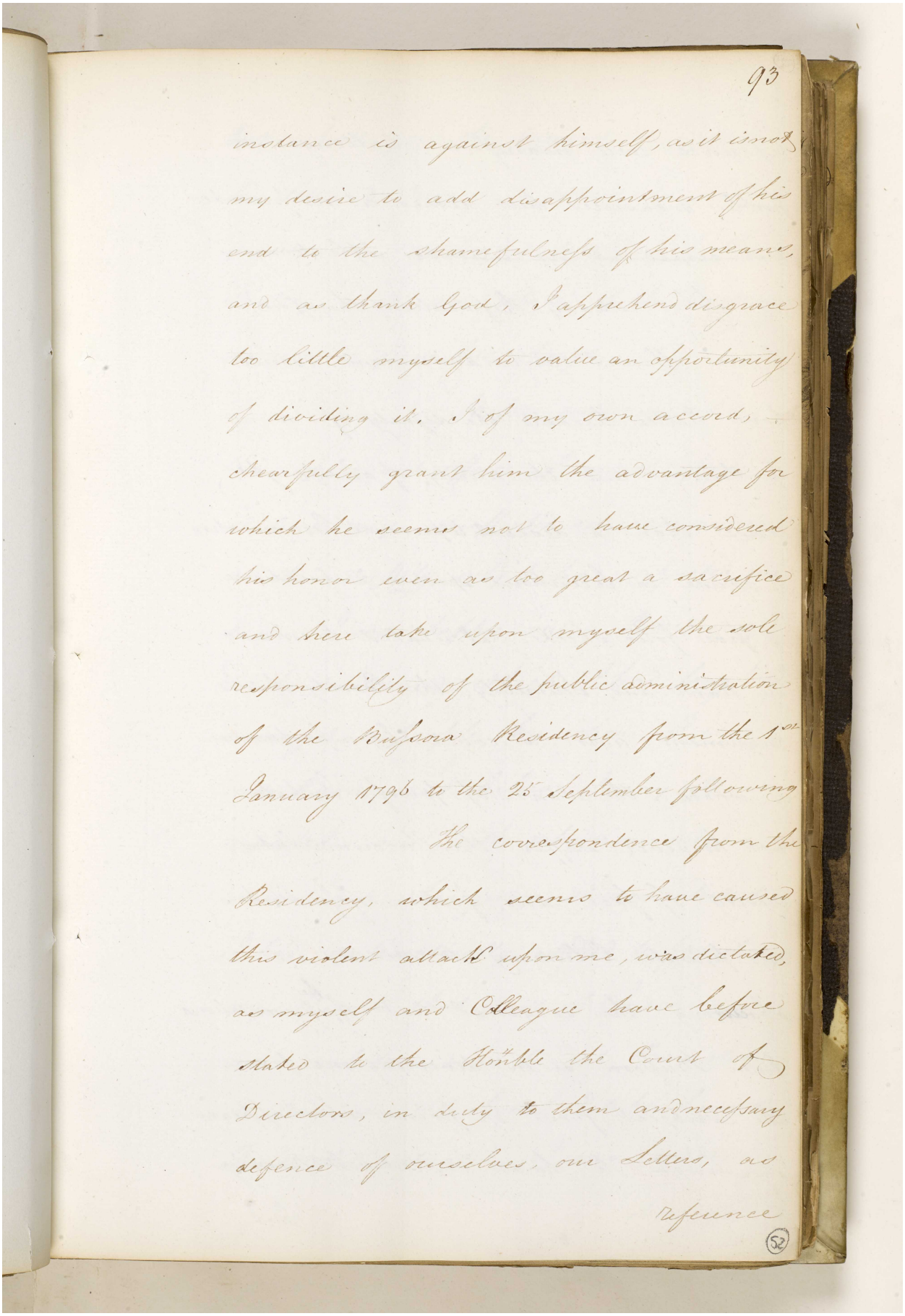

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instance is against himself, as it is not
my desire to add disappointment of his
end to the shamefulness of his means,
and as thank God, I apprehend disgrace
too little myself to value an opportunity
of dividing it, I of my own accord,
chearfully grant him the advantage for
which he seems not to have considered
his honor even as too great a sacrifice
and here take upon myself the sole
responsibility of the public administration
of the Mysore Residency from the 1st
January 1796 to the 25 September following
the correspondence from the
Residency, which seems to have caused
this violent attack upon me, was dictated,
as myself and Colleague have before
stated to the Honble the Court of
Directors, in duty to them and necessary
defence of ourselves, our Letters, as
reference

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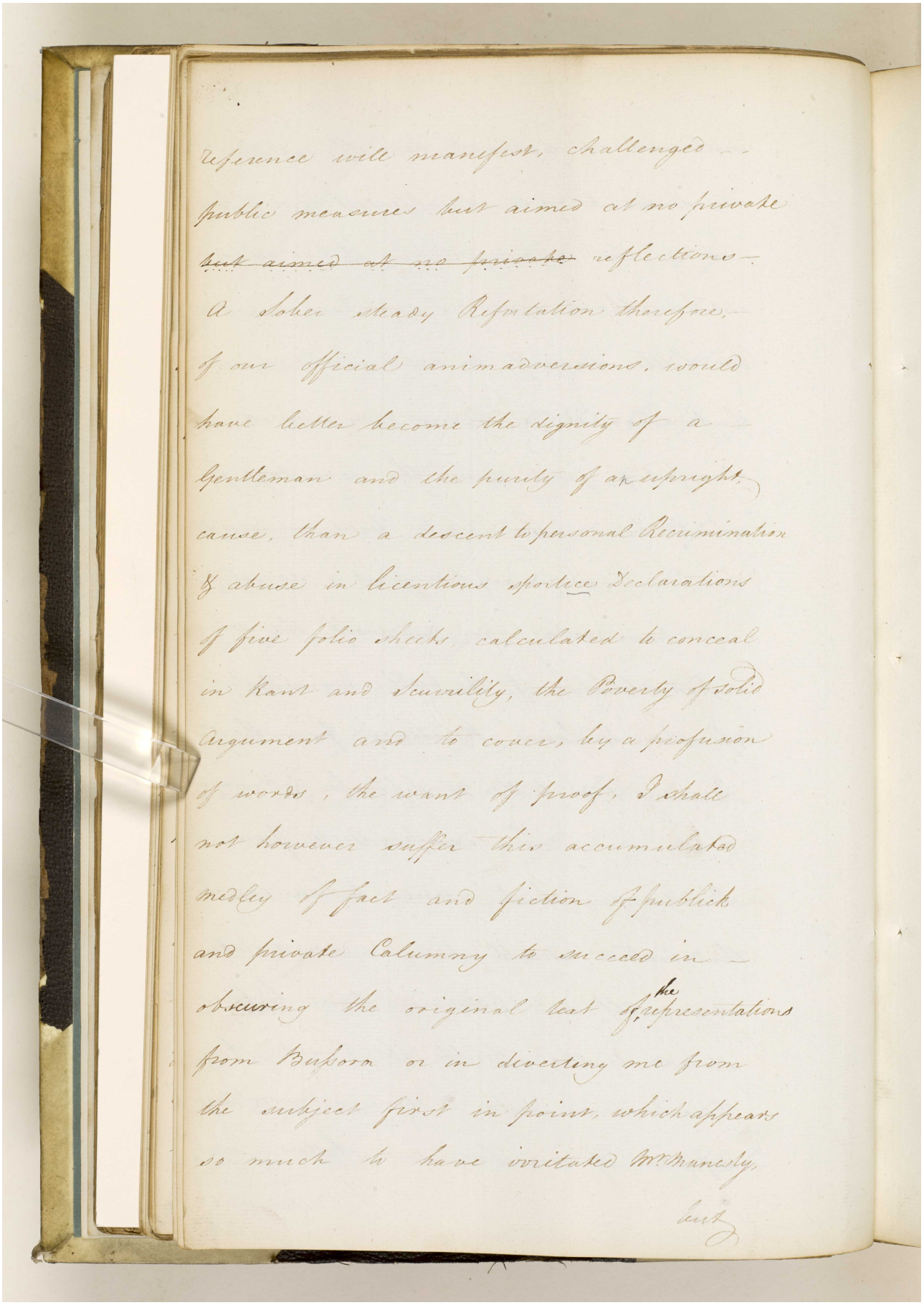

reference will manifest, challenged
public measures but aimed at no private
~~but aimed at no private~~ reflections —
A sober steady Refutation therefore,
of our official animadversions, would
have better become the dignity of a
Gentleman and the purity of an upright
cause, than a descent to personal Recrimination
& abuse in licentious sportive Declarations
of five folio sheets, calculated to conceal
in haste and scurility, the Poverty of solid
argument and to cover, by a profusion
of words, the want of proof. I shall
not however suffer this accumulated
medley of fact and fiction of publick
and private Calumny to succeed in —
obscuring the original test of the representations
from Bussora or in diverting me from
the subject first in point, which appears
so much to have irritated Mr Manesty,
but

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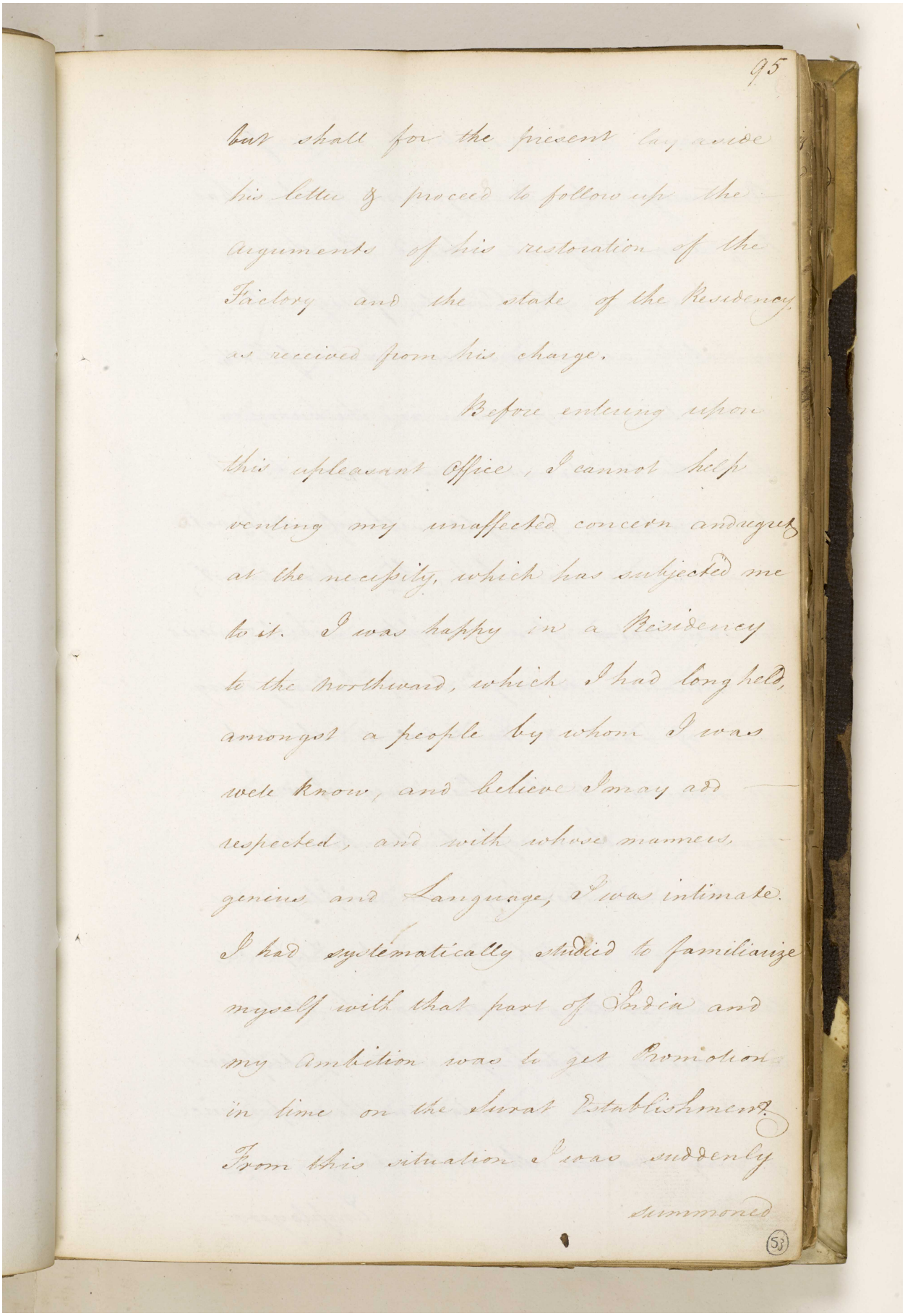

but shall for the present lay aside
his letter & proceed to follow up the
arguments of his restoration of the
Factory and the state of the Residency
as received from his charge.

Before entering upon
this unpleasant office, I cannot help
venting my unaffected concern and regret
at the necessity, which has subjected me
to it. I was happy in a Residency
to the northward, which I had long held,
amongst a people by whom I was
well known, and believe I may add
respected, and with whose manners,
genius and Language, I was intimate.
I had systematically studied to familiarize
myself with that part of India and
my Ambition was to get Promotion
in time on the Surat Establishment.
From this situation I was suddenly
summoned

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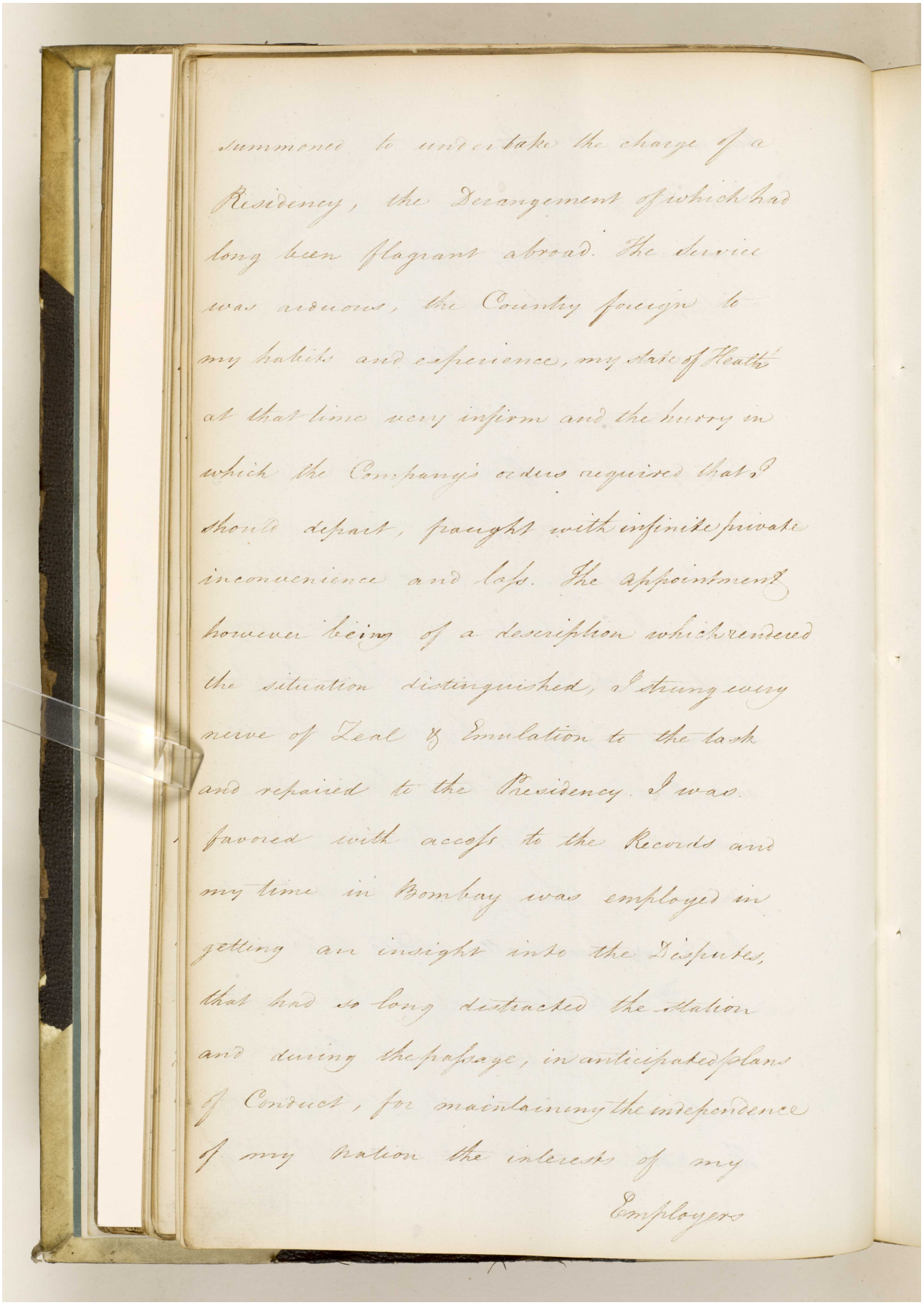

summoned to undertake the charge of a
Residency, the Derangement of which had
long been flagrant abroad. The service
was arduous, the Country foreign to
my habits and experience, my state of Health
at that time very infirm and the hurry in
which the Company's orders required that I
should depart, brought with infinite private
inconvenience and loss. The appointment
however being of a description which rendered
the situation distinguished, I strung every
nerve of Zeal & Emulation to the task
and repaired to the Residency. I was
favored with access to the Records and
my time in Bombay was employed in
getting an insight into the Disputes,
that had so long distracted the Station
and during the passage, in anticipated plans
of Conduct, for maintaining the independence
of my Station the interests of my
Employers

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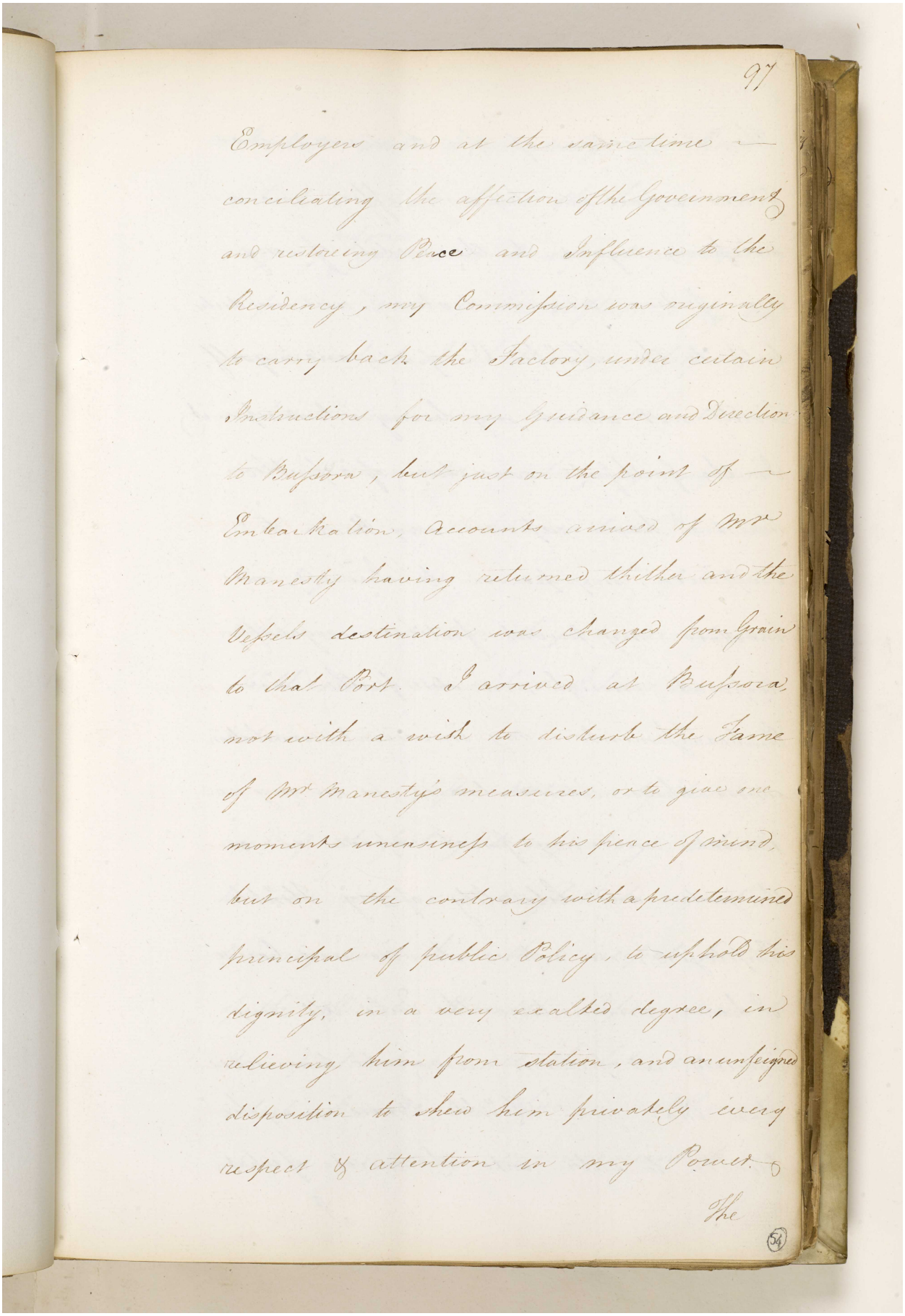

Employers and at the same time
conciliating the affection of the Government
and restoring Peace and Influence to the
Residency, my Commission was originally
to carry back the Factory, under certain
Instructions for my Guidance and Direction
to Bussora, but just on the point of
Embarkation, Accounts arrived of Mr
Manesty having returned thither and the
Vessels destination was changed from Grain
to that Port. I arrived at Bussora,
not with a wish to disturb the Fame
of Mr Manesty's measures, or to give one
moments uneasiness to his peace of mind,
but on the contrary with a predetermined
principal of public Policy, to uphold his
dignity, in a very exalted degree, in
relieving him from station, and an unfeigned
disposition to shew him privately every
respect & attention in my Power.

The

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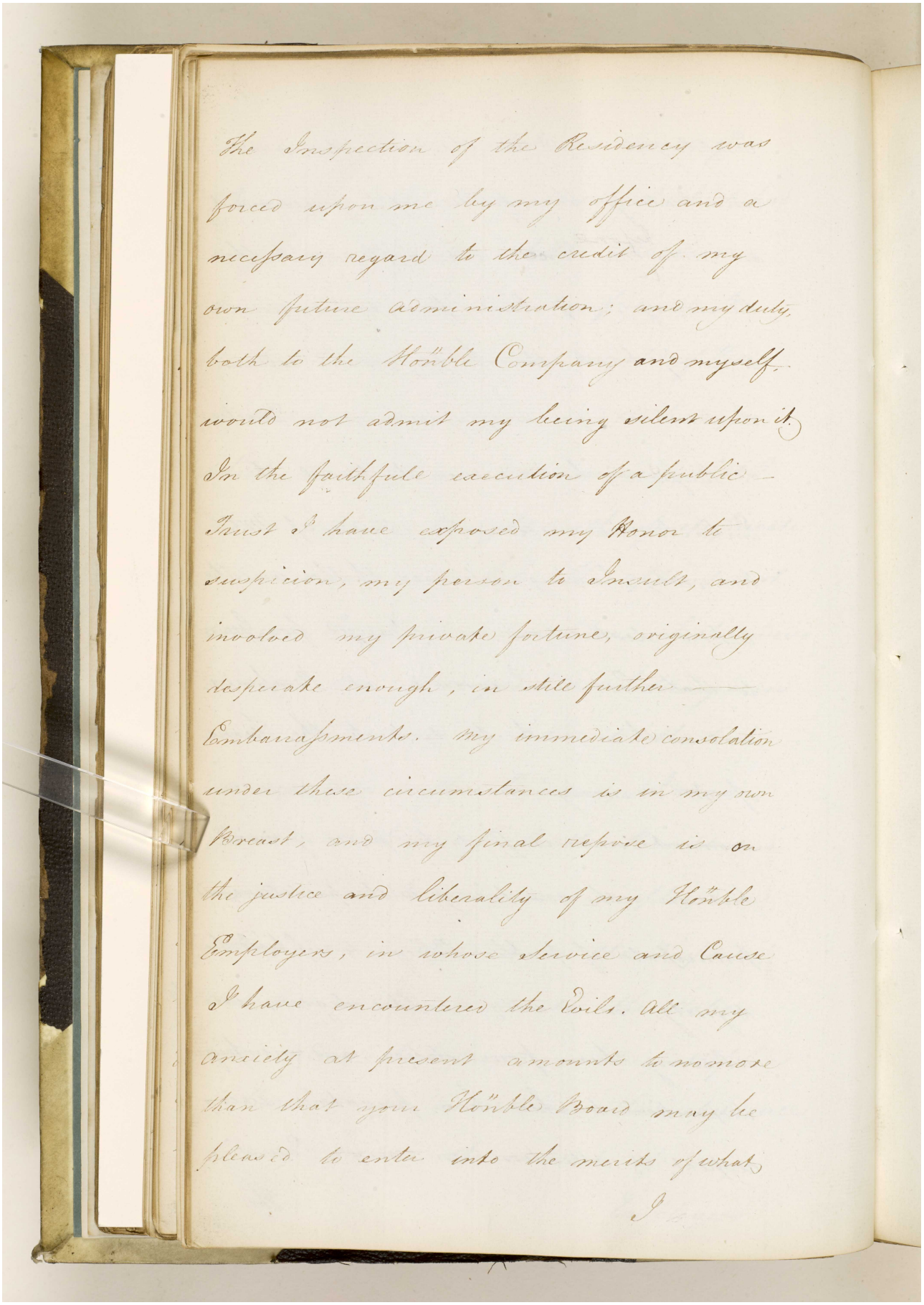

The Inspection of the Residency was
forced upon me by my office and a
necessary regard to the credit of my
own future administration; and my duty,
both to the Honble Company and myself,
would not admit my being silent upon it.
In the faithfull execution of a publick
Trust I have exposed my Honor to
suspicion, my person to Insult, and
involved my private fortune, originally
desperate enough, in still further
Embarassments. My immediate consolation
under these circumstances is in my own
Breast, and my final reprove is on
the justice and liberality of my Honble
Employers, in whose Service and Cause
I have encountered the toils. All my
anxiety at present amounts to nomore
than that your Honble Board may be
pleased to enter into the merits of what

I

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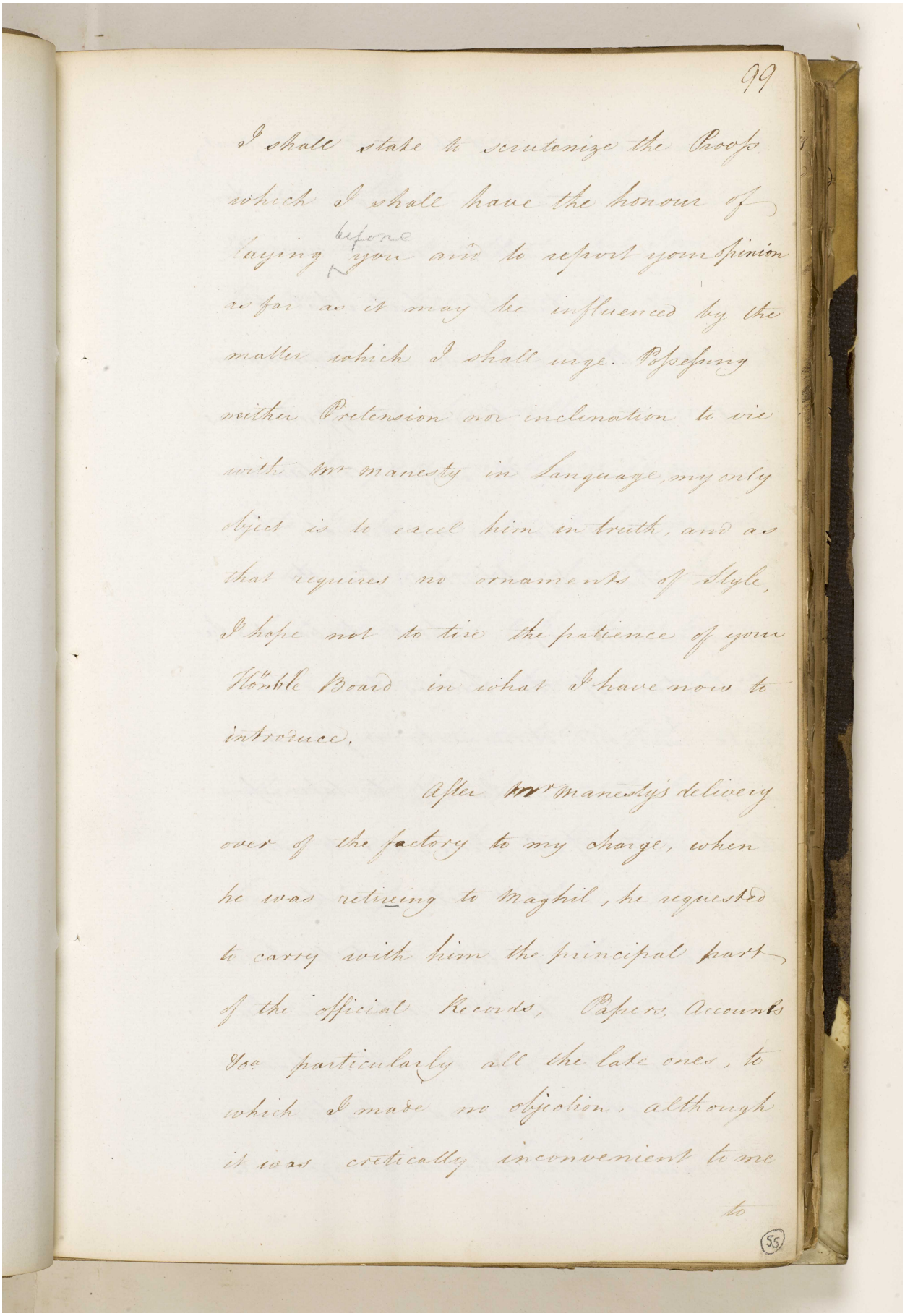

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I shall state & scrutenize the Proofs which I shall have the honour of laying before you and to report your Opinion so far as it may be influenced by the matter which I shall urge. Professing neither Pretension nor inclination to vie with Mr Manesty in Language, my only object is to excel him in truth, and as that requires no ornaments of Style, I hope not to tire the patience of your Honble Board in what I have now to introduce.

After Mr Manesty's delivery over of the factory to my charge, when he was retiring to Mayhil, he requested to carry with him the principal part of the official Records, Papers, Accounts &c particularly all the late ones, to which I made no objection, although it was critically inconvenient to me to

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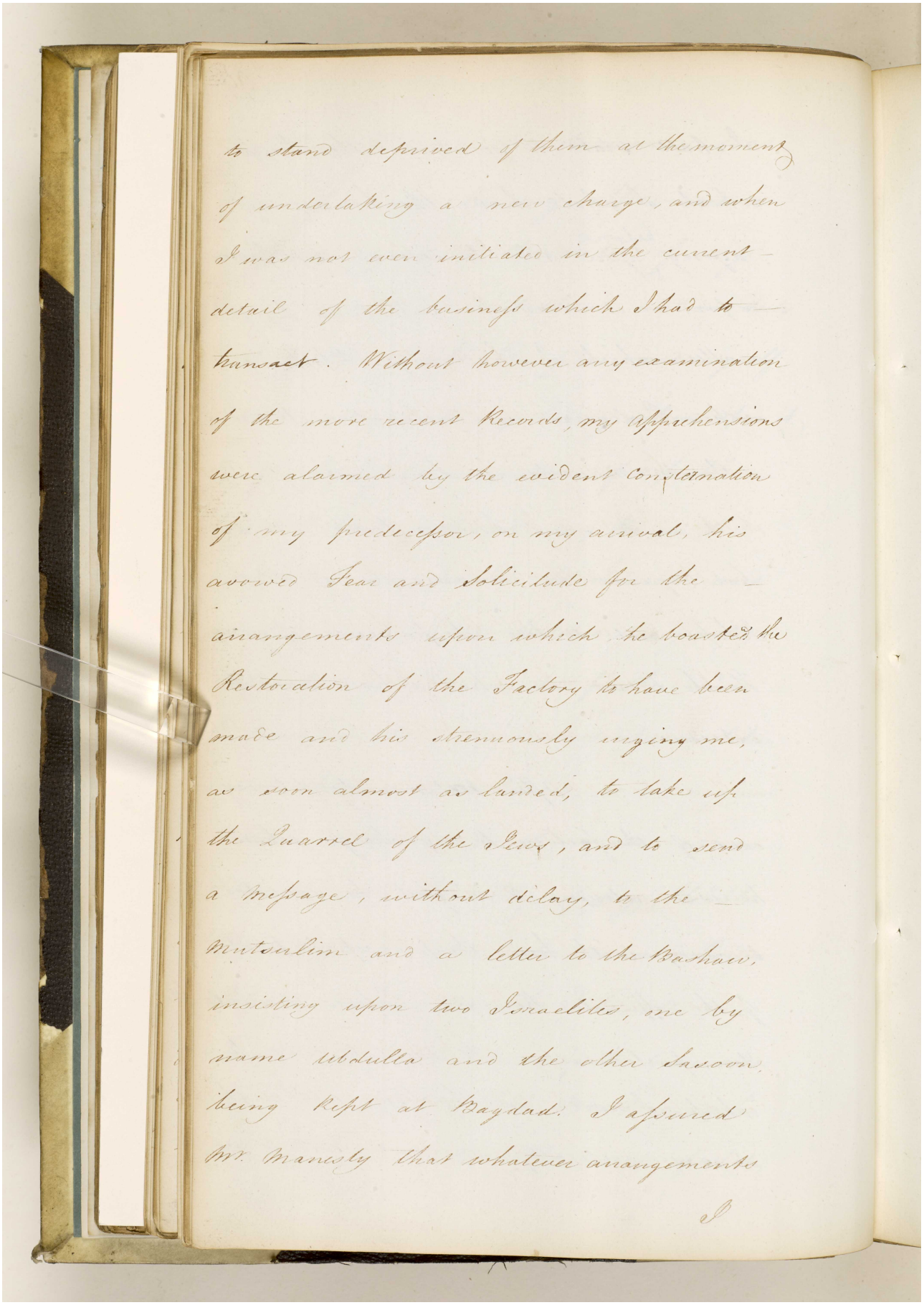

to stand deprived of them at the moment of undertaking a new charge, and when I was not even initiated in the current detail of the business which I had to transact. Without however any examination of the more recent Records, my Apprehensions were alarmed by the evident Consternation of my predecessor, on my arrival, his avowed Fear and Solicitude for the arrangements upon which he boasted the Restoration of the Factory to have been made and his strenuously urging me, as soon almost as landed, to take up the Quarrel of the Jews, and to send a Message, without delay, to the Mutsellim and a letter to the Bashaw, insisting upon two Israelites, one by name Abdulla and the other Sassoon, being kept at Bagdad. I assured Mr. Manesty that whatever arrangements

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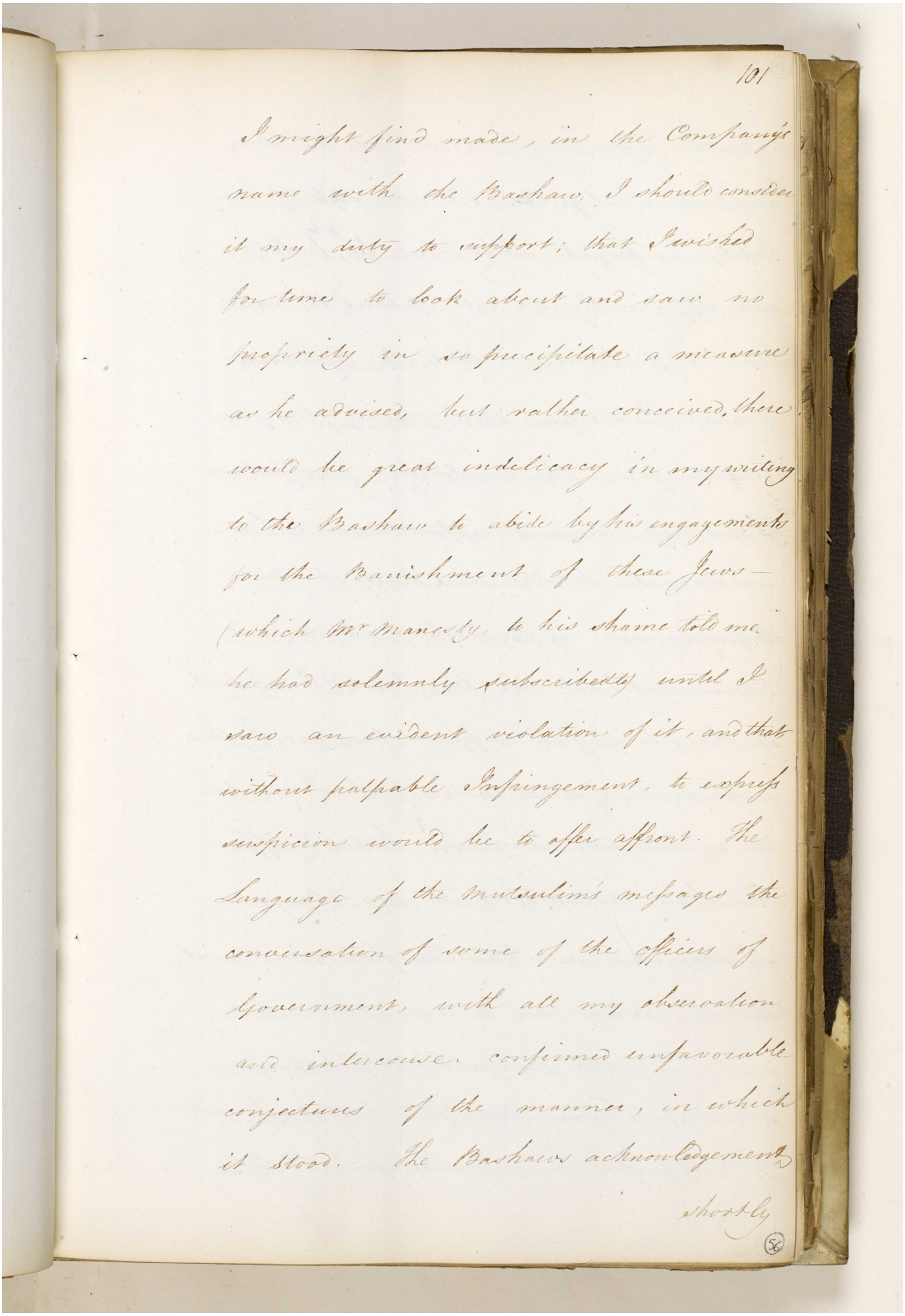

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I might find made, in the Company's
name with the Bashaw, I should consider
it my duty to support; that I wished
for time to look about and saw no
propriety in so precipitate a measure
as he advised, but rather conceived, there
would be great indelicacy in my writing
to the Bashaw to abide by his engagements
for the Banishment of these Jews —
(which Mr. Manesty, to his shame told me
he had solemnly subscribed to) until I
saw an evident violation of it, and that
without palpable Infringement, to express
suspicion would be to offer affront. The
Language of the Mutsulim's messages the
conversation of some of the officers of
Government, with all my observation
and intercourse, confirmed unfavourable
conjectures of the manner, in which
it stood. The Bashaws acknowledgements

shortly

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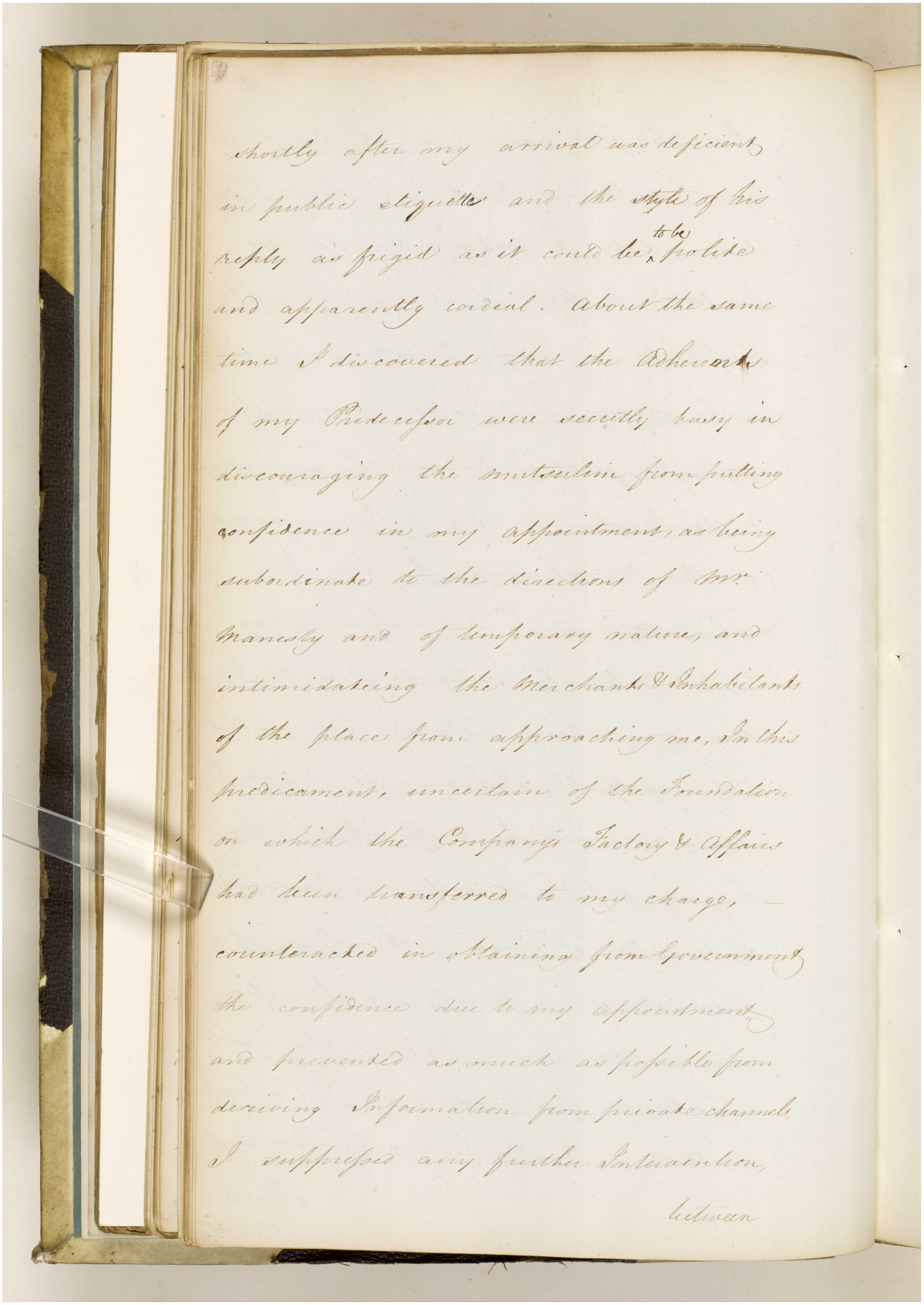

shortly after my arrival was deficient
in public etiquette and the style of his
reply as frigid as it could be, to be polite
and apparently cordial. About the same
time I discovered that the Adherents
of my Predecessor were secretly busy in
discouraging the Mutsuddies from putting
confidence in my appointment, as being
subordinate to the directions of Mr.
Manesty and of temporary nature, and
intimidateing the Merchants & Inhabitants
of the place from approaching me, In this
predicament, uncertain of the Foundation
on which the Company's Factory & Affairs
had been transferred to my charge, —
counteracted in obtaining from Government
the confidence due to my appointment
and prevented as much as possible from
deriving Information from private channels
I suppressed any further Intervention,
between

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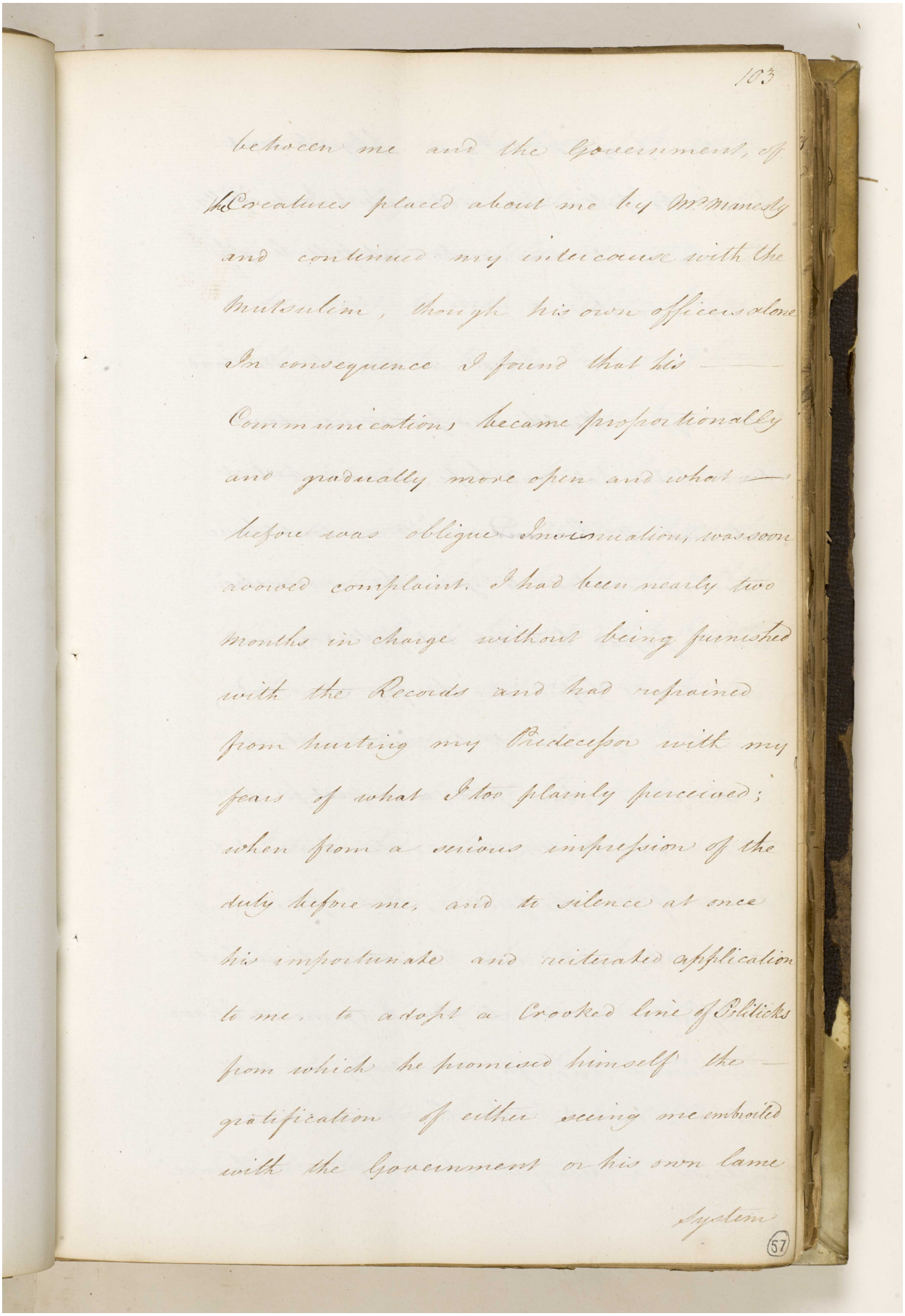

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between me and the Government, of
the Creatures placed about me by Mr Manesty
and continued my intercourse with the
Mutsulim, though his own officers alone
In consequence I found that his ——
Communications became proportionally
and gradually more open and what ——
before was oblique Insinuation, was soon
avowed complaint. I had been nearly two
months in charge without being furnished
with the Records and had refrained
from hurting my Predecessor with my
fears of what I too plainly perceived;
when from a serious impression of the
duty before me, and to silence at once
his importunate and reiterated application
to me, to adopt a Crooked line of Politicks
from which he promised himself the ——
gratification of either seeing me embroiled
with the Government or his own lame
System

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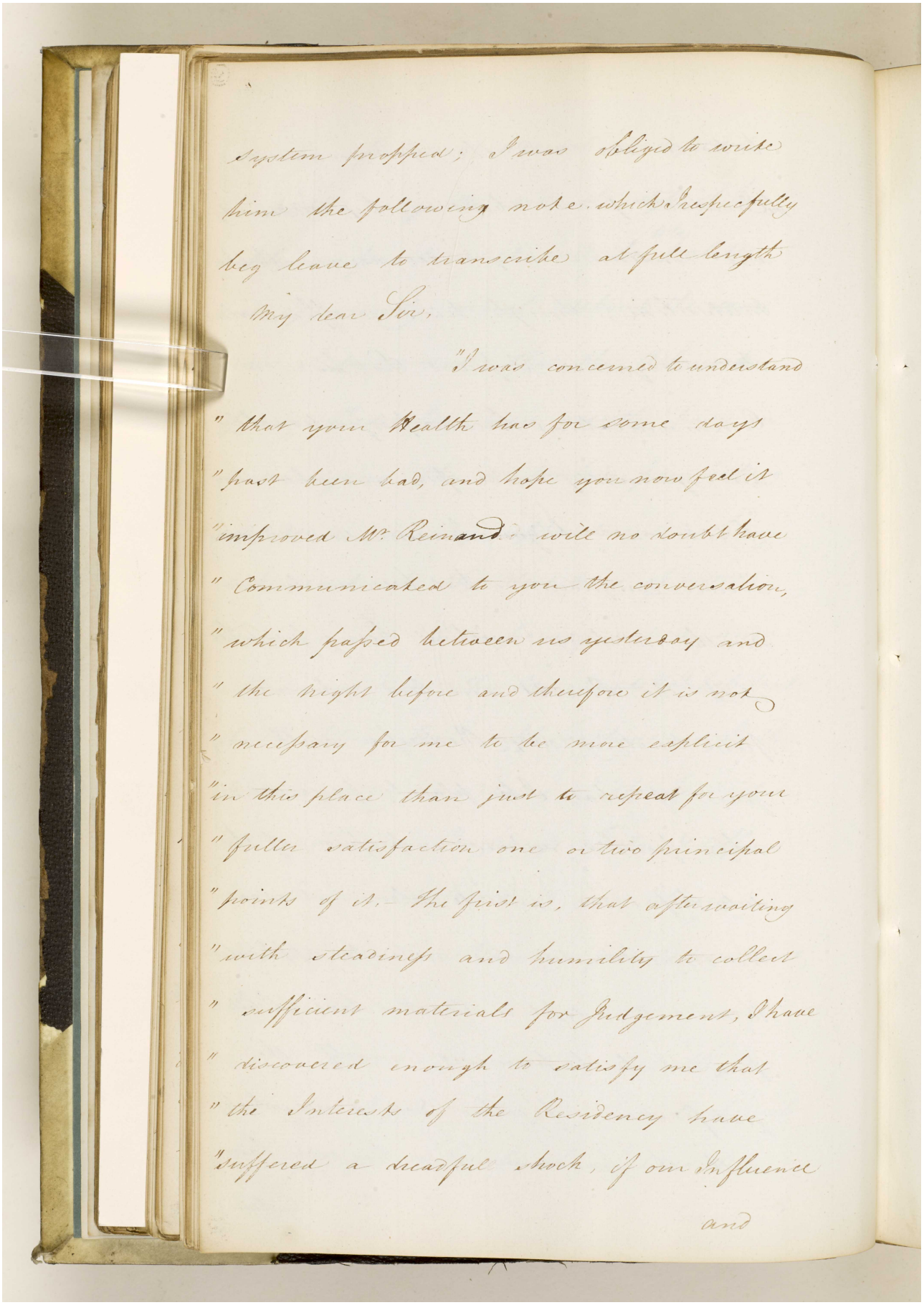

System stopped; I was obliged to write him the following note, which I respectfully beg leave to transcribe at full length

My dear Sir,

"I was concerned to understand
" that your Wealth has for some days
"past been bad, and hope you now feel it
"improved Mr Reinaud will no doubt have
" Communicated to you the conversation,
" which passed between us yesterday and
" the night before and therefore it is not
" necessary for me to be more explicit
"in this place than just to repeat for your
" fuller satisfaction one or two principal
" points of it. The first is, that after waiting
" with steadiness and humility to collect
" sufficient materials for Judgement, I have
" discovered enough to satisfy me that
" the Interests of the Residency have
"suffered a dreadful shock, if our Influence

and

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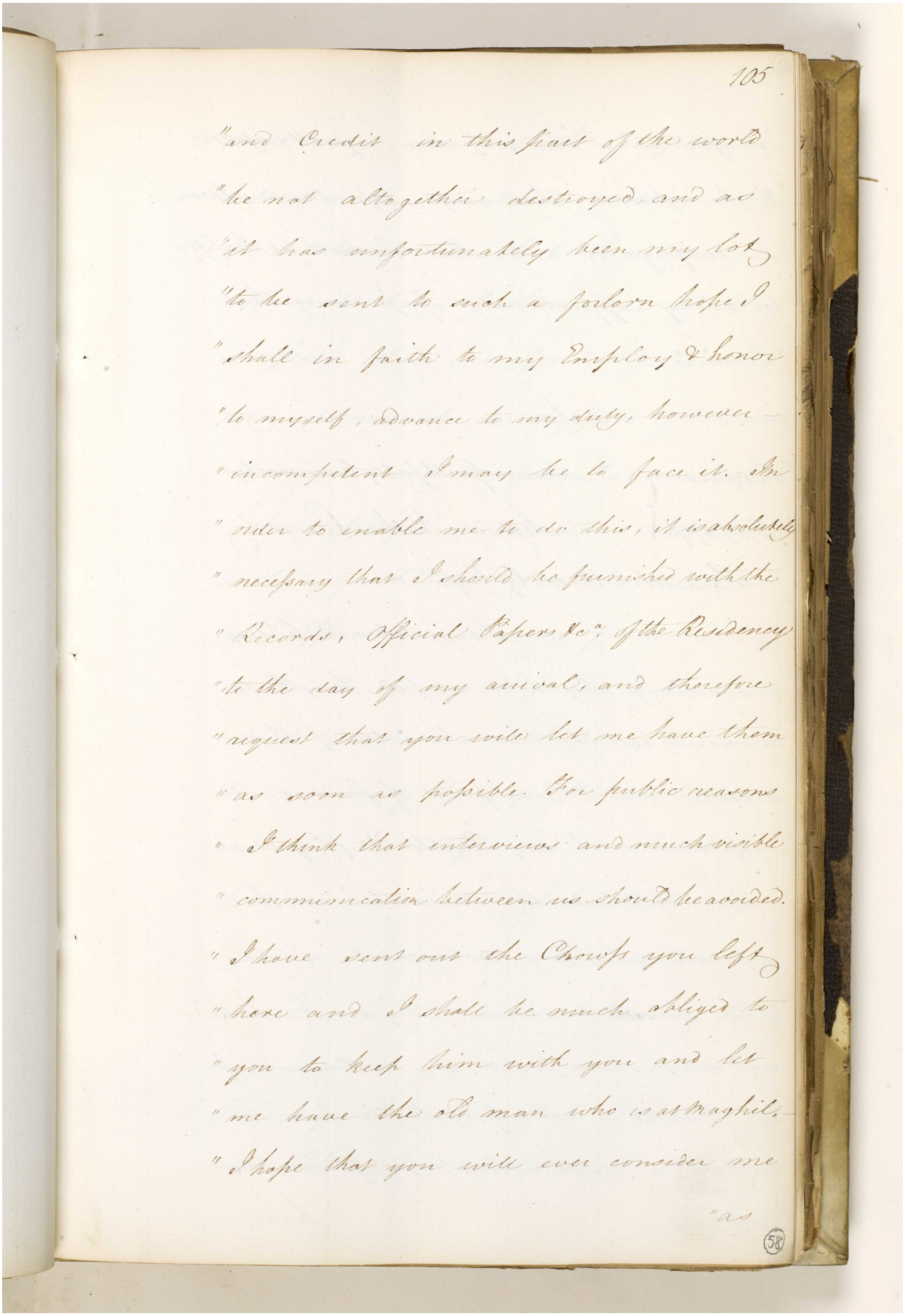

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"and Credit in this part of the world
"be not altogether destroyed, and as
"it has importunately been my lot
"to be sent to such a forlorn hope I
"shall in faith to my Employ & honor
"to myself, advance to my duty, however
"incompetent I may be to face it. In
"order to enable me to do this, it is absolutely
"necessary that I should be furnished with the
"Records, Official Papers &c.a of the Residency
"to the day of my arrival, and therefore
"request that you will let me have them
"as soon as possible. For public reasons
"I think that interviews and much visible
"communication between us should be avoided.
"I have sent over the Chowks you left
"here and I shall be much obliged to
"you to keep him with you and let
"me have the old man who is at Mayhil.
"I hope that you will ever consider me
"as

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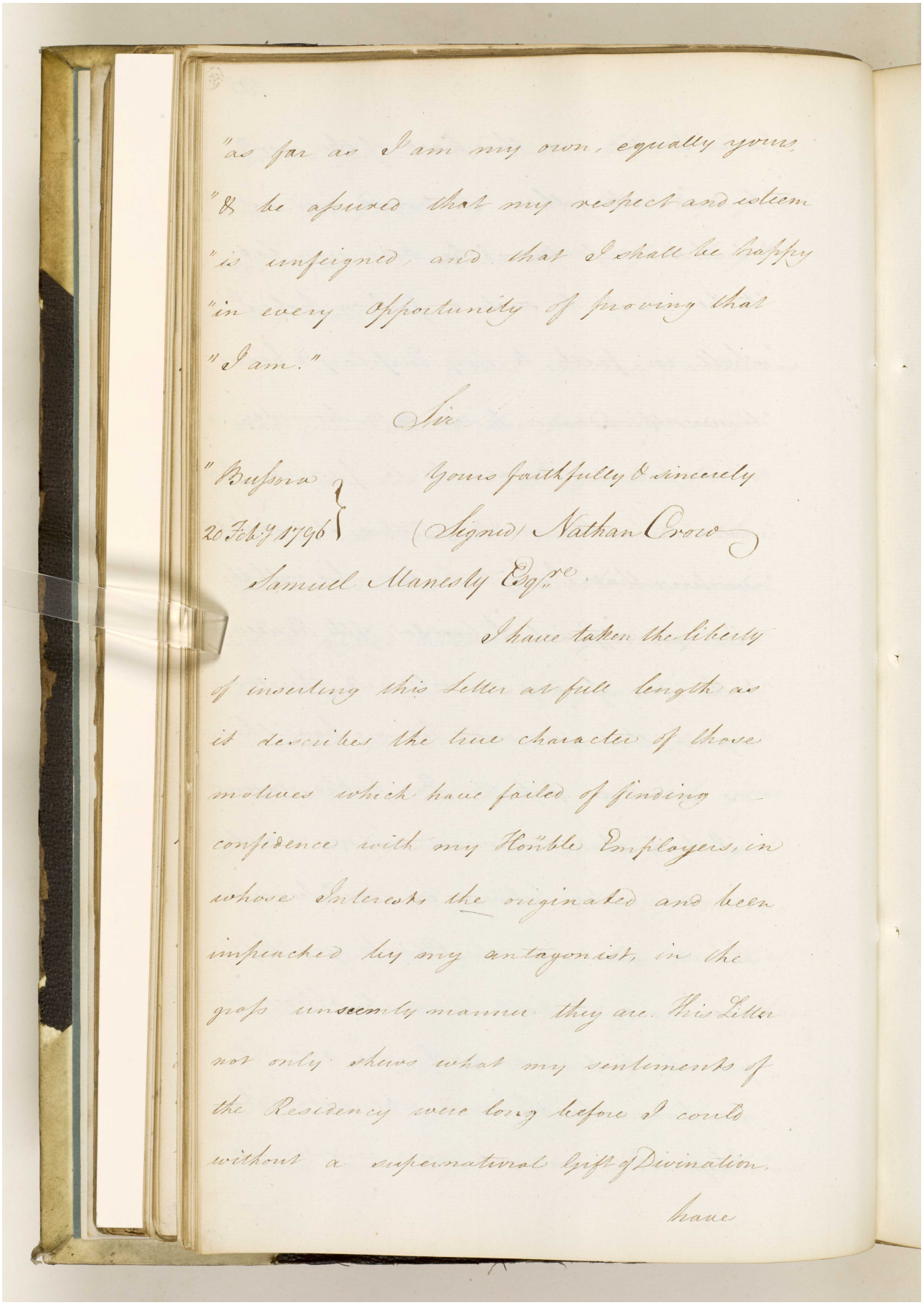

"as far as I am my own, equally yours
"& be assured that my respect and esteem
"is unfeigned, and that I shall be happy
"in every opportunity of proving that
"I am."

Sir

"Bussora
20 Feb.y 1796"

Yours faithfully & sincerely
(Signed) Nathan Crow

Samuel Manesty Esq.re

I have taken the liberty
of inserting this letter at full length as
it describes the true character of those
motives which have failed of finding
confidence with my Honble Employers, in
whose Interests she originated and been
impeached by my antagonist, in the
grossunseemly manner they are. This Letter
not only shews what my sentiments of
the Residency were long before I could
without a supernatural gift of Divination,

have

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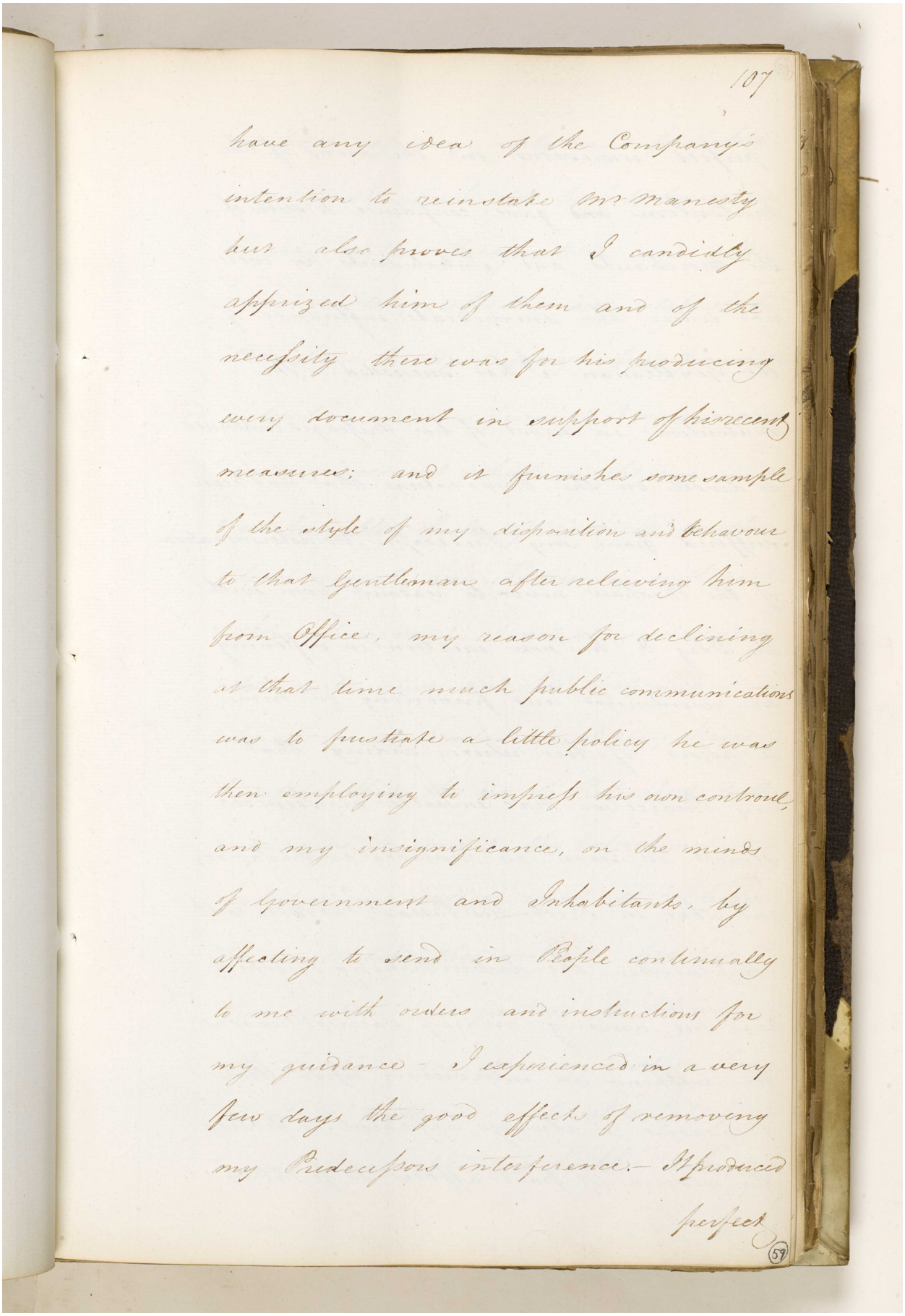

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have any idea of the Company's intention to reinstate Mr Manesty but also proves that I candidly apprized him of them and of the necessity there was for his producing every document in support of his recent measures; and it furnishes some sample of the style of my disposition and behaviour to that Gentleman after relieving him from Office, my reason for declining at that time much public communications was to frustrate a little policy he was then employing to impress his own controul, and my insignificance, on the minds of Government and Inhabitants, by affecting to send in People continually to me with orders and instructions for my guidance - I experienced in a very few days the good effects of removing my Predecessors interference - It produced perfect

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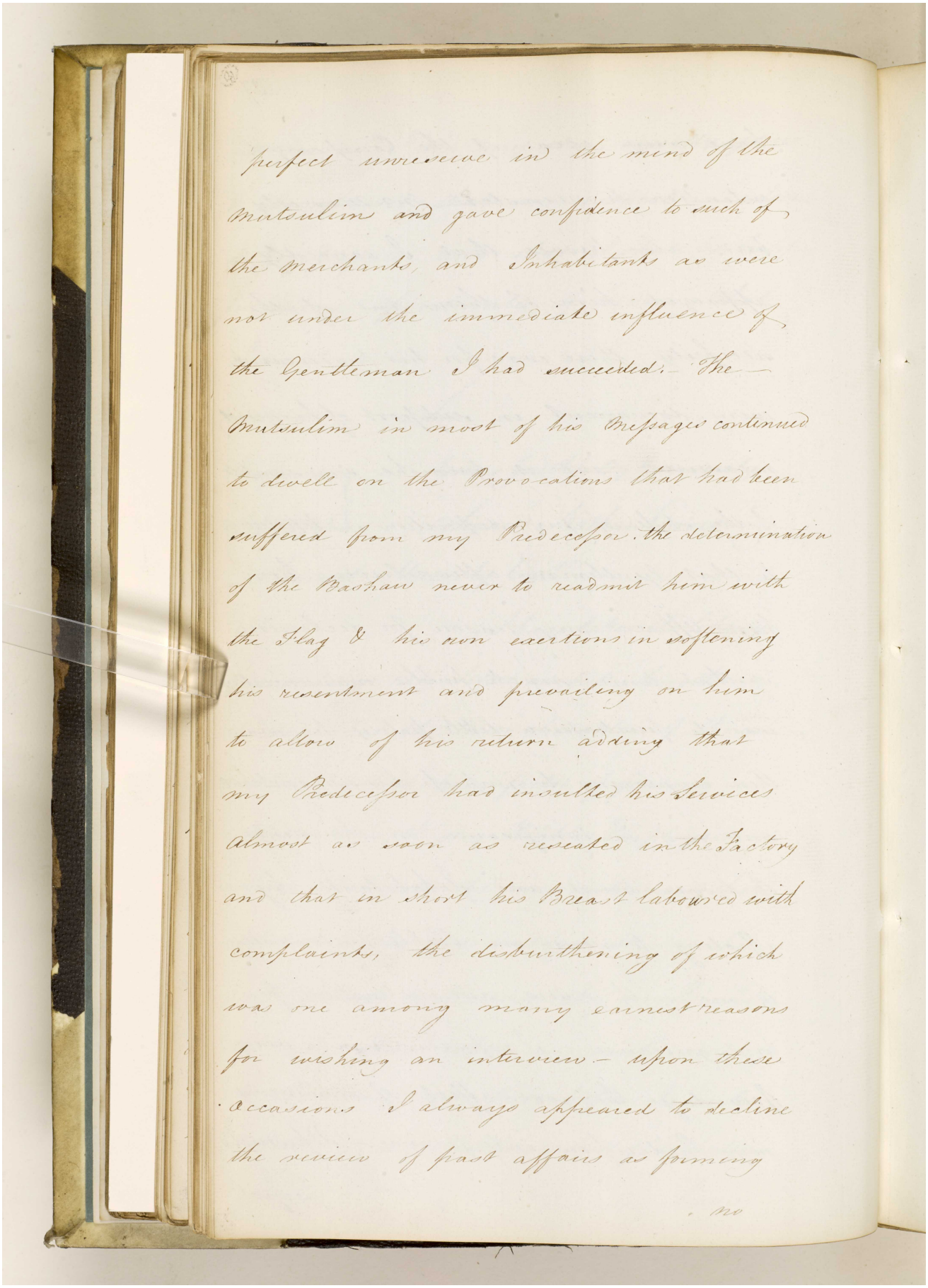

perfect unwillingness in the mind of the Mutsulim and gave confidence to such of the Merchants, and Inhabitants as were not under the immediate influence of the Gentleman I had succeeded. The Mutsulim in most of his Messages continued to dwell on the Provocations that had been suffered from my Predecessor. the determination of the Bashaw never to readmit him with the Flag & his own exertions in softening his resentment and prevailing on him to allow of his return adding that my Predecessor had insulted his Services almost as soon as executed in the Factory and that in short his Breast laboured with complaints, the disburthening of which was one among many earnest reasons for wishing an interview – upon these occasions I always appeared to decline the review of past affairs as forming

no

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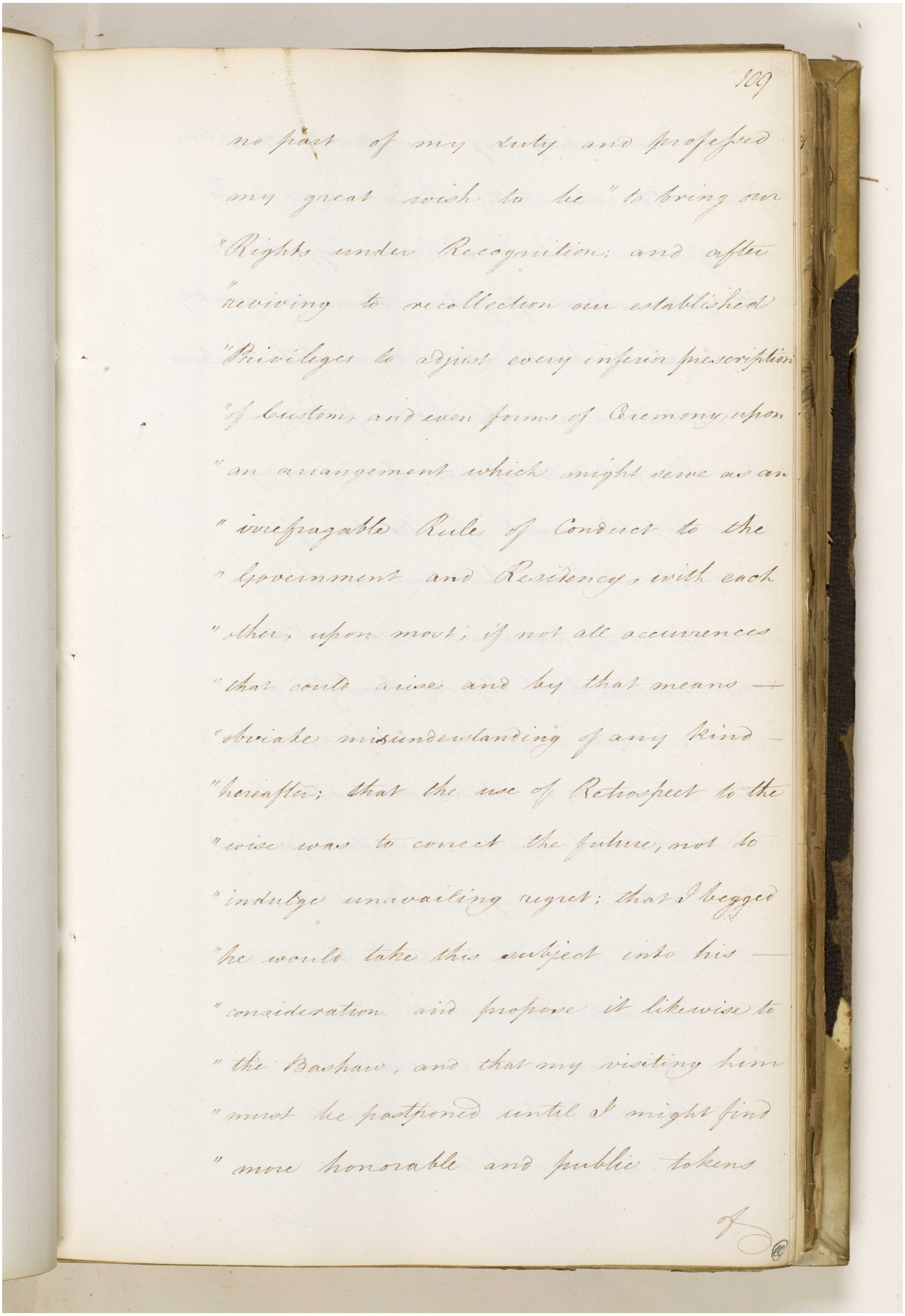

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no part of my duty and professed
my great wish to be "to bring our
"Rights under Recognition; and after
"reviving to recollection our established
"Priviliges to adjust every inferior prescription
"of Custom, and even forms of Ceremony, upon
"an arrangement which might serve as an
"irrefragable Rule of Conduct to the
"Government and Residency, with each
"other, upon most, if not all occurrences
"that could arise and by that means —
"obviate misunderstanding of any kind —
"hereafter; that the use of Retrospect to the
"wise was to correct the future, not to
"indulge unavailing regret; that I begged
"he would take this subject into his —
"consideration and propose it likewise to
"the Bashaw, and that my visiting him
"must be postponed until I might find
"more honorable and public tokens

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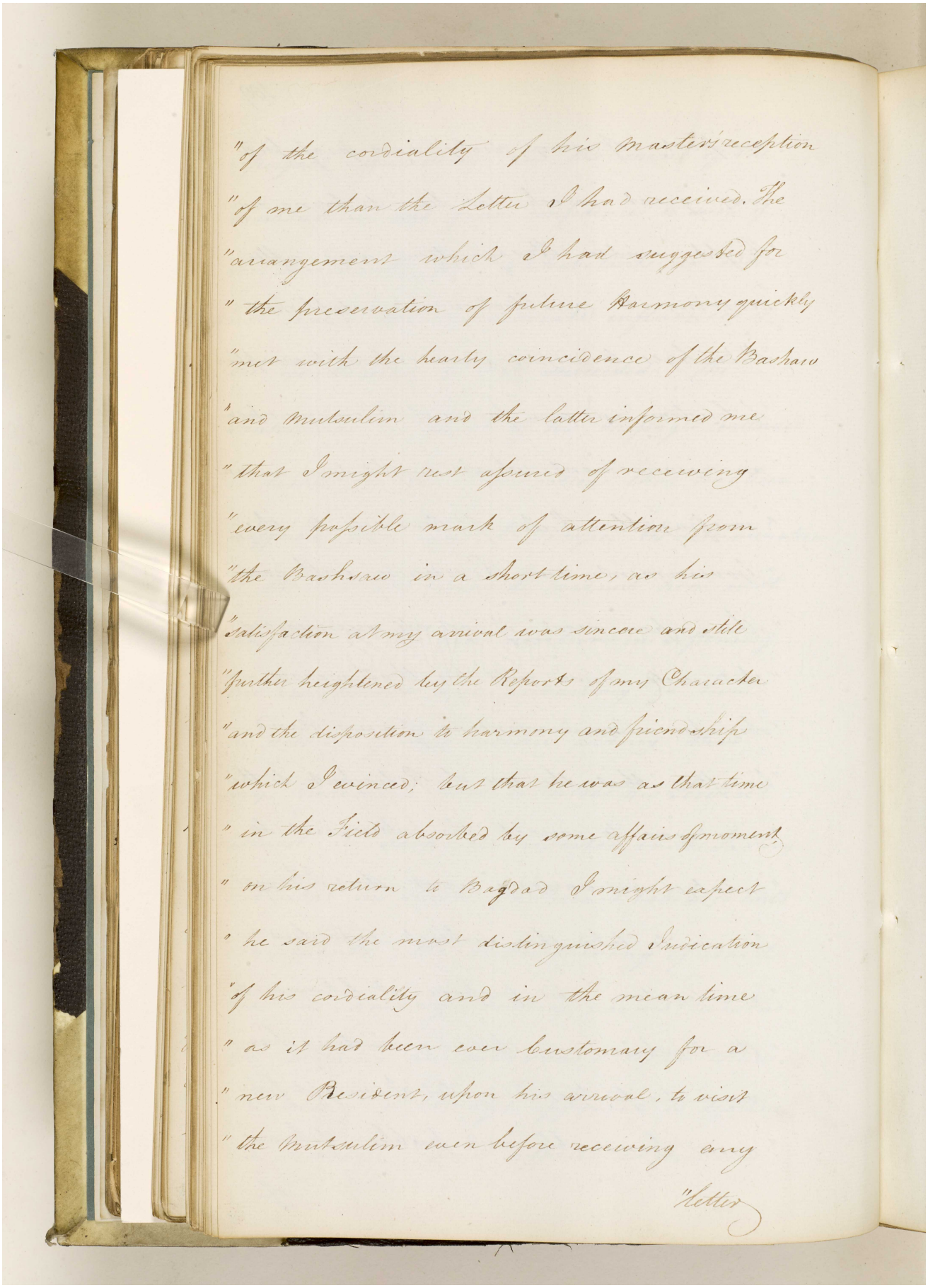

"of the cordiality of his master's reception
"of me than the Letter I had received. The
"arrangement which I had suggested for
" the preservation of future Harmony quickly
"met with the hearty coincidence of the Bashaw
"and Mutsulim and the latter informed me
" that I might rest assured of receiving
"every possible mark of attention from
"the Bashaw in a short time, as his
"satisfaction at my arrival was sincere and still
"further heightened by the Reports of my Character
"and the disposition to harmony and friendship
"which I evinced; but that he was at that time
" in the Field absorbed by some affairs of moment
" on his return to Bagdad I might expect
" he said the most distinguished Indication
"of his cordiality and in the mean time
" as it had been ever customary for a
" new Resident, upon his arrival, to visit
" the Mutsulim even before receiving any
"Letter

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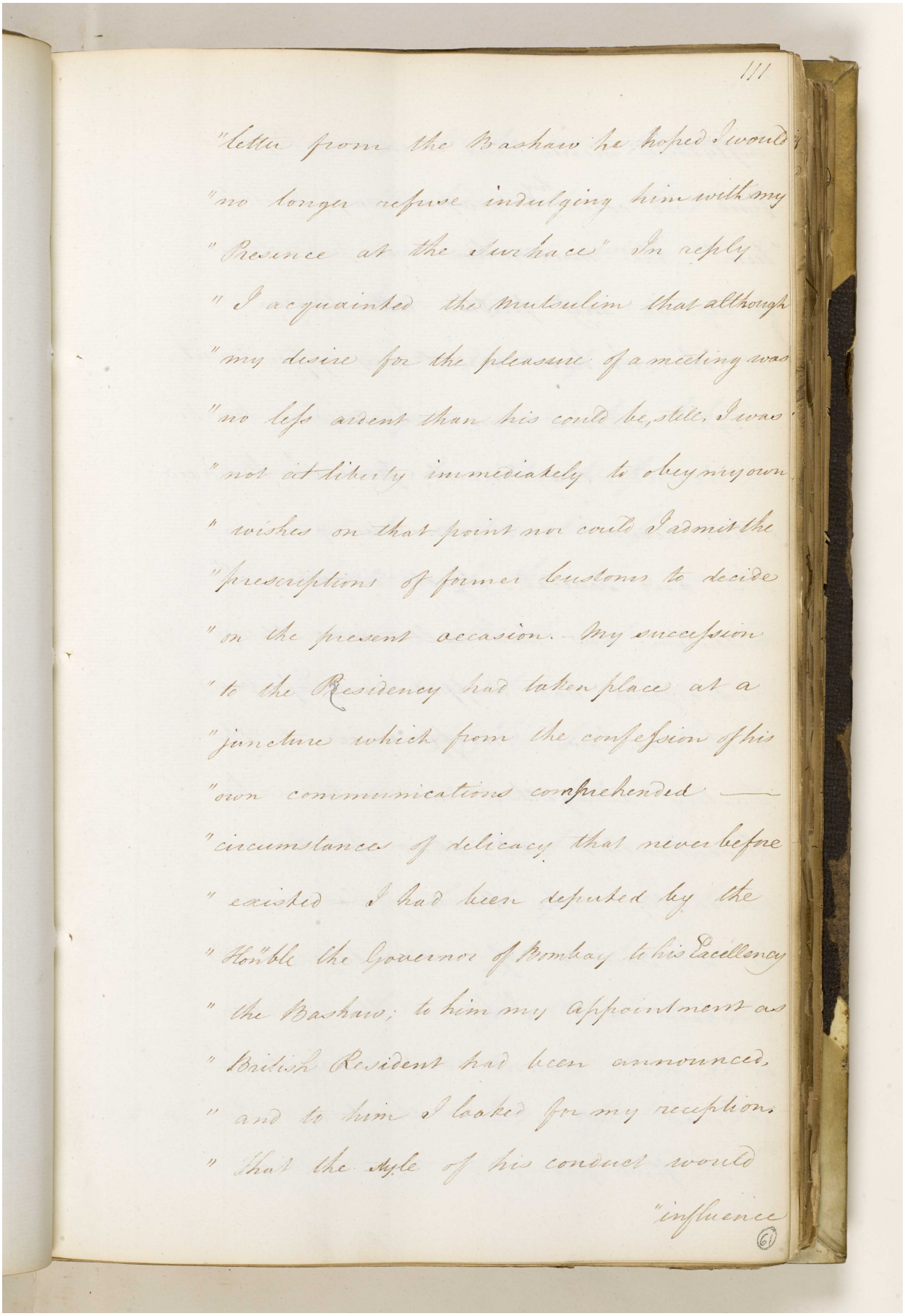

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"letter from the Bashaw he hoped I would
"no longer refuse indulging him with my
"Presence at the Durbar" In reply
" I acquainted the Mutsulim that although
"my desire for the pleasure of a meeting was
"no less ardent than his could be, still, I was
"not at liberty immediately to obey my own
" wishes on that point nor could I admit the
"prescriptions of former Customs to decide
"on the present occasion. My succession
"to the Residency had taken place at a
"juncture which from the confession of his
"own communications comprehended ——
"circumstances of delicacy that never before
" existed — I had been deputed by the
" Honble the Governor of Bombay to his Excellency
" the Bashaw; to him my appointment as
" British Resident had been announced,
" and to him I looked for my reception.
" That the Style of his conduct would
"influence

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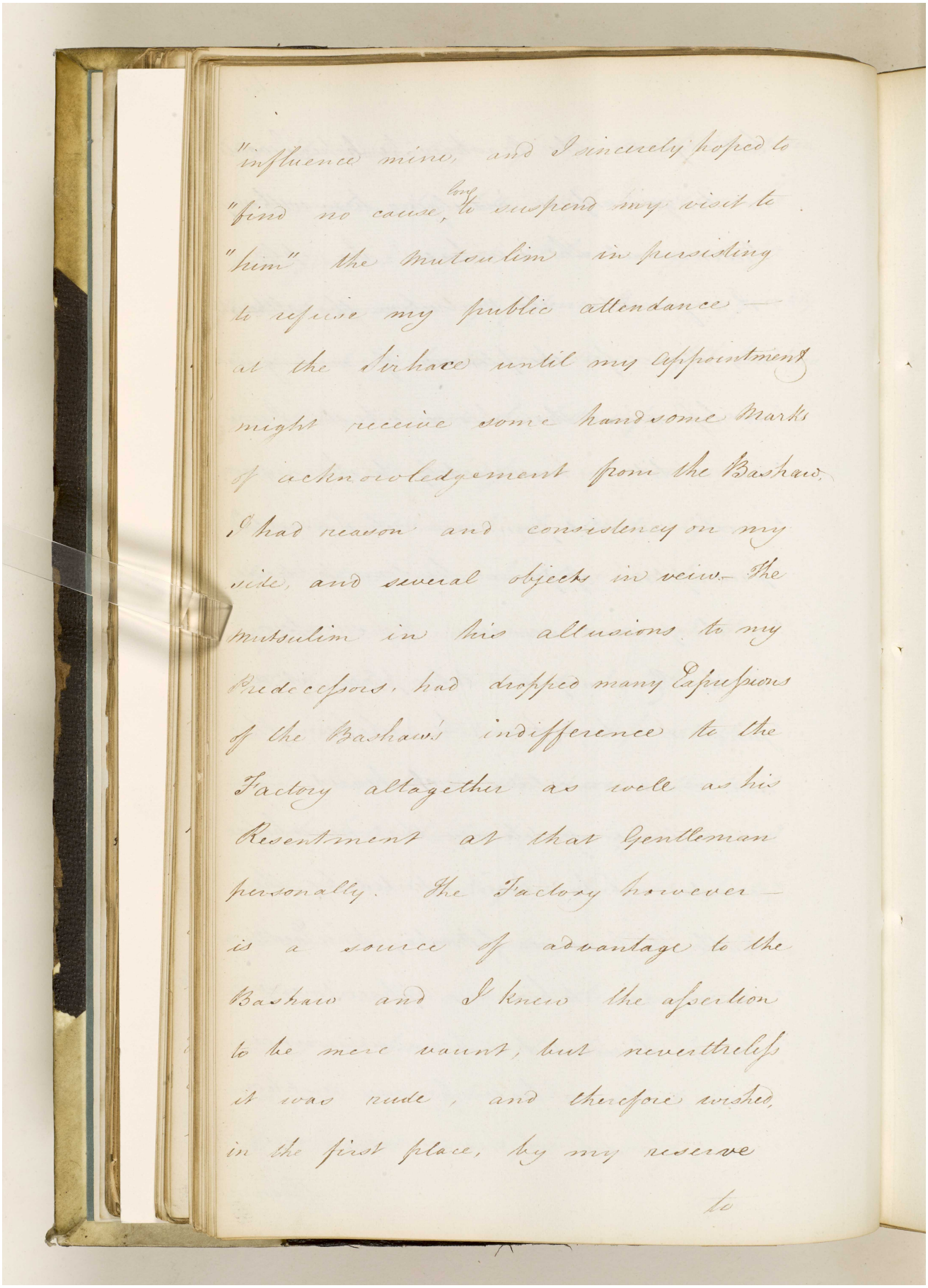

"influence mine, and I sincerely hoped to
"find no cause, long to suspend my visit to
"him" the Mutsulim in persisting
to refuse my public attendance —
at the Sirhace until my appointment
might receive some handsome Marks
of acknowledgement from the Bashaw.
I had reason and consistency on my
side, and several objects in view. The
Mutsulim in his allusions to my
Predecessors, had dropped many Expressions
of the Bashaw's indifference to the
Factory altogether as well as his
Resentment at that Gentleman
personally. The Factory however —
is a source of advantage to the
Bashaw and I knew the assertion
to be mere vaunt, but nevertheless
it was rude, and therefore wished,
in the first place, by my reserve

to

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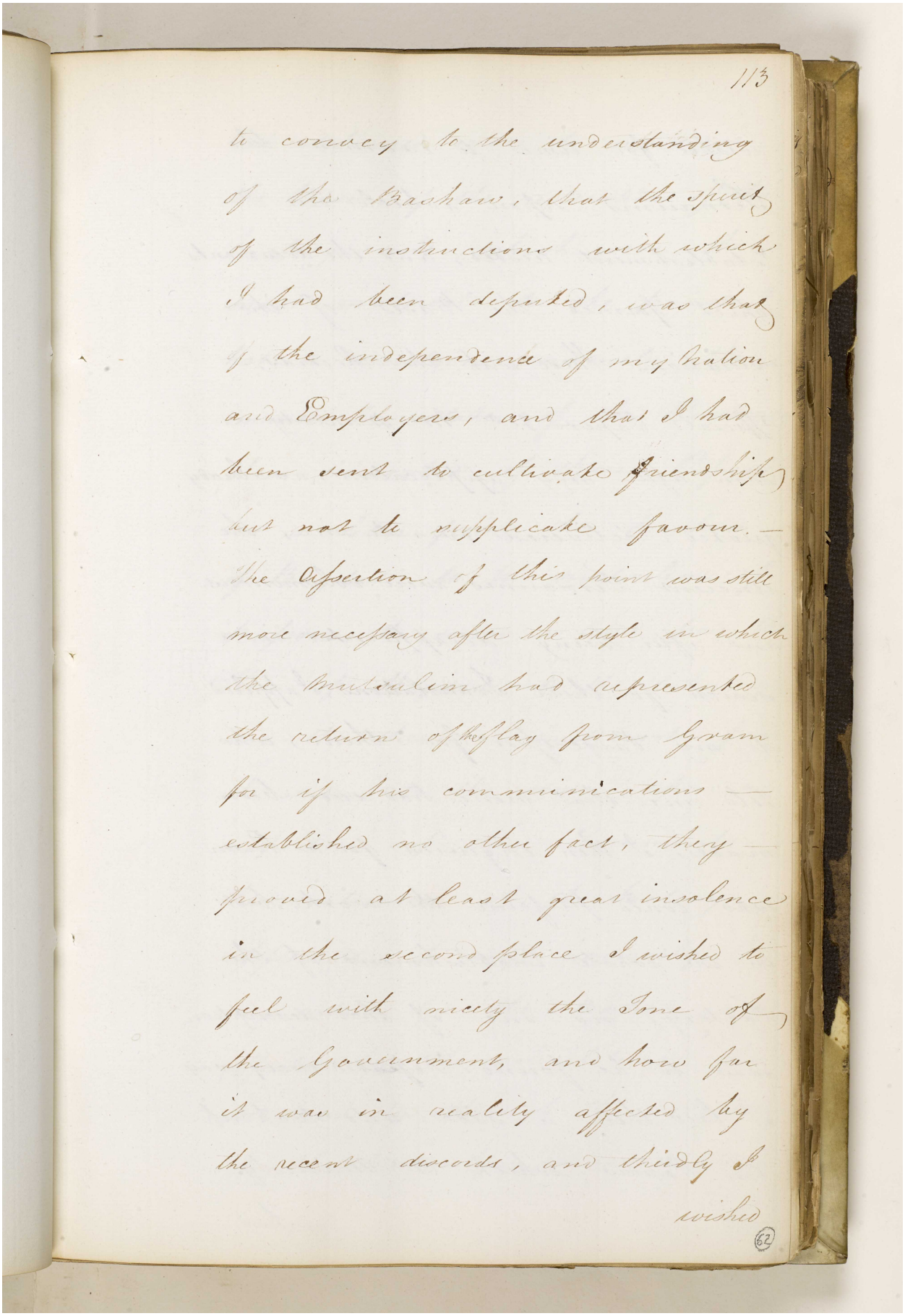

to convey to the understanding
of the Pashaw, that the spirit
of the instructions with which
I had been deputed, was that
of the independence of my Nation
and Employers, and that I had
been sent to cultivate friendship,
but not to supplicate favour. —
The assertion of this point was still
more necessary after the style in which
the Mutsellim had represented
the return of the Elay from Gram
for if his communications —
established no other fact, they —
proved at least great insolence
in the second place I wished to
feel with nicety the Tone of
the Government, and how far
it was in reality affected by
the recent discords, and thirdly I
wished

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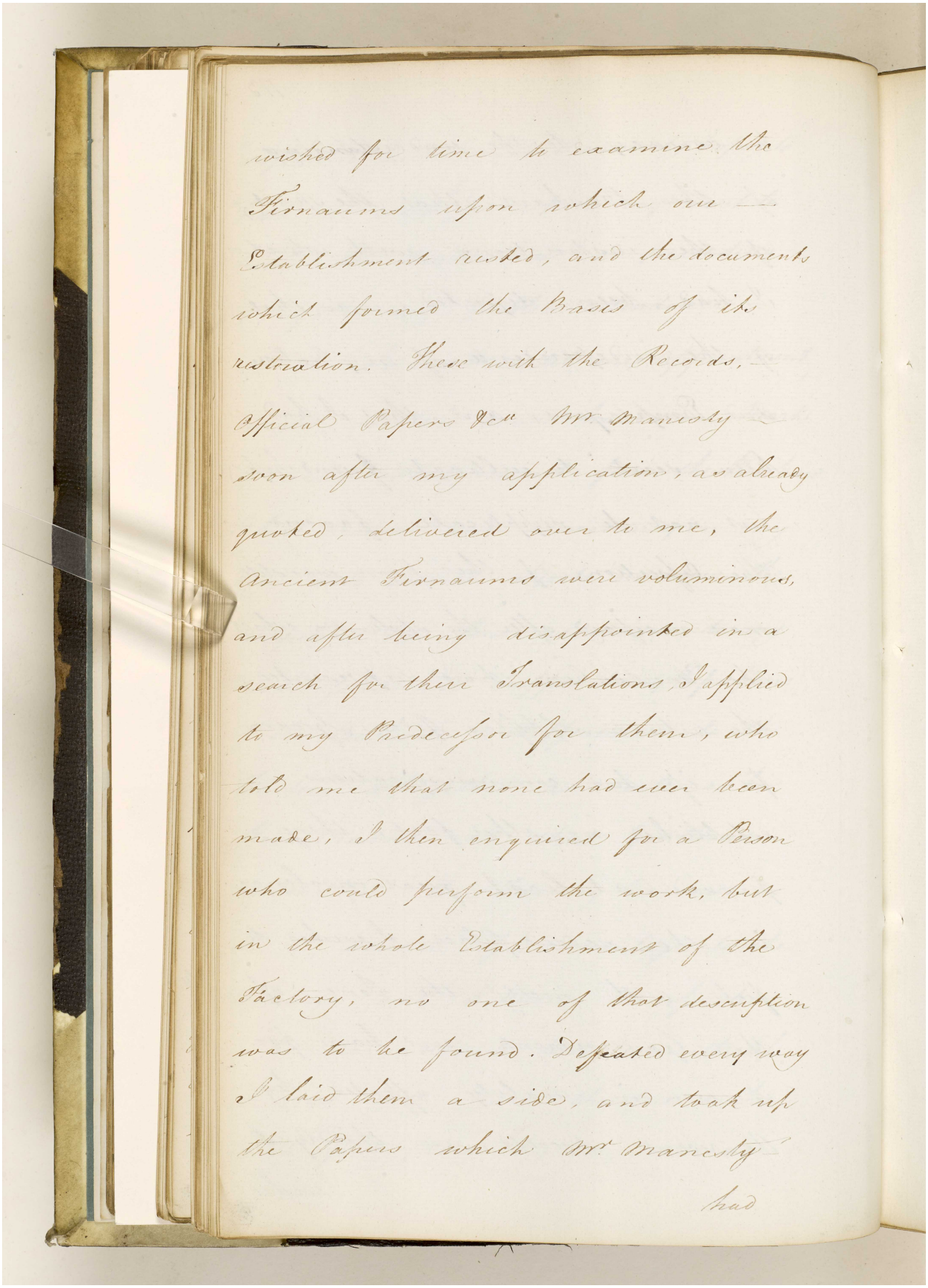

wished for time to examine the
Firmaums upon which our —
Establishment rested, and the documents
which formed the Basis of its
restoration. These with the Records, —
Official Papers &c. Mr Manesty —
soon after my application, as already
quoted, delivered over to me, the
Ancient Firmaums were voluminous,
and after being disappointed in a
search for their Translations, I applied
to my Predecessor for them, who
told me that none had ever been
made, I then enquired for a Person
who could perform the work, but
in the whole Establishment of the
Factory, no one of that description
was to be found. Defeated every way
I laid them a side, and took up
the Papers which Mr. Manesty —

had

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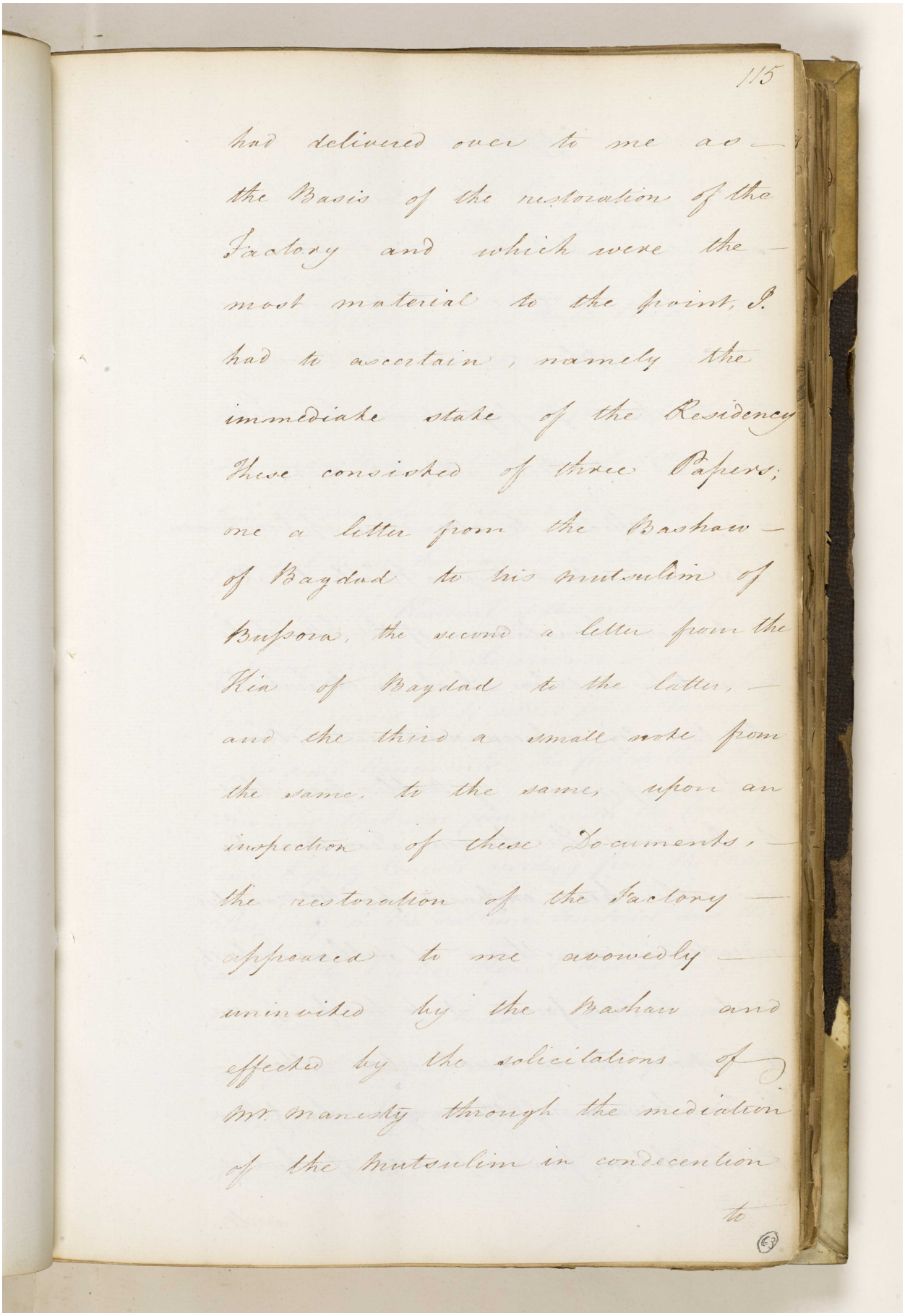

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had delivered over to me as
the Basis of the restoration of the
Factory and which were the
most material to the point I
had to ascertain, namely the
immediate state of the Residency
These consisted of three Papers;
one a letter from the Bashaw
of Baydad to his Mutsulim of
Bufsora, the second a letter from the
Kia of Baydad to the latter,
and the third a small note from
the same, to the same, upon an
inspection of these Documents,
the restoration of the Factory
appeared to me avowedly
uninvited by the Bashaw and
effected by the solicitations of
Mr Manesty through the mediation
of the Mutsulim in condecention
to

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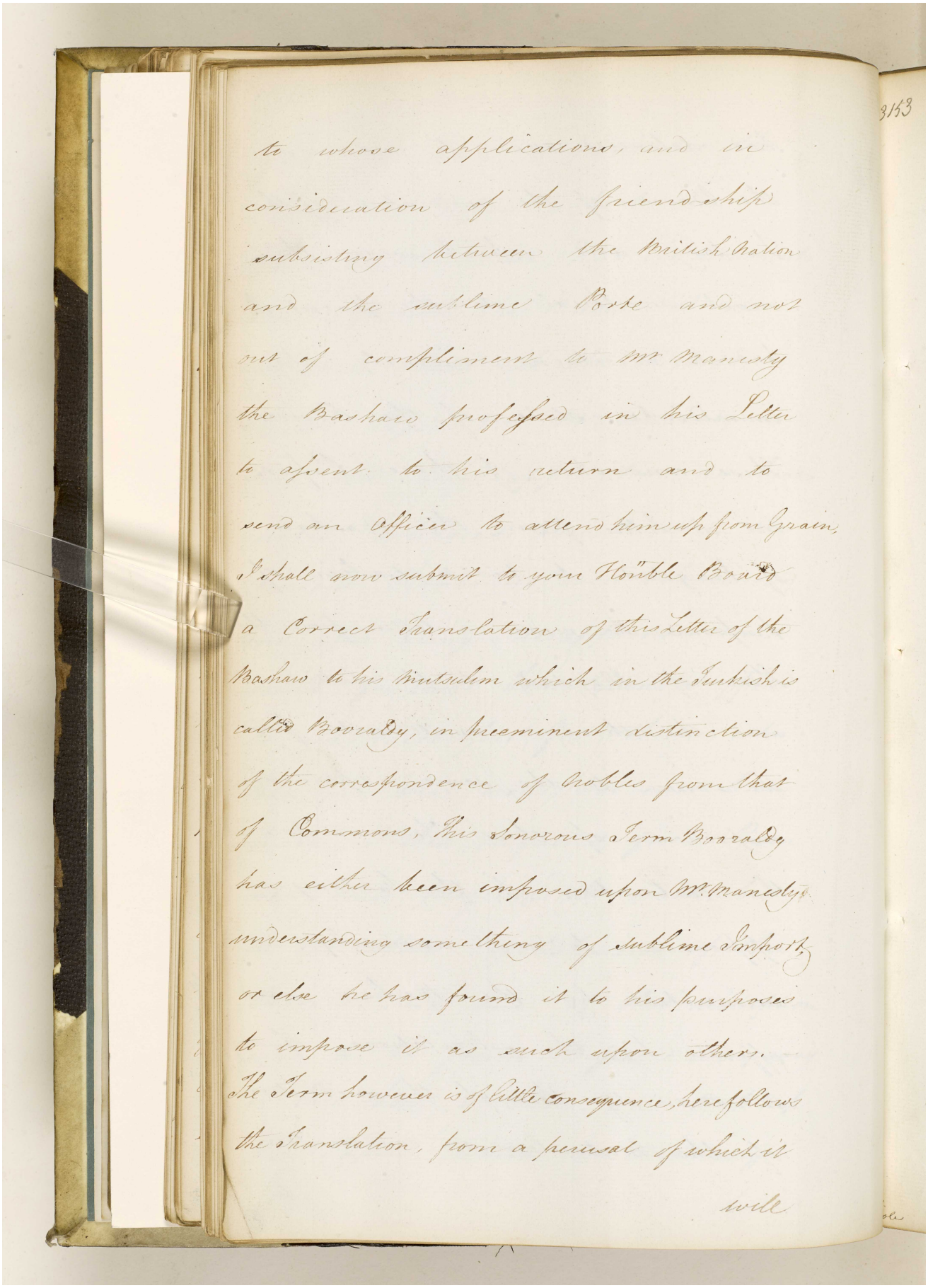

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to whose applications, and in
consideration of the friendship
subsisting between the British Nation
and the sublime Porte and not
out of compliment to Mr Manesty
the Bashaw professed in his Letter
to assent to his return and to
send an Officer to attend him up from Grain.
I shall now submit to your Honble Board
a Correct Translation of this Letter of the
Bashaw to his Minister which in the Turkish is
called Boorudy, in preeminent distinction
of the correspondence of Nobles from that
of Commons, This Sonorous Term Boorudy
has either been imposed upon Mr Manesty's
understanding something of sublime Import,
or else he has found it to his purposes
to impose it as such upon others.
The Term however is of little consequence, here follows
the Translation, from a perusal of which it
will

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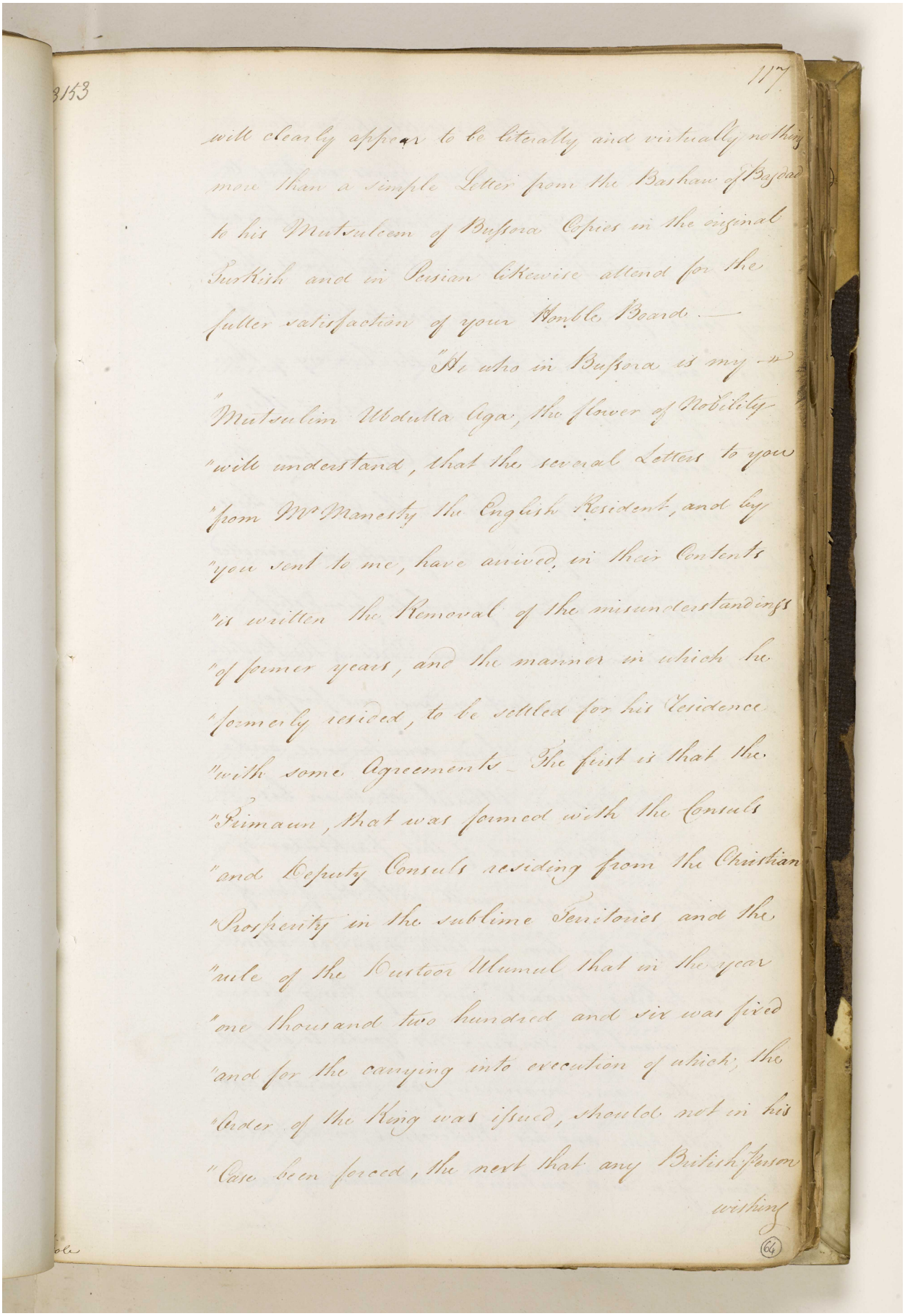

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will clearly appear to be literally and virtually nothing more than a simple Letter from the Bashaw of Bagdad to his Mutsulleem of Bussora Copies in the original Turkish and in Persian likewise attend for the fuller satisfaction of your Honble Board.—

"He who in Bussora is my —
"Mutsulim Abdulla Aga, the flower of Nobility
"will understand, that the several Letters to you
"from Mr Manesty the English Resident, and by
"you sent to me, have arrived; in their Contents
"is written the Removal of the misunderstandings
"of former years, and the manner in which he
"formerly resided, to be settled for his residence
"with some Agreements. The first is that the
"Firmaun, that was formed with the Consuls
"and Deputy Consuls residing from the Christian
"Prosperity in the sublime Territories and the
"rule of the Custom Ulumul that in the year
"one thousand two hundred and six was fixed
"and for the carrying into execution of which the
"Order of the King was issued, should not in his
"Case been forced, the next that any British person
wishing

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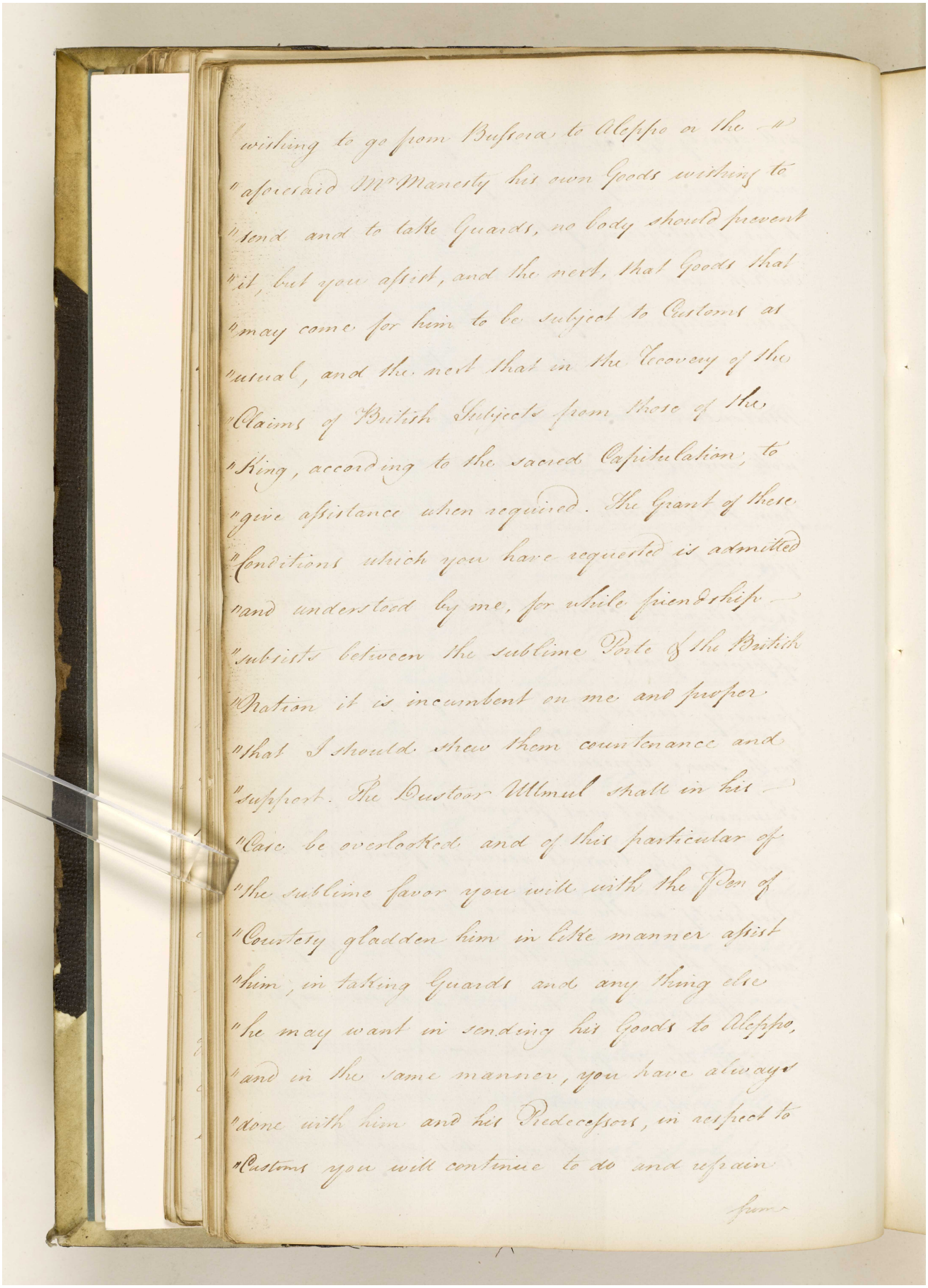
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [64v] (120/232)



"wishing to go from Bussora to Aleppo or the "
"aforesaid Mr Manesty his own Goods wishing to
"send and to take Guards, no body should prevent
"it, but you assist, and the next, that Goods that
"may come for him to be subject to Customs as
"usual, and the next that in the Recovery of the
"Claims of British Subjects from those of the
"King, according to the sacred Capitulation, to
"give assistance when required. The Grant of these
"Conditions which you have requested is admitted
"and understood by me, for while friendship
"subsists between the sublime Porte & the British
"Nation it is incumbent on me and proper
"that I should shew them countenance and
"support. The Dustoor Ullmul shall in his
"Case be overlooked and of this particular of
"the sublime favor you will with the Pen of
"Courtesy gladden him in like manner assist
"him, in taking Guards and any thing else
"he may want in sending his Goods to Aleppo,
"and in the same manner, you have always
"done with him and his Predecessors, in respect to
"Customs you will continue to do and refrain

from

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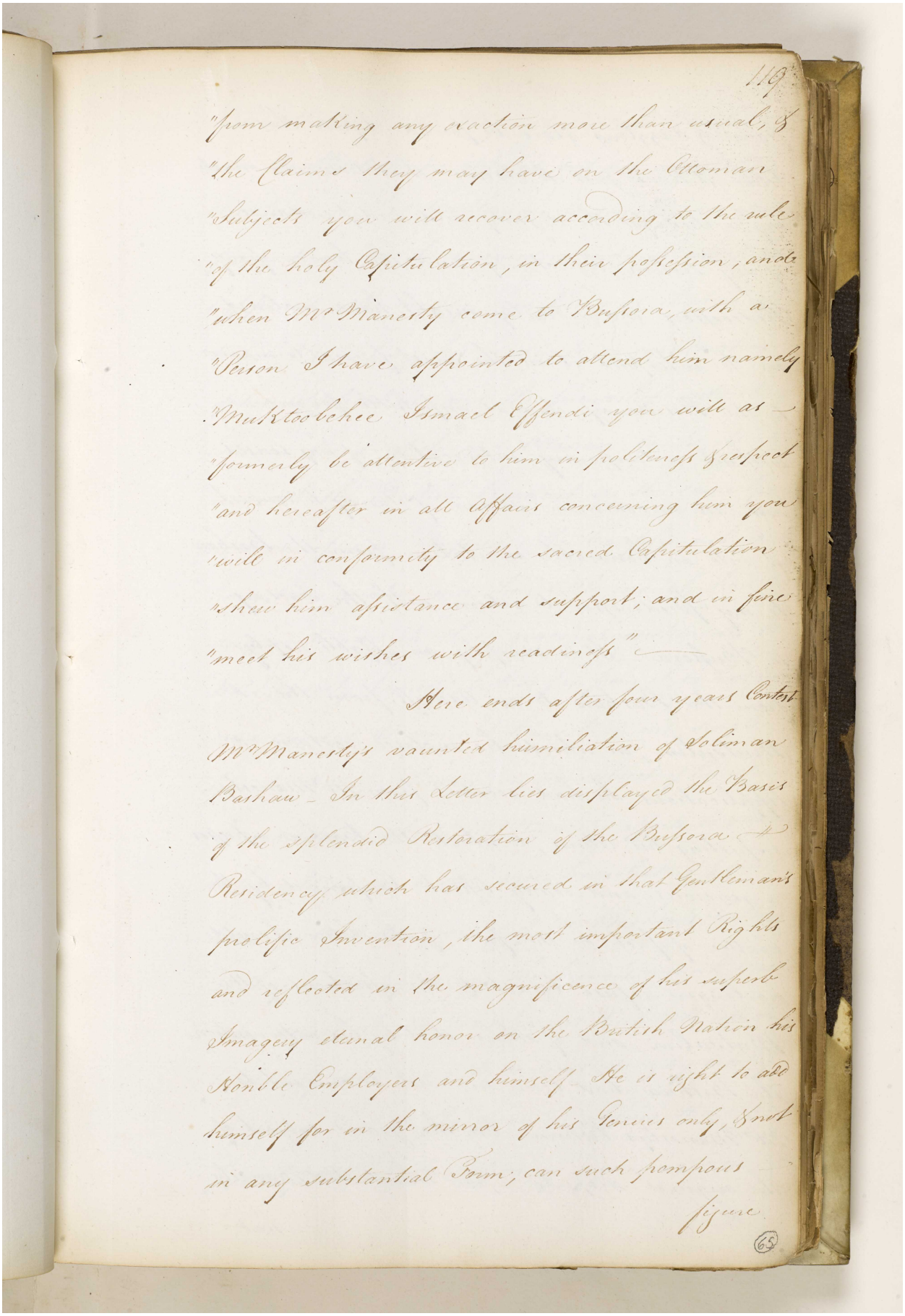

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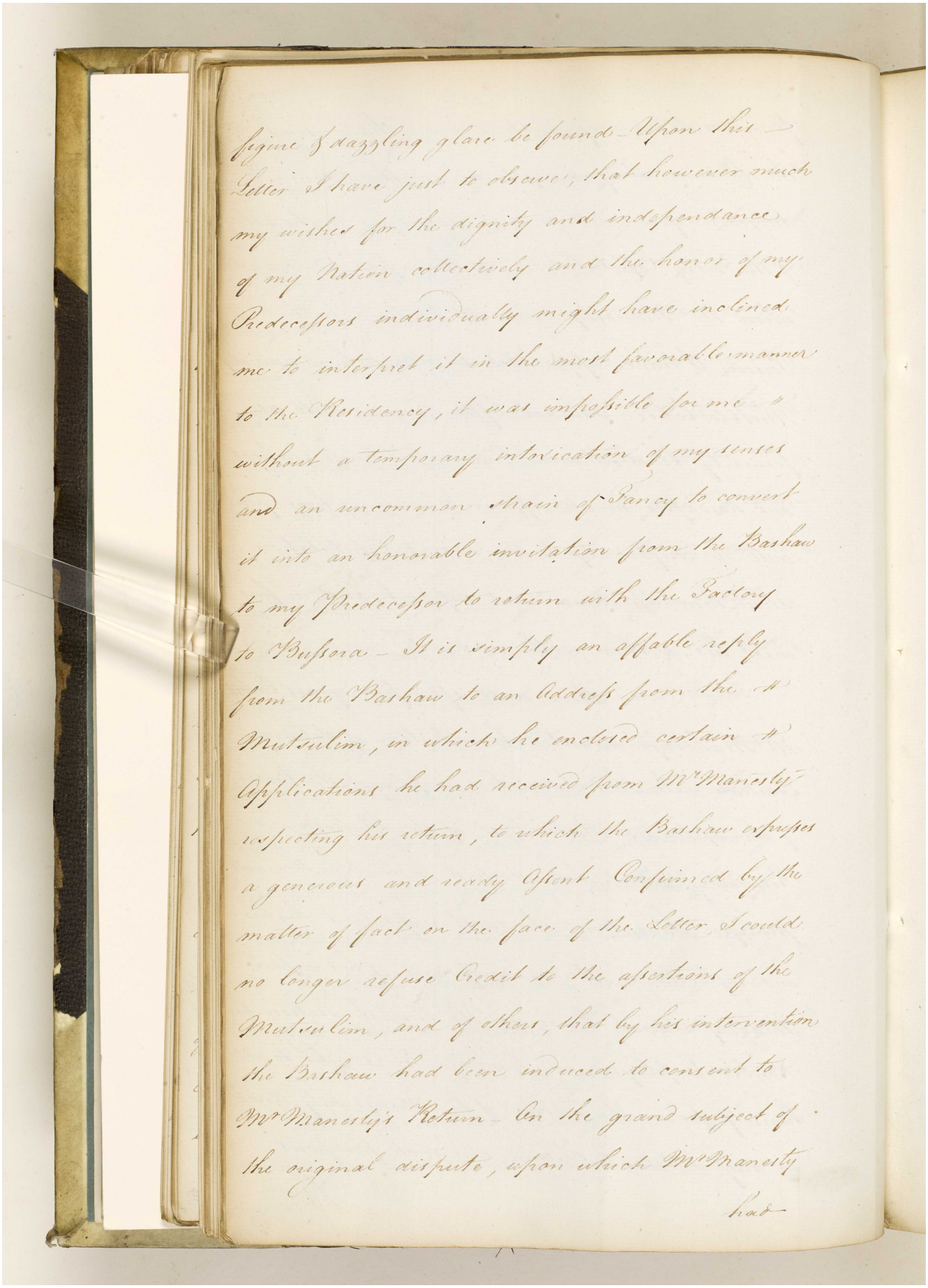
"from making any exaction more than usual, &
"the claims they may have on the Ottoman
"Subjects you will recover according to the rule
"of the holy Capitulation, in their possession, and
"when Mr Manesty come to Bussora, with a
"Person I have appointed to attend him namely
"Muktoobchee Ismael Effendi you will as-
"formerly be attentive to him in politeness & respect
"and hereafter in all affairs concerning him you
"will in conformity to the sacred Capitulation
"shew him assistance and support; and in fine
"meet his wishes with readiness"

Here ends after four years Contest
Mr Manesty's vaunted humiliation of Soliman
Bashaw. In this Letter lies displayed the Bases
of the splendid Restoration of the Bussora
Residency which has secured in that Gentleman's
prolific Invention, the most important Rights
and reflected in the magnificence of his superb
Imagery eternal honor on the British Nation his
Honble Employers and himself. He is right to add
himself for in the minor of his Genius only, & not
in any substantial Form; can such pompous
figure

(65)



feigned & dazzling glare be found. Upon this Letter I have just to observe, that however much my wishes for the dignity and independance of my Nation collectively and the honor of my Predecessors individually might have inclined me to interpret it in the most favorable manner to the Residency, it was impossible for me without a temporary intoxication of my senses and an uncommon strain of Fancy to convert it into an honorable invitation from the Bashaw to my Predecessor to return with the Factory to Bussora. It is simply an affable reply from the Bashaw to an Address from the Mutsulim, in which he enclosed certain Applications he had received from Mr Manesty respecting his return, to which the Bashaw expresses a generous and ready Assent. Confirmed by the matter of fact on the face of the Letter, I could no longer refuse Credit to the assertions of the Mutsulim, and of others, that by his intervention the Bashaw had been induced to consent to Mr Manesty's Return. On the grand subject of the original dispute, upon which Mr Manesty had

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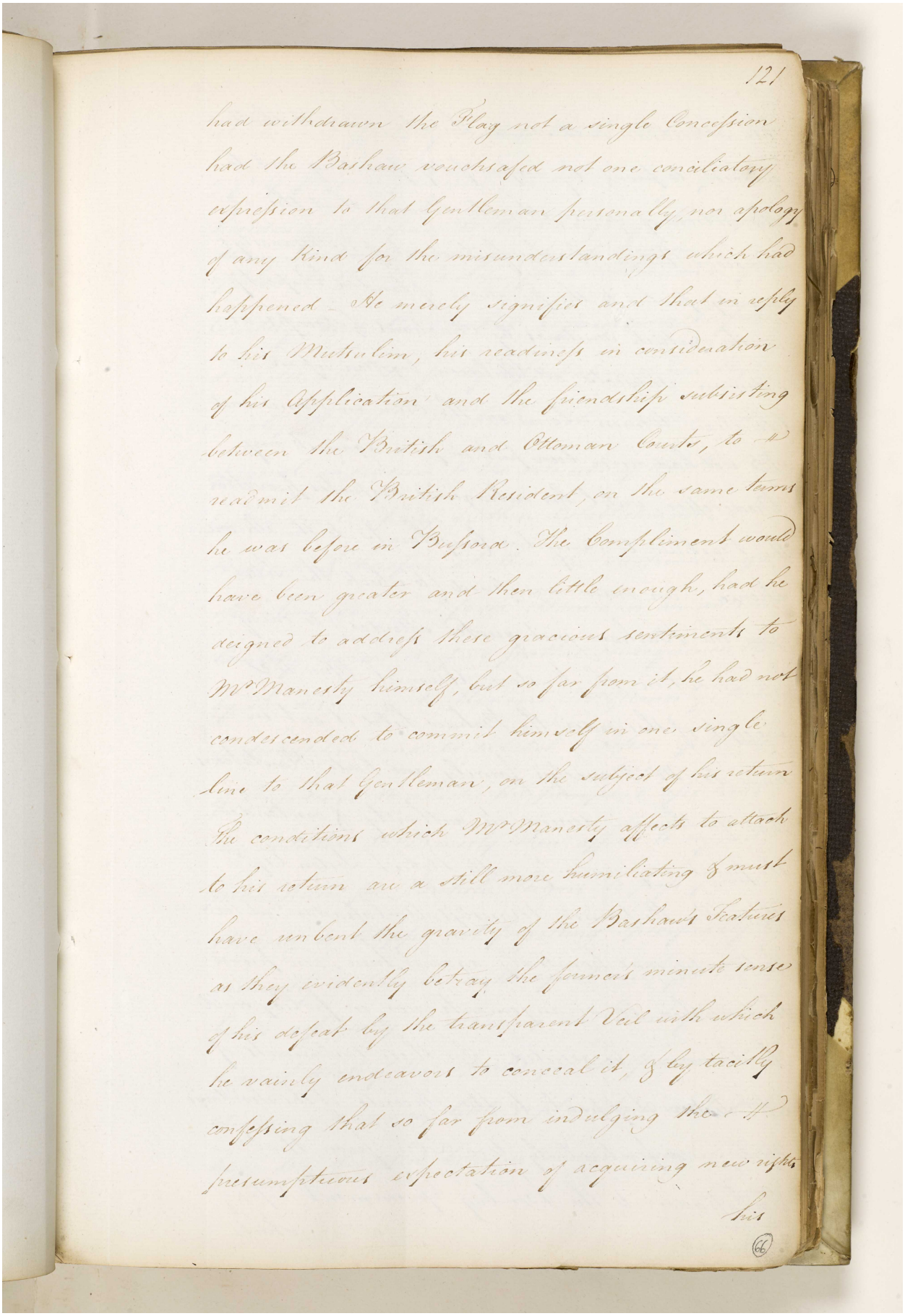

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had withdrawn the Play not a single Concession had the Bashaw vouchsafed not one conciliatory expression to that Gentleman personally, nor apology of any kind for the misunderstandings which had happened. He merely signifies and that in reply to his Mutsulim, his readiness in consideration of his Application and the friendship subsisting between the British and Ottoman Courts, to readmit the British Resident, on the same terms he was before in Bussora. The Compliment would have been greater and then little enough, had he deigned to address these gracious sentiments to Mr Manesty himself, but so far from it, he had not condescended to commit himself in one single line to that Gentleman, on the subject of his return The conditions which Mr Manesty affects to attach to his return are a still more humiliating & must have unbent the gravity of the Bashaw's features as they evidently betray the former's minute sense of his defeat by the transparent Veil with which he vainly endeavours to conceal it, & by tacitly confessing that so far from indulging the presumptuous expectation of acquiring new rights his

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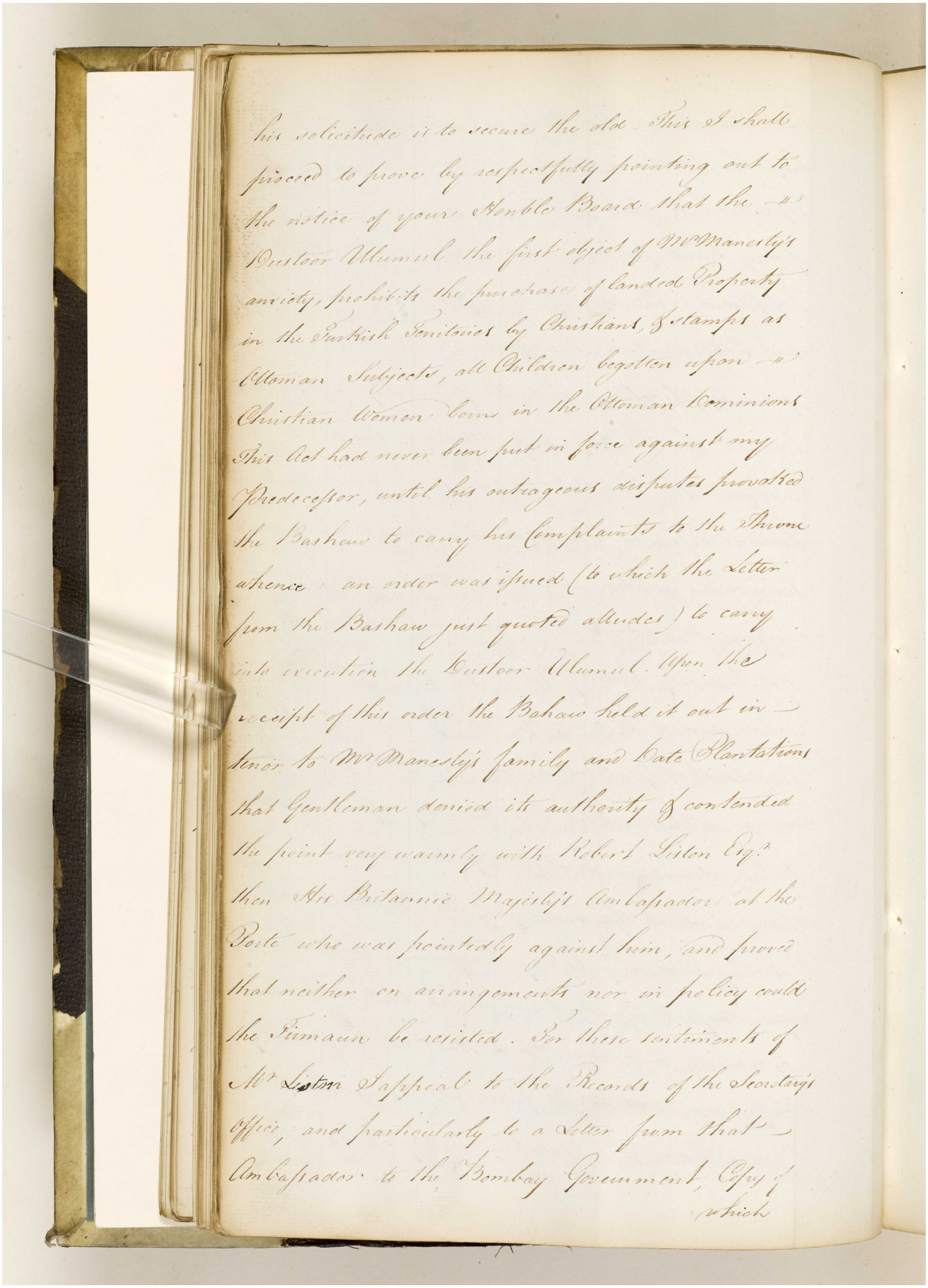

his solicitude is to secure the old. This I shall proceed to prove by respectfully pointing out to the notice of your Honble Board that the Custom Ulumul the first object of Mr Manesty's anxiety, prohibits the purchase of landed Property in the Turkish Territories by Christians & stamps as Ottoman Subjects, all Children begotten upon Christian Women born in the Ottoman Dominions This Act had never been put in force against my Predecessor, until his outrageous disputes provoked the Bashaw to carry his Complaints to the Throne whence an order was issued (to which the Letter from the Bashaw just quoted alludes) to carry into execution the Custom Ulumul. Upon the receipt of this order the Bashaw held it out in terror to Mr Manesty's family and Late Plantations that Gentleman denied its authority & contended the point very warmly with Robert Liston Esq. then His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte who was pointedly against him, and proved that neither on arrangements nor in policy could the Firmaun be resisted. For these sentiments of Mr Liston I appeal to the Records of the Secretary's Office, and particularly to a Letter from that Ambassador to the Bombay Government, Copy of which

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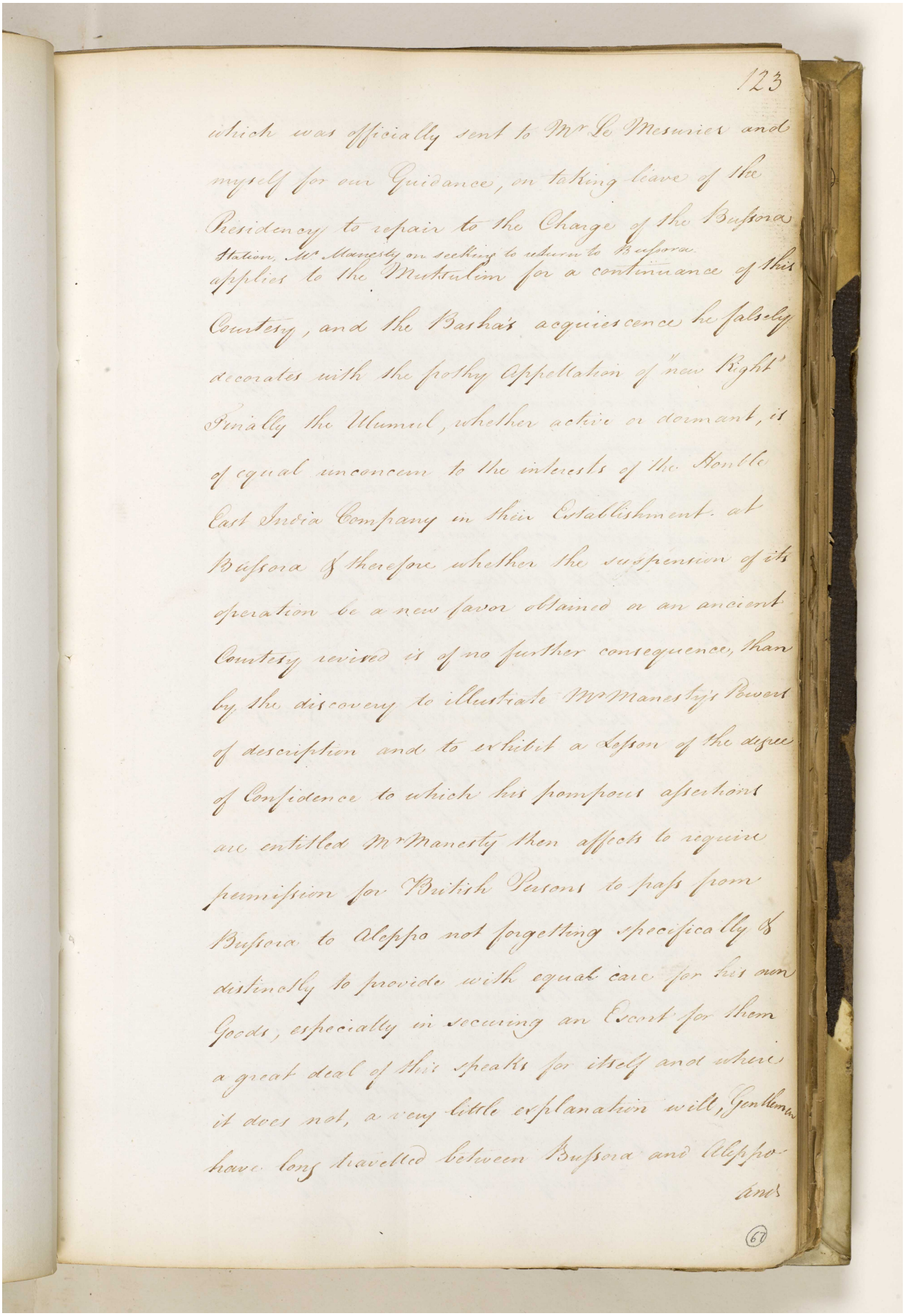

which was officially sent to Mr Le Mesurier and myself for our Guidance, on taking leave of the Presidency to repair to the Charge of the Bussora Station. Mr Manesty on seeking to return to Bussora applies to the Muttesellim for a continuance of this Courtesy, and the Bashaw's acquiescence he falsely decorates with the pothy Appellation of "new Right" Finally the Mumul, whether active or dormant, is of equal unconcern to the interests of the Honble East India Company in their Establishment at Bussora & therefore whether the suspension of its operation be a new favor obtained or an ancient Courtesy revived is of no further consequence, than by the discovery to illustrate Mr Manesty's Power of description and to exhibit a Lesson of the degree of Confidence to which his pompous assertions are entitled Mr Manesty then affects to require permission for British Persons to pass from Bussora to Aleppo not forgetting specifically & distinctly to provide with equal care for his own Goods, especially in securing an Escort for them a great deal of this speaks for itself and where it does not, a very little explanation will, Gentlemen have long travelled between Bussora and Aleppo and

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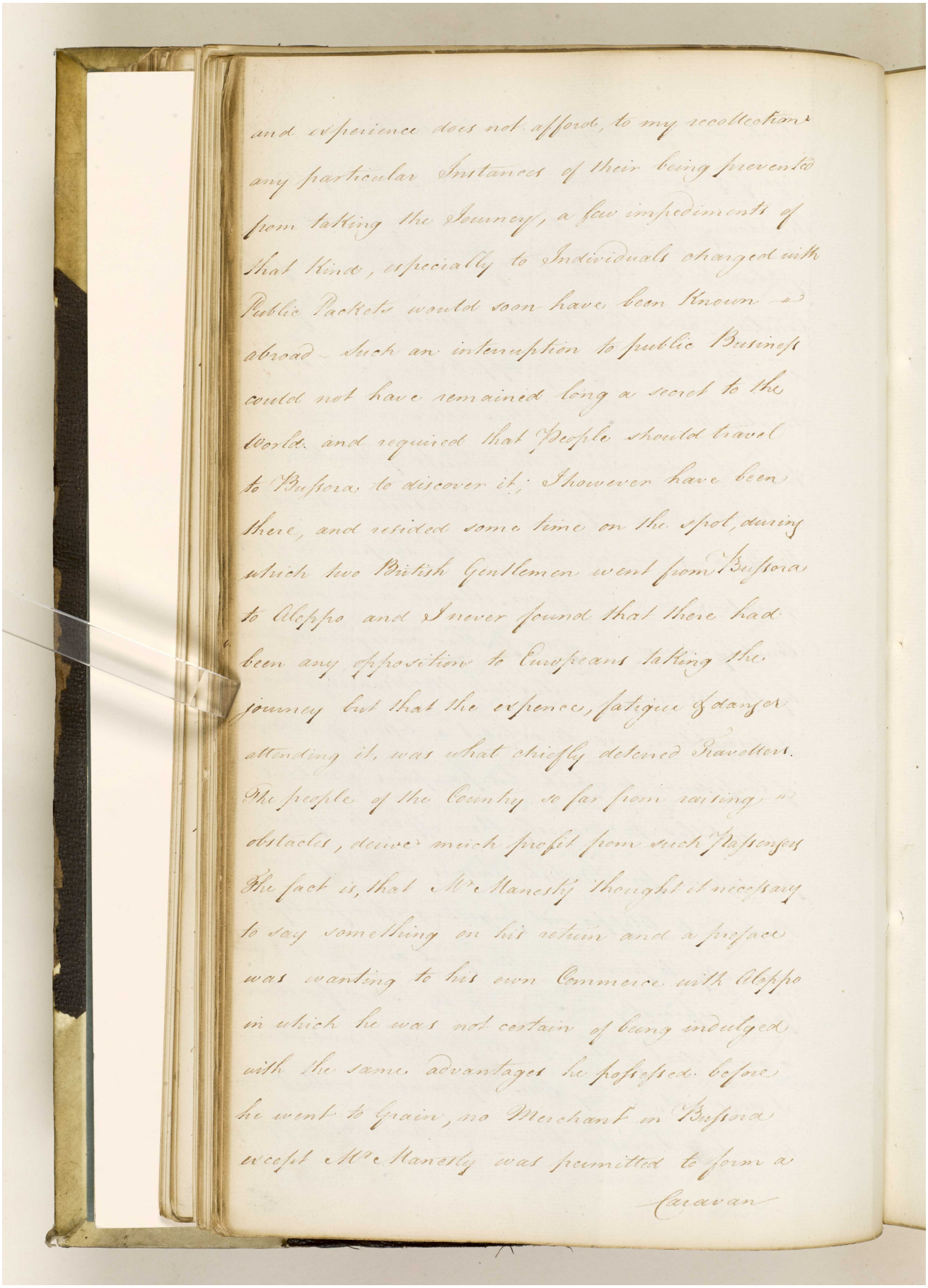

and experience does not afford, to my recollection
any particular Instances of their being prevented
from taking the Journey, a few impediments of
that Kind, especially to Individuals charged with
Public Packets would soon have been Known a-
abroad - Such an interruption to public Business
could not have remained long a secret to the
World. and required that People should travel
to Bussora to discover it; I however have been
there, and resided some time on the spot, during
which two British Gentlemen went from Bussora
to Aleppo and I never found that there had
been any opposition to Europeans taking the
journey but that the expence, fatigue & danger
attending it, was what chiefly deterred Travellers.
The people of the Country so far from raising
obstacles, derive much profit from such Passengers
The fact is, that Mr Manesty thought it necessary
to say something on his return and a preface
was wanting to his own Commerce with Aleppo
in which he was not certain of being indulged
with the same advantages he possessed before
he went to Spain, no Merchant in Bussora
except Mr Manesty was permitted to form a
Caravan

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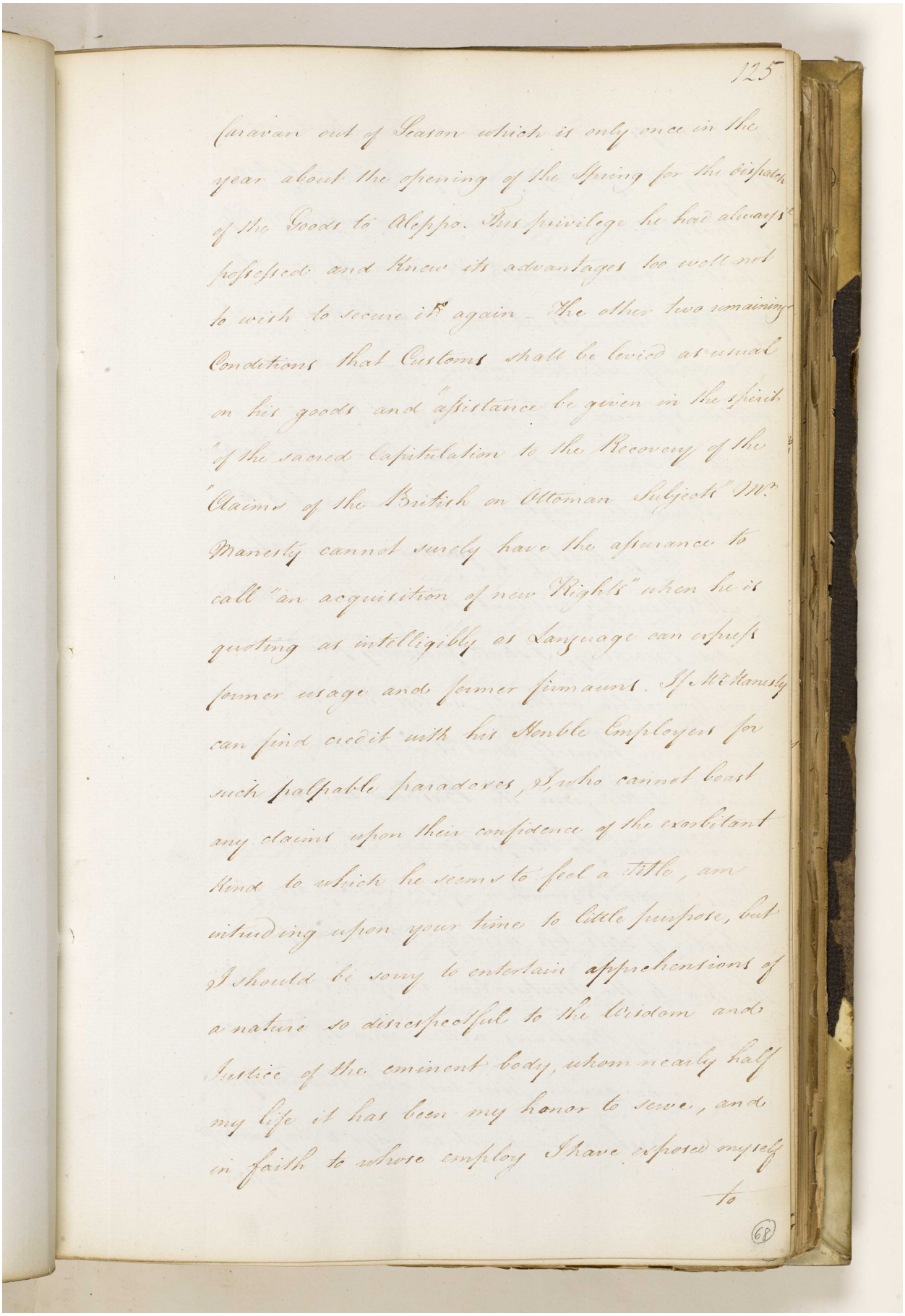

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Caravan out of Season which is only once in the
year about the opening of the Spring for the dispatch
of the Goods to Aleppo. This privilege he had always
possessed and knew its advantages too well not
to wish to secure it again. The other two remaining
Conditions that Customs shall be levied at usual
on his goods and "assistance be given in the spirit
"of the sacred Capitulation to the Recovery of the
"Claims of the British on Ottoman Subjects" Mr
Manesty cannot surely have the assurance to
call "an acquisition of new Rights" when he is
quoting as intelligibly as Language can express
former usage and former firmaunt. If Mr Manesty
can find credit with his Honble Employers for
such palpable paradoxes, & who cannot boast
any claims upon their confidence of the exorbitant
Kind to which he seems to feel a Title, am
intruding upon your time to little purpose, but
I should be sorry to entertain apprehensions of
a nature so disrespectful to the Wisdom and
Justice of the eminent body, whom nearly half
my life it has been my honor to serve, and
in faith to whose employ I have exposed myself

to

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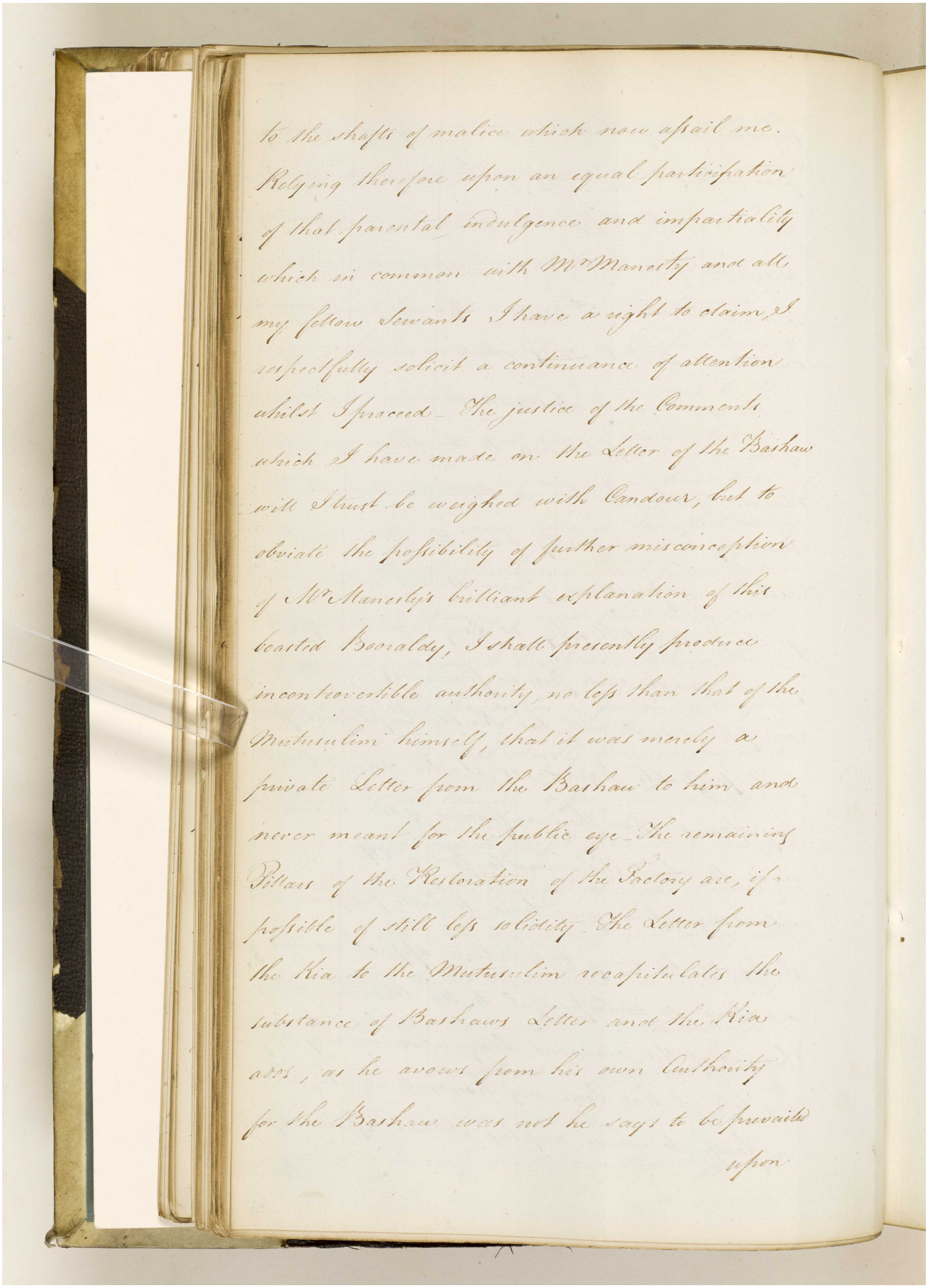

to the shafts of malice which now assail me.
Relying therefore upon an equal participation
of that parental indulgence and impartiality
which in common with Mr Manesty and all
my fellow Servants I have a right to claim, I
respectfully solicit a continuance of attention
whilst I proceed. The justice of the Comments
which I have made on the Letter of the Bashaw
will I trust be weighed with Candour, but to
obviate the possibility of further misconception
of Mr Manesty's brilliant explanation of this
boasted Boonaldy, I shall presently produce
incontrovertible authority, no less than that of the
Mutsuslim himself, that it was merely a
private Letter from the Bashaw to him and
never meant for the public eye. The remaining
Pillars of the Restoration of the Factory are, if
possible of still less solidity. The Letter from
the Kia to the Mutsuslim recapitulates the
substance of Bashaws Letter and the Kias
adds, as he avows from his own Authority
for the Bashaw was not he says to be prevailed
upon

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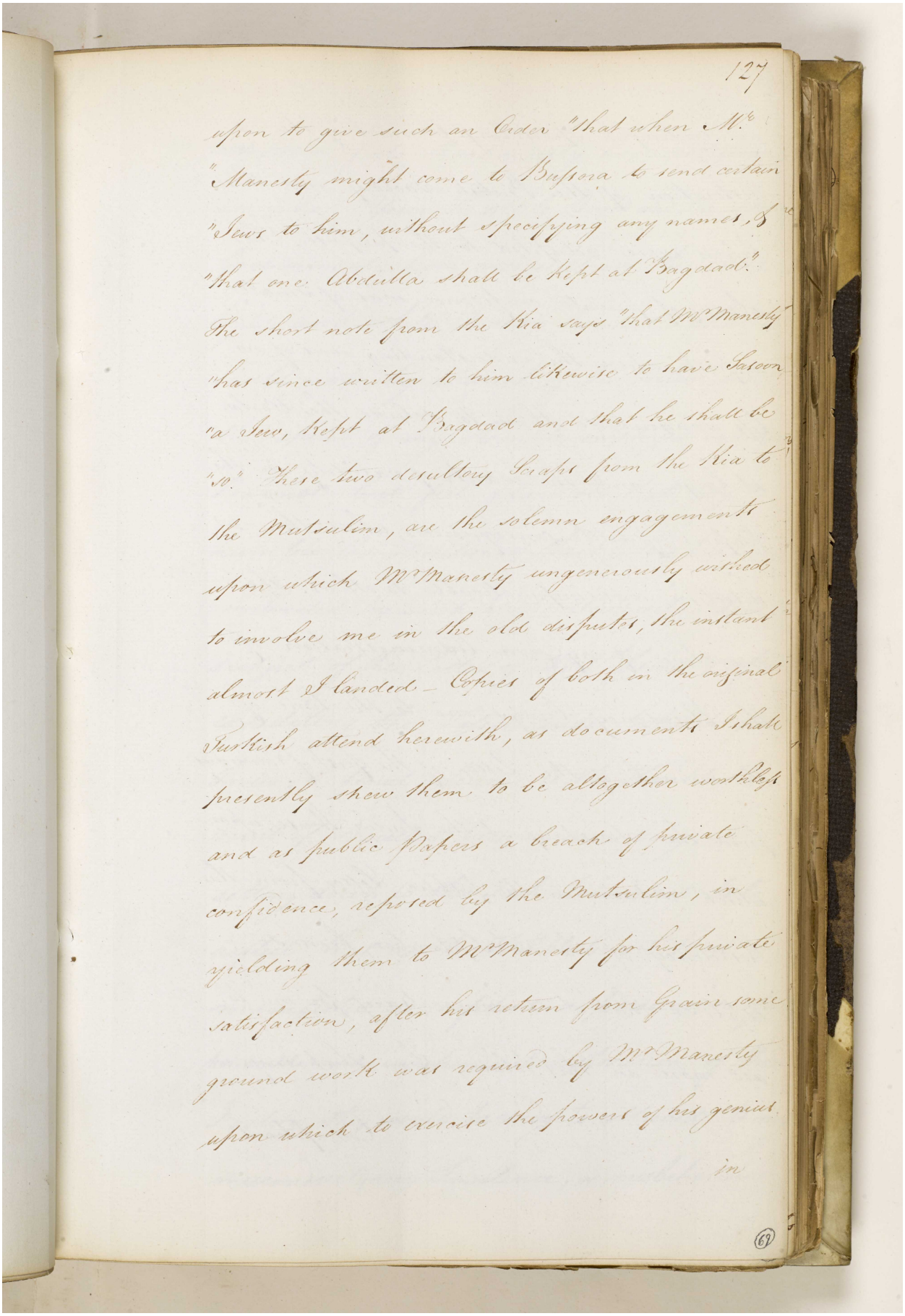

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upon to give such an Order "That when Mr.
"Manesty might come to Bussora to send certain
"Jews to him, without specifying any names, &
"that one Abdulla shall be kept at Bagdad."
The short note from the Kia says "that Mr Manesty
"has since written to him likewise to have Sasoon
"a Jew, kept at Bagdad and that he shall be
"so." These two desultory Scraps from the Kia to
the Mutsulim, are the solemn engagements
upon which Mr Manesty ungenerously wished
to involve me in the old dispute, the instant
almost I landed — Copies of both in the original
Turkish attend herewith, as documents I shall
presently shew them to be altogether worthless
and as public Papers a breach of private
confidence, reposed by the Mutsulim, in
yielding them to Mr Manesty for his private
satisfaction, after his return from Grain some
ground work was required by Mr Manesty
upon which to exercise the powers of his genius

in

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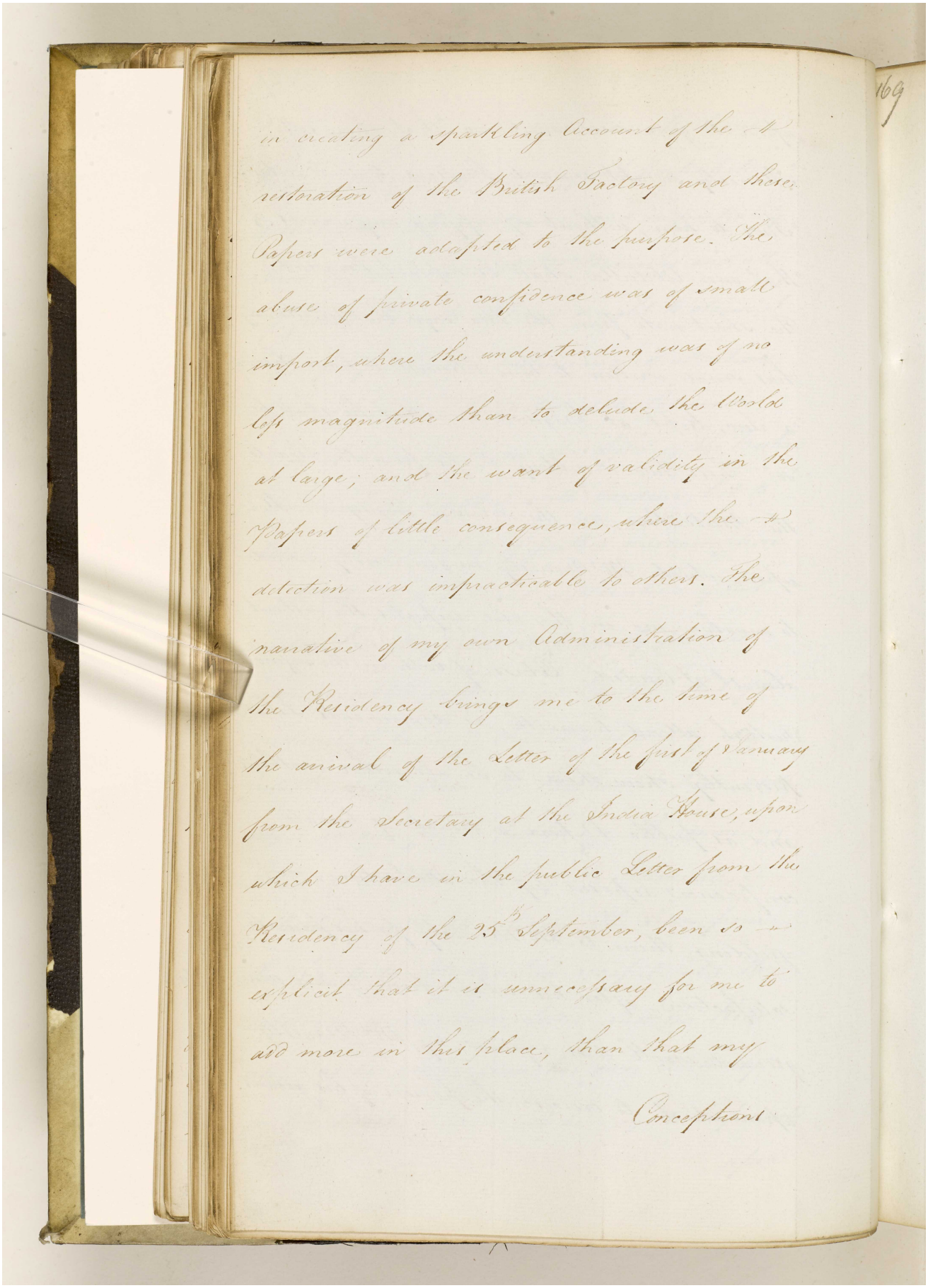

in creating a sparkling Account of the A
restoration of the British Factory and those
Papers were adapted to the purpose. The
abuse of private confidence was of small
import, where the understanding was of no
less magnitude than to delude the World
at large; and the want of validity in the
Papers of little consequence, where the A
detection was impracticable to others. The
narrative of my own Administration of
the Residency brings me to the time of
the arrival of the Letter of the first of January
from the Secretary at the India House, upon
which I have in the public Letter from the
Residency of the 25th September, been so A
explicit that it is unnecessary for me to
add more in this place, than that my
Conceptions

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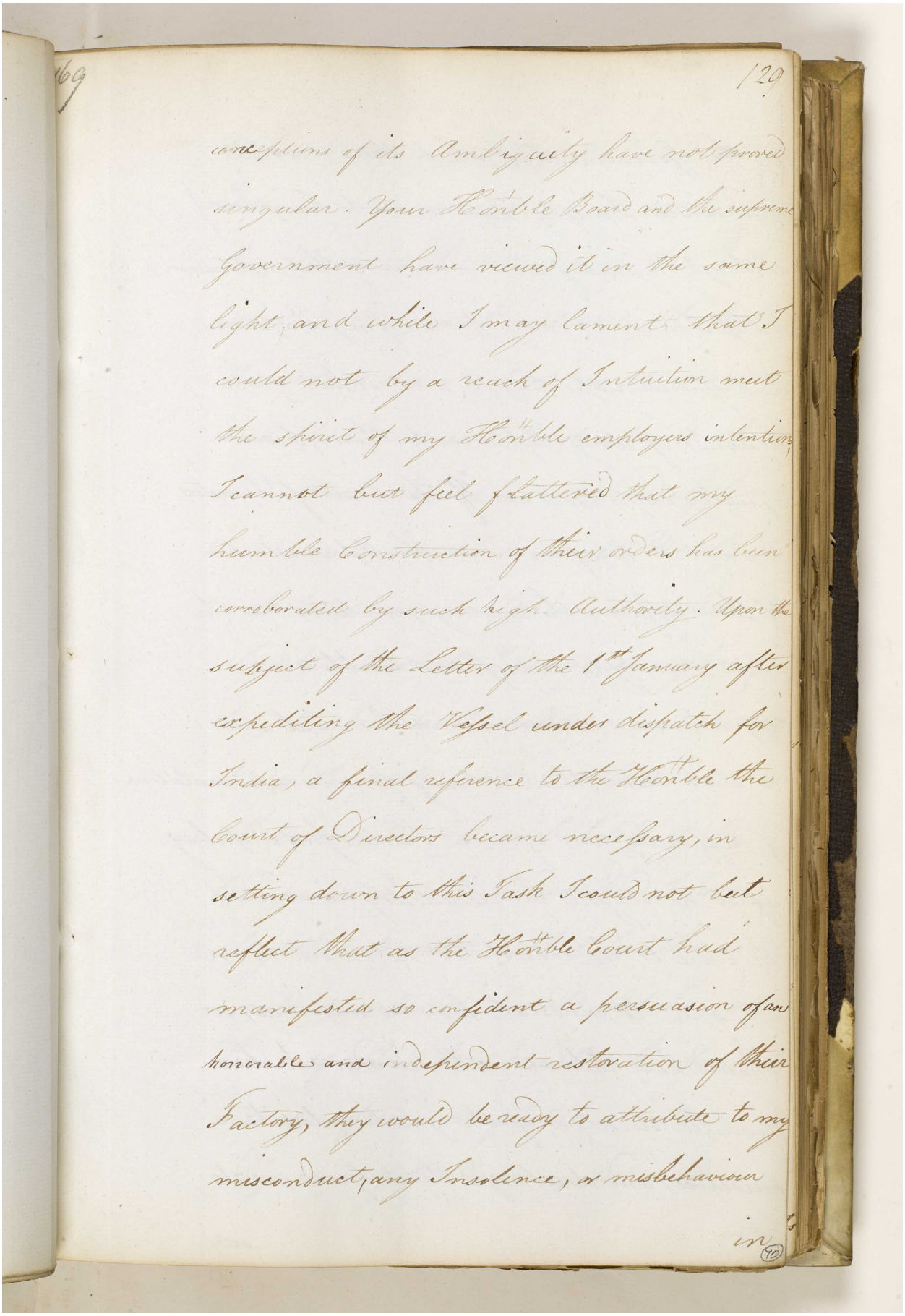

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conceptions of its Ambiguity have not proved singular. Your Honble Board and the supreme Government have viewed it in the same light, and while I may lament that I could not by a reach of Intuition meet the spirit of my Honble employers intentions I cannot but feel flattered that my humble Construction of their orders has been corroborated by such high Authority. Upon the subject of the Letter of the 1st January after expediting the Vessel under dispatch for India, a final reference to the Honble the Court of Directors became necessary, in setting down to this Task I could not but reflect that as the Honble Court had manifested so confident a persuasion of an honorable and independent restoration of their Factory, they would be ready to attribute to my misconduct any Insolence, or misbehaviour

in

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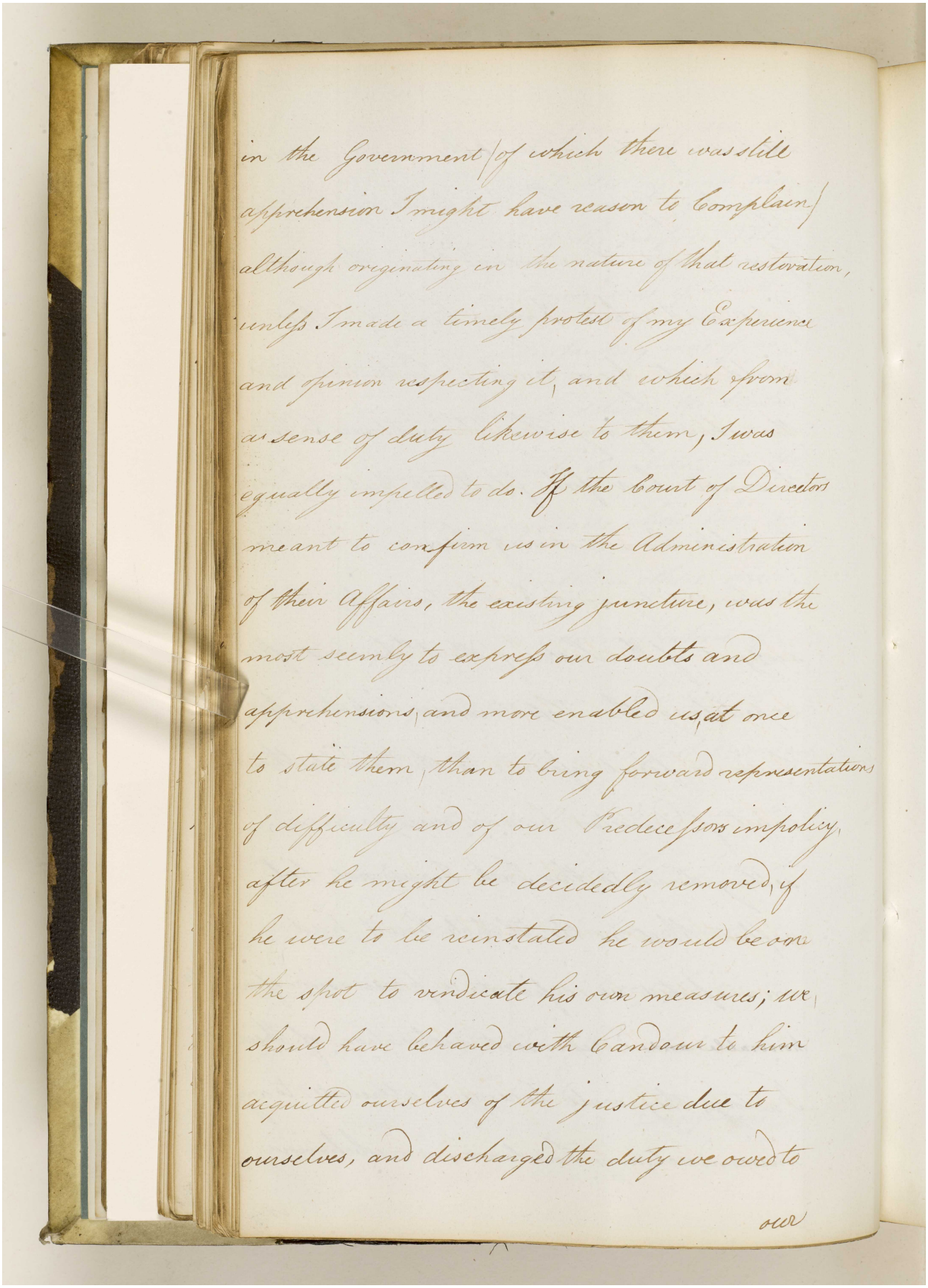

in the Government / of which there was still
apprehension I might have reason to complain /
although originating in the nature of that restoration,
unless I made a timely protest of my Experience
and opinion respecting it, and which from
a sense of duty likewise to them, I was
equally impelled to do. If the Court of Directors
meant to confirm us in the Administration
of their Affairs, the existing juncture, was the
most seemly to express our doubts and
apprehensions, and more enabled us, at once
to state them, than to bring forward representations
of difficulty and of our Predecessors impolicy,
after he might be decidedly removed, if
he were to be reinstated he would be on
the spot to vindicate his own measures; we
should have behaved with Candour to him
acquitted ourselves of the justice due to
ourselves, and discharged the duty we owed to

our

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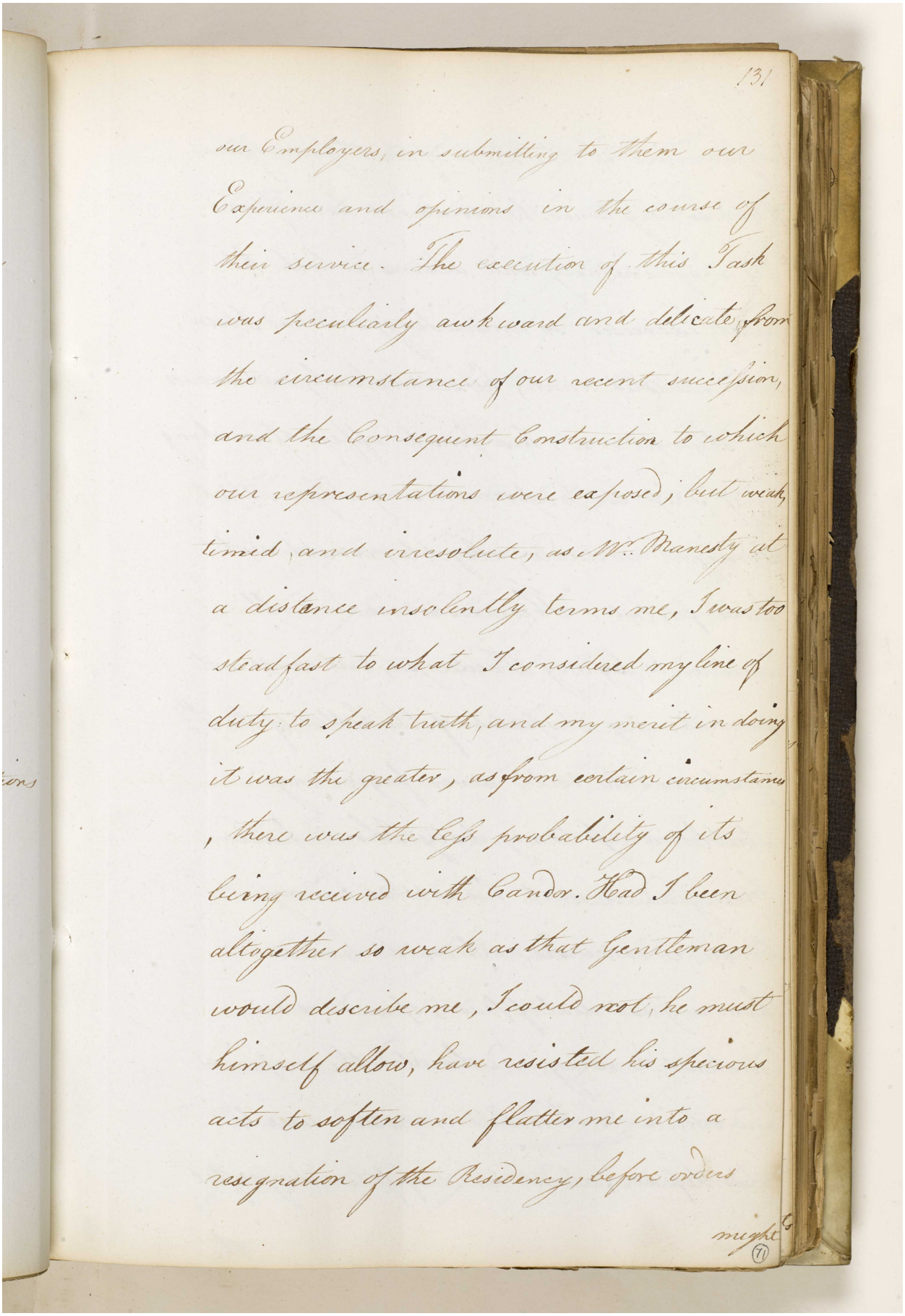

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our Employers, in submitting to them our Experience and opinions in the course of their service. The execution of this Task was peculiarly awkward and delicate from the circumstance of our recent succession, and the Consequent Construction to which our representations were exposed; but weak, timid, and irresolute, as Mr. Manesty at a distance insolently terms me, I was too steadfast to what I considered my line of duty: to speak truth, and my merit in doing it was the greater, as from certain circumstances, there was the less probability of its being received with Candor. Had I been altogether so weak as that Gentleman would describe me, I could not, he must himself allow, have resisted his specious acts to soften and flatter me into a resignation of the Residency, before orders might

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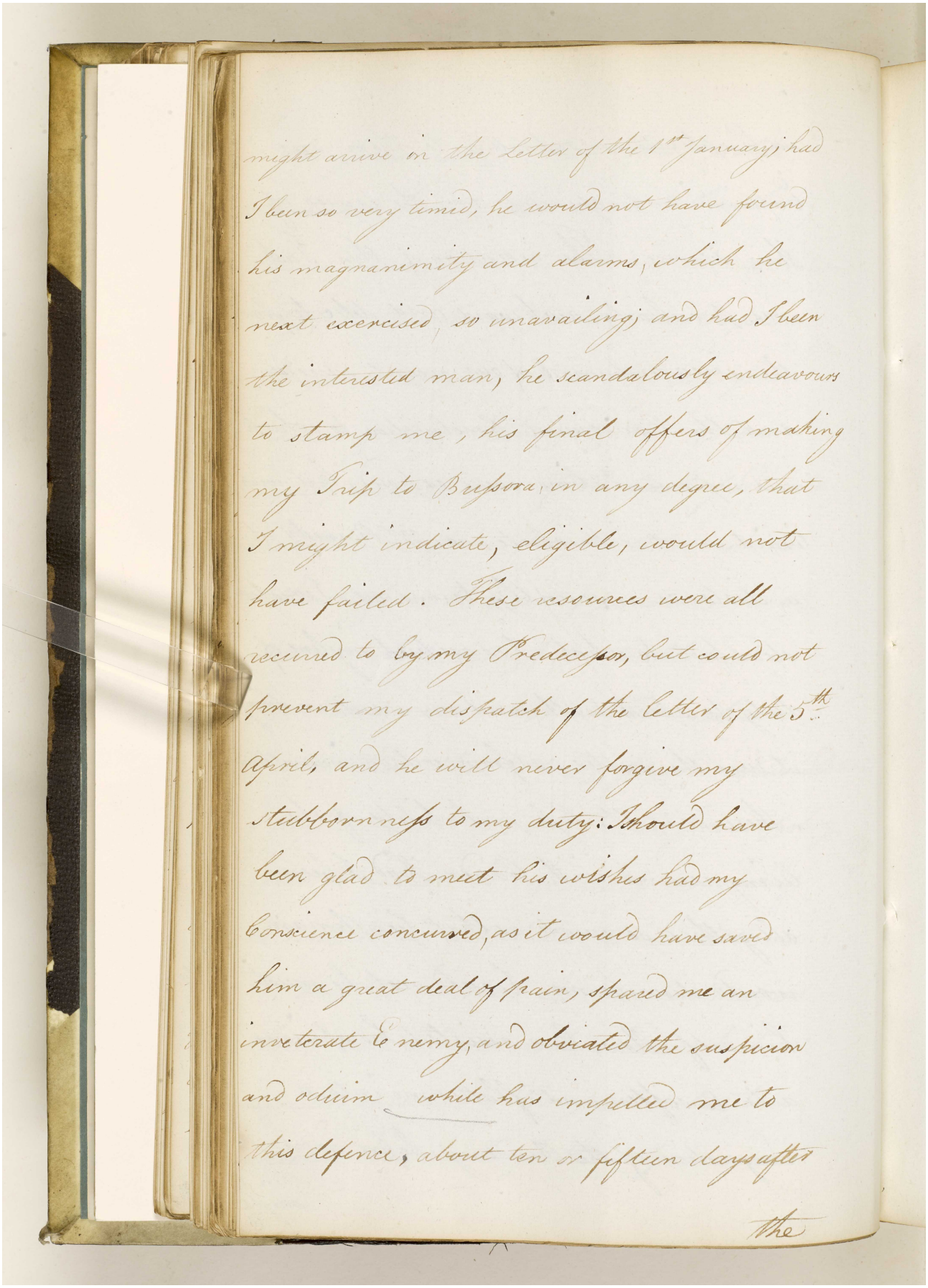

might arrive in the Letter of the 1st January; had I been so very timid, he would not have found his magnanimity and alarms, which he next exercised, so unavailing; and had I been the interested man, he scandalously endeavours to stamp me, his final offers of making my Trip to Bussora, in any degree, that I might indicate, eligible, would not have failed. These resources were all recurred to by my Predecessor, but could not prevent my dispatch of the letter of the 5th April, and he will never forgive my stubbornness to my duty: I should have been glad to meet his wishes had my Conscience concurred, as it would have saved him a great deal of pain, spared me an inveterate Enemy, and obviated the suspicion and odium which has impelled me to this defence, about ten or fifteen days after the

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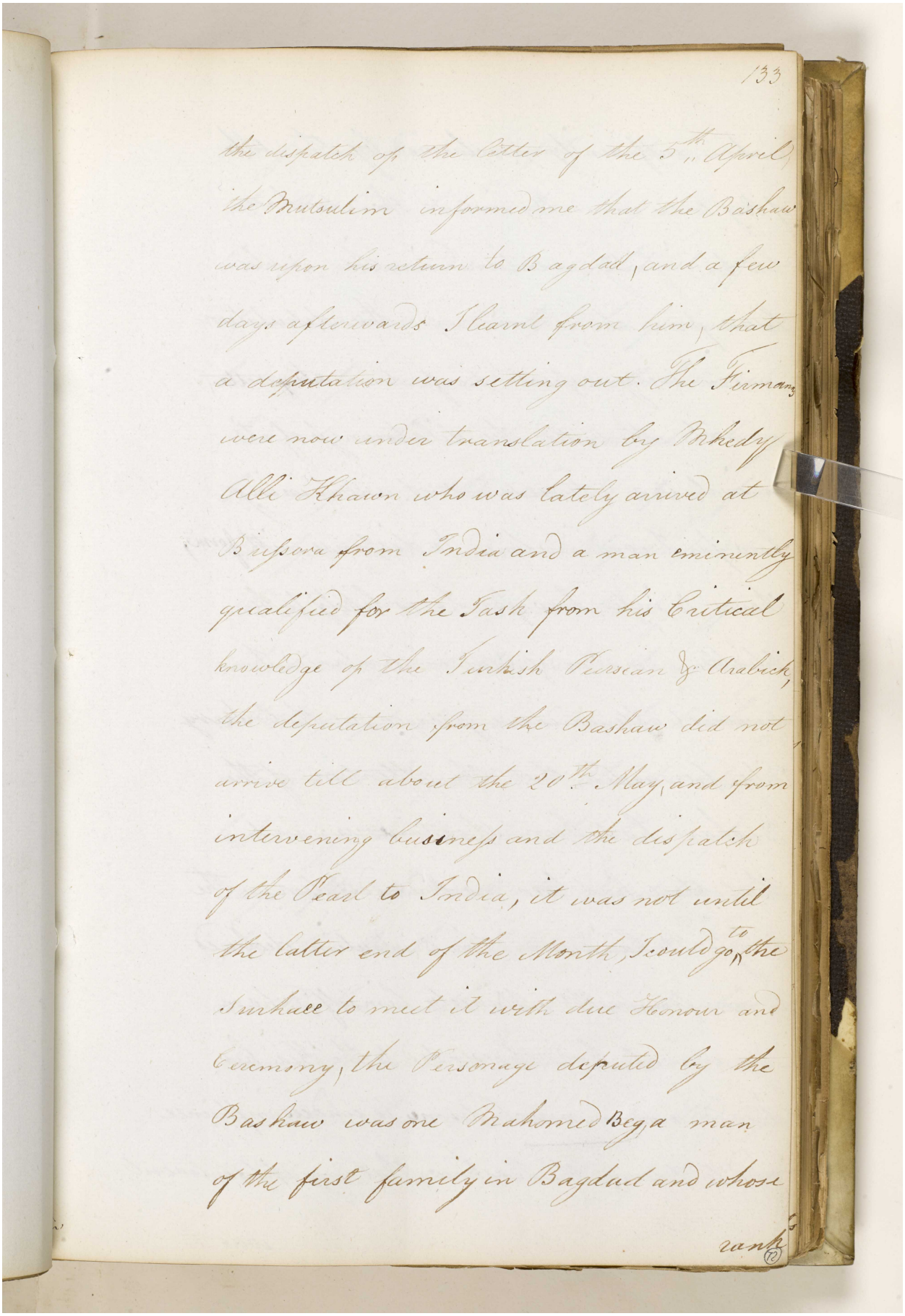
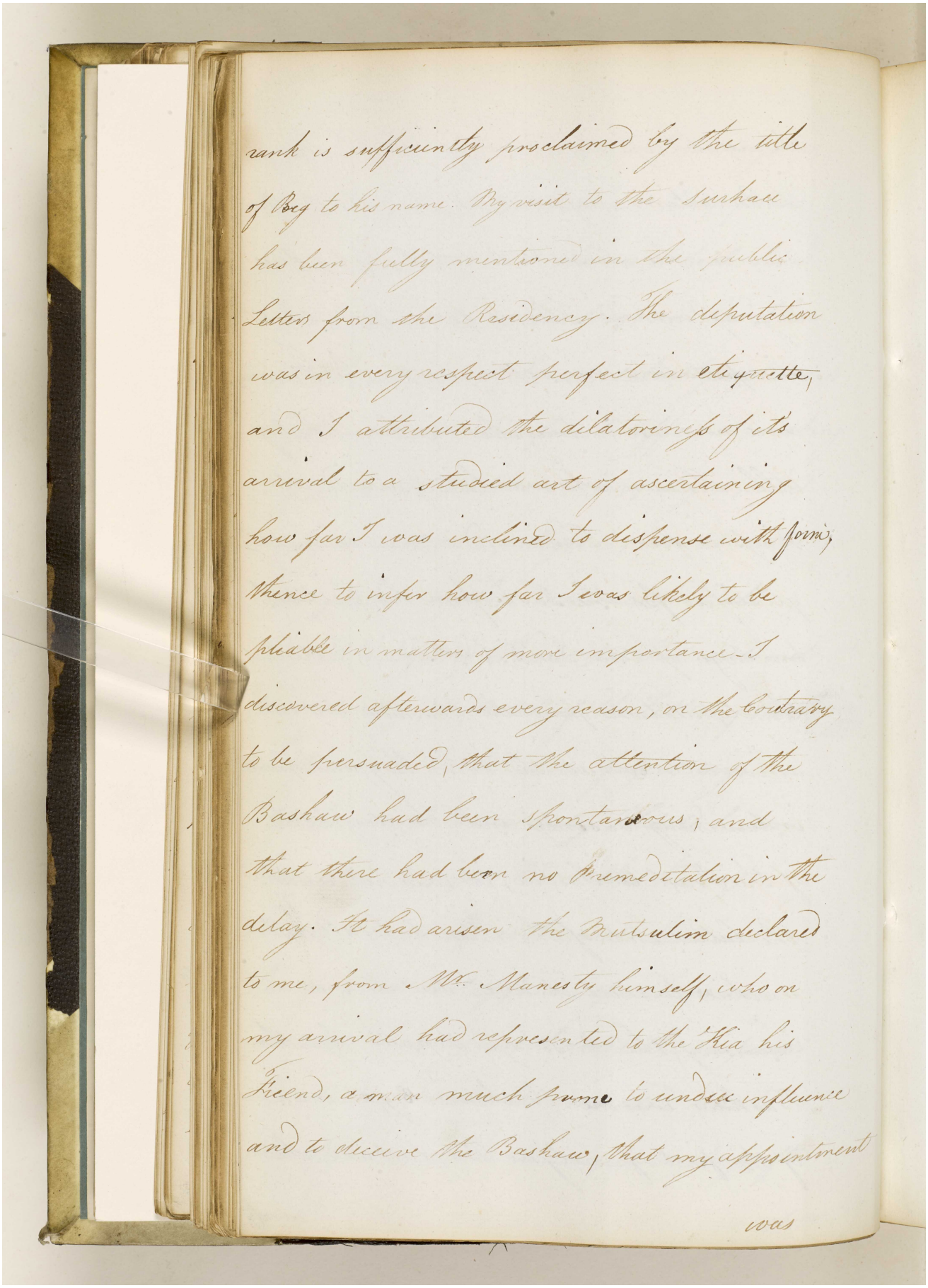


the dispatch of the Letter of the 5th April
the Mutsulim informed me that the Bashaw
was upon his return to Bagdad, and a few
days afterwards I learnt from him, that
a deputation was setting out. The Firmans
were now under translation by Bekedy
Alli Khawn who was lately arrived at
Bussora from India and a man eminently
qualified for the Task from his Critical
knowledge of the Turkish Persian & Arabick,
the deputation from the Bashaw did not
arrive till about the 20th May, and from
intervening business and the dispatch
of the Pearl to India, it was not until
the latter end of the Month, I could go to the
Sunkuee to meet it with due Honour and
Ceremony, the Personage deputed by the
Bashaw was one Mahomed Bega man
of the first family in Bagdad and whose
rank



rank is sufficiently proclaimed by the title of Beg to his name. My visit to the Surhace has been fully mentioned in the public Letters from the Residency. The deputation was in every respect perfect in etiquette, and I attributed the dilatoriness of its arrival to a studied art of ascertaining how far I was inclined to dispense with form; thence to infer how far I was likely to be pliable in matters of more importance. I discovered afterwards every reason, on the Contrary to be persuaded, that the attention of the Bashaw had been spontaneous, and that there had been no premeditation in the delay. It had arisen the Mutsulim declared to me, from Mr. Manesty himself, who on my arrival had represented to the Kia his Friend, a man much prone to undue influence and to deceive the Bashaw, that my appointment

was

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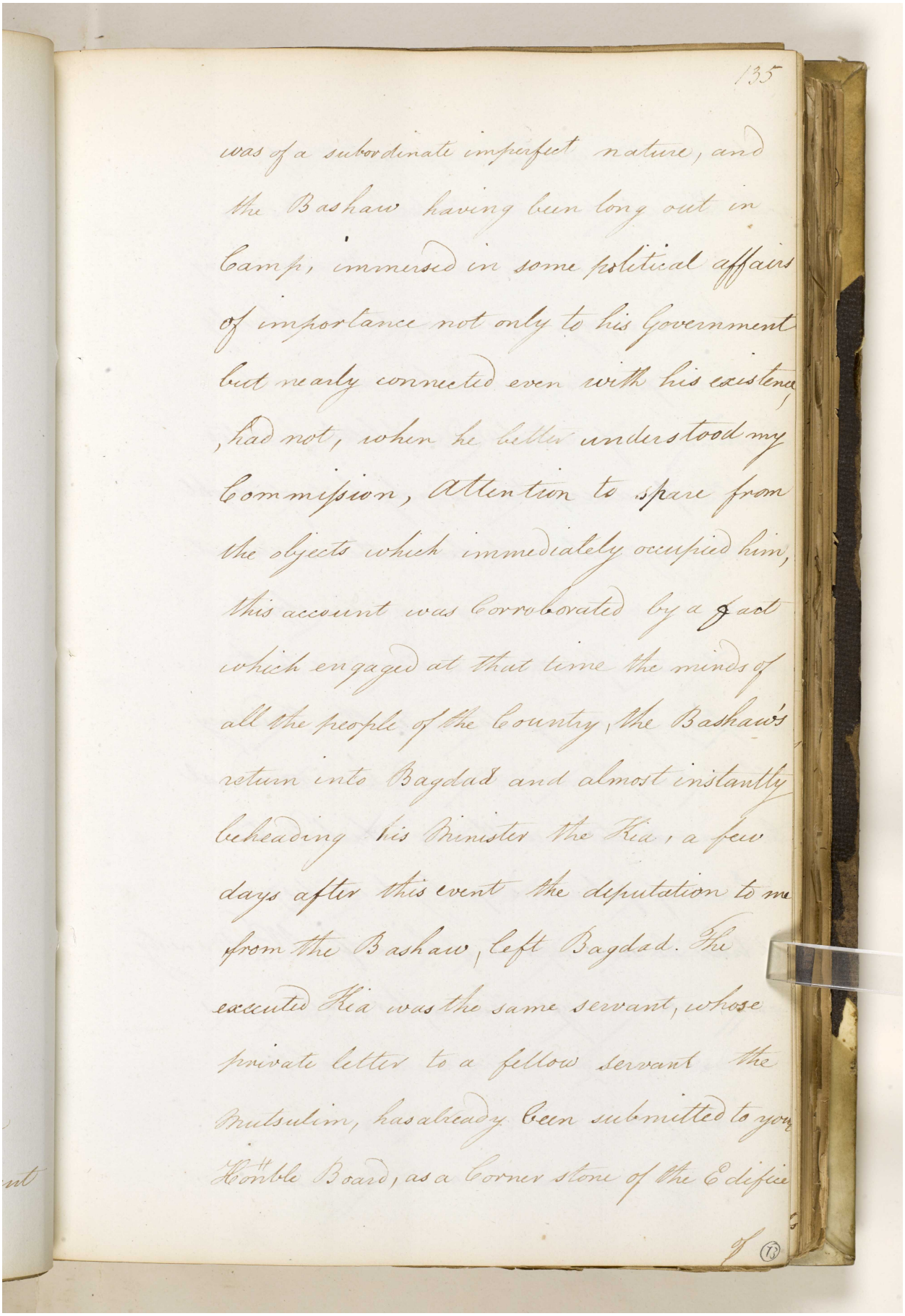

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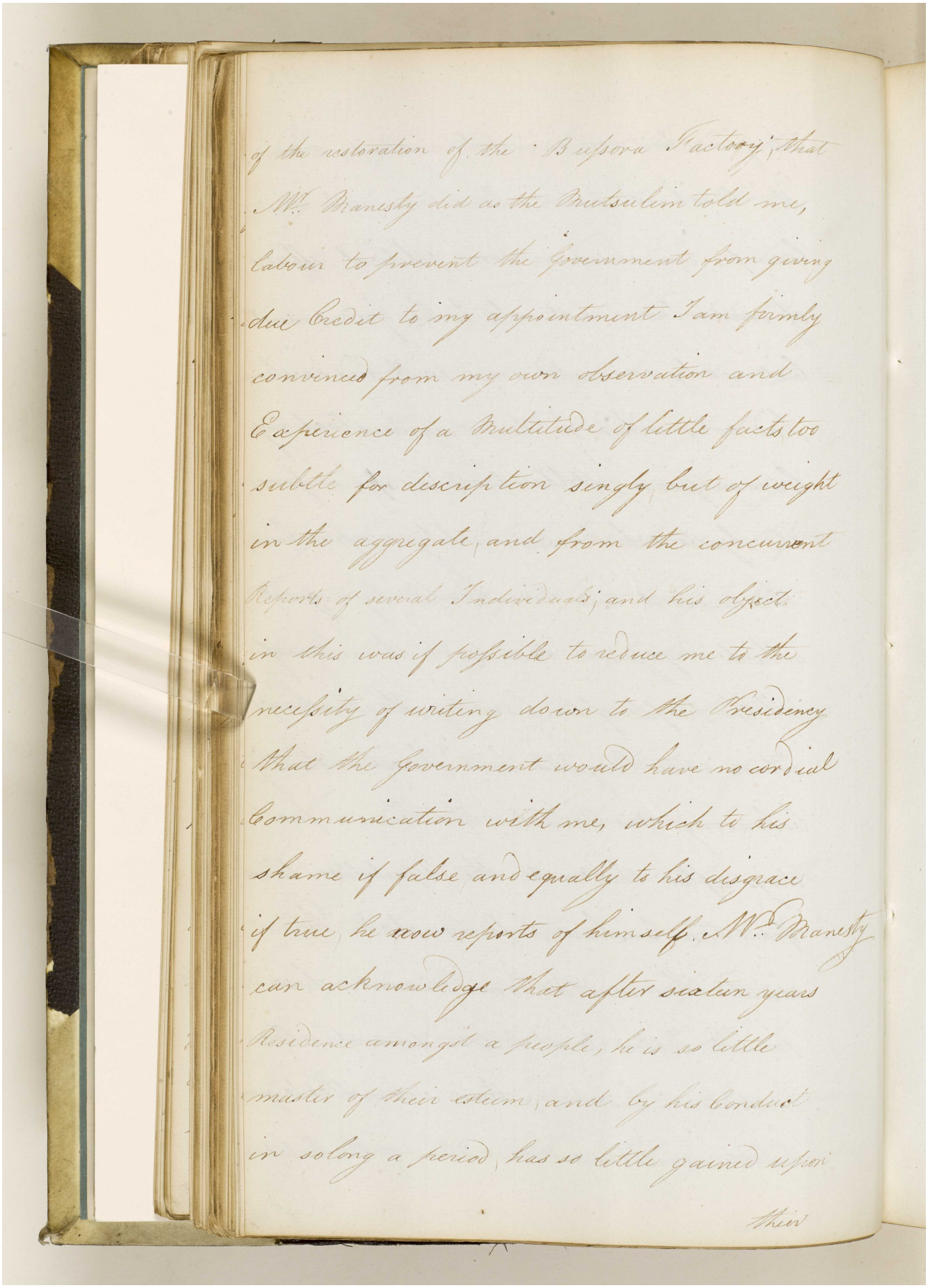
was of a subordinate imperfect nature, and the Bashaw having been long out in Camp, immersed in some political affairs of importance not only to his Government but nearly connected even with his existence, had not, when he better understood my Commission, Attention to spare from the objects which immediately occupied him, this account was Corroborated by a fact which engaged at that time the minds of all the people of the Country, the Bashaw's return into Baydad and almost instantly beheading his Minister the Kia, a few days after this event the deputation to me from the Bashaw, left Baydad. The executed Kia was the same servant, whose private letter to a fellow servant the Mutsulim, has already been submitted to your Honble Board, as a Corner stone of the Edifice

of



of the restoration of the Bussora Factory; that Mr. Manesty did as the Mutsulim told me, labour to prevent the Government from giving due Credit to my appointment I am firmly convinced from my own observation and Experience of a Multitude of little facts too subtle for description singly, but of weight in the aggregate, and from the concurrent Reports of several Individuals; and his object in this was if possible to reduce me to the necessity of writing down to the Presidency that the Government would have no cordial Communication with me, which to his shame if false and equally to his disgrace if true, he now reports of himself. Mr. Manesty can acknowledge that after sixteen years Residence amongst a people, he is so little master of their esteem, and by his Conduct in so long a period, has so little gained upon

their

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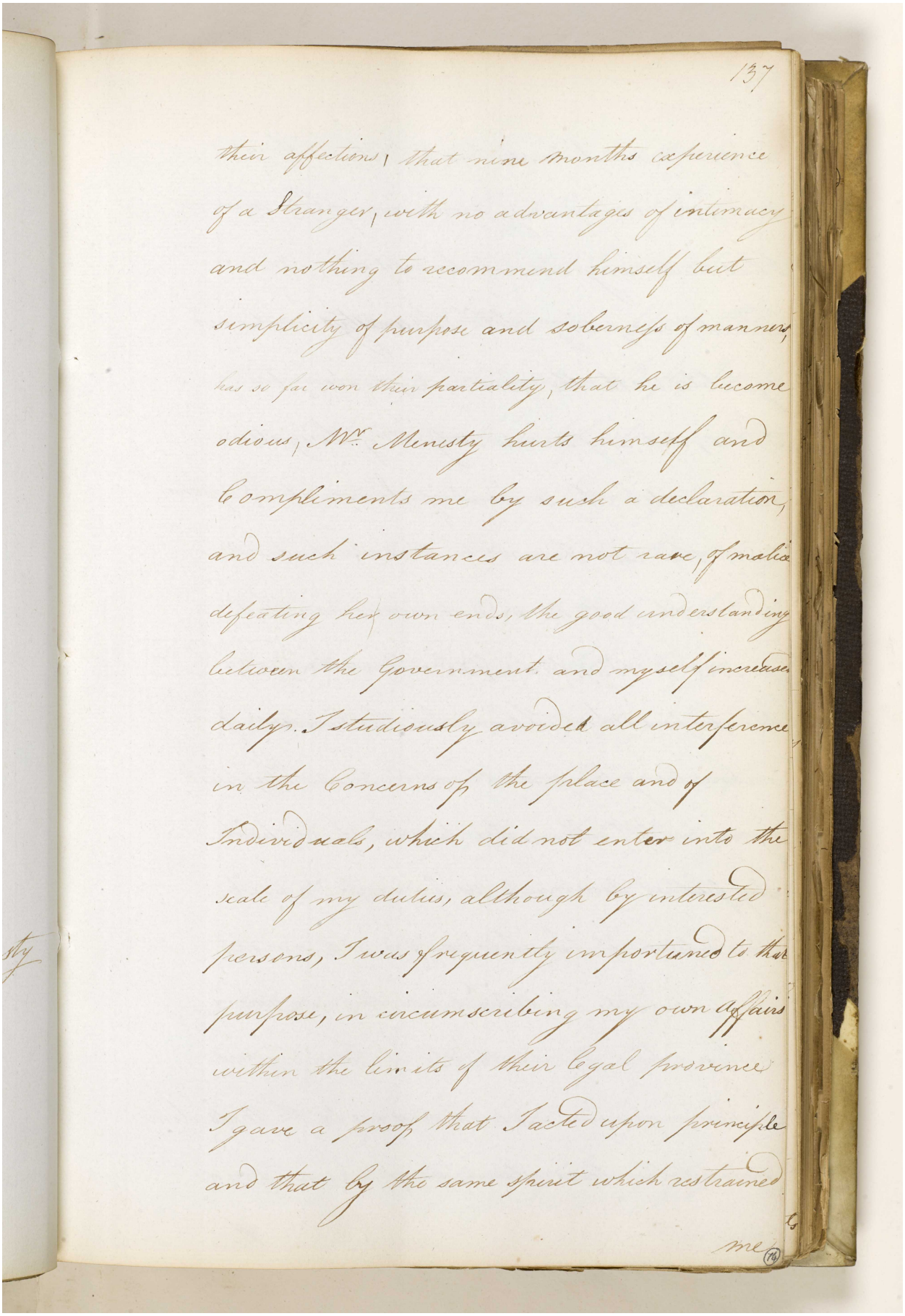

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their affections, that nine months experience
of a Stranger, with no advantages of intimacy
and nothing to recommend himself but
simplicity of purpose and soberness of manners,
has so far won their partiality, that he is become
odious, Mr. Menisty hurts himself and
Compliments me by such a declaration,
and such instances are not rare, of malice
defeating her own ends, the good understanding
between the Government and myself increases
daily. I studiously avoided all interference
in the Concerns of the place and of
Individuals, which did not enter into the
scale of my duties, although by interested
persons, I was frequently importuned to that
purpose, in circumscribing my own affairs
within the limits of their legal province
I gave a proof that I acted upon principle
and that by the same spirit which restrained
me

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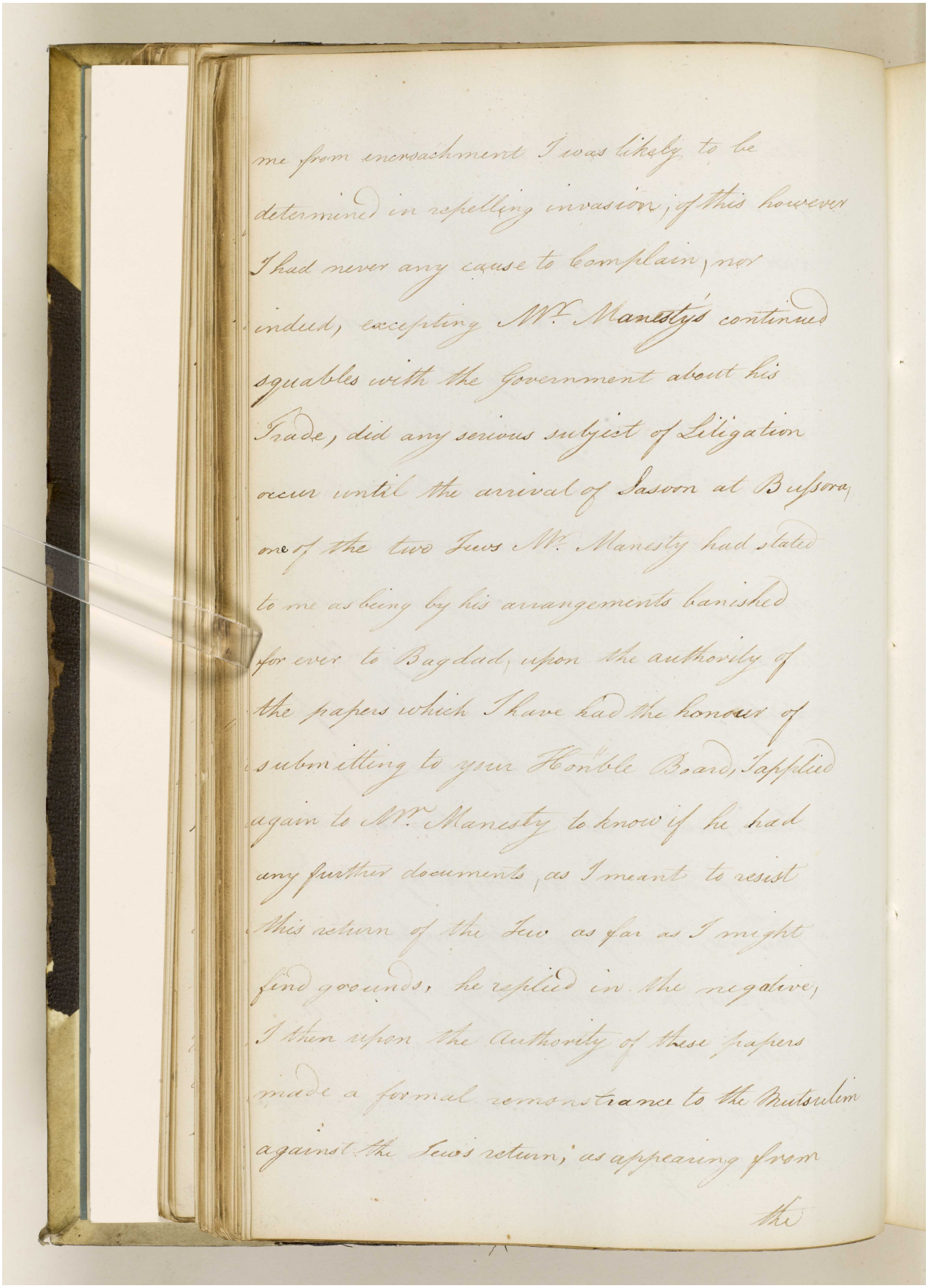

me from encroachment I was likely to be
determined in repelling invasion; if this however
I had never any cause to complain, nor
indeed, excepting Mr. Manesty's continued
squables with the Government about his
Trade, did any serious subject of Litigation
occur until the arrival of Jasoon at Bussora,
one of the two Jews Mr. Manesty had stated
to me as being by his arrangements banished
for ever to Baydad, upon the authority of
the papers which I have had the honour of
submitting to your Honble Board, I applied
again to Mr. Manesty to know if he had
any further documents, as I meant to resist
this return of the Jew as far as I might
find grounds, he replied in the negative,
I then upon the Authority of these papers
made a formal remonstrance to the Mutsulim
against the Jews return, as appearing from
the

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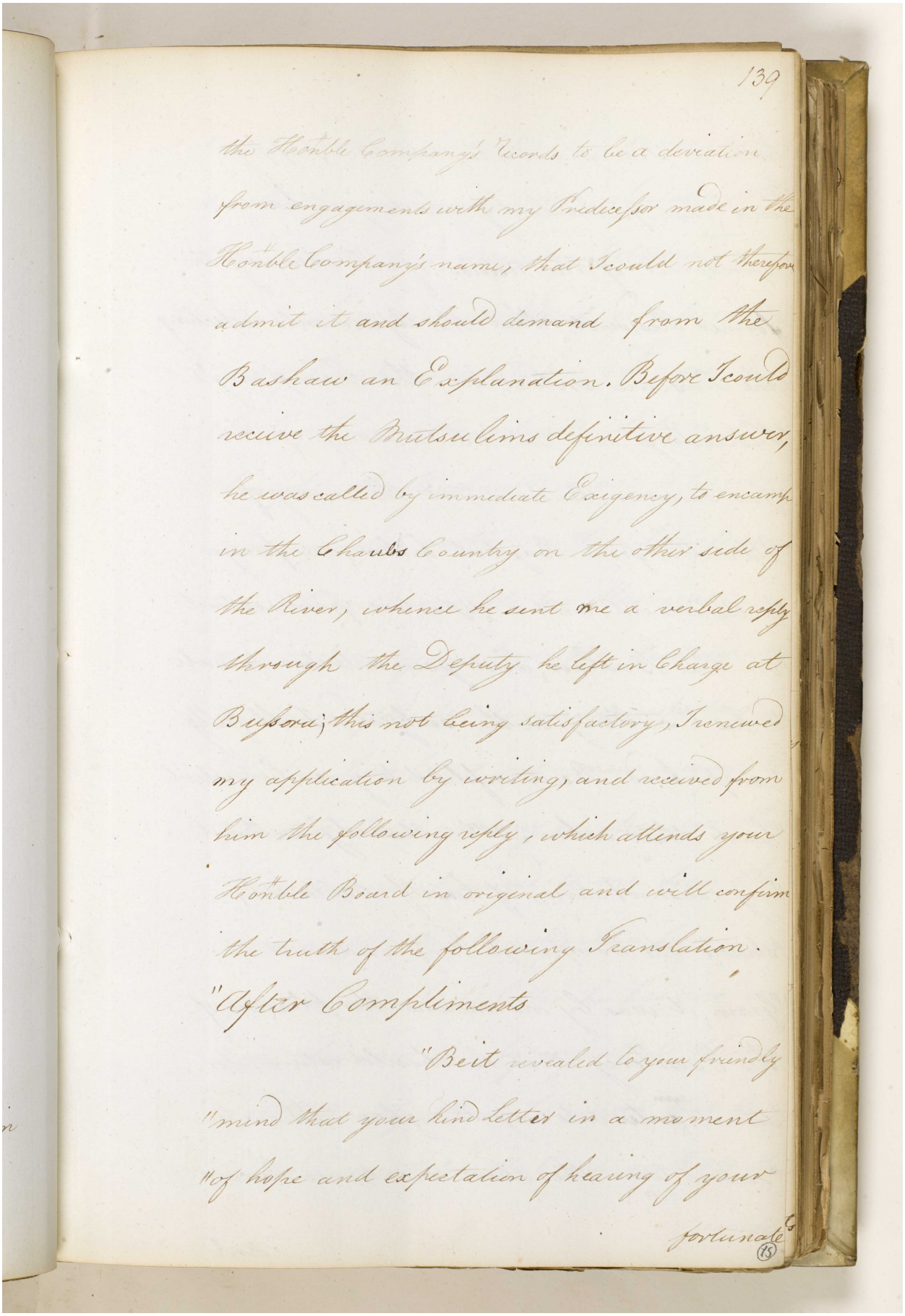

the Honble Company's Words to be a deviation from engagements with my Predecessor made in the Honble Company's name, that I could not therefore admit it and should demand from the Bashaw an Explanation. Before I could receive the Mutsulims definitive answer, he was called by immediate Exigency, to encamp in the Chaubs Country on the other side of the River, whence he sent me a verbal reply through the Deputy he left in charge at Bussora; this not being satisfactory, I renewed my application by writing, and received from him the following reply, which attends your Honble Board in original and will confirm the truth of the following Translation.

"After Compliments

"Be it revealed to your friendly "mind that your kind Letter in a moment "of hope and expectation of hearing of your

fortunate

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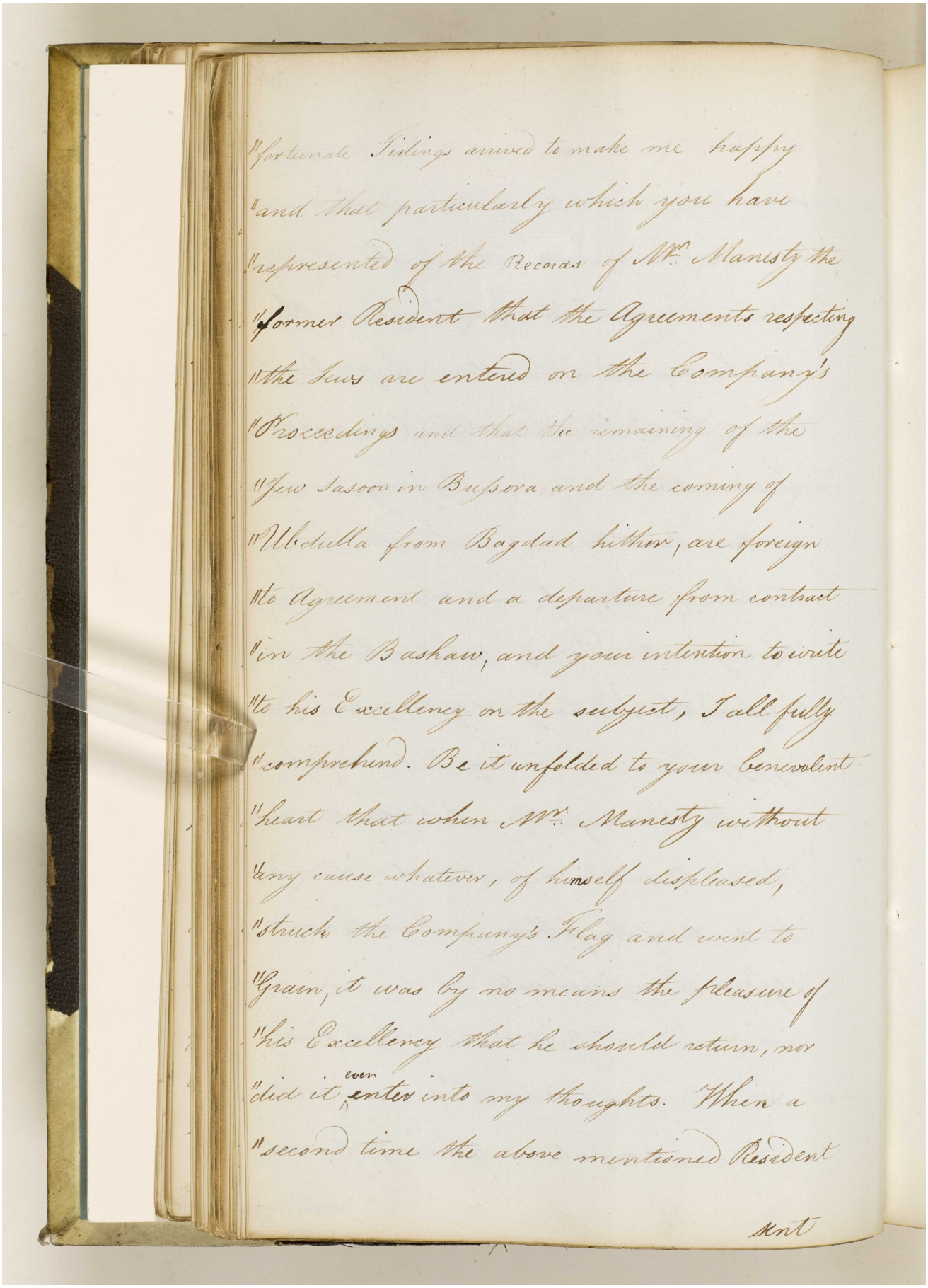

"Fortunate Tidings arrived to make me happy
"and that particularly which you have
"represented of the Recorder of Mr. Manesty the
"former Resident that the Agreements respecting
"the Jews are entered on the Company's
"Proceedings and that the remaining of the
"Jew Season in Bussora and the coming of
"Abdulla from Bagdad hither, are foreign
"to Agreement and a departure from contract
"in the Bashaw, and your intention to write
"to his Excellency on the subject, I all fully
"comprehend. Be it unfolded to your benevolent
"heart that when Mr. Manesty without
"any cause whatever, of himself displeased,
"struck the Company's Flag and went to
"Grain, it was by no means the pleasure of
"his Excellency that he should return, nor
"did it even enter into my thoughts. When a
"second time the above mentioned Resident

sent

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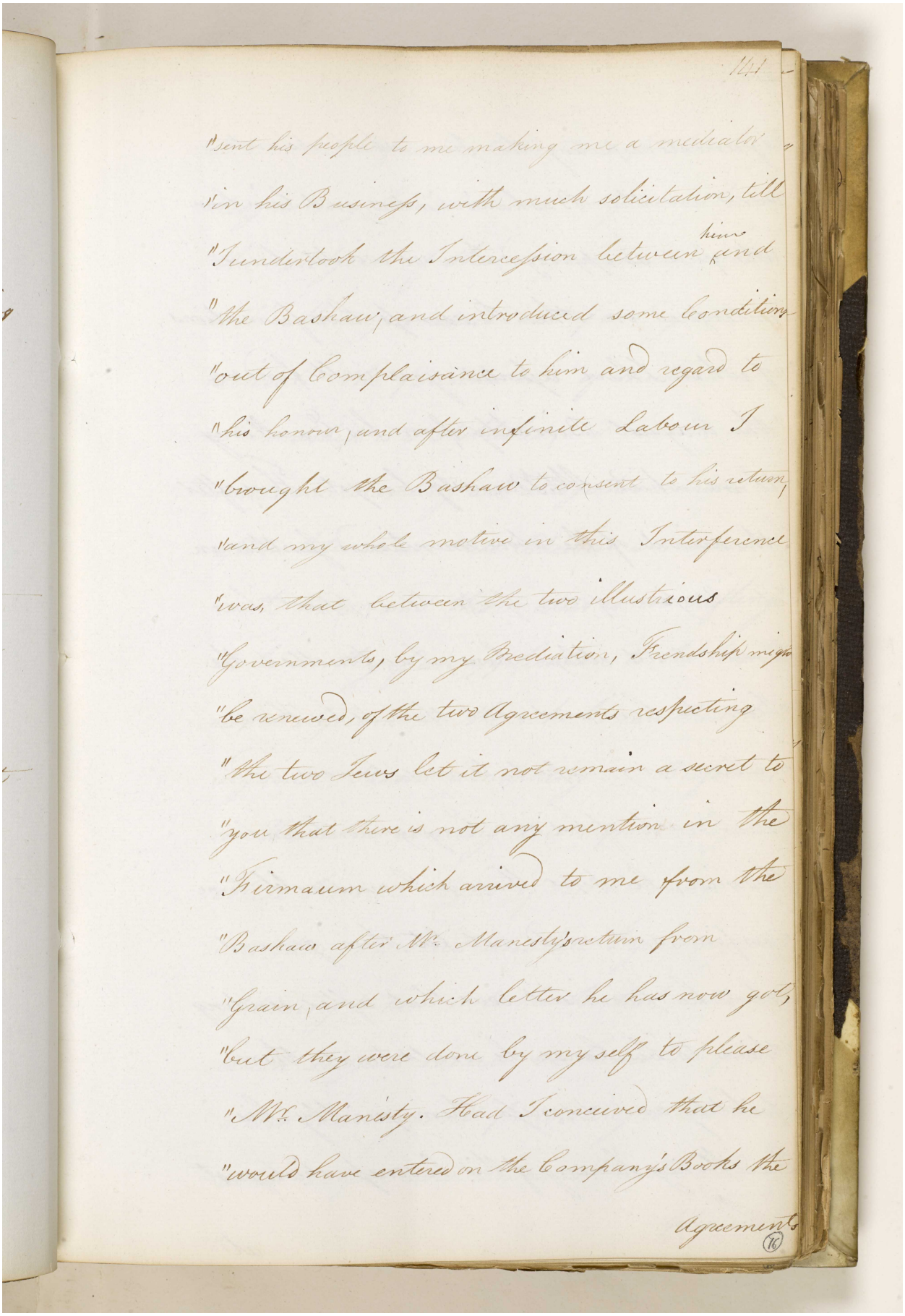
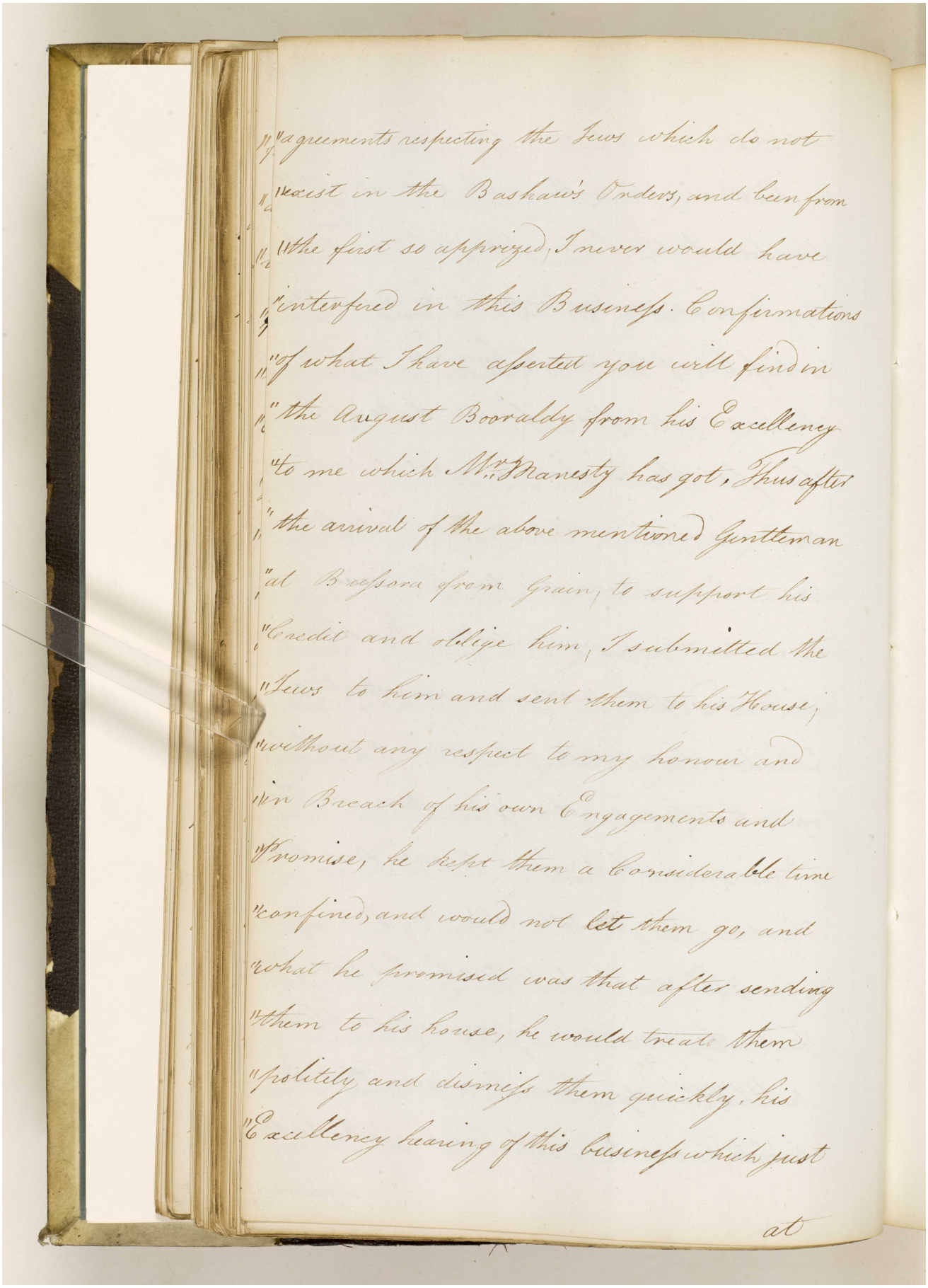


"sent his people to me making me a mediator
"in his Business, with much solicitation, till
"I undertook the Intercession between him and
"the Bashaw; and introduced some conditions
"out of Complaisance to him and regard to
"his honour, and after infinite Labour I
"brought the Bashaw to consent to his return,
"and my whole motive in this Interference
"was, that between the two illustrious
"Governments, by my Mediation, Friendship might
"be renewed, of the two Agreements respecting
"the two Sons let it not remain a secret to
"you that there is not any mention in the
"Firmaun which arrived to me from the
"Bashaw after Mr. Manesty's return from
"Grain, and which letter he has now got,
"but they were done by my self to please
"Mr. Manisty. Had I conceived that he
"would have entered on the Company's Books the
Agreements



"agreements respecting the Jews which do not
"exist in the Bashaw's Orders, and ben from
"the first so apprized, I never would have
"interfered in this Business. Confirmations
"of what I have asserted you will find in
"the August Booraldy from his Excellency
"to me which Mr. Manesty has got, Thus after
"the arrival of the above mentioned Gentleman
"at Bussora from Grain, to support his
"Credit and oblige him, I submitted the
"Jews to him and sent them to his House,
"without any respect to my honour and
"in Breach of his own Engagements and
"Promise, he kept them a Considerable time
"confined, and would not let them go, and
"what he promised was that after sending
"them to his house, he would treat them
"politely and dismiss them quickly, his
"Excellency hearing of this Business which just

at

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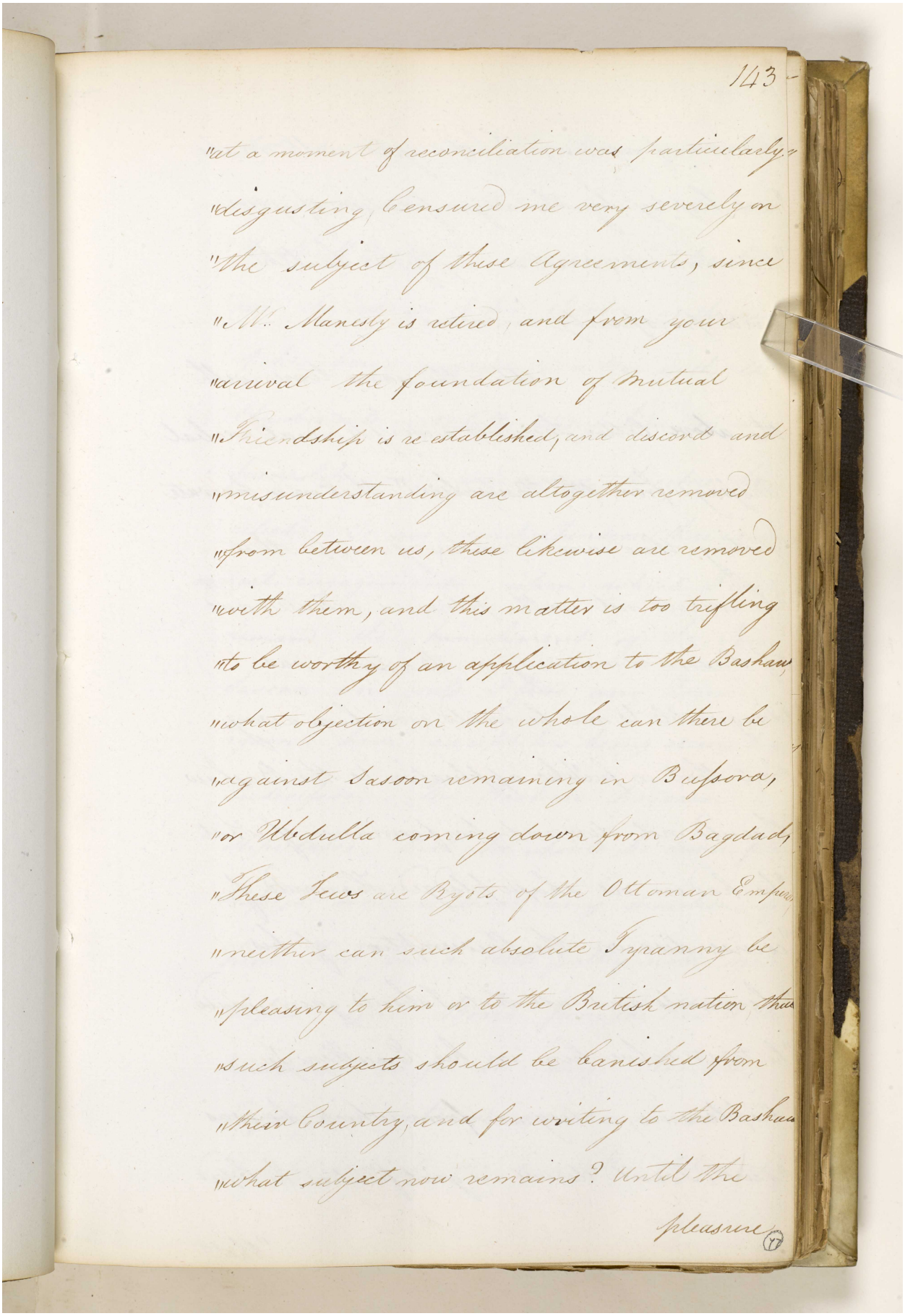

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"at a moment of reconciliation was particularly
"disgusting, Censured me very severely on
"the subject of these Agreements, since
"Mr. Manesty is retired, and from your
"arrival the foundation of mutual
"friendship is re established, and discord and
"misunderstanding are altogether removed
"from between us, these likewise are removed
"with them, and this matter is too trifling
"to be worthy of an application to the Bashaw
"what objection on the whole can there be
"against Sasoon remaining in Bussora,
"or Abdulla coming down from Bagdad,
"These Jews are Byots of the Ottoman Empire
"neither can such absolute Tyranny be
"pleasing to him or to the British nation that
"such subjects should be banished from
"their Country, and for writing to the Bashaw
"what subject now remains? Until the
pleasure

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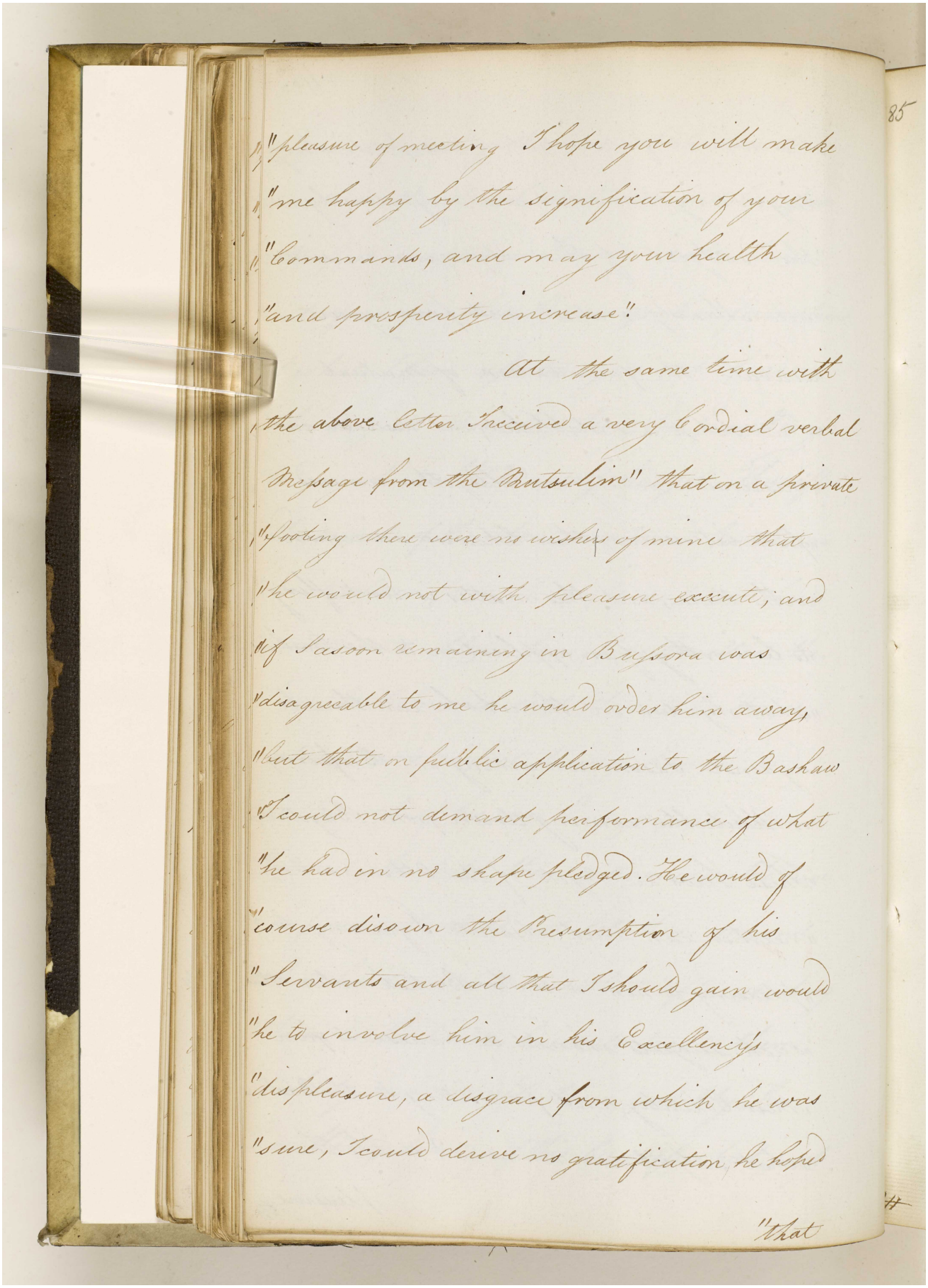

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"pleasure of meeting I hope you will make
"me happy by the signification of your
"Commands, and may your health
"and prosperity increase!"

At the same time with
the above letter I received a very Cordial verbal
Message from the Reutsulim" that on a private
"footing there were no wishes of mine that
"he would not with pleasure execute, and
"if Sasoon remaining in Bussora was
"disagreeable to me he would order him away,
"but that on public application to the Bashaw
"I could not demand performance of what
"he had in no shape pledged. He would of
"course discown the Presumption of his
"Servants and all that I should gain would
"be to involve him in his Excellency's
"displeasure, a disgrace from which he was
"sure, I could derive no gratification he hoped

"that

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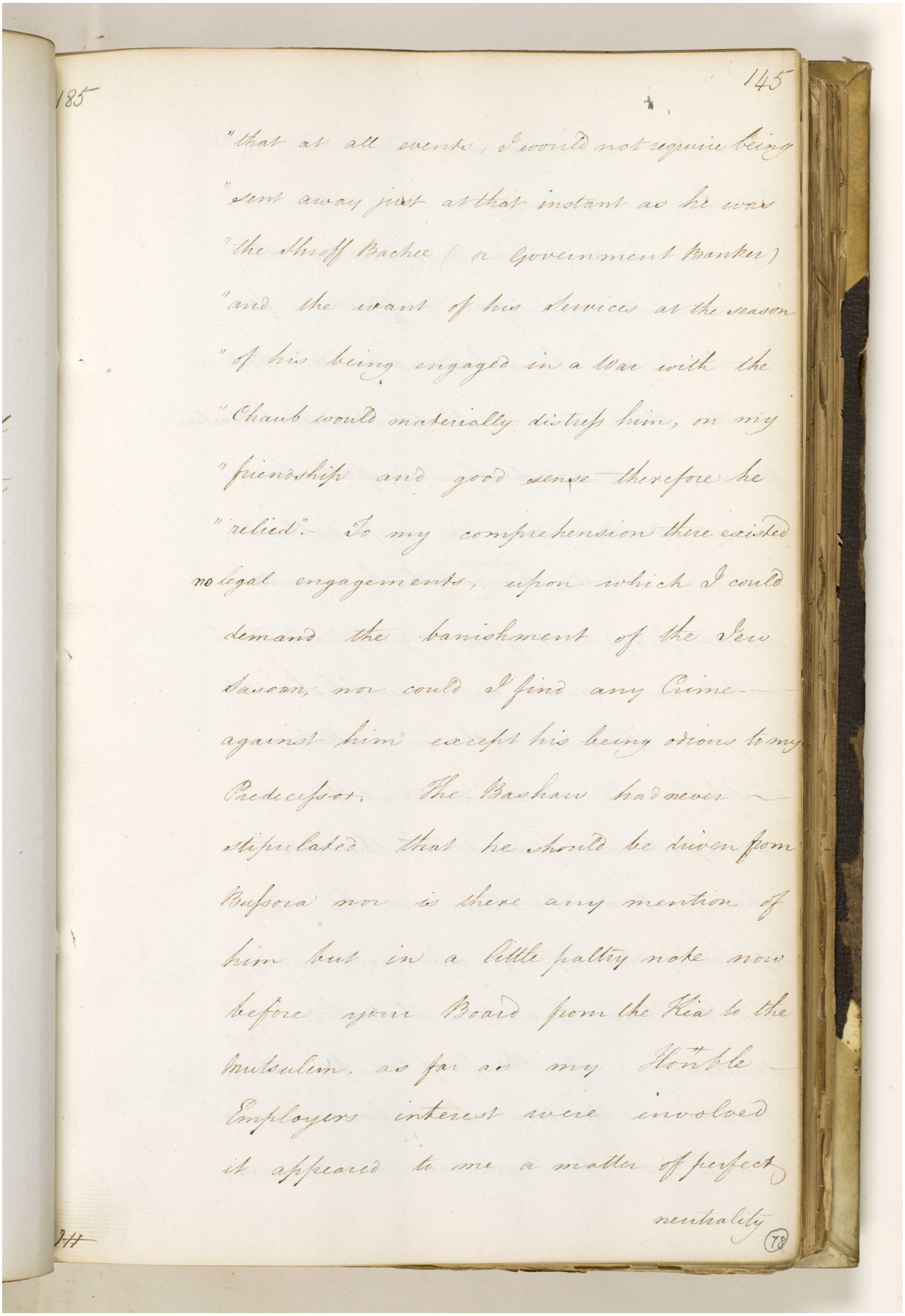

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"that at all events, I would not require being
"sent away just at that instant as he was
"the Shroff Bachee (a Government Banker)
"and the want of his services at the season
"of his being engaged in a War with the
"Chaub would materially distress him, on my
"friendship and good sense therefore he
"relied". To my comprehension there existed
no legal engagements, upon which I could
demand the banishment of the New
Sawaan, nor could I find any Crime
against him except his being odious to my
Predecessor. The Bashaw had never
stipulated that he should be driven from
Bussora nor is there any mention of
him but in a little paltry note now
before your Board from the Kia to the
Mutsulim, as far as my Honble
Employers interest were involved
it appeared to me a matter of perfect
neutrality

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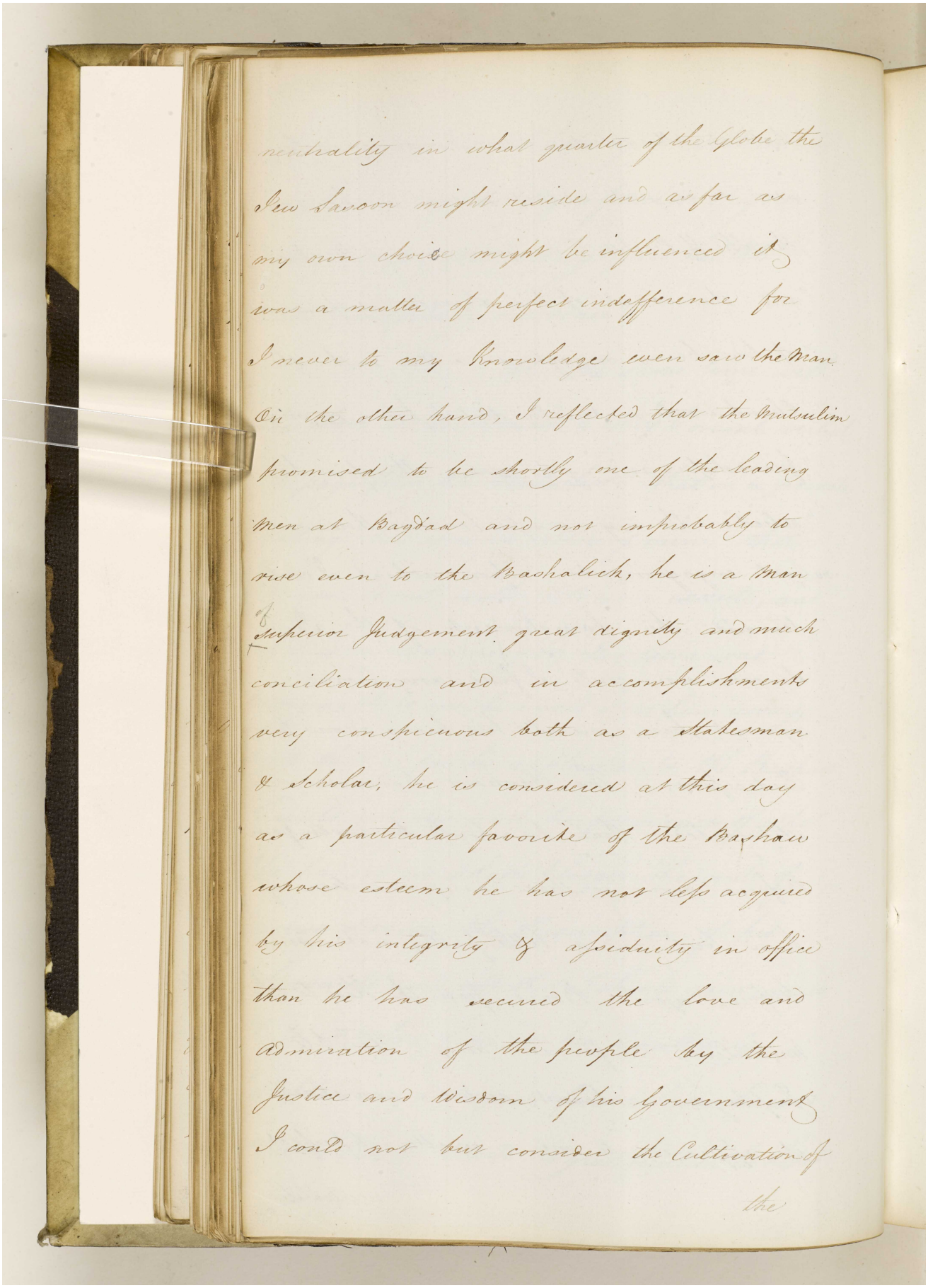

neutrality in what quarter of the Globe the
New Savoon might reside and as far as
my own choice might be influenced it
was a matter of perfect indefference for
I never to my knowledge even saw the Man
On the other hand, I reflected that the Mutsulim
promised to be shortly one of the leading
men at Baydad and not improbably to
rise even to the Bashalick, he is a man
of superior Judgement great dignity and much
conciliation and in accomplishments
very conspicuous both as a Statesman
& Scholar, he is considered at this day
as a particular favorite of the Bashaw
whose esteem he has not less acquired
by his integrity & assiduity in office
than he has secured the love and
admiration of the people by the
Justice and Wisdom of his Government
I could not but consider the Cultivation of
the

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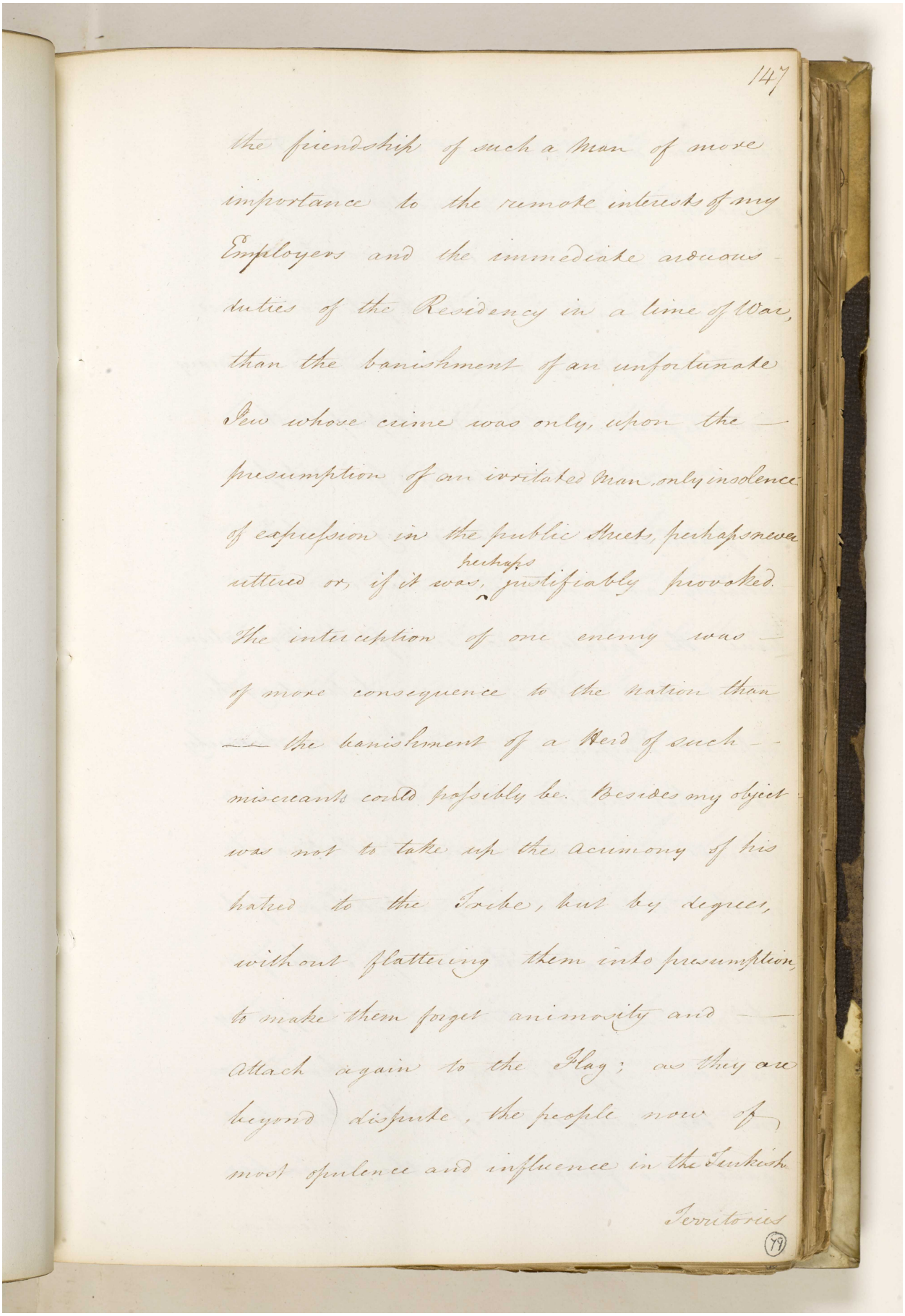

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the friendship of such a man of more importance to the remote interests of my Employers and the immediate arduous duties of the Residency in a time of War, than the banishment of an unfortunate Jew whose crime was only, upon the presumption of an irritated Man, only insolence of expression in the public Streets, perhaps never uttered or, if it was, perhaps justifiably provoked. The interception of one enemy was of more consequence to the nation than the banishment of a Herd of such miscreants could possibly be. Besides my object was not to take up the acrimony of his hatred to the Tribe, but by degrees, without flattering them into presumption, to make them forget animosity and attach again to the Flag; as they are beyond dispute, the people now of most opulence and influence in the Turkish Territories

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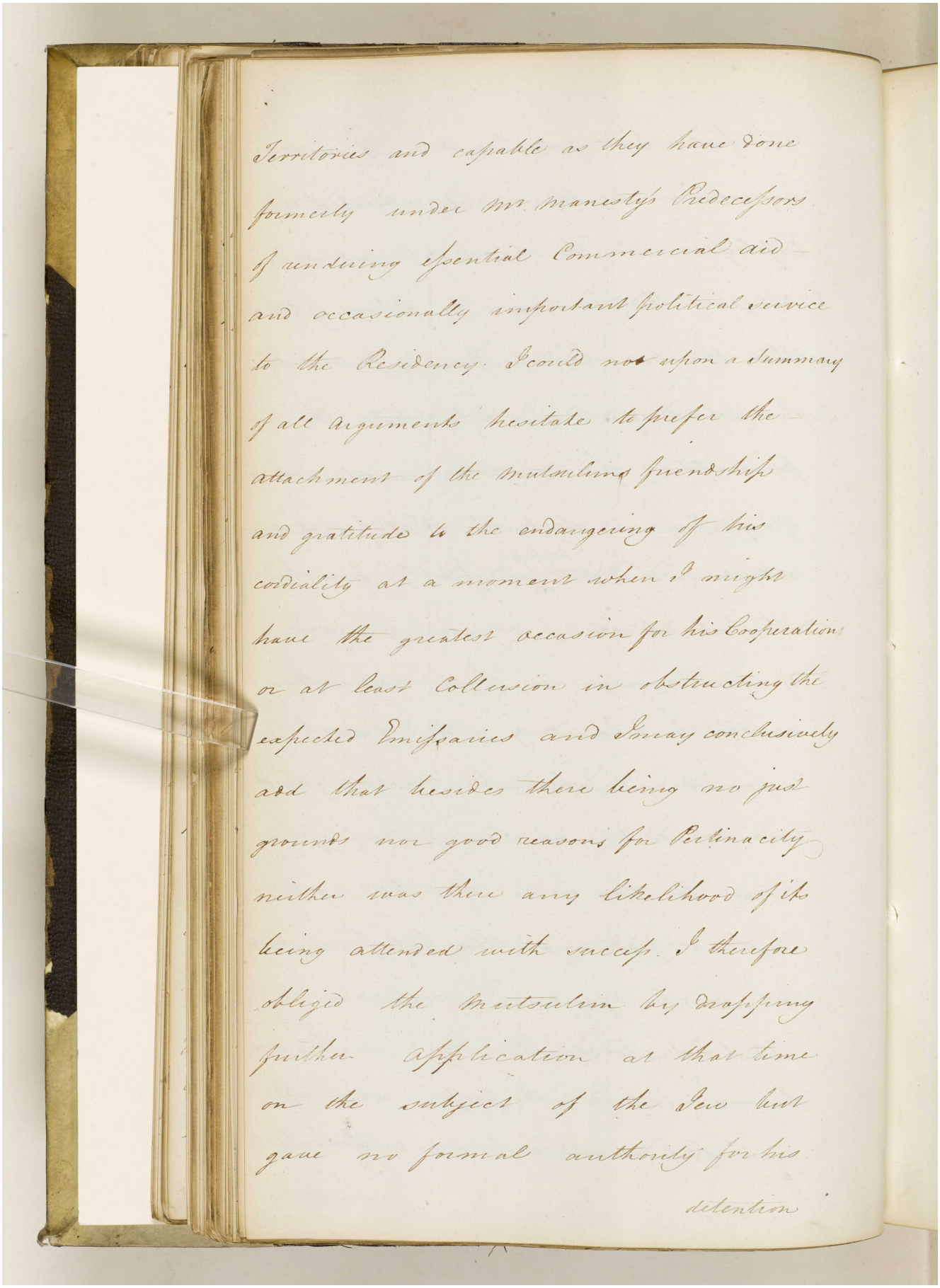

Territories and capable as they have done formerly under Mr Manesty's Predecessors of rendering essential Commercial aid and occasionally important political service to the Residency. I could not upon a summary of all arguments hesitate to prefer the attachment of the Mutsulims friendship and gratitude to the endangering of his cordiality at a moment when I might have the greatest occasion for his Cooperation or at least Collusion in obstructing the expected Emissaries and I may conclusively add that besides there being no just grounds nor good reasons for Pertinacity neither was there any likelihood of its being attended with success. I therefore obliged the Mutsulim by dropping further application at that time on the subject of the Jew but gave no formal authority for his detention

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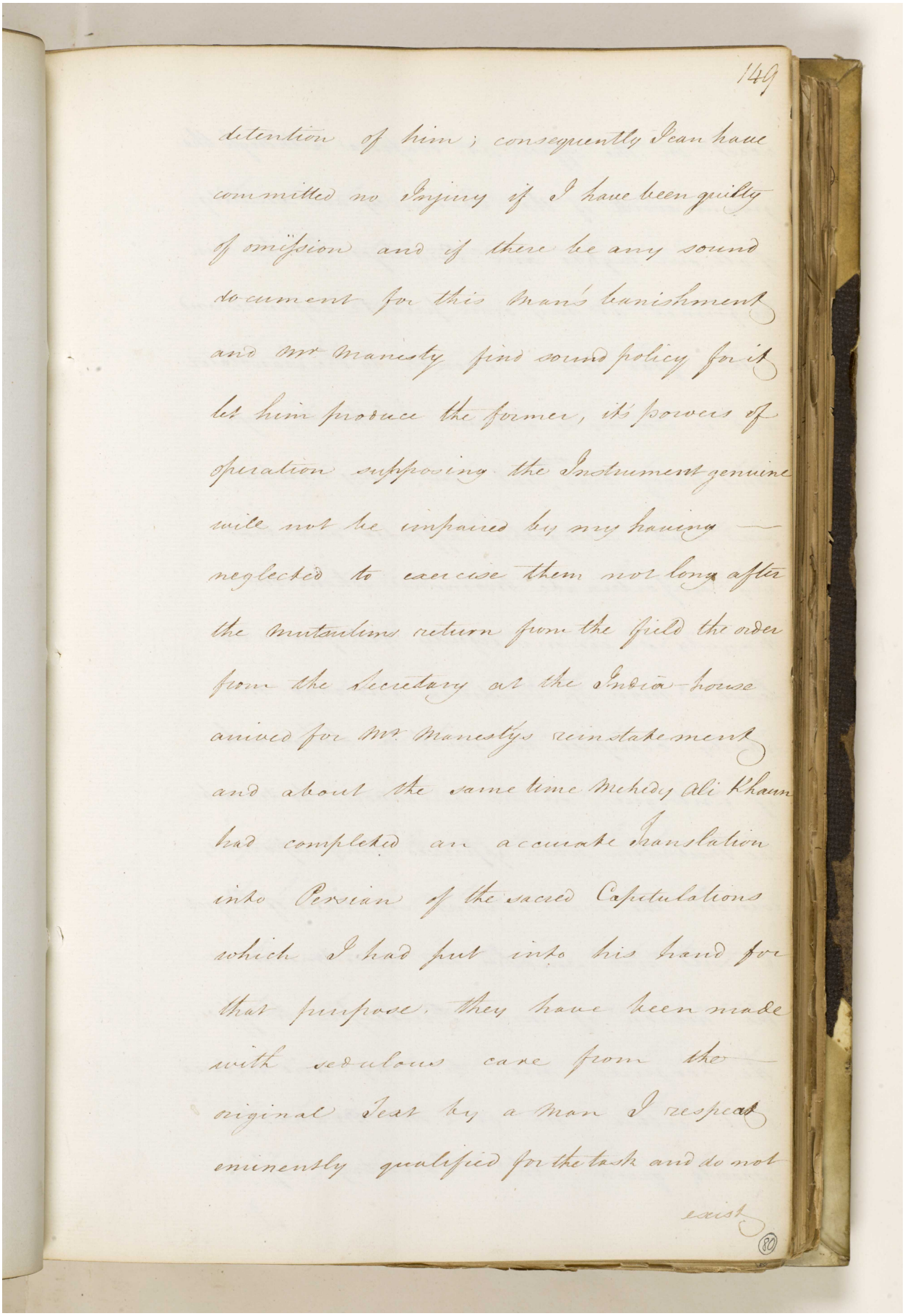

detention of him; consequently I can have committed no injury if I have been guilty of omission and if there be any sound document for this man's banishment and Mr Manesty find sound policy for it let him produce the former, it's powers of operation supposing the Instrument genuine will not be impaired by my having neglected to exercise them not long after the Mutsuddies return from the field the order from the Secretary at the India-house arrived for Mr Manesty's reinstatement and about the same time Mehdy Ali Khaun had completed an accurate translation into Persian of the sacred Capitulations which I had put into his hand for that purpose. they have been made with sedulous care from the original Seal by a man I respect eminently qualified for the task and do not exist

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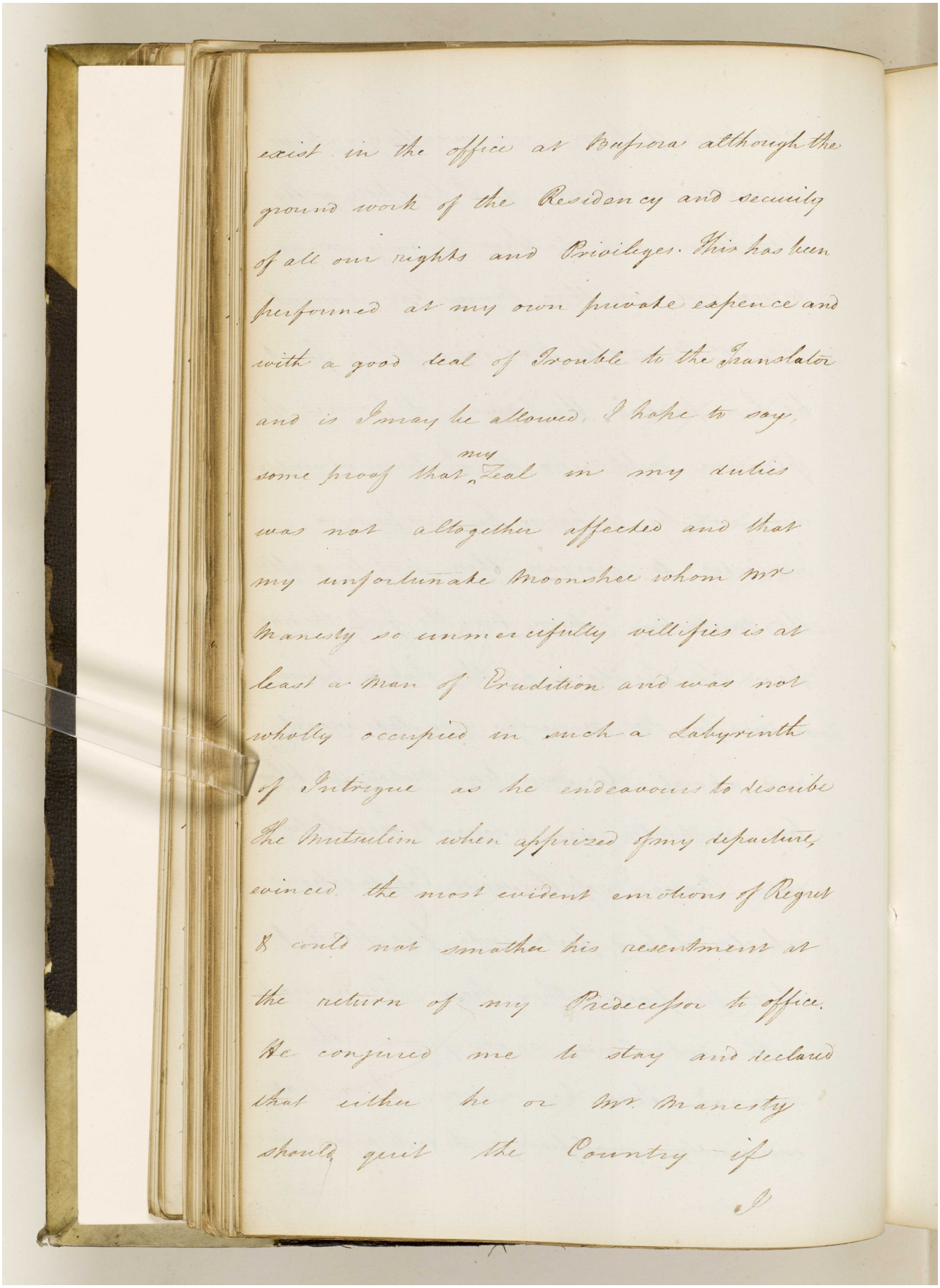

exist in the office at Bufora although the
ground work of the Residency and security
of all our rights and Priviliges. This has been
performed at my own private expence and
with a good deal of Trouble to the Translator
and is I may be allowed, I hope to say,
some proof that my Zeal in my duties
was not altogether affected and that
my unfortunate Moonshee whom Mr
Manesty so unmercifully villifies is at
least a Man of Erudition and was not
wholly occupied in such a Labyrinth
of Intrigue as he endeavours to describe
The Mutsulim when apprized of my departure,
evinced the most evident emotions of Regret
& could not smother his resentment at
the return of my Predecessor to office.
He conjured me to stay and declared
that either he or Mr Manesty
should quit the Country if

I

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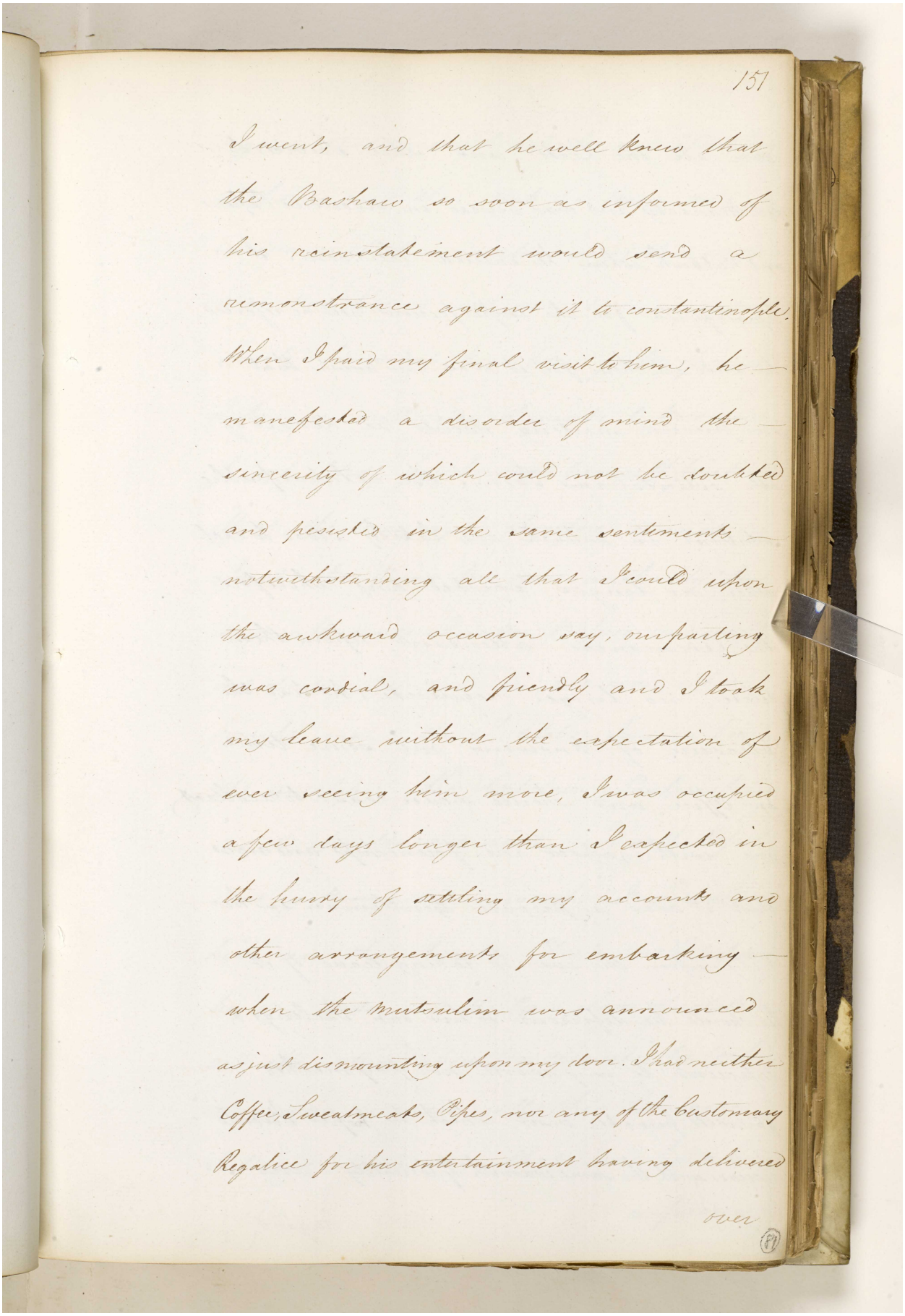

I went, and that he well knew that
the Bashaw so soon as informed of
his reinstatement would send a
remonstrance against it to Constantinople.
When I paid my final visit to him, he
manefested a disorder of mind the
sincerity of which could not be doubted
and persisted in the same sentiments
notwithstanding all that I could upon
the awkward occasion say, our parting
was cordial, and friendly and I took
my leave without the expectation of
ever seeing him more, I was occupied
a few days longer than I expected in
the hurry of settling my accounts and
other arrangements for embarking
when the Mutsulim was announced
as just dismounting upon my door. I had neither
Coffee, Sweatmeats, Pipes, nor any of the Customary
Regalice for his entertainment having delivered

over

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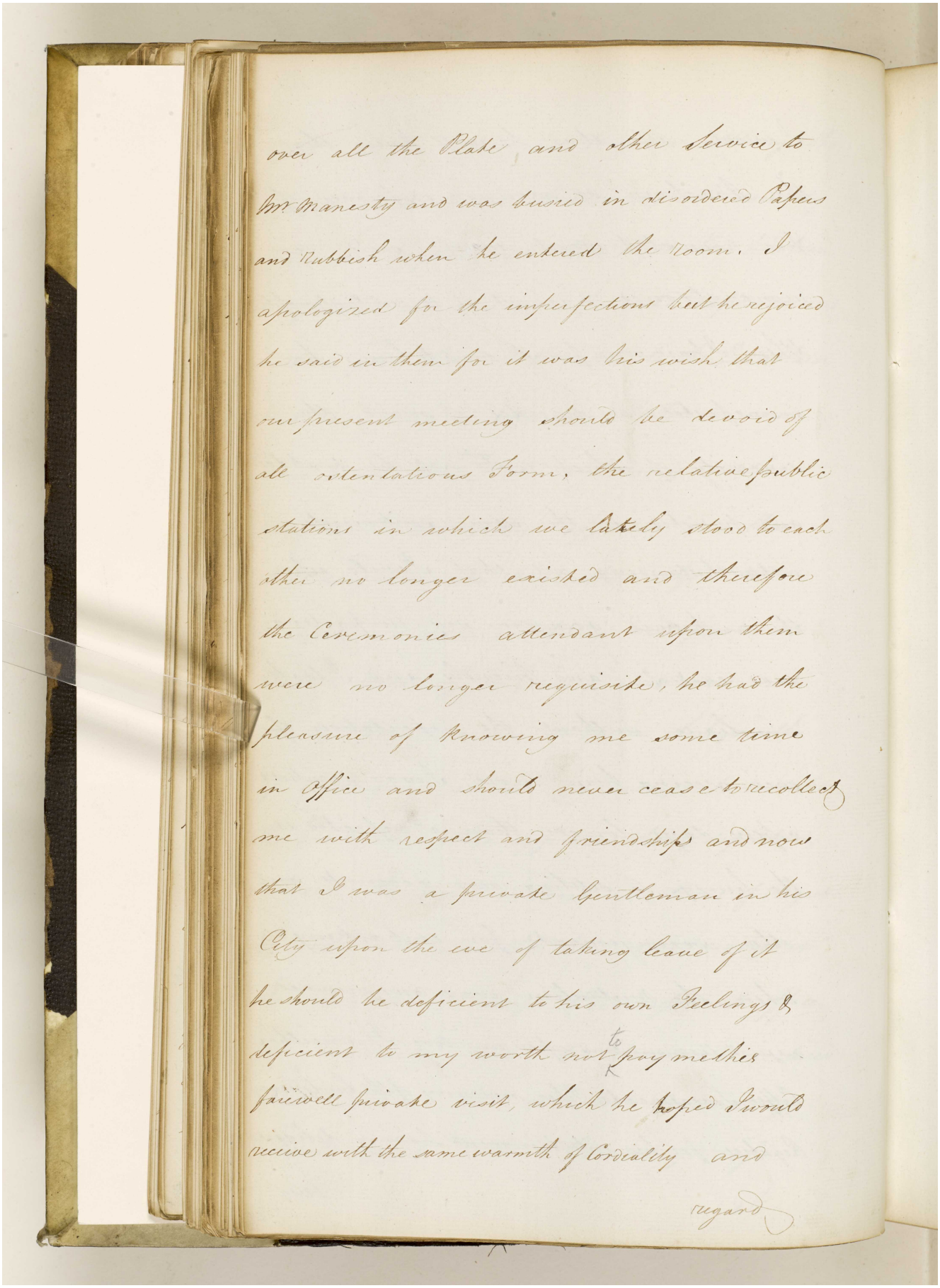

over all the Plate and other Service to
Mr Manesty and was buried in disordered Papers
and Rubbish when he entered the Room. I
apologized for the imperfections but he rejoiced
he said in them for it was his wish that
our present meeting should be devoid of
all ostentatious Form, the relative public
stations in which we lately stood to each
other no longer existed and therefore
the Ceremonies attendant upon them
were no longer requisite, he had the
pleasure of knowing me some time
in Office and should never cease to recollect
me with respect and friendship and now
that I was a private Gentleman in his
City upon the eve of taking leave of it
he should be deficient to his own Feelings &
deficient to my worth not to pay me this
farewell private visit, which he hoped I would
receive with the same warmth of Cordiality and
regard

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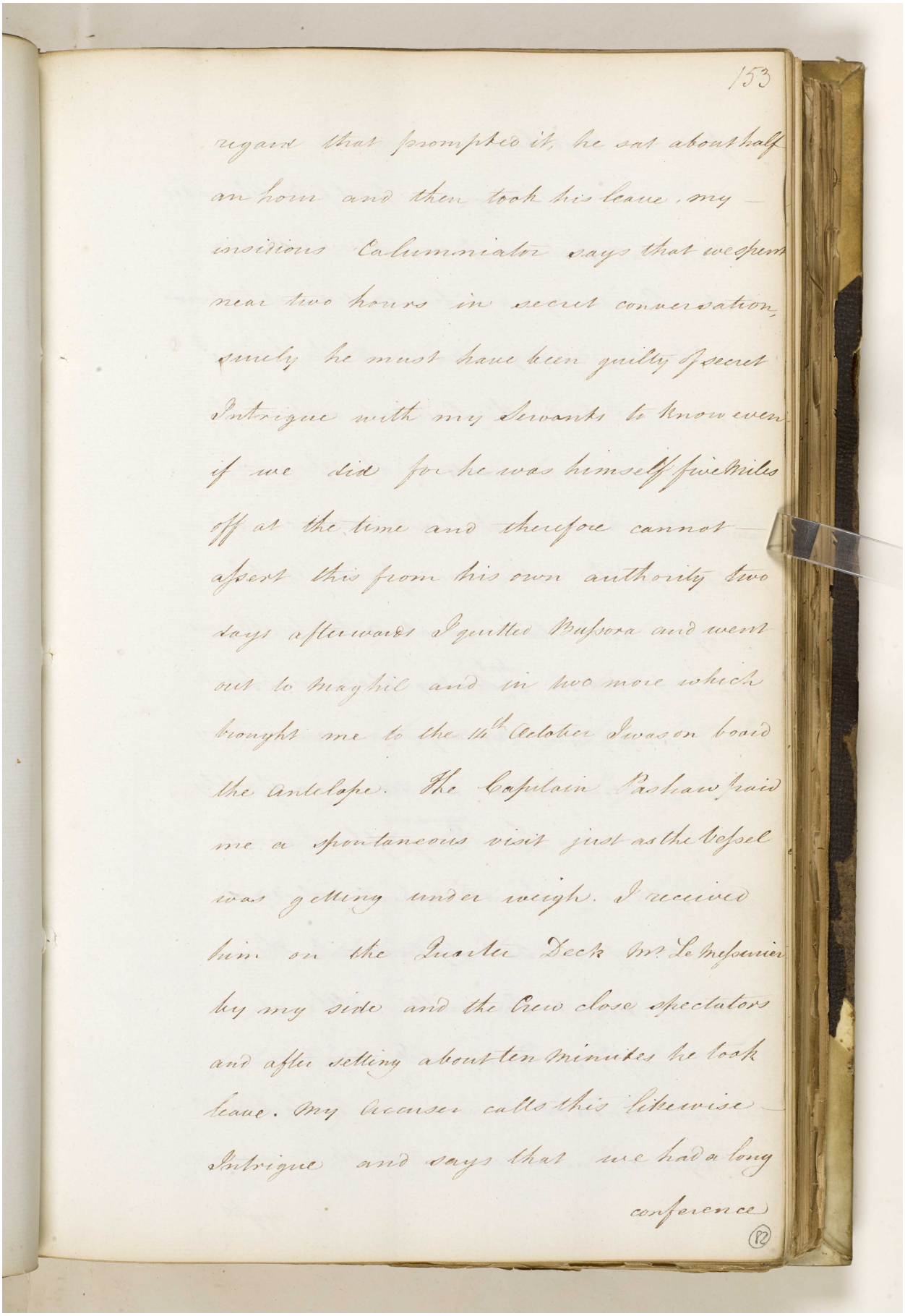

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regard that prompted it, he sat about half an hour and then took his leave, my insidious Calumniator says that we spent near two hours in secret conversation, surely he must have been guilty of secret Intrigue with my Servants to know even if we did for he was himself five Miles off at the time and therefore cannot assert this from his own authority two days afterwards I quitted Bussora and went out to Maghil and in two more which brought me to the 11th October I was on board the Antelope. The Captain Pasha paid me a spontaneous visit just as the Vessel was getting under weigh. I received him on the Quarter Deck Mr Le Messurier by my side and the Crew close spectators and after setting about ten minutes he took leave. My Accuser calls this likewise Intrigue and says that we had a long

conference

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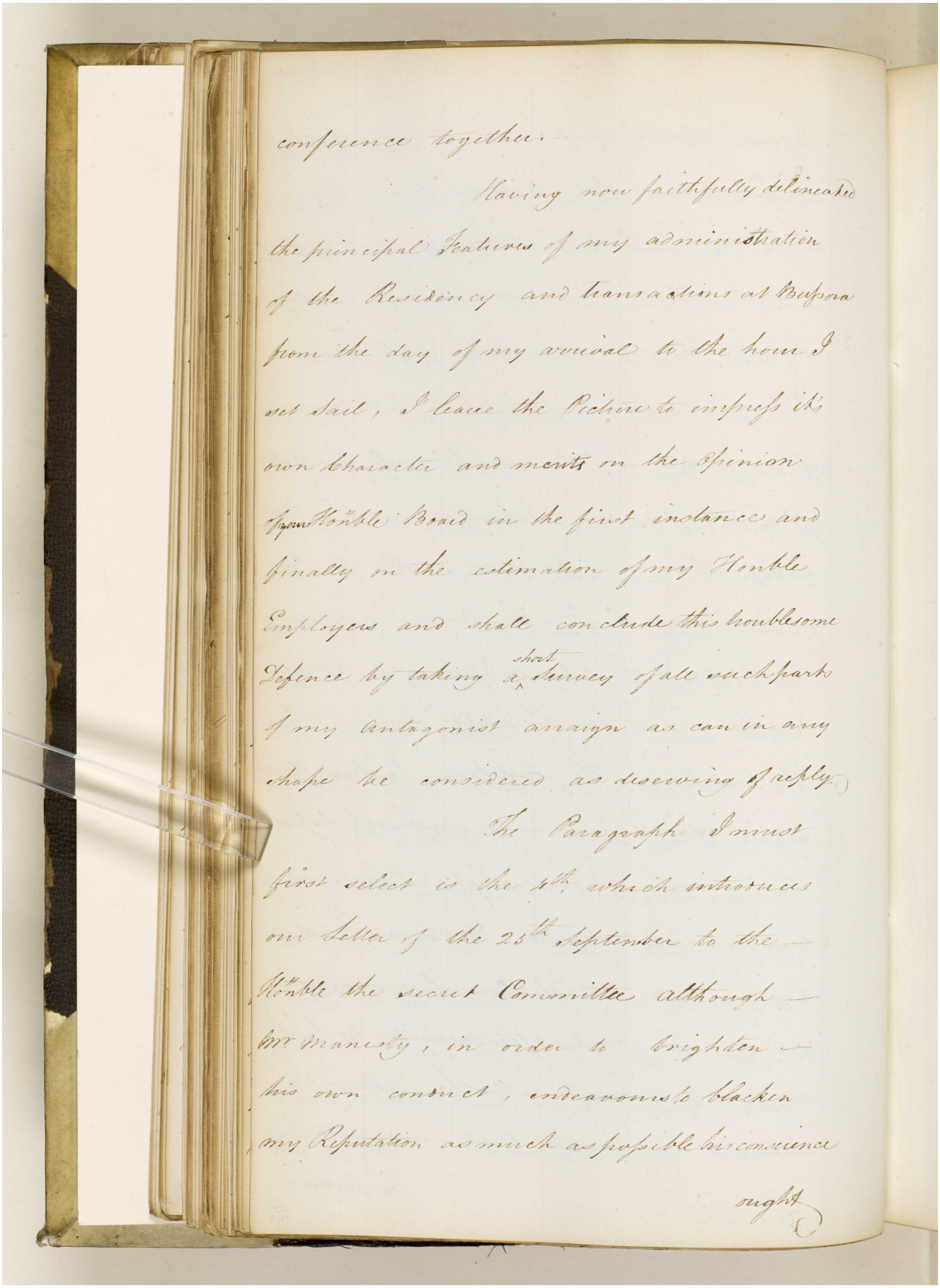

conference together.

Having now faithfully delineated the principal features of my administration of the Residency and transactions at Bussora from the day of my arrival to the hour I set sail, I leave the Picture to impress its own character and merits on the Opinion of the Honble Board in the first instance and finally on the estimation of my Honble Employers and shall conclude this troublesome Defence by taking a short Survey of all such parts of my Antagonist arraign as can in any shape be considered as deserving of reply.

The Paragraph I must first select is the 4th which introduces our Letter of the 25th September to the Honble the secret Committee although Mr Manesty, in order to brighten his own conduct, endeavours to blacken my Reputation as much as possible his conscience ought

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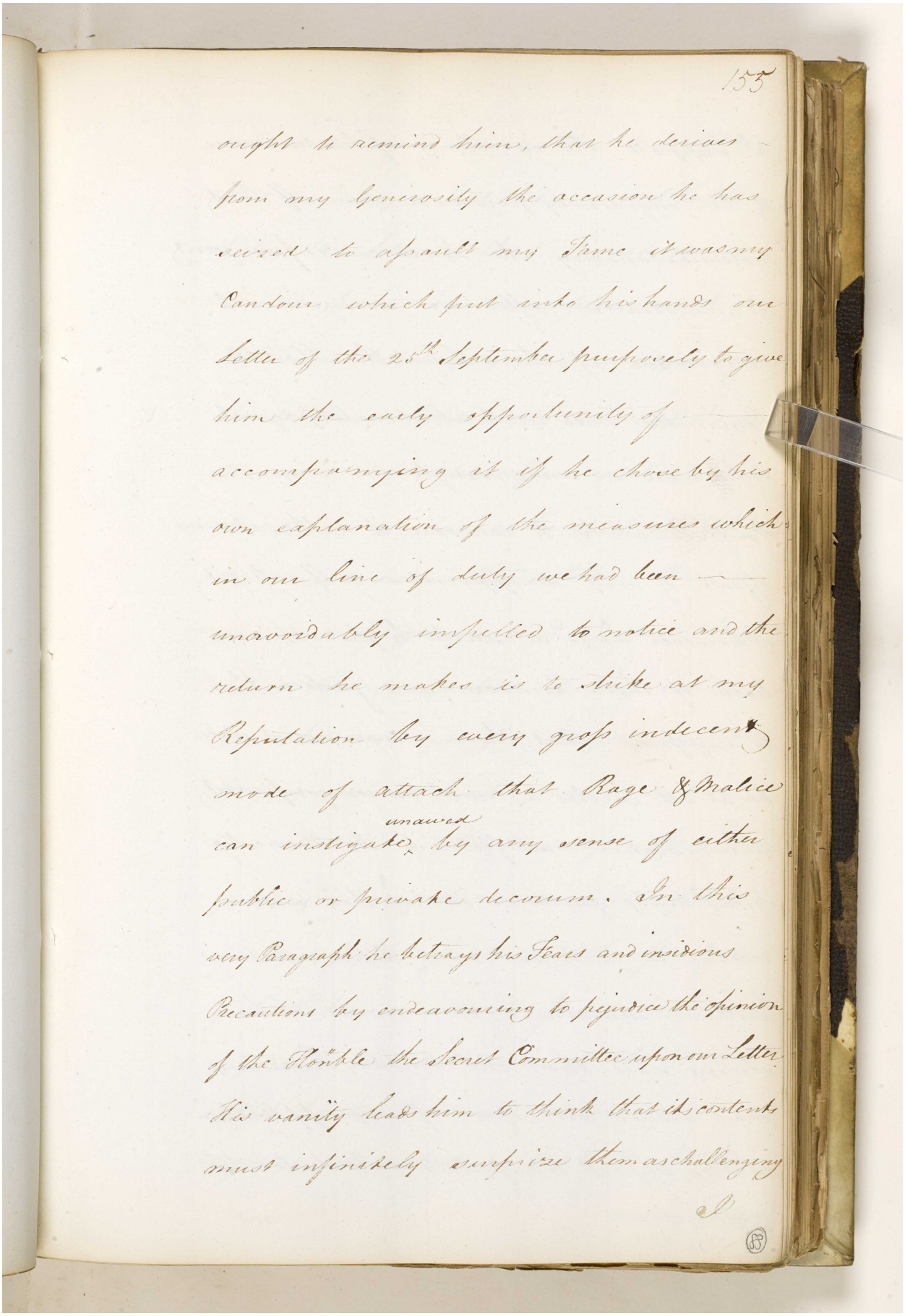

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ought to remind him, that he derives
from my Generosity the occasion he has
seized to assail my Fame it was my
Candour which put into his hands our
Letter of the 25th September purposely to give
him the early opportunity of
accompanying it if he chose by his
own explanation of the measures which
in our line of duty we had been
unavoidably impelled to notice and the
return he makes is to strike at my
Reputation by every grasp indecent
mode of attack that Rage & Malice
can instigate, unawed by any sense of either
public or private decorum. In this
very Paragraph he betrays his Fears and insidious
Precautions by endeavouring to prejudice the opinion
of the Honble the Secret Committee upon our Letter
His vanity leads him to think that its contents
must infinitely surprize them as challenging

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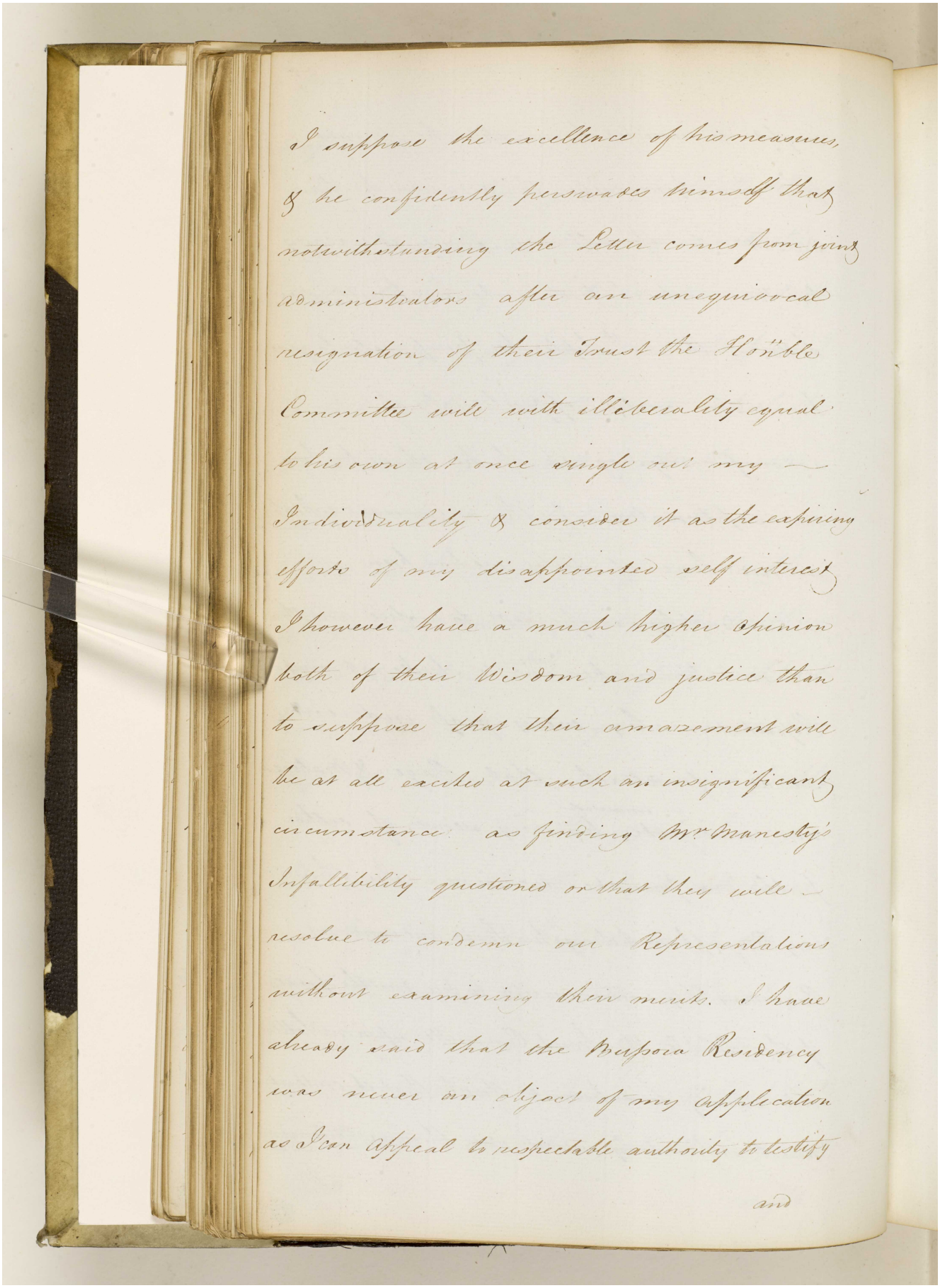

I suppose the excellence of his measures,
& he confidently persuades himself that
notwithstanding the Letter comes from joint
administrators after an unequivocal
resignation of their Trust the Honble
Committee will with illiberality equal
to his own at once single out my —
Individuality & consider it as the expiring
efforts of my disappointed self interest
I however have a much higher opinion
both of their Wisdom and justice than
to suppose that their amazement will
be at all excited at such an insignificant
circumstance as finding Mr Manesty's
Infallibility questioned or that they will
resolve to condemn our Representations
without examining their merits. I have
already said that the Mocha Residency
was never an object of my application
as I can appeal to respectable authority to testify

and

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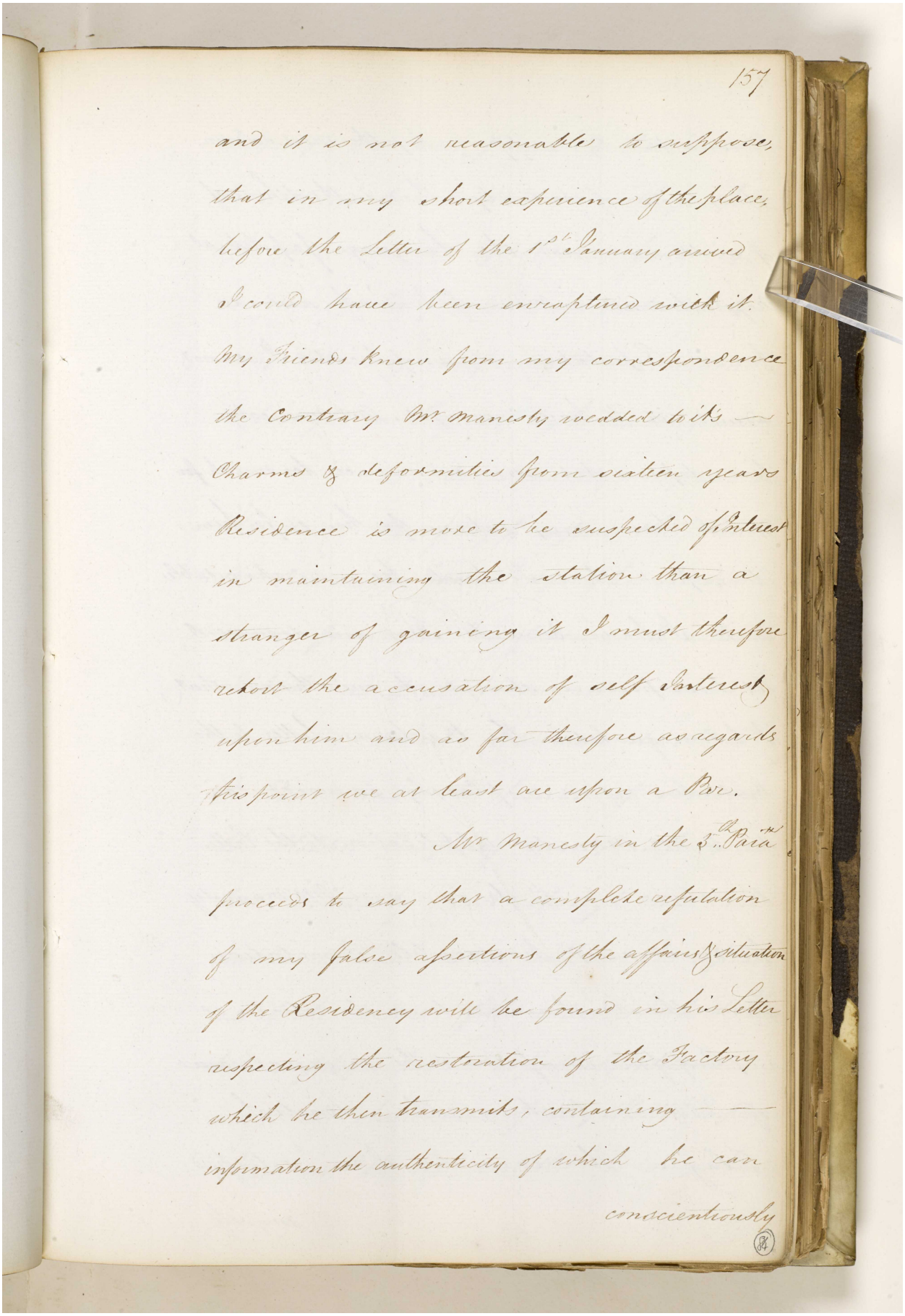

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and it is not reasonable to suppose,
that in my short experience of the place,
before the Letter of the 1st January arrived
I could have been enraptured with it.
My Friends knew from my correspondence
the Contrary Mr Manesty wedded to its —
Charms & deformities from sixteen years
Residence is more to be suspected of Interest
in maintaining the station than a
stranger of gaining it I must therefore
retort the accusation of self Interest
upon him and as far therefore as regards
this point we at least are upon a Par.

Mr Manesty in the 3d Para
proceeds to say that a compleate refutation
of my false assertions of the affairs & situation
of the Residency will be found in his Letter
respecting the restoration of the Factory
which he then transmits, containing —
information the authenticity of which he can
conscientiously

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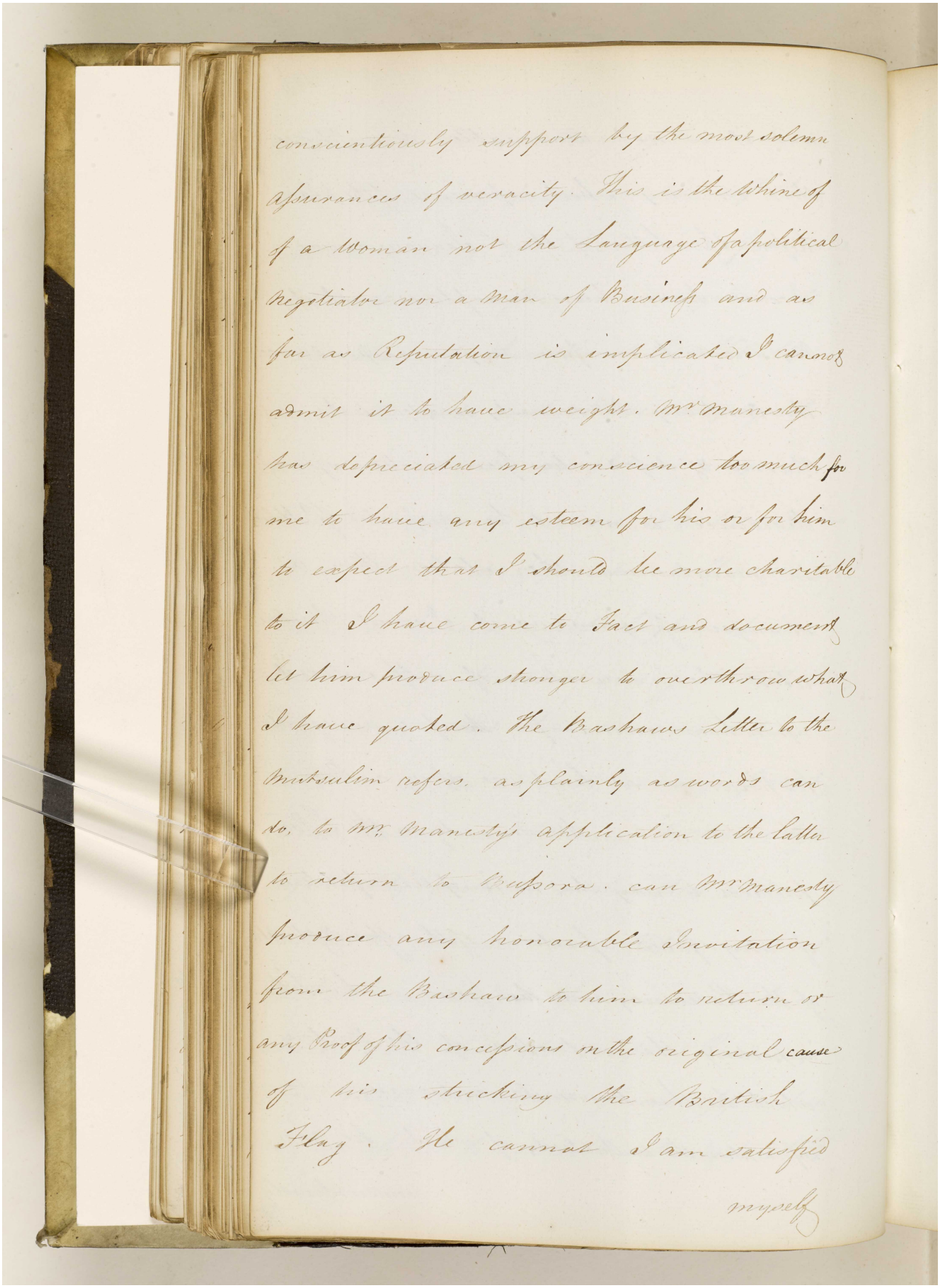

conscientiously support by the most solemn
Asseverances of veracity. This is the Whine of
of a Woman not the Language of a political
Negotiator nor a Man of Business and as
far as Reputation is implicated I cannot
admit it to have weight. Mr Manesty
has depreciated my conscience too much for
me to have any esteem for his or for him
to expect that I should be more charitable
to it I have come to Fact and document
let him produce stronger to overthrow what
I have quoted. The Bashaws Letter to the
Mutsulim refers, as plainly as words can
do, to Mr Manesty's application to the latter
to return to Bussora. can Mr Manesty
produce any honourable Invitation
from the Bashaw to him to return or
any Proof of his conceptions on the original cause
of his stretching the British
Flag. He cannot I am satisfied
myself

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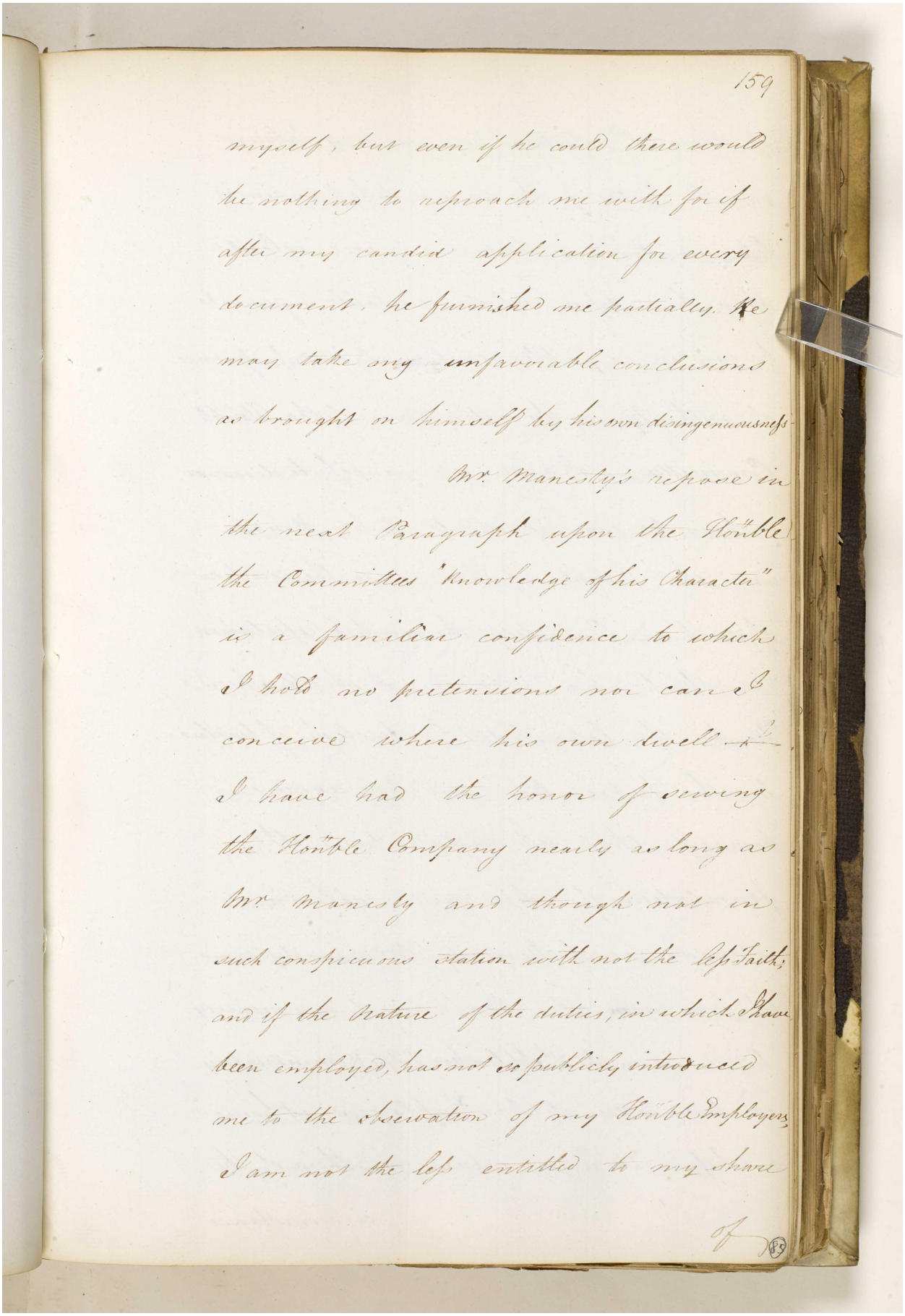

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myself, but even if he could there would be nothing to reproach me with for if after my candid application for every document, he furnished me partially, he may take any unfavorable conclusions as brought on himself by his own disingenuousness

Mr. Manesty's reproof in the next Paragraph upon the Honble the Committees "knowledge of his Character" is a familiar confidence to which I hold no pretensions nor can I conceive where his own dwell—

I have had the honor of serving the Honble Company nearly as long as Mr. Manesty and though not in such conspicuous station with not the less faith; and if the nature of the duties, in which I have been employed, has not so publicly introduced me to the observation of my Honble Employers, I am not the less entitled to my share

of

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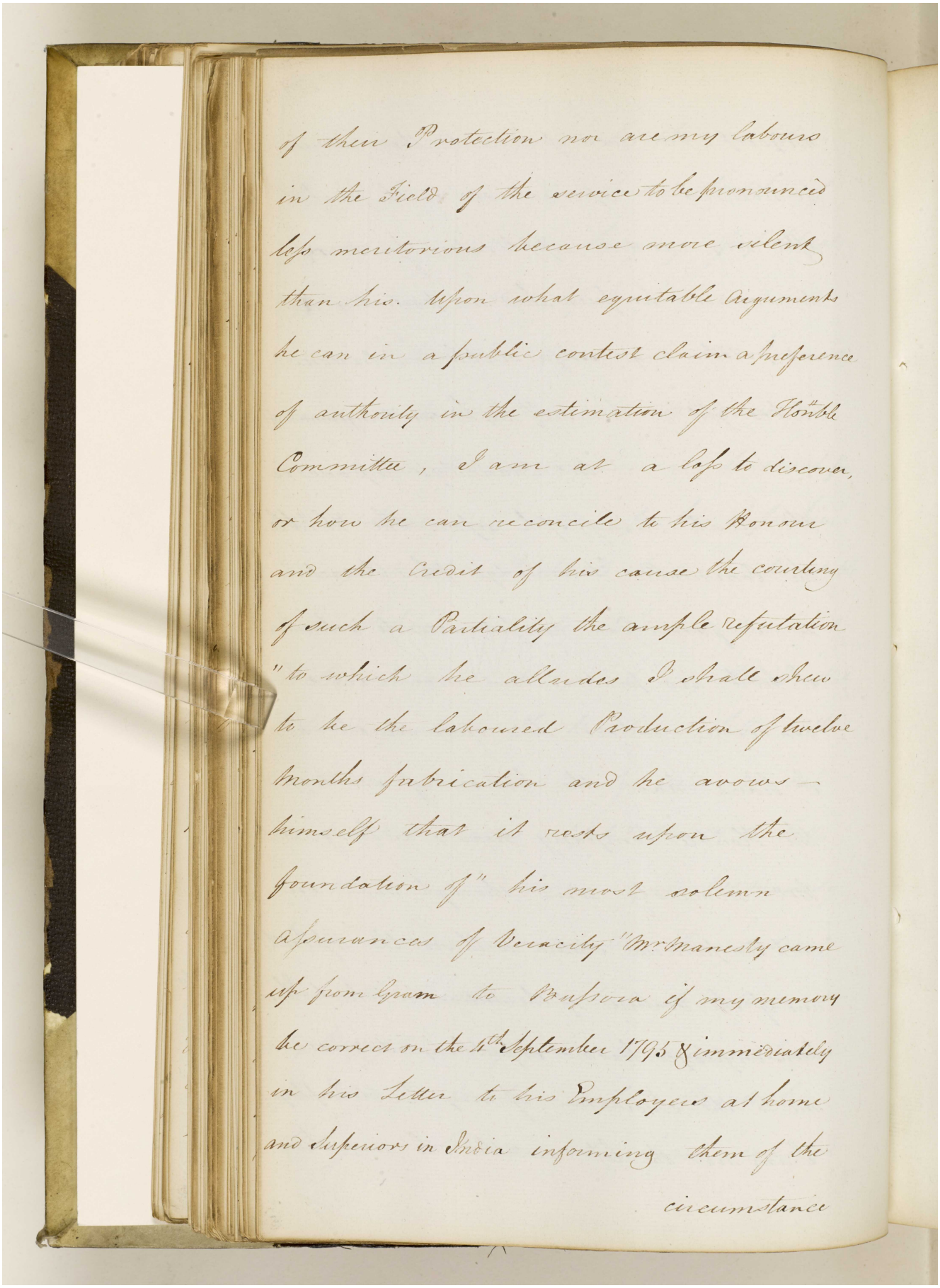

of their Protection nor are my labours in the Field of the service to be pronounced less meritorious because more silent than his. Upon what equitable Arguments he can in a public contest claim a preference of authority in the estimation of the Honble Committee, I am at a loss to discover, or how he can reconcile to his Honour and the Credit of his cause the courting of such a Partiality the ample refutation "to which he alludes I shall shew to be the laboured Production of twelve Months fabrication and he avows himself that it rests upon the foundation of" his most solemn assurances of Veracity "Mr Manesty came up from Gram to Bussora if my memory be correct on the 4th September 1795 & immediately in his Letter to his Employers at home and Superiors in India informing them of the

circumstance

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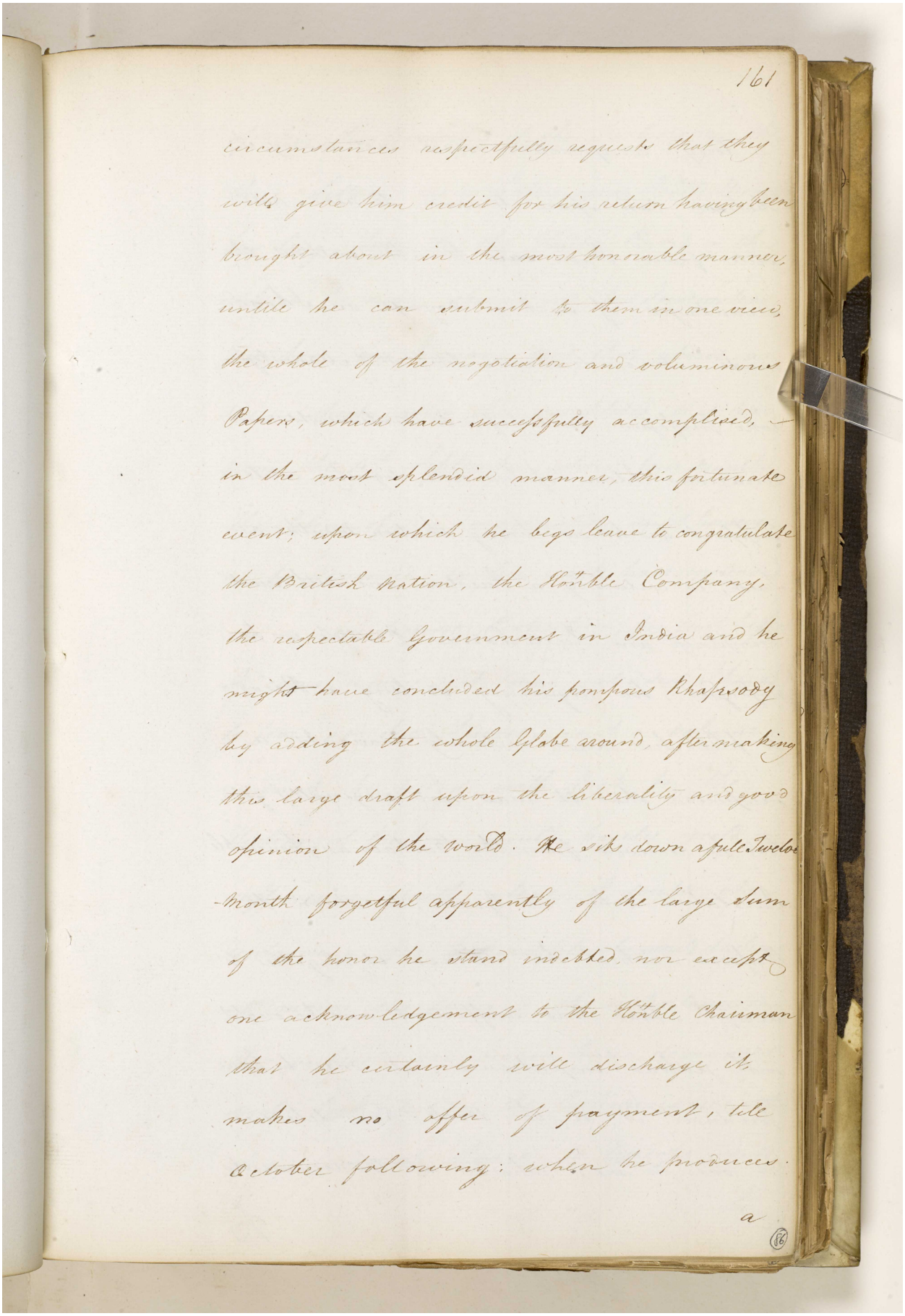

circumstances respectfully requests that they
will give him credit for his return having been
brought about in the most honourable manner,
untile he can submit to them in one view,
the whole of the negotiation and voluminous
Papers, which have successfully accomplished,
in the most splendid manner, this fortunate
event; upon which he begs leave to congratulate
the British nation, the Honble Company,
the respectable Government in India and he
might have concluded his pompous Rhapsody
by adding the whole Globe around, after making
this large draft upon the liberality and good
opinion of the world. He sits down a full Twelve
-Month forgetful apparently of the large sum
of the honor he stand indebted, nor except
one acknowledgement to the Honble Chairman
that he certainly will discharge it
makes no offer of payment, tile
October following; when he pronounces.

a

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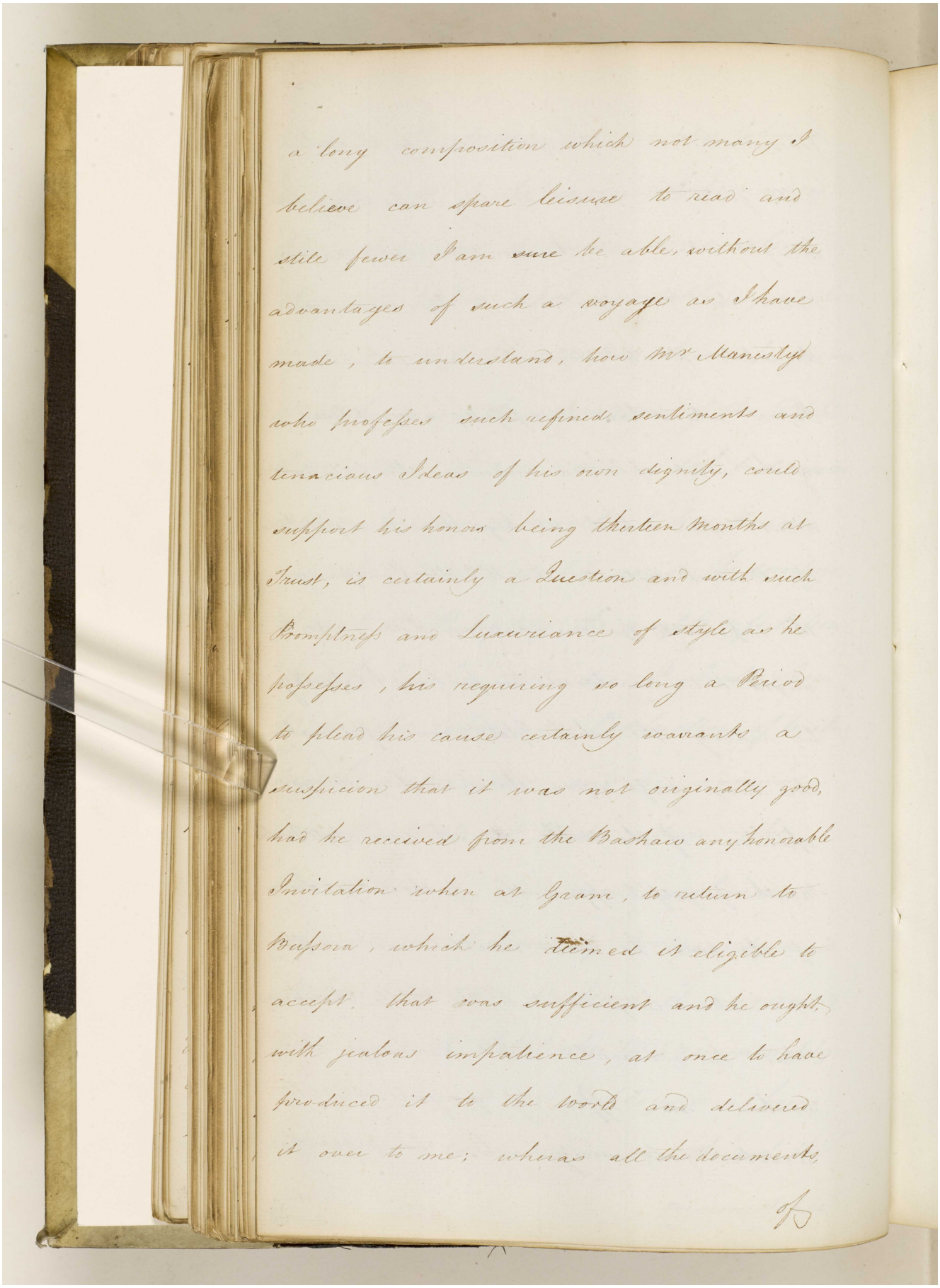

a long composition which not many I believe can spare leisure to read and still fewer I am sure be able, without the advantages of such a voyage as I have made, to understand, how Mr Manesty who professes such refined sentiments and tenacious Ideas of his own dignity, could support his honour being thirteen Months at Trust, is certainly a Question and with such promptness and Luxuriance of style as he professes, his requiring so long a Period to plead his cause certainly wavants a suspicion that it was not originally good, had he received from the Bashaw any honorable Invitation when at Graan, to return to Bafsora, which he deemed it eligible to accept, that was sufficient and he ought, with jealous impatience, at once to have produced it to the world and delivered it over to me; whereas all the documents,

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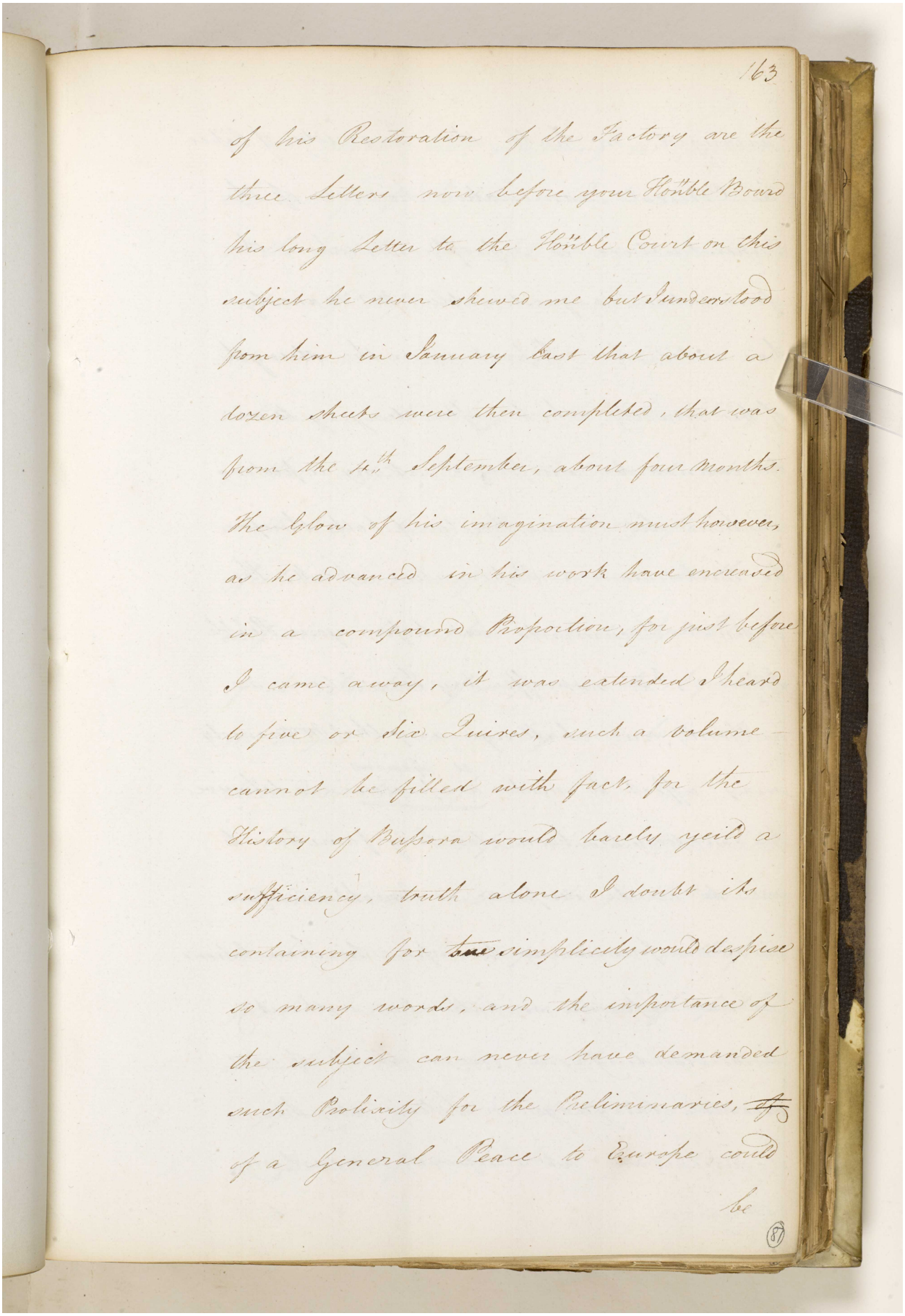

of his Restoration of the Factory are the three Letters now before your Honble Board his long Letter to the Honble Court on this subject he never shewed me but understood from him in January last that about a dozen sheets were then completed, that was from the 14th September, about four months. The glow of his imagination must however, as he advanced in his work have encreased in a compound Proportion, for just before I came away, it was extended I heard to five or six Quires, such a volume cannot be filled with fact, for the History of Bussora would barely yield a sufficiency, truth alone I doubt its containing for ~~true~~ simplicity would despise so many words, and the importance of the subject can never have demanded such Prolixity for the Preliminaries, ~~of~~ of a General Peace to Europe could be

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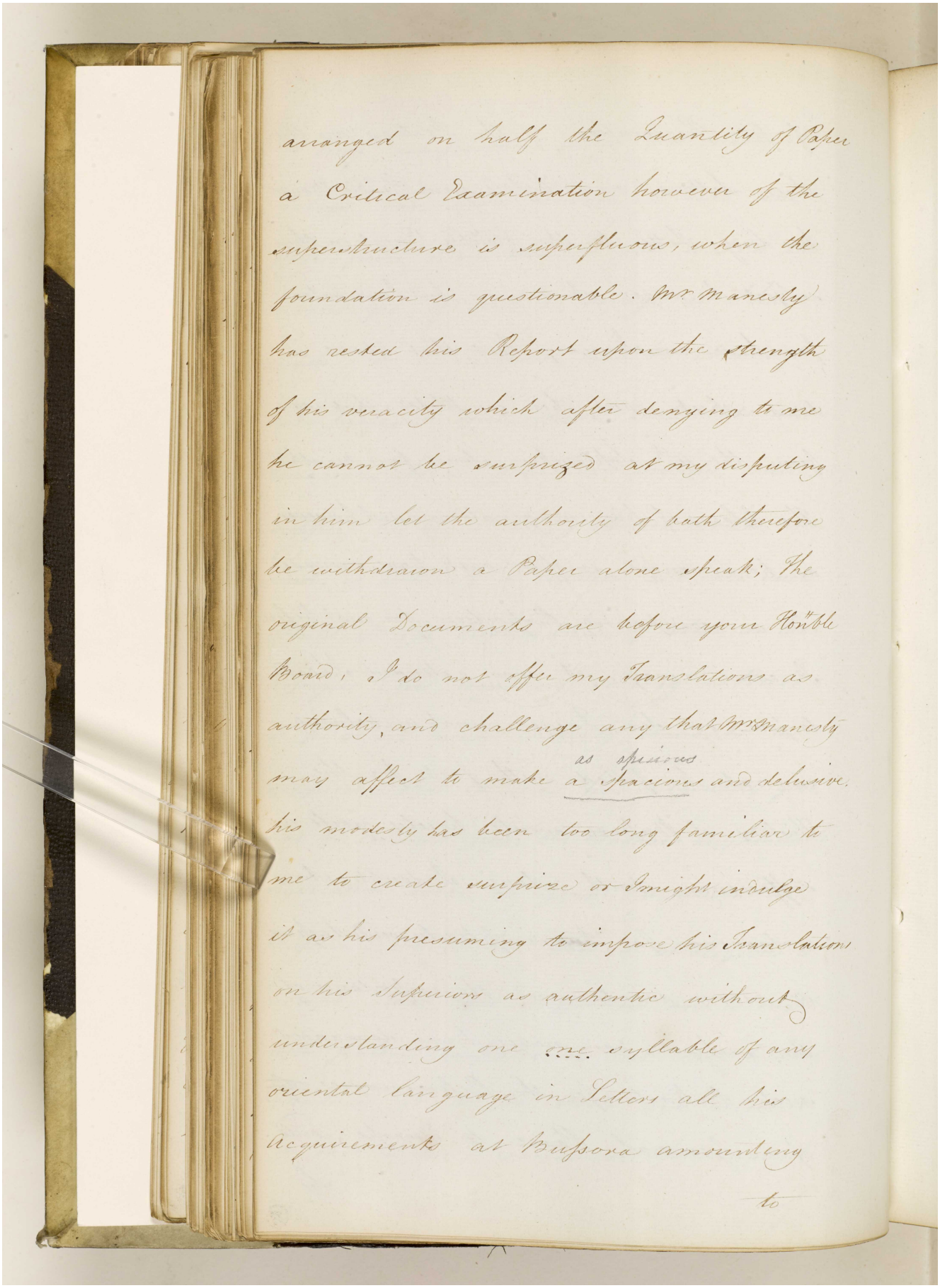

arranged on half the Quantity of Paper
a Critical Examination however of the
superstructure is superfluous, when the
foundation is questionable. Mr Manesty
has rested his Report upon the strength
of his veracity which after denying to me
he cannot be surprized at my disputing
in him let the authority of both therefore
be withdrawn & Papers alone speak; The
original Documents are before your Honble
Board, I do not offer my Translations as
authority, and challenge any that Mr Manesty
may affect to make as spurious a spacious and delusive.
his modesty has been too long familiar to
me to create surprize or I might indulge
it as his presuming to impose his Translations
on his Superiors as authentic without
understanding one ~~one~~ syllable of any
oriental language in Letters all his
Acquirements at Busora amounting

to

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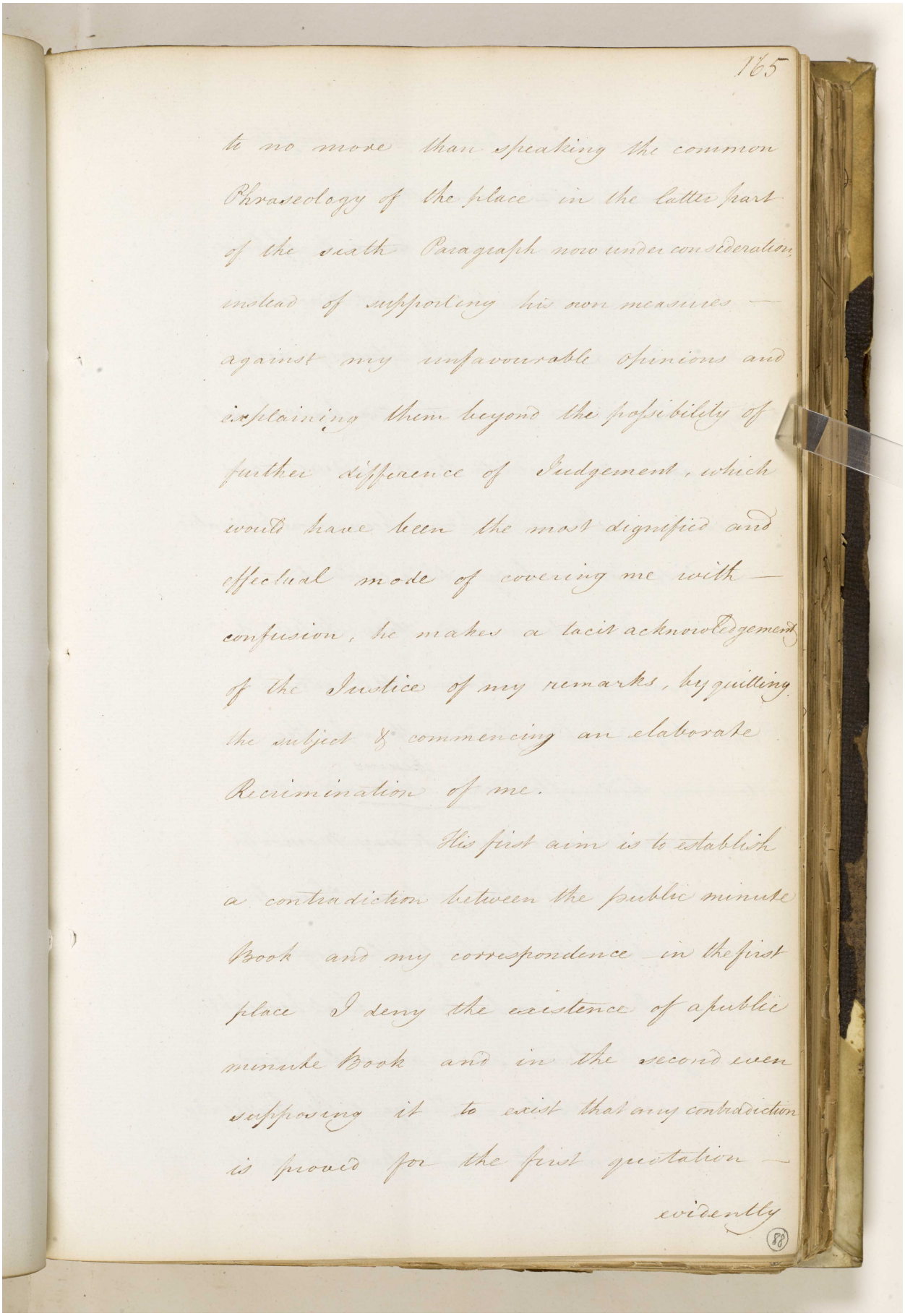

to no more than speaking the common Phraseology of the place in the latter part of the sixth Paragraph now under consideration instead of supporting his own measures — against my unfavourable opinions and explaining them beyond the possibility of further difference of Judgement, which would have been the most dignified and effectual mode of covering me with — confusion, he makes a tacit acknowledgement of the Justice of my remarks, by quitting the subject & commencing an elaborate Recrimination of me.

His first aim is to establish a contradiction between the public minute Book and my correspondence in the first place I deny the existence of a public minute Book and in the second even supposing it to exist that any contradiction is proved for the first quotation — evidently

(88)

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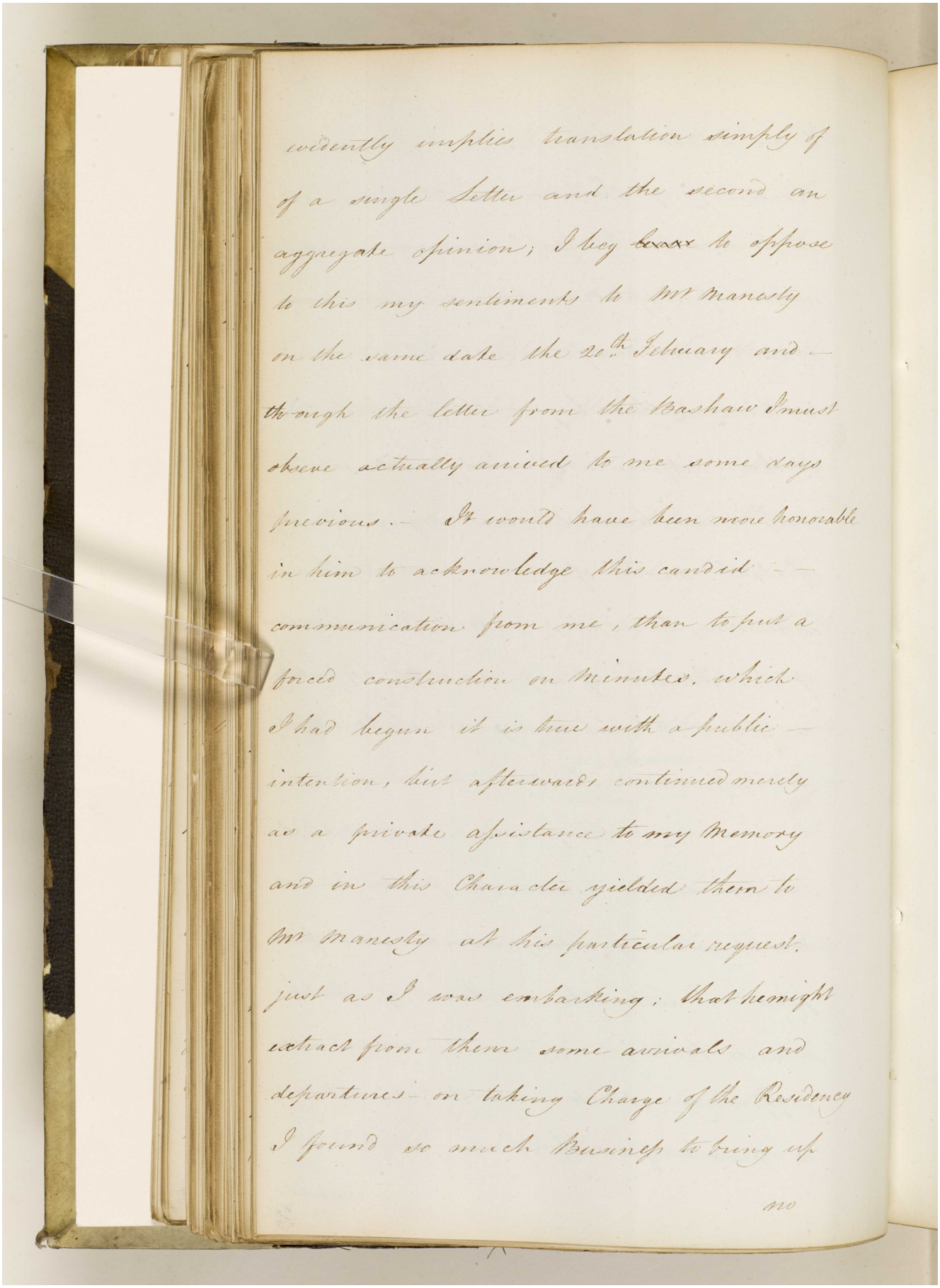

evidently implies translation simply of
of a single Letter and the second an
aggregate opinion; I beg ~~xxxx~~ to oppose
to this my sentiments to Mr Manesty
on the same date the 20th. February and —
through the letter from the Bashaw I must
observe actually arrived to me some days
previous. — It would have been more honorable
in him to acknowledge this candid —
communication from me, than to put a
forced construction on Minutes, which
I had begun it is true with a public —
intention, but afterwards continued merely
as a private assistance to my Memory
and in this Character yielded them to
Mr Manesty at his particular request,
just as I was embarking; that he might
extract from them some arrivals and
departures — on taking Charge of the Residency
I found so much Business to bring up

no

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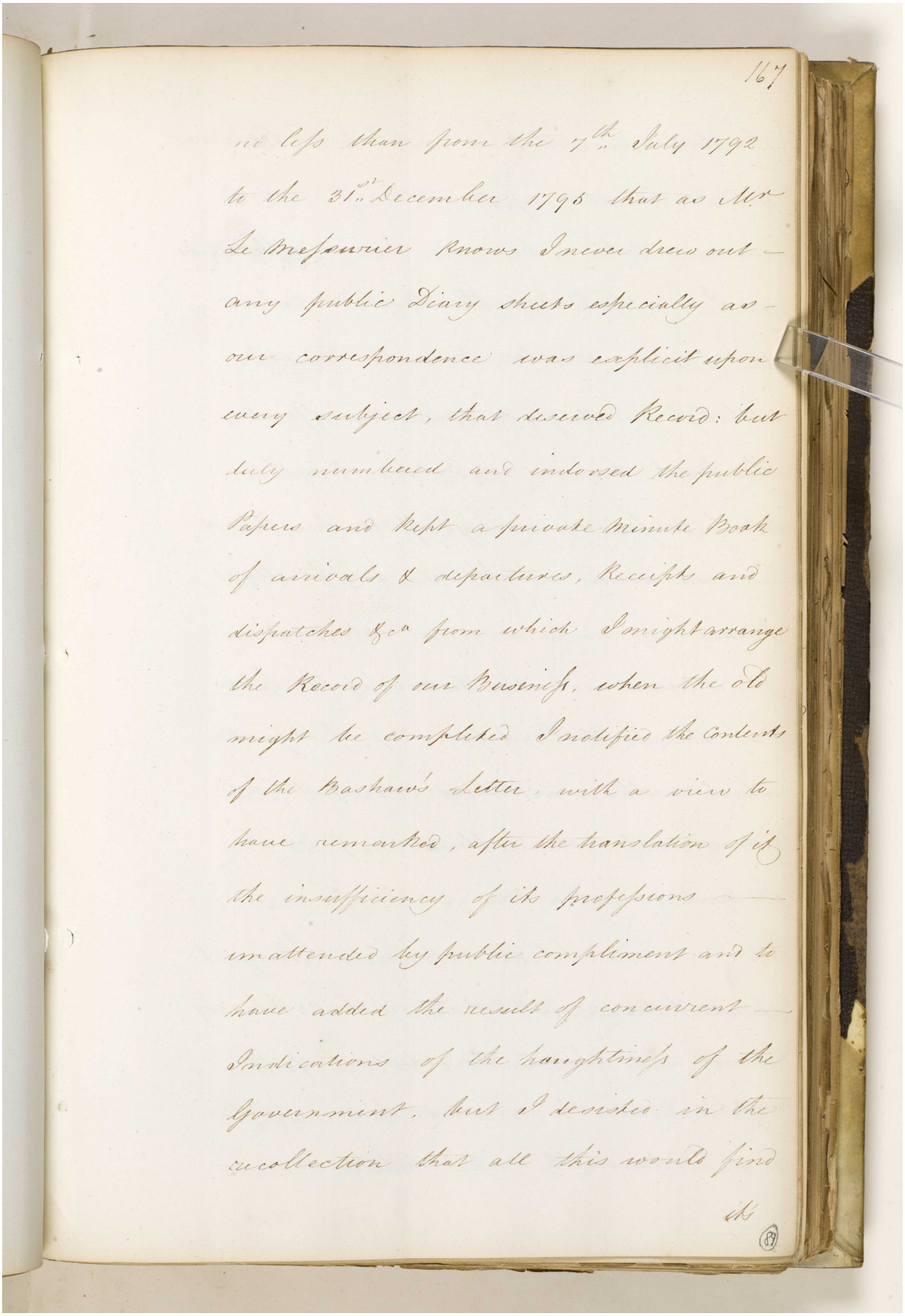
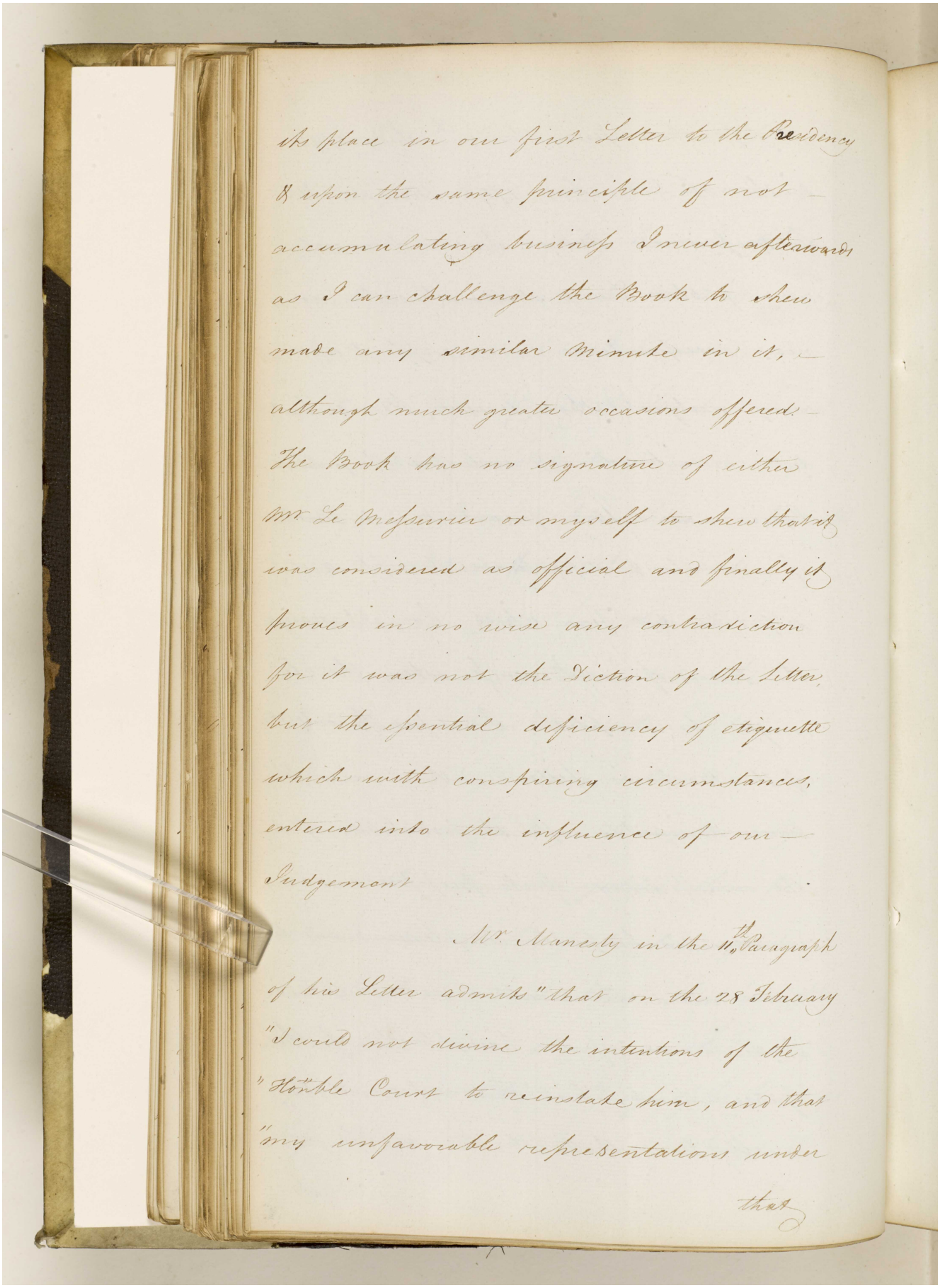


no less than from the 7th. July 1792
to the 31st. December 1795 that as Mr
Le Mesurier knows I never drew out
any public Diary sheets especially as
our correspondence was explicit upon
every subject, that deserved Record: but
duly numbered and indorsed the public
Papers and kept a private minute Book
of arrivals & departures, Receipts and
dispatches &c. from which I might arrange
the Record of our Business, when the old
might be completed I notified the Contents
of the Bashaw's Letter, with a view to
have remarked, after the translation of it
the insufficiency of its professions
unattended by public compliment and to
have added the result of concurrent
Indications of the haughtiness of the
Government, but I desisted in the
recollection that all this would find
its

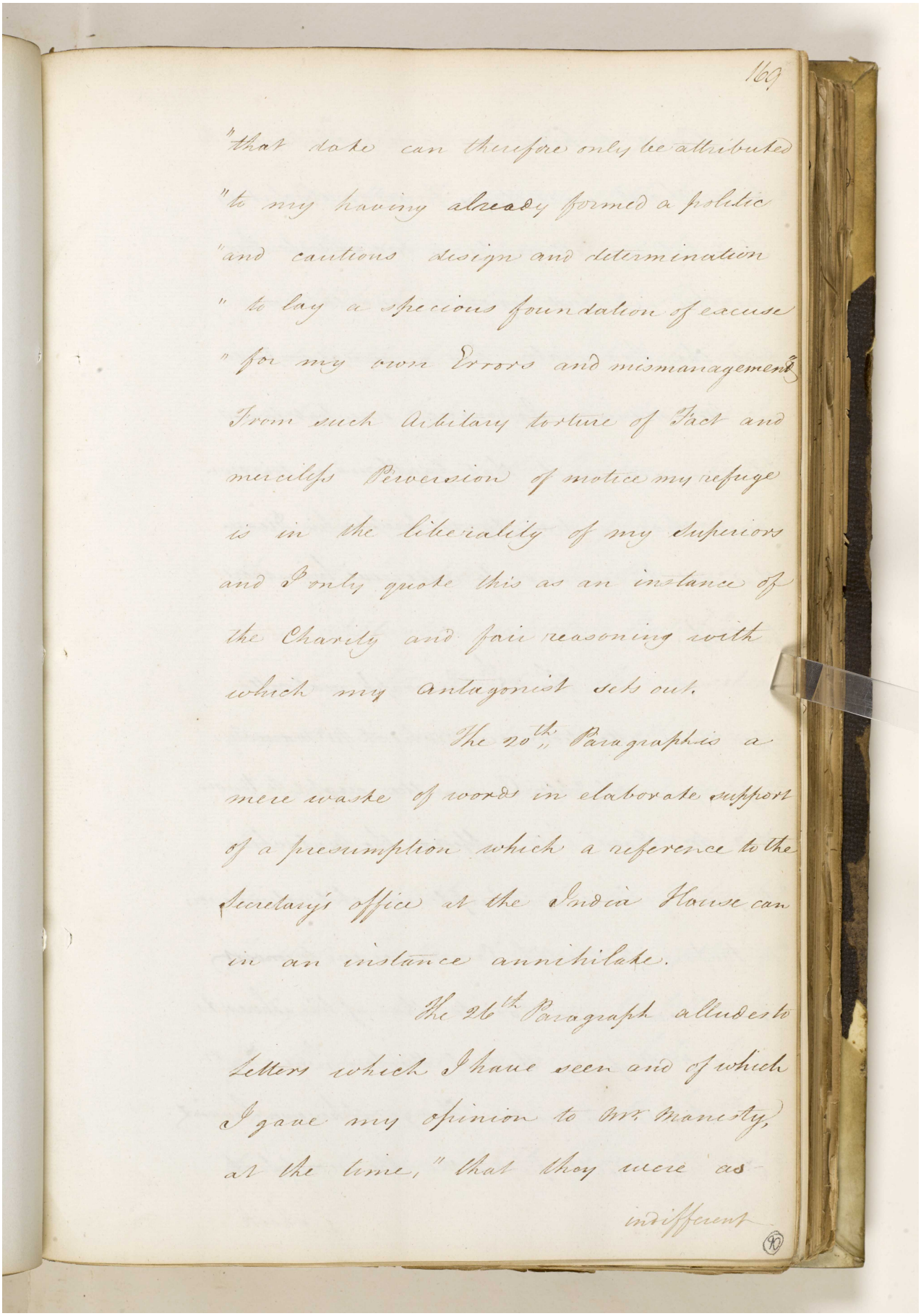
(89)



its place in our first Letter to the Residency & upon the same principle of not accumulating business I never afterwards as I can challenge the Book to shew made any similar Minute in it, although much greater occasions offered. The Book has no signature of either Mr Le Messurier or myself to shew that it was considered as official and finally it proves in no wise any contradiction for it was not the Diction of the Letter, but the essential deficiency of etiquette which with conspiring circumstances, entered into the influence of our Judgement

Mr Manesty in the 11th Paragraph of his Letter admits "that on the 28 February "I could not divine the intentions of the "Honble Court to reinstate him, and that "my unfavorable representations under

that

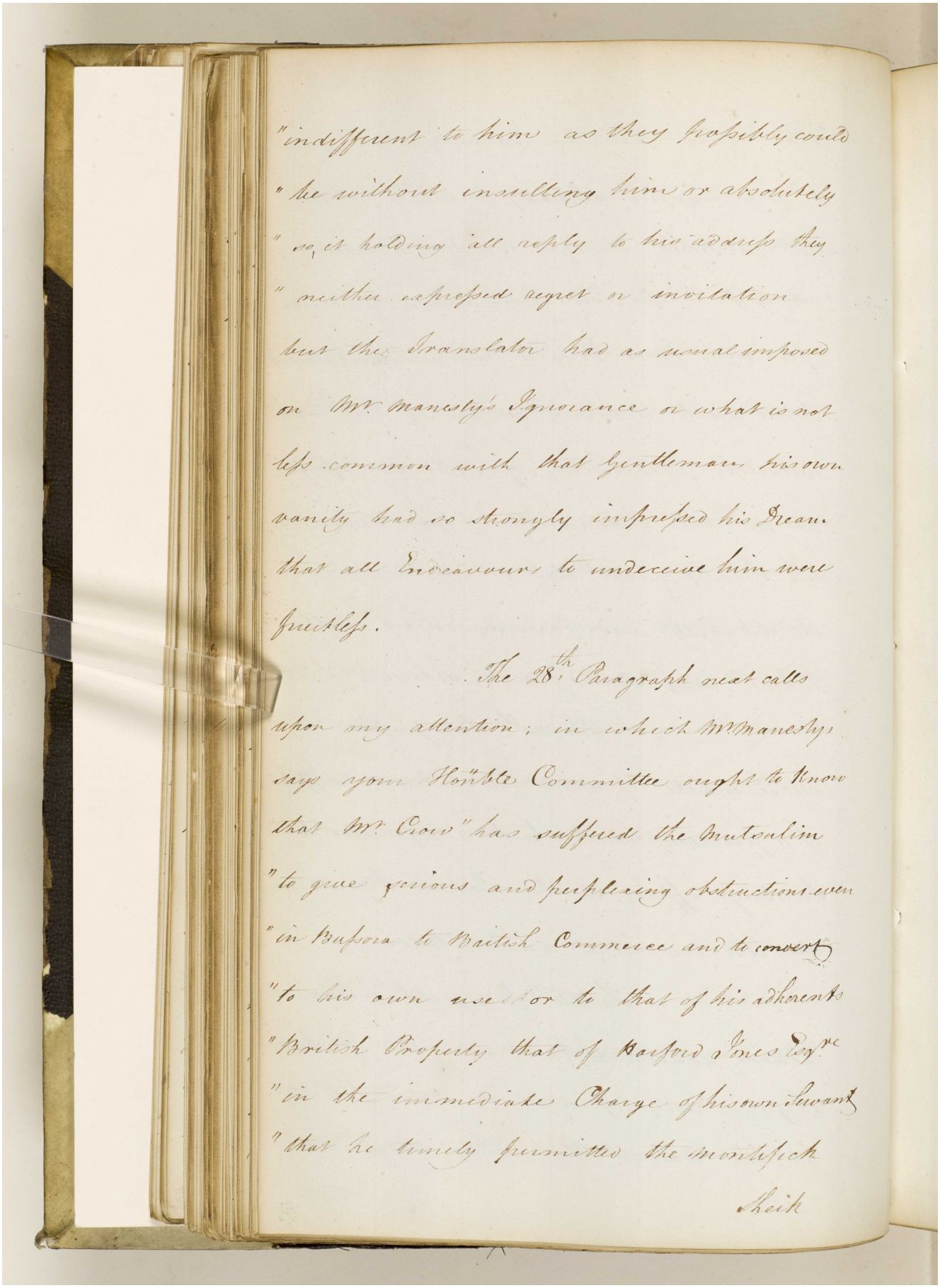


169

"that date can therefore only be attributed
"to my having already formed a politic
"and cautious design and determination
" to lay a specious foundation of excuse
" for my own Errors and mismanagement
From such Arbitary torture of Fact and
merciless Perversion of notice my refuge
is in the liberality of my Superiors
and I only quote this as an instance of
the Charity and fair reasoning with
which my antagonist sets out.

The 20th Paragraph is a
mere waste of words in elaborate support
of a presumption which a reference to the
Secretary's office at the India House can
in an instance annihilate.

The 26th Paragraph alludes to
Letters which I have seen and of which
I gave my opinion to Mr. Manesty,
at the time, "that they were as
indifferent



"indifferent to him as they possibly could
"be without insulting him or absolutely
"so, it holding all reply to his address they
"neither expressed regret or invitation
but the Translator had as usual imposed
on Mr. Manesty's Ignorance or what is not
less common with that Gentleman, his own
vanity had so strongly impressed his Dream
that all Endeavours to undeceive him were
fruitless.

The 28th Paragraph next calls
upon my attention; in which Mr. Manesty
says your Honble Committee ought to know
that Mr. Crow "has suffered the Mutsalim
"to give serious and perplexing obstructions even
"in Bussora to British Commerce and to convert
"to his own use or to that of his adherents
"British Property that of Harford Jones Esqre
"in the immediate Charge of his own Servant
"that he timely permitted the montifick

Sheik

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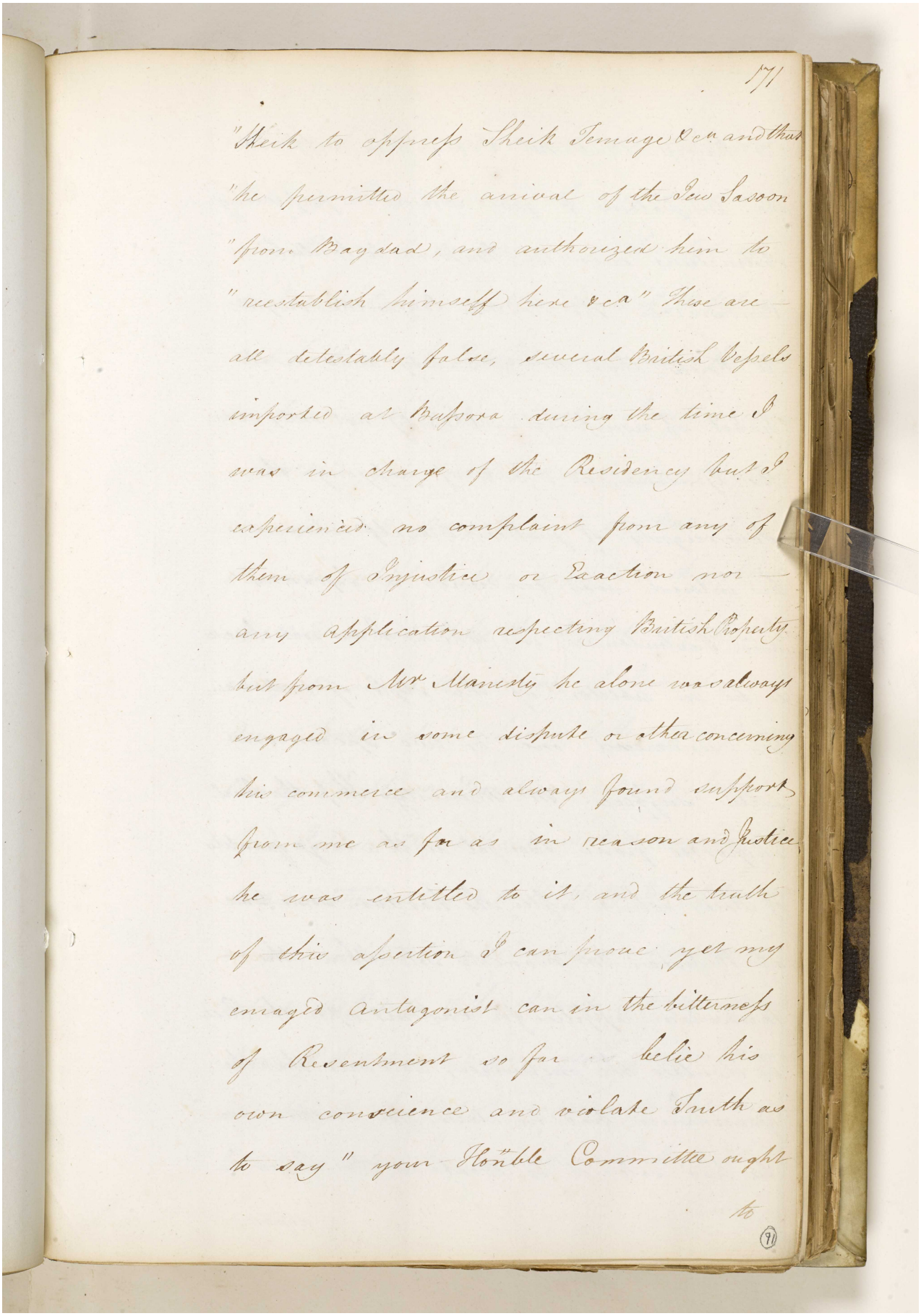
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [91r] (173/232)



"Sheik to oppress Sheik Temage &c^a and that
"he permitted the arrival of the Jew Sasoon
"from Bagdad, and authorized him to
"reestablish himself here &c^a" These are
all detestably false, several British Vessels
imported at Bussora during the time I
was in charge of the Residency but I
experienced no complaint from any of
them of Injustice or Exaction nor
any application respecting British Property
but from Mr Manesty he alone was always
engaged in some dispute or other concerning
his commerce and always found support
from me as far as in reason and Justice
he was entitled to it, and the truth
of this assertion I can prove yet my
enraged antagonist can in the bitterness
of Resentment so far belie his
own conscience and violate Truth as
to say" your Honble Committee ought

to

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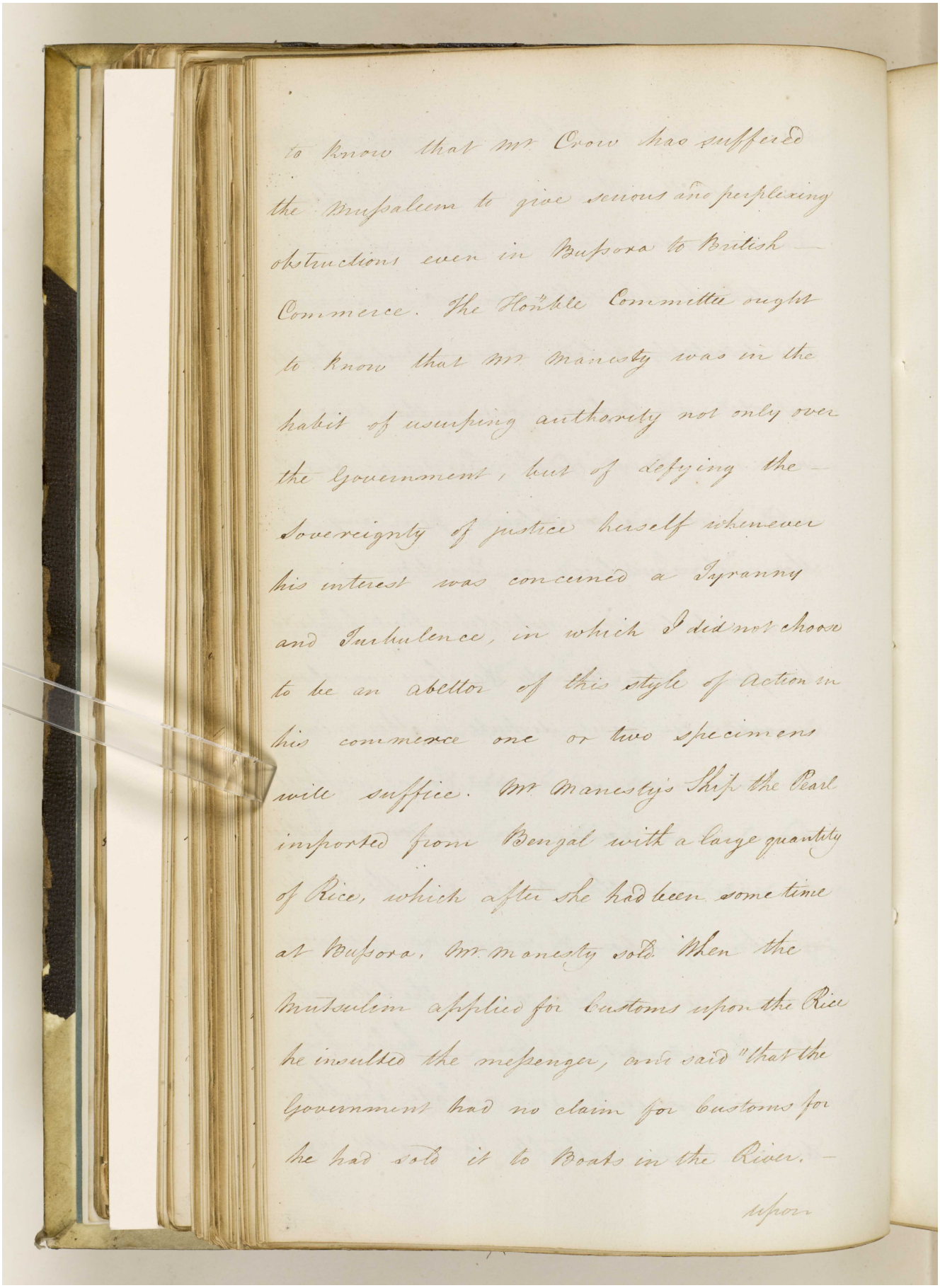

to know that Mr Crow has suffered the Mutsalem to give serious and perplexing obstructions even in Bussora to British Commerce. The Honble Committee ought to know that Mr Manesty was in the habit of usurping authority not only over the Government, but of defying the Sovereignty of justice herself whenever his interest was concerned a Tyranny and Turbulence, in which I did not choose to be an abettor of this style of Action in his commerce one or two specimens will suffice. Mr Manesty's Ship the Pearl imported from Bengal with a large quantity of Rice, which after she had been some time at Bussora, Mr Manesty sold. When the Mutsulim applied for Customs upon the Rice he insulted the messenger, and said "that the Government had no claim for Customs for he had sold it to Boats in the River. —

upon

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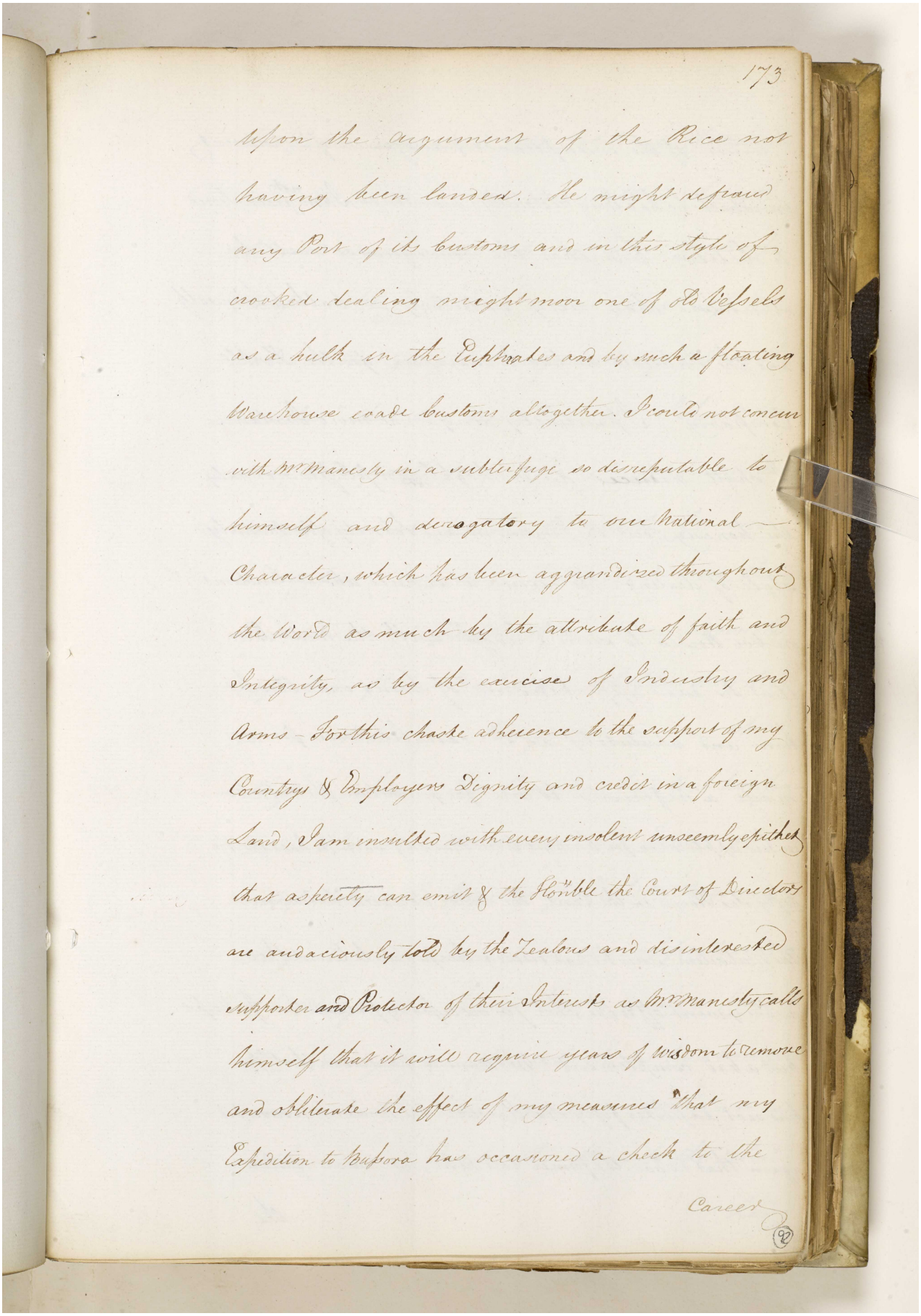
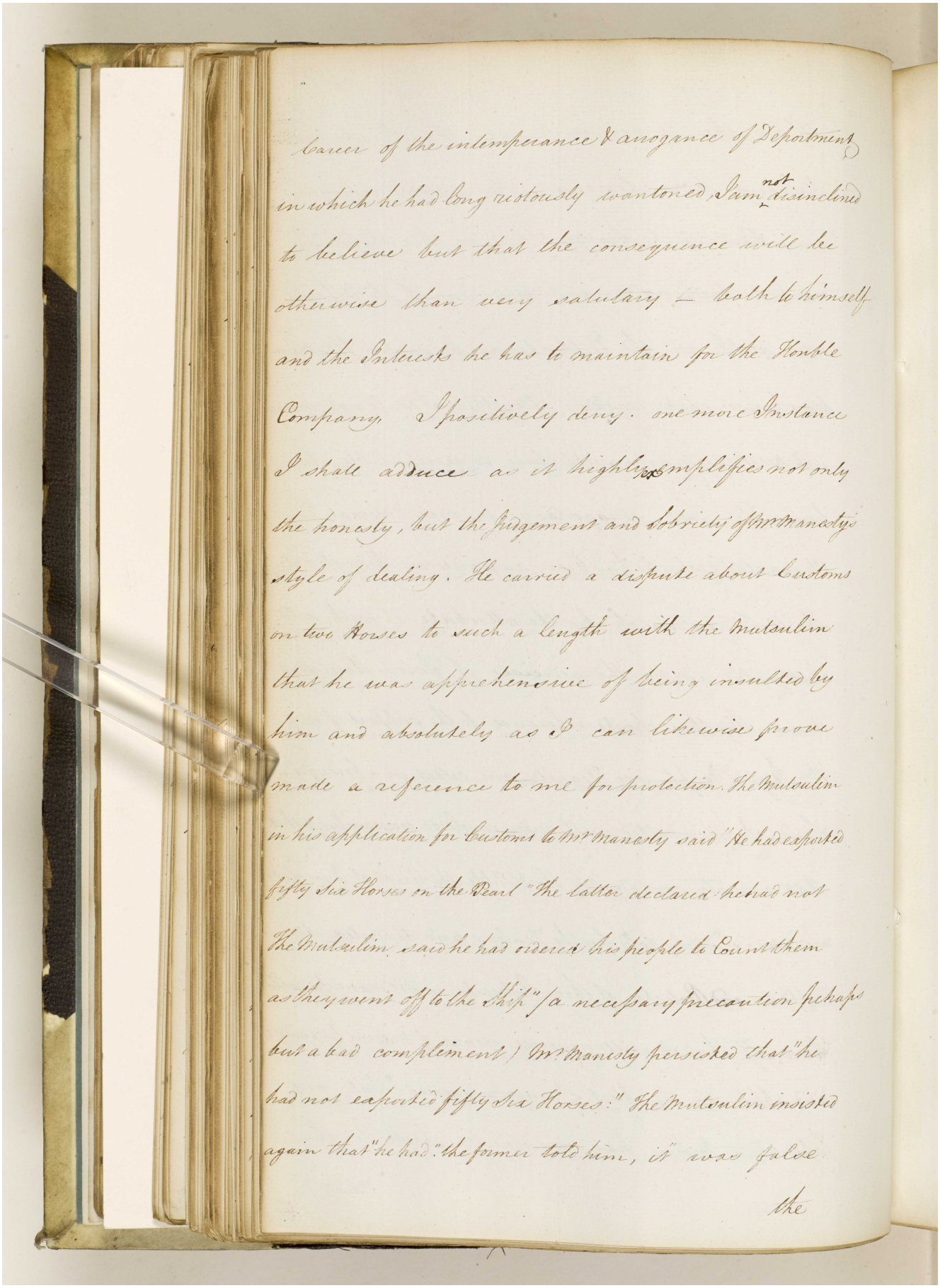


173

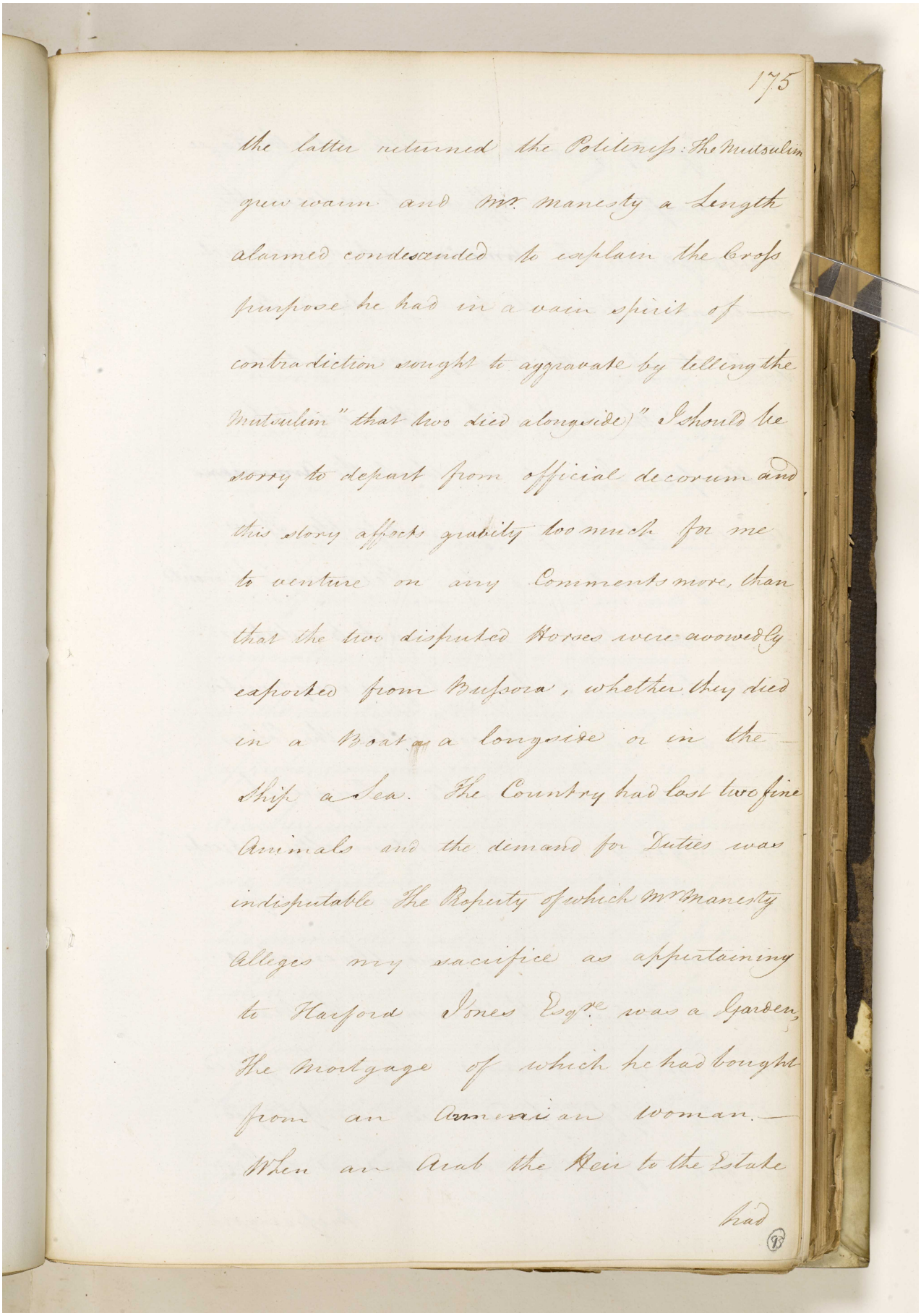
upon the argument of the Rice not
having been landed. He might defraud
any Port of its Customs and in this style of
crooked dealing might moor one of his Vessels
as a hulk in the Euphrates and by such a floating
Warehouse evade Customs altogether. I could not concur
with Mr Manesty in a subterfuge so disreputable to
himself and derogatory to our National
Character, which has been aggrandized throughout
the World as much by the attributes of faith and
Integrity, as by the exercise of Industry and
Arms - For this chaste adherence to the support of my
Country & Employers Dignity and credit in a foreign
Land, I am insulted with every insolent unseemly epithet
that asperity can emit & the Honble the Court of Directors
are audaciously told by the Zealous and disinterested
supporter and Protector of their Interests as Mr Manesty calls
himself that it will require years of wisdom to remove
and obliterate the effect of my measures "that my
Expedition to Bussora has occasioned a check to the
Career

92



bearer of the intemperance & arrogance of Deportment in which he had long riotously wantoned I am not disinclined to believe but that the consequence will be otherwise than very salutary — both to himself and the Interests he has to maintain for the Honble Company I positively deny. one more Instance I shall adduce as it highly exemplifies not only the honesty, but the Judgement and Sobriety of Mr Manesty's style of dealing. He carried a dispute about Customs on two Horses to such a length with the Mutsuddee that he was apprehensive of being insulted by him and absolutely as I can likewise prove made a reference to me for protection. The Mutsuddee in his application for Customs to Mr Manesty said "He had exported fifty six Horses on the Pearl" The latter declared he had not The Mutsuddee said he had ordered his people to Count them as they went off to the Ship" / a necessary precaution perhaps but a bad compliment / Mr Manesty persisted that "he had not exported fifty six Horses!" The Mutsuddee insisted again that "he had" the former told him, it was false

the



175

the latter returned the Politeness: The Mutsulim grew warm and Mr. Manesty a Length alarmed condescended to explain the Cross purpose he had in a vain spirit of contradiction sought to aggravate by telling the Mutsulim "that two died alongside)" I should be sorry to depart from official decorum and this story affords gravity too much for me to venture on any Comments more, than that the two disputed Horses were avowedly exported from Bussora, whether they died in a Boat or alongside or in the Ship at Sea. The Country had lost two fine Animals and the demand for Duties was indisputable The Property of which Mr Manesty alleges my sacrifice as appertaining to Harford Jones Esqre was a Garden, the mortgage of which he had bought from an Armenian woman. When an Arab the Heir to the Estate had

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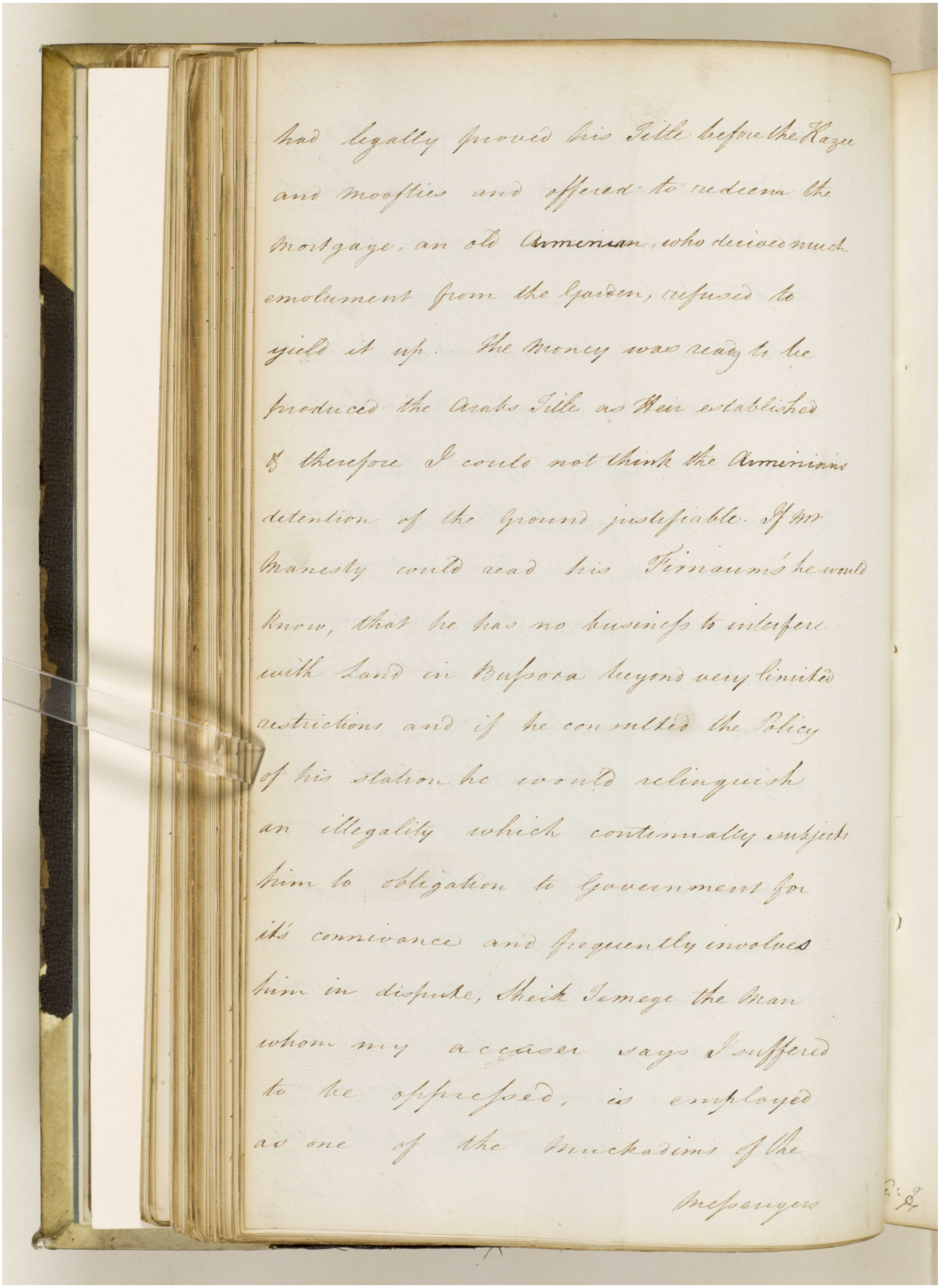

had legally proved his Title before the Kaze and mooftie and offered to redeem the Mortgage, an old Armenian, who derived much emolument from the Garden, refused to yield it up. The Money was ready to be produced the Arabs Title as Heir established & therefore I could not think the Armenians detention of the Ground justifiable. If Mr Manesty could read his Firmaun's he would know, that he has no business to interfere with Land in Bussora beyond very limited restrictions and if he committed the Policy of his station he would relinquish an illegality which continually subjects him to obligation to Government for its connivance and frequently involves him in dispute, Sheik Jemeye the Man whom my accuser says I suffered to be oppressed, is employed as one of the Muckadims of the

Messengers

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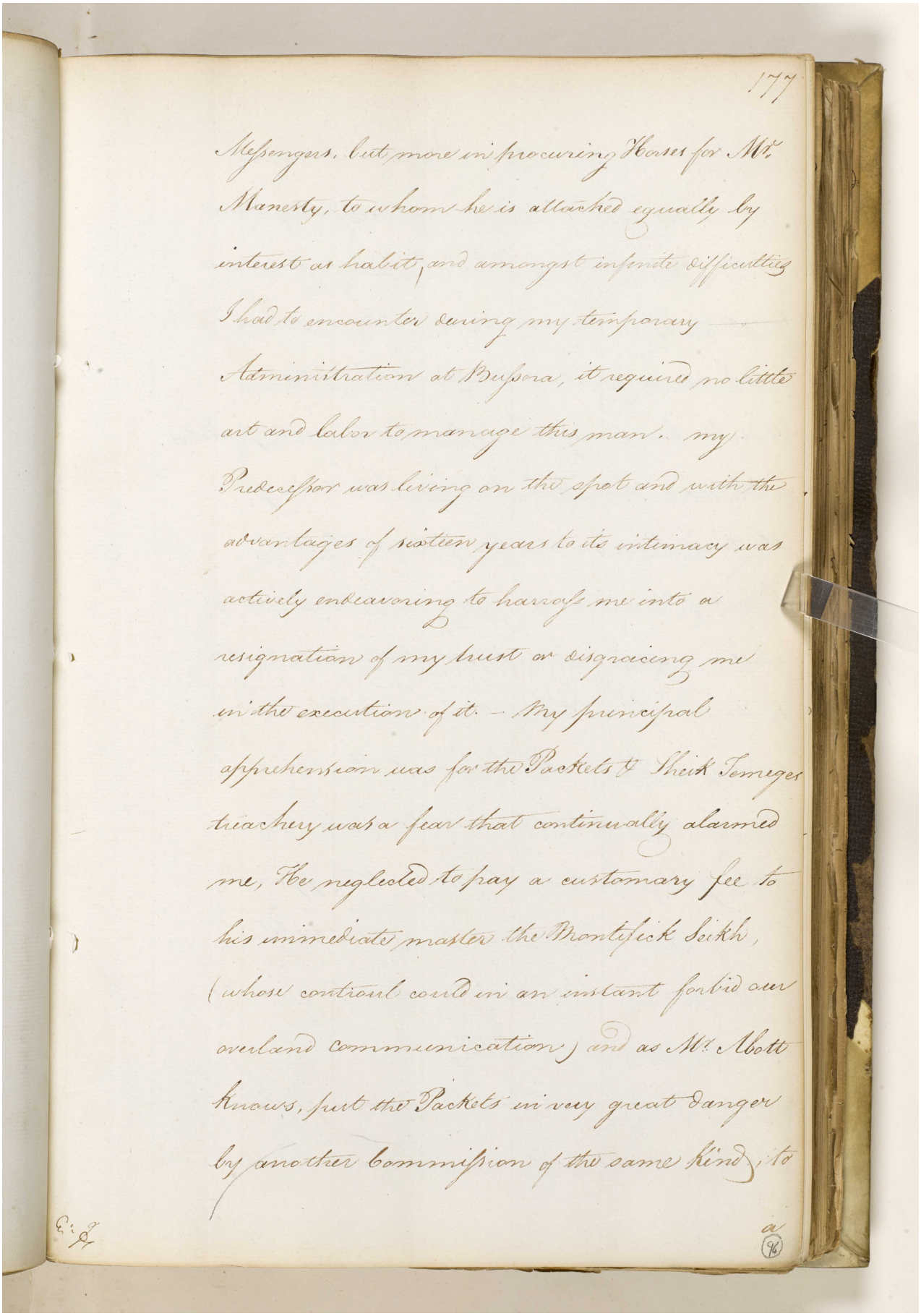
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [94r] (179/232)



Messengers, but more in procuring Horses for Mr. Manesty, to whom he is attached equally by interest as habit, and amongst infinite difficulties I had to encounter during my temporary Administration at Bussora, it required no little art and labor to manage this man. my Predecessor was living on the spot and with the advantages of sixteen years to its intimacy was actively endeavoring to harrass me into a resignation of my trust or disgracing me in the execution of it. — My principal apprehension was for the Packets & Sheik Temeges treachery was a fear that continually alarmed me, He neglected to pay a customary fee to his immediate master the Montifick Seikh, (whose controul could in an instant forbid our overland communication) and as Mr. Abott knows, put the Packets in very great danger by another Commission of the same kind, to

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(96)

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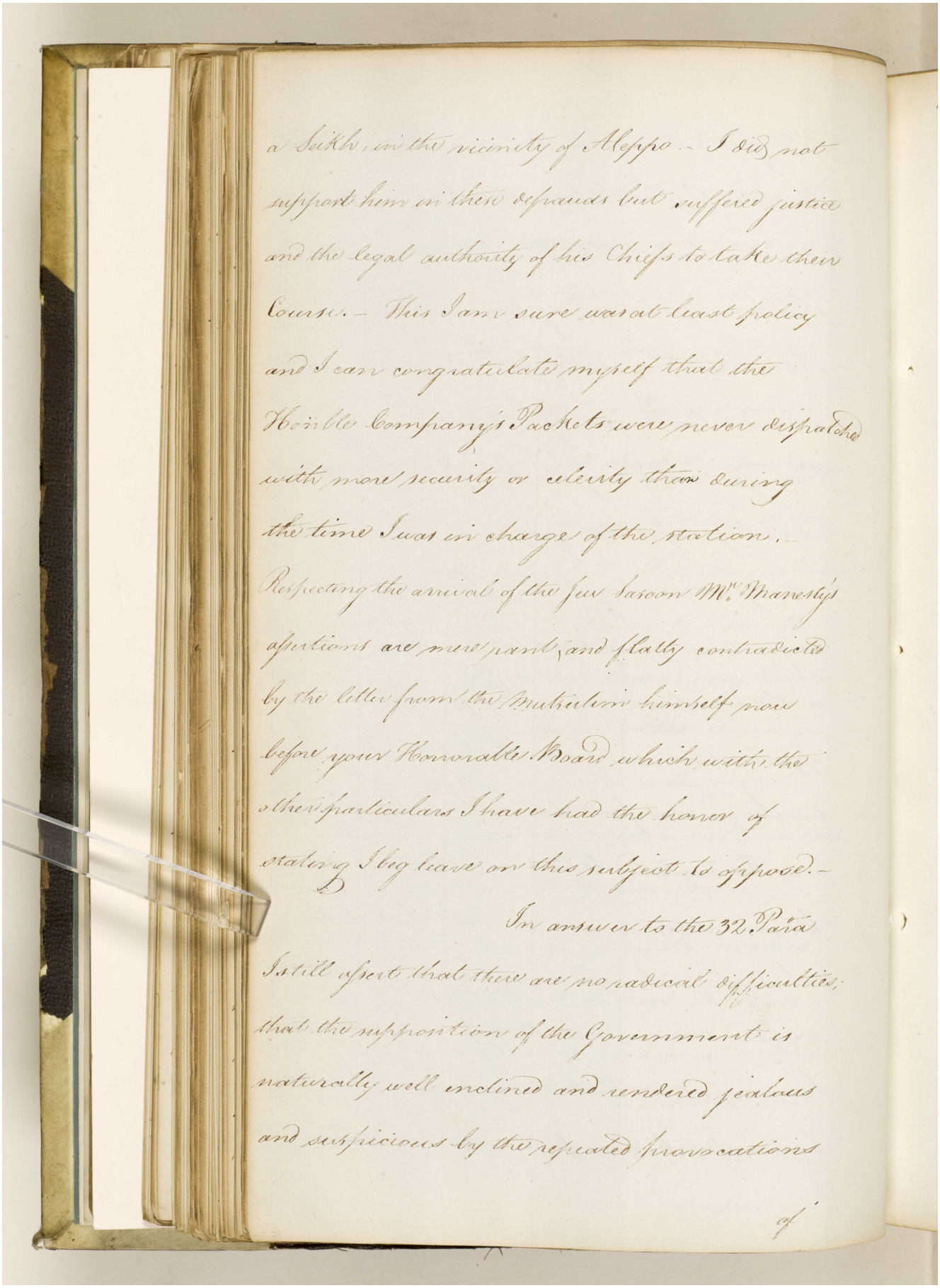

a Seikh, in the vicinity of Aleppo. – I did not support him in these defrauds but suffered justice and the legal authority of his Chiefs to take their Course. – This I am sure was at least policy and I can congratulate myself that the Hon'ble Company's Packets were never dispatched with more security or celerity than during the time I was in charge of the station. – Respecting the arrival of the Jew Sasoon Mr. Manesty's assertions are mere rant, and flatly contradicted by the letter from the Mutsulim himself now before your Honorable Board which with the other particulars I have had the honor of stating I beg leave on this subject to oppose. –

In answer to the 32 Para I still assert that there are no radical difficulties; that the supposition of the Government is naturally well inclined and rendered jealous and suspicious by the repeated provocations

of

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of Mr Manesty's arrogance, intemperance and injustice, instead of confining himself in a sober dignified manner to the Affairs of his station, He seeks to be Governor of the Town and to rival the Bashaw in the jurisdiction of his own territories.—

Respecting the recommendations I offered for the better dispatch of the Packets I yet maintain that they are feasible and eligible but I do not expect that Mr Manesty will allow them any merit.—

On the 3d Paras I have to observe from the authority of His Britannic Majesty's Change de Affaires at Constantinople, that a Jew named Reuben, forced from Bagdad by the disputes of the Residency has entered most Zealously into the service of the French Ambassador, and from his very great ability is considered as no little acquisition to the

Household

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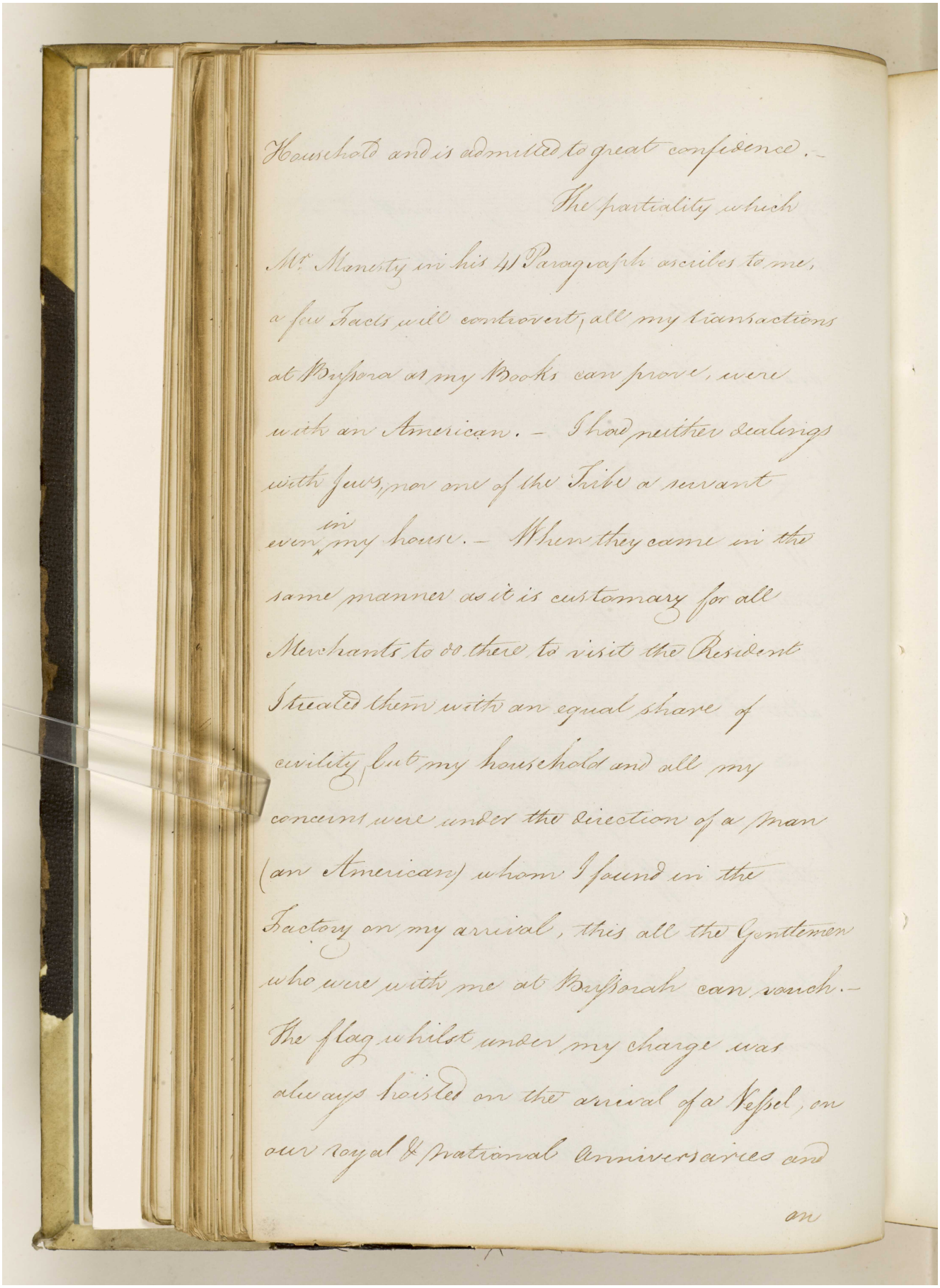

Household and is admitted to great confidence.—

The partiality which Mr. Manesty in his 41 Paragraph ascribes to me, a few Facts will controvert, all my transactions at Bussora as my Books can prove, were with an American.— I had neither dealings with Jews, nor one of the Tribe a servant in even my house.— When they came in the same manner as it is customary for all Merchants to do there, to visit the Resident I treated them with an equal share of civility but my household and all my concerns were under the direction of a man (an American) whom I found in the Factory on my arrival, this all the Gentlemen who were with me at Bussorah can vouch.— The flag whilst under my charge was always hoisted on the arrival of a Vessel, on our royal & national Anniversaries and

on

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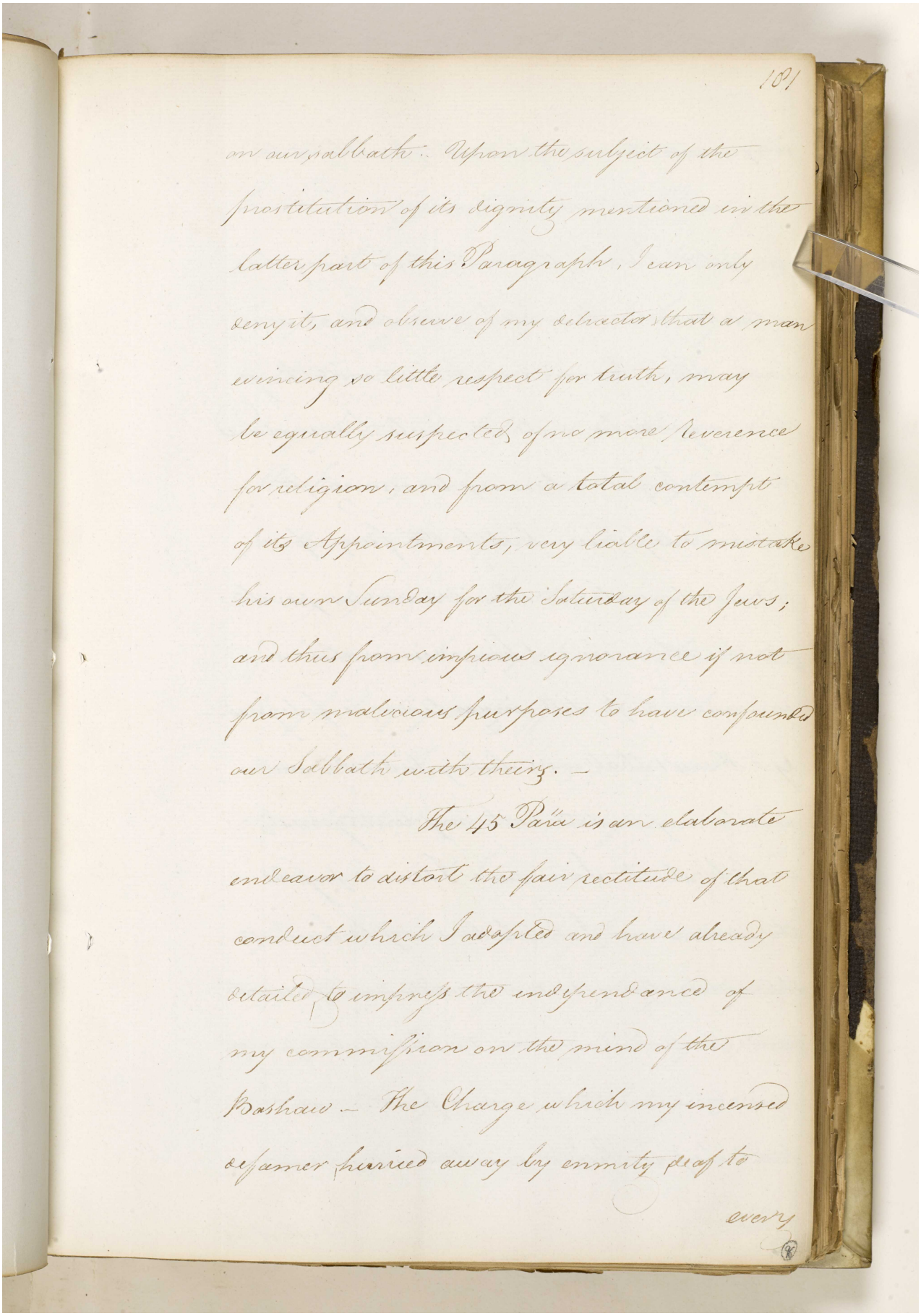
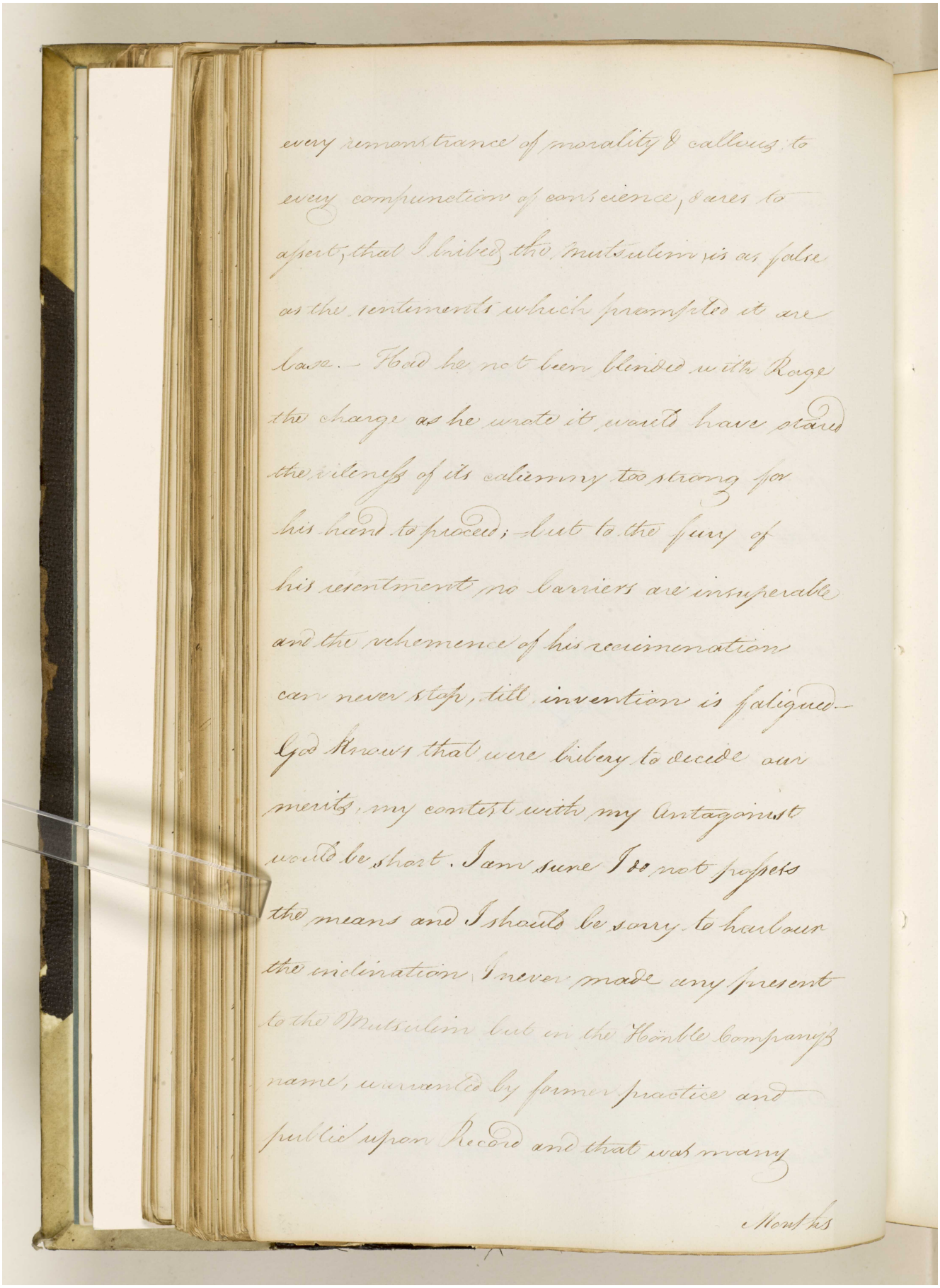


on our sabbath. Upon the subject of the prostitution of its dignity mentioned in the latter part of this Paragraph, I can only deny it, and observe of my detractor that a man evincing so little respect for truth, may be equally suspected of no more reverence for religion, and from a total contempt of its Appointments, very liable to mistake his own Sunday for the Saturday of the Jews; and thus from impious ignorance if not from malicious purposes to have confounded our Sabbath with theirs. —

The 45 Para is an elaborate endeavor to distort the fair rectitude of that conduct which I adopted and have already detailed to impress the independance of my commission on the mind of the Bashaw — The Charge which my incensed defamer hurried away by enmity prest to

every



every remonstrance of morality & callous to every compunction of conscience, dares to assert, that I bribed the Mutsuddies is as false as the sentiments which prompted it are base. — Had he not been blinded with Rage the charge as he wrote it, would have stood the niceness of its calumny too strong for his hand to proceed; but to the fury of his resentment no barriers are insuperable and the vehemence of his recrimination can never stop, till invention is fatigued. — God knows that were bribery to decide our merits, my contest with my Antagonist would be short. I am sure I do not possess the means and I should be sorry to harbour the inclination. I never made any present to the Mutsuddies but in the Honble Company's name, warranted by former practice and public upon Record and that was many

Months

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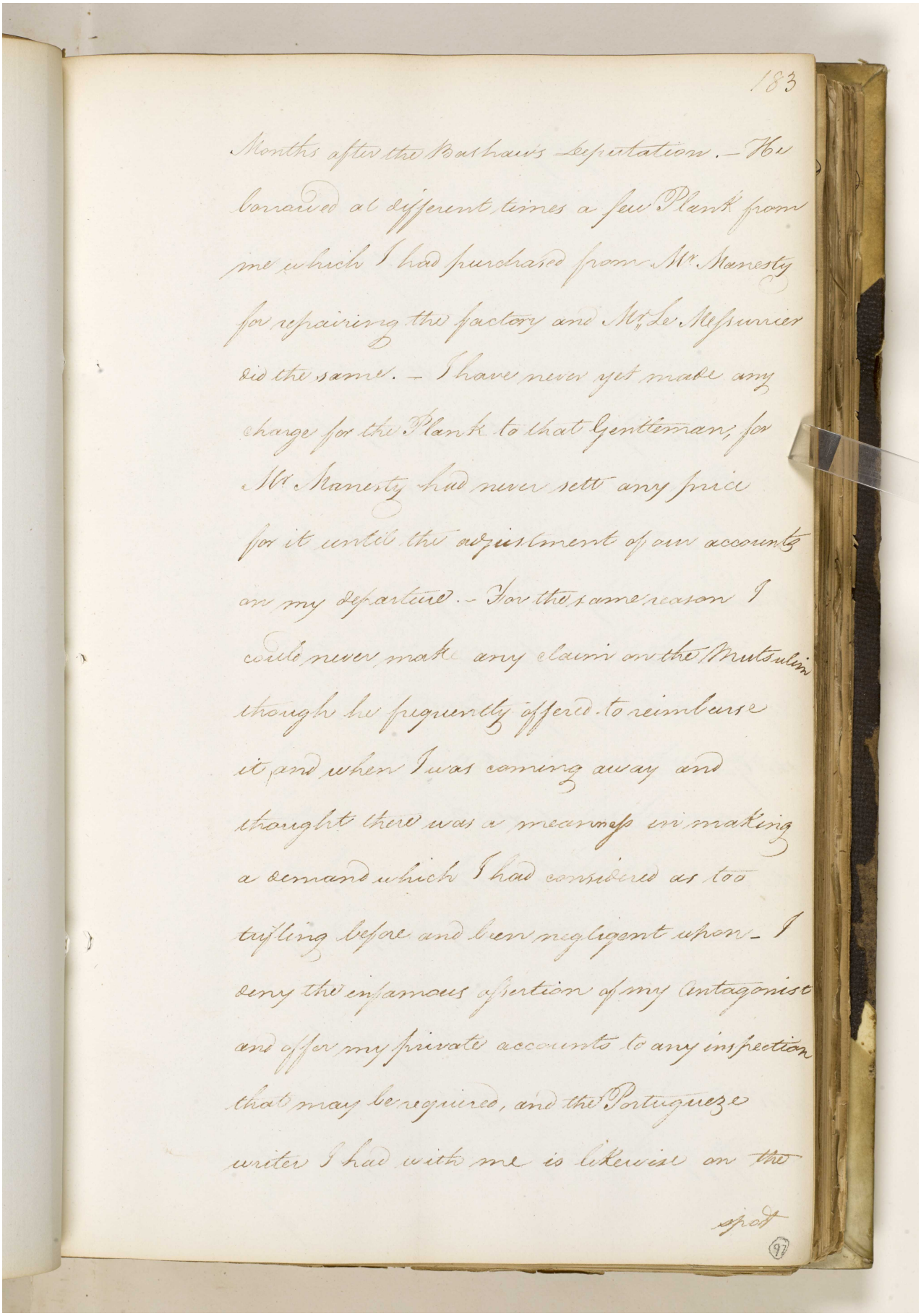
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [97r] (185/232)



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Months after the Bashaw's Deputation. — He borrowed at different times a few Plank from me which I had purchased from Mr Manesty for repairing the factory and Mr Le Messurier did the same. — I have never yet made any charge for the Plank to that Gentleman, for Mr Manesty had never sett any price for it until the adjustment of our accounts on my departure. — For the same reason I could never make any claim on the Mutsulim though he frequently offered to reimburse it, and when I was coming away and thought there was a meanness in making a demand which I had considered as too trifling before and been negligent upon — I deny the infamous assertion of my Antagonist and offer my private accounts to any inspection that may be required, and the Portugueze writer I had with me is likewise on the

spot

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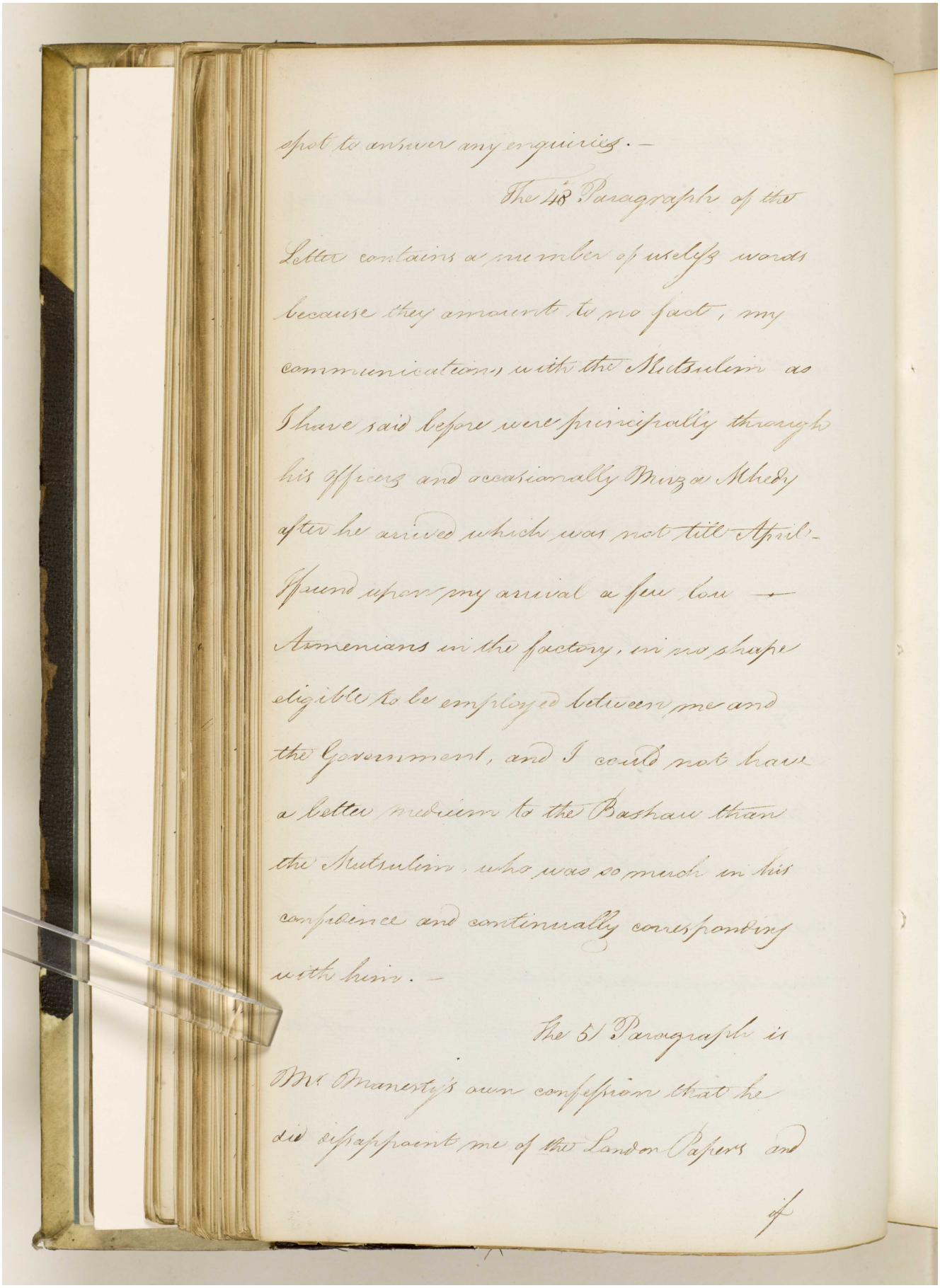

spot to answer any enquiries. —

The 48 Paragraph of the Letter contains a number of useless words because they amount to no fact, my communications with the Mutsulim as I have said before were principally through his offices and occasionally Mirza Mehdy after he arrived which was not till April — I found upon my arrival a few low — Armenians in the factory, in no shape eligible to be employed between me and the Government, and I could not have a better medium to the Bashaw than the Mutsulim, who was so much in his confidence and continually corresponding with him. —

The 51 Paragraph is Mr Manesty's own confession that he did disappoint me of the London Papers and

if

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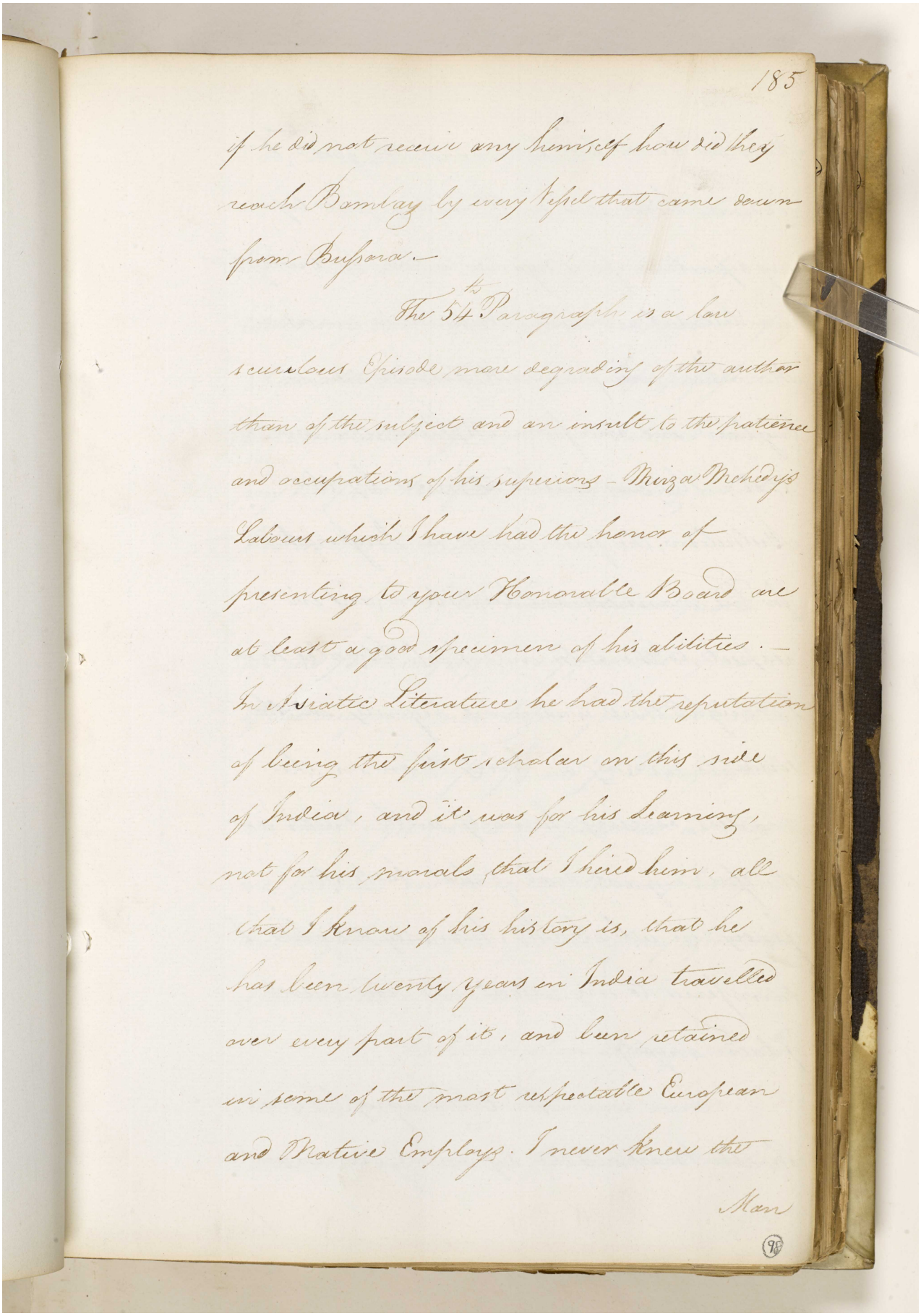

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if he did not receive any from self how did they reach Bombay by every Vessel that came down from Bussora —

The 54th Paragraph is a low scurulous Episode more degrading of the author than of the subject and an insult to the patience and occupations of his superiors — Mirza Mehedys Labours which I have had the honor of presenting to your Honorable Board are at least a good specimen of his abilities. — In Asiatic Literature he had that reputation of being the first scholar on this side of India, and it was for his learning, not for his morals that I hired him, all that I know of his history is, that he has been twenty years in India travelled over every part of it, and been retained in some of the most respectable European and Native Employs. I never knew the

Man

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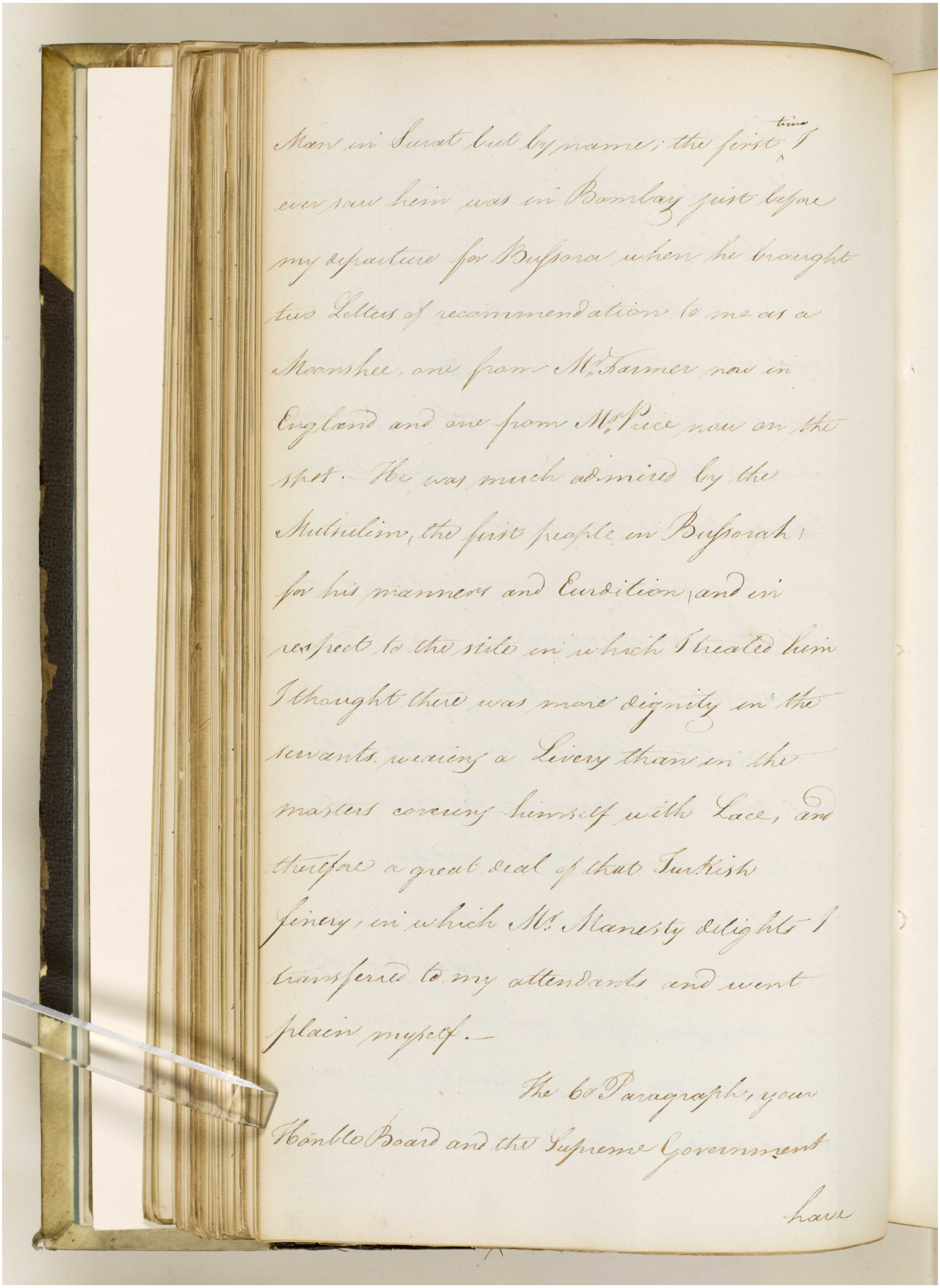

Man in Surat but by name; the first time I ever saw him was in Bombay just before my departure for Bussora when he brought two Letters of recommendation to me as a Moonshee, one from Mr Farmer now in England and one from Mr Price now on the spot. He was much admired by the Mahrattas, the first people in Bussorah, for his manners and Erudition, and in respect to the stile in which I treated him I thought there was more dignity in the servants wearing a Livery than in the masters covering himself with Lace, and therefore a great deal of that Turkish finery, in which Mr Manesty delights I transferred to my attendants and went plain myself.

The 6th Paragraph, your Honble Board and the Supreme Government have

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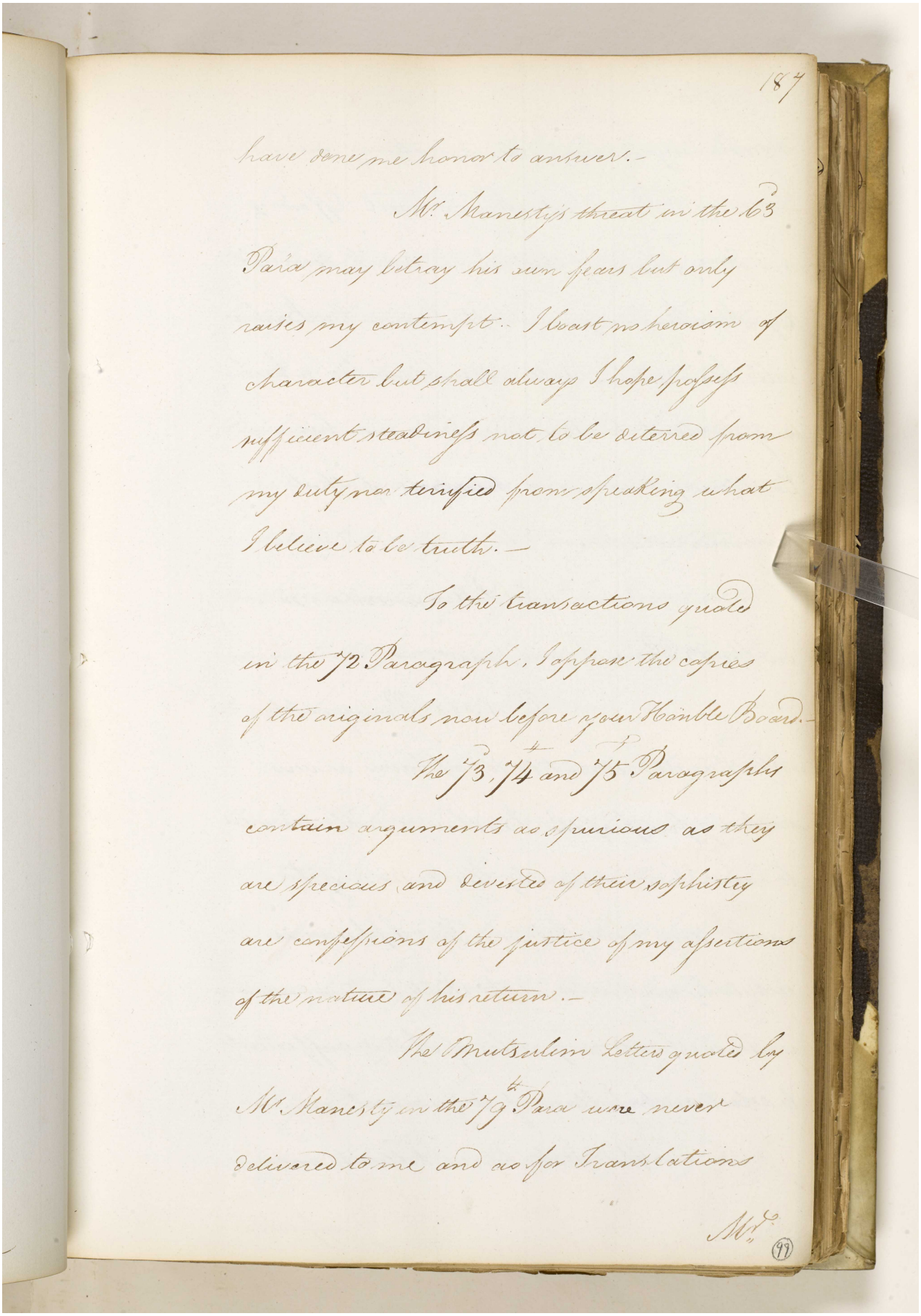

have done me honor to answer.—

Mr. Manesty's threat in the 63d Para may betray his own fears but only raises my contempt.— I boast no heroism of character but shall always I hope possess sufficient steadiness not to be deterred from my duty nor terrified from speaking what I believe to be truth.—

To the transactions quoted in the 72d Paragraph, I oppose the copies of the originals now before your Honble Board.—

The 73d, 74th and 75th Paragraphs contain arguments as spurious as they are specious and deserve of their sophistry are confessions of the justice of my assertions of the nature of his return.—

The Mutsulim Letters quoted by Mr. Manesty in the 79th Para were never delivered to me and as for Translations

Mr.

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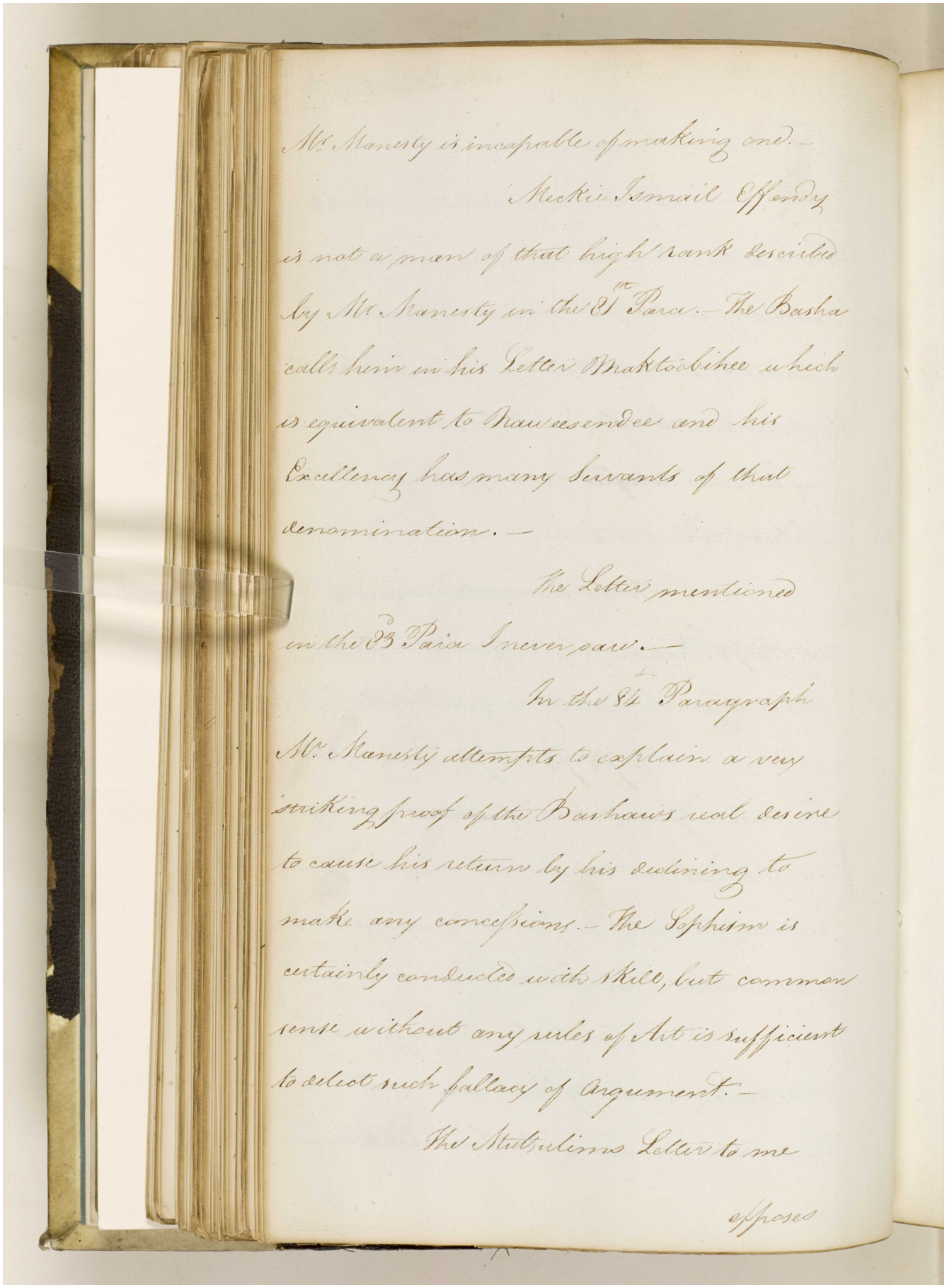

Mr Manesty is incapable of making one.—

Meckie Ismail Effendy

is not a man of that high rank described

by Mr Manesty in the 21st Para.—The Basha

calls him in his Letter Maktoobihee which

is equivalent to Nauresendee and his

Excellency has many Servants of that

denomination.—

The Letter mentioned

in the 23 Para I never saw.—

In the 24th Paragraph

Mr Manesty attempts to explain a very

striking proof of the Bashaws real desire

to cause his return by his declining to

make any concessions.—The Sophism is

certainly conducted with skill, but common

sense without any rules of Art is sufficient

to detect such fallacy of Argument.—

The Mutsulims Letter to me

opposed

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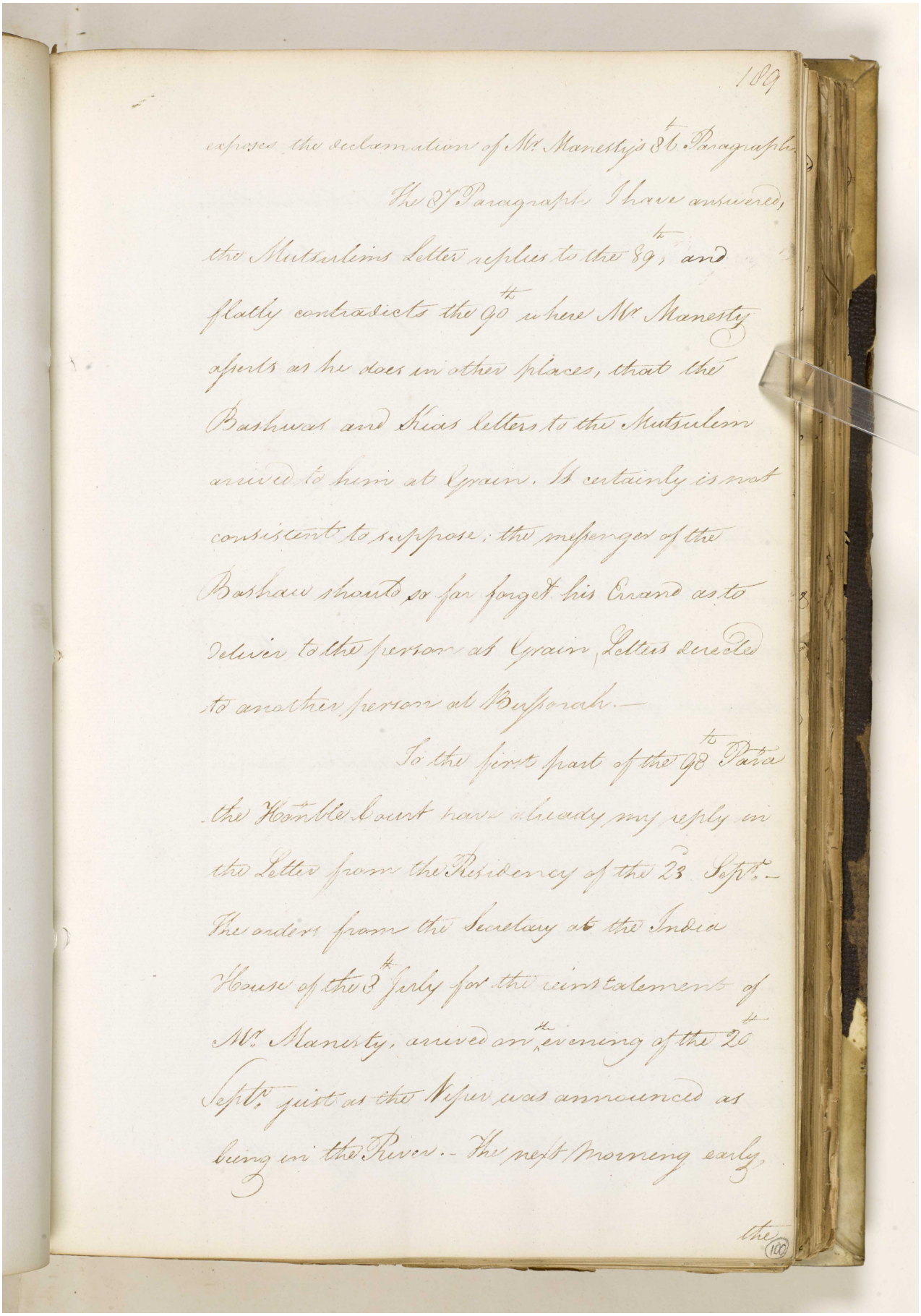

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exposes the exclamation of Mr Manesty's 86th Paragraph.

The 87th Paragraph I have answered, the Muttesulems Letter replies to the 89th, and flatly contradicts the 90th where Mr Manesty asserts as he does in other places, that the Bashaws and Kias letters to the Muttesulem arrived to him at Grain. It certainly is not consistent to suppose, the messenger of the Bashaw should so far forget his Errand as to deliver to the person at Grain, Letters directed to another person at Bussorah.—

To the first part of the 98th Para the Honble Court have already my reply in the Letter from the Residency of the 23 Sept.— The orders from the Secretary of the India House of the 3d July for the reinstatement of Mr Manesty, arrived on the evening of the 20th Sept. just as the Viper was announced as being in the River.— The next morning early

the

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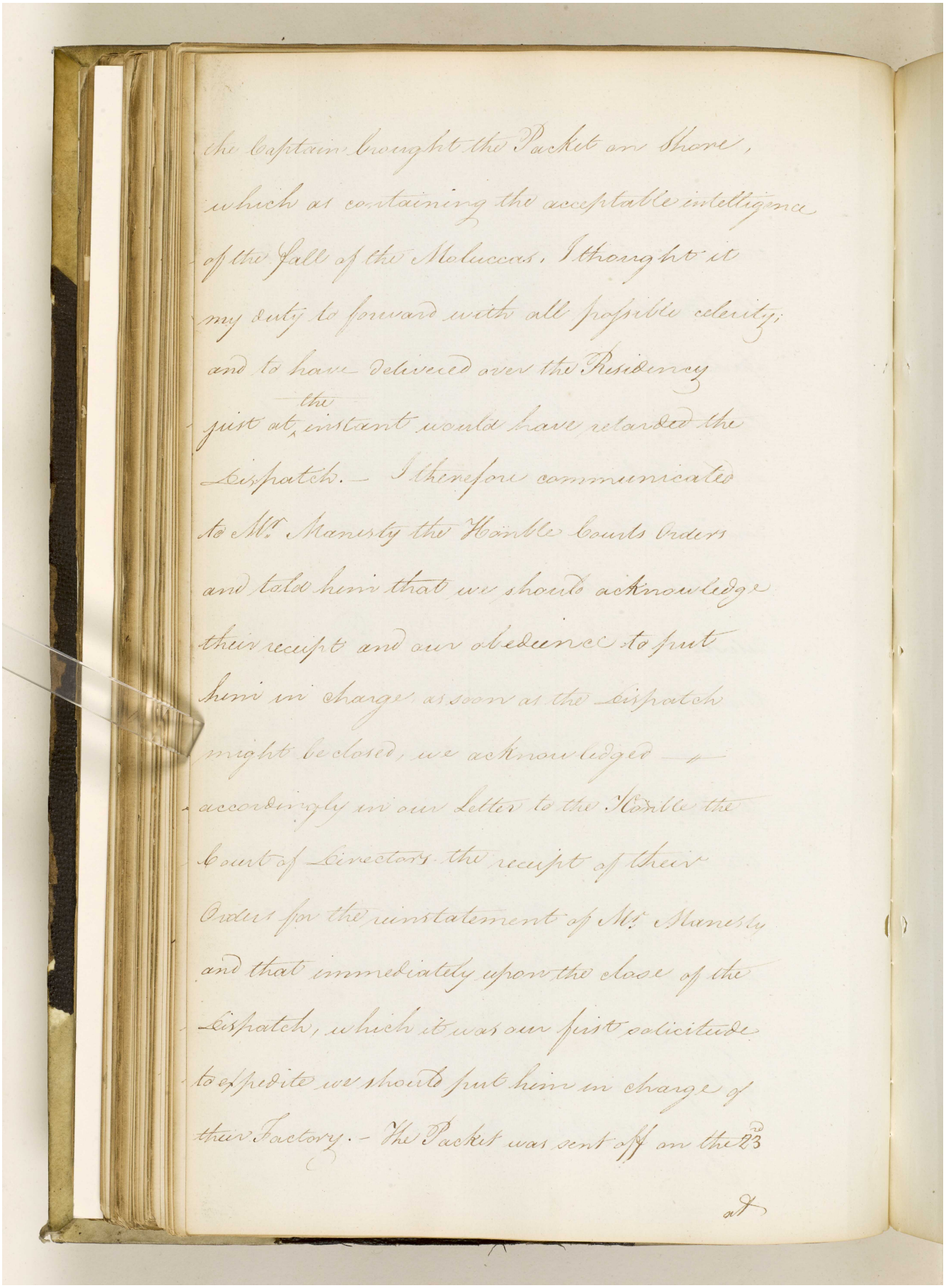

the Captain brought the Packet on Shore,
which as containing the acceptable intelligence
of the Fall of the Moluccas, I thought it
my duty to forward with all possible celerity;
and to have delivered over the Residency
just at the instant would have retarded the
Dispatch. — I therefore communicated
to Mr. Manesty the Honble Courts Orders
and told him that we should acknowledge
their receipt and our obedience to put
him in charge as soon as the Dispatch
might be closed, we acknowledged —
accordingly in our Letter to the Honble the
Court of Directors the receipt of their
Orders for the reinstatement of Mr. Manesty
and that immediately upon the close of the
Dispatch, which it was our first solicitude
to expedite we should put him in charge of
their Factory. — The Packet was sent off on the 23d

at

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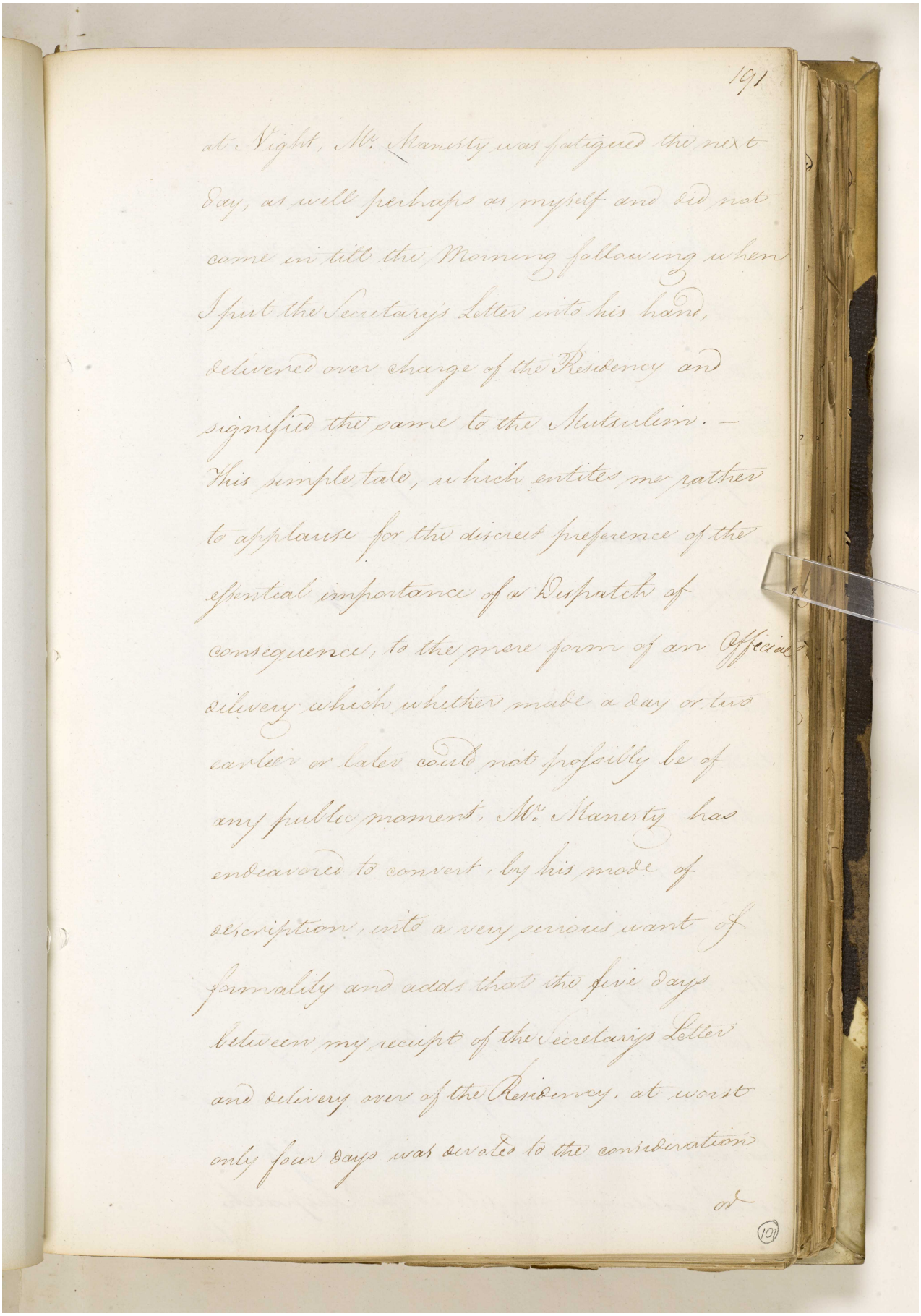

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at Night, Mr. Manesty was fatigued the next
day, as well perhaps as myself and did not
come in till the Morning following when
I put the Secretary's Letter into his hand,
delivered over charge of the Residency and
signified the same to the Mutsuleim. —
This simple tale, which entitles me rather
to applause for the discreet preference of the
essential importance of a Dispatch of
consequence, to the mere form of an Official
delivery, which whether made a day or two
earlier or later could not possibly be of
any public moment, Mr. Manesty has
endeavored to convert, by his mode of
description, into a very serious want of
formality and adds that the five days
between my receipt of the Secretary's Letter
and delivery over of the Residency, at worst
only four days was devoted to the consideration
of

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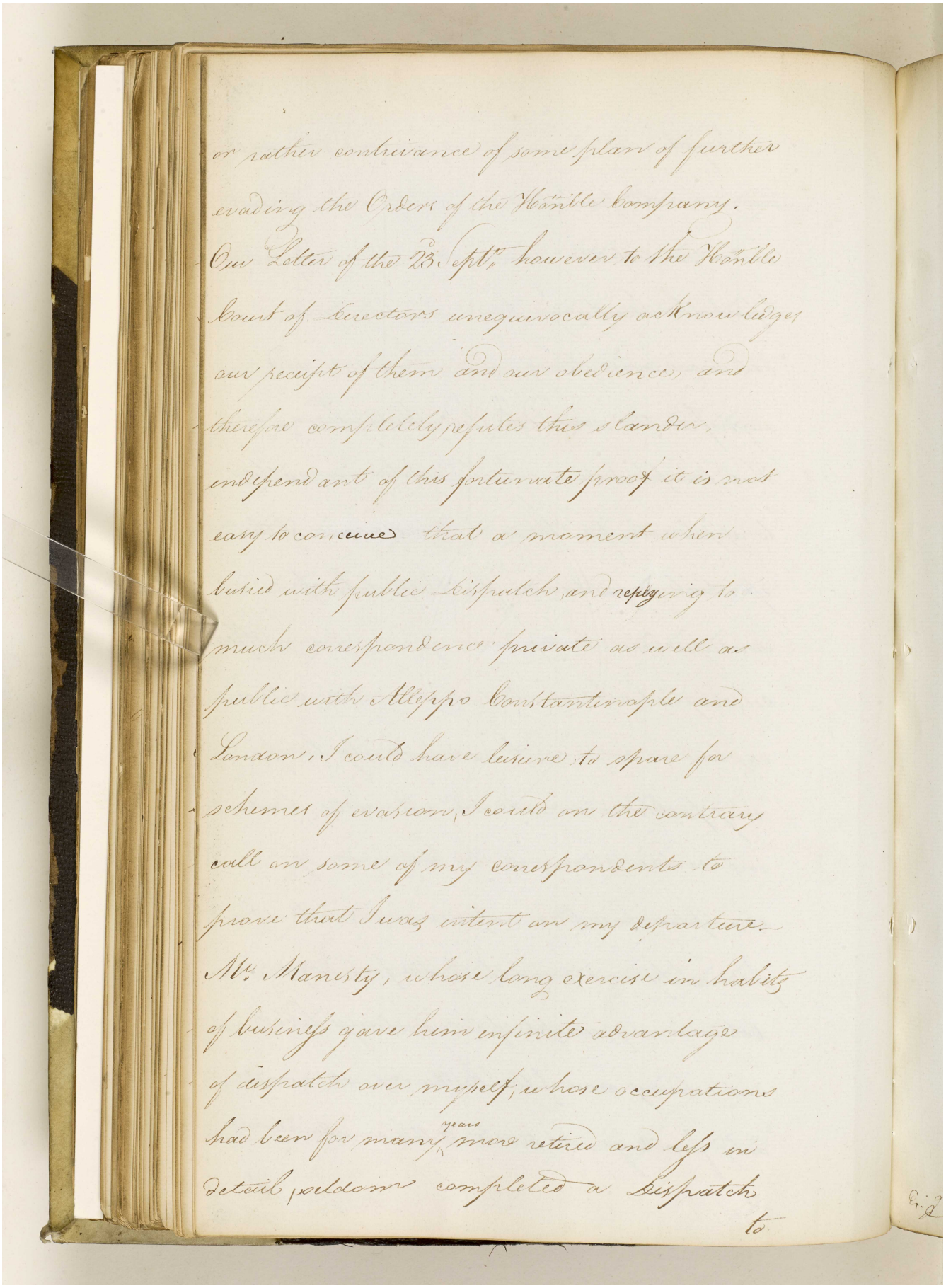

or rather contrivance of some plan of further evading the Orders of the Honble Company. Our Letter of the 23 Sept. however to the Honble Court of Directors unequivocally acknowledges our receipt of them and our obedience, and therefore completely refutes this slander, independant of this fortunate proof it is not easy to conceive that a moment when buried with public dispatch, and replying to much correspondence private as well as public with Aleppo Constantinople and London, I could have leisure to spare for schemes of evasion, I could on the contrary call on some of my correspondents to prove that I was intent on my departure. Mr Manesty, whose long exercise in habits of business gave him infinite advantage of dispatch over myself, whose occupations had been for many years more retired and less in detail seldom completed a Dispatch

to

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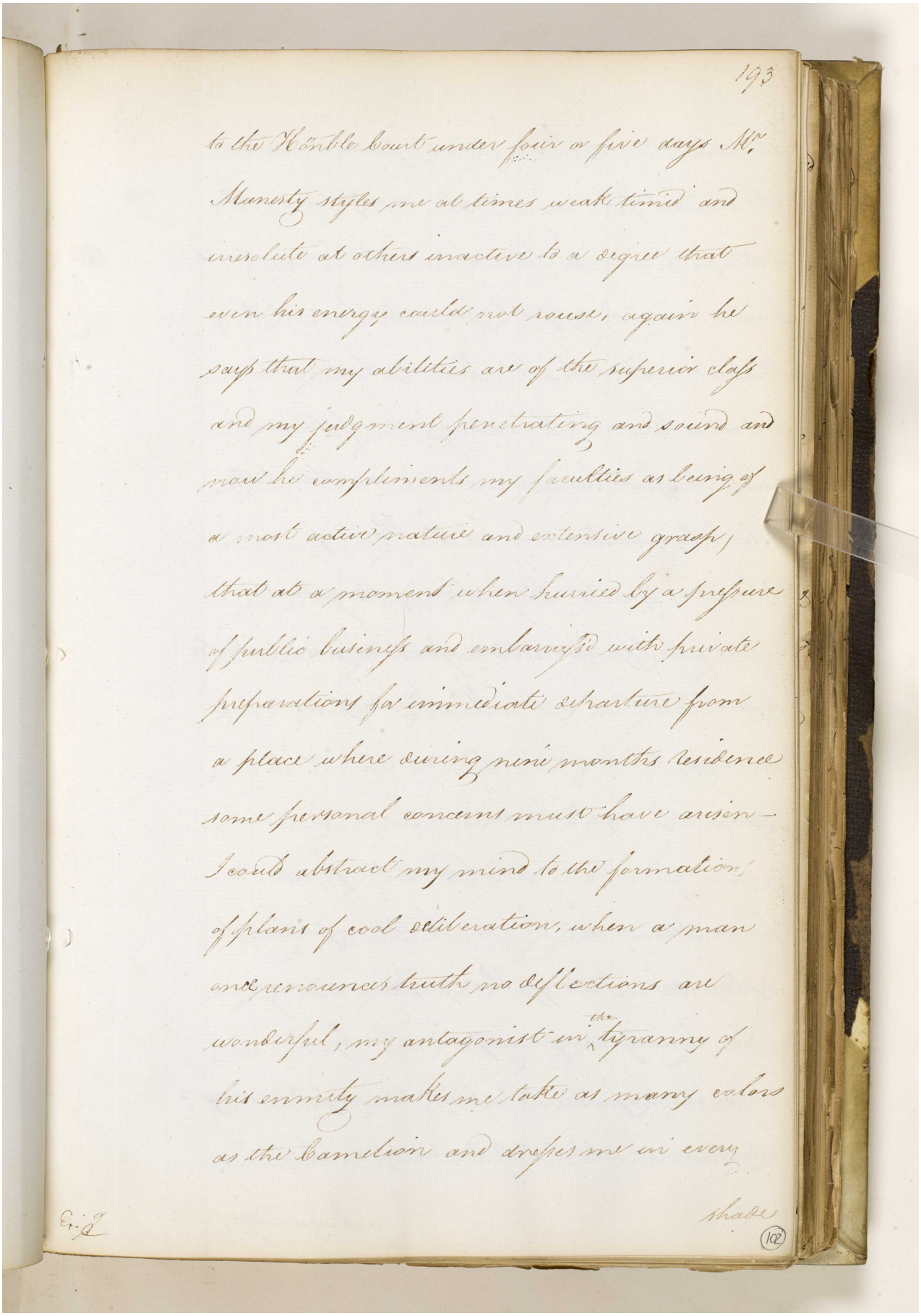

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to the Honble Court under four or five days Mr
Manesty styles me at times weak timid and
irresolute at others inactive to a degree that
even his energy could not rouse, again he
says that my abilities are of the superior class
and my judgment penetrating and sound and
now he compliments my faculties as being of
a most active nature and extensive grasp,
that at a moment when hurried by a pressure
of public business and embarrassed with private
preparations for immediate departure from
a place where during nine months residence
some personal concern must have arisen —
I could abstract my mind to the formation
of plans of cool deliberation, when a man
once renounces truth no deflections are
wonderful, my antagonist in the tyranny of
his enmity makes me take as many colors
as the Camelion and dresses me in every

shade

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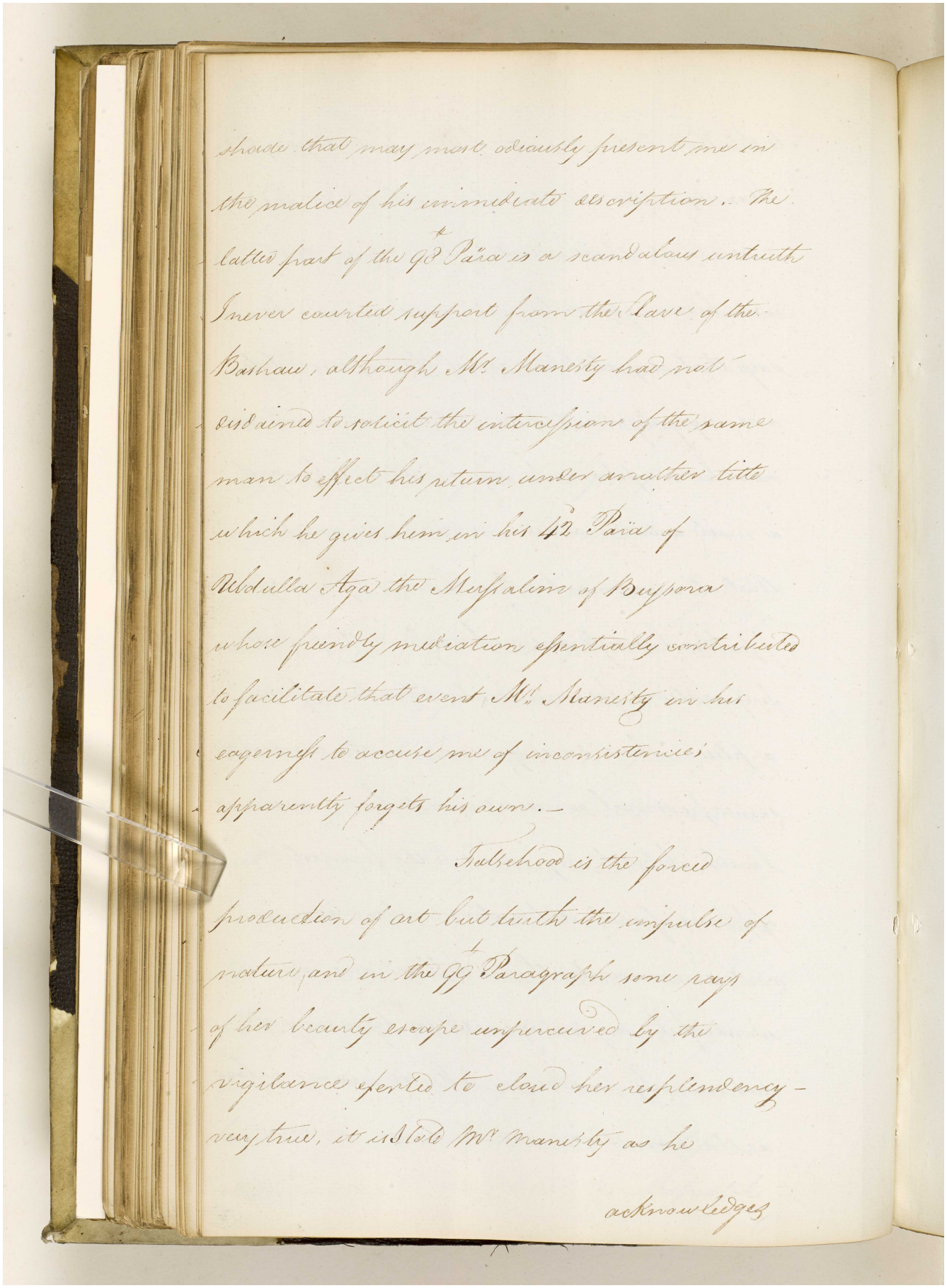

shade that may most odiously present me in
the malice of his animidiate description. The
latter part of the 9th Para is a scandalous untruth
I never courted support from the Slave of the
Bashaw, although Mr Manesty had not
disdained to solicit the intercession of the same
man to effect his return under another title
which he gives him in his 42d Para of
Abdulla Aga the Mussalim of Buppora
whose friendly mediation essentially contributed
to facilitate that event Mr Manesty in his
eagerness to accuse me of inconsistencies
apparently forgets his own.—

Falsehood is the forced
production of art but truth the impulse of
nature, and in the 9th Paragraph some rays
of her beauty escape unperceived by the
vigilance exerted to cloud her resplendency—
very true, it is Sole Mr Manesty as he

acknowledges

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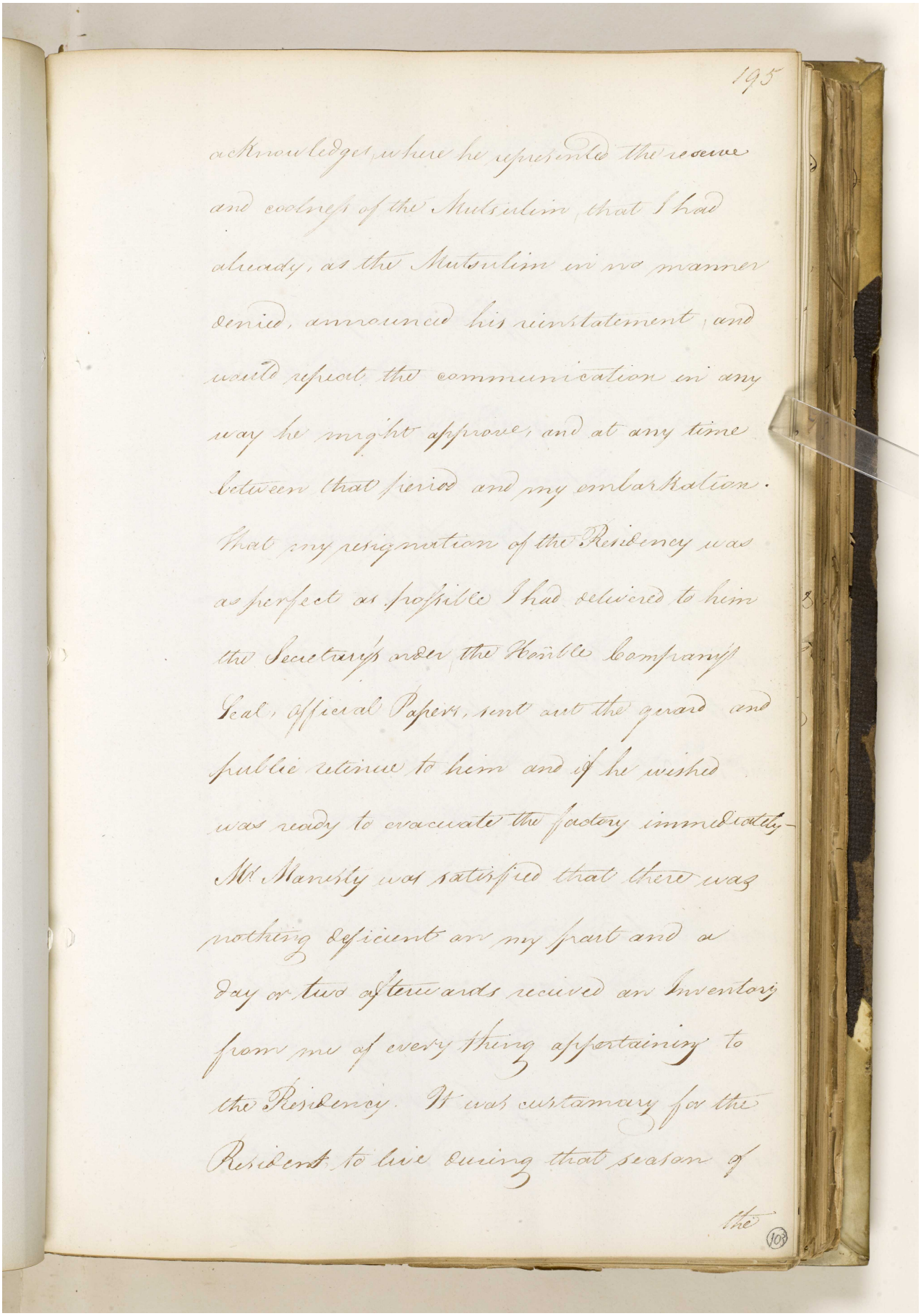
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [103r] (197/232)



acknowledges, where he represented the reserve and coolness of the Mutsulim, that I had already, as the Mutsulim in no manner denied, announced his reinstatement, and would repeat the communication in any way he might approve, and at any time between that period and my embarkation. That my resignation of the Residency was as perfect as possible I had delivered to him the Secretary's order, the Honble Company's Seal, Official Papers, sent out the guard and public retinue to him and if he wished was ready to evacuate the factory immediately — Mr Manesty was satisfied that there was nothing deficient on my part and a day or two afterwards received an Inventory from me of every thing appertaining to the Residency. It was customary for the Resident to live during that season of

the

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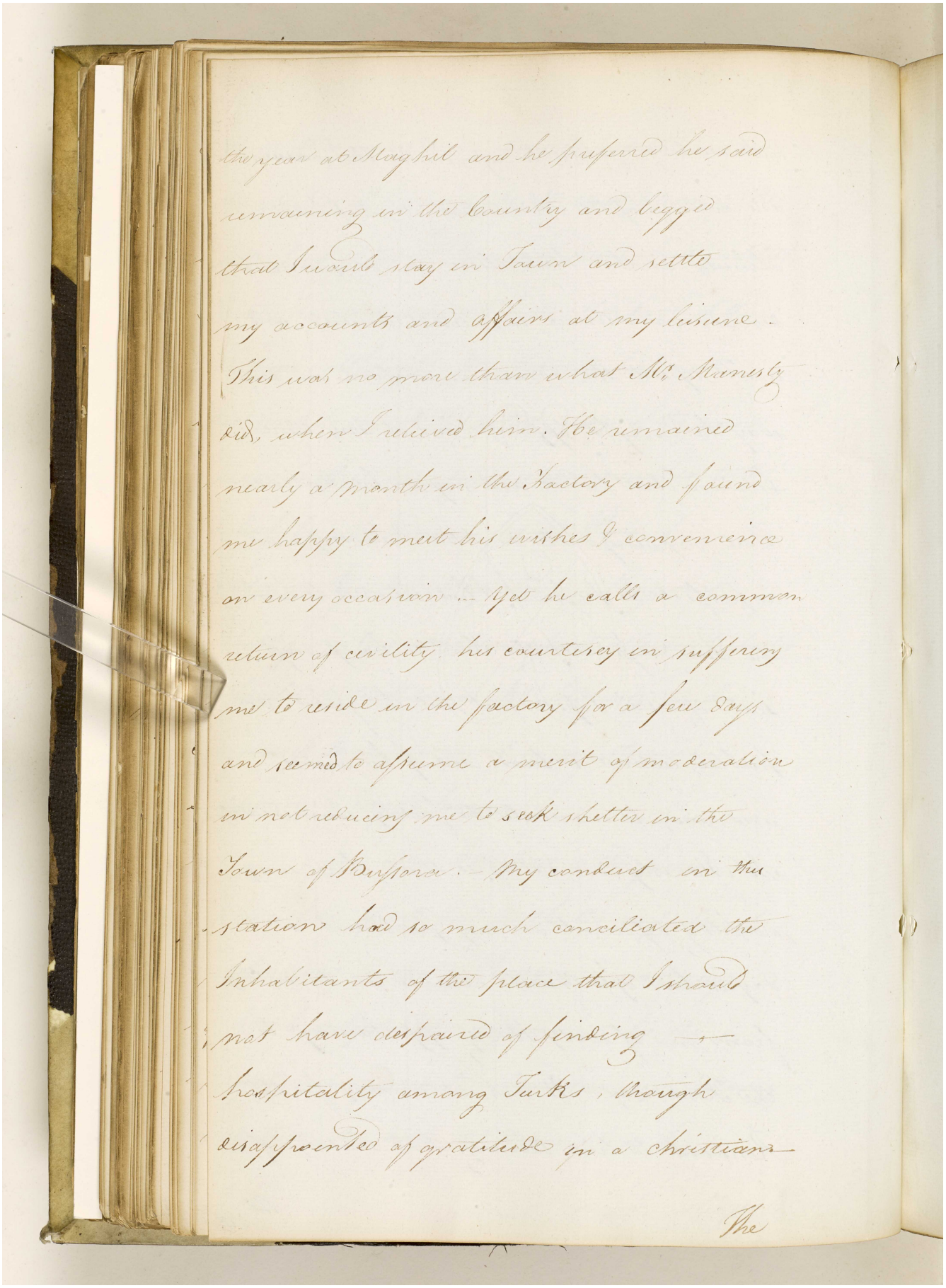

the year at Mayhil and he prefered the said
remaining in the Country and begged
that I would stay in Town and settle
my accounts and affairs at my leisure.
This was no more than what Mr Manesty
did, when I relieved him. He remained
nearly a month in the Factory and found
me happy to meet his wishes & convenience
on every occasion — Yet he calls a common
return of civility his courtesy in suffering
me to reside in the factory for a few days
and seemed to assume a merit of moderation
in not reducing me to seek shelter in the
Town of Bussora. — My conduct in this
station had so much conciliated the
Inhabitants of the place that I should
not have despaired of finding
hospitality among Turks, though
disappointed of gratitude in a Christian

The

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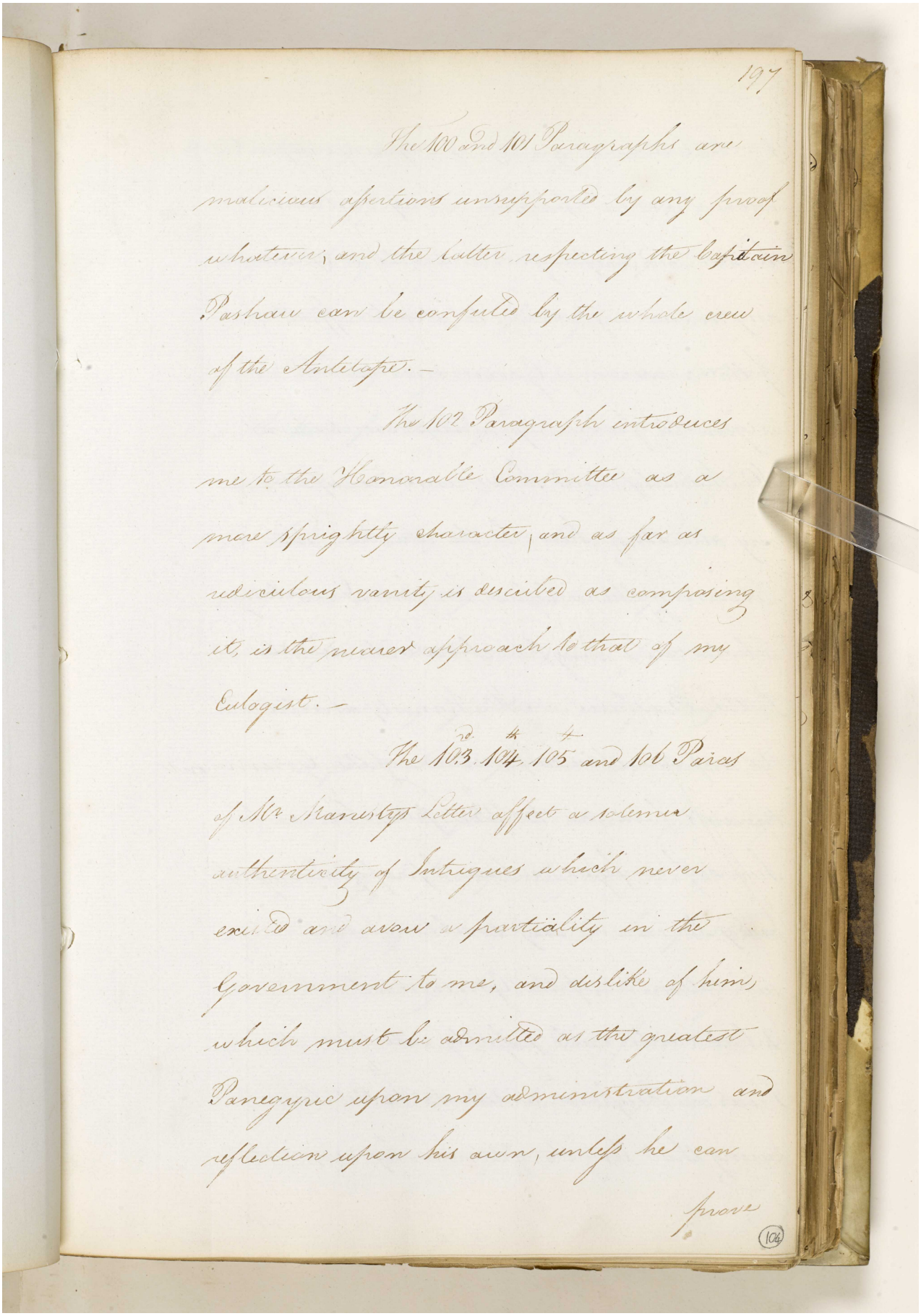

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The 100 and 101 Paragraphs are malicious assertions unsupported by any proof whatever; and the latter respecting the Captain Pasham can be confuted by the whole crew of the Antelope. —

The 102 Paragraph introduces me to the Honorable Committee as a more sprightly character, and as far as ridiculous vanity is discribed as composing it, is the nearer approach to that of my Eulogist. —

The 103d. 104th. 105th and 106 Paras of Mr Manestys Letter affect a solemn authenticity of Intrigues which never existed and avow a partiality in the Government to me, and dislike of him, which must be admitted as the greatest Panegyric upon my administration and reflection upon his own, unless he can

prove

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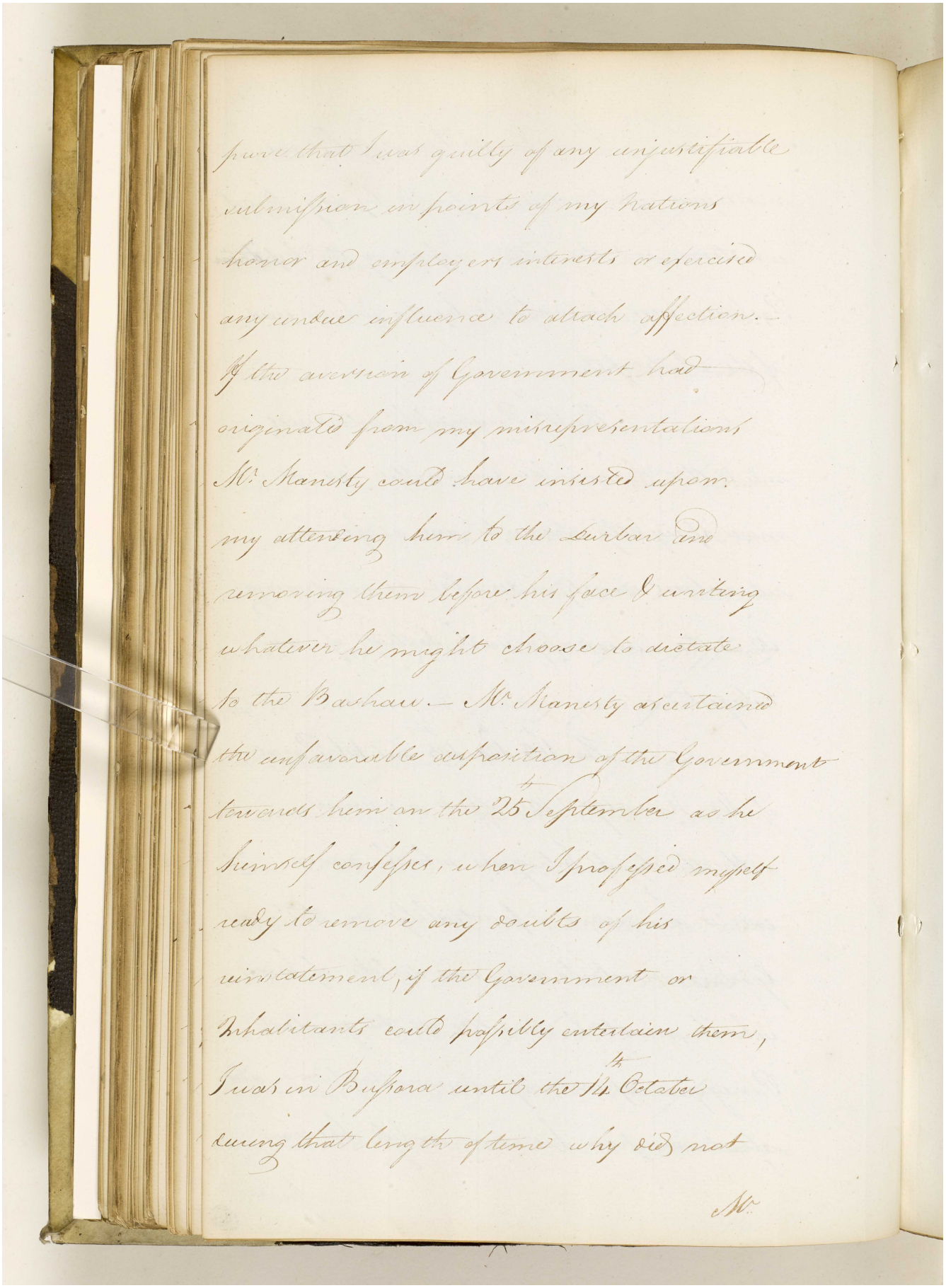

prove that I was guilty of any unjustifiable
submission in points of my Nations
honor and employers interests or exercised
any undue influence to attach affection.—
If the aversion of Government had
originated from my misrepresentations
Mr Manesty could have insisted upon
my attending him to the Durbar and
removing them before his face & writing
whatever he might choose to dictate
to the Bashaw.— Mr Manesty ascertained
the unfavorable disposition of the Government
towards him on the 25th September as he
himself confesses, when I professed myself
ready to remove any doubts of his
reinstatement, if the Government or
Inhabitants could possibly entertain them,
I was in Bussora until the 14th October
during that long the of time why did not

Mr

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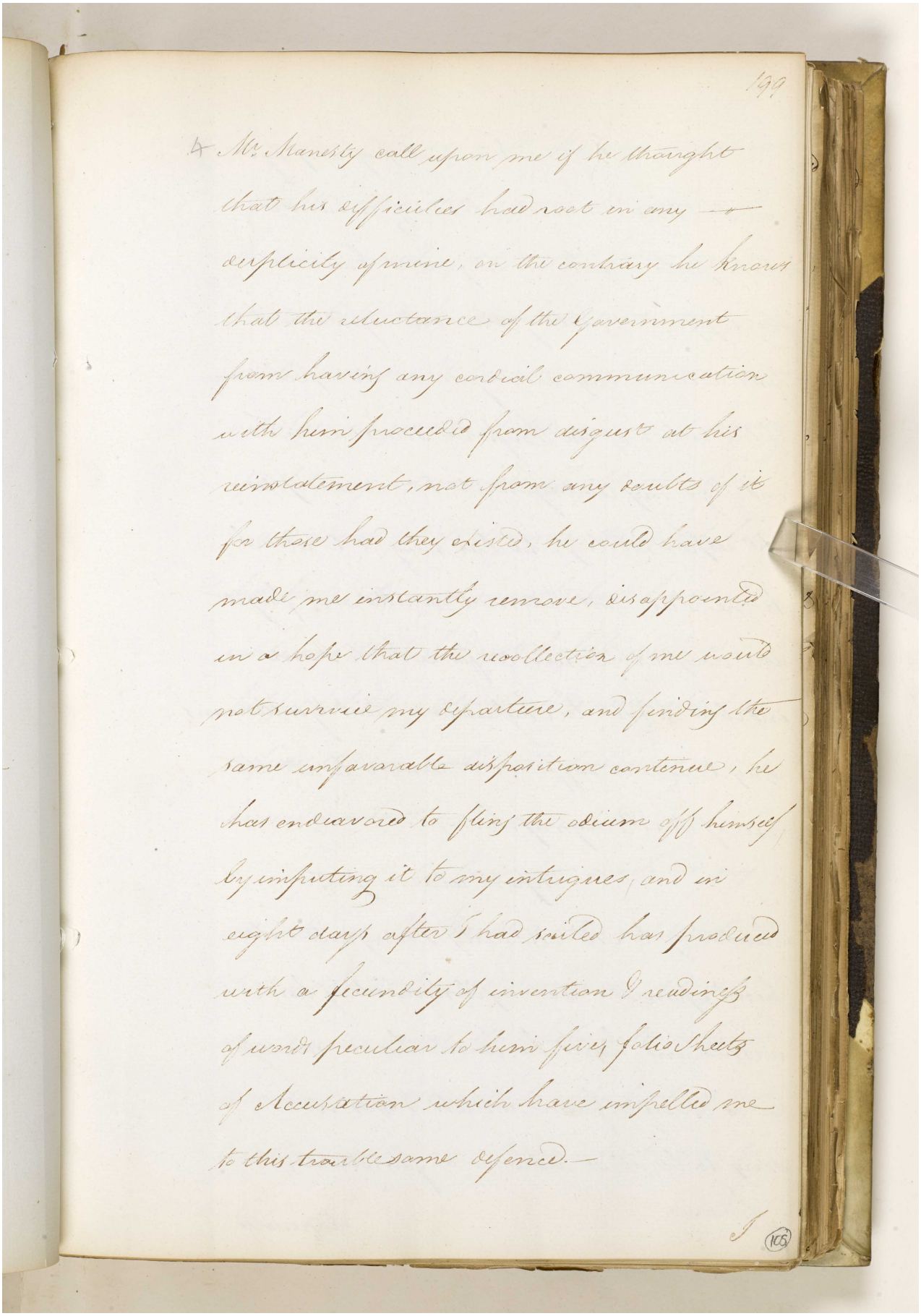

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4 Mr Manesty call upon me if he thought that his difficulties had not in any — duplicity of mine, on the contrary he knows that the reluctance of the Government from having any cordial communication with him proceeded from disgust at his reinstatement, not from any doubts of it for those had they existed, he could have made me instantly remove, disappointed in a hope that the recollection of me would not survive my departure, and finding the same unfavorable disposition continue, he has endeavored to fling the odium off himself by imputing it to my intrigues, and in eight days after I had sailed has produced with a fecundity of invention & readiness of wit peculiar to him five folio sheets of Accusation which have impelled me to this troublesome defence.—

I

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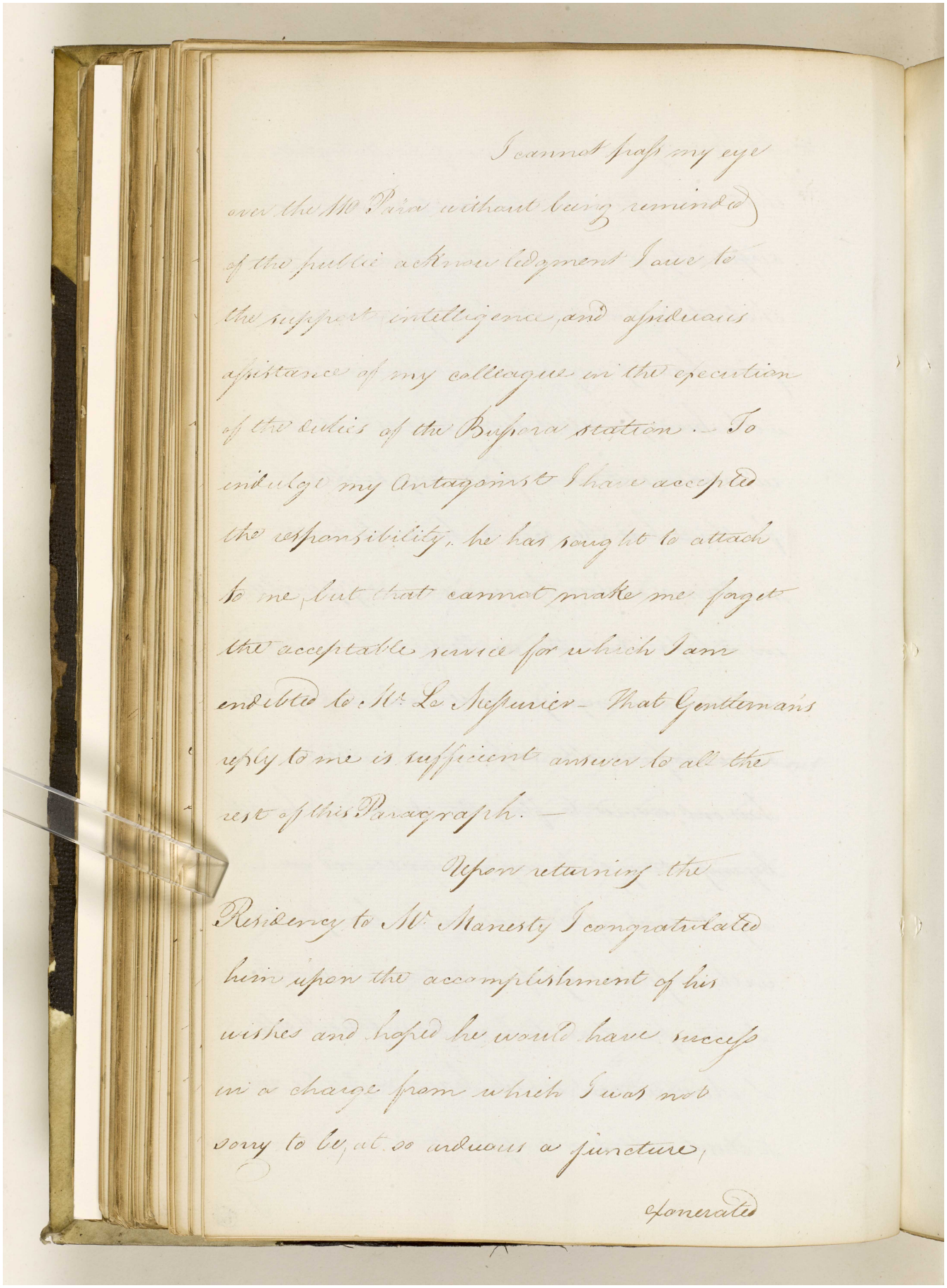

I cannot pass my eye
over the 110 Para without being reminded
of the public acknowledgment I owe to
the support intelligence and assiduous
assistance of my colleague in the execution
of the duties of the Bussora station. — To
indulge my Antagonist I have accepted
the responsibility, he has sought to attach
to me, but that cannot make me forget
the acceptable service for which I am
indebted to Mr. Le Messurier — That Gentleman's
reply to me is sufficient answer to all the
rest of this Paragraph. —

Upon returning the
Residency to Mr. Manesty I congratulated
him upon the accomplishment of his
wishes and hoped he would have success
in a charge from which I was not
sorry to be, at so arduous a juncture,

Generates

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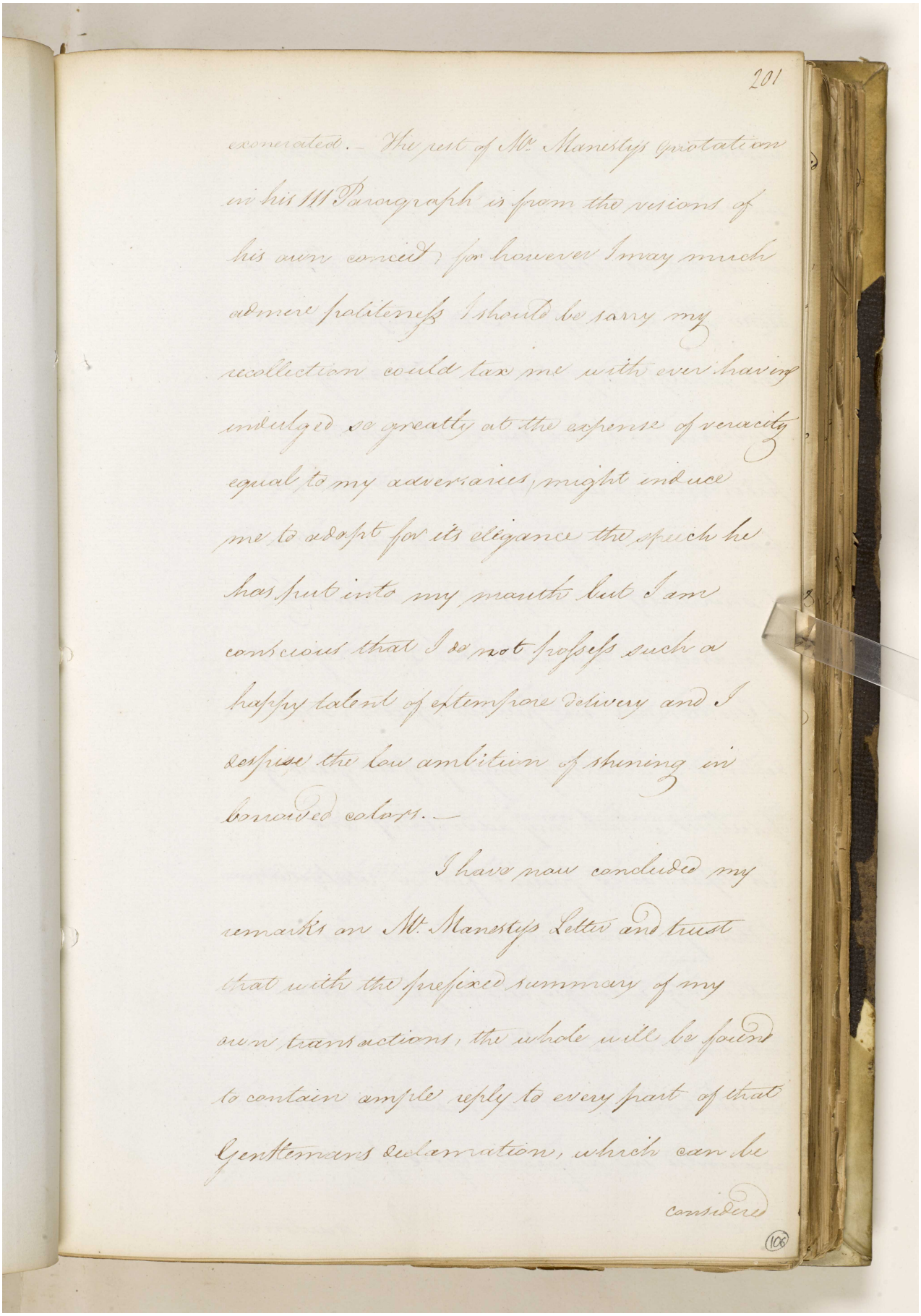

exonerated.— The gist of Mr. Manesty's quotation in his III Paragraph is from the visions of his own conceit for however I may much admire politeness I should be sorry my recollection could tax me with ever having indulged so greatly at the expense of veracity equal to my adversaries, might induce me to adopt for its elegance the speech he has put into my mouth but I am conscious that I do not possess such a happy talent of extempore delivery and I despise the low ambition of shining in borrowed colors.—

I have now concluded my remarks on Mr. Manesty's Letter and trust that with the prefixed summary of my own transactions, the whole will be found to contain ample reply to every part of that Gentlemans declamation, which can be

considered

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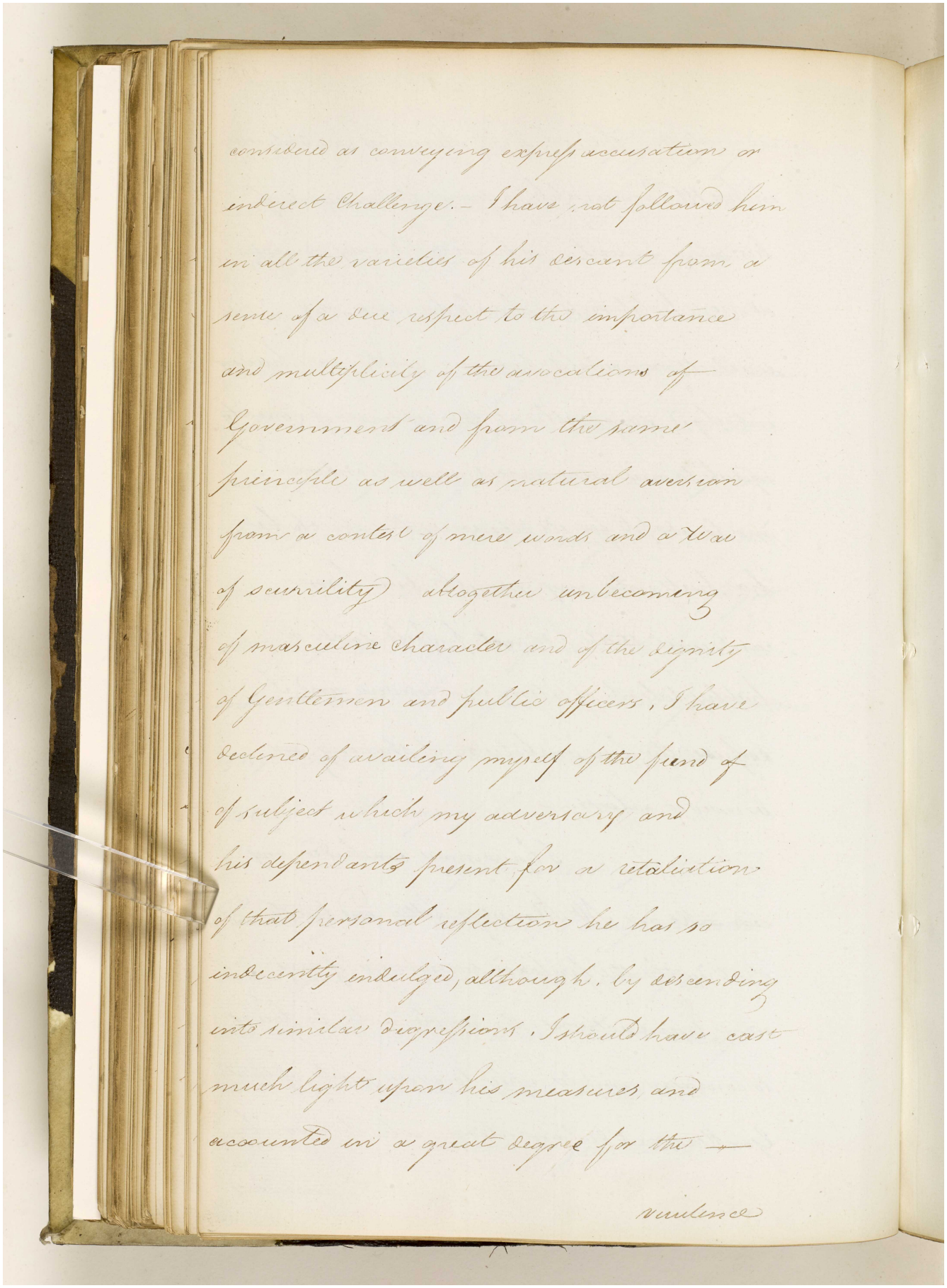

considered as conveying express accusation or
indirect Challenge.- I have not followed him
in all the varieties of his descant from a
sense of a due respect to the importance
and multiplicity of the avocations of
Government and from the same
principle as well as natural aversion
from a contest of mere words and a War
of scurrility altogether unbecoming
of masculine character and of the dignity
of Gentlemen and public officers, I have
declined availing myself of the fund of
of subject which my adversary and
his dependants present for a retaliation
of that personal reflection he has so
indecently indulged, although, by descending
into similar digressions, I should have cast
much light upon his measures, and
accounted in a great degree for the —

vindictive

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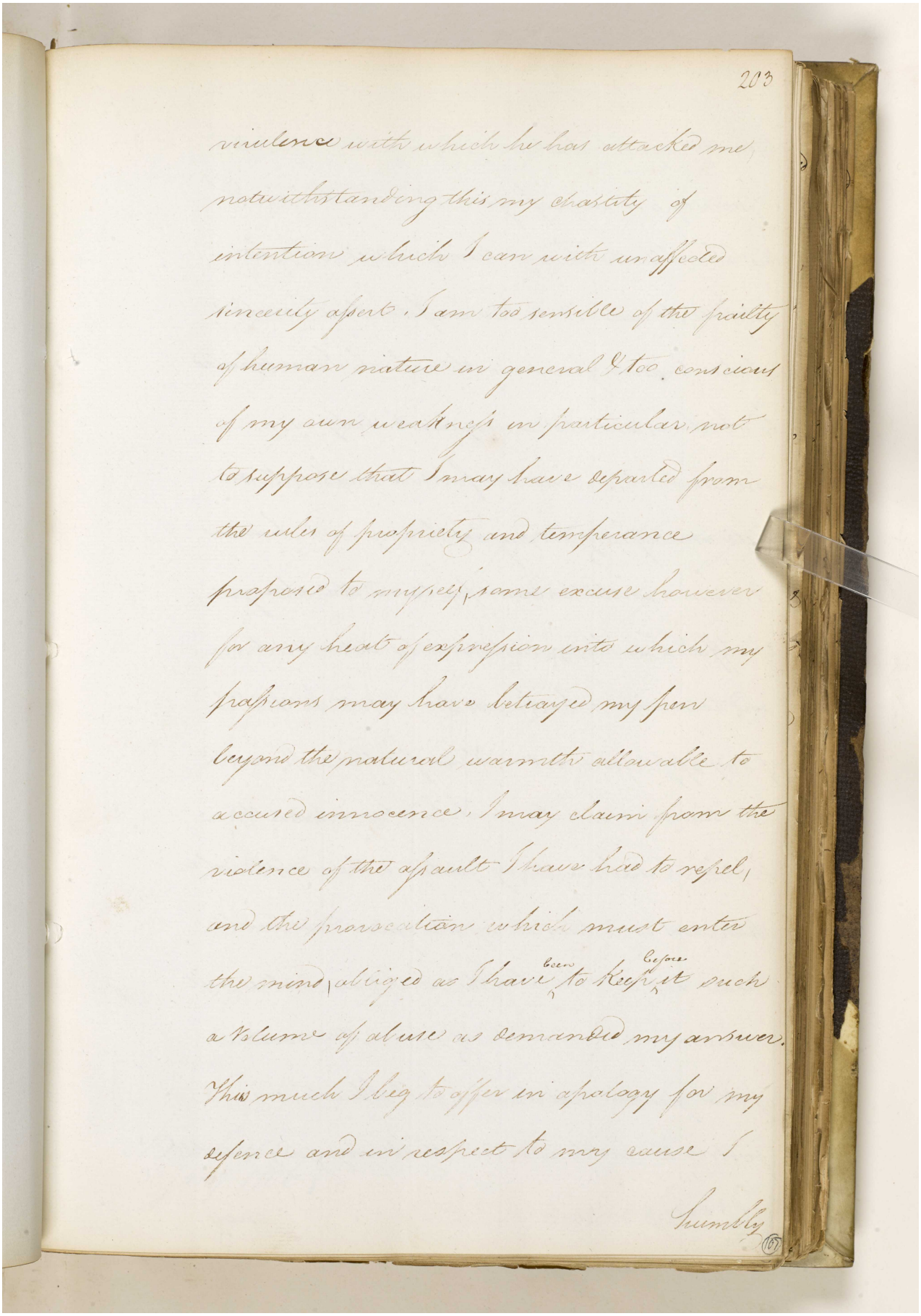

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virulence with which he has attacked me,
notwithstanding this my chastity of
intention which I can with unaffected
sincerity assert. I am too sensible of the frailty
of human nature in general & too conscious
of my own weakness in particular, not
to suppose that I may have departed from
the rules of propriety and temperance
proposed to myself, some excuse however
for any heat of expression into which my
passions may have betrayed my pen
beyond the natural warmth allowable to
accused innocence, I may claim from the
violence of the assault I have had to repel,
and the prosecution which must enter
the mind, obliged as I have been to keep it open
a blame of abuse as demanded my answer.
This much I beg to offer in apology for my
defence and in respect to my cause I
humbly

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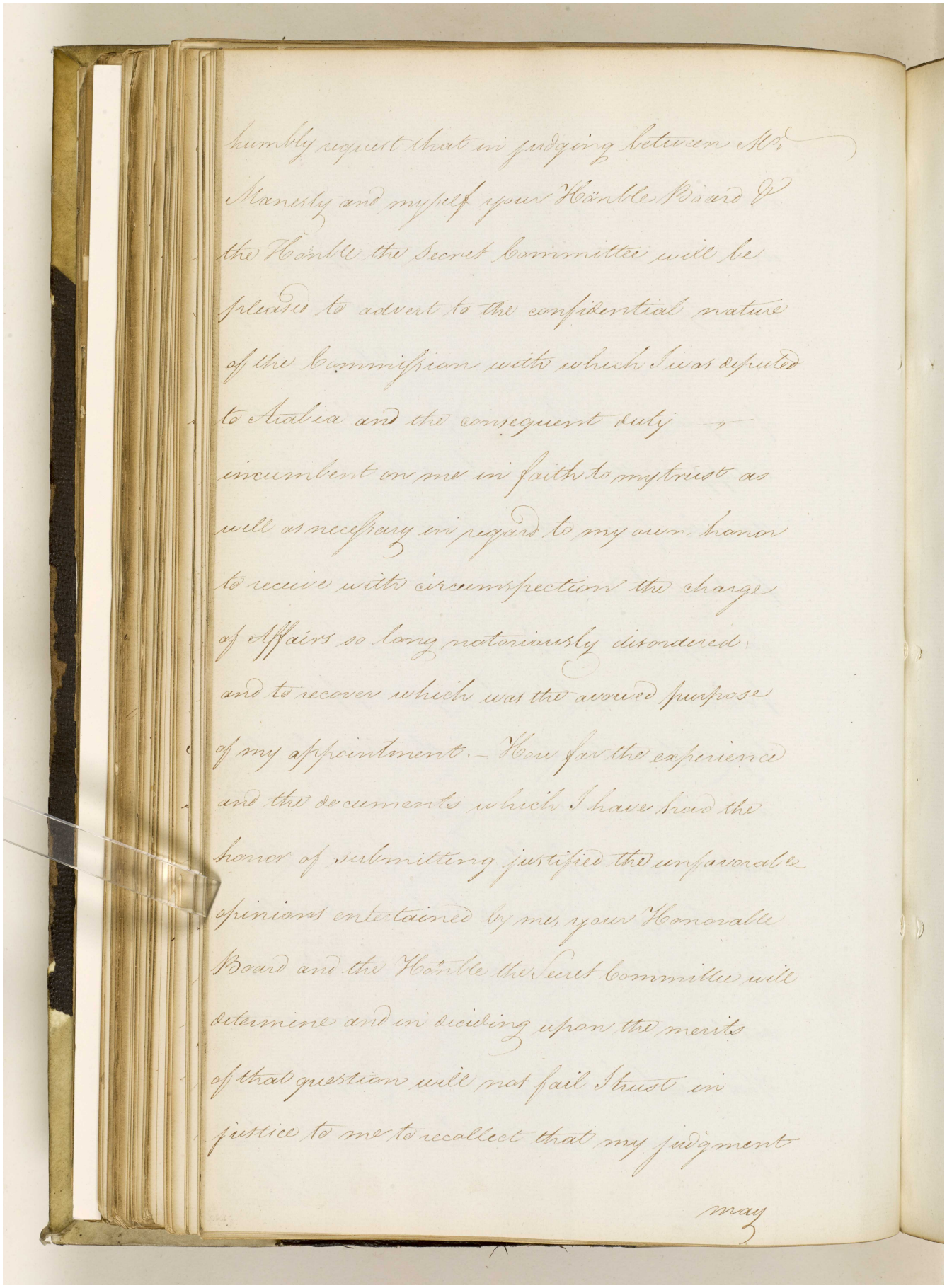

humbly request that in judging between Mr
Manesty and myself your Honble Board &
the Honble the Secret Committee will be
pleased to advert to the confidential nature
of the Commission with which I was deputed
to Arabia and the consequent duty
incumbent on me in faith to my trust as
well as necessary in regard to my own honor
to receive with circumspection the charge
of Affairs so long notoriously disordered
and to recover which was the avowed purpose
of my appointment. – How far the experience
and the documents which I have had the
honor of submitting justified the unfavorable
opinions entertained by me, your Honorable
Board and the Honble the Secret Committee will
determine and in deciding upon the merits
of that question will not fail I trust in
justice to me to recollect that my judgment

may

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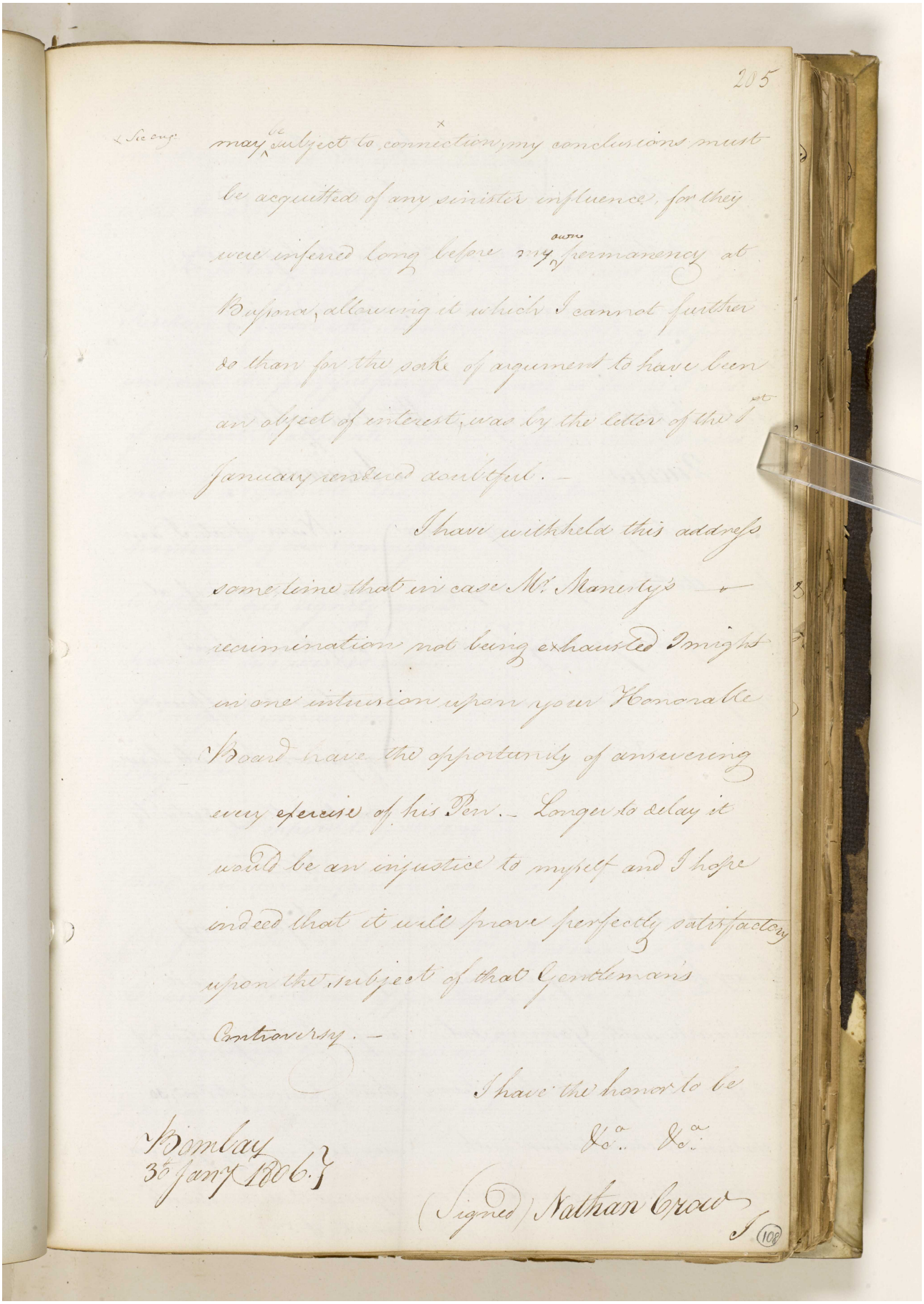

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< See orig.

may be subject to connection, my conclusions must
be acquitted of any sinister influence, for they
were inferred long before my permanency at
Bussora, allowing it which I cannot further
do than for the sake of argument to have been
an object of interest, was by the letter of the 1st
January rendered doubtful. —

I have withheld this address
some time that in case Mr Manesty's —
recrimination not being exhausted I might
in one intrusion upon your Honorable
Board have the opportunity of answering
every exercise of his Pen. — Longer to delay it
would be an injustice to myself and I hope
indeed that it will prove perfectly satisfactory
upon the subject of that Gentleman's
Controversy. —

I have the honor to be
&c. &c.
(Signed) Nathan Crow

Bombay
3d Jany 1806.

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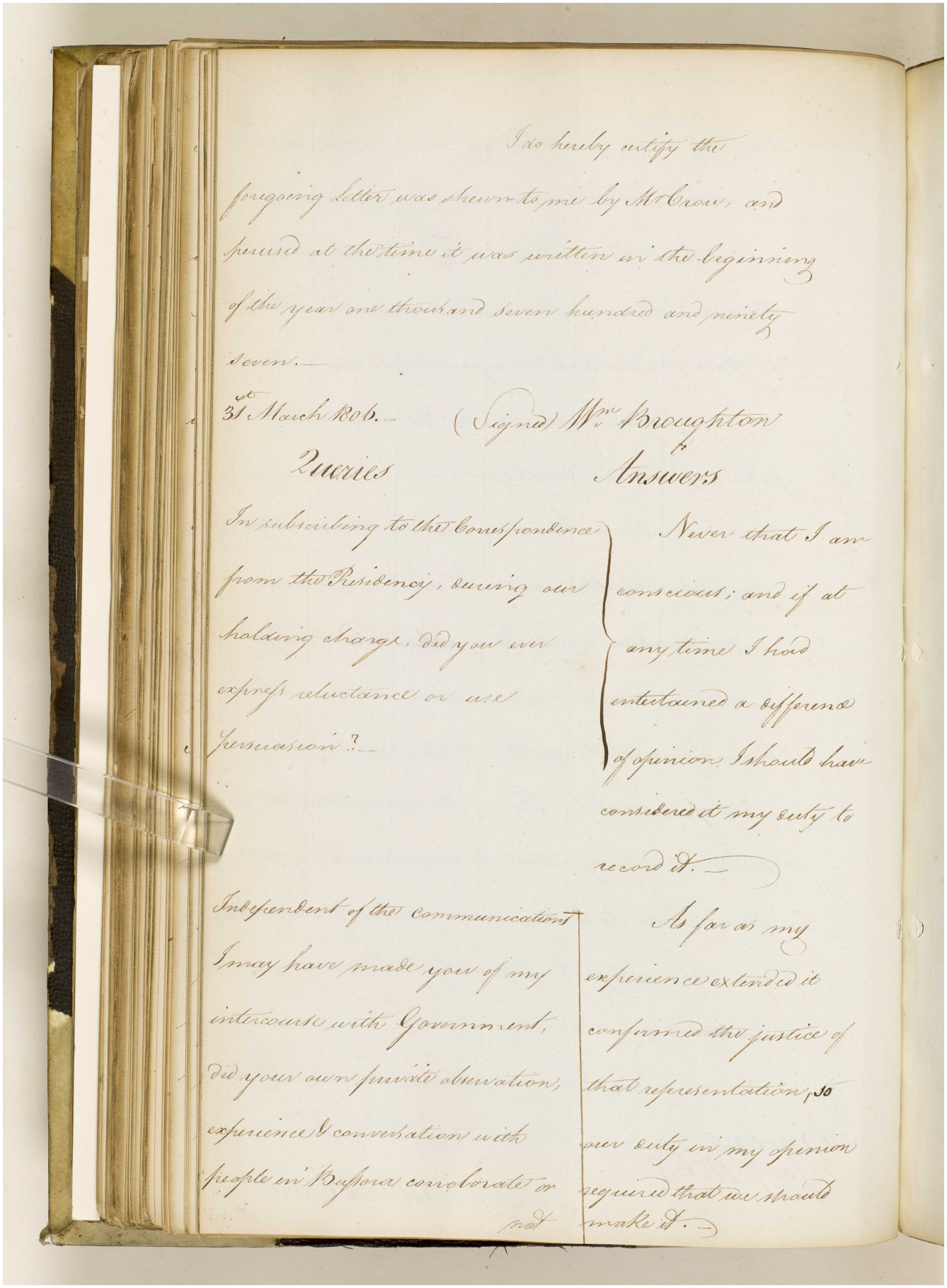

I do hereby certify that
foregoing Letter was shewn to me by Mr Crow, and
perused at the time it was written in the beginning
of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety
seven.—

31st March 1806.— (Signed) Wm Broughton

Queries	Answers
In subscribing to that Correspondence from the Residency, during our holding charge, did you ever express reluctance or use persuasion?—	Never that I am conscious; and if at any time I had entertained a different of opinion, I should have considered it my duty to record it.—
Independent of the communications I may have made you of my intercourse with Government, did your own private observation, experience & conversation with people in Bussora corroborate or not	As far as my experience extended it confirmed the justice of that representation, so our duty in my opinion required that we should make it.—

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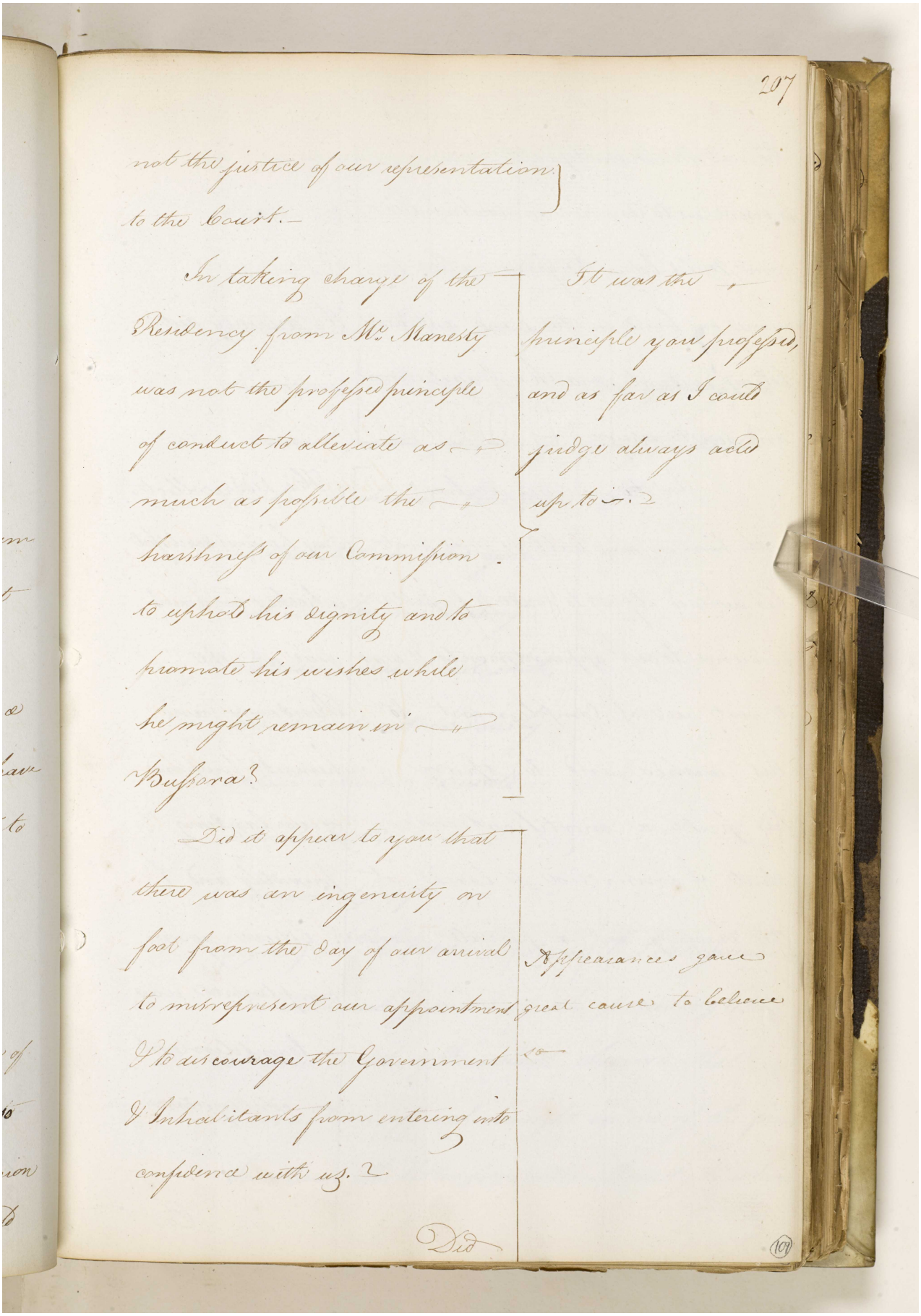

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not the justice of our representation
to the Court.—

In taking charge of the Residency from Mr. Manesty was not the professed principle of conduct to alleviate as much as possible the harshness of our Commission to uphold his dignity and to promote his wishes while he might remain in Bussora?

It was the principle you professed, and as far as I could judge always acted up to.—

Did it appear to you that there was an ingenuity on foot from the day of our arrival to misrepresent our appointment & to discourage the Government & Inhabitants from entering into confidence with us.—

Appearances gave great cause to believe so—

Did

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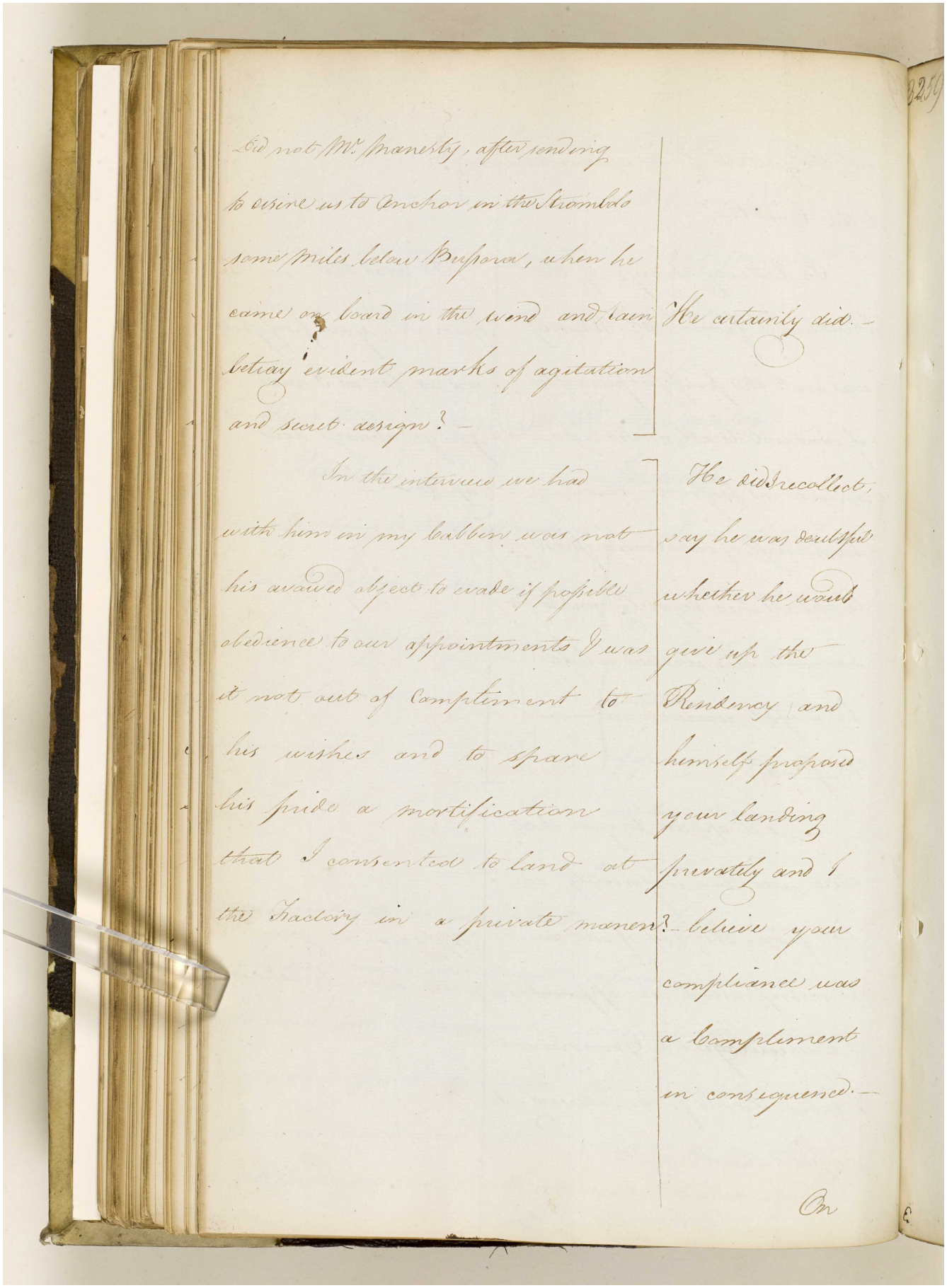


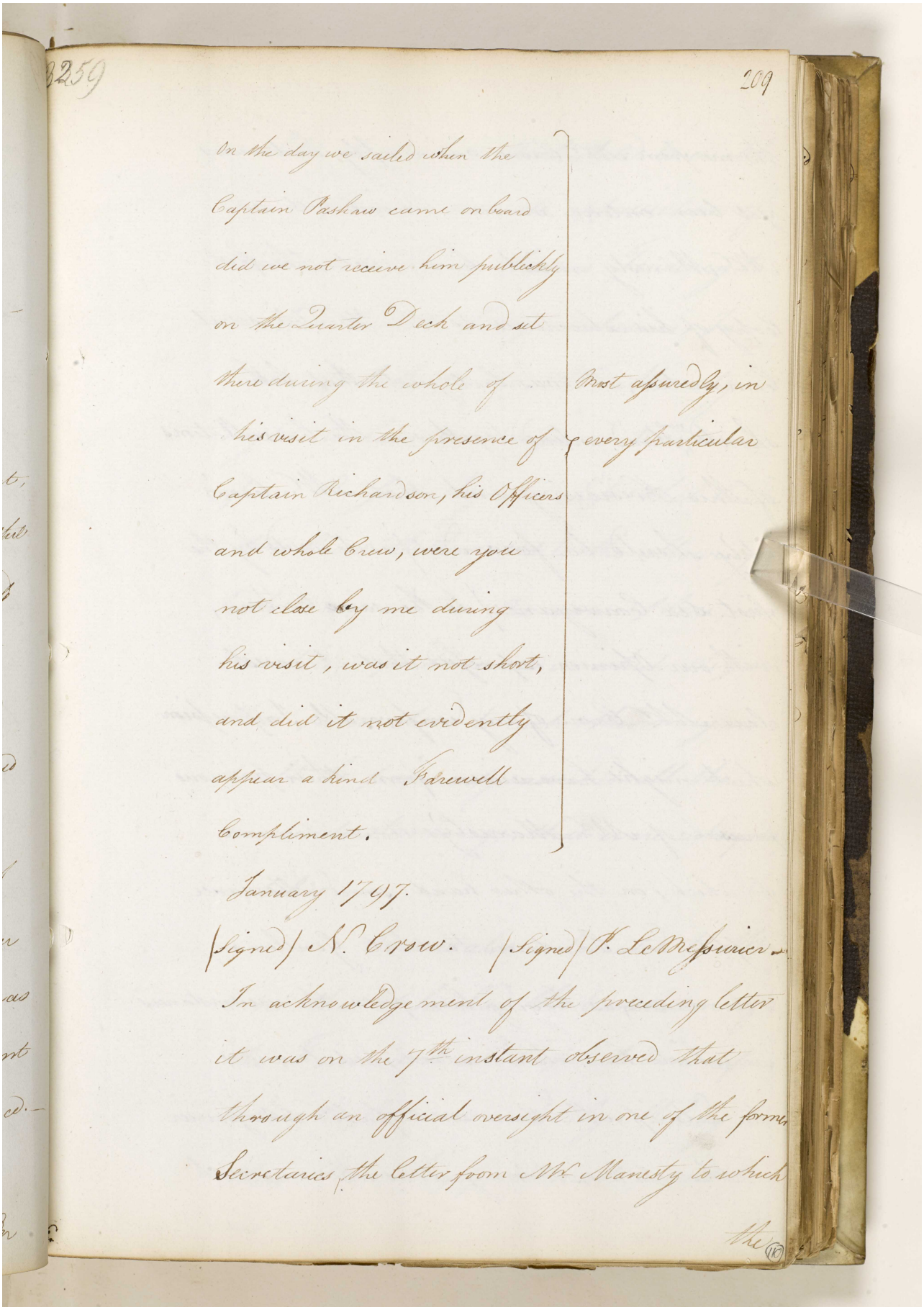
Did not Mr. Manesty, after sending to desire us to Anchor in the Strombolo some Miles below Bussora, when he came on board in the wind and rain betray evident marks of agitation and secret design? —

He certainly did. —

In the interview we had with him in my Cabbin was not his avowed object to evade if possible obedience to our appointments & was it not out of Compliment to his wishes and to spare his pride a mortification that I consented to land at the Factory in a private manner?

He did recollect, say he was doubtful whether he would give up the Residency & himself propose your landing privately and I believe your compliance was a Compliment in consequence. —

On



3259

209

On the day we sailed when the Captain Pashaw came on board did we not receive him publickly on the Quarter Deck and set there during the whole of his visit in the presence of Captain Richardson, his Officers and whole Crew, were you not close by me during his visit, was it not short, and did it not evidently appear a kind Farewell Compliment.

} most assuredly, in every particular

January 1797.

[Signed] N. Crow. [Signed] P. LeMesurier

In acknowledgement of the preceding letter it was on the 7th instant observed that through an official oversight in one of the former Secretaries the Letter from Mr Manesty to which

the

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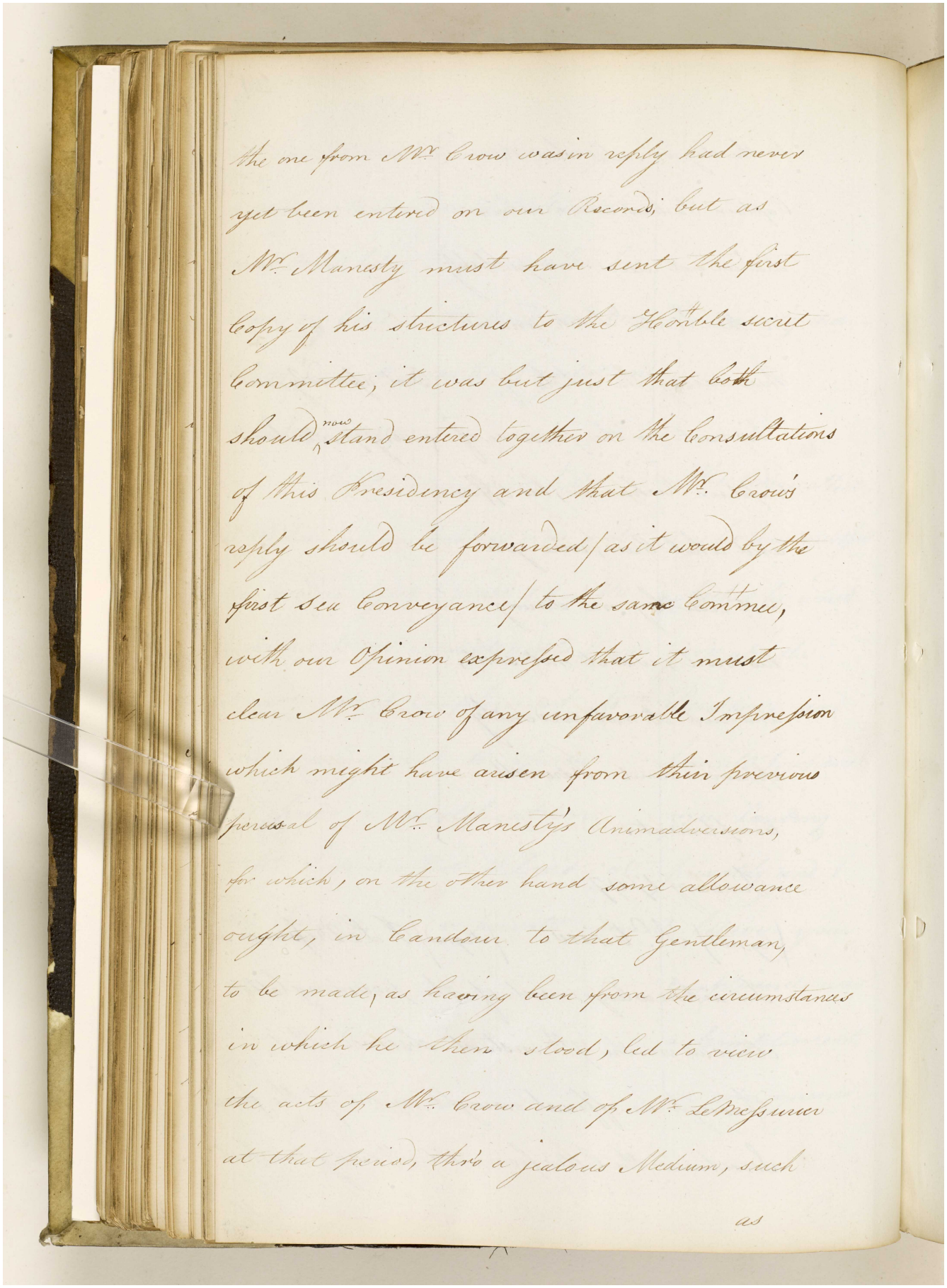

the one from Mr. Crow was in reply had never
yet been entered on our Records, but as
Mr. Manesty must have sent the first
Copy of his structures to the Honble secret
Committee, it was but just that both
should, now stand entered together on the Consultations
of this Presidency and that Mr. Crow's
reply should be forwarded, as it would by the
first Sea Conveyance, to the same Commee,
with our Opinion expressed that it must
clear Mr. Crow of any unfavorable Impression
which might have arisen from their previous
perusal of Mr. Manesty's Animadversions,
for which, on the other hand some allowance
ought, in Candour to that Gentleman,
to be made, as having been from the circumstances
in which he then stood, led to view
the acts of Mr. Crow and of Mr. LeMesurier
at that period, thro a jealous Medium, such

as

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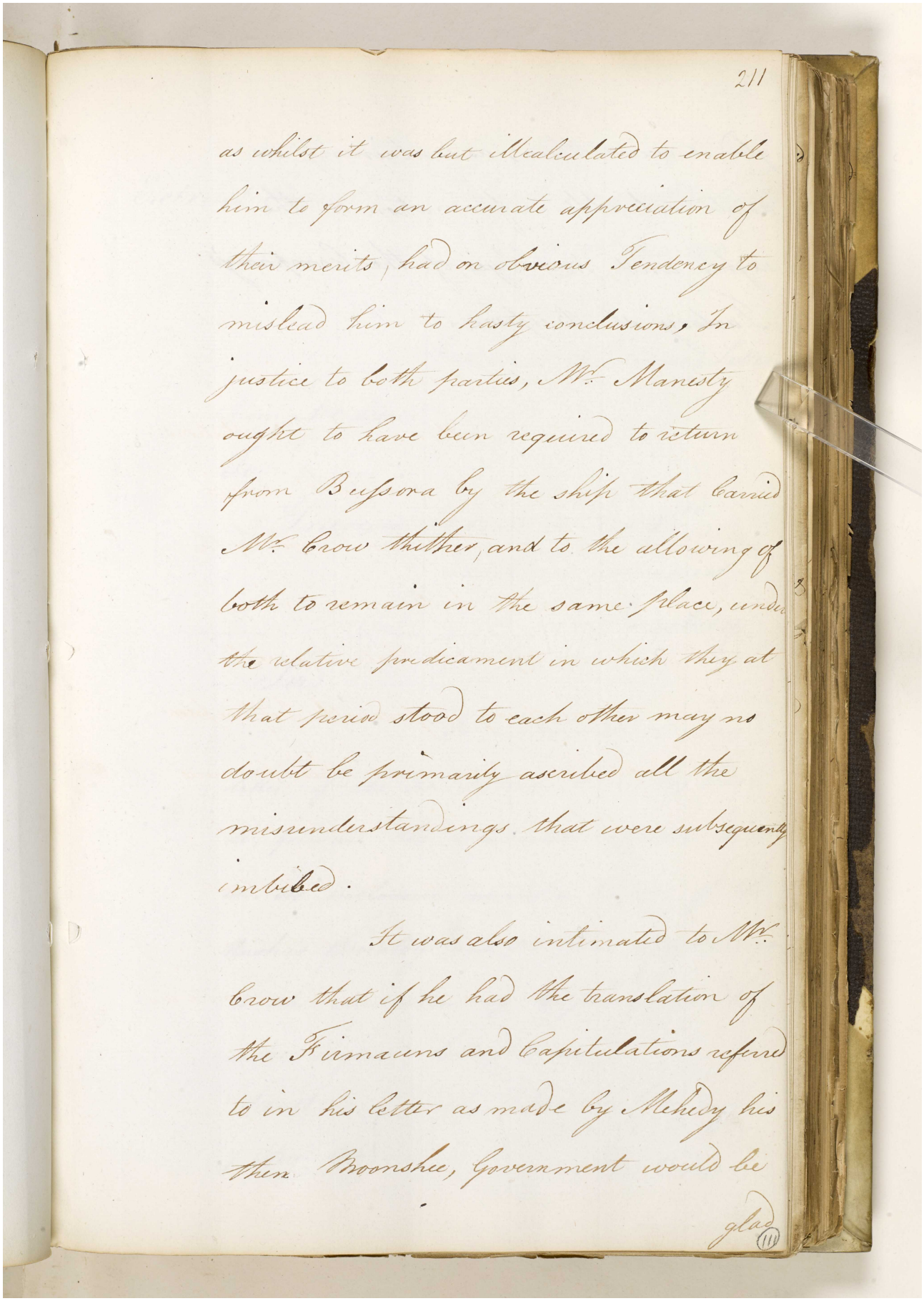

as whilst it was but ill calculated to enable him to form an accurate appreciation of their merits, had an obvious Tendency to mislead him to hasty conclusions, In justice to both parties, Mr. Manesty ought to have been required to return from Bussora by the ship that carried Mr. Crow thither, and to the allowing of both to remain in the same place, under the relative predicament in which they at that period stood to each other may no doubt be primarily ascribed all the misunderstandings that were subsequently imbibed.

It was also intimated to Mr. Crow that if he had the translation of the Firmaens and Capitulations referred to in his letter as made by Mehdy his then Moonshee, Government would be glad

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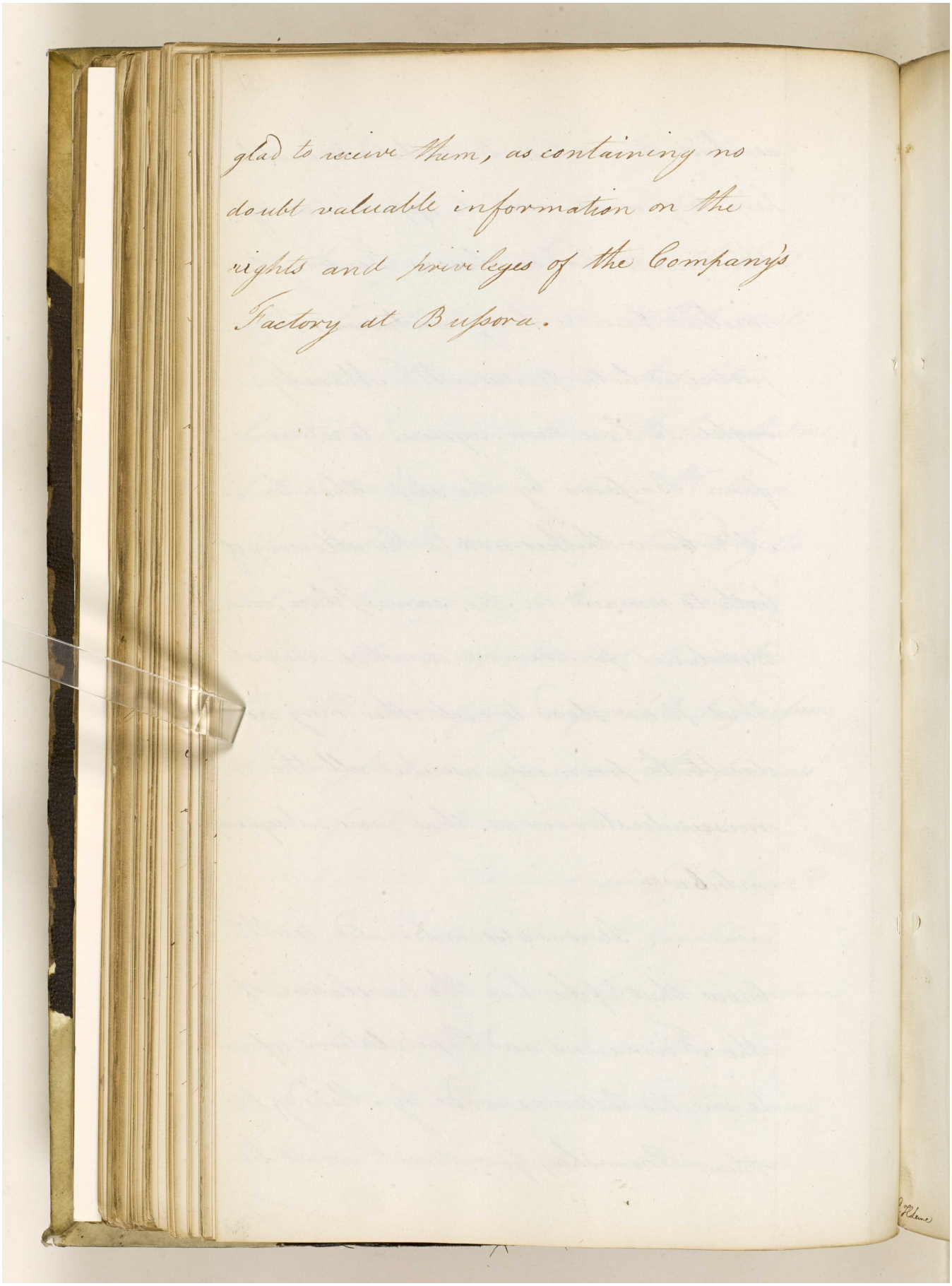

glad to receive them, as containing no
doubt valuable information on the
rights and privileges of the Company's
Factory at Bussora.

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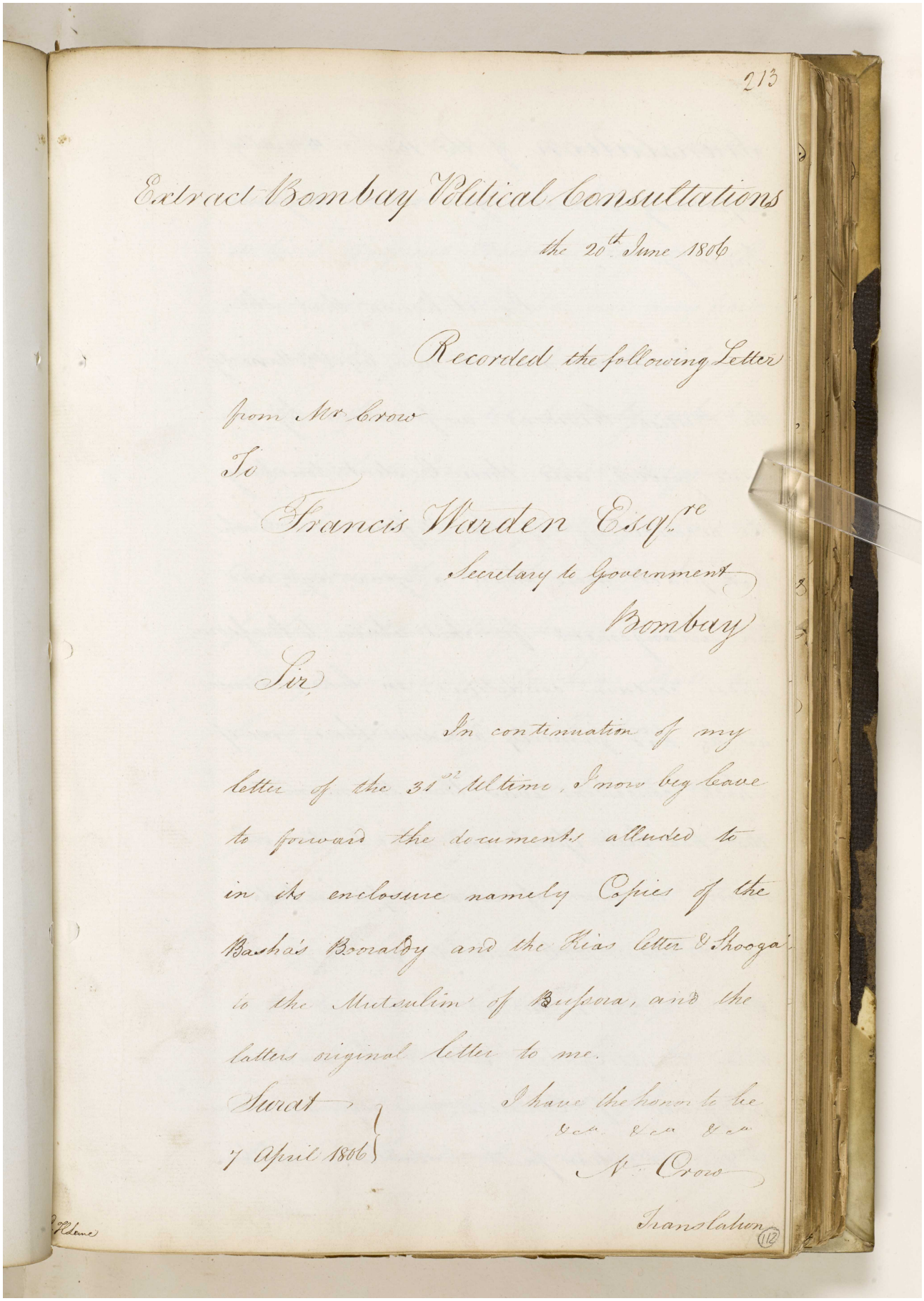
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [112r] (215/232)



Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 20th June 1806

Recorded the following Letter

from Mr Crow

To

Francis Warden Esqre

Secretary to Government

Bombay

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 31st ultimo, I now beg leave to forward the documents alluded to in its enclosure namely Copies of the Basha's Booraldy and the Kias letter & Shooga to the Mutsulim of Bussora, and the latters original letter to me.

Surat
7 April 1806

I have the honor to be
&c &c &c

N. Crow

Translation

112

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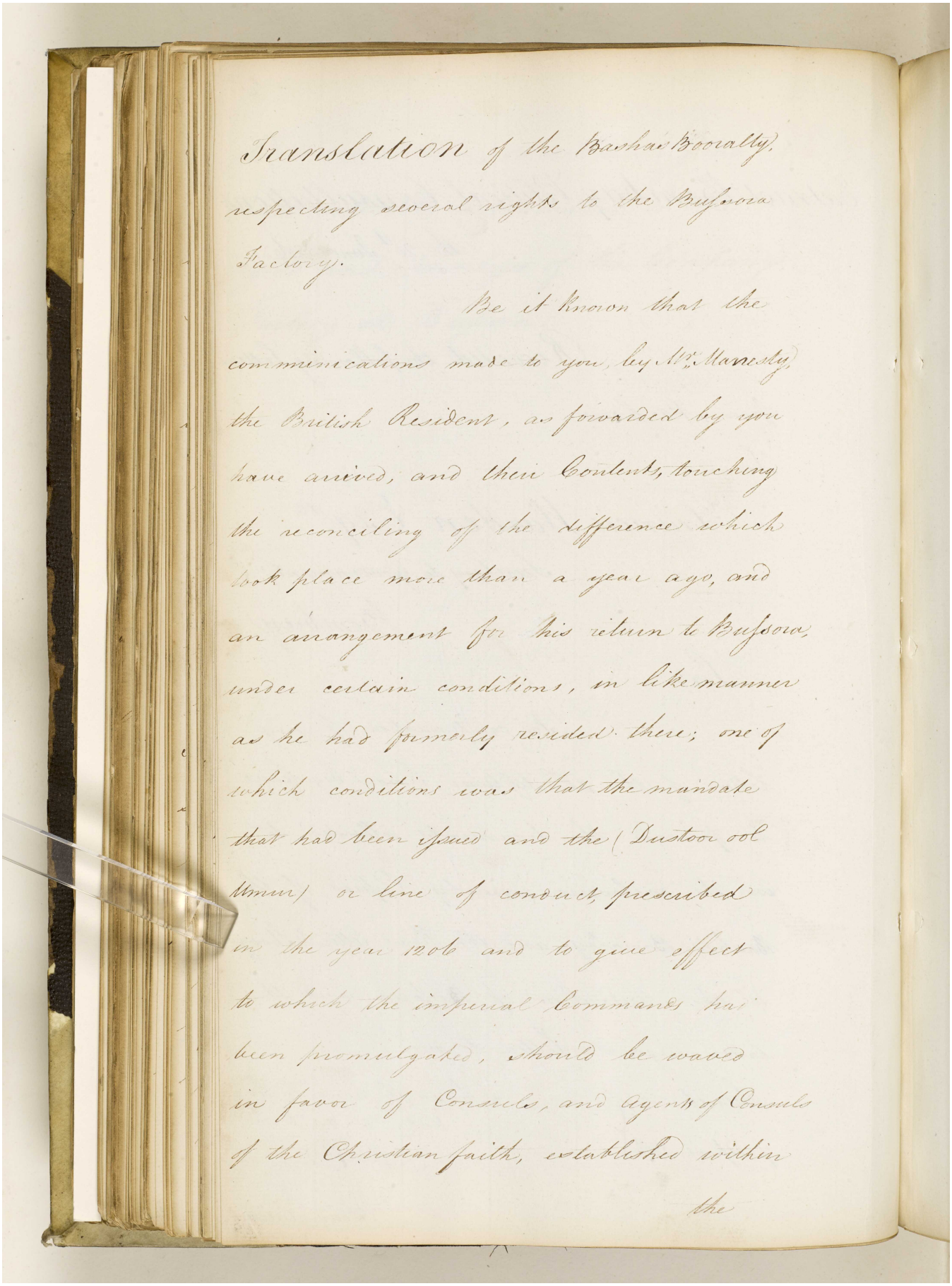

Translation of the Bashaw Boorally,
respecting several rights to the Bussora
Factory.

Be it known that the
communications made to you, by Mr. Manesty,
the British Resident, as forwarded by you
have arrived, and their Contents, touching
the reconciling of the difference which
took place more than a year ago, and
an arrangement for his return to Bussora,
under certain conditions, in like manner
as he had formerly resided there; one of
which conditions was that the mandate
that had been issued and the (Dustoor ool
Umul) or line of conduct prescribed
in the year 1206 and to give effect
to which the imperial Commands had
been promulgated, should be waved
in favor of Consuls, and Agents of Consuls
of the Christian faith, established within
the

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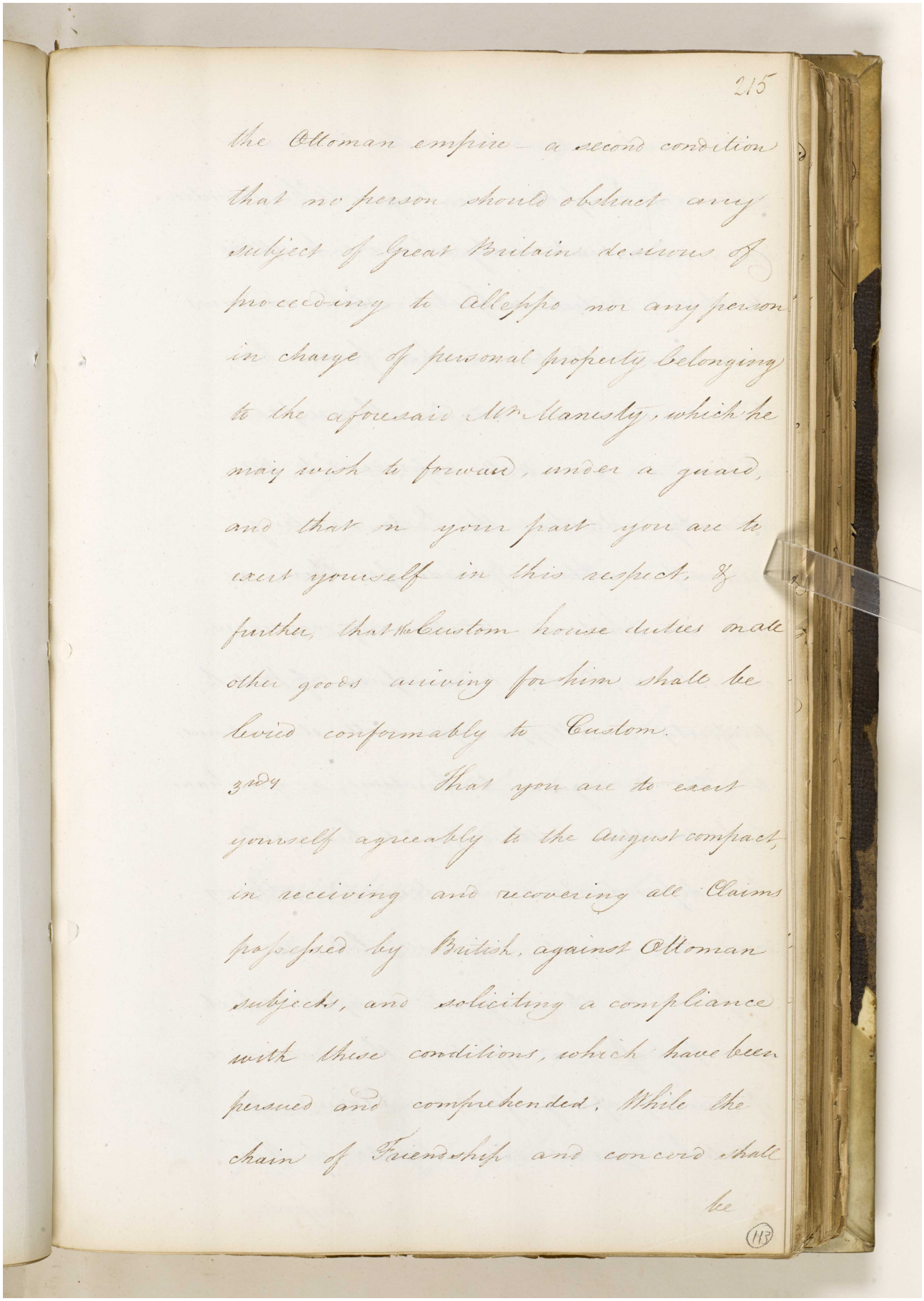

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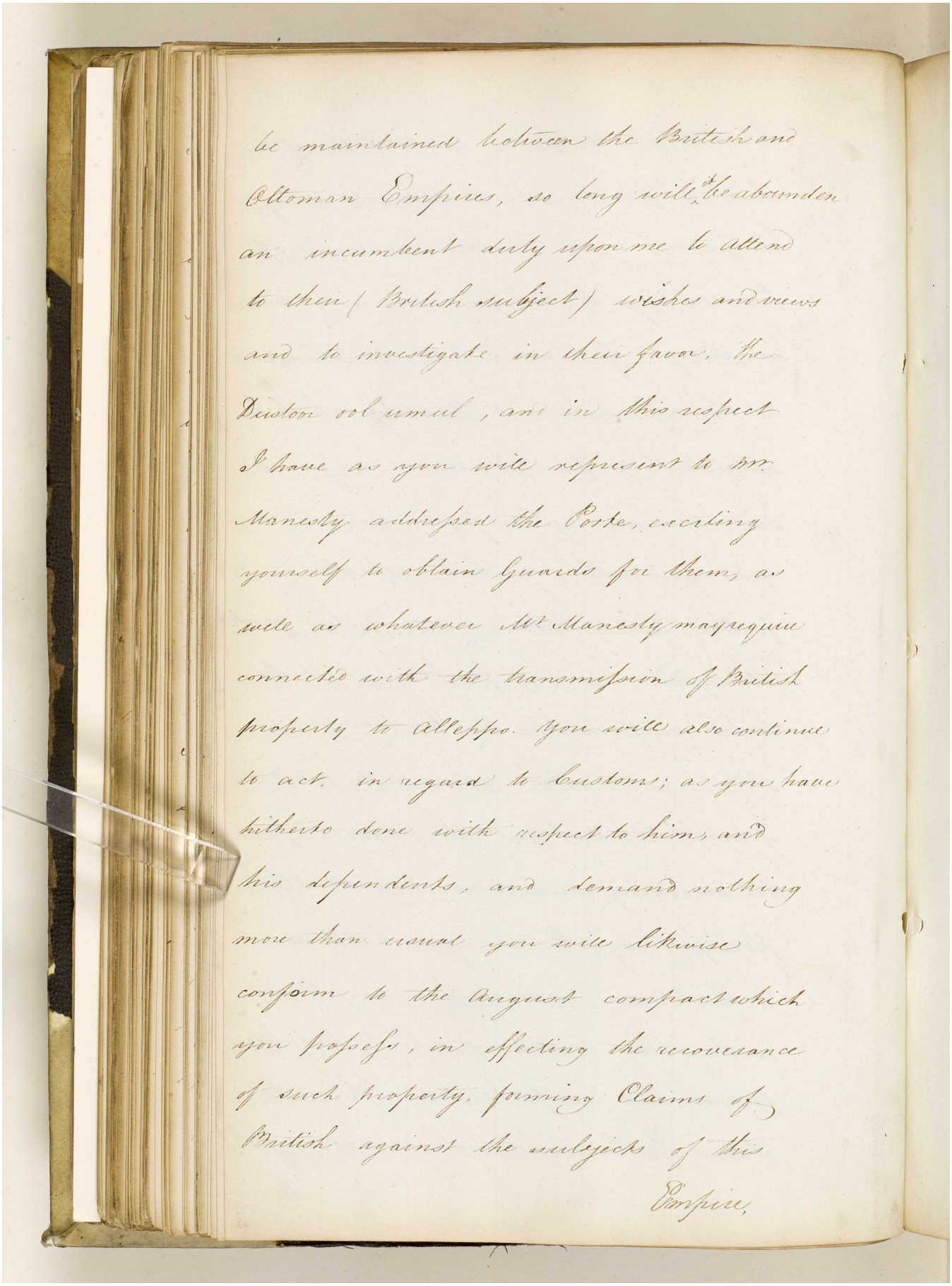
the Ottoman empire – a second condition that no person should obstruct any subject of Great Britain desirous of proceeding to Alleppo nor any person in charge of personal property belonging to the aforesaid Mr Manesty, which he may wish to forward, under a guard, and that on your part you are to exert yourself in this respect, & further, that the Custom house duties and other goods arriving for him shall be levied conformably to Custom.

3rdly That you are to exert yourself agreeably to the August compact, in receiving and recovering all Claims possessed by British, against Ottoman subjects, and soliciting a compliance with these conditions, which have been perused and comprehended. While the chain of Friendship and concord shall be

(113)



be maintained between the British and Ottoman Empires, so long will it be abounden an incumbent duty upon me to attend to their (British subject) wishes and views and to investigate in their favor, the Dustoor ool umul, and in this respect I have as you will represent to Mr. Manesty addressed the Porte, exerting yourself to obtain Guards for them, as well as whatever Mr. Manesty may require connected with the transmission of British property to Alleppo. You will also continue to act, in regard to Customs; as you have hitherto done with respect to him, and his dependents, and demand nothing more than usual you will likewise conform to the August compact which you possess, in effecting the recoverance of such property, forming Claims of British against the subjects of this

Empire,

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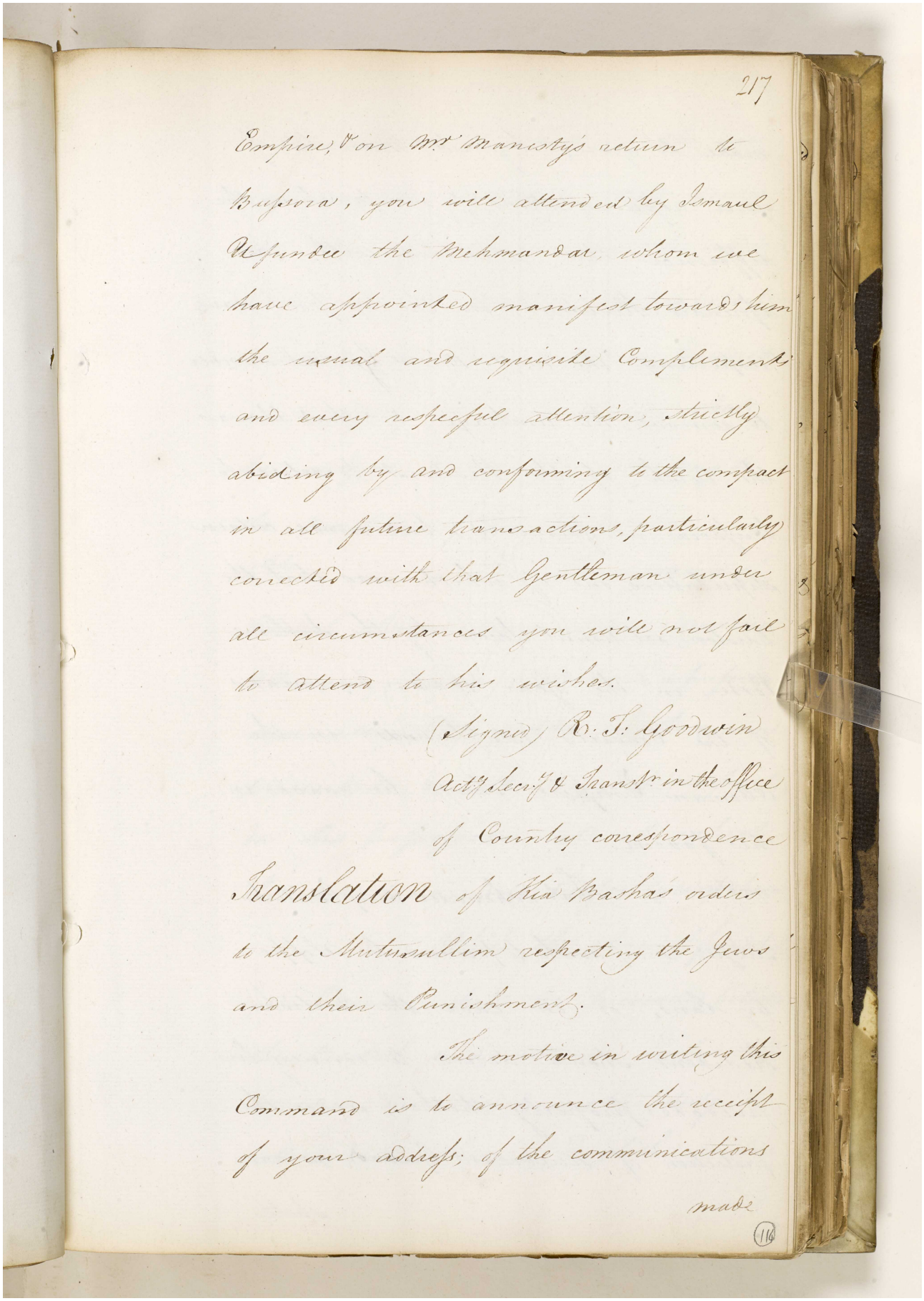

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Empire, & on Mr Manesty's return to Bussora, you will attended by Ismaul Effendee the Mehmandar, whom we have appointed manifest towards him the usual and requisite Complements and every respectful attention, strictly abiding by and conforming to the compact in all future transactions, particularly connected with that Gentleman under all circumstances you will not fail to attend to his wishes.

(Signed) R. T. Goodwin
Actg Secy & Transr in the office
of Country correspondence

Translation of His Bashas orders to the Mutsuddim respecting the Jews and their Punishment.

The motive in writing this Command is to announce the receipt of your address; of the communications

made

(114)

made to you, by Mr Manesty; of
your representations to me touching the
difference that occurred with the
aforesaid Resident, in the bye past years,
respecting the well known Guarrel in order
to remove his umbrage, & that it was
the wish of the Resident to return to
Bussora as formerly, but under certain
stipulations, one of which was that the
Dustoor col Amul issued by the Sublime
Porte, in the year 1206, by means
of the Consuls established in the
Ottoman Empire should be waved in
his favour.

2ndly That whenever any British
subject may wish to proceed to Aleppo
by Land, or in case the British
Resident should desire to convey his
private property thither, under the
protection of Rajdeean Guards no one

shall

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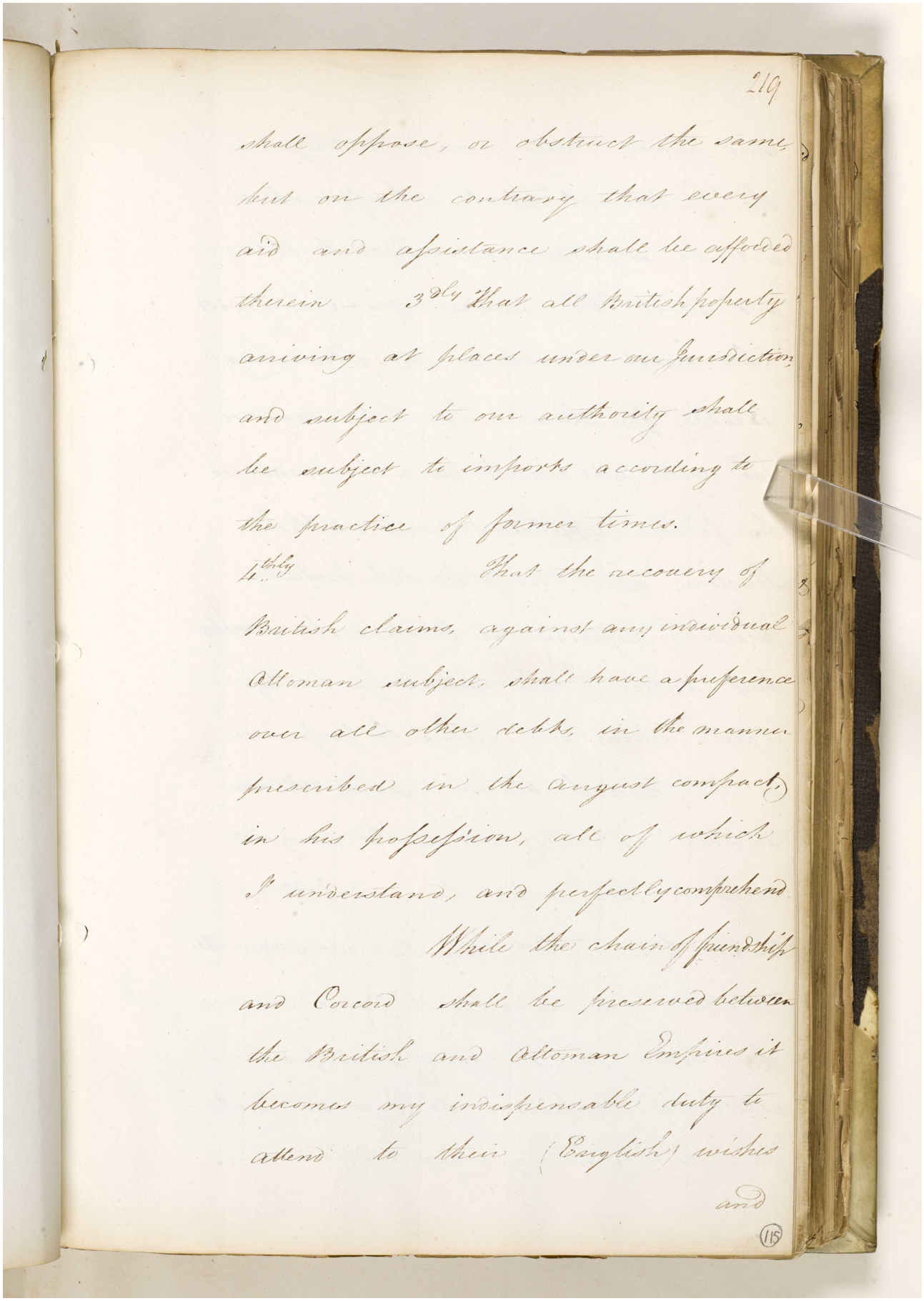

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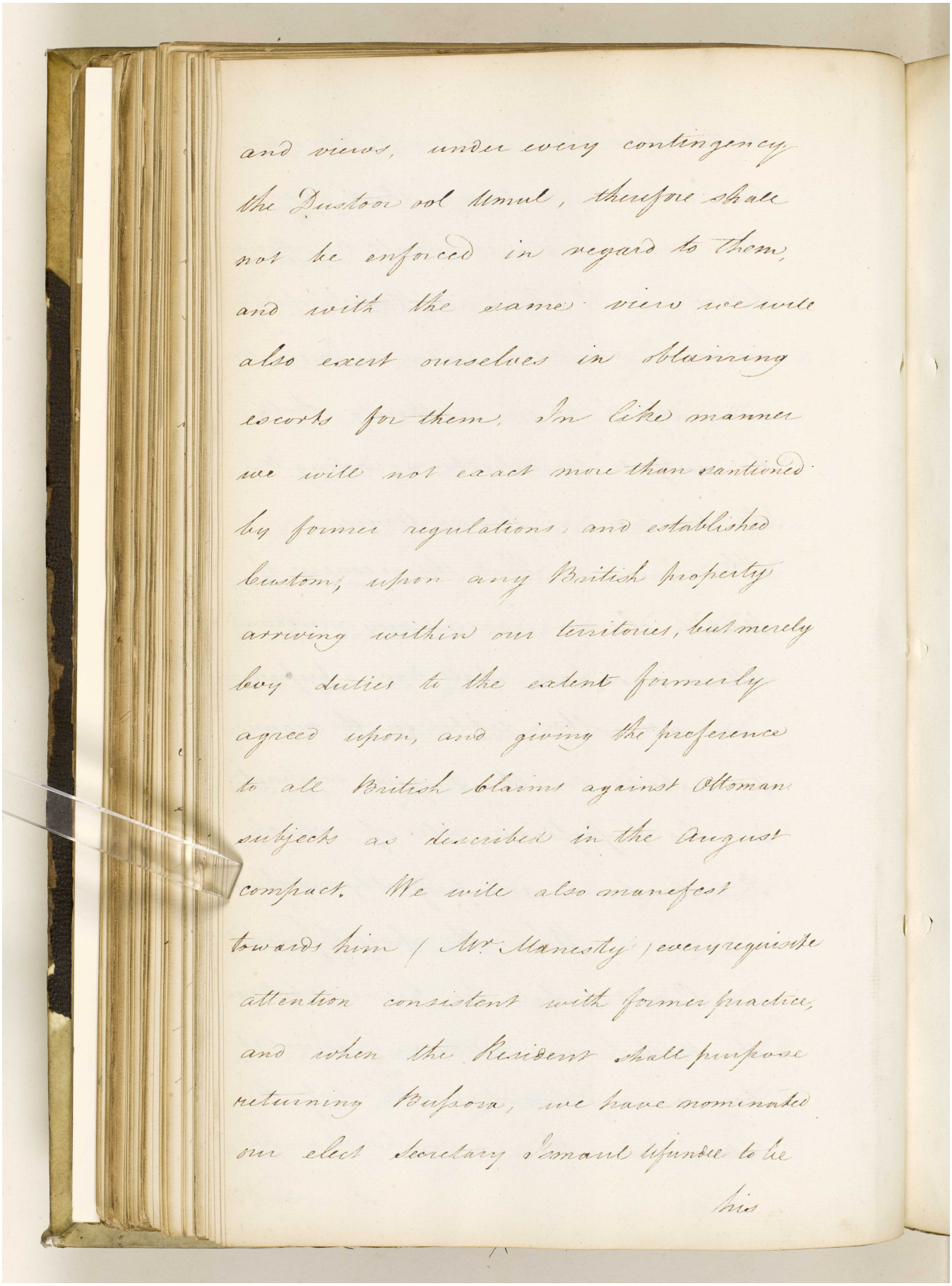
shall oppose, or obstruct the same,
but on the contrary that every
aid and assistance shall be afforded
therein — 3dly That all British property
arriving at places under our Jurisdiction,
and subject to our authority shall
be subject to imports according to
the practice of former times.
4thly That the recovery of
British claims, against any individual
Ottoman subject, shall have a preference
over all other debts, in the manner
prescribed in the august compact,
in his possession, all of which
I understand, and perfectly comprehend.
While the chain of friendship
and Concord shall be preserved between
the British and Ottoman Empires it
becomes my indispensable duty to
attend to their (English) wishes
and

(115)



and views, under every contingency
the Dustoor ool Amul, therefore shall
not be enforced in regard to them,
and with the same view we will
also exert ourselves in obtaining
escorts for them. In like manner
we will not exact more than sanctioned
by former regulations, and established
custom, upon any British property
arriving within our territories, but merely
levy duties to the extent formerly
agreed upon, and giving the preference
to all British claims against Ottoman
subjects as described in the August
compact. We will also manifest
towards him / Mr. Manesty / every requisite
attention consistent with former practice,
and when the Resident shall purpose
returning Bussora, we have nominated
our elect Secretary Osmand Effendee to be
his

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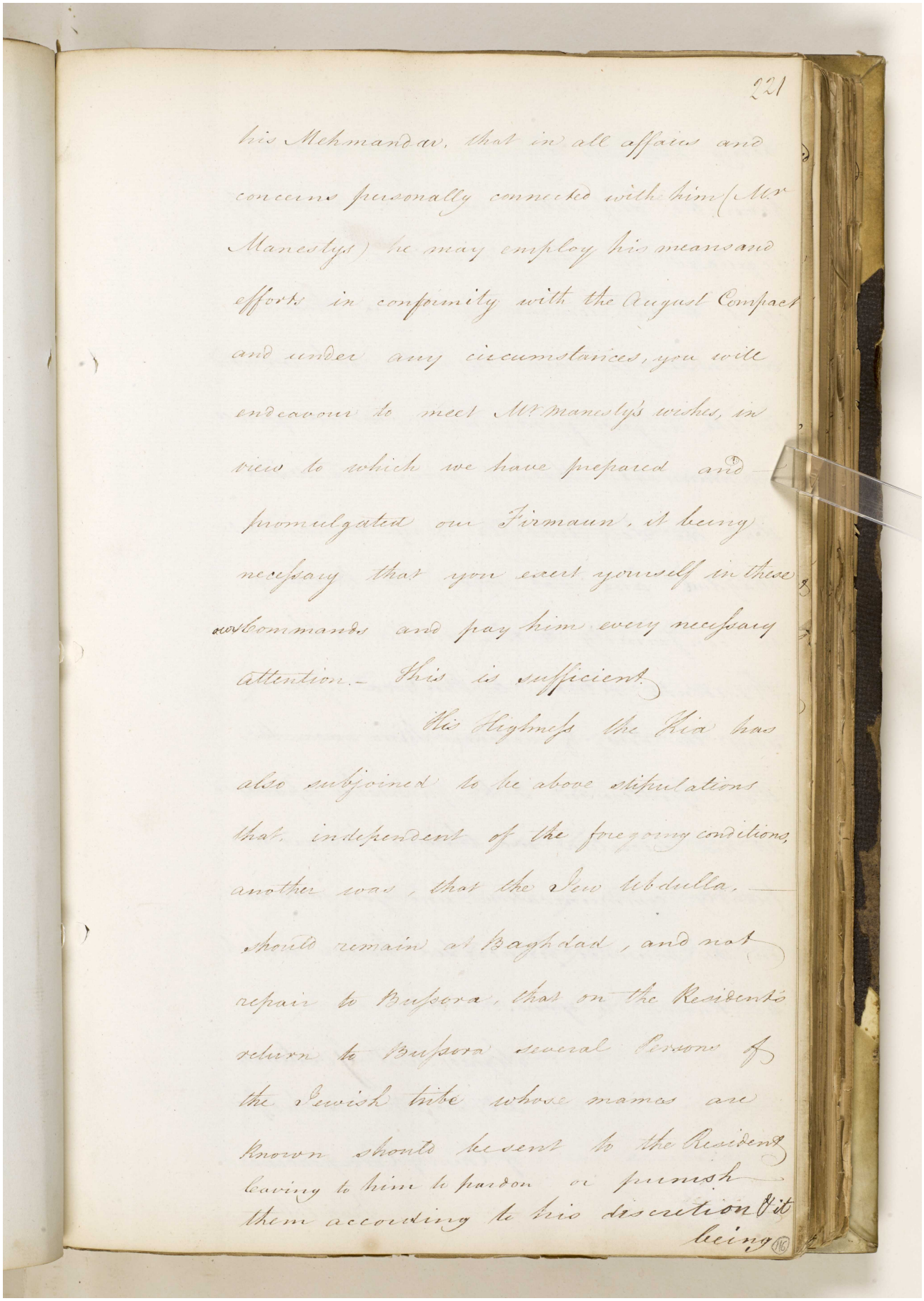

his Mehmandar, that in all affairs and
concerns personally connected with him (Mr
Manesty's) he may employ his means and
efforts in conformity with the August Compact
and under any circumstances, you will
endeavour to meet Mr Manesty's wishes, in
view to which we have prepared and
promulgated our Firmaun, it being
necessary that you exert yourself in these
wor Commands and pay him every necessary
attention. This is sufficient.

His Highness the Pia has
also subjoined to the above stipulations
that, independent of the foregoing conditions,
another was, that the New Abdulla,
should remain at Baghdad, and not
repair to Bussora, that on the Resident's
return to Bussora several Persons of
the Jewish tribe whose names are
known should be sent to the Resident
leaving to him to pardon or punish
them according to his discretion it
being

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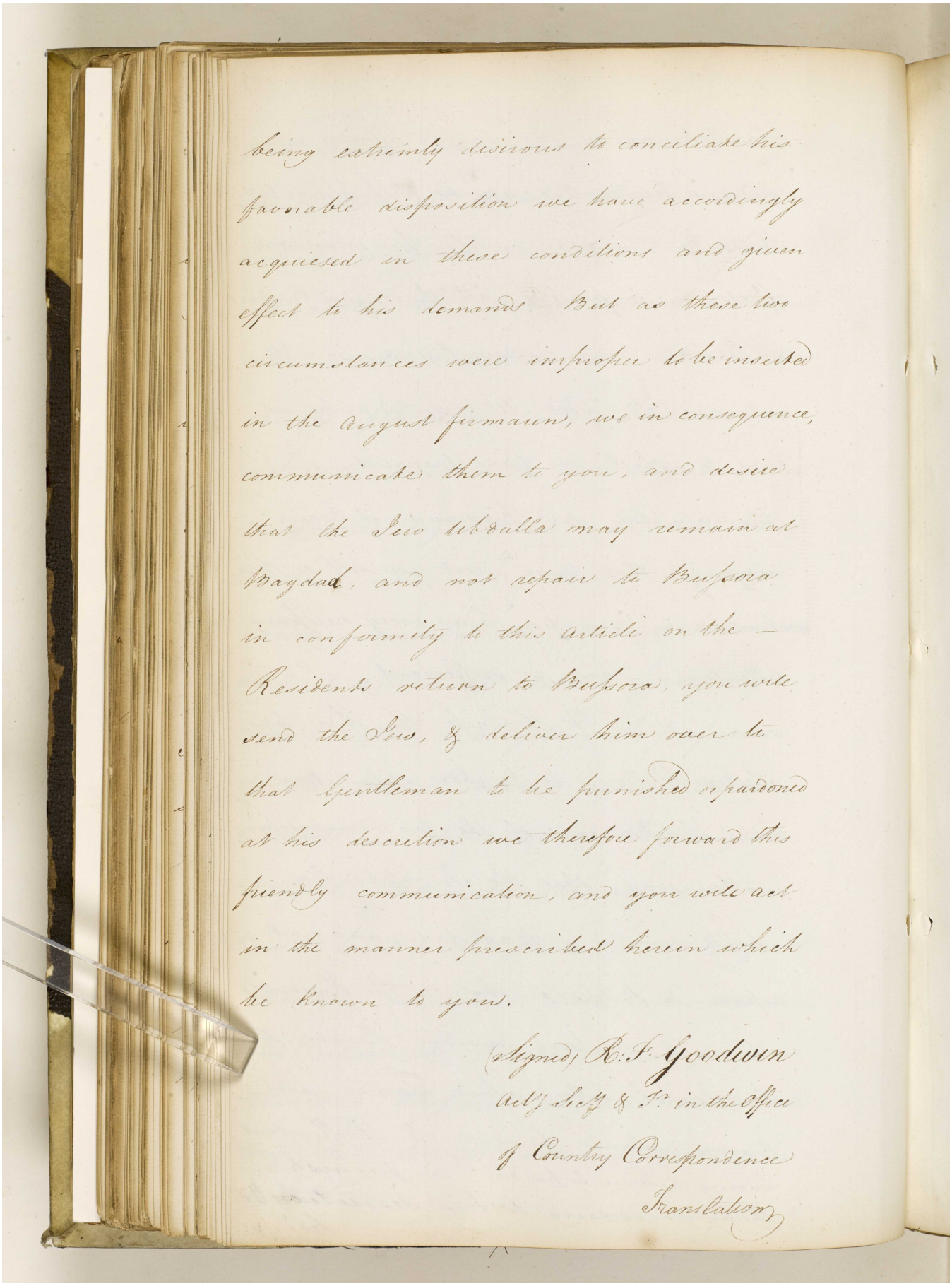

being extremly desirous to conciliate his favorable disposition we have accordingly acquiesed in these conditions and given effect to his demands - But as these two circumstances were improper to be inserted in the August firmaun, we in consequence, communicate them to you, and desire that the Jew Ubdulla may remain at Bagdad, and not repair to Bussora in conformity to this article on the - Residents return to Bussora, you will send the Jew, & deliver him over to that Gentleman to be punished or pardoned at his descretion we therefore forward this friendly communication, and you will act in the manner prescribed herein which be known to you.

(Signed) R: F: Goodwin
Actg Secy & Tr in the Office
of Country Correspondence
Translation

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'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [117r] (225/232)

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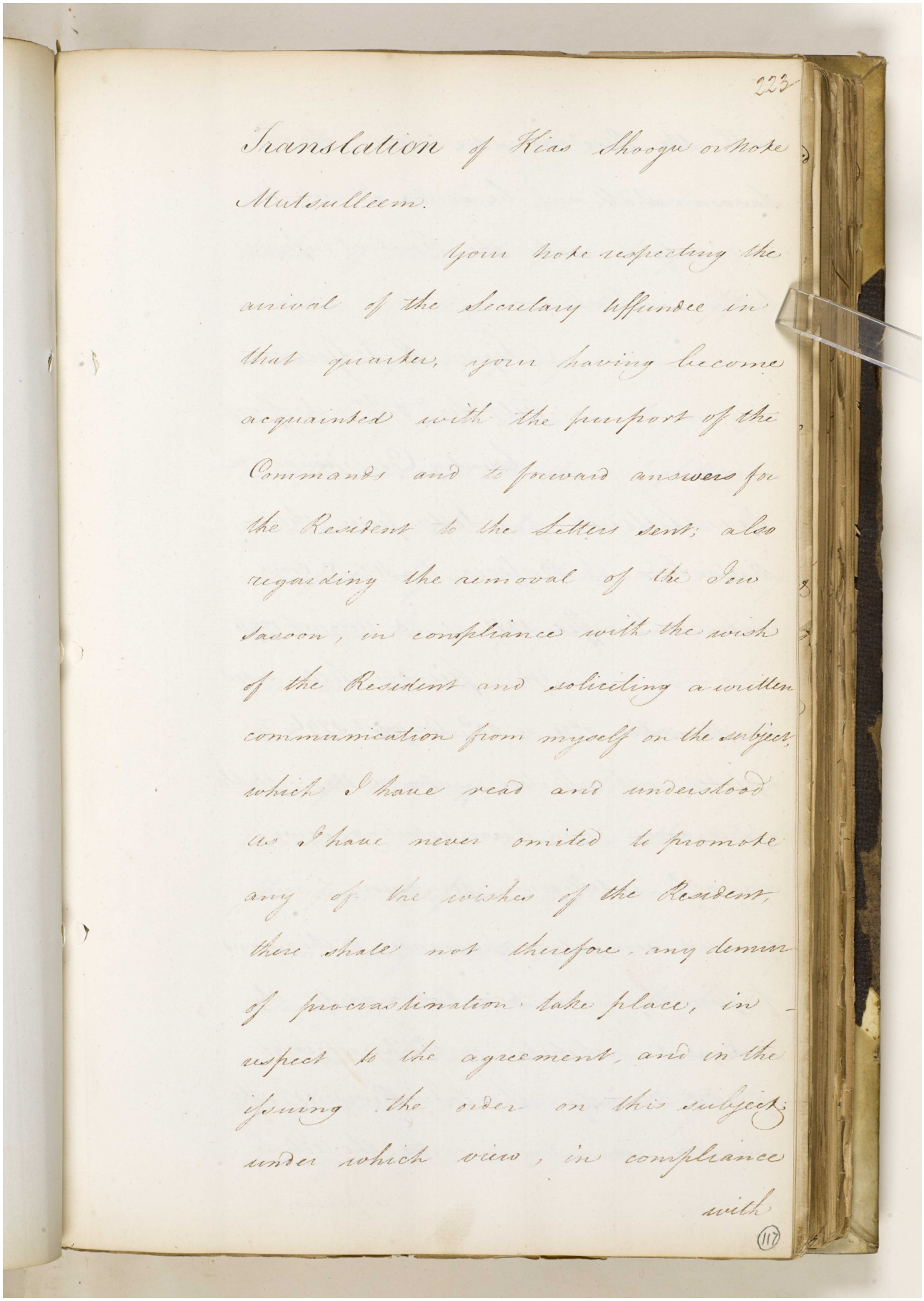

Translation of Kias Shoogu or Note Mutsulleem.

Your note respecting the arrival of the Secretary Uffundee in that quarter, your having become acquainted with the purport of the Commands and to forward answers for the Resident to the Letters sent; also regarding the removal of the Jew sasoon, in compliance with the wish of the Resident and soliciting a written communication from myself on the subject, which I have read and understood as I have never omited to promote any of the wishes of the Resident, there shall not therefore, any demur of procrastination take place, in respect to the agreement, and in the issuing the order on this subject; under which view, in compliance with

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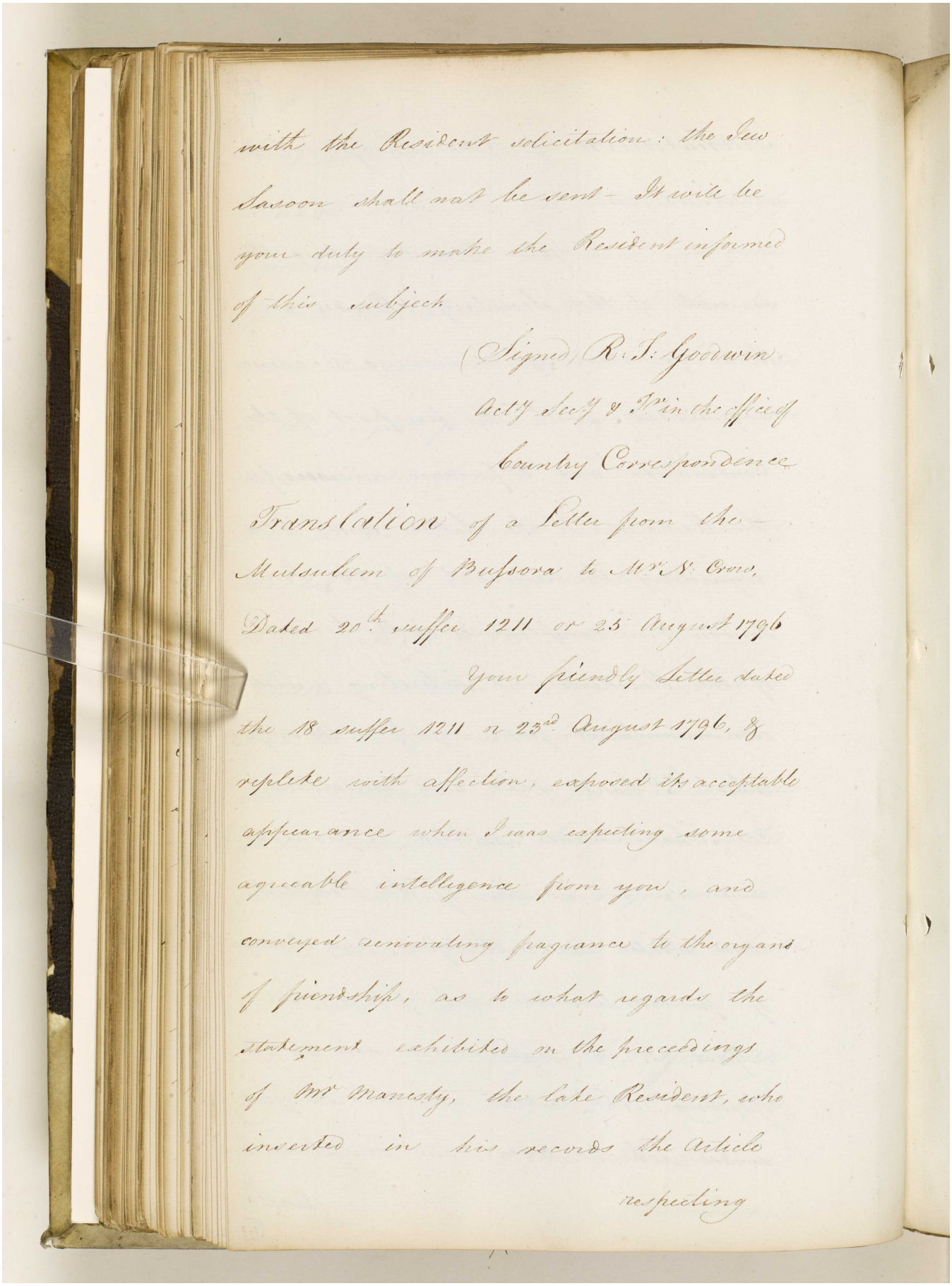
'Mr Crow's reply to the strictures on his Conduct sent by Mr Manesty to the Secret Committee in 1796' [117v] (226/232)



with the Resident solicitation: the Jew Sasoon shall not be sent - It will be your duty to make the Resident informed of this subject.

(Signed) R: T: Goodwin
Actg Secy & Tr in the office of
Country Correspondence

Translation of a Letter from the Mutsuleem of Bussora to Mr N: Crow, Dated 20th suffer 1211 or 25 August 1796

Your friendly Letter dated the 18 suffer 1211 or 23rd August 1796, & replete with affection, exposed its acceptable appearance when I was expecting some agreeable intelligence from you, and conveyed renovating fragrance to the organs of friendship, as to what regards the statement exhibited on the preceedings of Mr Manesty, the late Resident, who inserted in his records the Article

respecting

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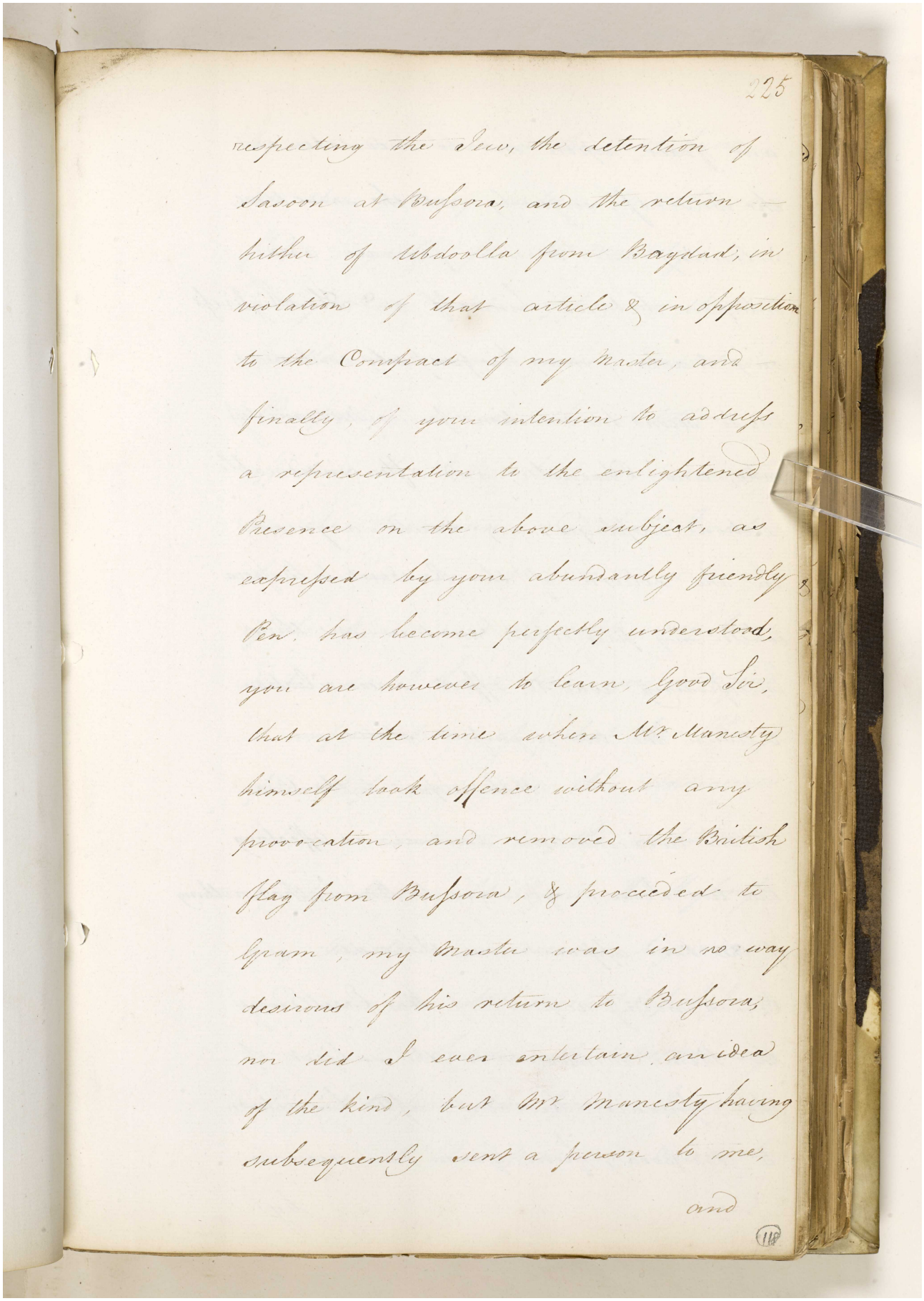

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respecting the Dew, the detention of Sasoon at Busora, and the return hither of Abdoolla from Baydad, in violation of that article & in opposition to the Compact of my Master, and finally, of your intention to address a representation to the enlightened Presence on the above subject, as expressed by your abundantly friendly Pen. has become perfectly understood, you are however to learn, Good Sir, that at the time when Mr Manesty himself took offence without any provocation, and removed the British flag from Busora, & proceeded to Gyam, my Master was in no way desirous of his return to Busora, nor did I even entertain an idea of the kind, but Mr Manesty having subsequently sent a person to me,

and

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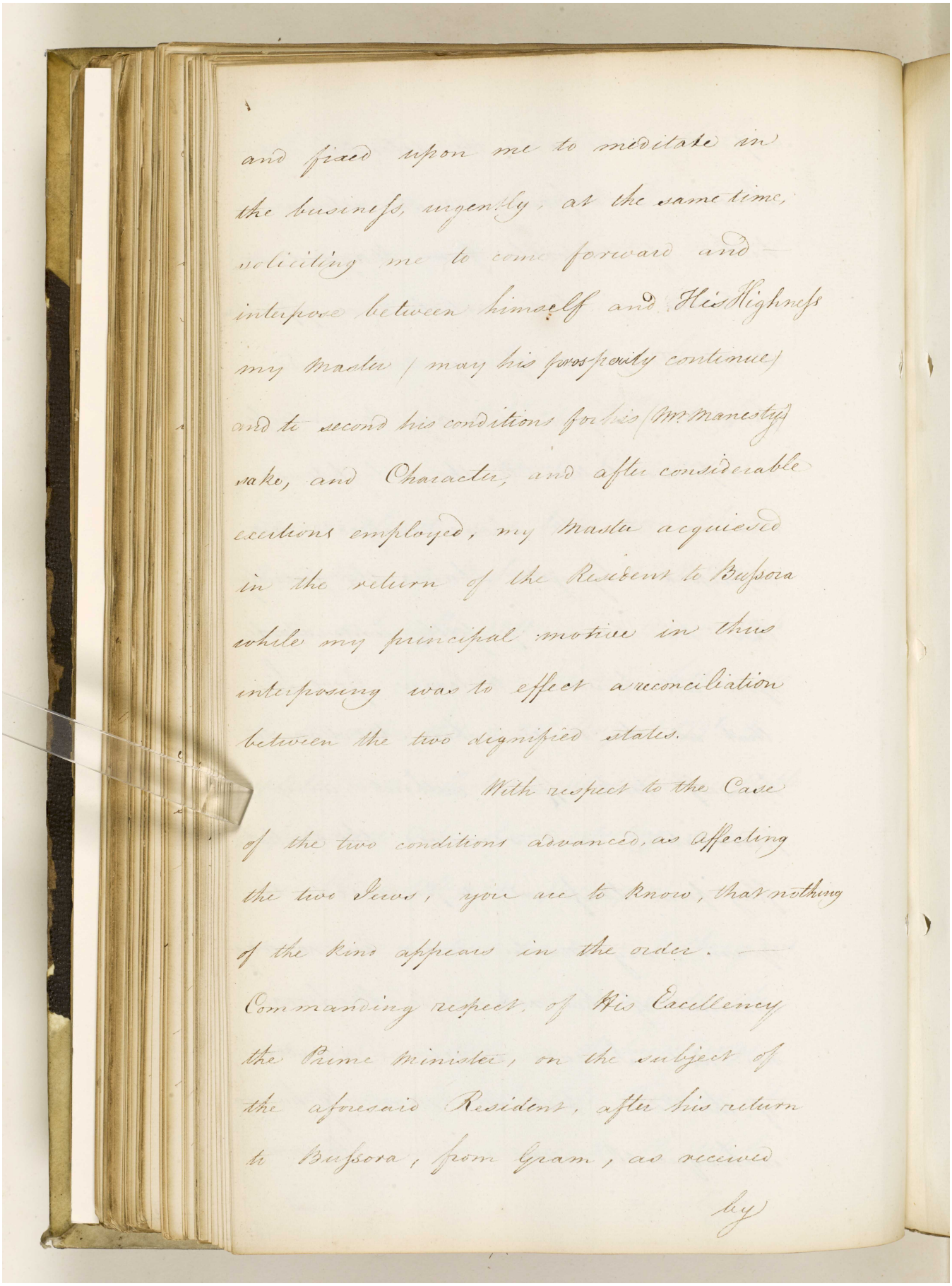

and fixed upon me to meditate in
the business, urgently, at the same time,
soliciting me to come forward and
interpose between himself and His Highness
my Master, may his prosperity continue,
and to second his conditions for his (Mr Manesty's)
sake, and Character, and after considerable
exertions employed, my Master acquiesced
in the return of the Resident to Bussora
while my principal motive in thus
interposing was to effect a reconciliation
between the two dignified states.

With respect to the Case
of the two conditions advanced, as affecting
the two Jews, you are to know, that nothing
of the kind appears in the order.
Commanding respect of His Excellency
the Prime Minister, on the subject of
the aforesaid Resident, after his return
to Bussora, from Gram, as received
by

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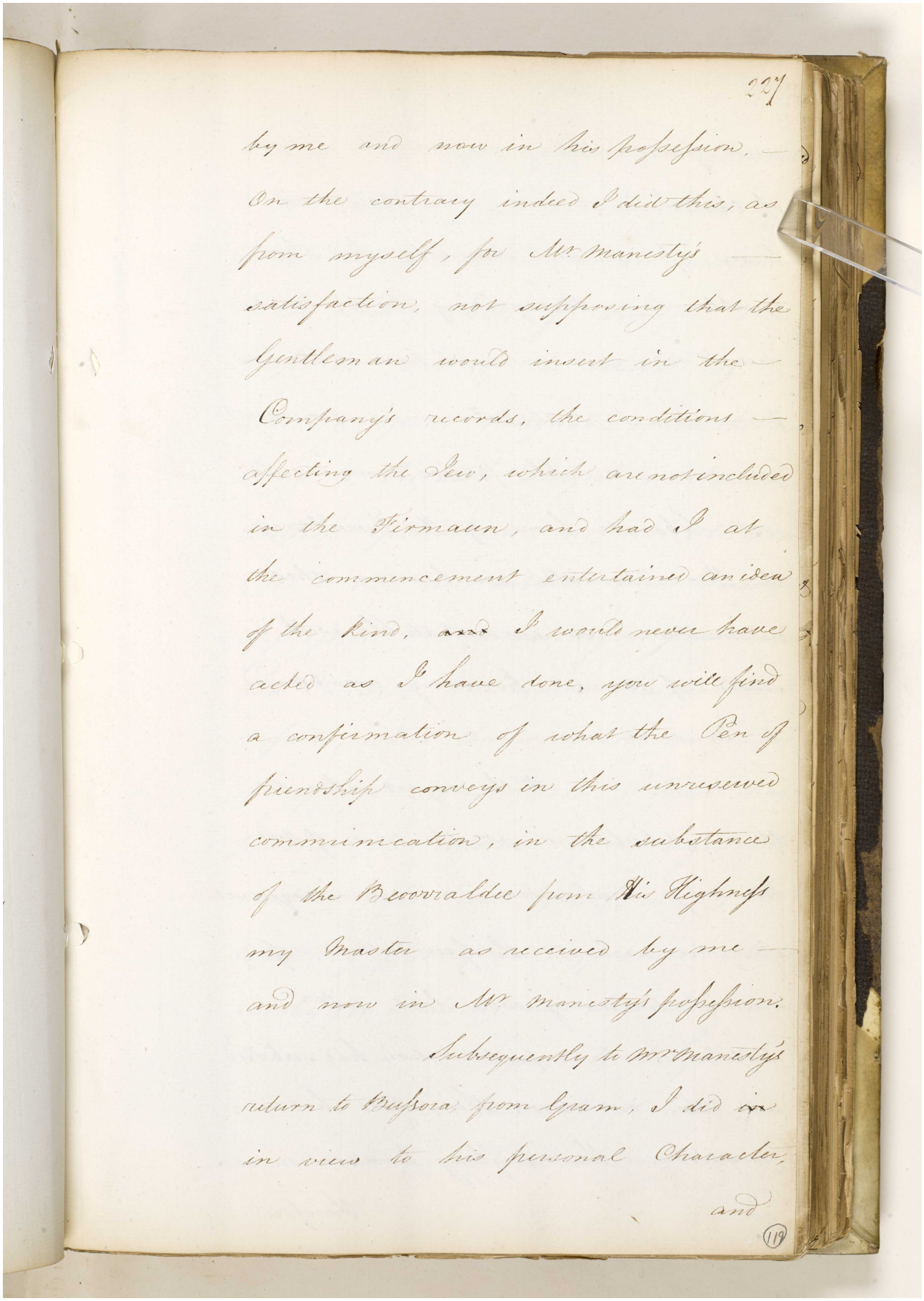

by me and now in his possession. — On the contrary indeed I did this, as from myself, for Mr Manesty's — satisfaction, not supposing that the Gentleman would insert in the — Company's records, the conditions — affecting the Jew, which are not included in the Firmaun, and had I at the commencement entertained an idea of the kind, ~~and~~ I would never have acted as I have done, you will find a confirmation of what the Pen of friendship conveys in this unreserved communication, in the substance of the Beoovraldee from His Highness my Master as received by me — and now in Mr Manesty's possession.

Subsequently to Mr Manesty's return to Bussora from Gram, I did ~~in~~ in view to his personal Character, and

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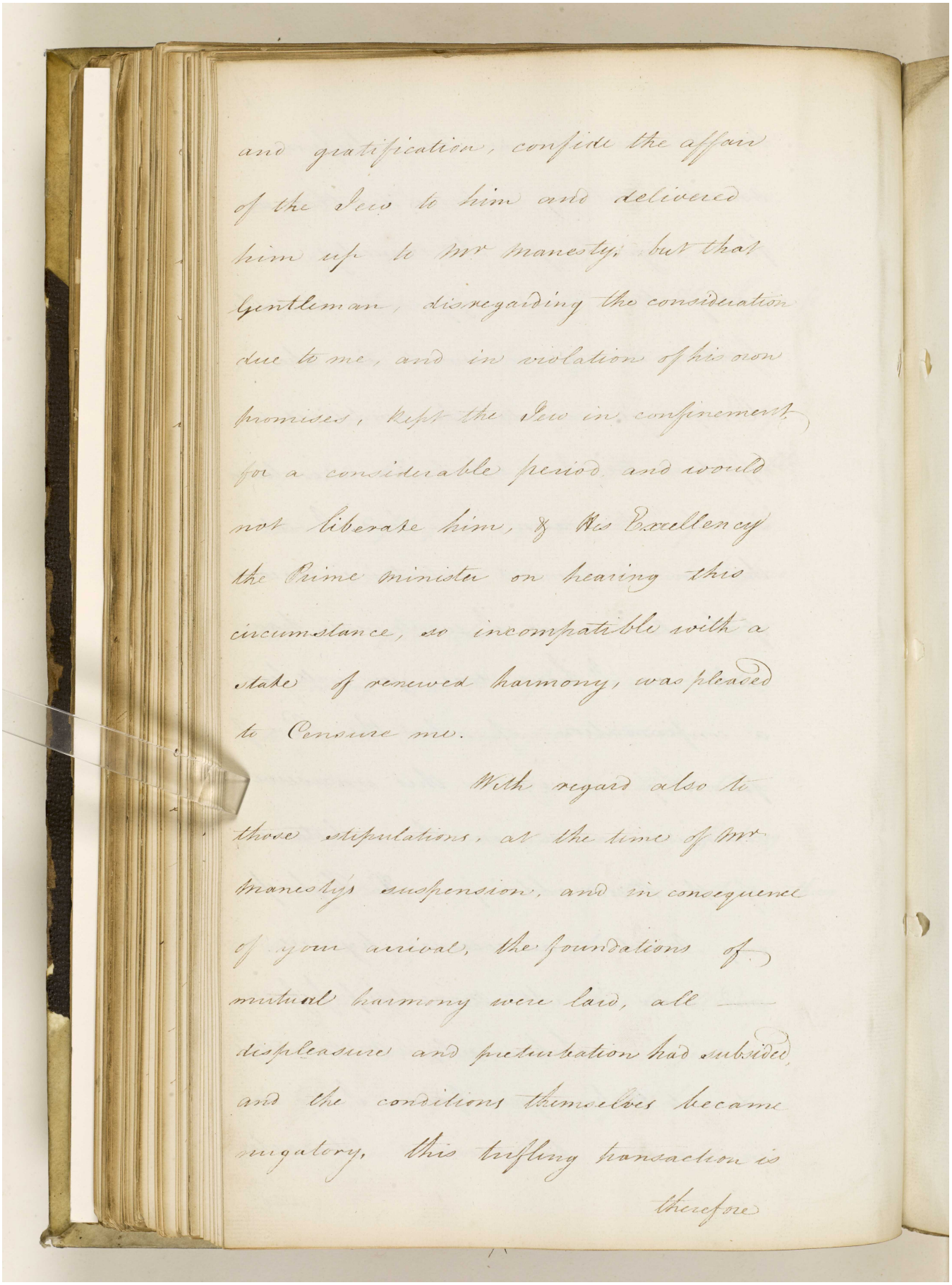

and gratification, confide the affair of the Jew to him and delivered him up to Mr Manesty; but that Gentleman, disregarding the consideration due to me, and in violation of his own promises, kept the Jew in confinement for a considerable period and would not liberate him, & His Excellency the Prime minister on hearing this circumstance, so incompatible with a state of renewed harmony, was pleased to Censure me.

With regard also to those stipulations, at the time of Mr Maneshy's suspension, and in consequence of your arrival, the foundations of mutual harmony were laid, all displeasure and perturbation had subsided and the conditions themselves became nugatory, this trifling transaction is

therefore

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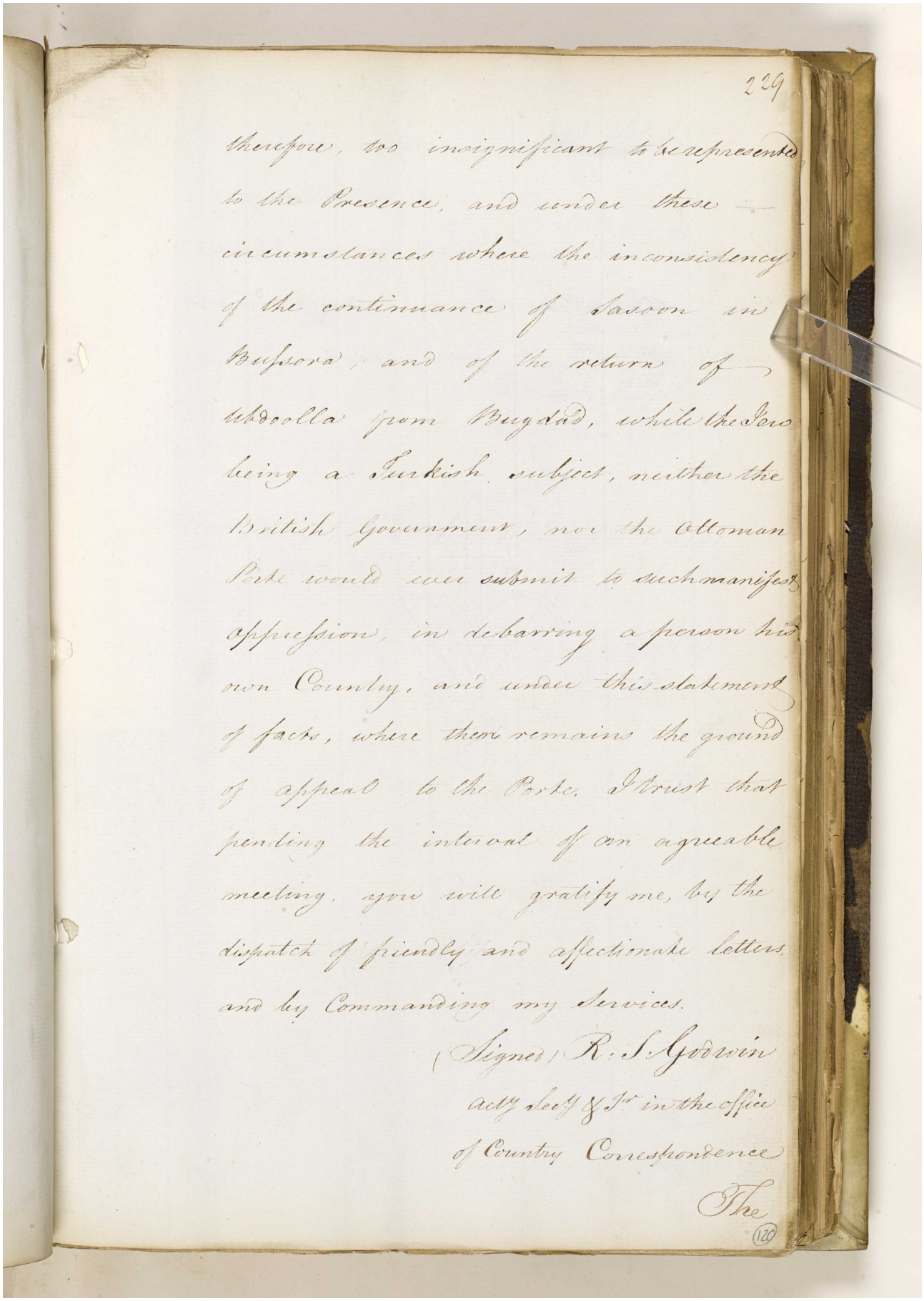

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therefore, too insignificant to be represented to the Presence, and under these circumstances where the inconsistency of the continuance of Sasoon in Bussora, and of the return of Abdoolla from Bagdad, while the Jew being a Turkish subject, neither the British Government, nor the Ottoman Porte would ever submit to such manifest oppression, in debarring a person his own Country, and under this statement of facts, where there remains the ground of appeal to the Porte. I trust that pending the interval of an agreeable meeting, you will gratify me, by the dispatch of friendly and affectionate letters, and by Commanding my Services.

(Signed) R. S. Godwin
Actg Secy & Jr in the office
of Country Correspondence

The

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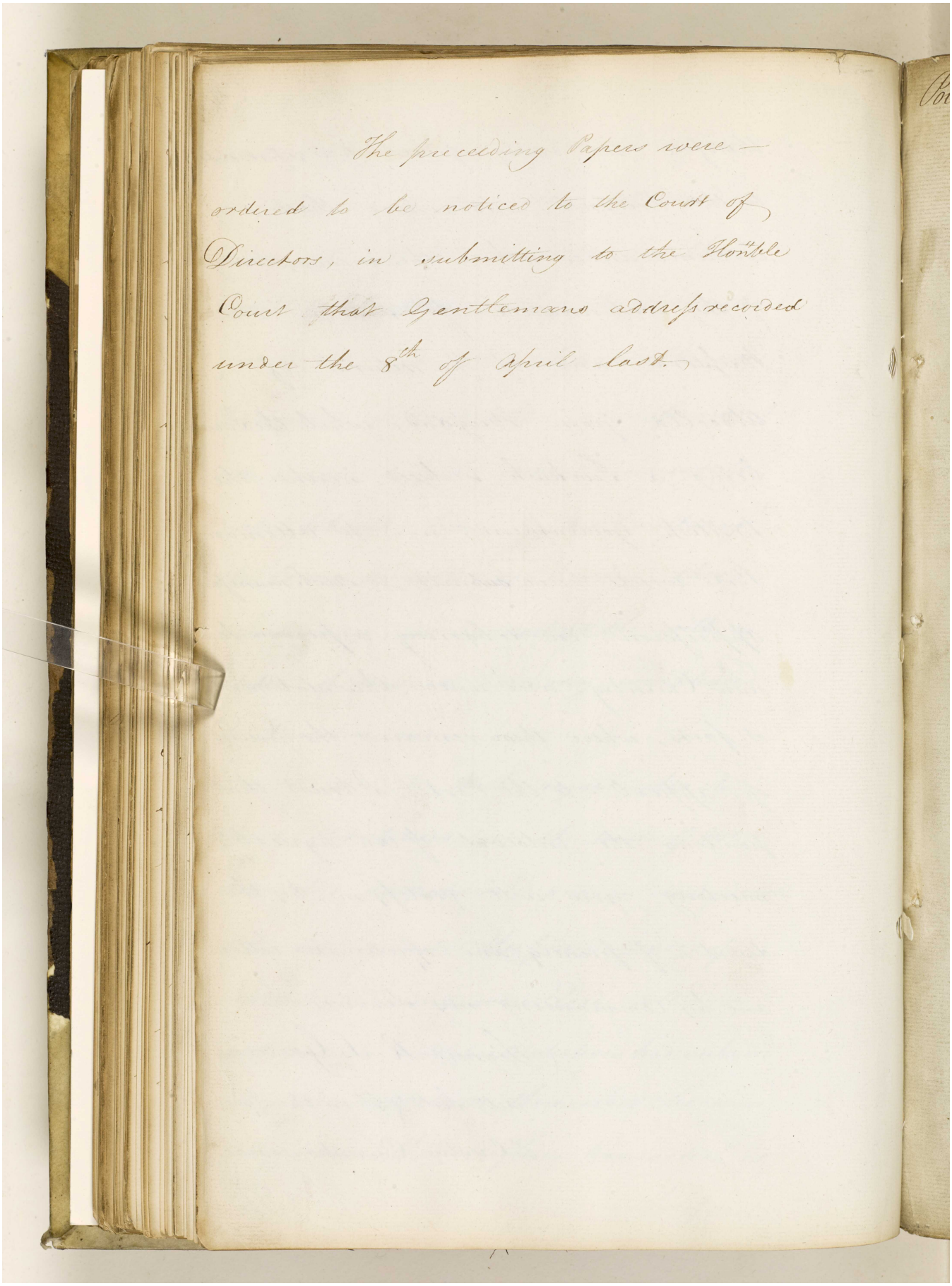

The preceding Papers were ordered to be noticed to the Court of Directors, in submitting to the Honble Court that Gentlemans address recorded under the 8th of April last.

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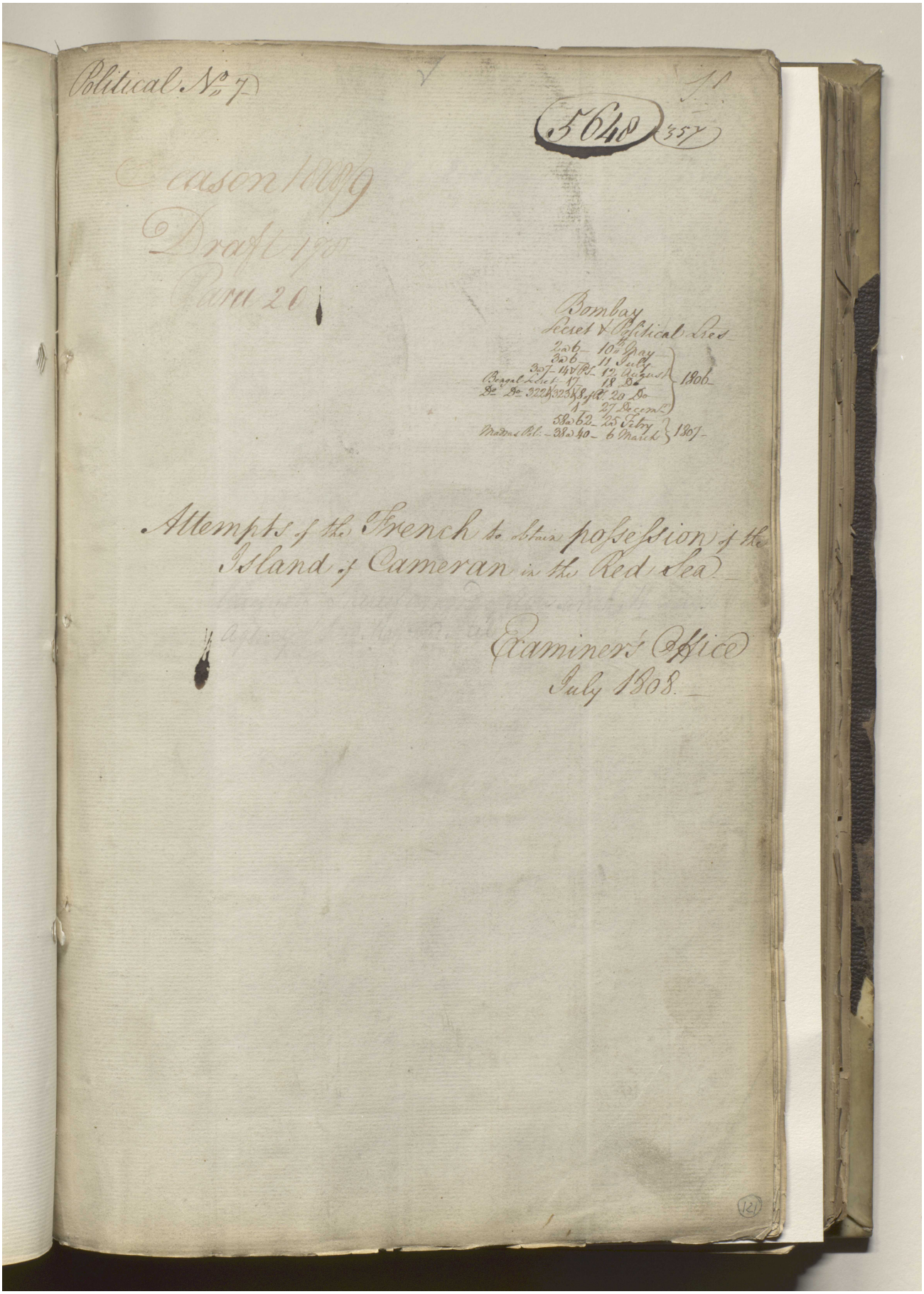

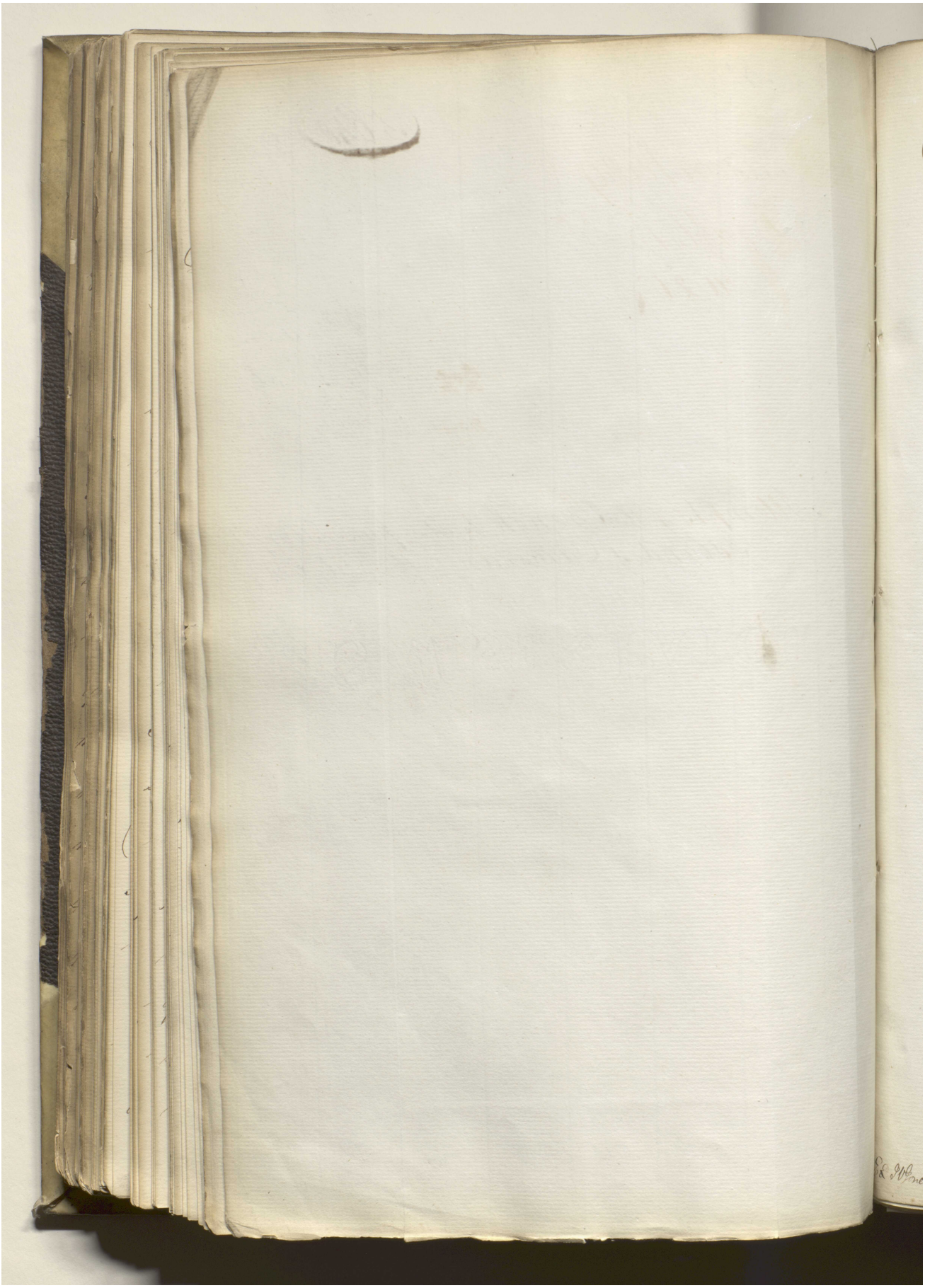

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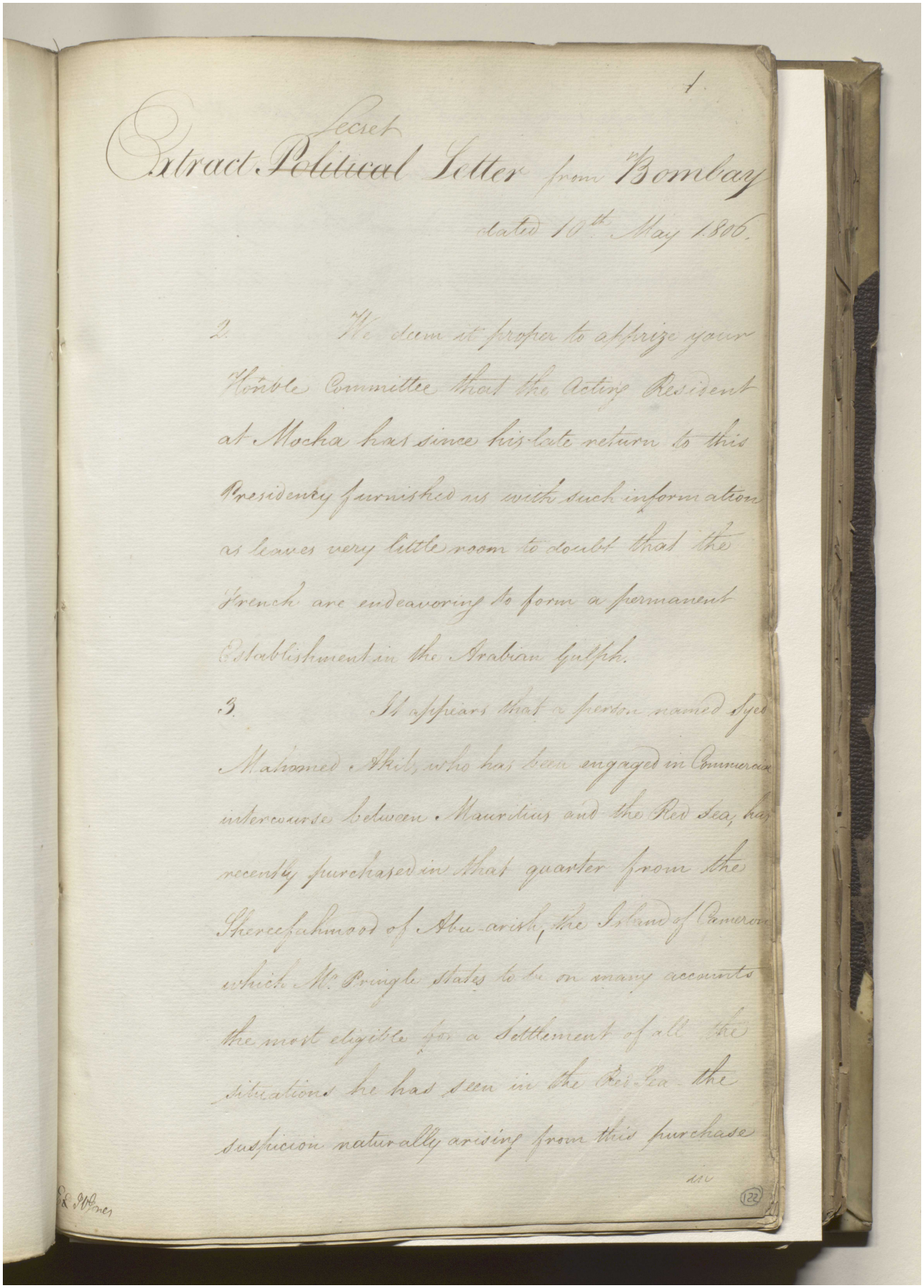

1.

Secret
Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 10th May 1806.

2. We deem it proper to apprize your Honble Committee that the Acting Resident at Mocha has since his late return to this Presidency furnished us with such information as leaves very little room to doubt that the French are endeavoring to form a permanent Establishment in the Arabian Gulph.

3. It appears that a person named Syed Mahomed Akil, who has been engaged in Commercial intercourse between Mauritius and the Red Sea, has recently purchased in that quarter from the Shereefahmood of Abu-arish, the Island of Cameron which Mr Pringle states to be on many accounts the most eligible for a Settlement of all the situations he has seen in the Red Sea the suspicion naturally arising from this purchase

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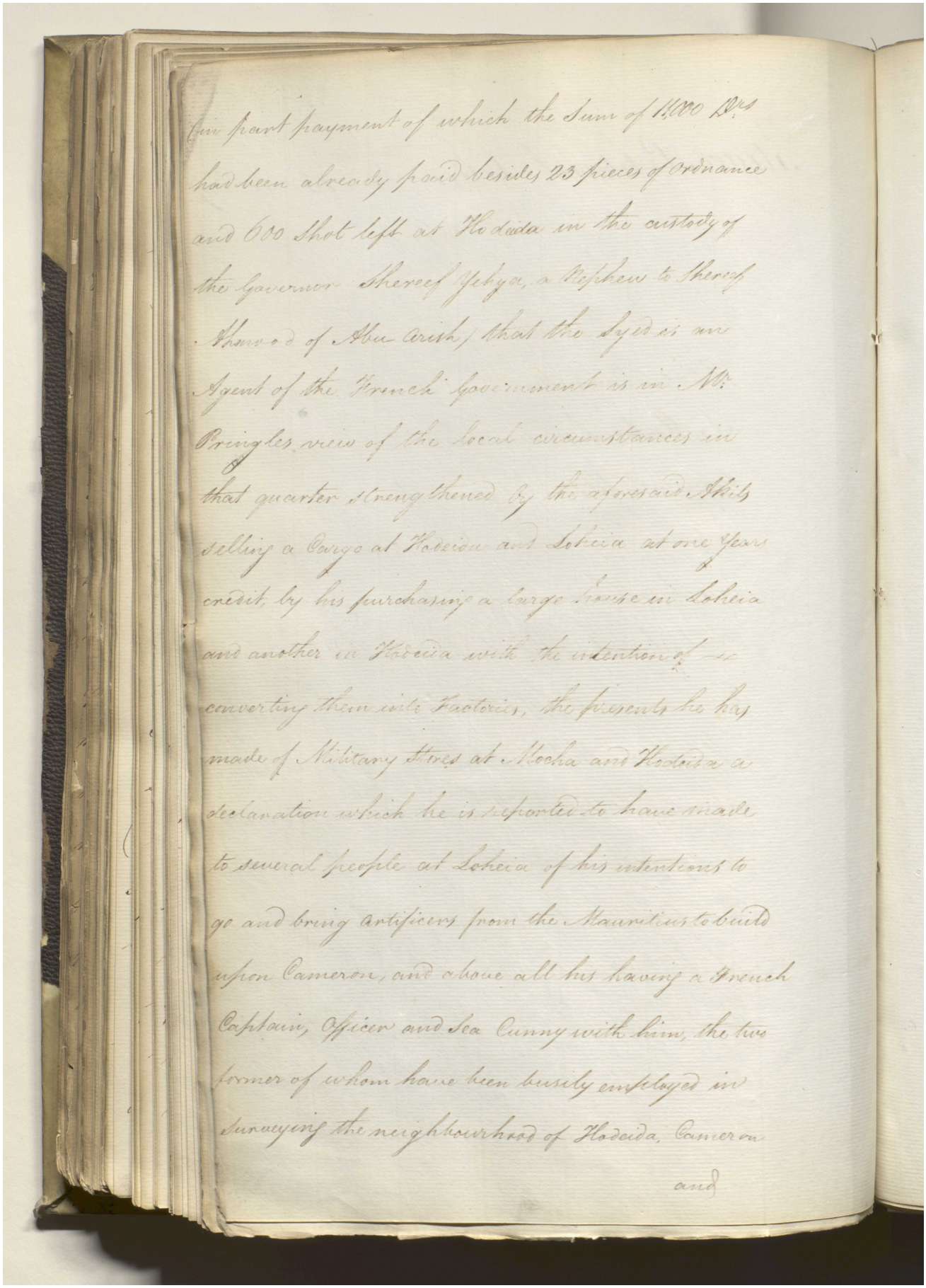

in part payment of which the Sum of 1000 Drs
had been already paid besides 23 pieces of ordnance
and 600 Shot left at Hodeida in the custody of
the Governor Shereef Yehya, a Nephew to Shereef
Hamood of Abu Arish, that the Syed is an
Agent of the French Government is in Mr
Pringles view of the local circumstances in
that quarter strengthened by the aforesaid Ship's
selling a Cargo at Hodeida and Loheia at one Years
credit, by his purchasing a large House in Loheia
and another in Hodeida with the intention of
converting them into Factories, the presents he has
made of Military stores at Mocha and Hodeida a
declaration which he is reported to have made
to several people at Loheia of his intentions to
go and bring Artificers from the Mauritius to build
upon Cameron, and above all his having a French
Captain, Officer and Sea Cunny with him, the two
former of whom have been busily employed in
surveying the neighbourhood of Hodeida, Cameron

and

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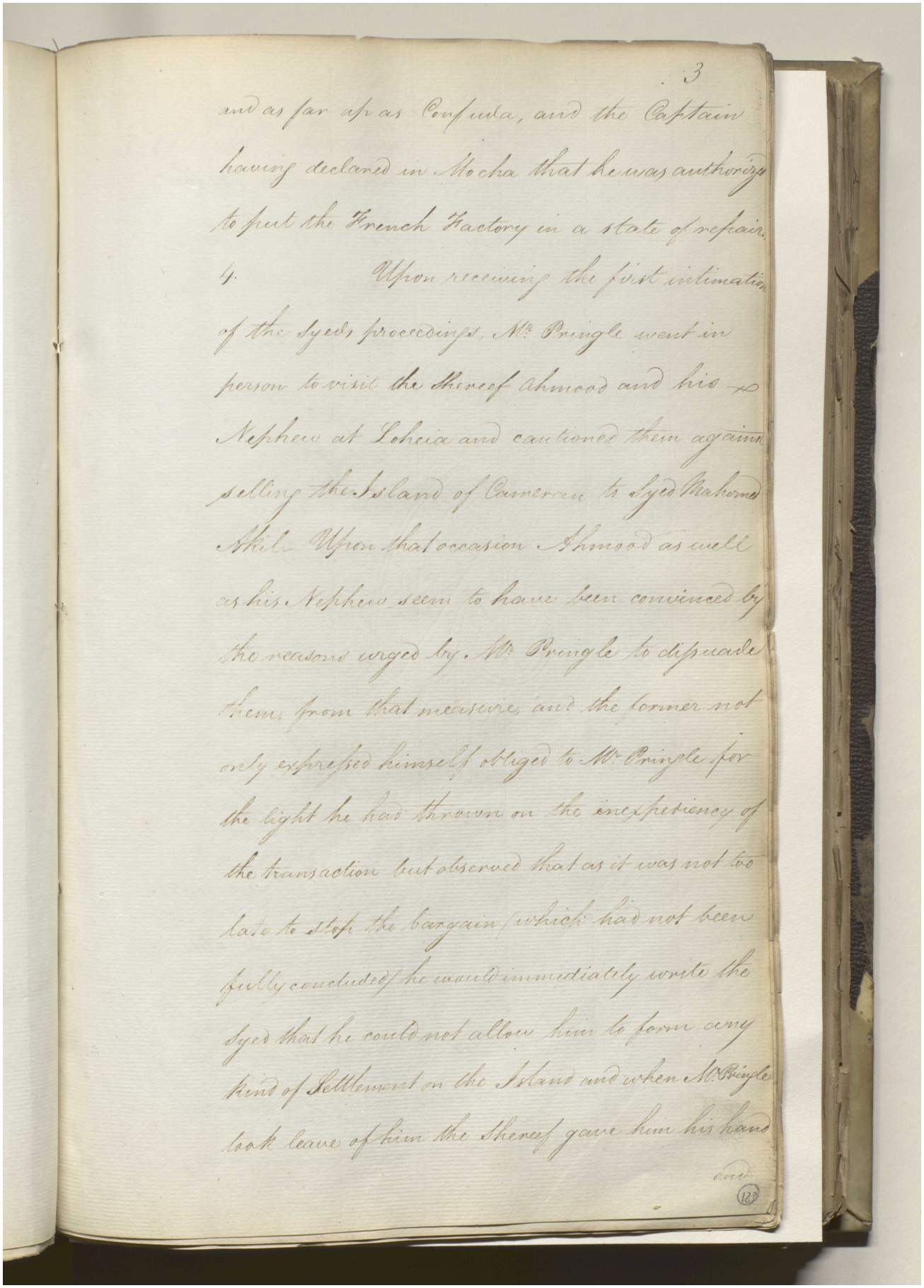

3

and as far up as Confuda, and the Captain having declared in Mocha that he was authorizd to put the French Factory in a state of repair.

4. Upon receiving the first intimation of the Syeds proceedings, Mr. Pringle went in person to visit the Shereef Ahmood and his Nephew at Loheia and cautioned them against selling the Island of Cameran to Syed Mahomed Akil. Upon that occasion Ahmood as well as his Nephew seem to have been convinced by the reasons urged by Mr. Pringle to dissuade them from that measure, and the former not only expressed himself obliged to Mr. Pringle for the light he had thrown on the inexpediency of the transaction but observed that as it was not too late to stop the bargain which had not been fully concluded he would immediately write the Syed that he could not allow him to form any kind of Settlement on the Island and when Mr. Pringle took leave of him the Shereef gave him his hand

and

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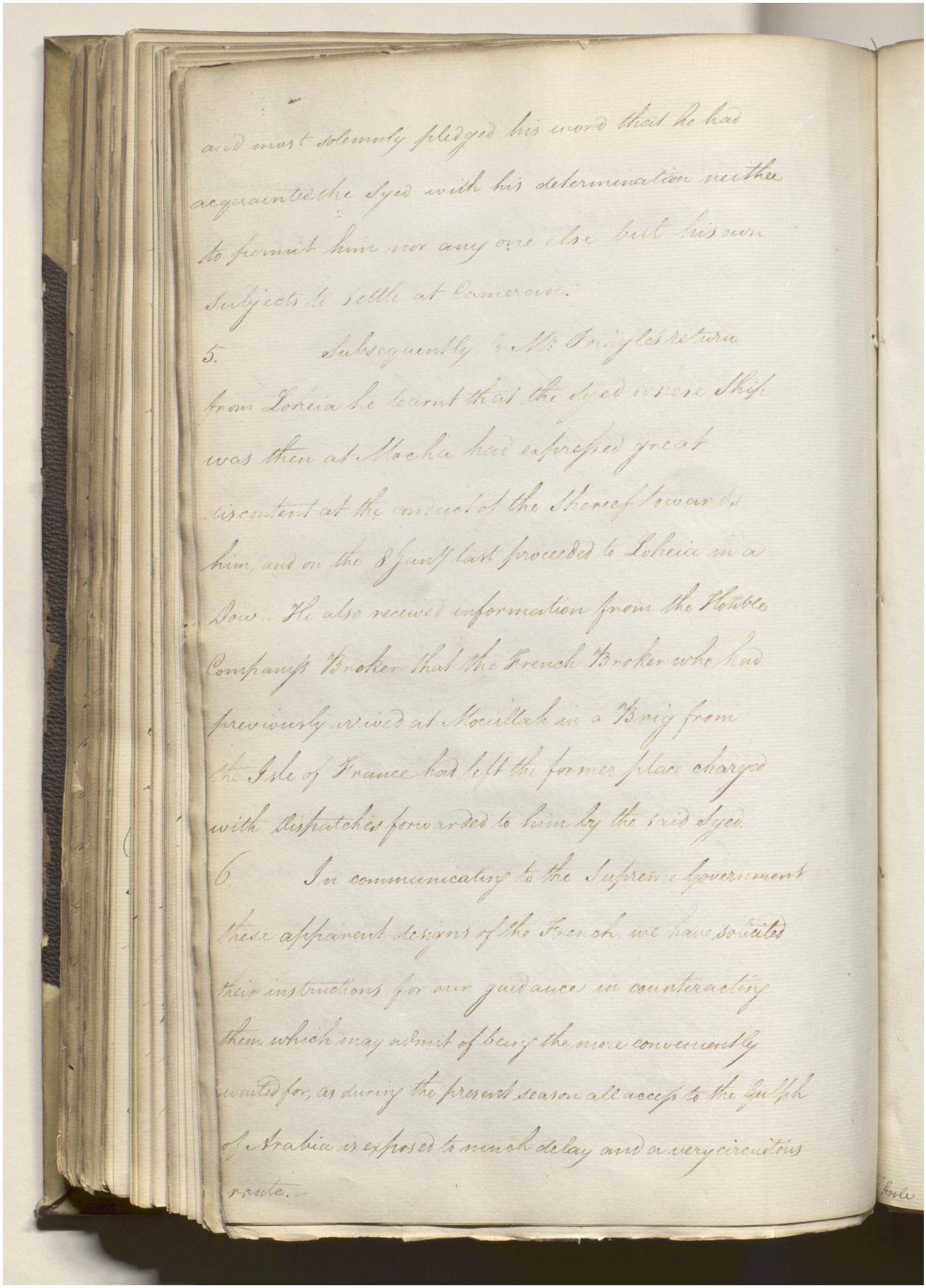

and most solemnly pledged his word that he had
acquainted the Syed with his determination neither
to permit him nor any one else but his own
Subjects to settle at Cameran.

5. Subsequently to Mr Bruyeres return
from Loheia he learnt that the Syed whose Ship
was then at Mocha had expressed great
discontent at the conduct of the Sheref towards
him, and on the 8 Jany last proceeded to Loheia in a
Dow. He also received information from the Hobbee
Company's Broker that the French Broker who had
previously arrived at Mocullah in a Brig from
the Isle of France had left the former place charged
with dispatches forwarded to him by the said Syed.

6. In communicating to the Supreme Government
these apparent designs of the French, we have solicited
their instructions for our guidance in counteracting
them which may admit of being the more conveniently
awaited for, as during the present season all access to the Gulph
of Arabia is exposed to much delay and a very circuitous
route.

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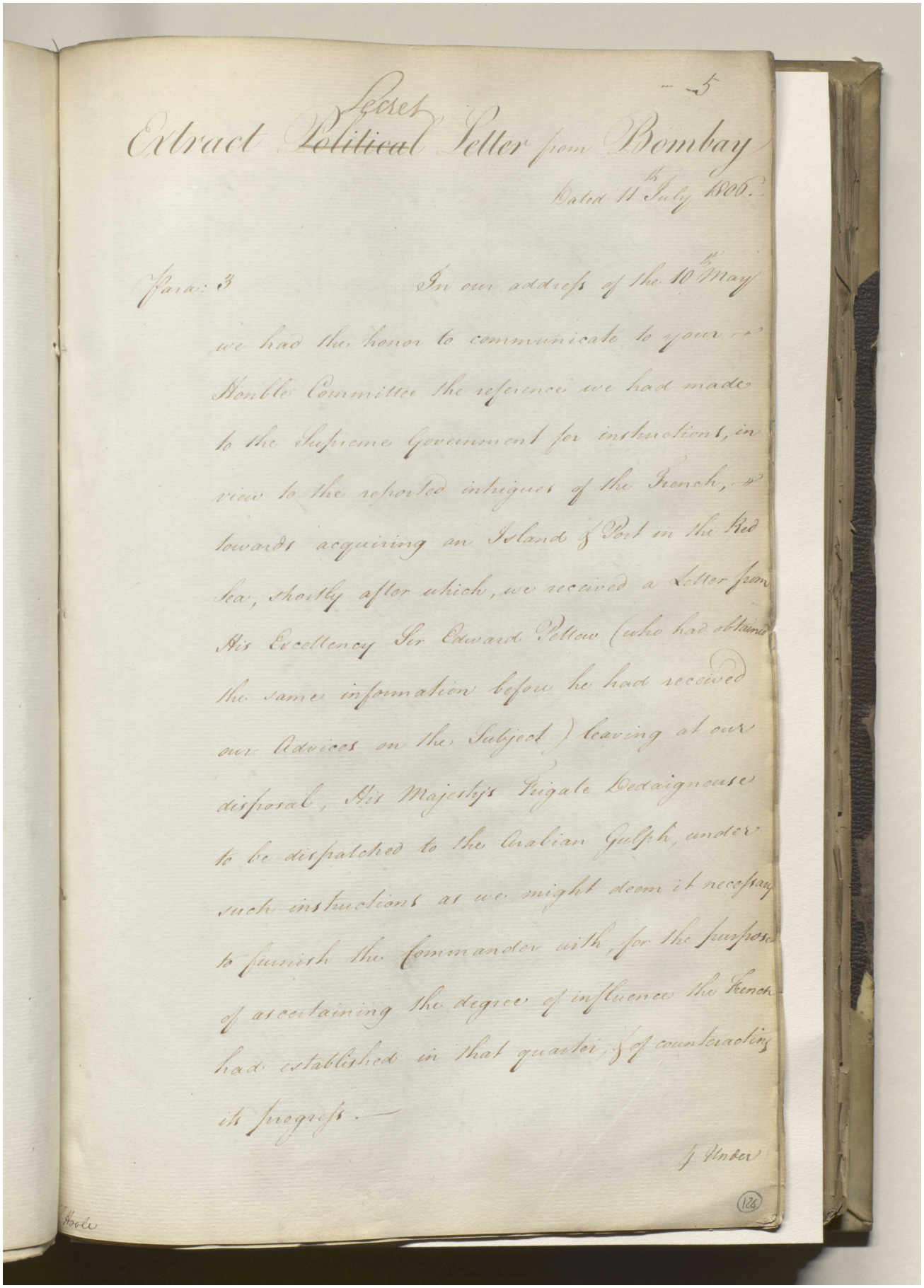

Secret
Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 11th July 1806.

Para: 3 In our address of the 10th May we had the honor to communicate to your Honble Committee the reference we had made to the Supreme Government for instructions, in view to the reported intrigues of the French, towards acquiring an Island & Port in the Red Sea, shortly after which, we received a Letter from His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew (who had obtained the same information before he had received our Advices on the Subject) leaving at our disposal, His Majesty's Frigate Dedaigneuse to be dispatched to the Arabian Gulph, under such instructions as we might deem it necessary to furnish the Commander with, for the purpose of ascertaining the degree of influence the French had established in that quarter, & of counteracting its progress.

J Under

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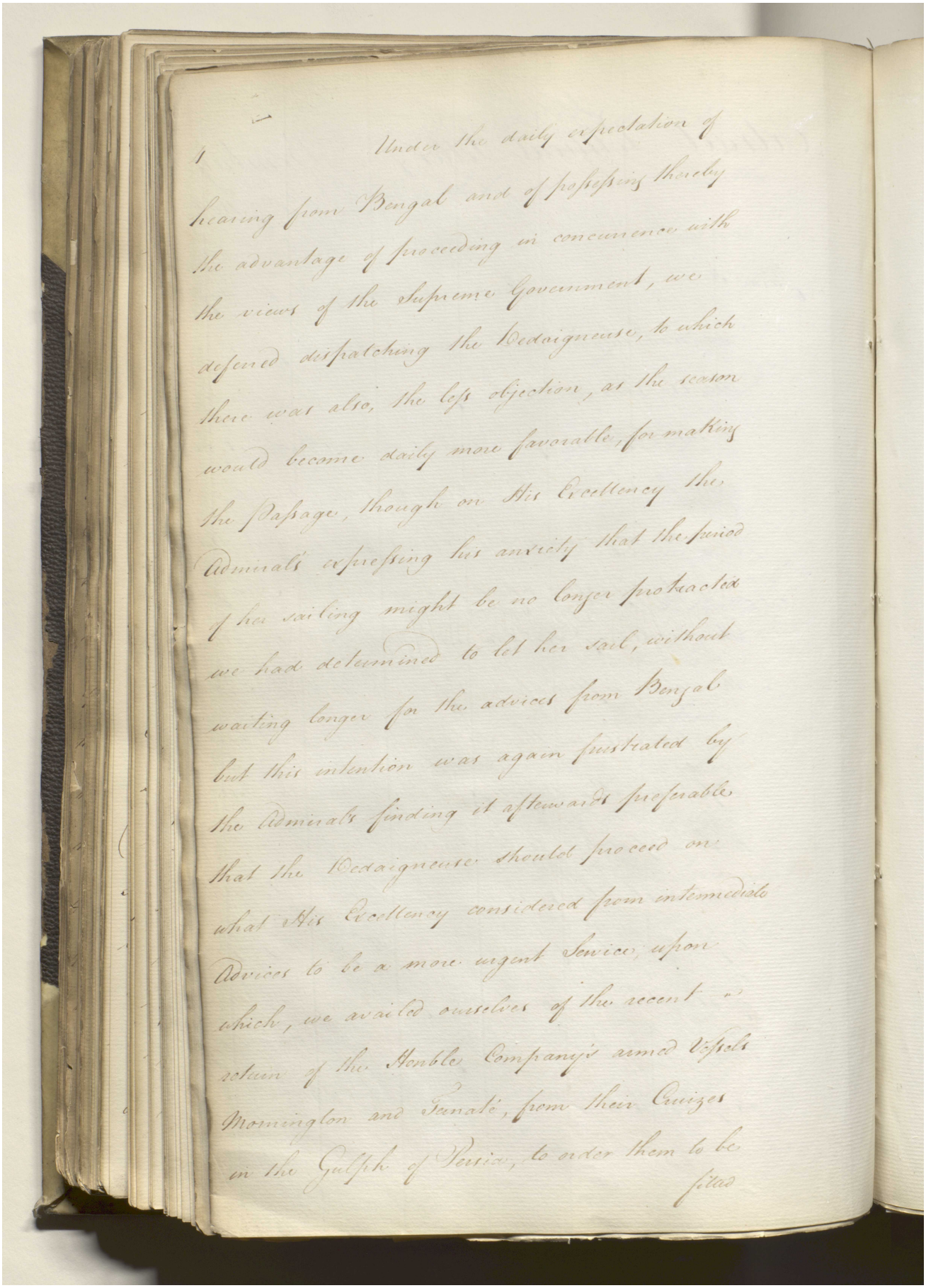

Under the daily expectation of
hearing from Bengal and of profiting thereby
the advantage of proceeding in concurrence with
the views of the Supreme Government, we
deferred dispatching the Dedaigneuse, to which
there was also the less objection, as the season
would become daily more favorable, for making
the Passage, though on His Excellency the
Admirals expressing his anxiety that the period
of her sailing might be no longer protracted
we had determined to let her sail, without
waiting longer for the advices from Bengal
but this intention was again frustrated by
the Admirals finding it afterwards preferable
that the Dedaigneuse should proceed on
what His Excellency considered from intermediate
Advices to be a more urgent Service, upon
which, we availed ourselves of the recent
return of the Honble Company's armed Vessels
Mornington and Panaté, from their Cruizes
in the Gulph of Persia, to order them to be
fitted

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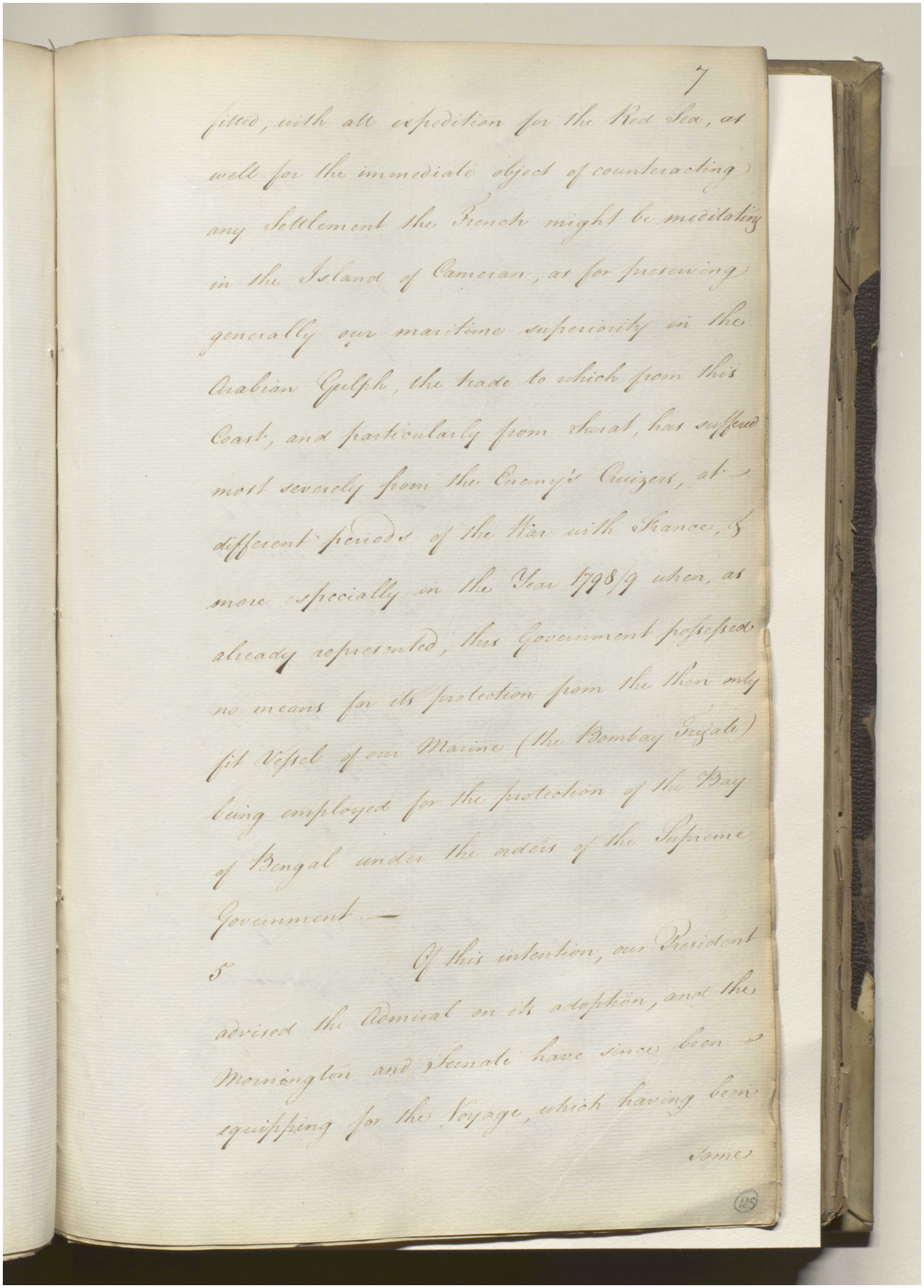

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fitted, with all expedition for the Red Sea, as well for the immediate object of counteracting any Settlement the French might be meditating in the Island of Cameran, as for preserving generally our maritime superiority in the Arabian Gulph, the trade to which from this Coast, and particularly from Surat, has suffered most severely from the Enemy's Cruizers, at different periods of the War with France, & more especially in the Year 1798/9 when, as already represented, this Government possessed no means for its protection from the then only fit Vessel of our Marine (the Bombay Ingalo) being employed for the protection of the Bay of Bengal under the orders of the Supreme Government —

5 Of this intention, our President advised the Admiral on its adoption, and the Mornington and Female have since been equipping for the Voyage, which having been some

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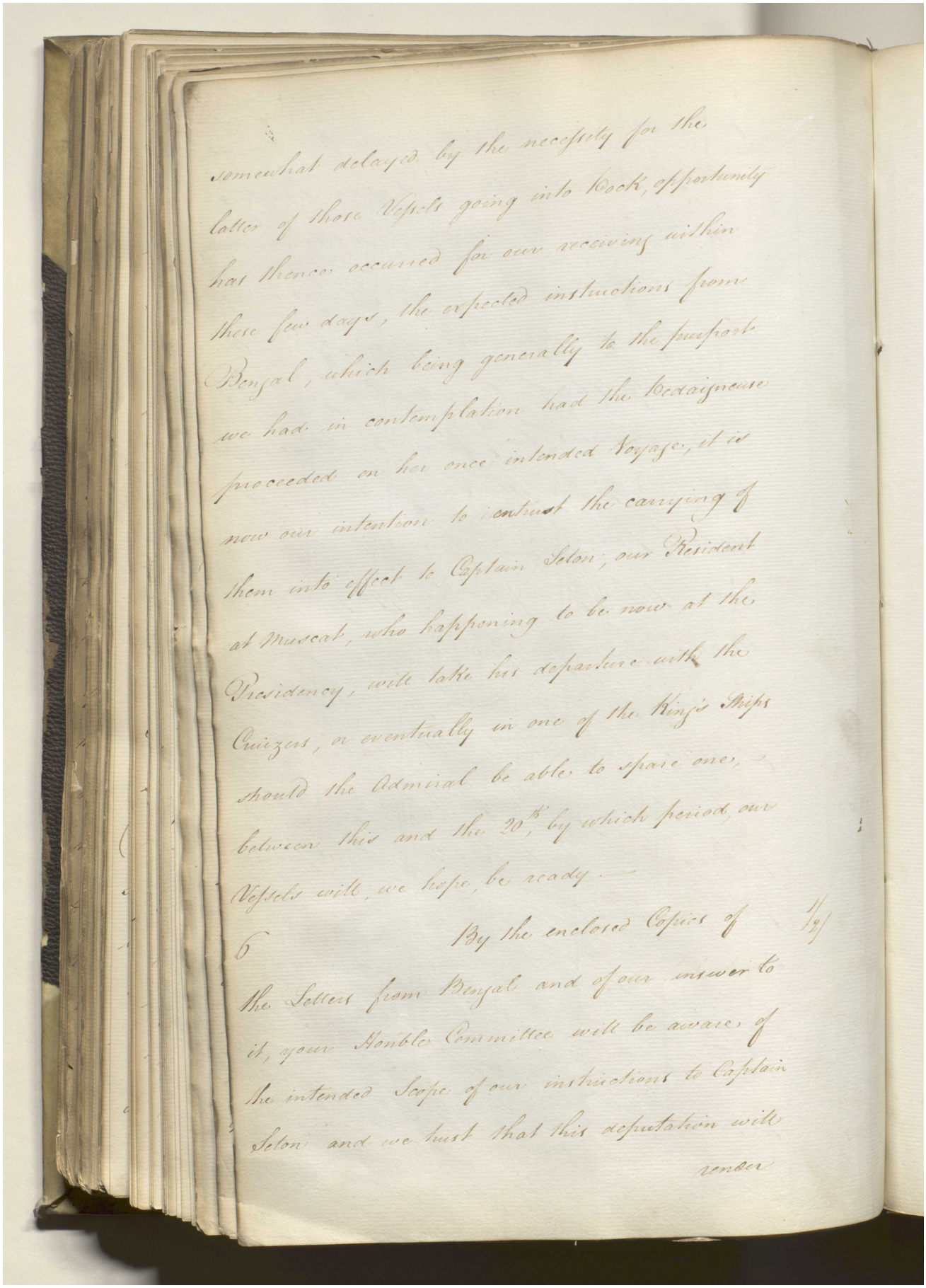

somewhat delayed by the necessity for the
latter of those Vessels going into Dock, opportunity
has thence occurred for our receiving within
these few days, the expected instructions from
Bengal, which being generally to the purport
we had in contemplation had the Bedaigneuse
proceeded on her once intended Voyage, it is
now our intention to entrust the carrying of
them into effect to Captain Seton, our Resident
at Muscat, who happening to be now at the
Presidency, will take his departure with the
Cruizers, or eventually in one of the King's Ships
should the Admiral be able to spare one,
between this and the 20th, by which period, our
Vessels will, we hope, be ready.

6 By the enclosed Copies of 1/2
the Letters from Bengal and of our answer to
it, your Honble Committee will be aware of
the intended Scope of our instructions to Captain
Seton and we trust that this deputation will
render

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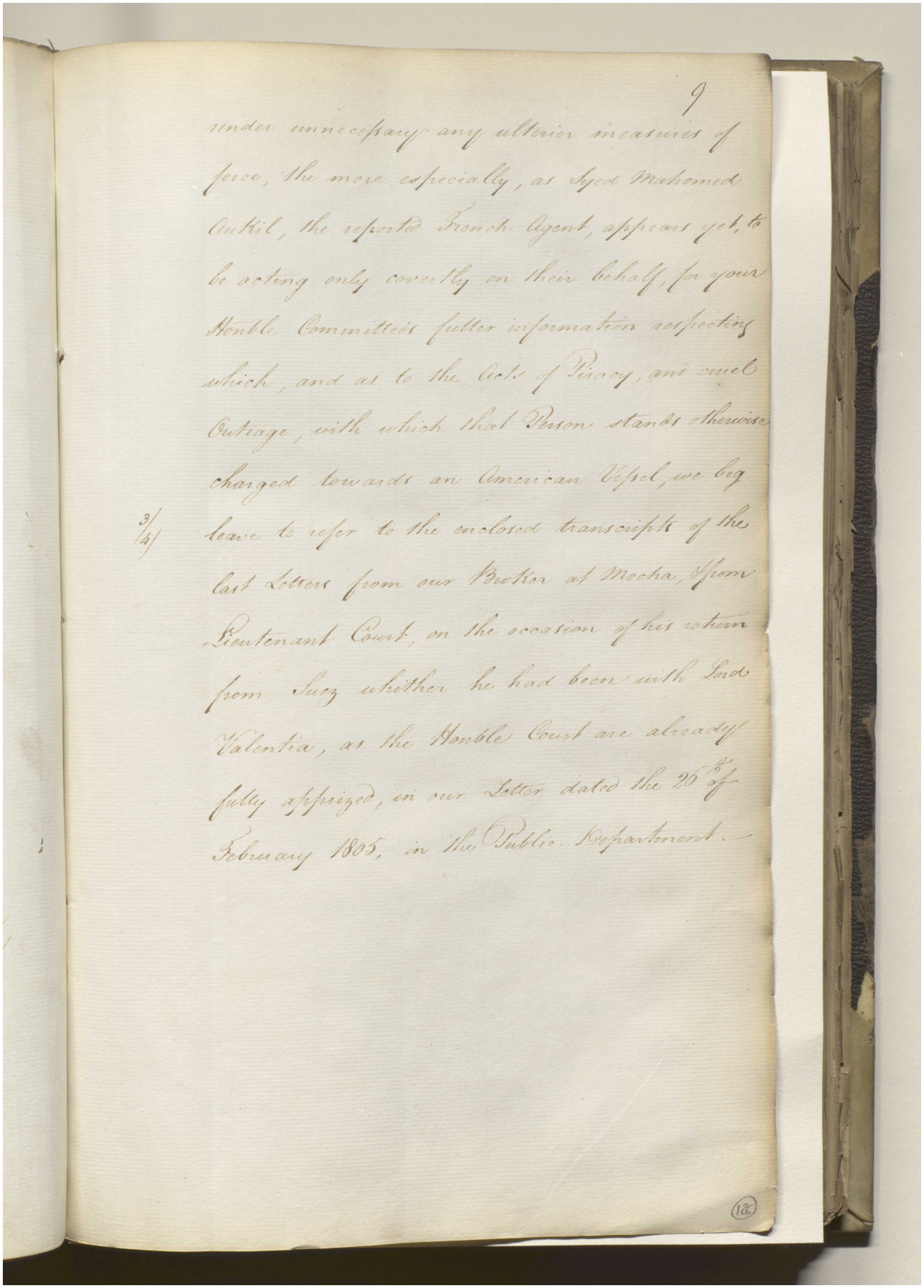

9

render unnecessary any ulterior measures of
force, the more especially, as Syed Mahomed
Aukil, the reputed French Agent, appears yet, to
be acting only covertly on their behalf, for your
Honble Committees futher information respecting
which, and as to the Acts of Piracy, and cruel
Outrage, with which that Person stands otherwise
charged towards an American Vessel, we beg
3/ 4/ leave to refer to the enclosed transcripts of the
last Letters from our Broker at Mocha, from
Lieutenant Court, on the occasion of his return
from Suez whither he had been with Lord
Valentia, as the Honble Court are already
fully apprized, in our Letter dated the 26th of
February 1805, in the Public Department.

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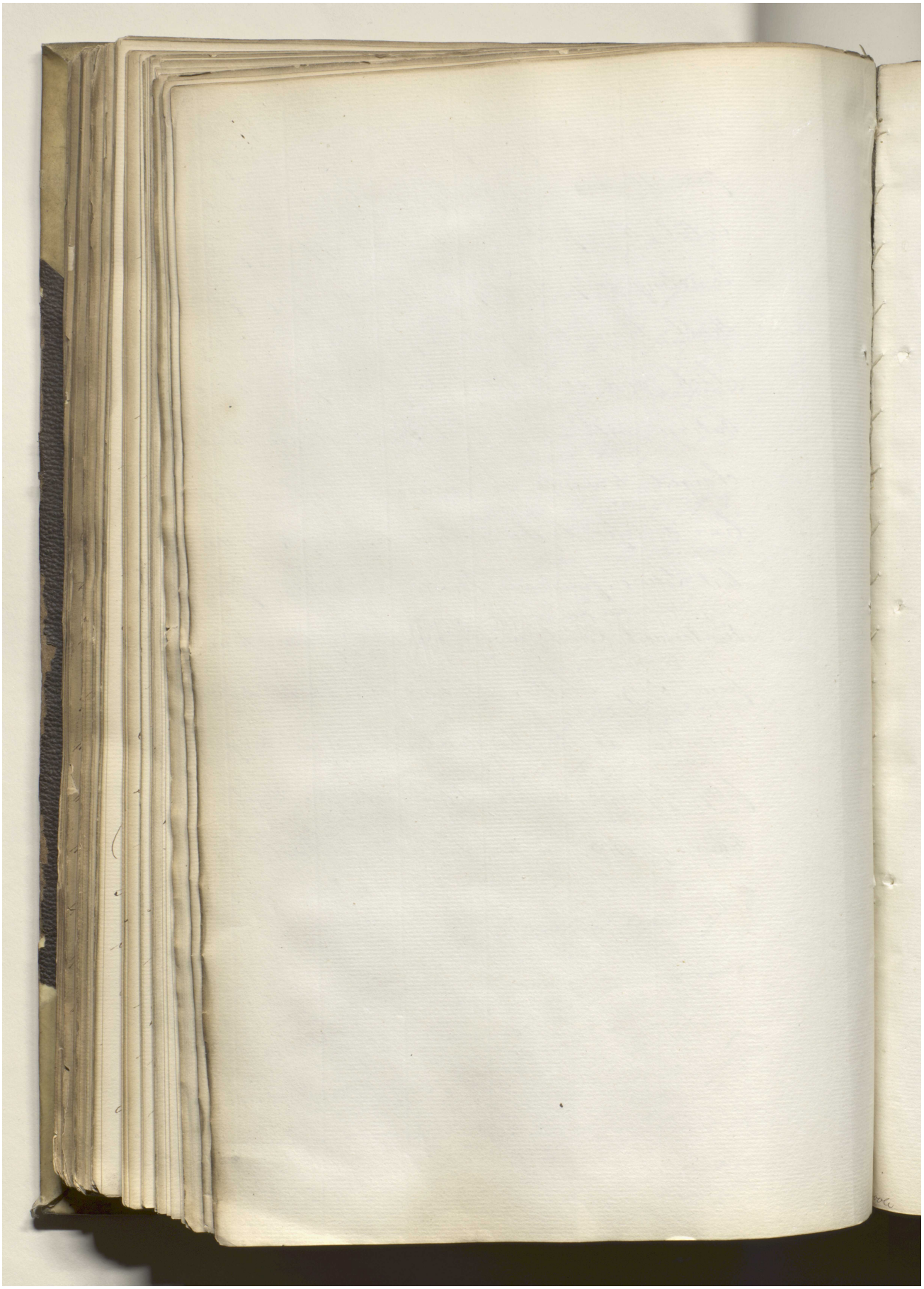

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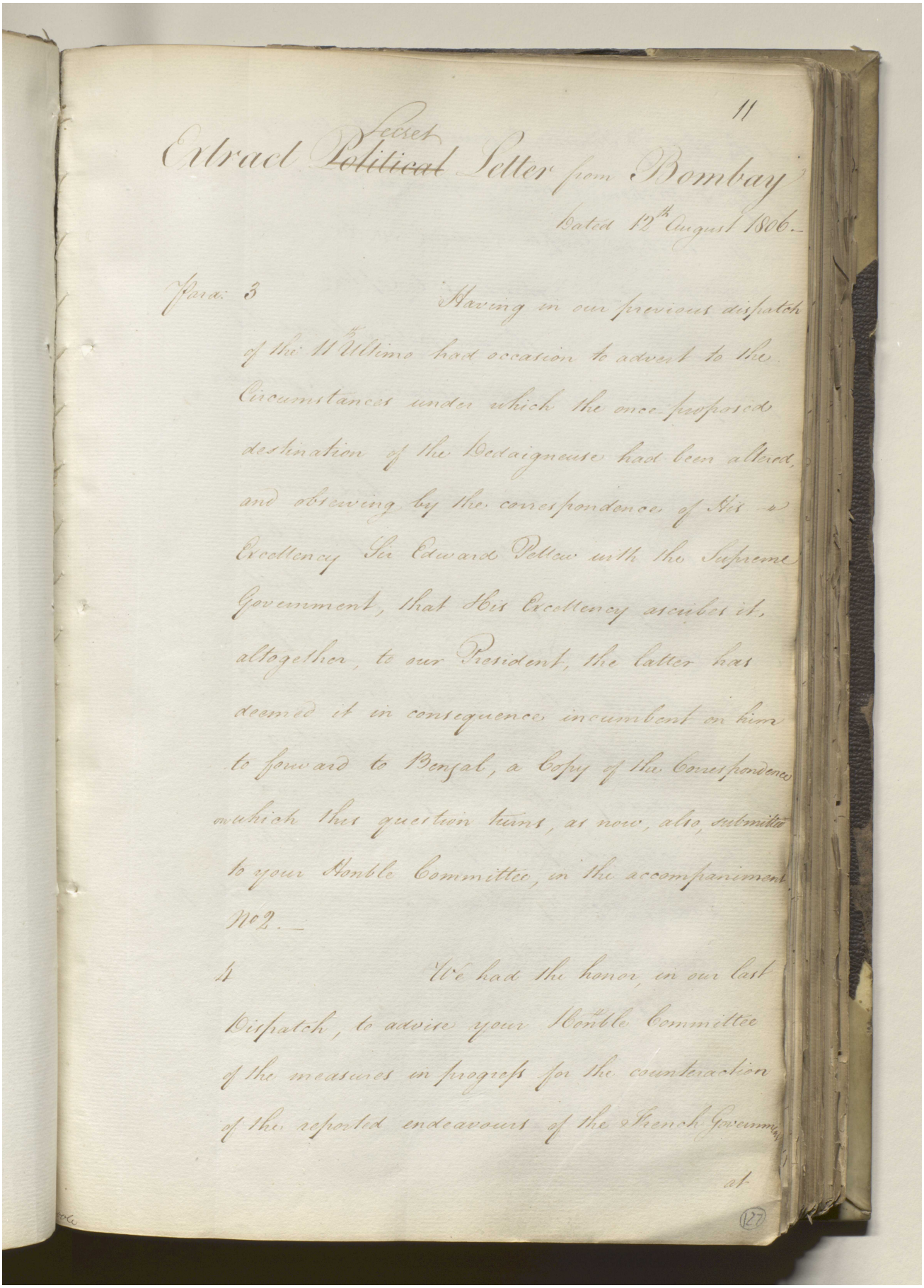

11

Extract Secret Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 12th August 1806.

Para. 3 Having in our previous dispatch of the 11th Ultimo had occasion to advert to the Circumstances under which the once proposed destination of the Dedaigneuse had been altered, and observing by the correspondence of His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew with the Supreme Government, that His Excellency ascribes it, altogether, to our President, the latter has deemed it in consequence incumbent on him to forward to Bengal, a Copy of the Correspondence on which that question turns, as now, also, submitted to your Honble Committee, in the accompaniment No 2.—

4 We had the honor, in our last Dispatch, to advise your Honble Committee of the measures in progress for the counteraction of the reported endeavours of the French Govern[illegible] at

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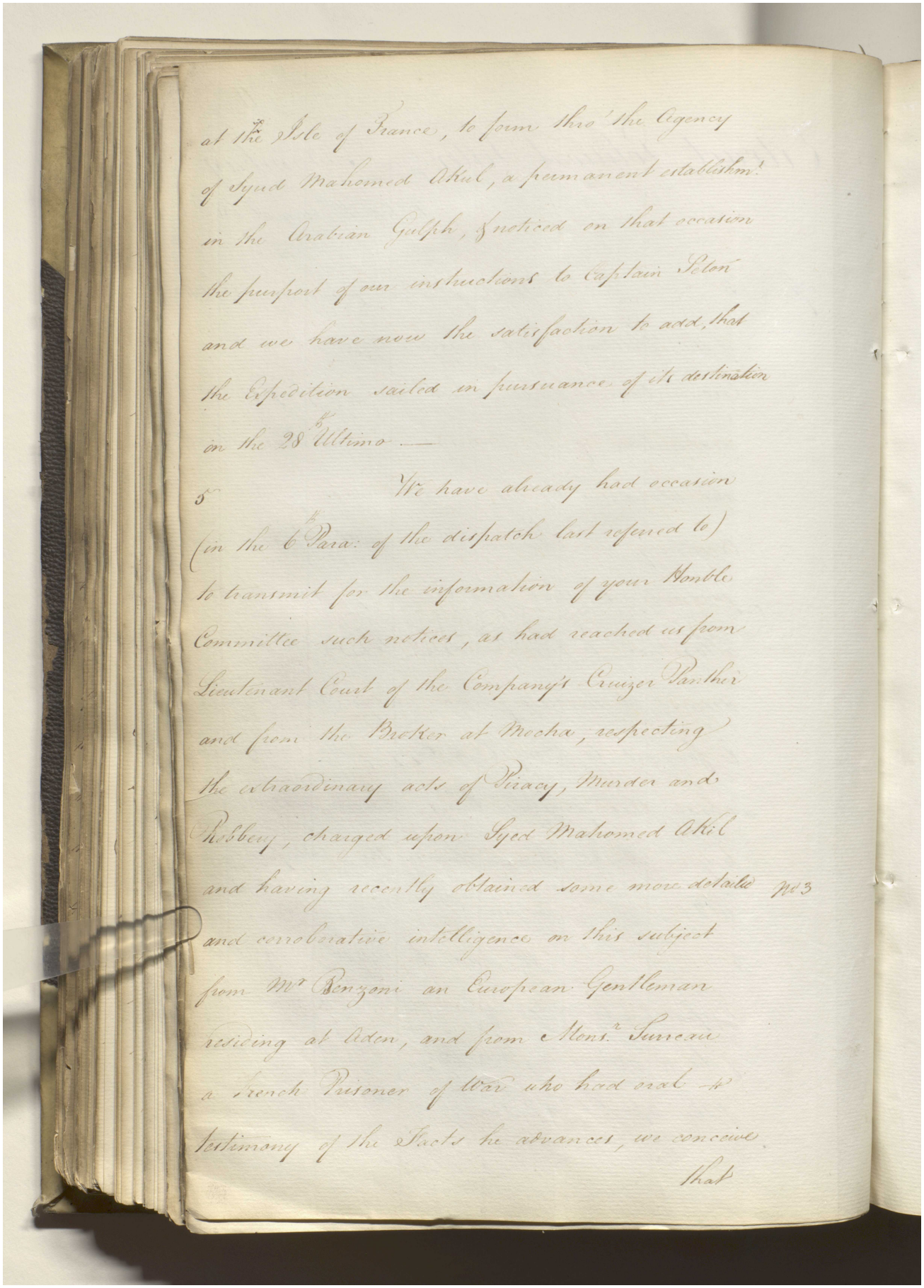

at the Isle of France, to form thro' the Agency
of Syed Mahomed Akil, a permanent establishm.t
in the Arabian Gulph, & noticed on that occasion
the purport of our instructions to Captain Seton
and we have now the satisfaction to add, that
the Expedition sailed in pursuance of it's destination
on the 28th Ultimo —

5 We have already had occasion
(in the 6th Para: of the dispatch last refered to)
to transmit for the information of your Honble
Committee such notices, as had reached us from
Lieutenant Court of the Company's Cruizer Panther
and from the Broker at Mocha, respecting
the extraordinary acts of Piracy, Murder and
Robbery, charged upon Syed Mahomed Akil
and having recently obtained some more detailed
and corroborative intelligence on this subject
from Mr. Benzoni an European Gentleman
residing at Aden, and from Mons.r Surreau
a French Prisoner of War who had oral &
testimony of the Facts he advances, we conceive
that

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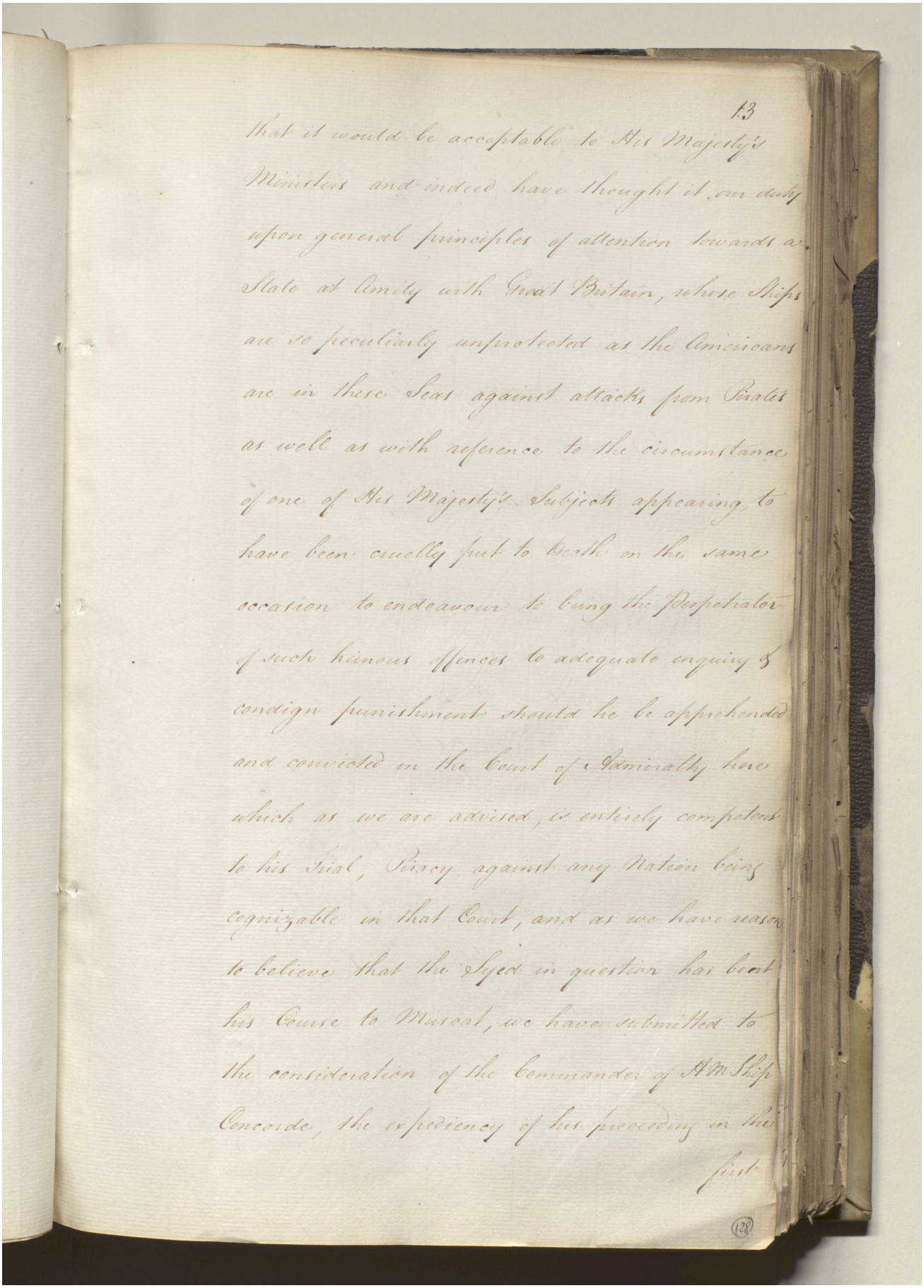

13

that it would be acceptable to His Majesty's
Ministers and indeed have thought it our duty
upon general principles of attention towards a
State at Amity with Great Britain, whose Ships
are so peculiarly unprotected as the Americans
are in these Seas against attacks from Pirates
as well as with reference to the circumstance
of one of His Majesty's Subjects appearing to
have been cruelly put to death on the same
occasion to endeavour to bring the perpetrator
of such heinous offences to adequate enquiry &
condign punishment should he be apprehended
and convicted in the Court of Admiralty here
which as we are advised, is entirely competent
to his Trial, Piracy against any Nation being
cognizable in that Court, and as we have reason
to believe that the Syed in question has bent
his Course to Muscat, we have submitted to
the consideration of the Commander of H.M. Ship
Concorde, the expediency of his proceeding in the
first

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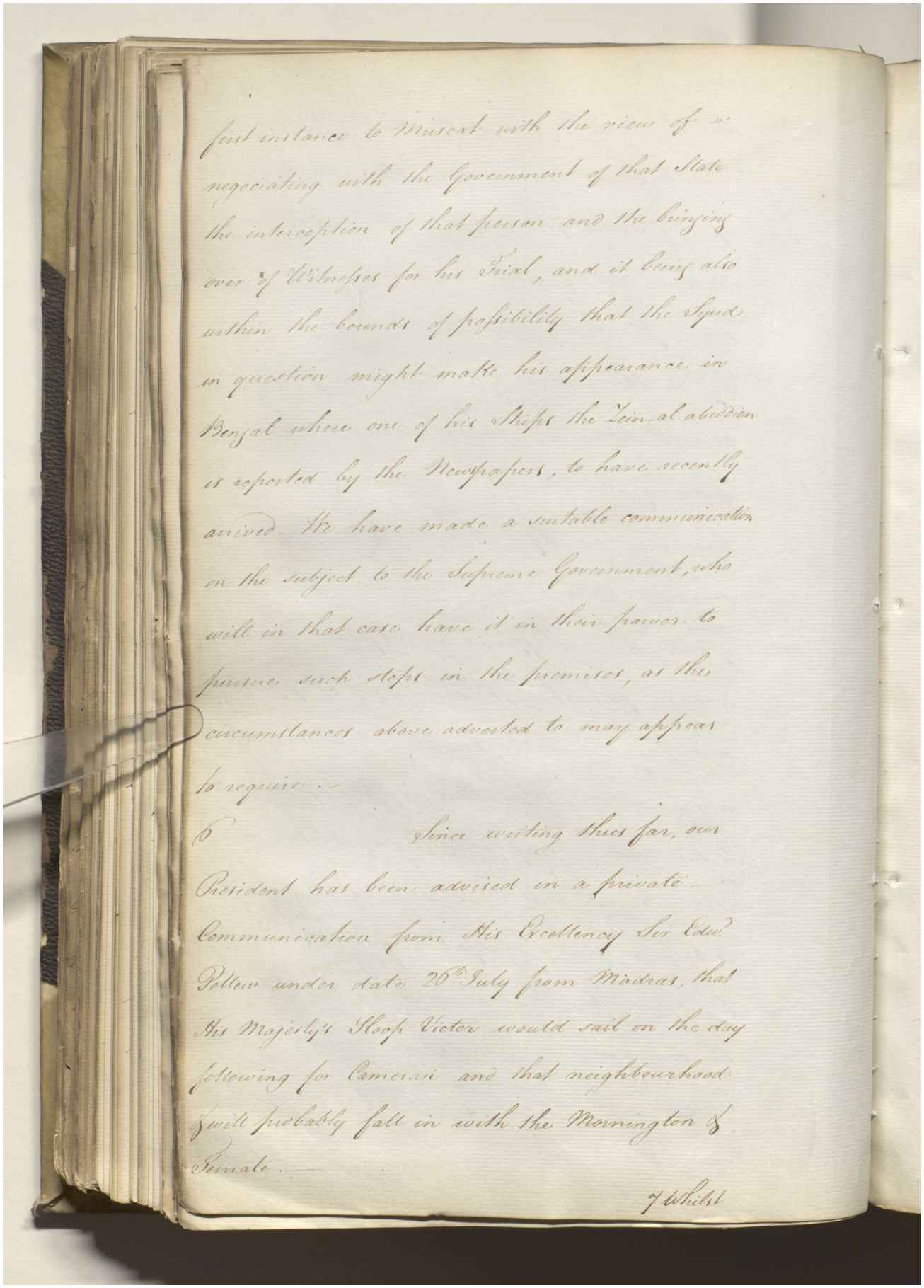

first instance to Muscat with the view of
negociating with the Government of that State
the interception of that person and the bringing
over of Witnesses for his Trial, and it being also
within the bounds of possibility that the Syud
in question might make his appearance in
Bengal where one of his Ships the Zein-al-abeddien
is reported by the Newspapers, to have recently
arrived. We have made a suitable communication
on the subject to the Supreme Government, who
will in that case have it in their power to
pursue such steps in the premises, as the
circumstances above adverted to may appear
to require.—

6 Since writing thus far, our
President has been advised in a private
Communication from His Excellency Sir Edwd
Pellew under date 26th July from Madras, that
His Majesty's Sloop Victor would sail on the day
following for Cameran and that neighbourhood
& will probably fall in with the Mornington &
Female.—

7 Whilst

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [129r] (17/264)

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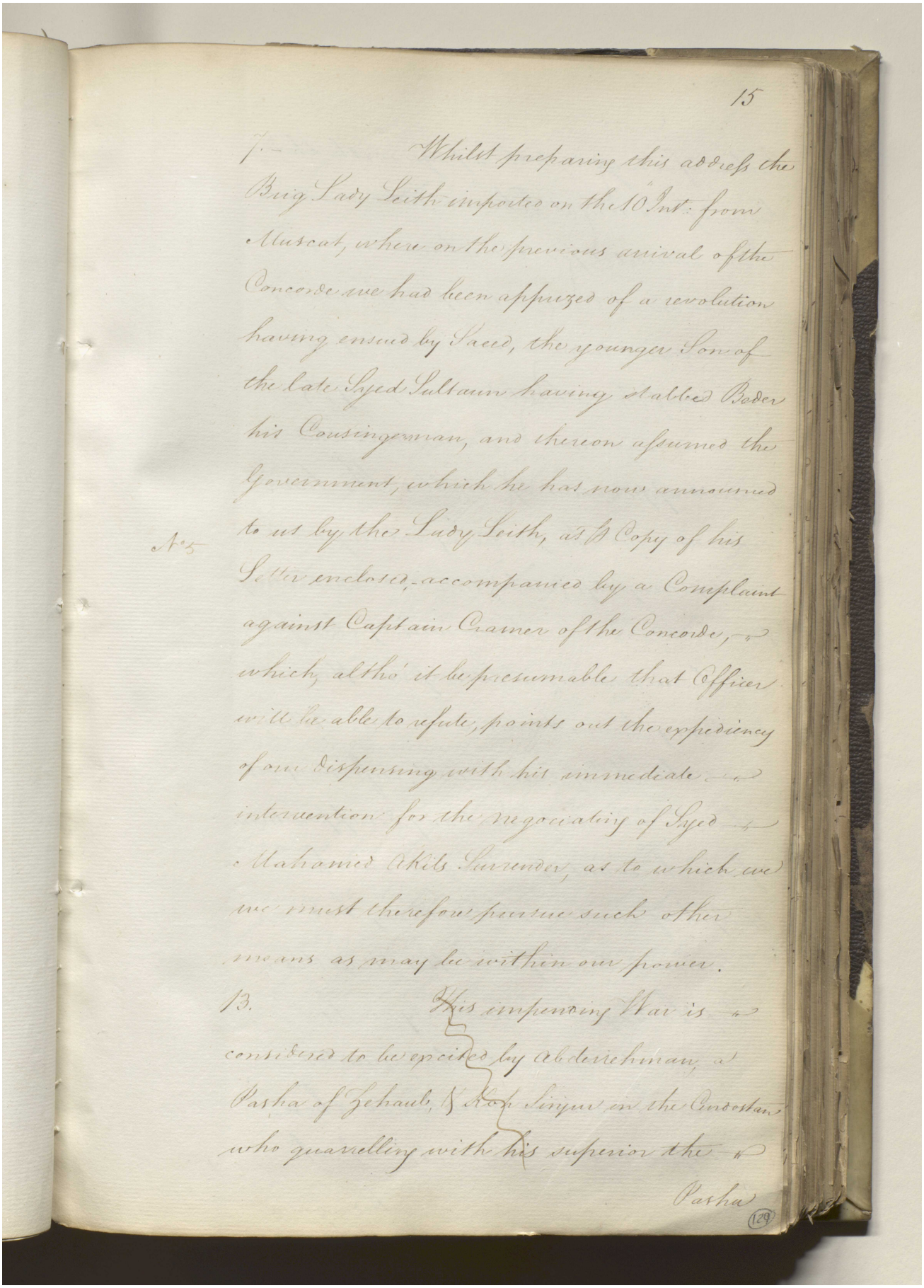

7.— Whilst preparing this address the Brig Lady Leith imported on the 10th Inst: from Muscat, where on the previous arrival of the Concorde we had been appuzed of a revolution having ensued by Saeed, the younger Son of the late Syed Sultaun having stabbed Beder his Cousingerman, and thereon assumed the Government, which he has now announced to us by the Lady Leith, as A Copy of his Letter enclosed,— accompanied by a Complaint against Captain Cramer of the Concorde, which, altho' it be presumable that Officer will be able to refute, points out the expediency of our dispensing with his immediate intervention for the negociating of Syed Mahomed Akils Surrender, as to which we we must therefore pursue such other means as may be within our power.

No 5

13. His impending War is considered to be excited by Abderrehman, a Pasha of Zehaub, & Kon Sinjur in the Curdostan who quarrelling with his superior the Pasha

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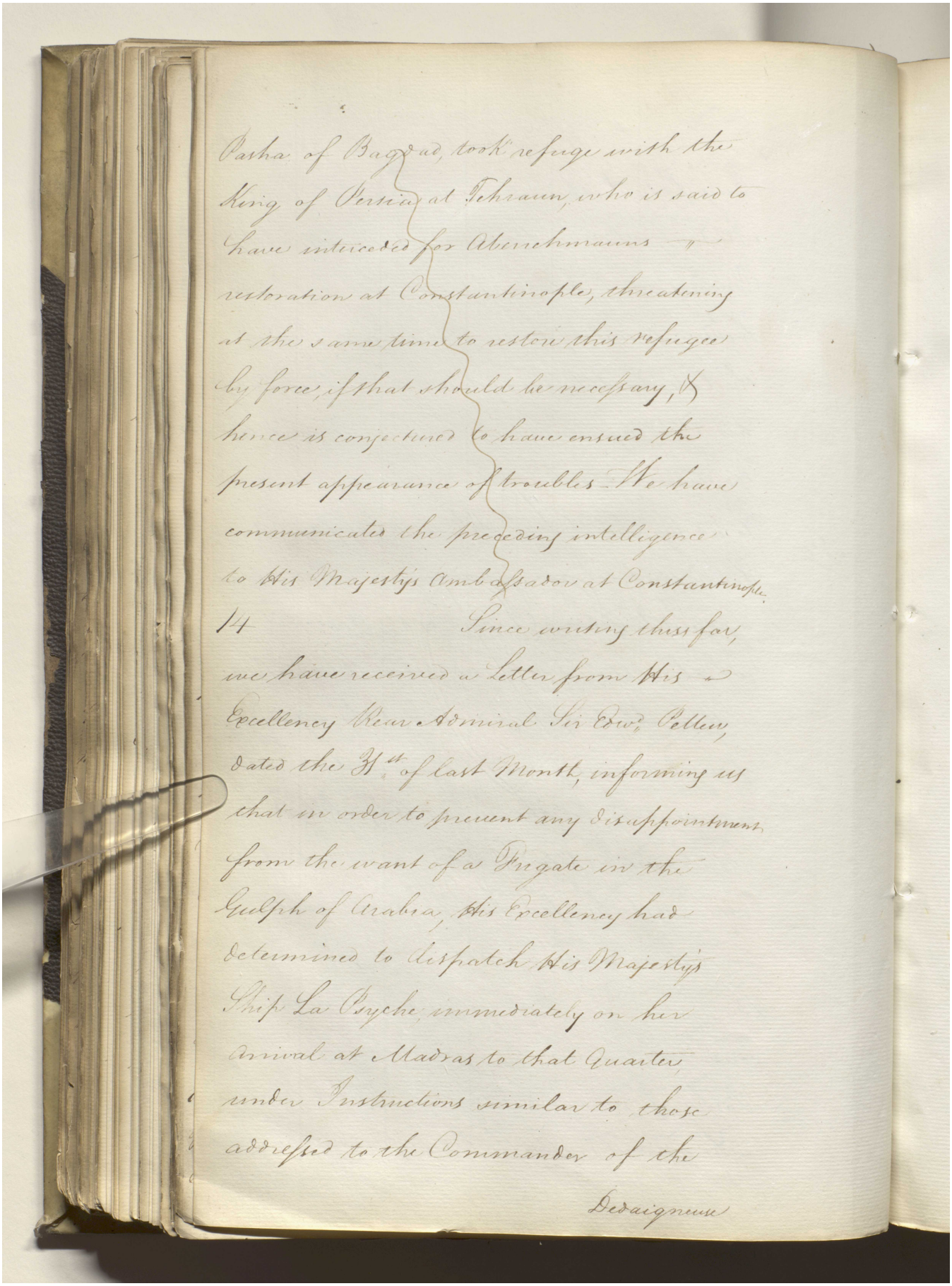

Pasha of Bagdad, took refuge with the
King of Persia at Tehraun, who is said to
have interceded for Abenchmauns
restoration at Constantinople, threatening
at the same time to restore this Refugee
by force, if that should be necessary, &
hence is conjectured to have ensued the
present appearance of troubles. We have
communicated the preceding intelligence
to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.
14 Since writing thus far,
we have received a Letter from His
Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edw. Pellew,
dated the 28th of last Month, informing us
that in order to prevent any disappointment
from the want of a Frigate in the
Gulph of Arabia, His Excellency had
determined to dispatch His Majesty's
Ship La Psyche, immediately on her
arrival at Madras to that Quarter,
under Instructions similar to those
addressed to the Commander of the

Dedaignieux

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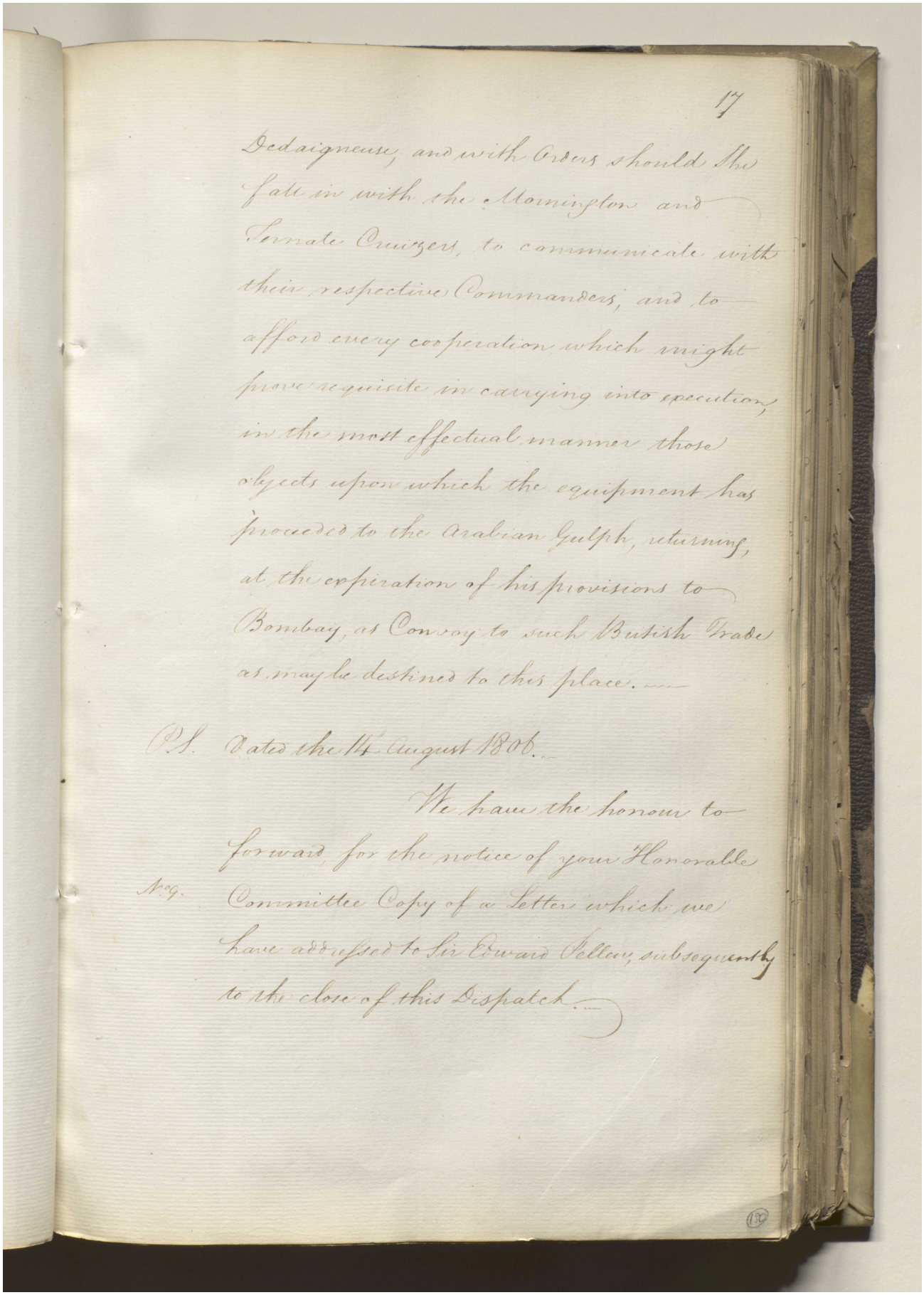

17

Dedaigneuse, and with Orders should She
fall in with the Mornington and
Sonnate Cruizers, to communicate with
their respective Commanders, and to
afford every cooperation which might
prove requisite in carrying into execution,
in the most effectual manner those
objects upon which the equipment has
proceeded to the Arabian Gulph, returning,
at the expiration of his provisions to
Bombay, as Convoy to such British Trade
as may be destined to this place. —

P.S. Dated the 14 August 1806. —

We have the honour to
forward, for the notice of your Honorable
No 9. Committee Copy of a Letter which we
have addressed to Sir Edward Pellew, subsequently
to the close of this Dispatch. —

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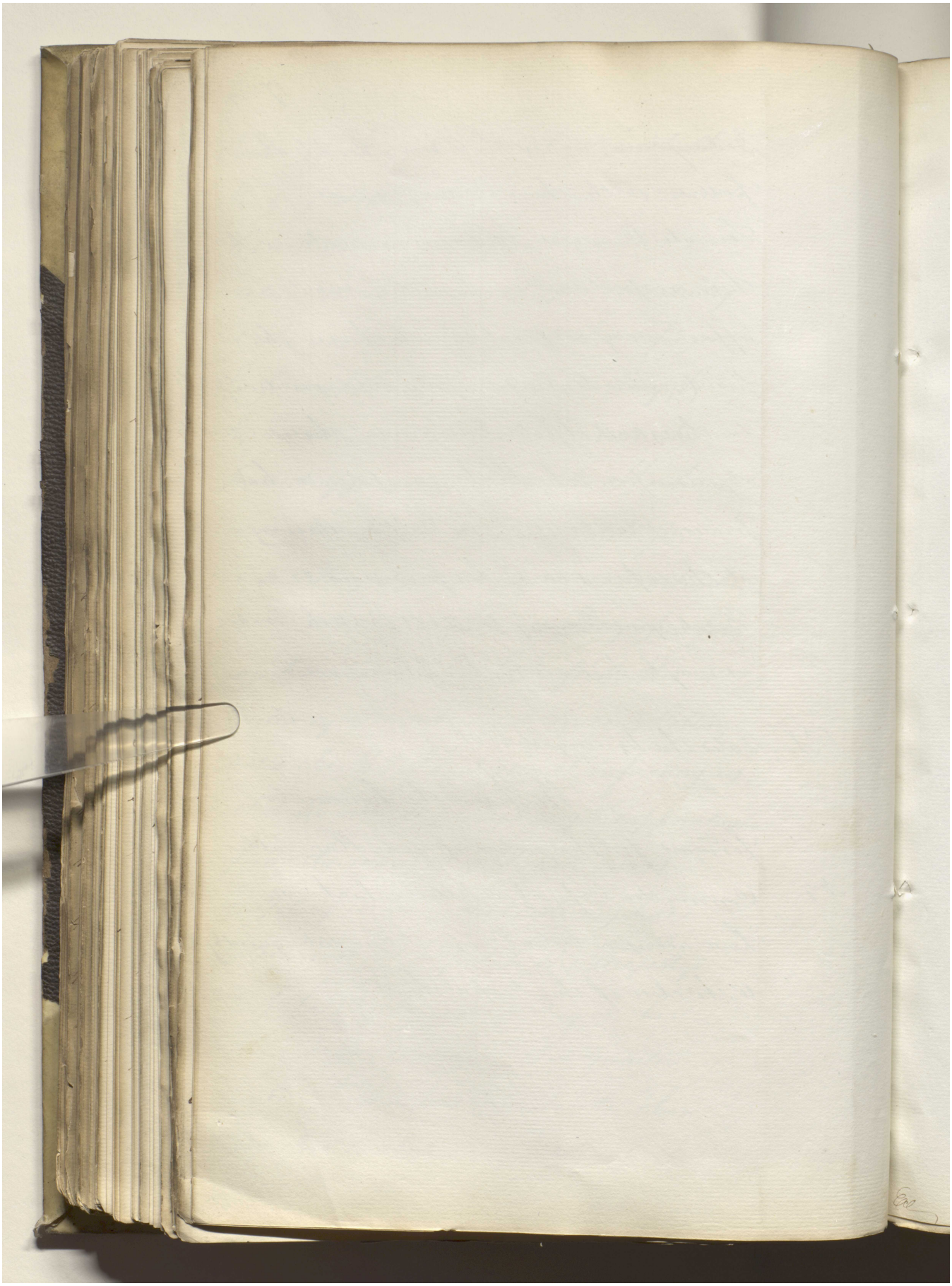

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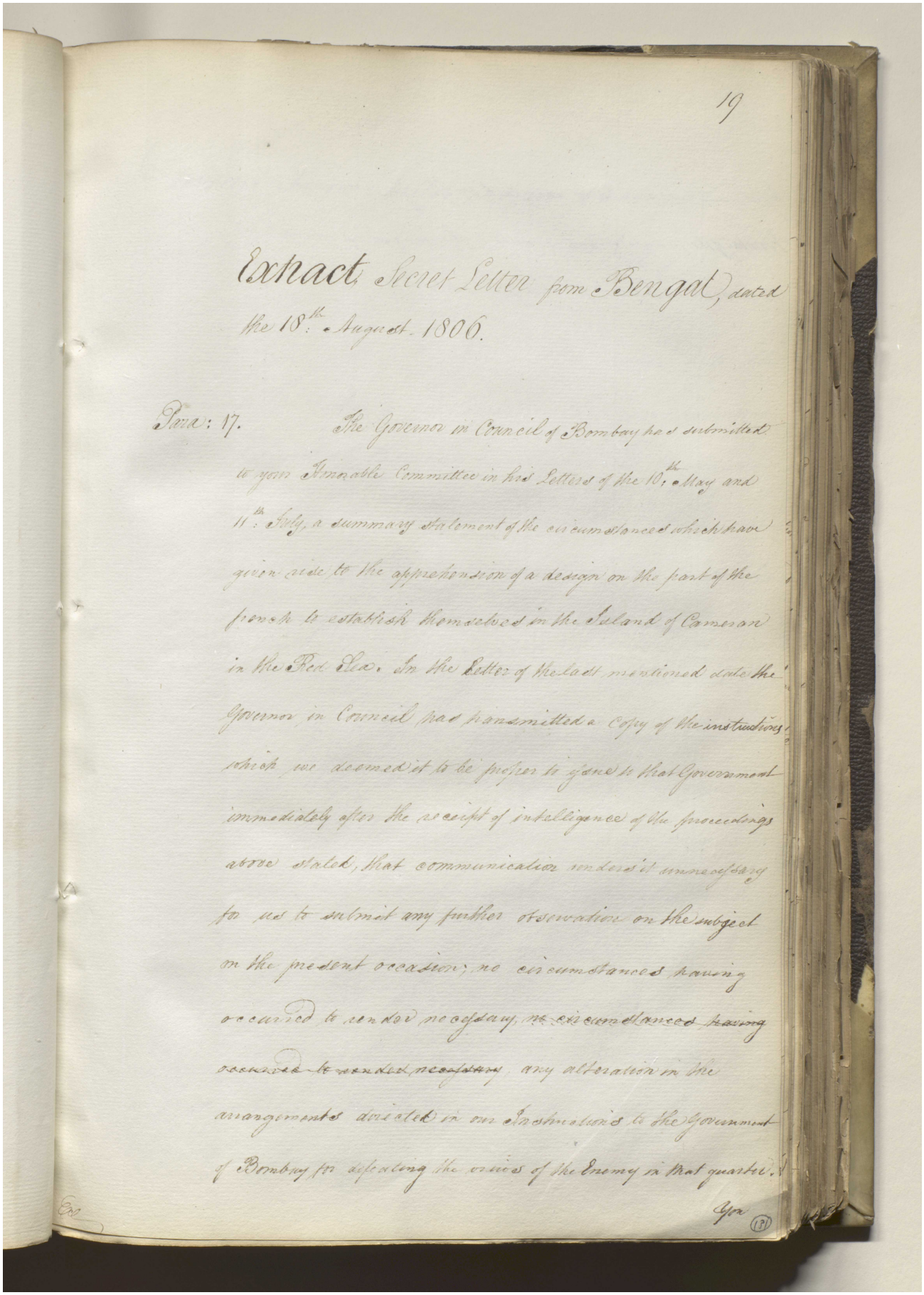

19

Exact Secret Letter from Bengal, dated the 18th. August 1806.

Para: 17. The Governor in Council of Bombay had submitted to your Honorable Committee in his Letters of the 10th. May and 11th. July, a summary Statement of the circumstances which have given rise to the apprehension of a design on the part of the French to establish themselves in the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea. In the Letter of the last mentioned date the Governor in Council had transmitted a Copy of the instructions which we deemed it to be proper to send to that Government immediately after the receipt of intelligence of the proceedings above stated, that communication rendered it unnecessary for us to submit any further observations on the subject on the present occasion; no circumstances having occurred to render necessary, ~~no circumstances having occurred to render necessary~~ any alteration in the arrangements directed in our Instructions to the Government of Bombay for defeating the views of the Enemy in that quarter.

Exd

You

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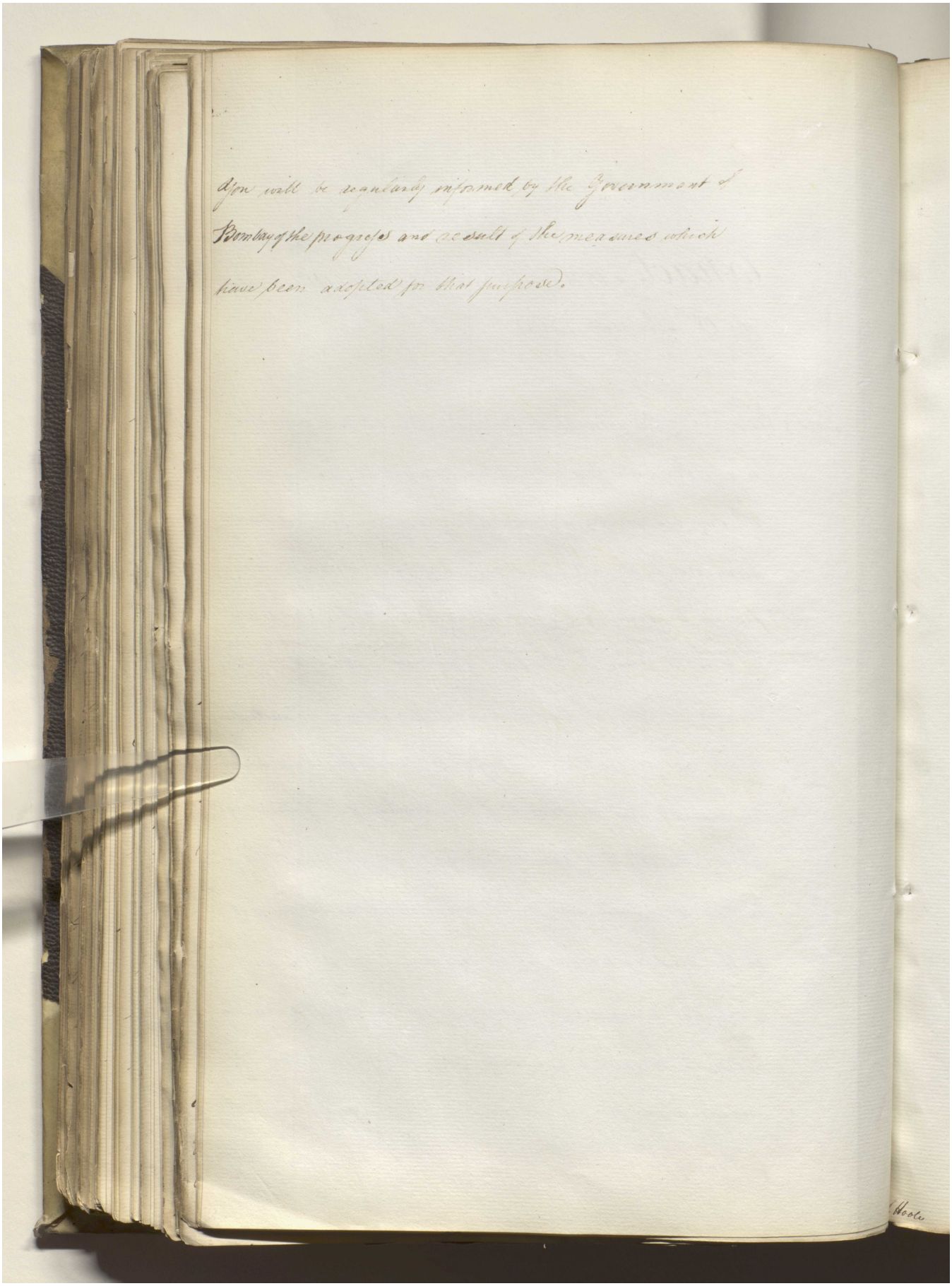

You will be regularly informed by the Government of Bombay of the progress and result of the measures which have been adopted for that purpose.

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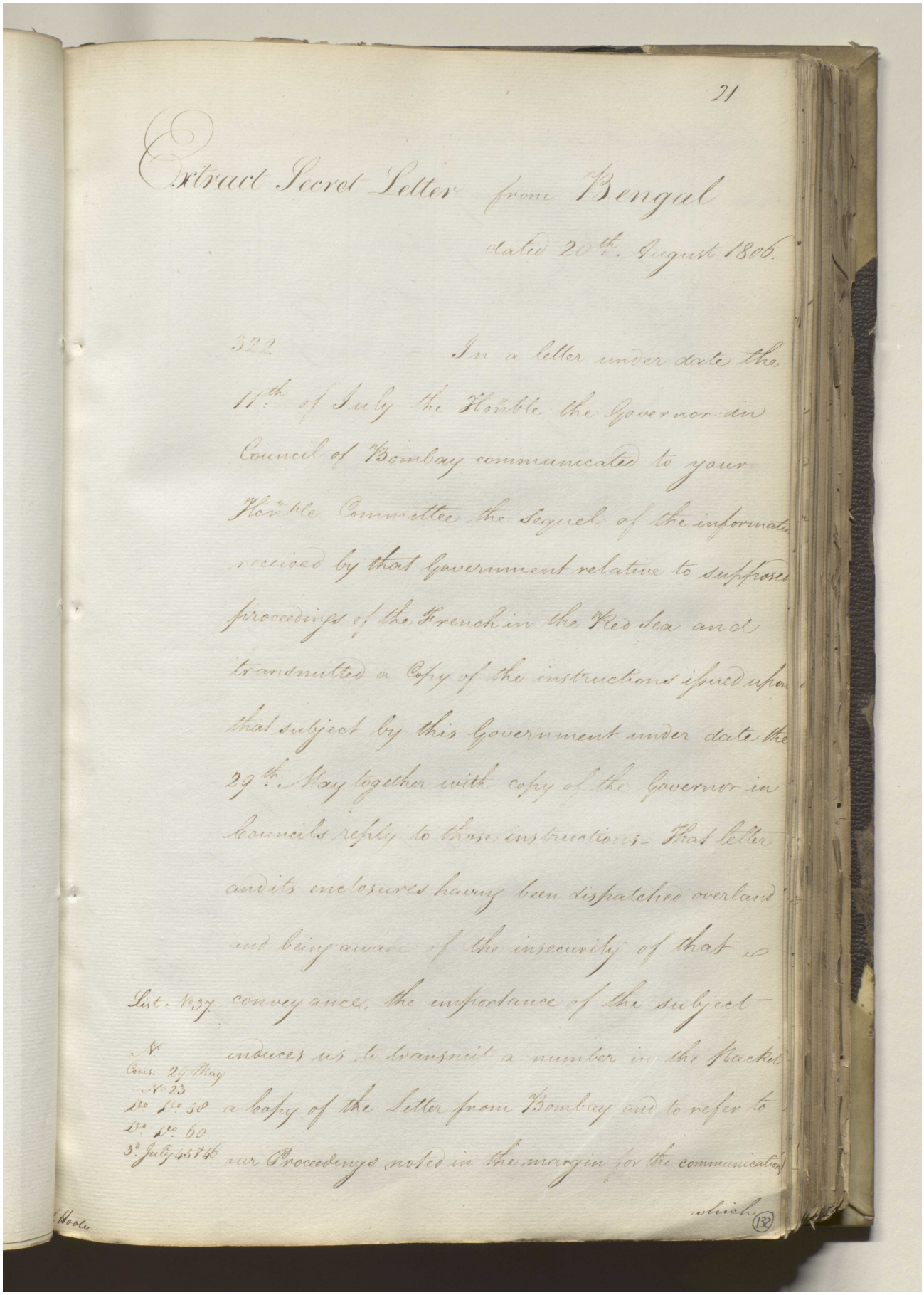


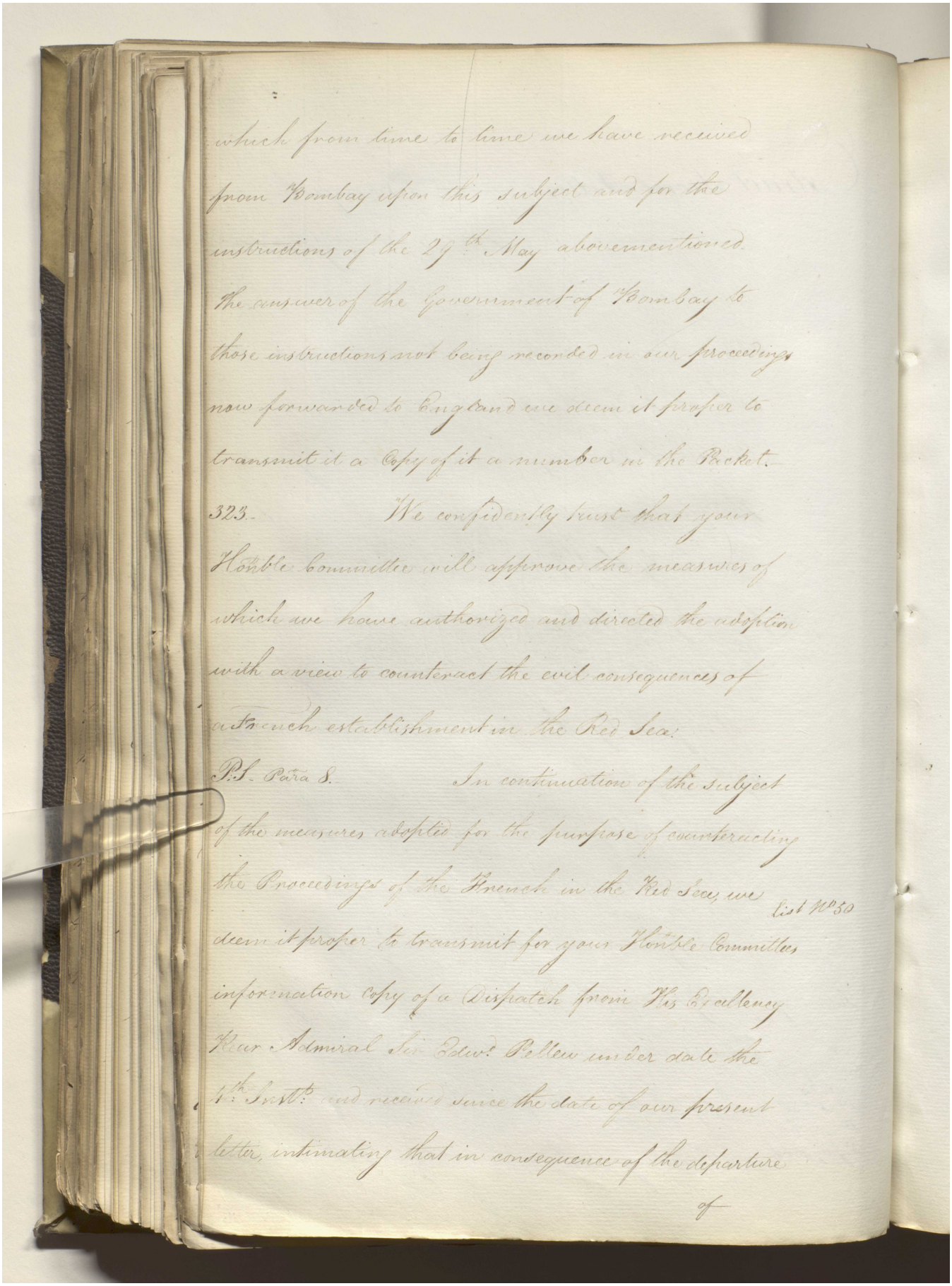
21

Extract Secret Letter from Bengal
dated 20th. August 1806.

322. In a letter under date the 11th of July the Honble the Governor in Council of Bombay communicated to your Honble Committee the Sequel of the information received by that Government relative to suppposed proceedings of the French in the Red Sea and transmitted a Copy of the instructions ifsued upon that subject by this Government under date the 29th May together with copy of the Governor in Councils reply to those instructions. That letter and its enclosures having been dispatched overland and being aware of the insecurity of that conveyance, the importance of the subject inducces us to transmit a number in the Packet a copy of the Letter from Bombay and to refer to our Proceedings noted in the margin for the communication which

List No 37
No
Cons. 29 May
No 23
Do Do 50
Do Do 60
3 July 1806

(132)



which from time to time we have received
from Bombay upon this subject and for the
instructions of the 29th May abovementioned
the answer of the Government of Bombay to
those instructions not being recorded in our proceedings
now forwarded to England we deem it proper to
transmit it a Copy of it a number in the Packet.

323. We confidently trust that your
Honble Committee will approve the measures of
which we have authorized and directed the adoption
with a view to counteract the evil consequences of
a French establishment in the Red Sea.

P.S. Para 8. In continuation of the subject
of the measures adopted for the purpose of counteracting
the Proceedings of the French in the Red Sea, we
deem it proper to transmit for your Honble Committees
information Copy of a Dispatch from His Excellency
Rear Admiral Sir Edwd Pellew under date the
4th Instt and received since the date of our present
letter, intimating that in consequence of the departure

List No 30

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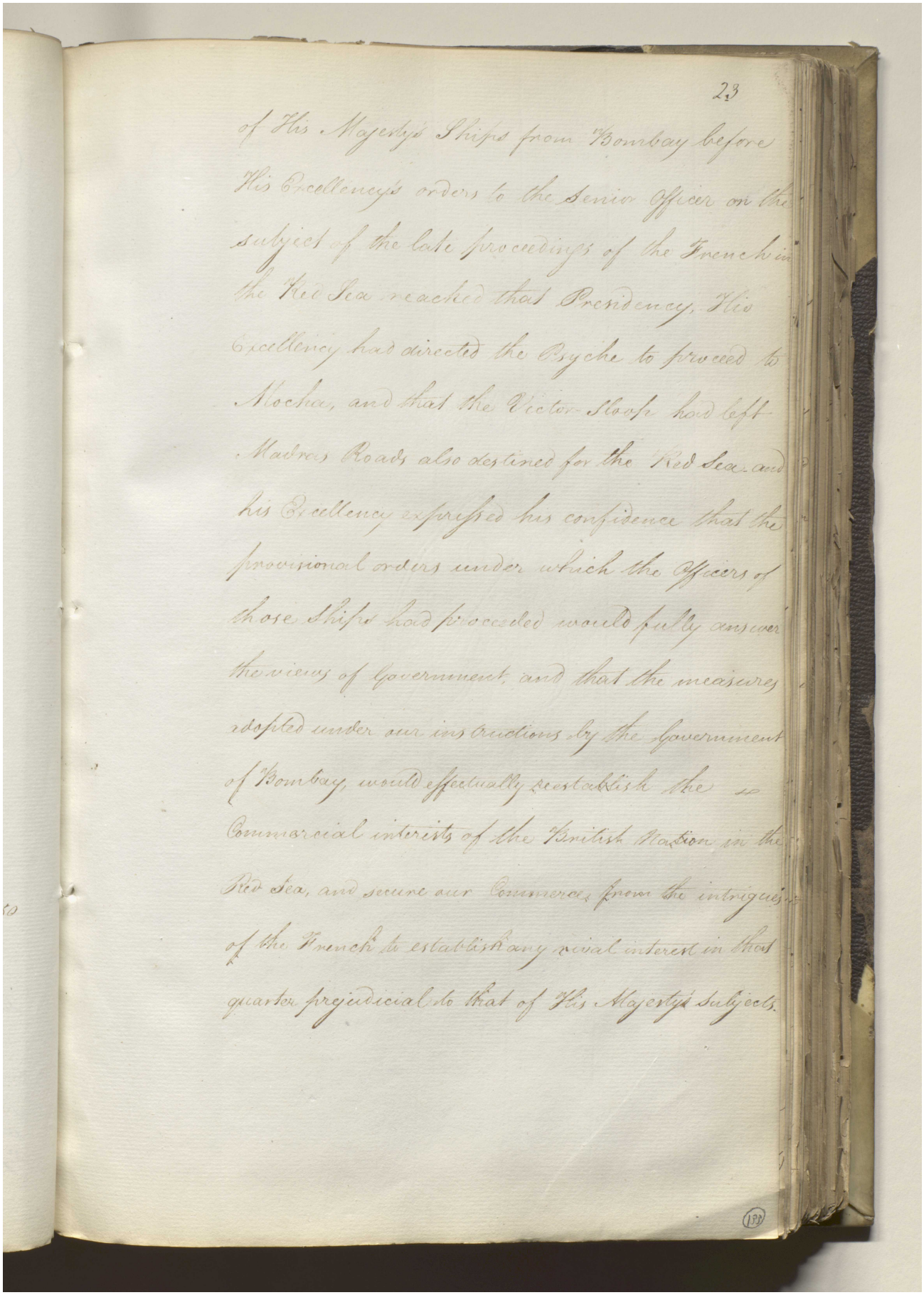

23

of His Majesty's Ships from Bombay before
His Excellency's orders to the Senior Officer on the
subject of the late proceedings of the French in
the Red Sea reached that Presidency. His
Excellency had directed the Psyche to proceed to
Mocha, and that the Victor Sloop had left
Madras Roads also destined for the Red Sea and
his Excellency expressed his confidence that the
provisional orders under which the Officers of
those Ships had proceeded would fully answer
the views of Government, and that the measures
adopted under our instructions by the Government
of Bombay, would effectually re-establish the
Commercial interests of the British Nation in the
Red Sea, and secure our Commerce from the intrigues
of the French to establish any rival interest in that
quarter prejudicial to that of His Majesty's Subjects.

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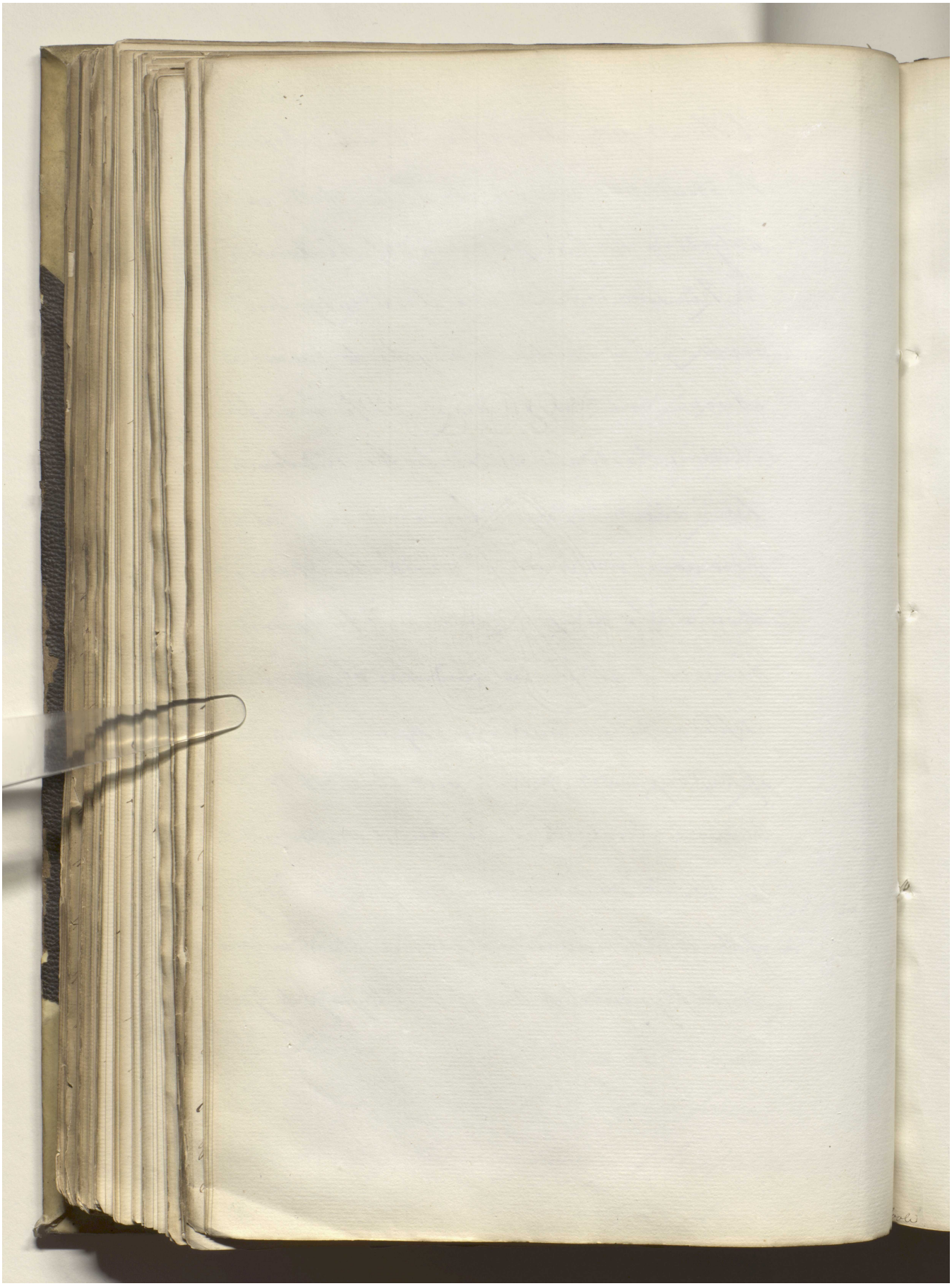

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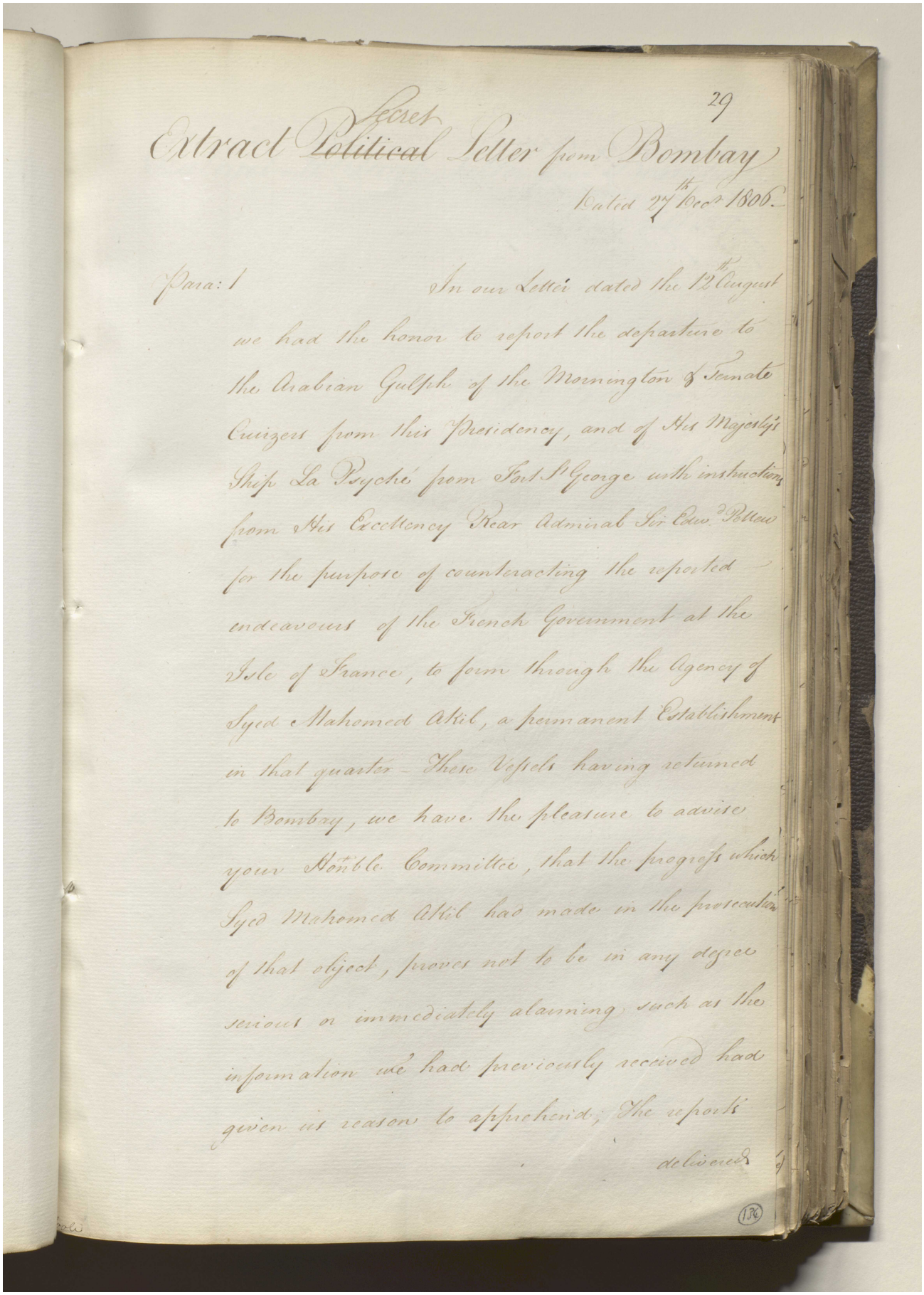

29

Extract Secret Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 27th Decr 1806.

Para: 1 In our Letter dated the 12th August we had the honor to report the departure to the Arabian Gulph of the Mornington & Senate Cruizers from this Presidency, and of His Majesty's Ship La Psyché from Fort St George with instructions from His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edw.d Pellew for the purpose of counteracting the reported endeavours of the French Government at the Isle of France, to form through the Agency of Syed Mahomed Akil, a permanent Establishment in that quarter - These Vessels having returned to Bombay, we have the pleasure to advise your Honble Committee, that the progress which Syed Mahomed Akil had made in the prosecution of that object, proves not to be in any degree serious or immediately alarming, such as the information we had previously received had given us reason to apprehend; The reports delivered

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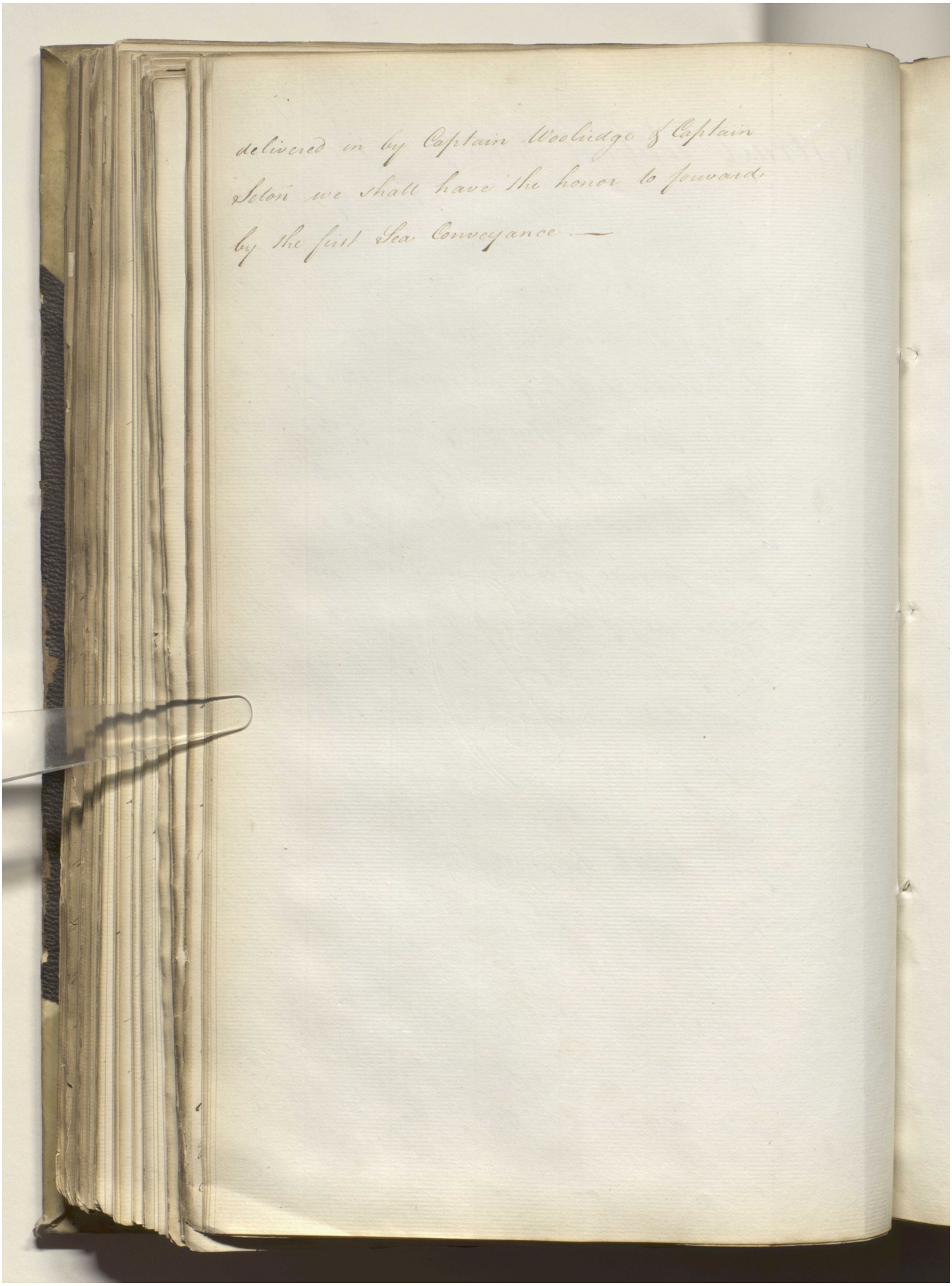
delivered in by Captain Woolridge & Captain
Seton we shall have the honor to forward
by the first Sea Conveyance —

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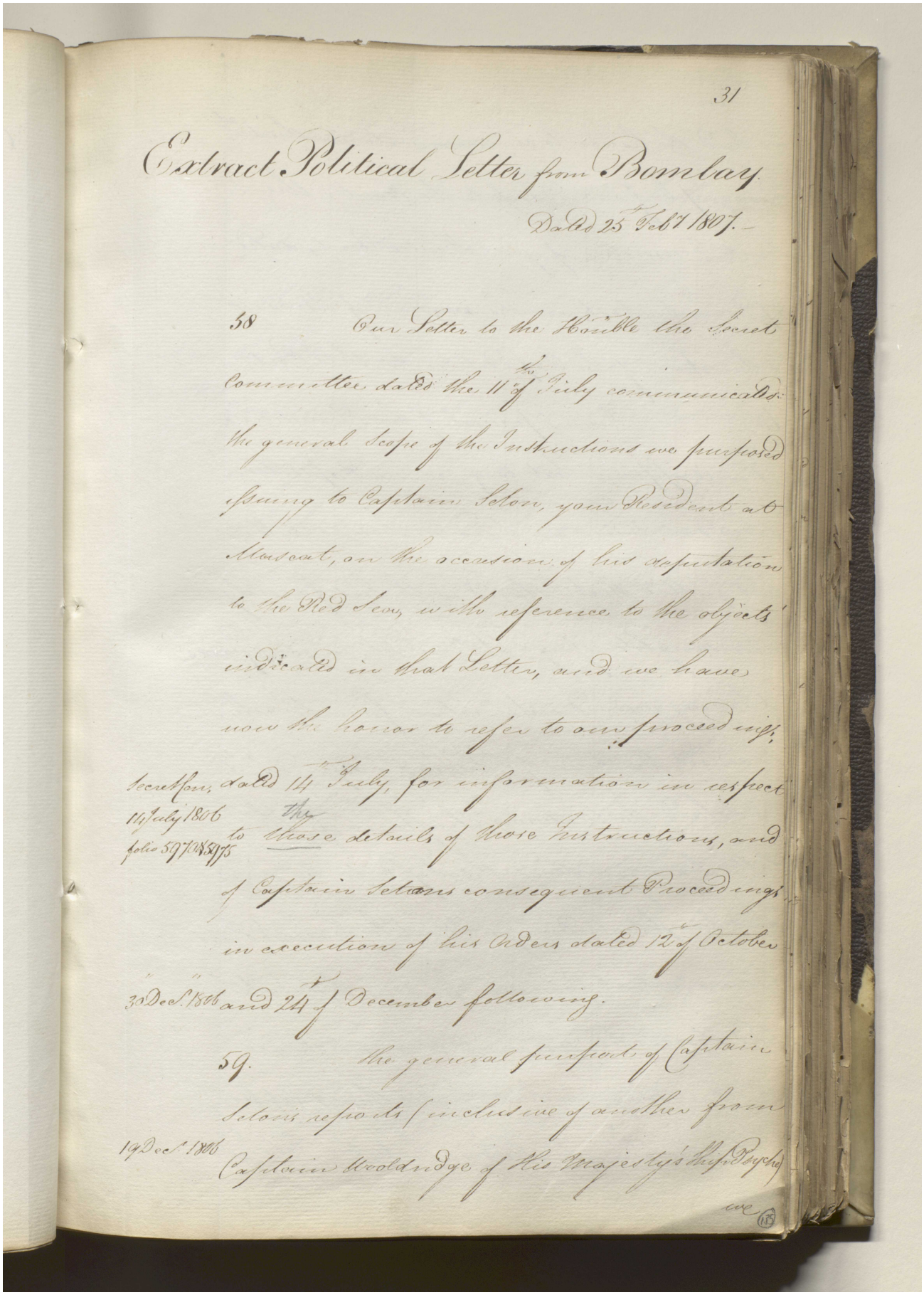


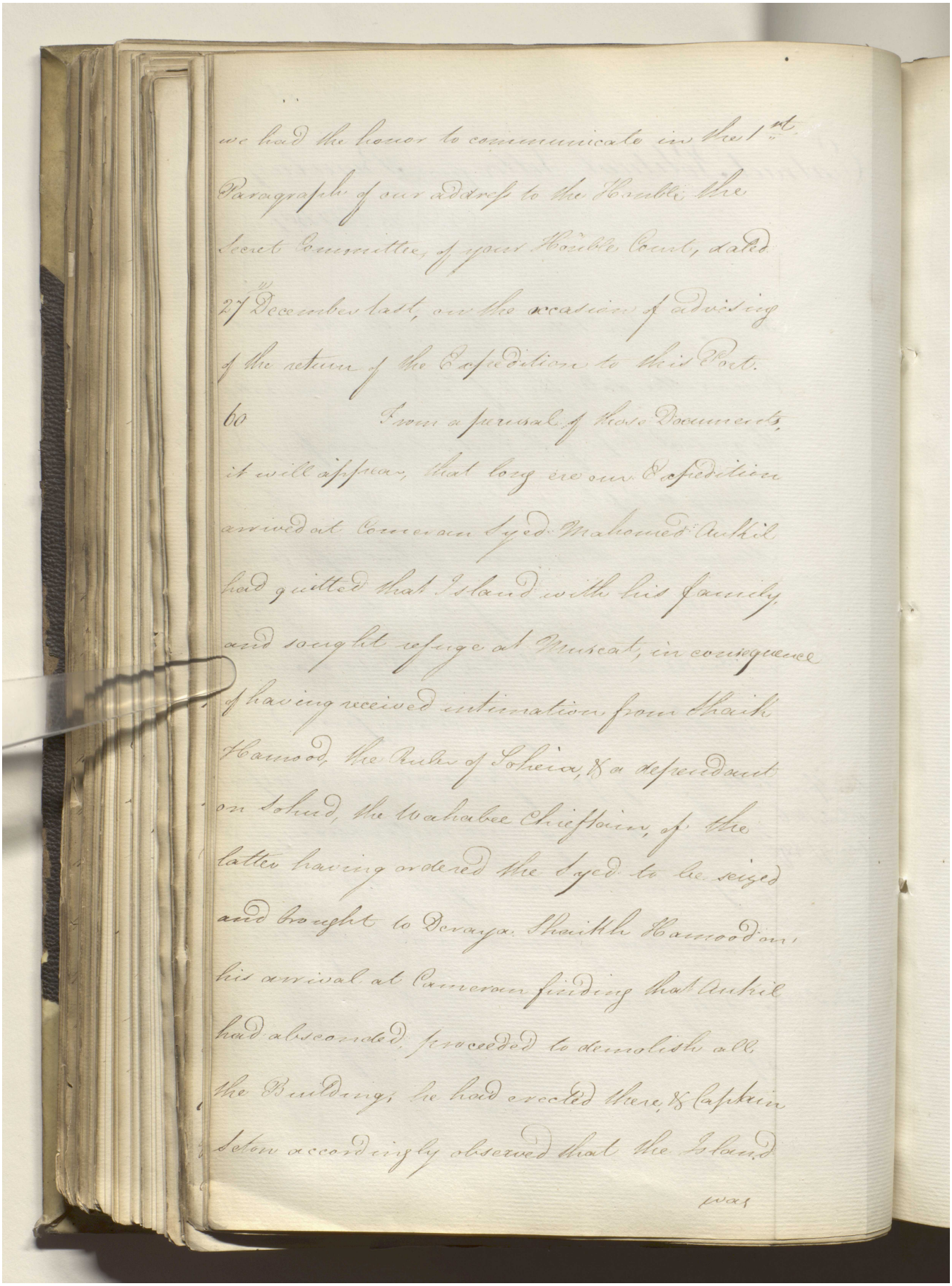
31

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 25th Feby 1807.

38 Our Letter to the Honble the Secret Committee dated the 11th of July communicated the general Scope of the Instructions we purposed issuing to Captain Seton, your Resident at Muscat, on the occasion of his deputation to the Red Sea, with reference to the objects indicated in that Letter, and we have now the honor to refer to our proceedings Secret, dated 14th July, for information in respect 14 July 1806 folio 597 to 585 to those details of those Instructions, and of Captain Setons consequent Proceedings in execution of his Orders dated 12th of October 30 Dec.r 1806 and 24th of December following.

59. The general purport of Captain Setons reports (inclusive of another from 19 Dec.r 1806 Captain Woolandye of His Majesty's Ship Psyche we



we had the honor to communicate in the 1st.
Paragraph of our address to the Honble the
Secret Committee of your Honble Court, dated
27th December last, on the occasion of advising
of the return of the Expedition to this Port.

60 From a perusal of those Documents,
it will appear, that long ere our Expedition
arrived at Cameran Syed Mahomed Ambil
had quitted that Island with his family
and sought refuge at Muscat, in consequence
of having received intimation from Shaikh
Hamood the Ruler of Soheira, & a dependant
on Soheid, the Wahabee Chieftain, of the
latter having ordered the Syed to be seized
and brought to Deraya. Shaikh Hamood on
his arrival at Cameran finding that Ambil
had absconded, proceeded to demolish all
the Buildings he had erected there, & Captain
Seton accordingly observed that the Island

was

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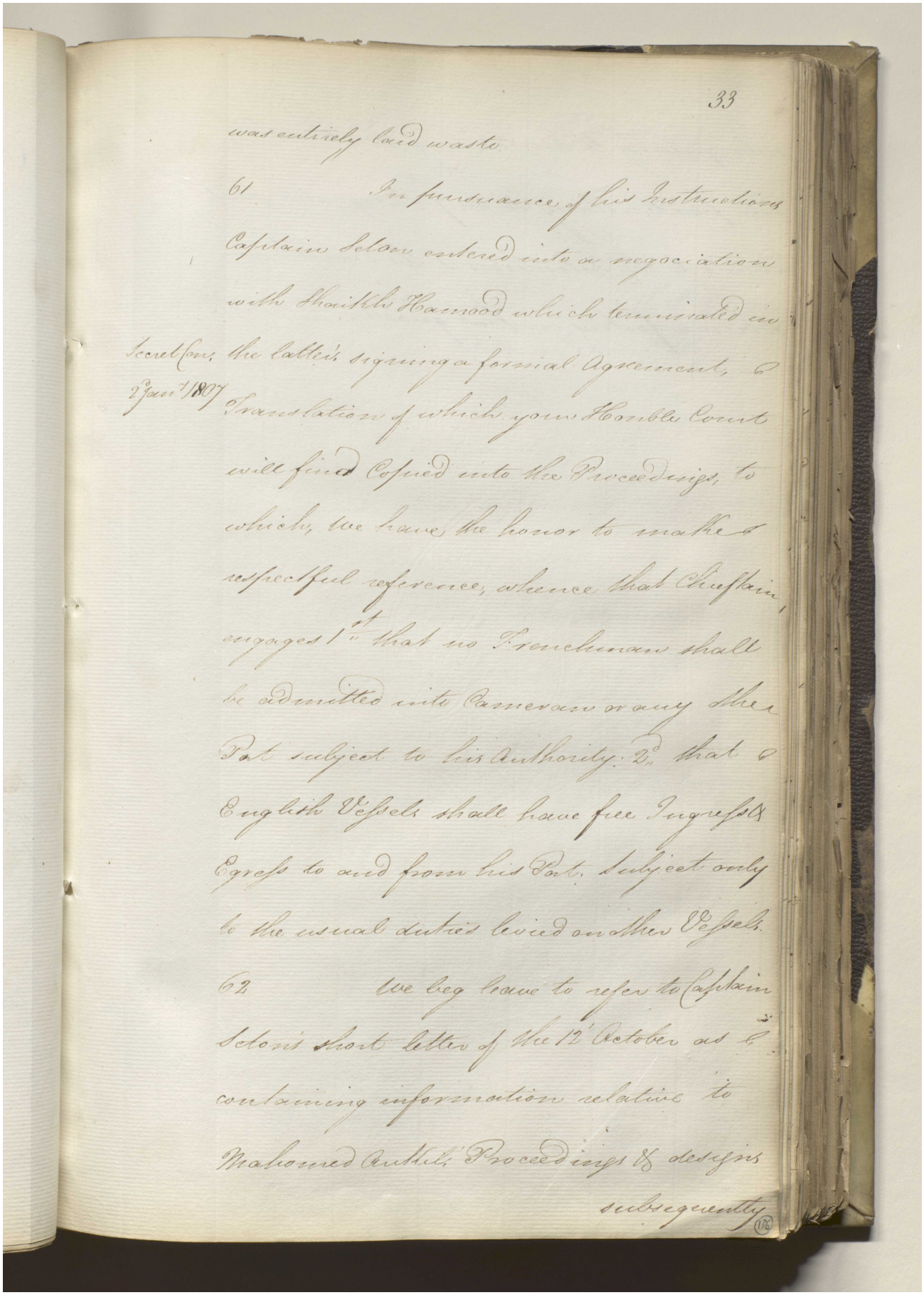
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [136r] (31/264)



was entirely laid waste.

61 In pursuance of his Instructions Captain Seton entered into a negociation with Shaikh Hamood which terminated in the latter's signing a formal Agreement, & Translation of which your Honble Court will find Copied into the Proceedings, to which, we have the honor to make respectful reference, whence that Chieftain engages 1st that no Frenchman shall be admitted into Cameran or any other Port subject to his Authority. 2d that English Vessels shall have free Ingress & Egress to and from his Port. Subject only to the usual duties levied on other Vessels.

Secret Con. 2d Jany 1807

62 We beg leave to refer to Captain Seton's short letter of the 12th October as containing information relative to Mahomed Aukil's Proceedings & designs subsequently

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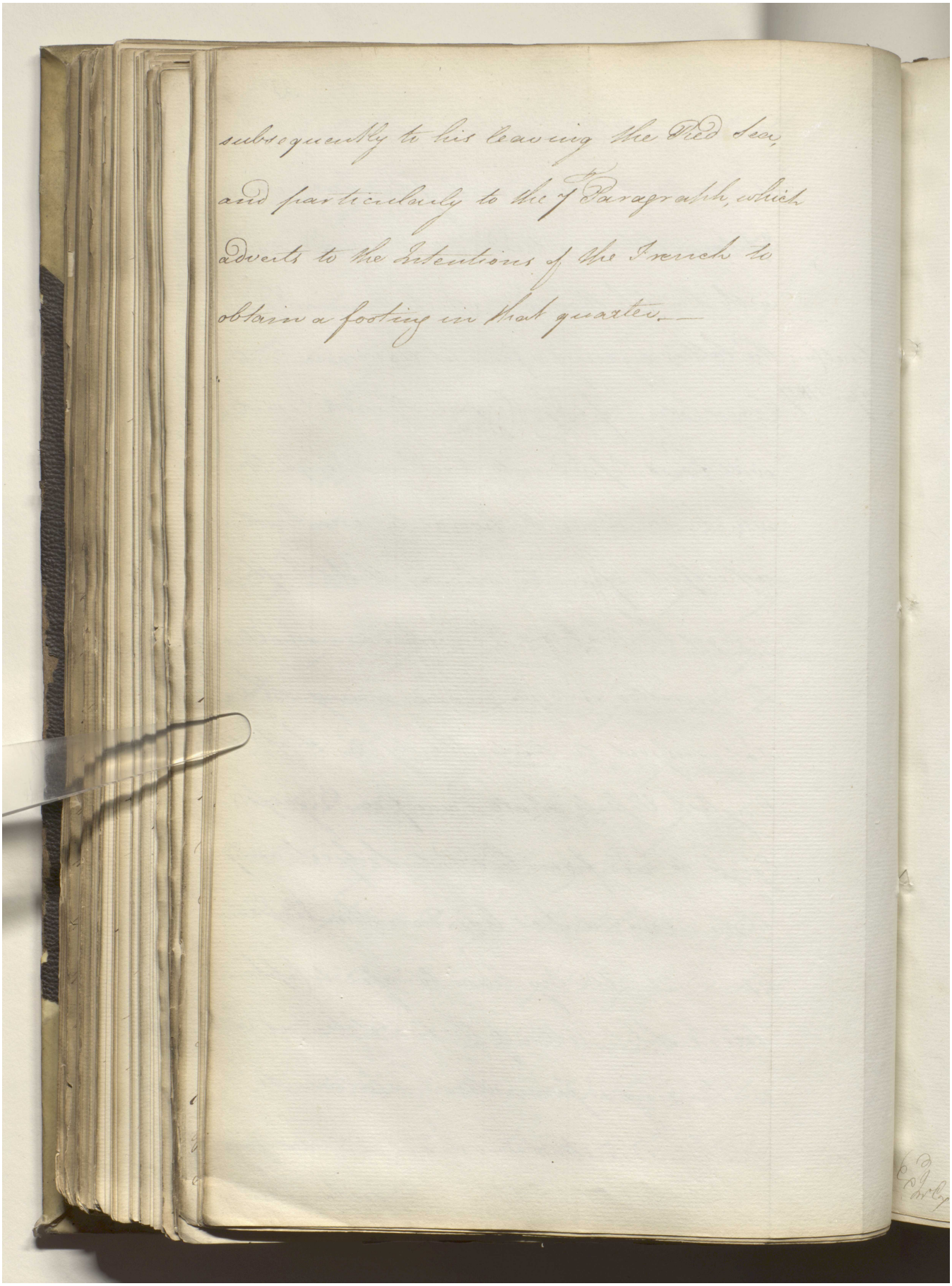

subsequently to his leaving the Red Sea,
and particularly to the 7th Paragraph, which
adverts to the intentions of the French to
obtain a footing in that quarter.—

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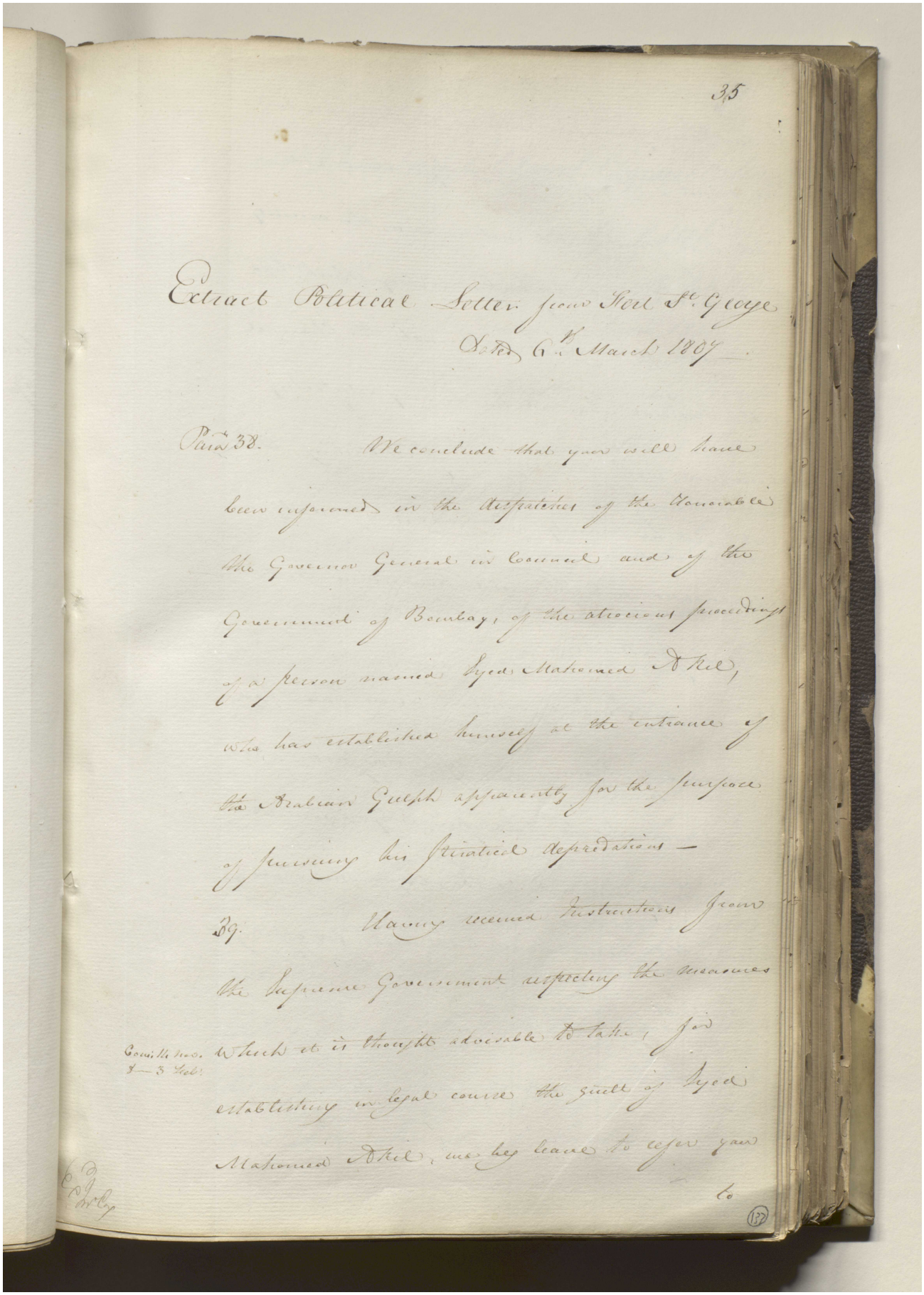
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [137r] (33/264)



Extract Political Letter from Fort St. George
Dated 6th March 1807.

Para 38. We conclude that you will have been informed in the dispatches of the Honorable the Governor General in Council and of the Government of Bombay, of the atrocious proceedings of a person named Syed Mahomed Akil, who has established himself at the entrance of the Arabian Gulph apparently for the purpose of pursuing his piratical depredations —

39. Having received instructions from the Supreme Government respecting the measures which it is thought advisable to take, for establishing in legal course the guilt of Syed Mahomed Akil, we beg leave to refer you

Cons. 14 Nov. & — 3 Feb.

to

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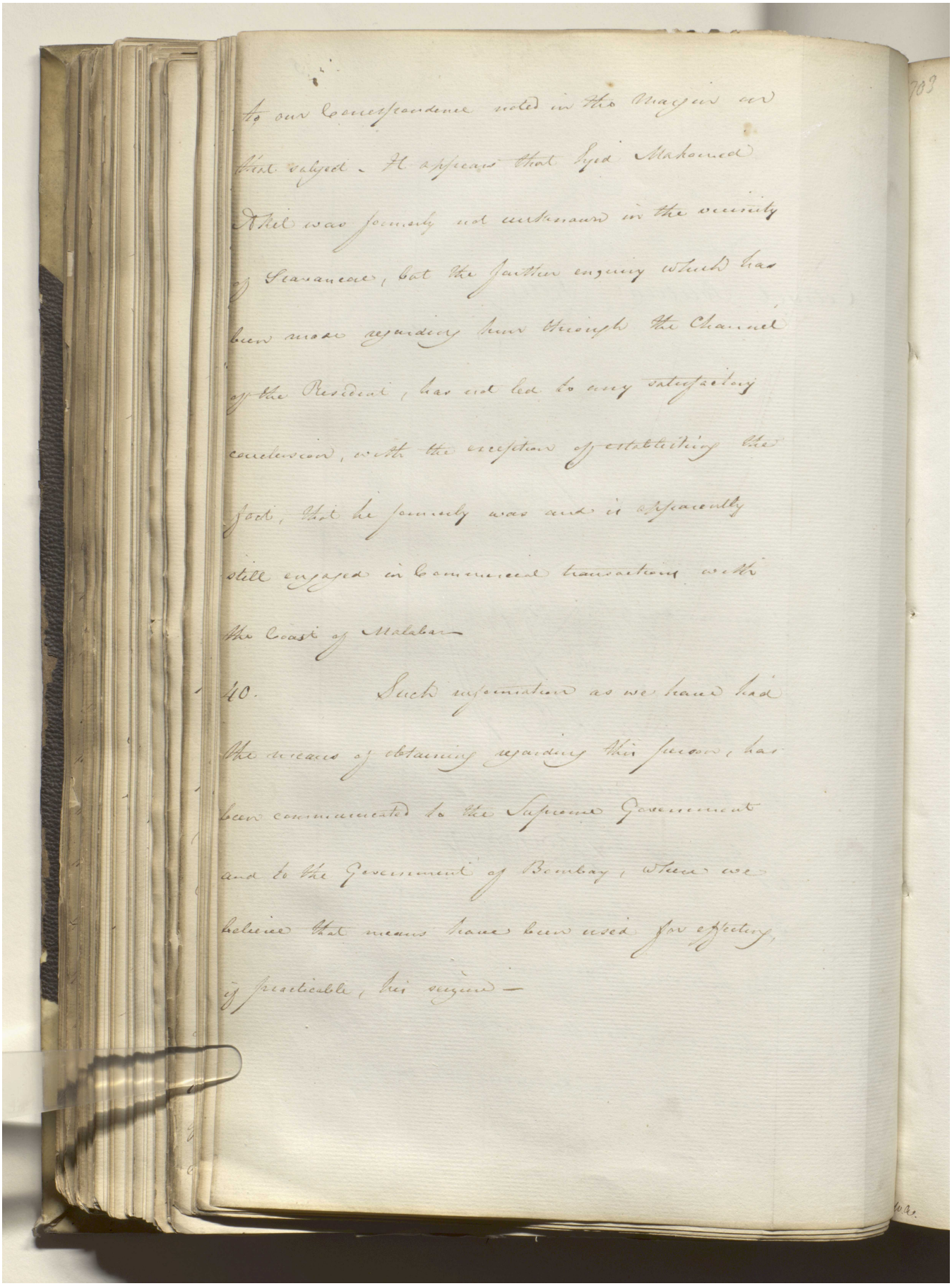

to our Correspondence noted in the Margin on that subject. It appears that Syed Mahomed Akil was formerly not unknown in the vicinity of Sravancore, but the further enquiry which has been made regarding him through the Channel of the Resident, has not led to any satisfactory conclusion, with the exception of establishing the fact, that he formerly was and is apparently still engaged in Commercial transactions with the Coast of Malabar.

40. Such information as we have had the means of obtaining regarding this person, has been communicated to the Supreme Government and to the Government of Bombay, where we believe that means have been used for effecting, if practicable, his seizure.

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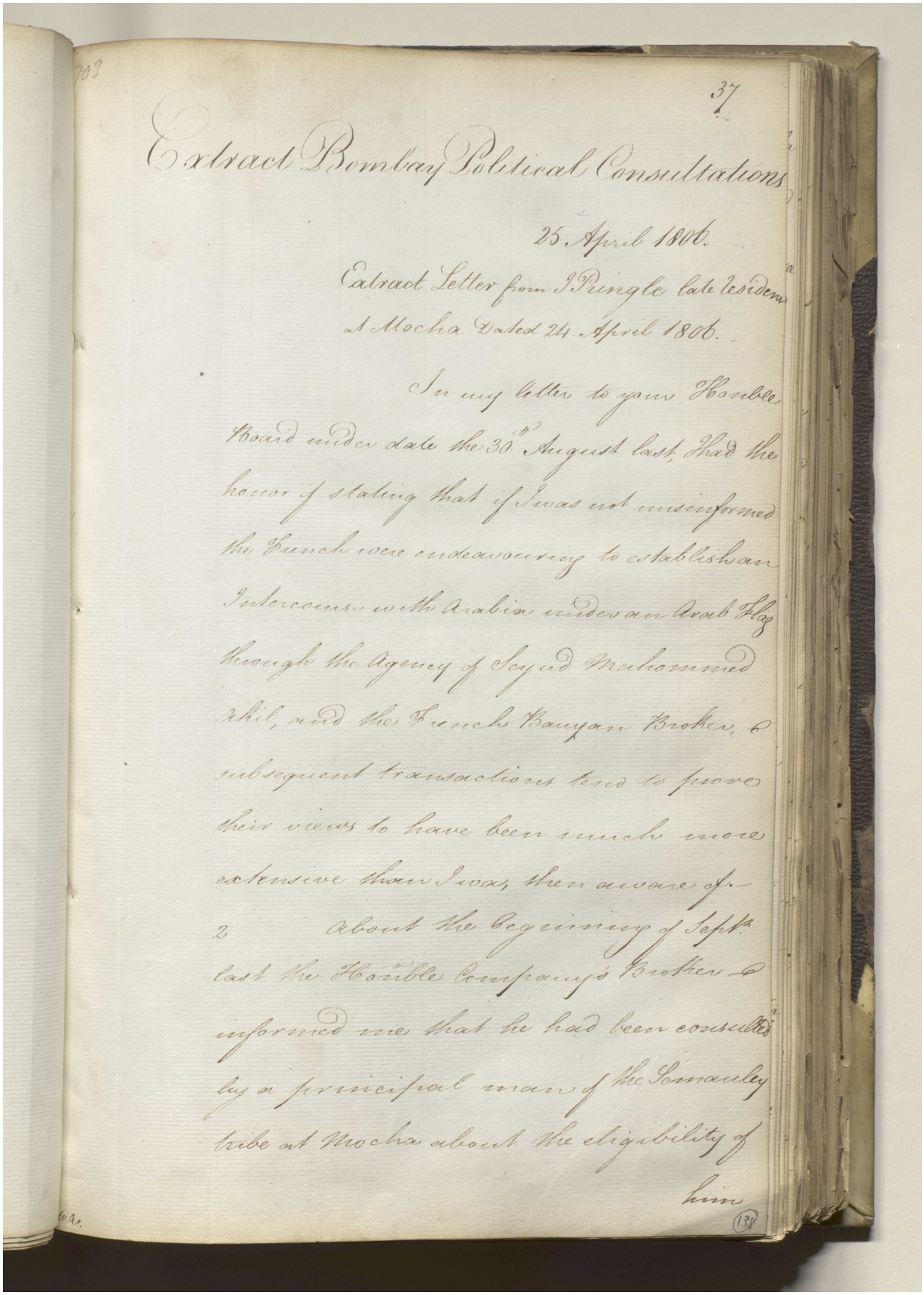

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37

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

25. April 1806.

Extract Letter from J. Pringle late Resident at Mocha Dated 24. April 1806.

In my letter to your Honble Board under date the 30th August last, I had the honor of stating that if I was not misinformed the French were endeavouring to establish an Intercourse with Arabia under an Arab Flag through the Agency of Seyud Muhammed Akil, and the French Banyan Broker, & subsequent transactions tend to prove their views to have been much more extensive than I was then aware of.

2 About the beginning of Septr last the Honble Company's Broker informed me that he had been consulted by a principal man of the Ismauley tribe at Mocha about the eligibility of him

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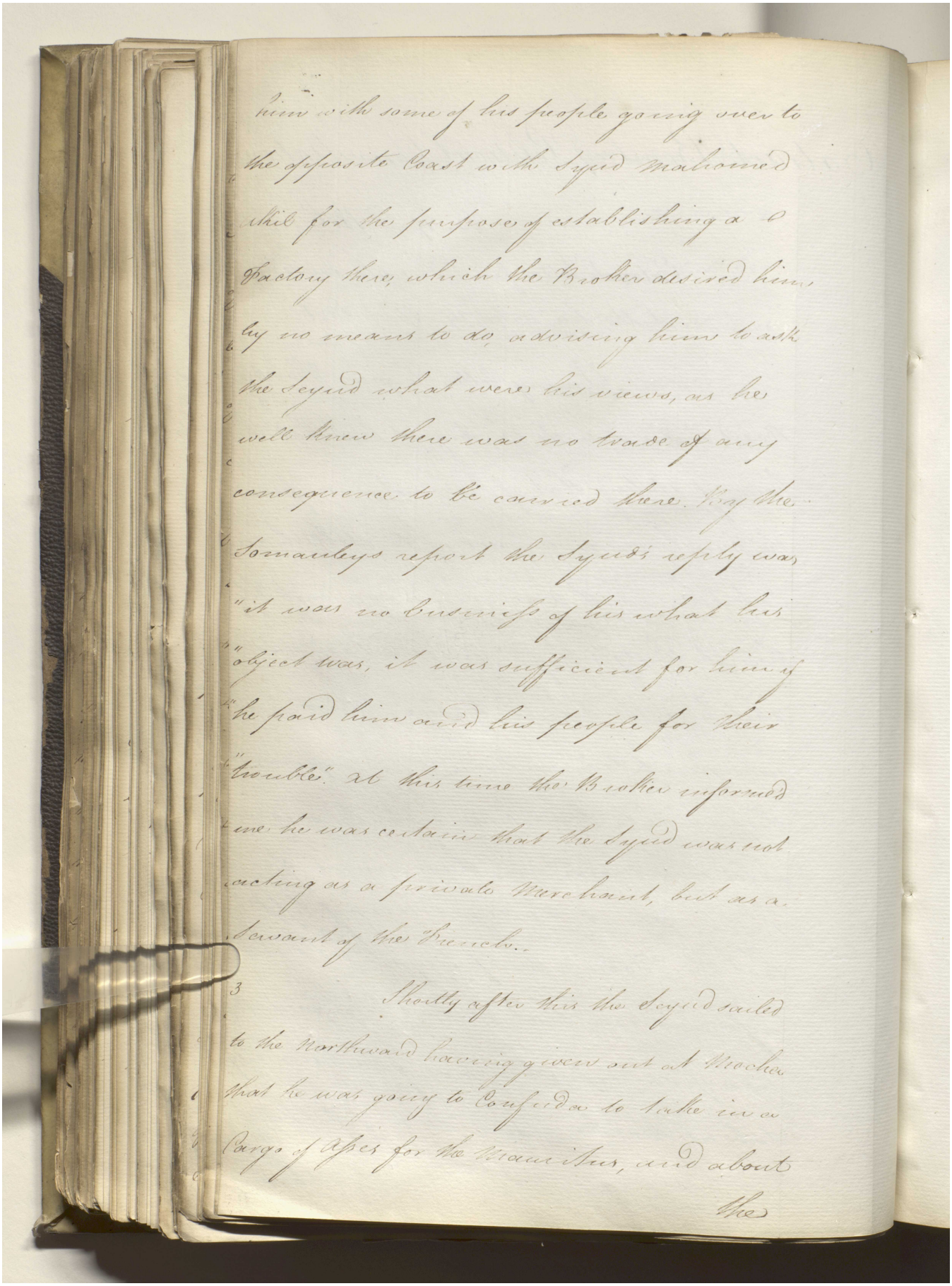

him with some of his people going over to
the opposite Coast with Seyed Mahomed
Shil for the purpose of establishing a
Factory there, which the Broker desired him
by no means to do advising him to ask
the Seyed what were his views, as he
well knew there was no trade of any
consequence to be carried there. By the
Tomanleys report the Seyeds reply was,
"it was no business of his what his
"object was, it was sufficient for him if
"he paid him and his people for their
"trouble". At this time the Broker informed
me he was certain that the Seyed was not
acting as a private Merchant, but as a
Servant of the French.

3 Shortly after this the Seyed sailed
to the Northward having given out at Mocha
that he was going to Confidah to take in a
Cargo of Apes for the Mauritius, and about
the

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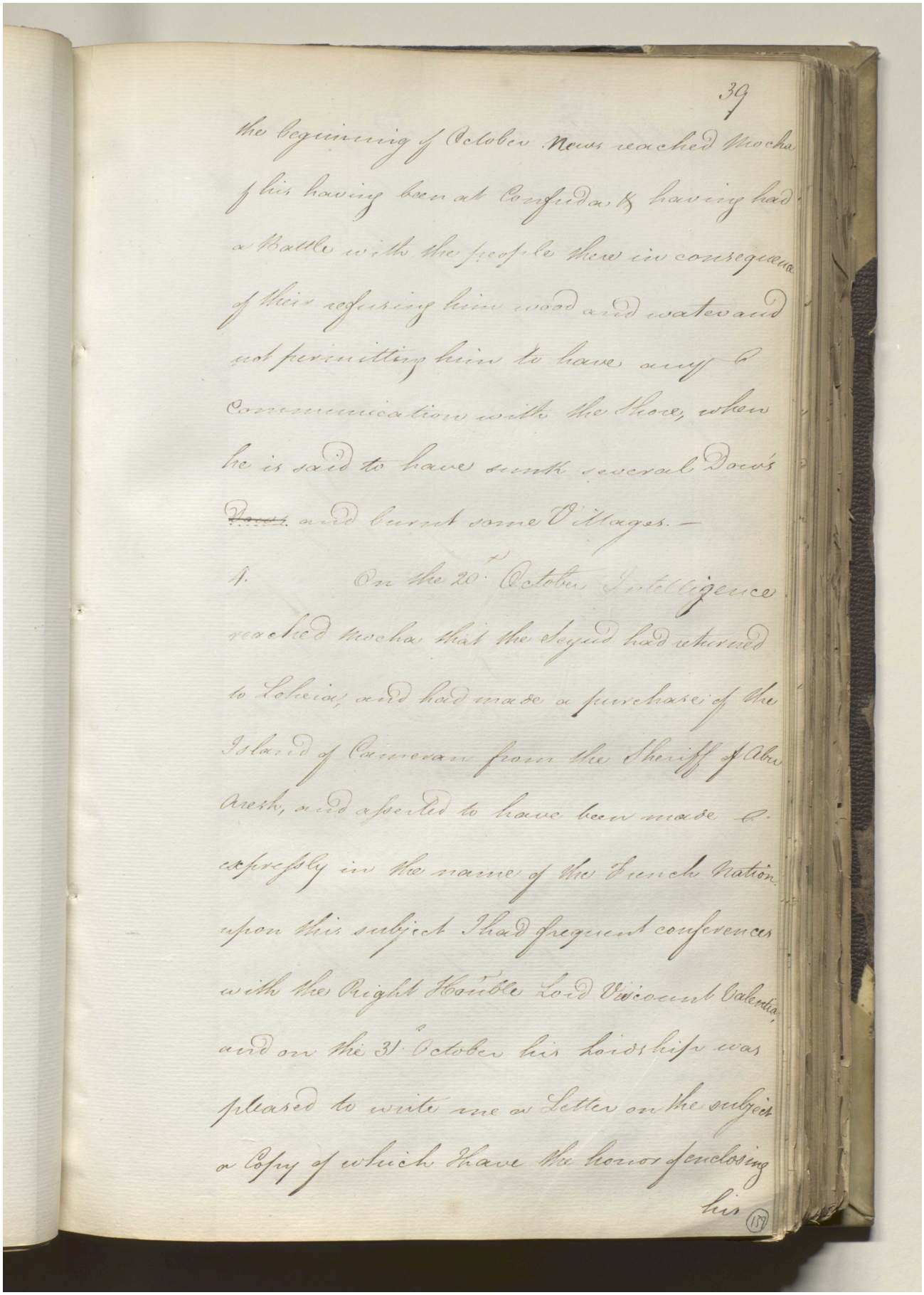

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the beginning of October News reached Mocha of his having been at Confidah & having had a Battle with the people there in consequence of their refusing him wood and water and not permitting him to have any Communication with the Shore, when he is said to have sunk several Dows ~~Vessels~~ and burnt some Villages.—

1. On the 20th October Intelligence reached Mocha that the Seguid had returned to Loheia, and had made a purchase of the Island of Cameran from the Sheriff of Abu Arish, and asserted to have been made expressly in the name of the French Nation upon this subject I had frequent conferences with the Right Honble Lord Viscount Valentia, and on the 31st October his Lordship was pleased to write me a Letter on the subject a Copy of which I have the honor of enclosing

his

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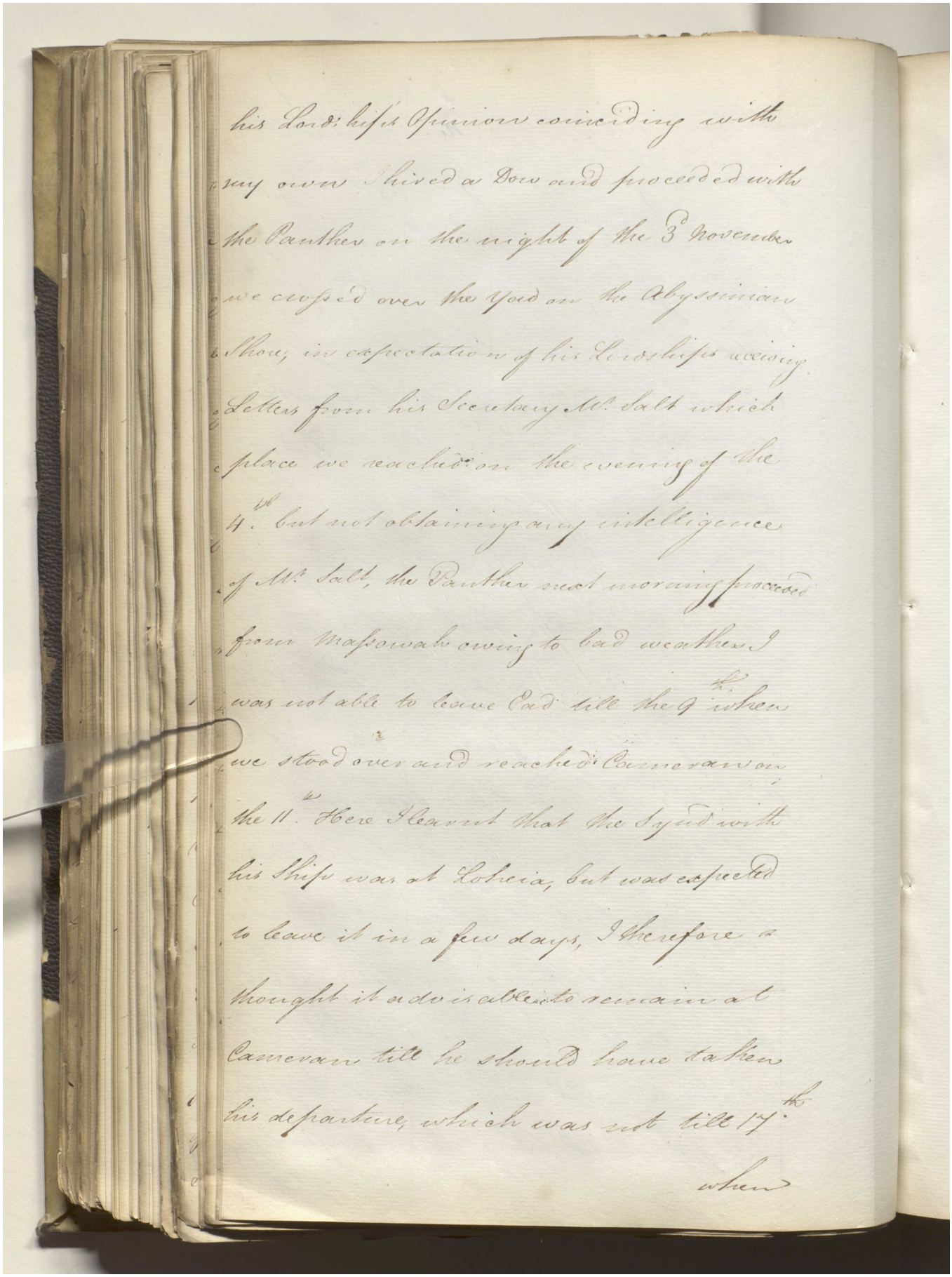

his Lordships Opinion coinciding with
my own I hired a Dow and proceeded with
the Panther on the night of the 3d November
we crossed over the Yad on the Abyssinian
Shore, in expectation of his Lordships receiving
Letters from his Secretary Mr. Salt which
place we reached on the evening of the
4th but not obtaining any intelligence
of Mr. Salt, the Panther next morning proceeded
from Massowah owing to bad weather I
was not able to leave Ead till the 9th when
we stood over and reached Cameran on
the 11th Here I learnt that the Syud with
his Ship was at Loheia, but was expected
to leave it in a few days, I therefore
thought it advisable to remain at
Cameran till he should have taken
his departure, which was not till 17th

when

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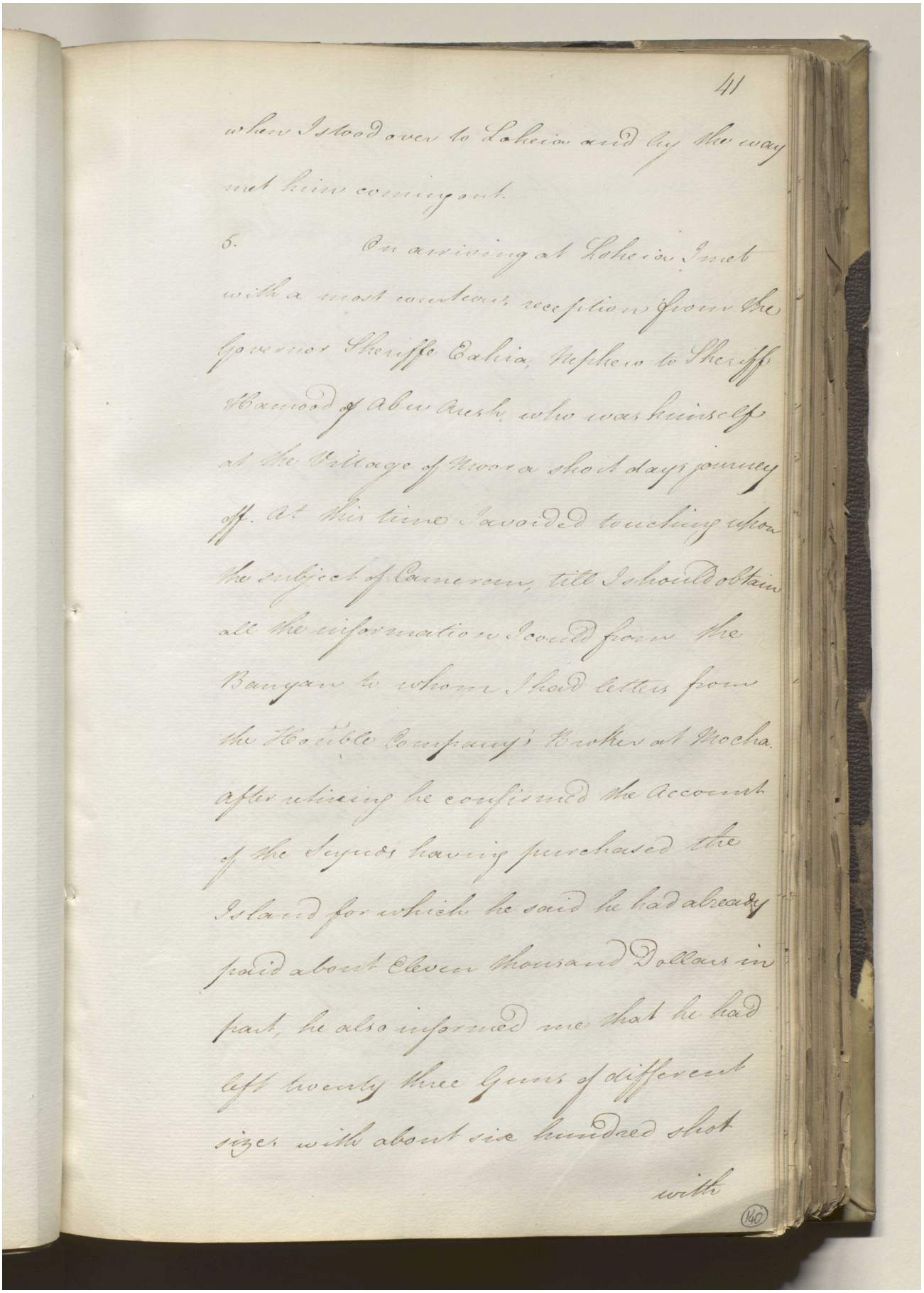

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whom I stood over to Loheia and by the way met him coming out.

5. On arriving at Loheia I met with a most courteous reception from the Governor Sheriffe Zahia, Nephew to Sheriffe Hamood of Abu Arish, who was himself at the Village of Moora a short days journey off. At this time I avoided touching upon the subject of Cameron, till I should obtain all the information I could from the Banyans to whom I had letters from the Honble Company's Banker at Mocha. after retiring he confirmed the Account of the Seyuds having purchased the Island for which he said he had already paid about Eleven thousand Dollars in part, he also informed me that he had left twenty three Guns of different sizes with about six hundred shot with

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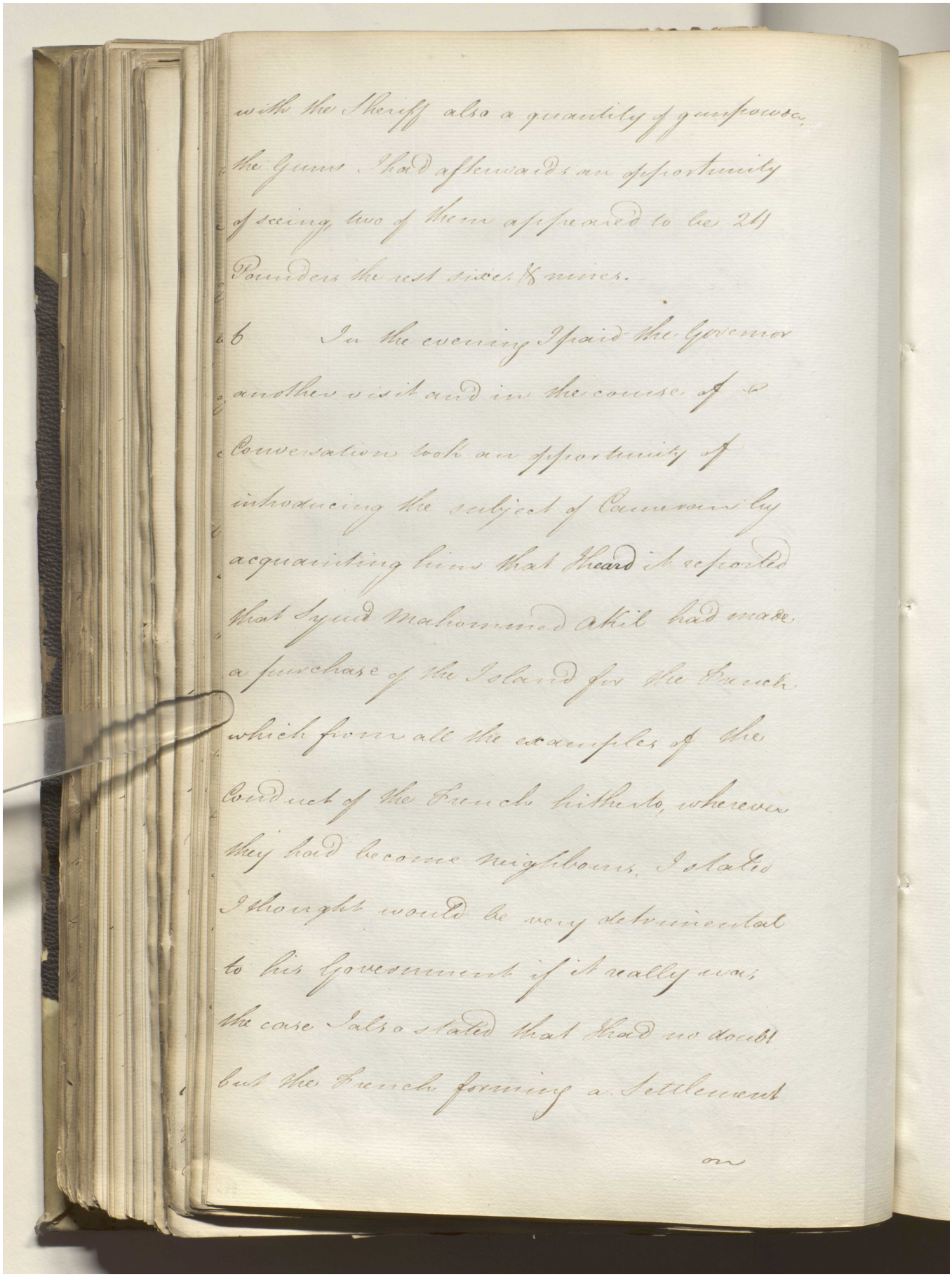

with the Sheriff also a quantity of gunpowder, the Guns I had afterwards an opportunity of seeing two of them appeared to be 24 Pounders the rest Sixes & nines.

6 In the evening I paid the Governor another visit and in the course of a Conversation took an opportunity of introducing the subject of Cameran by acquainting him that I heard it reported that Syud Mahommed Akil had made a purchase of the Island for the French, which from all the examples of the Conduct of the French hitherto, wherever they had become neighbours, I stated I thought would be very detrimental to his Government if it really was the case I also stated that I had no doubt but the French forming a Settlement

on

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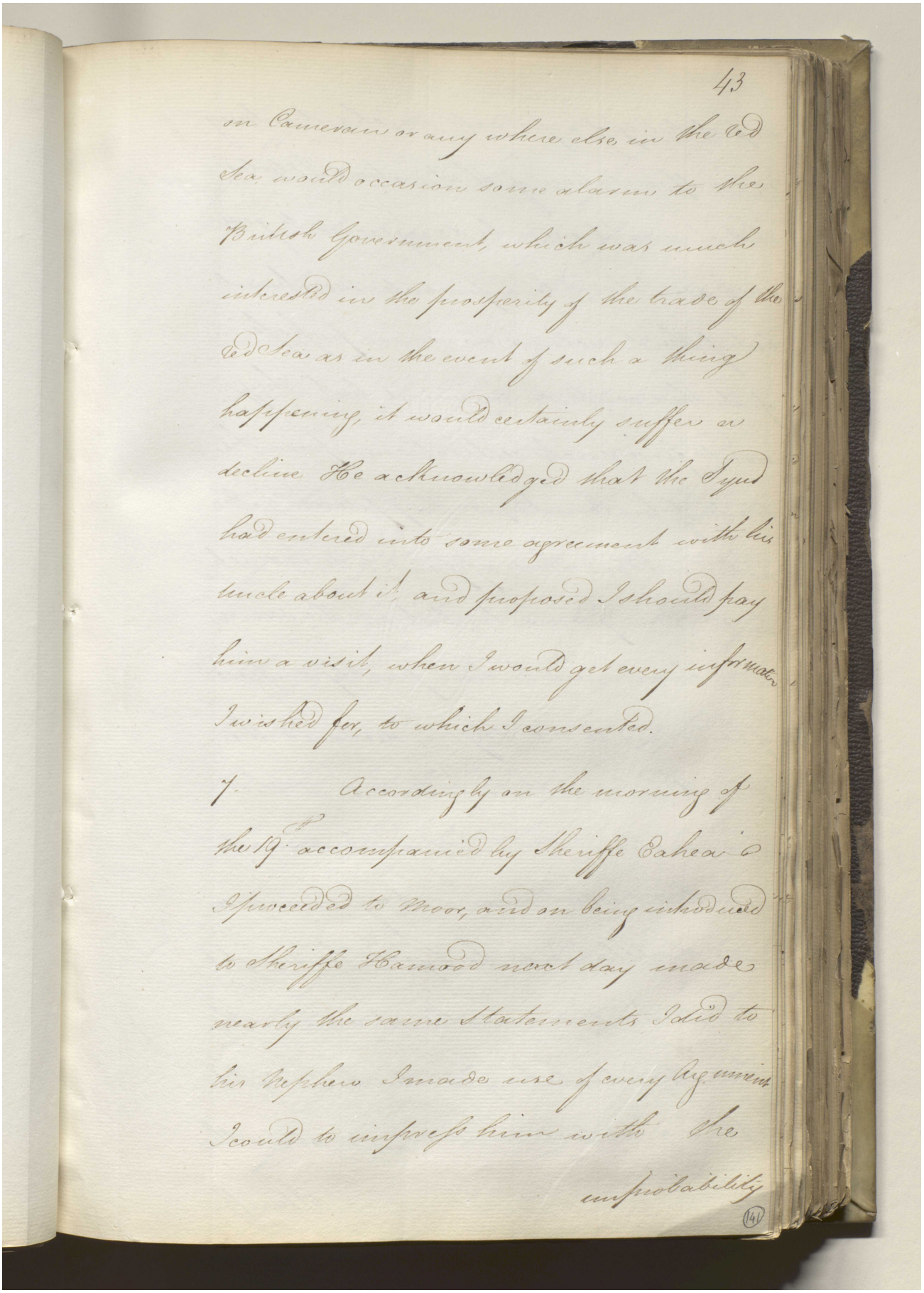

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on Cameran or any where else in the Red Sea would occasion some alarm to the British Government, which was much interested in the prosperity of the trade of the Red Sea as in the event of such a thing happening, it would certainly suffer a decline. He acknowledged that the Syud had entered into some agreement with his uncle about it, and proposed I should pay him a visit, when I would get every information I wished for, to which I consented.

7. Accordingly on the morning of the 19th accompanied by Sheriffe Daher I proceeded to Moor, and on being introduced to Sheriffe Hamood next day made nearly the same Statements I did to his Nephew. I made use of every Argument I could to impress him with the improbability

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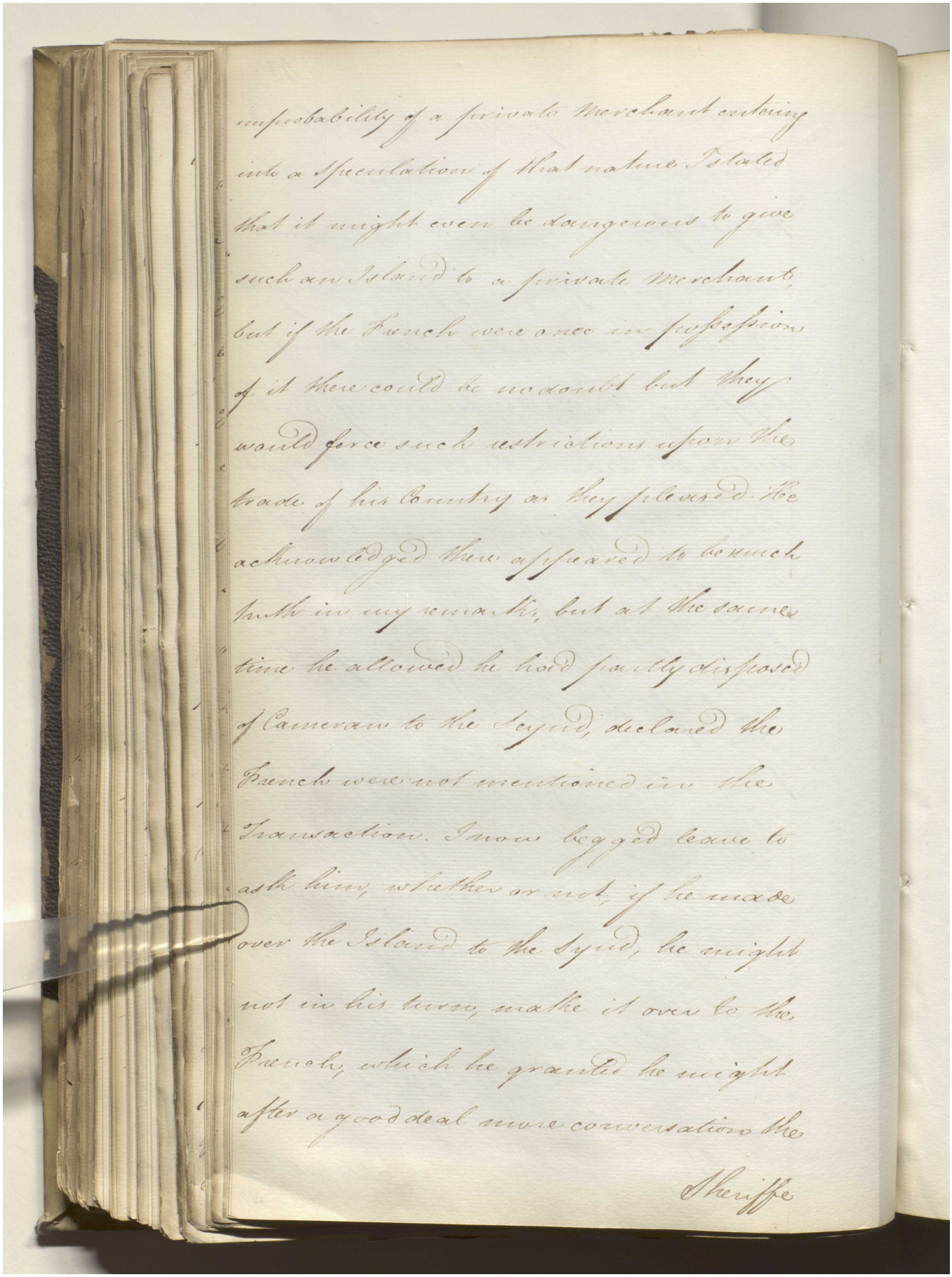

improbability of a private Merchant entering into a Speculation of that nature I stated that it might even be dangerous to give such an Island to a private Merchant, but if the French were once in possession of it there could be no doubt but they would force such restrictions upon the trade of his Country as they pleased. He acknowledged there appeared to be much truth in my remarks, but at the same time he allowed he had partly disposed of Camaran to the Seyid, declared the French were not mentioned in the Transaction. I now begged leave to ask him, whether or not, if he made over the Island to the Seyid, he might not in his turn, make it over to the French, which he granted he might. after a good deal more conversation the

Sheriffe

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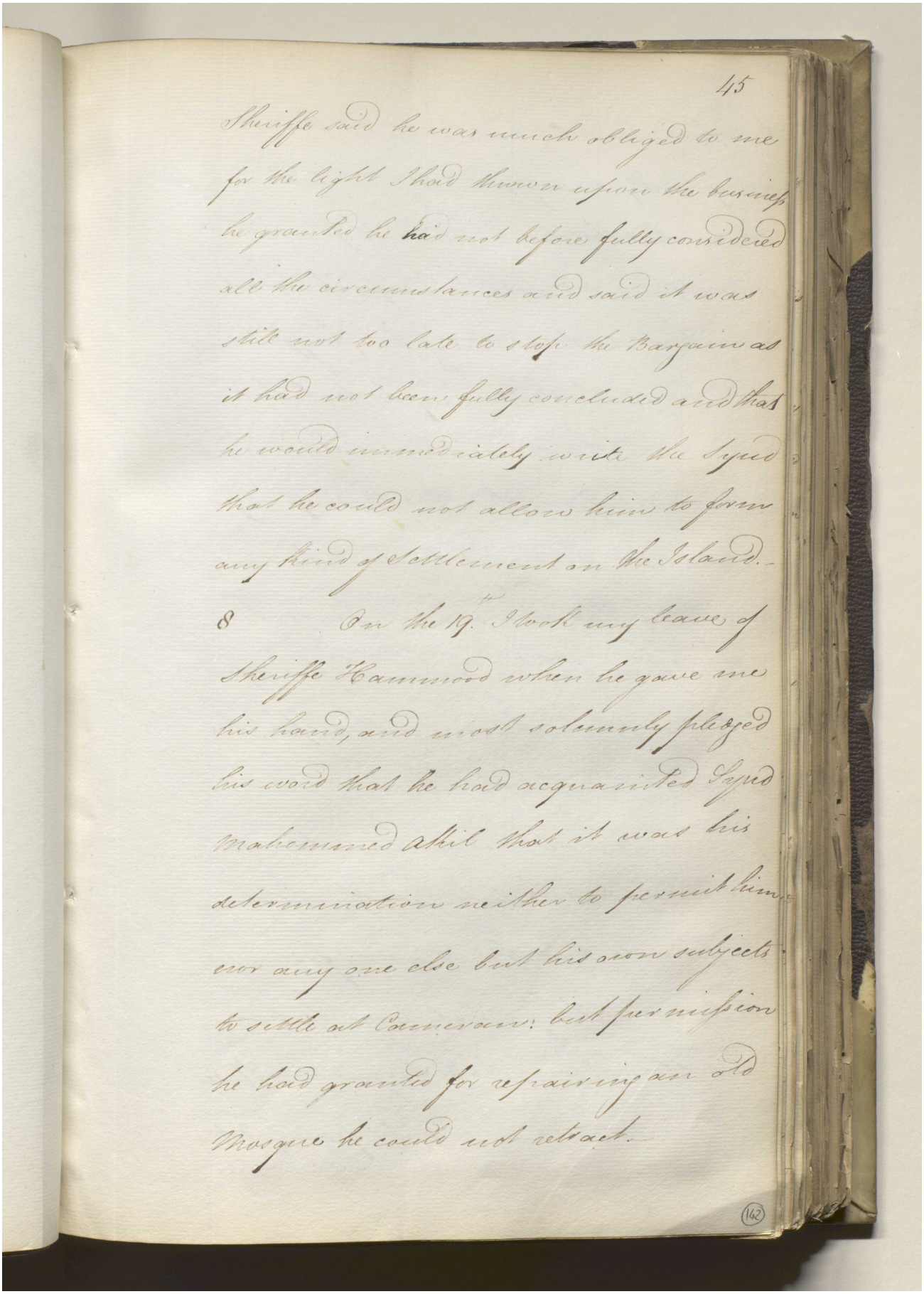

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Sheriffe said he was much obliged to me
for the light I had thrown upon the busines
he granted he had not before fully considered
all the circumstances and said it was
still not too late to stop the Bargain as
it had not been fully concluded and that
he would immediately write the Syed
that he could not allow him to form
any kind of Settlement on the Island.-

8 On the 19th I took my leave of
Sheriffe Hammood when he gave me
his hand, and most solemnly pledged
his word that he had acquainted Syed
Mahommed Abil that it was his
determination neither to permit him
nor any one else but his own subjects
to settle at Cameran: but permission
he had granted for repairing our Do
Mosque he could not retract.

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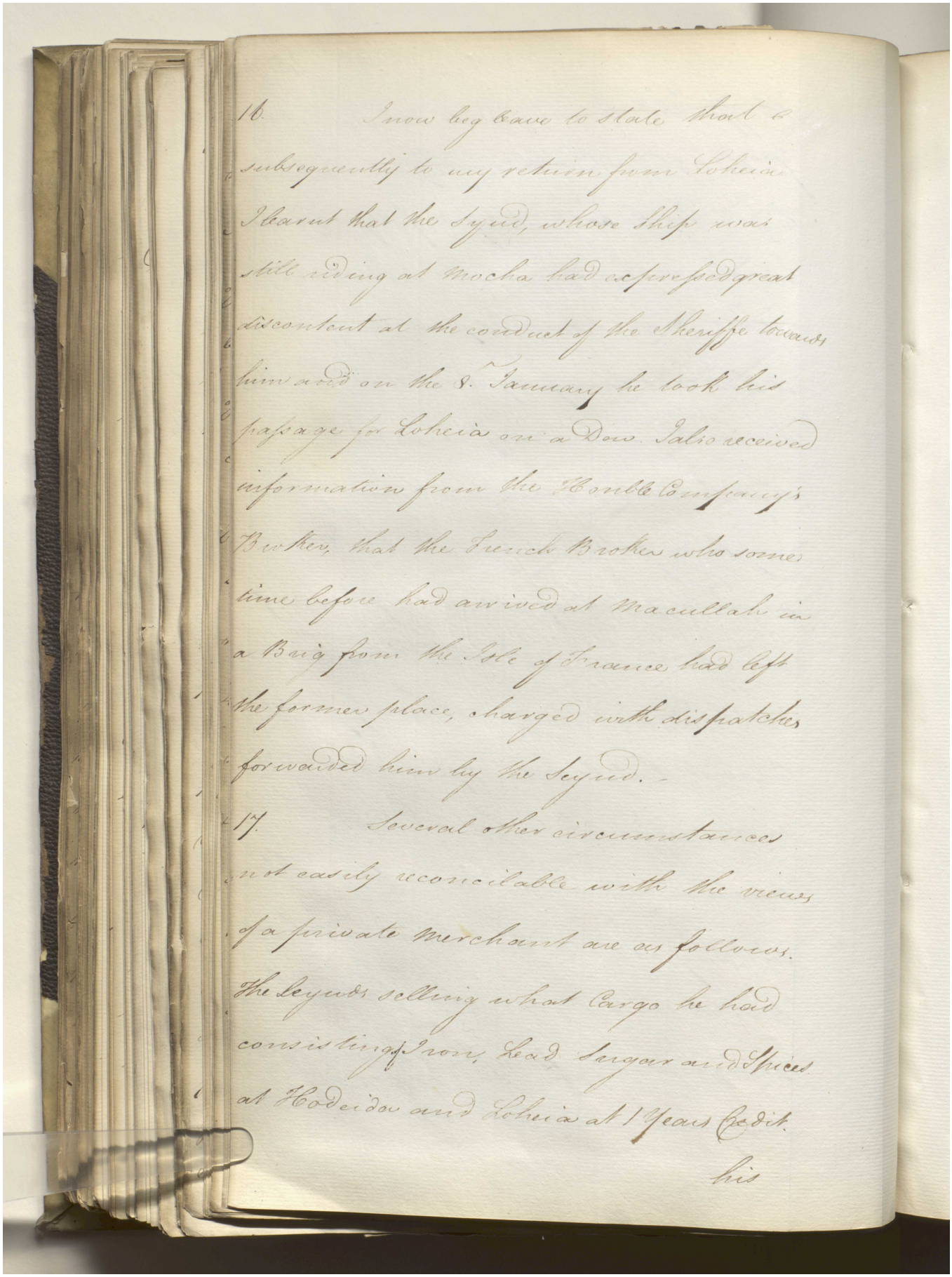

16. I now beg leave to state that a subsequently to my return from Lohaia I learnt that the Seyud, whose Ship was still riding at Mocha had expressed great discontent at the conduct of the Sheriffe towards him and on the 8th January he took his passage for Lohaia on a Dow. Jalio received information from the Honble Company's Broker, that the French Broker who some time before had arrived at Macullah in a Baig from the Isle of France had left the former place, charged with dispatches forwarded him by the Seyud.

17. Several other circumstances not easily reconcilable with the views of a private merchant are as follows. The Seyuds selling what Cargo he had consisting from Lead Sugar and Spices at Hodeida and Lohaia at 1 Years Credit.

his

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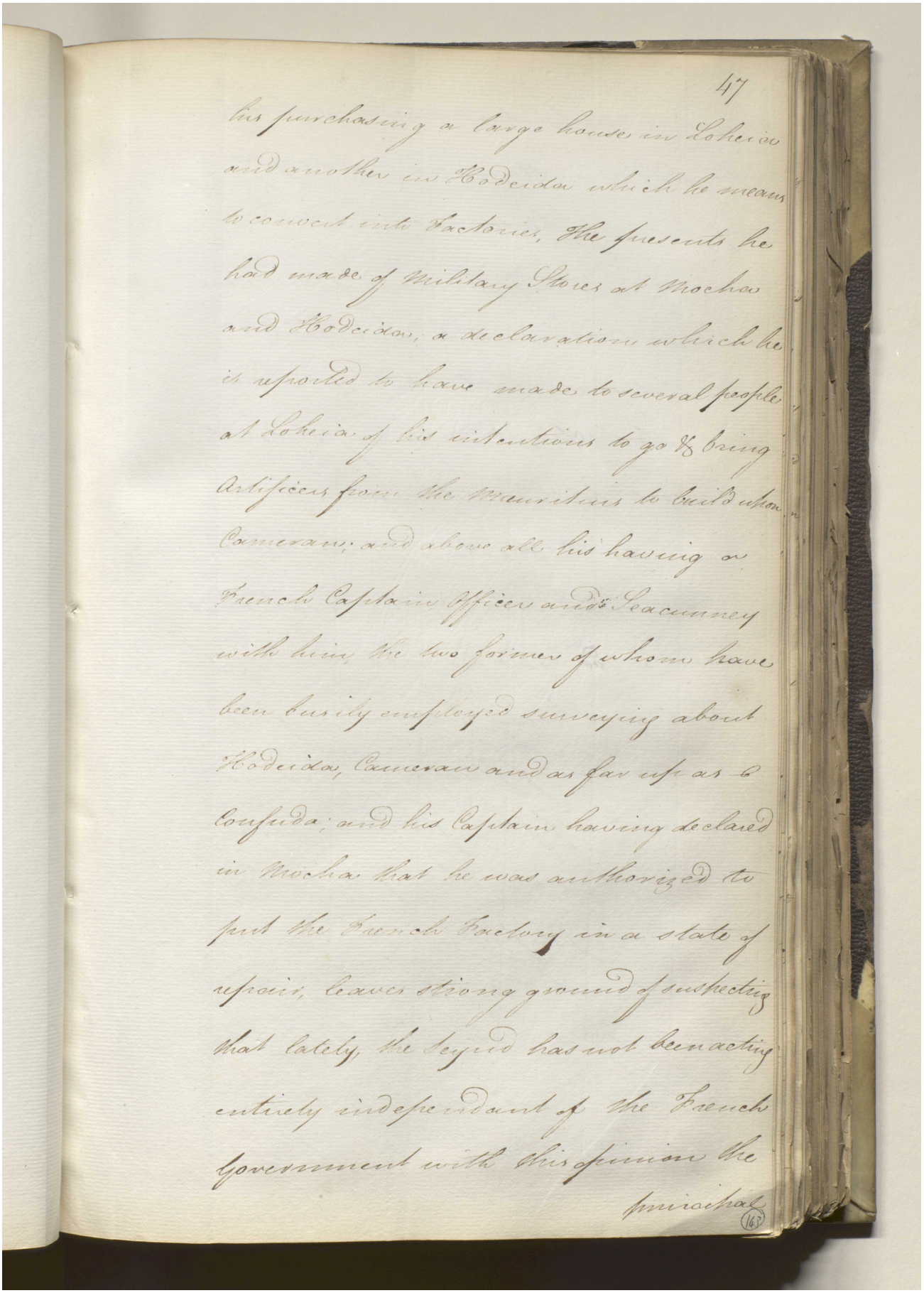

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his purchasing a large house in Loheia
and another in Hodeida which he means
to convert into Factories, the presents he
had made of Military Stores at Mocha
and Hodeida, a declaration which he
is reported to have made to several people
at Loheia of his intentions to go & bring
Artificers from the Mauritius to build upon
Cameran; and above all his having a
French Captain Officer and 65 Seacunney
with him, the two former of whom have
been busily employed surveying about
Hodeida, Cameran and as far up as to
Confuda; and his Captain having declared
in Mocha that he was authorized to
put the French Factory in a state of
repair, leaves strong ground of suspecting
that lately the Seyud has not been acting
entirely independant of the French
Government with this opinion the
principal

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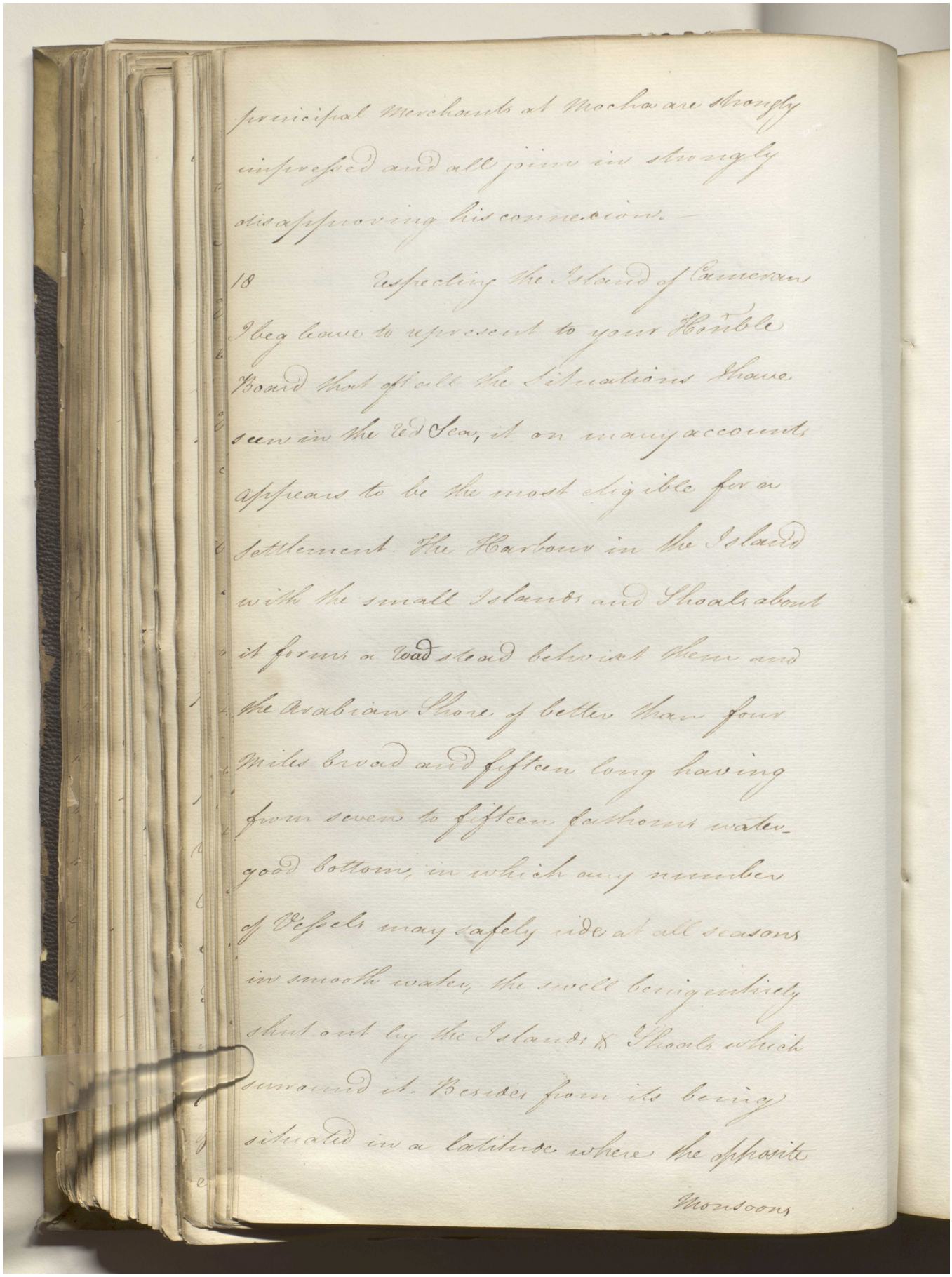

principal Merchants at Mocha are strongly
impressed and all join in strongly
disapproving his connexions.

18 Respecting the Island of Cameran
I beg leave to represent to your Honble
Board that of all the Situations I have
seen in the Red Sea, it on many accounts
appears to be the most eligible for a
Settlement. The Harbour in the Islands
with the small Islands and Shoals about
it forms a Road stead between them and
the Arabian Shore of better than four
Miles broad and fifteen long having
from seven to fifteen fathoms water
good bottom, in which any number
of Vessels may safely ride at all seasons
in smooth water, the swell being entirely
shut out by the Islands & Shoals which
surround it. Besides from its being
situated in a latitude where the opposite
Monsoons

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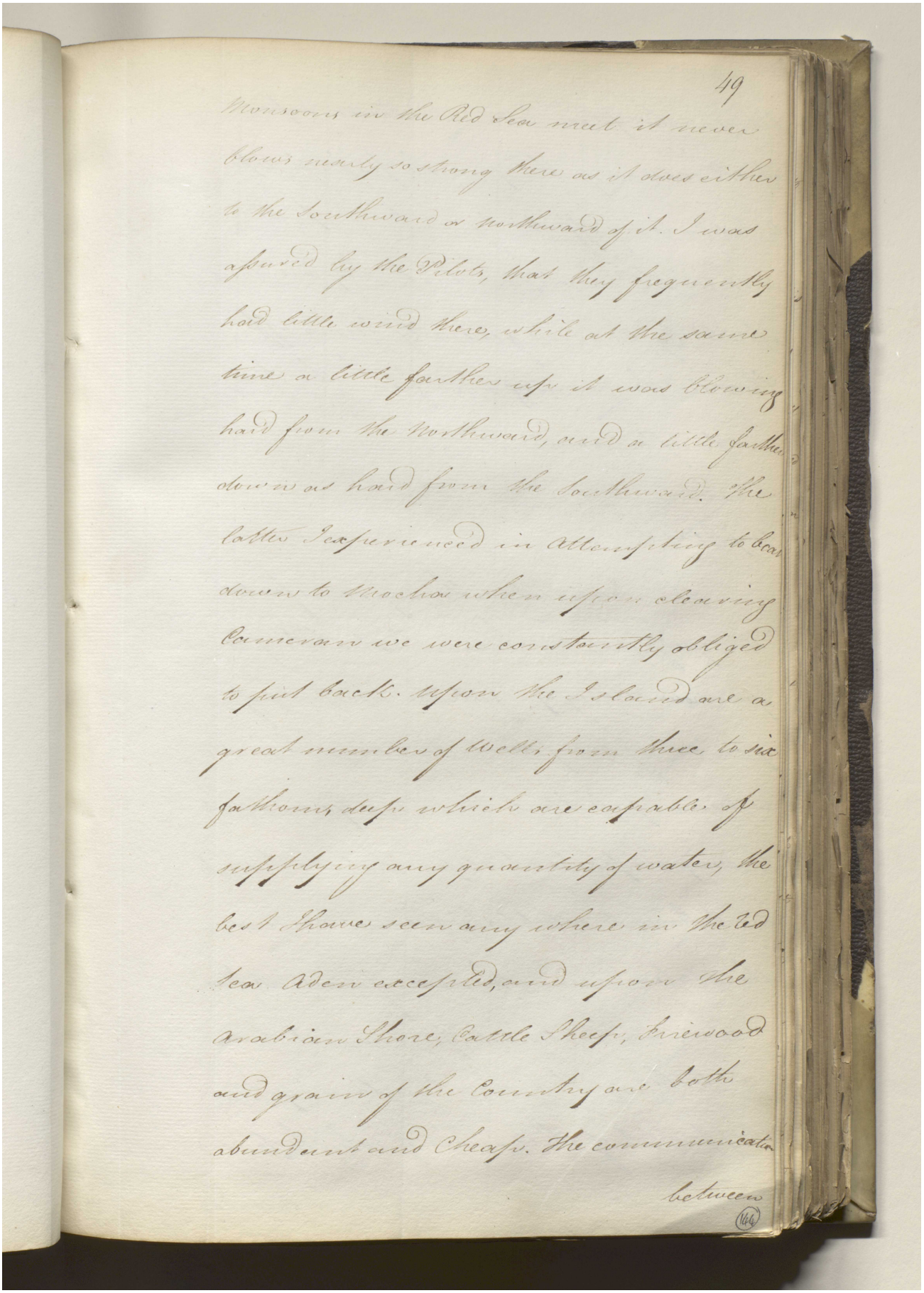

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Monsoons in the Red Sea neet it never blows nearly so strong there as it does either to the Southward or Northward of it. I was assured by the Pilots, that they frequently had little wind there, while at the same time a little farther up it was blowing hard from the Northward, and a little farther down it was hard from the Southward. The latter I experienced in attempting to beat down to Mocha when upon clearing Cameran we were constantly obliged to put back. Upon the Island are a great number of Wells from three to six fathoms deep which are capable of supplying any quantity of water, the best I have seen any where in the Red Sea Aden excepted, and upon the Arabian Shore, Cattle Sheep, Firewood and grain of the Country are both abundant and Cheap. The communicatio

between

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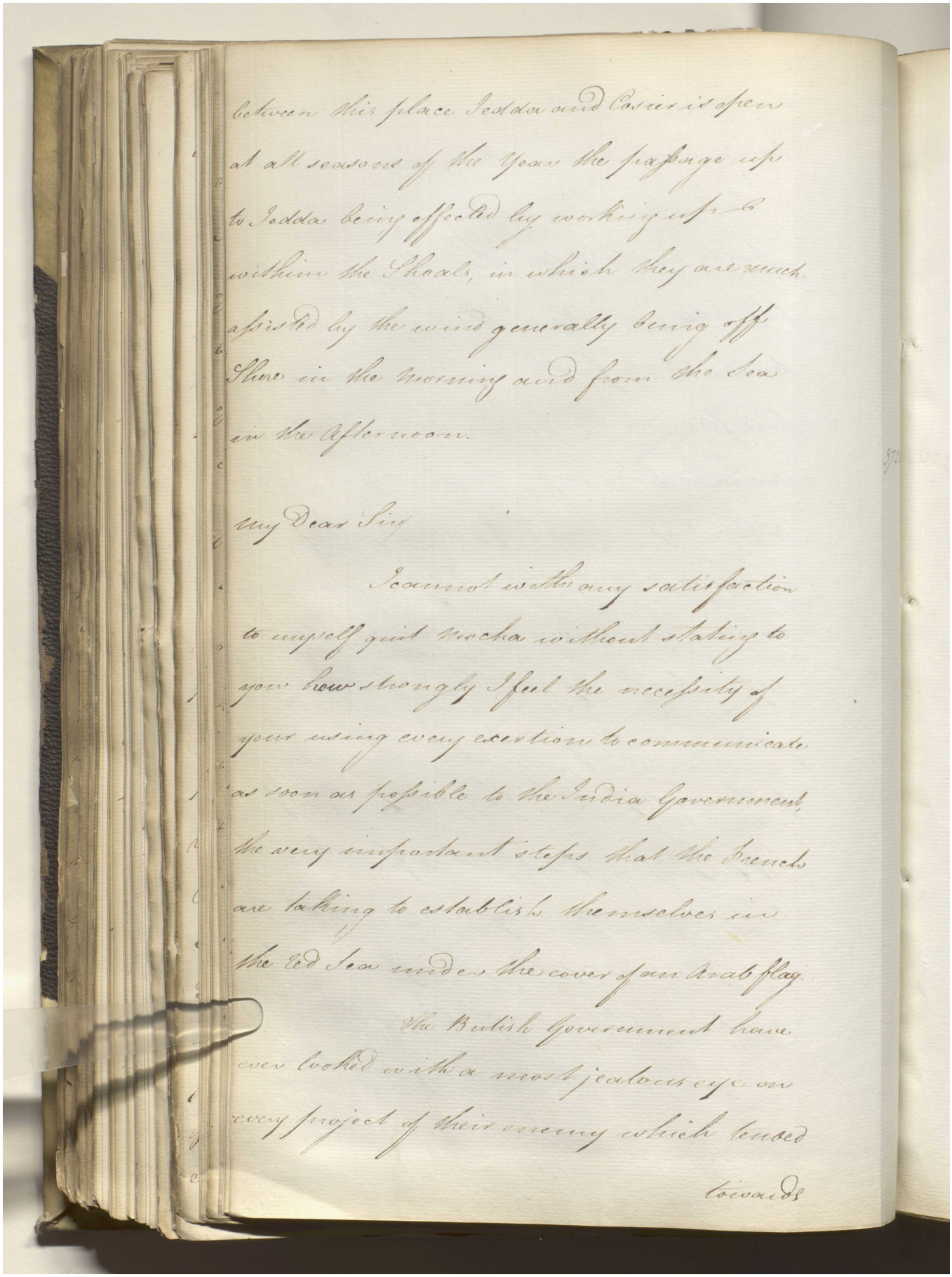

between this place Jeddah and Cosier is open
at all seasons of the Year the passage up
to Jeddah being effected by working up
within the Shoals, in which they are much
assisted by the wind generally being off
Shore in the morning and from the Sea
in the Afternoon.

My Dear Sir

I cannot with any satisfaction
to myself quit Mocha without stating to
you how strongly I feel the necessity of
your using every exertion to communicate
as soon as possible to the India Government
the very important steps that the French
are taking to establish themselves in
the Red Sea under the cover of an Arab flag.

The British Government have
ever looked with a most jealous eye on
every project of their enemy which tended

towards

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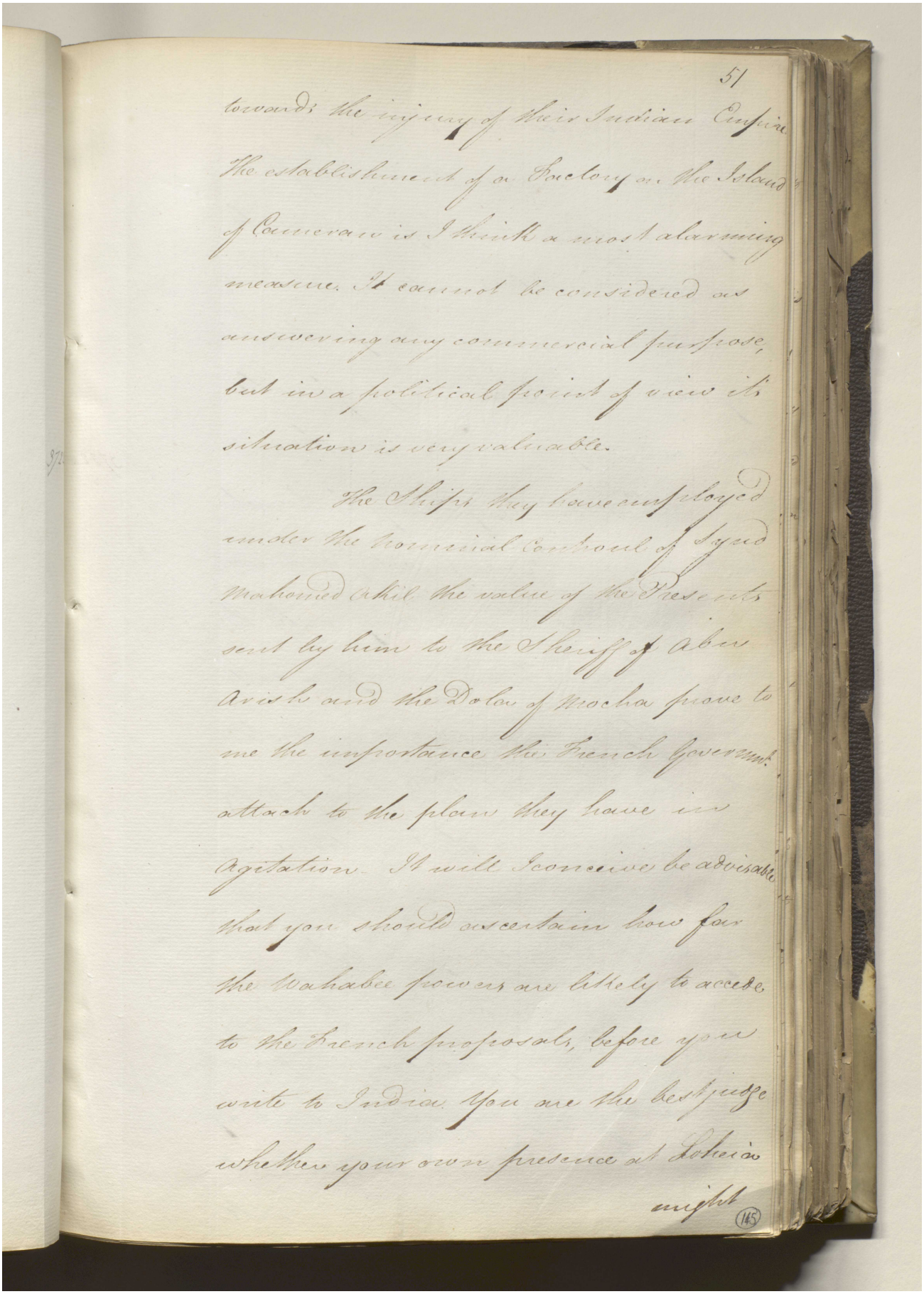

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towards the injury of their Indian Empire
the establishment of a Factory on the Island
of Cameran is I think a most alarming
measure. It cannot be considered as
answering any commercial purpose,
but in a political point of view its
situation is very valuable.

The Ships they have employed
under the Commercial Contract of Syed
Mahomed Akil the value of the Presents
sent by him to the Sheriff of Abu
Arish and the Dolon of Mocha prove to
me the importance the French Govern.t
attach to the plans they have in
Agitation. It will I conceive be advisable
that you should ascertain how far
the Wahabee Powers are likely to accede
to the French proposals, before you
write to India. You are the best judge
whether your own presence at Lohaia
might

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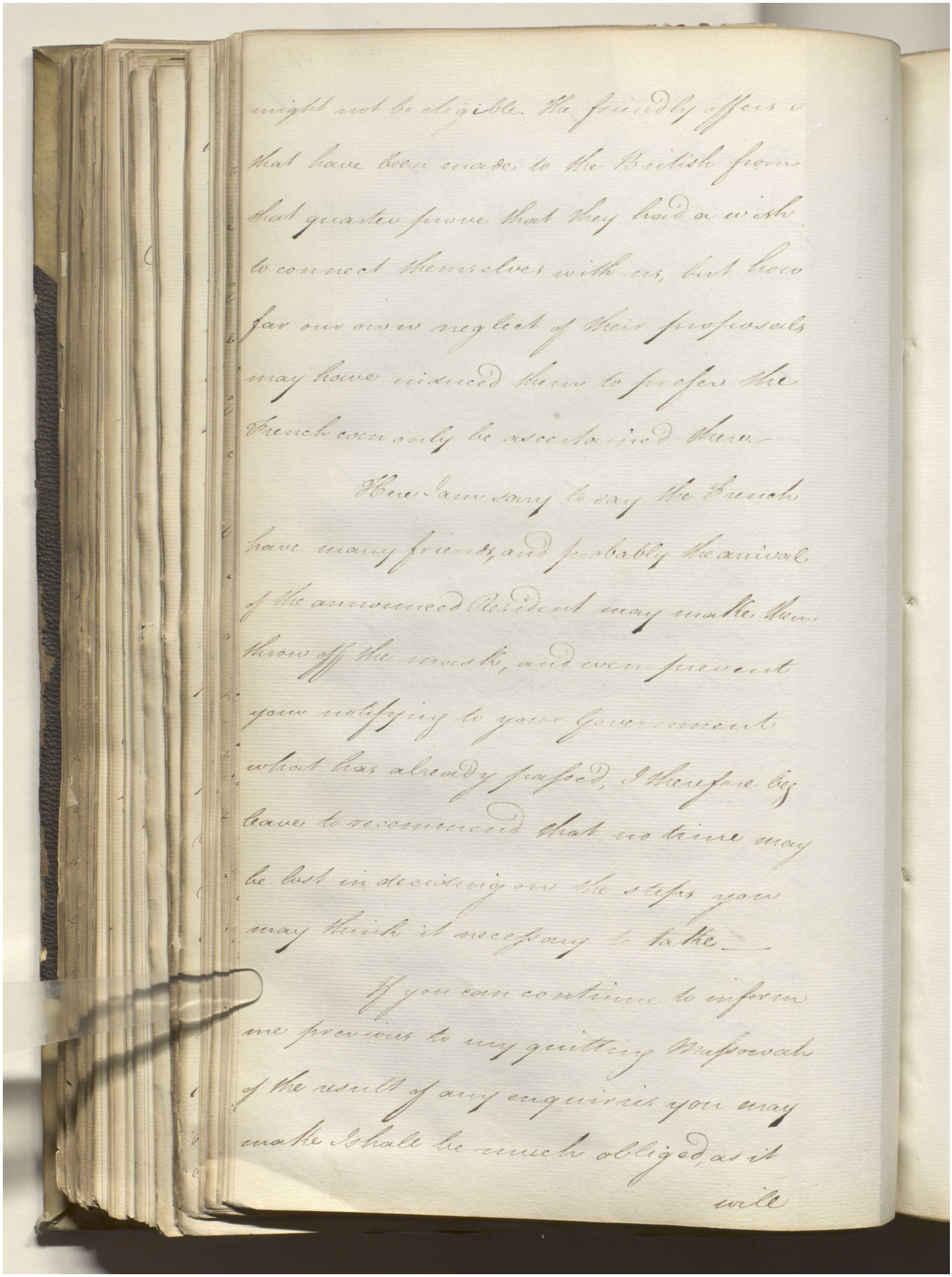

might not be eligible. The friendly offers
that have been made to the British from
that quarter prove that they had a wish
to connect themselves with us, but how
far our own neglect of their proposals
may have induced them to prefer the
French can only be ascertained there.

How I am sorry to say the French
have many friends, and probably the arrival
of the announced Resident may make them
throw off the mask, and even prevent
your notifying to your Government
what has already passed, I therefore beg
leave to recommend that no time may
be lost in deciding on the steps you
may think it necessary to take.

If you can continue to inform
me previous to my quitting Massowah
of the result of any enquiries you may
make I shall be much obliged, as it

will

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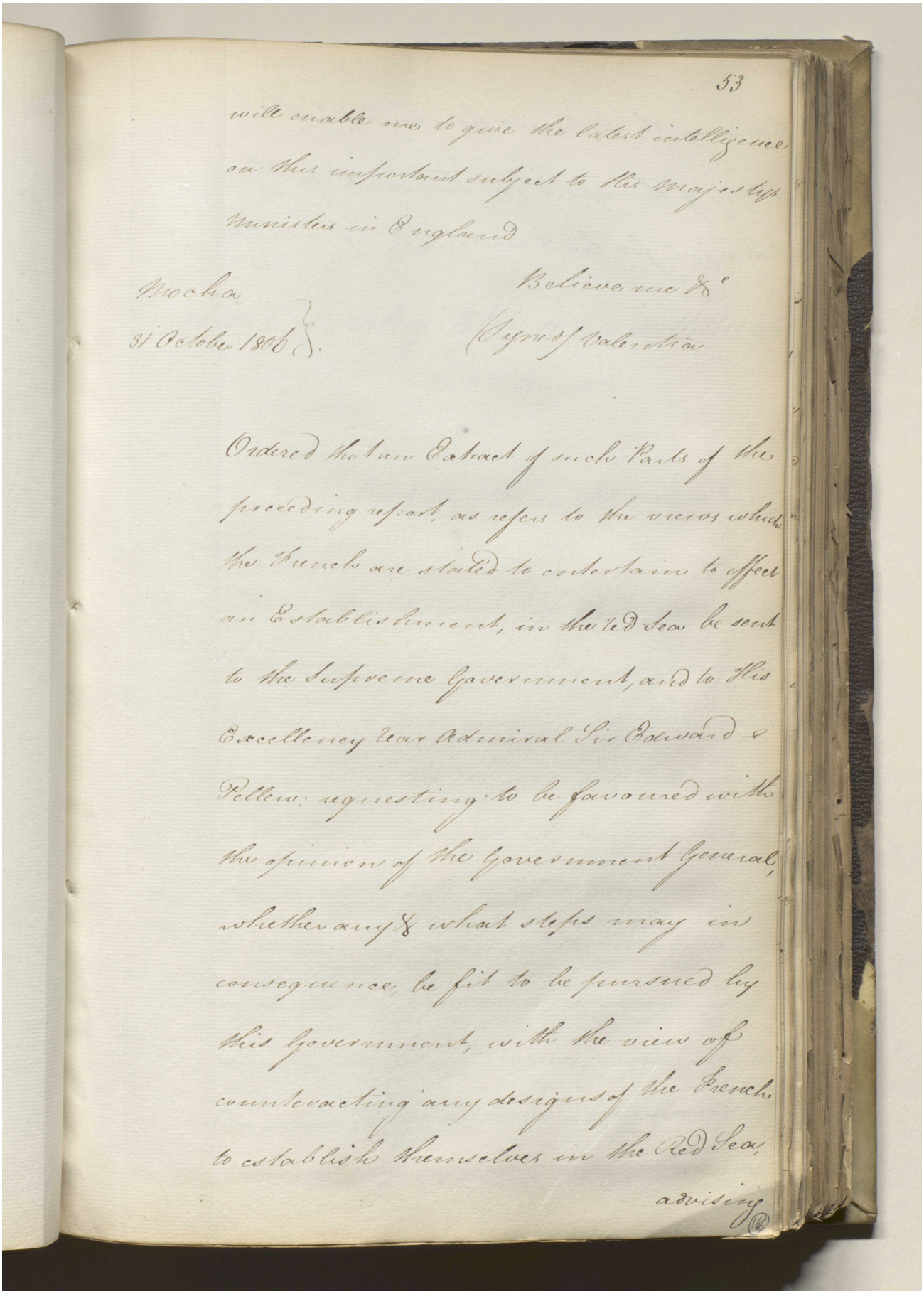

will enable me to give the latest intelligence on this important subject to His Majesty's Ministers in England

Mocha
31 October 1806

Believe me &c
(Signed) Valentia

Ordered that an Extract of such Parts of the preceding report, as refers to the views which the French are stated to entertain to effect an Establishment, in the Red Sea be sent to the Supreme Government, and to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew: requesting to be favoured with the opinion of the Government General, whether any & what steps may in consequence, be fit to be pursued by this Government, with the view of counteracting any designs of the French to establish themselves in the Red Sea,

advising

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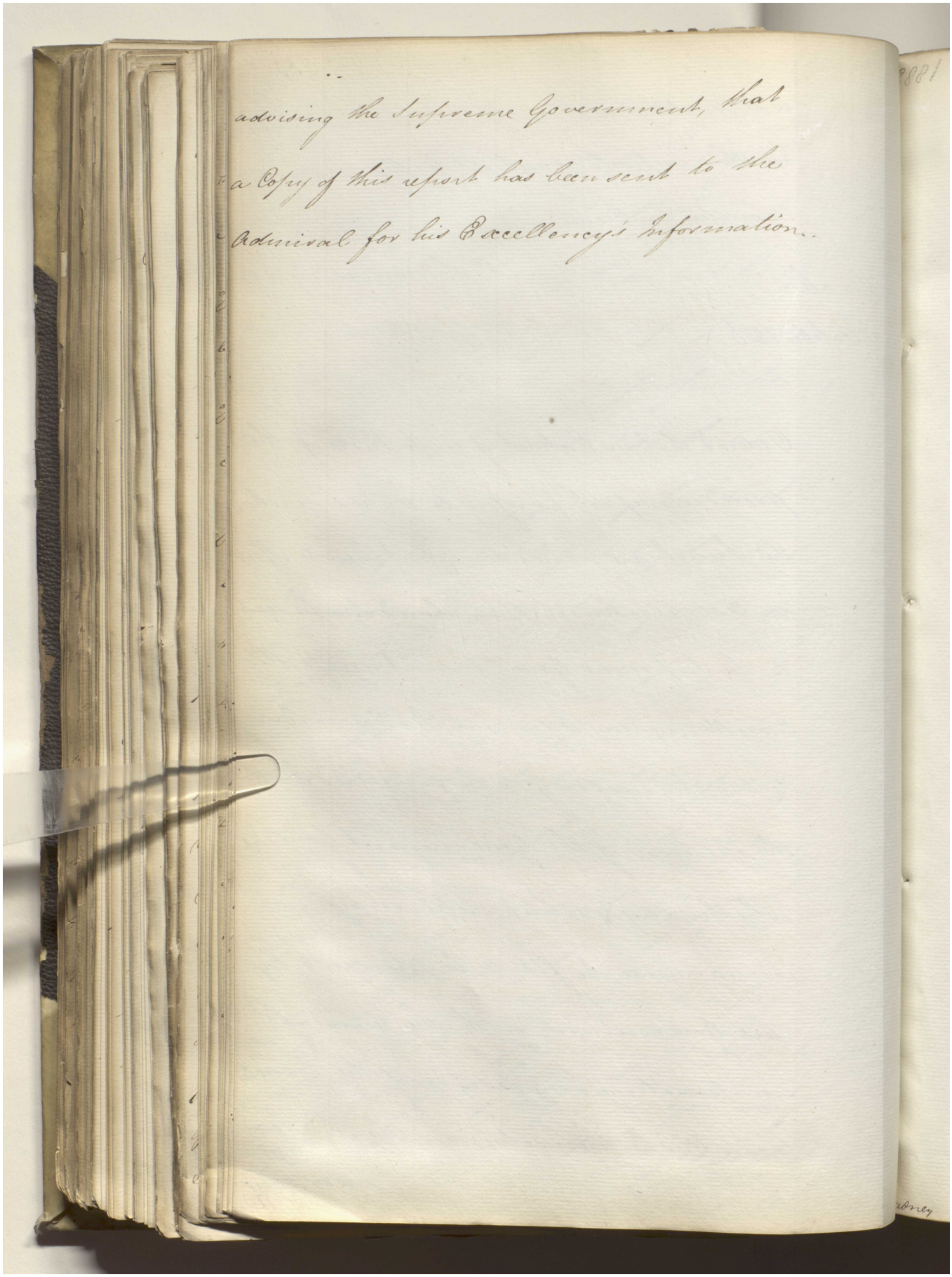

advising the Supreme Government, that a Copy of this report has been sent to the Admiral for his Excellency's Information.

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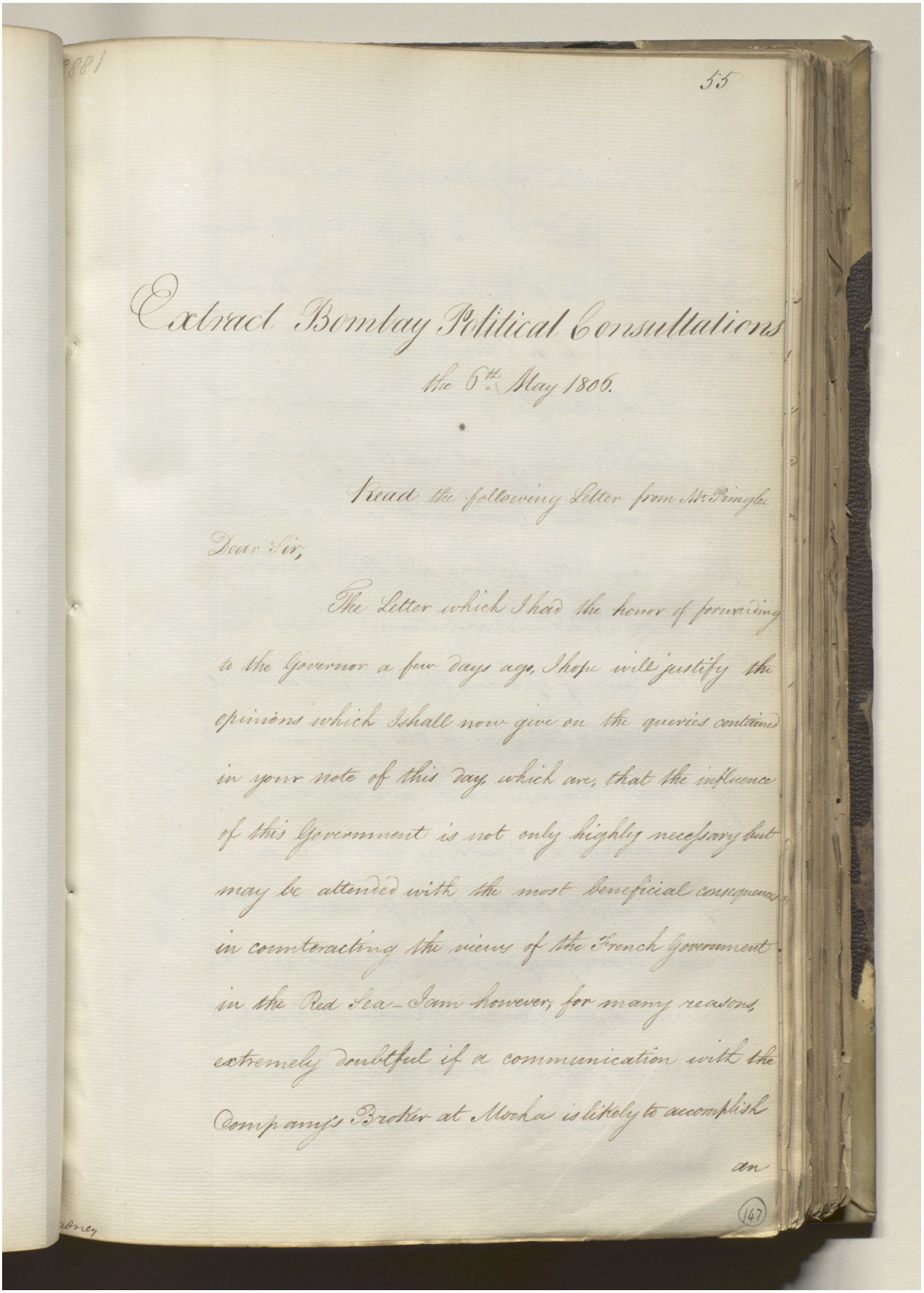

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 6th. May 1806.

Read the following Letter from Mr. Pringle.

Dear Sir,

The Letter which I had the honor of presenting to the Governor a few days ago, I hope will justify the opinions which I shall now give on the queries contained in your note of this day which are, that the influence of this Government is not only highly necessary but may be attended with the most beneficial consequences in counteracting the views of the French Government in the Red Sea - I am however, for many reasons, extremely doubtful if a communication with the Company's Broker at Mocha is likely to accomplish an

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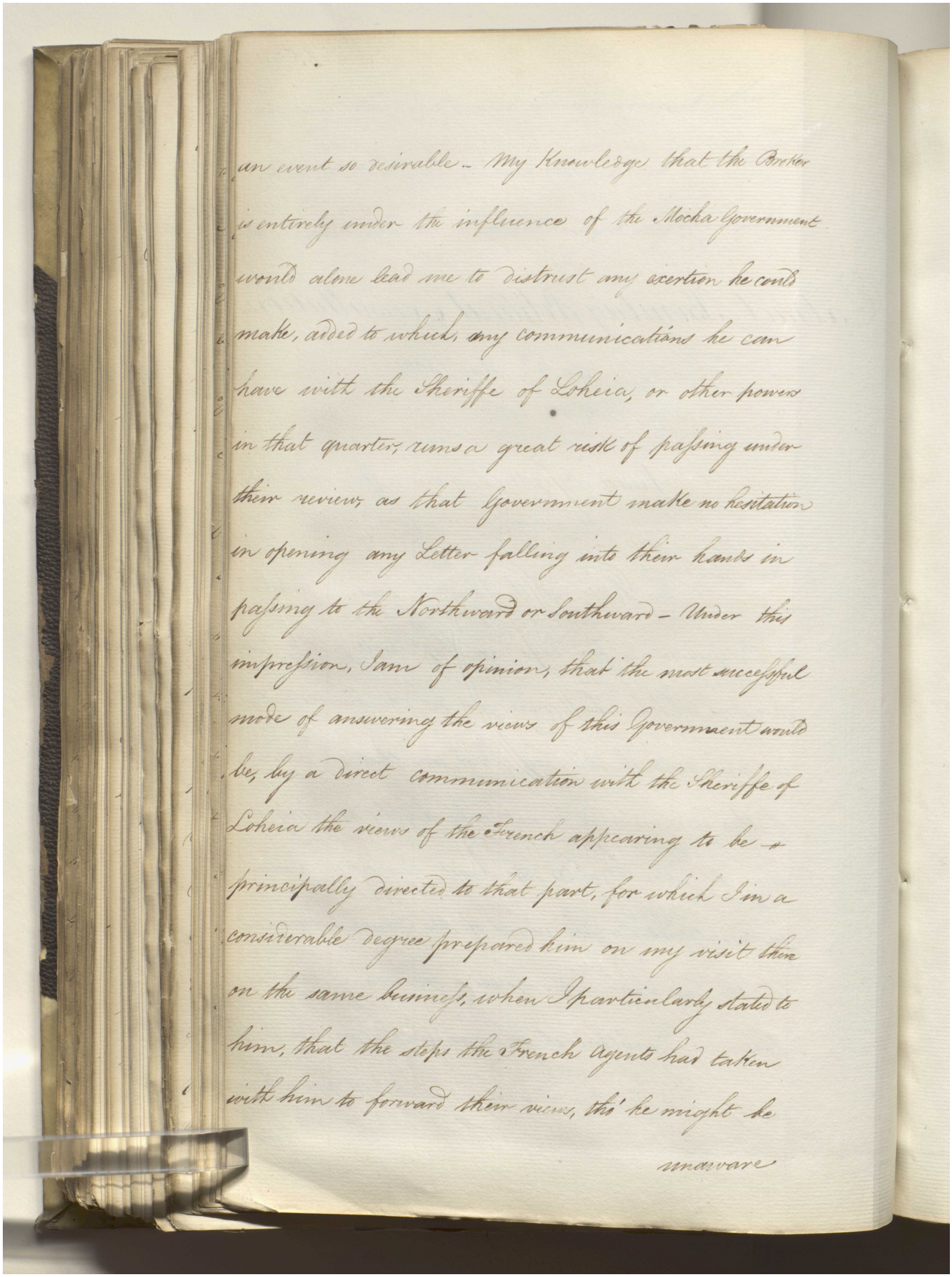

an event so desirable – My knowledge that the Banker
is entirely under the influence of the Mocha Government
would alone lead me to distrust any assertion he could
make, added to which, any communications he can
have with the Sheriffe of Loheia, or other powers
in that quarter, runs a great risk of passing under
their review, as that Government make no hesitation
in opening any Letter falling into their hands in
passing to the Northward or Southward – Under this
impression, I am of opinion, that the most successful
mode of answering the views of this Government would
be, by a direct communication with the Sheriffe of
Loheia the views of the French appearing to be
principally directed to that part, for which I in a
considerable degree prepared him on my visit there
on the same business, when I particularly stated to
him, that the steps the French Agents had taken
with him to forward their views, tho' he might be
unaware

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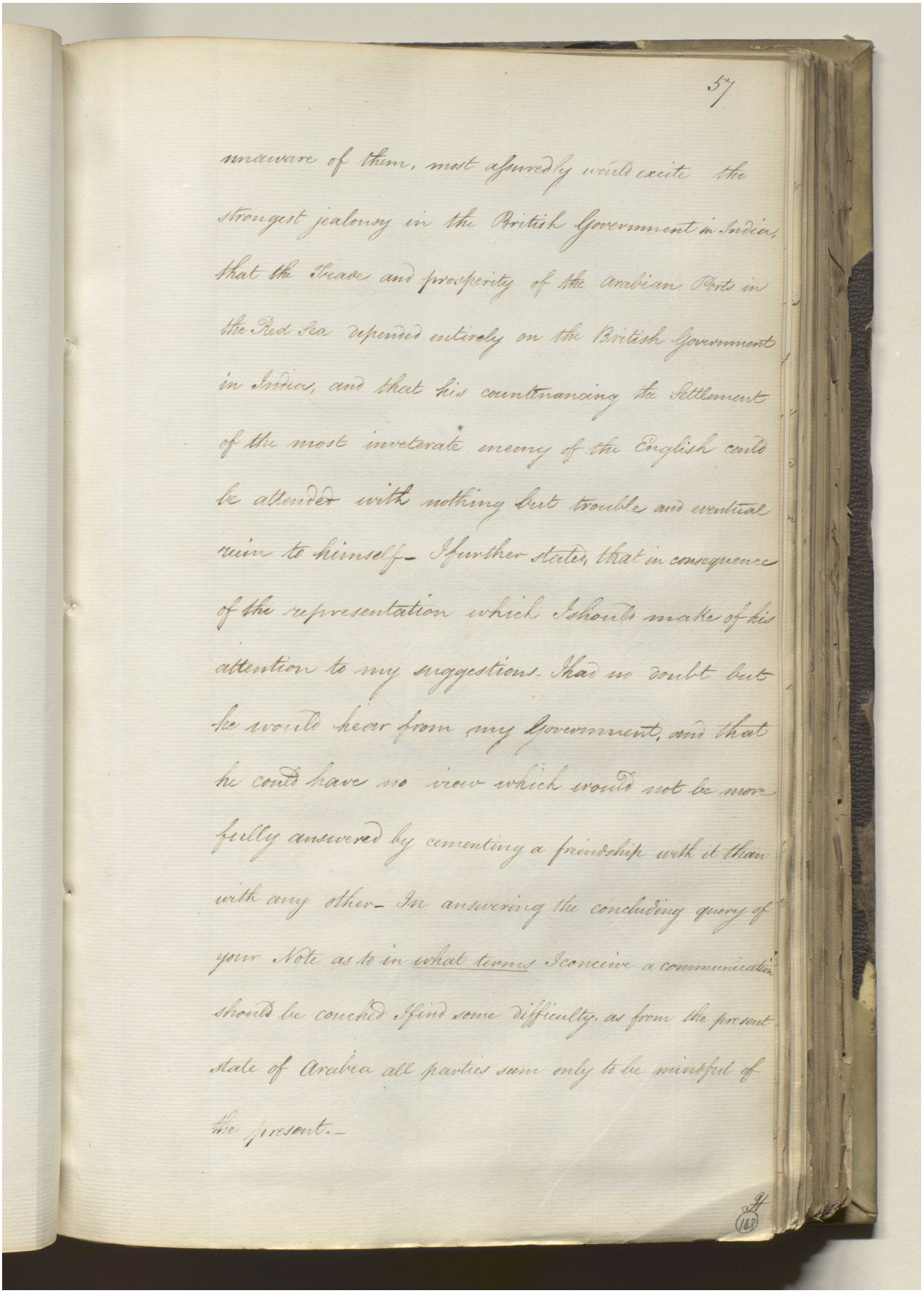

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unaware of them, must assuredly would excite the strongest jealousy in the British Government in India, that the Trade and prosperity of the Arabian Ports in the Red Sea depended entirely on the British Government in India, and that his countenancing the Settlement of the most inveterate enemy of the English could be attended with nothing but trouble and eventual ruin to himself— I further stated, that in consequence of the representation which I should make of his attention to my suggestions. I had no doubt but he would hear from my Government, and that he could have no view which would not be more fully answered by cementing a friendship with it than with any other— In answering the concluding query of your Note as to in what terms I conceive a communication should be couched I find some difficulty, as from the present state of Arabia all parties seem only to be mindful of the present.—

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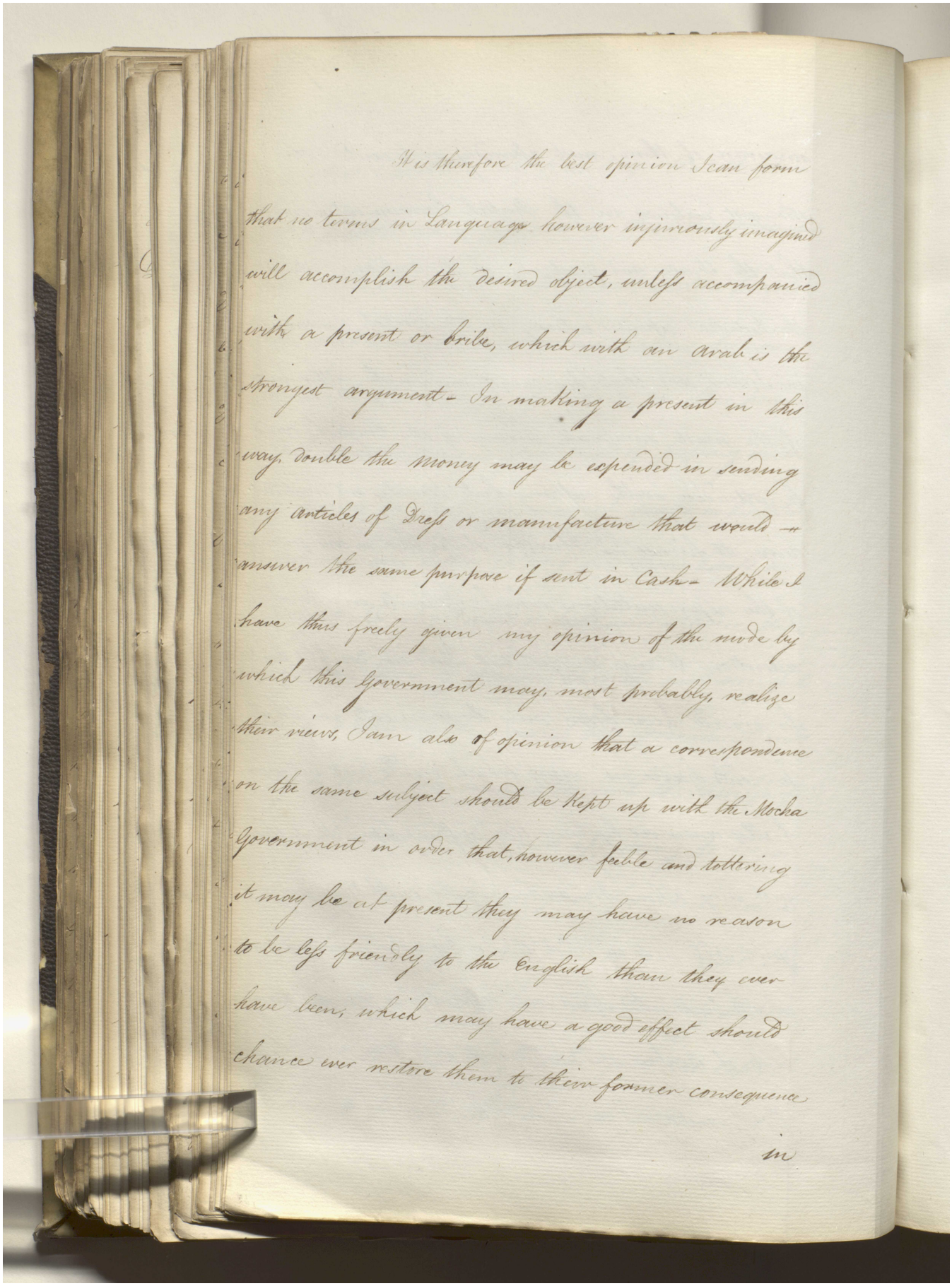

It is therfore the best opinion I can form that no terms in Language however injuriously imagined will accomplish the desired object, unless accompanied with a present or bribe, which with an Arab is the strongest argument – In making a present in this way, double the money may be expended in sending any articles of Dress or manufacture that would answer the same purpose if sent in Cash – While I have thus freely given my opinion of the mode by which this Government may, most probably, realize their views, I am also of opinion that a correspondence on the same subject should be kept up with the Mocha Government in order that, however feeble and tottering it may be at present they may have no reason to be less friendly to the English than they ever have been, which may have a good effect should chance ever restore them to their former consequence

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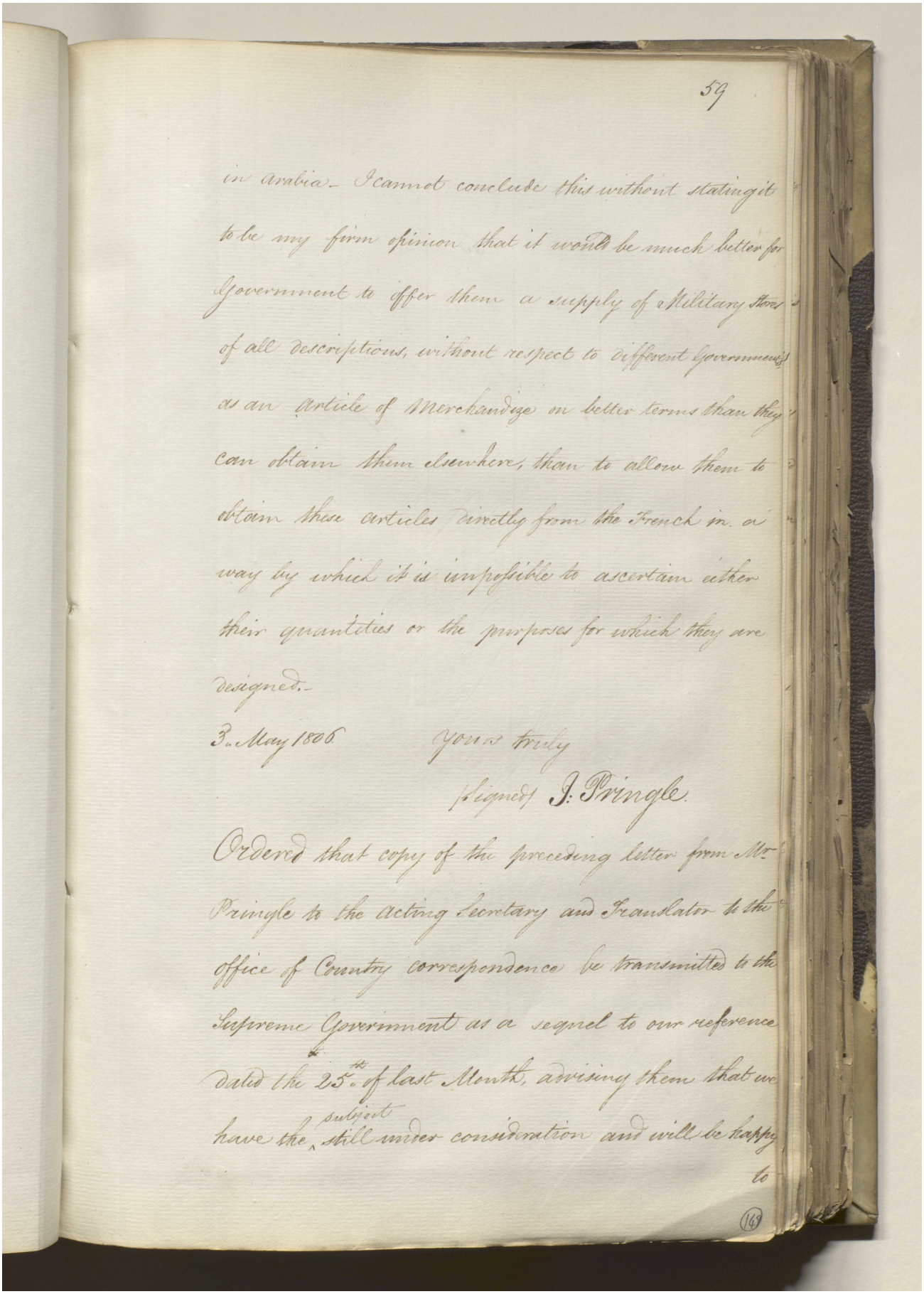

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in Arabia. I cannot conclude this without stating it to be my firm opinion that it would be much better for Government to offer them a supply of Military Stores of all descriptions, without respect to different Governments as an article of Merchandize on better terms than they can obtain them elsewhere, than to allow them to obtain these articles directly from the French in a way by which it is impossible to ascertain either their quantities or the purposes for which they are designed.

3. May 1806 Yours truly

signed J. Pringle

Ordered that copy of the preceding letter from Mr. Pringle to the acting Secretary and Translator to the Office of Country correspondence be transmitted to the Supreme Government as a sequel to our reference dated the 25th. of last Month, advising them that we have the subject still under consideration and will be happy to

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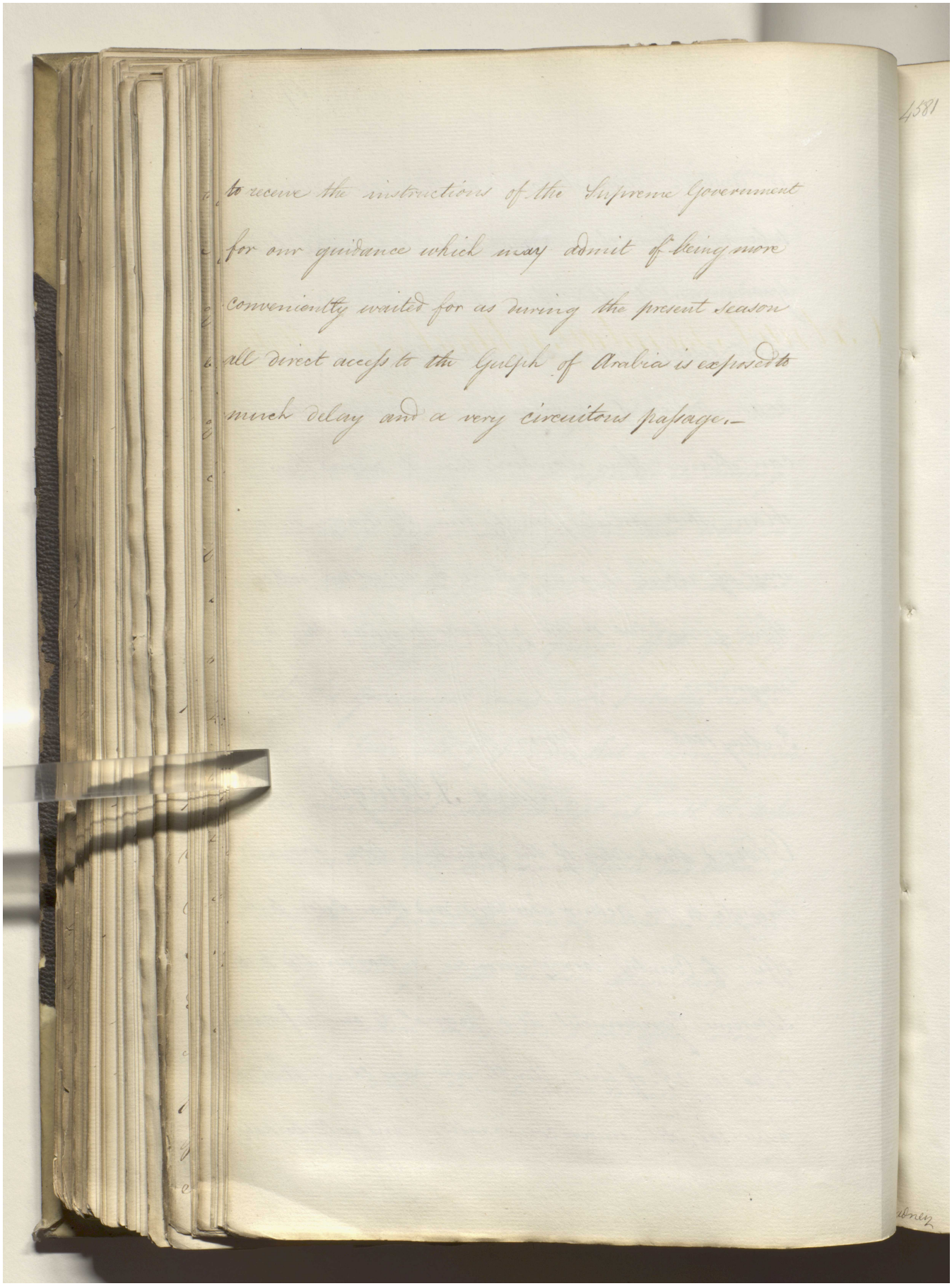

to receive the instructions of the Supreme Government
for our guidance which may admit of being more
conveniently waited for as during the present season
all direct access to the Gulph of Arabia is exposed to
much delay and a very circuitous passage.—

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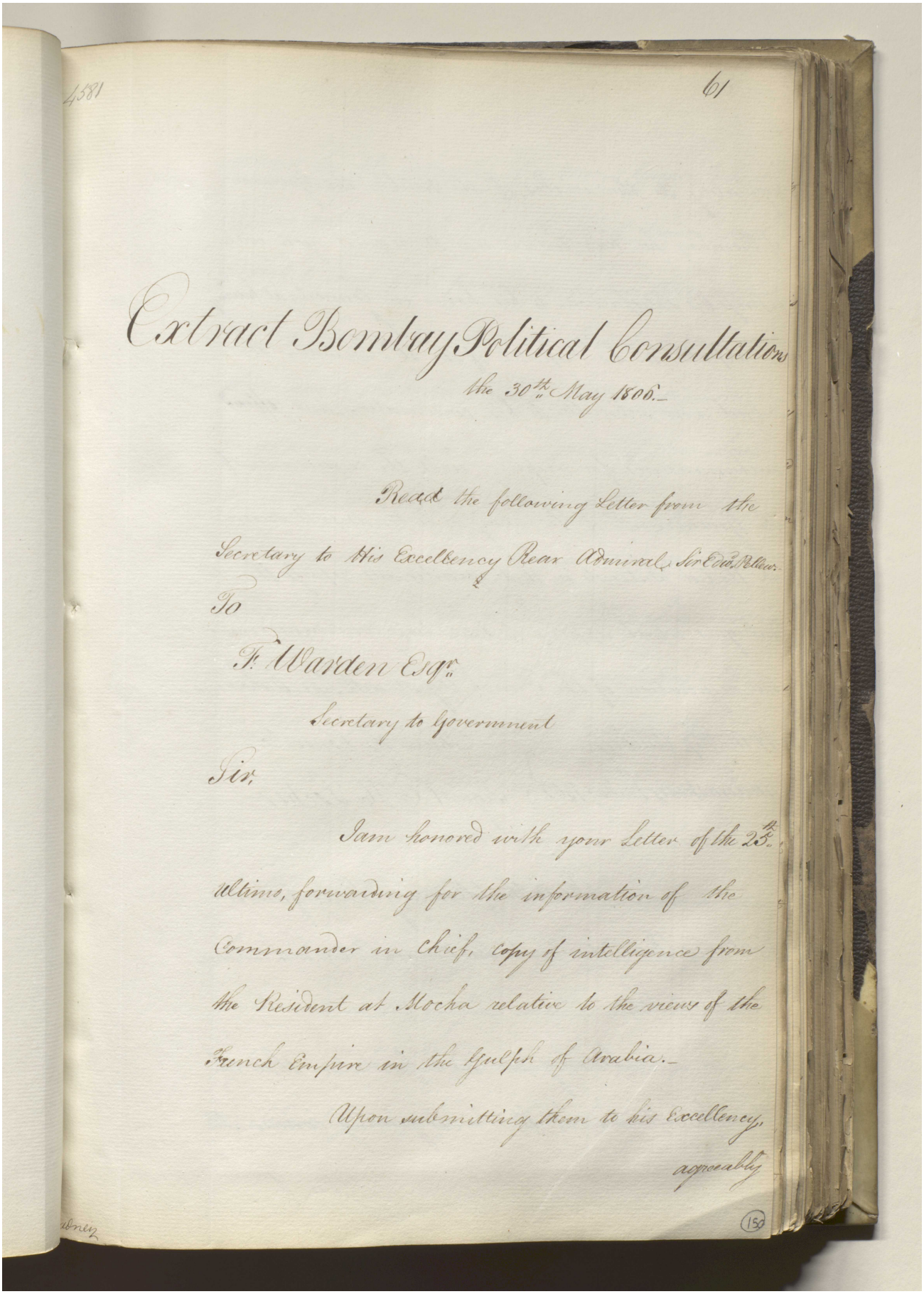

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 30th May 1806.

Read the following Letter from the
Secretary to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edw.d Pellew.

To

F. Warden Esqr.
Secretary to Government

Sir,

I am honored with your Letter of the 25th.
ultimo, forwarding for the information of the
Commander in Chief, copy of intelligence from
the Resident at Mocha relative to the views of the
French Empire in the Gulph of Arabia.

Upon submitting them to his Excellency,
agreeably

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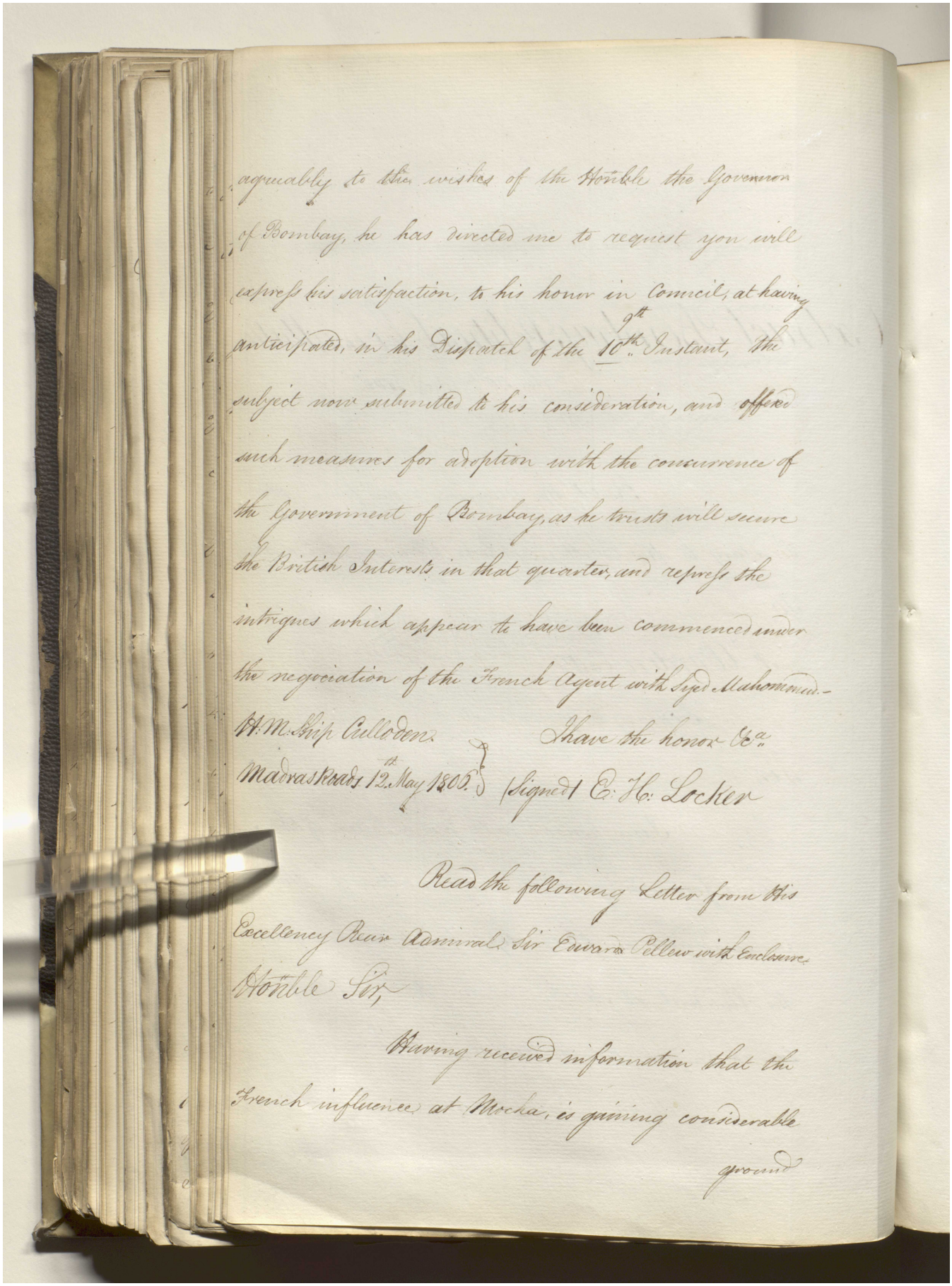

agreeably to the wishes of the Honble the Governor of Bombay, he has directed me to request you will express his satisfaction, to his honor in Council, at having anticipated, in his Dispatch of the 10th. 9th Instant, the subject now submitted to his consideration, and offered such measures for adoption with the concurrence of the Government of Bombay, as he trusts will secure the British Interests in that quarter, and repress the intrigues which appear to have been commenced under the negociation of the French Agent with Syed Mahomed.-

H.M. Ship Culloden
Madras Roads 12th. May 1805.

I have the honor &c.
(Signed) E. H. Locker

Read the following Letter from His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew with Enclosure

Honble Sir,

Having received information that the French influence at Mocha is gaining considerable ground

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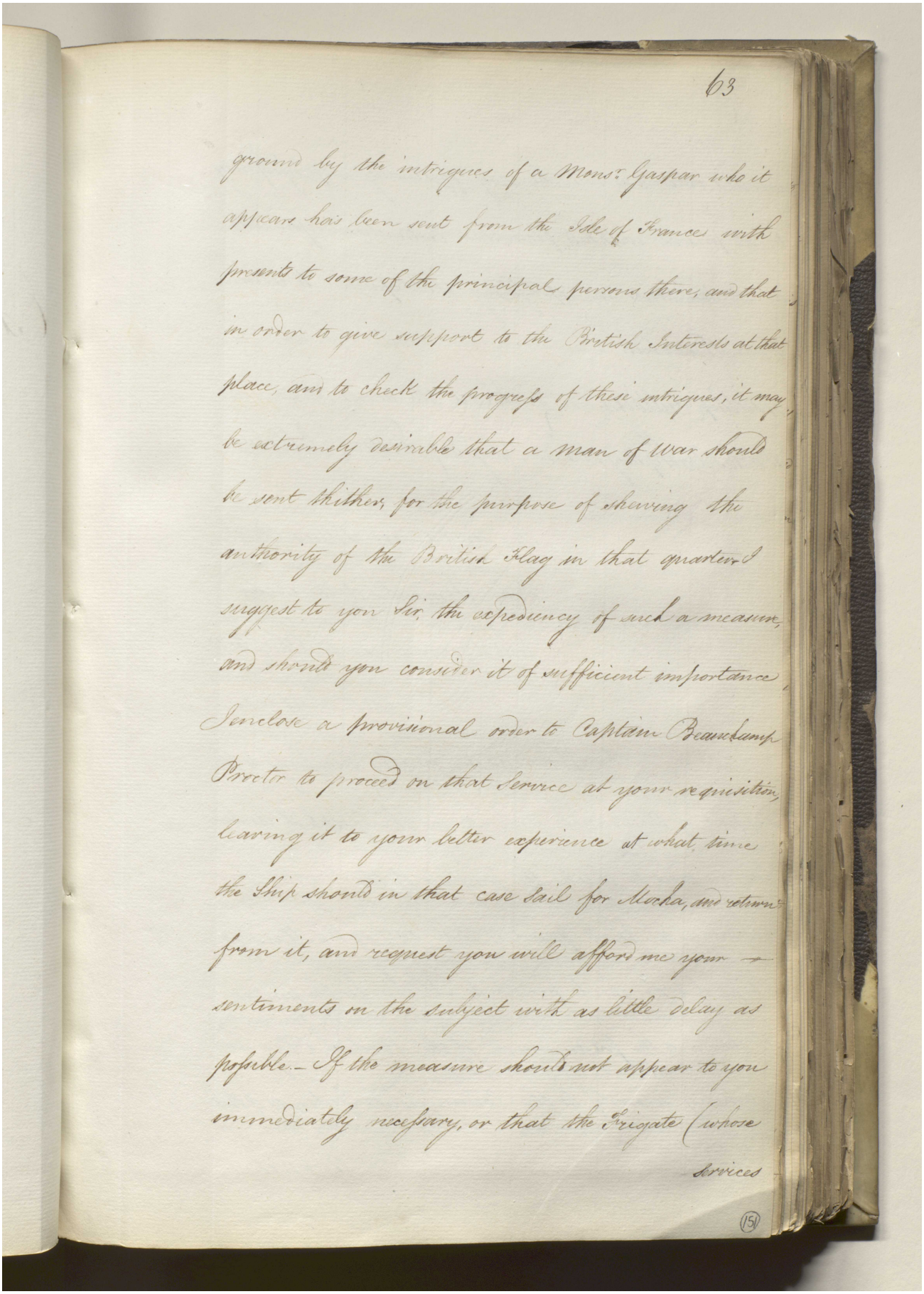

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ground by the intrigues of a Mons.r Gaspar who it
appears has been sent from the Isle of France with
presents to some of the principal persons there, and that
in order to give support to the British Interests at that
place, and to check the progress of these intrigues, it may
be extremely desirable that a man of War should
be sent thither, for the purpose of shewing the
authority of the British Flag in that quarter. I
suggest to you Sir, the expediency of such a measure,
and should you consider it of sufficient importance
I enclose a provisional order to Captain Beauchamp
Proctor to proceed on that Service at your requisition,
leaving it to your better experience at what time
the Ship should in that case sail for Mocha, and return
from it, and request you will afford me your
sentiments on the subject with as little delay as
possible. — If the measure should not appear to you
immediately necessary, or that the Frigate (whose
services

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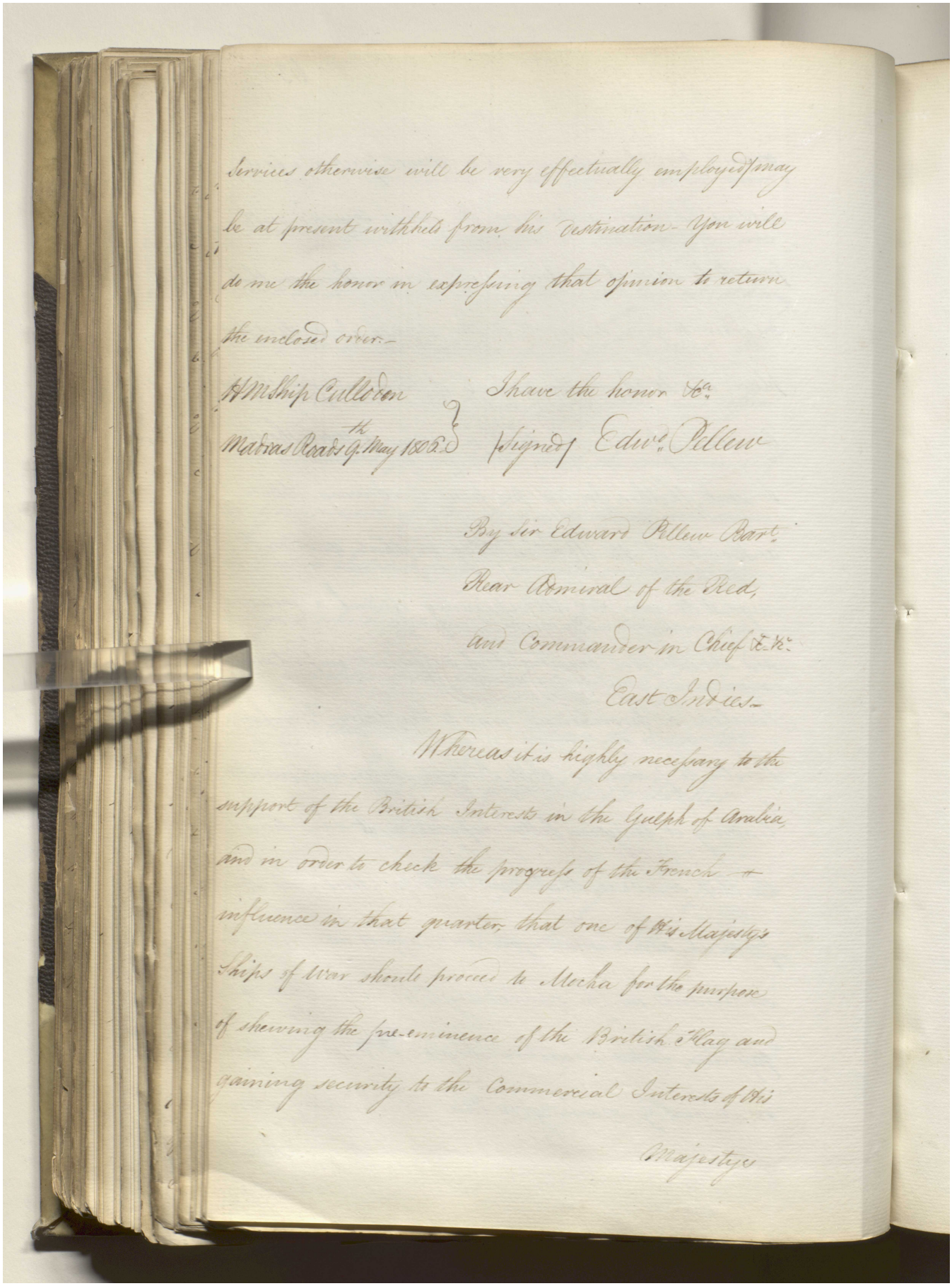

Services otherwise will be very effectually employed/may
be at present withheld from his destination. You will
do me the honor in expressing that opinion to return
the inclosed order.

H.M.Ship Culloden
Madras Roads 9th May 1805.

I have the honor &c.
(signed) Edwd. Pellew

By Sir Edward Pellew Bart.
Rear Admiral of the Red,
and Commander in Chief &c.
East Indies.

Whereas it is highly necessary to the
support of the British Interests in the Gulph of Arabia,
and in order to check the progress of the French
influence in that quarter, that one of His Majesty's
Ships of War should proceed to Mocha for the purpose
of shewing the pre-eminence of the British Flag and
gaining security to the Commercial Interests of His
Majesty's

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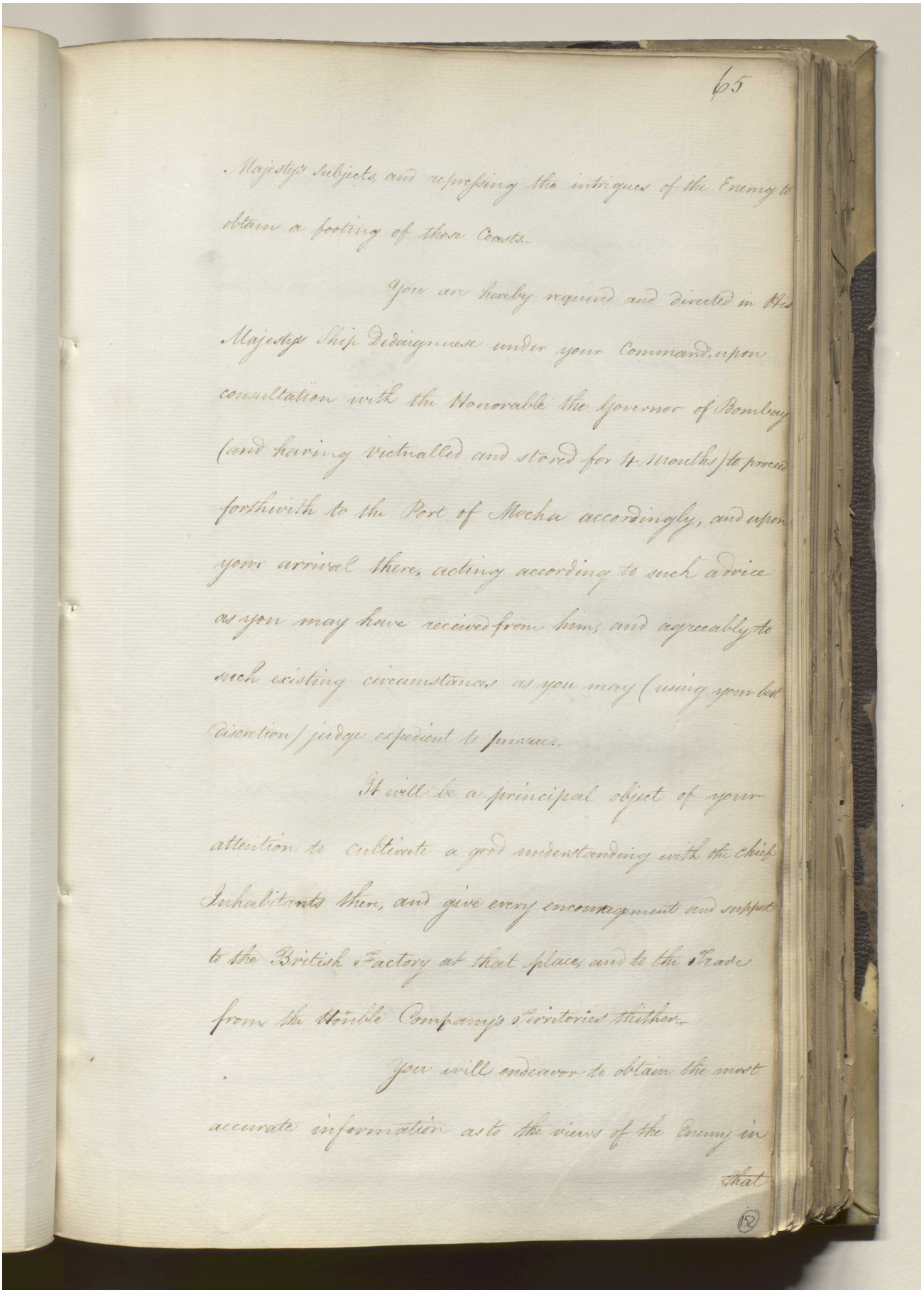

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Majesty's Subjects and repressing the intrigues of the Enemy to obtain a footing of those Coasts.

You are hereby required and directed in His Majesty's Ship Bridgewater under your Command, upon consultation with the Honorable the Governor of Bombay (and having victualled and stored for 4 Months) to proceed forthwith to the Port of Mocha accordingly, and upon your arrival there, acting according to such advice as you may have received from him, and agreeably to such existing circumstances as you may (using your best discretion) judge expedient to pursue.

It will be a principal object of your attention to cultivate a good understanding with the chief Inhabitants there, and give every encouragement and support to the British Factory at that place, and to the Trade from the Honble Company's Territories thither.

You will endeavor to obtain the most accurate information as to the views of the Enemy in that

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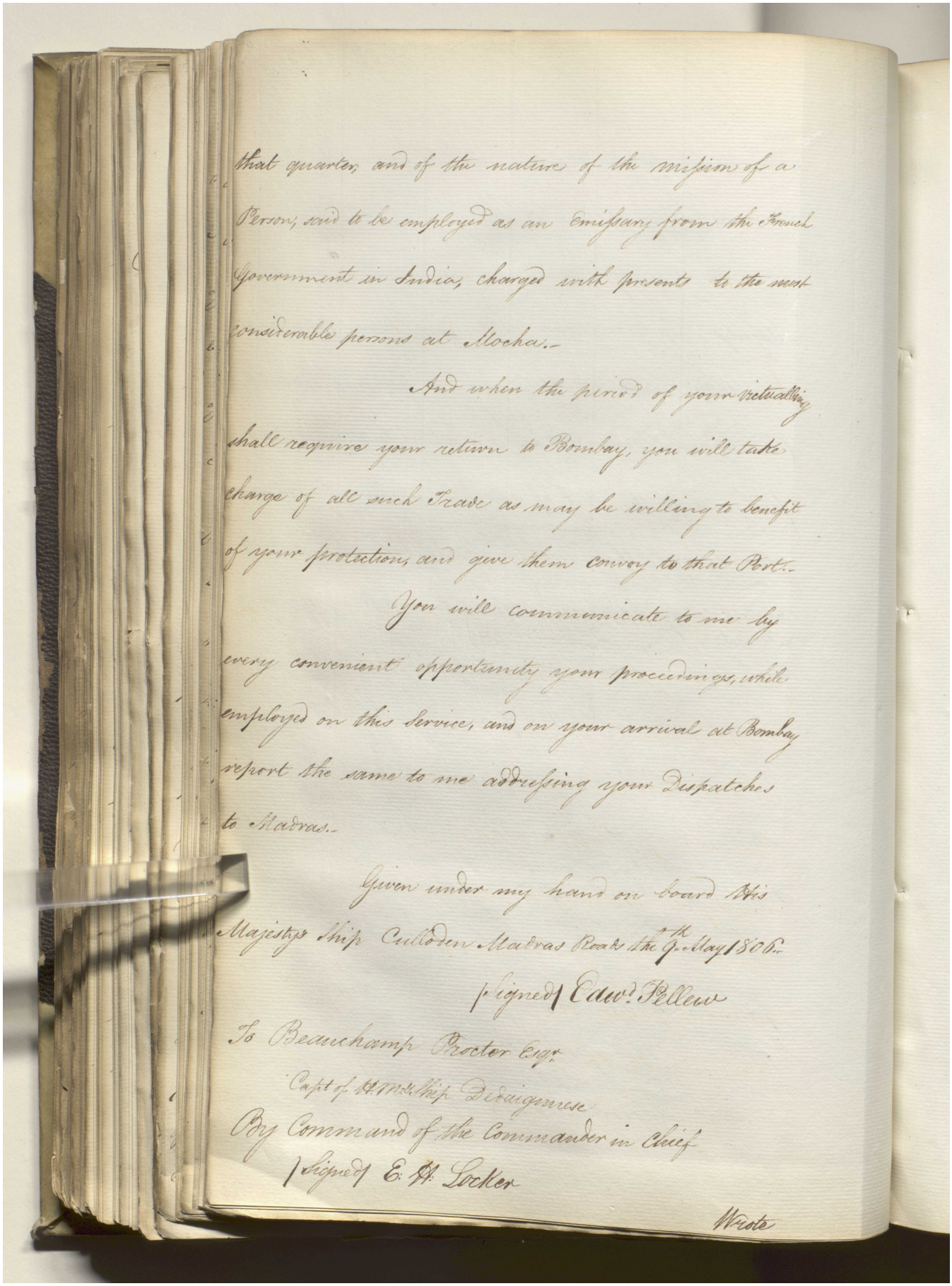

that quarter, and of the nature of the mission of a Person, said to be employed as an Emissary from the French Government in India, charged with presents to the most considerable persons at Mocha.-

And when the period of your victualling shall require your return to Bombay, you will take charge of all such Trade as may be willing to benefit of your protection, and give them convoy to that Port.-

You will communicate to me by every convenient opportunity your proceedings, while employed on this Service, and on your arrival at Bombay report the same to me addressing your Dispatches to Madras.-

Given under my hand on board His Majestys Ship Culloden Madras Road the 9th May 1806.-

/signed/ Edwd. Pellew

To Beauchamp Proctor Esqr.
Capt of H.M.s Ship Dedaigneuse

By Command of the Commander in Chief
/signed/ E. H. Locker

Wrote

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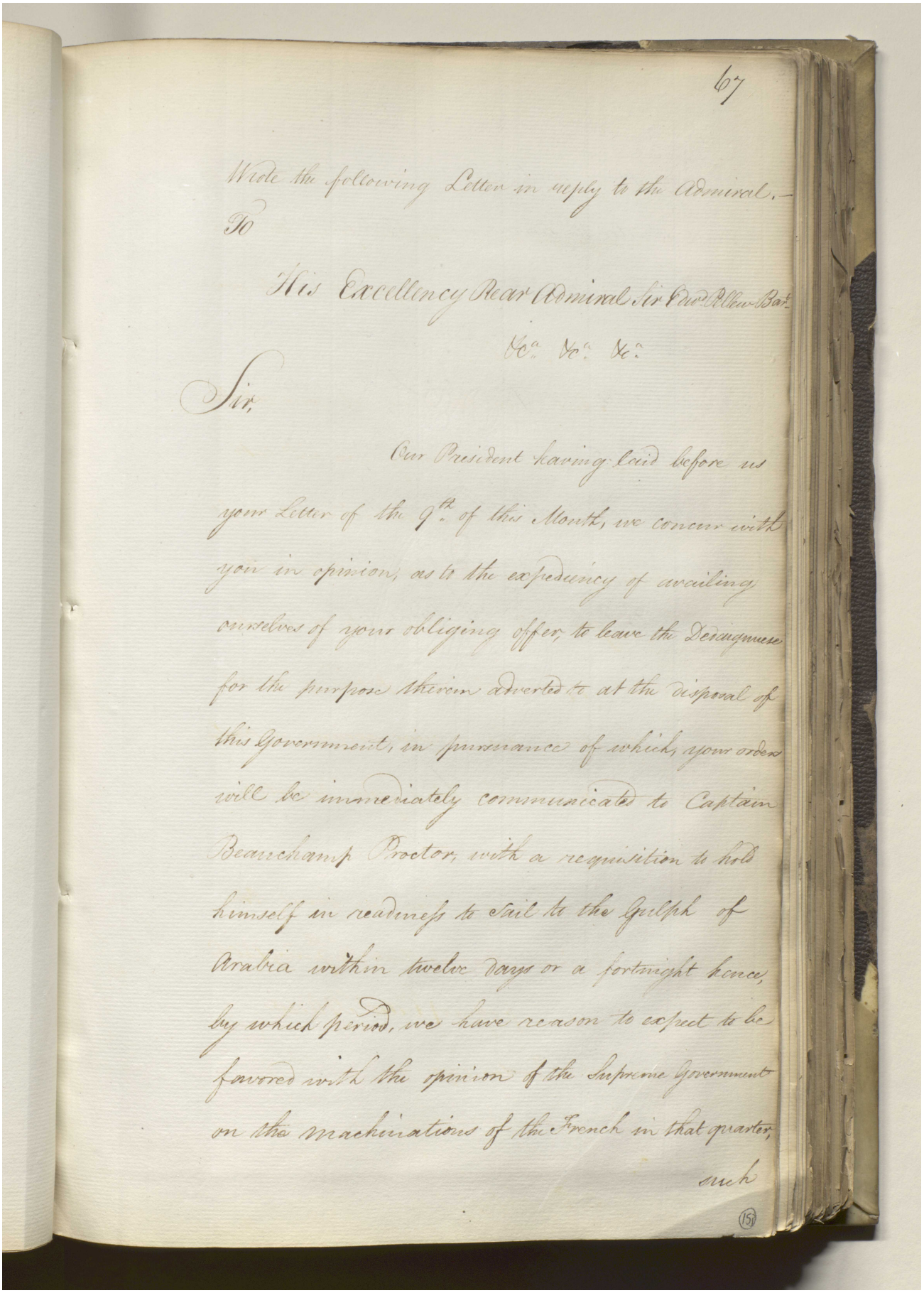

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Wrote the following Letter in reply to the Admiral.—

To

His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edwd Pellew Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Our President having laid before us your Letter of the 9th. of this Month, we concur with you in opinion, as to the expediency of availing ourselves of your obliging offer, to leave the Detachment for the purpose therein adverted to at the disposal of this Government, in pursuance of which, your order will be immediately communicated to Captain Beauchamp Proctor, with a requisition to hold himself in readiness to sail to the Gulph of Arabia within twelve days or a fortnight hence, by which period, we have reason to expect to be favored with the opinion of the Supreme Government on the machinations of the French in that quarter, such

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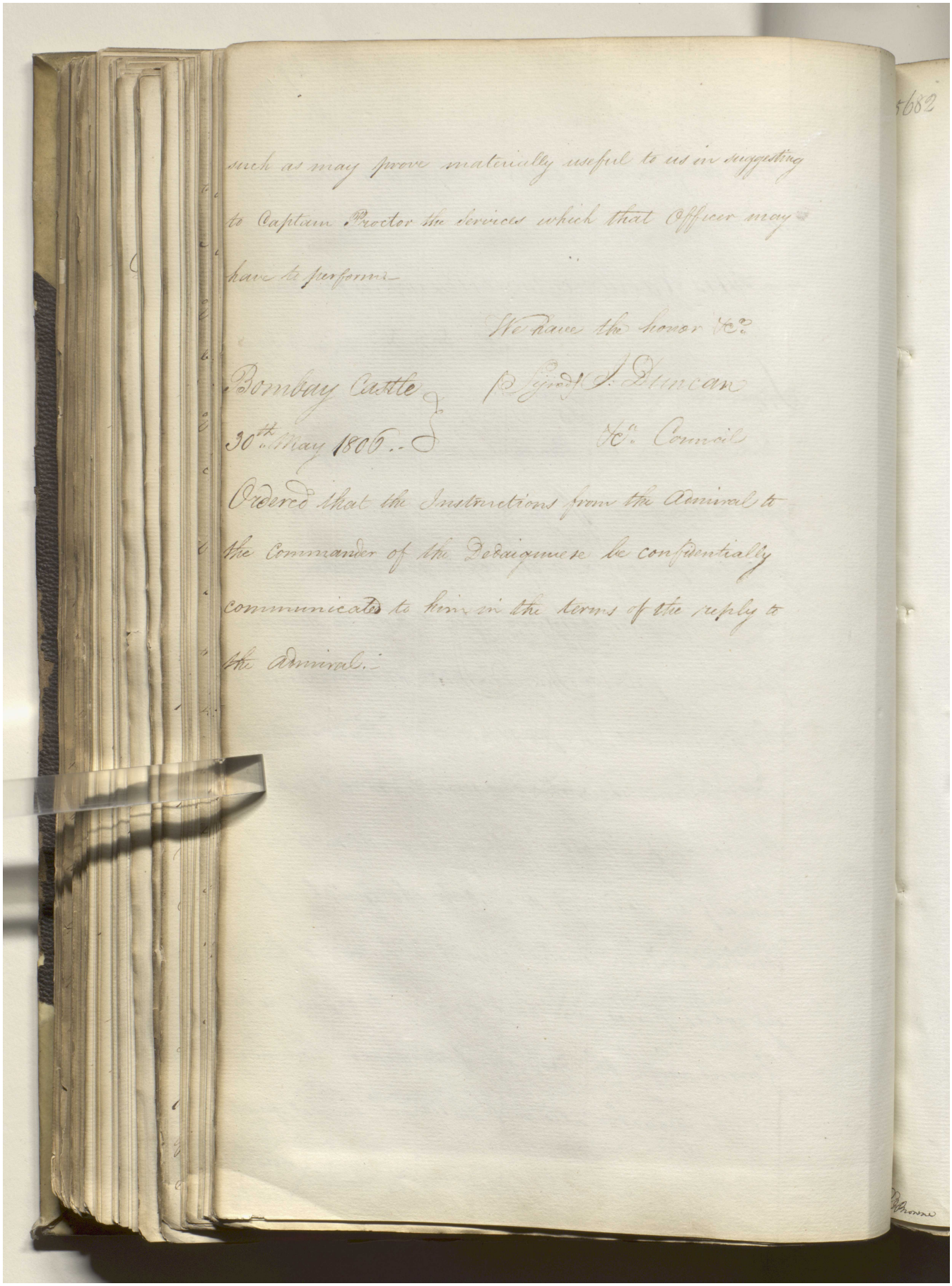

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such as may prove materially useful to us in suggesting to Captain Proctor the services which that Officer may have to perform.

We have the honor &c.

Bombay Castle
30th May 1806.

(Signed) J. Duncan
&c. Council

Ordered that the Instructions from the Admiral to the Commander of the Dedaiguese be confidentially communicated to him in the terms of the reply to the Admiral.

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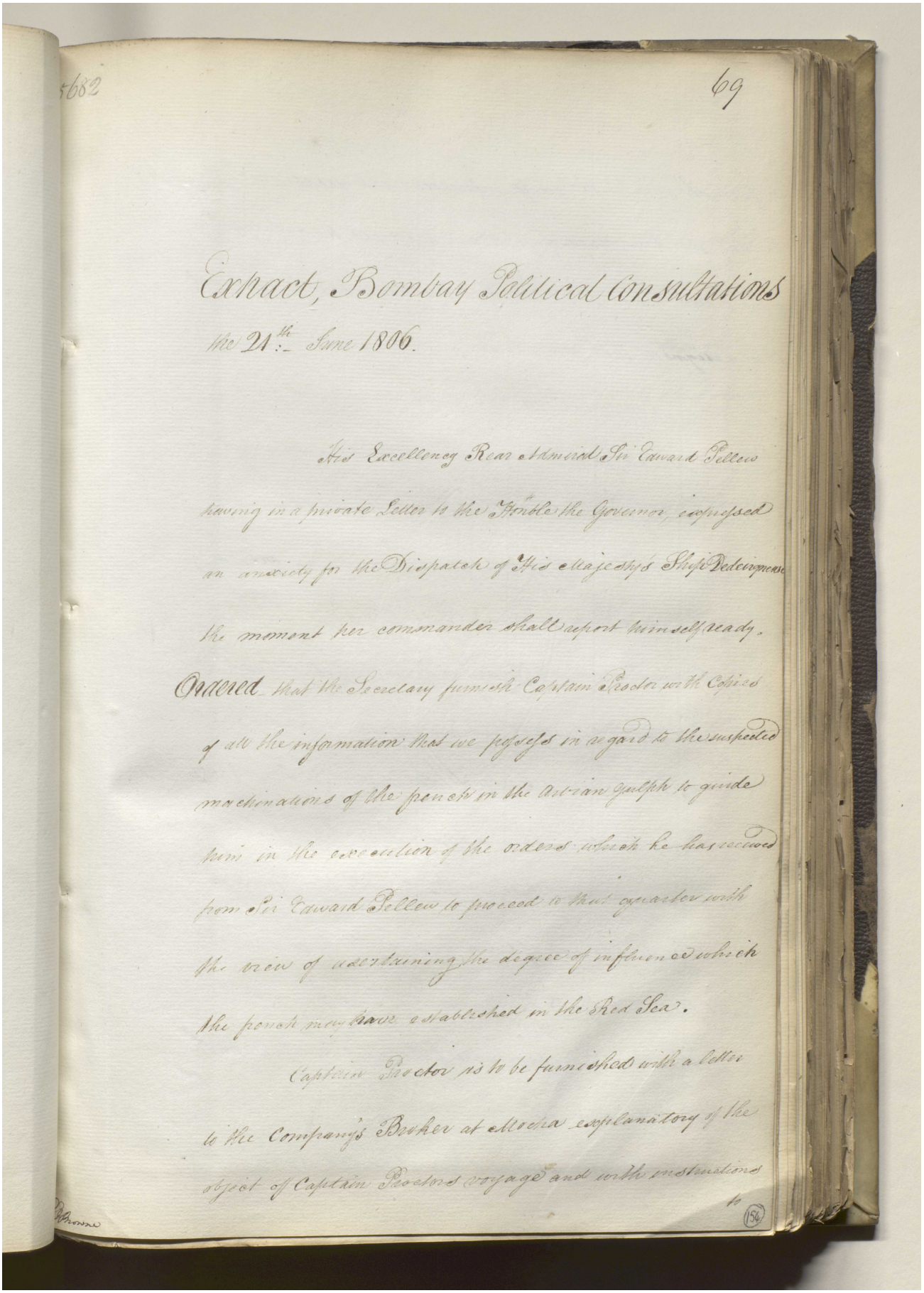

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Exract, Bombay Political Consultations
the 21st June 1806.

His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew having in a private Letter to the Honble the Governor expressed an anxiety for the Dispatch of His Majestys Ship Dedaigneuse the moment her commander shall report himself ready.

Ordered that the Secretary furnish Captain Proctor with Copies of all the information that we possess in regard to the suspected machinations of the French in the Persian Gulph to guide him in the execution of the orders which he has received from Sir Edward Pellew to proceed to that quarter with the view of ascertaining the degree of influence which the French may have established in the Red Sea.

Captain Proctor is to be furnished with a letter to the Company's Broker at Mocha explanatory of the object of Captain Proctors voyage and with instructions to

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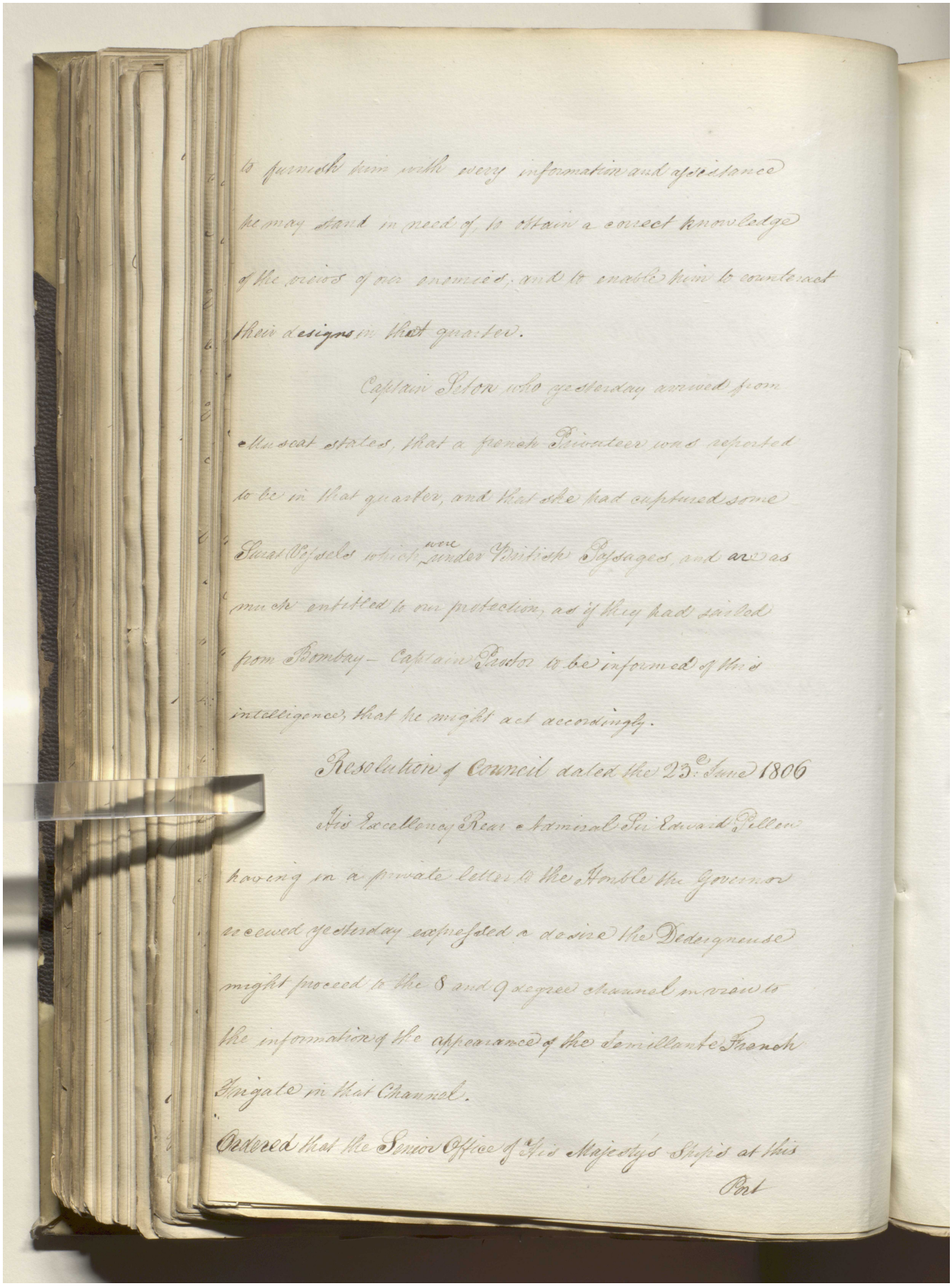

to furnish him with every information and assistance he may stand in need of, to obtain a correct knowledge of the views of our enemies, and to enable him to counteract their designs in that quarter.

Captain Seton who yesterday arrived from Muscat states, that a french Privateer was reported to be in that quarter, and that she had captured some Surat Vessels which were under British Passages, and are as much entitled to our protection, as if they had sailed from Bombay – Captain Pardoe to be informed of this intelligence, that he might act accordingly.

Resolution of Council dated the 23d June 1806

His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew having in a private letter to the Honble the Governor received yesterday expressed a desire the Dedaigneuse might proceed to the 8 and 9 degree Channel in view to the information of the appearance of the Semillante French Frigate in that Channel.

Ordered that the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships at this Port

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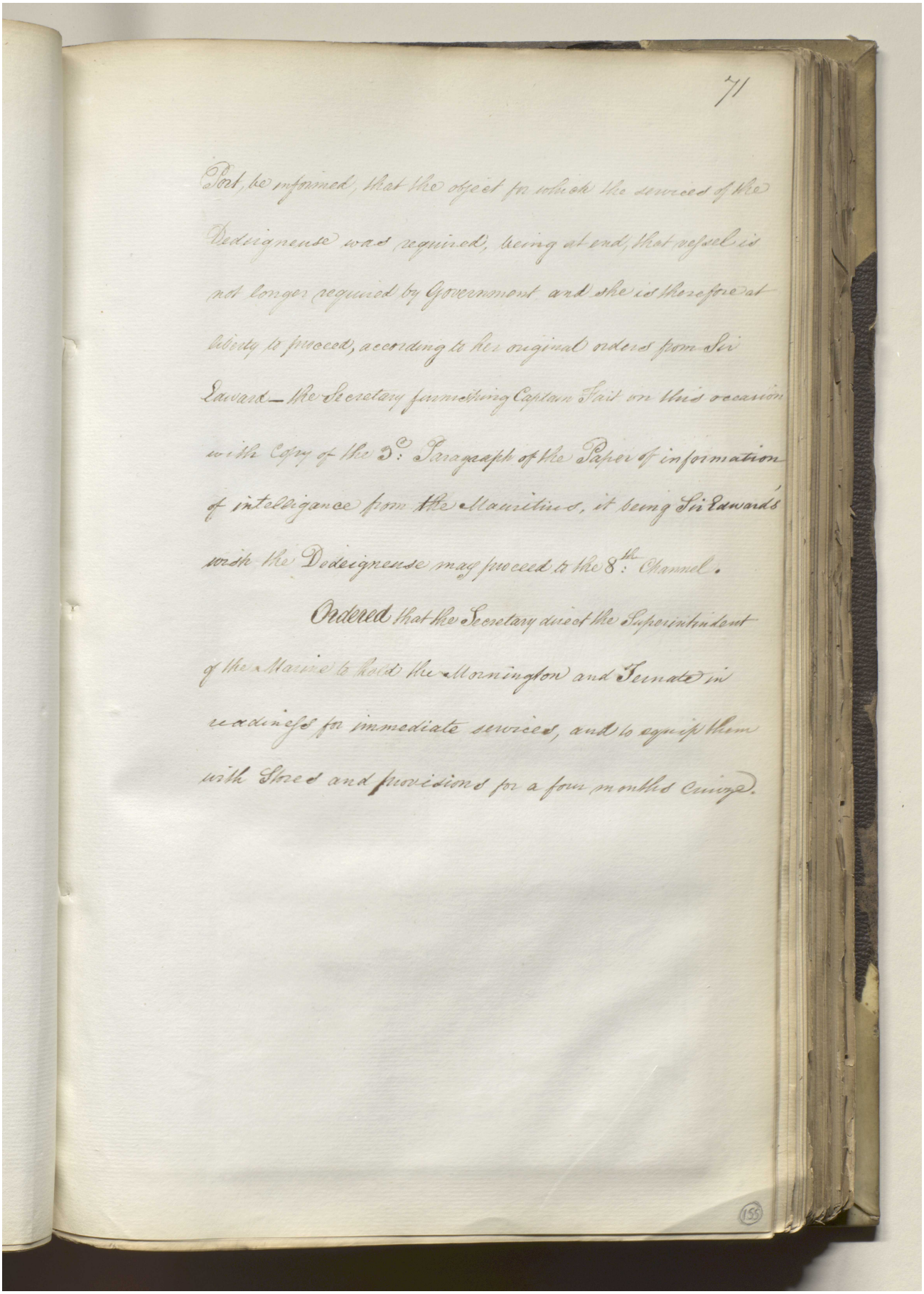

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Port, be informed, that the object for which the services of the Dedaigneuse was required, being at end, that vessel is not longer required by Government and she is therefore at liberty to proceed, according to her original orders from Sir Edward — the Secretary furnishing Captain Fait on this occasion with Copy of the 3d: Paragraph of the Paper of information of intelligence from the Mauritius, it being Sir Edwards wish the Dedaigneuse may proceed to the 8th: Channel.

Ordered that the Secretary direct the Superintendent of the Marine to hold the Mornington and Fernade in readiness for immediate services, and to equip them with Stores and provisions for a four months Cruize.

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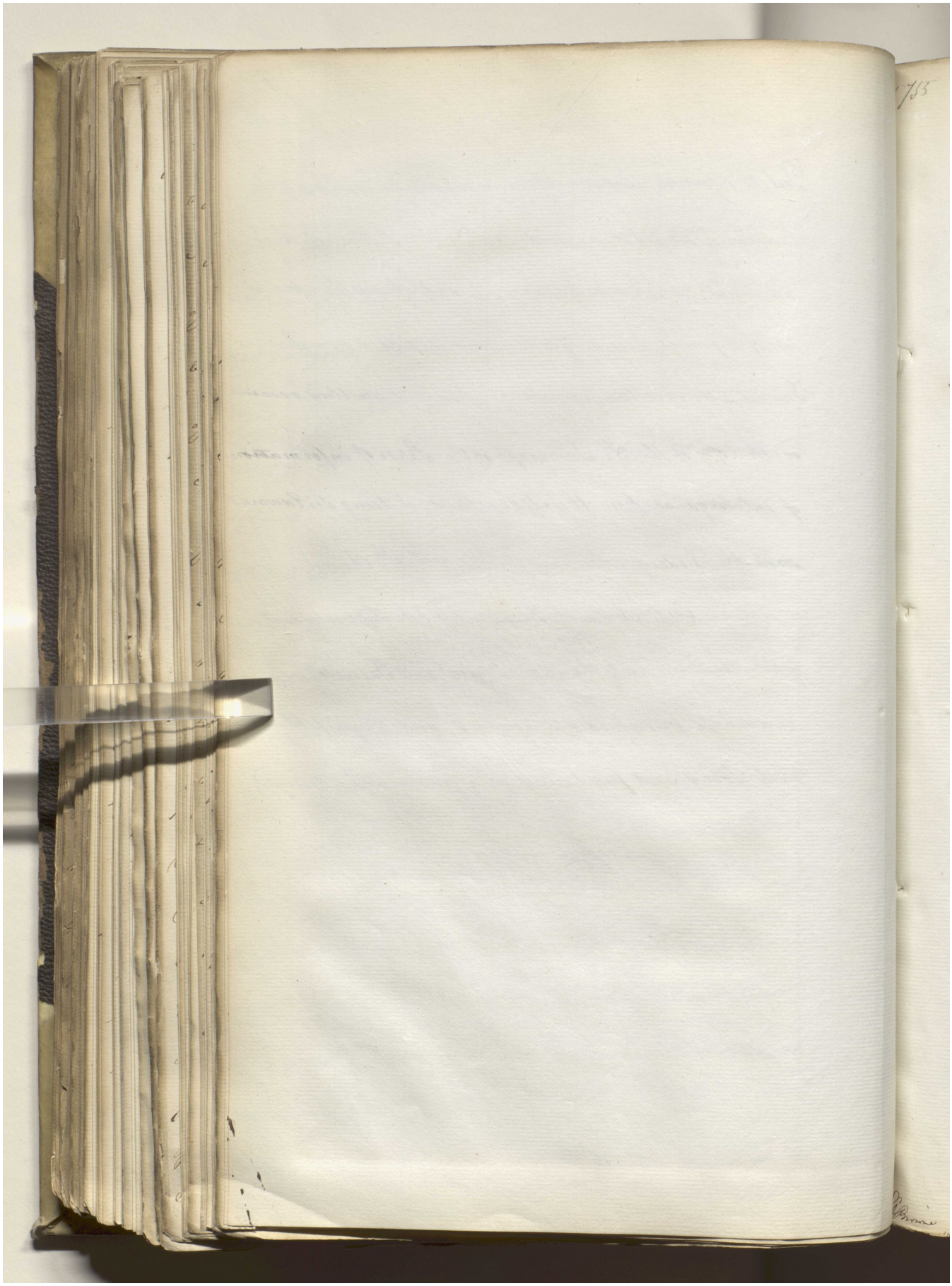

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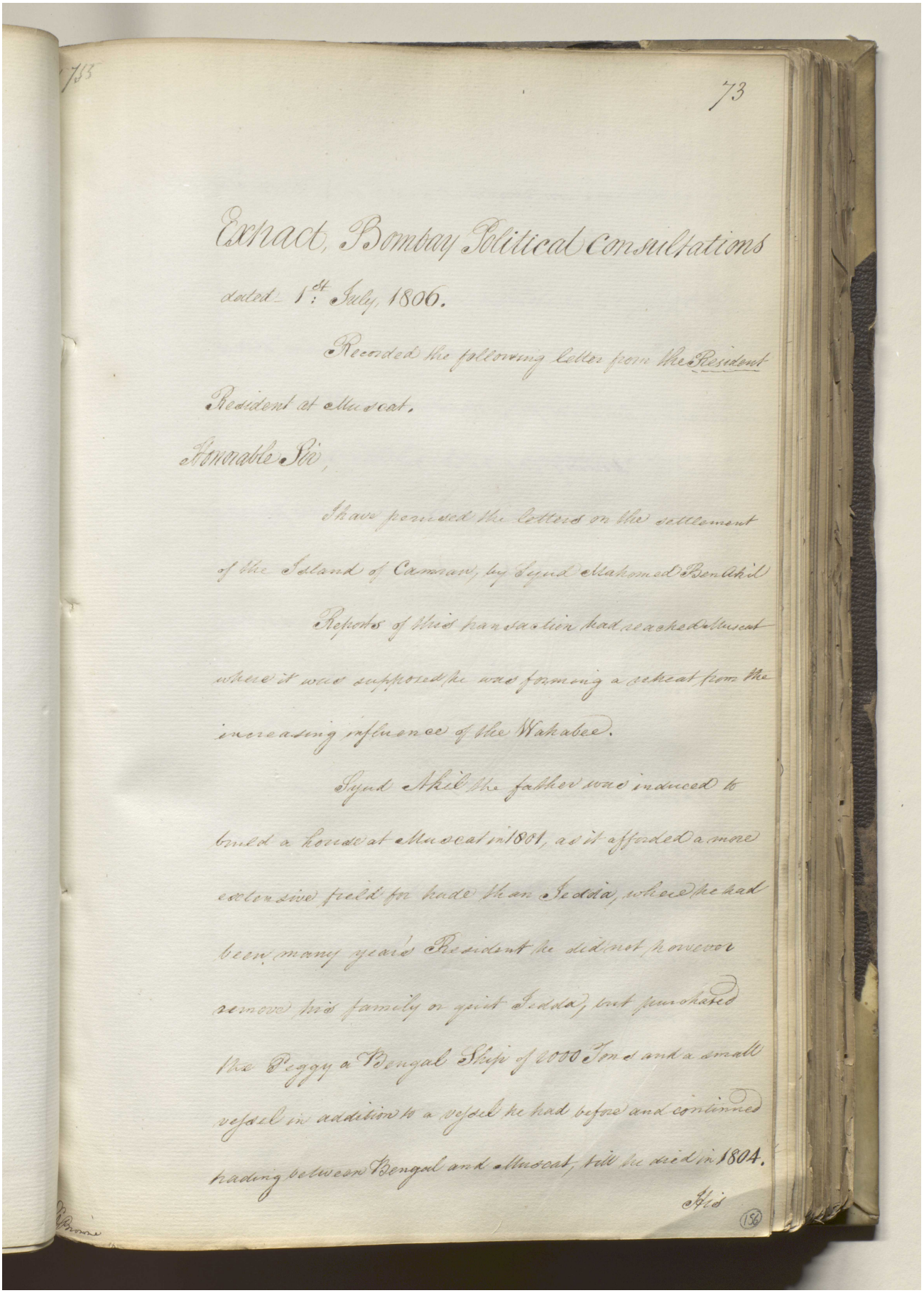

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Extract, Bombay Political Consultations

dated 1st. July, 1806.

Recorded the following Letter from the Resident

Resident at Muscat.

Honorable Sir,

I have perused the Letters on the settlement of the Island of Camaran, by Syud Mahomed Ben Akil

Reports of this transaction had reached Muscat where it was supposed he was forming a retreat from the increasing influence of the Wahabee.

Syud Akil the father was induced to build a house at Muscat in 1801, as it afforded a more extensive field for trade than Jeddia, where he had been many years Resident he did not however remove his family or quit Jeddia, but purchased the Peggy a Bengal Ship of 2000 Tons and a small vessel in addition to a vessel he had before and continued trading between Bengal and Muscat, till he died in 1804.

His

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His son, Mahomed was then at Calcutta
engaged in a dissension with the underwriters for the
recovery of some bills, in which he proved himself a worthless
character, from thence he returned to Arabia and from thence
to Mauritius to purchase prize Ships in June 1805 he sent
to Muscat the Stirling Castle Bengal Ship, and named
the Pigeon up the red sea, navigated by Gaspard a frenchman
who was dismissed from Syud Sultans service in 1801.
to which he had been introduced four or five years before
by Mauvelle.

At this time he must have formed some
plan of a new settlement as he ordered the house at
Muscat to be sold without however breaking off his
connection with that port as this season the Peggy the
Stirling Castle and another vessel arrived there with
Cargoes from Bengal.

The Stirling Castle had on board 2 Danish
Officers from Serampore, and nine Portuguese Seamen
shipped at Calcutta the senior of the Danes, died at
Sea

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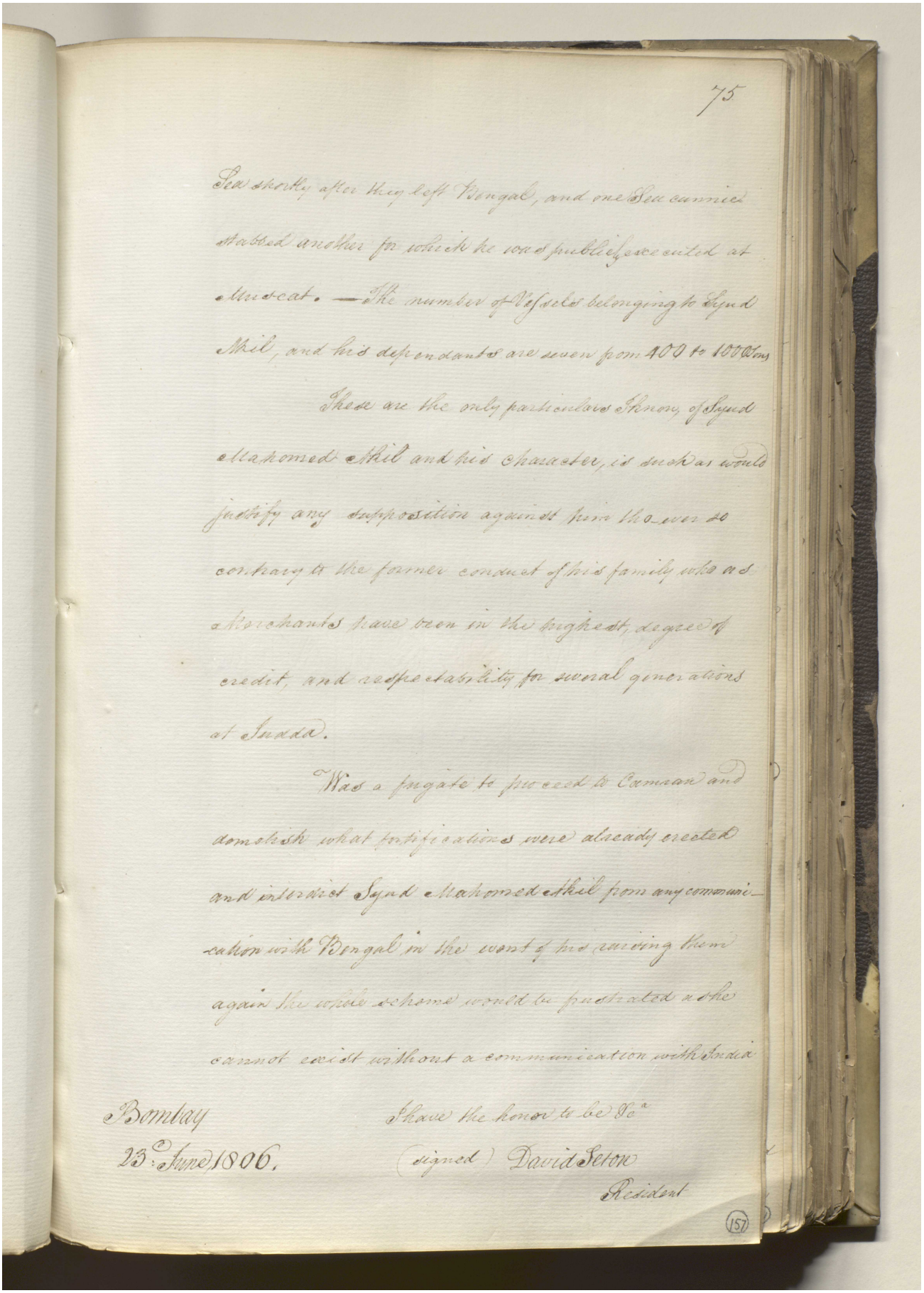

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Sea shortly after they left Bengal, and one Sea cannie stabbed another for which he was publicly executed at Muscat. — The number of Vessels belonging to Syud Thil, and his dependants are seven from 400 to 1000 Tons

These are the only particulars I know of Syud Mahomed Thil and his character, is such as would justify any supposition against him however contrary to the former conduct of his family who as Merchants have been in the highest degree of credit, and respectability for several generations at Surat.

Was a frigate to proceed to Camaran and demolish what fortifications were already erected and interdict Syud Mahomed Thil from any communication with Bengal in the event of his reviving them again the whole scheme would be frustrated as he cannot exist without a communication with India

I have the honor to be &c
(signed) David Seton
Resident

Bombay
23d June 1806.

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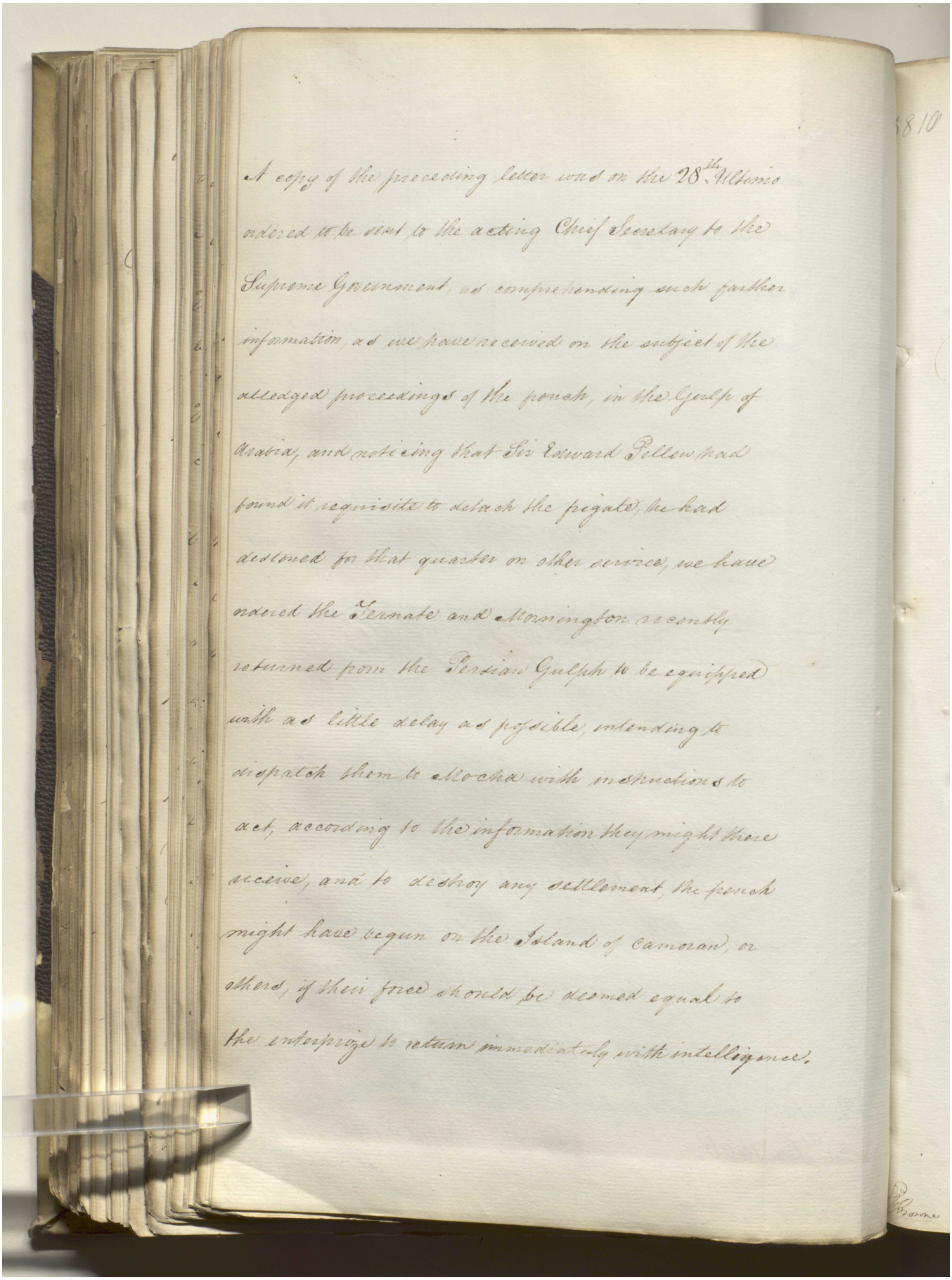

A copy of the preceding letter was on the 28th. Ultimo ordered to be sent to the acting Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government, as comprehending such further information, as we have received on the subject of the alledged proceedings of the French, in the Gulph of Arabia, and noticing that Sir Edward Pellew had found it requisite to detach the frigate he had destined for that quarter on other service, we have ordered the Fernate and Mornington recently returned from the Persian Gulph to be equipped with as little delay as possible, intending to dispatch them to Mocha with instructions to act, according to the information they might there receive, and to destroy any settlement the French might have begun on the Island of Camoran, or others, if their force should be deemed equal to the enterprize to return immediately with intelligence.

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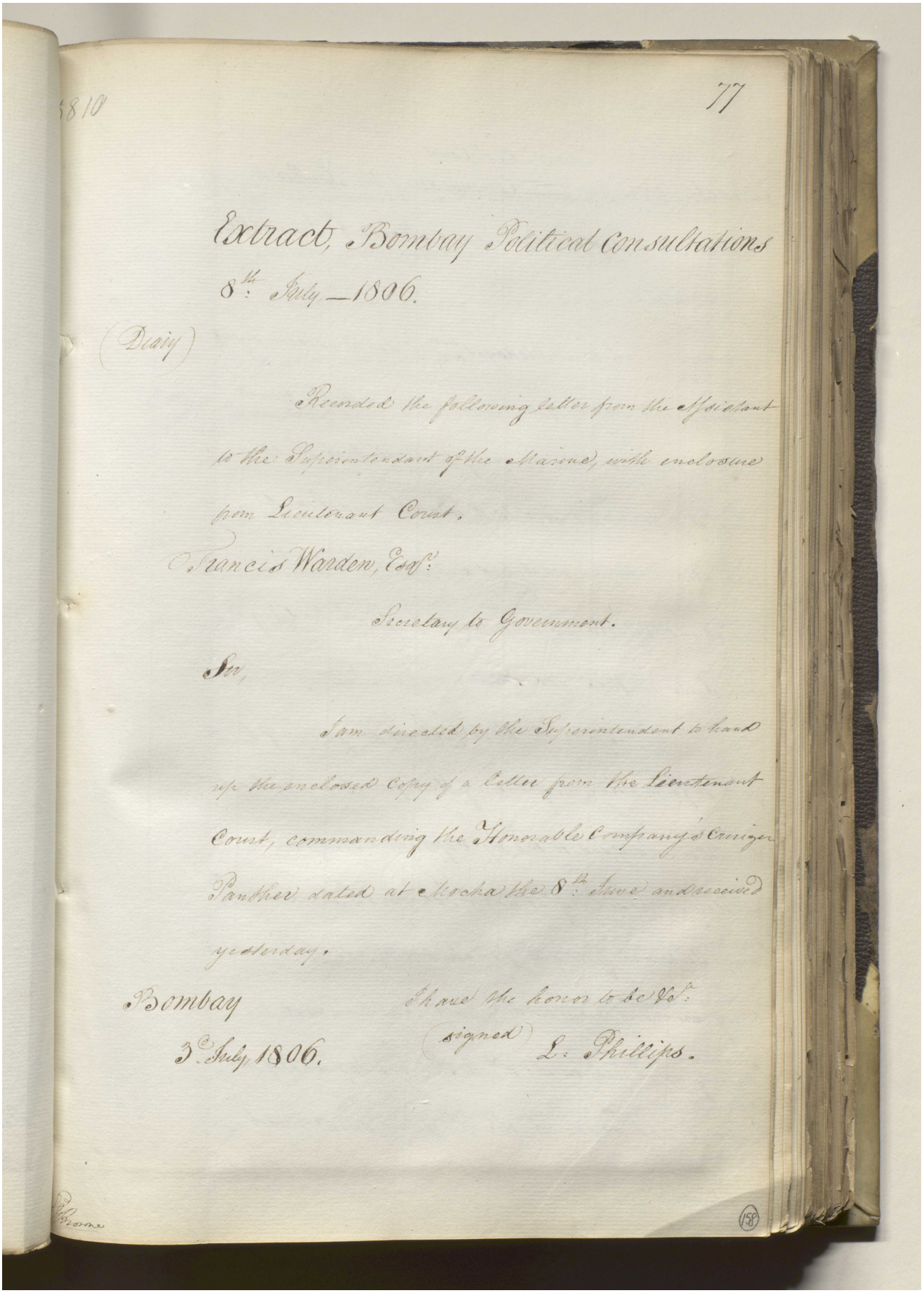


5810

77

Extract, Bombay Political Consultations
8th July 1806.

(Diary)

Recorded the following letter from the Assistant to the Superintendant of the Marine, with enclosure from Lieutenant Court.

Francis Warden, Esqr:
Secretary to Government.

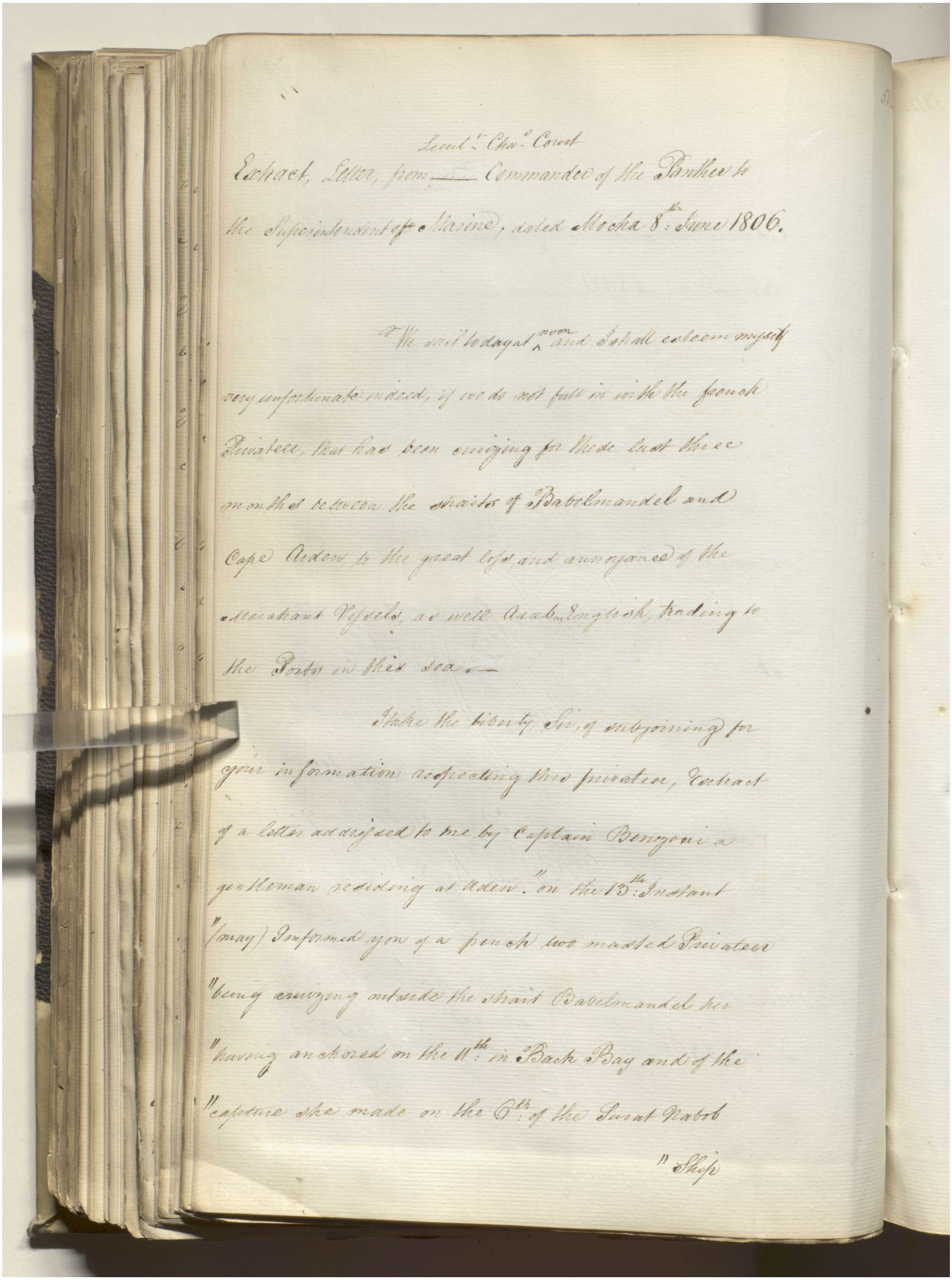
Sir,

I am directed by the Superintendent to hand up the enclosed Copy of a Letter from the Lieutenant Court, commanding the Honorable Company's Cruizer Panther dated at Mocha the 8th June and received yesterday.

I have the honor to be &c.
(signed) L. Phillips.

Bombay
3d July 1806.

158



Lieut.t Chas.e Court

Extract, Letter, from ___ Commander of the Panther to the Superintendent of Marine, dated Mocha 8.th June 1806.

"We sail'd today at noon, and I shall esteem myself very unfortunate indeed, if we do not fall in with the french Privateer, that has been cruizing for these last three months between the straits of Babelmandel and Cape Aden to the great loss and annoyance of the Merchant Vessels, as well Arab, English, trading to the Ports in this sea. —

I take the liberty Sir, of subjoining for your information respecting this privateer, Extract of a letter addressed to me by Captain Bengoni a gentleman residing at Aden. "on the 13.th Instant "(may) I informed you of a french two masted Privateer "being cruizing outside the strait Babelmandel har "having anchored on the 11.th in Back Bay and of the "capture she made on the 6.th of the Surat Nabob "Ship

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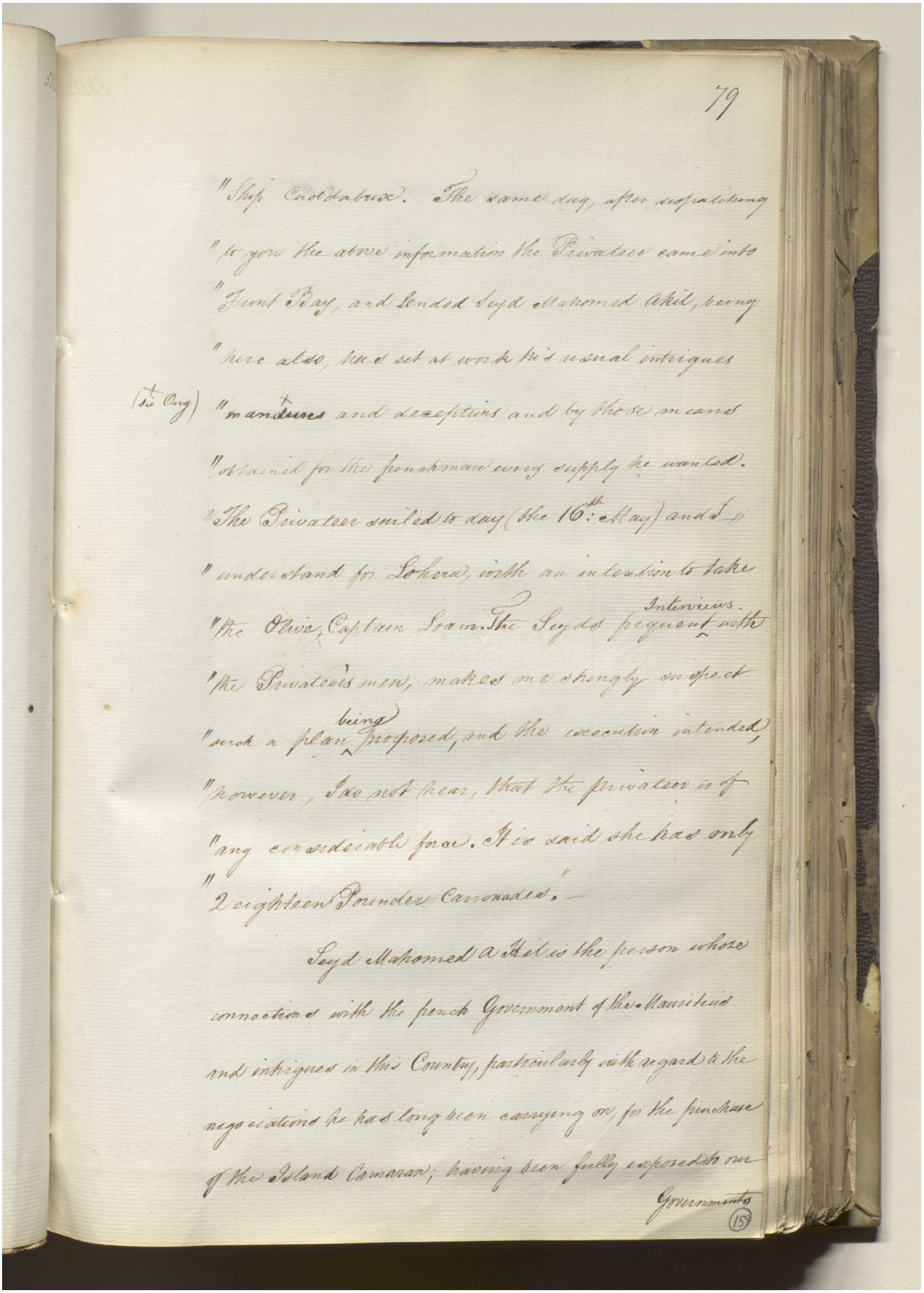
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [159r] (77/264)



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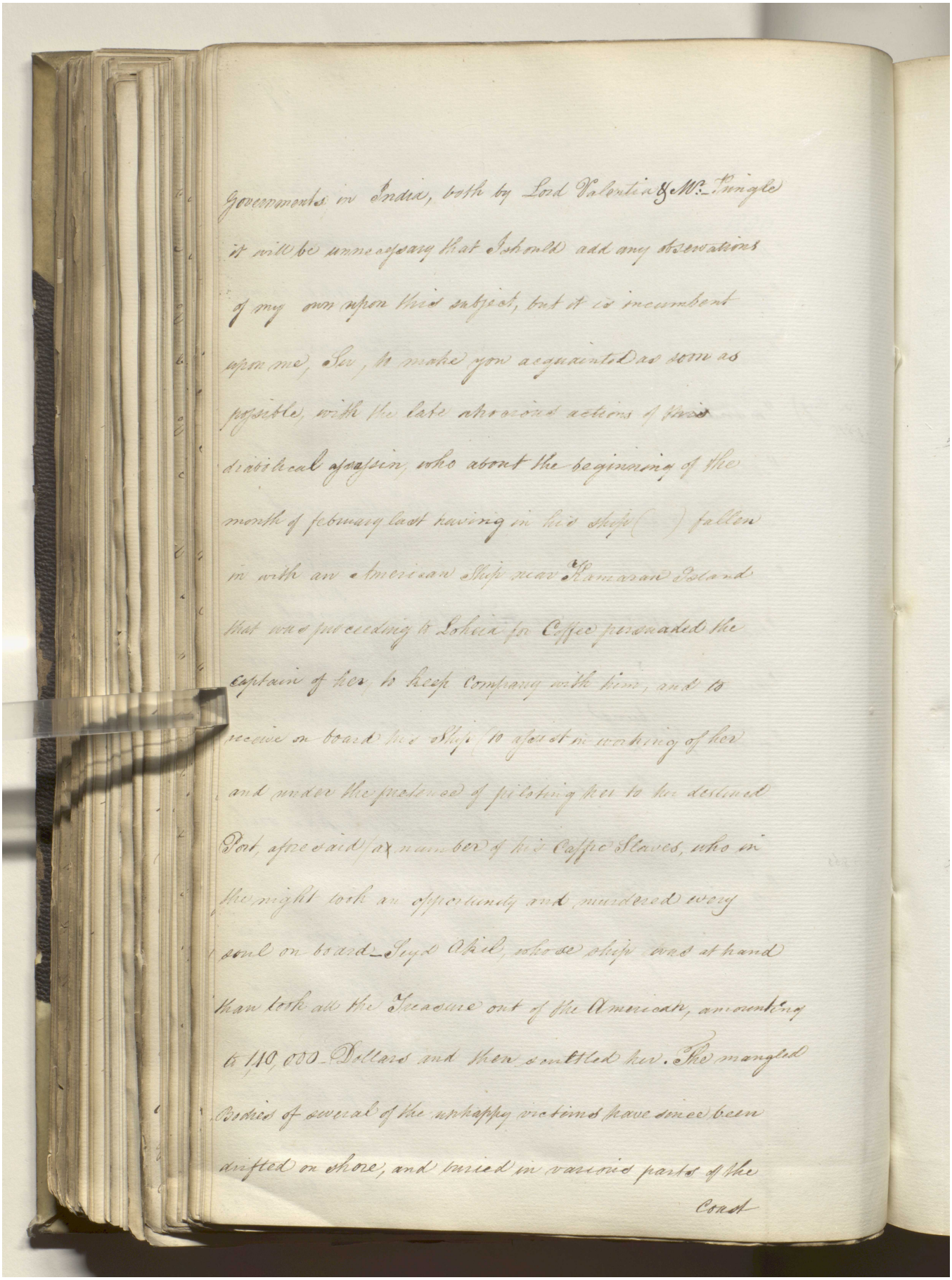
"Ship Cuddabuse. The same day, after dispatching
"to you the above information the Privateer came into
"Front Bay, and Lended Seyd Mahomed Akil, being
"here also, has set at work his usual intrigues
(sic Orig) "manduses and deceptions and by those means
"obtained for the frenchman every supply he wanted.
"The Privateer sailed to day (the 16th: May) and I
"understand for Lohera, with an intention to take
"the Olive, Captain Loam. The Seyds frequent Interviews with
"the Privateer's men, makes me strongly suspect
"such a plan being proposed, and the execution intended,
"however, I do not hear, that the privateer is of
"any considerable force. It is said she has only
"2 eighteen Pounder Carronades." —

Seyd Mahomed A Kil is the person whose connections with the french Government of the Mauritius and intrigues in this Country, particularly with regard to the negociations he has long been carrying on, for the purchase of the Island Camaran; having been fully exposed to our

Governments

(159)



Governments in India, both by Lord Valentia & Mr. Pringle it will be unnecessary that I should add any observations of my own upon this subject, but it is incumbent upon me, Sir, to make you acquainted as soon as possible, with the late atrocious actions of this diabolical assassin, who about the beginning of the month of february last having in his ship ( ) fallen in with an American Ship near Ramaran Island that was proceeding to Lohaia for Coffee persuaded the Captain of her to keep Company with him, and to receive on board his Ship, to assist in working of her and under the pretence of pilotting her to her destined Port, aforesaid six number of his Coffre Slaves, who in the night took an opportunity and murdered every one on board Syd Abid, whose ship was at hand then took all the Treasure out of the American, amounting to 110,000 Dollars and then scuttled her. The mangled Bodies of several of the unhappy victims have since been drifted on shore, and buried in various parts of the Coast

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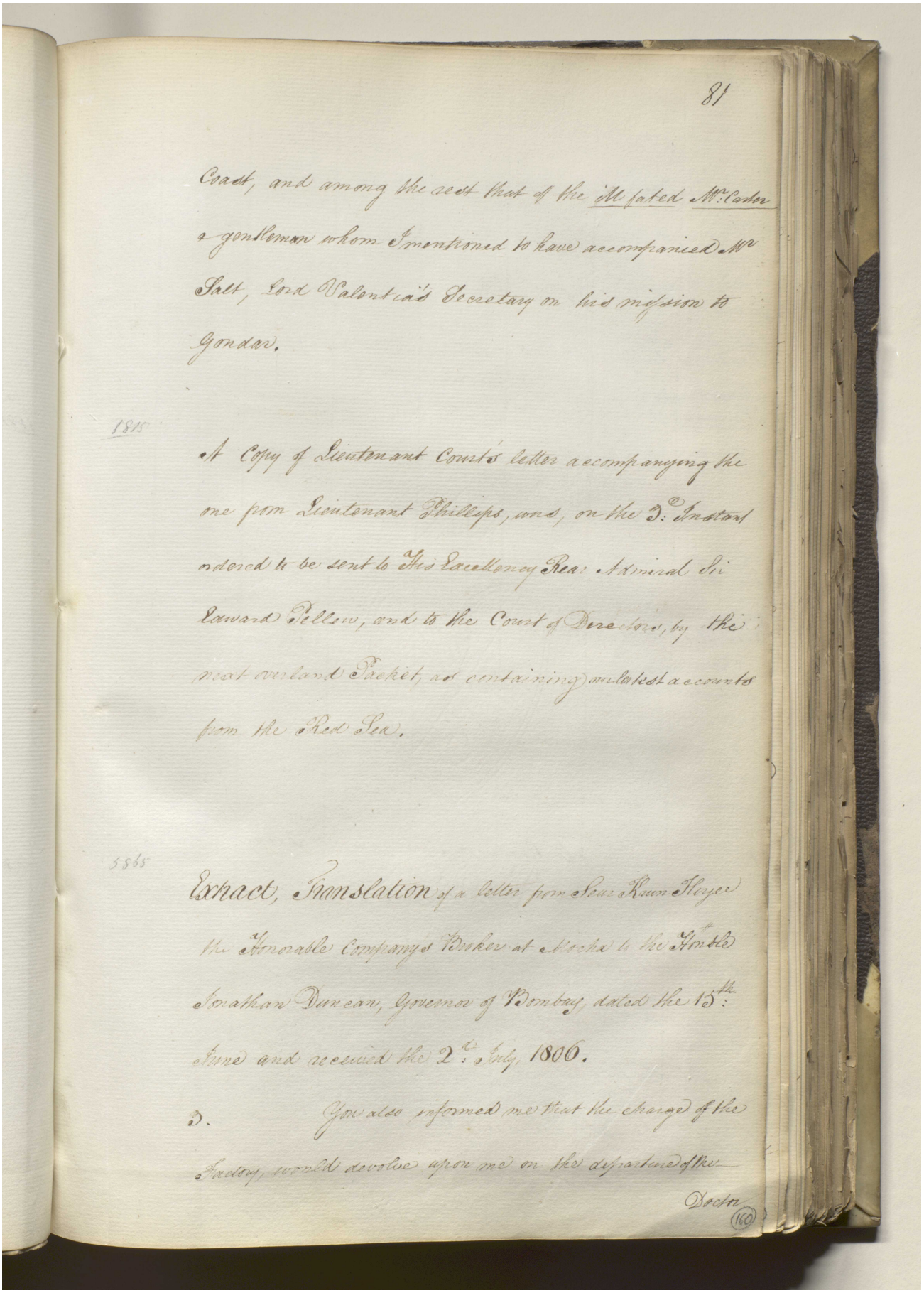

Coast, and among the rest that of the ill fated Mr. Carter a gentleman whom I mentioned to have accompanied Mr Salt, Lord Valentia's Secretary on his mission to Gondar.

1815

A Copy of Lieutenant Court's letter accompanying the one from Lieutenant Phillips, was, on the 3d Instant ordered to be sent to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, and to the Court of Directors, by the next overland Packet, as containing our latest accounts from the Red Sea.

5865

Extract, Translation of a letter from Sear Kuun Hiyee the Honorable Company's Broker at Mocha to the Honble Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay, dated the 15th June and received the 2d July, 1806.

3. You also informed me that the charge of the Factory, would devolve upon me on the departure of the

Doctor

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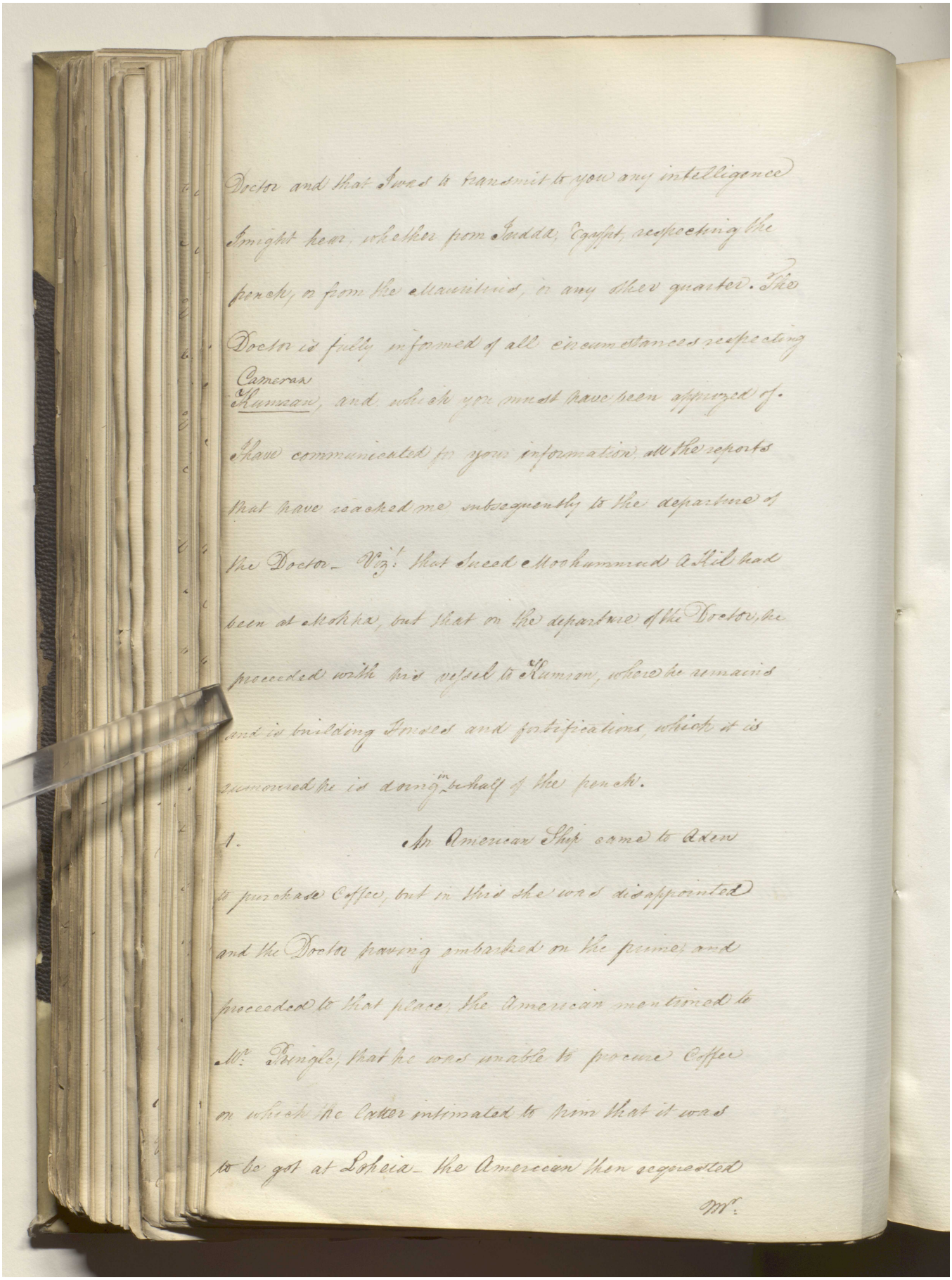

Doctor and that I was to transmit to you any intelligence I might hear, whether from Judda, Egypt, respecting the pench, or from the Mauritius, or any other quarter. The Doctor is fully informed of all circumstances respecting Cameran Kumran, and which you must have been approved of. I have communicated for your information, all the reports that have reached me subsequently to the departure of the Doctor – Viz: that Sueed Moohummud A Kil had been at Mokha, but that on the departure of the Doctor, he proceeded with his vessel to Kumran, where he remains and is building Houses and fortifications, which it is rumoured he is doing in behalf of the pench.

1. An American Ship came to Aden to purchase Coffee, but in this she was disappointed and the Doctor having embarked on the prime, and proceeded to that place, the American mentioned to Mr. Pringle, that he was unable to procure Coffee on which the latter intimated to him that it was to be got at Loheia – the American then requested

Mr.

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [161r] (81/264)

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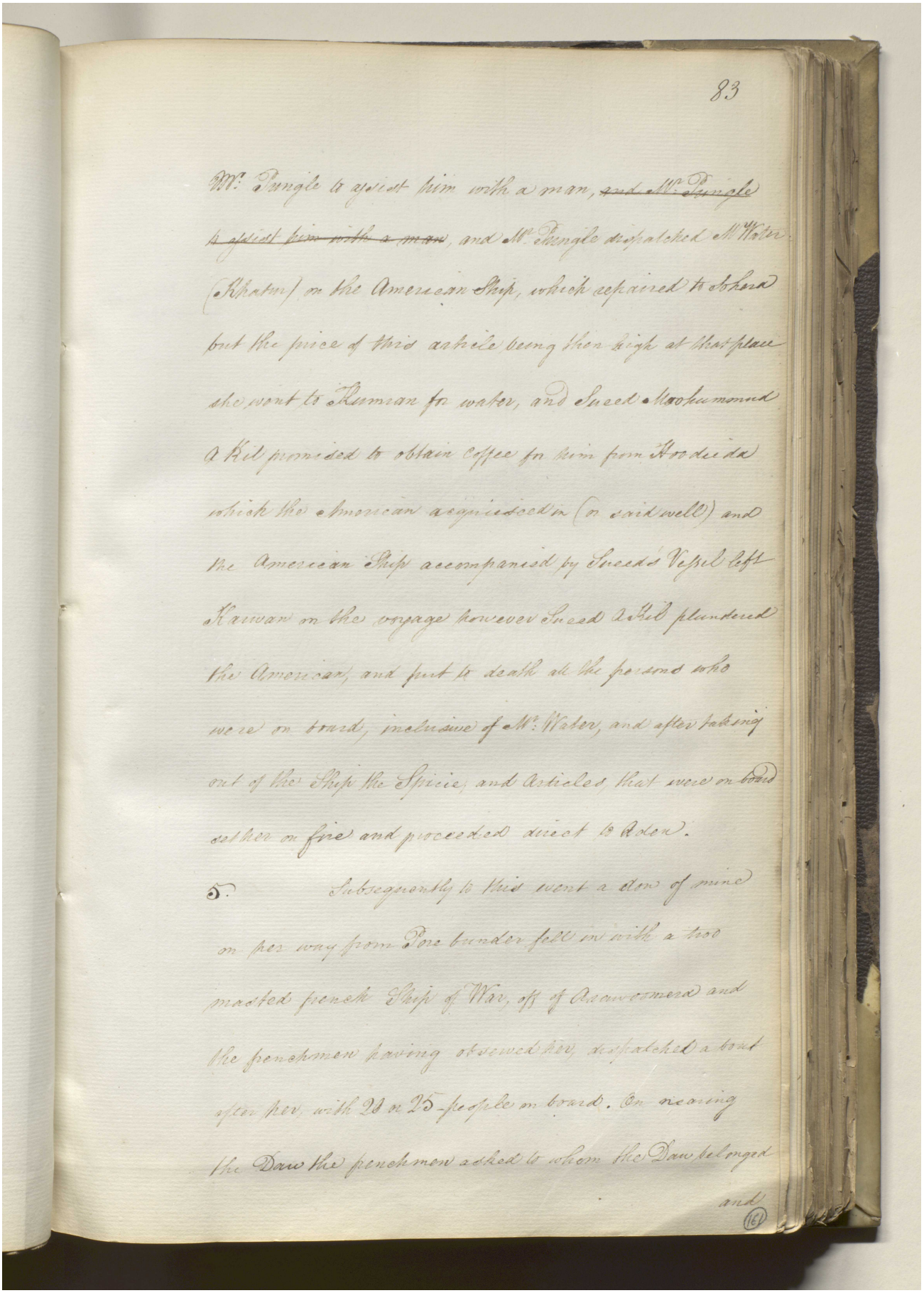

Mr. Pringle to assist him with a man, ~~and Mr. Pringle to assist him with a man~~, and Mr. Pringle dispatched Mr. Water (Khatur) on the American Ship, which repaired to Sohera but the price of this article being then high at that place she went to Kumran for water, and Sueed Mookummud A Kil promised to obtain Coffee for him from Hoodieda which the American acquiesced in (or said well) and the American Ship accompanied by Sueed's Vessel left Karwan on the voyage however Sueed A Kil plundered the American, and put to death all the persons who were on board, inclusive of Mr. Water, and after taking out of the Ship the Spicie, and Articles that were on board sether on fire and proceeded direct to Aden.

5. Subsequently to this went a dow of mine on her way from Pore bunder fell in with a two masted french Ship of War, off of Arawoomera and the frenchmen having observed her, dispatched a boat after her, with 20 or 25 people on board. On nearing the Daw the frenchmen asked to whom the Daw belonged

and

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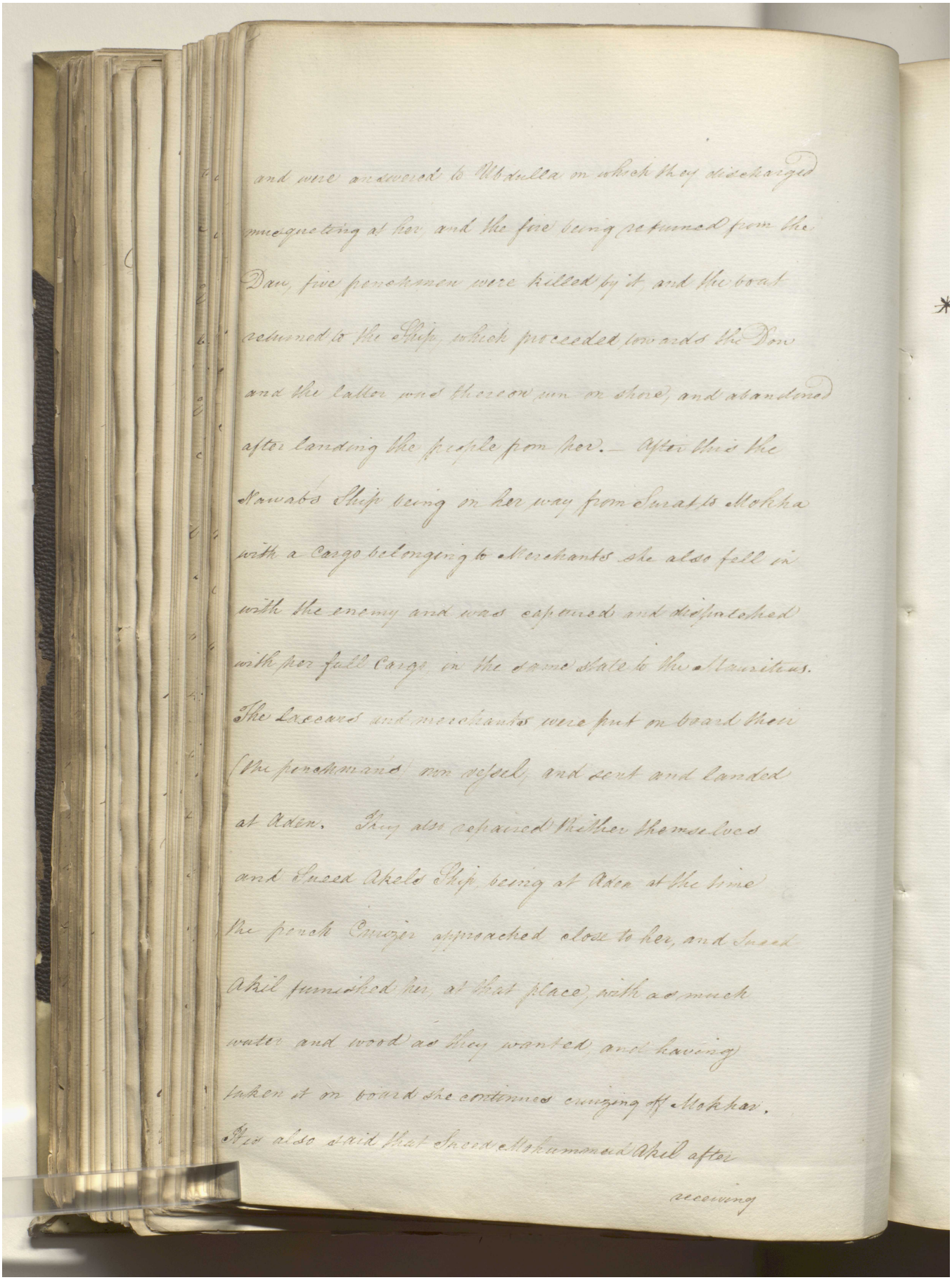

and were answered by Mocalla on which they discharged
musquetting at her and the fire being returned from the
Dau, five penchamen were killed by it, and the boat
returned to the Ship which proceeded towards the Dau
and the latter was thereon run on shore, and abandoned
after landing the people from her.— After this the
Nawabs Ship being in her way from Surat to Mokha
with a Cargo belonging to Merchants she also fell in
with the enemy and was captured and dispatched
with her full Cargo in the same state to the Mauritius.
The Lascars and merchants were put on board their
(the penchamans own vessel, and sent and landed
at Aden. They also repaired thither themselves
and Saeed Akils Ship being at Aden at the time
the French Cruizer approached close to her, and Saeed
Akil furnished her at that place with as much
water and wood as they wanted and having
taken it on board she continued cruizing off Mokha.
He also said that Saeed Mohammed Akil after

receiving

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [162r] (83/264)

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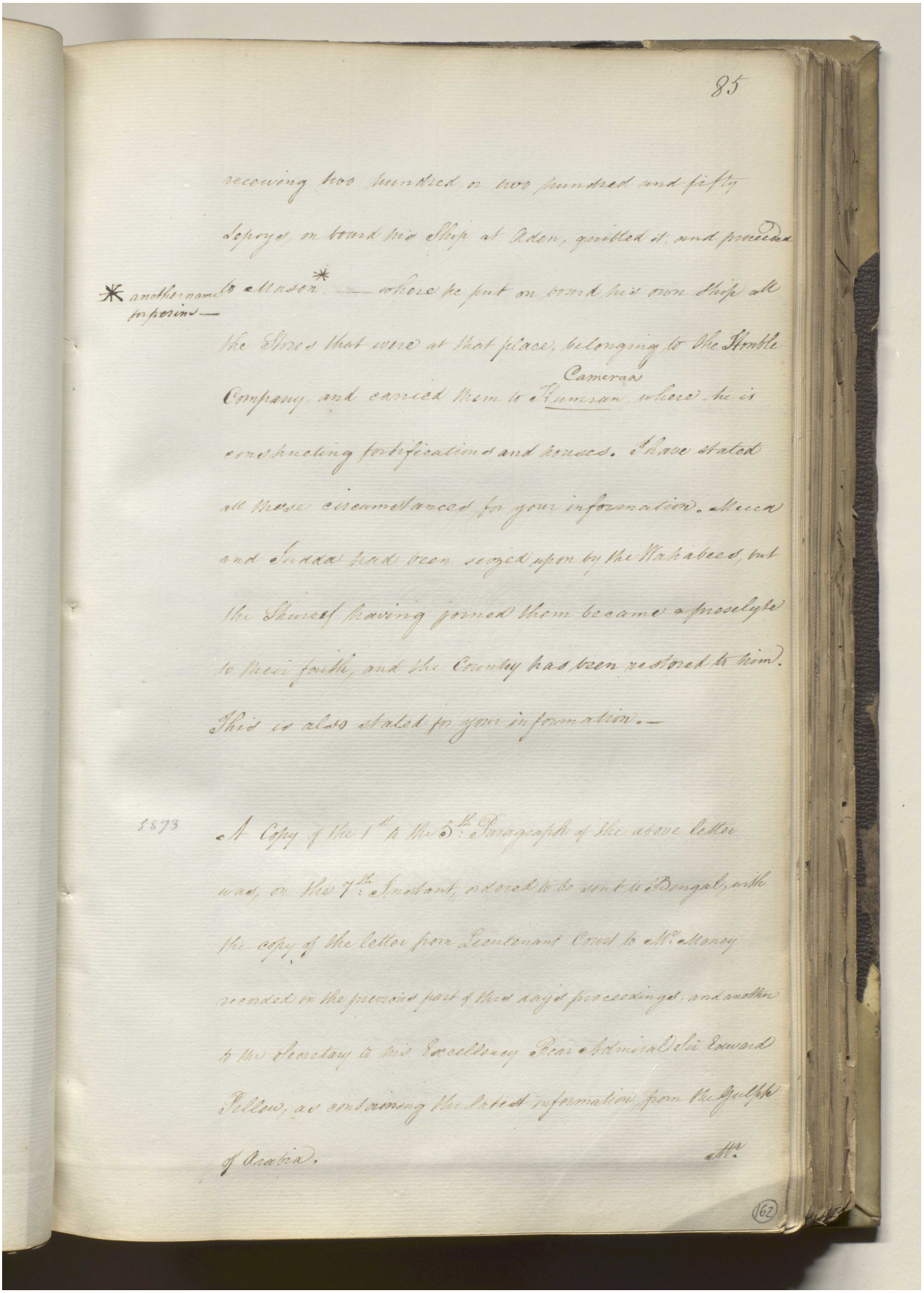

receiving two hundred or two hundred and fifty Sepoys, on board his Ship at Aden, quitted it, and proceeded to Mason* — where he put on board his own Ship all the Stores that were at that place, belonging to the Honble Company, and carried them to Cameran Kumran, where he is constructing fortifications and houses. I have stated all these circumstances for your information. Mecca and Judda had been seized upon by the Wahabees, but the Shureef having joined them became a proselyte to their faith, and the Country has been restored to him. This is also stated for your information.—

* another name for perim—

5873 A Copy of the 1st to the 5th Paragraph of the above letter was, on the 7th Instant, ordered to be sent to Bengal, with the copy of the letter from Lieutenant Court to Mr. Money recorded in the previous part of this day's proceedings, and another to the Secretary to his Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, as containing the latest information from the Gulph of Arabia.

Mr.

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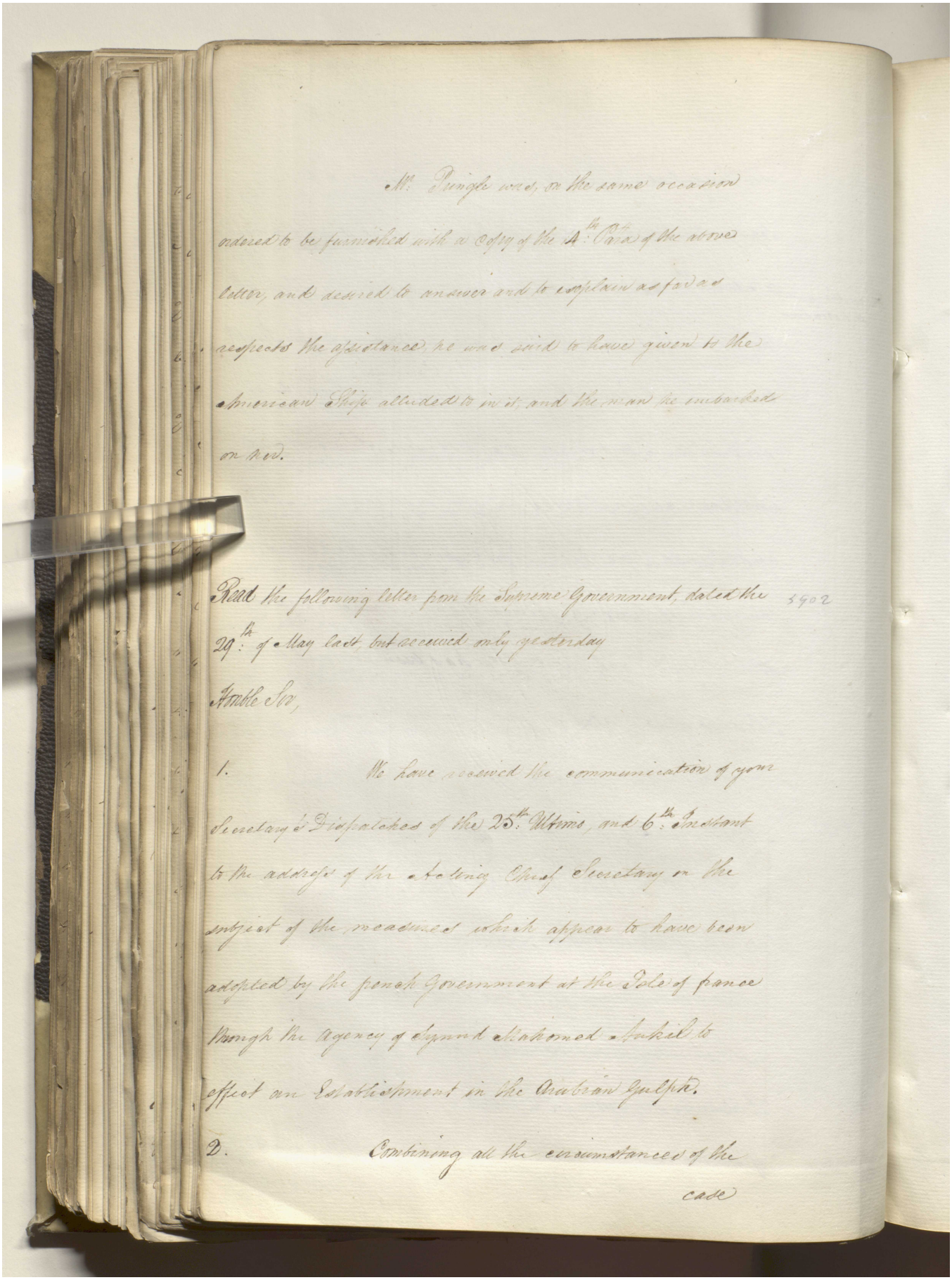

Mr. Pringle was, on the same occasion ordered to be furnished with a copy of the 4th Para of the above letter, and desired to answer and to explain as far as respects the assistance he was said to have given to the American Ship alluded to in it, and the man he embarked on her.

Read the following letter from the Supreme Government, dated the 29th of May last, but received only yesterday 5902

Honble Sir,

1. We have received the communication of your Secretary's Dispatches of the 25th Ultimo, and 6th Instant to the address of the Acting Chief Secretary on the subject of the measures which appear to have been adopted by the french Government at the Isle of france through the Agency of Synud Mahomed Aukil to effect an Establishment in the Arabian Gulph.

2. Combining all the circumstances of the case

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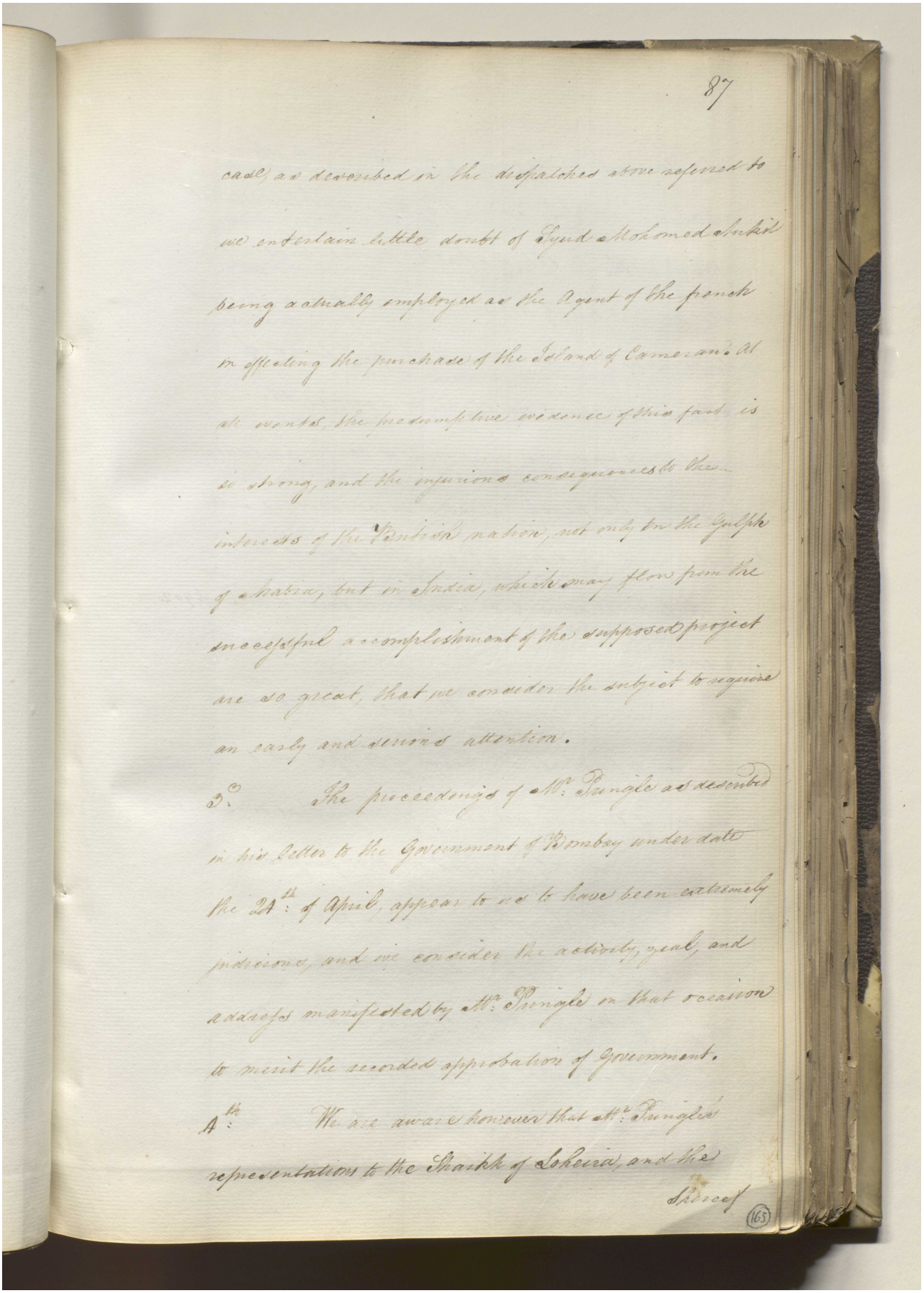

case, as described in the dispatches above referred to we entertain little doubt of Syud Mohomed Sukil being actually employed as the Agent of the french in effecting the purchase of the Island of Cameran. At all events, the presumptive evidence of this fact is so strong, and the injurious consequences to the interests of the British nation, not only in the Gulph of Arabia, but in India, which may flow from the successful accomplishment of the supposed project are so great, that we consider the subject to require an early and serious attention.

3.° The proceedings of Mr. Pringle as described in his letter to the Government of Bombay under date the 24th of April, appear to us to have been extremely judicious, and we consider the activity, zeal, and address manifested by Mr. Pringle on that occasion to merit the recorded approbation of Government.

4th We are aware however that Mr. Pringle's representations to the Shaikh of Loheira, and the

Shereef

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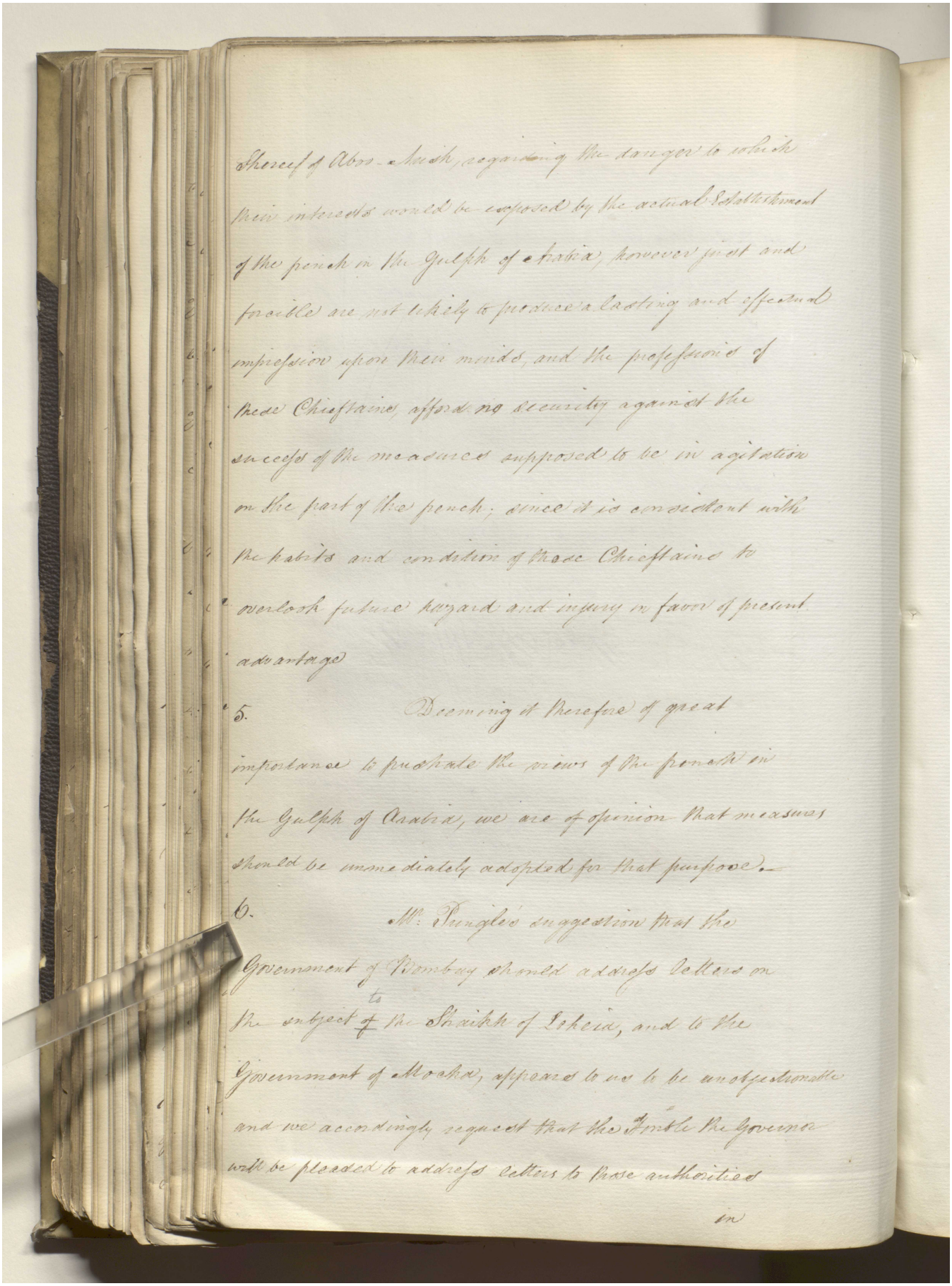

Sheriff of Abo-Arish, regarding the danger to which their interests would be exposed by the actual Establishment of the French in the Gulph of Arabia, however just and feasible are not likely to produce a lasting and effectual impression upon their minds, and the professions of these Chieftains afford no security against the success of the measures supposed to be in agitation on the part of the French; since it is consistent with the habits and condition of those Chieftains to overlook future hazard and injury in favor of present advantage

5. Deeming it therefore of great importance to preshade the views of the French in the Gulph of Arabia, we are of opinion that measures should be immediately adopted for that purpose.—

6. Mr. Pringle's suggestion that the Government of Bombay should address letters on the subject of the Shaikh of Lahcia, and to the Government of Mocha, appears to us to be unobjectionable and we accordingly request that the Hon'ble the Governor will be pleased to address letters to those authorities

in

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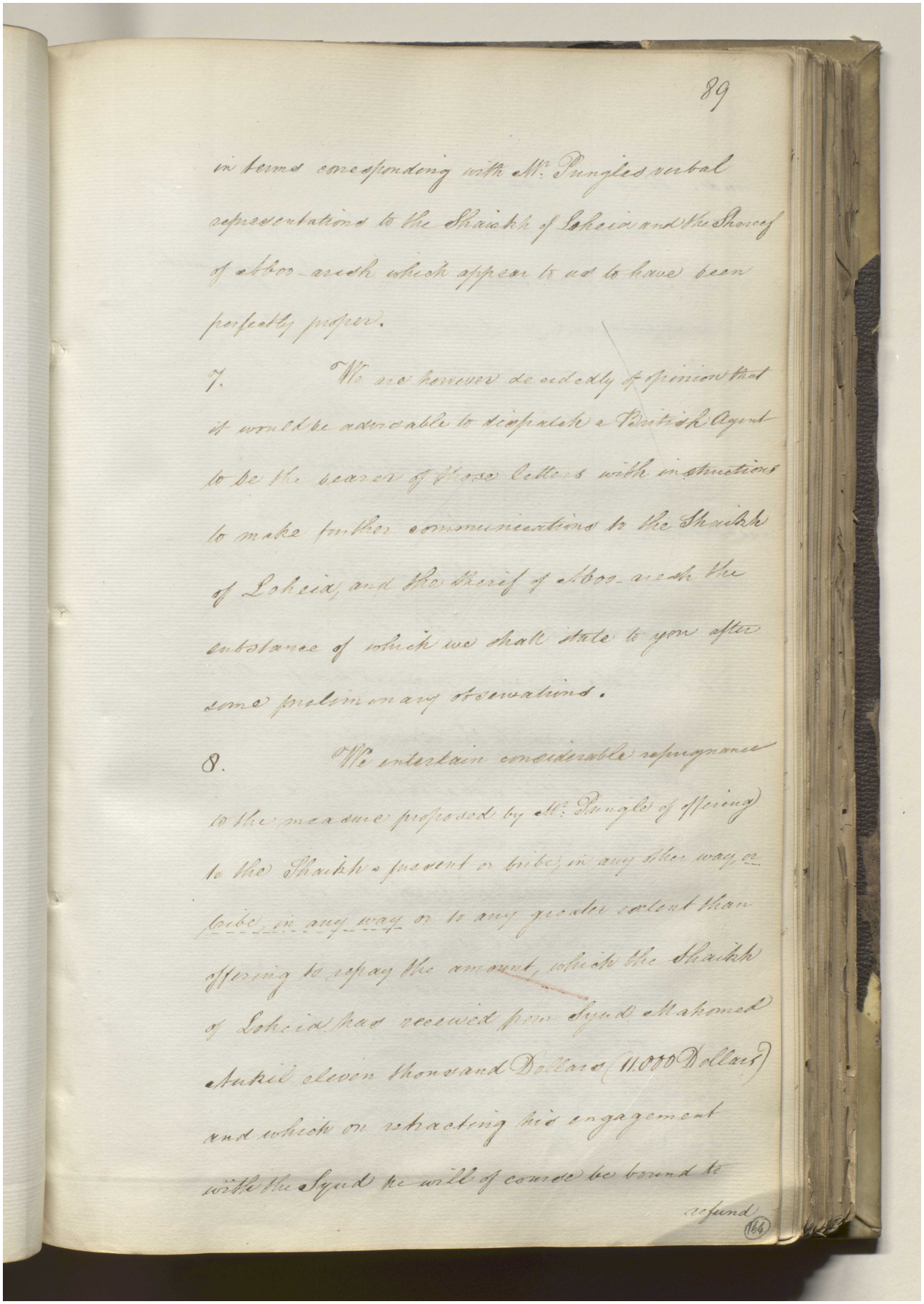

in terms corresponding with Mr. Pringles verbal
representations to the Shaickh of Loheia and the Sherief
of Abbo-arish which appear to us to have been
perfectly proper.

7. We are however decidedly of opinion that
it would be advisable to despatch a British Agent
to be the bearer of those Letters with instructions
to make further communications to the Shaickh
of Loheia, and the Sherief of Abbo-arish the
substance of which we shall state to you after
some preliminary observations.

8. We entertain considerable repugnance
to the measure proposed by Mr. Pringle of offering
to the Shaickh a present or bribe in any other way or
bribe in any way or to any greater extent than
offering to repay the amount, which the Shaickh
of Loheia has received from Syud Mahomed
Ashil eleven thousand Dollars (11,000 Dollars)
and which on retracting his engagement
with the Syud he will of course be bound to
refund

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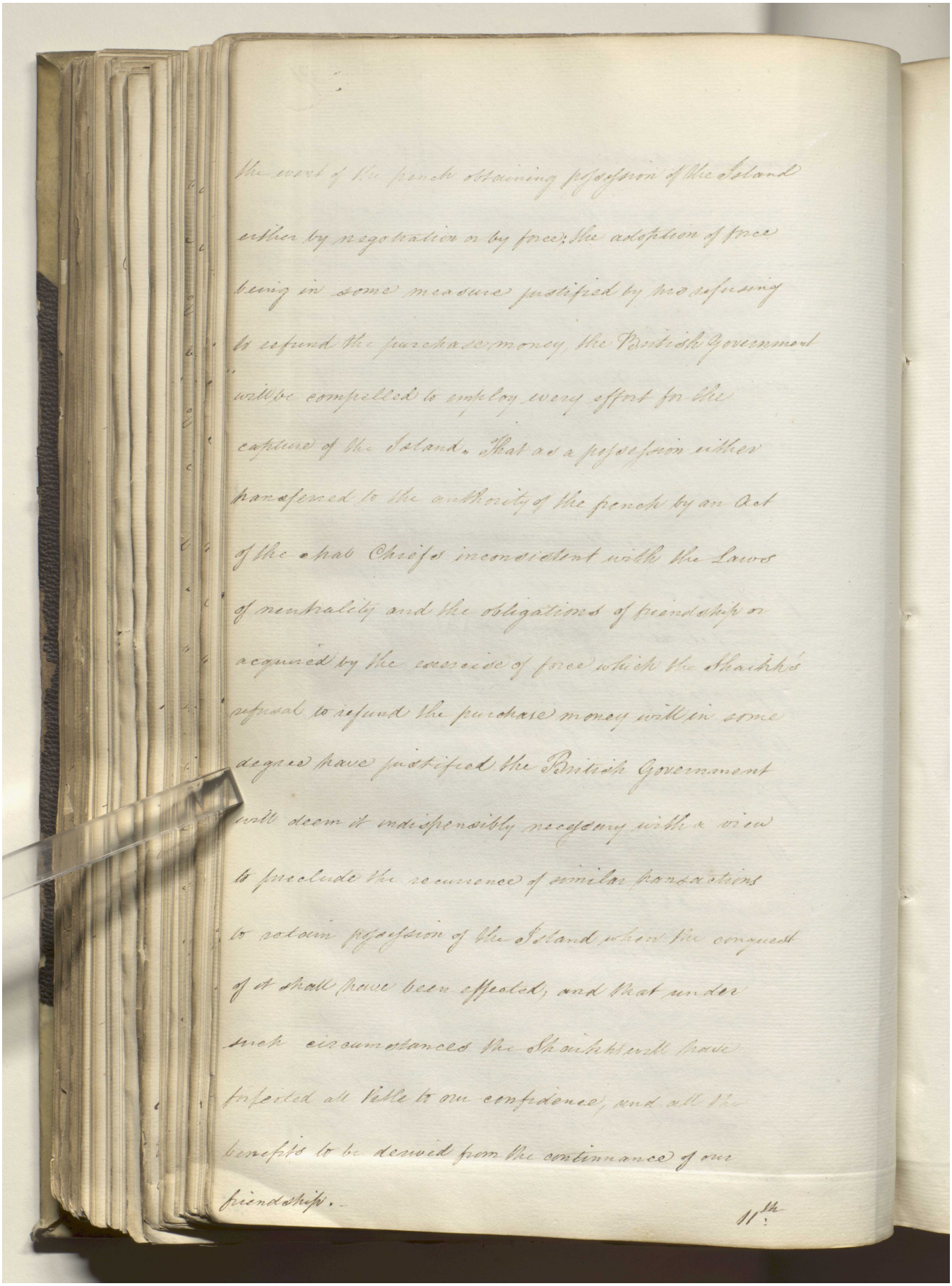

the work of the French obtaining possession of the Island either by negotiation or by force: the adoption of force being in some measure justified by his refusing to refund the purchase money, the British Government will be compelled to employ every effort for the capture of the Island. That as a possession either transferred to the authority of the French by an Act of the Arab Chiefs inconsistent with the Laws of neutrality and the obligations of friendship or acquired by the exercise of force which the Shaikh's refusal to refund the purchase money will in some degree have justified the British Government will deem it indispensibly necessary with a view to preclude the recurrence of similar transactions to reclaim possession of the Island when the conquest of it shall have been effected, and that under such circumstances the Shaikh will have forfeited all title to our confidence, and all the benefits to be derived from the continuance of our friendship.

11th

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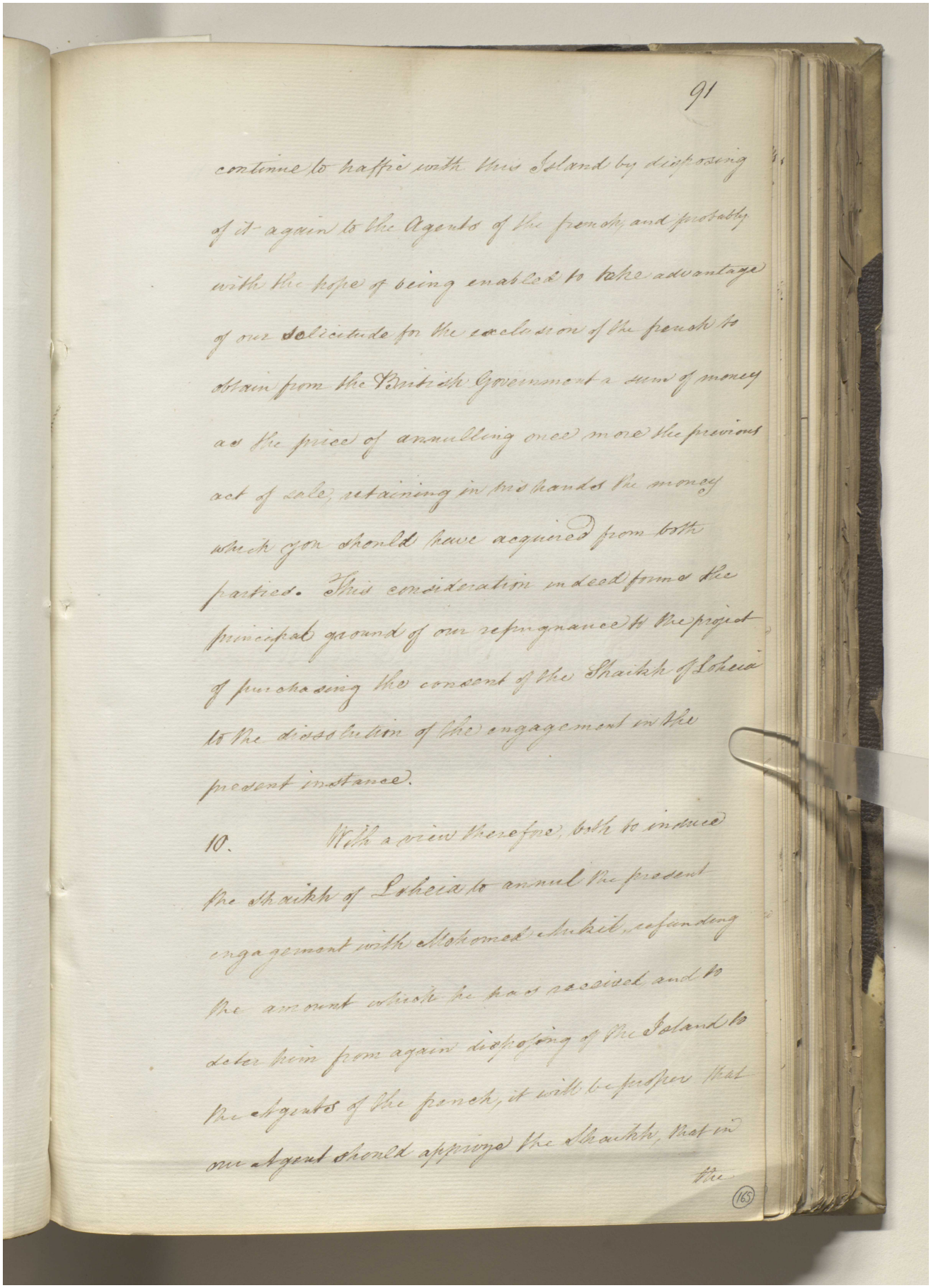

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continue to traffic with this Island by disposing of it again to the Agents of the French, and probably with the hope of being enabled to take advantage of our solicitude for the exclusion of the French to obtain from the British Government a sum of money as the price of annulling once more the previous act of sale, retaining in his hands the money which you should have acquired from both parties. This consideration indeed forms the principal ground of our repugnance to the project of purchasing the consent of the Shaikh of Loheia to the dissolution of the engagement in the present instance.

10. With a view therefore, both to induce the Shaikh of Loheia to annul the present engagement with Mohomed Shukeil, refunding the amount which he has received and to deter him from again disposing of the Island to the Agents of the French, it will be proper that our Agent should apprize the Shaikh, that in the

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refund. It is obviously desirable that the amount should be refunded lest on the ground of its being with held, the french should assert that the engagement remains in force and found upon that assertion a pretext for endeavouring to occupy the Island of Cameran by force of arms. This object should accordingly form a part of the Instructions to the agent who may be dispatched to the Gulphs of Arabia, and unless the British Government should offer to reimburse the Shaikh, it may be doubtful whether he can be induced to refund it.

9. With reference to the observation stated in the 4th Para: of this dispatch that it is consistent with the habits and condition of the Chief of the Arabian Gulph to overlook prospective injury in favor of immediate profit, we deem it by no means improbable that unless motives of apprehension be presented to his contemplation the Shaikh of Loheia, though he may be induced to comply with our demand for the dissolution of the engagement concluded with Syud Mohomed Subil may

continue

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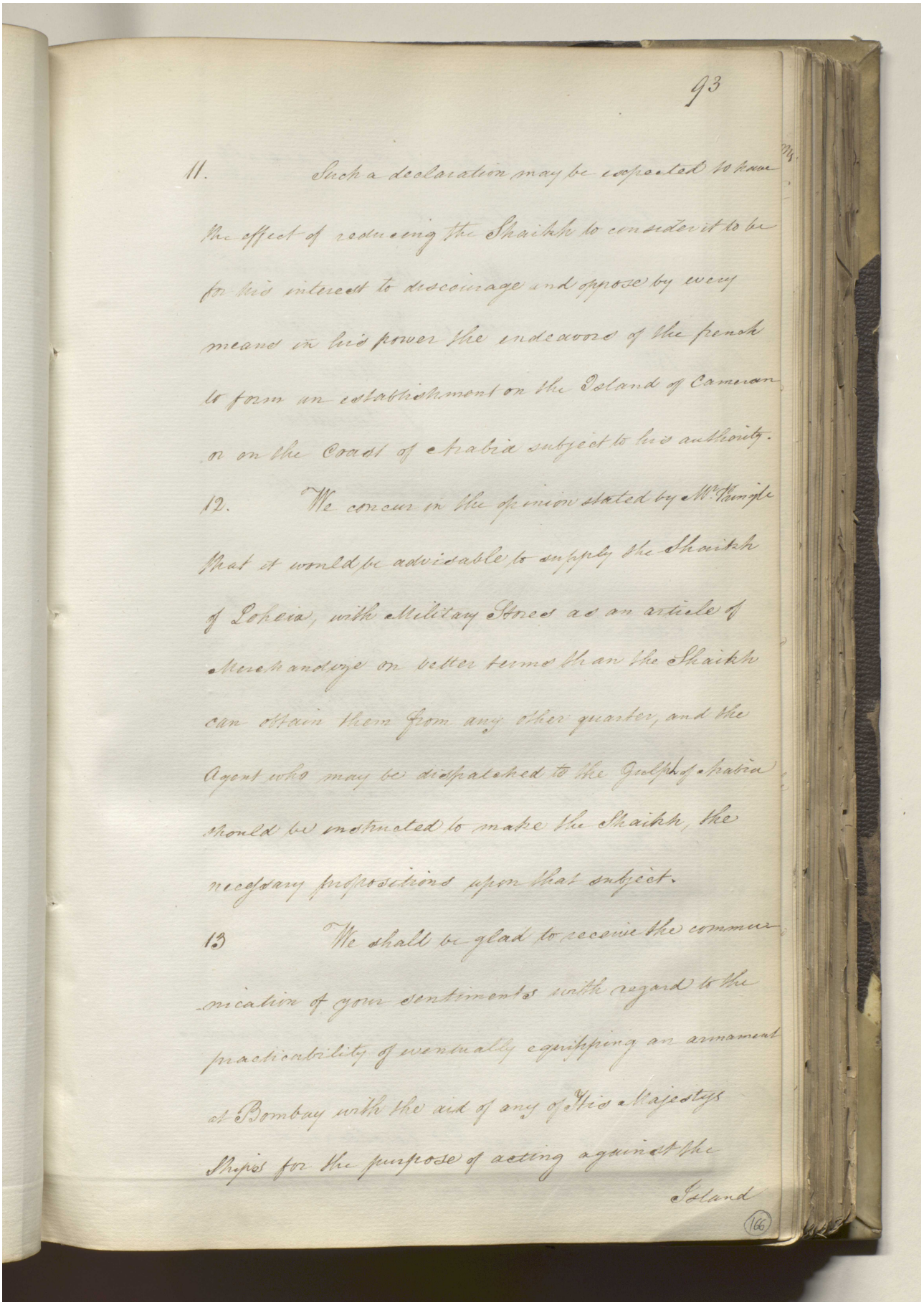

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11. Such a declaration may be expected to have the effect of reducing the Shaikh to consider it to be for his interest to discourage and oppose by every means in his power the endeavours of the French to form an establishment on the Island of Cameran or on the Coast of Ababia subject to his authority.

12. We concur in the opinion stated by Mr. Rumbold that it would be advisable to supply the Shaikh of Loheia, with Military Stores as an article of Merchandize on better terms than the Shaikh can obtain them from any other quarter, and the Agent who may be dispatched to the Gulph of Ababia should be instructed to make the Shaikh, the necessary propositions upon that subject.

13 We shall be glad to receive the communication of your sentiments with regard to the practicability of eventually equipping an armament at Bombay with the aid of any of His Majestys Ships for the purpose of acting against the

Island

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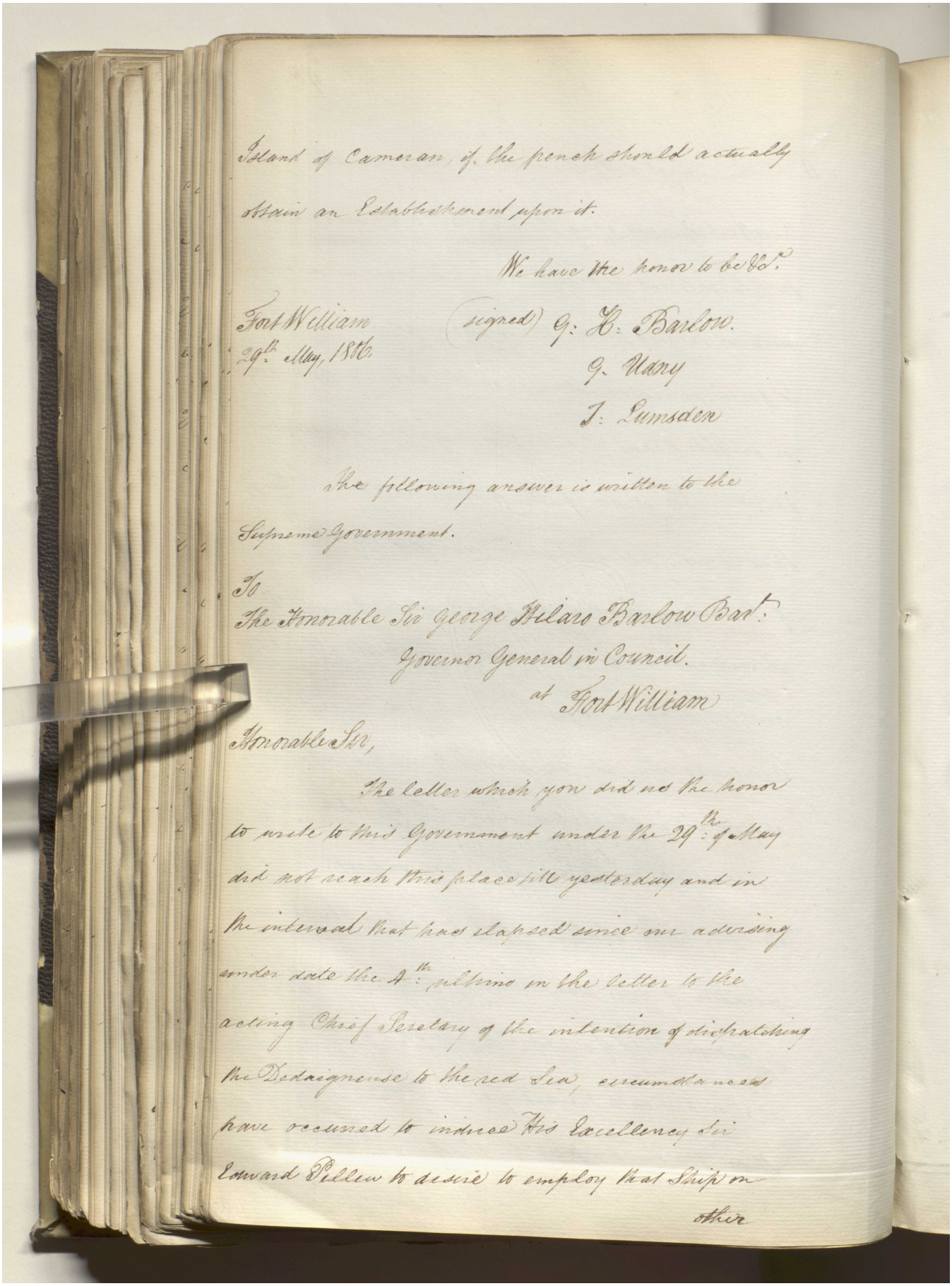

Island of Cameran, if the French should actually
obtain an Establishment upon it.

We have the honor to be &c.

Fort William
29th May, 1816

(signed) G: H: Barlow.
G. Udny
J. Lumsden

The following answer is written to the
Supreme Government.

To
The Honorable Sir George Hilaro Barlow Bart:
Governor General in Council.
at Fort William

Honorable Sir,

The letter which you did us the honor
to write to this Government under the 29th: of May
did not reach this place till yesterday and in
the interval that has elapsed since our advising
under date the 4th: ultimo in the letter to the
acting Chief Secretary of the intention of dispatching
the Bedaigneuse to the red Sea, circumstances
have occurred to induce His Excellency Sir
Edward Pellew to desire to employ that Ship on
other

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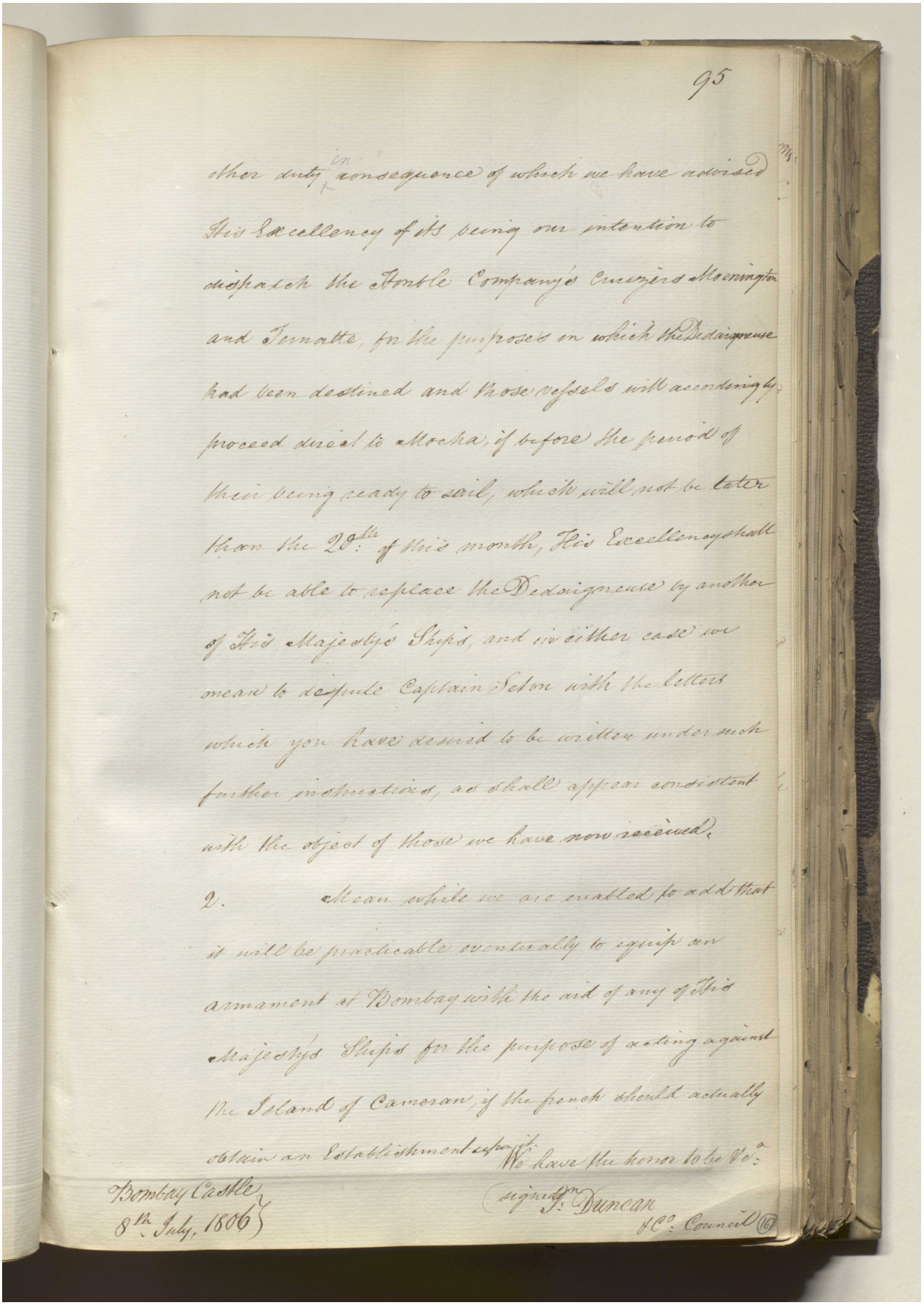

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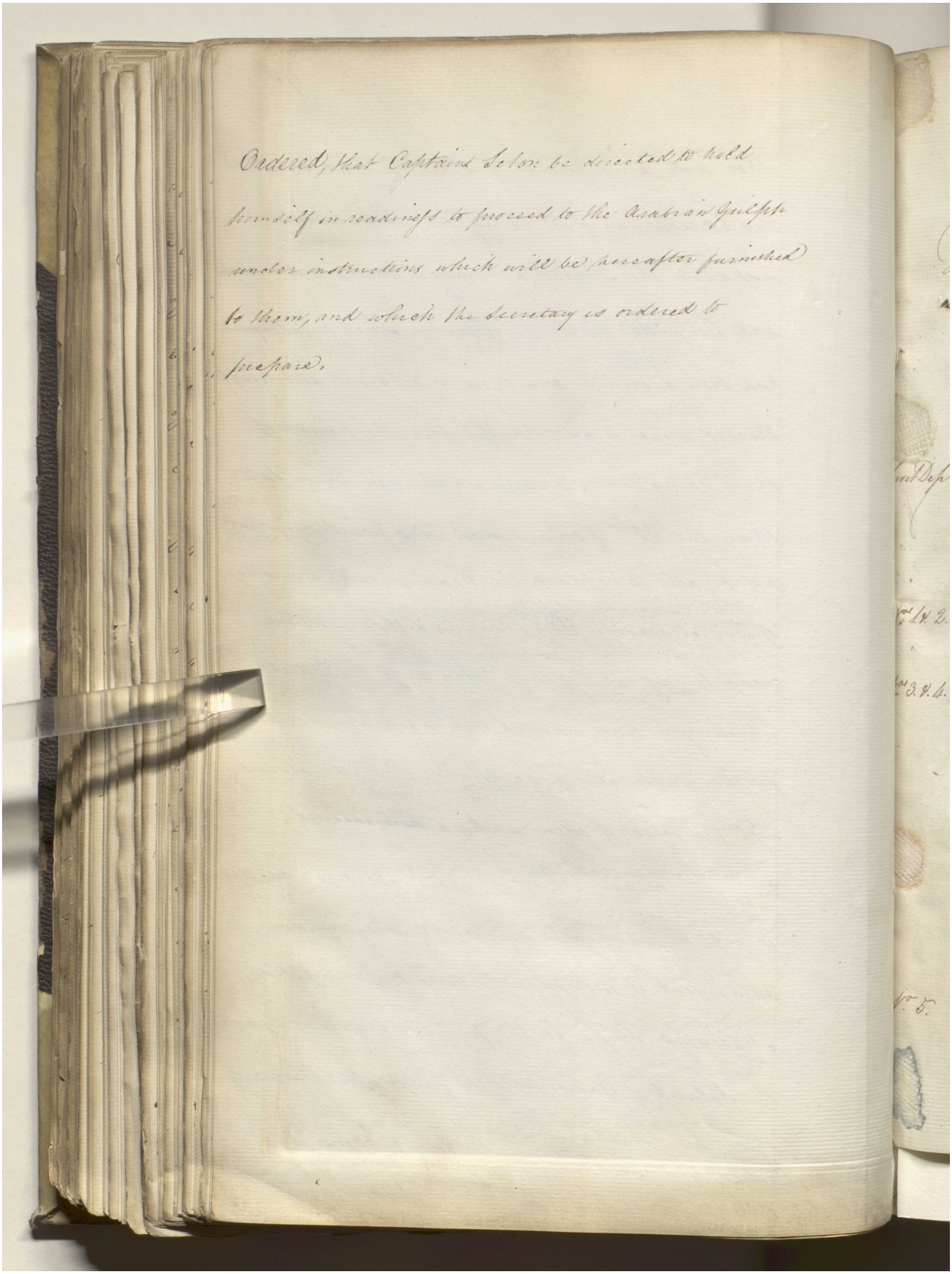
other duty in consequence of which we have advised
His Excellency of its being our intention to
dispatch the Honble Company's Cruizers Mornington
and Ternatte, for the purposes in which the Dedaigneuse
had been destined and those vessels will accordingly
proceed direct to Mocha, if before the period of
their being ready to sail, which will not be later
than the 29th. of this month, His Excellency shall
not be able to replace the Dedaigneuse by another
of His Majesty's Ships, and in either case we
mean to despatch Captain Seton with the letters
which you have desired to be written under such
further instructions, as shall appear consistent
with the object of those we have now received.

2. Mean while we are enabled to add that
it will be practicable eventually to equip an
armament at Bombay with the aid of any of His
Majesty's Ships for the purpose of acting against
the Island of Cameran, if the French should actually
obtain an Establishment upon it. We have the honor to be &c.

Bombay Castle
8th. July, 1806

(signed) J. Duncan
&c. Council (16)


Ordered, that Captain Selon be directed to hold
himself in readiness to proceed to the Arabian Gulph
under instructions which will be hereafter furnished
to them, and which the Secretary is ordered to
prepare.

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [168r] (95/264)

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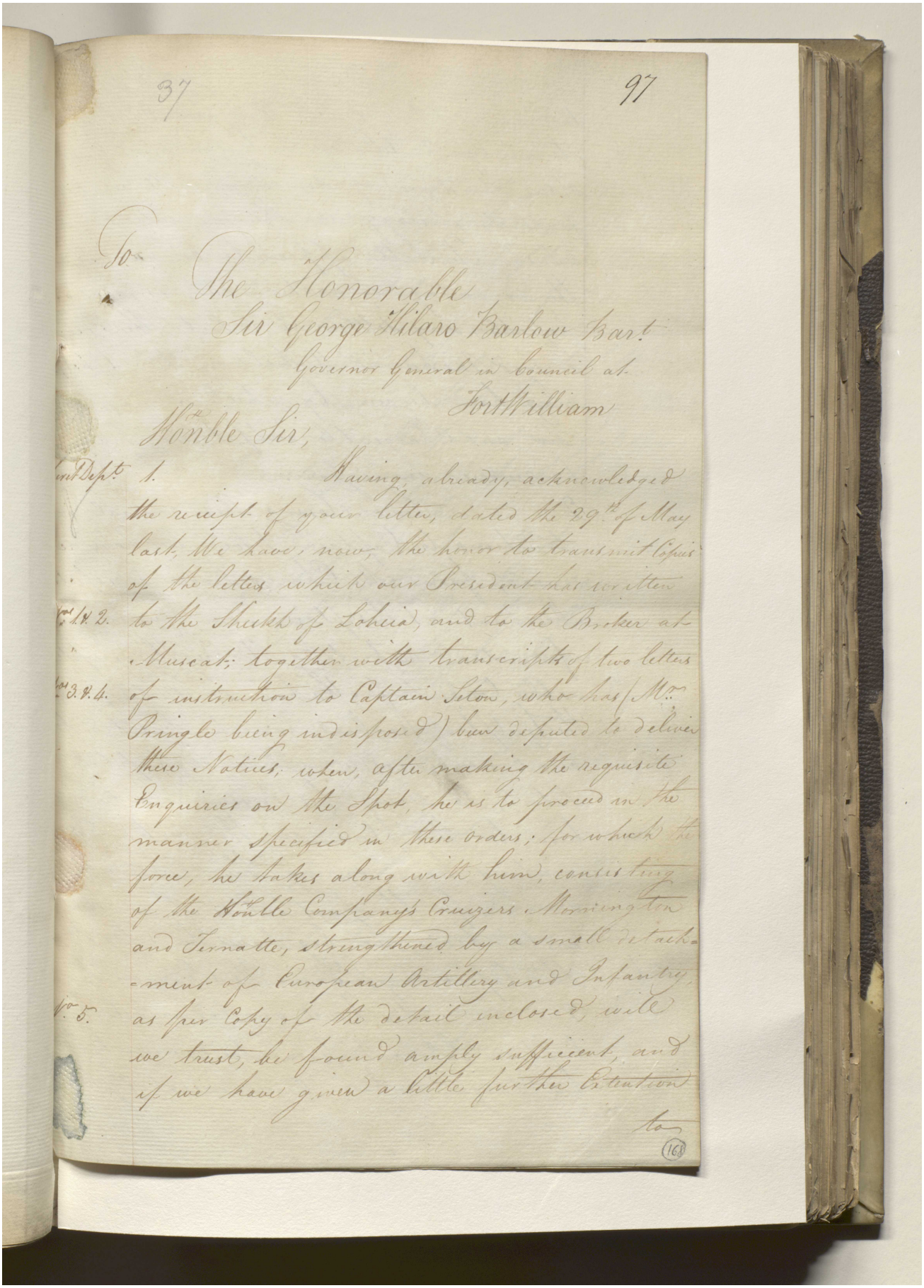

37 97

To

The Honorable
Sir George Hilaro Barlow Bart.
Governor General in Council at
Fort William

Honble Sir,

Secret Dept. 1. Having, already, acknowledged the receipt of your letter, dated the 29th of May last, We have, now, the honor to transmit Copies of the letters which our President has written
Nos. 1 & 2. to the Sheikh of Loheia, and to the Broker at Muscat; together with transcripts of two letters
Nos. 3 & 4. of instruction to Captain Seton, who has (Mr. Pringle being indisposed) been deputed to deliver these Notices; when, after making the requisite Enquiries on the Spot, he is to proceed in the manner specified in these orders; for which the force, he takes along with him, consisting of the Honble Company's Cruizers Mornington and Ternatte, strengthened by a small detachment of European Artillery and Infantry,
No. 5. as per Copy of the detail enclosed, will we trust, be found amply sufficient, and if we have given a little further Extention

to

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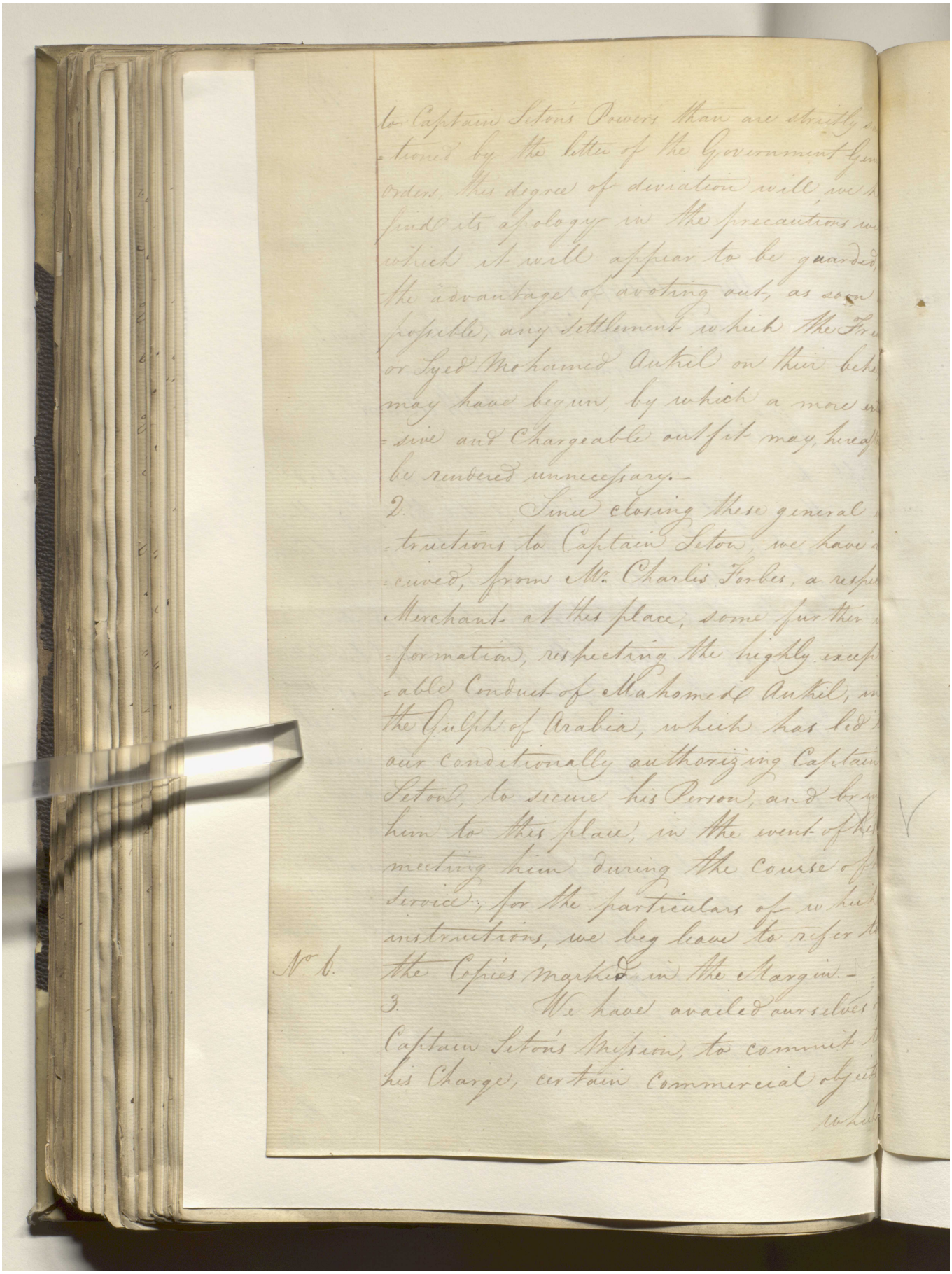
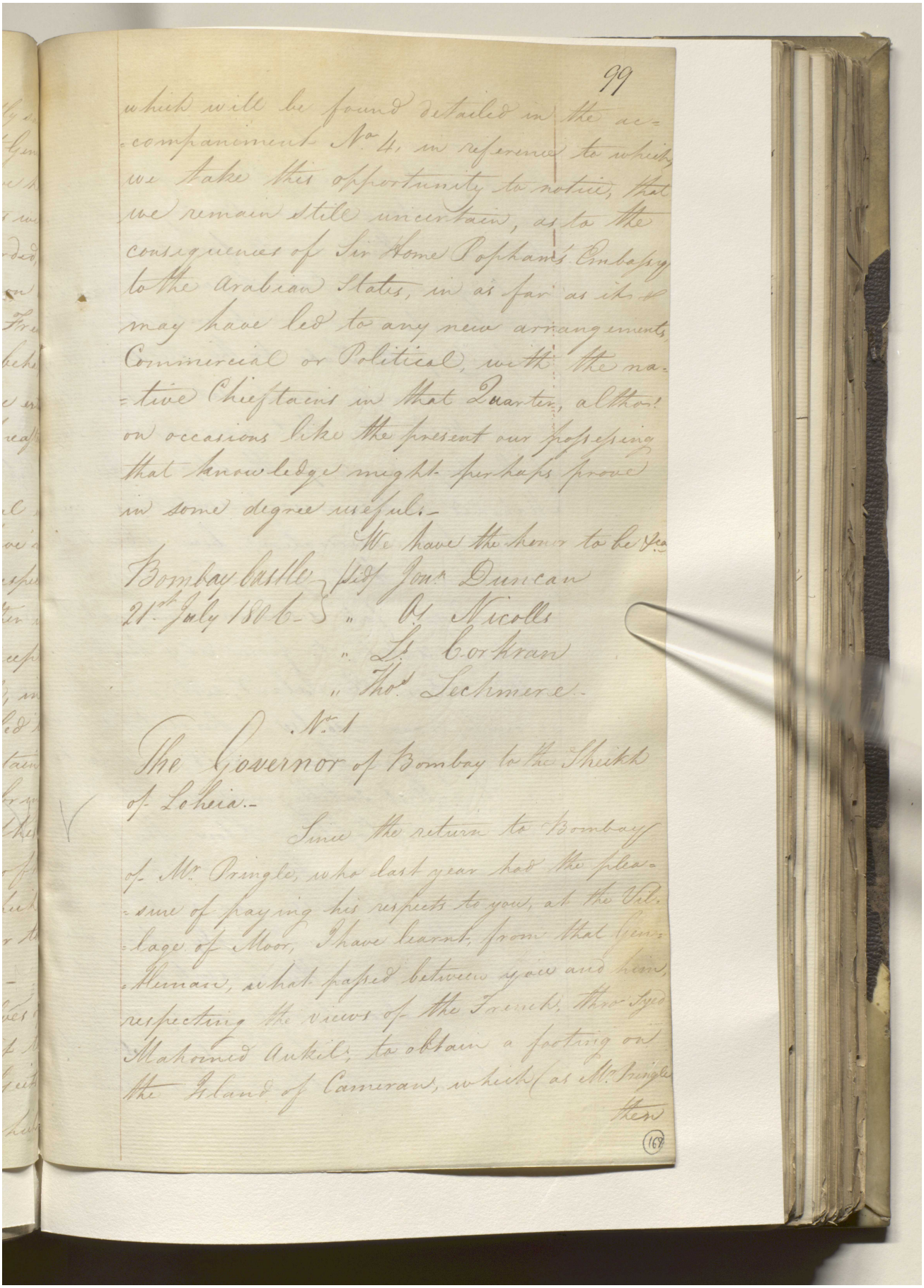


to Captain Setons Powers than are strictly
tioned by the letter of the Government
orders. This degree of deviation will we
find its apology in the precautions
which it will appear to be guarded
the advantage of availing ourselves, as soon
possible, any settlement which the Fre
or Syed Mohamed Anthil on their beh
may have begun, by which a more
sive and Chargeable outfit may, hereaf
be rendered unnecessary.—

2. Since closing these general
tructions to Captain Seton, we have
ceived, from Mr. Charles Forbes, a respe
Merchant at this place, some further
formation, respecting the highly excep
able Conduct of Mahomed Anthil, in
the Gulph of Arabia, which has led
our conditionally authorizing Captain
Seton, to secure his Person, and bri
him to this place, in the event of he
meeting him during the course of
Service; for the particulars of which
instructions, we beg leave to refer to
the Copies marked in the Margin.— No 6.

3. We have availed ourselves
Captain Setons Mission, to commit
his Charge, certain Commercial objects
which

'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [169r] (97/264)



which will be found detailed in the accompaniment No. 4, in reference to which, we take this opportunity to notice, that we remain still uncertain, as to the consequences of Sir Home Popham's Embassy to the Arabian States, in as far as it may have led to any new arrangements, Commercial or Political, with the native Chieftains in that Quarter, altho: on occasions like the present our possessing that knowledge might perhaps prove in some degree useful.-

We have the honor to be &ca

Bombay Castle 21st July 1806 } (Sd) Jon. Duncan
" Os Nicolls
" Ls Corkran
" Thos Lechmere.-

No. 1

The Governor of Bombay to the Sheikh of Loheia.-

Since the return to Bombay of Mr Pringle, who last year had the pleasure of paying his respects to you, at the Village of Moor, I have learnt, from that Gentleman, what passed between you and him, respecting the views of the French, thro' Syed Mahomed Aukil, to obtain a footing on the Island of Cameran, which (as Mr Pringle then

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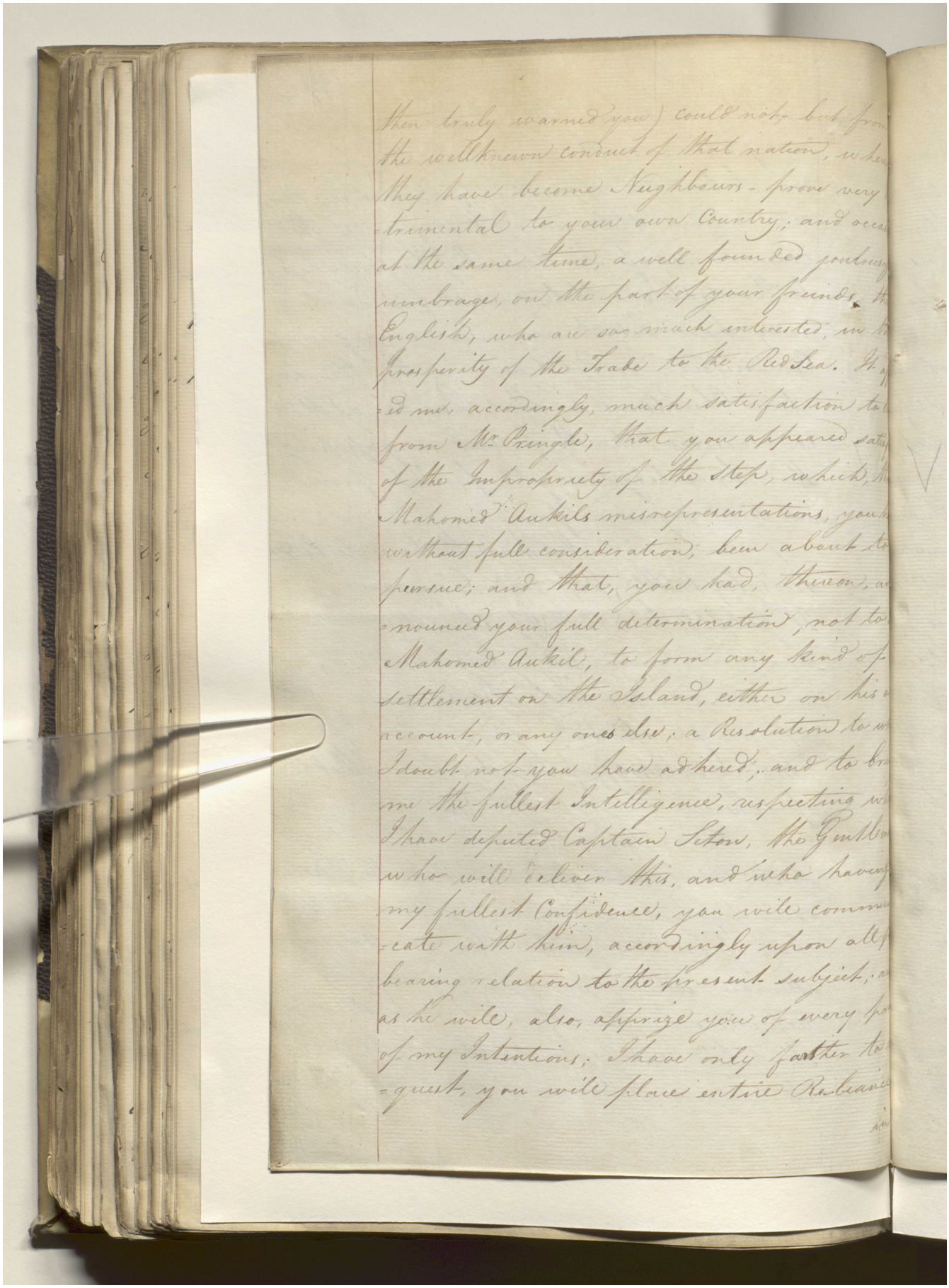

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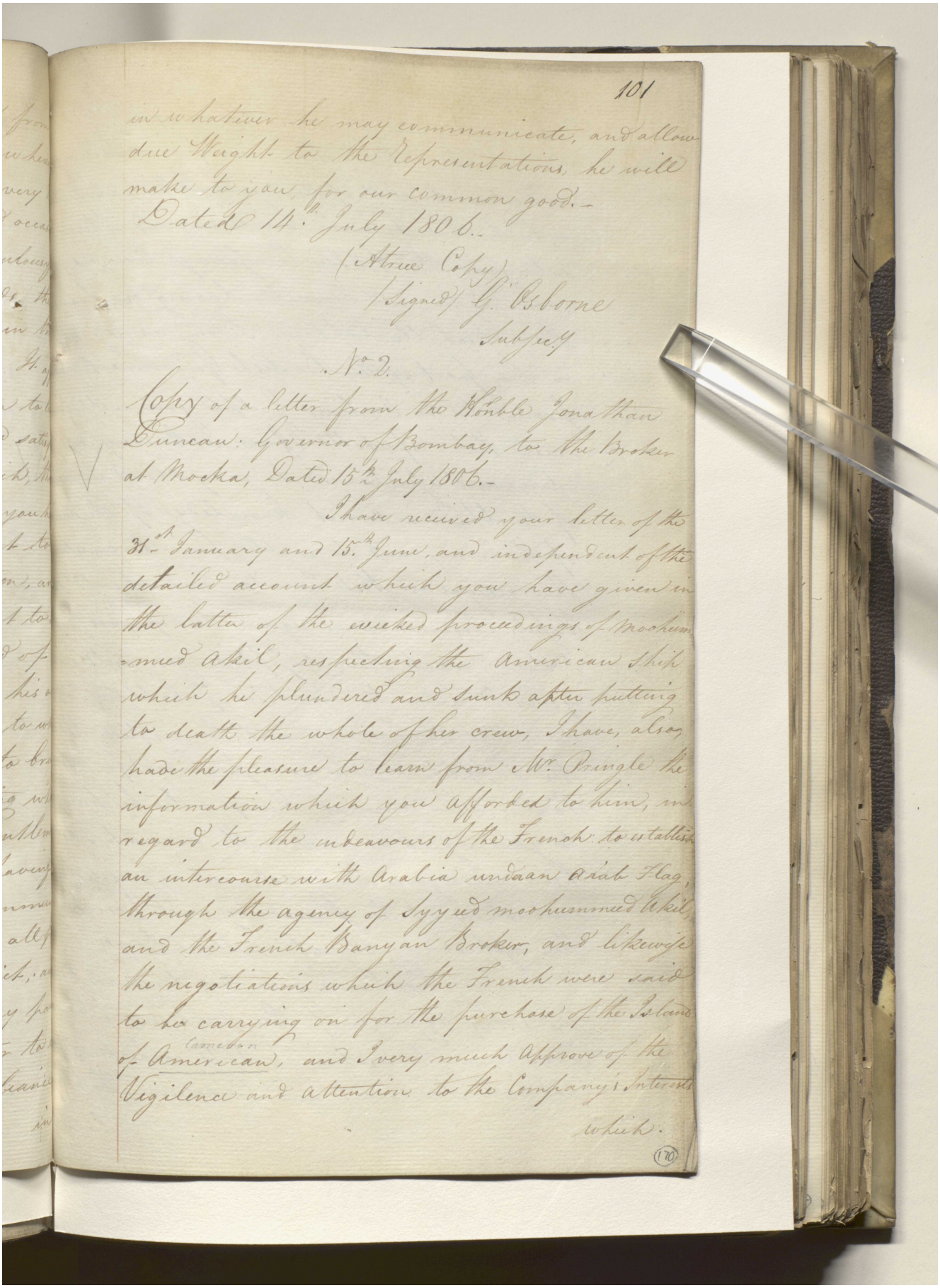

in whatever he may communicate, and allow due Weight to the Representations, he will make to you, for our common good.-

Dated 14th July 1806.-

(A true Copy)

(Signed) G. Osborne

Subsecy

No. 2.

Copy of a letter from the Honble Jonathan Duncan: Governor of Bombay, to the Broker at Mocka, Dated 15th July 1806.-

I have received your letter of the 31st January and 15th June, and independent of the detailed account which you have given in the latter of the evicked proceedings of Moohummed Akil, respecting the American Ship which he plundered and sunk after putting to death the whole of her crew, I have, also, had the pleasure to learn from Mr. Pringle the information which you afforded to him, in regard to the endeavours of the French: to establish an intercourse with Arabia under an Arab Flag, through the agency of Syyed moohummed Akil, and the French Banyan Broker, and likewise the negotiations which the French were said to be carrying on for the purchase of the Island of American (Cameron), and I very much Approve of the Vigilence and attention to the Company's Interests which:

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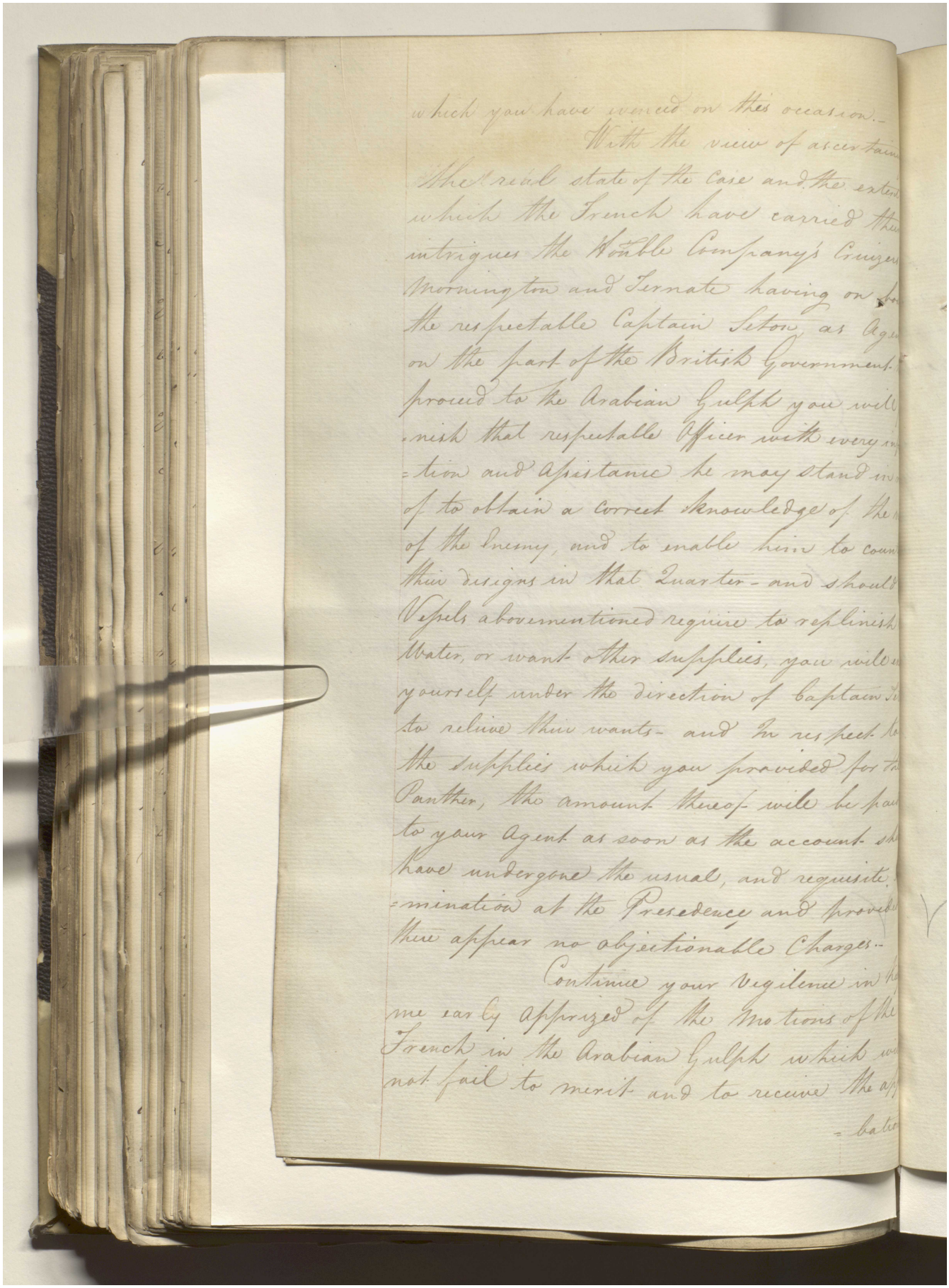

which you have evinced on this occasion.-
With the view of ascertain
the real state of the Case and the exten
which the French have carried the
intrigues the Honble Company's Cruizer
Morrington and Ternate having on b
the respectable Captain Seton as Age
on the part of the British Government
proceed to the Arabian Gulph you will
nish that respectable Officer with every in
=tion and Assistance he may stand in
of to obtain a correct knowledge of the
of the Enemy, and to enable him to coun
their designs in that Quarter - and should
Vessels abovementioned require to replenish
Water, or want other supplies, you will
yourself under the direction of Captain S
to relieve their wants - and in respect to
the supplies which you provided for th
Panther, the amount thereof will be pa
to your Agent as soon as the account sh
have undergone the usual, and requisite
=mination at the Presidency and prove
there appear no objectionable Charges.-
Continue your Vigilence in ho
me early apprized of the Motions of the
French in the Arabian Gulph which w
not fail to merit and to receive the ap
= bati

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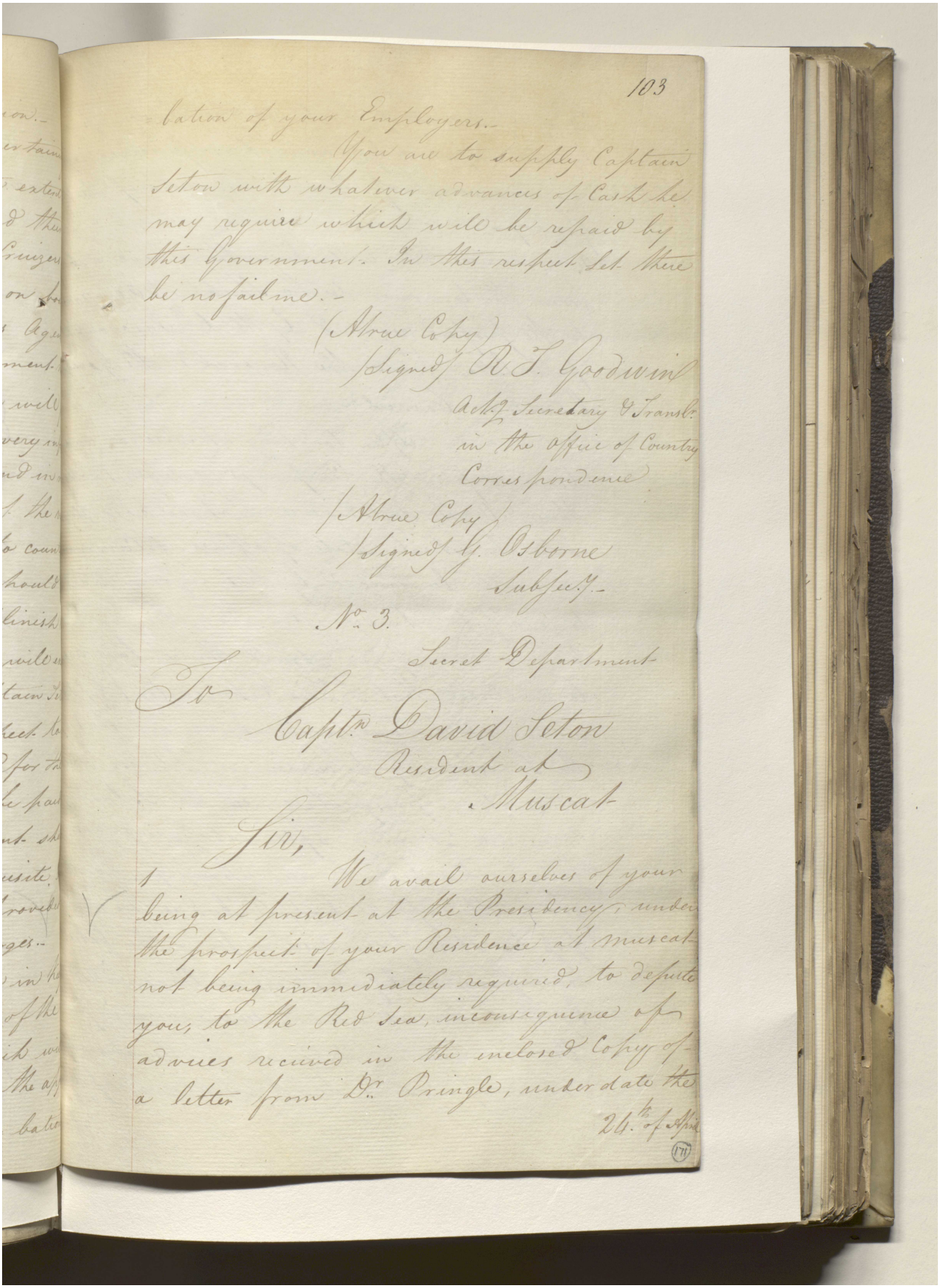

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-lation of your Employers.-

You are to supply Captain Seton with whatever advances of Cash he may require which will be repaid by this Government. In this respect let there be no failure.-

(A true Copy)
(Signed) R. T. Goodwin
Actg Secretary & Transltr
in the Office of Country
Correspondence

(A true Copy)
(Signed) G. Osborne
Subsecy.-

No. 3.

Secret Department

To
Captn David Seton
Resident at
Muscat

Sir,

We avail ourselves of your being at present at the Presidency, under the prospect of your Residence at Muscat not being immediately required, to depute you to the Red Sea, in consequence of advices received in the inclosed Copy of a letter from Dr. Pringle, under date the 24th of April

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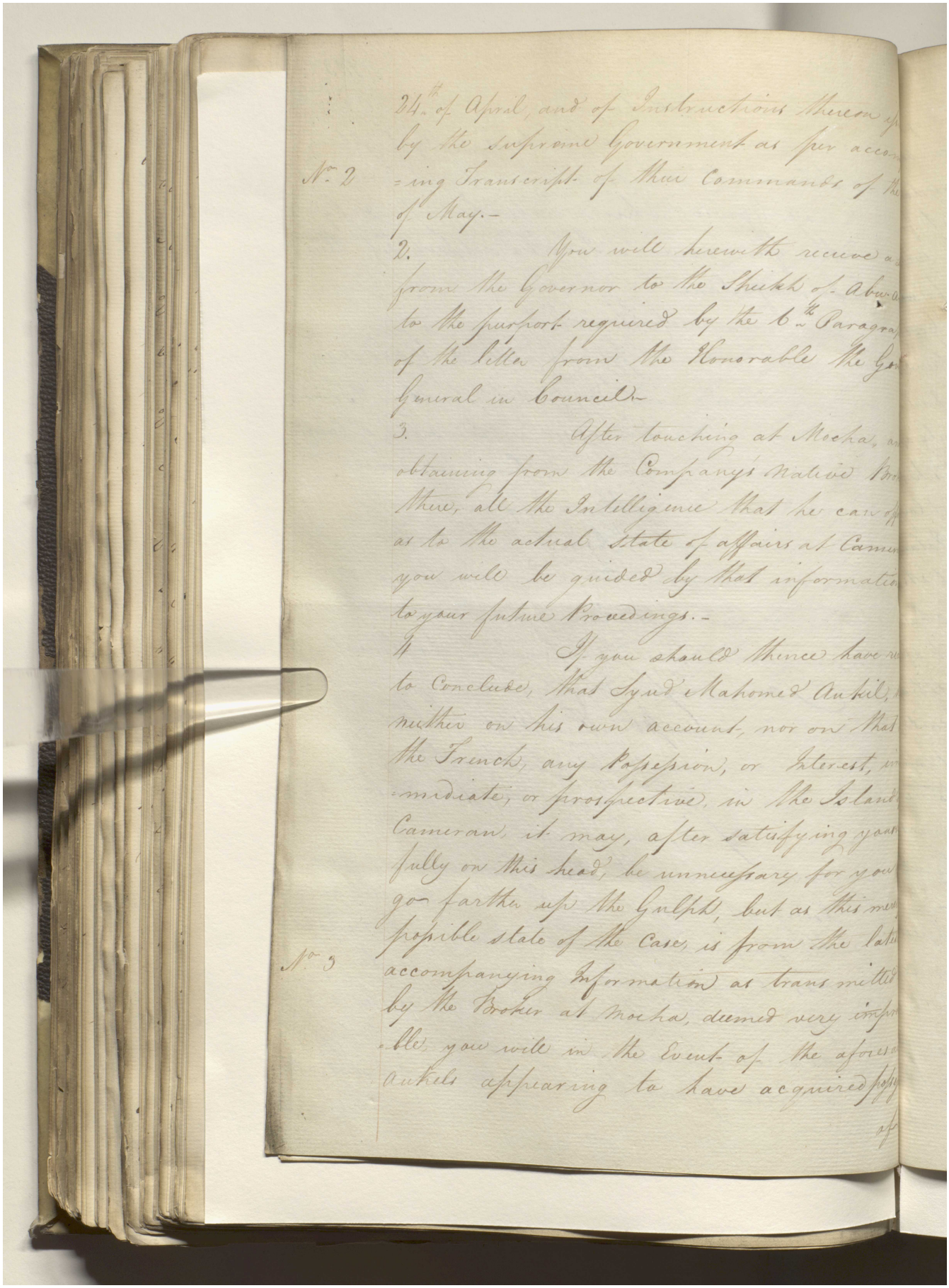

24th of April, and of Instructions thereon
by the Supreme Government as per acco-
No. 2 -ing Transcript of their Commands of the
of May.-

2. You will herewith receive a
from the Governor to the Sheikh of Abw
to the purport required by the 6th Paragra
of the letter from the Honorable the Go
neral in Council-

3. After touching at Mocha, a
obtaining from the Company's native Bro
there, all the Intelligence that he can
as to the actual State of affairs at Camu
you will be guided by that informatio
to your future Proceedings.-

4 If you should thence have re
to Conclude, that Syud Mahomed Antil,
neither on his own account, nor on that
the French, any Possession, or Interest, i
-mediate, or prospective, in the Island
Cameran, it may, after satisfying you
fully on this head, be unnecessary for you
go farther up the Gulph, but as this mo
possible state of the Case, is from the lat
No. 3 accompanying Information as trans mitte
by the Broker at Mocha, deemed very impo
-tle, you will in the Event of the afores
Antels appearing to have acquired pos
of

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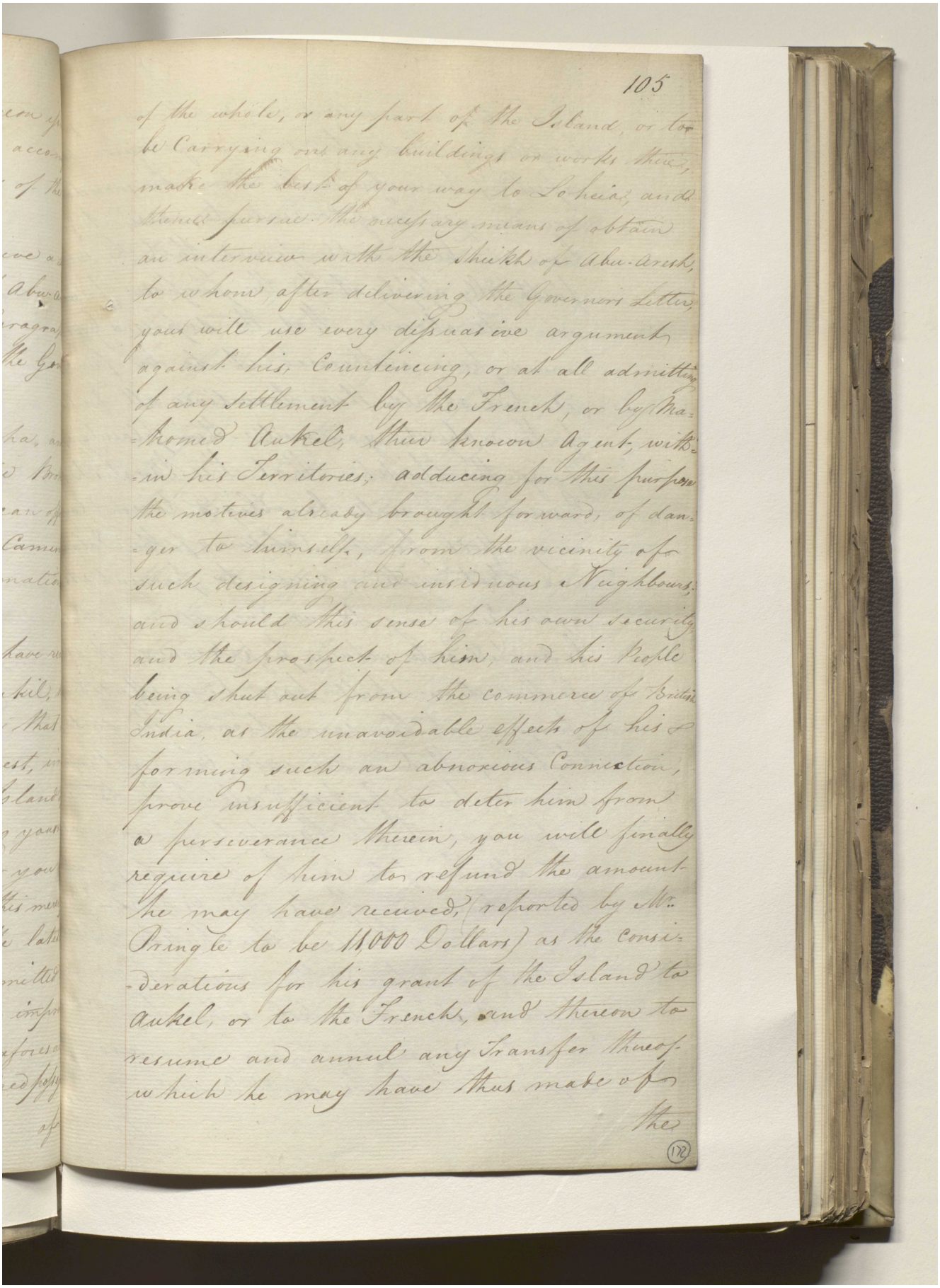

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of the whole, or any part of the Island, or to be Carrying on any buildings or works there, make the best of your way to Loheia, and there pursue the necessary means of obtaining an interview with the Sheikh of Abu-Arish, to whom after delivering the Governors Letter, you will use every dissuasive argument against his Commencing, or at all admitting of any settlement by the French, or by Mahomed Aukel, their knowon Agent, within his Territories; adducing for this purpose the motives already brought forward, of danger to himself, from the vicinity of such designing and insidious Neighbours: and should this sense of his own security and the prospect of him, and his People being shut out from the commerce of British India, as the unavoidable effects of his forming such an abnoxious Connection, prove insufficient to deter him from a perseverance therein, you will finally require of him to refund the amount he may have received, (reported by Mr. Pringle to be 11000 Dollars) as the consideration for his grant of the Island to Aukel, or to the French, and thereon to resume and annul any Transfer thereof which he may have thus made of the

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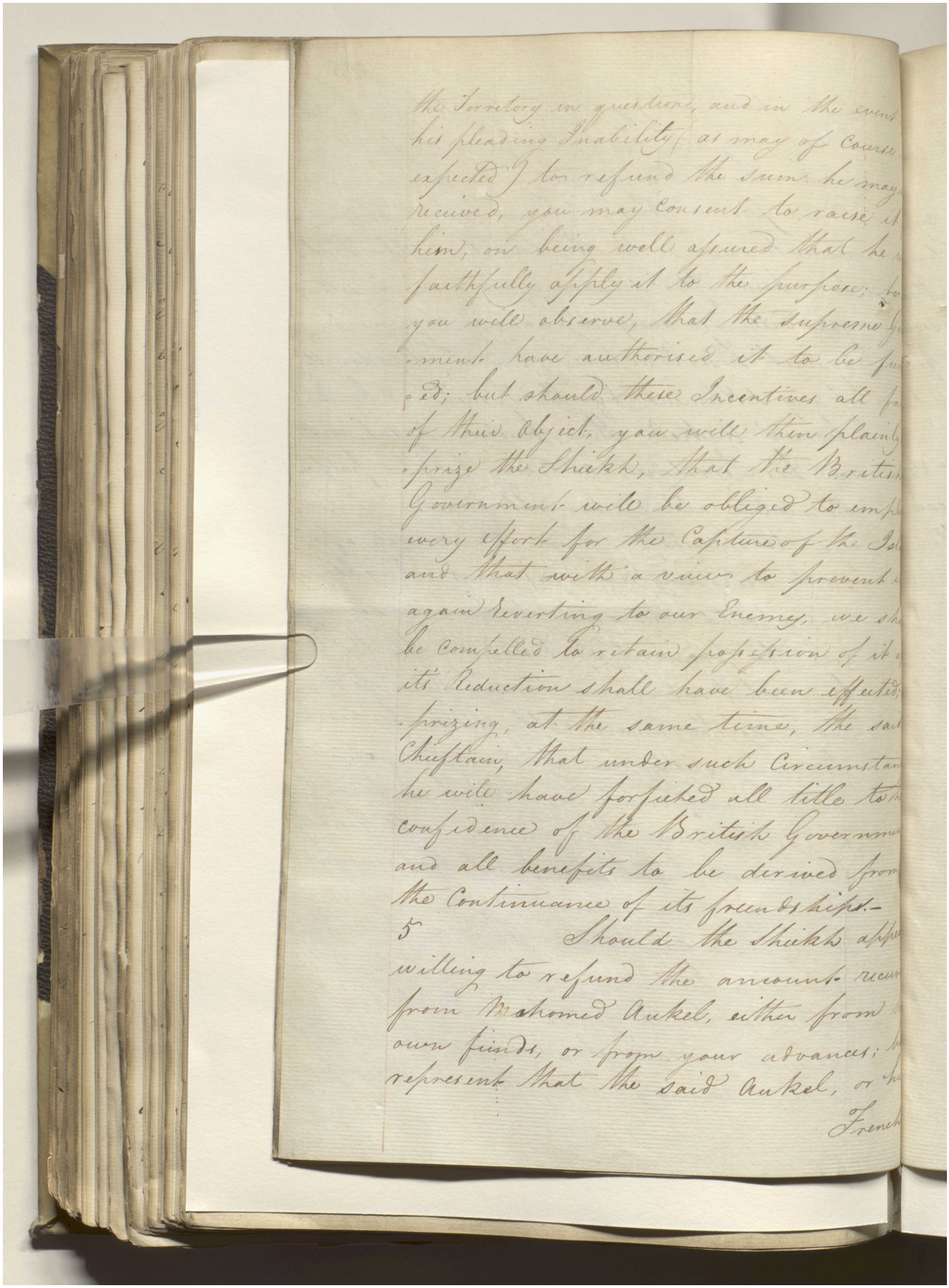

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the Territory in question, and in the event
his pleading Inability (as may of Course
expected) to refund the sum he may
received, you may consent to raise it
him, on being well assured that he w
faithfully apply it to the purpose; bo
you will observe, that the supreme Go
-ment have authorised it to be fur
-ed; but should these Incentives all fa
of their Object, you will then plainly
-prize the Shiekh, that the British
Government will be obliged to empl
every effort for the Capture of the Isl
and that with a view to prevent i
again reverting to our Enemy, we sh
be compelled to retain possession of it a
its Reduction shall have been effected;
-prizing, at the same time, the said
Chieftain, that under such Circumstan
he will have forfeited all title to th
confidence of the British Governme
and all benefits to be derived from
the Continuance of its freendships.—

5 Should the Shiekh appe
willing to refund the amount recei
from Mahomed Aukel, either from h
own funds, or from your advances; b
represent that the said Aukel, or he

French

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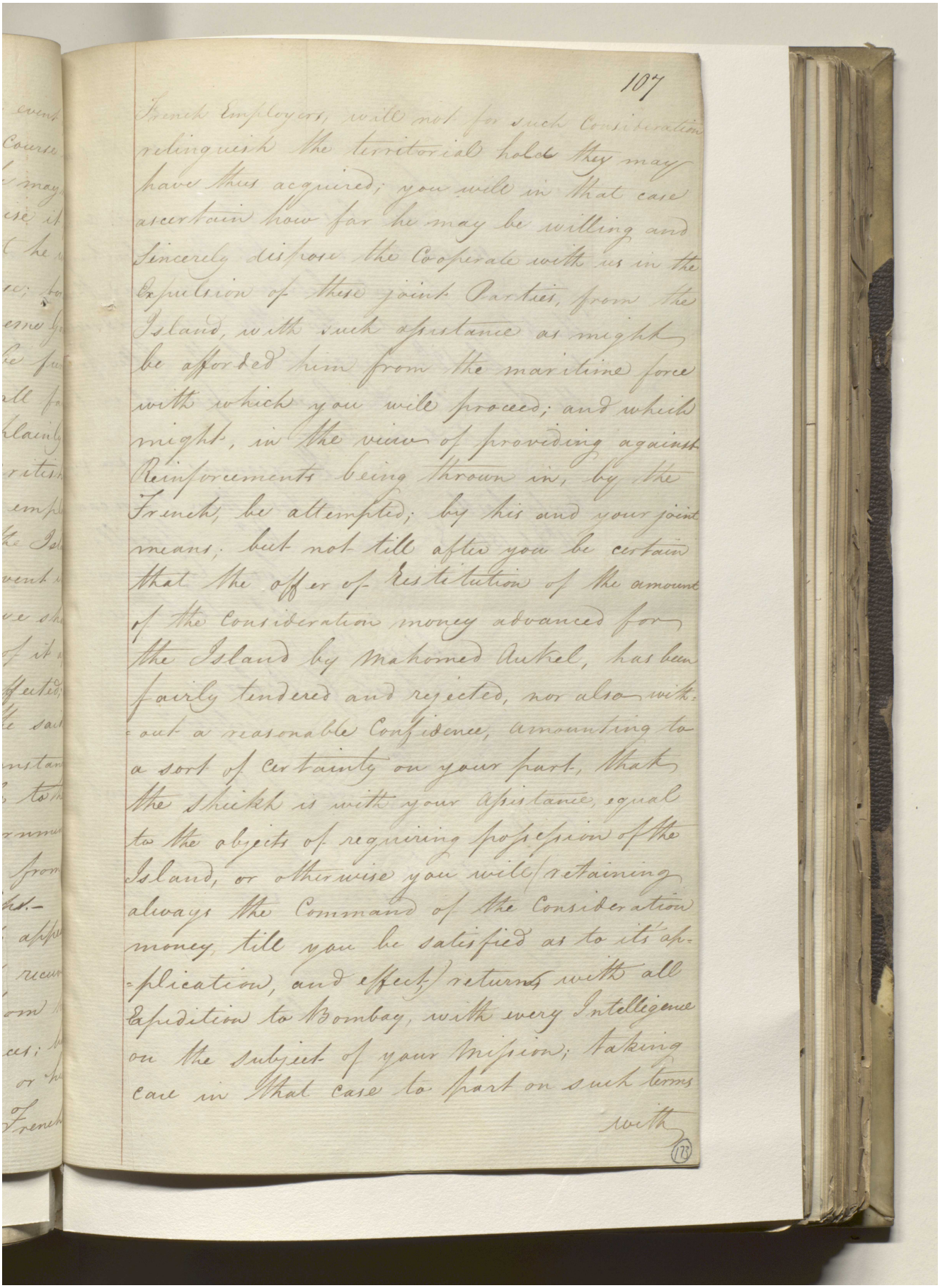

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French Employers, will not for such Consideration relinquish the territorial holds they may have thus acquired; you will in that case ascertain how far he may be willing and sincerely disposed to Cooperate with us in the Expulsion of these joint Parties, from the Island, with such assistance as might be afforded him from the maritime force with which you will proceed; and which might, in the view of providing against Reinforcements being thrown in, by the French, be attempted; by his and your joint means, but not till after you be certain that the offer of Restitution of the amount of the Consideration money advanced for the Island by Mahomed Ankel, has been fairly tendered and rejected, nor also without a reasonable Confidence, amounting to a sort of Certainty on your part, that the Shiekh is with your assistance, equal to the objects of requiring possession of the Island, or otherwise you will retaining always the Command of the Consideration money, till you be satisfied as to its application, and effect, returns with all Expedition to Bombay, with every Intelligence on the subject of your Mission; taking care in that case to part on such terms

with

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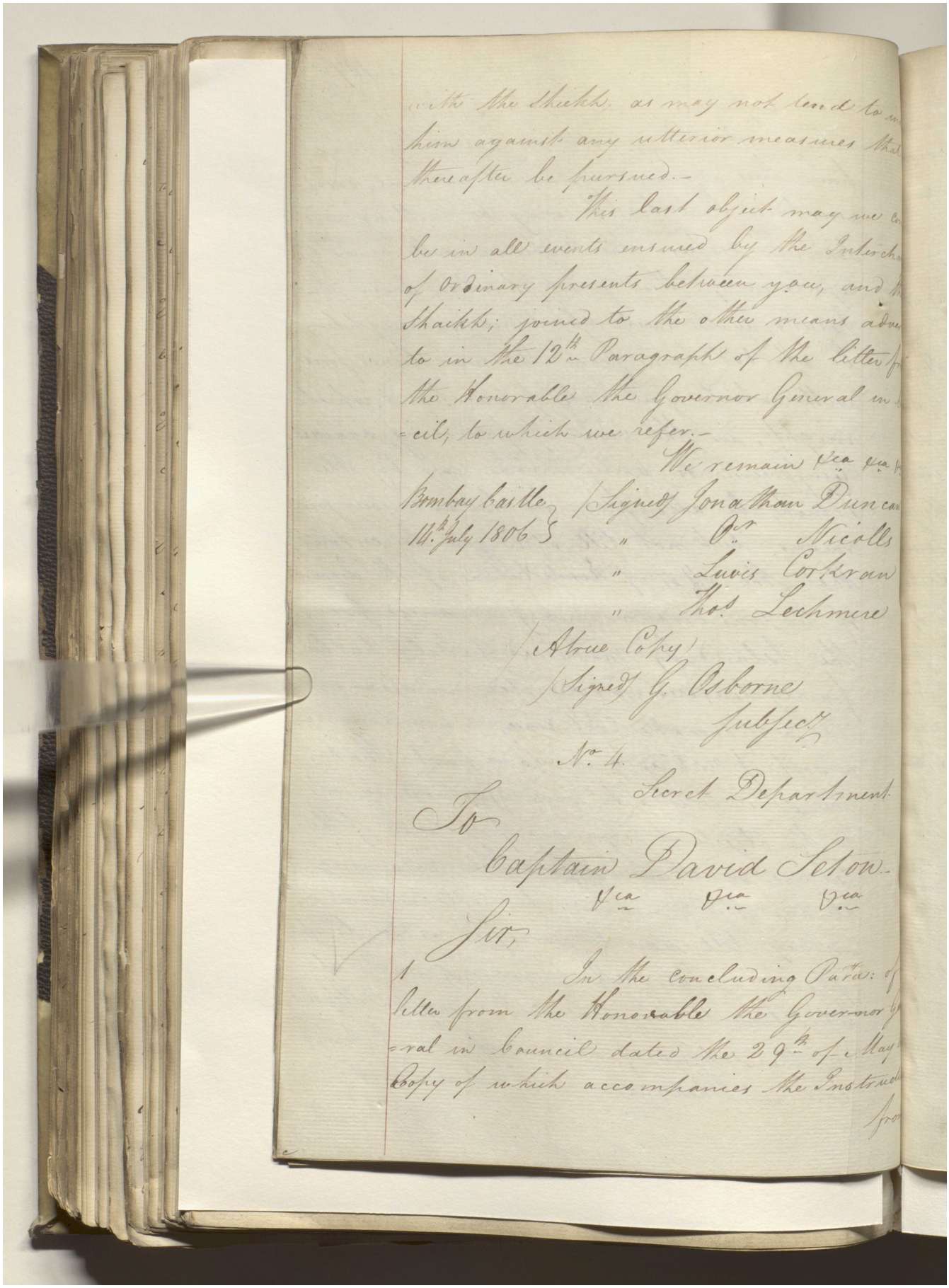
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [173v] (106/264)



with the Shiekh, as may not tend to in[illegible] him against any ulterior measures that thereafter be pursued.—

This last object may we co[illegible] be in all events ensured by the Interchan[illegible] of Ordinary presents between you, and th[illegible] Shaikh; joined to the other means adver[illegible] to in the 12th Paragraph of the letter fr[illegible] the Honorable the Governor General in C[illegible]-cil, to which we refer.—

We remain &ca &ca &ca

Bombay Castle 14th July 1806 } (Signed) Jonathan Duncan
" Dr Nicolls
" Lewis Corkran
" Thos Lechmere

(A true Copy)
(Signed) G. Osborne
Subsecy

No. 4.

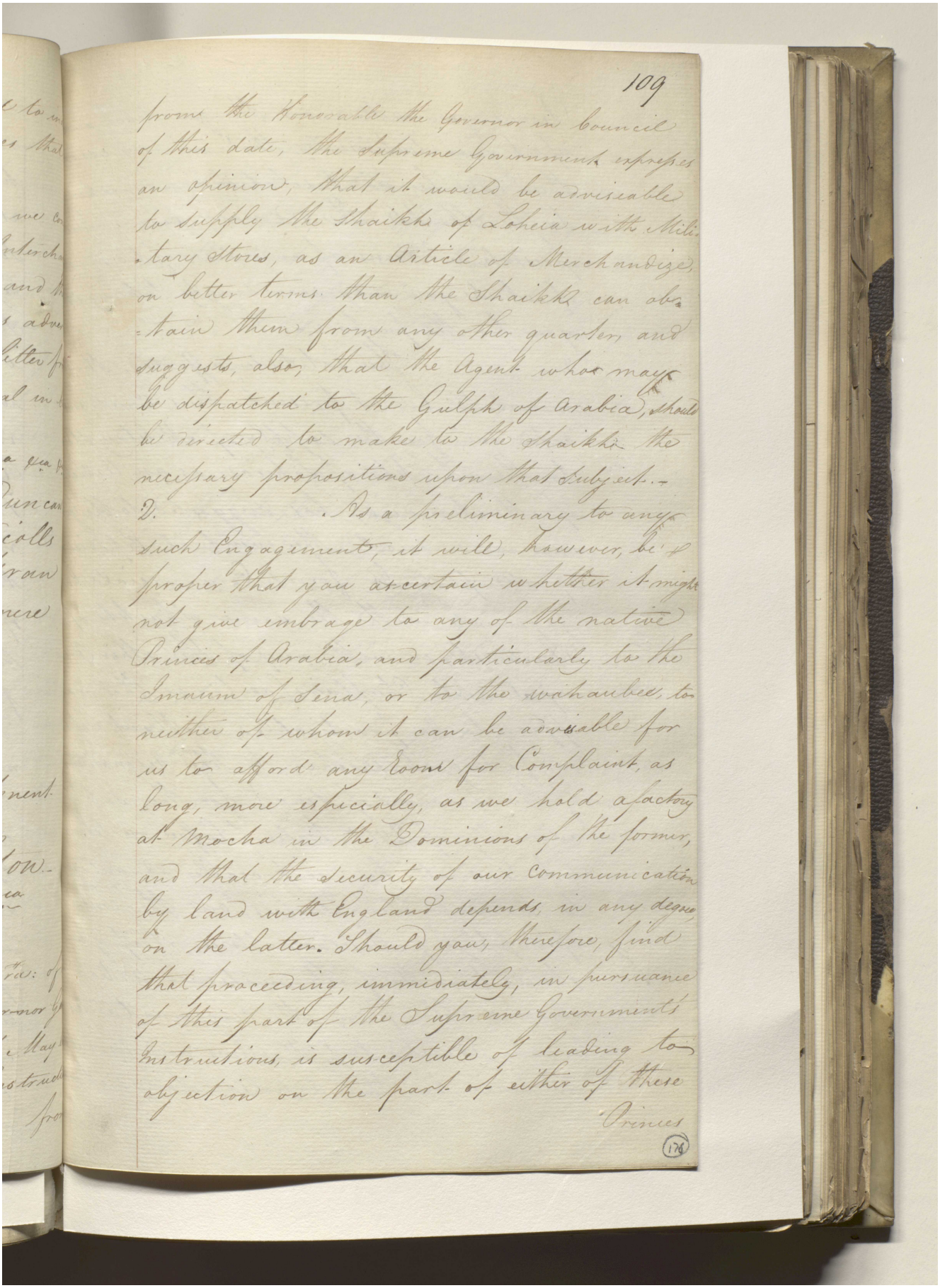
Secret Department.

To
Captain David Seton.
&ca &ca &ca

Sir,

1 In the concluding Para: of [illegible] letter from the Honorable the Governor Ge[illegible]-ral in Council dated the 29th of May [illegible] Copy of which accompanies the Instructi[illegible]

from



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from the Honorable the Governor in Council of this date, the Supreme Government expresses an opinion, that it would be advisable to supply the Shaikhs of Loheia with Military Stores, as an Article of Merchandize, on better terms than the Shaikhs can obtain them from any other quarter, and suggests, also, that the Agent who may be dispatched to the Gulph of Arabia, should be directed to make to the Shaikhs the necessary propositions upon that Subject.

2. As a preliminary to any such Engagements, it will, however, be proper that you ascertain whether it might not give embrage to any of the native Princes of Arabia, and particularly to the Imaum of Sena, or to the Wahaubee, to neither of whom it can be advisable for us to afford any Room for Complaint, as long, more especially, as we hold a factory at Mocha in the Dominions of the former, and that the security of our Communication by Land with England depends in any degree on the latter. Should you, therefore, find that proceeding, immidiately, in pursuance of this part of the Supreme Government's Instructions, is susceptible of leading to objection on the part of either of these

Princes

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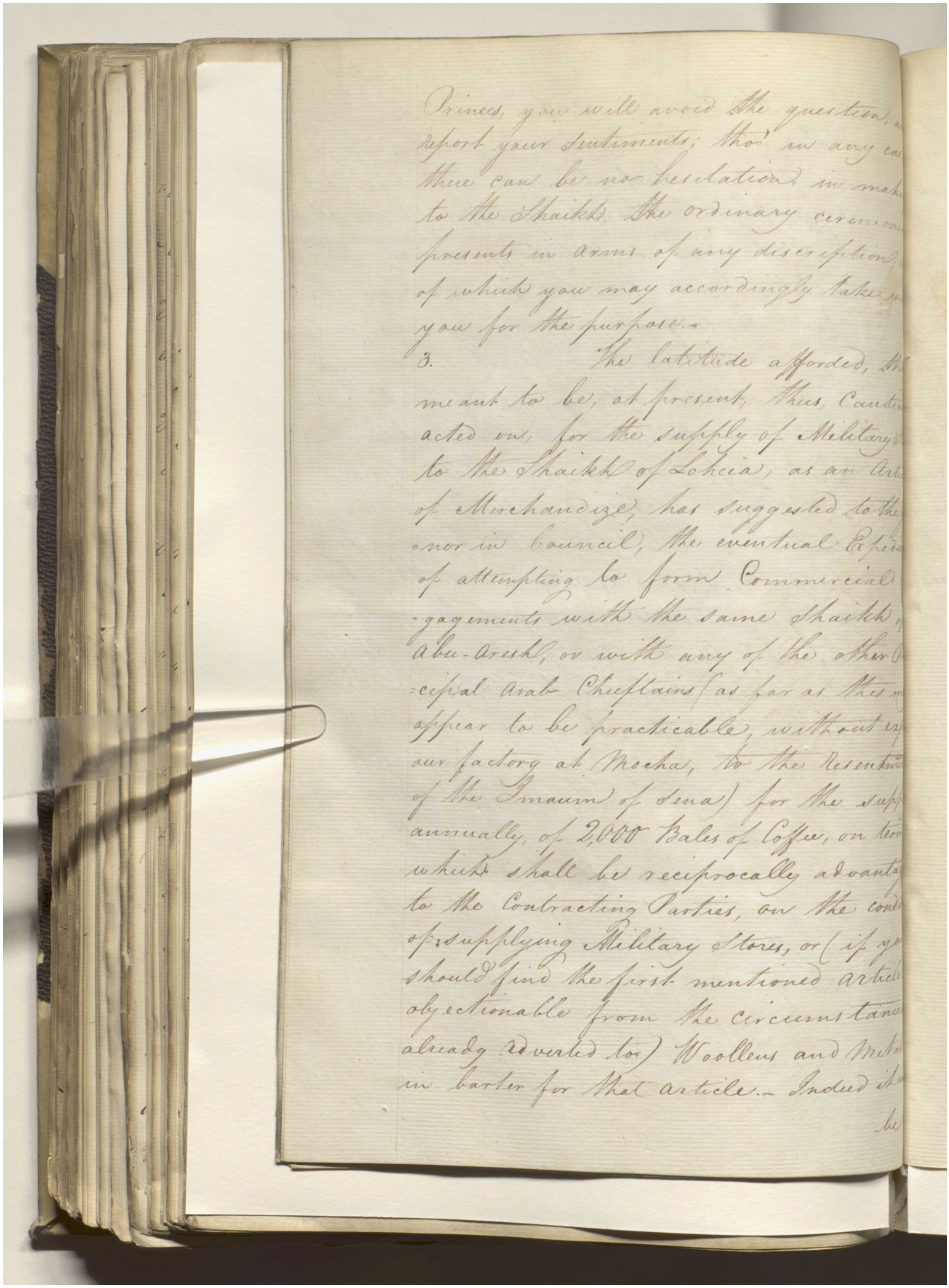

Princes, you will avoid the question, a
report your sentiments; tho' in any ca
there can be no hesitation in mak
to the Shaikh. The ordinary ceremon
presents in arms of any discription
of which you may accordingly take
you for the purpose.

3. The latitude afforded, th
meant to be, at present, thus Caut
acted on, for the supply of Military
to the Shaikh of Lohcia, as an Art
of Merchandize, has suggested to the
-nor in Council, the eventual Expe
of attempting to form Commercial
-gagements with the same Shaikh
abu-Areish, or with any of the other
-cipal Arab Chieftains (as far as thes
appear to be practicable, without ex
our factory at Mocha, to the Resentm
of the Imaum of Sena) for the supp
annually, of 2,000 Bales of Coffee, on ter
which shall be reciprocally advanta
to the Contracting Parties, on the cond
of supplying Military Stores, or (if yo
should find the first mentioned article
objectionable from the circumstanc
already adverted to) Woollens and Meta
in barter for that article. Indeed it
be

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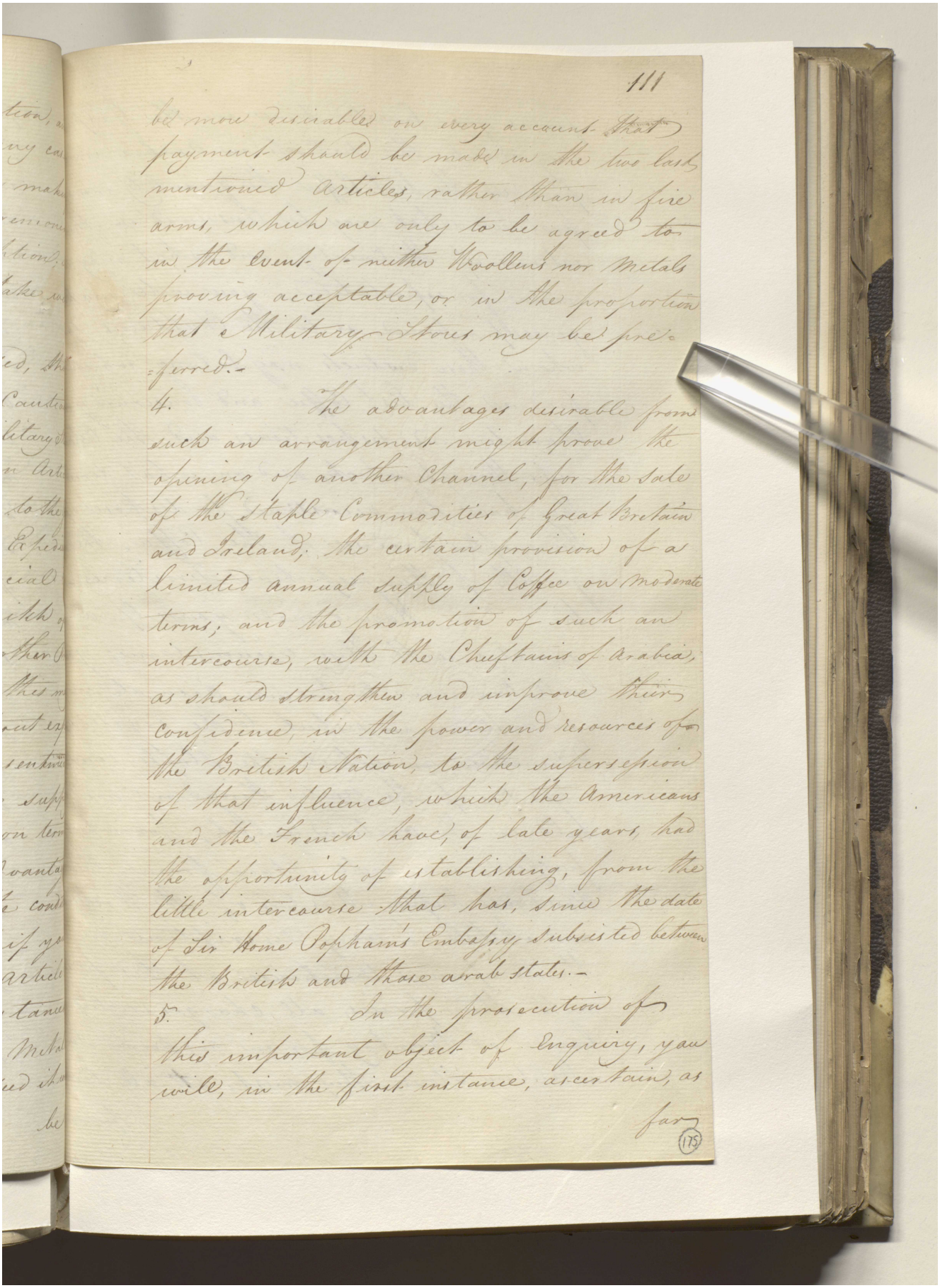

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be more desirable on every account that payment should be made in the two last mentioned articles, rather than in fire arms, which are only to be agreed to in the event of neither Woollens nor Metals proving acceptable, or in the proportion that Military Stores may be preferred.-

4. The advantages desirable from such an arrangement might prove the opening of another Channel, for the sale of the Staple Commodities of Great Britain and Ireland; the certain provision of a limited annual supply of Coffee on moderate terms, and the promotion of such an intercourse, with the Chieftains of Arabia, as should strengthen and improve their confidence in the power and resources of the British Nation, to the supersession of that influence, which the Americans and the French have, of late years, had the opportunity of establishing, from the little intercourse that has, since the date of Sir Home Popham's Embassy subsisted between the British and those arab states.-

5. In the prosecution of this important object of Enquiry, you will, in the first instance, ascertain, as far

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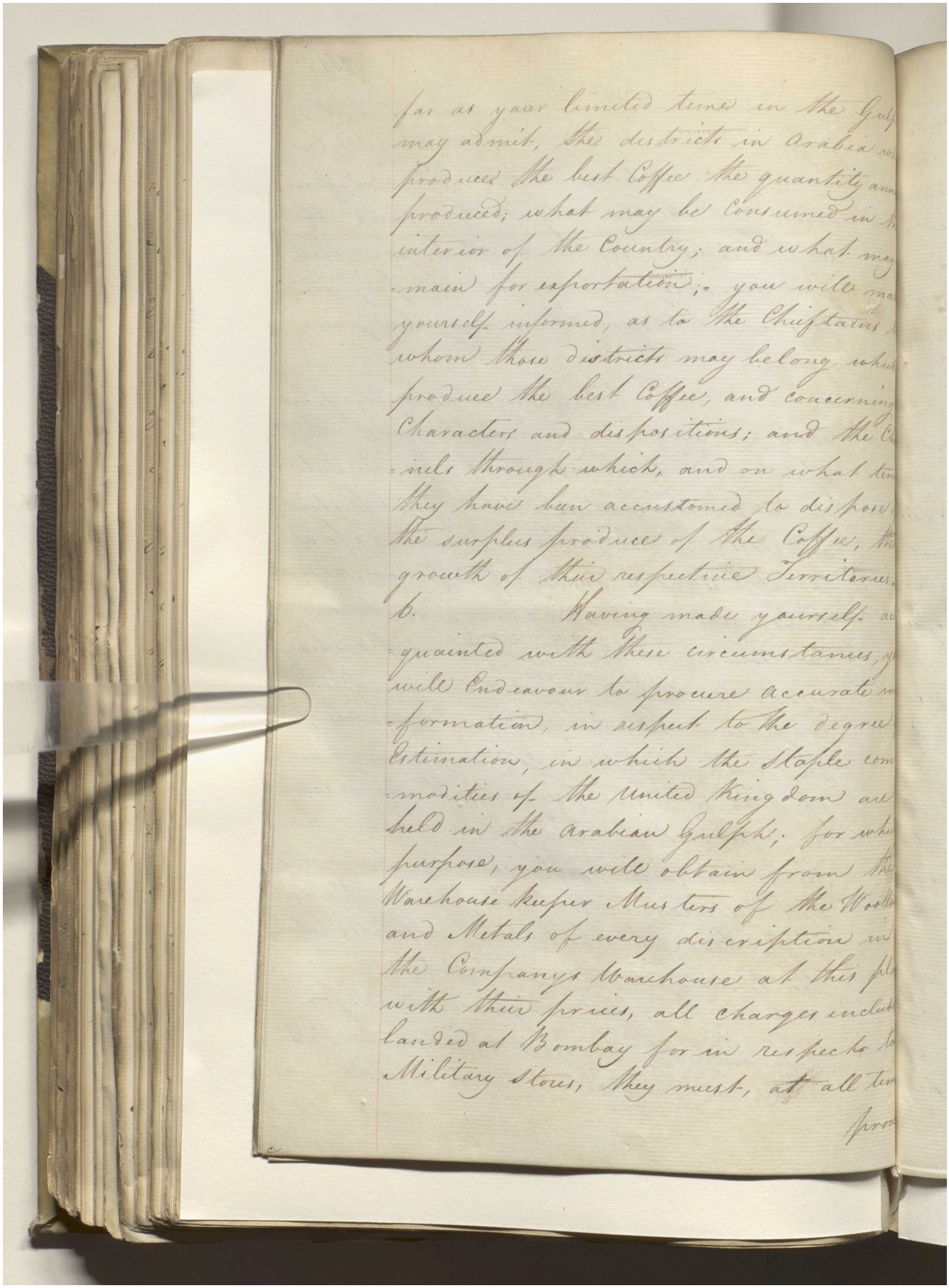

far as your limited time in the Gulf may admit, the districts in Arabia wh produces the best Coffee the quantity ann produced; what may be consumed in th interior of the Country; and what may remain for exportation; you will ma yourself informed, as to the Chieftains t whom those districts may belong, which produce the best Coffee, and concerning Characters and dispositions; and the Ch nels through which, and on what ter they have been accustomed to dispose the surplus produce of the Coffee, the growth of their respective Territories.

6. Having made yourself ac quainted with these circumstances, yo will Endeavour to procure accurate in formation, in respect to the degree Estimation, in which the Staple com modities of the United Kingdom are held in the Arabian Gulphs; for whic purpose, you will obtain from the Warehouse keeper Musters of the Woolle and Metals of every discription in the Companys Warehouse at this pla with their prices, all charges includ landed at Bombay for in respect to Military Stores, they must, at all ti

prov

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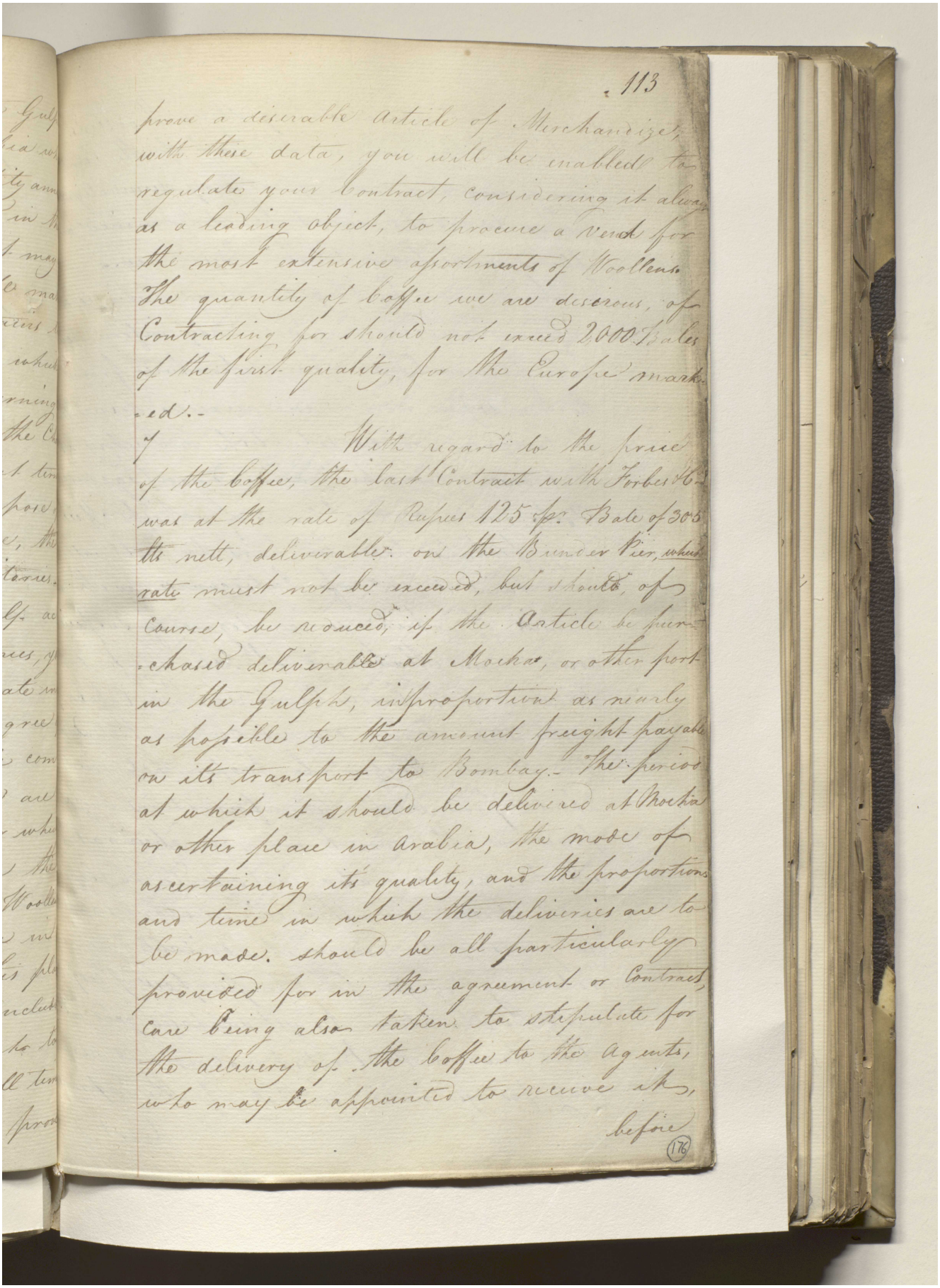

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prove a desirable Article of Merchandize, with these data, you will be enabled to regulate your Contract, considering it always as a leading object, to procure a Vend for the most extensive assortments of Woollens. The quantity of Coffee we are desirous, of Contracting for should not exceed 2000 Bales of the first quality, for the Europe market.

With regard to the price of the Coffee, the last Contract with Forbes & Co was at the rate of Rupees 125 pr. Bale of 303 lbs nett, deliverable on the Bunder Pier, which rate must not be exceeded, but should, of course, be reduced, if the Article be purchased deliverable at Mocha, or other port in the Gulph, in proportion as nearly as possible to the amount freight payable on its transport to Bombay. The period at which it should be delivered at Mocha or other place in Arabia, the mode of ascertaining its quality, and the proportions and time in which the deliveries are to be made, should be all particularly provided for in the agreement or Contract, care being also taken to stipulate for the delivery of the Coffee to the Agents, who may be appointed to receive it, before

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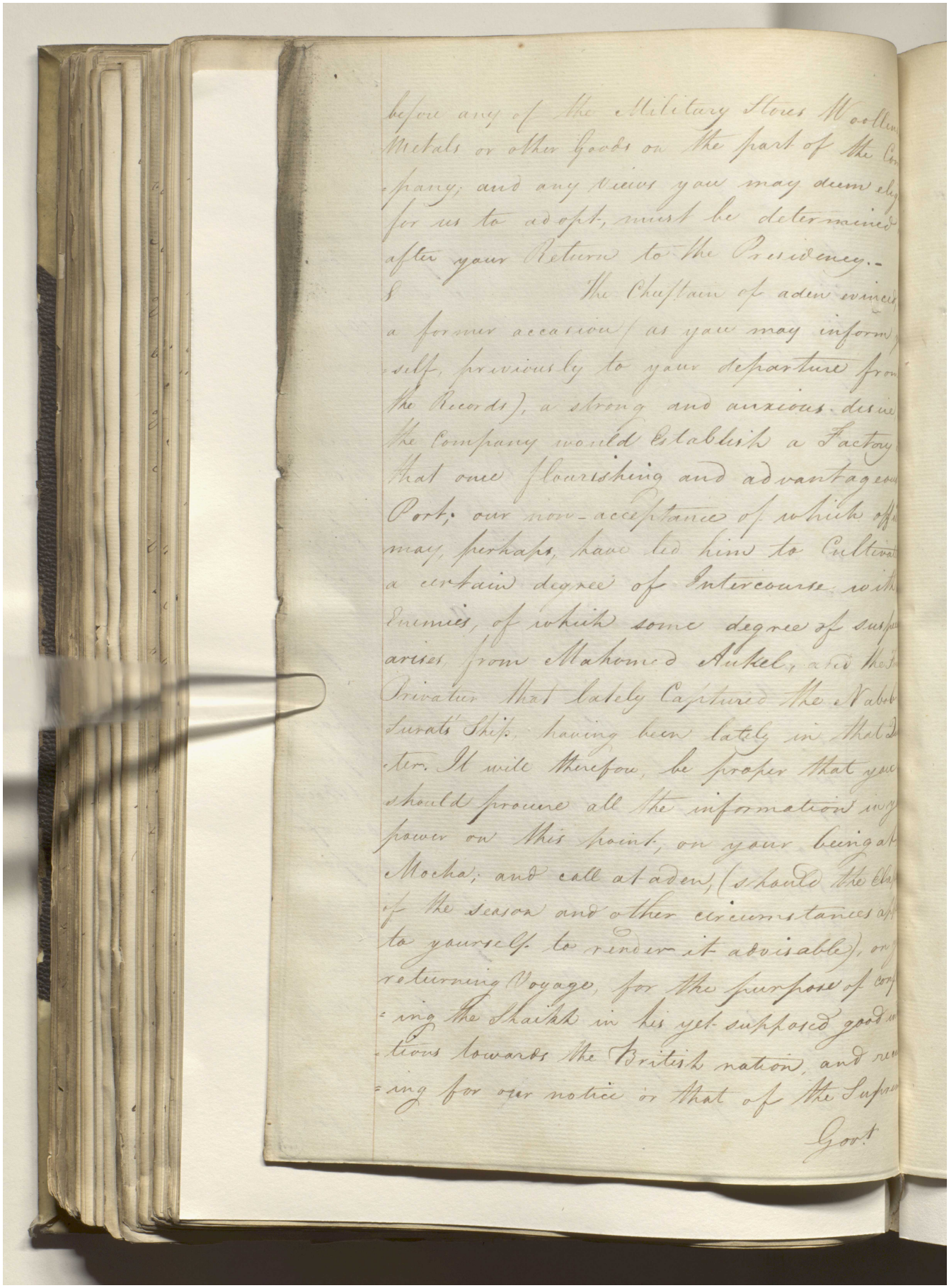

before any of the Military Stores Woollens
Metals or other Goods on the part of the Com-
-pany; and any views you may deem elig
for us to adopt, must be determined
after your Return to the Presidency.-

8 The Chieftain of aden evinced,
a former occasion (as you may inform y
-self, previously to your departure from
the Records), a strong and anxious desire
the Company would Establish a Factory
that once flourishing and advantageous
Port; our non-acceptance of which offe
may, perhaps, have led him to Cultivat
a certain degree of Intercourse with
Enemies, of which some degree of suspe
arises, from Mahomed Aukel, and the F
Privateer that lately Captured the Nabob
Surat's Ship, having been lately in that Di
-ter. It will therefore, be proper that you
should procure all the information in y
power on this point, on your being at
Mocha; and call at aden, (should the Clap
of the season and other circumstances app
to yourself to render it advisable), on y
returning Voyage, for the purpose of conf
-ing the Shaikh in his yet supposed good in
-tions towards the British nation, and rec
-ing for our notice or that of the Supre

Govt

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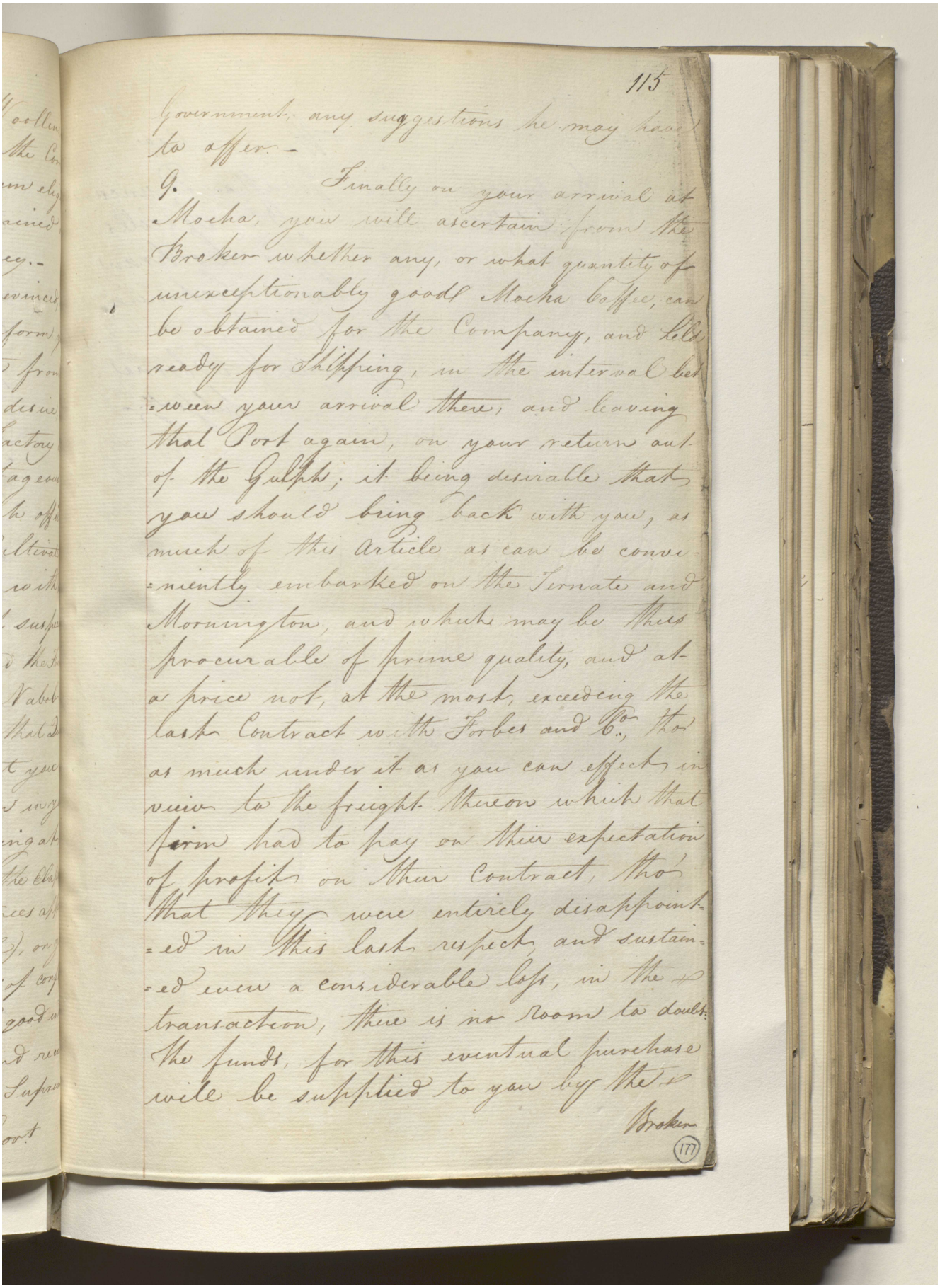

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Government any suggestions he may have to offer. –

9. Finally on your arrival at Mocha, you will ascertain from the Broker whether any, or what quantity of unexceptionably good Mocha Coffee, can be obtained for the Company, and held ready for Shipping, in the interval between your arrival there, and leaving that Port again, on your return out of the Gulph; it being desirable that you should bring back with you, as much of this Article as can be conveniently embarked on the Ternate and Mornington, and which may be there procurable of prime quality, and at a price not, at the most, exceeding the last Contract with Forbes and Co., tho' as much under it as you can effect in view to the freight thereon which that firm had to pay on their expectation of profits on their Contract, tho' that they were entirely disappointed in this last respect, and sustained even a considerable loss, in the transaction, there is no room to doubt the funds, for this eventual purchase will be supplied to you by the Broker

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [177v] (114/264)

Broker.—

We are &ca

Bombay Castle
14th July 1806

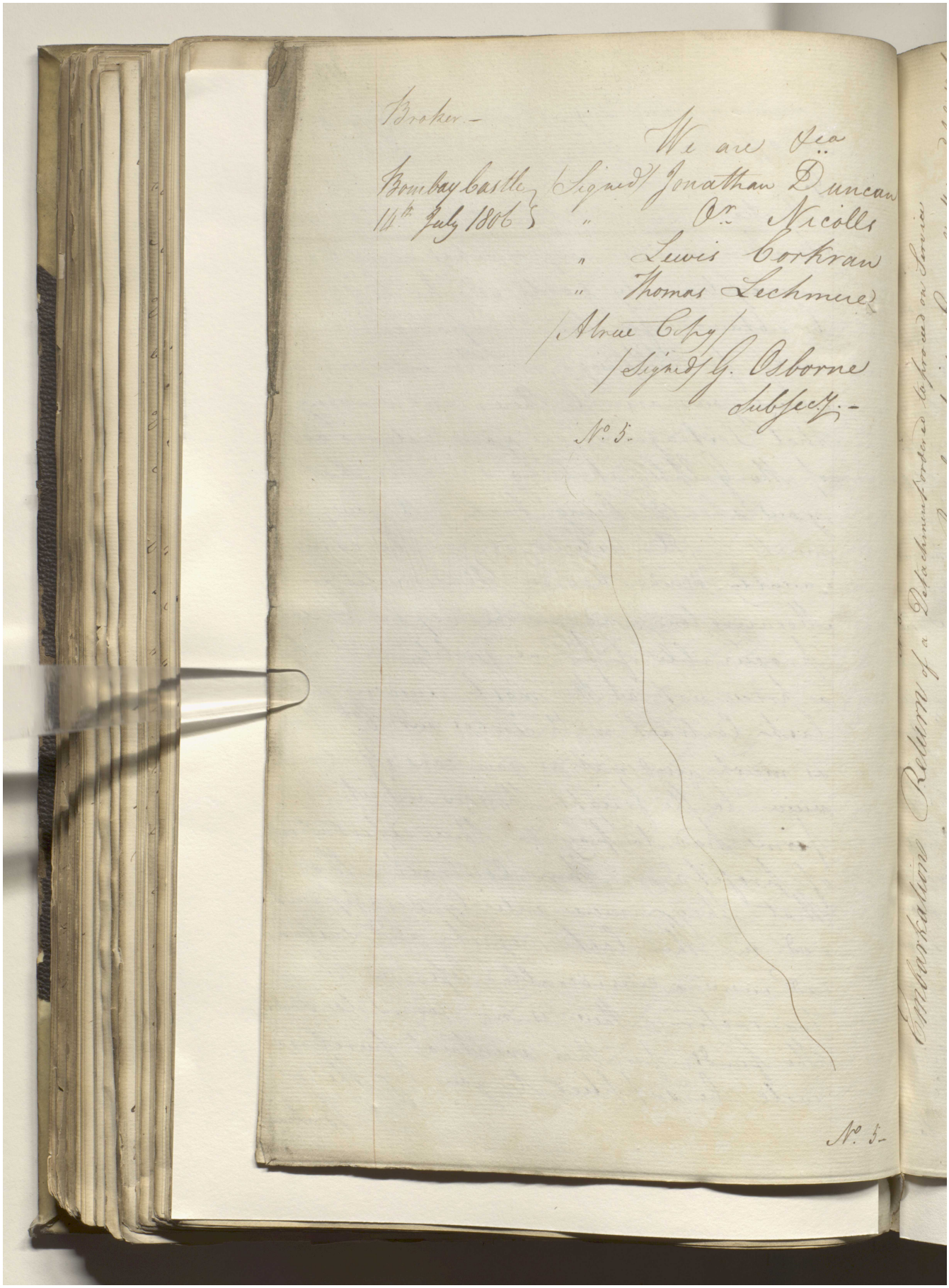
(Signed) Jonathan Duncan
" Or. Nicolls
" Lewis Corkran
" Thomas Lechmere

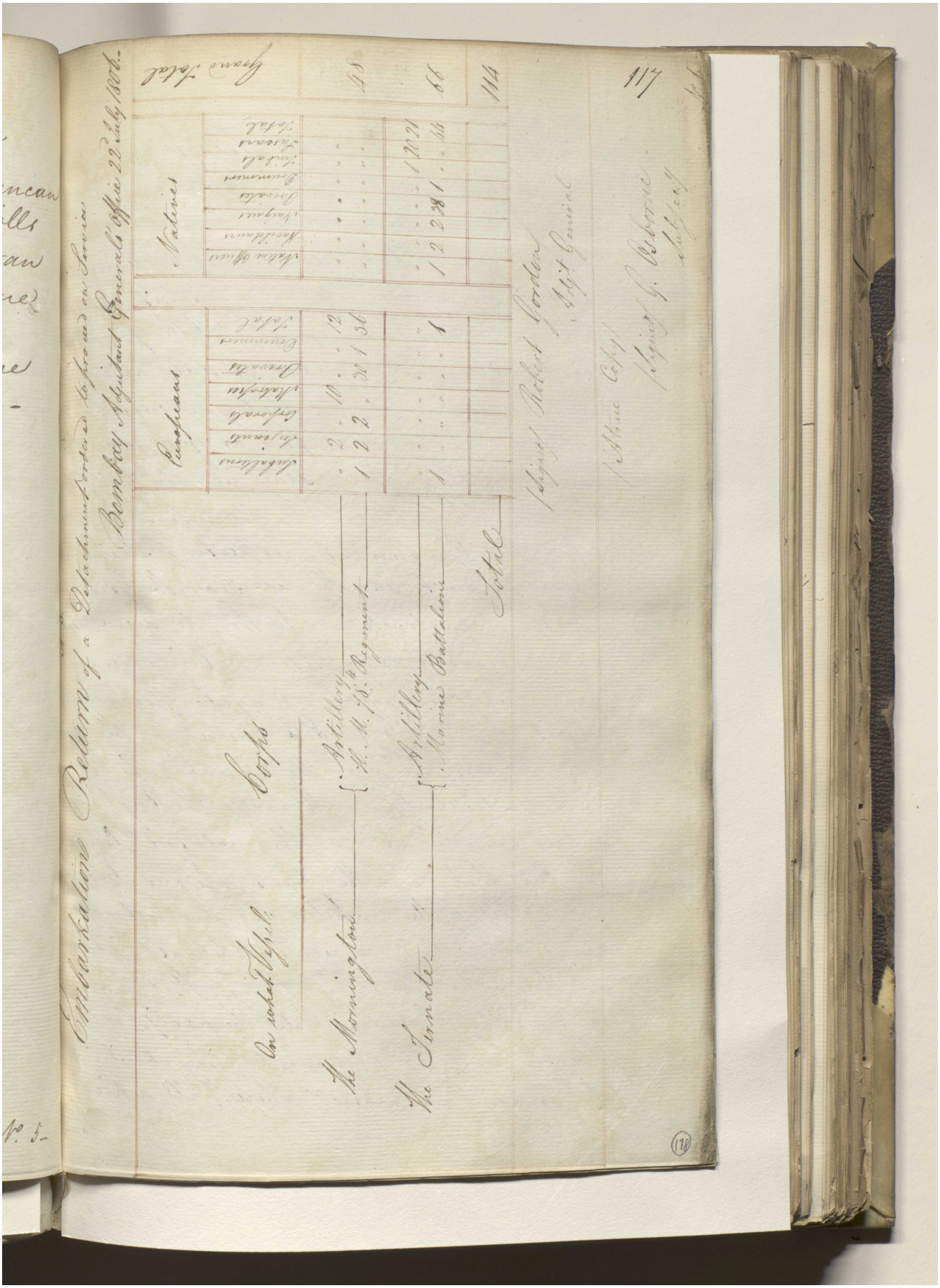
(A true Copy)
(Signed) G. Osborne
Subsecy.—

No. 5.

No. 5.

Embarkation Return of a Detachment ordered to proceed on Service





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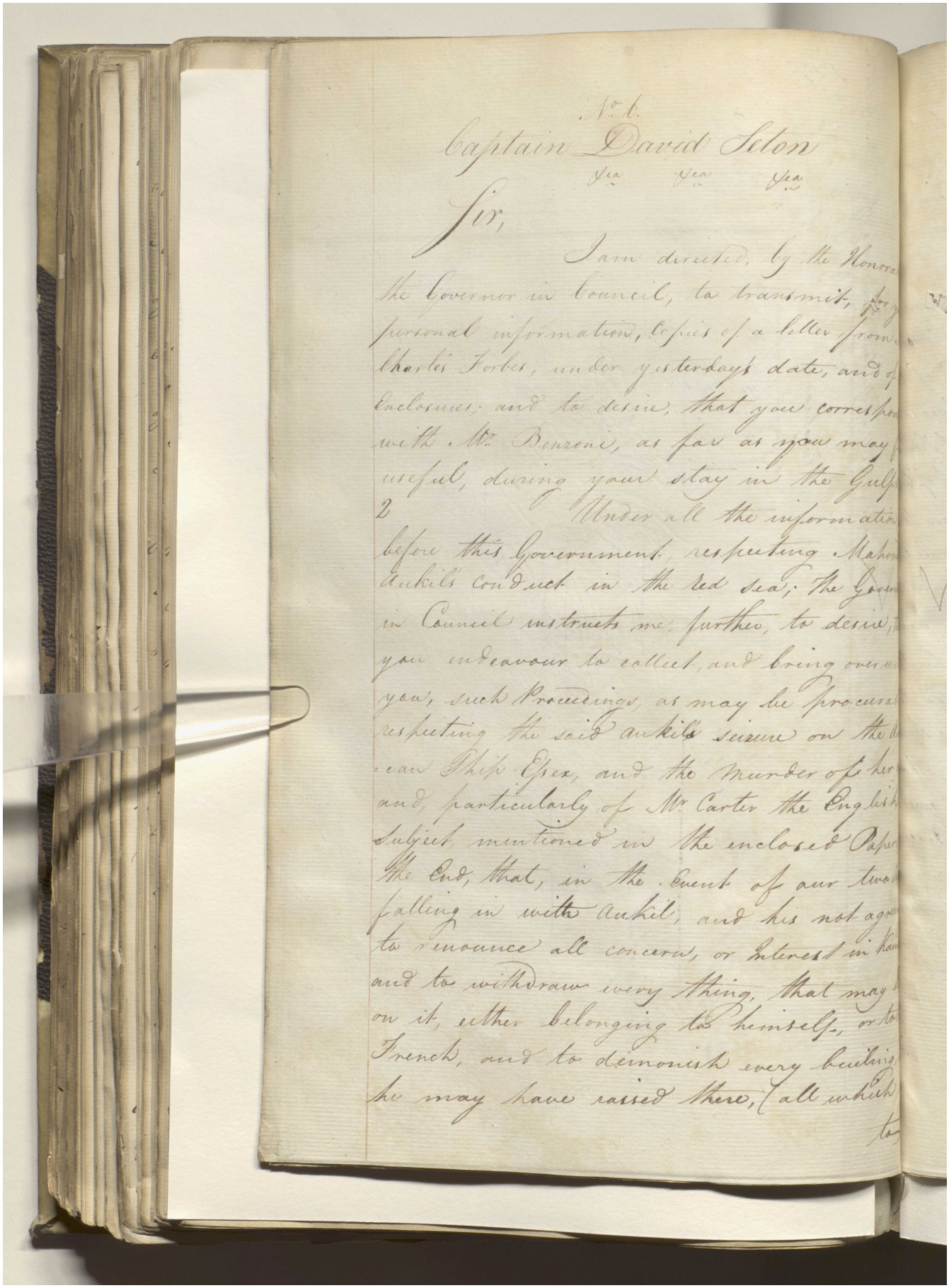

No. 1.

Captain David Seton

Sir,

I am directed, by the Honora
the Governor in Council, to transmit, for y
personal information, Copies of a letter from
Charles Forbes, under yesterday's date, and of
Enclosures; and to desire, that you corres
with Mr. Benzoni, as far as you may
useful, during your stay in the Gulf
2 Under all the information
before this Government, respecting Maho
Aukil's conduct in the Red Sea; the Gover
in Council instructs me, further, to desire,
you endeavour to collect, and bring over
you, such Proceedings, as may be procura
respecting the said Aukil's seizure on the
ean Ship Essex, and the Murder of her
and, particularly of Mr Carter the English
subject, mentioned in the enclosed Paper
the End, that, in the Event of our two
falling in with Aukil, and his not ag
to renounce all concern, or Interest in
and to withdraw every thing, that may
on it, either belonging to himself, or to
French, and to demonish every building
he may have raised there, (all which
to

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [179r] (117/264)

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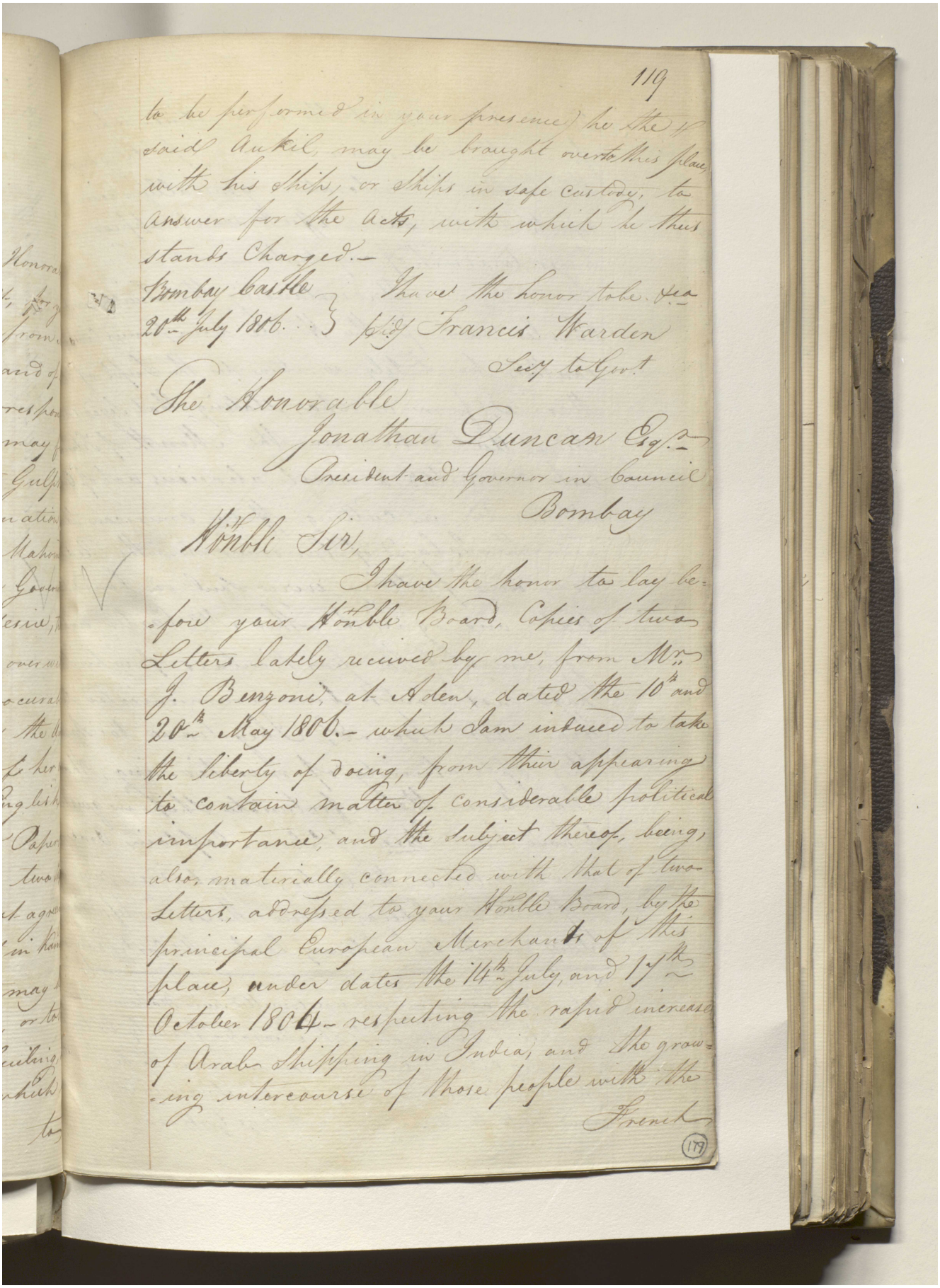

to be performed in your presence) he the said Aukil, may be brought over to this place, with his Ship, or Ships in safe custody, to answer for the Acts, with which he thus stands Charged.—

Bombay Castle
20th July 1806.

I have the honor to be &ca
Sd/ Francis Warden
Secy to Govt

The Honorable
Jonathan Duncan Esqr
President and Governor in Council
Bombay

Hon'ble Sir,

I have the honor to lay before your Hon'ble Board, Copies of two Letters lately received by me, from Mr J. Benzoni, at Aden, dated the 10th and 20th May 1806.— which I am induced to take the liberty of doing, from their appearing to contain matter of considerable political importance, and the subject thereof, being, also, materially connected with that of two Letters, addressed to your Hon'ble Board, by the principal European Merchants of this place, under dates the 14th July, and 17th October 1804— respecting the rapid increase of Arab Shipping in India, and the growing intercourse of those people with the

French

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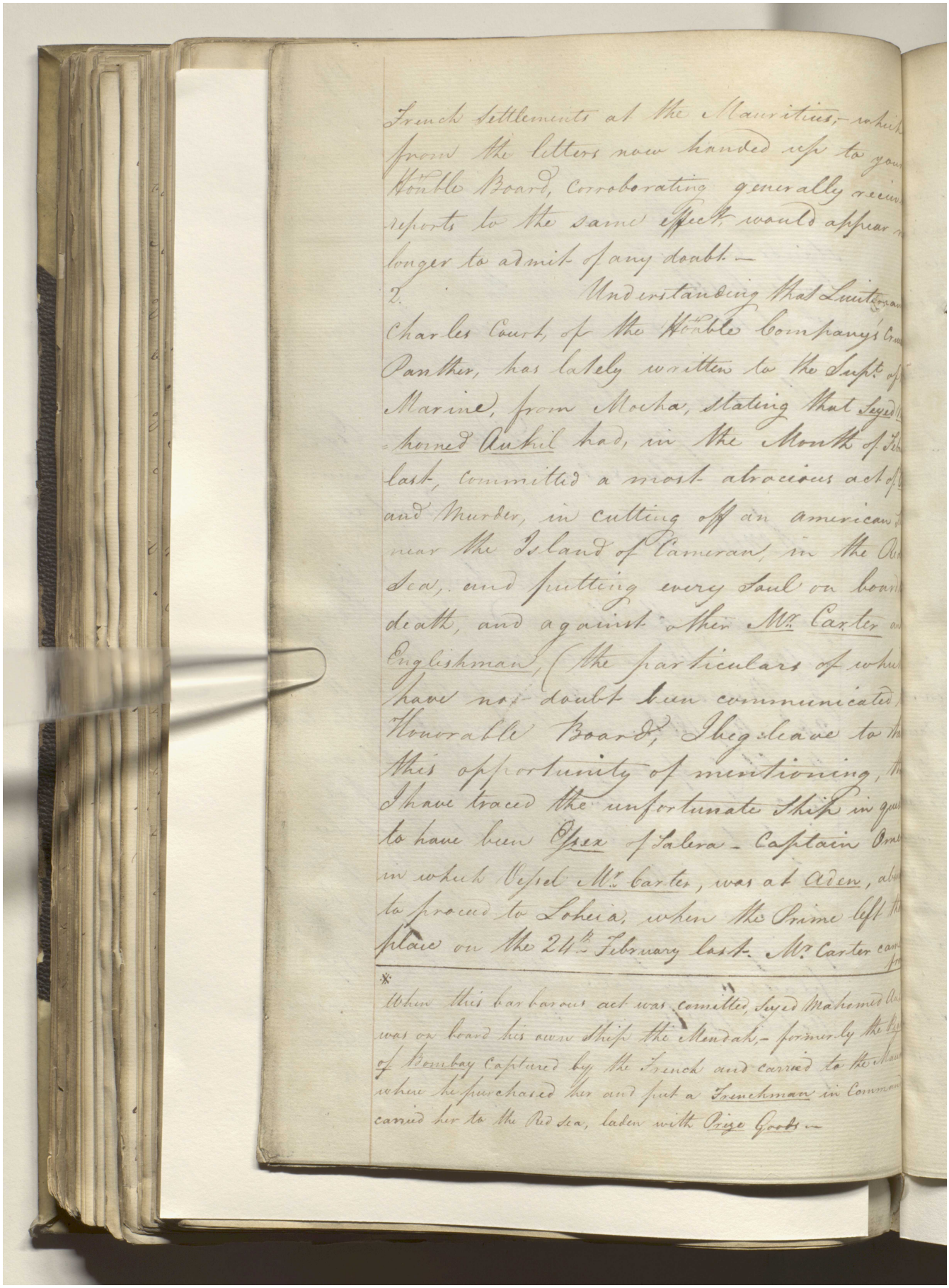
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [179v] (118/264)



French settlements at the Mauritius, which from the letters now handed up to your Honble Board, corroborating generally recieved reports to the same effect, would appear no longer to admit of any doubt.—

2. Understanding that Lieutenant Charles Court, of the Honble Company's Cruiser Panther, has lately written to the Supt. of Marine, from Mocha, stating that Seyed Mahomed Aukil had, in the Month of February last, committed a most atrocious act of [illegible] and Murder, in cutting off an american [illegible] near the Island of Cameran, in the Red Sea, and putting every Soul on board to death, and against other Mr. Carter and Englishman, (the particulars of which have no doubt been communicated to Honorable Board), I beg leave to take this opportunity of mentioning, that I have traced the unfortunate Ship in question to have been Essex of Salera - Captain Omer in which Vessel Mr. Carter, was at Aden, about to proceed to Loheia, when the Prime left that place on the 24th February last. Mr. Carter came from

※ When this barbarous act was comitted, Seyed Mahomed Aukil was on board his own Ship the Mendah,- formerly the Pearl of Bombay Captured by the French and carried to the Mauritius where he purchased her and put a Frenchman in Command carried her to the Red sea, laden with Prize Goods—

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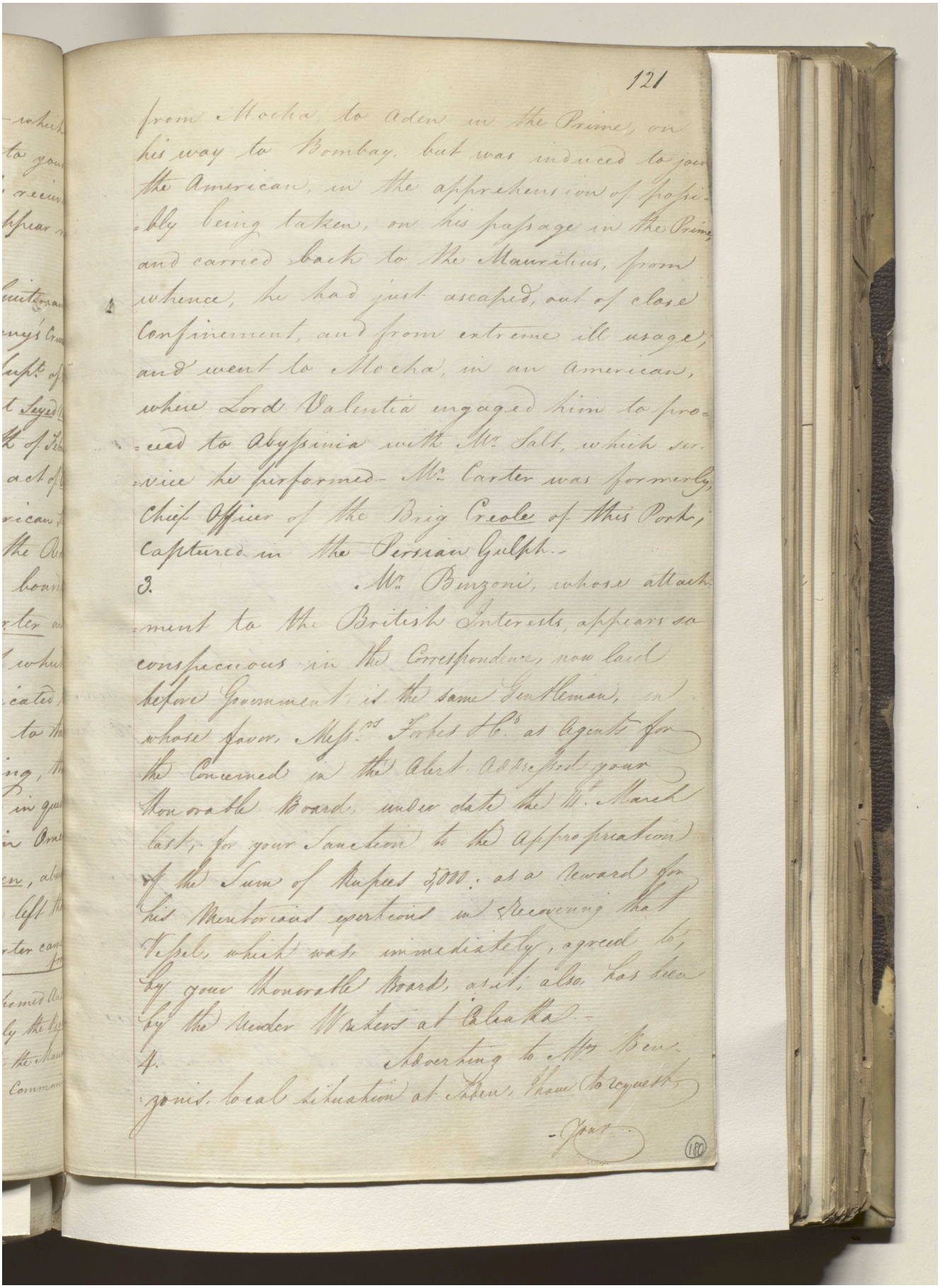

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from Mocha to Aden in the Prime, on
his way to Bombay, but was induced to join
the American, in the apprehension of possi-
bly being taken, on his passage in the Prime,
and carried back to the Mauritius, from
whence, he had just escaped, out of close
Confinement, and from extreme ill usage,
and went to Mocha, in an American,
where Lord Valentia engaged him to pro-
ceed to Abyssinia with Mr. Salt, which ser-
vice he performed. Mr. Carter was formerly,
Chief Officer of the Brig Creole of this Port,
Captured in the Persian Gulph.

3. Mr. Benzoni, whose attach-
ment to the British Interests, appears so
conspicuous in the Correspondence, now laid
before Government, is the same Gentleman, in
whose favor, Messrs. Forbes & Co. as Agents for
the Concerned in the Abert, addressed your
Honorable Board, under date the 11th March
last, for your Sanction to the Appropriation
of the Sum of Rupees 5000. as a Reward for
his Meritorious exertions in recovering that
Vessel, which was immediately, agreed to,
by your Honorable Board, as it, also, has been
by the Under Writers at Calcutta.

4. Adverting to Mr. Ben-
zoni's local Situation at Aden, I have to request

Your

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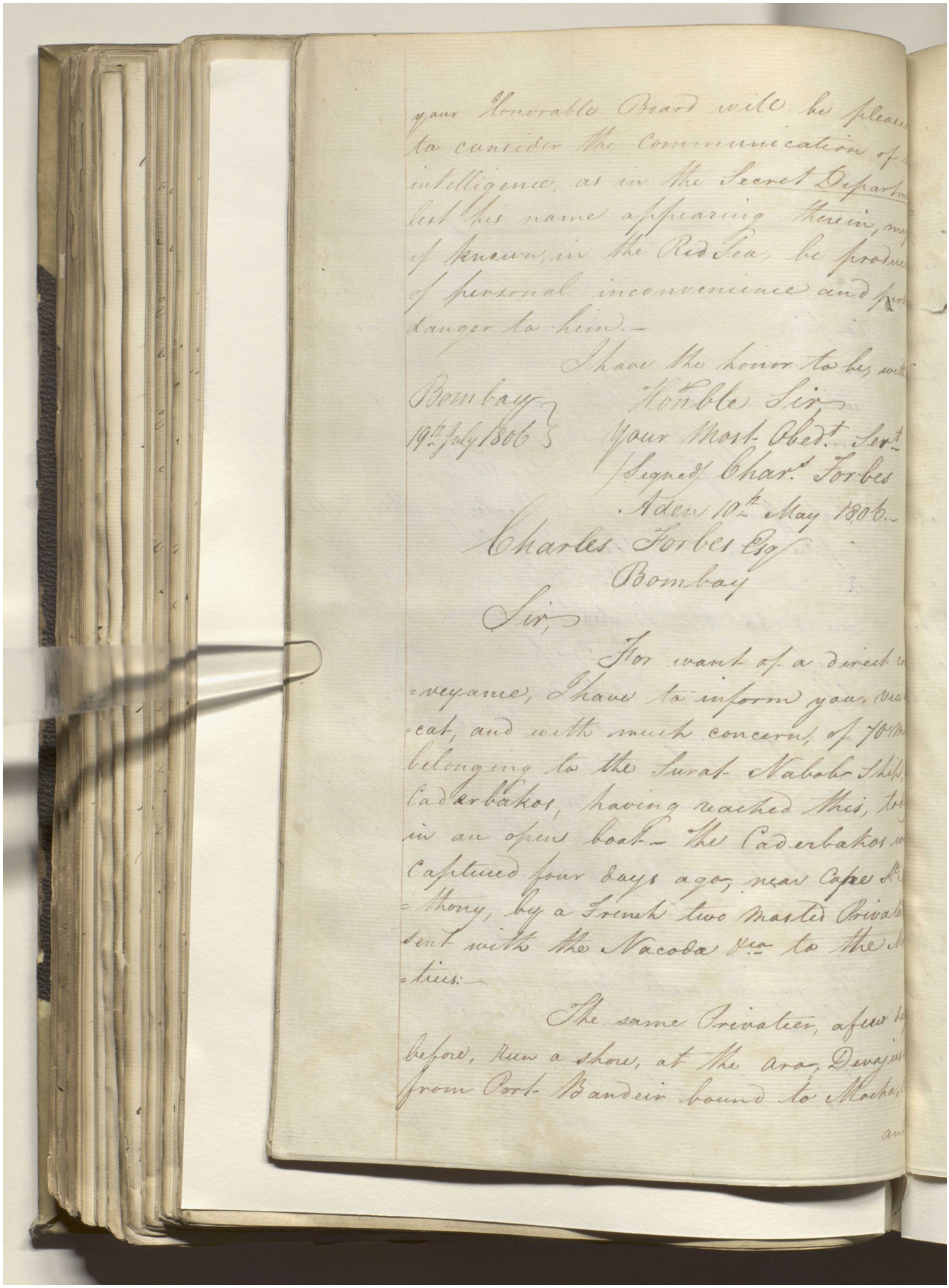

your Honorable Board will be pleased
to consider the Communication of
intelligence, as in the Secret Departm
lest his name appearing therein, my
if known, in the Red Sea, be produc
of personal inconvenience and perh
danger to him.—

I have the honor to be, with

Bombay
19th July 1806

Honble Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt.
(Signed) Chars. Forbes
Aden 10th May 1806.—

Charles Forbes Esq
Bombay

Sir,

For want of a direct co
=veyance, I have to inform you, via
=cat, and with much concern, of 70 M
belonging to the Surat Nabob Ship,
Caderbakos, having reached this, to
in an open boat.— The Caderbakos w
Captured four days ago, near Cape St.
=thony, by a French two masted Private
sent with the Nacoda &ca to the M
=tius.—

The same Privateer, a few da
before, run a shore, at the Ara, Devajus
from Port Bandeir bound to Mocha,

an

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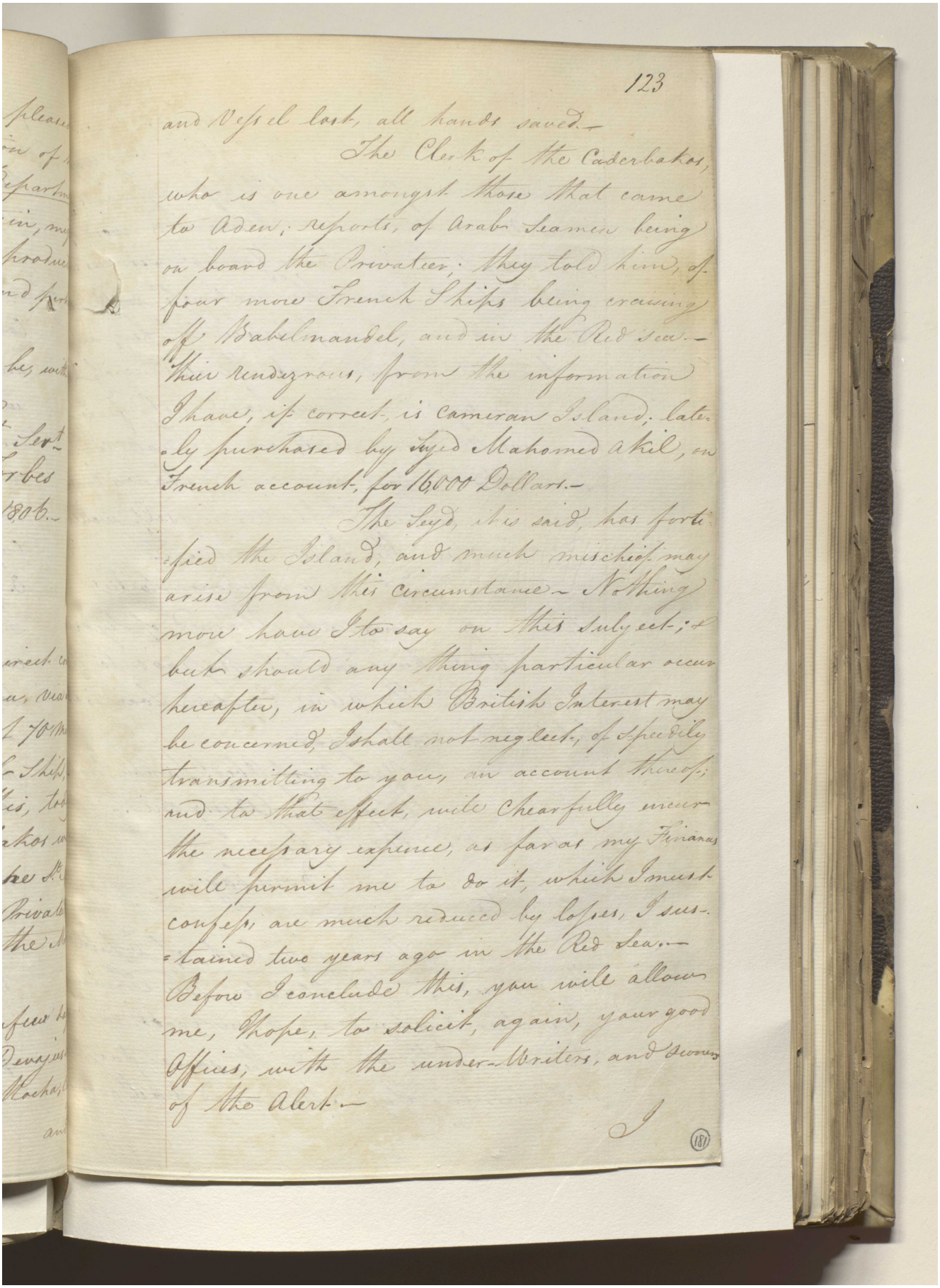

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and Vessel lost, all hands saved.—

The Clerk of the Caderbakos, who is one amongst those that came to Aden, reports, of Arab Seamen being on board the Privateer. they told him, of four more French Ships being cruising off Babelmandel, and in the Red Sea.— their Rendezvous, from the information I have, if correct, is Cameran Island, lately purchased by Syed Mahomed Akil, on French account, for 16000 Dollars.—

The Syd, it is said, has fortified the Island, and much mischief may arise from this circumstance— Nothing more have I to say on this subject; but should any thing particular occur hereafter, in which British Interest may be concerned, I shall not neglect, of speedily transmitting to you, an account thereof; and to that effect, will chearfully incur the necessary expence, as far as my Finances will permit me to do it, which I must confess, are much reduced by losses, I sustained two years ago in the Red Sea.—

Before I conclude this, you will allow me, Hope, to solicit, again, your good offices, with the under-Writers, and owners of the Alert.—

I

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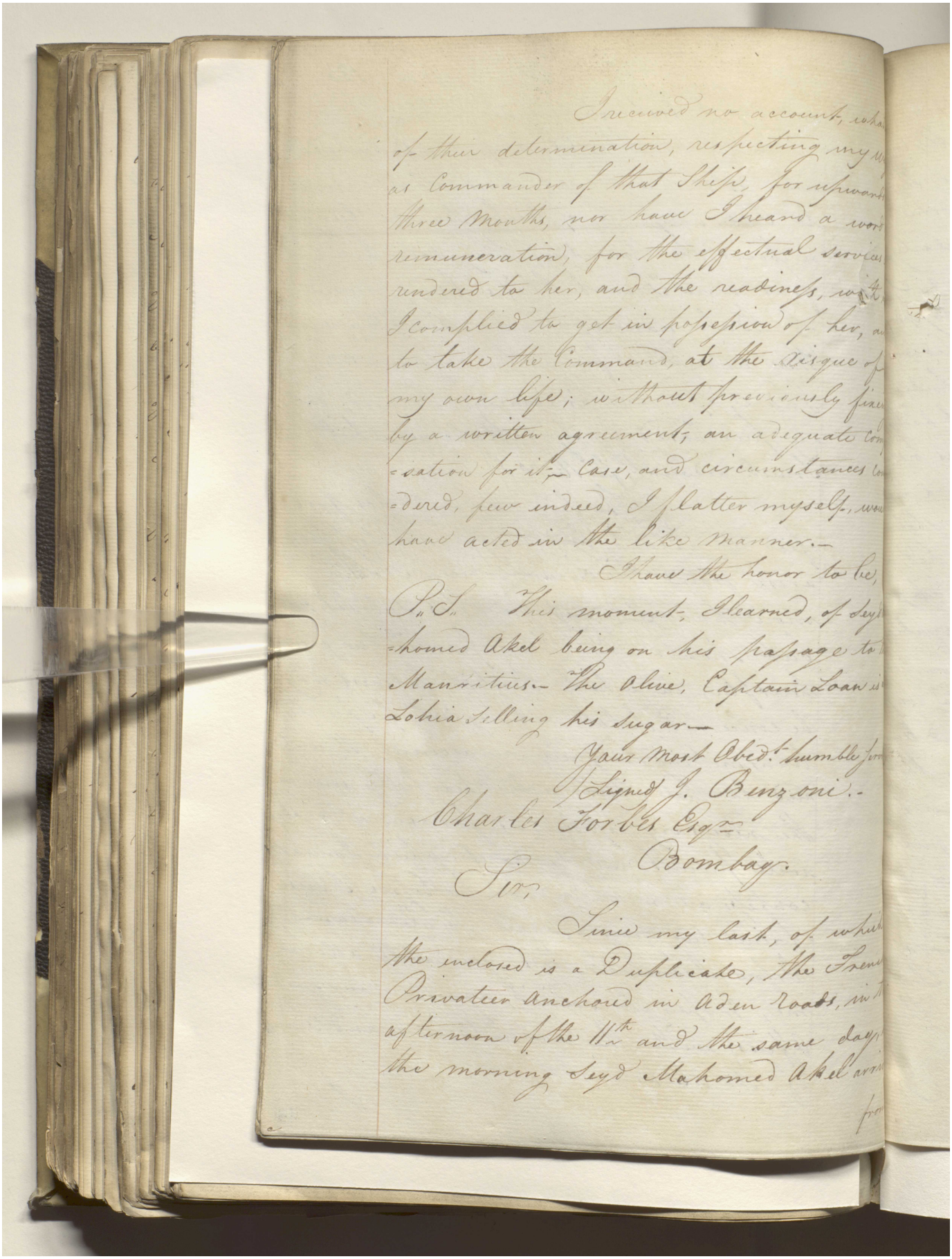

I received no account, wha
of their determination, respecting my
as Commander of that Ship, for upwards
three Months, nor have I heard a word
remuneration, for the effectual service
rendered to her, and the readiness, with
I complied to get in possession of her, a
to take the Command, at the risque of
my own life; without previously fixe
by a written agreement, an adequate com
=sation for it — Case, and circumstances co
=dered, few indeed, I flatter myself, wou
have acted in the like manner.—

I have the honor to be,

P.S. This moment, I learned, of Seyd
=homed Abel being on his passage to
Mauritius.— The Olive, Captain Loaw is
Lohia selling his sugar—

Your Most Obed.t humble ser
Signed J. Benzoni.-

Charles Forbes Esq.r
Bombay.

Sir,

Since my last, of which
the inclosed is a Duplicate, the Frenc
Privateer anchored in Aden Roads, in t
afternoon of the 11th inst. and the same day
the morning Seyd Mahomed Abel arri
fro

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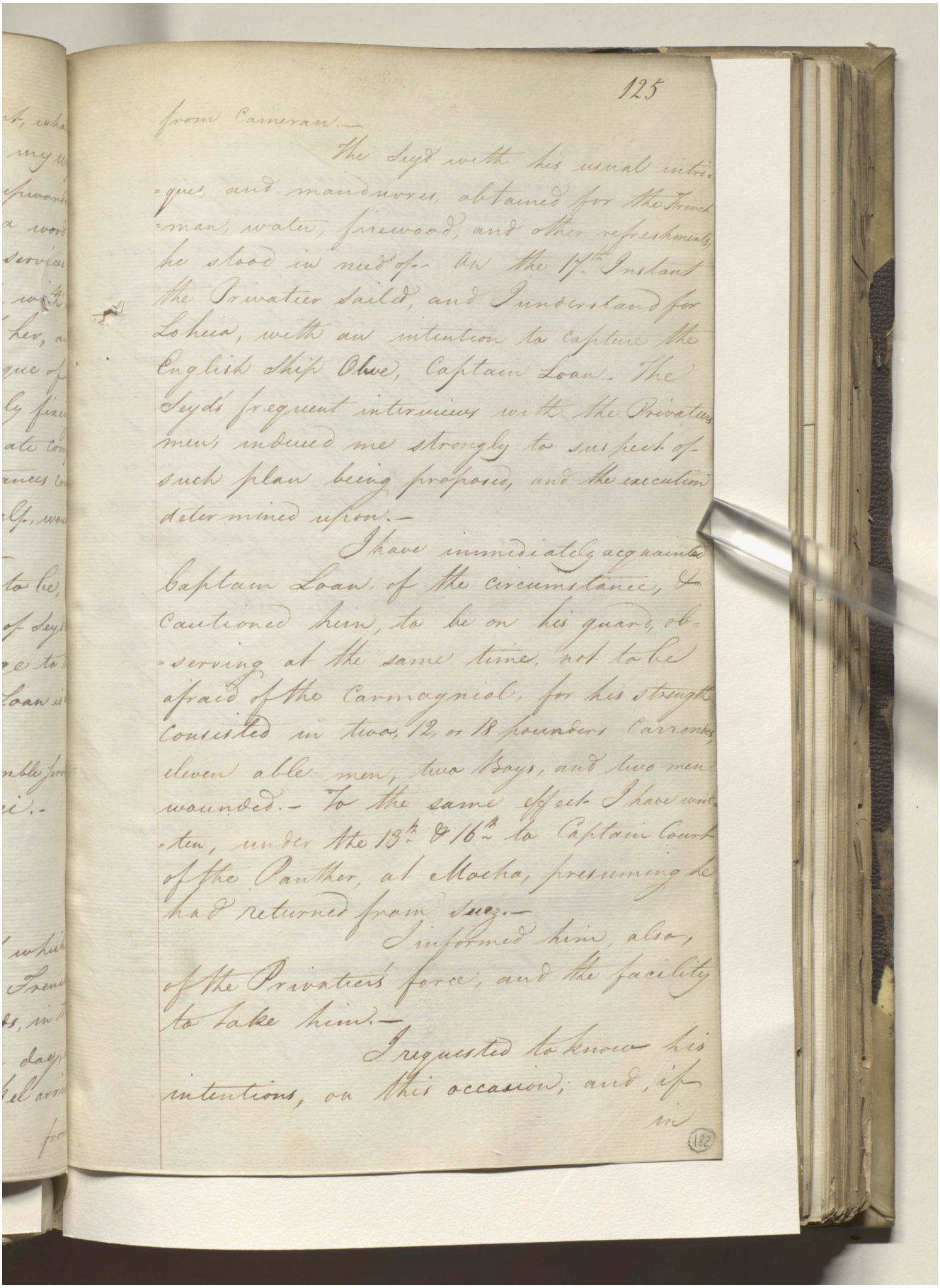

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from Cameran.—

The Seyd with his usual intrigues and manoeuvres, obtained for the Frenchman, water, firewood, and other refreshments he stood in need of.— On the 17th Instant the Privateer sailed, and I understand for Lohcia, with an intention to capture the English Ship Olive, Captain Loan.— The Seyds frequent interviews with the Privateers men, induced me strongly to suspect of such plan being proposed, and the execution determined upon.—

I have immediately acquainted Captain Loan of the circumstance, & cautioned him, to be on his guard, observing at the same time, not to be afraid of the Carmagniol, for his strength consisted in two, 12, or 18 pounders Carronades, eleven able men, two Boys, and two men wounded.— To the same effect I have written, under the 13th & 16th to Captain Court of the Panther, at Mocha, presuming he had returned from Suez.—

I informed him, also, of the Privateers force, and the facility to take him.—

I requested to know his intentions, on this occasion; and, if in

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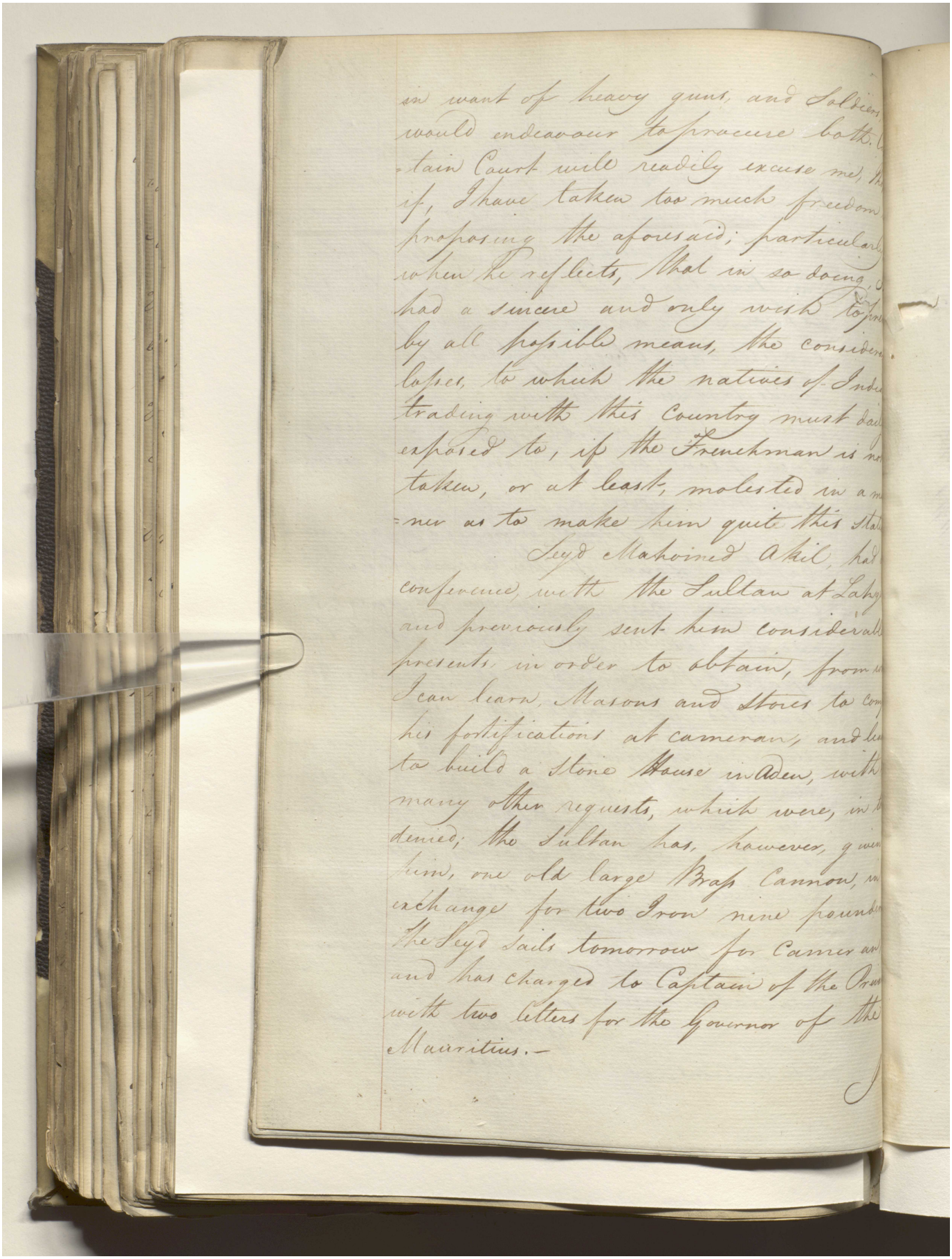

in want of heavy guns, and Soldiers,
would endeavour to procure both. C
-tain Court will readily excuse me, Th
if, I have taken too much freedom
proposing the aforesaid; particularly
when he reflects, that in so doing, I
had a sincere and only wish to pre
by all possible means, the considera
losses, to which the natives of India
trading with this Country must dail
exposed to, if the Frenchman is no
taken, or at least, molested in a m
-ner as to make him quit this stati

Seyd Mahomed Akil, had
conference, with the Sultan at Lahy
and previously sent him considerabl
presents, in order to obtain, from w
I can learn, Masons and Stores to com
his fortifications at cameran, and lea
to build a Stone House in Aden, with
many other requests, which were, in t
denied; the Sultan has, however, given
him, one old large Brass Cannon, in
exchange for two Iron nine pounder
the Seyd sails tomorrow for Cameran
and has charged to Captain of the Prin
with two letters for the Governor of the
Mauritius.—

I

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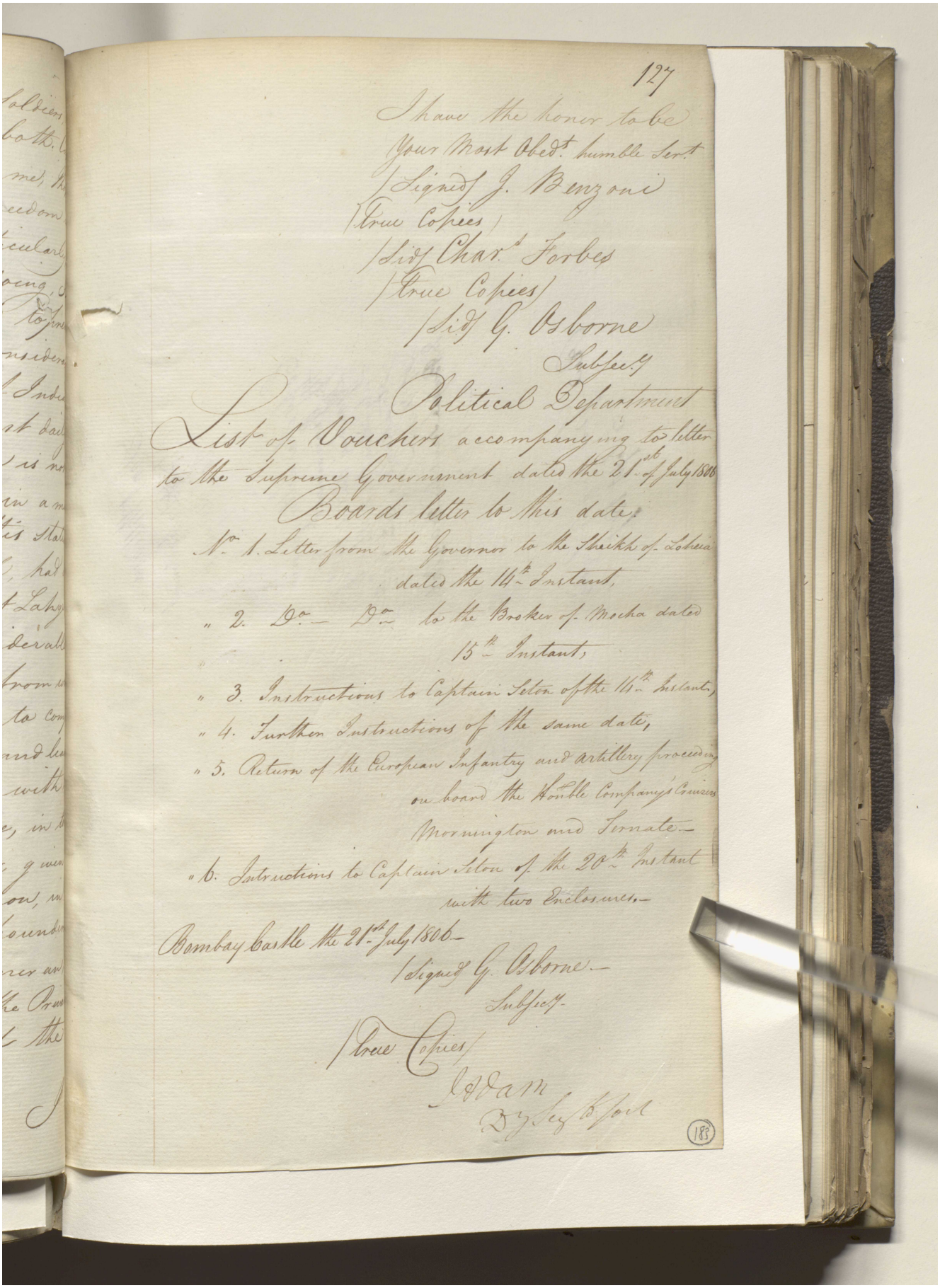

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I have the honor to be
Your Most Obed.t humble Serv.t
(Signed) J. Benzoni
(True Copies)
(Sig.d Char.s Forbes
(True Copies)
(Sig.d G. Osborne
Subject.

Political Department

List of Vouchers accompanying to letter to the Supreme Government dated the 21.st of July 1806

Boards letter to this date.

No. 1. Letter from the Governor to the Sheikh of Loheia dated the 14.th Instant,

" 2. Do.— Do.— to the Broker of Mocha dated 15.th Instant,

" 3. Instructions to Captain Seton of the 16.th Instant,

" 4. Further Instructions of the same date,

" 5. Return of the European Infantry and artillery proceeding on board the Honble Company's Cruizers Mornington and Fernate—

" 6. Instructions to Captain Seton of the 20.th Instant with two Enclosures.—

Bombay Castle the 21.st July 1806—

(Signed) G. Osborne—
Subject.

(True Copies)
Idam
Dy Sec.y to Govt

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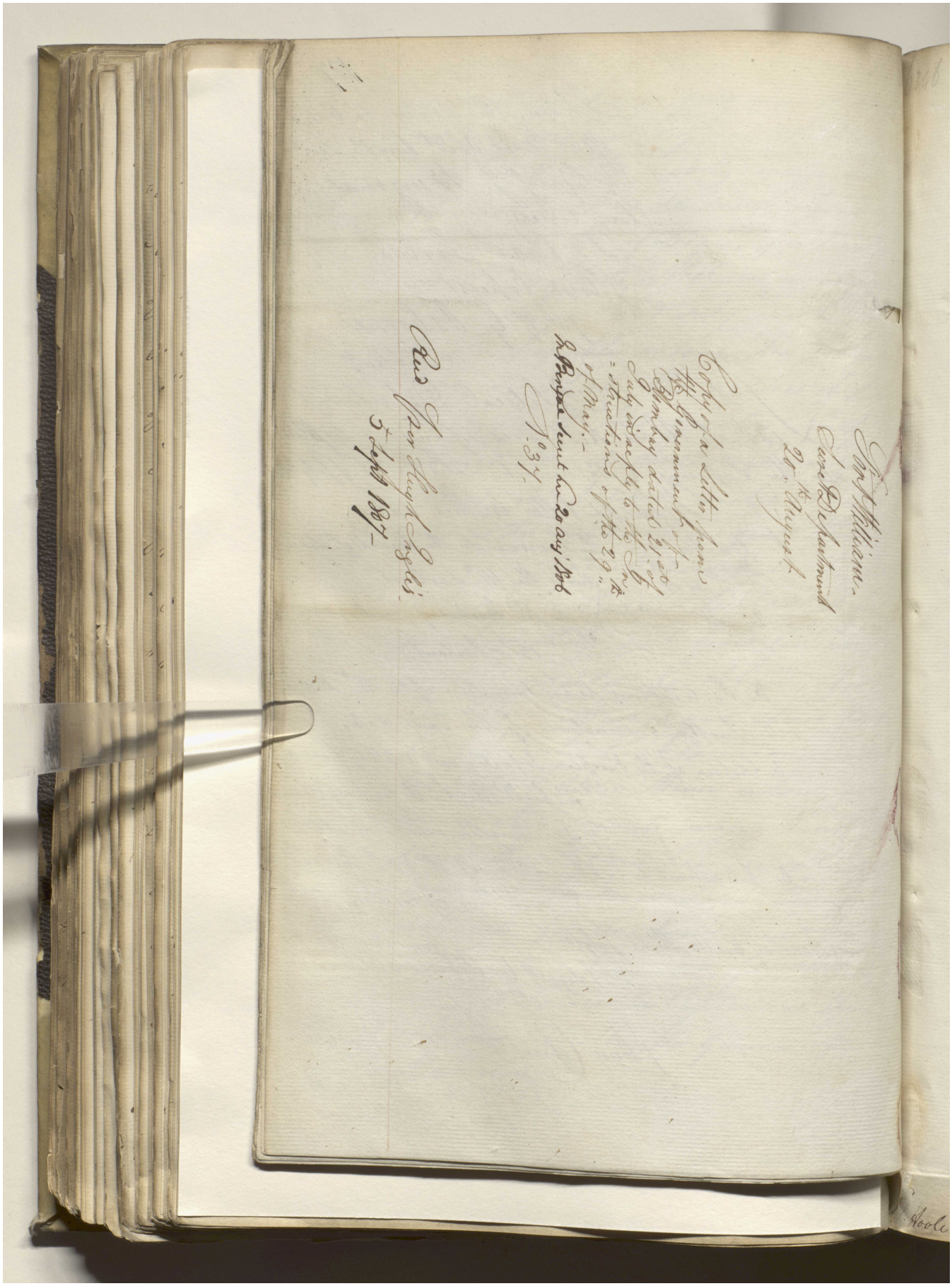

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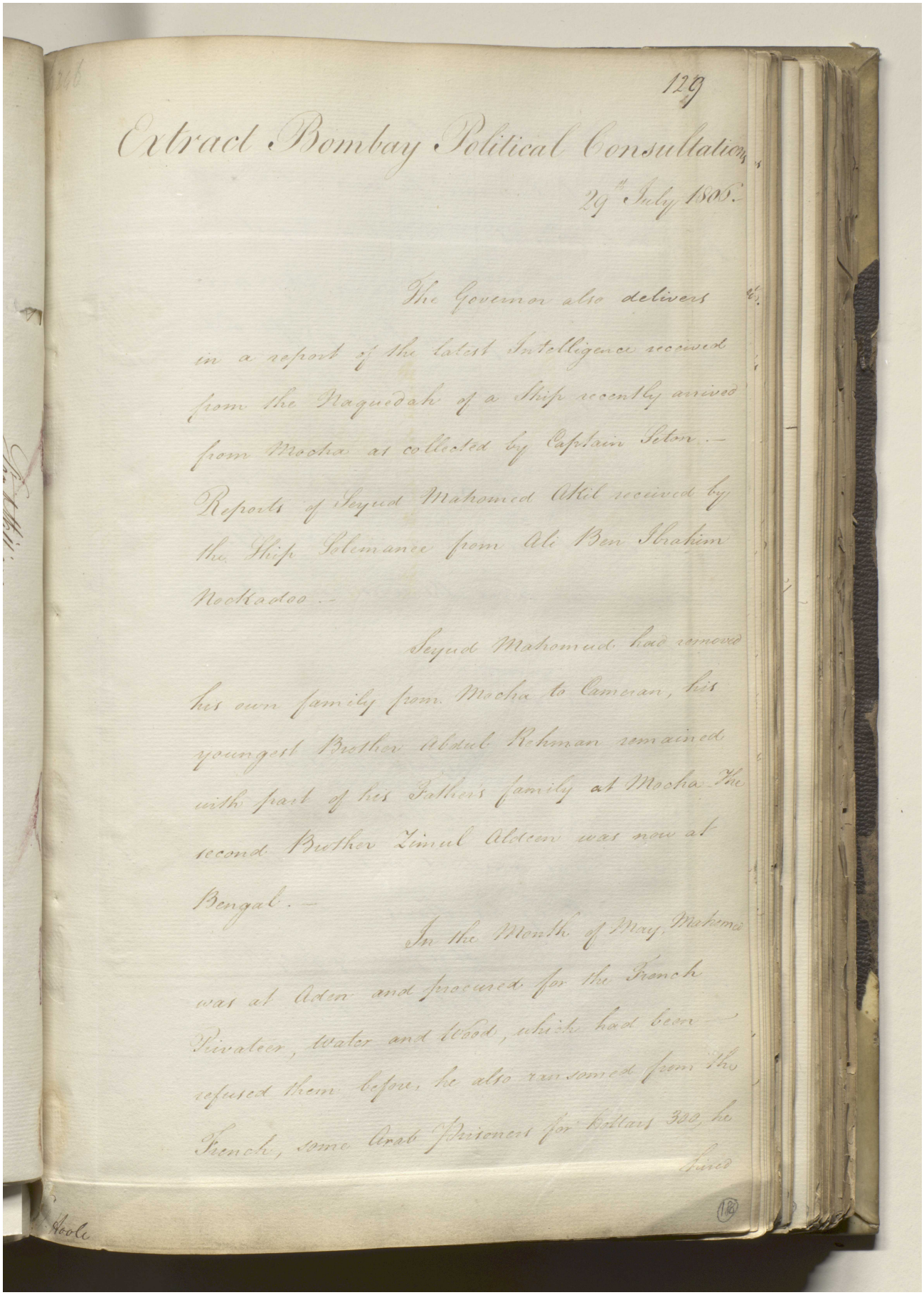

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

29th July 1806.

The Governor also delivers in a report of the latest Intelligence received from the Naquedah of a Ship recently arrived from Mocha as collected by Captain Seton.— Reports of Seyud Mahomed Akil received by the Ship Solemanee from Ali Ben Ibrahim Nockadoo.—

Seyud Mahomud had removed his own family from Mocha to Cameran, his youngest Brother Abdul Rehman remained with part of his Father's family at Mocha. The second Brother Zimul Aldeen was now at Bengal.—

In the Month of May, Mahomed was at Aden and procured for the French Privateer, Water and Wood, which had been refused them before, he also ransomed from the French, some Arab Prisoners for Dollars 300, he

hired

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hired 100 Arab Sepoys there and returned with them, to Cameran, he gives out he will proceed to Muscat or Bengal in August.

An American Ship was at Loheia, offering for 300 Bags of Coffee but none being procurable she left that Port.

Two dead Bodies (Europeans) were cast upon the Loheia Coast with their hands tied, it was believed at Mocha, Syud Mahomed had seized the American and murdered her Crew.

From the Passengers

Gaspard the French Captain, Syed Mahomed had brought from Mauritius was murdered on board the Minda in a quarrel by his Slaves.

It is publicly professed by Syud Mahomed that he bought the Island for himself but no one doubts that it is intended for the French.

He bought the Surat Ship

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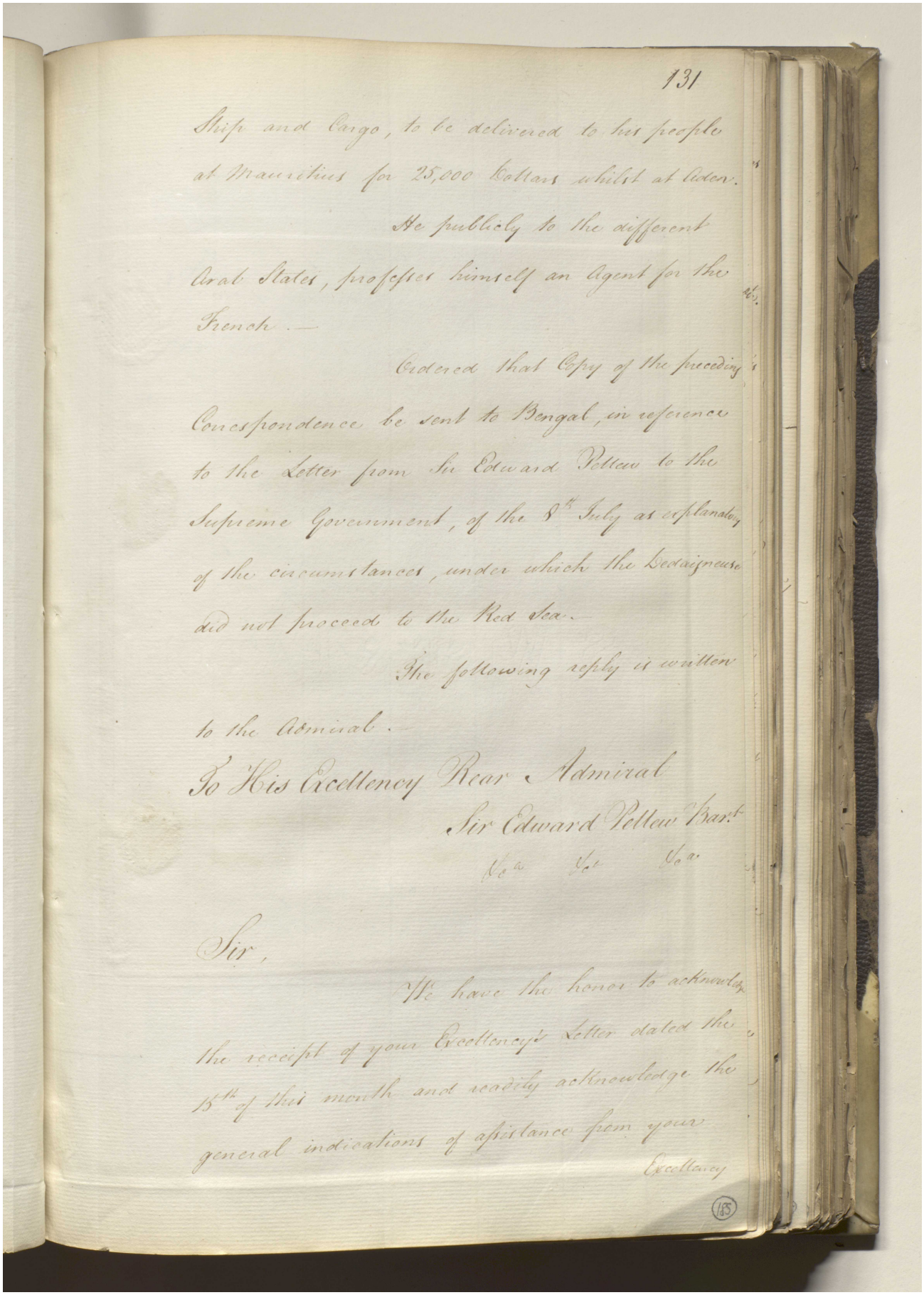

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Ship and Cargo, to be delivered to his people at Mauritius for 25,000 Dollars whilst at Aden.

He publicly to the different Arab States, professes himself an Agent for the French. —

Ordered that Copy of the preceding Correspondence be sent to Bengal, in reference to the Letter from Sir Edward Pellew to the Supreme Government, of the 8th July as explanatory of the circumstances, under which the Dedaigneuse did not proceed to the Red Sea.

The following reply is written to the Admiral.

To His Excellency Rear Admiral
Sir Edward Pellew Bart.
&c &c &c

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter dated the 15th of this month and readily acknowledge the general indications of assistance from your Excellency

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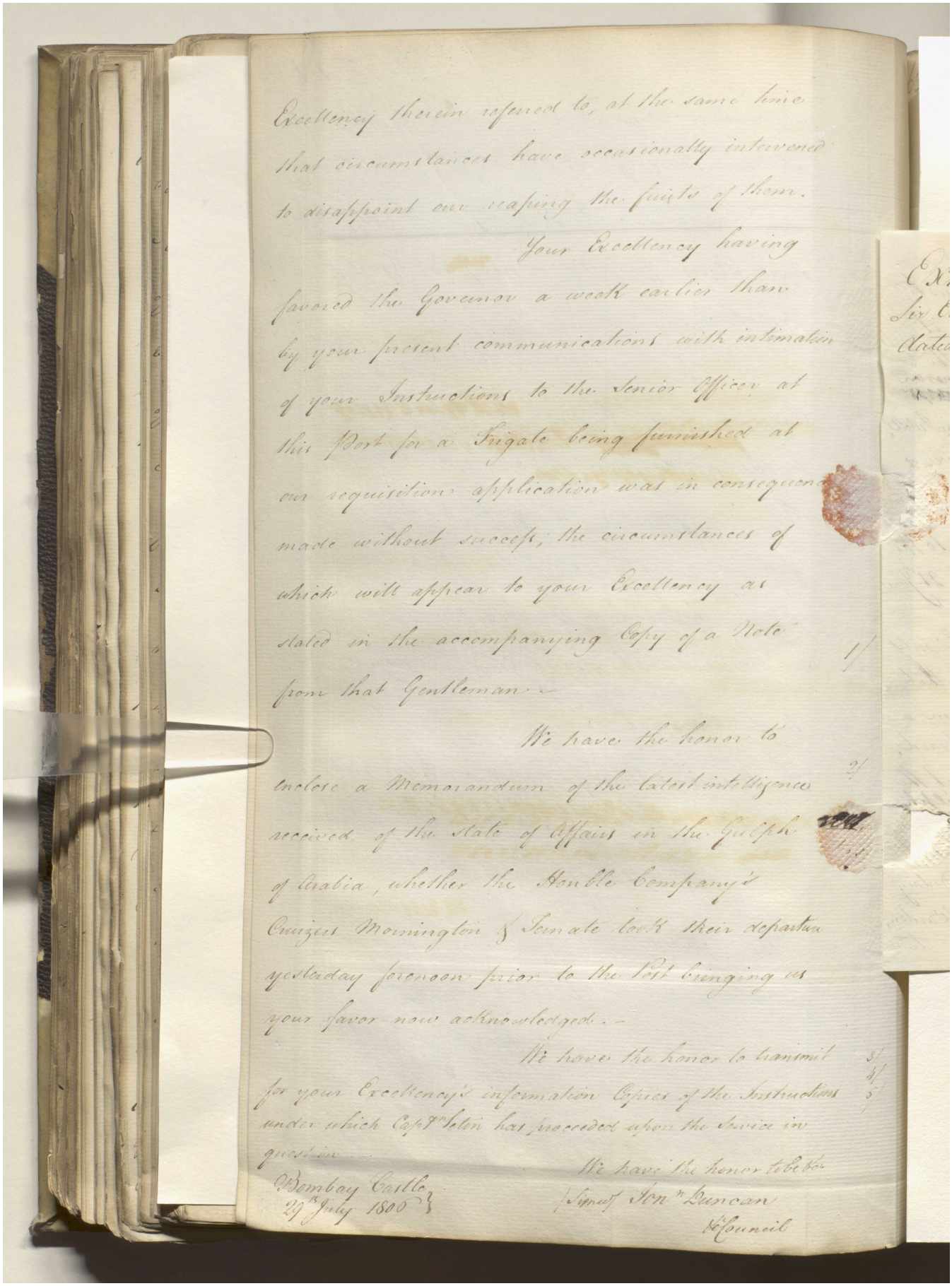

Excellency therein referred to, at the same time
that circumstances have occasionally intervened
to disappoint our reaping the fruits of them.

Your Excellency having
favored the Governor a week earlier than
by your present communications with intimation
of your Instructions to the Senior Officer at
this Port for a Frigate being furnished at
our requisition application was in consequence
made without success, the circumstances of
which will appear to your Excellency as
stated in the accompanying Copy of a Note
from that Gentleman. —

We have the honor to
enclose a Memorandum of the latest intelligence
received of the State of Affairs in the Gulph
of Arabia, whether the Honble Company's
Cruizers Mornington & Sumatra took their departure
yesterday forenoon prior to the Post bringing us
your favor now acknowledged. —

We have the honor to transmit
for your Excellency's information Copies of the Instructions
under which Capt Bolton has proceeded upon the Service in
question. —

Bombay Castle
29th July 1800

We have the honor to be &c.
Signed Jon Duncan
& Council

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [186r] (131/264)

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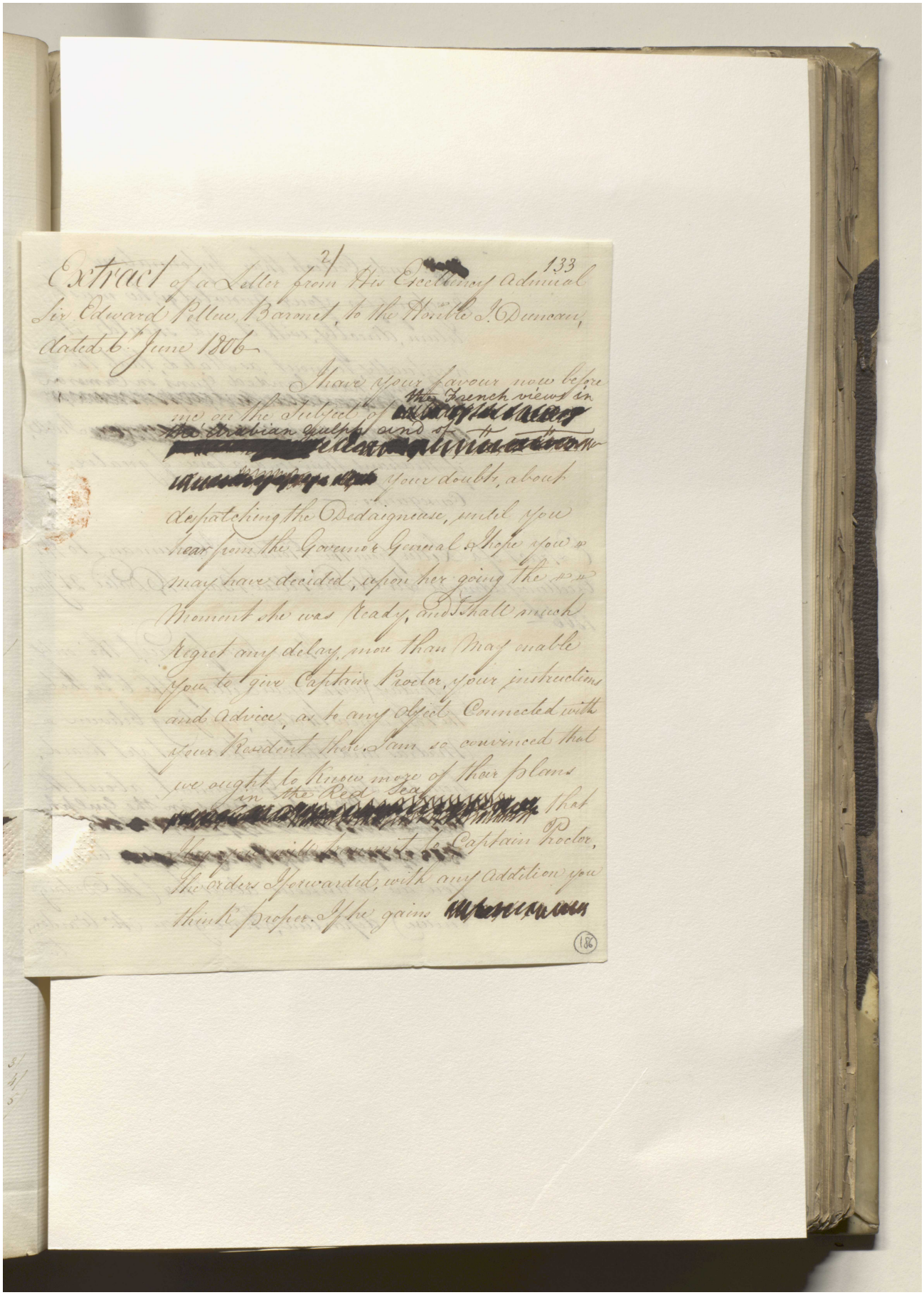

Extract of a Letter from His Excellency Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Baronet, to the Honble J. Duncan, dated 6th June 1806

I have your favour now before me on the Subject of the French views in the Arabian Gulph and of [redacted] your doubts, about despatching the Dedaigneuse, until you hear from the Governor General. I hope you may have decided, upon her going the Moment she was ready, and I shall much regret any delay, more than may enable you to give Captain Proctor, your instructions and advice, as to any Object Connected with your Resident there. I am so convinced that we ought to know more of their plans in the Red Sea [redacted] that I beg you will transmit to Captain Proctor, the orders I forwarded, with any addition you think proper. If he gains [redacted]

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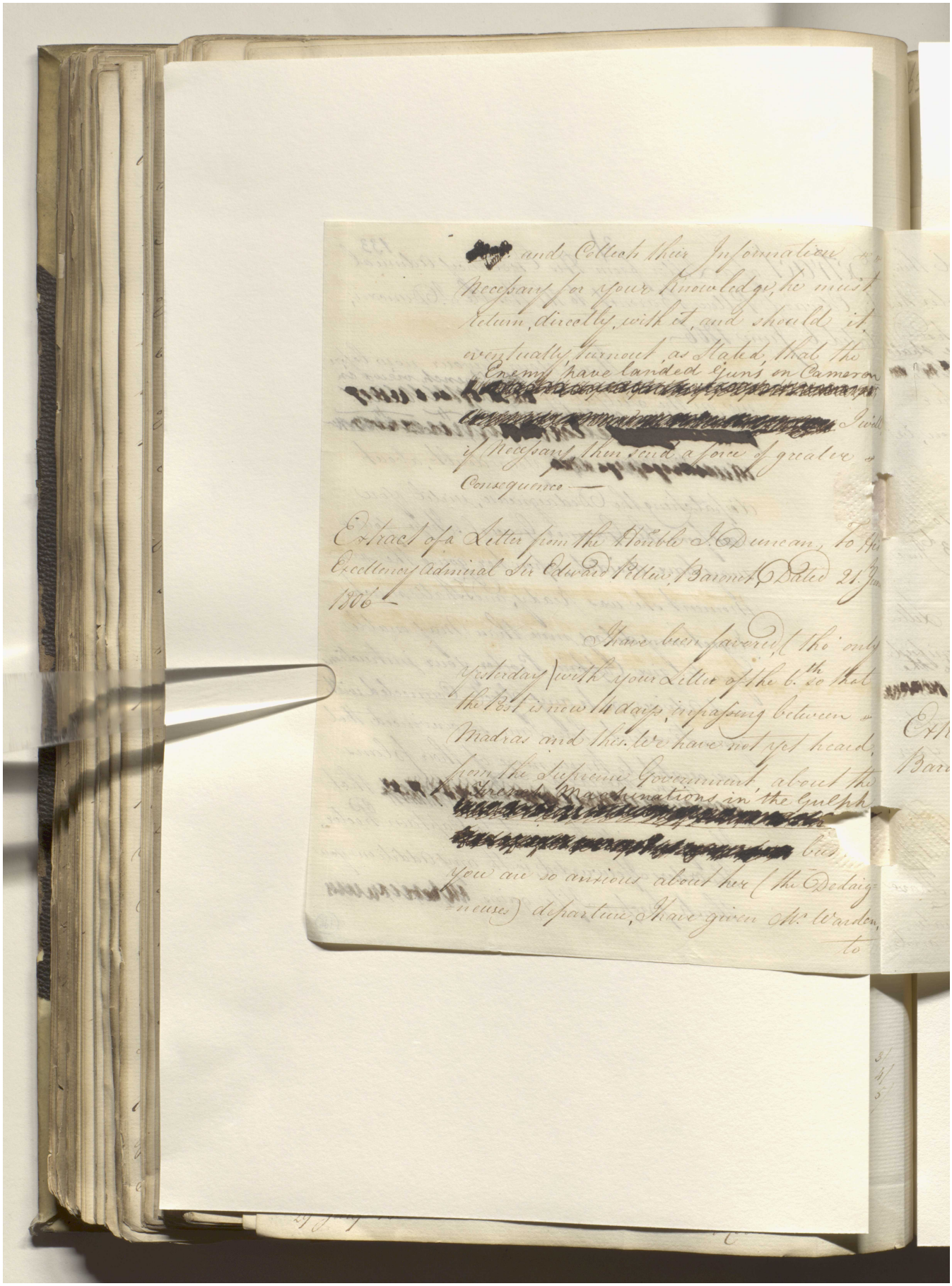

Extract of a Letter from the Honble J. Duncan to His Excellency Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Baronet, Dated 21 Jan. 1806

I have been favored tho' only yesterday with your Letter of the 6th so that the Post is now 14 days in passing between Madras and this. We have not yet heard from the Supreme Government about the French machinations in the Gulph but you are so anxious about her (the Dedaigneuse) departure, I have given Mr Warden to

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [187r] (133/264)

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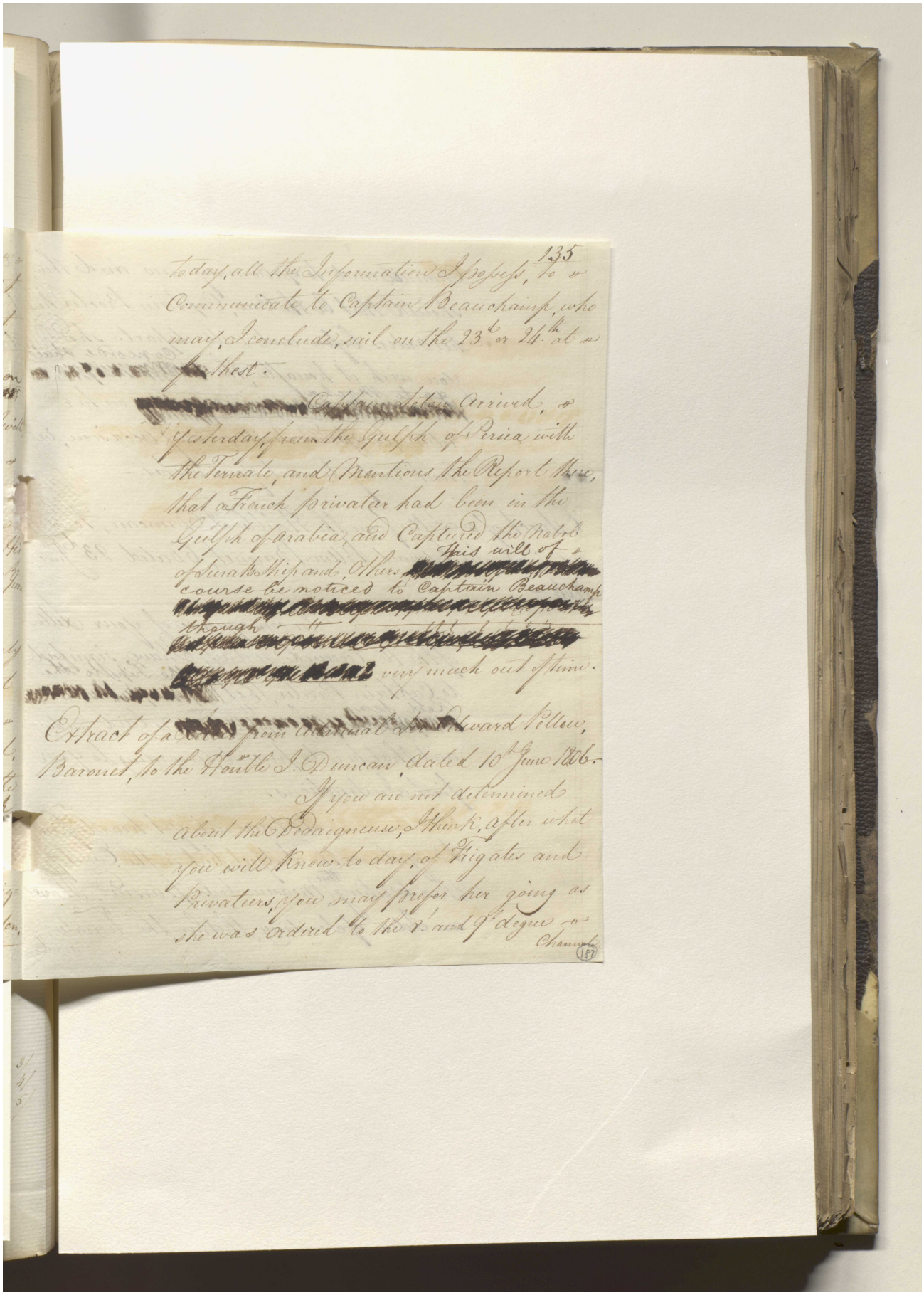

today, all the Information I possess, to Communicate to Captain Beauchamp, who may, I conclude, sail on the 23d or 24th at farthest.

[redacted] Captain Seton arrived, yesterday, from the Gulph of Persia with the Ternate, and Mentions the Report there, that a French privateer had been in the Gulph of Arabia, and Captured the Nabob of Surat's Ship and Others [redacted] This will of course be noticed to Captain Beauchamp [redacted] though [redacted] very much out of time.

Extract of a [redacted] from Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Baronet, to the Honble J. Duncan, dated 10th June 1806.

If you are not determined about the Dedaigneuse, I think, after what you will know to day, of Frigates and Privateers, you may prefer her going as she was ordered to the 8th and 9th degree Channel

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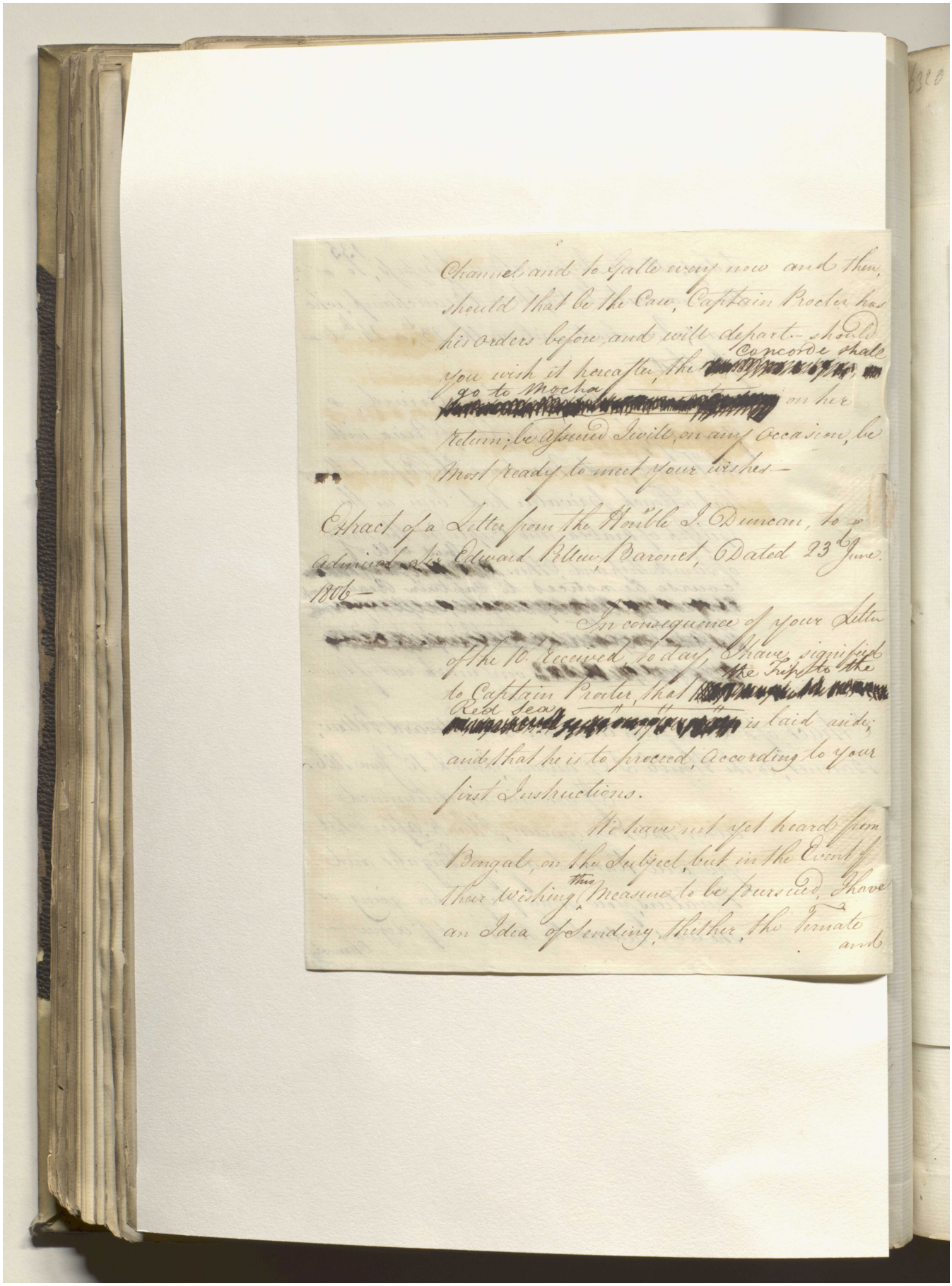

Channel and to Galle every now and then, should that be the Case, Captain Procter has his orders before, and will depart. Should you wish it hereafter, the Concorde shall go to Mocha on her return; be assured I will, on any Occasion, be most ready to meet your wishes.—

Extract of a Letter from the Honble J. Duncan, to Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Baronet, Dated 23d June. 1806.—

In consequence of your Letter of the 10. Received to day, I have signified the Purport to the to Captain Procter, that Red Sea is laid aside; and, that he is to proceed, according to your first Instructions.

We have not yet heard from Bengal, on the Subject, but in the Event of their wishing this Measure to be pursued, I have an Idea of sending thither, the Fernate and

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [188r] (135/264)

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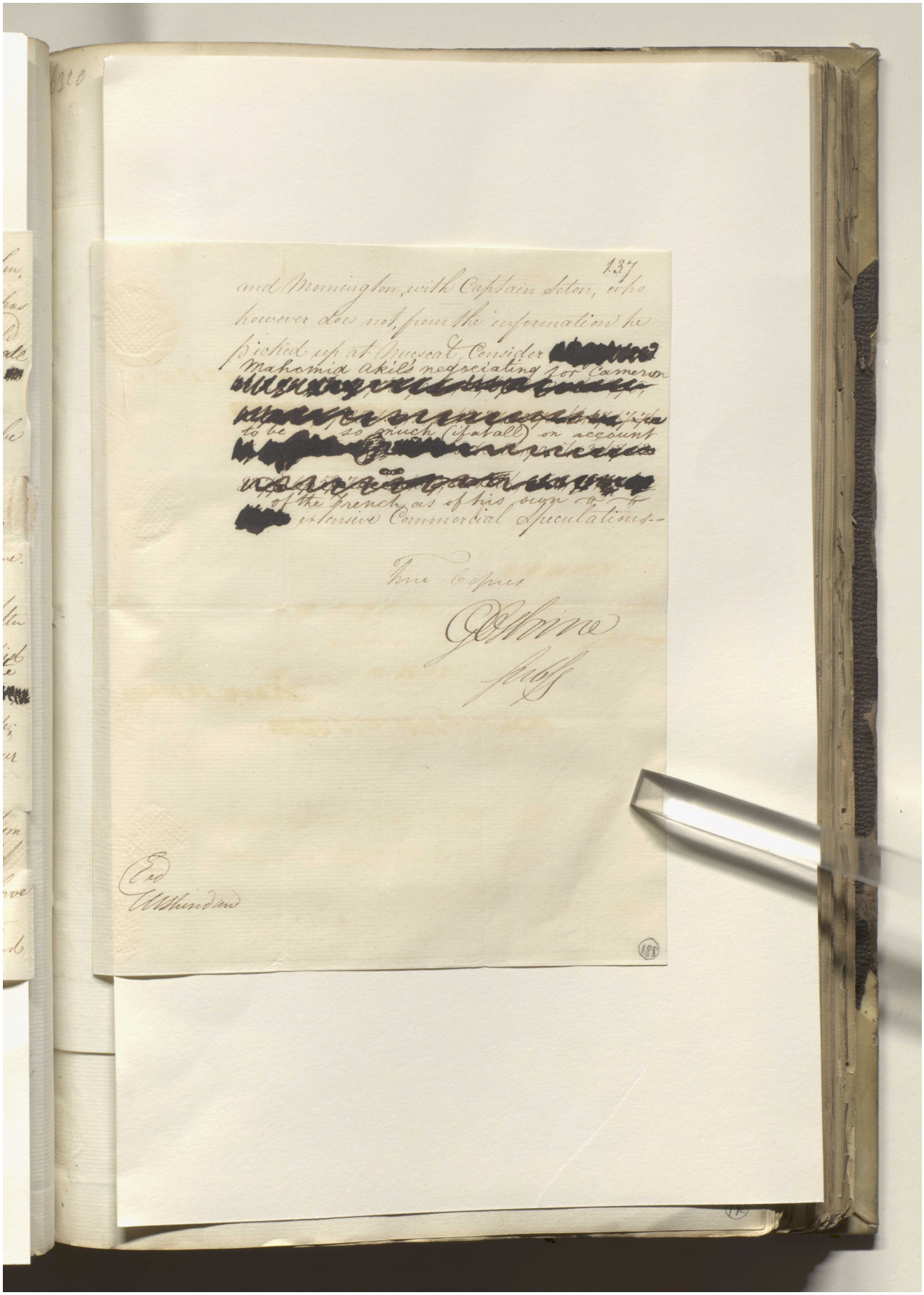

and Mornington, with Captain Seton, who however does not, from the information he picked up at Muscat, Consider [redacted] Mahomid Akil's negociating for Cameron [redacted] to be so much (if at all) on account [redacted] of the French, as of his own [redacted] extensive Commercial Speculations.—

True Copies

G. Ashine

Secy

Ed
Wshindan

188

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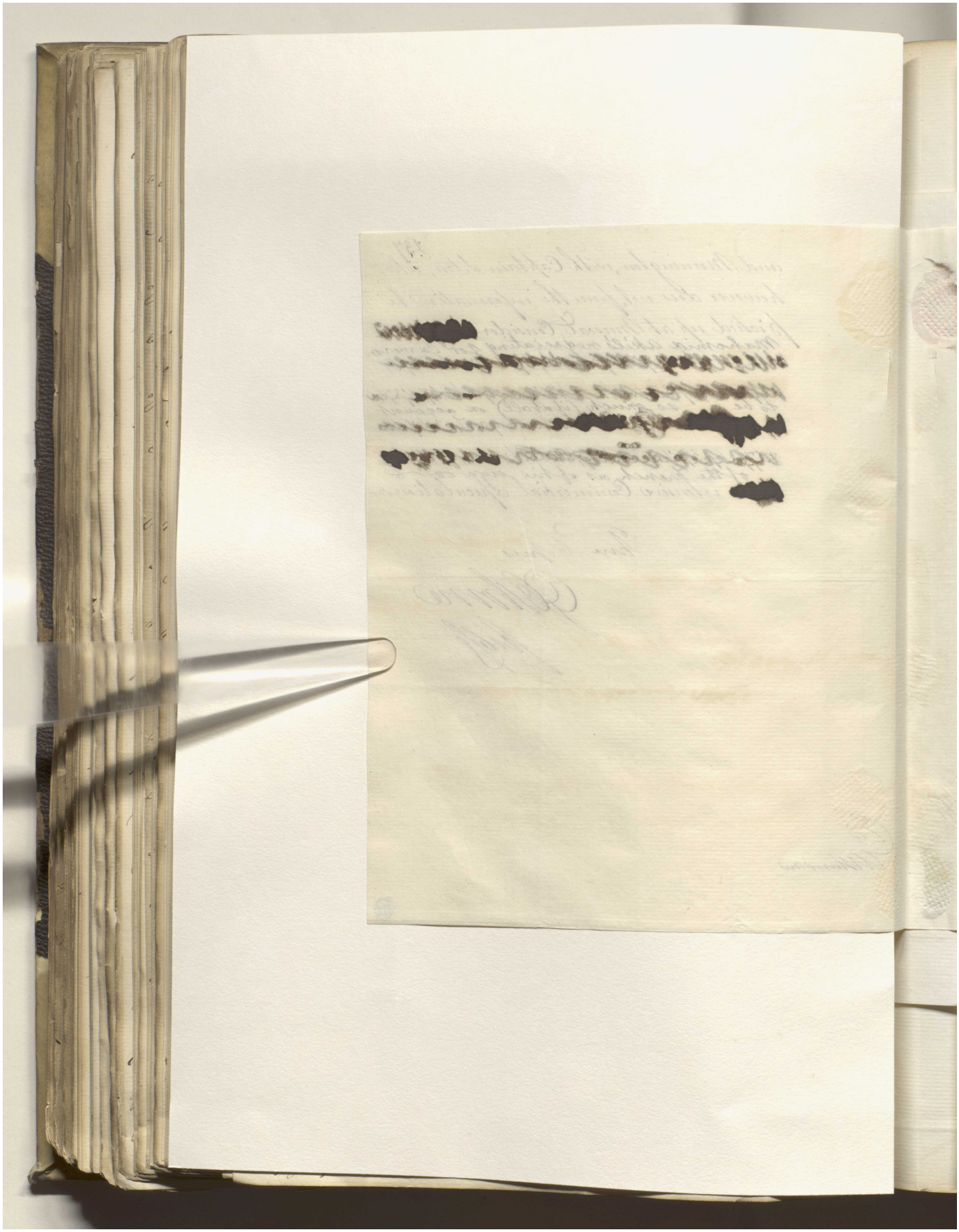

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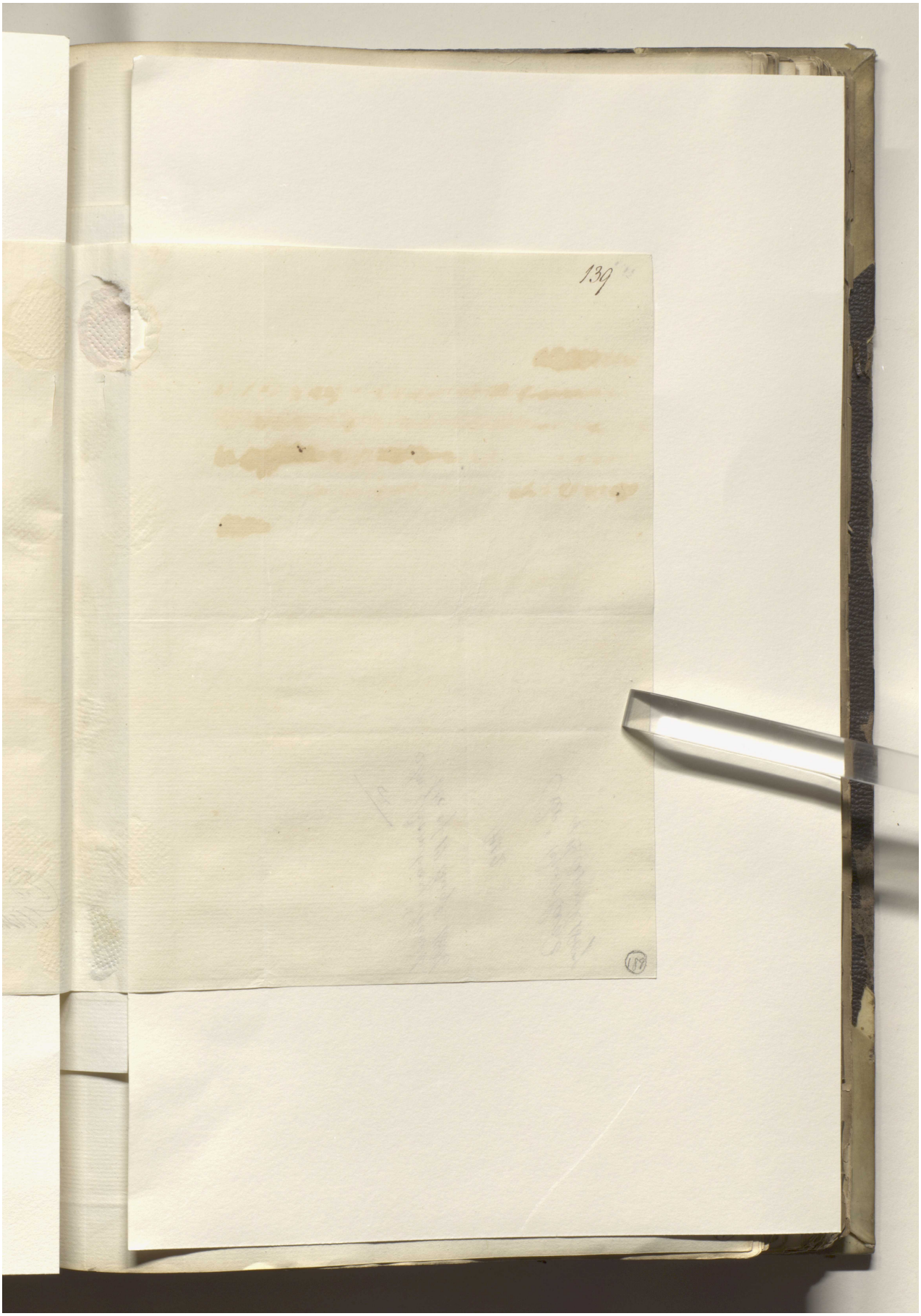

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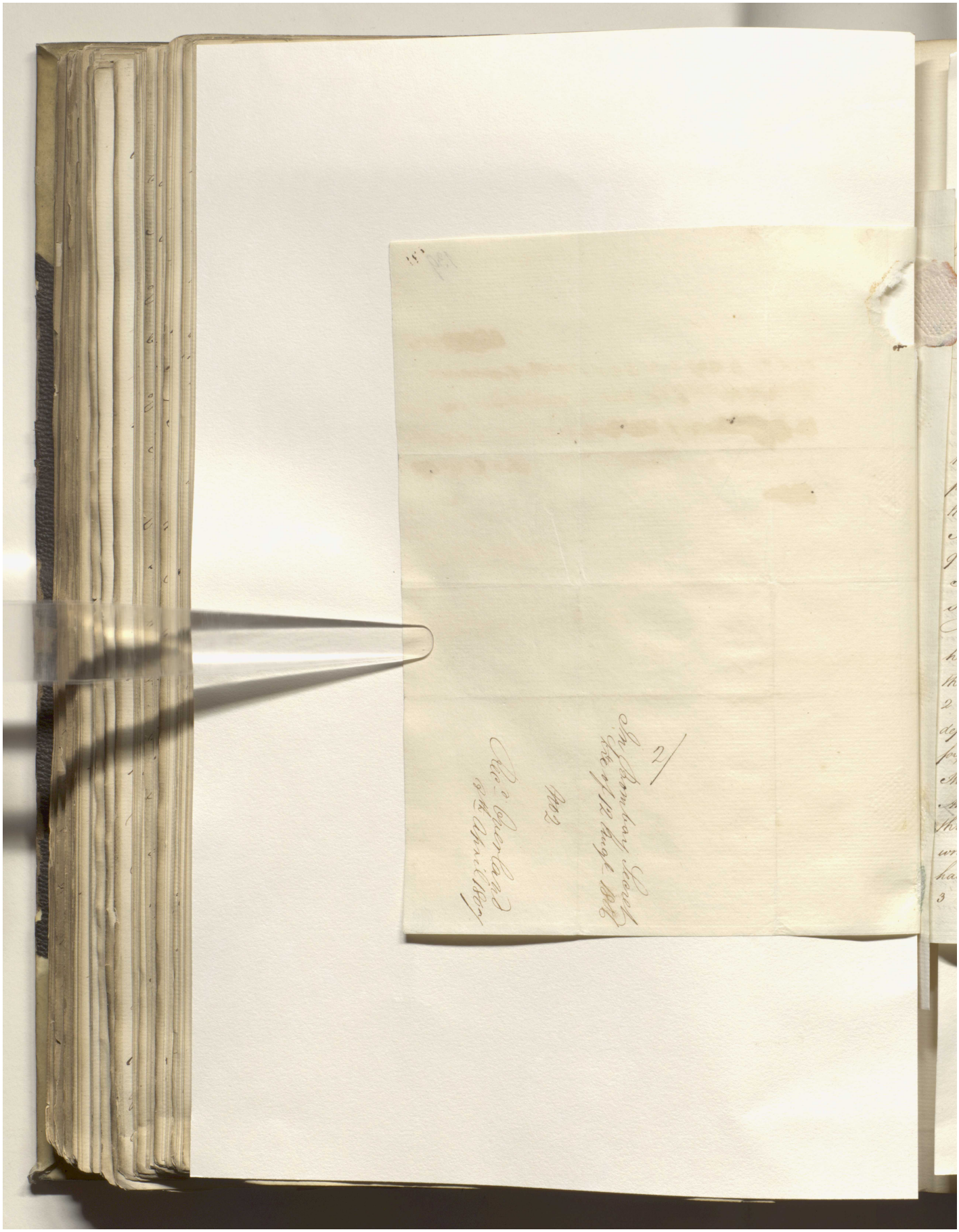

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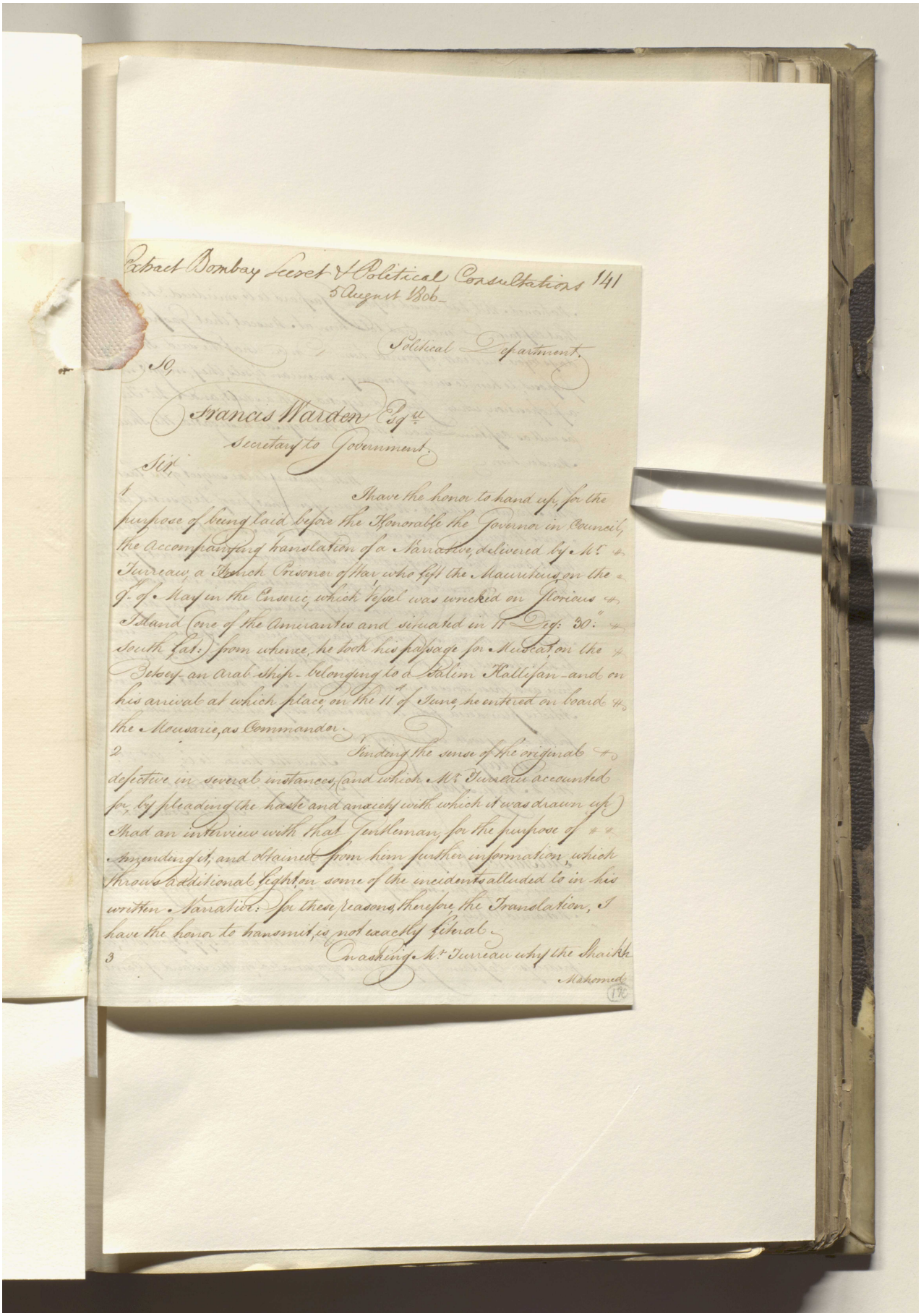
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [190r] (139/264)



Extract Bombay Secret & Political Consultations 141
5 August 1806

Political Department.

To,

Francis Warden Esqr.
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

1 I have the honor to hand up, for the purpose of being laid before the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying translation of a Narrative, delivered by Mr. Turreau, a French Prisoner of War, who left the Mauritius on the 9th of May in the Enseric, which Vessel was wrecked on Glorious Island (one of the Amirantes and situated in 11 Deg: 30" South Lat:) from whence, he took his passage for Muscat, on the Betsey - an Arab Ship - belonging to a Salim Kallifan - and on his arrival at which place, on the 11th of June, he entered on board the Mousarie, as Commander.

2 Finding the sense of the original defective in several instances, (and which Mr. Turreau accounted for, by pleading the haste and anxiety with which it was drawn up) I had an interview with that Gentleman, for the purpose of Amending it; and obtained from him further information, which throws additional light, on some of the incidents alluded to in his written Narrative: for these reasons, therefore, the Translation, I have the honor to transmit, is not exactly literal.

3 On asking Mr. Turreau why the Shaikh

Mahomed

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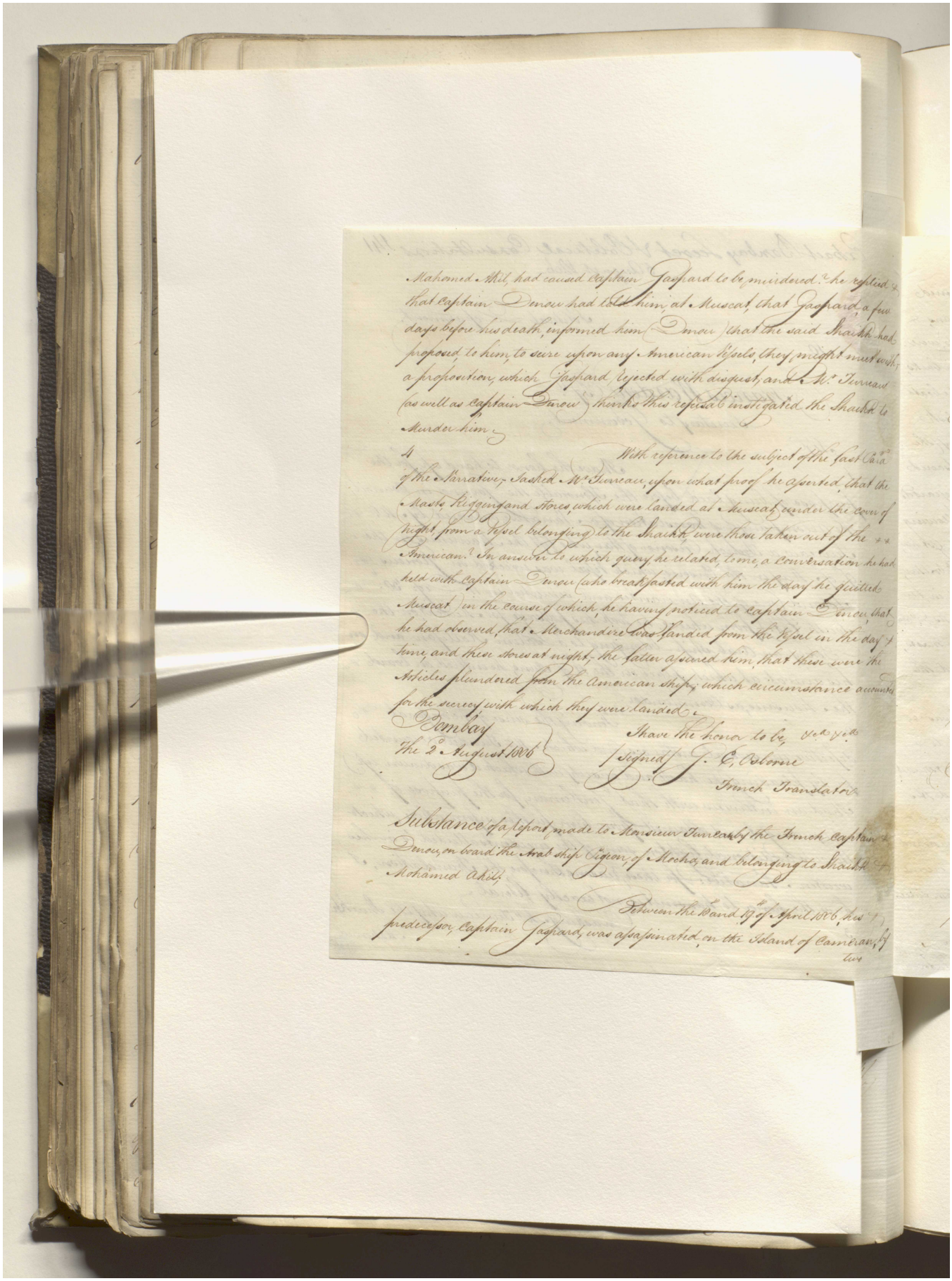

Mahomed Akil, had caused Captain Jaspard to be murdered. He replied that Captain Dumou had told him at Muscat, that Jaspard a few days before his death, informed him Dumou that the said Shaikh had proposed to him, to seize upon any American Vessels they might meet with, a proposition which Jaspard rejected with disgust, and M. Turreau (as well as Captain Darou) thinks this refusal instigated the Shaikh to Murder him.

4 With reference to the subject of the last Para of the Narrative, I asked M. Turreau upon what proof he asserted, that the Masts, Rigging and stores which were landed at Muscat under the cover of night from a Vessel belonging to the Shaikh were those taken out of the American? In answer to which query he related, to me, a Conversation he had held with Captain Dumou (who breakfasted with him the day he quitted Muscat) in the course of which, he having noticed to Captain Dumou that he had observed, that Merchandize was landed from the Vessel in the day time, and these stores at night, the latter assured him, that these were the Articles plundered from the American ship, which circumstance accounts for the secrecy with which they were landed.

Bombay
the 2d August 1806

I have the honor to be &c &c &c
Signed J. C. Osborne
French Translator

Substance of a Report made to Monsieur Turreau by the French Captain Dumou, on board the Arab ship Pigeon of Mocha, and belonging to Shaikh Mohamed Akil.

Between the 2nd and 17th April 1806, his predecessor, Captain Jaspard, was assassinated, on the Island of Cameran, by two

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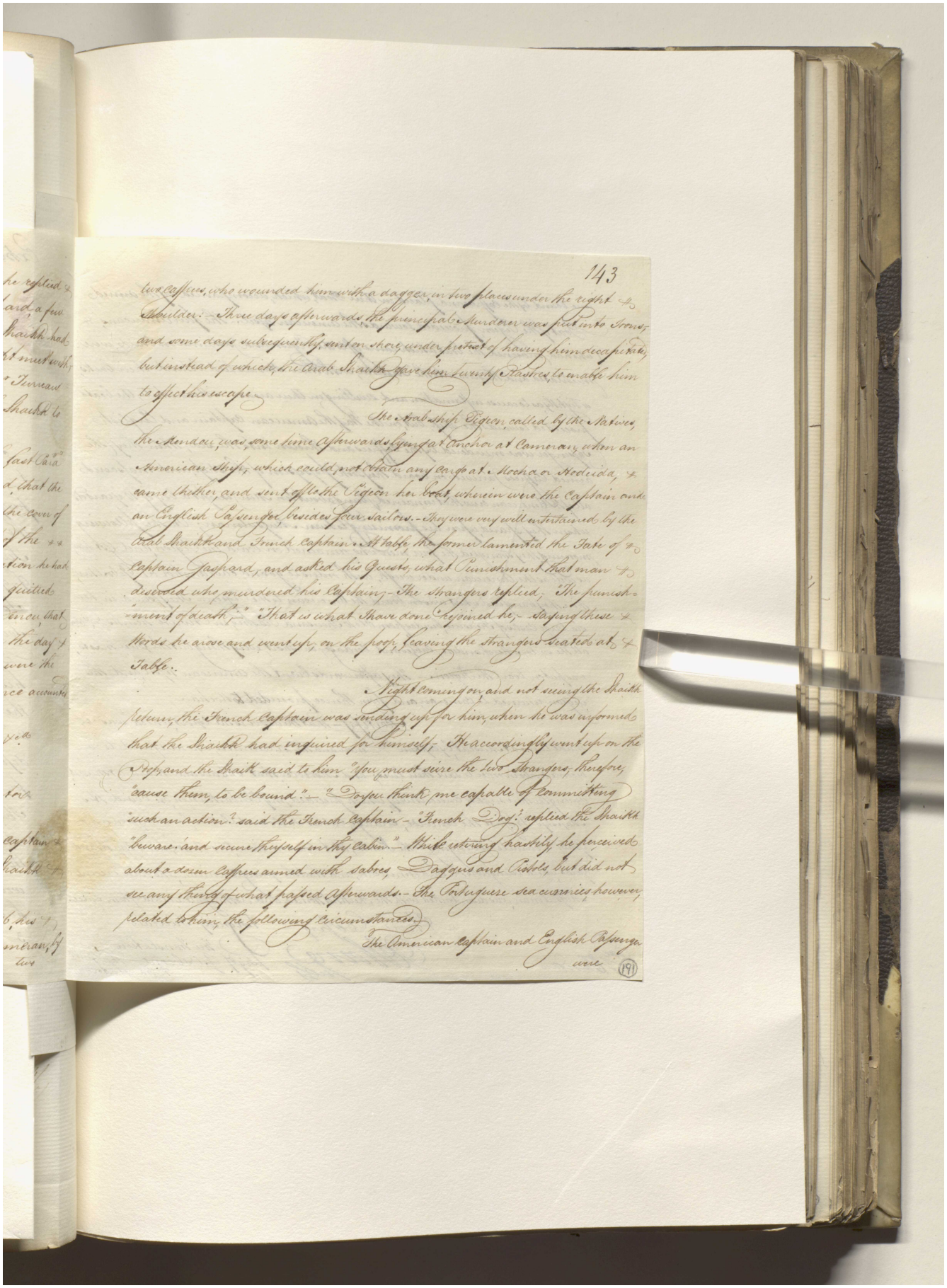

two Caffrees, who wounded him with a dagger, in two places under the right Shoulder: - Three days afterwards, the principal Murderer was put into Irons, and some days subsequently, sent on shore, under pretext of having him decapitated, but instead of which, the Arab Shaikh gave him twenty Rastres, to enable him to effect his escape.

The Arab ship Pigeon, called by the Natives, the Mendou, was, some time afterwards, lying at Anchor at Cameran, when an American Ship, which could not obtain any cargo at Mocha or Hodeida, came thither, and sent off to the Pigeon her boat, wherein were the Captain and an English Passenger, besides four sailors. - They were very well entertained by the Arab Shaikh and French Captain. At table, the former lamented the Fate of Captain Gaspard, and asked his Guests, what Punishment that man deserved who murdered his Captain; - The Strangers replied, "The punishment of death;" "That is what I have done" rejoined he; - saying these Words he arose and went up, on the poop, leaving the Strangers seated at Table.

Night coming on, and not seeing the Shaikh return, the French Captain was sending up for him, when he was informed that the Shaikh had inquired for himself; - He accordingly went up on the Poop, and the Shaik said to him "You must seize the two Strangers, therefore, "cause them, to be bound." - "Do you think me capable of committing "such an action?" said the French Captain - "French Dog!" replied the Shaikh "beware! and secure thyself in thy Cabin." - While retiring hastily, he perceived about a dozen Caffrees armed with sabres, Daggers and Pistols, but did not see any thing of what passed afterwards. - The Portuguese sea cunnies, however, related to him, the following circumstances.

The American Captain and English Passenger were

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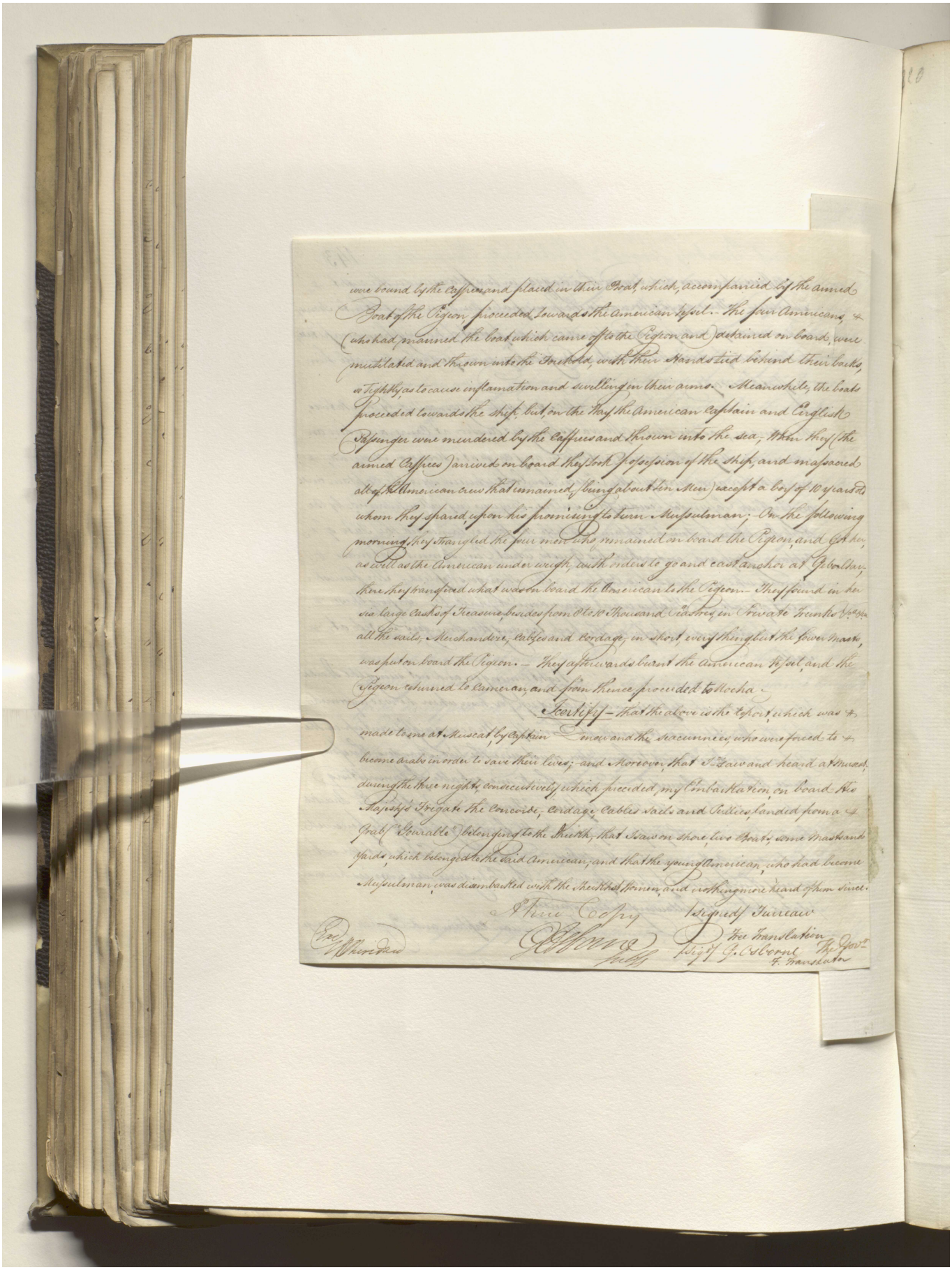

were bound by the Caffres and placed in their Boat which, accompanied by the armed Boat of the Pigeon, proceeded towards the American Vessel. The four Americans (who had manned the boat which came off to the Pigeon and) detained on board, were mutilated and thrown into the Hold, with their Hands tied behind their backs, as tightly as to cause inflamation and swelling in their arms. Meanwhile, the boats proceeded towards the ship, but on the way the American Captain and English Passenger were murdered by the Caffres and thrown into the sea. When they (the armed Caffres) arrived on board they took possession of the ship, and massacred all the American crew that remained, (being about ten in Num.) except a boy of 10 years old whom they spared, upon his promising to turn Mussulman. On the following morning they strangled the four men who remained on board the Pigeon, and left her as well as the American under weigh, with orders to go and cast anchor at Gibraltar, there they pumped out what water on board the American to the Pigeon. They found in her sea large Casks of Treasure, besides from 8 to 10 Thousand Dollars in Private Trunks &c. &c. all the sails, Merchandize, Cables and Cordage, in short every thing but the lower mast, was put on board the Pigeon. They afterwards burnt the American Vessel, and the Pigeon returned to Cameran, and from thence proceeded to Mocha.

Certify - that the above is the Report which was made to me at Muscat by Captain Shaw and the Seacunnies who were forced to become Arabs in order to save their lives; and Moreover that I saw and heard at Muscat during the three nights consecutively which preceded my Embarkation on board His Majesty's Frigate the Concorde, Cordage, Cables Sails and Utilies landed from a Grab (Gibraltar) belonging to the Sheikh, that I saw on shore two Boats, some Mast and Yards which belonged to the said American; and that the young American who had become Mussulman was disembarked with the Sheikh's Women, and nothing more heard of him since.

A true Copy
Signed Fumeau
Rec.d Whereon
G. Osborne
True Translation
Sign.d G. Osborne
The Govr.
& Translator

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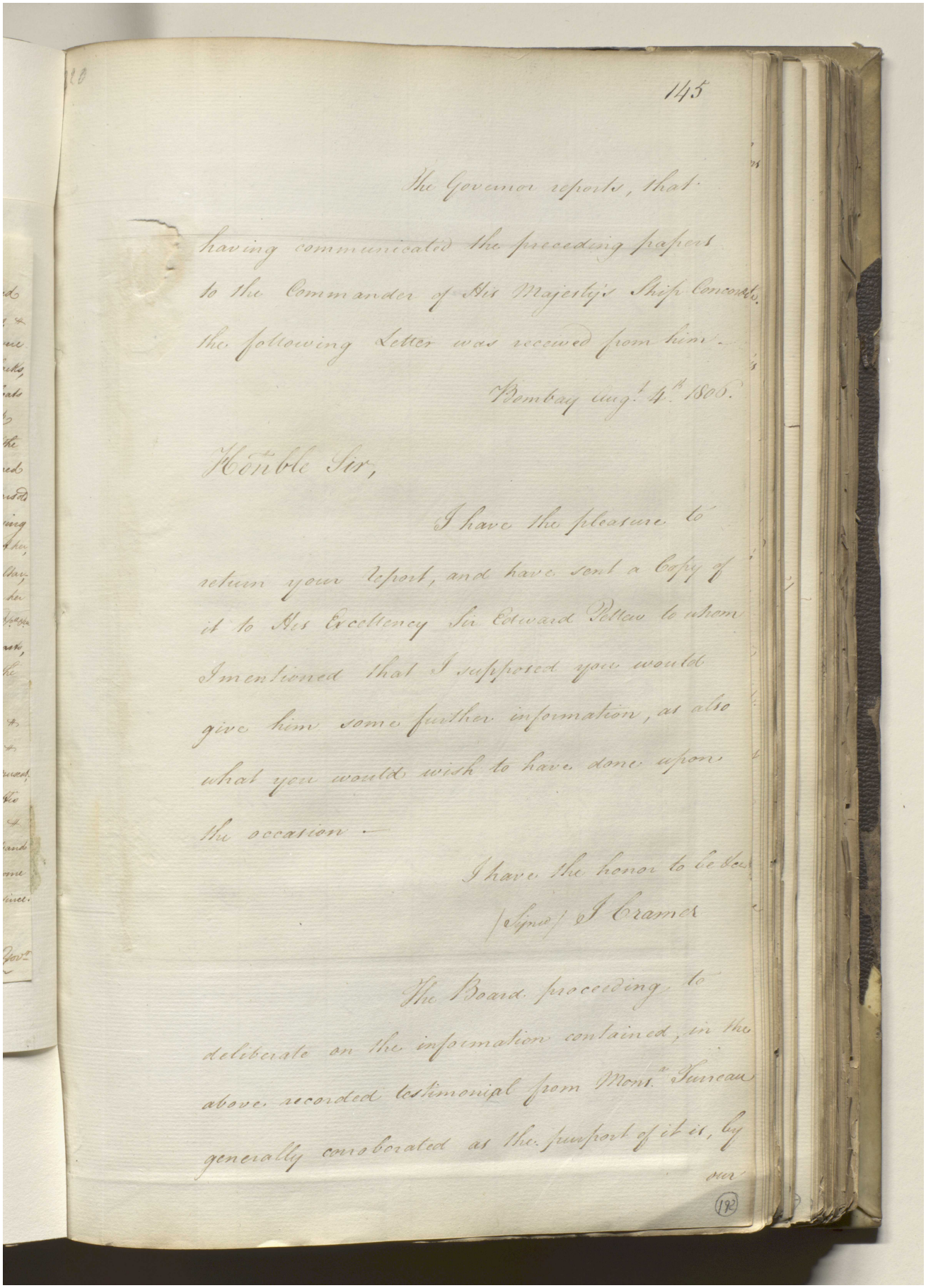

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The Governor reports, that having communicated the preceding papers to the Commander of His Majesty's Ship Concorde, the following Letter was received from him.

Bombay Aug.t 4.th 1805.

Honble Sir,

I have the pleasure to return your report, and have sent a Copy of it to His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew to whom I mentioned that I supposed you would give him some further information, as also what you would wish to have done upon the occasion.

I have the honor to be &c.
(Signed) J Cramer

The Board proceeding to deliberate on the information contained, in the above recorded testimonial from Mons.r Suneau generally corroborated as the purport of it is, by our

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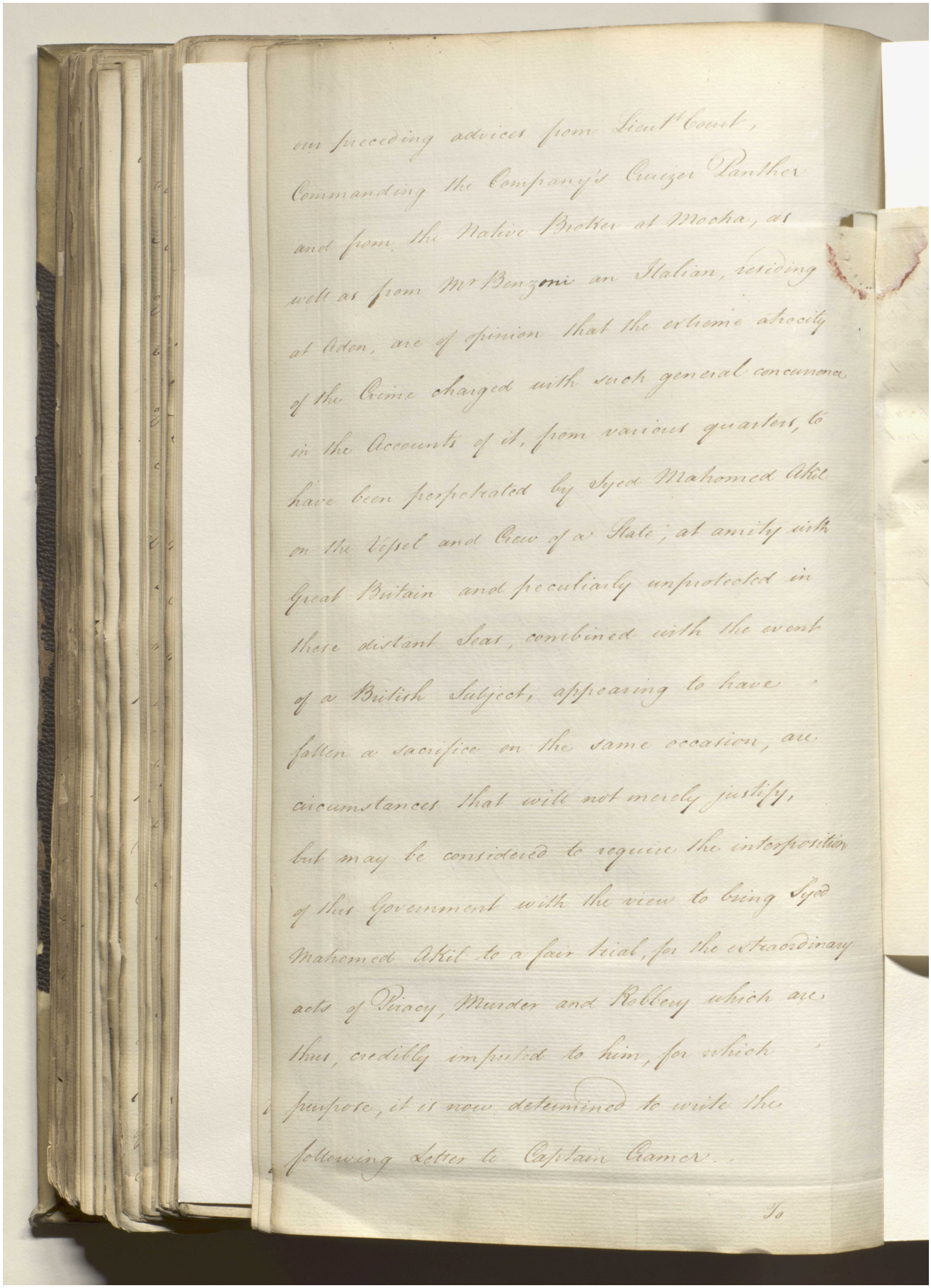
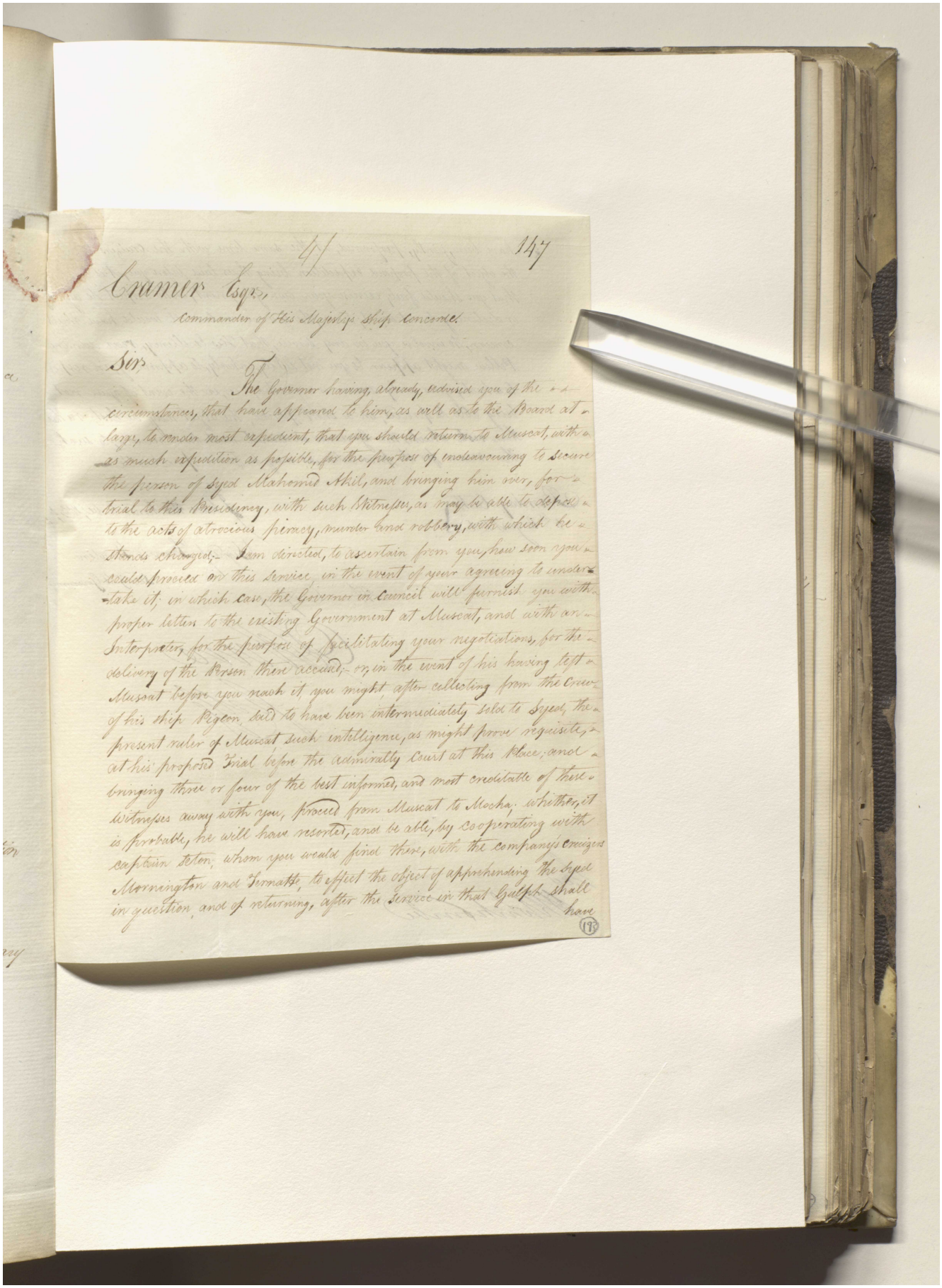


our preceding advices from Lieut.t Court,
Commanding the Company's Cruizer Panther
and from the Native Broker at Mocha, as
well as from Mr. Benzoni an Italian, residing
at Aden, are of opinion that the extreme atrocity
of the Crime charged with such general concurrence
in the Accounts of it, from various quarters, to
have been perpetrated by Syed Mahomed Akil
on the Vessel and Crew of a State, at amity with
Great Britain and peculiarly unprotected in
these distant Seas, combined with the event
of a British Subject, appearing to have
fallen a sacrifice on the same occasion, are
circumstances that will not merely justify,
but may be considered to require the interposition
of this Government with the view to bring Syed
Mahomed Akil to a fair trial, for the extraordinary
acts of Piracy, Murder and Robbery which are
thus, credibly imputed to him, for which
purpose, it is now determined to write the
following Letter to Captain Cramer.

To



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Cramer Esqr.

Commander of His Majestys Ship Concorde.

Sir,

The Governor having already advised you of the circumstances, that have appeared to him, as well as to the Board at large, to render most expedient, that you should return to Muscat, with as much expedition as possible, for the purpose of endeavouring to secure the person of Syed Mahomed Akil, and bringing him over, for trial to this Presidency, with such Witnesses, as may be able to depose to the acts of atrocious piracy, murder and robbery, with which he stands charged,- I am directed, to ascertain from you, how soon you could proceed on this service, in the event of your agreeing to undertake it; in which case, the Governor in Council will furnish you with proper letters to the existing Government at Muscat, and with an Interpreter, for the purpose of facilitating your negotiations, for the delivery of the Person there accused,- or, in the event of his having left Muscat before you reach it, you might after collecting from the Crew of his ship Pigeon, said to have been immediately seized by Syed, the present ruler of Muscat such intelligence, as might prove requisite, at his proposed Trial before the Admiralty Court at this place, and bringing three or four of the best informed, and most creditable of these Witnesses away with you, proceed from Muscat to Mocha: whither, it is probable, he will have resorted, and be able, by cooperating with Captain Seton, whom you would find there, with the Company's Cruizers Morrington and Ternatte, to effect the object of apprehending the Syed in question, and of returning, after the Service in that Gulph shall have

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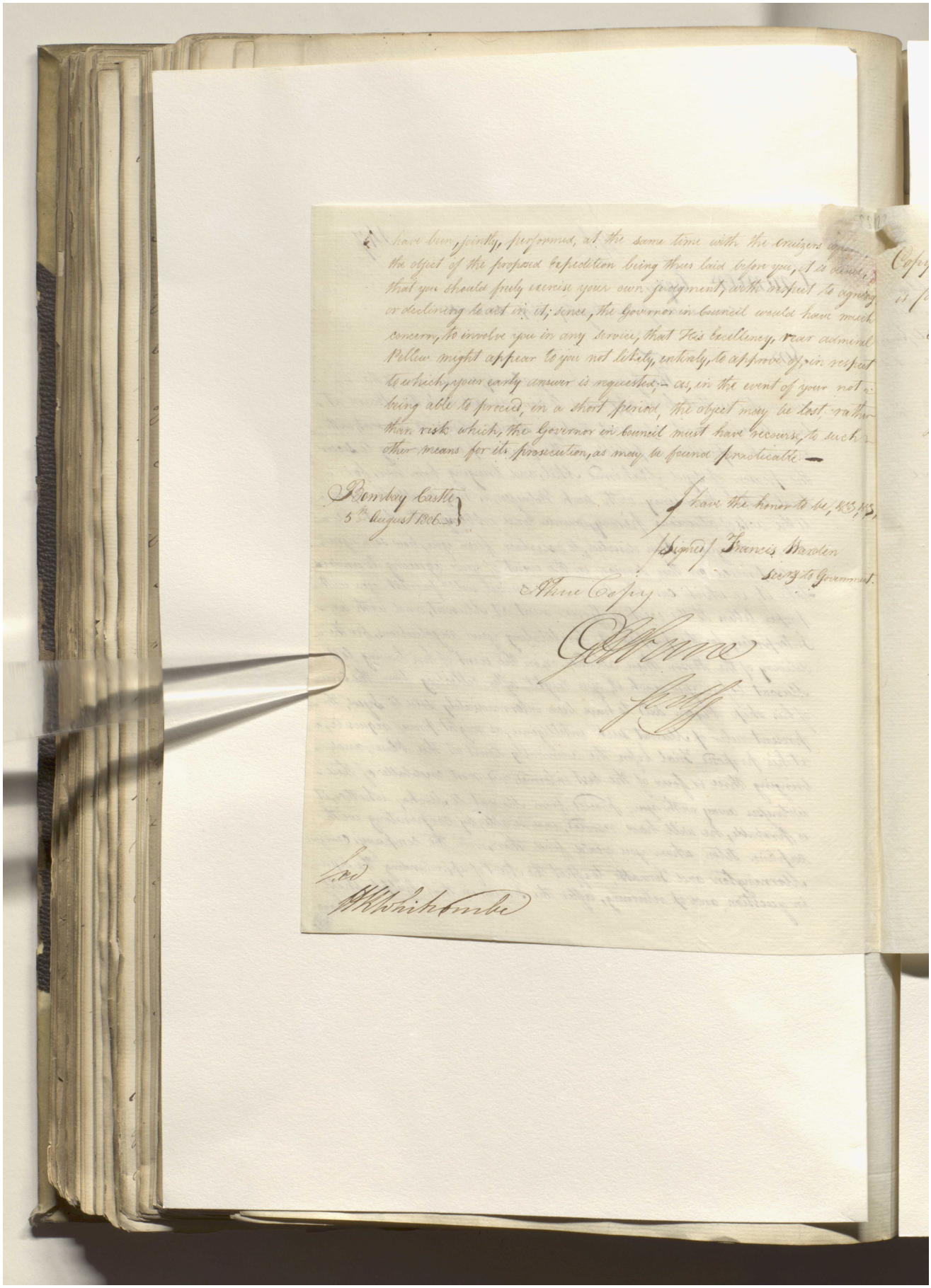

have been, jointly, performed, at the same time with the cruizers against the object of the proposed Expedition being thus laid before you, it is desired, that you should freely exercise your own judgment, with respect to agreeing or declining to act in it; since, the Governor in Council would have much concern, to involve you in any service, that His Excellency, rear admiral Pellew might appear to you not likely, entirely, to approve of, in respect to which, your early answer is requested; — as, in the event of your not being able to proceed, in a short period, the object may be lost, rather than risk which, the Governor in Council must have recourse, to such other means for its prosecution, as may be found practicable. —

Bombay Castle
5th August 1806.

I have the honor to be, &c &c,

(Signed) Francis Warden
Secry to Government.

A true Copy

[illegible]

Lord
[illegible]

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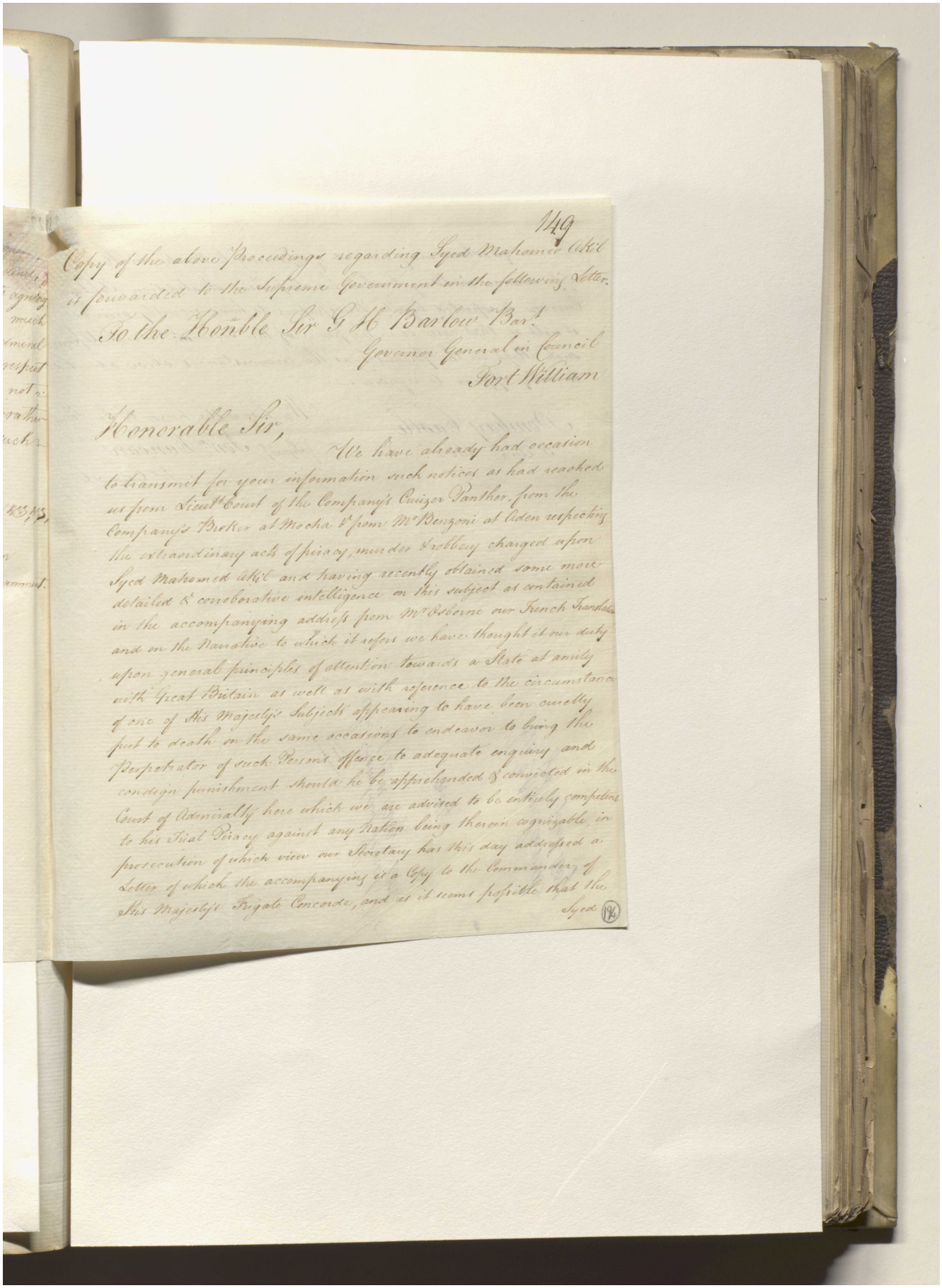

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Copy of the above Proceedings regarding Syed Mahomed Akil is forwarded to the Supreme Government in the following Letter.

To the Honble Sir G H Barlow Bart
Governor General in Council
Fort William

Honorable Sir,

We have already had occation to transmit for your information such notices as had reached us from Lieut Court of the Company's Cruizer Panther from the Company's Broker at Mocha & from Mr Bengoni at Aden respecting the extraordinary acts of piracy, murder & robbery charged upon Syed Mahomed Akil and having recently obtained some more detailed & corroborative intelligence on this subject as contained in the accompanying address from Mr Osborne our French Translator and on the Narrative to which it refers we have thought it our duty upon general principles of attention towards a State at amity with Great Britain as well as with reference to the circumstance of one of His Majesty's Subjects appearing to have been cruelly put to death in the same occasions to endeavor to bring the Perpetrator of such Perfidious offence to adequate enquiry and condign punishment should he be apprehended & convicted in the Court of Admiralty here which we are advised to be entirely competent to the Trial Piracy against any Nation being therein cognizable in prosecution of which view our Secretary has this day addressed a Letter of which the accompanying is a Copy to the Commander of His Majesty's Frigate Concorde, and as it seems possible that the

Syed

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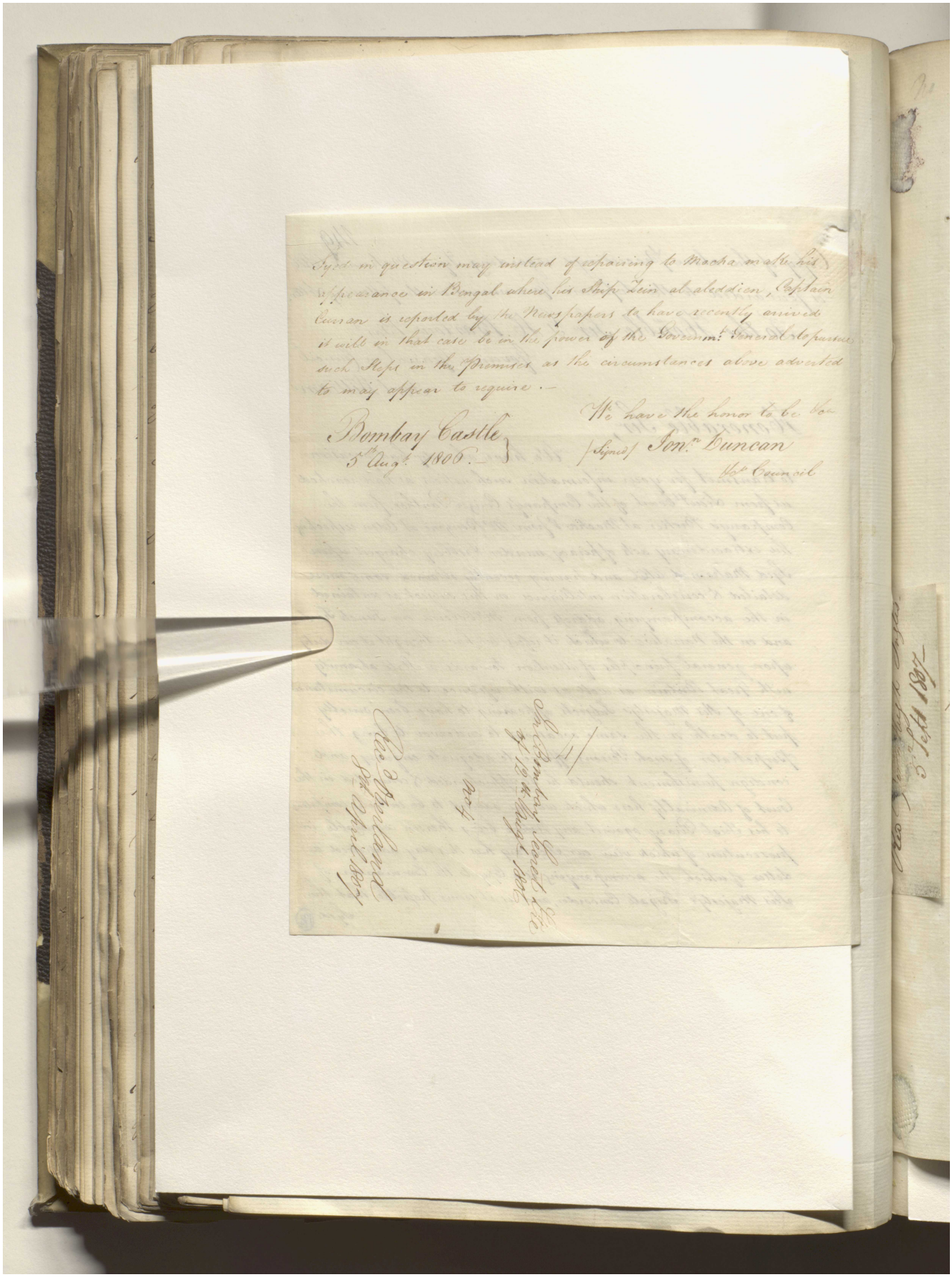

Syed in question may instead of repairing to Mocha make his appearance in Bengal where his Ship Zein al eddien, Captain Cusan is reported by the Newspapers to have recently arrived it will in that case be in the power of the Govern.m General to pursue such Steps in the premises as the circumstances above adverted to may appear to require.—

Bombay Castle
5th Augt 1806.—

We have the honor to be &c
Signed Jon.n Duncan
Vice Council

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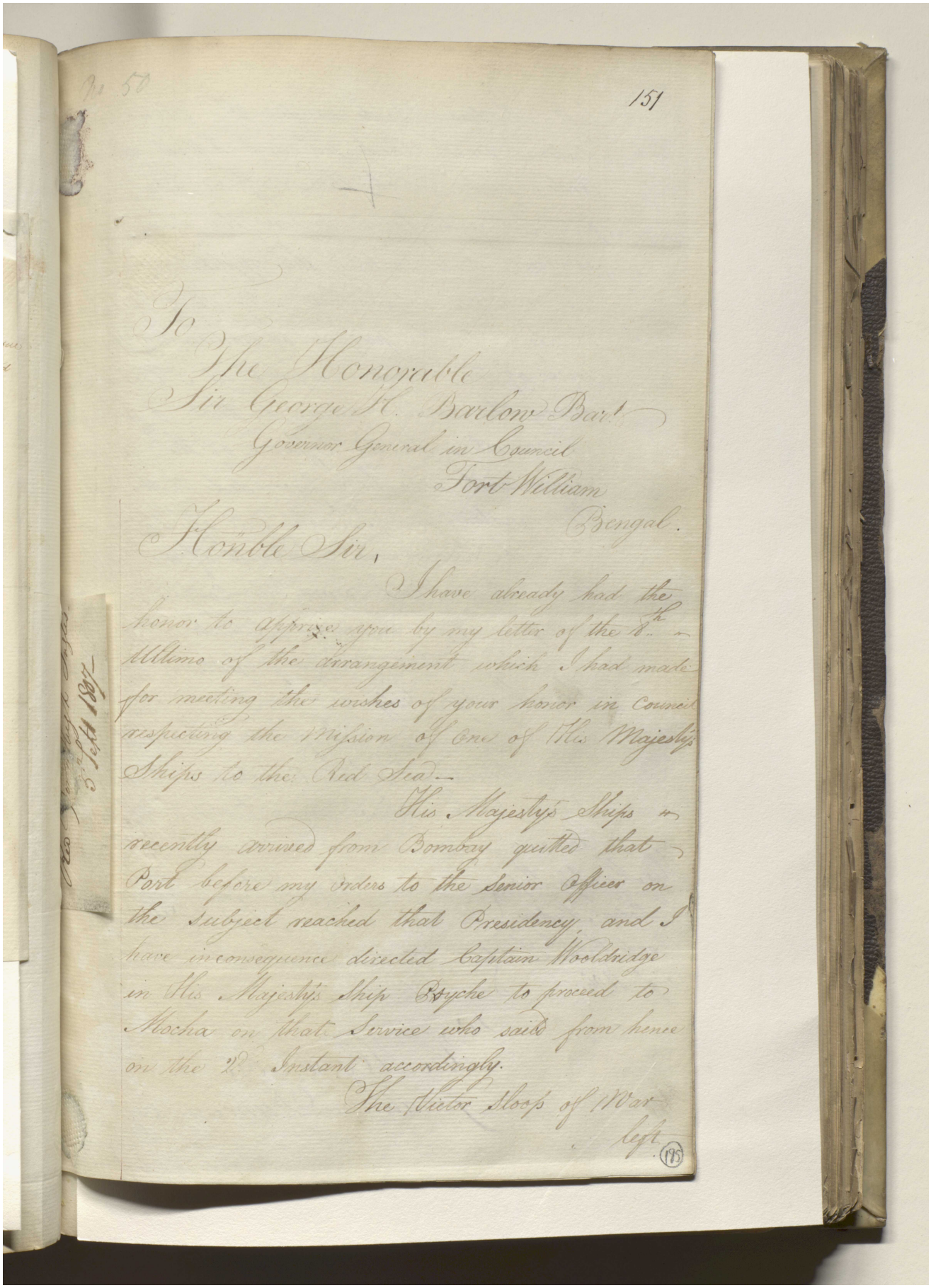

No 50

To
The Honorable
Sir George H. Barlow Bart.
Governor General in Council
Fort William
Bengal.

Hon'ble Sir,

I have already had the honor to apprize you by my letter of the 8th Ultimo of the arrangement which I had made for meeting the wishes of your honor in Council respecting the Mission of One of His Majesty's Ships to the Red Sea.

His Majesty's Ships recently arrived from Bombay quitted that Port before my orders to the Senior Officer on the subject reached that Presidency, and I have in consequence directed Captain Wooldridge in His Majesty's Ship Psyche to proceed to Mocha on that Service who said from hence on the 2d Instant accordingly.

The Victor Sloop of War left

Rec'd [illegible] 5th Sept 1807

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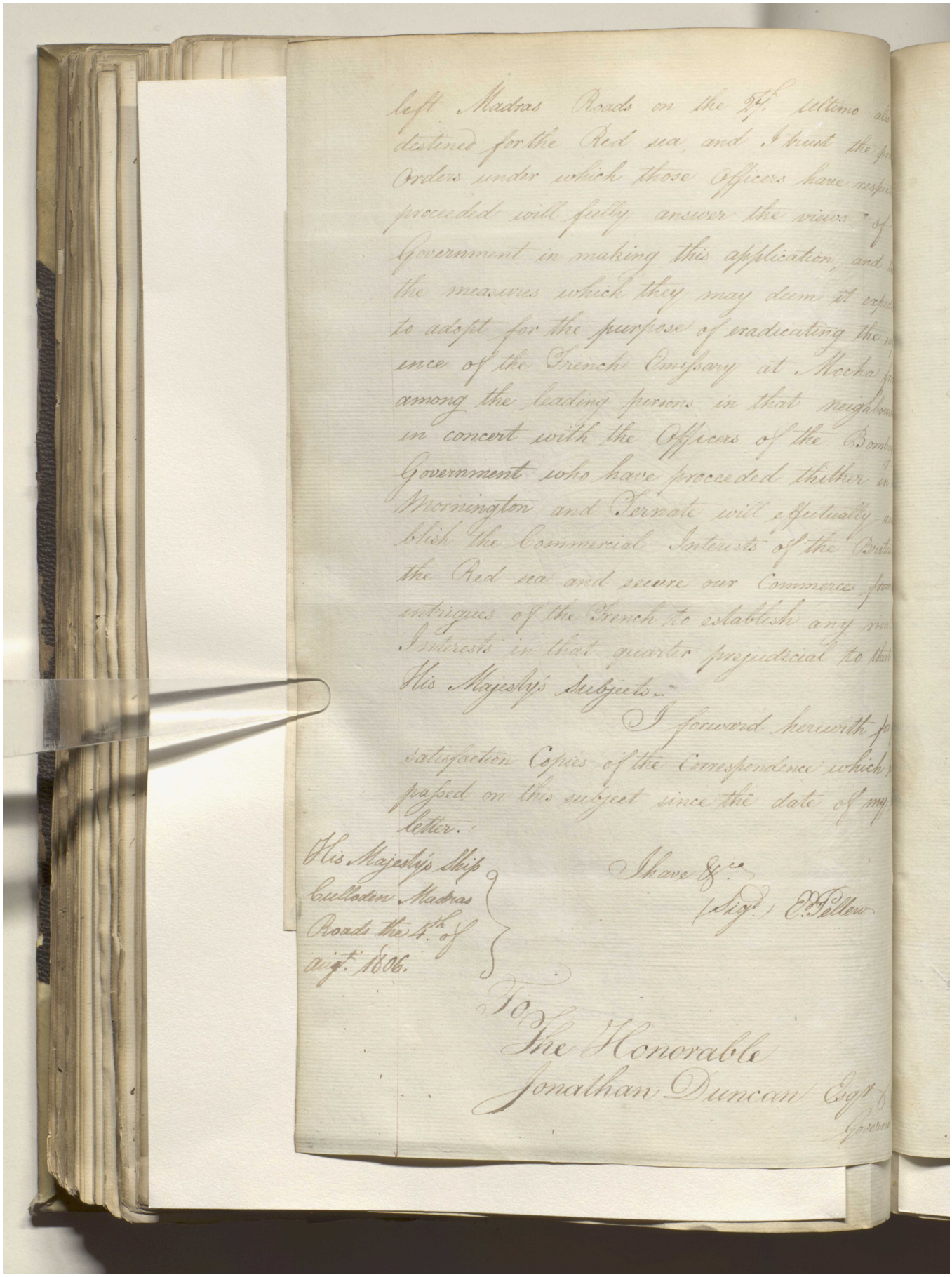

left Madras Roads on the 27th ultimo
destined for the Red sea, and I trust the
Orders under which those Officers have respe
proceeded will fully answer the views of
Government in making this application, and
the measures which they may deem it expe
to adopt for the purpose of eradicating the
ence of the French Emissary at Mocha
among the leading persons in that neighbou
in concert with the Officers of the Bomb
Government who have proceeded thither in
Mornington and Ternate will effectually
blish the Commercial Interests of the Briti
the Red sea and secure our Commerce from
intrigues of the French to establish any
Interests in that quarter prejudicial to that
His Majesty's Subjects.

I forward herewith for
satisfaction Copies of the Correspondence which
passed on this subject since the date of my
letter.

His Majesty's Ship
Culloden Madras
Roads the 4th of
augt. 1806.

I have &c
(Sigd) E. Pellew

To
The Honorable
Jonathan Duncan Esqr
Governor

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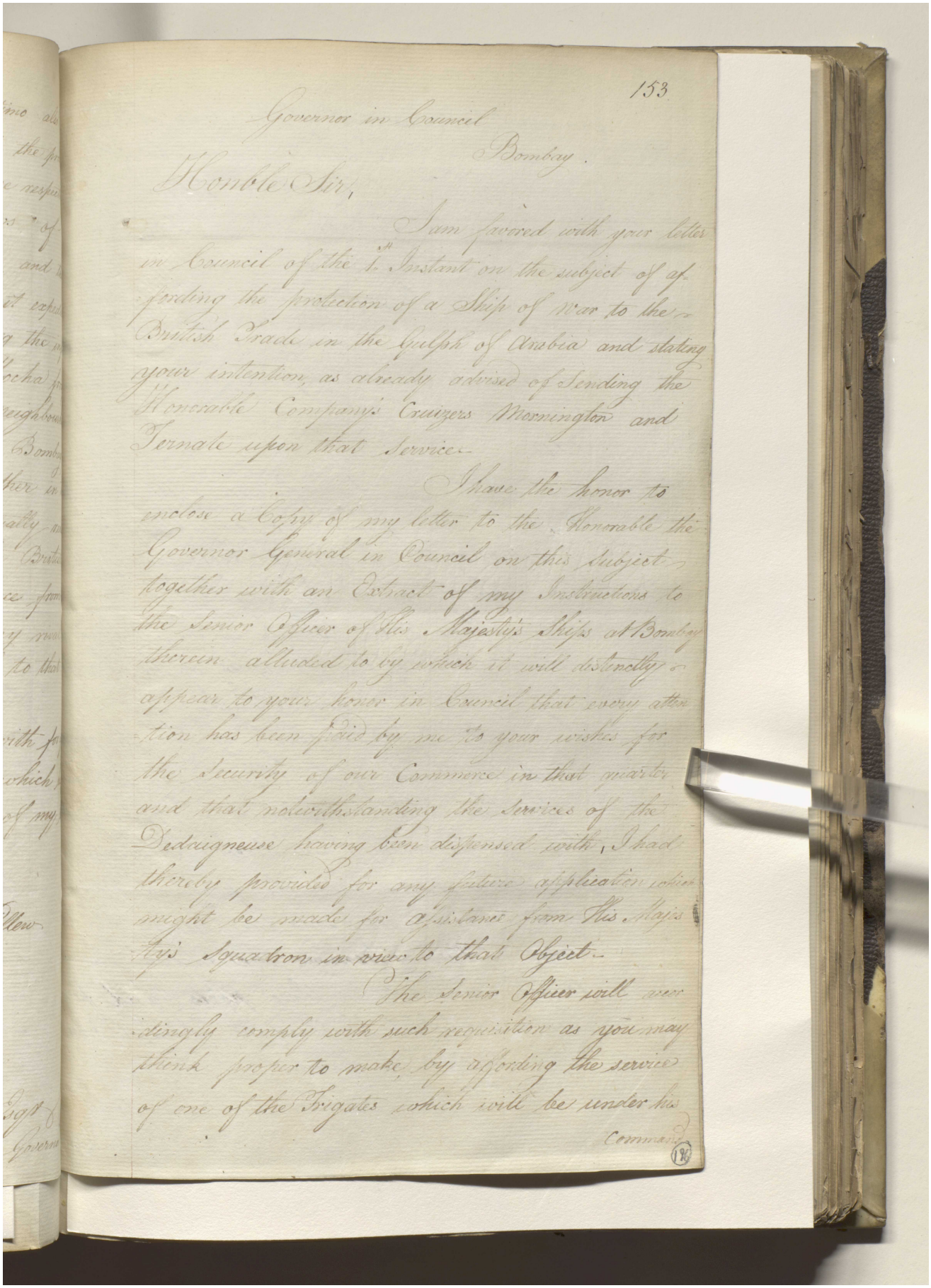

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Governor in Council
Bombay.

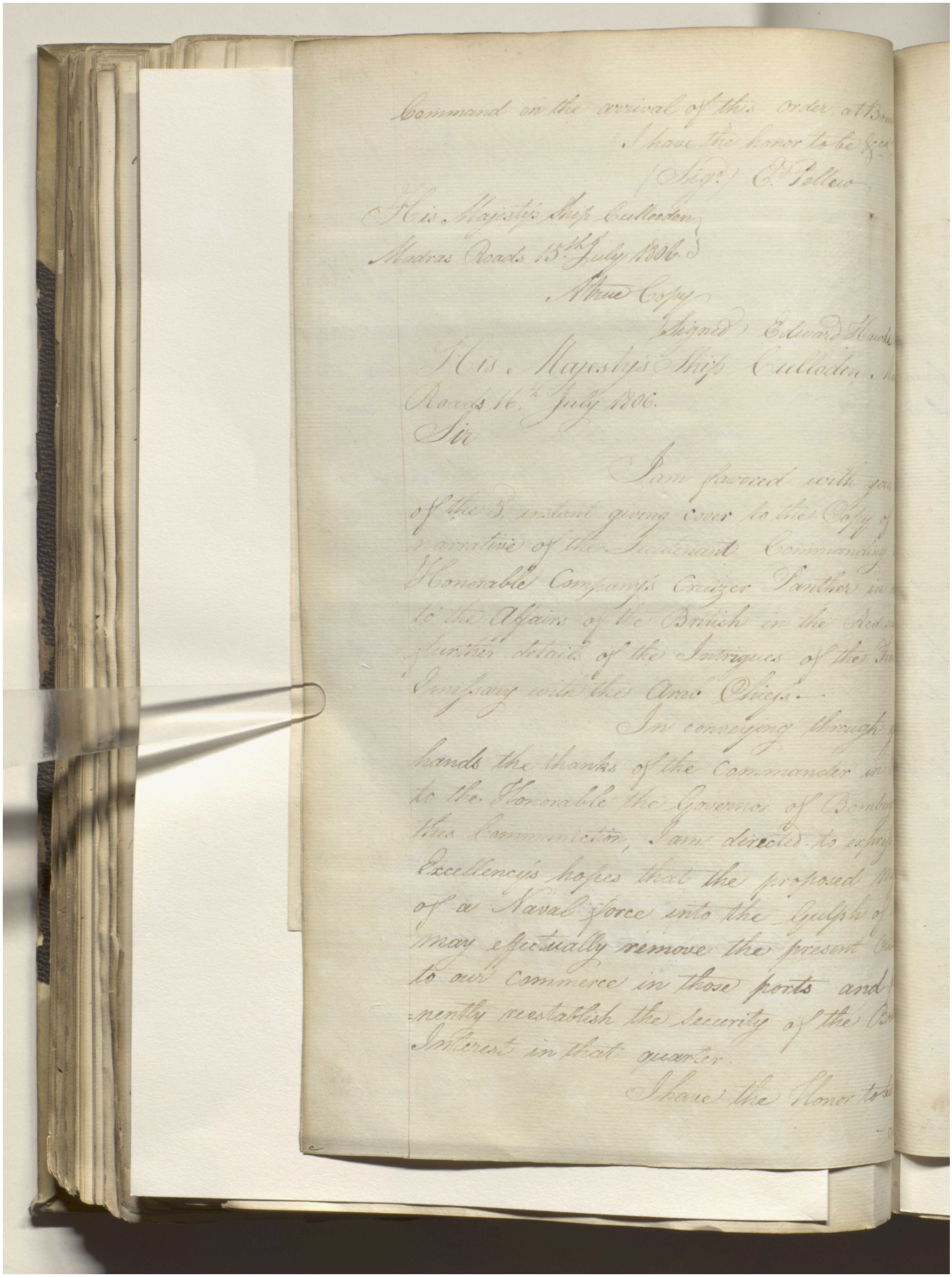
Honble Sir,

I am favored with your letter in Council of the 1st Instant on the subject of affording the protection of a Ship of War to the British Trade in the Gulph of Arabia and stating your intention, as already advised of Sending the Honorable Company's Cruizers Mornington and Ternate upon that Service.

I have the honor to enclose a Copy of my letter to the Honorable the Governor General in Council on this Subject together with an Extract of my Instructions to the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships at Bombay thereon alluded to by which it will distinctly appear to your honor in Council that every attention has been paid by me to your wishes for the Security of our Commerce in that quarter and that notwithstanding the Services of the Dedaigneuse having been dispensed with, I had thereby provided for any future application which might be made for Assistance from His Majesty's Squadron in view to that Object.

The Senior Officer will accordingly comply with such requisition as you may think proper to make by affording the service of one of the Frigates which will be under his Command.

'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [196v] (152/264)



Command on the arrival of this order at Bom

I have the honor to be &c.

(Sig.d) E.d Pellew

His Majesty's Ship Cullooden
Madras Roads 15th July 1806.

A true Copy

(Signed) Edward Hawke

His Majesty's Ship Culloden, Ma
Roads 16th July 1806.

Sir

I am favored with your
of the 3d instant giving cover to the Copy of
narrative of the Lieutenant Commanding
Honorable Company's Cruizer Panther in
to the Affairs of the British in the Red sea
further details of the Intrigues of the Fre
Emissary with the Arab Chiefs.

In conveying through y
hands the thanks of the Commander in
to the Honorable the Governor of Bombay
this Communiction, I am directed to express
Excellency's hopes that the proposed M
of a Naval force into the Gulph of
may effectually remove the present Obs
to our Commerce in those ports and
-nently reestablish the Security of the Br
Interest in that quarter.

I have the Honor to be

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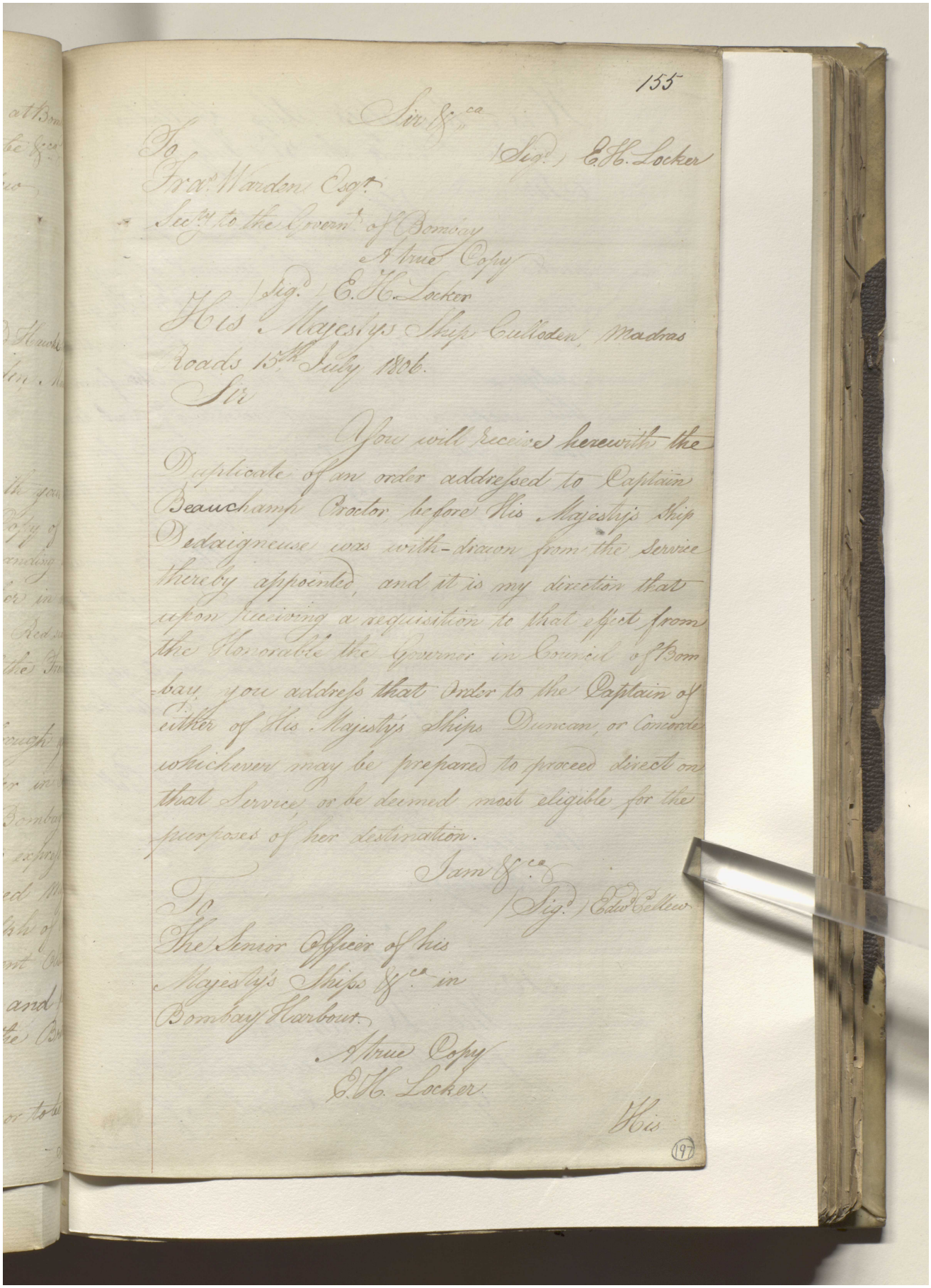
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [197r] (153/264)



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Sir &ca

To (Sigd) E.H. Locker

Fras Warden Esqr

Secty to the Governt of Bombay

A true Copy

(Sigd) E.H. Locker

His Majestys Ship Culloden, Madras Roads 15th July 1806.

Sir

You will receive herewith the Duplicate of an order addressed to Captain Beauchamp Proctor, before His Majesty's Ship Dedaigneuse was with-drawn from the Service thereby appointed, and it is my direction that upon receiving a requisition to that effect from the Honorable the Governor in Council of Bombay, you address that Order to the Captain of either of His Majesty's Ships Duncan, or Concorde whichever may be prepared to proceed direct on that Service, or be deemed most eligible for the purposes of her destination.

I am &ca

(Sigd) Edwd Pellew

To

The Senior Officer of his Majesty's Ships &ca in Bombay Harbour.

A true Copy

E.H. Locker

His

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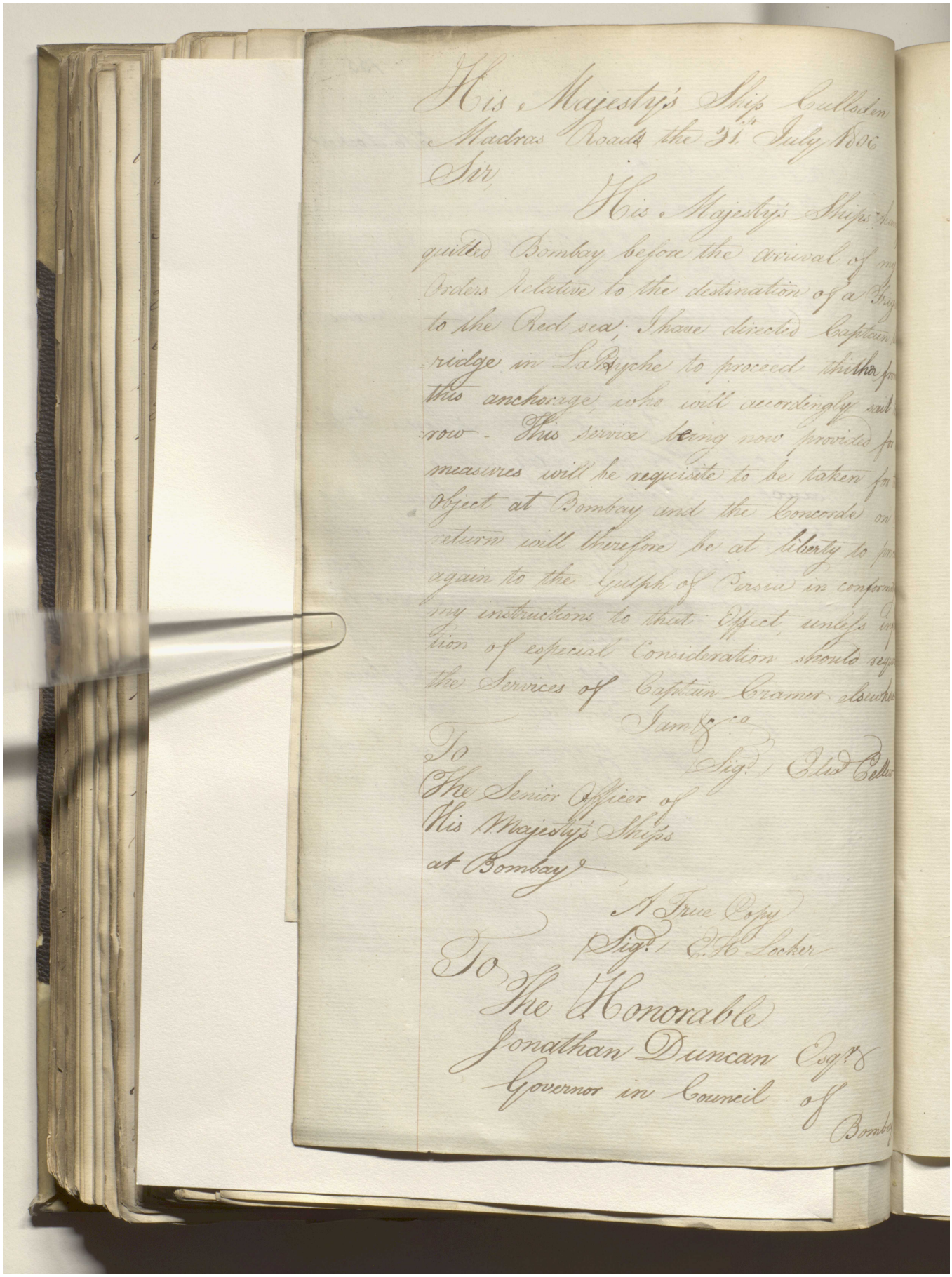

His Majesty's Ship Culloden
Madras Roads the 31st July 1806
Sir,

His Majesty's Ships have quitted Bombay before the arrival of my Orders relative to the destination of a Frig to the Red sea; I have directed Captain ridge in La Psyche to proceed thither from this anchorage, who will accordingly sail row - This service being now provided for measures will be requisite to be taken for Object at Bombay and the Concorde on return will therefore be at liberty to pro again to the Gulph of Persia in conformi my instructions to that Effect, unless inf tion of especial Consideration should requ the Services of Captain Cramer elsewhere

I am &c.

Sig.d Elw.d Pellew

To
The Senior Officer of
His Majesty's Ships
at Bombay

A True Copy
Sig.d E.H. Locker

To
The Honorable
Jonathan Duncan Esq.r &
Governor in Council of
Bombay

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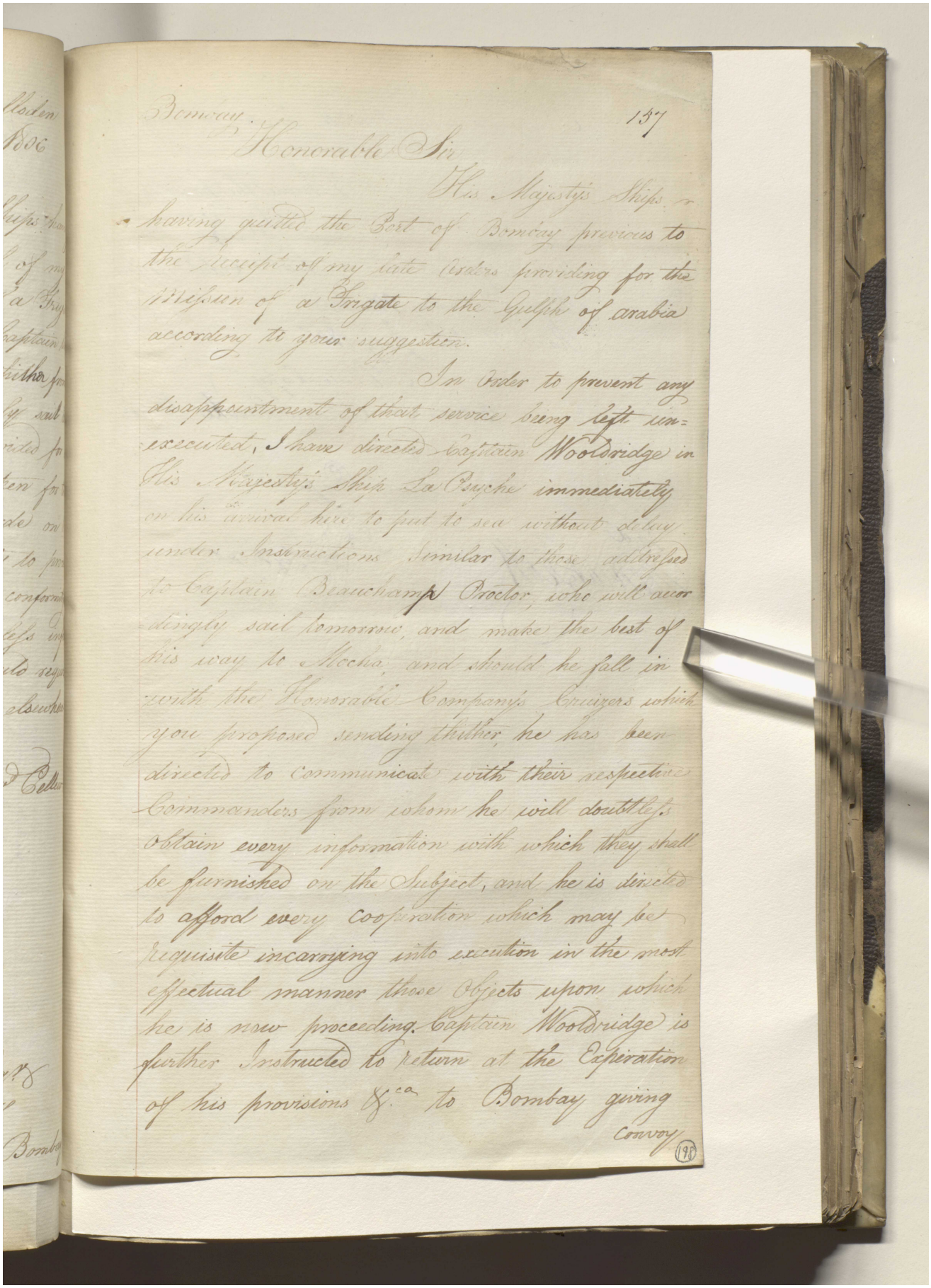


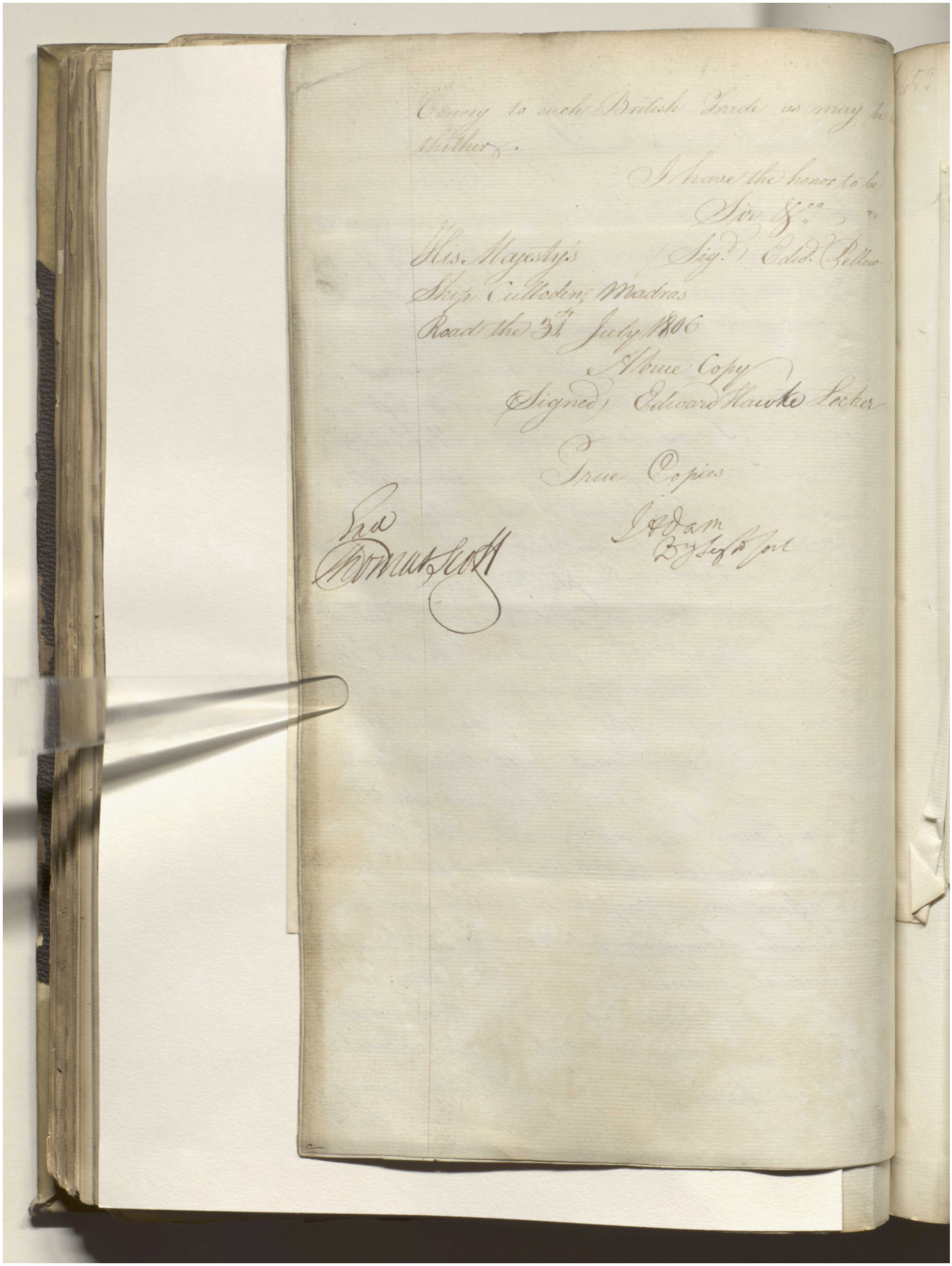
Bombay
137

Honorable Sir

His Majesty's Ships
having quitted the Port of Bombay previous to
the receipt of my late letters providing for the
Mission of a Frigate to the Gulph of Arabia
according to your suggestion.

In order to prevent any
disappointment of that service being left un=
executed, I have directed Captain Woodbridge in
His Majesty's Ship La Psyche immediately
on his arrival here to put to sea without delay
under Instructions similar to those addressed
to Captain Beauchamp Proctor, who will accor
dingly sail tomorrow, and make the best of
his way to Mocha, and should he fall in
with the Honorable Company's Cruizers which
you proposed sending thither, he has been
directed to communicate with their respective
Commanders from whom he will doubtless
obtain every information with which they shall
be furnished on the Subject, and he is directed
to afford every Cooperation which may be
requisite in carrying into execution in the most
effectual manner those Objects upon which
he is now proceeding. Captain Woodbridge is
further Instructed to return at the Expiration
of his provisions &c.a to Bombay giving
Convoy

(198)



Convoy to such British Trade as may be thither.

I have the honor to be
Sir &ca.
(Sig.d) Edw.d Pellew

His Majesty's
Ship Culloden, Madras
Road the 31st July 1806

A true Copy
(Signed) Edward Hawke Locker

True Copies
J Adam
By Sec.y to Govt

Lad
Thomas Scott

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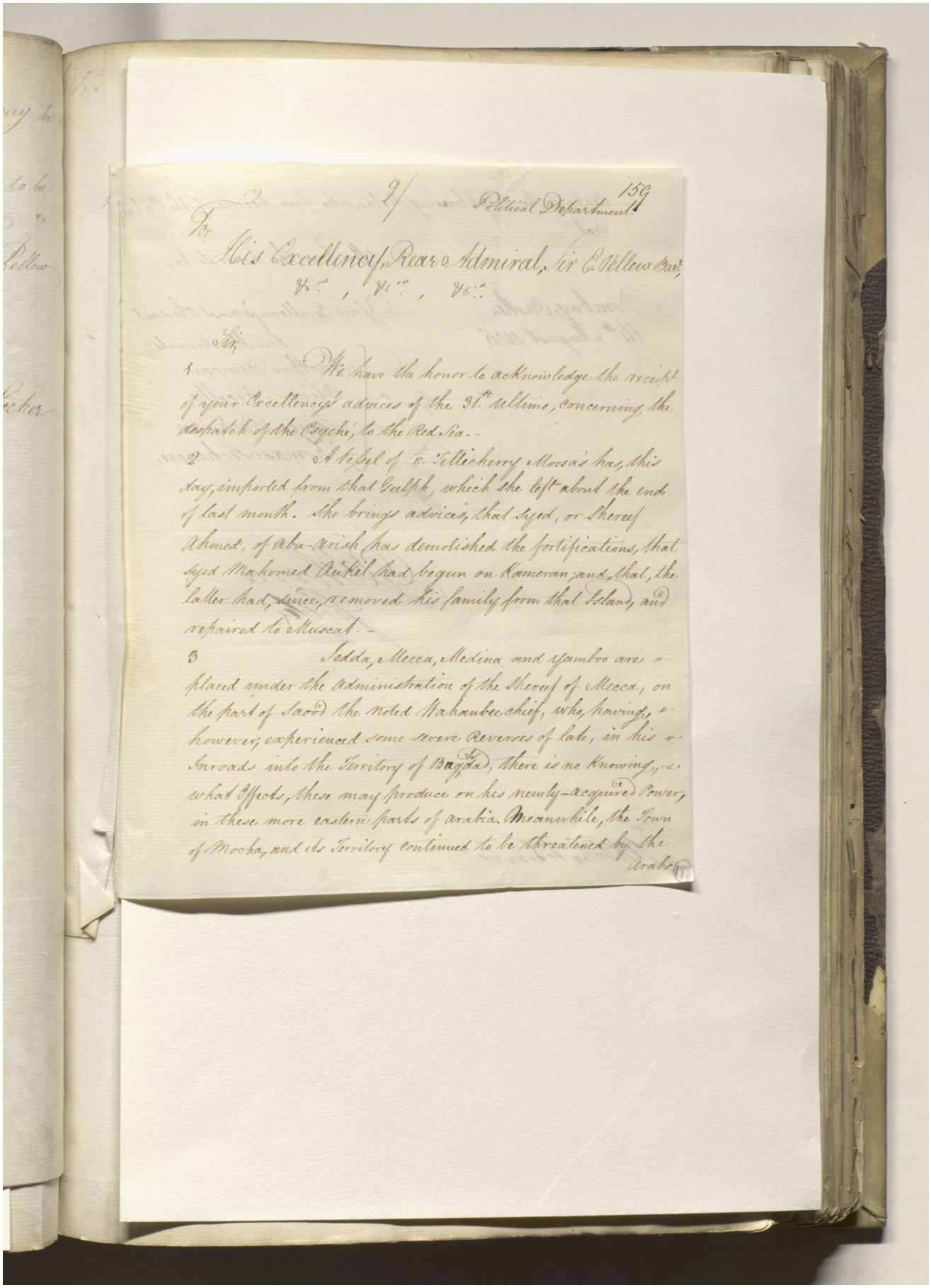
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [199r] (157/264)



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Political Department.

To

His Excellency, Rear Admiral, Sir E. Pellew Bart.
&c.a, &c.a, &c.a

Sir,

1 We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's advices of the 31st ultimo, concerning the despatch of the Psyche, to the Red Sea.-

2 A Vessel of Mr. Tellicherry Moosa's has, this day, imported from that Gulph, which she left about the end of last month. She brings advices, that Syed, or Shereef Ahmed, of Abu-Arish has demolished the fortifications, that Syed Mahomed Aukil had begun on Kameran; and, that, the latter had, since, removed his family from that Island, and repaired to Muscat.-

3 Jedda, Mecca, Medina and Yamboo are placed under the Administration of the Shereef of Mecca, on the part of Saood the noted Wahaubee chief, who, having, however, experienced some severe Reverses of late, in his Inroads into the Territory of Bagdad, there is no Knowing, what Effects, these may produce on his newly-acquired Power, in these more eastern parts of Arabia. Meanwhile, the Town of Mocha, and its Territory continued to be threatened by the

Arabs

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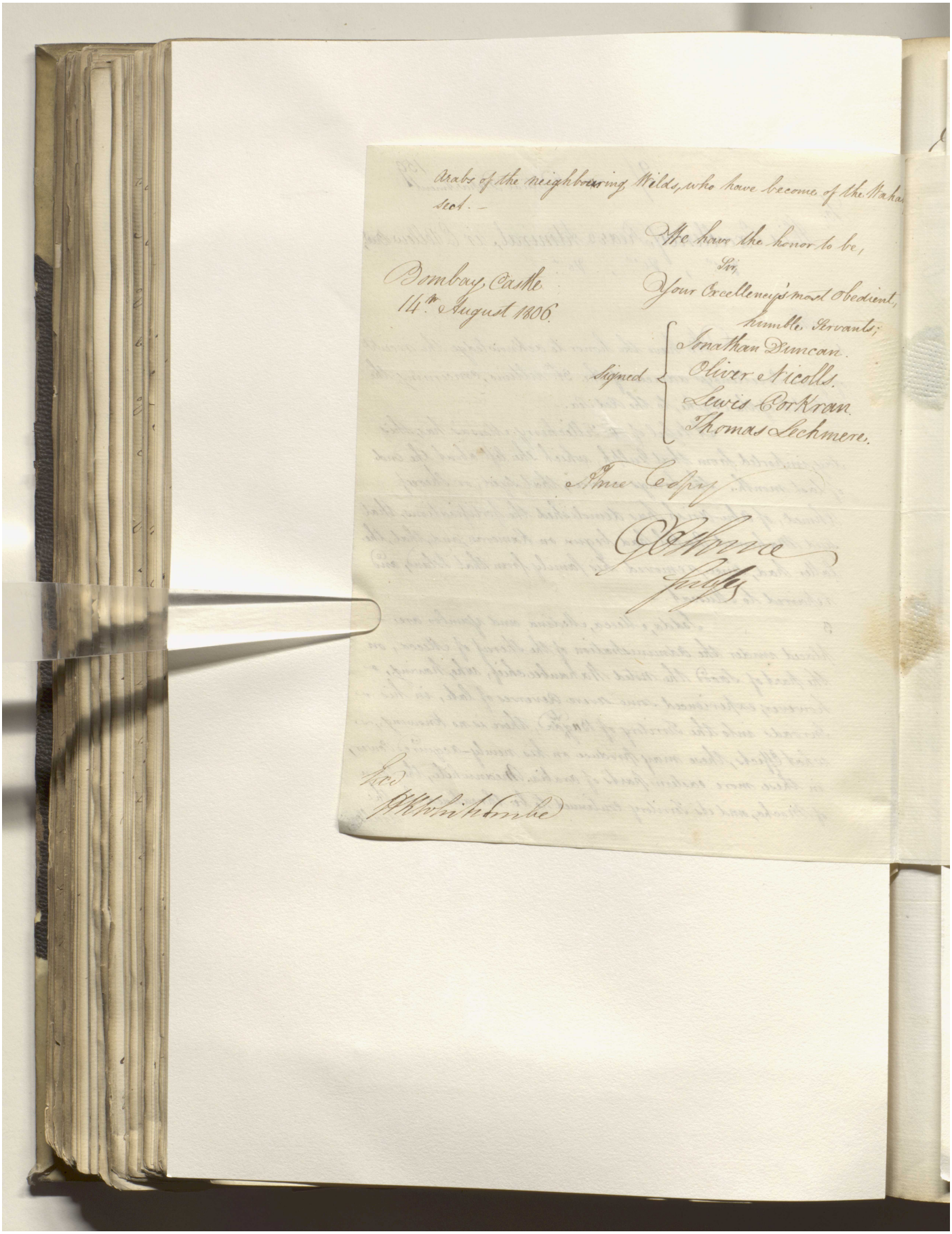

Arabs of the neighbouring Wilds, who have become of the Wahab sect. –

We have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's most Obedient,
humble Servants;

Bombay Castle
14th August 1806.

Signed { Jonathan Duncan.
Oliver Nicolls.
Lewis Corkran.
Thomas Lechmere.

A true Copy

G. A. Home
Judge

Lord
A. K. Whitcombe

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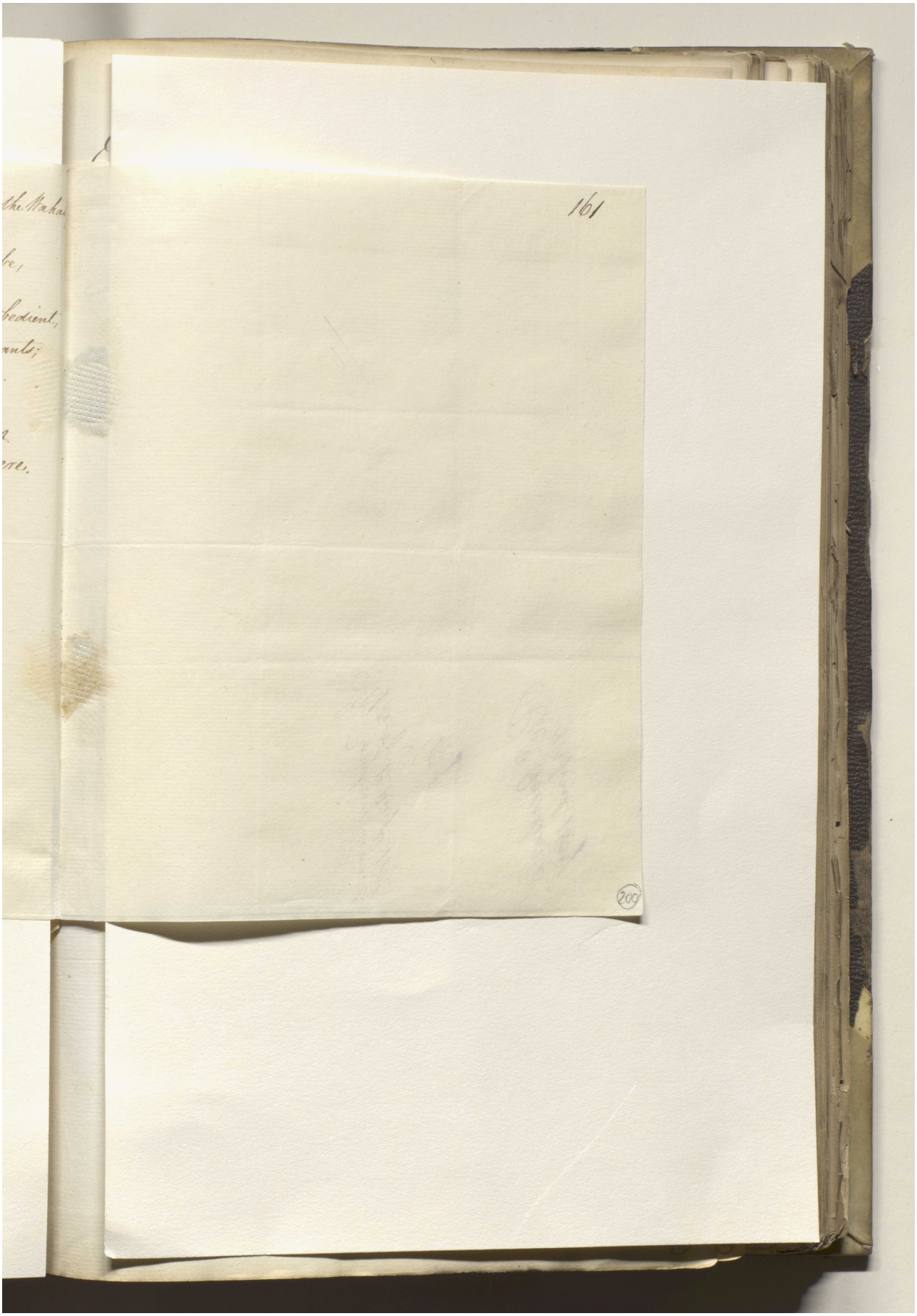

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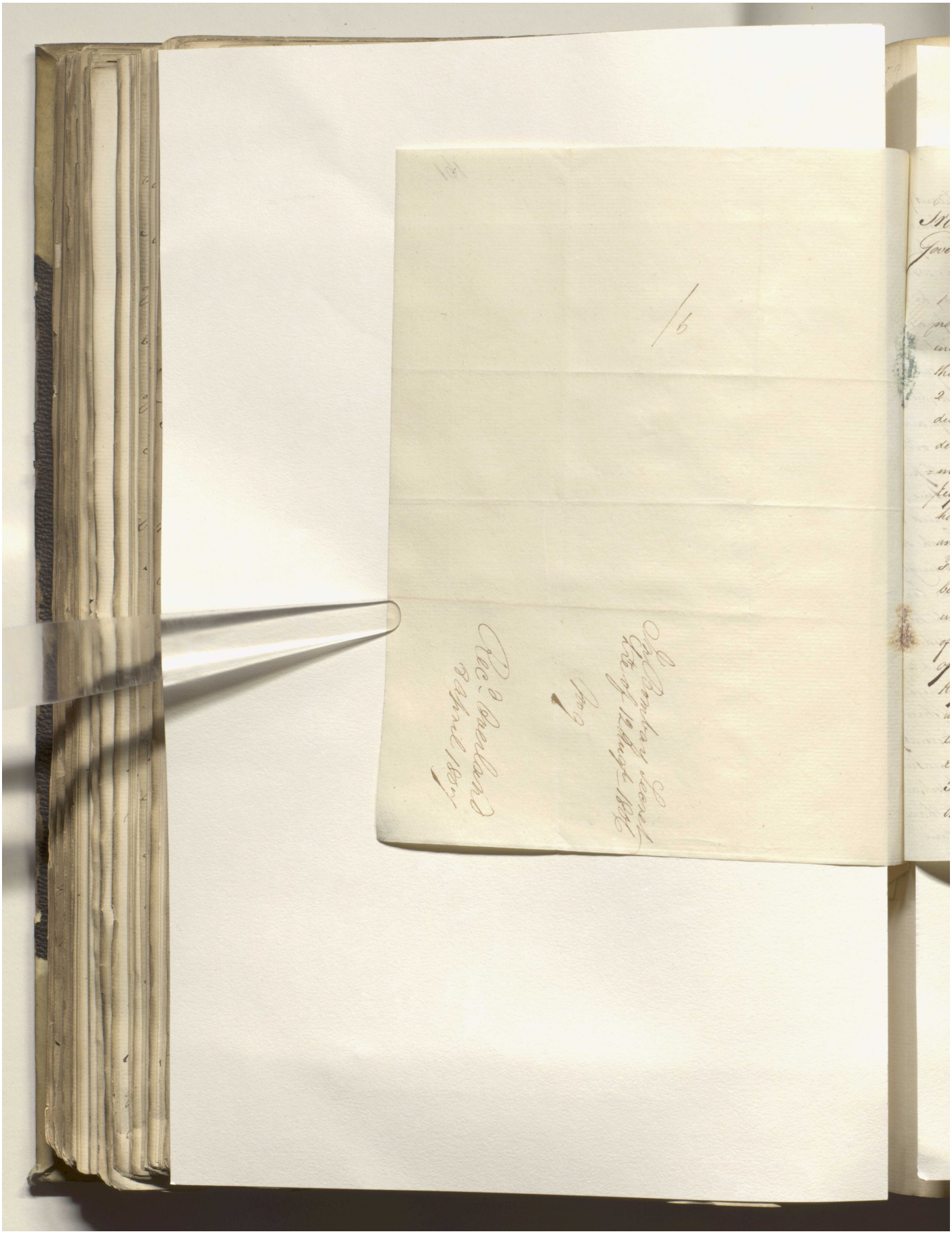

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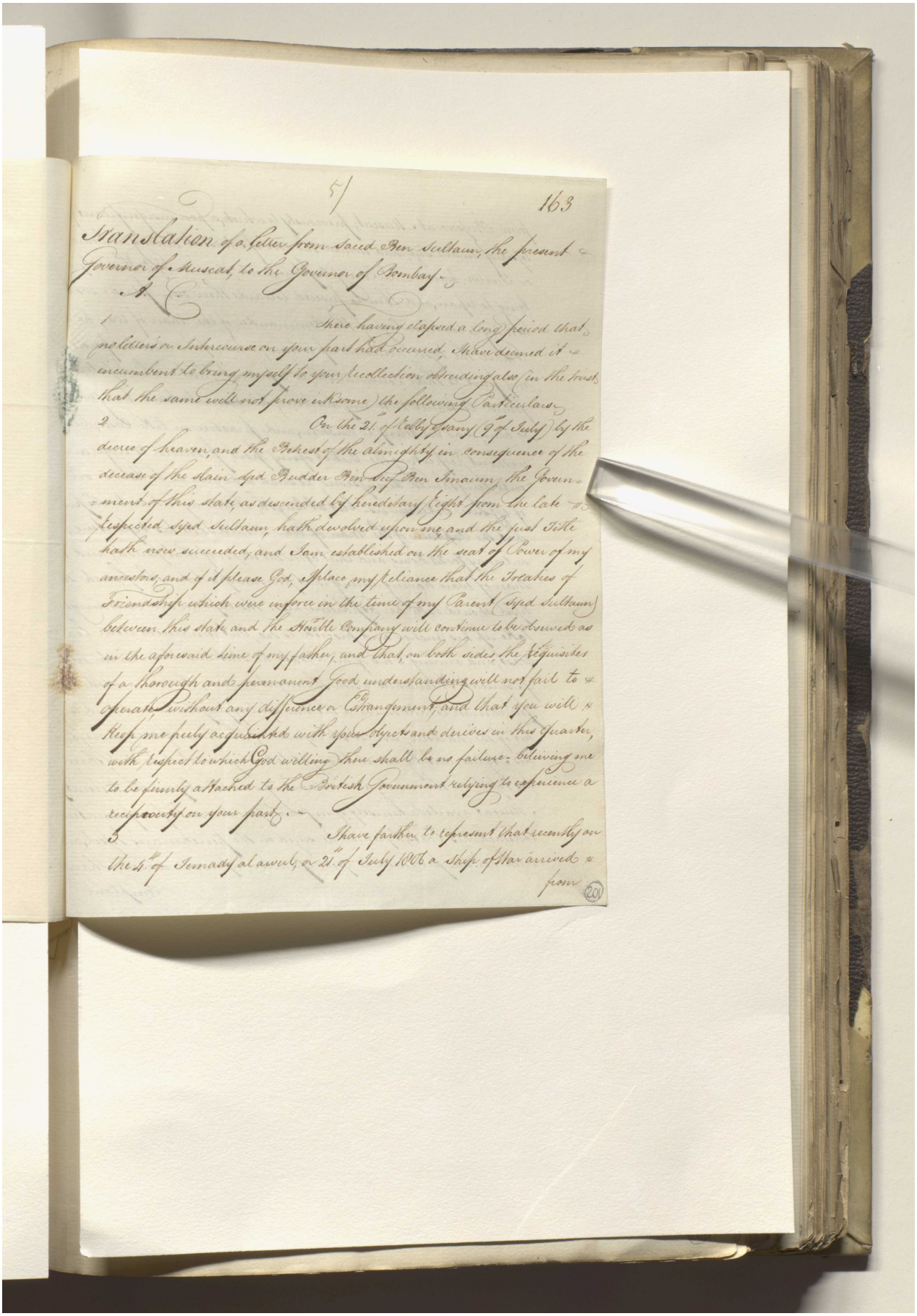

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Translation of a letter from Saeed Ben Sultaun, the present Governor of Muscat, to the Governor of Bombay.

A. C.

1 There having elapsed a long period that no letters or Intercourse on your part had occurred, I have deemed it incumbent to bring myself to your recollection obtruding also (in the trust that the same will not prove irksome) the following Particulars.

2 On the 21.th of Rebby Esany (9th of July) by the decree of heaven, and the Behest of the almighty in consequence of the decease of the slain Syed Budder Bin Suf Ben Imaum, the Government of this state, as descended by hereditary right from the late respected Syed Sultaun, hath devolved upon me, and the just Title hath now succeeded; and I am established on the seat of Power of my ancestors; and if it please God, I place my reliance that the Treaties of Friendship which were in force in the time of my Parent (Syed Sultaun) between this state and the Honble Company will continue to be observed as in the aforesaid time of my father; and that, on both sides, the requisites of a thorough and permanent Good understanding will not fail to operate without any difference or Estrangement; and that you will keep me freely acquainted with your objects and derives in this Quarter, with respect to which God willing there shall be no failure - believing me to be firmly attached to the British Government relying to experience a reciprocity on your part.

3 I have farther to represent that recently on the 4.th of Jemady al awul, or 21.th of July 1806 a Ship of War arrived from

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [201v] (162/264)

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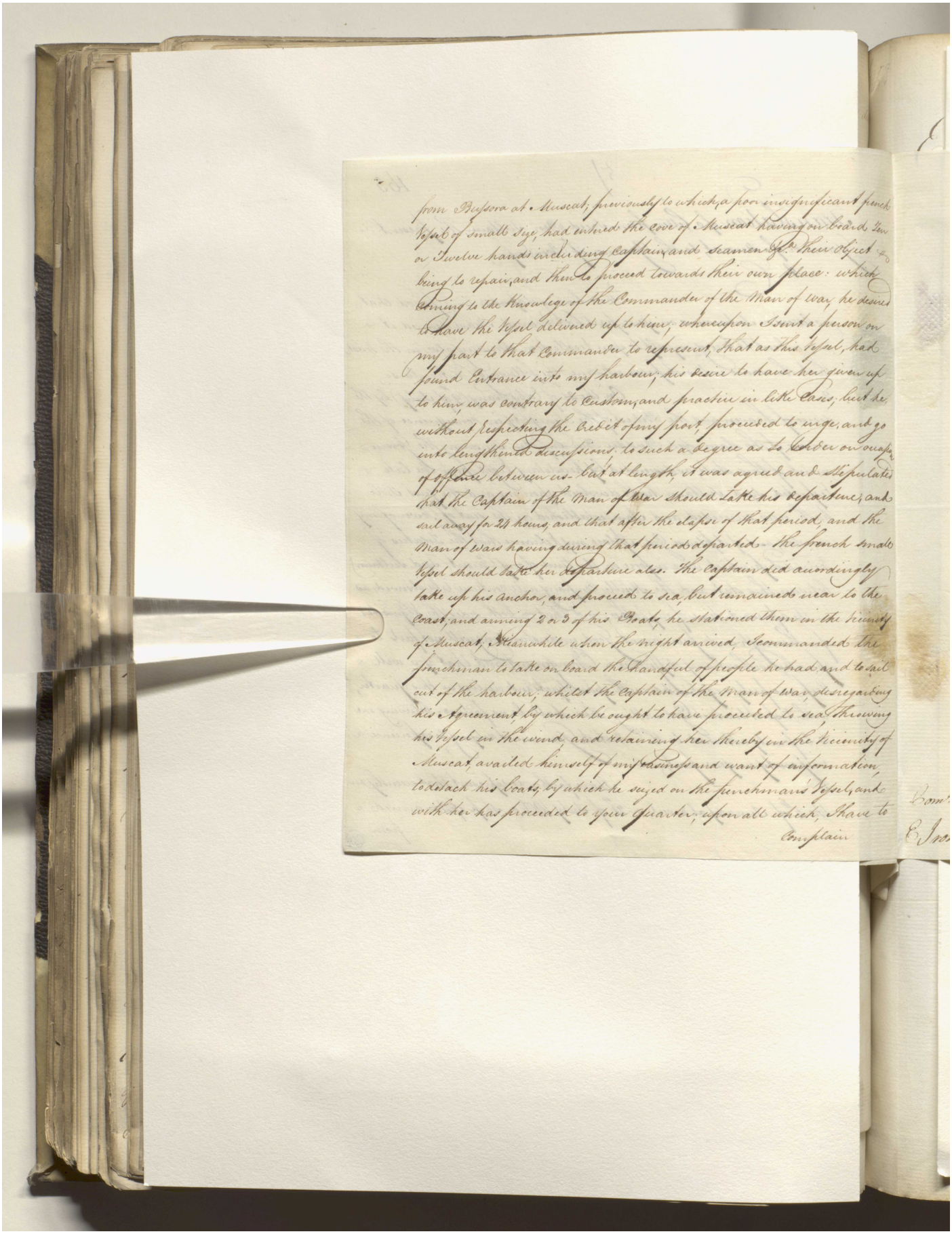

from Bussora at Muscat; previously to which, a poor insignificant french Vessel of small size, had entered the cove of Muscat having on board Ten or Twelve hands including Captain, and seamen &c.a their object being to repair, and then to proceed towards their own place: which coming to the Knowlege of the Commander of the Man of War, he desired to have the Vessel delivered up to him; whereupon I sent a person on my part to that Commander to represent, that as this Vessel, had found Entrance into my harbour; his desire to have her given up to him, was contrary to Custom, and practice in like Cases; but he, without respecting the Credit of my port, proceeded to urge, and go into lengthened discussions, to such a degree as to Order on occasion of offence between us - but at length, it was agreed and stipulated that the Captain of the Man of War should take his departure, and sail away for 24 hours; and that after the elapse of that period, and the Man of Wars having during that period departed - the french small Vessel should take her departure also. The Captain did accordingly take up his anchor, and proceed to sea, but remained near to the Coast; and arming 2 or 3 of his Boats, he stationed them in the Vicinity of Muscat; Meanwhile when the night arrived, I commanded the frenchman to take on board the handful of people he had, and to sail out of the harbour; whilst the Captain of the Man of War, disregarding his Agreement, by which he ought to have proceeded to sea, throwing his Vessel in the wind, and retaining her thereby in the Vicinity of Muscat, availed himself of my easiness and want of information, to detach his boats, by which he seized on the frenchman's Vessel, and with her has proceeded to your Quarter; upon all which, I have to

Complain

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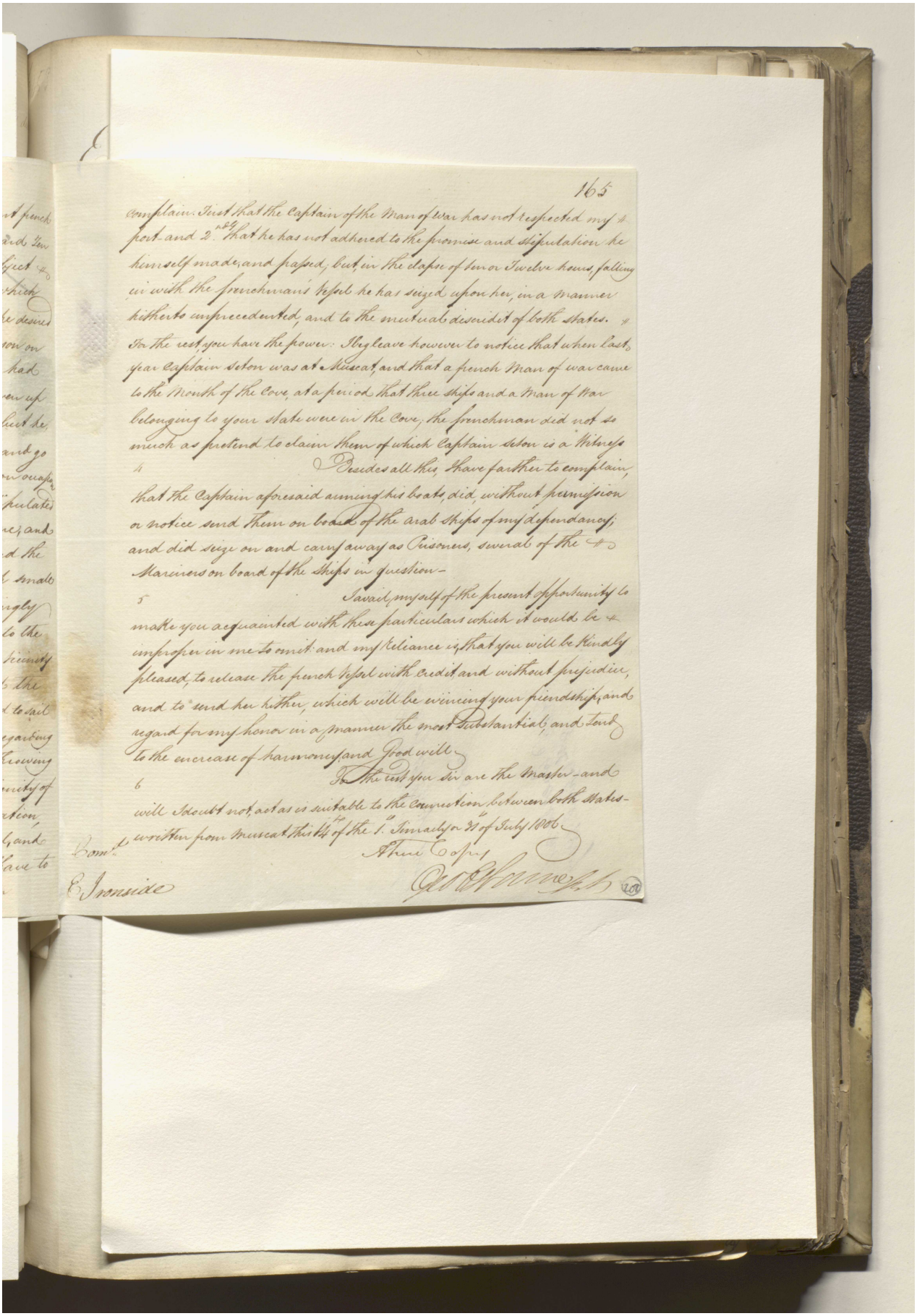

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complain: First that the Captain of the Man of War has not respected my port and 2nd that he has not adhered to the promise and stipulation he himself made, and passed; but, in the elapse of ten or Twelve hours, falling in with the frenchman's Vessel he has seized upon her, in a manner hitherto unprecedented, and to the mutual discredit of both States. For the rest, you have the power: I beg leave however to notice that when last year Captain Seton was at Muscat, and that a french Man of war came to the Month of the Cove, at a period that three ships and a Man of War belonging to your state were in the Cove, the frenchman did not so much as pretend to claim them of which Captain Seton is a Witness

4 Besides all this, I have farther to complain, that the Captain aforesaid arming his boats, did, without permission or notice send them on board of the arab ships of my dependancy; and did seize on and carry away as Prisoners, several of the Mariners on board of the Ships in question—

5 I avail myself of the present opportunity to make you acquainted with these particulars which it would be improper in me to omit: and my Reliance is, that you will be kindly pleased, to release the french Vessel with credit and without prejudice, and to send her hither, which will be winning your friendship, and regard for my honor in a manner the most substantial, and tend to the encrease of harmony, and Good will

6 For the rest you Sir are the Master—and will I doubt not, act as is suitable to the connection between both States—written from Muscat this 14th of the 1st Timaely or 31st of July 1806

A true Copy

Geo. Hamilton

Comt.

E. Ironside

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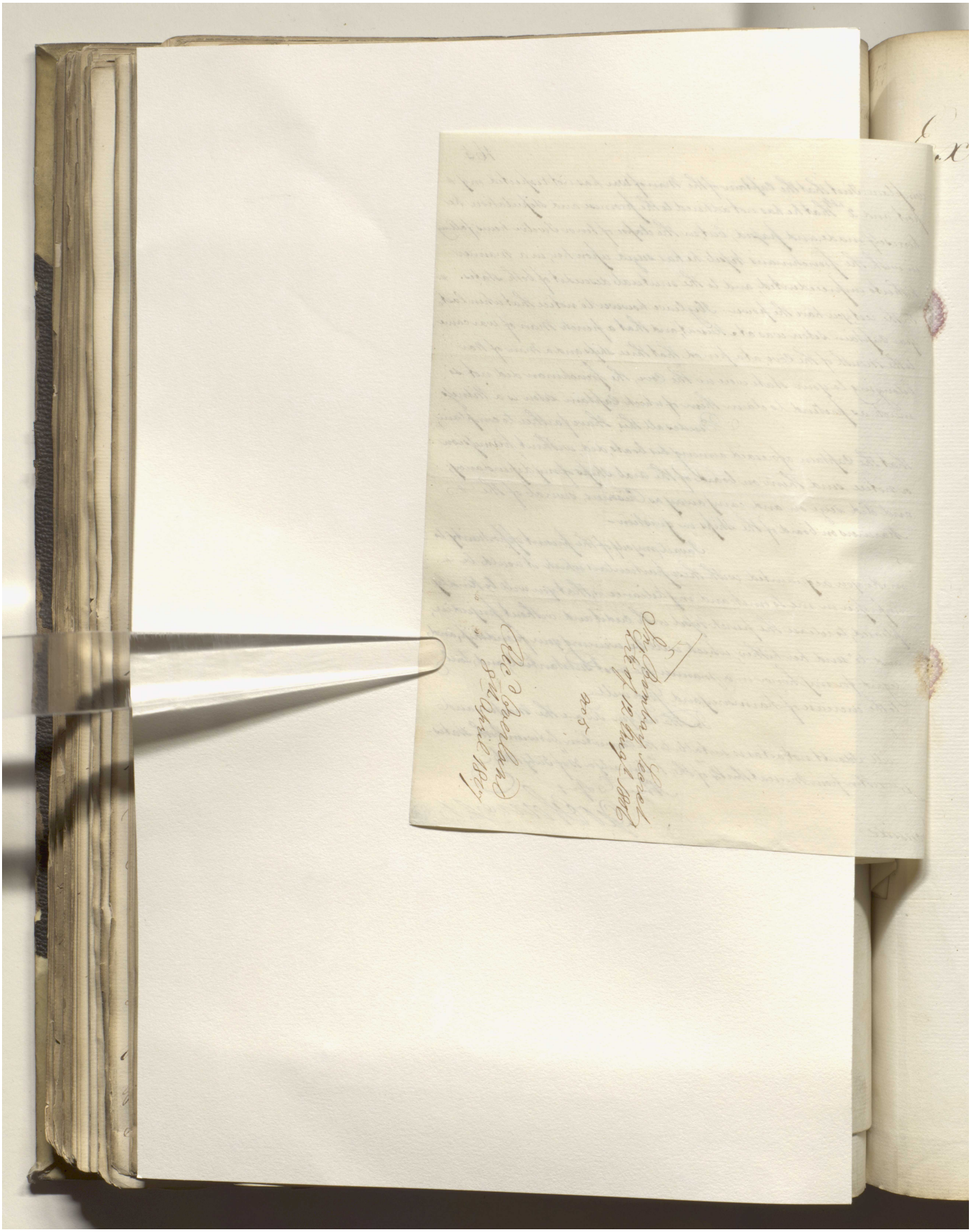

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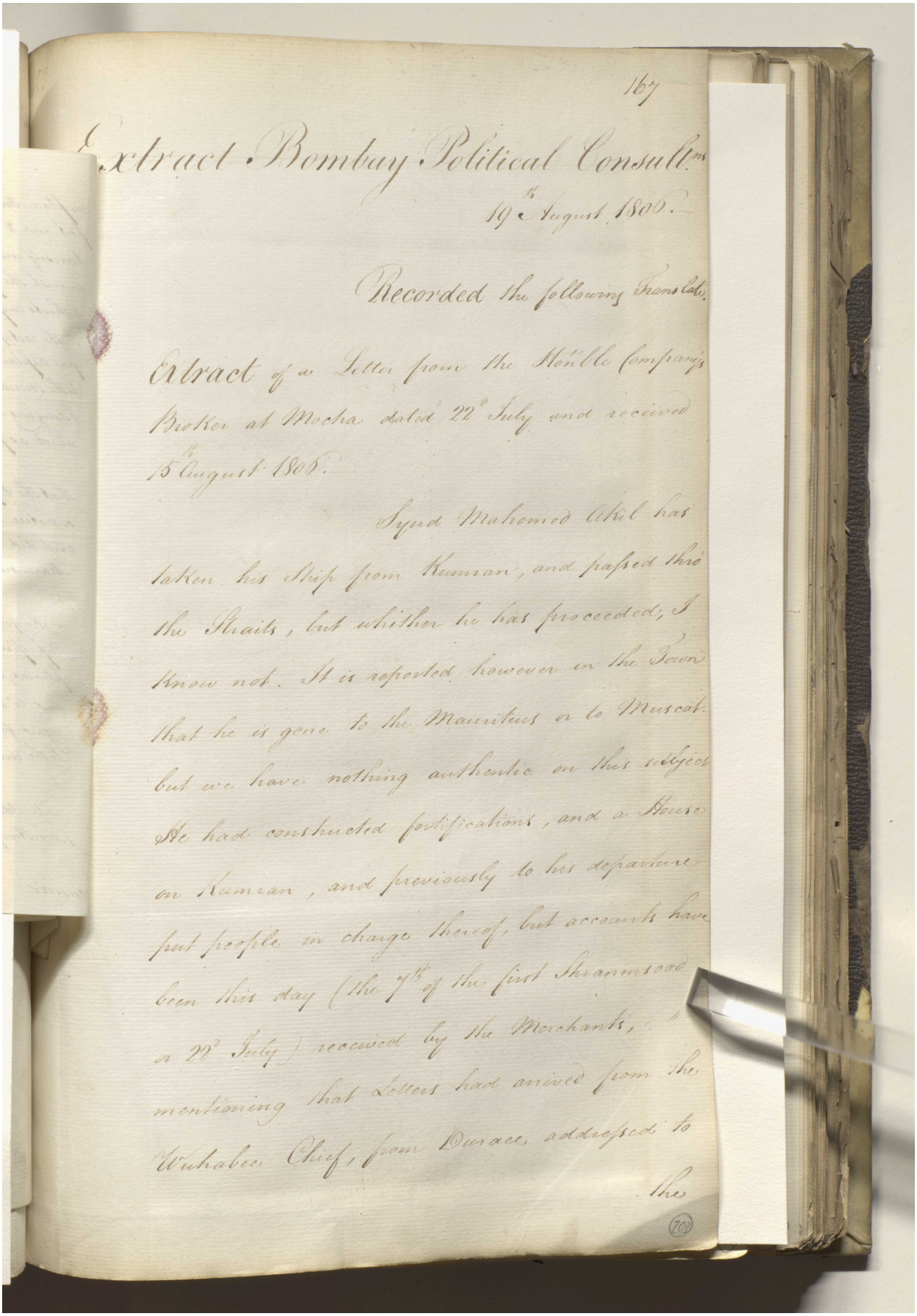

Extract Bombay Political Consult.ns

19th August 1806.

Recorded the following Translate.

Extract of a Letter from the Hon.ble Company's Broker at Mocha dated 22d July and received 15th August 1806.

Syud Mahomed Akil has taken his Ship from Kumran, and passed thro' the Straits, but whither he has proceeded, I know not. It is reported however in the Town that he is gone to the Mauritius or to Muscat. but we have nothing authentic on this subject He had constructed fortifications, and a House on Kumran, and previously to his departure put people in charge thereof, but accounts have been this day (the 7th of the first Shranmsood or 22d July) received by the Merchants, mentioning that Letters had arrived from the Wuhabee Chief, from Durace, addressed to the

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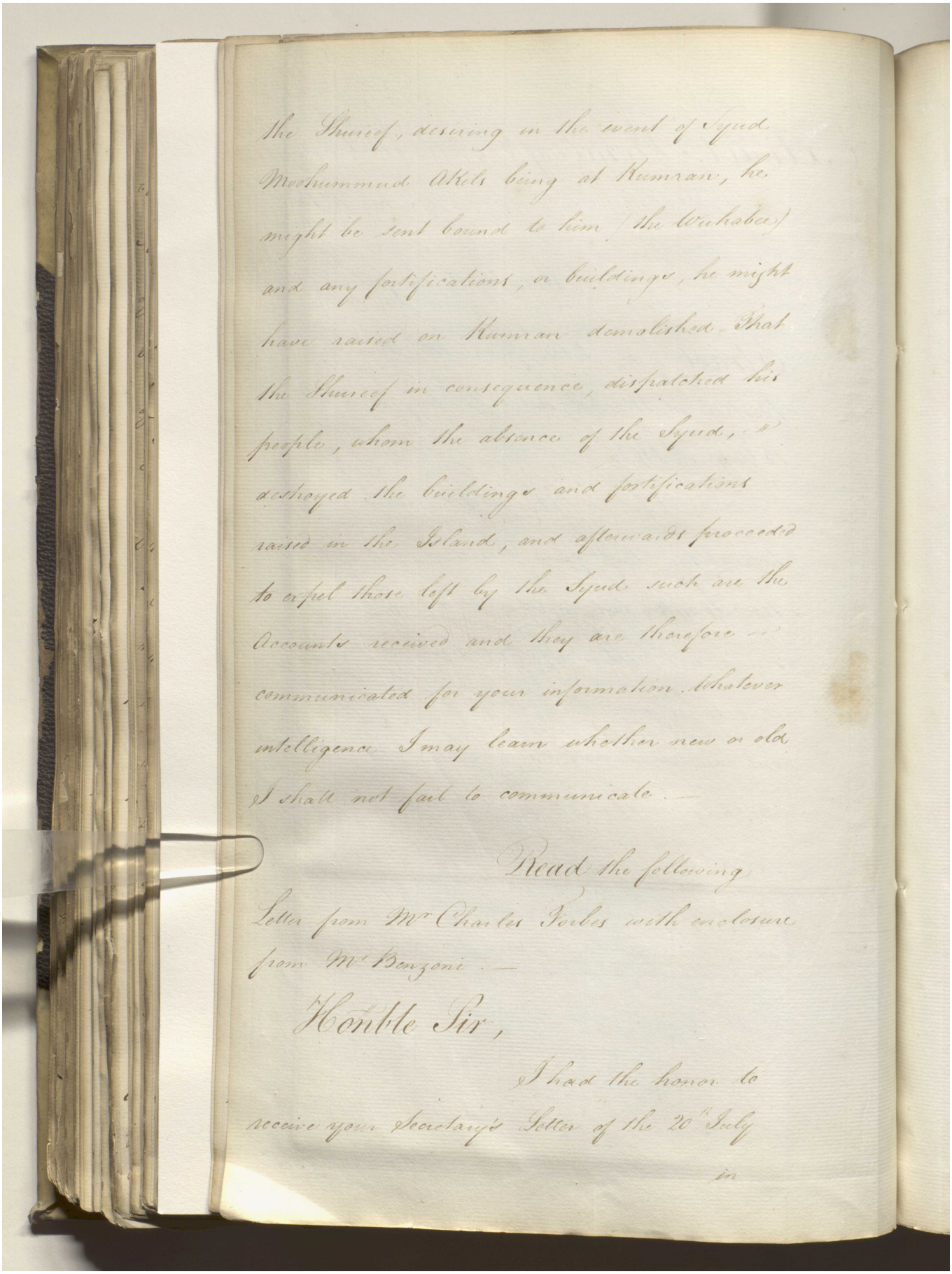

the Shureef, desiring in the event of Syud Moohummud Alees being at Kumran, he might be sent bound to him. The Wuhabee and any fortifications, or buildings, he might have raised on Kumran demolished. That the Shureef in consequence, dispatched his people, whom the absence of the Syud, destroyed the buildings and fortifications raised in the Island, and afterwards proceeded to expel those left by the Syud such are the Accounts received and they are therefore communicated for your information. Whatever intelligence I may learn whether new or old I shall not fail to communicate. —

Read the following Letter from Mr Charles Forbes with enclosure from Mr Benzoni. —

Honble Sir,

I had the honor to receive your Secretary's Letter of the 20th July

in

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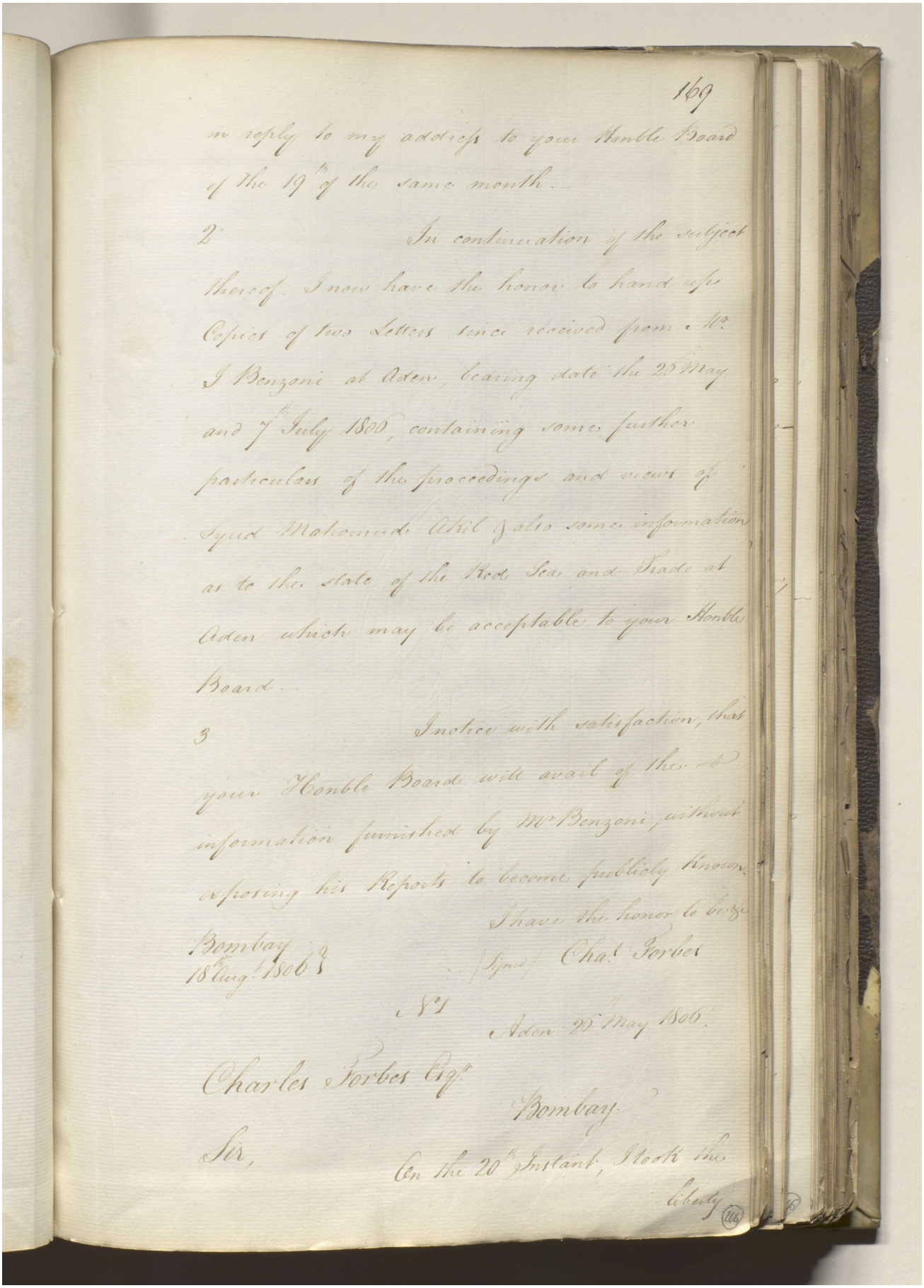

in reply to my address to your Honble Board of the 19th of the same month.

2 In continuation of the subject thereof I now have the honor to hand up Copies of two Letters since received from Mr. I Benzoni at Aden, bearing date the 26th May and 7th July 1806, containing some further particulars of the proceedings and views of Syud Mahomud Akil & also some information as to the state of the Red Sea and Trade at Aden which may be acceptable to your Honble Board.

3 I notice with satisfaction, that your Honble Board will avail of the information furnished by Mr Benzoni, without exposing his Reports to become publicly known.

I have the honor to be &c

Bombay
18th Augt 1806 }

(Signed) Chas Forbes

No 1

Aden 26th May 1806.

Charles Forbes Esqr

Bombay

Sir,

On the 20th Instant, I took the liberty

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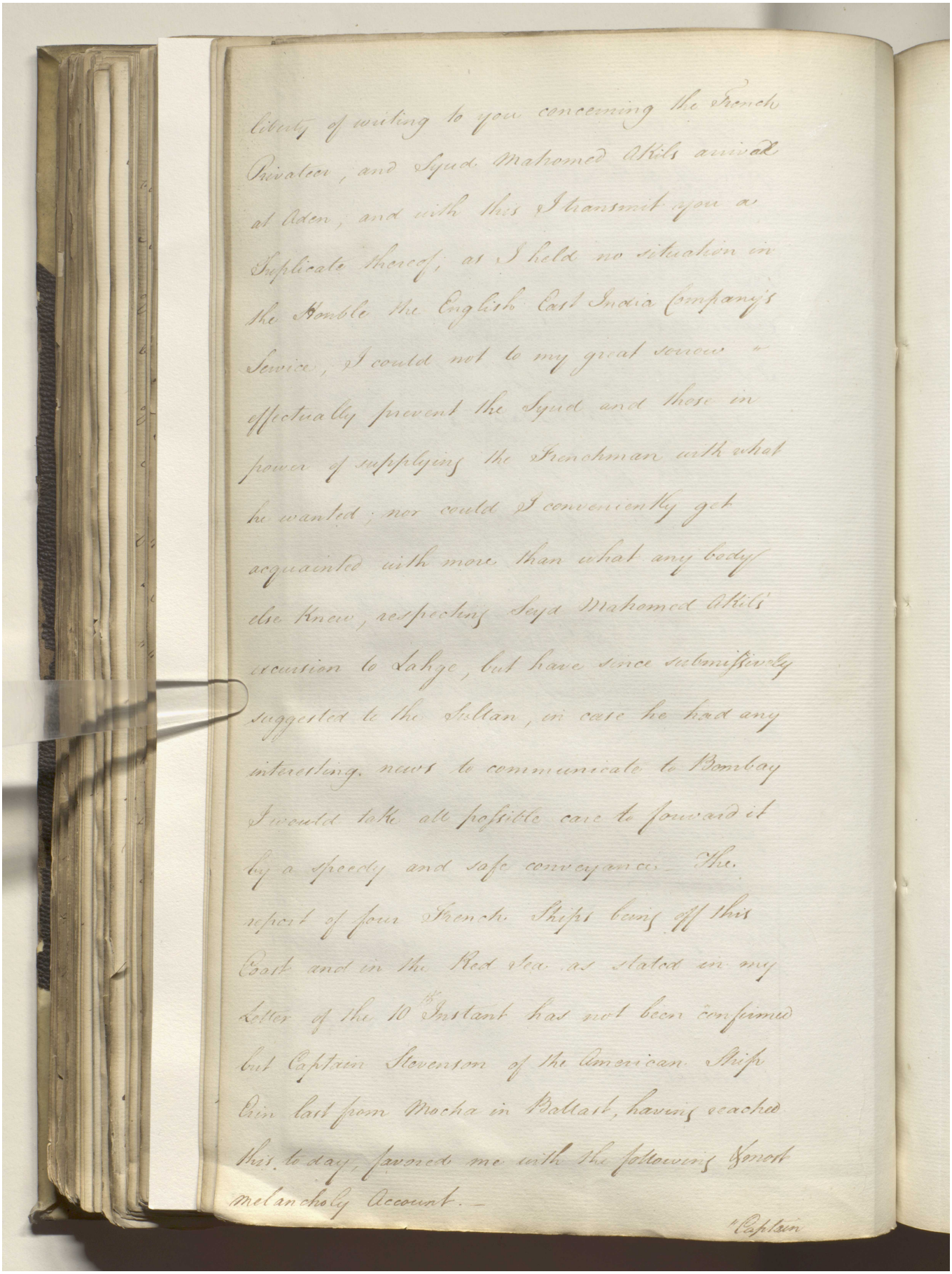

liberty of writing to you concerning the French
Privateer, and Syud Mahomed Akils arrival
at Aden; and with this I transmit you a
Duplicate thereof; as I held no situation in
the Bombay the English East India Company's
Service, I could not to my great sorrow
effectually prevent the Syud and those in
power of supplying the Frenchman with what
he wanted; nor could I conveniently get
acquainted with more than what any body
else knew, respecting Seyd Mahomed Akils
excursion to Lahge, but have since submissively
suggested to the Sultan, in case he had any
interesting news to communicate to Bombay
I would take all possible care to forward it
by a speedy and safe conveyance. The
report of four French Ships being off this
Port and in the Red Sea as stated in my
Letter of the 10th Instant has not been confirmed
but Captain Stevenson of the American Ship
Ann last from Mocha in Ballast, having reached
this to day, favored me with the following honest
melancholy Account.—

"Captain

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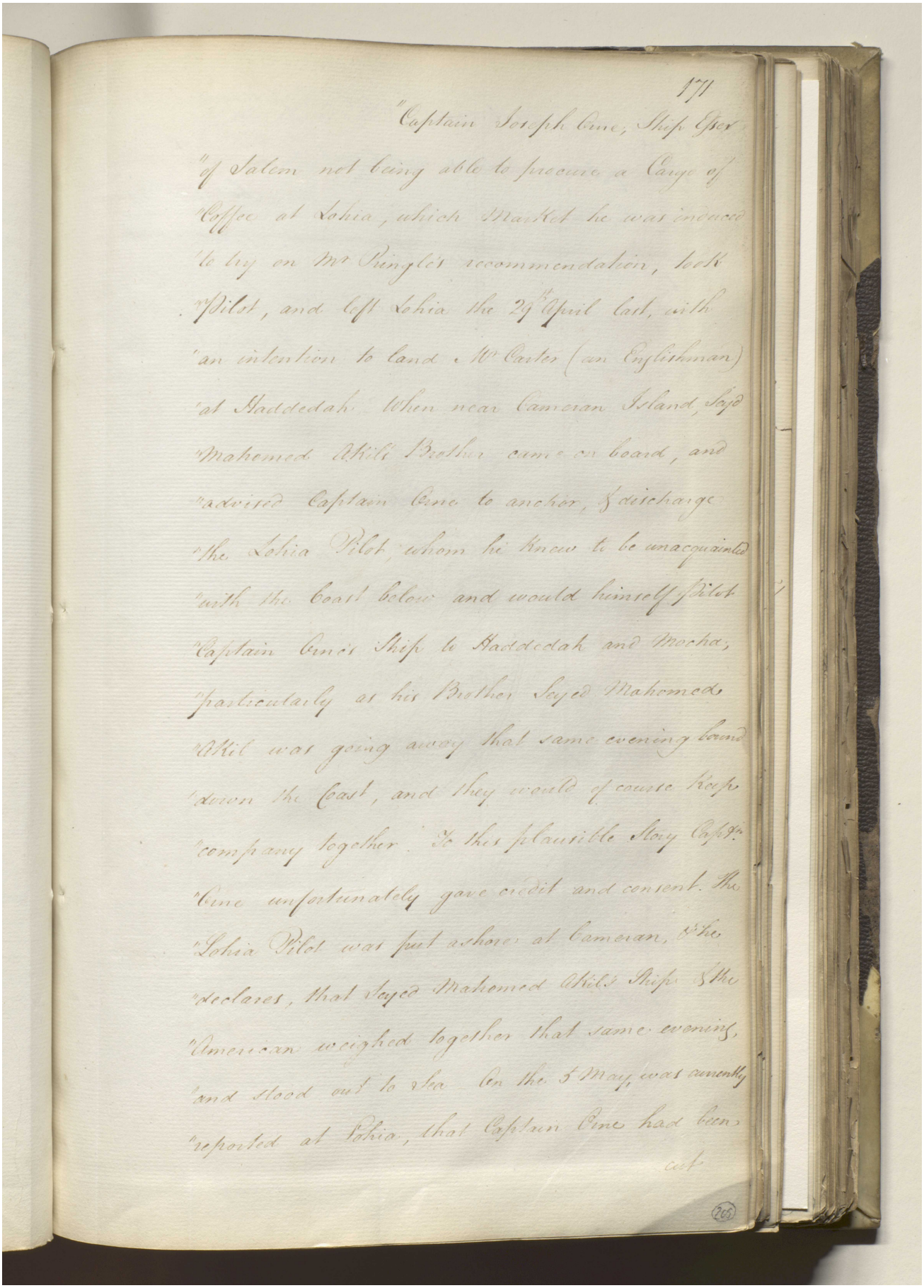

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"Captain Joseph Cine, Ship Eyer
"of Salem not being able to procure a Cargo of
"Coffee at Lohia, which Market he was induced
"to try on Mr Pringle's recommendation, took
"Pilot, and left Lohia the 29th April last, with
"an intention to land Mr Carter (an Englishman)
"at Haddedah When near Cameran Island, Sayd
"Mahomed Akils Brother came on board, and
"advised Captain Cine to anchor, & discharge
"the Lohia Pilot, whom he knew to be unacquainted
"with the Coast below and would himself pilot
"Captain Cine's Ship to Haddedah and Mocha;
"particularly as his Brother Seyed Mahomed
"Akil was going away that same evening bound
"down the Coast, and they would of course keep
"company together. To this plausible Story Capt.n
"Cine unfortunately gave credit and consent. The
"Lohia Pilot was put ashore at Cameran, & he
"declares, that Sayed Mahomed Akils Ship & the
"American weighed together that same evening,
"and stood out to Sea On the 5 May, was currently
"reported at Lohia, that Captain Cine had been
cut

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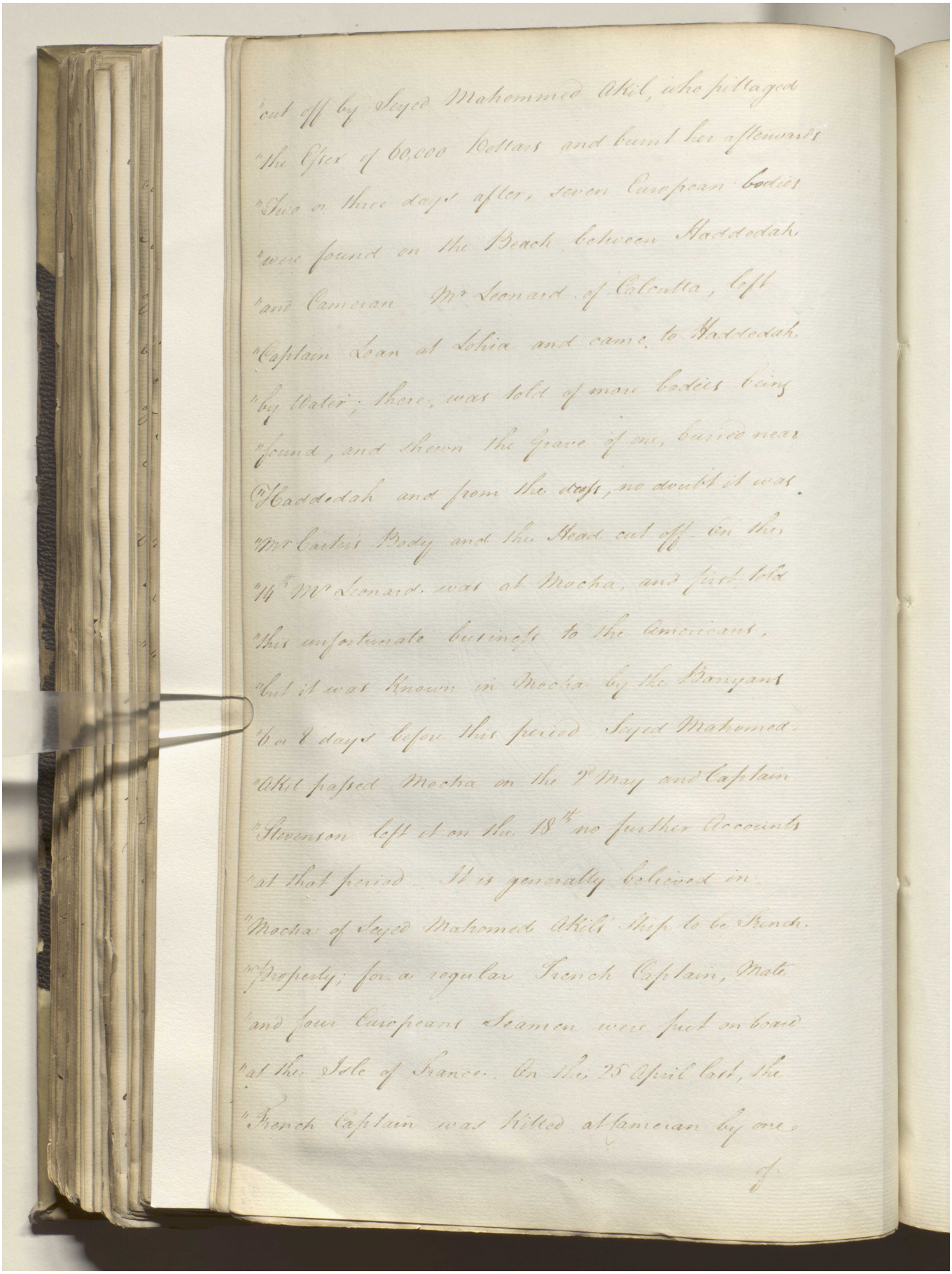

cut off by Seyed Mahommed Akil, who pillaged
the Effects of 60,000 Dollars and burnt her afterwards
Two or three days after, seven European bodies
were found on the Beach between Haddedah
and Cameran Mr Leonard of Calcutta, left
Captain Lean at Lohia and came to Haddedah
by Water; there, was told of many bodies being
found, and shewn the Grave of one, buried near
Haddedah and from the dress, no doubt it was
Mr Carters Body and the Head cut off. On the
14th Mr Leonard was at Mocha, and first told
this unfortunate business to the Americans,
but it was known in Mocha by the Banyans
6 or 8 days before this period Seyed Mahomed
Akil passed Mocha on the 7th May and Captain
Stevenson left it on the 18th no further Accounts
at that period It is generally believed in
Mocha of Seyed Mahomed Akils Ship to be French
Property; for a regular French Captain, Mate
and four European Seamen were put on board
at the Isle of France. On the 25 April last, the
French Captain was killed at Cameran by one
of

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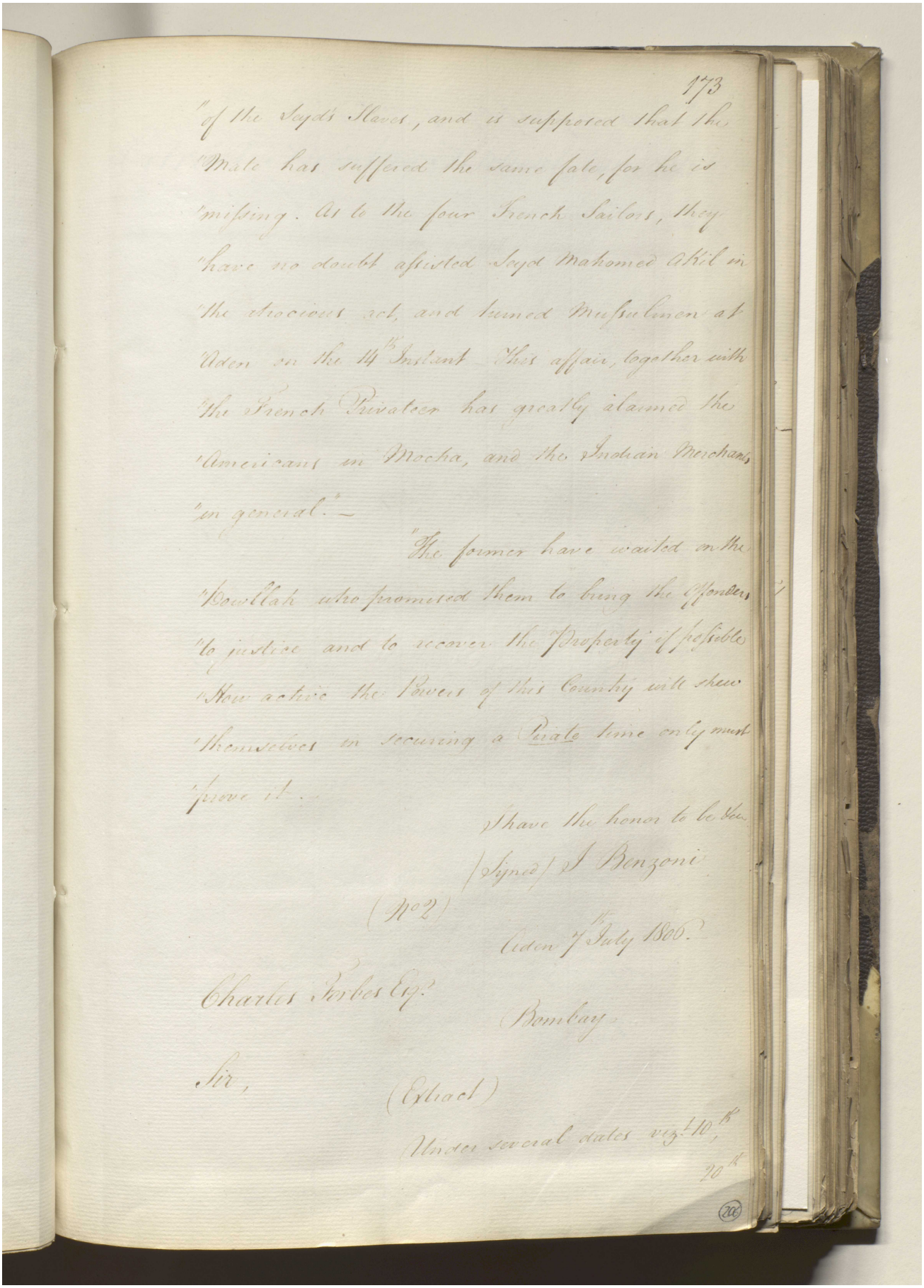

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"of the Seyds Slaves, and is supposed that the
"Mate has suffered the same fate, for he is
"missing. As to the four French Sailors, they
"have no doubt assisted Seyd Mahomed Akil in
"the atrocious act, and turned Musulmen at
"Aden on the 14th Instant. This affair, together with
"the French Privateer has greatly alarmed the
"Americans in Mocha, and the Indian Merchants
"in general."—

"The former have waited on the
"Dowlah who promised them to bring the Offenders
"to justice and to recover the Property if possible.
"How active the Powers of this Country will shew
"themselves in securing a Pirate time only must
"prove it."

I have the honor to be &c.
(Signed) J. Benzoni

(No 2)

Aden 7th July 1800.

Charles Forbes Esq.
Bombay.

Sir,

(Extract)

Under several dates viz. 10th
20th

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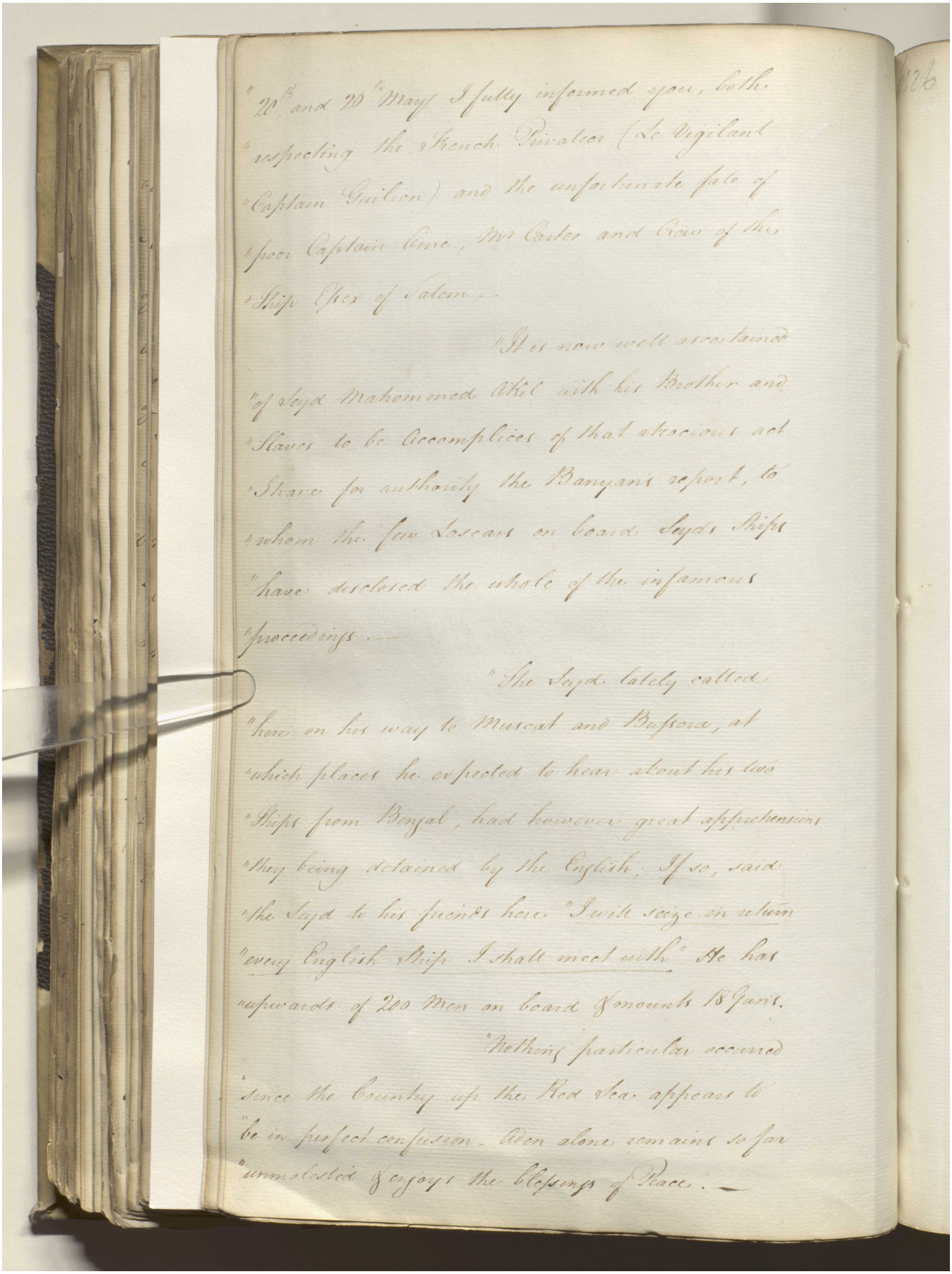

"20th and 20th May I fully informed you, both
"respecting the French Privateer (Le Vigilant
"Captain Guilcen) and the unfortunate fate of
"poor Captain Love, Mr Carter and Crew of the
"Ship Ester of Salem —

"It is now well ascertained
"of Seyd Mahommed Akil with his Brother and
"Slaves to be Accomplices of that atrocious act
"I have for authority the Banyans report, to
"whom the few Lascars on board Seyds Ships
"have disclosed the whole of the infamous
"proceedings —

"The Seyd lately called
"here on his way to Muscat and Bussora, at
"which places he expected to hear about his two
"Ships from Bengal, had however great apprehensions
"they being detained by the English; If so, said
"the Seyd to his friends here "I will seize in return
"every English Ship I shall meet with" He has
"upwards of 200 Men on board & mounts 18 Guns.

"Nothing particular occurred
"since the Country up the Red Sea appears to
"be in perfect confusion. Aden alone remains so far
"unmolested & enjoys the blessings of Peace." —

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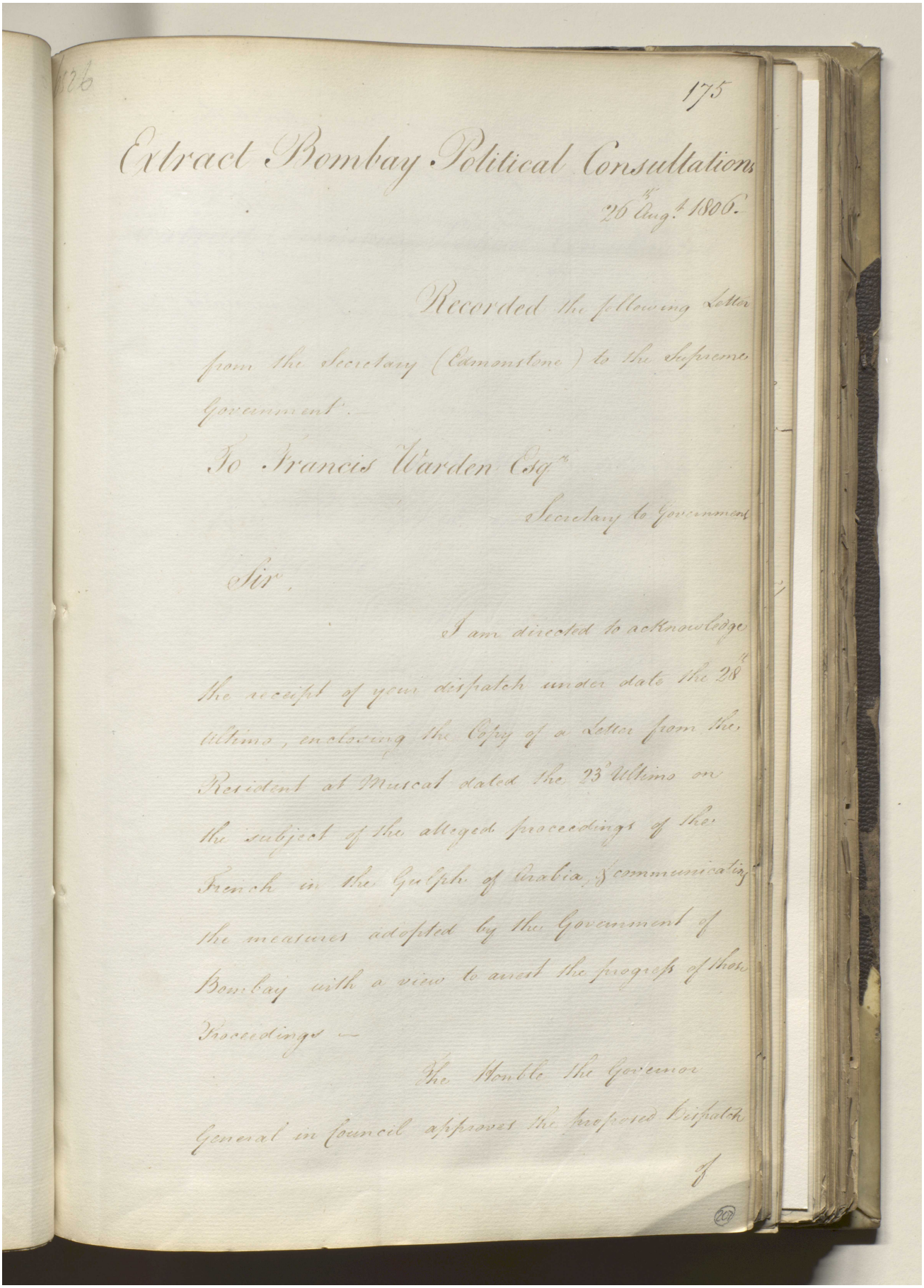

175

Extract Bombay Political Consultations
26th Augt 1806.

Recorded the following Letter from the Secretary (Edmonstone) to the Supreme Government.

To Francis Warden Esqr
Secretary to Government

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 28th Ultimo, enclosing the Copy of a Letter from the Resident at Muscat dated the 23d Ultimo on the subject of the alleged proceedings of the French in the Gulph of Arabia & communicating the measures adopted by the Government of Bombay with a view to arrest the progress of those Proceedings —

The Honble the Governor General in Council approves the proposed Dispatch of

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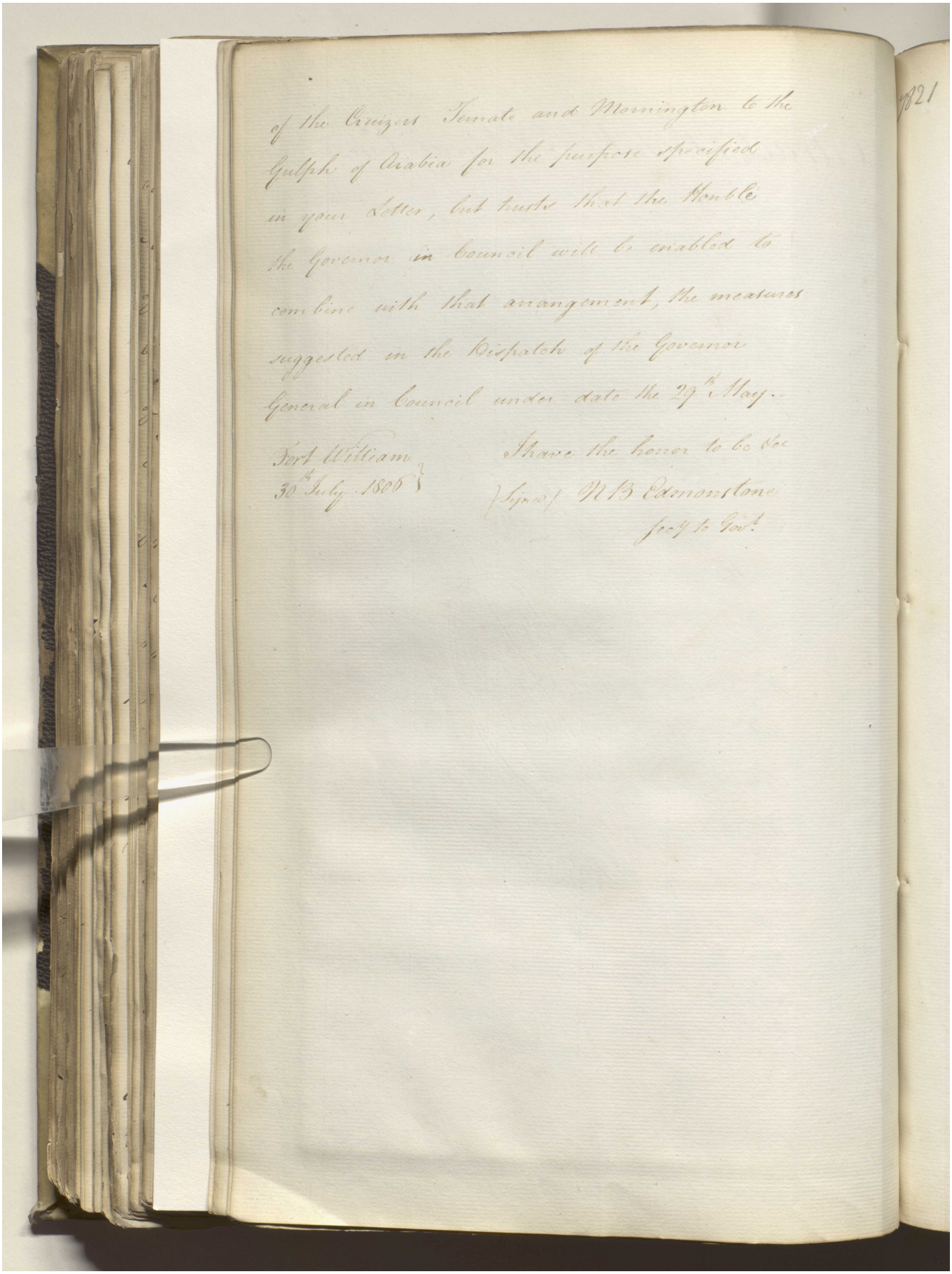

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of the Cruizers Ternate and Mornington to the Gulph of Arabia for the purpose specified in your Letter, but trusts that the Honble the Governor in Council will be enabled to combine with that arrangement, the measures suggested in the Dispatch of the Governor General in Council under date the 29th May.

Fort William
30th July 1806

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) N B Edmonstone
Secy to Govt.

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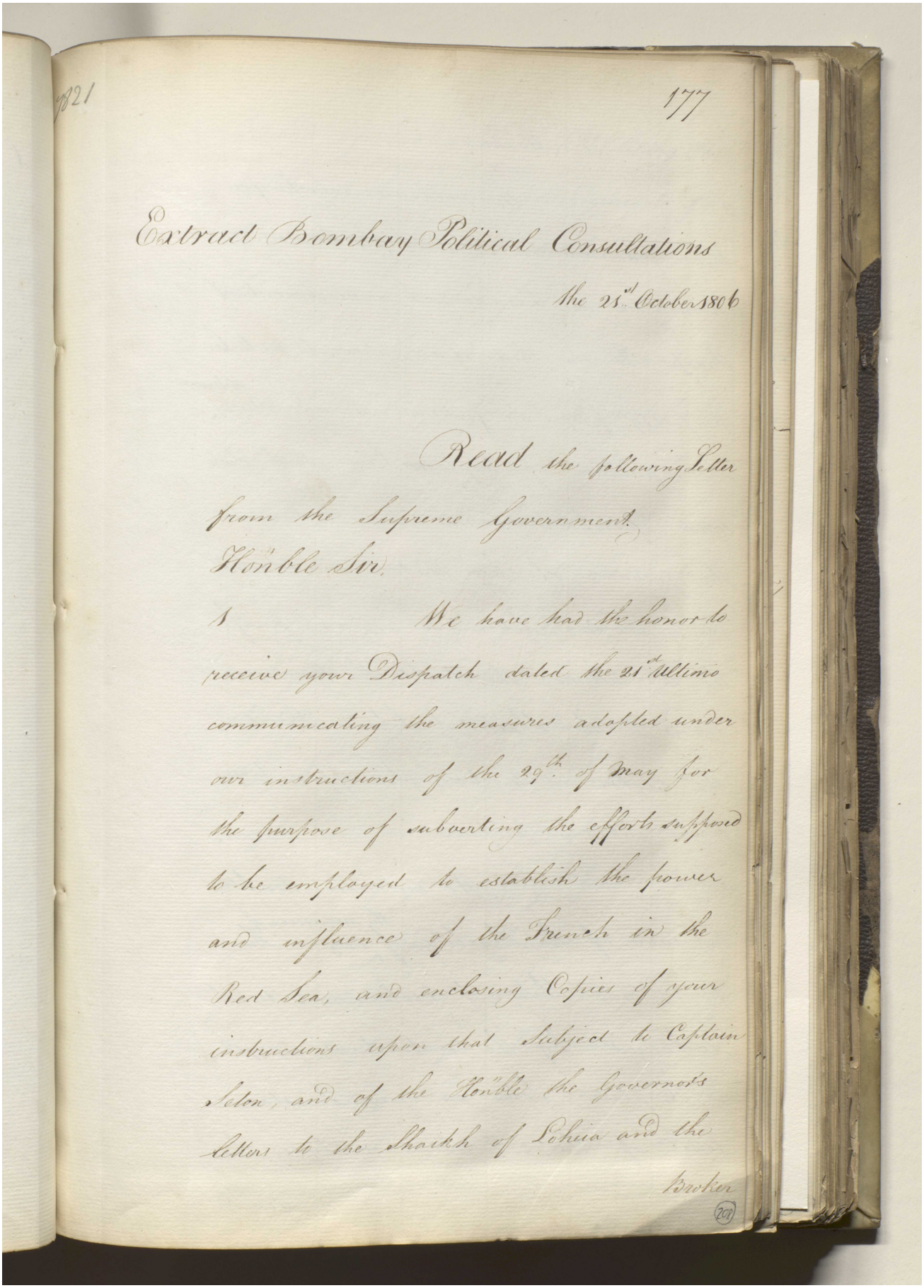

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1777

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 25th October 1806

Read the following Letter from the Supreme Government

Honble Sir,

1 We have had the honor to receive your Dispatch dated the 21st Ultimo communicating the measures adopted under our instructions of the 29th of May for the purpose of subverting the efforts supposed to be employed to establish the power and influence of the French in the Red Sea, and enclosing Copies of your instructions upon that Subject to Captain Seton, and of the Honble the Governors Letters to the Shaikh of Lohia and the Broker

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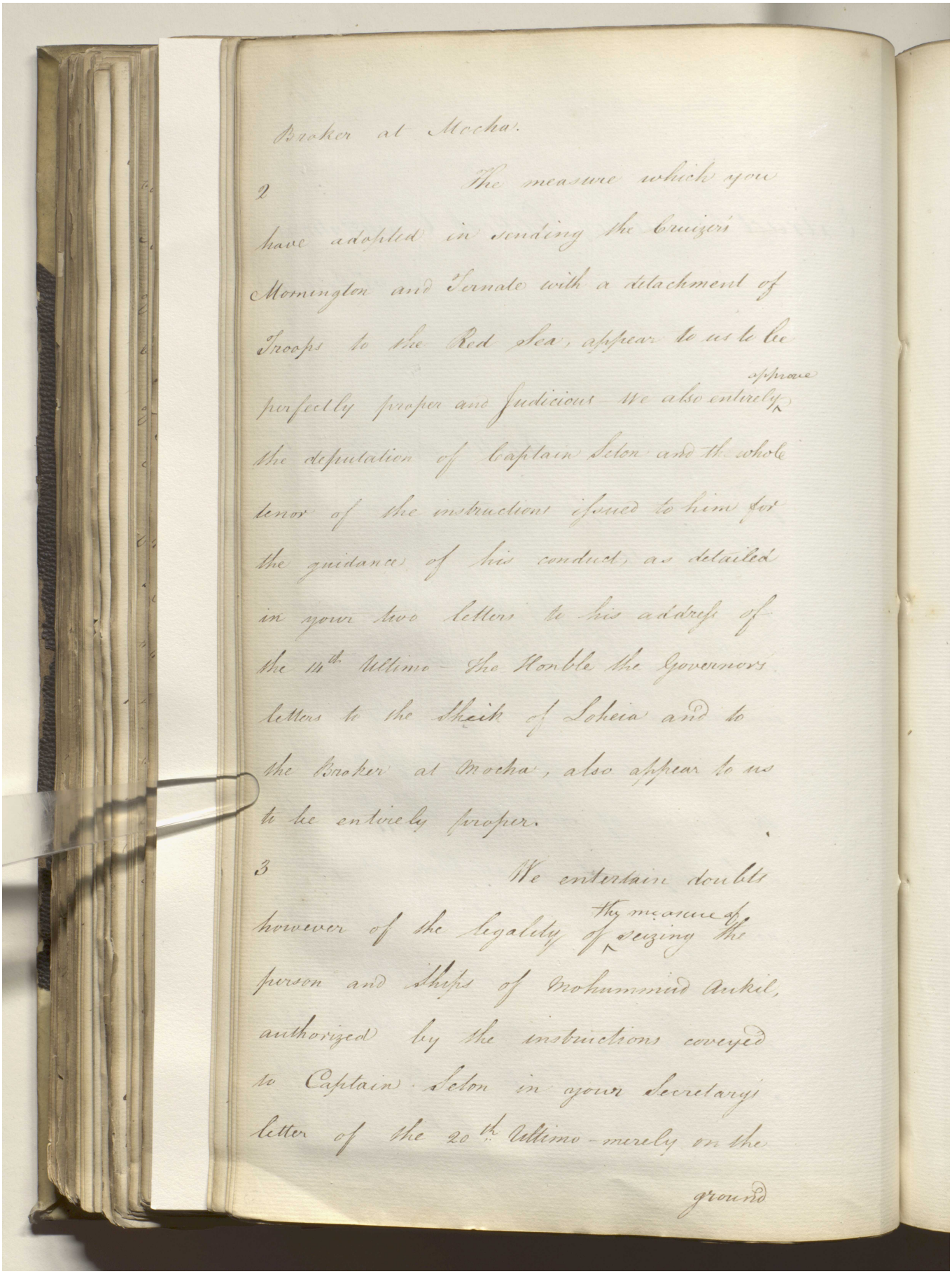

Broker at Mocha.

2 The measure which you have adopted in sending the Cruizers Momington and Fernale with a detachment of Troops to the Red Sea, appear to us to be perfectly proper and judicious We also entirely approve the deputation of Captain Seton and the whole tenor of the instructions issued to him for the guidance of his conduct, as detailed in your two letters to his address of the 14th Ultimo - The Honble the Governors letters to the Sheik of Loheia and to the Broker at Mocha, also appear to us to be entirely proper.

3 We entertain doubts however of the legality of the measure of seizing the person and Ships of Mohummud Ankil, authorized by the instructions conveyed to Captain Seton in your Secretary's letter of the 20th Ultimo - merely on the ground

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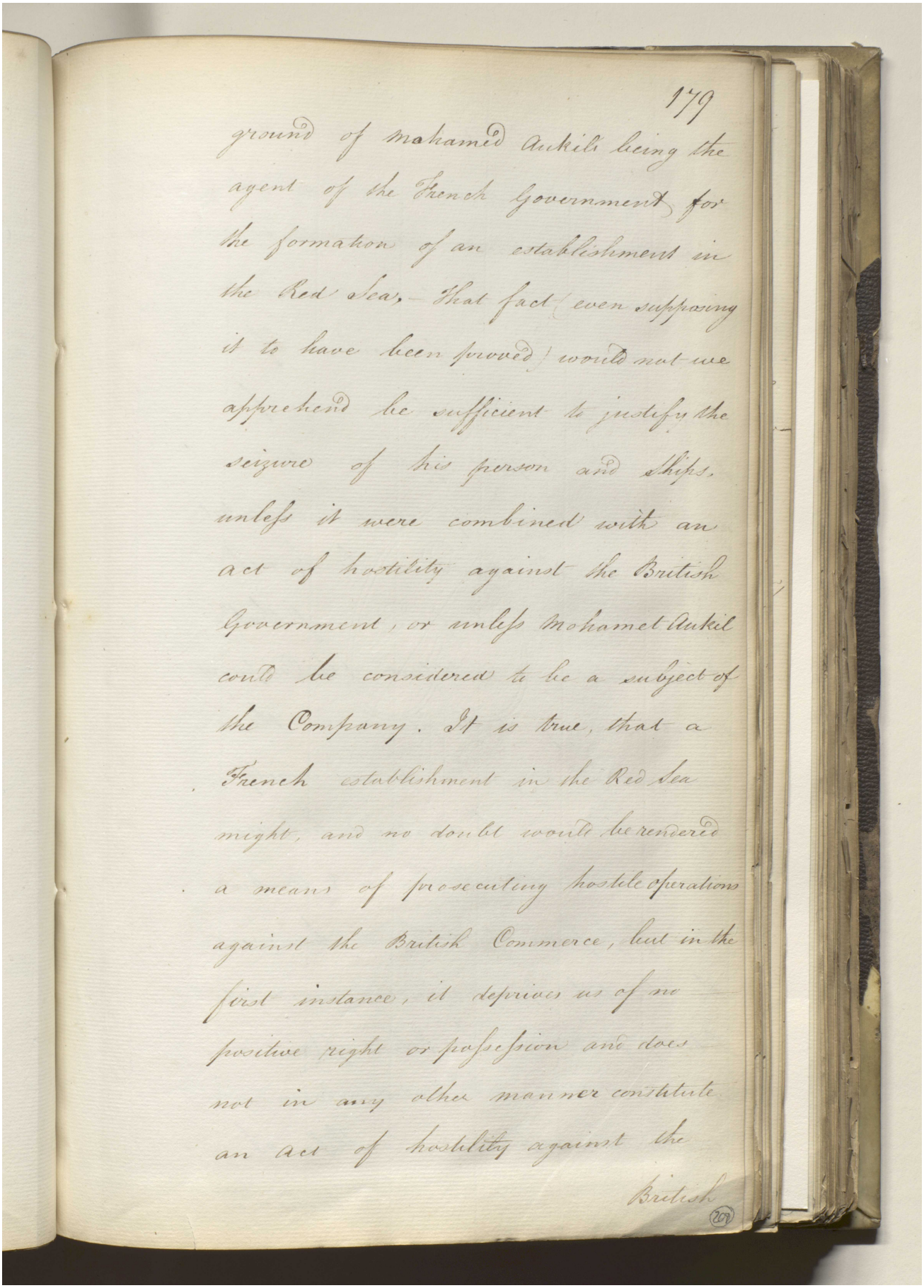

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ground of mahamed Aukil being the agent of the French Government for the formation of an establishment in the Red Sea, — that fact (even supposing it to have been proved) would not we apprehend be sufficient to justify the seizure of his person and Ships, unless it were combined with an act of hostility against the British Government, or unless Mohamet Aukil could be considered to be a subject of the Company. It is true, that a French establishment in the Red Sea might, and no doubt would be rendered a means of prosecuting hostile operations against the British Commerce, but in the first instance, it deprives us of no positive right or possession and does not in any other manner constitute an act of hostility against the

British

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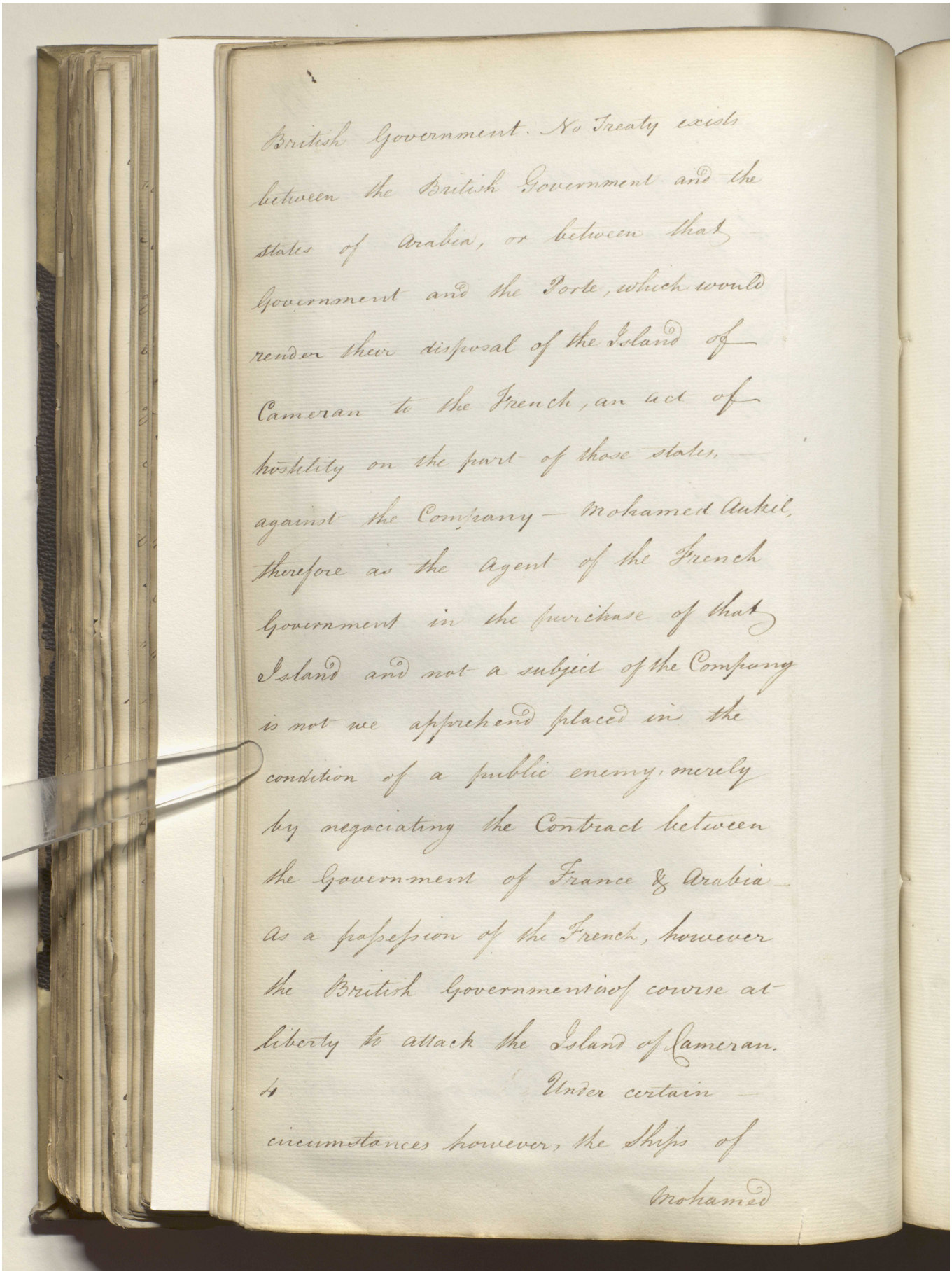

British Government. No Treaty exists between the British Government and the states of Arabia, or between that Government and the Porte, which would render their disposal of the Island of Cameran to the French, an act of hostility on the part of those states, against the Company — Mohamed Aukil, therefore as the Agent of the French Government in the purchase of that Island and not a subject of the Company is not we apprehend placed in the condition of a public enemy, merely by negociating the Contract between the Government of France & Arabia as a possession of the French, however the British Government is of course at liberty to attack the Island of Cameran.

4 Under certain circumstances however, the Ships of

Mohamed

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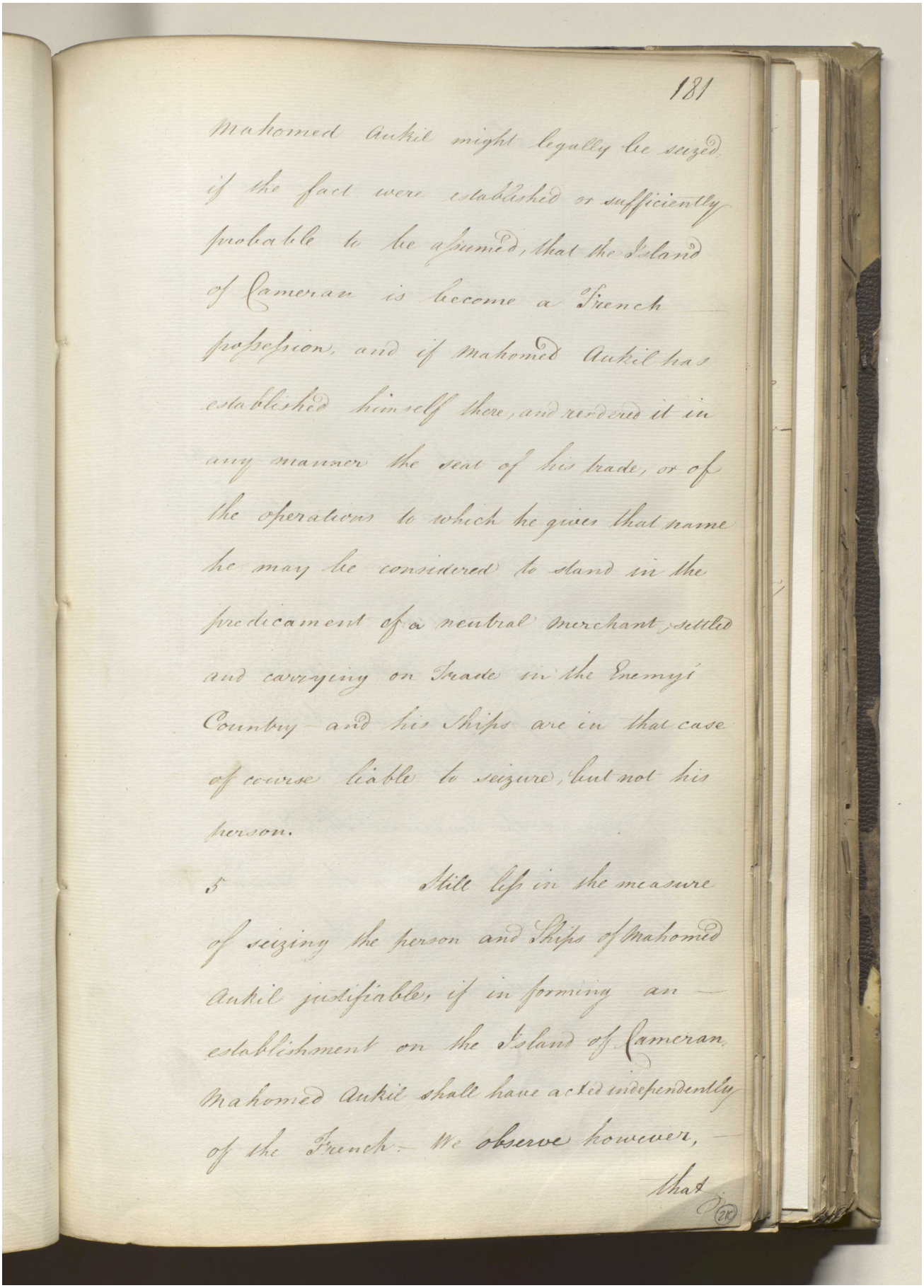

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Mahomed Aukil might legally be seized
if the fact were established or sufficiently
probable to be assumed, that the Island
of Cameran is become a French
possession, and if Mahomed Aukil has
established himself there, and rendered it in
any manner the seat of his trade, or of
the operations to which he gives that name
he may be considered to stand in the
predicament of a neutral merchant, settled
and carrying on Trade in the Enemy's
Country — and his Ships are in that case
of course liable to seizure, but not his
person.

5 Still less in the measure
of seizing the person and Ships of Mahomed
Aukil justifiable, if in forming an —
establishment on the Island of Cameran,
Mahomed Aukil shall have acted independently
of the French — We observe however, —

that

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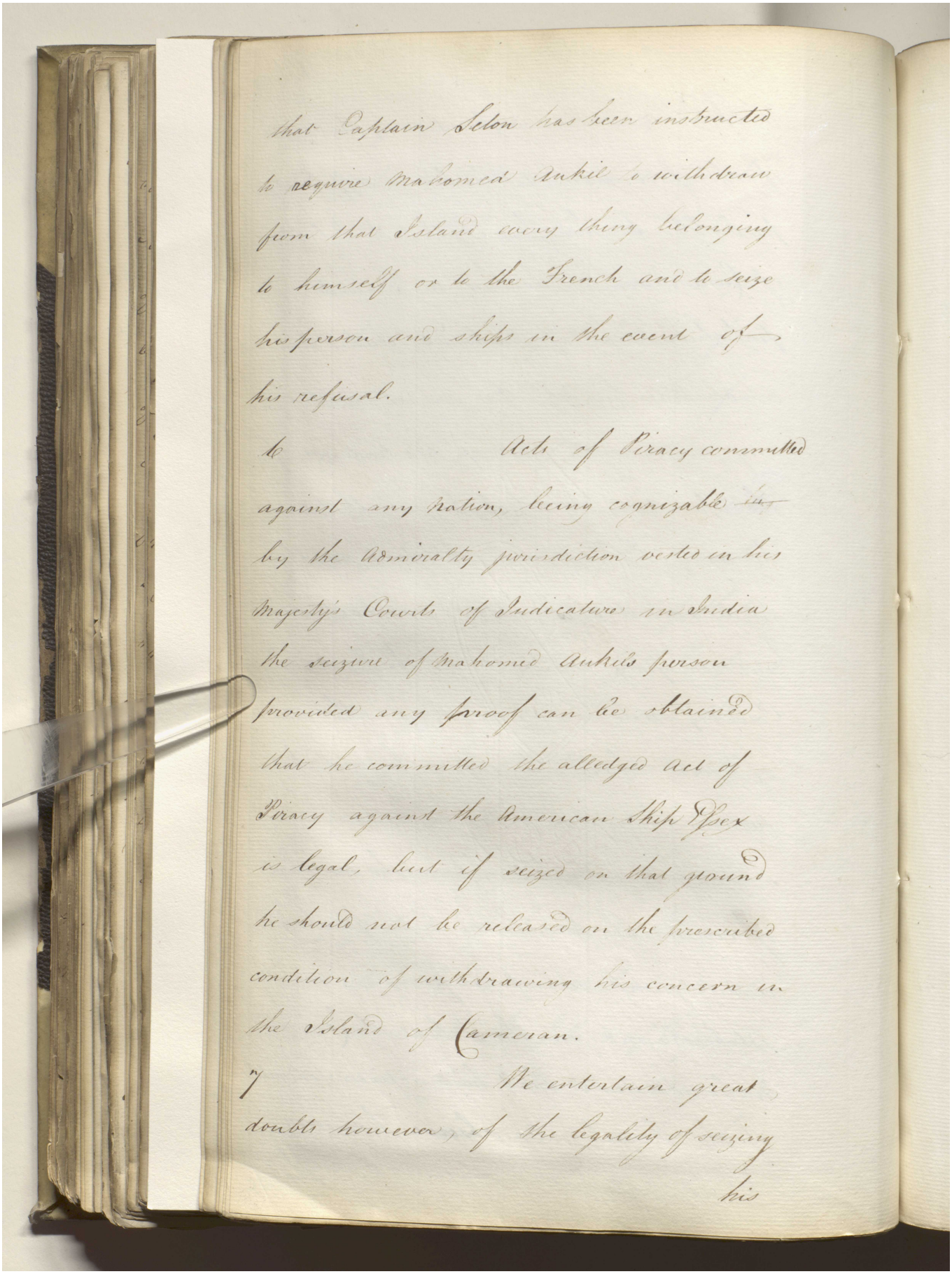

that Captain Seton has been instructed to require Mahomed Aukil to withdraw from that Island every thing belonging to himself or to the French and to seize his person and ships in the event of his refusal.

6 Acts of Piracy committed against any nation, being cognizable by the Admiralty jurisdiction vested in his Majesty's Courts of Judicature in India the seizure of Mahomed Aukils person provided any proof can be obtained that he committed the alledged act of Piracy against the American Ship Essex is legal, but if seized on that ground he should not be released on the prescribed condition of withdrawing his concern in the Island of Cameran.

7 We entertain great doubts however, of the legality of seizing his

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [211r] (181/264)

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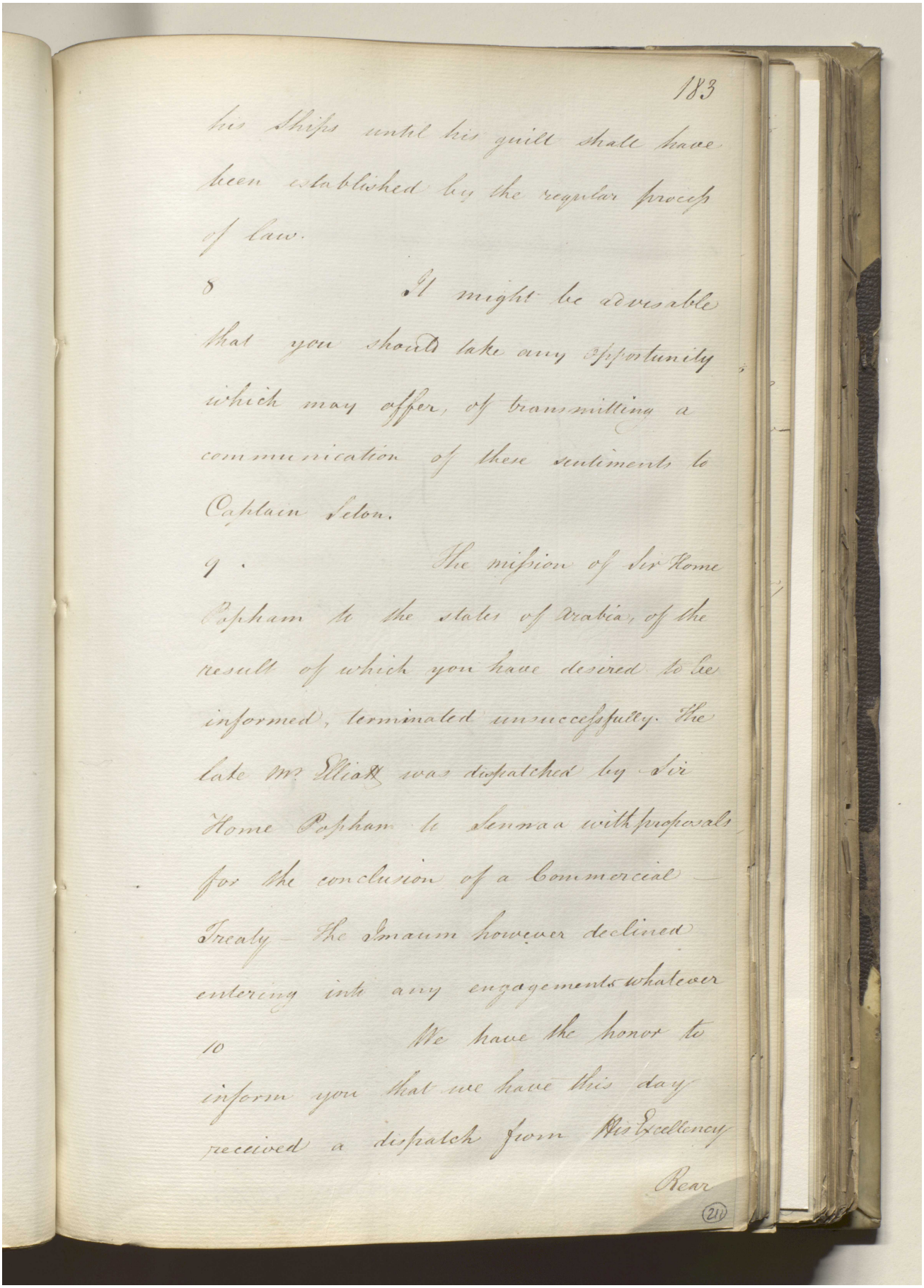

his Ships until his guilt shall have been established by the regular process of law.

8 It might be advisable that you should take any opportunity which may offer, of transmitting a communication of these sentiments to Captain Seton.

9. The mission of Sir Home Popham to the states of Arabia, of the result of which you have desired to be informed, terminated unsuccessfully. The late Mr Elliott was dispatched by Sir Home Popham to Sennaa with proposals for the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty — The Imaum however declined entering into any engagements whatever

10 We have the honor to inform you that we have this day received a dispatch from His Excellency

Rear

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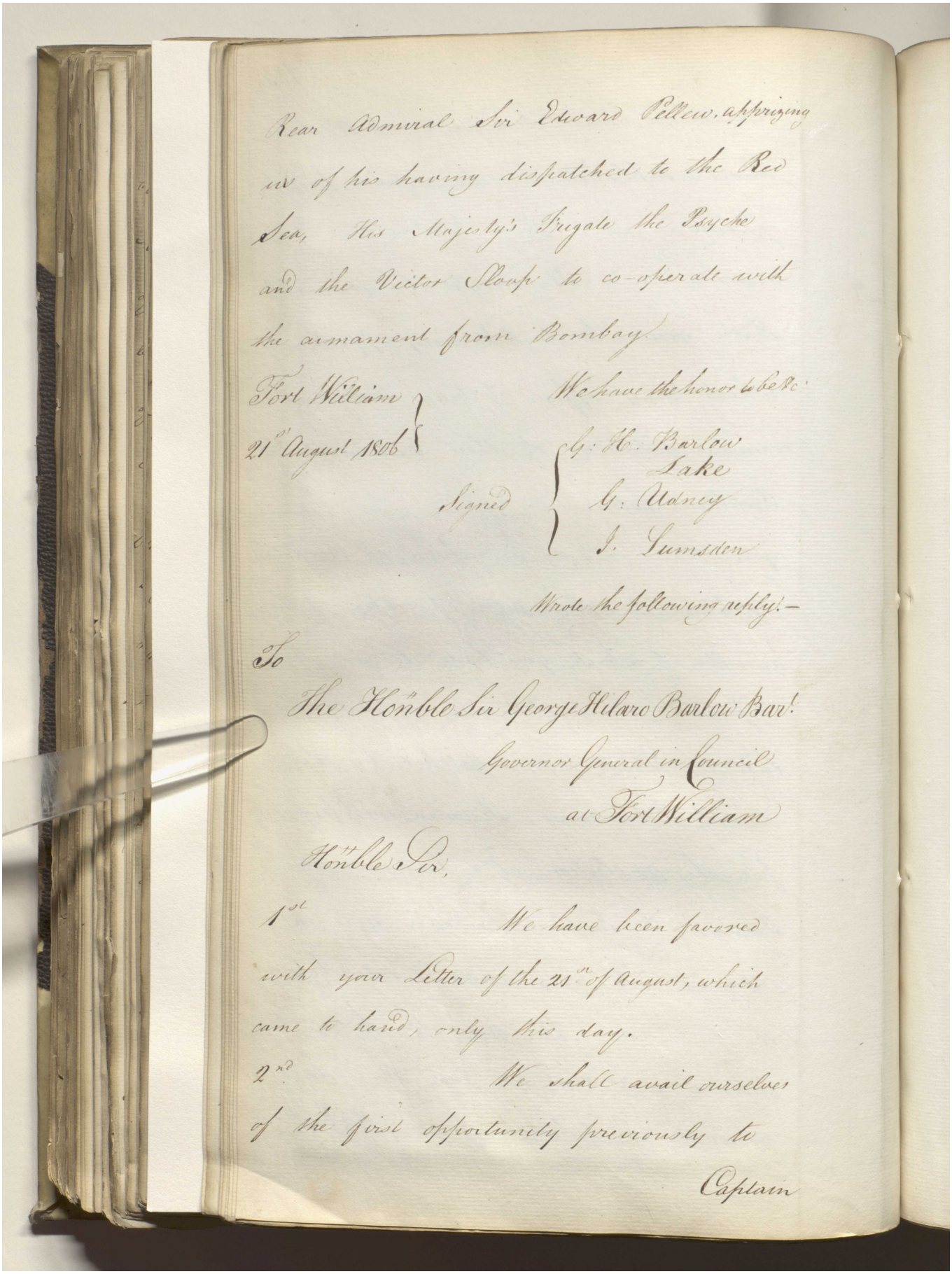

Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, apprizing us of his having dispatched to the Red Sea, His Majesty's Frigate the Psyche and the Victor Sloop to co-operate with the armament from Bombay.

Fort William
21st August 1806

We have the honor to be &c.

Signed
G: H. Barlow
Lake
G. Udney
J. Sumsden

Wrote the following reply:—

To

The Honble Sir George Hilaro Barlow Bart.
Governor General in Council
at Fort William

Honble Sir,

1st We have been favored with your Letter of the 21st of August, which came to hand, only this day.

2nd We shall avail ourselves of the first opportunity previously to

Captain

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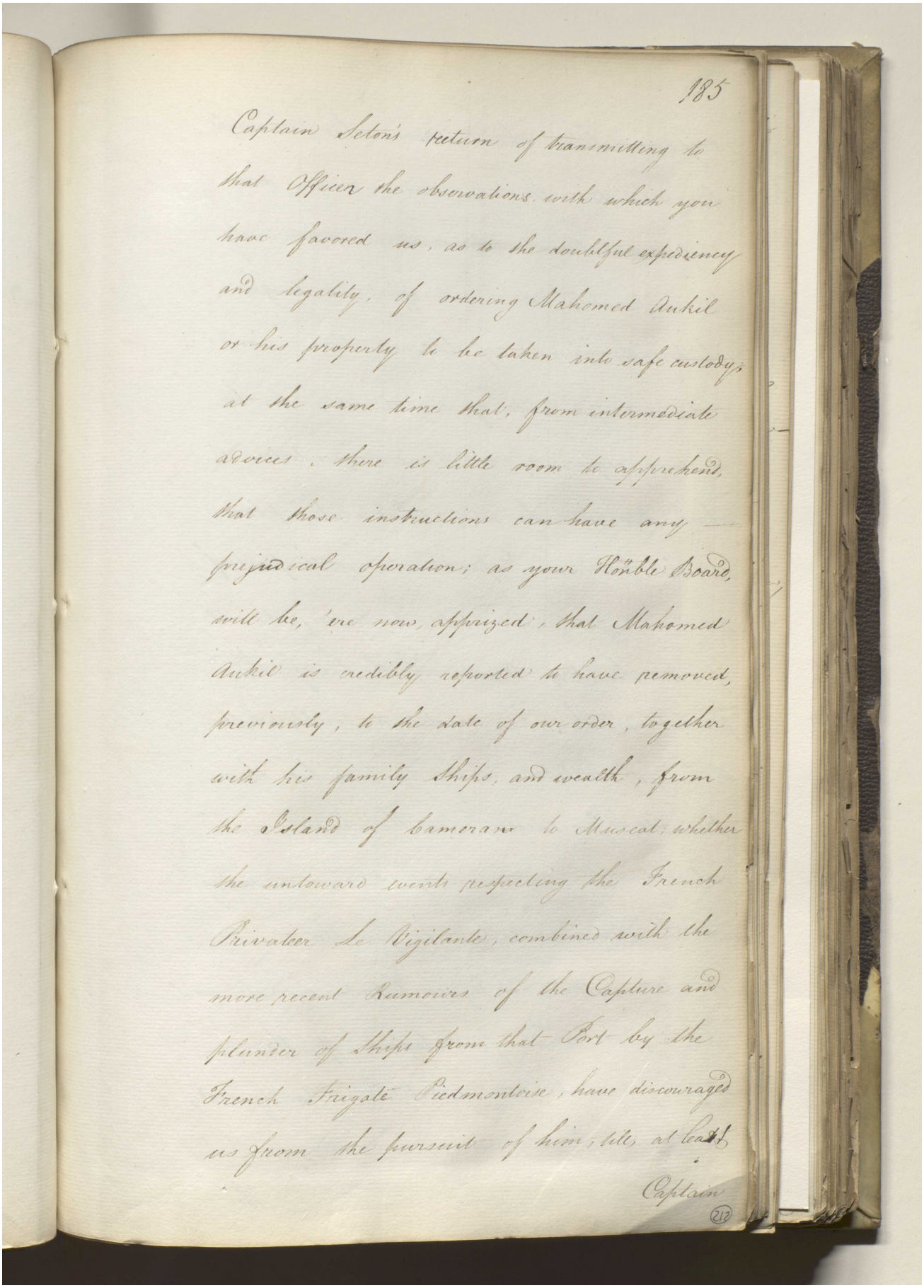

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Captain Seton's return of transmitting to that Officer the observations with which you have favored us, as to the doubtful expediency and legality, of ordering Mahomed Aukil or his property to be taken into safe custody; at the same time that, from intermediate advices, there is little room to apprehend, that those instructions can have any prejudical operation; as your Hönble Board will be, ere now, apprized, that Mahomed Aukil is credibly reported to have removed, previously, to the date of our order, together with his family Ships, and wealth, from the Island of Cameran to Muscat: whether the untoward events respecting the French Privateer Le Vigilante, combined with the more recent Rumours of the Capture and plunder of Ships from that Port by the French Frigate Piedmontoise, have discouraged us from the pursuit of him, We, at least,

Captain

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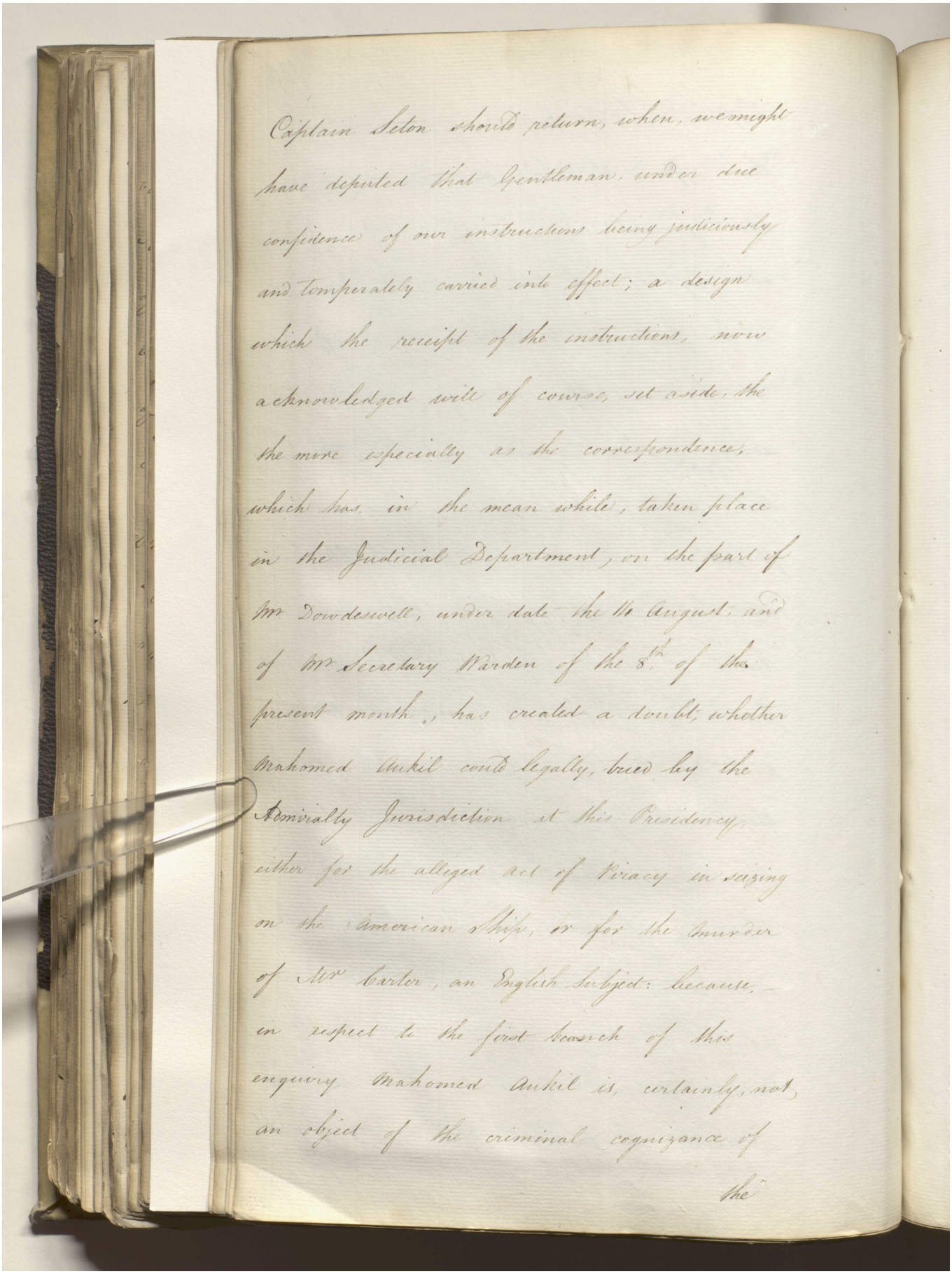

Captain Seton should return, when, we might have deputed that Gentleman, under due confidence of our instructions being judiciously and temperately carried into effect; a design which the receipt of the instructions, now acknowledged will of course, set aside, the the more especially as the correspondence, which has, in the mean while, taken place in the Judicial Department, on the part of Mr Dowdeswell, under date the 4th August, and of Mr Secretary Warden of the 8th of the present month, has created a doubt, whether Mahomed Anikil could legally, tried by the Admiralty Jurisdiction at this Presidency, either for the alleged act of Piracy in seizing on the American Ship, or for the murder of Mr Carter, an English Subject: because, in respect to the first branch of this enquiry Mahomed Anikil is, certainly, not, an object of the criminal cognizance of

the

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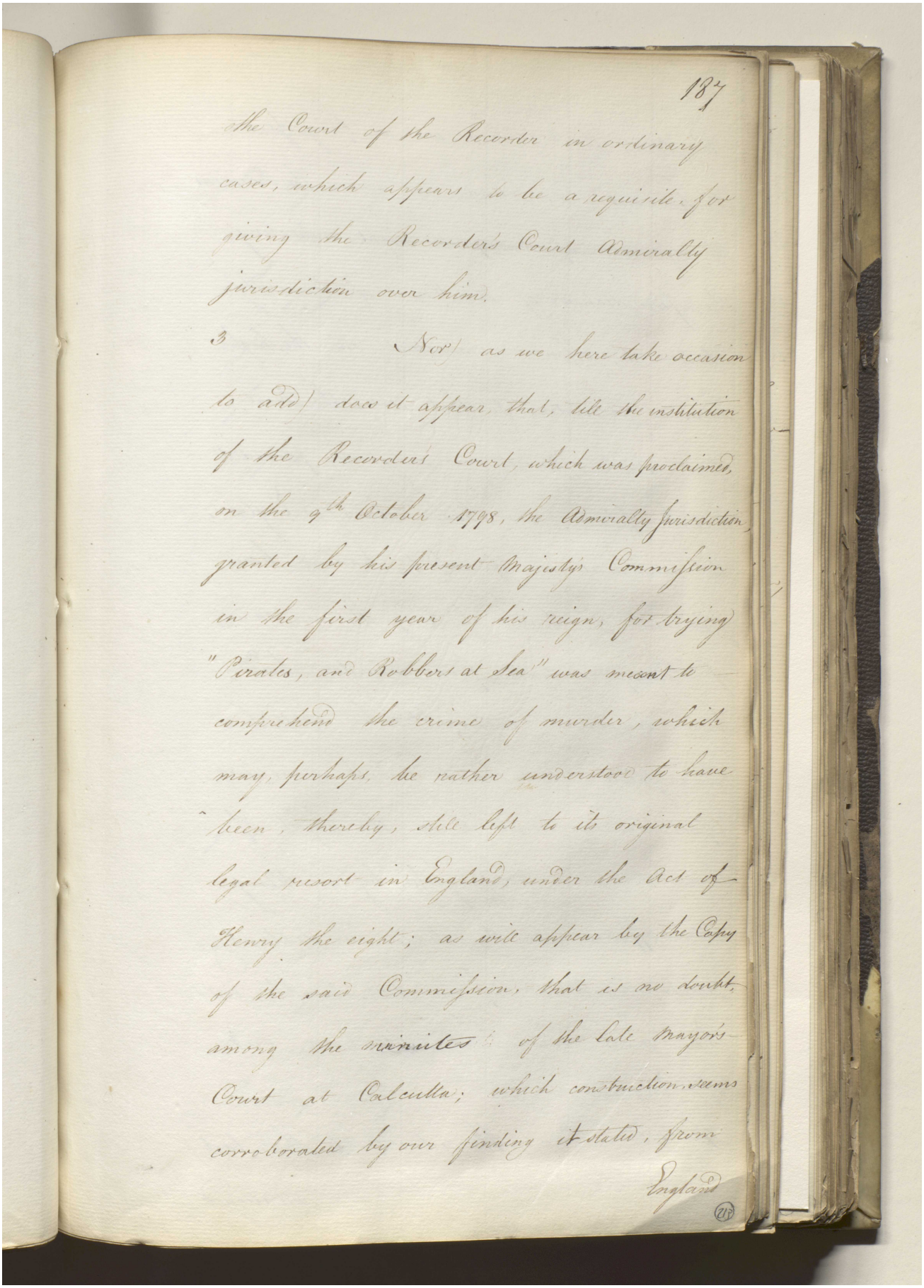

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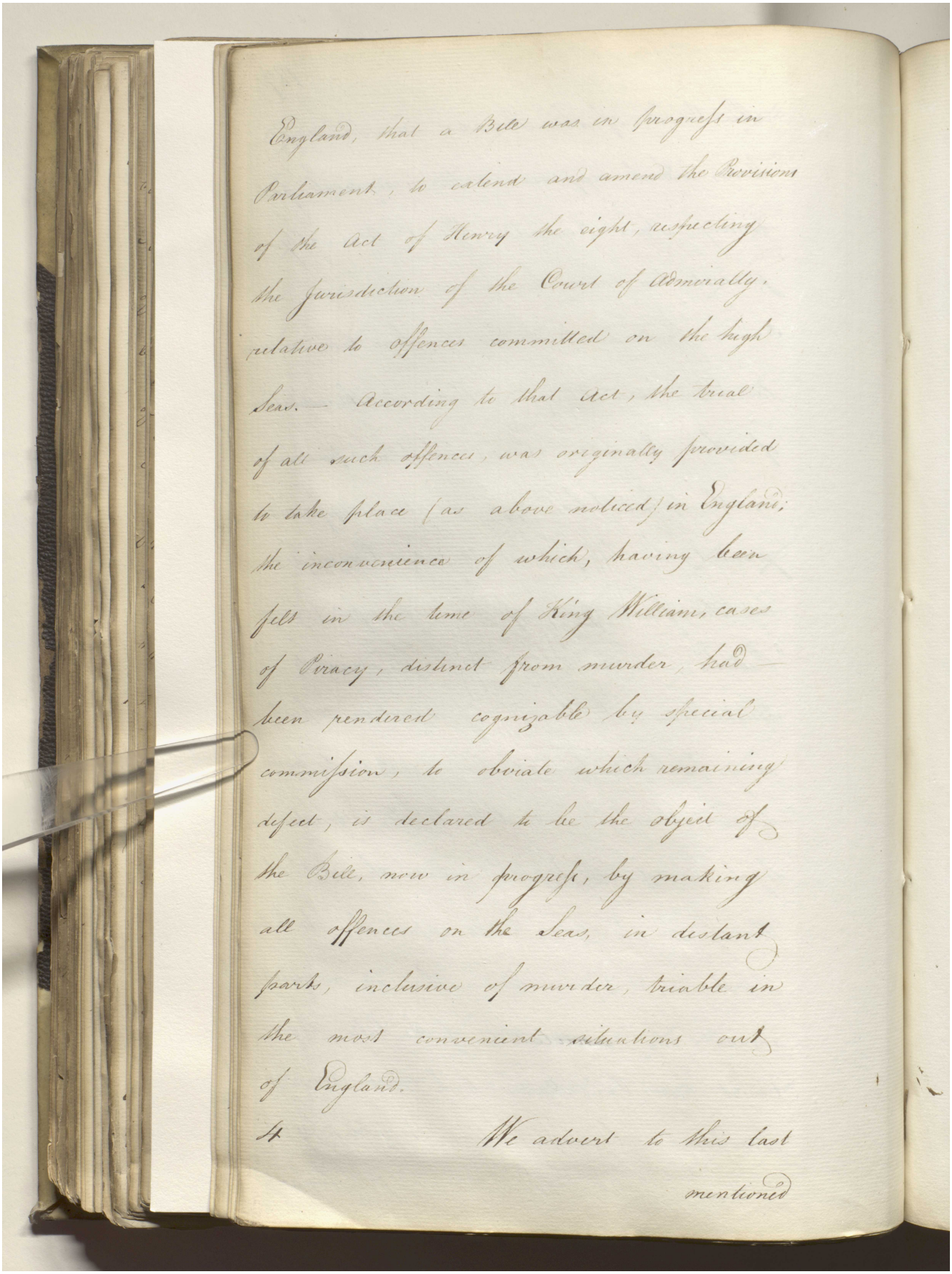
the Court of the Recorder in ordinary cases, which appears to be a requisite, for giving the Recorder's Court Admiralty jurisdiction over him.

3 Nor[/] as we here take occasion to add[/] does it appear, that, till the institution of the Recorder's Court, which was proclaimed, on the 9th October 1798, the Admiralty jurisdiction granted by his present Majesty's Commission in the first year of his reign, for trying "Pirates, and Robbers at Sea" was meant to comprehend the crime of murder, which may, perhaps, be rather understood to have been, thereby, still left to its original legal resort in England, under the Act of Henry the eight; as will appear by the Copy of the said Commission, that is no doubt, among the minutes of the Late Mayor's Court at Calcutta; which construction seems corroborated by our finding it stated, from

England



England, that a Bill was in progress in
Parliament, to extend and amend the Provisions
of the Act of Henry the eight, respecting
the Jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty,
relative to offences committed on the high
Seas. — According to that Act, the trial
of all such offences, was originally provided
to take place (as above noticed) in England;
the inconvenience of which, having been
felt in the time of King William, cases
of Piracy, distinct from murder, had
been rendered cognizable by special
commission; to obviate which remaining
defect, is declared to be the object of
the Bill, now in progress, by making
all offences on the Seas, in distant
parts, inclusive of murder, triable in
the most convenient situations out
of England.

We advert to this last
mentioned

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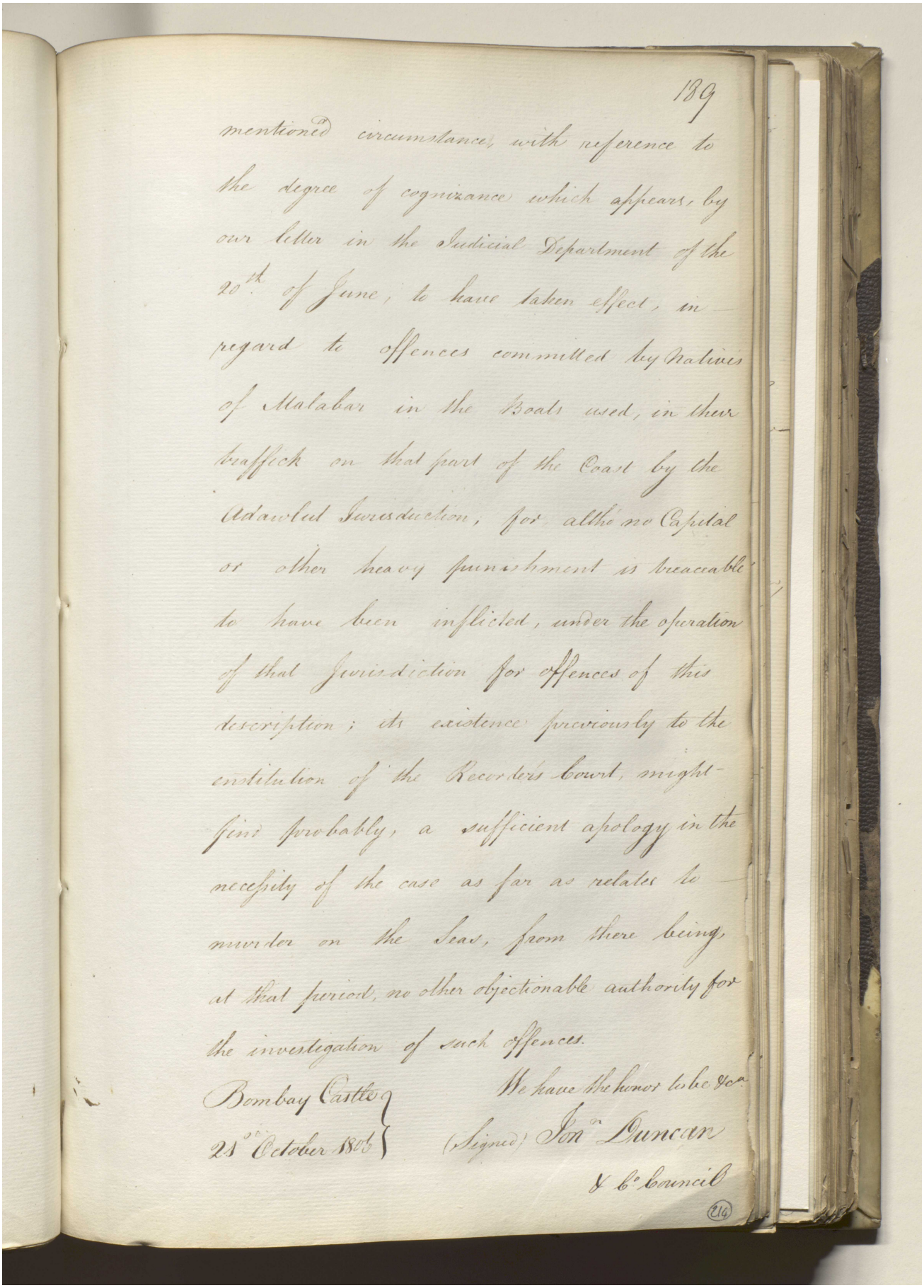

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mentioned circumstance, with reference to the degree of cognizance which appears, by our letter in the Judicial Department of the 20th of June, to have taken effect, in regard to offences committed by Natives of Malabar in the Boats used, in their trafficke on that part of the Coast by the Adawlut Jurisdiction, for altho' no Capital or other heavy punishment is breaceable to have been inflicted, under the operation of that Jurisdiction for offences of this description; its existence previously to the institution of the Recorders Court, might first probably, a sufficient apology in the necessity of the case as far as relates to murder on the Seas, from there being at that period, no other objectionable authority for the investigation of such offences.

We have the honor to be &c.

Bombay Castle
28th October 1806

(Signed) Jon. Duncan
& Co. Council

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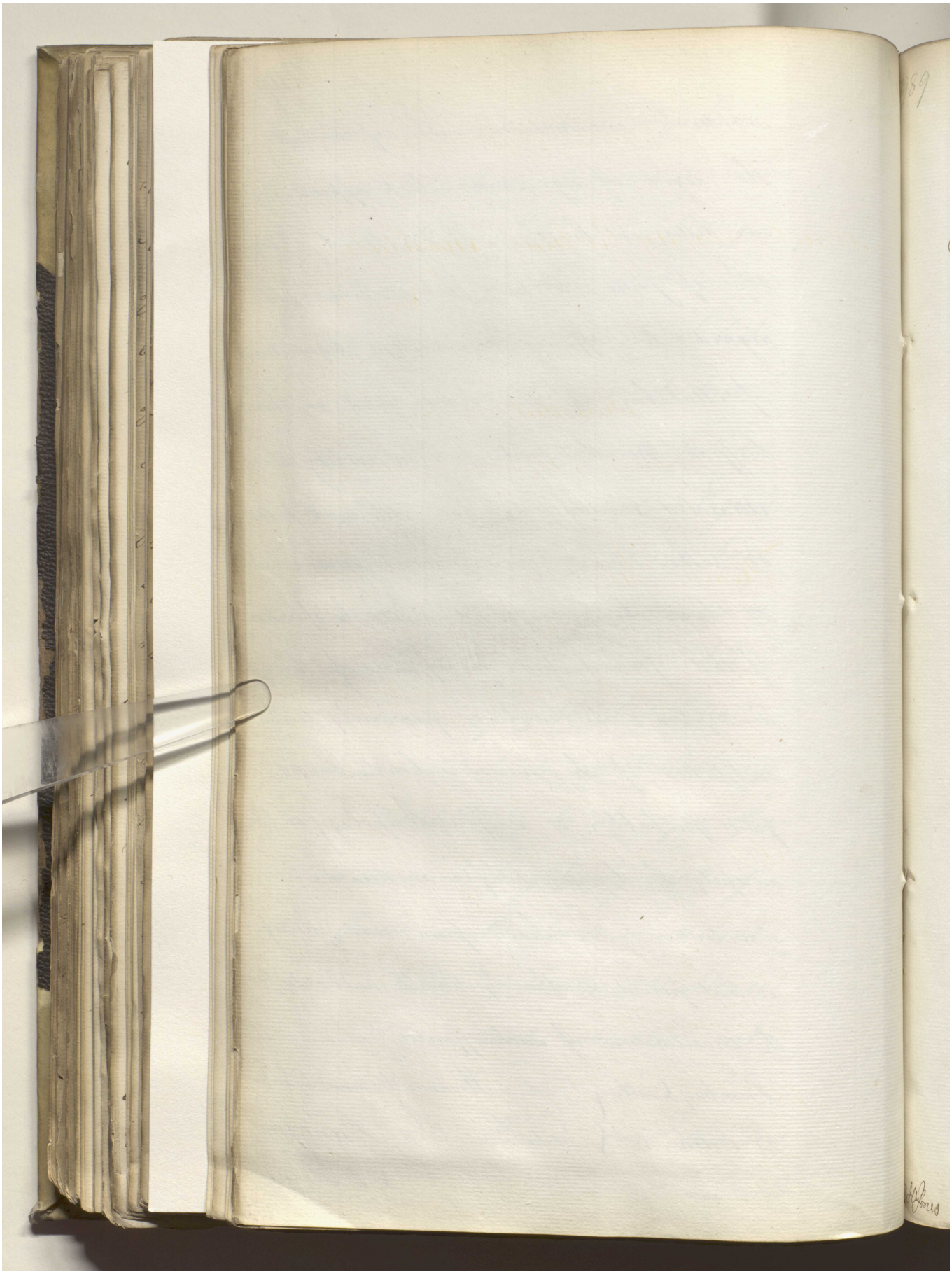

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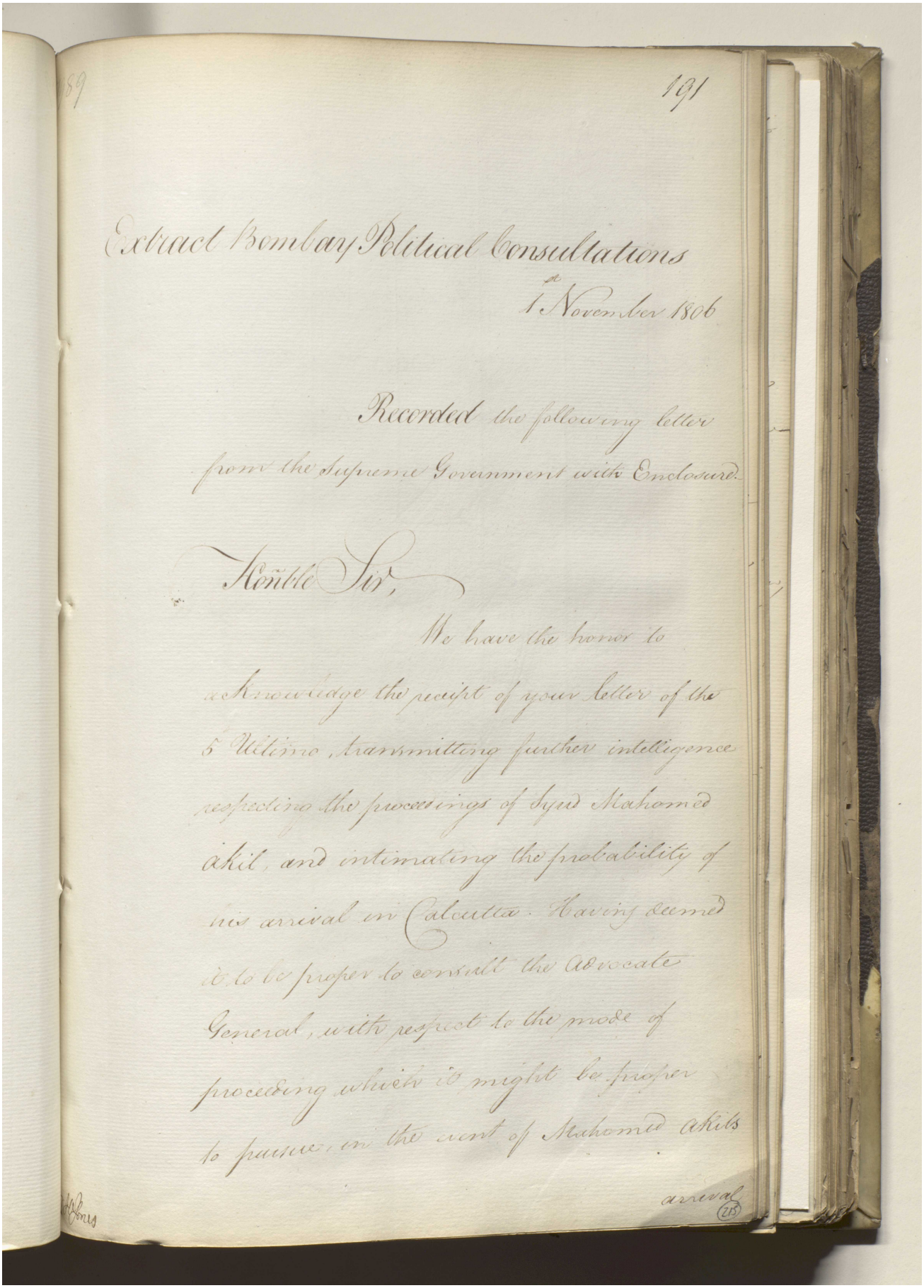

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
1st November 1806

Recorded the following letter
from the Supreme Government with Enclosure.

Honble Sir,

We have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the
5th Ultimo, transmitting further intelligence
respecting the proceedings of Syud Mahomed
akil, and intimating the probability of
his arrival in Calcutta. Having deemed
it to be proper to consult the Advocate
General, with respect to the mode of
proceeding which it might be proper
to pursue in the event of Mahomed akils
arrival

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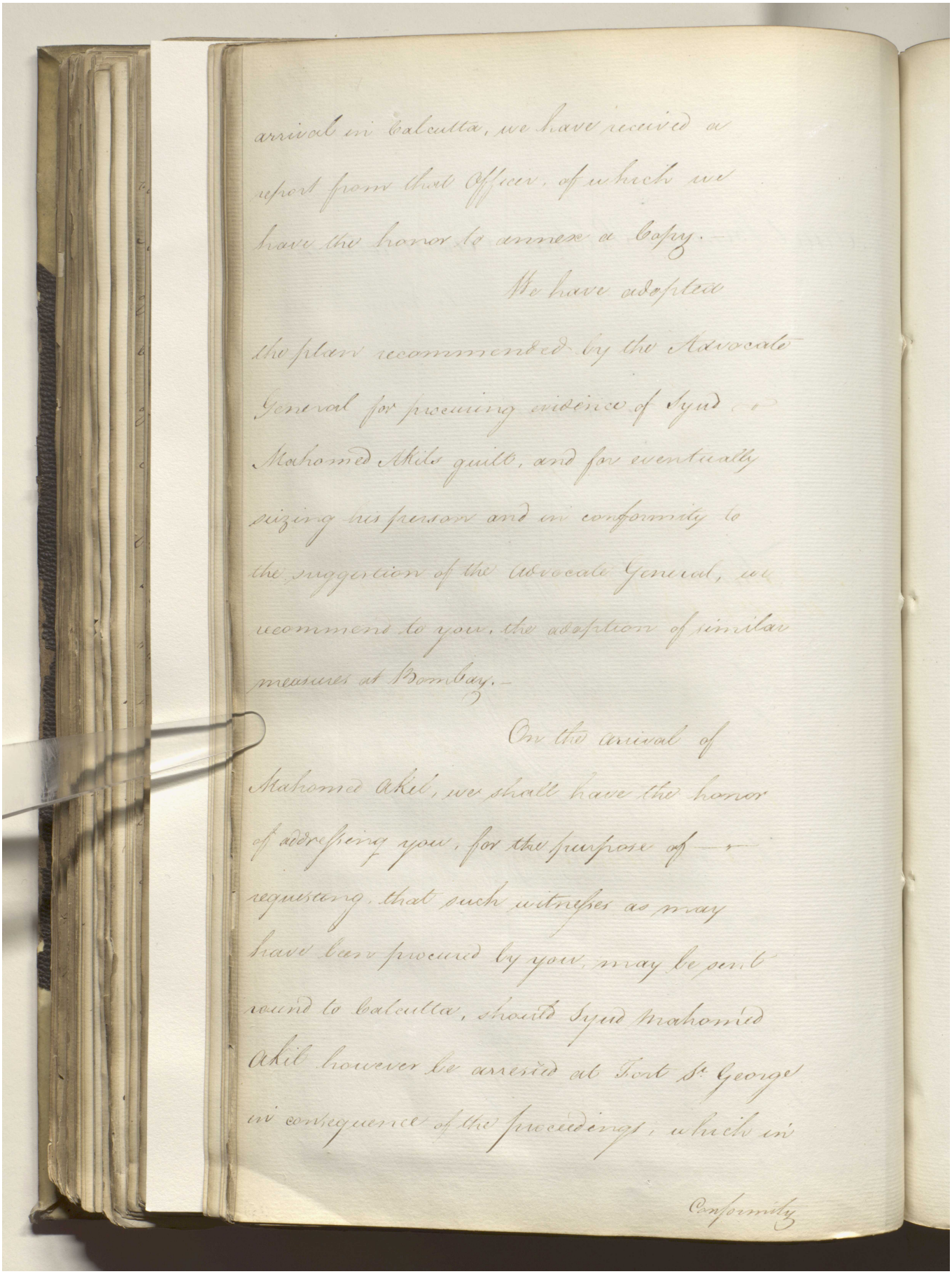
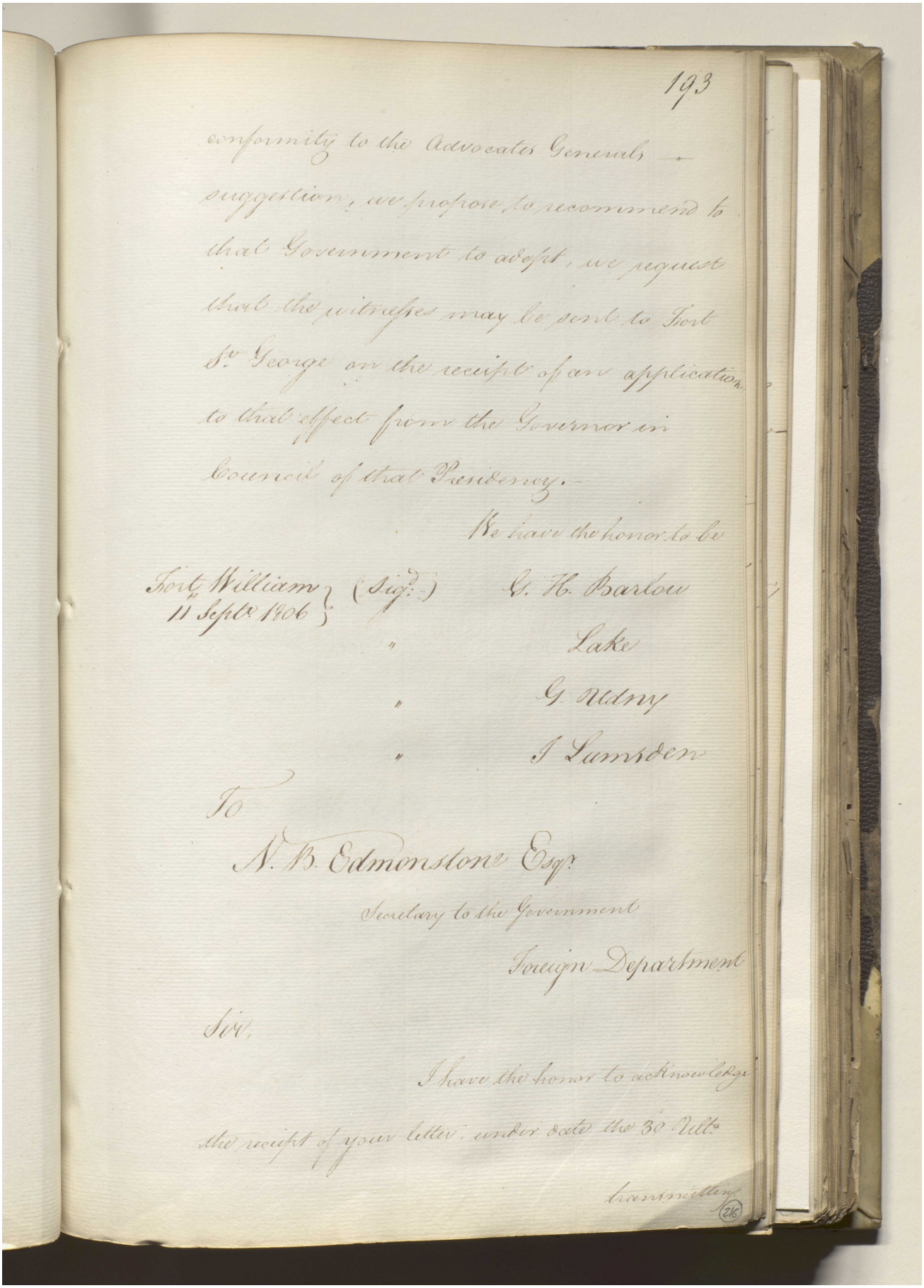


arrival in Calcutta, we have received a
report from that Officer, of which we
have the honor to annex a Copy.—
We have adopted
the plan recommended by the Advocate
General for procuring evidence of Syud
Mahomed Akils guilt, and for eventually
seizing his person and in conformity to
the suggestion of the Advocate General, we
recommend to you, the adoption of similar
measures at Bombay.—
On the arrival of
Mahomed Akil, we shall have the honor
of addressing you, for the purpose of—
requesting, that such witnesses as may
have been procured by you, may be sent
round to Calcutta, should Syud Mahomed
Akil however be arrested at Fort St. George
in consequence of the proceedings, which in
Conformity



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conformity to the Advocates Generals
suggestion, we propose to recommend to
that Government to adopt, we request
that the witnesses may be sent to Fort
St. George on the receipt of an application
to that effect from the Governor in
Council of that Presidency.

We have the honor to be

Fort William
11 Septr 1806

(Sigd.) G. H. Barlow
" Lake
" G. Udny
" J. Lumsden

To
N. B. Edmonstone Esqr
Secretary to the Government
Foreign Department

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter, under date the 30 Ult.
transmitting

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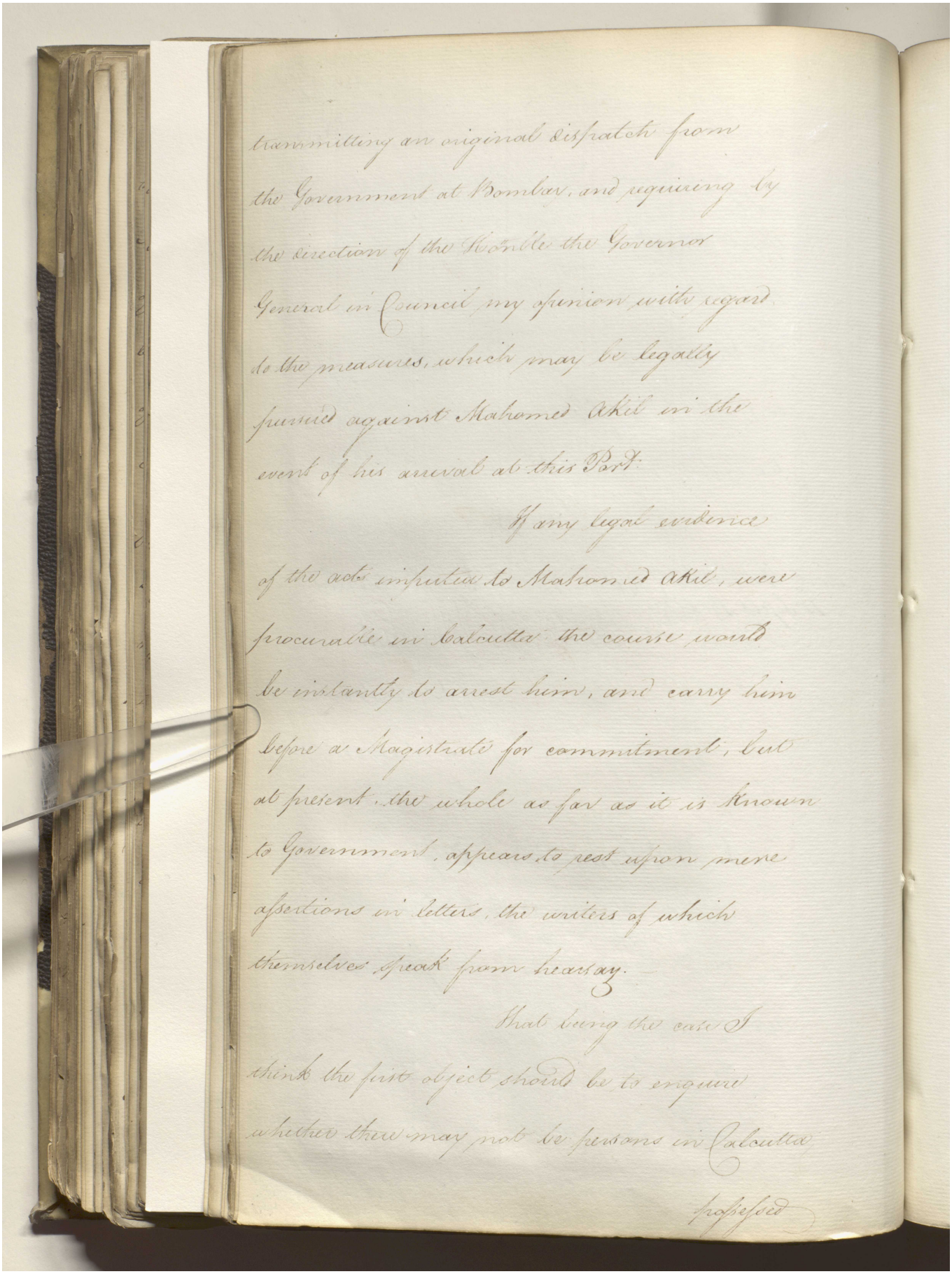

transmitting an original dispatch from the Government at Bombay, and requiring by the direction of the Honble the Governor General in Council, my opinion with regard to the measures, which may be legally pursued against Mahomed Akil on the event of his arrival at this Port.

If any legal evidence of the acts imputed to Mahomed Akil, were procurable in Calcutta the course would be instantly to arrest him, and carry him before a Magistrate for commitment, but at present the whole as far as it is known to Government, appears to rest upon mere assertions in letters, the writers of which themselves speak from hearsay.

That being the case I think the first object should be to enquire whether there may not be persons in Calcutta

professed

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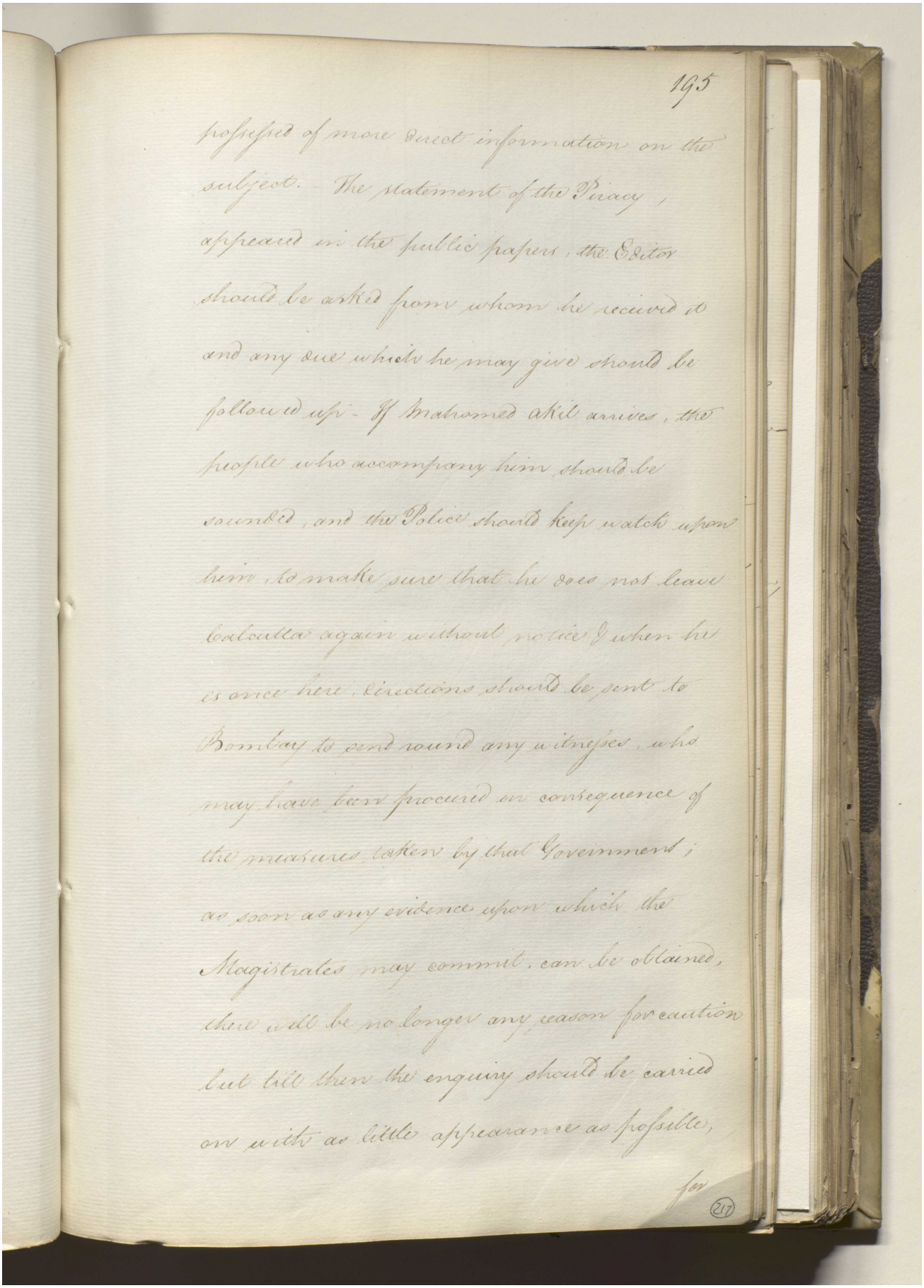

possessed of more direct information on the subject. The statement of the Piracy, appeared in the public papers, the Editor should be asked from whom he received it and any clue which he may give should be followed up. If Mahomed Akil arrives, the people who accompany him should be sounded, and the Police should keep watch upon him, to make sure that he does not leave Calcutta again without notice; when he is once here, directions should be sent to Bombay to send round any witnesses, who may have been procured in consequence of the measures taken by that Government; as soon as any evidence upon which the Magistrates may commit, can be obtained, there will be no longer any reason for caution but till then the enquiry should be carried on with as little appearance as possible,

for

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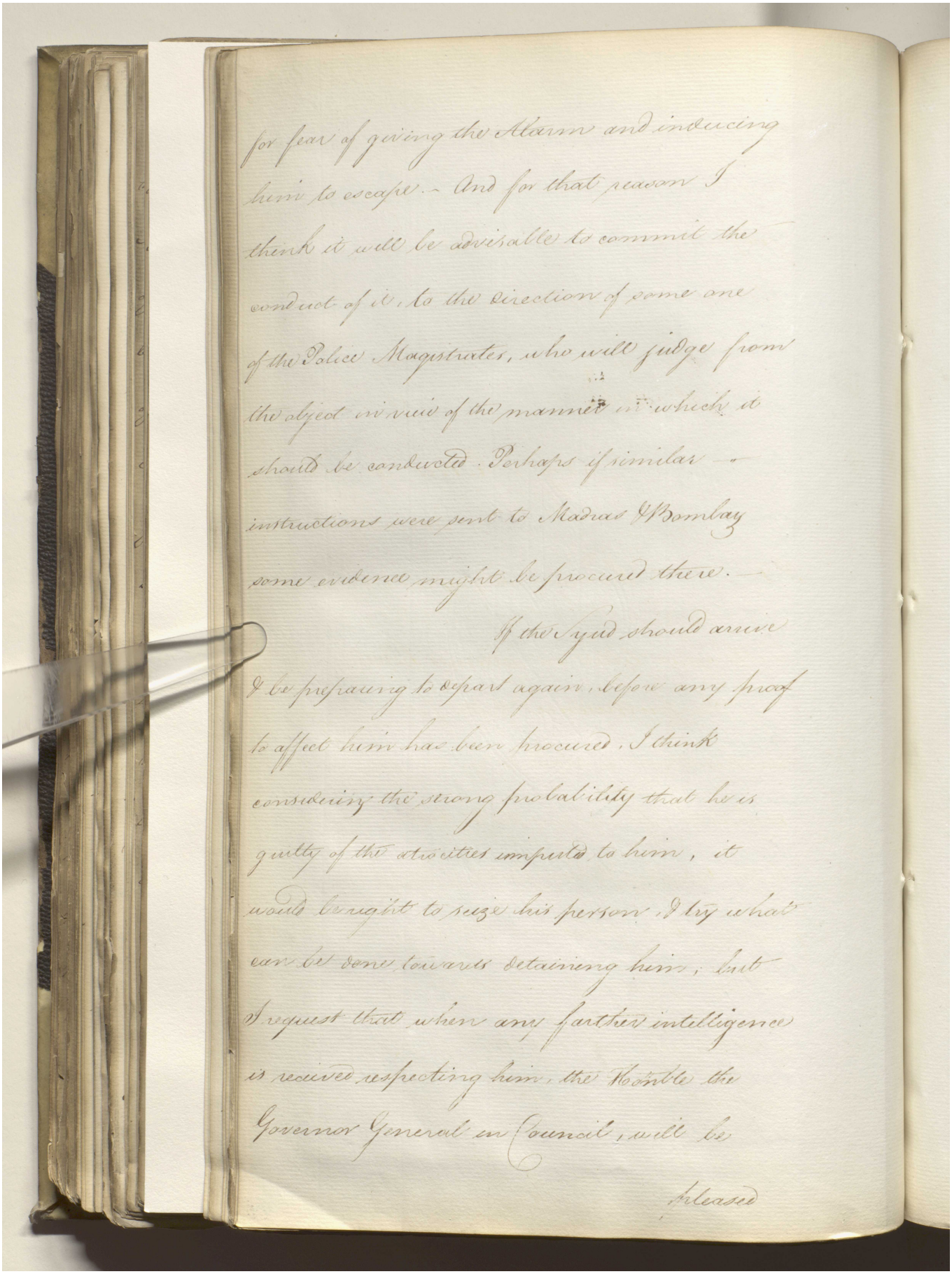
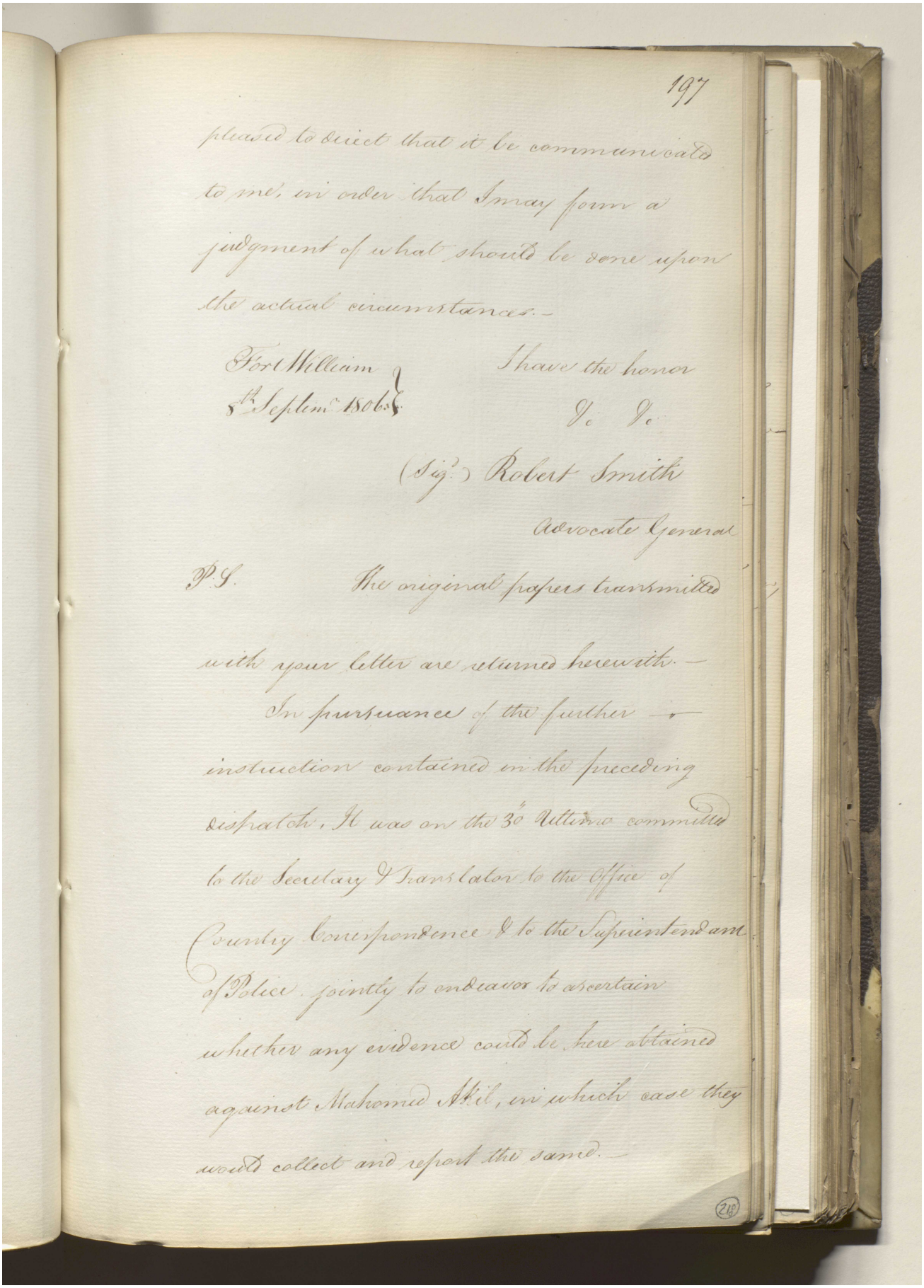


for fear of giving the Alarm and inducing
him to escape. – And for that reason I
think it will be advisable to commit the
conduct of it, to the direction of some one
of the Police Magistrates, who will judge from
the object in view of the manner in which it
should be conducted. Perhaps if similar –
instructions were sent to Madras & Bombay
some evidence might be procured there.

If the Lyud should arrive
& be preparing to depart again, before any proof
to affect him has been procured, I think
considering the strong probability that he is
guilty of the atrocities imputed to him, it
would be right to seize his person. I try what
can be done towards detaining him; but
I request that when any further intelligence
is received respecting him, the Honble the
Governor General in Council, will be

pleased



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pleased to direct that it be communicated to me, in order that I may form a judgment of what should be done upon the actual circumstances.—

Fort William
8th Septem. 1806.

I have the honor
&c &c

(Sig.) Robert Smith
Advocate General

P.S. The original papers transmitted with your letter are returned herewith.—

In pursuance of the further instruction contained in the preceding dispatch, It was on the 30th Ultimo committed to the Secretary & Translator to the Office of Country Correspondence & to the Superintendant of Police, jointly to endeavor to ascertain whether any evidence could be here obtained against Mahomed Akil, in which case they would collect and report the same.—

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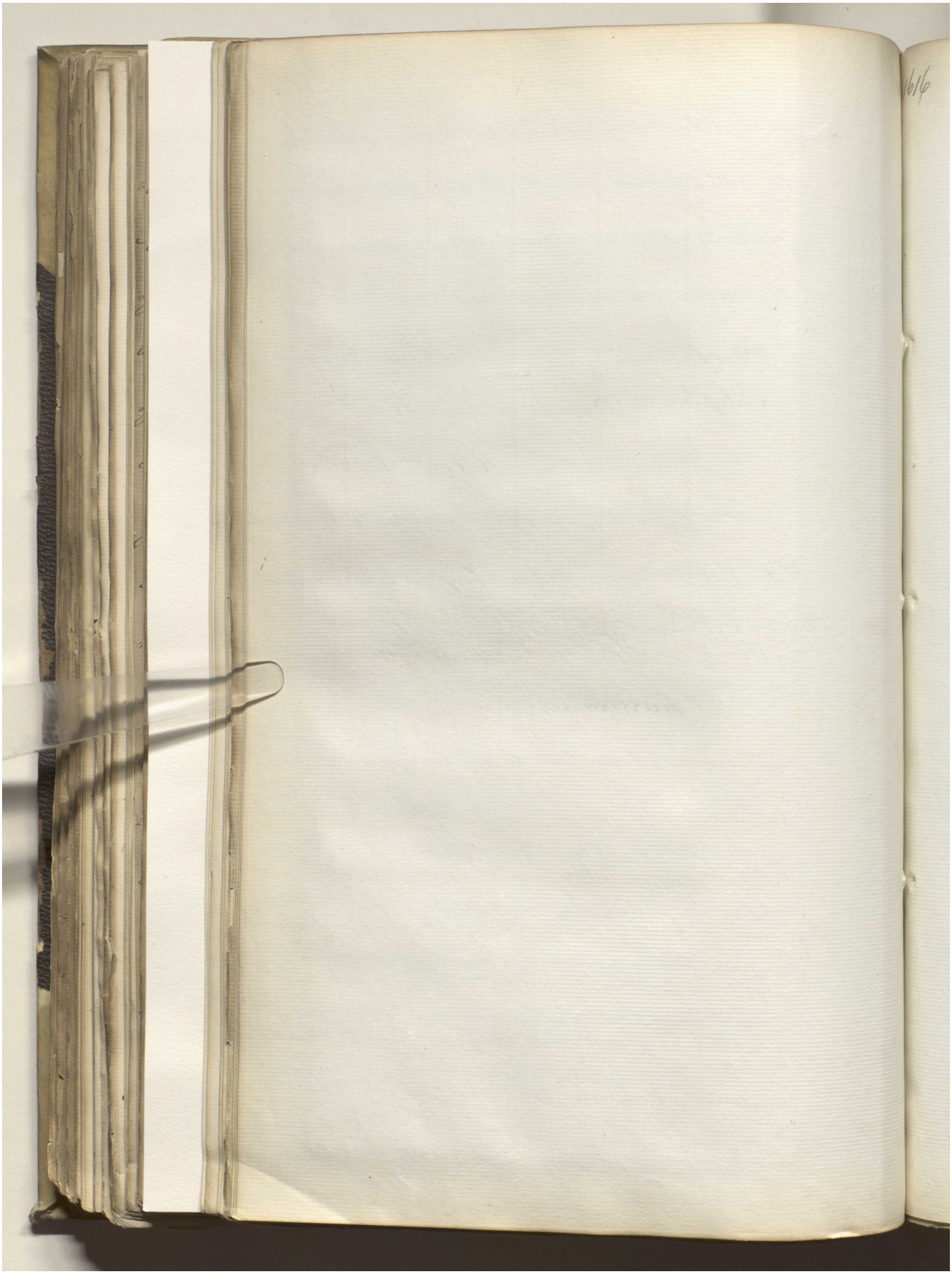

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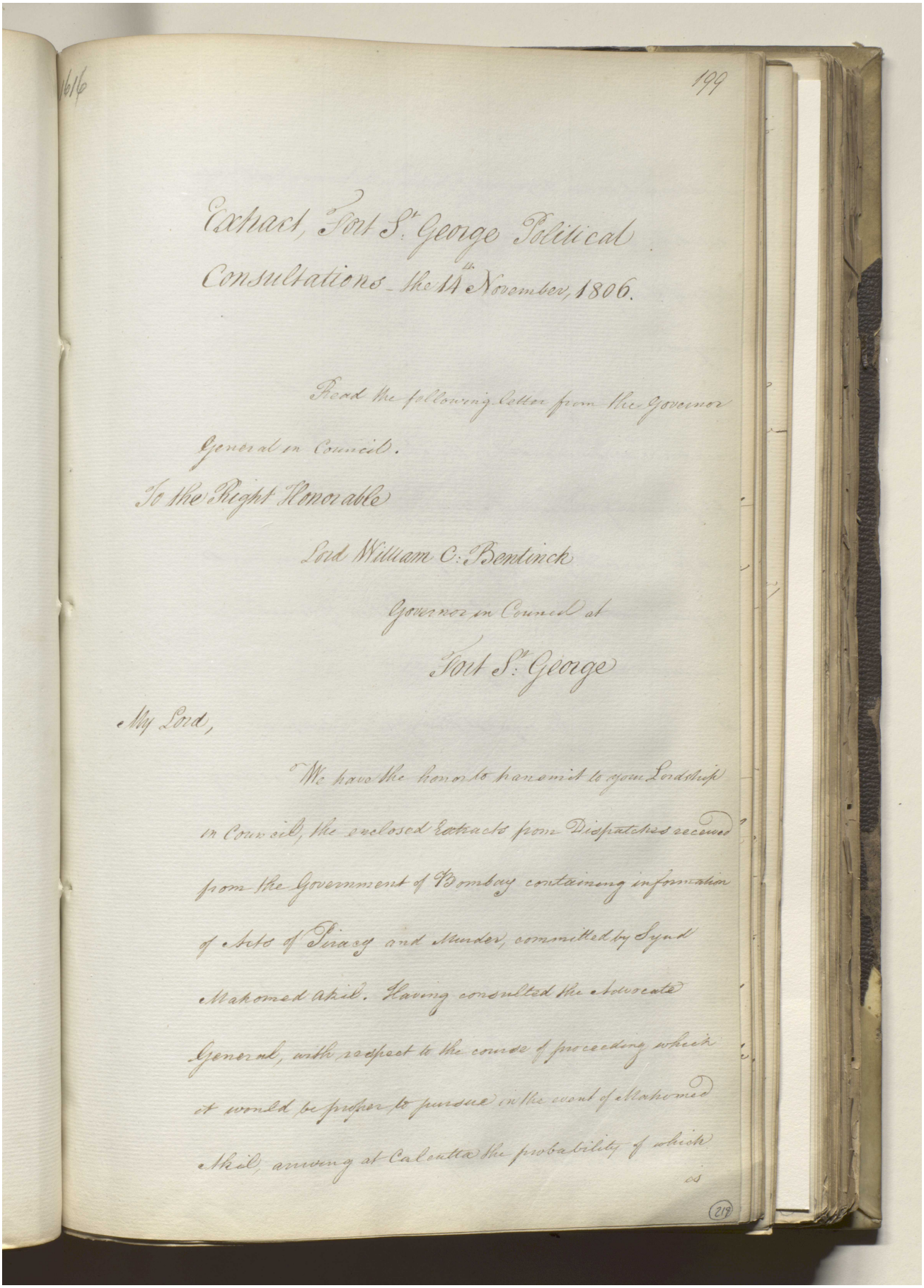

616 199

Extract, Fort St. George Political Consultations the 14th November, 1806.

Read the following letter from the Governor General in Council.

To the Right Honorable

Lord William C: Bentinck

Governor in Council at

Fort St. George

My Lord,

We have the honor to transmit to your Lordship in Council, the enclosed Extracts from Dispatches received from the Government of Bombay containing information of Acts of Piracy and Murder, committed by Syud Mahomed Ahil. Having consulted the Advocate General, with respect to the course of proceeding which it would be proper to pursue in the event of Mahomed Ahil, arriving at Calcutta the probability of which is

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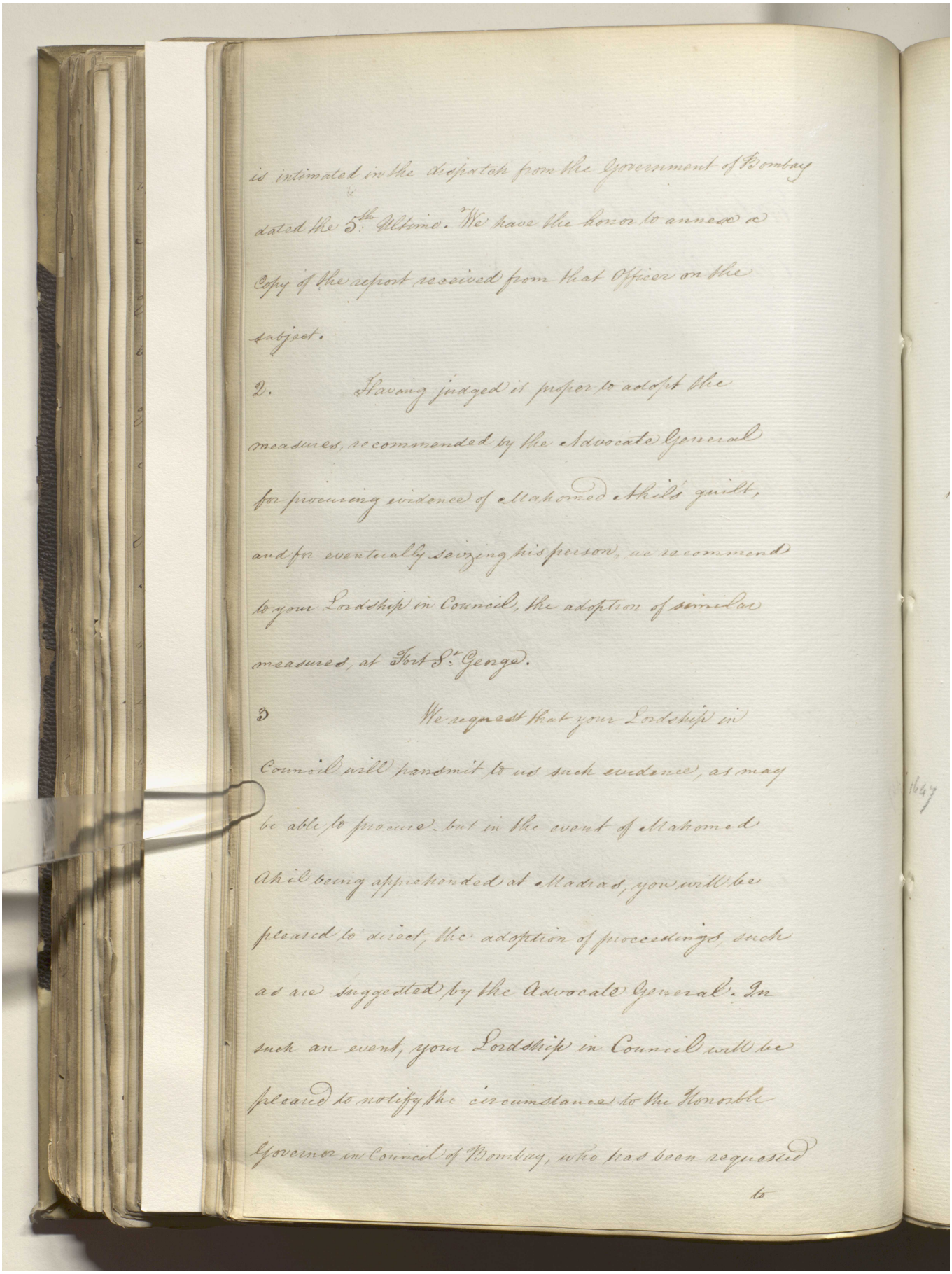

is intimated in the dispatch from the Government of Bombay dated the 5th Ultimo. We have the honor to annex a Copy of the report received from that Officer on the subject.

2. Having judged it proper to adopt the measures recommended by the Advocate General for procuring evidence of Mahomed Ahil's guilt, and for eventually seizing his person, we recommend to your Lordship in Council, the adoption of similar measures at Fort St. George.

3 We request that your Lordship in Council will transmit to us such evidence, as may be able to procure but in the event of Mahomed Ahil being apprehended at Madras, you will be pleased to direct, the adoption of proceedings such as are suggested by the Advocate General. In such an event, your Lordship in Council will be pleased to notify the circumstances to the Honorable Governor in Council of Bombay, who has been requested to

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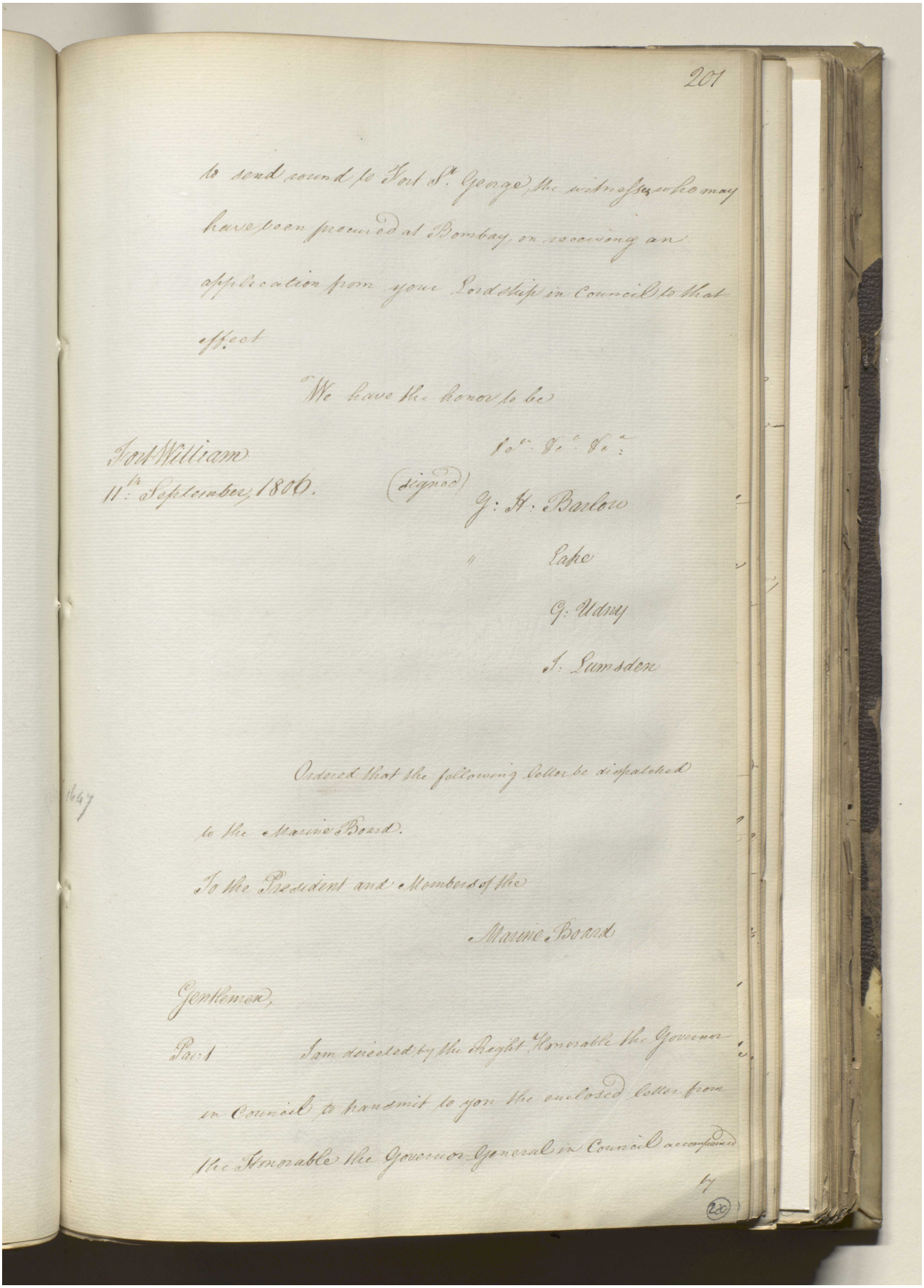

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to send round to Fort St. George, the witnesses who may have been procured at Bombay, on receiving an application from your Lordship in Council to that effect.

We have the honor to be

Fort William
11th September, 1806.

Sec. &c. &c.
(signed) G: H: Barlow
" Lake
G: Udny
J: Lumsden

1647

Ordered that the following letter be dispatched to the Marine Board.

To the President and Members of the
Marine Board

Gentlemen,

Par: 1 I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the enclosed letter from the Honorable the Governor General in Council accompanied

by

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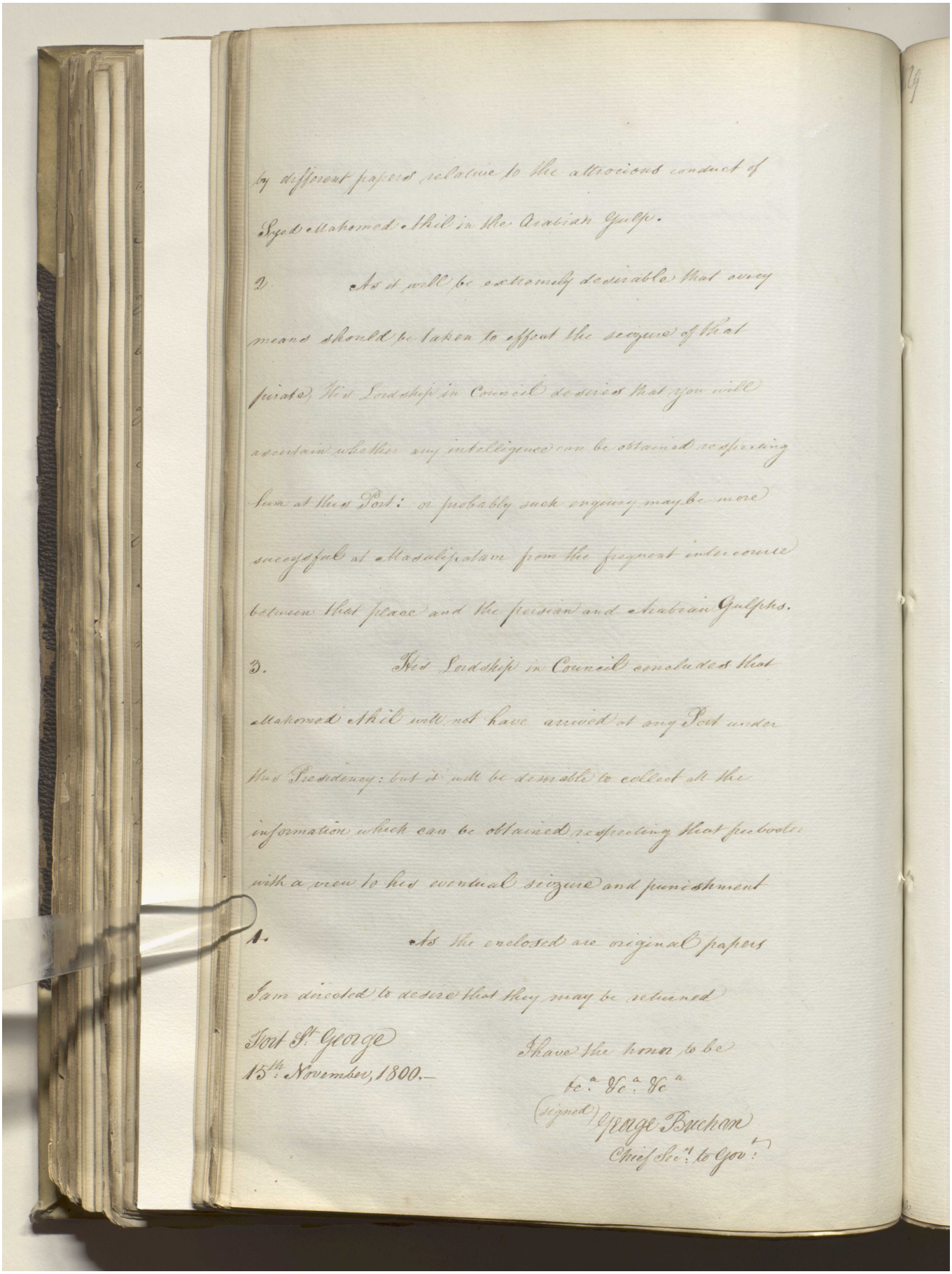

by different papers relative to the atrocious conduct of Syed Mahomed Abil in the Arabian Gulph.

2. As it will be extremely desirable that every means should be taken to effect the seizure of that pirate, His Lordship in Council desires that you will ascertain whether any intelligence can be obtained respecting him at this Port: or probably such enquiry may be more successful at Masulipatam from the frequent intercourse between that place and the Persian and Arabian Gulphs.

3. His Lordship in Council concludes that Mahomed Abil will not have arrived at any Port under this Presidency: but it will be desirable to collect all the information which can be obtained respecting that pirate with a view to his eventual seizure and punishment

4. As the enclosed are original papers I am directed to desire that they may be returned

Fort St. George
15th. November, 1800.—

I have the honor to be
&c. &c. &c.
(signed) George Buchan
Chief Secy. to Govt.

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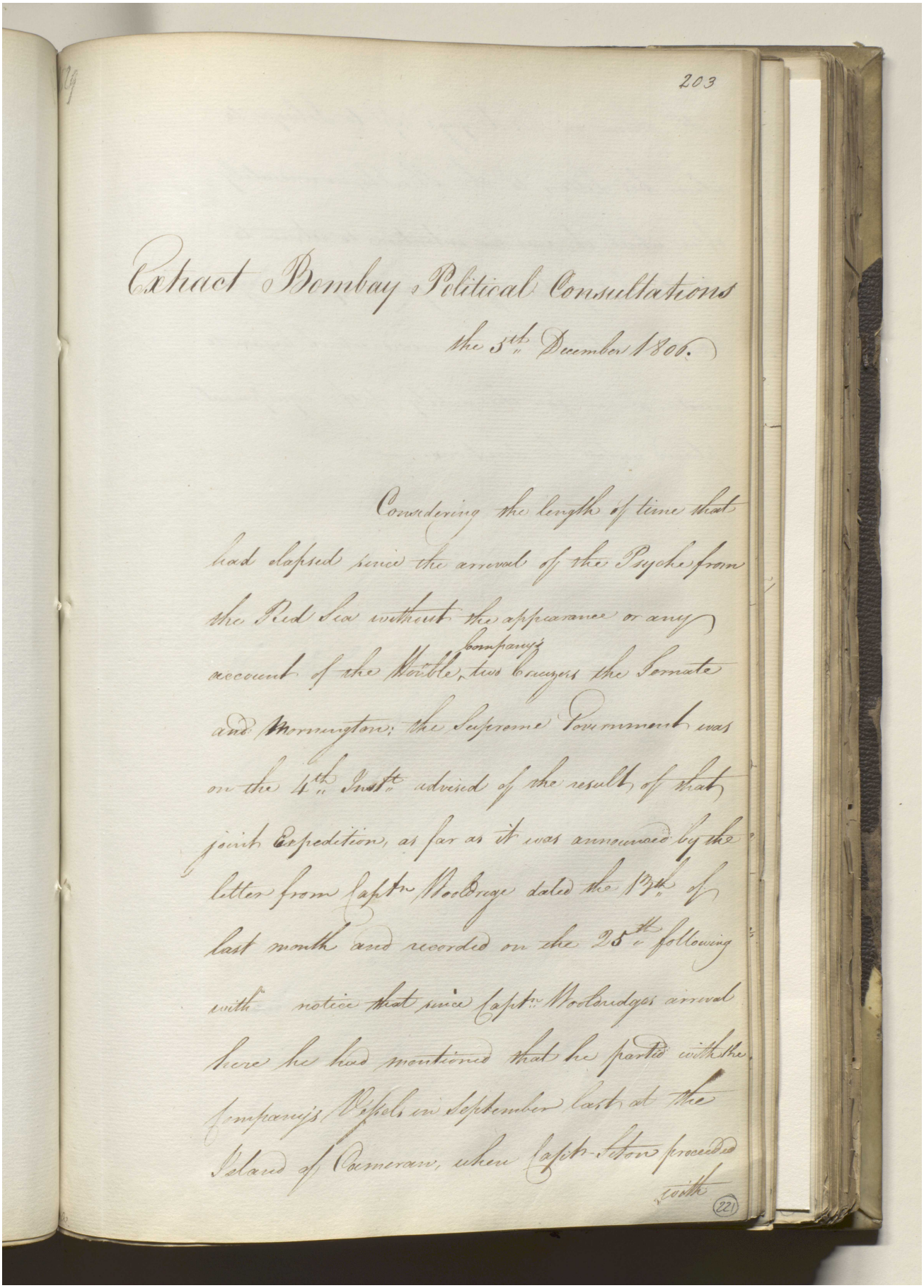

Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 8th December 1806.

Considering the length of time that had elapsed since the arrival of the Psyche from the Red Sea without the appearance or any account of the Honble Company's two Cruizers the Sarnate and Mornington, the Supreme Government was on the 4th Inst. advised of the result of that joint Expedition, as far as it was announced by the letter from Capt. Woodbridge dated the 13th of last month and recorded on the 28th following with notice that since Capt. Woodbridges arrival here he had mentioned that he parted with the Company's Vessels in September last at the Island of Cameran, when Capt. Store proceeded with

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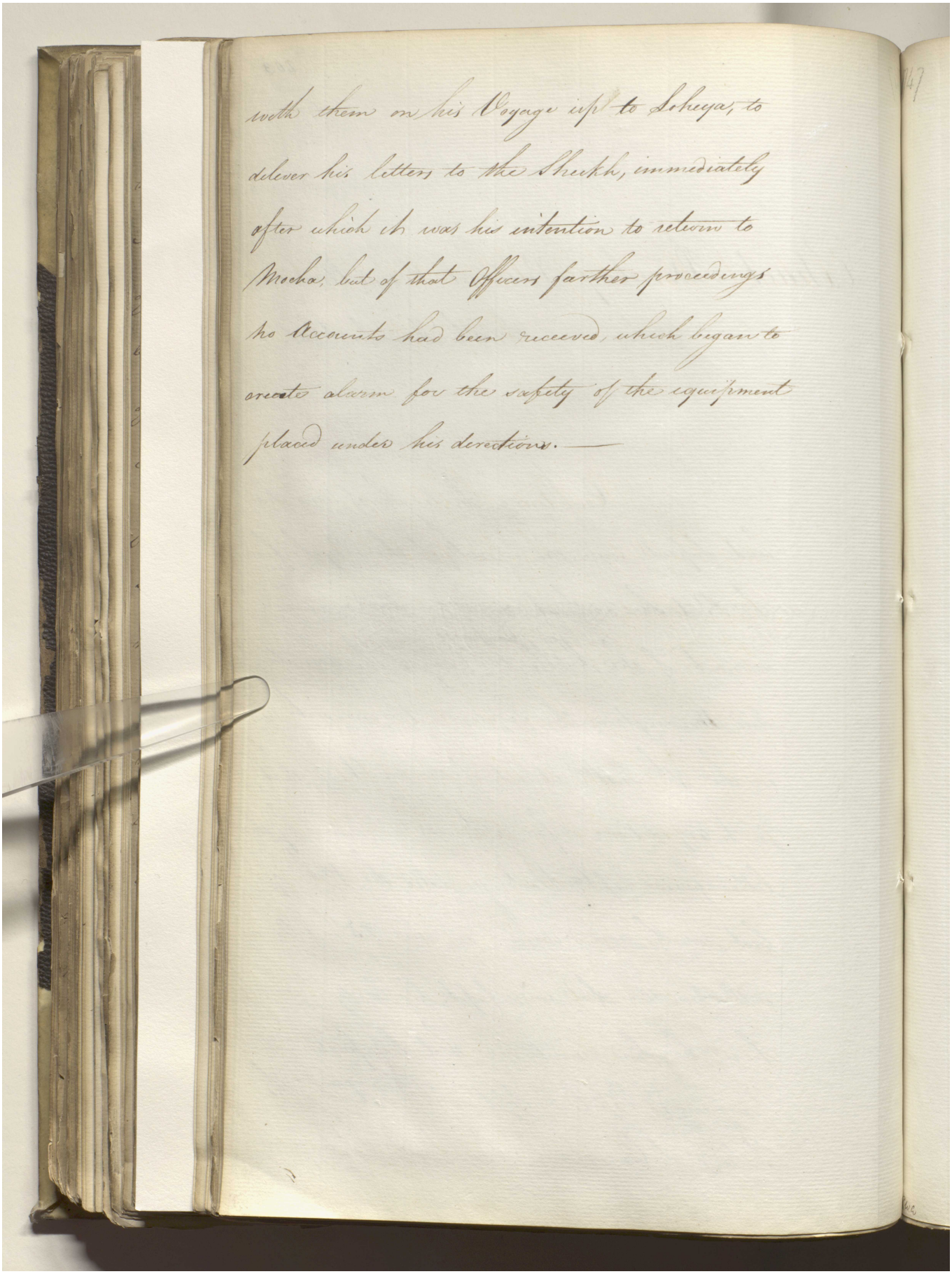

with them on his Voyage up to Loheya, to
deliver his letters to the Shukh, immediately
after which it was his intention to return to
Mocha, but of that Officers farther proceedings
no Accounts had been received, which began to
create alarm for the safety of the equipment
placed under his directions. —

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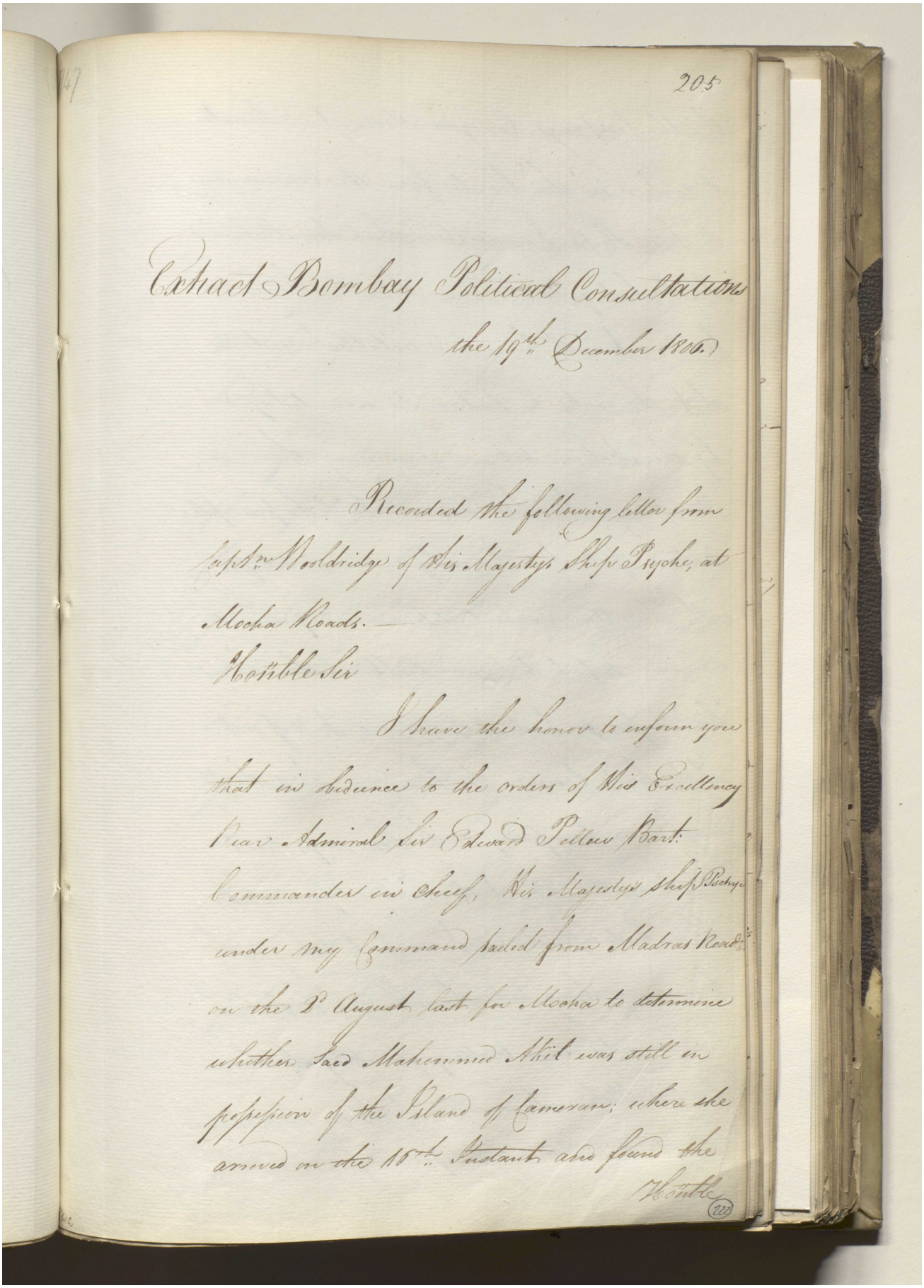

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 19th December 1806.

Recorded the following letter from
Capt.n Wooldridge of His Majestys Ship Psyche, at
Mocha Roads. —

Honble Sir

I have the honor to inform you
that in obidience to the orders of His Excellency
Vice Admiral Sir Edward Pellew Bart.
Commander in Chief, His Majestys Ship Psyche
under my Command sailed from Madras Roads
on the 2d August last for Mocha to determine
whether Said Mahommed Ahil was still in
possession of the Island of Cameran; where she
arrived on the 16th Instant and found the
Honble

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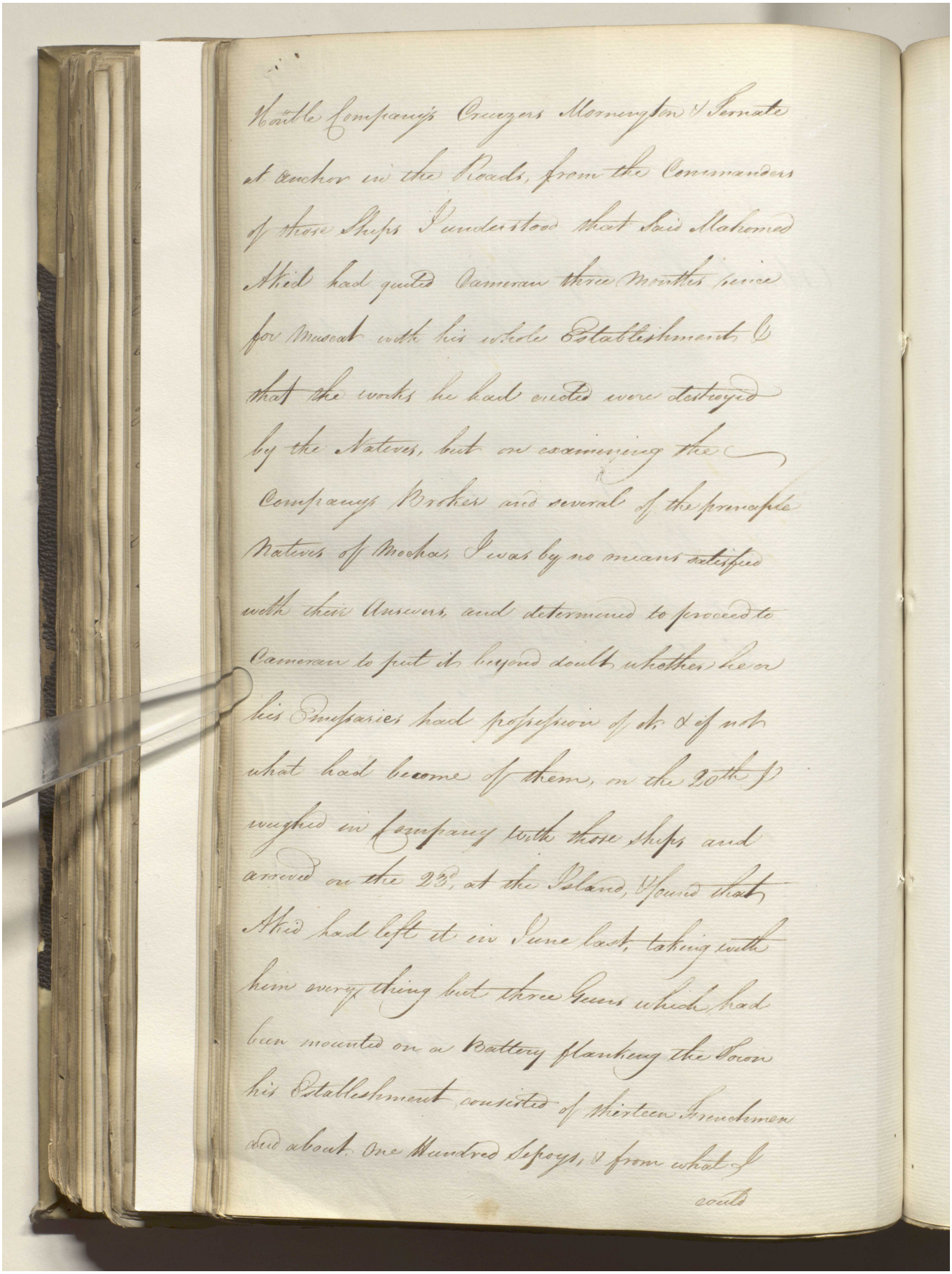

Honble Company's Cruizers Mornington & Ternate at anchor in the Roads, from the Commanders of those Ships I understood that Said Mahomed Akid had quited Cameran three Months since for Muscat with his whole Establishment & that the works he had erected were destroyed by the Natives, but on examining the Companys Broker and several of the principle Natives of Mocha, I was by no means satisfied with their Answers, and determined to proceed to Cameran to put it beyond doubt whether he or his Emissaries had possession of it, & if not what had become of them, on the 20th I weighed in Company with those ships and arrived on the 23d, at the Island, & found that Akid had left it in June last, taking with him every thing but three Guns which had been mounted on a Battery flanking the Town his Establishment consisted of thirteen Frenchmen and about One Hundred Sepoys, & from what I

could

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [223r] (205/264)

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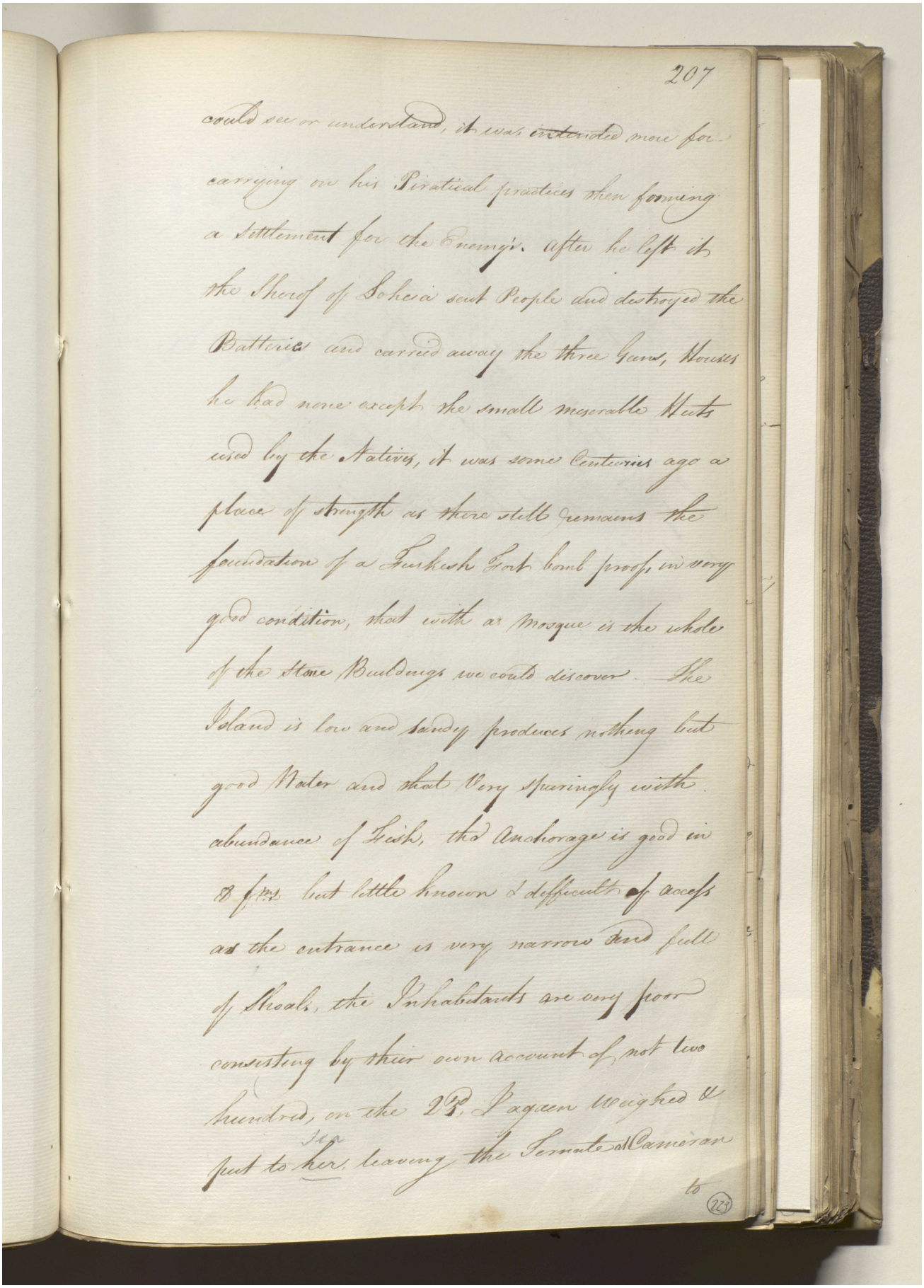

could see or understand, it was intended more for carrying on his Piratical practices then forming a Settlement for the Enemy's. After he left it the Sheroof of Loheia sent People and destroyed the Batteries and carried away the three Guns, Houses he had none except the small miserable Huts used by the Natives, it was some Centuries ago a place of strength as there still remains the foundation of a Turkish Fort bomb proof, in very good condition, that with a Mosque is the whole of the Stone Buildings we could discover. The Island is low and sandy produces nothing but good Water and that Very sparingly with abundance of Fish, the Anchorage is good in 8 fms but little known & difficult of access as the entrance is very narrow and full of Shoals, the Inhabitants are very poor consisting by their own account of not two hundred, on the 2d. I again Weighed & put to her, leaving the Ternate at Cameran

to

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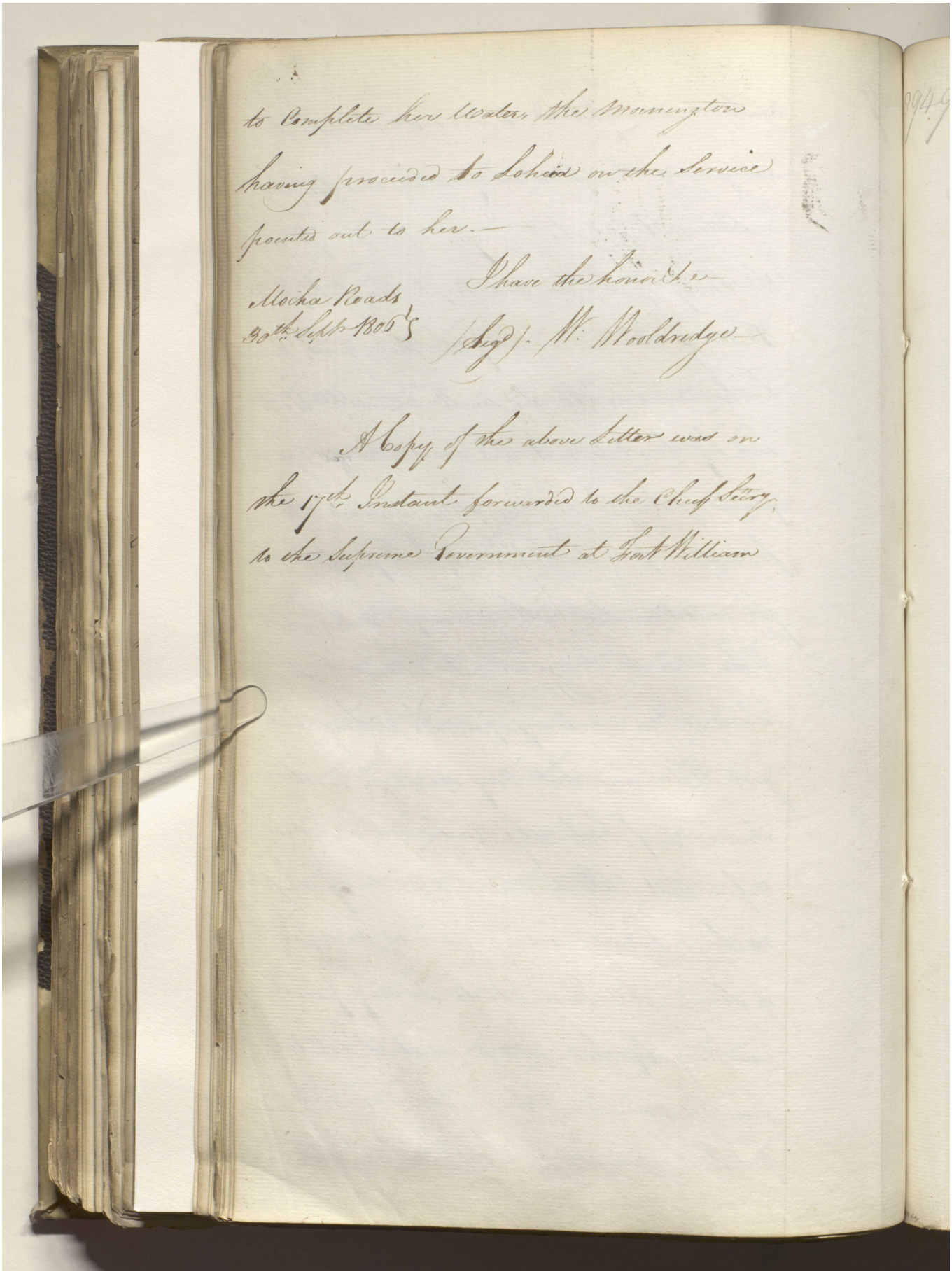

to Complete her Water, the Mornington having proceeded to Lohea on the Service pointed out to her.—

I have the honor &c

Mocha Roads
30th Sept 1806

(Sigd) W. Wooldridge

A Copy of the above Letter was on the 17th Instant forwarded to the Chief Secry to the Supreme Government at Fort William

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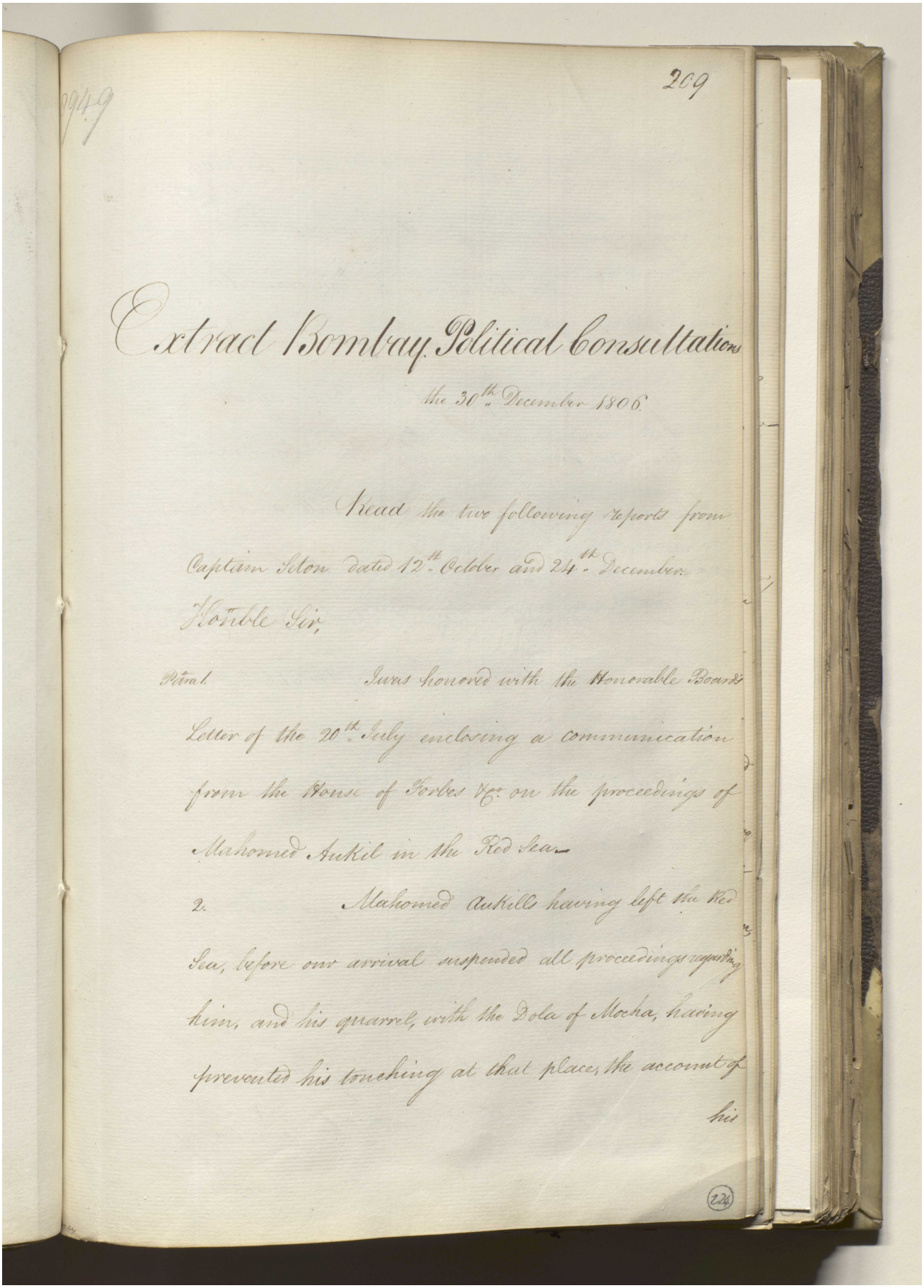

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 30th. December 1806.

Read the two following Reports from Captain Seton dated 12th. October and 24th. December.

Honble Sir,

Para 1. I was honored with the Honorable Boards Letter of the 20th. July enclosing a communication from the House of Forbes &c. on the proceedings of Mahomed Aukil in the Red Sea.

2. Mahomed Aukil having left the Red Sea, before our arrival suspended all proceedings regarding him, and his quarrel with the Dola of Mocha, having prevented his touching at that place, the account of his

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his proceedings after returning from Aden in May are very vague, I however give them as reported.-

3. On his return to Cameran he brought with him a French Captain and fifteen or twenty men (I suppose of the Carmagnole Privateer) and having examined the Island, went to Loheia, where they jointly entered into a new agreement for the final purchase of the Island, for which the Sherreeff insisted on Dollars 45,000 (and of this sum they paid) inclusive of the 11,000 first paid in Guns, Gun powder, and Iron equial to 25,000 Dollars (the last taken out of the Nawabs Ship prize to the Carmagnole) when the Sherreef executed a deed of Sale which is now in their posession, and on receipt of which Seyud Mahomed began to build his house.-

4. The news of the Robbery of the American Ship and the murder of her Crew, having reached

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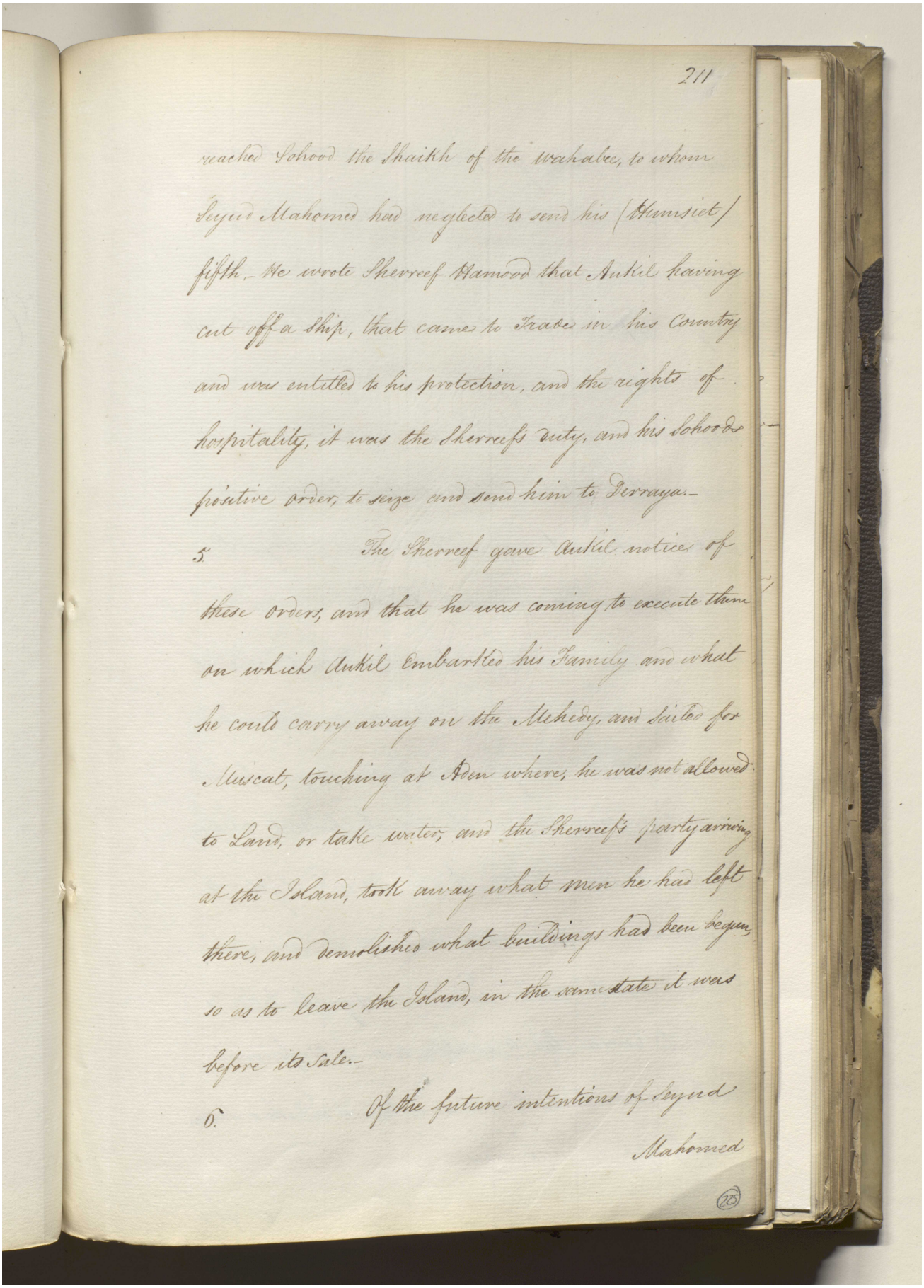

reached Sohood the Shaikh of the Wahabee, to whom Seyed Mahomed had neglected to send his (Khumsiat) fifth. We wrote Sherreef Hamood that Ankil having cut off a Ship, that came to Trade in his Country and was entitled to his protection, and the rights of hospitality, it was the Sherreefs duty, and his Sohoods positive order, to seize and send him to Derraya.

5 The Sherreef gave Ankil notice of these orders, and that he was coming to execute them on which Ankil embarked his Family and what he could carry away on the Mehedy, and Sailed for Muscat, touching at Aden where, he was not allowed to Land, or take water, and the Sherreefs party arriving at the Island, took away what men he has left there, and demolished what buildings had been begun, so as to leave the Island, in the same state it was before its Sale.

6. Of the future intentions of Seyed Mahomed

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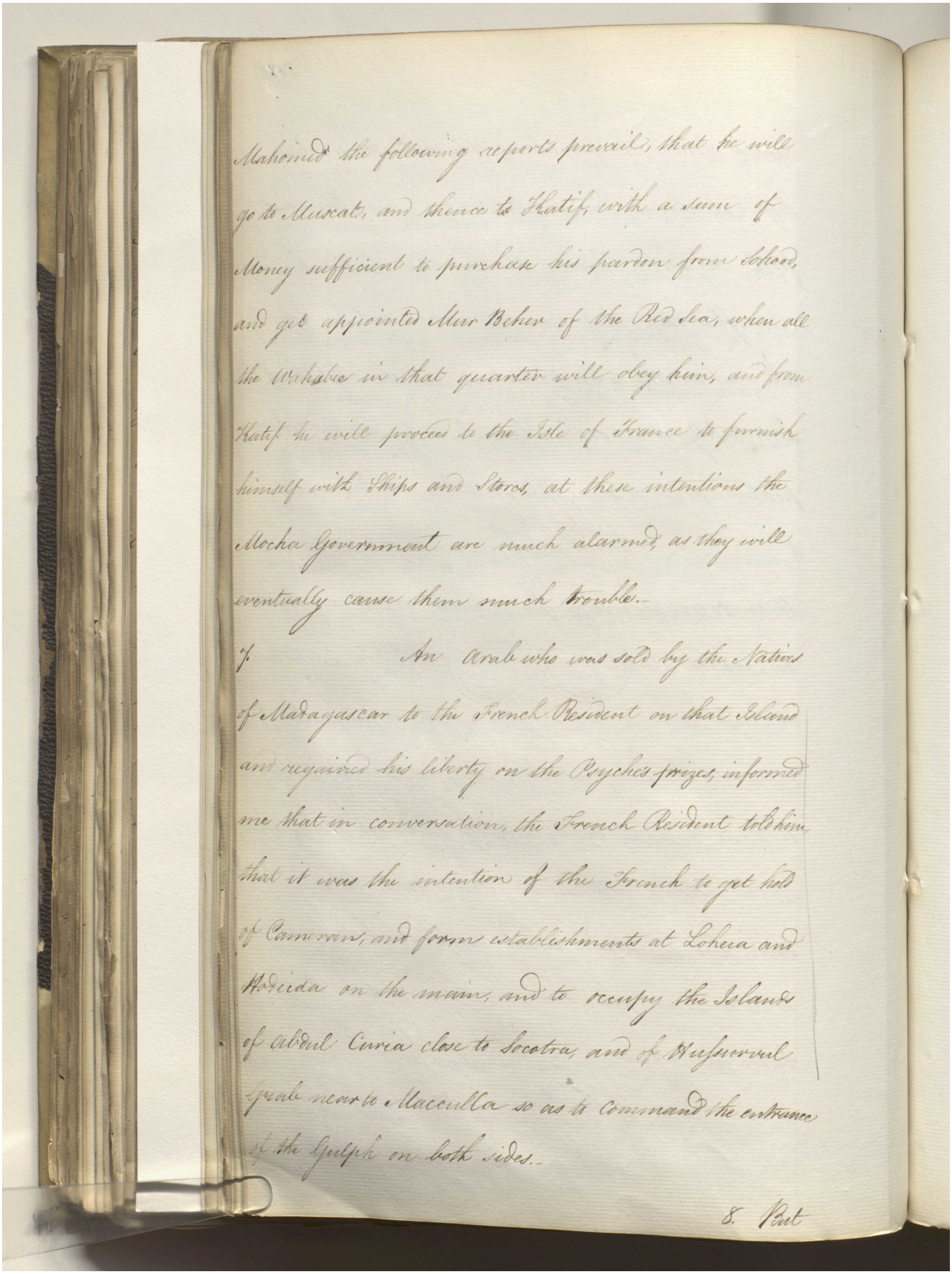

Mahomed the following reports prevail, that he will go to Muscat, and thence to Katif, with a sum of Money sufficient to purchase his pardon from Sohood, and get appointed Mur Beher of the Red Sea, when all the Wahabee in that quarter will obey him, and from Katif he will proceed to the Isle of France to furnish himself with Ships and Stores, at these intentions the Mocha Government are much alarmed, as they will eventually cause them much trouble.-

7. An Arab who was sold by the Natives of Madagascar to the French Resident on that Island and regained his liberty on the Psyche's prizes, informed me that in conversation, the French Resident told him that it was the intention of the French to get hold of Cameran, and form establishments at Loheia and Hodeida on the main, and to occupy the Islands of Abdul Curia close to Socotra, and of Hussurul Grab near to Macculla so as to command the entrance of the Gulph on both sides.-

8. But

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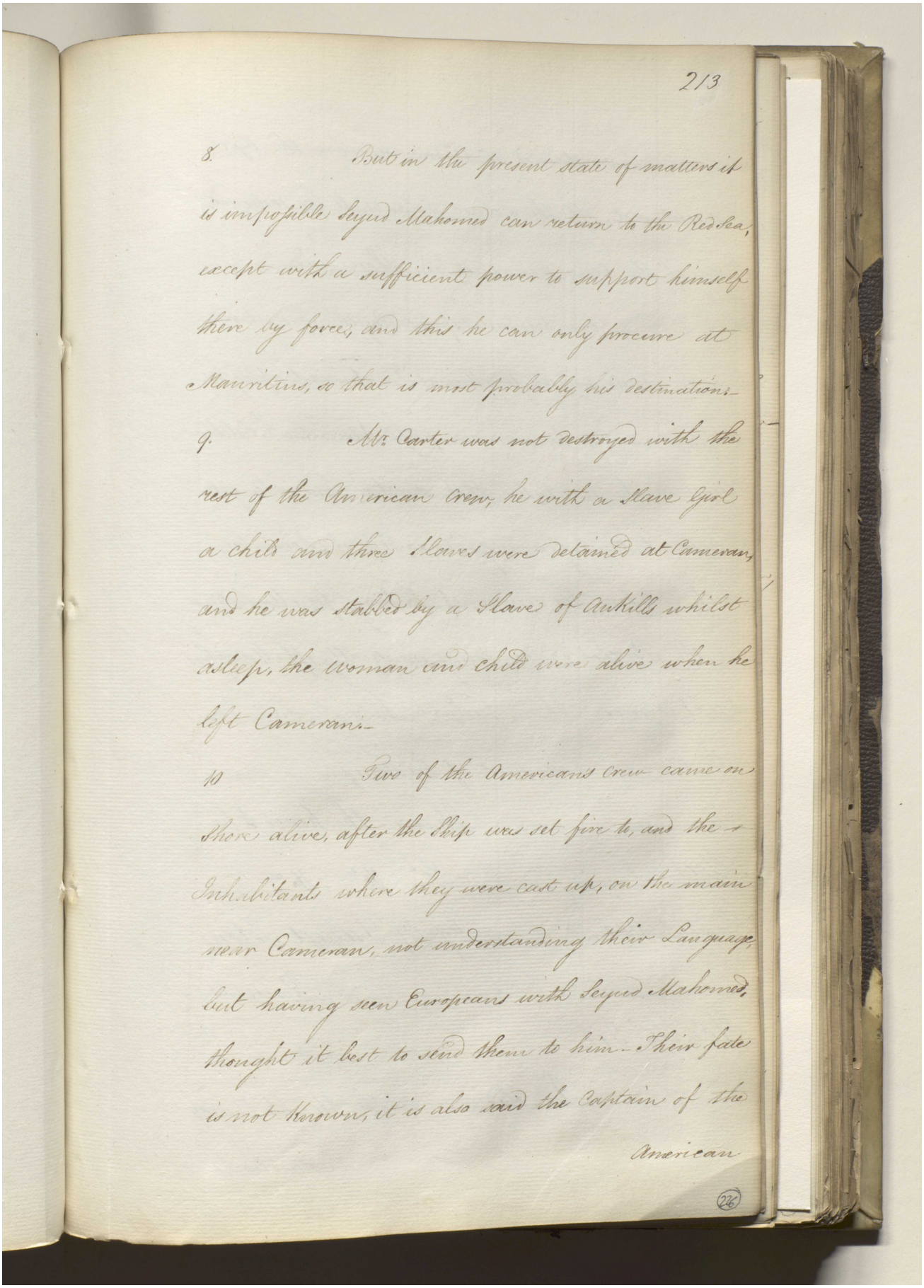

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8. But in the present state of matters it is impossible Seyud Mahomed can return to the Red Sea, except with a sufficient power to support himself there by force, and this he can only procure at Mauritius, so that is most probably his destination.

9. Mr. Carter was not destroyed with the rest of the American Crew, he with a Slave Girl a child and three Slaves were detained at Cameran, and he was stabbed by a Slave of Anhills whilst asleep, the woman and child were alive when he left Cameran.

10 Two of the Americans Crew came on shore alive, after the Ship was set fire to, and the Inhabitants where they were cast up, on the main near Cameran, not understanding their Language, but having seen Europeans with Seyud Mahomed, thought it best to send them to him. Their fate is not known, it is also said the Captain of the

American

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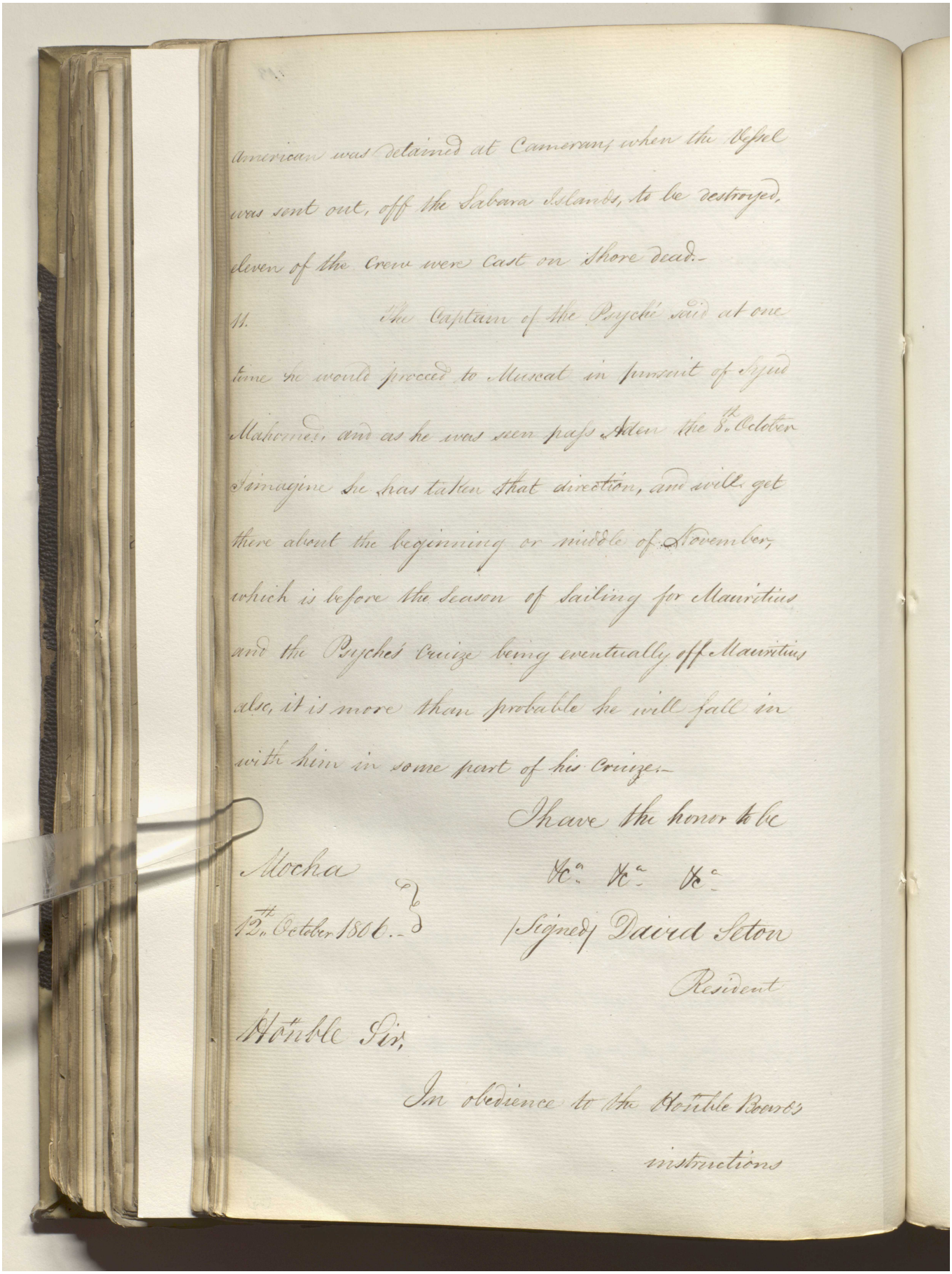

American was detained at Camerang when the Vessel was sent out, off the Sabara Islands, to be destroyed, eleven of the Crew were cast on shore dead.-

11. The Captain of the Psyche said at one time he would proceed to Muscat in pursuit of Syud Mahomed, and as he was seen past Aden the 8th October I imagine she has taken that direction, and will get there about the beginning or middle of November, which is before the season of sailing for Mauritius and the Psyches Cruize being eventually off Mauritius also, it is more than probable he will fall in with him in some part of his Cruize.-

I have the honor to be

Mocha
12th October 1806.-

&c. &c. &c.

Signed David Seton

Resident

Honble Sir,

In obedience to the Honble Boards instructions

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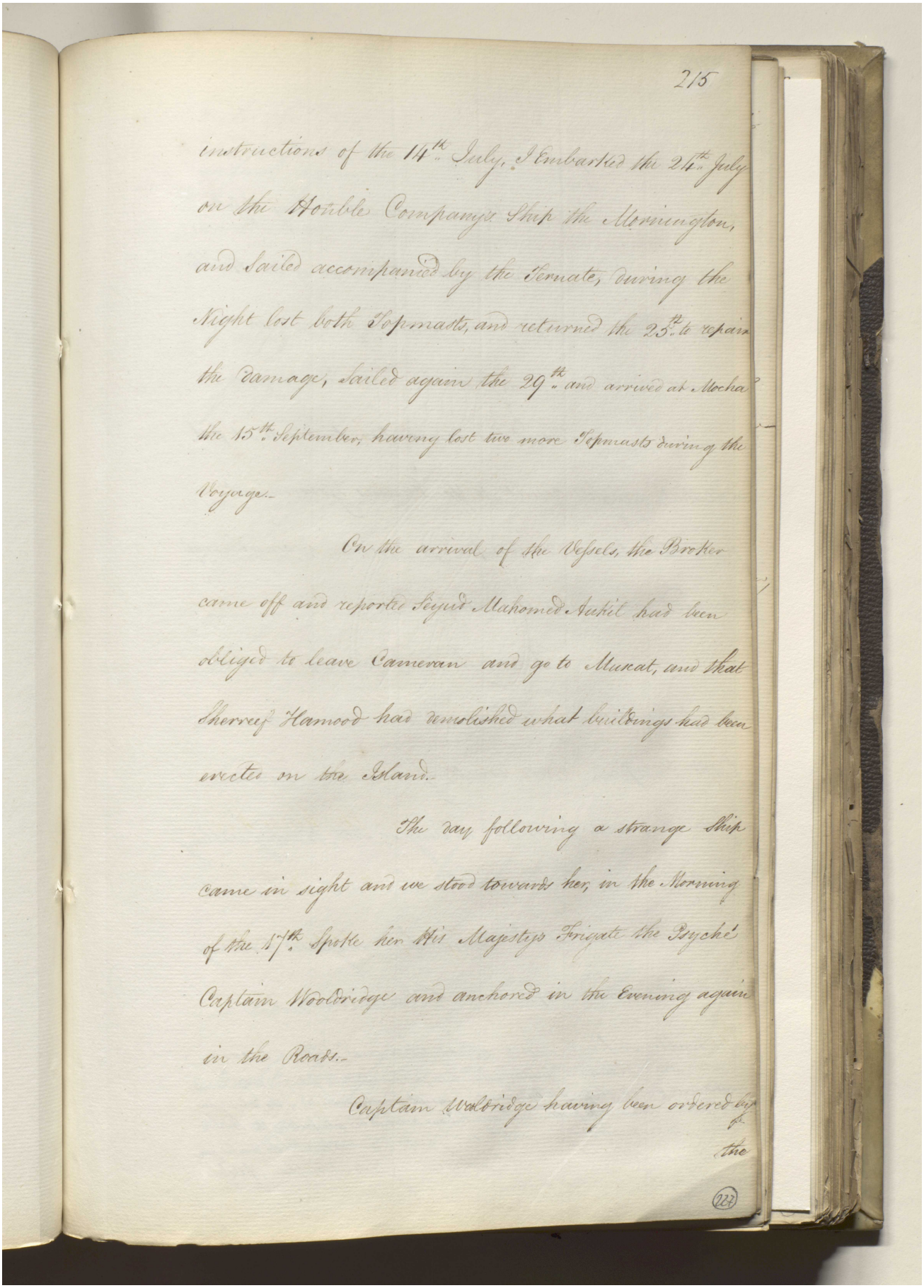

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instructions of the 14th. July. I Embarked the 24th. July on the Honble Companys Ship the Mornington, and Sailed accompanied by the Fernate, during the Night lost both Topmasts, and returned the 25th. to repair the damage, Sailed again the 29th. and arrived at Mocha the 15th. September, having lost two more Topmasts during the Voyage.

On the arrival of the Vessels, the Broker came off and reported Seyud Mahomed Jutil had been obliged to leave Cameran and go to Muscat, and that Sherreef Hamood had demolished what buildings had been erected on the Island.

The day following a strange Ship came in sight and we stood towards her, in the Morning of the 17th. Spoke her His Majestys Frigate the Psyche Captain Woodbridge and anchored in the Evening again in the Roads.

Captain Woodbridge having been ordered by the

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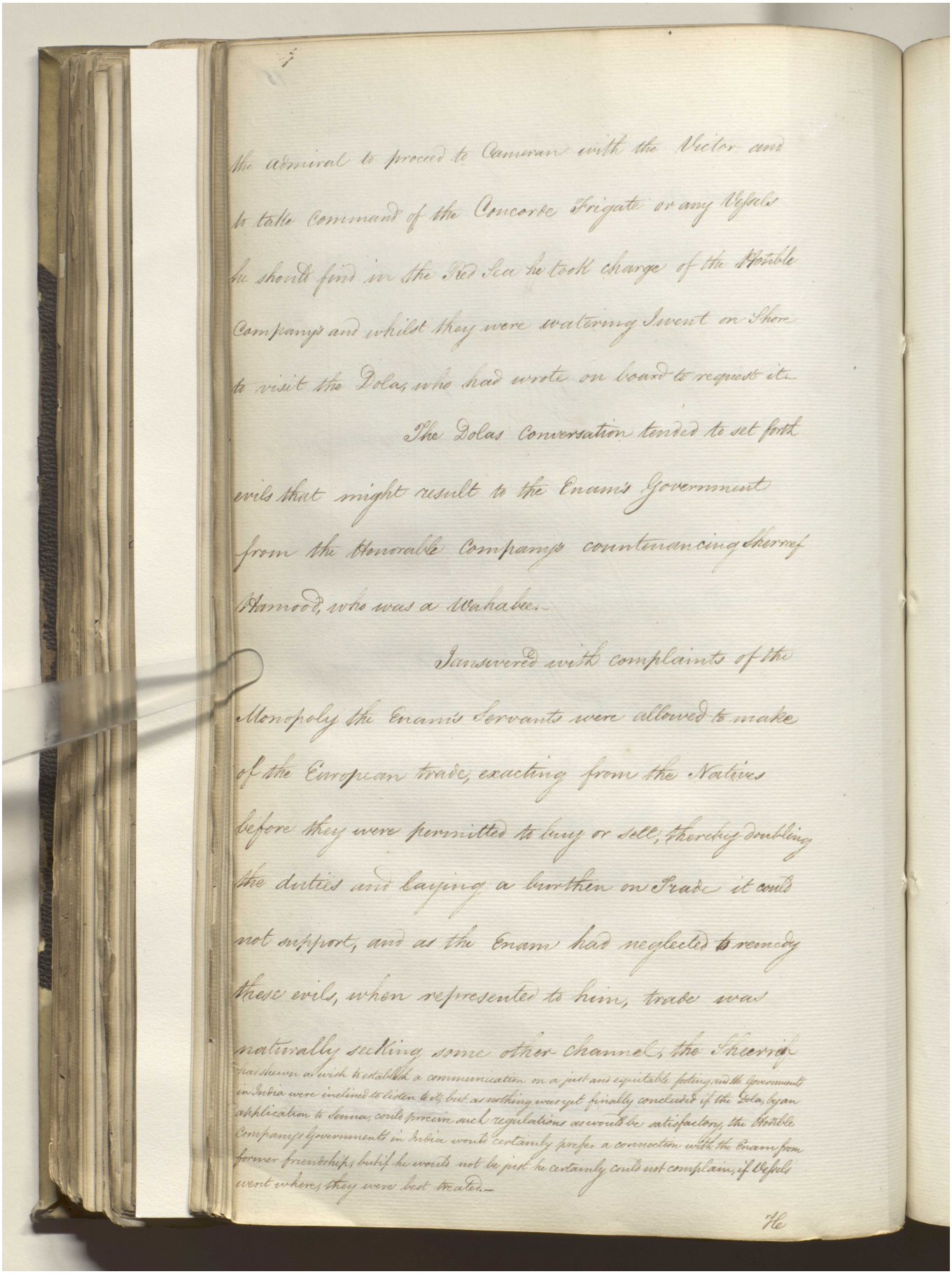

the Admiral to proceed to Cameran with the Victor and to take Command of the Concorde Frigate or any Vessels he should find in the Red Sea he took charge of the Honble Companys and whilst they were watering Invent on Shore to visit the Dolas, who had wrote on board to request it.

The Dolas Conversation tended to set forth evils that might result to the Enams Government from the Honorable Companys countenancing Sherif Hamood, who was a Wahabee.

Answered with complaints of the Monopoly the Enams Servants were allowed to make of the European trade, exacting from the Natives before they were permitted to buy or sell, thereby doubling the duties and laying a burthen on Trade it could not support, and as the Enam had neglected to remedy these evils, when represented to him, trade was naturally seeking some other channel, the Sheerrif has shewn a wish to establish a communication on a just and equitable footing, and the Government in India were inclined to listen to it, but as nothing was yet finally concluded if the Dola, by an application to Senna, could procure such regulations as would be satisfactory, the Honble Companys Governments in India would certainly prefer a connection with the Enam from former friendships, but if he would not be just he certainly could not complain, if Vessels went where they were best treated.

He

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [228r] (215/264)

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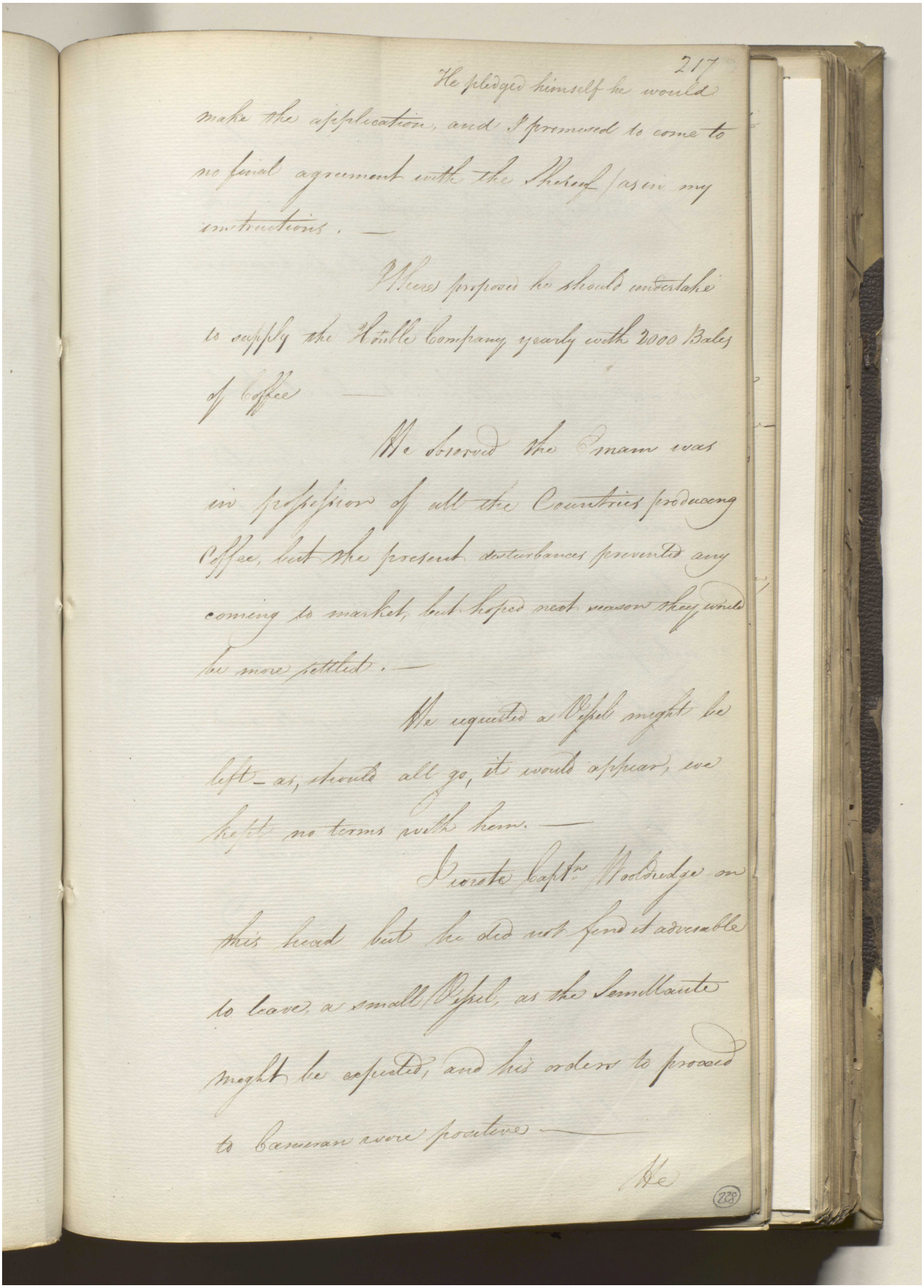

He pledged himself he would make the application, and I promised to come to no final agreement with the Sheriff (as in my instructions. —

I there proposed he should undertake to supply the Honble Company yearly with 2000 Bales of Coffee —

He observed the Emam was in possession of all the Countries producing Coffee, but the present disturbances prevented any coming to market, but hoped next season they would be more settled. —

He requested a Vessel might be left — as, should all go, it would appear, we kept no terms with him. —

I wrote Captn. Wooldridge on this head but he did not find it advisable to leave a small Vessel, as the Semillante might be expected, and his orders to proceed to Cameran were positive —

He

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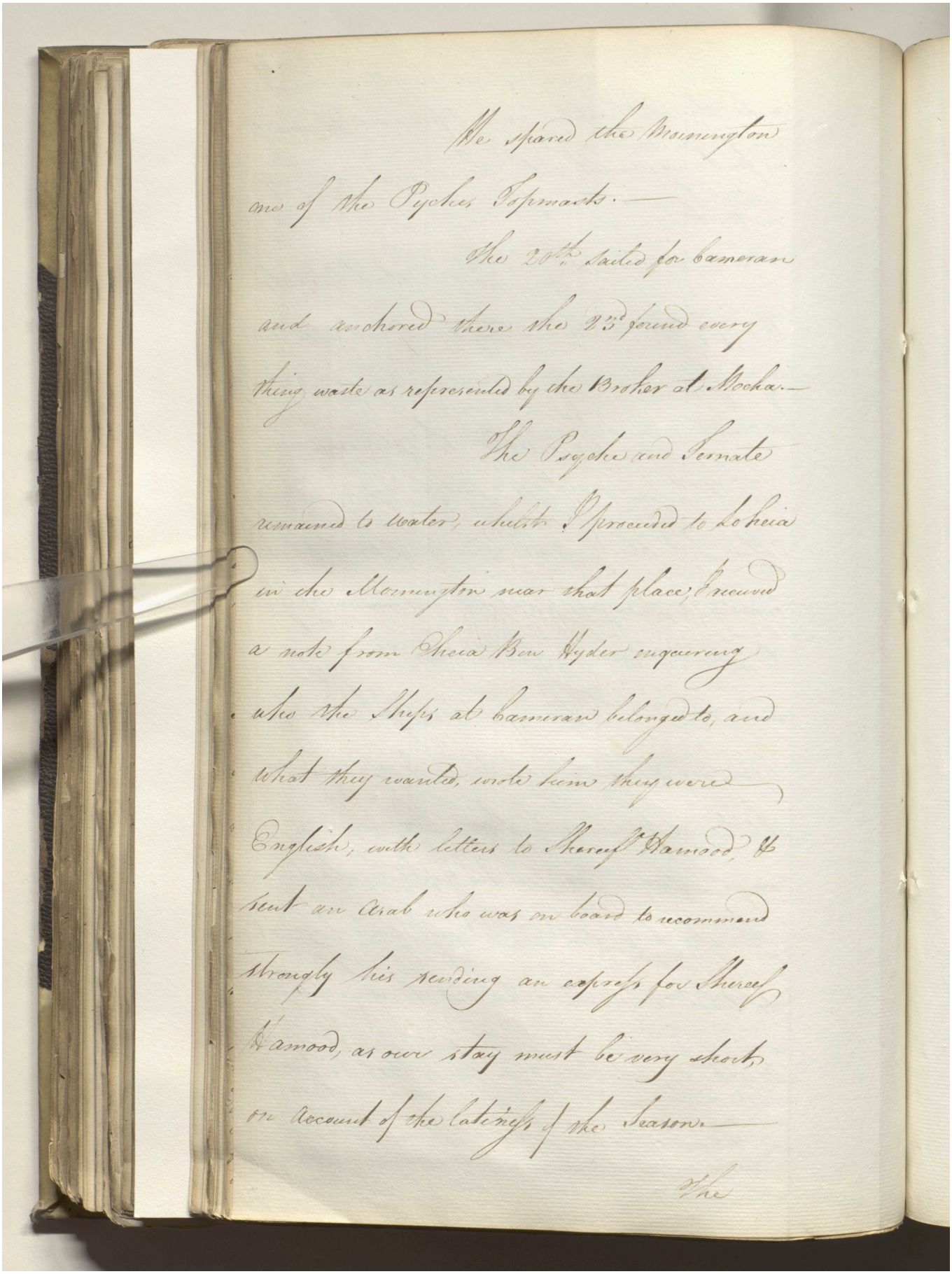

We spared the Mornington one of the Psyches Topmasts.—

The 20th Sailed for Cameran and anchored there the 23d found every thing, waste as represented by the Broker at Mocha.—

The Psyche and Sernate remained to Water, whilst I proceeded to Loheia in the Mornington near that place, I received a note from Sheia Bin Hyder inquiring who the Ships at Cameran belonged to, and what they wanted, wrote him they were English, with letters to Shereef Hamood, & sent an Arab who was on board to recommend strongly his sending an express for Shereef Hamood, as our stay must be very short, on Account of the lateness of the Season.—

The

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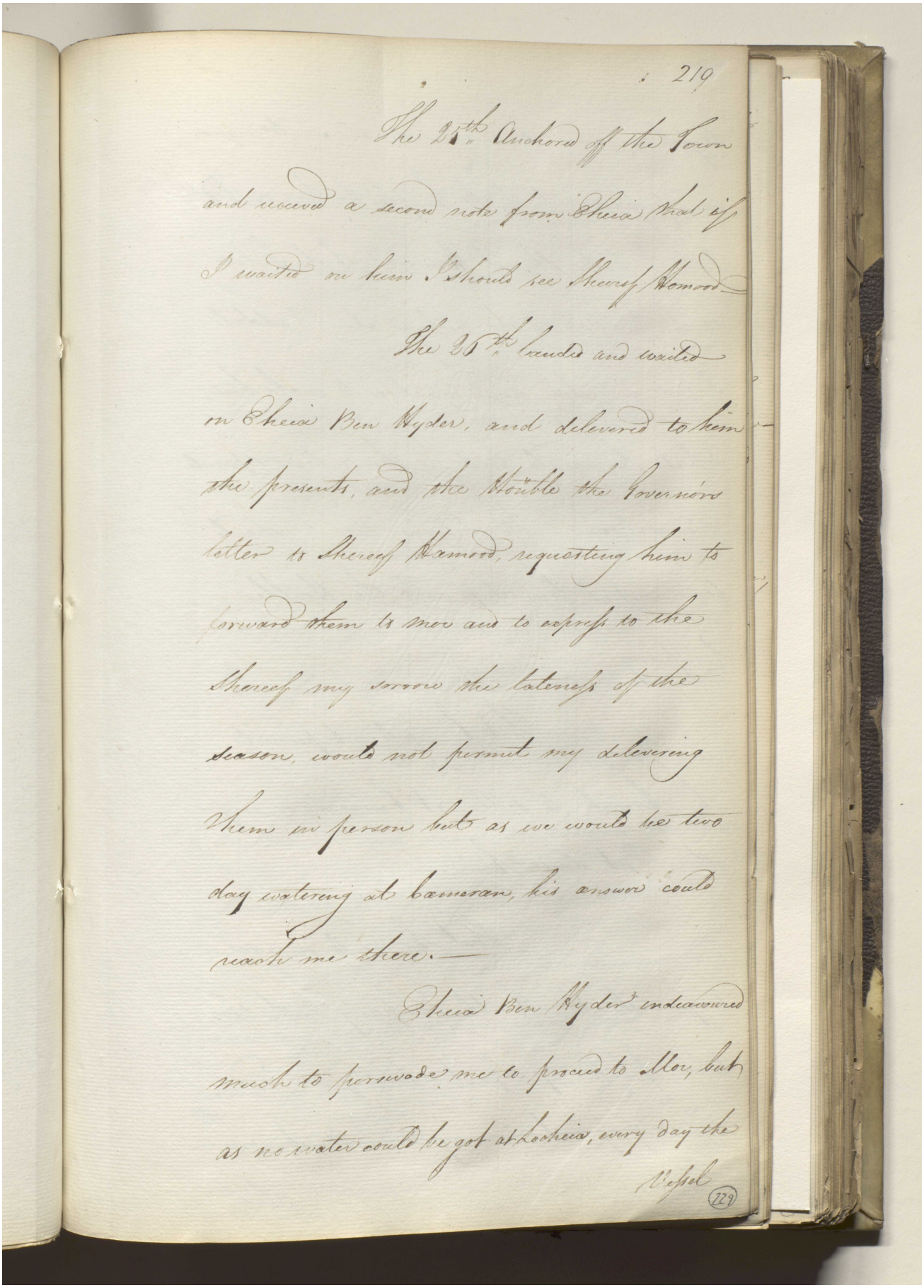

The 25th Anchored off the Town and received a second note from Cheia that if I waited on him I should see Shereef Hamood.

The 26th landed and waited on Cheia Ben Hyder, and delivered to him the presents, and the Hon'ble the Governors letter to Shereef Hamood, requesting him to forward them to Moc and to express to the Shereef my sorrow the lateness of the season, would not permit my delivering them in person but as we would be two day watering at Cameran, his answer could reach me there.—

Cheia Ben Hyder endeavoured much to persuade me to proceed to Moc, but as no water could be got at Locheia, every day the

Vessel

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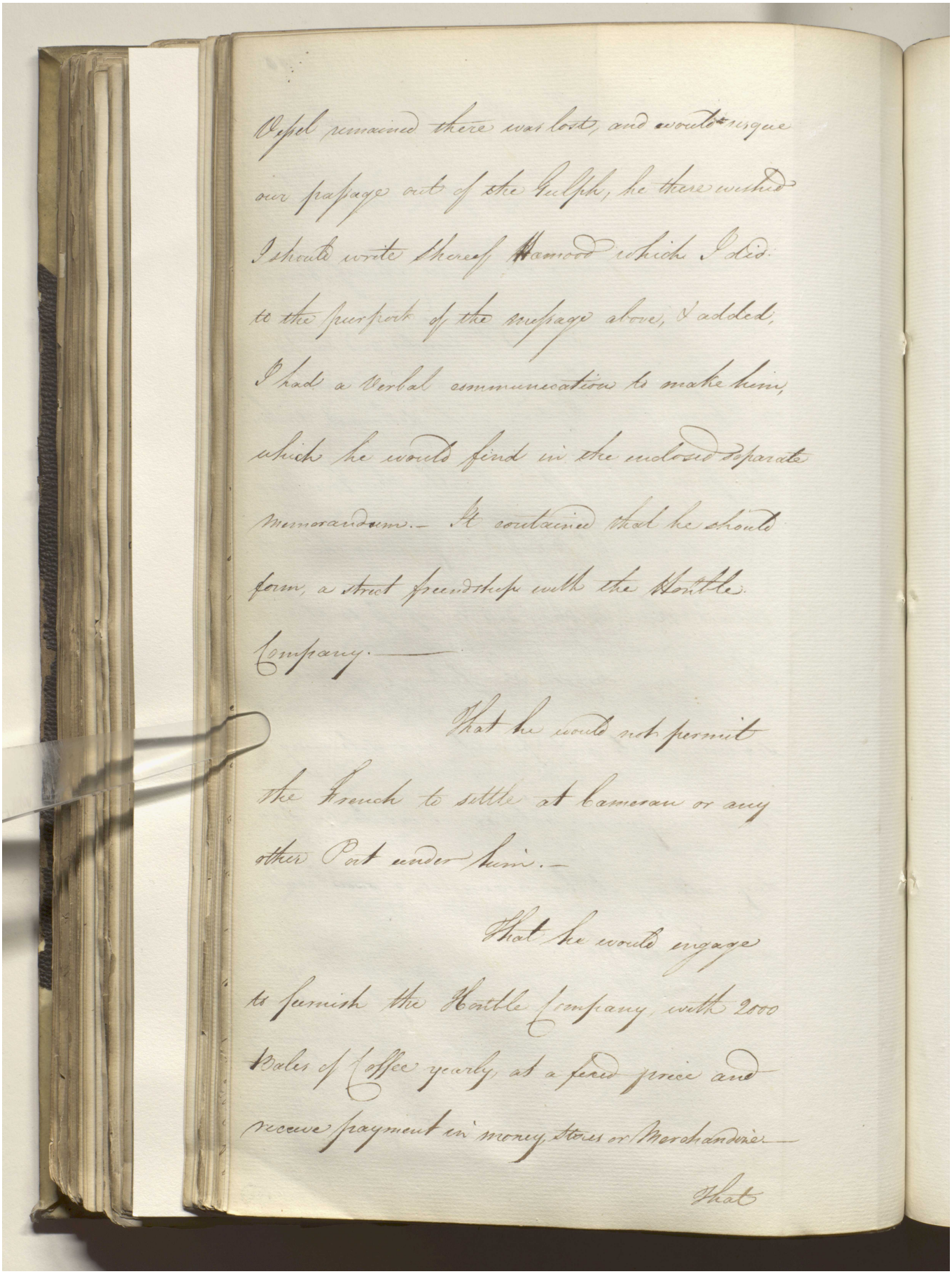

Vessel remained there was lost, and would risque our passage out of the Gulph, he therefore wished I should write thereof Hamood which I did to the purport of the message above, & added, I had a Verbal communication to make him, which he would find in the inclosed separate Memorandum.— It contained that he should form a strict friendship with the Honble Company.——

That he would not permit the French to settle at Cameran or any other Port under him.—

That he would engage to furnish the Honble Company with 2000 Bales of Coffee yearly, at a fixed price and receive payment in money Stores or Merchandize—

That

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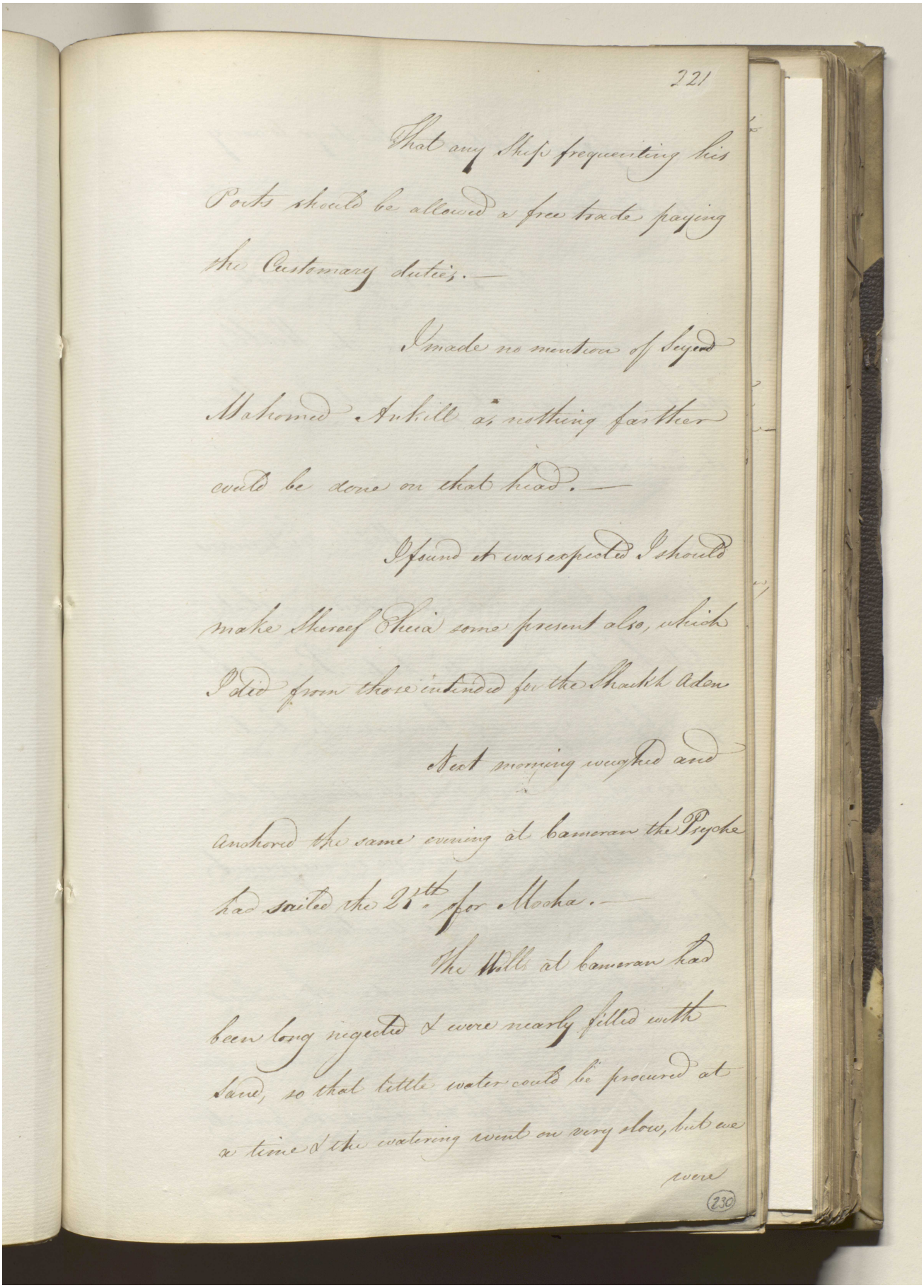

That any Ships frequenting his
Ports should be allowed a free trade paying
the Customary duties.—

I made no mention of Seyed
Mahomed Arkill as nothing farther
could be done on that head.—

I found it was expected I should
make Shereef Ouia some present also, which
I did from those intended for the Shaikh Aden

Next morning weighed and
anchored the same evening at Cameran the Psyche
had sailed the 21st. for Mocha.—

The Wells at Cameran had
been long neglected & were nearly filled with
Sand, so that little water could be procured at
a time & the watering went on very slow, but we
were

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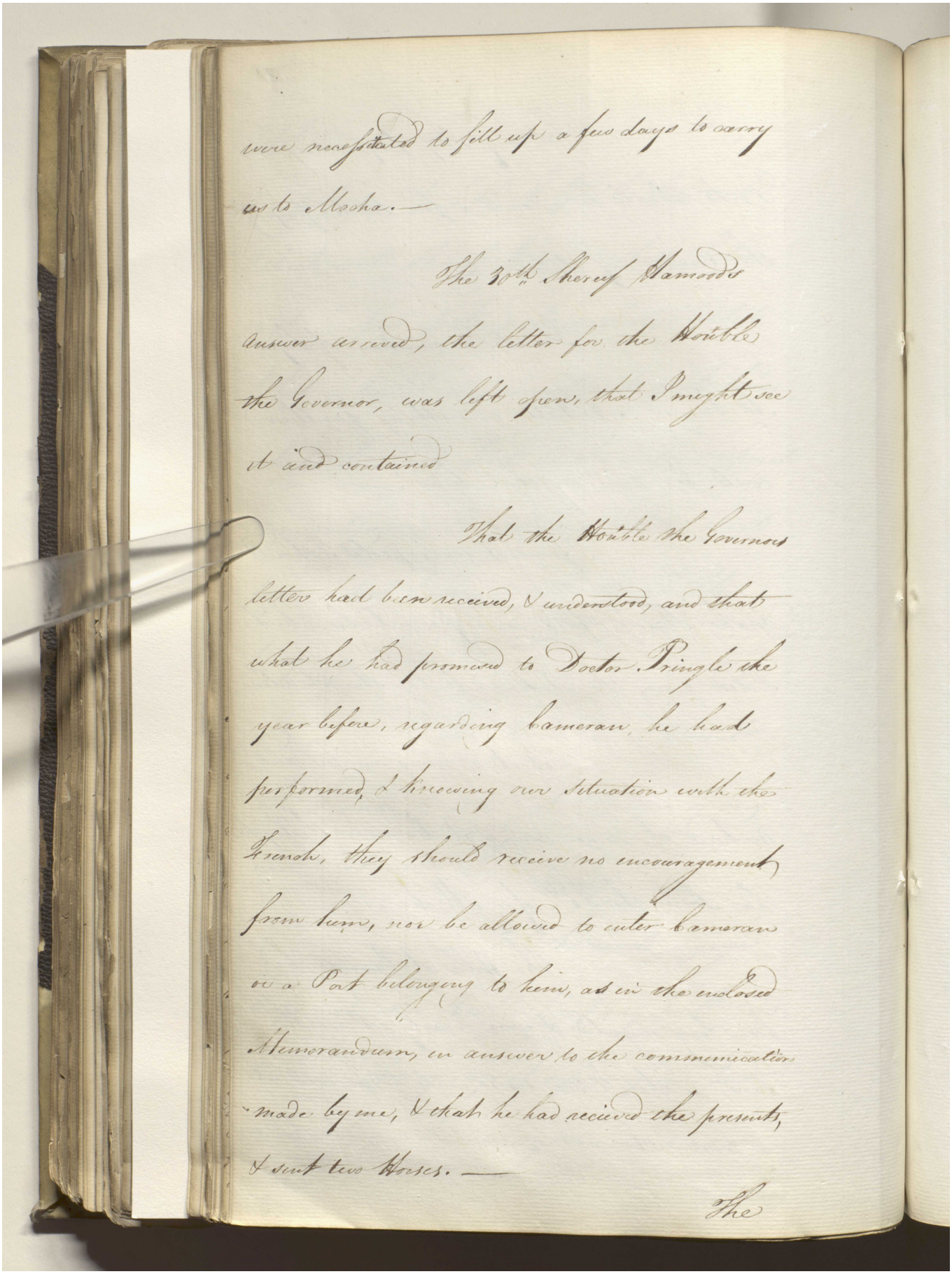

were necessitated to fill up a few days to carry us to Mocha.—

The 30th Sherif Hamood's answer arrived, the letter for the Honble the Governor, was left open, that I might see it and contained

That the Honble the Governors letter had been received, & understood, and that what he had promised to Doctor Pringle the year before, regarding Cameran, he had performed, & knowing our situation with the French, they should receive no encouragement from him, nor be allowed to enter Cameran or a Port belonging to him, as in the enclosed Memorandum, in answer to the communication made by me, & that he had received the presents, & sent two Horses.—

The

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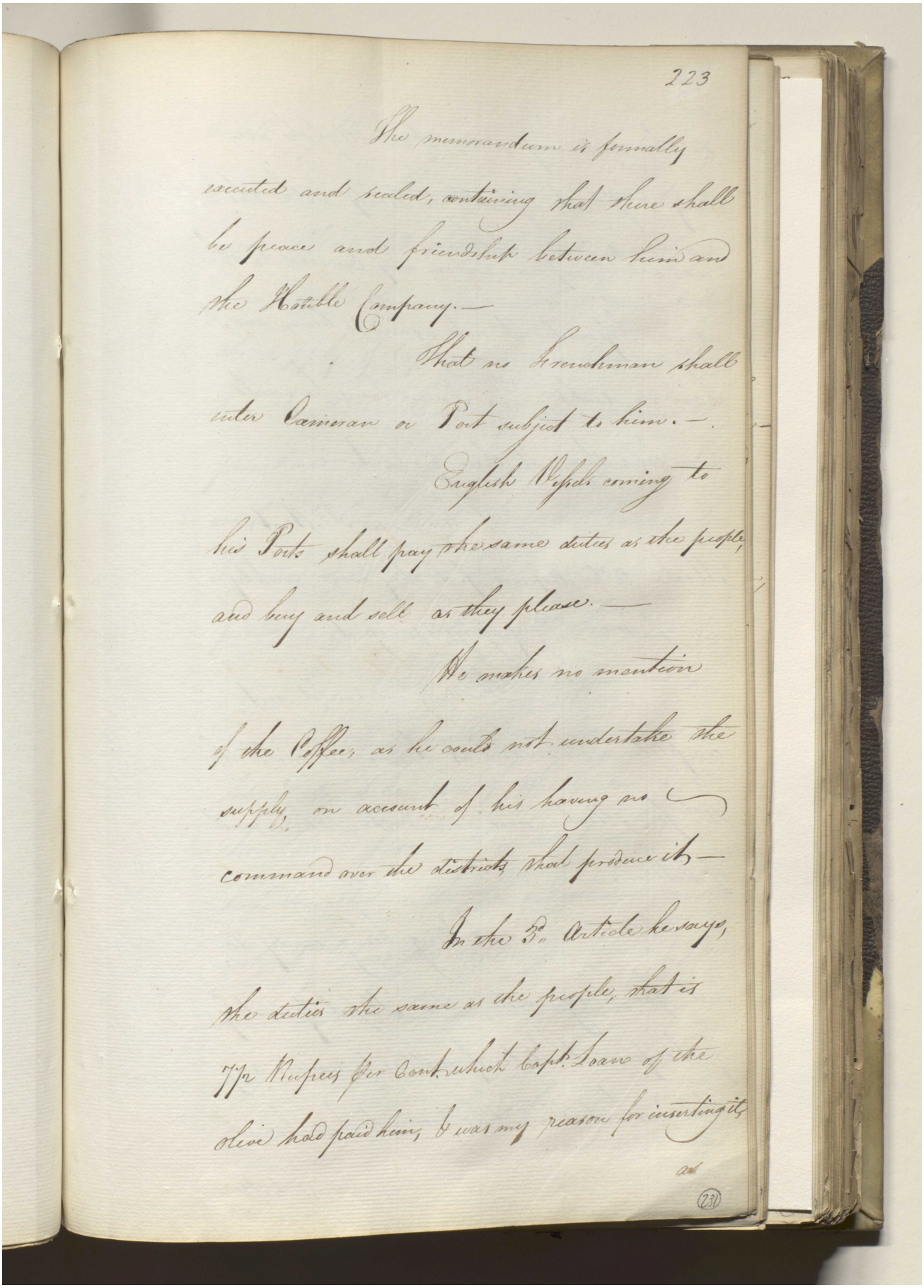

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The memorandum is formally
executed and sealed, containing that there shall
be peace and friendship between him and
the Honble Company.—

That no Frenchman shall
enter Cameran or Port subject to him.—

English Vessels coming to
his Ports shall pay the same duties as the people,
and buy and sell as they please.—

He makes no mention
of the Coffee, as he could not undertake the
supply, on account of his having no
command over the districts that produce it.—

In the 3d. Article he says,
the duties the same as the people, that is
7½ Rupees per Cont. which Capt. Loane of the
Olive Bird paid him, & was my reason for inserting it

and

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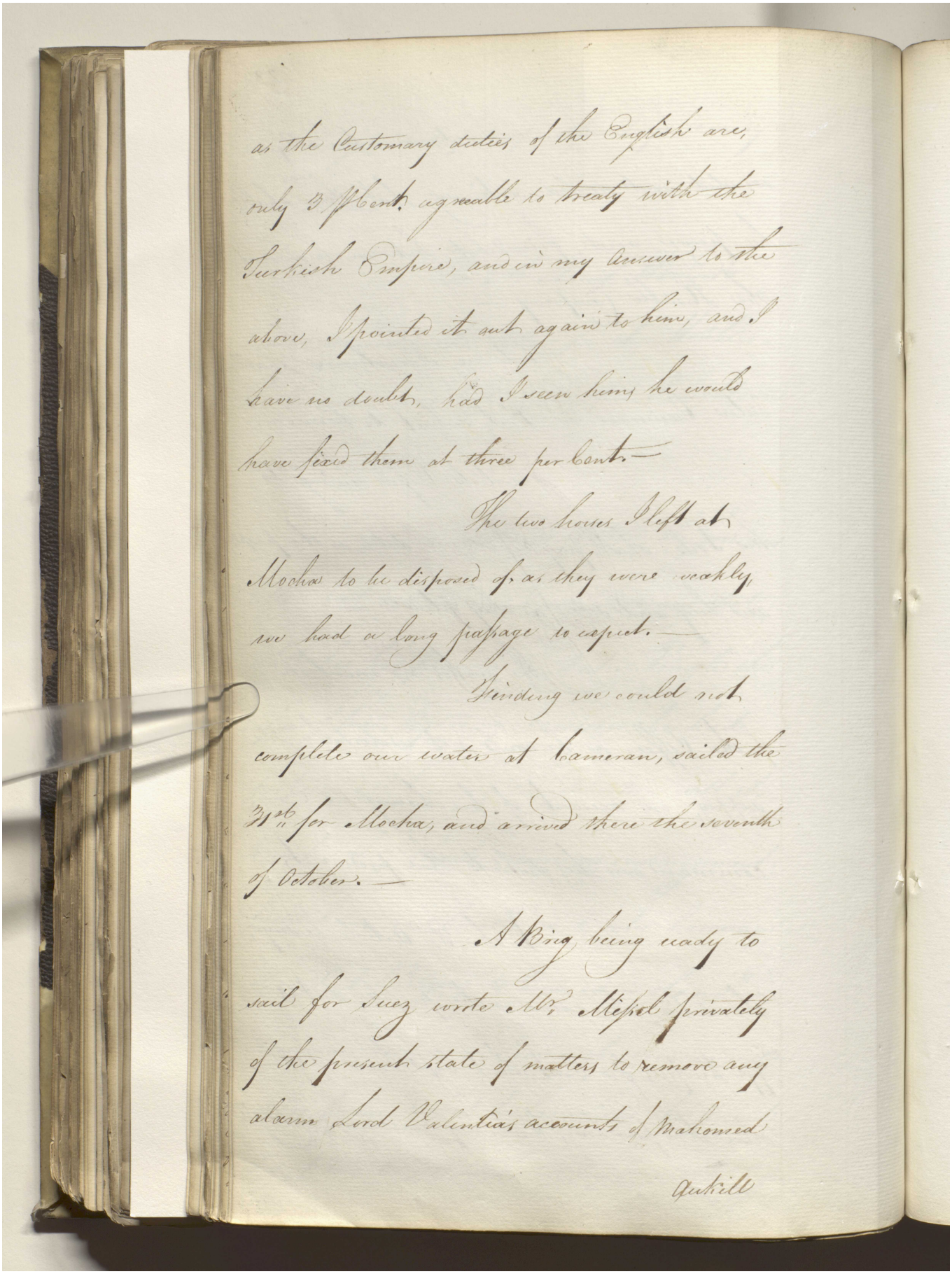

as the Customary duties of the English are, only 3 ₰ Cent. agreeable to treaty with the Turkish Empire, and in my Answer to the above, I pointed it out again to him, and I have no doubt, had I seen him, he would have fixed them at three per Cent.—

The two Horses I left at Mocha to be disposed of, as they were weakly, we had a long passage to expect.—

Finding we could not compleat our water at Cameran, sailed the 3rd for Mocha, and arrived there the seventh of October.—

A Brig being ready to sail for Suez wrote Mr Mesnil privately of the present state of matters to remove any alarm Lord Valentia's accounts of Mahomed Ackill

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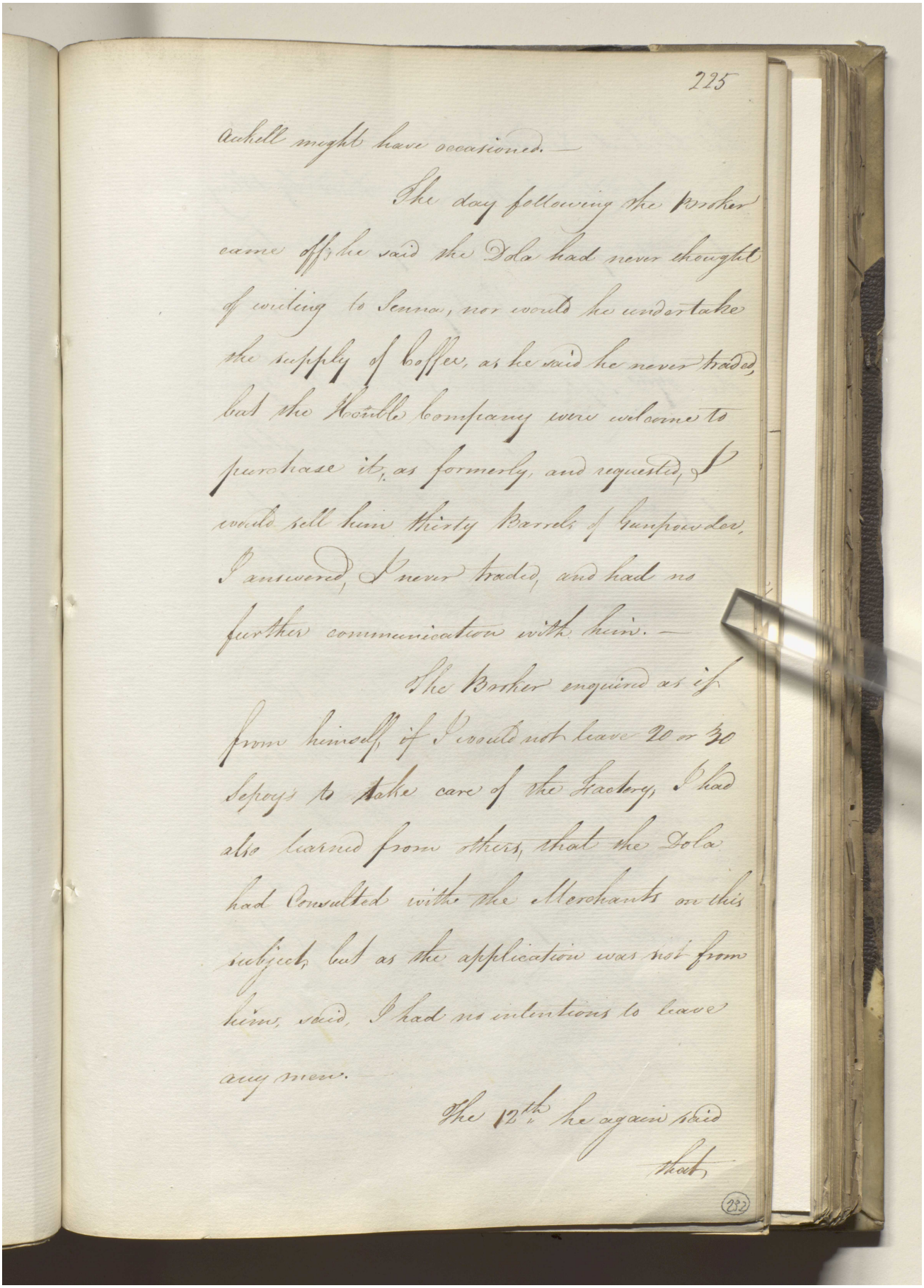

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Ackell might have occasioned.—

The day following the Broker came off, he said the Dola had never thought of writing to Senna, nor would he undertake the supply of Coffee, as he said he never traded, but the Honble Company were welcome to purchase it, as formerly, and requested, I would sell him thirty Barrels of Gunpowder, I answered, I never traded, and had no further communication with him.—

The Broker enquired as if from himself, if I could not leave 20 or 30 Sepoys to take care of the Factory, I had also learned from others, that the Dola had Consulted with the Merchants on this subject, but as the application was not from him, said, I had no intentions to leave any men.

The 12th he again said that,

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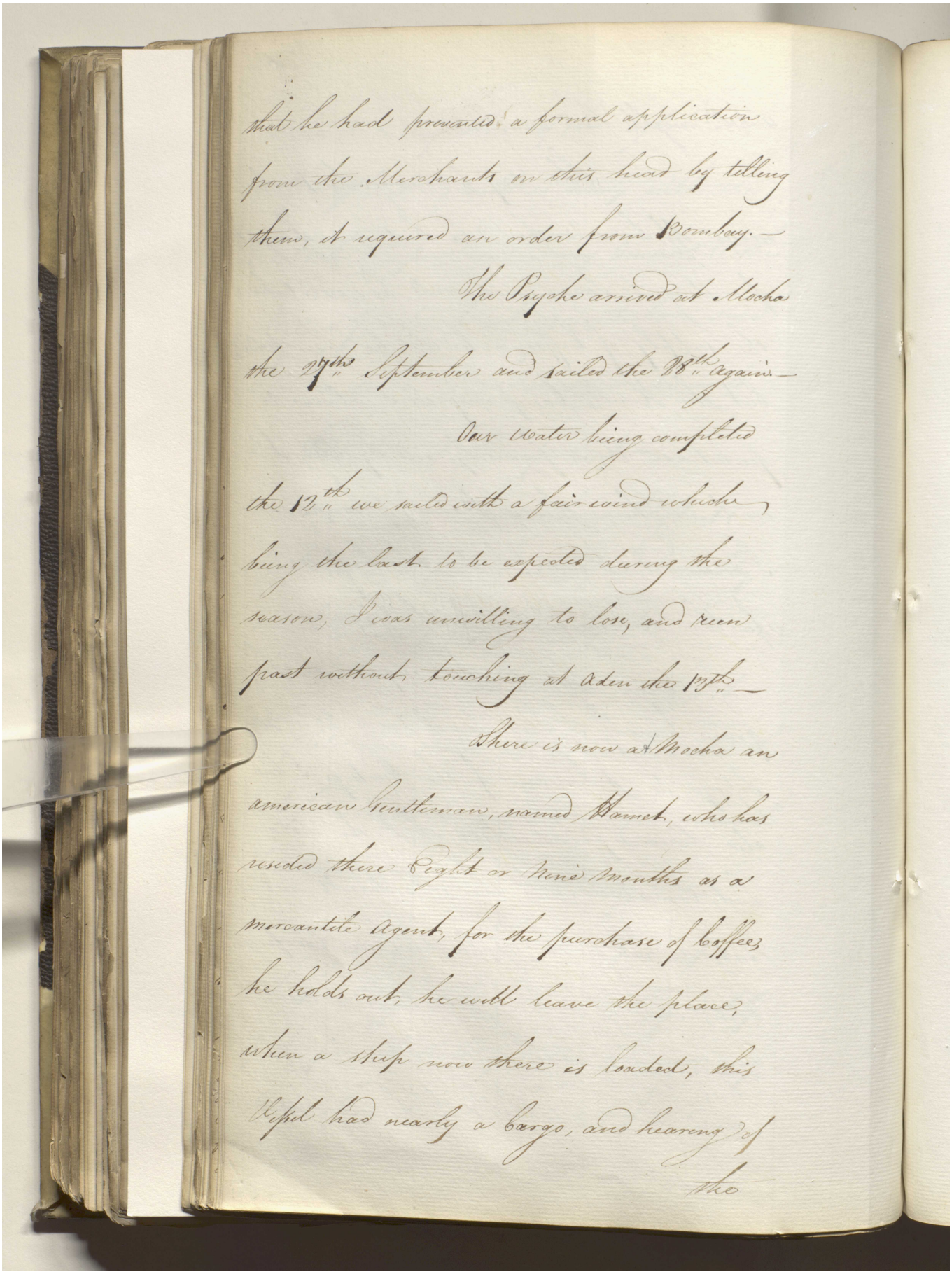

that he had presented a formal application from the Merchants on this head by telling them, it required an order from Bombay.—

The Psyche arrived at Mocha the 27th" September and sailed the 28th" again.—

Our water being completed the 12th" we sailed with a fair wind which being the last to be expected during the season, I was unwilling to lose, and run past without touching at Aden the 13th"—

There is now at Mocha an american Gentleman, named Bamet, who has resided there Eight or Nine Months as a mercantile Agent, for the purchase of Coffee, he holds out, he will leave the place, when a Ship now there is loaded, this Vessel had nearly a Cargo, and hearing of the

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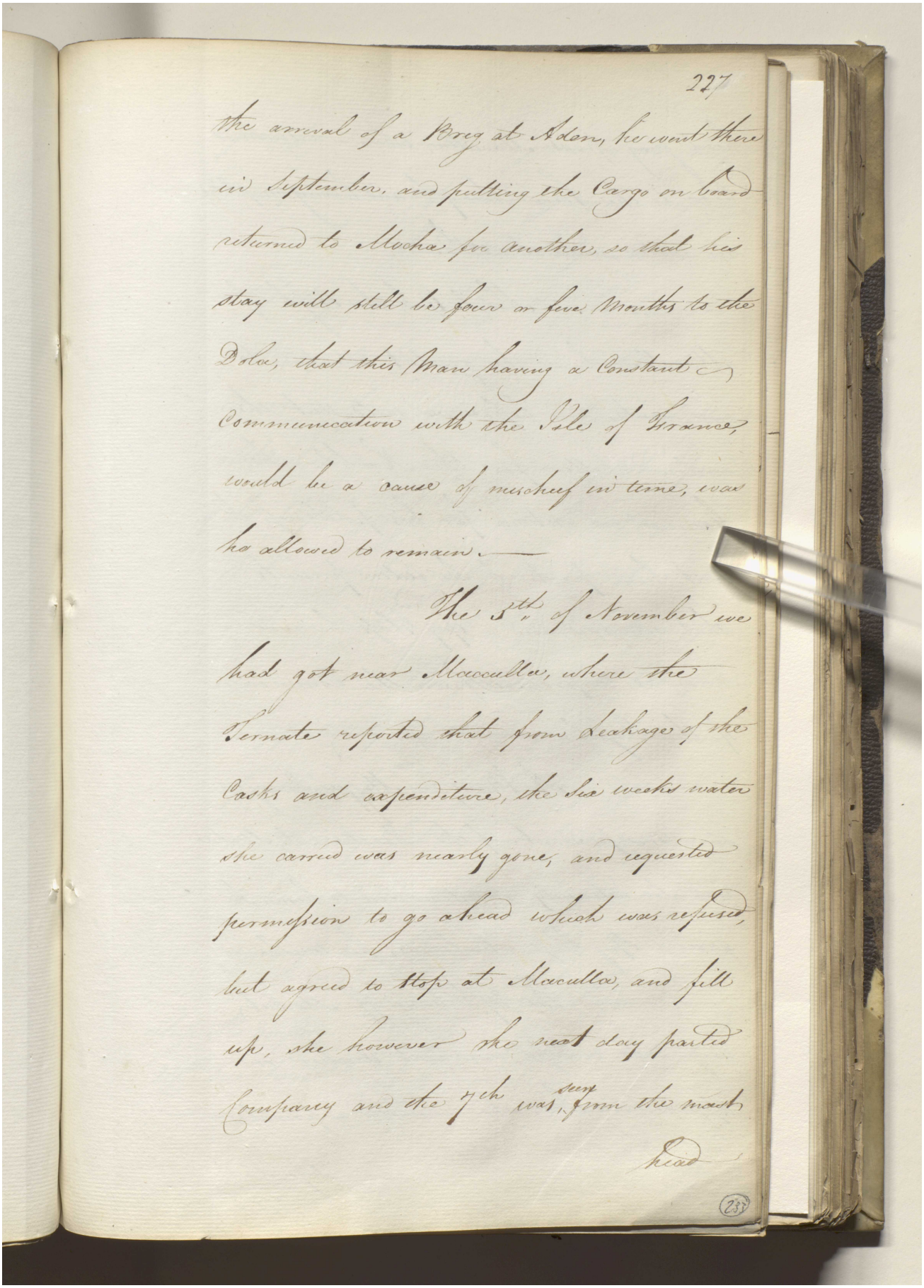

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the arrival of a Brig at Aden, he went there in September, and putting the Cargo on board returned to Mocha for another, so that his stay will still be four or five Months to the Dolce, that this Man having a Constant Communication with the Isle of France, would be a cause of mischief in time, was he allowed to remain.—

The 8th of November we had got near Macculla, where the Vernate reported that from Leakage of the Casks and expenditure, the Six weeks water she carried was nearly gone, and requested permission to go ahead which was refused, but agreed to stop at Macculla, and fill up, she however the next day parted Company and the 7th was seen from the mast head

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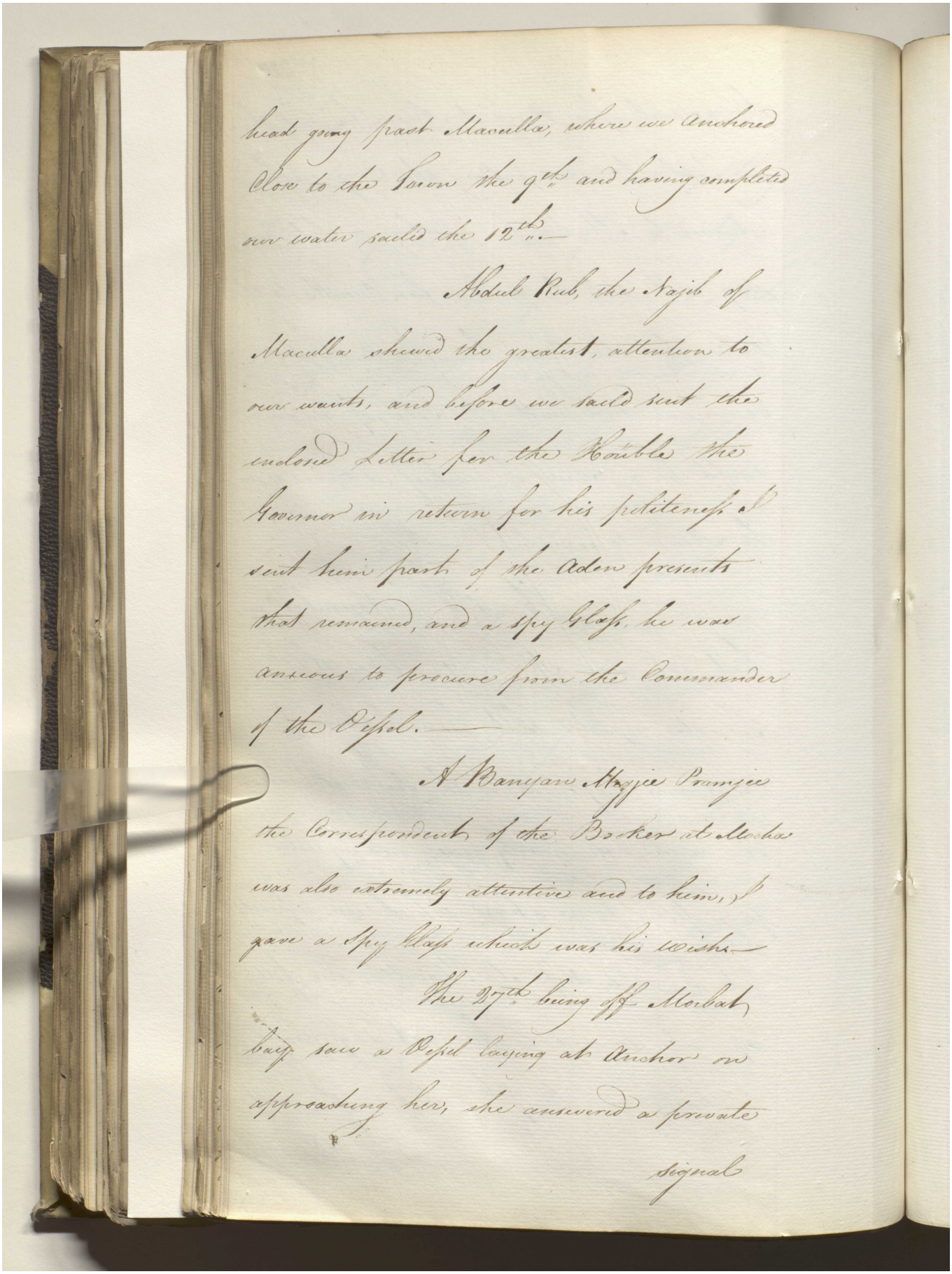

head going past Macalla, where we Anchored Close to the Town the 9th and having completed our water sailed the 12th.—

Abdul Rub, the Najib of Macalla shewed the greatest attention to our wants, and before we sailed sent the enclosed Letter for the Hon'ble the Governor in return for his politeness I sent him part of the Aden presents that remained, and a Spy Glass, he was anxious to procure from the Commander of the Vessel.—

A Banyan Megjee Pramjee the Correspondent of the Booker at Mocha was also extremely attentive and to him, I gave a Spy Glass which was his wish.—

The 27th being off Morbat bay saw a Vessel laying at Anchor on approaching her, she answered a private

signal

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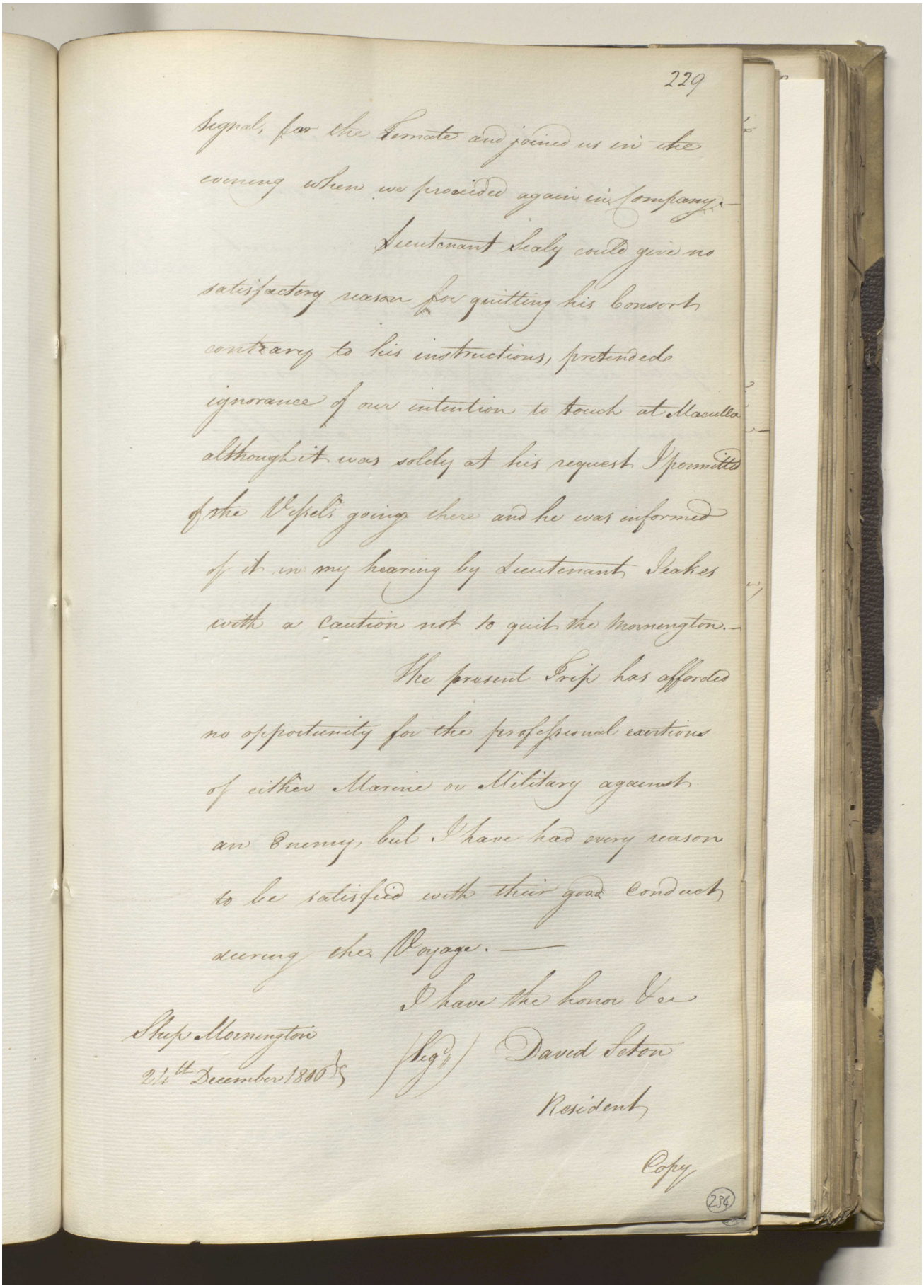

Signal, for the Ternate and joined us in the evening when we proceeded again in Company.—

Lieutenant Sealy could give no satisfactory reason for quitting his Consort contrary to his instructions, pretended ignorance of our intention to touch at Macullah although it was solely at his request I permitted of the Vessels going there and he was informed of it in my hearing by Lieutenant Yeakes with a caution not to quit the Mornington.—

The present Trip has afforded no opportunity for the professional exertions of either Marine or Military against an Enemy, but I have had every reason to be satisfied with their good Conduct during the Voyage.—

I have the honor &c

Ship Mornington
24th December 1800 &c

(Sig^d) David Seton
Resident

Copy

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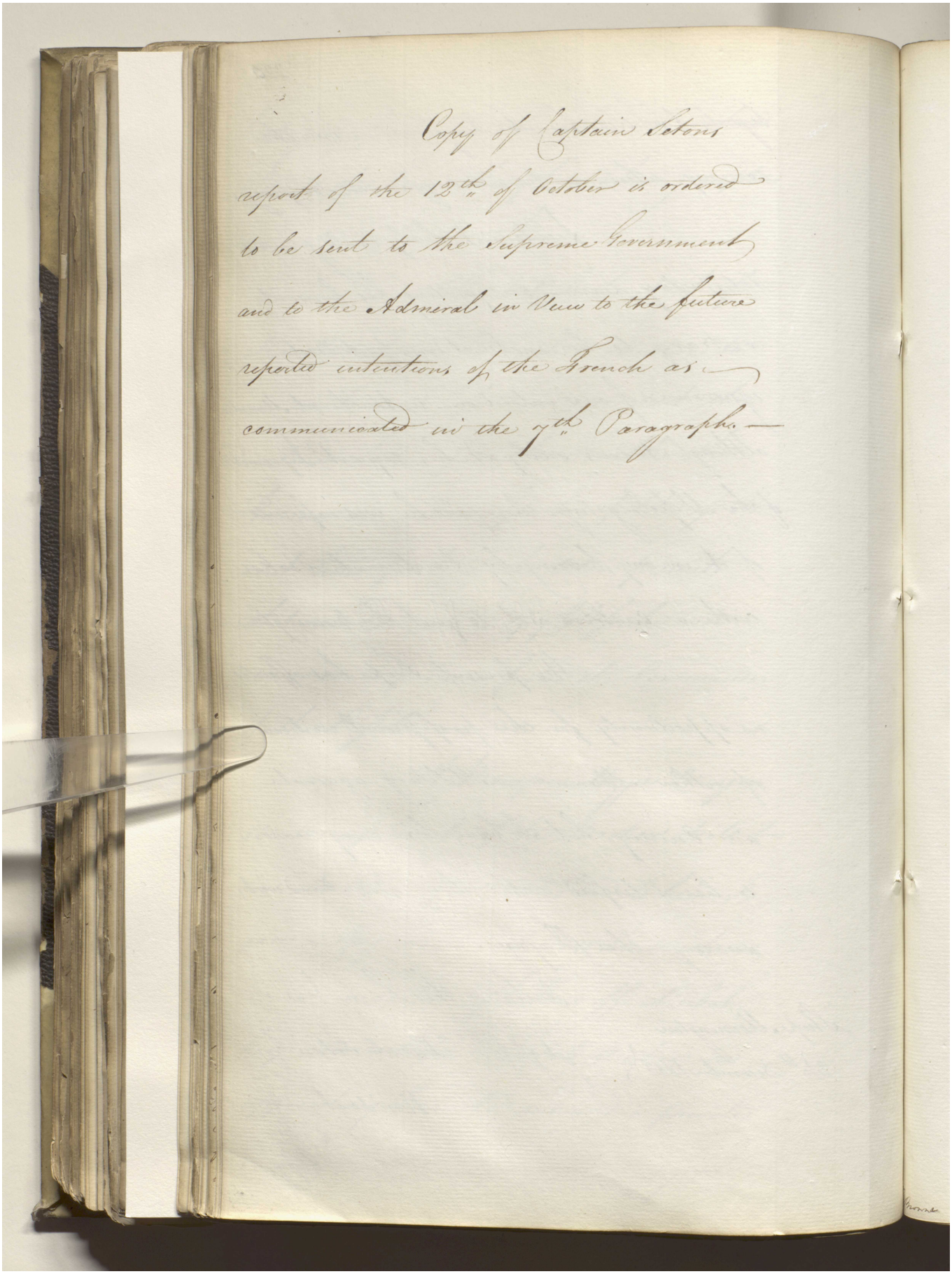

Copy of Captain Setons
report of the 13th of October is ordered
to be sent to the Supreme Government
and to the Admiral in View to the future
reported intentions of the French as
communicated in the 7th Paragraph.

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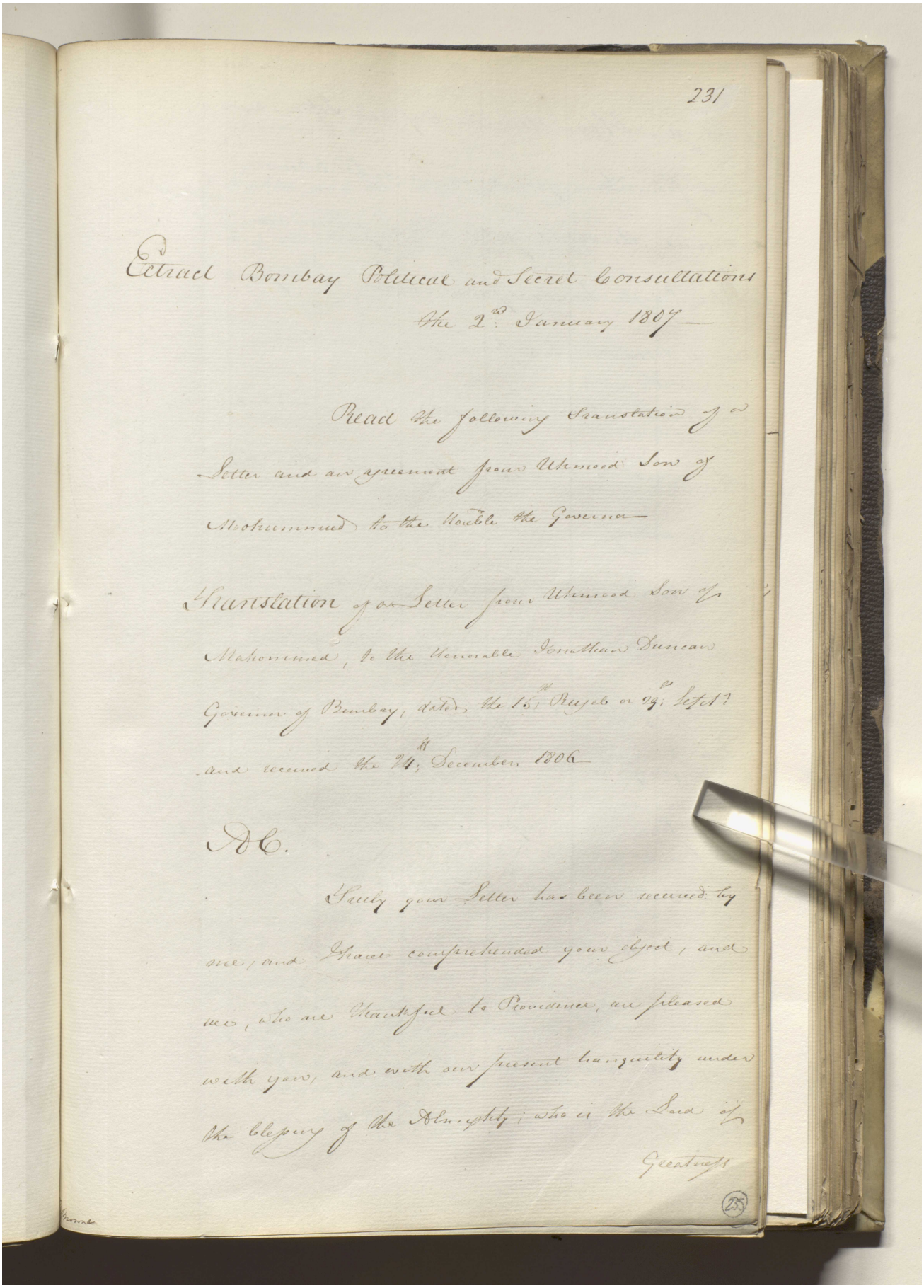

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Extract Bombay Political and Secret Consultations
the 2d January 1807—

Read the following Translation of a
Letter and an agreement from Ahmood Son of
Mohummud to the Honble the Governor—

Translation of a Letter from Ahmood Son of
Mahommed, to the Honorable Jonathan Duncan
Governor of Bombay, dated the 15th Rujeb or 17th Septr
and received the 24th December 1806—

&c.

Truly your Letter has been received by
me, and I have comprehended your object, and
we, who are thankful to Providence, are pleased
with you, and with our present tranquility under
the Blessing of the Almighty; who is the Lord of
Greatness

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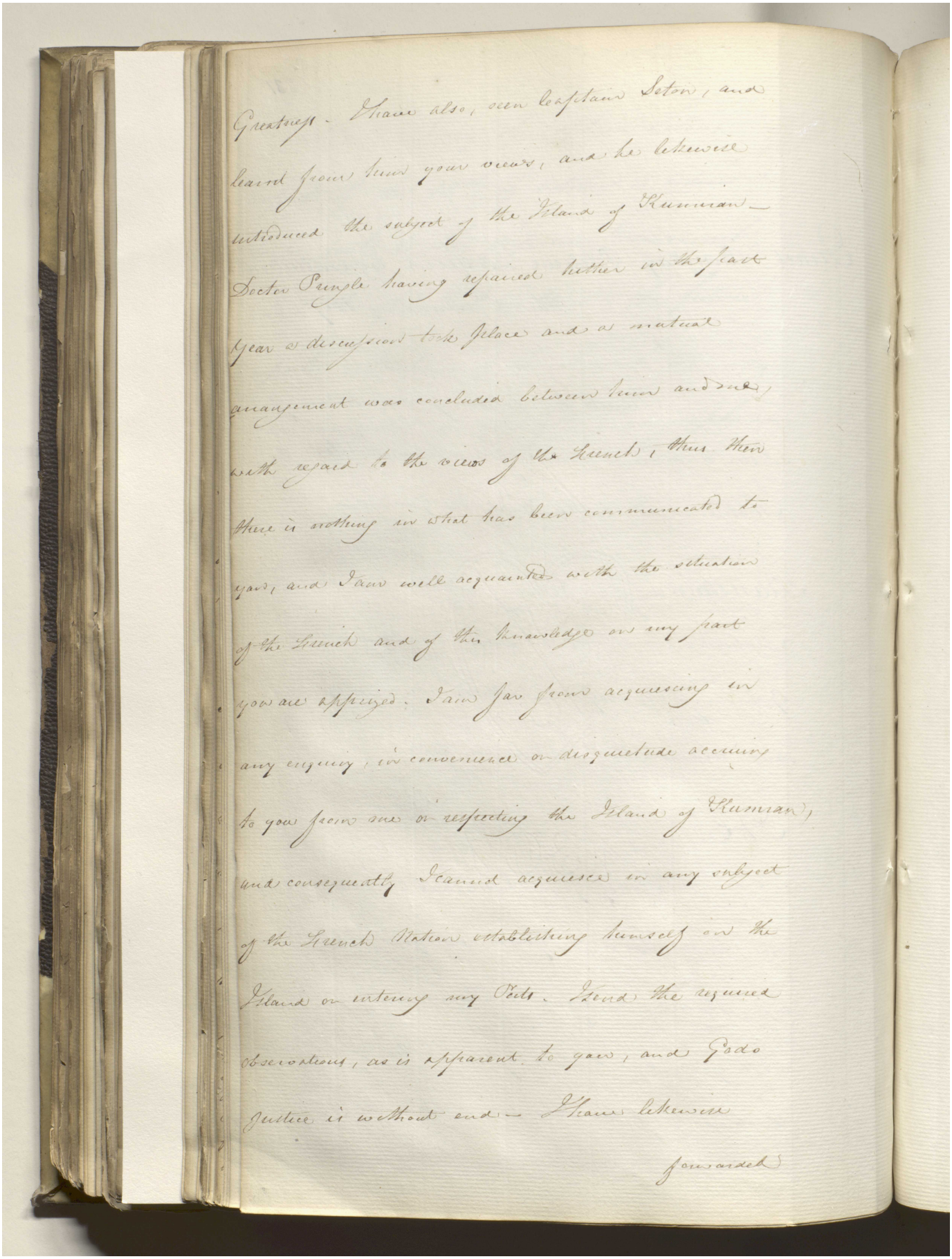

Greatness - I have also, seen Captain Seton, and heard from him your views, and he likewise introduced the subject of the Island of Khumran - Doctor Pringle having repaired hither in the first year's occupation took place and a mutual arrangement was concluded between him and me, with regard to the views of the French, thus there is nothing in what has been communicated to you, and I am well acquainted with the situation of the French and of their knowledge on my part you are apprized. I am far from acquiescing in any enquiry, inconvenience or disquietude accruing to you from me or respecting the Island of Khumran, and consequently I cannot acquiesce in any object of the French Nation establishing themself on the Island or entering any Ports. I send the required observations, as is apparent to you, and Gods Justice is without end - I have likewise

forwarded

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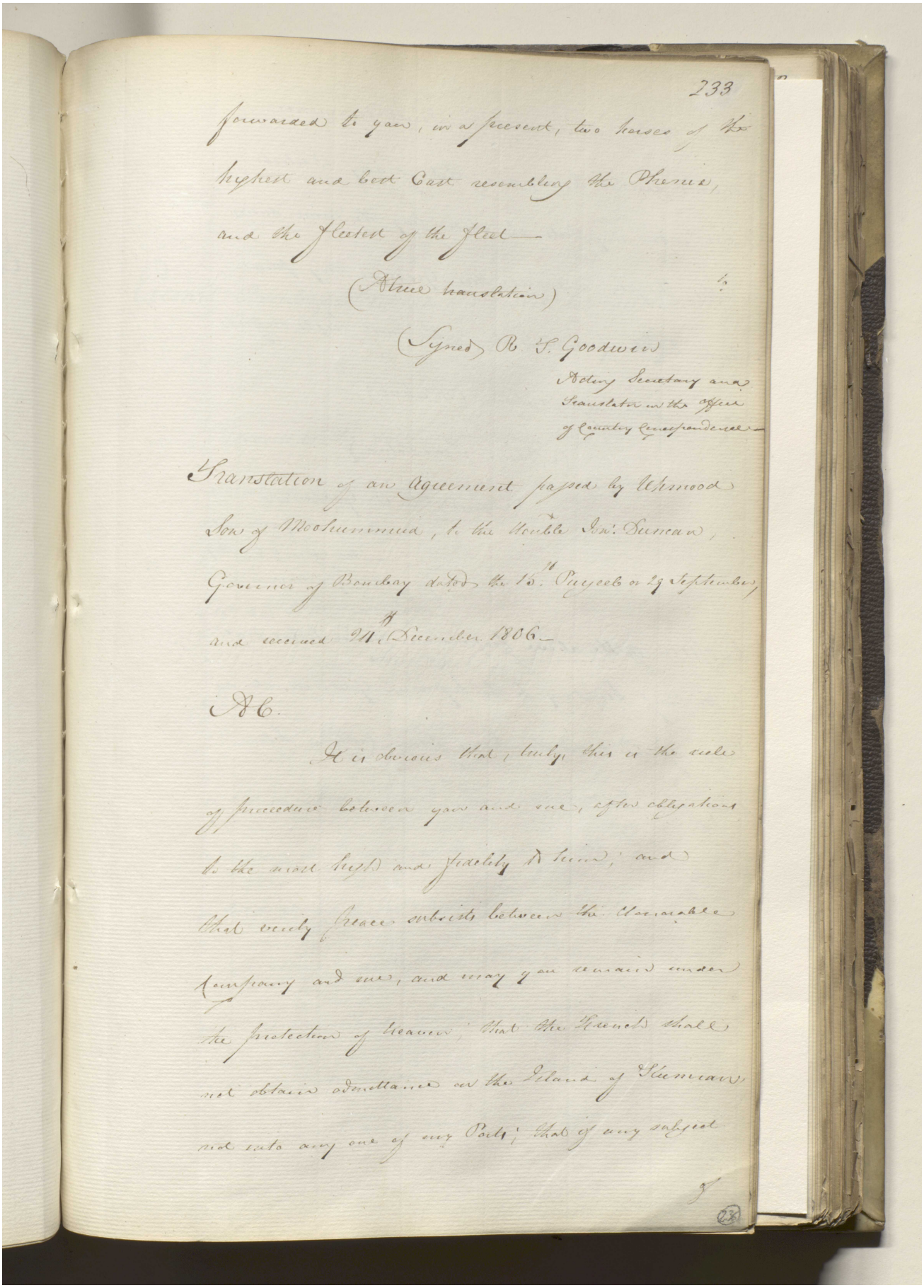

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forwarded to you, in a present, two horses of the highest and best Cast resembling the Phenix, and the fleetest of the fleet—

(A true translation)

(Signed) R. T. Goodwin
Acting Secretary and Translator in the Office of Country Correspondence—

Translation of an Agreement passed by Ukmood Son of Moohummud, to the Honble Jon. Duncan, Governor of Bombay dated the 15th Pujeeb or 29 September, and received 24th December 1806—

A C.

It is obvious that, truly, this is the rule of procedure between you and me, after obligations to the most high and fidelity to him; and that verily peace subsists between the Honorable Company and me, and may you remain under the protection of Heaven; that the French shall not obtain admittance on the Island of Kumran, not into any one of my Ports; that if any subject

of

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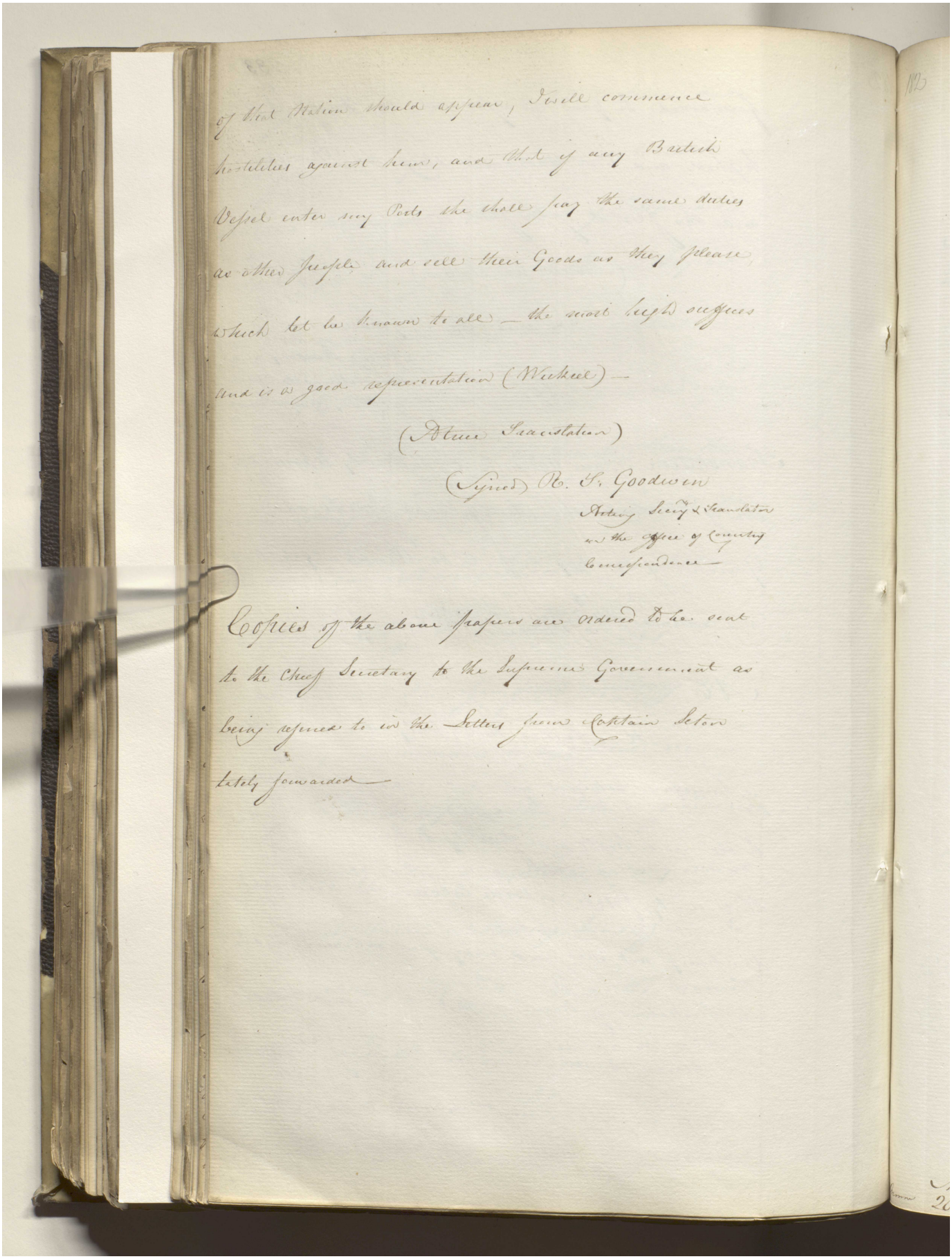

of that Nation should appear, I will commence hostilities against him, and that if any British Vessel enter my Ports she shall pay the same duties as other people and sell their Goods as they please, which let be known to all — the most high suffices and is a good representation (Wickeel) —

(A true Translation)

(Signed) R. T. Goodwin
Acting Secy & Translator
in the Office of Country
Correspondence —

Copies of the above papers are ordered to be sent to the Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government as being referred to in the Letters from Captain Seton lately forwarded —

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [237r] (233/264)

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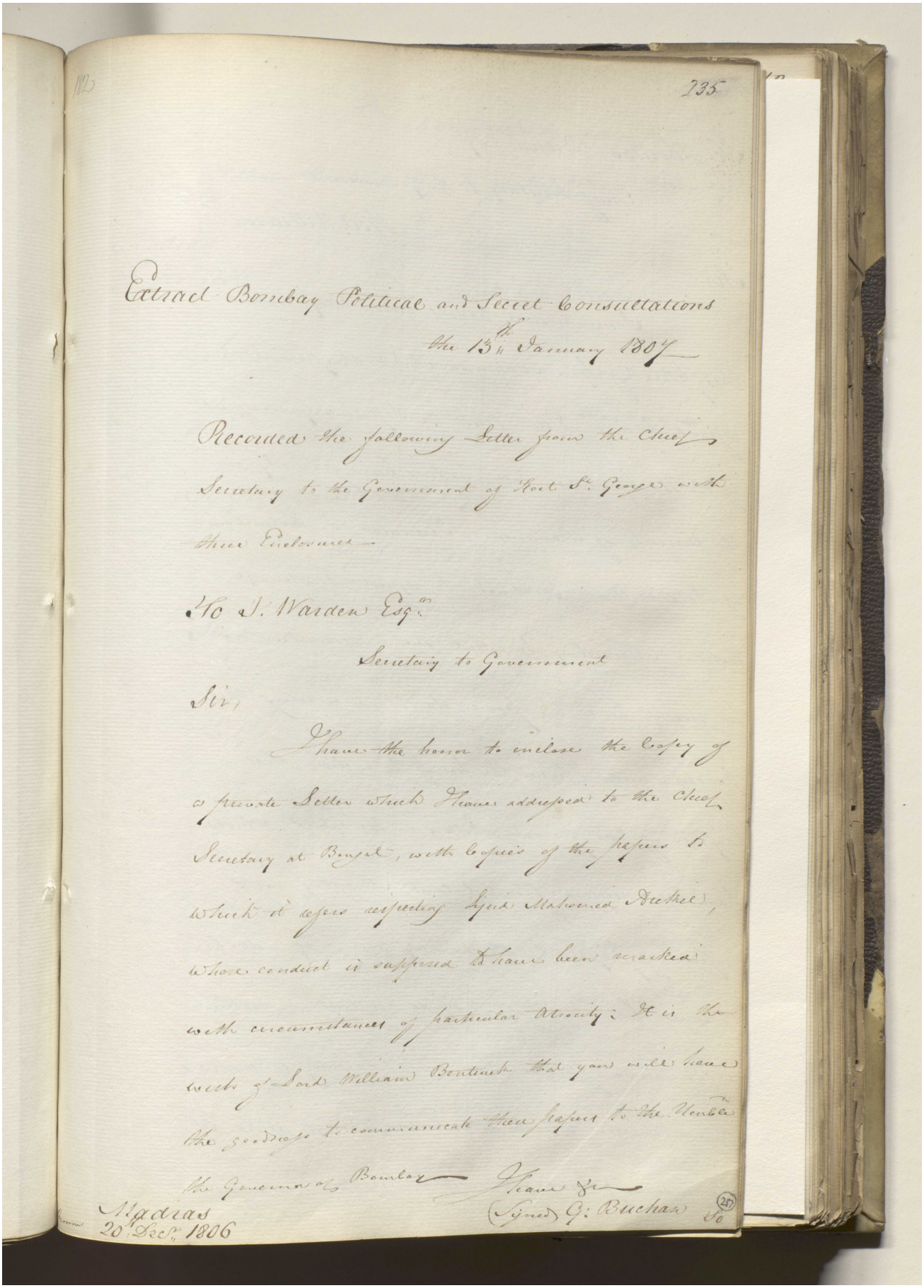

Extract Bombay Political and Secret Consultations
the 13th January 1807

Recorded the following Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George with three Enclosures

To J. Warden Esqr.

Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have the honor to inclose the Copy of a private Letter which I have addressed to the Chief Secretary at Bengal, with Copies of the papers to which it refers respecting Syed Mahomed Arekel, whose conduct is supposed to have been marked with circumstances of particular Atrocity: It is the wish of Lord William Bentinck that you will have the goodness to communicate these papers to the Honble the Governor of Bombay

I have &c
(Signed) G: Buchan

Madras
20th Decr. 1806

(257)
So

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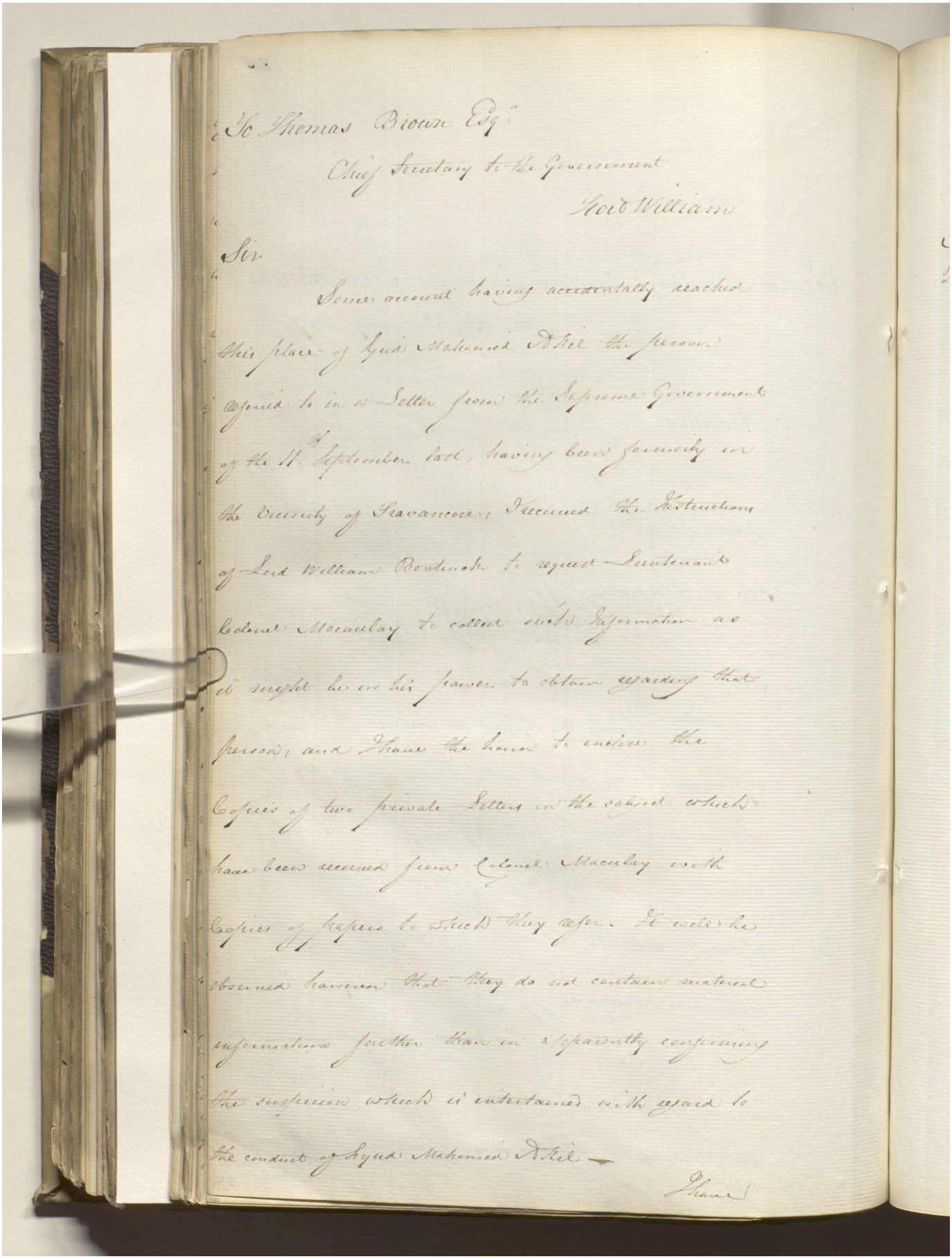

To Thomas Brown Esq.
Chief Secretary to the Government
Fort William

Sir

Some account having accidentally reached this place of Syud Mahomed Adil the person referred to in a Letter from the Supreme Government of the 11th September last, having been formerly in the Country of Travancore, I received the Instructions of Lord William Bentinck to request Lieutenant Colonel Macaulay to collect such Information as it might be in his power to obtain regarding that person, and I have the honor to enclose the Copies of two private Letters in the cabinet which have been received from Colonel Macaulay with Copies of Papers to which they refer. It will be observed however that they do not contain material explanations further than is apparently concerning the suspicion which is entertained with regard to the conduct of Syud Mahomed Adil —

I have

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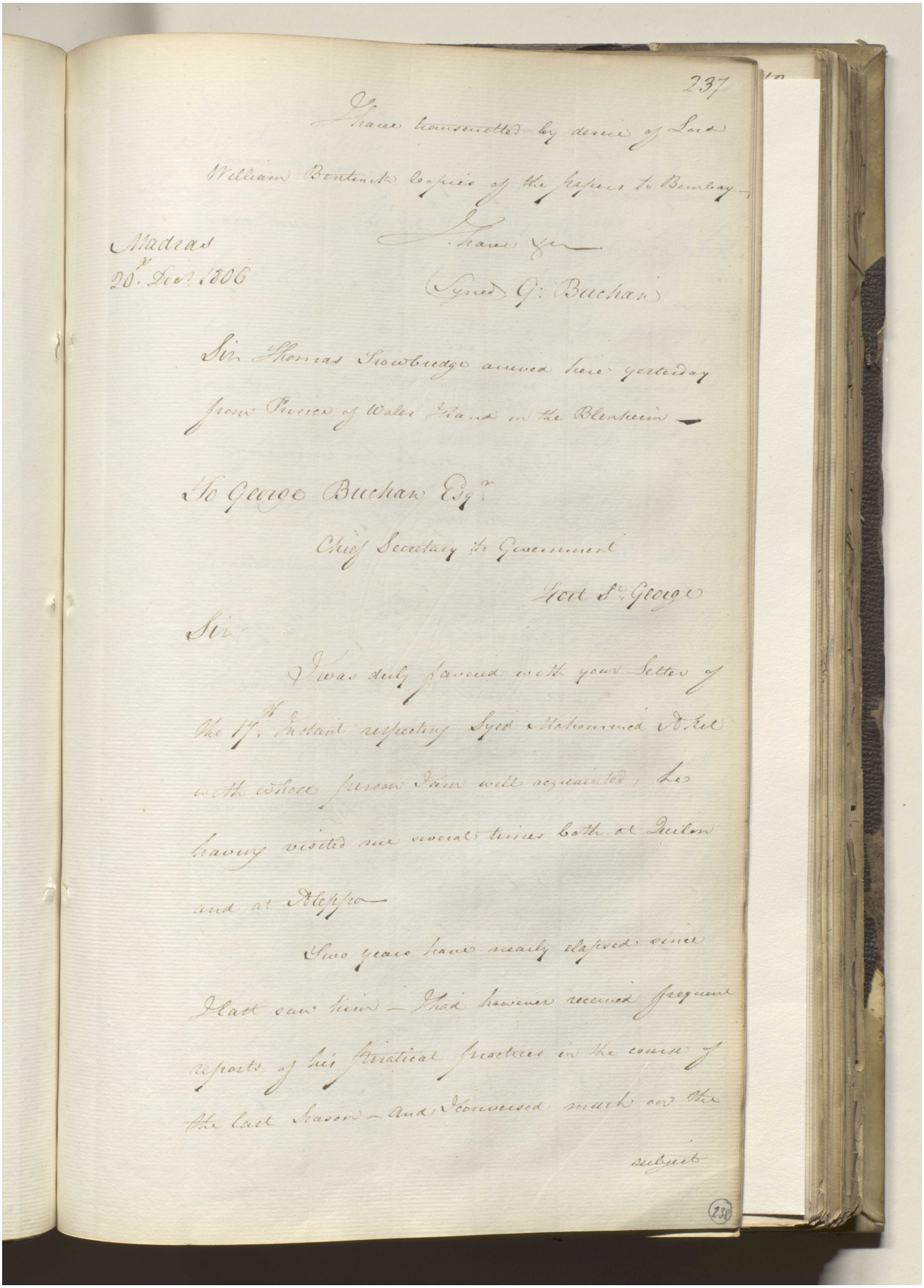

I have transmitted by desire of Lord William Bentinck copies of the papers to Bombay —

I have &c —

Madras
20th Decr 1806

(Signed) G: Buchan

Sir Thomas Trowbridge arrived here yesterday from Prince of Wales Island in the Blenheim —

To George Buchan Esqr

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St George

Sir

I was duly favored with your Letter of the 17th Instant respecting Syed Mahommed Akel with whose person I am well acquainted, he having visited me several times both at Quilon and at Aleppo —

Two years have nearly elapsed since I last saw him — I had however received frequent reports of his piratical practices in the course of the last Season — and I conversed much on the

subject

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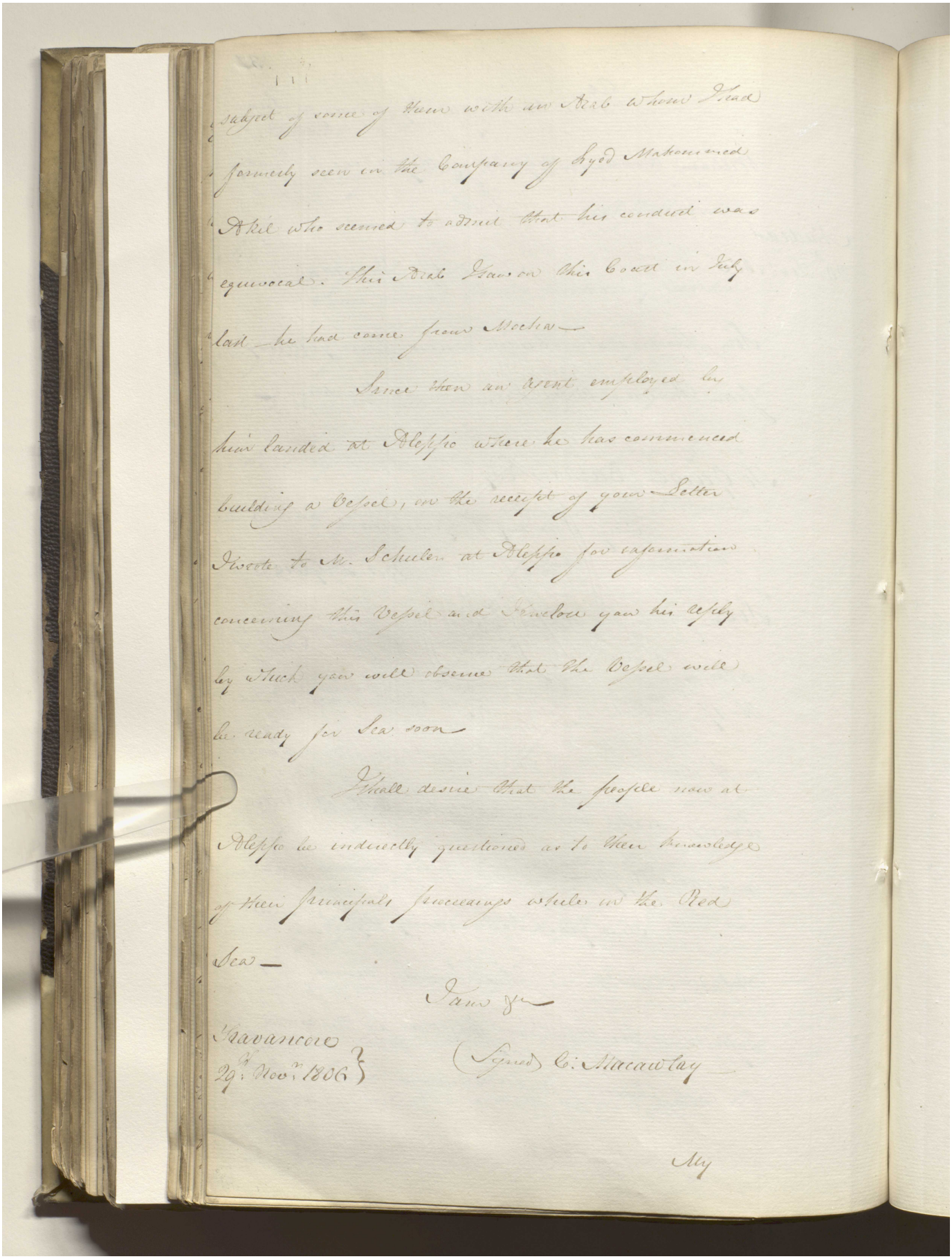

subject of some of them with an Arab whom I had formerly seen in the Company of Syed Mahommed Abil who seemed to admit that his conduct was equivocal. This Arab I saw on this Coast in July last he had come from Mocha—

Since then an Agent employed by him landed at Aleppo where he has commenced building a Vessel, on the receipt of your Letter I wrote to M. Schulen at Aleppo for information concerning this Vessel and I enclose you his reply by which you will observe that the Vessel will be ready for Sea soon—

I shall desire that the people now at Aleppo be indirectly questioned as to their knowledge of their Principals proceedings while in the Red Sea—

I am &c—

Bombay
29th Nov. 1806

(Signed) C. Macaulay

My

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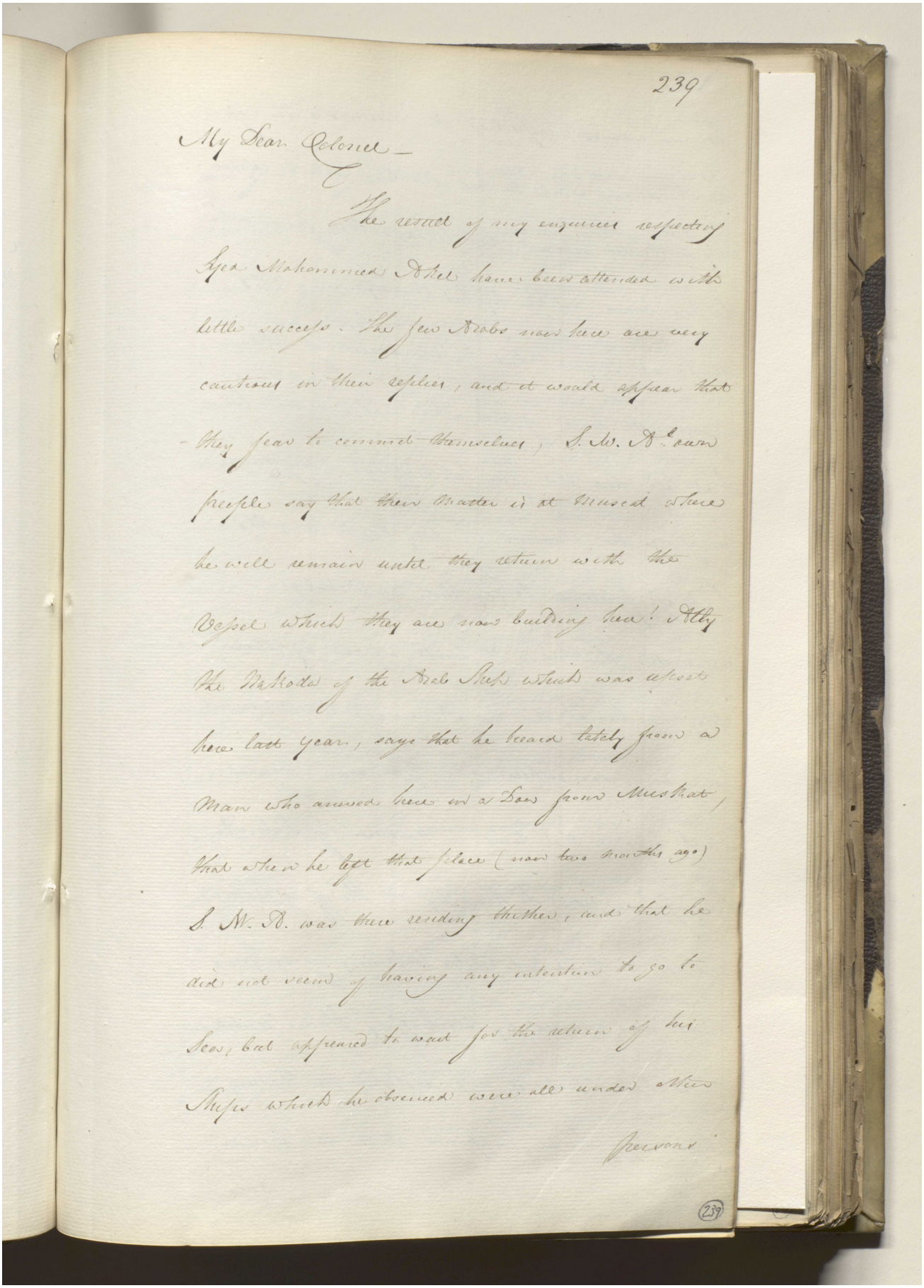

My Dear Colonel —

The result of my enquiries respecting Syed Mohammed Akel have been attended with little success. The few Arabs now here are very cautious in their replies, and it would appear that they fear to commit themselves, S. M. A.s own people say that their Master is at Muscat where he will remain until they return with the Vessel which they are now building here! Atty the Nakoda of the Arab Ship which was upset here last year, says that he heard lately from a Man who arrived here in a Dow from Muskat, that when he left that place (now two months ago) S. M. A. was there residing thither, and that he did not seem of having any intention to go to Sea, but appeared to wait for the return of his Ships which he observed were all under other

persons

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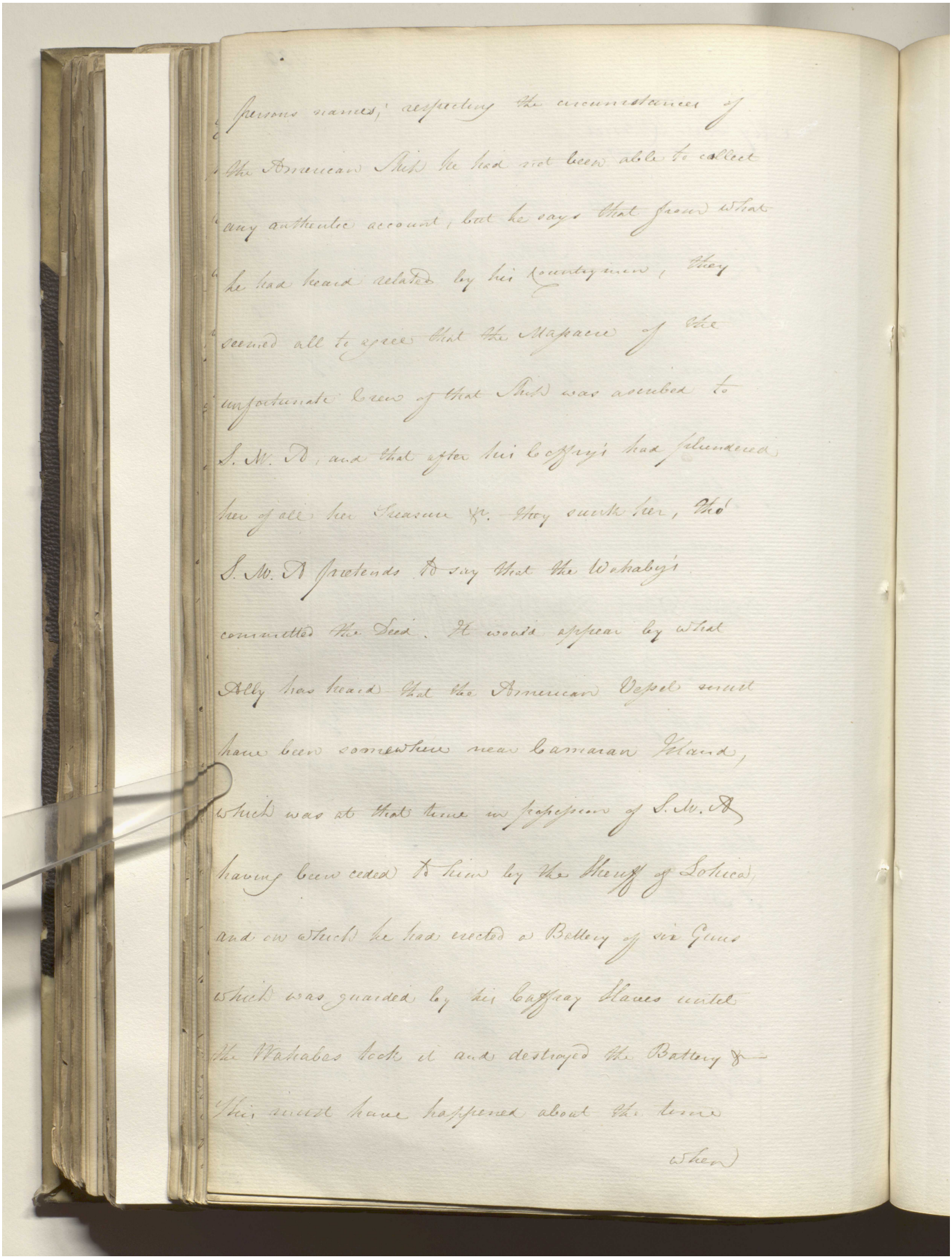
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [239v] (238/264)



persons names; respecting the circumstances of the American Ship he had not been able to collect any authentic account, but he says that from what he had heard related by his Countrymen, they seemed all to agree that the Massacre of the unfortunate Crew of that Ship was ascribed to S. M. A, and that after his Coffry's had plundered her of all her Treasure &c. they sunk her, tho' S. M. A pretends to say that the Wahaby's committed the Deed. It would appear by what Ally has heard that the American Vessel must have been somewhere near Camaran Island, which was at that time in possession of S. M. A having been ceded to him by the Sheriff of Lohica, and on which he had erected a Battery of six Guns which was guarded by his Caffray Slaves until the Wahabes took it and destroyed the Battery &c. This must have happened about the time

when

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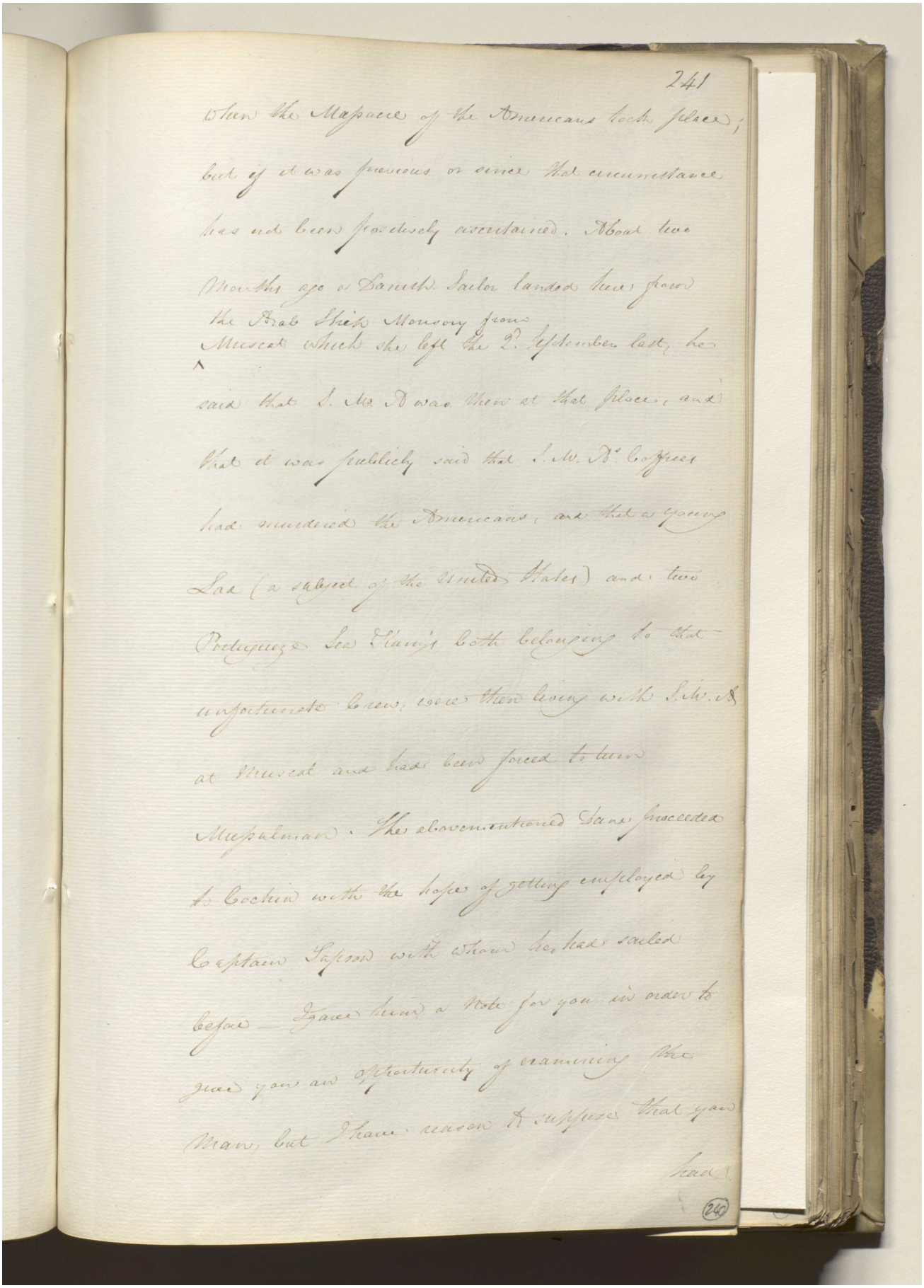

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when the Massacre of the Americans took place;
but if it was previous or since that circumstance
has not been positively ascertained. About two
Months ago a Danish Sailor landed here from
the Arab Sheik Monsoon from
Muscat which she left the 2d. September last, he
said that L. Mr. D was then at that place, and
that it was publicly said that L. M. D. Coffres
had murdered the Americans, and that a young
Lad (a subject of the United States) and two
Portuguese Sea Boys both belonging to that
unfortunate Crew, were then living with L. M. D
at Muscat and had been forced to turn
Mussulman. The abovementioned Dane proceeded
to Cochin with the hopes of getting employed by
Captain Tapson with whom he had sailed
before — I gave him a Note for you in order to
give you an opportunity of examining the
Man, but I have reason to suppose that you
have

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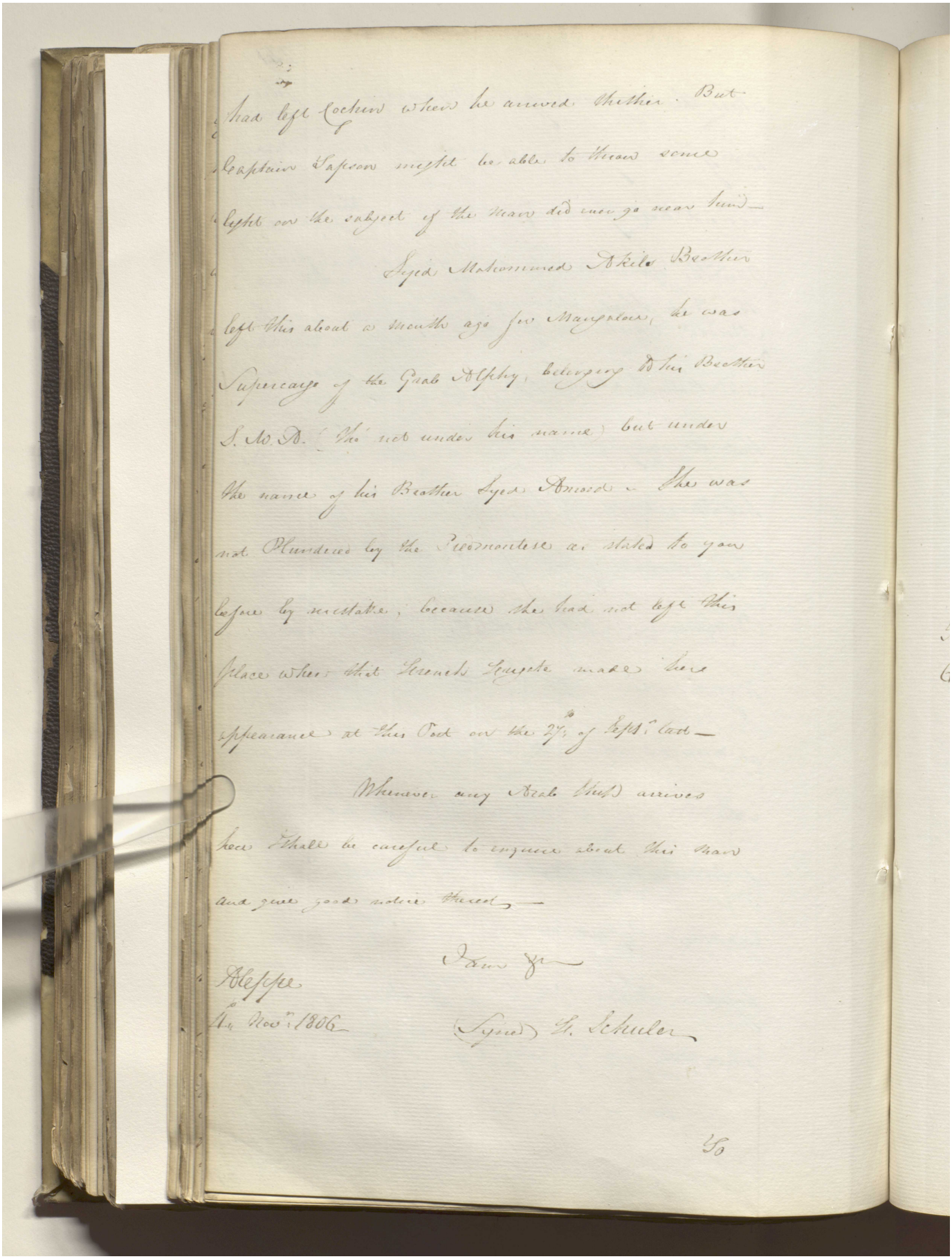

had left Cochin when he arrived thither. But Captain Tapson might be able to throw some light on the subject if the man did ever go near him—

Syed Mahommed Akils Brother left this about a month ago for Mangalore, he was Supercargo of the Grab Alphy, belonging to his Brother S. M. A. (tho' not under his name) but under the name of his Brother Syed Amood — She was not Plundered by the Piedmontese as stated to you before by mistake, because she had not left this place when that French Frigate made her appearance at this Port on the 27th of Septr last—

Whenever any Arab Ship arrives here I shall be careful to enquire about this man and give good notice thereof—

I am &c

Aleppe
4th Novr 1806

(Signed) G. Schuler

To

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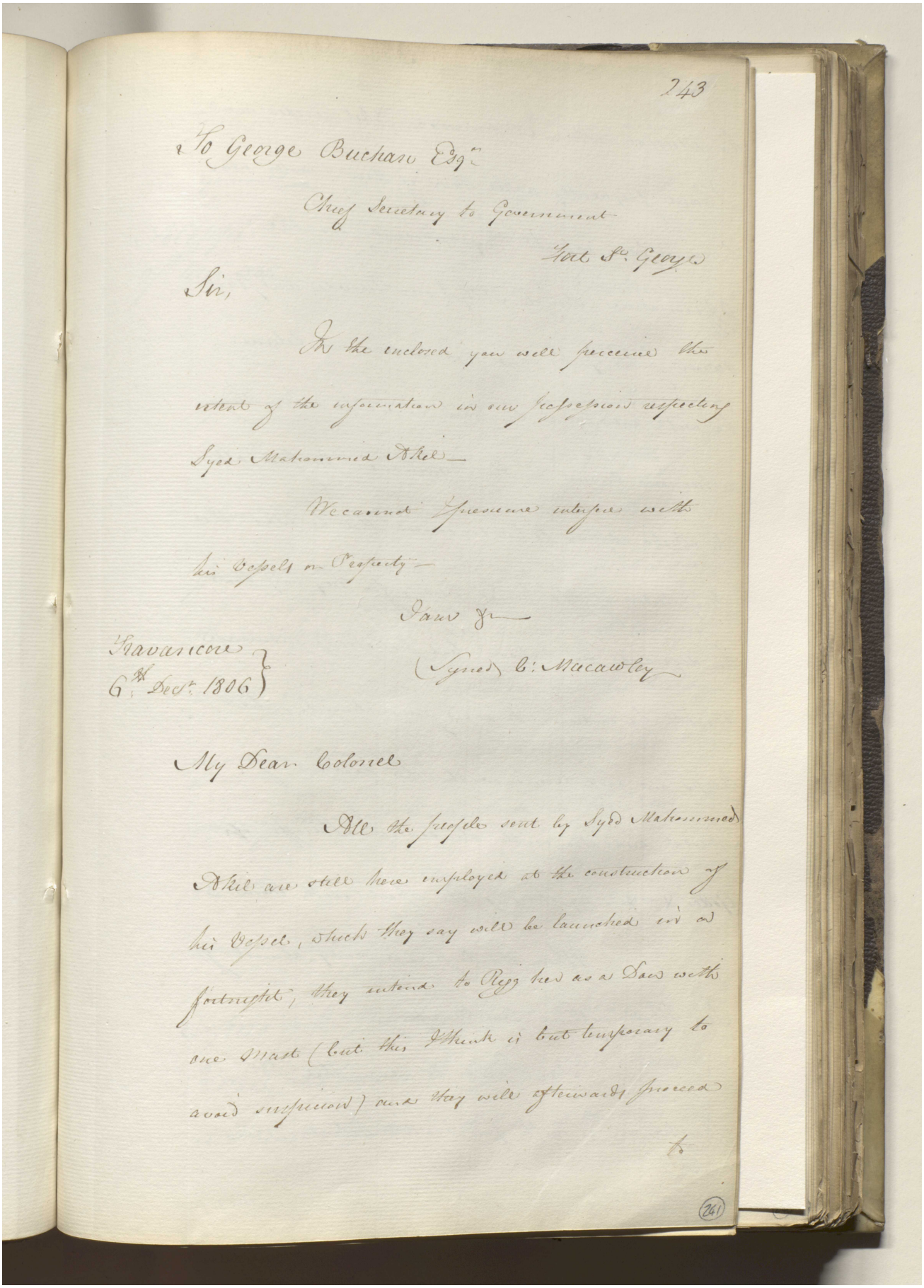

To George Buchan Esqr.

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St. George

Sir,

In the enclosed you will perceive the extent of the information in our possession respecting Syed Mahommed Akil—

We cannot presume interfere with his Vessels or Property—

I am &c—

(Signed) C: Macaulay

Travancore
6th Decr. 1806

My Dear Colonel

All the people sent by Syed Mahommed Akil are still here employed at the construction of his Vessel, which they say will be launched in a fortnight, they intend to Rigg her as a Dow with one Mast (but this I think is but temporary to avoid suspicion) and they will afterwards proceed

to

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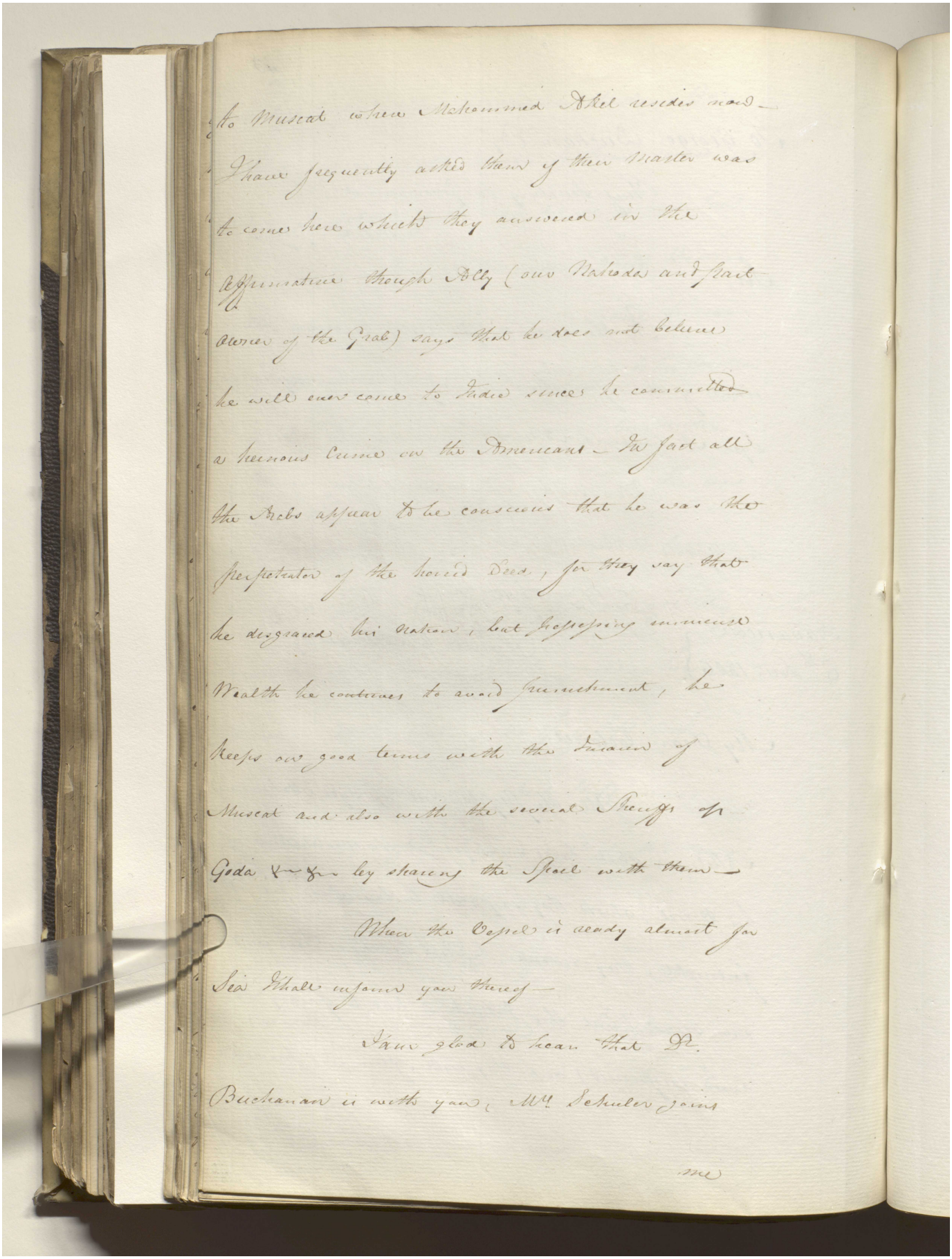

to Muscat where Mahommed Akil resides now —
I have frequently asked them if their Master was
to come here which they answered in the
Affirmative though Ally (our Nakoda and part
owner of the Grab) says that he does not believe
he will ever come to India since he committed
a heinous Crime on the Americans — In fact all
the Arabs appear to be conscious that he was the
perpetrator of the horrid Deed, for they say that
he disgraced his Nation, but possessing immense
Wealth he continues to avoid punishment, he
keeps on good terms with the Imaum of
Muscat and also with the several Sheriffs of
Goda &c &c by sharing the Spoil with them —

When the Vessel is ready almost for
Sea I shall inform you thereof —

I am glad to hear that Dr.
Buchanan is with you, Mr. Schuler joins

me

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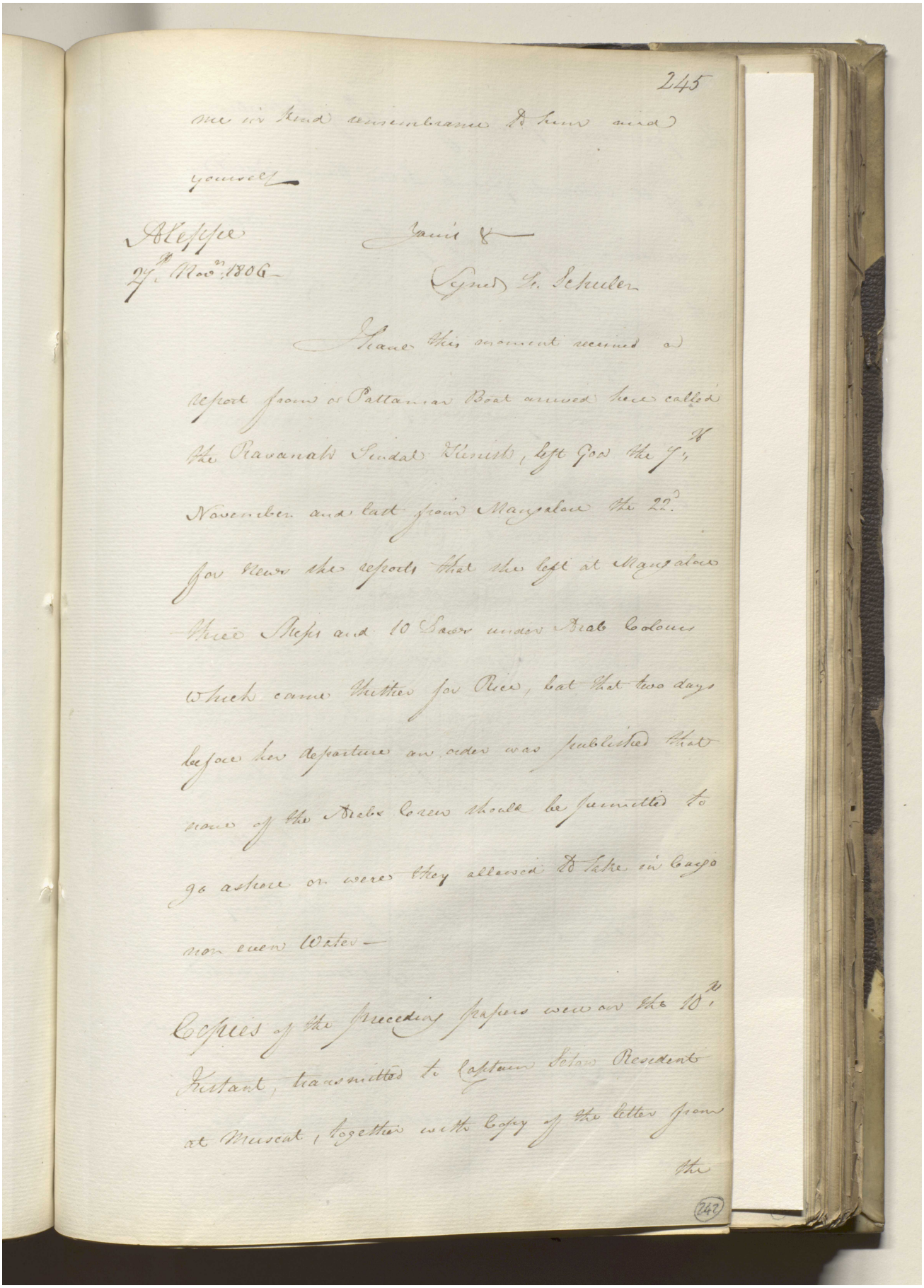

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me in kind remembrance to him and yourself —

Aleppo
27th Novr 1806 —

Yours &c —
Signed L. Schuler

I have this moment received a report from a Pattamar Boat arrived here called the Ravanah Sindal Kenish, left Goa the 7th November and last from Mangalore the 22d for News she reports that she left at Mangalore three Ships and 10 Lawes under Arab Colours which came thither for Rice, but that two days before her departure an order was published that none of the Arabs Crew should be permitted to go ashore or were they allowed to take in Cargo non even Water —

Copies of the preceding papers were on the 18th Instant, transmitted to Captain Seton Resident at Muscat, together with Copy of the letter from the

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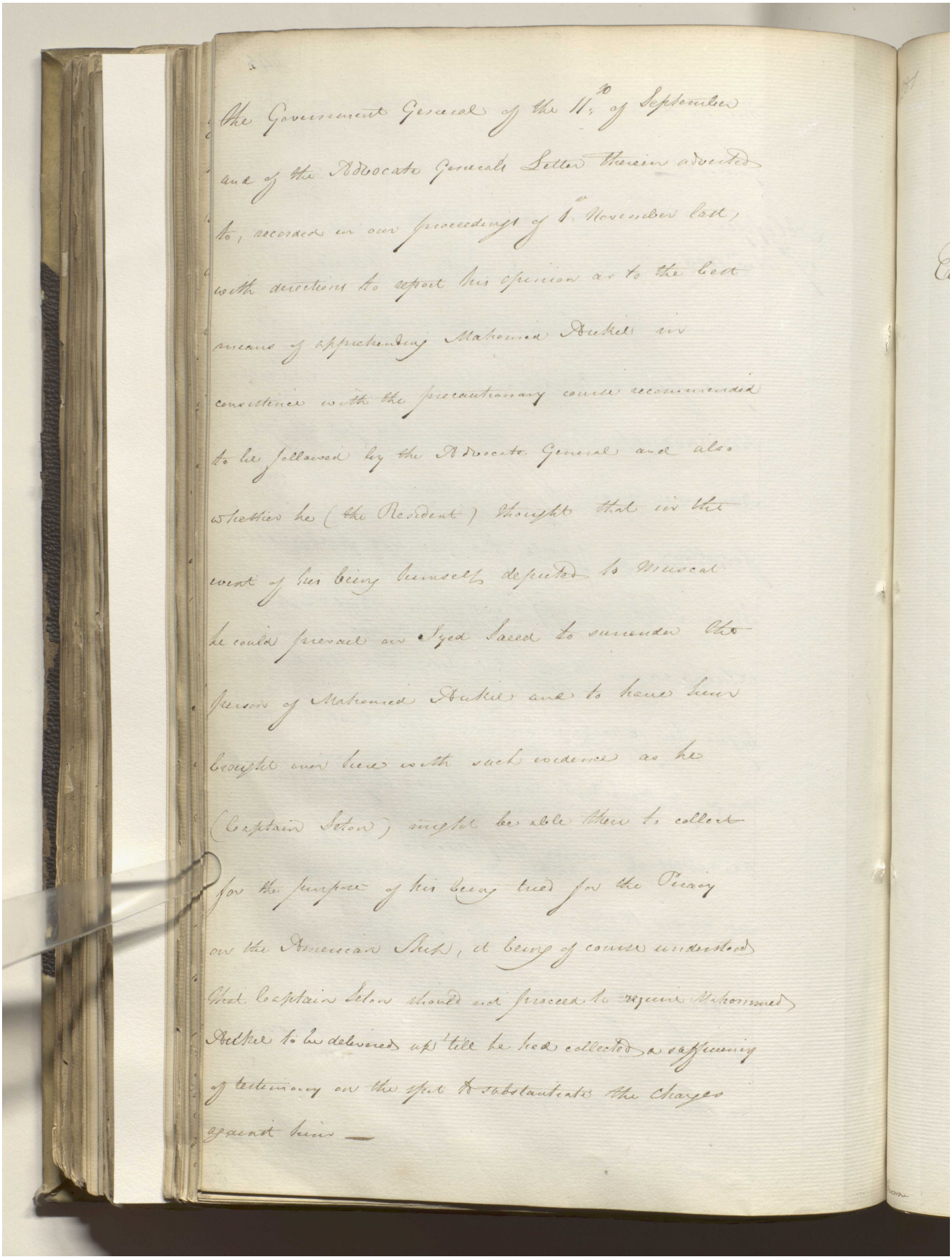

the Government General of the 11th of September
and of the Advocate General Letter therein adverted
to, recorded in our proceedings of 1st November last,
with directions to report his opinion as to the best
means of apprehending Mahomed Arkel in
consistence with the precautionary course recommended
to be followed by the Advocate General and also
whether he (the Resident) thought that in the
event of his being himself deputed to Muscat
he could prevail on Syed Saeed to surrender the
person of Mahomed Arkel and to have him
brought over here with such evidence as he
(Captain Seton) might be able there to collect
for the purpose of his being tried for the Piracy
on the American Ship, it being of course understood
that Captain Seton should not proceed to require Mahommed
Arkel to be delivered up till he had collected & affirming
of testimony on the spot & substantiated the Charges
against him —

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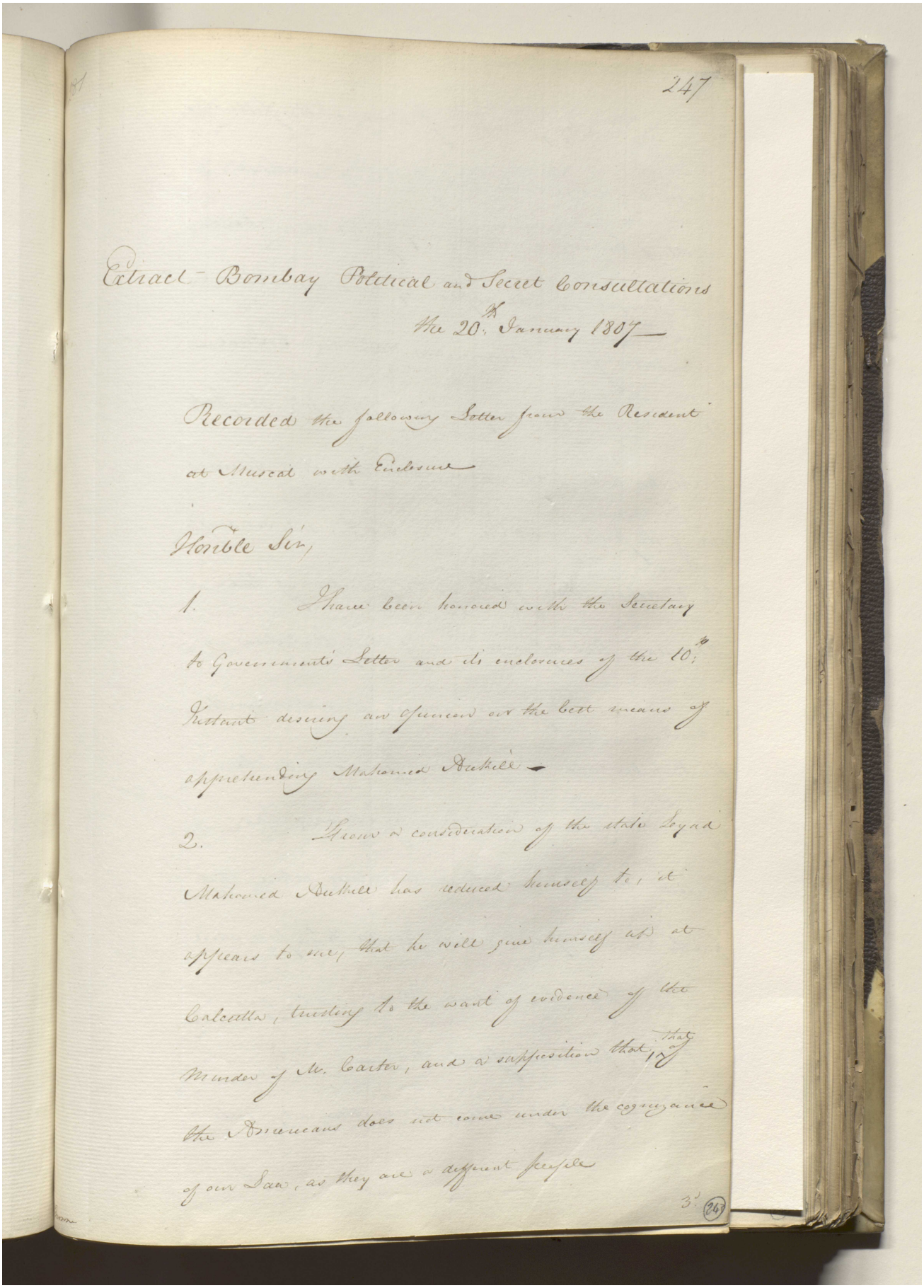

Extract - Bombay Political and Secret Consultations
the 20th January 1807 —

Recorded the following Letter from the Resident at Muscat with Enclosure

Honble Sir,

1. I have been honored with the Secretary to Government's Letter and its enclosures of the 10th Instant desiring an opinion on the best means of apprehending Mahomed Aukill —

2. From a consideration of the state Seyad Mahomed Aukill has reduced himself to, it appears to me, that he will give himself up at Calcutta, trusting to the want of evidence of the Murder of M. Carter, and a supposition that, that of the Americans does not come under the cognizance of our Law, as they are a different people

3d

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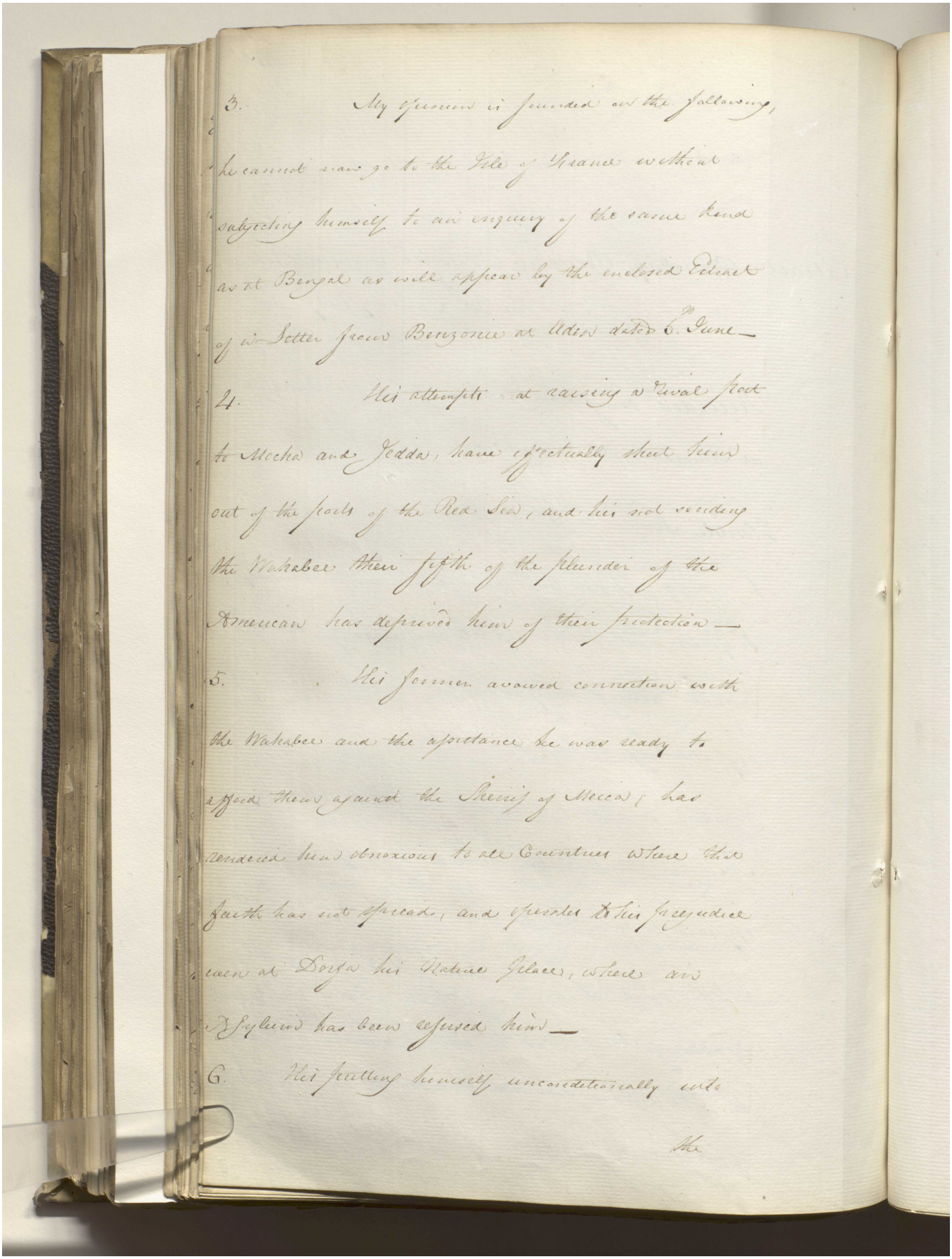

3. My opinion is founded on the following, he cannot now go to the Isle of France without subjecting himself to an enquiry of the same kind as at Bengal as will appear by the enclosed Extract of a Letter from Benzonie at Aden dated 6th June —

4. His attempts at raising a rival port to Mocha and Jedda, have effectually shut him out of the ports of the Red Sea, and his not sending the Wahabee their fifth of the plunder of the American has deprived him of their protection —

5. His former avowed connection with the Wahabee and the assistance he was ready to afford them against the Sherrif of Mecca, has rendered him obnoxious to all Countries where that faith has not spread, and operates to his prejudice even at Dorfa his Native place, where an Asylum has been refused him —

6. His putting himself unconditionally into

the

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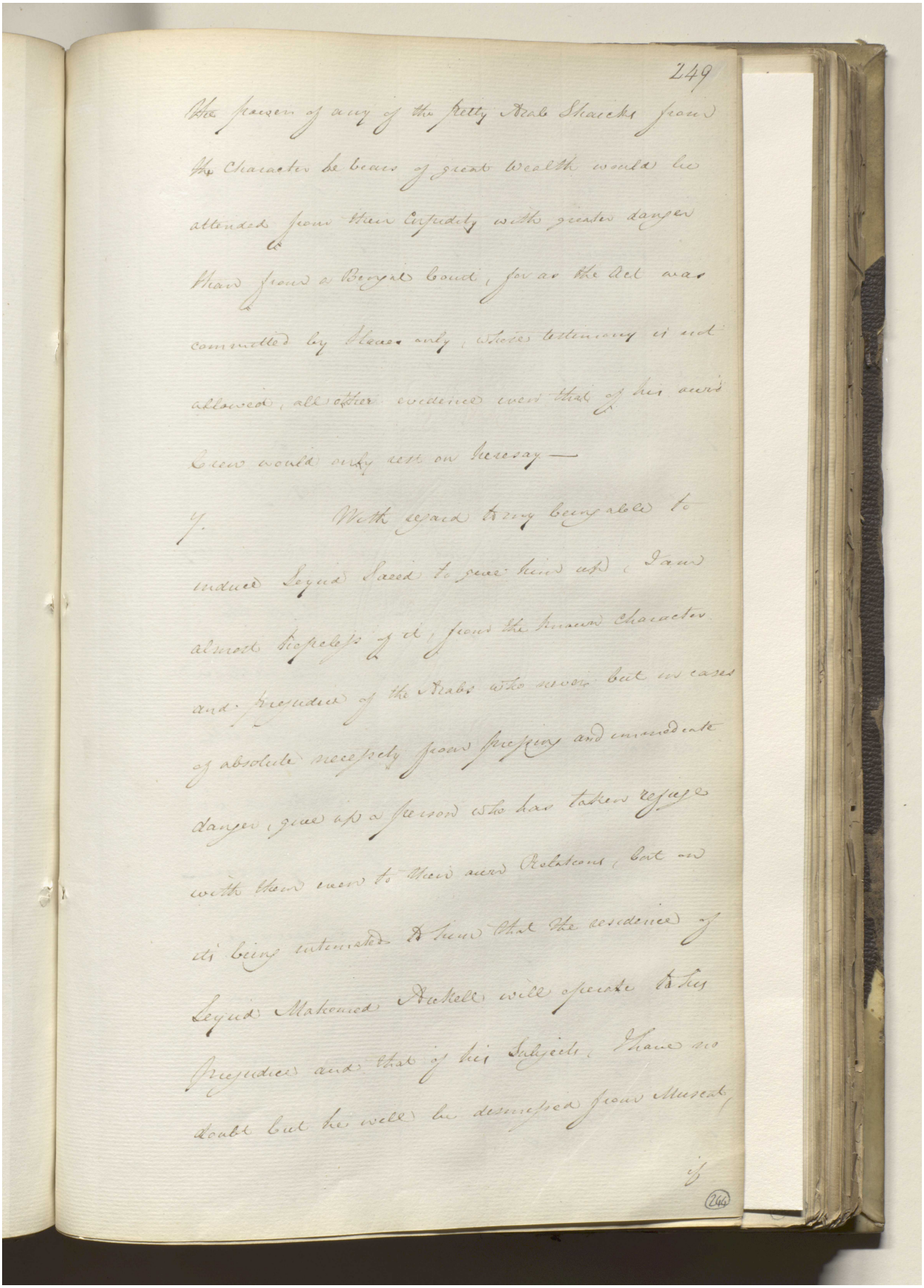
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [244r] (247/264)



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the power of any of the pretty Arab Shaicks from the Character he bears of great Wealth would be attended from their Expedity with greater danger than from a Bengal Court, for as the Act was committed by Slaves only, whose testimony is not allowed, all other evidence even that of his own Crew would only rest on heresay —

7. With regard to my being able to induce Seyid Saeed to give him up, I am almost hopeless of it, from the known Character and prejudice of the Arabs who never but in cases of absolute necessity from pressing and immediate danger, give up a person who has taken refuge with them even to their own Relations, but on its being intimated to him that the residence of Seyid Mahomed Aukell will operate to his prejudice and that of his Subjects, I have no doubt but he will be dismissed from Muscat,

if

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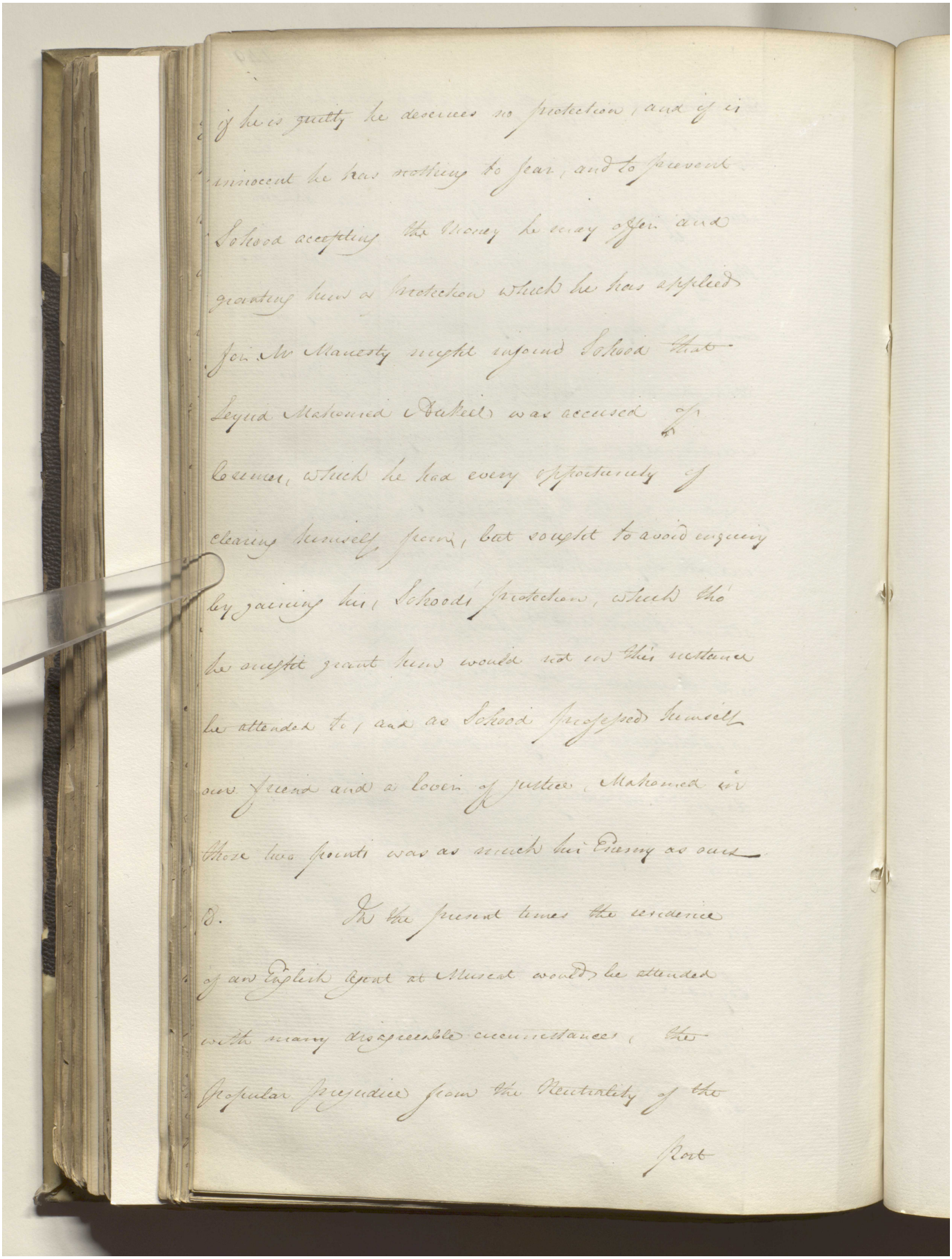

if he is guilty he deserves no protection, and if is innocent he has nothing to fear, and to prevent Sohood accepting the Money he may offer and granting him a protection which he has applied for. Mr Manesty might inform Sohood that Seyud Mahomed Aukeel was accused of Crimes, which he had every opportunity of clearing himself from, but sought to avoid enquiry by gaining his, Sohood's protection, which tho' he might grant him would not in this instance be attended to, and as Sohood professed himself our friend and a lover of justice, Mahomed in those two points was as much his Enemy as ours.

8. In the present times the residence of an English Agent at Muscat would be attended with many disagreeable circumstances, the popular prejudice from the Neutrality of the

Port

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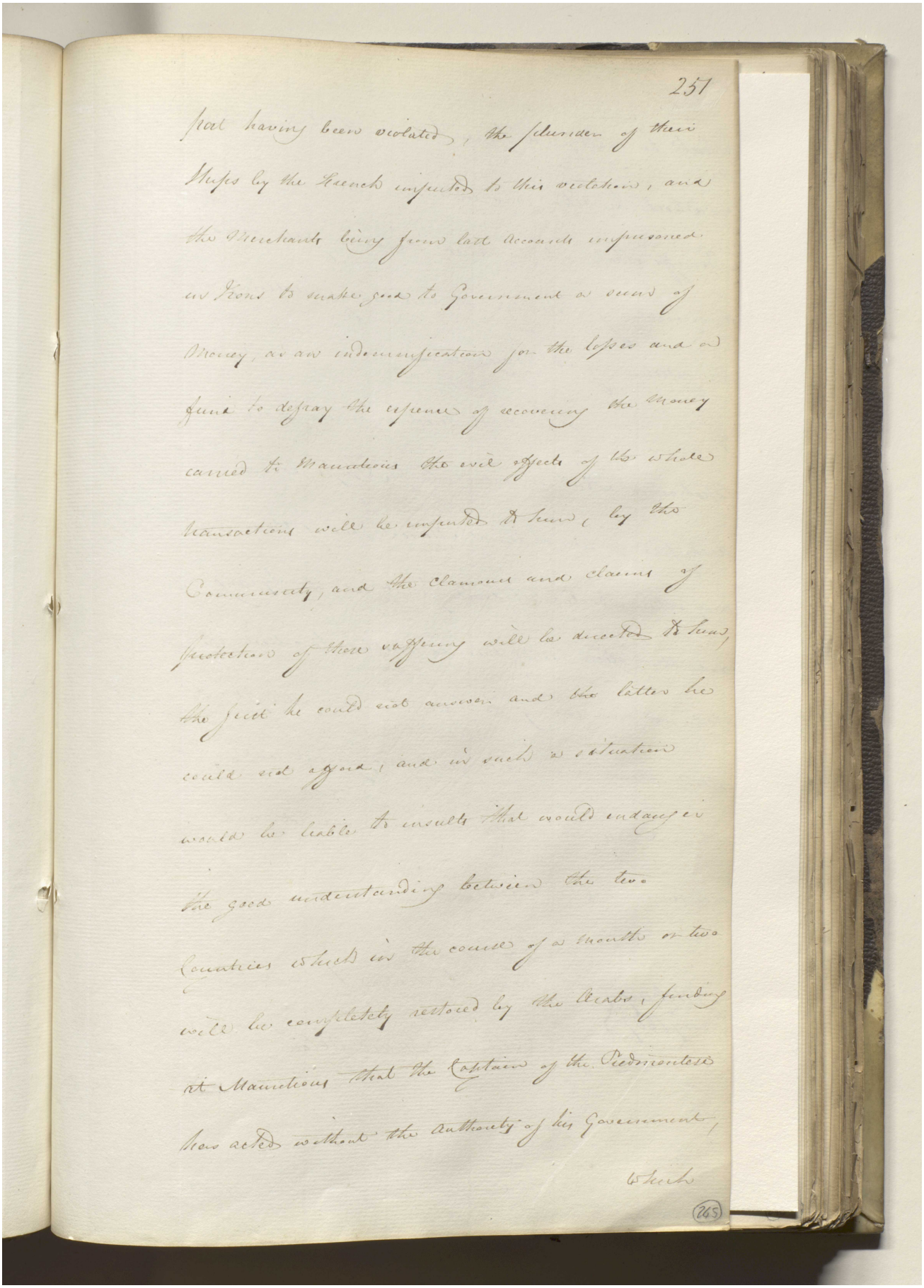

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flag having been violated, the plunder of their
Ships by the French imputed to this violation, and
the Merchants being from last accounts imprisoned
in Goa to make good to Government a sum of
Money, as an indemnification for the losses and a
fund to defray the expence of recovering the Money
carried to Mauritius the evil effects of the whole
transaction will be imputed at home, by the
Community, and the clamour and claims of
protection of those suffering will be directed to them,
the first he could not answer and the latter he
could not afford, and in such a situation
would be liable to insults that would endanger
the good understanding between the two
Countries which in the course of a month or two
will be completely restored by the Arabs, sending
at Mauritius that the Captain of the Piedmontese
has acted without the authority of his Government,
which

(245)

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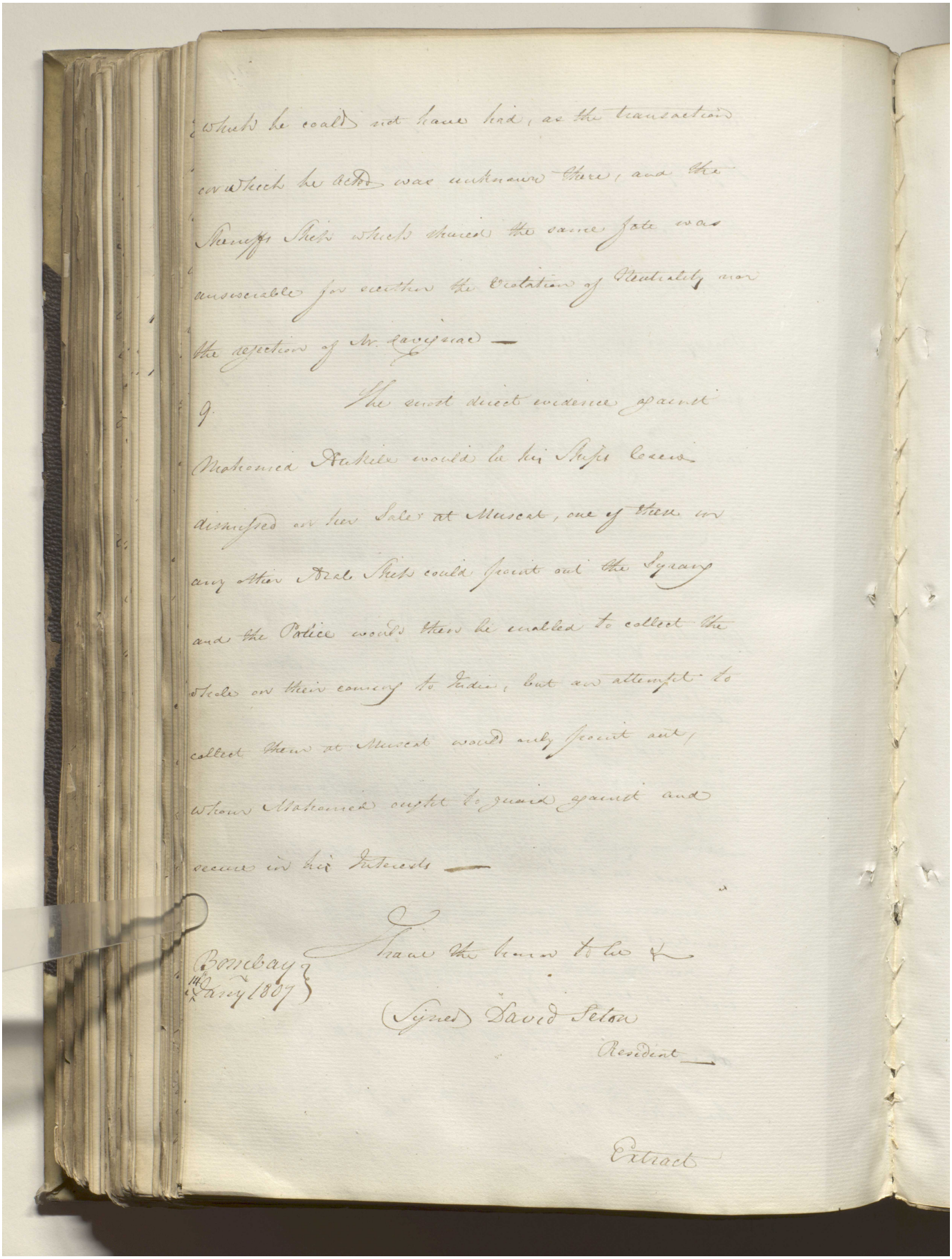

which he could not have had, as the transaction on which he acted was unknown there, and the Sheriffs Ship which shared the same fate was answerable for neither the Violation of Neutrality nor the rejection of Mr. Lavignac —

9. The most direct evidence against Mahomed Aukile would be his Ships Crew dismissed on her Sale at Muscat, one of these in any other Arab Ship could point out the Syrang and the Police would then be enabled to collect the whole on their coming to India, but an attempt to collect them at Muscat would only point out, whom Mahomed ought to guard against and secure in his Interests —

Bombay
14th Jany 1807

I have the honor to be &

(Signed) David Seton
Resident —

Extract

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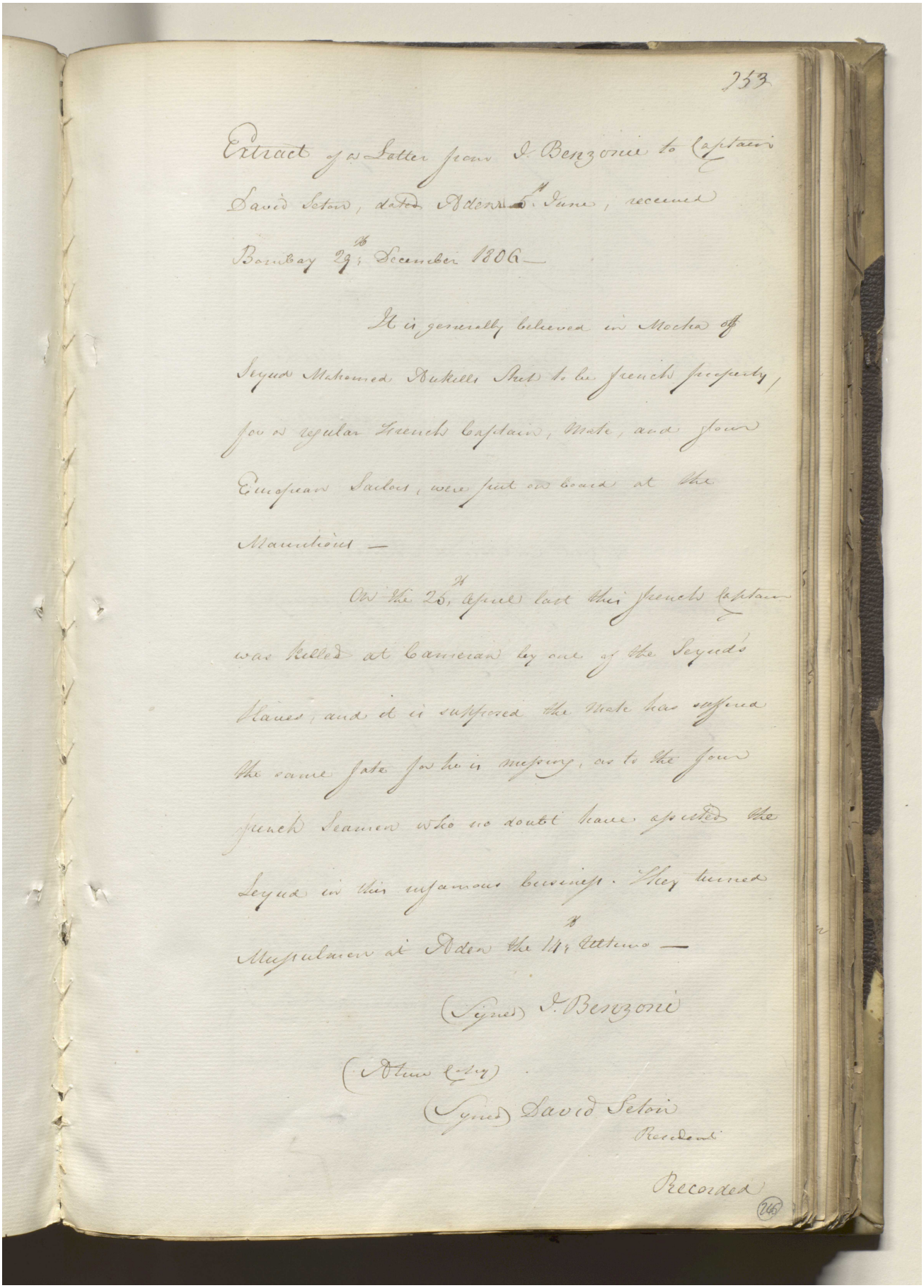
'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [246r] (251/264)



Extract of a Letter from I. Benzoni to Captain David Seton, dated Aden 5th June, received Bombay 29th December 1806 —

It is generally believed in Mocha of Seyud Mahomed Aukills Shit to be french property, for a regular French Captain, Mate, and four European Sailors, were put on board at the Mauritius —

On the 25th April last this french Captain was killed at Cameran by one of the Seyud's Slaves, and it is supposed the Mate has suffered the same fate for he is missing, as to the four french Seamen who no doubt have assisted the Seyud in this infamous business. They turned Mussulmen at Aden the 14th Ultimo —

(Signed) I. Benzoni

(A true Copy)

(Signed) David Seton
Resident

Recorded

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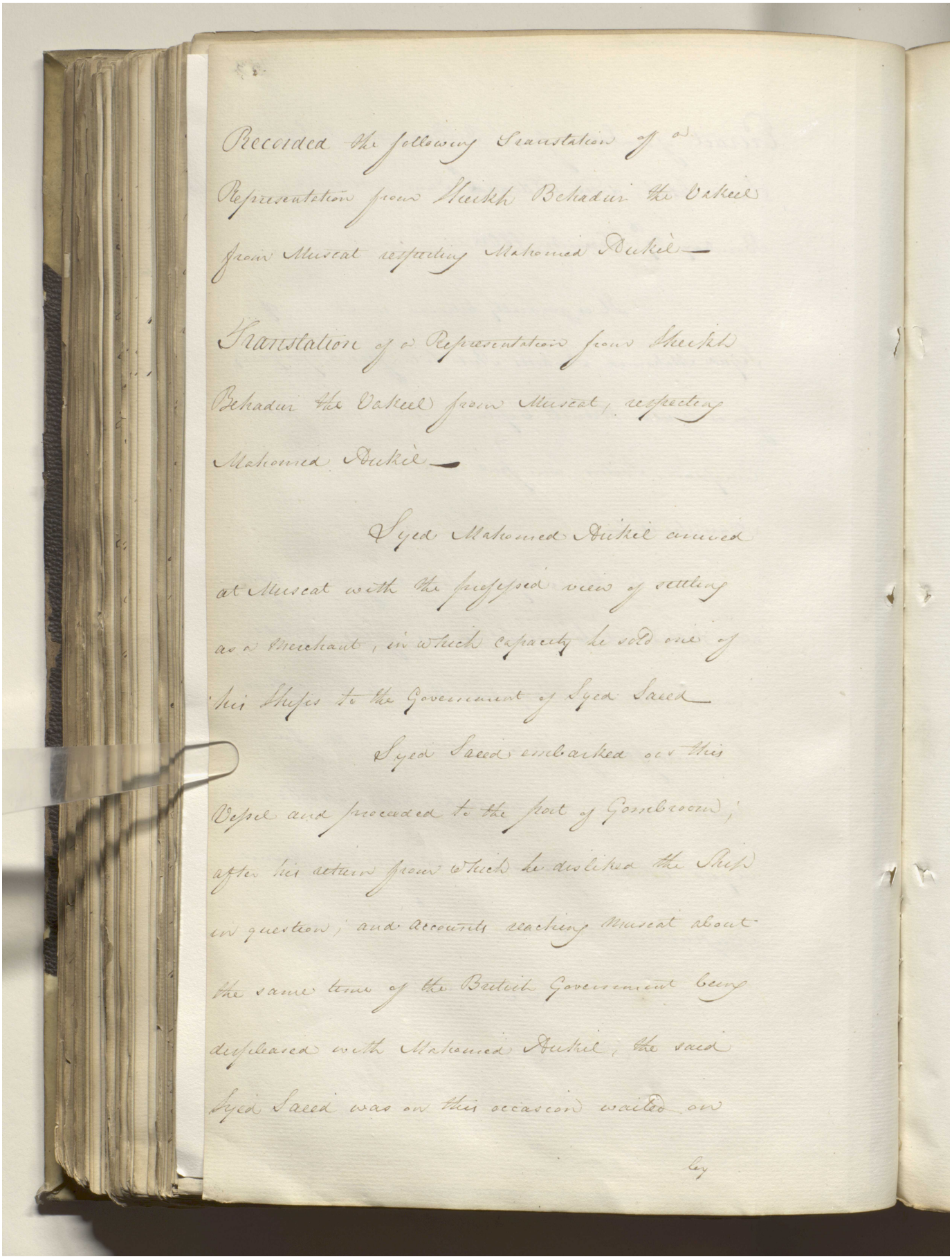

Recorded the following Translation of a
Representation from Sheikh Behadur the Vakeel
from Muscat respecting Mahomed Dukie —

Translation of a Representation from Sheikh
Behadur the Vakeel from Muscat, respecting
Mahomed Dukie —

Syed Mahomed Dukie arrived
at Muscat with the professed view of settling
as a Merchant, in which capacity he sold one of
his Ships to the Government of Syed Saeed —

Syed Saeed embarked on this
Vessel and proceeded to the Port of Gombroon;
after his return from which he disliked the Ship
in question; and Accounts reaching Muscat about
the same time of the British Government being
displeased with Mahomed Dukie, the said
Syed Saeed was on this occasion waited on

by

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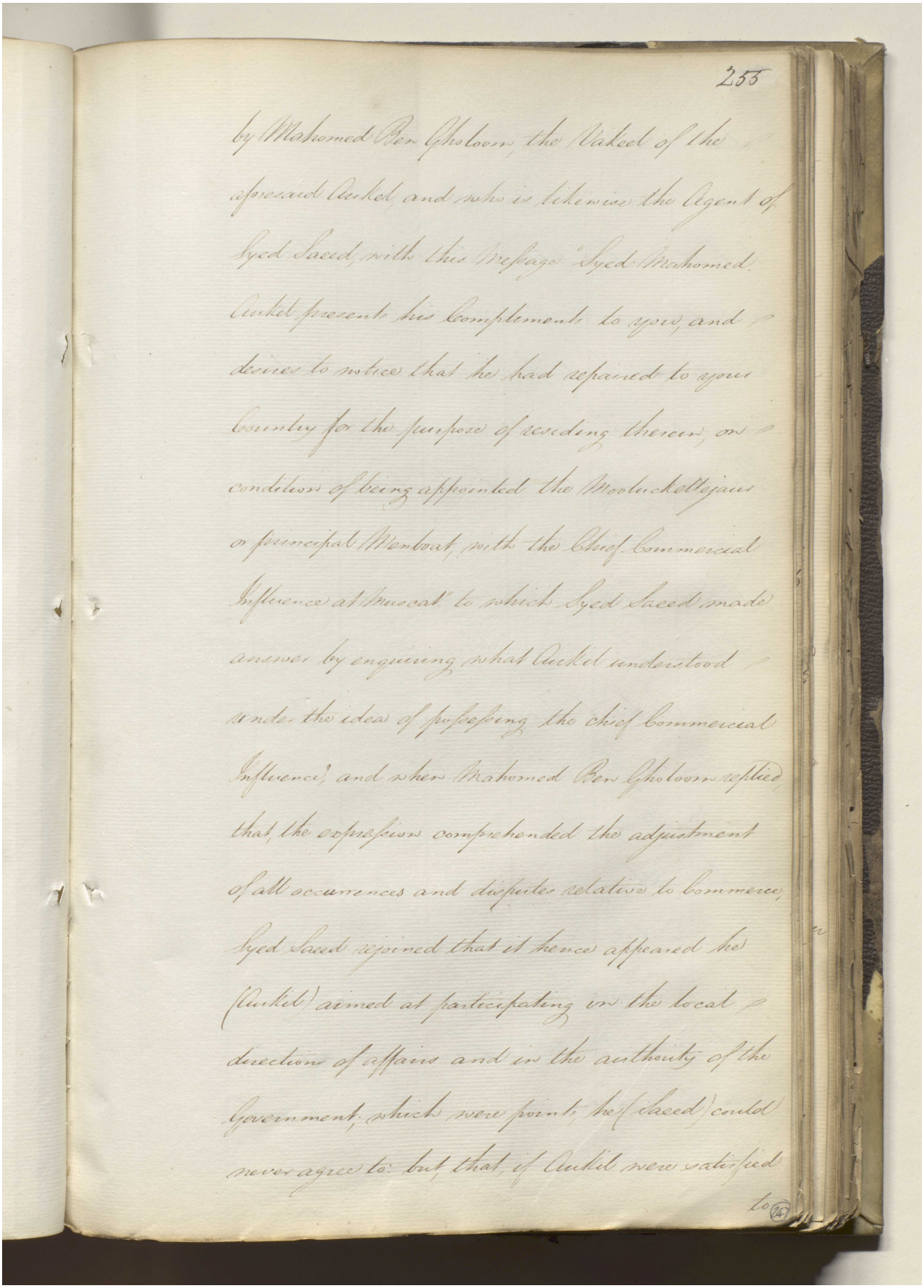
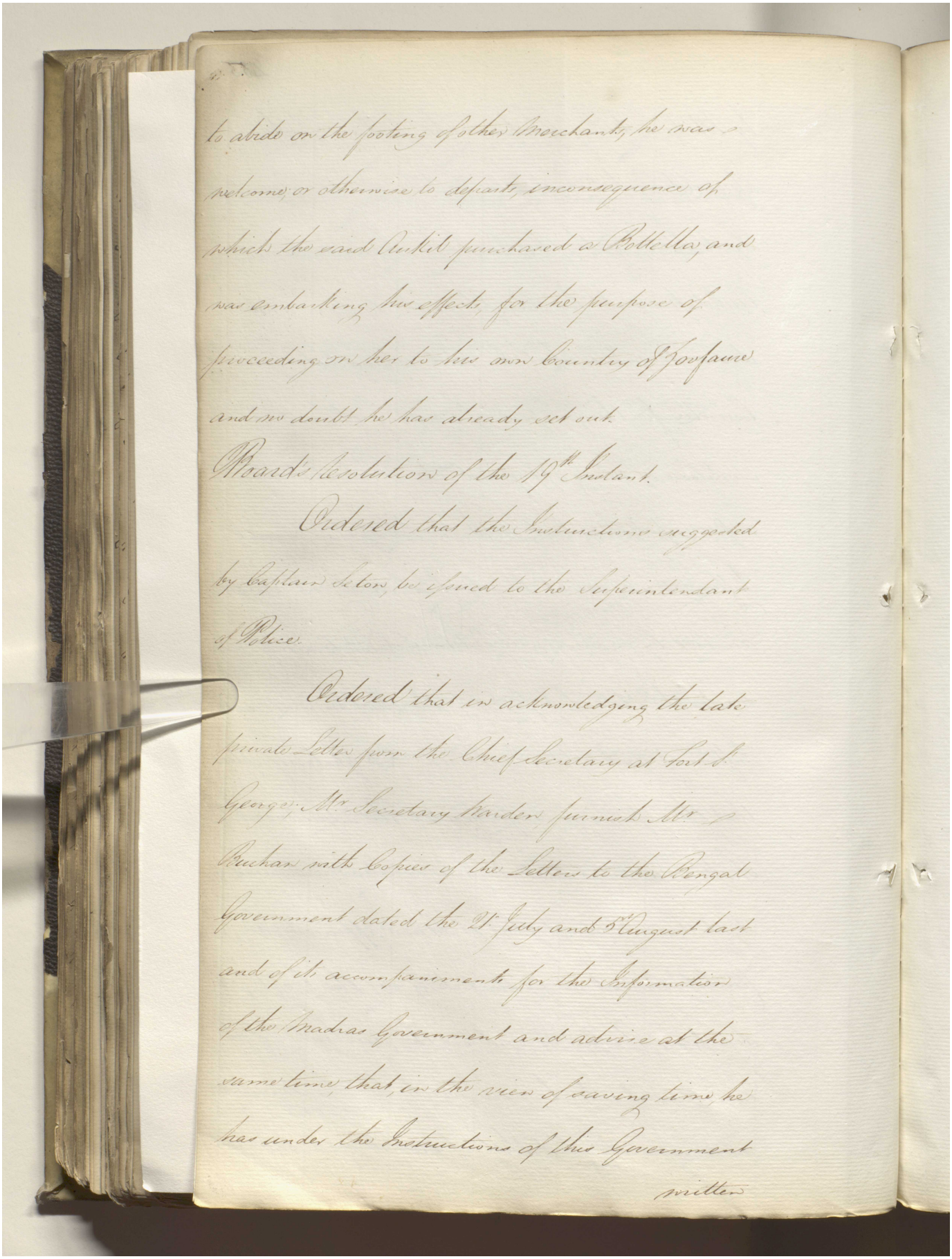


by Mahomed Ben Gholoom, the Naked of the
aforesaid Aurked, and who is likewise the Agent of
Syed Saeed, with this Message "Syed Mahomed
Aurked present his Compliments to you, and
desires to notice that he had repaired to your
Country for the purpose of residing thereon, on
conditions of being appointed the Woolucketteejaw
or principal Merchant, with the Chief Commercial
Influence at Muscat" to which Syed Saeed made
answer by enquiring what Aurkid understood
under the idea of professing the chief Commercial
Influence, and when Mahomed Ben Gholoom replied
that the expression comprehended the adjustment
of all occurrences and disputes relative to Commerce,
Syed Saeed rejoined that it hence appeared the
(Aurkid) aimed at participating in the local
direction of affairs and in the authority of the
Government, which were points the (Saeed) could
never agree to: but that, if Aurkid were satisfied
to



to abide on the footing of other Merchants, he was
welcome or otherwise to depart, in consequence of
which the said Corkil purchased a Bottella, and
was embarking his effects, for the purpose of
proceeding on her to his own Country of Joufaune
and no doubt he has already set out.

Board's Resolution of the 19th Instant.

Ordered that the Instructions suggested
by Captain Seton, be issued to the Superintendant
of Police.

Ordered that in acknowledging the late
private Letter from the Chief Secretary at Fort St.
George, Mr. Secretary Harden furnish Mr.
Buchan with Copies of the Letters to the Bengal
Government dated the 21st July and 5th August last
and of its accompaniments for the Information
of the Madras Government and advise at the
same time, that in the view of saving time he
has under the Instructions of this Government
written

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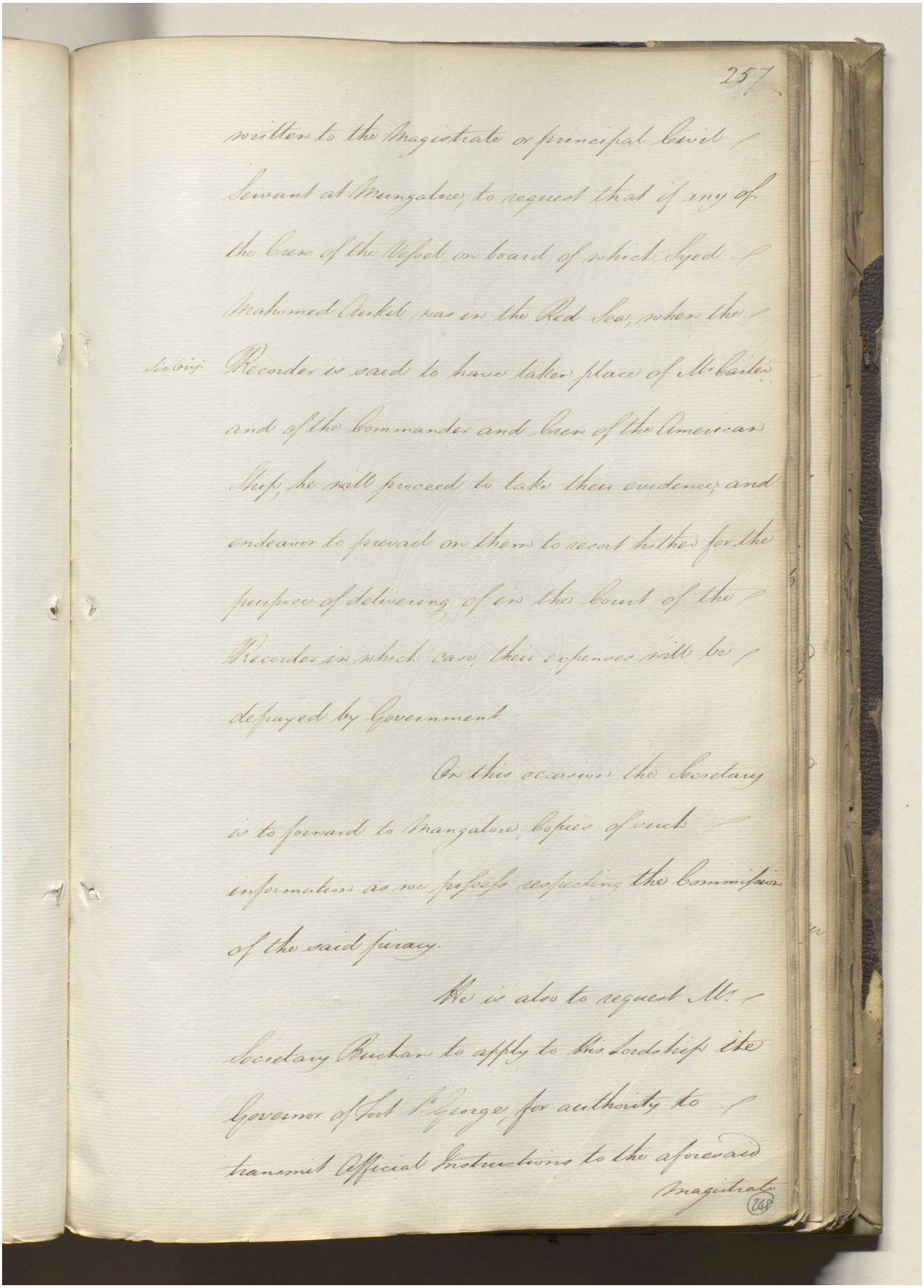

written to the Magistrate or principal Civil Servant at Mungalore, to request that if any of the Crew of the Vessel, on board of which Syed Mahomed Aukil was in the Red Sea, when the Recorder is said to have taken place of Mr Carter and of the Commander and Crew of the American Ship, he will proceed to take their evidence, and endeavor to prevail on them to resort hither for the purpose of delivering of in the Court of the Recorder in which case their expenses will be defrayed by Government.

Sic Orig.

On this occasion the Secretary is to forward to Mangalore, Copies of such information as we possess respecting the Commission of the said piracy.

He is also to request Mr Secretary Buchan to apply to His Lordship the Governor of Fort St George, for authority to transmit Official Instructions to the aforesaid Magistrate

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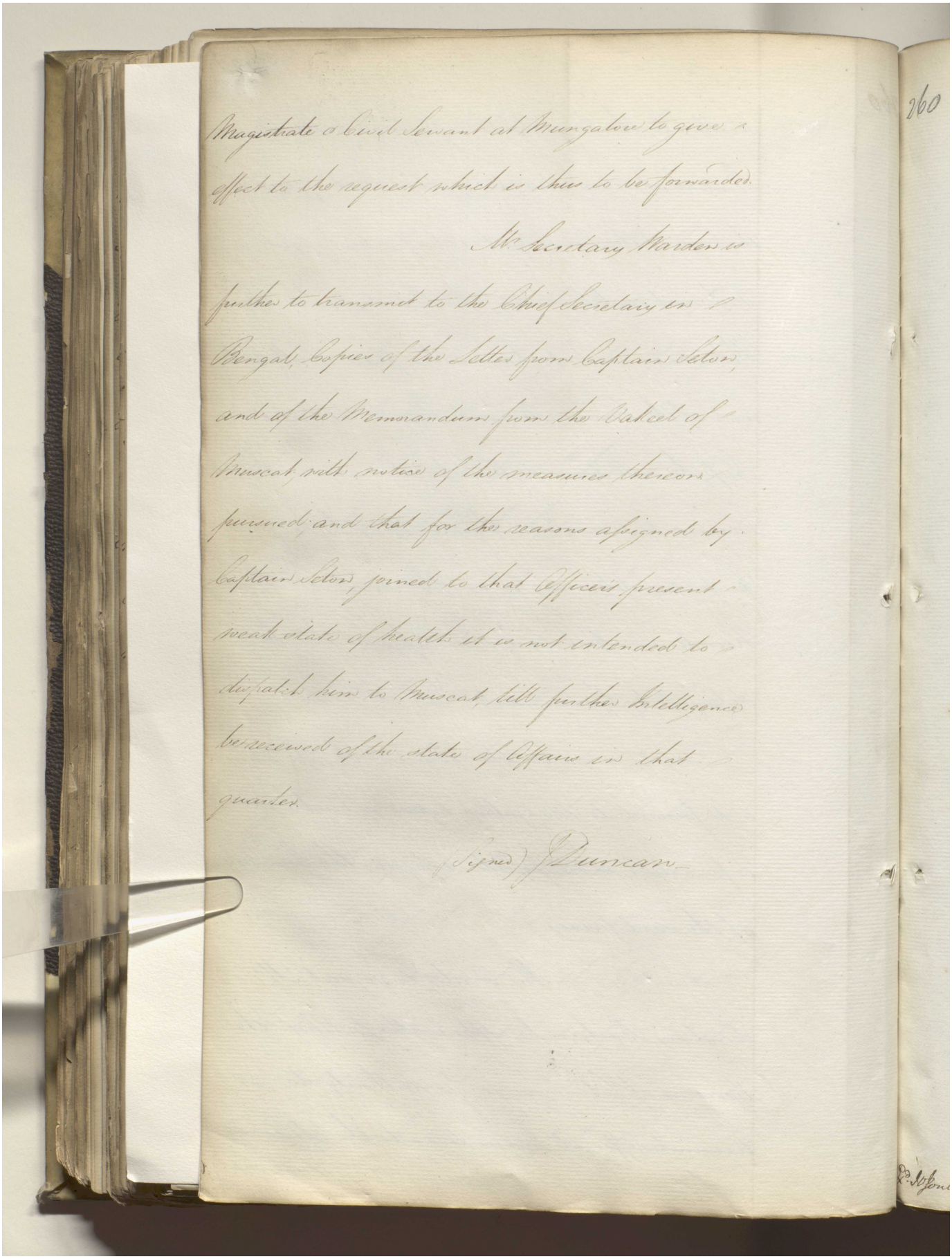

Magistrate & Civil Servant at Mungalow to give effect to the request which is thus to be forwarded.

Mr Secretary Marden is further to transmit to the Chief Secretary in Bengal, Copies of the Letter from Captain Nelson, and of the Memorandum from the Vakeel of Muscat, with notice of the measures thereon pursued: and that for the reasons assigned by Captain Nelson, joined to that Officers present weak state of health it is not intended to dispatch him to Muscat till further Intelligence be received of the state of Affairs in that quarter.

(Signed) J Duncan

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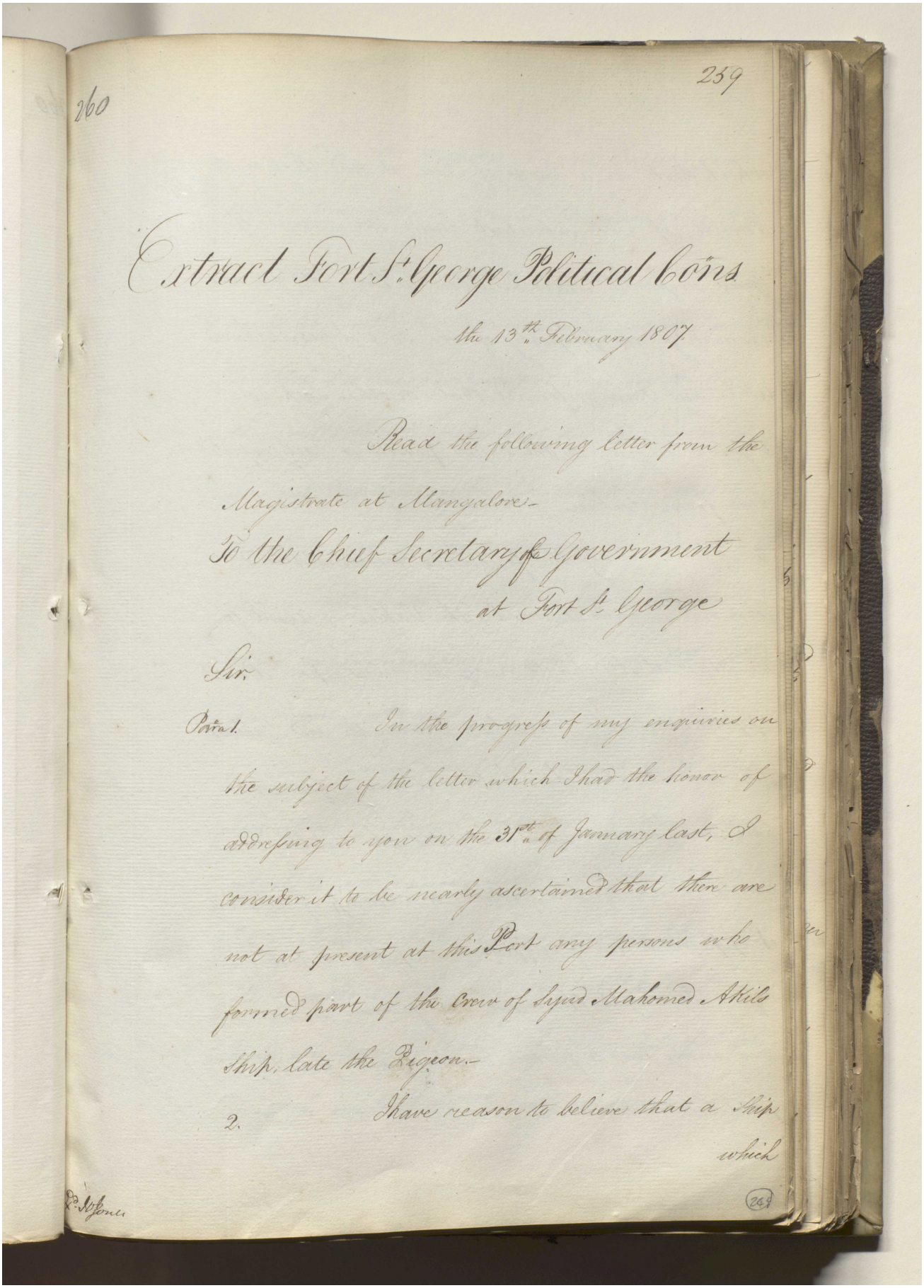

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Extract Fort St. George Political Cons.

the 13th. February 1807

Read the following letter from the Magistrate at Mangalore.

To the Chief Secretary to Government at Fort St. George

Sir.

Para. 1. In the progress of my enquiries on the subject of the letter which I had the honor of addressing to you on the 31st. of January last, I consider it to be nearly ascertained that there are not at present at this Port any persons who formed part of the Crew of Syud Mahomed Akils Ship, late the Pigeon.

2. I have reason to believe that a Ship which

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'Attempts of the French to obtain possession of the Island of Cameran in the Red Sea' [249v] (258/264)

which took in a Cargo of Rice at this Port in the Month of November last under the name of "Grab Hoossenie" Nacooda "Abdulla Been Yahya", was in reality the property of the said Syud Mahomed Akil - and I am informed that another Ship or Vessel belonging to the same person is daily expected here from Cochin.-

3. If the following circumstances communicated to me by the Vakeel or Agent for the Muscat Merchants may be relied upon it would appear that the connection between the said Mahomed Akil and the French, whatever it may formerly have been is now dissolved - Altho' the intelligence wants much of the feature and stamp of authenticity, it appears to be of sufficient importance to be laid before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council as it may lead to further enquiries and possibly political consequences.-

His

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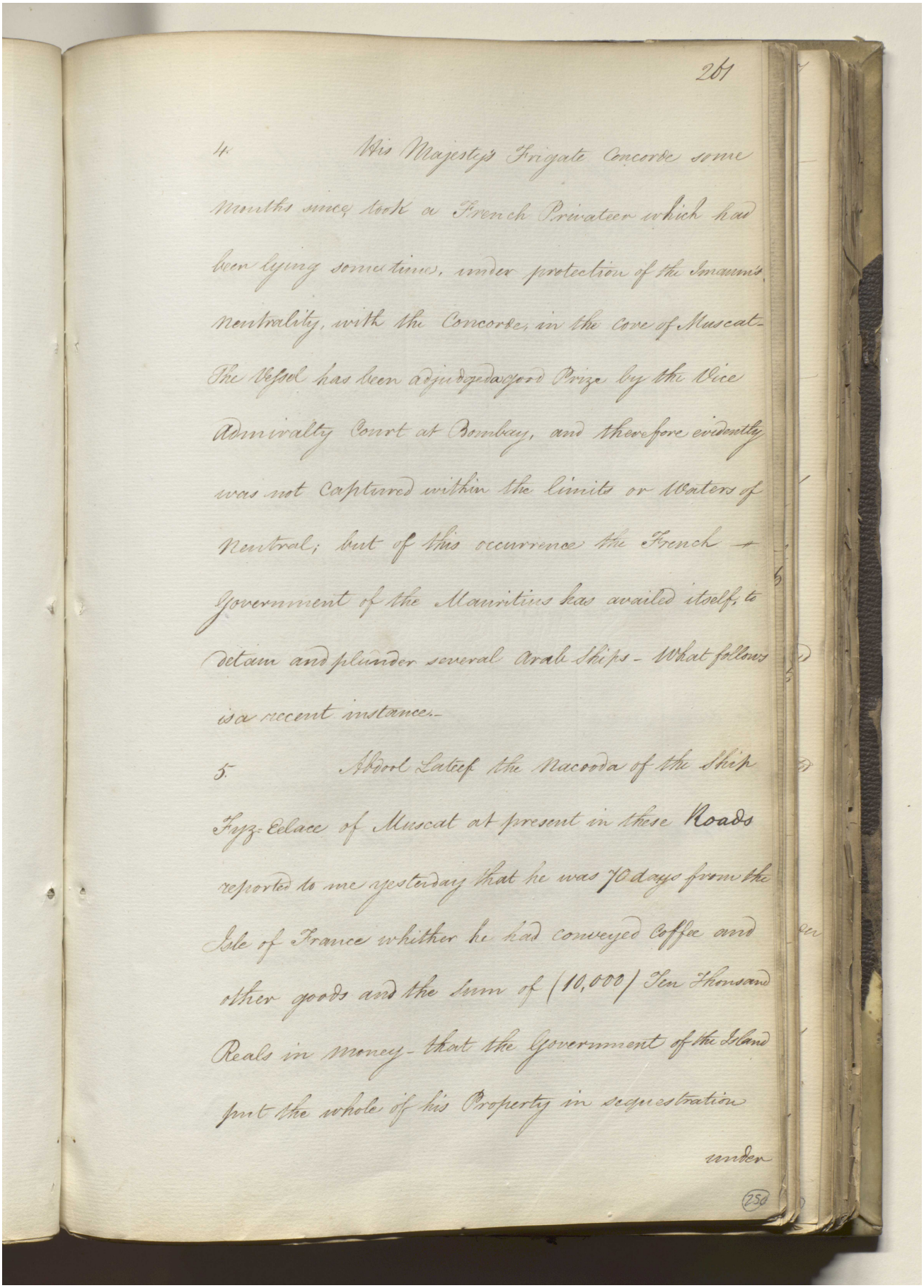

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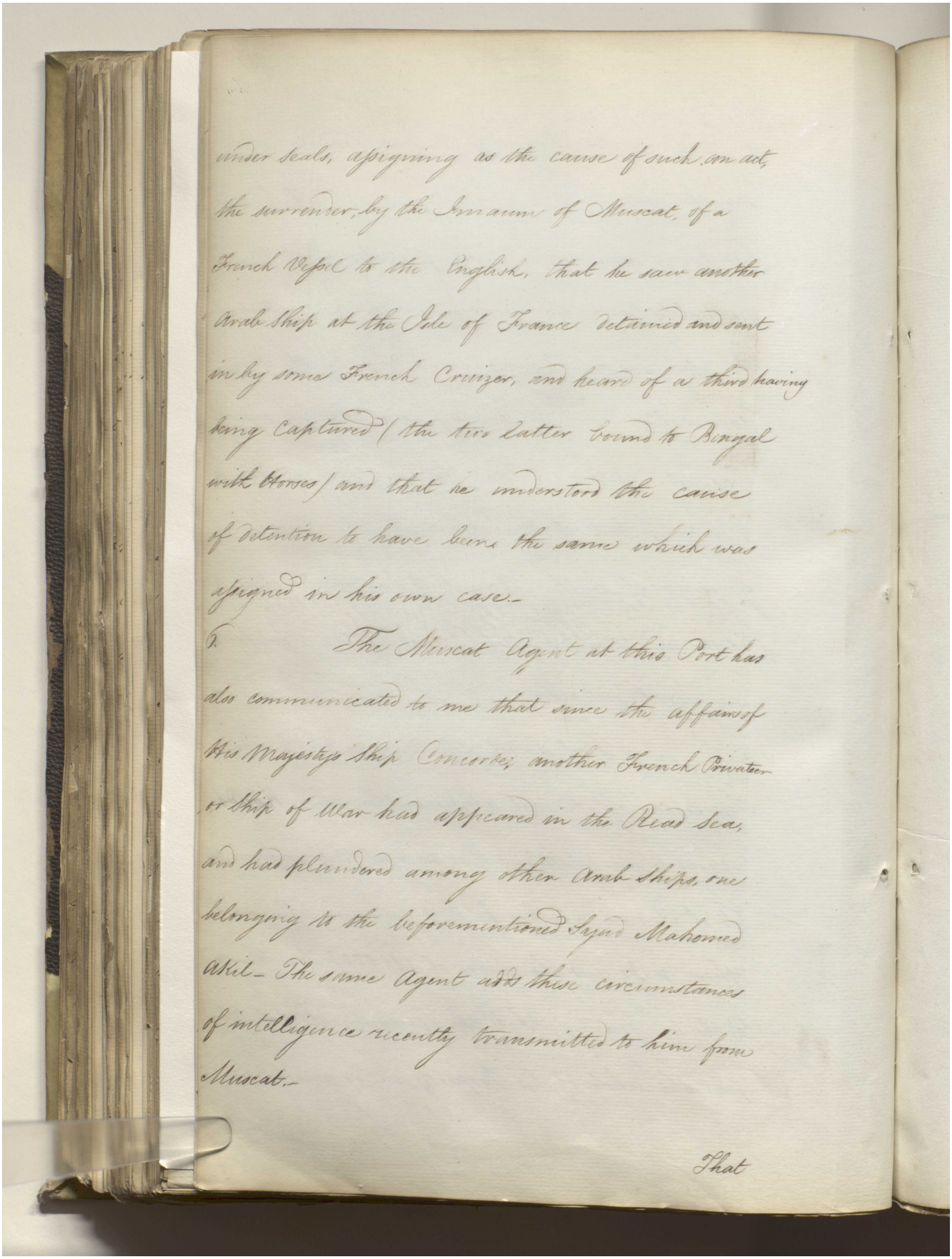
4. His Majesty's Frigate Concorde some months since took a French Privateer which had been lying sometime, under protection of the Imaum's neutrality, with the Concorde, in the Cove of Muscat. The Vessel has been adjudged a good Prize by the Vice Admiralty Court at Bombay, and therefore evidently was not captured within the limits or Waters of Neutral; but of this occurrence the French Government of the Mauritius has availed itself, to detain and plunder several Arab Ships - What follows is a recent instance.

5. Abool Latief the Nacooda of the Ship Fyz-Eelace of Muscat at present in these Roads reported to me yesterday that he was 70 days from the Isle of France whither he had conveyed Coffee and other goods and the Sum of (10,000) Ten Thousand Reals in money - that the Government of the Island put the whole of his Property in sequestration under

250



under seals, assigning as the cause of such an act, the surrender, by the Imaum of Muscat, of a French Vessel to the English, that he saw another Arab Ship at the Isle of France detained and sent in by some French Cruizer, and heard of a third having being captured / the two latter bound to Bengal with Horses / and that he understood the cause of detention to have been the same which was assigned in his own case.-

5. The Muscat Agent at this Port has also communicated to me that since the affair of His Majesty's Ship Concorde; another French Privateer or Ship of War had appeared in the Read Sea, and had plundered among other Arab Ships, one belonging to the beforementioned Syud Mahomed Akil.- The same Agent adds these circumstances of intelligence recently transmitted to him from Muscat.-

That

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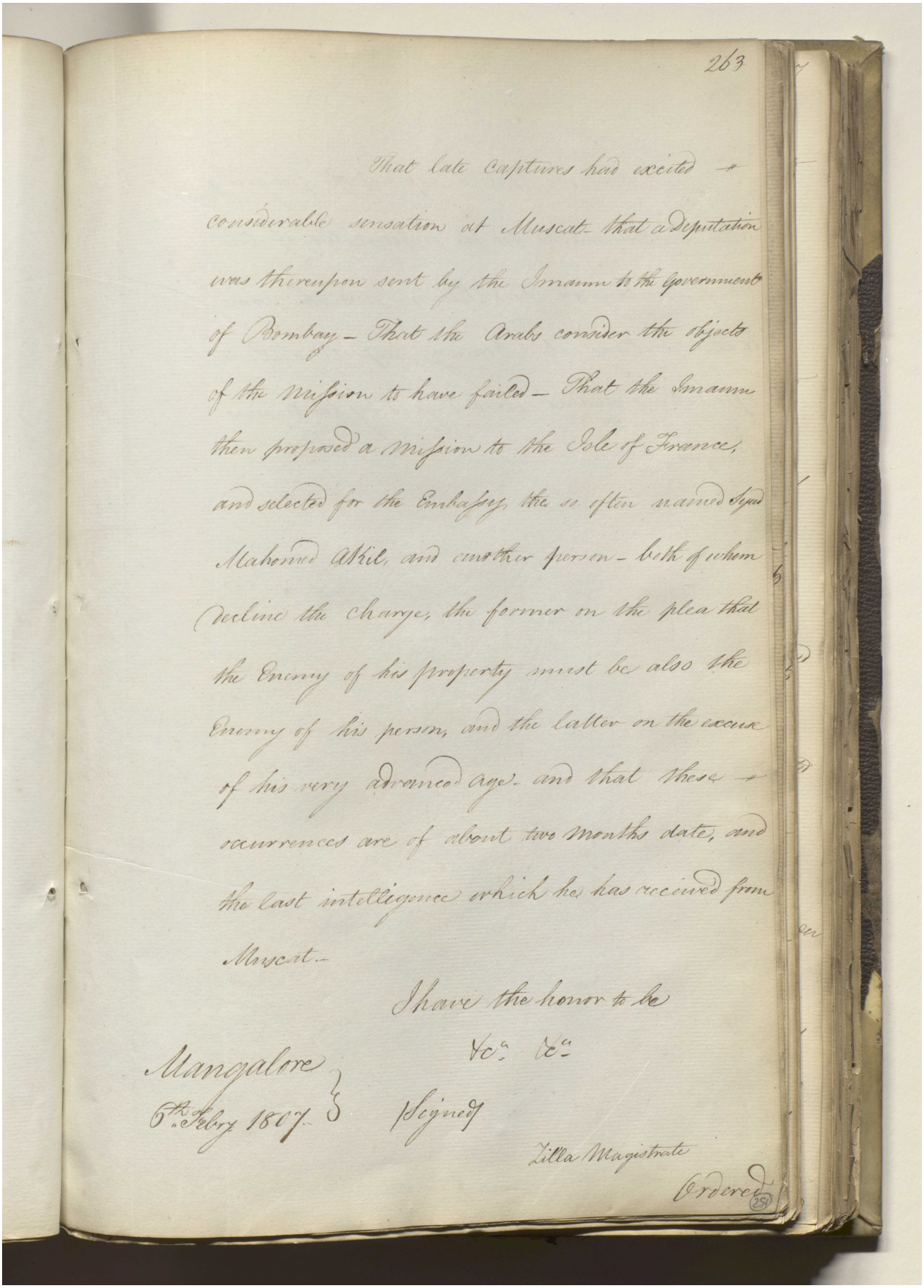

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That late captures had excited a considerable sensation at Muscat – that a deputation was thereupon sent by the Imaum to the Government of Bombay – That the Arabs consider the objects of the Mission to have failed – That the Imaum then proposed a Mission to the Isle of France, and selected for the Embassy, the so often named Syud Mahomed Akil, and another person – both of whom decline the charge, the former on the plea that the Enemy of his property must be also the Enemy of his person, and the latter on the excuse of his very advanced age – and that these occurrences are of about two months date, and the last intelligence which he has received from Muscat –

I have the honor to be
&c. &c.

Mangalore
6th Febry 1807

Signed
Zilla Magistrate

Ordered

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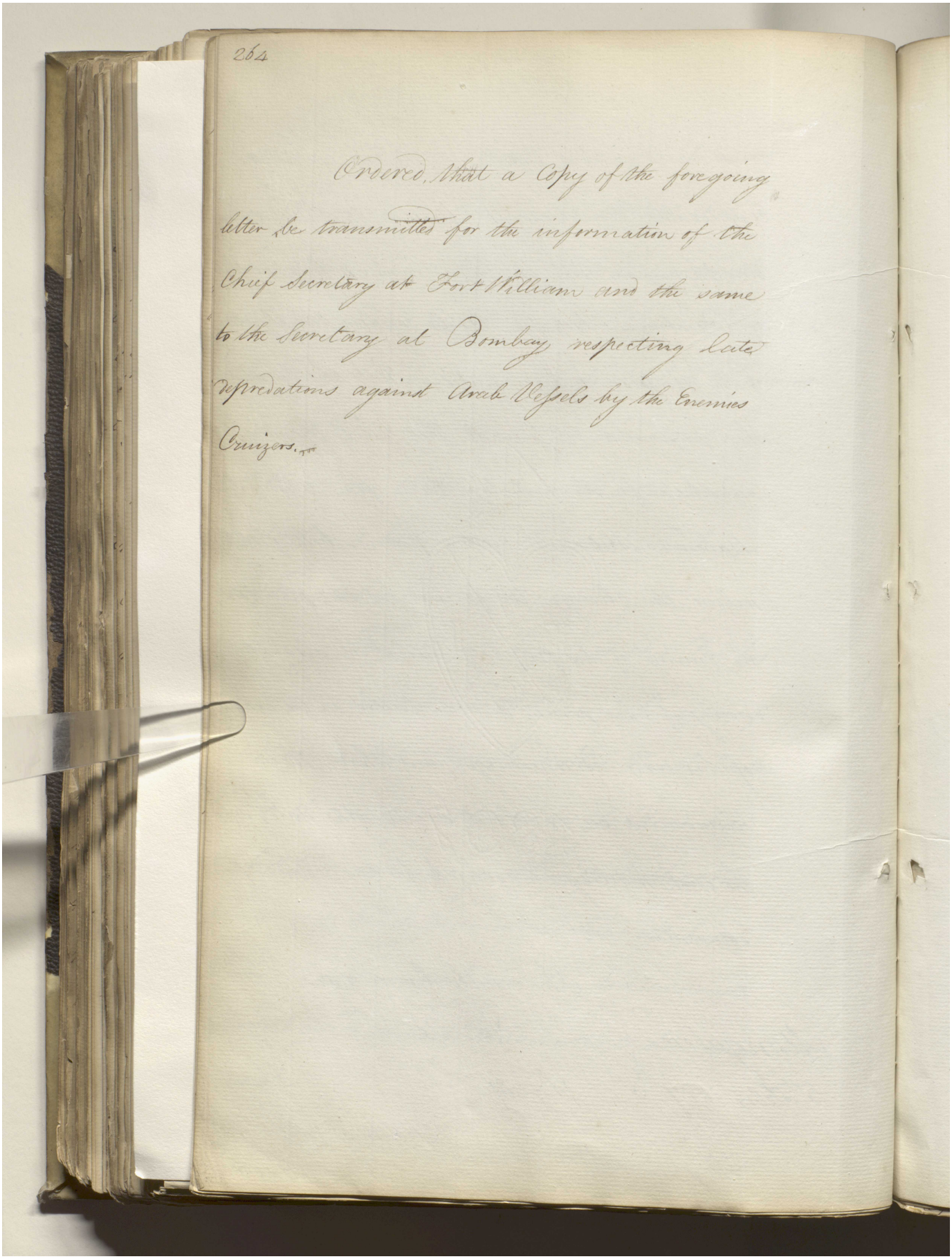

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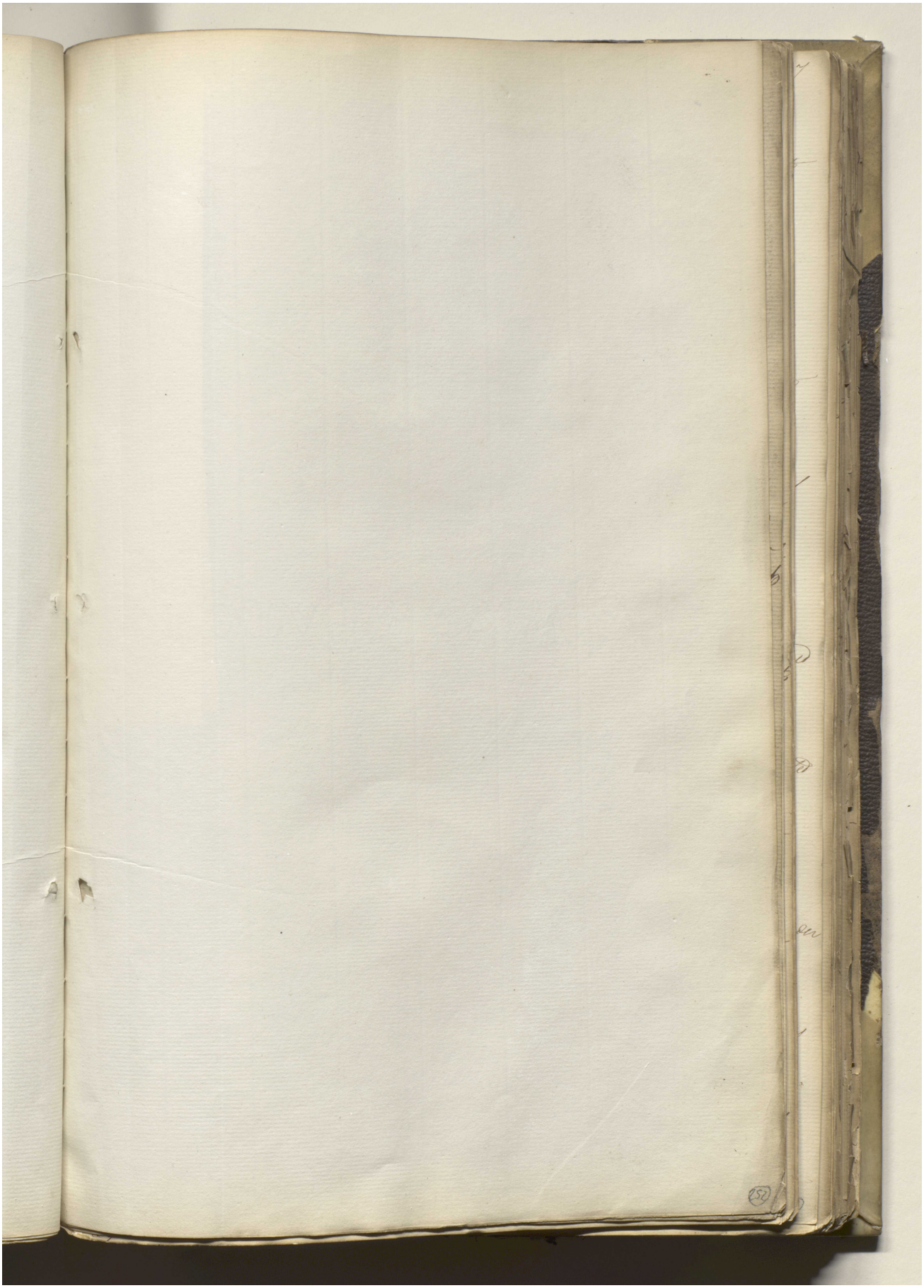
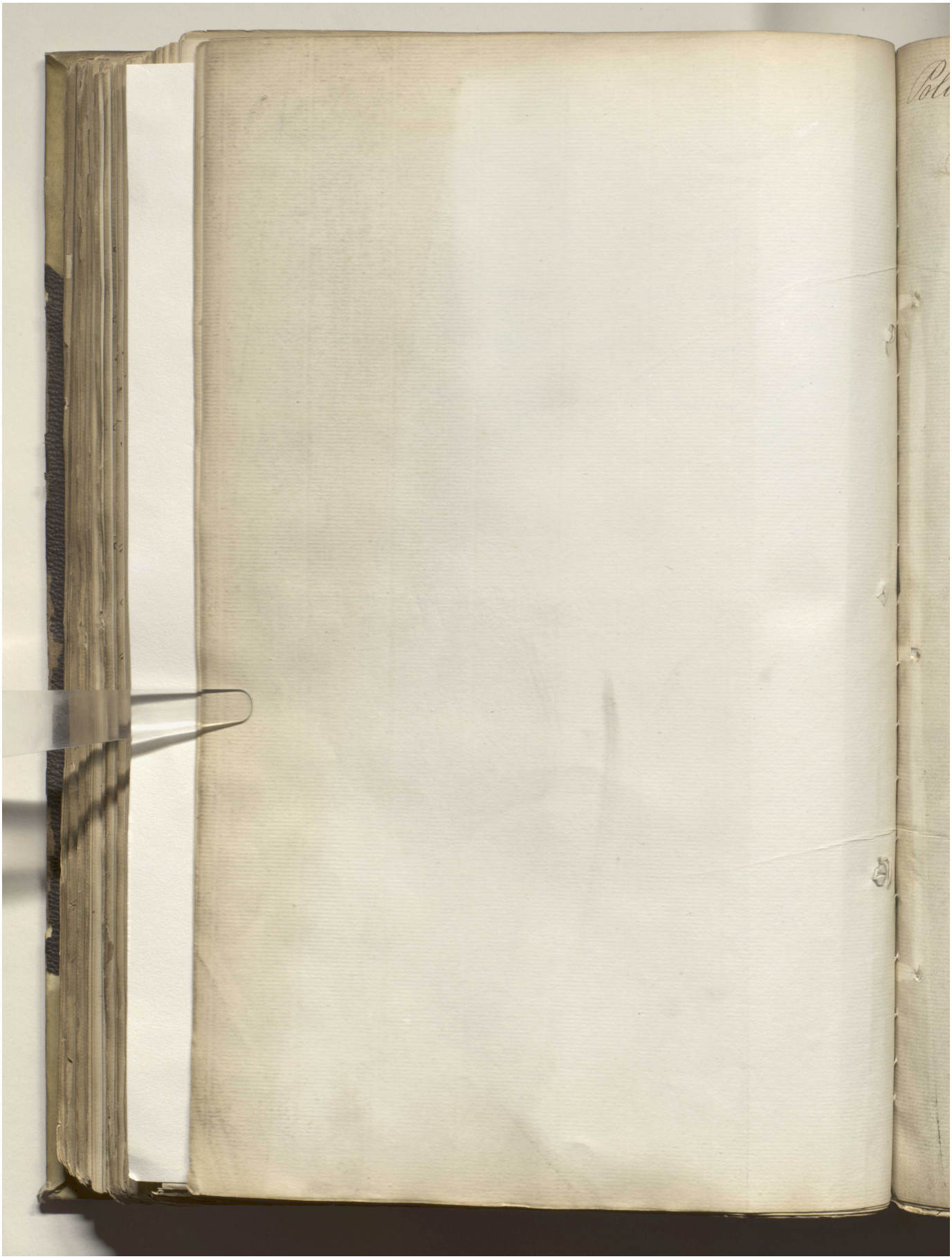
Ordered, that a Copy of the foregoing letter be transmitted for the information of the Chief Secretary at Fort William and the same to the Secretary at Bombay respecting late depredations against Arab Vessels by the Enemies Cruizers.





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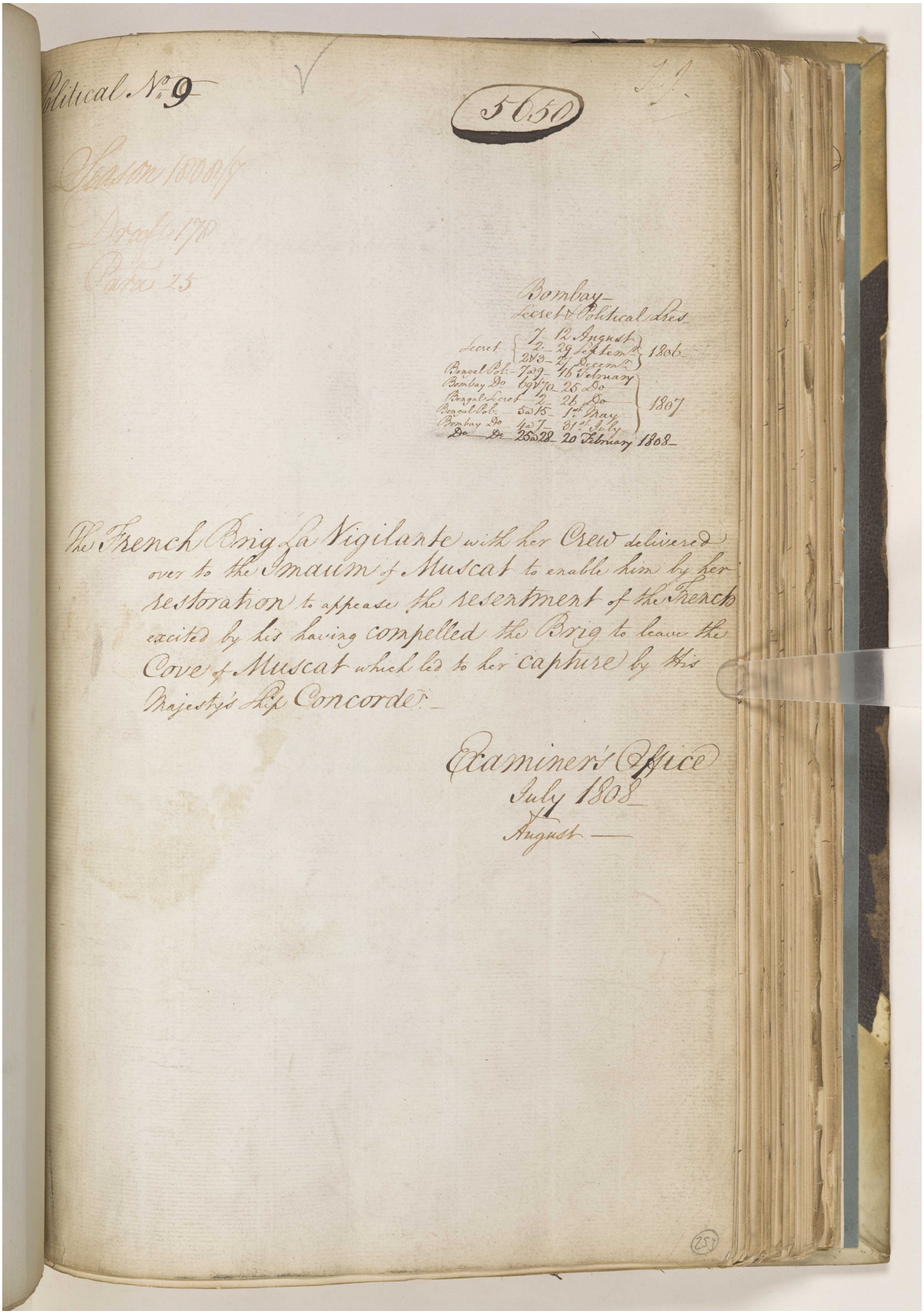
'The French Brig La Vigilante with her Crew delivered over to the Imaum of Muscat to enable him by her restoration to appease the resentment of the French excited by his having compelled the Brig to leave the Cove of Muscat which led to her capture by His Majesty's Ship Concorde' [253r] (1/224)



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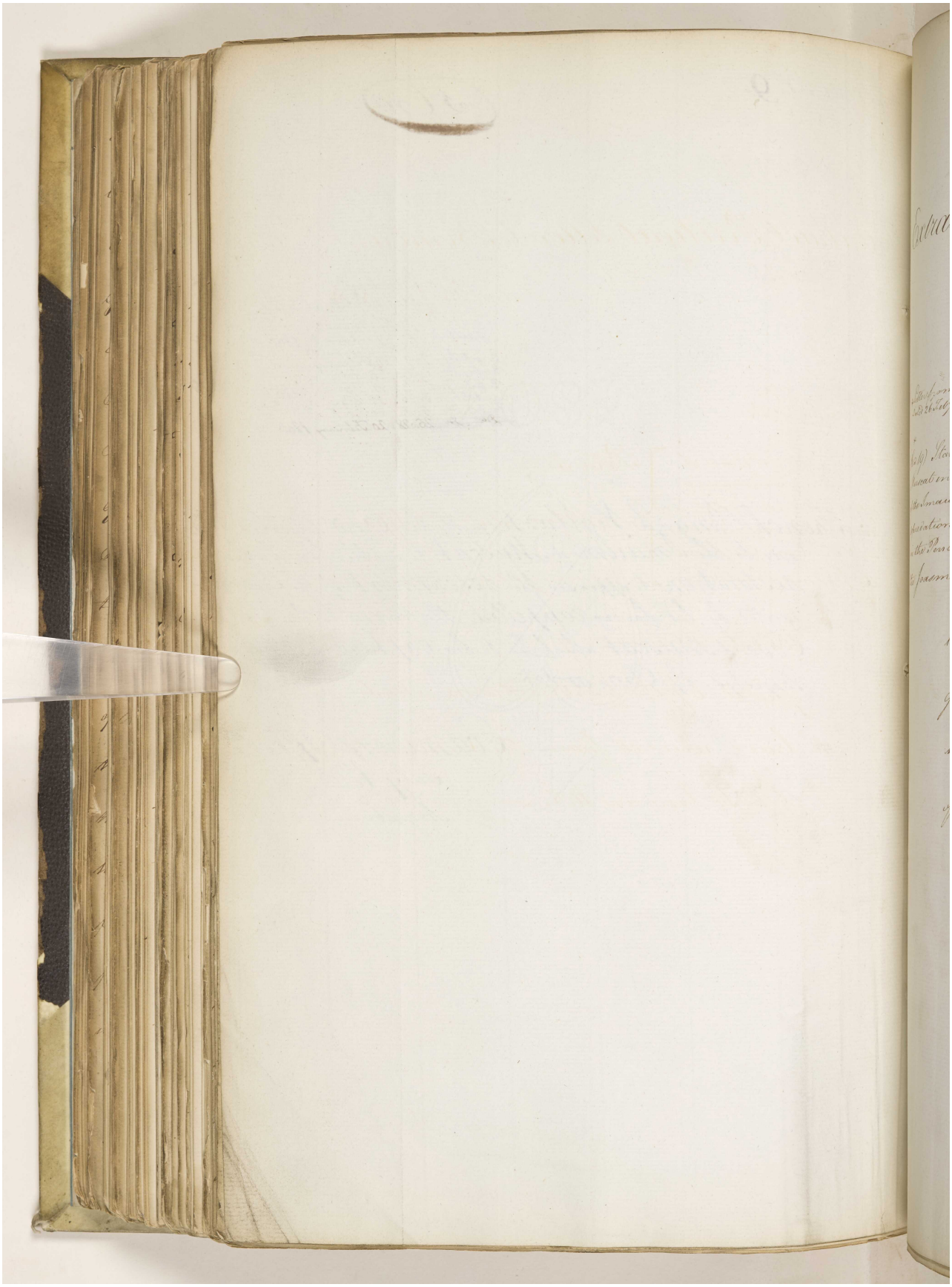
'The French Brig La Vigilante with her Crew delivered over to the Imaum of Muscat to enable him by her restoration to appease the resentment of the French excited by his having compelled the Brig to leave the Cove of Muscat which led to her capture by His Majesty's Ship Concorde' [253v] (2/224)



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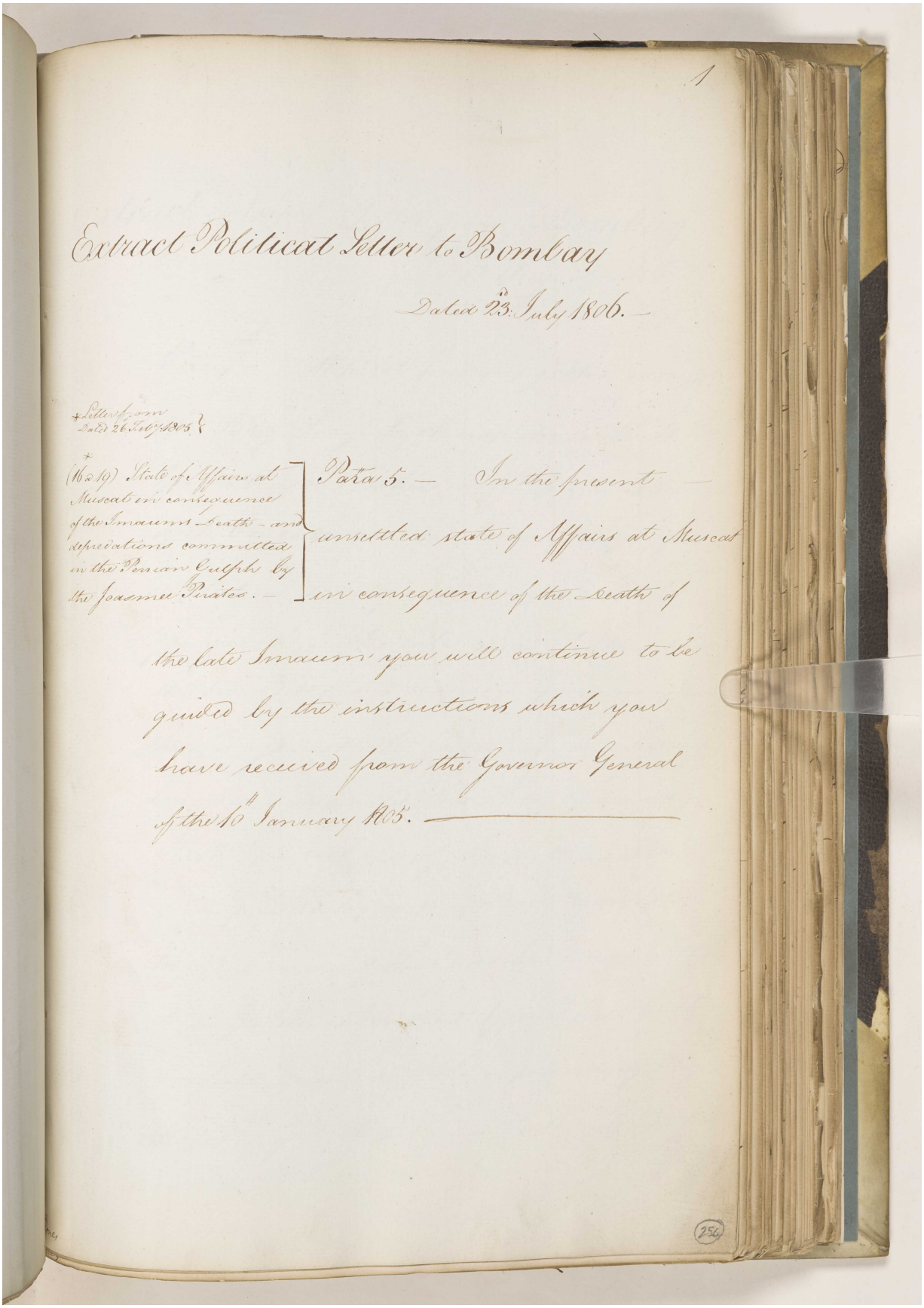

1

Extract Political Letter to Bombay

Dated 23. July 1806.

*Letter from Dated 26 July 1805

*(1619) State of Affairs at Muscat in consequence of the Imaums death - and depredations committed in the Persian Gulph by the Joasmee Pirates. —

Para 5. — In the present unsettled state of Affairs at Muscat in consequence of the death of the late Imaum you will continue to be guided by the instructions which you have received from the Governor General of the 16th January 1805. ——

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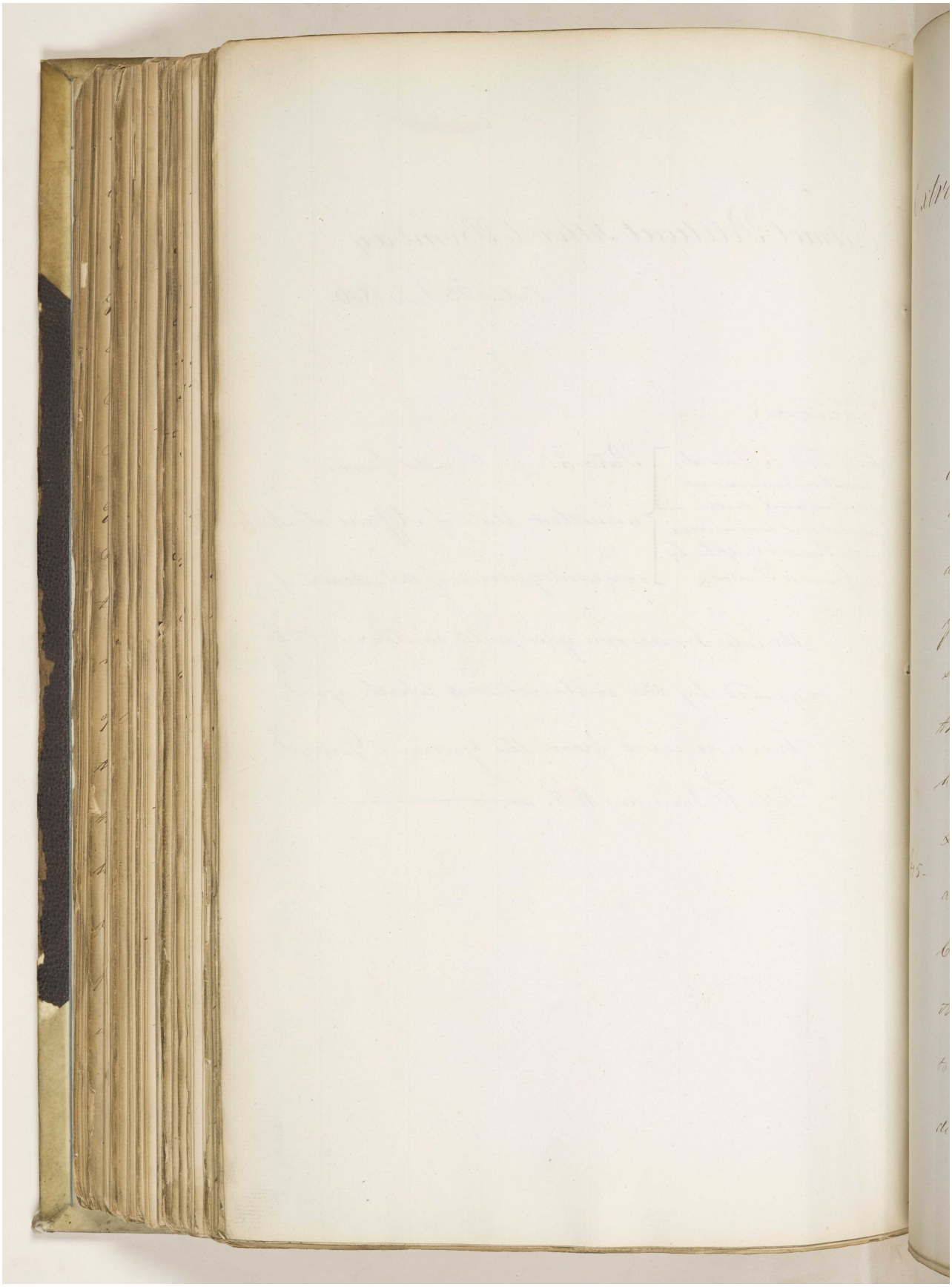

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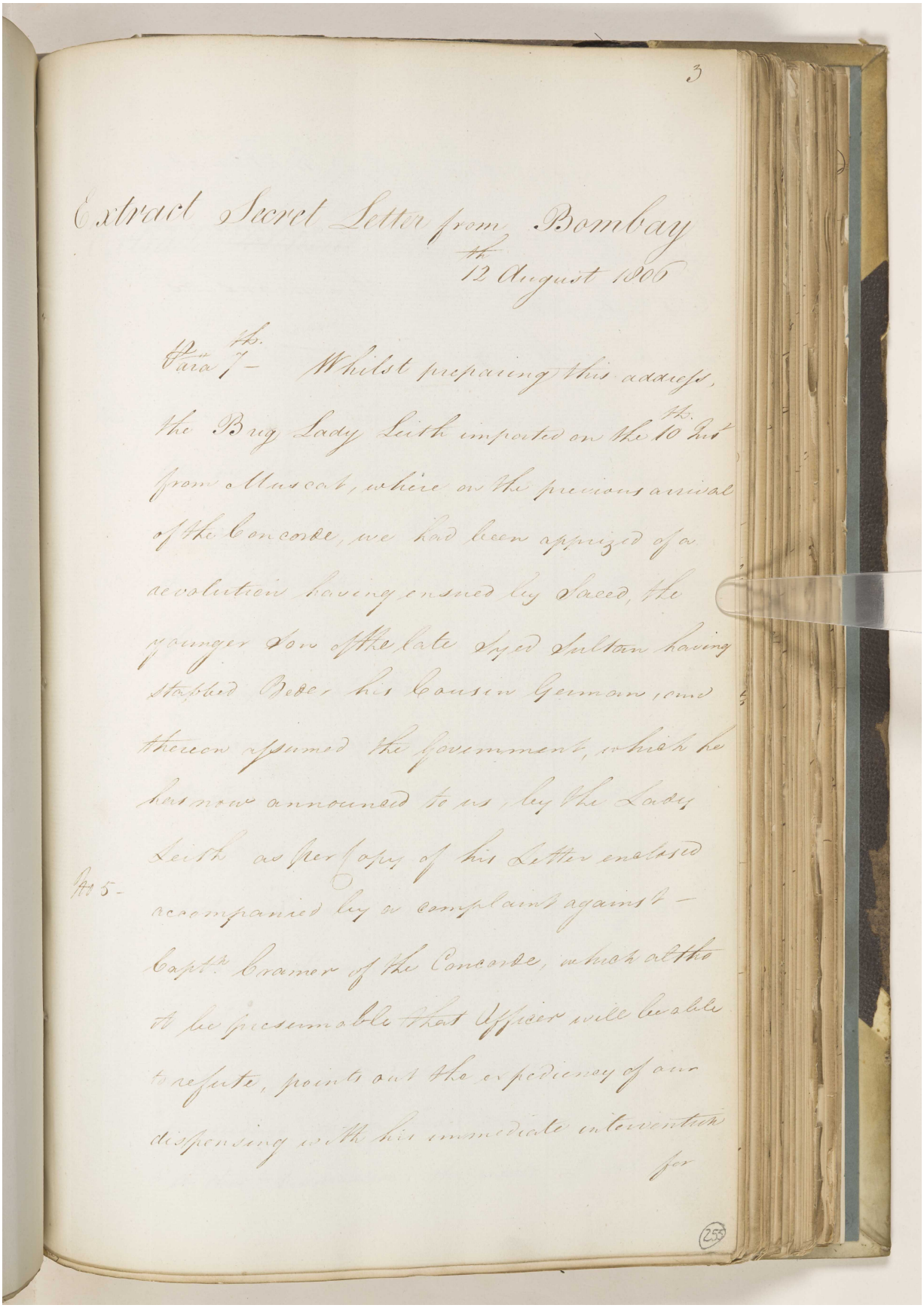

3

Extract Secret Letter from Bombay
12 August 1806

Para 4th. Whilst preparing this address, the Brig Lady Leith imported on the 10th Inst from Muscat, where on the previous arrival of the Concorde, we had been apprized of a revolution having ensued by Saeed, the younger Son of the late Syed Sultan having Stabbed Beder his Cousin German, and thereon assumed the Government, which he has now announced to us by the Lady Leith as per Copy of his Letter enclosed No 5 accompanied by a complaint against Capt. Cramer of the Concorde, which at the first presumable that Officer will be able to refute, points out the expediency of our dispensing with his immediate intervention for

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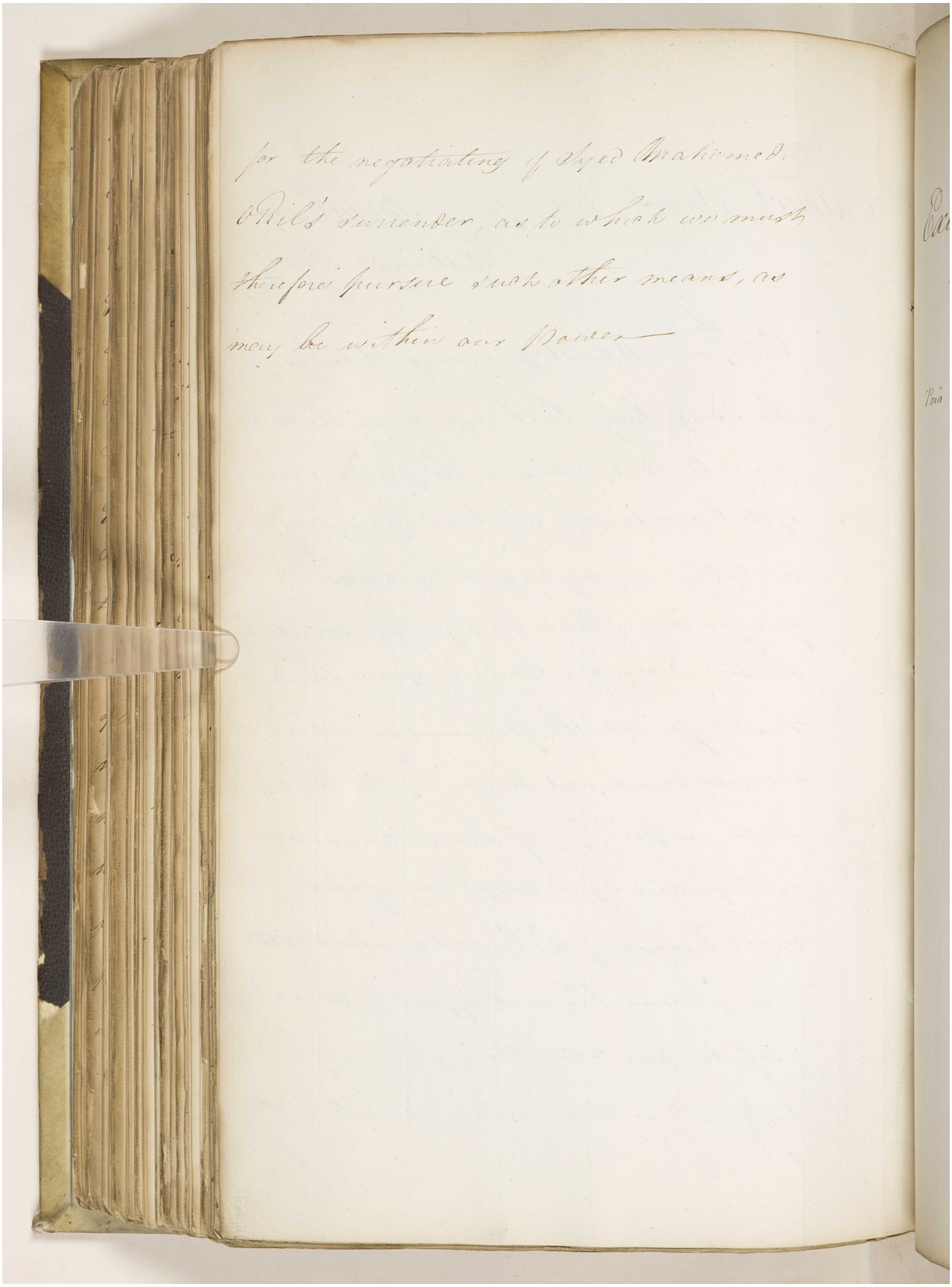

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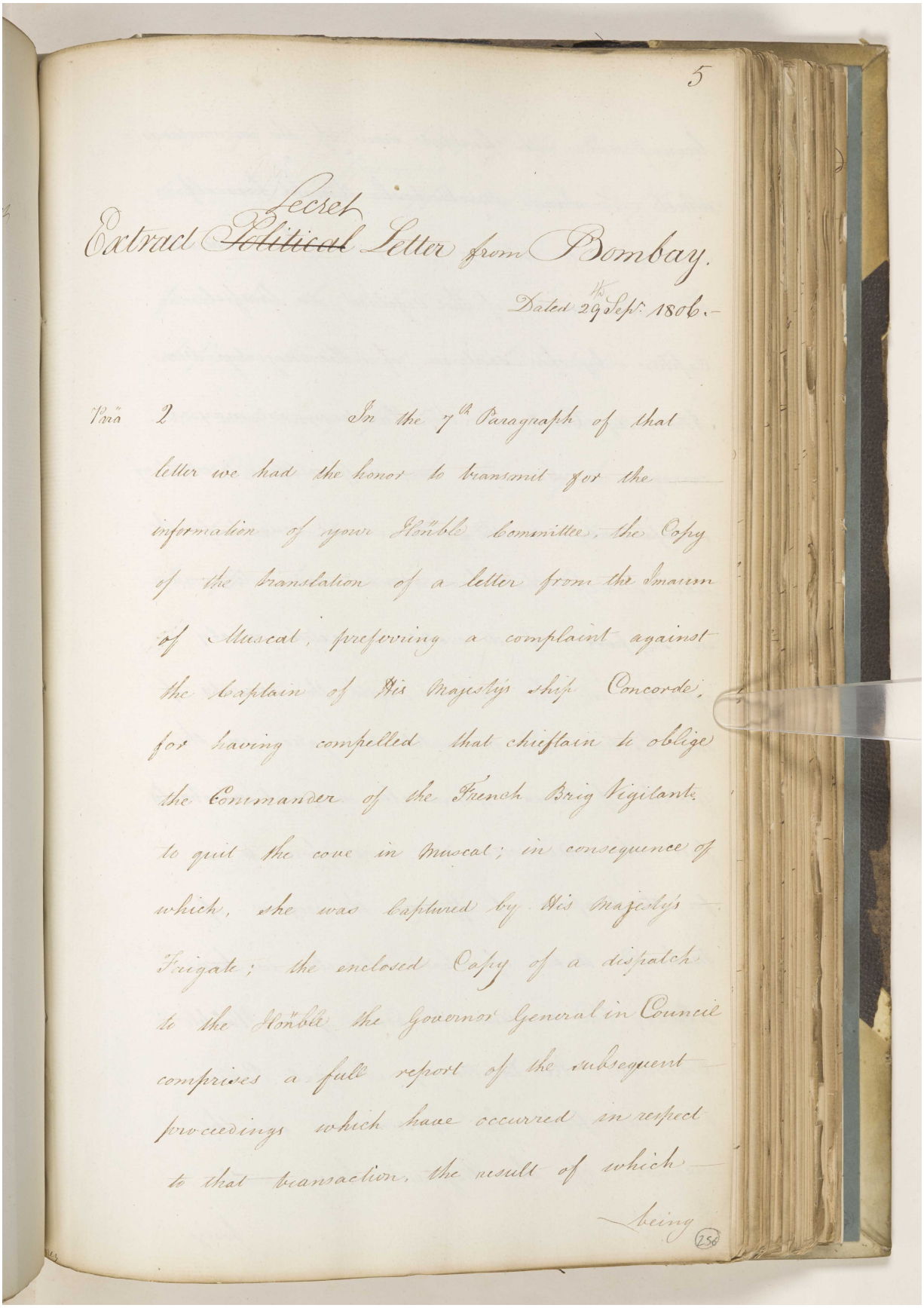

5

Extract Secret ~~Political~~ Letter from Bombay.

Dated 29th Sept. 1806.

Para 2 In the 7th Paragraph of that letter we had the honor to transmit for the information of your Honble Committee, the Copy of the translation of a letter from the Imaum of Muscat, preferring a complaint against the Captain of His Majesty's ship Concorde, for having compelled that chieftain to oblige the Commander of the French Brig Vigilante to quit the cove in Muscat; in consequence of which, she was captured by His Majesty's Frigate; the enclosed Copy of a dispatch to the Honble the Governor General in Council comprises a full report of the subsequent proceedings which have occurred in respect to that transaction, the result of which being

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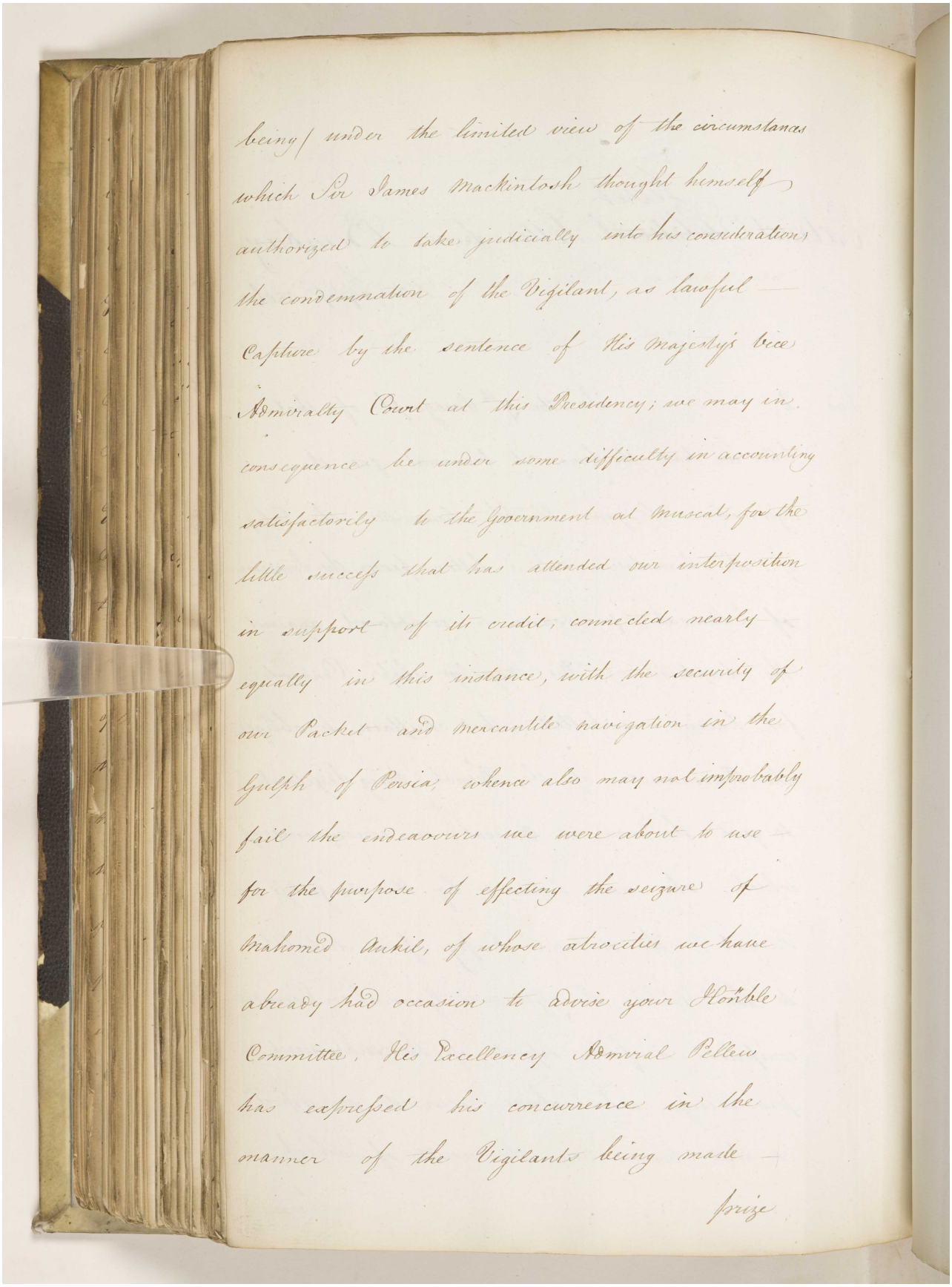

being / under the limited view of the circumstances
which Sir James Mackintosh thought himself
authorized to take judicially into his consideration
the condemnation of the Vigilant, as lawful
Capture by the sentence of His Majesty's Vice
Admiralty Court at this Presidency; we may in
consequence be under some difficulty in accounting
satisfactorily to the Government at Muscat, for the
little success that has attended our interposition
in support of its credit, connected nearly
equally in this instance, with the security of
our Packet and mercantile navigation in the
Gulph of Persia, whence also may not improbably
fail the endeavours we were about to use
for the purpose of effecting the seizure of
Mahomed Aukil, of whose atrocities we have
already had occasion to advise your Honble
Committee, His Excellency Admiral Pellew
has expressed his concurrence in the
manner of the Vigilant's being made
prize

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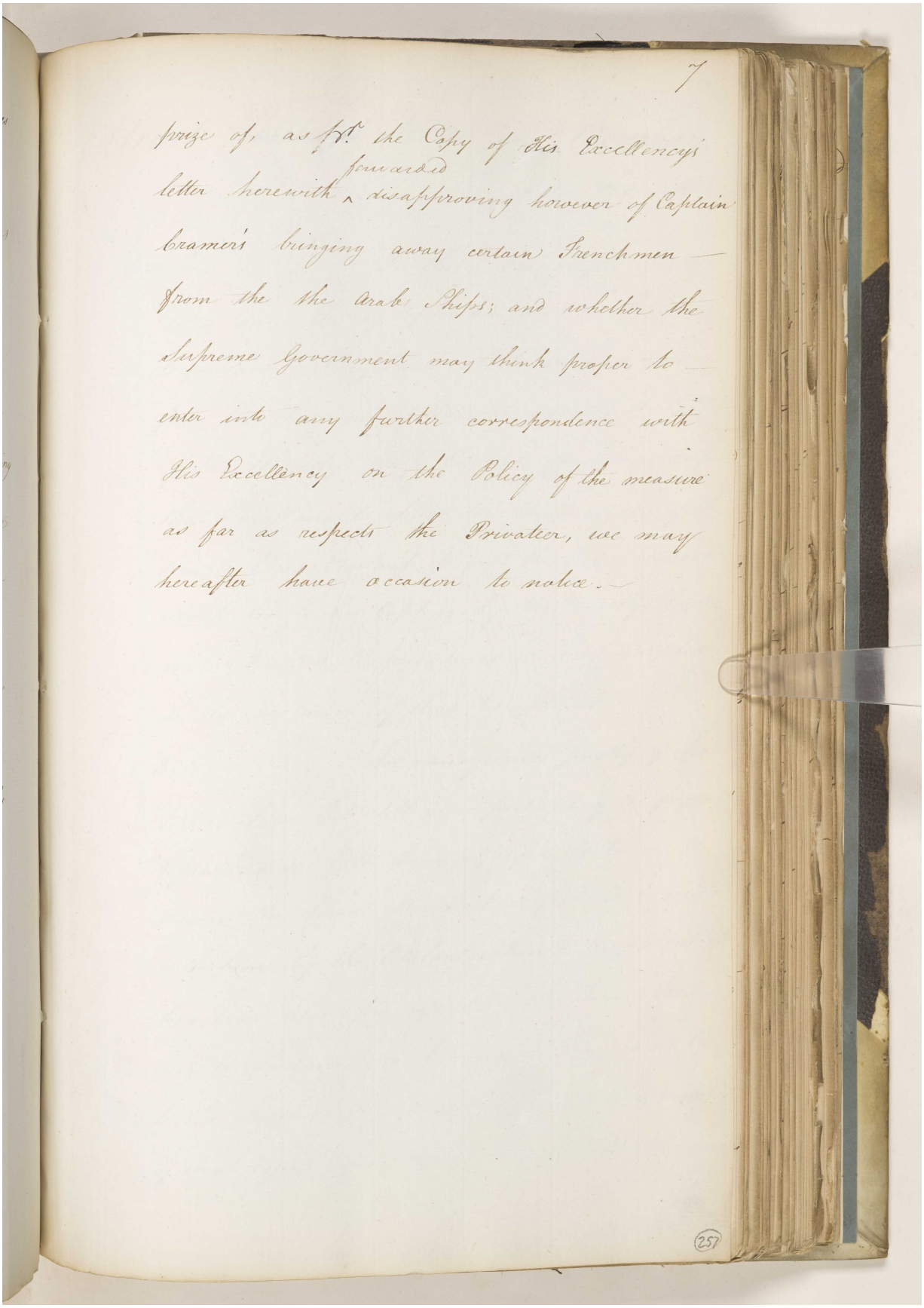

prize of, as pr. the Copy of His Excellency's letter herewith forwarded disapproving however of Captain Cramer's bringing away certain Frenchmen from the the Arab Ships; and whether the Supreme Government may think proper to enter into any further correspondence with His Excellency on the Policy of the measure as far as respects the Privateer, we may hereafter have occasion to notice.

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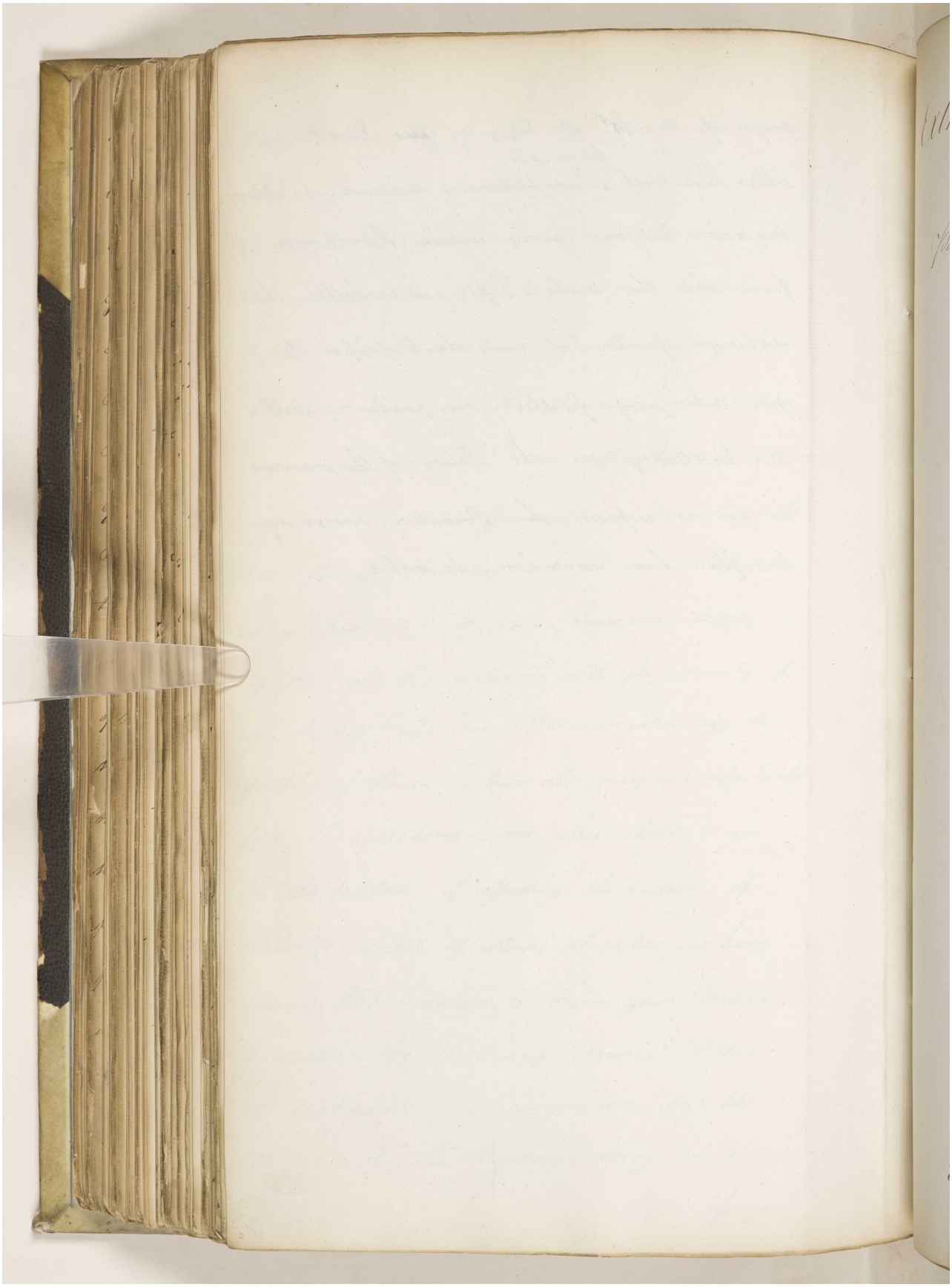

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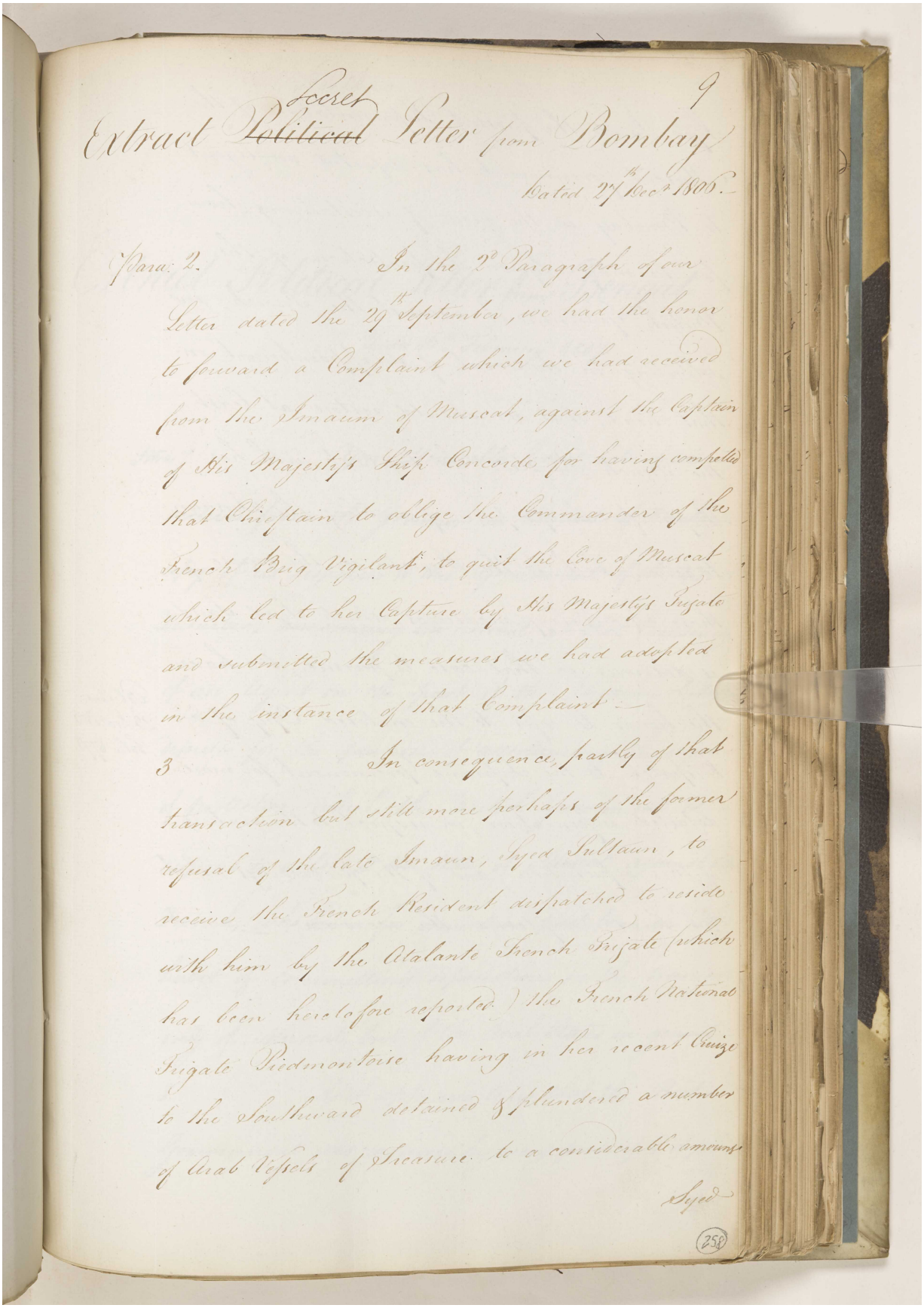

9

Extract Secret ~~Political~~ Letter from Bombay
Dated 27th Decr 1805.

Para: 2. In the 2d Paragraph of our Letter dated the 29th September, we had the honor to forward a Complaint which we had received from the Imaum of Muscat, against the Captain of His Majesty's Ship Concorde for having compelled that Chieftain to oblige the Commander of the French Brig Vigilante, to quit the Cove of Muscat which led to her Capture by His Majesty's Frigate and submitted the measures we had adopted in the instance of that Complaint.

3 In consequence partly of that transaction but still more perhaps of the former refusal of the late Imaum, Syed Sultaun, to receive the French Resident dispatched to reside with him by the Atalante French Frigate (which has been heretofore reported) the French National Frigate Piedmontoise having in her recent Cruize to the Southward detained & plundered a number of Arab Vessels of Treasure to a considerable amount

Syed

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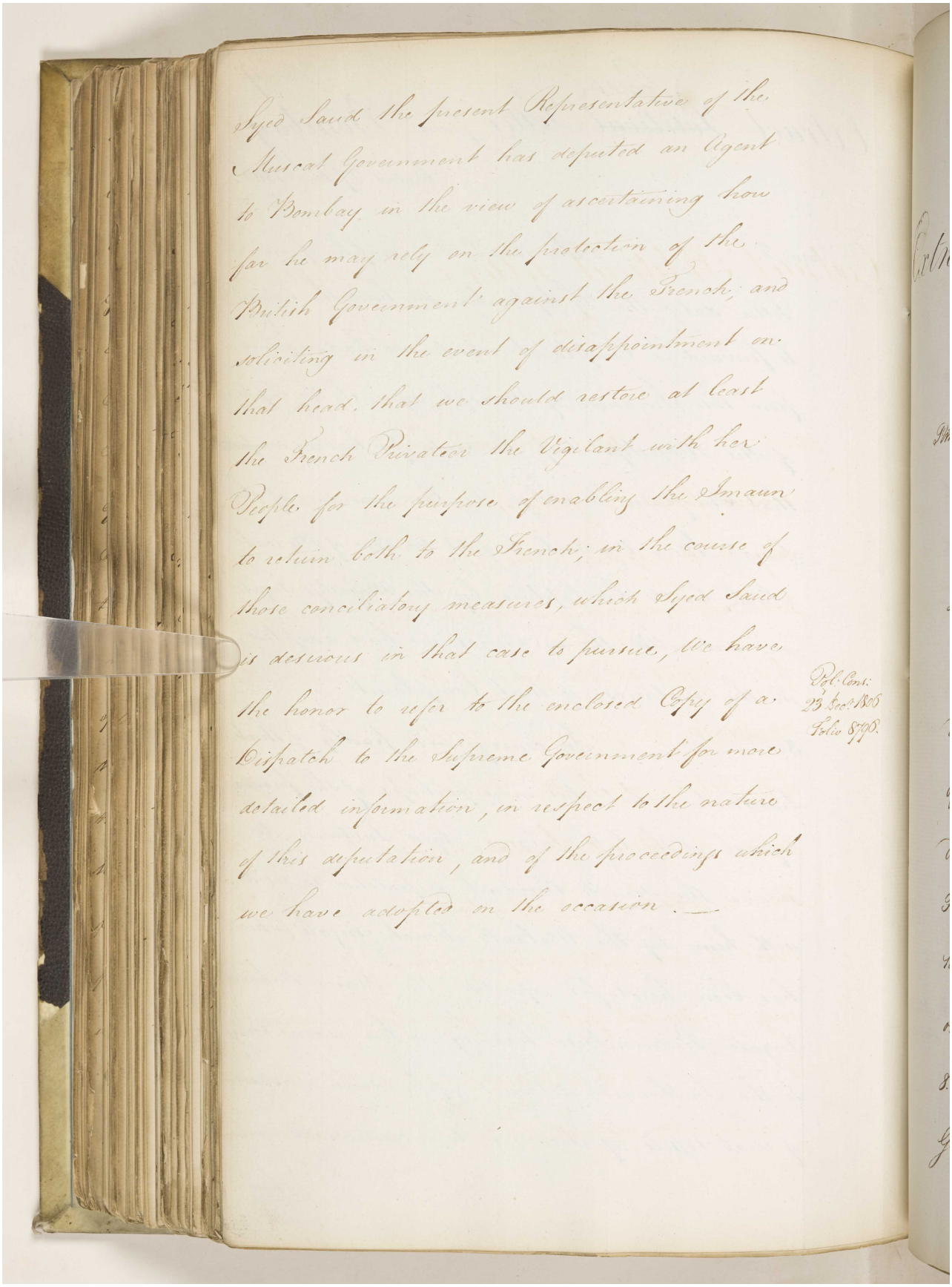

Syed Saud the present Representative of the
Muscat Government has deputed an Agent
to Bombay in the view of ascertaining how
far he may rely on the protection of the
British Government against the French; and
soliciting in the event of disappointment on
that head, that we should restore at least
the French Privateer the Vigilant with her
People for the purpose of enabling the Imaum
to return both to the French; in the course of
those conciliatory measures, which Syed Saud
is desirous in that case to pursue, We have
the honor to refer to the enclosed Copy of a
Dispatch to the Supreme Government for more
detailed information, in respect to the nature
of this deputation, and of the proceedings which
we have adopted on the occasion. —

Pol: Cons:
23 Dec: 1805
Folio 8795

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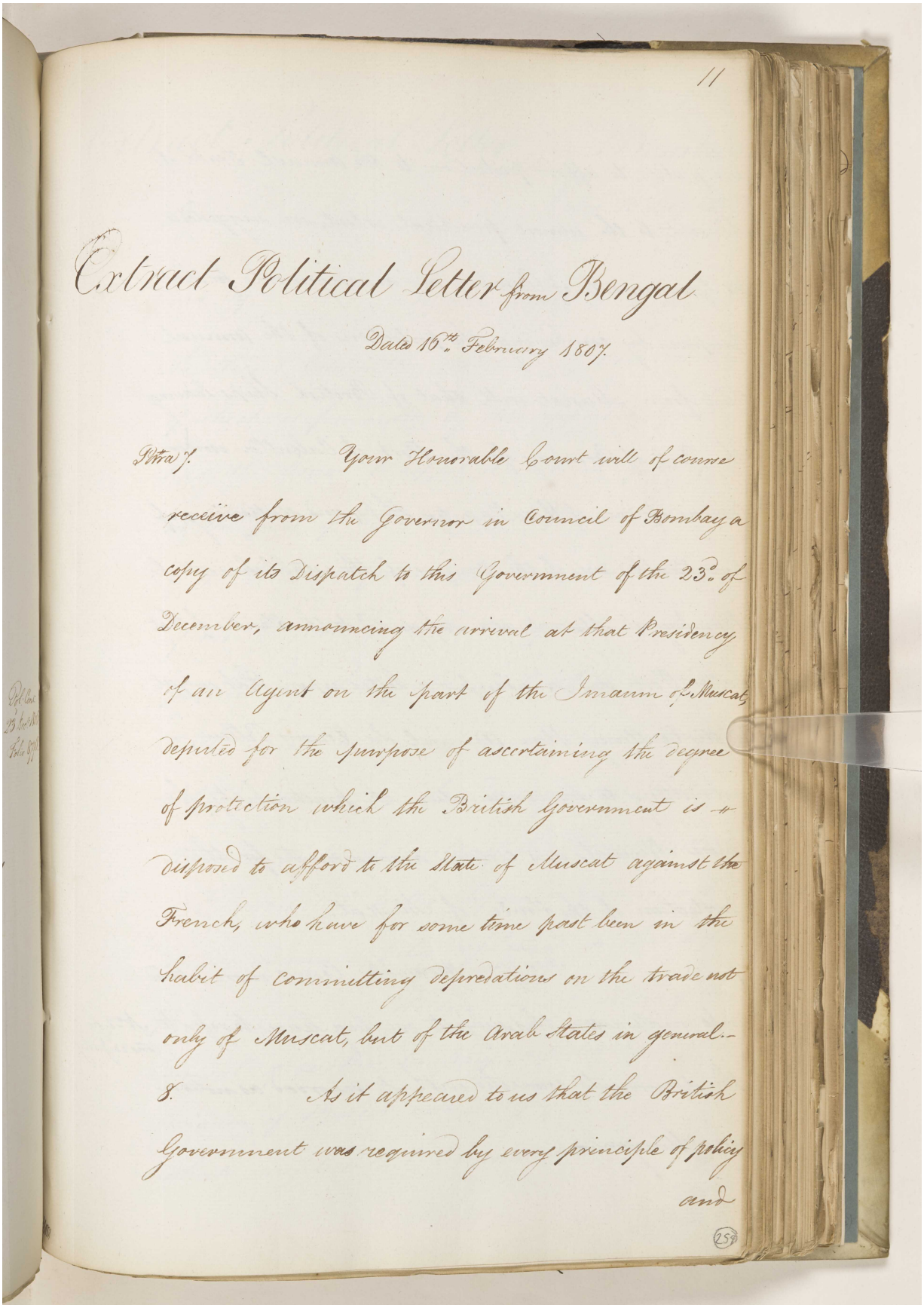

11

Extract Political Letter from Bengal

Dated 16th. February 1807.

Para 7. Your Honorable Court will of course receive from the Governor in Council of Bombay a copy of its Dispatch to this Government of the 23d. of December, announcing the arrival at that Presidency of an Agent on the part of the Imaum of Muscat, deputed for the purpose of ascertaining the degree of protection which the British Government is disposed to afford to the State of Muscat against the French, who have for some time past been in the habit of committing depredations on the trade not only of Muscat, but of the Arab States in general.—

8. As it appeared to us that the British Government was required by every principle of policy and

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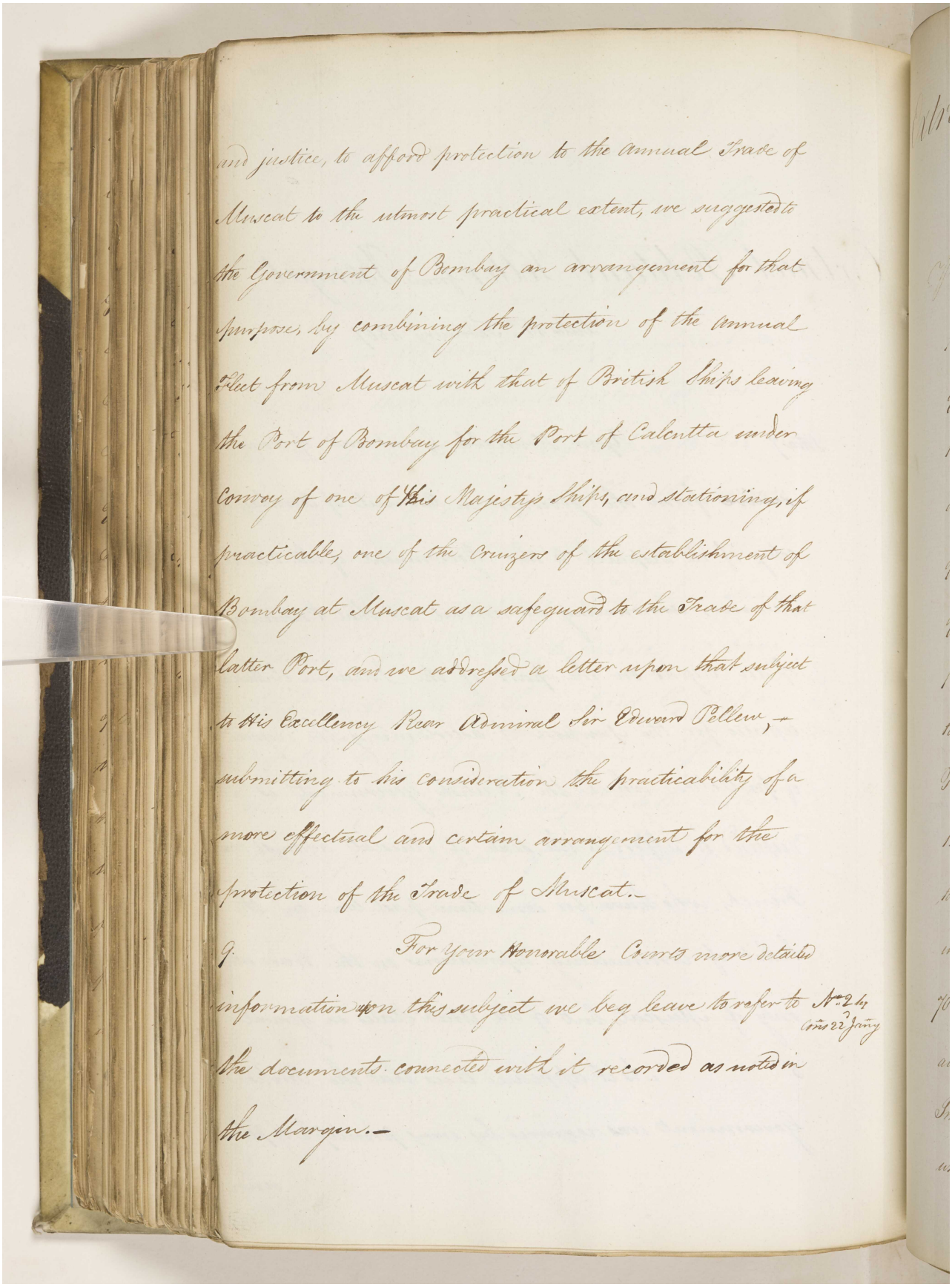

and justice, to afford protection to the Annual Trade of Muscat to the utmost practical extent, we suggested to the Government of Bombay an arrangement for that purpose, by combining the protection of the Annual Fleet from Muscat with that of British Ships leaving the Port of Bombay for the Port of Calcutta under Convoy of one of His Majesty's Ships, and stationing, if practicable, one of the Cruizers of the establishment of Bombay at Muscat as a safeguard to the Trade of that latter Port, and we addressed a letter upon that subject to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, — submitting to his consideration the practicability of a more effectual and certain arrangement for the protection of the Trade of Muscat.—

9. For your Honorable Courts more detailed information upon this subject we beg leave to refer to No. 24 Cons 22 Jany the documents connected with it recorded as noted in the Margin.—

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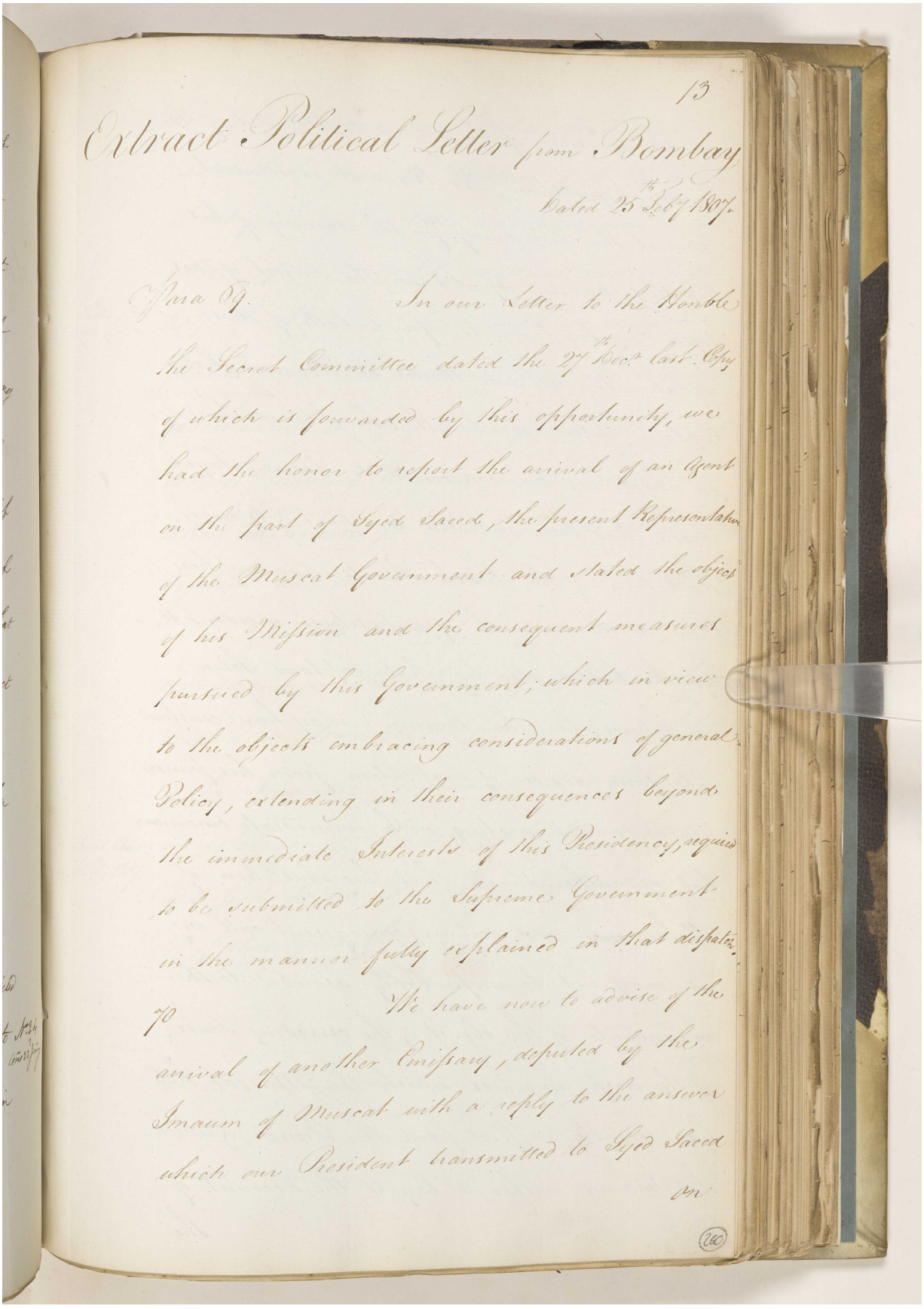

15

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 25th Feby 1807.

Para 69. In our Letter to the Honble the Secret Committee dated the 27th Decr last. Copy of which is forwarded by this opportunity, we had the honor to report the arrival of an Agent on the part of Syed Saeed, the present Representative of the Muscat Government and stated the object of his Mission and the consequent measures pursued by this Government; which in view to the objects embracing considerations of general Policy, extending in their consequences beyond the immediate Interests of this Presidency, require to be submitted to the Supreme Government in the manner fully explained in that dispatch.

70 We have now to advise of the arrival of another Emissary, deputed by the Imaum of Muscat with a reply to the answer which our President transmitted to Syed Saeed on

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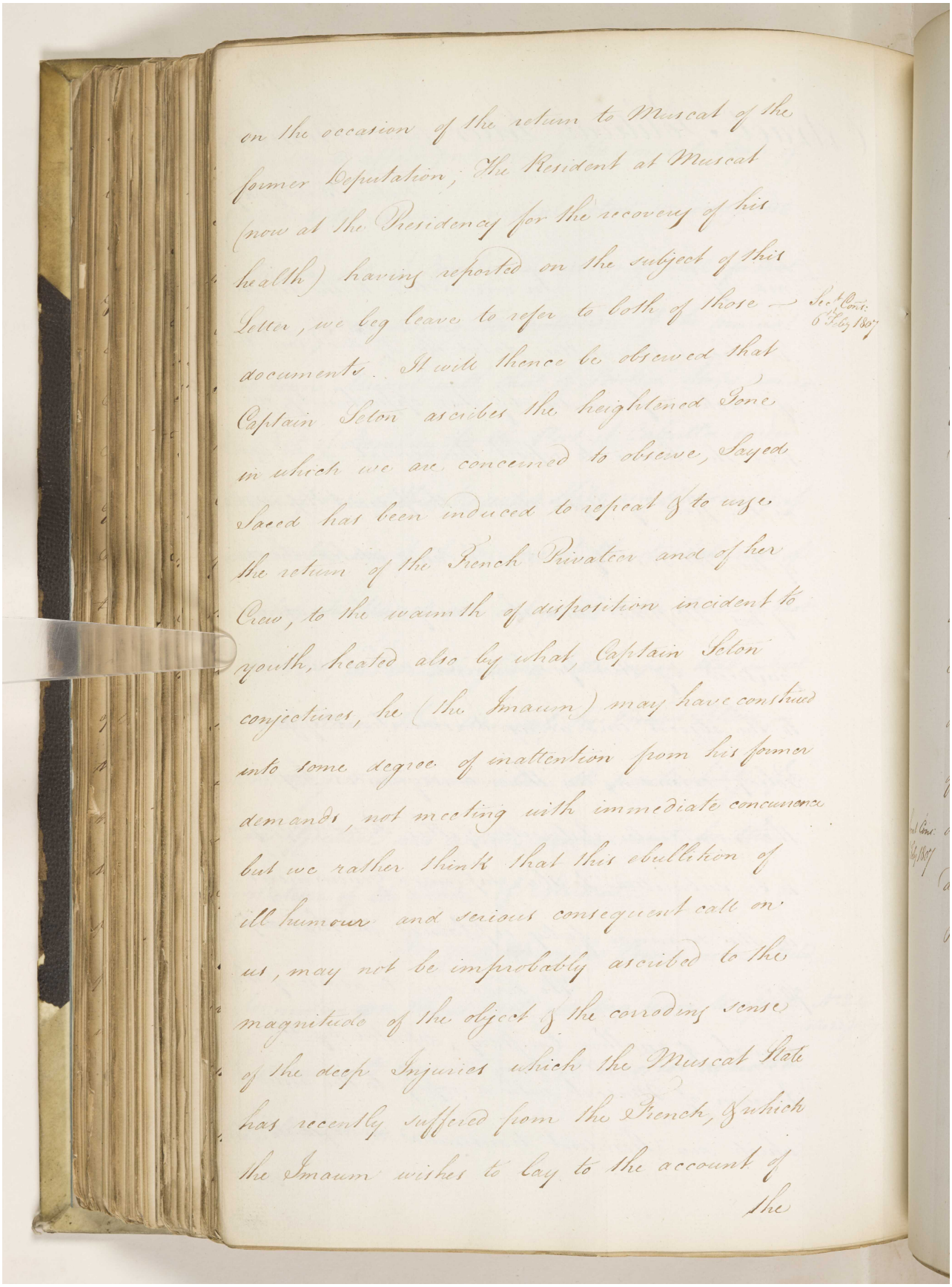

on the occasion of the return to Muscat of the
former Deputation; The Resident at Muscat
(now at the Presidency for the recovery of his
health) having reported on the subject of this
Letter, we beg leave to refer to both of those — Sec.t Cons.
documents. It will thence be observed that 6 May 1807
Captain Selon ascribes the heightened Tone
in which we are concerned to observe, Sayed
Saeed has been induced to repeat & to urge
the return of the French Privateer and of her
Crew, to the warmth of disposition incident to
youth, heated also by what, Captain Selon
conjectures, he (the Imaum) may have construed
into some degree of inattention from his former
demands, not meeting with immediate concurrence.
but we rather think that this ebullition of
ill humour and serious consequent call on
us, may not be improbably ascribed to the
magnitude of the object & the corroding sense
of the deep Injuries which the Muscat State
has recently suffered from the French, & which
the Imaum wishes to lay to the account of
the

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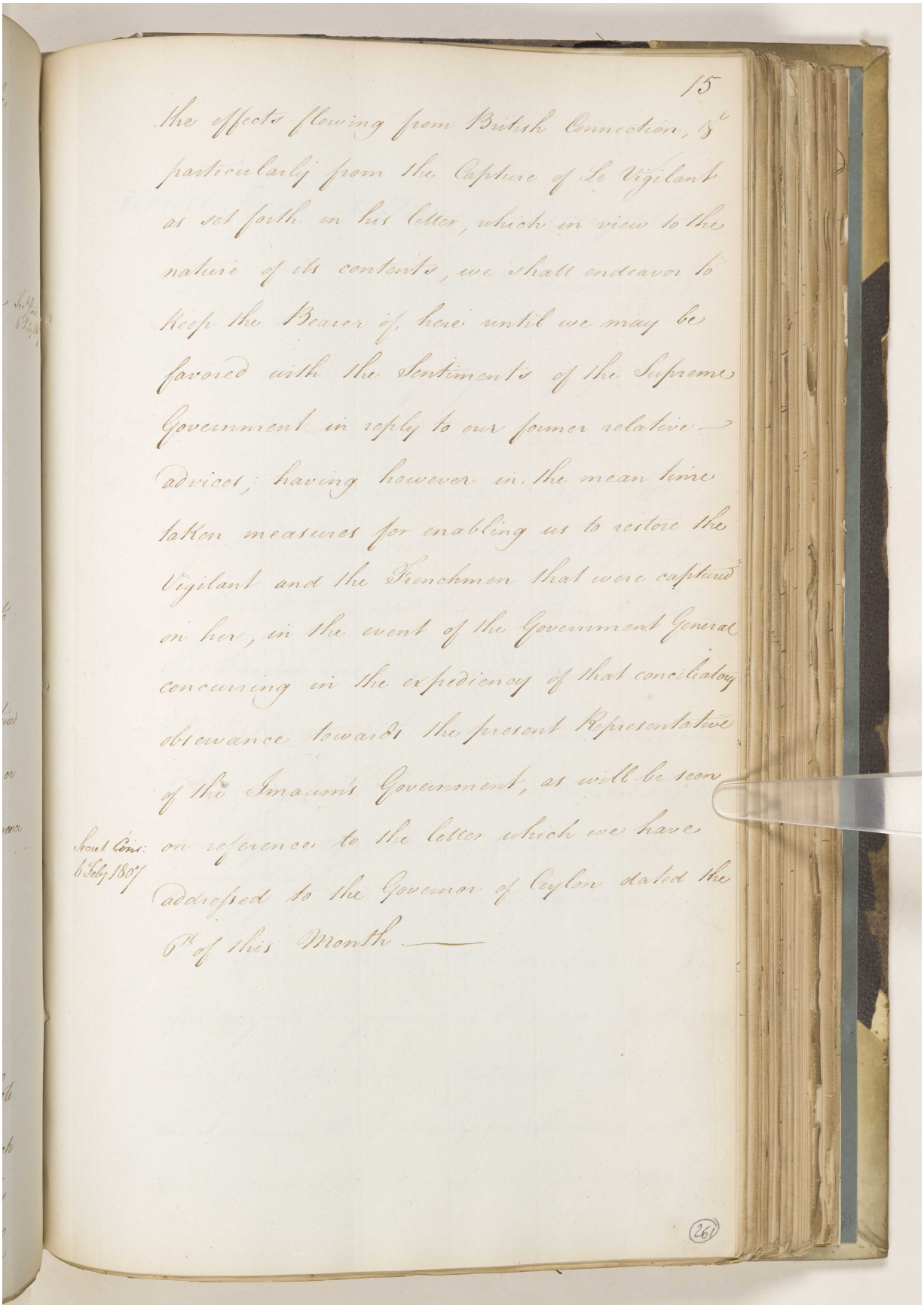

15

the effects flowing from British Connection, &
particularly from the Capture of Le Vigilant
as set forth in his Letter, which in view to the
nature of its contents, we shall endeavor to
keep the Bearer of, here until we may be
favored with the Sentiments of the Supreme
Government in reply to our former relative
advices; having however in the mean time
taken measures for enabling us to restore the
Vigilant and the Frenchmen that were captured
in her, in the event of the Government General
concurring in the expediency of that conciliatory
observance towards the present Representative
of the Imaum's Government, as will be seen
on reference to the Letter which we have
addressed to the Governor of Ceylon dated the
8th of this Month ——

Secret Cons:
6 July 1807

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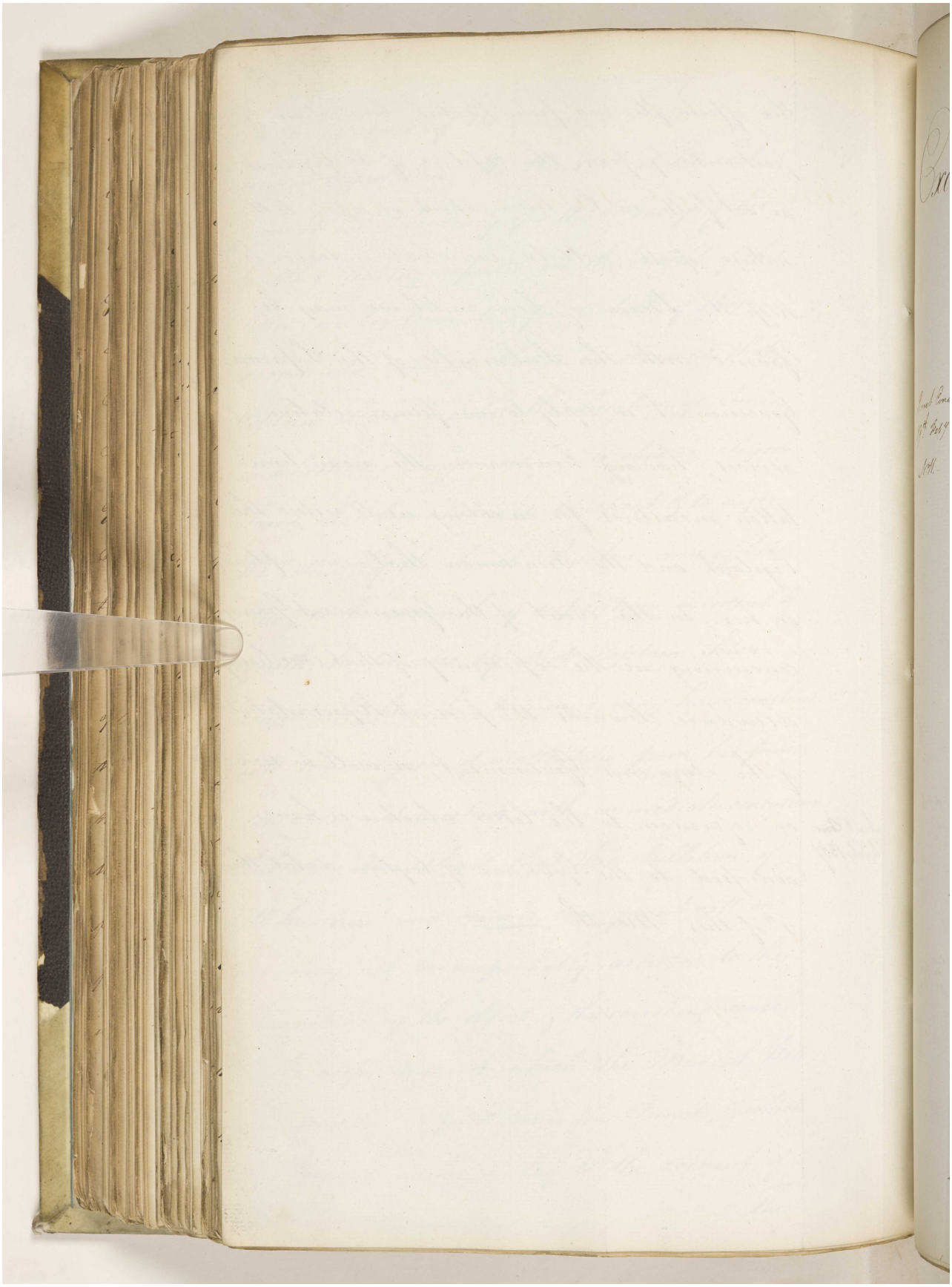

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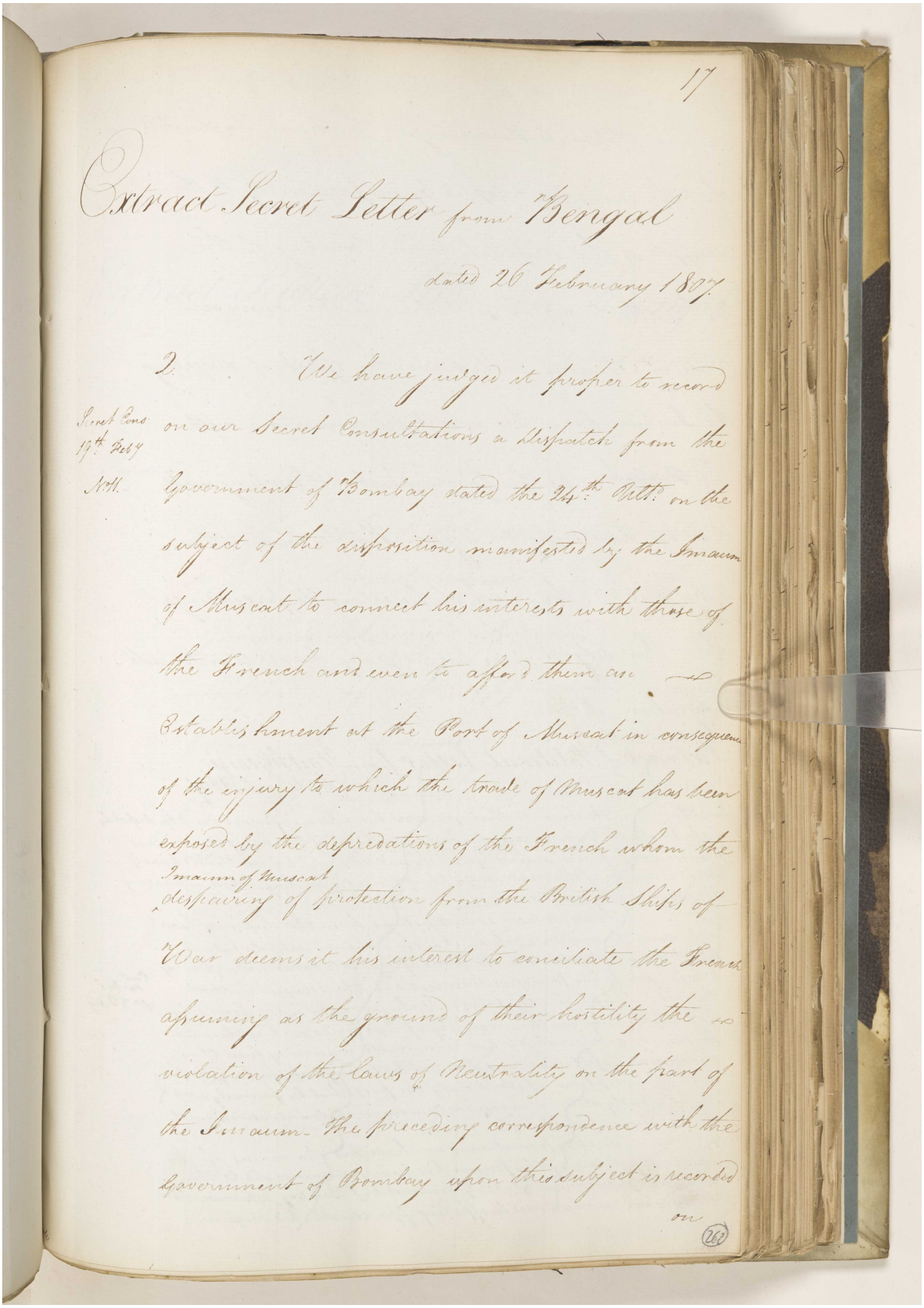

17

Extract Secret Letter from Bengal

dated 26 February 1807

Secret Cons. 19th Feby No 11

2. We have judged it proper to record on our Secret Consultations a Dispatch from the Government of Bombay dated the 24th Ult.o on the subject of the disposition manifested by the Imaum of Muscat to connect his interests with those of the French and even to afford them an Establishment at the Port of Muscat in consequence of the injury to which the trade of Muscat has been exposed by the depredations of the French whom the Imaum of Muscat despairing of protection from the British Ships of War deems it his interest to conciliate the French assuming as the ground of their hostility the violation of the Laws of Neutrality on the part of the Imaum. The preceding correspondence with the Government of Bombay upon this subject is recorded on

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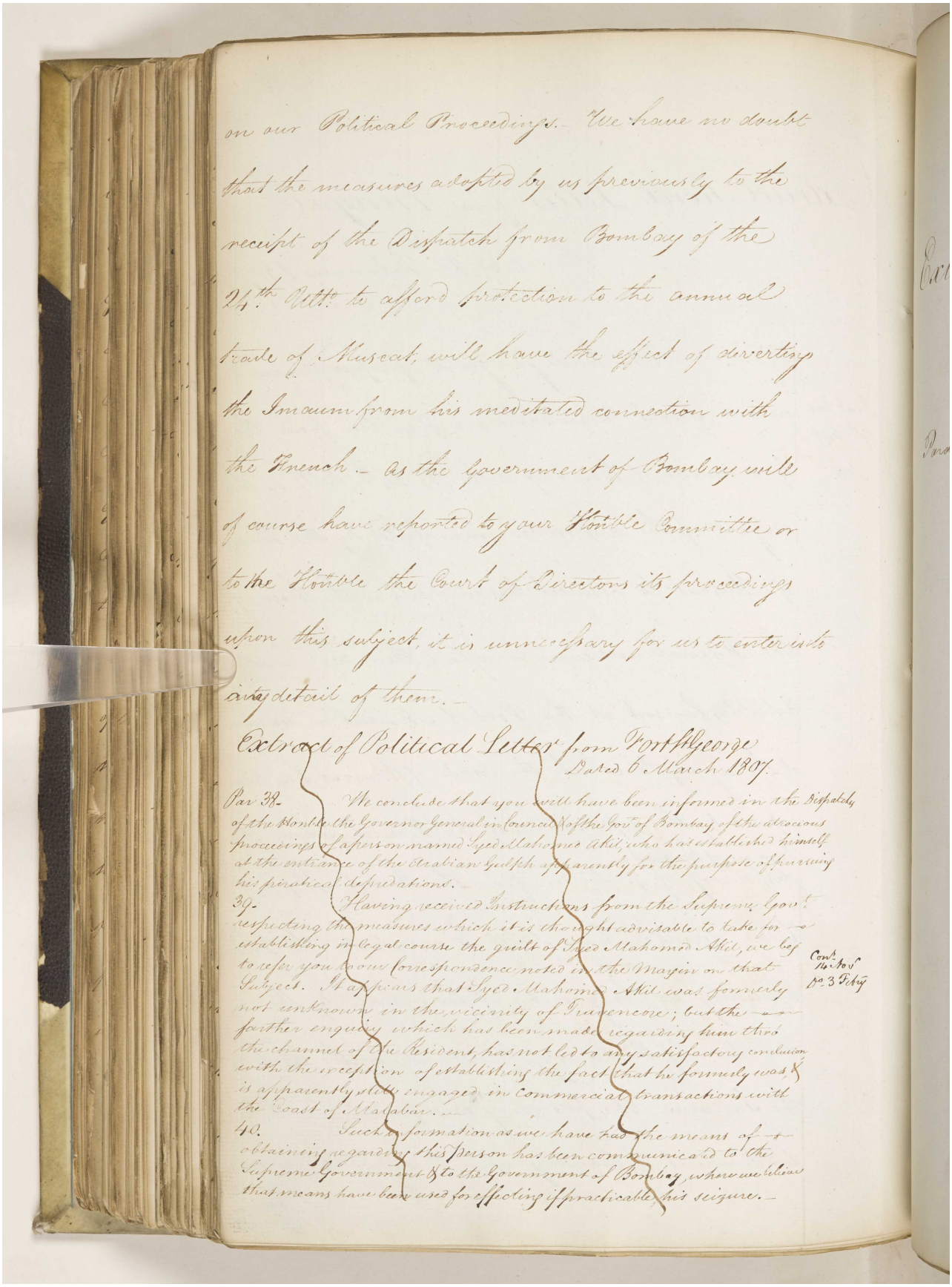

on our Political Proceedings. We have no doubt that the measures adopted by us previously to the receipt of the Dispatch from Bombay of the 24th Ultº to afford protection to the annual trade of Muscat, will have the effect of diverting the Imaum from his meditated connection with the French. As the Government of Bombay will of course have reported to your Honble Committee or to the Honble the Court of Directors its proceedings upon this subject, it is unnecessary for us to enter into any detail of them.

Extract of Political Letter from Fort St George
Dated 6 March 1807.

Par 38. We conclude that you will have been informed in the Dispatchy of the Honble the Governor General in Council & of the Govt of Bombay, of the atrocious proceedings of a person named Syed Mahomed Akil, who has established himself at the entrance of the Arabian Gulph apparently for the purpose of pursuing his piratical depredations.

39. Having received Instructions from the Supreme Govt respecting the measures which it is thought advisable to take for establishing in legal course the guilt of Syed Mahomed Akil, we beg to refer you to our Correspondence noted in the Margin on that Subject. It appears that Syed Mahomed Akil was formerly not unknown in the vicinity of Travencore; but the farther enquiry which has been made regarding him thro' the channel of the Resident, has not led to any satisfactory conclusion with the exception of establishing the fact that he formerly was, & is apparently still engaged in commercial transactions with the Coast of Malabar.

Cons. 14 Nov
Do. 3 Febry

40. Such information as we have had the means of obtaining regarding this person has been communicated to the Supreme Government & to the Government of Bombay, where we believe that means have been used for effecting if practicable his seizure.

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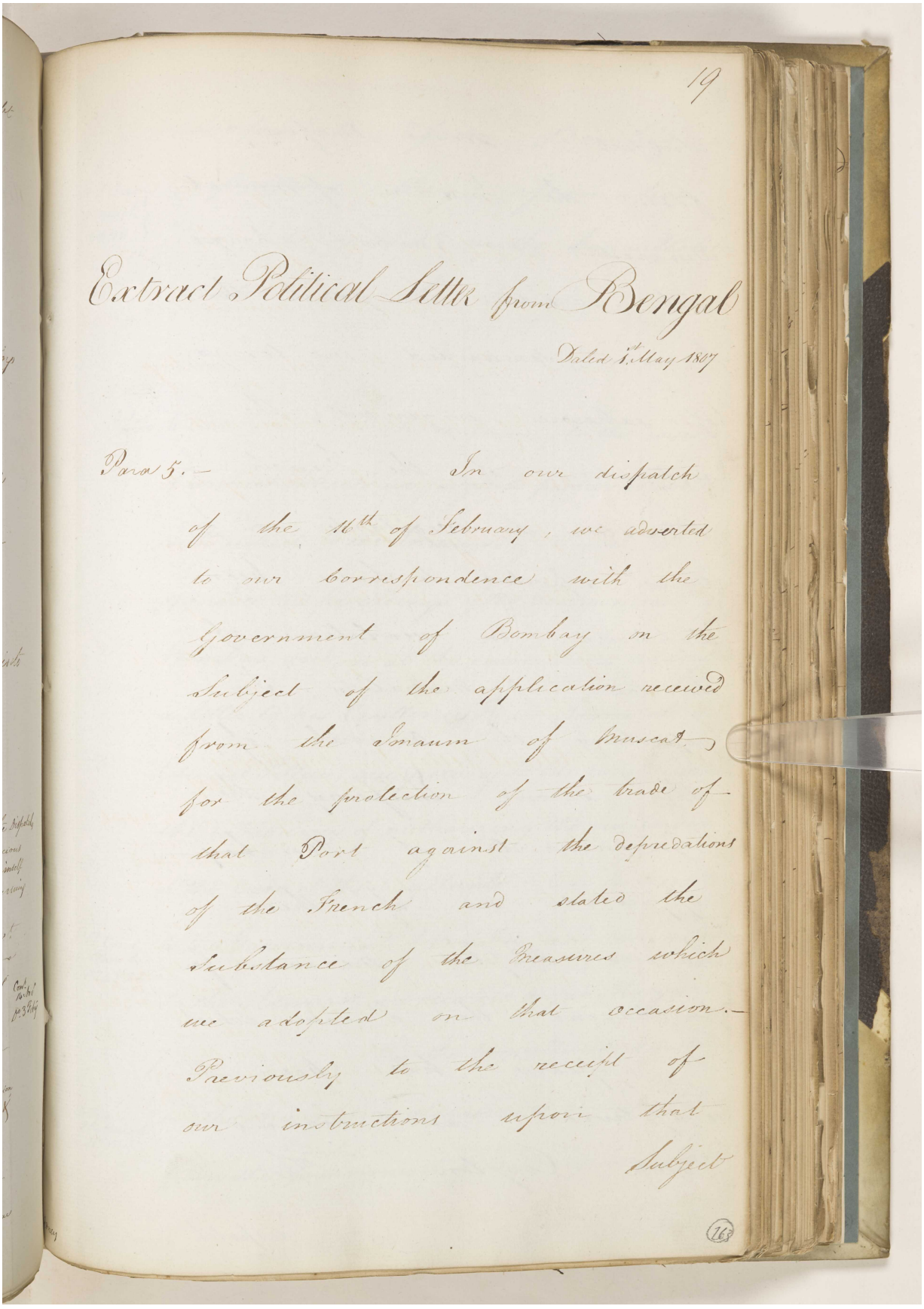

19

Extract Political Letter from Bengal

Dated 1st May 1807

Para 5.— In our dispatch of the 11th of February, we adverted to our Correspondence with the Government of Bombay on the Subject of the application received from the Imaum of Muscat for the protection of the trade of that Port against the depredations of the French and stated the Substance of the Measures which we adopted on that occasion.— Previously to the receipt of our instructions upon that Subject

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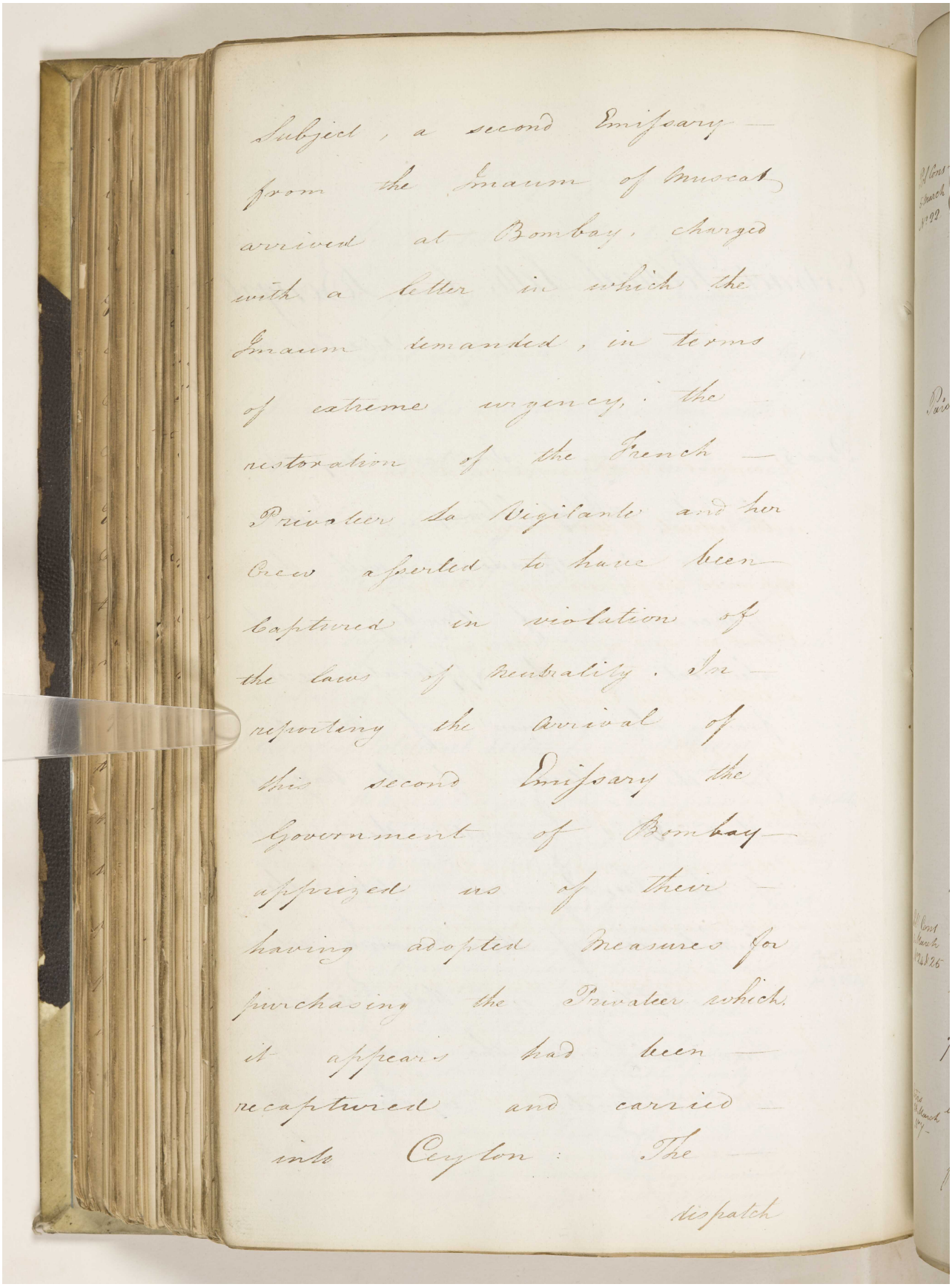

Subject, a second Emissary
from the Imaum of Muscat
arrived at Bombay, charged
with a letter in which the
Imaum demanded, in terms
of extreme urgency, the
restoration of the French
Privateer La Vigilante and her
Crew alleged to have been
captured in violation of
the laws of Neutrality. On
reporting the Arrival of
this second Emissary the
Government of Bombay
apprized us of their
having adopted Measures for
purchasing the Privateer which
it appears had been
recaptured and carried
into Ceylon: The
dispatch

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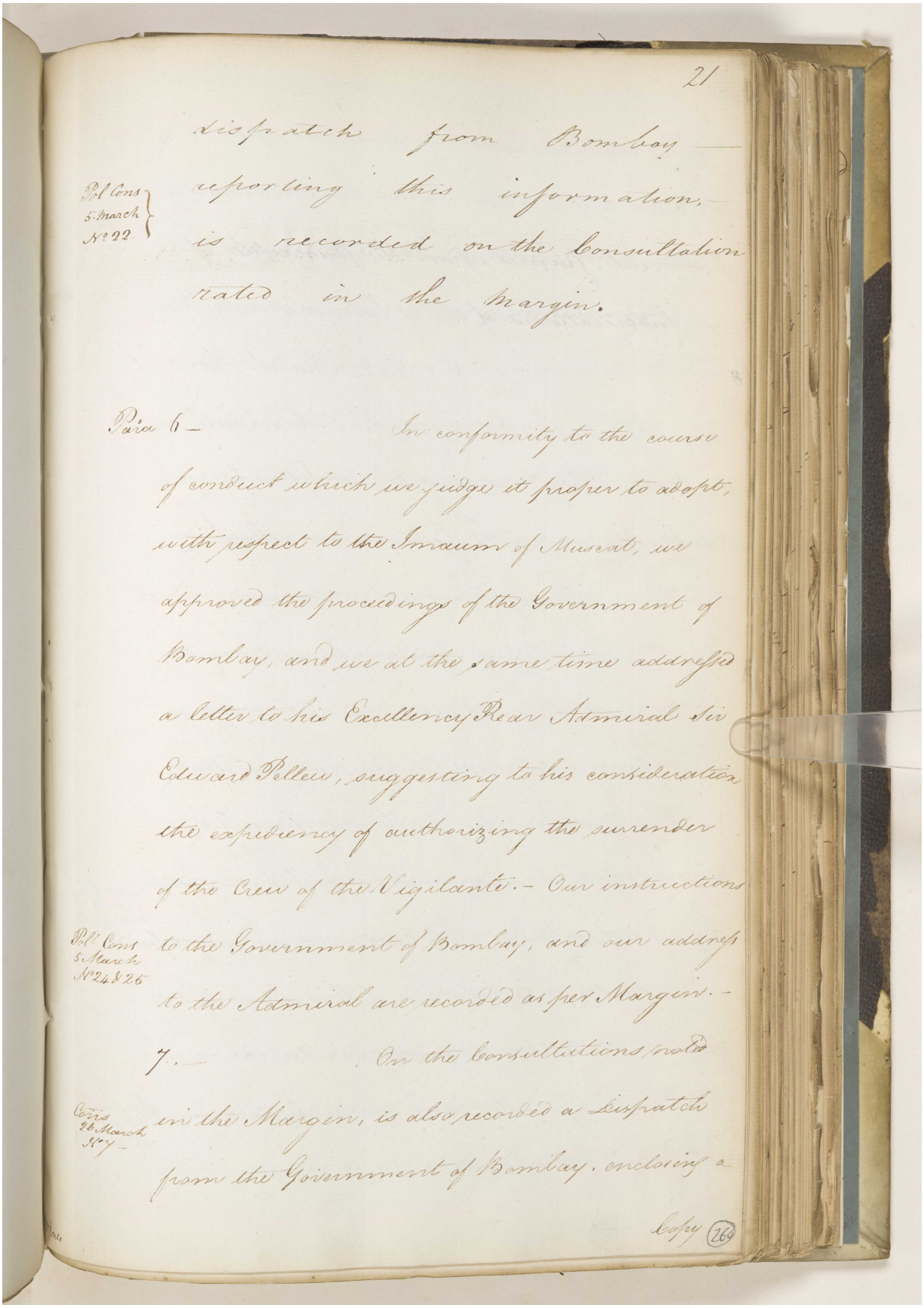

21

dispatch from Bombay —
reporting this information,
is recorded on the Consultation
noted in the margin.

Pol Cons 5 March No 22

Para 6 — In conformity to the course
of conduct which we judge it proper to adopt,
with respect to the Imaum of Muscat, we
approved the proceedings of the Government of
Bombay, and we at the same time addressed
a letter to his Excellency Rear Admiral Sir
Edward Pellew, suggesting to his consideration
the expediency of authorizing the surrender
of the Crew of the Vigilante. — Our instructions
to the Government of Bombay, and our address
to the Admiral are recorded as per Margin. —

Pol Cons 5 March No 24 & 25

7. — On the Consultations noted
in the Margin, is also recorded a Dispatch
from the Government of Bombay, enclosing a

Cons 26 March No 7

Copy (264)

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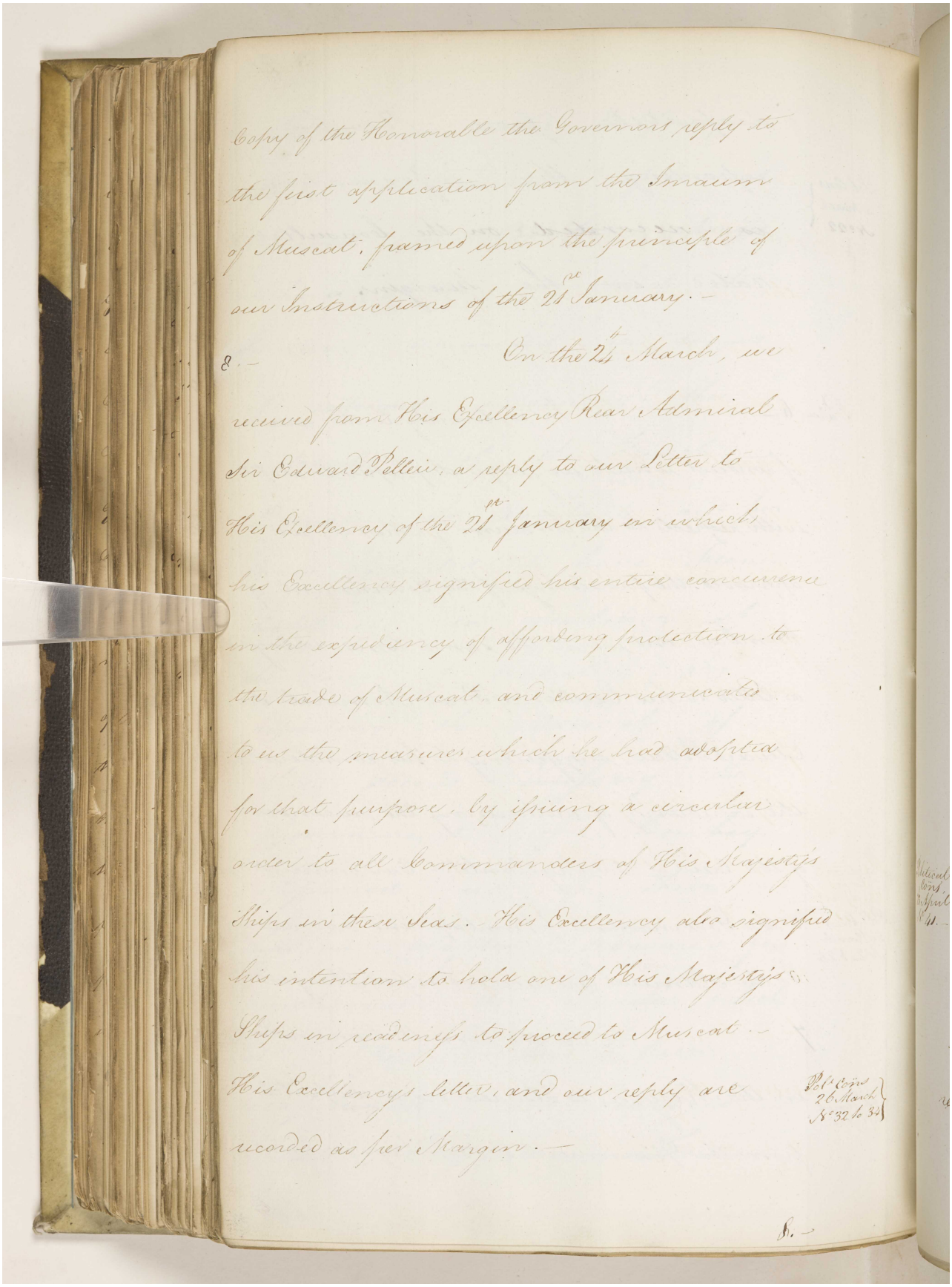

Copy of the Honorable the Governors reply to the first application from the Imaum of Muscat, framed upon the principle of our Instructions of the 21st January. —

8. — On the 24th March, we received from His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, a reply to our Letter to His Excellency of the 21st January in which his Excellency signified his entire concurrence in the expidiency of affording protection to the trade of Muscat, and communicated to us the measures which he had adopted for that purpose, by issuing a circular order to all Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in these Seas. His Excellency also signified his intention to hold one of His Majesty's Ships in readiness to proceed to Muscat. — His Excellency's letter, and our reply are recorded as per Margin. —

Pol. Cons. 26 March Nos 32 to 34

8. —

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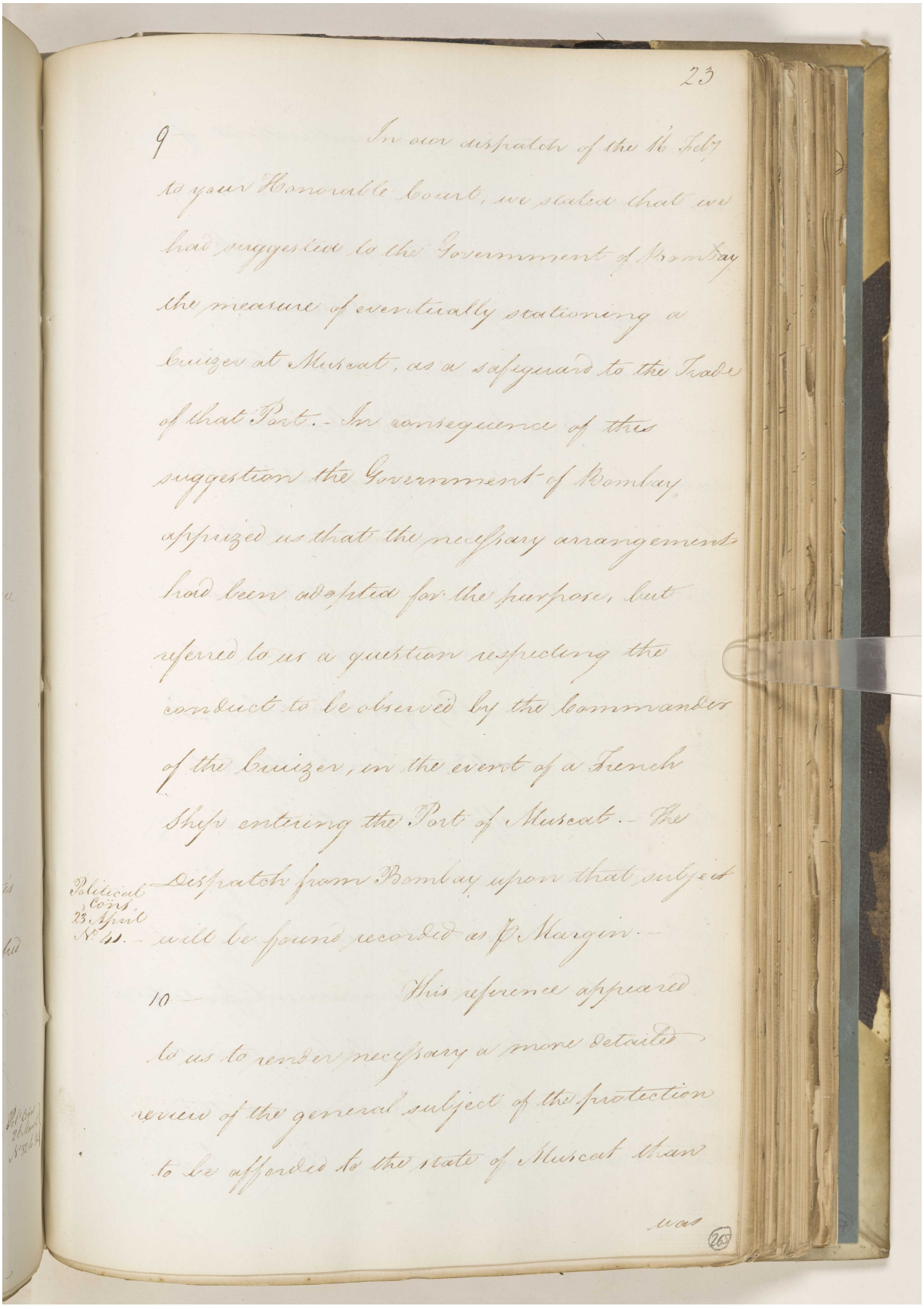

23

9 In our dispatch of the 16 Feby to your Honorable Court, we stated that we had suggested to the Government of Bombay the measure of eventually stationing a Cruizer at Muscat, as a safeguard to the Trade of that Port. - In consequence of this suggestion the Government of Bombay apprized us that the necessary arrangements had been adopted for the purpose, but referred to us a question respecting the conduct to be observed by the Commander of the Cruizer, in the event of a French Ship entering the Port of Muscat. - The Despatch from Bombay upon that subject will be found recorded as per Margin. -

Political Cons. 23 April No 11.

10 This reference appeared to us to render necessary a more detailed review of the general subject of the protection to be afforded to the state of Muscat than was

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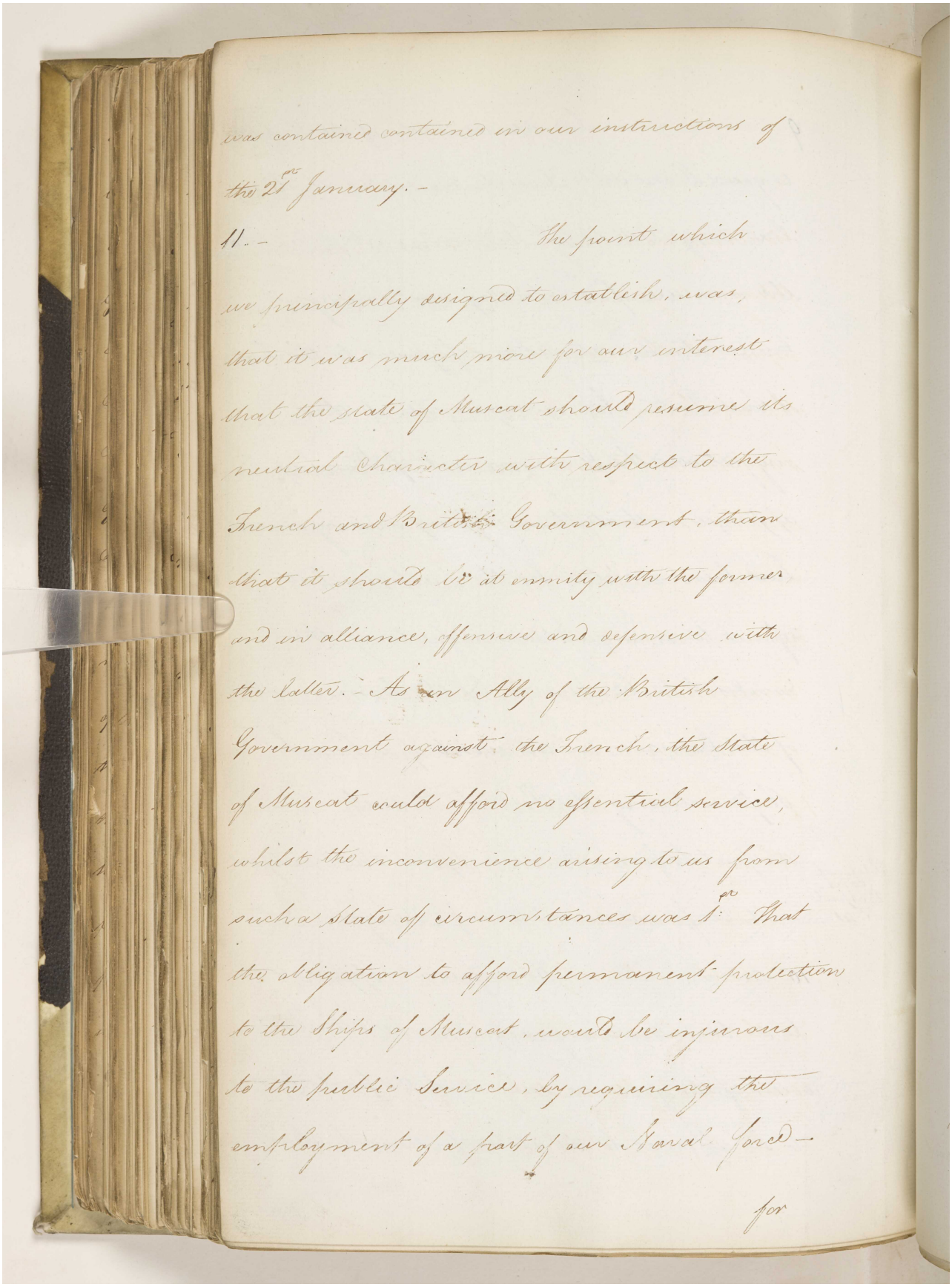

was contained contained in our instructions of
the 21st January. -

11. - The point which
we principally designed to establish, was,
that it was much more for our interest
that the state of Muscat should presume its
neutral Character with respect to the
French and British Government, than
that it should be at enmity with the former
and in alliance, offensive and defensive with
the latter. - As an Ally of the British
Government against the French, the State
of Muscat could afford no essential service,
whilst the inconvenience arising to us from
such a State of circumstances was 1st That
the obligation to afford permanent protection
to the Ships of Muscat, would be injurious
to the public Service, by requiring the
employment of a part of our Naval force -

for

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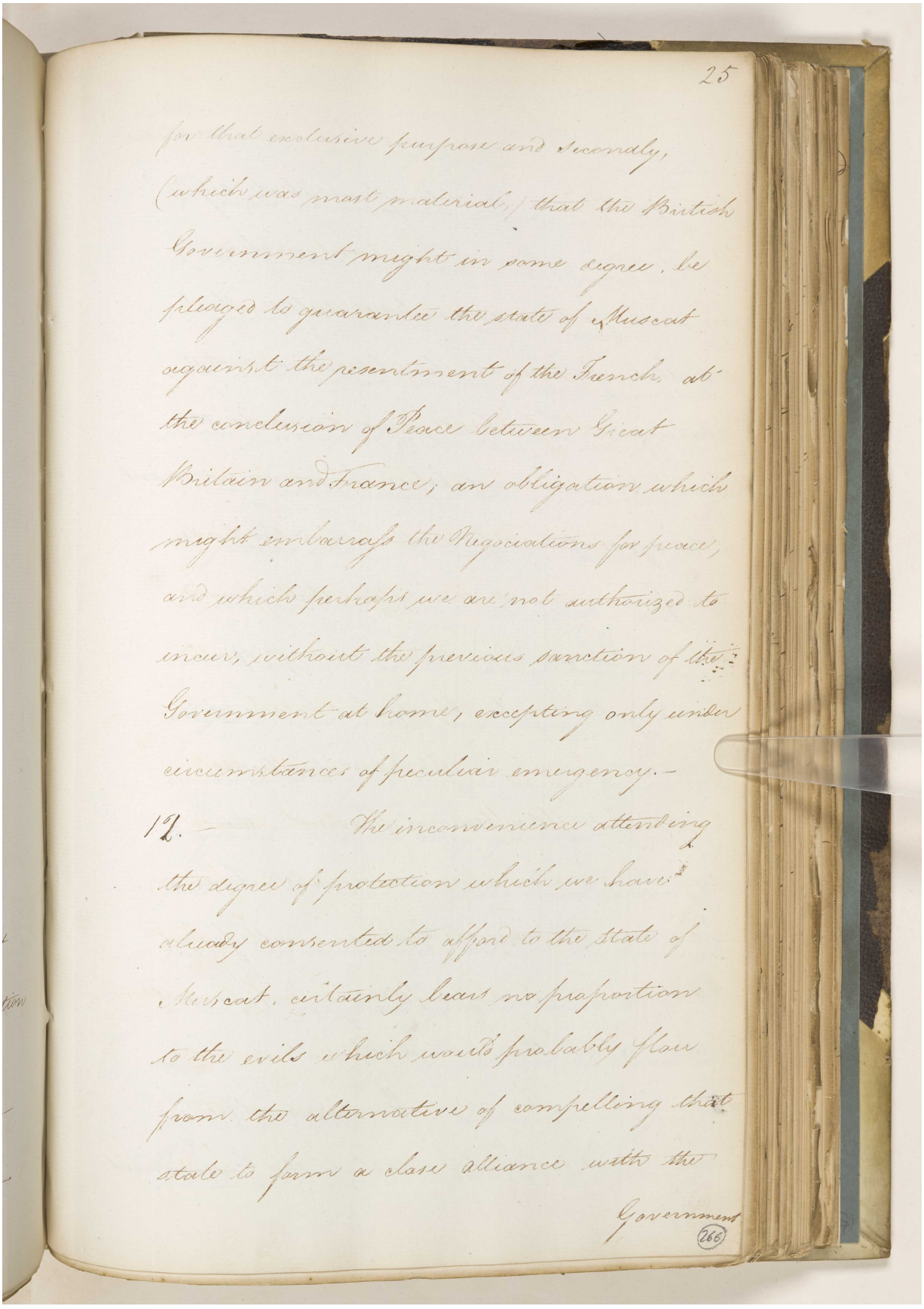

25

for that exclusive purpose and secondly,
(which was most material) that the British
Government might in some degree be
pledged to guarantee the state of Muscat
against the resentment of the French, at
the conclusion of Peace between Great
Britain and France; an obligation which
might embarrass the Negociations for peace,
and which perhaps we are not authorized to
incur, without the previous sanction of the
Government at home, excepting only under
circumstances of peculiar emergency.—

12. — The inconvenience attending
the degree of protection which we have
already consented to afford to the state of
Muscat, certainly bears no proportion
to the evils which would probably flow
from the alternative of compelling that
state to form a close alliance with the

Government

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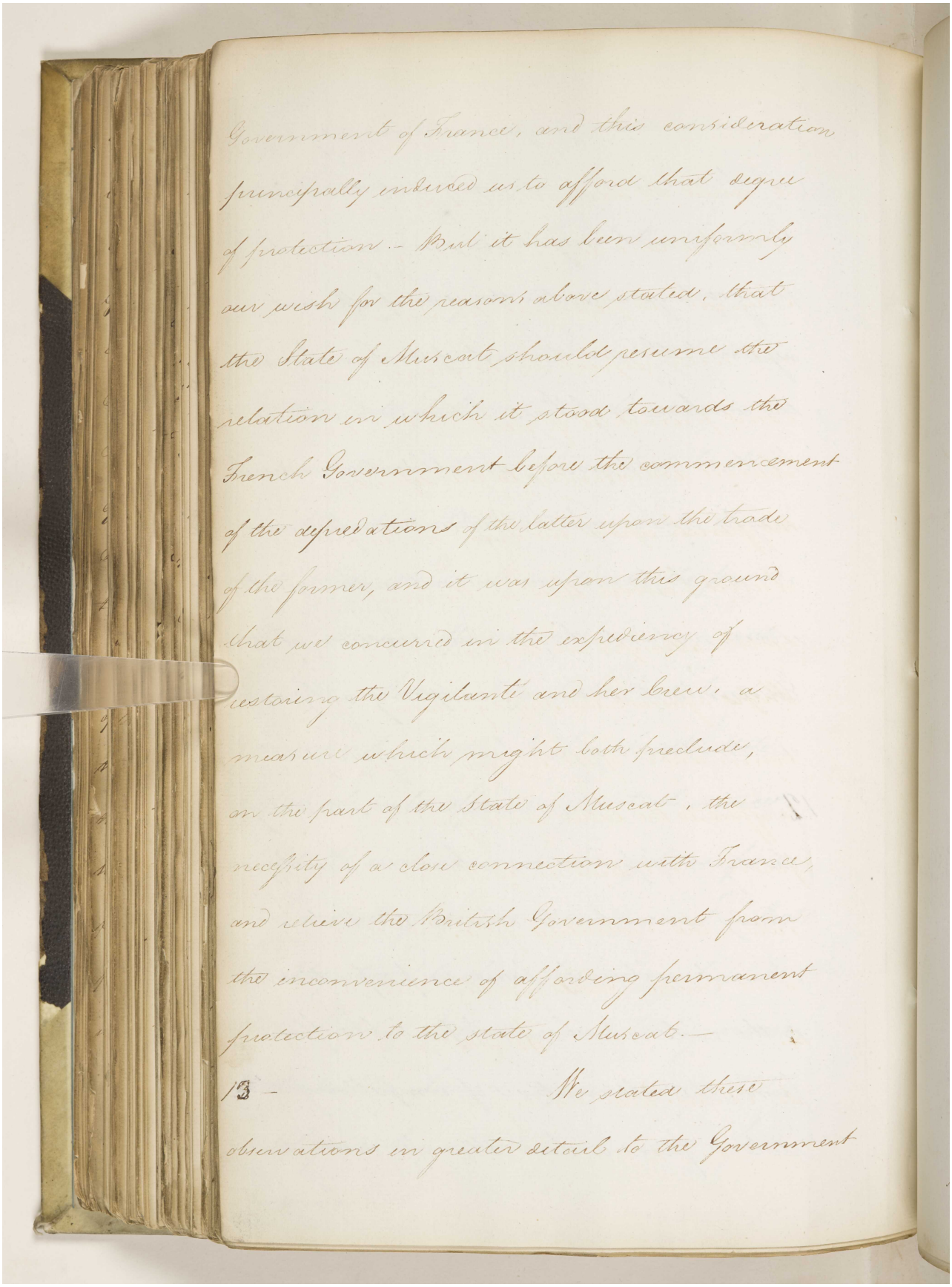

Government of France, and this consideration
principally induced us to afford that degree
of protection. - But it has been uniformly
our wish for the reasons above stated, that
the State of Muscat should resume the
relation in which it stood towards the
French Government before the commencement
of the depredations of the latter upon the trade
of the former, and it was upon this ground
that we concurred in the expediency of
restoring the Vigilante and her Crew, a
measure which might both preclude,
on the part of the State of Muscat, the
necessity of a close connection with France,
and relieve the British Government from
the inconvenience of affording permanent
protection to the state of Muscat —

13 — We stated these
observations in greater detail to the Government

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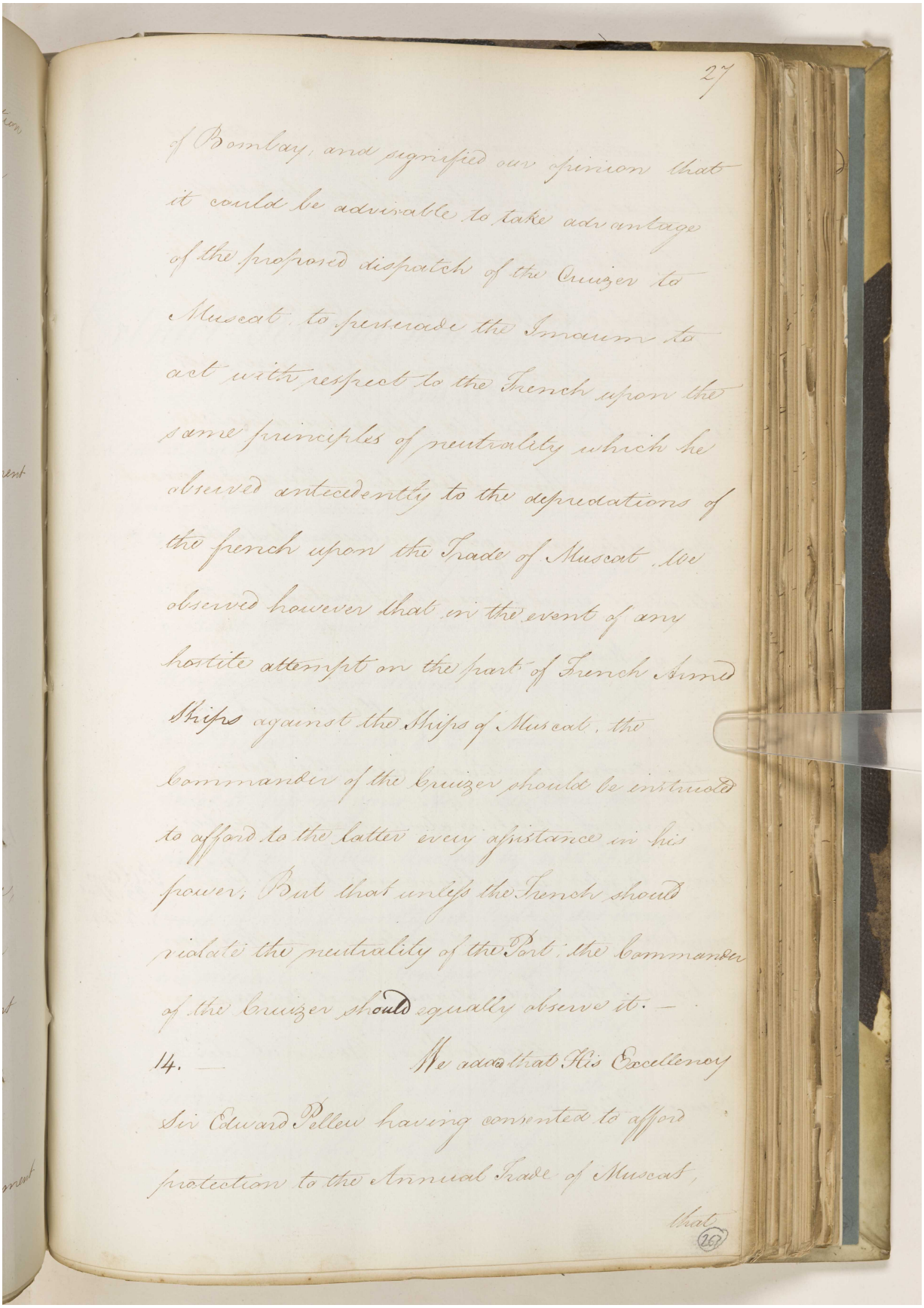

27

of Bombay, and signified our opinion that it could be advisable to take advantage of the proposed dispatch of the Cruizer to Muscat, to persuade the Imaum to act with respect to the French upon the same principles of neutrality which he observed antecedently to the depredations of the french upon the Trade of Muscat. We observed however that in the event of any hostile attempt on the part of French Armed Ships against the Ships of Muscat, the Commander of the Cruizer should be instructed to afford to the latter every assistance in his power; But that unless the French should violate the neutrality of the Port, the Commander of the Cruizer should equally observe it. —

14. — We added that His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew having consented to afford protection to the Annual Trade of Muscat,

that

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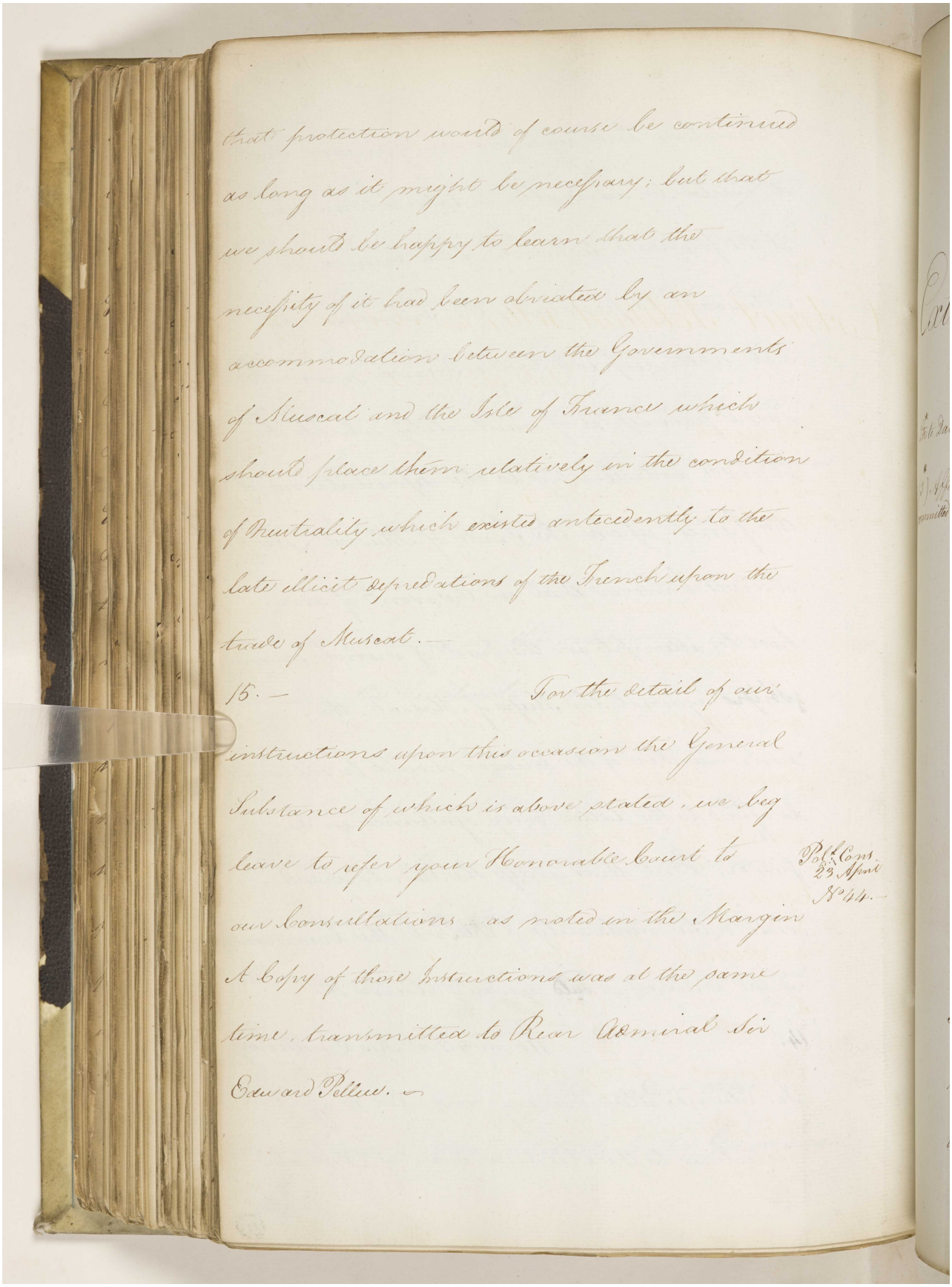

that protection would of course be continued as long as it might be necessary; but that we should be happy to learn that the necessity of it had been obviated by an accommodation between the Governments of Muscat and the Isle of France which should place them relatively in the condition of Neutrality which existed antecedently to the late illicit depredations of the French upon the trade of Muscat.—

15.— For the detail of our instructions upon this occasion the General Substance of which is above stated, we beg leave to refer your Honorable Court to our Consultations as noted in the Margin A Copy of those Instructions was at the same time transmitted to Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew.—

Pol. Cons. 23 April No 44.

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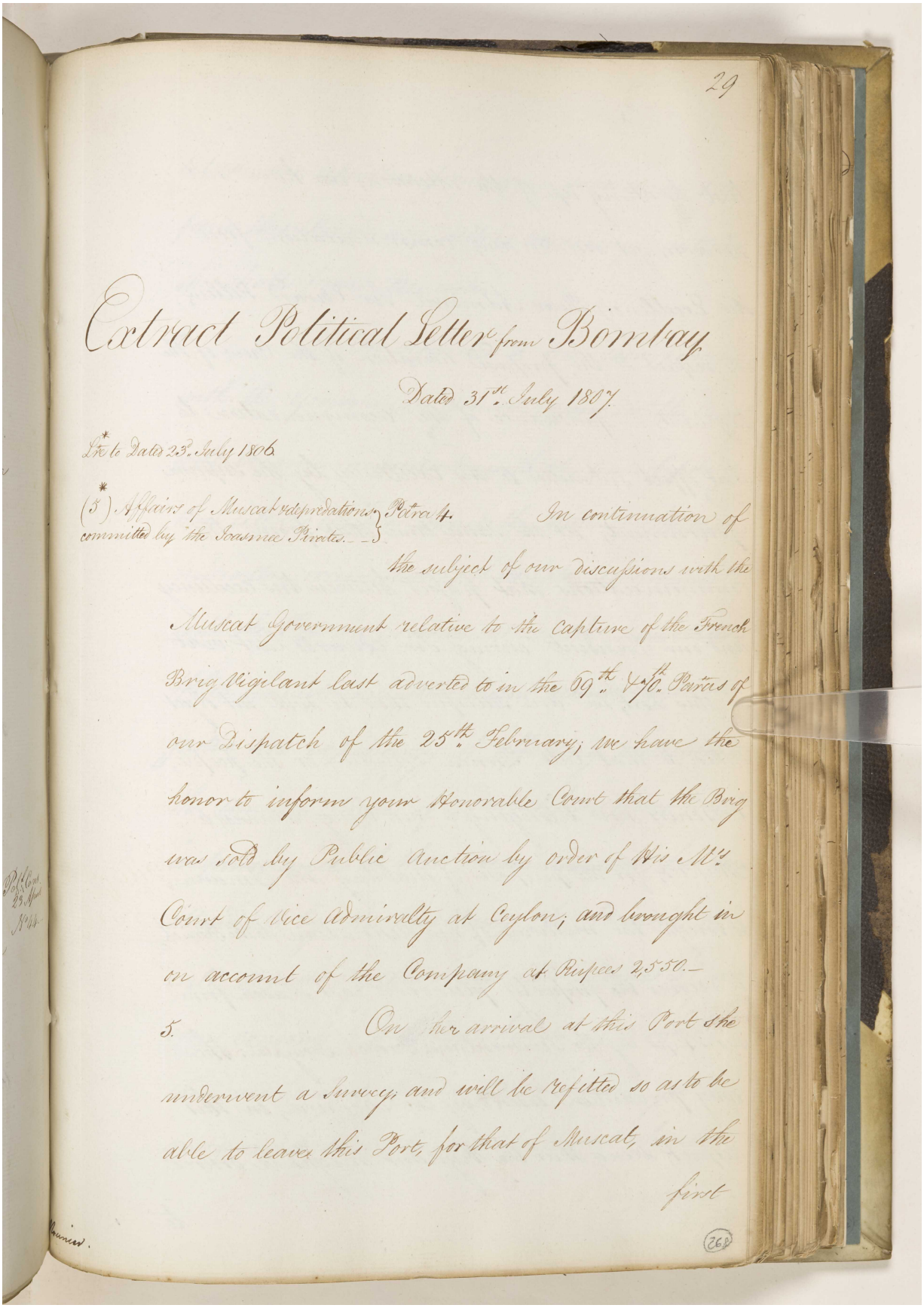

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 31st. July 1807.

Ltre to Dated 23d. July 1806.

(5*) Affairs of Muscat & depredations committed by the Joasmee Pirates. — } Patra 4. In continuation of the subject of our discussions with the Muscat Government relative to the capture of the French Brig Vigilant last adverted to in the 69th. & 70th. Paras of our Dispatch of the 25th. February; we have the honor to inform your Honorable Court that the Brig was sold by Public Auction by order of His Mys. Court of Vice Admiralty at Ceylon; and brought in on account of the Company at Rupees 2,550.—

5. On her arrival at this Port she underwent a Survey; and will be refitted so as to be able to leave this Port, for that of Muscat, in the first

Pol. Cons. 23 April No 44.

Rouvier.

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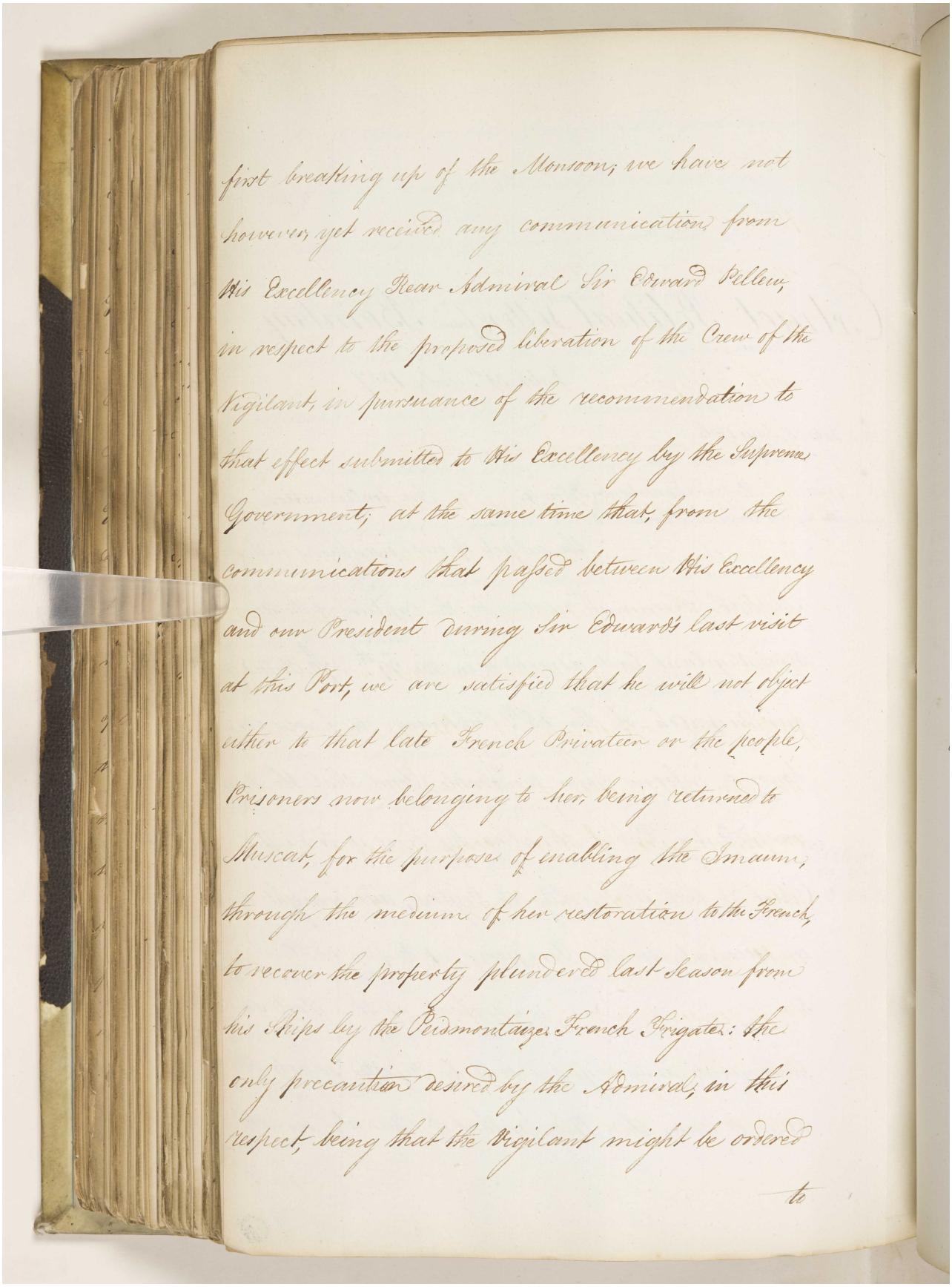

first breaking up of the Monsoon, we have not
however yet received any communication from
His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew,
in respect to the proposed liberation of the Crew of the
Vigilant, in pursuance of the recommendation to
that effect submitted to His Excellency by the Supreme
Government, at the same time that, from the
communications that passed between His Excellency
and our President during Sir Edward's last visit
at this Port, we are satisfied that he will not object
either to that late French Privateer or the people,
Prisoners now belonging to her, being returned to
Muscat, for the purposes of enabling the Imaum,
through the medium of her restoration to the French,
to recover the property plundered last Season from
his Ships by the Reidmontaizes French Frigates: the
only precaution desired by the Admiral, in this
respect, being that the Vigilant might be ordered

to

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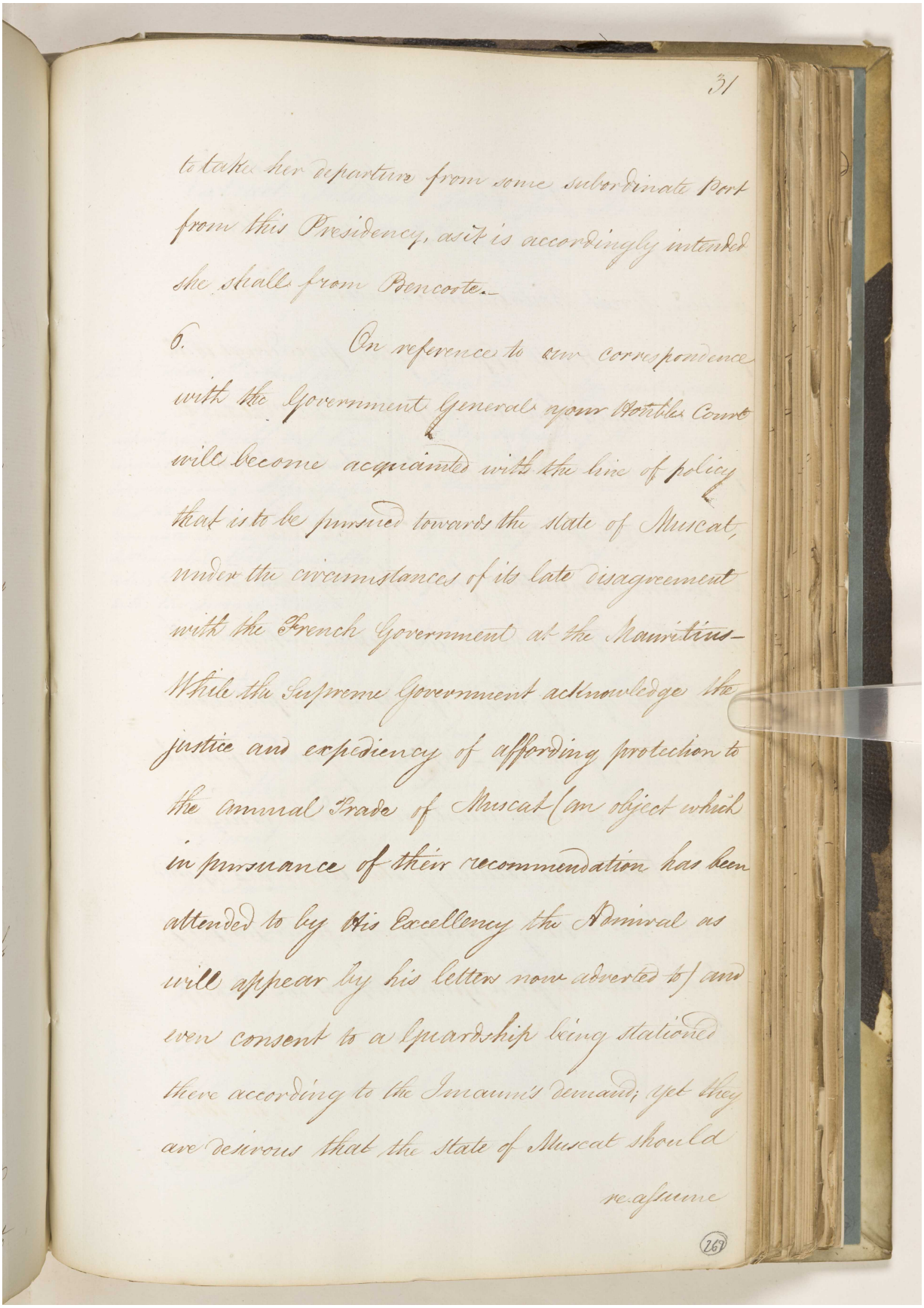

31

to take her departure from some subordinate Port from this Presidency, as it is accordingly intended she shall from Bencoote.

6. On reference to our correspondence with the Government General your Worships Court will become acquainted with the line of policy that is to be pursued towards the State of Muscat, under the circumstances of its late disagreement with the French Government at the Mauritius. While the Supreme Government acknowledge the justice and expediency of affording protection to the annual Trade of Muscat (an object which in pursuance of their recommendation has been attended to by His Excellency the Admiral as will appear by his letter now adverted to) and even consent to a Cruizership being stationed there according to the Imaum's demand; yet they are desirous that the State of Muscat should re-assume

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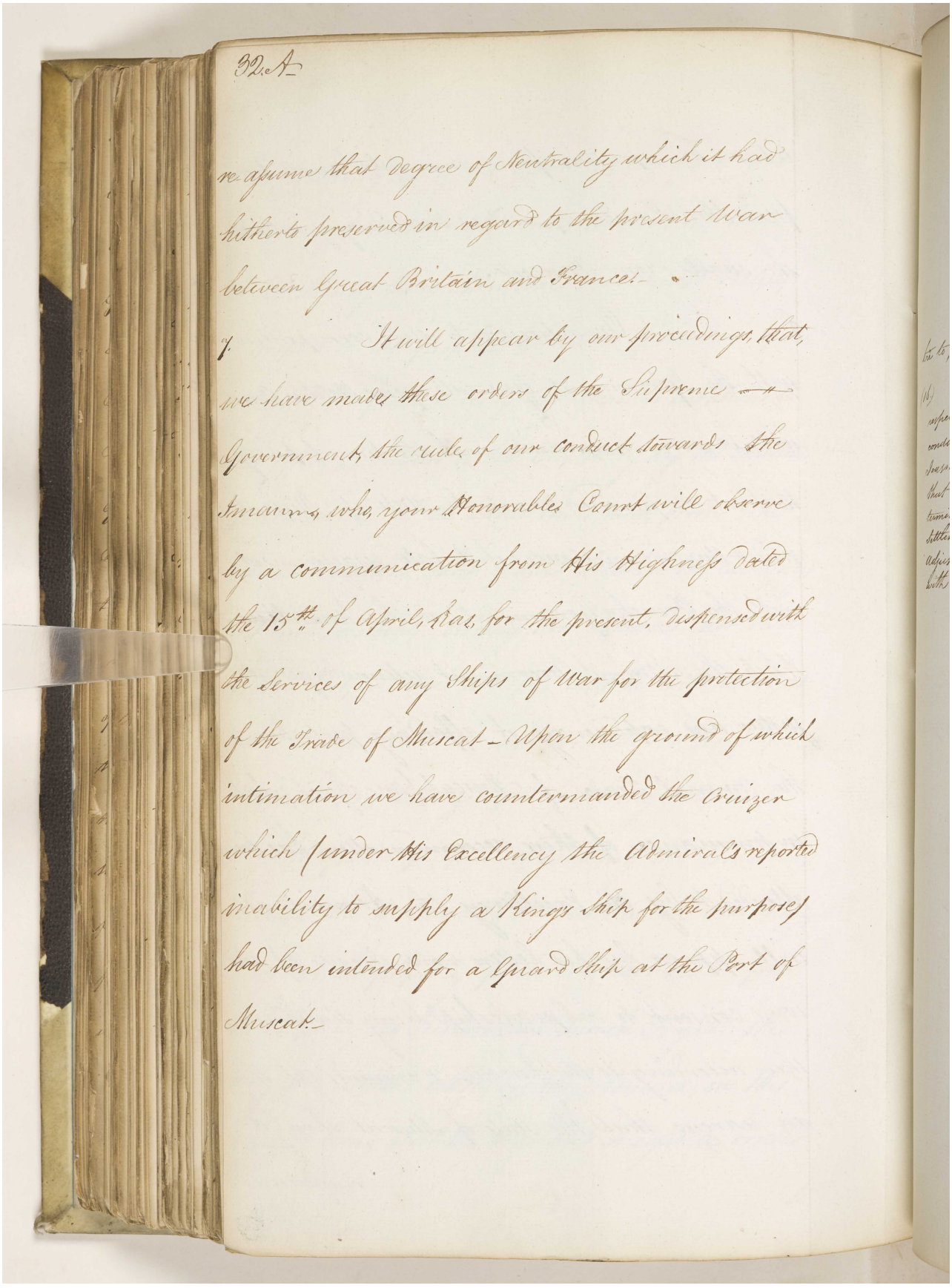

32.A

we assume that Degree of Neutrality which it had hitherto preserved in regard to the present War between Great Britain and France.

It will appear by our proceedings that we have made these orders of the Supreme Government the rule of our conduct towards the Imaums who your Honorables Court will observe by a communication from His Highness dated the 15th. of April, has for the present, dispensed with the Services of any Ships of War for the protection of the Trade of Muscat – Upon the ground of which intimation we have countermanded the Cruizer which (under His Excellency the Admirals reported inability to supply a Kings Ship for the purpose) had been intended for a Guard Ship at the Port of Muscat.

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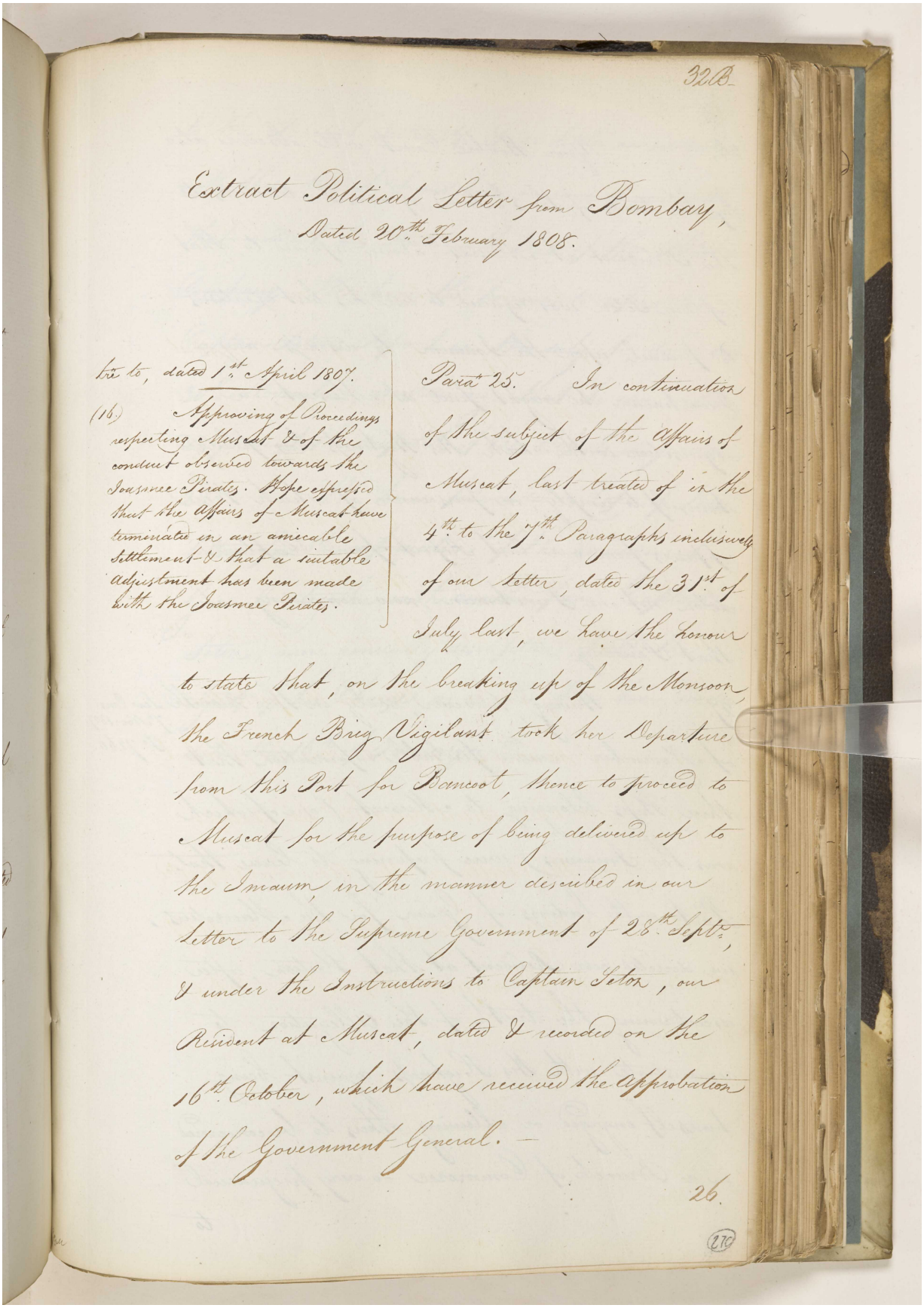

32B

Extract Political Letter from Bombay,
Dated 20th February 1808.

Vide to, dated 1st April 1807.

(16) Approving of Proceedings respecting Muscat & of the conduct observed towards the Joasmee Pirates. Hope expressed that the affairs of Muscat have terminated in an amicable settlement & that a suitable adjustment has been made with the Joasmee Pirates.

Para. 25. In continuation of the subject of the affairs of Muscat, last treated of in the 4th. to the 7th. Paragraphs inclusive of our letter, dated the 31st. of July last, we have the honour to state that, on the breaking up of the Monsoon, the French Brig Vigilant took her Departure from this Port for Bancoot, thence to proceed to Muscat for the purpose of being delivered up to the Imaum, in the manner described in our Letter to the Supreme Government of 28th. Sept., & under the Instructions to Captain Seton, our Resident at Muscat, dated & recorded on the 16th. October, which have received the Approbation of the Government General. —

26.

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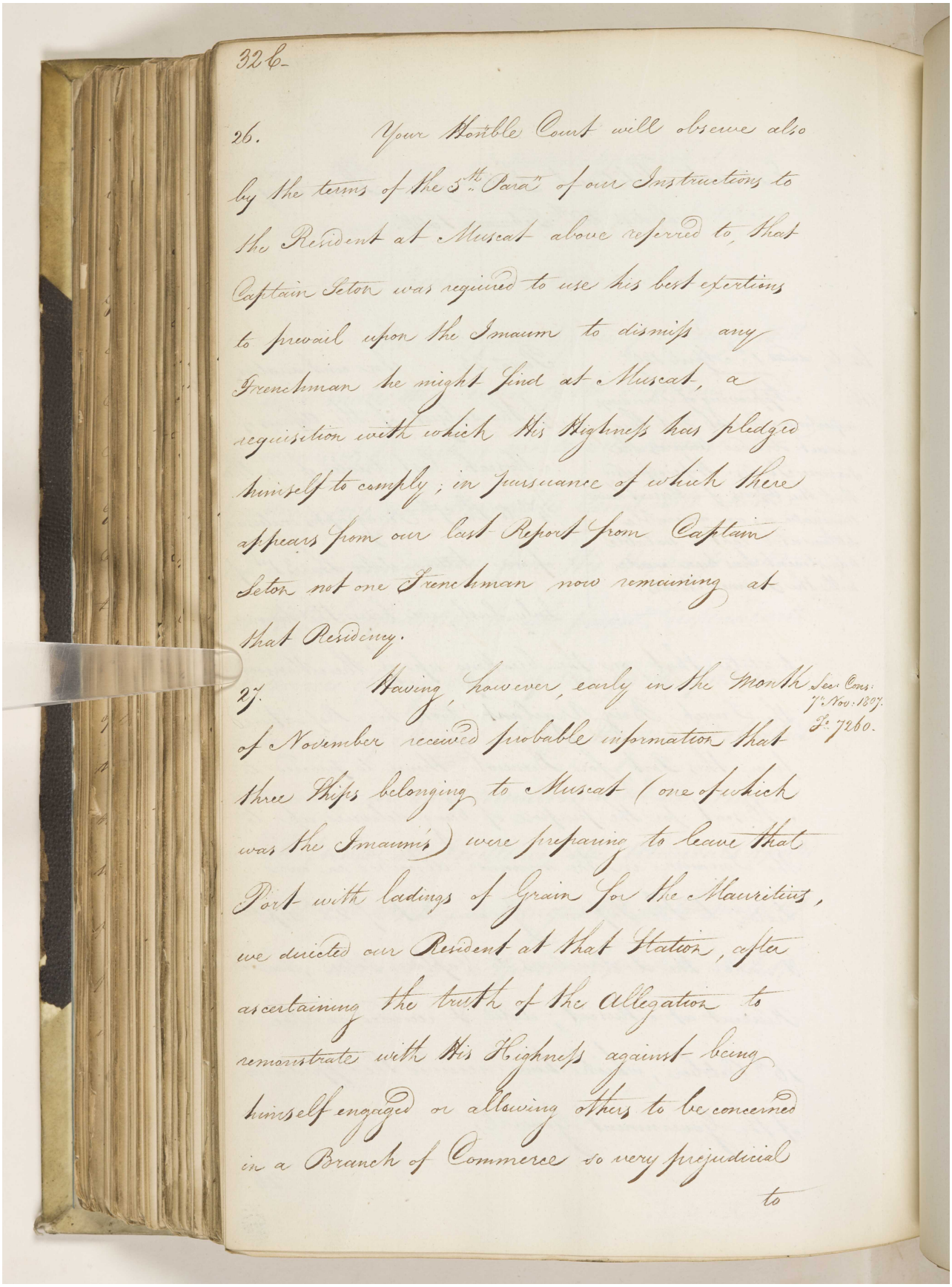

326.

26. Your Honble Court will observe also by the terms of the 5th. Para. of our Instructions to the Resident at Muscat above referred to, that Captain Seton was required to use his best exertions to prevail upon the Imaum to dismiss any Frenchman he might find at Muscat, a requisition with which His Highness has pledged himself to comply; in pursuance of which there appears from our last Report from Captain Seton not one Frenchman now remaining at that Residency.

27. Having, however, early in the month of November received probable information that three Ships belonging to Muscat (one of which was the Imaum's) were preparing to leave that Port with ladings of Grain for the Mauritius, we directed our Resident at that Station, after ascertaining the truth of the Allegation to remonstrate with His Highness against being himself engaged or allowing others to be concerned in a Branch of Commerce so very prejudicial to

Sec. Cons. 7th Nov. 1807. N. 7260.

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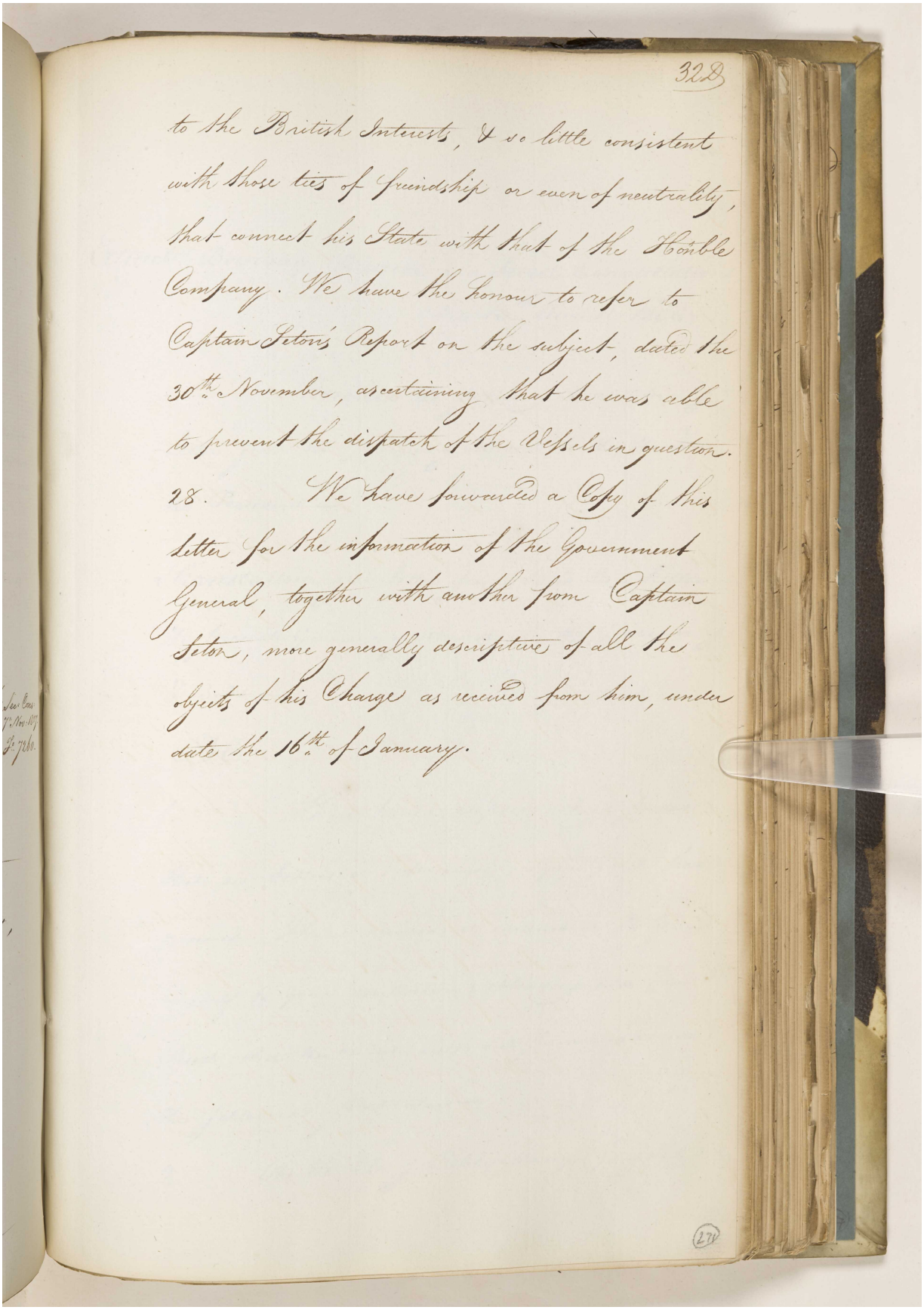

328

to the British Interests, & so little consistent with those ties of Friendship or even of neutrality, that connect his State with that of the Honble Company. We have the honour to refer to Captain Seton's Report on the subject, dated the 30th. November, ascertaining that he was able to prevent the dispatch of the Vessels in question.

28. We have forwarded a Copy of this Letter for the information of the Government General, together with another from Captain Seton, more generally descriptive of all the objects of his Charge as received from him, under date the 16th. of January.

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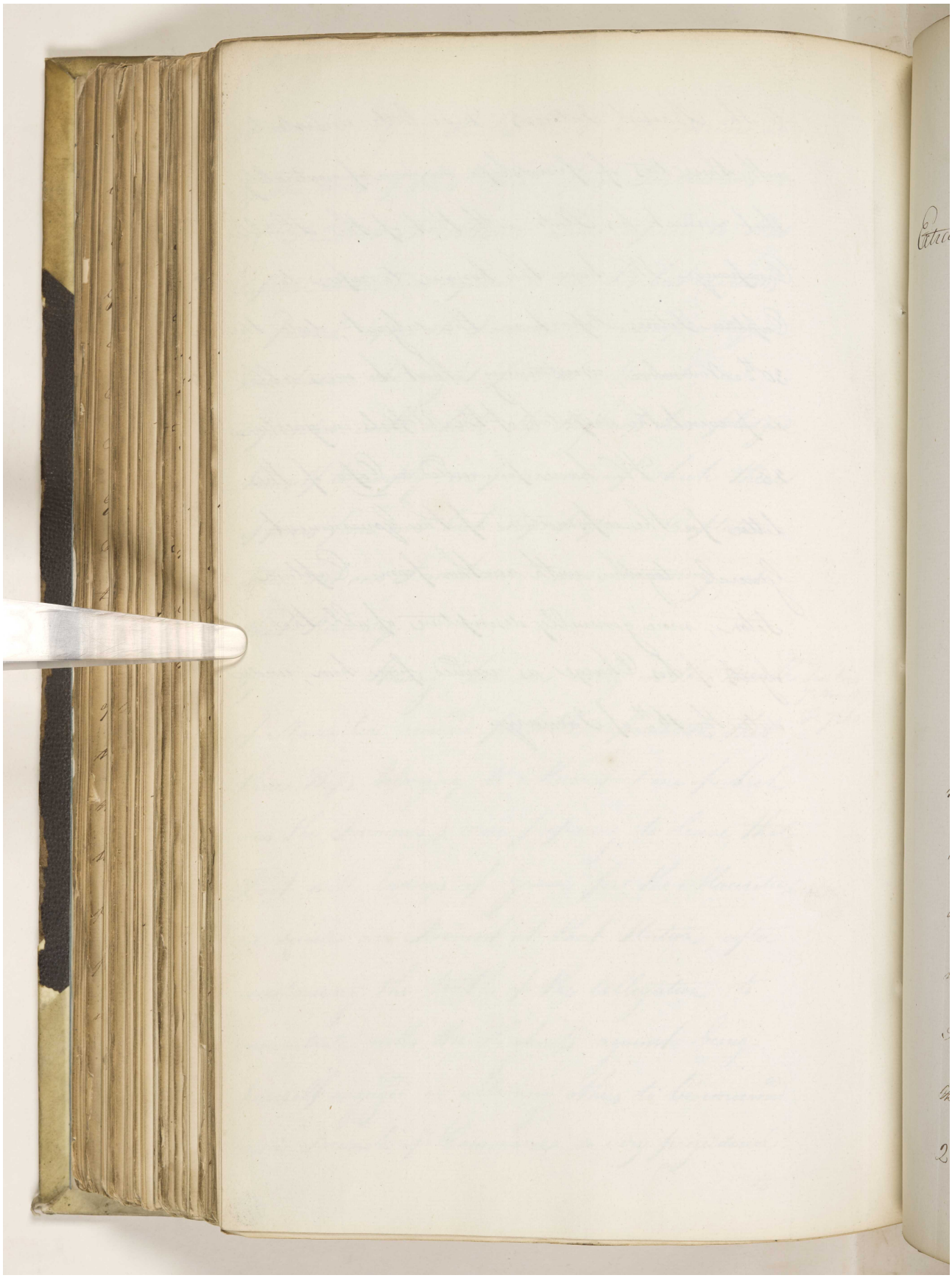

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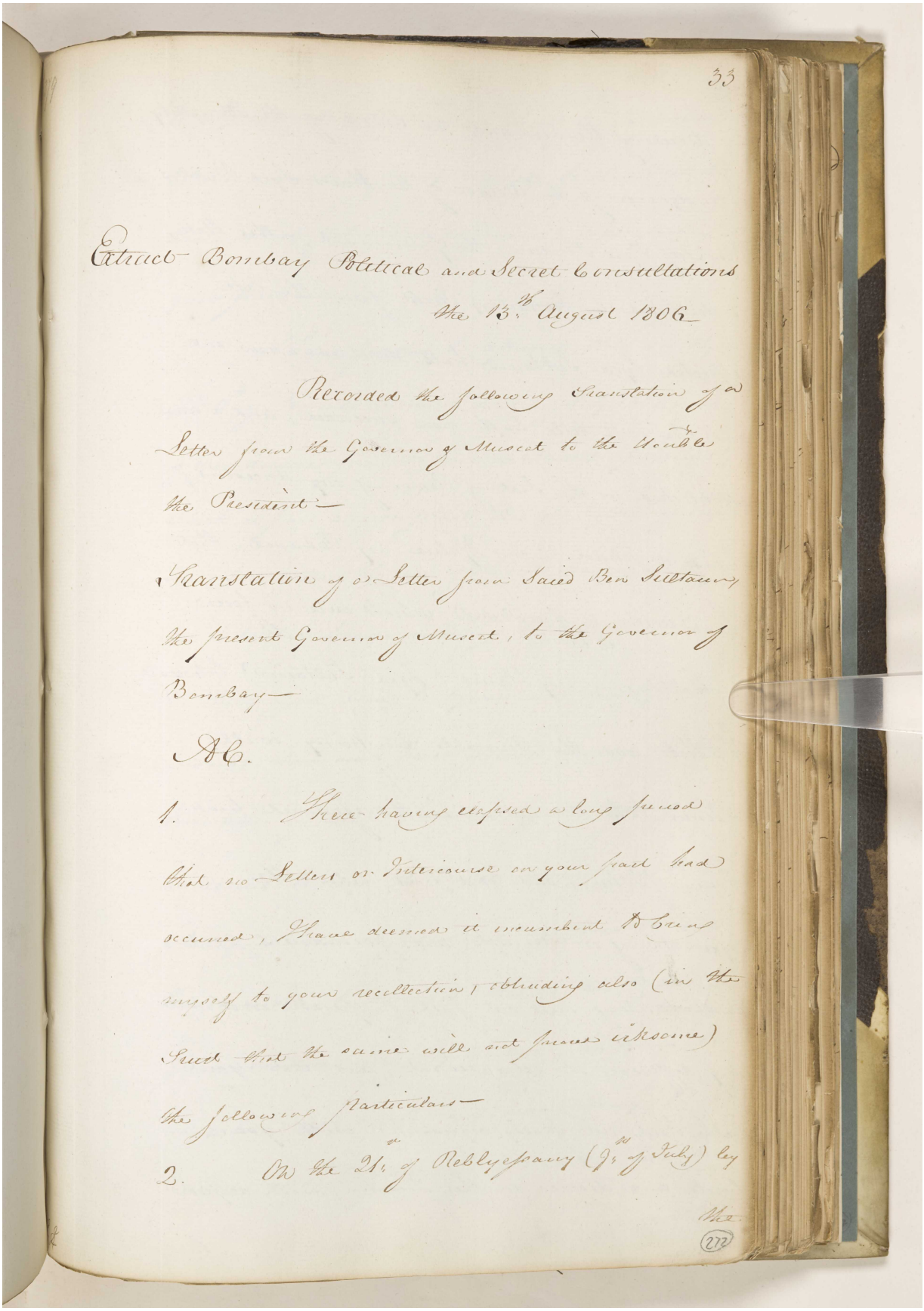

Extract Bombay Political and Secret Consultations
the 13th August 1806

Recorded the following Translation of a Letter from the Governor of Muscat to the Honble the President—

Translation of a Letter from Said Ben Sultaun, the present Governor of Muscat, to the Governor of Bombay—

A.C.

1. There having elapsed a long period that no Letters or Intercourse on your part had occurred, I have deemed it incumbent to bring myself to your recollection, obtruding also (in the Trust that the same will not prove irksome) the following particulars—

2. On the 21st of Reblyessany (9th of July) by the

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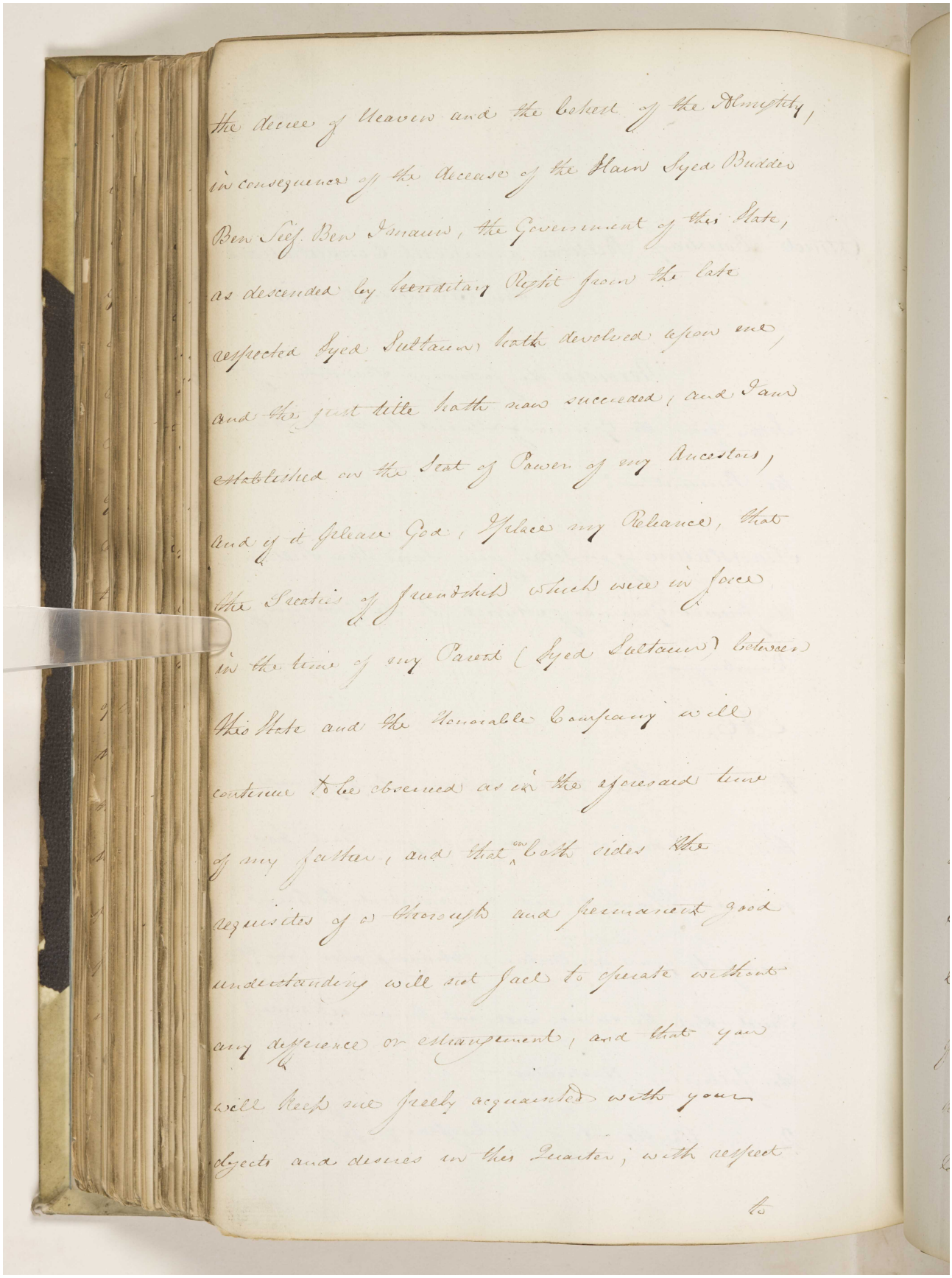

the decree of Heaven and the behest of the Almighty,
in consequence of the decease of the Imam Syed Buddee
Bin Seif Bin Imaum, the Government of this State,
as descended by hereditary Right from the late
respected Syed Sultaun, hath devolved upon me,
and the just title hath now succeeded, and I am
established on the Seat of Power of my Ancestors,
And if it please God, I place my Reliance, that
the Treaties of Friendship which were in force
in the time of my Parent (Syed Sultaun) between
this State and the Honorable Company will
continue to be observed as in the aforesaid time
of my father, and that on both sides the
Requisites of a thorough and permanent good
understanding will not fail to operate without
any difference or estrangement, and that you
will keep me freely acquainted with your
objects and desires in this Quarter; with respect
to

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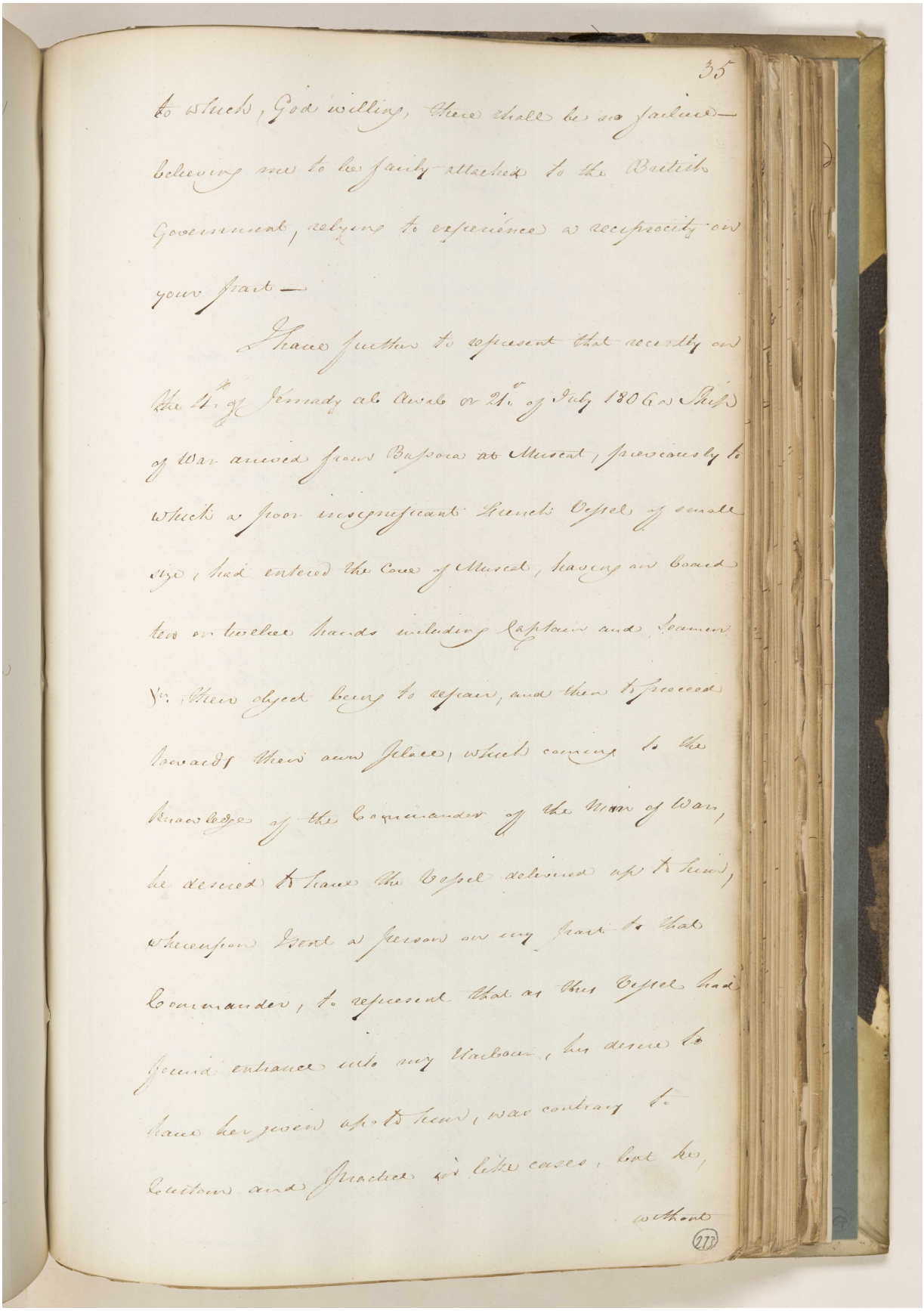

35

to which, God willing, there shall be no failure—
believing me to be fairly attached to the British
Government, relying to experience a reciprocity on
your part—

I have further to represent that recently on
the 4th of January ult. Arrived or 21st of July 1806 a Ship
of War arrived from Bussora at Muscat, previously to
which a poor insignificant French Vessel of small
size, had entered the Cove of Muscat, having on board
ten or twelve hands including Captain and Seamen
Viz. Their object being to repair, and then to proceed
towards their own Places, which coming to the
knowledge of the Commander of the Man of War,
he desired to have the Vessel detained up to him,
whereupon I sent a Person on my part to that
Commander, to represent that as this Vessel had
found entrance into my Harbour, his desire to
have her given up to him, was contrary to
Custom and Practice in like cases, but he,

without

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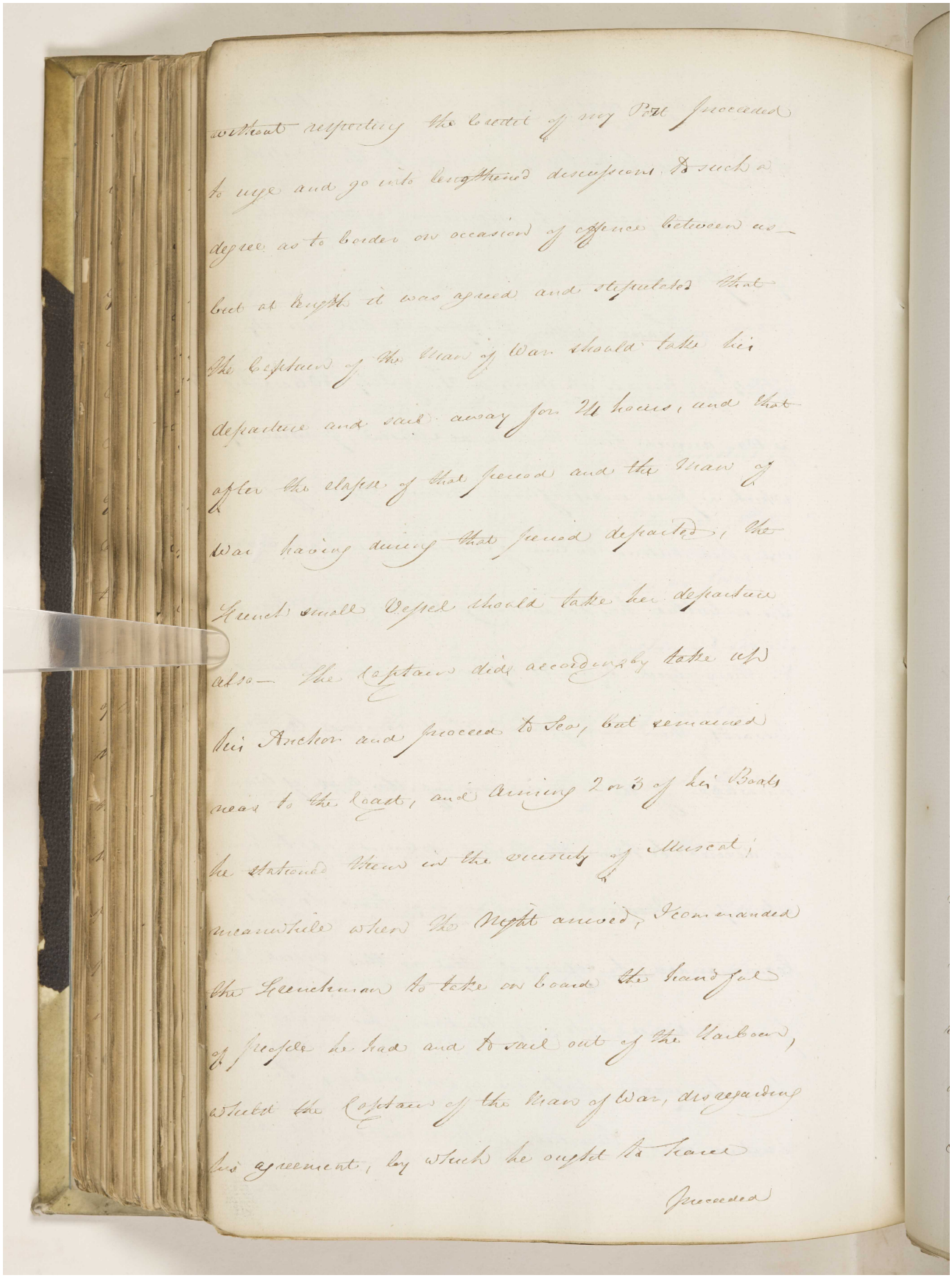

without reporting the Credit of my Bill proceeded
to urge and go into lengthened discussions to such a
degree as to border on occasion of offence between us—
but at length it was agreed and stipulated that
the Captain of the Man of War should take his
departure and sail away for 24 hours, and that
after the elapse of that period and the Man of
War having during that period departed, the
French small Vessel should take her departure
also— The Captain did accordingly take up
his Anchor and proceed to Sea, but remained
near to the Coast, and during 2 or 3 of his Boats
he stationed them in the vicinity of Muscat;
meanwhile when the Night arrived, I commanded
the Frenchman to take on board the handful
of people he had and to sail out of the Harbour,
which the Captain of the Man of War, disregarding
his agreement, by which he ought to have
proceeded

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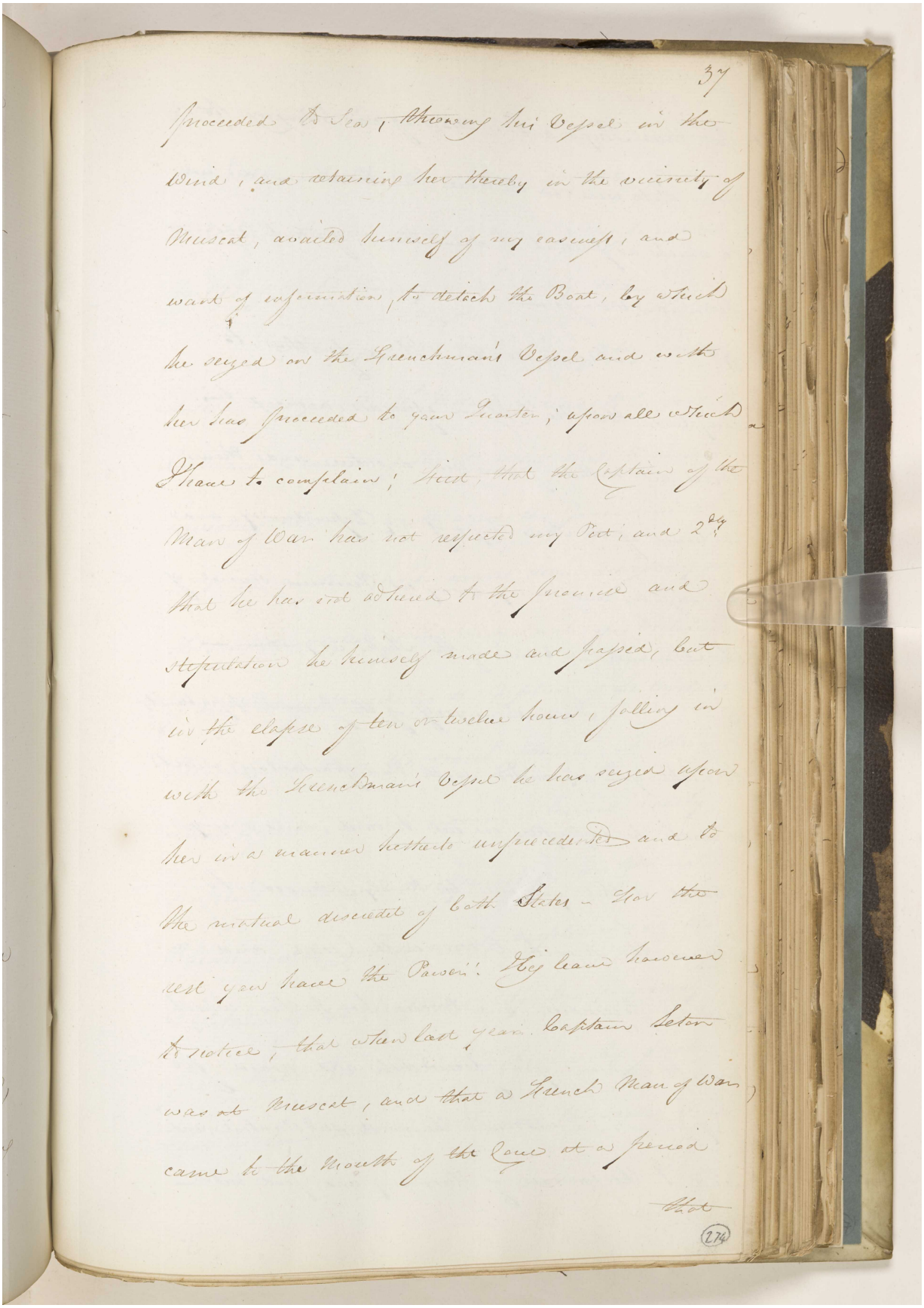

proceeded to Sea, throwing his Vessel in the Wind, and retaining her thereby in the vicinity of Muscat, availed himself of my easiness, and want of information, to detach the Boat, by which he seized on the Frenchman's Vessel and with her has proceeded to your Quarter; upon all which I have to complain; First, that the Captain of the Man of War has not respected my Port; and 2dly that he has not adhered to the promise and stipulation he himself made and passed, but in the elapse of ten or twelve hours, falling in with the Frenchman's Vessel he has seized upon her in a manner hitherto unprecedented and to the mutual discredit of both States — For the rest you have the Power: He leave however to notice, that when last year Captain Seton was at Muscat, and that a French Man of War came to the Mouth of the Cove at a period

that

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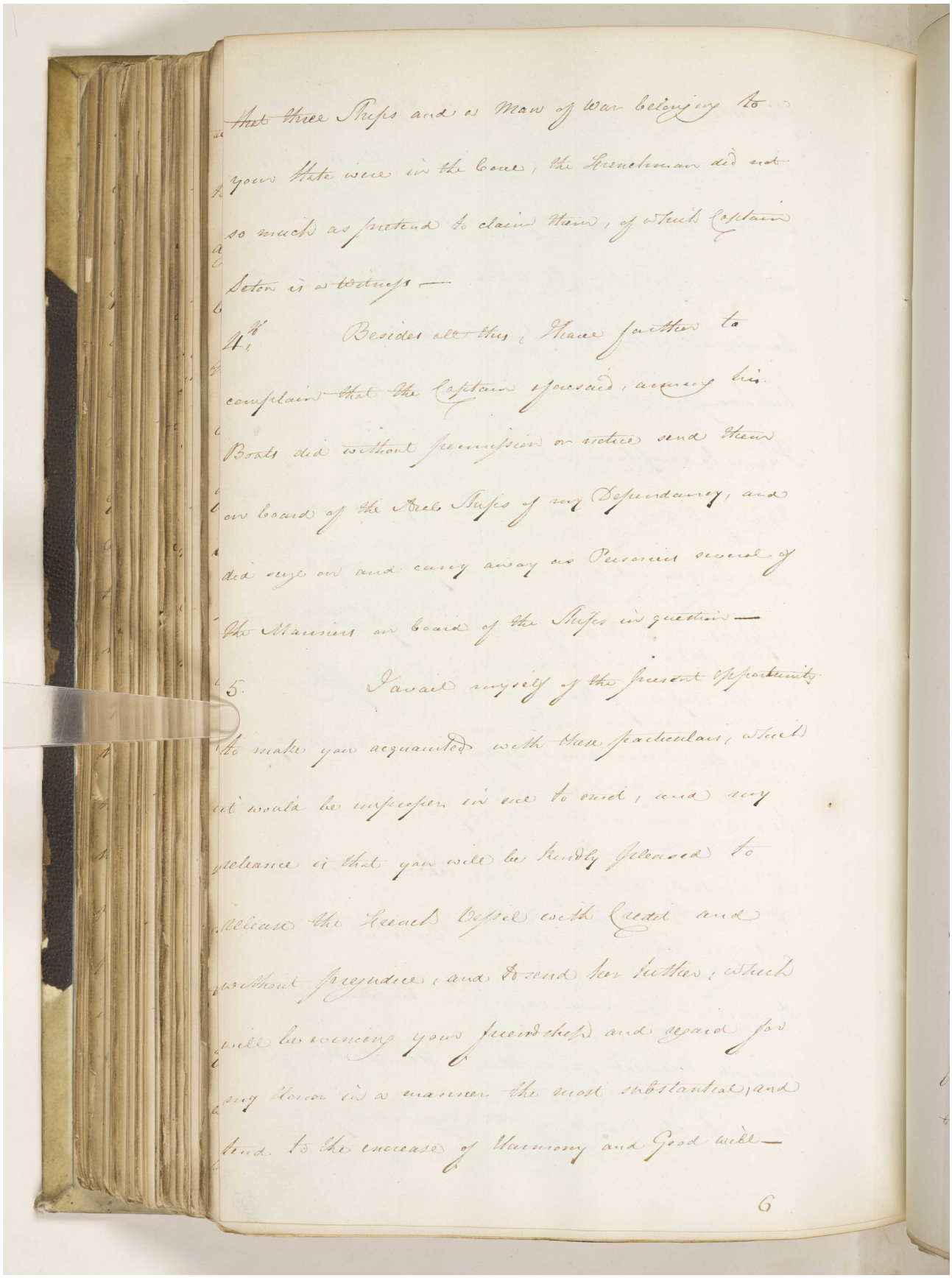

That three Ships and a Man of War belonging to your State were in the Cove, the Frenchman did not so much as pretend to claim them, of which Captain Seton is a witness —

4th Besides all this, I have further to complain that the Captain aforesaid, armed his Boats did without permission or notice send them on board of the Rock Ships of my Dependancy, and did seize on and carry away as Persons several of the Mariners on board of the Ships in question —

5. I avail myself of the present Opportunity to make you acquainted with these particulars, which it would be superfluous in me to enlarge, and my reliance is that you will be kindly pleased to release the Vessel with Credit and without Prejudice, and to send her further, which will be securing your friendship and regard for my Nation in a manner the most substantial, and tend to the increase of Harmony and Good will —

6

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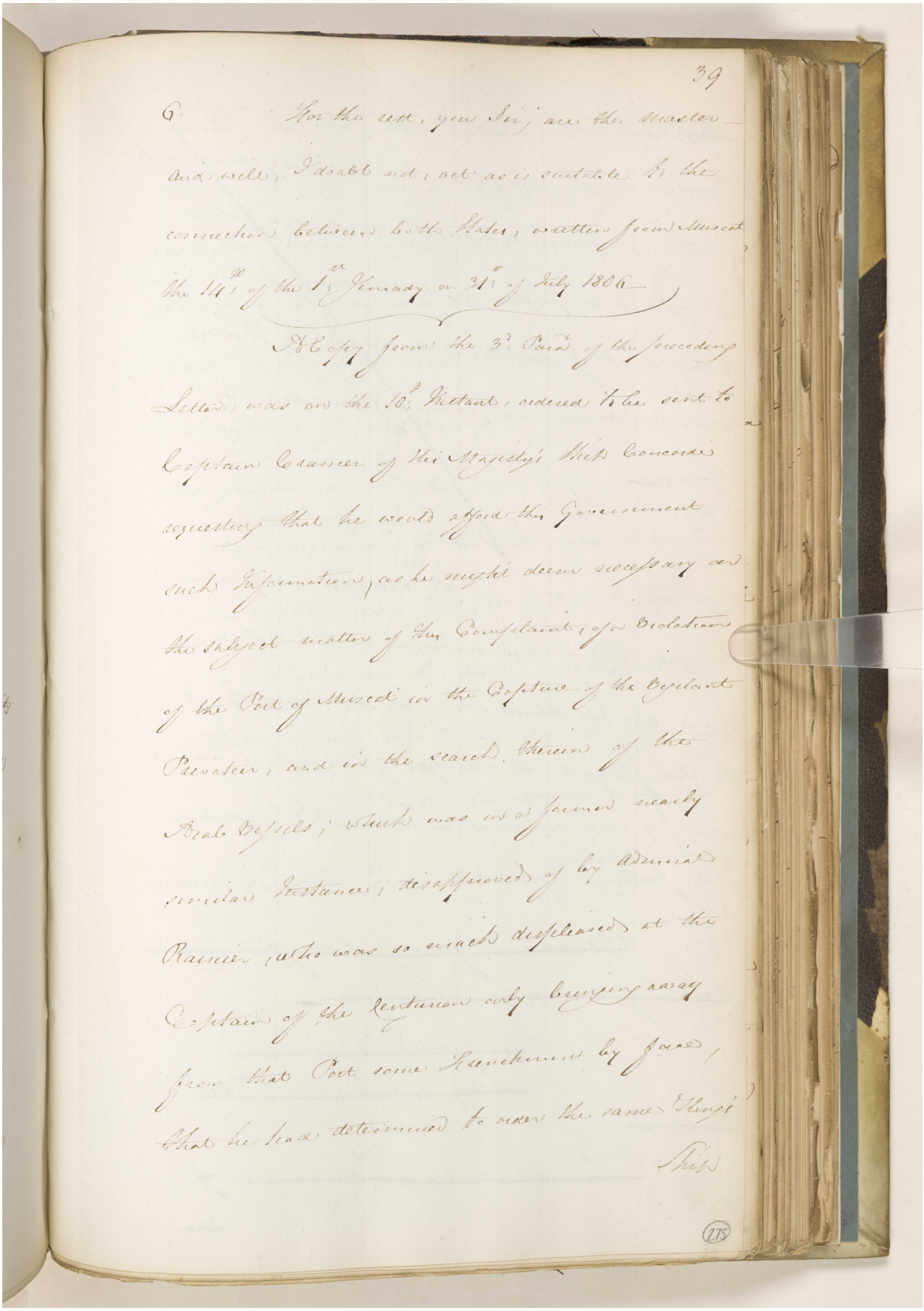

6 For the rest, you Sir, are the Master and will, I doubt not, act as is suitable to the connection between both States, written from Muscat the 14th of the 1st Jemady on 31st of July 1806

A Copy from the 3d Para of the preceding Letter, was on the 18th Instant, ordered to be sent to Captain Cramer of His Majesty's Ship Concorde requesting that he would afford this Government such Information, as he might deem necessary on the subject matter of this Complaint, of a Violation of the Port of Muscat in the Capture of the Vigilant Privateer, and in the search therein of the Arab Vessels; which was in a former nearly similar Instance, disapproved of by Admiral Rainier, who was so much displeased at the Captain of the Centurion only bringing away from that Port some Frenchmen by force, that he had determined to order the same Thing's

Ship

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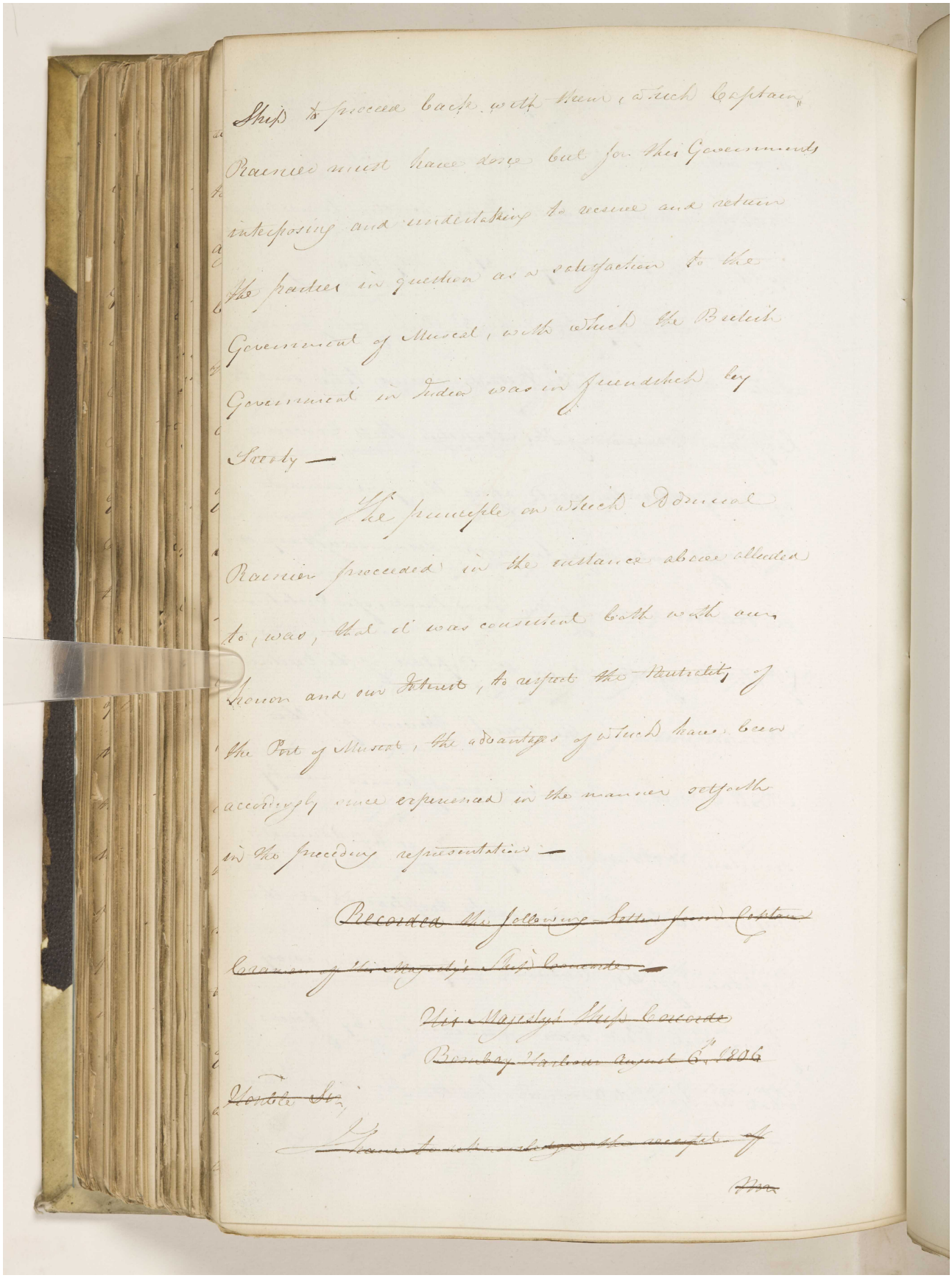

Ship to proceed back with them, which Captain Rainier must have done but for this Government interposing and undertaking to rescue and return the parties in question as a satisfaction to the Government of Muscat, with which the British Government in India was in friendship by Treaty —

The principle on which Admiral Rainier proceeded in the instance above alluded to, was, that it was consistent both with our Honor and our Interest, to respect the Neutrality of the Port of Muscat, the advantages of which have been accordingly since experienced in the manner set forth in the preceding representation —

~~Recorded the following Letter from Captain Commander of His Majesty's Ship Concorde —~~

~~His Majesty's Ship Concorde~~
~~Bombay Harbour August 6th 1806~~

~~Honble Sir,~~

~~I have [illegible] the receipt of~~

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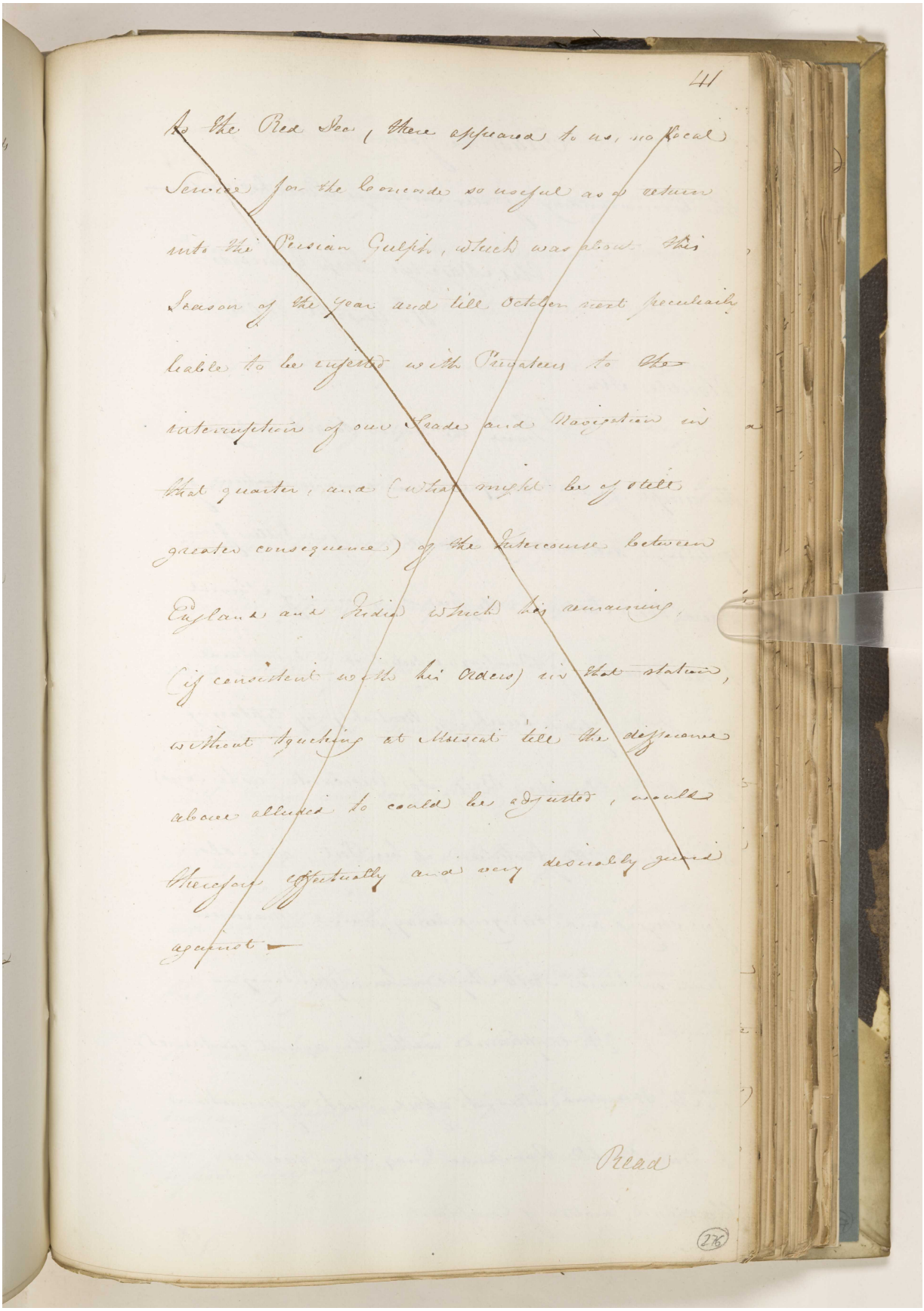

to the Red Sea, there appeared to us, no Local Service for the Concorde so useful as a return into the Persian Gulph, which was about this Season of the year and till October next peculiarly liable to be infested with Privateers to the interruption of our Trade and Navigation in that quarter, and (what might be of still greater consequence) of the Intercourse between England and India which his remaining, (if consistent with his Orders) in that station, without touching at Muscat till the difference above alluded to could be adjusted, would therefore effectually and very desirably guard against —

Read

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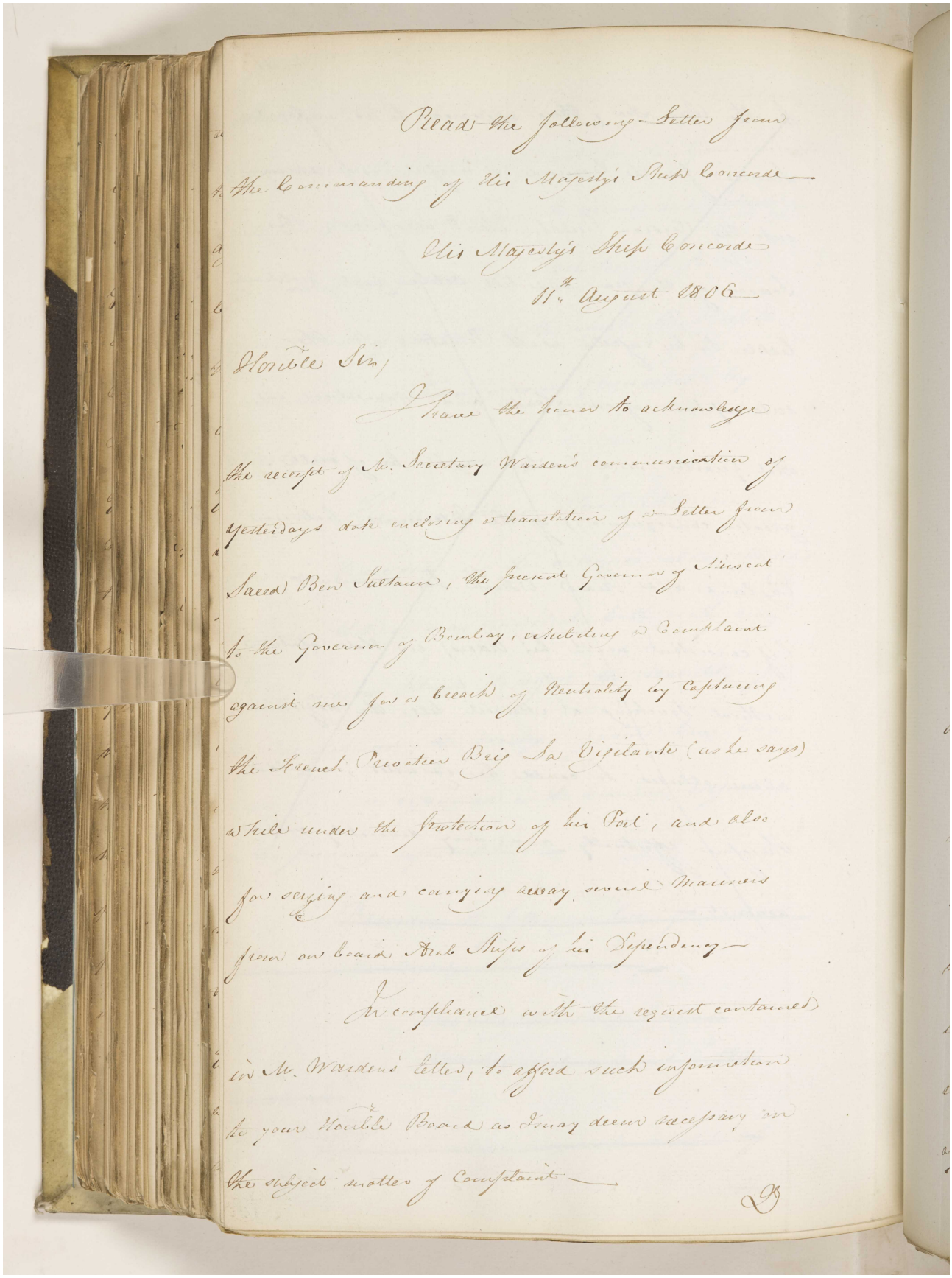

Read the following Letter from
the Commanding of His Majesty's Ship Concorde —

His Majesty's Ship Concorde
11th August 1806 —

Honble Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of Mr. Secretary Warden's communication of
yesterdays date enclosing a translation of a Letter from
Saeed Bon Sultaun, the present Governor of Muscat
to the Governor of Bombay, exhibiting a Complaint
against me for a breach of Neutrality by Capturing
the French Privateer Brig La Vigilante (as he says)
while under the protection of his Port, and also
for seizing and carrying away several Mariners
from on board Arab Ships of his Dependency —

In compliance with the request contained
in Mr. Wardens letter, to afford such information
to your Honble Board as I may deem necessary on
the subject matter of Complaint —

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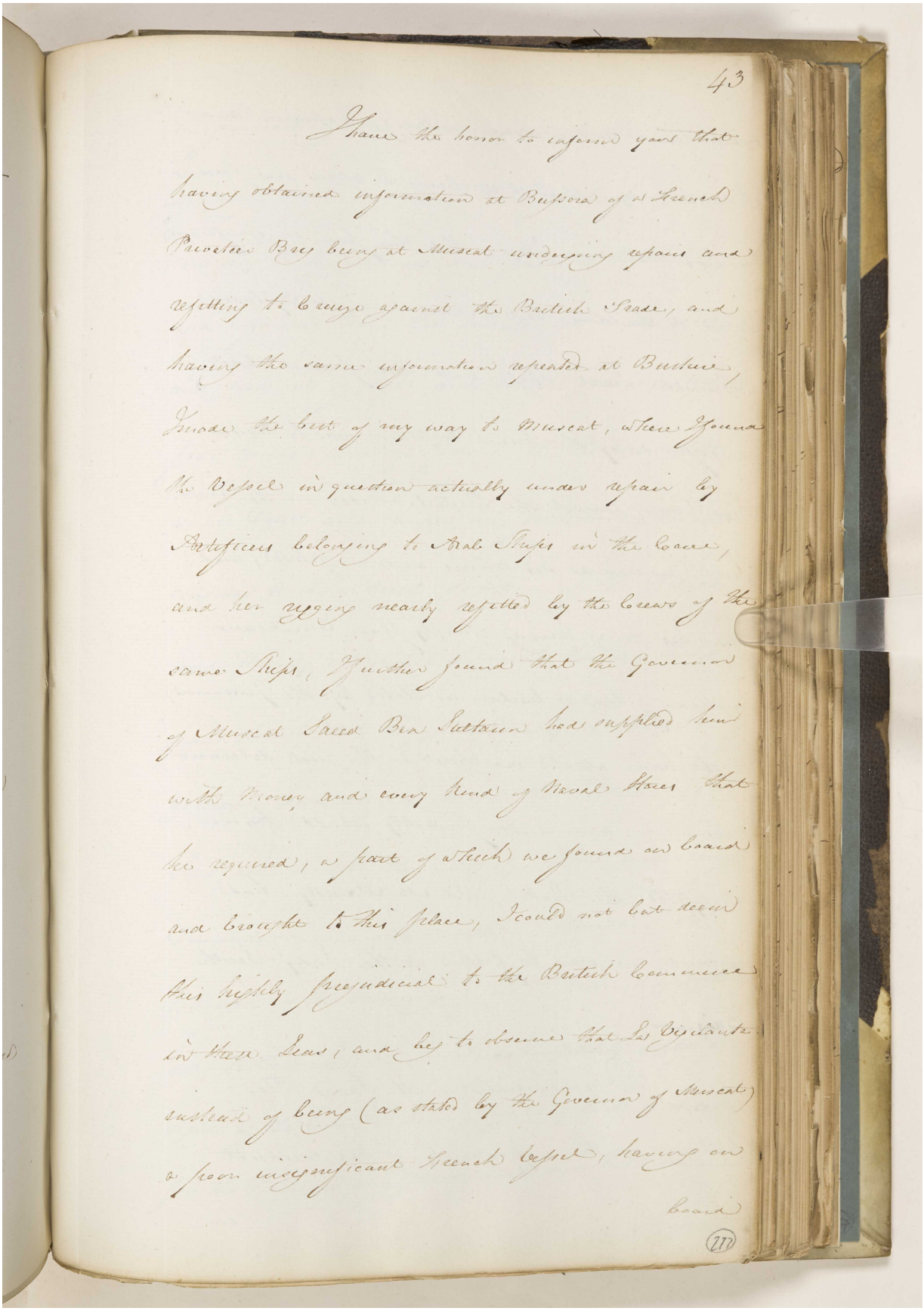

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I have the honor to inform you that having obtained information at Bussora of a French Privateer Brig being at Muscat undergoing repair and refitting to cruize against the British Trade, and having the same information repeated at Bushire, I made the best of my way to Muscat, where I found the Vessel in question actually under repair by Artificers belonging to Arab Ships in the Cove, and her rigging nearly refitted by the Crews of the same Ships. I further found that the Governor of Muscat Saeed Bin Sultaun had supplied him with Money and every kind of Naval Stores that he required, a part of which we found on board and brought to this place, I could not but deem this highly prejudicial to the British Commerce in these Seas, and beg to observe that La Vigilante instead of being (as stated by the Governor of Muscat) a poor insignificant French Vessel, having on board

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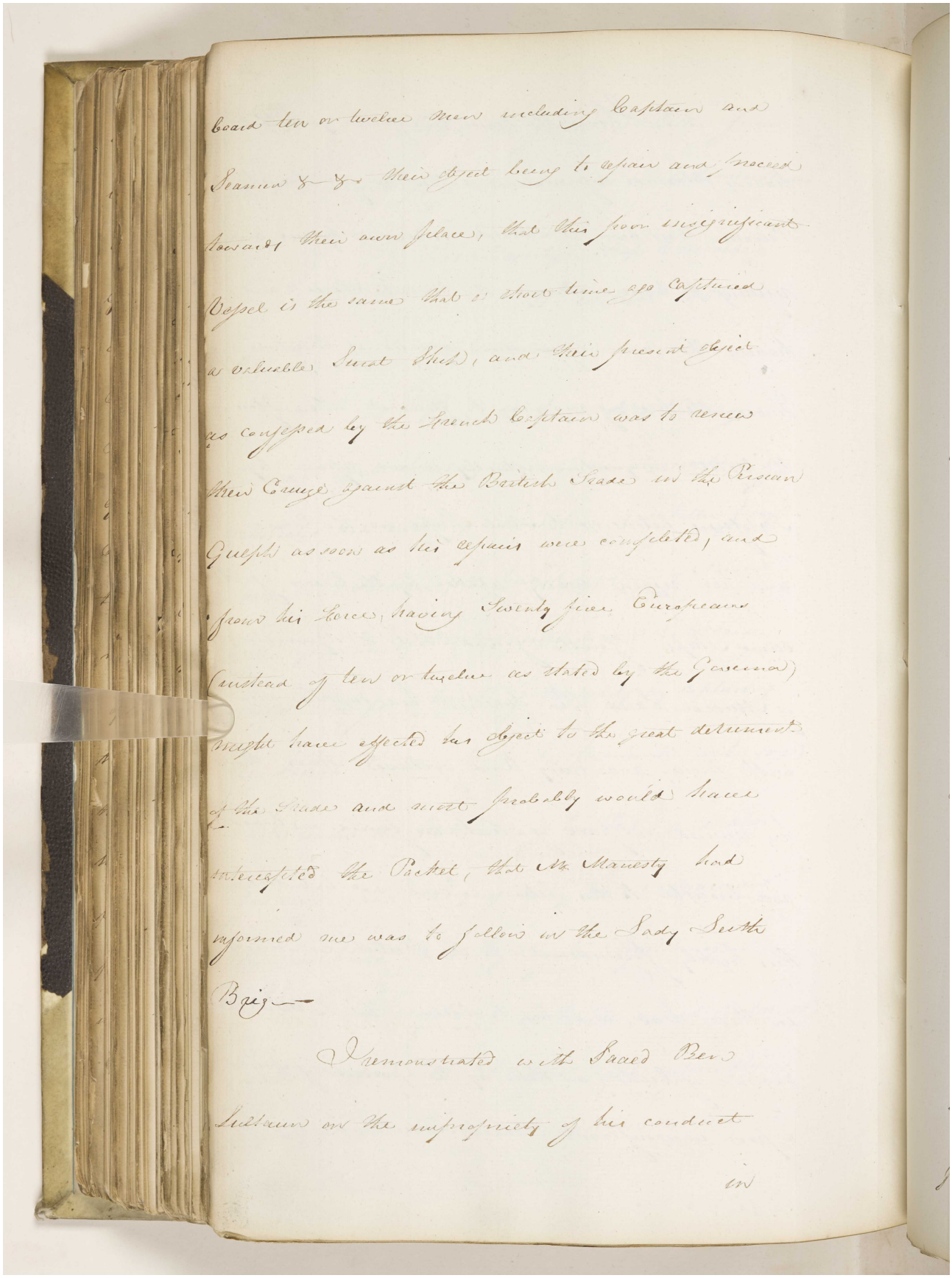

board ten or twelve Men including Captain and
Seamen &c &c Their object being to repair and proceed
towards their own Places, that this poor insignificant
Vessel is the same that a short time ago Captured
a valuable Surat Ship, and their present object
as conjectured by the French Captain was to arouse
them Tribes against the British States in the Persian
Gulph as soon as his repairs were completed, and
joyn his Forces, having Seventy five Europeans
(instead of ten or twelve as stated by the Governor)
might have effected his Object to the great detriment
of the States and most probably would have
intercepted the Packet, that His Majesty had
informed me was to follow in the Lady Smith
Brig—

Remonstrated with Saeed Ben
Sultaun on the impropriety of his conduct
in

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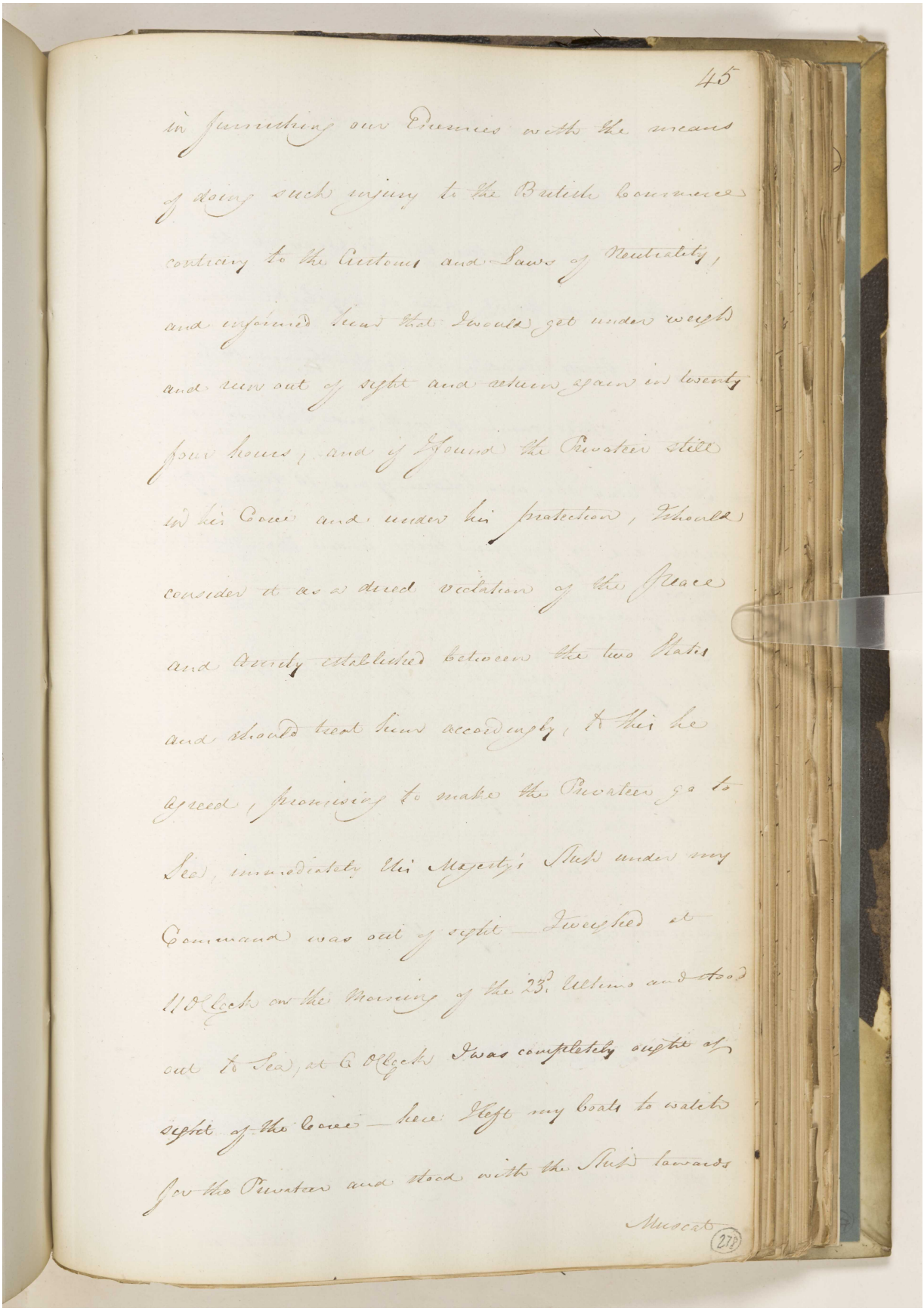

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in furnishing our Enemies with the means
of doing such injury to the British Commerce
contrary to the Customs and Laws of Neutrality,
and informed him that I would get under weigh
and run out of sight and return again in twenty
four hours, and if I found the Privateer still
in his Cove and under his protection, I should
consider it as a direct violation of the peace
and Amity established between the two States
and should treat him accordingly, to this he
agreed, promising to make the Privateer go to
Sea, immediately His Majesty's Ship under my
Command was out of sight — I weighed at
11 O'Clock on the Morning of the 23d Instant and stood
out to Sea, at 6 O'Clock I was completely out of
sight of the Cove — here I left my Boats to watch
for the Privateer and stood with the Ship towards
Muscat

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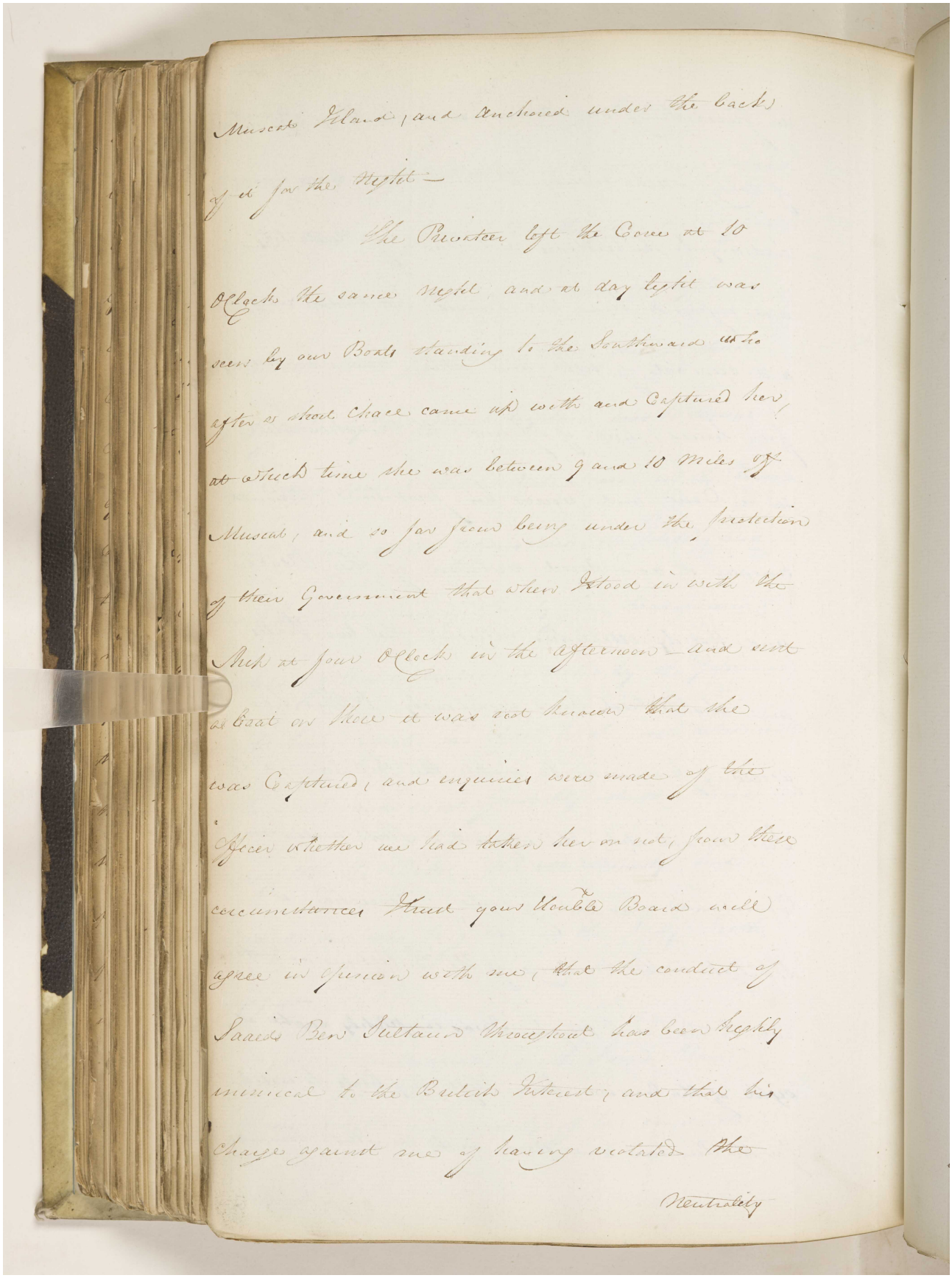

Muscat Island, and Anchored under the Castle
of it for the Night —

The Privateer left the Cove at 10
O'Clock the same night, and at day light was
seen by our Boats standing to the Southward who
after a short Chace came up with and Captured her,
at which time she was between 9 and 10 Miles off
Muscat, and so far from being under the protection
of their Government that when I stood in with the
Ship at four O'Clock in the afternoon — and sent
a Boat on Shore it was not known that she
was Captured, and Inquiries were made of the
Officer whether we had taken her or not, from these
circumstances I trust your Honble Board will
agree in Opinion with me, that the conduct of
Saaid Ben Sultaun throughout has been highly
inimical to the British Interest, and that his
Charge against me of having violated the
Neutrality

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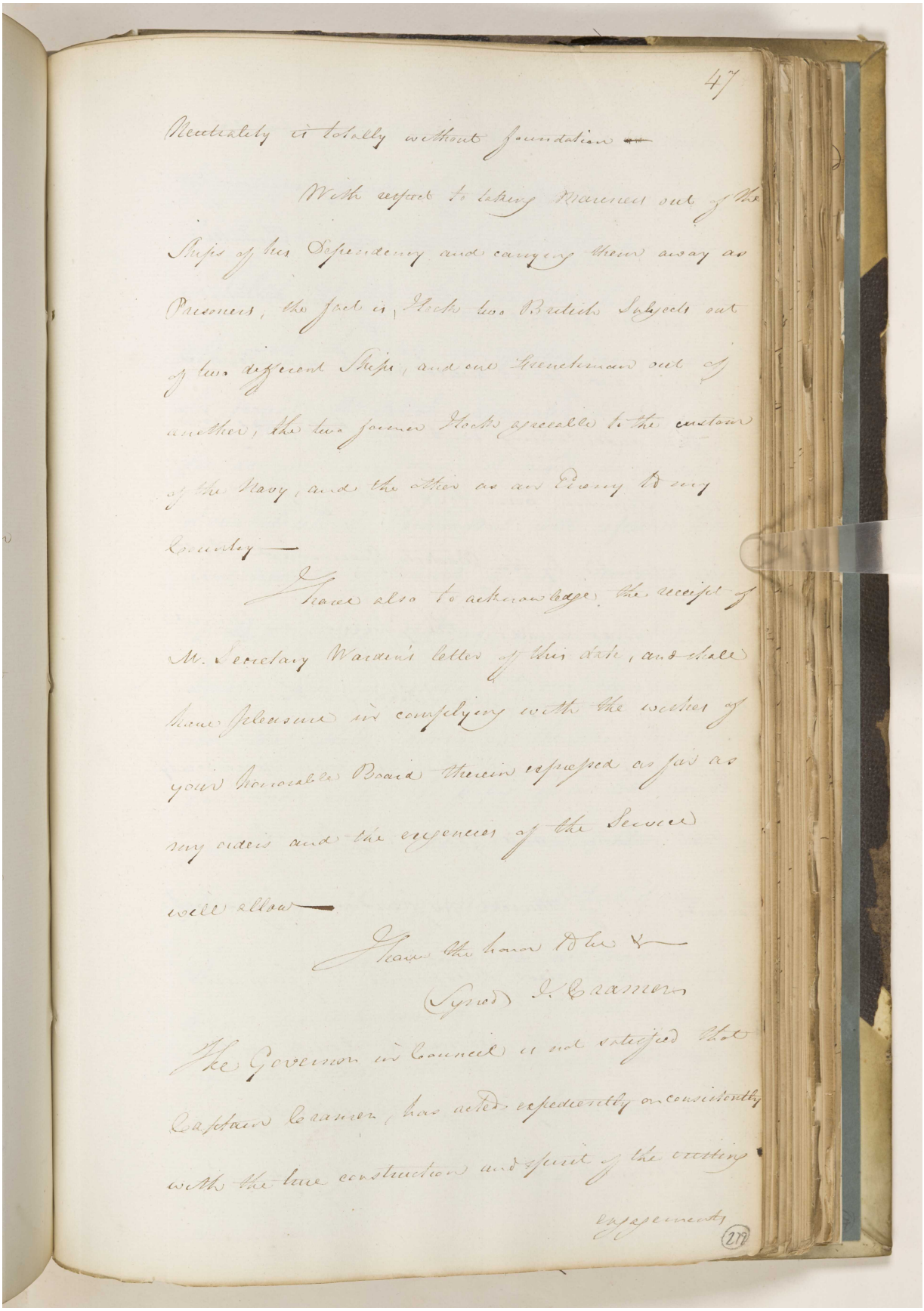

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Neutrality is totally without foundation —

With respect to taking Mariners out of the Ships of her Dependency and carrying them away as Prisoners, the fact is, Two of the British Subjects out of two different Ships, and one Frenchman out of another, the two former Boats agreeable to the custom of the Navy, and the other as an Enemy to my Country —

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Warden's letter of this date, and shall have pleasure in complying with the wishes of your Honorable Board therein respected as far as my orders and the exigencies of the Service will allow —

I have the honor &c &c —

(Signed) J. Cranmer

The Governor in Council is not satisfied that Captain Cranmer has acted expeditiously or consistently with the true construction and spirit of the existing

Engagements

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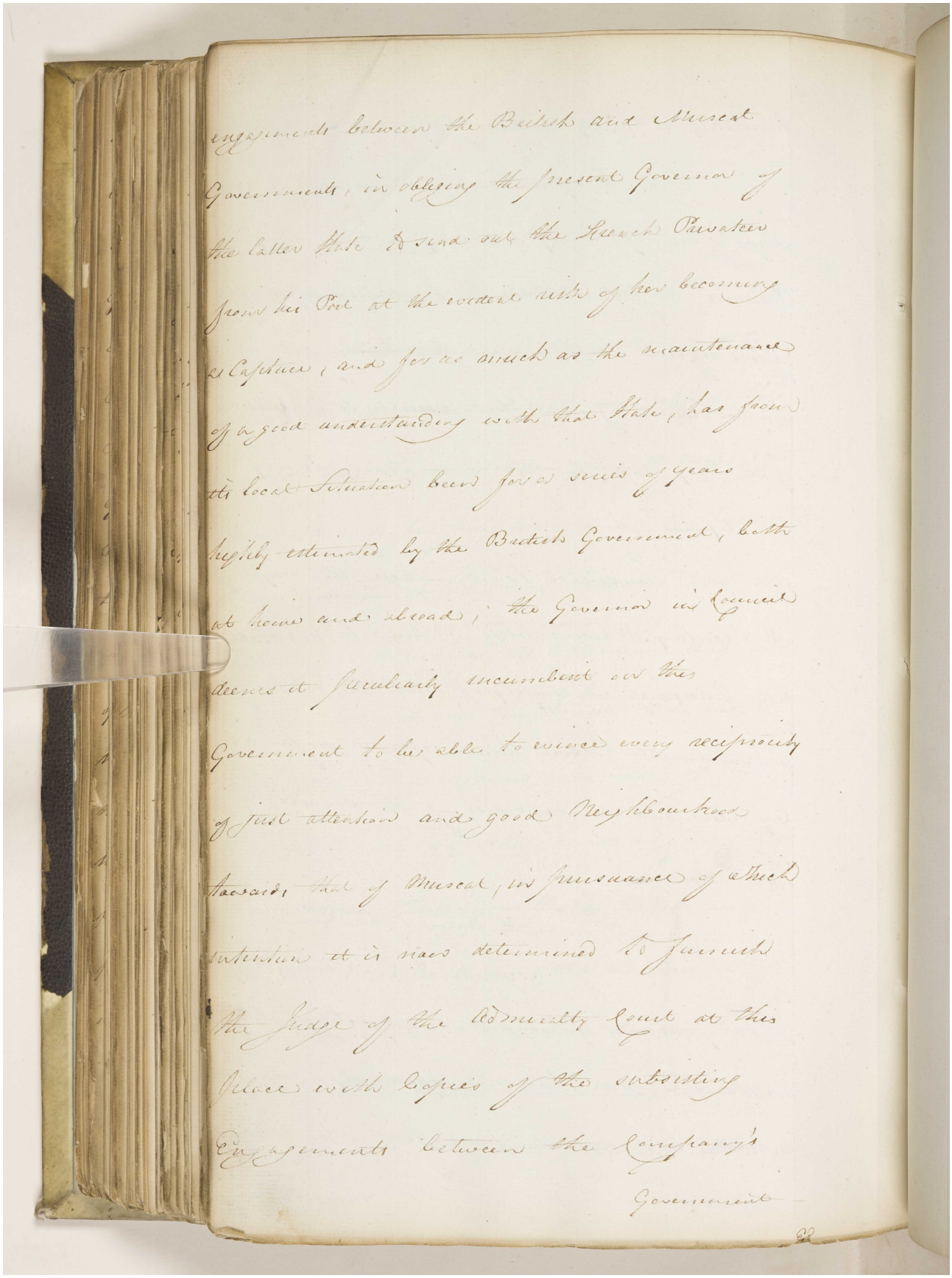

engagements between the British and Muscat
Governments, in obliging the present Governor of
the latter State to send out the French Privateer
from his Port at the evident risk of her becoming
a Captive, and for as much as the maintenance
of a good understanding with that State, has from
its local Situation been for a series of years
highly estimated by the British Government, both
at home and abroad, the Governor in Council
deems it peculiarly incumbent on this
Government to be able to evince every reciprocity
of just attention and good Neighbourhood
towards that of Muscat, in pursuance of which
intention it is now determined to transmit
the Judge of the Admiralty Court at this
Place with Copies of the subsisting
Engagements between the Company's
Government

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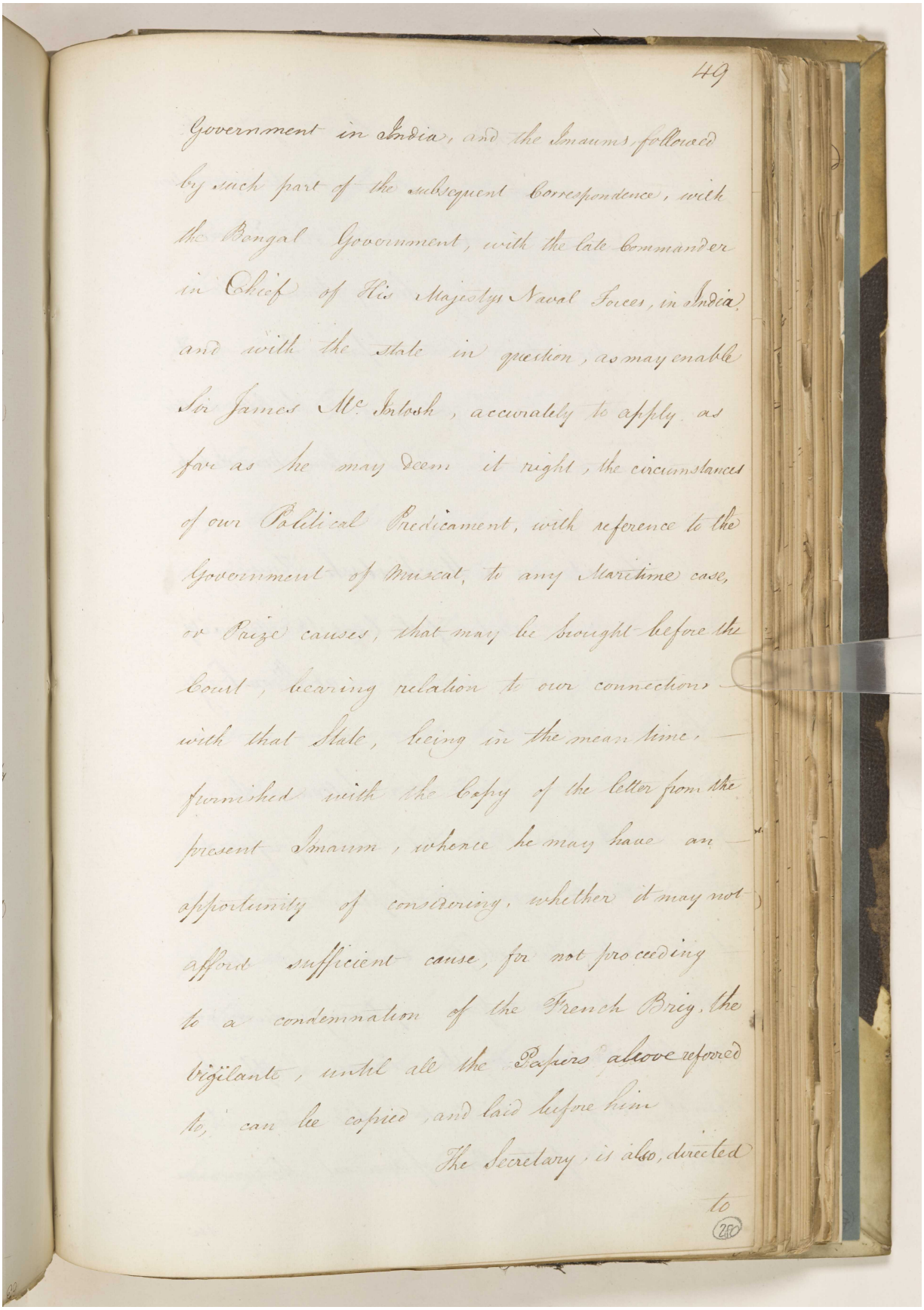

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Government in India, and the Imaums, followed
by such part of the subsequent Correspondence, with
the Bengal Government, with the late Commander
in Chief of His Majesty's Naval Forces, in India,
and with the State in question, as may enable
Sir James Mc Intosh, accurately to apply, as
far as he may deem it right, the circumstances
of our Political Predicament, with reference to the
Government of Muscat, to any Maritime case,
or Prize causes, that may be brought before the
Court, bearing relation to our connections
with that State, being in the mean time,
furnished with the Copy of the Letter from the
present Imaum, whence he may have an
opportunity of considering, whether it may not
afford sufficient cause, for not proceeding
to a condemnation of the French Brig, the
Vigilante, until all the Papers aforesaid
be, can be copied, and laid before him

The Secretary, is also, directed

to

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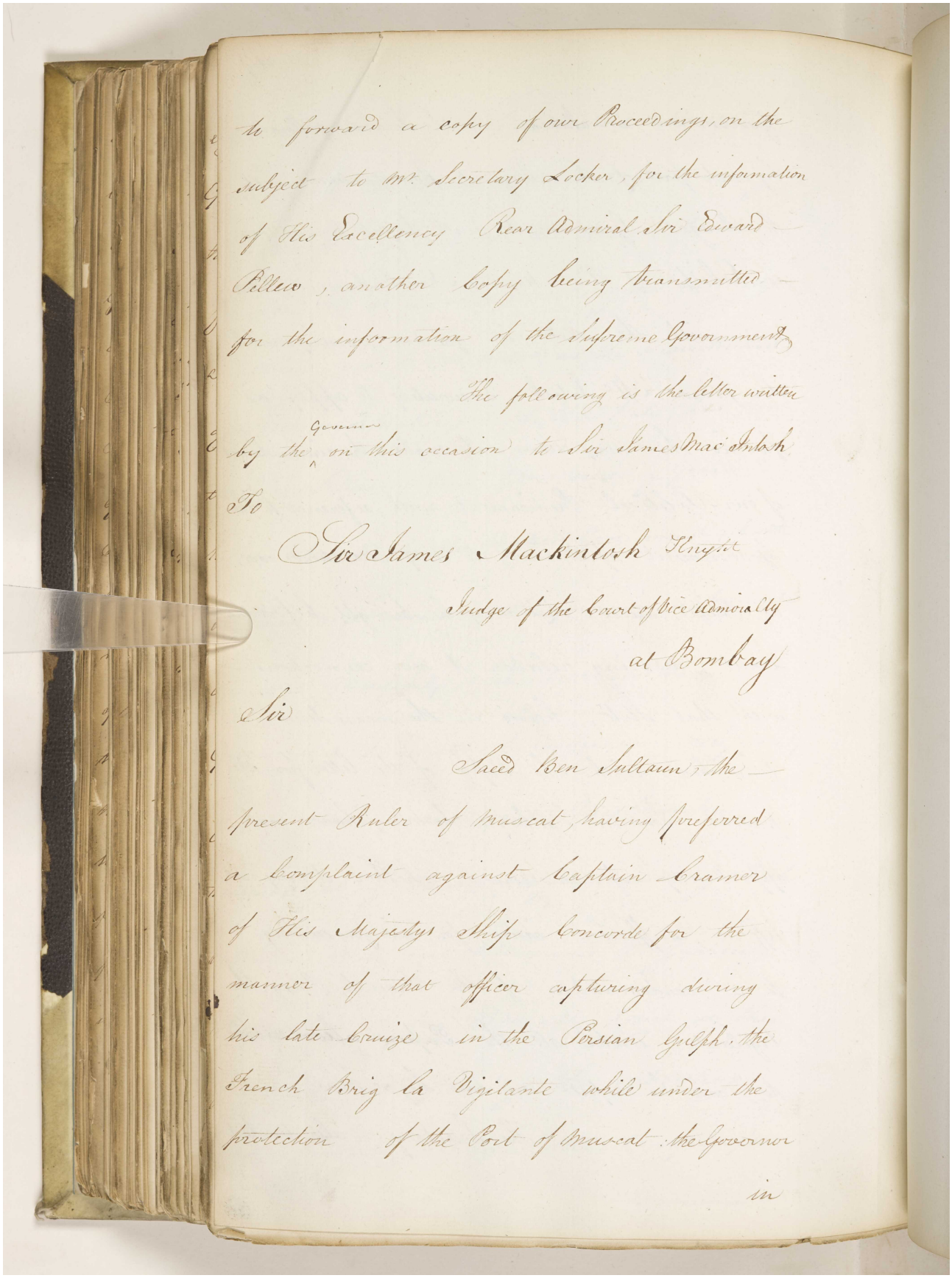

to forward a copy of our Proceedings on the subject to Mr. Secretary Locker, for the information of His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, another Copy being transmitted for the information of the Supreme Government.

The following is the letter written by the Governor on this occasion to Sir James Mac Intosh

To

Sir James Mackintosh Knight
Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty
at Bombay

Sir

Saeed Ben Sultaun, the present Ruler of Muscat having preferred a complaint against Captain Cramer of His Majestys Ship Concorde for the manner of that officer capturing during his late Cruize in the Persian Gulph, the French Brig la Vigilante while under the protection of the Port of Muscat the Governor in

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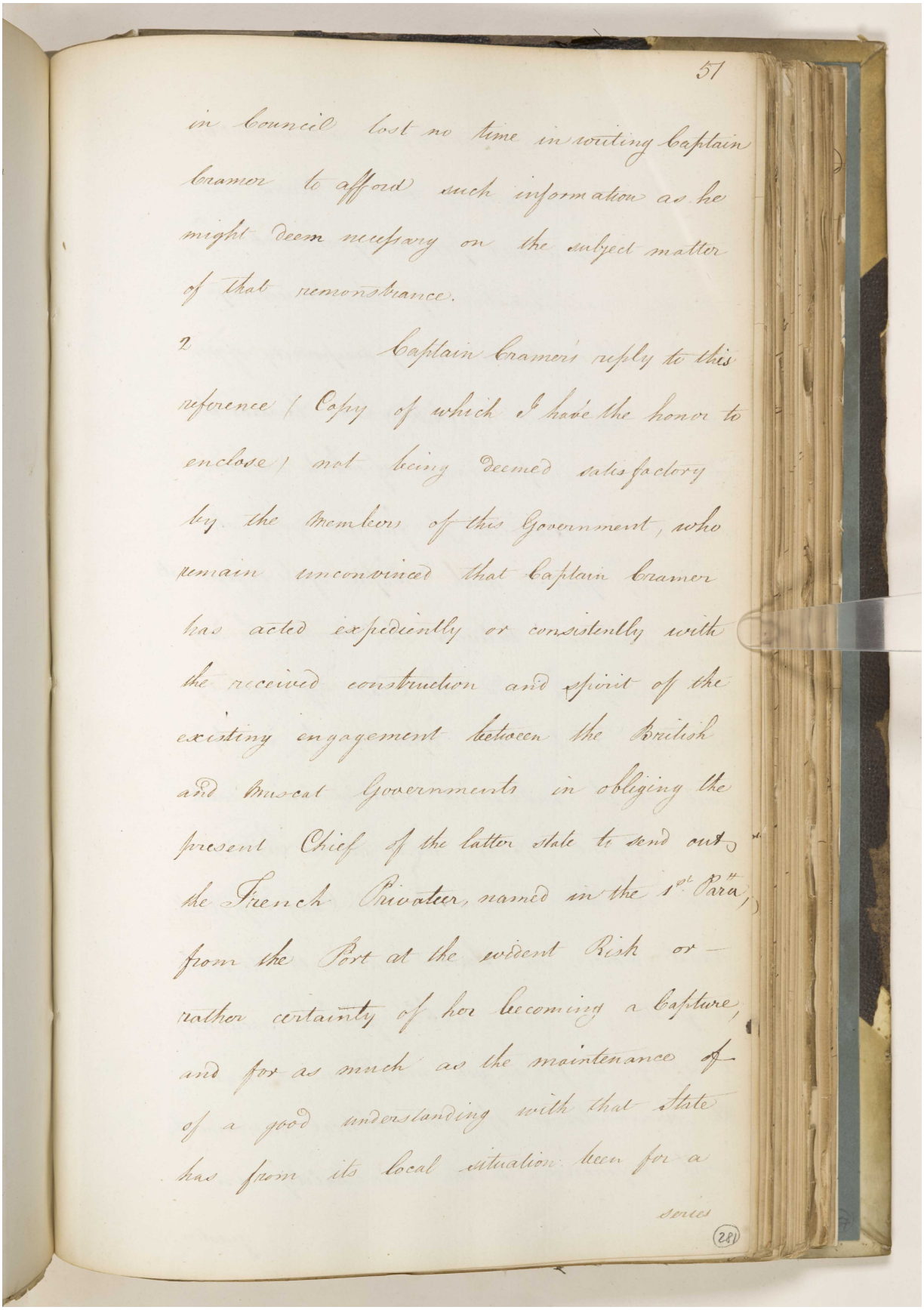

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in Council lost no time in writing Captain Cramer to afford such information as he might deem necessary on the subject matter of that remonstrance.

2 Captain Cramer's reply to this reference (Copy of which I have the honor to enclose) not being deemed satisfactory by the Members of this Government, who remain unconvinced that Captain Cramer has acted expediently or consistently with the received construction and spirit of the existing engagement between the British and Muscat Governments in obliging the present Chief of the latter State to send out the French Privateer named in the 1st Para, from the Port at the evident Risk or rather certainty of her becoming a Capture, and for as much as the maintenance of a good understanding with that State has from its local situation been for a series

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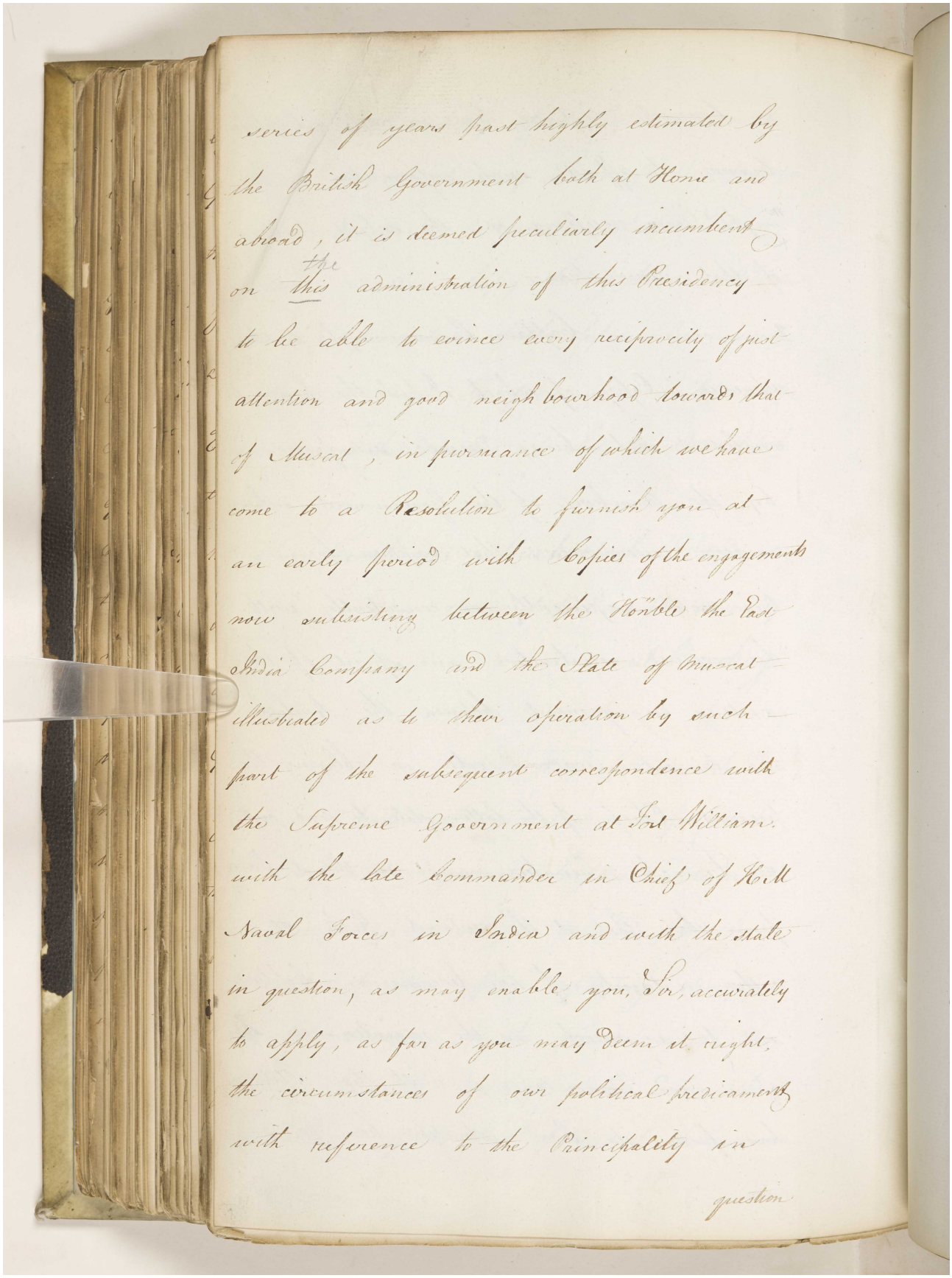

series of years past highly estimated by
the British Government both at Home and
abroad, it is deemed peculiarly incumbent
on the this administration of this Presidency
to be able to evince every reciprocity of just
attention and good neighbourhood towards that
of Muscat, in pursuance of which we have
come to a Resolution to furnish you at
an early period with Copies of the engagements
now subsisting between the Honble the East
India Company and the State of Muscat
illustrated as to their operation by such
part of the subsequent correspondence with
the Supreme Government at Fort William
with the late Commander in Chief of H.M.
Naval Forces in India and with the State
in question, as may enable you, Sir, accurately
to apply, as far as you may deem it right,
the circumstances of our political predicament
with reference to the Principality in

question

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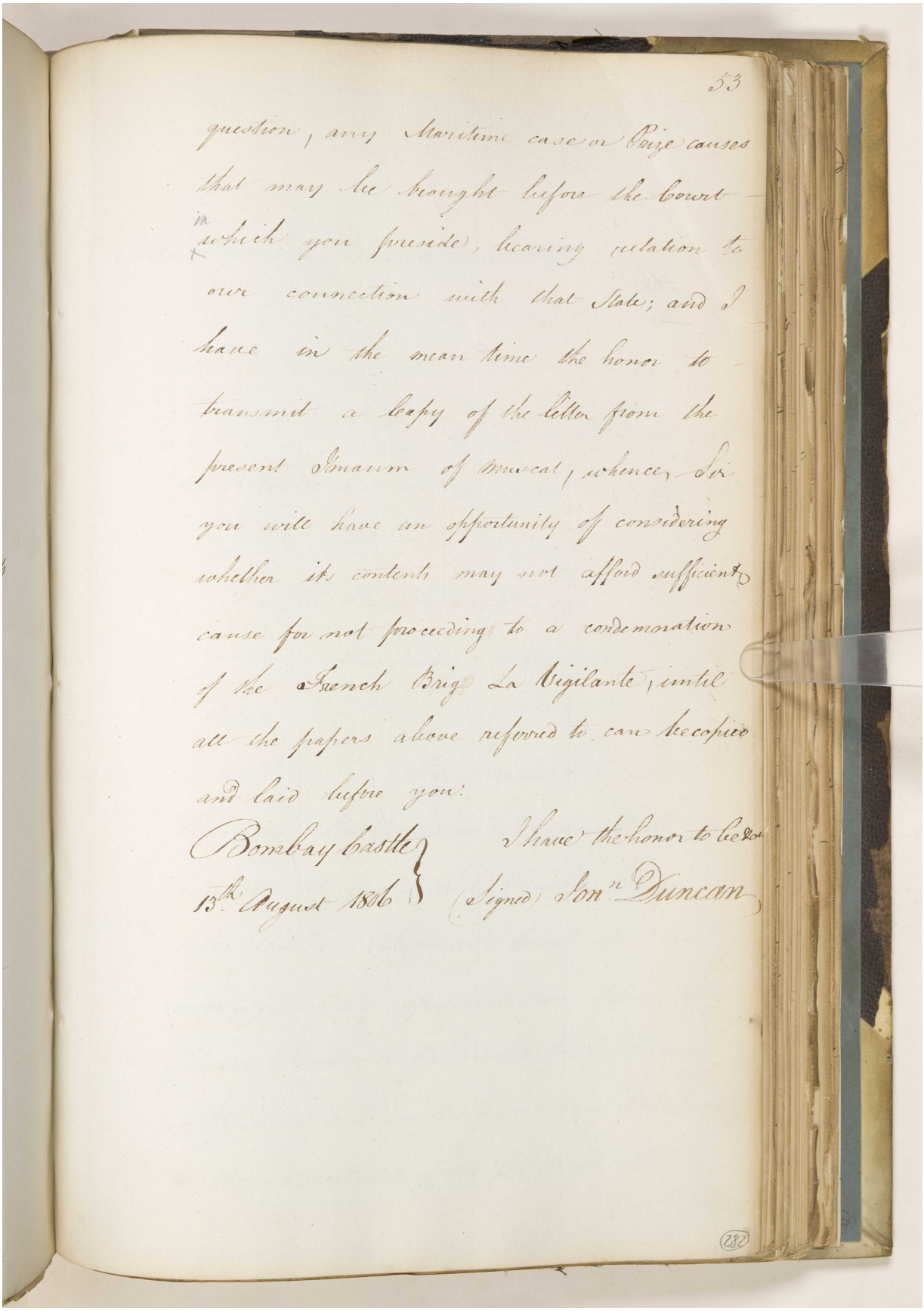

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question, any Maritime case or Prize causes that may be brought before the Court which you preside, bearing relation to our connection with that State; and I have in the mean time the honor to transmit a Copy of the Letter from the present Imaum of Muscat, whence Sir you will have an opportunity of considering whether its contents may not afford sufficient cause for not proceeding to a condemnation of the French Brig La Vigilante, until all the papers above referred to can be copied and laid before you.

Bombay Castle
13th August 1806

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) Jon.n Duncan

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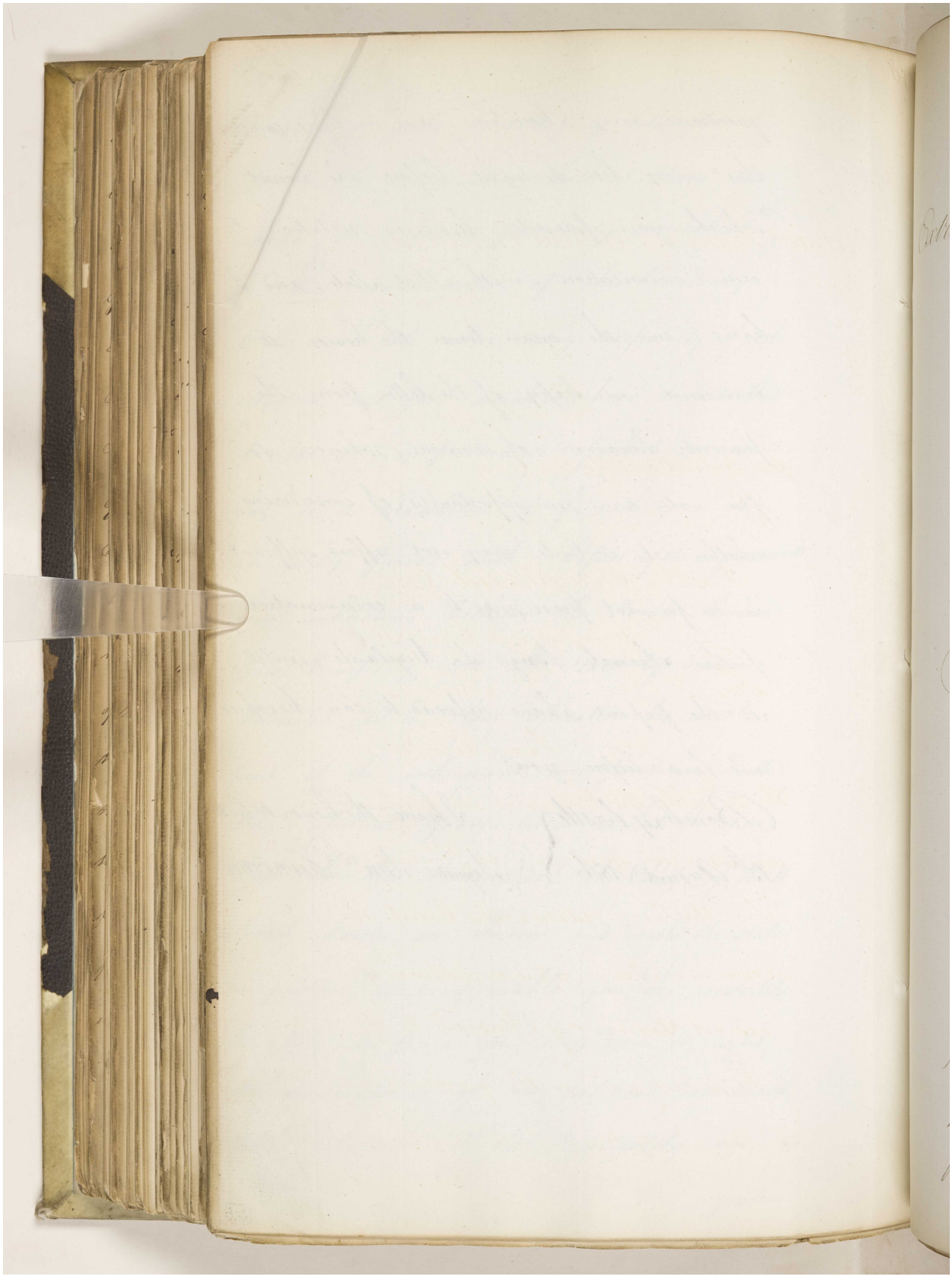

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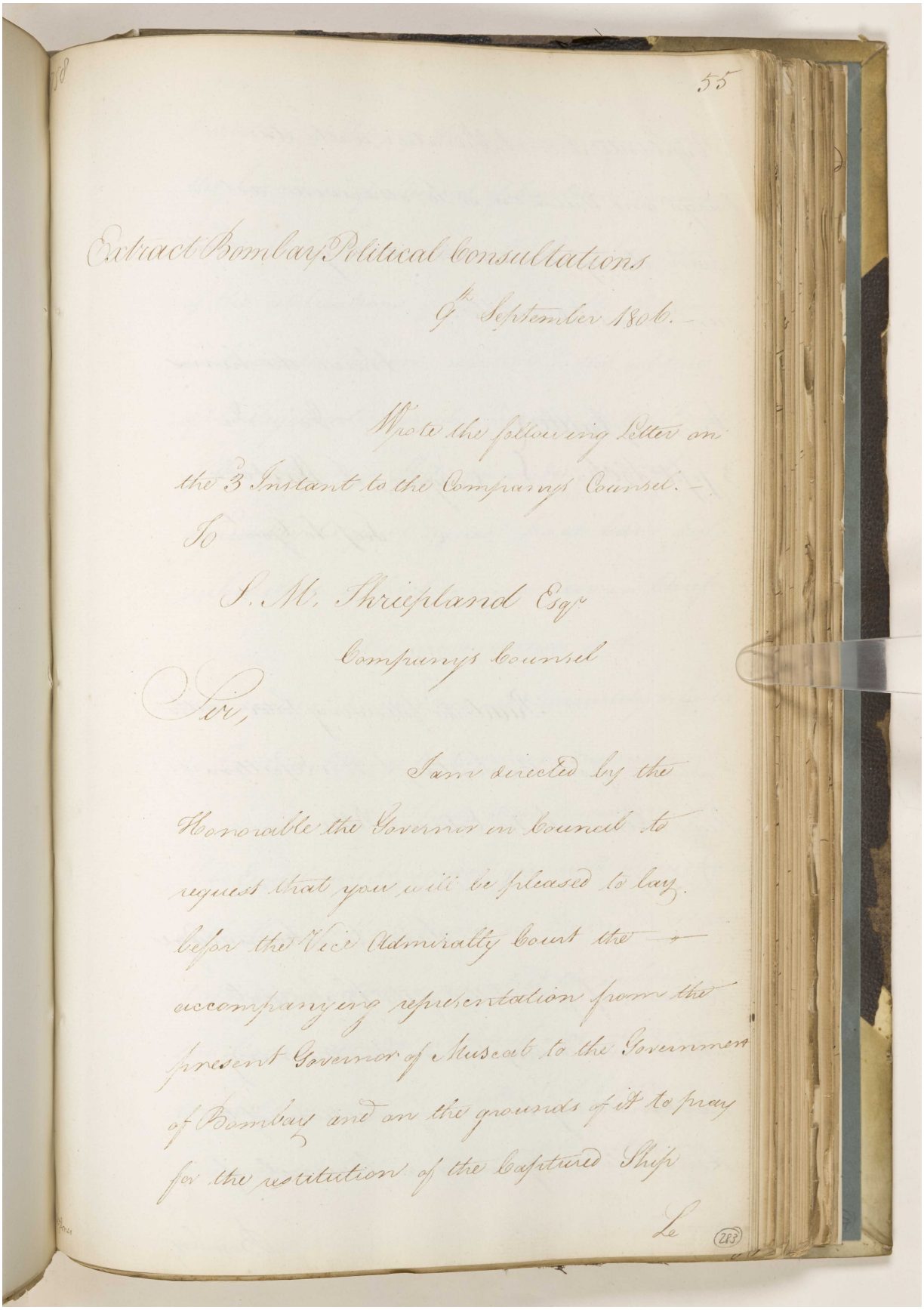

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

9th September 1806.

Wrote the following Letter on the 3 Instant to the Company's Counsel.—

To

S. M. Shrieplland Esqr

Company's Counsel

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to request that you will be pleased to lay before the Vice Admiralty Court the accompanying representation from the present Governor of Muscat to the Government of Bombay and on the grounds of it to pray for the restitution of the captured Ship Le

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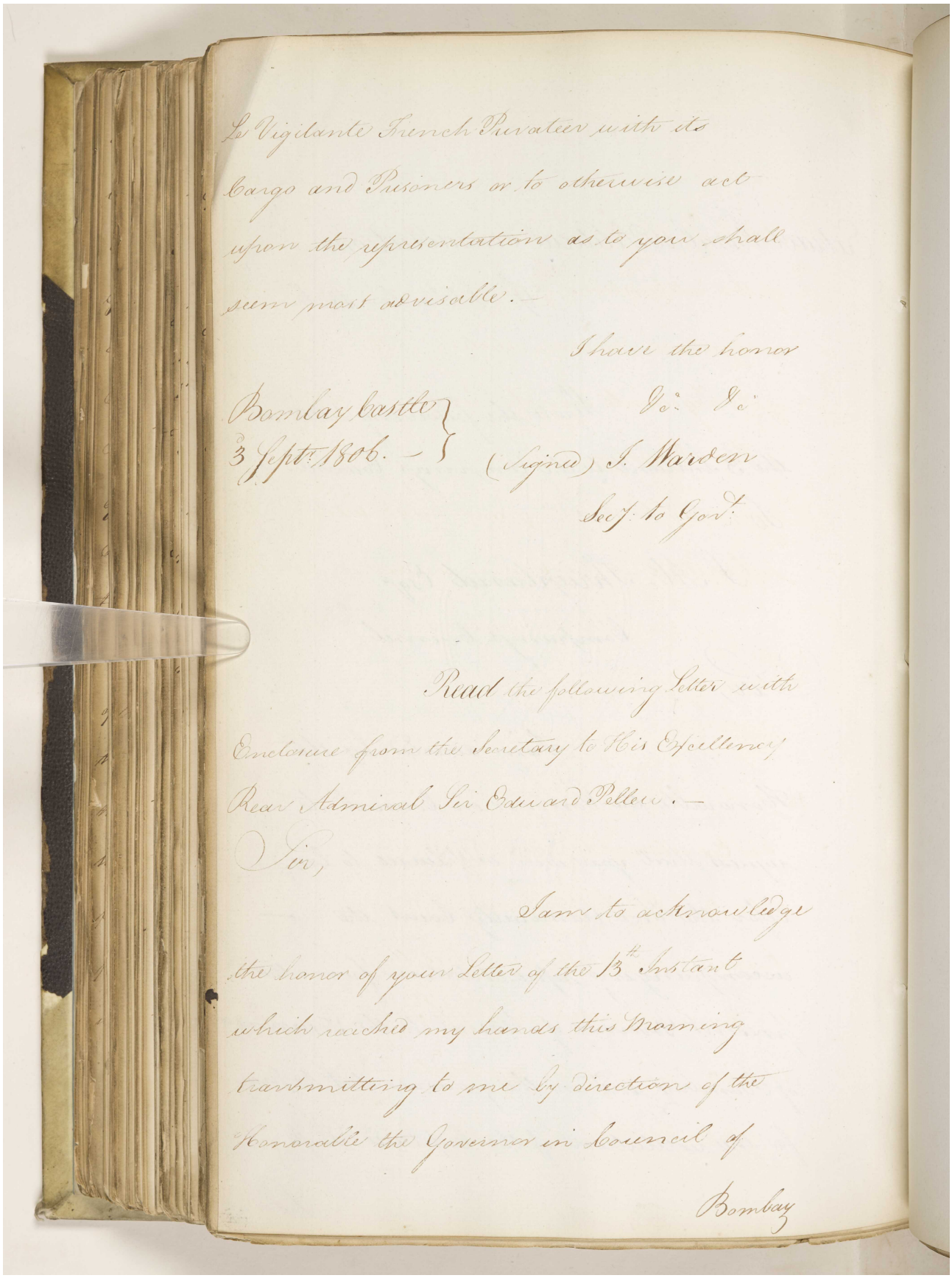

La Vigilante French Privateer with its
Cargo and Prisoners or to otherwise act
upon the representation as to you shall
seem most advisable.—

I have the honor
&c. &c.
(Signd) J. Warden
Secy. to Govt.

Bombay Castle
3 Sept. 1806.—

Read the following Letter with
Enclosure from the Secretary to His Excellency
Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew.—

Sir,

I am to acknowledge
the honor of your Letter of the 13th Instant
which reached my hands this Morning
transmitting to me by direction of the
Honorable the Governor in Council of
Bombay

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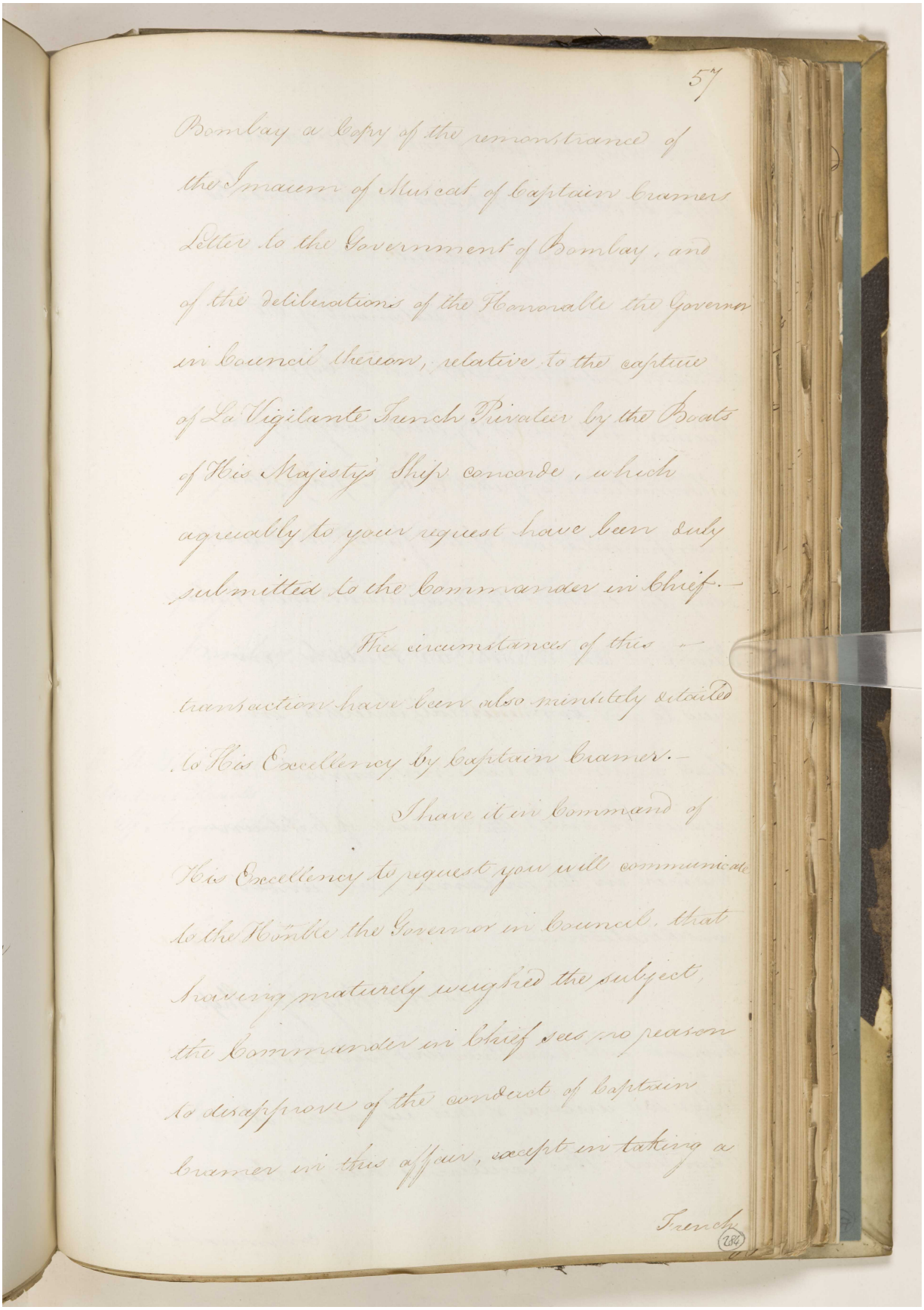

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Bombay a Copy of the remonstrance of
the Imaum of Muscat of Captain Cramers
Letter to the Government of Bombay, and
of the deliberations of the Honorable the Governor
in Council thereon, relative to the capture
of La Vigilante French Privateer by the Boats
of His Majesty's Ship Concorde, which
agreeably to your request have been duly
submitted to the Commander in Chief. —

The circumstances of this —
transaction have been also minutely detailed
to His Excellency by Captain Cramer. —

I have it in Command of
His Excellency to request you will communicate
to the Honble the Governor in Council, that
having maturely weighed the subject,
the Commander in Chief sees no reason
to disapprove of the conduct of Captain
Cramer in this affair, except in taking a

French

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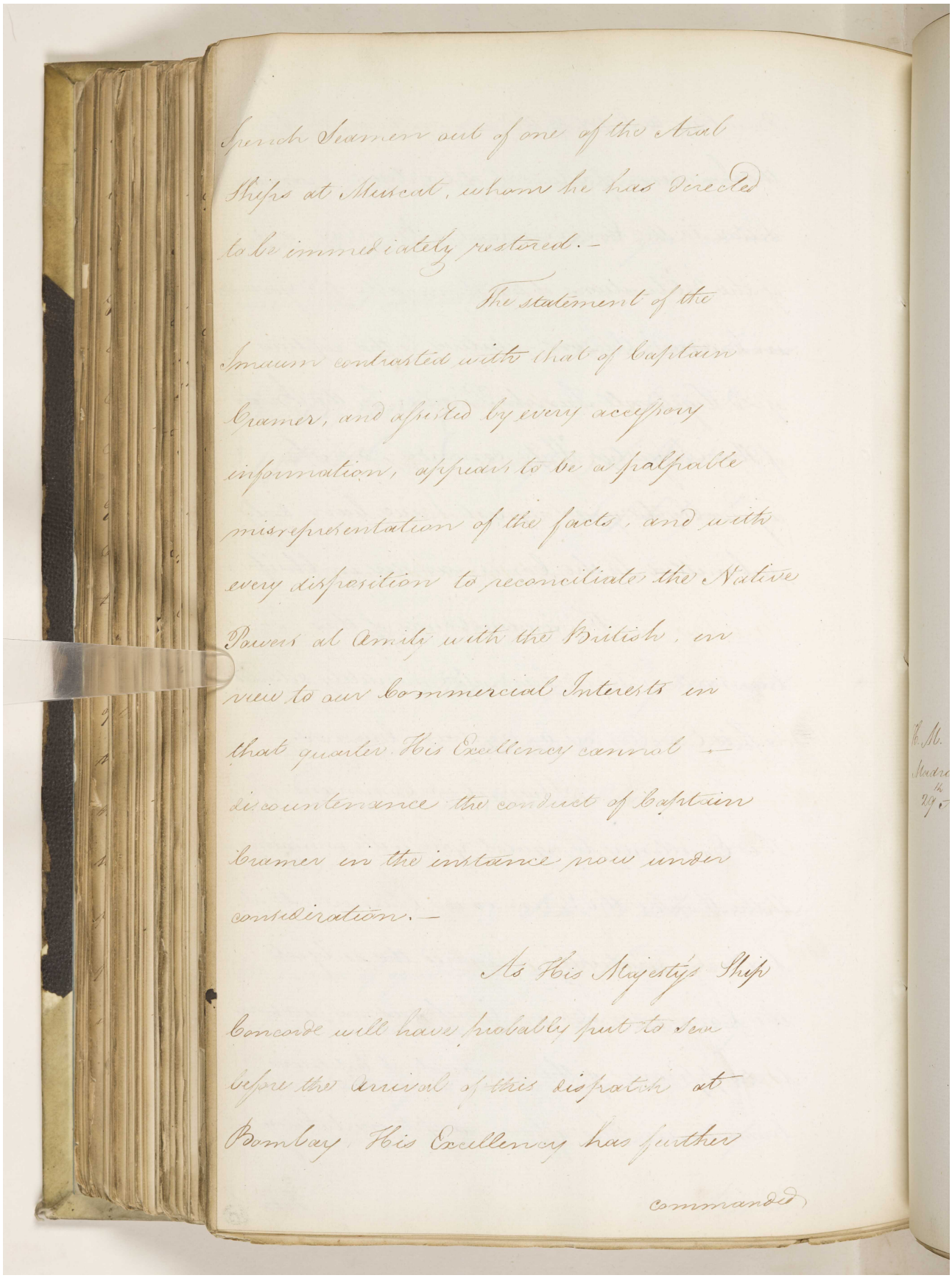

French Seamen out of one of the Arab
Ships at Muscat, whom he has directed
to be immediately restored.—

The statement of the
Imaum contrasted with that of Captain
Cramer, and assisted by every accessory
information, appears to be a palpable
misrepresentation of the facts, and with
every disposition to reconcile the Native
Powers at Amity with the British, in
view to our Commercial Interests in
that quarter. His Excellency cannot —
discountenance the conduct of Captain
Cramer in the instance now under
consideration.—

As His Majestys Ship
Concorde will have probably put to Sea
before the arrival of this dispatch at
Bombay, His Excellency has further

commanded

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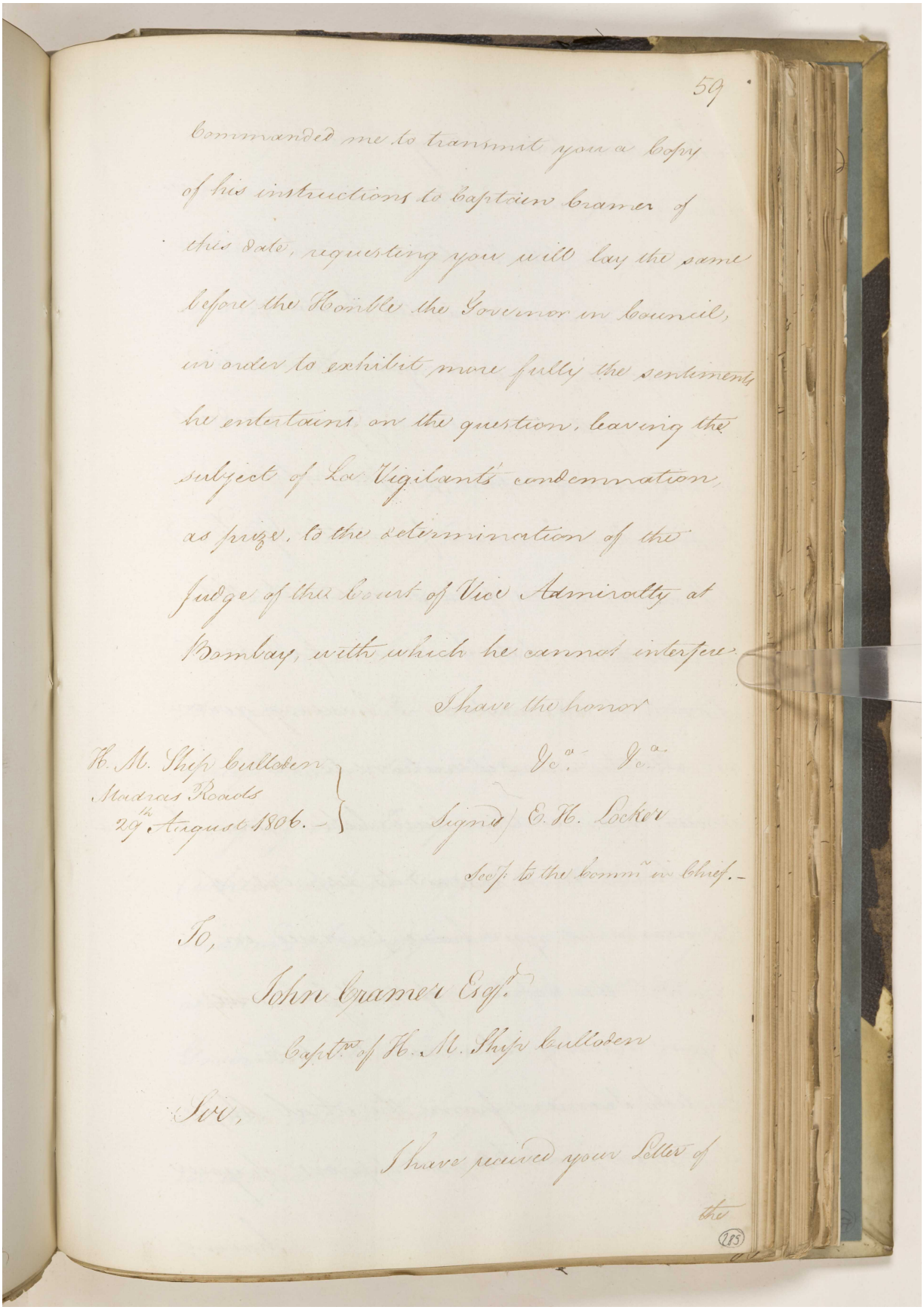

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Commanded me to transmit you a Copy
of his instructions to Captain Cramer of
this date, requesting you will lay the same
before the Honble the Governor in Council,
in order to exhibit more fully the sentiments
he entertains on the question, leaving the
subject of La Vigilants condemnation,
as prize, to the determination of the
Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty at
Bombay, with which he cannot interfere.

I have the honor

&c.ª &c.ª

H. M. Ship Culloden
Madras Roads
29th August 1806.

Signd E. H. Locker
Secy. to the Commr in Chief.

To,

John Cramer Esqr.
Capt.n of H. M. Ship Culloden

Sir,

I have received your Letter of
the

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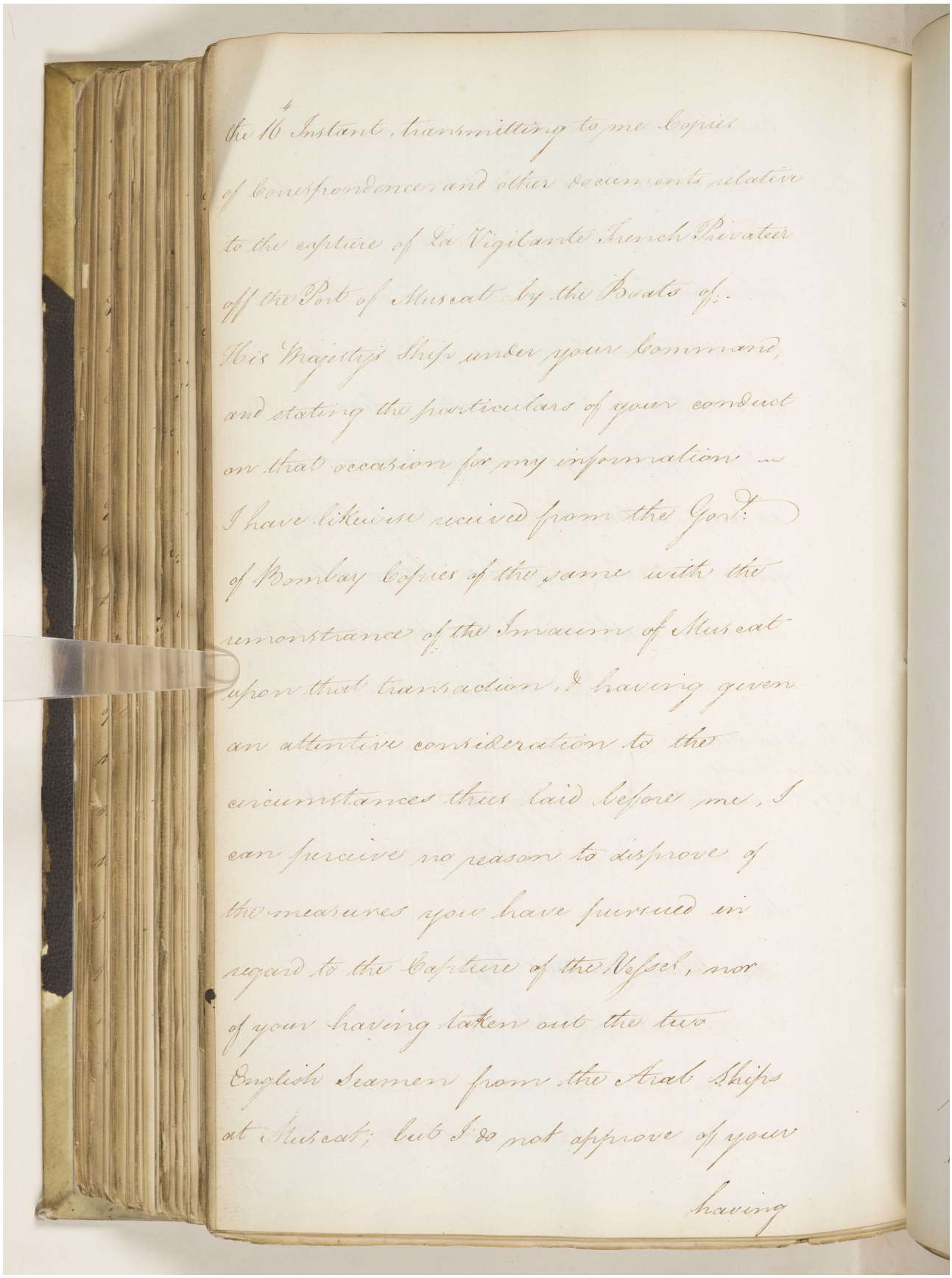

the 16th Instant, transmitting to me Copies
of Correspondence and other documents relative
to the capture of La Vigilante French Privateer
off the Port of Muscat by the Boats of
His Majesty's Ships under your Command,
and stating the particulars of your conduct
on that occasion for my information —
I have likewise received from the Govt.
of Bombay Copies of the same with the
remonstrance of the Imaum of Muscat
upon that transaction, & having given
an attentive consideration to the
circumstances thus laid before me, I
can perceive no reason to disprove of
the measures you have pursued in
regard to the Capture of the Vessel, nor
of your having taken out the two
English Seamen from the Arab Ships
at Muscat; but I do not approve of your
having

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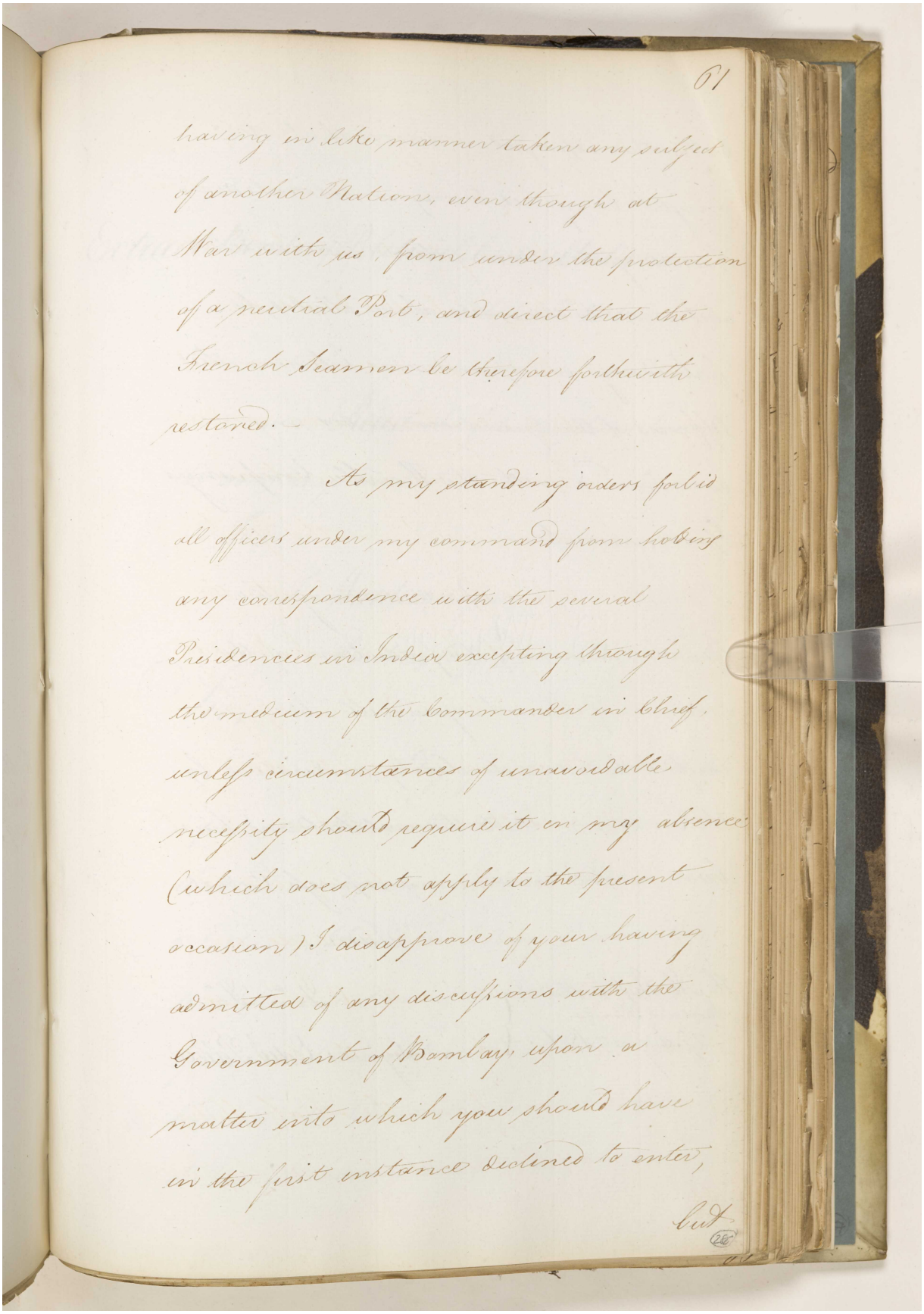

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having in like manner taken any subject of another Nation, even though at War with us, from under the protection of a neutral Port, and direct that the French Seamen be therefore forthwith restored.—

As my standing orders forbid all officers under my command from holding any correspondence with the several Presidencies in India excepting through the medium of the Commander in Chief, unless circumstances of unavoidable necessity should require it in my absence (which does not apply to the present occasion) I disapprove of your having admitted of any discussions with the Government of Bombay upon a matter into which you should have in the first instance declined to enter,

but

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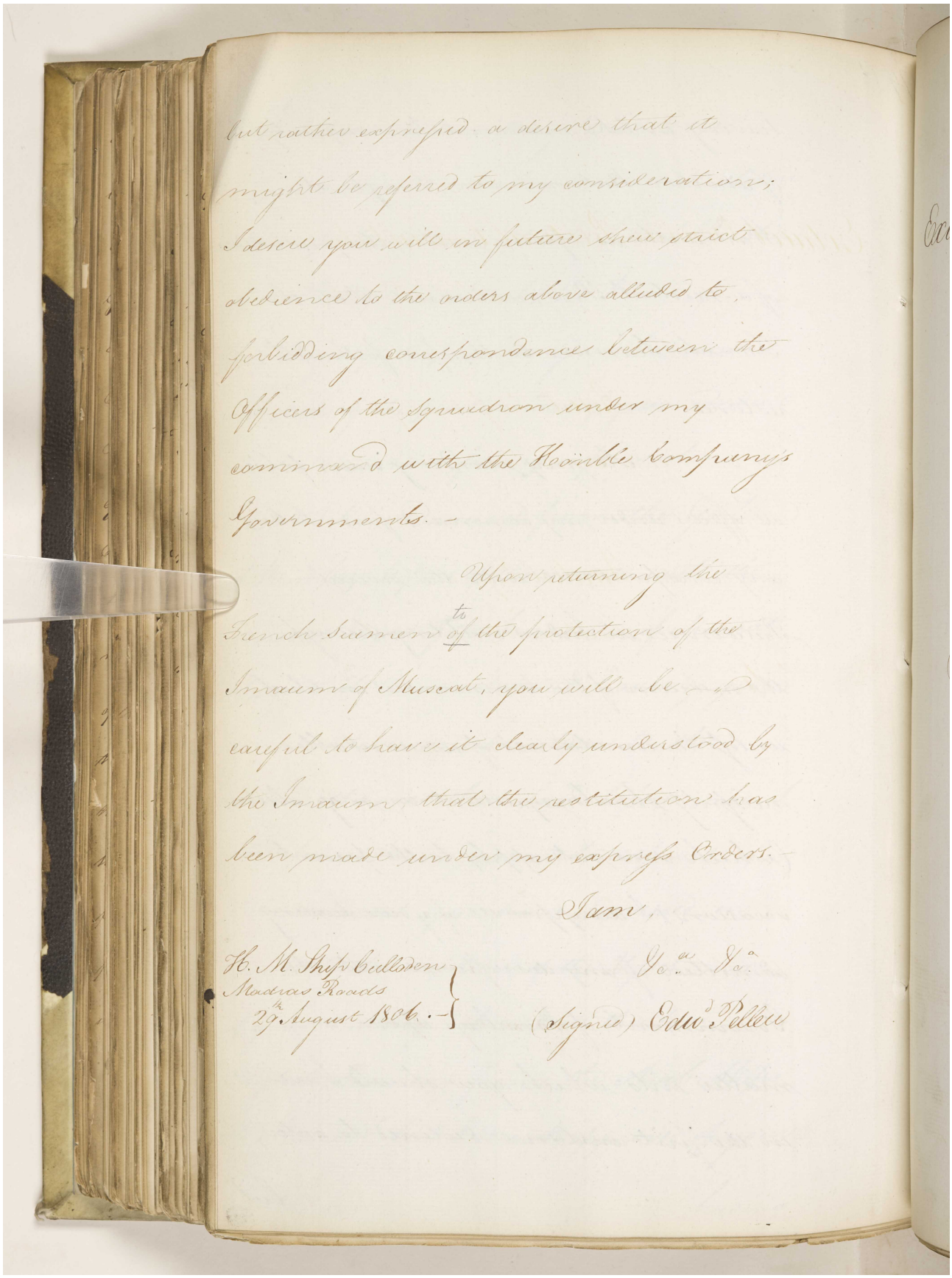

but rather expressed a desire that it might be referred to my consideration; I desire you will in future shew strict obedience to the orders above alluded to, forbidding correspondence between the Officers of the Squadron under my command with the Hon'ble Company's Governments. –

Upon returning the French Seamen to the protection of the Imaum of Muscat, you will be careful to have it clearly understood by the Imaum, that the restitution has been made under my express Orders. –

I am,

Yc.a Yc.a

(Signed) Edwd. Pellew

H. M. Ship Culloden
Madras Roads
29th August 1806. –

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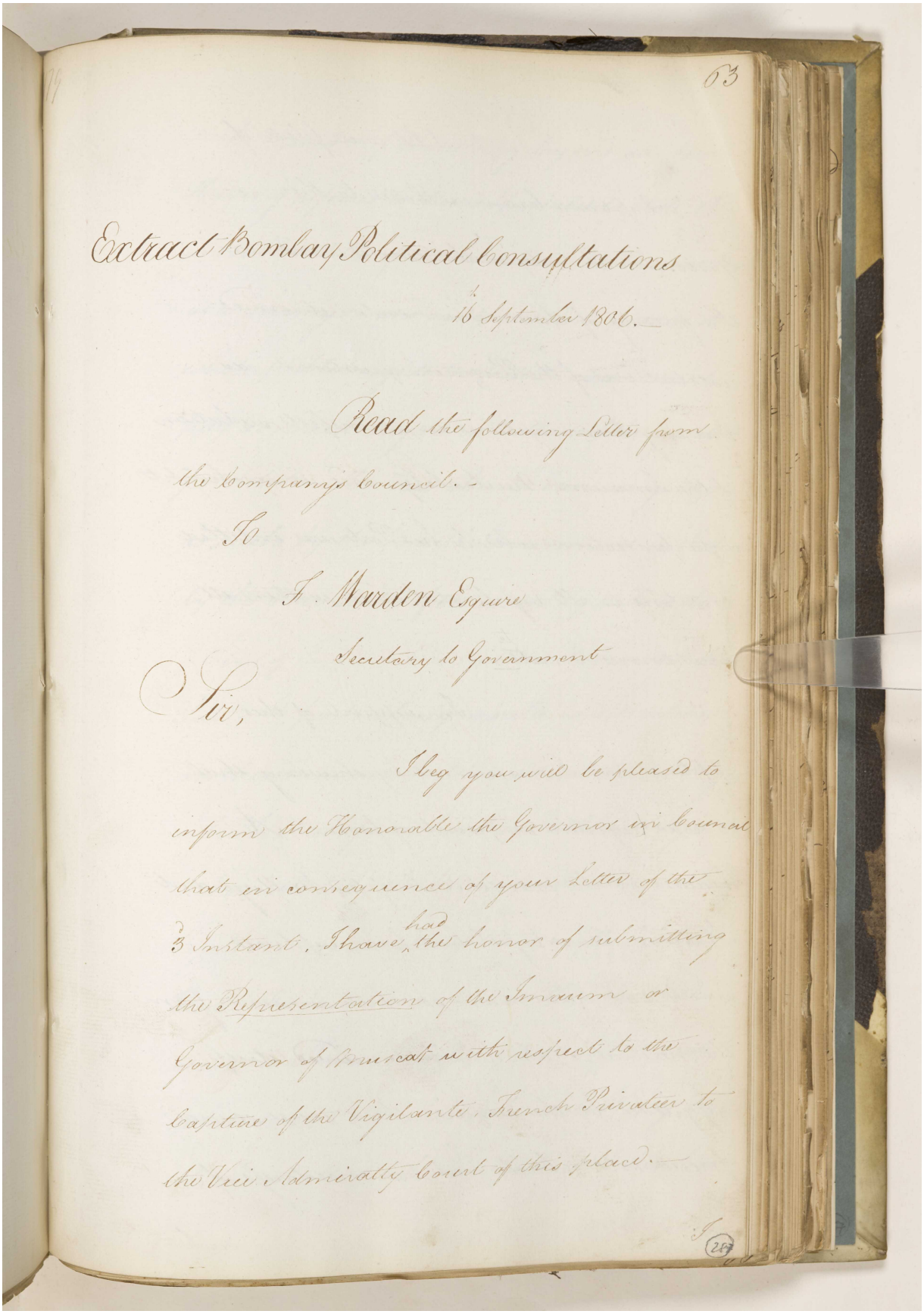

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

16 September 1806.

Read the following Letter from the Company's Council. -

To

J. Warden Esquire

Secretary to Government

Sir,

I beg you will be pleased to inform the Honorable the Governor in Council that in consequence of your Letter of the 3 Instant, I have had the honor of submitting the Representation of the Imaum or Governor of Muscat with respect to the Capture of the Vigilante, French Privateer by the Vice Admiralty Court of this place.

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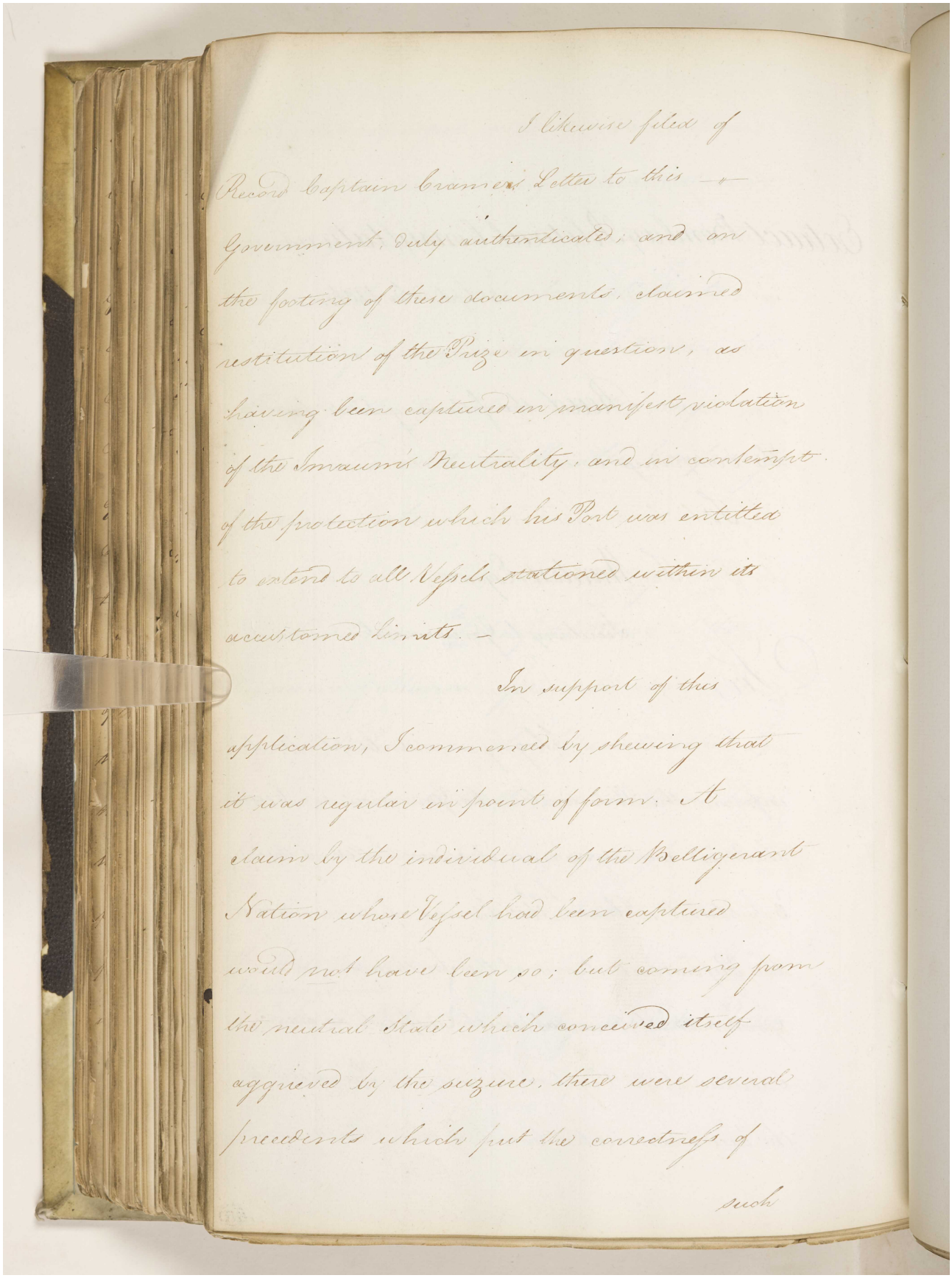

I likewise filed of
Record Captain Cramer's Letter to this
Government, duly authenticated; and on
the footing of these documents, claimed
restitution of the Prize in question, as
having been captured in manifest violation
of the Imaum's Neutrality, and in contempt
of the protection which his Port was entitled
to extend to all Vessels stationed within its
accustomed limits. –

In support of this
application, I commenced by shewing that
it was regular in point of form. A
claim by the individual of the Belligerant
Nation whose Vessel had been captured
would not have been so; but coming from
the neutral State which conceived itself
aggrieved by the seizure, there were several
precedents which put the correctness of
such

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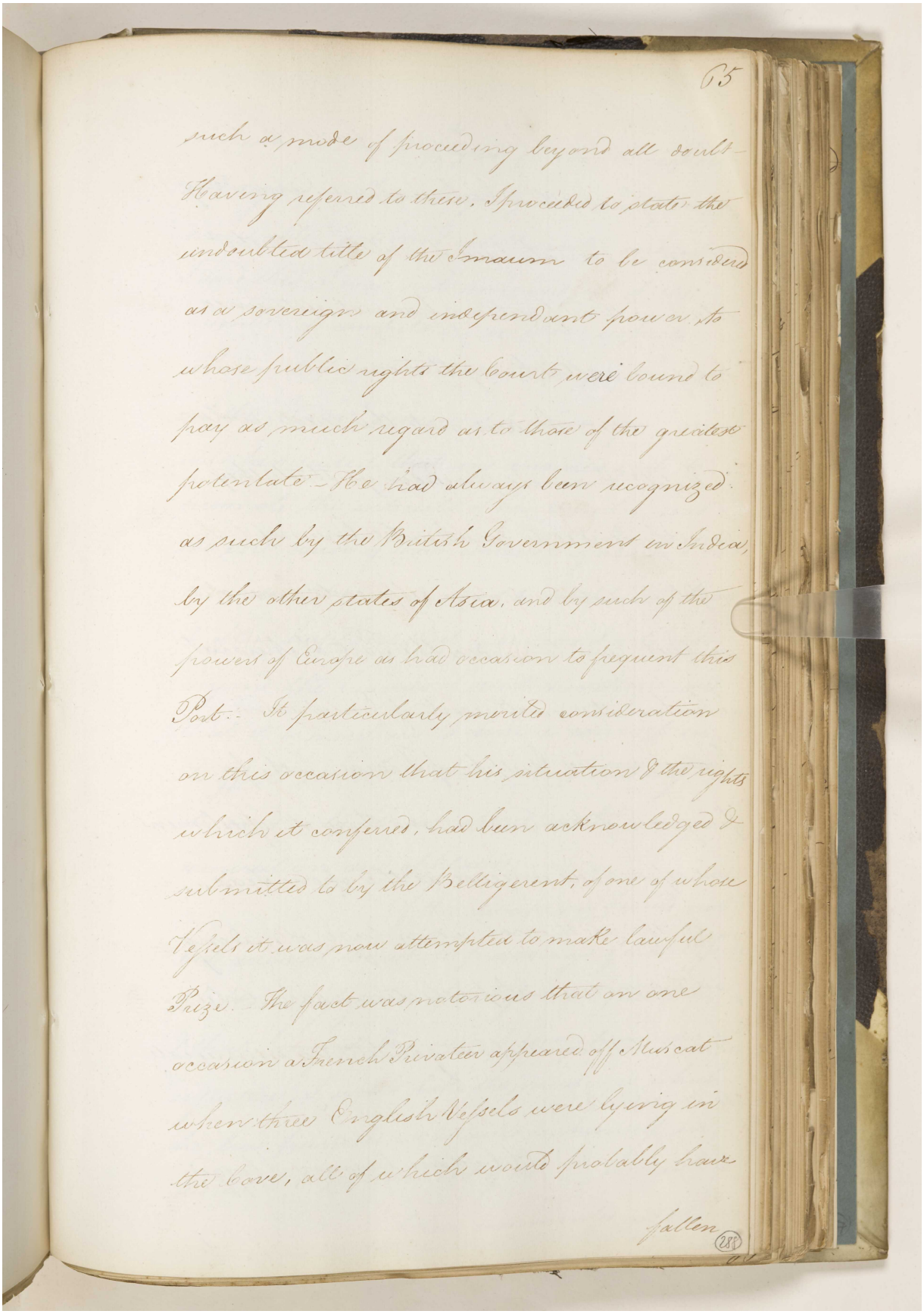

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such a mode of proceeding beyond all doubt
Having referred to these, I proceeded to state the
undoubted title of the Imaum to be considered
as a sovereign and independent power to
whose public rights the Courts were bound to
pay as much regard as to those of the greatest
potentate. He had always been recognized
as such by the British Government in India,
by the other states of Asia, and by such of the
powers of Europe as had occasion to frequent this
Port. It particularly merited consideration
on this occasion that his situation & the rights
which it conferred, had been acknowledged &
submitted to by the Belligerent, of one of whose
Vessels it was now attempted to make lawful
Prize. The fact was notorious that on one
occasion a French Privateer appeared off Muscat
when three English Vessels were lying in
the Cove, all of which would probably have
fallen

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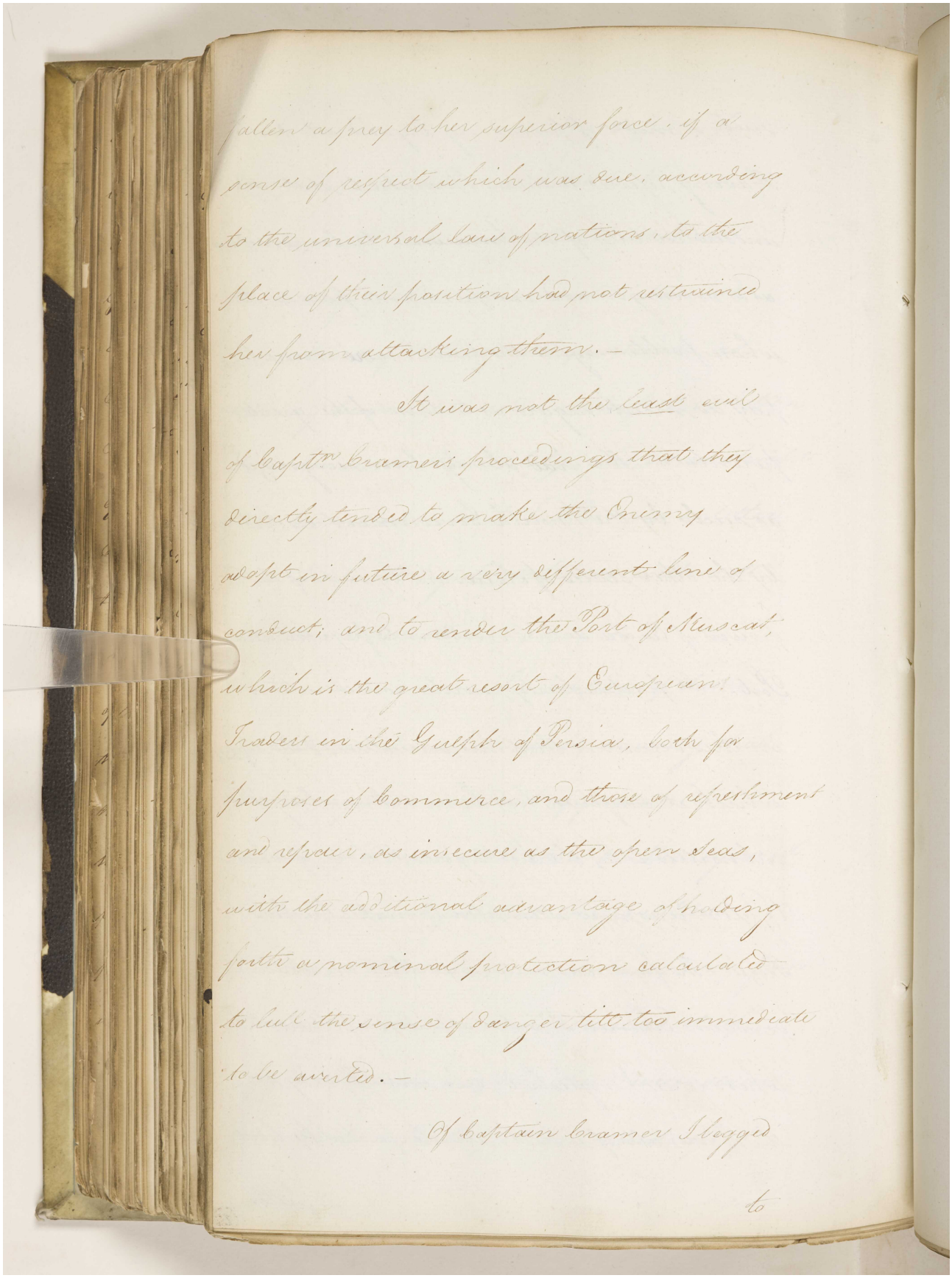

fallen a prey to her superior force, if a
sense of respect which was due, according
to the universal law of nations, to the
place of their position had not restrained
her from attacking them. —

It was not the least evil
of Capt.n Cramer's proceedings that they
directly tended to make the Enemy
adopt in future a very different line of
conduct; and to render the Port of Muscat,
which is the great resort of European
Traders in the Gulph of Persia, both for
purposes of Commerce, and those of refreshment
and repair, as insecure as the open Seas,
with the additional disadvantage of holding
forth a nominal protection calculated
to lull the sense of danger little too immediate
to be averted. —

Of Captain Cramer I beggd

to

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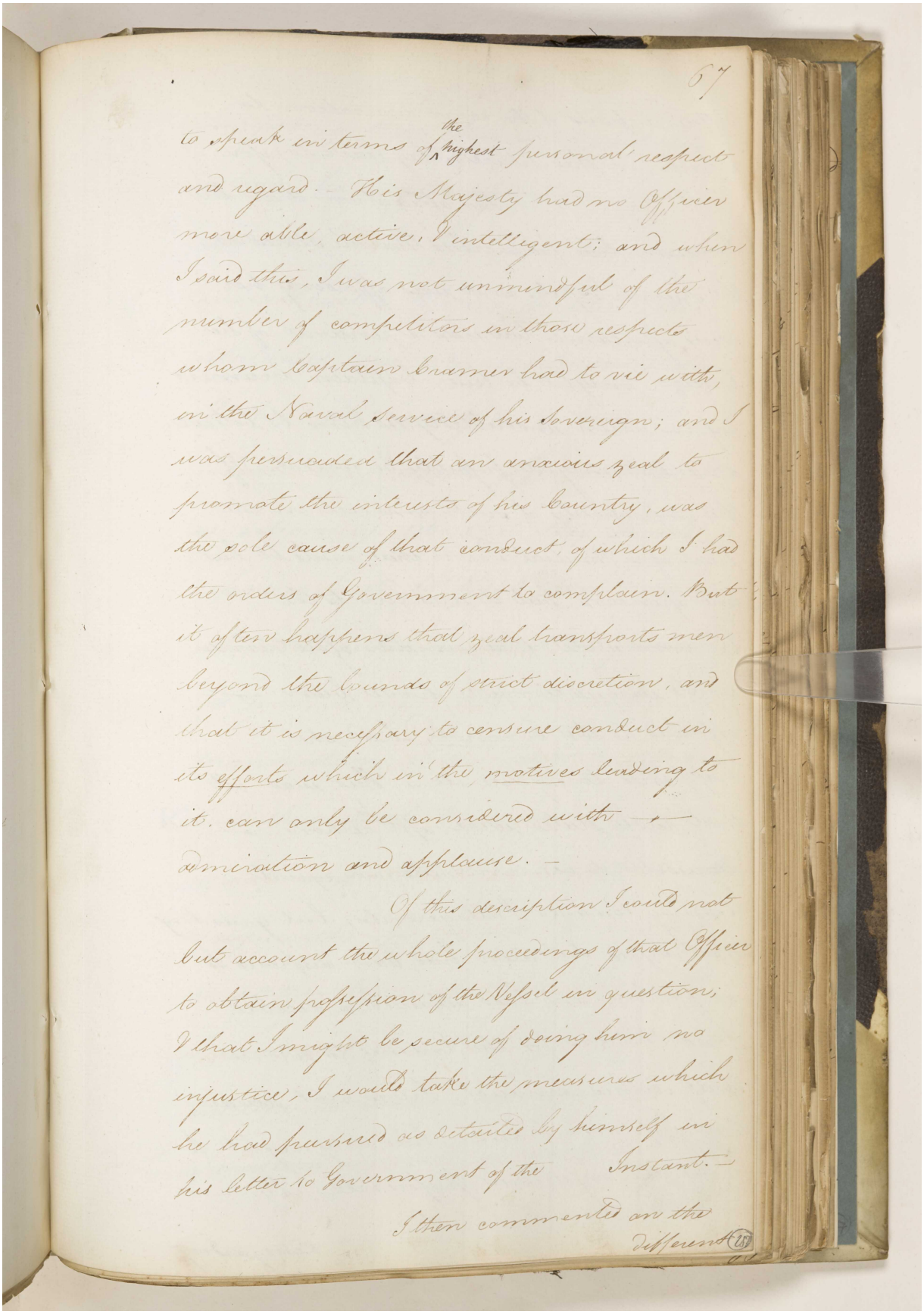

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to speak in terms of the highest personal respect and regard. — His Majesty had no Officer more able, active, & intelligent; and when I said this, I was not unmindful of the number of competitors in those respects whom Captain Cramer had to vie with, in the Naval Service of his Sovereign; and I was persuaded that an anxious zeal to promote the interests of his Country, was the sole cause of that conduct, of which I had the orders of Government to complain. But it often happens that zeal transports men beyond the bounds of strict discretion, and that it is necessary to censure conduct in its efforts which in the motives leading to it, can only be considered with admiration and applause. —

Of this description I could not but account the whole proceedings of that Officer to obtain possession of the Vessel in question; & that I might be secure of doing him no injustice, I would take the measures which he had pursued as detailed by himself in his letter to Government of the Instant. —

I then commented on the different

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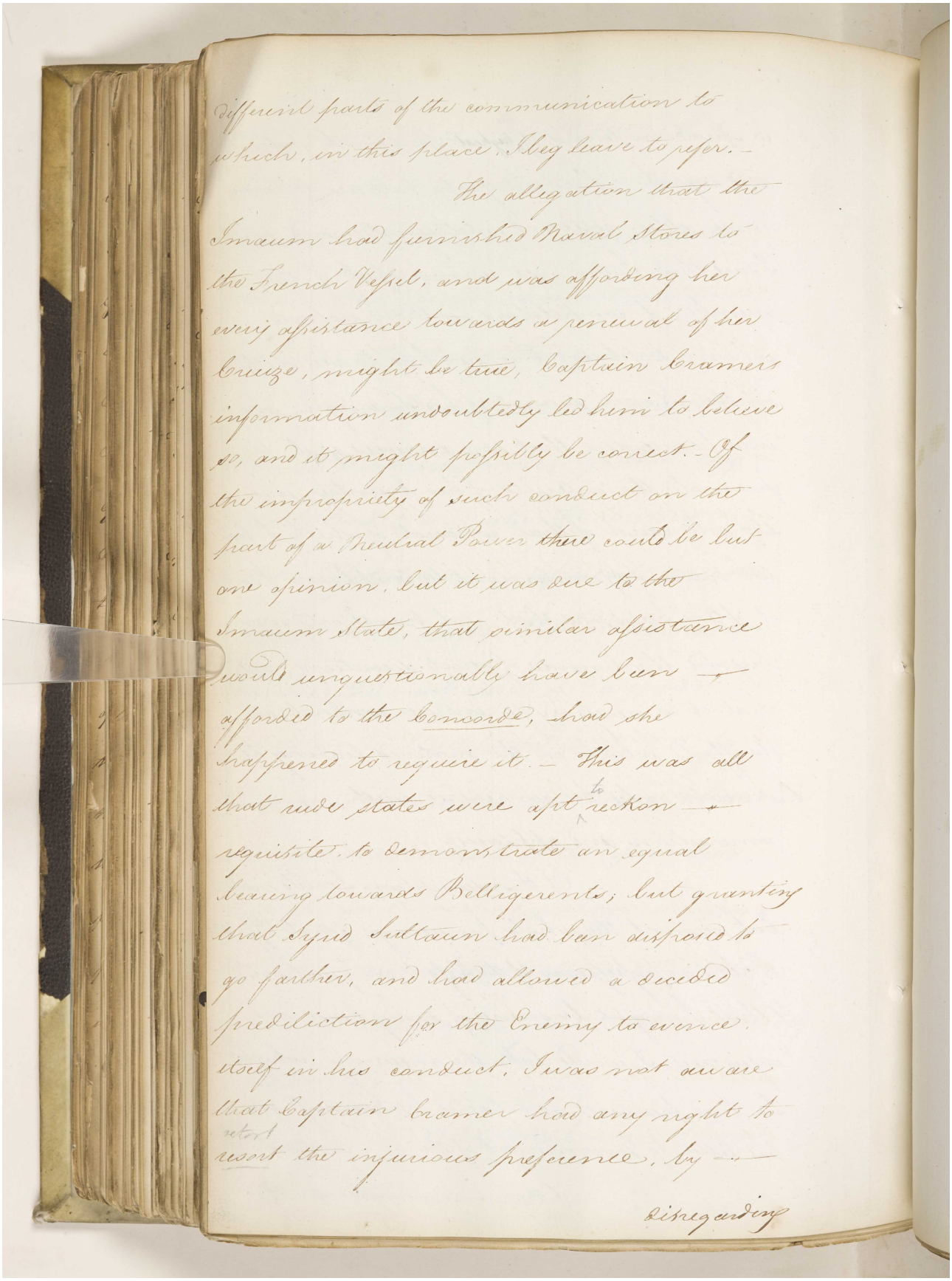

different parts of the communication to which, in this place, I beg leave to refer. —

The allegation that the Imaum had furnished Naval Stores to the French Vessel, and was affording her every assistance towards a renewal of her Cruize, might be true, Captain Cramer's information undoubtedly led him to believe so, and it might possibly be correct. Of the impropriety of such conduct on the part of a Neutral Power there could be but one opinion, but it was due to the Imaum's State, that similar assistance would unquestionably have been afforded to the Concorde, had she happened to require it. — This was all that rude states were apt to reckon requisite, to demonstrate an equal bearing towards Belligerents; but granting that Syud Sultaun had been disposed to go further, and had allowed a decided predilection for the Enemy to evince itself in his conduct, I was not aware that Captain Cramer had any right to resent the injurious preference, by —

disregarding

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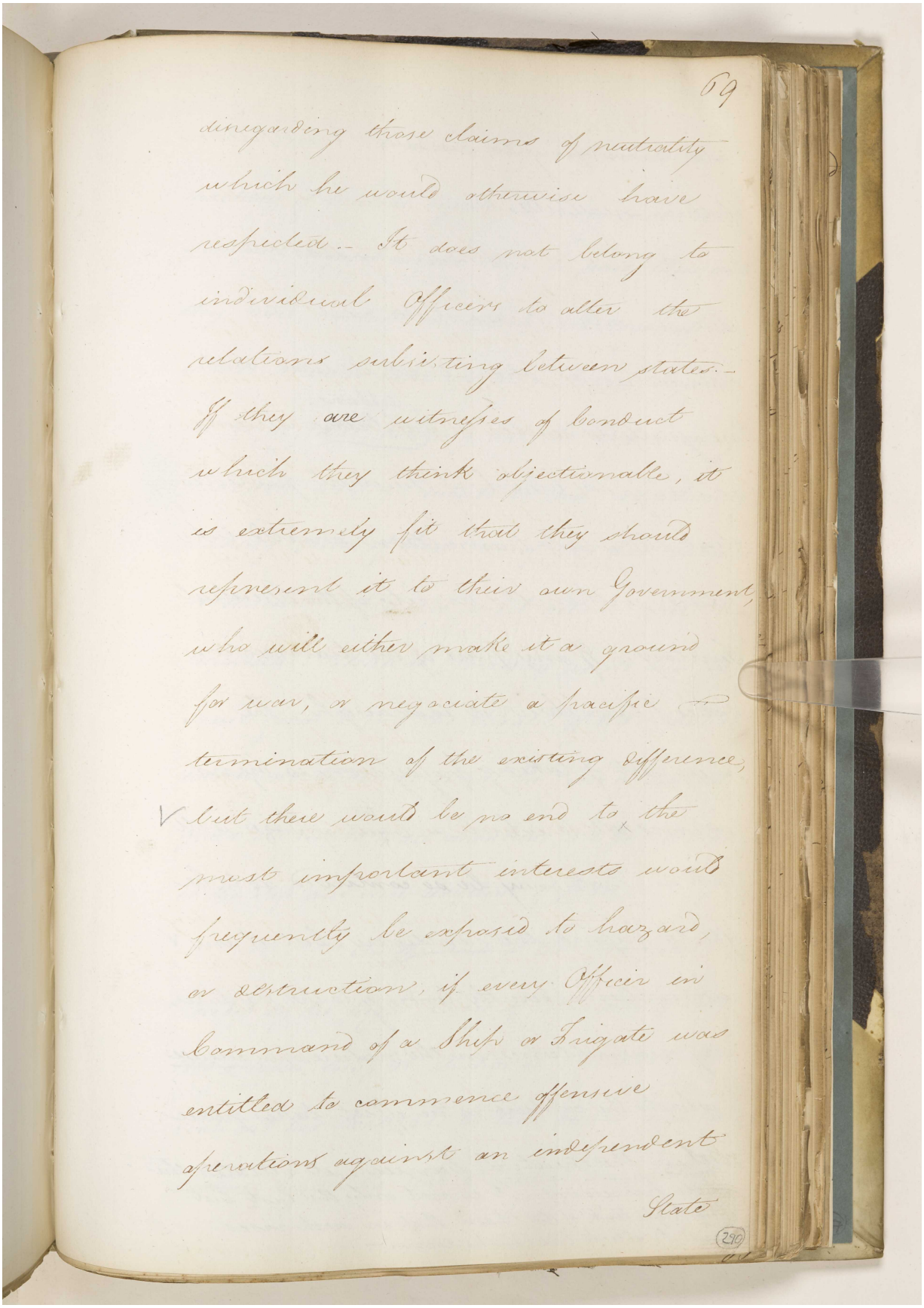

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disregarding those claims of neutrality which he would otherwise have respected.- It does not belong to individual Officers to alter the relations subsisting between states.- If they are witnesses of conduct which they think objectionable, it is extremely fit that they should represent it to their own Government, who will either make it a ground for war, or negociate a pacific termination of the existing difference, but there would be no end to the most important interests would frequently be exposed to hazard, or destruction, if every Officer in Command of a Ship or Frigate was entitled to commence offensive operations against an independent

State

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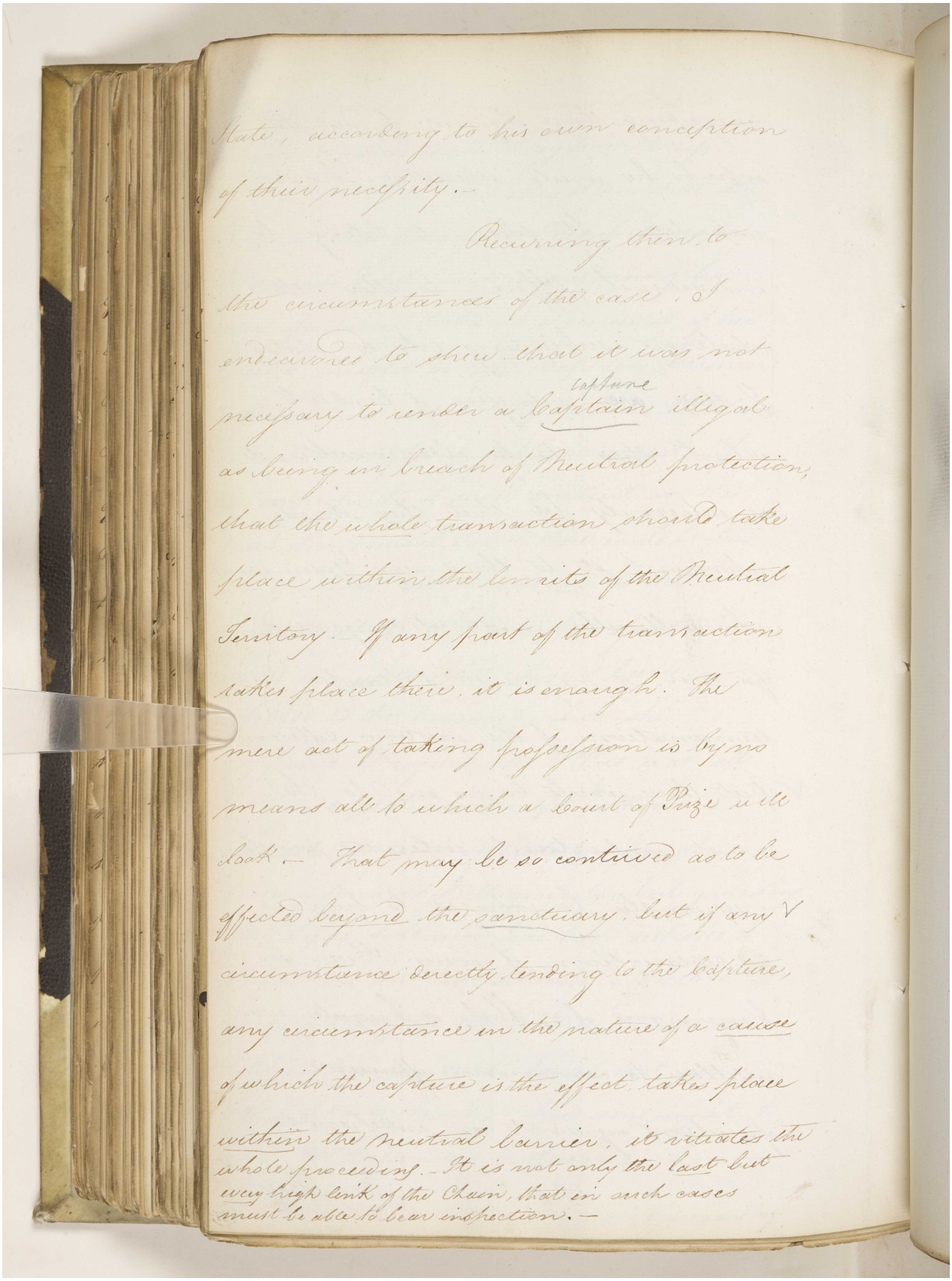

State, according to his own conception
of their necessity.—

Recurring then to
the circumstances of the case, I
endeavoured to shew that it was not
necessary to render a Capture illegal
as being in breach of Neutral protection,
that the whole transaction should take
place within the limits of the Neutral
Territory.— If any part of the transaction
takes place there, it is enough. The
mere act of taking possession is by no
means all to which a Court of Prize will
look.— That may be so contrived as to be
effected beyond the sanctuary, but if any
circumstance directly tending to the Capture,
any circumstance in the nature of a cause
of which the capture is the effect, takes place
within the neutral barrier, it vitiates the
whole proceeding.— It is not only the last but
every high link of the Chain, that in such cases
must be able to bear inspection.—

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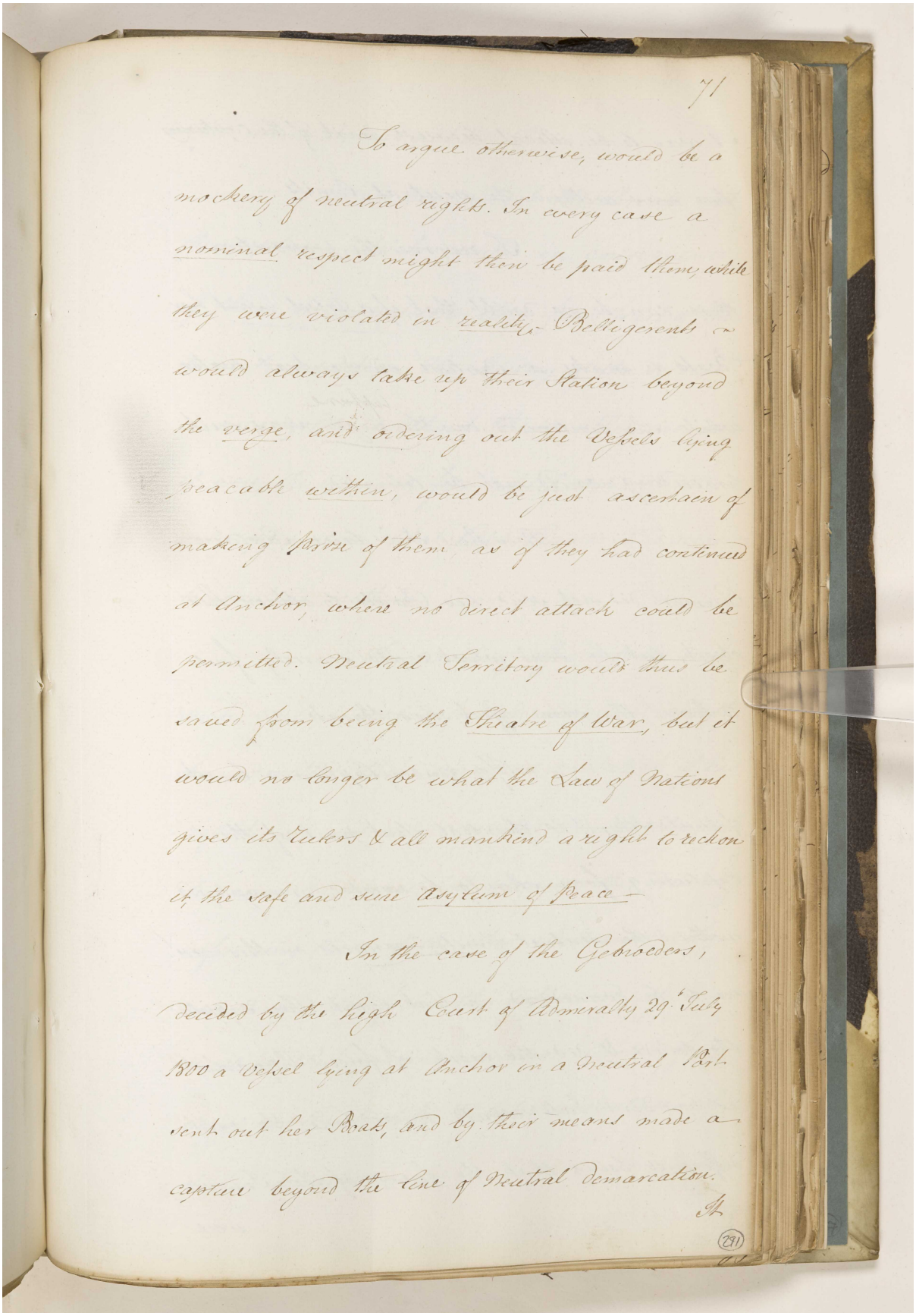

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So argue otherwise, would be a mockery of neutral rights. In every case a nominal respect might then be paid them, while they were violated in reality. Belligerents would always take up their Station beyond the verge, and ordering out the Vessels lying peaceable within, would be just ascertaining of making Prize of them, as if they had continued at Anchor, where no direct attack could be permitted. Neutral Territory would thus be saved from being the Theatre of War, but it would no longer be what the Law of Nations gives its Rulers & all mankind a right to reckon it, the safe and sure Asylum of Peace —

In the case of the Gebroeders, decided by the High Court of Admiralty 29th July 1800 a Vessel lying at Anchor in a Neutral Port sent out her Boats, and by their means made a capture beyond the line of Neutral demarcation.

It

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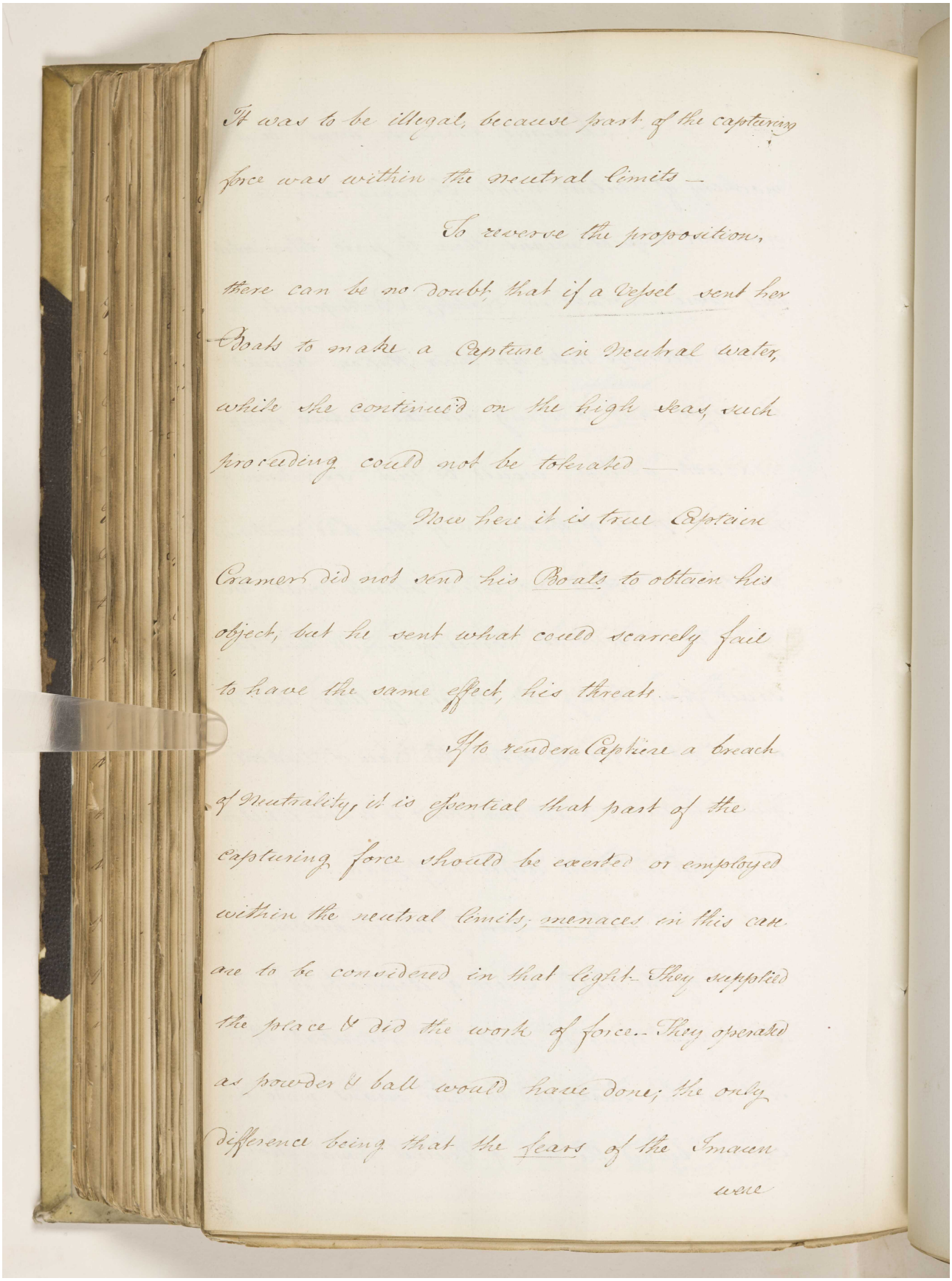

It was to be illegal, because part of the capturing force was within the neutral limits —

To reverse the proposition, there can be no doubt, that if a Vessel sent her Boats to make a Capture in Neutral water, while she continued on the high seas, such proceeding could not be tolerated —

Now here it is true Captain Cramer did not send his Boats to obtain his object, but he sent what could scarcely fail to have the same effect, his threats.

If to render a Capture a breach of Neutrality it is essential that part of the capturing force should be exerted or employed within the neutral limits, menaces in this case are to be considered in that light. They supplied the place & did the work of force. They operated as powder & ball would have done; the only difference being that the fears of the Imaum were

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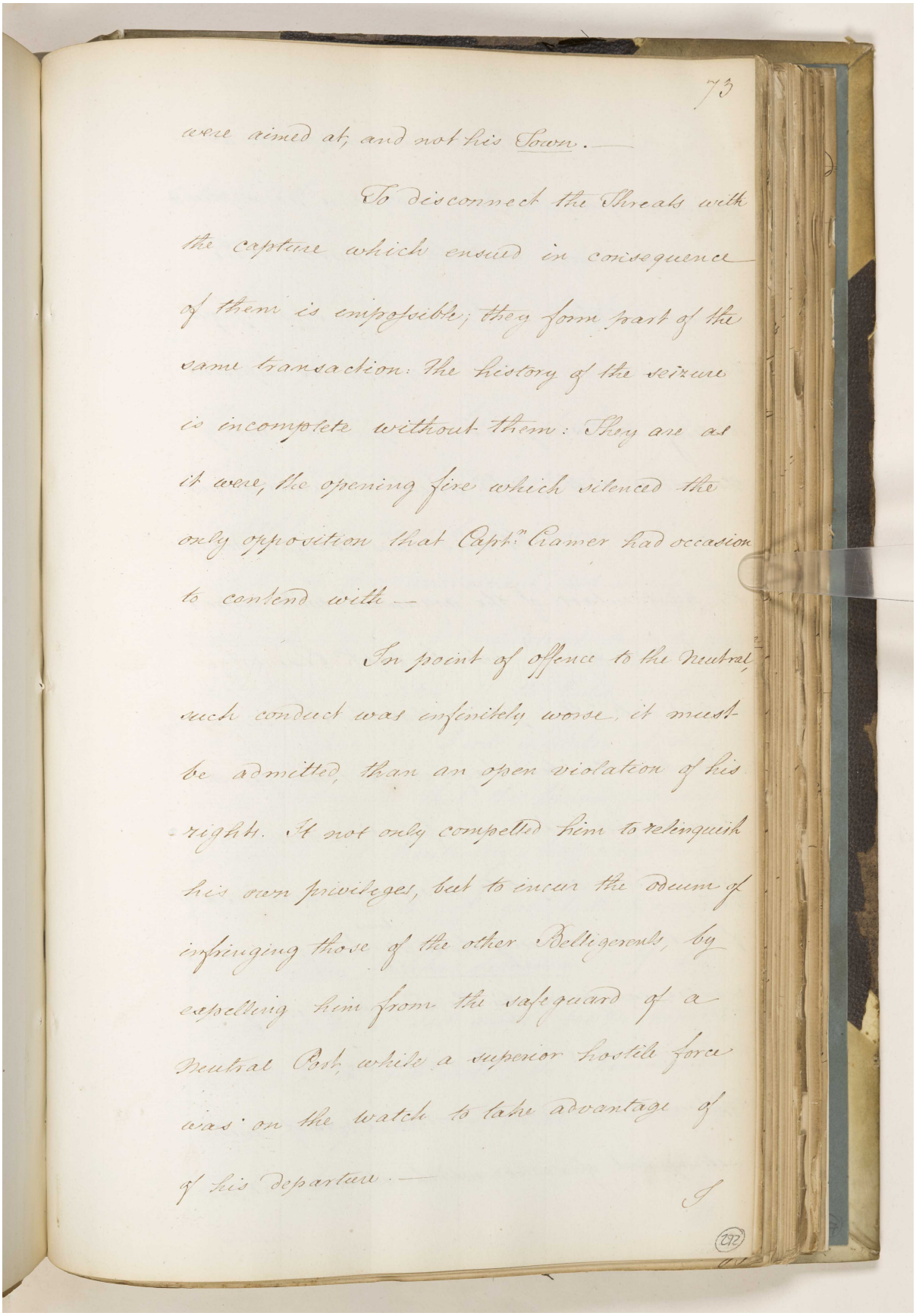

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were aimed at, and not his Town.—

To disconnect the Threats with the capture which ensued in consequence of them is impossible; they form part of the same transaction: The history of the seizure is incomplete without them: They are as it were, the opening fire which silenced the only opposition that Capt.n Ramer had occasion to contend with—

In point of offence to the Neutral, such conduct was infinitely worse, it must be admitted, than an open violation of his rights. It not only compelled him to relinquish his own privileges, but to incur the odium of infringing those of the other Belligerents, by expelling him from the safeguard of a Neutral Port, while a superior hostile force was on the watch to take advantage of his departure.—

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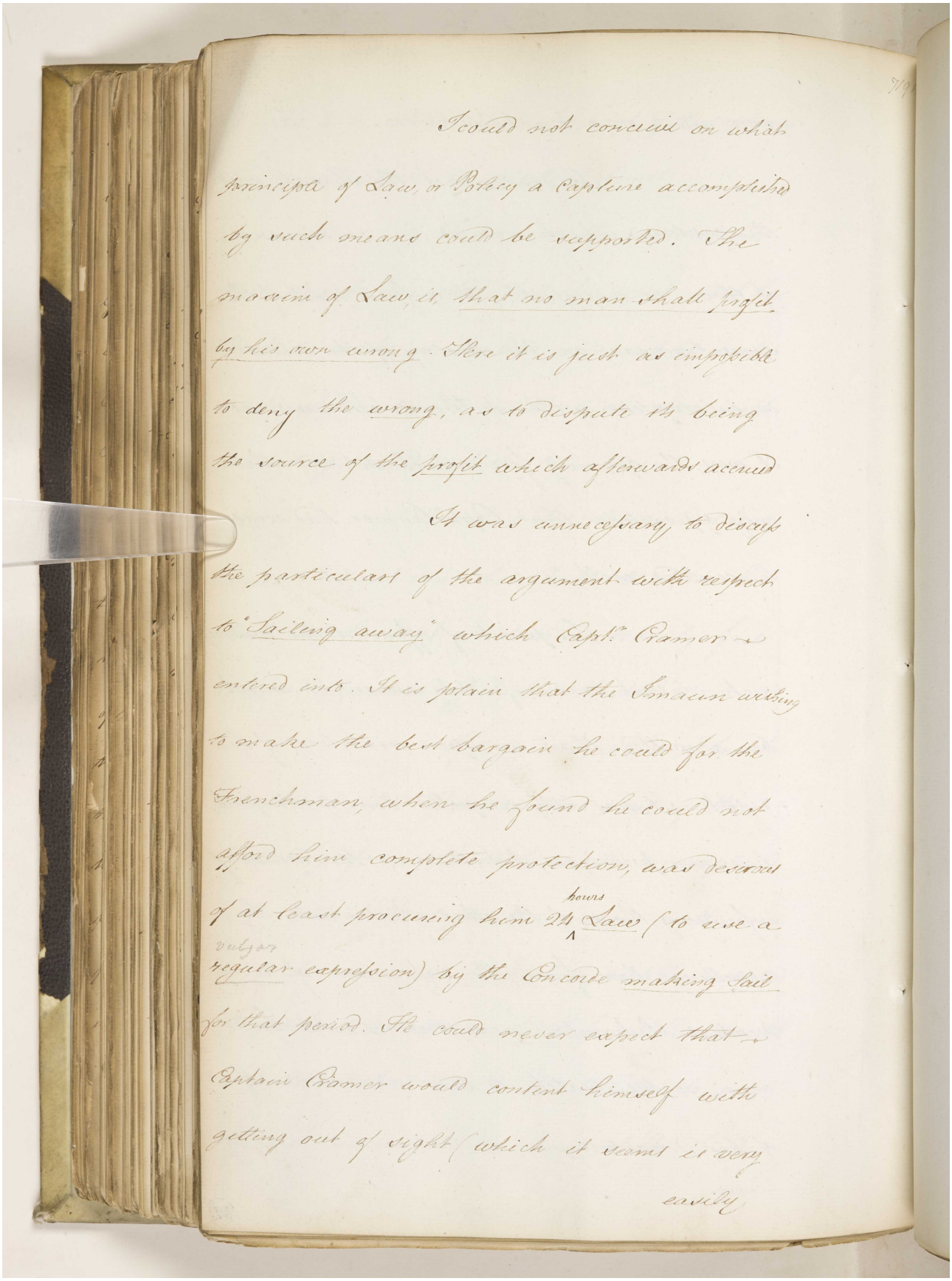

I could not conceive on what
principle of Law, or Policy a Captune accomplished
by such means could be supported. The
maxim of Law is that no man shall profit
by his own wrong. Here it is just as impossible
to deny the wrong, as to dispute its being
the source of the profit which afterwards accrued
It was unnecessary to discuss
the particulars of the argument with respect
to "Sailing away" which Capt.n Cramer
entered into. It is plain that the Imaum willing
to make the best bargain he could for the
Frenchman, when he found he could not
afford him complete protection, was desirous
of at least procuring him 24 hours Law (to use a
vulgar
regular expression) by the Encoide making Sail
for that period. He could never expect that
Captain Cramer would content himself with
getting out of sight (which it seems is very
easily

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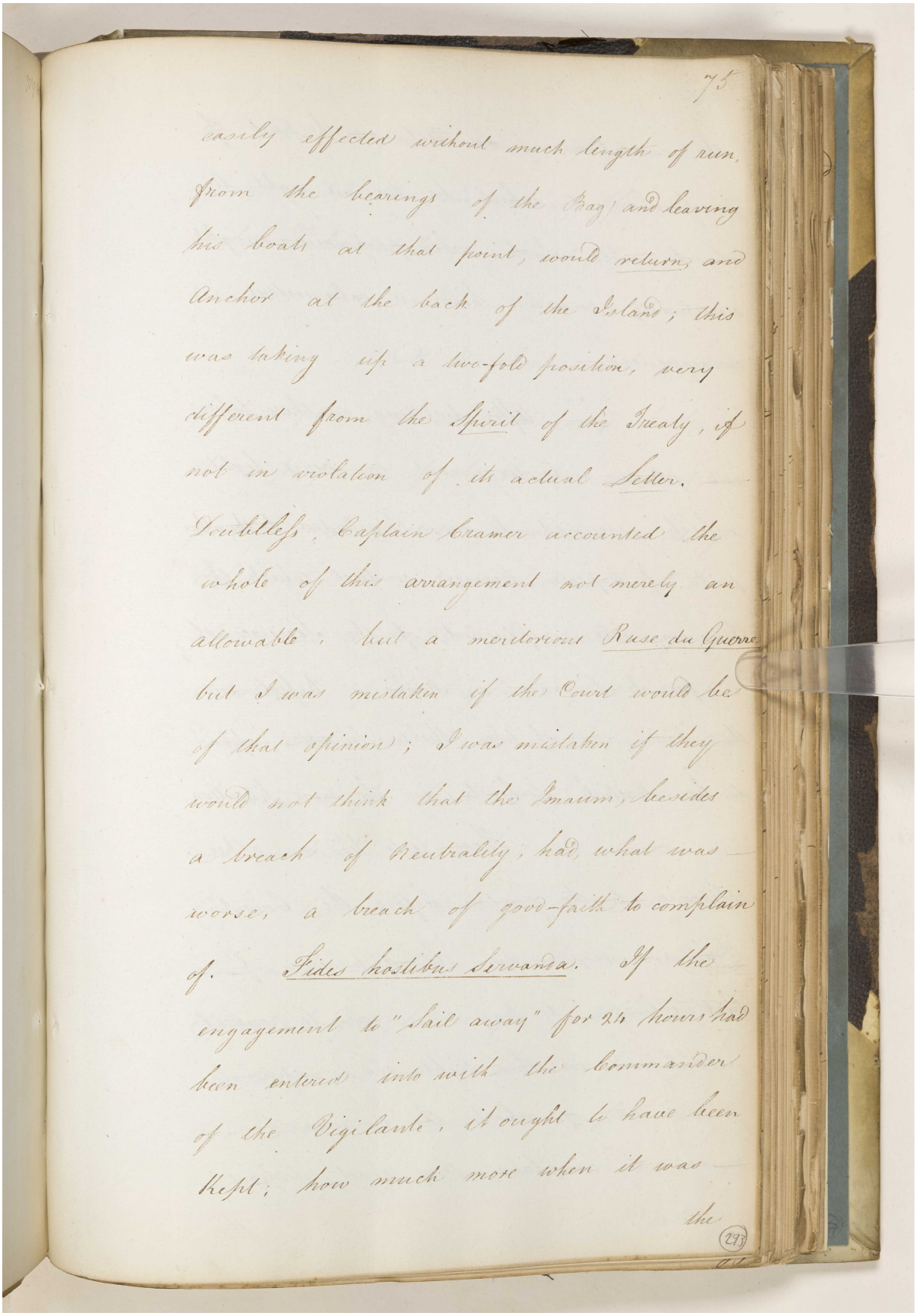

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easily effected without much length of run, from the bearings of the Bay; and leaving his boats at that point, would return and Anchor at the back of the Island; this was taking up a two-fold position, very different from the Spirit of the Treaty, if not in violation of its actual Letter.

Doubtless, Captain Cramer accounted the whole of this arrangement not merely an allowable, but a meritorious Ruse du Guerre but I was mistaken if the Court would be of that opinion; I was mistaken if they would not think that the Imaum, besides a breach of Neutrality, had what was worse, a breach of good-faith to complain of. Fides hostibus Servanda. If the engagement to "Sail away" for 24 hours had been entered into with the Commander of the Vigilante, it ought to have been kept; how much more when it was the

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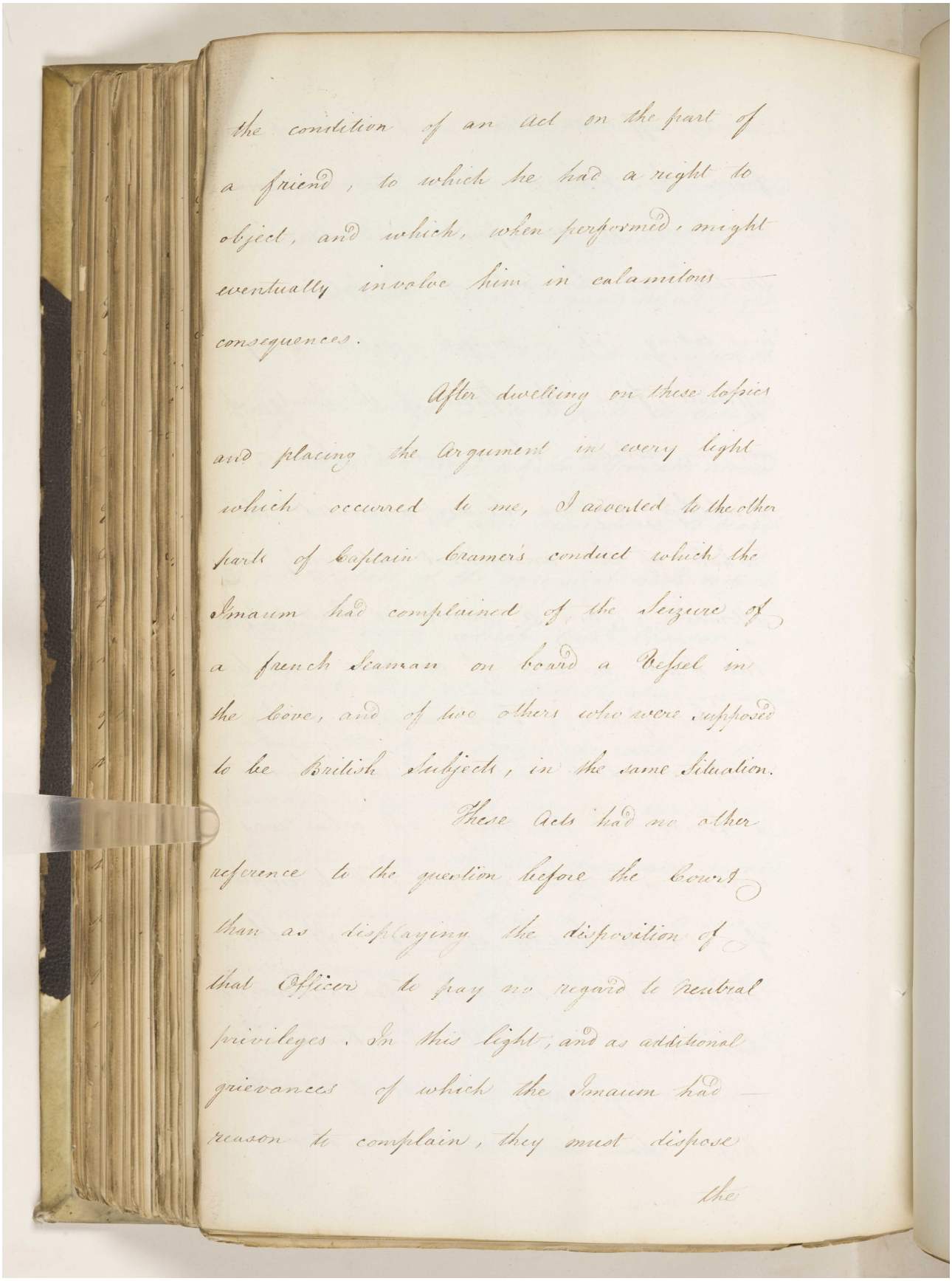

the condition of an act on the part of a friend, to which he had a right to object, and which, when performed, might eventually involve him in calamitous consequences.

After dwelling on these topics and placing the Argument in every light which occurred to me, I adverted to the other parts of Captain Bramer's conduct which the Imaum had complained of, the Seizure of a french Seaman on board a Vessel in the Cove, and of two others who were supposed to be British Subjects, in the same Situation.

These Acts had no other reference to the question before the Court than as displaying the disposition of that Officer to pay no regard to Neutral privileges. In this light, and as additional grievances of which the Imaum had reason to complain, they must dispose

the

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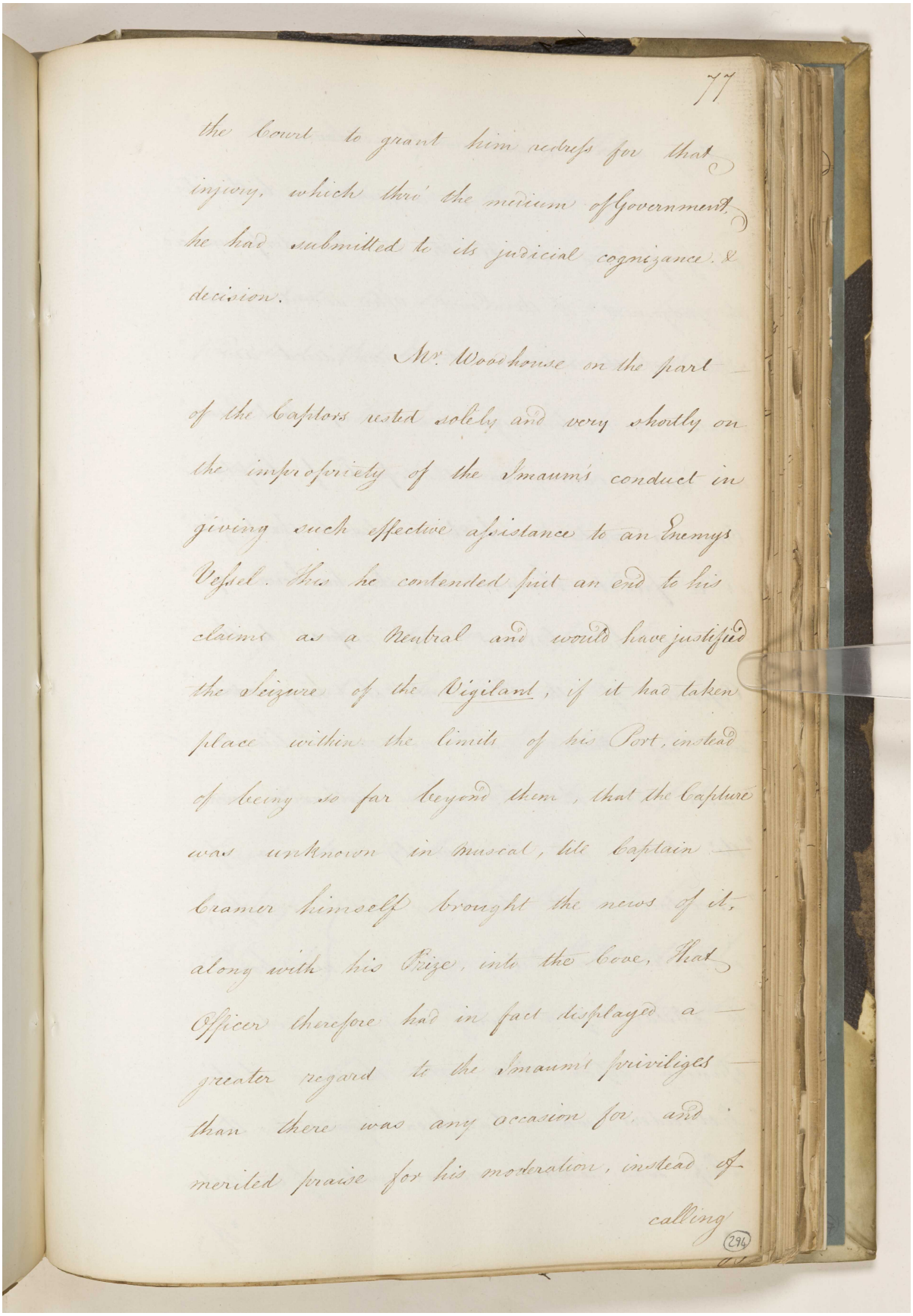

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the Court to grant him redress for that injury, which thro' the medium of Government he had submitted to its judicial cognizance & decision.

Mr. Woodhouse on the part of the Captors rested solely and very shortly on the impropriety of the Imaum's conduct in giving such effective assistance to an Enemys Vessel. Thus he contended put an end to his claims as a Neutral and would have justified the seizure of the Vigilant, if it had taken place within the limits of his Port, instead of being so far beyond them, that the Capture was unknown in Muscat, the Captain Cramer himself brought the news of it, along with his Prize, into the Cove. That Officer therefore had in fact displayed a greater regard to the Imaum's priviliges than there was any occasion for, and merited praise for his moderation, instead of calling

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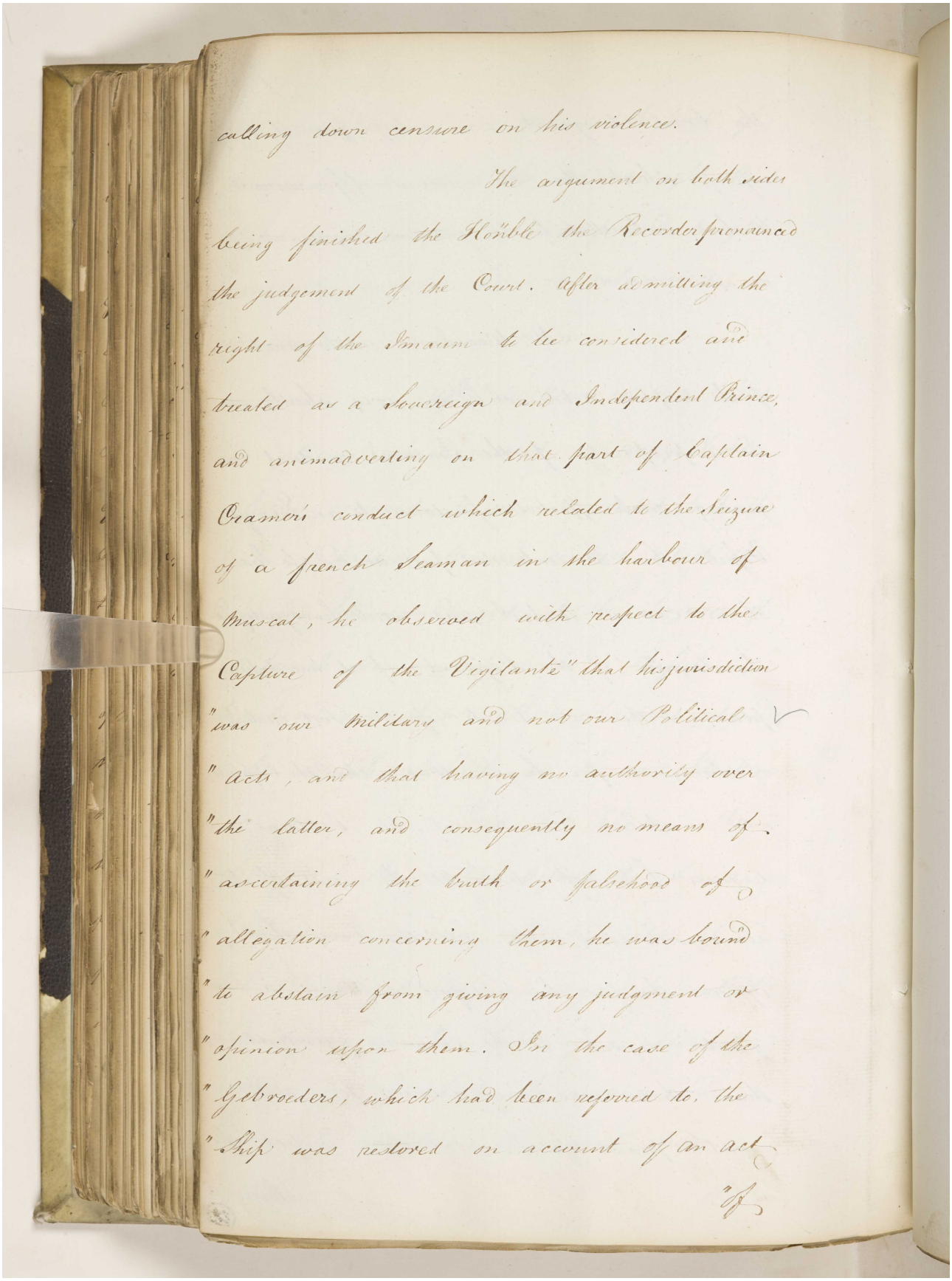

calling down censure on his violence.

The argument on both sides being finished the Honble the Recorder pronounced the judgement of the Court. After admitting the right of the Imaum to be considered and treated as a Sovereign and Independent Prince, and animadverting on that part of Captain Cramer's conduct which related to the Seizure of a French Seaman in the harbour of Muscat, he observed with respect to the Capture of the Vigilante "that his jurisdiction "was our Military and not our Political "acts, and that having no authority over "the latter, and consequently no means of "ascertaining the truth or falsehood of "allegation concerning them, he was bound "to abstain from giving any judgment or "opinion upon them. As the case of the "Gebroeders, which had been referred to, the "Ship was restored on account of an act

"of

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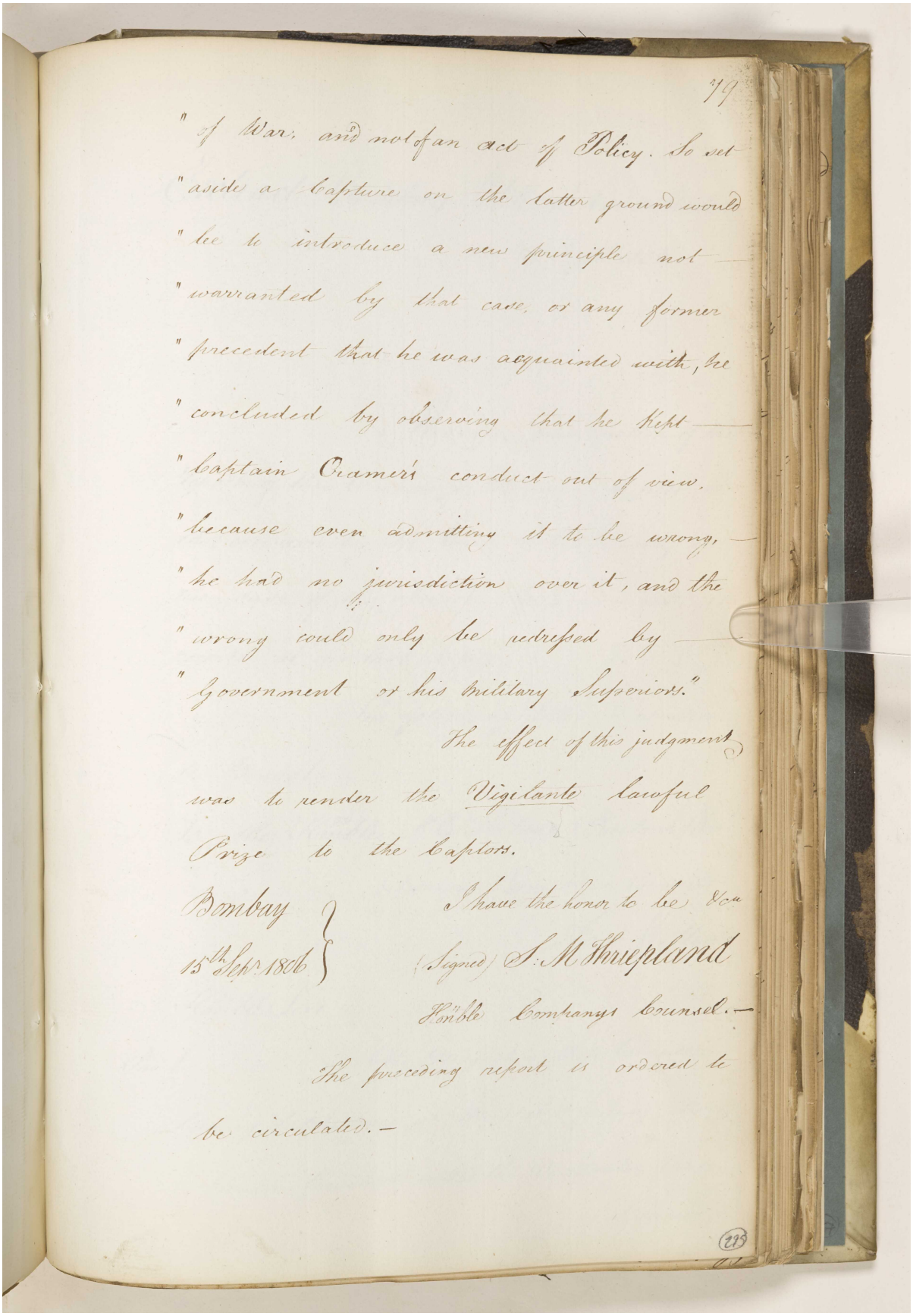

"of War, and not of an act of Policy. So set
"aside a Capture on the latter ground would
"be to introduce a new principle not
"warranted by that case, or any former
"precedent that he was acquainted with, he
"concluded by observing that he kept
"Captain Cramer's conduct out of view,
"because even admitting it to be wrong,
"he had no jurisdiction over it, and the
"wrong could only be redressed by
"Government or his Military Superiors."

The effect of this judgment was to render the Vigilante lawful Prize to the Captors.

Bombay
15th Sepr. 1806

I have the honor to be &ca
(Signed) S. M. Thriepland
Hon'ble Company's Counsel.—

The preceding report is ordered to be circulated.—

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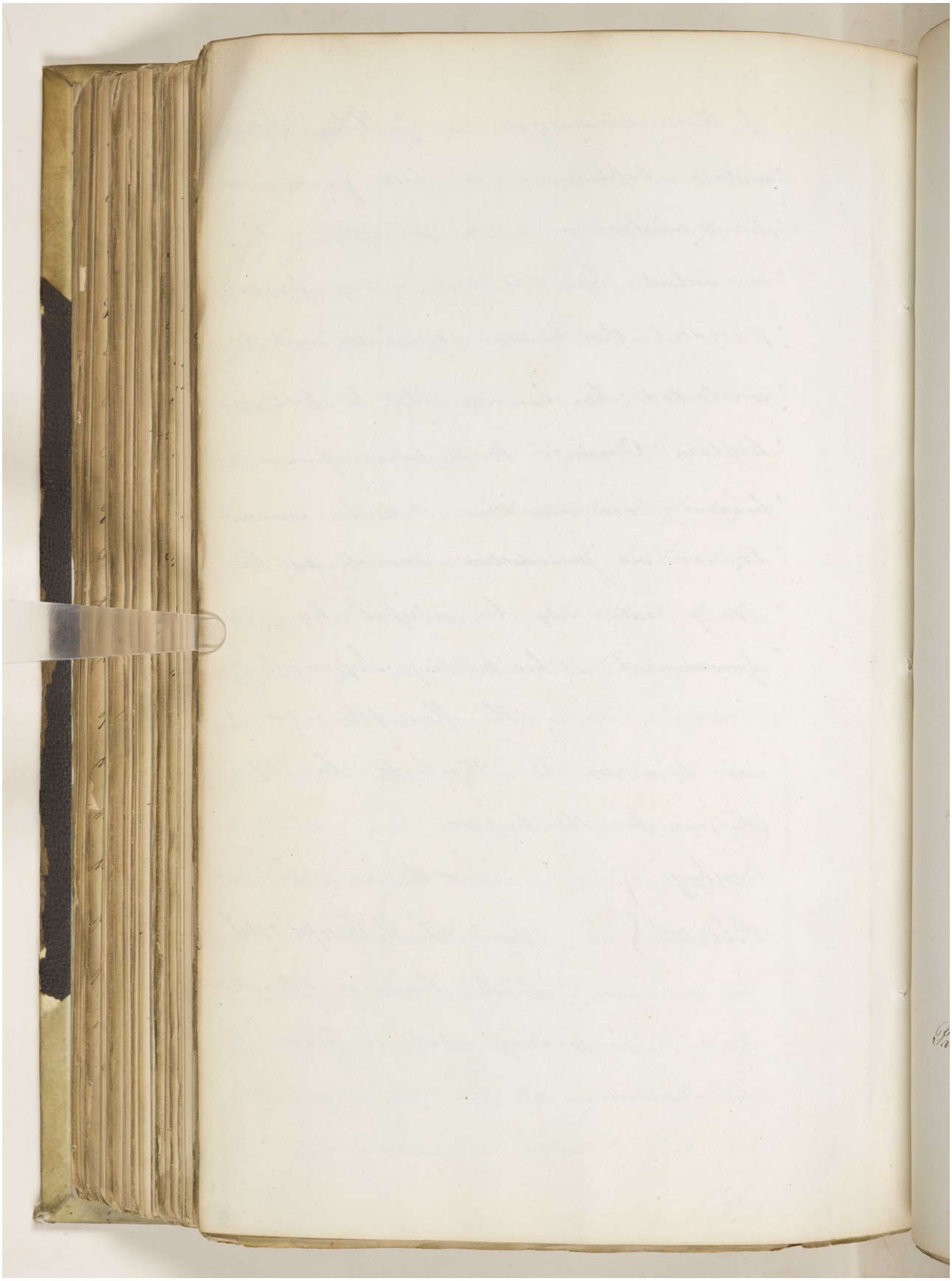

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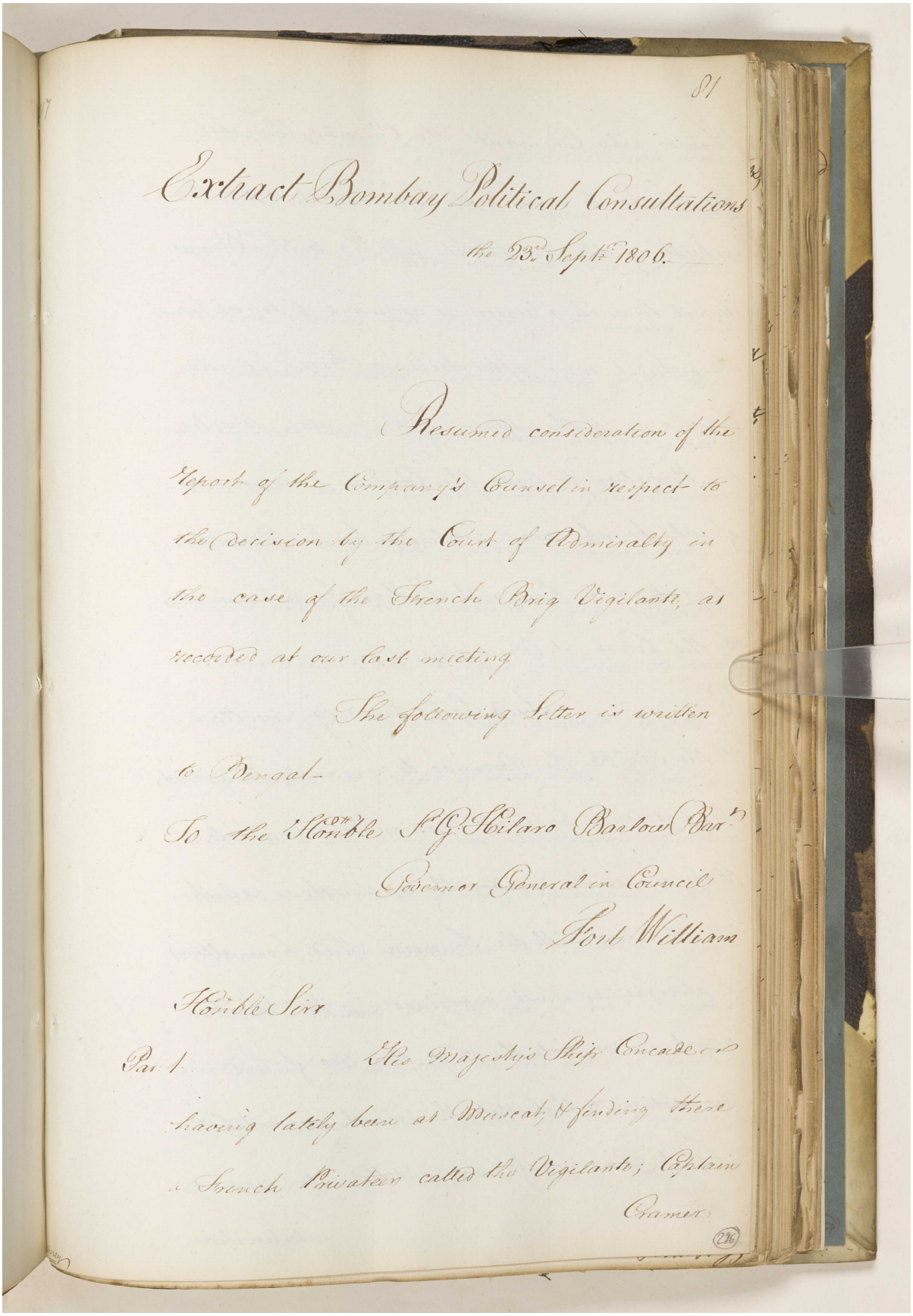

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 23rd Septr 1806.

Resumed consideration of the report of the Company's Counsel in respect to the decision by the Court of Admiralty in the case of the French Brig Vigilante, as recorded at our last meeting.

The following Letter is written to Bengal.

To the Honble Sr G. Hilaro Barlow Bart
Governor General in Council
Fort William

Honble Sir

Par. 1. His Majesty's Ship Concorde having lately been at Muscat, & finding there a French Privateer called the Vigilante; Captain Cramer

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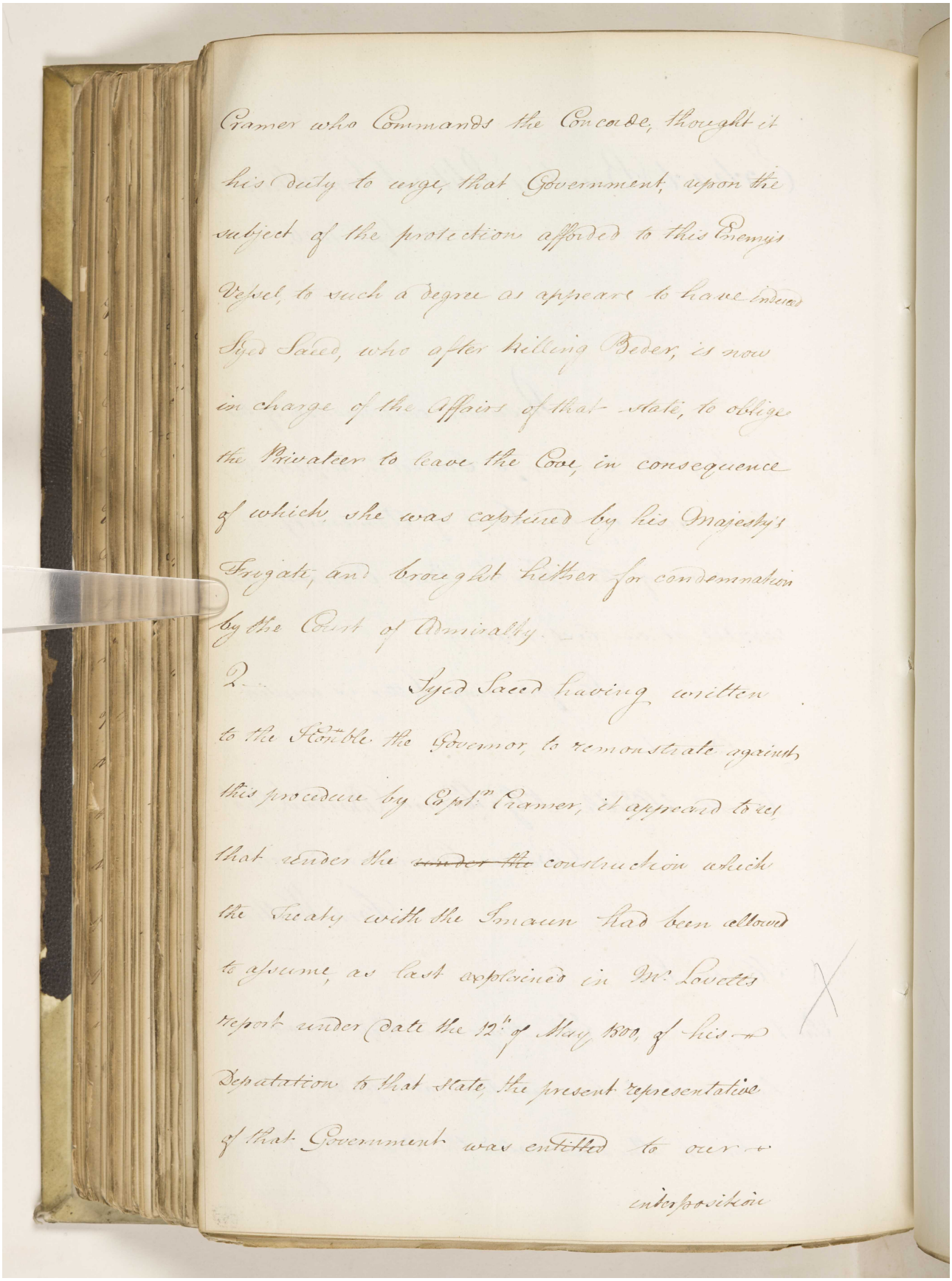

Cramer who Commands the Concorde, thought it
his duty to urge, that Government, upon the
subject of the protection afforded to this Enemy's
Vessel, to such a degree as appeared to have induced
Syed Saeed, who after killing Bedeer, is now
in charge of the Affairs of that State, to oblige
the Privateer to leave the Cove, in consequence
of which she was captured by his Majesty's
Frigate, and brought hither for condemnation
by the Court of Admiralty.

2. Syed Saeed having written
to the Honble the Governor, to remonstrate against
this procedure by Captn Cramer, it appeared to be
that under the construction which
the Treaty with the Imaum had been allowed
to assume, as last explained in Mr Loveles
report under date the 12th of May 1800, of his
Deputation to that State, the present representative
of that Government was entitled to over-
interposition

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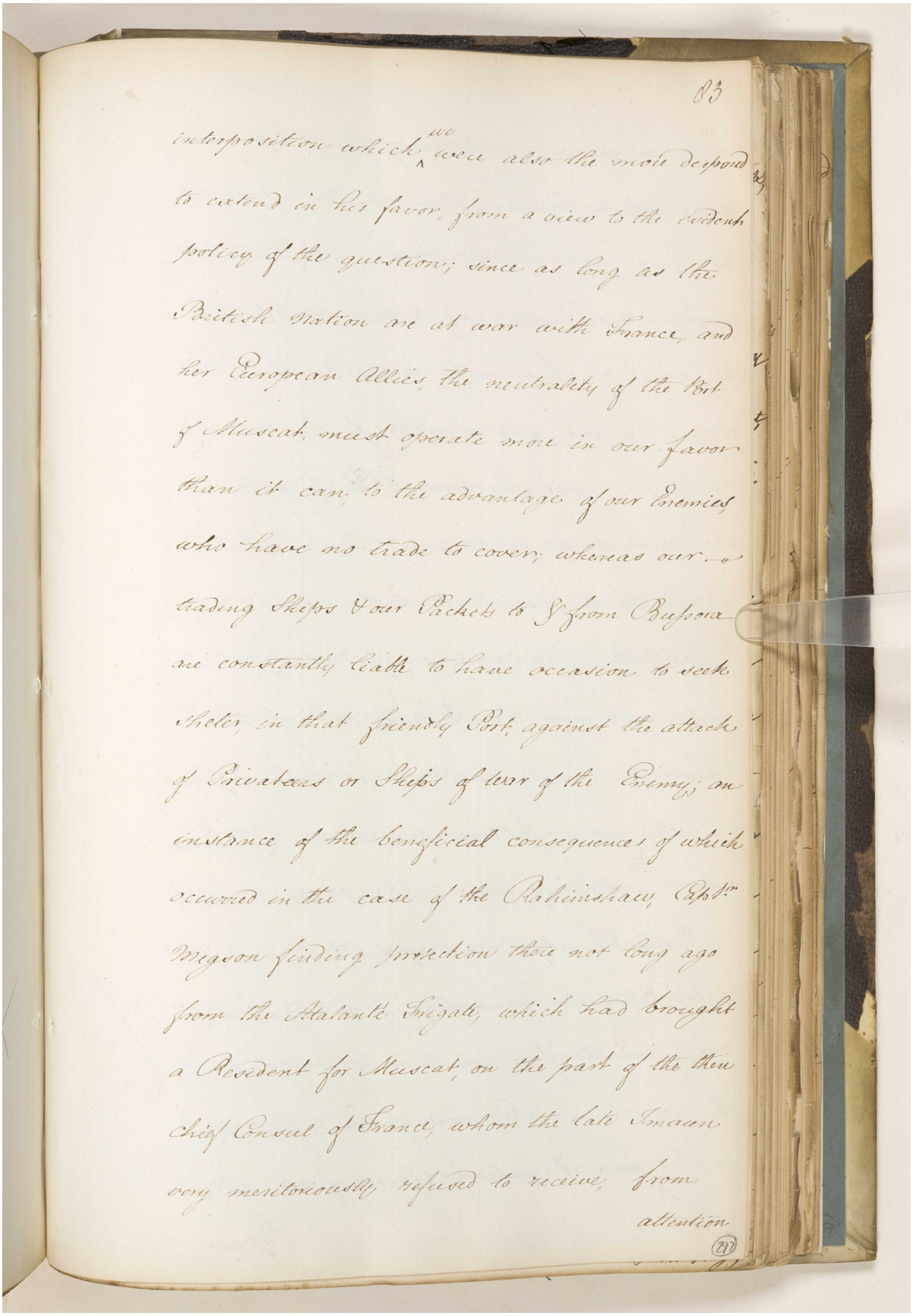

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interposition which we were also the more disposed
to extend in her favor, from a view to the evident
policy of the question; since as long as the
British nation are at war with France, and
her European Allies, the neutrality of the Port
of Muscat, must operate more in our favor
than it can to the advantage of our Enemies
who have no trade to cover; whereas our
trading Ships & our Packets to & from Bussora
are constantly liable to have occasion to seek
shelter in that friendly Port against the attacks
of Privateers or Ships of war of the Enemy; an
instance of the beneficial consequences of which
occurred in the case of the Rahimshaw, Capt.n
Megson finding protection there not long ago
from the Atalante Frigate, which had brought
a Resident for Muscat, on the part of the then
chief Consul of France, whom the late Imaum
very meritoriously refused to receive, from
attention

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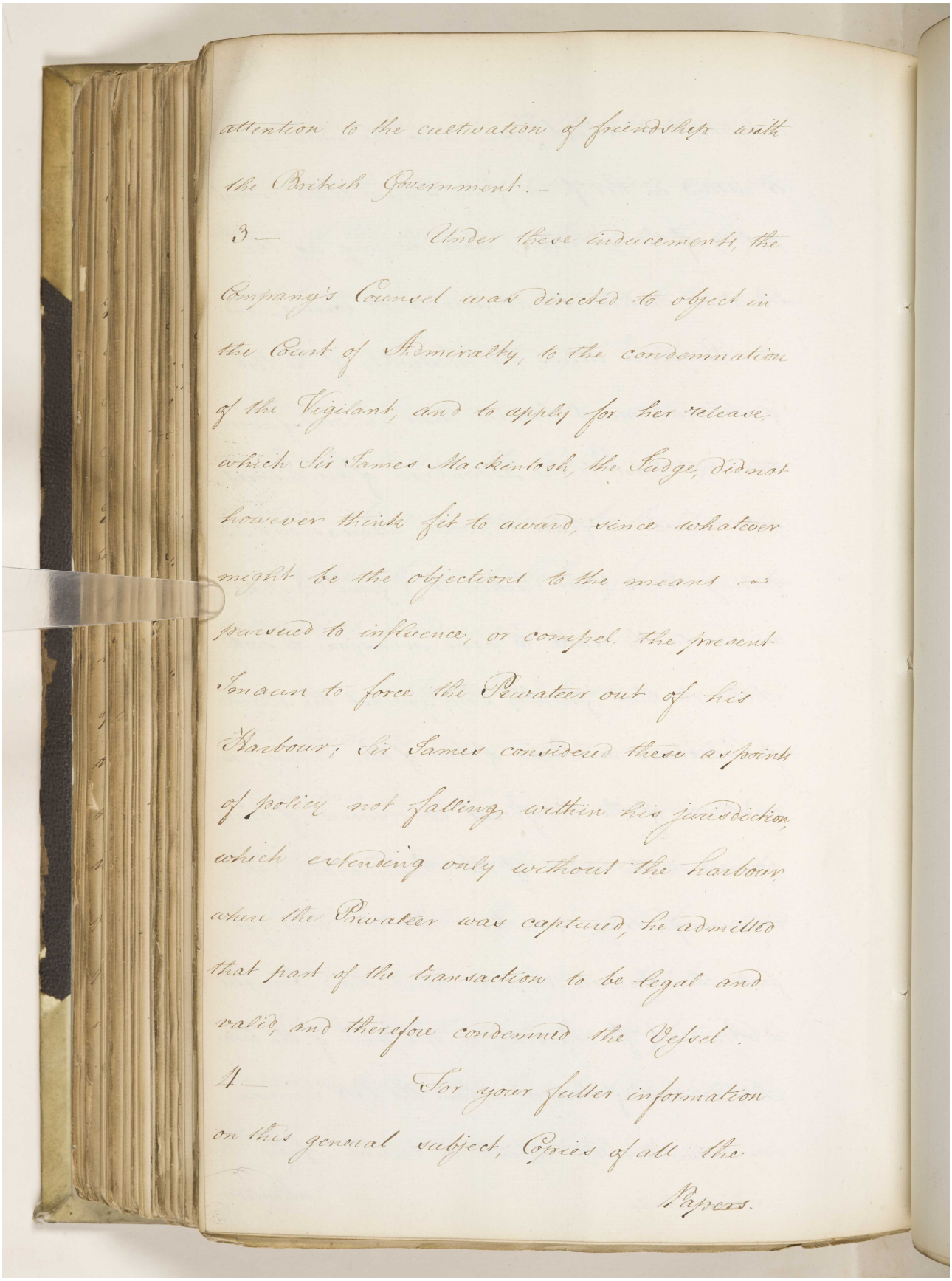

attention to the cultivation of friendship with
the British Government.—
3— Under these inducements, the
Company's Counsel was directed to object in
the Court of Admiralty, to the condemnation
of the Vigilant, and to apply for her release,
which Sir James Mackintosh, the Judge, did not
however think fit to award, since whatever
might be the objections to the means so
pursued to influence, or compel the present
Imaum to force the Privateer out of his
Harbour; Sir James considered these as points
of policy not falling within his jurisdiction,
which extending only without the harbour
when the Privateer was captured, he admitted
that part of the transaction to be legal and
valid, and therefore condemned the Vessel.
4— For your further information
on this general subject, Copies of all the
Papers.

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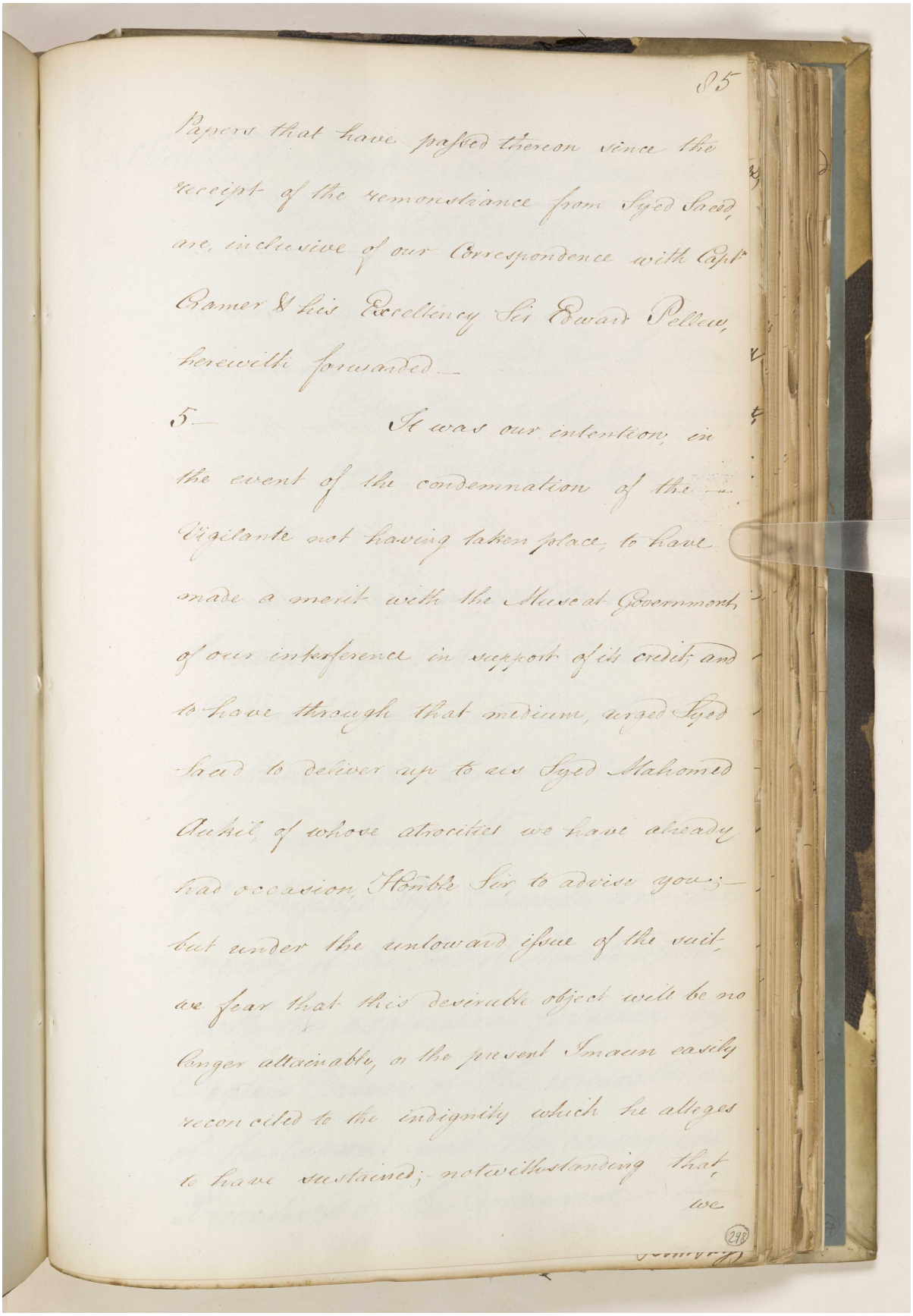

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Papers that have passed thereon since the receipt of the Remonstrance from Syed Saeed, are, inclusive of our Correspondence with Capt Bamer & his Excellency Sir Edward Pellew, herewith forwarded—

5— It was our intention, in the event of the condemnation of the Vigilante not having taken place, to have made a merit with the Muscat Government of our interference in support of its credit, and to have through that medium, urged Syed Saeed to deliver up to us Syed Mahomed Aukil of whose atrocities we have already had occasion, Honble Sir, to advise you;— but under the untoward issue of the suit, we fear that this desirable object will be no longer attainable, as the present Imaum easily reconciled to the indignity which he alleges to have sustained; notwithstanding that,

we

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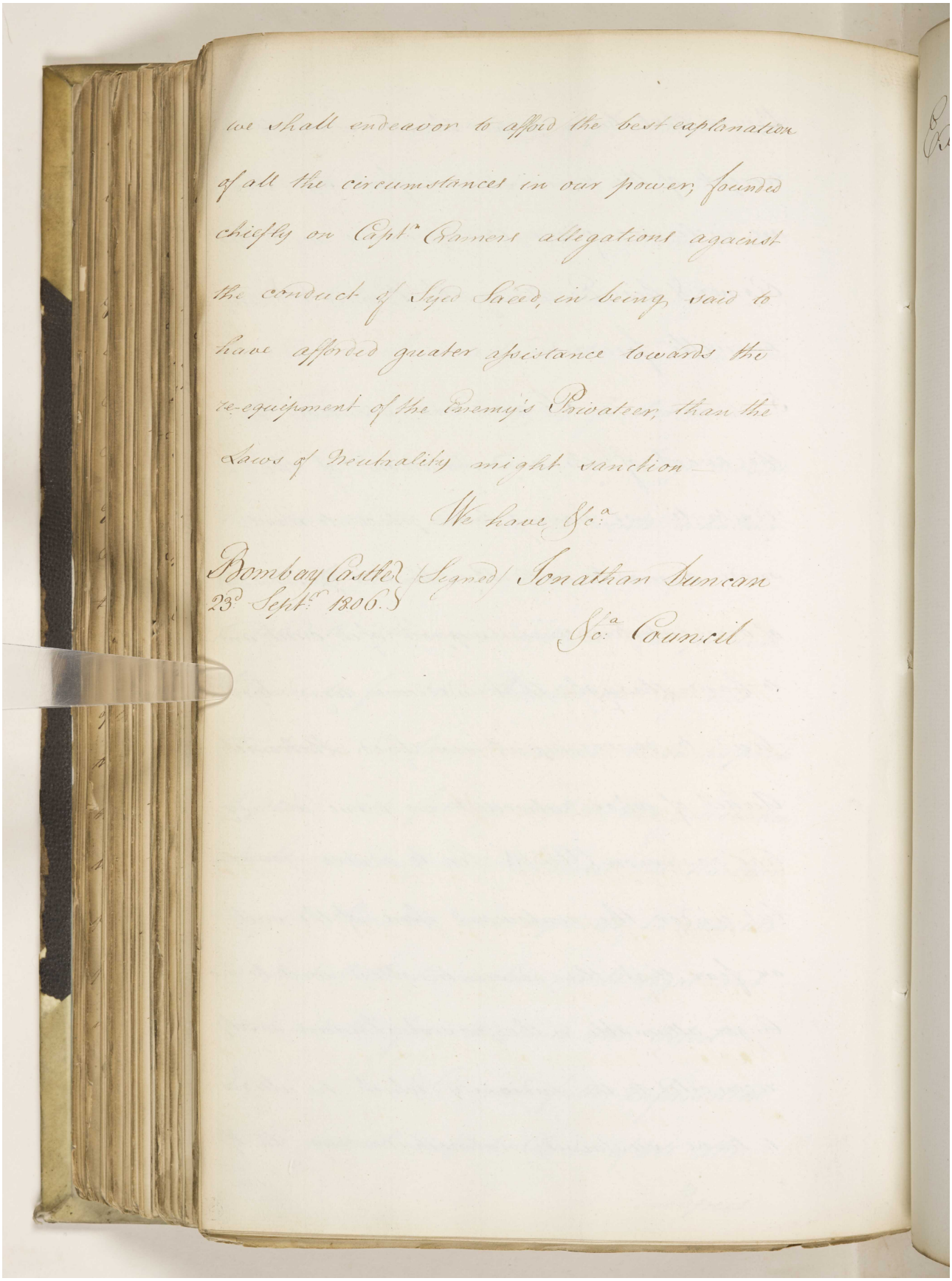

we shall endeavor to afford the best explanation of all the circumstances in our power, founded chiefly on Captn Cramers allegations against the conduct of Syed Saeed, in being said to have afforded greater assistance towards the re-equipment of the Enemy's Privateer, than the Laws of Neutrality might sanction —

We have &ca

Bombay Castle
23d Septr 1806.

(Signed) Jonathan Duncan
&ca Council

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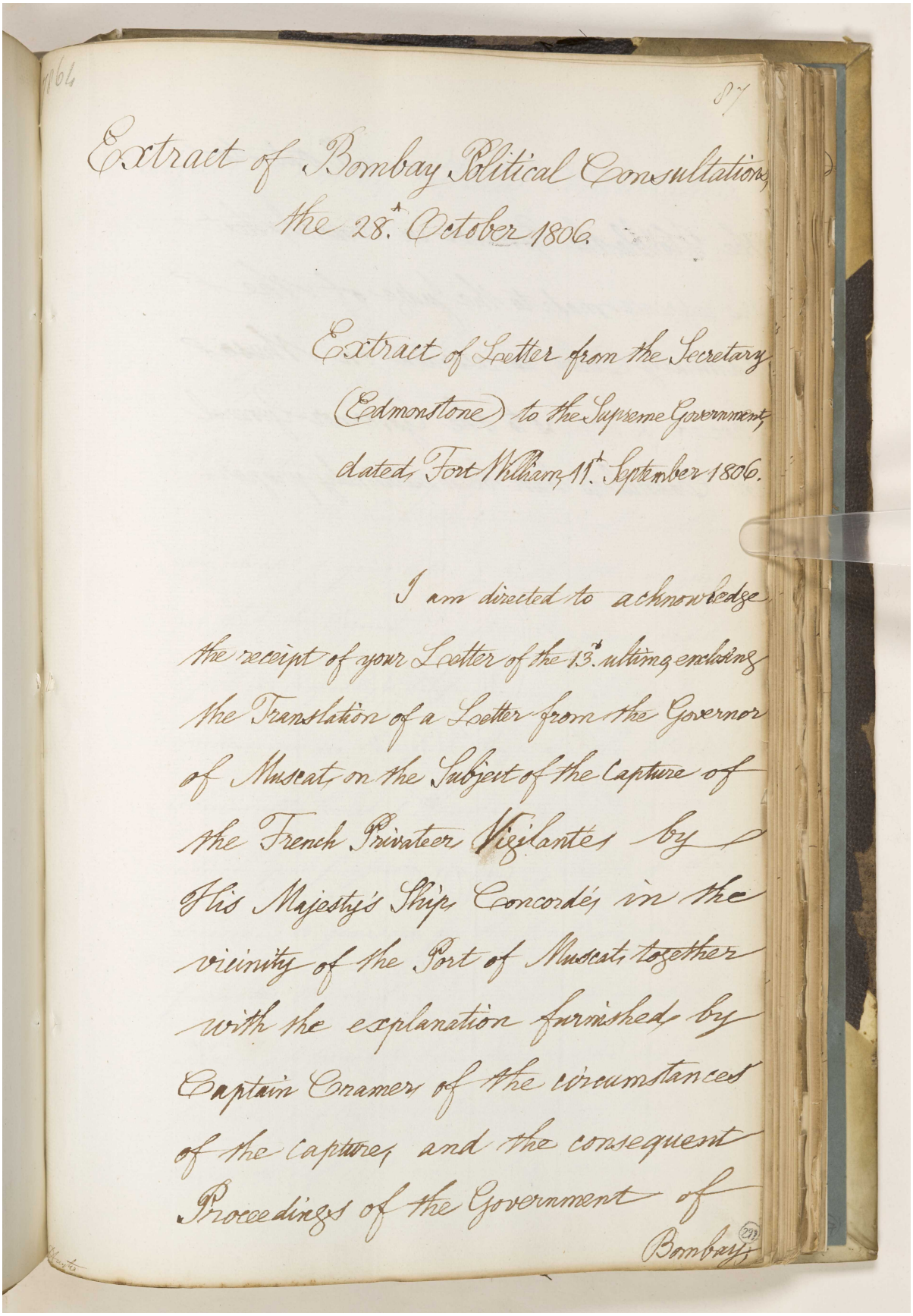

Extract of Bombay Political Consultations
the 28th. October 1806.

Extract of Letter from the Secretary
(Edmonstone) to the Supreme Government
dated Fort William 11th. September 1806.

I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your Letter of the 13th. ultimo enclosing
the Translation of a Letter from the Governor
of Muscat on the Subject of the Capture of
the French Privateer Vigilante by
His Majesty's Ship Concorde in the
vicinity of the Port of Muscat together
with the explanation furnished by
Captain Cramer of the circumstances
of the capture and the consequent
Proceedings of the Government of
Bombay

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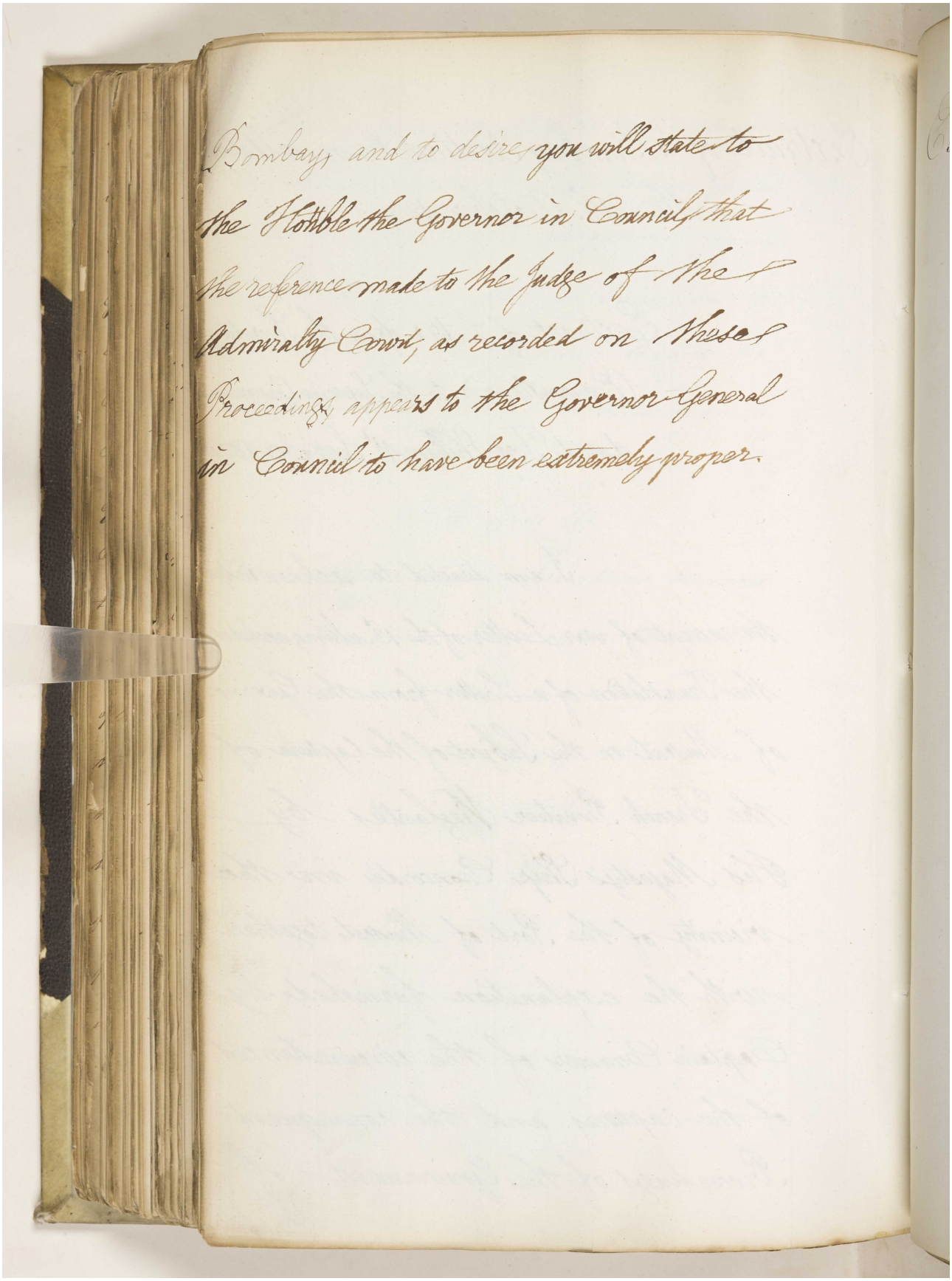
Bombay, and to desire you will state to
the Hobble the Governor in Council that
the reference made to the Judge of the
Admiralty Court, as recorded on these
Proceedings, appears to the Governor General
in Council to have been extremely proper.

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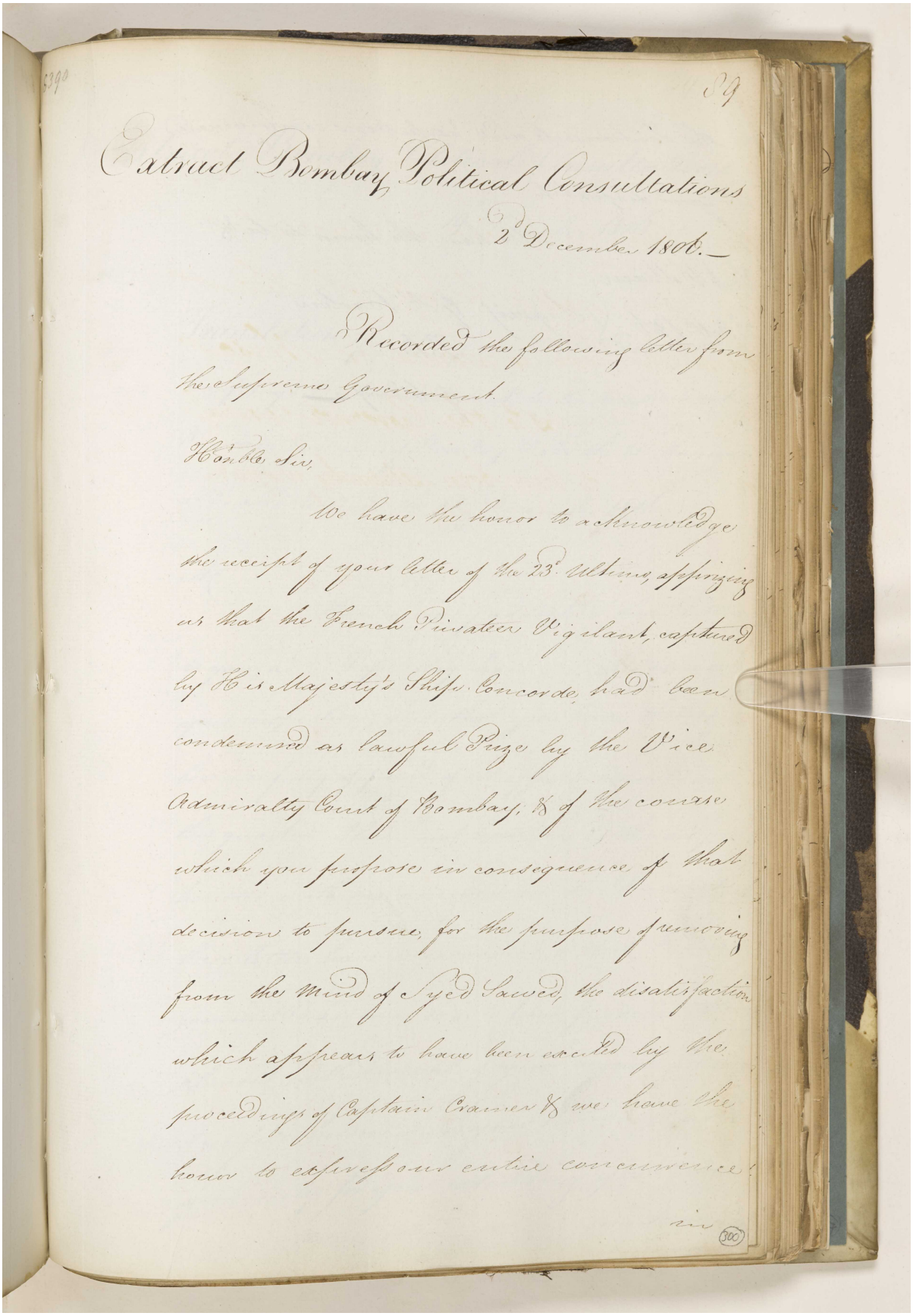

Extract Bombay Political Consultations
2 December 1806.—

Recorded the following letter from the Supreme Government.

Hon'ble Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d. ulting. apprizing us that the French Privateer Vigilant, captured by His Majesty's Ship Concorde, had been condemned as lawful Prize by the Vice Admiralty Court of Bombay, & of the course which you purpose in consequence of that decision to pursue, for the purpose removing from the Mind of Syed Sawed, the dissatisfaction which appears to have been excited by the proceedings of Captain Cramer & we have the honor to express our entire concurrence in

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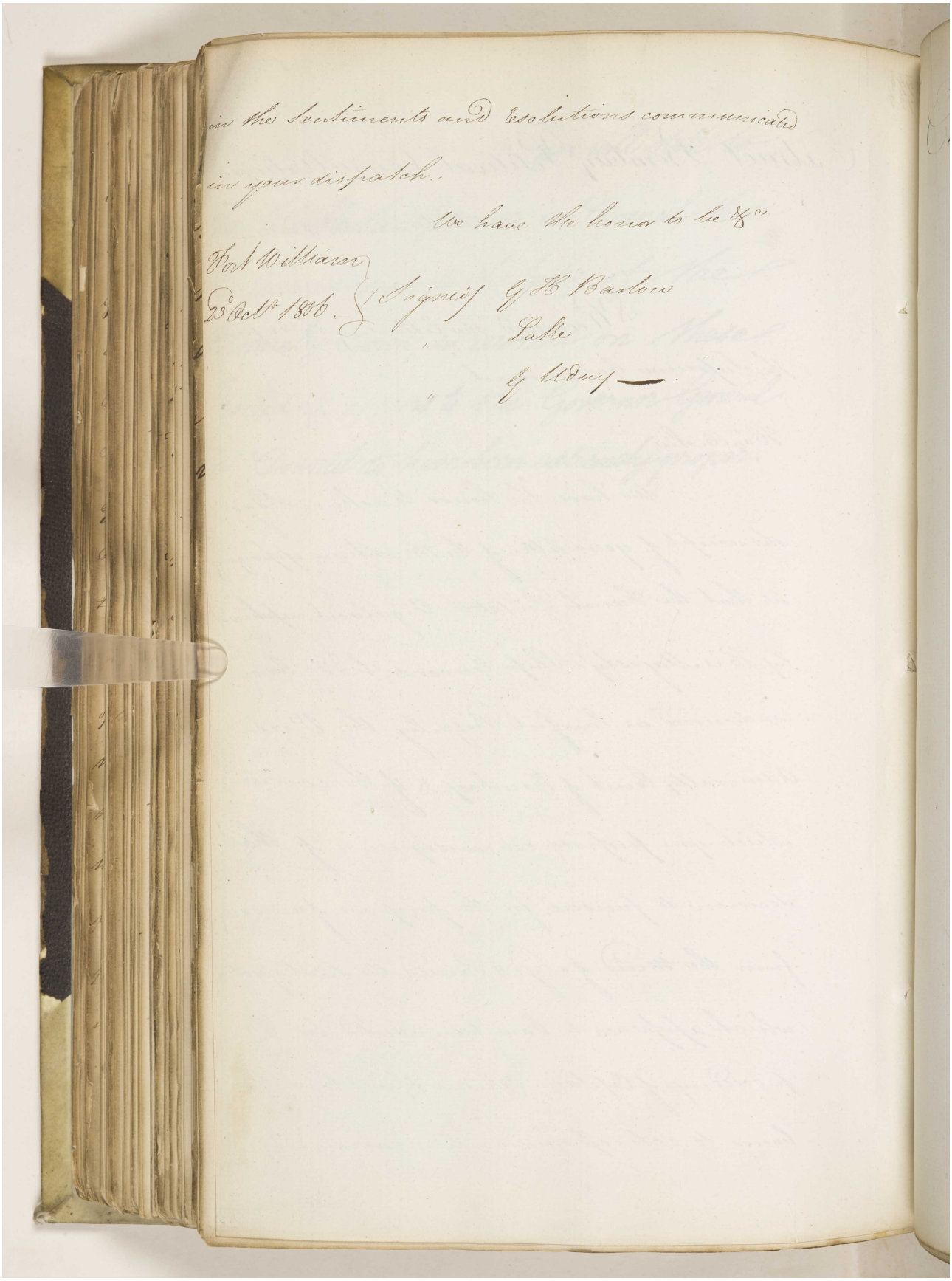
in the sentiments and resolutions communicated
in your dispatch.

We have the honor to be &c.

Fort William
23 Oct. 1806. } Signed G. H. Barlow
Lake
G. Udny

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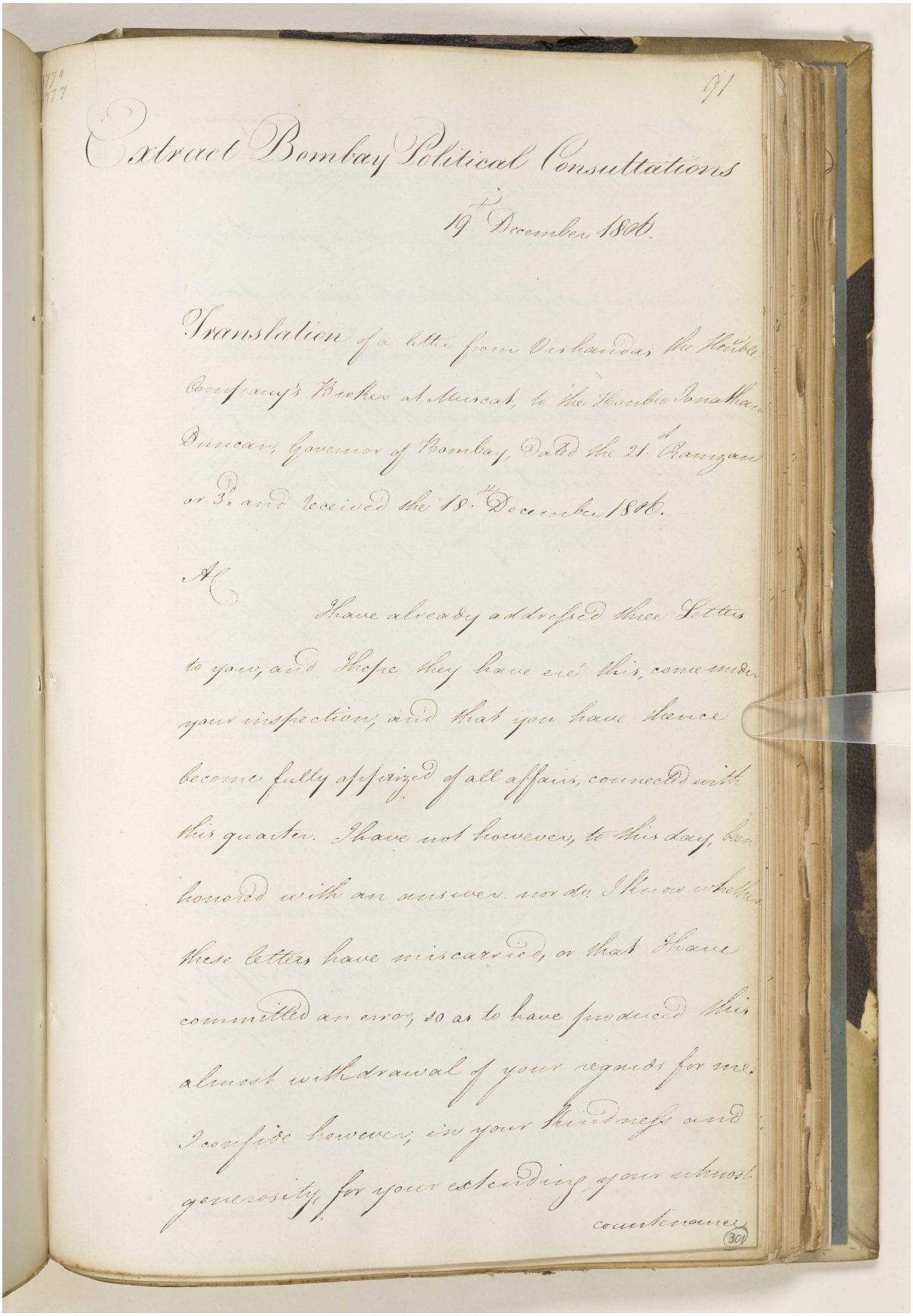

91

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

19th December 1806.

Translation of a letter from Verhandas the Honble Company's Broker at Muscat, to the Honble Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay, Dated the 21st Ramzaun or 3rd and received the 18th December 1806.

A

I have already addressed three Letters to you, and hope they have ere this, come under your inspection, and that you have thence become fully apprized of all affairs, connected with this quarter. I have not however, to this day, been honored with an answer nor do I know whether these letters have miscarried, or that I have committed an error, so as to have produced this almost withdrawal of your regards for me. I confide however, in your friendship and generosity, for your extending your utmost countenance

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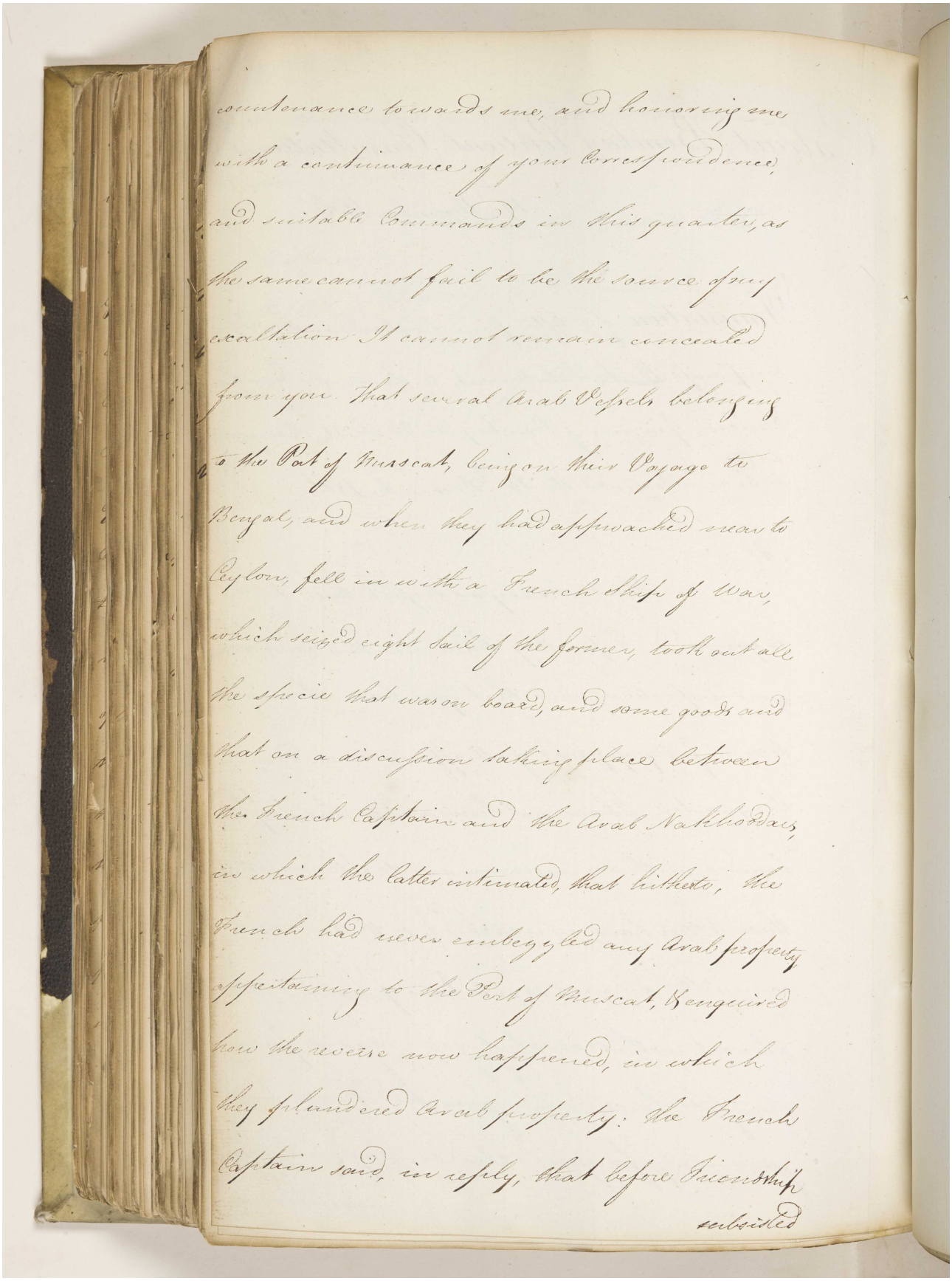

countenance towards me, and honoring me
with a continuance of your Correspondence,
and suitable Commands in this quarter, as
the same cannot fail to be the source of my
exaltation. It cannot remain concealed
from you that several Arab Vessels belonging
to the Port of Muscat, being on their Voyage to
Bengal, and when they had approached near to
Ceylon, fell in with a French Ship of War,
which seized eight Sail of the former, took out all
the specie that was on board, and some goods and
that on a discussion taking place between
the French Captain and the Arab Nakhodas,
in which the latter intimated, that hitherto, the
French had never embezzled any Arab property
appertaining to the Port of Muscat, Enquired
how the reverse now happened, in which
they plundered Arab property. the French
Captain said, in reply, that before Friendship
subsisted

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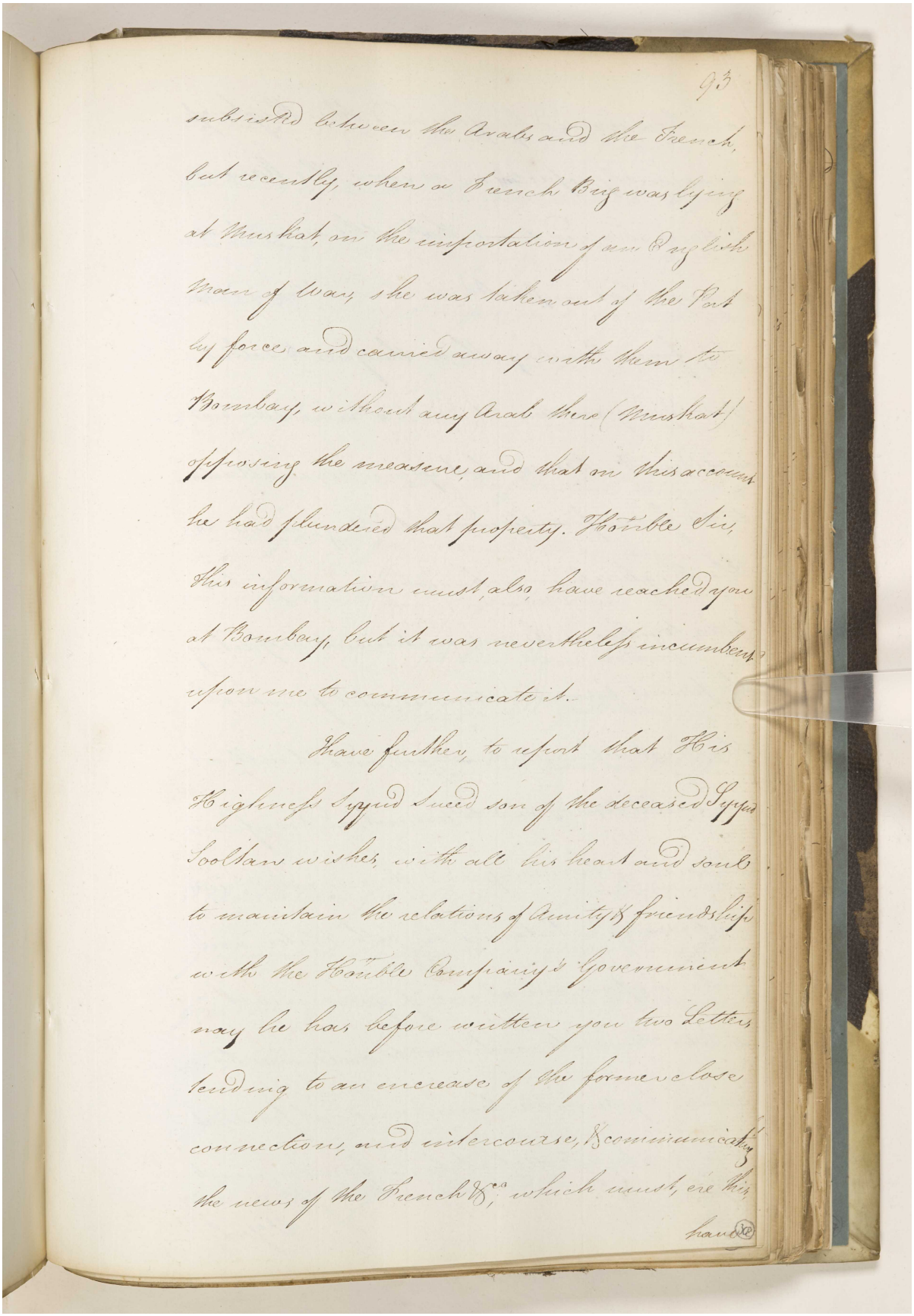

subsisted between the Arabs and the French, but recently, when a French Brig was lying at Muskat, on the importation of an English man of War, she was taken out of the Port by force and carried away with them to Bombay, without any Arab there (Muskat) opposing the measure, and that on this account he had plundered that property. Honble Sir, this information must, also, have reached you at Bombay, but it was nevertheless incumbent upon me to communicate it.

I have further, to report that His Highness Syyud Sueed son of the deceased Syyud Sooltan wishes, with all his heart and soul to maintain the relations of Amity & friendship with the Honble Company's Government nay he has before written you two Letters tending to an encrease of the former close connection, and intercourse, & communicating the news of the French &c^a, which must, ere this,

have

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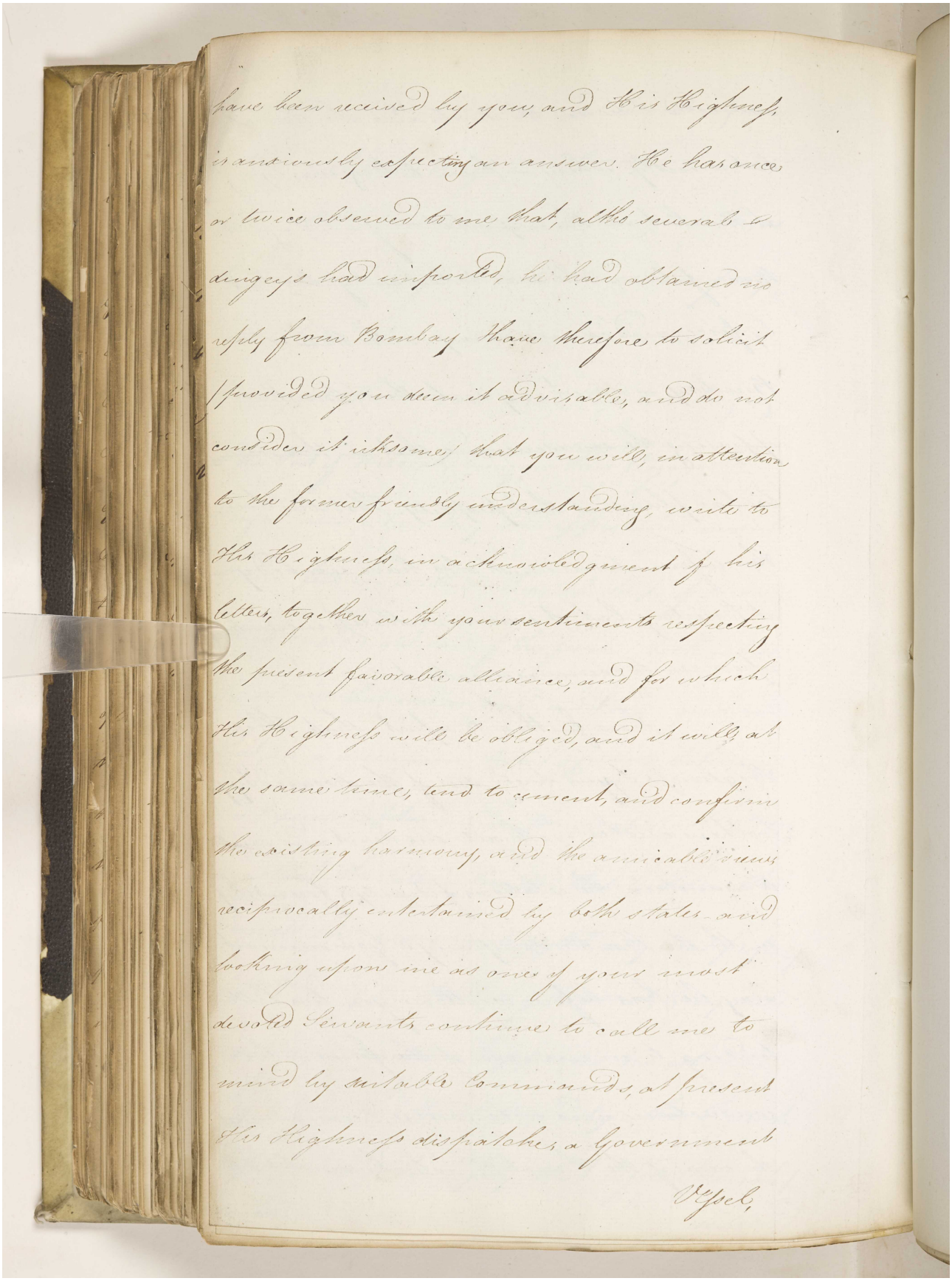

have been received by you, and His Highness is anxiously expecting an answer. He has once or twice observed to me that, altho' several dingeys had imported, he had obtained no reply from Bombay. I have therefore to solicit (provided you deem it advisable, and do not consider it intrusive) that you will, in attention to the former friendly understanding, write to His Highness, in acknowledgment of his letters, together with your sentiments respecting the present favorable alliance, and for which His Highness will be obliged, and it will, at the same time, tend to cement, and confirm the existing harmony, and the amicable views reciprocally entertained by both states. And looking upon me as one of your most devoted Servants continues to call me to mind by suitable Commands, at present His Highness dispatches a Government

Vessel,

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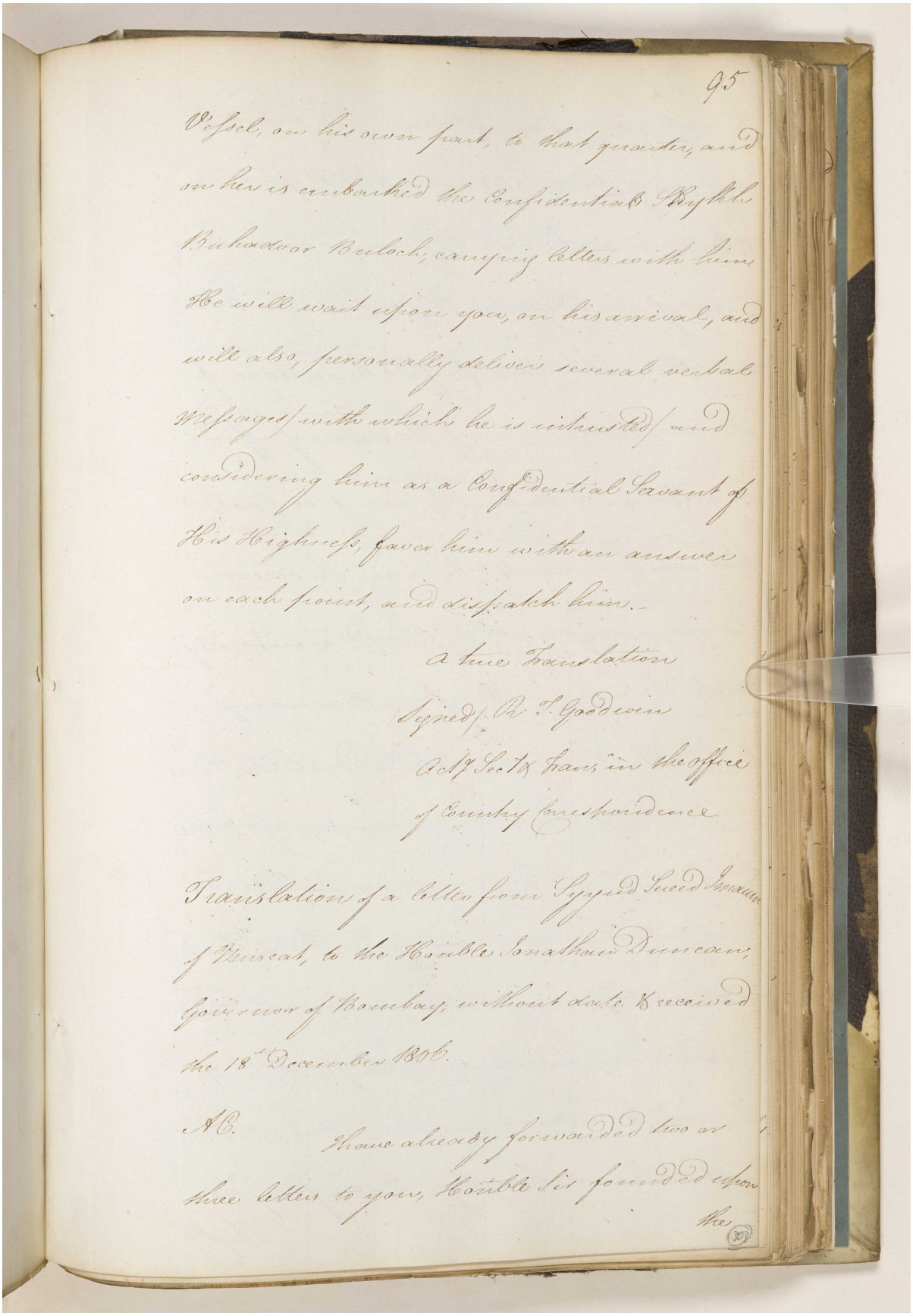

Vessel, on his own part, to that quarter, and on her is embarked the Confidential Skykh Buhadoor Buloch, carrying letters with him. He will wait upon you, on his arrival, and will also, personally deliver several verbal Messages (with which he is intrusted) and considering him as a Confidential Servant of His Highness, favor him with an answer on each point, and dispatch him.-

A true Translation
(Signed) R. T. Goodwin
Actg Sect & Trans in the office
of Country Correspondence

Translation of a letter from Syyud Sueed Imaum of Muscat, to the Honble Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay, without date & received the 18th December 1806.

A.C.

I have already forwarded two or three letters to you, Honble Sir founded upon the

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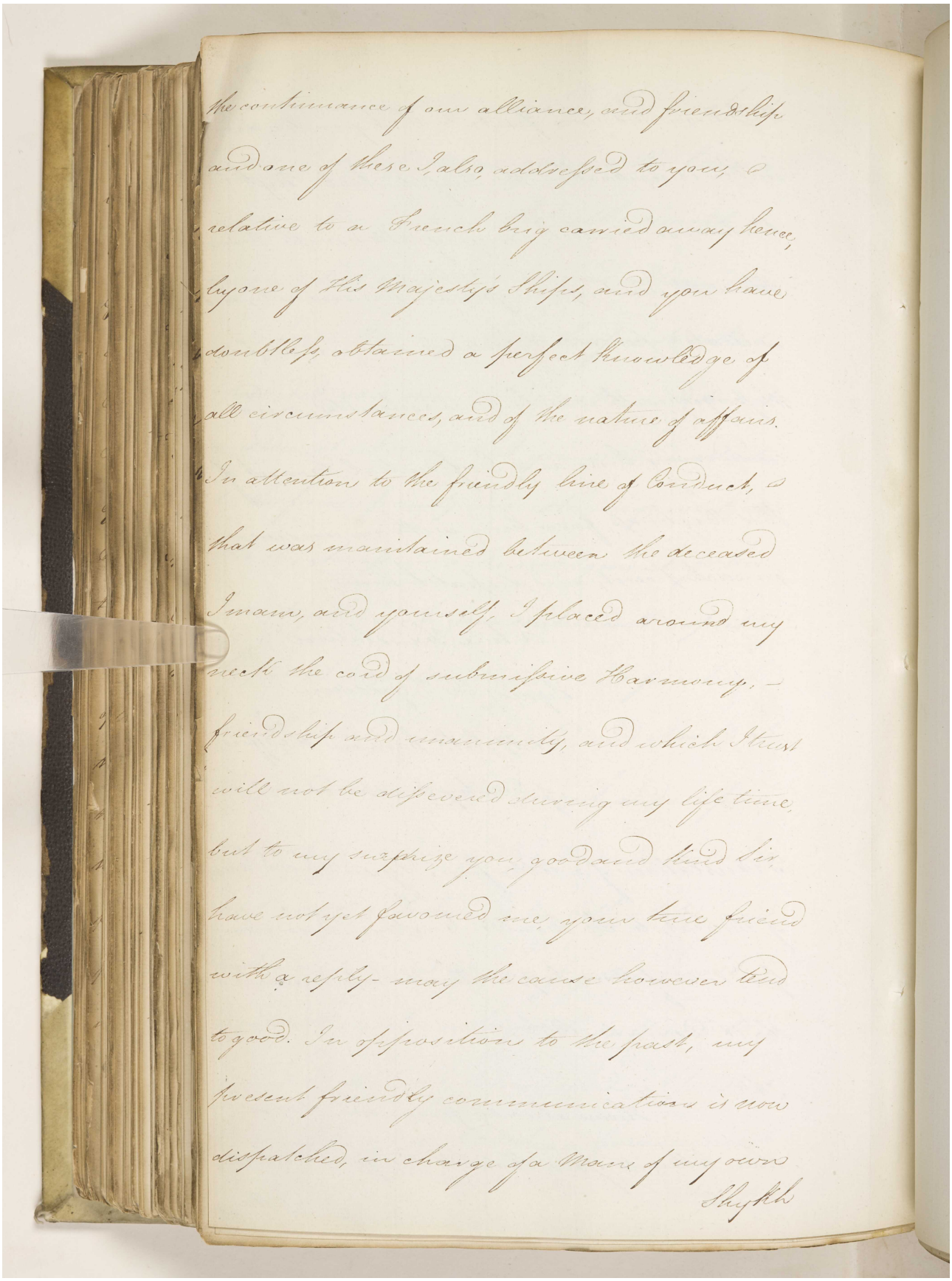

the continuance of our alliance, and friendship
and one of these I, also, addressed to you,
relative to a French brig carried away hence,
by one of His Majesty's Ships, and you have
doubtless, obtained a perfect knowledge of
all circumstances, and of the nature of affairs.
In attention to the friendly line of Conduct,
that was maintained between the deceased
Imam, and yourself, I placed around my
neck the cord of submissive Harmony, -
friendship and unanimity, and which I trust
will not be dissevered during my life time,
but to my surprize you, good and kind Sir,
have not yet favoured me, your true friend
with a reply - may the cause however tend
to good. In opposition to the past, my
present friendly communication is now
dispatched, in charge of a Man of my own
Shykh

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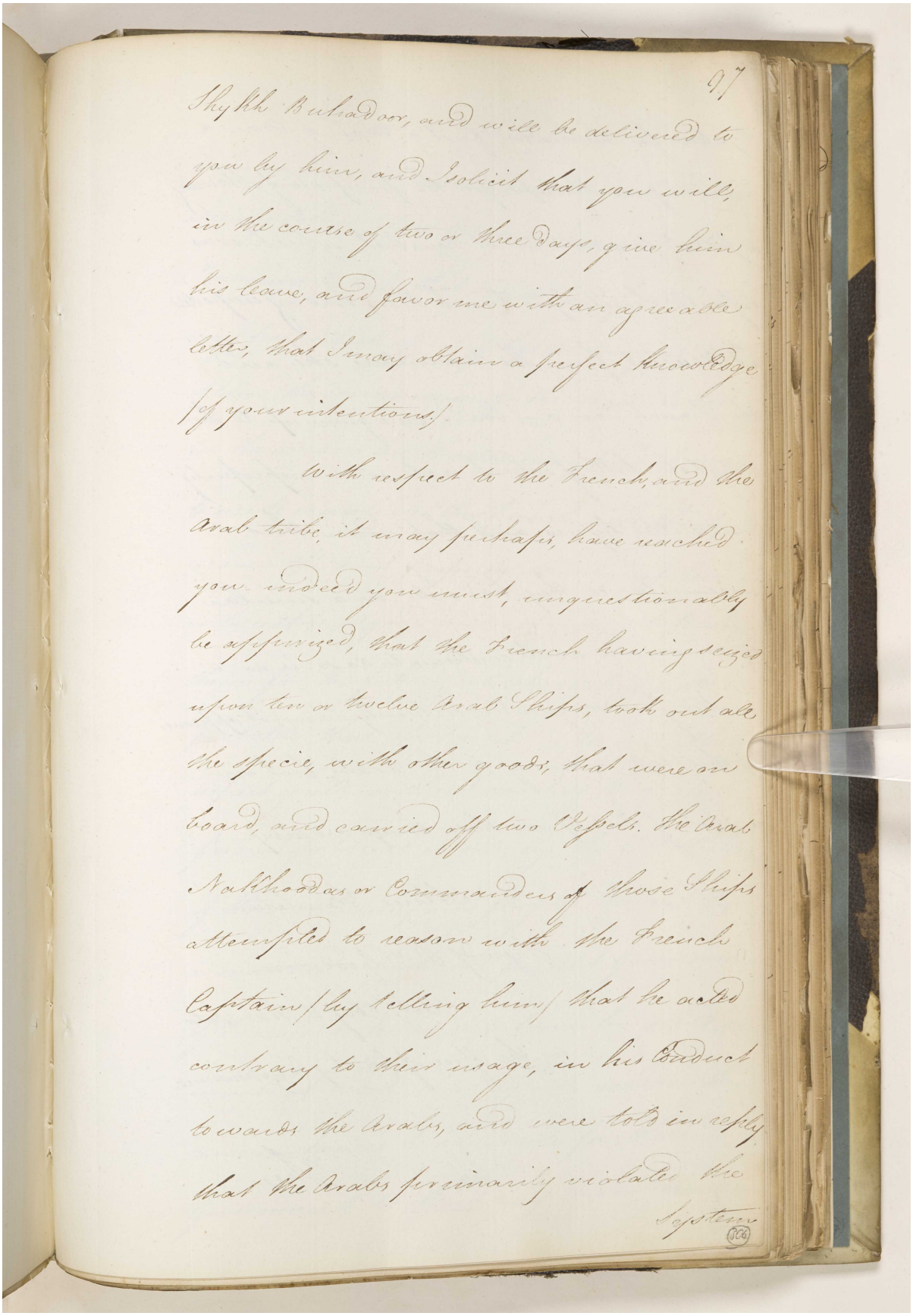

Shykh Buhadoor, and will be delivered to you by him, and I solicit that you will, in the course of two or three days, give him his leave, and favor me with an agreeable letter, that I may obtain a perfect knowledge (of your intentions).

With respect to the French, and the Arab tribe, it may perhaps, have reached you indeed you must, unquestionably be apprized, that the French having seized upon ten or twelve Arab Ships, took out all the specie, with other goods, that were on board, and carried off two Vessels. The Arab Nakhoodas or Commanders of those Ships attempted to reason with the French Captain (by telling him) that he acted contrary to their usage, in his Conduct towards the Arabs, and were told in reply that the Arabs primarily violated the

System

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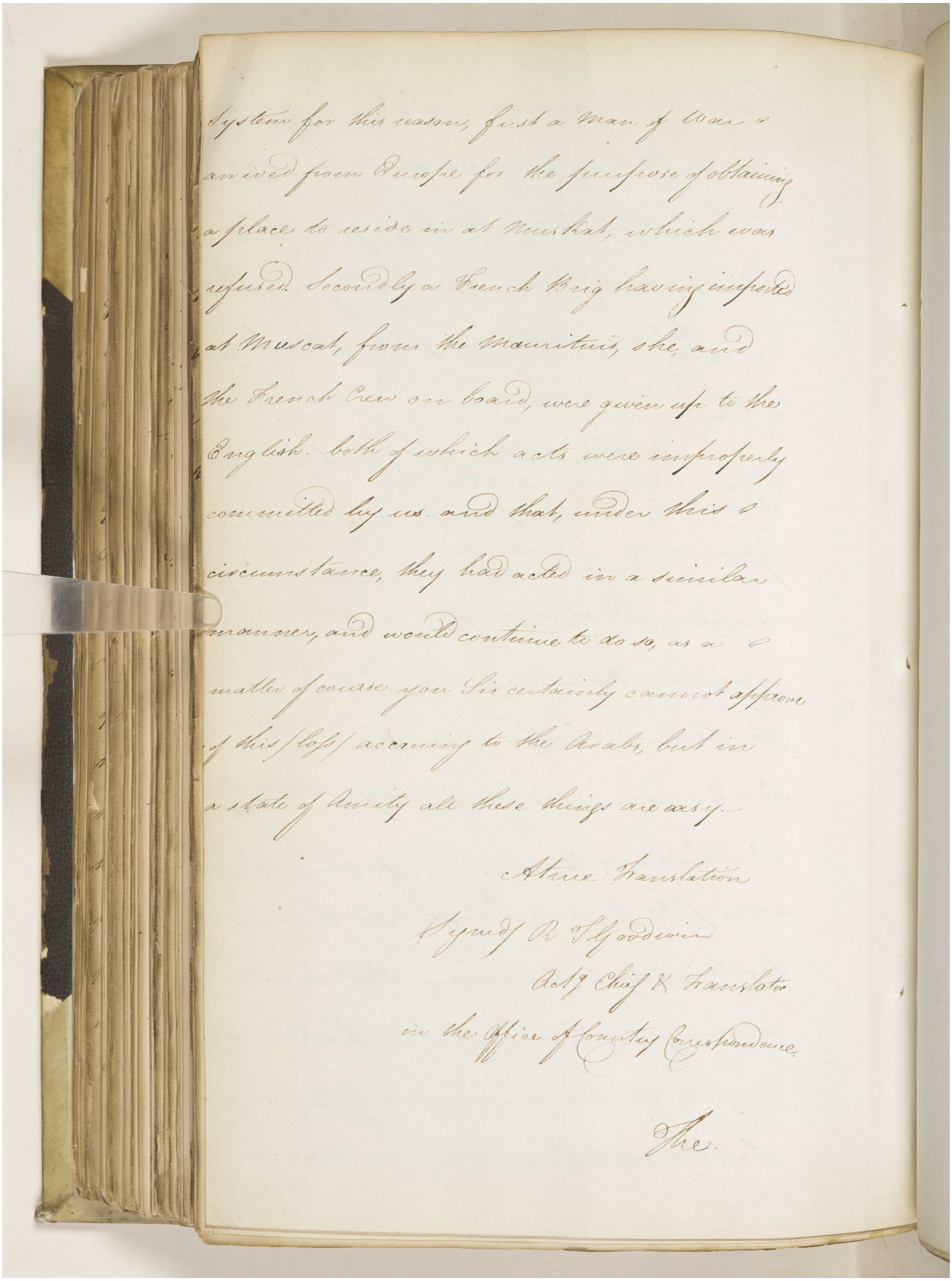

System for this reason, first a Man of War arrived from Europe for the purpose of obtaining a place to reside in at Muskat, which was refused. Secondly a French Brig having imported at Muscat, from the Mauritius, she, and the French Crew on board, were given up to the English. both of which acts were improperly committed by us. and that, under this circumstance, they had acted in a similar manner, and would continue to do so, as a matter of course you Sir certainly cannot approve of this (loss) accruing to the Arabs, but in a state of Amity all these things are easy.

A true Translation

Signed R T Goodwin

Actg Chief & Translator

in the Office of Country Correspondence

The

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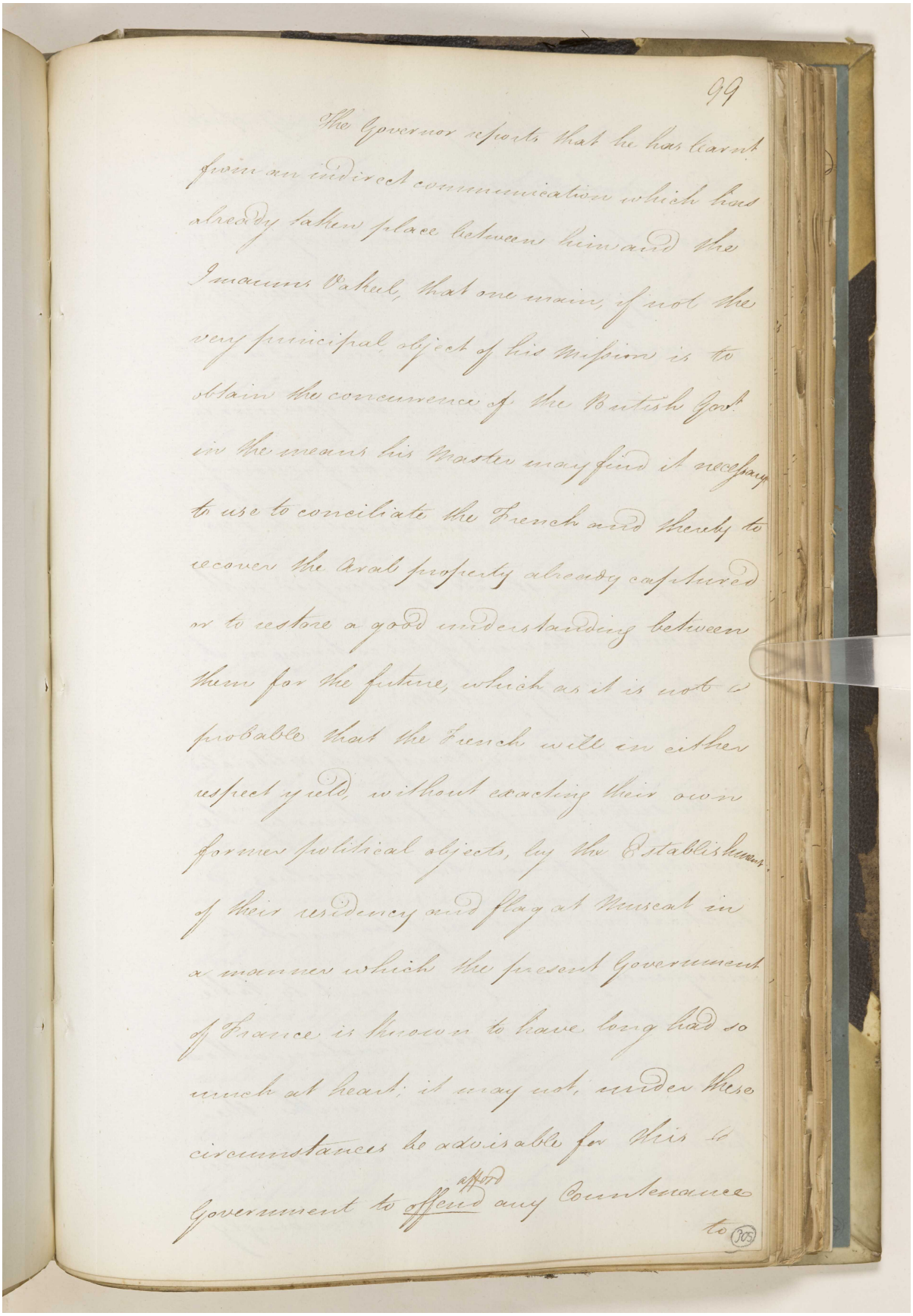

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The Governor reports that he has learnt
from an indirect communication which has
already taken place between him and the
Imaums Vakeel, that one main, if not the
very principal object of his mission is to
obtain the concurrence of the British Govt.
in the means his Master may find it necessary
to use to conciliate the French and thereby to
recover the Arab property already captured
or to restore a good understanding between
them for the future, which as it is not
probable that the French will in either
respect yield without exacting their own
former political objects, by the Establishment
of their residency and flag at Muscat in
a manner which the present Government
of France is known to have long had so
much at heart; it may not, under these
circumstances be advisable for this
Government to afford any Countenance
to

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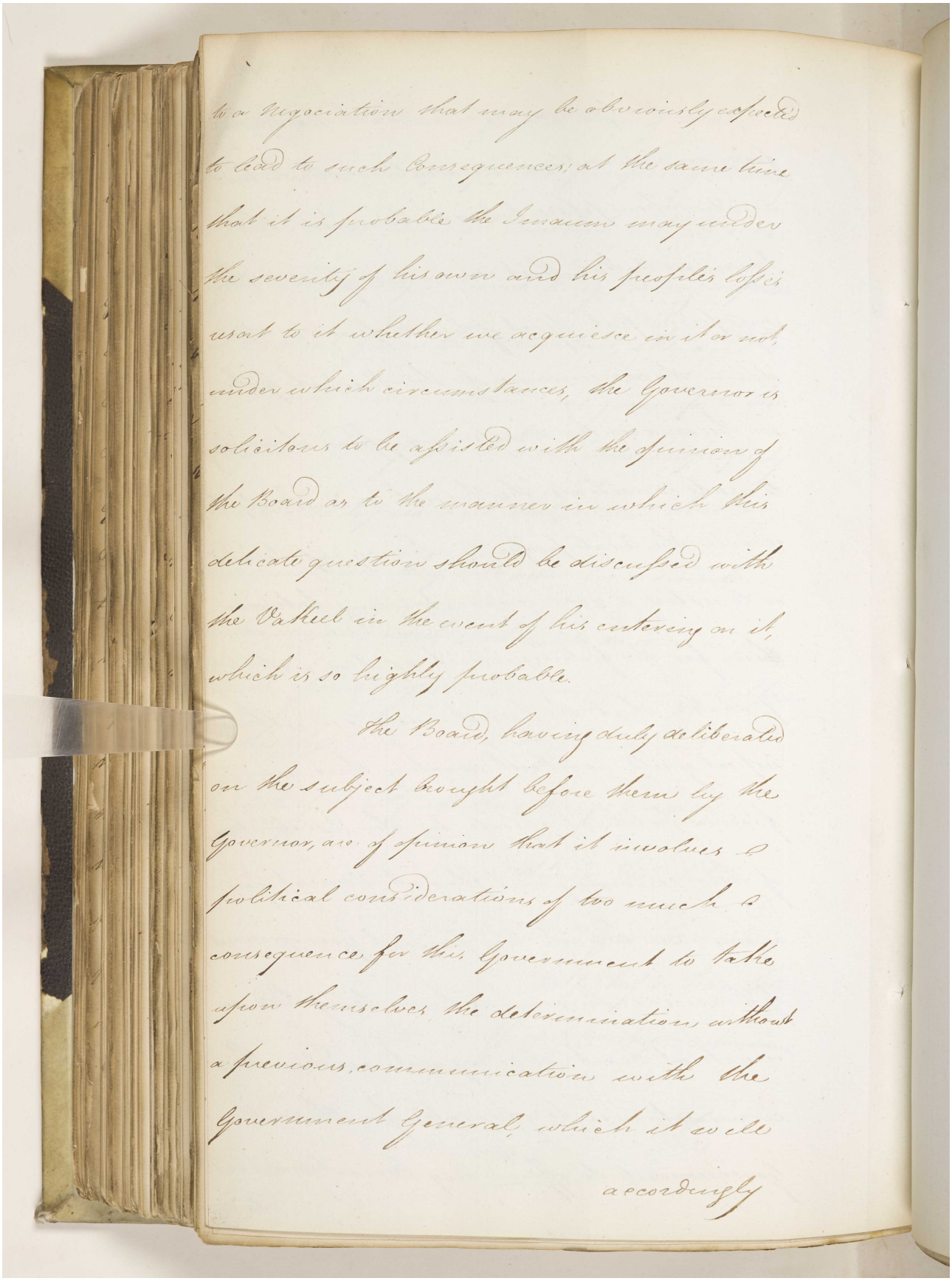

to a Negociation that may be obviously expected
to lead to such Consequences, at the same time
that it is probable the Imaum may under
the severity of his own and his people's loss is
wont to it whether we acquiesce in it or not,
under which circumstances, the Governor is
solicitous to be assisted with the opinion of
the Board as to the manner in which this
delicate question should be discussed with
the Vakeel in the event of his entering on it,
which is so highly probable.

The Board, having duly deliberated
on the subject brought before them by the
Governor, are of opinion that it involves a
political considerations of too much
consequence for this Government to take
upon themselves the determination without
a previous communication with the
Government General, which it will

accordingly

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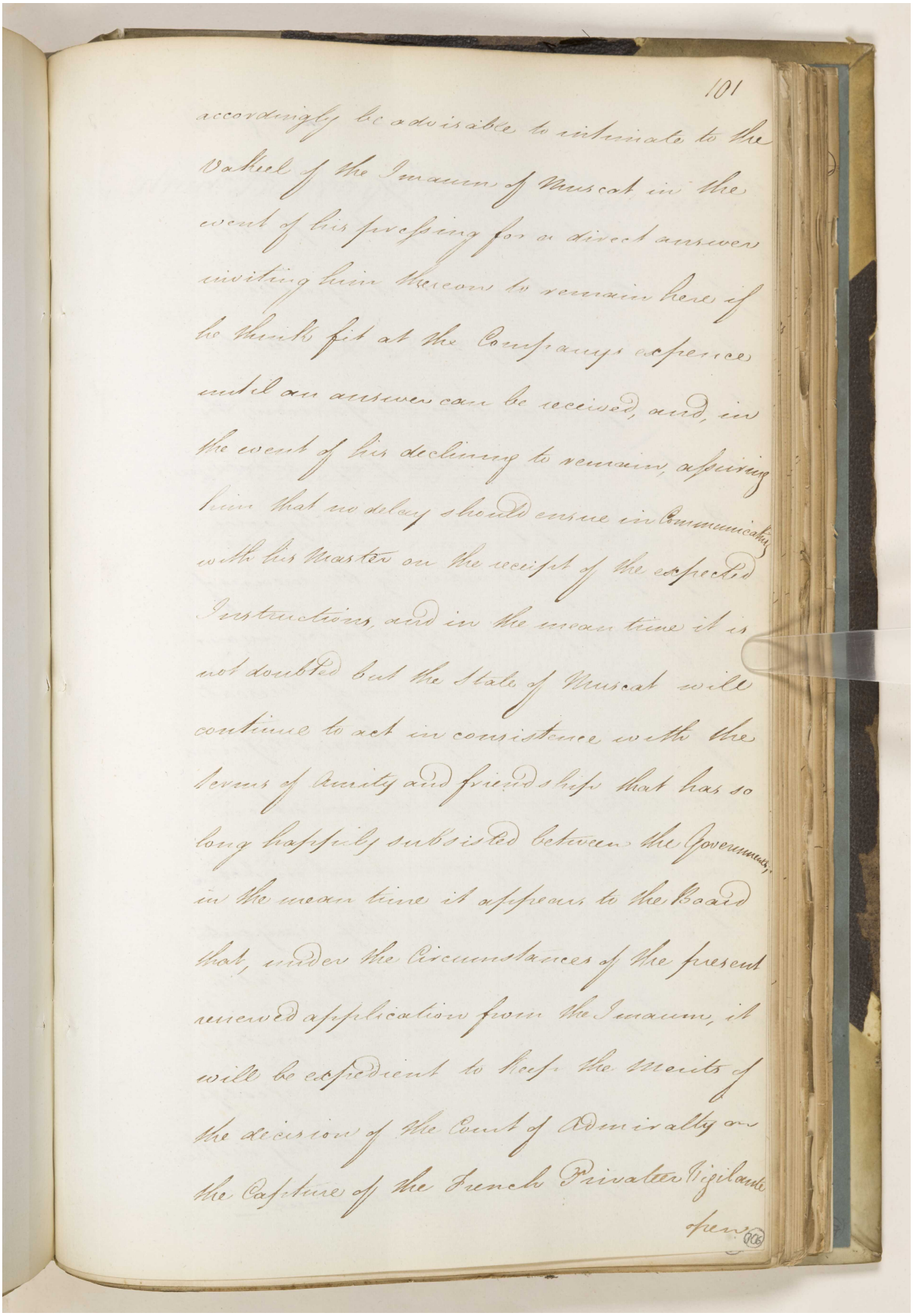

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accordingly be advisable to intimate to the
Vakeel of the Imaum of Muscat in the
event of his pressing for a direct answer
inviting him thereon to remain here if
he thinks fit at the Companys expence
until an answer can be received, and, in
the event of his declining to remain, aquainting
him that no delay should ensue in Communicating
with his Master on the receipt of the expected
Instructions, and in the mean time it is
not doubted but the State of Muscat will
continue to act in consistence with the
terms of Amity and friendship that has so
long happily subsisted between the Governments,
in the mean time it appears to the Board
that, under the Circumstances of the present
renewed application from the Imaum, it
will be expedient to keep the merits of
the decision of the Court of Admiralty on
the Capture of the French Privateer Vigilante
open

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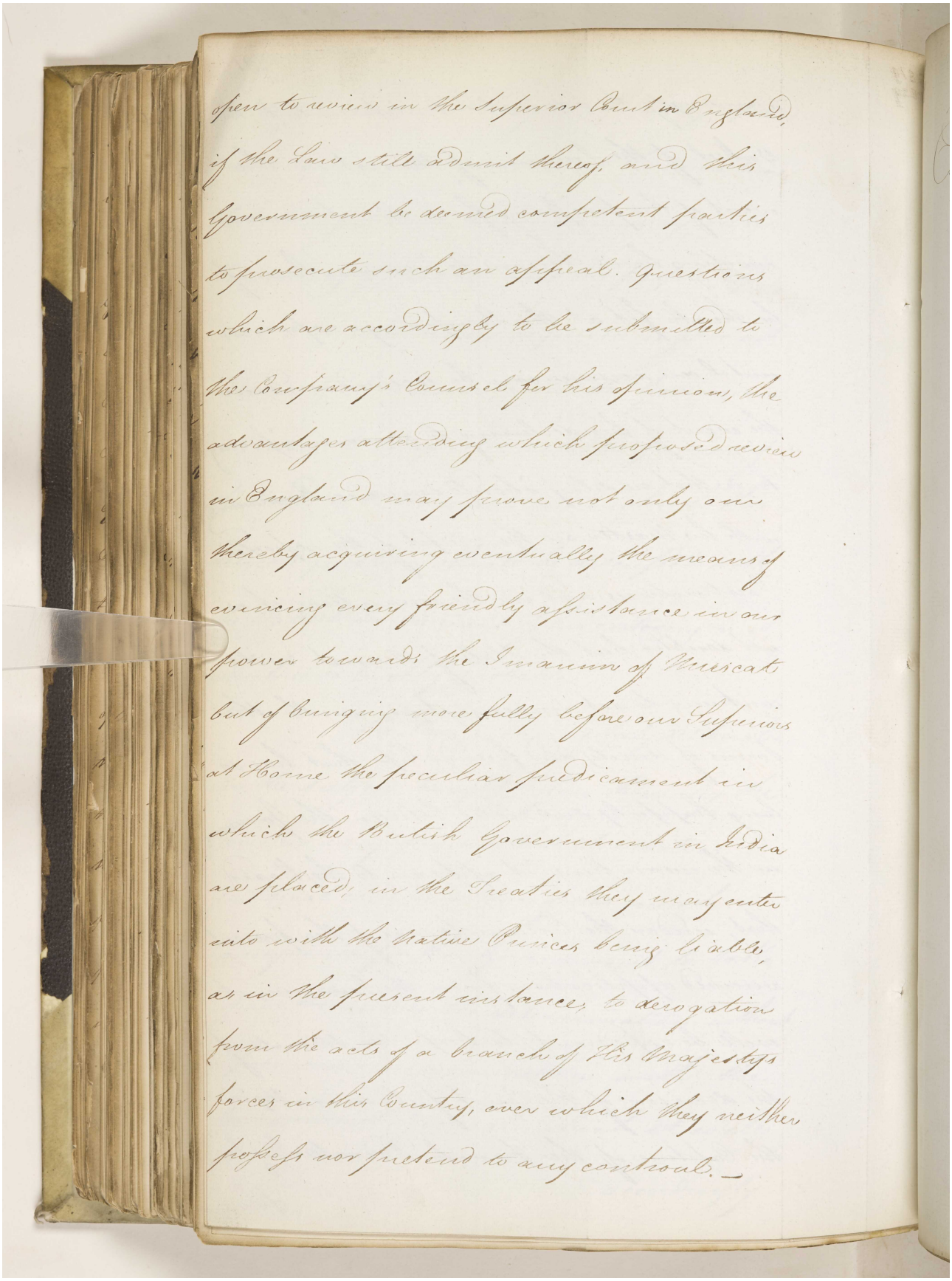

open to review in the Superior Court in England,
if the Law still admit thereof, and this
Government be deemed competent parties
to prosecute such an appeal. Questions
which are accordingly to be submitted to
the Company's Counsel for his opinion, the
advantages attending which proposed review
in England may prove not only our
thereby acquiring eventually the means of
evincing every friendly assistance in our
power towards the Imaum of Muscat
but of bringing more fully before our Superiors
at Home the peculiar predicament in
which the British Government in India
are placed, in the Treaties they may enter
into with the Native Princes being liable,
as in the present instance, to derogation
from the acts of a branch of His Majesty's
forces in this Country, over which they neither
possess nor pretend to any controul. —

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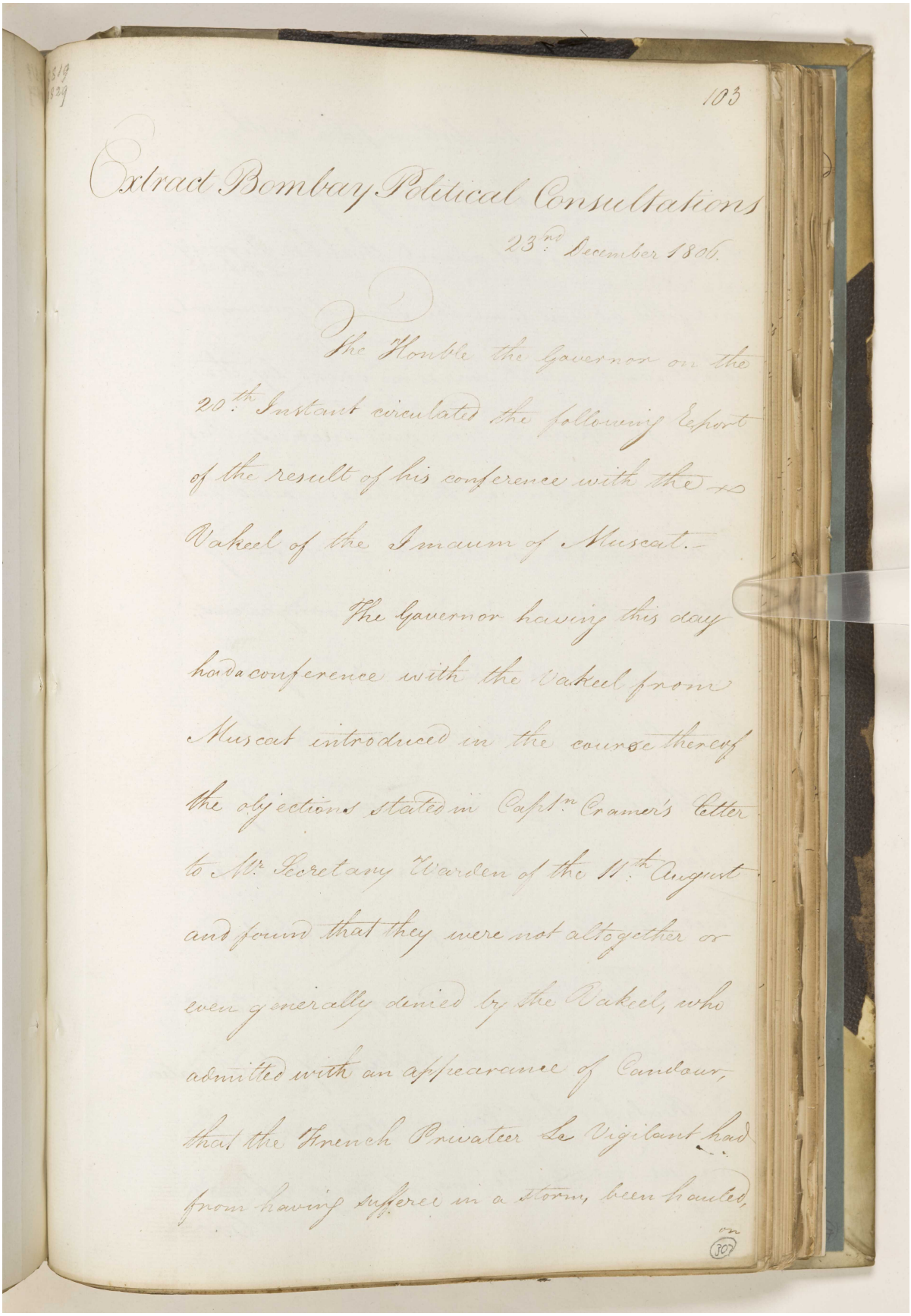

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

23rd December 1806.

The Honble the Gavernor on the 20th Instant circulated the following Report of the result of his conference with the Vakeel of the Imaum of Muscat.—

The Gavernor having this day had a conference with the Vakeel from Muscat introduced in the course thereof the objections stated in Captn Cramer's letter to Mr Secretary Warden of the 11th August and found that they were not altogether or even generally denied by the Vakeel, who admitted with an appearance of candour, that the French Privateer La Vigilant had from having suffered in a storm, been hauled

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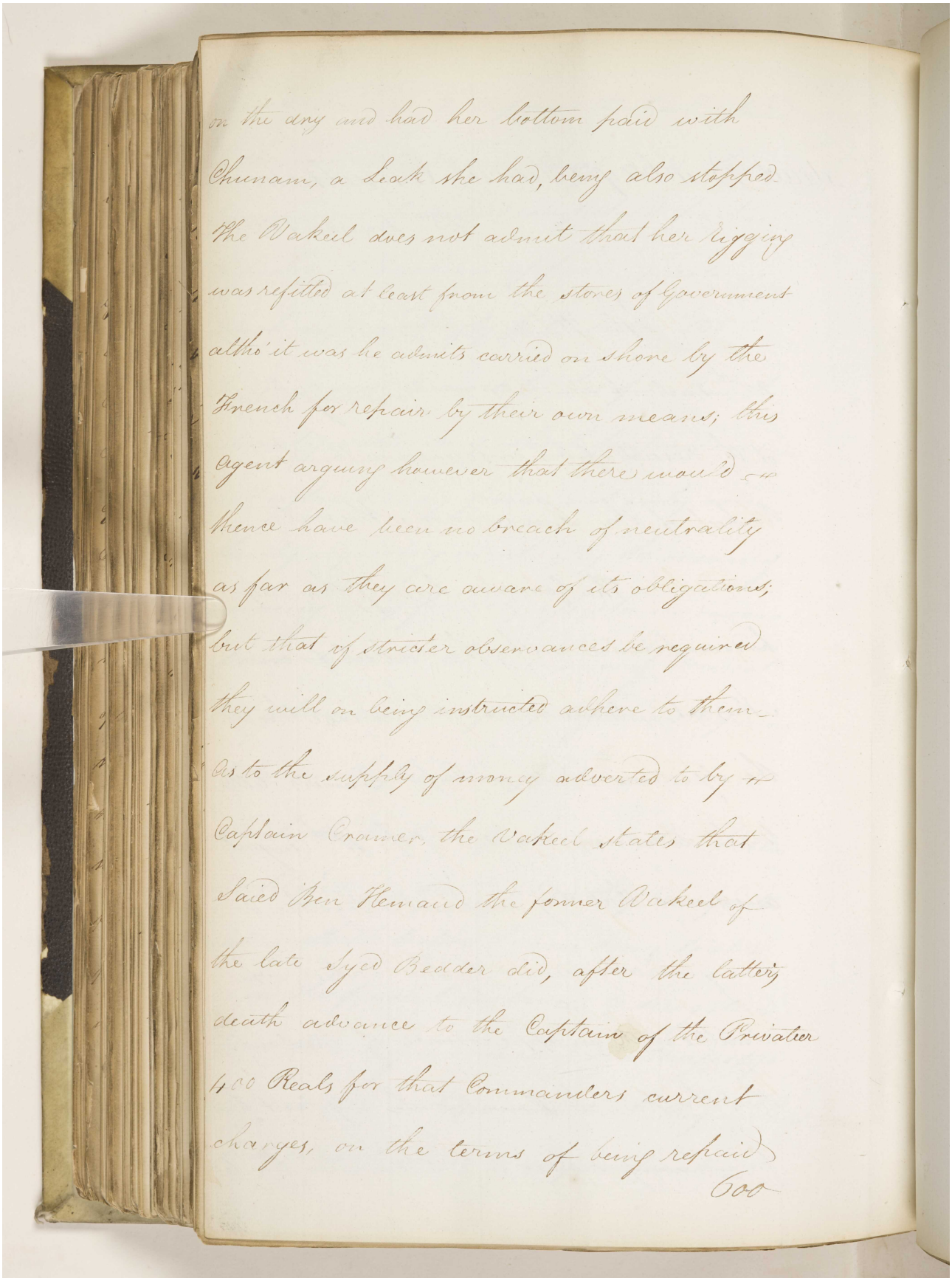

on the day and had her bottom paid with
Chunam, a Leak she had, being also stopped
the Wakeel does not admit that her rigging
was refitted at least from the stores of Government
altho' it was he admits carried on shore by the
French for repair by their own means; this
Agent arguing however that there would
thence have been no breach of neutrality
as far as they are aware of its obligations;
but that if stricter observances be required
they will on being instructed adhere to them.
As to the supply of money adverted to by
Captain Cramer, the Wakeel states that
Saied Ben Hemaud the former Wakeel of
the late Syed Beddar did, after the battery
death advance to the Captain of the Privateer
400 Reals for that Commanders current
charges, on the terms of being repaid
600

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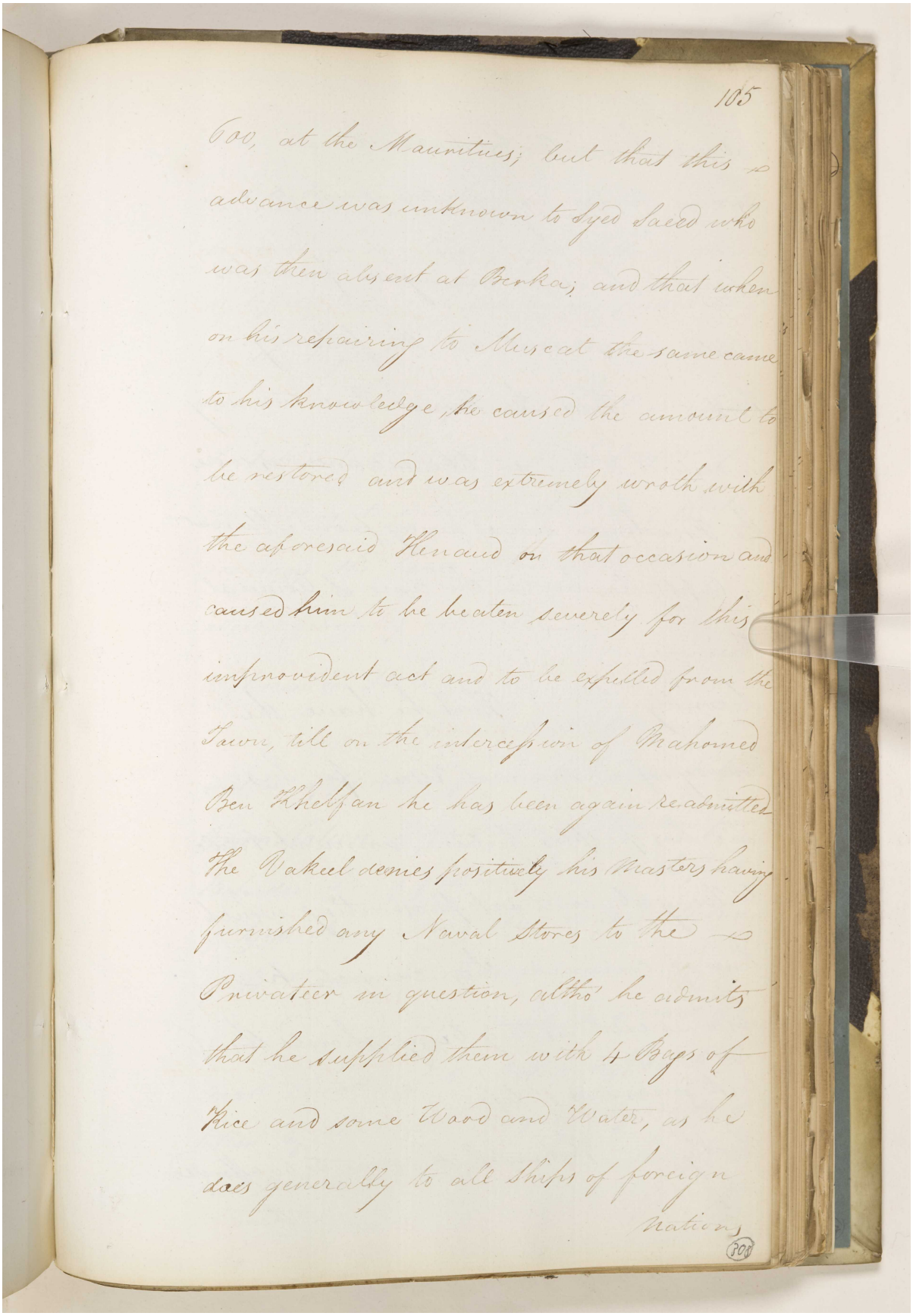

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God, at the Mauritius; but that this
advance was unknown to Syed Saeed who
was then absent at Berka; and that when
on his repairing to Muscat the same came
to his knowledge he caused the amount to
be restored and was extremely wroth with
the aforesaid Renaud on that occasion and
caused him to be beaten severely for this
improvident act and to be expelled from the
Town, till on the intercession of Mahomed
Ben Kheltan he has been again readmitted
The Vakeel denies positively his Masters having
furnished any Naval Stores to the
Privateer in question, altho' he admits
that he supplied them with 4 Bags of
Rice and some Wood and Water, as he
does generally to all Ships of foreign
Nations

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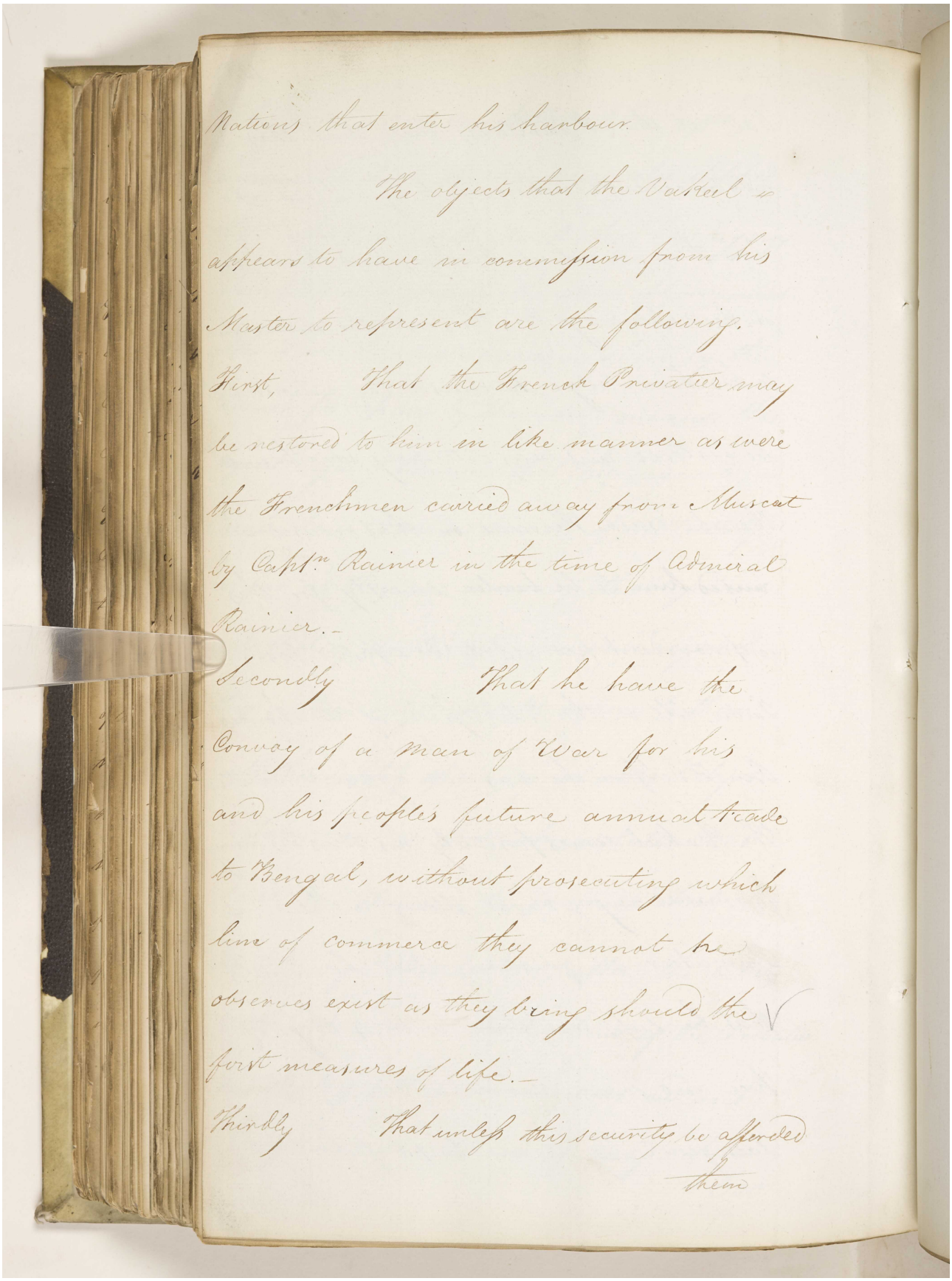

Nations that enter his harbour.

The objects that the Vakeel ~
appears to have in commission from his
Master to represent are the following.

First, That the French Privateer may
be restored to him in like manner as were
the Frenchmen carried away from Muscat
by Captn Rainier in the time of Admiral
Rainier.-

Secondly That he have the
Convoy of a man of War for his
and his people's future annual trade
to Bengal, without prosecuting which
line of commerce they cannot be
observes exist as they bring should the
first measures of life.-

Thirdly That unless this security be afforded
them

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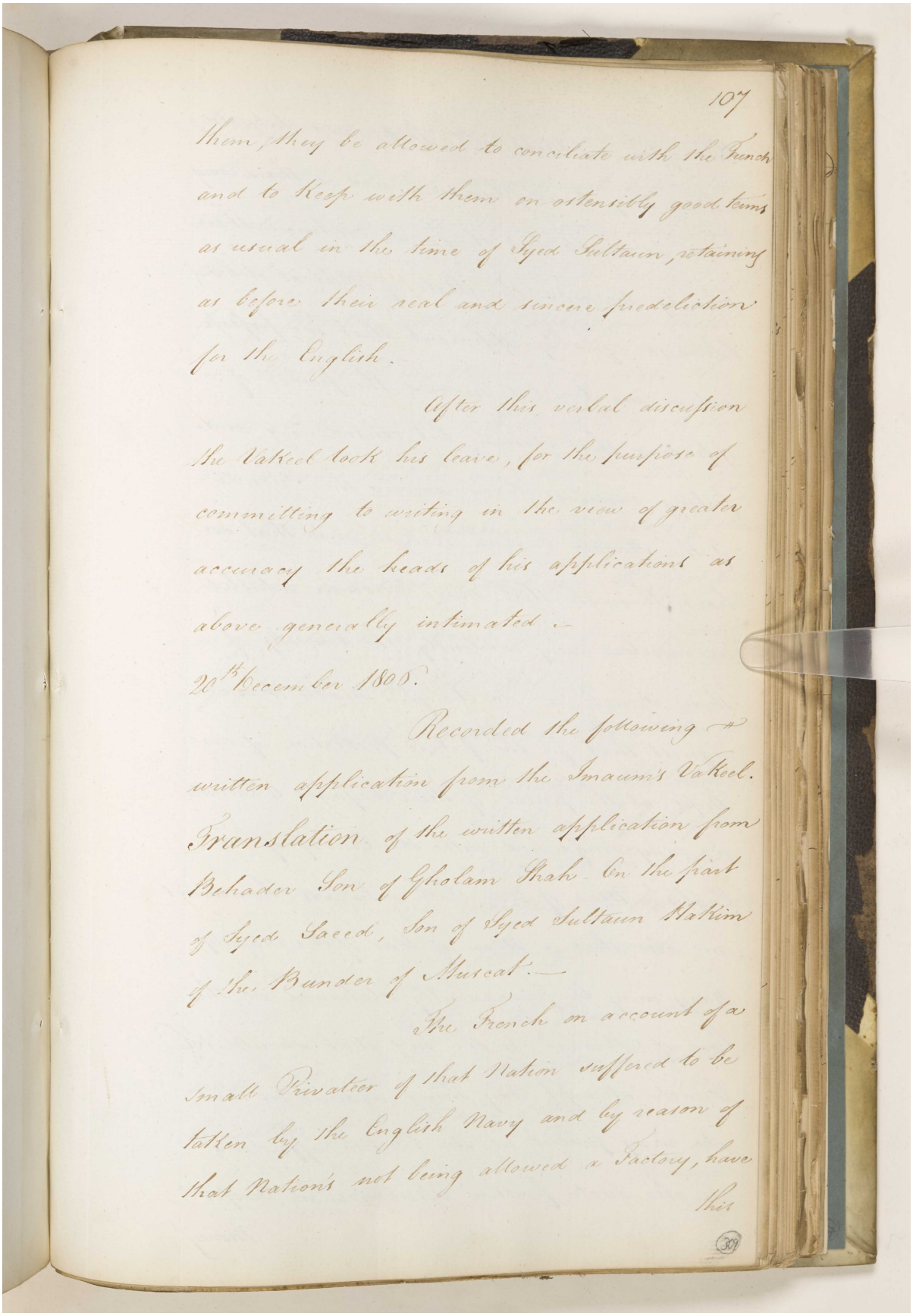

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them, they be allowed to conciliate with the French and to keep with them on ostensibly good terms as usual in the time of Syed Sultaun, retaining as before their real and sincere predelection for the English.

After this verbal discussion the Vakeel took his leave, for the purpose of committing to writing in the view of greater accuracy the heads of his applications as above generally intimated.—

20th December 1808.

Recorded the following written application from the Imaum's Vakeel.

Translation of the written application from Behader Son of Gholam Shah On the part of Syed Saeed, Son of Syed Sultaun Hakim of the Bunder of Muscat.—

The French on account of a small Privateer of that Nation suffered to be taken by the English Navy and by reason of that Nation's not being allowed a Factory, have this

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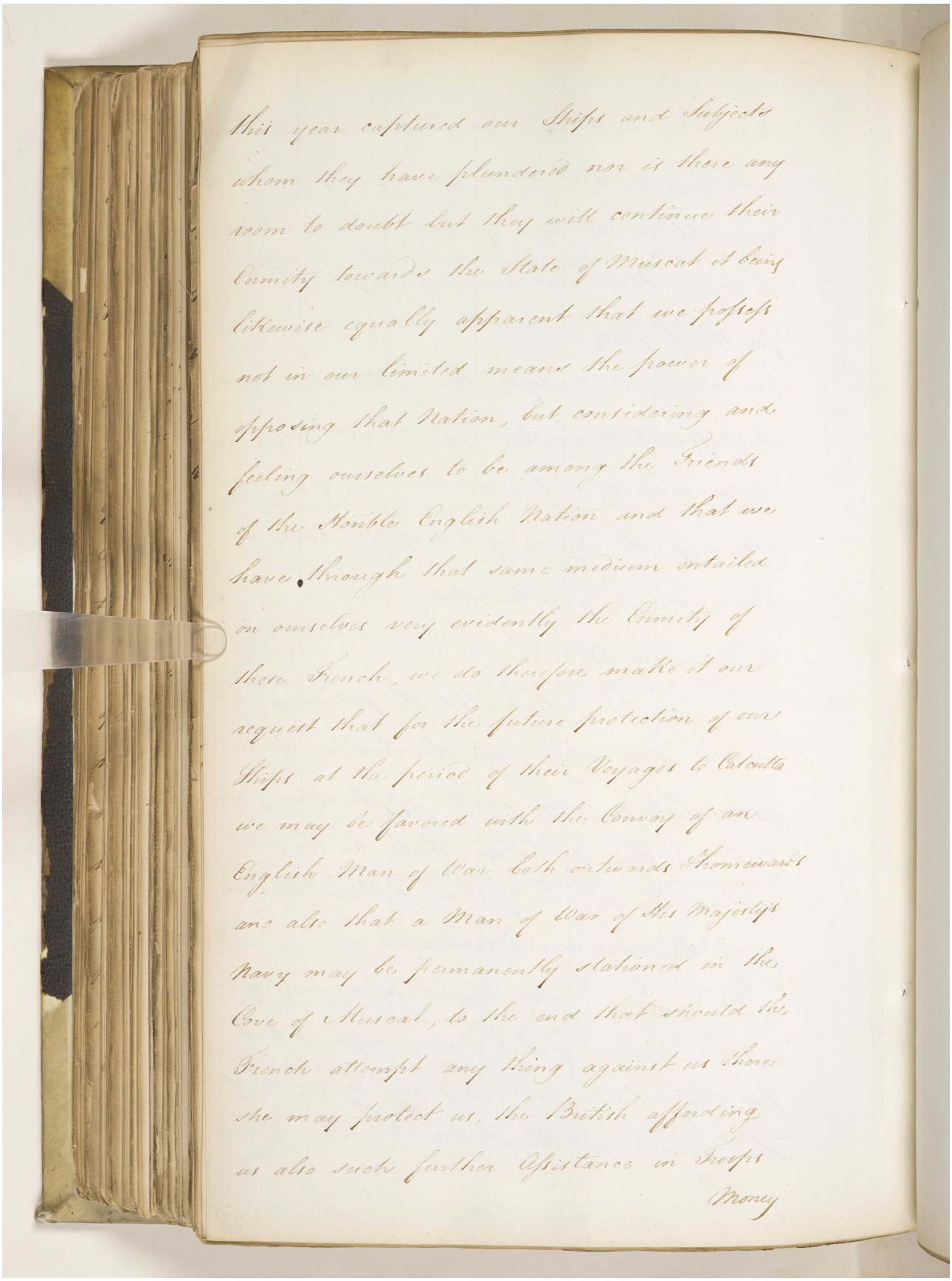

this year captured our Ships and Subjects
whom they have plundered nor is there any
room to doubt but they will continue their
Enmity towards the State of Muscat it being
likewise equally apparent that we professs
not in our limited means the power of
opposing that Nation, but considering and
feeling ourselves to be among the Friends
of the Honble English Nation and that we
have through that same medium entailed
on ourselves very evidently the Enmity of
these French, we do therefore make it our
request that for the future protection of our
Ships at the period of their Voyages to Calcutta
we may be favored with the Convoy of an
English Man of War both outwards Homewards
and also that a Man of War of His Majesty's
Navy may be permanently stationed in the
Cove of Muscat, to the end that should the
French attempt any thing against us there
she may protect us, the British affording
us also such further Assistance in Troops
Money

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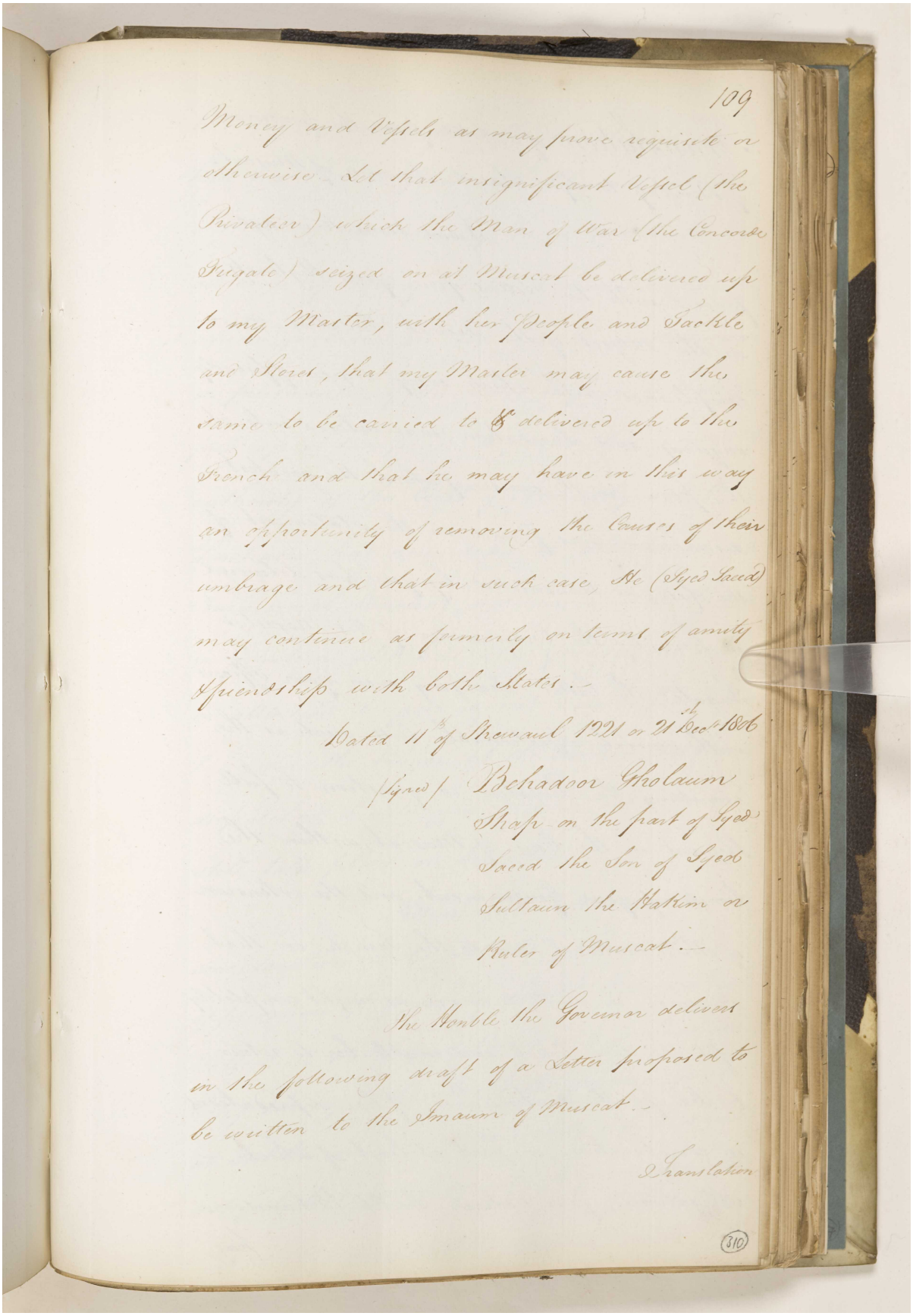

109

Money and Vessels as may prove requisite or otherwise. Let that insignificant Vessel (the Privateer) which the Man of War (the Concorde Frigate) seized on at Muscat be delivered up to my Master, with her People and Tackle and Stores, that my Master may cause the same to be carried to & delivered up to the French and that he may have in this way an opportunity of removing the Causes of their umbrage and that in such case, He (Syed Saeed) may continue as formerly on terms of amity & friendship with both States.—

Dated 11th of Shewaul 1221 or 21st Dec. 1806

(Sgnd) Behadoor Gholaum Shah on the part of Syed Saeed the Son of Syed Sultaun the Hakim or Ruler of Muscat.—

The Honble the Governor delivers in the following draft of a Letter proposed to be written to the Imaum of Muscat.—

Translation

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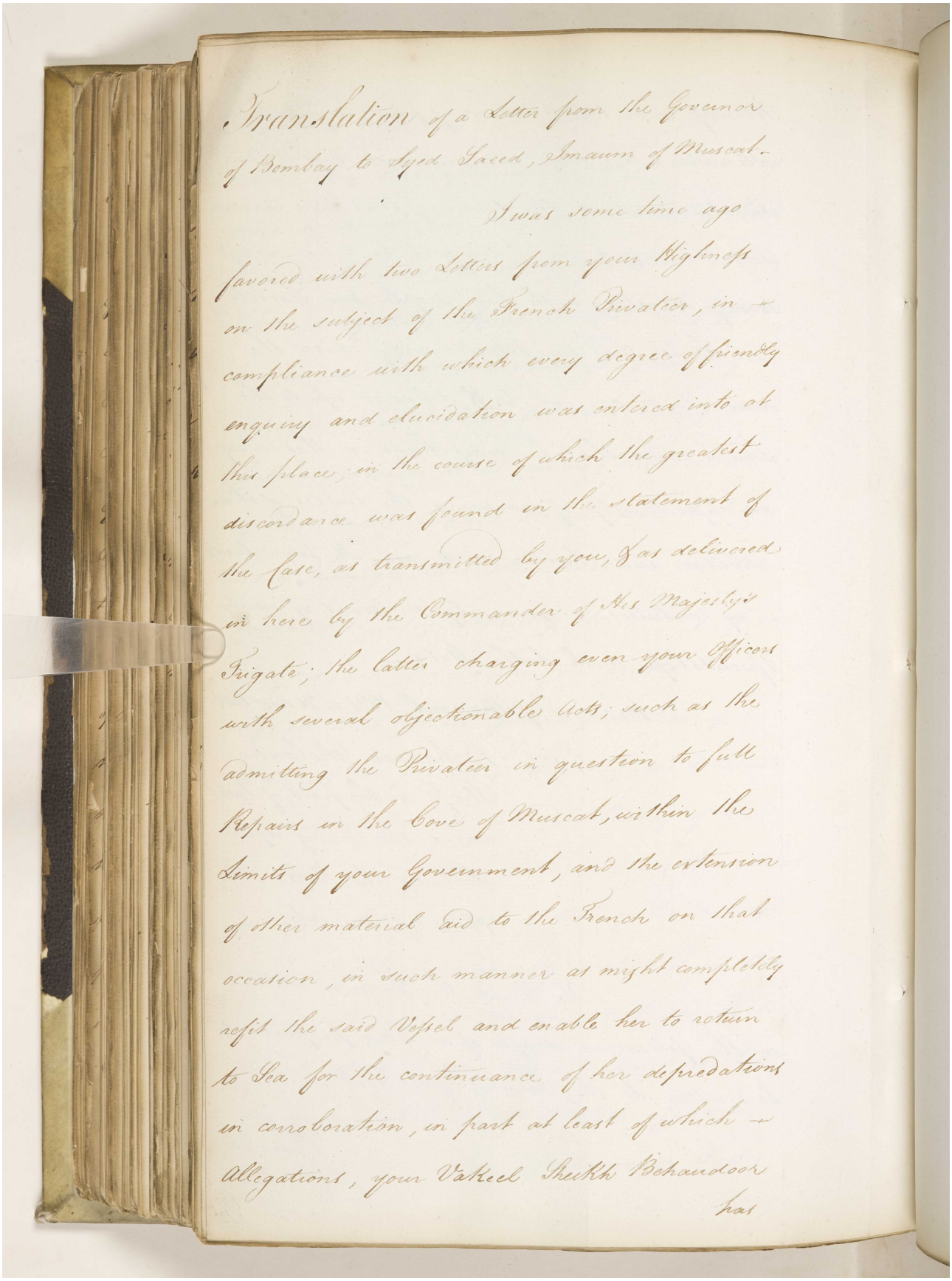

Translation of a Letter from the Governor of Bombay to Syed Saeed, Imaum of Muscat.

I was some time ago favored with two Letters from your Highness on the subject of the French Privateer, in compliance with which every degree of friendly enquiry and elucidation was entered into at this place, in the course of which the greatest discordance was found in the statement of the case, as transmitted by you, & as delivered in here by the Commander of His Majesty's Frigate; the latter charging even your Officers with several objectionable Acts; such as the admitting the Privateer in question to full Repairs in the Cove of Muscat, within the Limits of your Government, and the extension of other material aid to the French on that occasion, in such manner as might completely refit the said Vessel and enable her to return to Sea for the continuance of her depredations in corroboration, in part at least of which Allegations, your Vakeel Sheikh Behaudoor has

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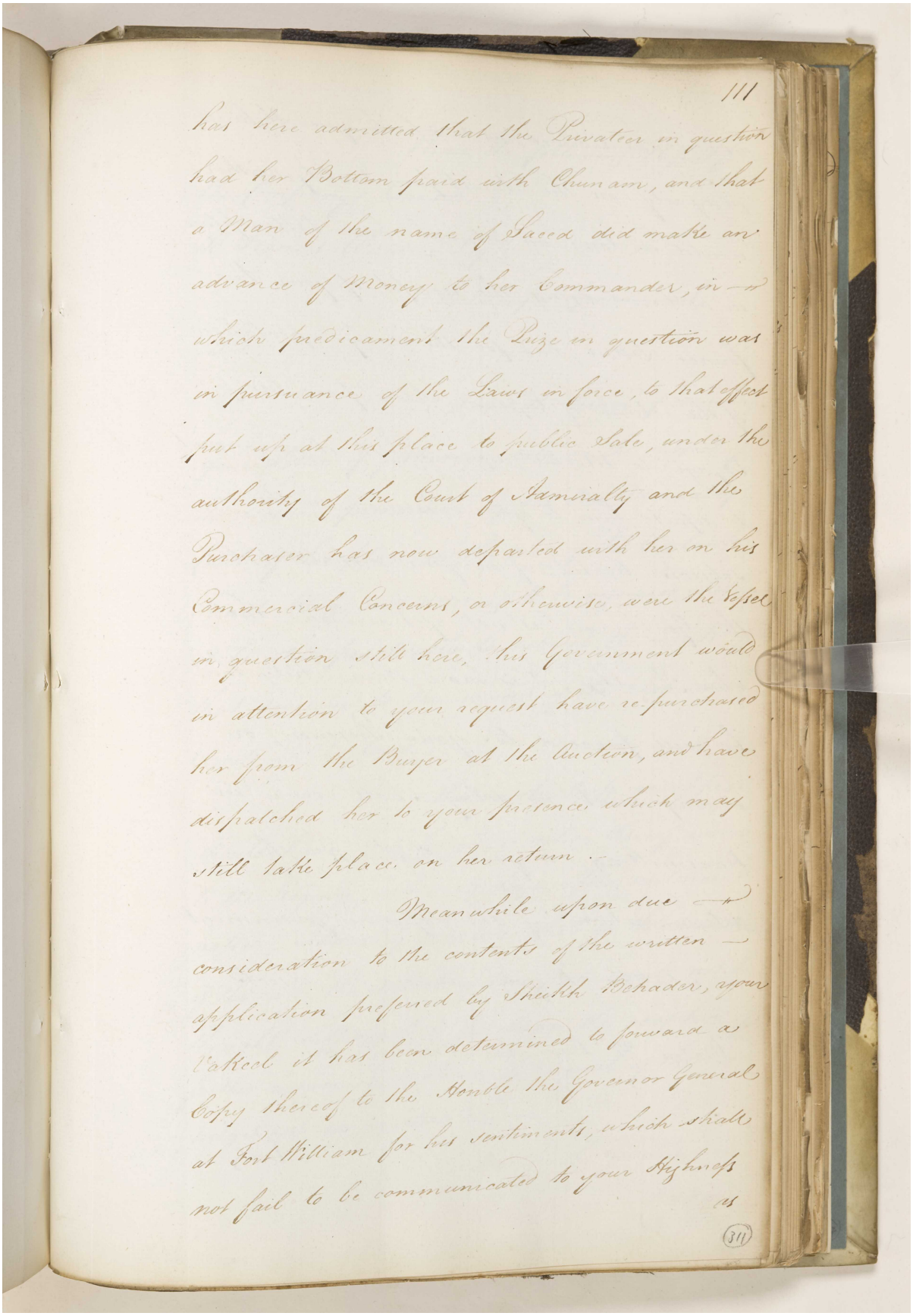

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has here admitted that the Privateer in question had her Bottom paid with Chunam, and that a Man of the name of Saeed did make an advance of Money to her Commander, in which predicament the Prize in question was in pursuance of the Laws in force, to that effect put up at this place to public Sale, under the authority of the Court of Admiralty and the Purchaser has now departed with her on his Commercial Concerns, or otherwise, were the Vessel in question still here, this Government would in attention to your request have re-purchased her from the Buyer at the Auction, and have dispatched her to your presence which may still take place on her return.

Meanwhile upon due consideration to the contents of the written application preferred by Sheikh Bohader, your Vakeel it has been determined to forward a Copy thereof to the Honble the Governor General at Fort William for his sentiments, which shall not fail to be communicated to your Highness as

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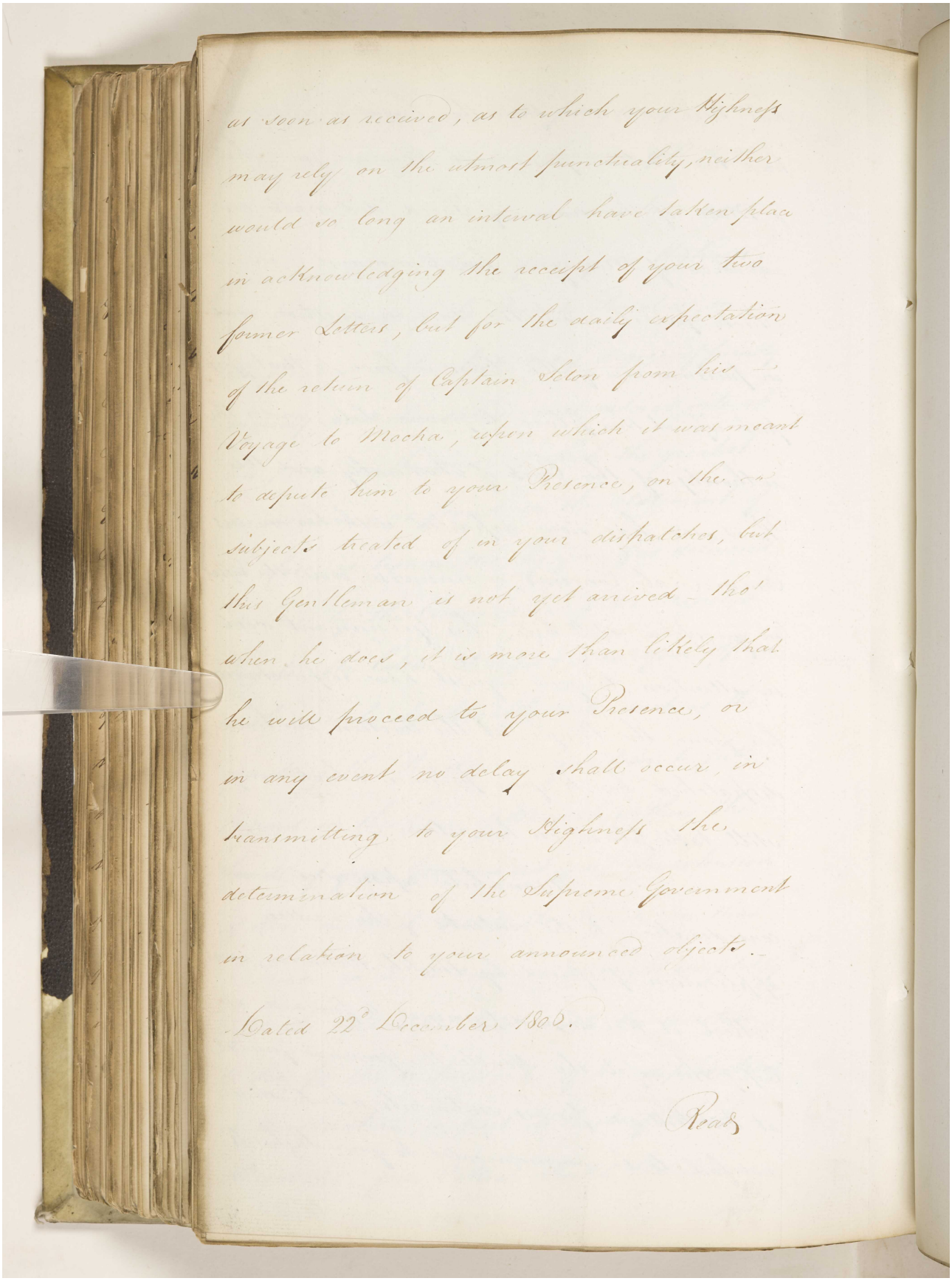

as soon as received, as to which your Highness may rely on the utmost punctuality, neither would so long an interval have taken place in acknowledging the receipt of your two former Letters, but for the daily expectation of the return of Captain Seton from his Voyage to Mocha, upon which it was meant to depute him to your Presence, on the subjects treated of in your dispatches, but this Gentleman is not yet arrived - tho' when he does, it is more than likely that he will proceed to your Presence, or in any event no delay shall occur, in transmitting to your Highness the determination of the Supreme Government in relation to your announced objects.

Dated 22d December 1800.

Read

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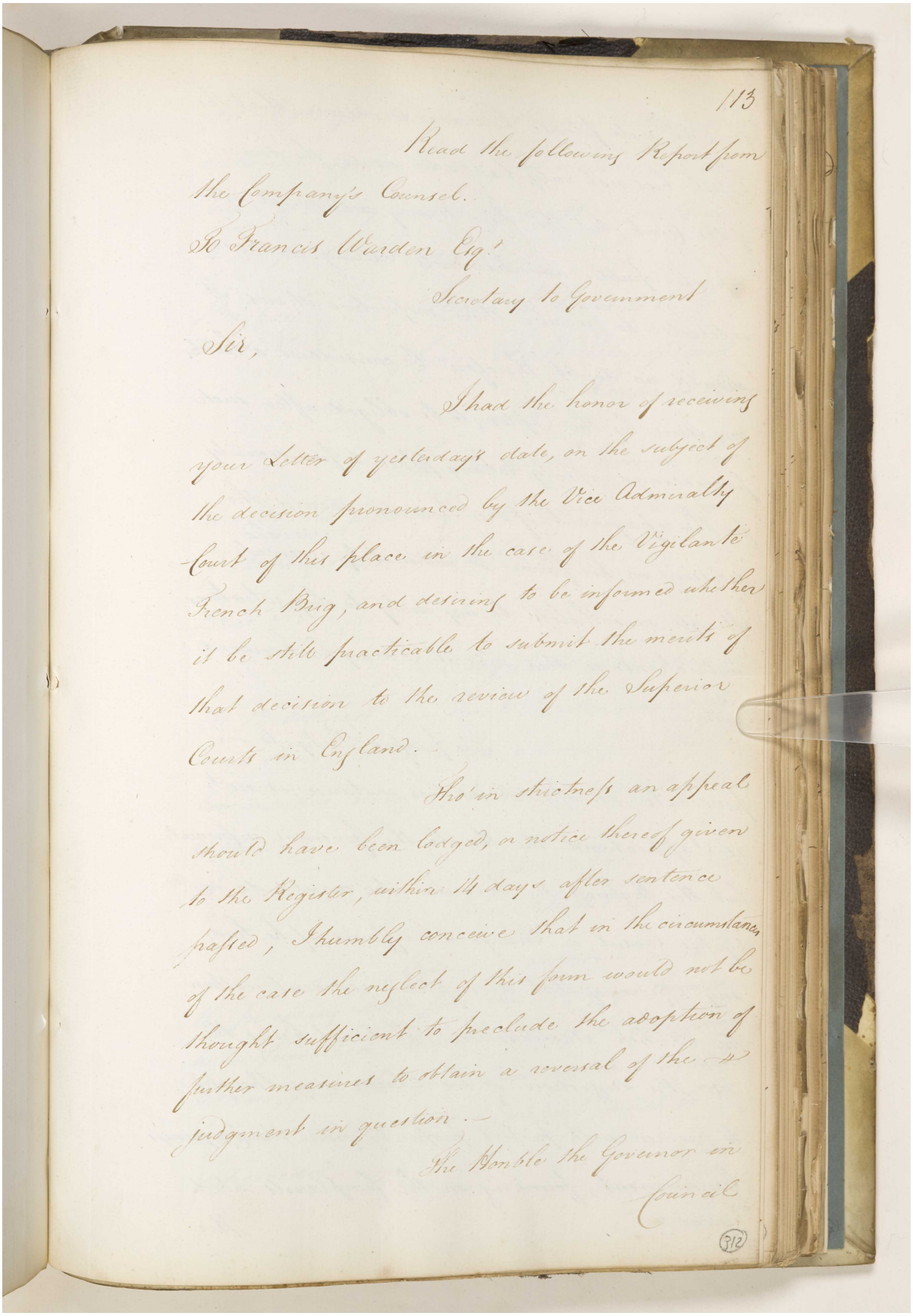

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Read the following Report from the Company's Counsel.

To Francis Warden Esq.r
Secretary to Government

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of yesterday's date, on the subject of the decision pronounced by the Vice Admiralty Court of this place in the case of the Vigilante French Brig, and desiring to be informed whether it be still practicable to submit the merits of that decision to the review of the Superior Courts in England.

Tho' in strictness an appeal should have been lodged, a notice thereof given to the Register, within 14 days after sentence passed, I humbly conceive that in the circumstances of the case the neglect of this form would not be thought sufficient to preclude the adoption of further measures to obtain a reversal of the judgment in question.

The Hon.ble the Governor in Council

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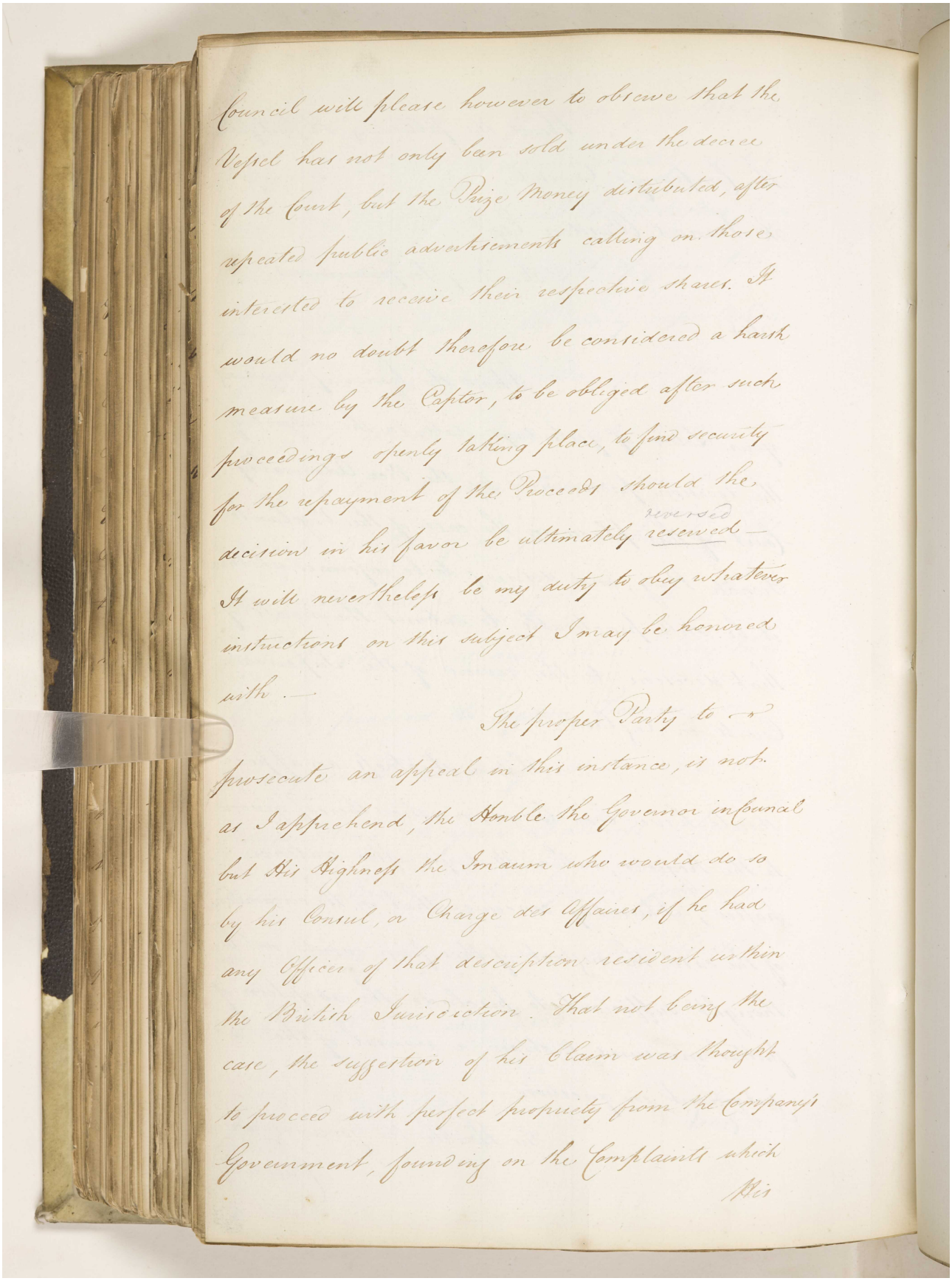

Council will please however to observe that the Vessel has not only been sold under the decree of the Court, but the Prize Money distributed, after repeated public advertisements calling on those interested to receive their respective shares. It would no doubt therefore be considered a harsh measure by the Captor, to be obliged after such proceedings openly taking place, to find security for the repayment of the Proceeds should the decision in his favor be ultimately reversed reversed — It will nevertheless be my duty to obey whatever instructions on this subject I may be honored with —

The proper Party to prosecute an appeal in this instance, is not as I apprehend, the Honble the Governor in Council but His Highness the Imaum who would do so by his Consul, or Chargé des Affaires, if he had any Officer of that description resident within the British Jurisdiction. That not being the case, the suggestion of his Claim was thought to proceed with perfect propriety from the Company's Government, founding on the Complaints which His

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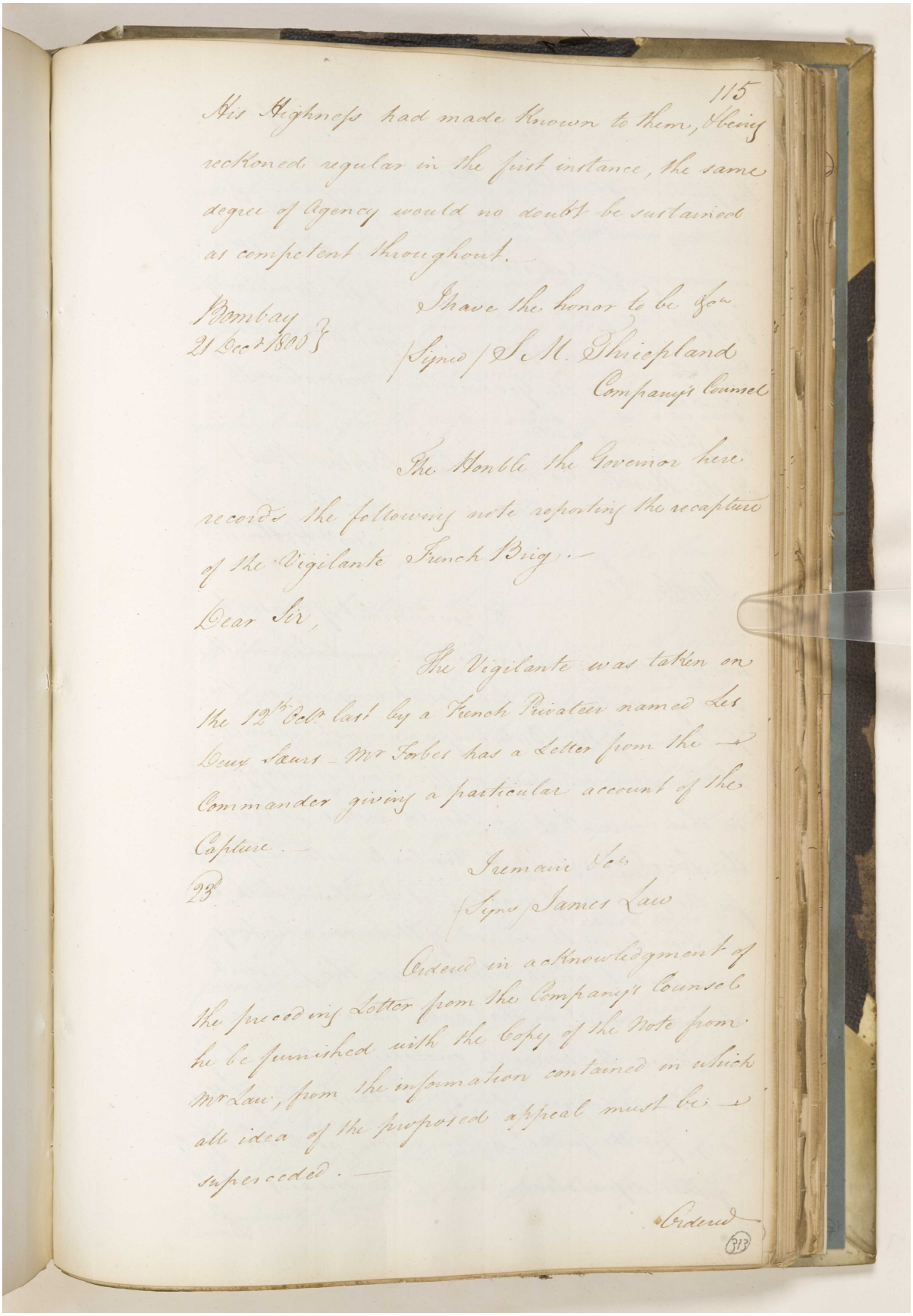

His Highness had made known to them, & being reckoned regular in the first instance, the same degree of Agency would no doubt be sustained as competent throughout.

Bombay
21 Decr 1806

I have the honor to be &ca
(Signed) S. M. Thriepland
Company's Counsel

The Honble the Governor here records the following note reporting the recapture of the Vigilante French Brig.

Dear Sir,

The Vigilante was taken on the 12th Octr last by a French Privateer named Les Deux Sœurs - Mr Forbes has a Letter from the Commander giving a particular account of the Capture.

I remain &ca
(Signed) James Law

23d

Ordered in acknowledgment of the preceding Letter from the Company's Counsel he be furnished with the Copy of the Note from Mr Law, from the information contained in which all idea of the proposed appeal must be superceded.

Ordered

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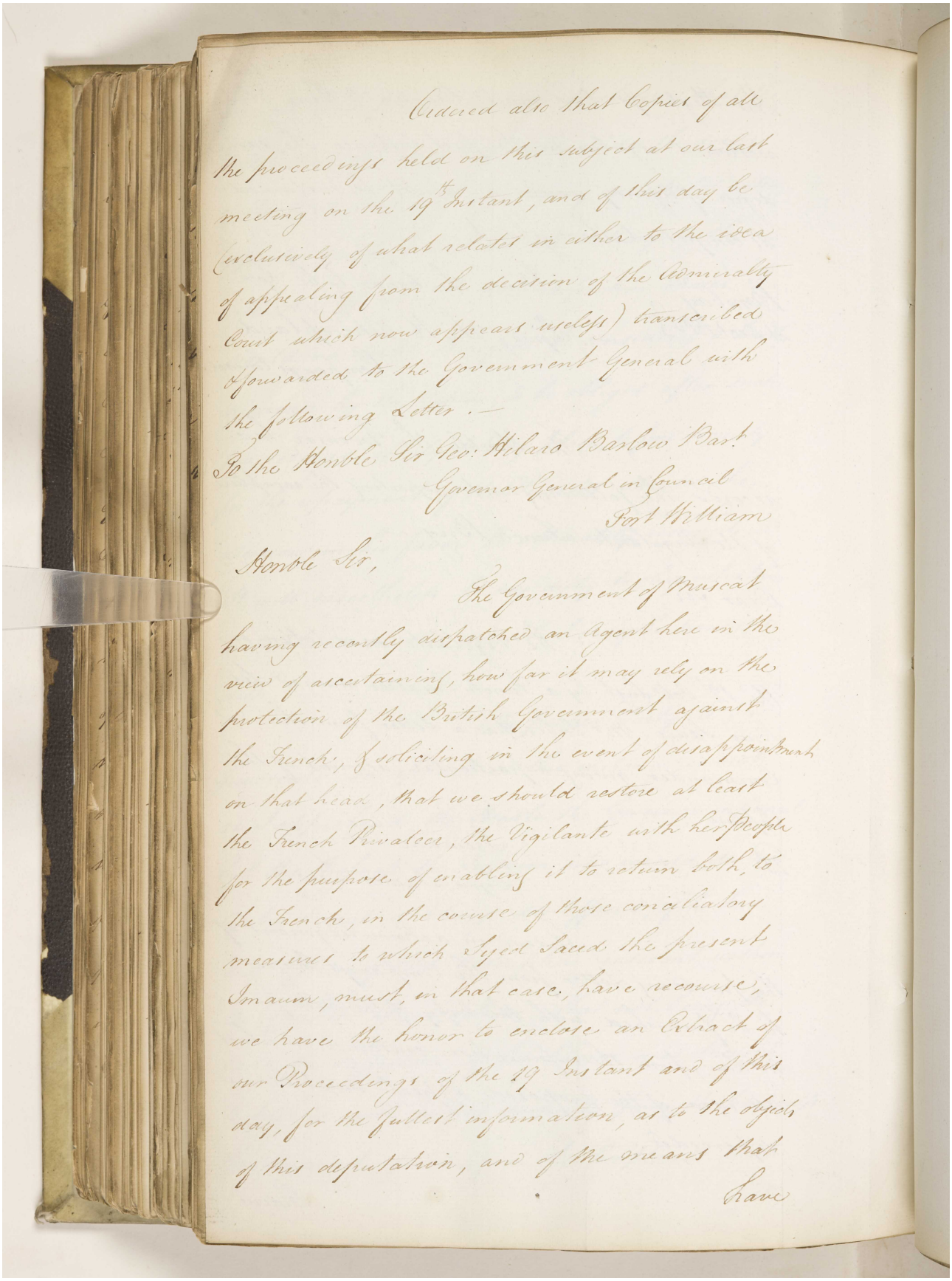

Ordered also that Copies of all the proceedings held on this subject at our last meeting on the 19th Instant, and of this day be (exclusively of what related in either to the idea of appealing from the decision of the Nominally Court which now appears useless) transcribed & forwarded to the Government General with the following Letter. —

To the Honble Sir Geo: Hilaro Barlow Bart
Governor General in Council
Fort William

Honble Sir,

The Government of Muscat having recently dispatched an Agent here in the view of ascertaining, how far it may rely on the protection of the British Government against the French, & soliciting in the event of disappointment on that head, that we should restore at least the French Privateer, the Vigilante with her People for the purpose of enabling it to return both, to the French, in the course of those conciliatory measures to which Syed Saeed the present Imaum, must, in that case, have recourse; we have the honor to enclose an Extract of our Proceedings of the 19 Instant and of this day, for the fullest information, as to the objects of this deputation, and of the means that have

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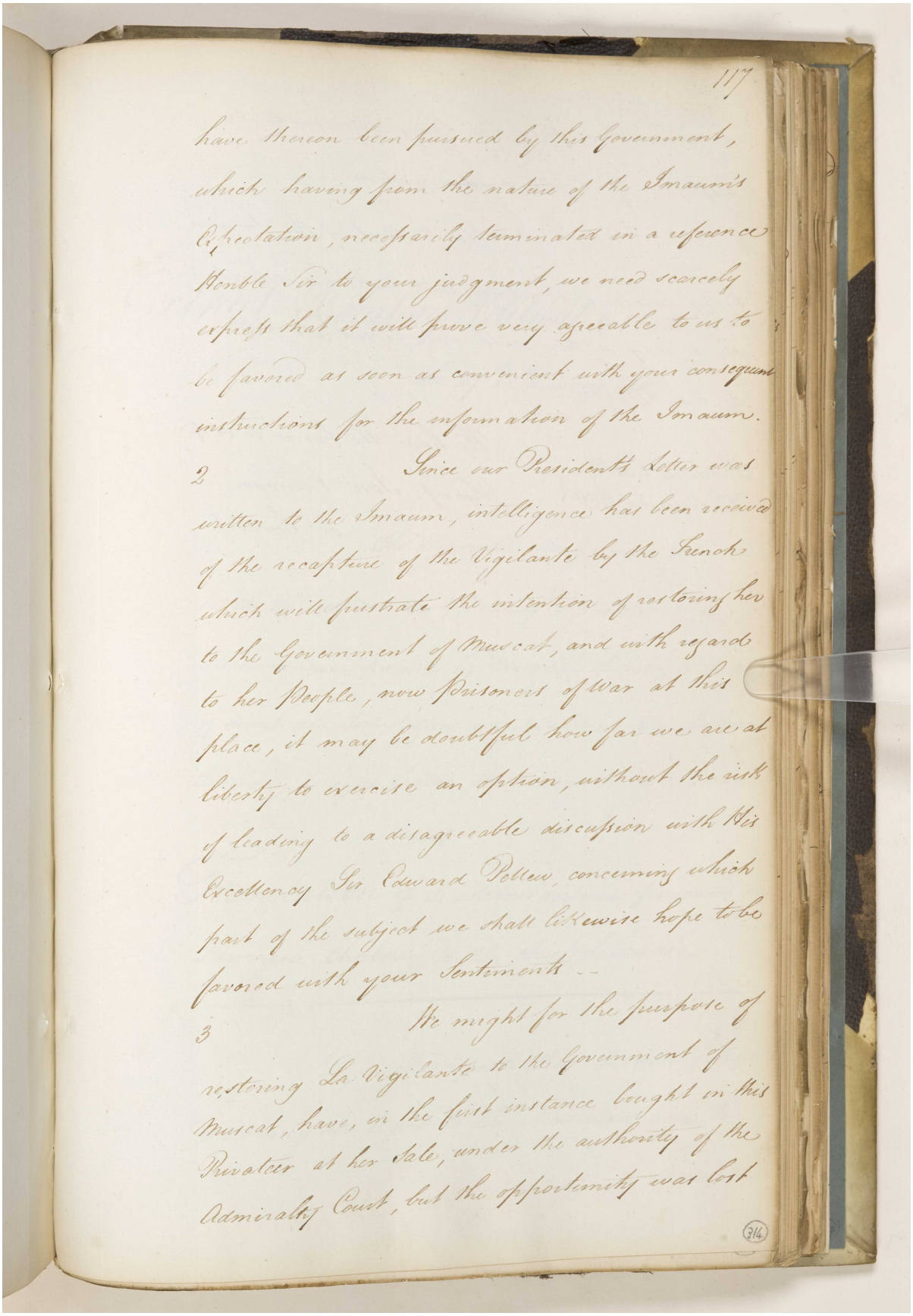

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have thereon been pursued by this Government,
which having from the nature of the Imaum's
Expectation, necessarily terminated in a reference
Honble Sir to your judgment, we need scarcely
express that it will prove very agreeable to us to
be favored as soon as convenient with your consequent
instructions for the information of the Imaum.

2 Since our Presidents Letter was
written to the Imaum, intelligence has been received
of the recapture of the Vigilante by the French
which will frustrate the intention of restoring her
to the Government of Muscat, and with regard
to her People, now Prisoners of War at this
place, it may be doubtful how far we are at
liberty to exercise an option, without the risk
of leading to a disagreeable discussion with His
Excellency Sir Edward Pellew, concerning which
part of the subject we shall likewise hope to be
favored with your Sentiments --

3 We might for the purpose of
restoring La Vigilante to the Government of
Muscat, have, in the first instance bought in this
Privateer at her Sale, under the authority of the
Admiralty Court, but the opportunity was lost

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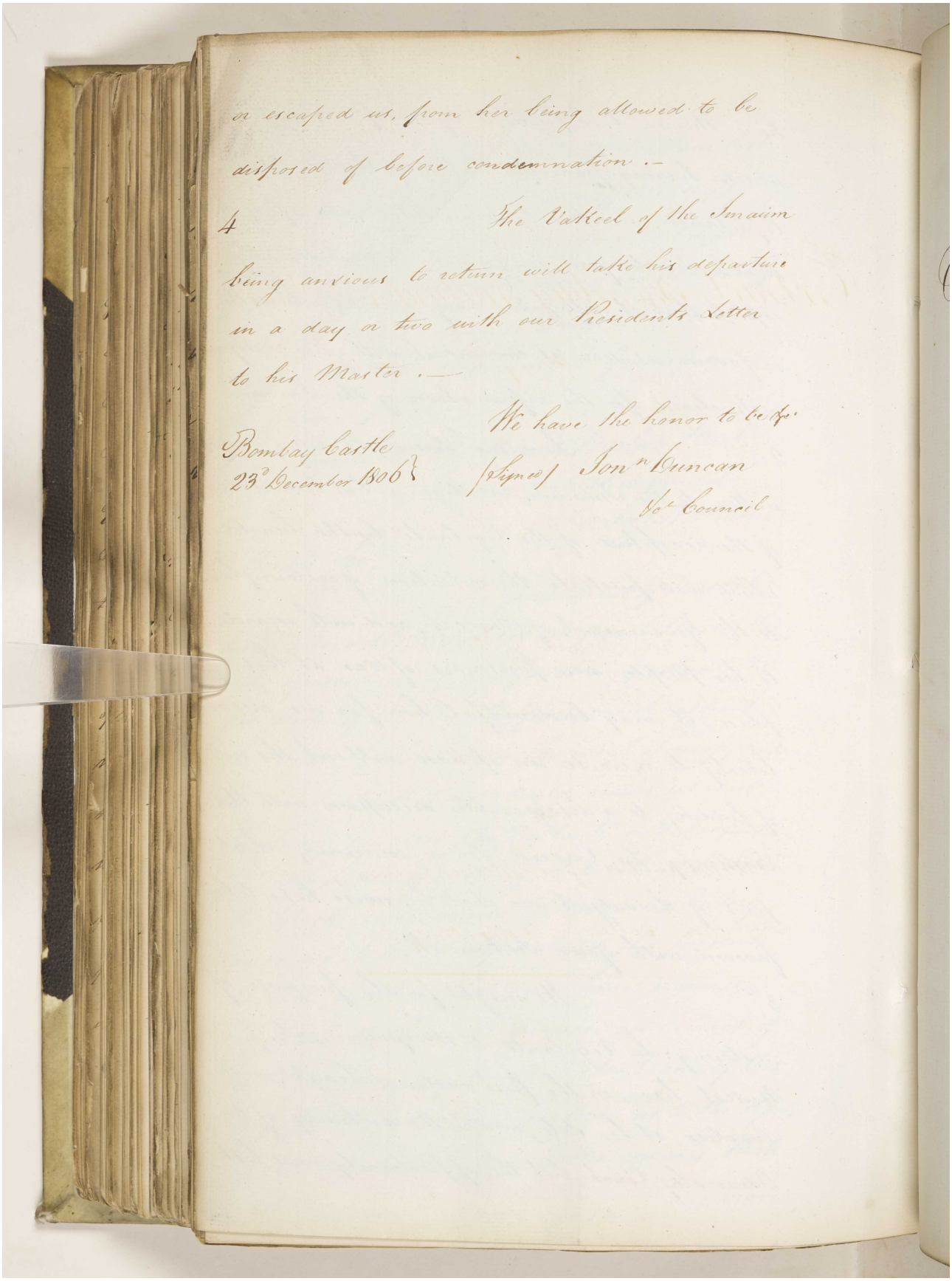

or escaped us, from her being allowed to be disposed of before condemnation.—

4 The Vakeel of the Imaum being anxious to return will take his departure in a day or two with our Presidents Letter to his Master.—

We have the honor to be &c.

Bombay Castle
23d December 1806

(Signed) Jonn Duncan
Vct Council

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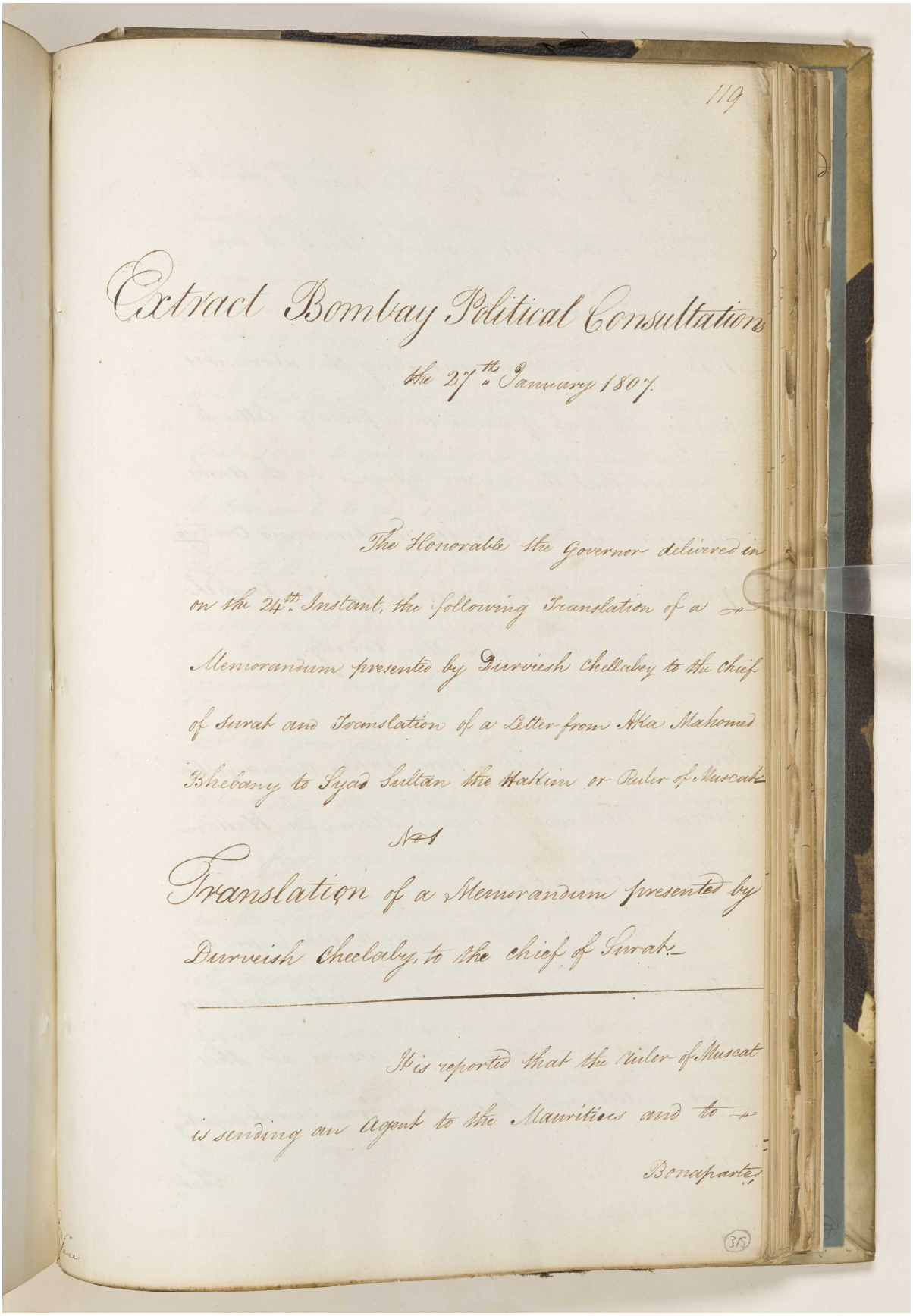

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 27th January 1807.

The Honorable the Governor delivered in on the 24th Instant, the following Translation of a Memorandum presented by Durveish Chellaby to the Chief of Surat and Translation of a Letter from Akia Mahomed Bhebany to Syad Sultan the Hakim or Ruler of Muscat

No 1

Translation of a Memorandum presented by Durveish Cheelaby, to the Chief of Surat.

It is reported that the Ruler of Muscat is sending an Agent to the Mauritius and to Bonaparte

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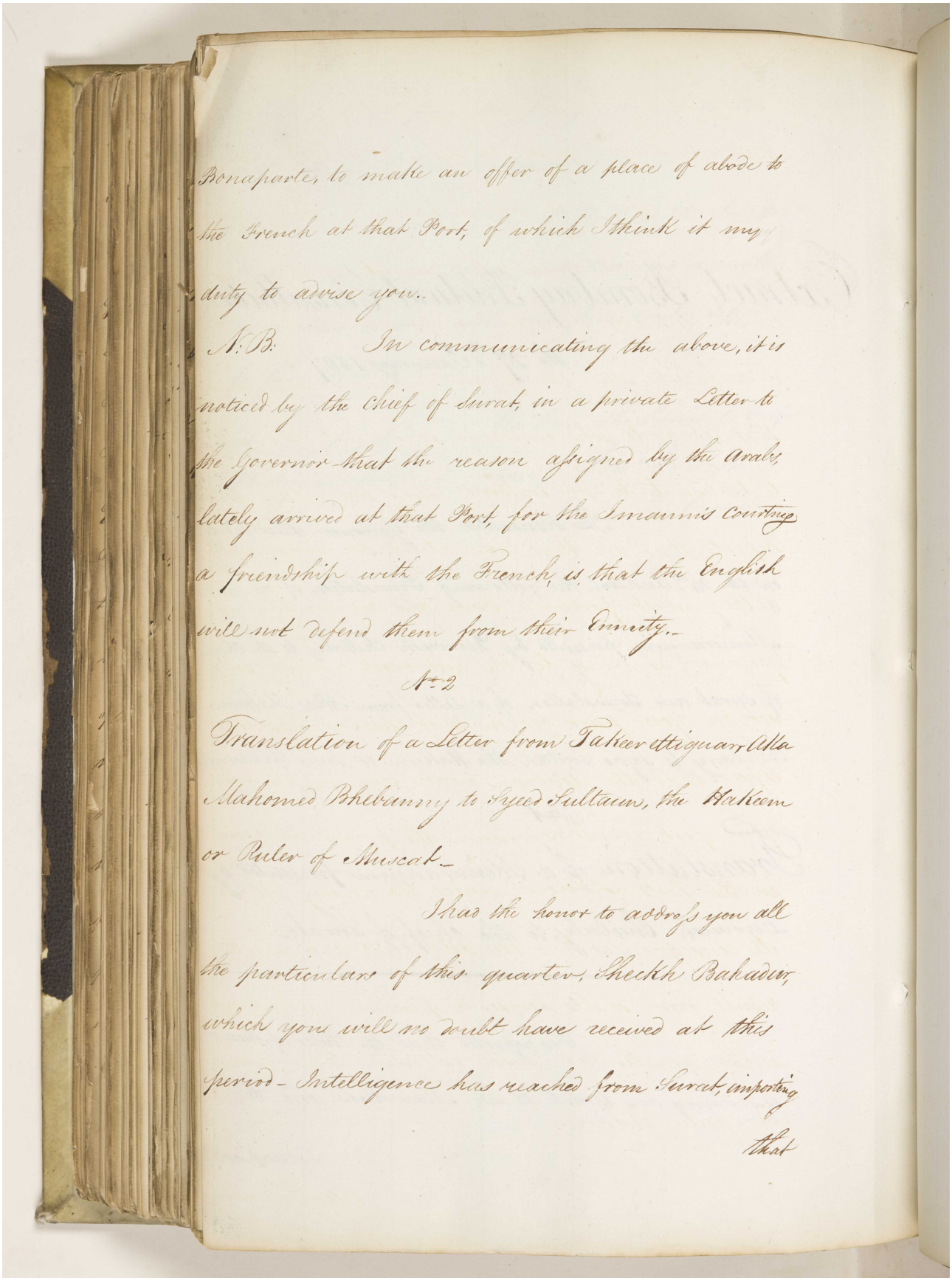

Bonaparte, to make an offer of a place of abode to the French at that Port, of which I think it my duty to advise you.

N.B. In communicating the above, it is noticed by the Chief of Surat, in a private Letter to the Governor that the reason assigned by the Arabs, lately arrived at that Port, for the Imaum's courting a friendship with the French, is that the English will not defend them from their Enmity.

No. 2

Translation of a Letter from Takeer ettiguar, Aka Mahomed Bhebanny to Syeed Sultaun, the Hakeem or Ruler of Muscat.

I had the honor to address you all the particulars of this quarter, Sheckh Bahadur, which you will no doubt have received at this period - Intelligence has reached from Surat, importing that

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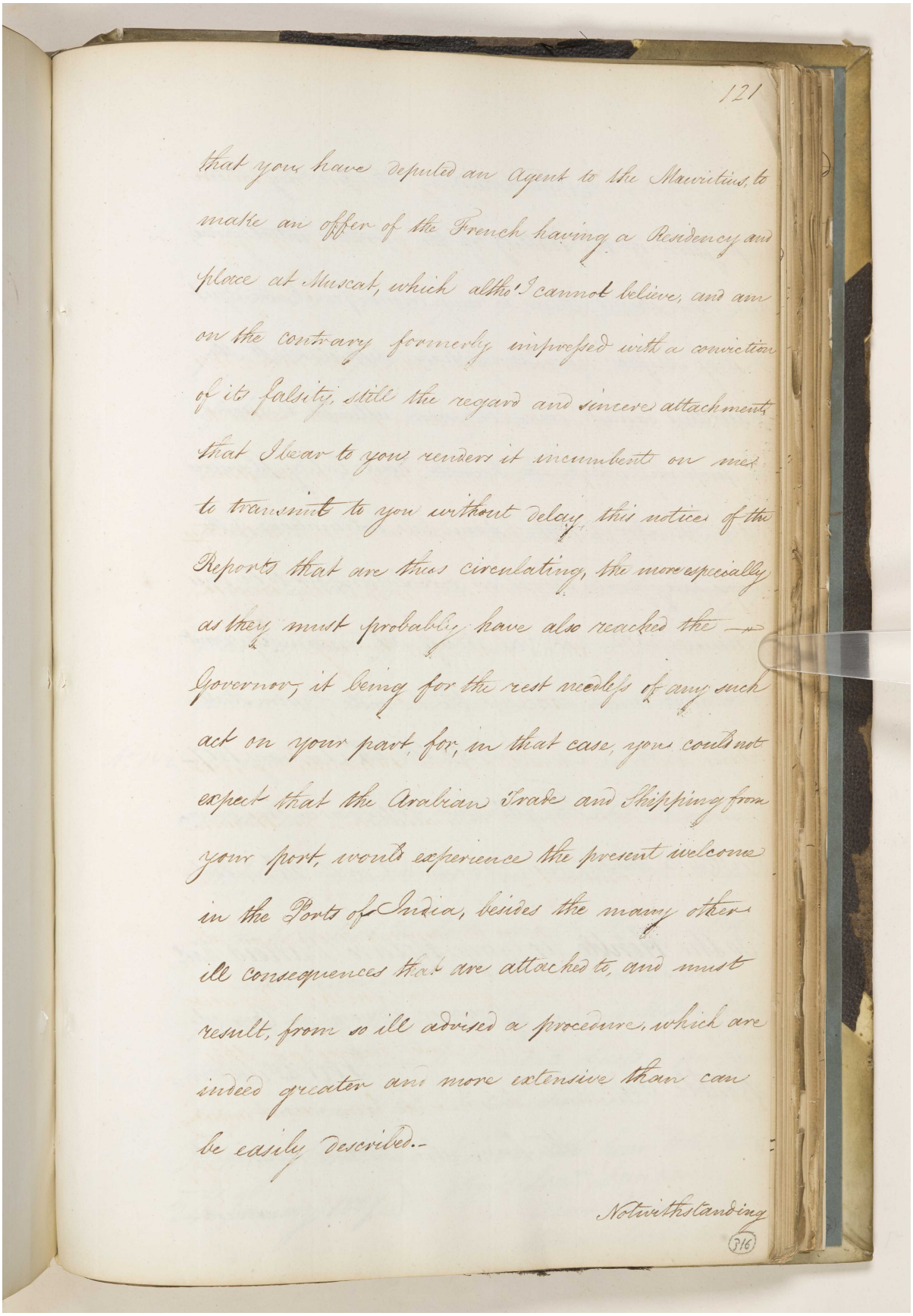

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that you have deputed an Agent to the Mauritius to make an offer of the French having a Residency and Place at Muscat, which altho' I cannot believe, and am on the contrary formerly impressed with a conviction of its falsity, still the regard and sincere attachment that I bear to you renders it incumbent on me to transmit to you without delay, this notices of the Reports that are thus circulating, the more especially as they must probably have also reached the — Governor, it being for the rest needless of any such act on your part, for, in that case, you could not expect that the Arabian Trade and Shipping from your Port, would experience the present welcome in the Ports of India, besides the many other ill consequences that are attached to, and must result, from so ill advised a procedure, which are indeed greater and more extensive than can be easily described.-

Notwithstanding

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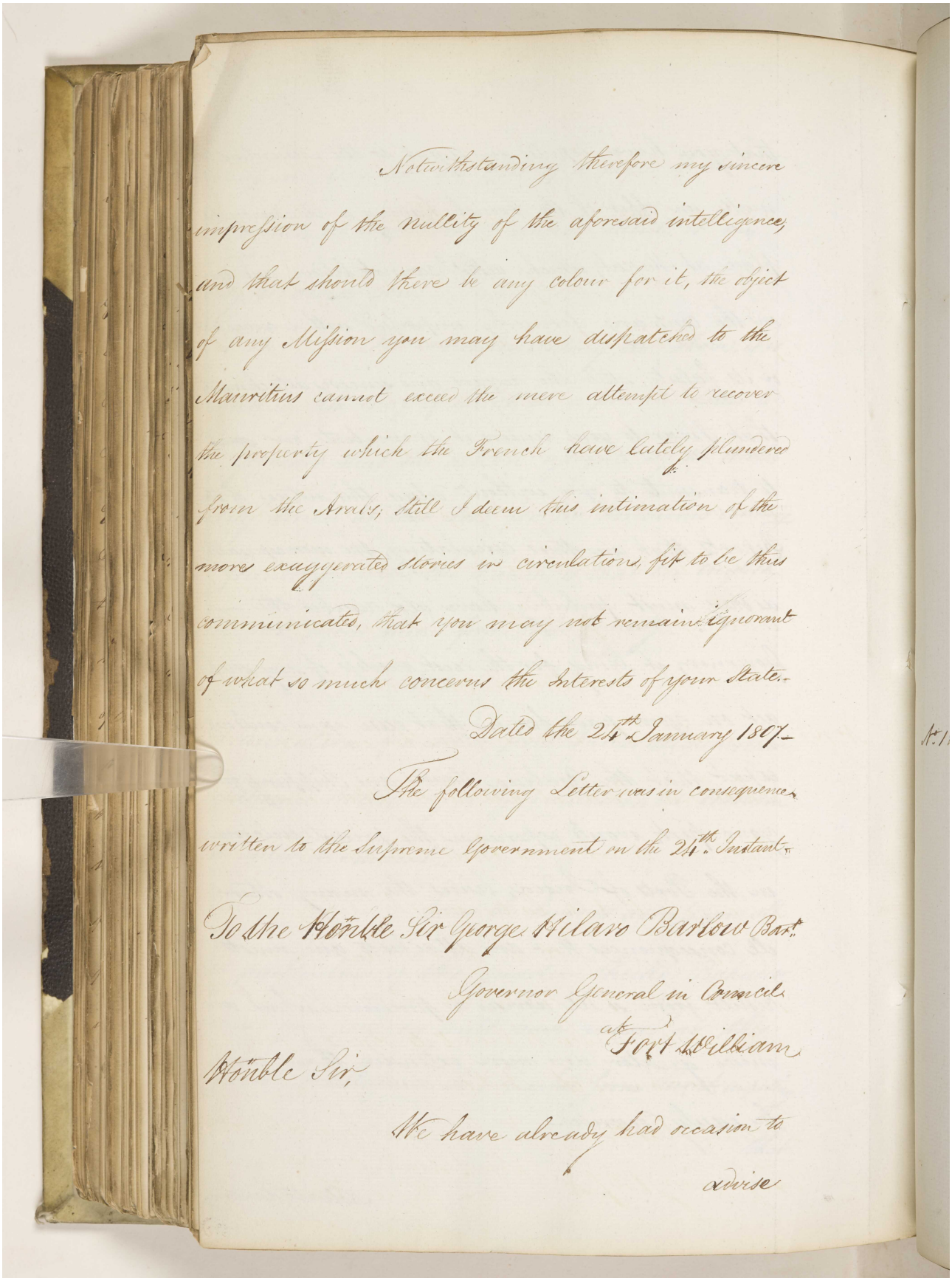

Notwithstanding therefore my sincere
impression of the nullity of the aforesaid intelligence,
and that should there be any colour for it, the object
of any Mission you may have dispatched to the
Mauritius cannot exceed the mere attempt to recover
the property which the French have lately plundered
from the Arabs, still I deem this intimation of the
more exaggerated stories in circulation, fit to be thus
communicated, that you may not remain ignorant
of what so much concerns the Interests of your State.

Dated the 24th January 1807.

The following Letter was in consequence
written to the Supreme Government on the 25th. Instant.

To the Honble Sir George Hilaro Barlow Bart.
Governor General in Council
at Fort William

Honble Sir,

We have already had occasion to
advise

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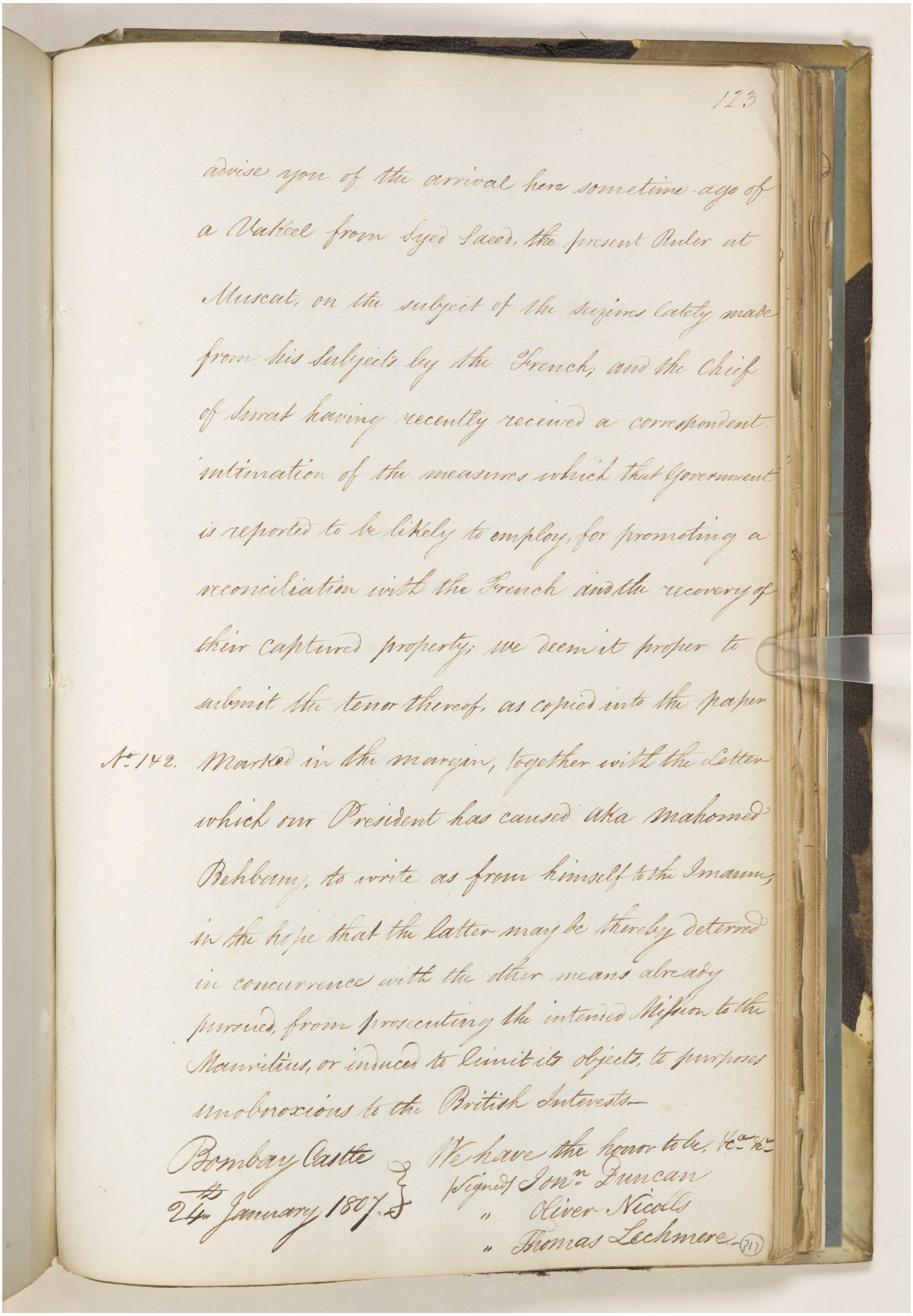

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advise you of the arrival here sometime ago of a Vakeel from Syed Saeed, the present Ruler at Muscat, on the subject of the Seizures lately made from his Subjects by the French, and the Chief of Surrat having recently received a correspondent intimation of the measures which that Government is reported to be likely to employ, for promoting a reconciliation with the French and the recovery of their captured property; we deem it proper to submit the tenor thereof, as copied into the paper
No. 142. Marked in the margin, together with the Letter which our President has caused aka Mahomed Behbany, to write as from himself to the Imaum, in the hope that the latter may be thereby deterred in concurrence with the other means already pursued, from prosecuting the intended Mission to the Mauritius, or induced to limit its objects, to purposes unobnoxious to the British Interests—

Bombay Castle
24th January 1807.

We have the honor to be, &c. &c.
Signed Jonn. Duncan
" River Nicolls
" Thomas Lechmere.

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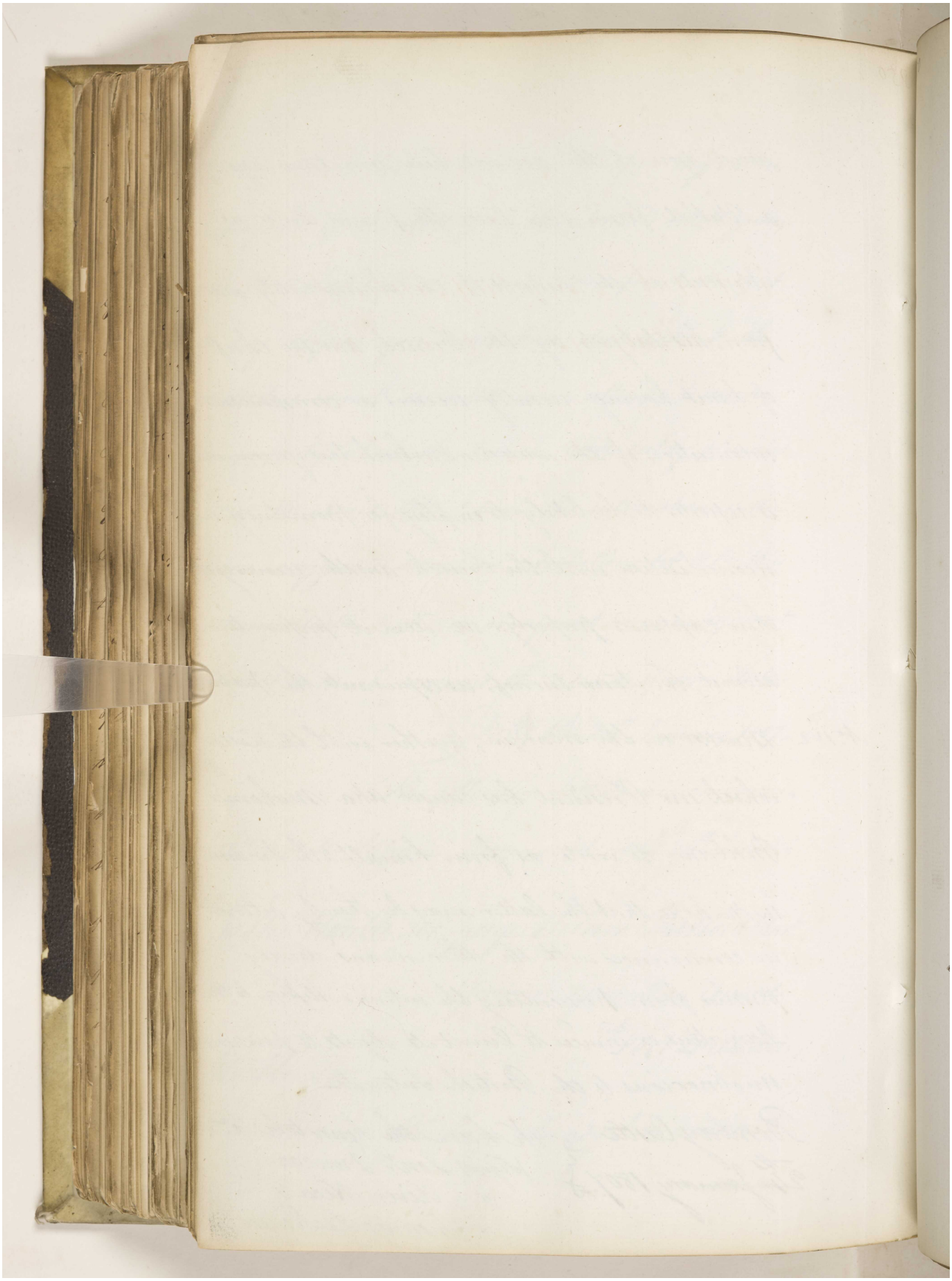

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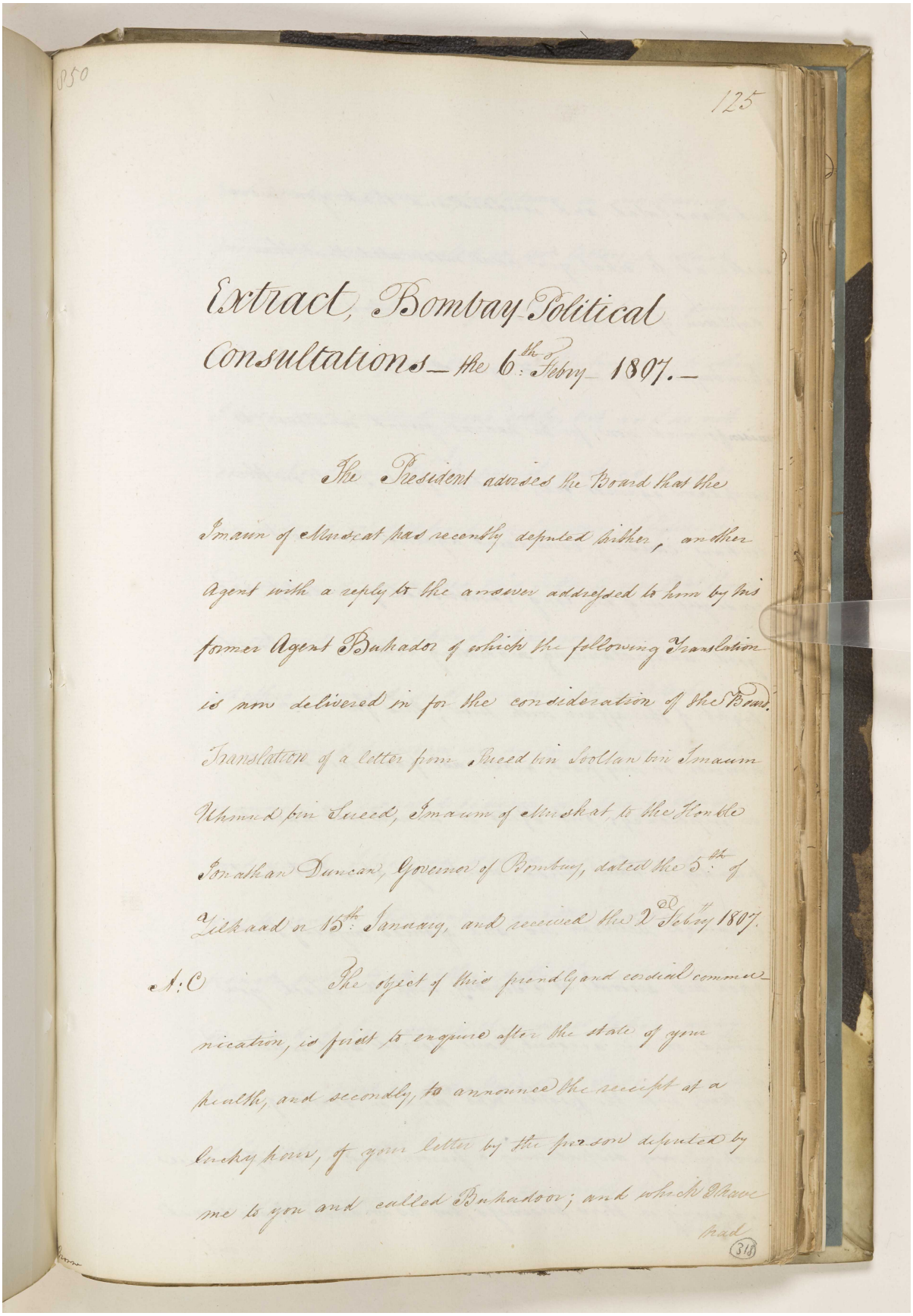

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations — the 6th Feby 1807.—

The President advises the Board that the Imaum of Muscat has recently deputed hither, another Agent with a reply to the answer addressed to him by his former Agent Buhadoor of which the following Translation is now delivered in for the consideration of the Board.

Translation of a letter from Syeed bin Soollan bin Imaum Uhmed bin Syeed, Imaum of Muscat to the Honble Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay, dated the 5th of Zilkaad or 15th January, and received the 2d Feby 1807.

A:C The object of this friendly and cordial communication, is first to enquire after the state of your health, and secondly, to announce the receipt at a lucky hour, of your letter by the person deputed by me to you and called Buhadoor; and which I have

had

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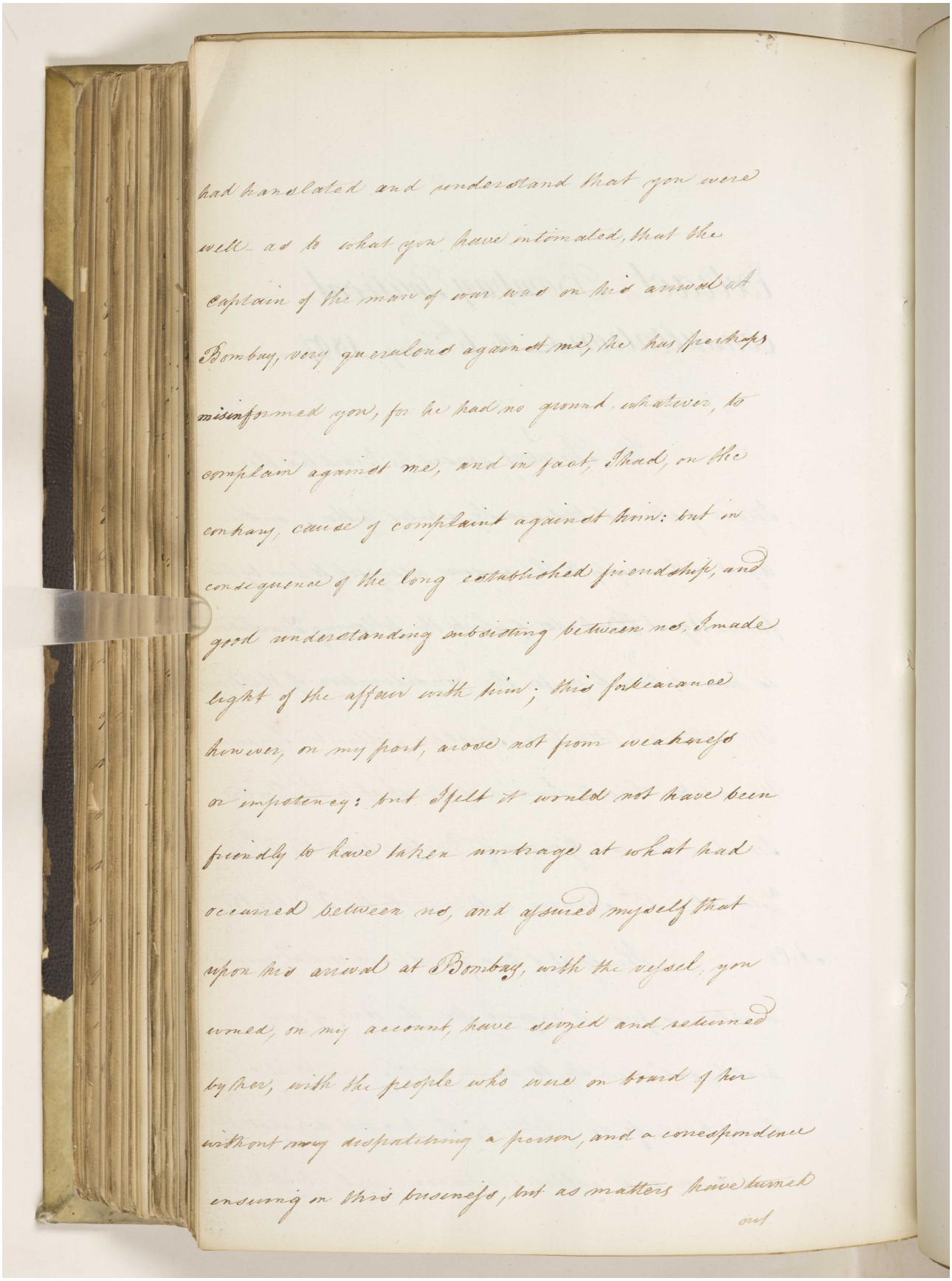

had translated and understand that you were
well as to what you have intimated, that the
Captain of the man of war was on his arrival at
Bombay, very guerulous against me, he has perhaps
misinformed you, for he had no ground whatever, to
complain against me, and in fact, I had, on the
contrary, cause of complaint against him: but in
consequence of the long established friendship, and
good understanding subsisting between us, I made
light of the affair with him; this forbearance
however, on my part, arose not from weakness
or impotency: but I felt it would not have been
friendly to have taken umbrage at what had
occurred between us, and assured myself that
upon his arrival at Bombay, with the vessel, you
owned, on my account, have seized and returned
by her, with the people who were on board of her
without any disputation a person, and a correspondence
ensuing on this business, but as matters have turned
out

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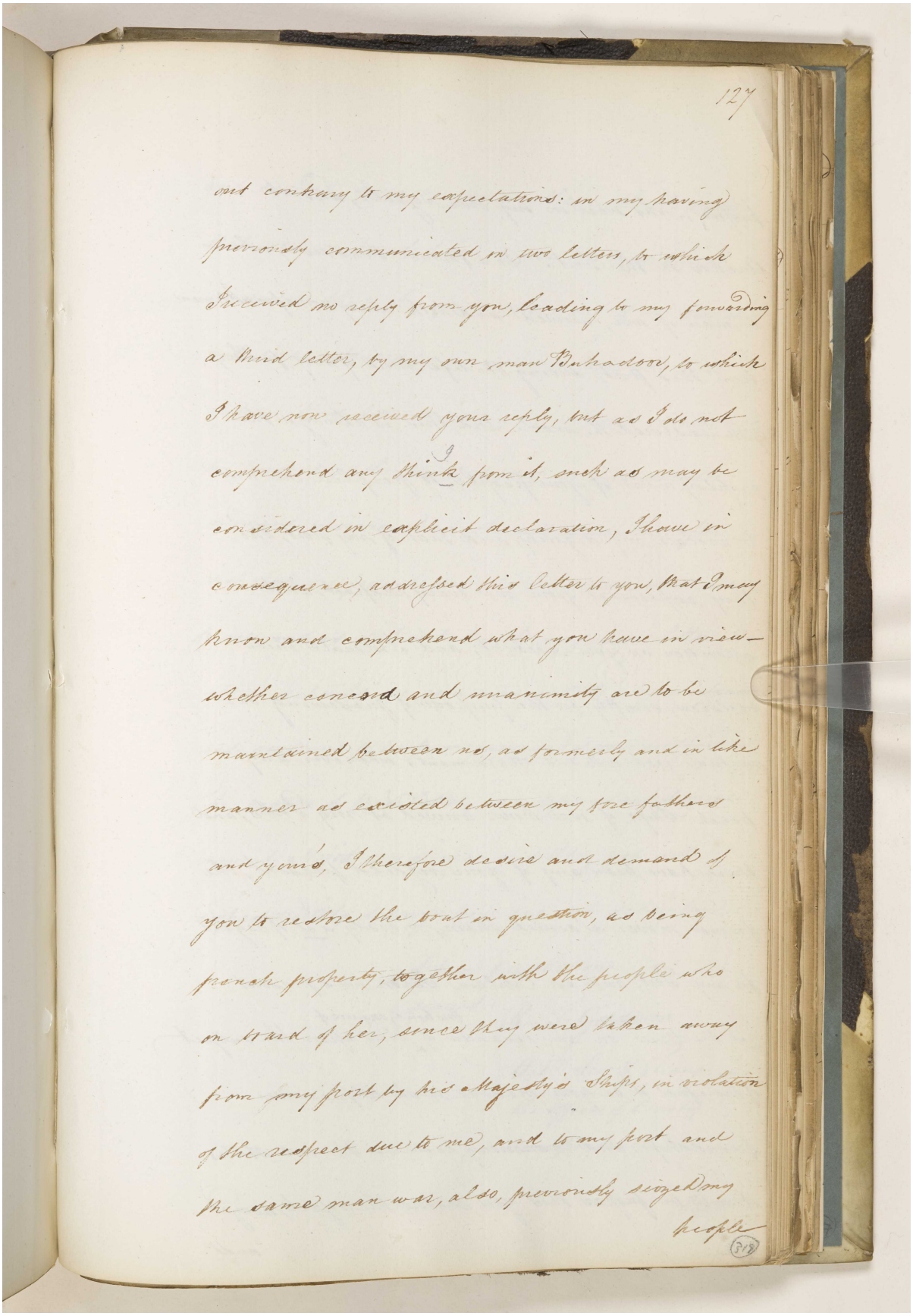

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out contrary to my expectations: in my having
previously communicated in two letters, to which
I received no reply from you, leading to my forwarding
a third letter, by my own man Bahadoor, to which
I have now received your reply, but as I do not
comprehend any thing from it, such as may be
considered in explicit declaration, I have in
consequence, addressed this letter to you, that I may
know and comprehend what you have in view—
whether concord and amicity are to be
maintained between us, as formerly and in like
manner as existed between my fore fathers
and yours, I therefore desire and demand of
you to restore the boat in question, as being
French property, together with the people who
on board of her, since they were taken away
from my port by his Majesty's Ships, in violation
of the respect due to me, and to my port and
the same man war, also, previously seized my
people

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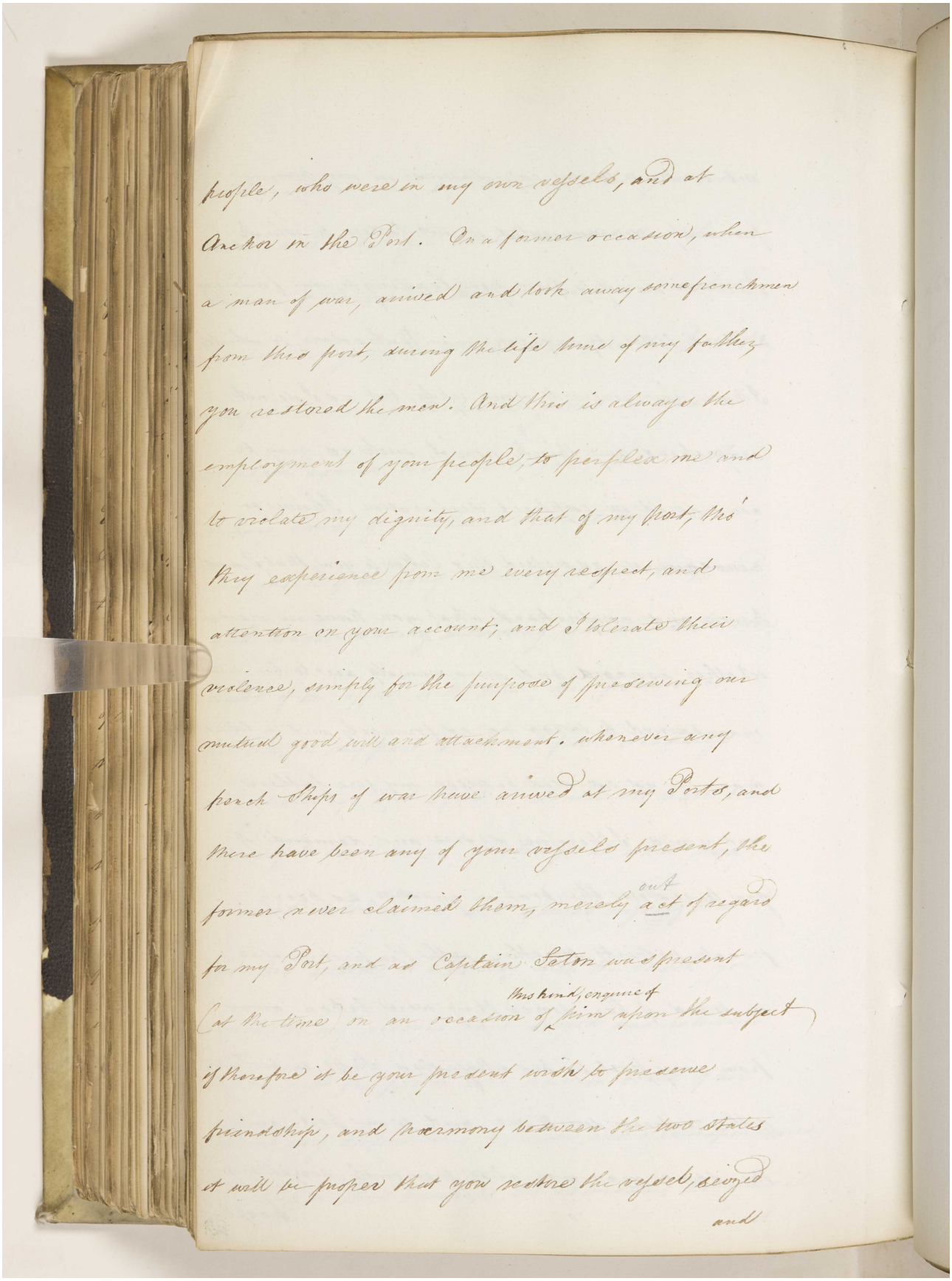

people, who were in my own vessels, and at
Anchor in the Port. On a former occasion, when
a man of war, arrived and took away some frenchmen
from this port, during the life time of my father,
you restored the men. And this is always the
employment of your people, to perplex me and
to violate my dignity, and that of my Port, tho'
they experience from me every respect, and
attention on your account; and I tolerate their
insolence, simply for the purpose of preserving our
mutual good will and attachment. whenever any
french Ships of war have arrived at my Ports, and
there have been any of your vessels present, the
former never claimed them, merely out of regard
for my Port, and as Captain Seton was present
at the time on an occasion of this kind, enquire of him upon the subject
if therefore it be your present wish to preserve
friendship, and harmony between the two states
it will be proper that you restore the vessels, seized
and

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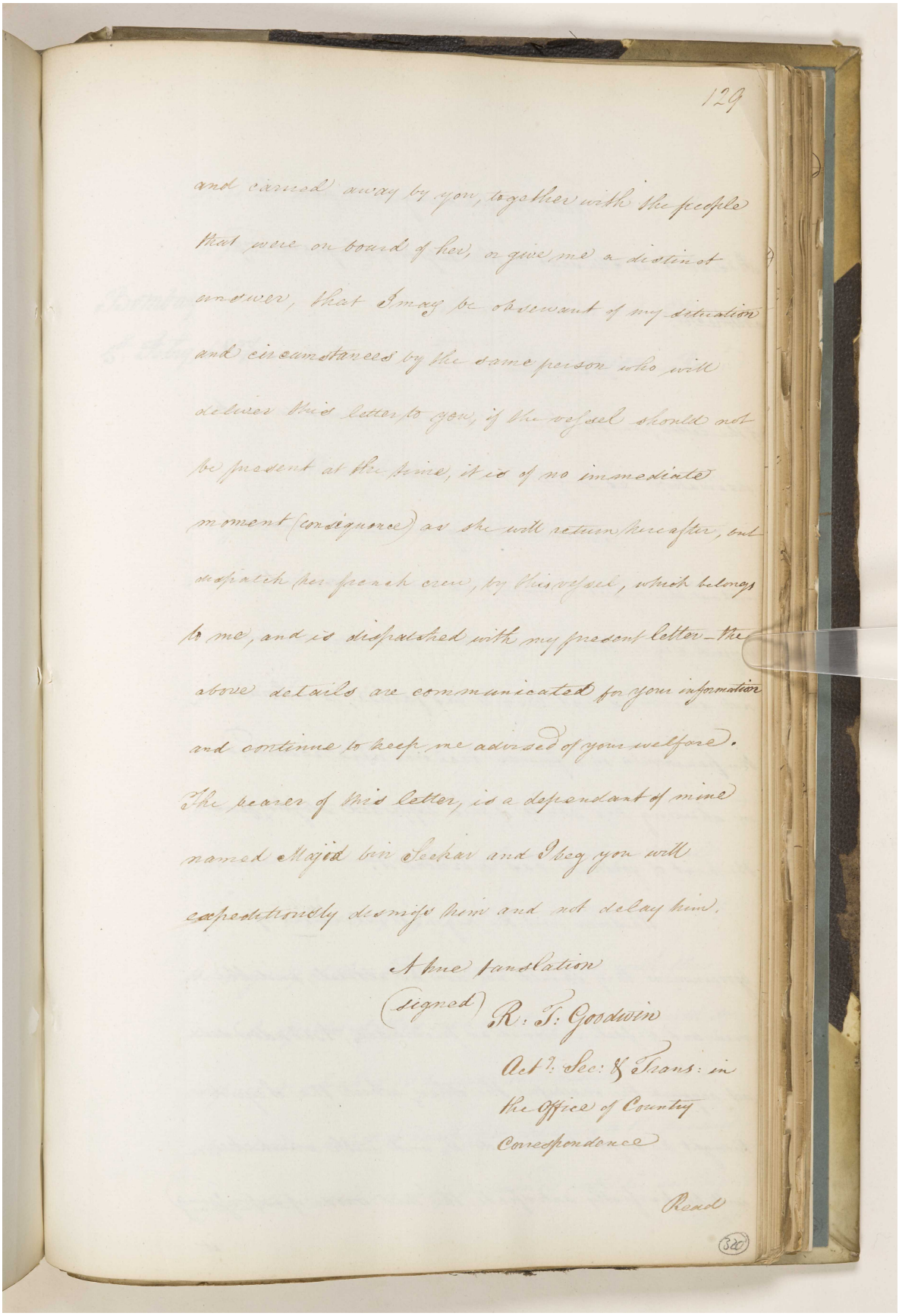

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and carried away by you, together with the people that were on board of her, or give me a distinct answer, that I may be observant of my situation and circumstances by the same person who will deliver this letter to you, if the vessel should not be present at the time, it is of no immediate moment (consignance) as she will return hereafter, but dispatch her french crew, by this vessel, which belongs to me, and is dispatched with my present letter – the above details are communicated for your information and continue to keep me advised of your welfare.

The bearer of this letter, is a dependant of mine named Majid bin Seekar and I beg you will expeditiously dismiss him and not delay him.

A true translation
(signed) R. T. Goodwin
Act^g. Sec: & Trans: in
the Office of Country
Correspondence

Read

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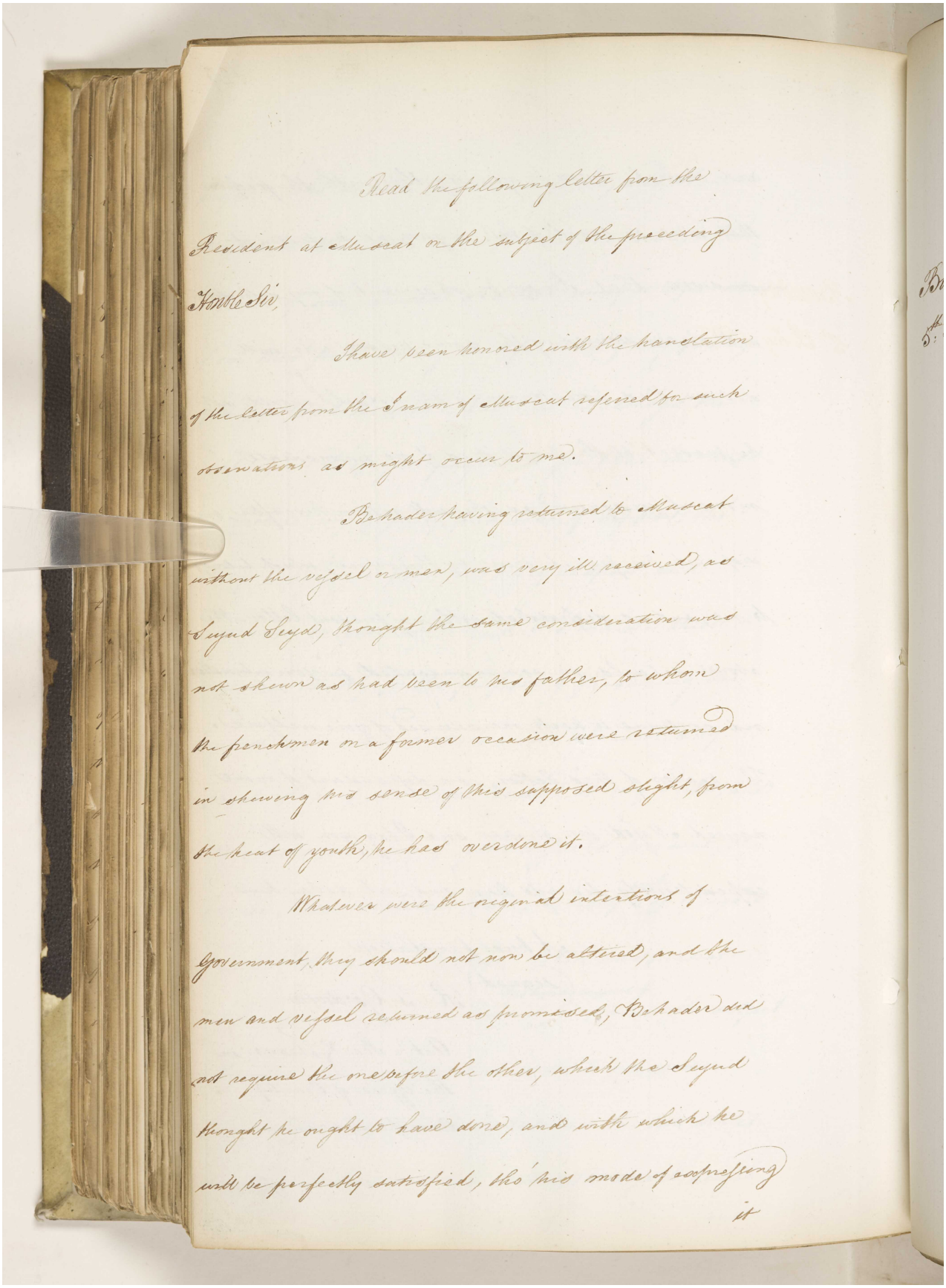

Read the following letter from the
Resident at Muscat on the subject of the preceding
Hon'ble Sir,
I have been honored with the translation
of the letter from the Imam of Muscat referred to such
observations as might occur to me.
Behader having returned to Muscat
without the vessel or men, was very ill received, as
Seyud Seyd, thought the same consideration was
not shewn as had been to his father, to whom
the Frenchmen on a former occasion were returned
in shewing his sense of this supposed slight, from
the heat of youth, he has overdone it.
Whatever were the original intentions of
Government, they should not now be altered, and the
men and vessel returned as promised, Behader did
not require the one before the other, which the Seyud
thought he ought to have done, and with which he
will be perfectly satisfied, tho' his mode of expressing
it

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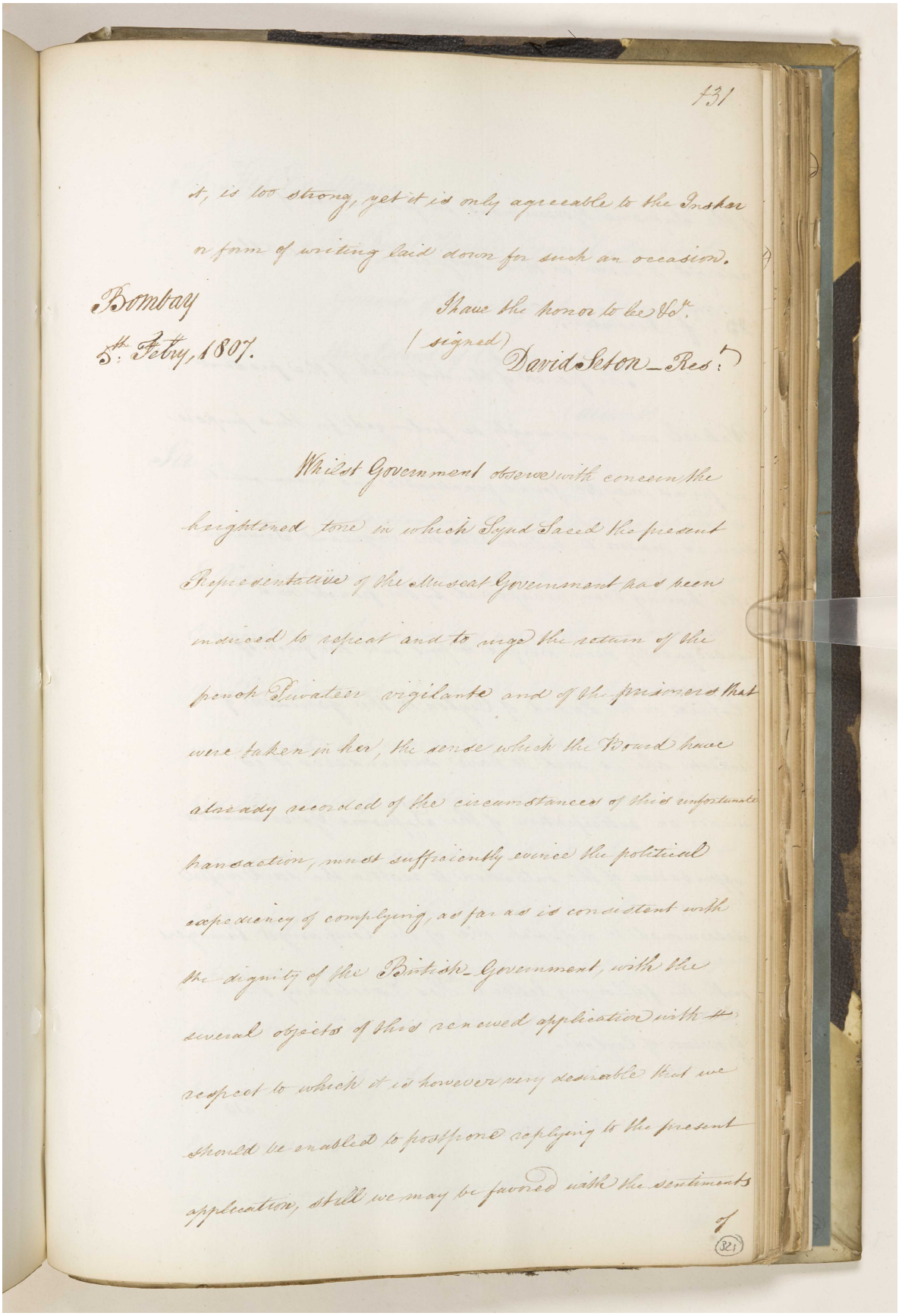

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it, is too strong, yet it is only agreeable to the Instruction or form of writing laid down for such an occasion.

Bombay
5th Febry, 1807.

I have the honor to be &c.
(signed) David Seton Resr

Whilst Government observe with concern the heightened tone in which Syud Saeed the present Representative of the Muscat Government has been induced to repeat and to urge the return of the French Privateer Vigilante and of the prisoners that were taken in her, the sense which the Board have already recorded of the circumstances of this unfortunate transaction, must sufficiently evince the political expediency of complying, as far as is consistent with the dignity of the British Government, with the several objects of this renewed application with respect to which it is however very desirable that we should be enabled to postpone complying to the present application, still we may be favored with the sentiments of

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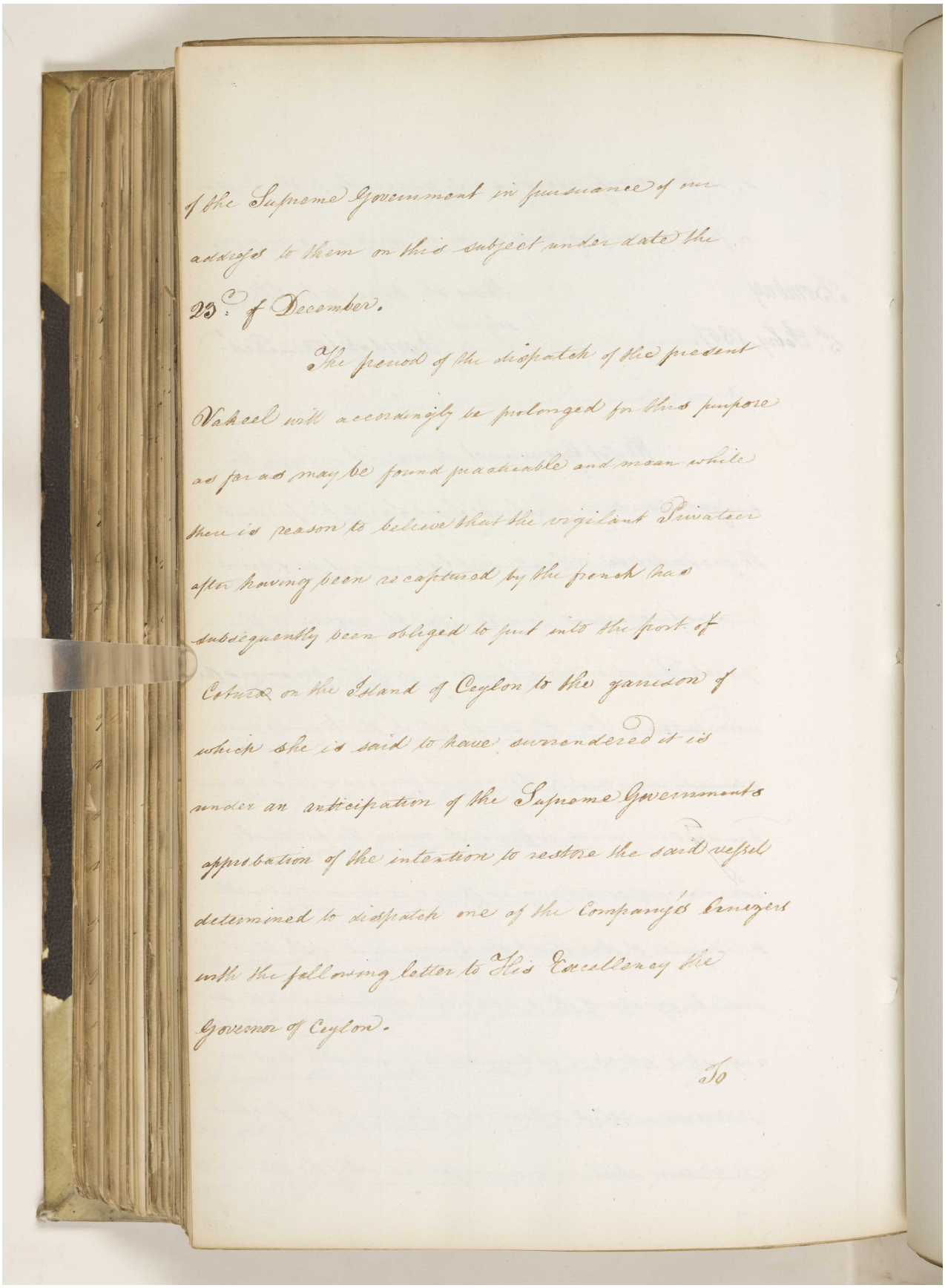

of the Supreme Government in pursuance of our
address to them on this subject under date the
23d. of December.

The period of the dispatch of the present
Vakeel will accordingly be prolonged for this purpose
as far as may be found practicable and mean while
there is reason to believe that the vigilant Privateer
after having been recaptured by the French has
subsequently been obliged to put into the port of
Cotiaar on the Island of Ceylon to the garrison of
which she is said to have surrendered it is
under an anticipation of the Supreme Governments
approbation of the intention to restore the said vessel
determined to dispatch one of the Company's Cruizers
with the following letter to His Excellency the
Governor of Ceylon.

To

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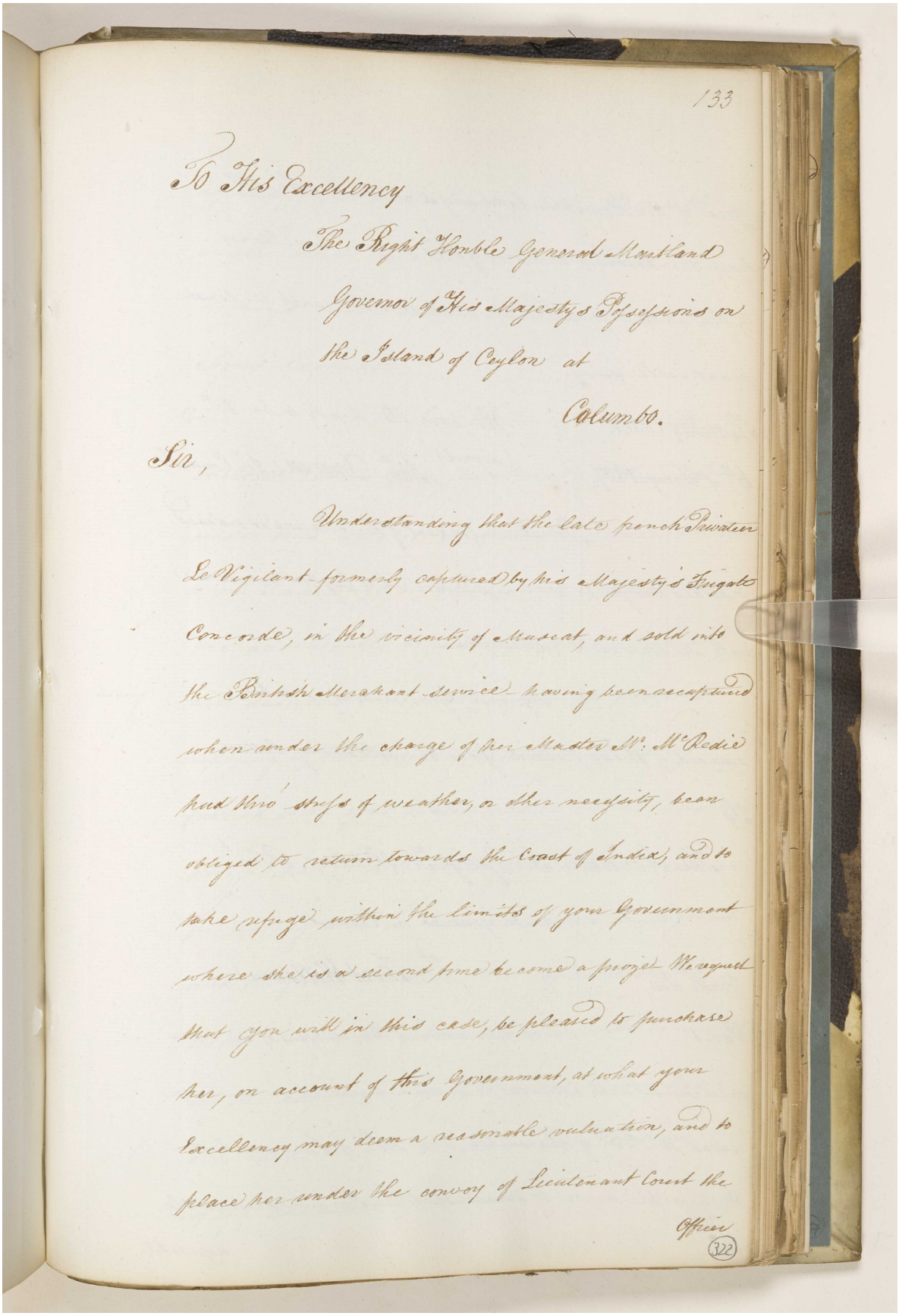

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To His Excellency

The Right Honble General Maitland

Governor of His Majesty's Possessions on

the Island of Ceylon at

Columbo.

Sir,

Understanding that the late french Privateer

Le Vigilant formerly captured by his Majesty's Frigate

Concorde, in the vicinity of Muscat, and sold into

the British Merchant service having been recaptured

when under the charge of her Master Mr. McRedie

had thro' stress of weather, or other necessity, been

obliged to return towards the Coast of India, and to

take refuge within the limits of your Government

where she is a second time become a prize We request

that you will in this case, be pleased to purchase

her, on account of this Government, at what your

Excellency may deem a reasonable valuation, and to

place her under the convoy of Lieutenant Court the

Officer

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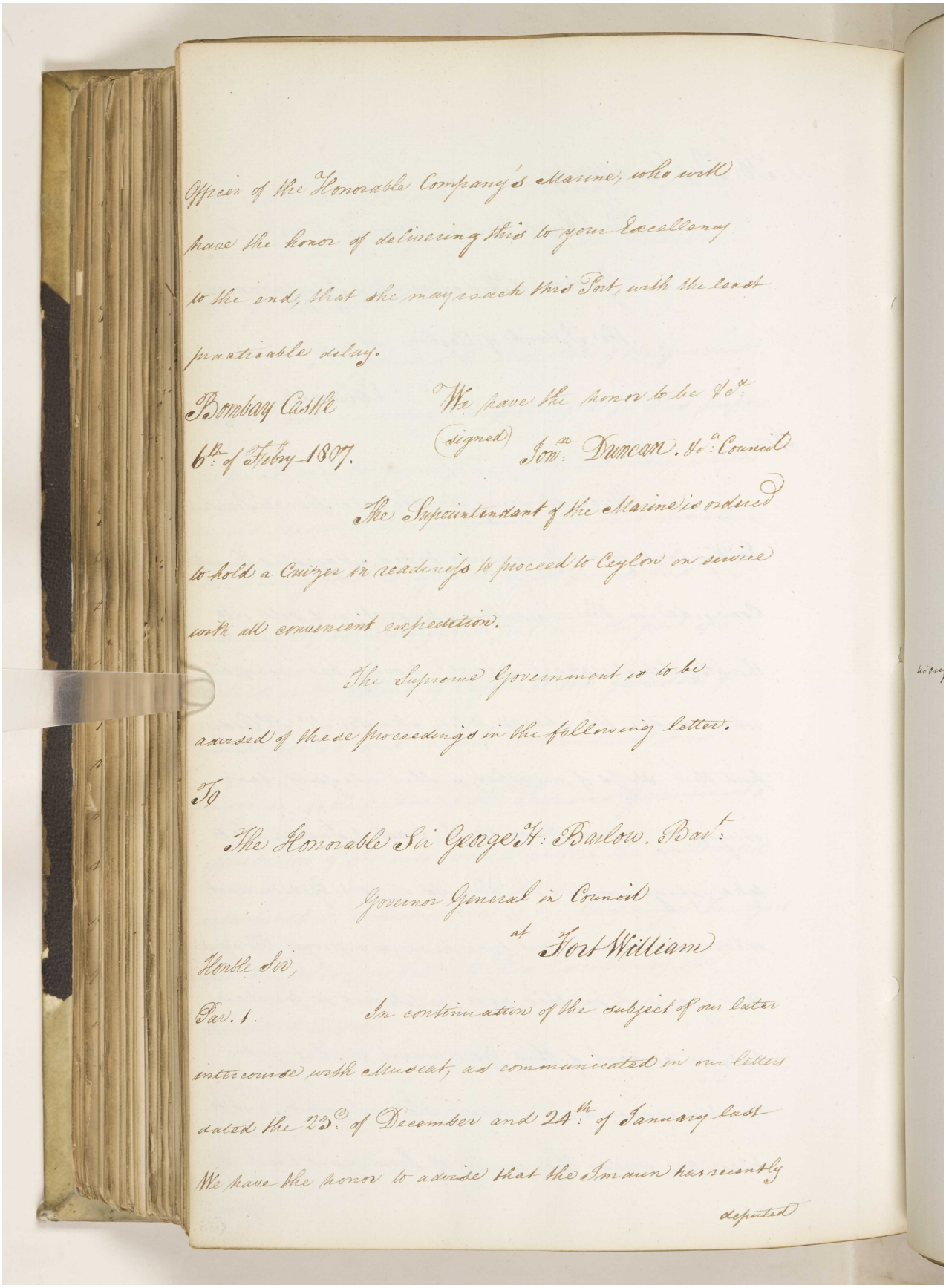

Officer of the Honorable Company's Marine, who will have the honor of delivering this to your Excellency to the end, that she may reach this Port, with the least practicable delay.

Bombay Castle
6th of Feby 1807.

We have the honor to be &c.
(signed) Jon.a Duncan. &c.a Council

The Superintendant of the Marine is ordered to hold a Cruizer in readiness to proceed to Ceylon on service with all convenient expedition.

The Supreme Government is to be advised of these proceedings in the following letter.

To
The Honorable Sir George H. Barlow. Bar.t
Governor General in Council
at Fort William

Hon.ble Sir,

Par. 1. In continuation of the subject of our later intercourse with Muscat, as communicated in our letters dated the 23.d of December and 24.th of January last We have the honor to advise that the Imaum has recently deputed

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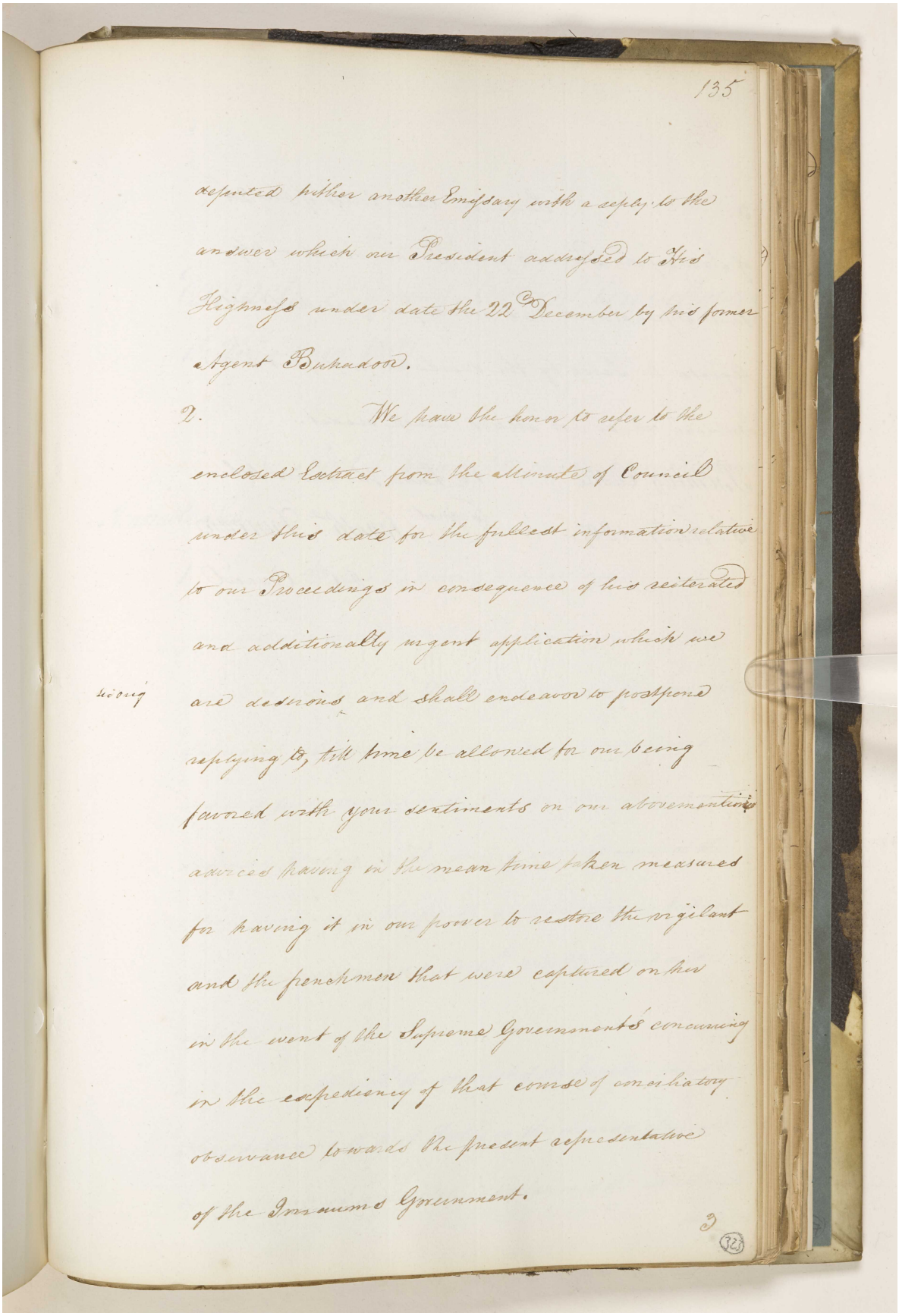

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deputed hither another Emissary with a reply to the
answer which our President addressed to His
Highness under date the 22d December by his former
Agent Buhadoor.

2. We have the honor to refer to the
enclosed Extract from the Minute of Council
under this date for the fullest information relative
to our Proceedings in consequence of his reiterated
and additionally urgent application which we
are desirous and shall endeavour to postpone
replying to, till time be allowed for our being
favored with your sentiments on our abovementioned
advices having in the mean time taken measures
for having it in our power to restore the Vigilant
and the Penchmen that were captured on her
in the event of the Supreme Government's concurring
in the expediency of that course of conciliatory
observance towards the present representative
of the Imaums Government.

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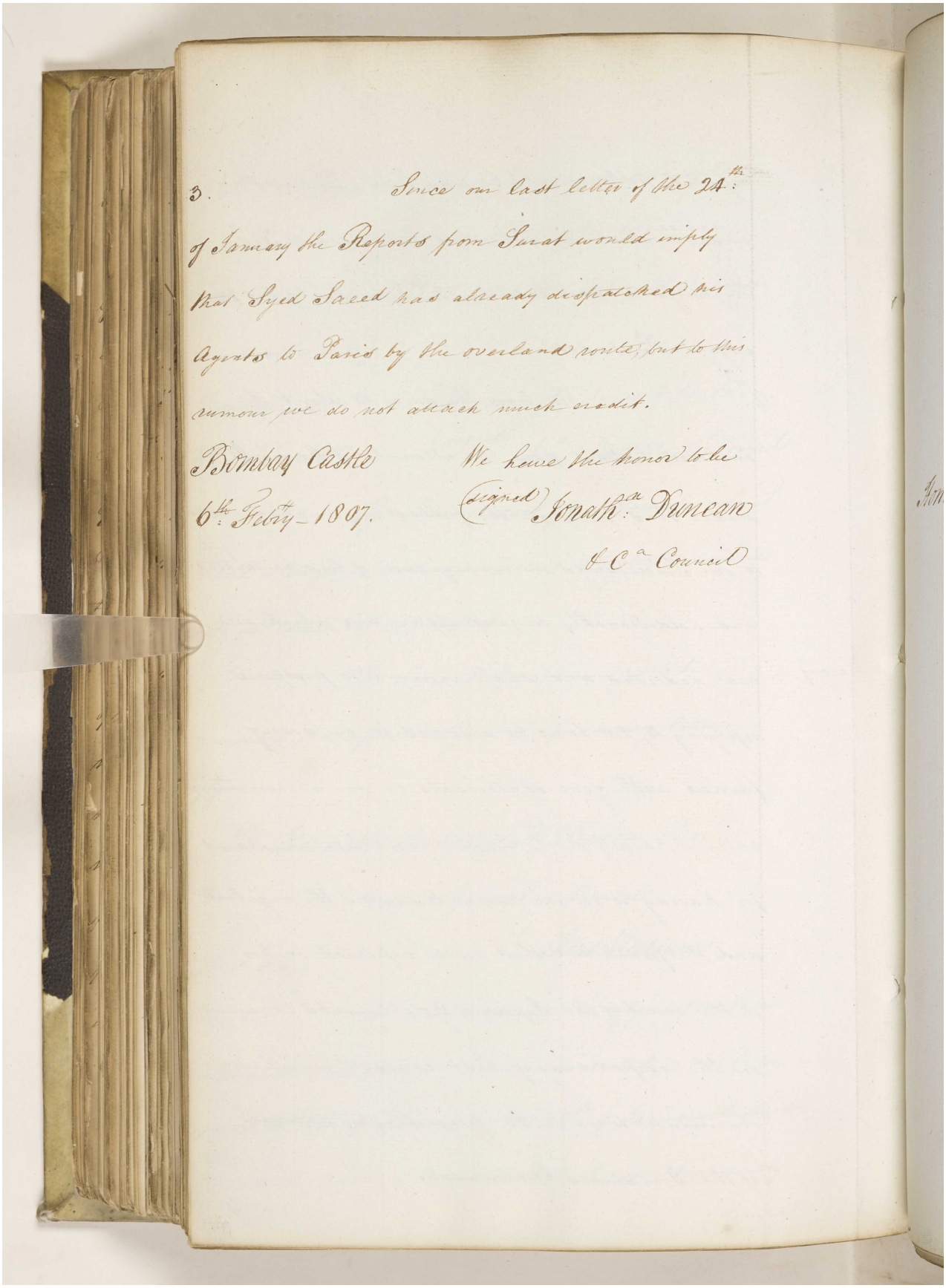

3. Since our last letter of the 24th. of January the Reports from Surat would imply that Syed Saeed has already dispatched his Agents to Paris by the overland route, but to this rumour we do not attach much credit.

Bombay Castle
6th. Febry. 1807.

We have the honor to be
(signed) Jonath.a Duncan
& Co.a Council

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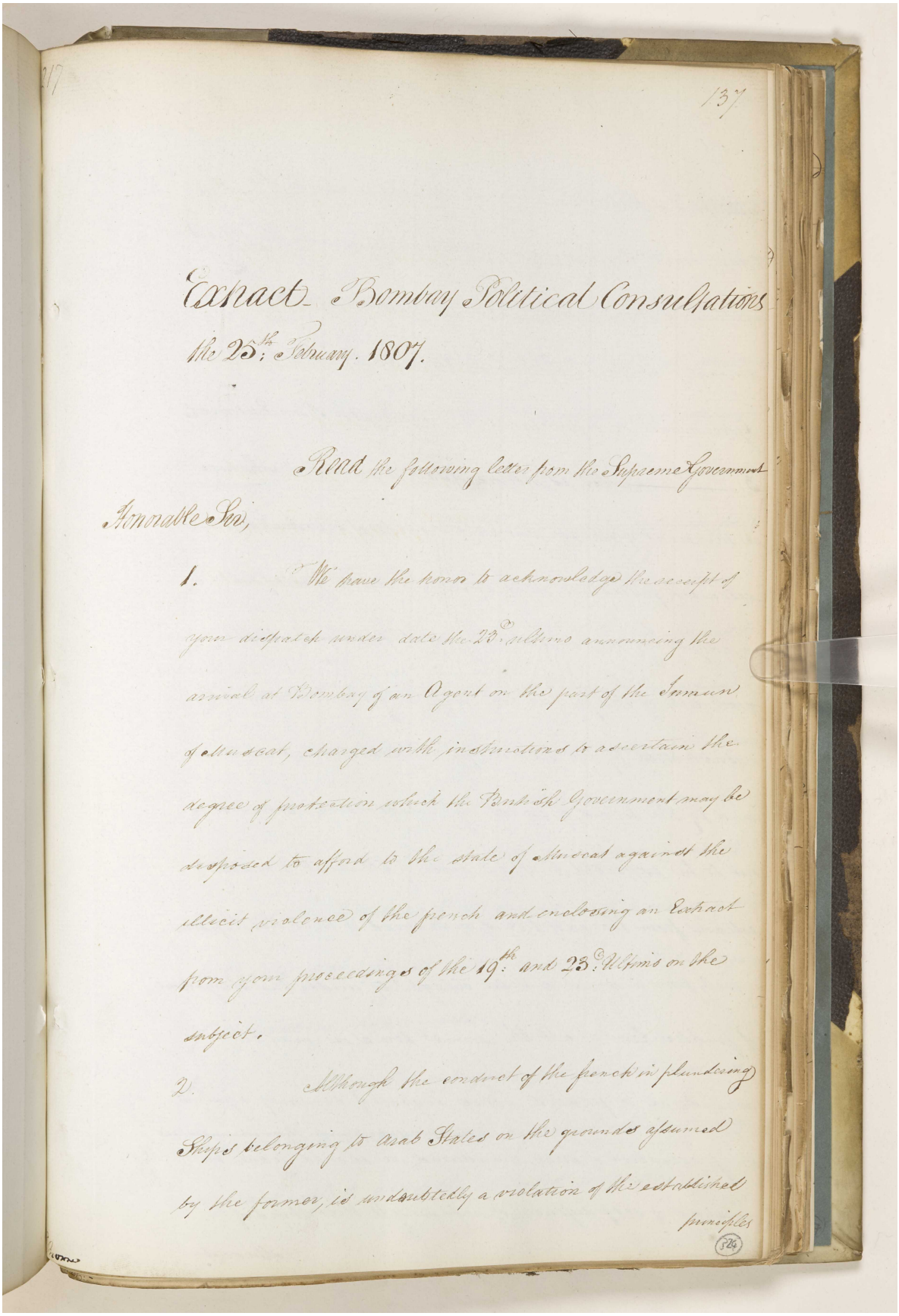

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Exract Bombay Political Consultations
the 25th: February. 1807.

Read the following letter from the Supreme Government

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 23d: ultimo announcing the arrival at Bombay of an Agent on the part of the Imaum of Muscat, charged with instructions to ascertain the degree of protection which the British Government may be disposed to afford to the state of Muscat against the illicit violence of the french and enclosing an Extract from your proceedings of the 19th: and 23d: Ultimo on the subject.

2. Although the conduct of the french in plundering Ships belonging to Arab States on the grounds assumed by the former, is undoubtedly a violation of the established principles

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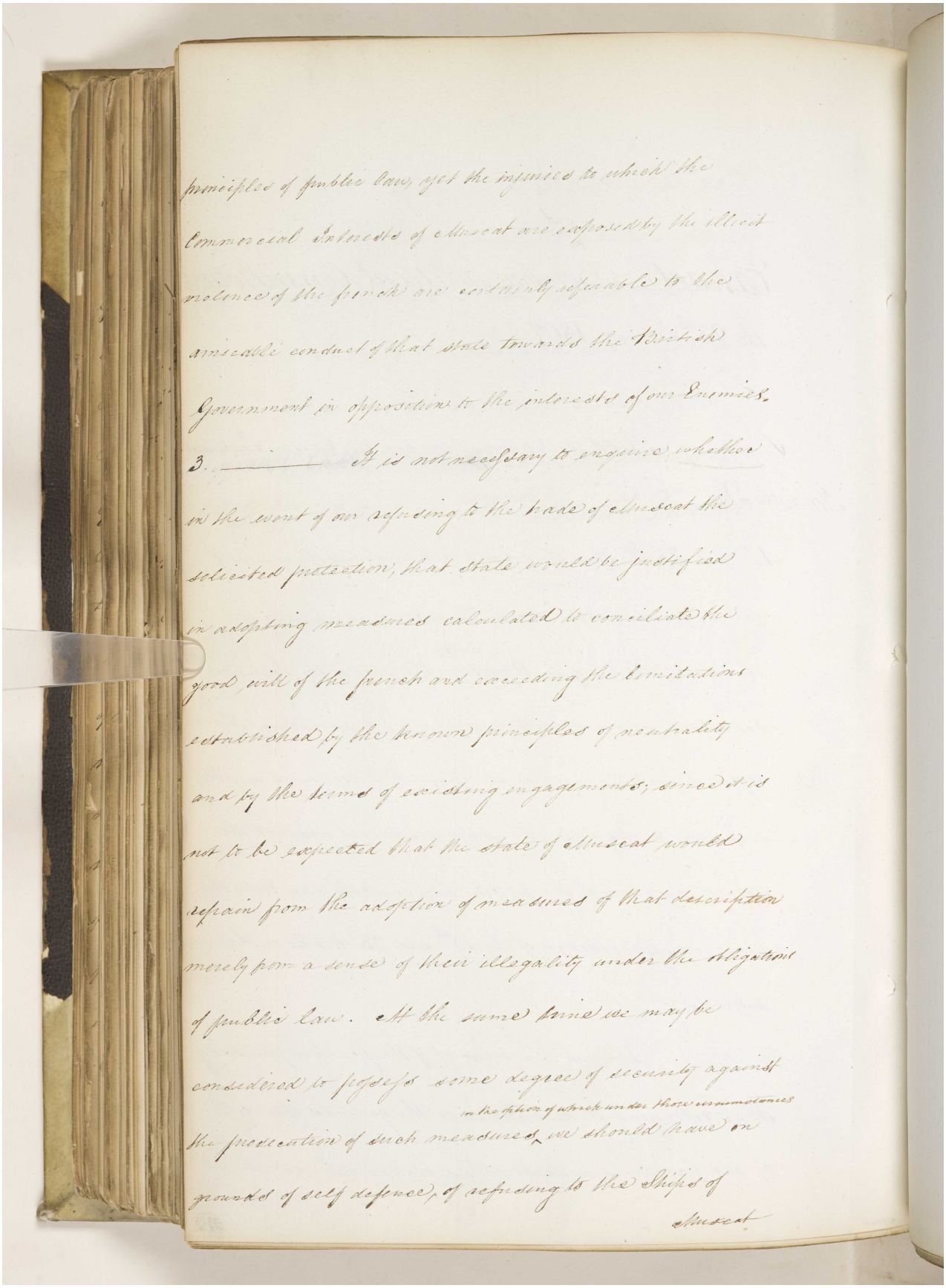

principles of public law, yet the injuries to which the
Commercial Interests of Muscat are exposed by the illicit
violence of the French are certainly reparable to the
amicable conduct of that State towards the British
Government in opposition to the interests of our Enemies.
3. ——— It is not necessary to enquire whether
in the event of our refusing to the trade of Muscat the
solicited protection, that State would be justified
in adopting measures calculated to conciliate the
good will of the French and exceeding the limitations
established by the known principles of neutrality
and by the terms of existing engagements; since it is
not to be expected that the State of Muscat would
refrain from the adoption of measures of that description
merely from a sense of their illegality under the obligations
of public law. At the same time we may be
considered to possess some degree of security against
the provocation of such measures, in the option of which under those circumstances
we should have on
grounds of self defence, of refusing to the Ships of
Muscat

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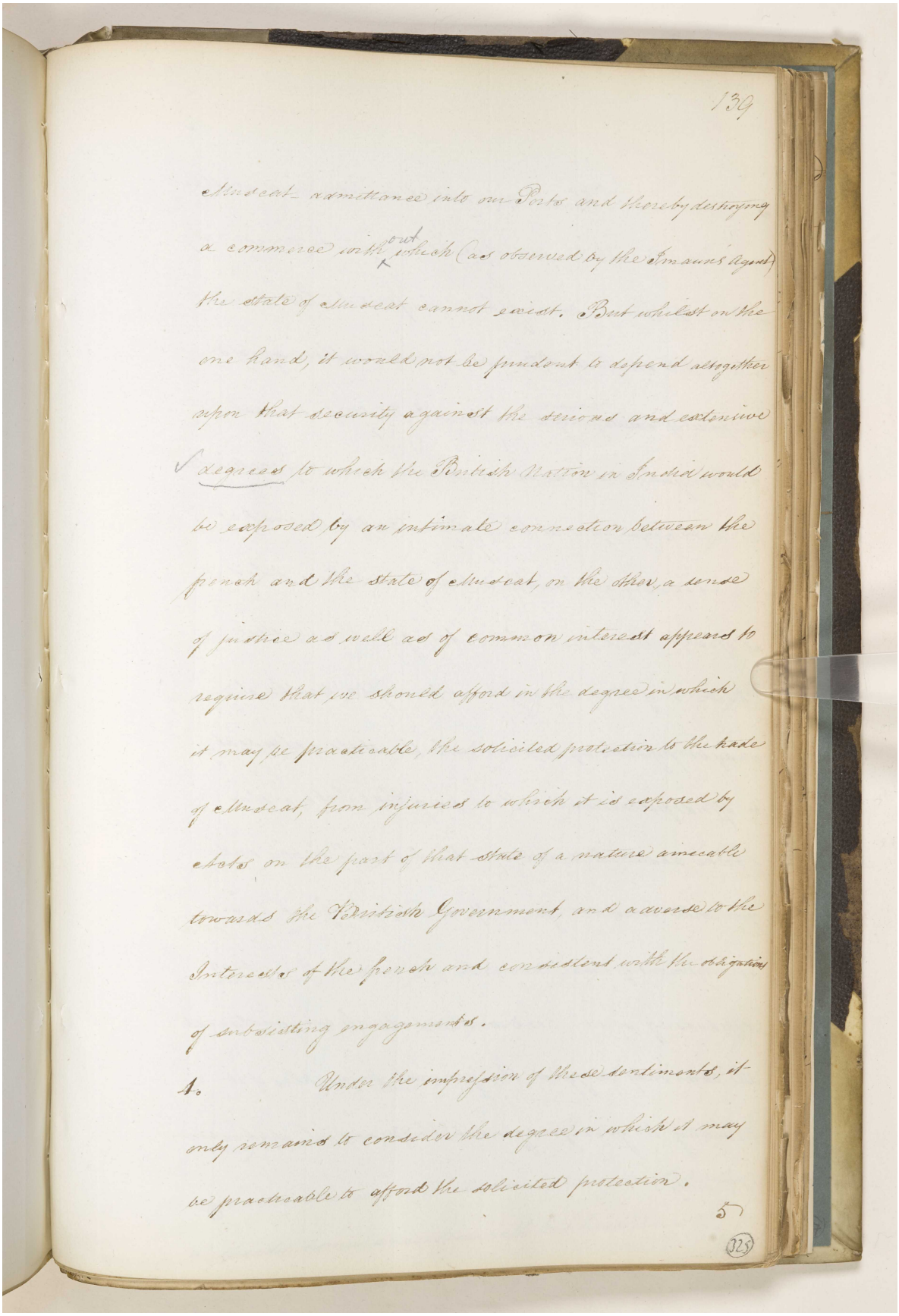

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Muscat admittance into our Ports and thereby destroying our commerce with which (as observed by the Imaum's Agent) the state of Muscat cannot exist. But whilst on the one hand, it would not be prudent to depend altogether upon that security against the serious and extensive degrees to which the British Nation in India would be exposed by an intimate connection between the French and the State of Muscat, on the other, a sense of justice as well as of common interest appears to require that we should afford in the degree in which it may be practicable, the solicited protection to the State of Muscat, from injuries to which it is exposed by acts on the part of that State of a nature amicable towards the British Government, and adverse to the Interests of the French and consistent with the obligations of subsisting engagements.

4. Under the impression of these sentiments, it only remains to consider the degree in which it may be practicable to afford the solicited protection.

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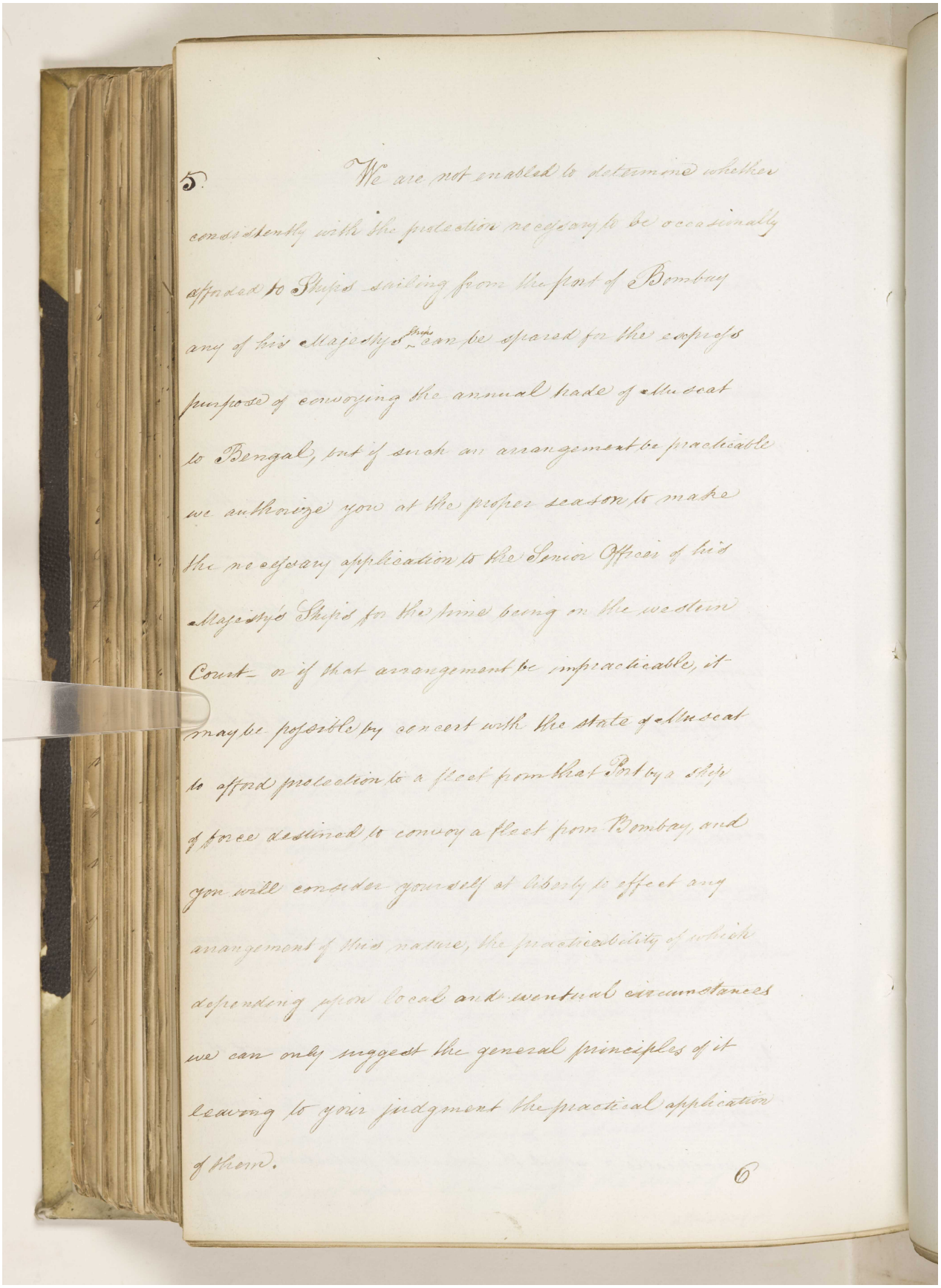

5. We are not enabled to determine whether consistently with the protection necessary to be occasionally afforded to Ships sailing from the Port of Bombay any of his Majesty's Ships can be spared for the express purpose of convoying the annual trade of Muscat to Bengal, but if such an arrangement be practicable we authorize you at the proper season to make the necessary application to the Senior Officer of his Majesty's Ships for the time being on the western Coast — or if that arrangement be impracticable, it may be possible by concert with the State of Muscat to afford protection to a fleet from that Port by a Ship of force destined to convoy a fleet from Bombay, and you will consider yourself at liberty to effect any arrangement of this nature, the practicability of which depending upon local and eventual circumstances we can only suggest the general principles of it leaving to your judgment the practical application of them.

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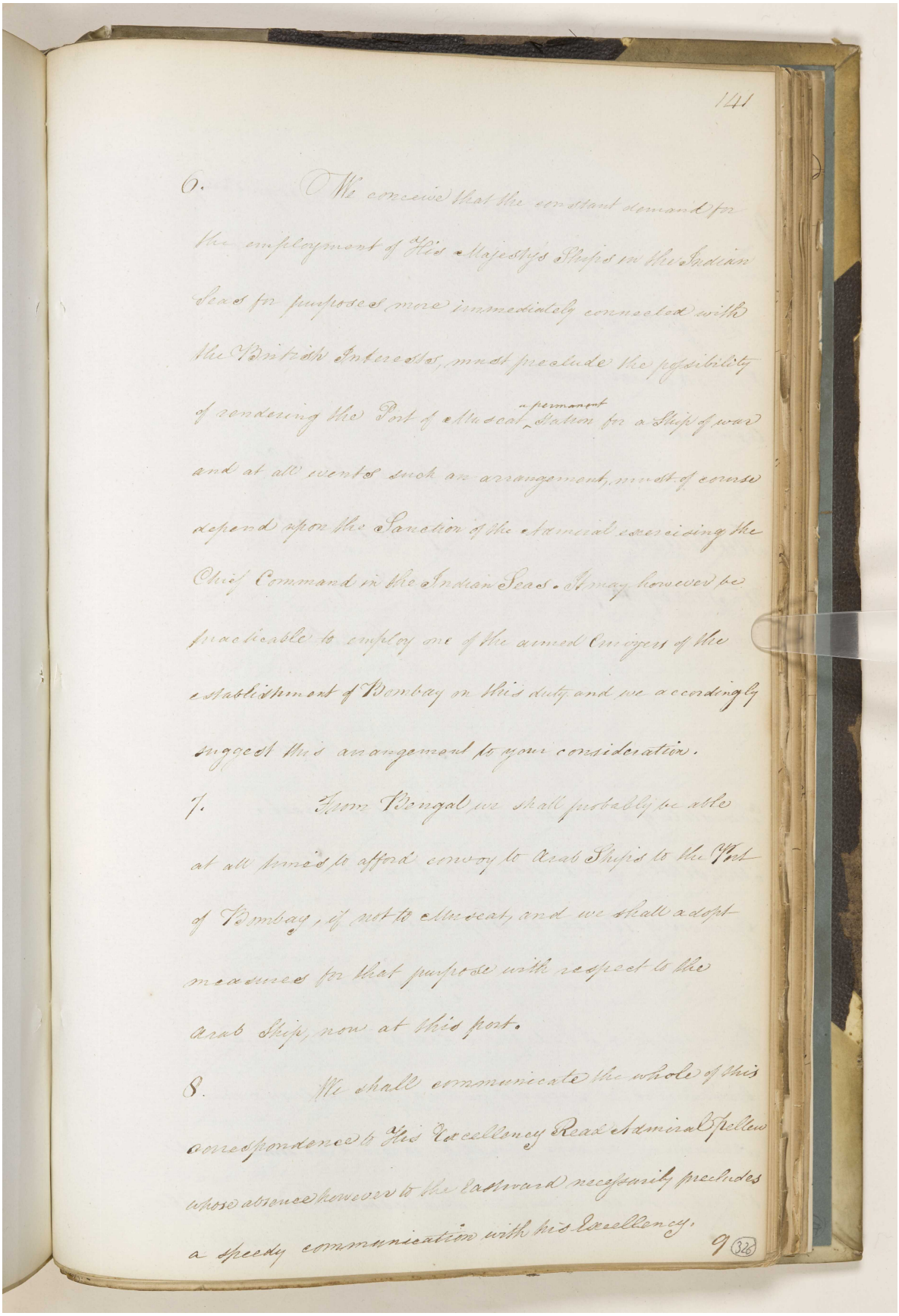

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6. We conceive that the constant demand for the employment of His Majesty's Ships in the Indian Seas for purposes more immediately connected with the British Interests, must preclude the possibility of rendering the Port of Muscat a permanent Station for a Ship of war and at all events such an arrangement, must of course depend upon the Sanction of the Admiral exercising the Chief Command in the Indian Seas. It may however be practicable to employ one of the armed Cruizers of the establishment of Bombay on this duty and we accordingly suggest this arrangement to your consideration.

7. From Bengal we shall probably be able at all times to afford convoy to Arab Ships to the Port of Bombay, if not to Muscat, and we shall adopt measures for that purpose with respect to the Arab Ship now at this port.

8. We shall communicate the whole of this correspondence to His Excellency Rear Admiral Pellew whose absence however to the Eastward necessarily precludes a speedy communication with his Excellency.

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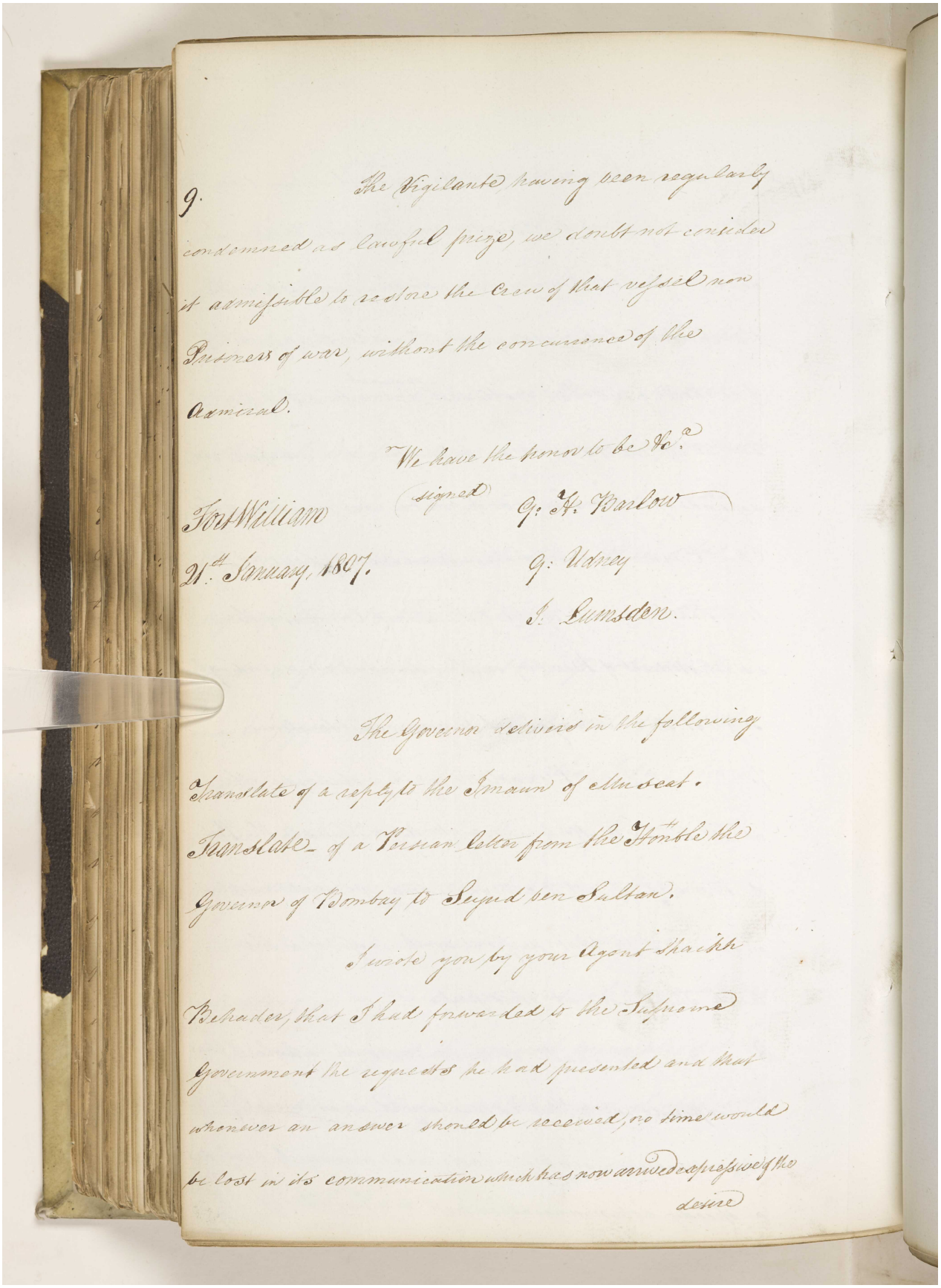

9. The Vigilante having been regularly condemned as Lawful prize, we doubt not consider it admissible to restore the Crew of that vessel now Prisoners of war, without the concurrence of the Admiral.

We have the honor to be &c.

Fort William
21st January 1807.

(signed) G. H. Barlow
G. Udney
J. Dumsden.

The Governor desiring in the following Translate of a reply to the Imaum of Muscat.

Translate of a Persian letter from the Honble the Governor of Bombay to Seyed ben Sultan.

I wrote you by your Agent Shaikh Behadur, that I had forwarded to the Supreme Government the requests he had presented and that whenever an answer should be received, no time would be lost in its communication which has now arrived expressive of the desire

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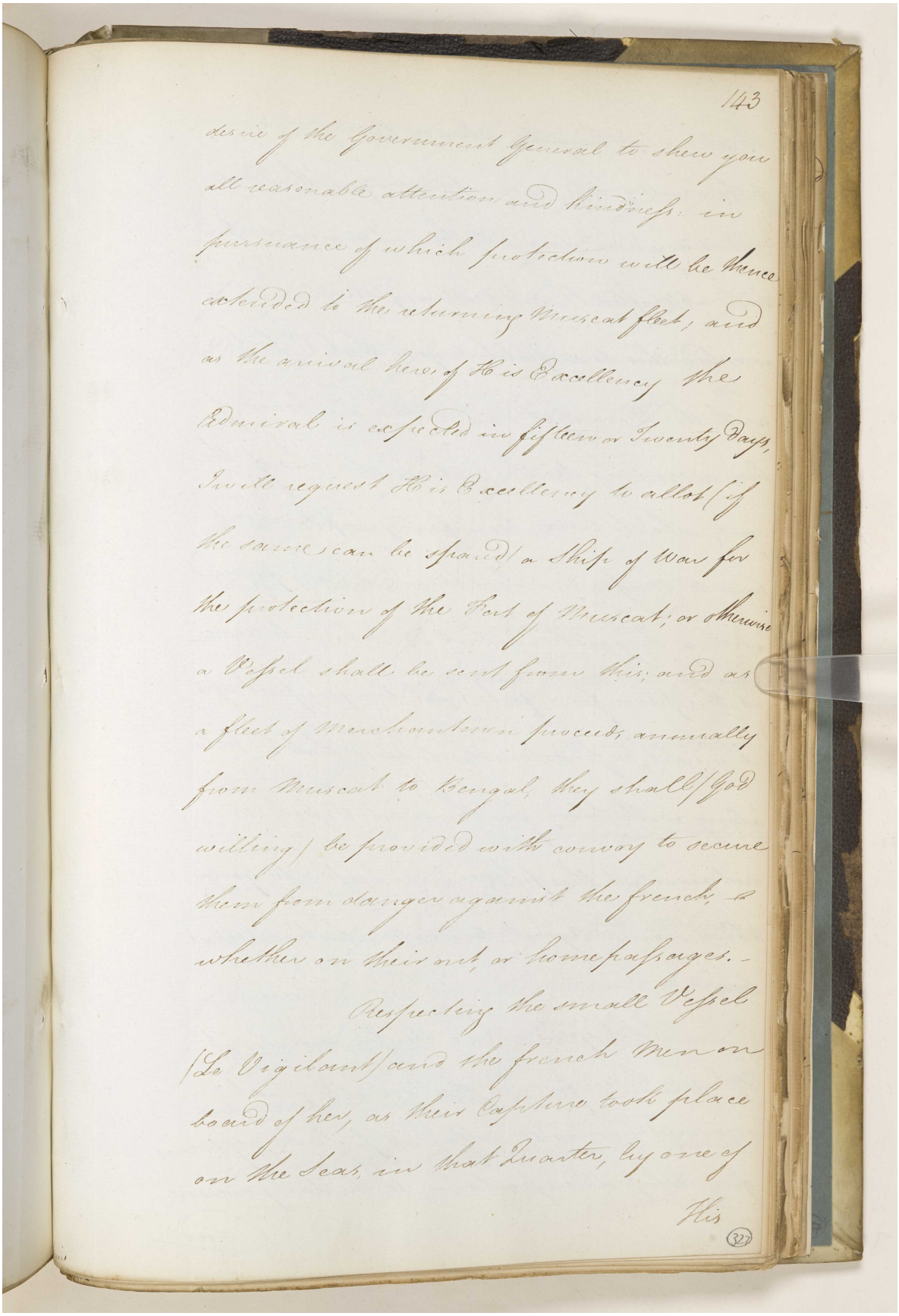

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desire of the Government General to shew you
all reasonable attention and kindness: in
pursuance of which protection will be thence
extended to the returning Muscat fleet, and
as the arrival here of His Excellency the
Admiral is expected in fifteen or twenty Days,
I write request His Excellency to allot (if
the same can be spared) a Ship of War for
the protection of the Port of Muscat; or otherwise
a Vessel shall be sent from this; and as
a fleet of Merchantmen proceeds annually
from Muscat to Bengal, they shall (God
willing) be provided with convoy to secure
them from danger against the French, &
whether on their out, or home passages. -

Respecting the small Vessel
(La Vigilant) and the french Men on
board of her, as their Capture took place
on the Seas, in that Quarter, by one of

His

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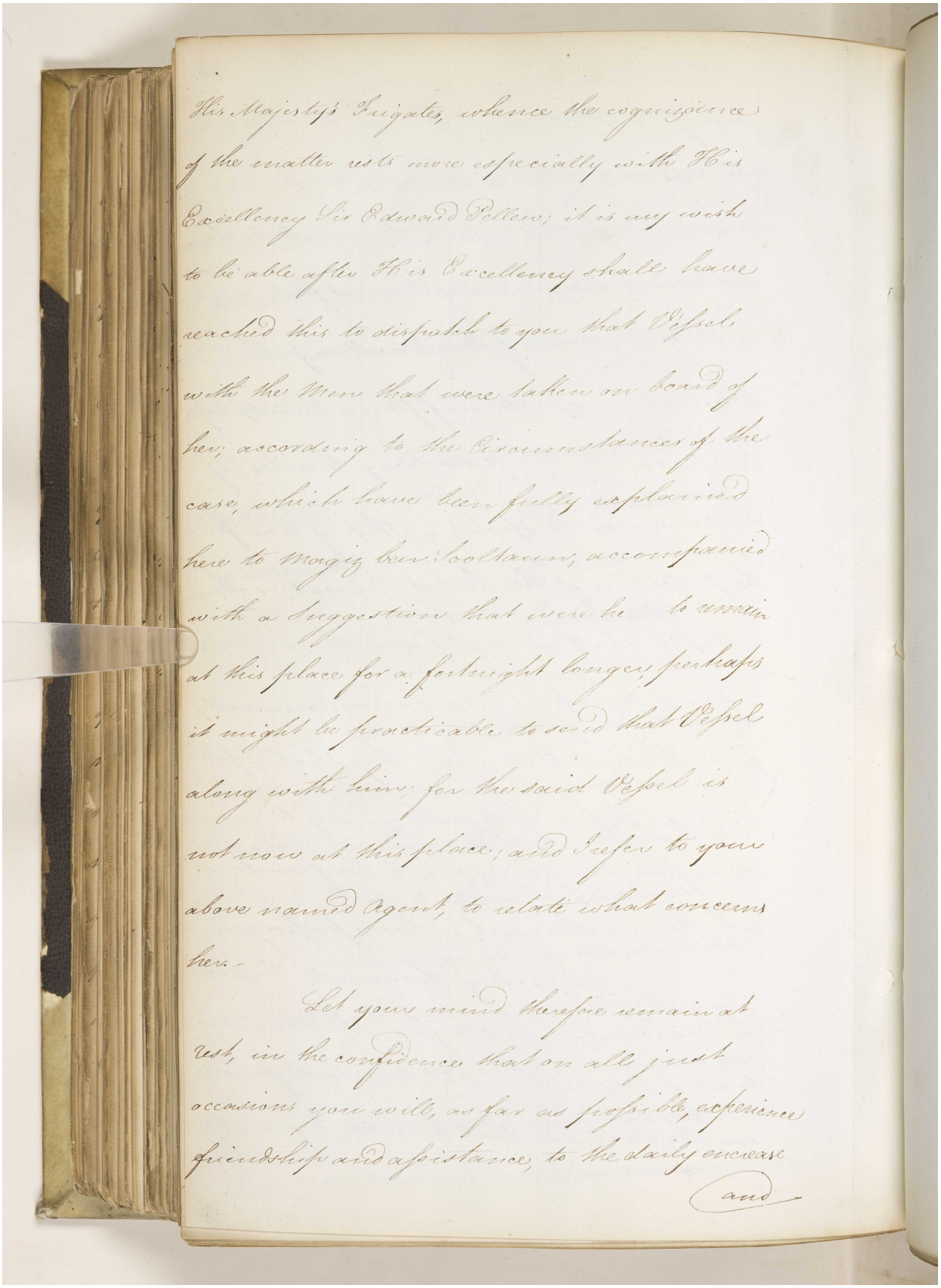

His Majesty's Frigate, whence the cognizance of the matter rests more especially with His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew, it is my wish to be able after His Excellency shall have reached this to dispatch to you that Vessel with the Men that were taken on board of her, according to the Circumstances of the case, which have been fully explained here to Mogiz ben Sooltaun, accompanied with a Suggestion that were he to remain at this place for a fortnight longer, perhaps it might be practicable to send that Vessel along with him; for the said Vessel is not now at this place, and I refer to your above named Agent, to relate what concerns her.-

Let your mind therefore remain at rest, in the confidence that on all just occasions you will, as far as possible, experience friendship and assistance, to the daily encrease

and

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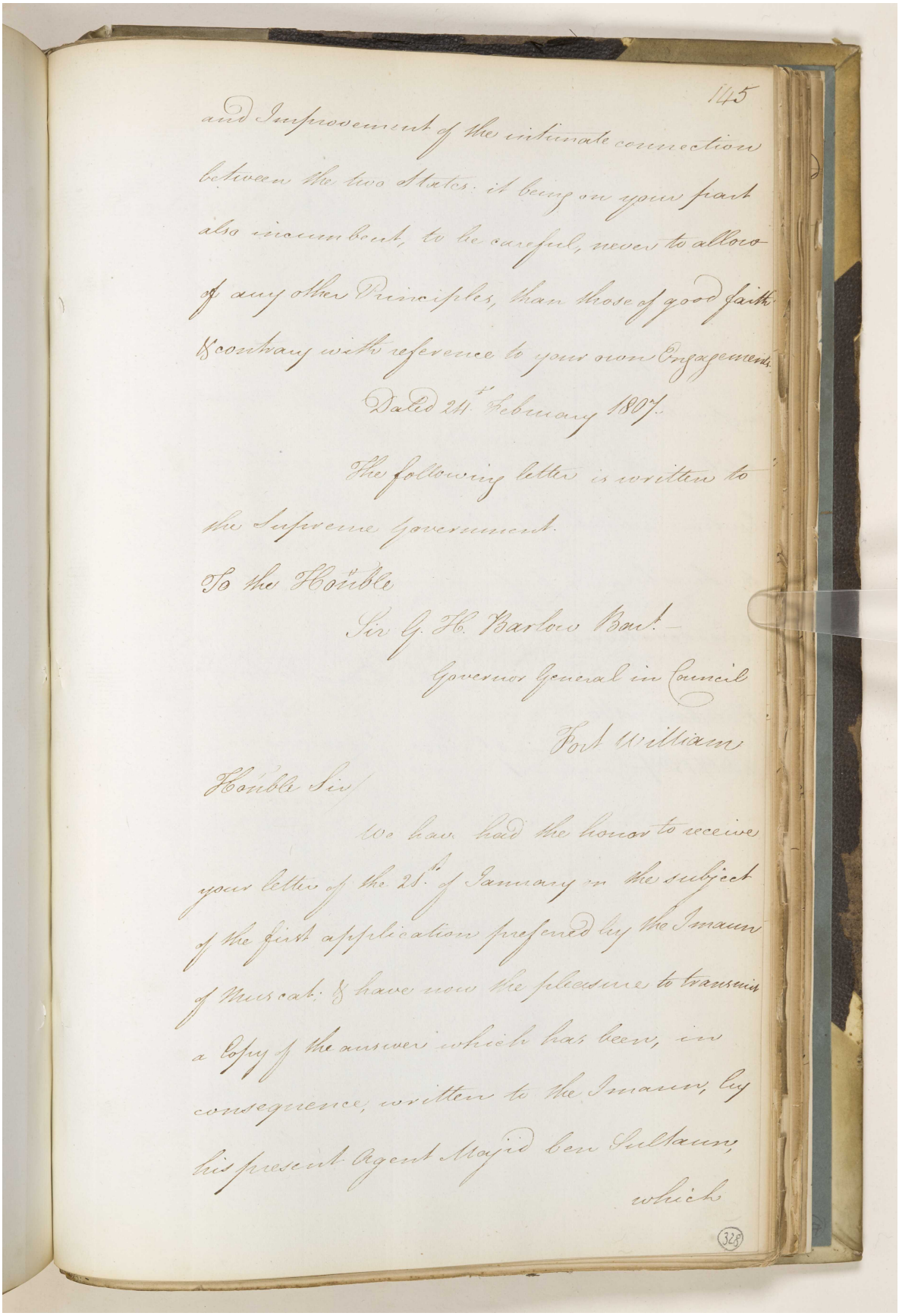

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and Improvement of the intimate connection
between the two States: it being on your part
also incumbent, to be careful, never to allow
of any other Principles, than those of good faith
& courtesy with reference to your own Engagements.

Dated 21st February 1807.

The following letter is written to
the Supreme Government.

To the Honble
Sir G. H. Barlow Bart.
Governor General in Council
Fort William

Honble Sir,

We have had the honor to receive
your letter of the 28th of January on the subject
of the first application preferred by the Imaum
of Muscat: & have now the pleasure to transmit
a Copy of the answer which has been, in
consequence, written to the Imaum, by
his present Agent Majid ben Sultaun,
which

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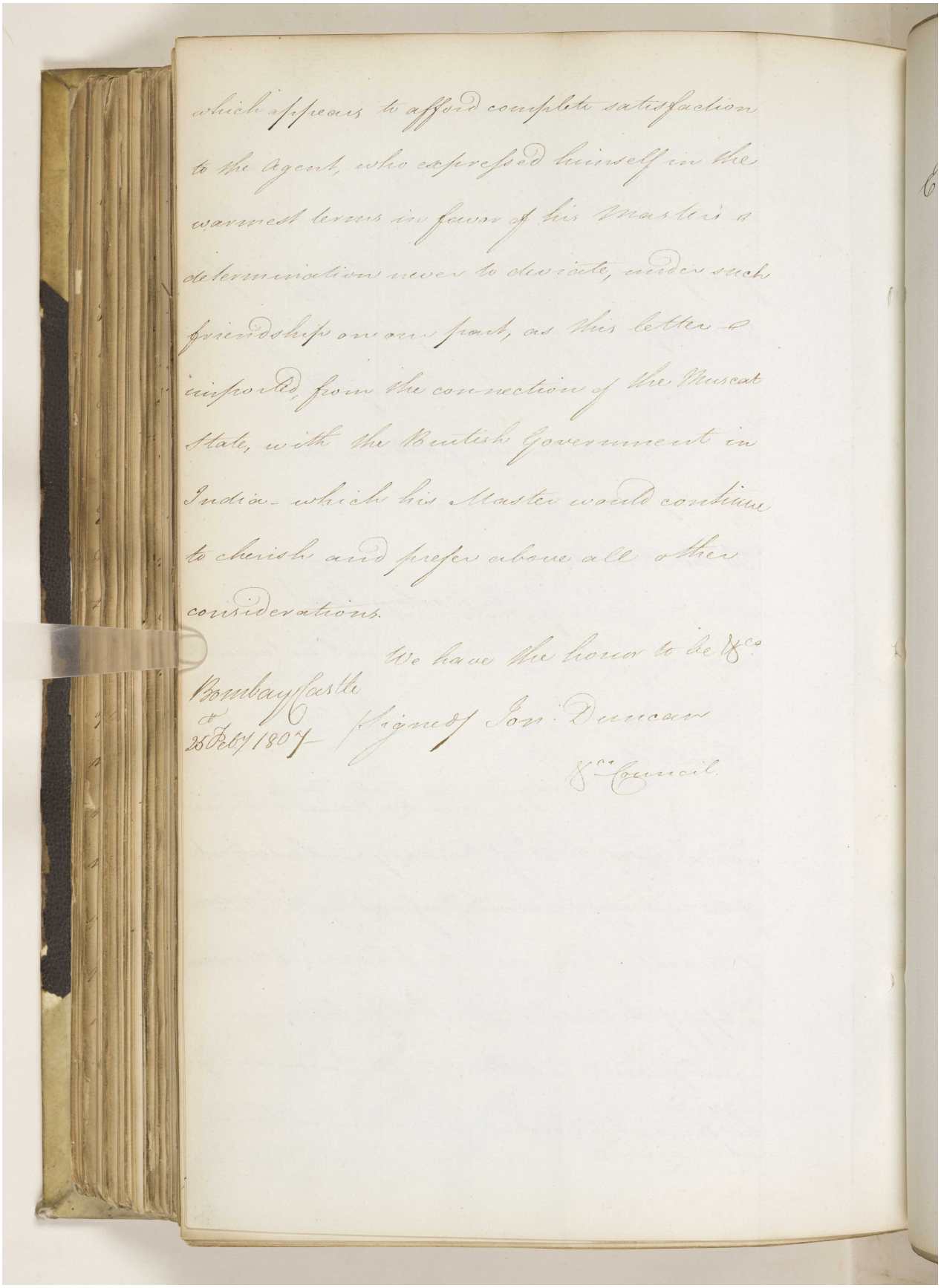

which appears to afford complete satisfaction to the Agent, who expressed himself in the warmest terms in favor of his Master's determination never to deviate, under such friendship on our part, as this letter is imported from the connection of the Muscat State, with the British Government in India - which his Master would continue to cherish and prefer above all other considerations.

We have the Honor to be &c.

Bombay Castle
25 Oct 1807

Signed Jon. Duncan
&c. Council.

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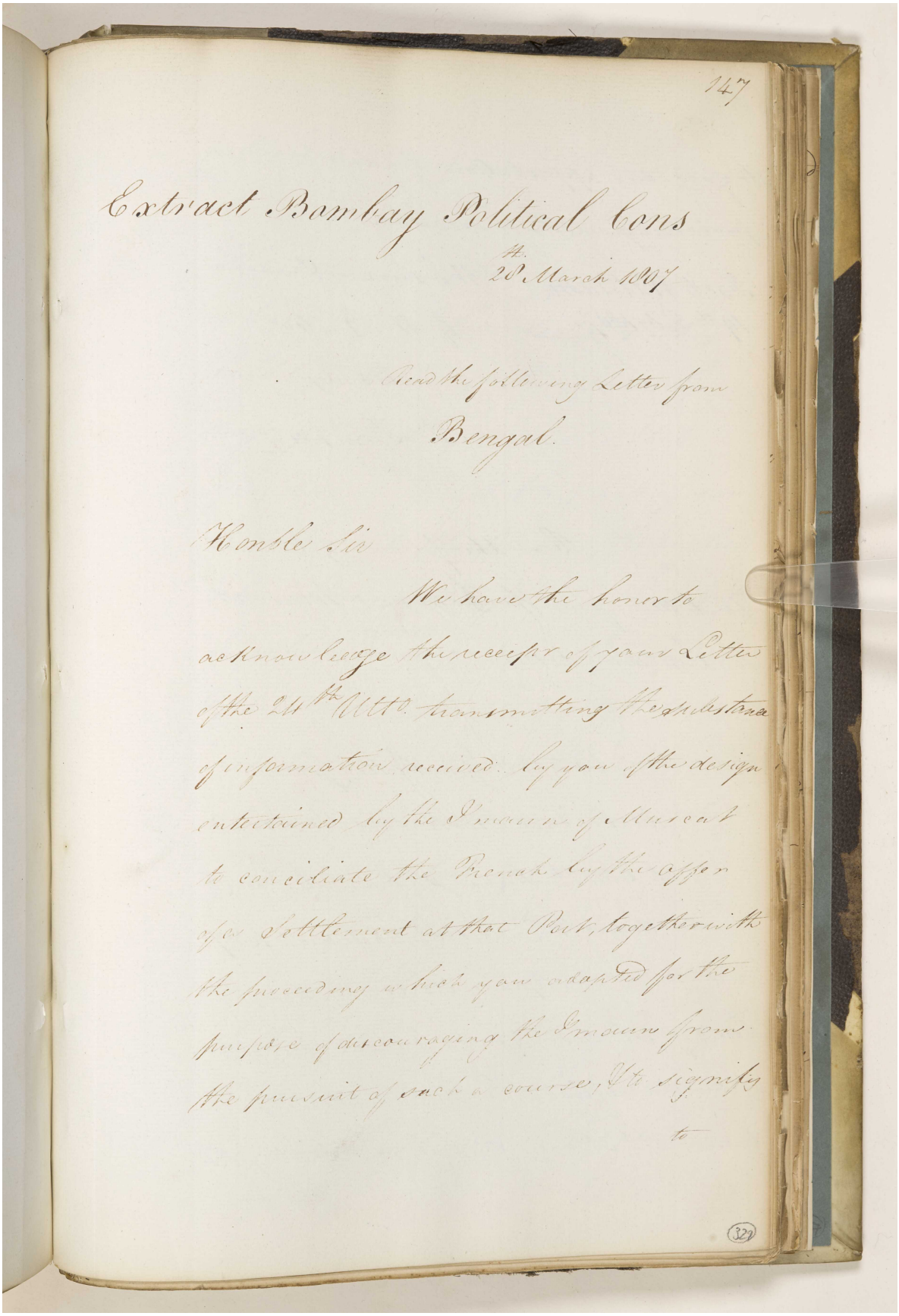

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Extract Bombay Political Cons

28 March 1807

Read the following Letter from Bengal.

Honble Sir

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 24th Ulto transmitting the substance of information received by you of the design entertained by the Imaum of Muscat to conciliate the French by the offer of a Settlement at that Port, together with the proceeding which you adopted for the purpose of discouraging the Imaum from the pursuit of such a course, & to signify to

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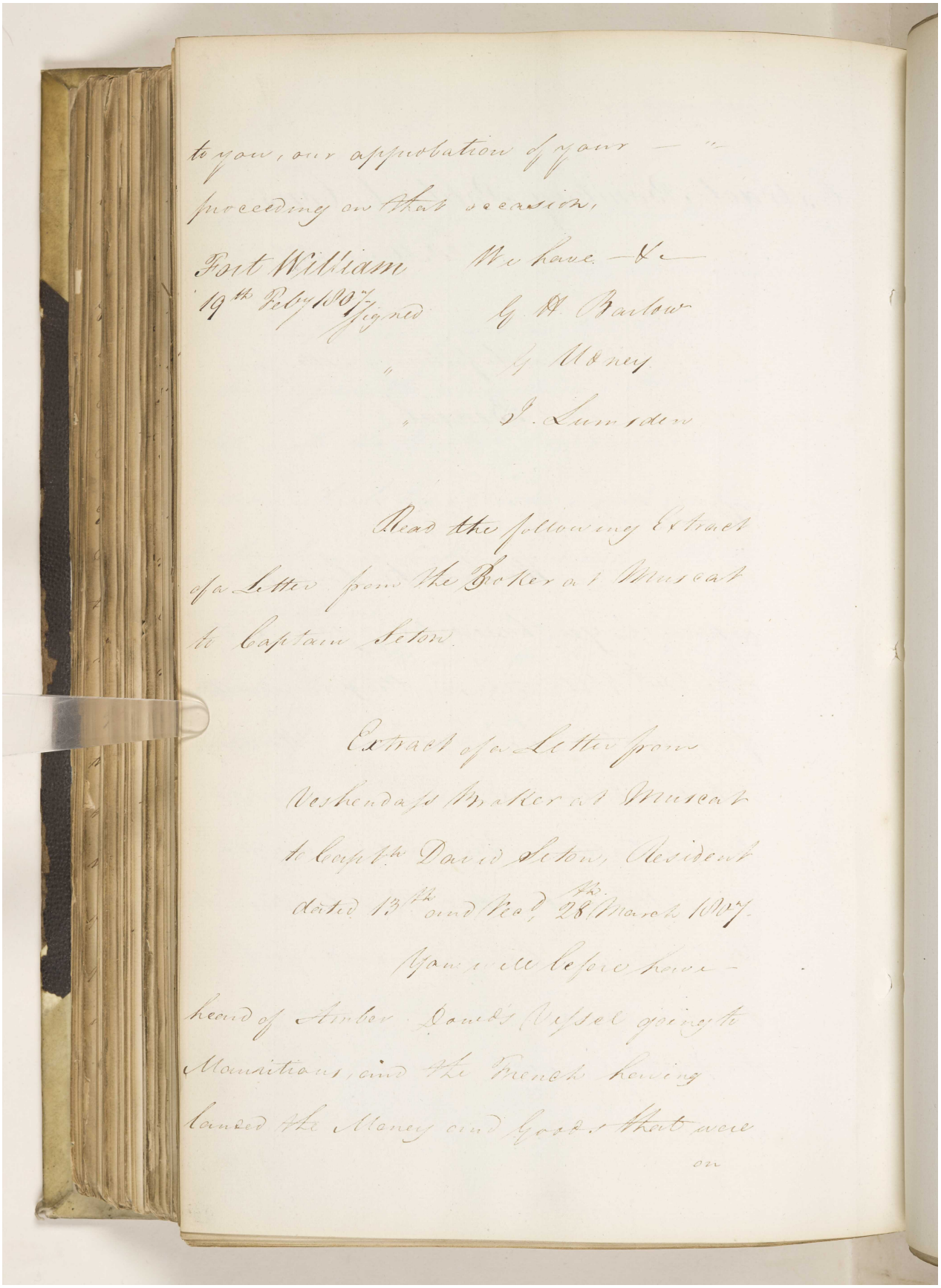

to you, our approbation of your — "
proceeding on that occasion,

Fort William
19th Feby 1807

We have &c
Signed G. H. Barlow
" G. Udney
" J. Lumsden

Read the following Extract of a Letter from the Broker at Muscat to Captain Seton.

Extract of a Letter from Veshendass Broker at Muscat to Captn David Seton, Resident dated 13th and Recd 28th March 1807.

You will before have heard of Amber Dowd's Vessel going to Mauritious, and the French having landed the Money and Goods that were on

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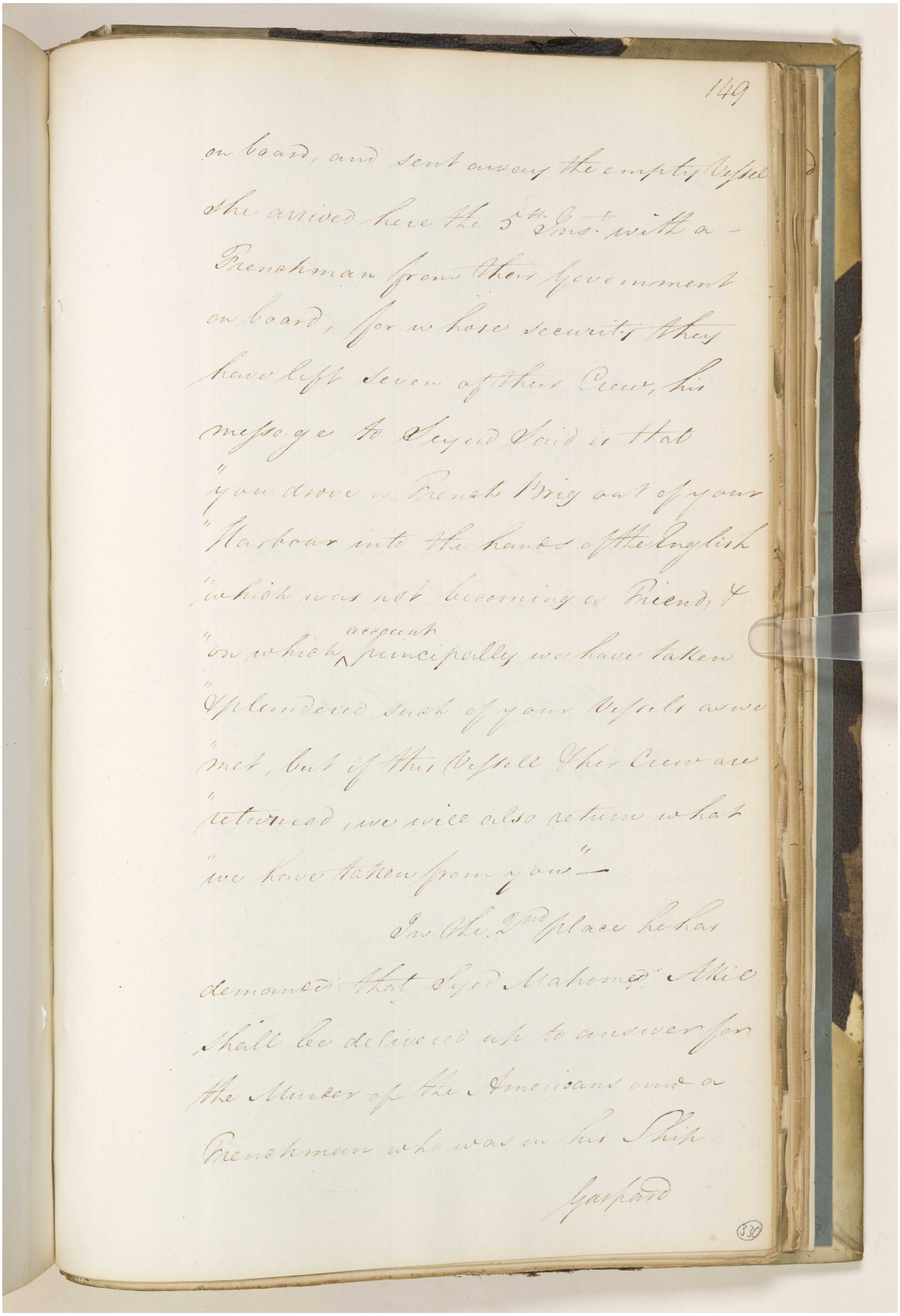

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on board, and sent away the empty Vessel
She arrived here the 5th Inst. with a
Frenchman from their Government
on board, for whose security they
have left seven of their Crew, his
message to Seyud Said is that
"you drove a French Brig out of your
"Harboar into the hands of the English
"which was not becoming a Friend, &
"on which account principally we have taken
"& plundered such of your Vessels as we
"met, but if this Vessel & her Crew are
"returned, we will also return what
"we have taken from you"

In the 2nd place he has
demanded that Syed Mahomed Alee
shall be delivered up to answer for
the Murder of the Americans and a
Frenchman who was on his Ship

Garland

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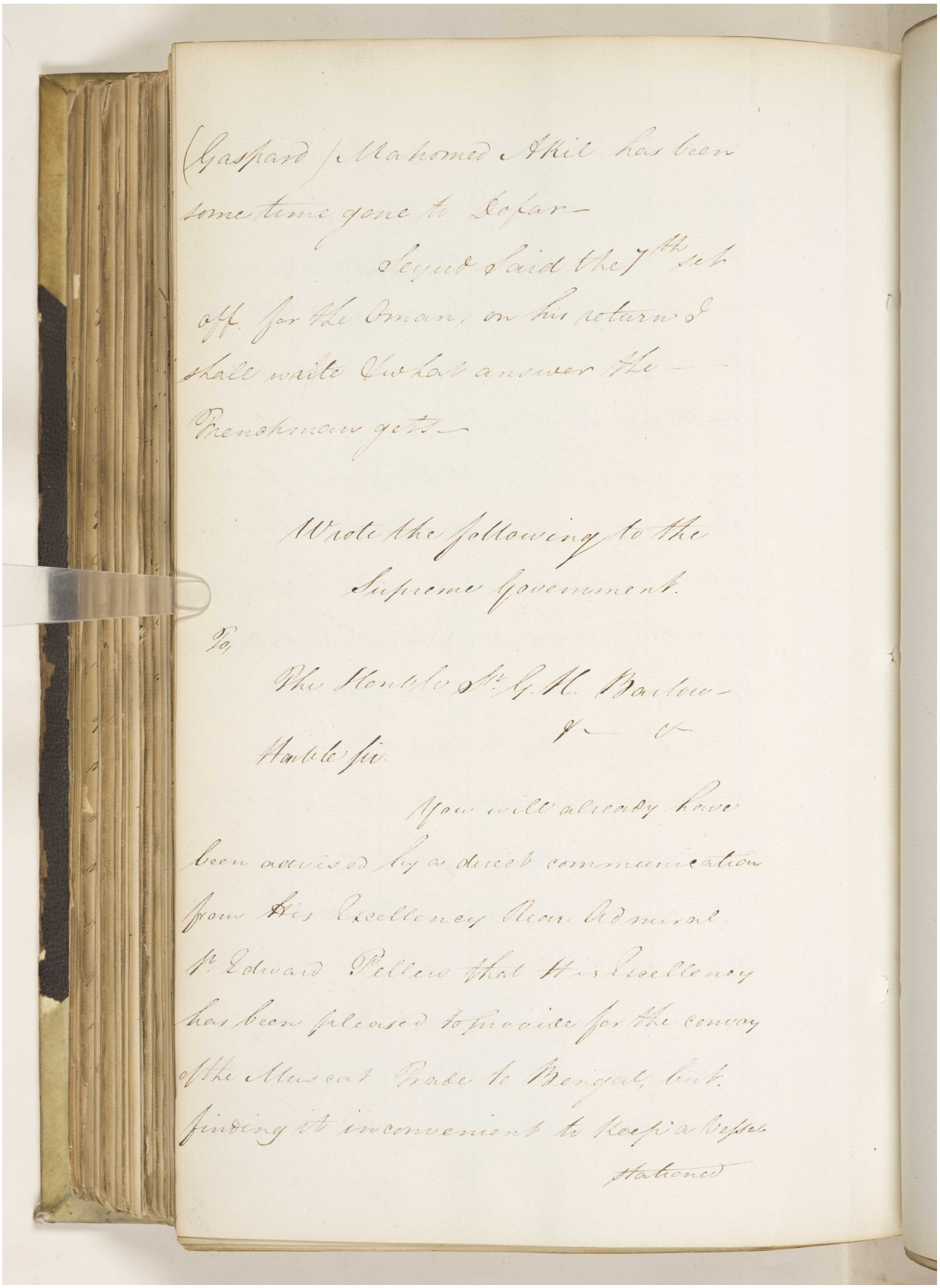

(Gaspard) Mahomed Akil has been some time gone to Dofar—

Seyud Said the 7th set off for the Oman, on his return I shall write & what answer the Frenchman gets—

Wrote the following to the Supreme Government.

To,

The Honble Sr. G. H. Barlow—
&c &c

Honble Sir.

You will already have been advised by a direct communication from His Excellency Rear Admiral Sr. Edward Pellew that His Excellency has been pleased to provide for the convoy of the Muscat Trade to Bengal, but finding it inconvenient to keep a Vessel stationed

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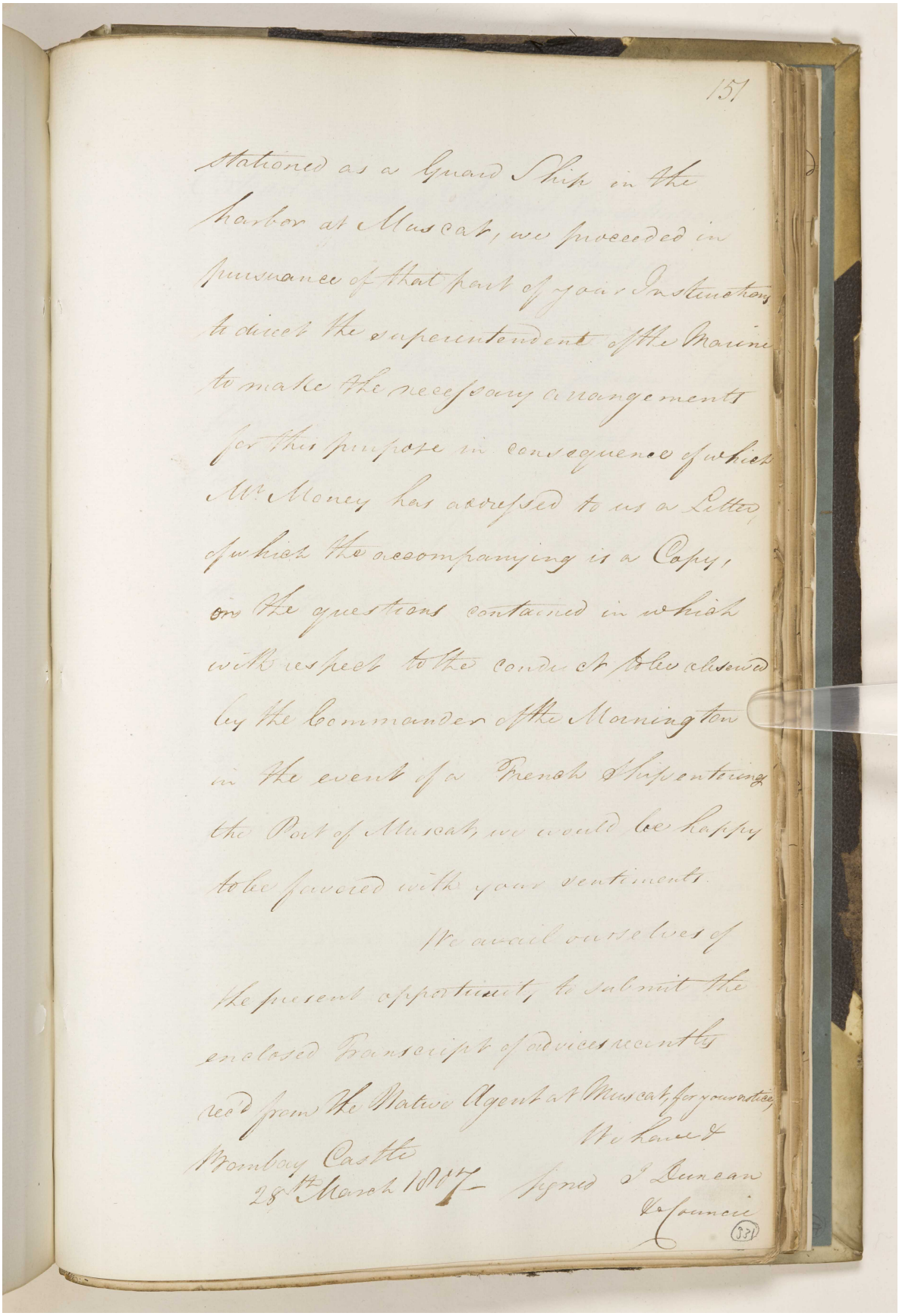

stationed as a Guard Ship in the harbor at Muscat, we proceeded in pursuance of that part of your Instructions to direct the superintendent of the Marine to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose in consequence of which Mr. Money has addressed to us a Letter, of which the accompanying is a Copy, on the questions contained in which with respect to the conduct to be observed by the Commander of the Mornington in the event of a French Ship entering the Port of Muscat, we would be happy to be favored with your sentiments.

We avail ourselves of the present opportunity, to submit the enclosed Transcript of advices recently rec'd from the Native Agent at Muscat, for your notice,

We have &

Bombay Castle
28th March 1807 —

Signed J. Duncan
& Council

(331)

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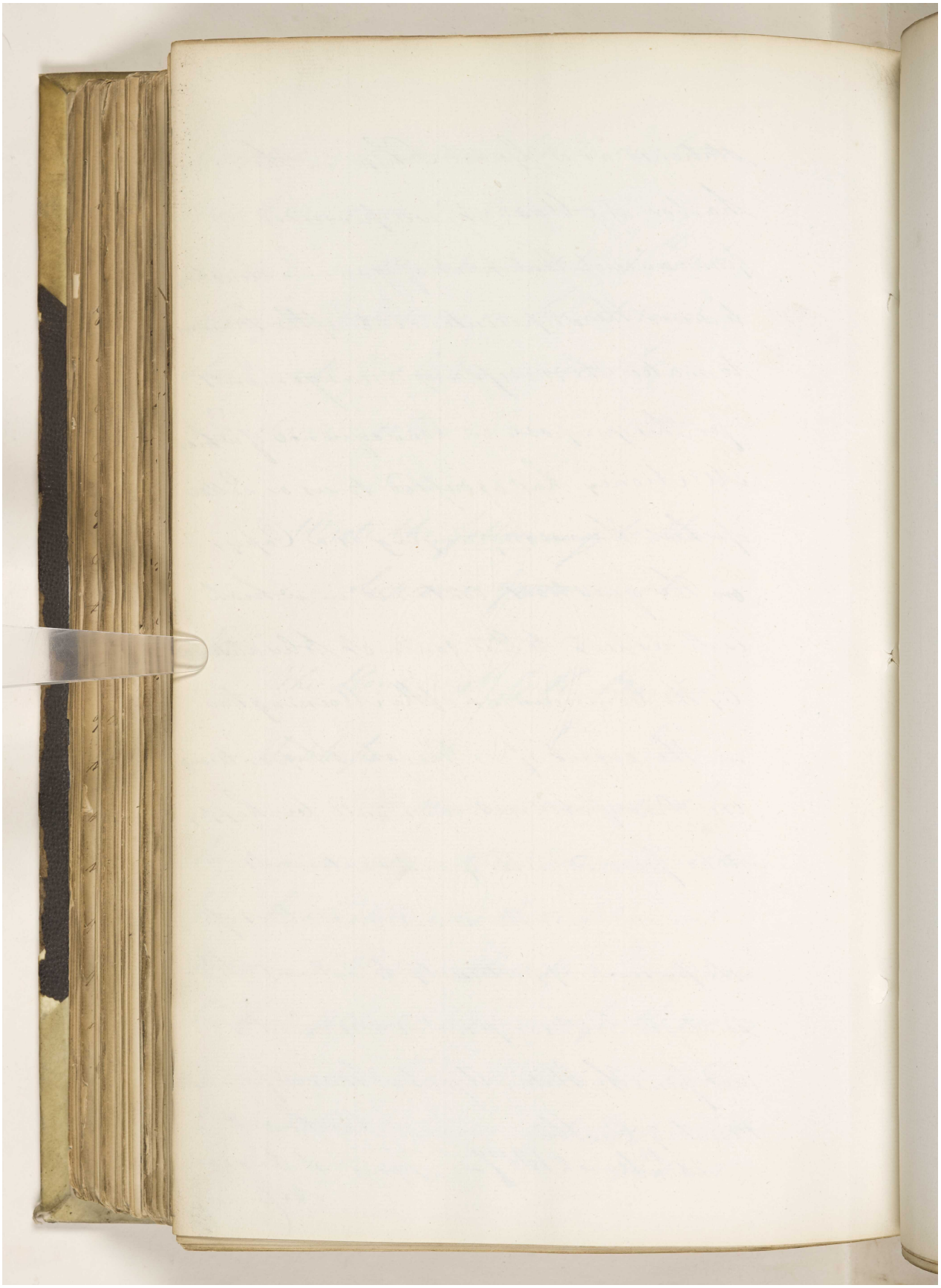

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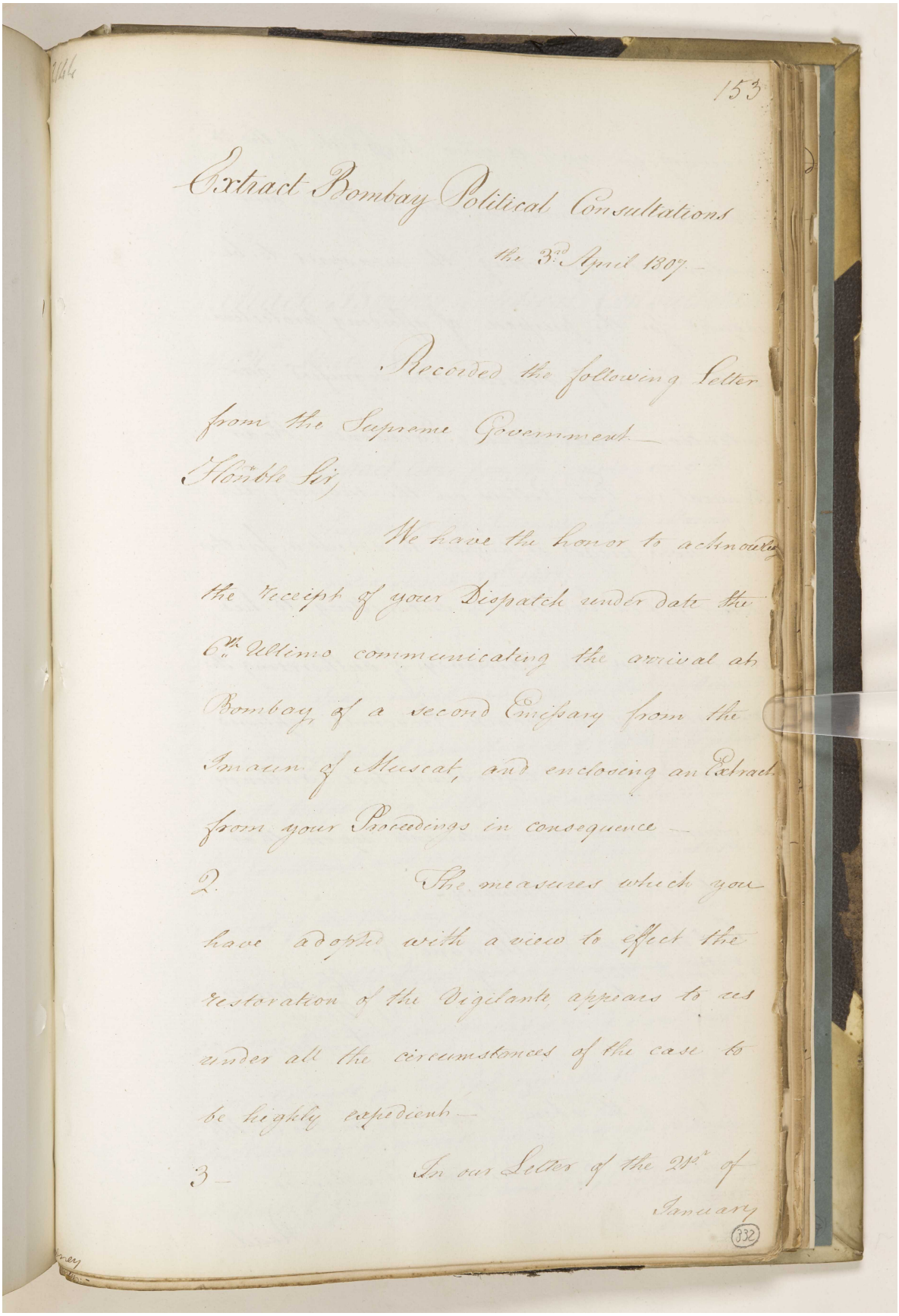

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 3rd April 1807

Recorded the following Letter
from the Supreme Government

Honble Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your Dispatch under date the
6th Ultimo communicating the arrival at
Bombay of a second Emissary from the
Imaum of Muscat, and enclosing an Extract
from your Proceedings in consequence

2. The measures which you
have adopted with a view to effect the
restoration of the Vigilante, appears to us
under all the circumstances of the case to
be highly expedient

3. In our Letter of the 21st of
January

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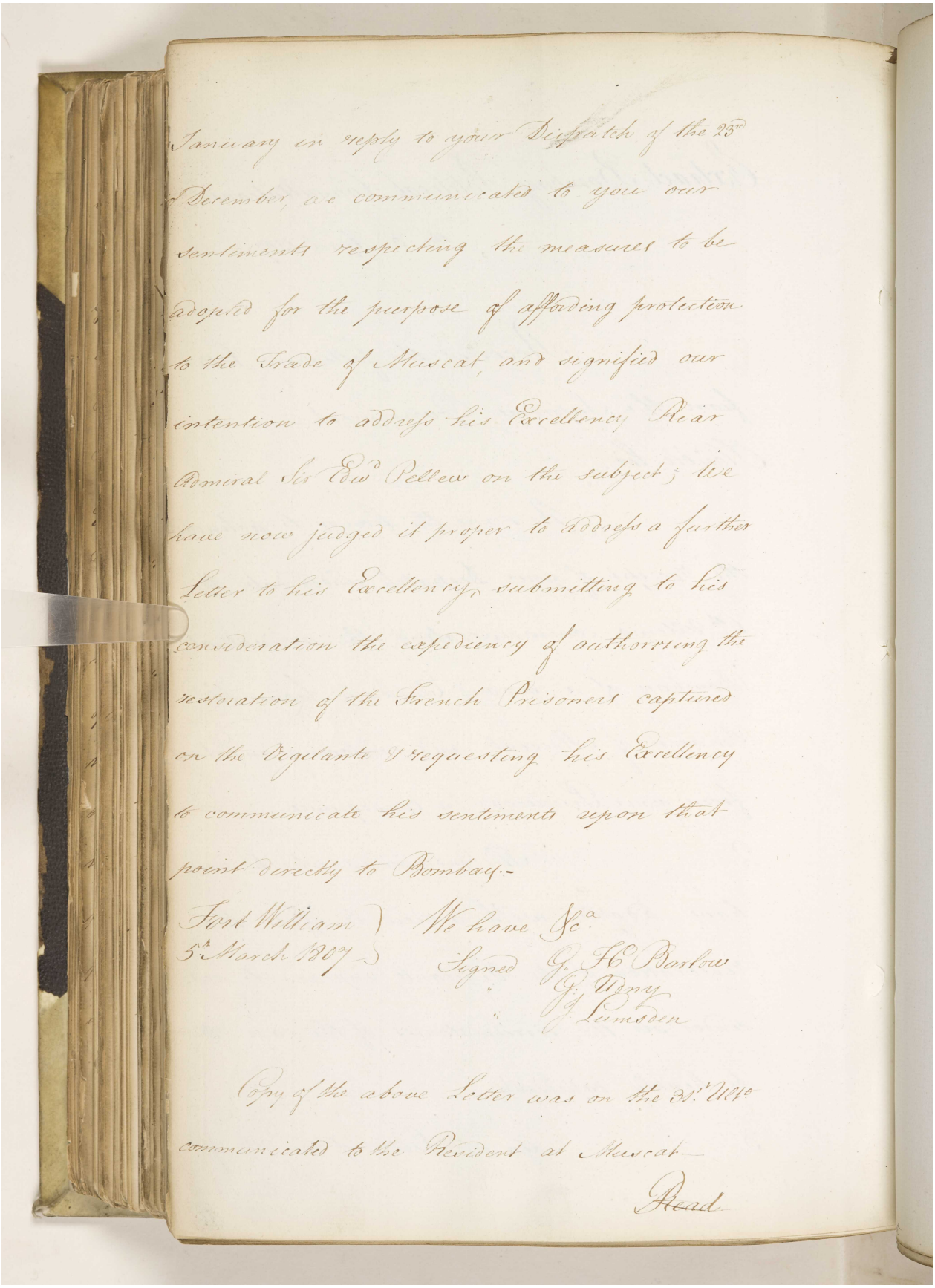

January in reply to your Dispatch of the 25th
December, are communicated to you our
sentiments respecting the measures to be
adopted for the purpose of affording protection
to the Trade of Muscat, and signified our
intention to address his Excellency Rear
Admiral Sir Edw.d Pellew on the subject; We
have now judged it proper to address a further
Letter to his Excellency, submitting to his
consideration the expediency of authorising the
restoration of the French Prisoners captured
on the Vigilante & requesting his Excellency
to communicate his sentiments upon that
point directly to Bombay.-

Fort William } We have &c.a
5th March 1807 }

Signed G. H.C Barlow
G. Udny
J. Lumsden

Copy of the above Letter was on the 31st Ulto
communicated to the President at Muscat.

Read

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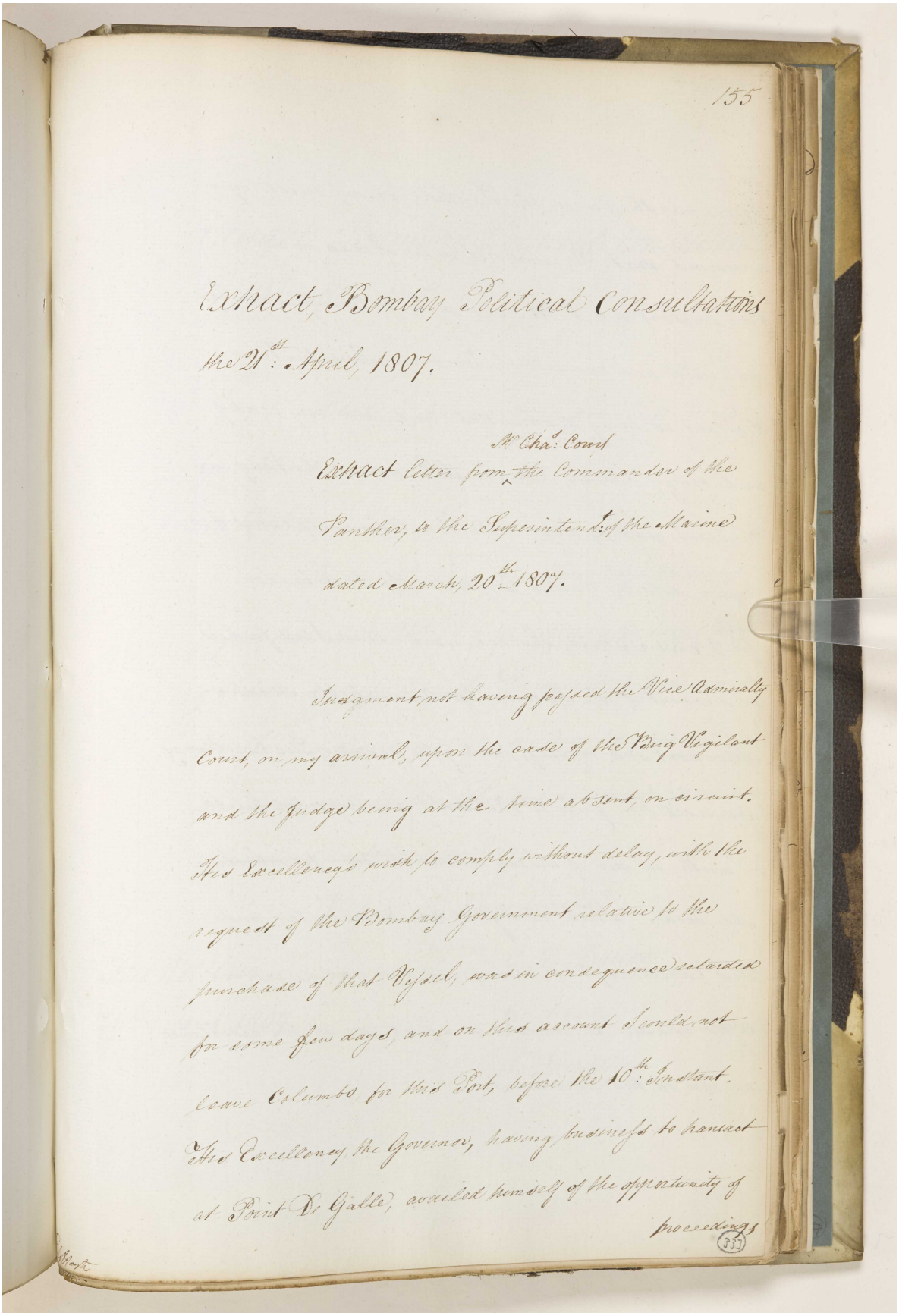

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 21st: April, 1807.

Mr Chas: Court

Extract Letter from the Commander of the
Panther, to the Superintendt. of the Marine
dated March, 20th 1807.

Judgment not having passed the Vice Admiralty
Court, on my arrival, upon the case of the Brig Vigilant
and the Judge being at the time absent, on circuit.
His Excellency's wish to comply without delay, with the
request of the Bombay Government relative to the
purchase of that Vessel, was in consequence retarded
for some few days, and on this account I could not
leave Columbo for this Port, before the 10th: Instant.
His Excellency, the Governor, having business to transact
at Point De Galle, availed himself of the opportunity of
proceeding

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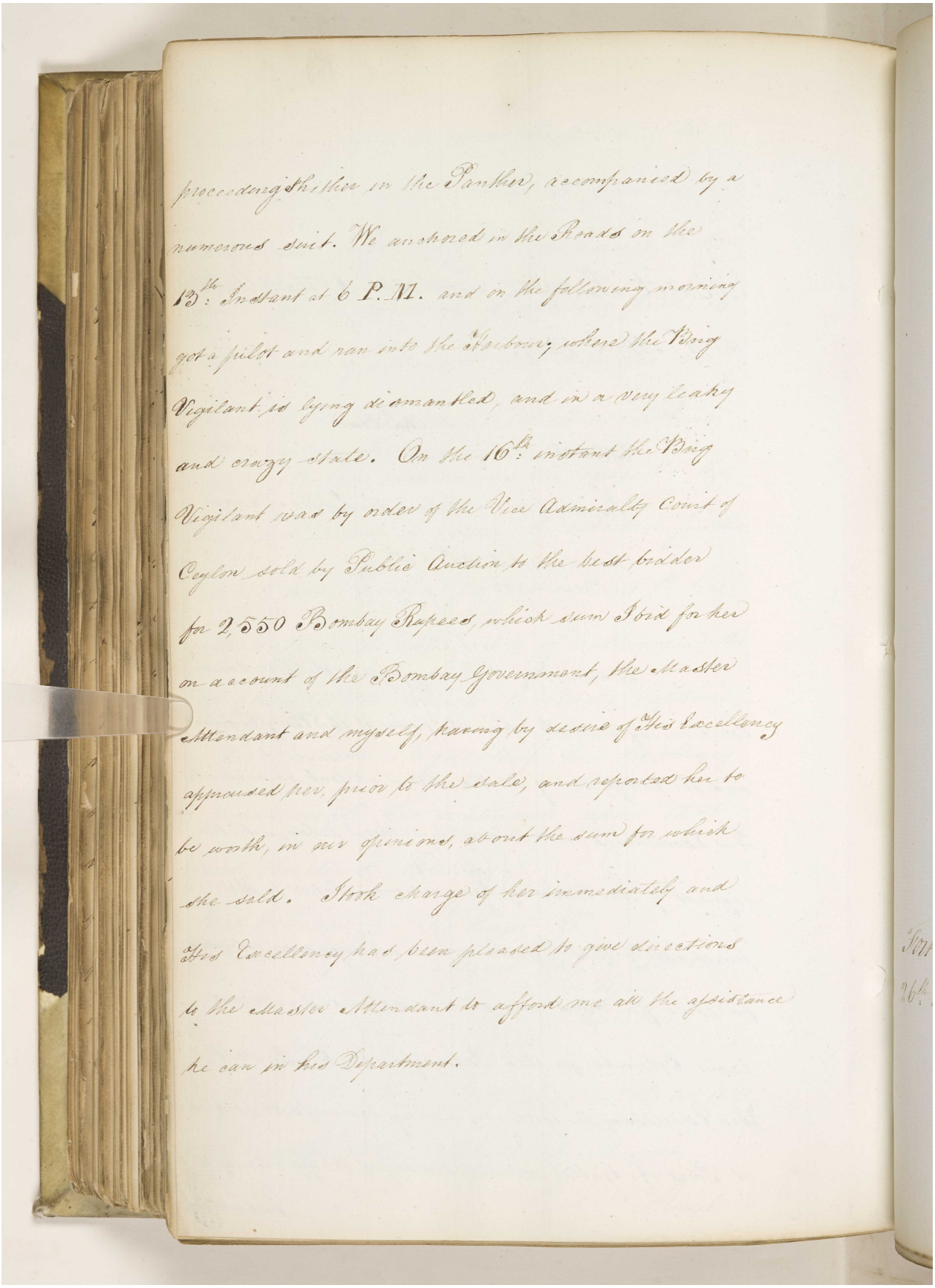

proceeding thither in the Panther, accompanied by a numerous suit. We anchored in the Roads on the 13th: Instant at 6 P.M. and in the following morning got a pilot and ran into the Harbour, where the Brig Vigilant is lying dismantled, and in a very leaky and crazy state. On the 16th: instant the Brig Vigilant was by order of the Vice Admiralty Court of Ceylon sold by Public Auction to the best bidder for 2,550 Bombay Rupees, which sum I took for her on account of the Bombay Government, the Master Attendant and myself, having by desire of His Excellency appraised her, prior to the sale, and reported her to be worth, in our opinions, about the sum for which she sold. I took charge of her immediately and His Excellency has been pleased to give directions to the Master Attendant to afford me all the assistance he can in this Department.

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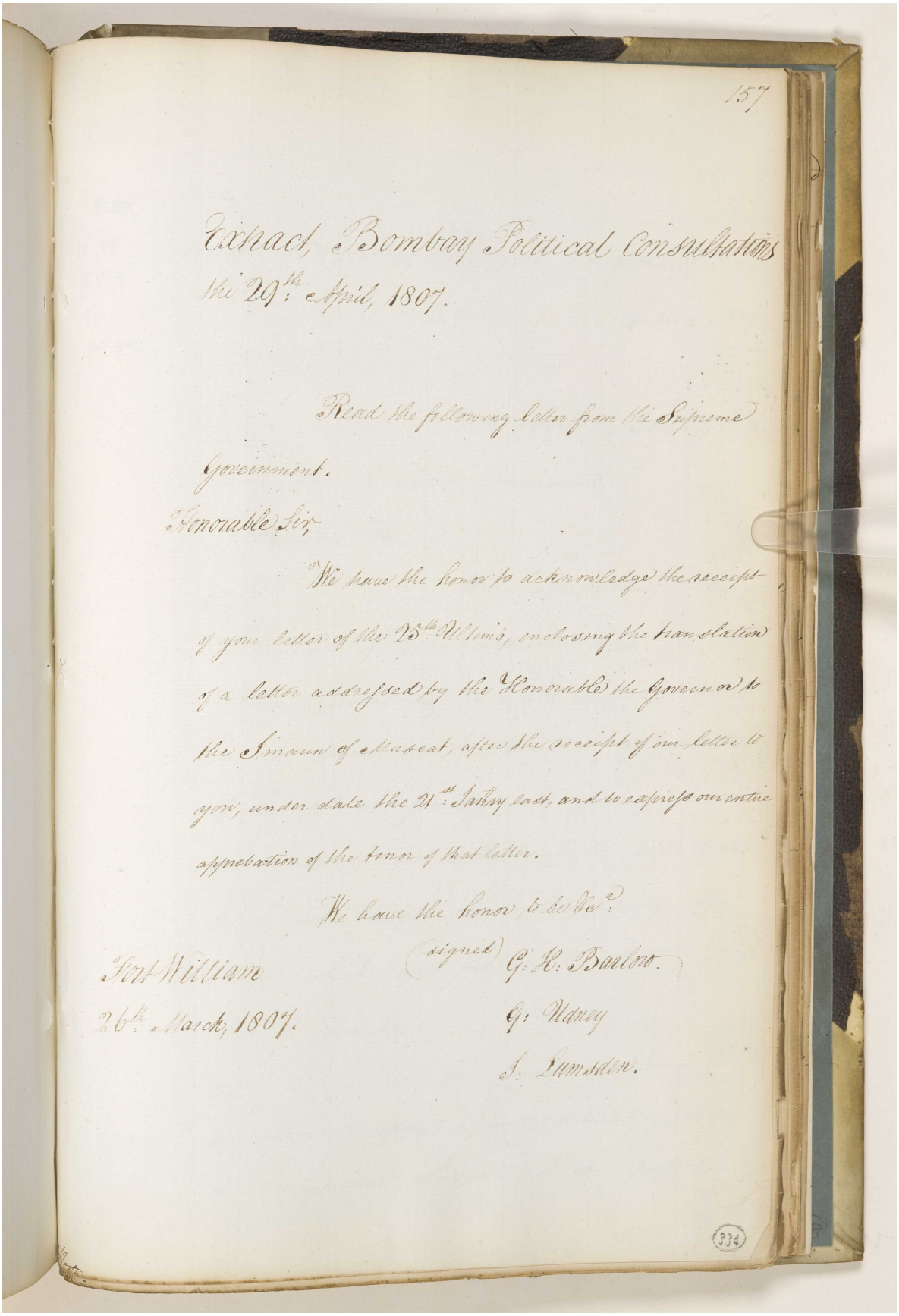

157

Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 29th April, 1807.

Read the following letter from the Supreme
Government.

Honorable Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 25th Ultimo, enclosing the translation
of a letter addressed by the Honorable the Governor to
the Imaum of Muscat, after the receipt of our letter to
you, under date the 21st Janry last, and to express our entire
approbation of the tenor of that letter.

We have the honor, to be &c.

(signed) G. H. Barlow.
G. Udney
J. Lumsden.

Fort William
26th March, 1807.

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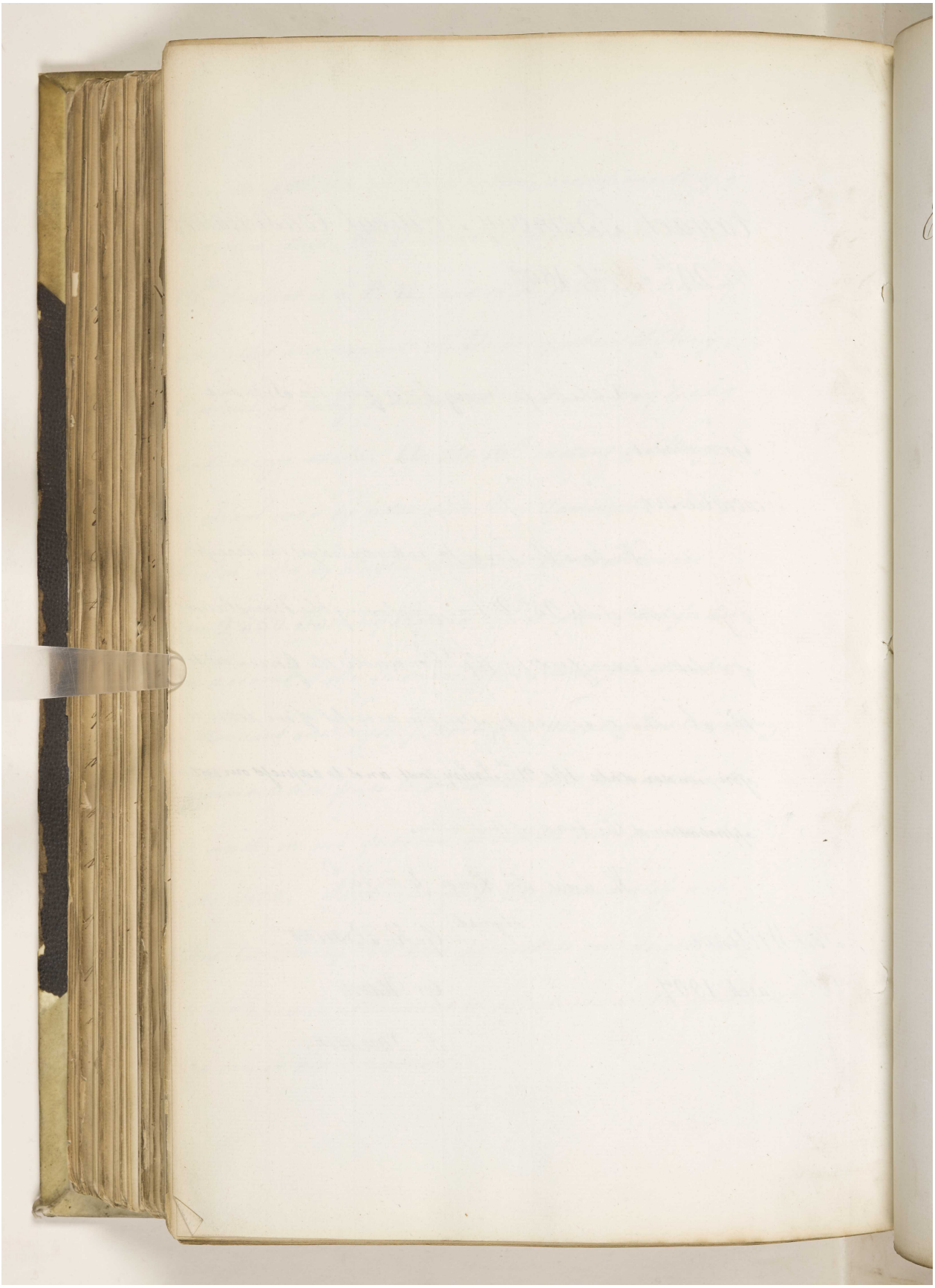

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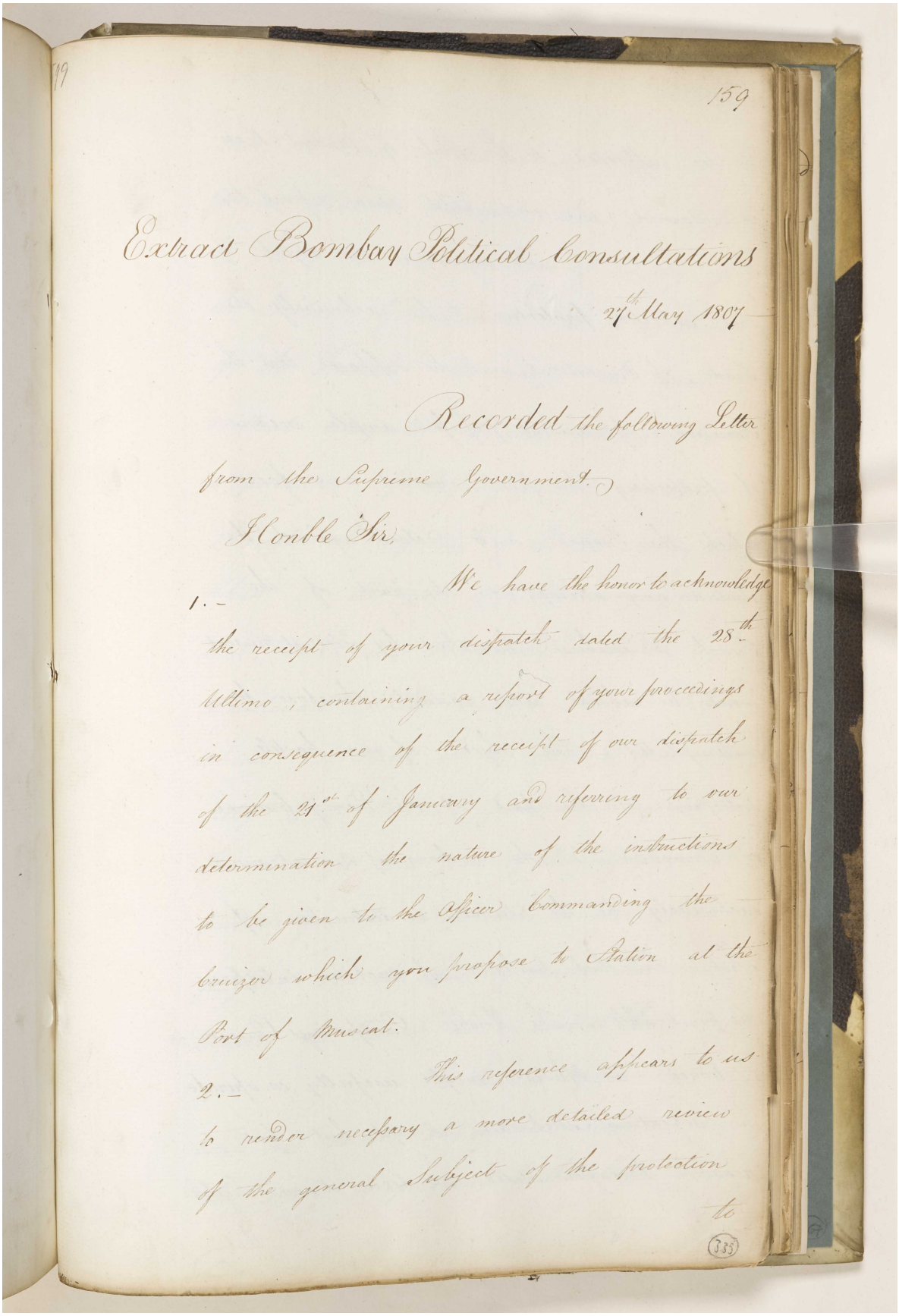

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

27th May 1807

Recorded the following Letter from the Supreme Government.

Honble Sir,

1.– We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated the 28th Ultimo, containing a report of your proceedings in consequence of the receipt of our dispatch of the 21st of January and referring to our determination the nature of the instructions to be given to the Officer Commanding the Cruizer which you propose to Station at the Port of Muscat.

2.– This reference appears to us to render necessary a more detailed review of the general Subject of the protection to

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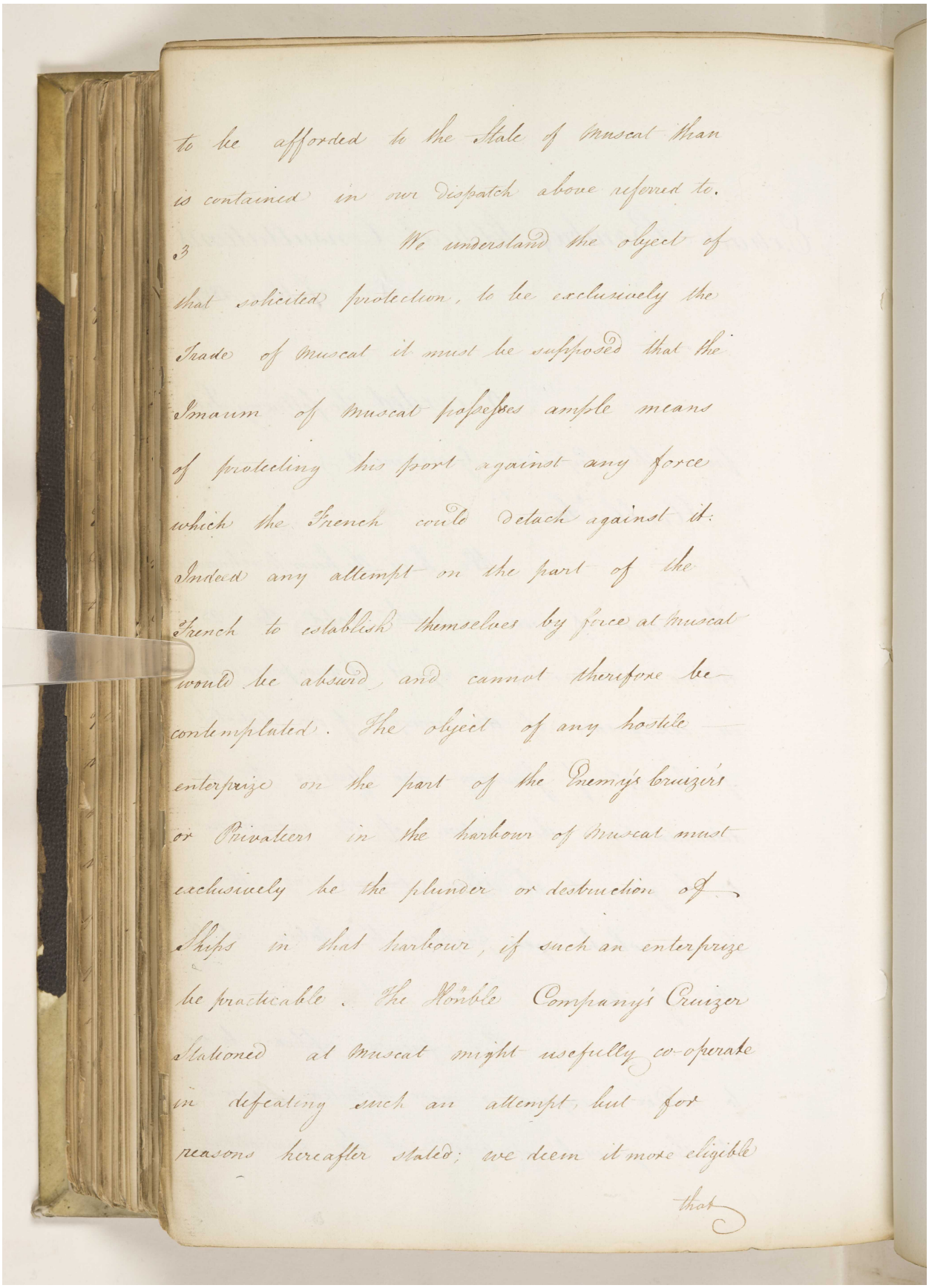

to be afforded to the State of Muscat than is contained in our Dispatch above referred to.

3 We understand the object of that solicited protection, to be exclusively the Trade of Muscat it must be supposed that the Imaum of Muscat possesses ample means of protecting his Port against any force which the French could detach against it: Indeed any attempt on the part of the French to establish themselves by force at Muscat would be absurd, and cannot therefore be contemplated. The object of any hostile enterprize on the part of the Enemy's Cruizers or Privateers in the harbour of Muscat must exclusively be the plunder or destruction of Ships in that harbour, if such an enterprize be practicable. The Honble Company's Cruizer Stationed at Muscat might usefully co-operate in defeating such an attempt but for reasons hereafter stated; we deem it more eligible

that

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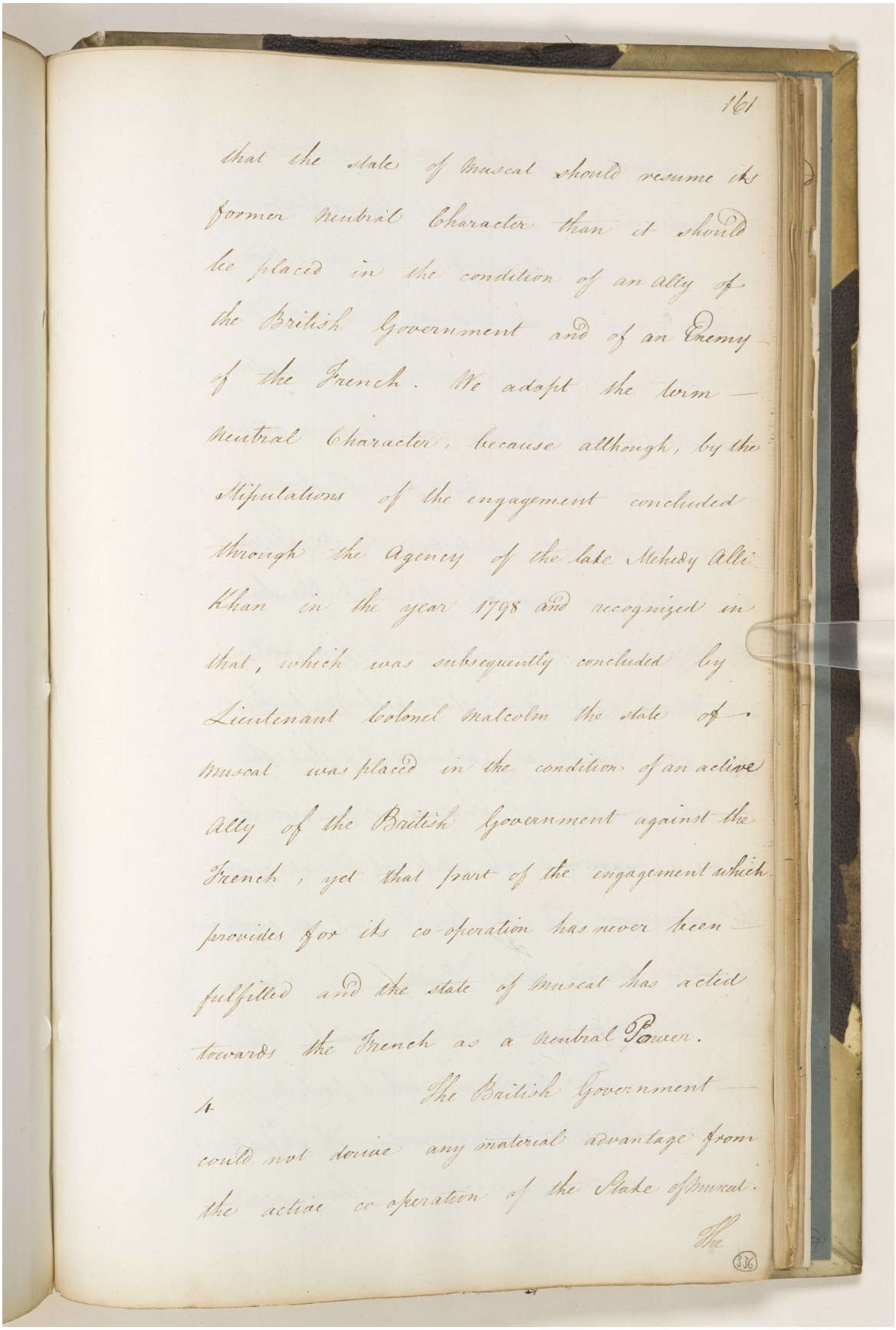

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that the State of Muscat should resume its
former Neutral Character than it should
be placed in the condition of an Ally of
the British Government and of an Enemy
of the French. We adopt the term
Neutral Character, because although, by the
Stipulations of the engagement concluded
through the Agency of the late Mehidy Alli
Khan in the year 1798 and recognized in
that, which was subsequently concluded by
Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm the State of
Muscat was placed in the condition of an active
Ally of the British Government against the
French, yet that part of the engagement which
provides for its co-operation has never been
fulfilled and the State of Muscat has acted
towards the French as a Neutral Power.

The British Government
could not derive any material advantage from
the active co-operation of the State of Muscat.

The

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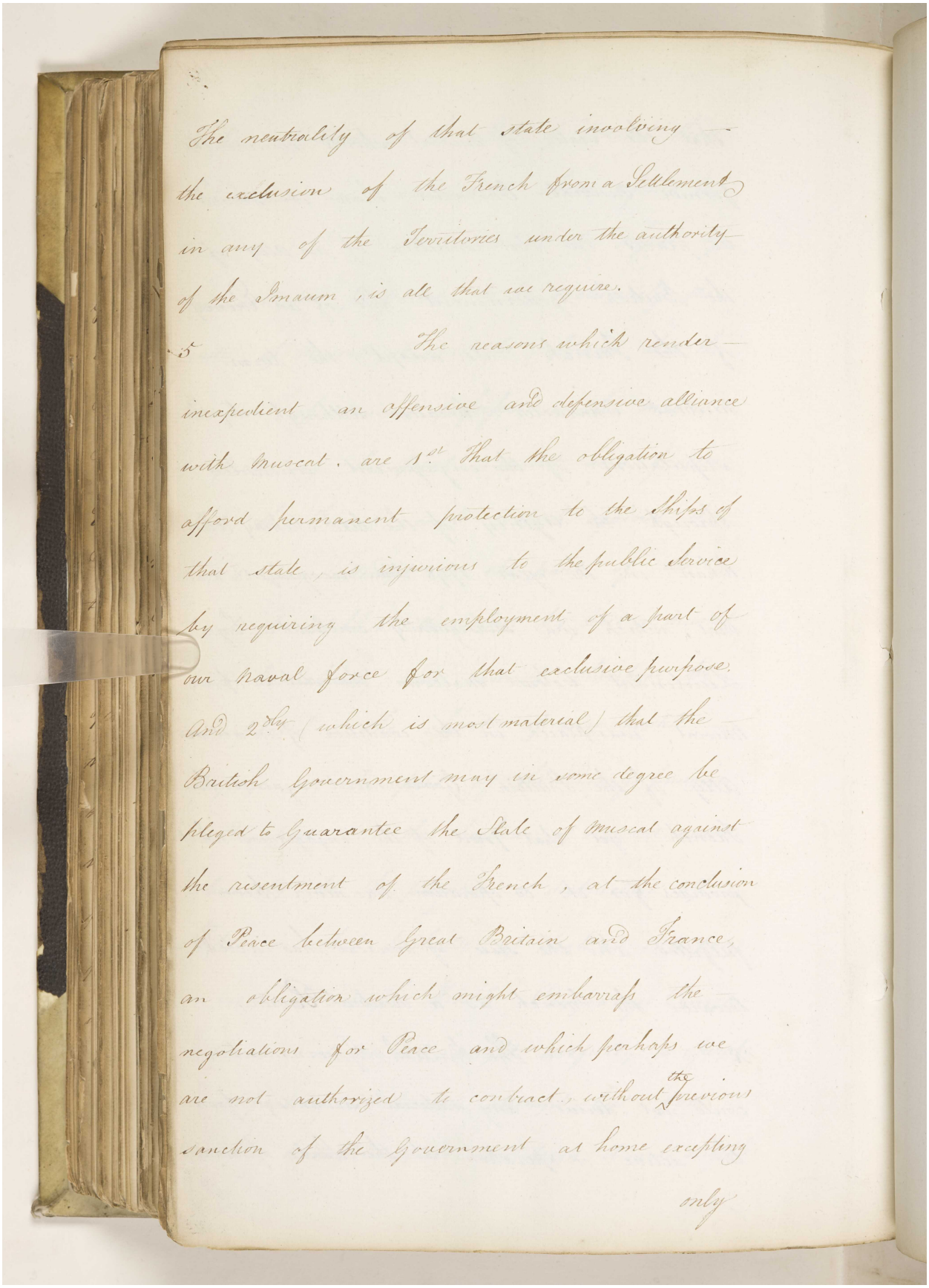

The neutrality of that state involving —
the exclusion of the French from a Settlement
in any of the Territories under the authority
of the Imaum, is all that we require.

5 The reasons which render —
inexpedient an offensive and defensive alliance
with Muscat, are 1st That the obligation to
afford permanent protection to the Ships of
that state, is injurious to the public Service
by requiring the employment of a part of
our naval force for that exclusive purpose.
And 2dly (which is most material) that the
British Government may in some degree be
pleged to Guarantee the State of Muscat against
the resentment of the French, at the conclusion
of Peace between Great Britain and France,
an obligation which might embarrass the
negotiations for Peace and which perhaps we
are not authorized to contract, without the previous
sanction of the Government at home excepting
only

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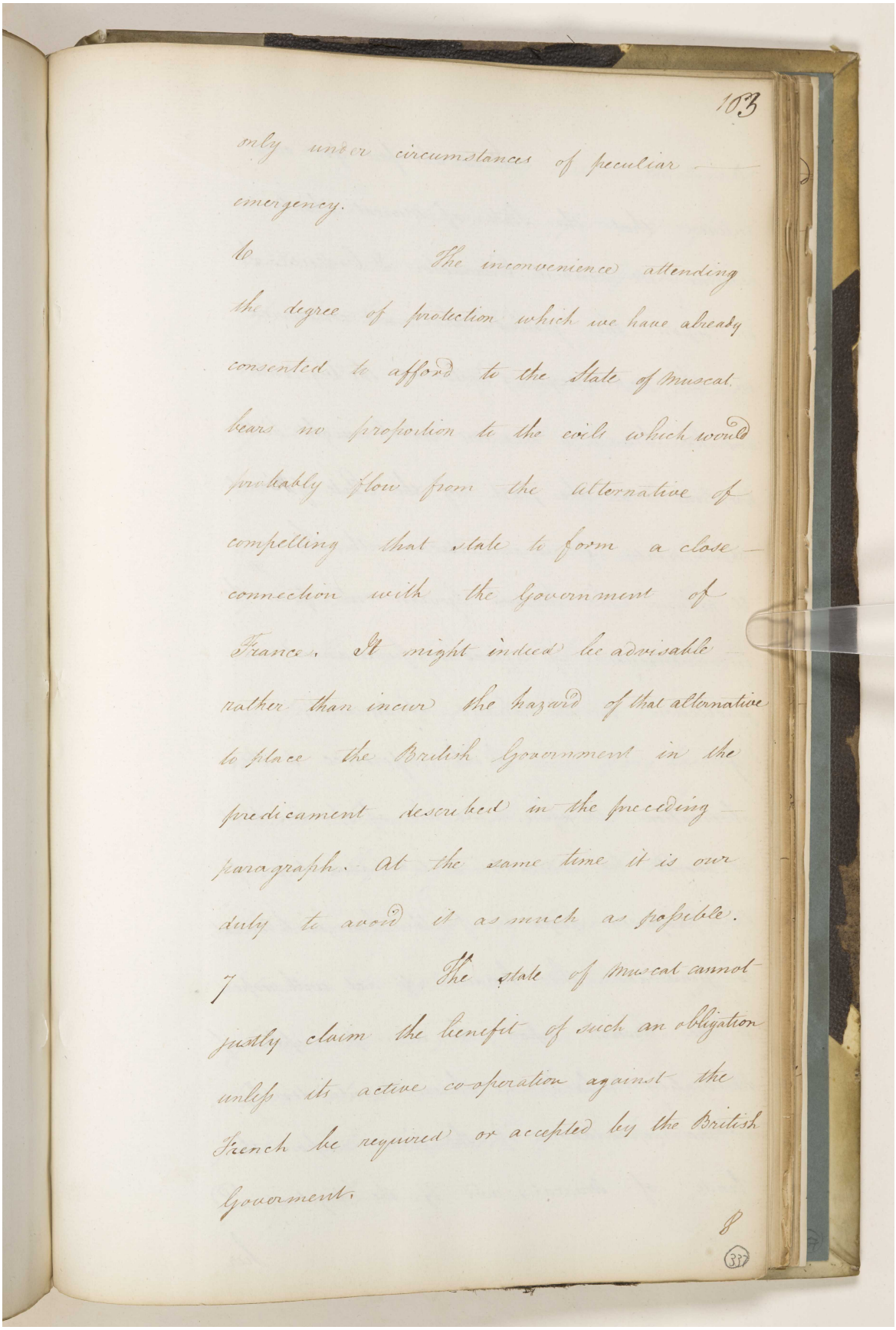

1053

only under circumstances of peculiar
emergency.

6 The inconvenience attending the degree of protection which we have already consented to afford to the State of Muscat bears no proportion to the evils which would probably flow from the alternative of compelling that State to form a close connection with the Government of France. It might indeed be advisable rather than incur the hazard of that alternative to place the British Government in the predicament described in the preceding paragraph. At the same time it is our duty to avoid it as much as possible.

7 The State of Muscat cannot justly claim the benefit of such an obligation unless its active co-operation against the French be required or accepted by the British Government.

8

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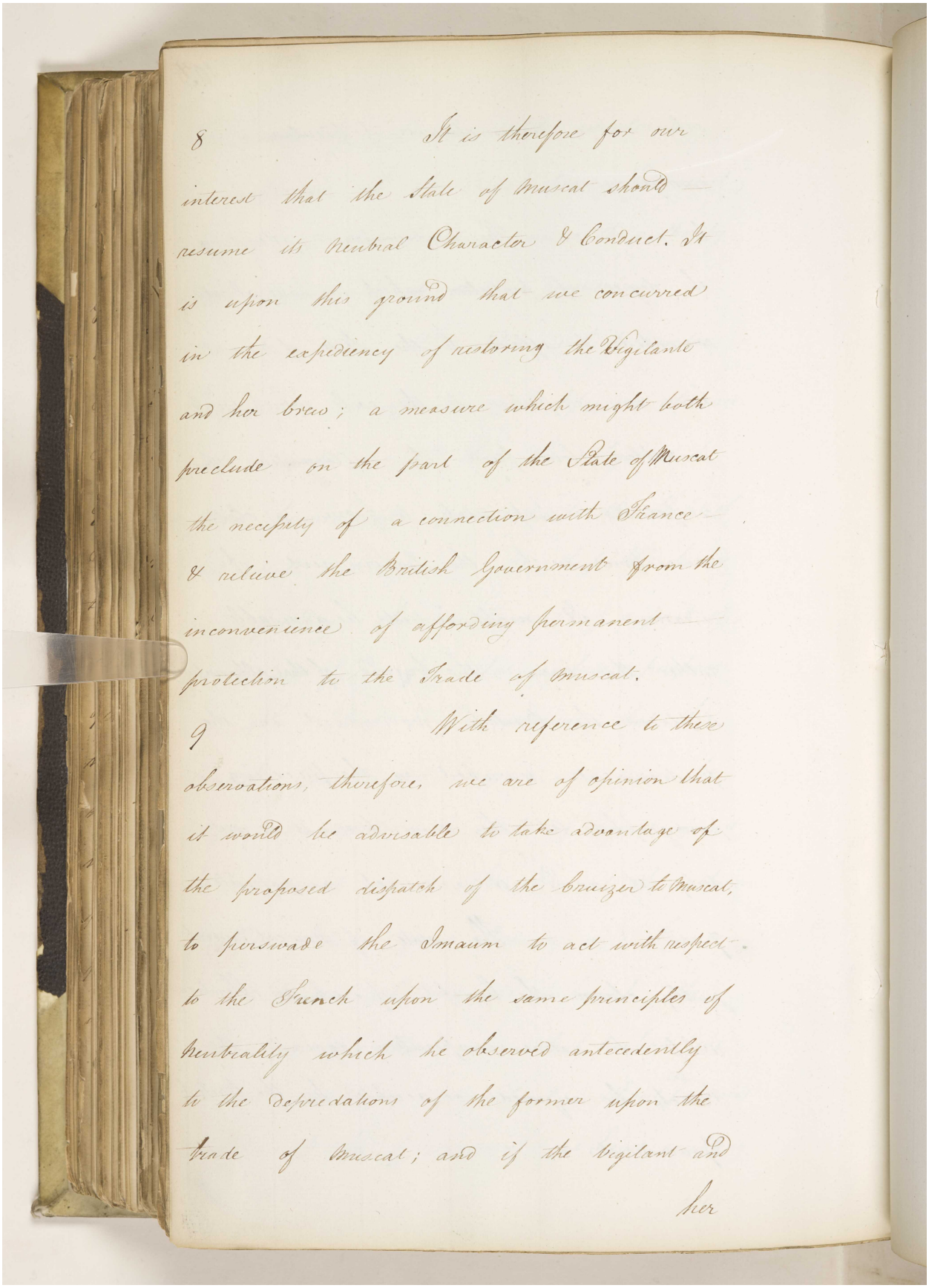

8 It is therefore for our interest that the State of Muscat should resume its Neutral Character & Conduct. It is upon this ground that we concurred in the expediency of restoring the Vigilante and her Crew; a measure which might both preclude on the part of the State of Muscat the necessity of a connection with France & relieve the British Government from the inconvenience of affording permanent protection to the Trade of Muscat.

9 With reference to these observations, therefore, we are of opinion that it would be advisable to take advantage of the proposed dispatch of the Cruizer to Muscat, to persuade the Imaum to act with respect to the French upon the same principles of Neutrality which he observed antecedently to the depredations of the former upon the Trade of Muscat; and if the Vigilant and her

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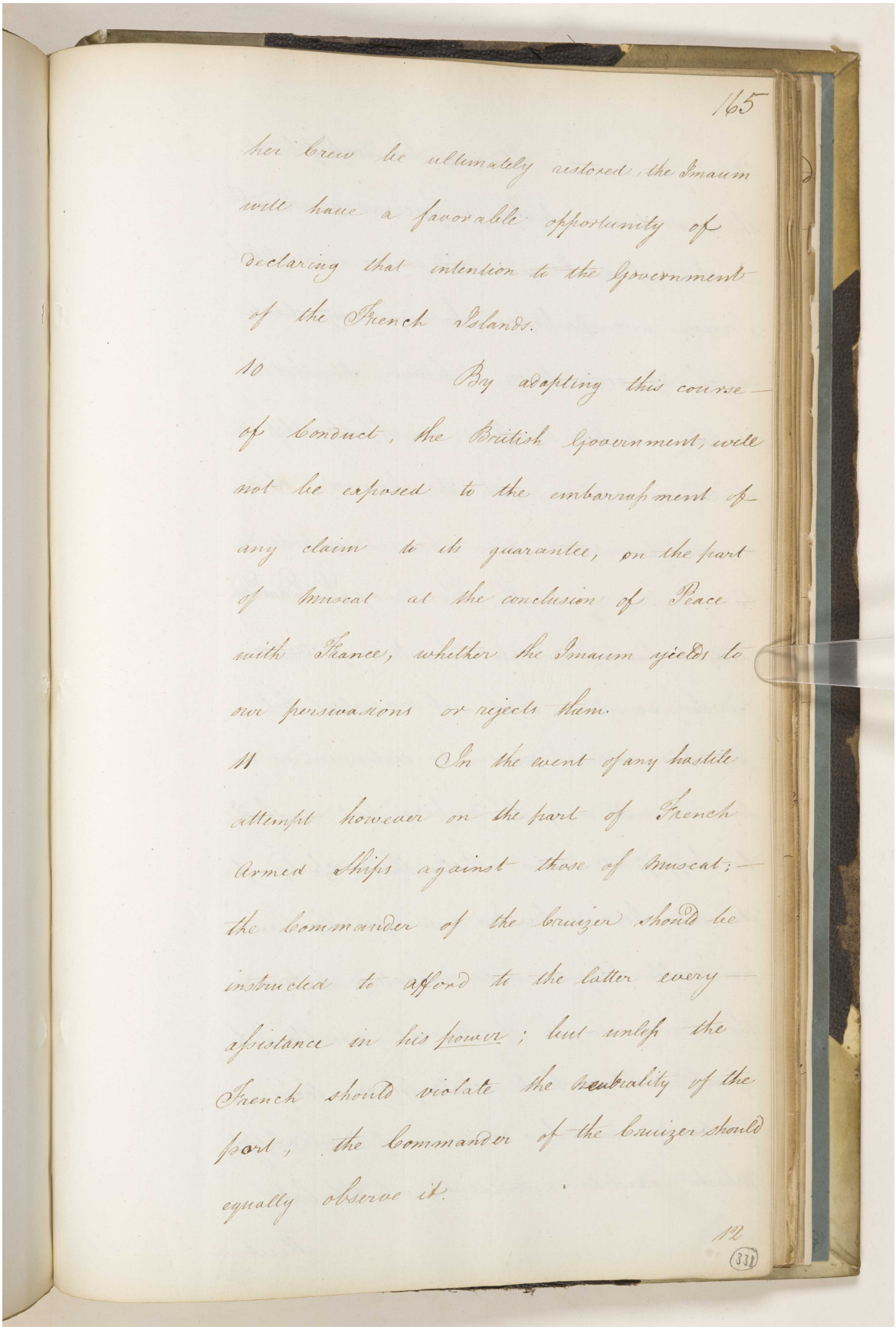

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her Crew be ultimately restored, the Imaum will have a favorable opportunity of declaring that intention to the Government of the French Islands.

10 By adopting this course of Conduct, the British Government, will not be exposed to the embarrassment of any claim to its guarantee, on the part of Muscat at the conclusion of Peace with France, whether the Imaum yields to our persuasions or rejects them.

11 In the event of any hostile attempt however on the part of French Armed Ships against those of Muscat; the Commander of the Cruizer should be instructed to afford to the latter every assistance in his power; but unless the French should violate the neutrality of the port, the Commander of the Cruizer should equally observe it.

12

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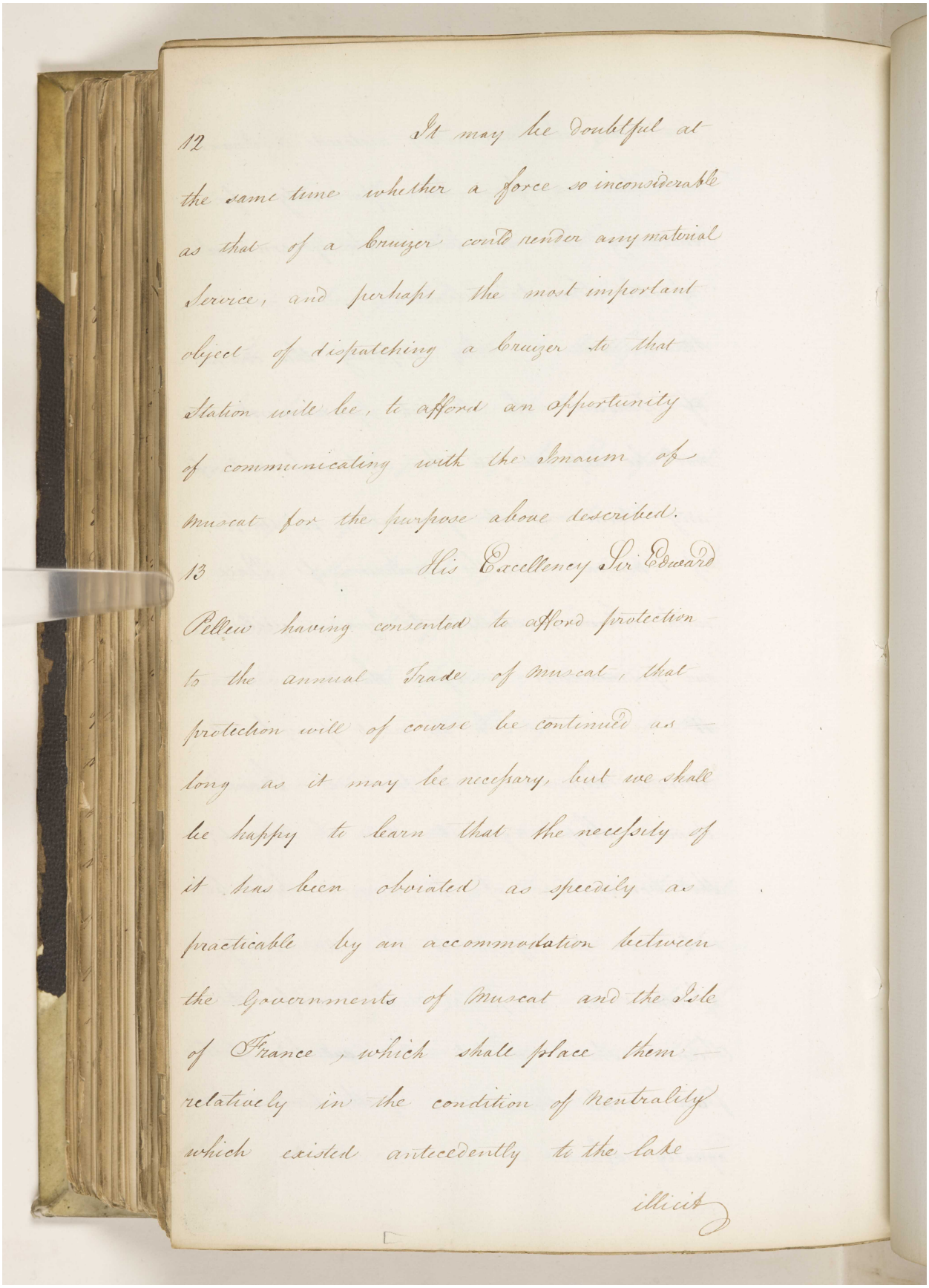

12 It may be doubtful at the same time whether a force so inconsiderable as that of a Cruizer could render any material Service, and perhaps the most important object of dispatching a Cruizer to that Station will be, to afford an opportunity of communicating with the Imaum of Muscat for the purpose above described.

13 His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew having consented to afford protection to the annual Trade of Muscat, that protection will of course be continued as long as it may be necessary, but we shall be happy to learn that the necessity of it has been obviated as speedily as practicable by an accommodation between the Governments of Muscat and the Isle of France, which shall place them relatively in the condition of Neutrality which existed antecedently to the late illicit

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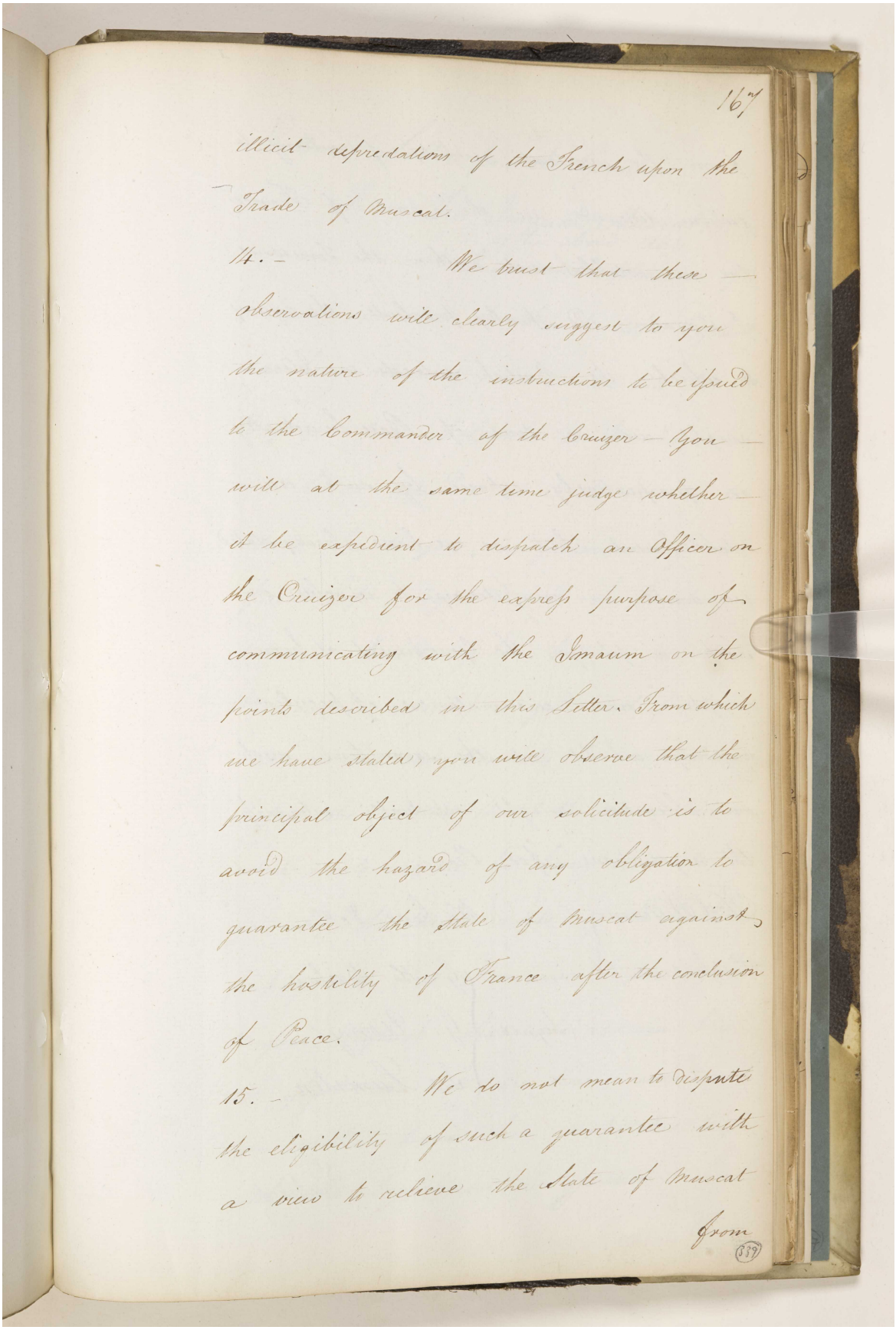

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illicit depredations of the French upon the Trade of Muscat.

14. — We trust that these observations will clearly suggest to you the nature of the instructions to be issued to the Commander of the Cruizer — You will at the same time judge whether it be expedient to dispatch an Officer on the Cruizer for the express purpose of communicating with the Imaum on the points described in this Letter. From which we have stated, you will observe that the principal object of our solicitude is to avoid the hazard of any obligation to guarantee the State of Muscat against the hostility of France after the conclusion of Peace.

15. — We do not mean to dispute the eligibility of such a guarantee with a view to relieve the State of Muscat

from

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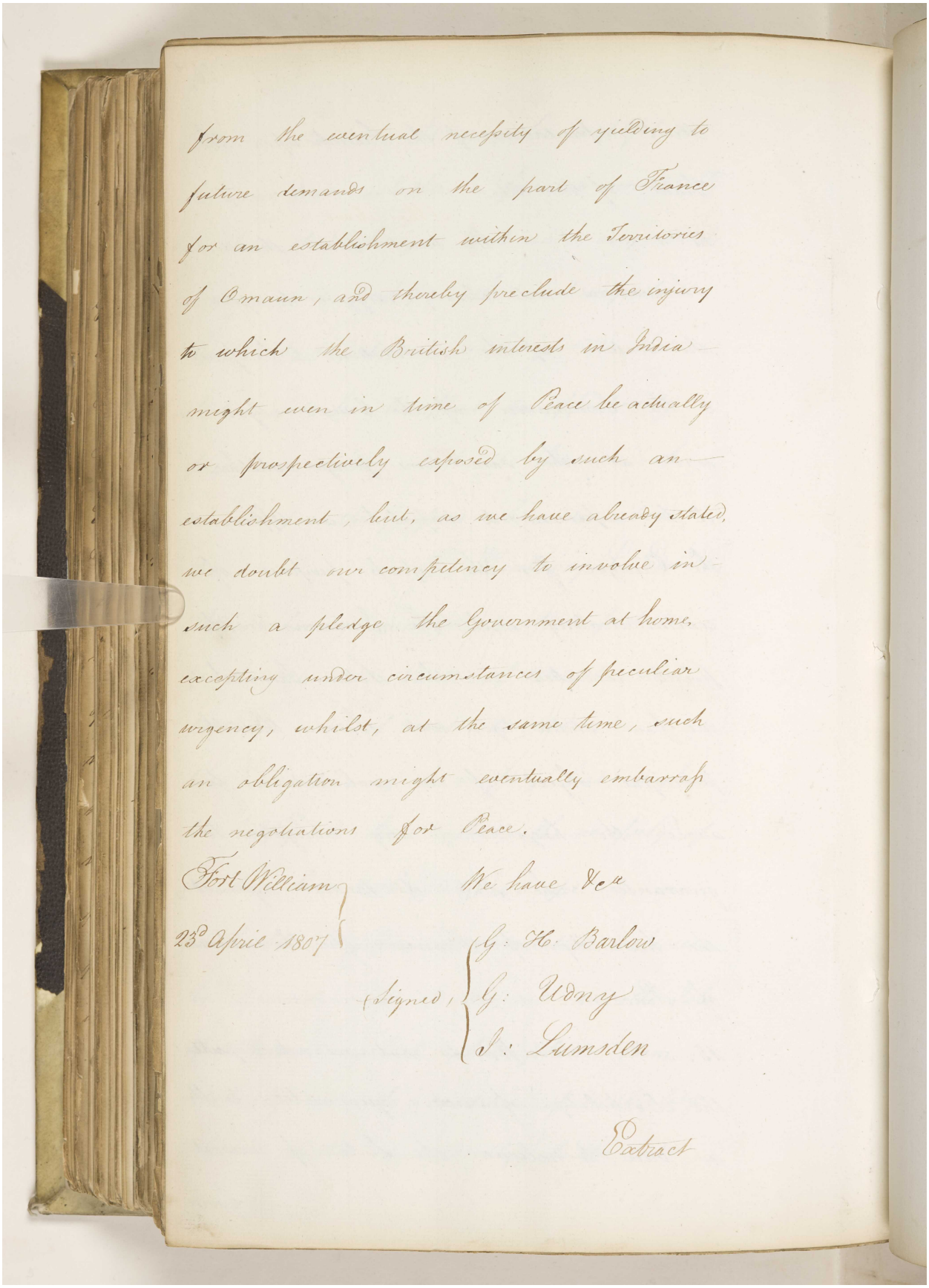

from the eventual necessity of yielding to future demands on the part of France for an establishment within the Territories of Omaun, and thereby preclude the injury to which the British interests in India might even in time of Peace be actually or prospectively exposed by such an establishment, but, as we have already stated, we doubt our competency to involve in such a pledge the Government at home, excepting under circumstances of peculiar urgency, whilst, at the same time, such an obligation might eventually embarrass the negotiations for Peace.

Fort William
23d April 1807

We have &c.

(Signed,) G: H: Barlow
G: Udny
J: Lumsden

Extract

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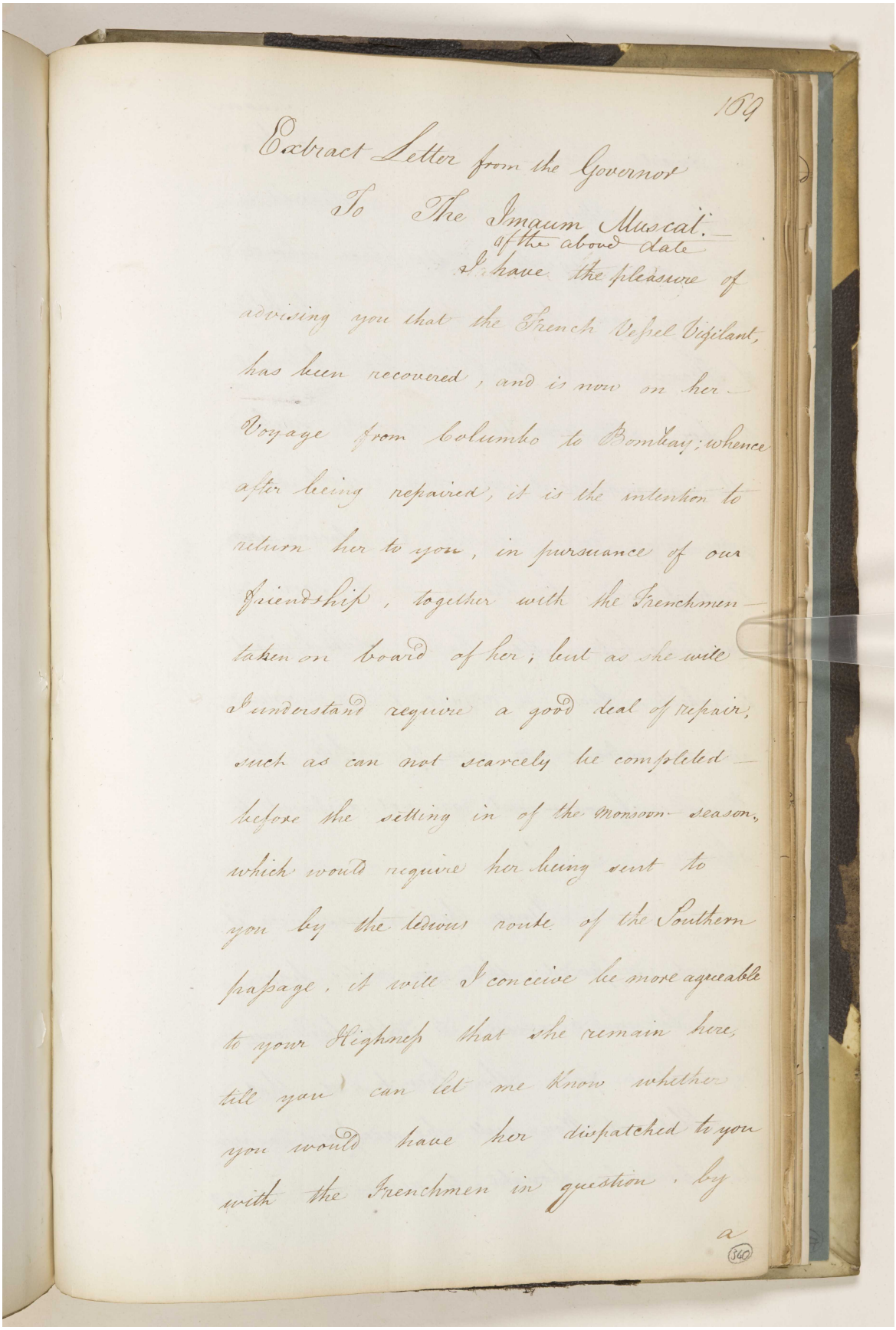

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Extract Letter from the Governor
To The Imaum Muscat.

of the above Date
I have the pleasure of
advising you that the French Vessel Vigilant,
has been recovered, and is now on her
Voyage from Columbo to Bombay; whence
after being repaired, it is the intention to
return her to you, in pursuance of our
friendship, together with the Frenchmen
taken on board of her; but as she will
I understand require a good deal of repair,
such as can not scarcely be completed
before the setting in of the Monsoon season,
which would require her being sent to
you by the leeward route of the Southern
passage, it will I conceive be more agreeable
to your Highness that she remain here,
till you can let me know whether
you would have her dispatched to you
with the Frenchmen in question, by

a

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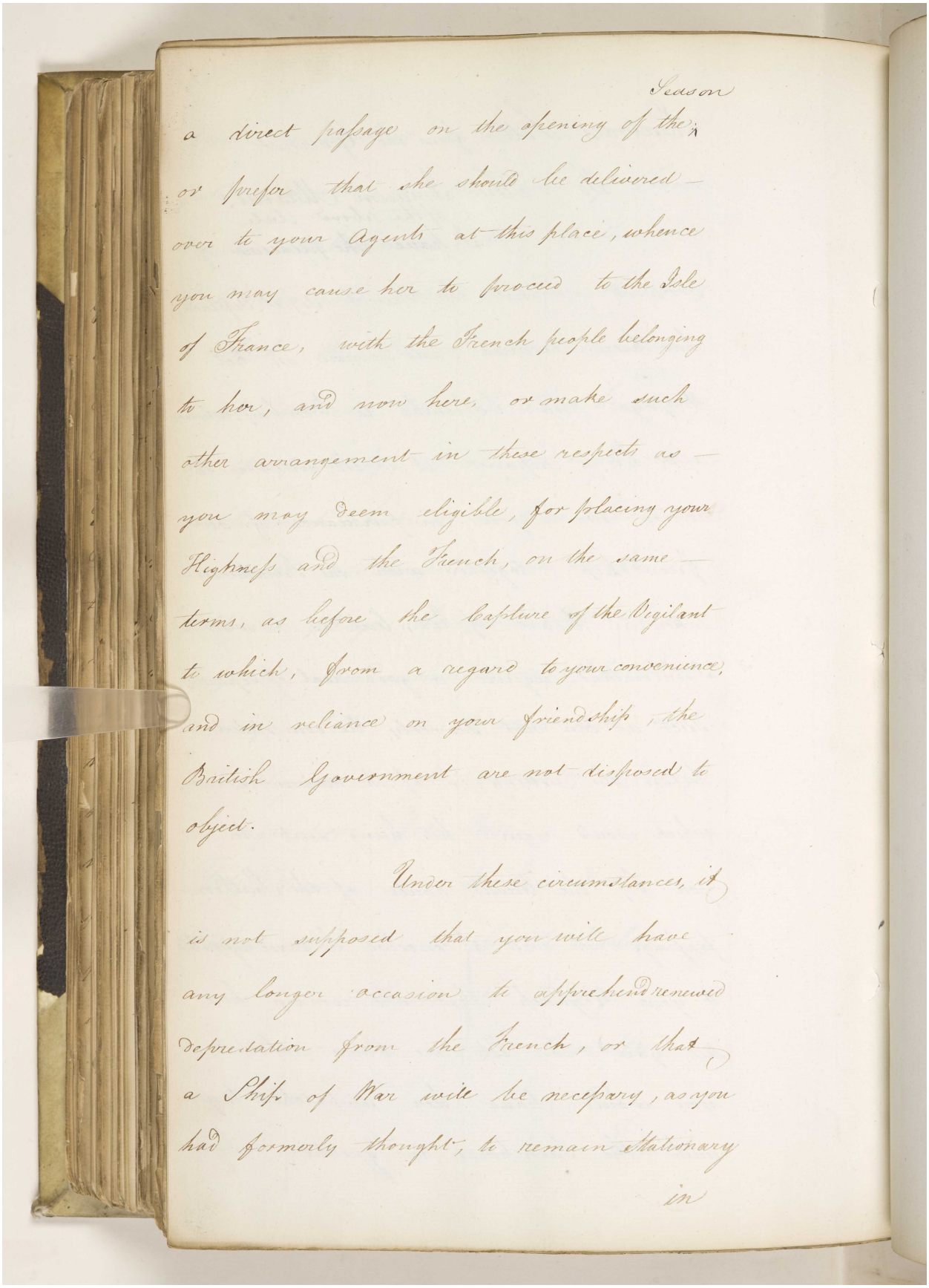

Season
a direct passage on the opening of the
or prefer that she should be delivered
over to your Agents at this place, whence
you may cause her to proceed to the Isle
of France, with the French people belonging
to her, and now here, or make such
other arrangement in these respects as
you may deem eligible, for placing your
Highness and the French, on the same
terms, as before the Capture of the Vigilant
to which, from a regard to your convenience,
and in reliance on your friendship, the
British Government are not disposed to
object.

Under these circumstances, it
is not supposed that you will have
any longer occasion to apprehend renewed
depredation from the French, or that
a Ship of War will be necessary, as you
had formerly thought, to remain stationary
in

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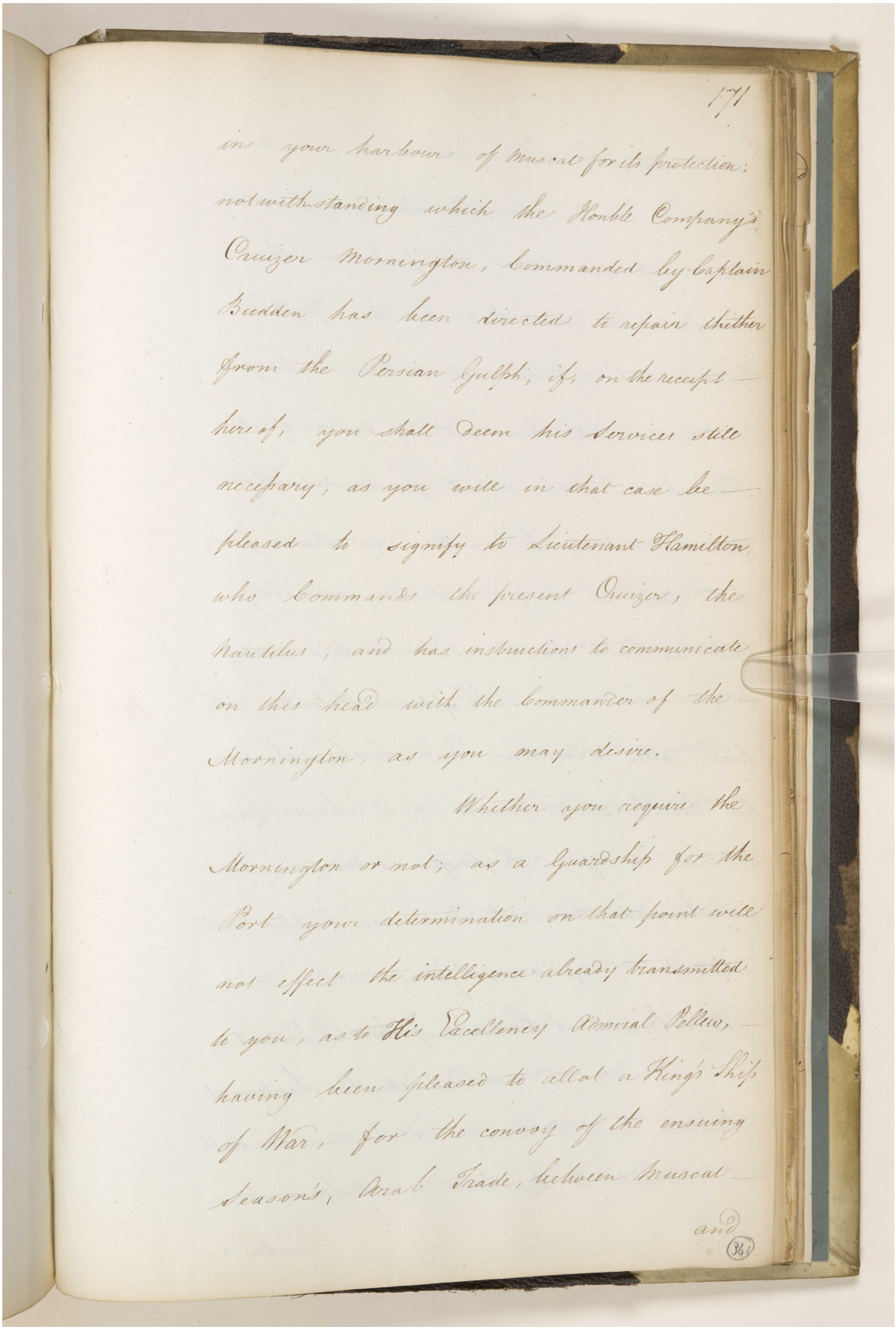

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in your harbour of Muscat for its protection;
notwithstanding which the Honble Company's
Cruizer Mornington, Commanded by Captain
Budden has been directed to repair thither
from the Persian Gulph; if, on the receipt
hereof, you shall deem his Services still
necessary, as you will in that case be
pleased to signify to Lieutenant Hamilton
who Commands the present Cruizer, the
Nautilus, and has instructions to communicate
on this head with the Commander of the
Mornington, as you may desire.

Whether you require the
Mornington or not; as a Guardship for the
Port your determination on that point will
not effect the intelligence already transmitted
to you, as to His Excellency Admiral Pellew,
having been pleased to allot a King's Ship
of War, for the convoy of the ensuing
Season's Boat Trade, between Muscat

and

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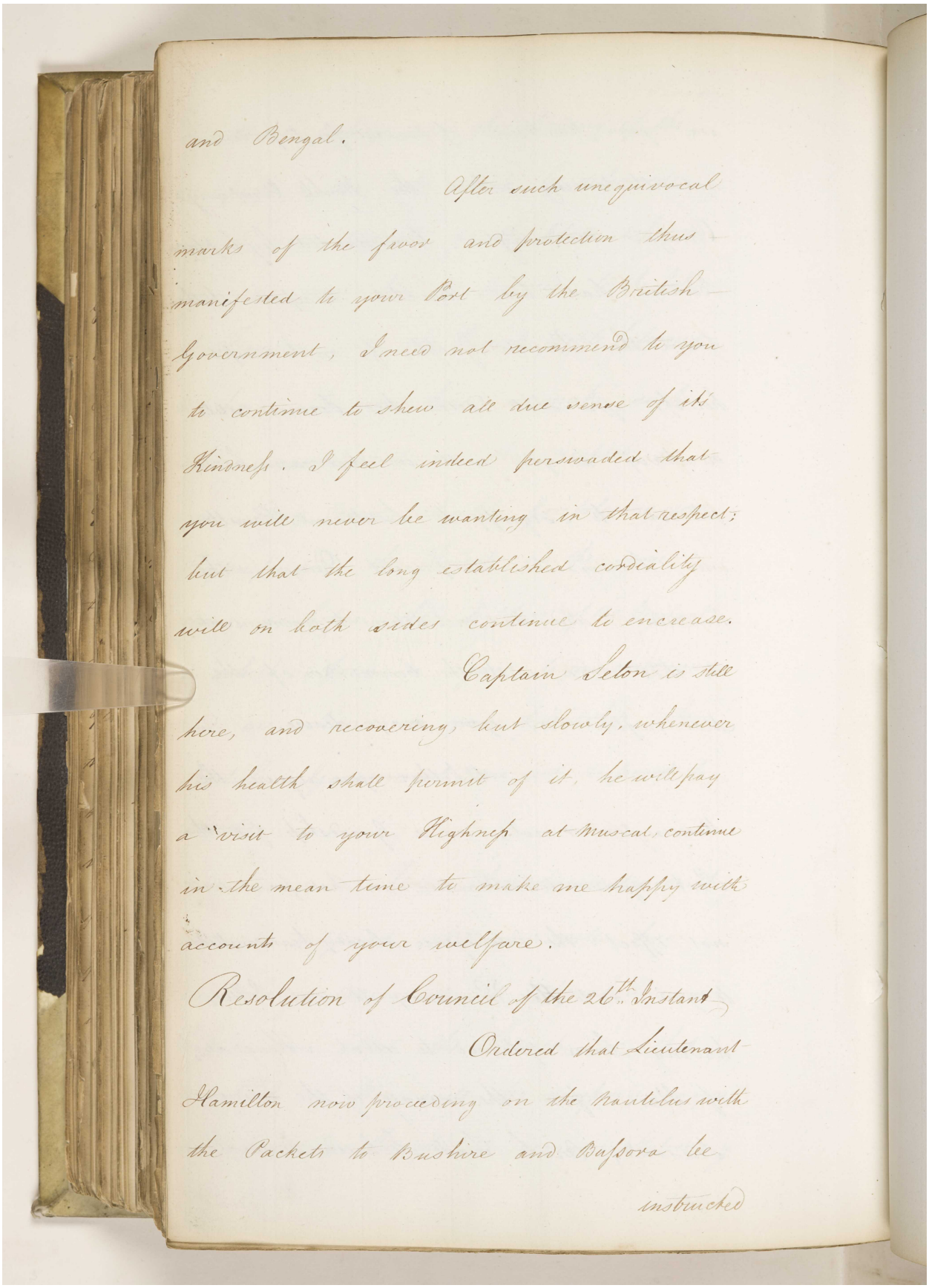

and Bengal.

After such unequivocal marks of the favor and protection thus manifested to your Port by the British Government, I need not recommend to you to continue to shew all due sense of its Kindness. I feel indeed persuaded that you will never be wanting in that respect; but that the long established cordiality will on both sides continue to encrease.

Captain Seton is still here, and recovering, but slowly, whenever his health shall permit of it, he will pay a visit to your Highness at Muscat, continue in the mean time to make me happy with accounts of your welfare.

Resolution of Council of the 26th. Instant

Ordered that Lieutenant Hamilton now proceeding on the Nautilus with the Packets to Bushire and Bassora be instructed

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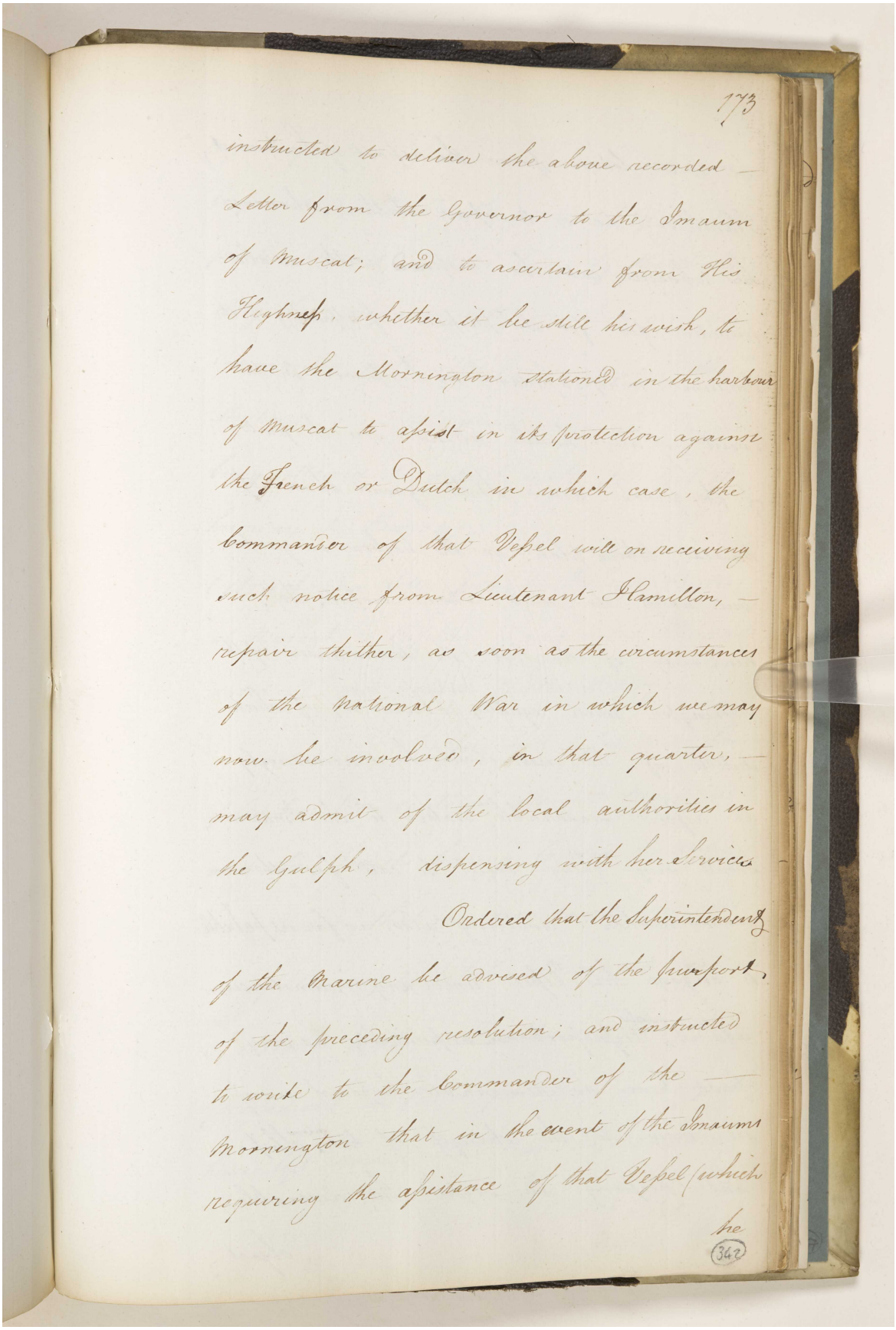

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instructed to deliver the above recorded —
Letter from the Governor to the Imaum
of Muscat; and to ascertain from His
Highness, whether it be still his wish, to
have the Mornington stationed in the harbour
of Muscat to assist in its protection against
the French or Dutch in which case, the
Commander of that Vessel will on receiving
such notice from Lieutenant Hamilton, —
repair thither, as soon as the circumstances
of the National War in which we may
now be involved, in that quarter, —
may admit of the local authorities in
the Gulph, dispensing with her Services

Ordered that the Superintendent
of the Marine be advised of the Import,
of the preceding resolution; and instructed
to write to the Commander of the —
Mornington that in the event of the Imaums
requiring the assistance of that Vessel which
he

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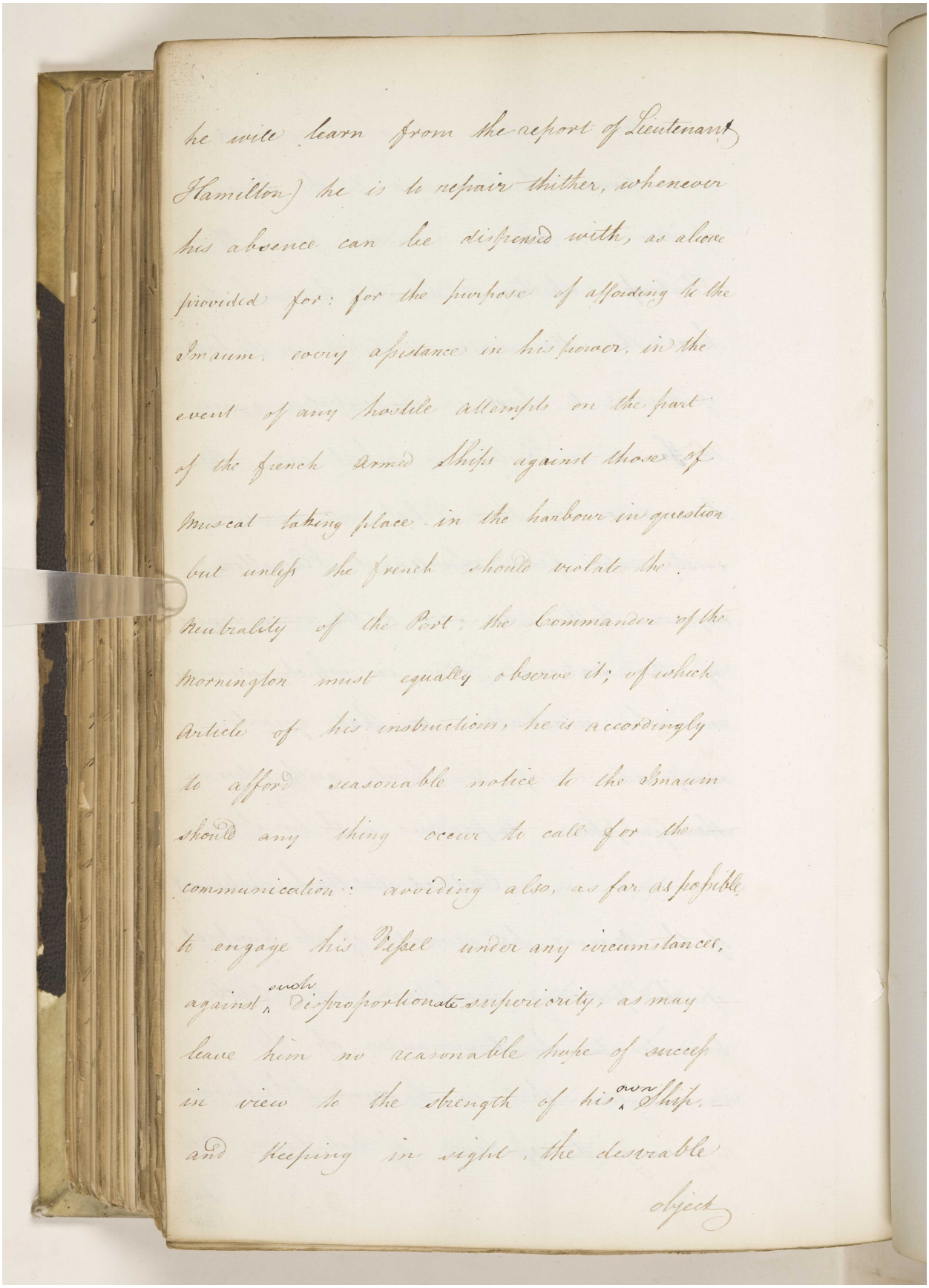

he will learn from the report of Lieutenant Hamilton) he is to repair thither, whenever his absence can be dispensed with, as above provided for: for the purpose of affording to the Imaum every assistance in his power, in the event of any hostile attempts on the part of the French armed Ships against those of Muscat taking place in the harbour in question but unless the French should violate the Neutrality of the Port, the Commander of the Mornington must equally observe it; of which Article of his instructions, he is accordingly to afford reasonable notice to the Imaum should any thing occur to call for the communication: avoiding also, as far as possible to engage his Vessel under any circumstances, against a vastly disproportionate superiority, as may leave him no reasonable hope of success in view to the strength of his own Ship, and keeping in sight, the desirable

object

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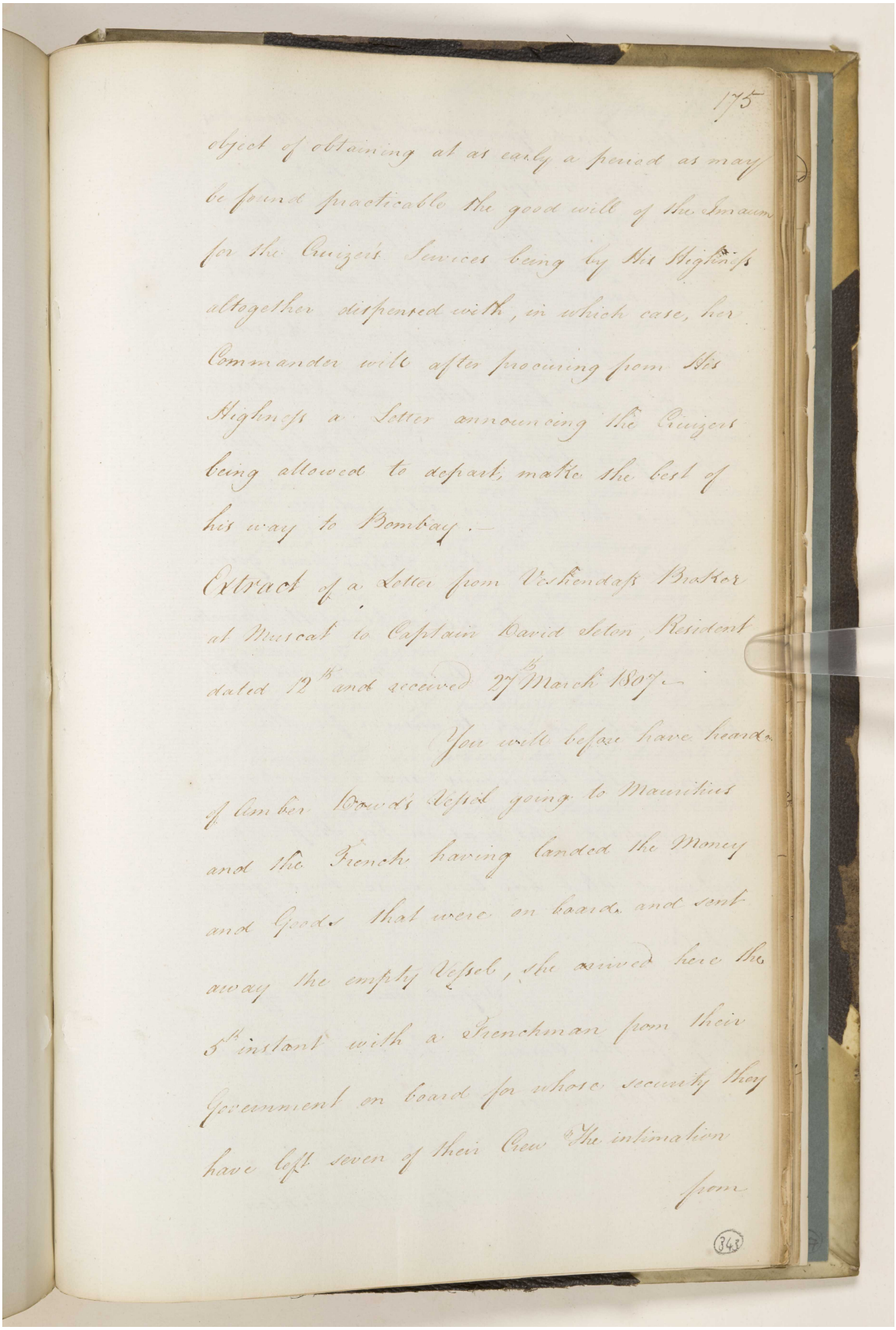

object of obtaining at as early a period as may be found practicable the good will of the Imaum for the Cruizer's Services being by His Highness altogether dispensed with, in which case, her Commander will after procuring from His Highness a Letter announcing the Cruizers being allowed to depart, make the best of his way to Bombay.—

Extract of a Letter from Veshendass Broker at Muscat to Captain David Seton, Resident dated 12th and received 27th March 1807.—

You will before have heard of Amber Dowd's Vessel going to Mauritius and the French having landed the Money and Goods that were on board and sent away the empty Vessel, she arrived here the 5th instant with a Frenchman from their Government on board for whose security they have left seven of their Crew. The intimation from

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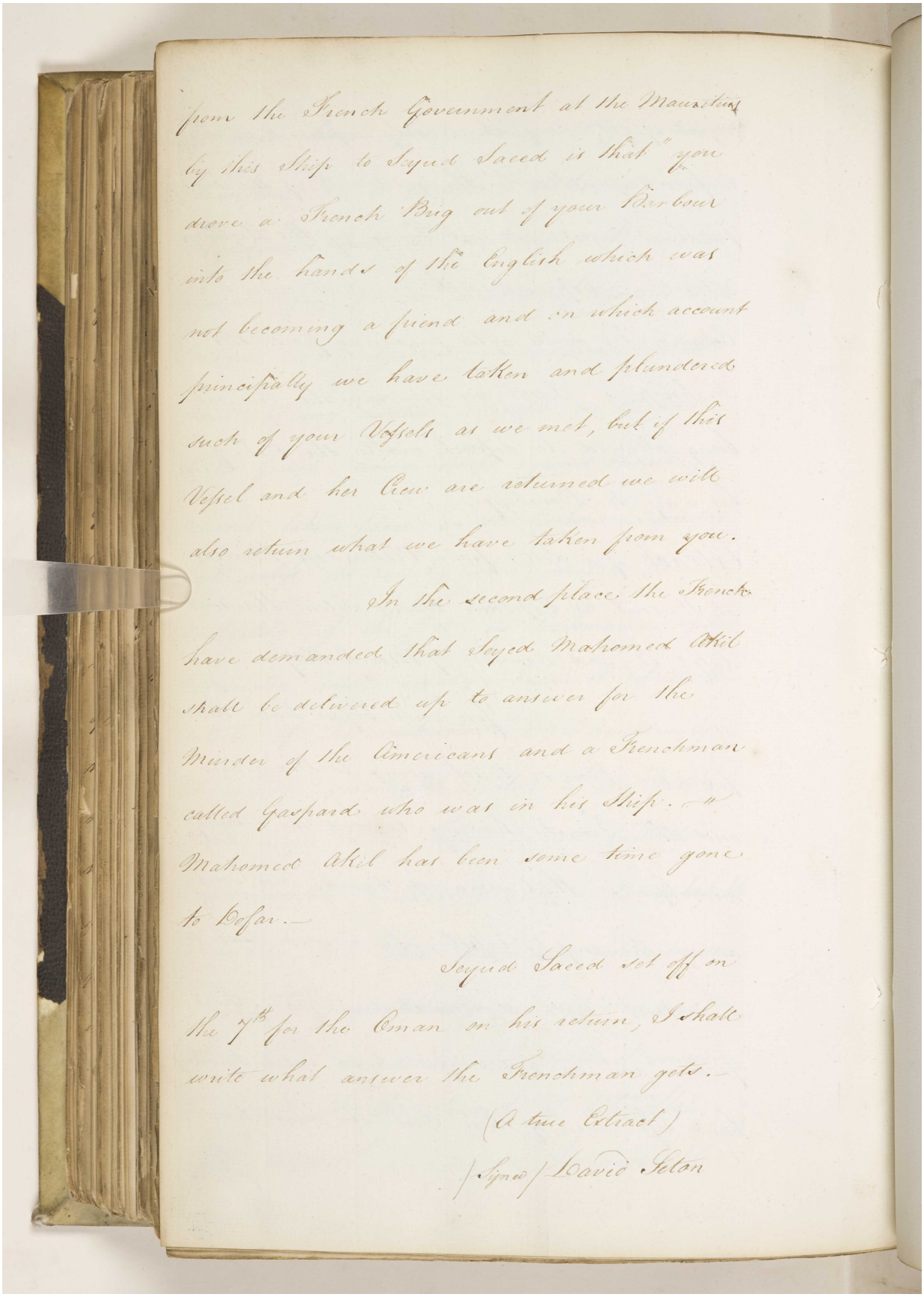

from the French Government at the Mauritius by this Ship to Seyud Saeed is that "you drove a French Brig out of your Harbour into the hands of the English which was not becoming a friend and in which account principally we have taken and plundered such of your Vessels as we met, but if this Vessel and her Crew are returned we will also return what we have taken from you.

In the second place the French have demanded that Seyed Mahomed Akil shall be delivered up to answer for the Murder of the Americans and a Frenchman called Gaspard who was in his Ship. — Mahomed Akil has been some time gone to Dofar.—

Seyud Saeed set off on the 7th for the Oman on his return, I shall write what answer the Frenchman gets.—

(A true Extract)

/Signd/ David Seton

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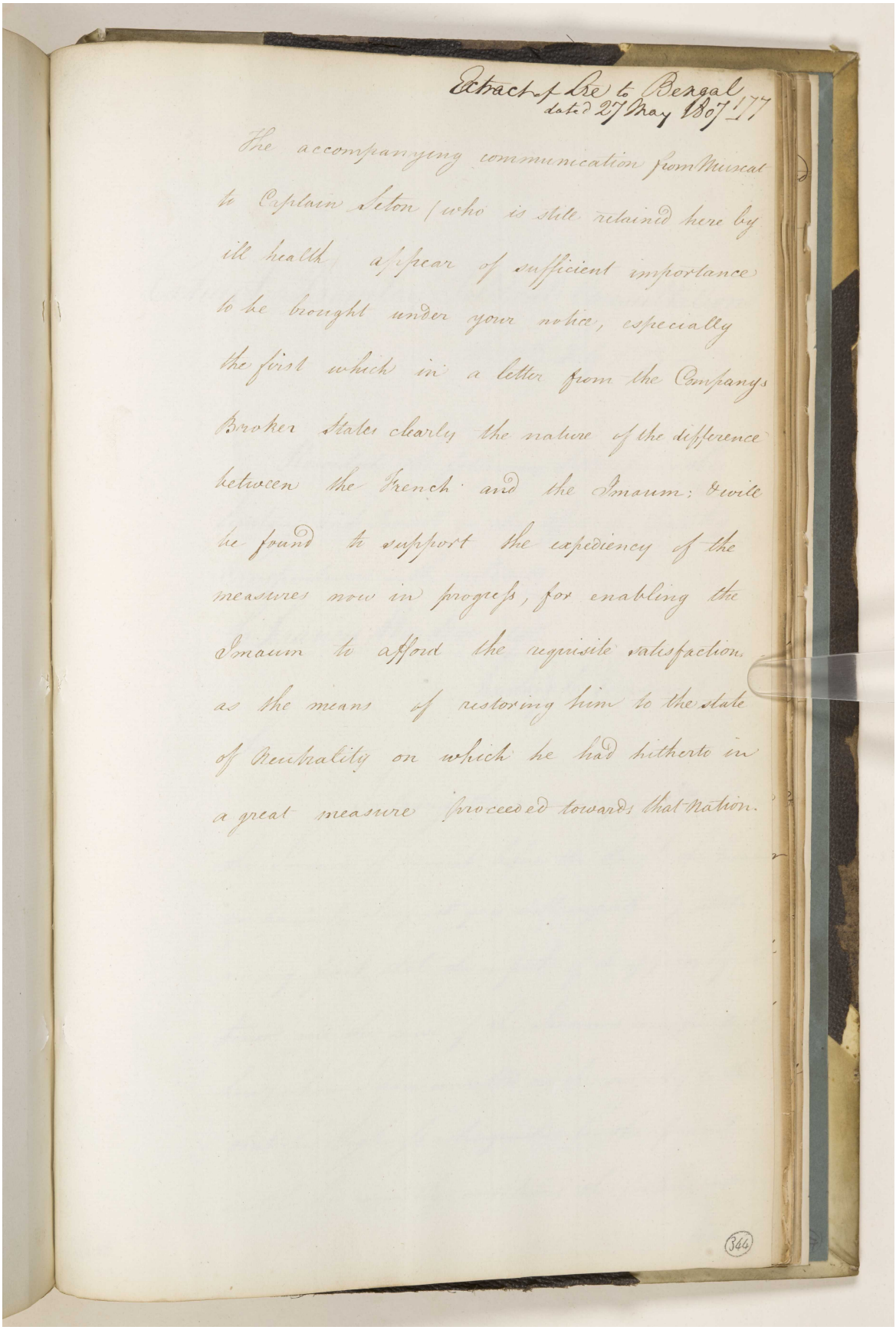

Extract of Ltr to Bengal
dated 27 May 1807 177

The accompanying communication from Muscat to Captain Seton, who is still retained here by ill health, appear of sufficient importance to be brought under your notice, especially the first which in a letter from the Company's Broker states clearly the nature of the difference between the French and the Imaum; & will be found to support the expediency of the measures now in progress, for enabling the Imaum to afford the requisite satisfaction as the means of restoring him to the state of Neutrality on which he had hitherto in a great measure proceeded towards that nation.

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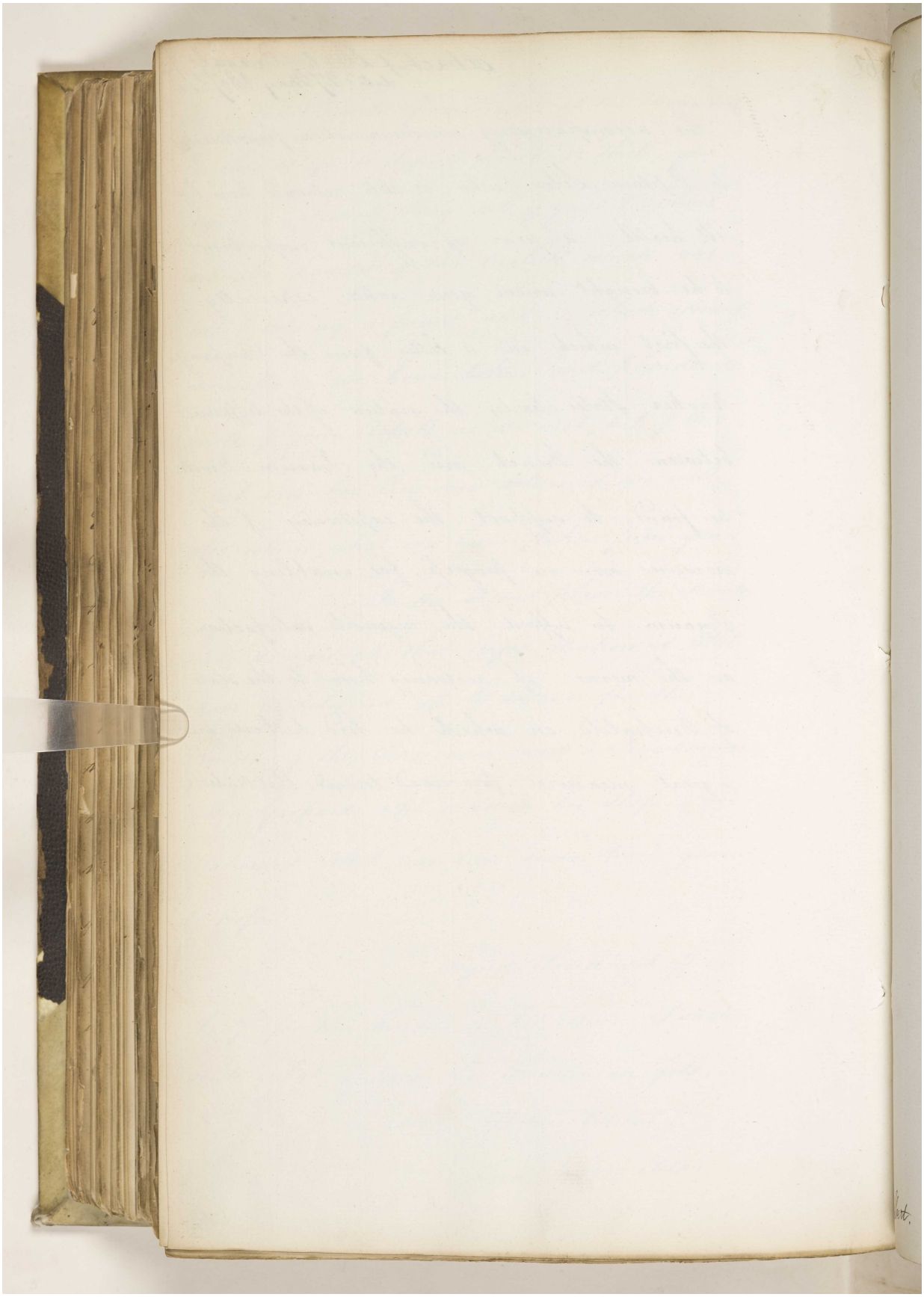

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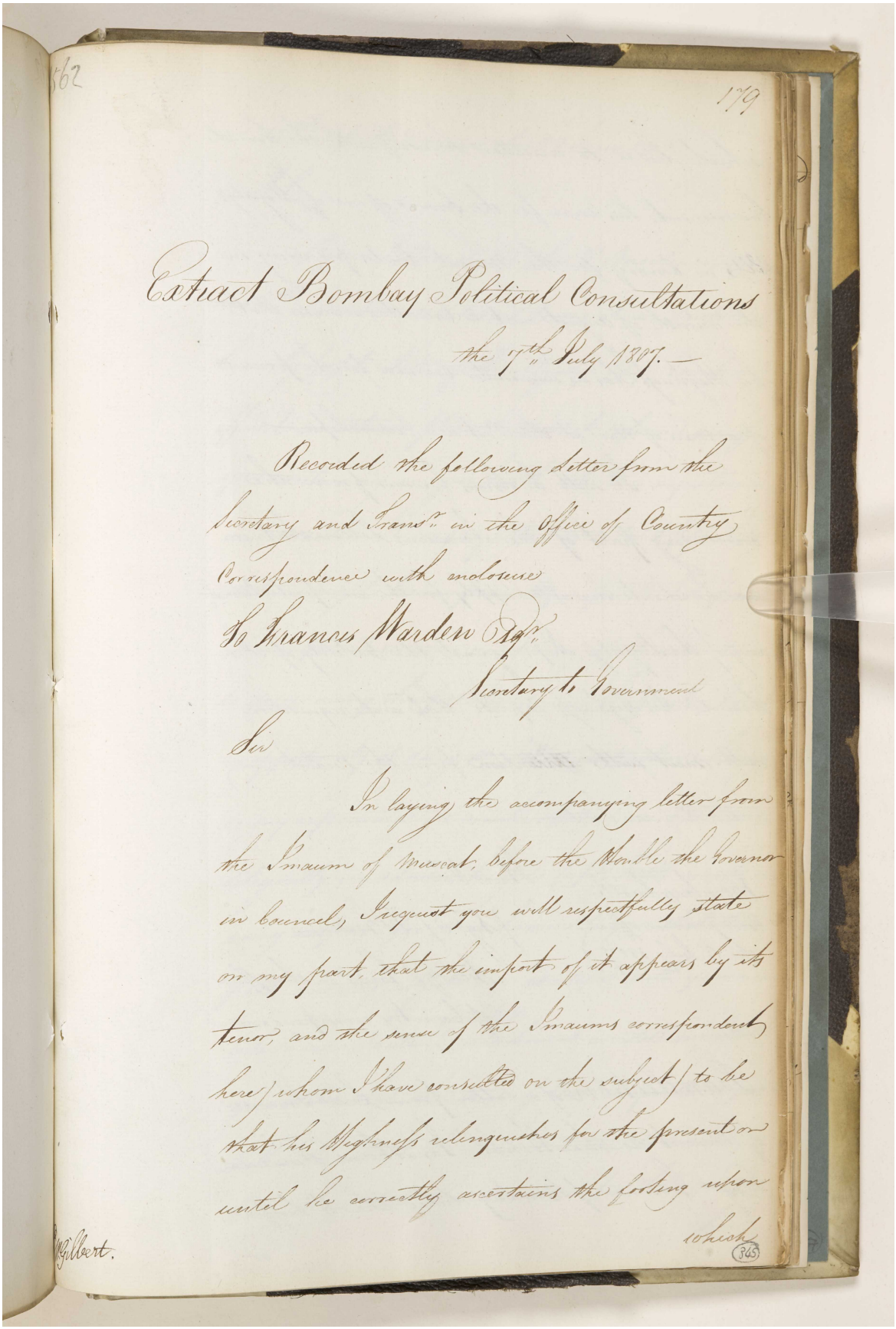

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 7th July 1807. —

Recorded the following Letter from the Secretary and Transr. in the Office of Country Correspondence with enclosure

To Francis Warden Esqr.

Secretary to Government

Sir

In laying the accompanying letter from the Imaum of Muscat, before the Honble the Governor in Council, I request you will respectfully state on my part, that the import of it appears by its tenor, and the sense of the Imaums correspondent here (whom I have consulted on the subject) to be that his Highness relinquishes for the present or until he correctly ascertains the footing upon which

M. Gilbert.

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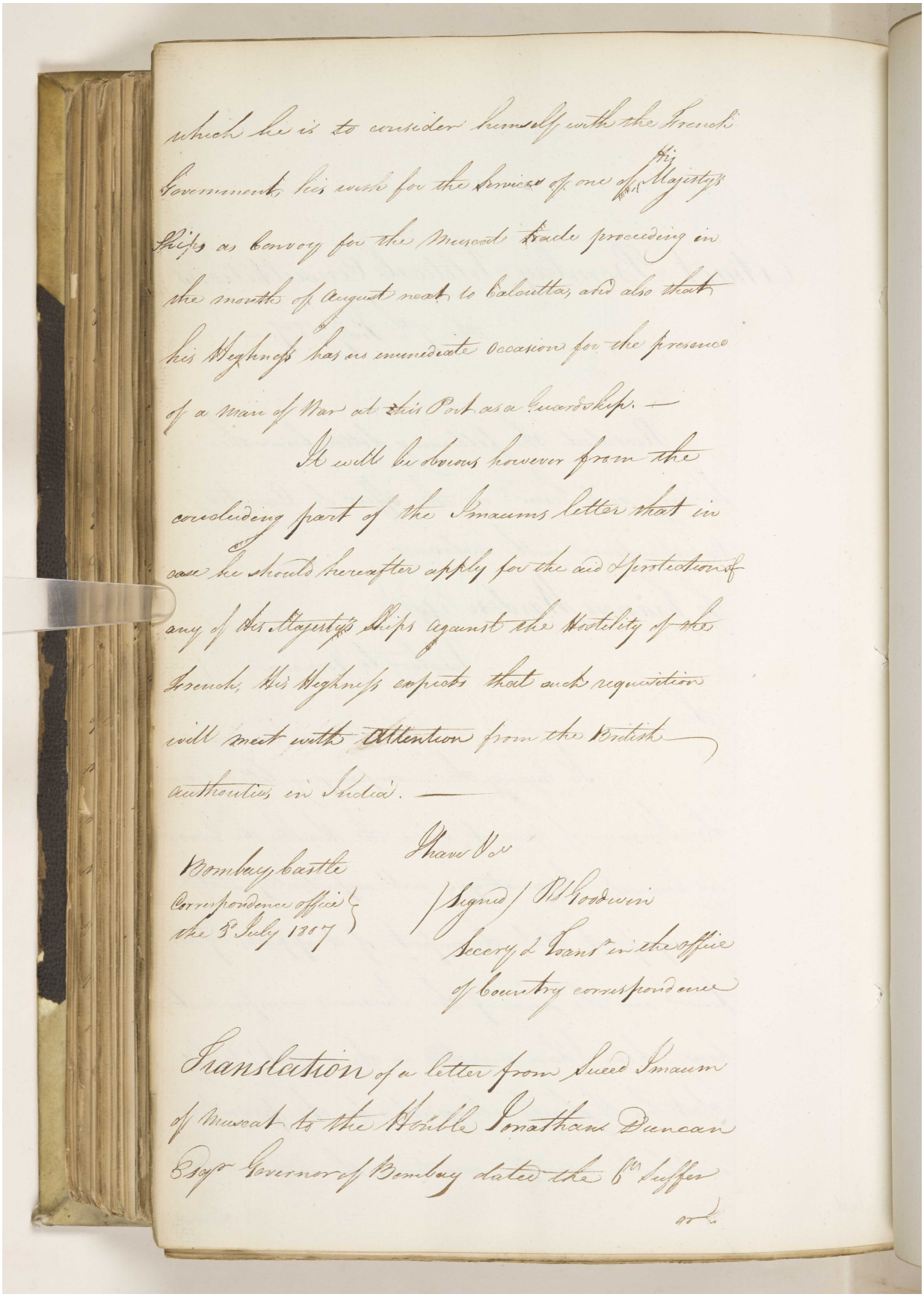

which he is to consider himself with the French Government, his wish for the Services of one of His Majesty's Ships as Convoy for the Muscat trade proceeding in the month of August next to Calcutta, and also that his Highness has no immediate occasion for the presence of a man of War at this Port as a Guardship. —

It will be obvious however from the concluding part of the Imaums letter that in case he should hereafter apply for the aid & protection of any of His Majesty's Ships against the Hostility of the French, His Highness expects that such requisition will meet with Attention from the British authorities in India. —

I have &c

Bombay Castle
Correspondence office
the 3d July 1807

(Signed) R. Goodwin
Secry & Transr in the office
of Country correspondence

Translation of a letter from Sueed Imaum of Muscat to the Honble Jonathan Duncan Esqr Governor of Bombay dated the 6th Suffer

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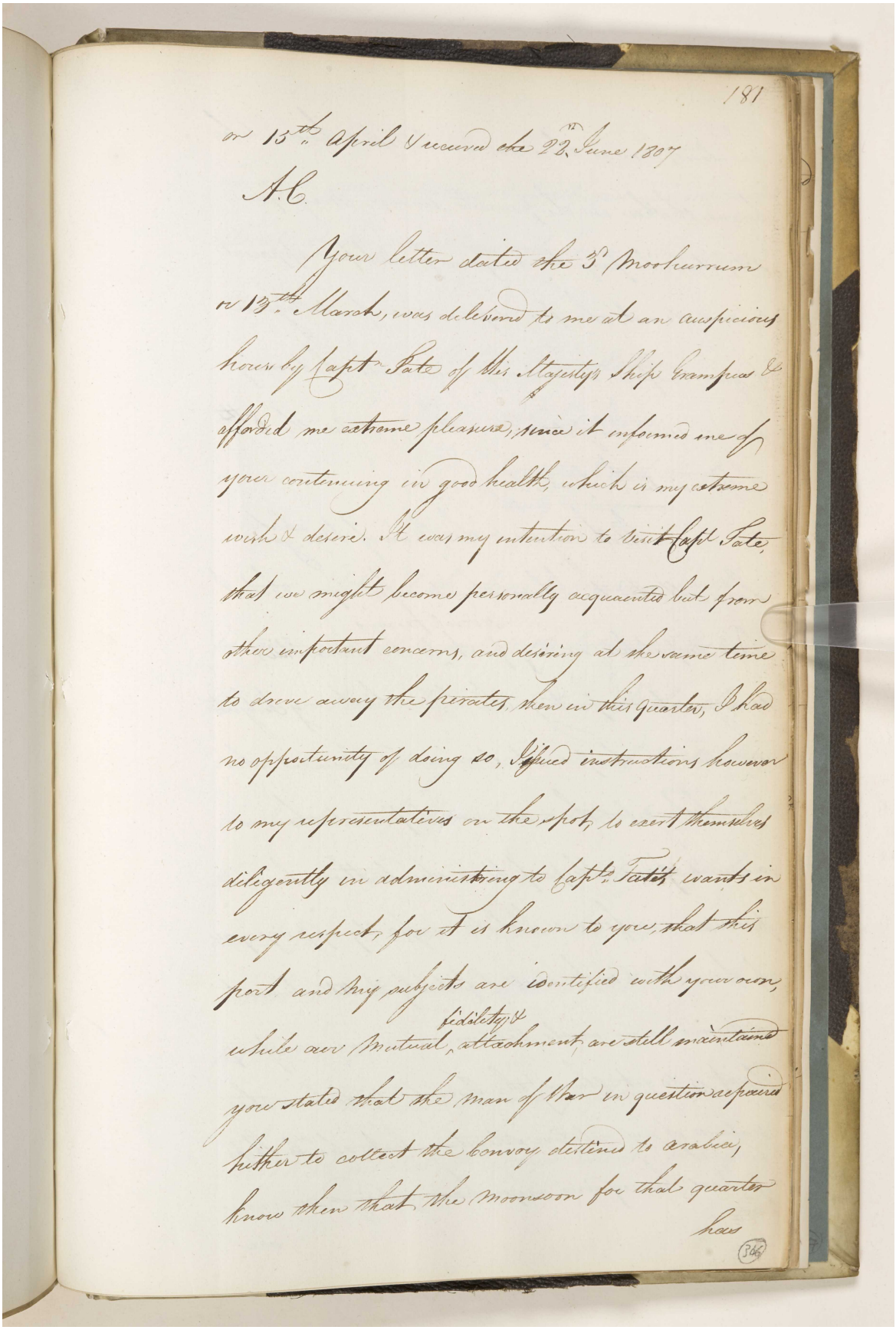

on 15th April & received the 22nd June 1807

A.C.

Your letter dated the 5 Moohurrum or 13th March, was delivered to me at an auspicious hour by Capt. Tate of His Majesty's Ship Grampus & afforded me extreme pleasure, since it informed me of your continuing in good health, which is my extreme wish & desire. It was my intention to visit Capt. Tate, that we might become personally acquainted but from other important concerns, and desiring at the same time to drive away the pirates, then in this quarter, I had no opportunity of doing so, I issued instructions however to my representatives on the spot, to exert themselves diligently in administering to Capt. Tate's wants in every respect, for it is known to you, that this port and my subjects are identified with your own, while our Mutual fidelity & attachment, are still maintained you stated that the man of War in question repaired hither to collect the Convoy destined to Arabia, know then that the Moonsoon for that quarter has

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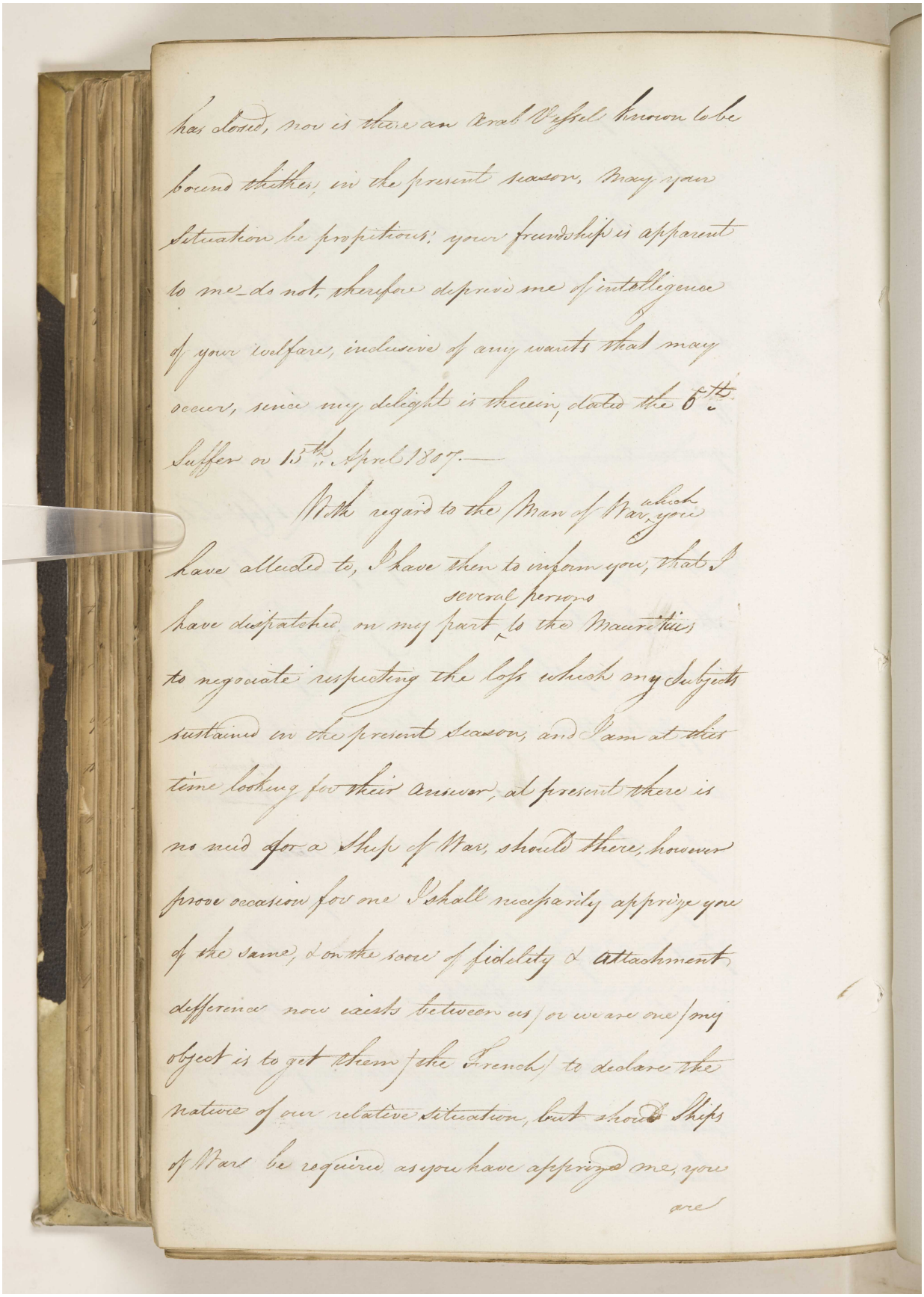

has closed, now is there an Arab Vessel known to be
bound thither, in the present season, May your
Situation be propitious, your friendship is apparent
to me_ do not, therefore deprive me of intelligence
of your welfare, inclusive of any wants that may
occur, since my delight is therein, dated the 6th.
Suffer or 15th. April 1809.—

With regard to the Man of War which you
have alluded to, I have then to inform you, that I
have dispatched on my part several persons to the Mauritius
to negociate respecting the loss which my Subjects
sustained in the present season, and I am at this
time looking for their answer, at present there is
no need for a Ship of War, should there however
prove occasion for one I shall most gladly apprize you
of the same, & on the score of fidelity & attachment
difference now exists between us for we are one, my
object is to get them (the French) to declare the
natives of our relative situation, but should Ships
of War be required as you have apprized me, you
are

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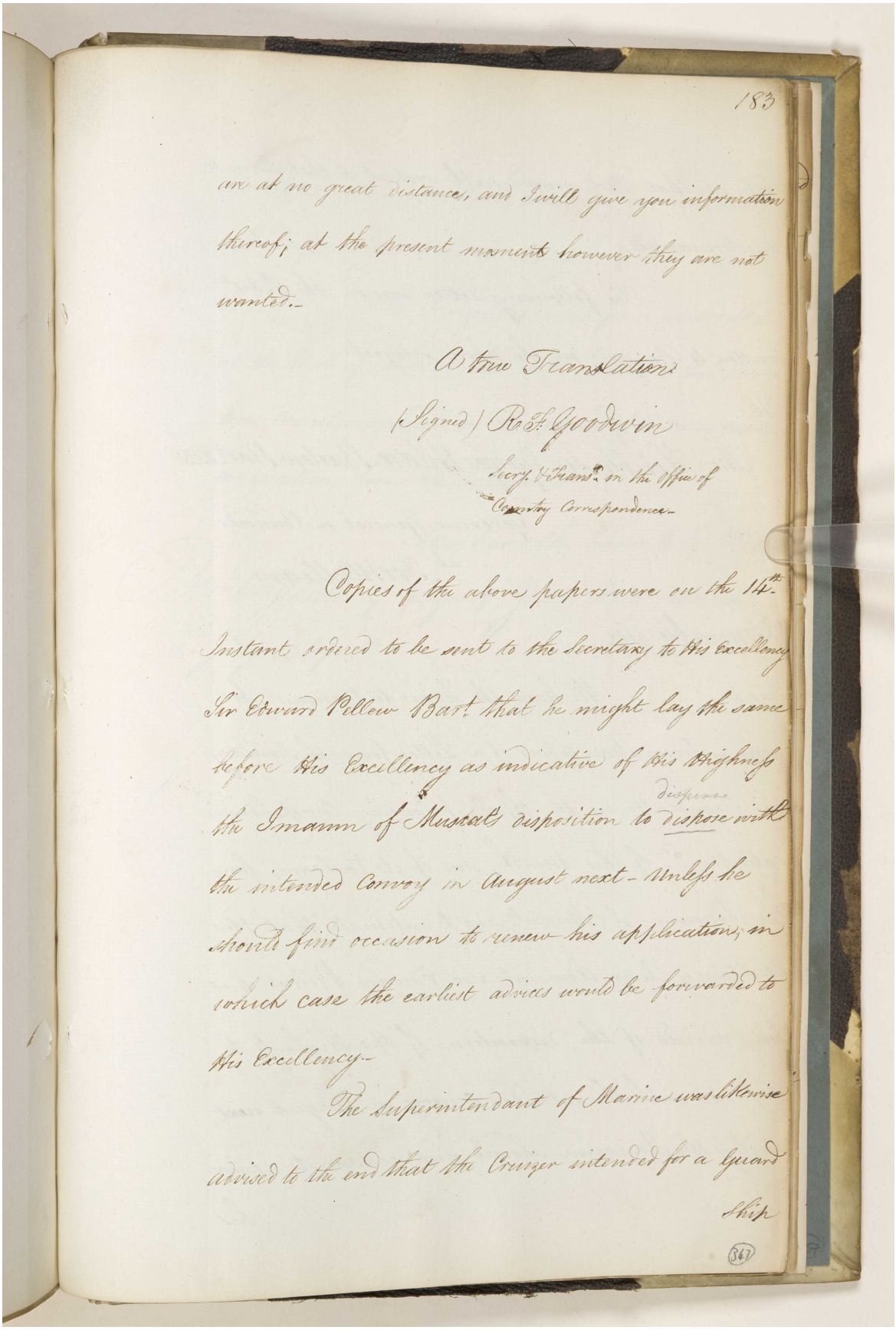

are at no great distance, and I will give you information thereof; at the present moment however they are not wanted.-

A true Translation

(Signed) R. F. Goodwin

Secry. & Trans.r in the Office of Country Correspondence.-

Copies of the above papers were on the 14th Instant ordered to be sent to the Secretary to His Excellency Sir Edward Pellew Bart. that he might lay the same before His Excellency as indicative of His Highness the Imaum of Muscat's disposition to dispose with the intended Convoy in August next - Unless he should find occasion to renew his application; in which case the earliest advices would be forwarded to His Excellency.-

The Superintendant of Marine was likewise advised to the end that the Cruizer intended for a Guard Ship

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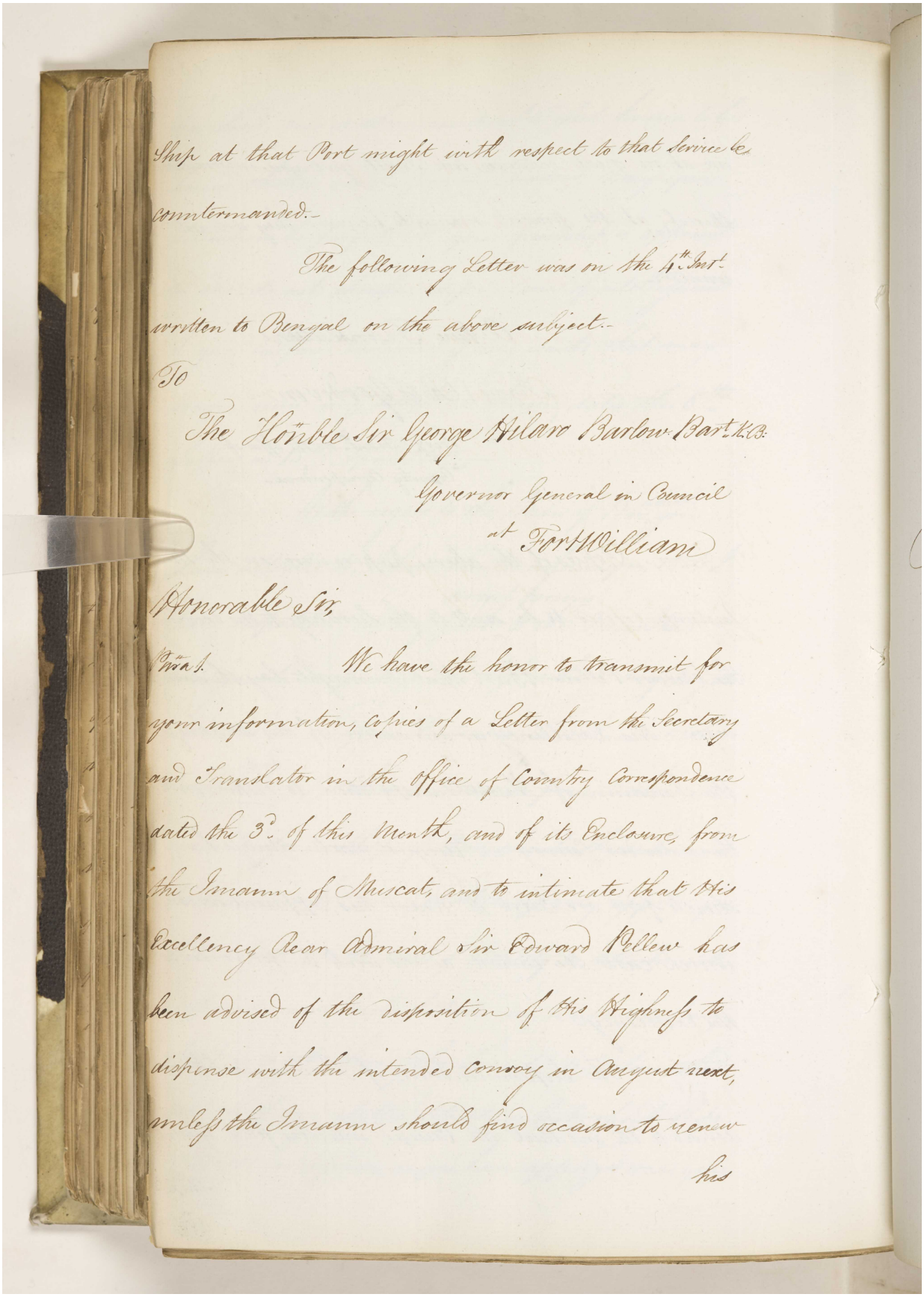

Ship at that Port might with respect to that Service be countermanded.-

The following Letter was on the 4th Inst. written to Bengal on the above subject.-

To

The Honble Sir George Hilaro Barlow Bart K.C.

Governor General in Council

at Fort William

Honorable Sir,

Para 1. We have the honor to transmit for your information, copies of a Letter from the Secretary and Translator in the office of Country Correspondence dated the 3d of this Month, and of its Enclosure, from the Imaum of Muscat, and to intimate that His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew has been advised of the disposition of His Highness to dispense with the intended convoy in August next, unless the Imaum should find occasion to renew his

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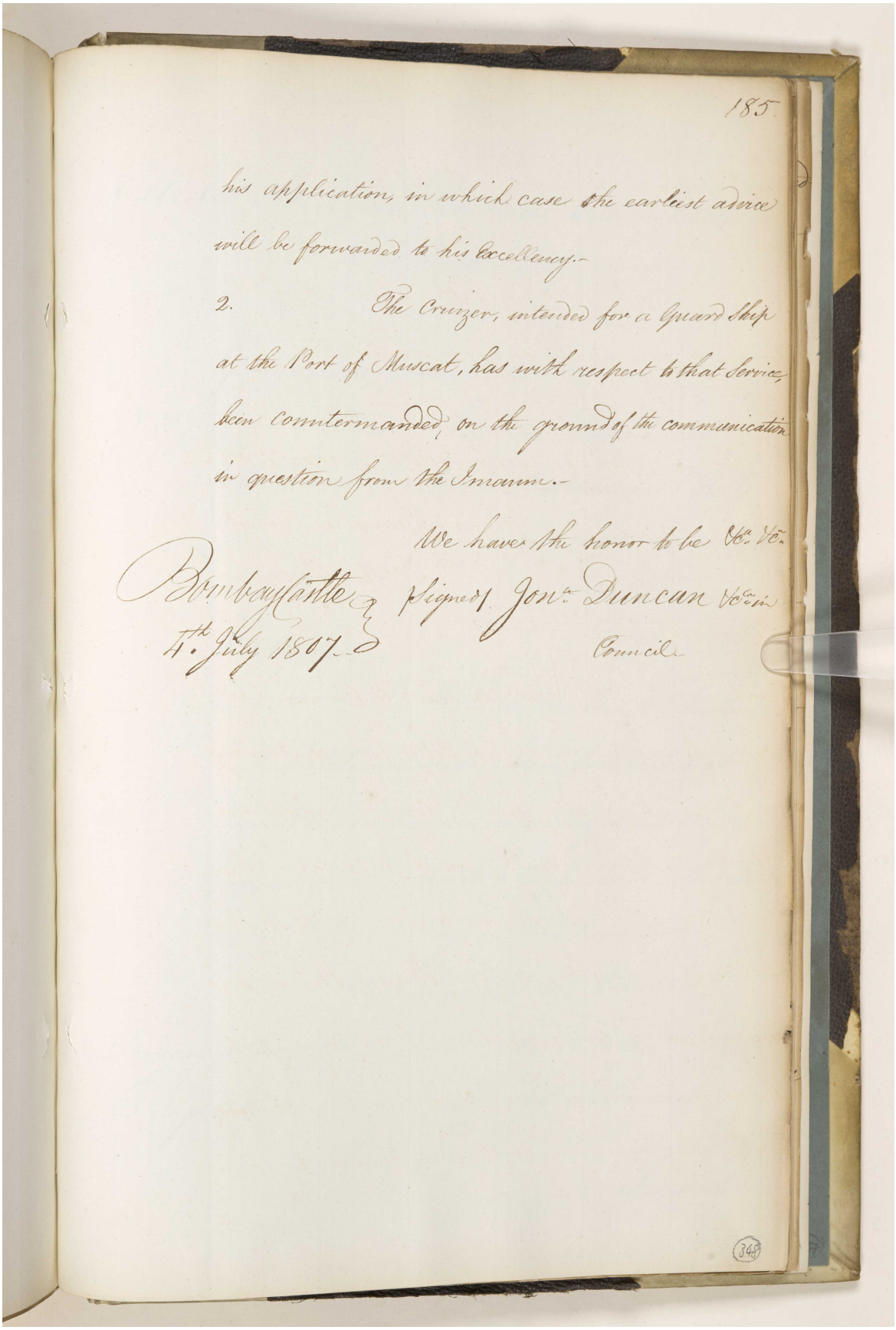

his application, in which case the earliest advice will be forwarded to his Excellency.-

2. The Cruizer, intended for a Guard Ship at the Port of Muscat, has with respect to that Service, been countermanded, on the ground of the communication in question from the Imaum.-

We have the honor to be &c.a &c.a

Bombay Castle
4th. July 1807.-

(Signed) Jon.a Duncan &c.a in Council.

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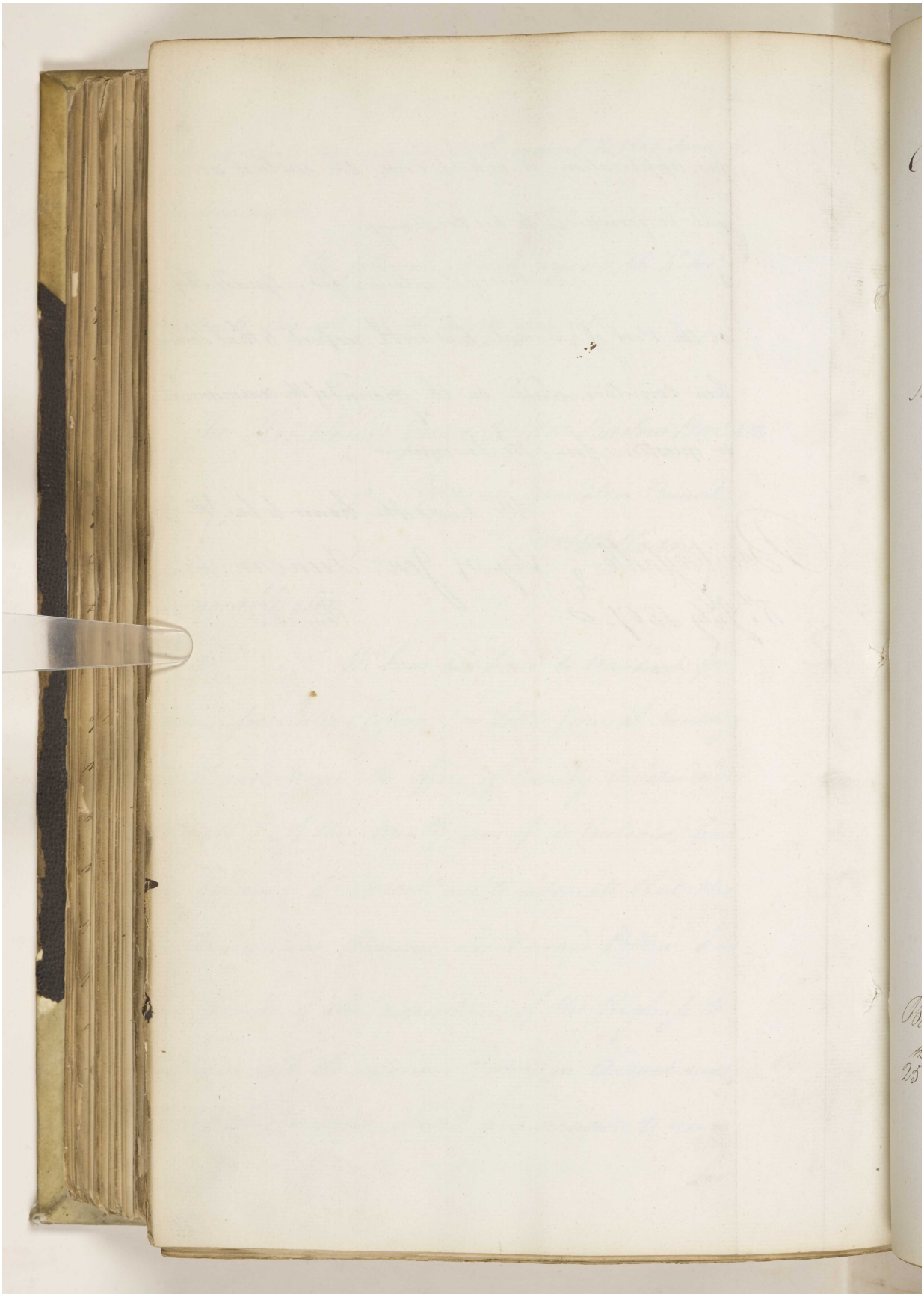

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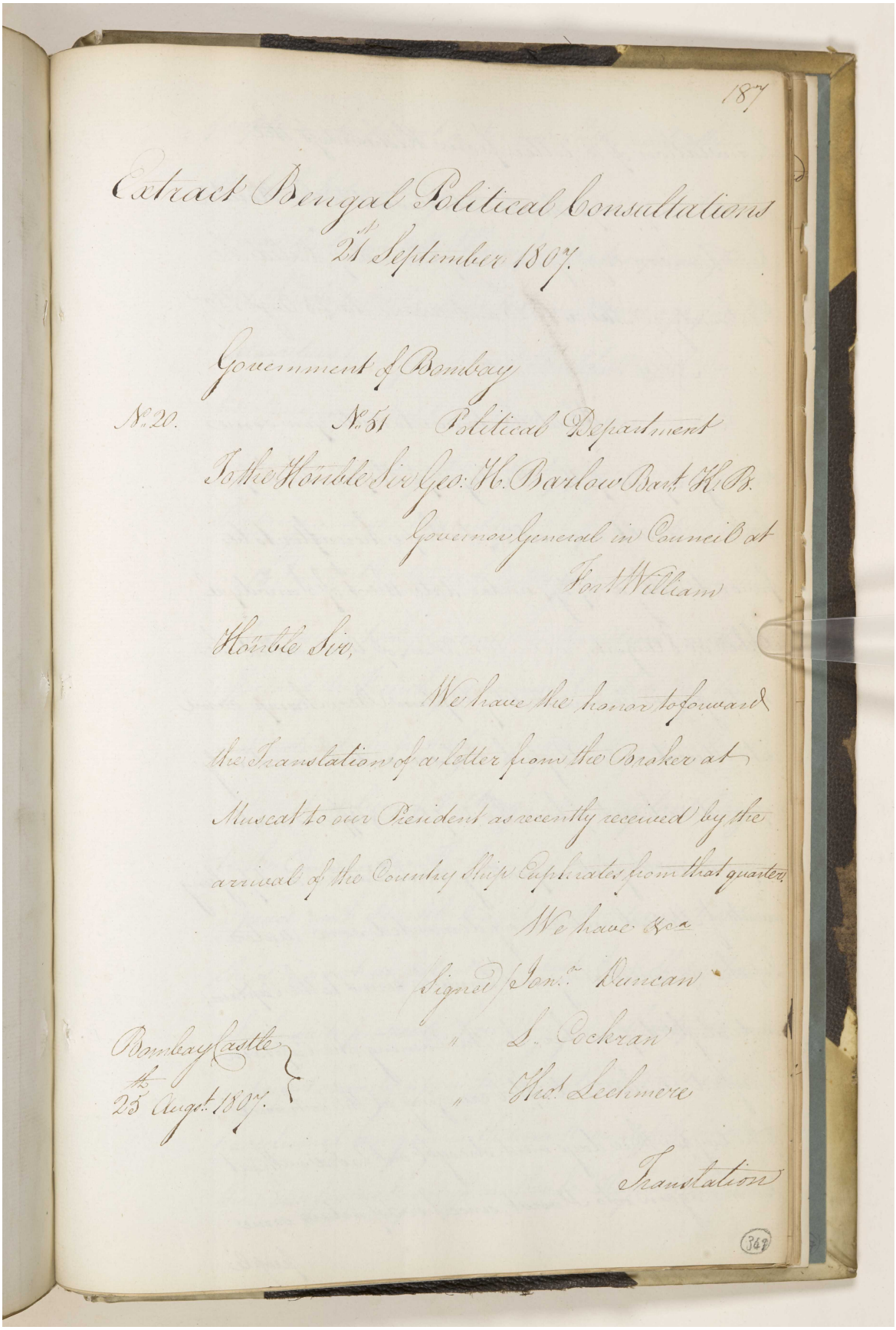

Extract Bengal Political Consultations
21st September 1807.

Government of Bombay

No. 20. No. 51 Political Department

To the Hon'ble Sir Geo: H. Barlow Bart. K.B.
Governor General in Council at
Fort William

Hon'ble Sir,

We have the honor to forward the Translation of a letter from the Broker at Muscat to our President as recently received by the arrival of the Country Ship Euphrates from that quarter.

We have &ca

(Signed) Jon.a Duncan
" L. Cockran
" Thos. Lechmere

Bombay Castle
25th Augst. 1807.

Translation

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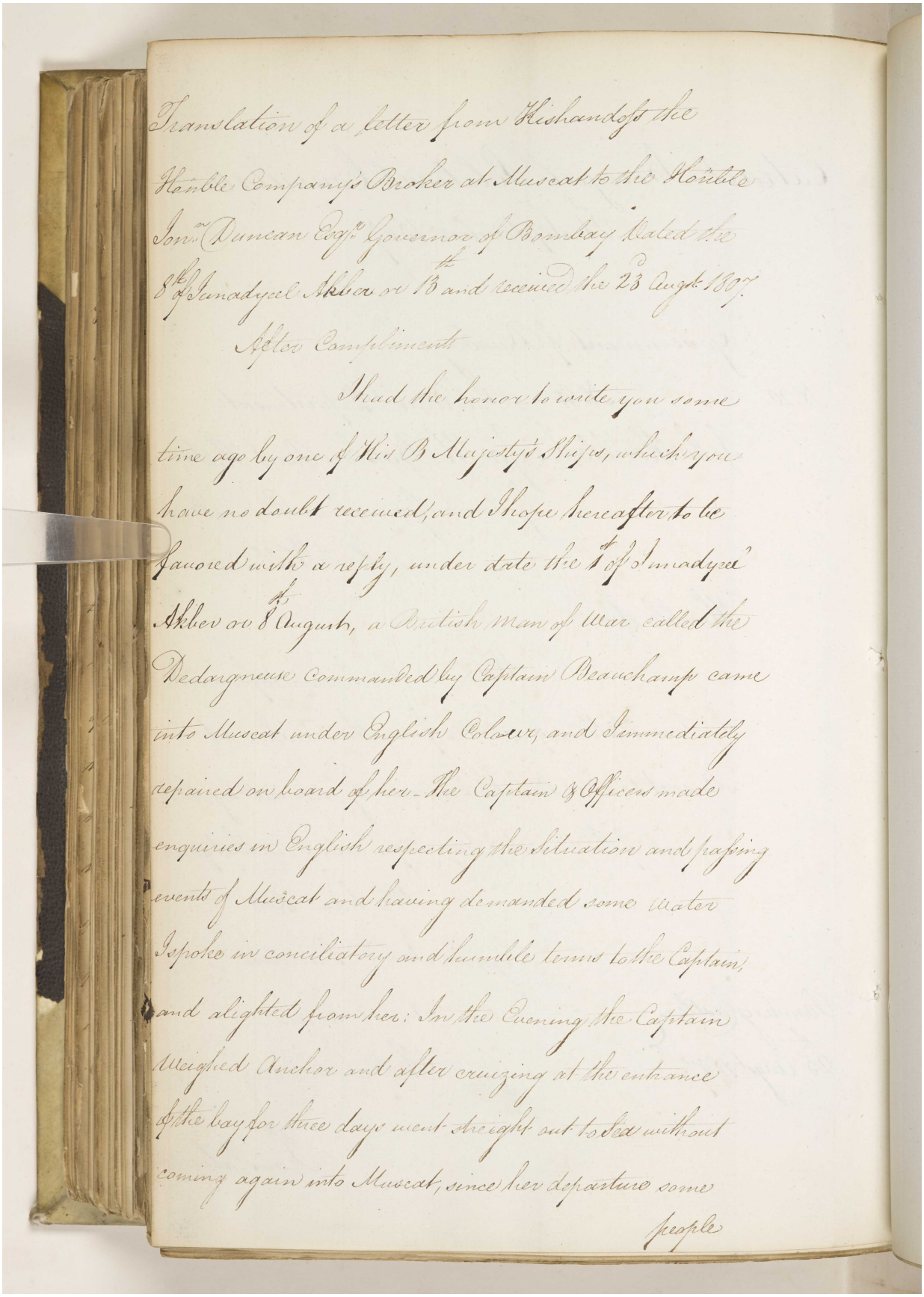

Translation of a letter from Kishandoss the Honble Company's Broker at Muscat to the Honble Jonn. Duncan Esqr. Governor of Bombay Dated the 8th of Jumadyeel Akber or 13th and received the 23d Augst. 1807.

After Compliments

I had the honor to write you some time ago by one of His B. Majesty's Ships, which you have no doubt received, and I hope hereafter to be favored with a reply, under date the 1st of Jumadyeel Akber or 8th August, a British Man of War called the Dedargneuse commanded by Captain Beauchamp came into Muscat under English Colour, and I immediately repaired on board of her - The Captain & Officers made enquiries in English respecting the Situation and passing events of Muscat and having demanded some Water I spoke in conciliatory and humble terms to the Captain, and alighted from her: In the Evening the Captain Weighed Anchor and after cruizing at the entrance of the bay for three days went streight out to Sea without coming again into Muscat, since her departure some

people

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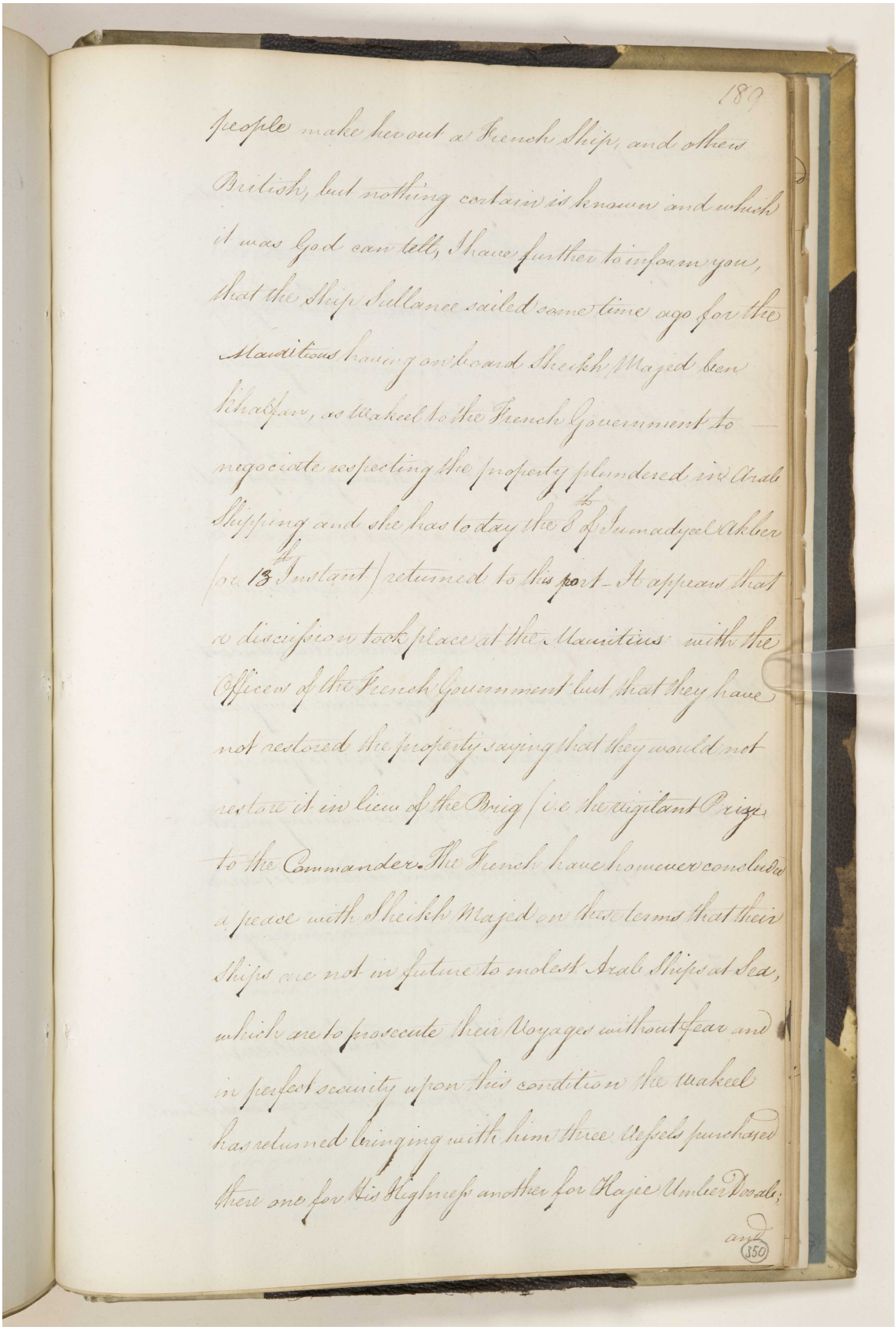

people make her out a French Ship, and others British, but nothing certain is known and which it was God can tell, I have further to inform you, that the Ship Sullanee sailed some time ago for the Mauritius having on board Sheikh Majed ben Khalfan, as Wakeel to the French Government to negociate respecting the property plundered in Arab Shipping and she has to day the 8th of Jumadyeel Akber (or 13th Instant) returned to this port - It appears that a discussion took place at the Mauritius with the Officers of the French Government but that they have not restored the property saying that they would not restore it in lieu of the Brig (i.e the vigilant Prize to the Commander. The French have however concluded a peace with Sheikh Majed on these terms that their Ships are not in future to molest Arab Ships at Sea, which are to prosecute their Voyages without fear and in perfect security upon this condition the Wakeel has returned bringing with him three Vessels purchased there one for His Highness another for Hajee Umber Dooab;

and

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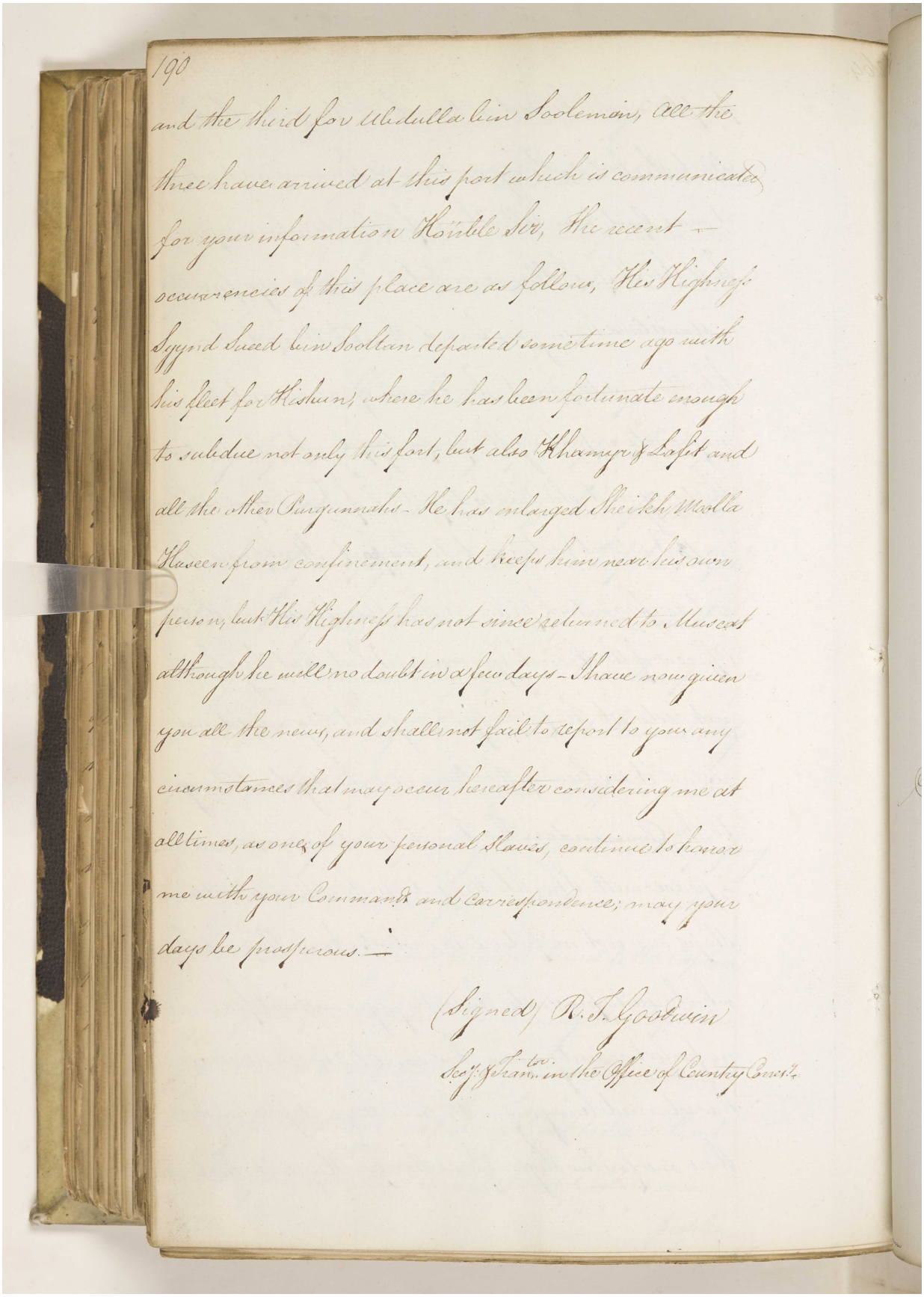

and the third for Ubdulla bin Soolemin, All the three have arrived at this port which is communicated for your information Hon'ble Sir, The recent occurrencies of this place are as follow, His Highness Syynd Sueed bin Sooltan departed some time ago with his fleet for Kishun, where he has been fortunate enough to subdue not only this fort, but also Khamyr & Lafit and all the other Purgunnahs - He has enlarged Sheikh Moolla Haseen from confinement, and keeps him near his own person, but His Highness has not since returned to Muscat although he will no doubt in a few days - I have now given you all the news, and shall not fail to report to you any circumstances that may occur hereafter considering me at all times, as one of your personal Slaves, continue to honor me with your Commands and Correspondence; may your days be prosperous. —

(Signed) R. T. Goodwin

Secy. & Tran.tor in the Office of Country Corres.t

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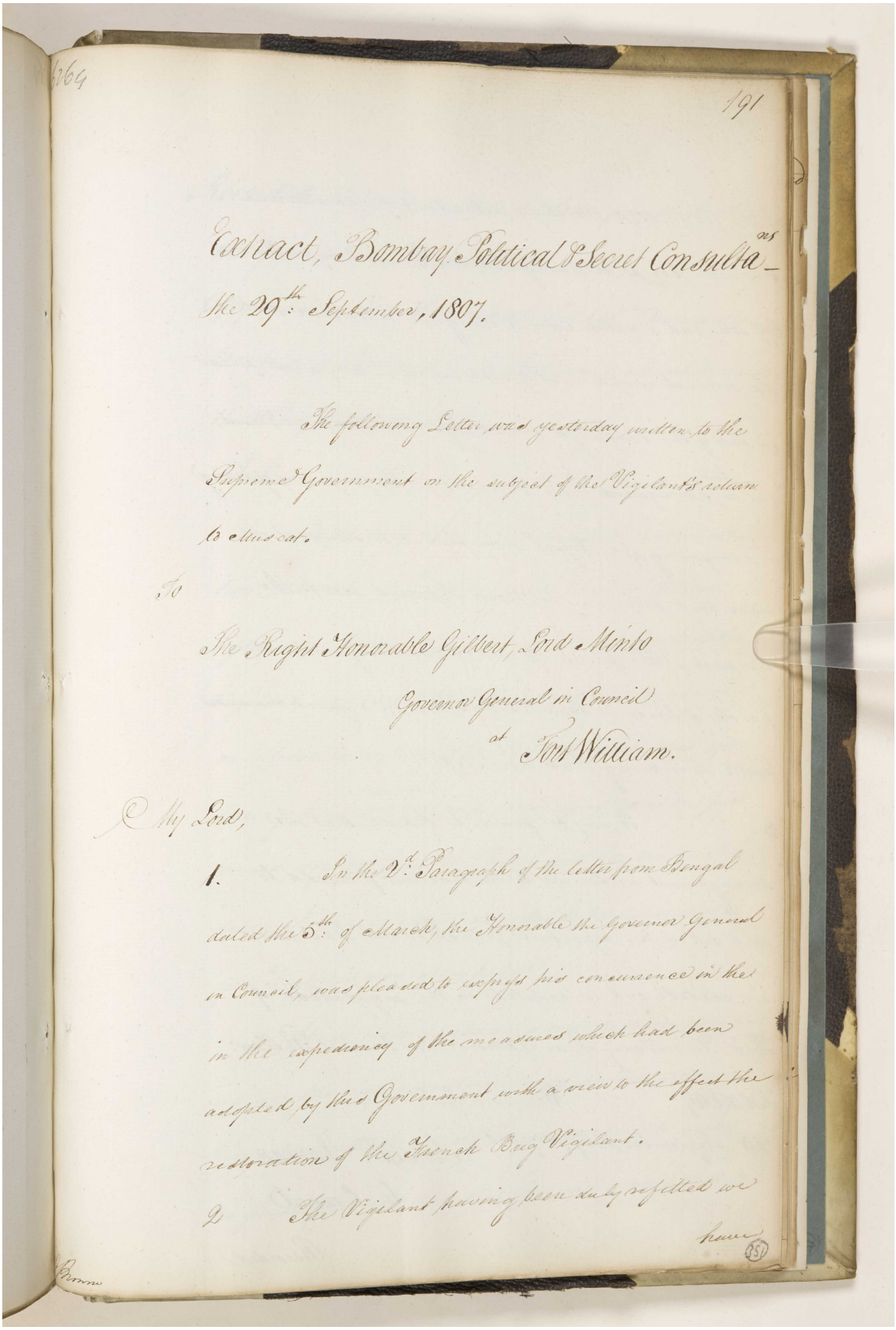

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Extract, Bombay Political & Secret Consultns
the 29th September, 1807.

The following Letter was yesterday written to the Supreme Government on the subject of the Vigilant's return to Muscat.

To

The Right Honorable Gilbert, Lord Minto
Governor General in Council
at Fort William.

My Lord,

1. In the 2d Paragraph of the letter from Bengal dated the 5th of March, the Honorable the Governor General in Council, was pleased to express his concurrence in the inexpediency of the measures which had been adopted by that Government with a view to the effect the restoration of the French Brig Vigilant.

2 The Vigilant having been duly refitted we have

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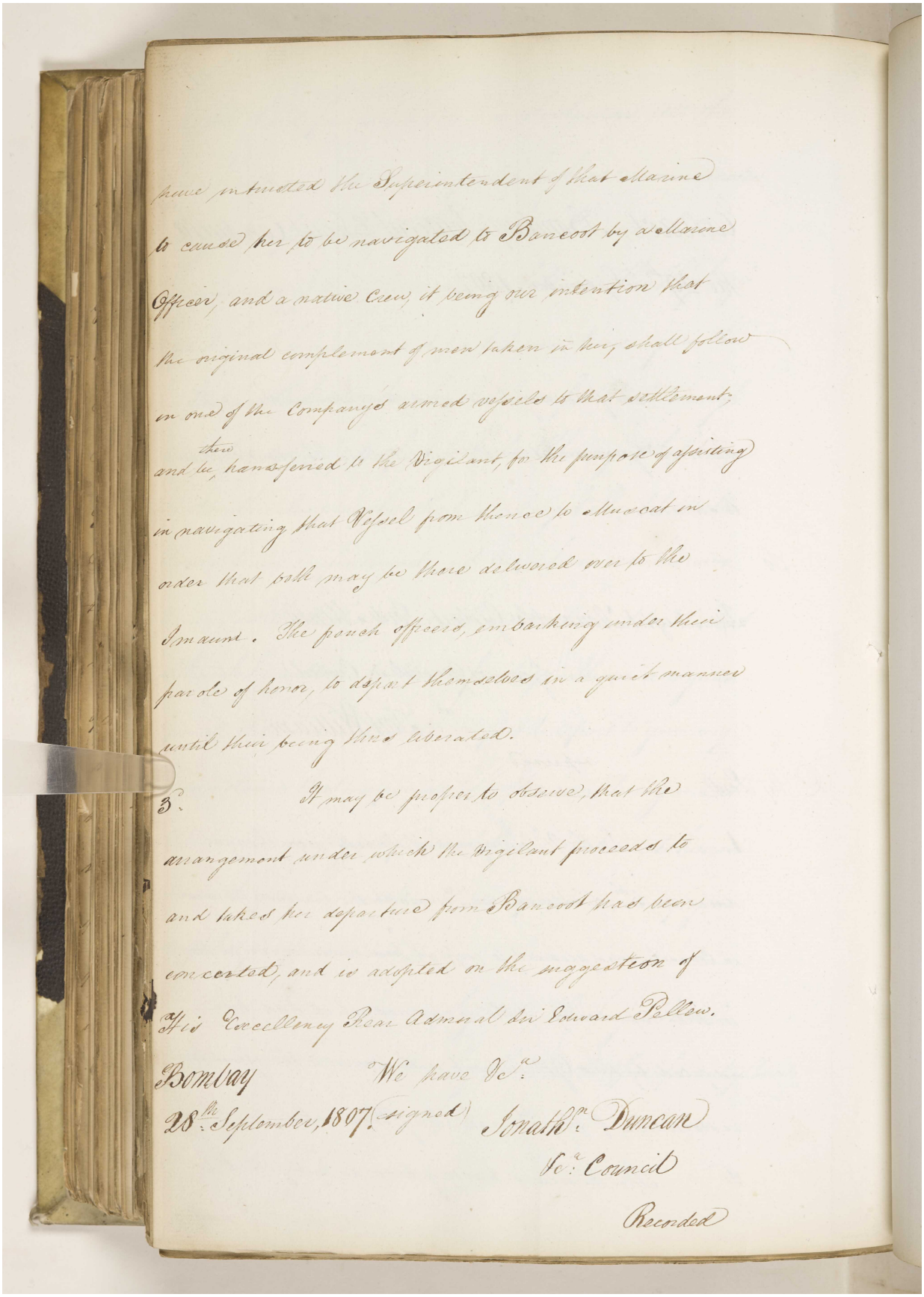

have intrusted the Superintendent of that Marine to cause her to be navigated to Bancoot by a Marine Officer, and a native Crew, it being our intention that the original complement of men taken in her, shall follow in one of the Company's armed vessels to that settlement; and be there transferred to the Vigilant, for the purpose of assisting in navigating that Vessel from thence to Muscat in order that both may be there delivered over to the Imaum. The french officers, embarking under their parole of honor, to depart themselves in a quiet manner until their being thus liberated.

3°. It may be proper to observe, that the arrangement under which the Vigilant proceeds to and takes her departure from Bancoot has been concerted, and is adopted on the suggestion of His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward Pellew.

Bombay
28th September, 1807.

We have &c.
(signed) Jonathn. Duncan
&c. Council

Recorded

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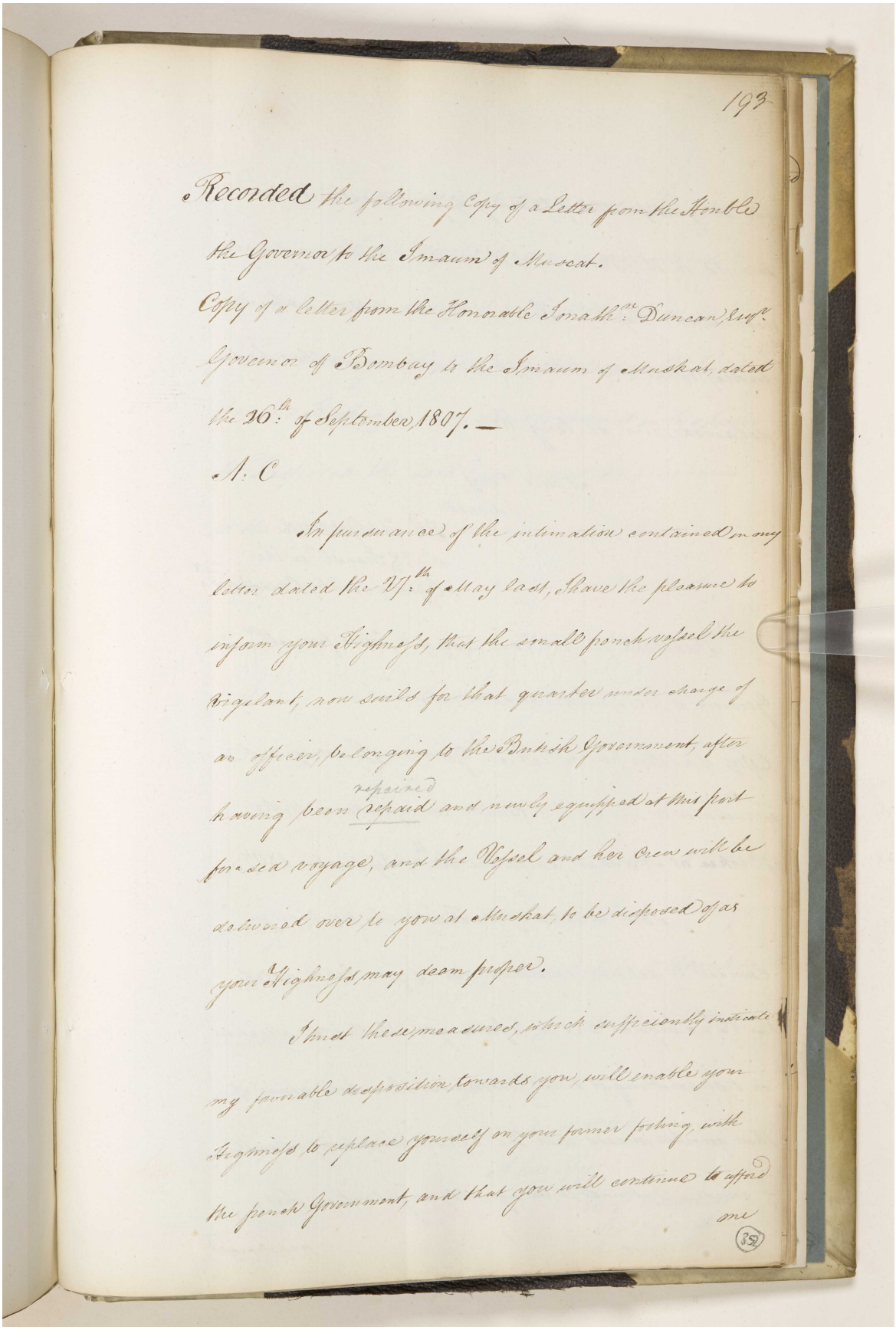

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Recorded the following Copy of a Letter from the Honble the Governor to the Imaum of Muscat.

Copy of a letter from the Honorable Jonath.n Duncan, Esqr. Governor of Bombay, to the Imaum of Muskat, dated the 26th. of September 1807.—

N. 6

In pursuance of the intimation contained in my letter dated the 17th. of May last, I have the pleasure to inform your Highness, that the small Ponch vessel the Vigilant, now sails for that quarter under charge of an officer, belonging to the British Government, after having been repaired repaid and newly equipped at this port for a sea voyage, and the Vessel and her Crew will be delivered over to you at Muskat, to be disposed of as your Highness may deem proper.

I trust these measures, which sufficiently indicate my favorable disposition towards you, will enable your Highness to replace yourself on your former footing, with the French Government, and that you will continue to afford me

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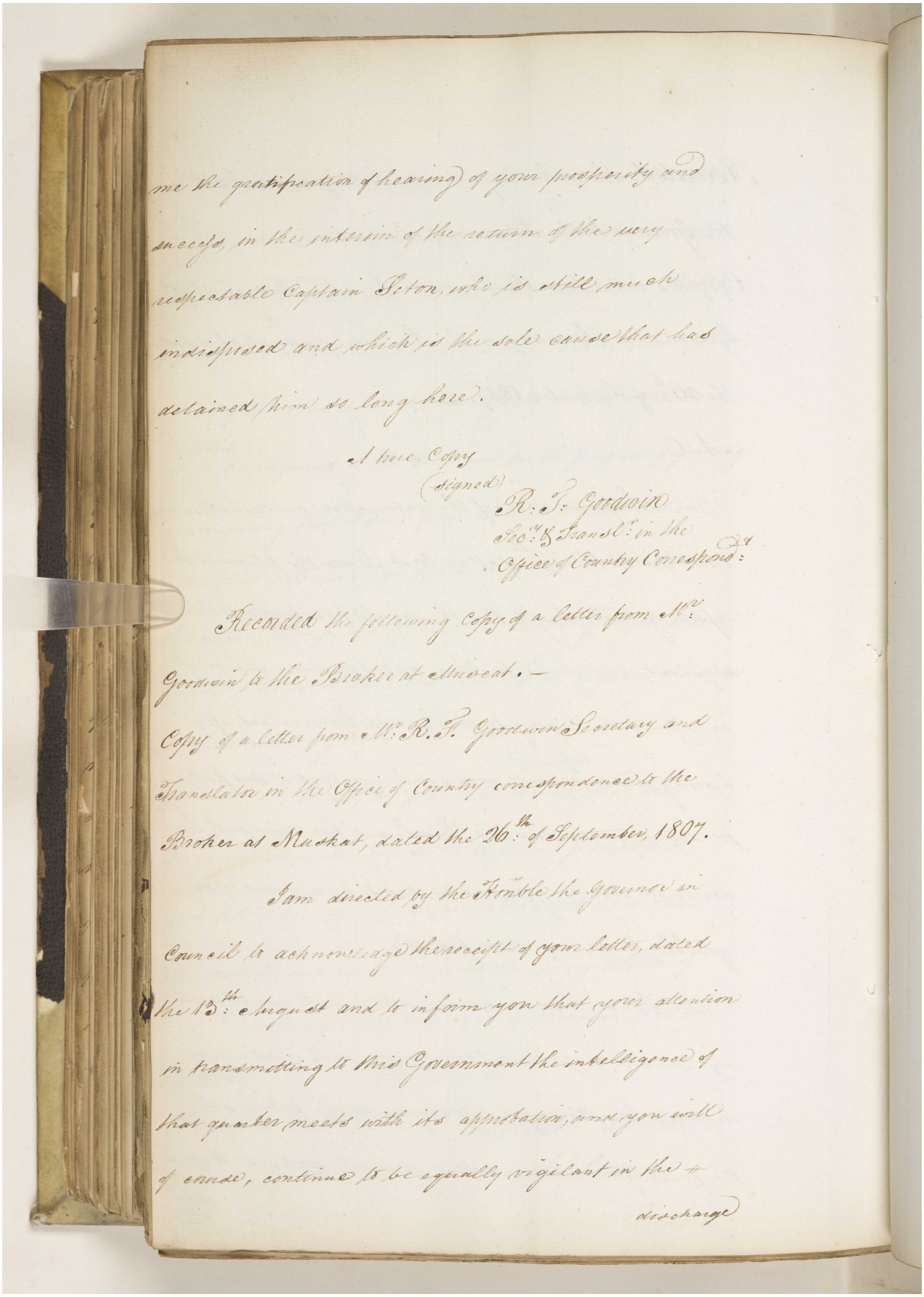

me the gratification of hearing of your prosperity and success, in the interim of the return of the very respectable Captain Seton, who is still much indisposed and which is the sole cause that has detained him so long here.

A true Copy
(signed) R: T: Goodwin
Sec.y & Transl.r in the
Office of Country Correspond.e

Recorded the following Copy of a Letter from Mr. Goodwin to the Broker at Muscat. —

Copy of a Letter from Mr. R. T. Goodwin Secretary and Translator in the Office of Country correspondence to the Broker at Muskat, dated the 26th of September, 1807.

I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 13th instant and to inform you that your attention in transmitting to this Government the intelligence of that quarter meets with its approbation, and you will of course, continue to be equally vigilant in the discharge

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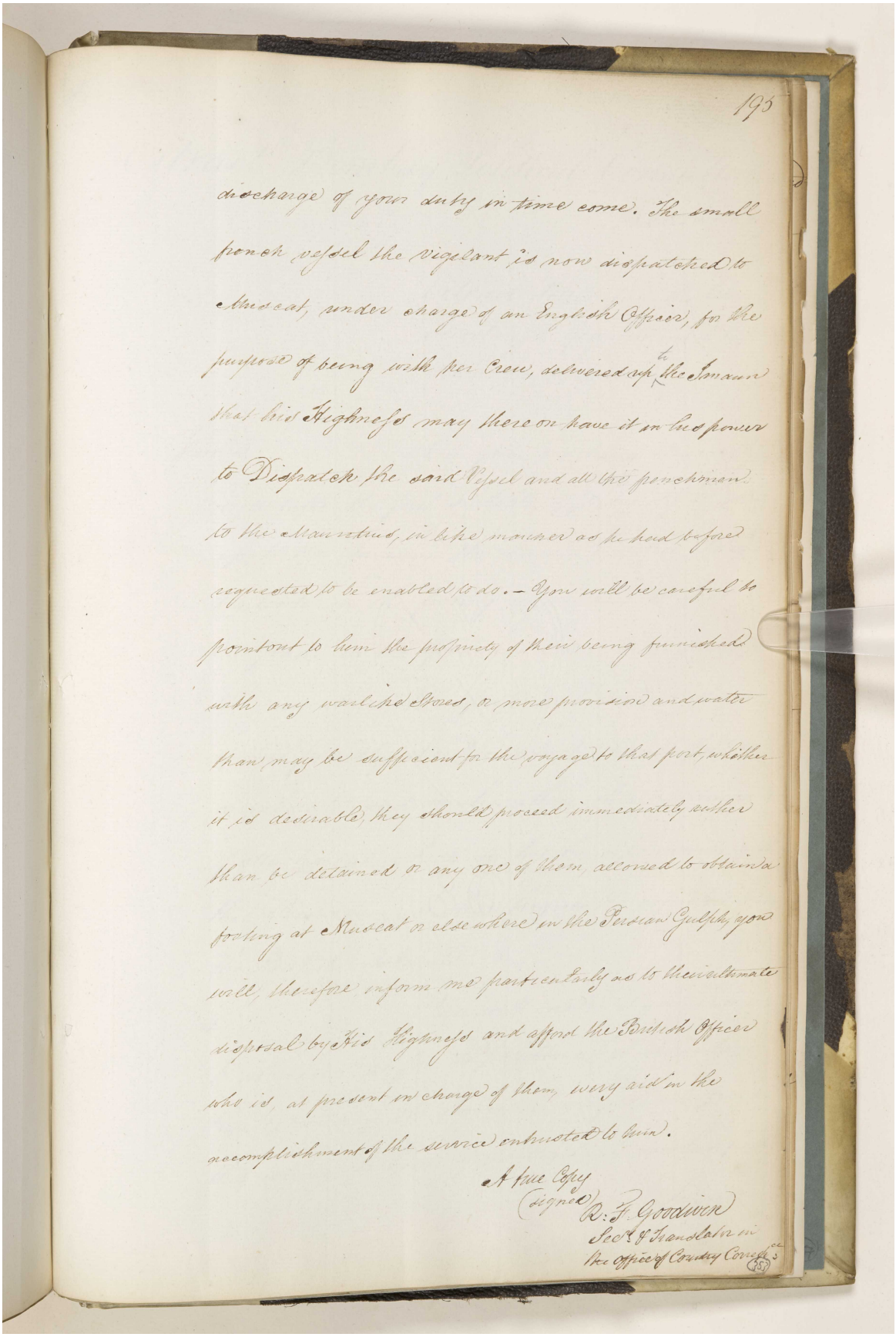

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discharge of your duty in time come. The small
French vessel the Vigilant is now dispatched to
Muscat, under charge of an English Officer, for the
purpose of being with her Crew, delivered up to the Imaum
that his Highness may thereon have it in his power
to Dispatch the said Vessel and all the Panchimans
to the Mauritius, in like manner as he had before
requested to be enabled to do. — You will be careful to
promtont to him the propriety of their being furnished
with any warlike Stores, or more provision and water
than may be sufficient for the voyage to that port, whither
it is desirable they should proceed immediately either
than be detained at any one of them, accrued to obtain a
footing at Muscat or elsewhere in the Persian Gulph, you
will therefore inform me particularly as to their ultimate
disposal by His Highness and afford the British Officer
who is, at present in charge of them, every aid in the
accomplishment of the service entrusted to him.

A true Copy
(signed) R. T. Goodwin
Sec.y & Translator in
the office of Country Corresp.ce

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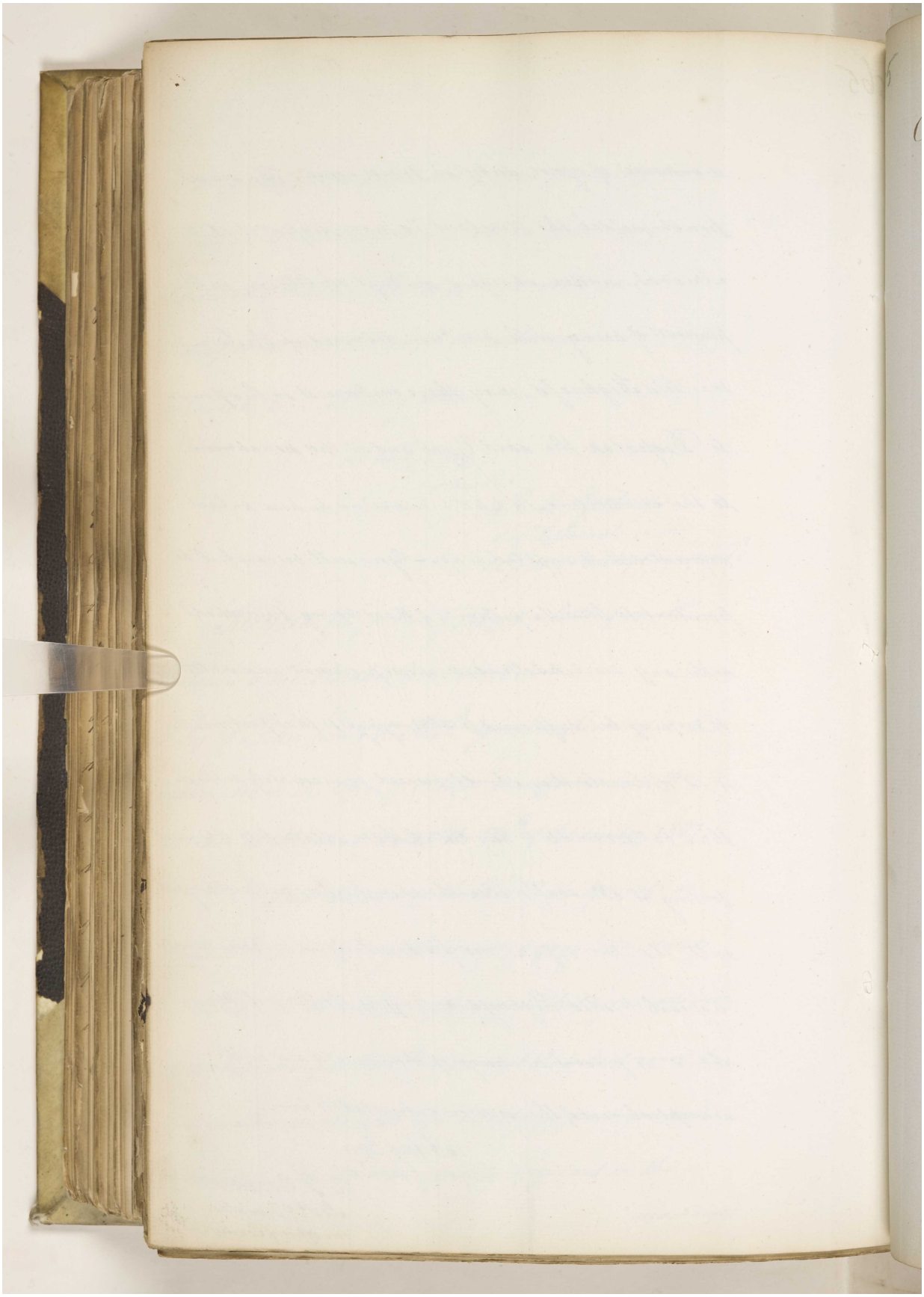

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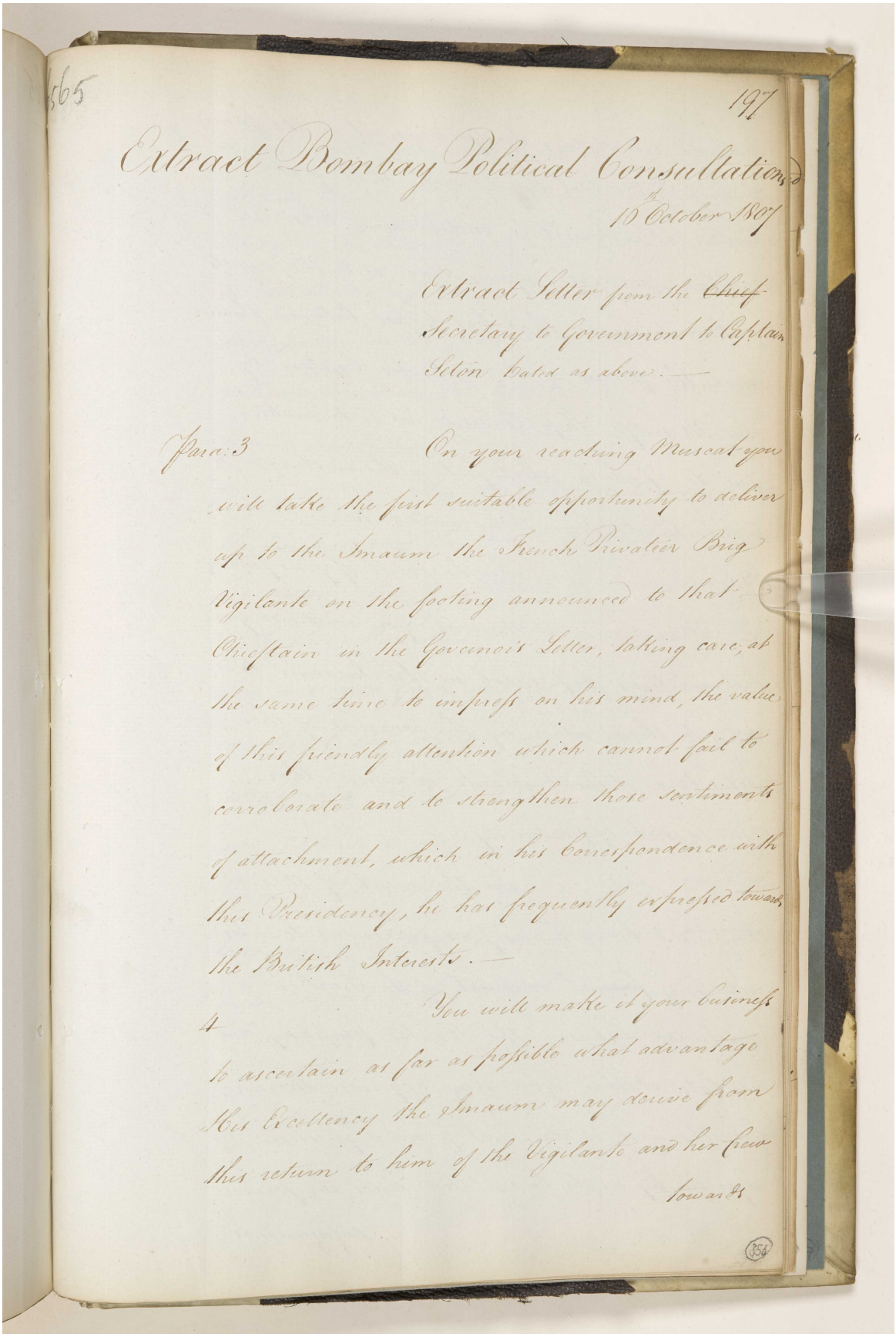

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
15th October 1807

Extract Letter from the ~~Chief~~ Secretary to Government to Captain Seton Dated as above.—

Para: 3 On your reaching Muscat you will take the first suitable opportunity to deliver up to the Imaum the French Privateer Brig Vigilante on the footing announced to that Chieftain in the Governor's Letter, taking care, at the same time to impress on his mind, the value of this friendly attention which cannot fail to corroborate and to strengthen those sentiments of attachment, which in his Correspondence with this Presidency, he has frequently expressed towards the British Interests.—

4 You will make it your business to ascertain as far as possible what advantage His Excellency the Imaum may derive from this return to him of the Vigilante and her Crew towards

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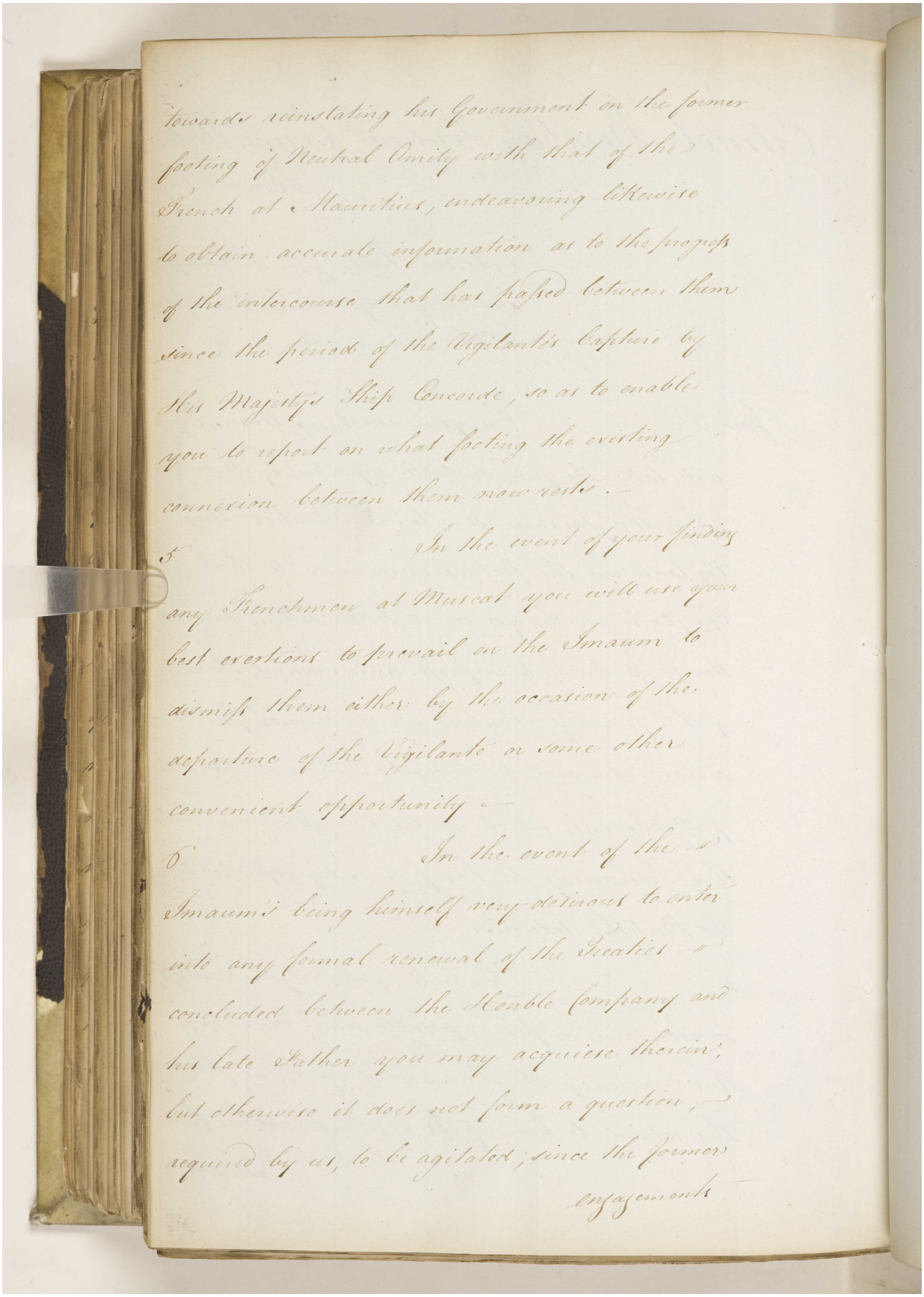

towards reinstating his Government on the former
footing of Neutral Amity with that of the
French at Mauritius, endeavouring likewise
to obtain accurate information as to the progress
of the intercourse that has passed between them
since the period of the Vigilante's capture by
His Majesty's Ship Concorde, so as to enable
you to report on what footing the existing
connexion between them now rests.—

5 In the event of your finding
any Frenchmen at Muscat you will use your
best exertions to prevail on the Imaum to
dismiss them either by the occasion of the
departure of the Vigilante or some other
convenient opportunity.—

6 In the event of the
Imaum's being himself very desirous to enter
into any formal renewal of the Treaties
concluded between the Honble Company and
his late Father you may acquiesce therein;
but otherwise it does not form a question,
required by us, to be agitated; since the former
engagements

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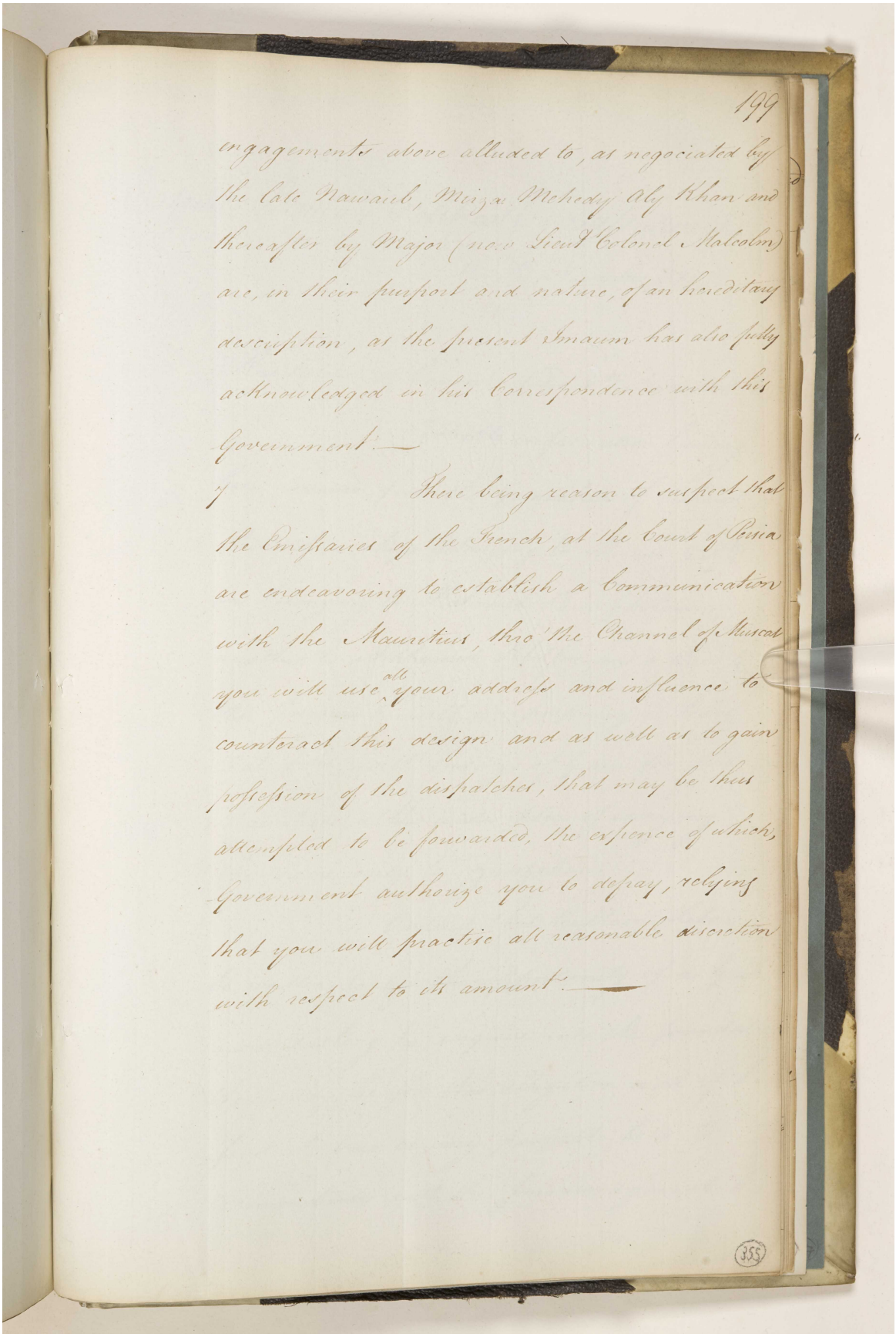

199

engagements above alluded to, as negociated by the late Nawaub, Mirza Mehedy Aly Khan and thereafter by Major (now Lieut Colonel) Malcolm) are, in their purport and nature, of an hereditary description, as the present Imaum has also fully acknowledged in his correspondence with this Government.—

7 There being reason to suspect that the Emissaries of the French, at the Court of Persia are endeavouring to establish a Communication with the Mauritius, thro' the Channel of Muscat you will use all your address and influence to countenact this design and as well as to gain possession of the dispatches, that may be thus attempted to be forwarded, the expence of which, Government authorize you to defray, relying that you will practise all reasonable discretion with respect to its amount.—

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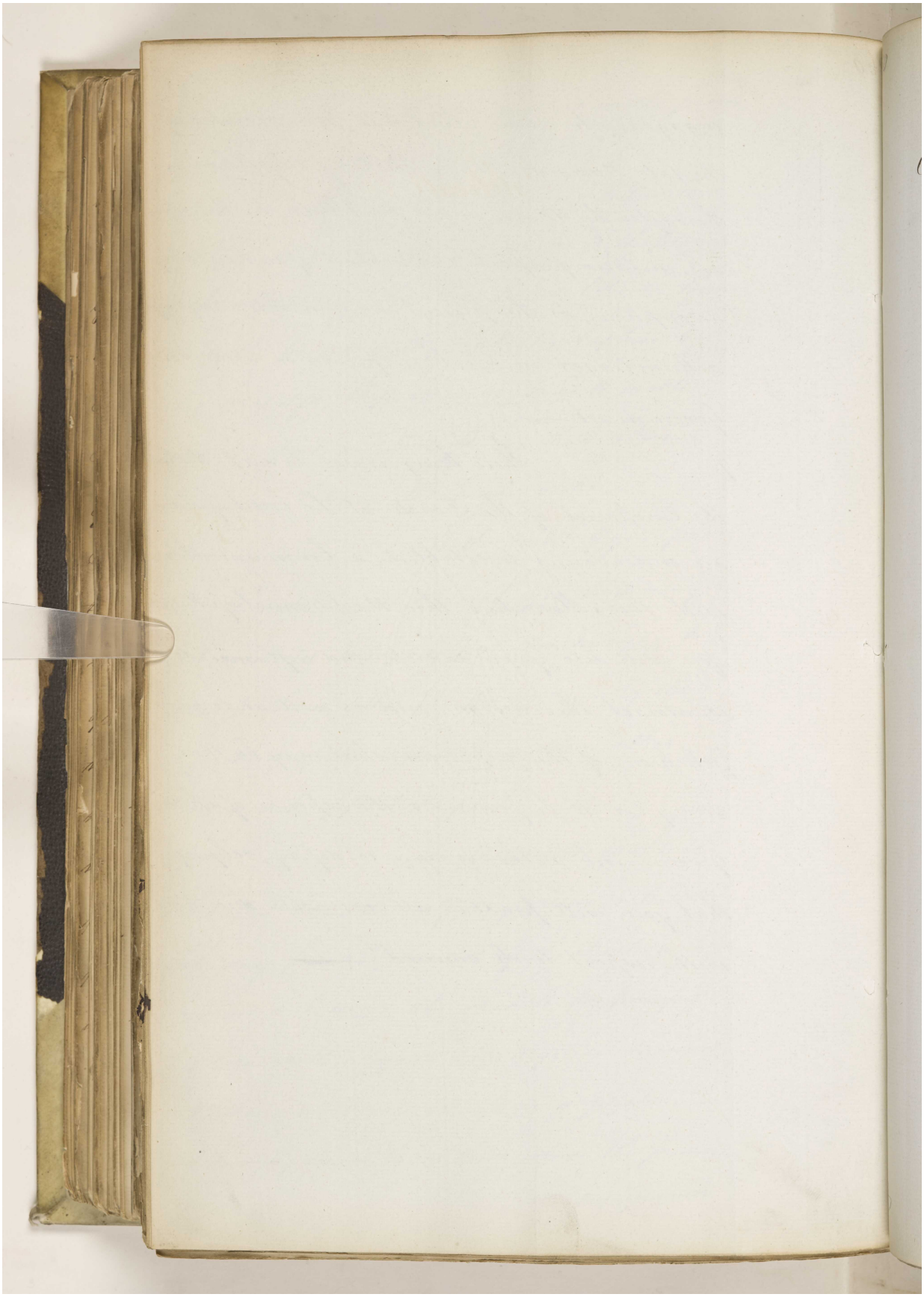

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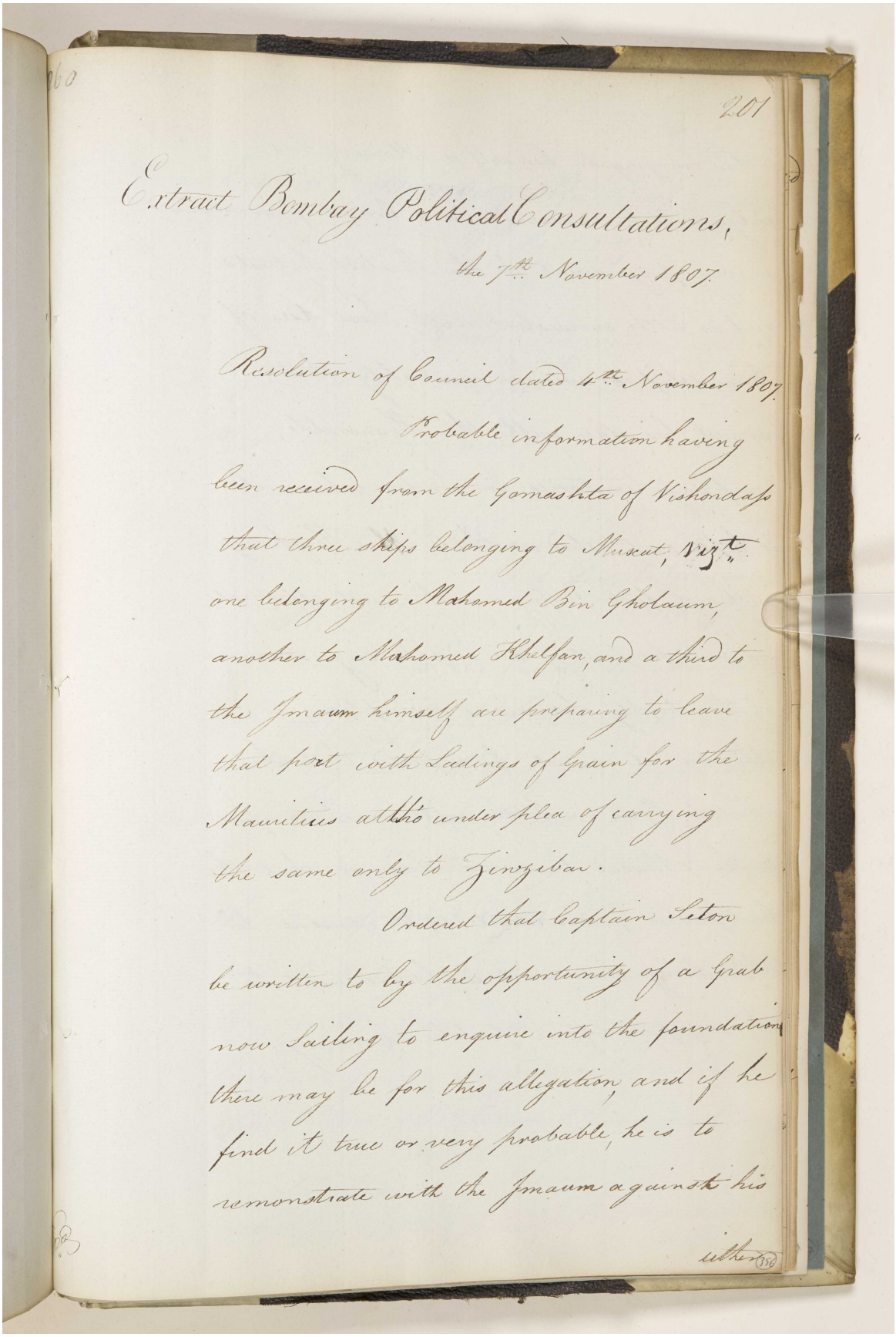

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations,

the 7th November 1807.

Resolution of Council dated 4th November 1807.

Probable information having been received from the Gomashta of Vishondas that three ships belonging to Muscat, Vizt. one belonging to Mahomed Bin Gholaum, another to Mahomed Khelfan, and a third to the Imaum himself are preparing to leave that port with Ladings of Grain for the Mauritius altho' under plea of carrying the same only to Zinzibar.

Ordered that Captain Seton be written to by the opportunity of a Grab now Sailing to enquire into the foundation there may be for this allegation, and if he find it true or very probable, he is to remonstrate with the Imaum against his

either

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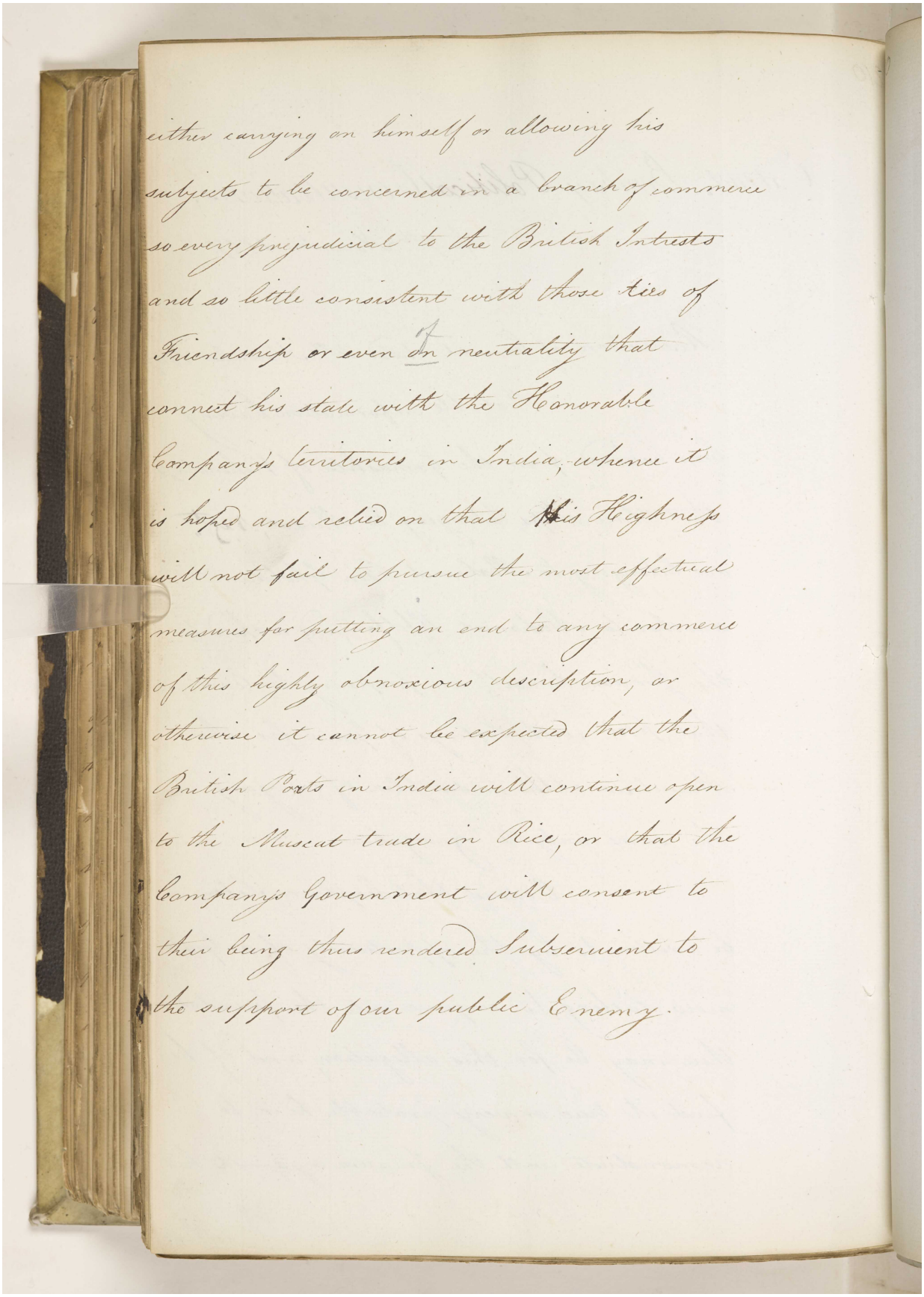

either carrying on himself or allowing his
subjects to be concerned in a branch of commerce
so very prejudicial to the British Interests
and so little consistent with those ties of
Friendship or even of neutrality that
connect his state with the Honorable
Company's territories in India, whence it
is hoped and relied on that His Highness
will not fail to pursue the most effectual
measures for putting an end to any commerce
of this highly obnoxious description, or
otherwise it cannot be expected that the
British Ports in India will continue open
to the Muscat trade in Rice, or that the
Company's Government will consent to
their being thus rendered Subservient to
the support of our public Enemy.

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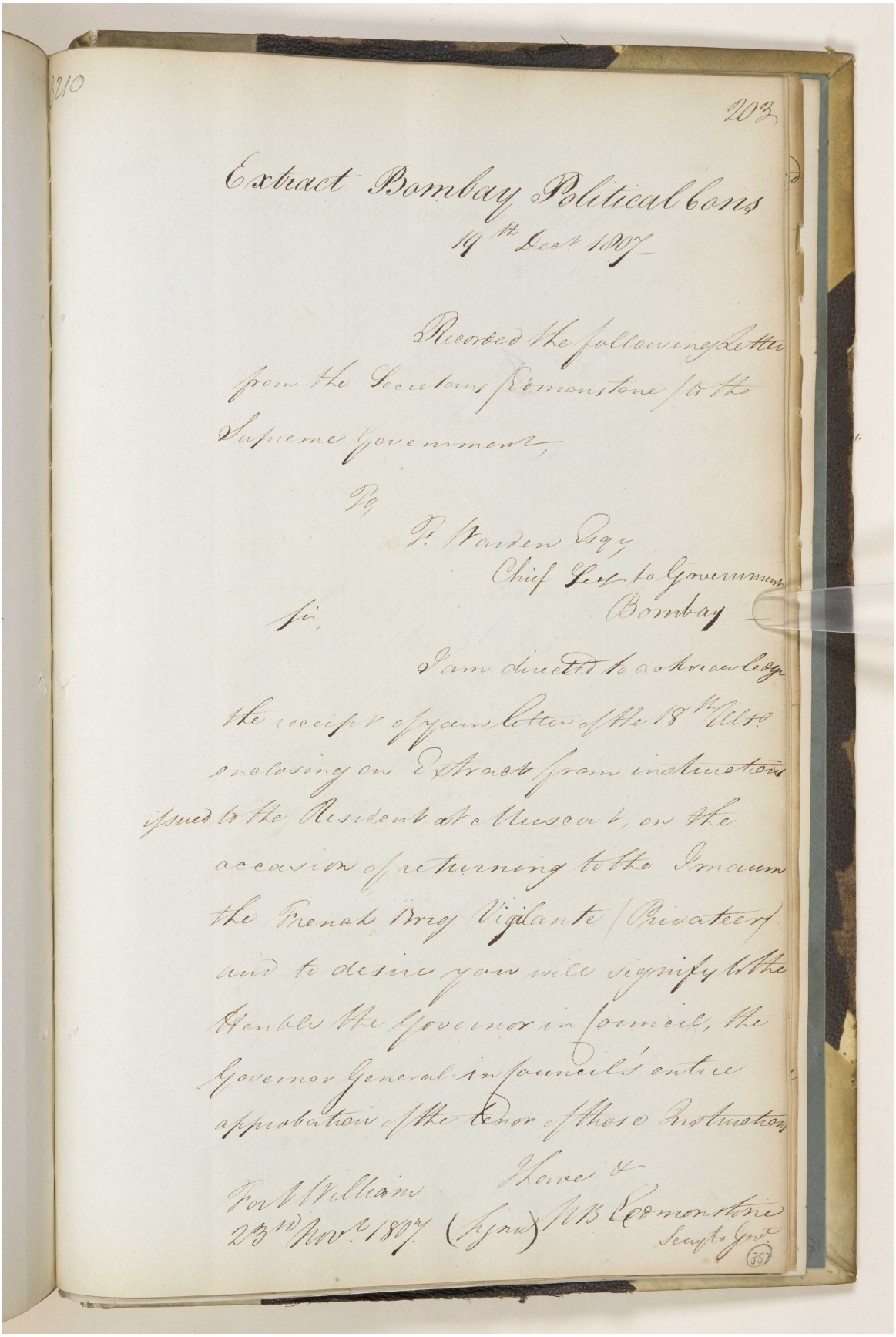

Extract Bombay Political Cons.
19th Decr. 1807.

Recorded the following Letter from the Secretary (Edmonstone) to the Supreme Government,

To
F. Warden Esqr.
Chief Secy. to Government
Bombay

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th Ulto. enclosing an Extract from instructions issued to the Resident at Muscat, on the occasion of returning to the Imaum the French Brig Vigilante (Privateer) and to desire you will signify to the Honble the Governor in Council, the Governor General in Council's entire approbation of the tenor of those Instructions.

I have &
N B Edmonstone
Secy to Govt.

Fort William
23rd Novr. 1807. (Signed)

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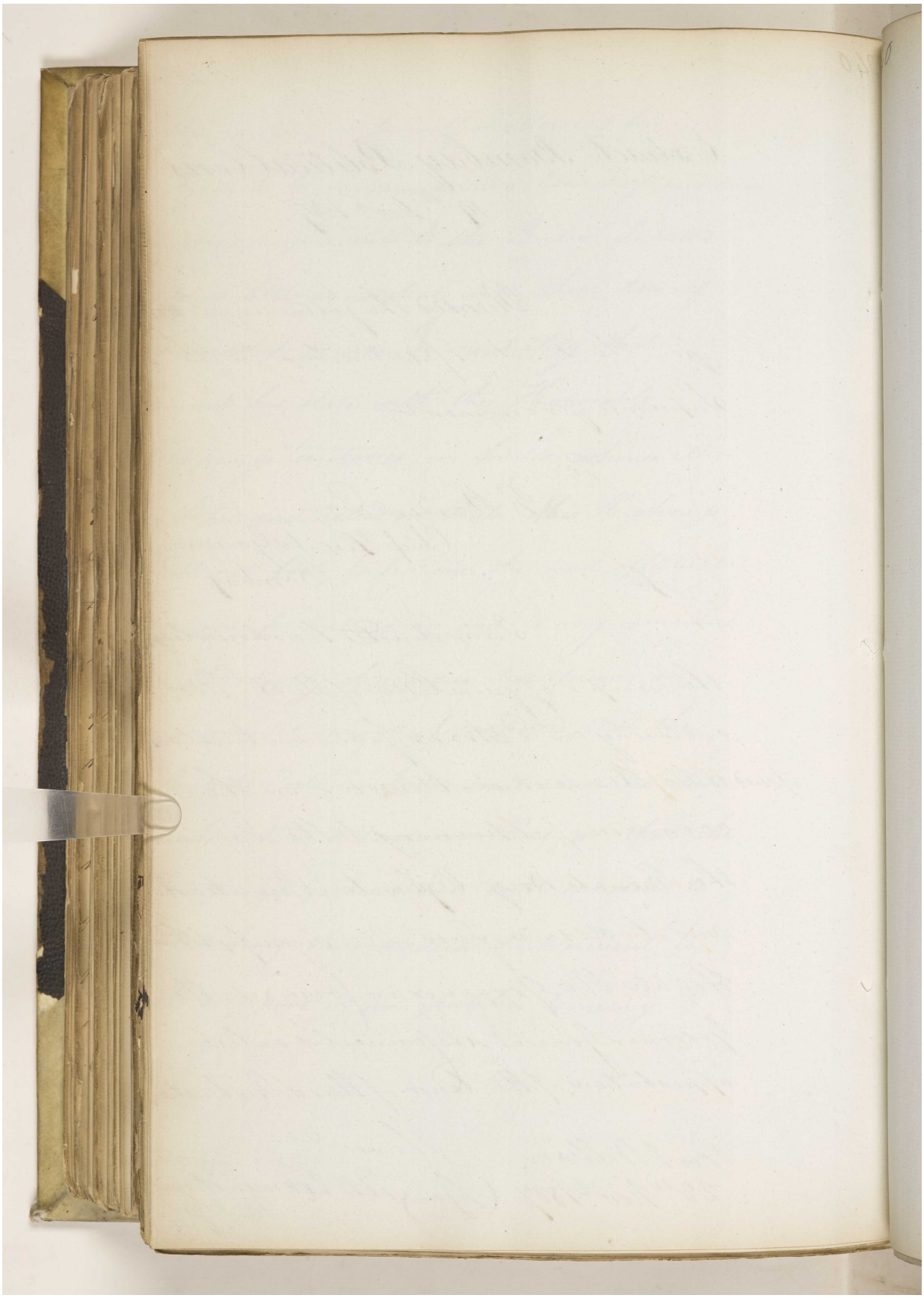

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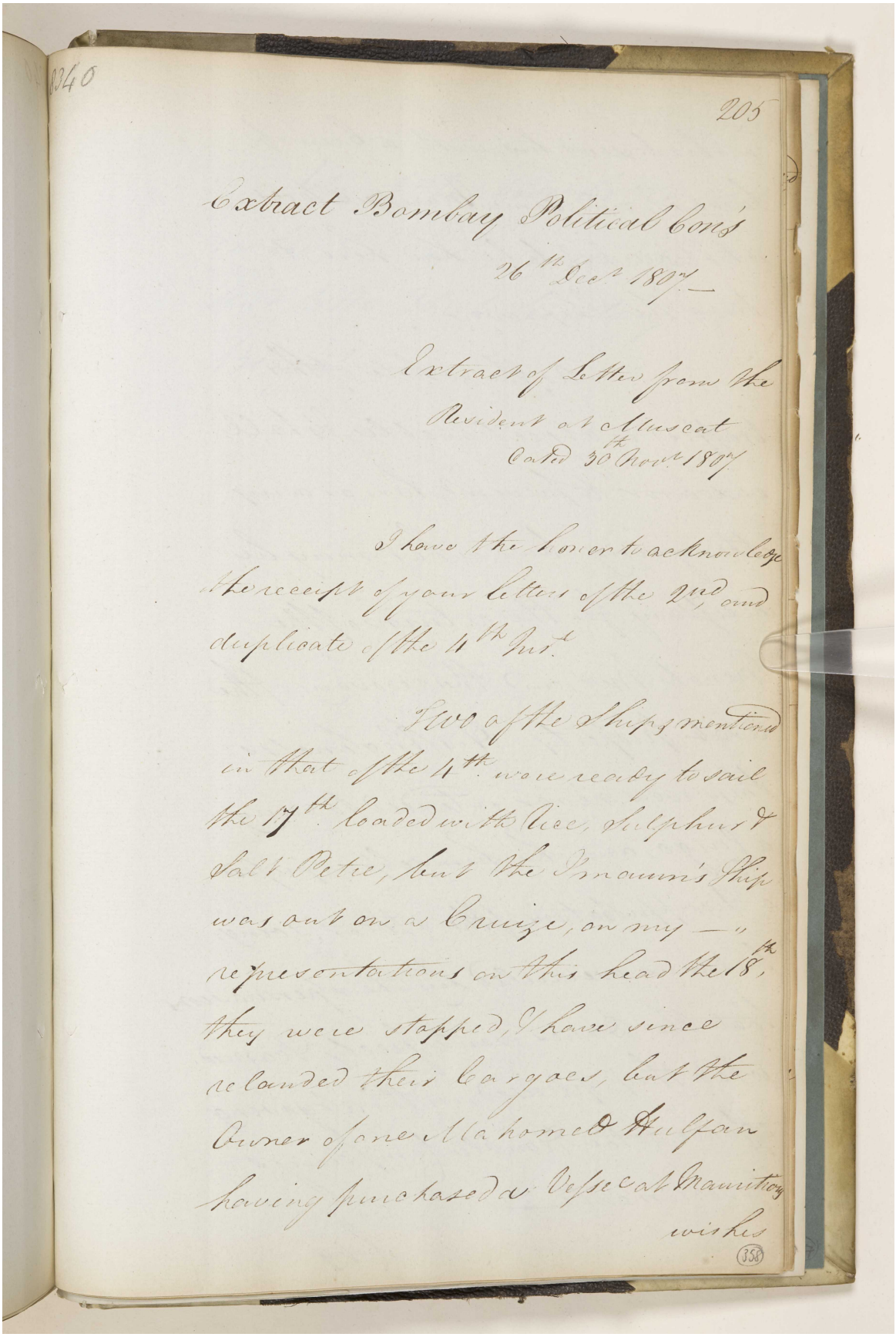

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Extract Bombay Political Con's
26th Decr 1807 —

Extract of Letter from the Resident at Muscat
Dated 30th Novr 1807

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 2nd, and duplicate of the 4th Inst.

Two of the Ships mentioned in that of the 4th were ready to sail the 17th loaded with Rice, Sulphur & Salt Petre, but the Imaum's Ship was out on a Cruize, on my — " representations on this head the 18th, they were stopped, & have since relanded their Cargoes, but the Owner of one Mahomed Hulfan having purchased a Vessel at Mauritius wishes

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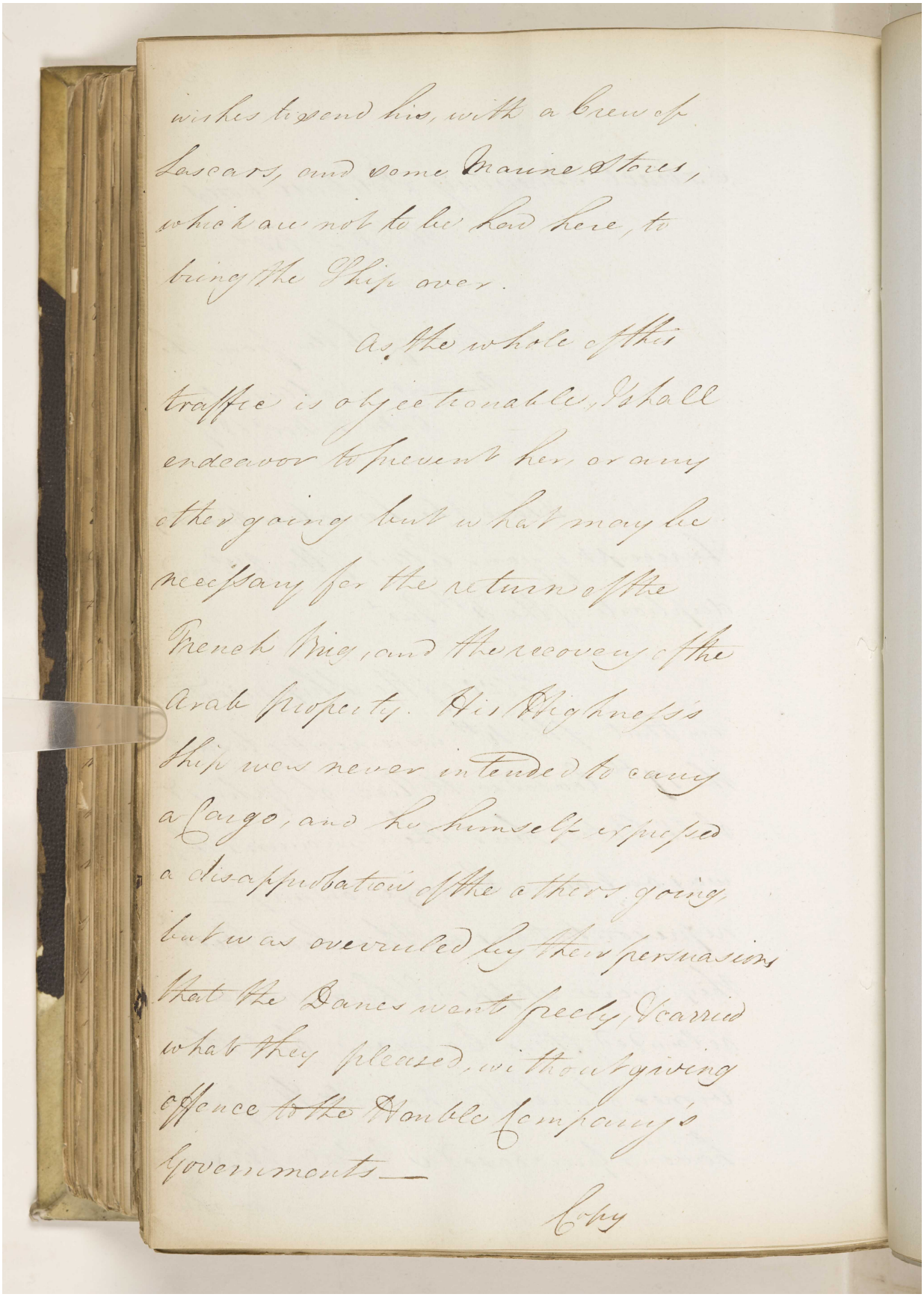

wishes to send him, with a crew of
Lascars, and some Marine Stores,
which are not to be had here, to
bring the Ship over.

As the whole of this
traffic is objectionable, I shall
endeavor to prevent her or any
other going but what may be
necessary for the return of the
French Brig, and the recovery of the
Arab property. His Highness's
Ship was never intended to carry
a Cargo, and he himself expressed
a disapprobation of the others going,
but was overruled by their persuasions
that the Danes would speedily discard
what they pleased, without giving
offence to the Honble Company's
Governments—

Copy

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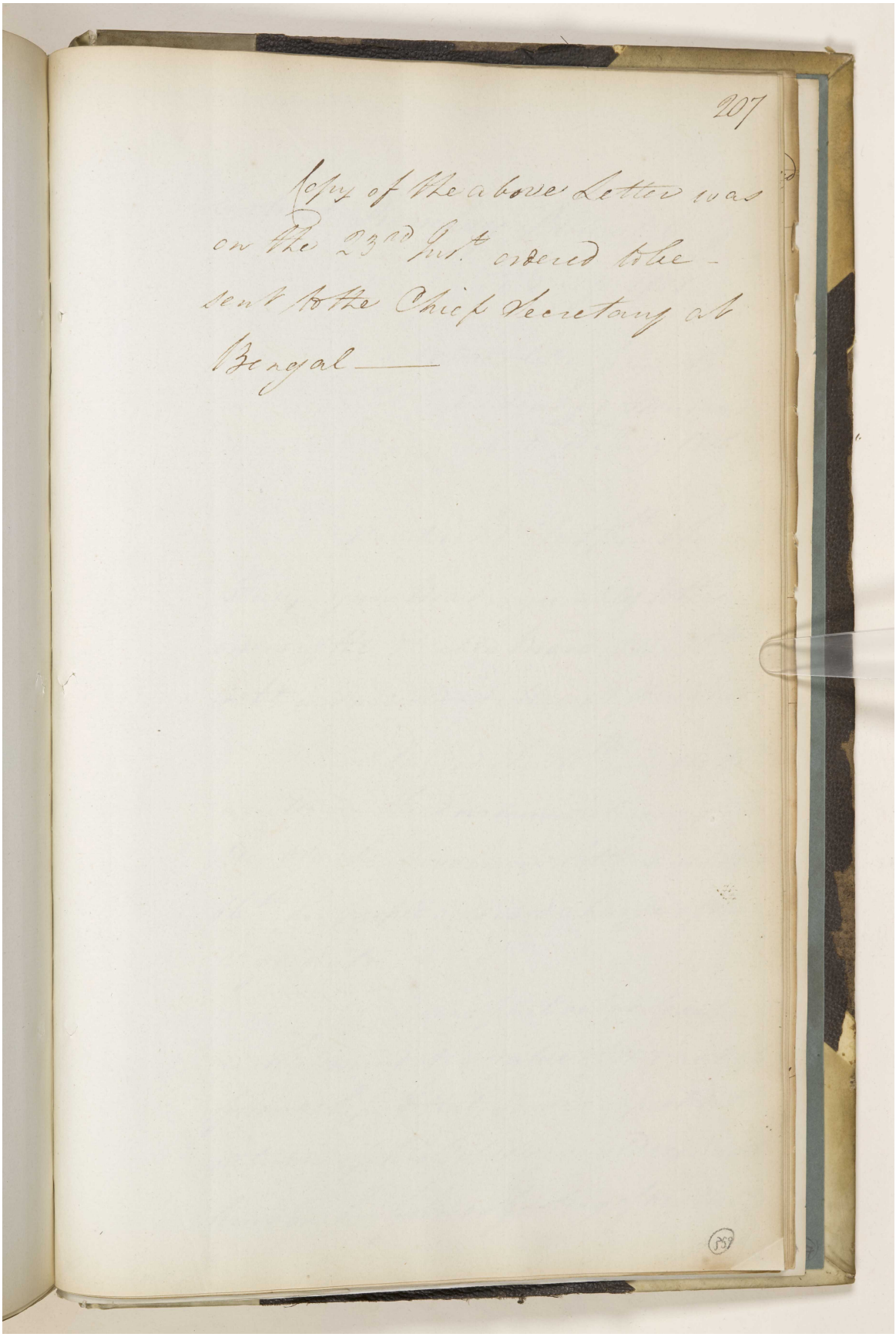

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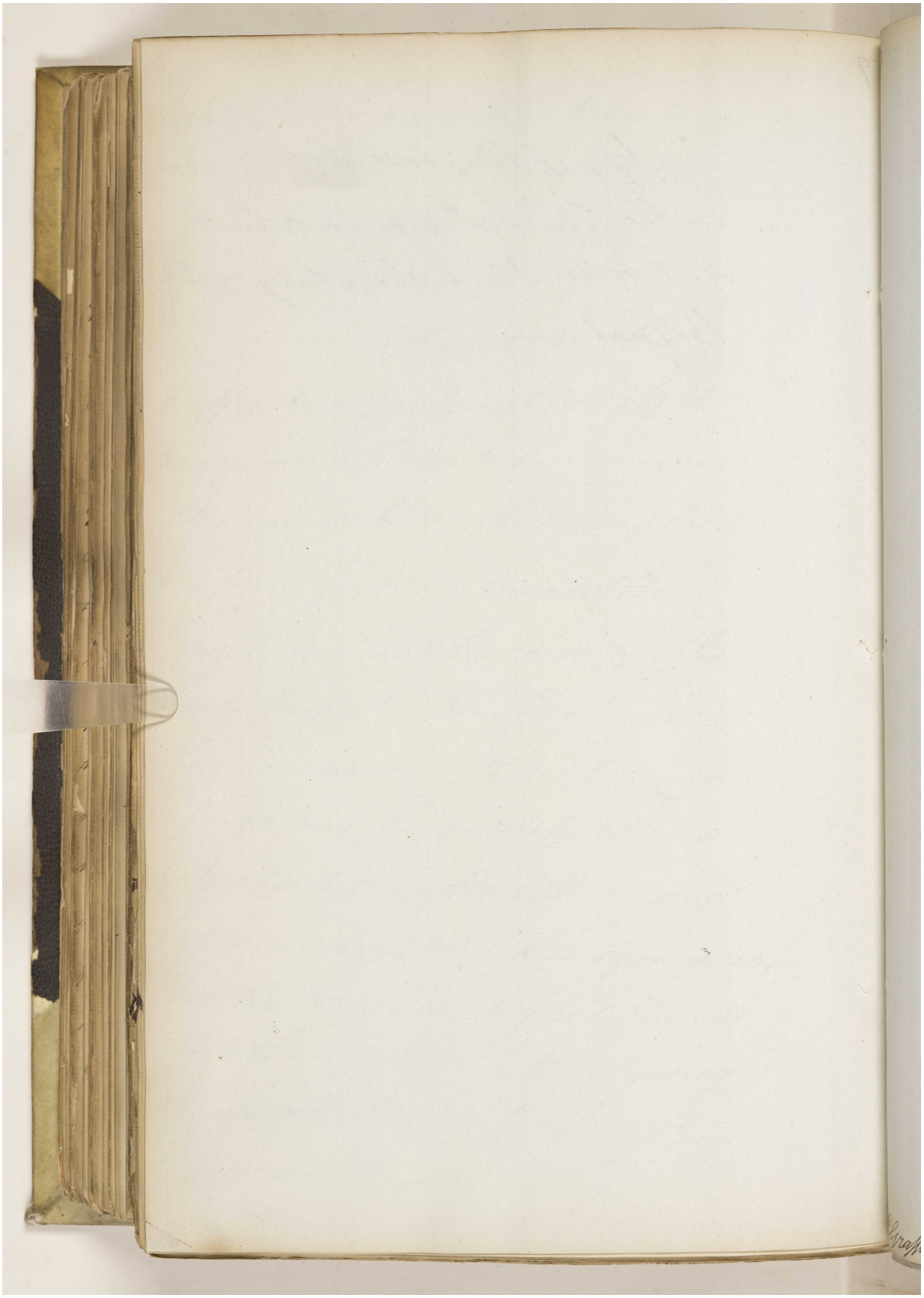

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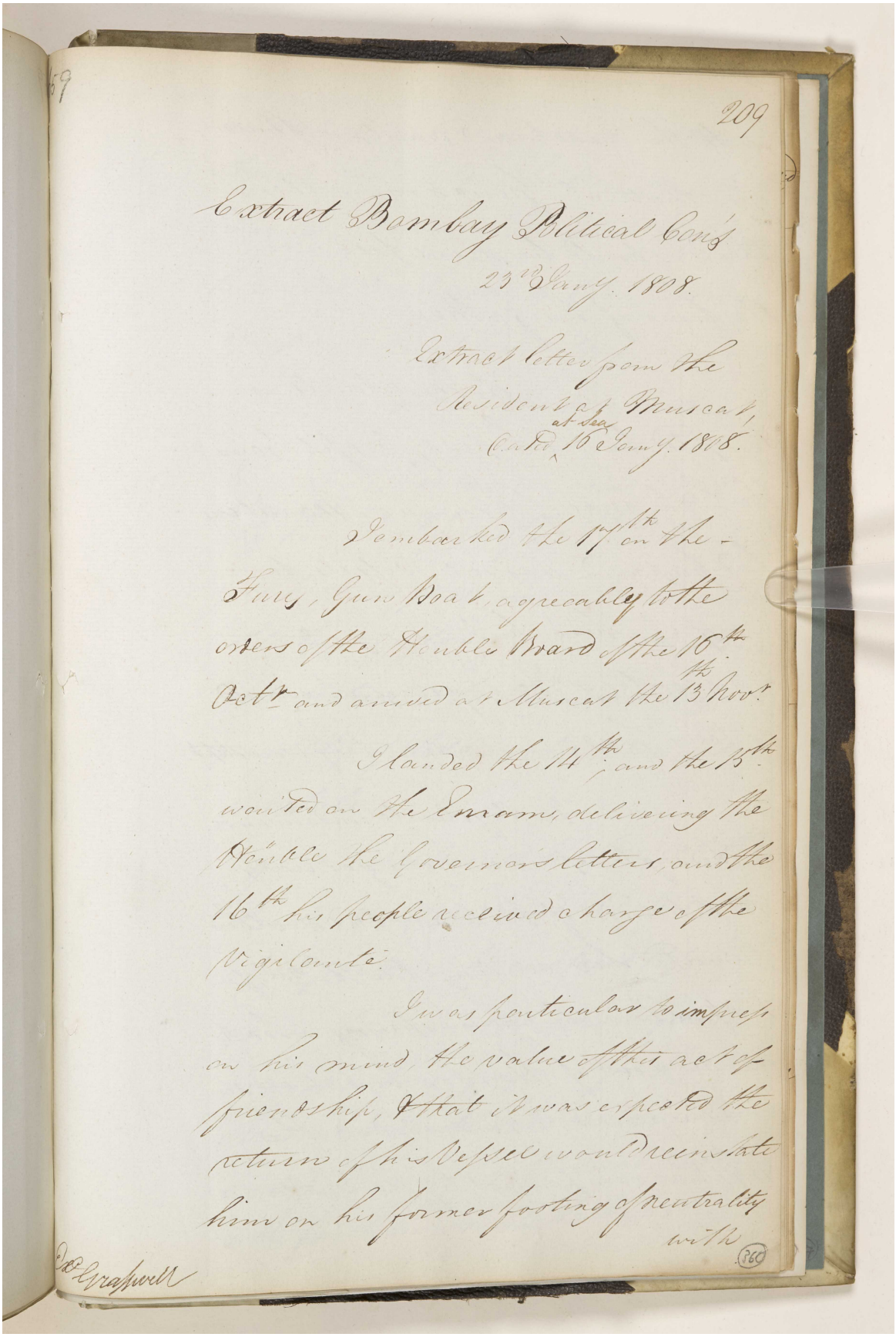

Extract Bombay Political Con's
23rd Jany. 1808.

Extract letter from the
Resident at Muscat,
Dated at Sea 16 Jany. 1808.

I embarked the 17th on the Fury, Gun Boat, agreeably to the orders of the Honble Board of the 16th Octr. and arrived at Muscat the 13th Novr.

I landed the 14th; and the 15th waited on the Emam, delivering the Honble the Governor's letters, and the 16th his people received charge of the Vigilante.

I was particular to impress on his mind, the value of this act of friendship, & that it was expected the return of his Vessel would reinstate him on his former footing of neutrality with

Ex Grasswell

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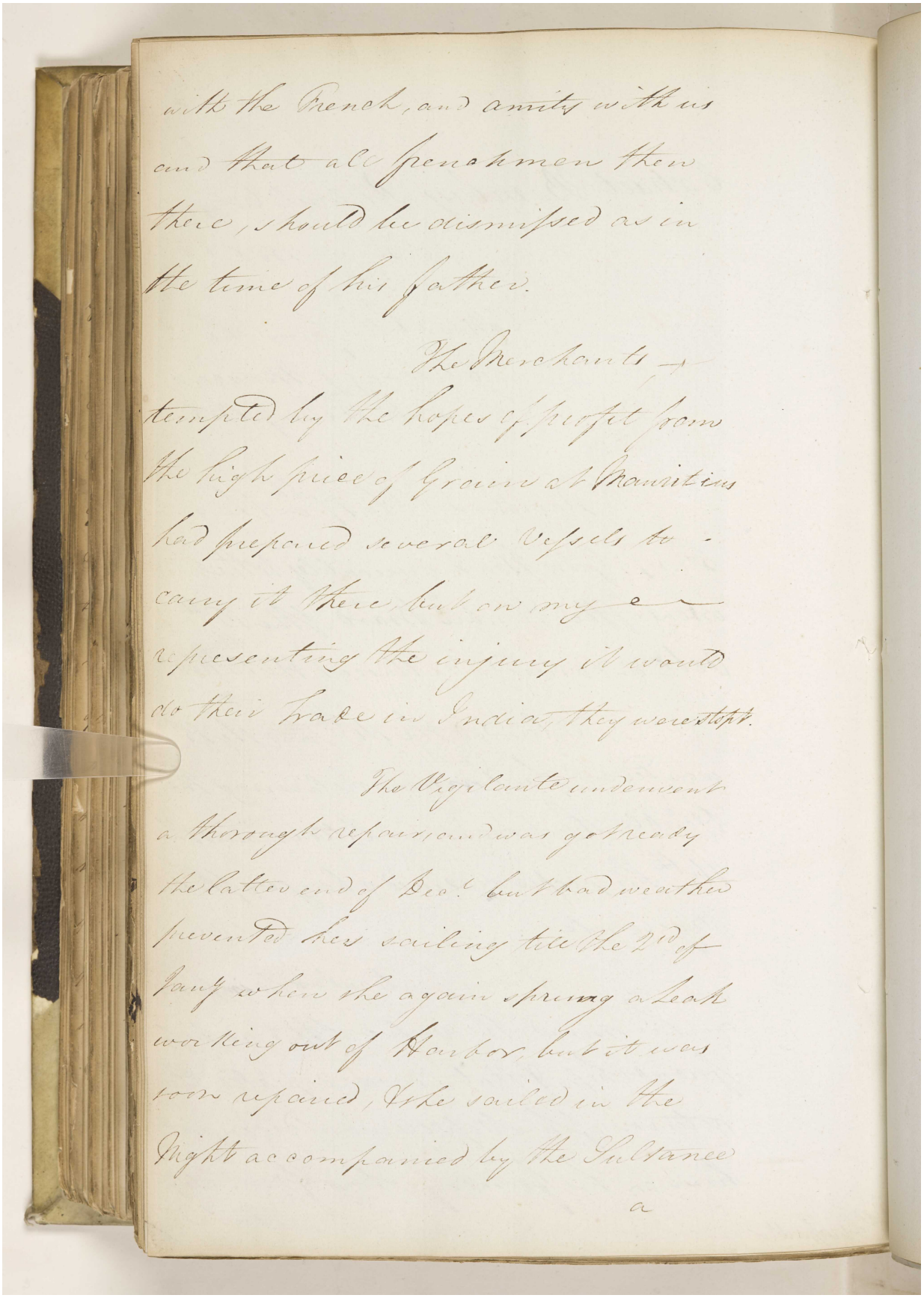

with the French, and amity with us
and that all Frenchmen then
there, should be dismissed as in
the time of his father.

The Merchants,
tempted by the hopes of profit from
the high price of Grain at Mauritius
had prepared several Vessels to
carry it there, but on my
representing the injury it would
do their trade in India, they were stopt.

The Vigilante underwent
a thorough repair and was got ready
the latter end of Dec.r but bad weather
prevented her sailing till the 2d of
Jany when she again sprung a leak
working out of Harbor, but it was
soon repaired, We sailed in the
night accompanied by the Sultanee

a

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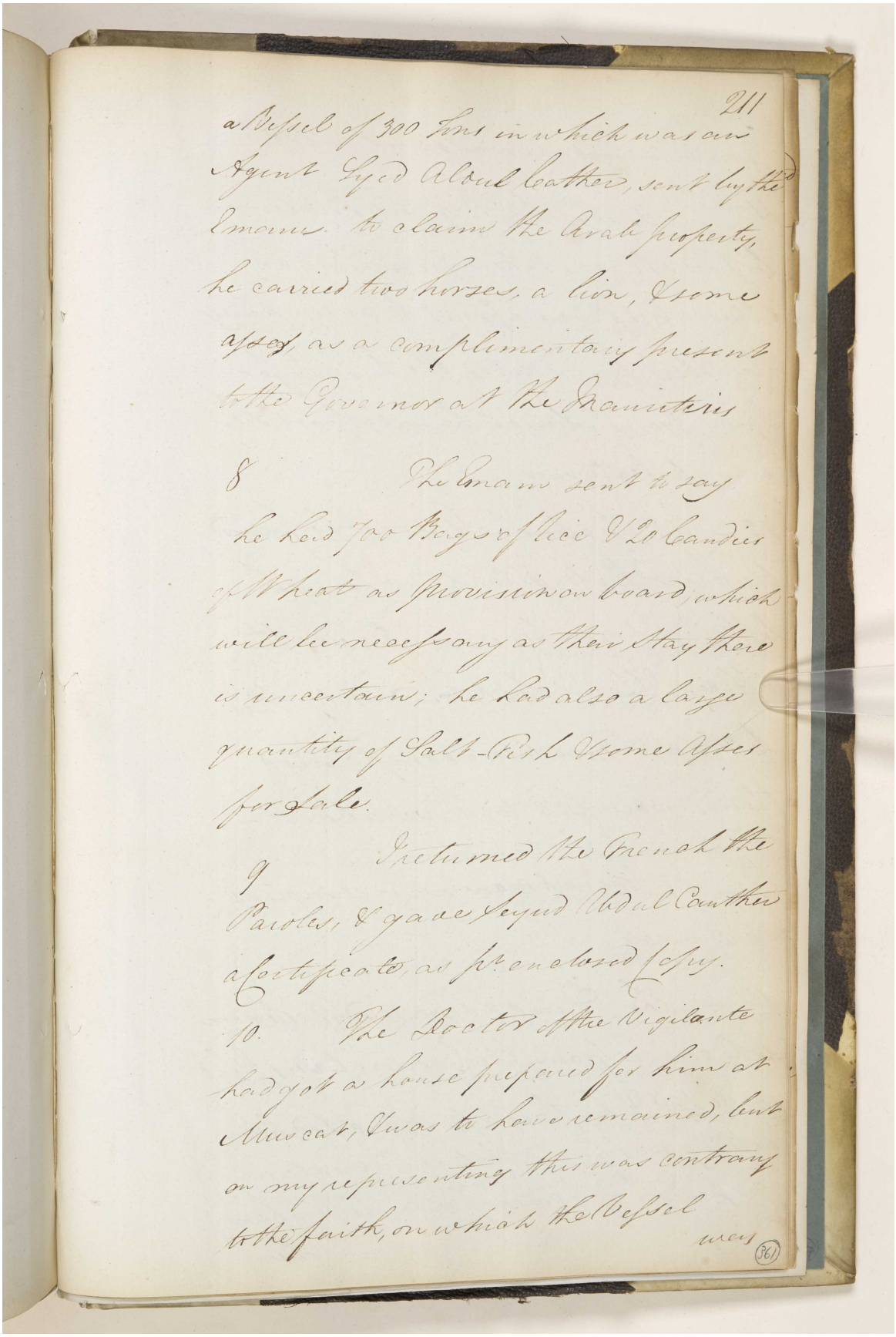

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a Vessel of 300 Tons in which was an
Agent Syed Abdul Cauther, sent by the
Imaum to claim the Arab property,
he carried two horses, a lion, & some
ostrich, as a complimentary present
to the Governor at the Mauritius

8 The Imaum sent to say
he had for Bags of Rice & 20 Candies
of Wheat as Provision on board, which
will be necessary as their Stay there
is uncertain; he had also a large
quantity of Salt-Pork & some Asses
for Sale.

9 I returned the Imaums the
Paroles, & gave Seyud Abdul Cauther
a Certificate, as pr. enclosed Copy.

10. The Doctor of the Vigilante
had got a house prepared for him at
Muscat, & was to have remained, but
on my representing this was contrary
to the faith, on which the Vessel
were

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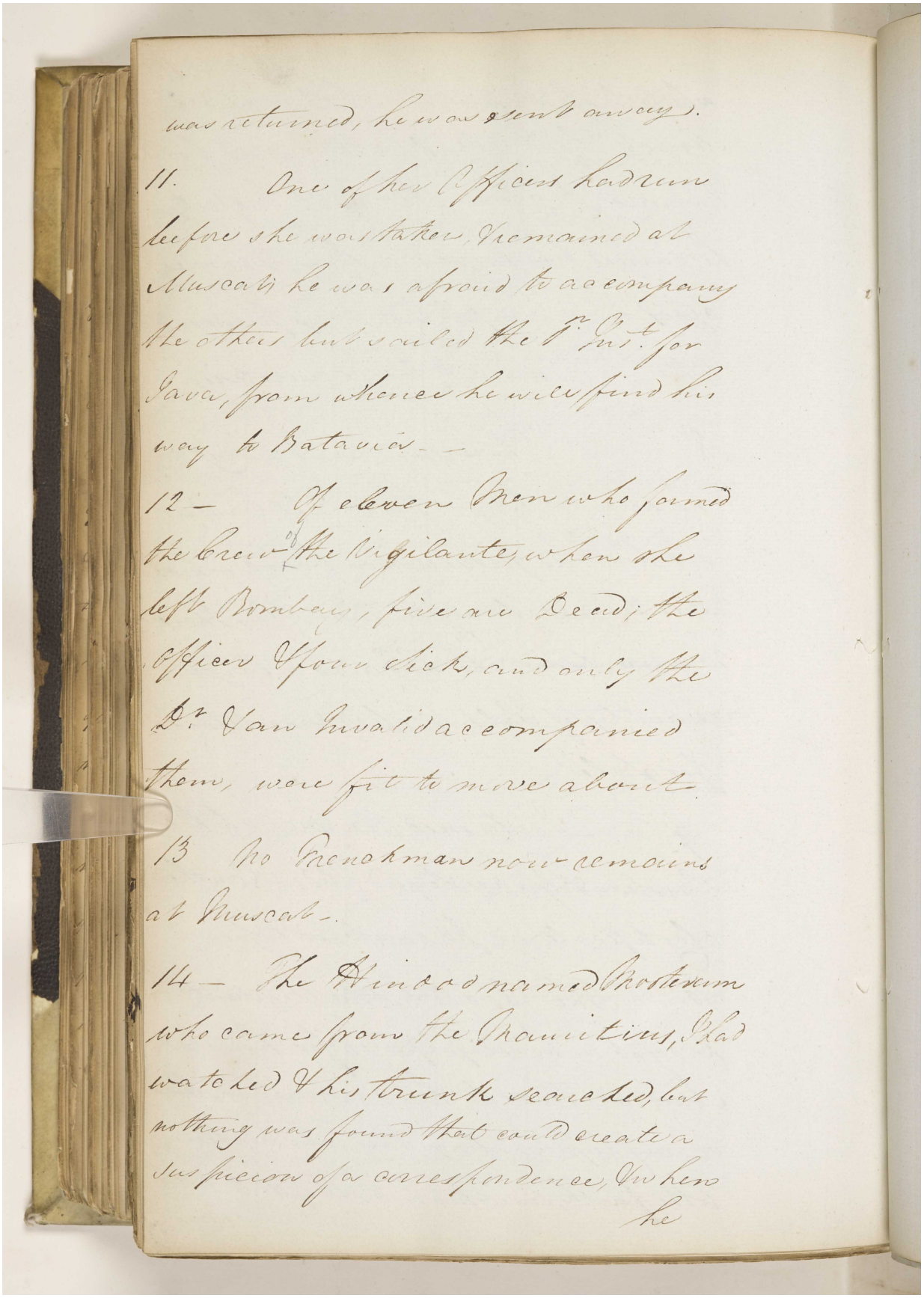

was returned, he was sent away.

11. One of her Officers had run before she was taken, he remained at Muscat; he was afraid to accompany the others but sailed the 1st Inst. for Java, from whence he will find his way to Batavia.

12 — Of eleven Men who formed the Crew of the Vigilante, when she left Bombay, five are Dead; the Officer Upon sick, and only the Dr. & an Invalid accompanied them, were fit to move about.

13 No Prisoner now remains at Muscat.

14 — The Hindoo named Chosteram who came from the Mauritius, Shaved was tolled & his trunk searched, but nothing was found that could create a suspicion of a correspondence, when he

he

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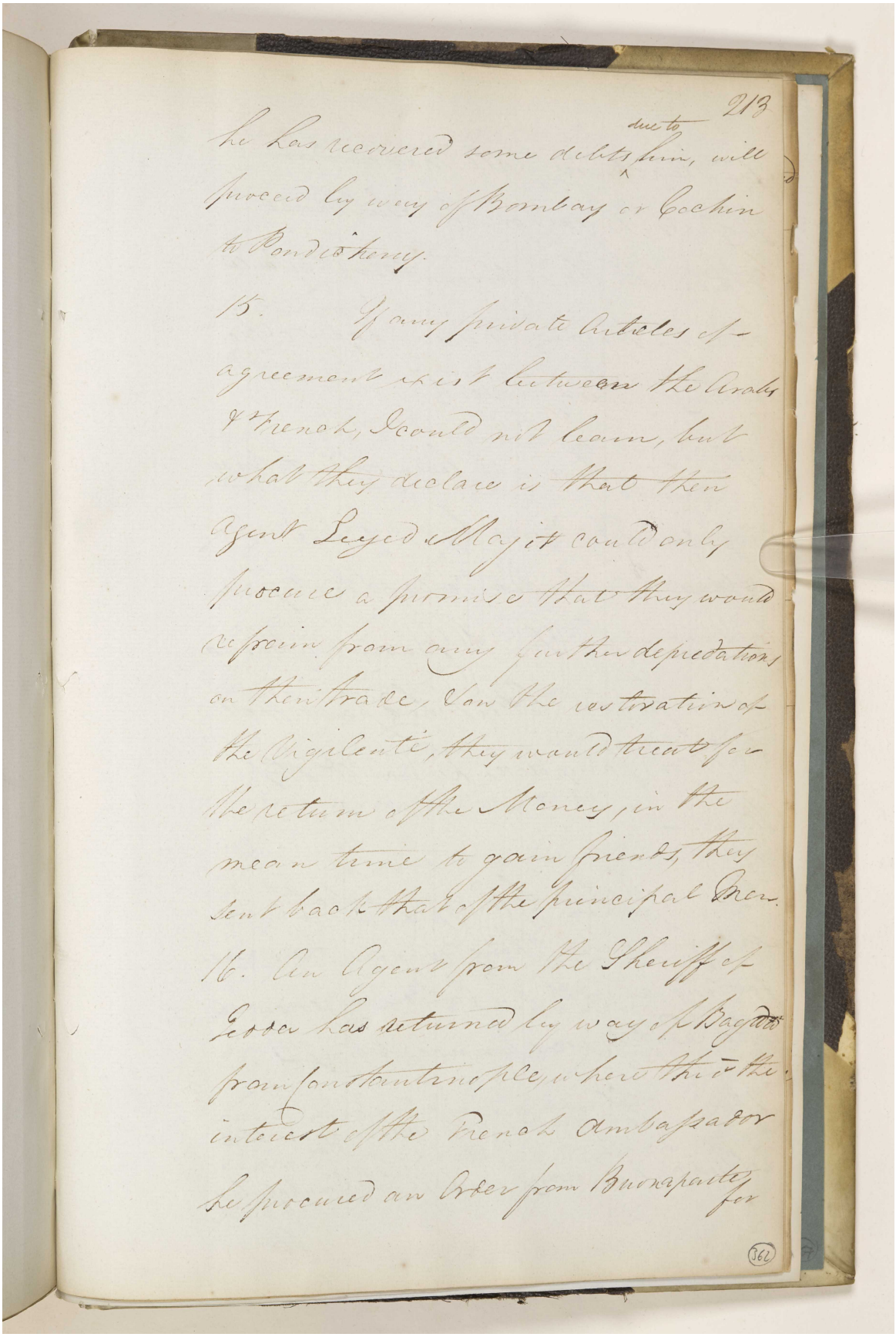

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he has received some debts due to him, will
proceed by way of Bombay or Cochin
to Pondichery.

5. If any private Articles of
agreement exist between the Arabs
& French, I could not learn, but
what they declare is that their
Agent Seyed Mayit could only
procure a promise that they would
refrain from any further depredations
on their trade, but the restoration of
the Vigilante, they would treat for
the return of the Money, in the
mean time to gain friends, they
sent back that of the principal Men.

6. An Agent from the Sheriff of
Yedda has returned by way of Bagdat
from Constantinople, where the
interest of the French Ambassador
has procured an Order from Buonaparte for

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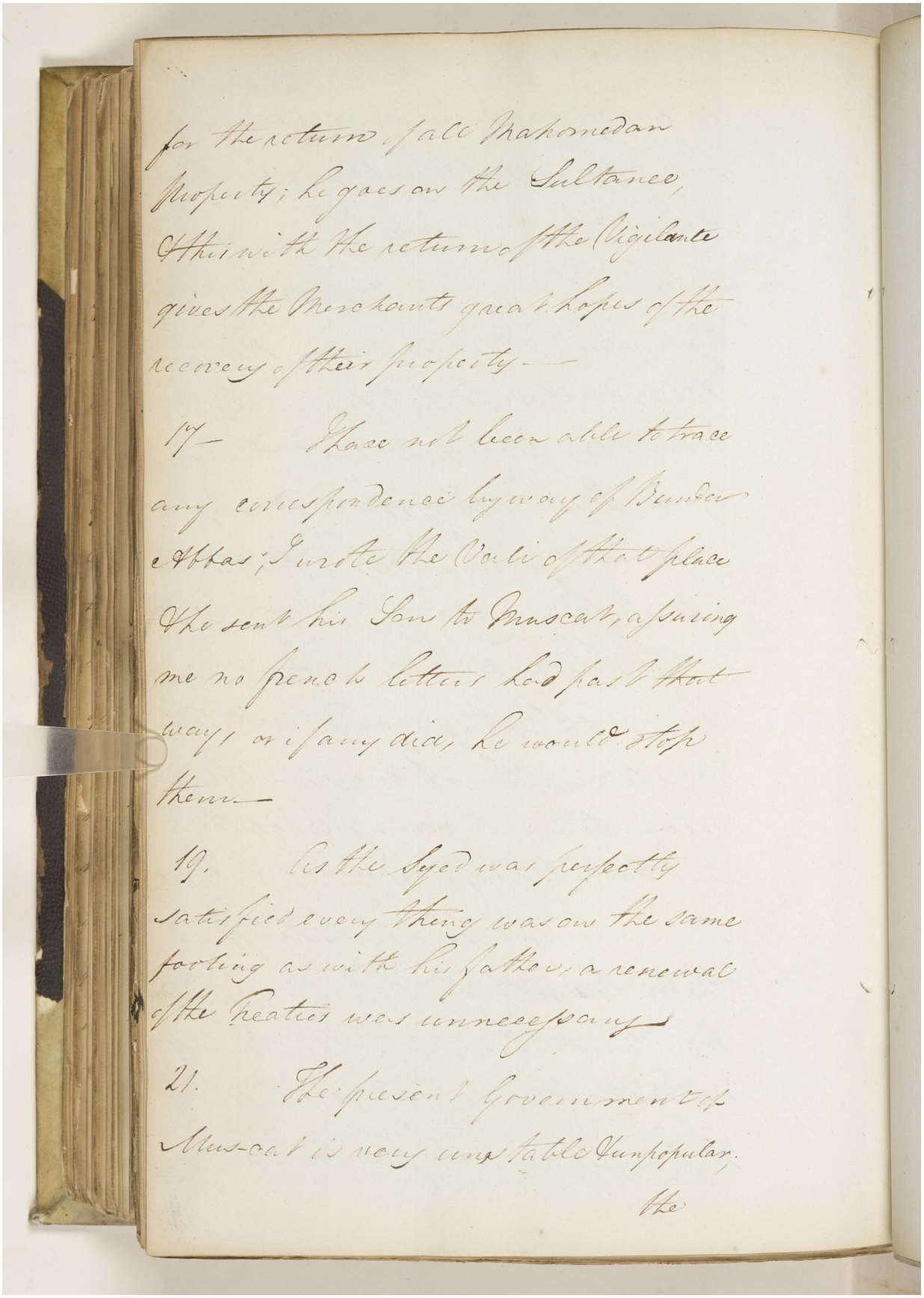

for the return of all Mahomedan property; Legacies on the Sultanee, & this with the return of the Vigilante gives the Merchants great hopes of the recovery of their property.—

17— I have not been able to trace any correspondence by way of Bunder Abbas; I wrote the Vali of that place & he sent his Son to Muscat, assuring me no french letters had past that way, or if any did, he would stop them.—

19. As the Syed was perfectly satisfied every thing was on the same footing as with his father, a renewal of the Treaties was unnecessary.—

21. The present Government of Mus-cat is very unstable & unpopular.

the

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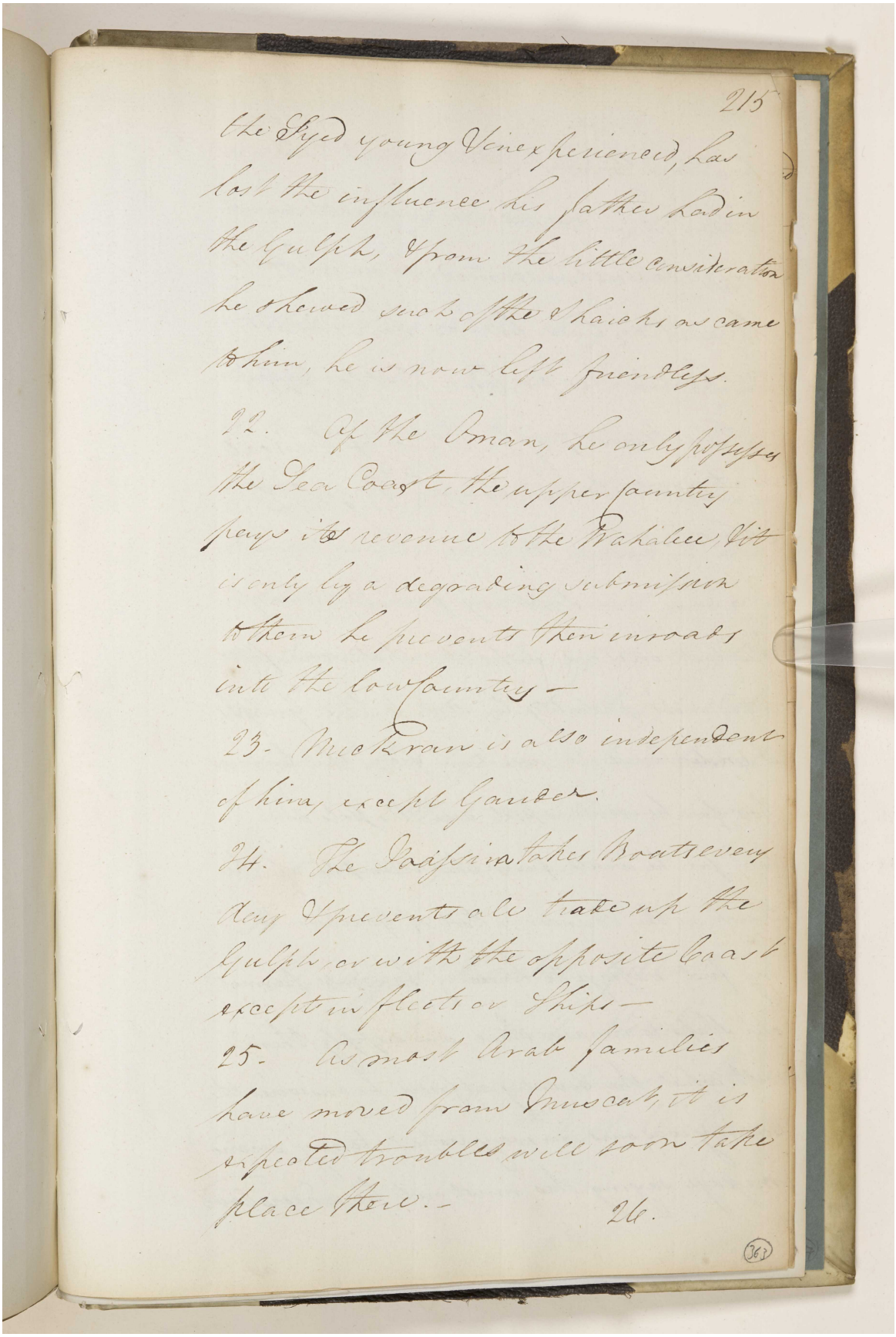

the Syed young & inexperienced, has lost the influence his father had in the Gulph, & from the little consideration he shewed such of the Shaicks as came to him, he is now left friendless.

22. Of the Oman, he only possesses the Sea Coast, the upper country pays its revenue to the Wahabee, & it is only by a degrading submission to them he prevents their inroads into the low country —

23. Mickran is also independent of him, except Gauder.

24. The Joassina takes Boats every day & prevents all trade up the Gulph, or with the opposite Coast except in fleets or Ships —

25. As most Arab families have moved from Muscat, it is expected troubles will soon take place there. —

26.

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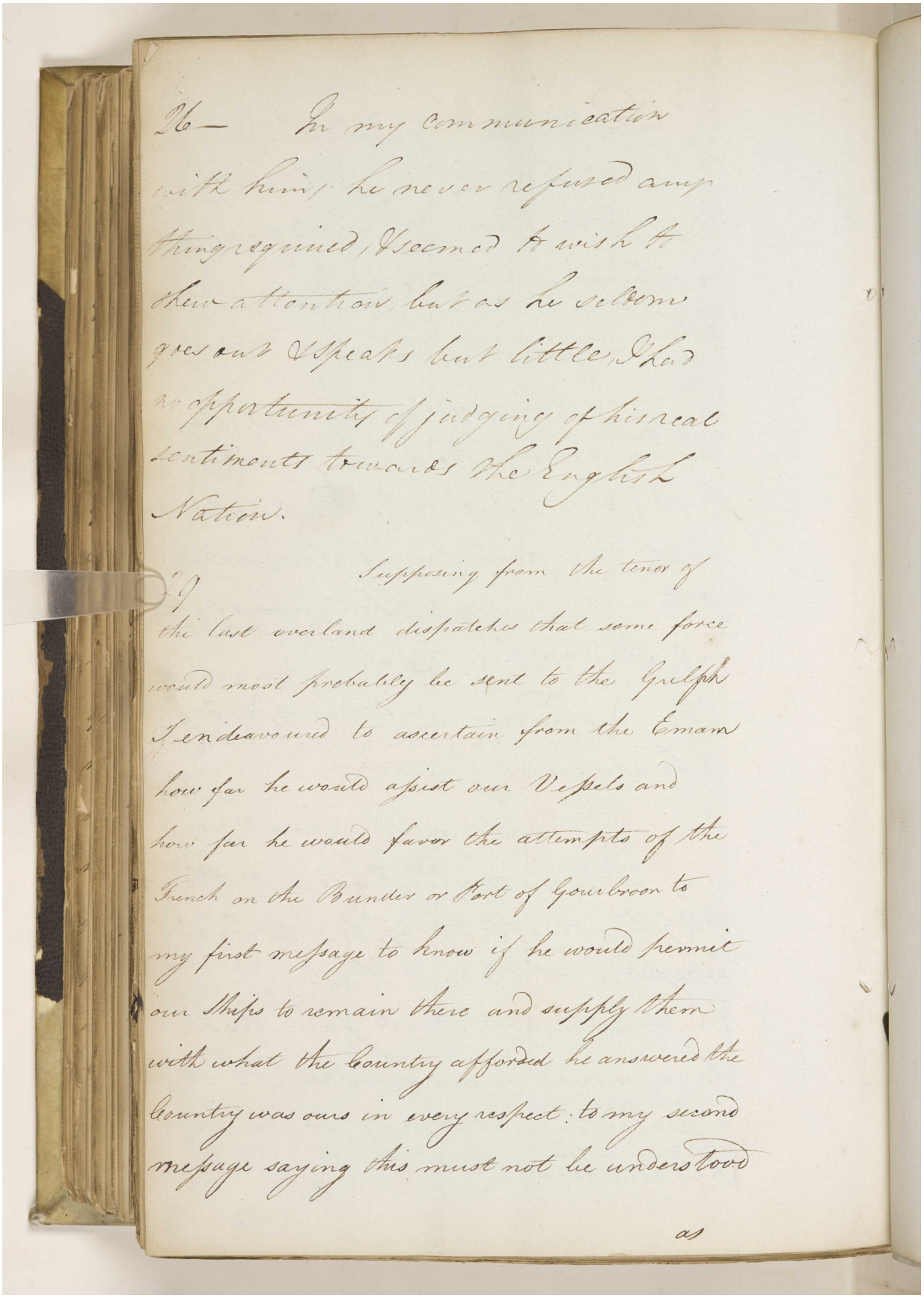

No— In my communication with him, he never refused any thing required, I seemed to wish to shew attention, but as he seldom goes out & speaks but little, I had no opportunity of judging of his real sentiments towards the English Nation.

9 Supposing from the tenor of the last overland dispatches that some force would most probably be sent to the Gulph I endeavoured to ascertain from the Emam how far he would assist our Vessels and how far he would favor the attempts of the French on the Bunder or Port of Gombroon to my first message to know if he would permit our Ships to remain there and supply them with what the Country afforded he answered the Country was ours in every respect to my second message saying this must not be understood

as

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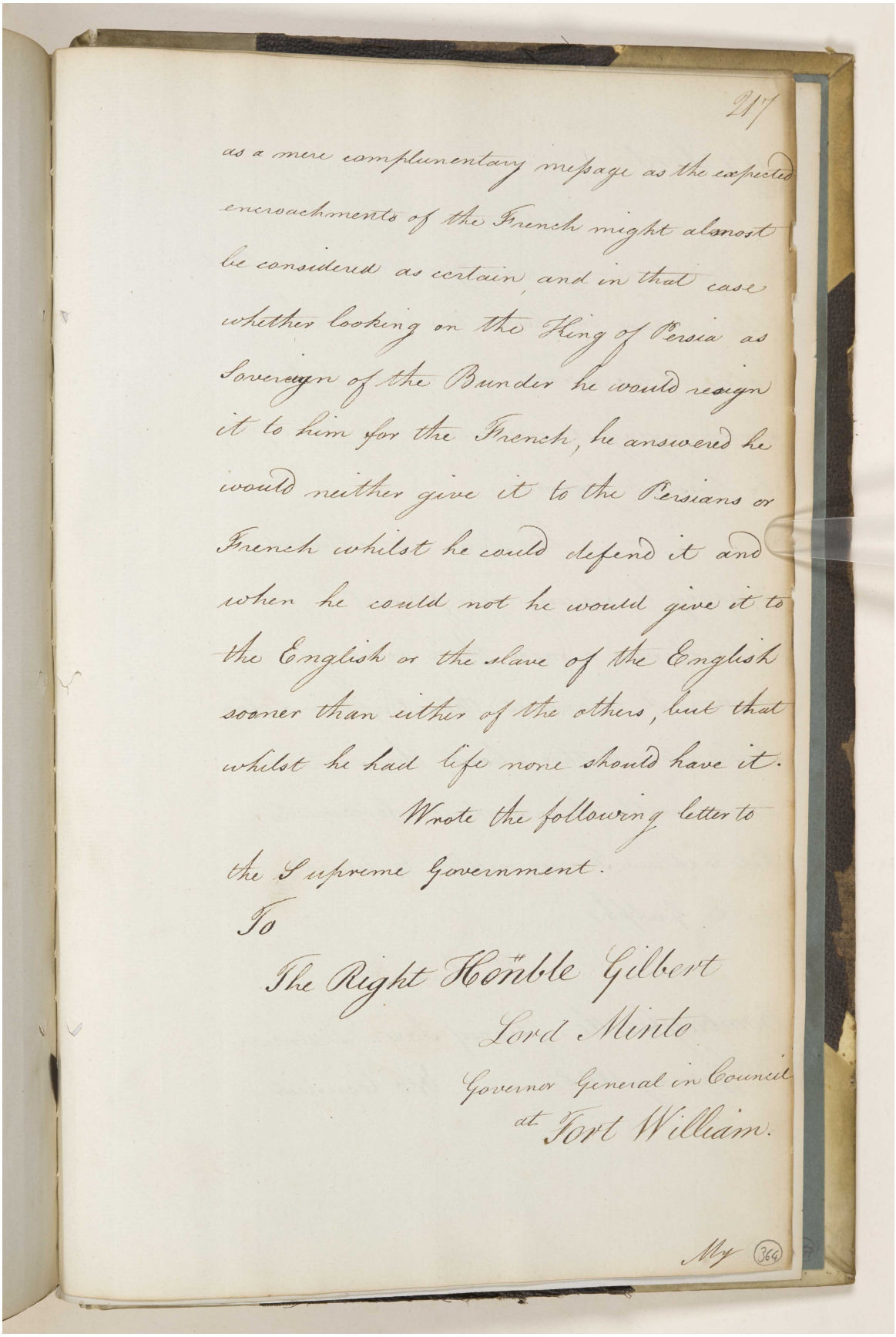

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as a mere complimentary message as the expected encroachments of the French might almost be considered as certain, and in that case whether looking on the King of Persia as Sovereign of the Bunder he would resign it to him for the French, he answered he would neither give it to the Persians or French whilst he could defend it and when he could not he would give it to the English or the slave of the English sooner than either of the others, but that whilst he had life none should have it.

Wrote the following letter to the Supreme Government.

To

The Right Honble Gilbert
Lord Minto
Governor General in Council
at Fort William.

My (364)

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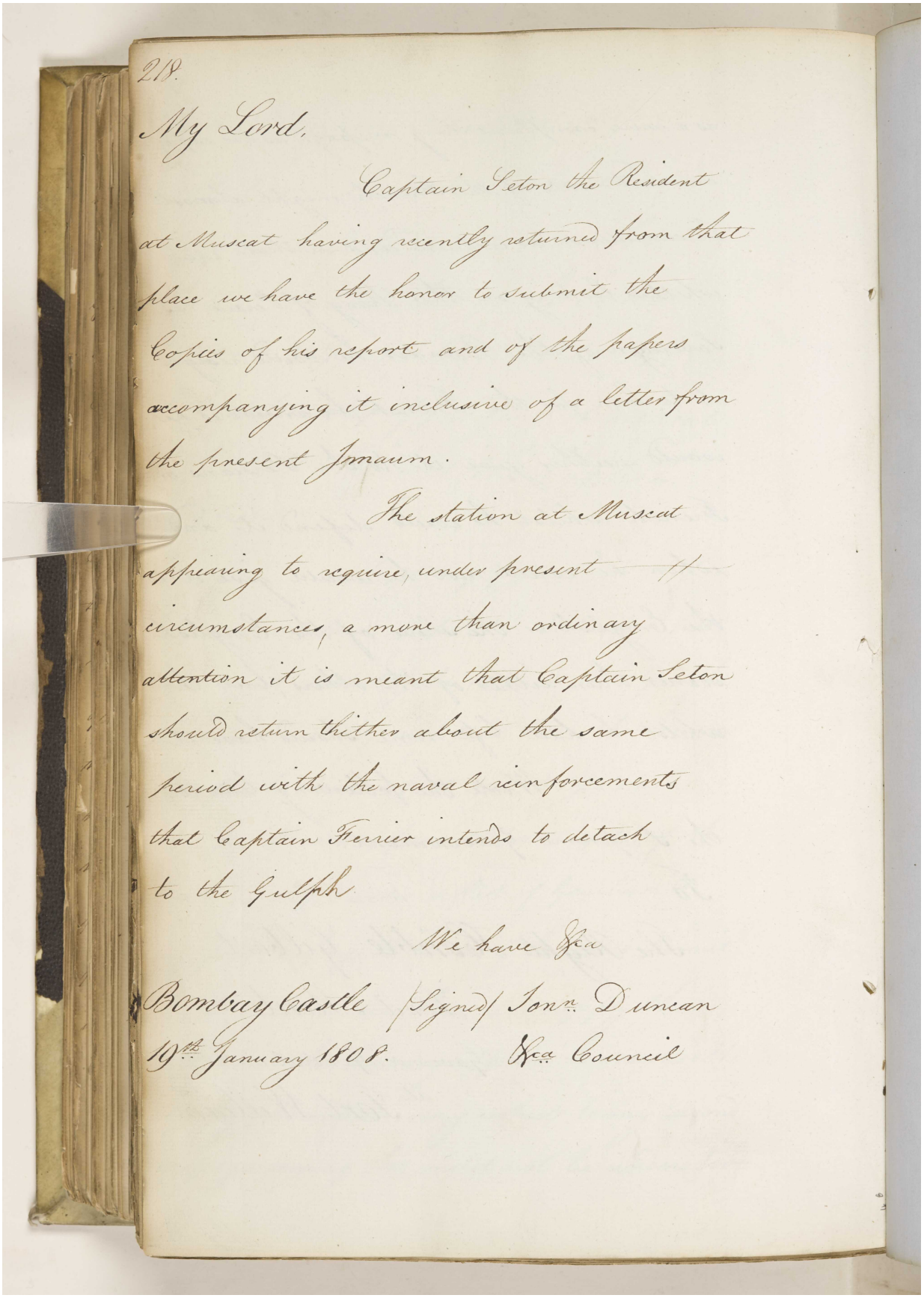


218.

My Lord,

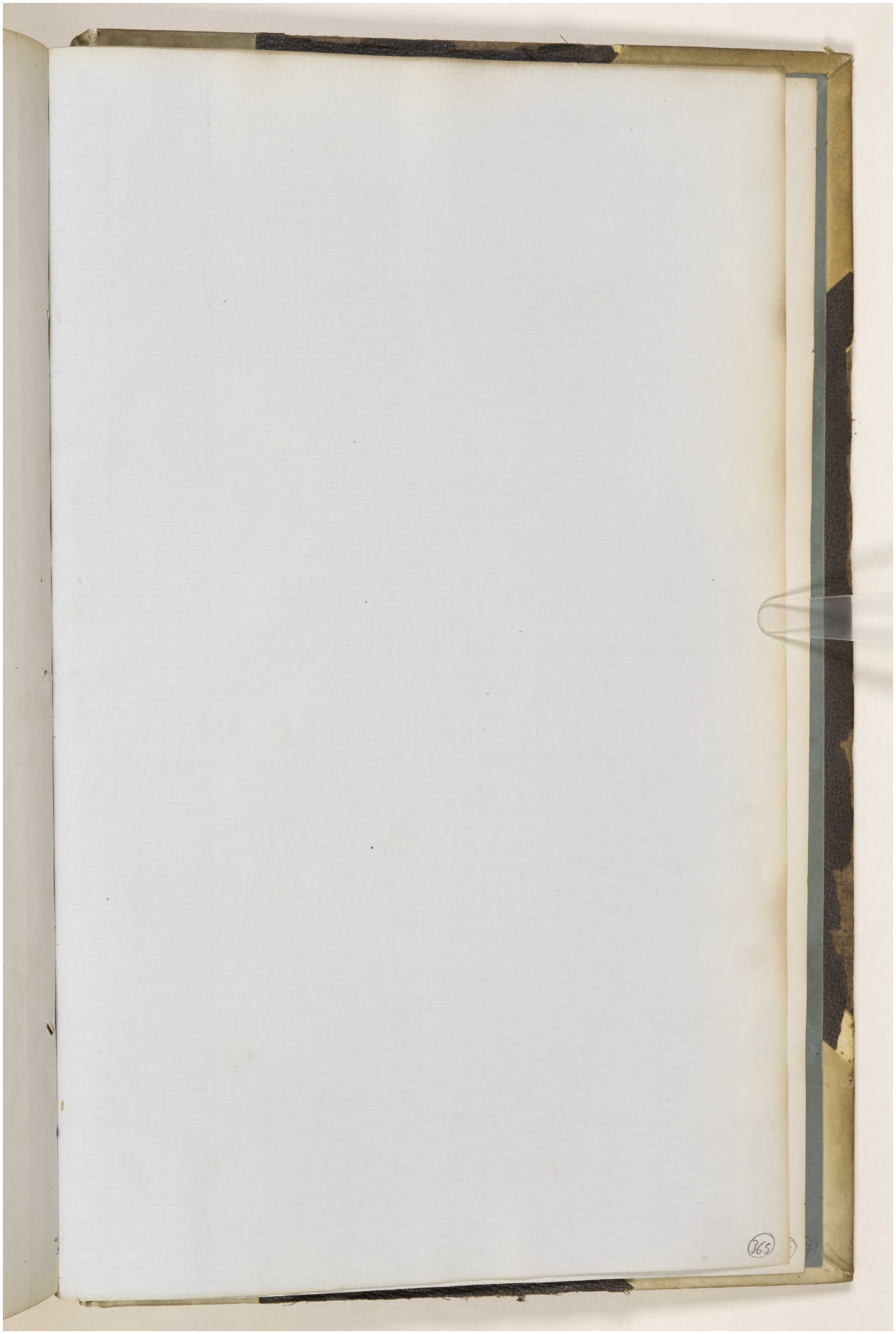
Captain Seton the Resident at Muscat having recently returned from that place we have the honor to submit the Copies of his report and of the papers accompanying it inclusive of a letter from the present Imaum.

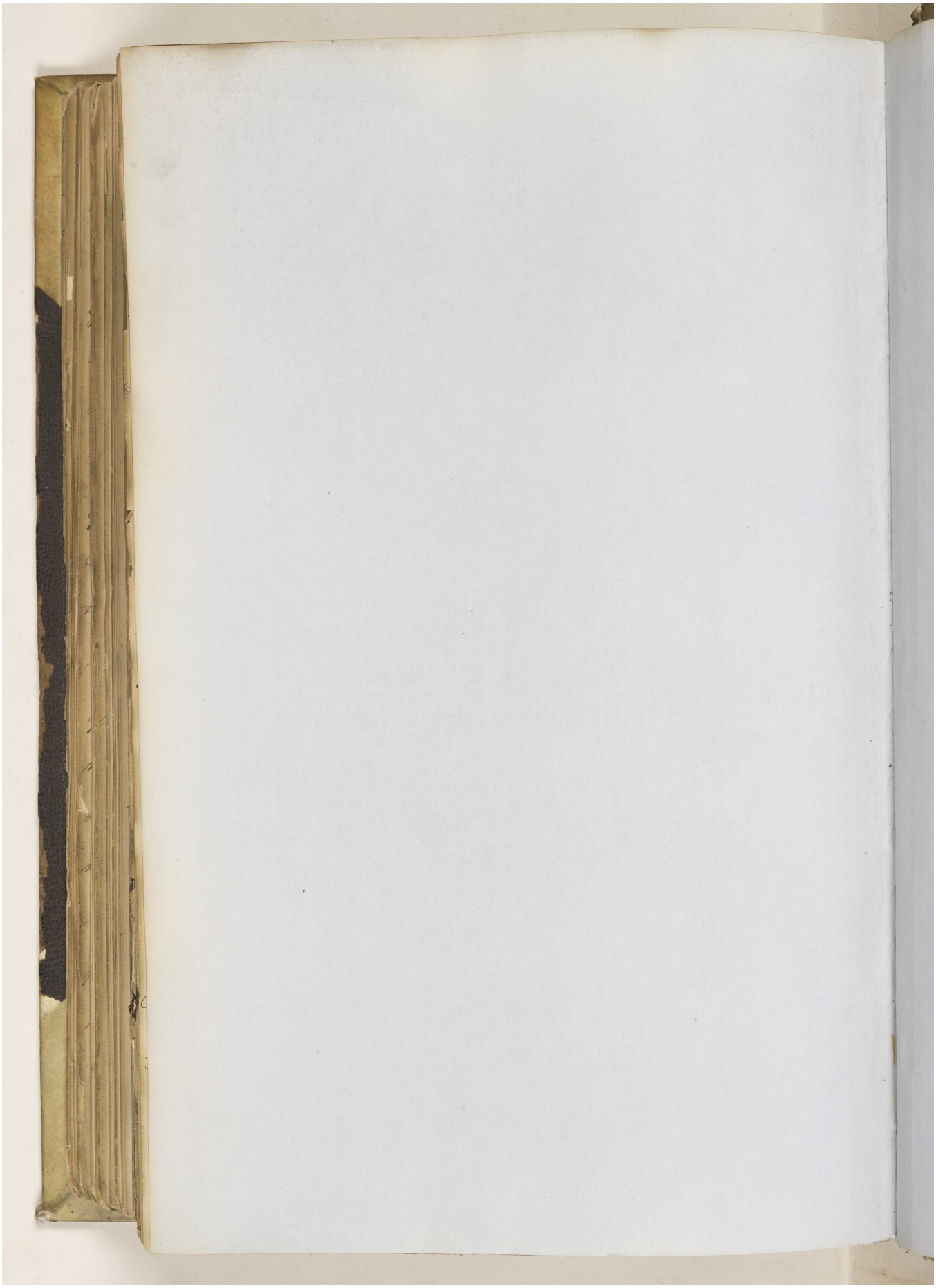
The station at Muscat appearing to require, under present circumstances, a more than ordinary attention it is meant that Captain Seton should return thither about the same period with the naval reinforcements that Captain Ferrier intends to detach to the Gulph.

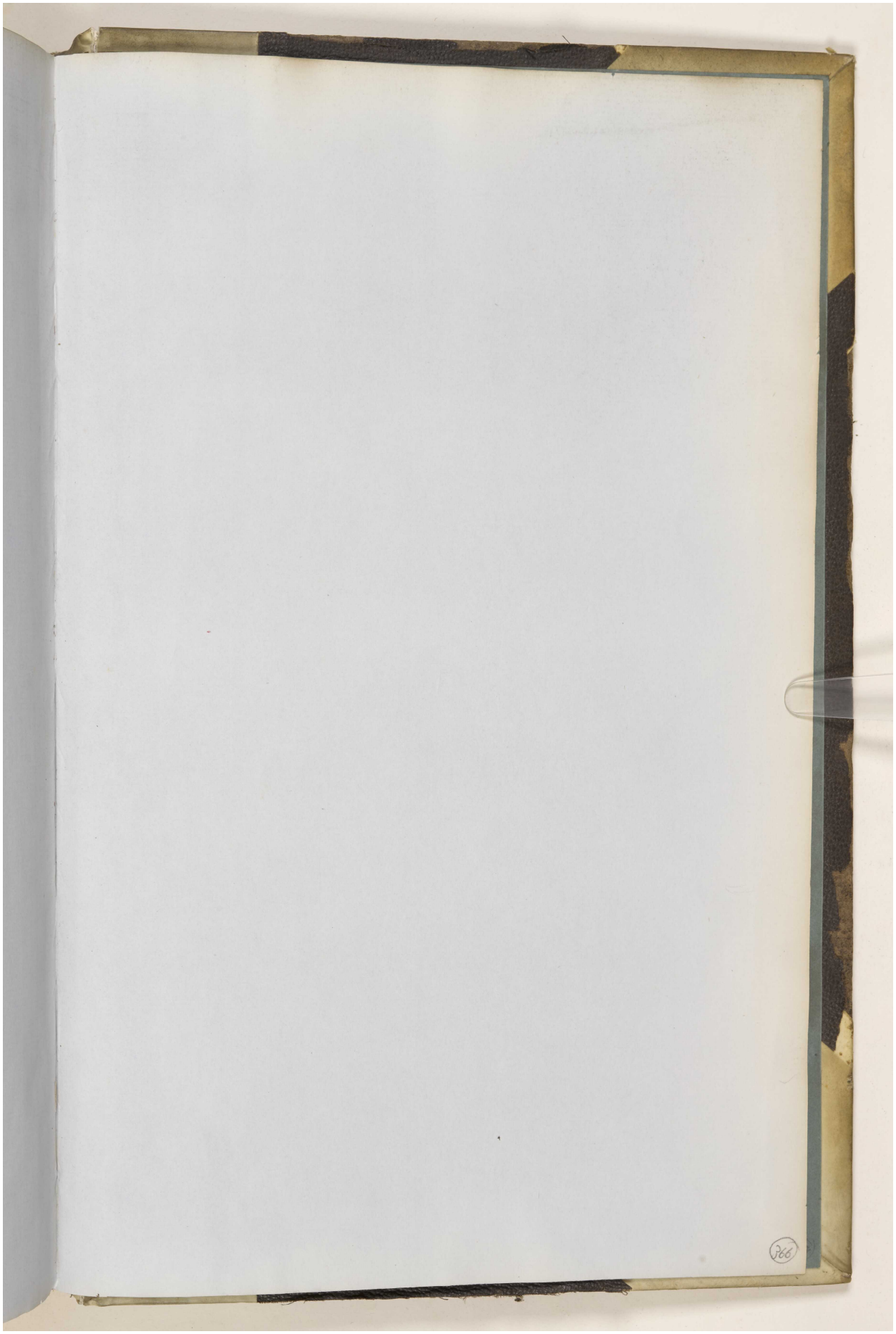
We have &c.a

Bombay Castle 19th January 1808.

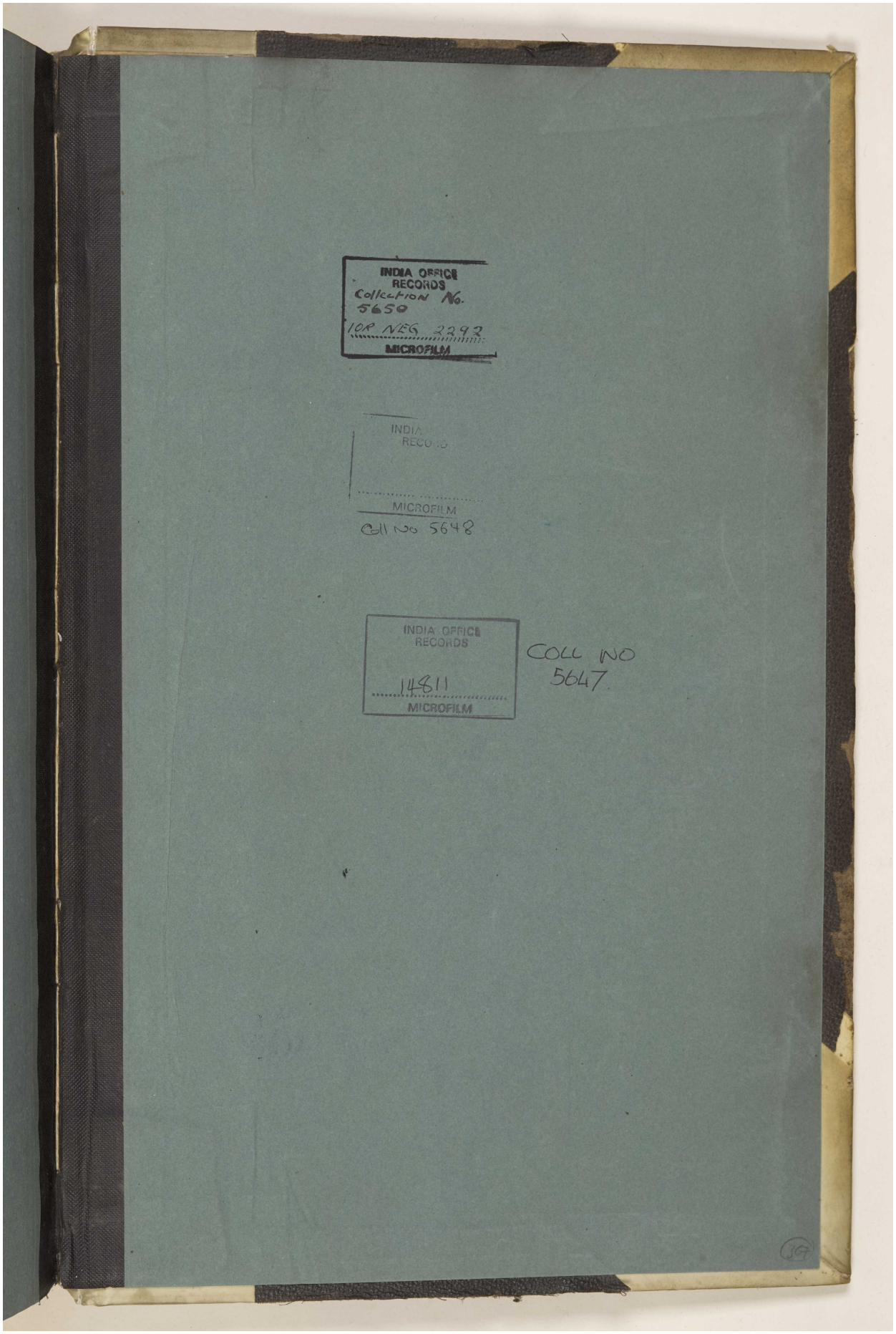
(Signed) Jonn. Duncan
&c.a Council











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