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Miscellaneous Correspondence, Notes, and Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Persia

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F111/353
Date(s)	3 Feb 1899-31 Mar 1905 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and French in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (121 folios)
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About this record

The file contains miscellaneous papers, mostly correspondence, notes, and newspaper cuttings, mainly relating to Persia [Iran]. The papers largely relate to Russian influence in Persia, and include papers concerning railway construction in Persia.

The correspondence consists of letters addressed to George Nathaniel Curzon from various individuals, and correspondence between other individuals, including printed copies of correspondence of the Marquess of Salisbury, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with British officials including Henry Mortimer Durand, HM Minister at Tehran.

The newspaper cuttings are from newspapers including: *The Englishman; Daily Chronicle; the Civil and Military Gazette; The Times; The Madras Mail; The Pioneer; The Statesman* ; and *The Morning Post* .

The file also includes a few documents relating to Koweit [Kuwait] (folios 55 to 56, and folios 49 to 52).

The file includes a copy of the publication *Revue Franco-Persane Économique et Politique Paraissant Tous Les Mois* [Franco-Persian Economic and Political Review Published Every Month], dated June 1900, which is in French (folios 101 to 109).

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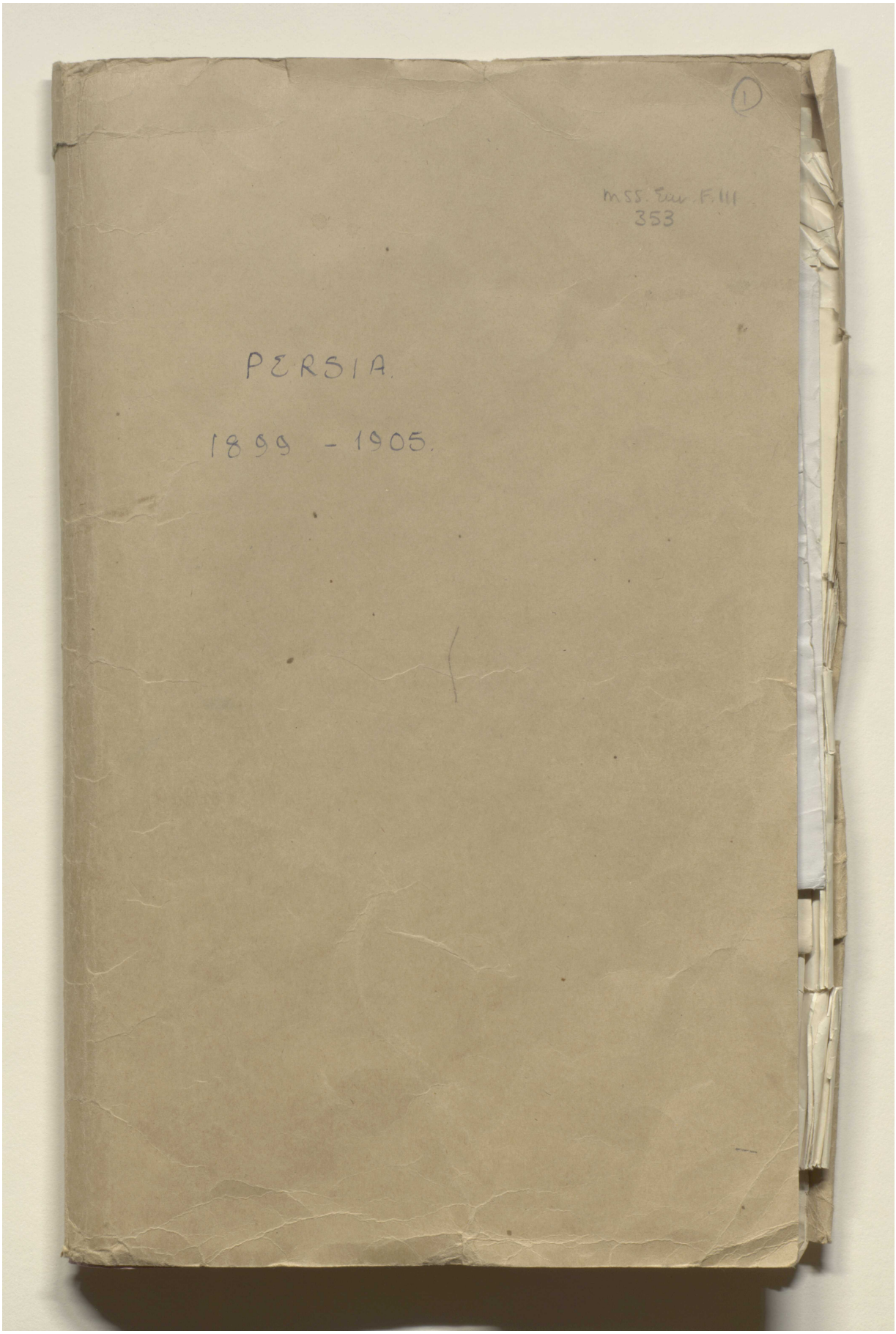

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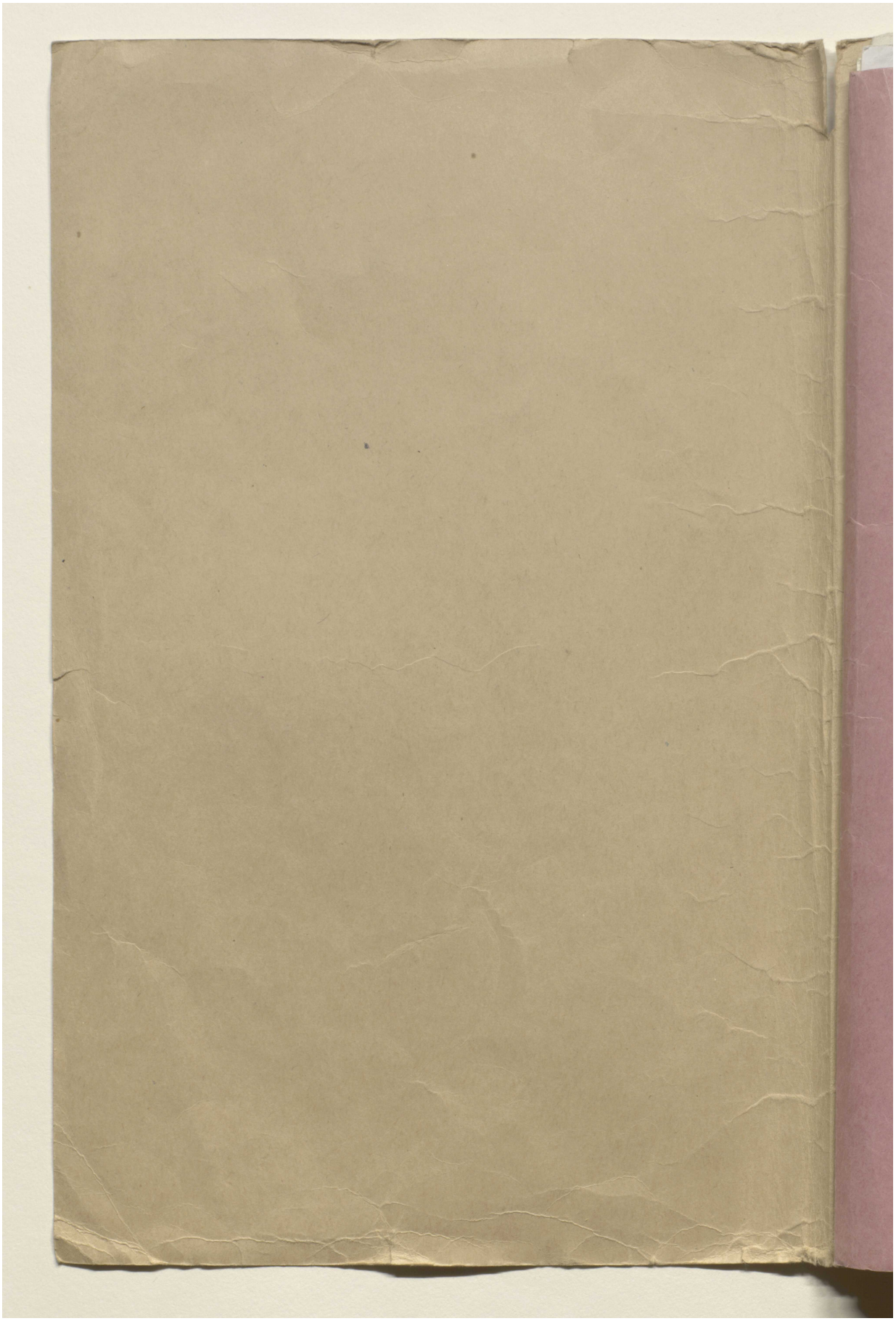

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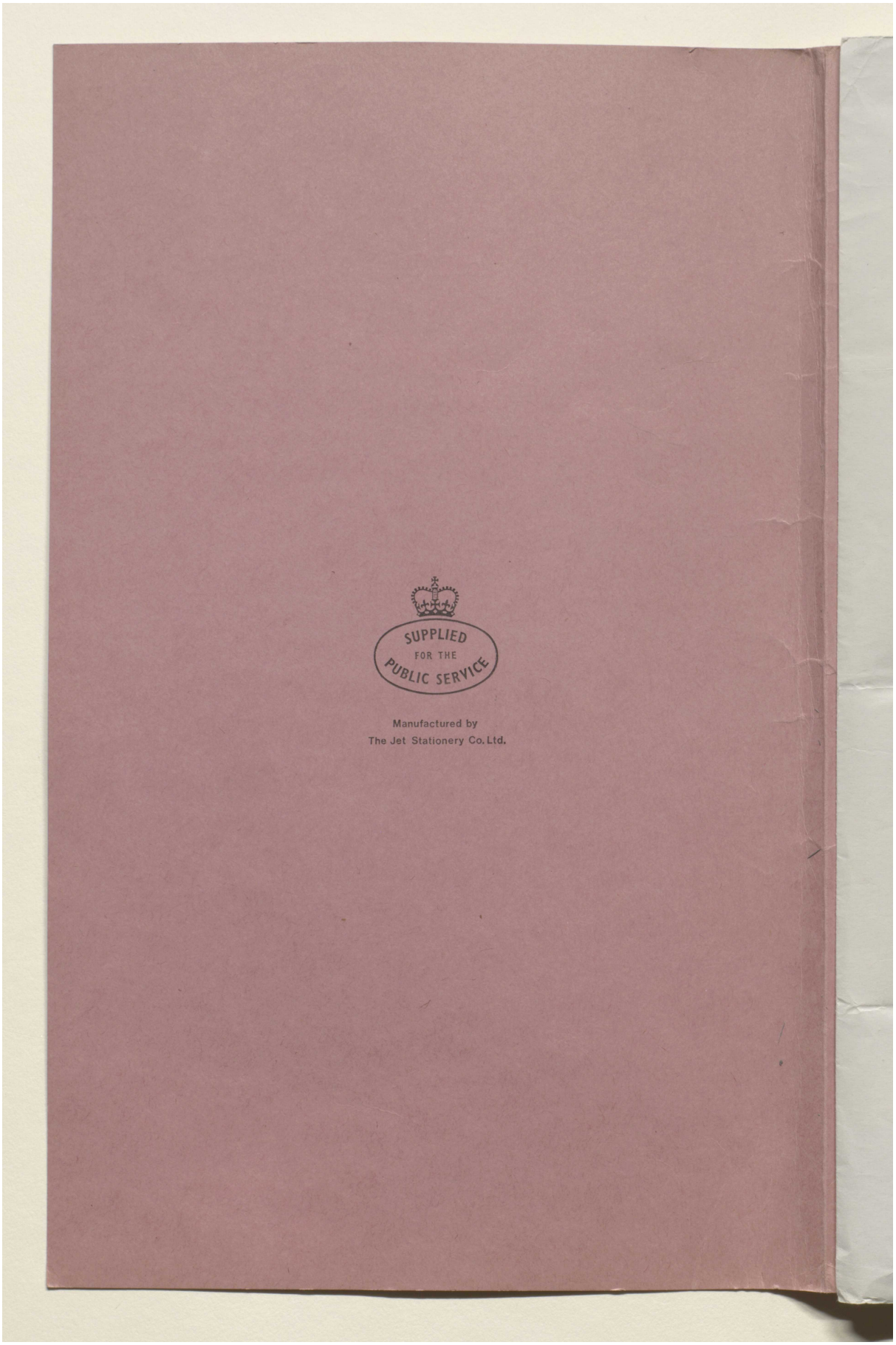
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Mss. Eur. F.111/353 16 (3)

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No. 24.—THE VICEROY OF INDIA.

[6982.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

[Wednesday and Thursday, July 19 and 20.]

(TELEGRAMS.)

No. 1.

Telegrams communicated by Colonial Office, July 19, 1899.

(1.)

High Commissioner Sir A. Milner to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 18, 1899.

REFERRING to your telegram of yesterday, not less than seven. I meant additional seats in my telegram referred to, as is evident from the fact that I contemplated First Raad of thirty-five. Present number of First Raad, twenty-eight. One of these, or Loveday, Member for Barberton, virtually represents Uitlander views. Raad Members sit for four years, half retiring every two years. Present Member for Johannesburg retires in 1901. Besides this, three other seats fall vacant in 1901, election for which, under five years' system, fairly worked, Uitlanders might greatly influence, if not carry, and three or four more in 1903. In the rest their influence would tell more slowly.

Of course, I never contemplated Uitlander population, being some two-thirds of total whites, being permanently limited to one-fifth of representation; but the gist of the whole is: condition of admission to franchise should be such as to admit qualified Uitlanders generally, not facilitate exclusion and favouritism. Under Government scheme it is impossible to feel sure that new voters, not being Government men, would command majority anywhere.

(2.)

High Commissioner Sir A. Milner to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.) *July* 18, 1899.

REFERRING to my telegram of 5th July, British Agent is being pressed for reply as to whether Companies should refuse to pay; notices served on some of them expire on 23rd July. It seems to me that after our protest, and your notification of same to Companies, I am bound to support them. Require immediate reply.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1899, 12·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 27: Koweit.

Your proposed instruction to Consul at Bussorah is approved.

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No. 3.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Tower.

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1899, 5·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 57 of 5th July.

You are authorized to propose to United States' Government provisional line for Alaska boundary described in Lord Minto's telegram of 4th July, and if it is objected to on the same ground as the former proposal, you should ask them to indicate on the map where the United States' Settlements are, and to indicate by tracing on the map how they would propose to draw the provisional line so as to have such Settlements within American jurisdiction pending a final settlement.

No. 4.

Governor-General the Earl of Minto to Mr. Chamberlain.—(Communicated by Colonial Office, July 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *July* 18, 1899.

IN reply to your telegram of 17th July, I have to report that Boulder Creek on the left bank is 9, and Porcupine Creek on the right 10½ statute miles from junction of Klepini with Chilcat. Porcupine Creek is first creek shown on map after Boulder Creek is passed.

No. 5.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 19, 8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, July* 19, 1899.

YOUR Lordship's telegram, Commercial, 14th July.

Grain embargo should no doubt now be removed. I will try again, but local authorities are interested in maintaining embargo, which is source of illicit gain to them, and Sadr Azam is afraid to interfere, as it will arouse opposition. He is too weak to run risks.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 22. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1899, 6 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 43: Mining Concessions.

Imperial Bank of Persia maintain that any such Concessions granted before September next are contrary to plain wording of Article 11 of their Concession, and, moreover, that inasmuch as the operations of the Mining Corporation were suspended by fault of Persian officials, their rights continue, notwithstanding that suspension; but they do not wish to raise unnecessary controversies, and, on our advice, it would refrain from opposing grant of Mining Concessions to Russians in the northern portion of Persia, where Russian financiers can, no doubt, work with greater advantages, provided the Bank can be assured that Persian Government will maintain its privileges and prior rights in regard to Mining Concessions in the southern portion of the country.

We would be willing that there should be an understanding to this effect which might relieve the Persian Government from much embarrassment and controversy, but we do not wish, from motives of friendliness to Persia, to make the matter one of bargain directly between ourselves and Russia. It is an arrangement which the Persian Government should make with the Bank of its own wish, though with the knowledge of the two Governments.

You can speak to the Sadr Azam in this sense, but in the form of suggestion, and avoiding any appearance of a desire to dictate.

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No. 7.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 23. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1899.

WE have, in view of your despatches, for some time past been carefully considering the manner in which financial assistance can be procured for the Persian Government. The matter presents great difficulties. So far from wishing to make use of this or other methods in order to obtain control over the southern portions of Persia, we have always been anxious that any loan should be arranged through the Imperial Bank of Persia in order that any question of foreign intervention might be avoided. That Bank has, however, found itself unable to raise a loan except on condition that the Customs revenues assigned as security should immediately be placed under its control.

To this the Sadr Azam objects as inconvenient in itself, and because he would feel bound to offer to the Russians a Concession for a loan on similar terms.

The only alternative I am able to suggest is that Imperial Bank of Persia should endeavour to raise a loan on conditions somewhat similar to those of Moorish Loan of 1862 (see State Papers, vol. lii, p. 33). The loan would be on the security of the customs of the southern ports of Persia, and the contract might be to the effect that the Bank should appoint a Commissioner, to be approved by the British and Persian Governments, who should receive the customs revenues of those ports, and apply them, so far as required, to the service of the loan, handing over any balance to the Persian Government. It would, no doubt, greatly improve the chances of the loan, and the terms on which it could be obtained, if it were also provided that the proceeds of the loan, or those portions of it assigned to special purposes, should be placed in the hands of the Commissioner, who should see that they were so applied.

You may speak to Sadr Azam in a friendly manner to the above effect, and ask him if such an arrangement would be acceptable. We should not wish to make any secret of it from Russia, and would raise no objections to his offering to the Russians a contract for a loan on similar conditions to be secured on the Customs of the Caspian ports of Persia.

The Persian Government would probably prefer themselves to approach the Russian Government on the subject. In any case, we should earnestly advise the Sadr Azam not to pledge the customs revenues of Kermanshah as security for either loan.

No. 8.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 19, 1899, 5·15 P.M.

UP to yesterday Turkish Ambassador had not apparently reported anything to the Sultan respecting Conversion Agreement of 1855 Loan.

No. 9.

Mr. Jenner to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Guatemala, July* 19, 1899.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 20.

There is some misunderstanding. I have not requested Captain of "Leander" to [? come] here. On the contrary, on 11th July I agreed to his going south to join Admiral.

If strong measures are not to be taken, preferable that he should stay away, as he would have to thank President for courteous treatment on his previous visit, and I think exchange of courtesies would be out of place under present circumstances.

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No. 10.

Mr. Tower to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 20, 9·15 A.M.)

(No. 21. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)

Washington, July 20, 1899.

YOUR telegram No. 22.

United States will agree to Convention for Trinidad on the basis suggested.

They desire, however, to insert in the Schedule (under item tobacco) cigarettes at 36 cents per pound, in order to promote that industry, and, in return, would agree to an increase on unmanufactured tobacco to 30 cents instead of 27 cents, as in original proposal inclosed in Sir J. Pauncefote's despatch No. 99, 1898.

On imports of 1898, reduction on cigarettes would involve loss to Trinidad of 1,932 dollars, while the concession on tobacco would mean an increase in revenue if amount imported be maintained, as United States think probable, of 29,000 dollars.

We propose to insert a provision permitting the present export duty on asphalt from Trinidad.

As time presses, I have promised to give reply to United States' Commissioner as soon as possible whether this proposal is acceptable to Her Majesty's Government.

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Private & confidential

M E M O R A N D A

on

P E R S I A.

I understand:-

(1) That by the refusal of the British Government to guarantee the 2½ million loan (which is amply secured by the Customs) in ~~1908~~ 1900 the financial control of the impecunious Persian Government has been allowed to pass into the hands of Russia, at least until 1910.

(2) That Persia has agreed with Russia not to grant any railway concession during the same period.

(3) That Belgian Customs House Officers (really representatives of Russia) have been appointed throughout Persia including Persian Gulf ports and even down the frontier of Baluchistan at points where there are no Customs to collect.

(4) That Russian doctors (with Cossack guards) are interfering with British caravans on Persian territory, namely in Sistan and the region between Sistan and Mashad. The Russian consul in Sistan and the Consul-General in Mashad are also doing all in their power by intrigue and otherwise to hinder British trade being carried on by the Sistan route.

(5) That Russian emissaries are working to prevent the development of British trade via the Karun river and Bakhtiari country.

(6) That Russia is negotiating a new Commercial Treaty to supersede the Treaty of Turkmanchai, which provides for a 5 per cent. ad valorem duty on all imports, and, seeking to have less than 5 per cent charged on goods, she largely supplies to Persia, whilst

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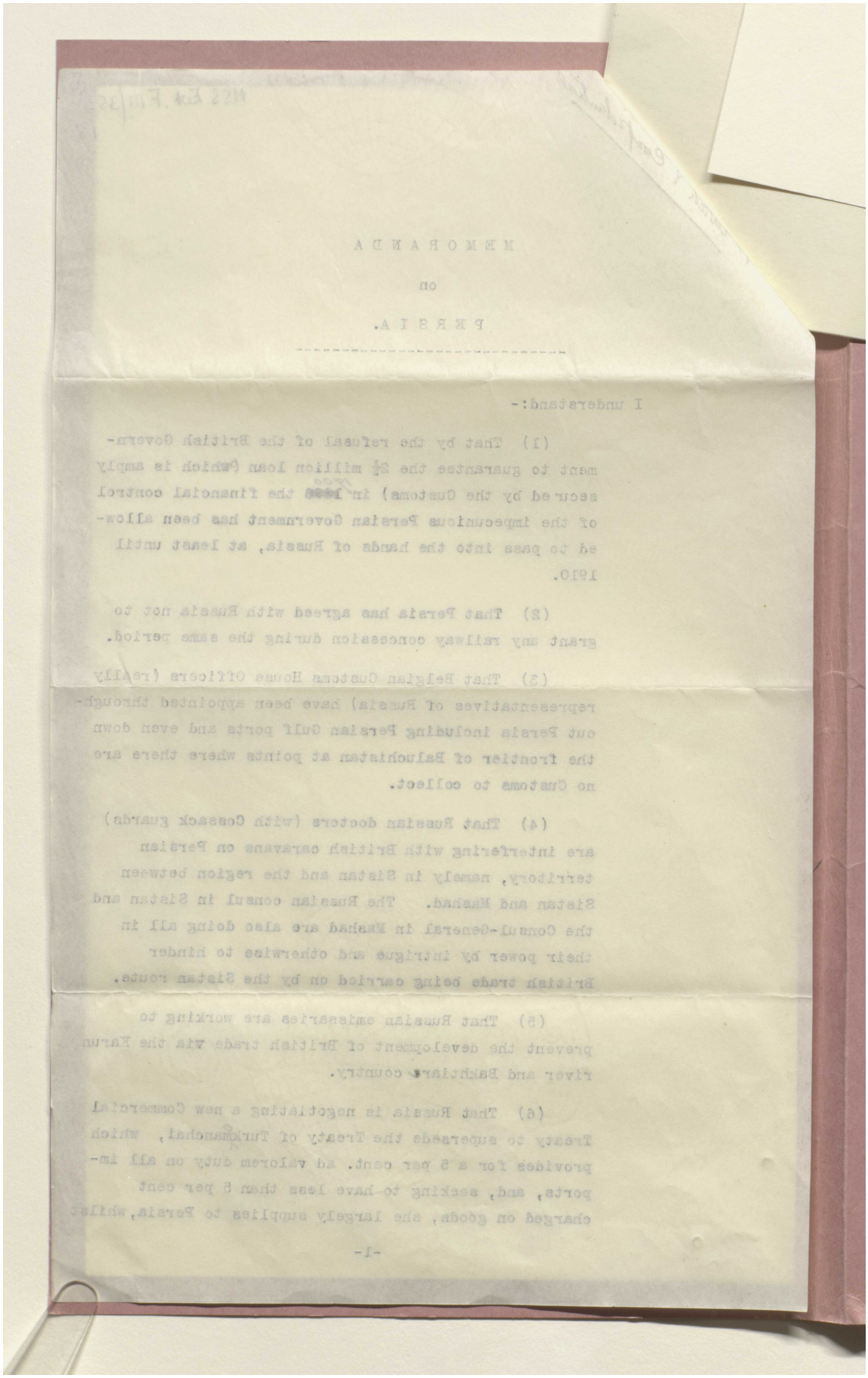

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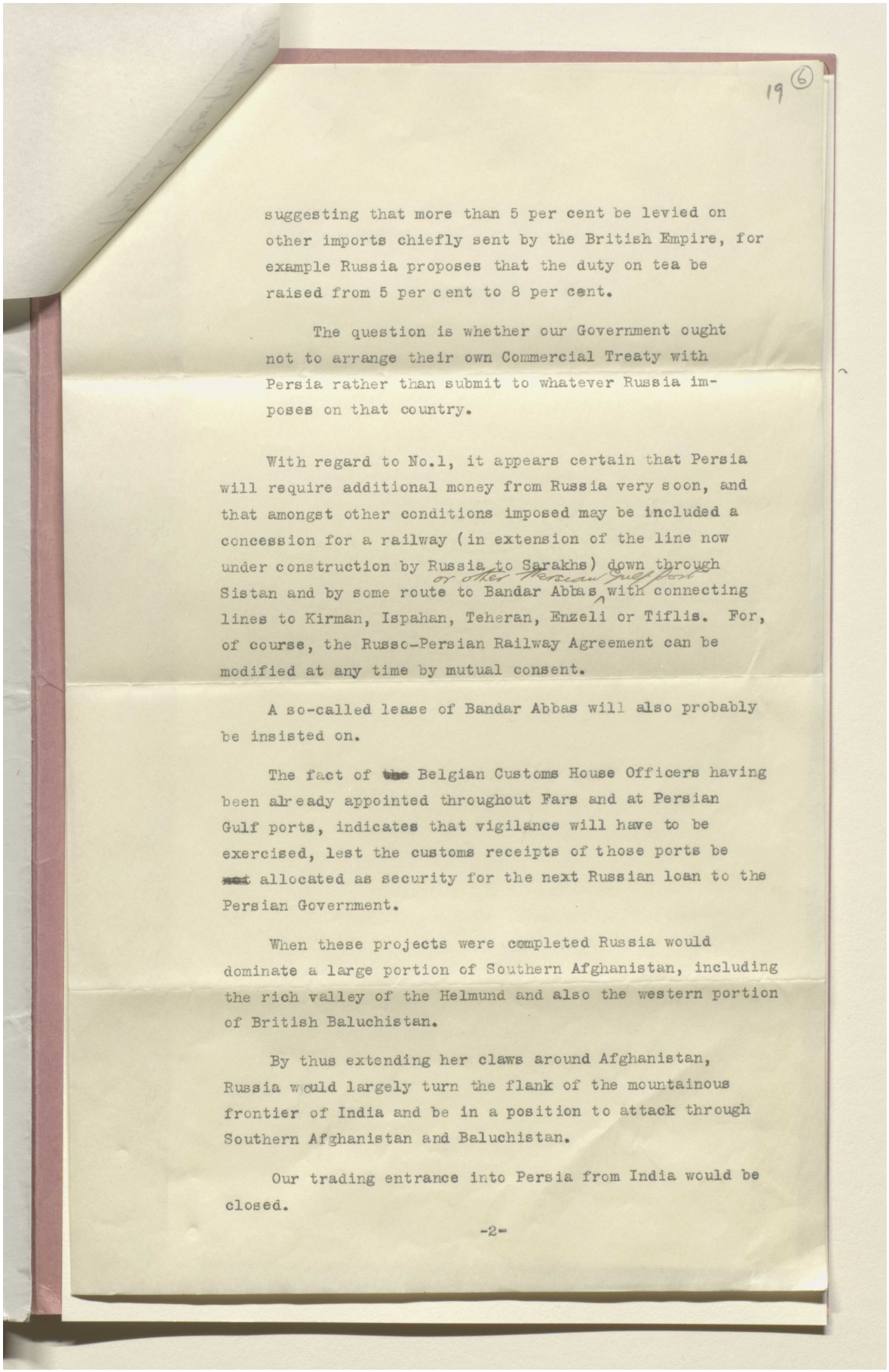

19 (6)

suggesting that more than 5 per cent be levied on other imports chiefly sent by the British Empire, for example Russia proposes that the duty on tea be raised from 5 per cent to 8 per cent.

The question is whether our Government ought not to arrange their own Commercial Treaty with Persia rather than submit to whatever Russia imposes on that country.

With regard to No.1, it appears certain that Persia will require additional money from Russia very soon, and that amongst other conditions imposed may be included a concession for a railway (in extension of the line now under construction by Russia to Sarakhs) down through Sistan and by some route to Bandar Abbas, or other Persian Gulf Port with connecting lines to Kirman, Ispahan, Teheran, Enzeli or Tiflis. For, of course, the Russo-Persian Railway Agreement can be modified at any time by mutual consent.

A so-called lease of Bandar Abbas will also probably be insisted on.

The fact of ~~the~~ Belgian Customs House Officers having been already appointed throughout Fars and at Persian Gulf ports, indicates that vigilance will have to be exercised, lest the customs receipts of those ports be ~~not~~ allocated as security for the next Russian loan to the Persian Government.

When these projects were completed Russia would dominate a large portion of Southern Afghanistan, including the rich valley of the Helmund and also the western portion of British Baluchistan.

By thus extending her claws around Afghanistan, Russia would largely turn the flank of the mountainous frontier of India and be in a position to attack through Southern Afghanistan and Baluchistan.

Our trading entrance into Persia from India would be closed.

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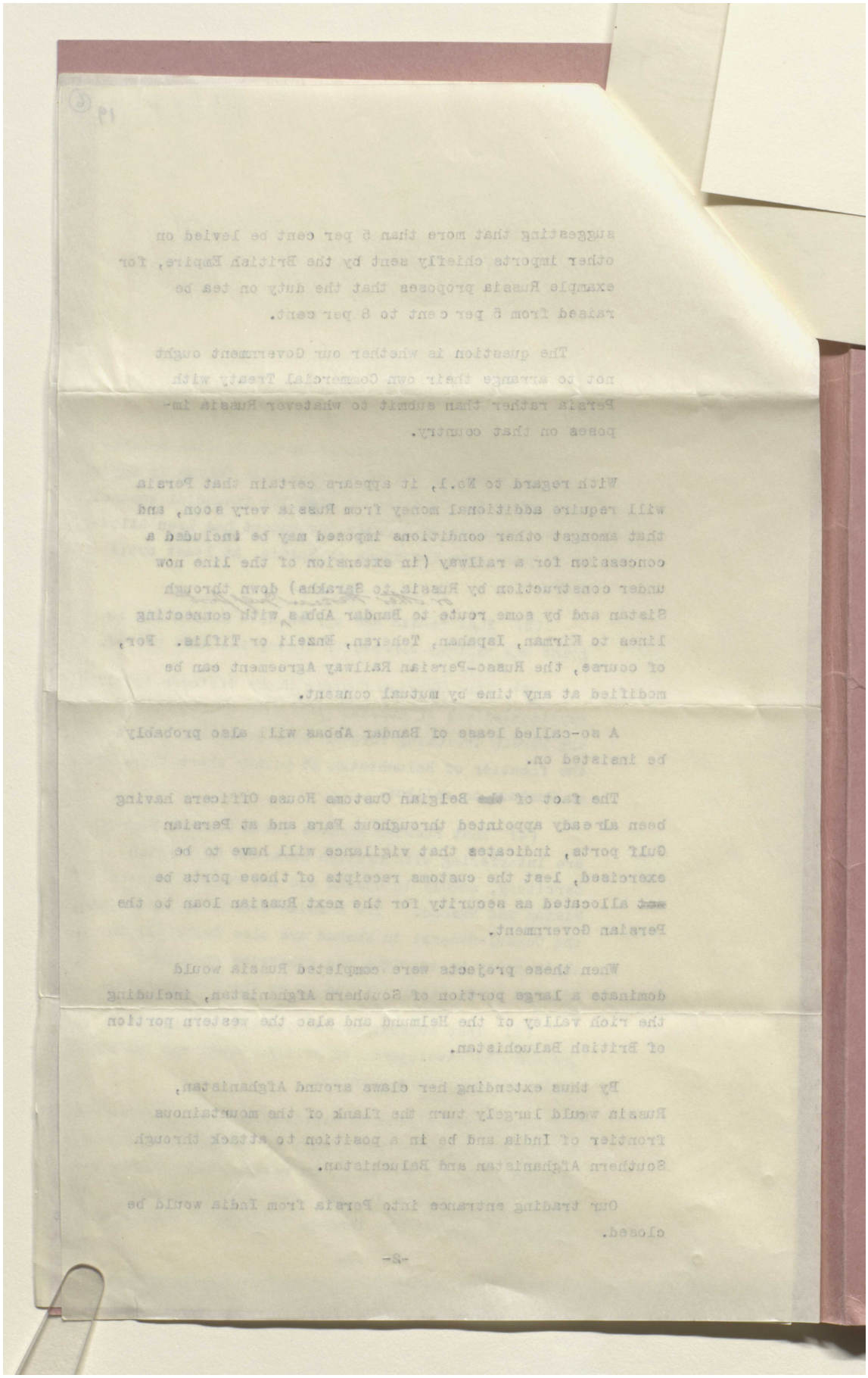

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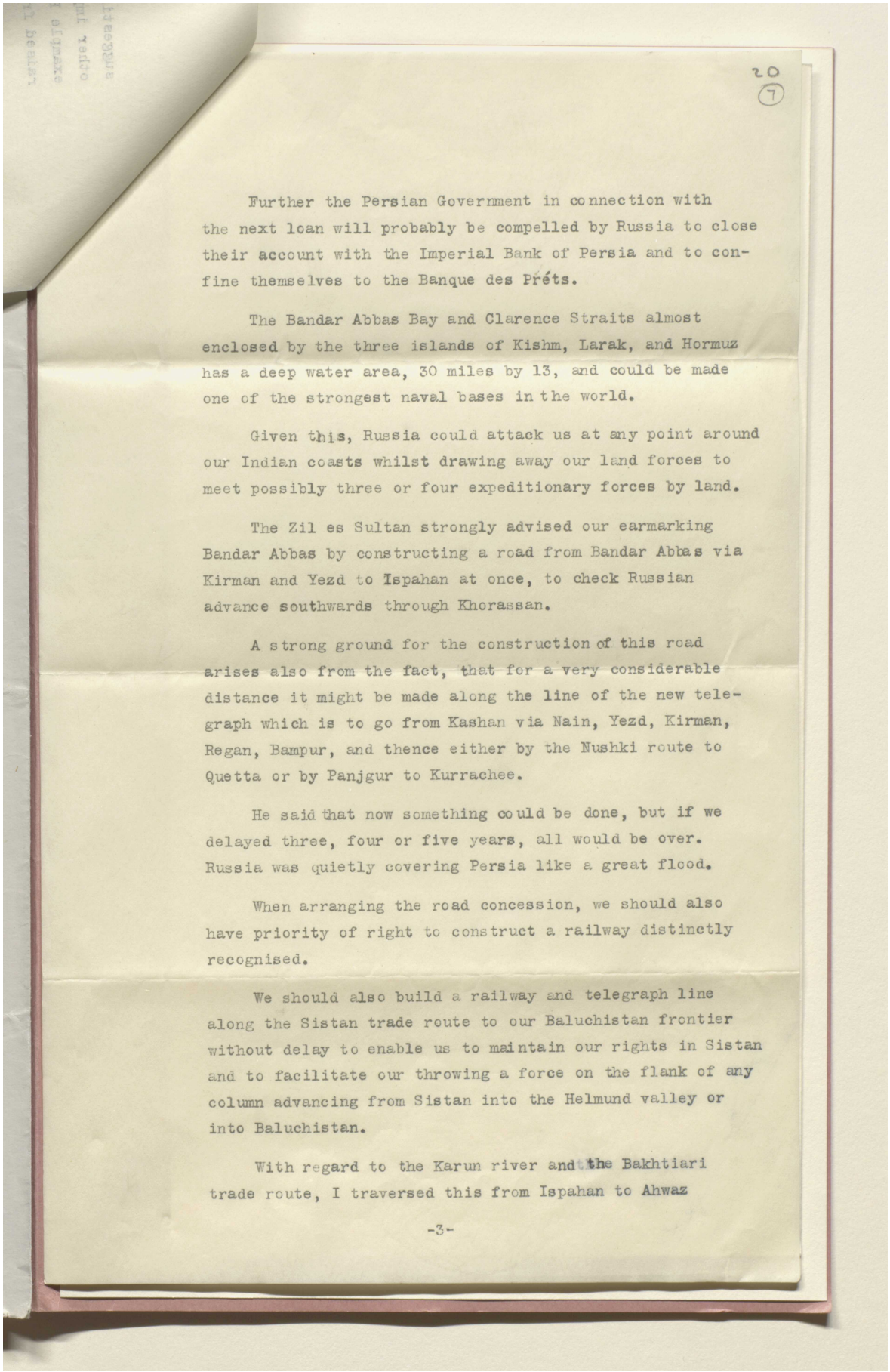

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Further the Persian Government in connection with the next loan will probably be compelled by Russia to close their account with the Imperial Bank of Persia and to confine themselves to the Banque des Prêts.

The Bandar Abbas Bay and Clarence Straits almost enclosed by the three islands of Kishm, Larak, and Hormuz has a deep water area, 30 miles by 13, and could be made one of the strongest naval bases in the world.

Given this, Russia could attack us at any point around our Indian coasts whilst drawing away our land forces to meet possibly three or four expeditionary forces by land.

The Zil es Sultan strongly advised our earmarking Bandar Abbas by constructing a road from Bandar Abbas via Kirman and Yezd to Ispahan at once, to check Russian advance southwards through Khorassan.

A strong ground for the construction of this road arises also from the fact, that for a very considerable distance it might be made along the line of the new telegraph which is to go from Kashan via Nain, Yezd, Kirman, Regan, Bampur, and thence either by the Nushki route to Quetta or by Panjgur to Kurrachee.

He said that now something could be done, but if we delayed three, four or five years, all would be over. Russia was quietly covering Persia like a great flood.

When arranging the road concession, we should also have priority of right to construct a railway distinctly recognised.

We should also build a railway and telegraph line along the Sistan trade route to our Baluchistan frontier without delay to enable us to maintain our rights in Sistan and to facilitate our throwing a force on the flank of any column advancing from Sistan into the Helmund valley or into Baluchistan.

With regard to the Karun river and the Bakhtiari trade route, I traversed this from Ispahan to Ahwaz

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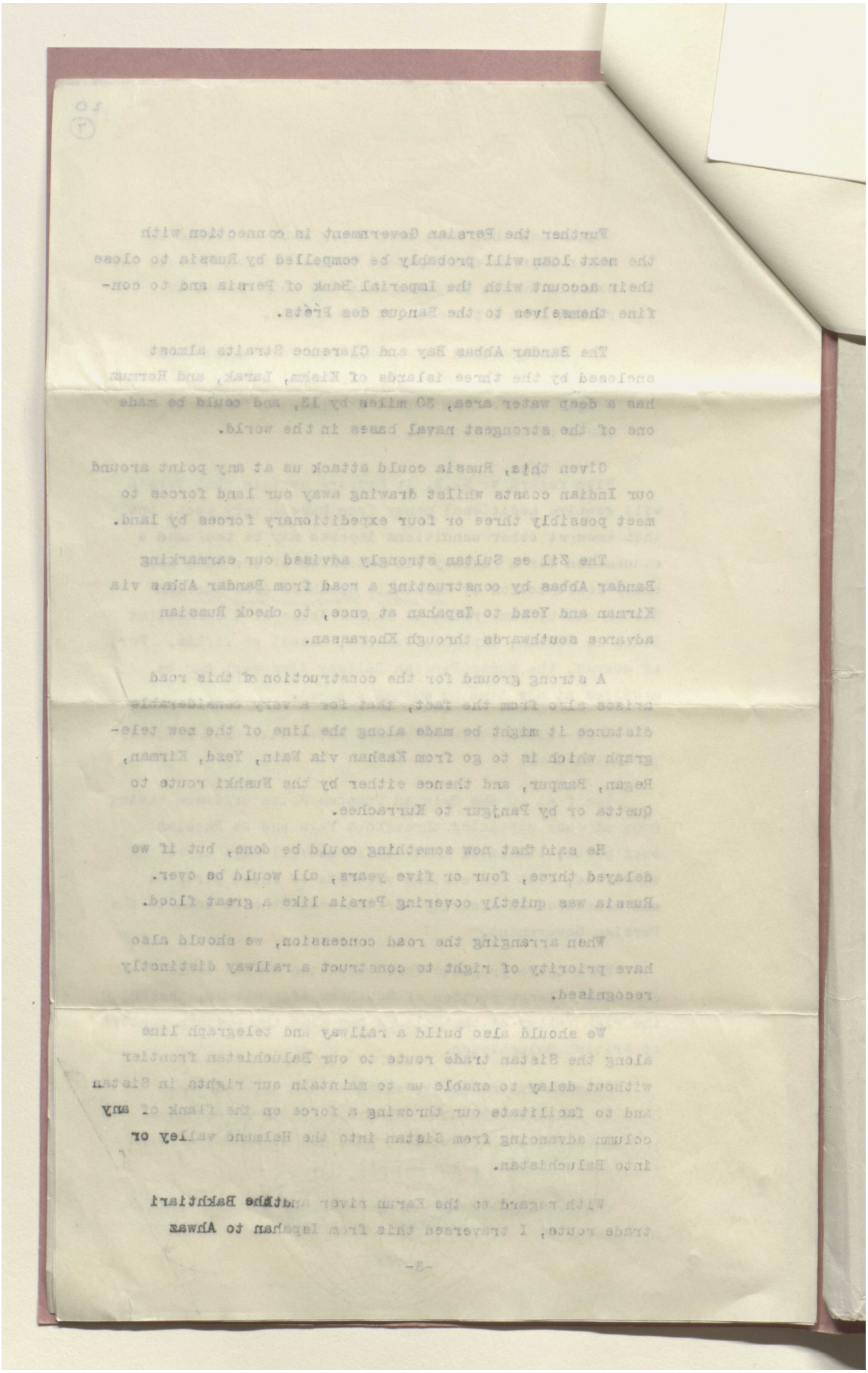

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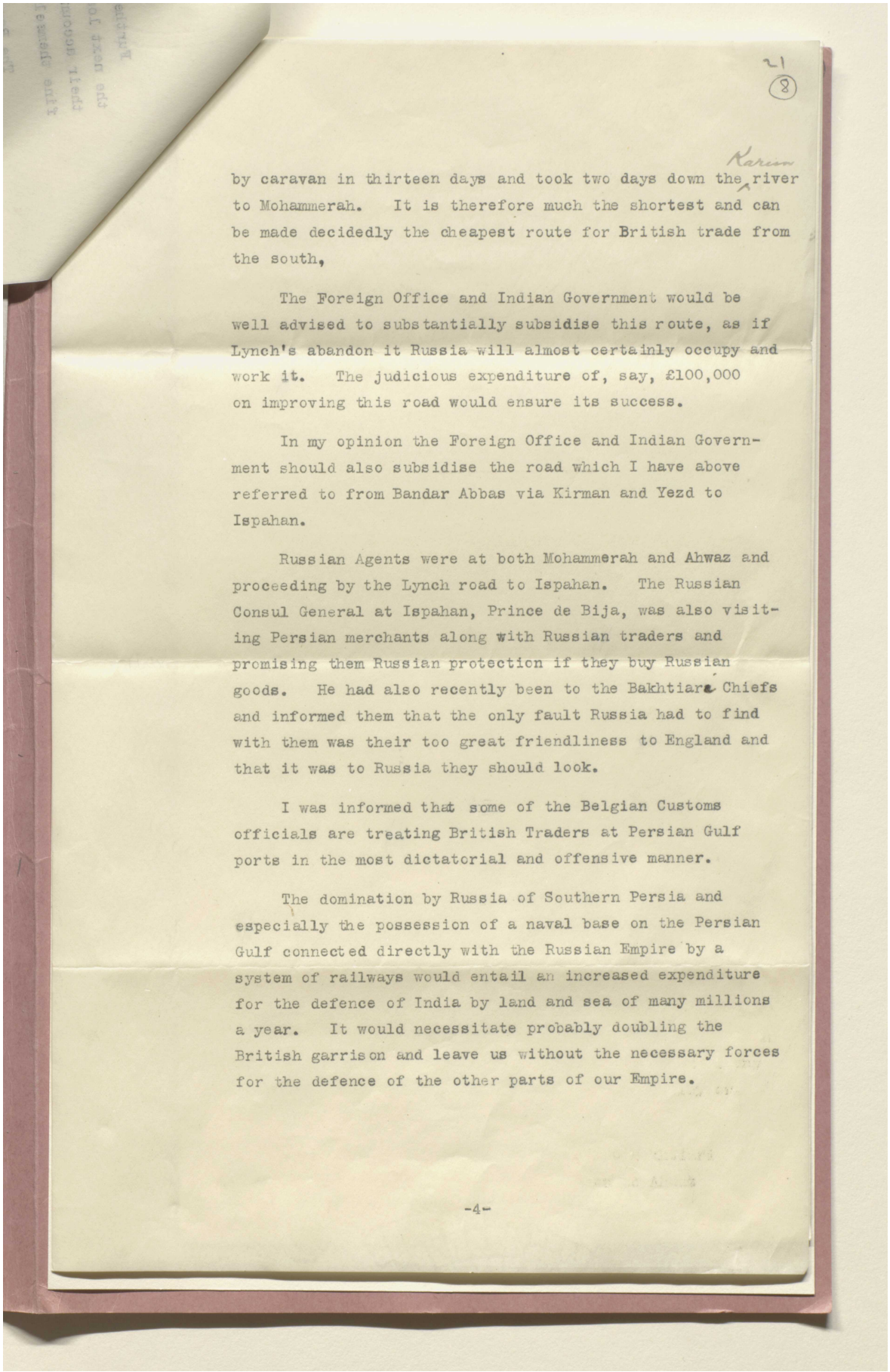

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(8)

Karun

by caravan in thirteen days and took two days down the river to Mohammerah. It is therefore much the shortest and can be made decidedly the cheapest route for British trade from the south,

The Foreign Office and Indian Government would be well advised to substantially subsidise this route, as if Lynch's abandon it Russia will almost certainly occupy and work it. The judicious expenditure of, say, £100,000 on improving this road would ensure its success.

In my opinion the Foreign Office and Indian Government should also subsidise the road which I have above referred to from Bandar Abbas via Kirman and Yezd to Ispahan.

Russian Agents were at both Mohammerah and Ahwaz and proceeding by the Lynch road to Ispahan. The Russian Consul General at Ispahan, Prince de Bija, was also visiting Persian merchants along with Russian traders and promising them Russian protection if they buy Russian goods. He had also recently been to the Bakhtiara Chiefs and informed them that the only fault Russia had to find with them was their too great friendliness to England and that it was to Russia they should look.

I was informed that some of the Belgian Customs officials are treating British Traders at Persian Gulf ports in the most dictatorial and offensive manner.

The domination by Russia of Southern Persia and especially the possession of a naval base on the Persian Gulf connected directly with the Russian Empire by a system of railways would entail an increased expenditure for the defence of India by land and sea of many millions a year. It would necessitate probably doubling the British garrison and leave us without the necessary forces for the defence of the other parts of our Empire.

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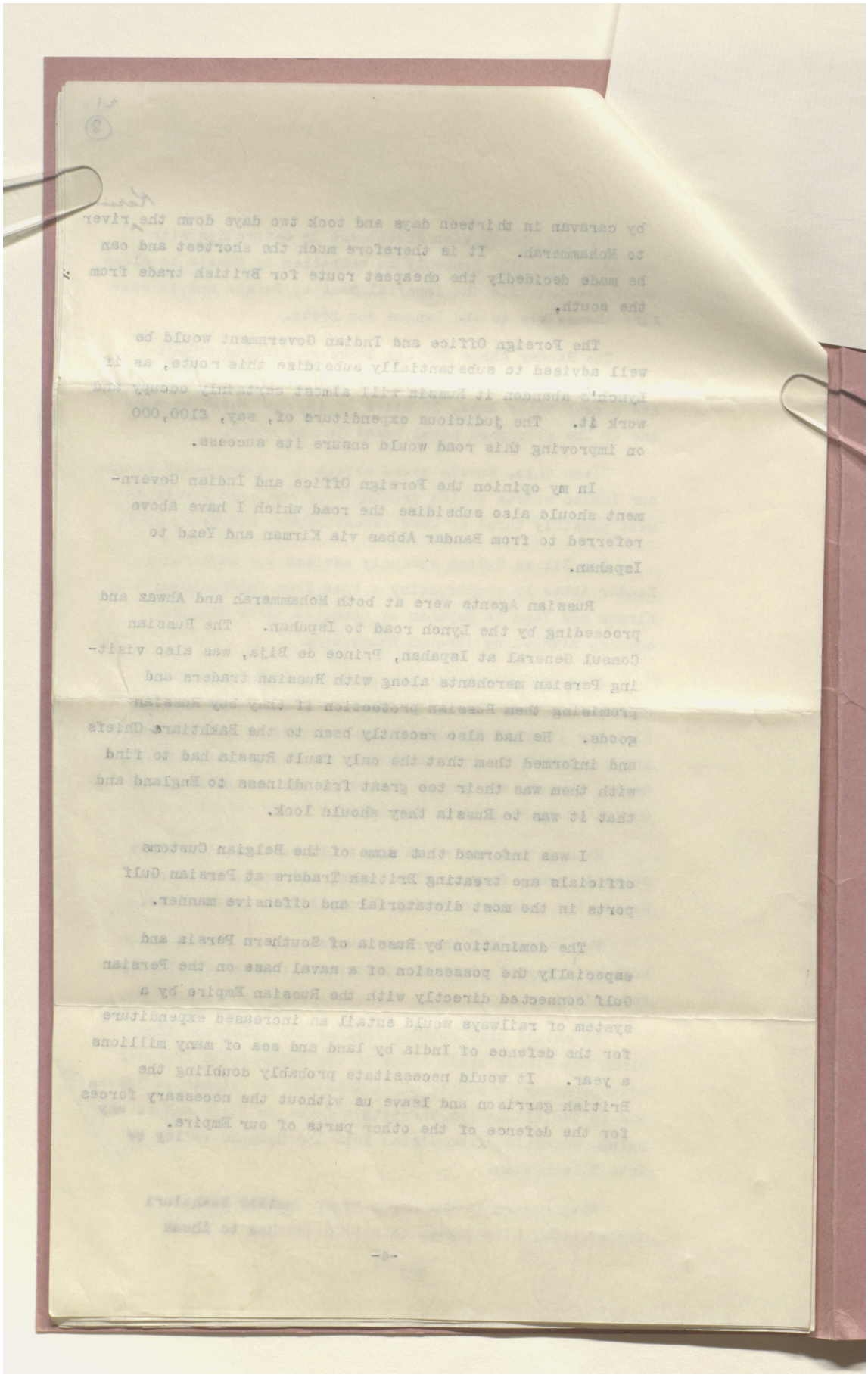

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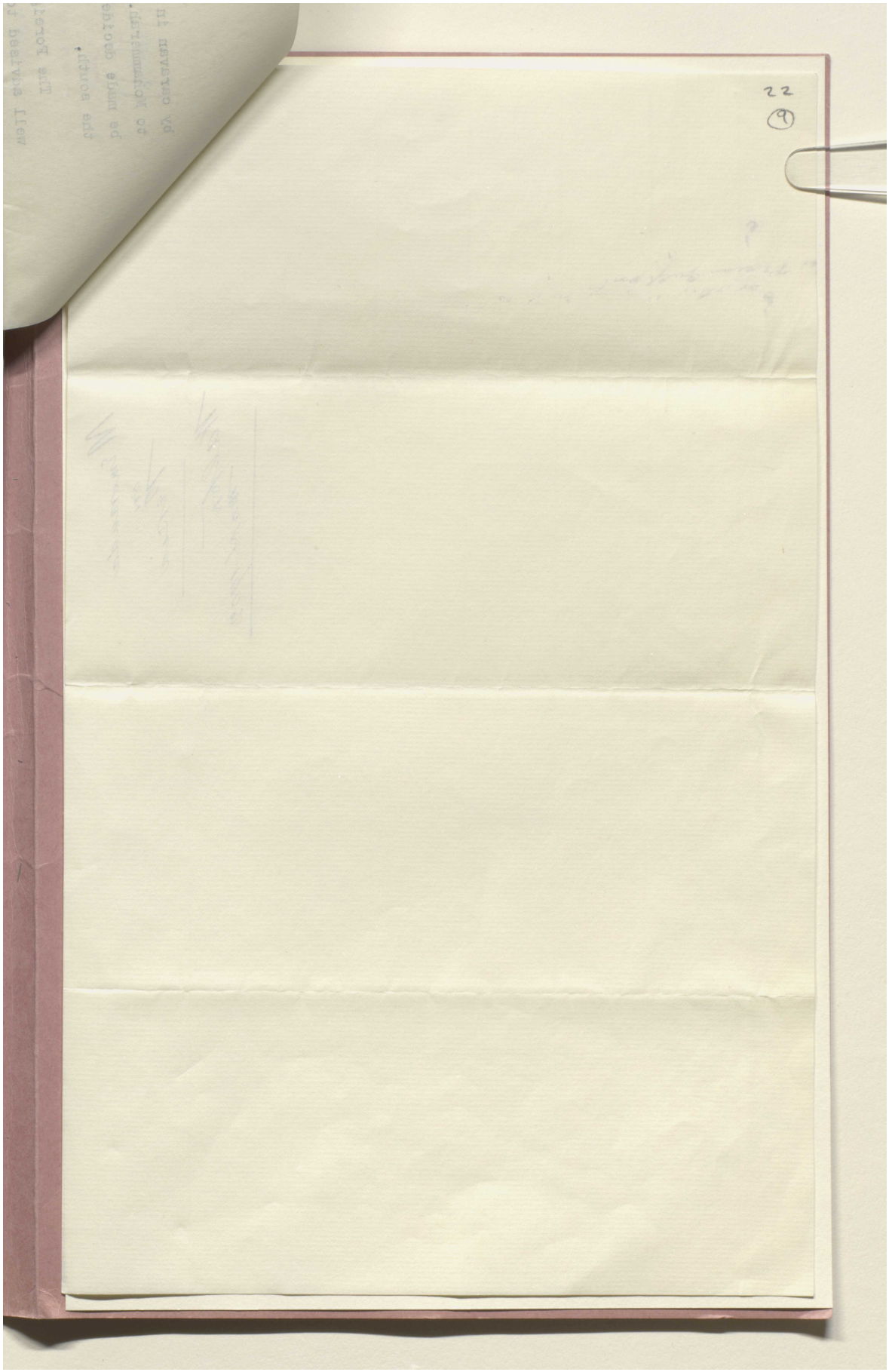

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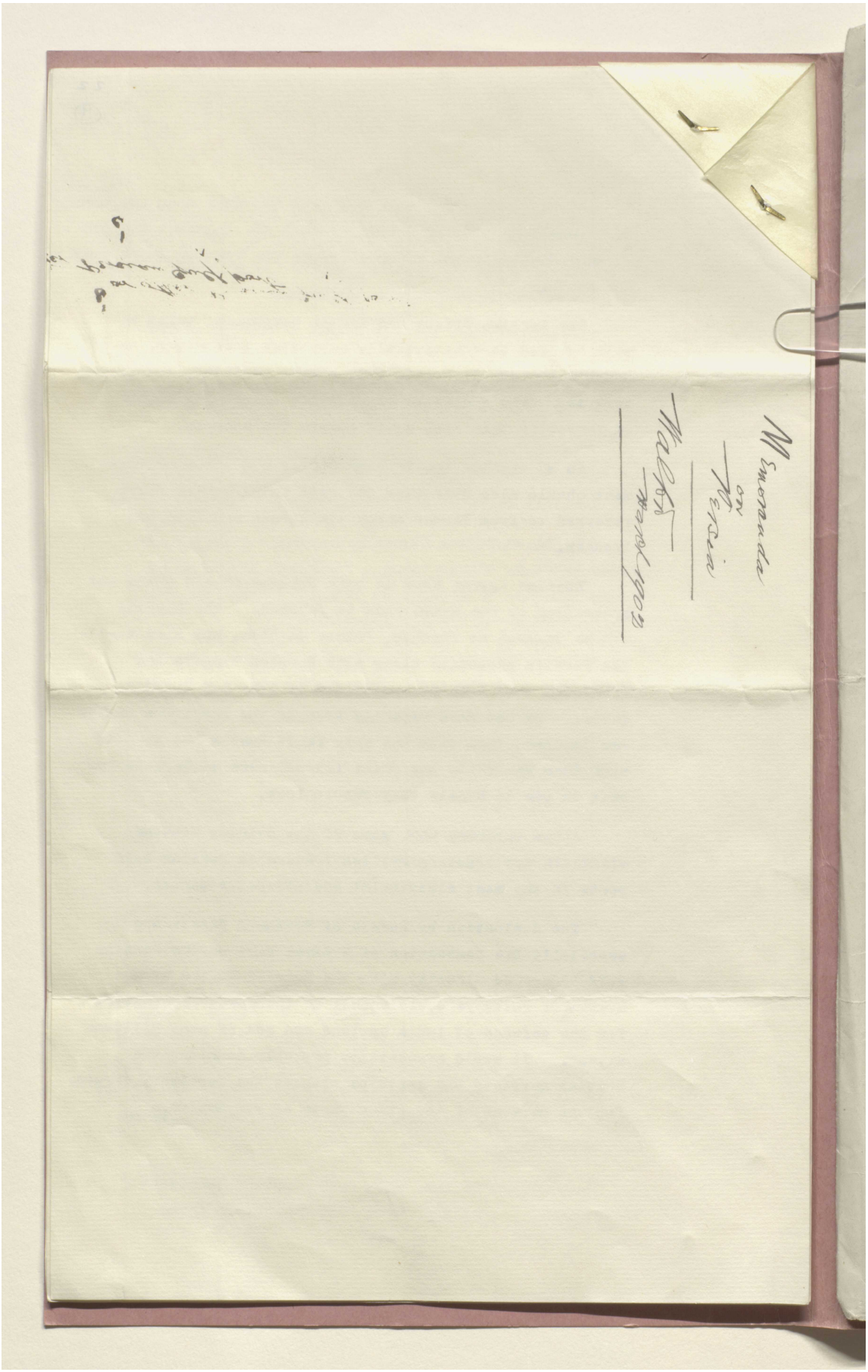

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REVISE
31 MAR 1905
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Printed for the Committee of Imperial Defence. March 1905.

2

SECRET.

COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Minutes of 67th Meeting, March 22, 1905.

Present:

The Prime Minister (*in the Chair*).

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
The Earl of Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty.
Earl Cawdor.
Admiral Sir John Fisher, G.C.B., First Sea Lord.
Captain C. L. Ottley, M.V.O., R.N., Director of Naval Intelligence.
Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, K.G., K.P., V.C.
The Right Hon. St. John Brodrick, M.P., Secretary of State for India.
Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir N. G. Lyttelton, K.C.B., Chief of the General Staff.
Major-General J. M. Grierson, C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., Director of Military Operations.
The Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sir G. S. Clarke, *Secretary*.

PERSIA.

THE Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed, with some amendments.

2. Mr. Balfour pointed out that the Persian question was necessarily very difficult, on account of the semi-barbarous condition of the country, and of the fact that for more than twenty years Russia and ourselves have been engaged in a constant diplomatic contest at Tehran, which has ranged over minor questions of many kinds.

These questions, which he briefly reviewed, involved considerations both commercial and strategic, frequently intermixed. The Government of India appeared to desire a forward policy, and to believe that the recent disasters in the Far East would have the effect of directing Russian activities towards Persia and Afghanistan. From the strategic point of view, the restriction of Russian railway construction in Persia was of special importance. A naval station on the Persian coast without railway communication behind it would be of little value to Russia, although the establishment of such a station might have the effect of causing an increase of our naval expenditure.

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The present position of the Russians as regards railway construction in Persia was then discussed in the light of recent information. The Agreement of the 12th November, 1890, provides that for a period of ten years the Persian Government will not itself construct, nor "permit nor grant a Concession for the construction of railways to a Company or other persons; and after the expiration of the ten years the renewal of the prolongation shall be immediately discussed between the two parties." By a later Agreement of the 14th December, 1899, the Persian Government, in consideration for a loan of 60,000,000 fr., renews "the previous engagement," with the significant proviso "that for another ten years, excepting the Russian Government, no other Government will be given a Concession to build railways in Persia."

The nature of the Anglo-Persian Agreement as regards railway construction is explained in Appendix I. The original engagement is embodied in a note of the 16th September, 1888, by the late Shah, addressed to his Foreign Minister, for communication to the British Minister at Tehran. This note states that "Whenever Railway Concessions in the North, &c., are given to others, immediately a Concession for a railway from Tehran to Shuster, or such a one will be given to the English Company, ... and positively no Southern railway, without consultation with the English Government, will be granted to any foreign Company." In 1900, Mr. Spring Rice was informed by the Sadr-i-Azam that the present Shah had seen his father's note and considered it a binding document; but that there could be no question of any Railway Concession, either in the North or South, for ten years. It is impossible to reconcile this assurance of the binding character of the note of 1888 with the specific Russo-Persian Agreement of 1899. The present position as regards railway construction appears, therefore, to be unsatisfactory and indeterminate.

From the commercial point of view it is to be remembered that wherever Russia establishes herself, she imposes tariffs which prohibit or gravely interfere with British imports. This consideration can be adduced in favour of establishing British interests in the Karun Valley, as, if Russia obtained control of the Gulf Ports, it would be to us a severe commercial blow, as well as a strategic danger.

Lord Lansdowne stated that with a view to putting an end to the chronic diplomatic contest at Tehran, overtures had been made to the Russian Government for the partition of Persia into spheres of influence, but these suggestions had been declined. He pointed out that the object of loans such as that made to Persia by the Indian Government was to establish a lien on portions of the Gulf Coast. By providing funds for irrigation, for improving navigation in connection with the Karun River, or for the development of road communication, we should establish a reversionary interest in that region which might be valuable in the event of a break up of Persia.

Conclusions.

1. It is essential to maintain, and if possible to increase, our influence at Tehran in order that we may be able to control railway construction in Persia, which is by far the most important factor in the strategic situation, and also for commercial reasons.

2. It should be our object, on commercial as well as on strategic grounds, to maintain the *status quo* in Persia.

3. It is essential to maintain our existing claims on the coast of the Persian Gulf without aggression or ostentation.

4. An examination of the country adjacent to the Khor Abdullah should be made, with a view to ascertain whether the physical difficulties to be overcome in railway construction are such as to make Koweit essential as the terminus of the Baghdad Railway, or, if not, what other places are suitable for this purpose.

5. It is important that we should have a share in the control of the extension of the Baghdad Railway to the Persian Gulf, with a view to ensuring the effective neutralization of the terminus on the Gulf.

6. As regards the specific questions raised by Lord Lansdowne (see Appendix); taken *seriatim*—

(1.) Such assistance may be inevitable in certain cases; but is not desirable in principle. Each case should be considered on its merits.

II

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(2.) No decision can be arrived at until the engineer's report has been received, as we are not at present in a position to judge the economic aspects of the scheme and the value of the security.

(3.) The answer is in the negative in both cases, and the Committee endorse the principles laid down by Lord Lansdowne, that "we should avoid committing ourselves to the individual so deeply that his fall would imply a political defeat for us." (See Paper No. 38, Annex 1.)

(4.) It is important to secure the good offices of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and the possibility of supporting him in certain cases against the Shah is not excluded; but we must be the judges of the merits of any dispute which may arise.

(5.) The Foreign Office and the India Office will submit proposals for an arrangement under which Sheikh might receive an annual payment for policing the Upper Karun. The question of organizing road guards can stand over for the present; but the employment of British officers in connection with such guards is open to objection.

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APPENDIX I.

British Position as Regards Railway Construction in Persia.

Copy of Despatch from Sir H. Wolff of March 20, 1889.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the engagement given to me by the Shah with respect to railways in Persia, and with special relation to those in the south.

(Signed) H. D. WOLFF.

The Shah to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Translation.)

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs,

OF his Excellency Wolff, the English Minister, &c., communications information has been received, and it has caused much astonishment.

Convey these commands to his Excellency the Minister, &c. Even give him this very autograph, in order that he may keep it and be satisfied that our former promise with regard to the priority of the English Government over others in the construction of a southern railway to Tehran continues to hold good, and certainly whenever Railway Concessions in the north, &c., are given to others, immediately a Concession for a railway from Tehran to Shuster, or such a one, will be given to the English Company; and, of course, then the clauses and conditions will also be examined, in order that it be to our advantage and interest, and for the benefit of the commerce of both parties, and positively no southern railway, without consultation with the English Government, will be granted to any foreign Company.

September 16, 1888.

P.S.—And it is clear that in Persia nobody will be granted permission to construct railways except it be solely commercial ones. We say so now that they may know it.

In 1900 Mr. Spring-Rice was instructed to ascertain whether the present Shah was aware of his father's promise, and he reported the steps which he took for the purpose in a despatch of the 26th April, 1900. The matter was explained to the Shah by the Hakim-ul-Mulk, and Dr. Adcock stated that His Majesty had seen the document.

The Sadr-i-Azam told Mr. Spring-Rice that the Shah had seen his communication, and the late Shah's autograph. His Majesty had said that it was a binding document, but that there could be no question of any Railway Concession, either in north or south, for ten years. "If the others take any measures we will show them this autograph, rest assured that there is cause now."

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APPENDIX II.

I CIRCULATE, for the consideration of the Defence Committee, a Memorandum on certain questions now outstanding with regard to Persia.

The points on which a decision on the question of principle is required are the following :—

1. Is it desirable that His Majesty's Government should, in conjunction with the Government of India, give further financial assistance to the Persian Government ?

2. Do His Majesty's Government wish to co-operate with the Government of India in giving financial support to the Karun Irrigation Scheme, provided the engineer's report is favourable ?

3. Do His Majesty's Government wish to insist on the retention of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk as Governor of Seistan ?

If not, do they wish to incur the responsibility of approving the appointment of his successor ?

4. His Majesty's Government have promised to support the Sheikh of Mohammerah against attacks by a foreign Power. Is that support to be extended to the Sheikh's disputes with the Persian Government ?

5. Is it desirable to pay an annual subsidy (1,200*l.*) to the Sheikh of Mohammerah to police the Upper Karun ?

Are guards, recruited from the tribes of Luristan and Arabistan, and paid by His Majesty's Government (cost, about 4,000*l.* a-year), to be organized for the protection of commercial routes in Southern Persia ?

L.

Foreign Office, March 10, 1905.

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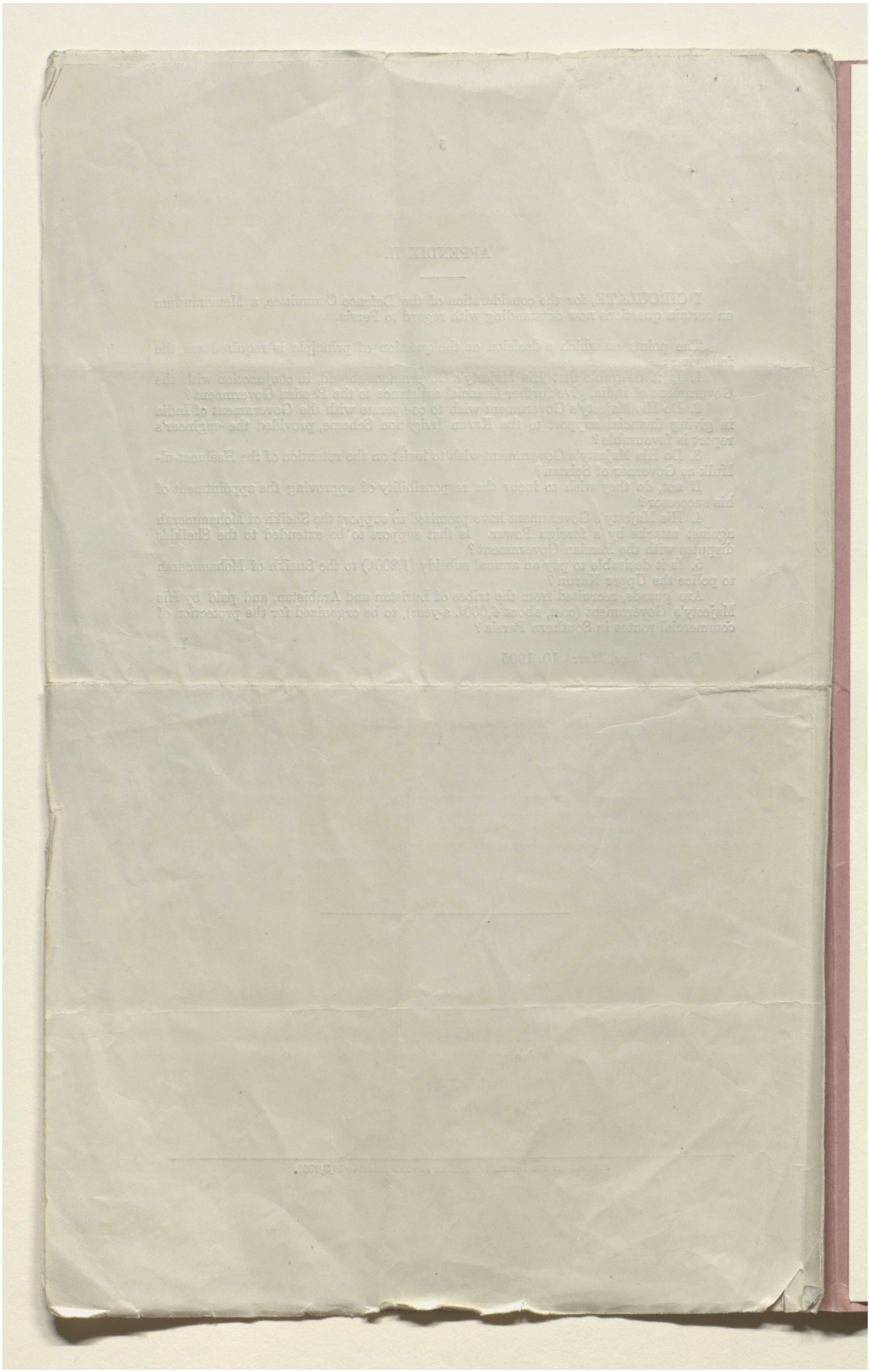

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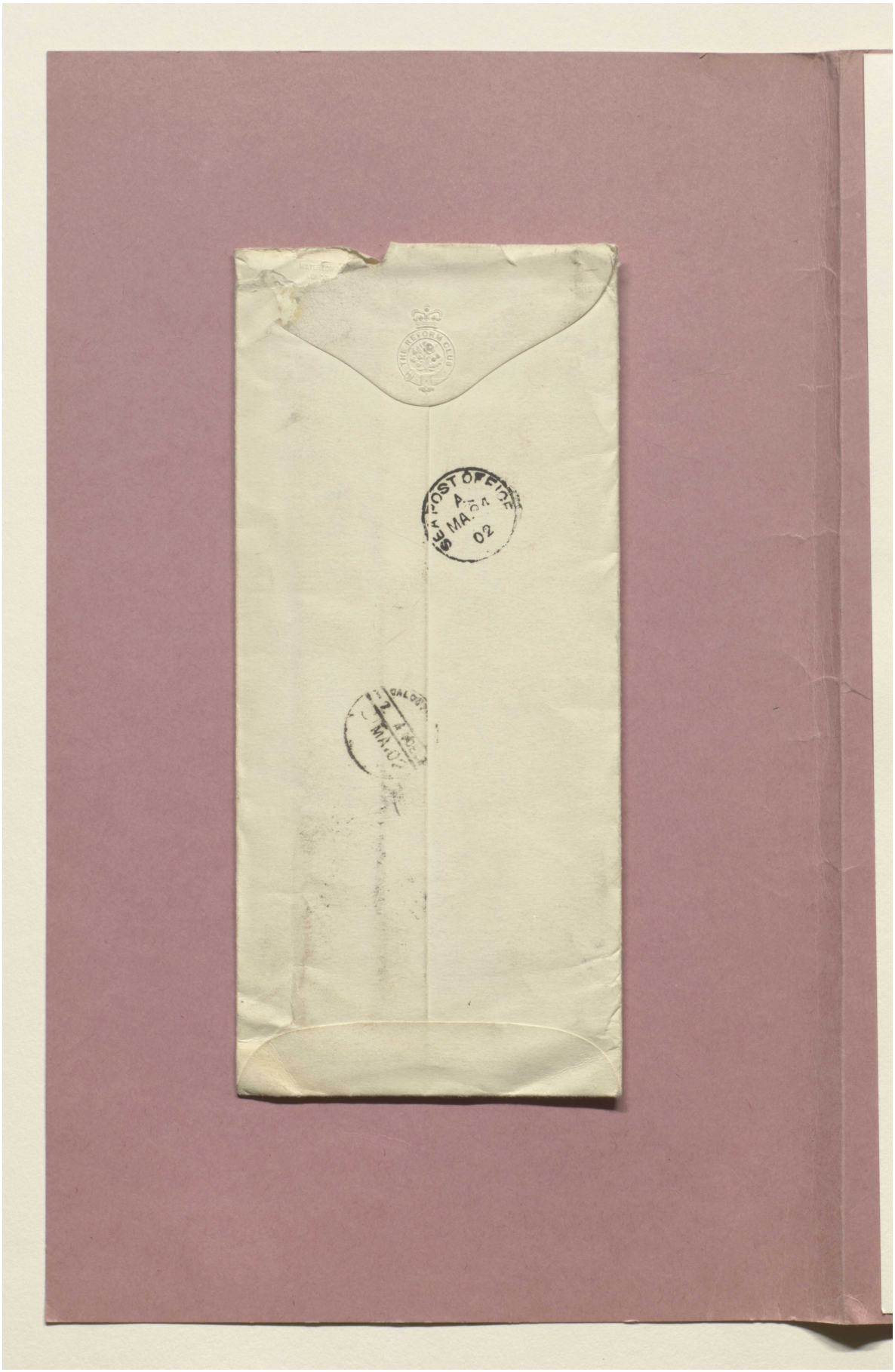

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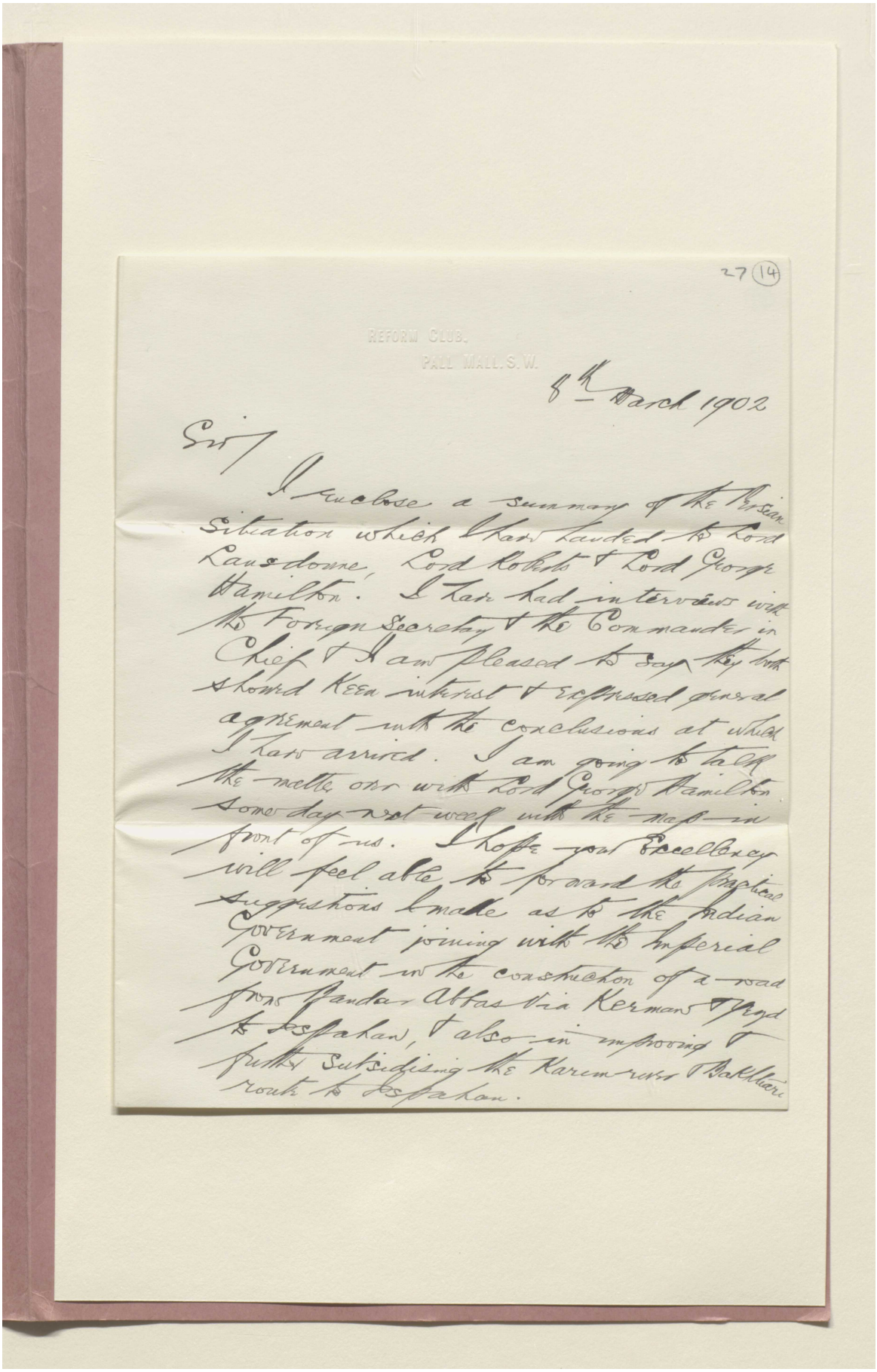

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REFORM CLUB.
PALL MALL, S.W.

8th March 1902

Sir,

I enclose a summary of the Persian situation which I have handed to Lord Lansdowne, Lord Roberts & Lord George Hamilton. I have had interviews with the Foreign Secretary & the Commander in Chief & I am pleased to say they both showed keen interest & expressed general agreement with the conclusions at which I have arrived. I am going to talk the matter over with Lord George Hamilton some day next week with the map in front of us. I hope your Excellency will feel able to forward the proposed suggestions I made as to the Indian Government joining with the Imperial Government in the construction of a road from Bandar Abbas via Kerman & Yezd to Ispahan, & also in improving & further subsidising the Karun river & Bakhtiari route to Ispahan.

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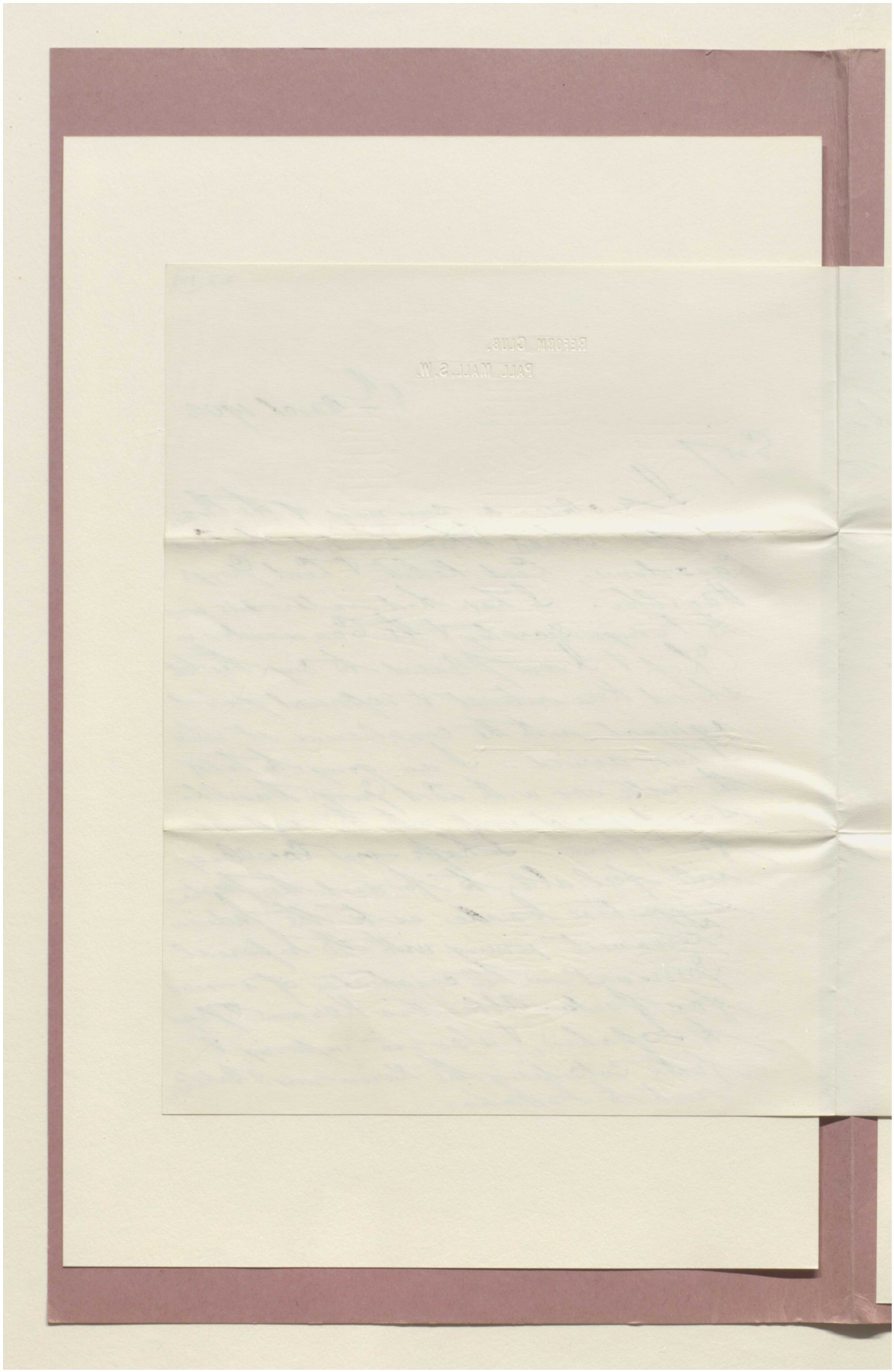

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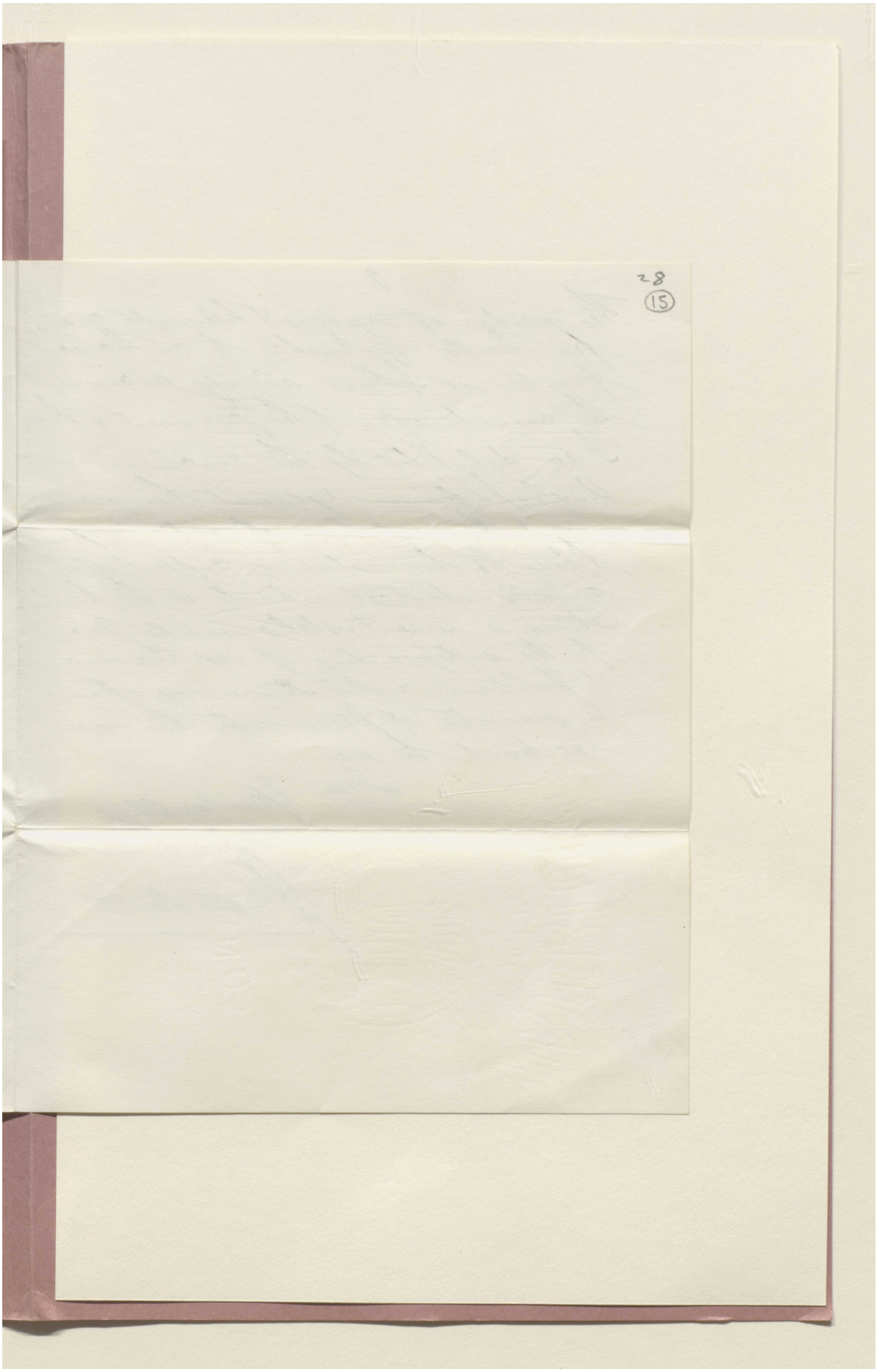

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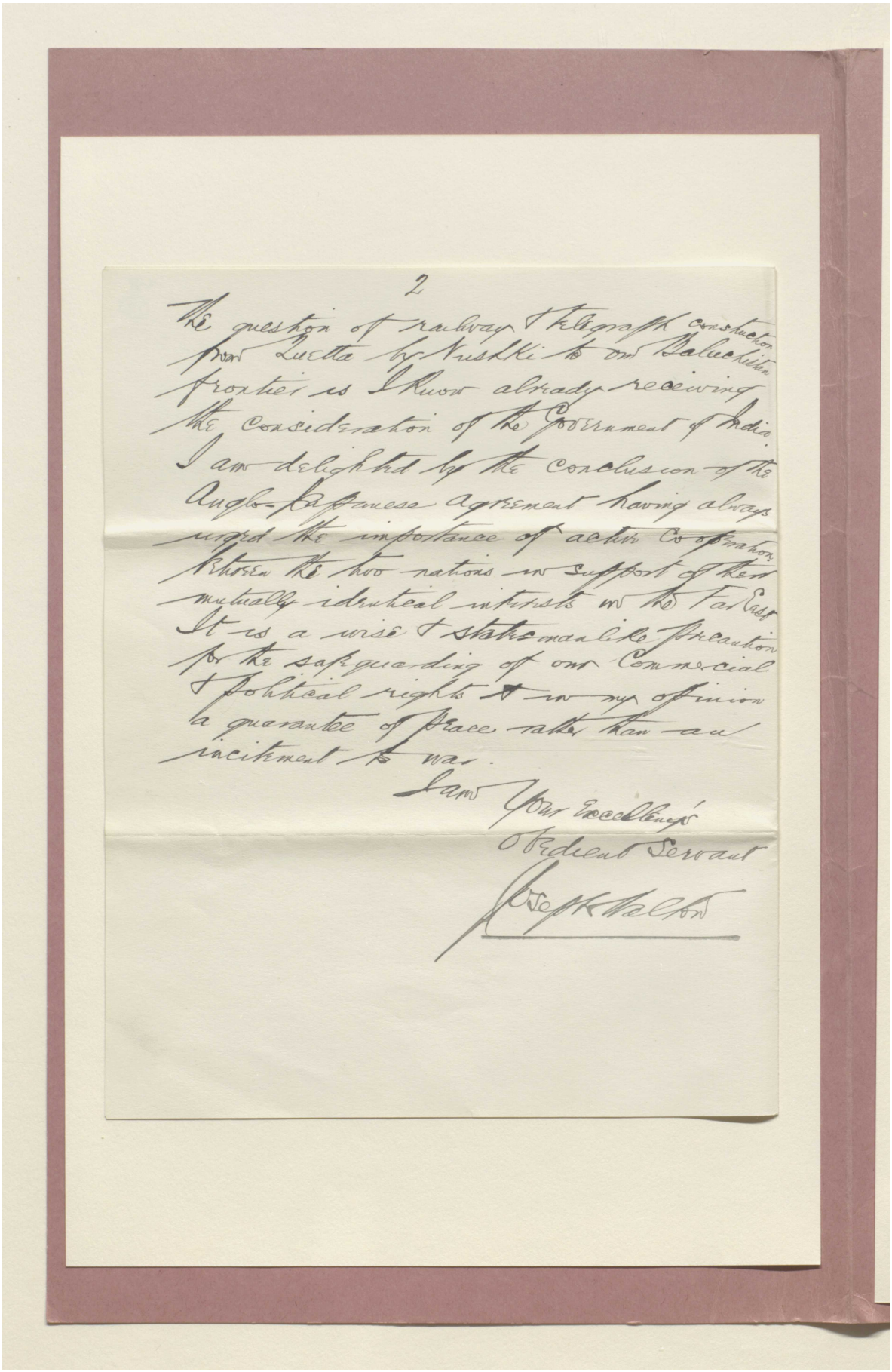

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The question of railway & telegraph construction from Quetta towards Khelat & our Baluchistan frontier is I know already receiving the consideration of the Government of India. I am delighted by the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese agreement having always urged the importance of active co-operation between the two nations in support of their mutually identical interests in the Far East. It is a wise & statesmanlike precaution for the safeguarding of our Commercial & political rights & in my opinion a guarantee of peace rather than an incitement to war.

I am Your Excellency's
Obedient Servant
Joseph Chamberlain

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AY, JUNE 6, 1899.

that they are associated with the project for a Russian railway to the Gulf, an avowal that the railway is intended to undermine British interests in that region, and an assertion that within five years the line will be in process of construction. Thus we have already travelled far ahead of the stage of denial. If these statements be accepted as accurate—and we may at once say that they only contain half the real truth—they reveal to us that Russia is actively pushing forward her scheme for a railway to Bunder Abbas, and hopes soon to realise it. Where Russian locomotives go Russian troops are also to be found. Bunder Abbas, as the terminus of a Russian railway, means Bunder Abbas as a Russian port, but this is not all. Further enlightenment has just been forthcoming from no less a source than Mirza Reza Khan, the Persian Minister at Berlin. Mirza Reza Khan recently foiled our assertion regarding Bunder Abbas glibly enough, but he discussed the proposed Russian railway to the Gulf with a *Daily News* correspondent with an absence of reserve which we find highly gratifying. He said—

"Though I cannot vouch for the details of the statement, on the whole I think them correct. But they are by no means calculated to give rise to political difficulties. The plan of such a railway from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf is thirty years old or more. Some years ago Russian contractors got the concession, which was several times renewed. As next year the last term for which it was granted expires, it is natural that at last the work should be begun by the making of surveys. This purely economic and cultural undertaking has nothing to do with the extension of Russian Eastern policy. I can only attribute the misunderstanding on the subject to the rivalry against Russia which has become a fixed idea in certain English circles."

A responsible Persian Minister thus fully confirms what the newspaper correspondents above quoted have stated with reference to the general scope of the proposed railway. The exercise of commonsense by any reasonable man who is acquainted with the past history of Russian "expansion" ought to convince him regarding its ostensible Russia does not run railways into blind alleys. Wherever she goes, she seeks an outlet, and she retains control of that outlet. Mirza Reza Khan may laud the notion of a "purely economic and cultural undertaking" to his heart if he will, but British statesmen ought to know by now that the only "cultural undertaking" that Russia cares about is the culture of Russian power. Whenever Russia mediates an advance, her schemes are always heralded by an active propaganda in the inspired Russian press. Her plans for the suppression of freedom in Finland were proceeded by an incessant agitation in her newspapers. So it is with regard to her proposed move upon the Gulf. The campaign has already been opened by her subsidised journalists. Here is an extract from an article which appeared a month ago in the notorious *Vedomosti* of Moscow—

Russia must anticipate the Germans in reaching the Persian Gulf. Russia's chief line of railway must lead from the Caspian Sea to Teheran, Ispahan, Yezd, Kerman, Bampur, and thence to the coast line of Persian Beloochistan. From such a line a branch line could be built to the Persian Gulf. Neither in Persia nor in Mesopotamia must any other influence except that of Russia prevail. Therefore, the aims of Russia in its movement towards the South must be industrial and commercial, and, so soon as England insists upon preventing the fulfilment of such aims, then Russia will have recourse to threats, and certain complications might lead to war. Russia might derive no particular advantage from seizing India, but it can undermine England from an economic point of view, and thus reduce it to the level of Holland. Remarks such as these cannot fail to be appreciated by English politicians; such utterances at least go some way towards destroying the ever-weaving conceipt of the Indian Administration as to its Generals for Russia's aims, and will probably disturb their belief in the fanatical fear of Russia. England's statesman must bear in mind that Russia has no special need to disturb English rule in India, but this is only under the condition that they will not oppose Russia's natural endeavour to reach the South, an endeavour to which, as a powerful and great nation, it has every right."

He it noted that in this particular instance, the coast of Persian Beloochistan is named as the chief objective. Bunder Abbas being, presumably, the probable terminus of the branch line indicated. This doubtless means that the not very manifest advantages of Chahbar are still being kept in view by those responsible for the Russian plans. The *Svet*, another Russia journal, published three weeks ago an article in a somewhat similar strain. It was ostensibly intended to oppose the proposal for a junction between Russian and Indian railways.

"If it were thought necessary, says the *Svet*," to divert the attention of Russian diplomacy from Constantinople or Peking, Russia should occupy herself exclusively with establishing communication between her possessions in Central Asia and the Indian Ocean by means of a railway traversing Persia. This line and the Trans-Siberian Railway would then constitute two gigantic arms with which Russia would encircle all the spheres of British interests in Asia, and would not allow England to extend her influence indefinitely at the expense of Russian interests. The line in question, connecting Russia by way of Persia with the Indian Ocean, would be of real use to Russia, while the junction of the Russian and Indian lines would be specially advantageous to the British Government."

We do not desire to attach undue importance to these quotations, culled as they are from various sources. They may be straws, but they show which way the wind is blowing. For ourselves, we unhesitatingly reaffirm our original statement that Russia has already acquired certain rights over Bunder Abbas, and proposes to make that port the terminus of a Russian railway as soon as her resources will enable her to do so. Our sole purpose in repeatedly calling attention to this question is to urge upon the British Government, and, so far as our voice will reach, upon the British people, the importance of deciding upon a definite policy in Persia and the Gulf, while there is yet time. If we can help to awaken a realisation of the vast British interests involved in these Russian schemes, our object will have been attained. The great question is—Will Great Britain consent to accept the exclusion of British influence from Persia and Gulf, and the advent of Russian naval and military power into Indian waters which the acquisition of Bunder Abbas will eventually imply? And will she submit to the perpetual menace to the peace of India presented by the proposed Russian advance? This is a question which has a far more intimate bearing upon the peace of the world than the Conference, fondlesmet to failure, now the synonym of the people of Europe. The historians of the future will surely wonder that the Great Powers should have consented to send representatives at all to a Conference convened under such conditions. The proposals for disarmament have been submitted by a Ruler whose subjects are actively engaged in one continent in building warships by the dozen, and crushing the liberties of a free people to add another army corps to his swollen legions; in another continent, in prodigating a scheme which must assuredly end in a deadly conflict sooner or later. That at such a time responsible statesmen could have been persuaded to discuss with polite gravity plans for the perpetuation of peace is a proof that the depths of diplomatic humbug have not yet been plumbed.

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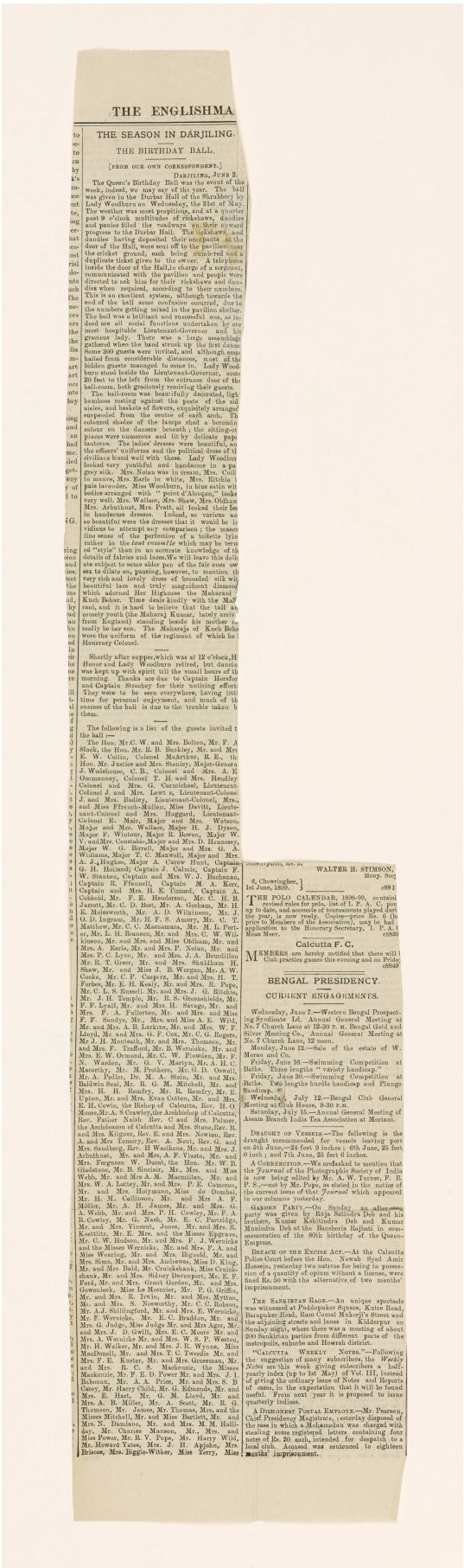

THE ENGLISHMA

THE SEASON IN DARJILING.

THE BIRTHDAY BALL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

DARJILING, JUNE 2.

The Queen's Birthday Ball was the event of the week, indeed, we may say of the year. The ball was given in the Durbar Hall of the Shrubbery by Lady Woodburn on Wednesday, the 31st of May. The weather was most propitious, and at a quarter past 9 o'clock multitudes of rickshaws, dandies and ponies filled the roadways on their onward progress to the Durbar Hall. The rickshaws and dandies having deposited their occupants at the door of the Hall, were sent off to the pavilion near the cricket ground, each being numbered and a duplicate ticket given to the owner. A telephone inside the door of the Hall,in charge of a sergeant, communicated with the pavilion and people were directed to ask him for their rickshaws and dandies when required, according to their numbers. This is an excellent system, although towards the end of the ball some confusion occurred, due to the numbers getting mixed in the pavilion shelter. The ball was a brilliant and successful one, as indeed are all social functions undertaken by our most hospitable Lieutenant-Governor and his gracious lady. There was a large assemblage gathered when the band struck up the first dance. Some 200 guests were invited, and although some hailed from considerable distances, most of the bidden guests managed to come in. Lady Woodburn stood beside the Lieutenant-Governor, some 20 feet to the left from the entrance door of the ball-room, both graciously receiving their guests.

The ball-room was beautifully decorated, lights luminous resting against the posts of the aisles, and baskets of flowers, exquisitely arranged suspended from the centre of each arch. The coloured shades of the lamps shed a becoming colour on the dancers beneath; the sitting-out places were numerous and lit by delicate paper lanterns. The ladies' dresses were beautiful, as the officers' uniforms and the political dress of the civilians blend well with them. Lady Woodburn looked very youthful and handsome in a pale grey silk. Mrs. Nolan was in cream, Mrs. Coull in mauve, Mrs. Earle in white, Mrs. Ritchie in pale lavender, Miss Woodburn, in blue satin with bodice arranged with "point d'Alençon," looked very well. Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Oldham, Mrs. Arbuthnot, Mrs. Pratt, all looked their best in handsome dresses. Indeed, so various and so beautiful were the dresses that it would be invidious to attempt any comparison; the masculine sense of the perfection of a toilette lying rather in the *tout ensemble* which may be termed "style" than in an accurate knowledge of the details of fabrics and laces.We will leave this delicate subject to some abler pen of the fair ones ower sex to dilate on, passing, however, to mention the very rich and lovely dress of brocaded silk with beautiful lace and truly magnificent diamonds which adorned Her Highness the Maharanee Kuch Behar. Time deals kindly with the Maharanee, and it is hard to believe that the tall and comely youth (the Maharaj Kumar, lately arrived from England) standing beside his mother is really he her son. The Maharaja of Kuch Behar wore the uniform of the regiment of which he is Honorary Colonel.

Shortly after supper,which was at 12 o'clock,His Honor and Lady Woodburn retired, but dancing was kept up with spirit till the small hours of the morning. Thanks are due to Captain Horsford and Captain Strachey for their untiring efforts. They were to be seen everywhere, having little time for personal enjoyment, and much of the success of the ball is due to the trouble taken by them.

The following is a list of the guests invited to the ball :—

The Hon. Mr.C. W. and Mrs. Bolton, Mr. F. A. Slack, the Hon. Mr. E. B. Buckley, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Collin, Colonel McArthur, R.E., the Hon. Mr. Justice and Mrs. Stanley, Major-General J. Wodehouse, C. B., Colonel and Mrs. A. E. Ommanney, Colonel T. H. and Mrs. Hendley, Colonel and Mrs. G. Carmichael, Lieutenant-Colonel J. and Mrs. Lewis, Lieutenant-Colonel J. and Mrs. Dadley, Lieutenant-Colonel, Mrs., and Miss French-Mullen, Miss Davitt, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Haggard, Lieutenant-Colonel E. Mair, Major and Mrs. Watson, Major and Mrs. Wallace, Major H. J. Dyson, Major F. Wintour, Major R. Bowen, Major W. V. and Mrs. Constable,Major and Mrs. D. Hennessy, Major W. G. Birrell, Major and Mrs. G. A. Widiams, Major T. C. Maxwell, Major and Mrs. A. J.,Hughes, Major A. Carew Hunt, Captain G. H. Holland, Captain J. Calvin, Captain F. W. Stanton, Captain and Mrs. W. J. Buchanan, Captain R. Pfeuell, Captain M. A. Kerr, Captain and Mrs. H. E. Tizzard, Captain A. Cobbold, Mr. F. E. Henderson, Mr. C. H. E. Jarrett, Mr. C. D. Best, Mr. A. Gorham, Mr. H. E. Molesworth, Mr. A. D. Wilkinson, Mr. J. O. D. Ingram, Mr. H. F. S. Amory, Mr. C. T. Matthew, Mr. C. C. Macnamara, Mr. M. L. Porter, Mr. L. H. Bonnes, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Oldham, Mr. and Mrs. A. Earle, Mr. and Mrs. P. Nolan, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brandilion, Mr. R. T. Greer, Mr. and Mrs. Shuldham H. Shaw, Mr. and Miss J. B. Worgan, Mr. A. W. Cooke, Mr. C. P. Caspers, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Forbes, Mr. E. H. Kealy, Mr. and Mrs. R. Pope, Mr. C. L. S. Russell. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Ritchie, Mr. J. H. Temple, Mr. R. S. Greensfields, Mr. F. F. Lyall, Mr. and Mrs. H. Savage, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Fullerton, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss F. F. Sandys, Mr., Mrs. and Miss A. E. Wild, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Larkins, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Cox, Mr. C. G. Rogers, Mr. J. H. Montault, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Trafford, Mr. B. Wernicke, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ormond, Mr. C. W. Riesolen, Mr. F. N. Warden, Mr. G. V. Martyn, Mr. A. H. C. Macarthy, Mr. M. Prothero, Mr. G. D. Oswell, Mr. A. Peiler, Dr. M. A. Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin Seal, Mr. R. G. M. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Beadley, Mr. R. Beadley, Mr. E. Upton, Mr. and Mrs. Evan Cotton, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Cowie, the Bishop of Calcutta, Rev. H. O. Moore,Mr.A.S Crawley,the Archbishop of Calcutta, Rev. Father Naish Rev. C and Mrs. Palmer, the Archdeacon of Calcutta and Mrs. Stone,Rev. R. and Mrs. Kilgour, Rev. E. and Mrs. Newton, Rev. A. and Mrs Tomory, Rev. A. Nent, Rev. G. and Mrs. Sandberg, Rev. H Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Arbuthnot, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Viasto, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson W. Duval, the Hon. Mr. W. H. Gladstone, Mr. B. Sinclair, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Webb, Mr. and Mrs A. M. Macmillan, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lutley, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Holyman, Miss de Dombal, Mr. H. M. Cellissen, Mr. and Mrs A. F. Möller, Mr. A. H. James, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Cowley, Mr. F. A. B. Cowley, Mr. G. Nash, Mr. E. C. Parridge, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, Jones, Mr. and Mrs. R. Koettitz, Mr. E. Mrs. and the Misses Eggrave, Mr. C. W. Hodson, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wernicke and the Misses Wernicke, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. and Miss Wearing, Mr. and Mrs. Bignold, Mr. and Mrs. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. Andrewes, Miss D. King, Mr. and Mrs Bald, Mr. Cruickshank, Miss Cruickshank, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Davenport, Mr. E. F. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Gowenlock, Miss Le Mesurier, Mr. P. G. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. R. Irvin, Mr. and Mrs. Mytton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Nesworthy, Mr. C. C. Robson, Mr. A.J. Shillingford, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wernicke, Mr. F. Wernicke, Mr. E. C. Braddon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Judge, Miss Judge Mr. and Mrs Agar, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gwin, Mrs. E. C. Moore Mr. and Mrs. A. Wernicke Mr. and Mrs W. S. P. Weston, Mr. H. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wynne, Miss MacDonell, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Tweedie Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Kuster, Mr. and Mrs. Grossman, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. S. Mackenzie, the Misses Mackenzie, Mr. P. E. D. Power Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Babonau, Mr. A. A. Price, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Carey, Mr. Harry Child, Mr. G. Edmonds, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hart, Mr. G. M. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Miller, Mr. A. Scott, Mr. R. G. Thomson, Mr. James, Mr. Thomas, Mrs. and the Misses Mitchell, Mr. and Miss Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. N. Daniaeo, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Halliday, Mr. Charles Manson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Power, Mr. R. V. Pope, Mr. Harry Wild, Mr. Howard Yates, Mrs. J. H. Apjohn, Mrs. Beacon, Mrs. Biggle-Wither, Miss Kerry, Miss

WALTER H. STIMSON,
Hony. Secy

6, Chowringhee,
1st June, 1869.

THE POLO CALENDAR, 1868-69, containing revised rules for polo, list of I. P. A. C. pon up to date, and accounts of tournaments played dur the year, is now ready. Copies—price Re. 6 (h prize to Members of the Association), may be ha application to the Honorary Secretary, I. P. A. Mean Meer.

Calcutta F.C.

MEMBERS are hereby notified that there will Club practice games this evening and on Friday

BENGAL PRESIDENCY.

CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS.

Wednesday, June 7.—Western Bengal Prospecting Syndicate Ld. Annual General Meeting at No. 7 Church Lane at 12-30 P. M. Bengal Gold and Silver Meeting Co., Annual General Meeting at No. 7 Church Lane, 12 noon.

Monday, June 12.—Sale of the estate of W. Moran and Co.

Friday, June 16.—Swimming Competition at Baths. Three lengths "variety handicap."

Friday, June 30.—Swimming Competition at Baths. Two lengths hurdle handicap and Plunge Handicap.

Wednesday, July 12.—Bengal Club General Meeting at Club House, 9-30 P.M.

Saturday, July 15.—Annual General Meeting of Assam Branch India Tea Association at Moriani.

DRAUGHT OF VESSELS.—The following is the draught recommended for vessels leaving port on 5th June,—24 feet 9 inches; 6th June, 25 feet 0 inch; and 7th June, 25 feet 6 inches.

A CORRECTION.—We are asked to mention that the *Journal* of the Photographic Society of India is now being edited by Mr. A. W. Turner, F. R. F. S.—not by Mr. Pope, as stated in the notice of the current issue of that *Journal* which appeared in our columns yesterday.

GARDEN PARTY.—On Sunday an afternoon party was given by Raja Satindra Deb and his brothers, Kumar Kshitindra Deb and Kumar Munindra Deb at the Baneberia Rajbati in commemoration of the 80th birthday of the Queen-Empress.

BREACH OF THE EXCISE ACT.—At the Calcutta Police Court before the Hon. Nawab Syed Amir Hossein, yesterday two natives for being in possession of a quantity of opium without a license, were fined Rs. 50 with the alternative of two months' imprisonment.

THE SANKITAN RAGE.—An unique spectacle was witnessed at Puddopukur Sykes, Kaire Road, Baraspukr Road, Ram Comal Mukerji's Street and the adjainlig streets and lanes in Kidderpur on Sunday night, where there was a meeting of about 200 Sankitan parties from different parts of the metropolis, suburbs and Howrah district.

"CALCUTTA WEEKLY NOTES."—Following the suggestion of many subscribers, the *Weekly Notes* are this week giving subscribers a half-yearly index (up to 1st May) of Vol. III, instead of giving the ordinary issue of Notes and Reports of cases, in the expectation that it will be found useful. From next year it is proposed to issue quarterly indices.

A DISHONEST POSTAL EMPLOYE.—Mr. Pearson, Chief Presidency Magistrate, yesterday disposed of the case in which a Mohamedan was charged with stealing some registered letters containing four notes of Rs. 20 each, intended for despatch to a local club. Accused was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

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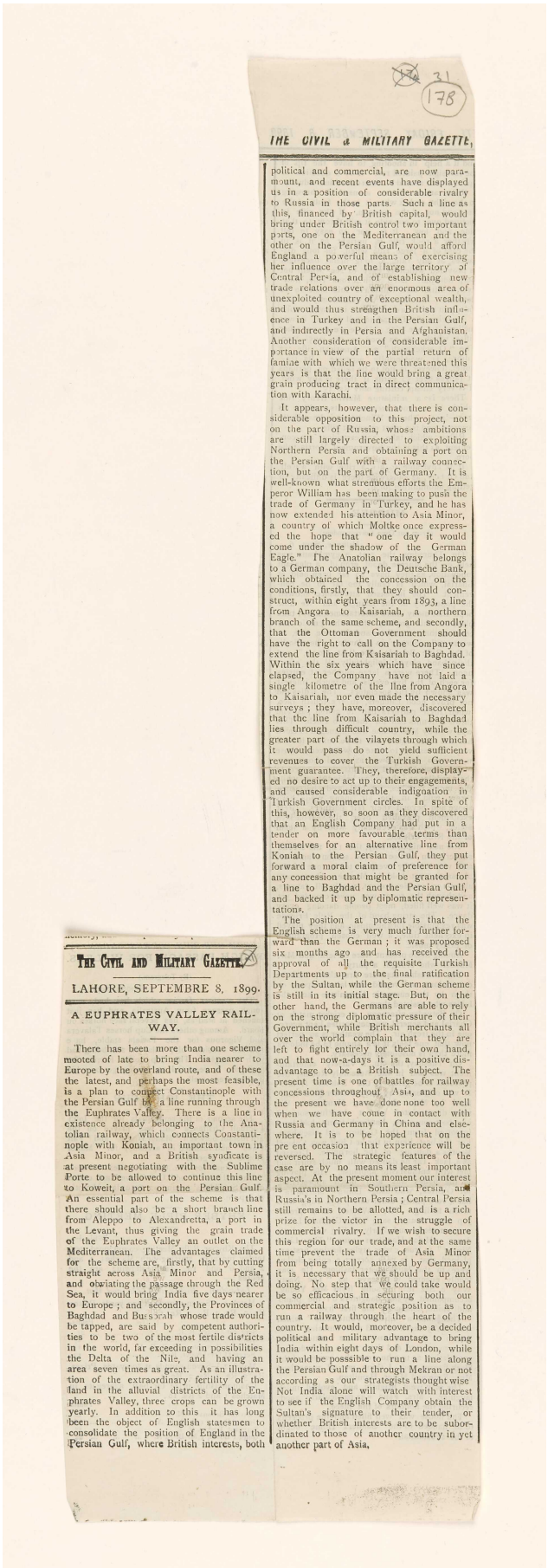

THE CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE,

political and commercial, are now paramount, and recent events have displayed us in a position of considerable rivalry to Russia in those parts. Such a line as this, financed by British capital, would bring under British control two important ports, one on the Mediterranean and the other on the Persian Gulf, would afford England a powerful means of exercising her influence over the large territory of Central Persia, and of establishing new trade relations over an enormous area of unexploited country of exceptional wealth, and would thus strengthen British influence in Turkey and in the Persian Gulf, and indirectly in Persia and Afghanistan. Another consideration of considerable importance in view of the partial return of famine with which we were threatened this years is that the line would bring a great grain producing tract in direct communication with Karachi.

It appears, however, that there is considerable opposition to this project, not on the part of Russia, whose ambitions are still largely directed to exploiting Northern Persia and obtaining a port on the Persian Gulf with a railway connection, but on the part of Germany. It is well-known what strenuous efforts the Emperor William has been making to push the trade of Germany in Turkey, and he has now extended his attention to Asia Minor, a country of which Moltke once expressed the hope that "one day it would come under the shadow of the German Eagle." The Anatolian railway belongs to a German company, the Deutsche Bank, which obtained the concession on the conditions, firstly, that they should construct, within eight years from 1893, a line from Angora to Kaisariah, a northern branch of the same scheme, and secondly, that the Ottoman Government should have the right to call on the Company to extend the line from Kaisariah to Baghdad. Within the six years which have since elapsed, the Company have not laid a single kilometre of the line from Angora to Kaisariah, nor even made the necessary surveys; they have, moreover, discovered that the line from Kaisariah to Baghdad lies through difficult country, while the greater part of the vilayets through which it would pass do not yield sufficient revenues to cover the Turkish Government guarantee. They, therefore, displayed no desire to act up to their engagements, and caused considerable indignation in Turkish Government circles. In spite of this, however, so soon as they discovered that an English Company had put in a tender on more favourable terms than themselves for an alternative line from Koniah to the Persian Gulf, they put forward a moral claim of preference for any concession that might be granted for a line to Baghdad and the Persian Gulf, and backed it up by diplomatic representations.

The position at present is that the English scheme is very much further forward than the German; it was proposed six months ago and has received the approval of all the requisite Turkish Departments up to the final ratification by the Sultan, while the German scheme is still in its initial stage. But, on the other hand, the Germans are able to rely on the strong diplomatic pressure of their Government, while British merchants all over the world complain that they are left to fight entirely for their own hand, and that now-a-days it is a positive disadvantage to be a British subject. The present time is one of battles for railway concessions throughout Asia, and up to the present we have done none too well when we have come in contact with Russia and Germany in China and elsewhere. It is to be hoped that on the present occasion that experience will be reversed. The strategic features of the case are by no means its least important aspect. At the present moment our interest is paramount in Southern Persia, and Russia's in Northern Persia; Central Persia still remains to be allotted, and is a rich prize for the victor in the struggle of commercial rivalry. If we wish to secure this region for our trade, and at the same time prevent the trade of Asia Minor from being totally annexed by Germany, it is necessary that we should be up and doing. No step that we could take would be so efficacious in securing both our commercial and strategic position as to run a railway through the heart of the country. It would, moreover, be a decided political and military advantage to bring India within eight days of London, while it would be possible to run a line along the Persian Gulf and through Mekran or not according as our strategists thought wise. Not India alone will watch with interest to see if the English Company obtain the Sultan's signature to their tender, or whether British interests are to be subordinated to those of another country in yet another part of Asia.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE.

LAHORE, SEPTEMBRE 8, 1899.

A EUPHRATES VALLEY RAILWAY.

There has been more than one scheme mooted of late to bring India nearer to Europe by the overland route, and of these the latest, and perhaps the most feasible, is a plan to connect Constantinople with the Persian Gulf by a line running through the Euphrates Valley. There is a line in existence already belonging to the Anatolian railway, which connects Constantinople with Koniah, an important town in Asia Minor, and a British syndicate is at present negotiating with the Sublime Porte to be allowed to continue this line to Koweit, a port on the Persian Gulf. An essential part of the scheme is that there should also be a short branch line from Aleppo to Alexandretta, a port in the Levant, thus giving the grain trade of the Euphrates Valley an outlet on the Mediterranean. The advantages claimed for the scheme are, firstly, that by cutting straight across Asia Minor and Persia, and obviating the passage through the Red Sea, it would bring India five days nearer to Europe; and secondly, the Provinces of Baghdad and Bussorah whose trade would be tapped, are said by competent authorities to be two of the most fertile districts in the world, far exceeding in possibilities the Delta of the Nile, and having an area seven times as great. As an illustration of the extraordinary fertility of the land in the alluvial districts of the Euphrates Valley, three crops can be grown yearly. In addition to this it has long been the object of English statesmen to consolidate the position of England in the Persian Gulf, where British interests, both

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TE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 1899.

ind it a help in shooting to have the tip of he foresight painted red. It is a question of optics which should b determined individually.

Rifles are so etimes accused of throwing o the right or left when it is the fault of the irer and not of the weapon. If the rifle is inclined over to one side, it will throw to that ide and low. It is not so easy to tell whether a rook rifle is upright as it is in he case of a large rifle when, for long distances, at any rate, a long metal backsight s provided which is easy to see when not erp ndicular. Even with a rook rifle, however, a little care will mate this fault to be letected. If a rifle throws i rsistently to one ide, you should ask someone to watch while is being fired, and to tell you if it was nclined to one side. There are many other ifles which are as good as the '295—'300. he "Q ackenbush," an American rifle, '22 alibre, is wonderfully accurate. Its flat ullet, however, is not to be relied on, perhaps t ranges over 50 yards if there is any wind. t is very cheap, costing only Rs. 35.

There is a miniature Martini Henry rifle hich is a good weapon. Its calibre is 297—'230. The '22 Winchester is beautifully ccura'e, and is a most excellent rifle.

Rifles which take 230 cartridges are convenient, as this is the Government Morris tube ore.

It is advisable to get a rifle with a well mo n bore, as otherwise there is difficulty in getting ammunition for it.

MURREE.

(From our Own Correspondent).

MURREE, Sept. 6.

On Thursday, the 31st, a gymkhana was held on the Murree depot ground, a pleasant innovation, as they have so far been held at Gharial, which is really too far to be convenient. The increased attendance showed the popularity of the change, and we now hope that many more entertainments will take place on this ground, where the public can come without a tedious and tiresome ride, or worse still, journey in a dandy. The officers of the Rifle Brigade were "At Home," and their band played delightfully all the afternoon. There were a large number of entries for each of the five events, and much interest was shown by the spectators. The ladies did not prove good catchers, in the fourth race, when their partners had to gallop past and throw a tennis ball for them to catch. This was won by Miss Deane who managed to catch her ball twice out of the three runs. It was very interesting to note how cleverly those men who are known as good horsemen, Major Younghusband in particular, turned in their saddles and threw low behind them, while the more reckless, inexperienced horsemen threw wild in the air, many yards both above and beyond their fair partners. Great excitement prevailed over the Balaclava Melée, which was eventually won by a team of the Rifle Brigade.

The next night, Friday, the 1st, the second subscription dance of the season came off, and was voted by everyone to be one of the pleasantest yet held in Murree. There were about 150 people present, nearly all dancers, and though the room was never crowded yet it was well filled, most people dancing every dance. The string band of the Rifle Brigade was responsible for the music, and they played in excellent time, a well chosen programme of pretty music.

Among those present were General and Mrs. MacGall who brought a party.

The refreshments were first-class, and the decorations well repaid the labour spent on them by the energetic Committee and the ladies who assisted them.

On Saturday afternoon a cricket-match at Gharial and several croquet-parties kept everyone in the fresh air. The weather is so perfect now that one feels it is a shame to be indoors more than is absolutely necessary.

On Tuesday, the 5th, a Variety entertainment was held in the Assembly Rooms, the proceeds to be given to the "Soldiers' Home." It was originated by Lady Palmer and managed by Major de Courcy Hamilton. We were disappointed in not hearing some of our best songsters, but fresh talent had been imported from the Gullies and elsewhere. For the best item in the first half was Colonel Bourke's dancing of the hornpipe. Dressed as a Jack Tar he danced with much spirit and met with enthusiastic applause. His playing of the bones was also much appreciated. Mr. O'Brien, who sang Lohrs "Margarita" has a very pretty tenor voice, and sang with much feeling. Mrs. Walker, in a pretty Japanese costume, sang "The Giesha's Life," very correctly and clearly, ending with a little dance. Major Hamilton sang "The Little Nipper" in true coster style, having first explained that his very correct evening clothes were in the latest coster fashion. He was loudly encored and gave us "The Nasty Way he Sez It." A song from Mrs. Young, accompanied by her daughters on the piano and violin, concluded the first half.

Then came a "Shadow Pantomime" which was really excellent and most amusing. The names of the performers were omitted from the programme, and there was a good deal of speculation as to who were the owners of the black figures, but I think we all recognised Mrs. Faue and Major Hamilton.

The play went brightly and evoked much laughter. Mrs. Faue was particularly good, securing the honours of the piece.

The house was well filled and the proceeds to be handed to the "Soldiers' Home" ought to be substantial.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS)

ROUGH PASSAGE FOR WALERS.

(By Telegram.)

POONA, Sept. 7.

The steamer *Darius* which has had, very rough passage from Australia, and has just touched at Madras, has several race horses on board. Among others the Cup horses Talavera and Vigorous for the Patiala stable, have suffered considerably, Talavera still being bad with strangles. The Cup horse Forrest for Jodhpore is reported as having got over his passage very well.

THE JOHN CUP.

The second of the semi-finals for the John Football Challenge Cup was played on the 4th instant between "Manor House" and "Fair Oaks" and resulted in a victory for "Manor House" by 5 goals to 1.

The final for the Cup now lies between "Manor House" and "Oak Grove" and comes off on St. Fidelis' ground on Saturday, the 9th, at 4 p. m.

KHYBER RIFLE MEETING.

Sept. 3.

The Khyber Rifle Meeting commenced yesterday morning, starting with Matches 1 and 2 and 6 and 10. The following are the scores :—

Individual. British N.-C. Os and Men.

Match 1.—Seven rounds at 200 yards. Prizes, Rs. 5, Rs. 3, Rs. 2, Re. 1.

	Points.
Sergeant Tucker, R. E.	21
Gunner Griffiths, 1 M. B. R. A.	17
Corporal Brennan, 1 M. B. R. A.	14
Sergeant Freshwater, R. E.	13

Match 2.—Seven rounds at 500 yards. Prizes, Rs. 5, Rs. 3, Rs. 2, Re. 1.

Championship prize for best aggregate in Matches 1 and 2 Rs. 10.

	Points.
Corporal Brennan, 1 M. B. R. A.	18
Gunner Reeve, 1 M. B. R. A.	18
Sergeant Tucker, R. E.	15
Gunner Booth, 1 M. B. R. A.	14

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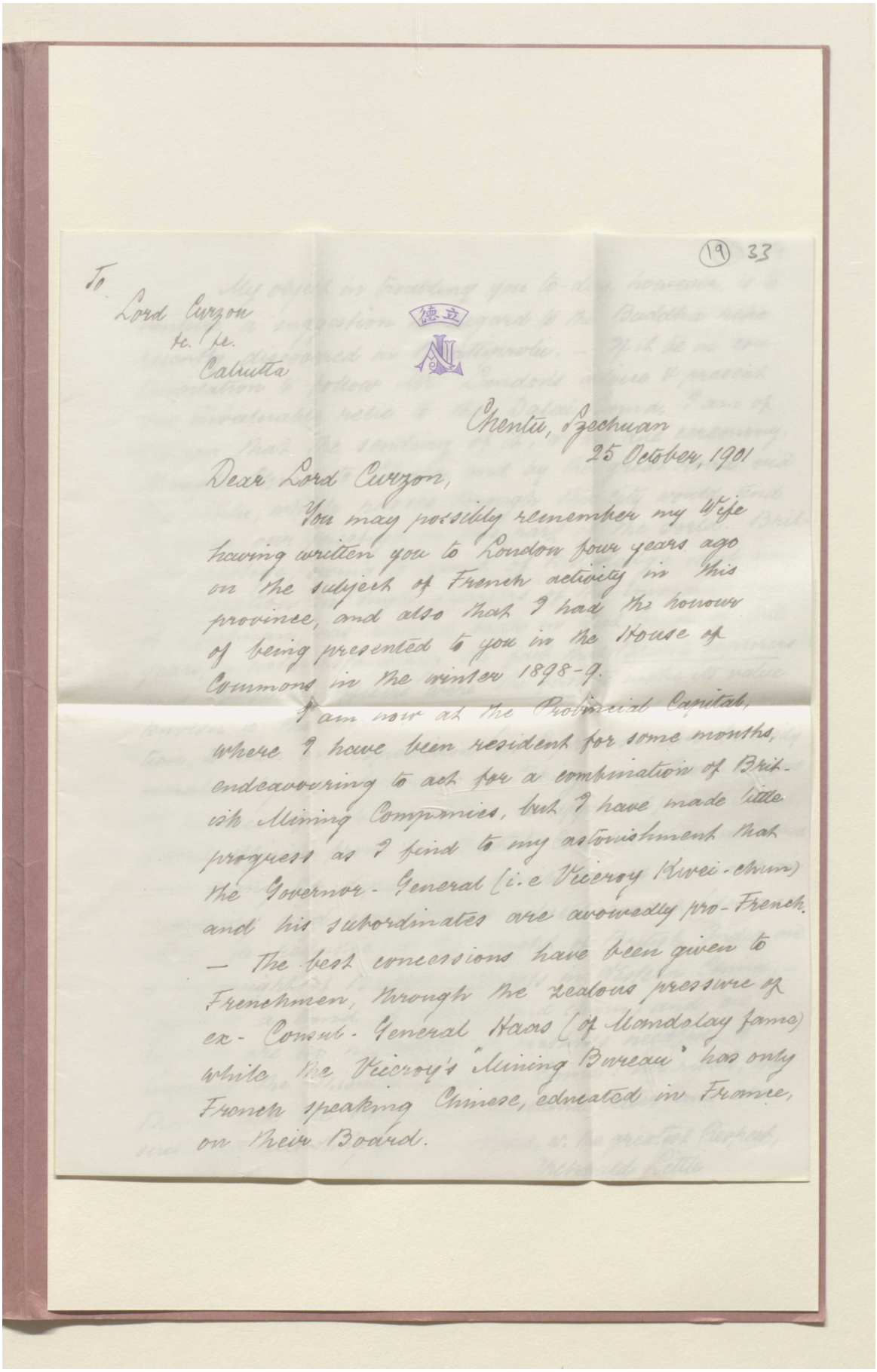

(19) 33

To
Lord Curzon
&c. &c.
Calcutta

德立

Chentu, Szechuan
25 October, 1901

Dear Lord Curzon,

You may possibly remember my Wife having written you to London four years ago on the subject of French activity in this province, and also that I had the honour of being presented to you in the House of Commons in the winter 1898-9.

I am now at the Provincial Capital, where I have been resident for some months, endeavouring to ask for a combination of British Mining Companies, but I have made little progress as I find to my astonishment that the Governor-General (i.e Viceroy Kuei-chun) and his subordinates are avowedly pro-French. — The best concessions have been given to Frenchmen, through the zealous pressure of ex-Consul-General Haas (of Mandalay fame) while the Viceroy's "Mining Bureau" has only French speaking Chinese, educated in France, on their Board.

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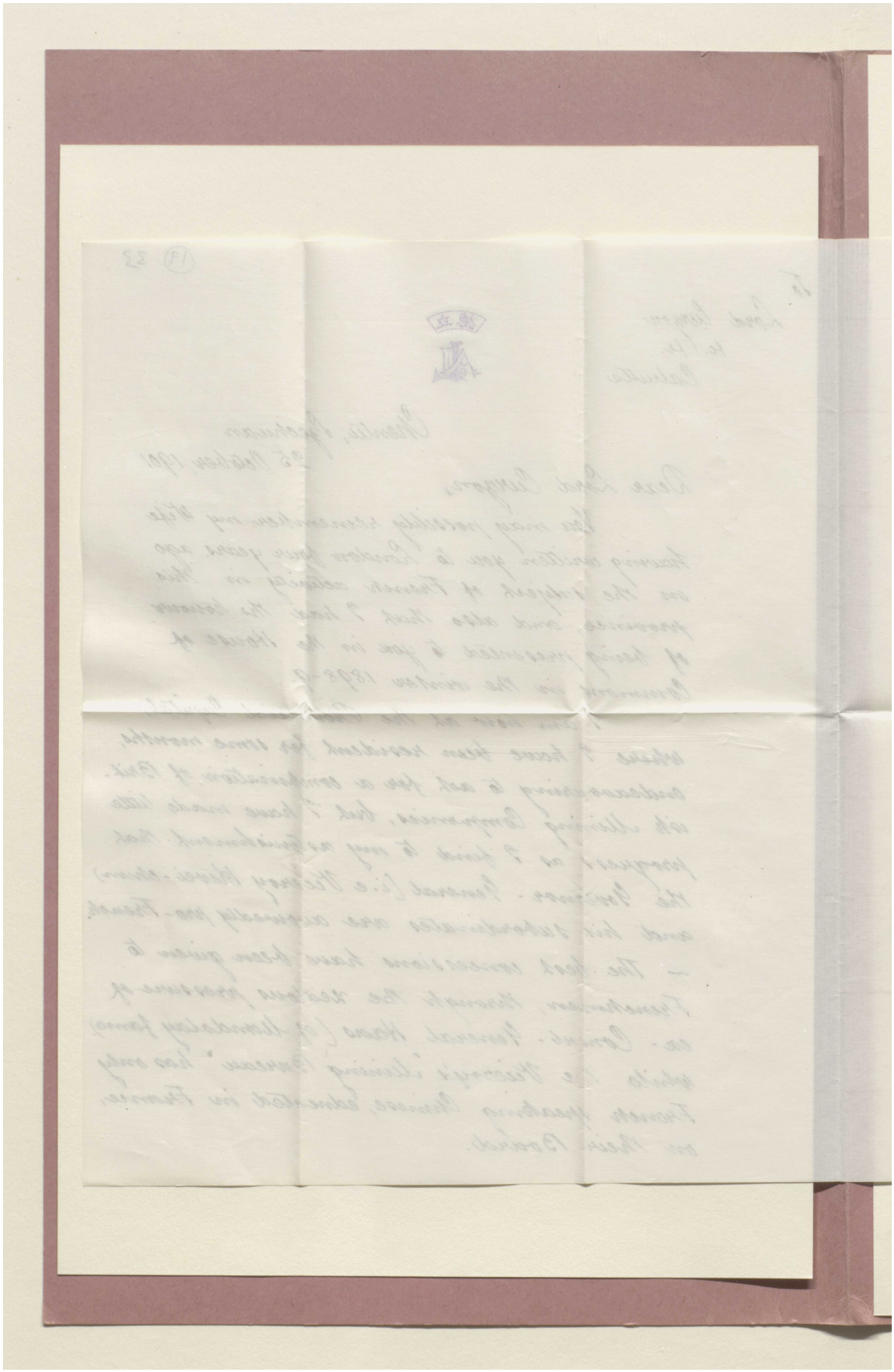

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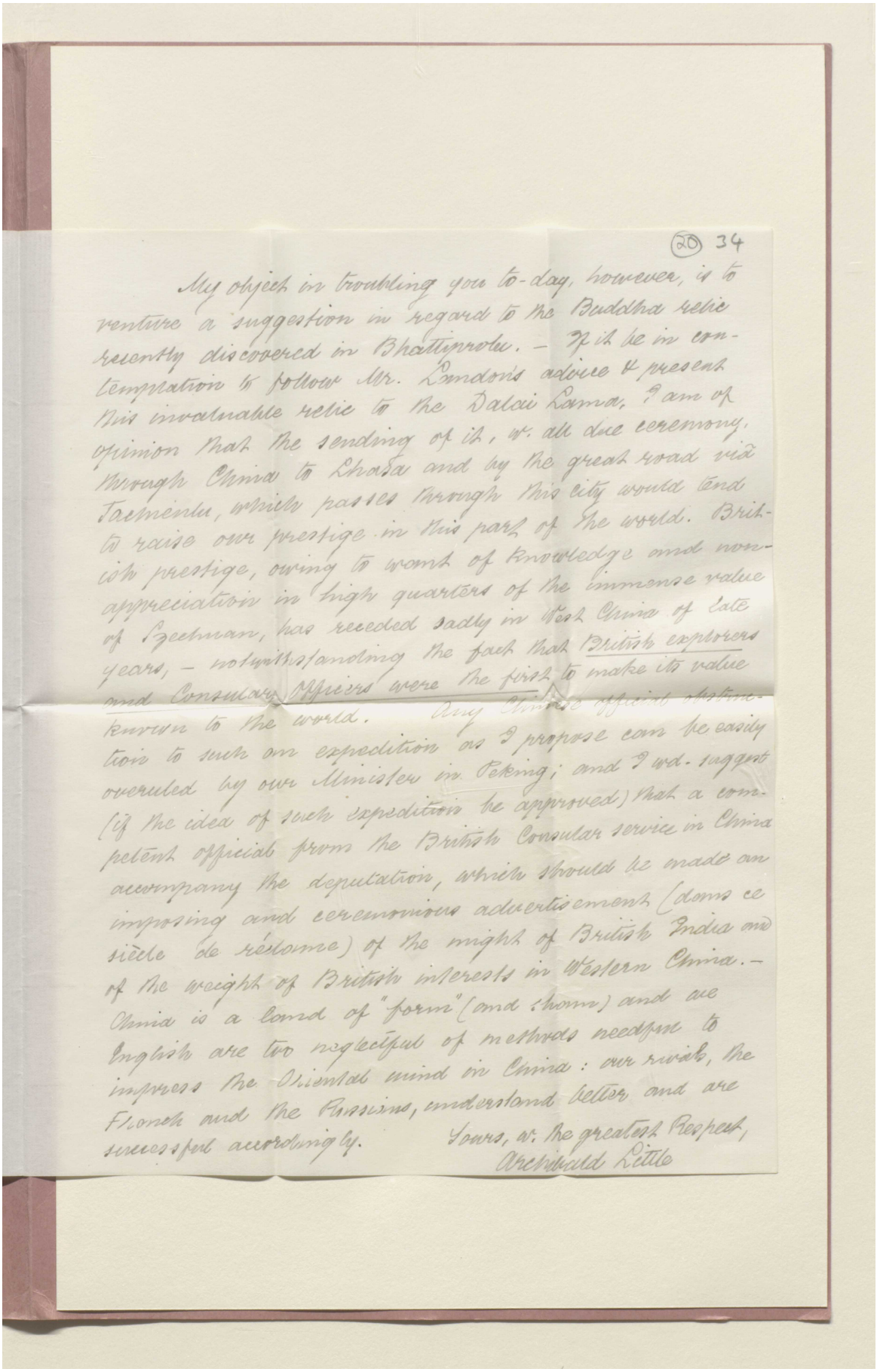

(20) 34

My object in troubling you to-day, however, is to venture a suggestion in regard to the Buddha relic recently discovered in Bhattiprolu. – If it be in contemplation to follow Mr. Landon's advice & present this invaluable relic to the Dalai Lama, I am of opinion that the sending of it, w. all due ceremony, through China to Lhasa and by the great road via Tachienlu, which passes through this city would tend to raise our prestige in this part of the world. British prestige, owing to want of knowledge and non-appreciation in high quarters of the immense value of Szechuan, has receded sadly in West China of late years, – notwithstanding the fact that British explorers and Consular Officers were the first to make its value known to the world. Any [illegible] tion to such an expedition as I propose can be easily overruled by our Minister in Peking; and I wd. suggest (if the idea of such expedition be approved) that a competent officials from the British Consular service in China accompany the deputation, which should be made an imposing and ceremonious advertisement (dans ce siècle de réclame) of the might of British India and of the weight of British interests in Western China. – China is a land of "form" (and show) and we English are too neglectful of methods needful to impress the Oriental mind in China: our rivals, the French and the Russians, understand better and are successful accordingly.

Yours w. the greatest Respect,
Archibald Little

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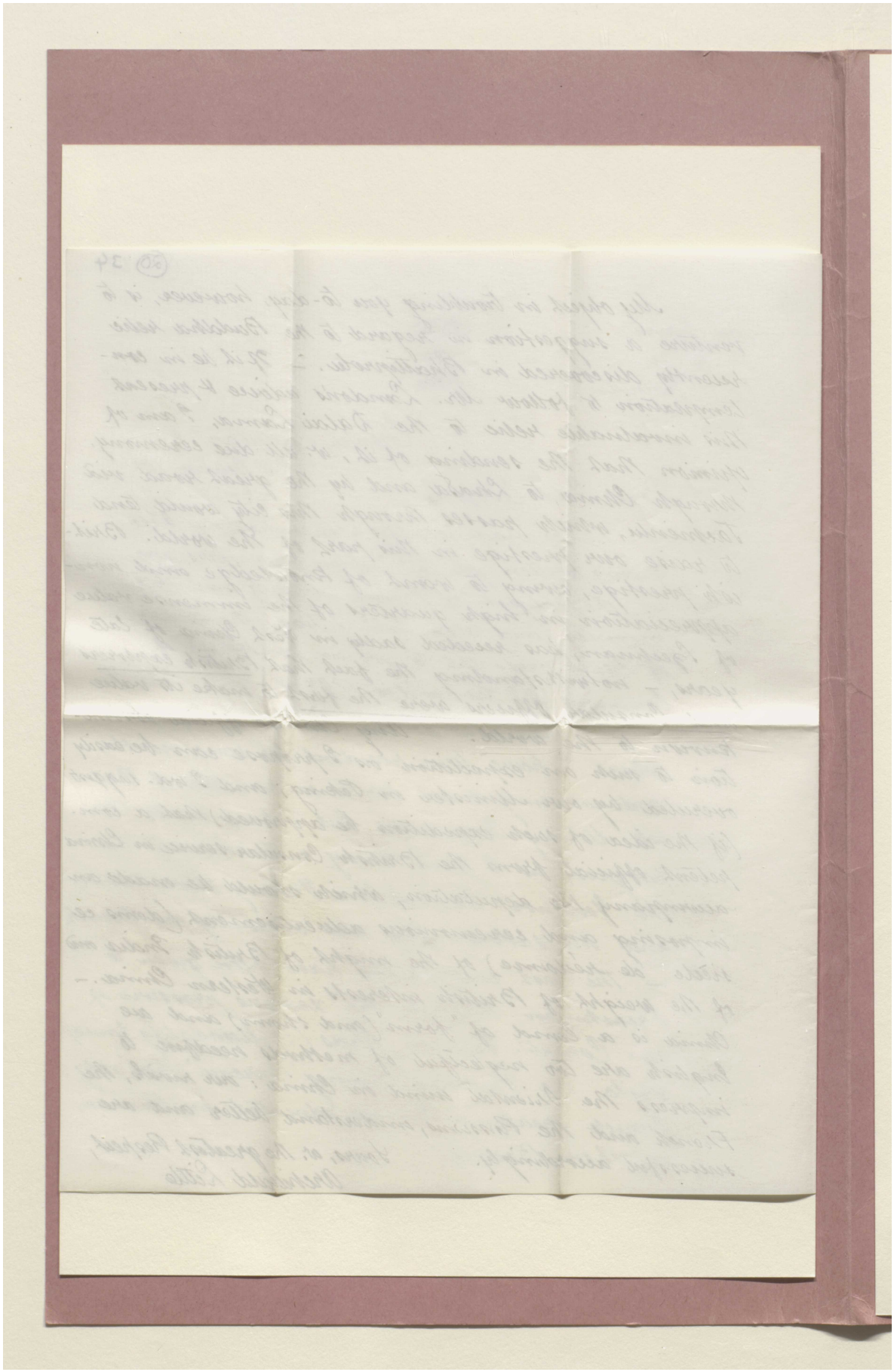

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(21)

Tehran, September 1st 1899

35

private

My dear Lord Curzon,

In your last letter to me you were so kind as to express the hope that you would hear from me while you were in India. I have not written to you since then and even now should not have troubled you if I had not seen a letter from you in one of the recent numbers of the Geographical Journal on a question relating to the Oxus. This letter of yours showed me that you still find time for things outside of India and has encouraged me to send you some etymological notes, which I wrote for you two years ago but considered inopportune to forward, and to give you items of Persian news.

The Persians have not yet obtained a loan and are still sadly in want of money. When in the Summer of last year the Shah had refused the Imperial Bank of Persia's offer for 1¼ millions and asked for 2 millions, which the Bank could not give, and negotiations had been broken off, England was accused of unfriendliness towards Persia. The anti-English feeling on the part of the Persian authorities increased when the Imperial Bank – her creditor of over £200,000 – asked for a settlement or at least a part of the money owed by the Persian Government. Temporary loans at high rates of interest were then obtained from the Russian Banque de prêts de Perse and about half

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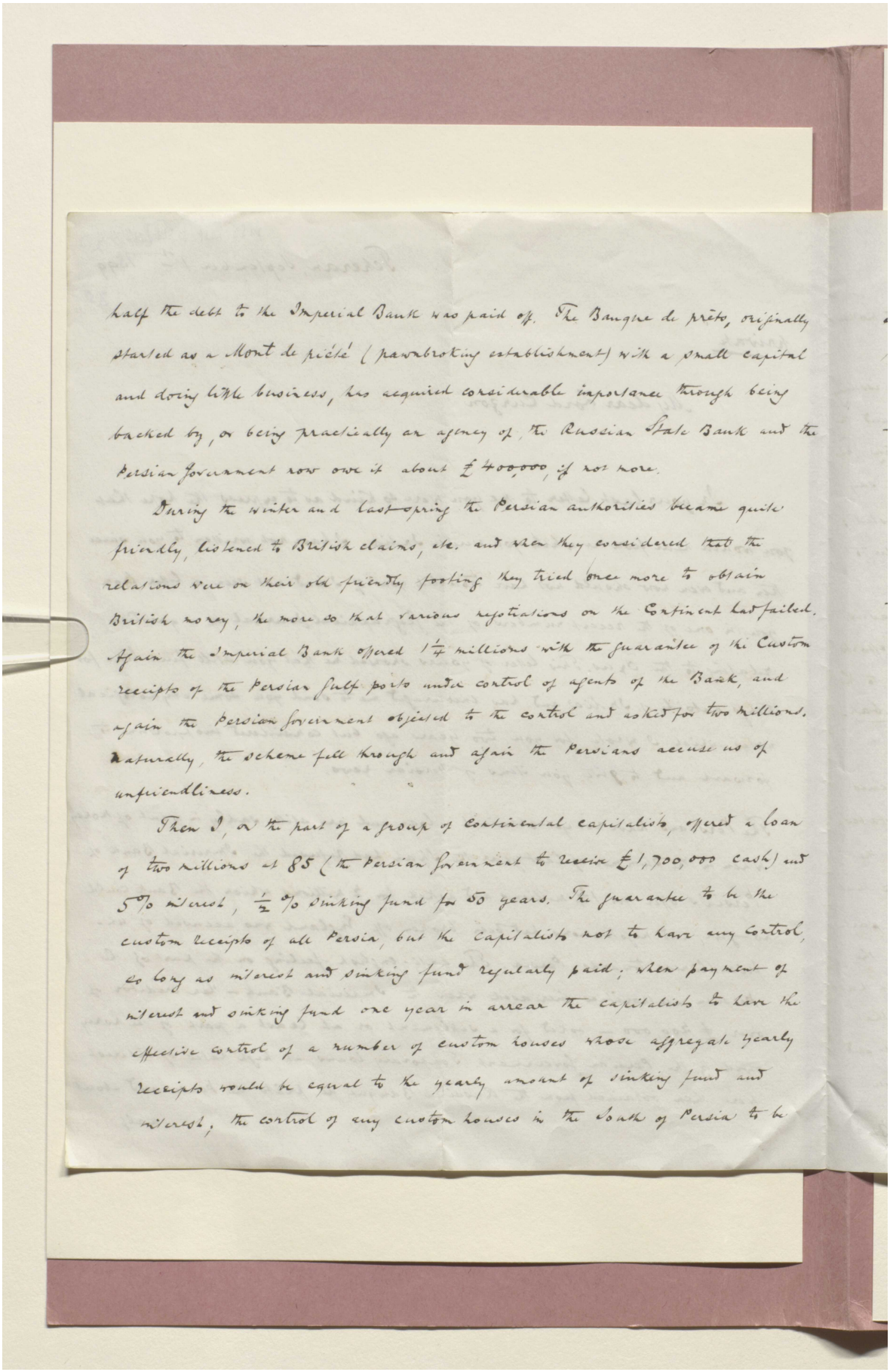

half the debt to the Imperial Bank was paid off. The Banque de prêts, originally started as a Mont de piété (pawnbroking establishment) with a small capital and doing little business, has acquired considerable importance through being backed by, or being practically an agency of, the Russian State Bank and the Persian Government now owe it about £400,000, if not more.

During the winter and last spring the Persian authorities became quite friendly, listened to British claims, etc. and when they considered that the relations were on their old friendly footing they tried once more to obtain British money, the more so that various negotiations on the Continent had failed. Again the Imperial Bank offered 1½ millions with the guarantee of the Custom receipts of the Persian Gulf ports under control of agents of the Bank, and again the Persian Government objected to the control and asked for two millions. Naturally, the scheme fell through and again the Persians accuse us of unfriendliness.

Then I, on the part of a group of Continental capitalists, offered a loan of two millions at 85 (the Persian Government to receive £1,700,000 cash) and 5% interest, ½% sinking fund for 50 years. The guarantee to be the custom receipts of all Persia, but the capitalists not to have any control, so long as interest and sinking fund regularly paid; when payment of interest and sinking fund one year in arrear the capitalists to have the effective control of a number of custom houses whose aggregate yearly receipts would be equal to the yearly amount of sinking fund and interest, the control of any custom houses in the South of Persia to be

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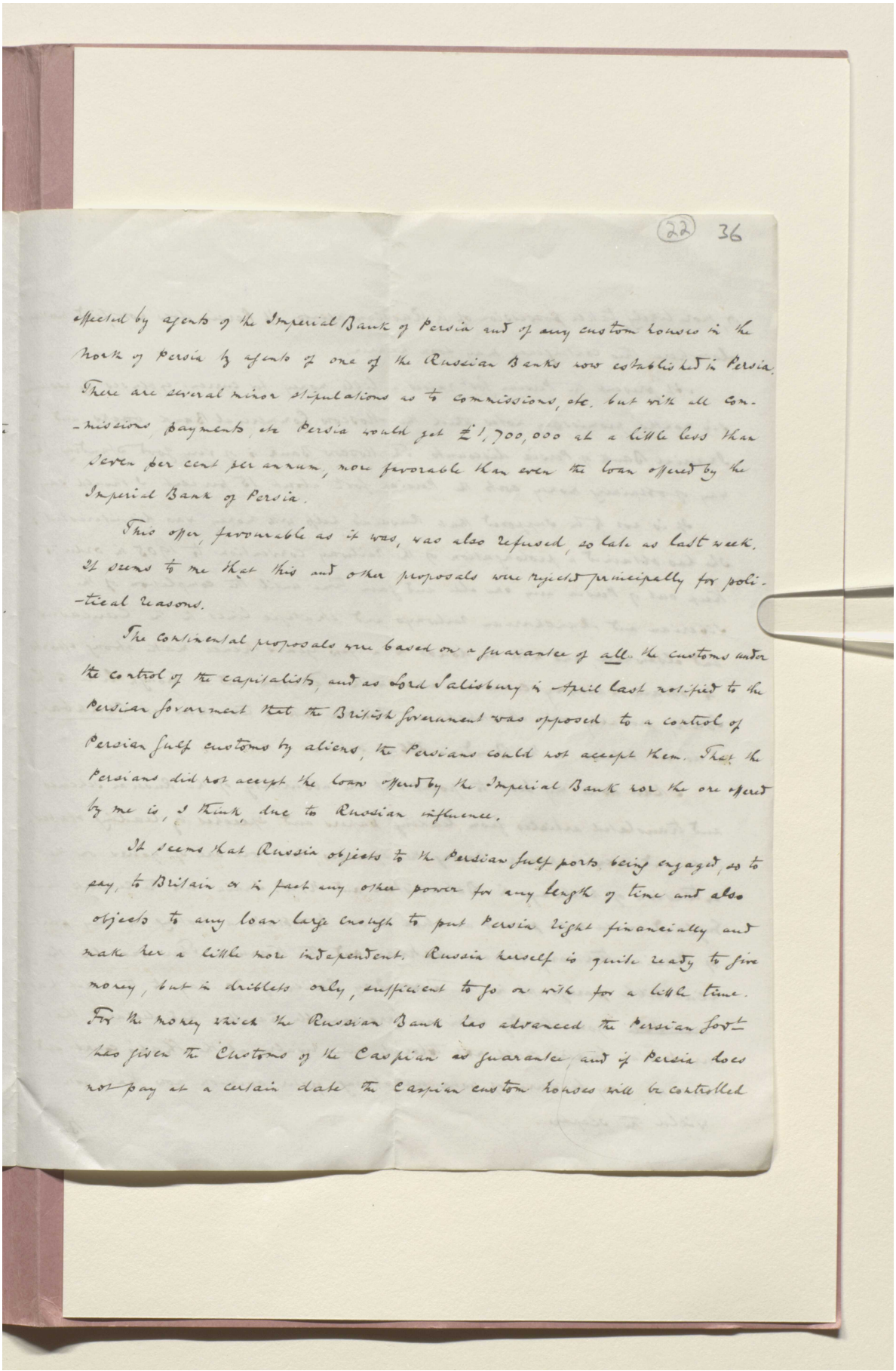

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effected by agents of the Imperial Bank of Persia and of any custom houses in the North of Persia by agents of one of the Russian Banks now established in Persia. There are several minor stipulations as to commissions, etc. but with all commissions, payments etc Persia would get £1,700,000 at a little less than Seven per cent per annum, more favorable than even the loan offered by the Imperial Bank of Persia.

This offer, favourable as it was, was also refused, so late as last week. It seems to me that this and other proposals were rejected principally for political reasons.

The Continental proposals are based on a guarantee of all the customs under the control of the capitalists, and as Lord Salisbury in April last notified to the Persian Government that the British Government was opposed to a control of Persian Gulf customs by aliens, the Persians could not accept them. That the Persians did not accept the loan offered by the Imperial Bank nor the one offered by me is, I think, due to Russian influence.

It seems that Russia objects to the Persian Gulf ports being engaged, as to pay, to Britain or in fact any other power for any length of time and also objects to any loan large enough to put Persia right financially and make her a little more independent. Russia herself is quite ready to give money, but in driblets only, sufficient to go on with for a little time. For the money which the Russian Bank has advanced the Persian Govt has given the Customs of the Caspian as guarantee and if Persia does not pay at a certain date the Caspian custom houses will be controlled

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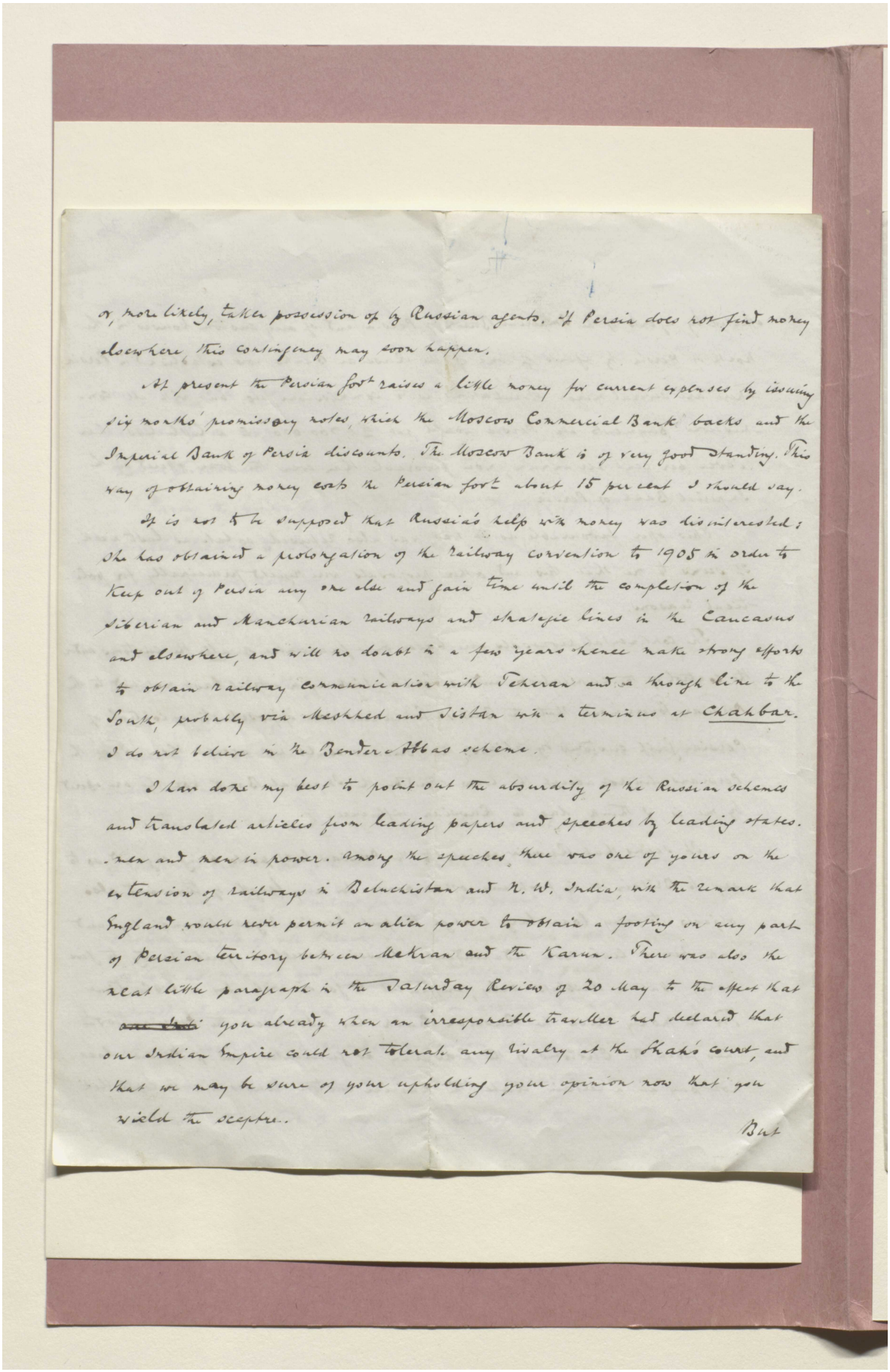

or more likely, taken possession of by Russian agents. If Persia does not find money elsewhere this contingency may soon happen.

At present the Persian Govt raises a little money for current expenses by issuing six months' promissory notes, which the Moscow Commercial Bank backs and the Imperial Bank of Persia discounts. The Moscow Bank is of very good standing. This way of obtaining money costs the Persian Govt about 15 per cent I should say.

It is not to be supposed that Russia's help with money was disinterested; she has obtained a prolongation of the railway convention to 1905 in order to keep out of Persia any one else and gain time until the completion of the Siberian and Manchurian railways and strategic lines in the Caucasus and elsewhere, and will no doubt in a few years thence make strong efforts to obtain railway communication with Teheran and a through line to the South, probably via Meshhed and Sistan with a terminus at Chahbar. I do not believe in the Bender Abbas scheme.

I have done my best to point out the absurdity of the Russian schemes and translated articles from leading papers and speeches by leading statesmen new and new in power. Among the speeches there was one of yours on the extension of railways in Beluchistan and N. W. India, with the remark that England would never permit an alien power to obtain a footing on any part of Persian territory between Mekran and the Karun. There was also the neat little paragraph in the Saturday Review of 20 May to the effect that ~~you~~ you already when an irresponsible traveller had declared that our Indian Empire could not tolerate any rivalry at the Shah's court, and that we may be sure of your upholding your opinion now that you wield the sceptre.

But

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But the Shah and his ministers are deaf to well-meant advice and at present only listen to Russians and to French and Belgian intriguers who work for Russia and vilify us.

In the early spring the Shah spoke of his intention to have the Persian telegraph system extended by a line from Kerman eastwards and another from Meshhed southwards, both joining on the Beluchistan frontier at or near Kuhak. I was asked for a report and wrote one with distances, estimates, etc and pointed out in it the great difficulties there would be in constructing and maintaining the projected lines. As Mr Finch, the Director of the Indo European Telegraph Department (Karrachi to Tehran) had some time before that broached the subject of an alternative line from Isfahan to India to the Persian Minister of Telegraphs, the Minister advised His Majesty to postpone construction the proposed lines and later, if it be desired, conclude a convention with the Indian government for a line from Isfahan to Kerman and further East similar to the Convention for the Tehran - Bushire line.

The importance of an alternative through land line of Telegraphs is very great and was brought before the government many years ago by the late Colonel Sir H. Balenan Champain. The route then advocated was the one from Shiraz via Darab, Lar and Bender-Abbas to Jask, where it would have joined the existing land-line, and Mr Preece, then in the Telegraphs, was sent to inspect it. Col. Champain in 1884 asked me for my opinion and I strongly

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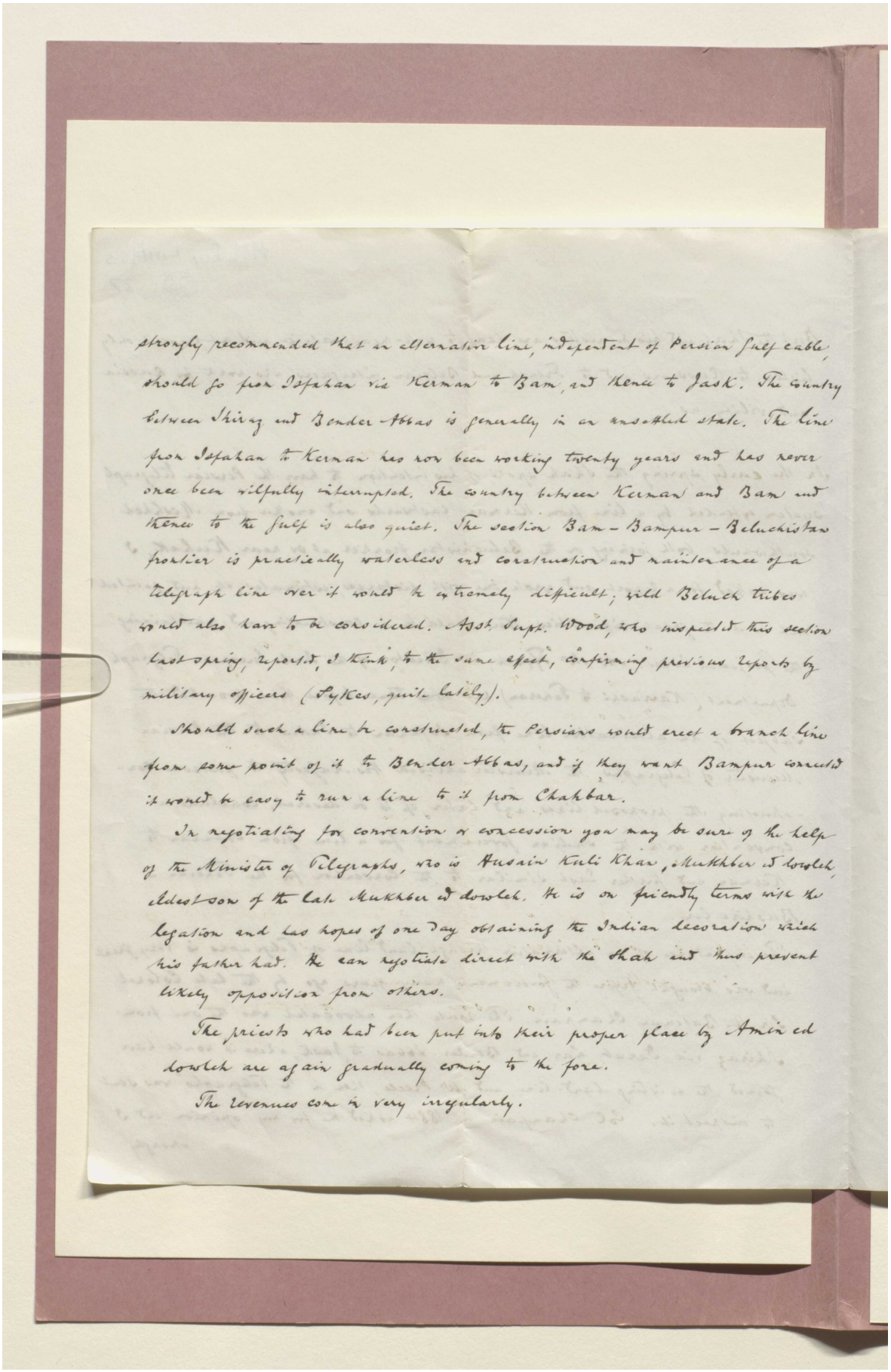

strongly recommended that an alternative line, independent of Persian Gulf cable, should go from Isfahan via Kerman to Bam, and thence to Jask. The country between Shiraz and Bender-Abbas is generally in an unsettled state. The line from Isfahan to Kerman has now been working twenty years and has never once been wilfully interrupted. The country between Kerman and Bam and thence to the Gulf is also quiet. The section Bam – Bampur – Beluchistan frontier is practically waterless and construction and maintenance of a telegraph line over it would be extremely difficult; wild Beluch tribes would also have to be considered. Asst. Supt. Wood, who inspected this section last spring, reported, I think, to the same effect, confirming previous reports by military officers (Pykes, quite lately).

Should such a line be constructed, the Persians would erect a branch line from some point of it to Bender-Abbas, and if they want Bampur connected it would be easy to run a line to it from Chahbar.

In negotiating for conversion or concession you may be sure of the help of the Minister of Telegraphs, who is Hussain Kuli Khan, Mukhber ul Dowleh, eldest son of the late Mukhber ul Dowleh. He is on friendly terms with the legation and has hopes of one day obtaining the Indian decoration which his father had. He can negotiate direct with the Shah and thus prevent likely opposition from others.

The priests who had been put into their proper place by Amin ed dowleh are again gradually coming to the fore.

The revenues come in very irregularly.

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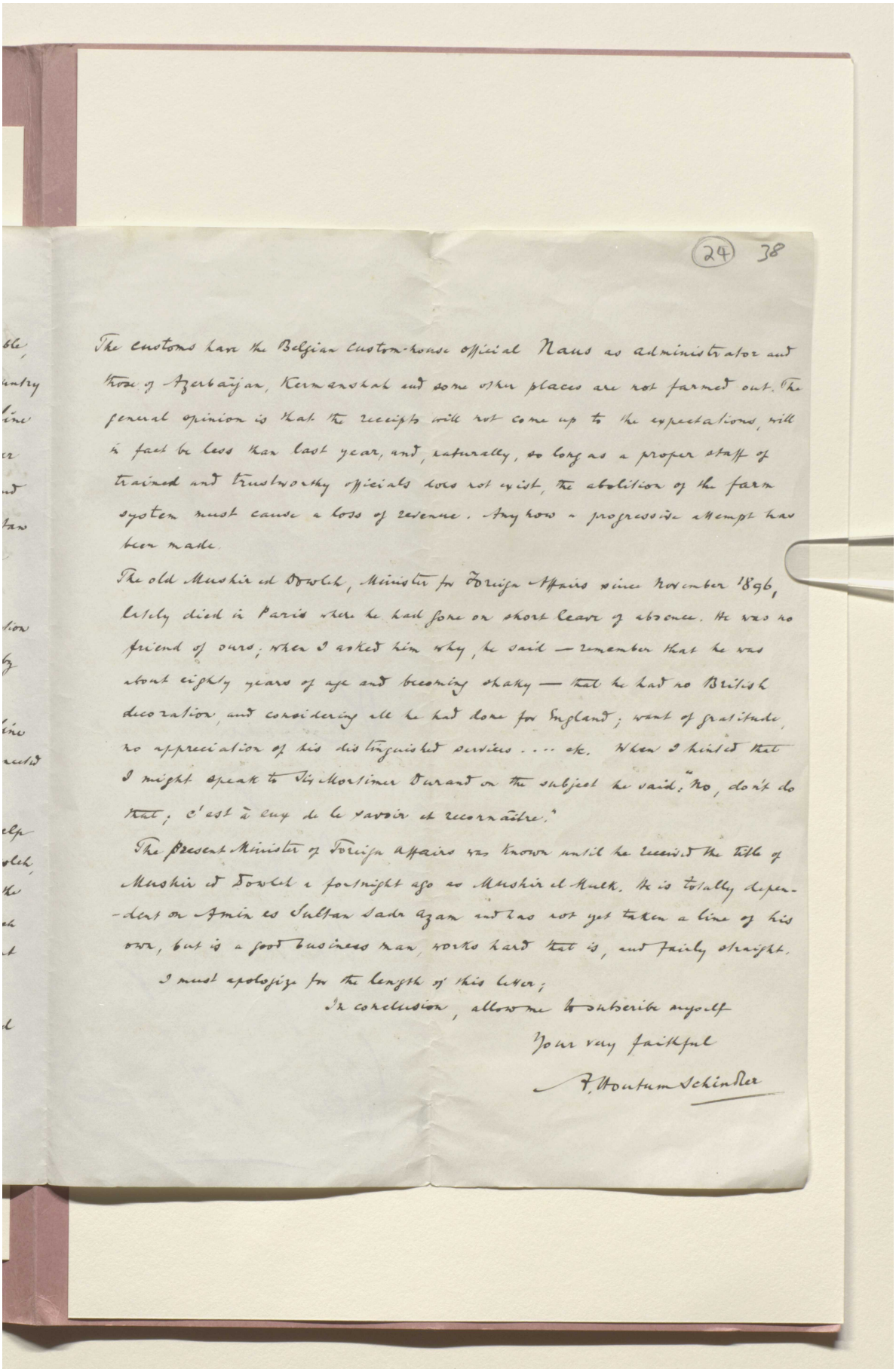

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The customs have the Belgian custom-house official Naus as administrator and those of Azerbaijan, Kermanshah and some other places are not farmed out. The general opinion is that the receipts will not come up to the expectations, will in fact be less than last year, and, naturally, so long as a proper staff of trained and trustworthy officials does not exist, the abolition of the farm system must cause a loss of revenue. Anyhow a progressive attempt has been made.

The old Mushir ed Dowleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs since November 1896, lately died in Paris where he had gone on short leave of absence. He was no friend of ours; when I asked him why, he said — remember that he was about eighty years of age and becoming shaky — that he had no British decoration, and considering all he had done for England; want of gratitude, no appreciation of his distinguished services .... etc. When I hinted that I might speak to Sir Mortimer Durand on the subject he said: "No, don't do that; c'est à eux de le savoir et reconnaître."

The present Minister of Foreign Affairs was known until he received the title of Mushir ed Dowleh a fortnight ago as Mushir el Mulk. He is totally dependent on Amin es Sultan Sadr Azam and has not yet taken a line of his own, but is a good business man, works hard that is, and fairly straight.

I must apologize for the length of this letter;

In conclusion, allow me to subscribe myself

Your very faithful

F. Wentum Schindler

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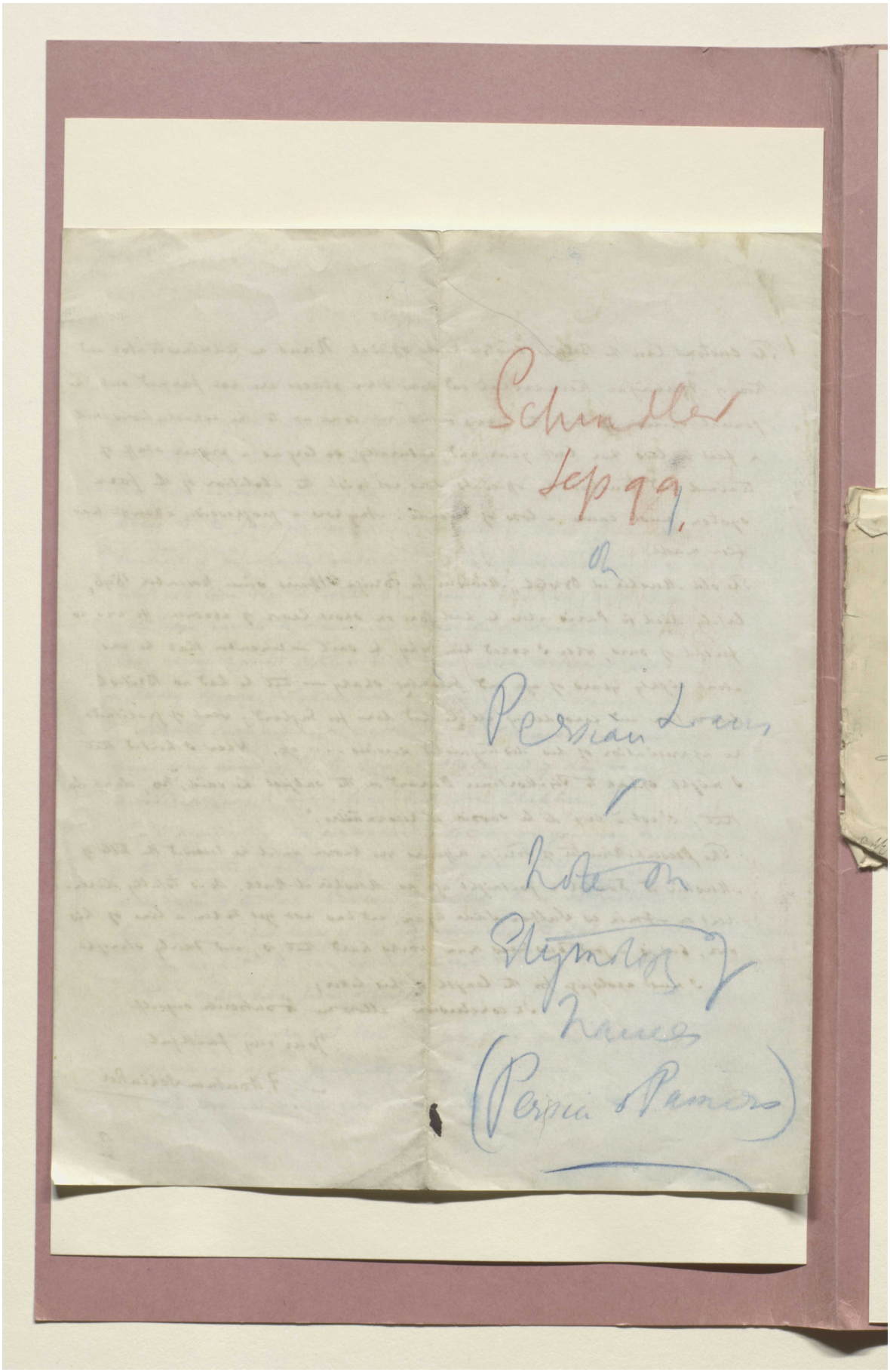

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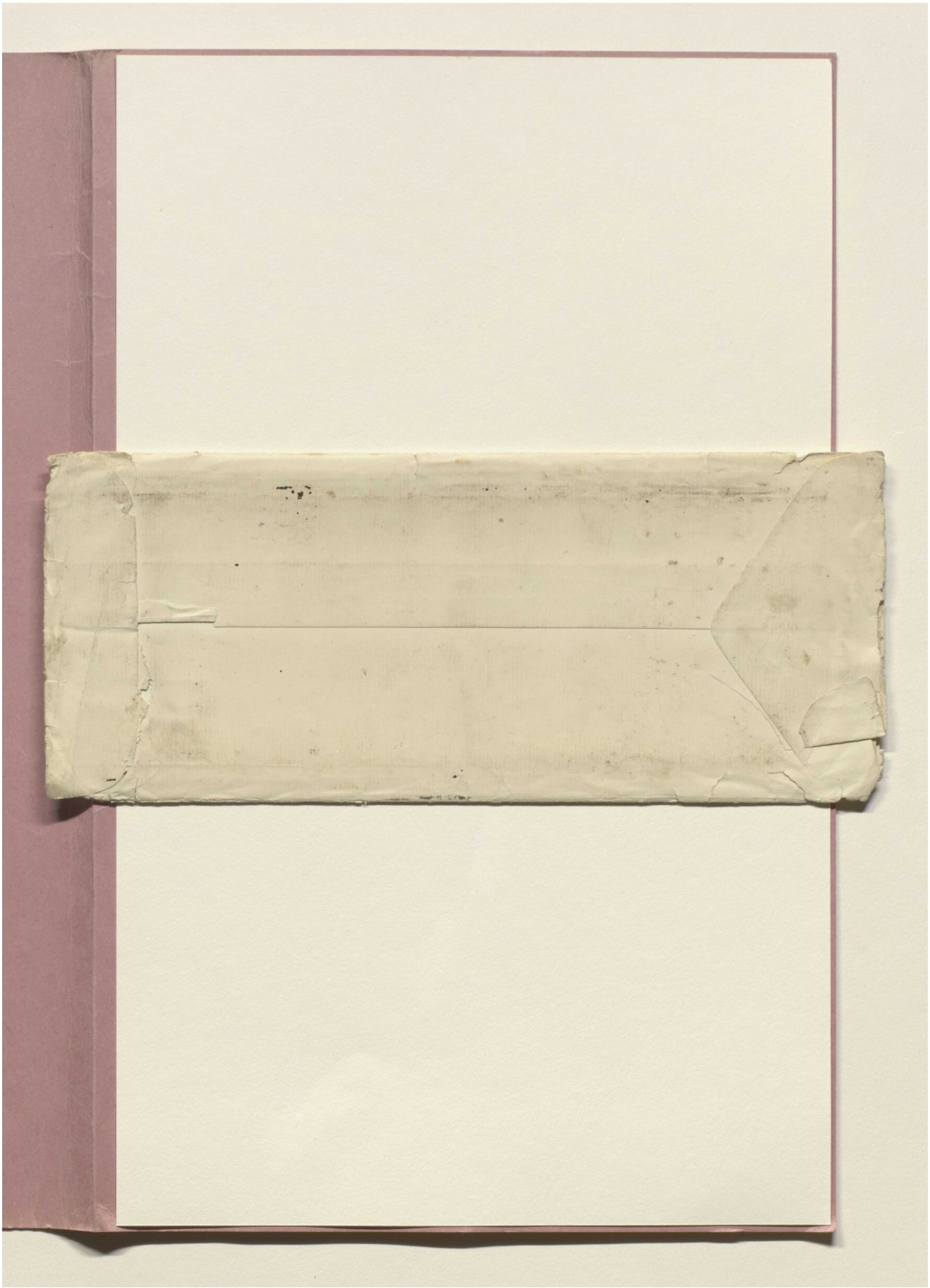

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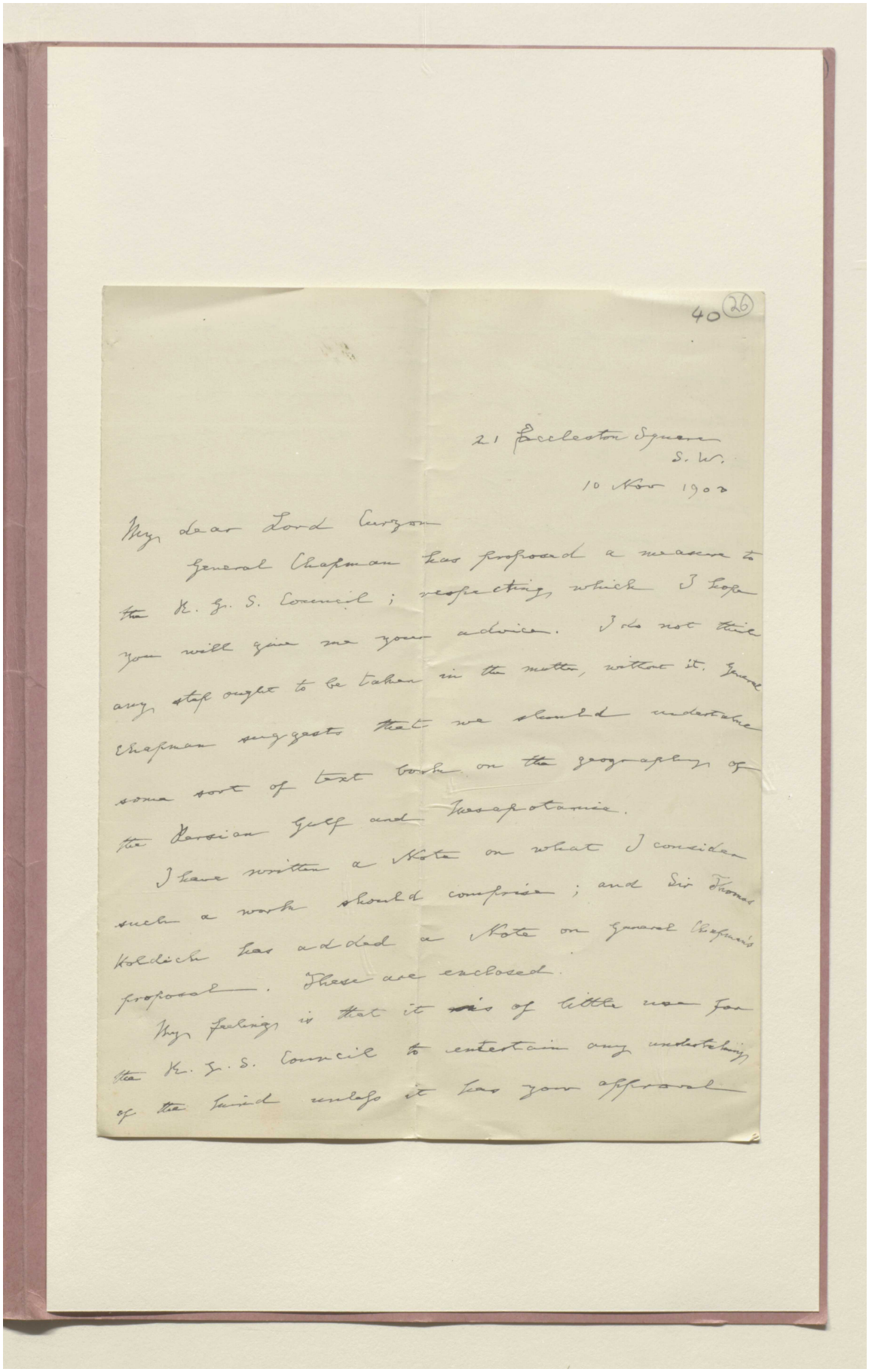

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21 Eccleston Square
S. W.
10 Nov 1902

My dear Lord Curzon

General Chapman has proposed a measure to the K. G. S. Council; respecting which I hope you will give me your advice. I do not think any step ought to be taken in the matter, without it. General Chapman suggests that we should undertake some sort of text book on the geography of the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia.

I have written a Note on what I consider such a work should comprise; and Sir Thomas Holdich has added a Note on General Chapman's proposal. These are enclosed.

My feeling is that it is of little use for the K. G. S. Council to entertain any undertaking of the kind unless it has your approval

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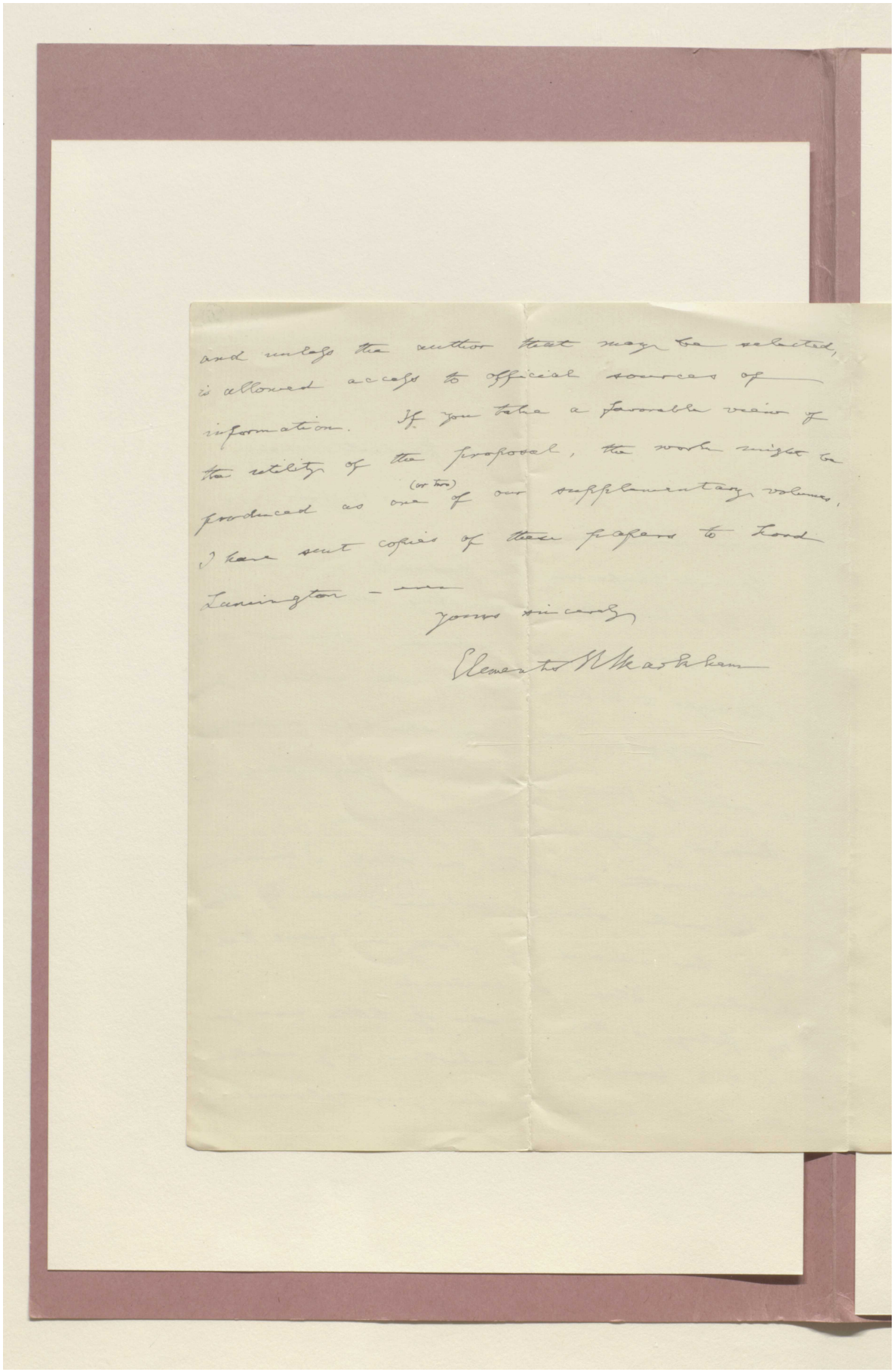

and unless the author that may be selected, is allowed access to official sources of information. If you take a favorable view of the utility of the proposal, the work might be produced as one (or two) of our supplementary volumes. I have sent copies of these papers to Lord Lansdowne — and

Yours sincerely

Clements R Markham

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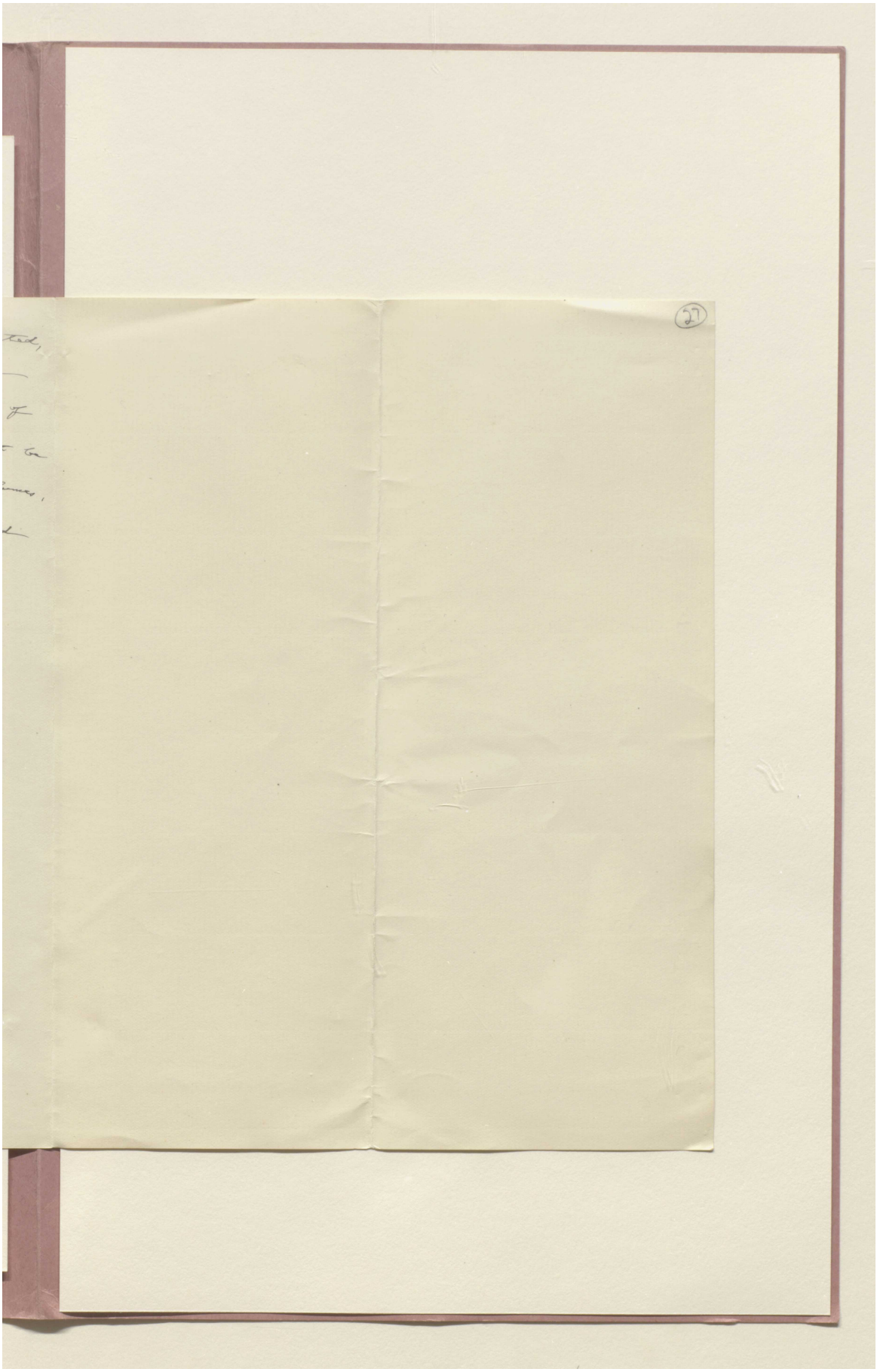

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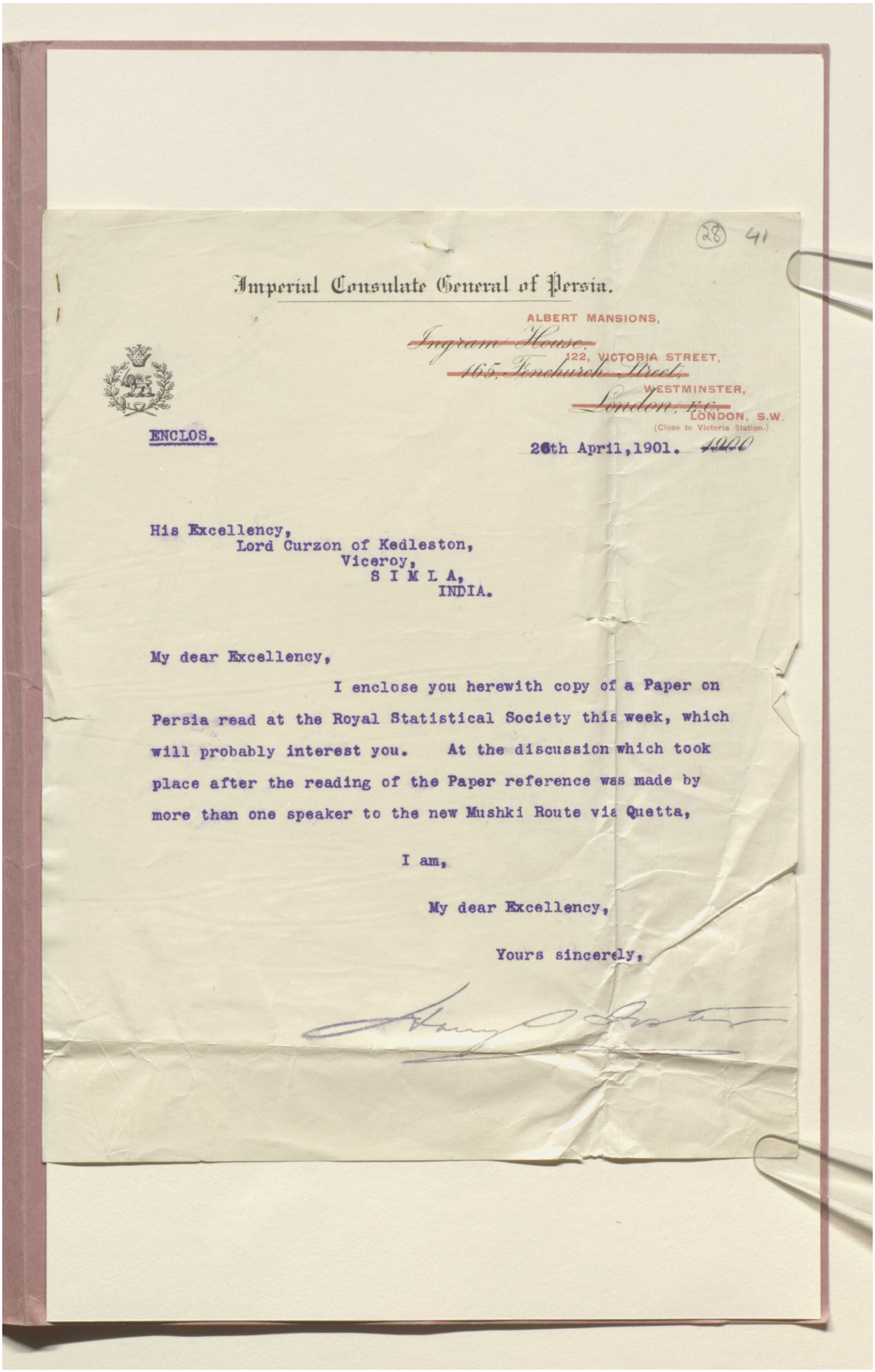

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Imperial Consulate General of Persia.

ALBERT MANSIONS,
~~Ingram House,~~
122, VICTORIA STREET,
~~165, Fenchurch Street,~~
WESTMINSTER,
~~London, E.C.~~
LONDON, S.W.
(Close to Victoria Station.)

ENCLOS.

26th April, 1901. ~~1900~~

His Excellency,
Lord Curzon of Kedleston,
Viceroy,
S I M L A,
INDIA.

My dear Excellency,

I enclose you herewith copy of a Paper on Persia read at the Royal Statistical Society this week, which will probably interest you. At the discussion which took place after the reading of the Paper reference was made by more than one speaker to the new Mushki Route via Quetta,

I am,

My dear Excellency,

Yours sincerely,

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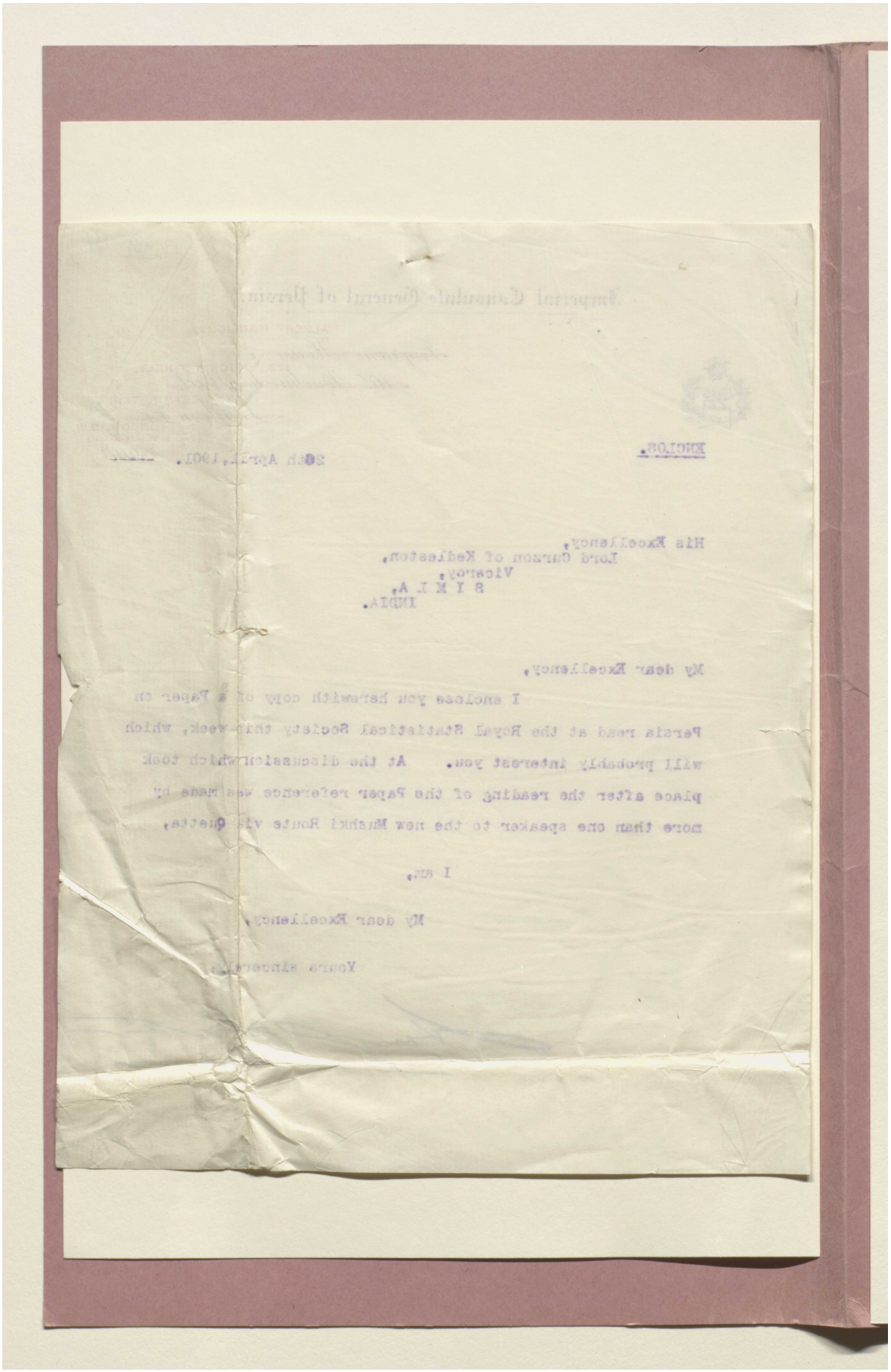

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An Economist's Notes on Persia. By Joseph Rabino.

[Read before the Royal Statistical Society, 23rd April, 1901.
Major P. G. Craigie, Vice-President, in the Chair.]

I.

The prominence which Persia and its trade have recently assumed in the public view, is the excuse for reading the present paper before the Society. It is simply an examination of the volume written by Cavaliere Avvocato Lorini, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Padua, and recently published by the Italian Government.

The Professor advances excellent reasons for the study of the economic conditions of Persia, a country which, though much discussed and often described, is really little known in any practical sense by Western peoples.

It is useful to consider, stripped of all extraneous matter and presented in their naked simplicity, problems which are usually complicated by the multifarious circumstances of an advanced civilization. In examining for instance our Board of Trade returns and the vast commercial and industrial movement they represent, we have to correct them by estimates or by hypothetical figures of shipping-earnings, foreign investments, and the expenses of travellers in various countries.

In Persia there are no statistics, nevertheless the economic phenomena are by no means uninstructive. We see sugar arrive at Resht from the Kieff refineries, and petroleum from Baku, whilst to pay for the sugar and petroleum, cotton, rice, wool, and dried fruits go to Russia. We see the money of the Manchester manufacturer come in cotton goods to Persia, and return in Sultanabad carpets to Constantinople and London, or in opium from Shiraz to Hongkong.

Even in the misery brought about by the oppression and mal-administration of twenty centuries of despotism, and by the negation of all economic principles, there is much to learn, for "it is perhaps in the hospital wards when the case is most "desperate, that the physician obtains his best experience, and "finds his most useful teachings."

It is useless, perhaps, to enter into the Byzantine controversy of bimetallism, but, in view of the logical and unavoidable fall in silver, those countries must be studied in which silver [illegible] and therefore with the object of eventually underta[illegible] of the currency of the Land of the Yellow Sea, Professor Lorini finds Persia a valuable transition region, after having considered the position of Russia and Austria at the critical period of monetary reform.

The functions which Persia has exercised for so many centuries, as a trade link between Europe and Asia, will of necessity be revived in the land route to India and China which Germany and Russia have evidently in view. Asia calls loudly, and Europeans cannot but hear her voice, and return to the cradle of their race.

The social problem of the day is the bringing together of what Professor Lorini defines as Capital-Man and Capital-Soil.

The idea of nationality he condemns as the cause of over-crowding of States. The remedy is air, light, and space, which are at our doors in much greater proportions than our needs.

The primordial sexual union of the family developed into the tribe, at first nomadic, then sedentary. Social progress is traced from hut to village, and from town to that more complex political group, the State, small at first, then large. But here for centuries development has stopped, and ever growing populations are ironbound within their frontiers, whilst they are crushed to provide armaments for maintaining these arbitrary limits, and are oppressed by a protectionism enforced for the benefit of the large landowners.

On colonization Professor Lorini has much to say: he finds the Russian fraternises with the Asiatic, whilst he criticises the habits of the gloved Englishman, whip in hand and revolver at side.

General Kuropatkin, some years since, made the same charge: "Our Government is autocratic," he said, "but in reality our "spirit is democratic, whilst the Englishman is an aristocrat—"Would he ever think of looking upon an Asiatic as an equal or "treat him otherwise than as an inferior being?"

The reproach is perhaps in some cases not entirely unmerited, although doubtless exaggerated.

The ideas of the disunion of our colonies, of discontent at their being exploited by the metropolis, of a decadent empire, of the foppishness, idleness, and worthlessness of our youth to which he gives expression, show that the author is not so well acquainted with England as with the other countries he has so diligently studied and carefully described. They show also that his volume was written before the outbreak of the Transvaal war, which has afforded opportunity for such a wonderful display of colonial loyalty and union, and for no less remarkable examples of bravery and patriotism amongst our young men, whether military or civil.

Indeed, it may be suggested that the British Empire realises in a great degree the almost limitless extension of frontiers which Professor Lorini advocates.

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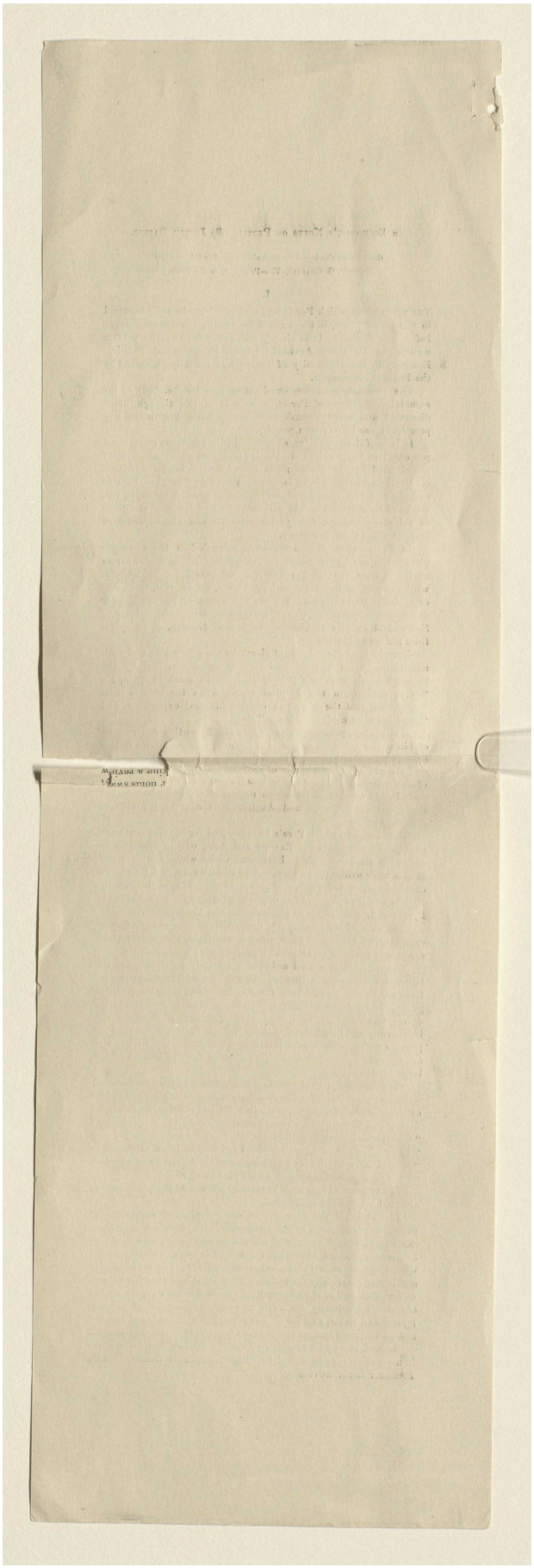

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II.

Instead of summarising the facts brought together in Professor Lorini's volume, a task which would make too great demands on our space, it will be perhaps more useful to bring forward memoranda of later date, so as to complete the information furnished.

The "Statesman's Year Book" estimates the foreign trade of Persia at 9 million £, a figure we are inclined to think rather under than over the truth.

The trade may be subdivided into: Gulf Ports, North and North Western, and South Western Frontiers:—

	1898.	1899.
The total Gulf trade is given by our Foreign Office Reports at	£ 3,797,919	£ 4,335,883
Exports and imports of which, United Kingdom and India	2,368,880	2,600,703

The Russian Government publishes the following figures:—

	Imports into Persia.	Exports into Russia.	Total, in £'s Sterling.
	Roubles.	Roubles.	
1895	14,159,723	18,964,626	3,486,770
'96	14,501,445	17,492,312	3,367,764
'97	16,036,032	18,649,669	3,651,130

The Russian trade is therefore probably about equal to that of the South.

There remains principally the goods brought by the trade route of Trebizonde-Tabriz, comprising the Mediterranean countries, especially Turkey, which also serves as a market for Persia, and also the important line of Bagdad-Kermanshah. The total known trade may probably be estimated at 9 million to 10 million £.

The great difficulty in collecting anything like approximately trustworthy figures is due to the system of farming, which from time immemorial has prevailed in Persia; this gives to every one connected with customs and revenue a direct interest in understating the facts, and this is done to an even extravagant degree.

Last year, in connection with its financial difficulties, the Government decided to make an attempt at forming a Government administration of customs, and, immense as are the difficulties in the way of a change of system, a very large measure of success has attended the efforts of Monsieur Naus, the Belgian customs official placed at the head of the Persian customs.

The duties levied in Persia are determined by the Russian Treaty of Turkmanchai of 1828, by which a uniform and reciprocal 5 per cent. for export and import was agreed to. With Turkey, however, a special convention fixed a reciprocal 12 per cent. export and 6 per cent. import duty, and 75 per cent. on tobacco and salt.

Nothing like the amount of duty leviable, however, reaches the Persian Government, and the customs product average barely more than 2 to 3 per cent.

The farming money two years since yielded no more than 220,000*l.*; last year, under direct administration, the receipts were 300,000*l.*, and this year the amount will be greater. The abuses have been hitherto so great, that the least effort at reform produces considerable results. But for the weakness of the Government in the provinces, there is no reason why the customs receipts, without any change of tariff, should not be doubled.

The following estimate for 1899-1900 shows how the customs are sub-divided:—

	£
Northern and north-western customs, *i.e.*, Azerbaidjan (Russia and Trebizonde line) and Caspian ports, as well as inland dues, Kazvin and Teheran	190,000
Southern customs, including inland dues south of Teheran	88,000
Western customs: Turkish frontier and Kurdistan	27,800
	305,800

Taking the average duties at 2 to 3 per cent., we reach the above-mentioned estimate of 9 million to 10 million £ for the total foreign trade.

An attempt is being made to negotiate a new commercial treaty with Russia.

Next year we shall, for the first time, have some trade statistics drawn up by the customs officials.

The products of Persia are, it is quite clear, susceptible of great, indeed, of enormous increase, provided some attention be paid to inland communication and to irrigation works.

Cereals.

Large tracts of land have gone out of cultivation for want of roads; in south-western Persia vast amounts of wheat were produced, and would be again, if the means of transport were easier. The Karun region was an immense fertile plain that could be reclaimed by the repair of the dam or barrage at Ahwaz.

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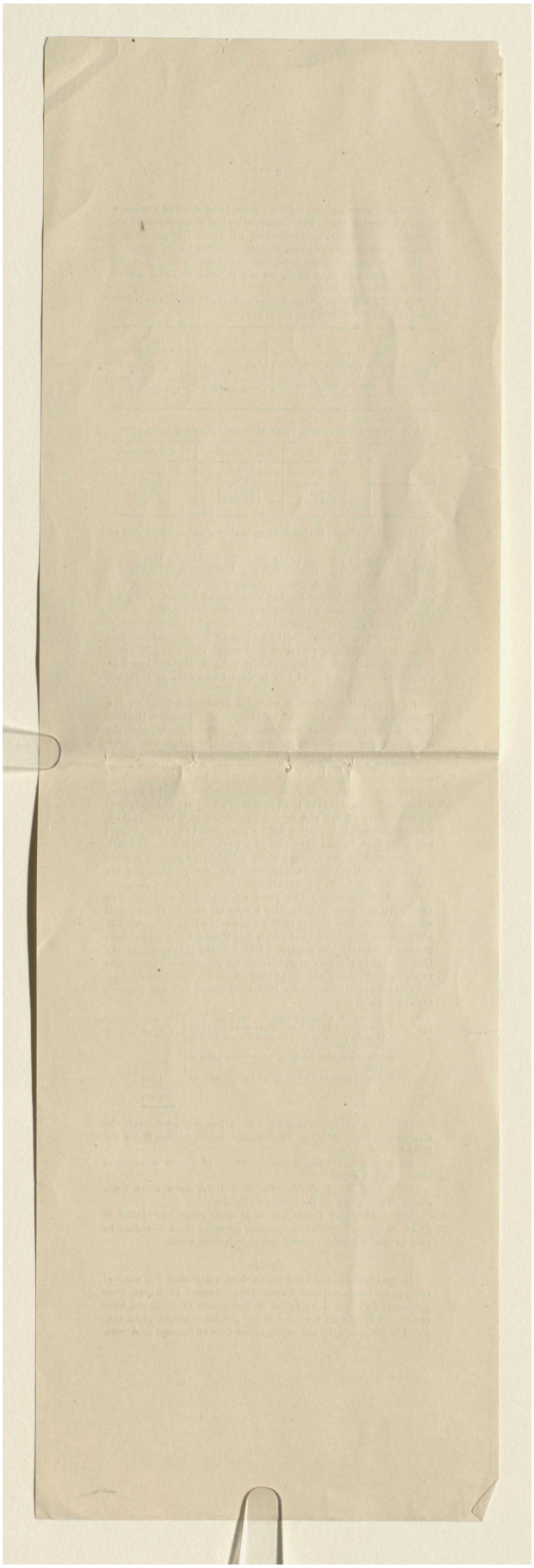

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Cotton.

The culture of this fibre is constantly increasing, and is being greatly improved. Russian manufacturers are paying particular attention to this article, on account of the advantage of importing at a 5 per cent. duty.

Opium.

This valuable drug, the export of which dates back only a comparatively few years, now represents in foreign trade 450,000*l.* to 500,000*l.*, and this independently of the large quantity consumed in the country.

With more scientific culture the production could be largely increased, the more so that the small amount of duty, compared with that of other exporting countries, constitutes a heavy premium on export.

Silk.

This fibre was for many centuries the principal article of export, but the silkworm disease almost destroyed the culture from 1860 to 1893, in which year very vigorous attempts were made to revive the trade, and it is now rapidly growing.

The export of cocoons from Resht, the capital of the province of Ghilan, and the principal seat of production, were as follows:—

Year.	Kilos.	Value in £'s Sterling.	Year.	Kilos.	Value in £'s Sterling.
1893	35,000	6,475	1897	157,000	23,550
'94	76,000	11,780	'98	279,000	55,800
'95	107,000	15,505	'99	535,000	112,350
'96	104,000	14,040	1900	733,000	150,265

A large amount of silk is consumed in the country. The limits of production are far from having been reached, and there is no reason why the amount should not be doubled in a very short time.

Rice,

which was cultivated in substitution for silk, has not by any means been abandoned, and indeed increases in like proportions.

The Trade of Khorassan,

which lies on the north-eastern frontier of Persia, is deserving perhaps of more special notice, since this province is receiving an accession of population from other parts of Persia, notably Kirman, Yezd, Azarbaijan, on account of the scarcity recently prevailing in those parts. In consequence of this migration and of the improvement in its trade, the town of Meshed is increasing continually, and new houses are constantly being built. The carpet industry is being extended as the demand for these carpets from Egypt and Turkey in Europe is growing. On the other hand, the foreign demand for shawls is declining. The exports to India, which consist chiefly of opium, silk, and horses, are almost stationary, whilst those to Russia are largely increasing. This is partly due to the facilities which the Russian Government is providing for the development of trade,—as witness the exchange bureaux which they have established at the frontier custom houses and stations,—and partly to the fact that large bodies of Russian troops are now centred in the Transcaspian provinces. These largely draw their supplies from Khorassan, and large quantities of grain are consequently taken across the frontier; but as the export of grain is forbidden, these consignments do not appear in the customs returns. There are large quantities of wool sent from these districts into Russia; but recently some of this trade has been diverted from the Meshed to the Shaikh Junaid route, and this fact accounts for an apparent shrinkage in these exports. A highly successful weaving factory has been established by some Persian merchants at Ispahan, but owing to Russian competition beyond the northern frontier, the export of country cloths and prints is decreasing. The export to India of pistachios and of candied sugar to Herat is increasing.

As regards the import trade, it appears that there is increase in the amount of tea received, both from Russia and India, whilst the demand for coffee is also growing. Owing to the facilities offered by the Russian bounty system and to the comparatively high cost of carriage, the import of sugar from India has ceased, whilst the demand, which is still growing, is met entirely from Russia. Drugs imported through Turkey are taking the place of those which formerly were sent from India, whilst Russian matches, on which there is an export bounty, have now entirely displaced those of India.

The quantities of saddlery, fancy goods, and cutlery, and of kerosine oil, as well as of lead and tin, brought from Russia have largely increased. Whilst the demand for British and Indian sheeting is increasing, there is less sale than formerly for long cloth (bleached or unbleached) and for muslin. So, too, though there is an increase in the quantity of miscellaneous piece goods imported, the high cost of carriage is checking the demand for Turkey red. The high cost of carriage from India is tending to throw the whole of the large trade in paper into Russian hands, and the same may be said of the trade in glass and china ware. Special circumstances seem to have temporarily checked the trade in indigo and in copper sheets during the period under our review.

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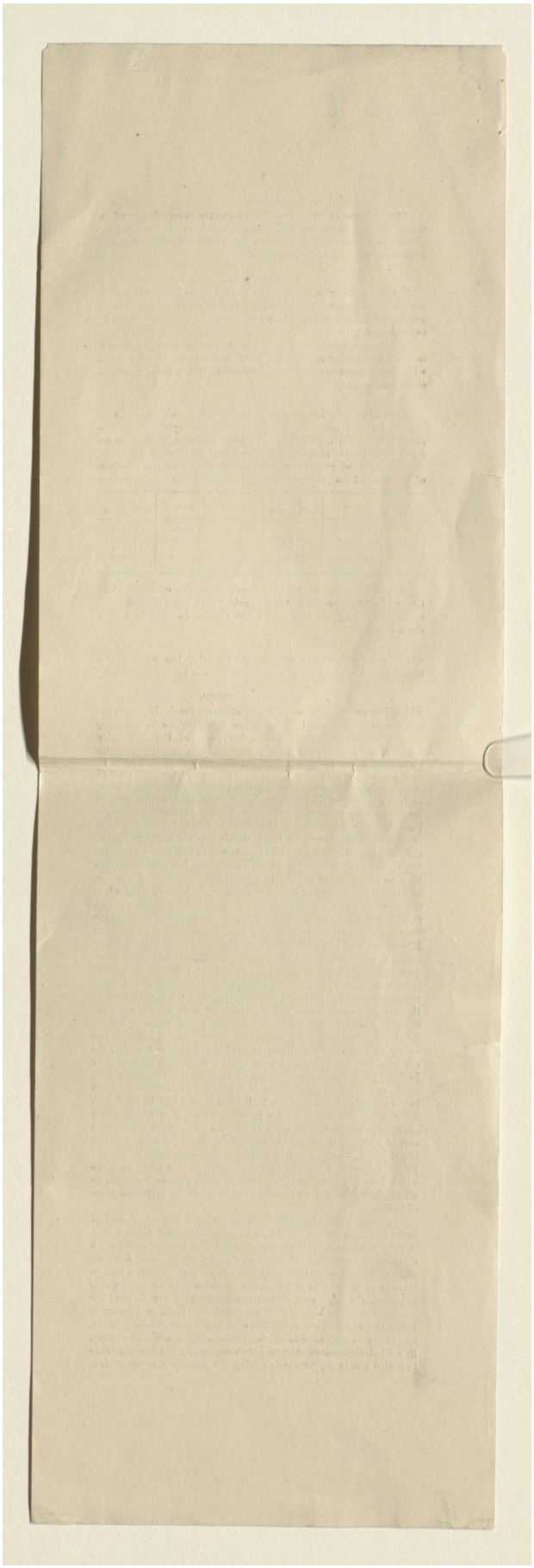

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It will be seen that the lowering of the cost of transit is highly desirable if India is to maintain the competition with Russia for the trade of this part of Persia.

This movement seems to be one of by no means recent origin. For as long ago as the year 1887 Mr. (now Sir) A. Nicolson, Chargé d'Affaires to the Legation at Teheran, reported that "the "bulk of the trade has not altered much, but has changed from "English to Russian. English trade, compared with six or seven "years ago, is noticeably sinking—especially that in English piece "goods, which have fallen to about one-half. It is partly owing to "difficulties of transport, as compared with the improved facility "for trade which the Russians have made for themselves, but also "to the rotten stuff which is now imported as English goods . . . . . "Again, the imports to Herat used to be nearly all English, but "now they are nearly all Russian."

Exports.

	1898.			1899.		
	Total.	Specie.	Merchandize only.	Total.	Specie.	Merchandize only.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bushire	426,721	19,178	407,543	529,348	31,148	498,200
Lingah	571,470	155,187	416,283	551,985	175,032	376,953
Bahrein	496,305	70,501	425,804	654,238	66,280	587,958
Arab ports	387,322	26,250	361,072	565,253	28,347	536,906
Mohammerah	88,927	55,966	32,961	131,706	72,422	59,284
	1,970,745	327,082	1,643,663	2,432,530	373,229	2,059,301

Imports.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bushire	843,462	60,416	783,046	916,528	86,511	830,017
Lingah	641,221	111,875	529,346	611,625	133,400	478,225
Bahrein	551,728	124,312	427,416	641,506	144,144	497,362
Arab ports	324,894	66,875	258,019	343,151	74,665	268,486
Mohammerah	157,162	733	156,429	207,892	5,400	202,492
	2,518,467	364,211	2,154,256	2,720,702	444,120	2,276,582

Exports to United Kingdom and India.

	1898.		1899.	
	United Kingdom.	India.	United Kingdom.	India.
	£	£	£	£
Bushire	118,471	74,522	78,308	95,273
Lingah	2,881	284,174	3,663	264,947
Bahrein	—	320,398	—	473,074
Arab ports	—	—	—	—
Mohammerah	8,394	14,970	11,073	21,621
	126,746	692,064	93,044	854,915

Imports from United Kingdom and India.

	£	£	£	£
Bushire	401,637	230,522	441,922	224,860
Lingah	410	346,555	—	306,089
Bahrein	—	357,978	—	439,534
Arab ports	—	66,181	—	58,937
Mohammerah	53,869	92,918*	74,189	107,213†
	455,916	1,094,154	516,111	1,136,633

* Including 13,774*l.*, Aden. † Including 20,181*l.*, Aden.

Total Foreign Trade

	1898.			
	Total Trade.		Of which United Kingdom and India.	
	£	£	£	£
Exports	1,643,663	3,797,919	818,810	2,368,880
Imports	2,154,256		1,550,070	
	1899.			
Exports	2,059,301	4,335,883	917,959	2,600,703
Imports	2,276,582		1,652,744	

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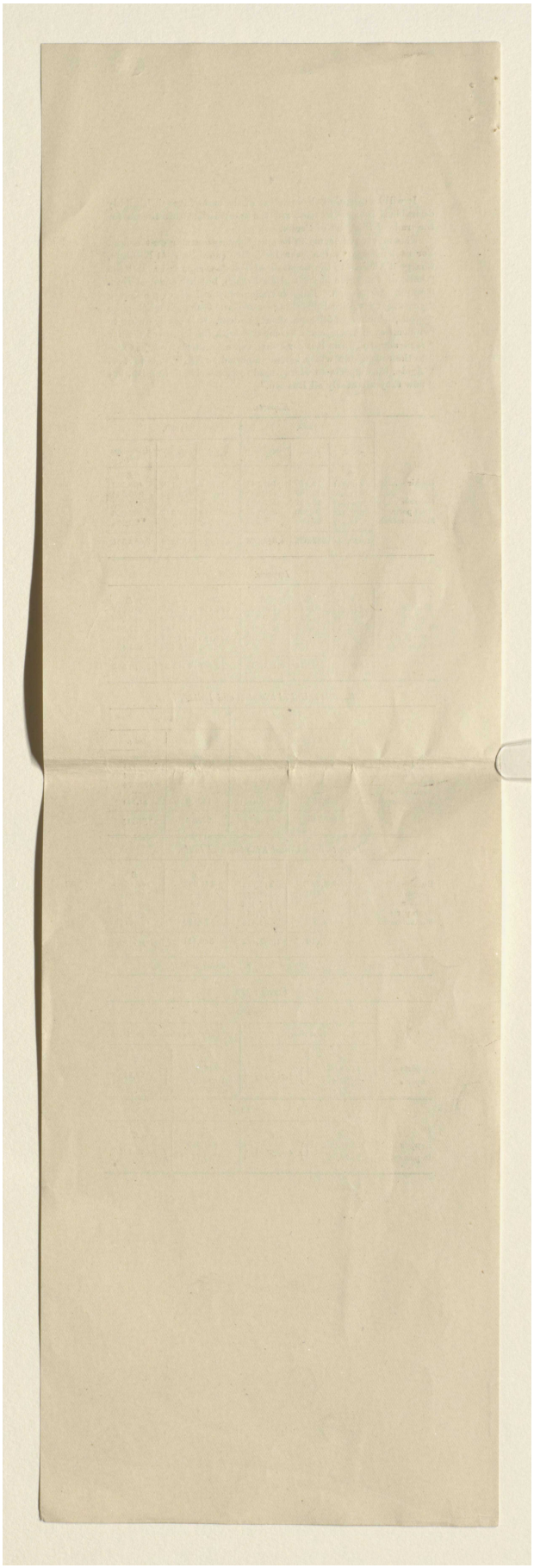

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Synoptical
[Translated from "La

Province...	Astrabad.	Mazanderan.	Ghilan.
Climate	Divided into three regions: temperate in south, frigid in the heights, torrid in the steppes.	Temperate, save in the mountains. Fevers prevalent in spring and summer, the land being too damp; but drainage would easily improve the value and healthiness of this rich province.	Similar to Mazanderan.
Culture	Wheat, barley, cotton, castor oil, tobacco, and rice.	Rice in large quantities, cotton, vegetables, castor oil, fruits, vines, and cereals; pasturage, principally for sheep, on the mountains.	Forests, sugar cane, rice in plenty, pasturage, vines, olives, figs, pomegranates, cotton, wheat, vegetables, and tobacco.
Native industry	Coarse woollens, common felts, and carpets, Turcoman qualities.	Silk on large and improving scale.	Silk on an important and rising scale; manufacture of tobacco and cigarettes; salt fish for export; tissue of silk, wool, and cotton for local use.
Mineral riches	—	Sulphur for local production of powder; hot and cold mineral springs; carboniferous strata; veins of copper and iron; naphtha springs.	—
Local commerce	Exchange between towns and nomads of raw wool, carpets, and horses, against wheat, rice, and manufactured goods.	Cotton, silk, wool, rice, and boxwood (latter almost exhausted).	Wool, cotton, silk, tobacco, dried fruits, caviare, oil, rice, and maize.

Province...	Hamadan.	Malayer and Borujird.	Luristan.
Climate	One of the coldest in Persia; severe in winter and spring; rainy in summer and autumn.	Cold in winter, temperate in summer. Frequent storms, torrential rains.	Very varied climate; cold in highlands, very hot in plains, and temperate in forest and pasturage zones.
Culture	Barley, wheat, castor oil, tobacco, fruit, and vegetables; fine wines, good pasturage; special culture of poppy.	Fine wheat culture; also poppies, cotton, tobacco. Fertile vineyards, orchards, and vegetable gardens near towns and villages. Arid in south-west.	Poor culture in highlands, but intense in valleys. Wheat, barley, rice, fruits, vegetables, vines. The nomads live from pasturage and small culture.

Synoptical

Province...	Hamadan.	Malayer and Borujird.	Luristan.
Native industry	Tanning; excellent leathers. Melting and refining metals. Coarse carpets, leather and metal works.	Very industrious in manufacture of opium, and great part of carpet weaving for Europe.	Few and poor woollens, coarse carpets. Great desire of nomads to settle, and develop domestic industry.
Mineral riches	Fine Elvend granites, white, grey, and yellow marbles, carboniferous strata, beds of lignite and anthracite.	Grey and yellow marbles, various granites, carboniferous and bituminous strata, gold dust in streams, traces of copper in white quartz.	Cretaceous soil, few fossils, much salt. Important deposits of bitumen, carbonates of hydrogen, iron ores. Rich in building materials.
Local commerce	Transit trade; small market for local produce.	Large foreign trade; opium, dried fruits, carpets, woven and dyed cottons; mules. Little local trade.	Arms, ammunition, horses, sheep.

Province...	Persian Gulf.	Khorassan.	Farsistan and Luristan.
Climate	One of the hottest coasts known. Sand clouds and sirocco.	High temperature, exposed to fiery desert winds.	High temperature, exposed to winds from the Gulf.
Culture	—	Called granary of Persia. Russia drew supplies hence during Turcoman war. Sugar cane, cotton, opium, and wool.	Cereals, dye plants, and vineyards.
Native industry	Seaborne trade. Fisheries: pearls and mother-of-pearl.	Silk and woollen manufacture; carpets, Turkoman manufacture; skins, leather, excellent tan.	Important wine manufacture; carpets.
Mineral riches	—	Mineral centre of turquoises; copper and coal.	Veins of iron ore; copper pyrites; traces of deposits of coal, mercury, antimony, nickel, cobalt, sulphur, and lead.
Local trade...	Large transit of all kind.	Large export of wheat; opium, manufactures, medicinal plants, camels, worked leather, and wool.	Indigo trade, Shiraz wine, mules, horses, and small local trade.

Table.
Persia Economica."]

Azerbaijan.	Kurdistan.	
Extreme temperature from 45° Centigrade to −30°; excessive heat July, August, very cold nights, hot winds, salt dust. October, November, May, and June pleasant. Snow in winter and severe days and nights. Heavy rains spring and late autumn.	Temperature 40° Centigrade to −20°. Nights usually cool, and in winter intensely cold. Snows from October to March.	Climate
Wheat and rice in great quantity, barley, tobacco, castor oil, lentils, beans, maize, potatoes, vetches, vegetables, apples, and pears. Excellent vineyards about Tabriz.	Fine forests. Population nomadic, and consequently pastoral, but following cultivated: wheat, maize, barley, and some vegetables. For export only, wool, gall nuts, dates, and opium.	Culture
Manufacture of pipe and cigarette tobacco; carpets, small quantities; weaving of cotton and wool for local use; silversmith and jeweller's work; roughly-made Martini rifles for use of Kurds.	Very coarse stuffs; carpets, those of Mukri little liked, those of Sineh much more appreciated; earthenware.	Native industry
Asphalte, bitumen, strata of lignite; also salt, copper pyrites, obsedian, arsenical pyrites, and malachite; iron in rich deposits of brown hematite and limonite; tin, sulphur, and veins of galena; mineral springs, ferruginous, sulphurous, gaseous, &c.; variegated marbles.	Coloured marbles; cretaceous tertiary soil; plaster-petroleum; bituminous springs, naphtha, and salt.	Mineral riches
Transit trade on a large scale; local trade small.	Opium, wool, gall nuts, horses, arms, and dates; other products for local use. Principal resources: caravan traffic from Bagdad to centre of Persia.	Local commerce

Pusht ikuh.	Arabistan.	
As in Luristan	Intense heat, up to 55° Centigrade; temperate winters, rainy springs.	Climate
Wheat, rice, barley, tobacco, dates, pomegranates, oranges. Mountain pasturage best in South Persia.	Wheat, rice, sugar cane, indigo, cotton, tobacco, henna, forage.	Culture

Table—Contd.

Pusht-ikuh.	Arabistan.	
Woollens and coarse carpets.	Cultivation and preparation of sugar cane, castor oil and opium.	Native industry
Many fossils. Black marble, excellent chalk. Traces of petroleum.	—	Mineral riches
Scarcely any traffic between tribes, some of which are almost savage.	Mere necessaries for inhabitants, mostly nomads.	Local commerce

Isfahan.	Teheran.	
Temperate; great heat in summer, tempered by altitude.	Best climate in Persia; Europeans easily acclimatised.	Climate
Cereals, cotton, tobacco, opium, and wool.	Little production; fine gardens; forage, grain, and vegetables.	Culture
Silk manufacture, tanning, woollens, gold and silversmith's work, and engraving metal.	Bricks, tiles, &c.; Imperial mint	Native industry
Deposits of copper, manganese, lead, coal, marbles, &c.	—	Mineral riches
Export of opium, manufactures, mules, and metal work.	City of consumption only; imports from abroad and from adjacent provinces.	Local trade

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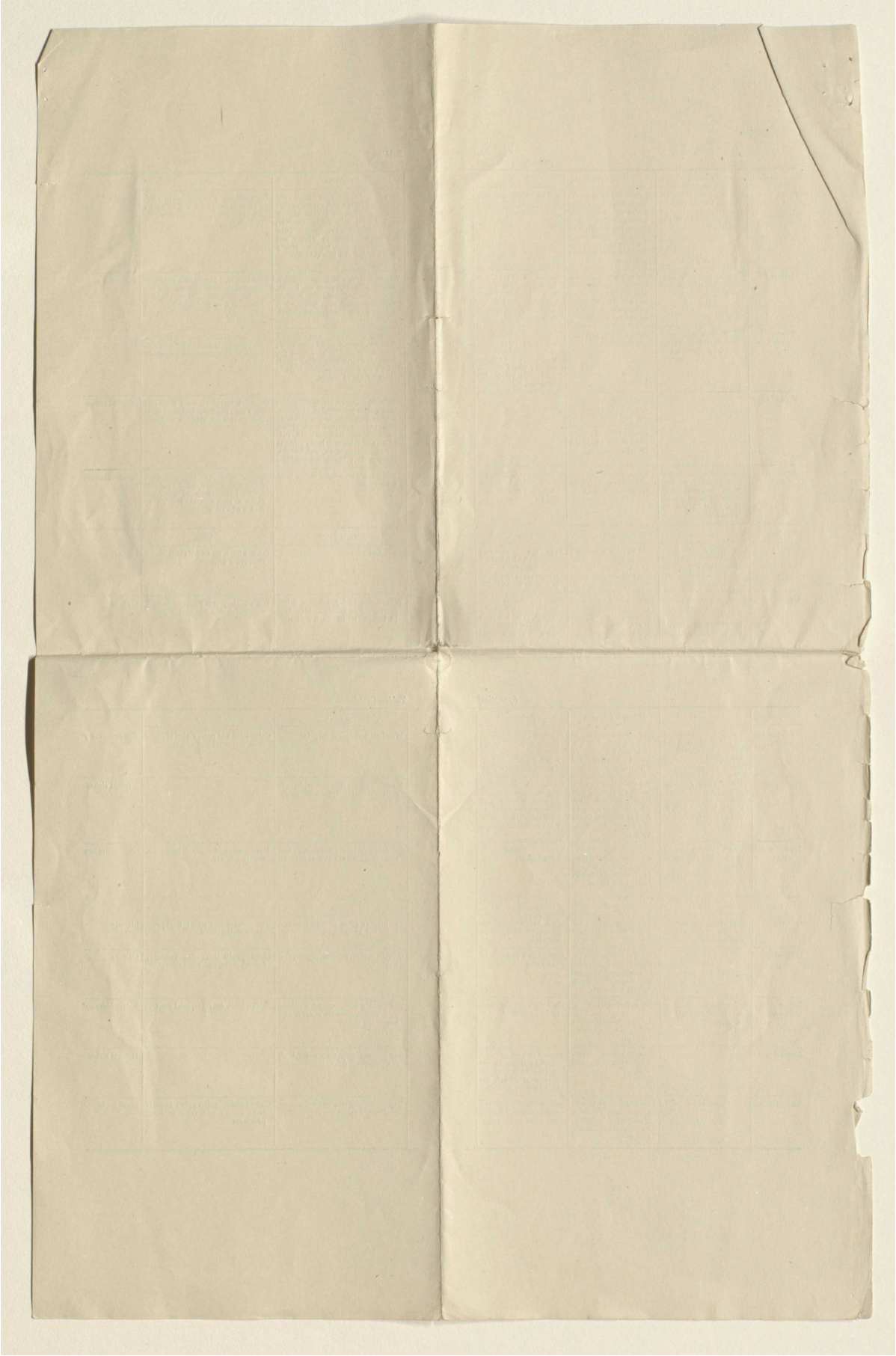

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III.

The currency of Persia offers some interesting lessons.

Gold Currency.

No gold is produced in the country, nor is any bar gold imported, save in small quantities.

Gold coin is a commodity only, and is mainly used for presents and hoarding; it is minted from foreign coin, such as Russian imperials and Turkish pounds, which reach this country in small quantities in the course of business.

Goldsmiths also make use of foreign coin.

Silver Coin.

No silver is obtained in the country; imports come directly from the United Kingdom, or indirectly, *viâ* Hamburg and Russia.

The mint is in a wretched condition, and the plant, which dates from 1877, is worn out, and in many cases useless. The output is therefore very limited, and at best may be put down at 3 million to 4 million tomans annually—the toman being practically equivalent to four shillings, or say an American dollar.

This year the Government, in connection with the Russian loan, imported about 3 million tomans worth of silver, which is in course of minting, and the Imperial Bank imported a further 1 million tomans, which has been minted. We may add probably 500,000 tomans for other importers.

Last year the amount minted can scarcely have exceeded 2½ million tomans, even if it reached that figure.

On account of the deficiencies of the mint machinery, of the Eastern practice of hoarding, and of the economic attraction of Transcaspia for Persian silver, there is a permanent dearth of currency, which consequently is appreciated and circulates at a purchasing power of from 5 to 20 per cent. above its intrinsic value.

The attraction of Persian silver into Transcaspia needs explanation.

Persian silver is a standard or international currency, although very defective, being usually some 2 per cent. below legal weight and fineness.

Russian silver is a token currency, or at best midway between a token and a standard or international currency; there is therefore in an equivalent amount of exchange a much larger quantity of silver in Persian than in Russian coin. For example, 100,000 tomans are at present rate of exchange equal to 185,000 roubles; but

	ozs. troy.
The weight in fine silver of the tomans is legally.....	133,200
Or, say, less 2 per cent.	130,536
Whilst the roubles contain only	107,062
Difference in favour of the Persian coin	23,474

Or 21·92 per cent.

The Russian authorities have long been alive to the irresistible competition of Persian with Russian coin in their Asiatic provinces on this frontier, and some nine years ago issued a decree forbidding the importation of Persian coin.

This decree was found unworkable, and after some months had to be withdrawn.

Last year the Russian Government again made a stand against the import of foreign silver, which by ukase was prohibited on and after the 7/19th May, 1899. The prohibition was further strengthened by a duty of 3 roubles per pood on silver, say, 20 per cent.

Since then, however, Persian coin has been, it is asserted, largely imported in contraband into Transcaspia, and the Government finds great difficulty in putting a stop to its introduction.

The Persian silver which goes into Transcaspia remains partly in Afghanistan, where it is probably reminted. The greater portion, however, is, it is said, melted into bars and used in the inland trade with China.

There is a large yearly outflow of coin from Teheran, where it is minted, to the north, north-east, and north-west districts, and this coin so far does not reappear—at all events not in any quantity—so that the product of the silver imports seems to be absorbed.

Subsidiary or Token Coinage.

The most flagrant abuses have long prevailed in the excessive over-issue of copper coin, due to the iniquitous system of farming, the ignorance of the authorities, and to the corruption of officials.

Copper nominally issued at 20 shahis per kran was current at 30, 40, 50, and even 80 shahis per kran. As this currency constitutes the whole fortune of the poor, the sufferings caused by the maladministration of the mint may be imagined.

When the present Shah came to the throne it was found necessary to take some steps to put an end to this state of affairs, and the Government withdrew some 720,000 tomans nominal of the copper coin at 25 to 30 shahis per kran.

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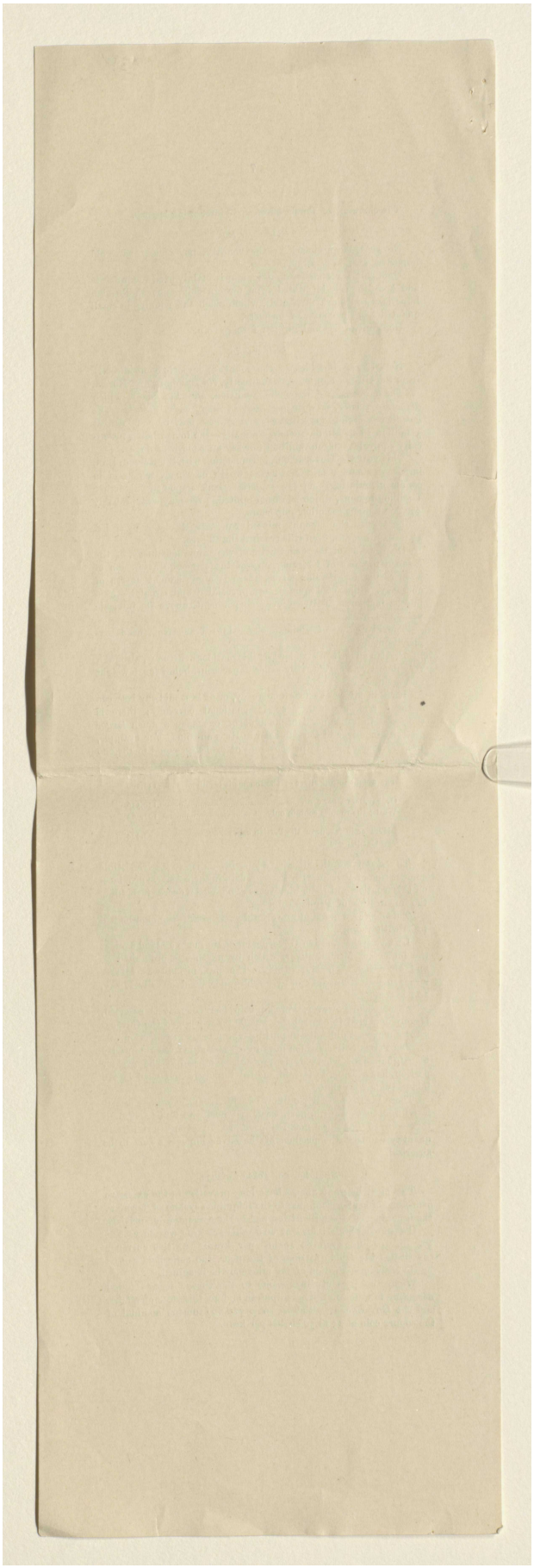

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Although the amount withdrawn was insufficient to ensure the disappearance of the depreciated coin, the effect of the measure was considerable. Copper being discredited, its circulation has largely diminished, so much so, that there is a dearth of small coin.

To remedy this the Government has ordered nickel small coin shahis and two-shahis pieces from the Brussels mint, which will supply popular requirements, without giving rise to further abuses.

Bank Notes.

The Government issues no bank notes, and in 1889 granted the Imperial Bank of Persia a monopoly for the issue of paper money, which circulates on the basis of the credit of the bank.

The legal specie reserve is 33 per cent., but in practice the reserve never falls below, and often exceeds, 60 per cent.

Necessarily the building up of a note issue is a slow process, but the people are getting used to it, and in Teheran particularly the notes are highly appreciated.

The following figures show the note circulation of the Imperial Bank of Persia as on the 20th September each year:—

	Tomans.		Tomans
20th September, 1890	29,000	20th September, 1896	415,000
,, '91	99,000	,, '97	203,000
,, '92	194,000	,, '98	365,000
,, '93	207,000	,, '99	589,000
,, '94	334,000	,, 1900	1,058,000
,, '95	254,000		

Gold and silver bullion is imported in small quantities for industrial purposes.

APPENDIX I.

Gold Coin in Circulation in Persia.

Denomination.	Legal Weight.	Legal Fineness.	Weight in Pure Gold.
Old coinage.	Grains Troy.		Grains Troy.
Toman	53·28	990	51·7572
Half toman	26·64	990	26·3736
Two-kran pieces	10·656	990	10·54944
New coinage.			
Two tomans	100·64	900	90·576
Toman, 1879	50·32	900	45·288
,, since 1879	44·40	900	39·96
Half toman	22·20	900	19·98
Two-kran pieces	8·88	900	7·992
One sovereign	123·27447	916·66	—

APPENDIX II.

Silver Coin in Circulation in Persia.

Denomination.	Legal Weight.	Legal Fineness.	Weight in Pure Silver.
Old Coinage, 1857-78.	Grains Troy.		Grains Troy.
Kran	76·96	900	69·264
Half kran	38·48	900	34·632
Quarter kran	19·24	900	17·316
New Coinage.			
Two krans	142·08	900	127·872
Kran	71·04	900	63·936
Half kran	30·52	900	27·468
Quarter kran	15·26	900	13·734
One shilling	87·27272	925	

Old Coinage, One-Kran Piece.

Average Weight.	Average Fineness	Weight in Pure Silver.	Below Standard.
Grains Troy.		Grains Troy.	Per cent.
75·88	855	64·877	6·76

New Coinage, Two-Krans Piece.

139·771	892·166	124·69	2·55

APPENDIX III.

Subsidiary or Token Coinage of Persia.

Copper Coin in Circulation in Persia in course of Demonetization.

$\frac{1}{4}$ kran (4 shahis). Very few in circulation. Also called "abassi."

$\frac{1}{10}$ kran (2 shahis). Also called "sanar" (*i.e.*, sad dinar).

$\frac{1}{20}$ (1 shahi).

$\frac{1}{40}$ ($\frac{1}{2}$ shahi). Also called "pul."

$\frac{1}{80}$ ($\frac{1}{2}$ pul). Also called "jendek." This coin is in circulation only in Khoras-an.

Nickel Coinage about to be put in Circulation.

	Grs. Troy.	
Two-shahis pieces	69·45	Composed of 25 per cent. of nickel and 75 per cent. of copper.
One-shahi pieces	46·30	

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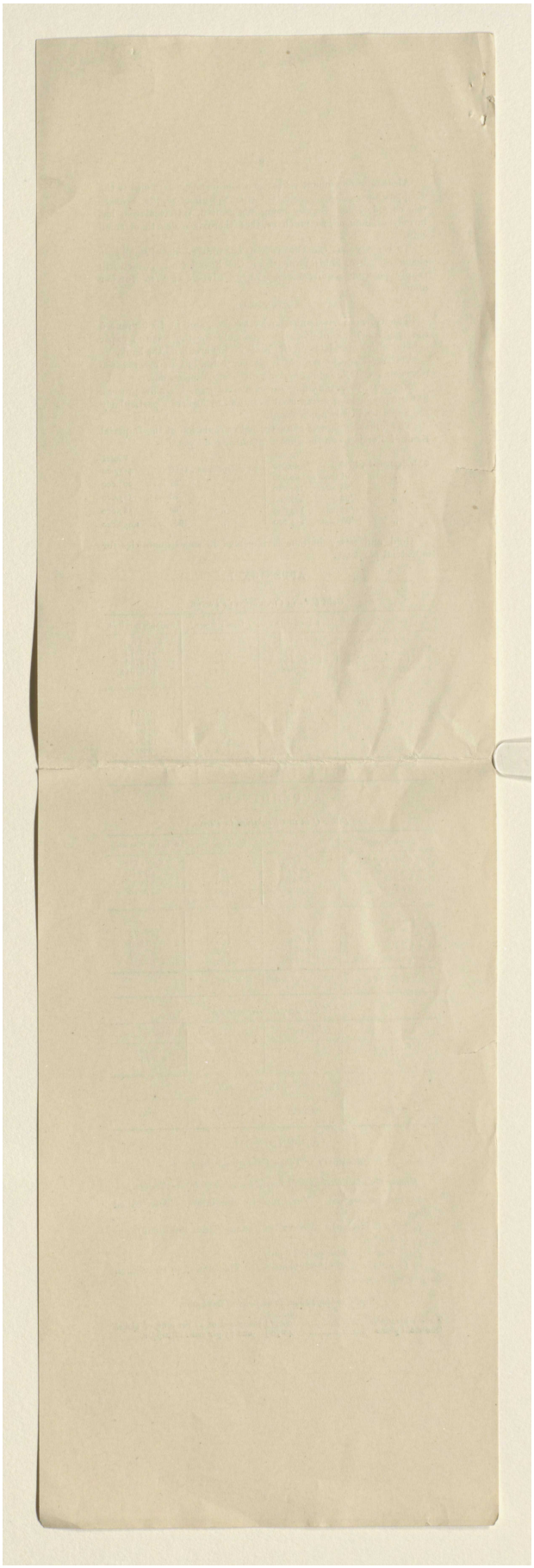

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APPENDIX* IV.

TABLE A.—*Tabular Statement showing Totals of Imports and Exports of Foreign Goods to and from Meshed for Five Years 1895-96 to 1899-1900.*

	Value.					Remarks.
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	
	£	£	£	£	£	
	122,935	42,824	47,199	20,654	15,759	Goods imported from India, which passed on to Russian territory
Imports.						
From India, *vid* Bombay and Bandar Abbas	199,167	89,547	130,282	123,328	142,099	
From Russian territory	86,929	92,547	121,279	163,322	178,708	
„ Europe, *vid* Turkey and Tabriz	24,166	19,740	23,073	47,300	46,514	
From Afghanistan	11,859	6,206	12,178	26,572	9,778	
Total imports	322,121	208,040	290,412	360,522	377,099	
Exports.						
To India	22,269	19,681	40,083	37,557	42,466	
„ Russian territory	67,889	80,320	79,453	124,792	147,075	
„ Afghanistan	908	2,379	1,149	2,615	8,104	
	11,760	12,694	15,854	27,948	24,582	Foreign goods that passed through Meshed
Total exports	102,826	115,074	136,539	192,912	222,227	
Total imports and exports	424,947	323,114	426,951	553,434	599,326	

* From the Foreign Office Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Annual Series), Nos. 2368 and 2533.

APPENDIX IV (*Contd.*).

TABLE B.—*Return of Articles Imported into Meshed from India, vid Bombay, Bandar Abbas, and Kirman (or Yezd), during the Years* 1898-99 *and* 1899-1900.

Articles.	Value.		Passed on to Russian Territory.	
	1898-99.	1899-1900	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£	£
Tea, green	25,112	32,027	8,193	8,741
„ black	15,297	26,169	3,021	4,403
„ colour not specified	1,710	3,610	4,640	1,990
Indigo	17,414	12,606	123	75
Sheeting (British and Indian)	6,760	9,306	—	—
Long-cloth, bleached (British and Indian)	7,039	5,416	—	—
Longcloth, unbleached (British and Indian)	5,495	4,635	—	—
Cotton prints	1,682	1,071	—	—
Muslin	1,079	200	120	—
Turkey reds	2,679	982	—	—
Miscellaneous piece-goods	6,388	10,598	—	—
Shawls	200	650	840	—
Cotton yarn and twist	14,433	16,880	—	—
Copper sheets	6,203	30	—	—
Tin and lead	622	671	—	—
China basins and chinaware	1,090	412	—	—
Books	1,495	834	70	—
Ginger, preserved	534	727	2,110	—
Dyes	—	95	—	—
Drugs	2,519	—	—	—
Coffee	732	2,000	—	—
Pepper	—	4,311	—	—
Spices	3,982	3,149	—	550
Glass beads	228	30	—	—
Coloured glass panes	—	220	—	—
Miscellaneous	605	5,470	1,532	—
Total	123,328	142,099	20,654	15,759

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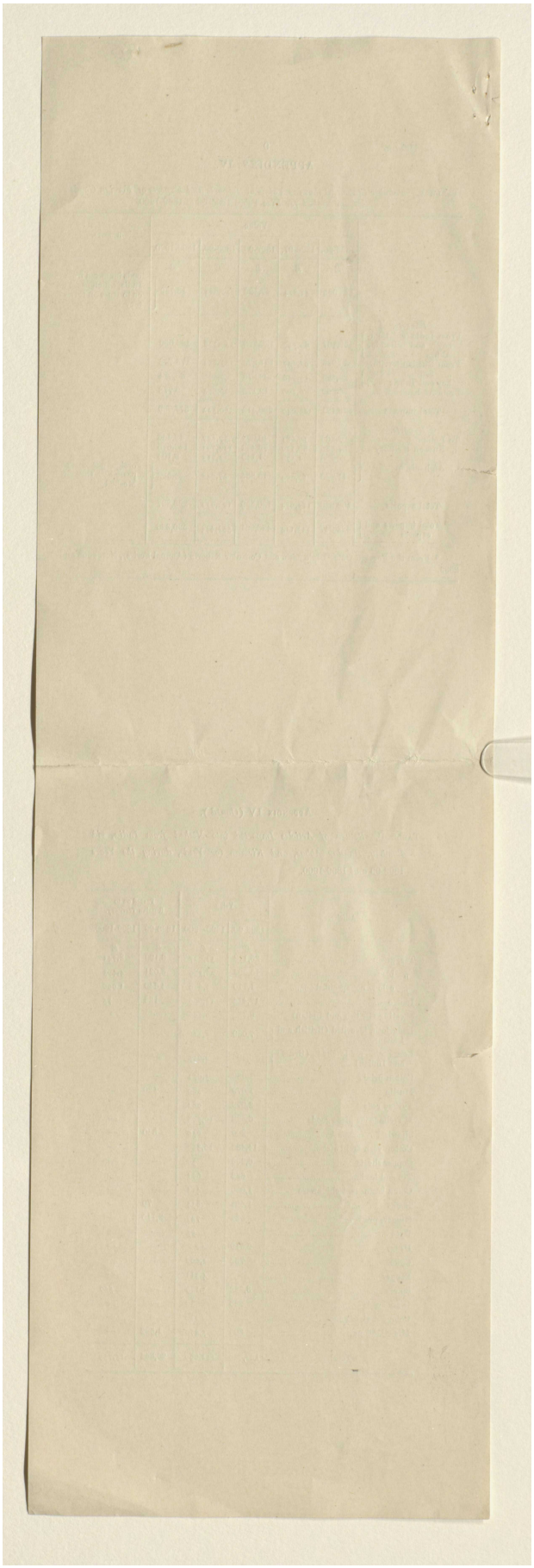

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APPENDIX IV (*Contd.*).

TABLE C.—*Return of Articles Imported into Meshed from Russia during the Years* 1898-99 *and* 1899-1900.

Articles.	Value. 1898-99.	Value. 1899-1900.
	£	£
Sugar, loaf	33,673	56,969
,, crystallised	24,291	19,064
Candles	2,583	3,524
Kerosene oil	3,492	9,393
Piece-goods (including broadcloth and cotton prints)	59,414	46,987
Iron, iron goods, nails, &c.	7,233	5,814
Steel	1,016	292
Brass, brassware, and brass wire	2,562	3,055
Glass and chinaware	8,938	13,276
Gold lace, &c.	410	180
Paper	2,989	2,116
Glass panes and mirrors	502	884
Lead and tin	210	1,944
Sewing machines	262	616
Vitriol	1,682	592
Cochineal	100	18
Cutlery, haberdashery and fancy goods, &c.	918	1,117
Matches	1,036	4,257
Cotton yarn	48	80
Sack cloth	2,822	1,072
Cigarettes and tobacco	2,100	590
Chairs	200	260
Wooden spoons	49	—
Miscellaneous	2,110	1,405
Tea	800	2,200
Sulphur	—	94
Trays	256	—
Fish	10	—
Total	159,239	175,818
Goods imported from Merv and Bukhara—		
Carpets	510	1,210
Camel hair cloth	400	—
Hides	604	276
Skins	1,610	212
Leather	100	424
Silk, piece	—	70
Pumpkin seeds	109	60
Horse clothing	112	287
Saddlery	146	320
Miscellaneous	492	30
Total	4,083	2,889
Grand total	163,322	178,707

APPENDIX IV (*Contd.*).

TABLE D.—*Return of Articles Exported from Meshed to India (to Yezd, Kirman, and Bandar Abbas) during the Years ending* 1898-99 *and* 1899-1900.

Articles.	Value. 1898-99.	Value. 1899-1900.
	£	£
Pistachios	882	561
Silk, piece-goods	1,520	2,200
Almonds	12	185
Opium	33,745	35,400
Total	36,159	38,346
Exported from Meshed to India *viâ* Sistan and Quetta—		
Silk, piece-goods	560	3,200
Horses	580	680
Almonds	—	240
Pistachios	208	—
Wool	50	—
Total	1,398	4,120
Grand total	37,557	42,466

TABLE E.—*Return of Articles Exported from Meshed to Russian Territory during the Years* 1898-99 *and* 1899-1900.

Articles.	Value. 1898-99.	Value. 1899-1900.
	£	£
Wool	26,382	22,565
Cotton	1,322	320
Almonds	231	71
Fresh and dried fruits	1,145	1,913
Tobacco	346	496
Shawls	20,810	16,284
Carpets	11,265	22,610
Skins	29,630	34,208
Silk, piece-goods	1,340	—
Leather	3,317	18,144
Country cloths and prints	18,816	10,143
Barak	—	500
Postins	212	360
Socks	50	120
Country shoes	—	20
Miscellaneous	10,272	12,006
Horse-shoes	—	88
Sugar, candied	—	7,621
Potatoes	—	106
Total	124,792	147,575

Note.—5 tumans = 1*l.* sterling.

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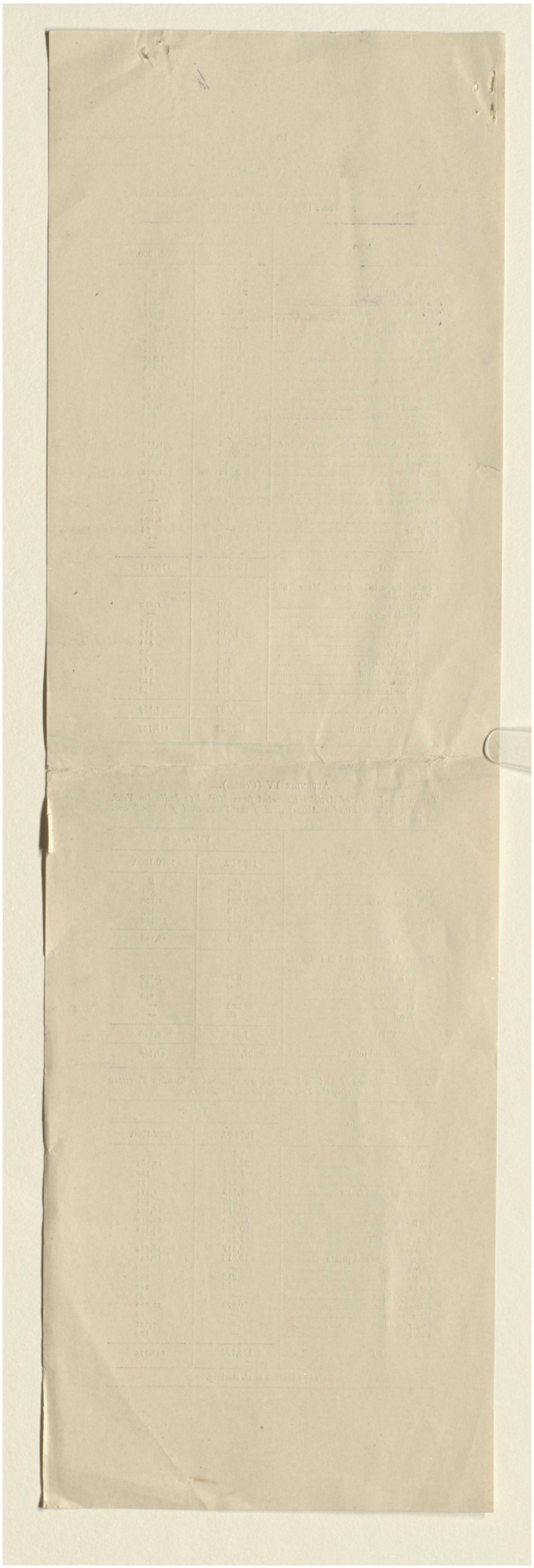

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RUSSIA'S LATEST COUP IN PERSIA.—Before the Germans obtained from Turkey the concession to extend the Anatolian Railway *viâ* Baghdad and Busrah to the Persian Gulf, the *Novoye Vremya* wrote: "It is absolutely necessary for Russia to convince Germany, whose scheme of development in Asia Minor, and especially in Mesopotamia, seriously threatens Russian interests, that Russia will not tolerate in these countries any modification of the *status quo*, nor the foundation of any international enterprises, and more particularly railway undertaking." The alarm was sounded somewhat late in the day, however, and the concession to the German syndicate became an accomplished fact. Russian diplomacy does not sit with folded hands after a rebuff of this kind, and the arrangement just concluded between the Russian Bank and the Shah's Government is the direct countermove. To obtain entire control of Persian finance on consideration of a loan of 22½ million roubles—say 3½ million sterling—is not a bad stroke of business even for the astute agents of the Czar. This is virtually what the new bargain amounts to. The Persian Government agrees, apparently for all time, to incur no fresh financial obligations with any foreign Power, while the 5 per cent due on the loan from the Russian Bank is no doubt accompanied by some pledge regarding the appropriation of the Persian revenues. In other words, the new arrangement ties Persian finance hand and foot. And with the control of the purse must inevitably go the control of the policy, so far as that has not already been transferred. The process of subjection which began with the cession of Baku and Darbend to Peter the Great in 1722, is now complete. For all that Persia herself can effect, or means to attempt, the dominions of the Shah are for all practical purposes a satrapy of Russia just as plainly as Egypt is a satrapy of England. The unequal struggle maintained through two centuries has ended on Persia's side by the "King of Kings" throwing up the sponge. The final knock-out has been given sooner than was intended by way of warning to the Germans whose appearance in Asia Minor and Mesopotamia raised an outcry in St. Petersburg; but if nobody came to the rescue, the result was certain to be the same a few years since.

But Anglo-Indian readers need not be told that the latest Russian *coup* has a vastly greater interest for England and for India than for the German capitalists whose railway schemes have undoubtedly hastened its achievement. Sir John Malcolm, writing to the Duke of Wellington after the defeat of Persia by Russia in 1826, said: "We have cast away the means of preventing this crisis, and I perceive nothing but an anxiety to get rid of the subject, from a persuasion, I suppose, that it has no importance but in the brains of some Asiatic politicians." Some years previously Malcolm had written to the Russian Count Woronzoff, in regard to the political distractions to which Persia was becoming a prey, that "amidst these disputes both your country and mine may be led further than is good for the interests of either. I do not think it probable they will immediately come into any serious collision; but if care is not taken, the seeds of future misunderstanding will be laid, and this can only be avoided by an open and unreserved understanding of each other's plans, which I fear seldom takes place between courts, though the present is a case in which the usual formulas of mystery and humbug might be dispensed with to the great advantage of both parties." Three quarters of a century have passed in the course of which many "Asiatic politicians" have from time to time repeated Malcolm's warning; but British statesmen for the most part have continued to evince that anxiety to "get rid of the subject" of which Malcolm complained. British policy in Persia has consequently been from start to finish "weak in its conception and calamitous in its results," to use the words of the present Viceroy of India. There have been grumblings and protestations, diplomatic or Parliamentary, whenever Russia has advanced in northern Persia or Central Asia, but we are not one step nearer that free and unreserved understanding as to the irreducible minimum of British interests without which these grumblings and protestations must appear to Russians as ridiculous as they are unreasonable. The Muscat incident last year—when France threw up the Russian *ballon d'essai*—and still more the arrangement by which Persia has bartered her financial independence for three millions and a half sterling, show that we have now reached a point when this churlish and feeble policy must be abandoned. The new agreement gives Russia present control of the finances, and ultimate control of the commercial and railway policy of Persia: it is the business of British statesmen to come to a clear and distinct opinion how far that control can be exercised without prejudice to British interests, and of British diplomacy to inform Russia accordingly. If a "free and unreserved understanding" on these lines results, so much the better: but in any case the British Government ought to be prepared for the opposite contingency.

What then is the irreducible minimum which the British statesman is bound to safeguard on the side of Persia? Mr. Curzon's opinion in 1892 was as follows: "I should regard the concession of a port upon the Persian Gulf to Russia by any Power as a deliberate insult to Great Britain, as a wanton rupture of the *status quo*, and as an intentional provocation to war: and I should impeach the British Minister who was guilty of acquiescing in such a surrender as a traitor to his country. . . . The preservation, so far as is still possible, of the integrity of Persia must be registered as a cardinal precept of our Imperial creed. . . Above all, we may make it certain that, whatever destiny befall her in the north, in regions beyond the sphere of our possible interference, Persia shall remain inviolable in the centre and south and be able to say to the invader 'Thus far and no further.' British ascendancy, commercial and political, in the southern zone, is the only means by which this aim can be secured. A line can be drawn across Persia from Seistan on the east, *viâ* Kerman and Yezd, to Ispahan, and prolonged westward to Burujird, Hamadan and Kermanshah, south of which no hostile political influence should be tolerated." And among the reasons for this declaration of policy Mr. Curzon enumerated "the safety of India, which is the first duty of Great Britain, the *pax Britannica* that now reigns in the Southern Seas in consequence of her temperate control, the sacrifices that have been made by her in pursuance of that end, the utter absence of any Russian interests for thousands of miles, and the perfect ability of Persia in these parts to look after herself." There is no reason to suppose that the Viceroy of India in 1900 thinks differently on these points from Mr. Curzon in 1892, and to ninety-nine Englishmen out of a hundred it has probably never occurred that British interests in Persia, as thus stated, could ever be seriously endangered. Yet, if we inquire what steps are being taken to ensure their preservation, we shall find an answer difficult in face of such an agreement as the Russian Bank and the Persian Government have now concluded. Mr. Curzon in 1892 was struck with what seemed to be a revival of British influence at Teheran, and he "found the control exercised by Russia, in spite of her tremendous physical superiority, to be by no means so great as I had been led to believe. . . . The Shah, if properly backed up, could even return a decided No to his good friend the Czar." Accordingly Mr. Curzon wrote as if British ascendancy in southern and central Persia could be maintained merely by political influence at Teheran. England, he says, "will not require to move a soldier; she need never fire a gun. Geok Tepes and Panjdehs have never been to our taste; and any future triumphs that we may gain in Persia will be won, not by powder and shot, not by bluster and bullying, not even by bribes: but by the amicable stress of common interests, working in the direction of industrial development and domestic reform." The "amicable stress of common interests" has now evolved a bargain which prevents Persia from ever accepting a penny of British money for the development of the Persian provinces within which our ascendancy is deemed essential. Either the revival of British influence which Mr. Curzon seemed to notice at Teheran ten years ago, was a mere flash in the pan, or he was deceived. It is absolutely certain that if the British representative cannot induce the Shah to refuse his signature to a document binding him never to incur any obligations with any Power except Russia, we cannot trust his diplomatic influence to preserve British ascendancy in central or southern Persia. Of course Russia seized a most opportune moment to press her wishes on the Teheran Government, England's armies are just at present busily engaged in South Africa, and no doubt the reverses they have sustained were not minimised when the Russian Minister talked matters over with the Shah. The "demonstration in front" also in the shape of the despatch of troops to Kushk was well timed, and, as the reports from Meshed showed, the numbers of this "experimental mobilisation" were not lessened in course of transmission to Teheran. But this is the way of Russian diplomacy, and it would be as ridiculous to affect surprise as it would be to express indignation. What is worth doing is to try to persuade the British Government and the British public to face the facts and to understand what they imply.

The Russification of Northern Persia is proceeding rapidly, but according to the most competent observers it has not gone far enough to satisfy Russian diplomatists that the time is ripe for action further south. Until the Russian trader is more firmly established in the north, the linking up of the Persian Gulf with Teheran by means of a railway might help his rivals more than him. Thus for the moment Russia would prefer to rest, but of her resolve to reach the Indian Ocean sooner or later few seem to have any doubt. Meanwhile it is necessary that the interference of anybody else should be blocked, and the main object of the new agreement is to provide this bar. If nothing is done by England, the way will be carefully and quietly prepared, and the announcement of a concession to Russia to construct a line to the Persian Gulf will be the next thing we hear of. The issues such an enterprise raises are very clearly stated in a recent number of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* by Mr. R. Popham Lobb: "The absorption of Persia by Russia means firstly the exposure of India to attack on her weakest side; secondly, in the light of Russia's present fiscal policy, the exclusion of her trade from a market of growing importance: and lastly, the establishment of a great naval Power in a position commanding and threatening the great highway of our Eastern trade. . . . Did it suit her, and supposing she were in a condition to do so, what is there to prevent Russia from occupying the whole of Persia to-morrow up to within range of the guns of our fleet? . . . Ships will not prevent a continental Power from marching across Persia, although they render it possible for us to throw troops into the country, and troops, *in sufficient numbers*, can prevent such a contingency. . . . As the natural desire of Russia to expand can only be satisfied at the expense of the *status quo*, which we consider to be essential to our interests, we must make up our minds whether those interests are worth fighting for, or whether we shall abandon such of them as may be threatened and invaded by Russia, and ultimately confine our attention to India." This is the whole matter in a nutshell. England can have no objection to Russian commerce having a free outlet on the Persian Gulf on the same terms as the commerce of other nations: what she has to determine is whether Russia is to be permitted to gain control of the commerce of the Gulf in the interests of her own traders, to outflank India by south-eastern Persia, and to establish another Port Arthur or Batoum on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The latest *coup* at Teheran warns, or ought to warn British statesmen, that the time when it will be possible to make up their minds to any purpose on these points is rapidly running out.

THE FOOTBALL FIELD.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, 12TH JANUARY.

During the past few weeks things have brightened up considerably. We are more than half-way through the season, and, with the concluding stages of the various contests before us, there is plenty to interest the enthusiast in both codes. So far the most important match of the season has been the first of the Rugby Internationals—England *versus* Wales—played last Saturday at Gloucester; this being the first time in the history of football that an international engagement has been fought out in the West country. As was generally anticipated, Wales won pretty easily, by two goals from tries and one penalty goal, to one try, or 13 points to 3. There was not so much difference between the merits of the rival sides as the score would indicate; but while neither fifteen was so good as many seen of recent years the visitors were undoubtedly the better lot, and deserved to win. England has thus begun badly, and will have to struggle hard indeed to avoid a repetition of last season's fiascos. At present it appears more than likely that Scotland and Ireland will beat us easily, as they did last year. Explain it how we may, the stubborn fact remains that English Rugby football is still under the cloud which obscured it twelve months ago. Much may happen before the spring, and it is quite possible we may do better at the end of the winter than we have done at the start. In any case there is no cause for despondency, for these periods of incapacity come occasionally to every side, however great.

The North and South match at Birkenhead, which afforded the selection committee a means of choosing the English team, clearly indicated that the bulk of the men for the international game must come from the North; but it was not the easiest matter in the world to get a satisfactory side together, and to make things worse there were several disappointments. Schwarz of the Richmond half, was damaged, and at the last moment injury or illness deprived us of three of the best men chosen, G. C. Robinson, the Northumbrian three-quarter, C. E. Allen, of Lancashire, and J. Daniell, the brilliant Cambridge forward. The absence of the Cantab was a serious misfortune, for to-day he is perhaps the finest scrummager in the country. These vacancies left room for T. Nicholson of Cheshire, who took Robinson's place at three-quarter, and, oddly enough, gained England's solitary try; while F. J. Bell, of Northumberland, and J. Jarman, Gloucestershire, came out for Daniell and Allen. The teams that went into the field were constituted thus—

ENGLAND.—"H. T. Gamlin (Somerset), full-back; S. F. Cooper (Devon), G. Gordon Smith (Blackheath), A. Brettargh (Yorkshire), and T. Nicholson (Cheshire), three-quarter backs; "R. H. Cattell (Midland Counties) (captain), and G. Marsden (Yorkshire), half-backs; F. J. Bell (Northumberland), R. W. Bell (Northumberland and Cambridge University), W. Cobby (Yorkshire), A. Cockerham (Yorkshire), J. Jarman (Gloucestershire), S. Reynold (Richmond), C. T. Scott (Cambridge University), and J. Baxter (Cheshire)-forwards.

WALES.—"W. J. Bancroft (Swansea) (captain), full-back; "W. Llewellyn (Llwynypia), D. Rees (Swansea), G. Davies (Swansea), and W. Trew (Swansea), three-quarter backs; L. A. Phillips (Newport), and "G. L. Lloyd (Newport), half-backs; "R. Hellings (Llwynypia), "A. Brice (Aberavon), "G. Boots (Newport), "E. Millar (Mountain Ash), R. Thomas (Swansea), "J. Hodges (Newport), "J. Blake (Cardiff), and W. H. Williams (Pontymister), forwards.

By the asterisks, denoting former Internationals, it will be seen that England had but two old choices, Gamlin and Cattell, while Wales had no fewer than nine, headed by that real veteran, Bancroft. This was his 27th international match. There is little need to describe the play at any great length, for its points may be summed up in a sentence. The English forwards, on whom we had counted to make up for whatever deficiencies there might be outside the scrummage, found themselves opposed to a pack as strong as themselves, far better and cleverer indeed than we had expected; while at half and at three-quarter we were for the most part quite outclassed. Perhaps it may not unfairly be said that while most of the Englishmen seemed off-colour, the Welshmen, one and all, played just a little above their form. Gamlin, at back, was not himself at all, nor did Gordon-Smith and Cooper shine at three-quarter, most of the work, both defensive and offensive, falling on the other pair, Nicholson and Brettargh. Cattell, the parson captain, scarcely justified his selection, which, by the way, was somewhat severely criticised, but his partner, Marsden, of Yorkshire, showed plenty of resource, and indeed played as soundly as anyone on the field. The forwards, as I have said, were fairly good, but considering how much was expected of them, their non-success came as a surprise and a disappointment. The Welsh three-quarter line was superb. It had been feared that Gwyn Nicholls who was out of form, having only just arrived from Australia, could ill be spared, but D. Rees of Swansea filled the gap in admirable fashion, so that there was no flaw anywhere. This was Wales's fifth win in 17 matches. England has been victorious on eleven occasions, and one game—that at Llanelly in 1887—was drawn. When the fixture was instituted in 1880 England proved overwhelmingly strong, scoring eight goals and five tries to *nil*. The teams did not meet in 1881 or 1882; but in 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886 England was always too good. The famous dispute prevented play in 1888 and 1889. In 1890, at Dewsbury, Wales broke the spell of ill-luck, and just managed to win by one try to *nil*, and since then neither country has shown any very marked superiority—that is, not for more than one or two seasons at a time. From 1891 to this present year there have been ten matches of which England has won six and Wales four, but it must not be forgotten that of the last four engagements Wales has been victorious in three. Wales's next International is fixed for the 27th instant; when England's conquerors will meet Scotland. The Welsh fifteen will then include Gwyn Nicholls, but according to all appearance they will have to struggle hard for victory, the Scots being extremely formidable this season. The Fettesian-Loretonians of themselves can put a team of almost international strength into the field. All who saw them defeat Richmond and Blackheath a week or two since were astonished at their power.

Sheffield United still maintain their lead in the first division of the Association League, and are as yet unbeaten. Their only defeat this season was sustained a week or two ago in a "friendly" match with their old town rivals, Sheffield Wednesday; so their record is one of exceptional brilliancy. There is a long way to travel yet before the end of the season, and their supporters would do well to restrain their shouts until the team is fairly out of the wood; for Aston Villa is always dangerous, and either Wolverhampton Wanderers or Sunderland may still have a word to say in the matter. One of the best League games played recently was that between the two great Birmingham clubs Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion. The Villa's chances were not thought to be particularly rosy as just before they had been beaten by Bury, and had moreover gone down more than once this winter before the West Bromwich men. However, they braced themselves for the big engagement, and, playing quite brilliantly,

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The Pioneer.

New Series
VOL. CXXI

ALLAHABAD:—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1900

NO. 12125

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

[Reuter's Press Messages.]

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

THE PRESS ON MR. WYNDHAM'S SPEECH.

London, *2nd February*.

The press regards Mr. Wyndham's defence as the most effective yet delivered, and praises his candid recognition of mistakes made in the past and the determination to retrieve them.

THE WAR.

RECONNAISSANCE BY LORD DUNDONALD.

FURTHER CASUALTIES AT SPION KOP.

RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Reuter, wiring from Spearman's Camp on the 31th, says Lord Dundonald reconnoitred to-day towards Hongerspoort, above Trichardt's Drift. None of the enemy were seen.

Another addition been made to the wounded at Spion Kop of 34, including Captain J. Armstrong, of the York and Lancasters.

The transports *Pekin* and *Lawada* have arrived at Capetown.

Later.

Captain Elmslie of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who was wounded at Spionkop, is a prisoner.

The transport *Urlana* has arrived at Algoa Bay.

Captain Congreve, Lieutenant Roberts, Captain Reed and Corporal Nurse have been gazetted for Victoria Crosses, besides nineteen artillerymen for Distinguished Service medals: also numerous promotions to fill vacancies.

☞ FOR INDIAN TELEGRAMS SEE PAGE 4.

Pierre Loti after a short visit to Calcutta has left for Rangoon.

The Government of India offices will close in Calcutta on March 31st, reopening in Simla on April 2nd.

Official news has reached India of the death from enteric of Lieutenant Stapleton Cotton, 19th Hussars, at Ladysmith.

News from Kabul, dated January 20th, reported a normal state of affairs there. The Amir was transacting State business in his usual energetic manner.

Captain Daly, Deputy Secretary, Foreign Department, will take one month's privilege leave from the end of February; Mr. E. Colvin officiating for him.

The export of Indian tea to England continues to be very large: 4,700,000 lbs. having passed the Customs House in Calcutta during the second half of January.

Reports from several districts of Bengal show that after the recent Eed ceremonies prayers were offered up in the mosques for the success of British arms in South Africa.

The famine report for last week shows that the total number of persons being relieved just exceeds 3½ millions, the increase being mainly in the Rajputana States and Bombay. There was a decrease of several thousand in the Central Provinces.

The Bishop of Calcutta will start on tour on the 10th instant: His Lordship's dates being Jamalpore 20th; Gya, 21st; Dinapore, 22nd; Bankipur, 23rd; Mozufferpore 24th, 25th; Durbanga, 27th; Begum Sarai, March 1st; Calcutta, 3rd.

The effect of the drought in the Bombay Presidency is shown by the estimated yield of the groundnut crop, which is likely to be only one-eighth of last year's outturn. In Madras also it is probable that the crop will be little more than three-fourths of a normal yield from the area sown.

During the past official year there were 716,000 youths and 124,000 girls under instruction in the Madras Presidency. Of these 3,500 were attending colleges, and out of 700 who presented themselves for the B. A. Examination 400 were successful. The total cost of education was 57 lakhs, of which 30 lakhs were contributed from Government Provincial Funds. Fifteen per cent of the total expenditure was on collegiate or higher education and 48 per cent on primary or lower education.

There are seven teams this year to compete for the Inter-regimental Polo Tournament, including two infantry regiments, the South Wales Borderers and the Rifle Brigade, and one Native cavalry, the Central India Horse. The other teams are the 4th Hussars (last year's winners), the 3rd Hussars, the 4th Dragoon Guards and the 15th Hussars. After the late rain the ground is reported to be in excellent condition, and as the prospects of the races also are good, there is sure to be a large gathering at Meerut on the 19th, when the Tournament opens.

The crop and weather report for the week ended the 30th January shows how greatly the United Provinces have benefited by the spell of wet weather that has prevailed during the second half of the month. In the districts where the spring harvest prospects were good before they are now excellent: and in the tracts where it was too late to hope for a good outturn, such as Agra, Mutra and bits of Bundelkund, the rain has improved the situation by refreshing the standing crops and bringing on the grass. The only set off to the benefits of the weather was the heavy hailstorm of the 23rd January. This seems to have been most severe over the eastern parts of the province, while it was also felt in the districts round Allahabad. The most serious of its effects has been the damage done to the poppy crop, but on the whole the mischief is trifling compared to what a continuance of the drought would have been. With a fine bright February, of which there seems every prospect, the forthcoming harvest should be fully up to the average.

Colonel Lumsden's Horse will be divided into two companies, the officers being as follows: Commandant Colonel Lumsden; Second-in-Command Lieutenant-Colonel Showers, Assam Valley Light Horse; Adjutant Captain Taylor, 14th Bengal Lancers. "A." Company, which will be composed of Volunteers from the Behar, Assam Valley, Oudh and Punjab Corps of Light Horse, with a Maxim gun detachment from the East Indian Railway Volunteers, will have the following staff of officers: Captain Beresford, 3rd Sikhs; Captain J. B. Rutherford and Lieutenant C. E. Crane of the Behar Light Horse; Lieutenant D. Neville of the Assam Valley Light Horse and 2nd-Lieutenant Holmes of the E. I. R. Volunteers. "B." Company will be composed of Volunteers from the Surma Valley and Calcutta Light Horse, the Cachar and Mysore Rifles and various other corps. The officers will be Captain Noblett, Royal Irish Rifles, Captain Chauney and Lieutenant Sidey of the Surma Valley Light Horse, Lieutenant H. O. Pugh of the Calcutta Light Horse and Lieutenant W. Clifford of the Coorg and Mysore Rifles.

A Home technical journal, carried away by those reports as to the extreme accuracy of our artillery fire in South Africa to which we have already more than once referred, laments that, at a time when actual service conditions are showing what splendid fuzes we possess, there should be any talk of trying to get out a better and more efficient fuze for the horse and field artillery in particular and the remainder of the artillery arm in general. But the enthusiastic newspaper reports which make out that every shell burst exactly in the right place are obviously absurdly over-coloured, and the chances are that in due course there will be plenty of complaints regarding the occasional freaks of time fuzes. The fact is that until we can get rid of the principle on which these fuzes are at present made, there is little hope of ever getting a really satisfactory fuze. For the ring of composition, the burning of which regulates the burst of the shell, is extremely sensitive to varying weather conditions, and it is quite impossible ever to hope for any real uniformity of burning until this composition is improved out of existence. One of the most promising time fuzes is the mechanical one, a fuze actuated by clockwork. A considerable fortune awaits the inventor of a satisfactory fuze of this description. But even if the present fuzes were entirely satisfactory in other respects, there is one respect in which they have proved defective in the late fighting. The maximum range for which they can be used is only, under normal circumstances, some 3,300 yards. Now the accounts of the fighting which has taken place show that again and again our field batteries have had to open fire at ranges of 4,000 and 4,500 yards. Consequently they must have used at these long ranges percussion shrapnel, whereby more than half the probable man-killing power of the shell is wasted. Whether we are to have a mechanical fuze or not, one thing is certain—the new fuze should be capable of being used at ranges up to 5,000 yards.

The modifications made in the Press Messages Bill by the Select Committee should go far to meet all the objections which have been raised by native journalists regarding the reproduction of Reuter's messages. The position which these opponents of the measure originally took up was a curious one. Thus the Bombay Presidency Association, in its memorial to the Government of India, stated that "most of the native papers are not concerned in publishing foreign news at the earliest possible moment;" and yet we have noticed *ad misericordiam* appeals made to Government to save native daily newspapers from the extinction which it is alleged would overtake them if they were hindered from copying Reuter's telegrams. The recommendations of the Select Committee seem well adapted to meet the requirements of the case: they have provided that in all large towns where several newspapers are published the time-limit during which copyright will run shall be reduced to 18 hours. Now in all these towns the English dailies issue "Extras," *i. e.*, the foreign telegrams supplied by Reuter's Agency are published as they are received. The result is that in Calcutta and Bombay, during the present exciting period, war news is sent out from 8 a. m. until 10 or 11 p. m. Now supposing that a native paper is published at 6 a. m., the usual time, it will be free to reproduce all telegrams published up to noon on the previous day. As matters now stand it has to wait 24 hours before reproducing telegrams that have arrived during the night, so that it will really only lose the few messages that come in the afternoon and evening. Considering that it pays Rs 3 per month only for the "Extras" instead of a full subscription to Reuter's Company, it can have no possible grievance under the new system. Enterprising journals such as the *Bengalee* will of course subscribe to Reuter, and they will certainly reap the advantage to which they are justly entitled. Again, an outcry has been raised that comment upon published news was to be rendered impossible; that a dangerous or mischievous rumour, conveyed in a foreign telegram, could not be contradicted for 36 hours. This ground of complaint, whatever it may be worth, has likewise been removed by the Select Committee. As a matter of fact the legislation was never intended to do more than to prevent the systematic purloining of expensive foreign telegrams, and if this object can be secured the public will benefit at the same time that private enterprise in the supply of news is safeguarded. It may be noted that some of the leading London papers are now at the pains to copyright their war telegrams both as regards Great Britain and the United States: but the procedure is a troublesome one, and it is only a temporary makeshift pending the passing of the new Copyright Bill now before the House of Lords in which the 18 hours' limit for foreign telegrams has been introduced. Every effort will be made, we understand, to get this measure passed at an early date as the war has revealed both to the newspapers and the public the necessity for protection.

Somebody has been tattling to the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*—ordinarily a very level-headed person and a painstaking hunter of paragraphs—regarding the opinion in which Lord Curzon is held among experienced Anglo-Indians. The general drift is that the present Viceroy is extraordinarily able, extraordinarily eloquent, extraordinarily energetic, *but* he attempts too much—what Viceroy who rises to the noble ambitions of the office has done otherwise?—and in particular "may high officials do not hesitate to say that the Viceroy ran *amok* in the scandal connected with the outrage by a few of the men of the West Kent Regiment in Rangoon." Now, if there is one instance where the vigilance of Lord Curzon had the most beneficial effects, and where his intervention, in a manner which ought not to have been necessary, was thoroughly justified by results, it was this abominable Rangoon case. All the "high officials," who in ordinary course might have been expected to see justice done, went to sleep, and but for the active intervention of the Government of India not only would there have been a failure of justice but the failure would have passed uncensured, and the mercenaries of the vernacular press, who live by throwing mud at the Government, would have had such a windfall of gutter ammunition as had not come their way for half a century. Yet the Viceroy is said to have run *amok*. Why? "Besides inditing a scathing minute against the whole regiment and banishing innocent and guilty alike to Aden, Lord Curzon," we are told, "has pressed the military authorities at home to mete out condign punishment to the officers who did their best in a clumsy kind of way to investigate the facts of the outrage. In addition, various civil officials in Burmah are punished, censured, and what not; and I am told the Viceroy is even boiling over with indignation at the judge who tried the case, and under whose directions the jury acquitted the whole of the accused. The judge refused to admit evidence of the statements made by the prisoners to their officers, on the ground that they were not voluntary as that word is interpreted in such cases by lawyers, and thus the whole case fell to the ground for want of evidence. As to the correctness of the ruling of the judge no English or Indian lawyer who has considered the case has a moment's doubt." As a matter of fact it was the Commander-in-Chief in India who made the recommendations which were sent home regarding the proper punishment of the military officers who are said to have "done their best in a clumsy kind of a way." The Viceroy merely accepted these recommendations. And to say that the military officers did their best even in a clumsy way is merely a clumsy attempt to whitewash a scandal. What was perhaps the most disgraceful occurrence in the annals of the British army did not prevent the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant of the regiment concerned from taking leave before the most obvious and ordinary means had been taken to bring the culprits to book: and while the columns of the Rangoon press were full of the matter, the Officer Commanding the District took no steps to satisfy himself that the regimental authorities were doing their duty. The *Manchester Guardian's* informant speaks of the hardship of punishing a whole regiment for the sins of "a few." It is well known that some thirty or forty actually took part in the outrage: many others looked on: and yet the men as a corps refused to assist in bringing these brutes to justice. And yet the regiment is said to have been hardly treated because it was sent to Aden. As to the police, they were only a shade better, if better at all, than the regimental authorities. They knew within a day or two of the occurrence that the outrage was the work not of one but of many, and yet for weeks they were content to confine their efforts to accumulating evidence against Private Horrocks, who, as it turned out, was not one of the chief culprits at all. Had they secured the conviction of Horrocks, it is tolerably clear that the police would have considered their duty had been done. It is news also to learn that every lawyer both in India and England is agreed that the Recorder's view of what constitutes "inducement" under the law of evidence was correct. As it happens, the result was not affected, because all the men whose evidence was ruled out under the Recorder's decision, would have pleaded that the woman gave her consent: but that the decision is approved by every lawyer in India, is quite contrary to the fact. There is even less room for doubt about the Cantonment Magistrate's law. He decided that statements made before a Military Court of Inquiry were not privileged, but the pertinent sections of the Army Act are absolutely clear on the point. Altogether, if ever there was a case where censure was merited, it was this Rangoon case, and the Viceroy's action in the matter is entirely to His Excellency's credit.

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1. Persia and Mesopotamia.

Beech Hurst,
Lingfield.

13th August 1903.

Dear Mr. Scot Keltie,

I am anxious to bring before the R. G. S. for consideration during the next session, the claims of the countries adjoining our Indian territory, which may be considered as coming under the sphere of influence of our Oriental Empire.

They include Persia and the Valley of the Euphrates, with the area known as Mesopotamia. These territories are bound together in close connection, as being of immense importance to us commercially, and they may not be considered Geographically apart, if we remember the civilizing influence we must exert in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf.

I do not know what recent information regarding them the R.G.S. may possess, but I have no hesitation in saying that in Modern Atlases they have been neglected, in comparison with other countries in Asia.

Might not some text-book describing their areas topographically be produced, with the authority of the R.G.S; this would lead to their cartography receiving attention.

Sir Thos. Holdich is so great an authority on such matters that I am sure he will be ready to indicate what steps can be taken, but I would venture to impress upon the Society the importance of dealing, as soon as possible, with the subject.

Yours sincerely

Sd. E.J.Chapman.

J. Scot Keltie Esq.,
Secretary R.G.S.

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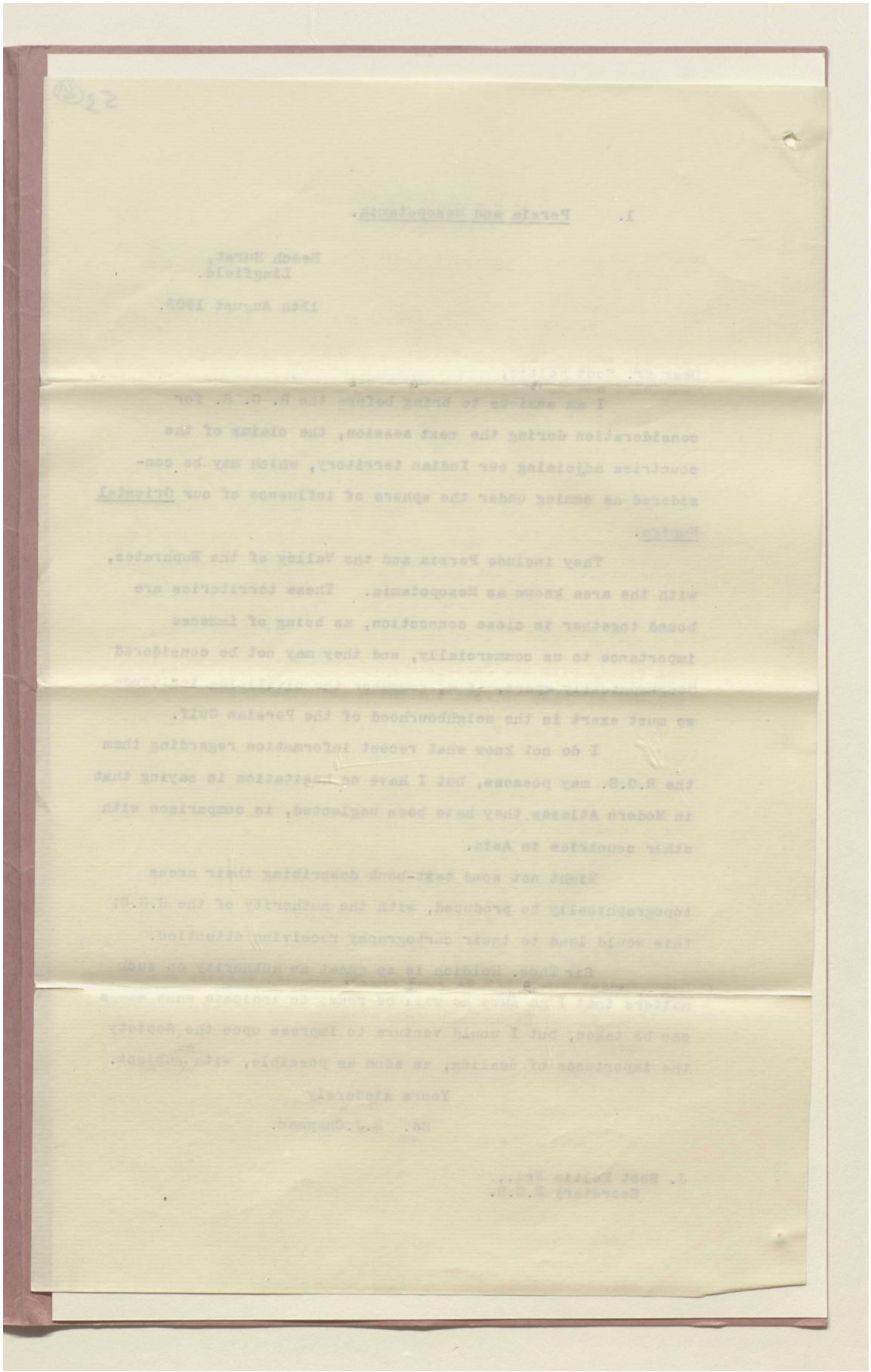

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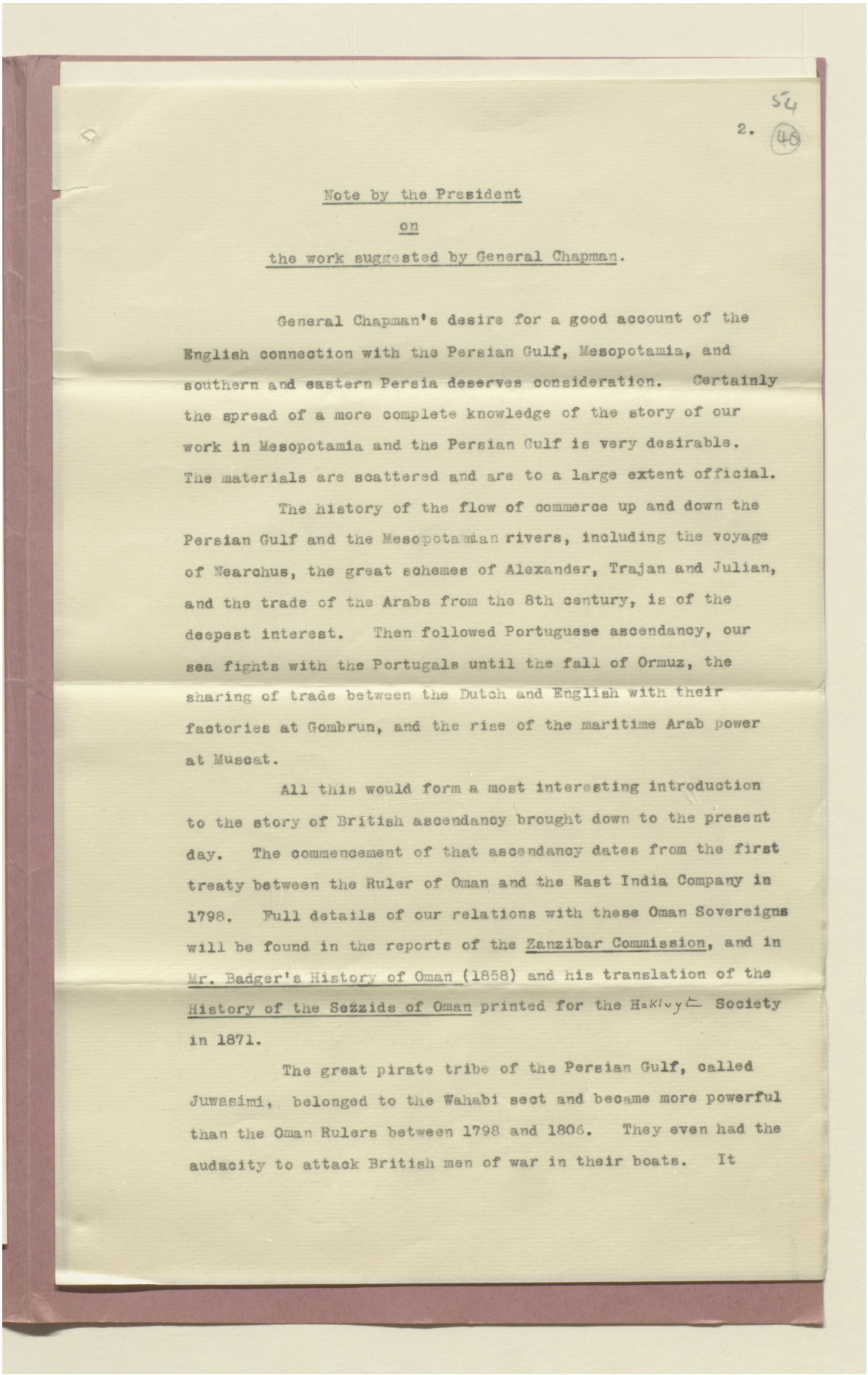

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Note by the President

on

the work suggested by General Chapman.

General Chapman's desire for a good account of the English connection with the Persian Gulf, Mesopotamia, and southern and eastern Persia deserves consideration. Certainly the spread of a more complete knowledge of the story of our work in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf is very desirable. The materials are scattered and are to a large extent official.

The history of the flow of commerce up and down the Persian Gulf and the Mesopotamian rivers, including the voyage of Nearchus, the great schemes of Alexander, Trajan and Julian, and the trade of the Arabs from the 8th century, is of the deepest interest. Then followed Portuguese ascendancy, our sea fights with the Portugals until the fall of Ormuz, the sharing of trade between the Dutch and English with their factories at Gombrun, and the rise of the maritime Arab power at Muscat.

All this would form a most interesting introduction to the story of British ascendancy brought down to the present day. The commencement of that ascendancy dates from the first treaty between the Ruler of Oman and the East India Company in 1798. Full details of our relations with these Oman Sovereigns will be found in the reports of the Zanzibar Commission, and in Mr. Badger's History of Oman (1858) and his translation of the History of the Seyyids of Oman printed for the Hakluyt Society in 1871.

The great pirate tribe of the Persian Gulf, called Juwasimi, belonged to the Wahabi sect and became more powerful than the Oman Rulers between 1798 and 1806. They even had the audacity to attack British men of war in their boats. It

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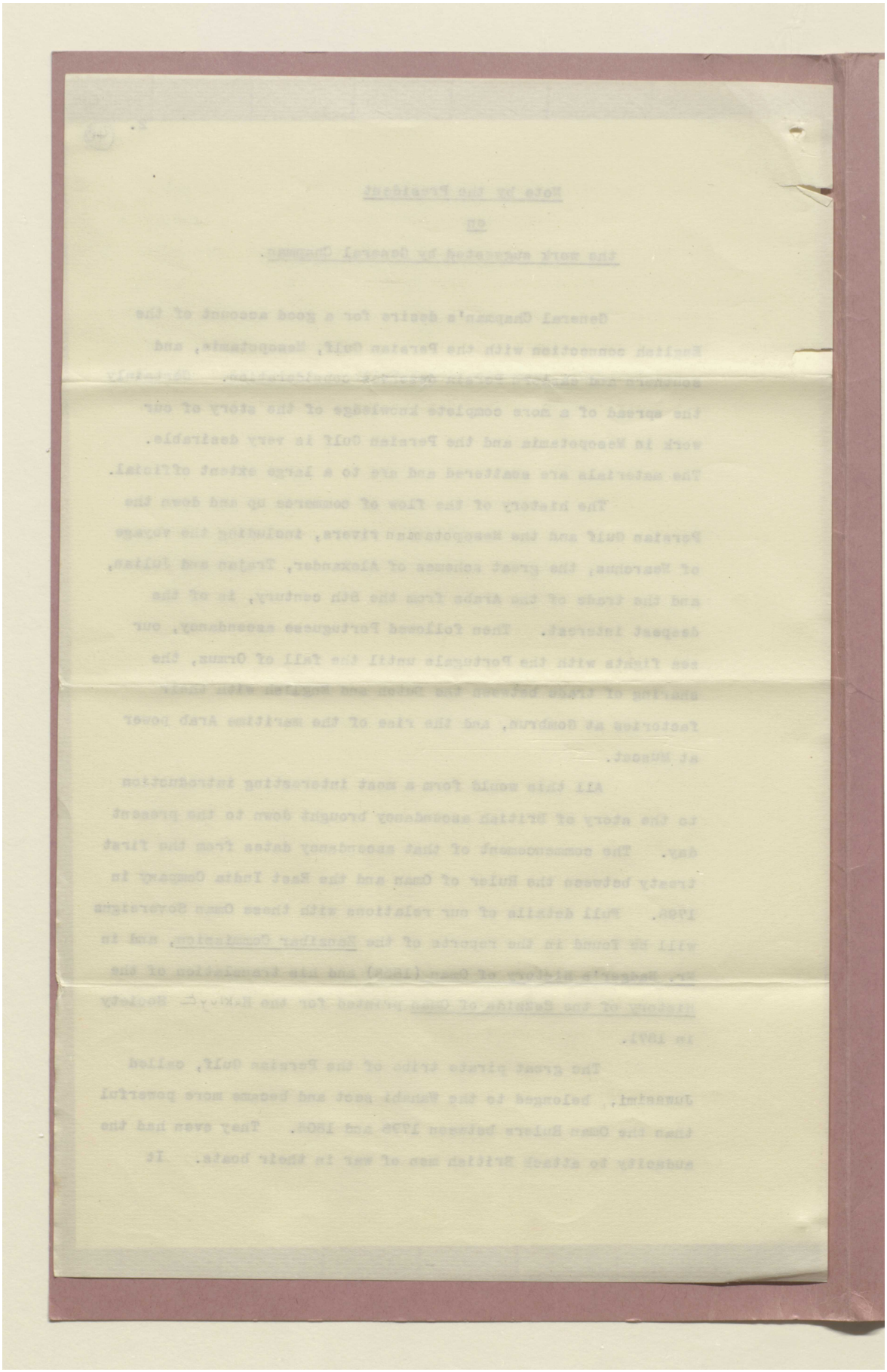

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became impossible for any peaceful trader to enter the gulf.

In 1810 Sir Lionel Smith proceeded, with a land force, to root out their strongholds. In 1819 a second expedition went to the Persian Gulf under General Sir William Grant. In 1820 there was a disaster, the Juwasimis surprising and killing seven of our officers and three hundred and three of our men. * regrettable incident. * In the following year Sir Lionel Smith went with 3000 men and completely subdued the pirates, taking all their strongholds. Accounts of these operations will be found in the volumes of Bombay selections - especially vol. XXIV.

British ascendancy dates from 1822. After the destruction of the pirates it became necessary for the English to maintain a naval force in the Persian Gulf, and to adopt a settled and continuous policy.

British influence in the Persian Gulf has been exercised:-

1. To suppress piracy.
2. To supply surveys and sailing directions.
3. To encourage and extend commerce.
4. To maintain the status quo of the chiefs.
5. To root out the slave trade.
6. To exclude foreign influence.

A work on the subject ought to show, in detail, how these objects have been maintained, and to produce a conviction that there should be continuity of purpose with regard to them.

But if such a work is to receive support from our Society, it should have a geographical basis, and it should tell the story of our surveys: work which would throw lustre on any service, and which was commenced as long ago as 1820.

Captains Guy and Bruchs trained a splendid staff of younger surveyors during the ten years from 1820 to 1830. Among them were Haines, Kempthorne, Cogan, Whitelock, Lynch,

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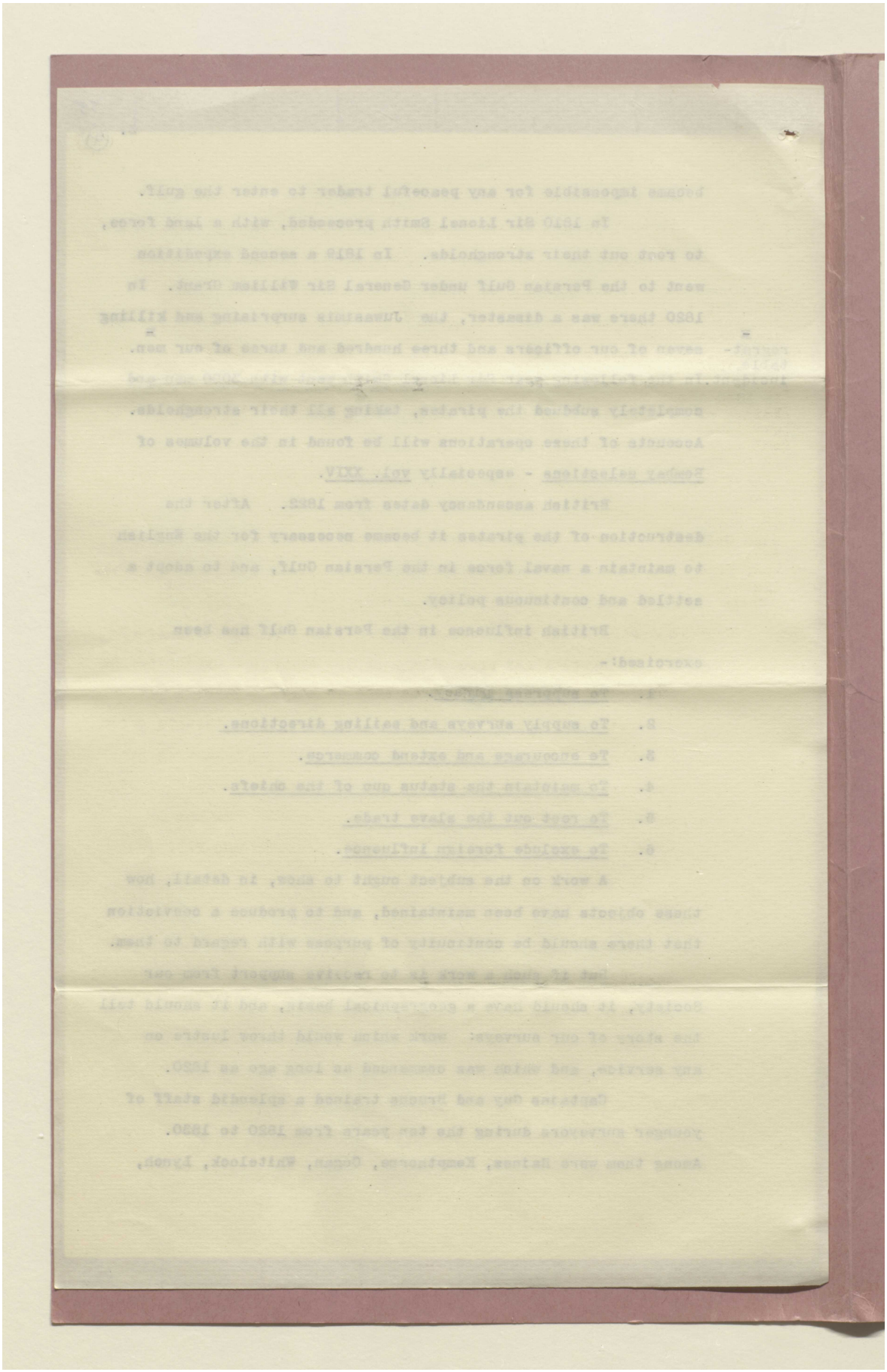

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and Haughton who constructed the charts. The sailing directions by Captain Bruchs are in the Bombay Selections No. 24 p.47. Kempthorne's notes on the voyage of Nearchus are in our Journal v. p.263: and papers by Whitelock describing the islands at the entrance of the Gulf, a journey to Oman, and giving an account of the Arabs on the pirate coast will be found in our Journal VIII p.170, and in that of our daughter Society at Bombay I p.294. The geographical memoranda of Mr Rich, the Political Resident of the time, are in M.S. at the India Office, having been presented by Mr Claud Erskine.

See also Wellsted's Journey into Oman R.G.S.J. VII -102.

In 1838 the Editor of our Journal expressed regret that no complete account of the Persian Gulf Survey had been published.

In 1835 our geographical and surveying work in Mesopotamia was commenced, and was continuous during 20 years. It is a grand story which has never been popularly told. Our gold medallist, Colonel Chesney, gave a general account of the labours and proceedings of the Euphrates expedition in our Journal VIII p.411; from 1835 to 1837. Chesney was succeeded by Captain H.B.Lynch until 1843, when Captain Felix Jones succeeded him. That officer's admirable labours are recorded in our Journal XVIII p.1, in that of Bombay VI.169, and in the Bombay Selections vol XLIII No.5. He was an excellent draughtsman, Captain Felix Jones became Political Agent at Bushire in 1855. During the war with Persia in 1856-57 he drew up valuable itineraries and notes for the commissariat department, now among the Political and Secret Records of the India Office. His beautiful map of Mesopotamia has never been published.+ He was latterly a valued member of our Council. He was succeeded in Mesopotamia by Captain Selby, and Captain Bewsher who gave us an account of the ancient canals. R.G.S.J. XXXVII 160.

+ He was an exquisite draughtsman. I obtained for him the use of a room in the Crystal Palace in which to complete and draw this map. The India Office paid for these expenses but never published the map. C.R.M.

A revision of the Persian Gulf Survey was undertaken in 1857 to 1865, and entrusted to Captains Constable and

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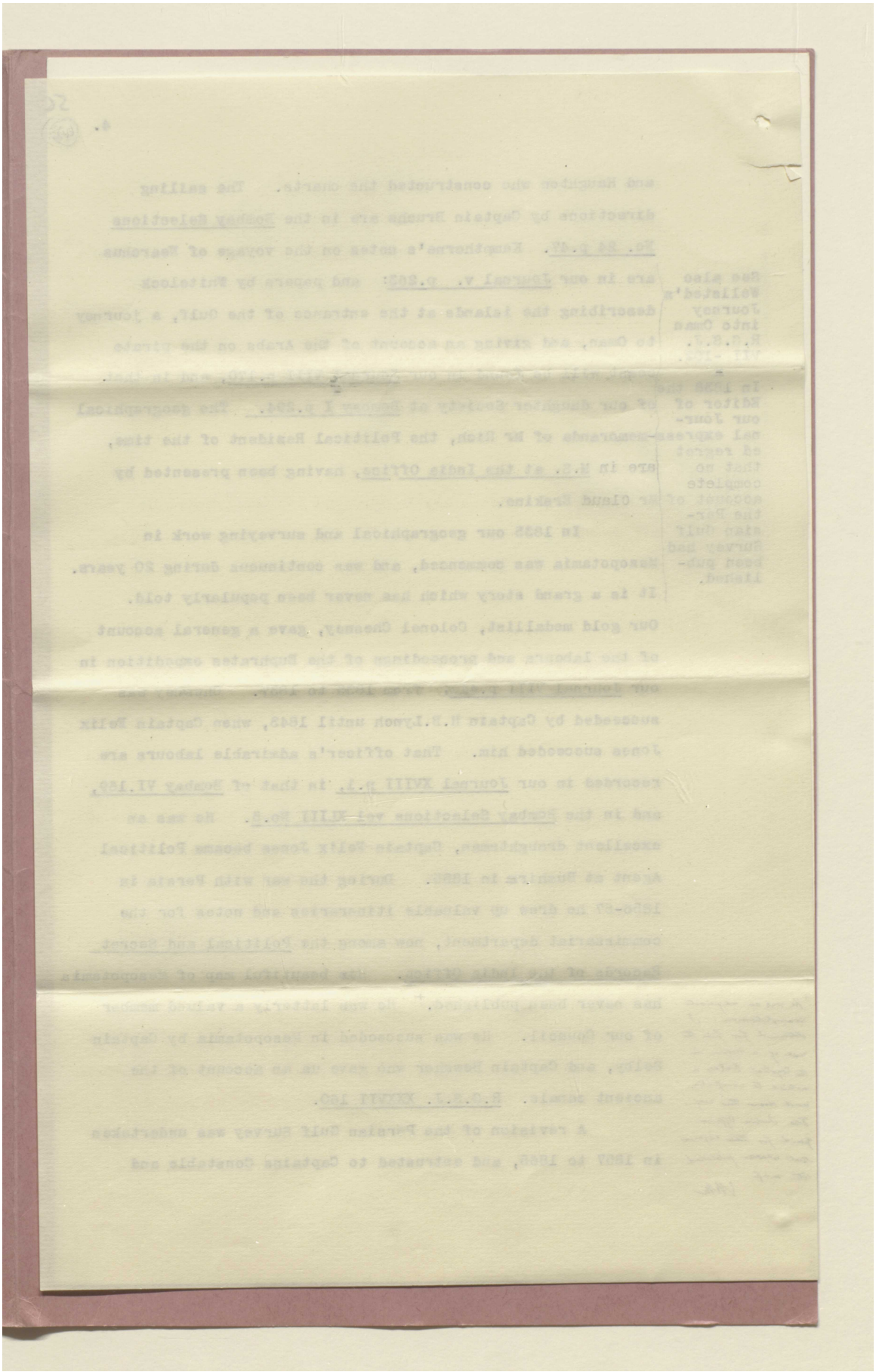

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Stiffe. An account of it will be found in the R.G.S.J. XXX - XLI, and Bombay G.S.J. XII p.98. Mr Chapman surveyed Bahrein in 1872, and the Mehran coast was surveyed by Captain Stiffe in 1873. The Admiralty published the "Persian Gulf Pilot."

We have had a paper on the Persian Gulf as an area of Trade by Sir H. Pelly in the Proceedings VIII 18, papers on the Karun by Mr Lynch, Lord Curzon and Colonel Sawyer; on Bahrein by Mr Bent; on Ormuz &c. by Captain Stiffe; and most valuable communications on Kerman from Colonel Sykes, as well as on Seistan and Beluchistan. The labours of Sir Frederic Goldsmid, Colonels Stewart and Champain, Sir O. St. John, Mr Blanford and others in southern Persia also belong to the story of the gulf and its shores.

The materials I have glanced at, indicate what I think should be the scope of the work. If it is to receive support from the Society it must have a geographical basis, and must treat the various subjects from a geographical stand point. It should embrace the Persian frontiers on the sides of the Persian Gulf, (of Seistan,) and of Beluchistan on the east, and of Mesopotamia on the west side. The histories of tribes, of towns and settlements, political and commercial, should be traced out, and, as regards the Persian Gulf, our policy should always be kept in view. Special attention should be given to Kowait and to the Karun basin.

Such a work, if well planned and executed, would be of immense value at the present time. I am of opinion that, if a well considered plan for it was submitted to the Council by a competent author, that it would be proper for the Society to give the undertaking special encouragement in such form as may be considered advisable.

For an author Mr. Hogarth has been mentioned. Mr. Foster of the India Office would also be a competent author

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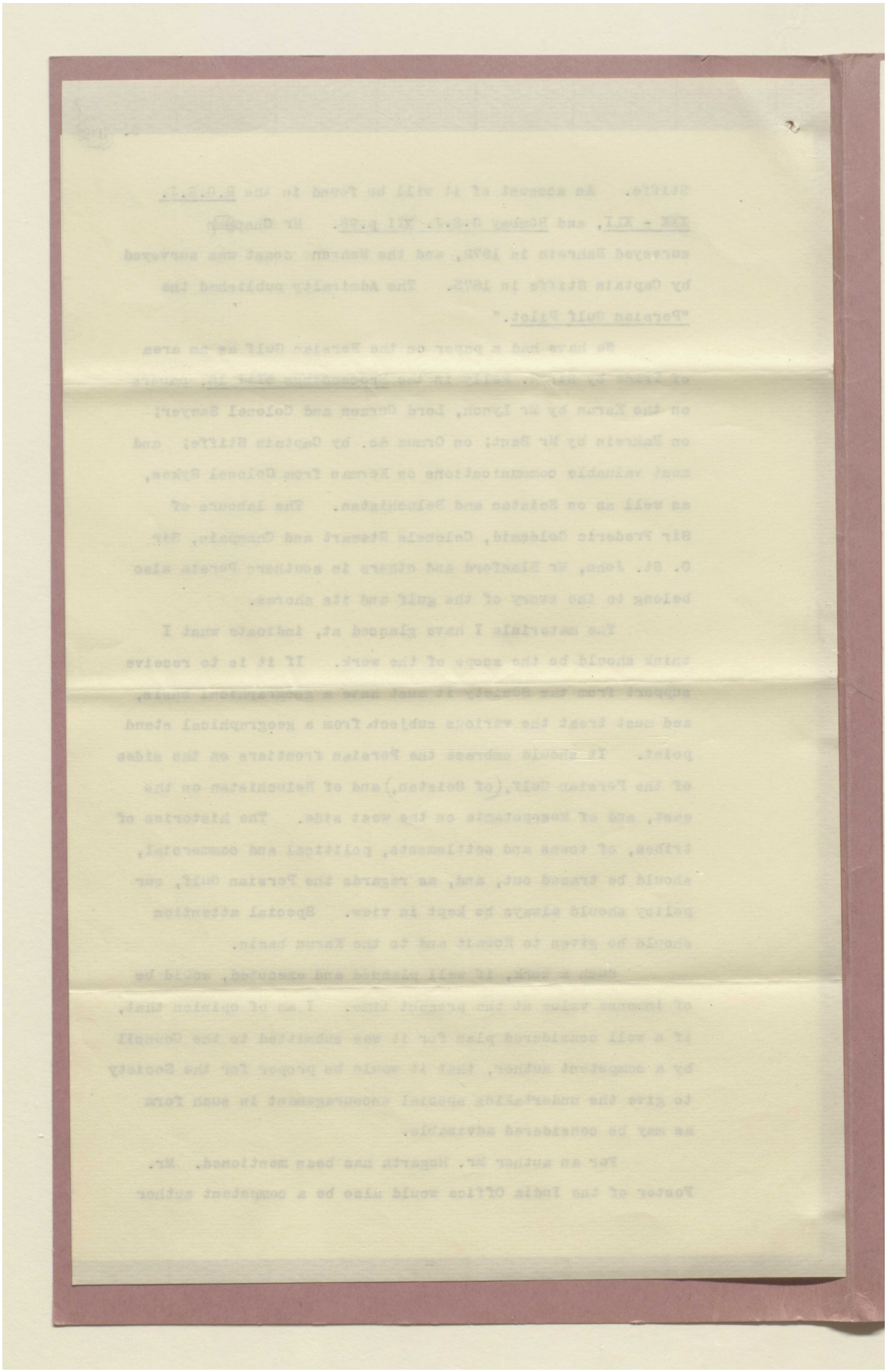

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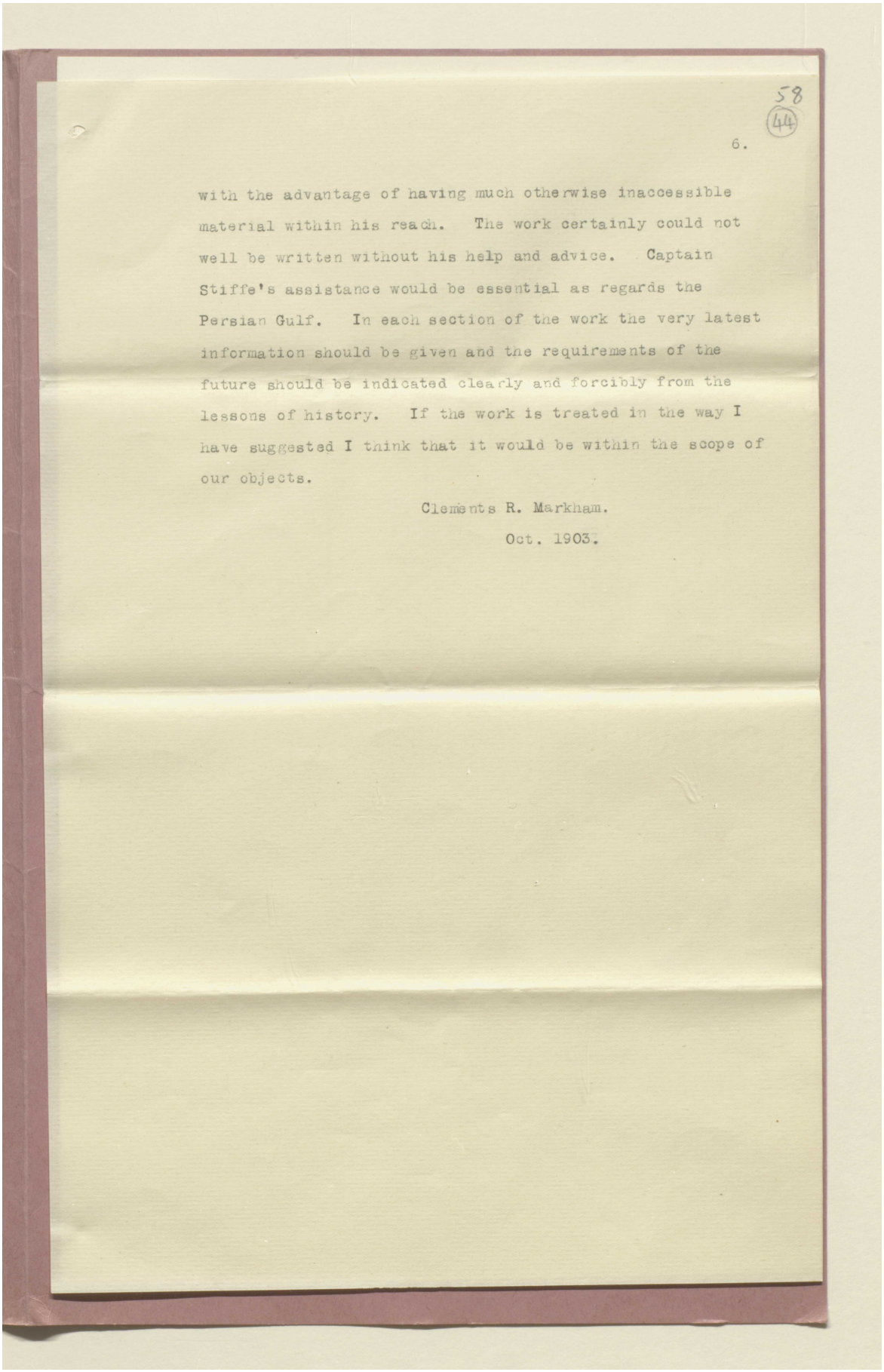

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with the advantage of having much otherwise inaccessible material within his reach. The work certainly could not well be written without his help and advice. Captain Stiffe's assistance would be essential as regards the Persian Gulf. In each section of the work the very latest information should be given and the requirements of the future should be indicated clearly and forcibly from the lessons of history. If the work is treated in the way I have suggested I think that it would be within the scope of our objects.

Clements R. Markham.

Oct. 1903.

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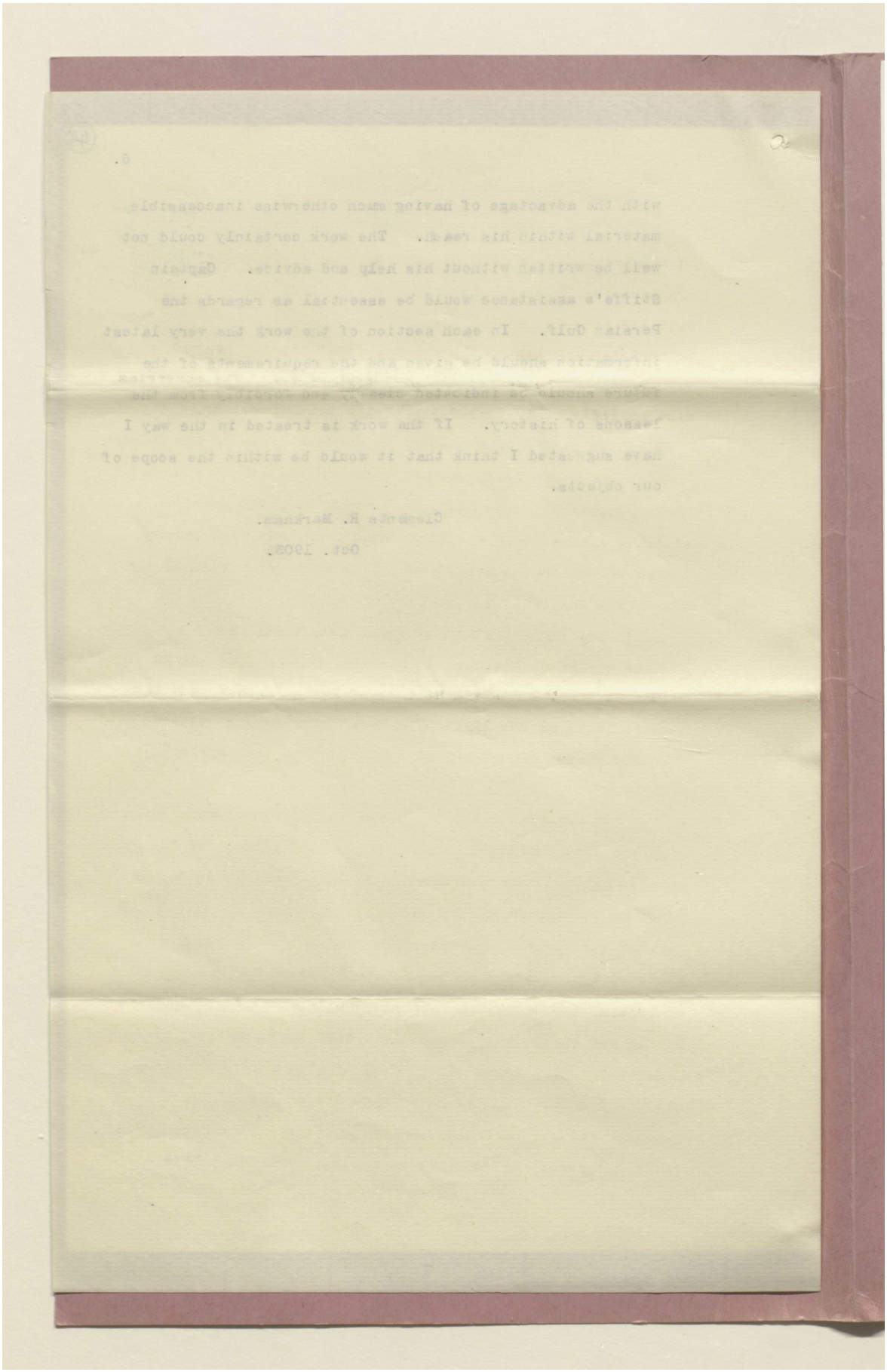

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General Chapman's Proposals.

To carry out General Chapman's views fully, a work as comprehensive as that suggested by the President would run him into two if not three volumes. I think that the Persian Gulf and Persian section might include all that part of Beluchistan subject to that occupation; leaving 'Pathan' Beluchistan to be associated with Afghanistan. The countries east of India would certainly require another volume.

In regard to the story of ancient trade in the Gulf, I think the Phoenician occupation of the Bahrein islands and their expansion to the Mediterranean is of great interest - also the expansion of the Himyavilic Arabs eastward through Makran to the Indian frontier. It was the beginning of the Arab trade supremacy in the eastern world.

For early history of Arab trade I regard Vincent ? and his voyage of Nearkhos as the best authorities and in mediaeval times Elliott's History of India, Chap.I, but both want revising by the light of modern researches connected with the Survey Department of India. (See also Mokler's pamphlets).

I agree with the President that official connection with the India Office is important for the success of the work. All the modern Geography of those regions is in the hands of the Indian Survey officials and can only be reached through the India Office. Since Stiffe and Girdlestone finished the nautical survey of the Persian Gulf a great part of Persia, including the Khorasan province, parts of Western Persia and the Southern coast have been surveyed geographically Beluchistan (including Makran) has been completed topographically, and Afghanistan has more than two thirds of its area mapped. Triangulation has recently been carried from Kirman to Bandai Abbas and now extends across the Gulf. Five or

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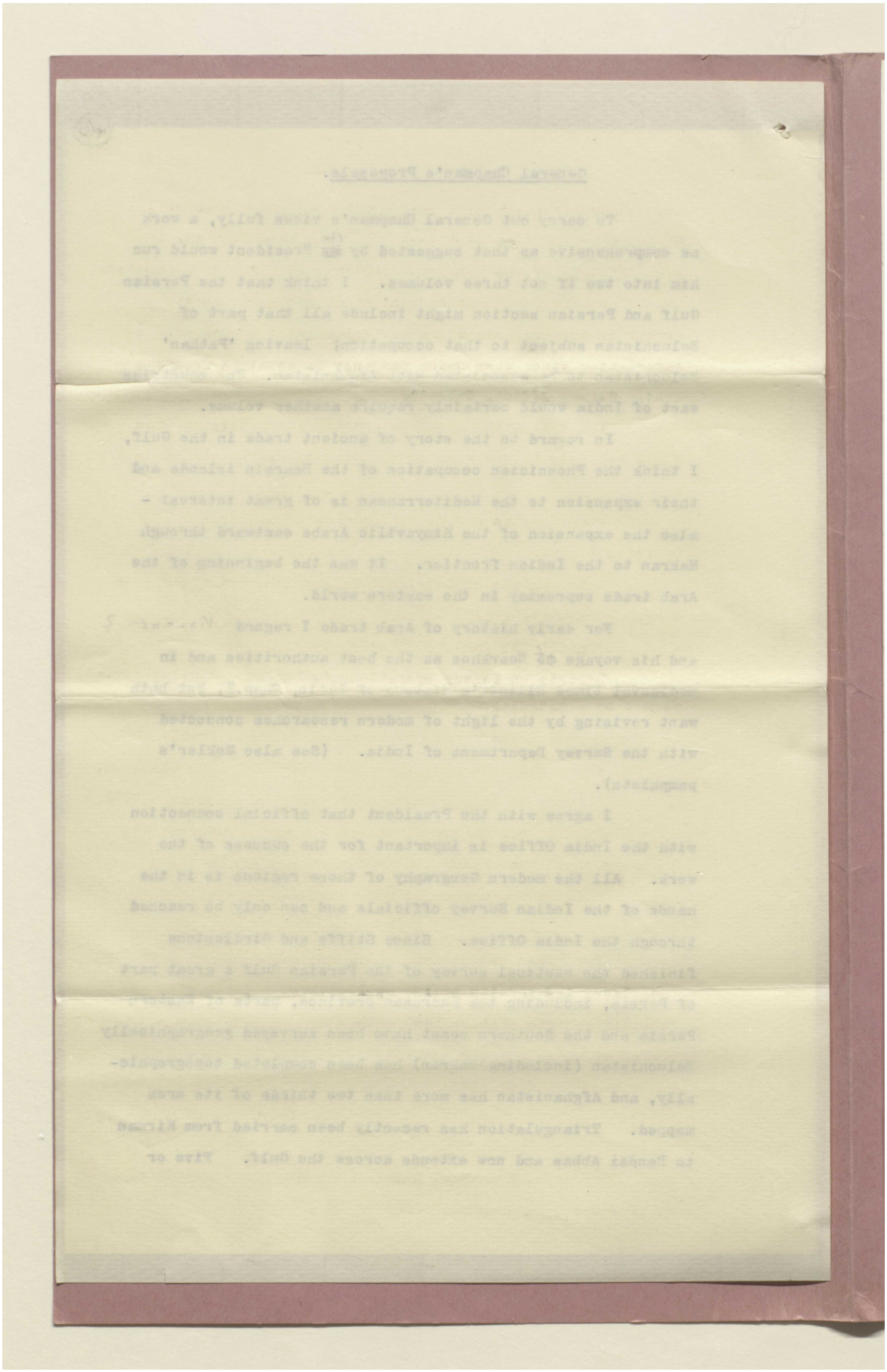

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six native Surveyors have been continuously employed on Survey duty and some excellent have been run by the officials of the telegraph department. The most complete map at present published is that which was compiled in my office in 1896-98, but there has accumulated a good deal of information since then which can only be obtained from the Indian Survey Office, Calcutta.

The following pamphlets written and published when I was employed in the Persian Gulf and in Makran may be of use.

Ethnographic and Historical notes on Makran - Calcutta - 1892.

Notes on the Antiquities, Ethnography and History of Makran - Calcutta 1914.

'Kalab' (by Tali) - Calcutta 1896.

Reports on Survey operations in Makran and Beluchistan 1892 - 93 - Calcutta.

Harbones and routes in Makran - Calcutta 1892.

Reconnaissance from Karachi to Kharan - 1892 Calcutta.

'Census of India' 1901. Beluchistan. Bombay - 1902.

Some of the native surveyors reports - particularly those of Tusaf Sharif and Sheikh Mohindin would be useful.

Butcher's traverse through Southern Persia is also good.

For trade statistics, which are after all of primary importance the Foreign office publications - diplomatic and Consular reports are the best authority - I have also a great number of private notes correspondence &c., relating to the whole borderland of India which have never yet been utilized.

Sgd. Thos. Holdich.

N.B. The present maps of Mesopotamia are quite out of date. Nothing has been done since Chesney's time.

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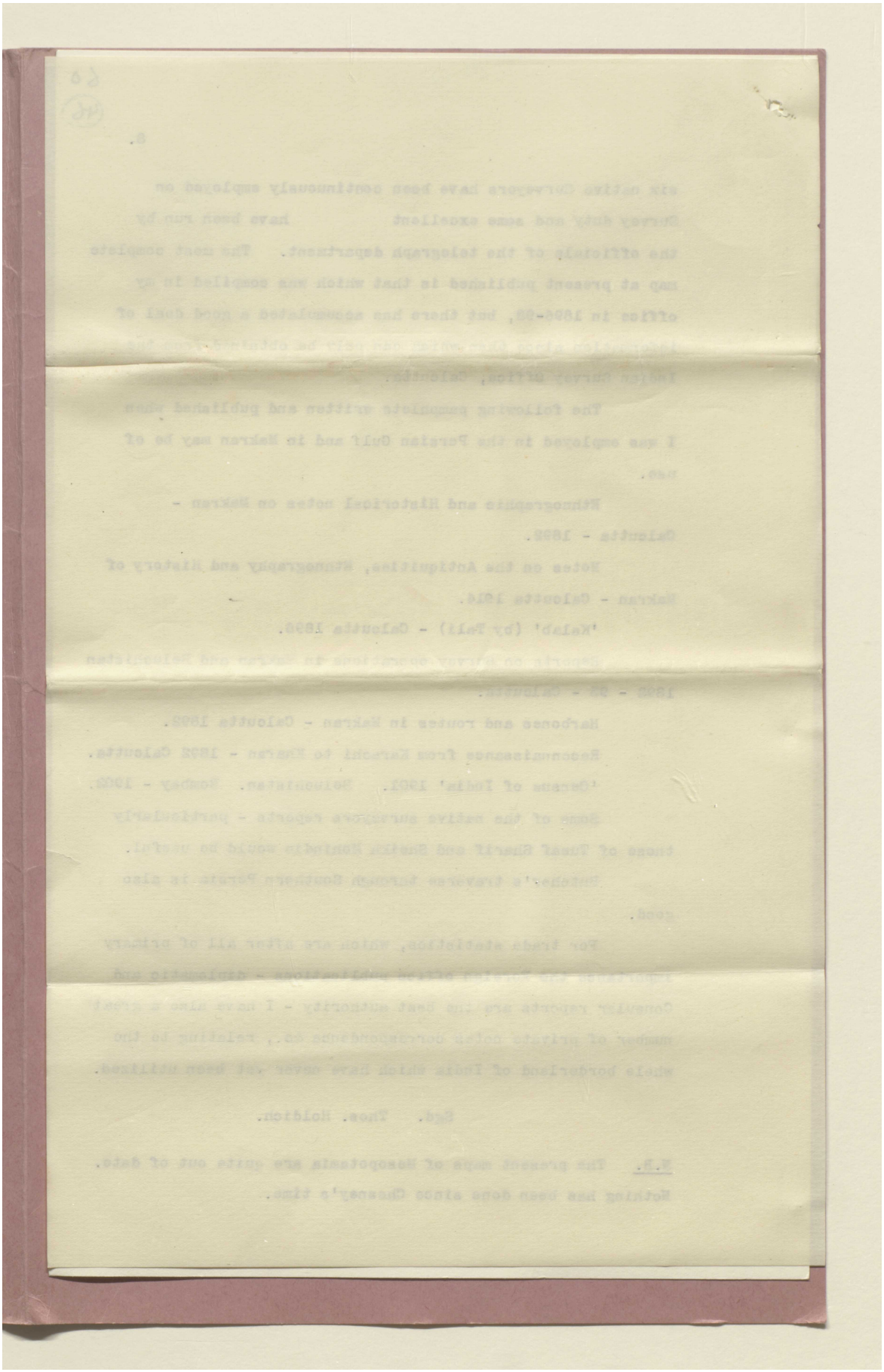

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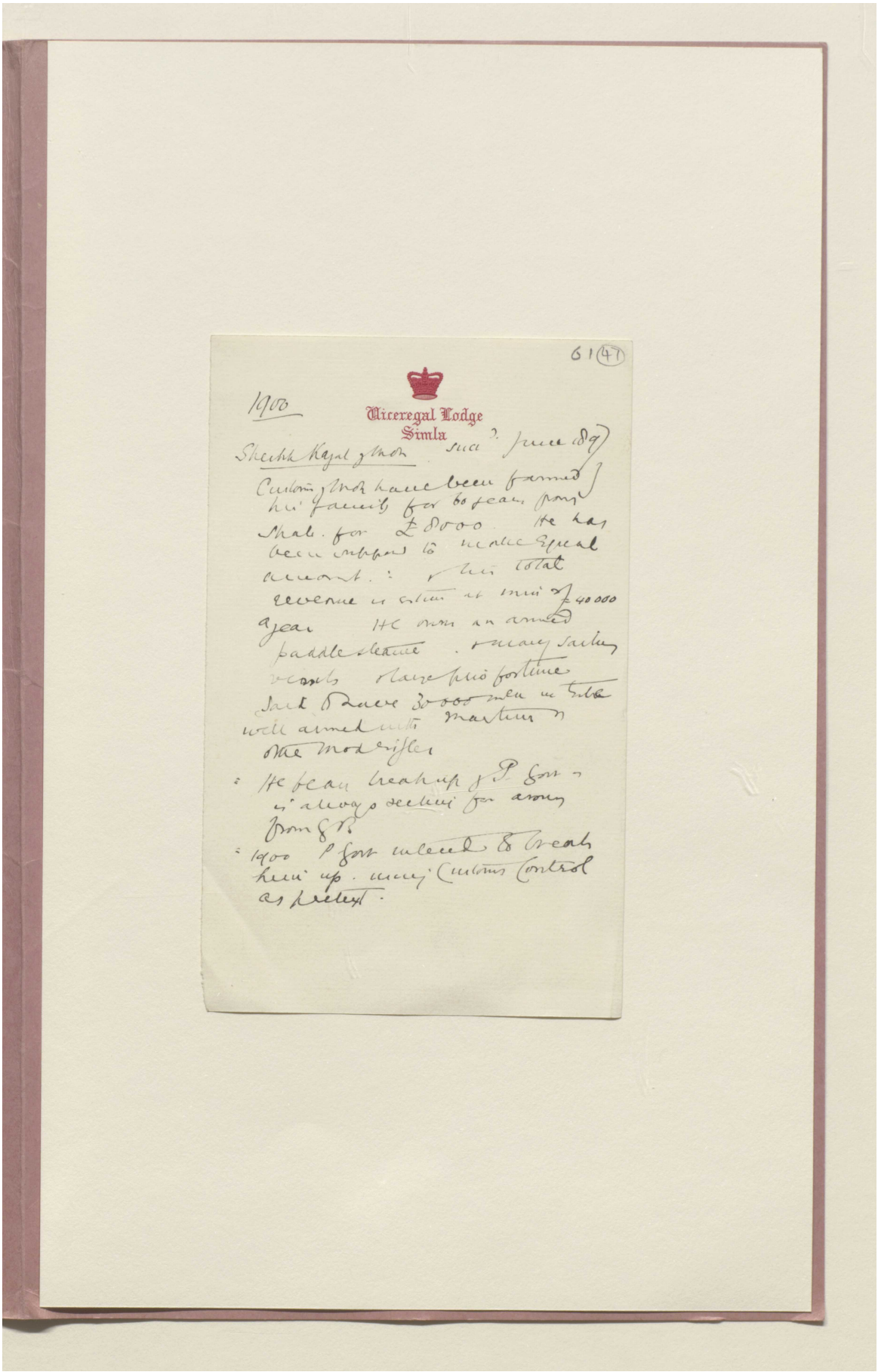

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1900

Viceregal Lodge
Simla

Sheikh Kazal of Mohr. Sucd. June 1897

Customs of Mohr have been farmed by his family for 60 years from Shah. for £8000. He has been supposed to make equal amount: & his total revenue is estimated at min of £40000 a year. He owns an armed paddle steamer & many sailing vessels & large prio fortune. Said to have 30000 men in tribe well armed with Martini & other mod rifles.

: He fears break up of P. Govt & is always seeking for arms from G.B.

: 1900 P. Govt intend to break him up. using Customs Control as pretext.

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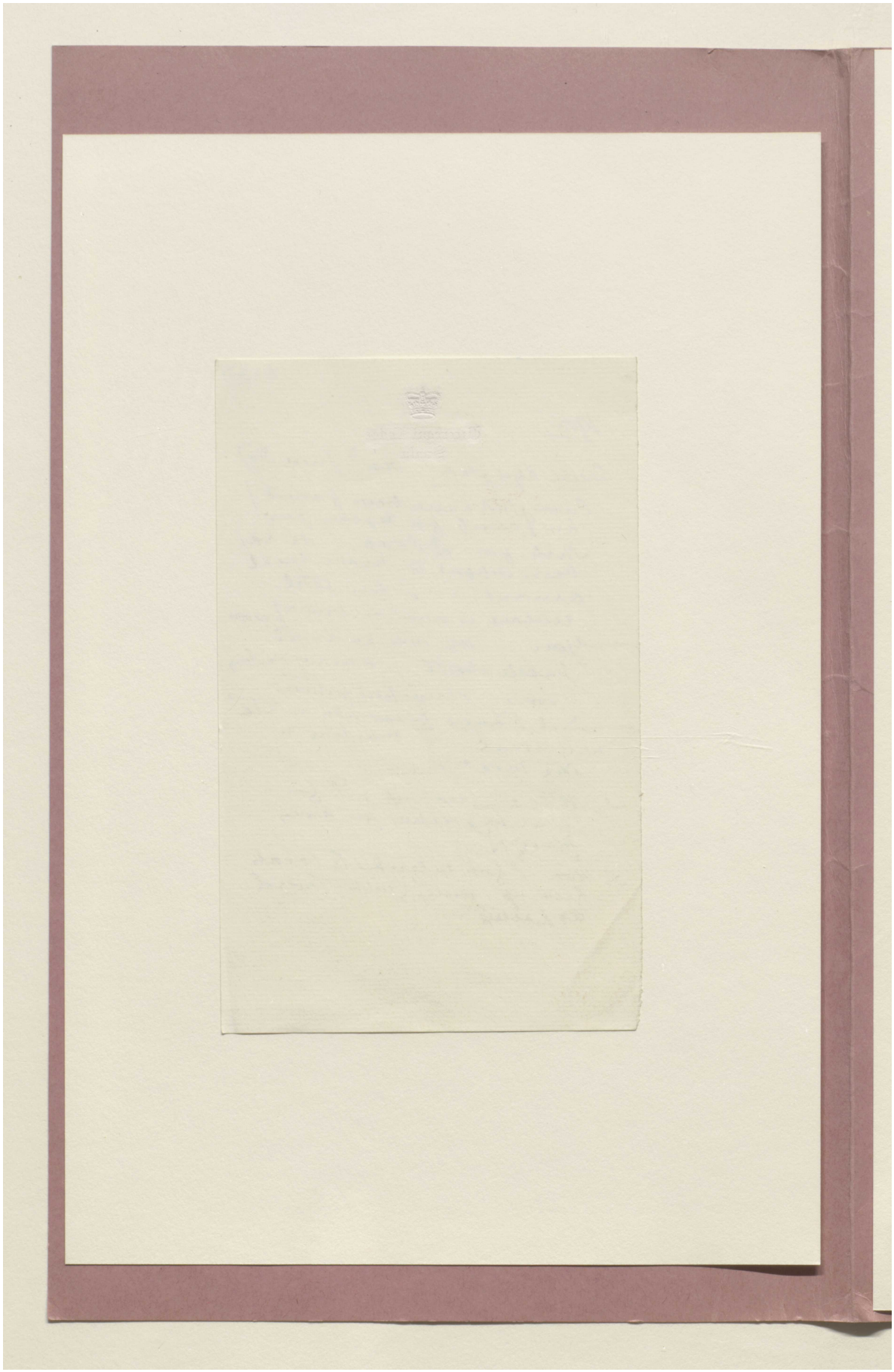

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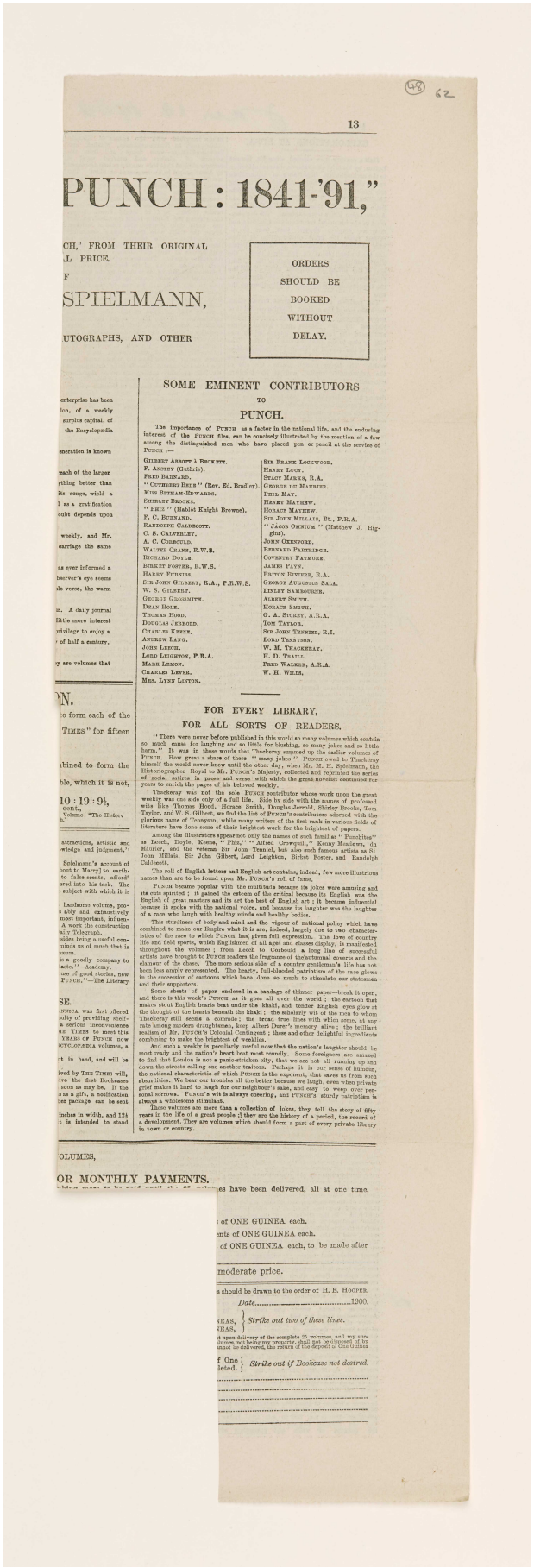

(48) 62

13

PUNCH: 1841-'91,"

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SOME EMINENT CONTRIBUTORS
TO
PUNCH.

The importance of PUNCH as a factor in the national life, and the enduring interest of the PUNCH files, can be concisely illustrated by the mention of a few among the distinguished men who have placed pen or pencil at the service of PUNCH :—

GILBERT ABBOTT À BECKETT.
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"FIRE" (Shirley Knight Browne).
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HARRY FURNISS.
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SEAGY MARKS, R.A.
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FOR EVERY LIBRARY,
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"There were never before published in this world so many volumes which contain so much cause for laughing and so little for blushing, so many jokes and so little harm." It was in these words that Thackeray summed up the earlier volumes of PUNCH. How great a share of these "many jokes" PUNCH owed to Thackeray himself the world never knew until the other day, when Mr. M. H. Spielmann, the Historiographer Royal to Mr. PUNCH'S Majesty, collected and republished the series of social satires in prose and verse with which the great novelist continued for years to enrich the pages of his beloved weekly.

Thackeray was not the sole PUNCH contributor whose work upon the great weekly was one side only of a full life. Side by side with the names of professed wits like Thomas Hood, Horace Smith, Douglas Jerrold, Shirley Brooks, Tom Taylor, and W. S. Gilbert, we find the list of PUNCH'S contributors adorned with the glorious name of Tennyson, while many writers of the first rank in various fields of literature have done some of their brightest work for the brightest of papers.

Among the illustrators appear not only the names of such familiar "Punchites" as Leech, Doyle, Keene, "Phiz," "Alfred Crowquill," Kenny Meadows, du Maurier, and the veteran Sir John Tenniel, but also such famous artists as Sir John Millais, Sir John Gilbert, Lord Leighton, Birket Foster, and Randolph Caldecott.

The roll of English letters and English art contains, indeed, few more illustrious names than are to be found upon Mr. PUNCH'S roll of fame.

PUNCH became popular with the multitude because its jokes were amusing and its cuts spirited; it gained the esteem of the critical because its English was the English of great masters and its art the best of English art; it became influential because it spoke with the national voice, and because its laughter was the laughter of a race who laugh with healthy minds and healthy bellies.

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Some sheets of paper enclosed in a bandage of thinner paper—break it open, and there is this week's PUNCH as it goes all over the world: the cartoon that makes stout English hearts beat under the khaki; and tender English eyes glow at the thought of the hearts beneath the khaki: the scholarly wit of the men to whom Thackeray still seems a comrade: the broad true lines with which some, at any rate among modern draughtsmen, keep Albert Dürer's memory alive: the brilliant realism of Mr. PUNCH'S Colonial Contingent: these and other delightful ingredients combining to make the brightest of weeklies.

And such a weekly is peculiarly useful now that the nation's laughter should be most ready and the nation's heart beat most roundly. Some foreigners are amazed to find that London is not a panic-stricken city, that we are not all running up and down the streets calling one another traitors. Perhaps it is our sense of humour, the national characteristic of which PUNCH is the exponent, that saves us from such absurdities. We bear our troubles all the better because we laugh, even when private grief makes it hard to laugh for our neighbour's sake, and easy to weep over personal sorrows. PUNCH'S wit is always cheering, and PUNCH'S sturdy patriotism is always a wholesome stimulant.

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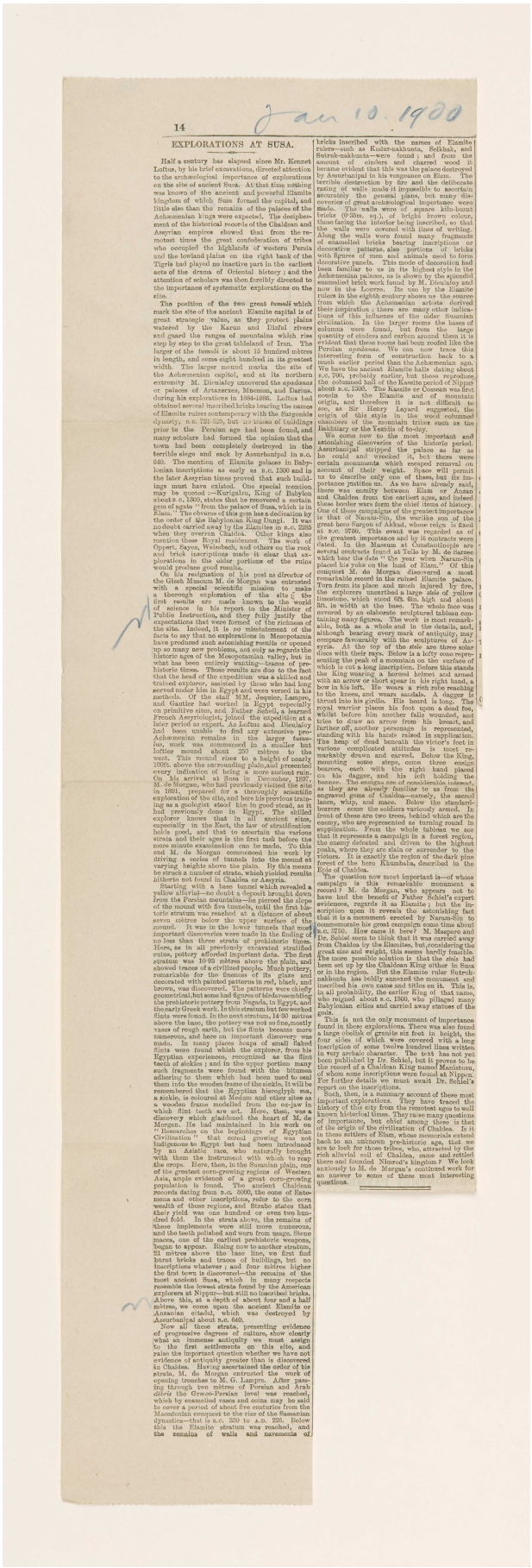

Jan 10. 1900

14

EXPLORATIONS AT SUSA.

Half a century has elapsed since Mr. Kennet Loftus, by his brief excavations, directed attention to the archæological importance of explorations on the site of ancient Susa. At that time nothing was known of the ancient and powerful Elamite kingdom of which Susa formed the capital, and little also than the remains of the palaces of the Achæmenian kings were expected. The decipherment of the historical records of the Chaldean and Assyrian empires showed that from the remotest times the great confederation of tribes who occupied the highlands of western Persia and the lowland plains on the right bank of the Tigris had played no inactive part in the earliest acts of the drama of Oriental history; and the attention of scholars was then forcibly directed to the importance of systematic explorations on the site.

The position of the two great *tumuli* which mark the site of the ancient Elamite capital is of great strategic value, as they protect plains watered by the Karun and Dizful rivers and guard the ranges of mountains which rise step by step to the great tableland of Iran. The larger of the *tumuli* is about 15 hundred mètres in length, and some eight hundred in its greatest width. The larger mound marks the site of the Achæmenian capital, and at its northern extremity M. Dieulafoy uncovered the *apadana* or palaces of Artaxerxes, Mnemon, and Darius, during his explorations in 1884-1886. Loftus had obtained several inscribed bricks bearing the names of Elamite rulers contemporary with the Sargonide dynasty, B.C. 721-525, but no traces of buildings prior to the Persian age had been found, and many scholars had formed the opinion that the town had been completely destroyed in the terrible siege and sack by Assurbanipal in B.C. 640. The mention of Elamite palaces in Babylonian inscriptions as early as B.C. 1200 and in the later Assyrian times proved that such buildings must have existed. One special mention may be quoted:—Kurigalzu, King of Babylon about B.C. 1300, states that he recovered a certain gem of agate "from the palace of Susa, which is in Elam." The obverse of this gem has a dedication by the order of the Babylonian King Dungi. It was no doubt carried away by the Elamites in B.C. 2285 when they overran Chaldea. Other kings also mention these Royal residences. The work of Oppert, Sayce, Weisbach, and others on the rock and brick inscriptions made it clear that explorations in the older portions of the ruins would produce good results.

On his resignation of his post as director of the Ghizeh Museum M. de Morgan was entrusted with a special scientific mission to make a thorough exploration of the site; the first results are made known to the world of science in his report to the Minister of Public Instruction, and they fully justify the expectations that were formed of the richness of the site. Indeed, it is no misstatement of the facts to say that no explorations in Mesopotamia have produced such astonishing results or opened up so many new problems, not only as regards the historic ages of the Mesopotamian valley, but in what has been entirely waiting—traces of pre-historic times. Those results are due to the fact that the head of the expedition was a skilled and trained explorer, assisted by those who had long served under him in Egypt and were versed in his methods. Of the staff MM. Jequier, Lampre, and Gautier had worked in Egypt especially on primitive sites, and Father Scheil, a learned French Assyriologist, joined the expedition at a later period as expert. As Loftus and Dieulafoy had been unable to find any extensive pre-Achæmenian remains in the larger *tumulus*, work was commenced in a smaller but loftier mound about 250 mètres to the west. This mound rises to a height of nearly 100ft. above the surrounding plain, and presented every indication of being a more ancient ruin. On his arrival at Susa in December, 1897, M. de Morgan, who had previously visited the site in 1891, prepared for a thoroughly scientific exploration of the site, and here his previous training as a geologist stood him in good stead, as it had previously done in Egypt. The skilled explorer knows that in all ancient sites, especially in the East, the law of stratification holds good, and that to ascertain the various strata and their ages is the first task before the more minute examination can be made. To this end M. de Morgan commenced his work by driving a series of tunnels into the mound at varying heights above the plain. By this means he struck a number of strata, which yielded results hitherto not found in Chaldea or Assyria.

Starting with a base tunnel which revealed a yellow alluvial—no doubt a deposit brought down from the Persian mountains—he pierced the slope of the mound with five tunnels, until the first historic stratum was reached at a distance of about seven mètres below the upper surface of the mound. It was in the lower tunnels that most important discoveries were made in the finding of no less than three strata of prehistoric times. Here, as in all previously excavated stratified ruins, pottery afforded important data. The first stratum was 10·93 mètres above the plain, and showed traces of a civilized people. Much pottery, remarkable for the fineness of its glaze and decorated with painted patterns in red, black, and brown, was discovered. The patterns were chiefly geometrical, but some had figures of birds resembling the prehistoric pottery from Negada, in Egypt, and the early Greek work. In this stratum but few worked flints were found. In the next stratum, 14·30 mètres above the base, the pottery was not so fine, mostly vases of rough earth, but the flints became more numerous, and here an important discovery was made. In many places heaps of small flaked flints were found which the explorer, from his Egyptian experience, recognised as the flint teeth of sickles; and in the upper portion many such fragments were found with the bitumen adhering to them which had been used to seal them into the wooden frame of the sickle. It will be remembered that the Egyptian hieroglyph *sa*, a sickle, is coloured at Medum and other sites as a wooden frame modelled from the ox-jaw in which flint teeth are set. Here, then, was a discovery which gladdened the heart of M. de Morgan. He had maintained in his work on "Researches on the beginnings of Egyptian Civilization" that cereal growing was not indigenous to Egypt but had been introduced by an Asiatic race, who naturally brought with them the instrument with which to reap the crops. Here, then, in the Susanian plain, one of the greatest corn-growing regions of Western Asia, ample evidence of a great corn-growing population is found. The ancient Chaldean records dating from B.C. 5000, the cone of Entemena and other inscriptions, refer to the corn wealth of those regions, and Strabo states that their yield was one hundred or even two hundred fold. In the strata above, the remains of these implements were still more numerous, and the teeth polished and worn from usage. Stone maces, one of the earliest prehistoric weapons, began to appear. Rising now to another stratum, 21 mètres above the base line, we first find burnt bricks and traces of buildings, but no inscriptions whatever; and four mètres higher the first town is discovered—the remains of the most ancient Susa, which in many respects resemble the lowest strata found by the American explorers at Nippur—but still no inscribed bricks. Above this, at a depth of about four and a half mètres, we come upon the ancient Elamite or Anzanian citadel, which was destroyed by Assurbanipal about B.C. 640.

Now all these strata, presenting evidence of progressive degrees of culture, show clearly what an immense antiquity we must assign to the first settlements on this site, and raise the important question whether we have not evidences of antiquity greater than is discovered in Chaldea. Having ascertained the order of his strata, M. de Morgan entrusted the work of opening trenches to M. G. Lampre. After passing through two mètres of Persian and Arab *débris* the Greco-Persian level was reached, which by enamelled vases and coins may be said to cover a period of about five centuries from the Macedonian conquest to the rise of the Sassanian dynasties—that is B.C. 330 to A.D. 226. Below this the Elamite stratum was reached, and the remains of walls and mavements of bricks inscribed with the names of Elamite rulers—such as Kudur-nakhunta, Sekkhal, and Sutruk-nakhunta—were found; and from the amount of cinders and charred wood it became evident that this was the palace destroyed by Assurbanipal in his vengeance on Elam. The terrible destruction by fire and the deliberate razing of walls made it impossible to ascertain accurately the general plans, but many discoveries of great archæological importance were made. The walls were of square kiln-burnt bricks (0·33m. sq.), of bright brown colour, those facing the interior being inscribed, so that the walls were covered with lines of writing. Along the walls were found many fragments of enamelled bricks bearing inscriptions or decorative patterns, also portions of bricks with figures of men and animals used to form decorative panels. This mode of decoration had been familiar to us in its highest style in the Achæmenian palaces, as is shown by the splendid enamelled brick work found by M. Dieulafoy and now in the Louvre. Its use by the Elamite rulers in the eighth century shows us the source from which the Achæmenian artists derived their inspiration; there are many other indications of this influence of the older Susanian civilization. In the larger rooms the bases of columns were found, but from the large quantity of cinders and carbon around them it is evident that these rooms had been roofed like the Persian *apadanas*. We can now trace this interesting form of construction back to a much earlier period than the Achæmenian age. We have the ancient Elamite halls dating about B.C. 700, probably earlier, but these reproduce the columned hall of the Kassite period of Nippur about B.C. 1300. The Kassite or Cossean was first known to us as the Elamite and of mountain origin, and therefore it is not difficult to see, as Sir Henry Layard suggested, the origin of this style in the wood columned chambers of the mountain tribes such as the Bakhtiary or the Yezidis of to-day.

We come now to the most important and astonishing discoveries of the historic period. Assurbanipal stripped the palace as far as he could and wrecked it, but there were certain monuments which escaped removal on account of their weight. Space will permit us to describe only one of these, but its importance justifies us. As we have already said, there was enmity between Elam or Anzan and Chaldea from the earliest ages, and indeed these border wars form the chief items of history. One of these campaigns of the greatest importance is that of Naram-Sin, the warlike son of the great hero Sargon of Akkad, whose reign is fixed as B.C. 3750. This event was regarded as of the greatest importance and by it contracts were dated. In the Museum at Constantinople are several contracts found at Tello by M. de Sarzec which bear the date "the year when Naram-Sin placed his yoke on the land of Elam." Of this conquest M. de Morgan discovered a most remarkable record in the ruined Elamite palace. Torn from its place and much injured by fire, the explorers unearthed a large *stele* of yellow limestone, which stood 6ft. 6in. high and about 3ft. in width at the base. The whole face was covered by an elaborate sculptured tableau containing many figures. The work is most remarkable, both as a whole and in the details, and, although bearing every mark of antiquity, may compare favourably with the sculpture of Assyria. At the top of the *stele* are three solar discs with their rays. Below is a lofty cone representing the peak of a mountain on the surface of which is cut a long inscription. Before this stands the King wearing a horned helmet and armed with an arrow or short spear in his right hand, a bow in his left. He wears a rich robe reaching to the knees, and wears sandals. A dagger is thrust into his girdle. His beard is long. The royal warrior places his foot upon a dead foe, whilst before him another falls wounded, and tries to draw an arrow from his breast, and further off, another personage is represented, standing with his hands raised in supplication. The heap of dead beneath the victor's feet in various complicated attitudes is most remarkably drawn and carved. Below the King, mounting some steps, come three ensign bearers, each with the right hand placed on his dagger, and his left holding the banner. The ensigns are of considerable interest, as they are already familiar to us from the engraved gems of Chaldea—namely, the sacred lance, whip, and mace. Below the standard-bearers come the soldiers variously armed. In front of these are two trees, behind which are the enemy, who are represented as turning round in supplication. From the whole tableau we see that it represents a campaign in a forest region, the enemy defeated and driven to the highest peaks, where they are slain or surrender to the victors. It is exactly the region of the dark pine forest of the hero Khumbaba, described in the Epic of Chaldea.

The question now most important is—of whose campaign is this remarkable monument a record? M. de Morgan, who appears not to have had the benefit of Father Scheil's expert evidences, regards it as Elamite; but the inscription upon it reveals the astonishing fact that it is a monument erected by Naram-Sin to commemorate his great campaign some time about B.C. 3750. How came it here? M. Maspero and Dr. Scheil seem to think that it was carried away from Chaldea by the Elamites, but, considering the great size and weight, this seems hardly feasible. The more possible solution is that the *stele* had been set up by the Chaldean King either in Susa or in the region. But the Elamite ruler Sutruk-nakhunta has boldly annexed the monument and inscribed his own name and titles on it. This is, in all probability, the earlier King of that name, who reigned about B.C. 1900, who pillaged many Babylonian cities and carried away statues of the gods.

This is not the only monument of importance found in these explorations. There was also found a large obelisk of granite six feet in height, the four sides of which were covered with a long inscription of some twelve hundred lines written in very archaic character. The text has not yet been published by Dr. Scheil, but it proves to be the record of a Chaldean King named Manistusu, of whom some inscriptions were found at Nippur. For further details we must await Dr. Scheil's report on the inscriptions.

Such, then, is a summary account of these most important explorations. They have traced the history of the city from the remotest ages to well known historical times. They raise many questions of importance, but chief among these is that of the origin of the civilization of Chaldea. Is it in these settlers of Elam, whose memorials extend back to an unknown pre-historic age, that we are to look for those tribes, who, attracted by the rich alluvial soil of Chaldea, came and settled there and founded Nimrod's kingdom? We look anxiously to M. de Morgan's continued work for an answer to some of these most interesting questions.

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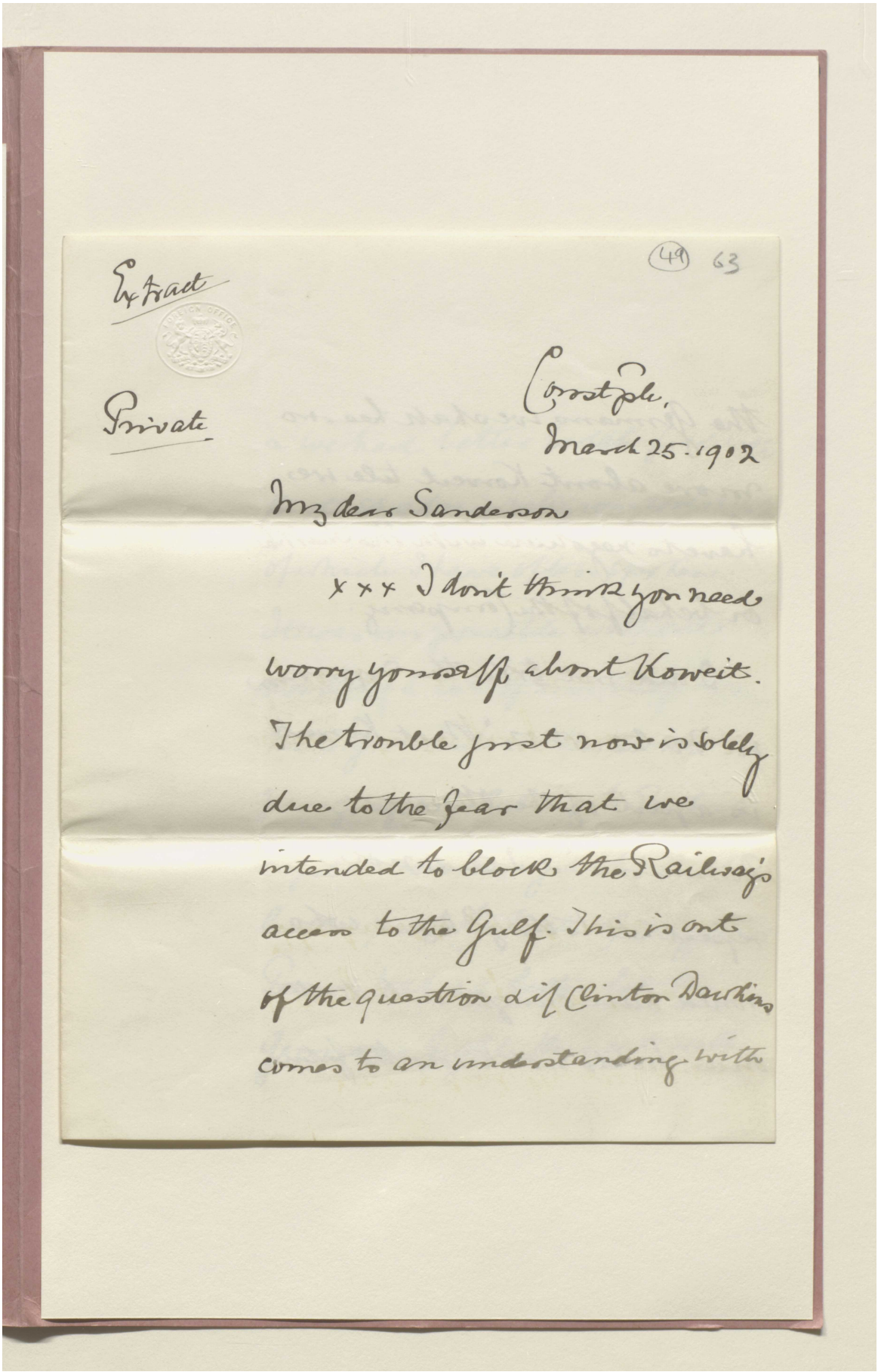

(49) 63

Extract

Private

Constple.
March 25. 1902

My dear Sanderson

x x x I don't think you need worry yourself about Koweit. The trouble just now is solely due to the fear that we intended to block the Railway's access to the Gulf. This is out of the question till Clinton Dawkins comes to an understanding with

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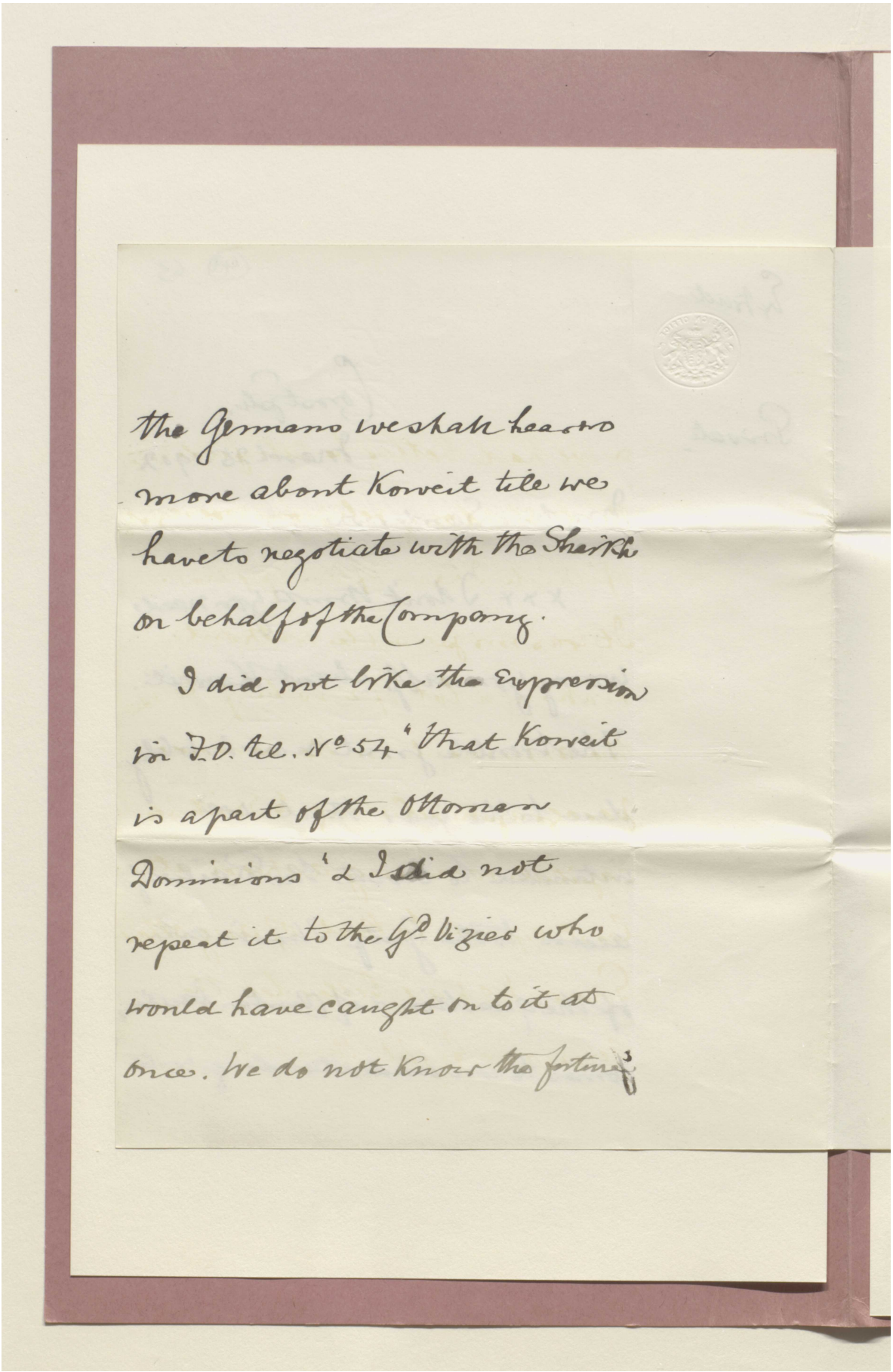

the Germans we shall hear no
more about Koweit till we
have to negotiate with the Sheikh
on behalf of the Company.

I did not like the expression
in F.O. tel. N° 54 "that Koweit
is a part of the Ottoman
Dominions" & I did not
repeat it to the Gd Vizier who
would have caught on to it at
once. We do not know the fortune

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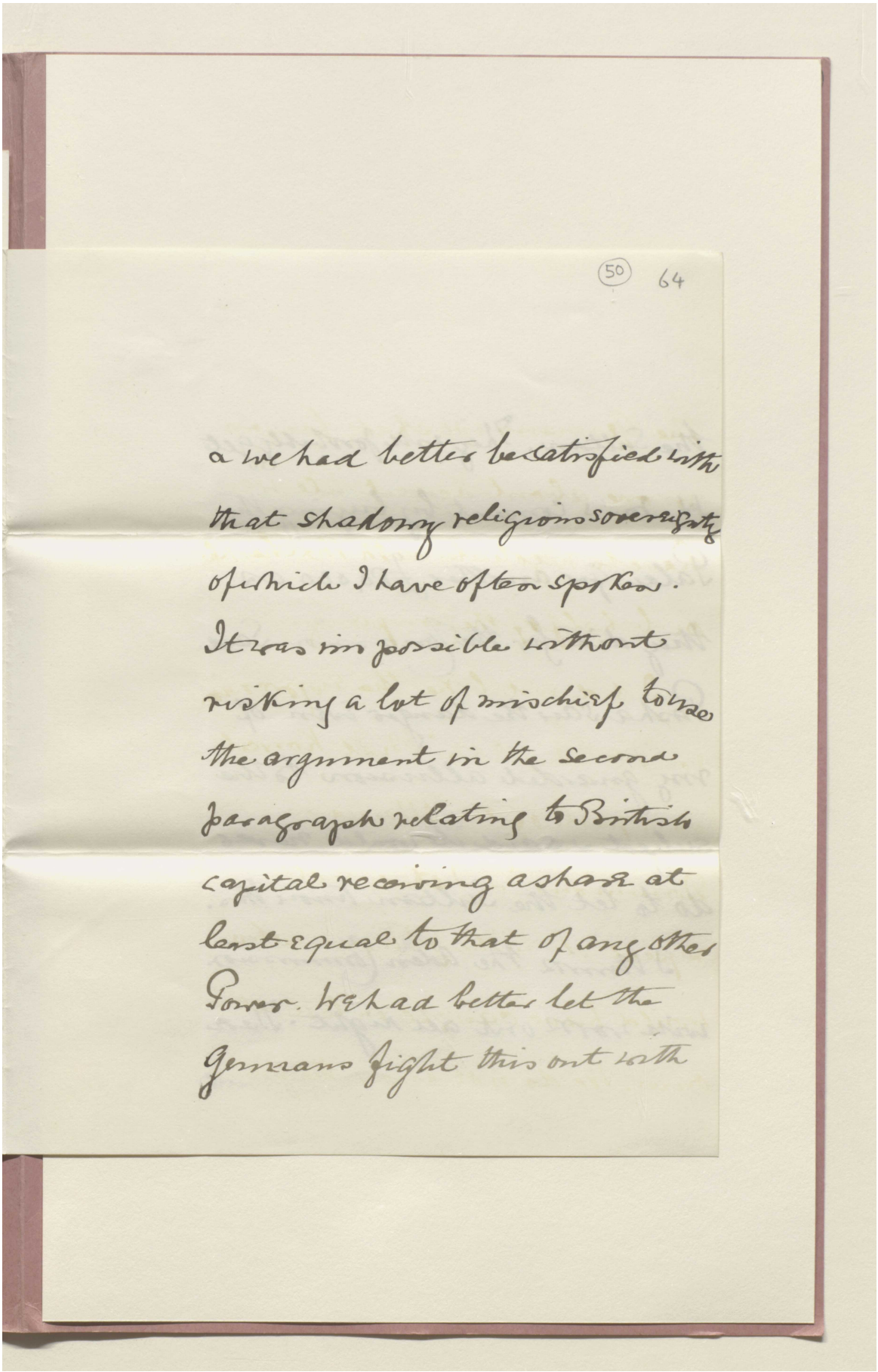

(50) 64

a we had better be satisfied with
that shadowy religious sovereignty
of which I have often spoken.
It was impossible without
risking a lot of mischief to use
the argument in the second
paragraph relating to British
capital receiving a share at
least equal to that of any other
Power. We had better let the
Germans fight this out with

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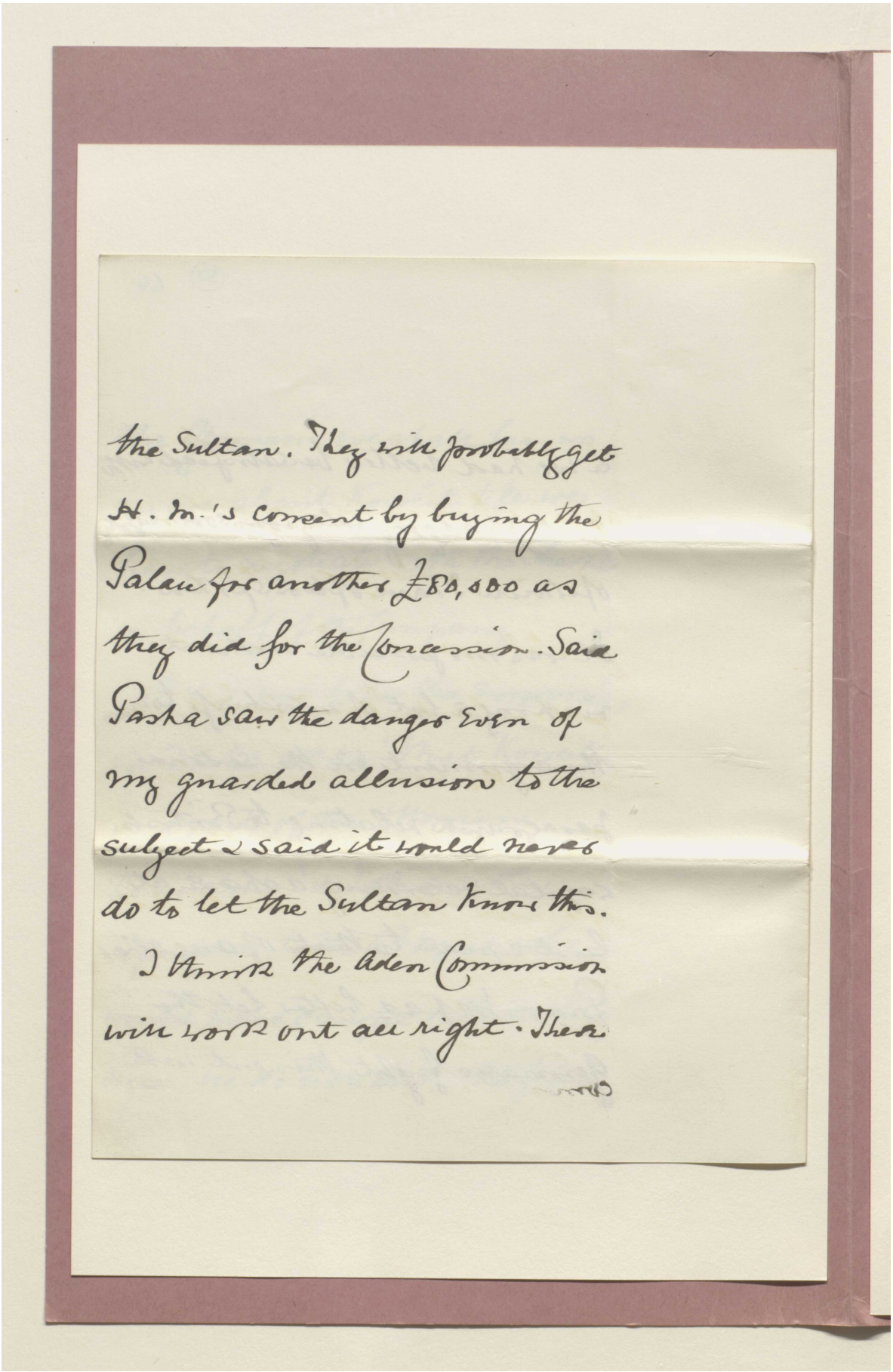

the Sultan. They will probably get
H. M.'s consent by buying the
Palace for another £80,000 as
they did for the Concession. Said
Pasha saw the danger even of
my guarded allusion to the
subject & said it would never
do to let the Sultan know this.
I think the Aden Commission
will work out all right. There

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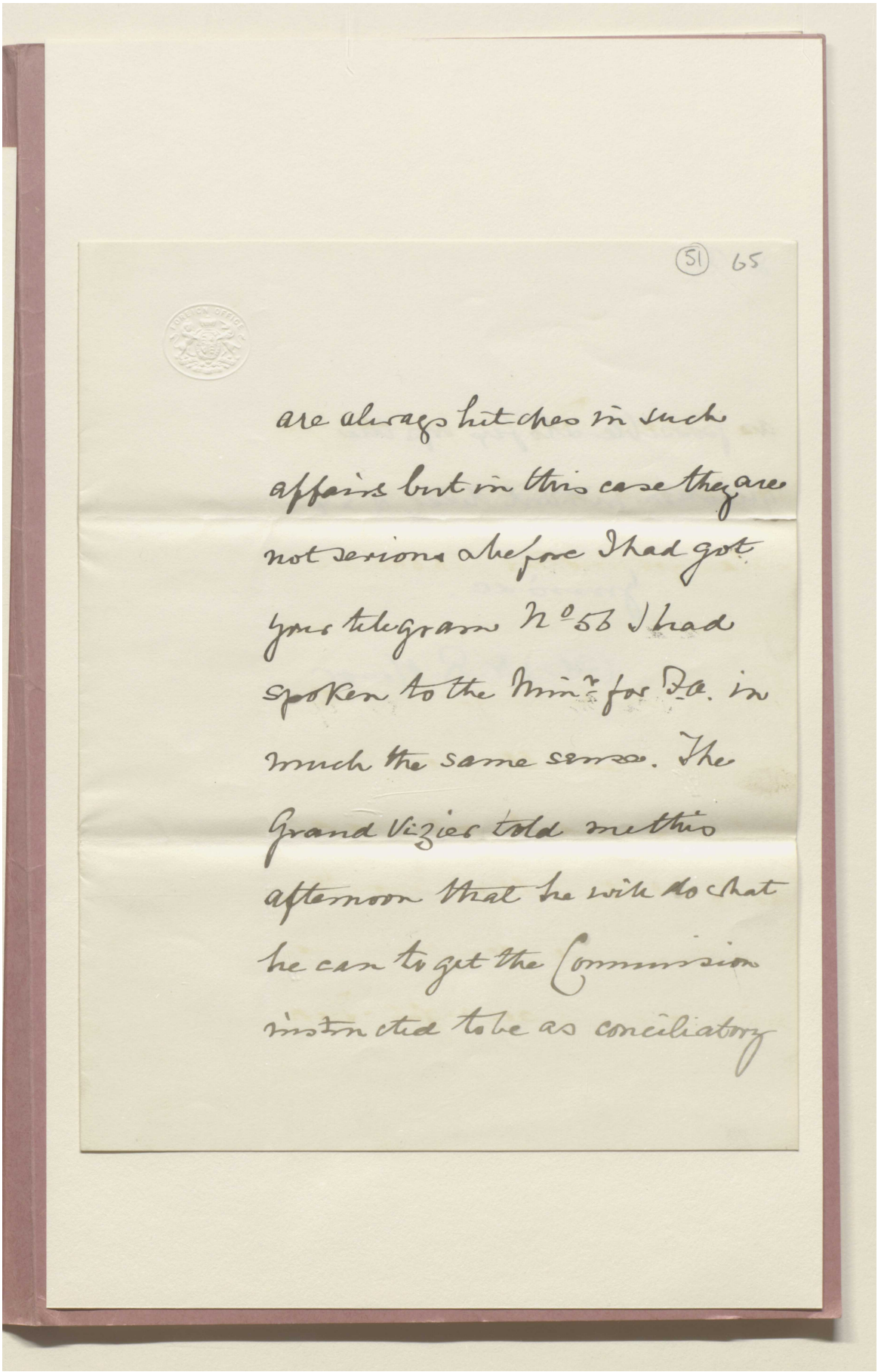
Miscellaneous Correspondence, Notes, and Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Persia
[51r] (105/255)



(51) 65

are always hitches in such affairs but in this case they are not serious & before I had got your telegram No 56 I had spoken to the Minr for F.A. in much the same sense. The Grand Vizier told me this afternoon that he will do what he can to get the Commission instructed to be as conciliatory

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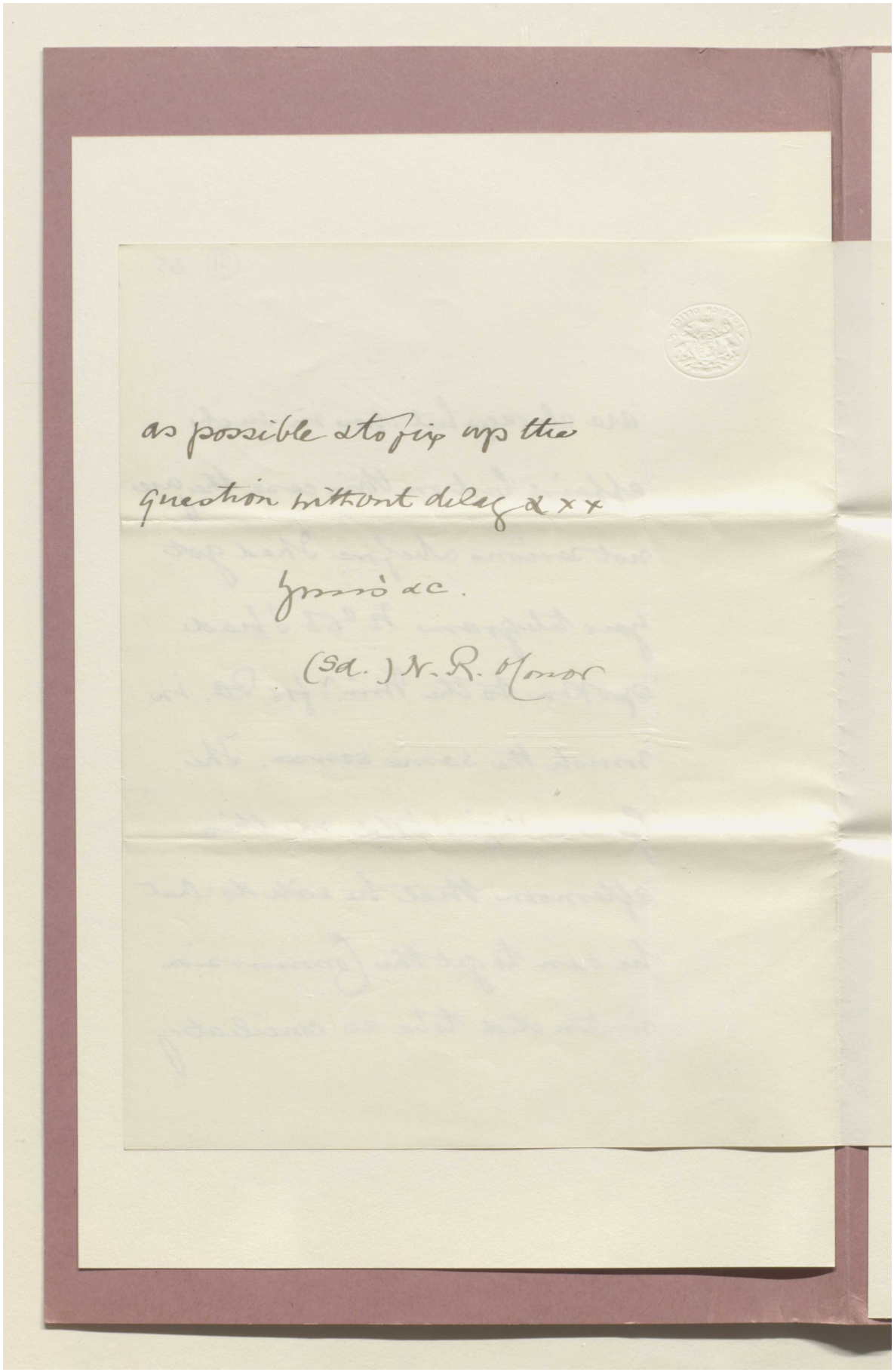

as possible to fix up the
question without delay &c &c

Yours &c.

(Sd.) N. R. Moor

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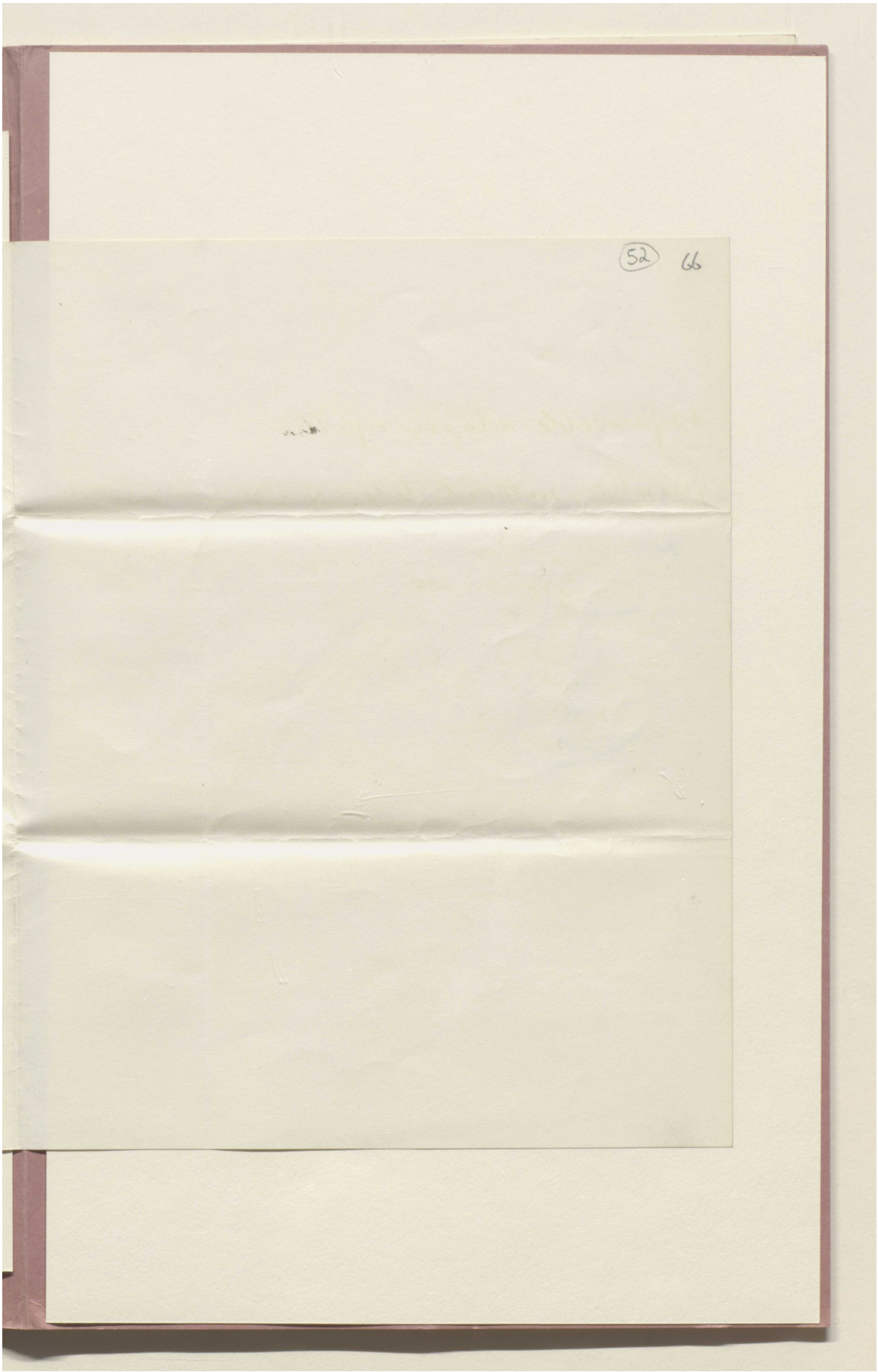

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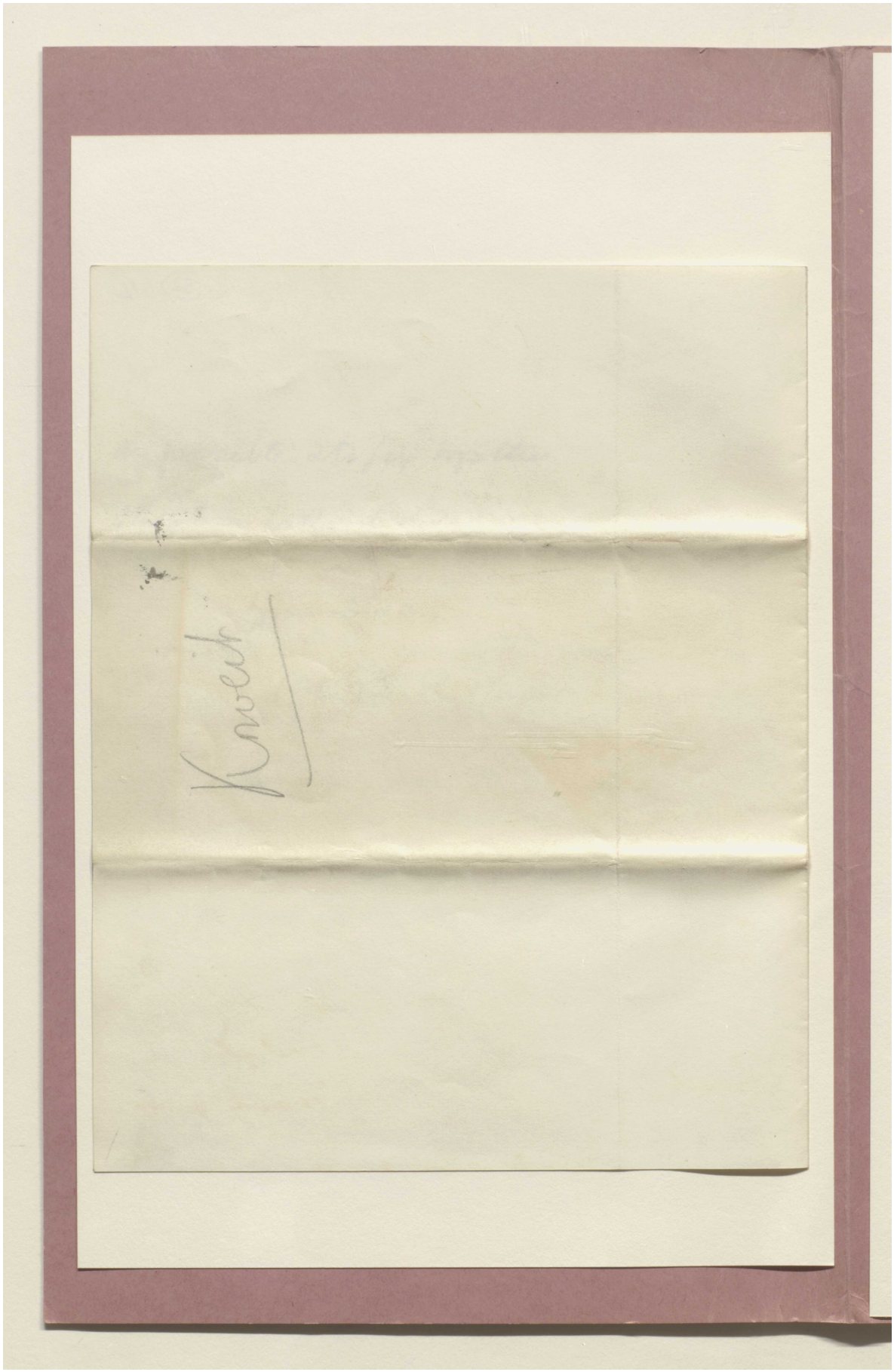

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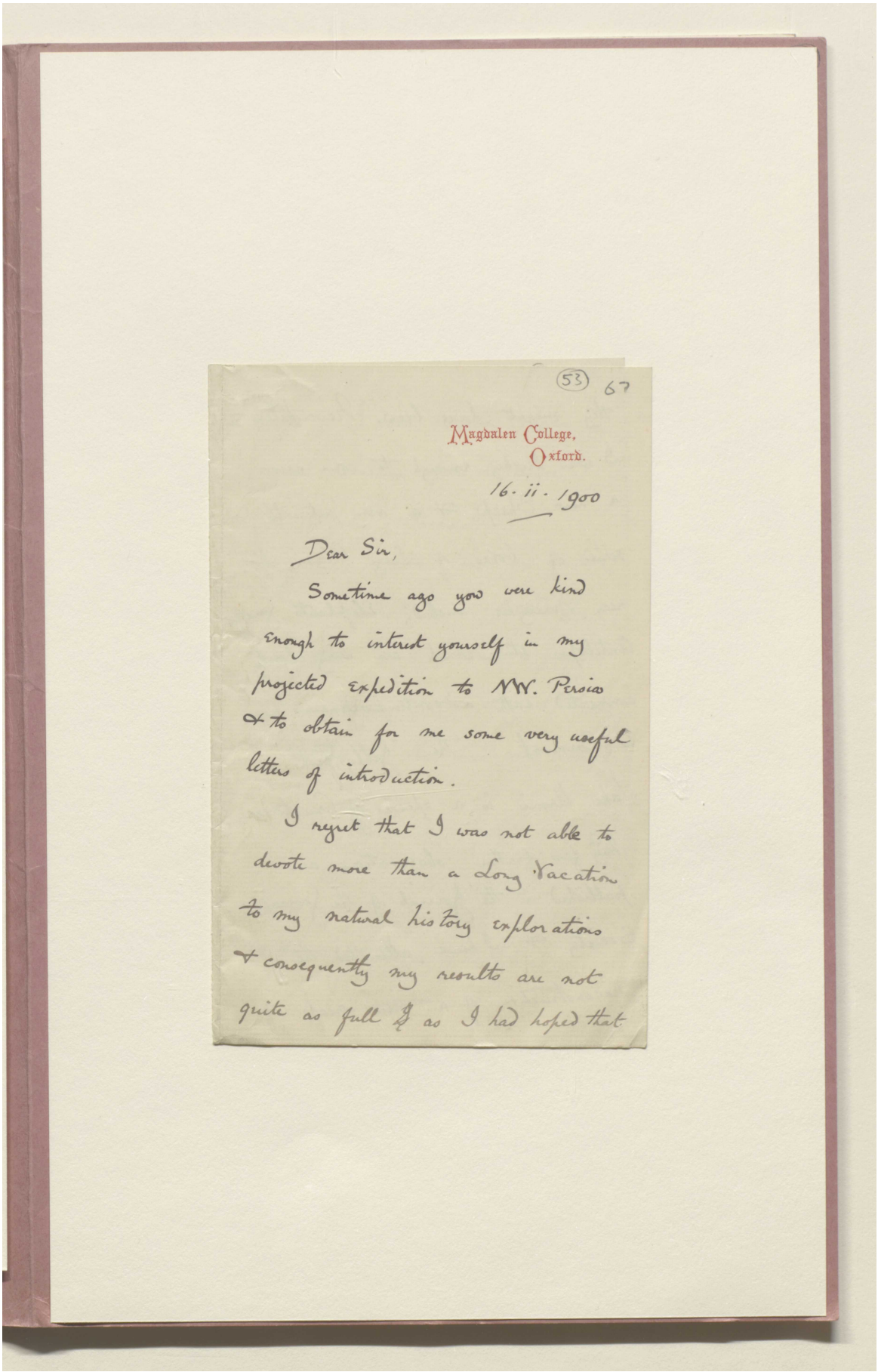

(53) 67

Magdalen College,
Oxford.

16. ii. 1900

Dear Sir,

Sometime ago you were kind enough to interest yourself in my projected expedition to NW. Persia & to obtain for me some very useful letters of introduction.

I regret that I was not able to devote more than a Long Vacation to my natural history explorations & consequently my results are not quite as full & as I had hoped that

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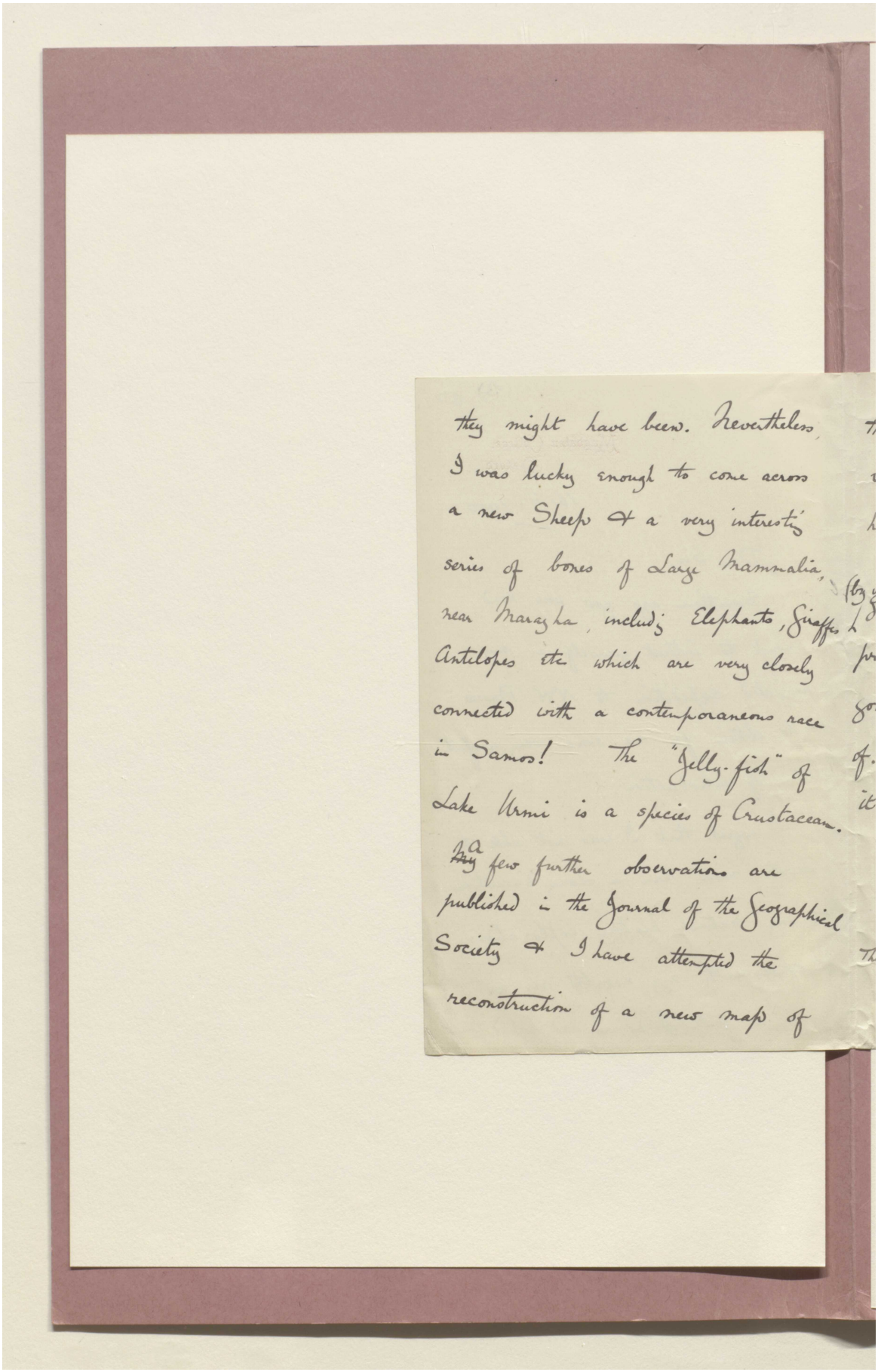

they might have been. Nevertheless
I was lucky enough to come across
a new Sheep & a very interesting
series of bones of Large Mammalia,
near Maragha, including Elephants, Giraffes
Antelopes etc which are very closely
connected with a contemporaneous race
in Samos! The "Jelly-fish" of
Lake Urmi is a species of Crustacean.
A few further observations are
published in the Journal of the Geographical
Society & I have attempted the
reconstruction of a new map of

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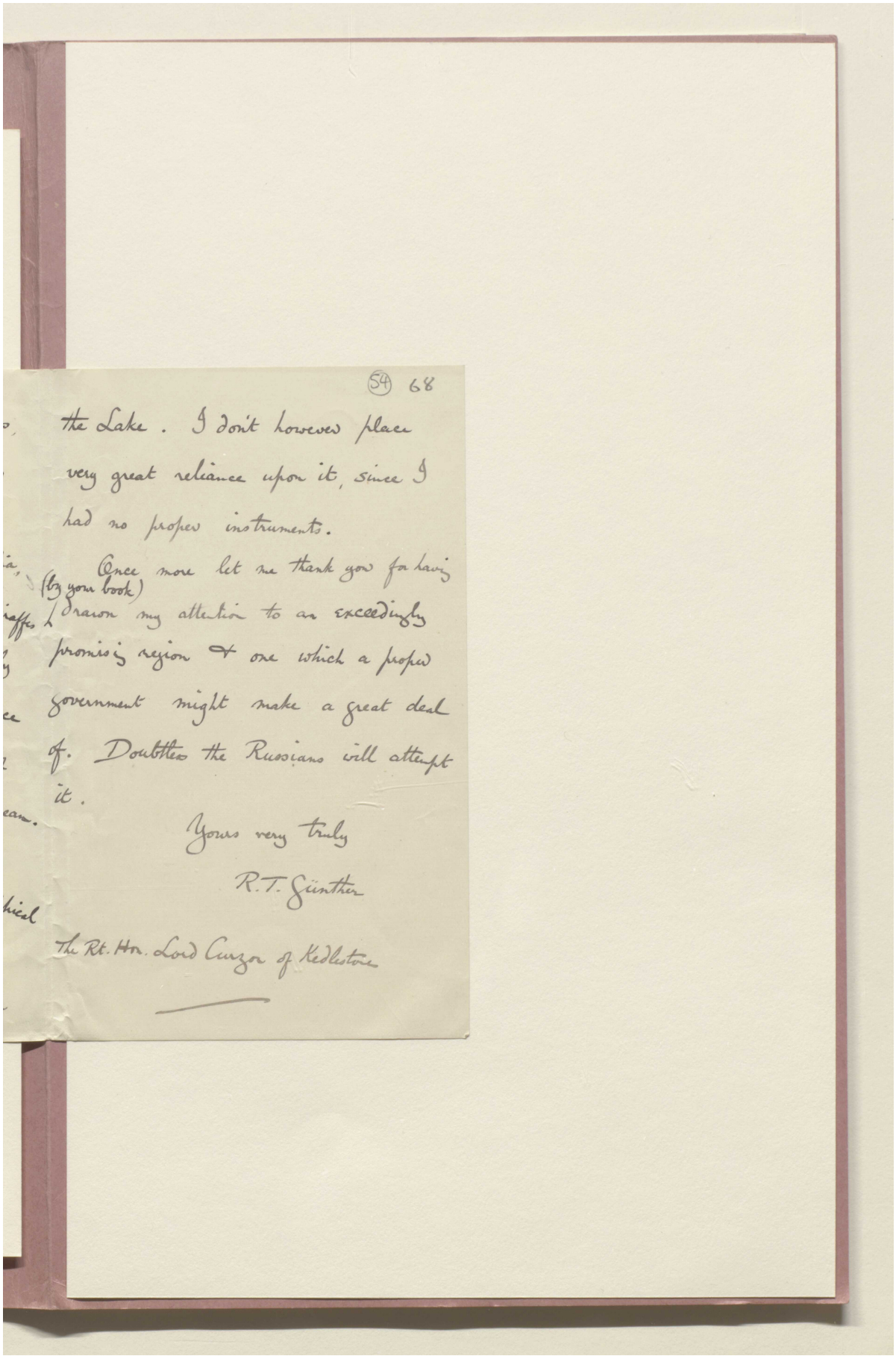

(54) 68

the Lake. I don't however place very great reliance upon it, since I had no proper instruments.

Once more let me thank you for having (by your book) drawn my attention to an exceedingly promising region & one which a proper government might make a great deal of. Doubtless the Russians will attempt it.

Yours very truly

R. T. Günther

The Rt. Hon. Lord Curzon of Kedleston

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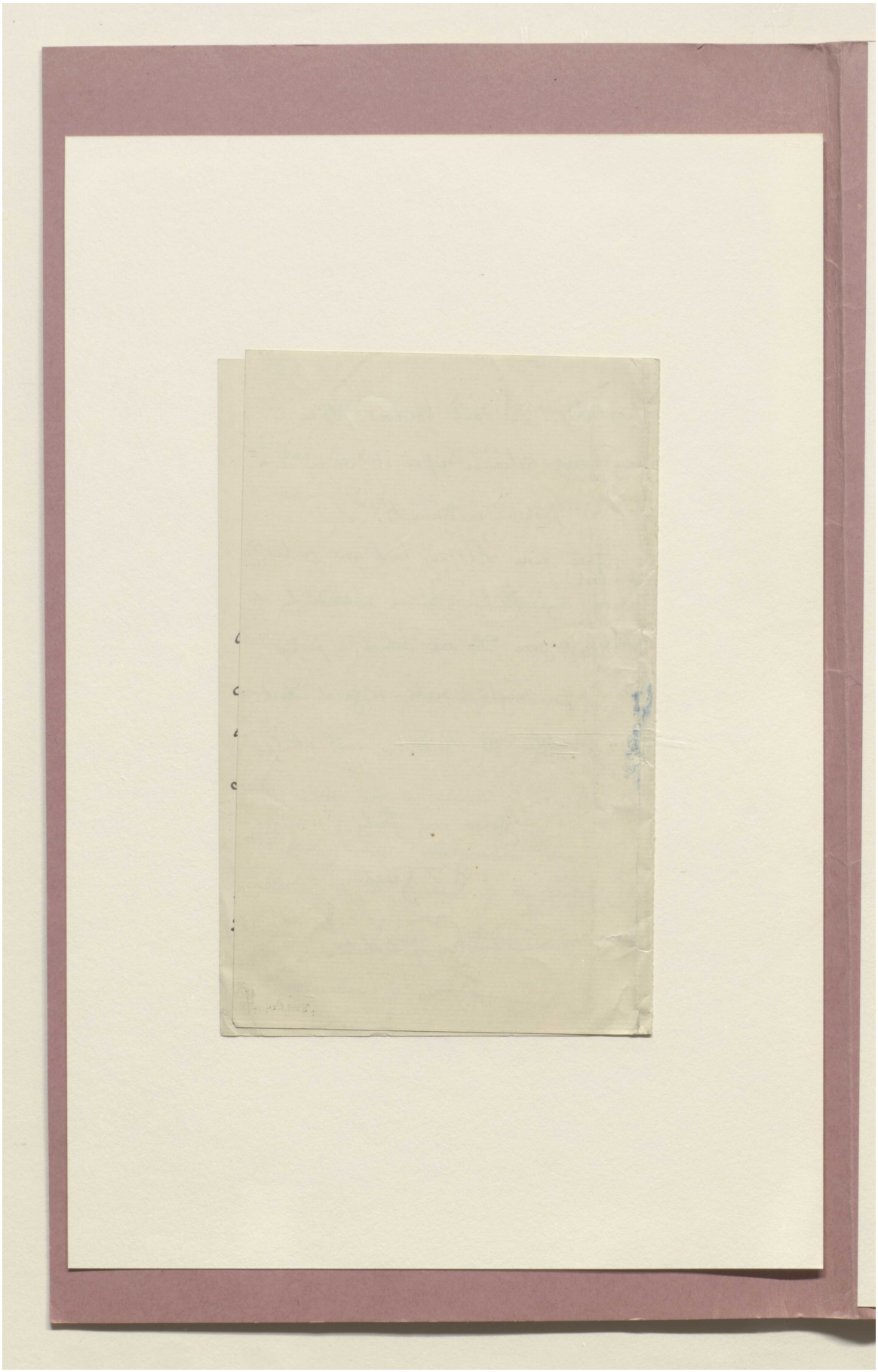

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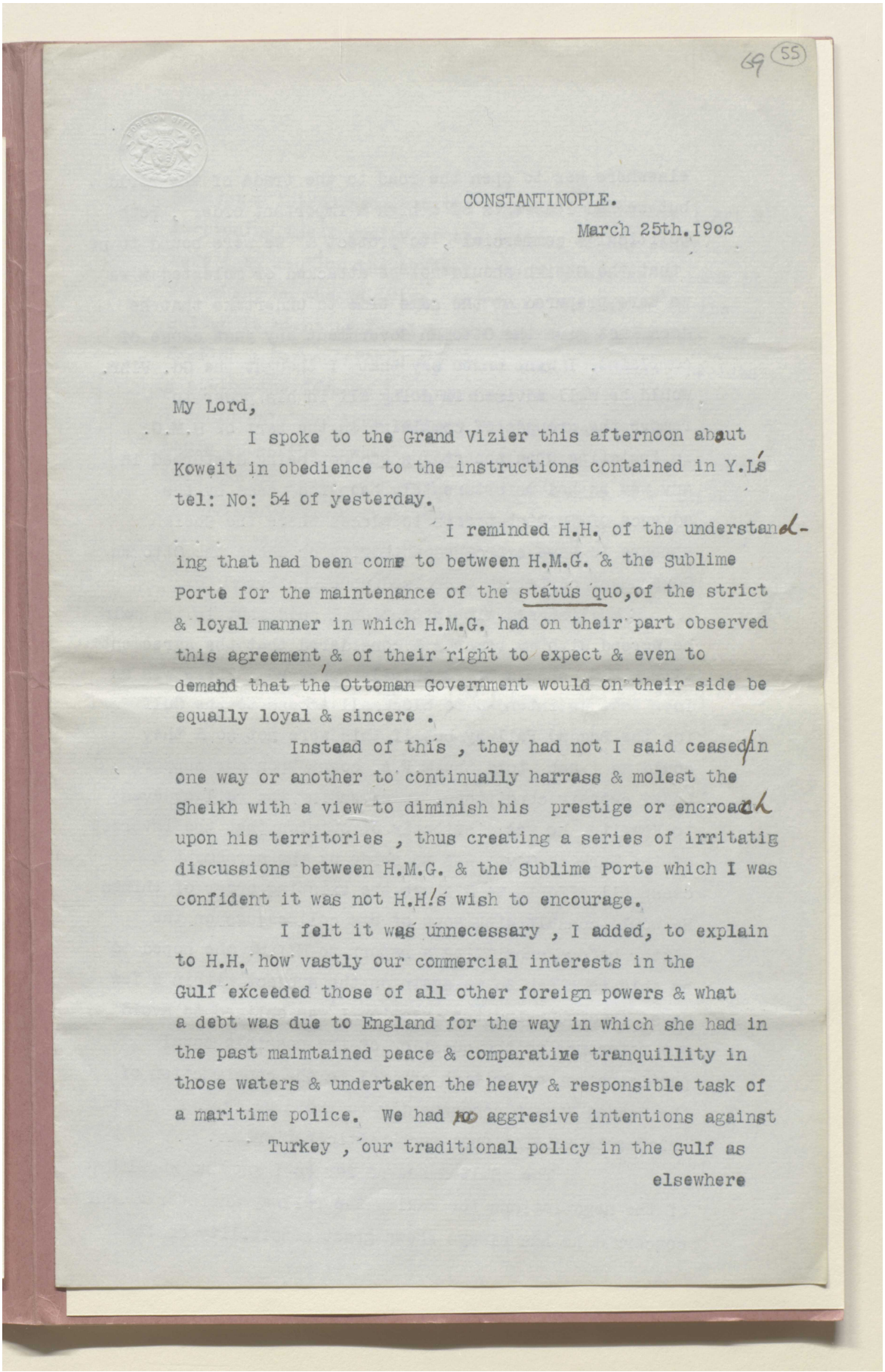

69 (55)

CONSTANTINOPLE.

March 25th.1902

My Lord,

I spoke to the Grand Vizier this afternoon about Koweit in obedience to the instructions contained in Y.Ls tel: No: 54 of yesterday.

I reminded H.H. of the understanding that had been come to between H.M.G. & the Sublime Porte for the maintenance of the status quo, of the strict & loyal manner in which H.M.G. had on their part observed this agreement, & of their right to expect & even to demand that the Ottoman Government would on their side be equally loyal & sincere .

Instead of this , they had not I said ceased in one way or another to continually harrass & molest the Sheikh with a view to diminish his prestige or encroach upon his territories , thus creating a series of irritatig discussions between H.M.G. & the Sublime Porte which I was confident it was not H.H.'s wish to encourage.

I felt it was unnecessary , I added, to explain to H.H. how vastly our commercial interests in the Gulf exceeded those of all other foreign powers & what a debt was due to England for the way in which she had in the past maimtained peace & comparative tranquillity in those waters & undertaken the heavy & responsible task of a maritime police. We had no aggresive intentions against Turkey , our traditional policy in the Gulf as elsewhere

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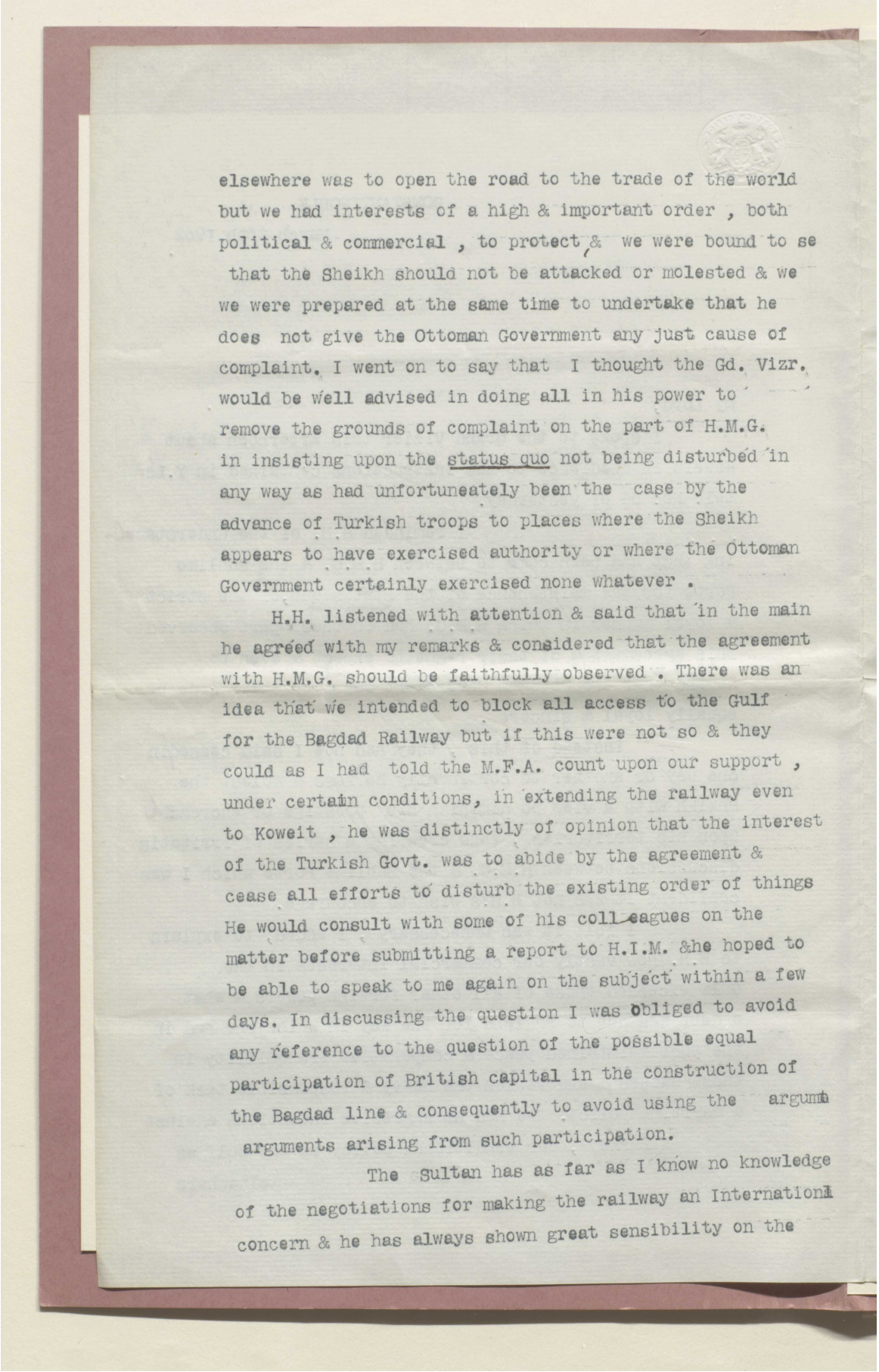

elsewhere was to open the road to the trade of the world but we had interests of a high & important order , both political & commercial , to protect & we were bound to se that the Sheikh should not be attacked or molested & we we were prepared at the same time to undertake that he does not give the Ottoman Government any just cause of complaint. I went on to say that I thought the Gd. Vizr. would be well advised in doing all in his power to remove the grounds of complaint on the part of H.M.G. in insisting upon the status quo not being disturbed in any way as had unfortuneately been the case by the advance of Turkish troops to places where the Sheikh appears to have exercised authority or where the Ottoman Government certainly exercised none whatever .

H.H. listened with attention & said that in the main he agreed with my remarks & considered that the agreement with H.M.G. should be faithfully observed . There was an idea that we intended to block all access to the Gulf for the Bagdad Railway but if this were not so & they could as I had told the M.F.A. count upon our support , under certain conditions, in extending the railway even to Koweit , he was distinctly of opinion that the interest of the Turkish Govt. was to abide by the agreement & cease all efforts to disturb the existing order of things He would consult with some of his colleagues on the matter before submitting a report to H.I.M. &he hoped to be able to speak to me again on the subject within a few days. In discussing the question I was obliged to avoid any reference to the question of the possible equal participation of British capital in the construction of the Bagdad line & consequently to avoid using the argumh arguments arising from such participation.

The Sultan has as far as I know no knowledge of the negotiations for making the railway an International concern & he has always shown great sensibility on the

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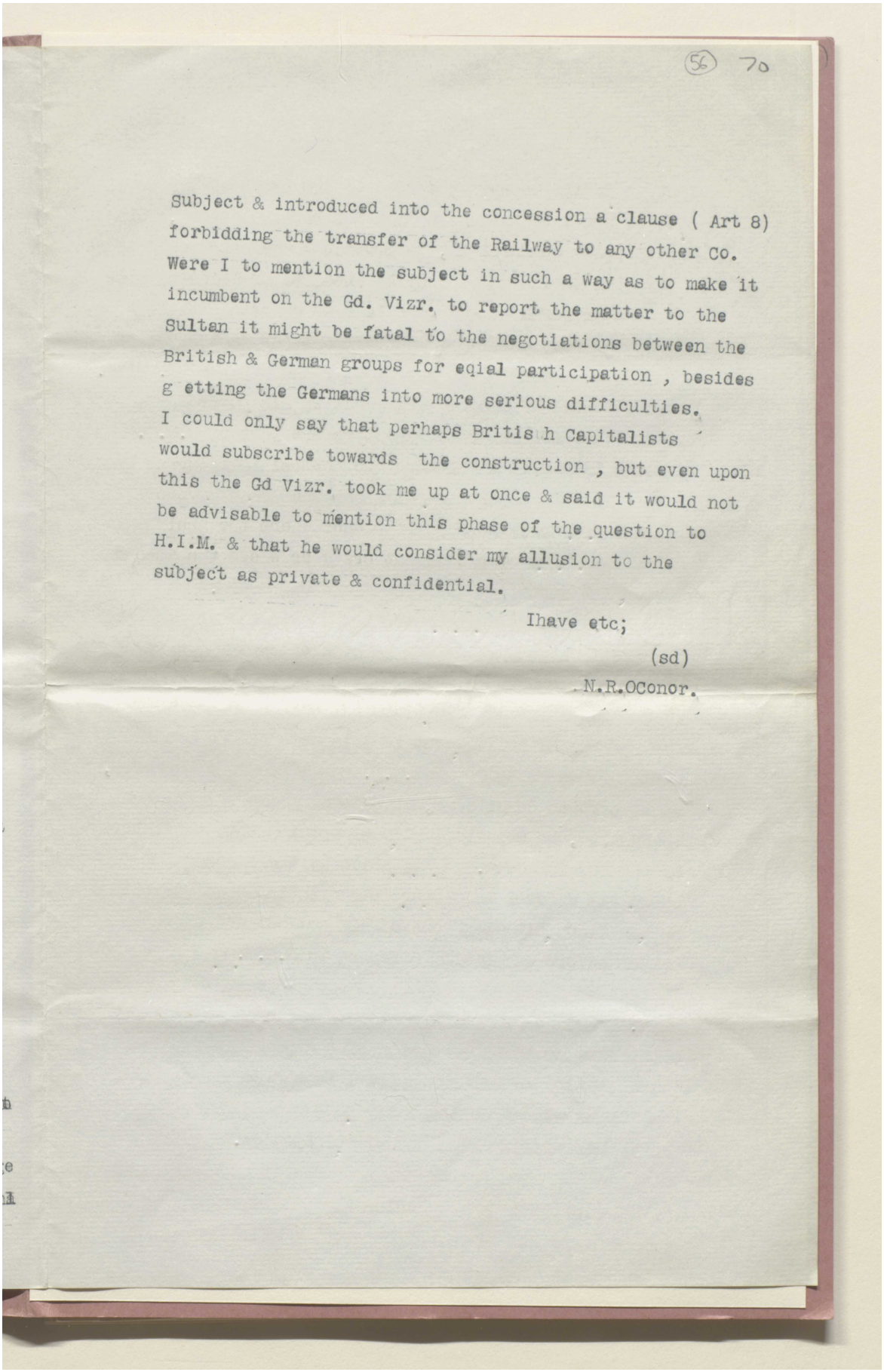

(56) 70

Subject & introduced into the concession a clause (Art 8) forbidding the transfer of the Railway to any other Co. Were I to mention the subject in such a way as to make it incumbent on the Gd. Vizr. to report the matter to the Sultan it might be fatal to the negotiations between the British & German groups for eqial participation , besides g etting the Germans into more serious difficulties. I could only say that perhaps Britis h Capitalists would subscribe towards the construction , but even upon this the Gd Vizr. took me up at once & said it would not be advisable to mention this phase of the question to H.I.M. & that he would consider my allusion to the subject as private & confidential.

Ihave etc;

(sd)

N.R.OConor.

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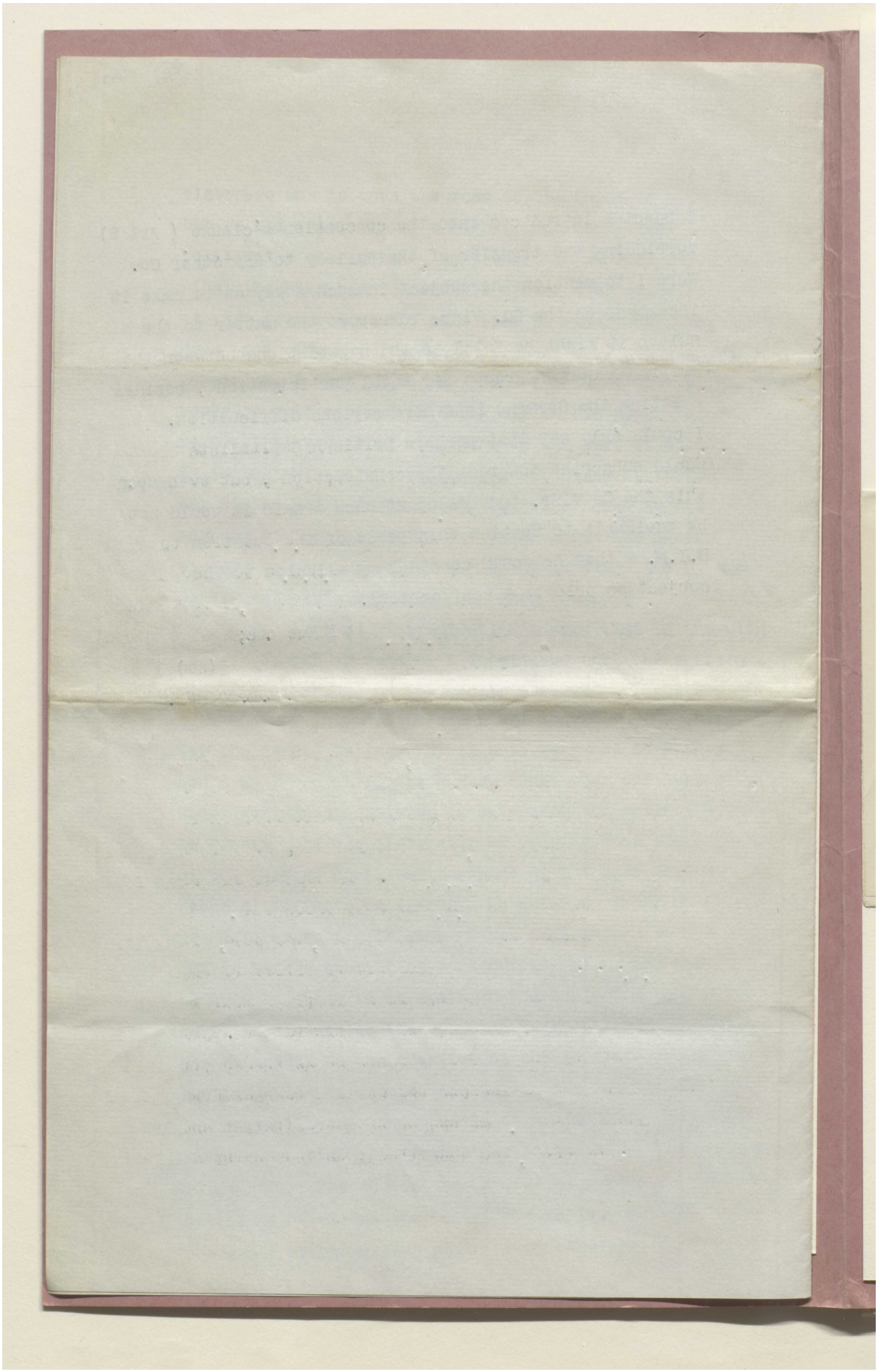

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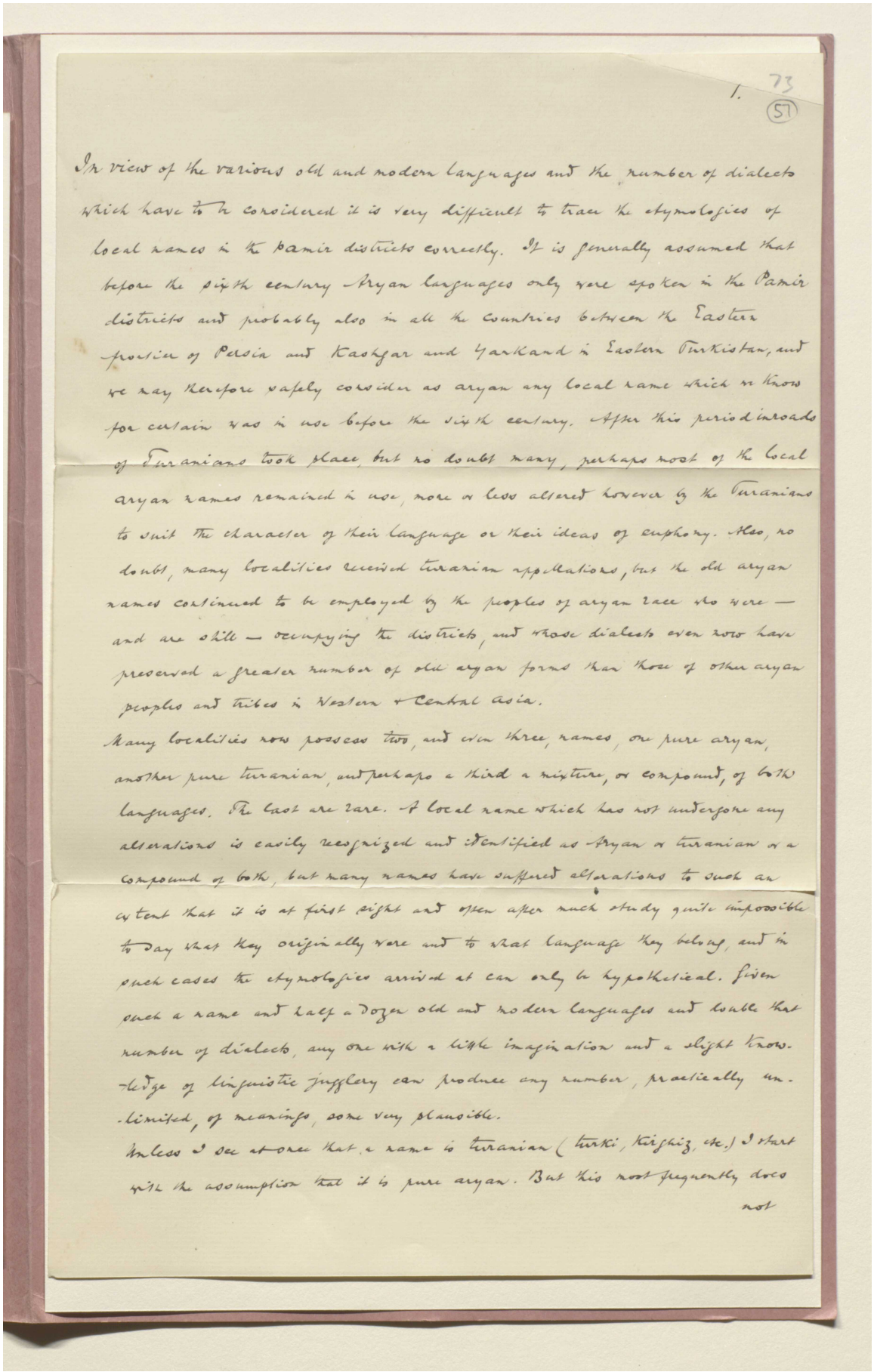

I. 73
(57)

In view of the various old and modern languages and the number of dialects which have to be considered it is very difficult to trace the etymologies of local names in the Pamir districts correctly. It is generally assumed that before the sixth century Aryan languages only were spoken in the Pamir districts and probably also in all the countries between the Eastern frontier of Persia and Kashgar and Yarkand in Eastern Turkistan, and we may therefore safely consider as aryan any local name which is known for certain was in use before the sixth century. After this period inroads of Turanians took place, but no doubt many, perhaps most of the local aryan names remained in use, more or less altered however by the Turanians to suit the character of their language or their ideas of euphony. Also, no doubt, many localities received turanian appellations, but the old aryan names continued to be employed by the peoples of aryan race who were — and are still — occupying the districts, and whose dialects even now have preserved a greater number of old aryan forms than those of other aryan peoples and tribes in Western + Central Asia.

Many localities now possess two, and even three, names, one pure aryan, another pure turanian, and perhaps a third a mixture, or compound, of both languages. The last are rare. A local name which has not undergone any alterations is easily recognized and identified as Aryan or turanian or a compound of both, but many names have suffered alterations to such an extent that it is at first sight and often after much study quite impossible to say what they originally were and to what language they belong, and in such cases the etymologies arrived at can only be hypothetical. Given such a name and half a dozen old and modern languages and double that number of dialects, any one with a little imagination and a slight knowledge of linguistic jugglery can produce any number, practically unlimited, of meanings, some very plausible.

Unless I see at once that a name is turanian (turki, kirghiz, etc.) I start with the assumption that it is pure aryan. But this most frequently does not

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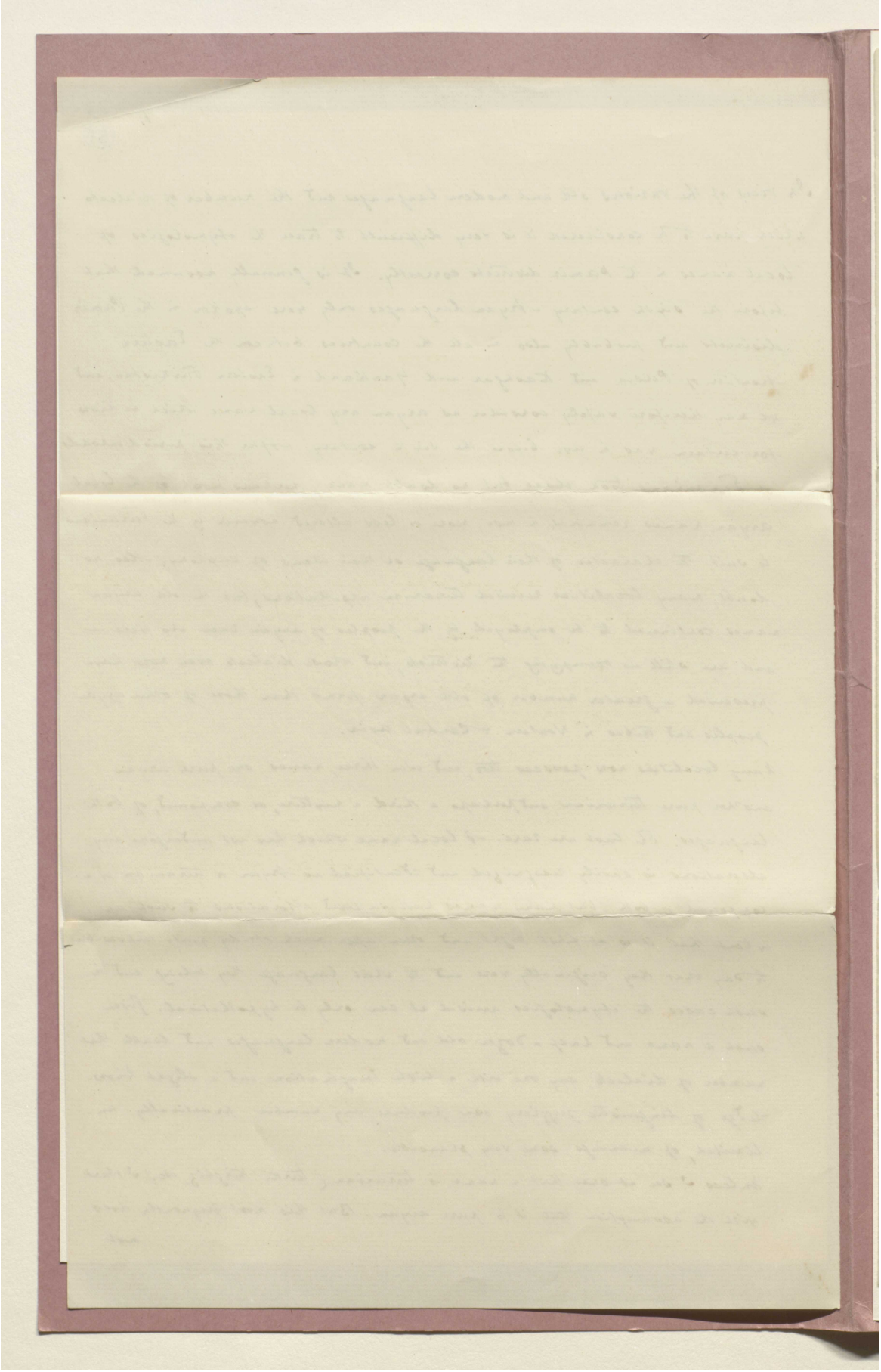

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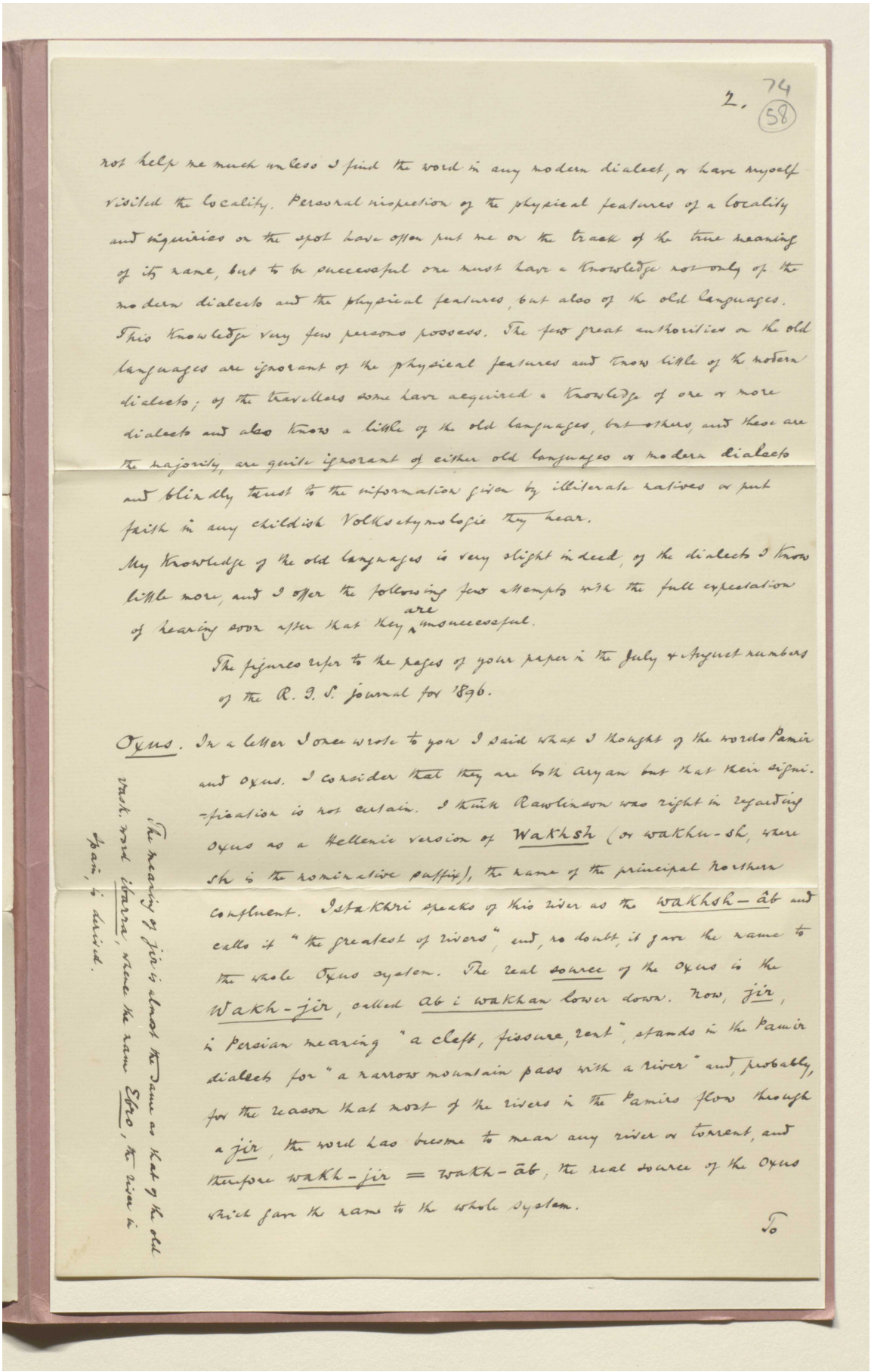

2. 74
(58)

not help me much unless I find the word in any modern dialect, or have myself visited the locality. Personal inspection of the physical features of a locality and inquiries on the spot have often put me on the track of the true meaning of its name, but to be successful one must have a knowledge not only of the modern dialects and the physical features, but also of the old languages. This knowledge very few persons possess. The few great authorities on the old languages are ignorant of the physical features and know little of the modern dialects; of the travellers some have acquired a knowledge of one or more dialects and also know a little of the old languages, but others, and these are the majority, are quite ignorant of either old languages or modern dialects and blindly trust to the information given by illiterate natives or put faith in any childish Volksetymologie they hear.

My knowledge of the old languages is very slight indeed, of the dialects I know little more, and I offer the following few attempts with the full expectation of hearing soon after that they are unsuccessful.

The figures refer to the pages of your paper in the July + August numbers of the R. G. S. journal for 1896.

Oxus. In a letter I once wrote to you I said what I thought of the words Pamir and Oxus. I consider that they are both aryan but that their signification is not certain. I think Rawlinson was right in regarding Oxus as a Hellenic version of Wakhsh (or wakhu-sh, where sh is the nominative suffix), the name of the principal northern confluent. Istakhri speaks of this river as the wakhsh-âb and calls it "the greatest of rivers", and, no doubt, it gave the name to the whole Oxus system. The real source of the Oxus is the Wakh-jir, called ab i wakhan lower down. Now, jir, in Persian meaning "a cleft, fissure, rent", stands in the Pamir dialects for "a narrow mountain pass with a river" and, probably, for the reason that most of the rivers in the Pamirs flow through a jir, the word has become to mean any river or torrent, and therefore wakh-jir = wakh-âb, the real source of the Oxus which gave the name to the whole system.

To

The meaning of jir is almost the same as that of the old vakh, with ishtâna, whence the name Ishtâ, the river in Bactria, is derived.

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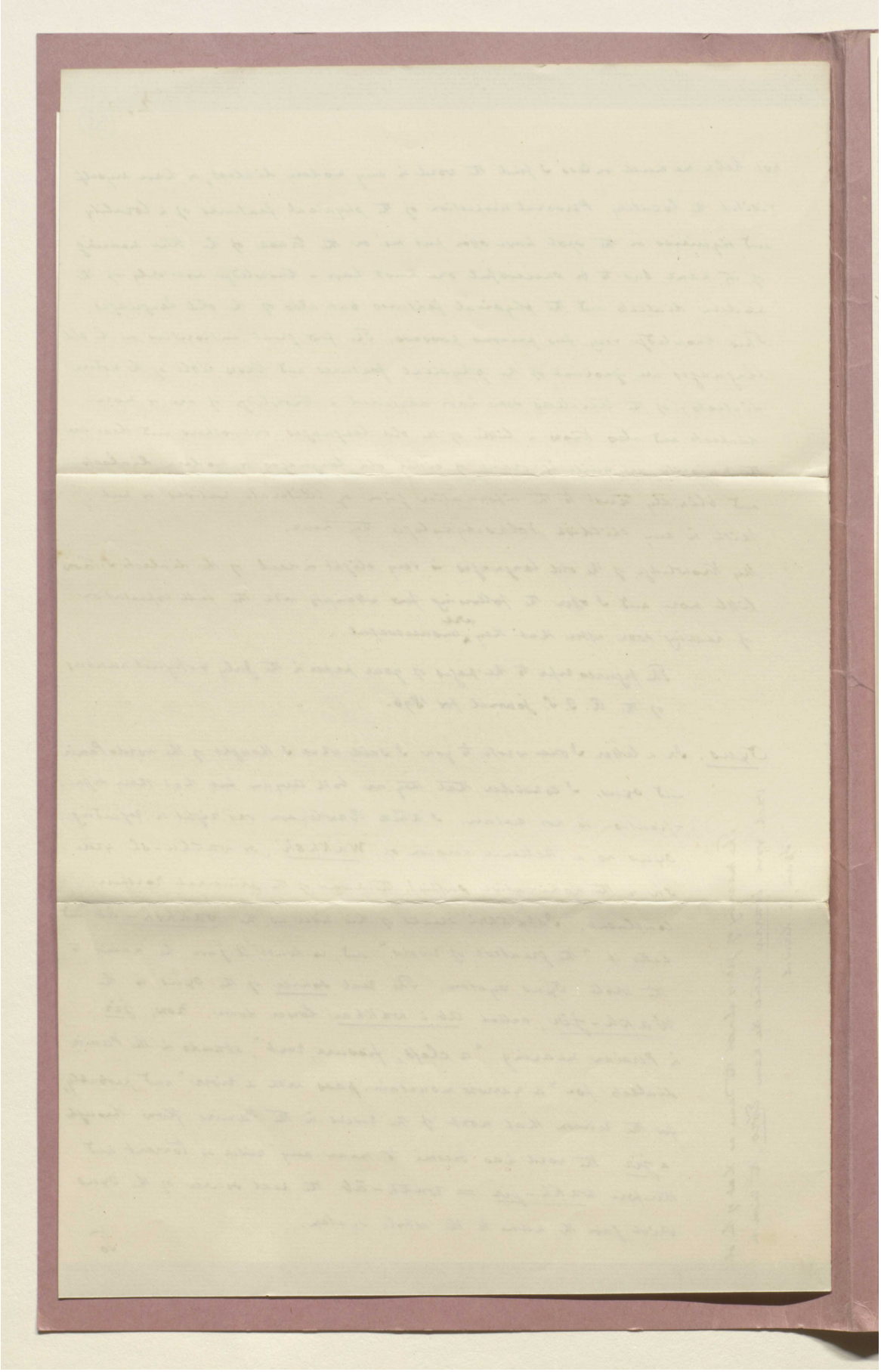

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75. (59)
3.

To the various old roots whence Wakhsh may be derived may be added the bactrian vakhsha, growth, growing, whence the Pamir word vrukh, vrush, "a green plant." Your idea that the word may have sprung from a primitive form signifying "water", is new to me, and if it is correct we may say wakh = river; wakh-sh, wakhush = oxus, the river, old persian nominativ, and Wakhan might be = wakh-stan, the "riverland", or "country of the river."

47. Bartang. Bâr in the wakhan dialect stands for door, the bâr of persian & pamir dialects; tang in persian, etc. means narrow. Bartang therefore is narrow door or passage

100. Sir i Kol. According to Wood the Kirghiz thus call the lake or the great Pamir (other names are lake Victoria, Hawz i Kalân) and the name is explained as "Head of the Lake" from pers. Sar = head, and as "the yellow Lake" from turki Ṣârik = yellow and Kol = Lake. Here I should like to ask is the lake yellow? If it is not I should propose Sarik Kôl, "the great lake", for Sarik in the Pamir dialects means "great", the same as the pers. Kalân. Sarik-Kôl would then be the same as Kalân-Kôl; but has the Pamir its name Kalân pamir from the lake, or has the lake its name from the Pamir? I should say the latter, for the Pamir is the great one, while the lake is by no means the greatest, and therefore I think the correct name of the lake is Pamir i Kalân Kôl, or Kalan Pamir Kôl. If sarik (Ṣârik) is turki and stands for yellow, the word for Lake should be turki too, viz. Kôl, Kûl or gôl; Kûl and Kôl are persian (aryan) terms. "Head of the Lake" as name for the Lake may be dismissed.

101. The goose in turki is Ḳâz, ghâz, gâz. The Pamir dialects have no aryan word for goose.

102. Ghund, or gunt, river. In the Sarik Kôl dialect ghund, ghond = persian gand, meaning stinking.

104

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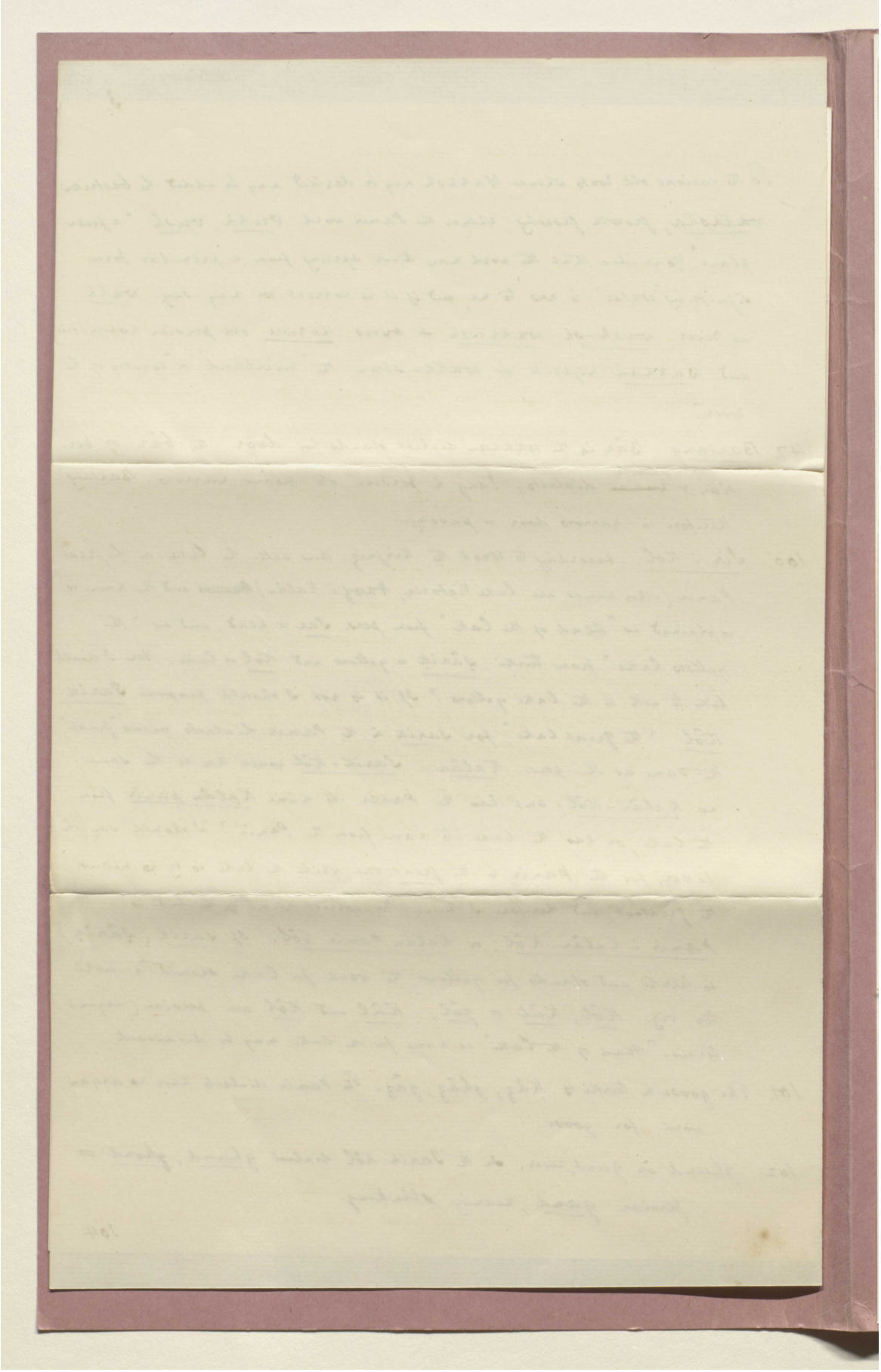

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76 (60)
4.

104. Chatir Tash or Chadir Tash, stone-house.

Tash (tāsh) is turki for stone, but that chatir, or chadir, means "house" is not certain, and if it does mean "house" the name should be translated as "house-stone", a stone resembling a house, and not "stone-house", which is a house made of stone and would be expressed by tash chatir, or chatir i tash. Chatir tash is equivalent to tash i chatir, the stone house of the house, or house-stone.

The Pamir words for "house" are ched, chid, chad, and Ket, from the persian Kad, Ked, Kedeh (pehlevi Katak), house. Has the stone the appearance of a house or is it used as a house? Hedin thinks of the persian chādar, "tent" and translates "tent-stone", does it look like a tent?

There is a pamir word chatīr, composed of chad, house, and tīr or tēr, black, standing for soot (house-black), and if the stone is overhanging, forming a kind of recess or cave, which is blackened by the smoke of the fires made by persons who take shelter in it, the meaning of chatir tash may be the "soot-stone".

This is a case in point where diacritical marks to show whether the vowels are short or long would greatly assist.

104. Rang. This is an aryan word, for no turki word begins with R. It means "colour, paint" and various other things but not "variegated" as Sawyer explains for the name of the great mountain near Ispahan (R. G. S. Journal, Dec 1894, 483).

Is the Rang-kūl variegated?

Yules explanation, rang = ibex is, I think, correct and that the Kirghiz use the turki word tekkeh for the ibex, as Rey Elias pointed out, is no proof that Yules explanation is wrong; Rang-Kūl is an aryan name and would correctly mean the "ibex-lake", but is the lake or has it ever been much frequented by the animal called rang?

Rang, an animal, stands in persian dialects for wild goat, ibex, and deer, and is derived from the root rap, rē, meaning to move, to go. The english run, range, rein-deer (old rane-deer), the persian raftan

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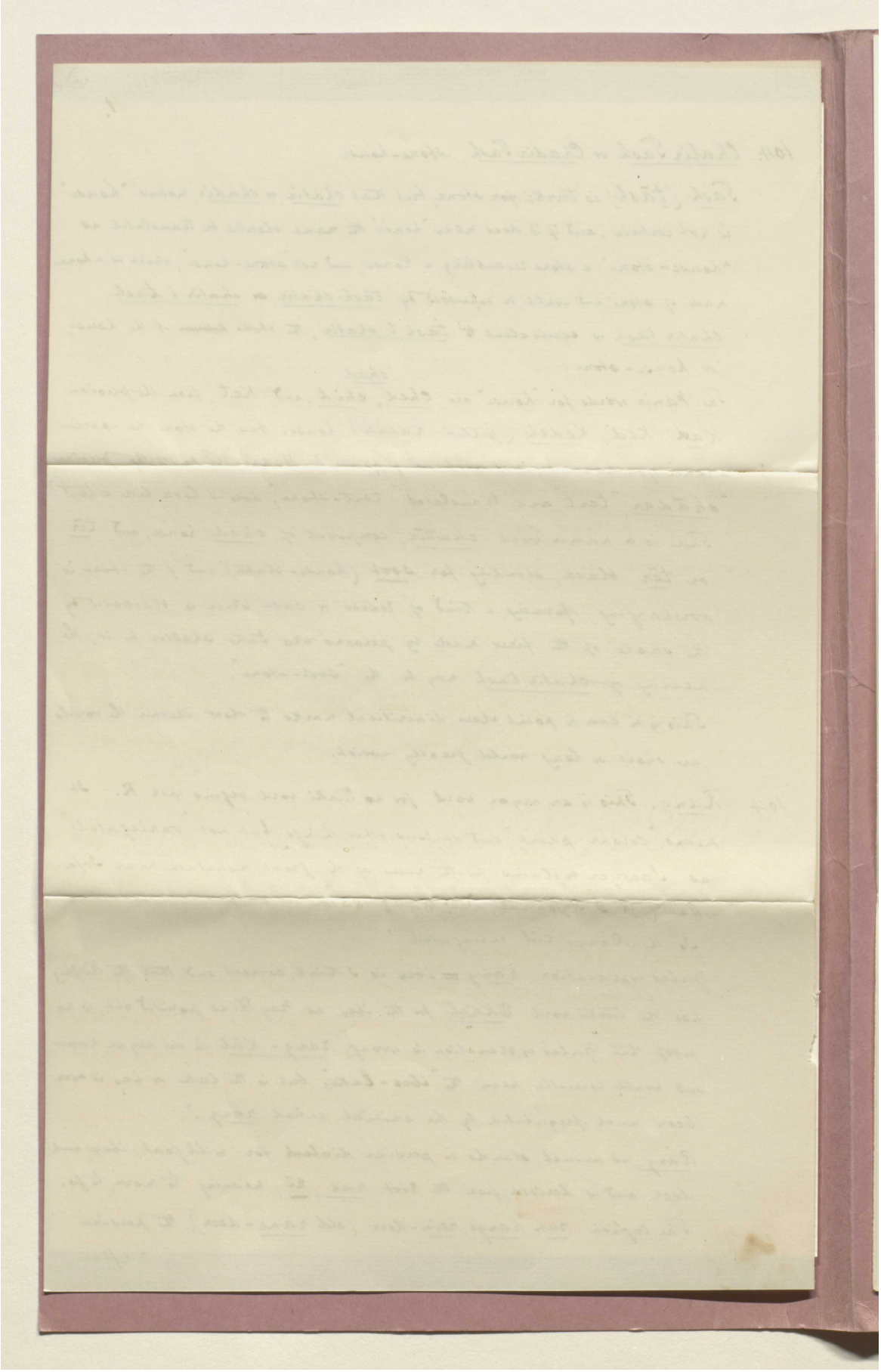

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77 (61)
5.

raftan (root rū) to go, rāndan, to cause to go, etc. core from the same root and rang would originally have meant any swiftly moving animal, and later deer, ibex, ovis poli, etc.

Note. Or one word serving for several different animals compare the persian nakhchīr, ibex in Persia, fox in the Pamirs, deer among the Afghans, persian gāv, buffalo, deer and cattle in general; persian tadarv, pheasant, partridge, pigeon, dove, etc.

I think that the pamir terms ras, rus, rūsh for the ovis poli are derived from the same root, although others, probably correctly, derive them from the root ars, ris, to pluck, to tear off (as sheep do in grazing).

The name of the mountain near Isfahan is not Kūh i rang, "the mountain of colour", or, as Sawyer will have it, "the variegated mountain", but Kūh i Kūrang or Kūh i Kurang. The Bakhtiaris do not know the word rang, unless it be with its meaning colour or paint and they call the mountain Kūrang, or Kurang, and thinking that it is a contraction of Kūh i rang they drop the word Kūh before it. This explanation that Kūrang = Kūh rang, "mountain-colour", or, = Kūh i rang "the mountain of colour" is nonsense and quite a modern Volksetymologie. The author of the Nisf i Jehān, a history of Isfahan compiled ten or fifteen years ago by a gentleman who knows every rock and corner of the province and every legend attached to it cannot explain the word and only repeats the Volksetymologie. He has:

"The source of the Zendeh-rūd is on the slope of the Zard Kūh, which separates the Isfahan districts from those of the Bakhtiari and Luristan. One of the spurs of this mountain, which relative to Isfahan lies behind it (that is West of Zard Kūh), is called Kūh i rang, now abbreviated into Kūrang. The source of the Kārūn is at the foot of the Kūrang. There is also a district called Kūrang and the river flows past it, and district and river have their name from the mountain, and the correct name

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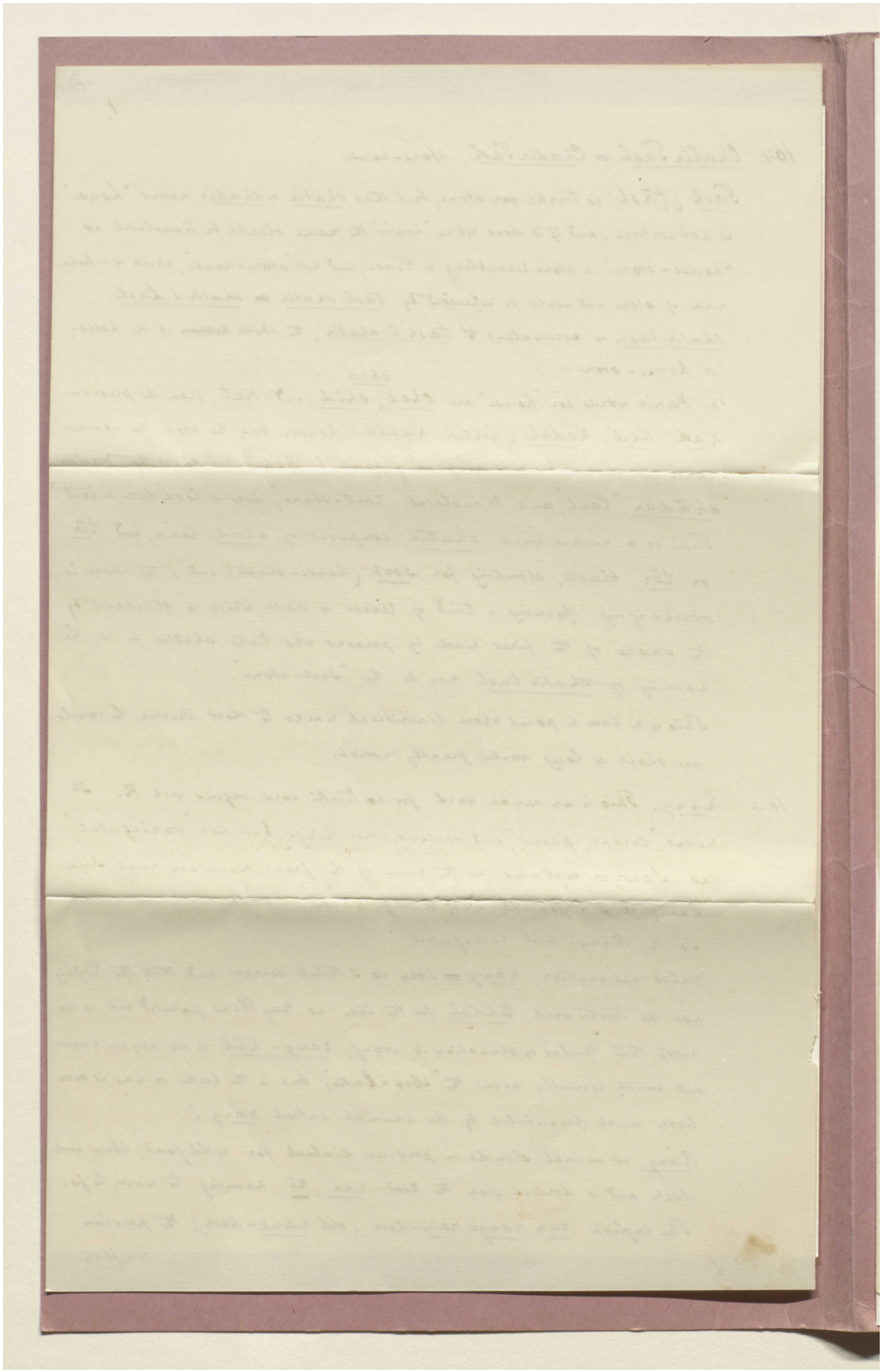

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78 6. (62)

name is Kūrang; Kāran and Kārān are errors."

My idea is that Kāran, or Kārān, is the more correct name. The river which rises in the mountain which is now known as Kūrang is called Ab i Kuran in its upper course and Kārān, pronounced Kārūn, in its lower course. The river had this name many centuries ago and is frequently mentioned in old works, the name Kūrang does not appear and probably is quite modern. I am much inclined to think that Kūh i Kārān and Ab i Kārān were the original names of mountain and river.

Can they be connected with the greek Koronos? or with Kāran, the son of Kāvah, the Isfahan smith who delivered Persia from the yoke of the arab Zohāk, or with the princely family of the Kārēn under the Arsacides, who traced their descent from Kāvah and gave the name to the Kūh i Kāran in Mazandaran, which the greeks called Koronos?

107. Tagharma. This mountain is said to have its name from a plain or locality near it, but is it not more likely that so important a mountain, as Tagharma with a height of 25,000 feet is, should have had an old aryan name of its own?

Tāghar, in Persian, means a bowl or basin and surely no mountain would be assimilated to a bowl. The name probably contains the word ghar, stone, mountain, and the first syllable may be a corruption of tēgh, the persian tīz or tēz, sharp, pointed.

Gharma and garma stand in the pamir dialects for "cave", but again, a mountain would hardly derive its name from a cave.

112, 114. Urta Bel pass, or Bayik pass, or Bijik Bel of Capus. The word Bel is connected with pers. buland, pamir biland, bilik, "high," and means "pass". Bayik and Bijik are turki and mean "great."

Lord Dunmore's ak-bilis (p. 46) should be ak-bilik, "white pass."

119. Chateboi, glacier at upper Yarkhun or Kunar river, is Chat i bōi [redacted] = lake of ice(?) Chat or Chot in the Chitral dialect means lake and pond, and is derived from the bactrian chāt, spring, fountain, well; sanscrit Khāta, pers. Chah.

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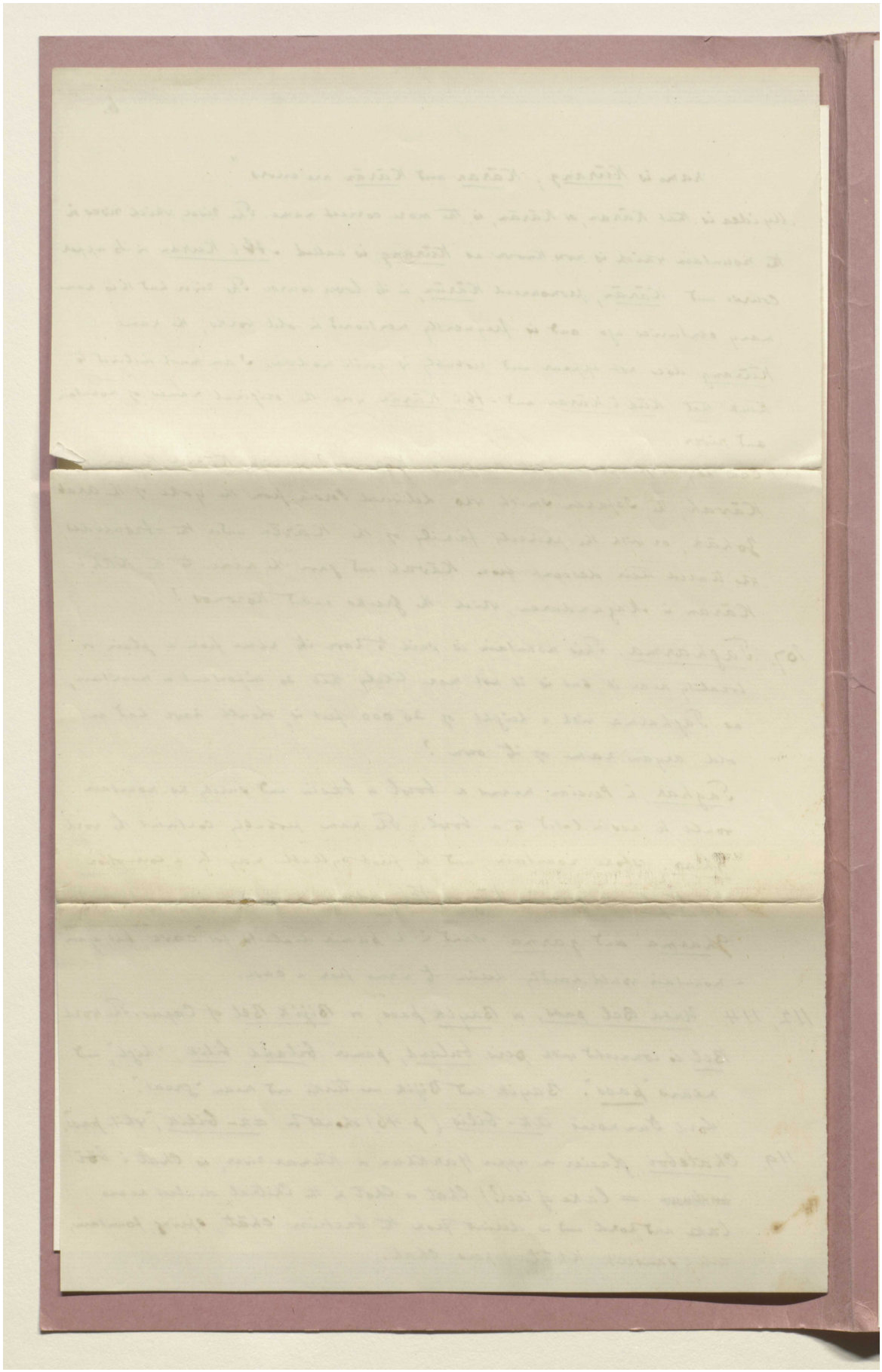

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(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 28, 1899, 11·30 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 74.

Expenditure, not exceeding 2,000*l.*, on famine relief in Protectorate sanctioned.

Be careful to restrict issue of food supplies to most necessitous persons only. Relief period should not be unduly prolonged. Report steps taken and results.

72 (63)

No. 2.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Jenner.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 28, 1899, 1·10 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 30.

You should maintain protest, and express the regret of Her Majesty's Government that your representations made on behalf of British subjects have been disregarded.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 127 A.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 28, 1899, 4·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 183.

Have you taken action to secure punishment of guilty parties and payment of indemnity for property destroyed? According to Reuter, placards have been posted at Kienning offering reward of 1,000 dollars for heads of missionaries.

No. 4.

Mr. Bax-Ironside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *Peking, June 28, 1899, 2·30 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 125.

Statements are incorrect.

For the action of Municipal Council *vide* my telegram No. 184.

Chinese authorities maintain attitude as described in my telegram No. 190, *viz.*, they have neither granted nor refused French demand.

I informed French Minister that I would refer to your Lordship as to whether Her Majesty's Government had any objection to proposed extension. I pressed his Excellency to give me the exact size of extension, but he could not do so.

I have again telegraphed to Shanghae for further information, both as to the exact area and locality of present French demand and the area of British-owned lots.

French Minister is absent from Peking, but I will endeavour to obtain further information from the Secretary of Legation.

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No. 6.

His Highness Sadr-Azam to the Persian Minister in London.—(*Communicated by the Persian Minister, June* 28.)

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *June* 20, 1899.

I AM in receipt of your last telegram containing an account of your interview with the Marquess of Salisbury, and his Lordship's answer.

You are to present yourself to his Lordship again, and convey my grateful acknowledgments for the friendly and sincere sentiments which those few words from him have convinced of.

I wish to say no more than this, that it is not my intention to complain of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister.

I am not interested in any particular personages, be it Sir M. Durand, Colonel Picot, or Major Sykes. I am solely interested in the maintenance of friendly relations between our two Governments. My only care is to restore to its former position our friendship. I wish once again to re-establish, in everybody's mind, from my Sovereign down to the meanest of his subjects, the conviction that Lord Salisbury has the best of wishes for the integrity and welfare of Persia.

This is my aim; I leave the rest to his Lordship. If the attainment of this laudable object is possible with the present mediums, so much the better; we have nothing to say. If, on the other hand, something else has to be done, I hope his Lordship will do it. He is better able to judge what is the best course than I can advise.

Lord Salisbury will remember a passage in his speech at the Mansion House, when we were in England, where he said, "In our wishes for Persia there is nothing to offend any one. We wish the Persians to make progress." And then again, at his own house, his Lordship repeated the same words.

With the aid of Representatives so distinguished as Sir D. Wolff, and so judicious and well-disposed as Sir F. Lascelles, I applied myself to the task of instilling the essence of those words into the mind of my countrymen with such success that the relations between our respective countries reached a point as to excite envy. Now, after a lapse of the twenty months of my retirement, I return to find that the opinion in Persia has been entirely altered, indeed to an extent that even people have been led to believe that, for instance, England intends to interfere in the affairs of South Persia, and even to deprive the Imperial Government of its authority in the southern dominions of its own Empire; and that, further, she is aiming to wrest from the hands of the inhabitants the commerce and trade of the country; such are the impressions created.

Is this state of affairs advantageous to Her Majesty's Government? Would the removal of these prejudices harm the interests of England, or, as I understand, will it be a service rendered to her? If it will be the latter, then I pray that his Lordship will favour me with his assistance that success may attend my efforts, but, on the other hand, should the former be the case, then I am mistaken, and the policy must have altered, and in that case it will be well to tell us so plainly that we may know on what ground we tread and what course to pursue. In any case I pray his Lordship to believe that I am as sincere now in my sentiments towards Her Britannic Majesty's Government as I have ever been, for I highly value England's friendship for my King, my Government, and my country.

An incident has happened to-day which goes far to prove what I have said.

To the Foreign Office Colonel Picot has come to-day, to say on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister that they do not approve of the appointment of Hassan

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Ali Khan, Amir-Nizam, as Governor to the Province of Kirman, notwithstanding that it is already two weeks that this exalted personage has been nominated, the appointment has been solemnized, the Commission issued, the robe of office granted; and his lieutenant has already gone, while the ex-Governor has left Kirman, and is on his way back.

You know the position that the Amir-Nizam holds in the service of our Government, and the respect due to his rank and his age. Is it possible to disgrace and depose him before even he has gone!

Now, imagine our Sovereign's agitation at such representations on the part of the Legation, and their interference to such an extent with the internal affairs of his kingdom in direct opposition to his sovereign independence.

You know the fatal results of such proceedings in Persia.

The recall from Shiraz, last year, of Mujir-es-Sultaneh, an official of little significance and small reputation, caused such a commotion in the Persian Gulf ports that we have not yet succeeded in recovering the effects, notwithstanding that the demand for his call was based on some sort of document and promise, and therefore justified to a certain extent.

Should the same measure be adopted towards a personage of such importance and rank as the Amir-Nizam, then we must forsake altogether the Provinces of Kirman and Baluchistan.

As His Imperial Majesty, our august Master, will never consent to such a proposal, we can only conclude that, in making it, Colonel Picot has aimed to create ill-feeling and reserve on both sides.

Please let me know Lord Salisbury's answer as soon as possible.

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No. 9.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 28, 11 P.M.)

(No. 5. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, June 28, 1899, 4·10 P.M.

MY telegram No. 4, Commercial, of to-day.

Although Torres stated verbally that the Sultan would pay all expenses, he has no authority to pay any money now, and the banks will not advance funds without the guarantee of foreign Representatives. Money wanted immediately, in order to commence preparations on Mogador Island, as the Board of Health will not permit return of pilgrims until the island is ready for their reception.

No. 10.

Sir G. Bonham to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 28, *midnight.*)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, June 28, 1899, 8·28 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 116: Crete.

A meeting of Representatives will be held Friday or Saturday. I understand that Russian Government wish for a formal statement of views of the other Governments as to the right of Crete to levy customs duties on Turkish goods.

The question was discussed informally at the last [meeting], when the general

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THE CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1899.

For fully a quarter of an hour Prince Ferdinand held a reception in the Court Saloon of the terminus. He then drove, with Major General Baron Mecsery, the officer in attendance upon him, to the Hofburg, his large suite following, also in Court carriages. The guards at the entrance of the Hofburg presented arms, and the bugles sounded "as general." The Court dignitaries inside the Palace bowed low on the Prince being conducted to the Radetzky apartments. At one o'clock this afternoon his Royal Highness was received by the Emperor at Schonbrunn, in a special audience, his Majesty soon afterwards returning the visit at the Hofburg, and at five o'clock there was an official Court dinner in the small gallery of Schonbrunn, in honour of the Prince. All this, says the *Standards* correspondent, seems to be a little strange to the Viennese, who saw Prince Ferdinand arrive and depart dozens of times without the fuss of an official reception; but to an Oriental Ruler—and the Prince once publicly called himself one—the fact that he will have slept at the Vienna Hofburg may have a special meaning, in so far that his not having been received in the same official manner as he was in St. Petersburg and Constantinople, marked him out for attacks by his adversaries in the country.

POLITICS AND FINANCE.

Prince Ferdinand, besides paying visits of courtesy to-day to the Archdukes, to all the Embassies, &c., spent also three-quarters of an hour with Count Goluchowski at the Foreign Office, and there business may have been transacted—some which interested him and some in which the Austrian Minister had an interest. The Prince, or, rather Bulgaria, is again in a monetary difficulty, and if reports from the Principality are to be believed the group of bankers with which the recent Bulgarian Loan was concluded is levying blackmail on Bulgaria. There exists a financial difference of about ten million francs between the Bulgarian Government and a firm of railway contractors which built the line between Sofia and Roman, and this firm, instead of applying to the Courts, managed to have its claim endorsed by the Loan Syndicate, which refuses to exercise the option for Bulgarian Bonds, or in plain English, refuses to give more money before the difference with the firm of Messrs. Hadjienoff and Co. is settled. The result is that, according to a report to the Vienna *Vaterland*, which has a reliable Correspondent in Philippopolis, the Army officers, Civil servants, teachers, &c., have again had to go without their pay for the last two months, and that the alternative is considered of either yielding to pressure at a cost of ten millions, or of having the Loan Convention annulled by the Sobranye, which will shortly meet. As the Loan Syndicate has its leading members in Vienna the Prince will have solicited the aid of the Foreign Minister, who has already, and more than once, rendered him services in the same direction.

Court Goluchowski, on the other hand, will have impressed once more on the Prince of Bulgaria the absolute necessity of the Balkans maintaining the *status quo* in the letter and the spirit—a reminder for which there may not, just at the present moment, be any special reason in Bulgaria, but which, however, cannot be too often repeated, as plans and ambitions are always rife between the Hungarian border at Semlin and Yildiz Kiosk. Prince Ferdinand is the particular friend of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, and it may have been of interest to Court Goluchowski to learn from him whether the schemes recently attributed to the rival of the House of Obrenovitch have any foundation in fact.

LIFE IN OLD LONDON.

Sir Walter Besant, whose latest novel shows his power of reconstructing the past when it has to do with his favourite subject has in an article in the *Daily Chronicle* gone very much further back and has given us an interesting account of London in the Twelfth Century.

The City, which was held for the King by the Tower in the east and Baynard's Castle in the west, was confined entirely within its walls. The population was large enough to require 126 parish churches; it was also large enough in the Eleventh Century to withstand successfully six sieges by Dane and Norseman. It was powerful enough to make terms with the Conqueror, with his son Henry, and with Stephen; its trade already made it one of the richest of the cities of Western Europe; it attracted and welcomed merchants of all countries—Normans in great numbers, Flemings, Italians, Germans—but it was closely connected by ties of kinship and of trade with Rouen and Caen; its leading citizens intermarried with the noblest Norman families. As for the clergy, they occupied very much the same position as at present. That is to say, they were a married clergy; they held an ecclesiastical position; they were allied with the best families, and from father to son they might, and sometimes did, hold the same benefice. The principal thoroughfares were West and East Cheap, Thames-street, Cornhill, and Bishopsgate-street. Spanned by bridges, the little stream, the Walbrook, ran through the middle of the City dividing it in two. Lanes too narrow for wheeled vehicles connected the main arteries. That part of the City wall which overlooked the river has been removed; the foreshore for a space of 300 ft or more had been reclaimed by piles, and was now covered with quays, warehouses and streets; the two ports of Billingsgate and Queenhithe had been cut out of the foreshore—the latter still retains its old shape and size; the old wooden bridge, often repaired, still stood beside Billingsgate, its north, and guarded by St. Botolph the Saxon, its south end by St. Olaf the Dane.

THE RIVERSIDE.

The population of the City might be divided roughly into four parallel belts. The first was the reclaimed foreshore with the river on the south and Thames-street on the north. It contained the people who were engaged in the service of the Port—the stevedores, porters, bargemen, boatmen, boat builders, sail makers and the like, together with those who provided lodgings and board for sailors and foreigners. It was a rough and rude part of the City; no churches stood in this part, a proof that the ground was reclaimed after the churches were all built, but a dozen riverside parishes stretched out their arms to include sheep of this pasture in their fold. The next belt was bounded by an imaginary line a little north of Cannon-street. It included the better class—the merchants and notables, the nobles who had town houses. Here the churches were the finest and the best endowed; here they stood most thickly; here the parishes were the smallest.

The third belt was that of the markets and the retailers. West Chepe, now Cheapside, was a broad, open space, a veritable market covered with stalls arranged in lanes with a central thoroughfare. These stalls were replaced gradually by "selds," which were permanent stalls or shops. The names of the streets—Bread-street, Milk-street, Honey-lane, Cloak-lane, Budgerow, and others—clearly indicate markets, and not factories.

INDUSTRIAL LONDON.

The fourth belt, the largest of the four, but the least densely populated, was that in the north of the markets, the quarter where the industries of the City were carried on. It must be remembered that every mediæval town made almost everything wanted for the daily life. In this belt were clustered together in hamlets, the cottages and workshops of industrial London. The crafts lived apart from each other; some had their own churches; for some, one church served two or more crafts. The churches stood among trees and orchards and gardens; it was the most beautiful and the most picturesque part of the City. On its north side was the old wall, patched and repaired, with its open space in front and its gates guarded day and night. There was as yet no roar of London, because there were no paved roads and few carts; but there was the musical ring of anvils and the tapping of multitudinous hammers, and the ringing all day long of the bells from cathedral and monastery and parish church. The crafts were hereditary, but by custom only, not by law; there was great jealousy about overproduction; famine, war, pestilence and early death kept down the population, and confined each trade within manageable limits.

The reconstruction of the past shows, if you take a day of cloud, a city in which life was burdened, far more than at present, with uncertainty, with vicissitudes of fortune, with the gloom of impending plague, the terror of fire, the chance of battle, the oppression of kings, the violence of unrestrained passions, the unwashed squalor of the working class. But look again when the sunshine follows the cloud, you see a city prosperous, joyous, and happy. The lads and the maidens sing and dance—the young men go forth to fight with a ready heart: no one expects plague; no one heeds dirt; they are well fed, well clad, warmly lodged; they live from day to day; they are happy. Of the two pictures I prefer the latter.

THE HOMEWARD MAIL.

The following is the list of passengers who proceeded on Saturday by the P. and O. Company's s.s. *Valetta*, Captain C. F. Preston, to Aden, Marseilles, Plymouth and London:—

Alston, Mr. G.
Ahiya, Mr. Hiralal.
Black, Mr. G. W.
Barton, Mr. J. B.
Bahree, Mr. A. O.
Beresford, Maj. A. H.
Brook, Mr.
Berker, Mr. T. W.
Bruce, Lieut. M. E. L.
Barlow, Mrs. and two children.
Bander, Capt. H.
Boorman, Mr. John.
Corbett, Lieut. J. S.
Carry, Mr. L. B., I. C. S.
Christie, Mr. and Mrs. two children and infant.
Dalzell, Miss.
Dalzell, Miss C. B.
Deighton, Mr. K. W.
Downs, Mrs.
Deacon, Mr. J. W.
Drury, Major F. M.
Dyer, Mr. John.
Elliott, Mr. and Mrs W.
Farquharson, Mrs. A. H.
Florence, Mr. J.
Giles, Miss and child.
Hill, Mr. H. C.
Holland, Mrs. C. E. and two infants.
Hyder, Mr. M. W.
Hay, Col. G. W. R.
Juxon-Jones, Lieut. Col. J. H.
Khan, Mr. S. A.
Khan, Mr. K. A.
McGregor, Mrs. J. and child.
Moyle, Mr. Richard.
Macleod, Dr. & Mrs. H. A. and two children.
Moir, Mrs. W. and child.
Panet, Capt. and Mrs. E. A. & child.
Philipp, Mr. W. E. & two children.
Peckitt, Mr. R. G.
Rooke, Mrs.
Rodwell, Mr. E. A.
Rattray, Capt. and Mrs. C. and child.
Staines, Mr. J.
Scott, Miss.
Scott, Miss A.
Stuart-Smith, Mrs. M.
Stuart-Smith, Miss.
Scott, Capt. G. T.
Simpson, Mrs.
Staples, Miss.
Sladen, Miss.
Simpson, Mrs. M. and 4 children and infant.
Simpson, two Misses.
Simpson, Master.
Tebbs, Dr. L. V.
Tancredi, Mrs.
Thompson, Mrs., infant and two children.
Whitton, Mrs.
Wood, Maj. C.
Young, Miss W.
Young, Mr. M.

A FRENCH SCHOOL ON ENGLISH LINES

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

Miss Betham-Edwards writes from France to the *Daily News*, under date Sept. 19: I have just visited M. E. Demolins author of the now famous book, "La Superiorité des Anglo-Saxons," and inspected his school of "Les Roches," founded on the English system, and to be opened on the 1st of October next. Pleasant it was, in the heat of Press discussions and angry recriminations against France, to find myself with real lovers of England and English people, earnest men and women who do not allow political passions to interfere with well-thought-out conclusions and firmly-established ties. M. and Madame Demolins, as readers of "L'Education Nouvelle" know well placed their little son for education in England. After three years' sojourn, the lad has returned to France an ardent Anglophile devoted to cricket, football, tea, and porridge. Among the guests at M. Demolins' unostentatious but most hospitable table, were a lady and gentleman with their eleven-year-old boy, who is to start for Dulwich College at once, later on to enter "Les Roches." Nothing could be more agreeable or suggestive under existing circumstances than this breakfast-party, the conversation turning genially upon non-political, Anglo-French topics, instruction, moral training, hygiene, sports, and so on. With true philosophic insight, M. Demolins has realised the vital necessity of breaking with educational tradition in France, that terribly cut-and-dry military system which turns the Lycée into a vast barracks and a Lycéen into a mere Number, the training of individual character having therein no place whatever. Thus the espionage system, is entirely abolished at "Les Roches," the maternal element will be introduced, the wives of professors occupying themselves with the younger boys and social gatherings of all, forming a feature of the routine.

"Les Roches," with its annexes, is built and fitted up on the newest and most improved methods, but what chiefly strikes the stranger familiar with French Lycées is the prominence given to outdoor school-life. Instead of a small paved yard, the premises here, covering over twenty hectares, admit of vast cricket and football grounds, to say nothing of provision for other exercises.

The utmost interest is taken in M. Demolins scheme on this side of La Manche. It is felt even by French people not too sanguine about results that the experiment is one of the first importance; in any case, the thin edge of the wedge, the first assault of a fortress, hitherto regarded as impregnable, viz., the military system of education, work of Napoleon and the Jesuits. On the other hand, English people must feel grateful to the originator of a school flatteringly imitative of our own, and destined, without doubt, to aid in the pacific development of Anglo-French relations. Les Roches is situated near Verneuil, on the line from Paris to Granville.

THE BOER WAR OF 1881.

SOME INCIDENTS RETOLD.

In view of the present crisis it may not be uninteresting, says the *Globe* military correspondent, to recall some experiences of the Boer War of 1881. At Laing's Nek the Boer were without artillery, but all mounted and well armed, and amply supplied with ammunition. They numbered about 2000, fought under excellent cover, and their fire was most effective. Sir George Colley's force numbered 1200 of all ranks, with nine guns; our main attack was uphill, was fully exposed, and signally failed with heavy loss. At the action of the Ingogo we occupied a small plateau, roughly triangular in shape, forming part of the main ridge with which it was connected by necks slightly lower than the plateau we held. The Boer attack on our position commenced about 12 o'clock, and was carried on pluckily. Towards three it began to slacken, and they apparently abandoned the idea of trying to win the position; at sundown their fire slackened, and they withdrew and concentrated their forces in the valleys on our right. We withdrew from our position during the night, and gained nothing. The Boers advanced in a skirmishing line, with four supports of from 50 to 60 men each. They took every advantage of cover, and directed a heavy and very accurate fire on our guns and skirmishers. Our horses and artillery were exposed on the level top of the plateau, and suffered very heavily. The Boers numbered about 1,000, and their loss was slight. Ours amounted to 146 killed and wounded. Our crowning disaster was at Majuba Height, which we occupied after a badly conducted night march. The position could easily have been rendered an impregnable one; but no attempt was made to entrench or construct redoubts, and our men were extended all along the brow, showing on the sky-line. The Boers attacked with great gallantry, and worked up skilfully under cover till within 600 yards from the brow, and then kept up a rapid fire on us. Up the steeper slopes they advanced rapidly and splendidly, firing quickly and accurately, and driving our men like sheep off the top, though we doubled them in point of numbers.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS.

It is impossible to withhold admiration for the pluck and skill displayed by the Boers in the war of 1881, but there were unfortunately incidents in their conduct of the fighting which reflected very unfavourably on their character, and should serve as warnings in the present day. Prior to the attack on the 94th at Bronkhurst Spruit, mounted unarmed Boers rode alongside our men, chatting friendly with them, all the time gaining information as to their route. These very Boers were the first to fire on our men when the attack commenced two days later. Though the Boer fire did not actually commence when the white flag was up, their men were lying down in position, with their rifles sighted and pointed on our officers and men, and directly the bearer of the flag commenced to withdraw, their fire opened. It may be replied that all is fair in love and war; but I do not think the British soldiers would have acted similarly. At the Ingogo action the Boers fired on our ambulances, which bore the Geneva Cross and which were sent to remove the wounded from the advanced positions. One waggon had all the mules killed and it was riddled with bullets. At Majuba they actually fired on our wounded; and this recalls a splendid act of bravery performed in connection therewith by a man who, I believe, says the writer, is still living. Corporal Farmer, of the Army Hospital Corps, held a white flag over the wounded, and when the arm holding the flag was shot through, he called that he had "another." He then raised the flag with the other arm, and continued to hold it until that also was pierced with a bullet. On another occasion, near Wesselsroom, I think, one of our men was badly wounded, and in trying to rise and crawl under cover was again fired at by the Boers and hit.

AFGHANS AND ROHILLAS IN THE DECCAN.—It appeared to the Nizam's Government from information supplied from time to time by the district Police authorities, says the *Deccan Post*, that there was every year a regular influx of trans-frontier Afghans and Rohillas into His Highness's Dominions. They may be divided into two classes: (1) those who come direct from their homes with the intention of settling in Hyderabad, and (2) others who owing to the strict supervision maintained by the British authorities, get away from the adjacent British Districts such as Khandesh, Ahmednagar, &c., and take shelter in His Highness's Dominions. As both these classes are found to take an active part in committing crime and disturbing the public peace both in His Highness's Dominions and the adjacent British districts, the Nizam's Government have proclaimed that no transfrontier Afghan or Rohilla will be permitted to enter his Highness' Territory unless he has first obtained a written permit under the provision of the rules for regulating the arrival and departure of Rohillas here, and any Afghan or Rohilla found without such a permit will be summarily expelled out of the territories of His Highness, no excuse being accepted.

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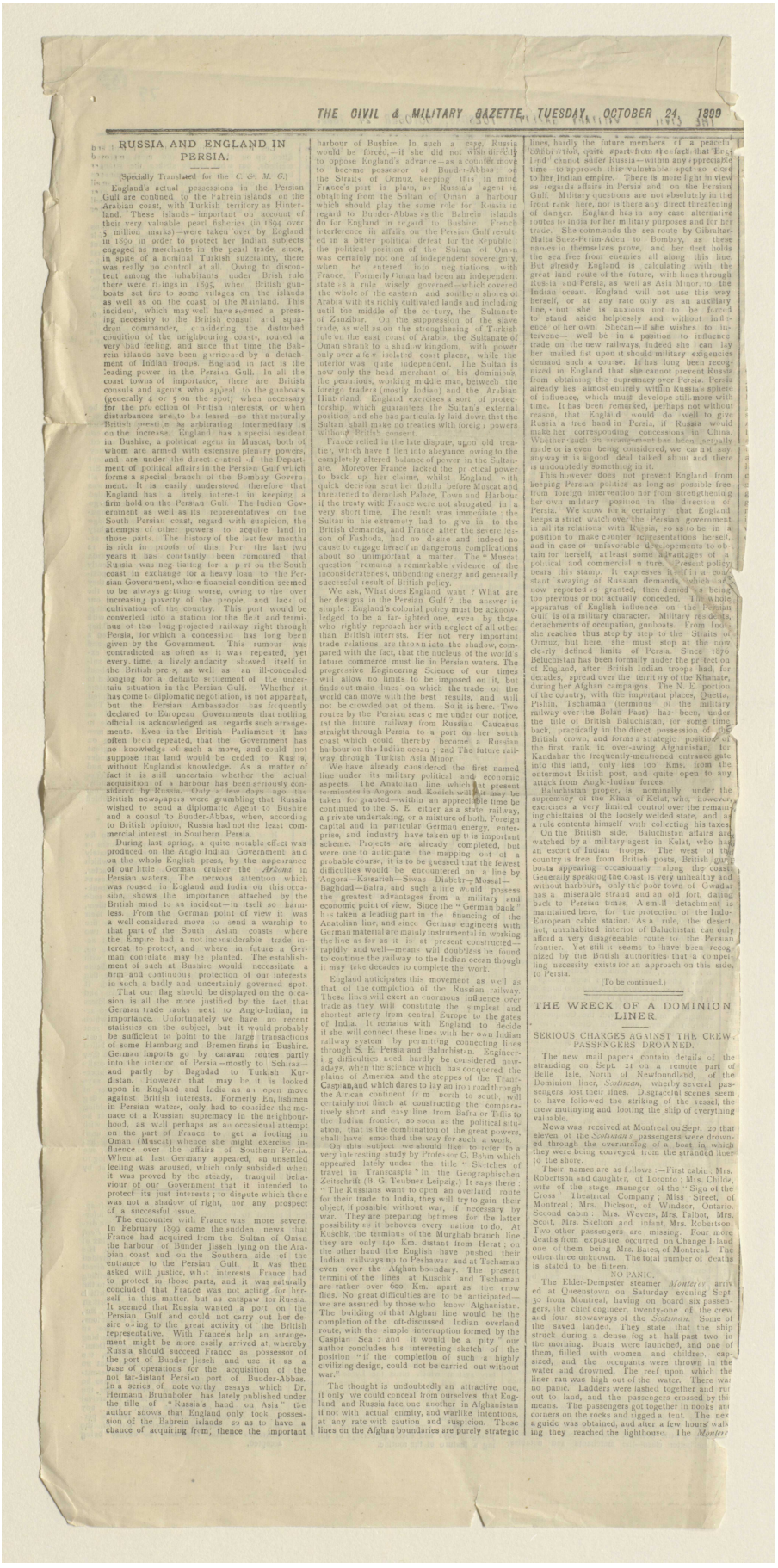

THE CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1899

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND IN PERSIA.

(Specially Translated for the *C. & M. G.*)

England's actual possessions in the Persian Gulf are confined to the Fahrein islands on the Arabian coast, with Turkish territory as Hinterland. These islands—important on account of their very valuable pearl fisheries (in 1894 over 5 million marks)—were taken over by England in 1820 in order to protect her Indian subjects engaged as merchants in the pearl trade, since, in spite of a nominal Turkish suzerainty, there was really no control at all. Owing to discontent among the inhabitants under Brish rule there were risings in 1895, when British gunboats set fire to some villages on the islands as well as on the coast of the Mainland. This incident, which may well have seemed a pressing necessity to the British consul and squadron commander, considering the disturbed condition of the neighbouring coasts, roused a very bad feeling, and since that time the Bahrein Islands have been garrisoned by a detachment of Indian troops. England in fact is the leading power in the Persian Gulf. In all the coast towns of importance, there are British consuls and agents who appeal to the gunboats (generally of 5 on the gulf) when necessary for the protection of British interests, or when disturbances are to be feared—so that naturally British prestige as arbitrating intermediary is on the increase. England has a special resident in Bushire, a political agent in Muscat, both of whom are armed with extensive plenary powers, and are under the direct control of the Department of political affairs in the Persian Gulf which forms a special branch of the Bombay Government. It is easily understood therefore that England has a lively interest in keeping a firm hold on the Persian Gulf. The Indian Government as well as its representatives on the South Persian coast, regard with suspicion, the attempts of other powers to acquire land in those parts. The history of the last few months is rich in proofs of this. For the last two years it has constantly been rumoured that Russia was negotiating for a port on the South coast in exchange for a heavy loan to the Persian Government, whose financial condition seemed to be always getting worse, owing to the ever increasing poverty of the people, and lack of cultivation of the country. This port would be converted into a station for the fleet and terminus of the long-projected railway right through Persia, for which a concession has long been given by the Government. This rumour was contradicted as often as it was repeated, yet every time, a lively audacity showed itself in the British press, as well as an ill-concealed longing for a definite settlement of the uncertain situation in the Persian Gulf. Whether it has come to diplomatic negotiation, is not apparent, but the Persian Ambassador has frequently declared to European Governments that nothing official is acknowledged as regards such arrangements. Even in the British Parliament it has often been repeated, that the Government has no knowledge of such a move, and could not suppose that land would be ceded to Russia, without England's knowledge. As a matter of fact it is still uncertain whether the actual acquisition of a harbour has been seriously considered by Russia. Only a few days ago, the British newspapers were grumbling that Russia wished to send a diplomatic Agent to Bushire and a consul to Bunder-Abbas, when, according to British opinion, Russia had not the least commercial interest in Southern Persia.

During last spring, a quite notable effect was produced on the Anglo Indian Government and on the whole English press, by the appearance of our little German cruiser the *Arkona* in Persian waters. The nervous attention which was roused in England and India on this occasion, shows the importance attached by the British mind to an incident—in itself so harmless. From the German point of view it was a well considered move to send a warship to that part of the South Asian coasts where the Empire had a not inconsiderable trade interest to protect, and where in future a German consulate may be planted. The establishment of such at Bushire would necessitate a firm and continuous protection of our interests in such a badly and uncertainly governed spot.

That our flag should be displayed on the occasion is all the more justified by the fact, that German trade ranks next to Anglo-Indian, in importance. Unfortunately we have no recent statistics on the subject, but it would probably be sufficient to point to the large transactions of some Hamburg and Bremen firms in Bushire. German imports go by caravan routes partly into the interior of Persia—mostly to Schiraz—and partly by Baghdad to Turkish Kurdistan. However that may be, it is looked upon in England and India as an open move against British interests. Formerly England in Persian water, only had to consider the menace of a Russian supremacy in the neighbourhood, as well perhaps as an occasional attempt on the part of France to get a footing in Oman (Muscat) whence she might exercise influence over the affairs of Southern Persia. When at last Germany appeared, an unsettled feeling was aroused, which only subsided when it was proved by the steady, tranquil behaviour of our Government that it intended to protect its just interests; to dispute which there was not a shadow of right, nor any prospect of a successful issue.

The encounter with France was more severe. In February 1899 came the sudden news that France had acquired from the Sultan of Oman the harbour of Bunder Jisseh lying on the Arabian coast and on the Southern side of the entrance to the Persian Gulf. It was then asked with justice, what interests France had to protect in those parts, and it was naturally concluded that France was not acting for herself in this matter, but as catspaw for Russia. It seemed that Russia wanted a port on the Persian Gulf and could not carry out her desire owing to the great activity of the British representative. With France's help an arrangement might be more easily arrived at, whereby Russia should succeed France as possessor of the port of Bunder Jiseh and use it as a base of operations for the acquisition of the not far-distant Persian port of Bunder-Abbas. In a series of noteworthy essays which Dr. Hermann Brunnhofer has lately published under the title of "Russia's hand on Asia" the author shows that England only took possession of the Bahrein Islands so as to have a chance of acquiring from thence the important harbour of Bushire. In such a case, Russia would be forced,—if she did not wish directly to oppose England's advance—as a counter move to become possessor of Bunder-Abbas; on the Straits of Ormuz, keeping this in mind France's part is plain, as Russia's agent in obtaining from the Sultan of Oman a harbour which should play the same role for Russia in regard to Bunder-Abbas as the Bahrein islands do for England in regard to Bushire. French interference in affairs on the Persian Gulf resulted in a bitter political defeat for the Republic: the political position of the Sultan of Oman was certainly not one of independent sovereignty, when he entered into negotiations with France. Formerly Oman had been an independent state as a rule wisely governed—which covered the whole of the eastern and southern shores of Arabia with its richly cultivated lands and including until the middle of the century, the Sultanate of Zanzibar. On the suppression of the slave trade, as well as on the strengthening of Turkish rule on the east coast of Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman shrank to a shadow kingdom, with power only over a few isolated coast places, while the interior was quite independent. The Sultan is now only the head merchant of his dominions, the penurious, working middle man, between the foreign traders (mostly Indian) and the Arabian Hinterland. England exercises a sort of protectorship, which guarantees the Sultan's external position, and she has particularly laid down that the Sultan shall make no treaties with foreign powers without British consent.

France relied in the late dispute, upon old treaties, which have fallen into abeyance owing to the completely altered balance of power in the Sultanate. Moreover France lacked the practical power to back up her claims, whilst England with quick decision sent her flotilla before Muscat and threatened to demolish Palace, Town and Harbour, if the treaty with France were not abrogated in a very short time. The result was immediate; the Sultan in his extremity had to give in to the British demands, and France after the decision of Fashoda, had no desire and indeed no cause to engage herself in dangerous complications about so unimportant a matter. The "Muscat question" remains a remarkable evidence of the inconsiderateness, unbending energy and generally successful result of British policy.

We ask, What does England want? What are her designs in the Persian Gulf? The answer is simple: England's colonial policy must be acknowledged to be a far-sighted one, even by those who rightly reproach her with neglect of all other than British interests. Her not very important trade relations are thrown into the shadow, compared with the fact, that the nucleus of the world's future commerce must lie in Persian waters. The progressive Engineering Science of our times will allow no limits to be imposed on it, but finds out main lines on which the trade of the world can move with the best results, and will not be crowded out of them. So it is here. Two routes by the Persian seas come under our notice, first the future railway from Russian Caucasus straight through Persia to a port on her south coast which could thereby become a Russian harbour on the Indian ocean; and The future railway through Turkish Asia Minor.

We have already considered the first named line under its military political and economic aspects. The Anatolian line which at present terminates in Angora and Konieh will, it may be taken for granted—within an appreciable time be continued to the S. E. either as a state railway, a private undertaking, or a mixture of both. Foreign capital and in particular German energy, enterprise, and industry have taken up this important scheme. Projects are already completed, but were one to anticipate the mapping out of a probable course, it is to be guessed that the fewest difficulties would be encountered on a line by Angora—Kaisarieh—Sivas—Dulbeky—Mussul—Baghdad—Basra, and such a line would possess the greatest advantages from a military and economic point of view. Since the "German bank" has taken a leading part in the financing of the Anatolian line, and since German engineers with German material are mainly instrumental in working the line as far as it is at present constructed—rapidly and well—means will doubtless be found to continue the railway to the Indian ocean though it may take decades to complete the work.

England anticipates this movement as well as that of the completion of the Russian railway. These lines will exert an enormous influence over trade as they will constitute the simplest and shortest artery from central Europe to the gates of India. It remains with England to decide if she will connect these lines with her own Indian railway system by permitting connecting lines through S. E. Persia and Baluchistan. Engineering difficulties need hardly be considered nowadays, when the science which has conquered the plains of America and the steppes of the Trans-Caspian, and which dares to lay an iron road through the African continent from north to south, will certainly not flinch at constructing the comparatively short and easy line from Basra or Tiflis to the Indian frontier, so soon as the political situation, that is the combination of the great powers, shall have smoothed the way for such a work.

On this subject we should like to refer to a very interesting study by Professor G. Bolin which appeared lately under the title "Sketches of travel in Transcaspia" in the Geographischen Zeitschrift (B. G. Teubner Leipzig.) It says there: "The Russians want to open an overland route for their trade to India, they will try to gain their object, if possible without war, if necessary by war. They are preparing betimes for the latter possibility as it behoves every nation to do. At Kuschk, the terminus of the Murghab branch line they are only 140 Km. distant from Herat; on the other hand the English have pushed their Indian railways up to Peshawar and at Tschaman even over the Afghan boundary. The present termini of the lines at Kuschk and Tschaman are rather over 600 Km. apart as the crow flies. No great difficulties are to be anticipated—we are assured by those who know Afghanistan. The building of that Afghan line would be the completion of the oft-discussed Indian overland route, with the simple interruption formed by the Caspian Sea—and it would be a pity" our author concludes his interesting sketch of the position "if the completion of such a highly civilizing design, could not be carried out without war."

The thought is undoubtedly an attractive one. If only we could conceal from ourselves that England and Russia face one another in Afghanistan if not with actual enmity, and warlike intentions, at any rate with caution and suspicion. Those lines on the Afghan boundaries are purely strategic lines, hardly the future members of a peaceful combination, quite apart from the fact, that England cannot suffer Russia—within any appreciable time—to approach their valuable spot so close to her Indian empire. There is more light in view as regards affairs in Persia and on the Persian Gulf. Military questions are not absolutely in the front rank here, nor is there any direct threatening of danger. England has in any case alternative routes to India for her military purposes and for her trade. She commands the sea route by Gibraltar-Malta Suez-Perim-Aden to Bombay, as these names in themselves prove, and her fleet holds the sea free from enemies all along this line. But already England is calculating with the great land route of the future, with lines through Russia and Persia, as well as Asia Minor, to the Indian ocean. England will not use this way herself, or at any rate only as an auxiliary line, but she is anxious not to be forced to stand aside helplessly and without influence of her own. Should she wishes to intervene—will be in a position to influence trade on the new railways, indeed she can lay her mailed fist upon it should military exigencies demand such a course. It has long been recognized in England that she cannot prevent Russia from obtaining the supremacy over Persia. Persia already lies almost entirely within Russia's sphere of influence, which must develope still more with time. It has been remarked, perhaps not without reason, that England would do well to give Russia a free hand in Persia, if Russia would make her corresponding concessions in China. Whether such an arrangement has been actually made or is even being considered, we cannot say, anyway it is a good deal talked about and there is undoubtedly something in it.

This however does not prevent England from keeping Persian politics as long as possible free from foreign intervention nor from strengthening her own military position in the direction of Persia. We know for a certainty that England keeps a strict watch over the Persian government in all its relations with Russia, so as to be in a position to make counter representations herself, and in case of unfavorable developments to obtain for herself, at least some advantages of a political and commercial nature. Present policy bears this stamp. It expresses itself in a constant swaying of Russian demands, which are now reported as granted, then denied as being too previous or not actually conceded. The whole apparatus of English influence on the Persian Gulf is of a military character. Military residents, detachments of occupation, gunboats. From India she reaches thus step by step to the Straits of Ormuz, but here, she must stop at the now clearly defined limits of Persia. Since 1870 Beluchistan has been formally under the protection of England, after British Indian troops had, for decades, spread over the territory of the Khanate, during her Afghan campaigns. The N. E. portion of the country, with the important places, Quetta, Pishin, Tschaman (terminus of the military railway over the Bolan Pass) has been, under the title of British Baluchistan, for some time back, practically in the direct possession of the British crown, and forms a strategic position of the first rank, in over-seeing Afganistan, for Kandahar the frequently-mentioned entrance gate into this land, only lies 100 Kms. from the outermost British post, and quite open to any attack from Anglo-Indian forces.

Baluchistan proper, is nominally under the supremacy of the Khan of Kelat, who however, exercises a very limited control over the numerous chieftains of the loosely welded state, and as a rule contents himself with collecting his taxes.

On the British side, Baluchistan affairs are watched by a military agent in Kelat, who has an escort of Indian troops. The west of the country is free from British posts, British gunboats appearing occasionally along the coast. Generally speaking the coast is very unhealthy and without harbours, only the poor town of Gwadar has a miserable strand and an old fort, dating back to Persian times. A small detachment is maintained here, for the protection of the Indo-European cable station. As a rule, the desert, hot, uninhabited interior of Baluchistan can only afford a very disagreeable route to the Persian frontier. Yet still it seems to have been recognized by the British authorities that a compelling necessity exists for an approach on this side, to Persia.

(To be continued.)

THE WRECK OF A DOMINION LINER.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE CREW. PASSENGERS DROWNED.

The new mail papers contain details of the stranding on Sept. 21 on a remote part of Belle Isle, North of Newfoundland, of the Dominion liner, *Scotsman*, whereby several passengers lost their lives. Disgraceful scenes seem to have followed the striking of the vessel, the crew mutinying and looting the ship of everything valuable.

News was received at Montreal on Sept. 30 that eleven of the *Scotsman's* passengers were drowned through the overturning of a boat in which they were being conveyed from the stranded liner to the shore.

Their names are as follows:—First cabin: Mrs. Robertson and daughter, of Toronto; Mrs. Childs, wife of the stage manager of the "Sign of the Cross" Theatrical Company; Miss Street, of Montreal; Mrs. Dickson, of Windsor, Ontario. Second cabin: Mrs. Wevers, Mrs. Talbot, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Skelton and infant, Mrs. Robertson. Two other passengers are missing. Four more deaths from exposure occurred on Change Island one of them being Mrs. Bates, of Montreal. The other three unknown. The total number of deaths is stated to be fifteen.

NO PANIC.

The Elder-Dempster steamer *Monterey* arrived at Queenstown on Saturday evening Sept. 30 from Montreal, having on board six passengers, the chief engineer, twenty-one of the crew and four stowaways of the *Scotsman*. Some of the saved landed. They state that the ship struck during a dense fog at half-past two in the morning. Boats were launched, and one of them, filled with women and children, capsized, and the occupants were thrown in the water and drowned. The reef upon which the liner ran was high out of the water. There was no panic. Ladders were lashed together and ran out to land, and the passengers crossed by this means. The passengers got together in nooks and corners on the rocks and rigged a tent. The next a guide was obtained, and after a few hours' walking they reached the lighthouse. The *Monter*

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No. 3.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tabreez, November 25, 1899.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to communicate news which I have just reported to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran as follows, referring to my telegram No. 37:—

I have gathered from confidential sources that railway Concession to the Russians, just renewed as I heard, grants them railroad building rights all over Persia, including the south and even to Bushire.

Being assured that this last clause is being kept in the background by the highest Persian functionaries, I think right to report matter.

No. 4.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1899, 6·35 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 89.

You should endeavour, by all means in your power, to ascertain what foundation there is for report from Consul at Tabreez, and what are the real terms of agreement if it exists.

Any grant to a foreign Power of exclusive or preferential rights in regard to railways in southern Persia would be regarded by us in a most serious light.

Dervishes attacked at 5 P.M., and subsequently.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 12, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, December 12, 1899, 12·5 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 52: Railways.

Sadr Azam stated yesterday that, having heard of presence of Russian engineers at Tabreez, he sent to Russian Minister a month ago to ask what their object was. Russian Minister replied that Russian Government desired information as to northern customs in view of possible loan secured on them, and, in connection with this, had ordered examination of roads. Hearing of arrival of fresh parties of engineers he sent again to Russian Minister, but has not yet received answer.

He authorized me to inform your Lordship officially that no Agreement of any kind regarding railways existed between Persia and Russia except that which expires next year. This had not been renewed, and he had not been approached on the subject by the Russians.

He was unable to explain presence of engineers in Persia except on the supposition that Russia wished to be ready with railway scheme when occasion offers.

I have received even more positive assurances from Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Sent to India.)

No. 2.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 12, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, December 12, 1899, 12·15 P.M.*

RAILWAYS. Information collected by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, which will be telegraphed when complete, is to the effect that Sadr Azam has telegraphed to the Governor-General that a Russian railway is to be constructed viâ Tabreez to Shiraz, and that Cossack guard will be allowed. Engineer did not visit coal mines and line[s] surveyed are outside limits of concession.

(Secret.)

We hear from good source that Shah's Persian doctor has been offered a large sum by a Russian Company if he will induce His Majesty to grant a concession for a railway to south. He refused offer.

(Sent to India.)

No. 3.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 12, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 95. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, December 11, 1899, 11·45 P.M.*

RAILWAYS. Bank Manager received orders to sound Sadr Azam privately as to concession for a railway from Khanikin to Kermanshah for English or Anglo-German Company.

Sadr Azam replied that railway Agreement with Russia precluded the possibility of entertaining such a proposal for another year.

When asked if after expiration of year he would then be prepared to consider it, he replied that he could not give guarantee that Agreement would not be renewed.

(Repeated to India.)

[2396]

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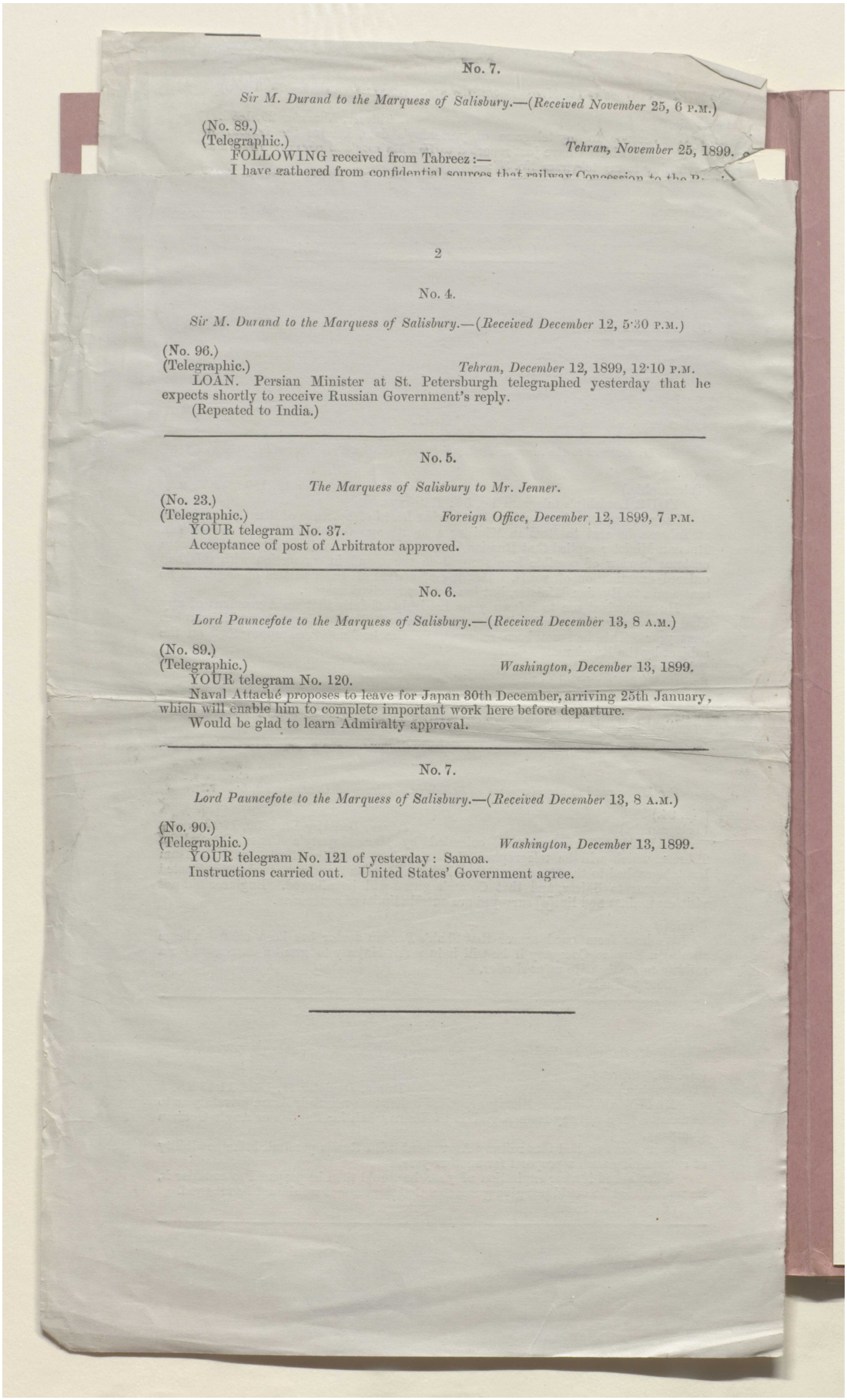

No. 7.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25, 6 P.M.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, November 25, 1899.*
FOLLOWING received from Tabreez:—
I have gathered from confidential sources that railway Concession to the P...

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No. 4.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 12, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, December 12, 1899, 12·10 P.M.*
LOAN. Persian Minister at St. Petersburgh telegraphed yesterday that he expects shortly to receive Russian Government's reply.
(Repeated to India.)

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Jenner.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 12, 1899, 7 P.M.*
YOUR telegram No. 37.
Acceptance of post of Arbitrator approved.

No. 6.

Lord Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 13, 8 A.M.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Washington, December 13, 1899.*
YOUR telegram No. 120.
Naval Attaché proposes to leave for Japan 30th December, arriving 25th January, which will enable him to complete important work here before departure.
Would be glad to learn Admiralty approval.

No. 7.

Lord Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 13, 8 A.M.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Washington, December 13, 1899.*
YOUR telegram No. 121 of yesterday: Samoa.
Instructions carried out. United States' Government agree.

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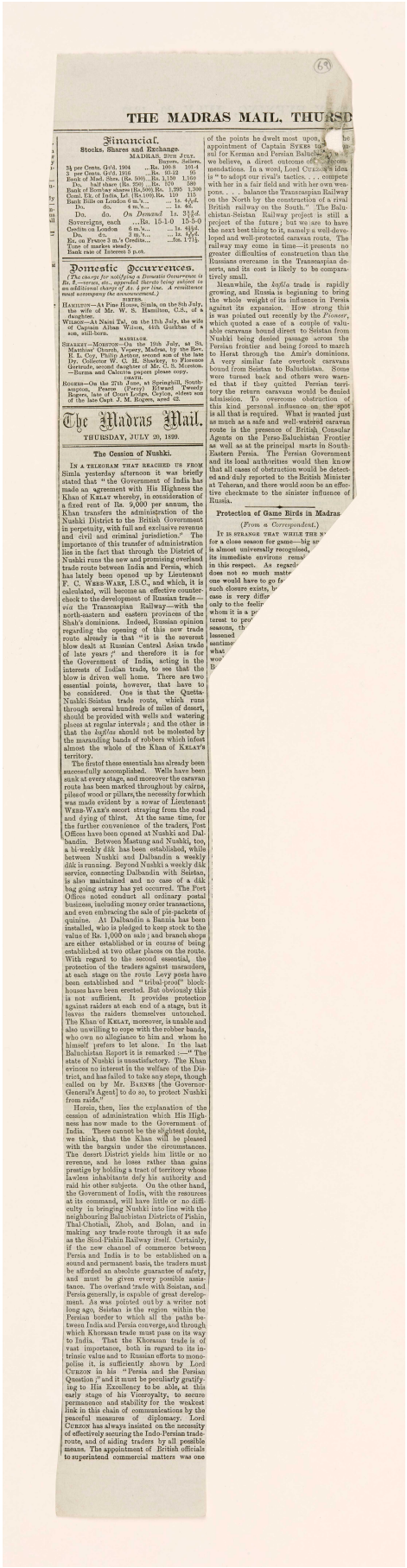

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THE MADRAS MAIL, THURSD

Financial.

Stocks, Shares and Exchange.

MADRAS, 20TH JULY.

	Buyers.	Sellers.
3½ per Cents. G'd. 1904	...Rs. 100·8	101·4
3 per Cents. G'd. 1916	...Rs. 93·12	95
Bank of Mad. Shrs. (Rs. 500)...	Rs. 1,150	1,160
Do. half share (Rs. 250)...	Rs. 570	580
Bank of Bombay shares (Rs.500)	Rs. 1,295	1,300
Comi. Ex. of India, Ltd (Rs.100)	Rs. 110	115
Bank Bills on London 6 m.'s...	... 1s. 4⅝d.	
Do. do. 4 m.'s...	... 1s. 4⅝d.	
Do. do. *On Demand*	1s. 5 1/32d.	
Sovereigns, each	...Rs. 15-1-0	15-3-0
Credits on London 6 m.'s...	... 1s. 4 1/64d.	
Do. 3 m.'s...	... 1s. 4⅝d.	
Es. on France 3 m.'s Credits...	...fcs. 1·71½	

Tone of markets steady.
Bank rate of Interest 5 p.c.

Domestic Occurrences.

(The rate for notifying a Domestic Occurrence is Rs. 2.—verses, etc., appended thereto being subject to an additional charge of As. 4 per line. A remittance must accompany the announcement.)

BIRTHS.

HAMILTON—At Pine House, Simla, on the 8th July, the wife of Mr. W. S. Hamilton, C.S., of a daughter.

WILSON—At Naini Tal, on the 12th July, the wife of Captain Alban Wilson, 44th Gurkhas of a son, still-born.

MARRIAGE.

SHARLEY—MORETON—On the 19th July, at St. Matthias' Church, Vepery, Madras, by the Rev. E. L. Coy, Philip Arthur, second son of the late Dr. Collector W. C. H. Sharley, to Florence Gertrude, second daughter of Mr. C. S. Moreton. —Burma and Calcutta papers please copy.

DEATH.

ROGERS—On the 27th June, at Springhill, Southampton, Percy (Percy) Edward Tweedy Rogers, late of Court Lodge, Ceylon, eldest son of the late Capt J. M. Rogers, aged 42.

The Madras Mail.

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1899.

The Cession of Nushki.

IN A TELEGRAM THAT REACHED US FROM Simla yesterday afternoon it was briefly stated that "the Government of India has made an agreement with His Highness the Khan of KELAT whereby, in consideration of a fixed rent of Rs. 9,000 per annum, the Khan transfers the administration of the Nushki District to the British Government in perpetuity, with full and exclusive revenue and civil and criminal jurisdiction." The importance of this transfer of administration lies in the fact that through the District of Nushki runs the new and promising overland trade route between India and Persia, which has lately been opened up by Lieutenant F. C. WEBB-WARE, I.S.C., and which, it is calculated, will become an effective counter-check to the development of Russian trade—*viz* the Transcaspian Railway—with the north-eastern and eastern provinces of the Shah's dominions. Indeed, Russian opinion regarding the opening of this new trade route already is that "it is the severest blow dealt at Russian Central Asian trade of late years;" and therefore it is for the Government of India, acting in the interests of Indian trade, to see that the blow is driven well home. There are two essential points, however, that have to be considered. One is that the Quetta-Nushki-Seistan trade route, which runs through several hundreds of miles of desert, should be provided with wells and watering places at regular intervals; and the other is that the *kafilas* should not be molested by the marauding bands of robbers which infest almost the whole of the Khan of KELAT'S territory.

The first of these essentials has already been successfully accomplished. Wells have been sunk at every stage, and moreover the caravan route has been marked throughout by cairns, piles of wood or pillars, the necessity for which was made evident by a sowar of Lieutenant WEBB-WARE'S escort straying from the road and dying of thirst. At the same time, for the further convenience of the traders, Post Offices have been opened at Nushki and Dalbandin. Between Mastung and Nushki, too, a bi-weekly dâk has been established, while between Nushki and Dalbandin a weekly dâk is running. Beyond Nushki a weekly dâk service, connecting Dalbandin with Seistan, is also maintained and no case of a dâk bag going astray has yet occurred. The Post Offices noted conduct all ordinary postal business, including money order transactions, and even embracing the sale of pie-packets of quinine. At Dalbandin a Bania has been installed, who is pledged to keep stock to the value of Rs. 1,000 on sale; and branch shops are either established or in course of being established at two other places on the route. With regard to the second essential, the protection of the traders against marauders, at each stage on the route Levy posts have been established and "tribal-proof" block-houses have been erected. But obviously this is not sufficient. It provides protection against raiders at each end of a stage, but it leaves the raiders themselves untouched. The Khan of KELAT, moreover, is unable and also unwilling to cope with the robber bands, who own no allegiance to him and whom he himself prefers to let alone. In the last Baluchistan Report it is remarked :—"The state of Nushki is unsatisfactory. The Khan evinces no interest in the welfare of the District, and has failed to take any steps, though called on by Mr. BARNES [the Governor-General's Agent] to do so, to protect Nushki from raids."

Herein, then, lies the explanation of the cession of administration which His Highness has now made to the Government of India. There cannot be the slightest doubt, we think, that the Khan will be pleased with the bargain under the circumstances. The desert District yields him little or no revenue, and he loses rather than gains prestige by holding a tract of territory whose lawless inhabitants defy his authority and raid his other subjects. On the other hand, the Government of India, with the resources at its command, will have little or no difficulty in bringing Nushki into line with the neighbouring Baluchistan Districts of Pishin, Thal-Chotiali, Zhob, and Bolan, and in making any trade-route through it as safe as the Sind-Pishin Railway itself. Certainly, if the new channel of commerce between Persia and India is to be established on a sound and permanent basis, the traders must be afforded an absolute guarantee of safety, and must be given every possible assistance. The overland trade with Seistan, and Persia generally, is capable of great development. As was pointed out by a writer not long ago, Seistan is the region within the Persian border to which all the paths between India and Persia converge, and through which Khorasan trade must pass on its way to India. That the Khorasan trade is of vast importance, both in regard to its intrinsic value and to Russian efforts to monopolise it, is sufficiently shown by Lord CURZON in his "Persia and the Persian Question;" and it must be peculiarly gratifying to His Excellency to be able, at this early stage of his Viceroyalty, to secure permanence and stability for the weakest link in this chain of communications by the peaceful measures of diplomacy. Lord CURZON has always insisted on the necessity of effectively securing the Indo-Persian trade-route, and of aiding traders by all possible means. The appointment of British officials to superintend commercial matters was one of the points he dwelt most upon, [illegible] appointment of Captain SYKES [illegible] sul for Kerman and Persian Baluchis[illegible] we believe, a direct outcome of [illegible] recommendations. In a word, Lord CURZON'S idea is "to adopt our rival's tactics, . . . compete with her in a fair field and with her own weapons. . . . balance the Transcaspian Railway on the North by the construction of a rival British railway on the South." The Baluchistan-Seistan Railway project is still a project of the future; but we are to have the next best thing to it, namely a well-developed and well-protected caravan route. The railway may come in time—it presents no greater difficulties of construction than the Russians overcame in the Transcaspian deserts, and its cost is likely to be comparatively small.

Meanwhile, the *kafila* trade is rapidly growing, and Russia is beginning to bring the whole weight of its influence in Persia against its expansion. How strong this is was pointed out recently by the *Pioneer*, which quoted a case of a couple of valuable caravans bound direct to Seistan from Nushki being denied passage across the Persian frontier and being forced to march to Herat through the Amir's dominions. A very similar fate overtook caravans bound from Seistan to Baluchistan. Some were turned back and others were warned that if they quitted Persian territory the return caravans would be denied admission. To overcome obstruction of this kind personal influence on the spot is all that is required. What is wanted just as much as a safe and well-watered caravan route is the presence of British Consular Agents on the Perso-Baluchistan Frontier as well as at the principal marts in South-Eastern Persia. The Persian Government and its local authorities would then know that all cases of obstruction would be detected and duly reported to the British Minister at Teheran, and there would soon be an effective checkmate to the sinister influence of Russia.

Protection of Game Birds in Madras

(From a Correspondent.)

IT IS STRANGE THAT WHILE THE N[illegible] for a close season for game—big [illegible] is almost universally recognised, its immediate environs rema[illegible] in this respect. As regards [illegible] does not so much matte[illegible] one would have to go fo[illegible] such closure exists, b[illegible] case is very differ[illegible] only to the feelir[illegible] whom it is a pr[illegible] terest to pro[illegible] seasons, th[illegible] lessened [illegible] sentime[illegible] what[illegible] wo[illegible] B[illegible]

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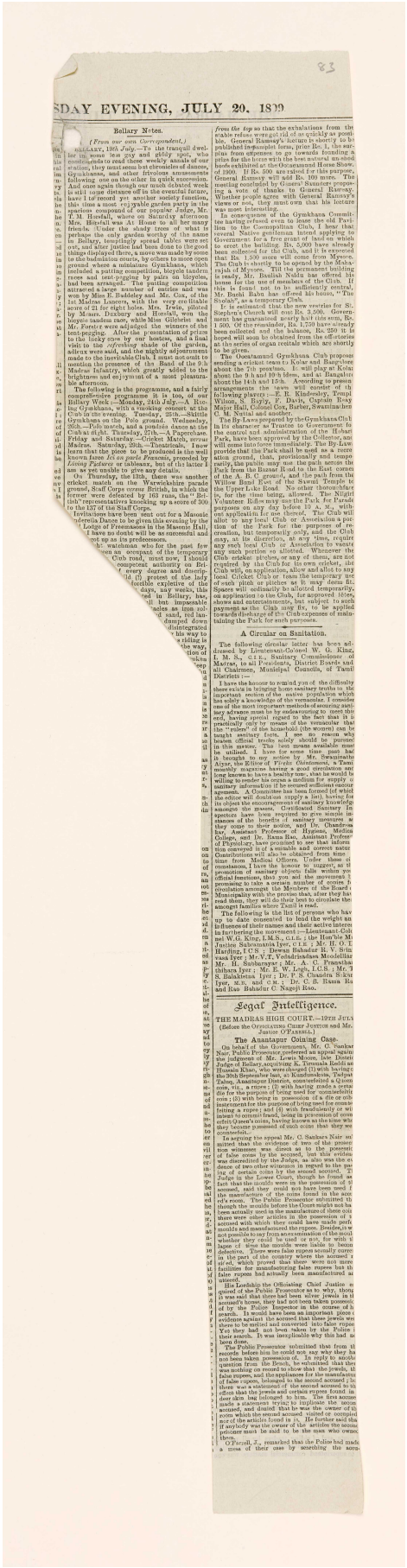

SDAY EVENING, JULY 20, 1899

Bellary Notes.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BELLARY, 19th July.—To the tranquil dwellers in some less gay and giddy spot, who contentedly read these weekly annals of our station, they must seem but chronicles of dances, Gymkhanas, and other frivolous amusements following one on the other in quick succession. And once again though our much debated week is still some distance off in the eventful future, have I to record yet another society function, this time a most enjoyable garden party in the spacious compound of our popular Judge, Mr. T. M. Horsfall, where on Saturday afternoon Mrs. Horsfall was At Home to all her many friends. Under the shady trees of what is perhaps the only garden worthy of the name in Bellary, temptingly spread tables were set out, and after justice had been done to the good things displayed there, a move was made by some to the badminton courts, by others to more open ground where a miniature Gymkhana, which included a putting competition, bicycle tandem races and tent-pegging by pairs on bicycles, had been arranged. The putting competition attracted a large number of entries and was won by Miss E. Baddeley and Mr. Cox, of the 1st Madras Lancers, with the very creditable score of 21 for eight holes. Mrs. Irwin, piloted by Messrs. Duxbury and Horsfall, won the bicycle tandem race, while Miss Gilchrist and Mr. Forster were adjudged the winners of the tent-pegging. After the presentation of prizes to the lucky ones by our hostess, and a final visit to the *refreshing* shade of the garden, adieux were said, and the nightly adjournment made to the inevitable Club. I must not omit to mention the presence of the Band of the 9th Madras Infantry, which greatly added to the brightness and enjoyment of a most pleasurable afternoon.

The following is the programme, and a fairly comprehensive programme it is too, of our Bellary Week:—Monday, 24th July.—A Riding Gymkhana, with a cracking concert at the Club in the evening. Tuesday, 25th.—Skittle Gymkhana on the Polo ground. Wednesday, 26th.—Polo match, and a pandies dance at the Club at night. Thursday, 27th.—A Paperchase. Friday and Saturday.—Cricket Match, *versus* Madras. Saturday, 29th.—Theatricals. I now learn that the piece to be produced is the well known farce *Ici on parle Français*, preceded by *Living Pictures* or tableaux, but of the latter I am as yet unable to give any details.

On Thursday, the 13th, there was another cricket match on the Warwickshire parade ground, Staff Corps *versus* British, in which the former were defeated by 163 runs, the "British" representatives knocking up a score of 300 to the 137 of the Staff Corps.

Invitations have been sent out for a Masonic Cinderella Dance to be given this evening by the Lodge of Fraternalers in the Masonic Hall, and I have no doubt will be as successful and keep up as its predecessors.

The watchman who for the past few [illegible] an occupant of the temporary Club road, must now, I should [illegible] competent authority on Bri- every degree and discrip- [illegible] of the Indy [illegible] horrible expletive of the [illegible] days, nay weeks, this [illegible] red in Bellary, has, [illegible] but impassable [illegible] sales as iron sol- [illegible] sand, red lat- [illegible] dumped down [illegible] disintegrated [illegible] his way to [illegible] a riding is [illegible] the way, [illegible] tion of [illegible] holes [illegible] ...ings [illegible]

from the top so that the exhalations from the stable refuse were got rid of as quickly as possible. General Ramsay's lecture is shortly to be published in complet form, price Re. 1, the surplus from expenses to go towards founding [illegible] prize for the horse with the best natural an-shod hoofs exhibited at the Ootacamund Horse Show, of 1900. If Rs. 500 are raised for this purpose, General Ramsay will add Rs. 100 more. The meeting concluded by Guests' Saunters proposing a vote of thanks to General Ramsay. Whether people agree with General Ramsay's views or not, they must own that his lecture was most interesting.

In consequence of the Gymkhana Committee having refused even to lease the old Parilion to the Cosmopolitan Club, I hear that several Native gentleman intend applying to Government for a free grant of land on which to erect the building. Rs. 5,000 have already been collected for the Club, and it is expected that Rs. 1,500 more will come from Mysore. The Club is shortly to be opened by the Maharajah of Mysore. Till the permanent building is ready, Mr. Ibrahim Nakka has offered his house for the use of members of the Club. If this is found not to be sufficiently central, Mr. Buchi Babu has offered his house, "The Stables", as a temporary Club.

It is estimated that the new rewries for St. Stephen's Church will cost Rs. 2,500. Government has guaranteed nearly half this sum, Rs. 1,000. Of the remainder, Rs. 1,750 have already been collected and the balance, Rs. 250 it is hoped will soon be obtained from the off-scries at the series of organ recitals which are shortly to be given.

The Ootacamund Gymkhana Club proposes sending a cricket team to Kolar and Bangalore about the 7th proximo. It will play at Kolar about the 9 h and 10 h ideo, and at Bangalore about the 14th and 15th. According to present arrangements the team will consist of the following players:—E. B. Kindersley, Templ Wilson, S. Bayly, F. Davis, Capitain Reay Major Hall, Colonel Cox, Barker, Swaminathan C. M. Nuttal and another.

The By-Laws prepared by the Gymkhana Club in its character as Trustee to Government for the control and administration of the Hobart Park, have been approved by the Collector, and will come into force immediately. The By-Laws provide that the Park shall be used as a recreation ground, that, provisionally and temporarily, the public may use the path across the Park from the Bazaar Road to the East corner of the A. B. C. ground, and the path from the Willow Bund East of the Sawmi Temple to the Upper Lake Road. No other thoroughfare is, for the time being, allowed. The Nilgiri Volunteer Rifles may use the Park for Parade purposes on any day before 10 A. M., without application for me thereof. The Club will allot to any local Club or Association a portion of the Park for the purposes of recreation, but temporarily only, and the Club may, at its discretion, at any time, require any such local Club or Association to vacate any such portion so allotted. Wherever the Club cricket pitches, or any of them, are not required by the Club for its own cricket, the Club with, on application, allow and allot to any local Cricket Club or team the temporary use of such pitch or pitches as it may deem fit. Spaces will ordinarily be allotted temporarily, on application to the Club, for approved fêtes, shows and entertainments, but subject to such payment as the Club may fix, to be applied towards discharge of the Club expenses of maintaining the Park for such purposes.

A Circular on Sanitation.

The following circular letter has been addressed by Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. King, I. M. S., C.I.E., Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, to all Presidents, District Boards and all Chairmen, Municipal Councils, of Tamil Districts :—

I have the honour to remind you of the difficulty there exists in bringing home sanitary truths to the important section of the native population which has solely a knowledge of the vernacular. I consider one of the most important methods of securing sanitary advance must be by endeavouring to meet this end, having special regard to the fact that it is practically only by means of the vernacular that the "rulers" of the household (the women) can be taught sanitary facts. I see no reason why beaten official tracks solely should be pursued in this matter. The best means available must be utilised. I have for some time past had it brought to my notice by Mr. Swaminatha Aiyar, the Editor of *Vivéka Chintámani*, a Tamil monthly magazine of considerable circulation and long known to have a healthy tone, that he would be willing to render his organ a medium for supply of sanitary information if he received sufficient encouragement. A Committee has been formed (of which the editor will doubtless supply a list), having for its object the encouragement of sanitary knowledge amongst the masses. Certificated Sanitary Inspectors have been required to give simple instances of the benefits of sanitary measures as they come to their notice, and Dr. Chandrasekhar, Assistant Professor of Hygiene, Medical College, and Dr. Rama Rao, Assistant Professor of Physiology, have promised to see that information conveyed is of a suitable and correct nature. Contributions will also be obtained from time to time from Medical Officers. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to solicit the promotion of sanitary knowledge falls within your official province, to help and aid the movement. I propose to take a certain number of copies for distribution amongst the Members of the Board of Municipality with the proviso that, after they have read them, they will do their best to circulate the amongst families where Tamil is read.

The following is the list of persons who have up to date consented to lend the weight and influence of their names and their active interest in furthering the movement :—Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. King, I.M.S., C.I.E. ; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramania Iyer, C.I.E. ; Mr. H. O. Harding, I.C.S. ; Dewan Bahadur R. V. Srinivasa Iyer ; Mr. V.T. Veliadrinadan Mudaliar ; Mr. H. Sabharayar ; Mr. A. C. Pranchabhara Iyer ; Mr. E. W. Logh, I.C.S. ; Mr. T. S. Balakrishna Iyer ; Dr. P. S. Chandra Sekhara Iyer, M.B. ; and C.M. ; Dr. C. B. Rama Rao and Rao Bahadur C. Nagoji Rao.

Legal Intelligence.

THE MADRAS HIGH COURT.—19TH JULY (Before the OFFICIATING CHIEF JUSTICE and Mr. Justice O'FARRELL.)

The Anantapur Coining Case.

On behalf of the Government, Mr. C. Sankaran Nair, Public Prosecutor, preferred an appeal against the judgment of Mr. Lewis Moore, late District Judge of Bellary, acquitting K. Tirumala Reddi and Hussain Khan, who were charged (1) with having on the 30th September last, at Kandrakadoor, Tadpatri Taluq, Anantapur District, counterfeited a Queen's coin, viz., a rupee ; (2) with having made a certain die for the purpose of being used for counterfeiting coin ; (3) with being in possession of a die or contrivance for the purpose of being used for counterfeiting a rupee ; and (4) with fraudulently or with intent to commit fraud, being in possession of counterfeit Queen's coins, having known at the time when they became possessed of such coins that they were counterfeit.

In arguing the appeal Mr. C. Sankara Nair submitted that the evidence of two of the prosecution witnesses was direct as to the possession of the coins by the accused, but this evidence was discredited by the Judge, as also was the evidence of two other witnesses in regard to the making of certain coins by the second accused. The Judge in the Lower Court, though he found as a fact that the moulds were in the possession of the accused, said they could not have been used for the manufacture of the coins found in the accused's room. The Public Prosecutor submitted that though the moulds before the Court might not have been actually used in the manufacture of these coins there were other articles in the possession of the accused with which they could have made perfect moulds and manufactured the coins, and it was not possible to say, in the circumstances of the mould, whether they could be used or not, for with the lapse of time the moulds were liable to become defective. There were false rupees actually current in the part of the country where the accused resided, which proved that there were not more facilities for manufacturing false rupees but the false rupees had actually been manufactured as [illegible] asserted.

His Lordship the Officiating Chief Justice enquired of the Public Prosecutor as to why, though it was said that there had been silver jewels in the accused's house, they had not been taken possession of by the Police Inspector in the course of his search. In reply to another question from the Bench, the evidence against the accused that these jewels were [illegible] melted and converted into false rupees. Yet they had not been taken by the Police on their search. It was inexplicable why this had not been done.

The Public Prosecutor submitted that from the records before him he could not say why they had not been taken possession of. In reply to another question from the Bench, he submitted that there was nothing on record to show that the jewels, the false rupees, and the appliances for the manufacture of false rupees, belonged to the second accused ; but there was a statement of the second accused to the effect that the jewels and certain rupees found in the house belonged to him. [illegible] made a statement trying to implicate the second accused, and denied that he was the owner of the articles which the second accused claimed or complained of the articles found in it. He further said that if anybody was the owner of the articles the second prisoner must be said to be the man who owned them.

O'Farrell, J., remarked that the Police had made a mess of their case by searching the accused's

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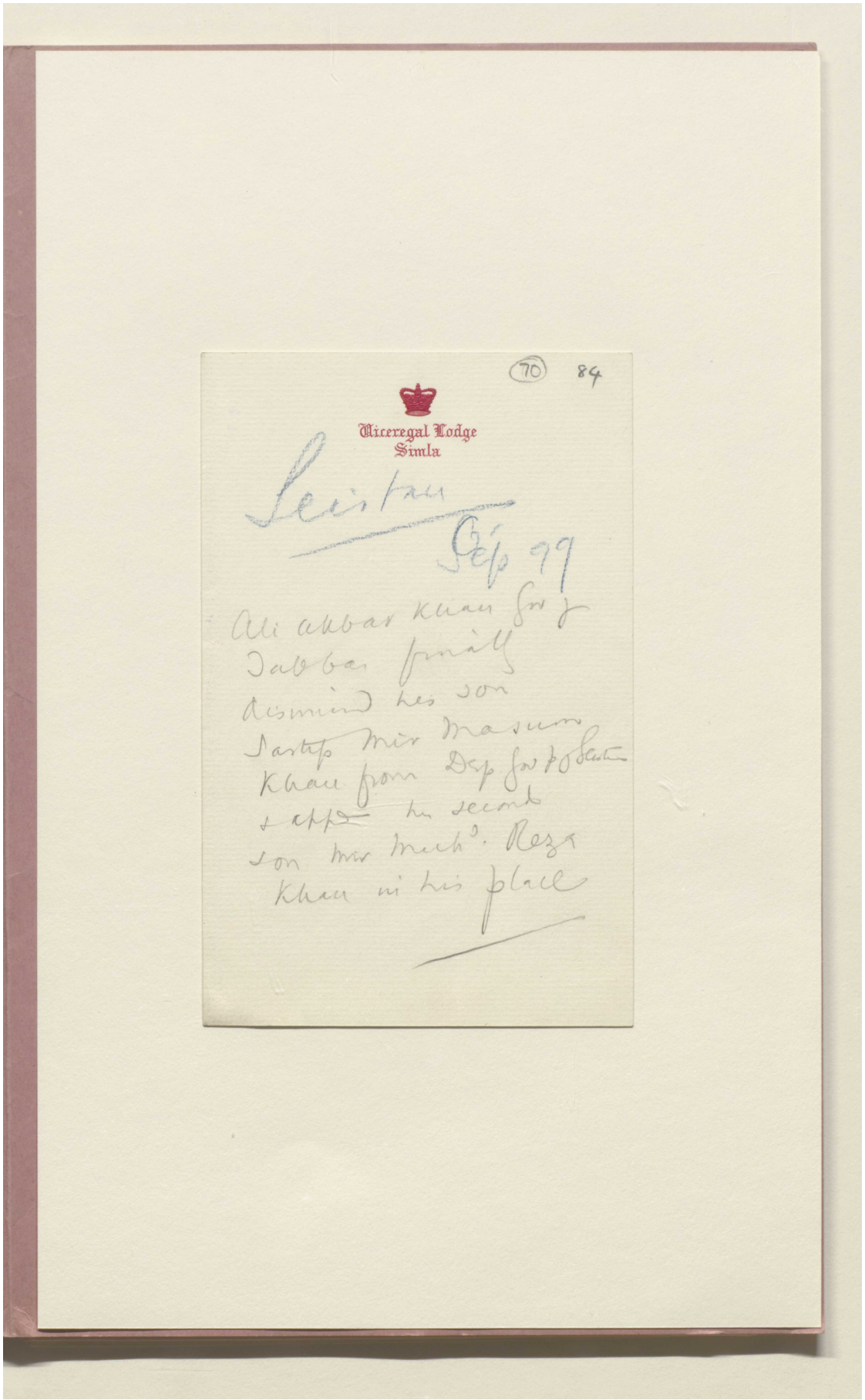

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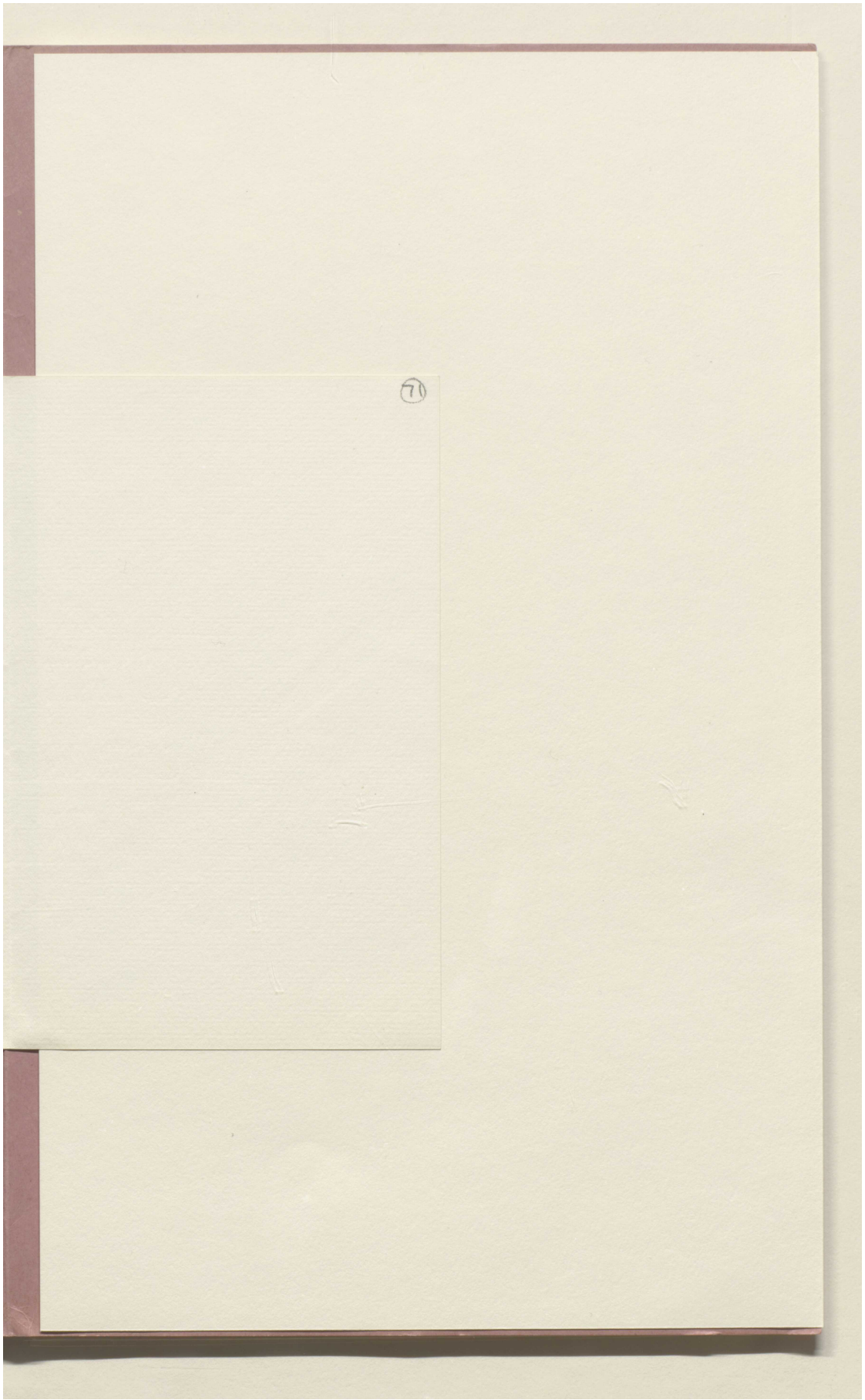

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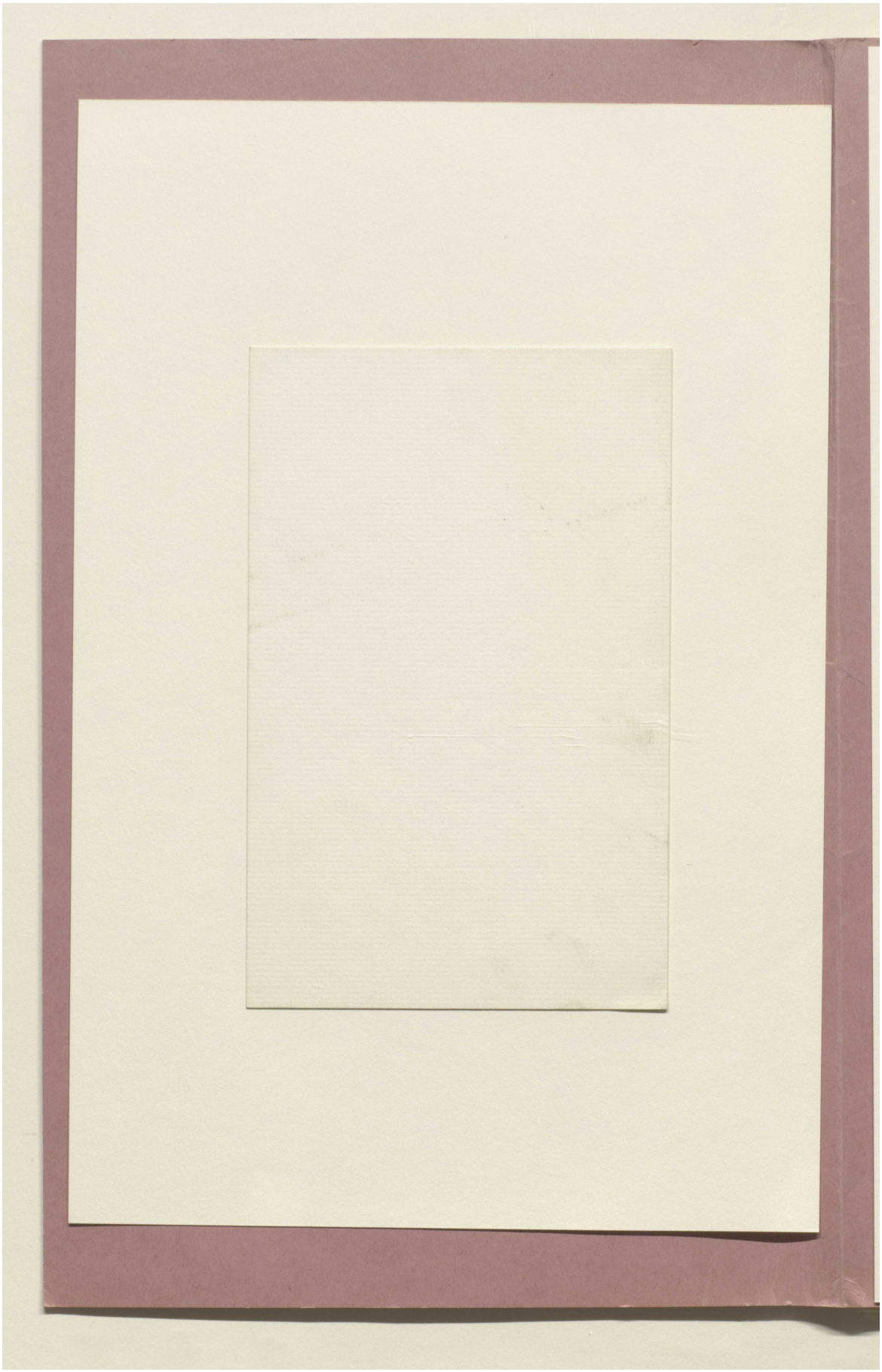

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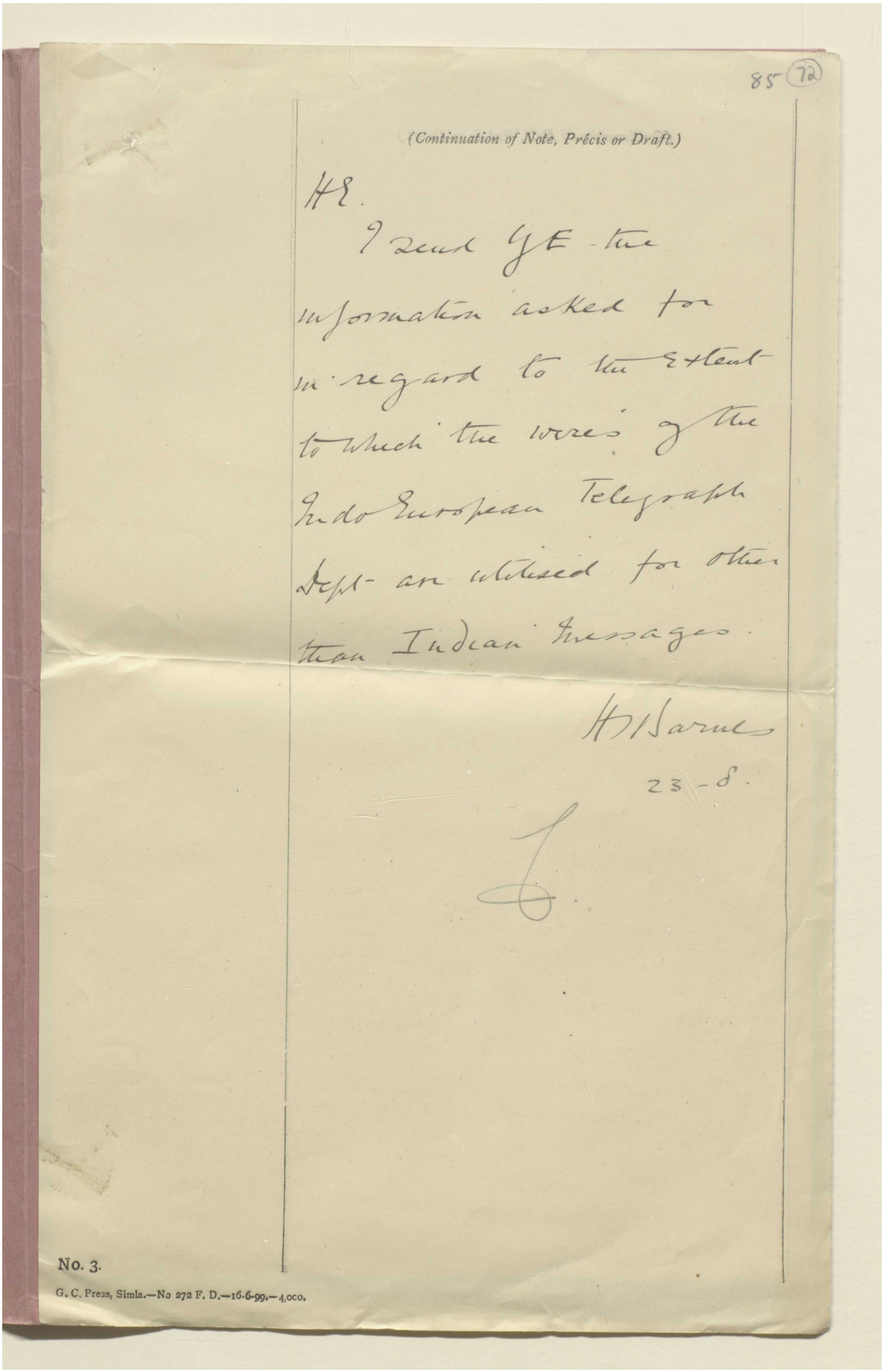

85 (72)

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

HR.

I send GE the information asked for in regard to the extent to which the wires of the Indo European Telegraph Dept- are utilised for other than Indian messages.

H Barnes

23-8.

No. 3.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No 272 F. D.—16-6-99.—4,000.

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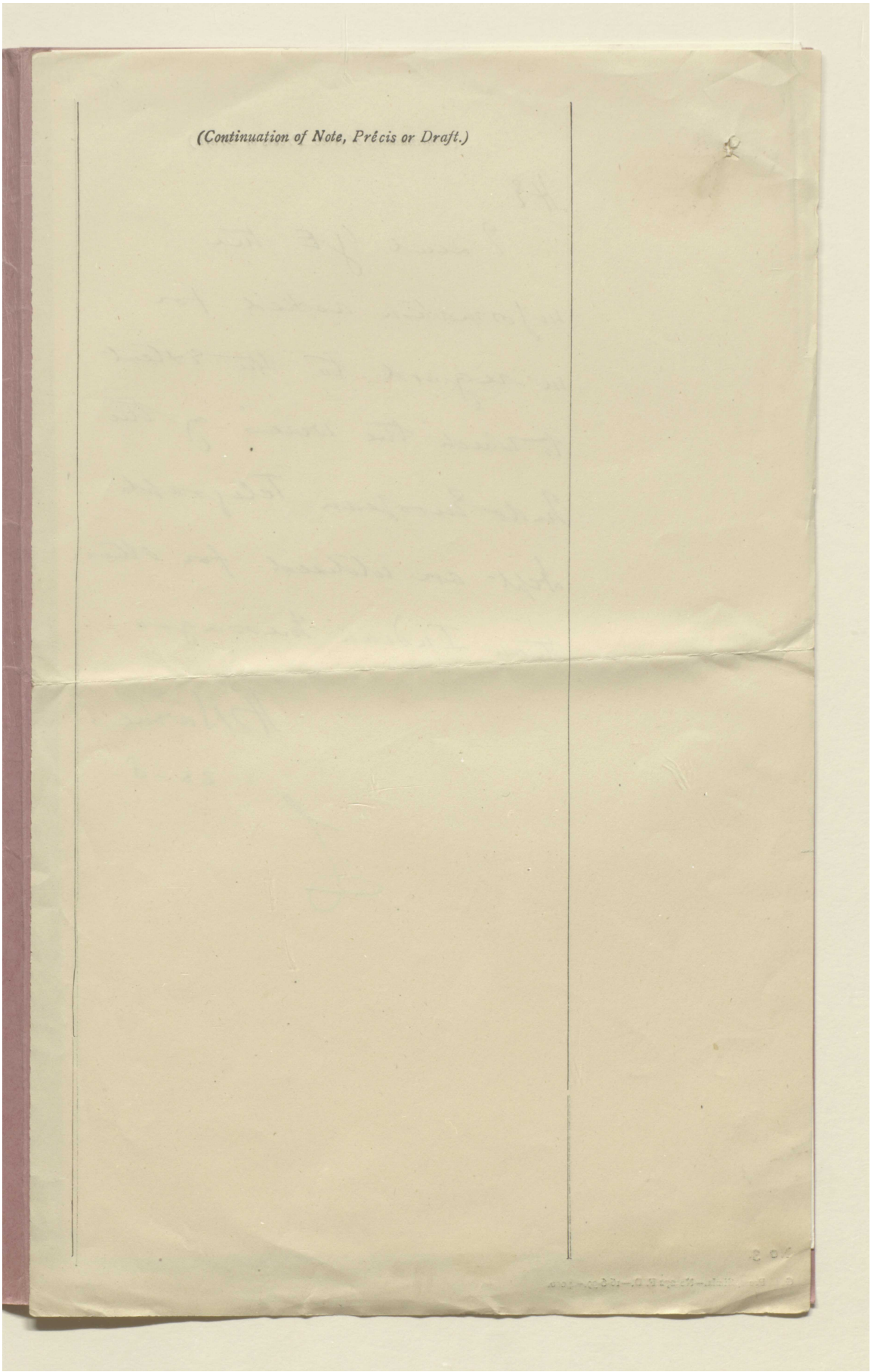

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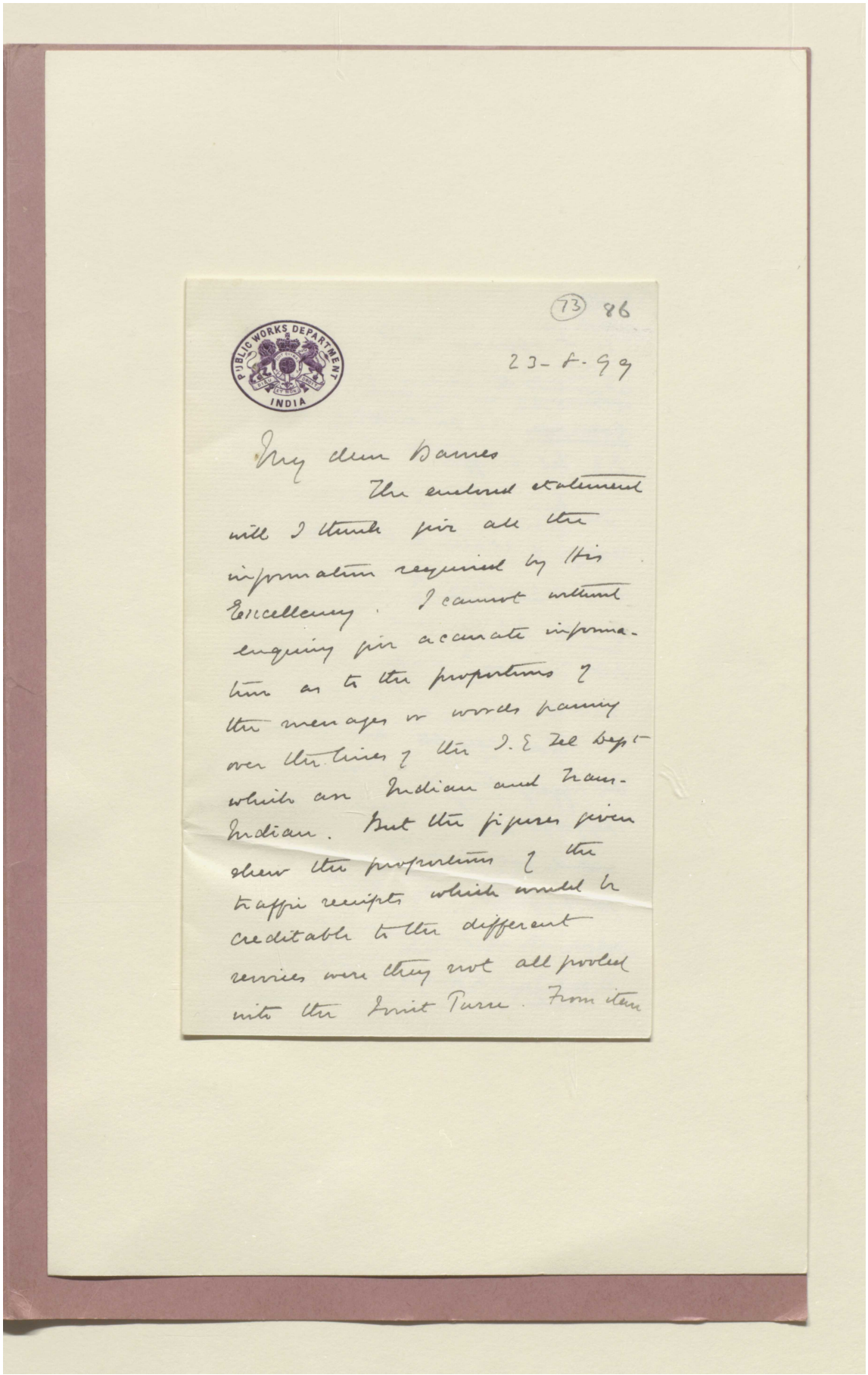

(73) 86

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INDIA

23-A-99

My dear Barnes

The enclosed statement will I think give all the information required by His Excellency. I cannot attempt enquiring for accurate information as to the proportions of the messages or words having over the lines of the I. & Tel Depts which are Indian and Non-Indian. But the figures given show the proportions of the traffic receipts which would be creditable to the different services were they not all pooled into the Joint Purse. From item

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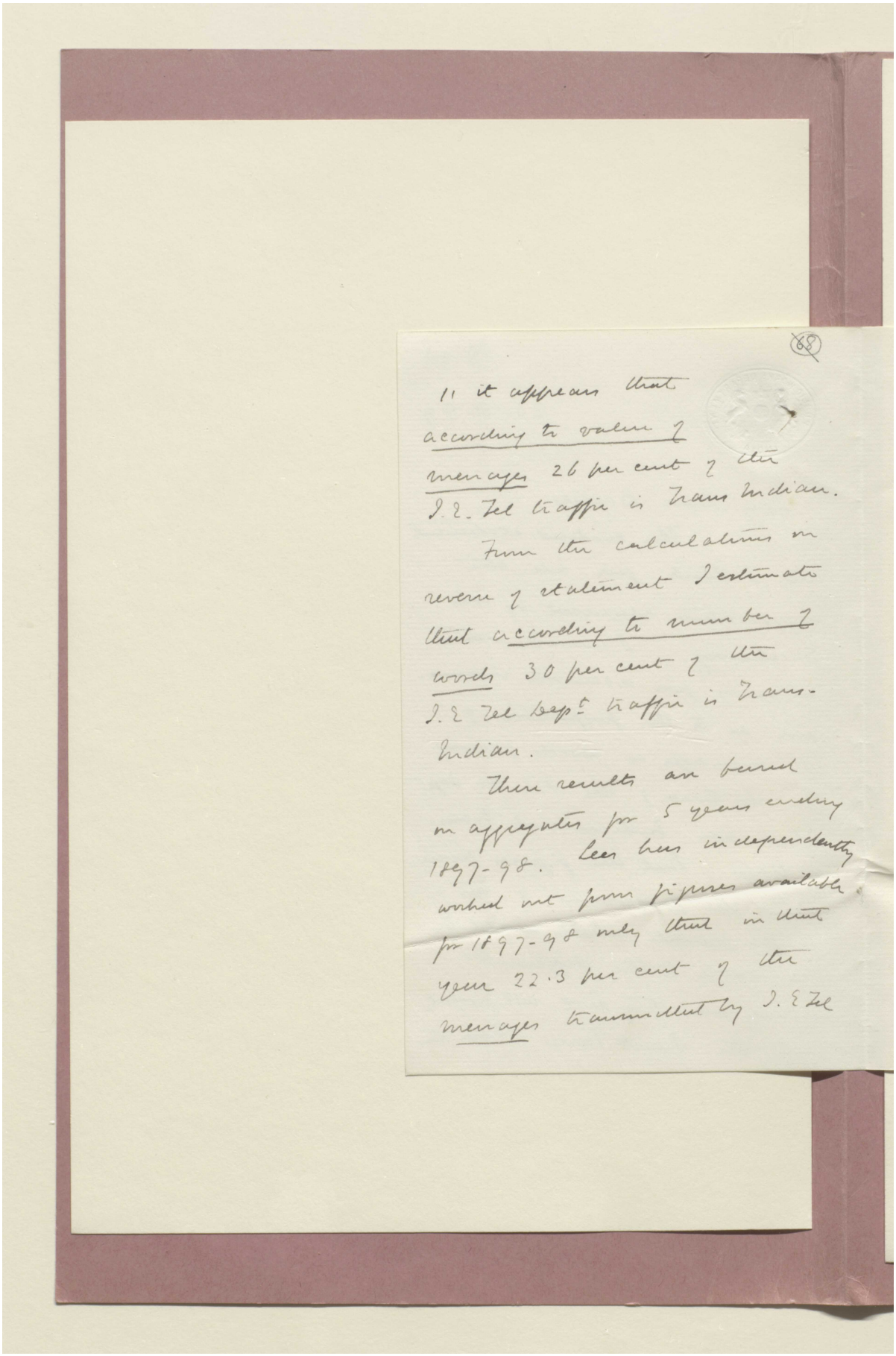

(68)

It appears that according to value of messages 26 per cent of the I.T. Tel traffic is Trans Indian.

From the calculations in reverse of statement I estimate that according to number of words 30 per cent of the I.T. Tel Dept traffic is Trans-Indian.

These results are based on aggregates for 5 years ending 1897-98. Less has independently worked out from figures available for 1897-98 & only that in that year 22.3 per cent of the messages transmitted by I.T. Tel

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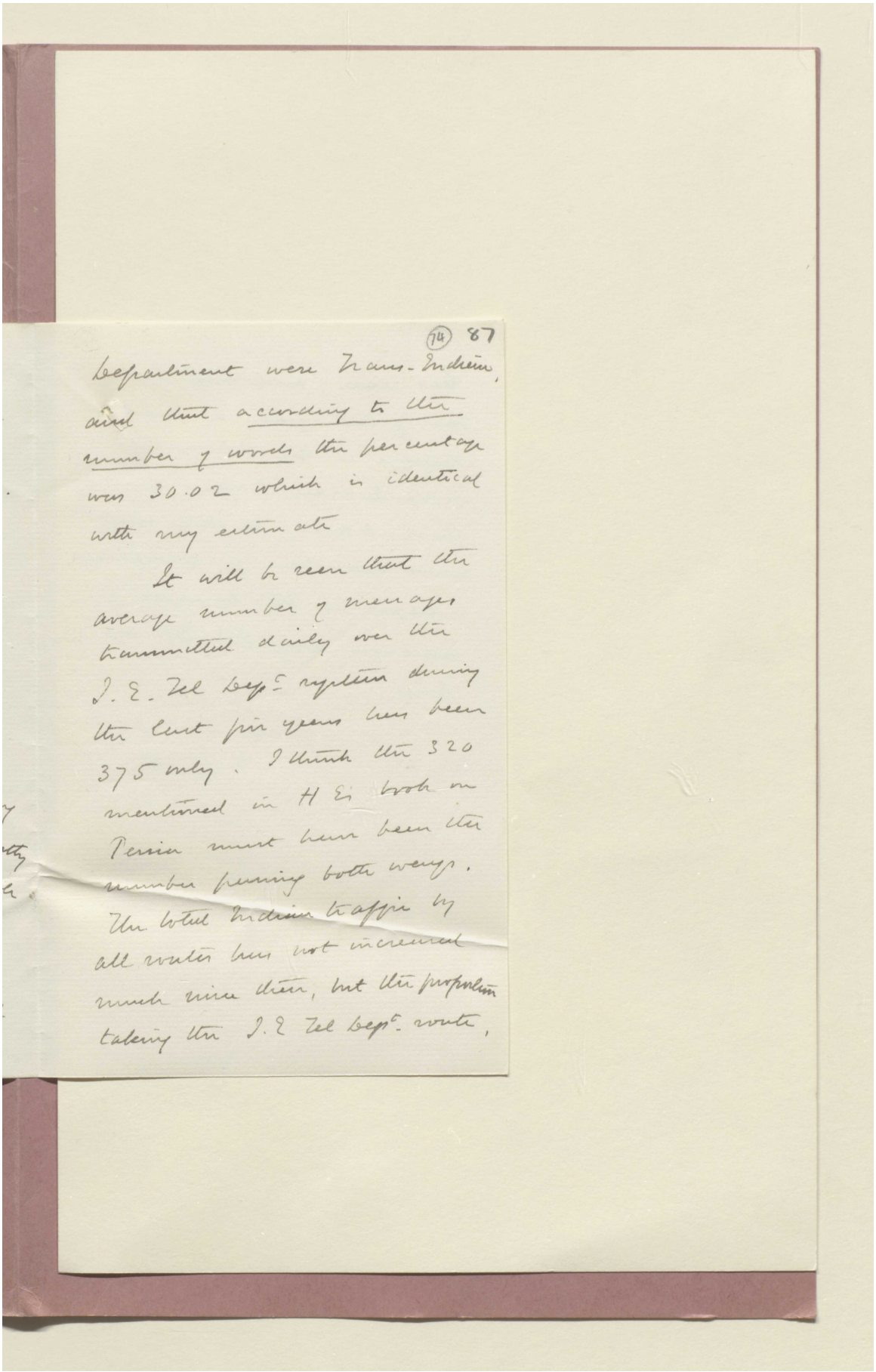

(74) 87

Department were Trans-Indian,
and that according to the
number of words the percentage
was 30.02 which is identical
with my estimate

It will be seen that the
average number of messages
transmitted daily over the
I. E. Tel Dept. system during
the last six years has been
375 only. I think the 320
mentioned in H Ei book on
Persia must have been the
number passing both ways.
The total Indian traffic by
all routes has not increased
much since then, but the proportion
taking the I. E Tel Dept. route,

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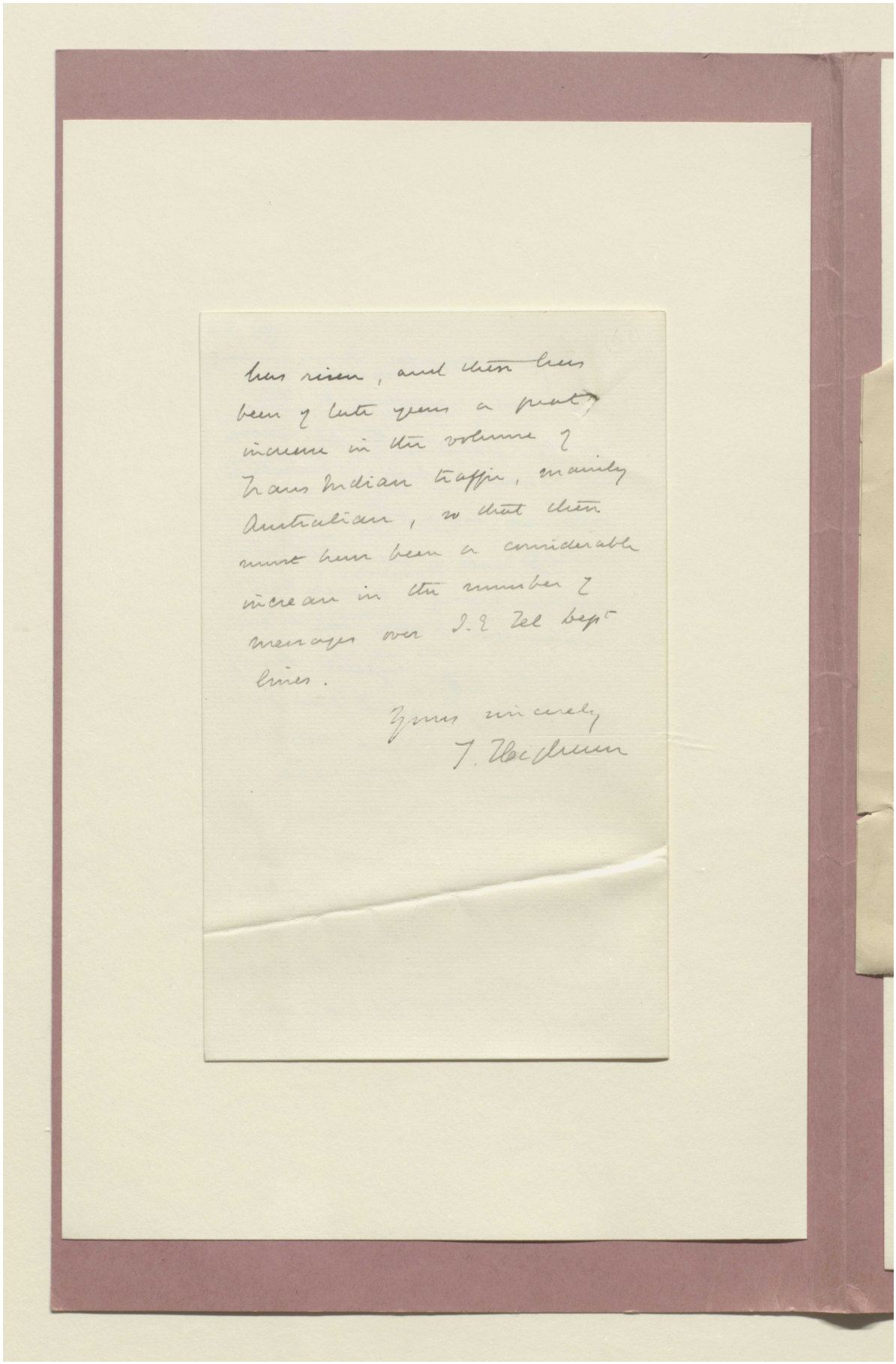

has risen, and there has
been of late years a great
increase in the volume of
Trans Indian traffic, mainly
Australian, so that there
must have been a considerable
increase in the number of
messages over I.E. Tel Dept
lines.

Yours sincerely
T. Hepburn

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88 (79)

Details of Telegraph Traffic between Europe, India, and the Far East during the five years ending 1897-98

Indian	1	Total number of words	11,720,710
			£
		Value of messages carried by	
	2	Eastern Telegraph Co	859,405
	3	Indo-European Company £ 544825 Indo-European Tel Dept 409623	954,448
			1,813,853
	4	Total value	
	5	Percentage of (3) on (4)	52.6
Trans-Indian	6.	Total number of words	16,942,434
			£
		Value of messages carried by	
	7	Eastern Telegraph Co	1,861,973
	8	I.E. Telegraph Co £ 201,744 I.E. Telegraph Dept 133,561	335,305
			2,197,278
	9.	Total value of messages	
	10.	Percentage of (8) on (9)	15.3
	11.	Percentage of (8) on (3)+(8)	26.0
Indian and Trans Indian	12.	Total number of words	28,663,544
			£
	~~13~~	Total value of messages carried by	2,721,378
	13	Eastern Telegraph Co	1,289,753
	14	I.E. Telegraph Co £ 746569 I.E. Telegraph Dept 543184	1,289,753
			4031,131
	15.	Total value	
	16	Percentage of (14) on (15)	32.1

N.B. The figures for I.E. Tel Dept include the traffic brought in via Turkey.

Turn over

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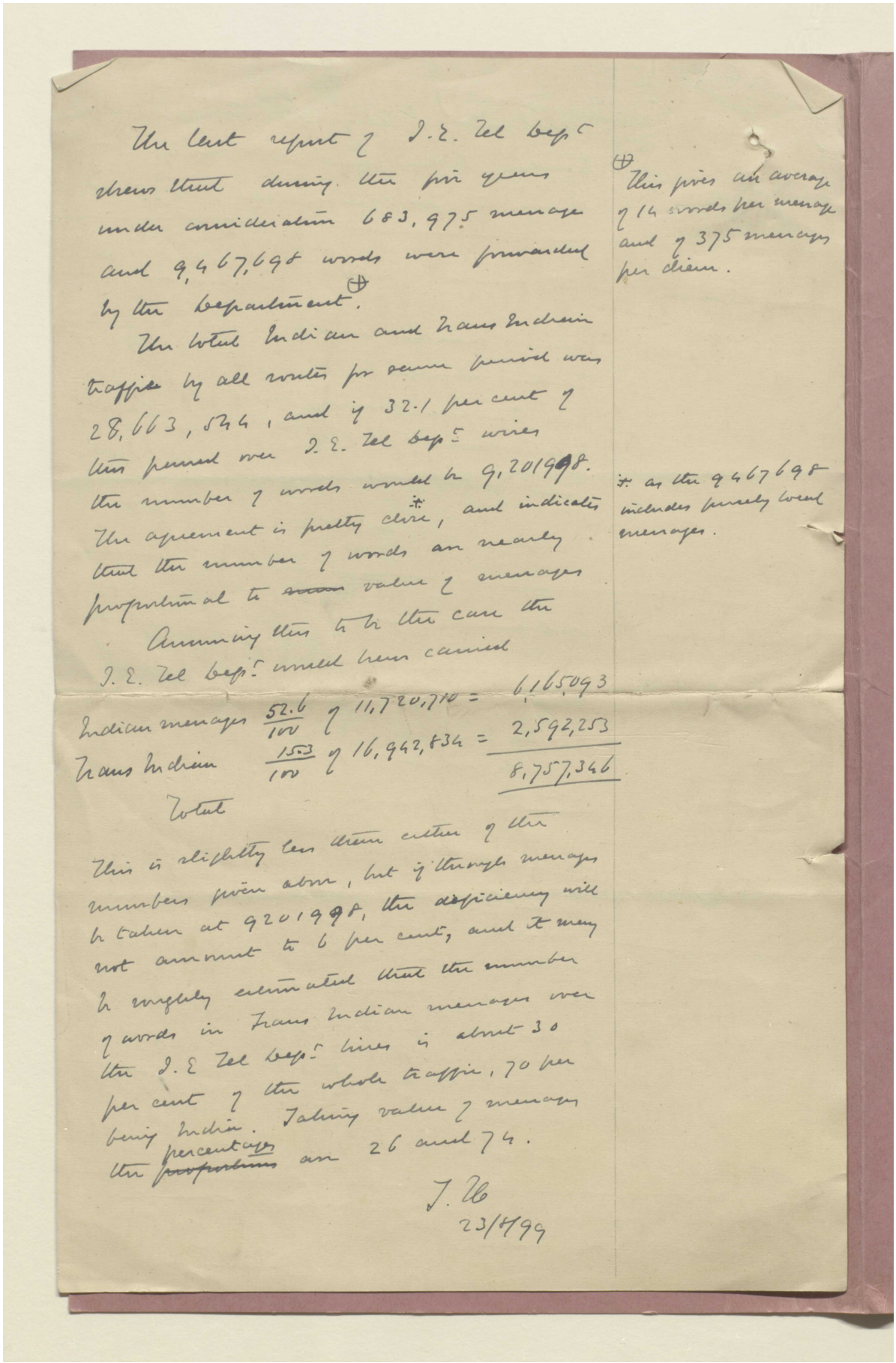

The last report of I.E. Tel Dept shows that during the six years under consideration 683,975 messages and 9,467,698 words were forwarded by the Department.

This gives an average of 14 words per message and 375 messages per diem.

The total Indian and Trans Indian traffic by all routes for same period was 28,663,824, and of 32.1 per cent of this period was I.E. Tel Dept wires the number of words would be 9,201998. The agreement is pretty close, and indicates that the number of words are nearly proportional to value of messages

* as the 9467698 includes purely local messages.

Assuming this to be the case the I.E. Tel Dept would have carried

Indian messages $\frac{52.6}{100}$ of 11,720,710 = 6,165093

Trans Indian $\frac{15.3}{100}$ of 16,942,834 = 2,592,253

8,757,346

Total

This is slightly less than either of the numbers given above, but if through messages be taken at 9201998, the deficiency will not amount to 6 per cent, and it may be roughly estimated that the number of words in Trans Indian messages over the I.E Tel Dept lines is about 30 per cent of the whole traffic, 70 per being Indian. Taking value of messages the percentages are 26 and 74.

J. Ab
23/4/99

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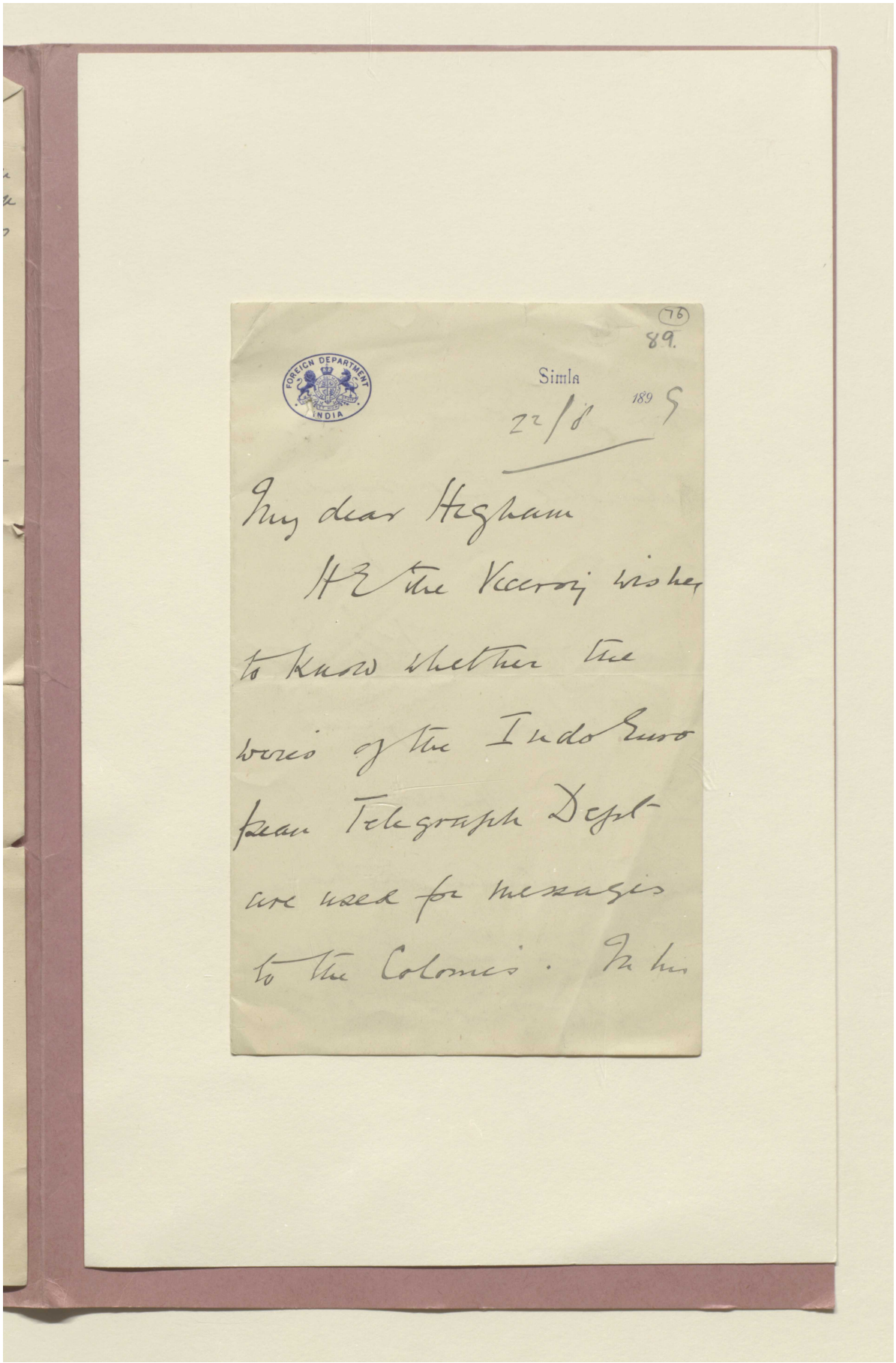
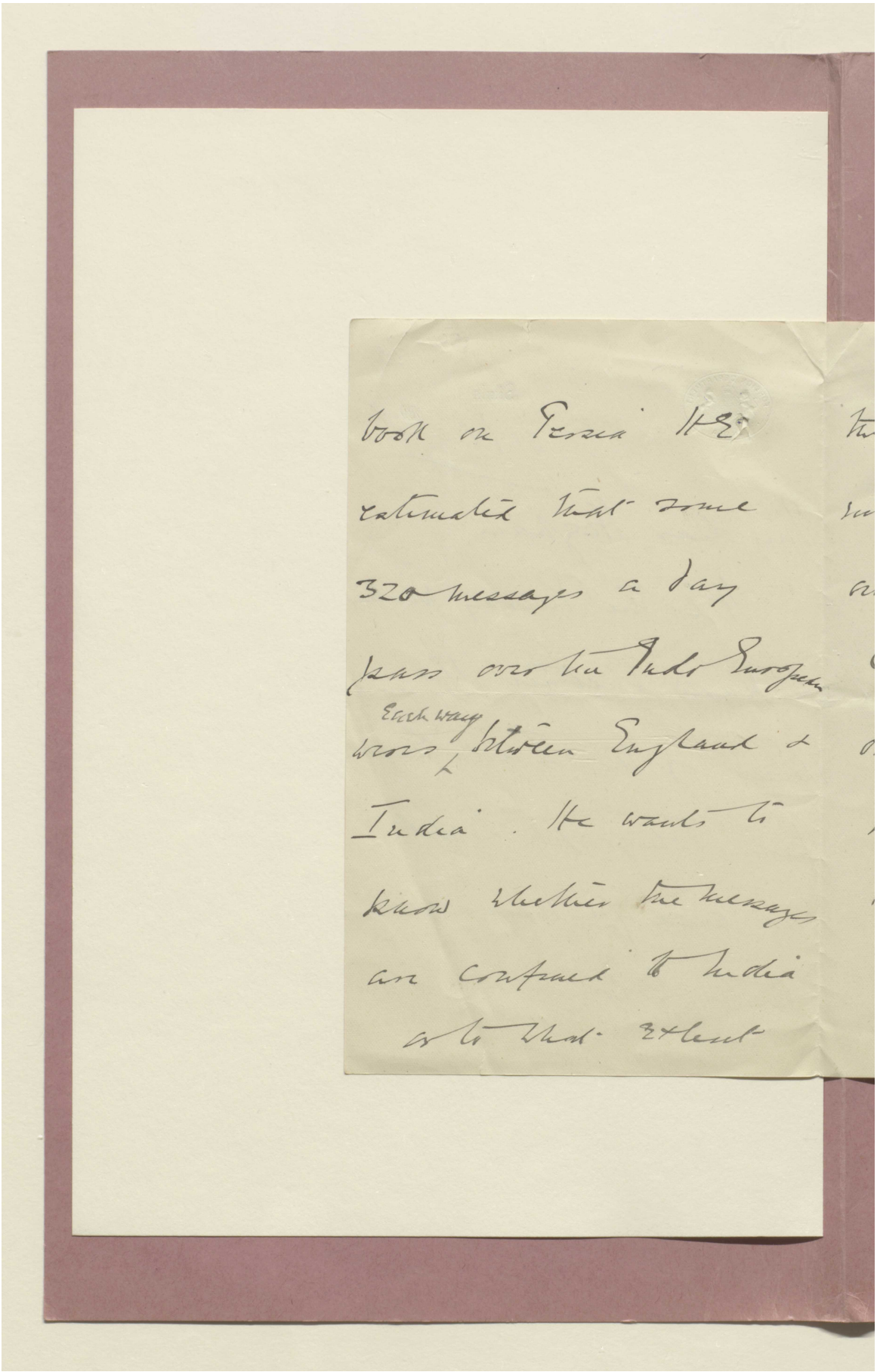

(76)
89.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
INDIA
Simla
22/8 189 5
My dear Hepham
H.E. the Viceroy wishes
to know whether the
words of the Indo Euro
pean Telegraph Dept
are used for messages
to the Colonies. In his



book on Persia. He
estimated that some
320 messages a day
pass over the Indo European
wires, Each way between England &
India. He wants to
know whether the messages
are confined to India
or to what extent

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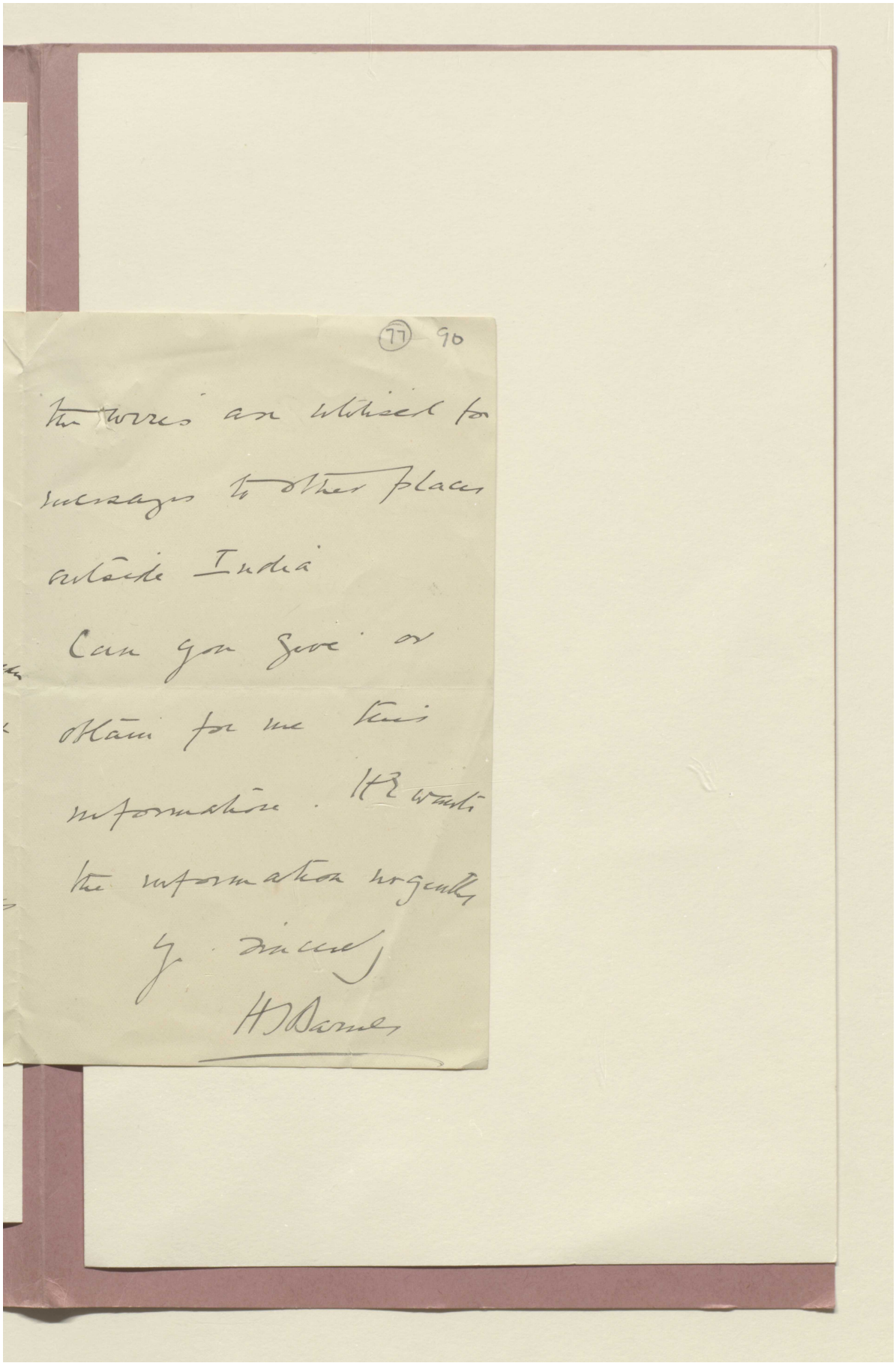

(77) 90

the wires are utilised for
messages to other places
outside India

Can you give or
obtain for me this
information. He wants
the information urgently

Yours sincerely

H J Barnes

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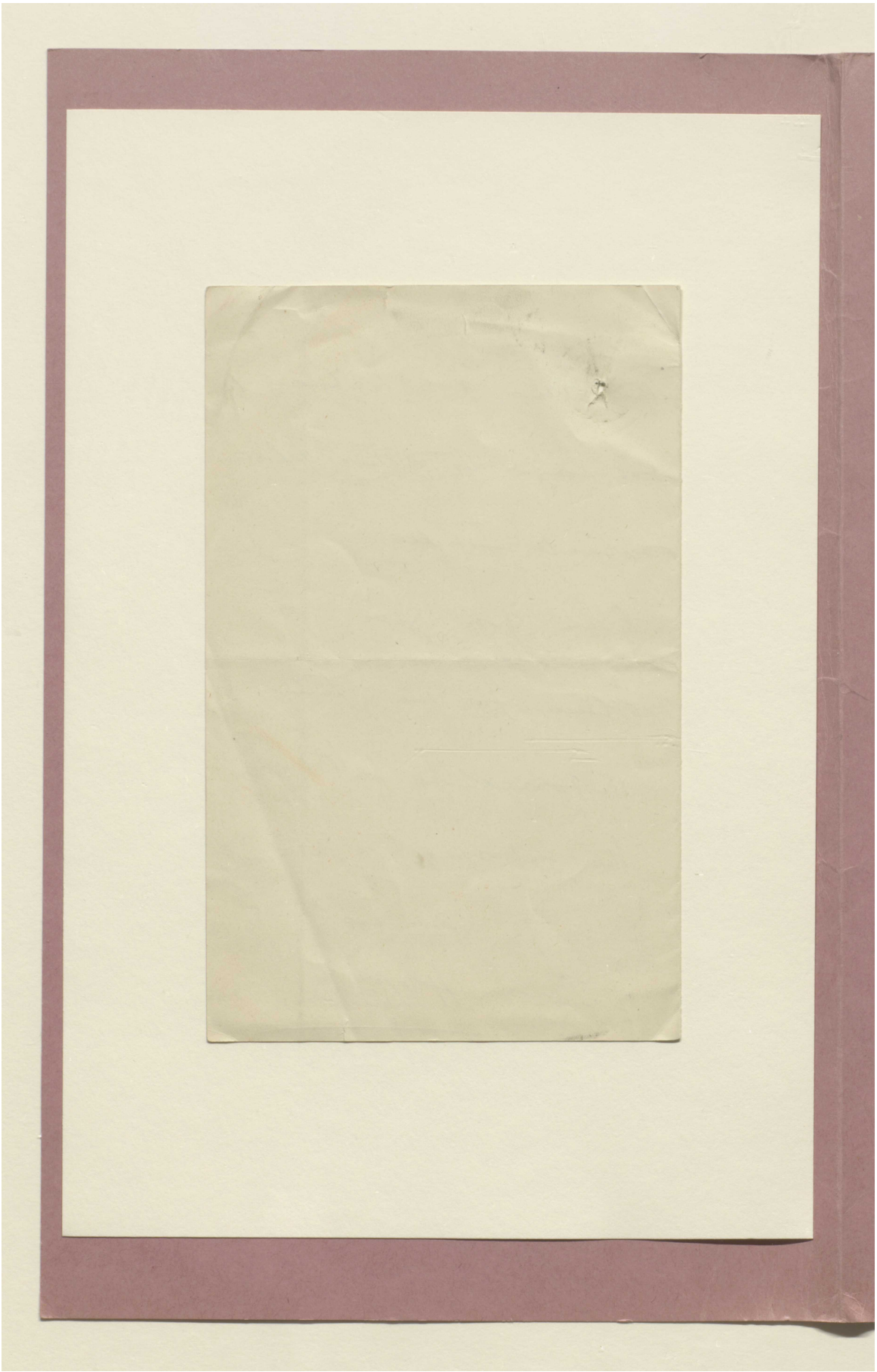

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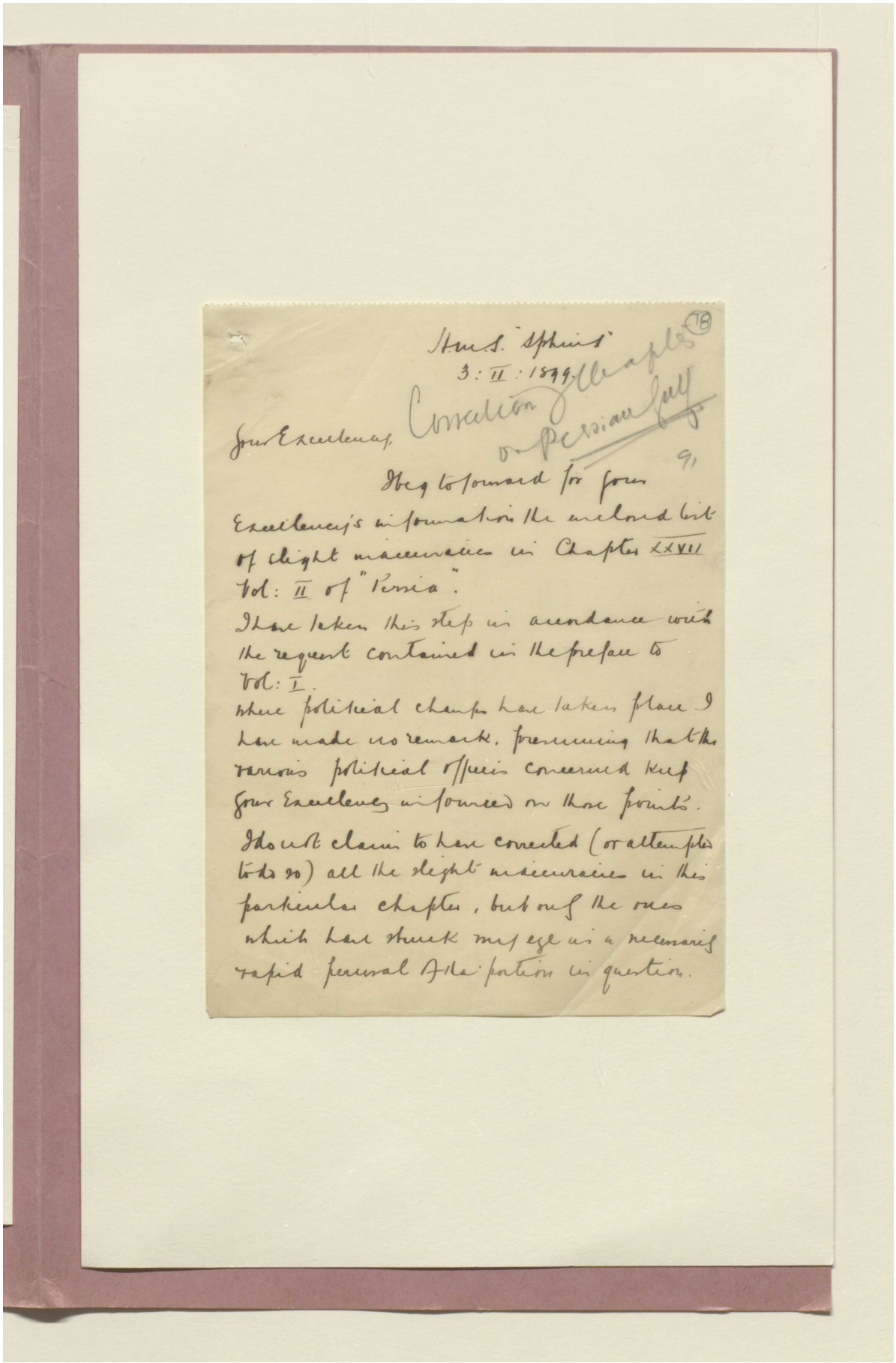

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78

H.M.S. "Sphinx"
3 : II : 1899.

Correction of Chapter on Persian Gulf

91

Your Excellency,

I beg to forward for your Excellency's information the enclosed list of slight inaccuracies in Chapter XXVII Vol: II of "Persia".

I have taken this step in accordance with the request contained in the preface to Vol: I.

Where political changes have taken place I have made no remark, presuming that the various political officers concerned keep Your Excellency informed on those points.

I do not claim to have corrected (or attempted to do so) all the slight inaccuracies in this particular chapter, but only the ones which have struck my eye in a necessarily rapid perusal of the portion in question.

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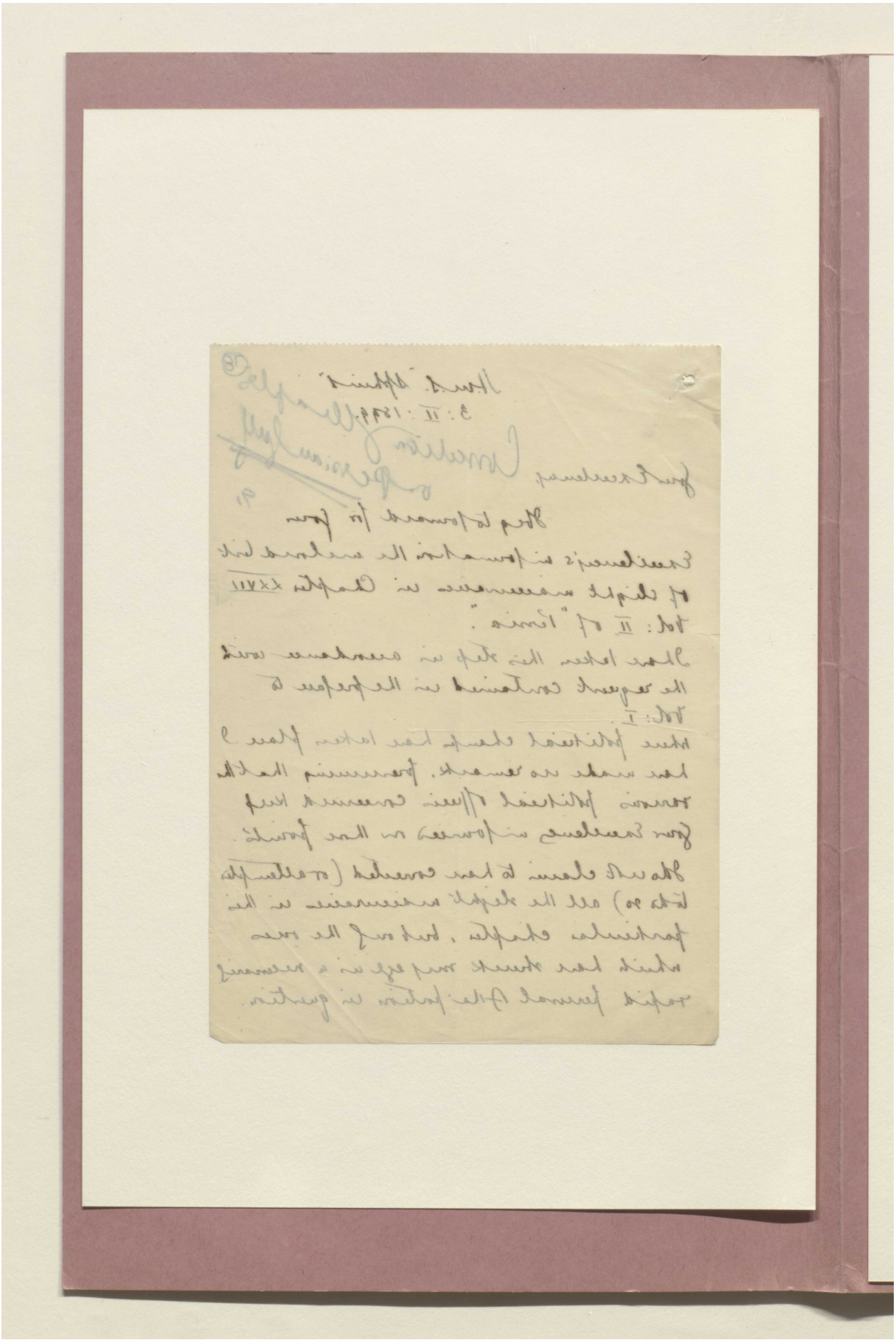

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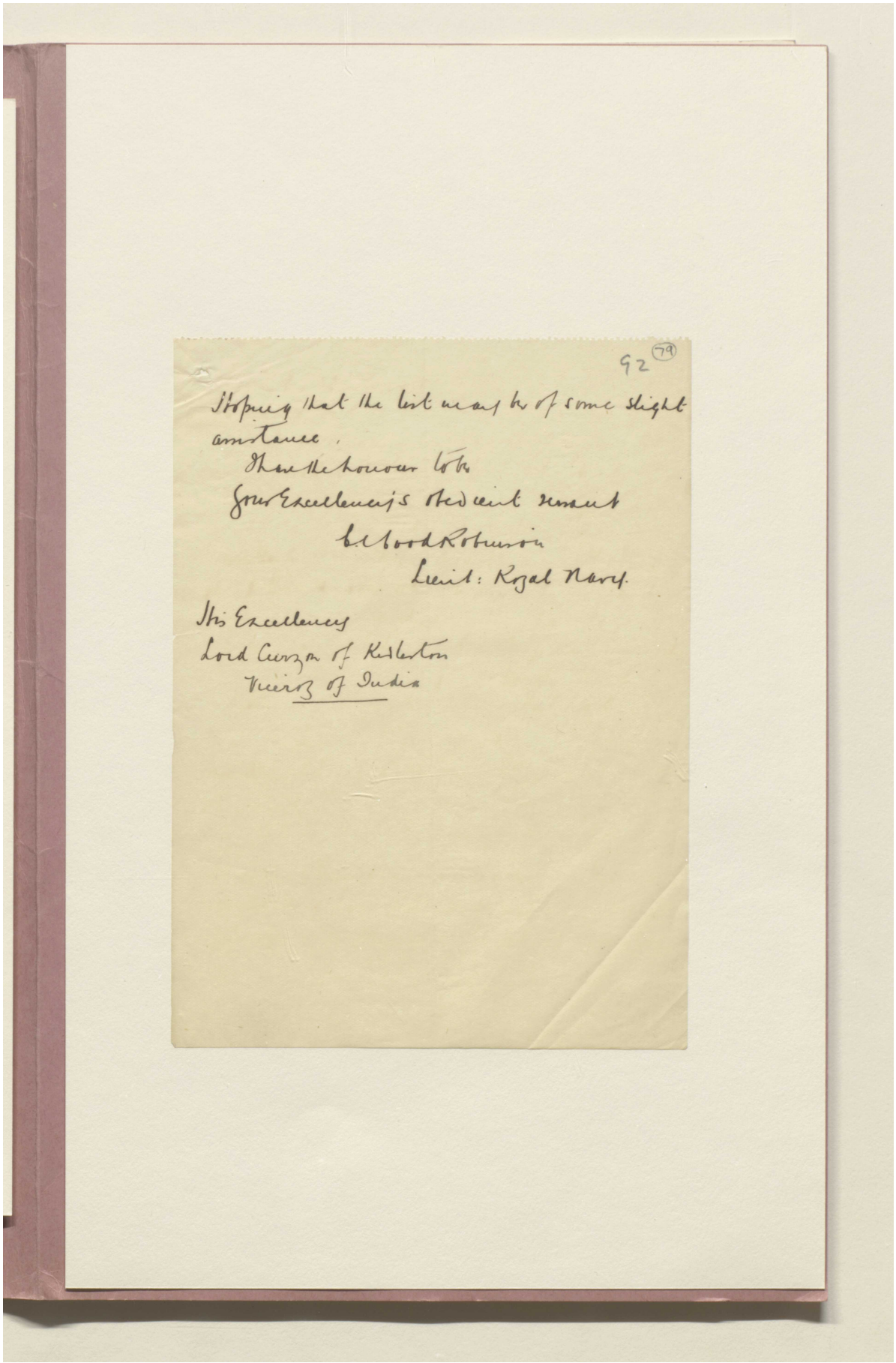

92 (79)

Hoping that the list may be of some slight assistance.

I have the honour to be
Your Excellency's obedient servant
H. Wood Robinson
Lieut: Royal Navy.

His Excellency
Lord Curzon of Kedleston
Viceroy of India

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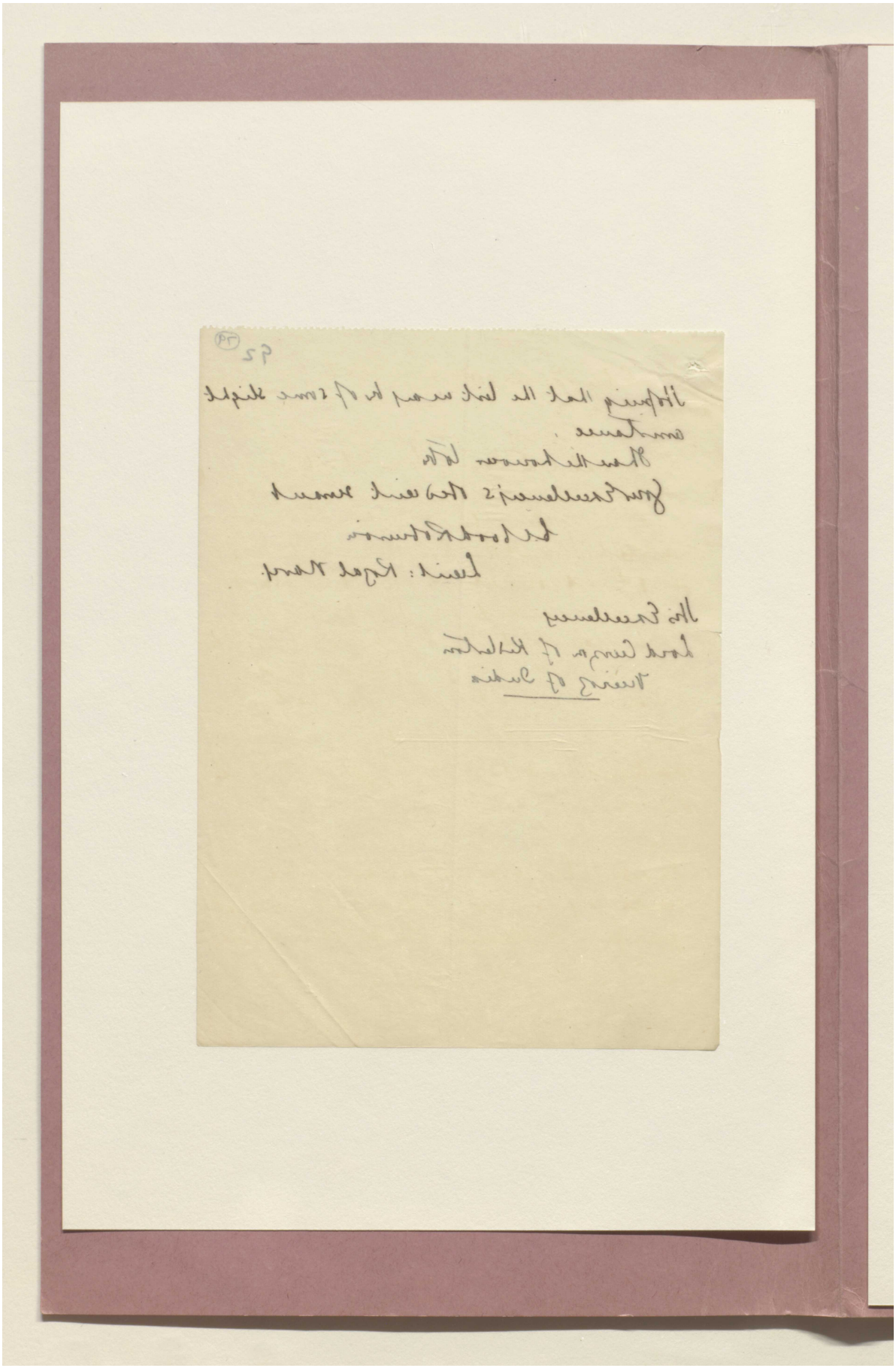

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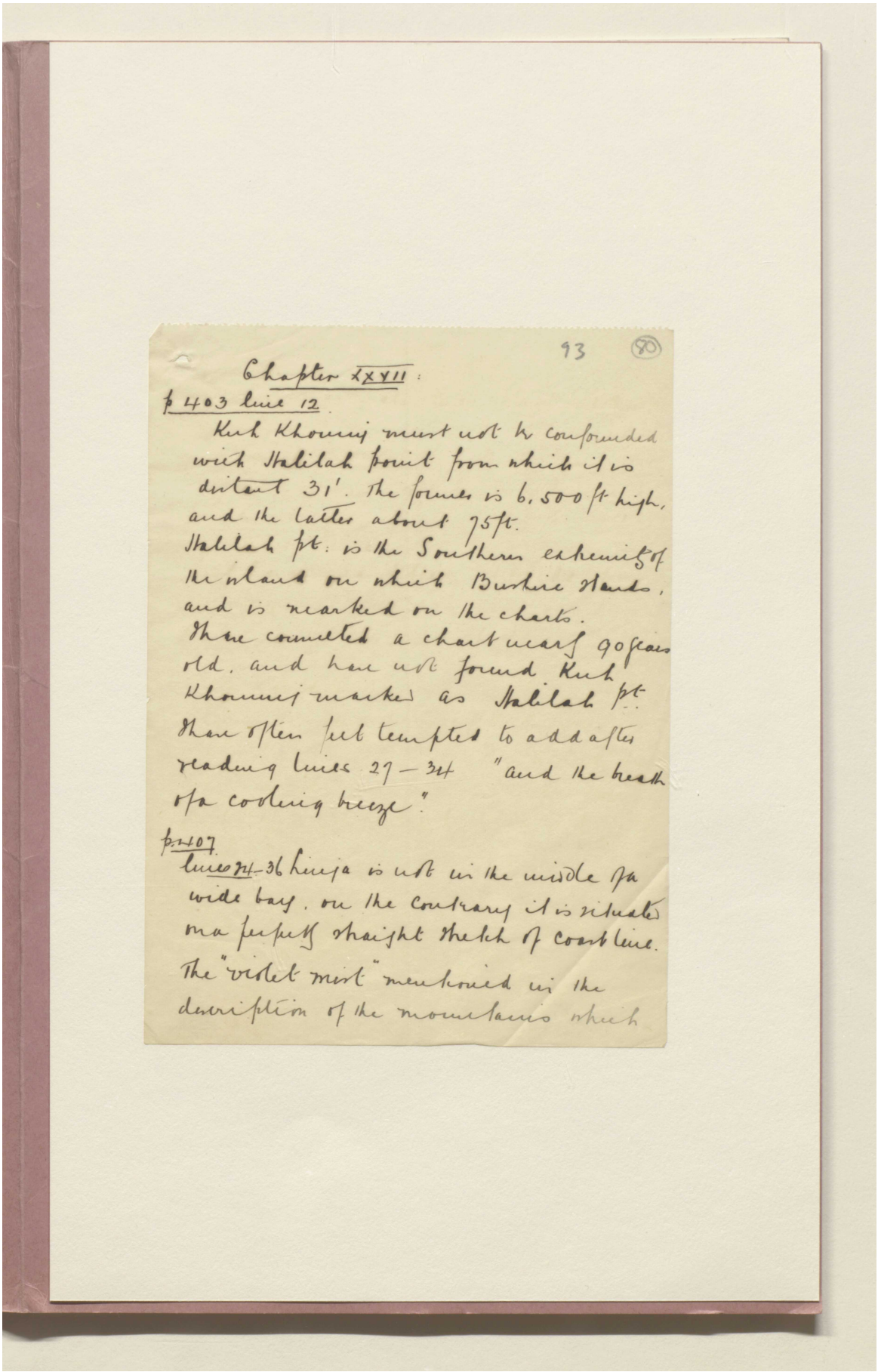

93 (90)

Chapter XXVII:

p 403 line 12.

Kuh Khonuj must not be confounded with Habilah point from which it is distant 31'. The former is 6,500 ft high, and the latter about 75ft.
Habilah pt: is the Southern extremity of the island on which Bushire stands, and is marked on the charts.
I have consulted a chart nearly 90 years old, and have not found Kuh Khonuj marked as Habilah pt.
I have often felt tempted to add after reading lines 27–34 "and the breath of a cooling breeze."

p 407
lines 34–36 Linga is not in the middle of a wide bay, on the contrary it is situated on a perfectly straight stretch of coast line.
The "violet mist" mentioned in the description of the mountains which

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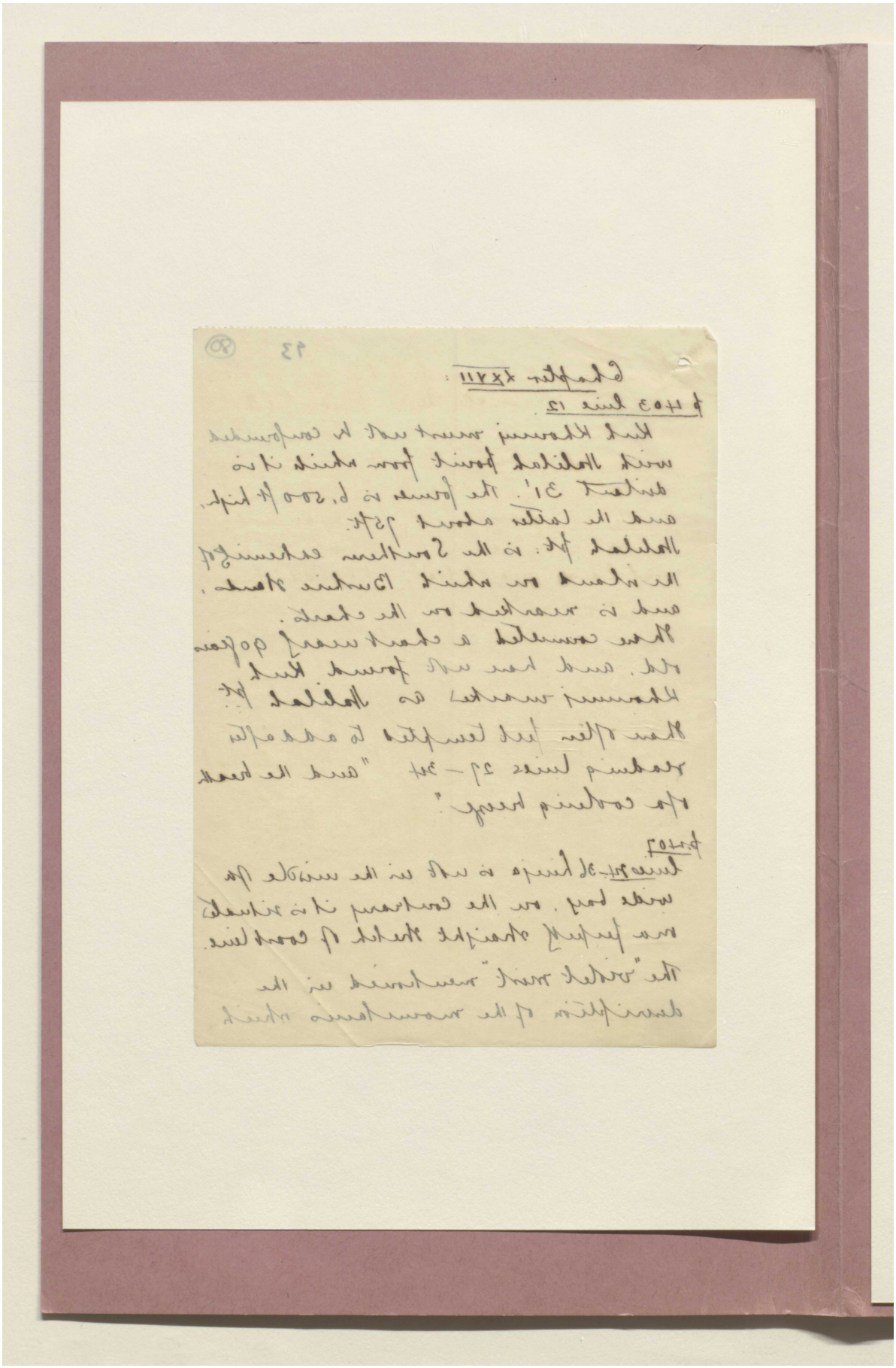

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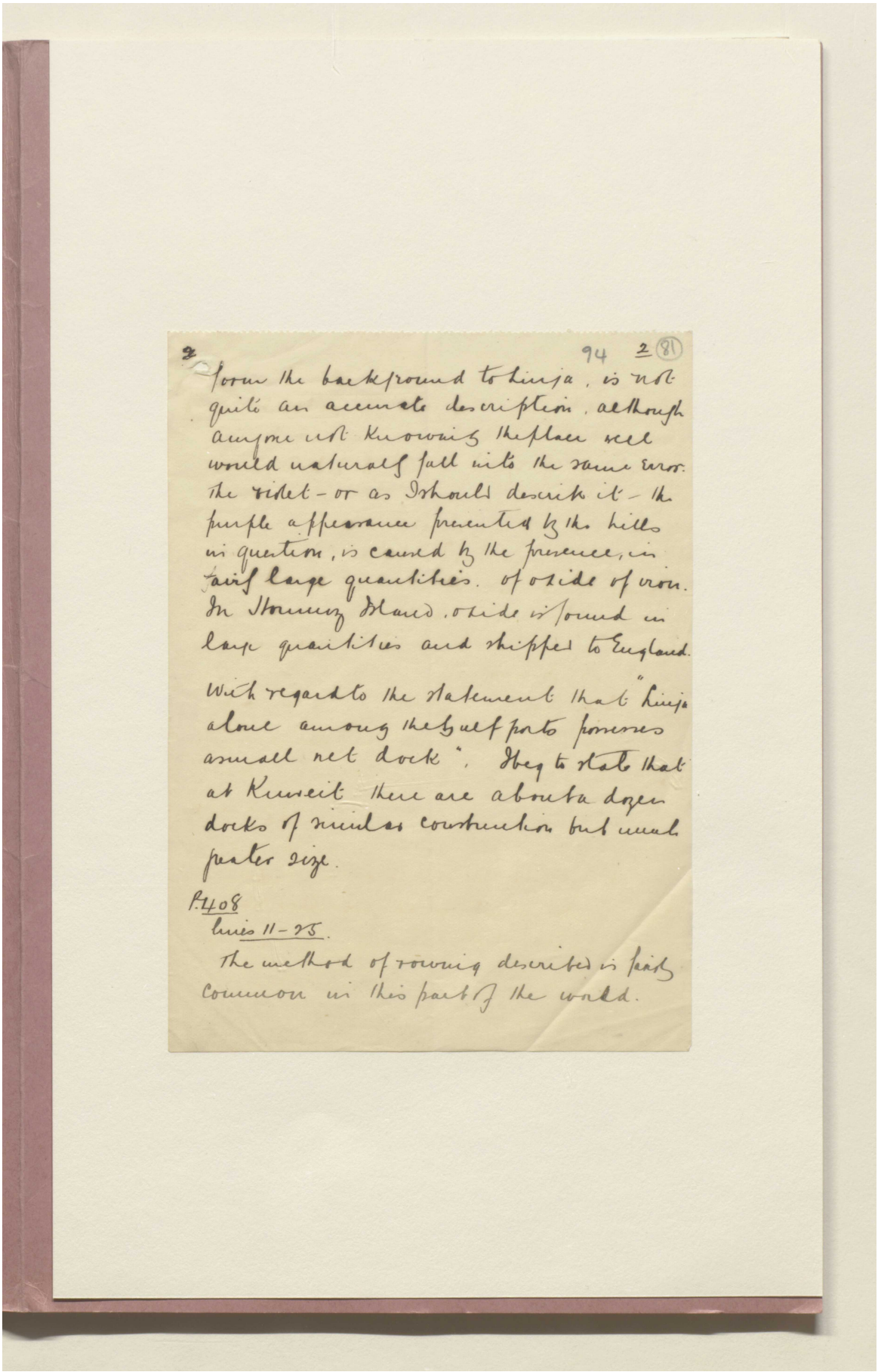

2 94 2 (81)

From the background to Linja, is not quite an accurate description, although anyone not knowing the place well would naturally fall into the same error. The violet - or as I should describe it - the purple appearance presented by the hills in question, is caused by the presence, in fairly large quantities, of oxide of iron. In Hormuz Island, oxide is found in large quantities and shipped to England.

With regard to the statement that "Linja alone among the Gulf ports possesses a small wet dock", beg to state that at Kuweit there are about a dozen docks of similar construction but much greater size.

P. 408
lines 11-25.

The method of rowing described is fairly common in this part of the world.

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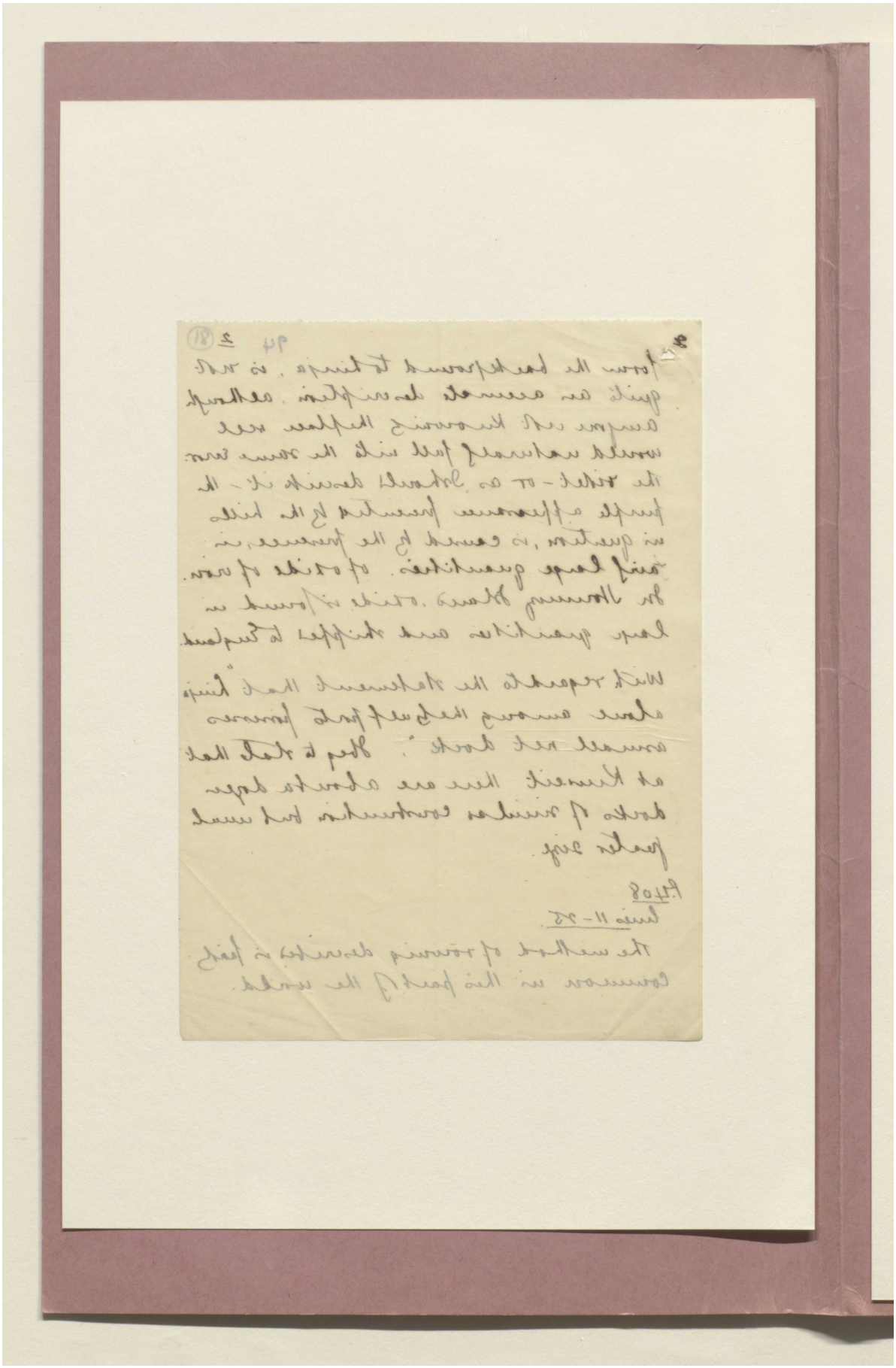

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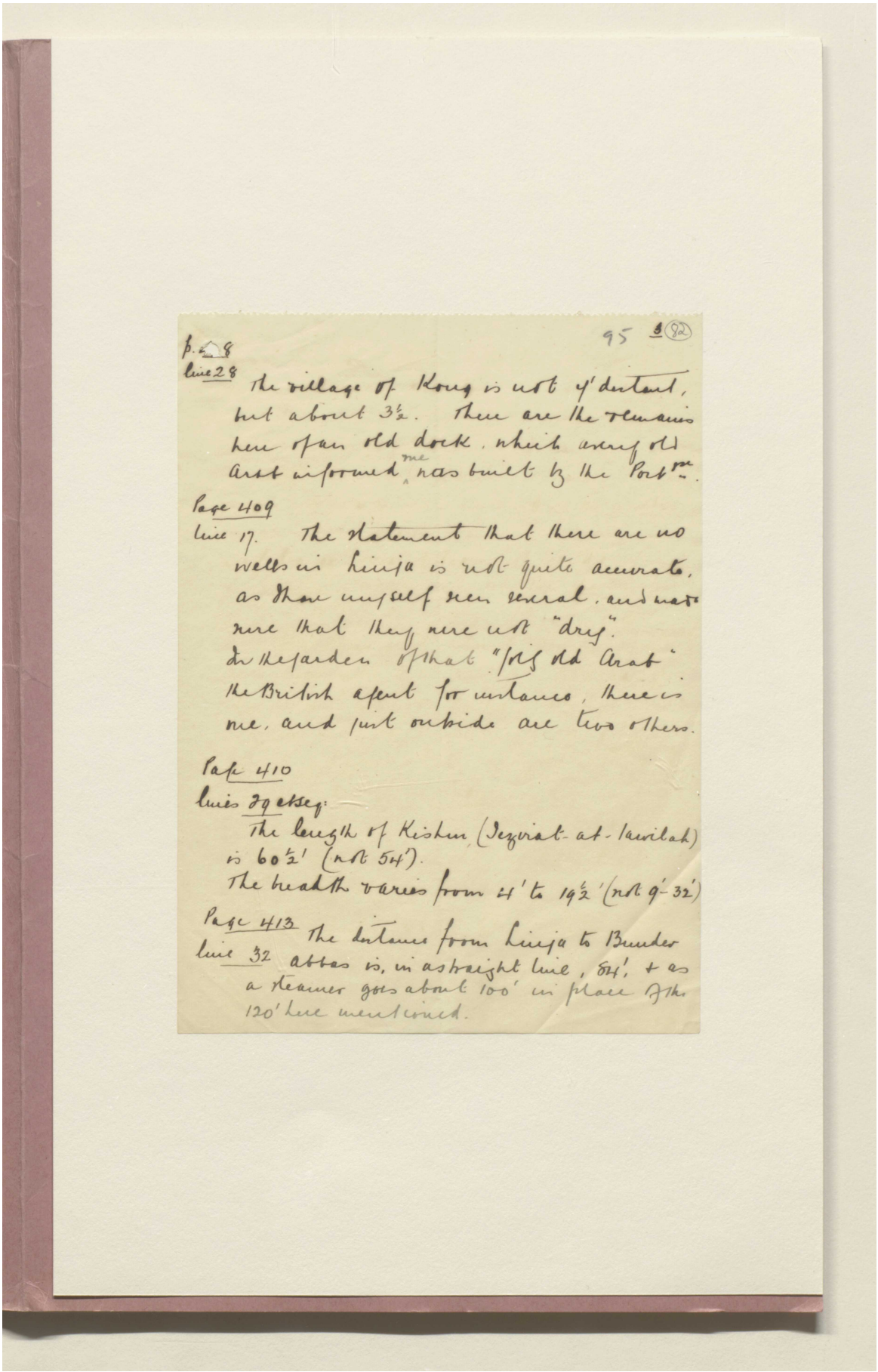

95 82

p. 408
line 28 The village of Kong is not 4 distant, but about 3½. There are the remains here of an old dock, which many old Arab informed me was built by the Portuguese.

Page 409
line 17. The statement that there are no wells in Linja is not quite accurate, as I myself seen several, and was sure that they were not "dry". In regarden of that "big old Arab" the British agent for instance, there is one, and just outside are two others.

Page 410
lines 29 et seq:
The length of Kishm (Jezirat-at-Tawilah) is 60½' (not 54').
The breadth varies from 4' to 19½' (not 9'-32')

Page 413 The distance from Linja to Bunder
line 32 abbas is, in a straight line, 54', + as a steamer goes about 100' in place of the 120' here mentioned.

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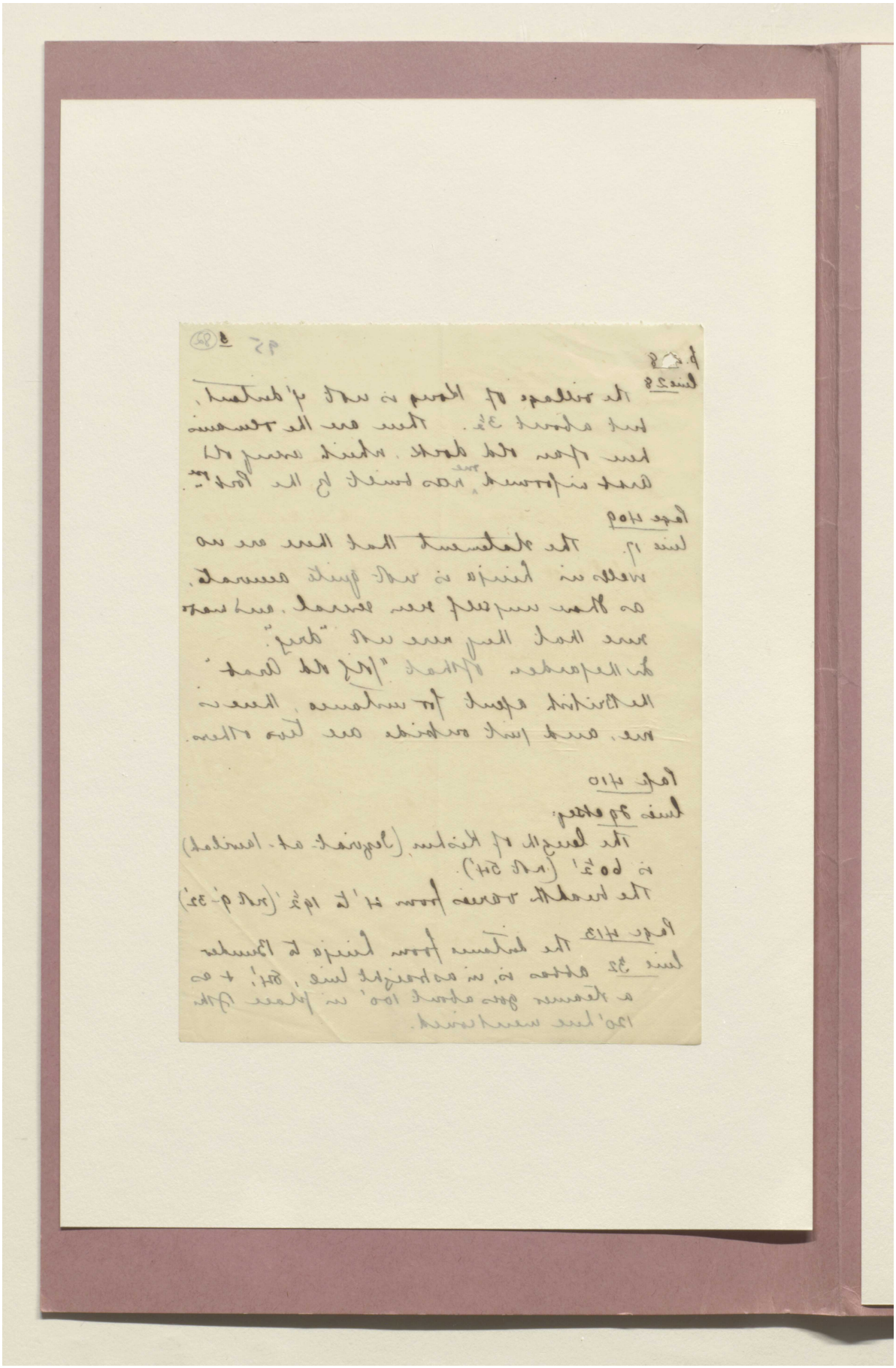

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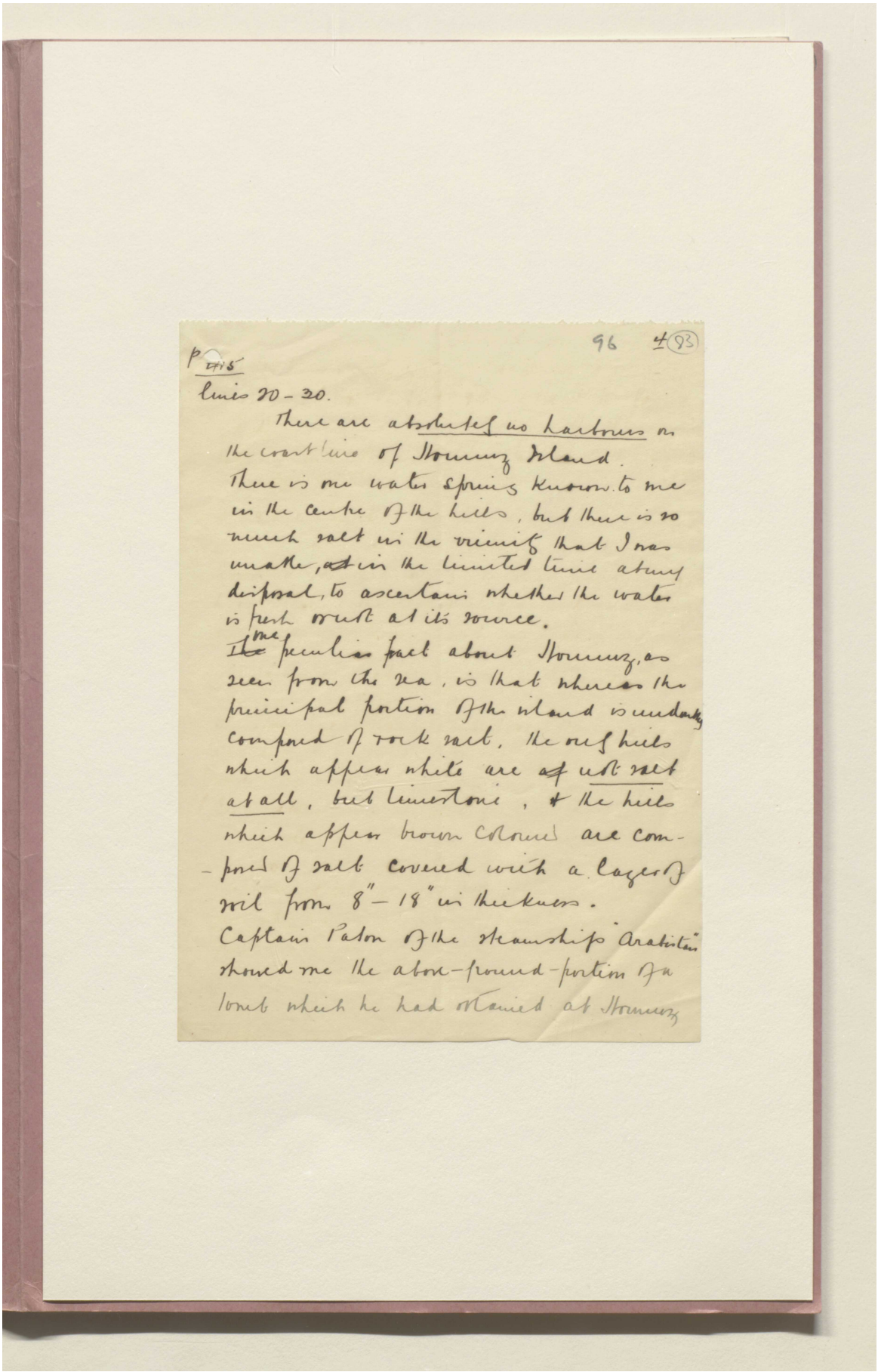

96 4 (83)

p 115

lines 20 - 30.

There are absolutely no harbours on the coast line of Hormuz Island.
There is one water spring known to me in the centre of the hills, but there is so much salt in the vicinity that I was unable, ~~at~~ in the limited time at my disposal, to ascertain whether the water is fresh or not at its source.
~~The~~ One peculiar fact about Hormuz, as seen from the sea, is that whereas the principal portion of the island is undoubtedly composed of rock salt, the only hills which appear white are ~~of~~ not salt at all, but limestone, & the hills which appear brown coloured are composed of salt covered with a layer of soil from 8" - 18" in thickness.
Captain Paton of the steamship "Arabistan" showed me the above-ground-portion of a tomb which he had obtained at Hormuz

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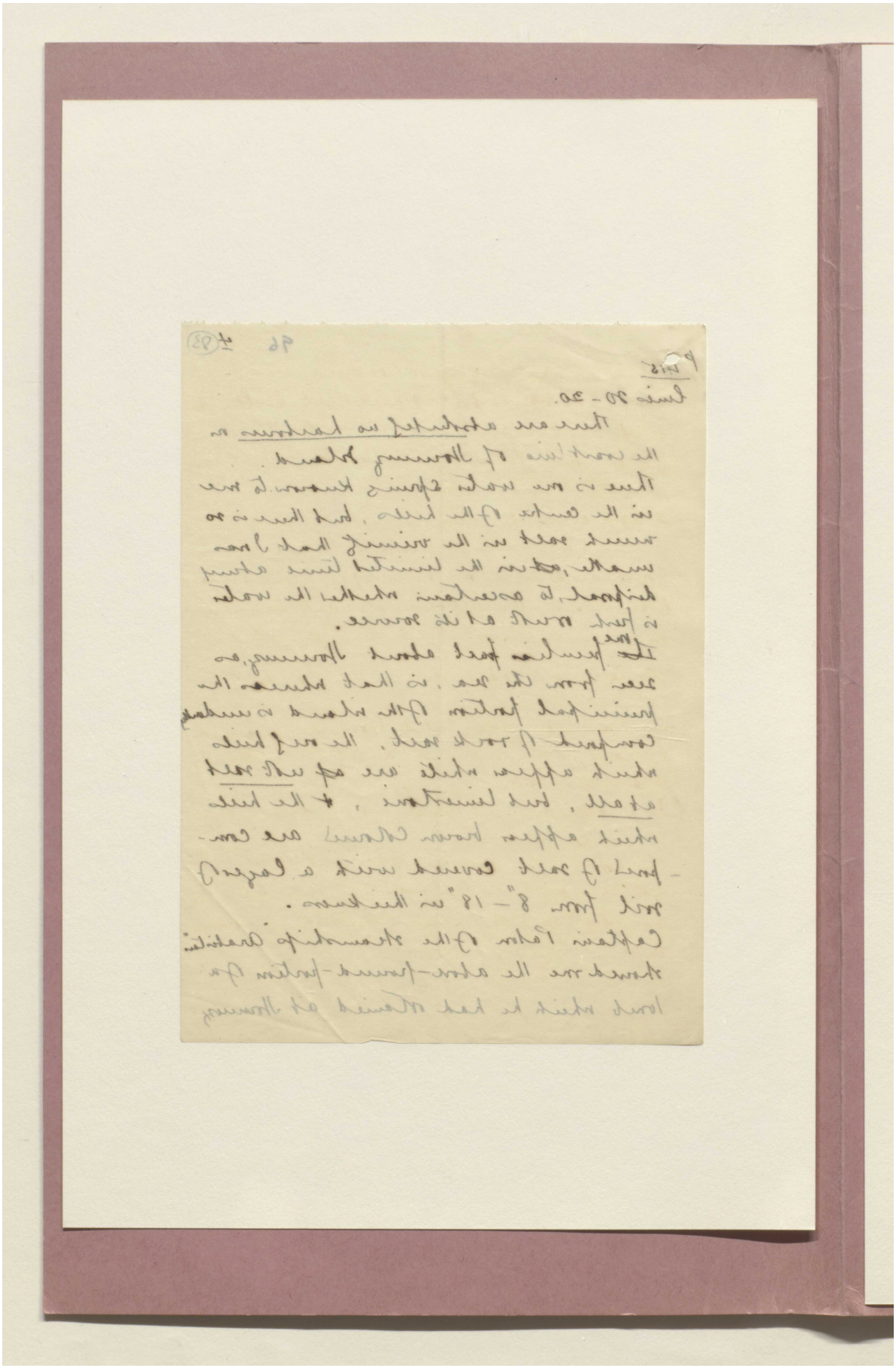

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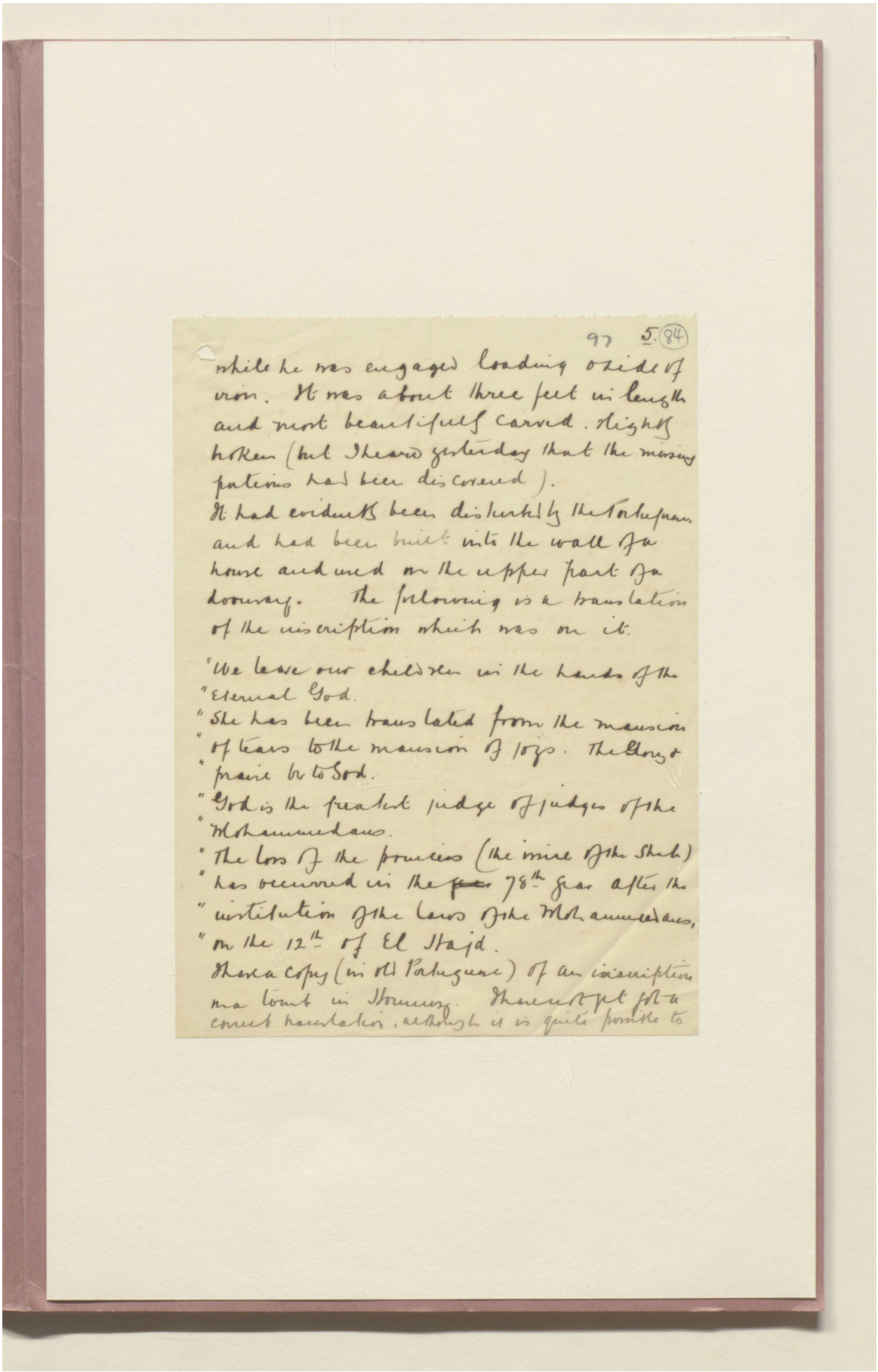

97 5. (84)

while he was engaged loading oxide of iron. It was about three feet in length and most beautifully carved. Slightly broken (but I heard yesterday that the missing pieces had been discovered).
It had evidently been disinterred by the Portuguese, and had been built into the wall of a house and used on the upper part of a doorway. The following is a translation of the inscription which was on it.

"We leave our children in the hands of the
"Eternal God.
"She has been translated from the mansion
"of tears to the mansion of joys. The glory of
"praise be to God.
"God is the greatest judge of judges of the
"Mohammedans.
"The loss of the princess (the wife of the Shah)
"has occurred in the ~~year~~ 78th year after the
"institution of the laws of the Mohammedans,
"on the 12th of El Hajd.
Here a copy (in old Portuguese) of an inscription was found in Hormuz. There not yet [illegible] a correct translation, although it is quite possible to

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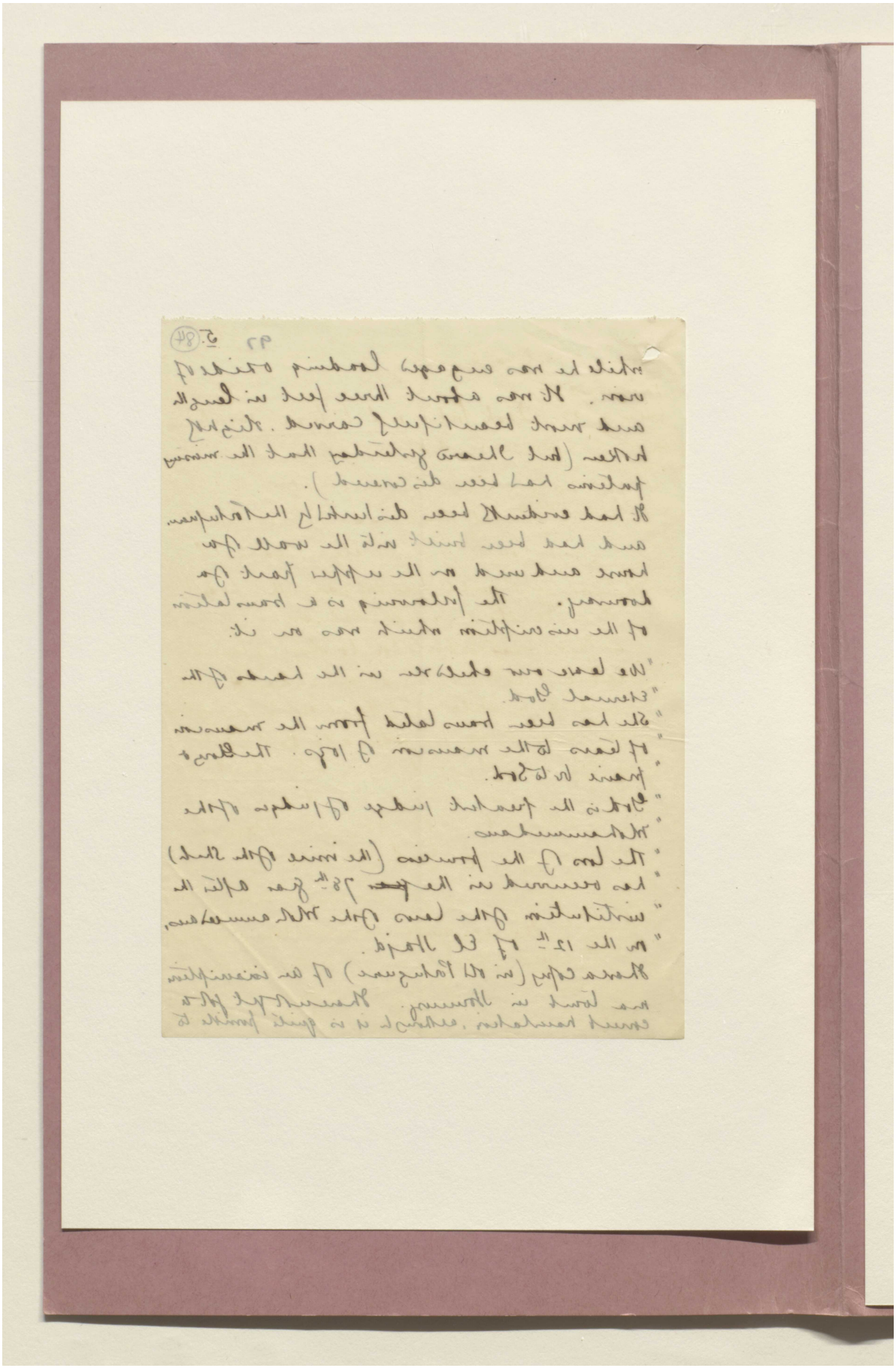

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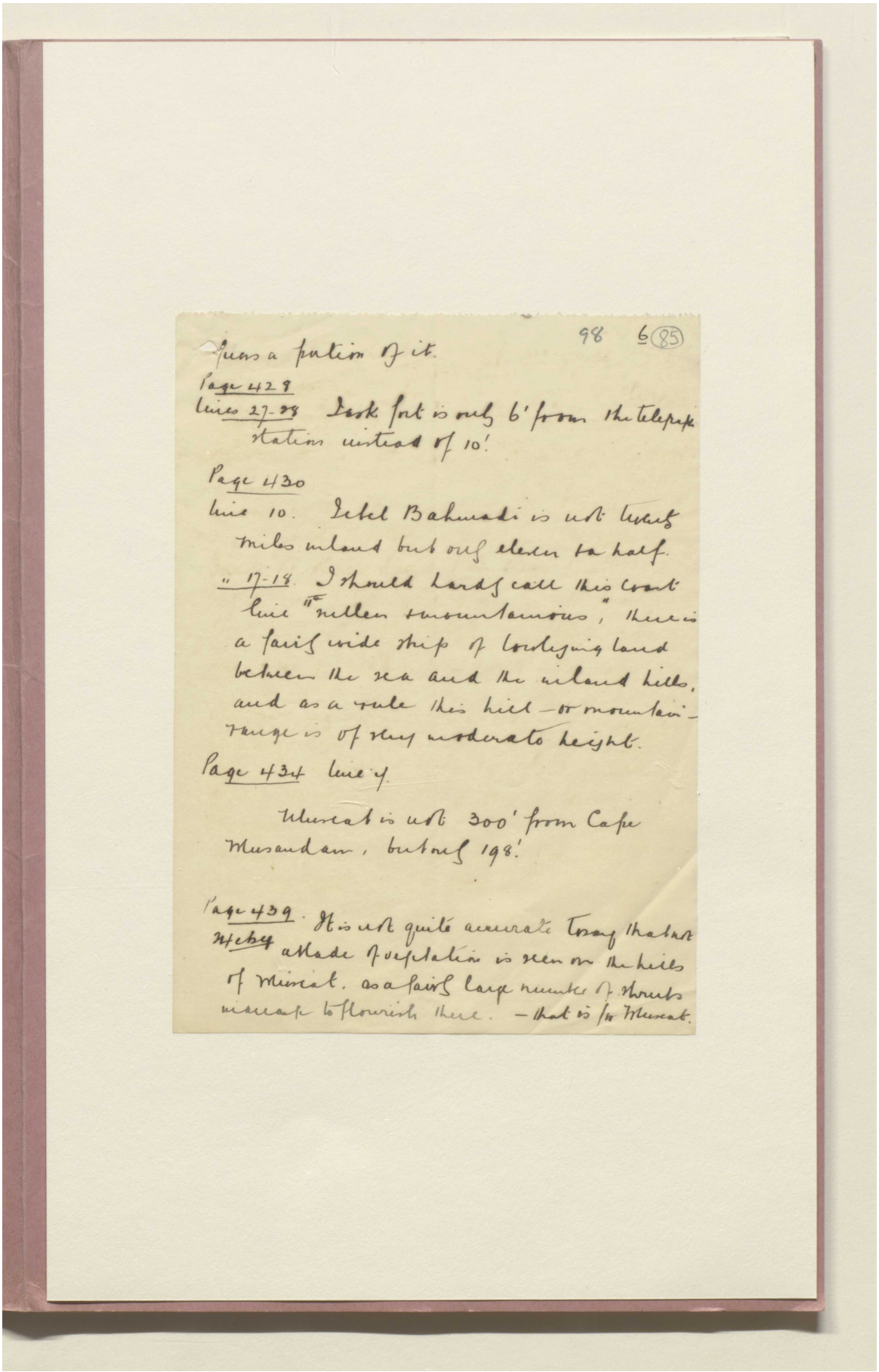
98 6 (85)

Guess a portion of it.



Page 428
lines 27-28 Dask fort is only 6' from the telegraph station instead of 10'.

Page 430
line 10. Jebel Bahmadi is not twenty miles inland but only eleven & a half.

" 17-18. I should hardly call this coast line "the sullen & mountainous", there is a fairly wide strip of lowlying land between the sea and the inland hills, and as a rule this hill — or mountain — range is of very moderate height.

Page 434 line 4.

Muscat is not 300' from Cape Musandam, but only 198'.

Page 439. It is not quite accurate to say that not
Webey a blade of vegetation is seen on the hills of Muscat, as a fairly large number of shrubs manage to flourish there. — that is for Muscat.

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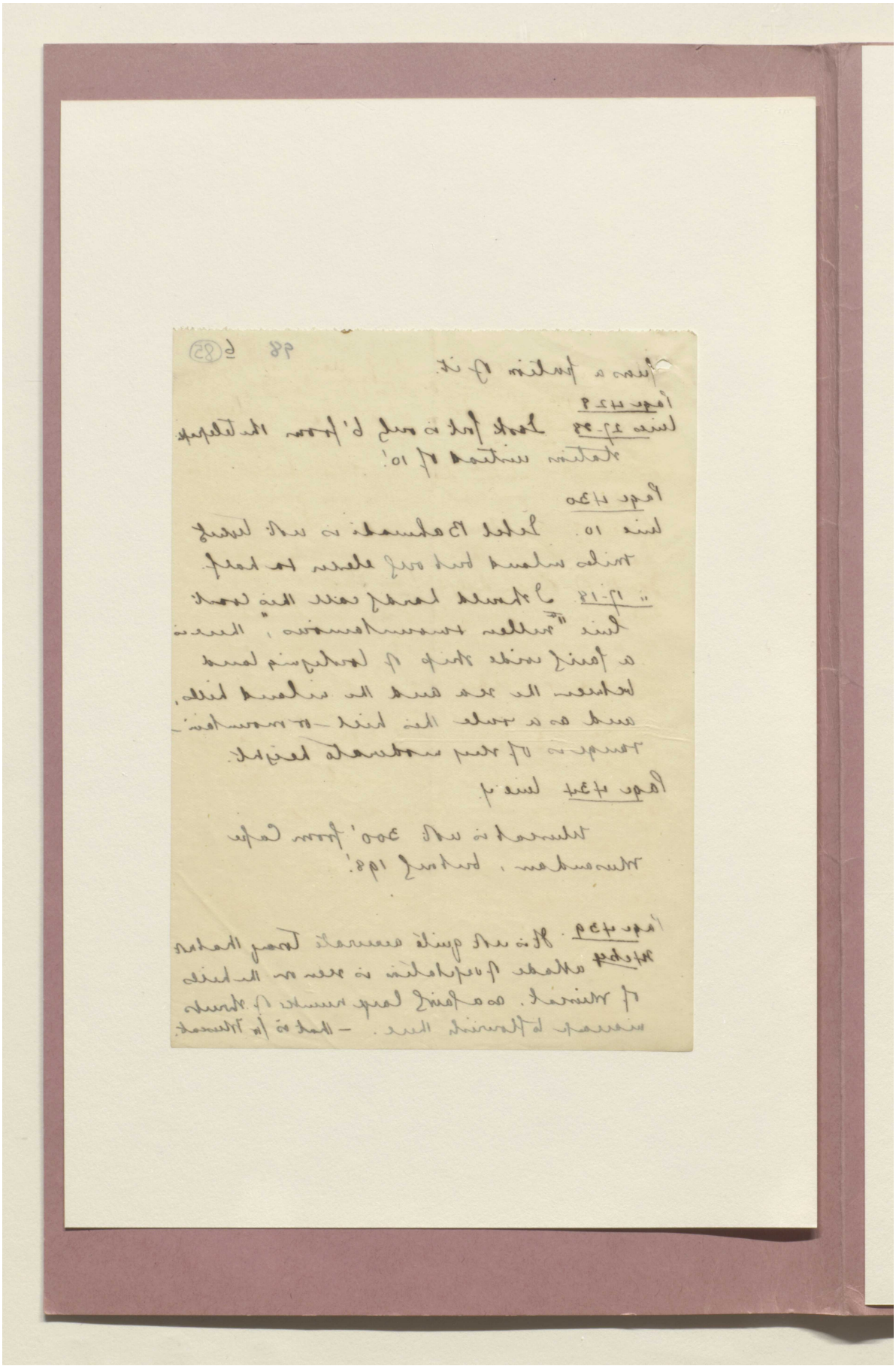

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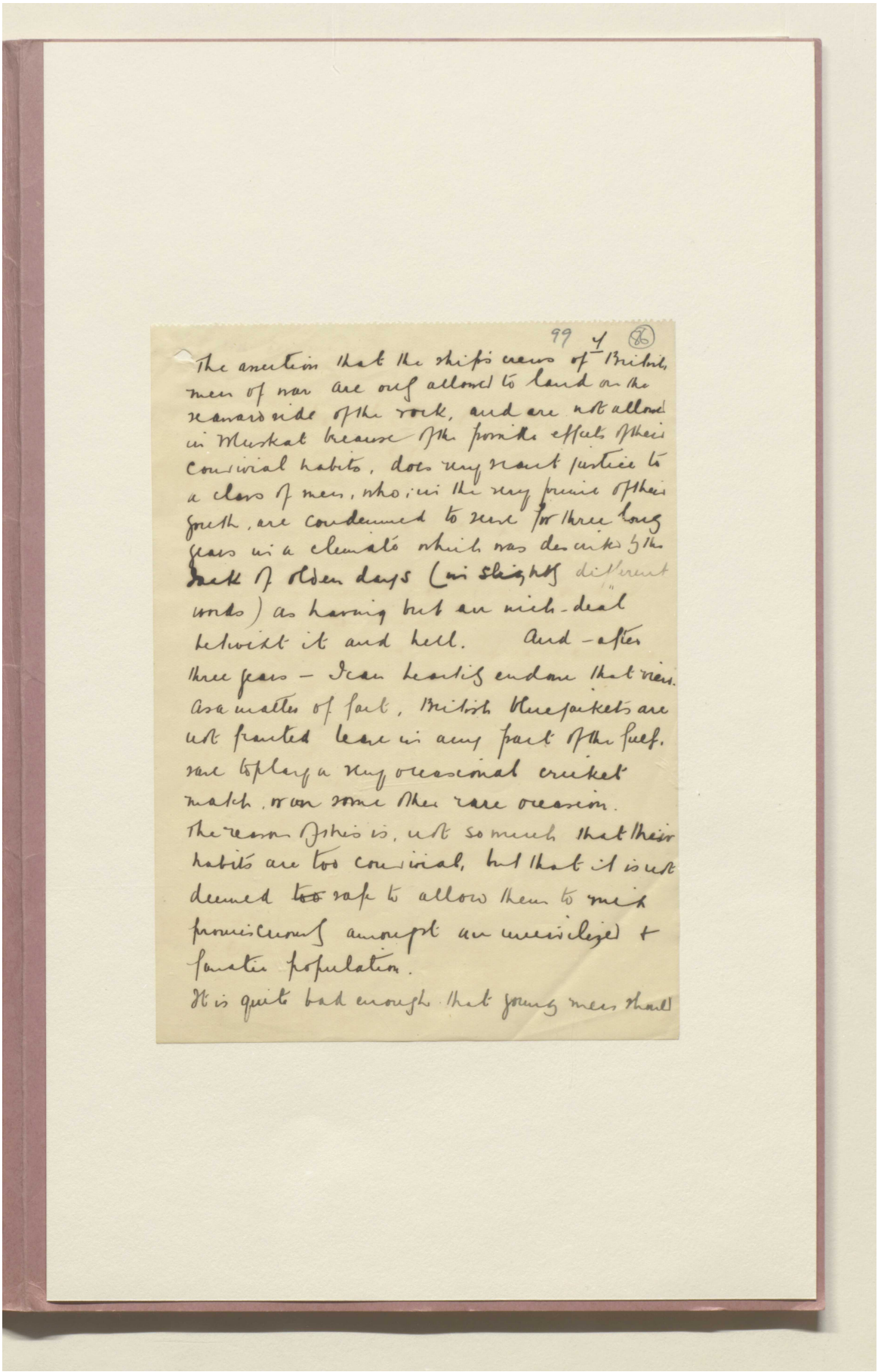

99 4 (86)

The assertion that the ships crews of British men of war are only allowed to land on the seaward side of the rock, and are not allowed in Muskat because of the terrible effects of their convivial habits, does very scant justice to a class of men, who, in the very prime of their youth, are condemned to serve for three long years in a climate which was described by the Poet of olden days (in slightly different words) as having but one mile-deal betwixt it and hell. And - after three years - I can heartily endorse that view. As a matter of fact, British Blue-jackets are not granted leave in any part of the Gulf, save to play a very occasional cricket match, or row some other rare occasion. The reason of this is, not so much that their habits are too convivial, but that it is not deemed safe to allow them to mix promiscuously amongst an unenlightened & fanatic population.

It is quite bad enough that young men should

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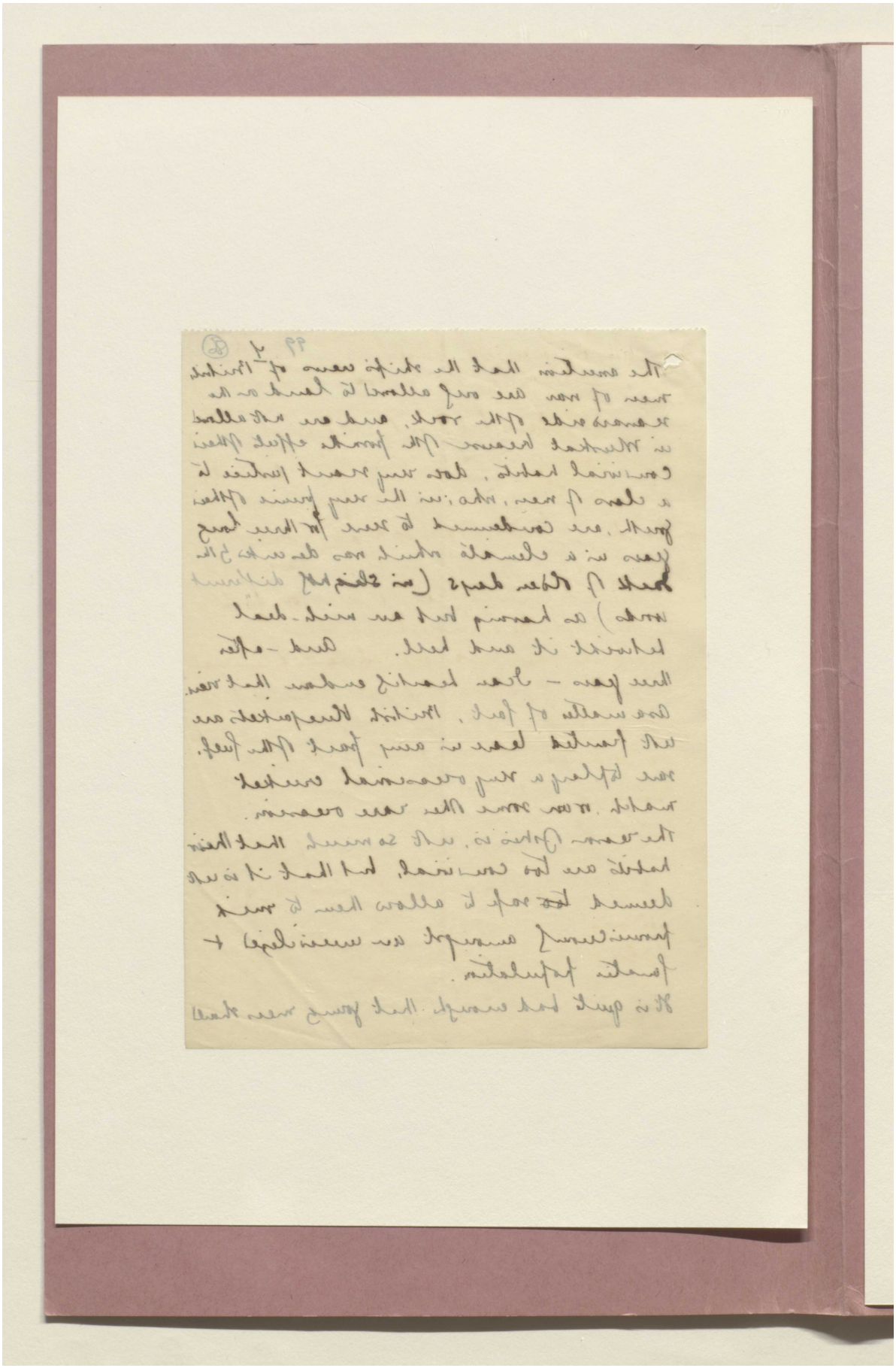

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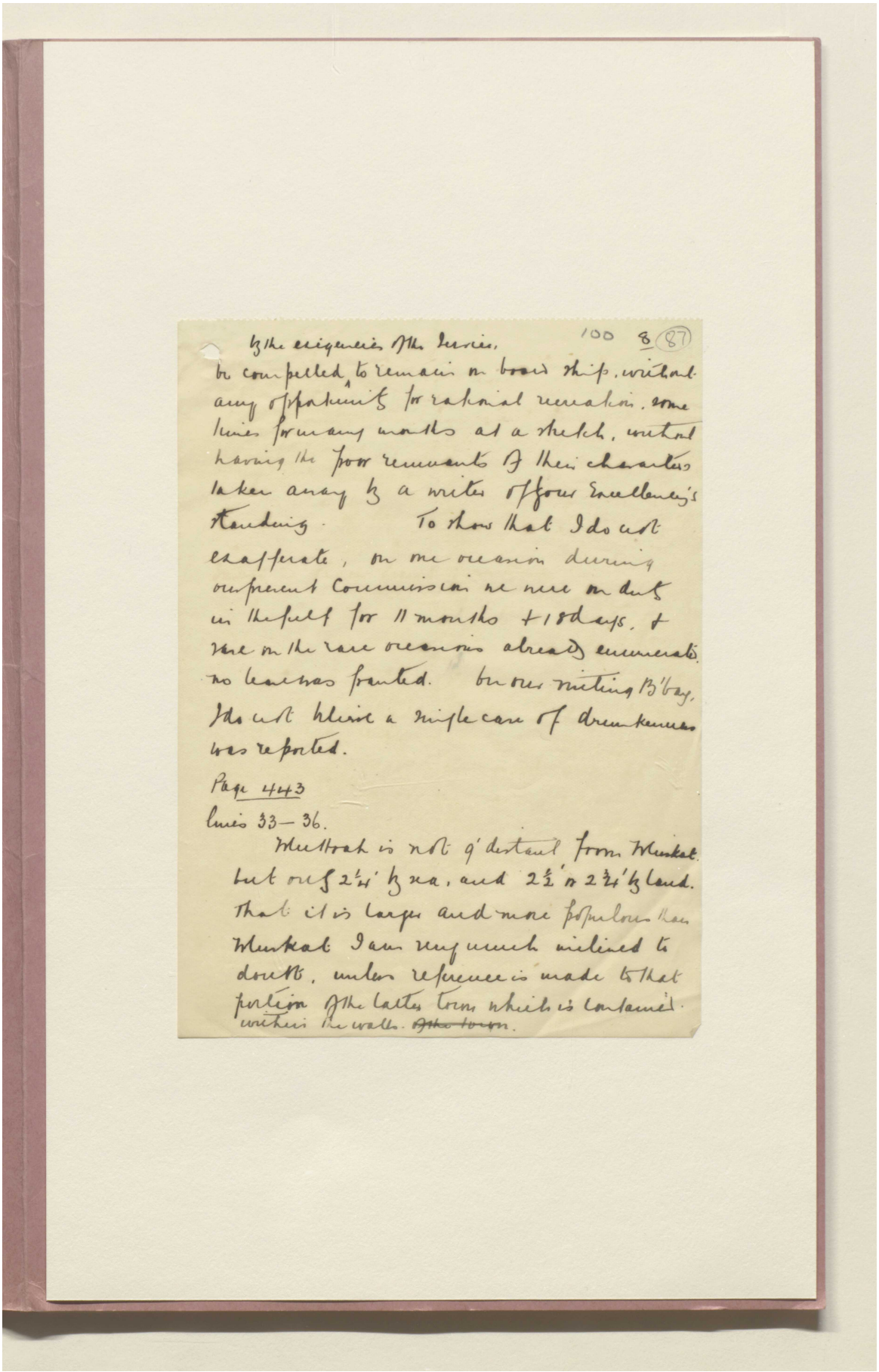
100 8 (87)



by the exigencies of the Service,
be compelled to remain on board ship, without any opportunity for rational recreation, some times for many months at a stretch, without having the poor remnants of their characters taken away by a writer of your Excellency's standing. To show that I do not exafferate, on one occasion during our present Commission we were on duty in the Gulf for 11 months + 18 days, & save on the rare occasions already enumerated no leave was granted. On our visiting B'bay, I do not believe a single case of drunkenness was reported.

Page 443
lines 33–36.

Mukhtah is not 9' distant from Muskat but only 2¼' by sea, and 2½' or 2¾' by land. That it is larger and more populous than Muskat I am very much inclined to doubt, unless reference is made to that portion of the latter town which is contained within the walls. ~~of the town~~.

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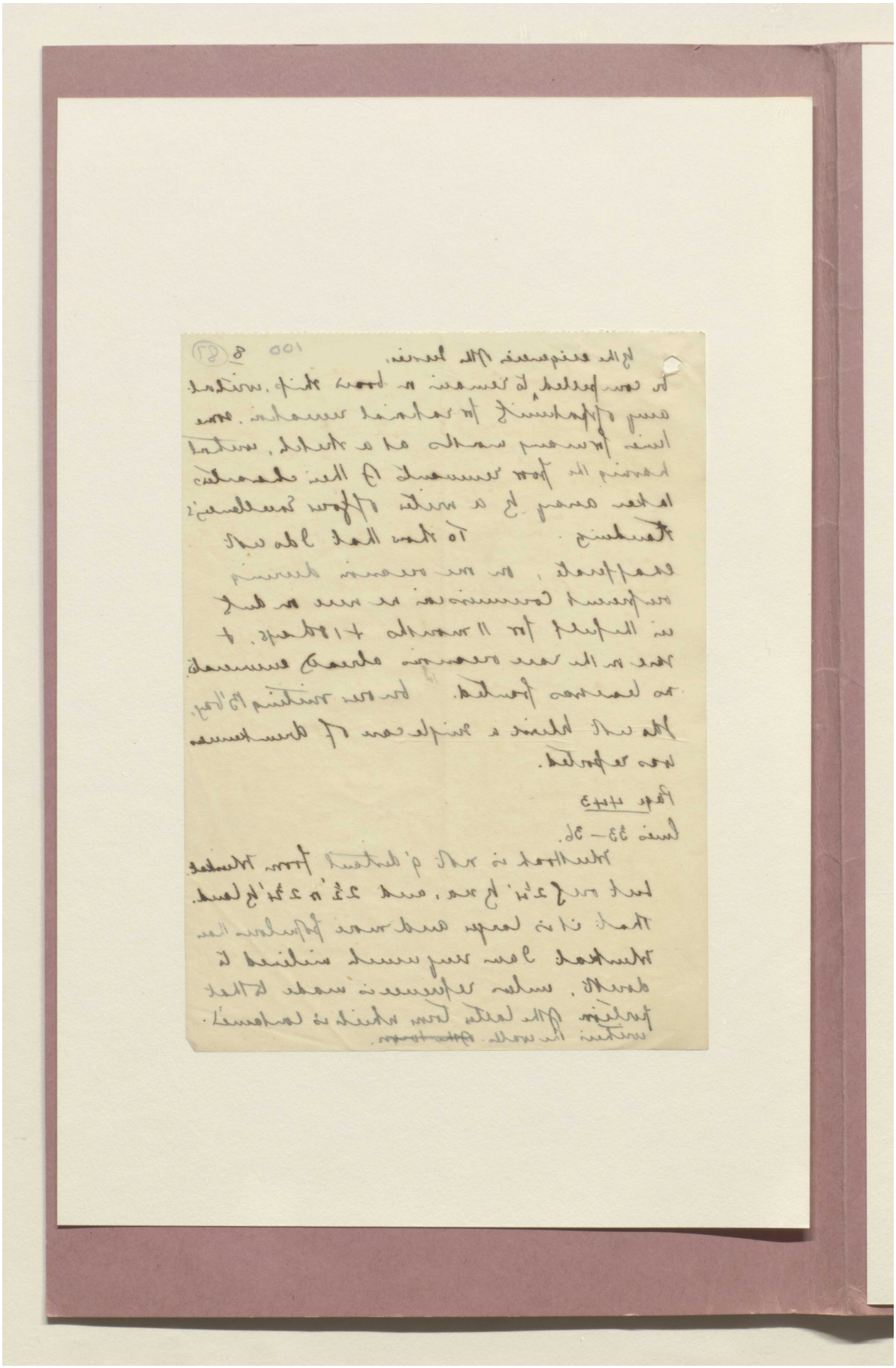

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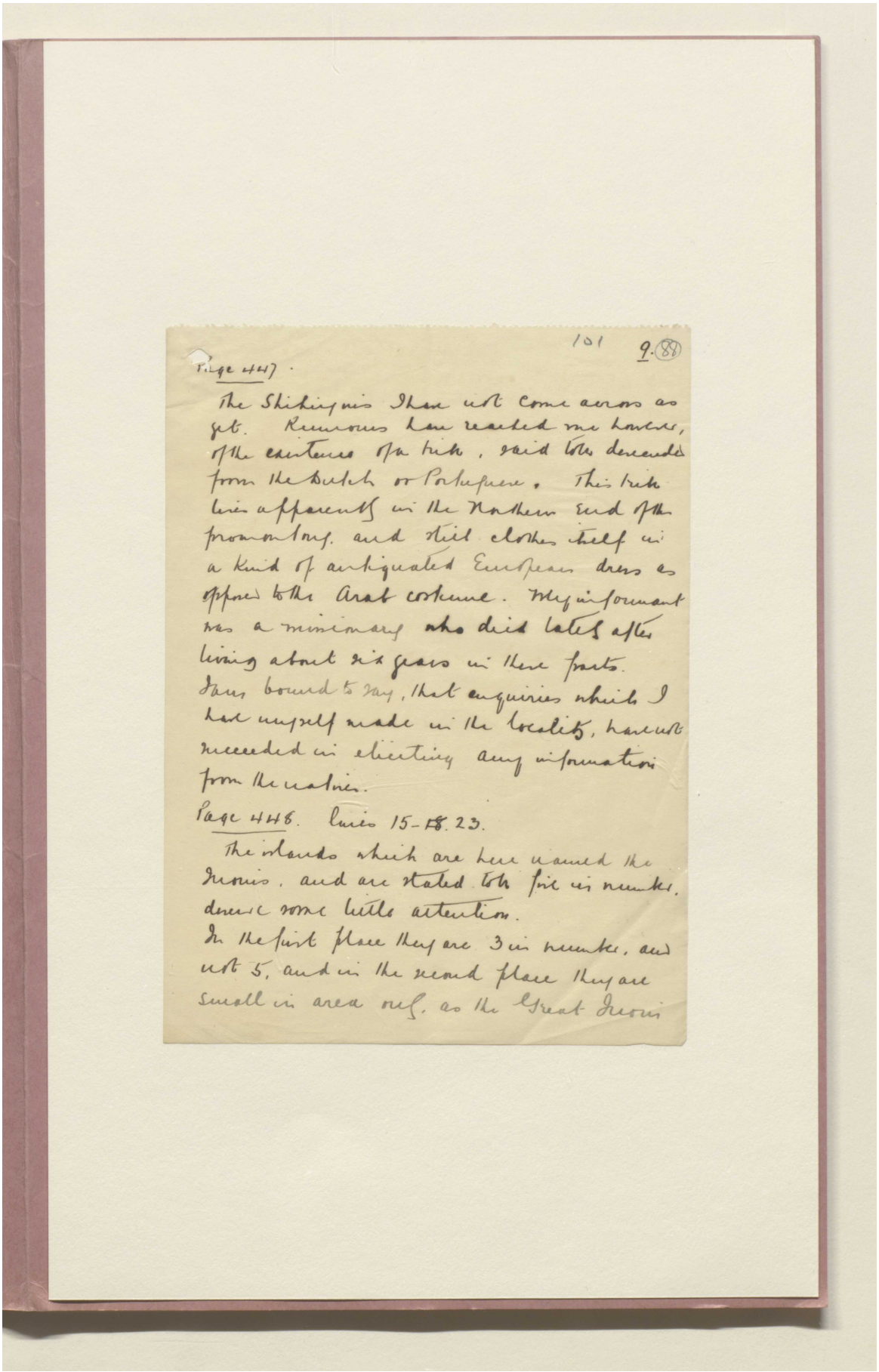
101 9. (88)

Page 447.



The Shihiyuns I have not come across as yet. Rumours have reached me however, of the existence of a tribe, said to be descended from the Dutch or Portuguese. This tribe lives apparently in the Northern end of the promontory, and still clothes itself in a kind of antiquated European dress as opposed to the Arab costume. My informant was a missionary who died lately after living about six years in these parts. I am bound to say, that enquiries which I have myself made in the locality, have not succeeded in eliciting any information from the natives.

Page 448. lines 15-18. 23.

The islands which are here named the Inouis, and are stated to be five in number, deserve some little attention.
In the first place they are 3 in number, and not 5, and in the second place they are small in area only, as the Great Inouis

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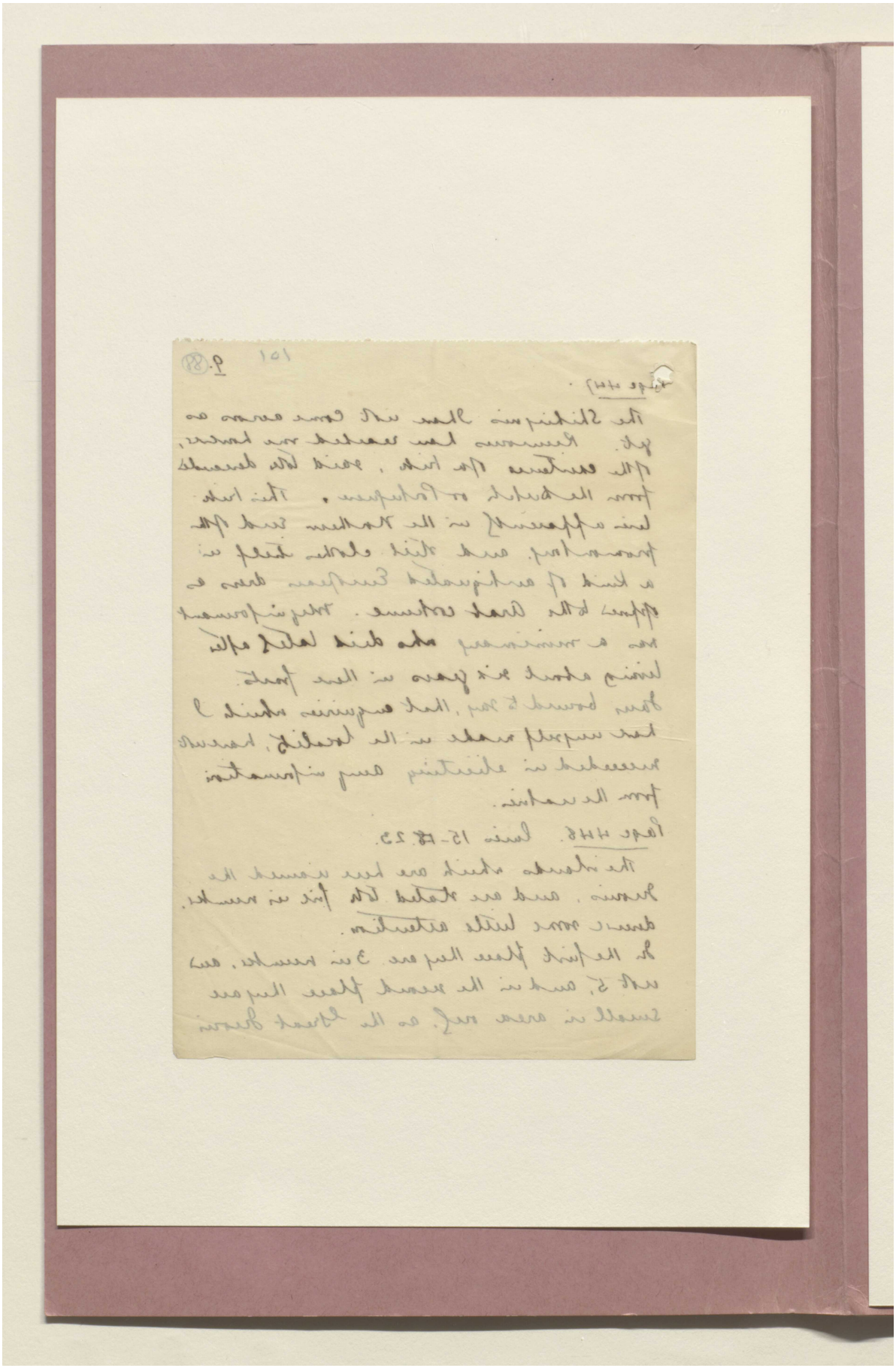

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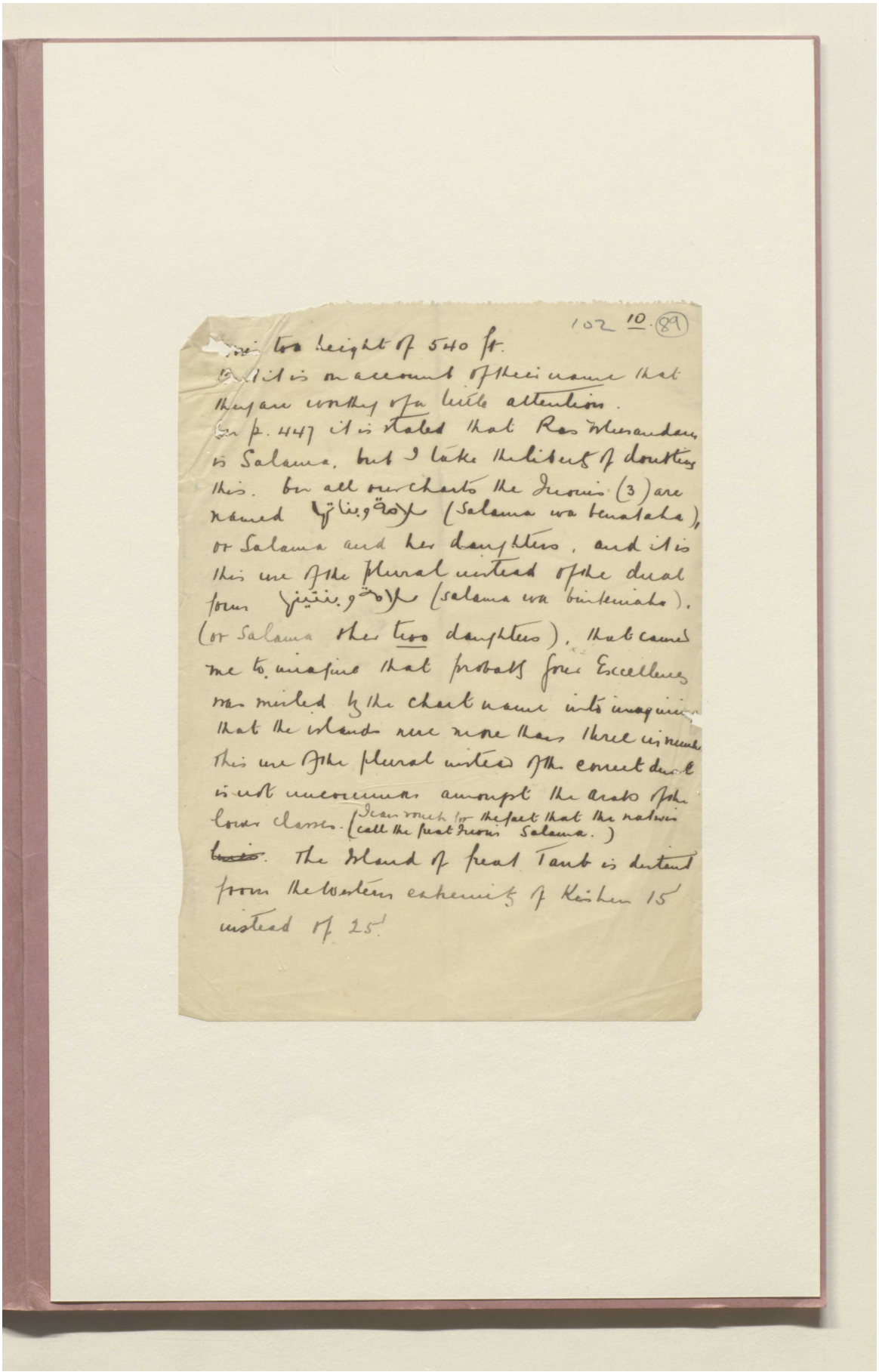

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[illegible] too height of 540 ft.
But it is on account of their name that they are worthy of a little attention.
On p. 447 it is stated that Ras Musandam is Salama, but I take the liberty of doubting this. On all our charts the Inouis (3) are named سلامة وبناتها (Salama wa benataha), or Salama and her daughters, and it is this use of the plural instead of the dual form سلامة وبنتيها (salama wa binteniaha), (or Salama other two daughters), that caused me to imagine that probably your Excellency was misled by the chart name into imagining that the islands were more than three in number. This use of the plural instead of the correct dual is not uncommon amongst the Arabs of the lower classes. (I can vouch for the fact that the natives call the great Inouis Salama.)
~~[illegible]~~. The Island of great Tanb is distant from the Western extremity of Kishen 15' instead of 25'.

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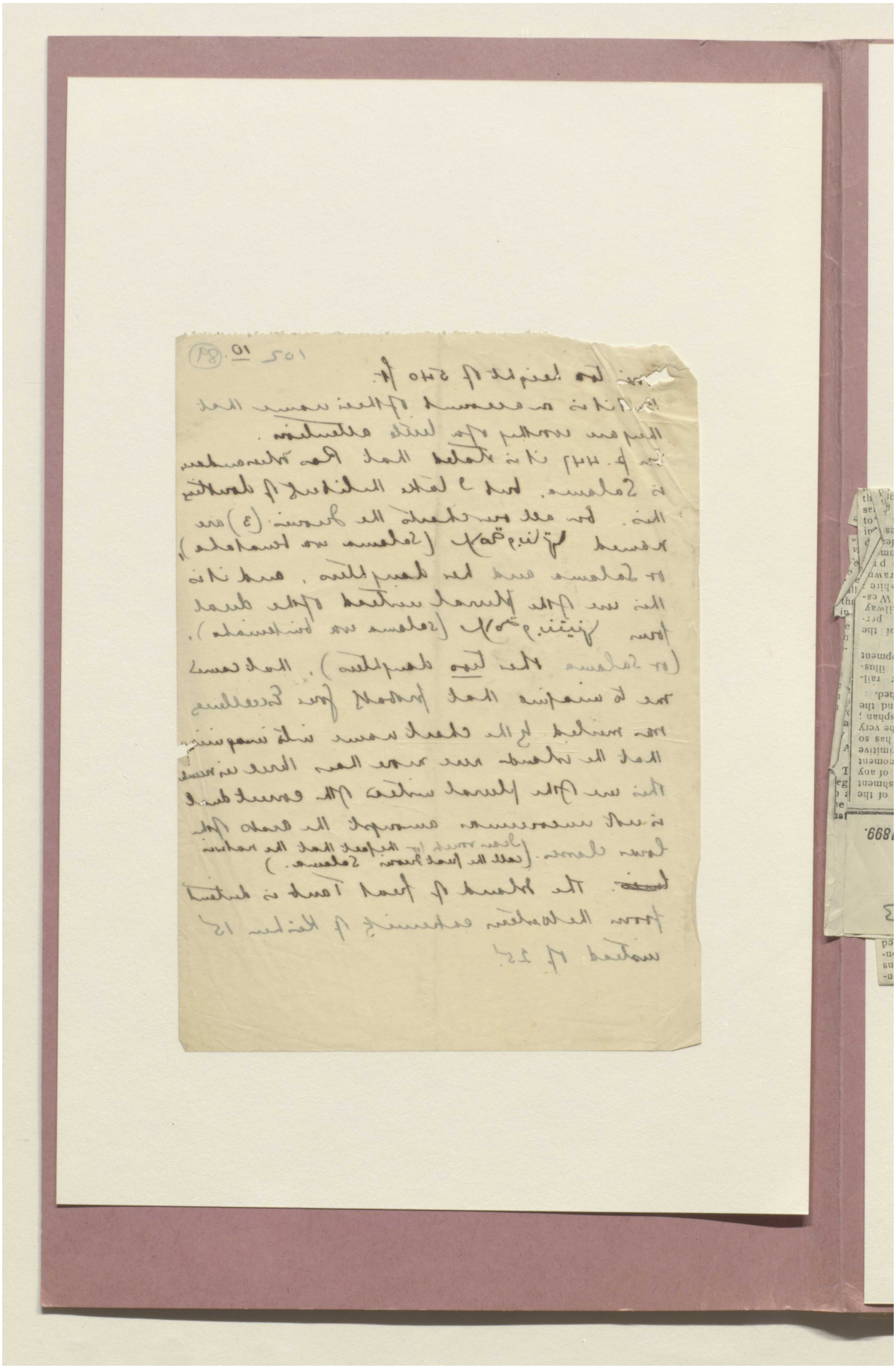

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THE CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1899.

Military.

(By Telegram.)

The following Royal Artillery postings are ordered :—

Captain Fitzroy, on promotion, is transferred from No 3 Mountain Battery, to the Garrison Artillery at Devonport.

Major Tyndale Biscoe, from the Royal Horse Artillery at Woolwich, to the 71st Battery 1st Mooltan.

Colonel Cleeve, from the Mountain Artillery in India, to the garrison at Leith.

Colonel Gunner, from the command of the Militia Artillery at Leith, to the Mountain Artillery in India.

Captain Rouse, from the 60th Battery at Allahabad, to "U" Battery, P. R. H. A., at Newbridge.

Captains Stuart, Nichol and Bray, Garrison Artillery in India, proceed Home for the instruction course at Shoeburyness.

Captain Moore, R. A. M. C., has been transferred to the Home establishment.

2-5th Gurhwal Rifles.—Captain Evatt to be second in command and remain second.

Major Twigg from the 12th Bengal Infantry, to be Second-in-Command, pro tem.

19th Punjab Infantry.—Lieutenant Wylde, from Unattached List, is posted as supernumerary.

2-2nd Gurkhas.—Lieutenant Harcourt, from the 2-3rd Gurkhas, to be Wing Officer.

1-4th Gurkhas.—Lieutenant Sandford, from the 2nd Battalion, to be Wing Officer.

2-4th Gurkhas.—Lieutenant Sealy, from the 1st Battalion to be Wing Officer.

The Secretary of State has sanctioned Captain Malleson, R. A., being employed on the revision of the Army Regulations, India, Volumes 3 and 4.

The 28th Punjab Infantry now leave Ferozepore by rail on the 15th, arrive at Darya Khan on the 18th, and at Wann on the 28th November.

The tour of the Quarter-Master General in India has been arranged as follows: Leave Simla November 7th, arrive Quetta 10th, Karachi 29th, Multan 24th, Mian Mir 26th and Umballa 28th.

Regarding the question or transport officers' charges, the Military Department has decided that under paragraph 369 Army Regulations, India, Volume X, Part II free conveyance for a horse is only admissible to an officer who is taking up an appointment which requires his being mounted if he is already a mounted officer.

The necessary correction has been made in the Revised Edition of Army Regulations, India, Volume X.

THE PUNJAB NATIVE PRESS.

(*Specially translated.*)

EXECUTION OF DECREES FOR RENT.

The *Victoria Paper* of Sialkot says :—Some distinction should certainly be made at the time of execution between decrees for ordinary debt and those for rent. As Zemindars and cultivators are leniently dealt with at the time of execution of decrees for debt (in which a certain amount of interest is always included), there seems to be no reason why the same lenient treatment should be shown in cases of execution of decrees for rent. Rent takes the place of the revenue which Government realises for itself. If default is made in the payment of Government revenue, then Government sells off the defaulter's land by auction, sends him to prison, and attaches and sells all his property without any exception. The same kind of assistance should be given by Government to the proprietors of lands in the recovery of rents due to them. This matter should certainly be borne in mind by the Legislative Council at the time when the Punjab Land Alienation Act is taken into consideration at Simla next summer. If some provision of this kind is made, the proprietors of lands in this Province will have no difficulties to contend against : if not, they will be in a very embarassing position, for the result will be that while Government will recover its own revenue from them by the exercise of its royal power, they will not be able to realise the rents to which they are rightfully entitled.

TREATMENT OF GANDASAS AS ARMS.

The *Akhbar-i-am* of Lahore says :—It is an open secret that the Government is about to deprive the Jats of the Punjab of their *Chhavis* and *Gandasas* by bringing these articles under the provisions of the Arms Act. It is apprehended that these tools and dacoits are enabled to commit such crime by means of them. Villagers are likely to be deprived of spades and axes as being the instruments of serious crime, but a person who is determined to commit a serious offence could as easily effect his purpose with a stick or a stone or a knife. Who ever thinks in Europe of disarming the population with a view to prevent serious crime ? Are Europeans more law abiding and more peaceably disposed ? Are they more mild tempered than our native brethren ? The British subjects in India were disarmed with a view to prevent them from rebelling against the Government. The fact is that the Government officials are themselves indolent. Being unable to put down serious crime, they are trying to strain the provisions of the Arms Act. They are acting in such a manner to save themselves trouble. But is the Punjab the only place in India where such things are done ? It would be a deplorable circumstance if the Punjabis were to lose their manly qualities and be converted into women by being deprived of their arms.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WIVES OF LIFE CONVICTS.

The *Punjab Organ* of Wazirabad says :—We beg to draw the attention of the Legislative Council to a subject which is even more important than the remarriage of Hindu widows, and we hope that it will receive full consideration from the Government. About 500 life convicts are annually transported beyond the seas to various parts of India itself, out of the territories of the Government of India. One half of these convicts appear to be men of families, and two thirds out of this half are members of religions which do not prohibit their wives from marrying again. But the wives cannot remarry, because the men they would marry would according to law be liable to be prosecuted for bigamy, and the women themselves would also be liable to punishment. This state of things is likely to produce the same results which are considered probable in the case of young women who are left widows at an early age. It seems to us expedient that before a prisoner who is sentenced to transportation for life is sent away, inquiries should be made as to whether he is a man of family ; and if it is found that he is a married man, and his wife is less than 40 years of age, an attempt should be made through some suitable native official to induce the prisoner to give freedom to his wife by means of a divorce, and it should be explained to him that evil results are likely to ensue if his wife is forced to lead a single life. It is possible that he may not consent to divorce his wife on the first attempt to persuade him, and therefore it would not be out of place to make the attempt 3 times after intervals of one month. It seems to us that there would be no harm if a life convict being a man of family were detained in this country for a year from the date of his sentence, before being transported across the seas. It is expected that such a convict would agree to divorce his wife if repeated attempts were made to induce him to do so. We earnestly commend this plan to the consideration of Government. In cases where the attempt fails, the Government will have the consciousness of having done its duty in wishing to prevent the ruin of women whose husbands are sent out of their reach for ever.

MADRAS REGIMENTS IN BURMA.

In a recent issue the *Pioneer* gravely informed its readers that the Madras Sepoy "apparently objects to service in Burma." Strange to say, this alleged prejudice of the Madras Sepoy against serving in Burma is one which officers of Madras Regiments are unaware of, but perhaps they are better informed on the subject up-country. As has been pointed out in these columns from time to time, the seven so called Burma Battalions of Madras Infantry consist of Sikhs, Punjabis and Gurkhas and bear the numbers of the ill-fated Madras Regiments disbanded, or as it was euphemistically termed, "converted," in order that the good material of Military Police Battalions, no longer required by the Burma Civil authorities, should not be wasted. It was never intended that these Battalions in the long run should remain part and parcel of the Madras Army. At the first set-off it was deemed necessary to throw a sop to the Madras Army, which was irritated at the approaching disbandments ; but now that these Battalions are no longer required in Upper Burma it is not difficult to conclude what the next move will be, dictated as it would be from motives of economy, which alone would be sufficient to justify the removal of these Battalions from Burma. The extra pay of the British officers of each Battalion amounts to nearly Rs. 10,000 a year more than that drawn by officers in a Madras Regiment, while the extra allowances for that of the native ranks reaches over Rs. 20,000 per annum per Battalion more than a Madras Regiment. In addition, the men, not being rice eaters, *atta* has to be imported for their use, and this in itself is a heavy item in the Commissariat charges. There is also free passage by sea to men proceeding on furlough, which is no inconsiderable item in the total charges against a Battalion.

So, altogether, the extra cost incurred on account of these Burma Battalions necessitates their removal from the country at the earliest opportunity. But the question is whether they will remain as part of the Madras Army or be incorporated, instead, with that of the Punjab or Bengal. In either of the latter contingencies it may be reasonably presumed that they will no longer have a claim to the colours which they can only carry as Madras Regiments. It is also more than probable that their legal right to retain the Mess plate of Madras Regiments which was handed over at the time of "conversion," will be contested. The ruling under which Madras Regiments were forced to relinquish their claim to their Mess property to the new Regiments which took their numbers would not hold good in the case of Battalions whose connection with the Madras Army is severed. It was specious and caustic reasoning that gave the Mess plate of the disbanded Madras Regiments to the Burma Battalions, and the old surviving officers, in whose breasts the decision strongly rankled, may be trusted to question the right of such Battalions to retain Mess property which ought never to have been given over to them, it never having been the Madras Army and the Burma Battalion should be a permanent one. Our Allahabad contemporary, on the mistaken grounds of the Madras Sepoy disliking Burma, recommends that Bengal Regiments be sent to garrison that country as a relief to them from the monotony of their present ordinary round of stations. It apparently forgets that the cost of rationing the *atta*-consuming Bengali is considerably more than that of the Madrasi, whose food is rice, the staple product of the country. But in the case of Bengal Regiments in Burma, where native troops receive free rations, the cost has nothing to do with regulations. The charges are incurred in the importation of food-stuff which cannot be obtained in Burma and which is the principal diet of the Bengali. It is therefore quite unnecessary to incur the extra cost when Madras troops are able to do the work more cheaply and certainly just as efficiently. The services of the Bengal troops might be better utilised to set free the Madras troops now serving in the Bengal and Bombay Commands for service in Burma. By doing this a double saving would be effected. The State would be saved the extra cost of Madras troops serving beyond the limits of their Presidency, and there would be also the saving in the extra cost which would otherwise be incurred were Bengal troops sent to Burma.

That the Madras Army has not much to hope for in the future might be inferred from the issue of recent orders by which the reserve of each Battalion has been reduced from 160 to 60 men, while on the other hand in the Punjab and Bengal Commands it has been raised from 218 to 280 men per Battalion.—*Madras Mail.*

UNREST IN BALUCHISTAN.

Satisfaction must be felt at the arrest of the perpetrators of the murder at the Sunari station on the Sind-Peshin Railway on the 11th instant. When that has been said nothing remains upon which the Beluchistan authorities can be congratulated. This murder is the second of the same nature that has occurred at that place within three years. In fact the locality has long borne an evil name. As far back as in 1880, shortly after the battle of Maiwand, a gang of marri marauders murdered a convoy that was proceeding down the Harnai Pass near Sunari, and a punitive expedition was sent against the tribe under the late Sir Charles Macgregor. Three years, almost to a day before the tragedy which we reported last Friday, a serious onslaught was made upon the station by a gang of Tingiani Marris, under the leadership of a local religionist called the Mast Fakir. They treacherously got into conversation with some of the railway employés, and before any warning could be given six men, including the native stationmaster and a European platelayer, were killed. The station and a bunnia's shop were looted, and the murderers made off to the hills. Then after dark they returned to the railway, cut down the telegraph wire at Spintangi, and in the morning proceeded to Kharapani where they shot or cut down five unarmed Hindu gang labourers. The pursuit and dramatic capture of the offenders by General Gatacre and a party of the 24th Baluchis is a memorable incident in border history, and the tragedy had its right termination in the execution of the Fakir and four of his accomplices, and the sentencing of the other to penal servitude for life, though he was subsequently released on certain conditions on it being shown that he had been promised a pardon by the Political Agent if he would give information against his comrades. Naturally enough the Sunari murders caused alarm along the railway, the employés clamoured for protection, and infantry guards were posted at the various railway stations and over the railway magazines. When the alarm had quieted down the military guards were withdrawn, and the number of police were increased. But this seems to have been done too sparingly, for the nine stations between Nari and Nakus had only a police force of thirty-eight distributed amongst them. At Sunari the force, according to the Administration Report, consists of four policemen. We may read in connection with that fact the following paragraph in the official report of the murder of the 14th of October, 1895 :—" No arrangement could at that time be made to pursue the Ghazis, as the police who were present were too few in number. The local levies, too, declined to follow up the Ghazis on the ground that the Ghazis were armed with breech-loaders."

We think it will be agreed that the local conditions demanded that thoroughly efficient measures should have been taken for the protection of the line, and it may be doubted if nine railway stations on a line passing through a country of the disturbed character of which only too convincing proof had been given were sufficiently protected by thirty-eight policemen. Our Quetta correspondent gave expression to widely prevalent opinion the other day when he wrote that life at the frontier railway stations was felt to be getting more and more unsafe, for nothing effectual was done except for a brief period, and that rumours of intended attack kept the running staff, who were not allowed to carry arms, in a constant state of alarm. And he added that it was felt that the local authorities would recognise their responsibility only after a tragedy had happened. This is a serious complaint to make, but in a matter of life and death such as this, plain speaking becomes necessary. The Baluchistan records have of late been too ominously full of incident. In August last year we summed up the history of the violence and of disorder in the province during the previous twelve months. The summary included the depredations of the freebooter Jaffar Khan, the unrest at Khelat which made it necessary to hurriedly escort the Political Agent's wife to a place of safety, disturbances at various points on the railway, the murder of Colonel Gaisford, and the murder of three of the Assist ot Political Agent's servants at Thal Chotiali. To this had to be added two outrages at Sibi in the precincts of the camp of the Agent to the Governor-General, and more recently there has been the audacious attack upon the brewery near Quetta, followed at a brief interval by a re-enactment of the Sunari tragedy of October 14, 1896.

The insecurity of the line is as great as ever it was, and there will be a grave dereliction of duty somewhere if this is allowed to continue. Those, indeed, who have watched the course of events in Beluchistan during the past few years are inclined, in accounting for the present unrest, to lay less stress upon the failure of particular measures for preserving the peace than upon the general policy pursued for some time past in the province. The besetting defects of that policy have been not only a regrettable leniency towards offenders, but an active and ostentatious indulgence. The way of sinners has not only not been made hard, but in some too well known instances it has been made uncommonly smooth. Men who have seen the inside of gaols, and who have been prominent in armed disturbances of the peace, are given places of honour in Durbar. So indiscriminating, indeed, has the distribution of official favour become, that the enquiring tribesmen must at times be sorely puzzled to find out what particular form of wrong-doing is required in order to qualify for official favour. The influence exercised by this impolitic and highly mischievous form of leniency filters down through the Sirdar and tribal chiefs to the tribesmen below. It robs the Government of the power and moral prestige that it should exercise over the tribes. It encourages laxity amongst the people who are under engagements to Government, and in the end leads to an evaporation of the sense of personal responsibility upon which the success of our operations for maintaining the British peace in Beluchistan depends. We have, therefore, to look for an explanation of the present state of things beyond the shortcomings of any immediate protective measures. It is a question of policy quite as much as of police, and until there has been a serious amendment in this respect we shall expect to see a continuance of the violence and disquiet that have prevailed for too long in those parts.—*Times of India.*

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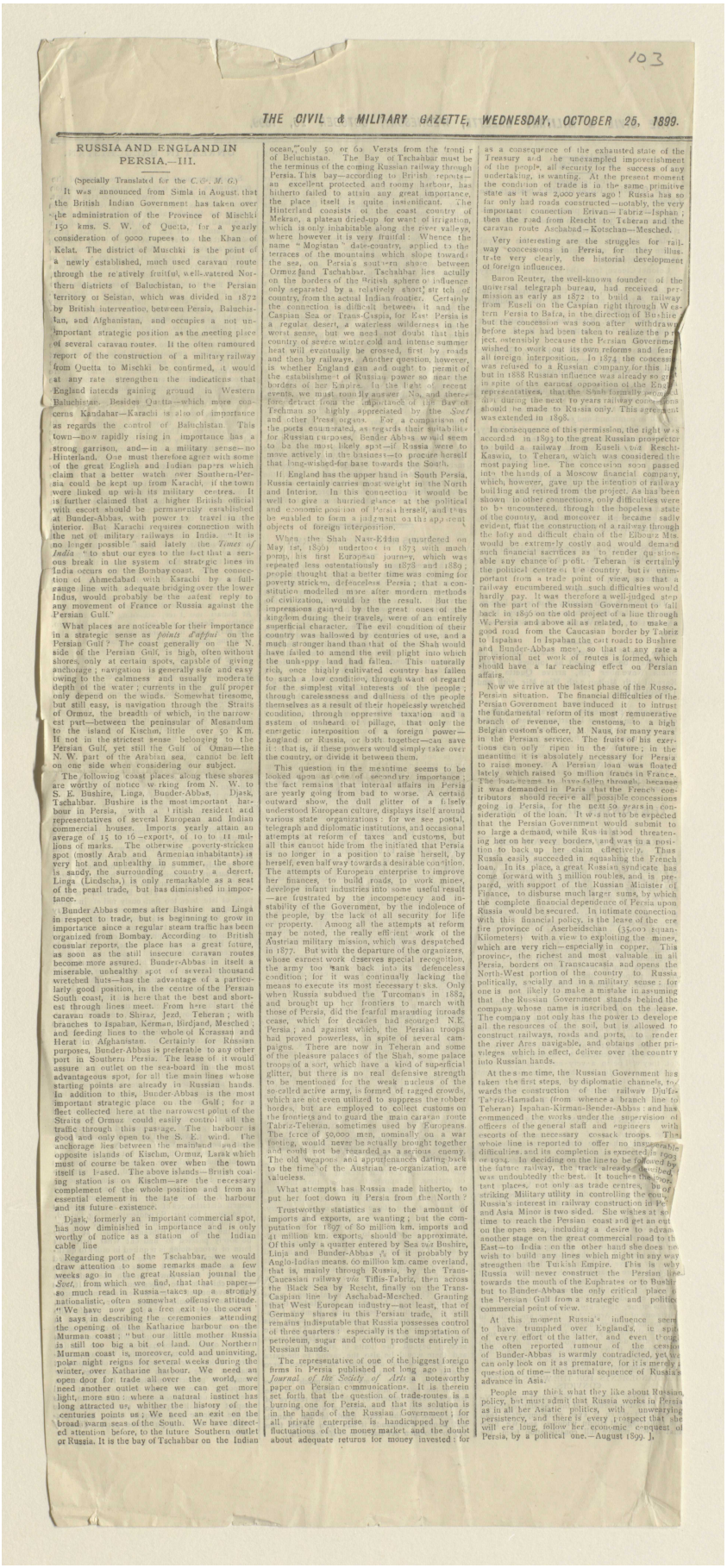

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THE CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1899.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND IN PERSIA.—III.

(Specially Translated for the *C. & M. G.*)

It was announced from Simla in August that the British Indian Government has taken over the administration of the Province of Mischki 150 kms. S. W. of Quetta, for a yearly consideration of 9000 rupees to the Khan of Kelat. The district of Muschki is the point of a newly established, much used caravan route through the relatively fruitful, well-watered Northern districts of Baluchistan, to the Persian territory of Seistan, which was divided in 1872 by British intervention, between Persia, Baluchistan, and Afghanistan, and occupies a not unimportant strategic position as the meeting place of several caravan routes. If the often rumoured report of the construction of a military railway from Quetta to Mischki be confirmed, it would at any rate strengthen the indications that England intends gaining ground in Western Baluchistan. Besides Quetta—which more concerns Kándahar—Karachi is also of importance as regards the control of Baluchistan. This town—now rapidly rising in importance has a strong garrison, and—in a military sense—no Hinterland. One must therefore agree with some of the great English and Indian papers which claim that a better watch over Southern-Persia could be kept up from Karachi, if the town were linked up with its military centres. It is further claimed that a higher British official with escort should be permanently established at Bunder-Abbas, with power to travel in the interior. But Karachi requires connection with the net of military railways in India. "It is no longer possible" said lately the *Times of India*, "to shut our eyes to the fact that a serious break in the system of strategic lines in India occurs on the Bombay coast. The connection of Ahmedabad with Karachi by a full-gauge line with adequate bridging over the lower Indus, would probably be the safest reply to any movement of France or Russia against the Persian Gulf."

What places are noticeable for their importance in a strategic sense as *points d'appui* on the Persian Gulf? The coast generally on the N. side of the Persian Gulf, is high, often without shores, only at certain spots, capable of giving anchorage; navigation is generally safe and easy owing to the calmness and usually moderate depth of the water; currents in the gulf proper only depend on the winds. Somewhat tiresome, but still easy, is navigation through the Straits of Ormuz, the breadth of which, in the narrowest part—between the peninsular of Mesandum to the island of Kischm, little over 50 Km. If not in the strictest sense belonging to the Persian Gulf, yet still the Gulf of Oman—the N. W. part of the Arabian sea, cannot be left on one side when considering our subject.

The following coast places along these shores are worthy of notice working from N. W. to S. E. Bushire, Linga, Bunder-Abbas, Djask, Tschahbar. Bushire is the most important harbour in Persia, with a British resident and representatives of several European and Indian commercial houses. Imports yearly attain an average of 15 to 16 exports, of 10 to 11 millions of marks. The otherwise poverty-stricken spot (mostly Arab and Armenian inhabitants) is very hot and unhealthy in summer, the shore is sandy, the surrounding country a desert. Linga (Lindsche,) is only remarkable as a seat of the pearl trade, but has diminished in importance.

Bunder Abbas comes after Bushire and Linga in respect to trade, but is beginning to grow in importance since a regular steam traffic has been organized from Bombay. According to British consular reports, the place has a great future, as soon as the still insecure caravan routes become more assured. Bunder-Abbas in itself a miserable, unhealthy spot of several thousand wretched huts—has the advantage of a particularly good position, in the centre of the Persian South coast, it is here that the best and shortest through lines meet. From here start the caravan roads to Shiraz, Jezd, Teheran; with branches to Ispahan, Kerman, Birdjand, Mesched; and feeding lines to the whole of Korassan and Herat in Afghanistan. Certainly for Russian purposes, Bunder-Abbas is preferable to any other port in Southern Persia. The lease of it would assure an outlet on the sea-board in the most advantageous spot, for all the main lines whose starting points are already in Russian hands. In addition to this, Bunder-Abbas is the most important strategic place on the Gulf; for a fleet collected here at the narrowest point of the Straits of Ormuz could easily control all the traffic through this passage. The harbour is good and only open to the S. E. wind. The anchorage lies between the mainland and the opposite islands of Kischm, Ormuz, Larak which must of course be taken over when the town itself is leased. The above islands—British coaling station is on Kischm—are the necessary complement of the whole position and from an essential element in the fate of the harbour and its future existence.

Djask, formerly an important commercial spot, has now diminished in importance and is only worthy of notice as a station of the Indian cable line

Regarding port of the Tschahbar, we would draw attention to some remarks made a few weeks ago in the great Russian journal the *Swet*, from which we find, that that paper—so much read in Russia—takes up a strongly nationalistic, often somewhat offensive attitude. "We have now got a free exit to the ocean" it says in describing the ceremonies attending the opening of the Katharine harbour on the Murman coast; "but our little mother Russia is still too big a bit of land. Our Northern Murman coast is, moreover, cold and uninviting, polar night reigns for several weeks during the winter, over Katharine harbour. We need an open door for trade all over the world, we need another outlet where we can get more light, more sun; where a natural instinct has long attracted us, whither the history of the centuries points us; We need an exit on the broad warm seas of the South. We have directed attention before, to the future Southern outlet or Russia. It is the bay of Tschahbar on the Indian ocean," only 50 or 60 Verests from the frontier of Beluchistan. The Bay of Tschahbar must be the terminus of the coming Russian railway through Persia. This bay—according to British reports—an excellent protected and roomy harbour, has hitherto failed to attain any great importance, the place itself is quite insignificant. The Hinterland consists of the coast country of Mekran, a plateau dried-up for want of irrigation, which is only inhabitable along the river valleys, where however it is very fruitful: Whence the name "Mogistan" date-country, applied to the terraces of the mountains which slope towards the sea, on Persia's southern shore between Ormuz and Tschahbar. Tschahbar lies actually on the borders of the British sphere of influence only separated by a relatively short, strip of country, from the actual Indian frontier. Certainly the connection is difficult between it and the Caspian Sea or Trans-Caspia, for East Persia is a regular desert, a waterless wilderness in the worst sense, but we need not doubt that this country of severe winter cold and intense summer heat will eventually be crossed, first by roads and then by railways. Another question, however, is whether England can and ought to permit of the establishment of Russian power so near the borders of her Empire. In the light of recent events, we must roundly answer No, and therefore detract from the importance of the Bay of Tschahbar so highly appreciated by the *Swet* and other Press organs. For a comparison of the ports enumerated, as regards their suitability for Russian purposes, Bender Abbas would seem to be the most likely spot—if Russia were to move actively in the business—to procure herself that long-wished-for base towards the South.

If England has the upper hand in South Persia, Russia certainly carries most weight in the North and Interior. In this connection it would be well to give a hurried glance at the political and economic position of Persia herself, and thus be enabled to form a judgment on the apparent objects of foreign interposition.

When the Shah Nasr-Eddin (murdered on May 1st, 1896) undertook in 1873 with much pomp, his first European journey, which was repeated less ostentatiously in 1878 and 1889; people thought that a better time was coming for poverty stricken, defenceless Persia; that a constitution modelled more after modern methods of civilization, would be the result. But the impressions gained by the great ones of the kingdom during their travels, were of an entirely superficial character. The evil condition of their country was hallowed by centuries of use, and a much stronger hand than that of the Shah would have failed to amend the evil plight into which the unhappy land had fallen. This naturally rich, once highly cultivated country has fallen to such a low condition, through want of regard for the simplest vital interests of the people; through carelessness and dullness of the people themselves as a result of their hopelessly wretched condition, through oppressive taxation and a system of unheard of pillage, that only the energetic interposition of a foreign power—England or Russia, or both together—can save it: that is, if these powers would simply take over the country, or divide it between them.

This question in the meantime seems to be looked upon as one of secondary importance; the fact remains that internal affairs in Persia are yearly going from bad to worse. A certain outward show, the dull glitter of a falsely understood European culture, displays itself around various state organizations: for we see postal, telegraph and diplomatic institutions, and occasional attempts at reform of taxes and customs, but all this cannot hide from the initiated that Persia is no longer in a position to raise herself, by herself, even half way towards a desirable condition. The attempts of European enterprise to improve her finances, to build roads, to work mines, develope infant industries into some useful result—are frustrated by the incompetency and instability of the Government, by the indolence of the people, by the lack of all security for life or property. Among all the attempts at reform may be noted, the really efficient work of the Austrian military mission, which was despatched in 1877. But with the departure of the organizers, whose earnest work deserves special recognition, the army too sank back into its defenceless condition; for it was continually lacking the means to execute its most necessary tasks. Only when Russia subdued the Turcomans in 1882, and brought up her frontiers to march with those of Persia, did the fearful marauding inroads cease, which for decades had scourged N.E. Persia; and against which, the Persian troops had proved powerless, in spite of several campaigns. There are now in Teheran and some of the pleasure palaces of the Shah, some palace troops of a sort, which have a kind of superficial glitter, but there is no real defensive strength to be mentioned for the weak nucleus of the so-called active army, is formed of ragged crowds, which are not even utilized to suppress the robber hordes, but are employed to collect customs on the frontiers and to guard the main caravan route Tabriz-Teheran, sometimes used by Europeans. The force of 50,000 men, nominally on a war footing, would never be actually brought together and could not be regarded as a serious enemy. The old weapons and appointments dating back to the time of the Austrian re-organization, are valueless.

What attempts has Russia made hitherto, to put her foot down in Persia from the North?

Trustworthy statistics as to the amount of imports and exports, are wanting; but the computation for 1897 of 80 million km. imports and 41 million km. exports, should be approximate. Of this only a quarter entered by Sea (ex Bushire, Linja and Bunder-Abbas) is of it probably by Anglo-Indian means, 60 million km. came overland, that is, mainly through Russia, by the Trans-Caucasian railway *via* Tiflis-Tabriz, then across the Black Sea by Reschi, finally on the Trans-Caspian line by Aschabad-Mesched. Granting that West European industry—not least, that of Germany shares in this Persian trade, it still remains indisputable that Russia possesses control of three quarters: especially is the importation of petroleum, sugar and cotton products entirely in Russian hands.

The representative of one of the biggest foreign firms in Persia published not long ago in the *Journal of the Society of Arts* a noteworthy paper on Persian communications. It is therein set forth that the question of trade-routes is a burning one for Persia, and that its solution is in the hands of the Russian Government; for all private enterprise is handicapped by the fluctuations of the money market and the doubt about adequate returns for money invested: for as a consequence of the exhausted state of the Treasury and the unexampled impoverishment of the people, all security for the success of any undertaking, is wanting. At the present moment the condition of trade is in the same primitive state as it was 2,000 years ago! Russia has so far only had roads constructed—notably, the very important connection Erivan—Tabriz—Ispahan; then the road from Rescht to Teheran and the caravan route Aschabad—Kutschan—Mesched.

Very interesting are the struggles for railway concessions in Persia, for they illustrate very clearly, the historial development of foreign influences.

Baron Reuter, the well-known founder of the universal telegraph bureau, had received permission as early as 1872 to build a railway from Enseli on the Caspian right through Western Persia to Bafra, in the direction of Bushire but the concession was soon after withdrawn before steps had been taken to realize the project, ostensibly because the Persian Government wished to work out its own reforms and resist all foreign interposition. In 1874 the concession was refused to a Russian company for this line but in 1888 Russian influence was already so great in spite of the earnest opposition of the English representatives, that the Shah formally promised that during the next 10 years railway concessions should be made to Russia only. This agreement was extended in 1898.

In consequence of this permission, the right was accorded in 1893 to the great Russian prospector to build a railway from Enseli *viâ* Reschi-Kaswin, to Teheran, which was considered the most paying line. The concession soon passed into the hands of a Moscow financial company, which, however, gave up the intention of railway building and retired from the project. As has been shown in other connections, only difficulties were to be encountered, through the hopeless state of the country, and moreover it became sadly evident, that the construction of a railway through the lofty and difficult chain of the Elbourz Mts. would be extremely costly and would demand such financial sacrifices as to render quite unsuitable any chance of profit. Teheran is certainly the political centre of the country, but is unimportant from a trade point of view, so that a railway encumbered with such difficulties would hardly pay. It was therefore a well-judged step on the part of the Russian Government to fall back in 1895 on the old project of a line through W. Persia and above all as related, to make a good road from the Caucasian border by Tabriz to Ispahan. In Ispahan the east roads to Bushire and Bunder-Abbas meet, so that at any rate a provisional net work of routes is formed, which should have a far reaching effect on Persian affairs.

Now we arrive at the latest phase of the Russo-Persian situation. The financial difficulties of the Persian Government have induced it to intrust the fundamental reform of its most remunerative branch of revenue, the customs, to a high Belgian custom's officer, M. Naus, for many years in the Persian service. The fruits of his exertions can only ripen in the future; in the meantime it is absolutely necessary for Persia to raise money. A Persian loan was floated lately which raised 80 million francs in France. The loan seems to have fallen through, because it was demanded in Paris that the French contributors should receive all possible concessions going in Persia, for the next 50 years in consideration of the loan. It was not to be expected that the Persian Government would submit to so large a demand, while Russia stood threatening her on her very borders, and was in a position to back up her claim effectively. Thus Russia easily succeeded in squashing the French loan. In its place, a great Russian syndicate has come forward with 3 million roubles, and is prepared, with support of the Russian Minister of Finance, to disburse much larger sums, by which the complete financial dependence of Persia upon Russia would be secured. In intimate connection with this financial policy, is the lease of the entire province of Aserbeidschan (35,000 square Kilometers) with a view to exploiting the mines, which are very rich—especially in copper. This province, the richest and most valuable in all Persia, borders on Transcaucasia and opens the North-West portion of the country to Russia politically, socially and in a military sense: for one is not likely to make a mistake in assuming that the Russian Government stands behind the company whose name is inscribed on the lease. The company not only has the power to develope all the resources of the soil, but is allowed to construct railways, roads and ports, to render the river Ares navigable, and obtains other privileges which in effect, deliver over the country into Russian hands.

At the same time, the Russian Government has taken the first steps, by diplomatic channels, towards the construction of the railway Djulfa-Tabriz-Hamadan (from whence a branch line to Teheran) Ispahan-Kirman-Bender-Abbas; and has commenced the works under the supervision of officers of the general staff and engineers with escorts of the necessary cossack troops. This whole line is reported to offer no insurmountable difficulties, and its completion is expected in 1903 or 1904. In deciding on the lines to be followed by the future railway, the track already finished was undoubtedly the best. It touches the important places, not only as trade centres, but of striking Military utility in controlling the country. Russia's interest in railway construction in Persia and Asia Minor is two sided. She wishes at some time to reach the Persian coast and get an outlet on the open sea, including a desire to advance another stage on the great commercial road to the East—to India: on the other hand she does not wish to build any lines which might in any way strengthen the Turkish Empire. This is why Russia will never construct the Persian line towards the mouth of the Euphrates or to Bushire but to Bunder-Abbas the only critical place in the Persian Gulf from a strategic and political commercial point of view.

At this moment Russia's influence seems to have triumphed over England's, in spite of every effort of the latter, and even though the often reported rumour of the cession of Bunder-Abbas is warmly contradicted, yet we can only look on it as premature, for it is merely a question of time—the natural sequence of Russia's advance in Asia.

People may think what they like about Russian policy, but must admit that Russia works in Persia as in all her Asiatic politics, with unwearying persistency, and there is every prospect that she will ere long, follow her economic conquest of Persia, by a political one.—August 1899.].

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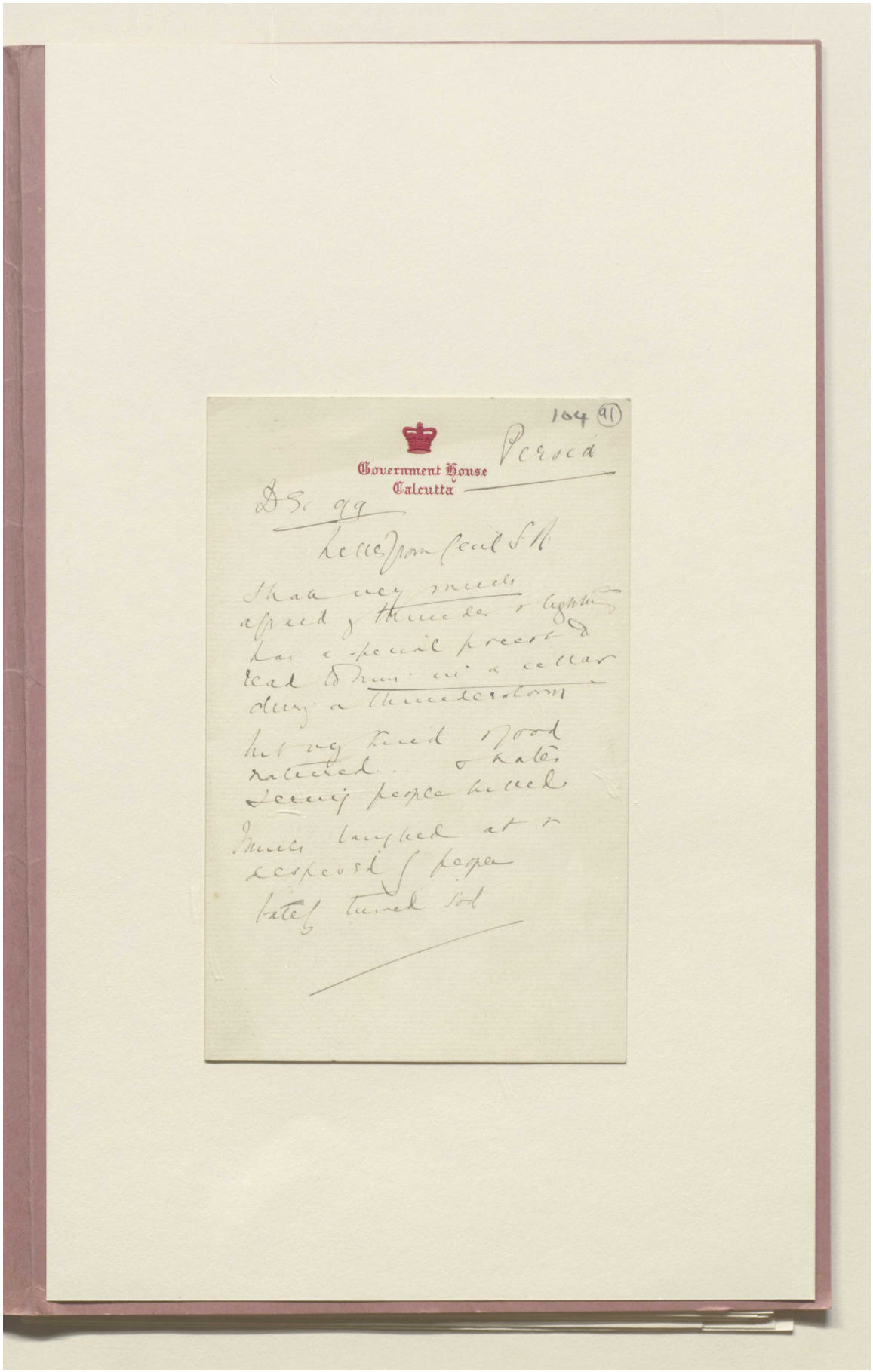
104 (91)
Government House
Calcutta



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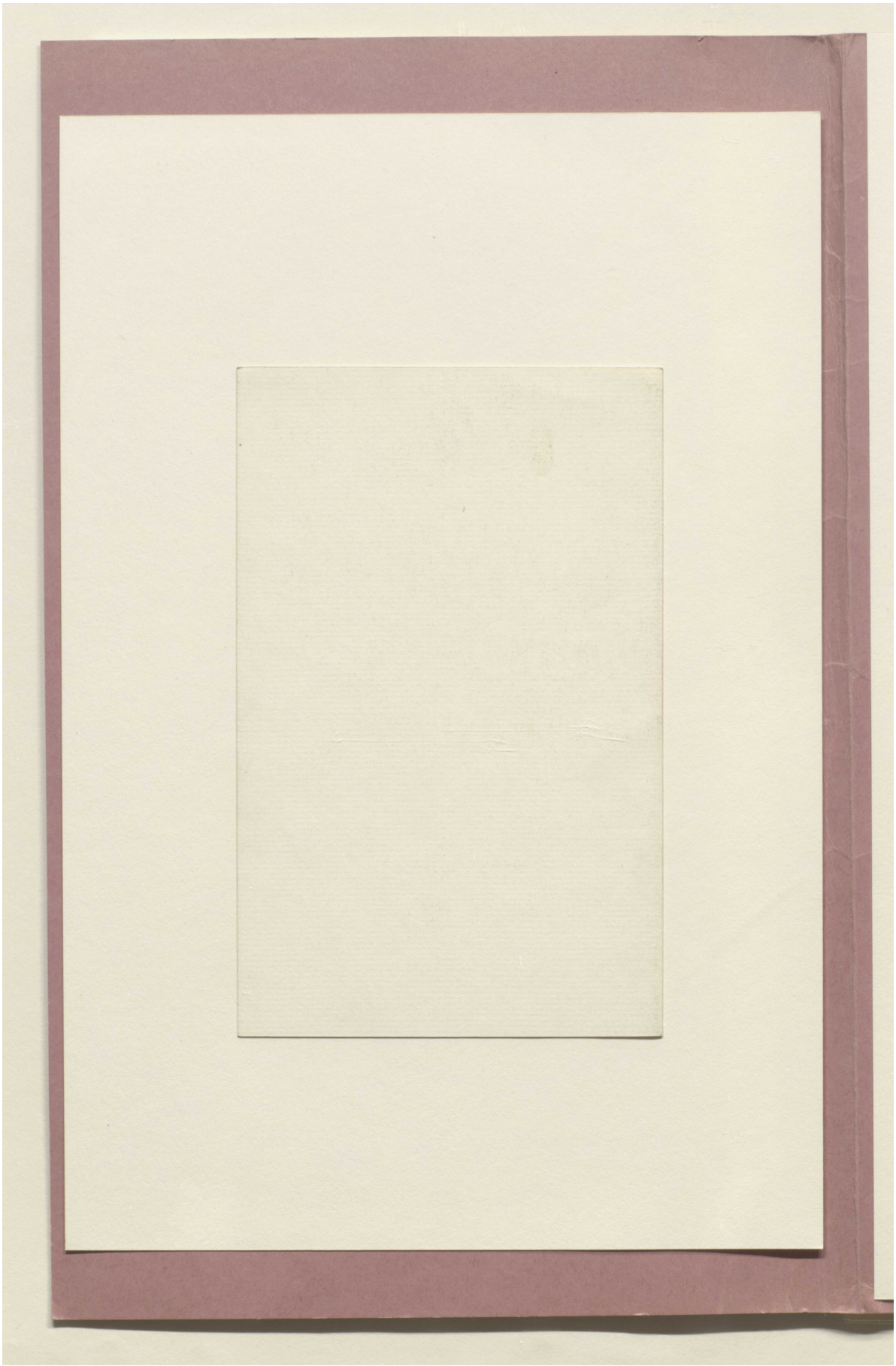

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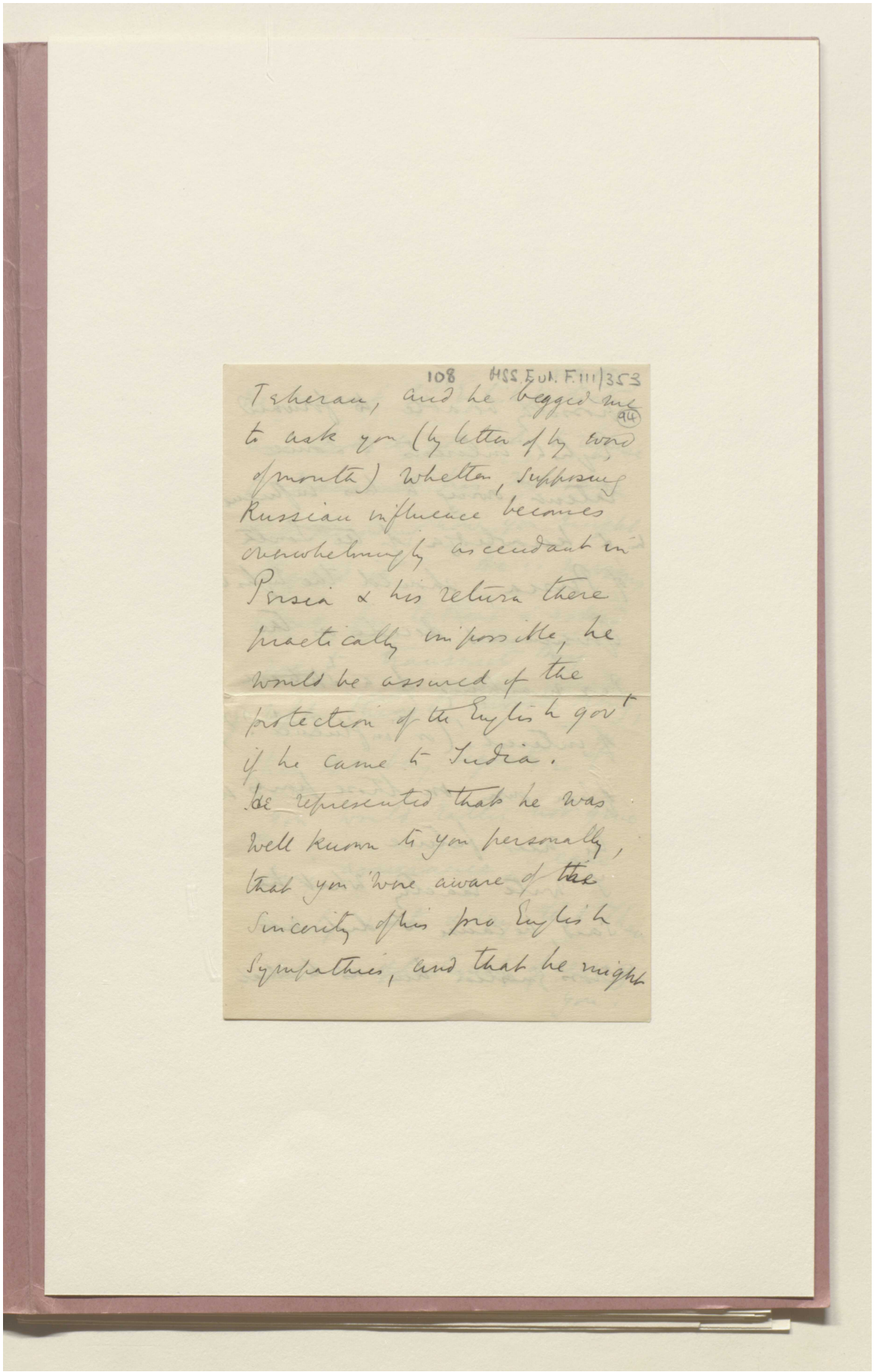

108 MSS. Eur. F111/353
Teheran, and he begged me (94)
to ask you (by letter & by word
of mouth) whether, supposing
Russian influence becomes
overwhelmingly ascendant in
Persia & his return there
practically impossible, he
would be assured of the
protection of the English govt
if he came to India.
He represented that he was
well known to you personally,
that you were aware of the
sincerity of his pro English
sympathies, and that he might

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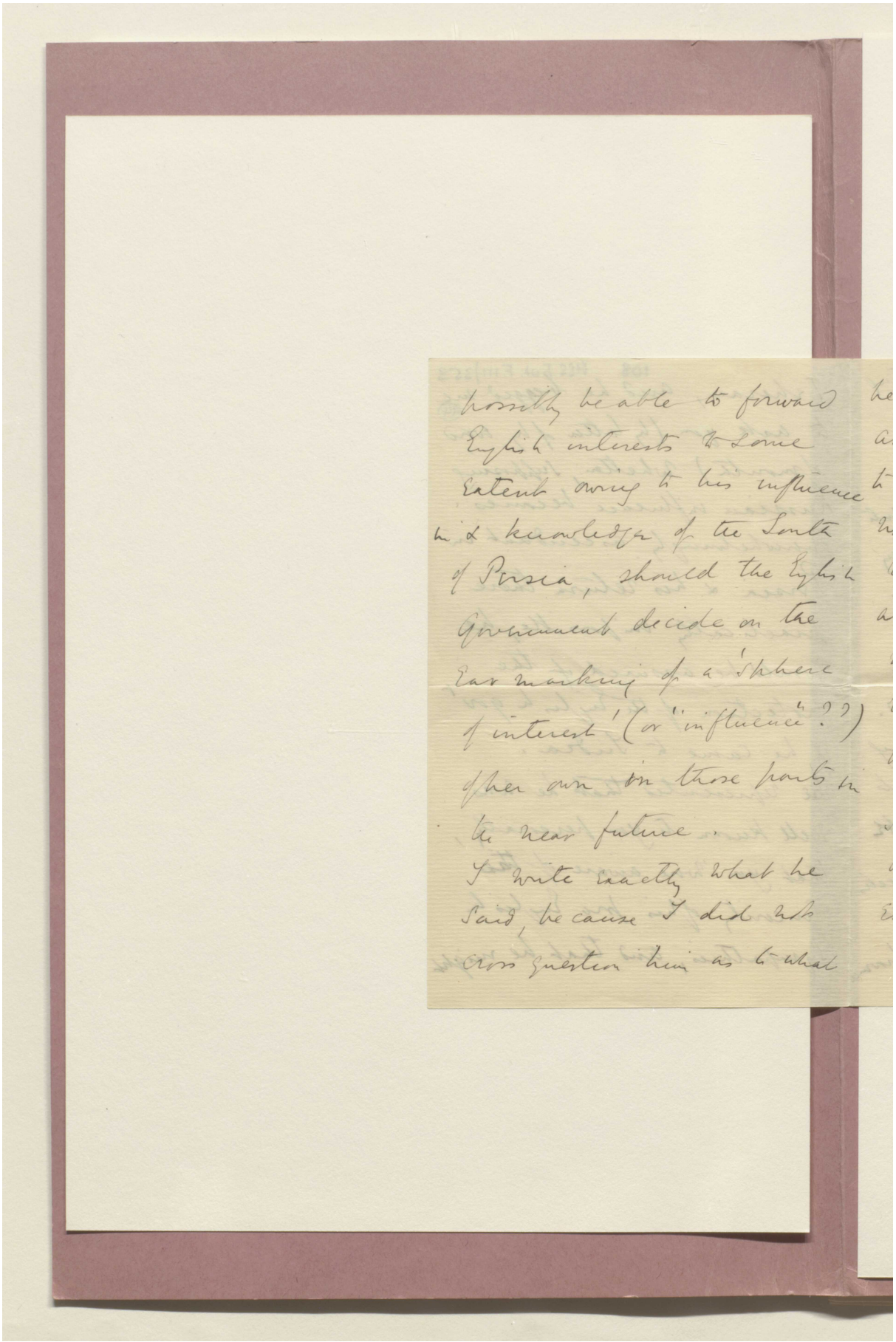
Miscellaneous Correspondence, Notes, and Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Persia
[94v] (192/255)



possibly be able to forward
English interests to some
extent owing to his influence
in & knowledge of the South
of Persia, should the English
Government decide on the
ear marking of a 'sphere
of interest' (or "influence"??)
of her own in those parts in
the near future.
I write exactly what he
said, because I did not
cross question him as to what

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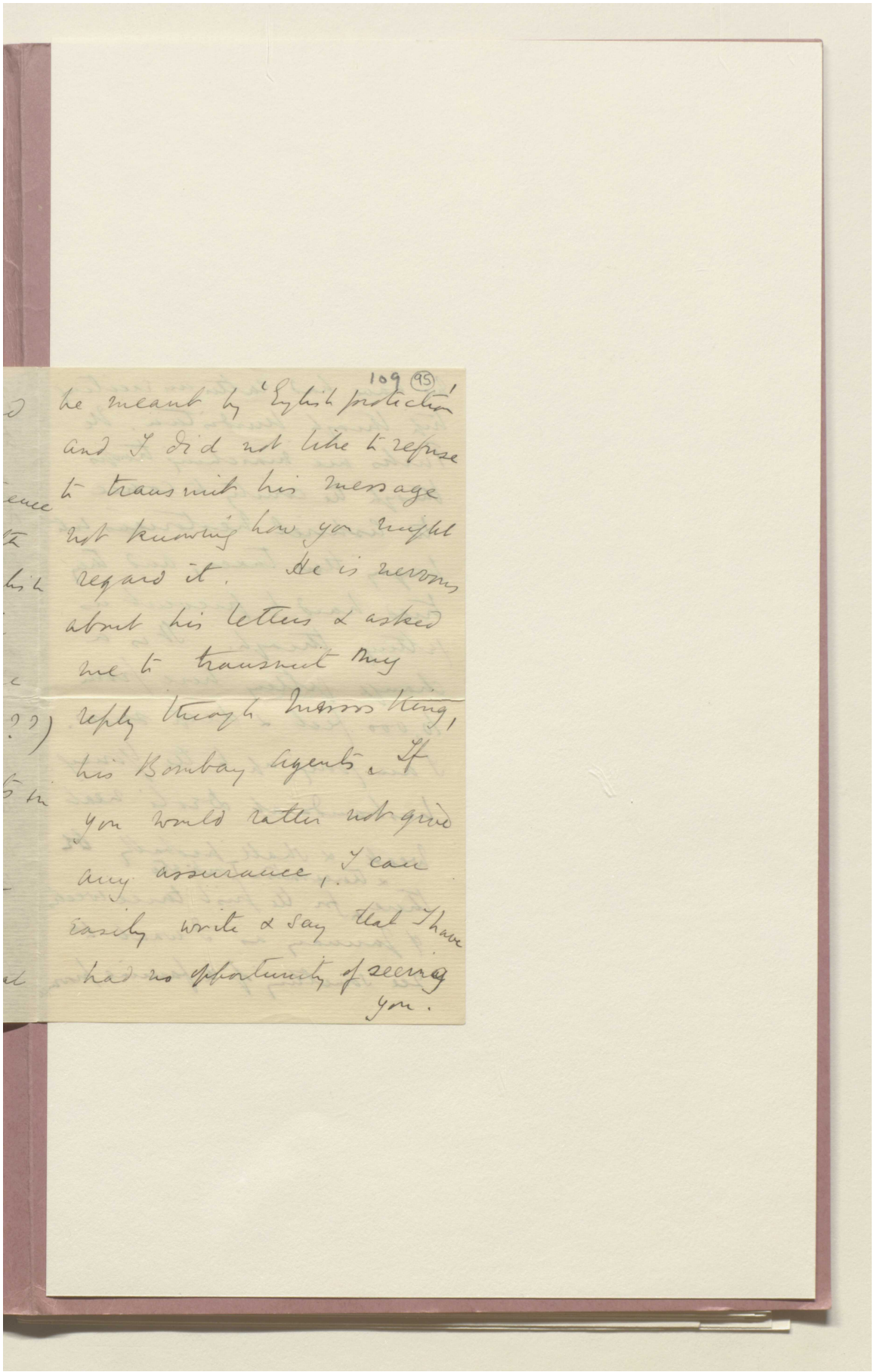

109 (95)

he meant by 'English protection'
and I did not like to refuse
to transmit his message
not knowing how you might
regard it. He is nervous
about his letters & asked
me to transmit my
reply through Mossoo King,
his Bombay agent. If
you would rather not give
any assurance, I can
easily write & say that I have
had no opportunity of seeing
you.

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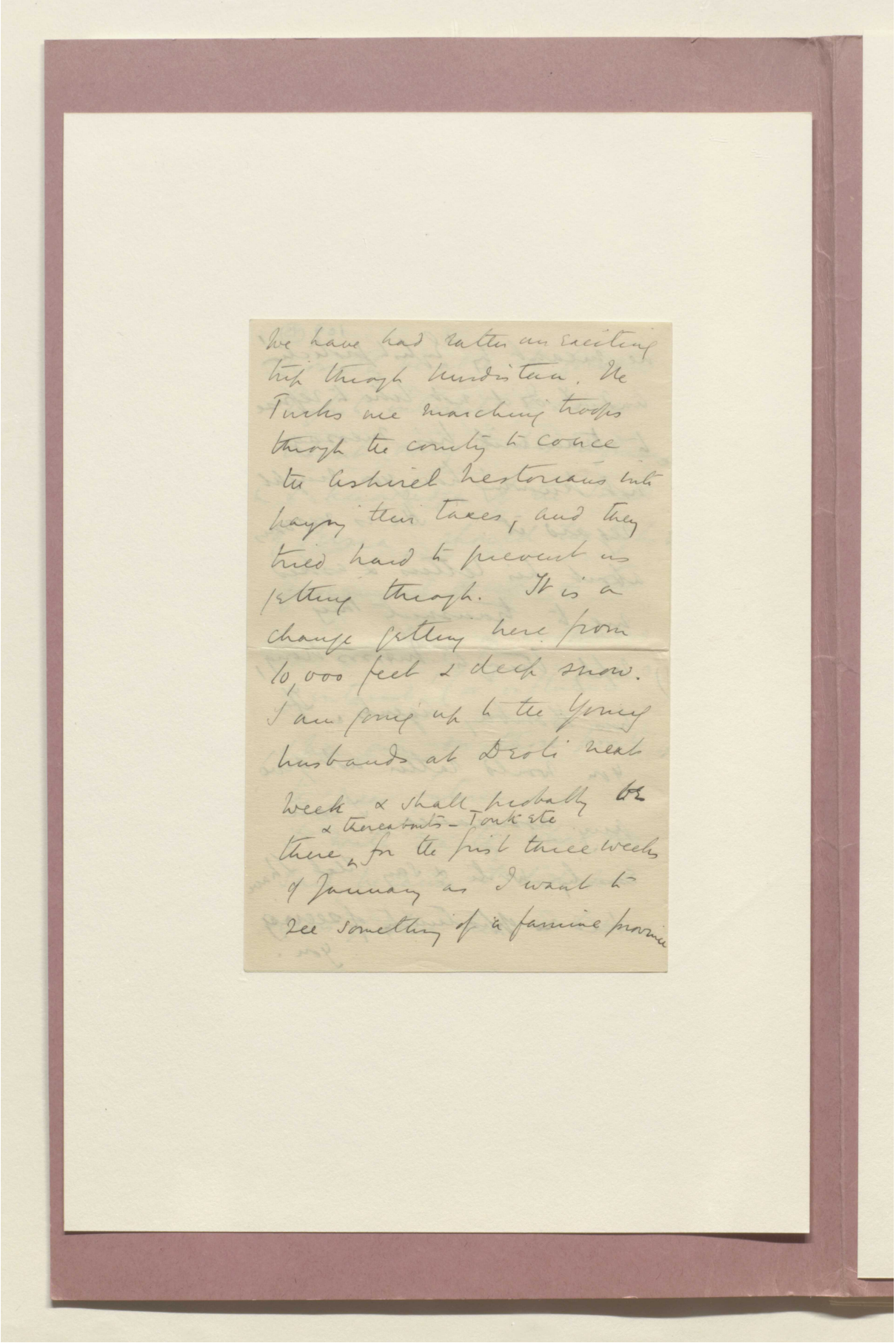

We have had rather an exciting trip through Kurdistan. The Turks are marching troops through the country to coerce the Ashiret Nestorians into paying their taxes, and they tried hard to prevent us getting through. It is a change getting here from 10,000 feet & deep snow. I am going up to the Young husbands at Deoli next week & shall probably be there & thereabouts – Tonk etc for the first three weeks of January as I want to see something of a famine province

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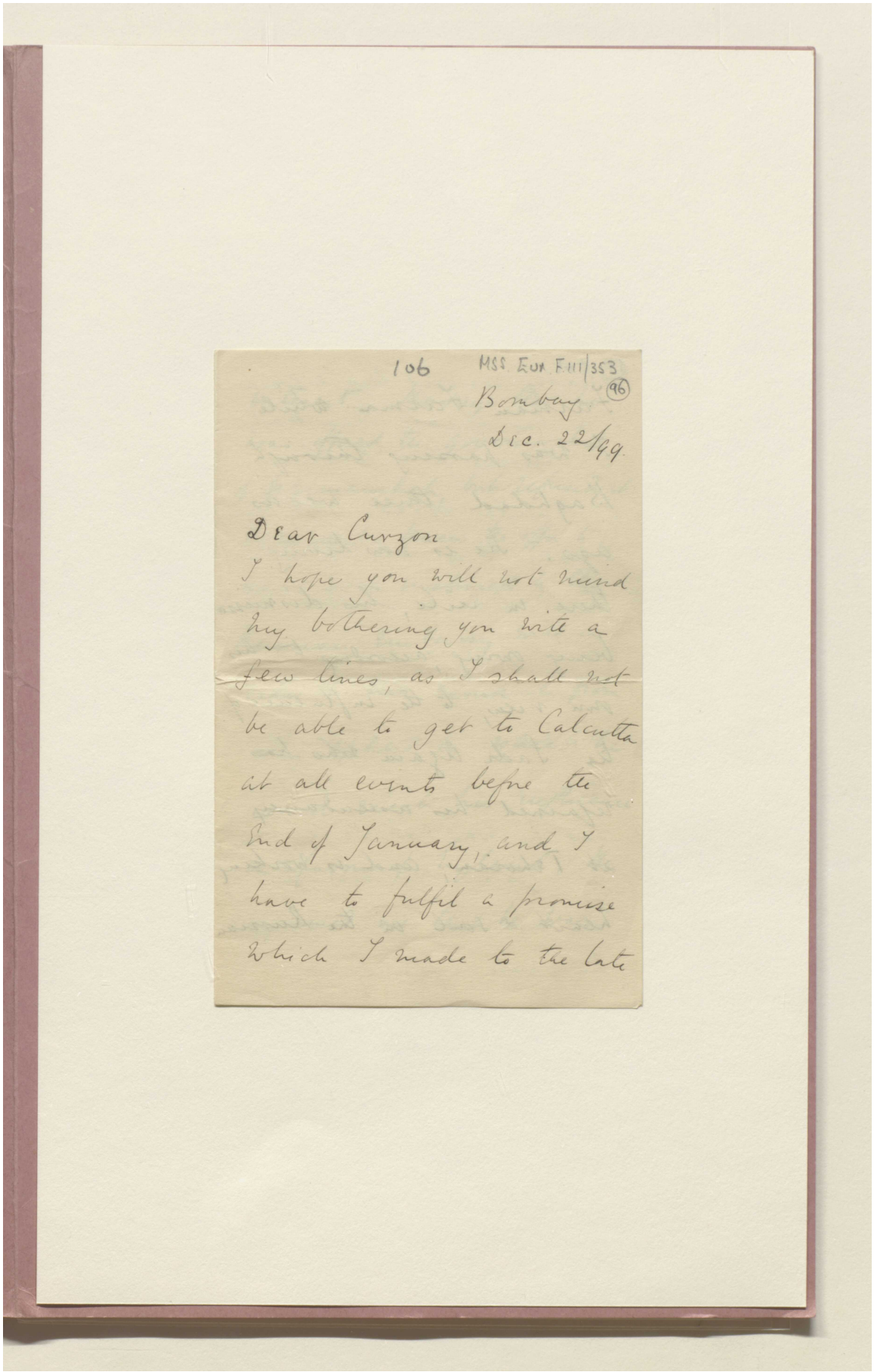

106 MSS Eur F111/353
(96)
Bombay
Dec. 22/99.

Dear Curzon
I hope you will not mind
my bothering you with a
few lines, as I shall not
be able to get to Calcutta
at all events before the
End of January, and I
have to fulfil a promise
which I made to the late

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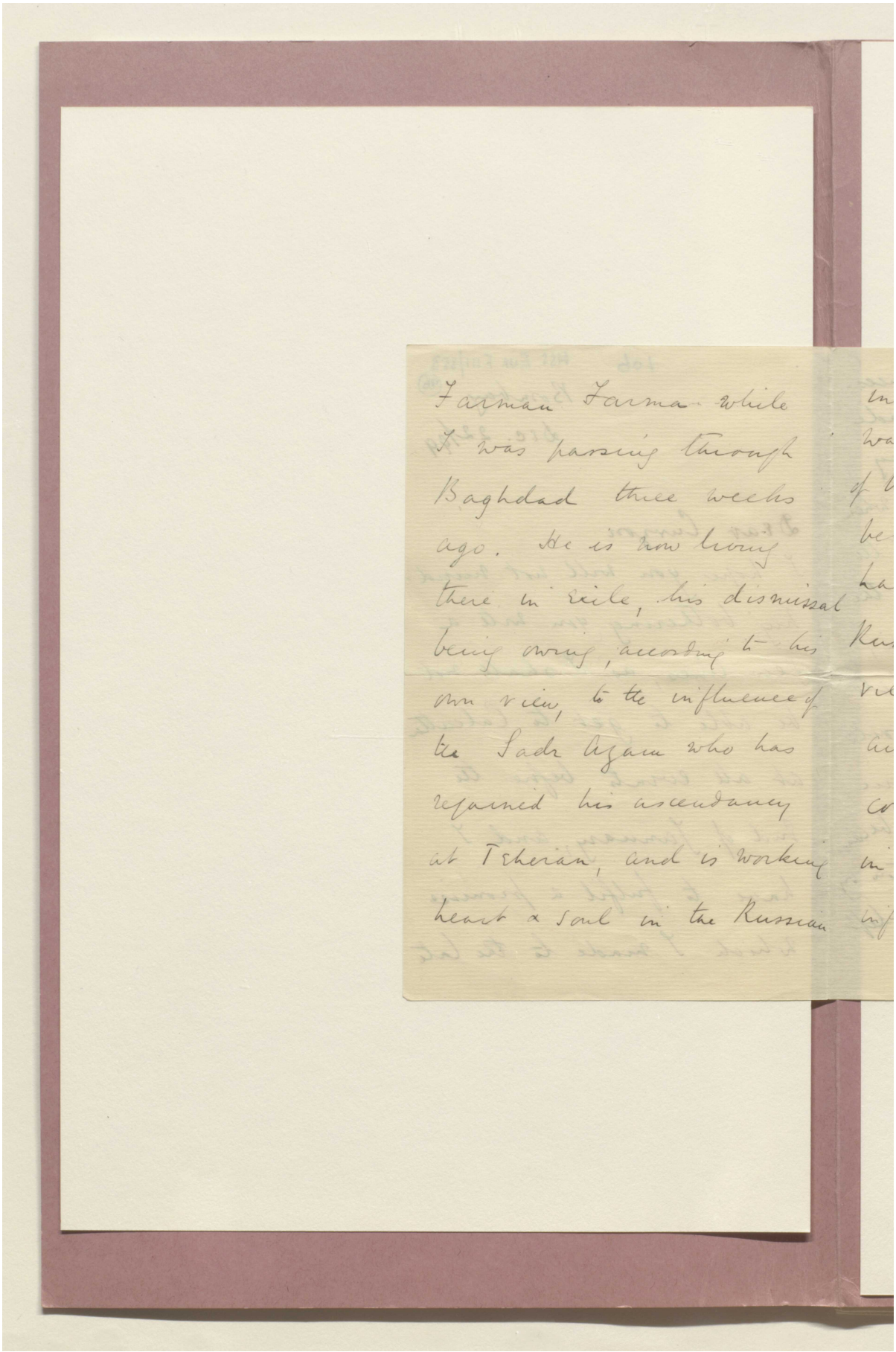

Farman Farma while
I was passing through
Baghdad three weeks
ago. He is now living
there in exile, his dismissal
being owing, according to his
own view, to the influence of
the Sadr Azam who has
regained his ascendancy
at Tcheran, and is working
heart & soul in the Russian

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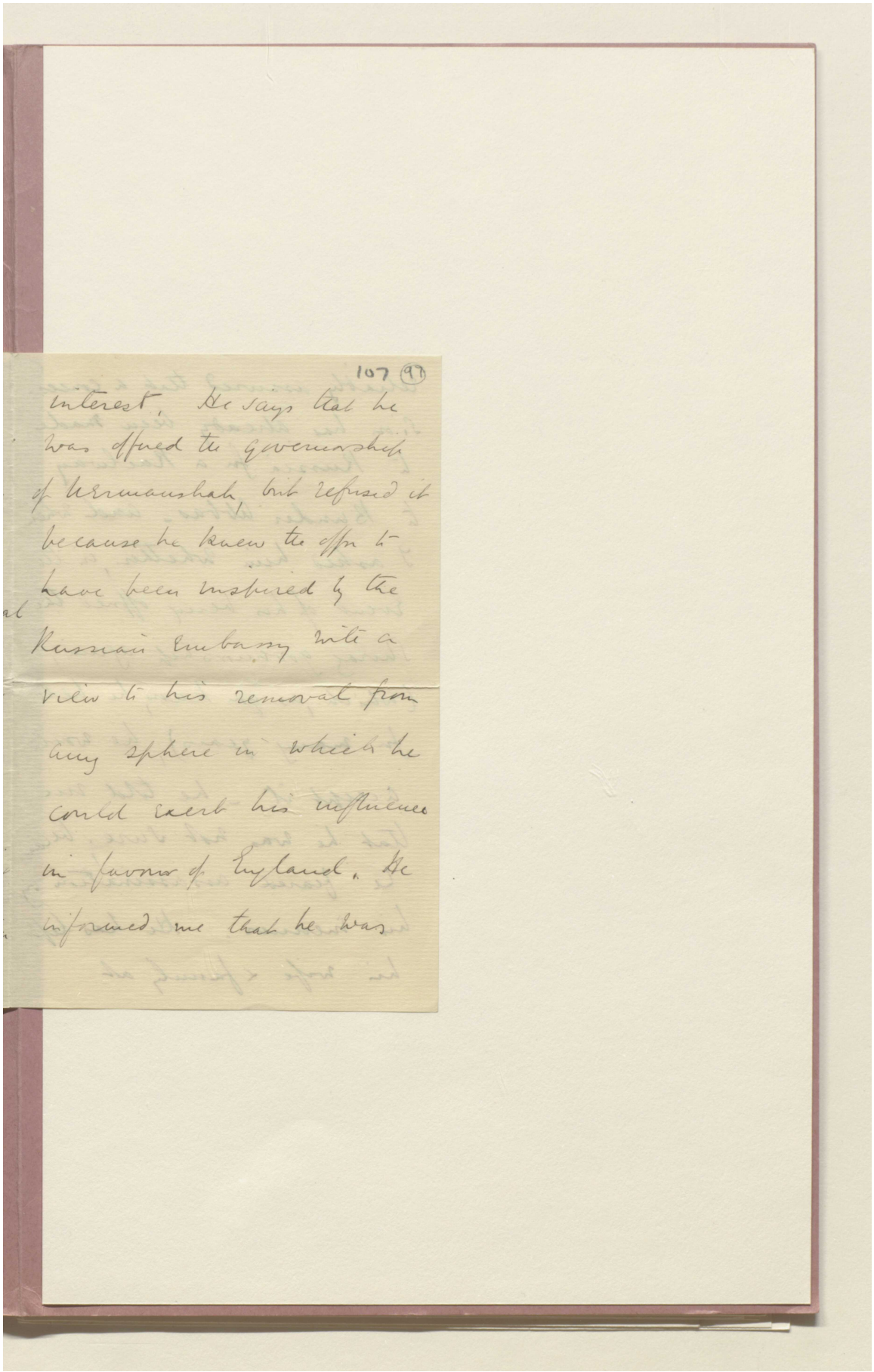

107 (97)

interest. He says that he
was offered the Governorship
of Kermanshah, but refused it
because he knew the offer
have been inspired by the
Russian Embassy with a
view to his removal from
any sphere in which he
could exert his influence
in favour of England. He
informed me that he was

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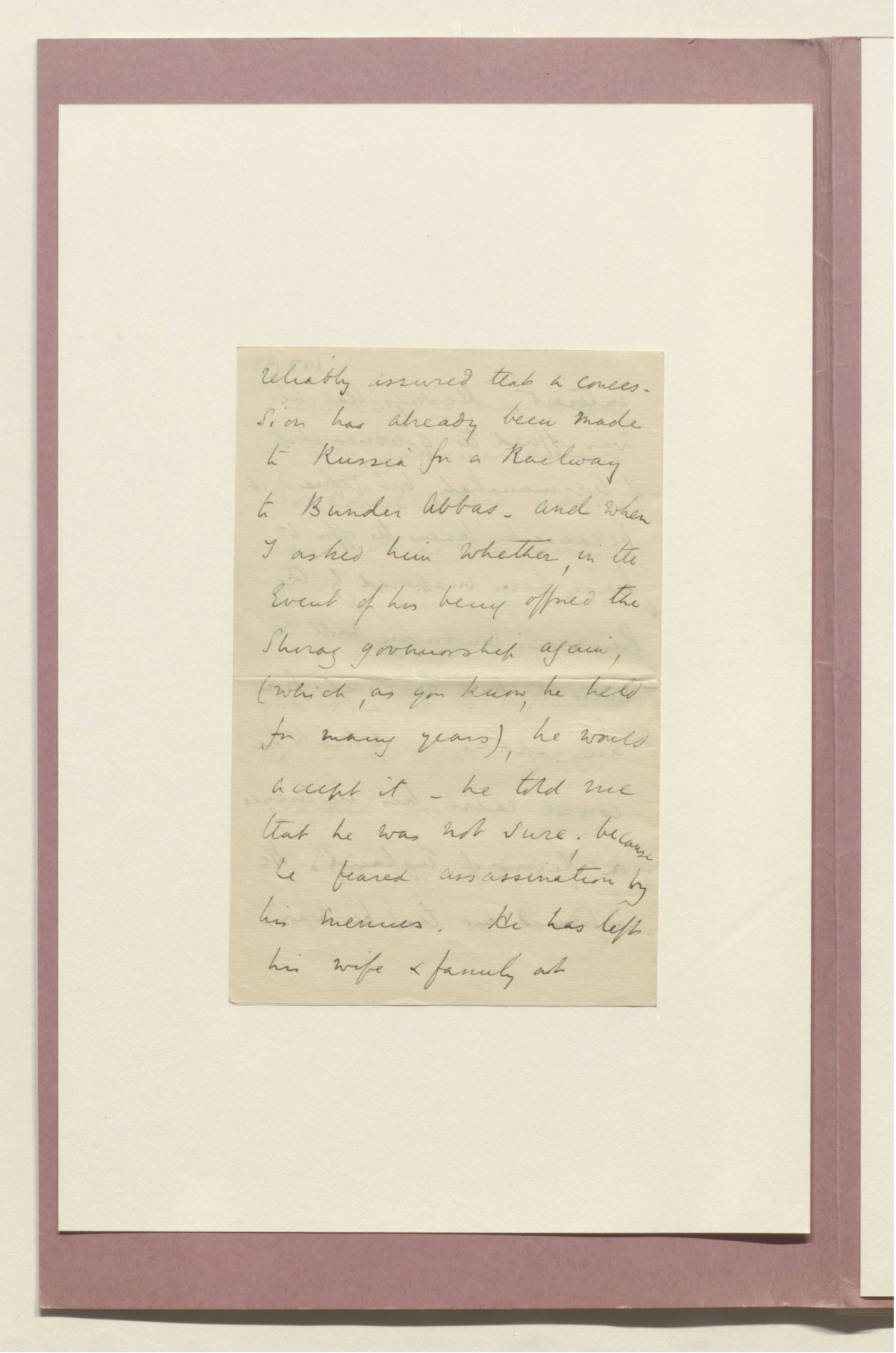

reliably assured that a conces-
sion has already been made
to Russia for a Railway
to Bunder Abbas. and when
I asked him whether, in the
Event of his being offered the
Shiraz governorship again,
(which, as you know, he held
for many years), he would
accept it - he told me
that he was not sure, because
he feared assassination by
his enemies. He has left
his wife & family at

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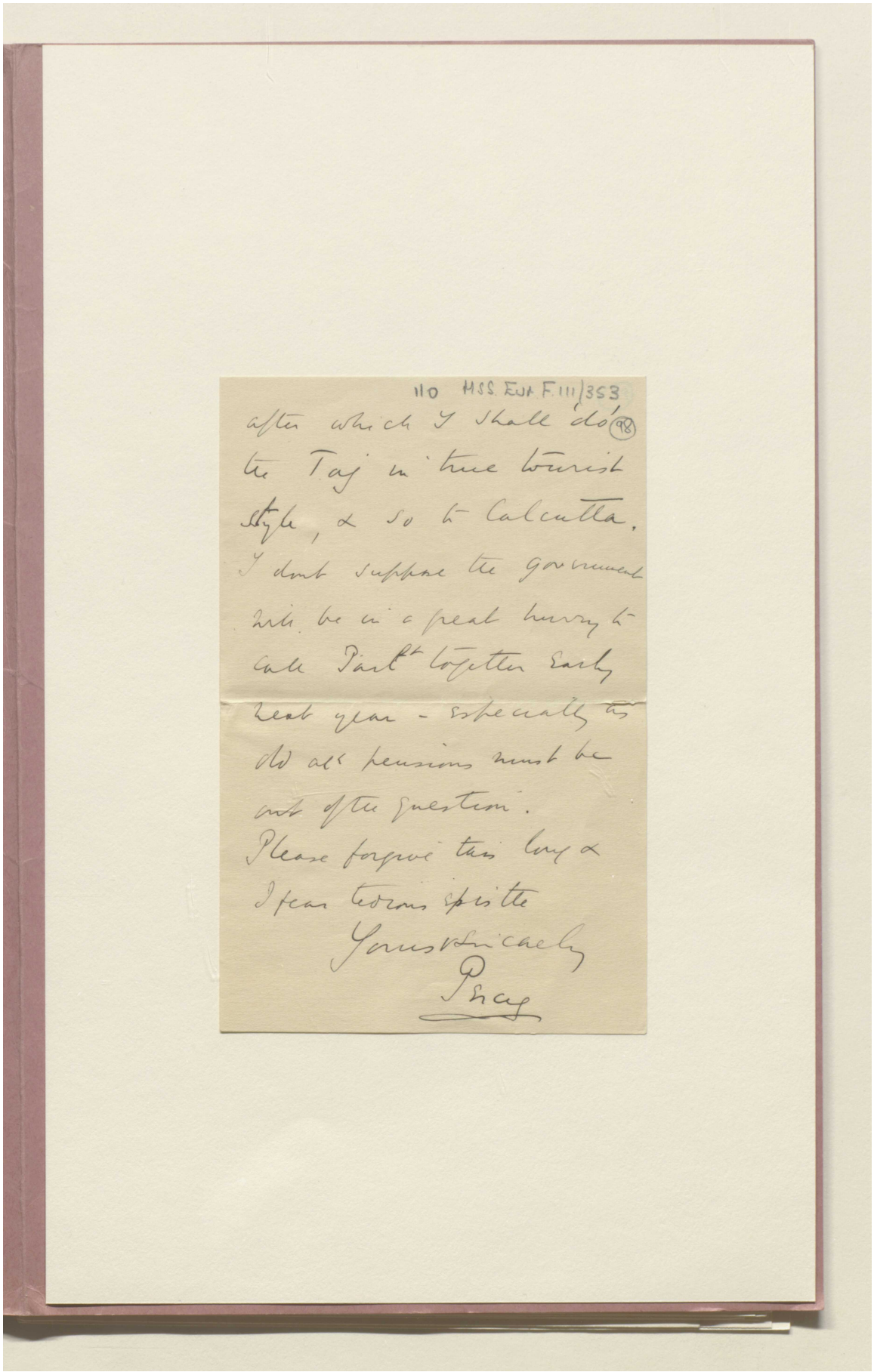

110 MSS. EUR F.111/353

after which I shall 'do' (98)
the Taj in true tourist
style, & so to Calcutta.
I dont suppose the government
will be in a great hurry to
call Parlt together early
next year - especially as
old ak pensions must be
out of the question.
Please forgive this long &
I fear tedious epistle
Yours sincerely
Percy

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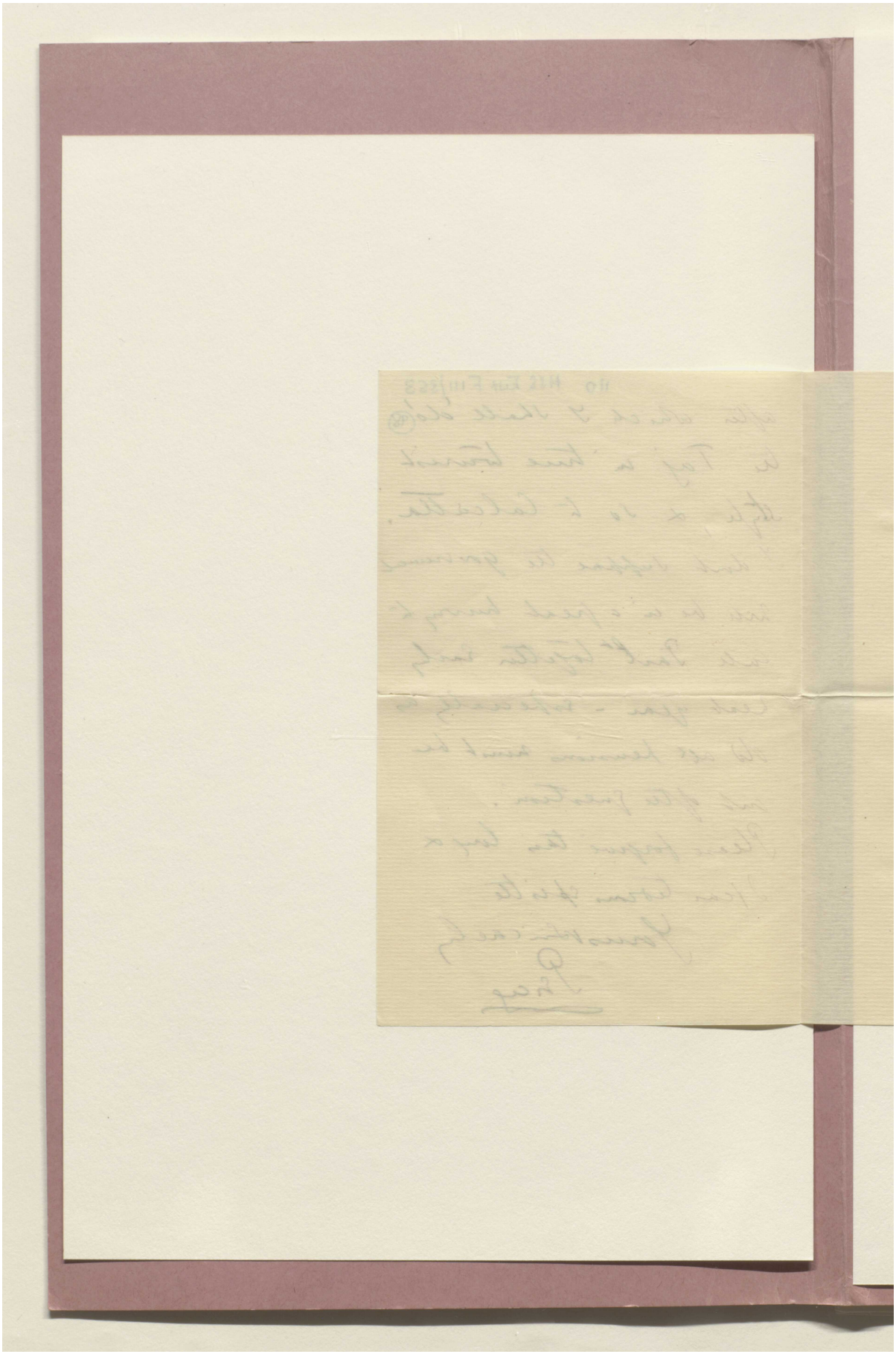

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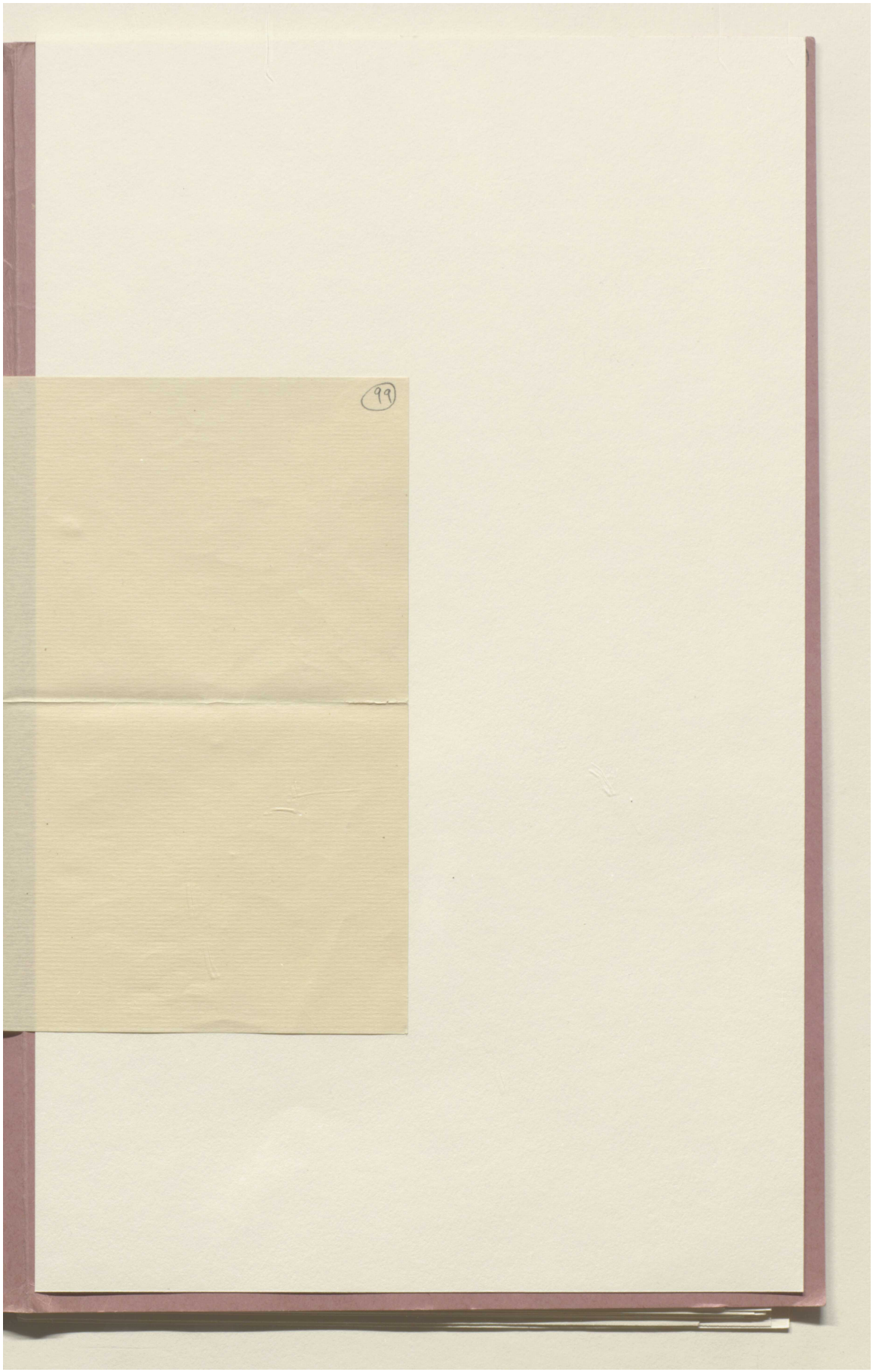

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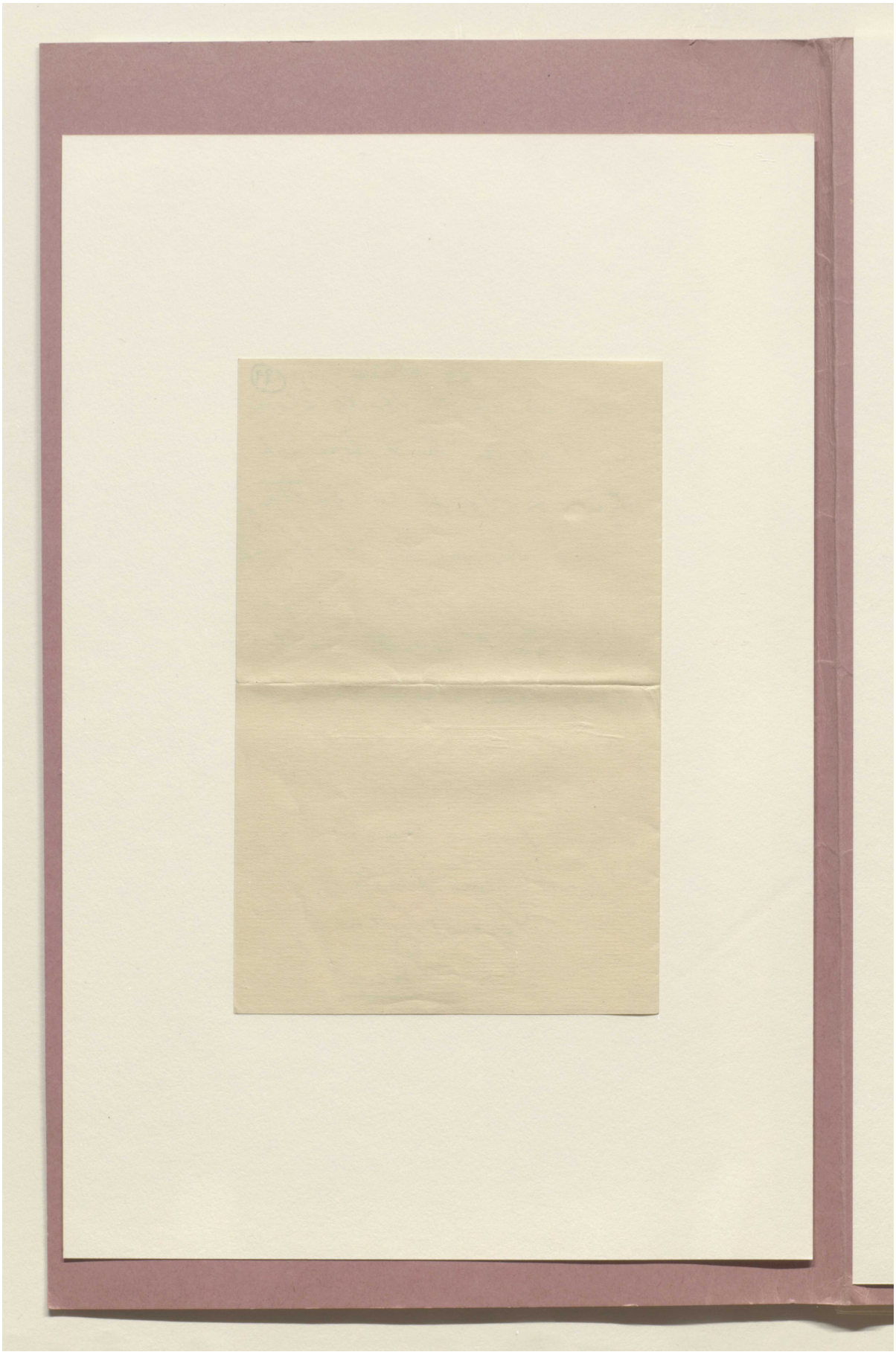

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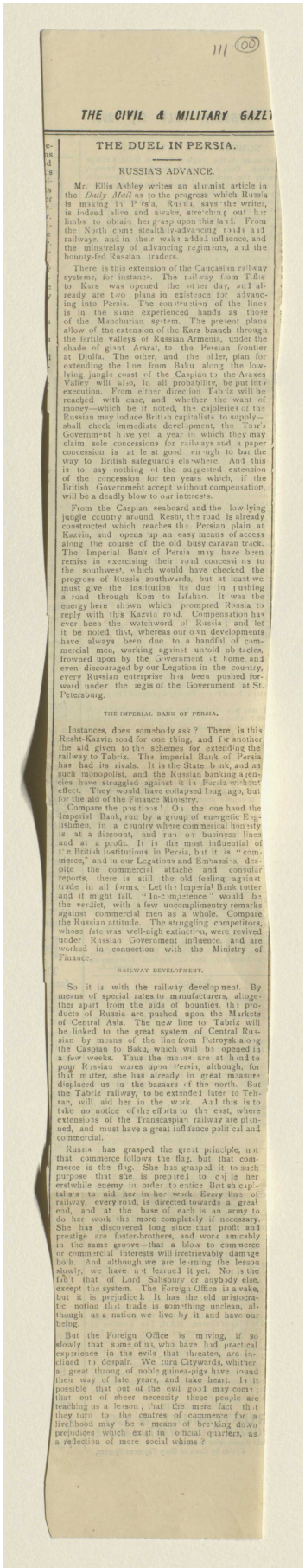

111 (100)

THE CIVIL & MILITARY GAZE

THE DUEL IN PERSIA.

RUSSIA'S ADVANCE.

Mr. Ellis Ashley writes an alarmist article in the *Daily Mail* as to the progress which Russia is making in Persia. Russia, says the writer, is indeed alive and awake, stretching out her limbs to obtain her grasp upon this land. From the North comes stealthily advancing roads and railways, and in their wake added influence, and the ministrelsy of advancing regiments, and the bounty-fed Russian traders.

There is this extension of the Caucasian railway systems, for instance. The railway from Tiflis to Kars was opened the other day, and already are two plans in existence for advancing into Persia. The construction of the lines is in the same experienced hands as those of the Manchurian system. The present plans allow of the extension of the Kars branch through the fertile valleys of Russian Armenia, under the shade of giant Ararat, to the Persian frontier at Djulfa. The other, and the older, plan for extending the line from Baku along the low-lying jungle coast of the Caspian to the Araxes Valley will also, in all probability, be put into execution. From either direction Tabriz will be reached with ease, and whether the want of money—which be it noted, the cajoleries of the Russian may induce British capitalists to supply—shall check immediate development, the Tsar's Government have yet a year in which they may claim sole concessions for railways and a paper concession is at least good enough to bar the way to British safeguards elsewhere. And this is to say nothing of the suggested extension of the concession for ten years which, if the British Government accept without compensation, will be a deadly blow to our interests.

From the Caspian seaboard and the low-lying jungle country around Resht, the road is already constructed which reaches the Persian plain at Kazvin, and opens up an easy means of access along the course of the old busy caravan track. The Imperial Bank of Persia may have been remiss in exercising their road concessions to the southwest, which would have checked the progress of Russia southwards, but at least we must give the institution its due in pushing a road through Kom to Isfahan. It was the energy here shown which prompted Russia to reply with this Kazvin road. Compensation has ever been the watchword of Russia; and let it be noted that, whereas our own developments have always been due to a handful of commercial men, working against untold obstacles, frowned upon by the Government at home, and even discouraged by our Legation in the country, every Russian enterprise has been pushed forward under the ægis of the Government at St. Petersburg.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Instances, does somebody ask? There is this Resht-Kazvin road for one thing, and for another the aid given to the schemes for extending the railway to Tabriz. The Imperial Bank of Persia has had its rivals. It is the State bank, and as such monopolist, and the Russian banking agencies have struggled against it in Persia without effect. They would have collapsed long ago, but for the aid of the Finance Ministry.

Compare the positions! On the one hand the Imperial Bank, run by a group of energetic Englishmen, in a country where commercial honesty is at a discount, and run on business lines and at a profit. It is the most influential of the British institutions in Persia, but it is "commerce," and in our Legations and Embassies, despite the commercial attaché and consular reports, there is still the old feeling against trade in all forms. Let the Imperial Bank totter and it might fall. "Incompetence" would be the verdict, with a few uncomplimentry remarks against commercial men as a whole. Compare the Russian attitude. The struggling competitors, whose fate was well-nigh extinction, were revived under Russian Government influence, and are worked in connection with the Ministry of Finance.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT.

So it is with the railway development. By means of special rates to manufacturers, altogether apart from the aids of bounties, the products of Russia are pushed upon the Markets of Central Asia. The new line to Tabriz will be linked to the great system of Central Russian by means of the line from Petrovsk along the Caspian to Baku, which will be opened in a few weeks. Thus the means are at hand to pour Russian wares upon Persia, although, for that matter, she has already in great measure displaced us in the bazaars of the north. But the Tabriz railway, to be extended later to Tehran, will aid her in the work. All this is to take no notice of the efforts to the east, where extensions of the Transcaspian railway are planned, and must have a great influence political and commercial.

Russia has grasped the great principle, not that commerce follows the flag, but that commerce is the flag. She has grasped it to such purpose that she is prepared to defy in her erstwhile enemy in order to entice British capitalists to aid her in her work. Every line of railway, every road, is directed towards a great end, and at the base of each is an army to do her work the more completely if necessary. She has discovered long since that profit and prestige are foster-brothers, and work amicably in the same groove—that a blow to commerce or commercial interests will irretrievably damage both. And although we are learning the lesson slowly, we have not learned it yet. Nor is the fact that of Lord Salisbury or anybody else, except the system. The Foreign Office is awake, but it is prejudiced. It has the old aristocratic notion that trade is something unclean, although as a nation we live by it and have our being.

But the Foreign Office is moving, if so slowly that some of us, who have had practical experience in the evils that threaten, are inclined to despair. We turn Citywards, whither a great throng of noble guinea-pigs have found their way of late years, and take heart. Is it possible that out of the evil good may come; that out of sheer necessity these people are teaching us a lesson; that the mere fact that they turn to the centres of commerce for a livelihood may be a means of breaking down prejudices which exist in official quarters, as a reflection of mere social whims?

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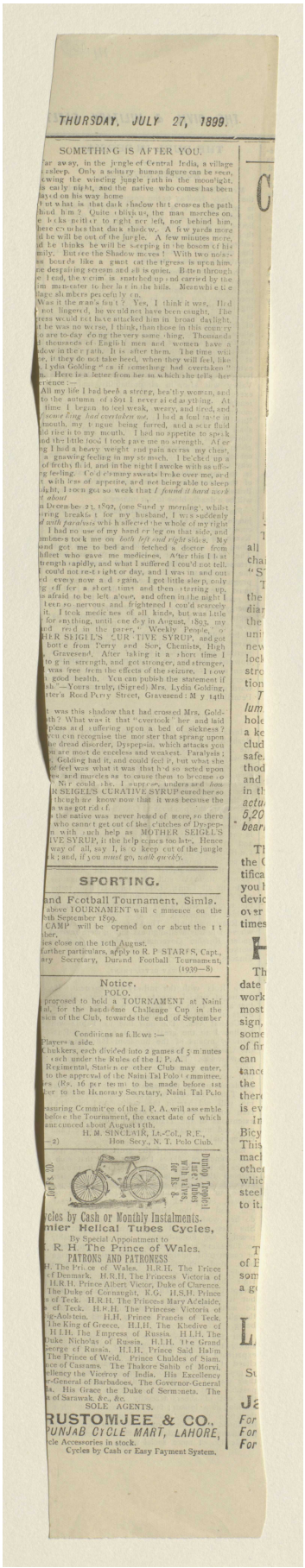

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1899.

SOMETHING IS AFTER YOU.

far away, in the jungle of Central India, a village asleep. Only a solitary human figure can be seen, owing the winding jungle path in the moonlight. is early night, and the native who comes has been layed on his way home.

But what is that dark shadow that crosses the path hind him? Quite oblivious, the man marches on, e looks neither to right nor left, nor behind him, here crouches that dark shadow. A few yards more d he will be out of the jungle. A few minutes more, d he thinks he will be sleeping in the bosom of his mily. But see the Shadow moves! With two noiseless bounds like a giant cat the tigress is upon him. ze despairing scream and all is quiet. Bitten through e head, the victim is snatched up and carried by the im man-eater to her lair in the hills. Meanwhile e village slumbers peacefully on.

Was it the man's fault? Yes, I think it was. Had e not lingered, he would not have been caught. The ress would not have attacked him in broad daylight. d he was no worse, I think, than those in this country o are to-day doing the very same thing. Thousands f thousands of English men and women have a dow in their path. It is after them. The time will e, if they do not take heed, when they will feel, like , Lydia Golding "as if something had overtaken" m. Here is a letter from her in which she tells her erience :—

All my life I had been a strong, healthy woman, and to the autumn of 1891 I never ailed anything. At time I began to feel weak, weary, and tired, and *seemed as if something had overtaken me.* I had a foul taste in mouth, my tongue being furred, and a sour fluid ld rise in to my mouth. I had no appetite to speak of, d the little food I took gave me no strength. After g I had a heavy weight and pain across my chest, a gnawing feeling in my stomach. I belched up a of frothy fluid, and in the night I awoke with an uffocating feeling. Cold clammy sweats broke over me, and I with loss of appetite, and not being able to sleep night, I soon got so weak that *I found it hard work to stand about.*

In December 21, 1892, one Sunday morning, whilst paring breakfast for my husband, I was suddenly *ruck with paralysis* which affected the whole of my right . I had no use of my hand or leg on that side, and mbness took me on *both left and right sides.* My and got me to bed and fetched a doctor from hlfect who gave me medicines. After this I lost strength rapidly, and what I suffered I could not tell. I could not retain right or day, and I was in and out ed every now and again. I got little sleep, only g off for a short time and then starting up, s afraid to be left alone, and often in the night I been so nervous and frightened I could scarcely it. I took medicines of all kinds, but was little for anything, until one day in August, 1893, my ad read in the paper, "Weekly People," of HER SEIGEL'S CURATIVE SYRUP, and got bottle from Perry and Son, Chemists, High , Gravesend. After taking it a short time I to gain in strength, and got stronger, and stronger, was free from the effects of the seizure. I now h good health. You can publish the statement if sh.—Yours truly, (Signed) Mrs. Lydia Golding, tter's Road Perry Street, Gravesend: May 14th

t was this shadow that had crossed Mrs. Goldith? What was it that "overtook" her and laid pless and suffering upon a bed of sickness? you can recognise the monster that sprang upon he dread disorder, Dyspepsia, which attacks you u are most defenceless and weakest. Paralysis : Golding had it, and could feel it, but what she f feel was what it was that had so acted upon es and muscles as to cause them to become so N'T could, Mrs. Lydia Goldings and *hers* R SEIGEL'S CURATIVE SYRUP cured her so though she knows now that it was because the a was got rid of.

e the native was never heard of more, so there who cannot get out of the clutches of Dyspepsia with such help as MOTHER SEIGEL'S IVE SYRUP, if the help comes too late. Hence way of all, say I, is to keep out of the jungle k and, if you *must* go, *walk quickly.*

SPORTING.

and Football Tournament, Simla.

above TOURNAMENT will commence on the 5th September 1899.

CAMP will be opened on or about the 1st ber.

ies close on the 16th August.

further particulars, apply to R. P. STARES, Capt., ary Secretary, Durand Football Tournament, (1939—8)

Notice.

POLO.

proposed to hold a TOURNAMENT at Naini al, for the handsome Challenge Cup in the sion of the Club, towards the end of September

Conditions as follows :—

Players a side.

Chukkers, each divided into 2 games of 5 minutes each under the Rules of the I. P. A.

Regimental, Station or other Club may enter, to the approval of the Naini Tal Polo Committee, es (Rs. 16 per team) to be made before 1st ber to the Honorary Secretary, Naini Tal Polo

suring Committee of the I. P. A. will assemble before the Tournament, the exact date of which announced about August 15th.

H. M. SINCLAIR, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
—2) Hon. Secy., N. T. Polo Club.

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cles by Cash or Monthly Instalments.
mier Helical Tubes Cycles,
By Special Appointment to
H. R. H. The Prince of Wales.
PATRONS AND PATRONESS.
H. The Prince of Wales. H.R.H. The Princess of Denmark. H.R.H. The Princess Victoria of H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence. The Duke of Connaught, K.G. H.S.H. Prince e of Teck. H.R.H. The Princess Mary Adelaide, e of Teck. H.R.H. The Princesse Victoria of ig-Gotstein. H.H. Prince Francis of Teck. The King of Greece, H.I.H. The Khedive of H.I.H. The Empress of Russia. H.I.H. The Duke Nicholas of Russia, H.I.H. the Grand George of Russia. H.I.H. Prince Said Halim The Prince of Weid. Prince Chuldes of Siam. ce of Cassams. The Thakore Sahib of Morvi, ellency the Viceroy of India. His Excellency r-General of Barbadoes, The Governor-General s. His Grace the Duke of Sermoneta. The a of Sarawak, &c., &c.
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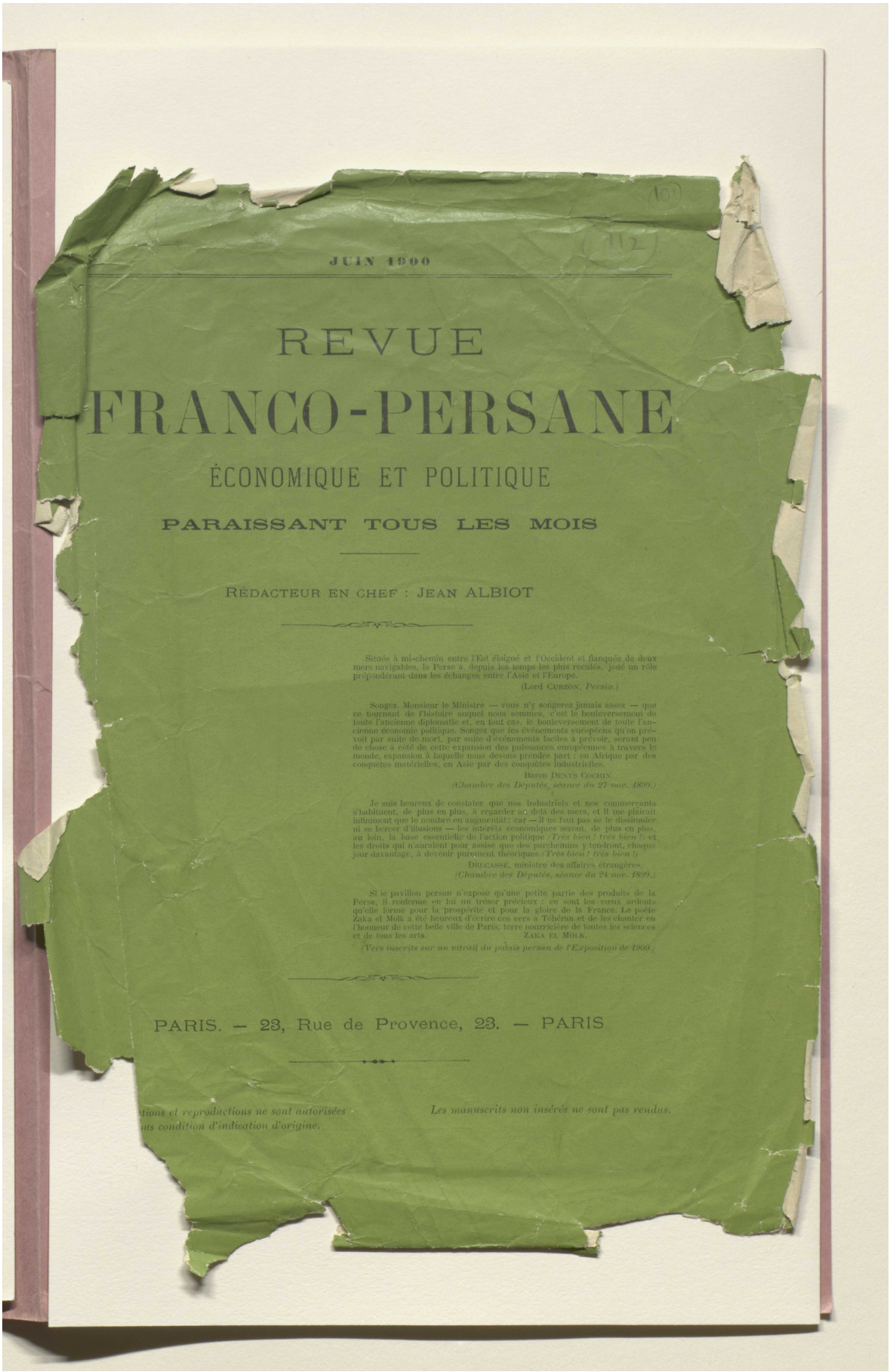

JUIN 1900

REVUE FRANCO-PERSANE

ÉCONOMIQUE ET POLITIQUE

PARAISSANT TOUS LES MOIS

RÉDACTEUR EN CHEF : JEAN ALBIOT

Située à mi-chemin entre l'Est éloigné et l'Occident et flanquée de deux mers navigables, la Perse a, depuis les temps les plus reculés, joué un rôle prépondérant dans les échanges entre l'Asie et l'Europe.

(Lord CURZON, *Persia.*)

Songez, Monsieur le Ministre — vous n'y songerez jamais assez — que ce tournant de l'histoire auquel nous sommes, c'est le bouleversement de toute l'ancienne diplomatie et, en tout cas, le bouleversement de toute l'ancienne économie politique. Songez que les événements européens qu'on prévoit par suite de mort, par suite d'événements faciles à prévoir, seront peu de chose à côté de cette expansion des puissances européennes à travers le monde, expansion à laquelle nous devons prendre part : en Afrique par des conquêtes matérielles, en Asie par des conquêtes industrielles.

Baron DENYS COCHIN.

(Chambre des Députés, séance du 27 nov. 1899.)

Je suis heureux de constater que nos industriels et nos commerçants s'habituent, de plus en plus, à regarder au delà des mers, et il me plairait infiniment que le nombre en augmentât; car — il ne faut pas se le dissimuler ni se bercer d'illusions — les intérêts économiques seront, de plus en plus, au loin, la base essentielle de l'action politique *(Très bien ! très bien !)* et les droits qui n'auraient pour assise que des parchemins y tendront, chaque jour davantage, à devenir purement théoriques. *(Très bien ! très bien !)*

DELCASSÉ, ministre des affaires étrangères.

(Chambre des Députés, séance du 24 nov. 1899.)

Si le pavillon persan n'expose qu'une petite partie des produits de la Perse, il renferme en lui un trésor précieux : ce sont les vœux ardents qu'elle forme pour la prospérité et pour la gloire de la France. Le poète Zaka el Molk a été heureux d'écrire ces vers à Téhéran et de les chanter en l'honneur de cette belle ville de Paris, terre nourricière de toutes les sciences et de tous les arts.

ZAKA EL MOLK.

(Vers inscrits sur un vitrail du palais persan de l'Exposition de 1900.)

PARIS. — 23, Rue de Provence, 23. — PARIS

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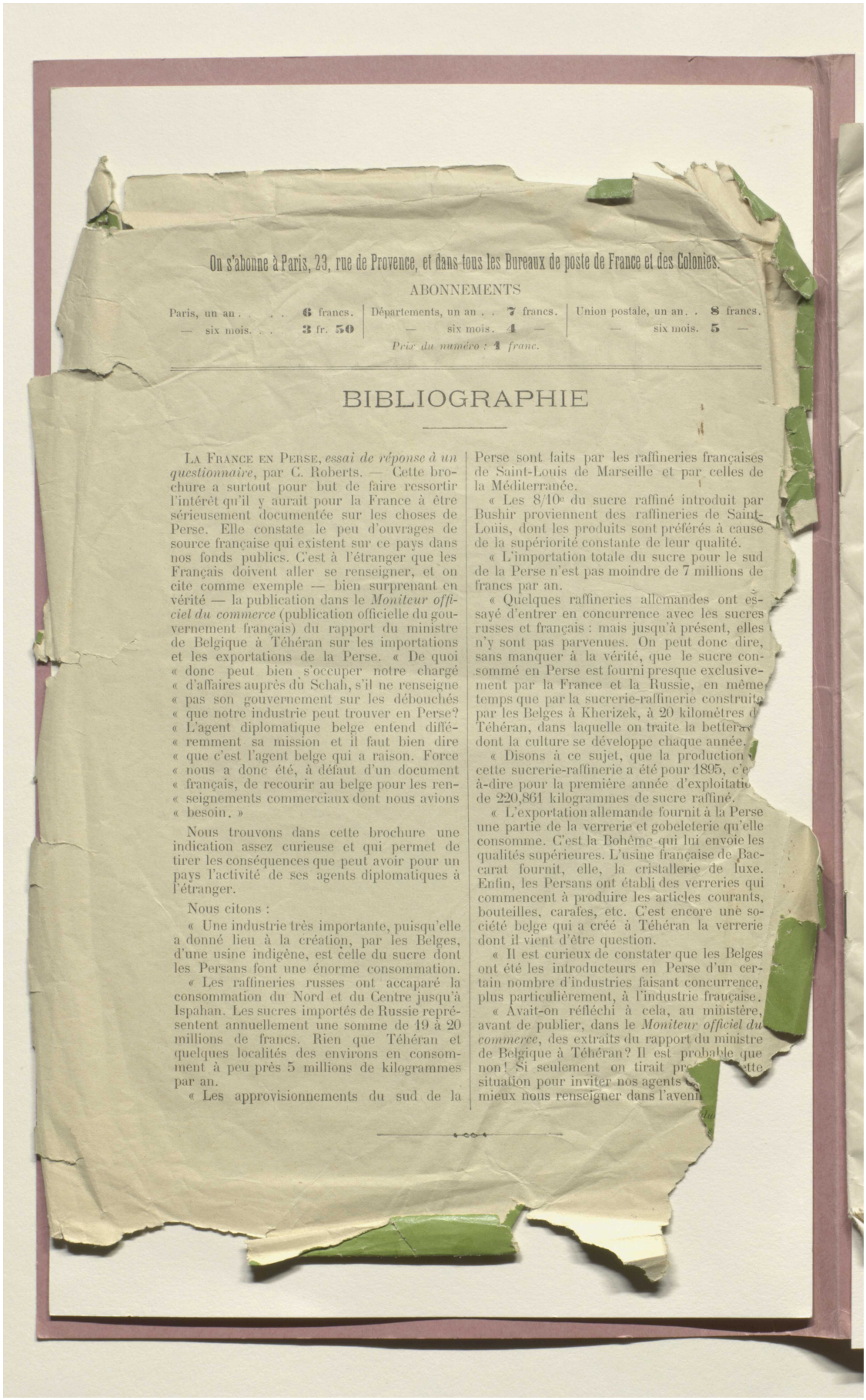

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— six mois. . . 3 fr. 50	— six mois. 4 —	— six mois. 5 —

Prix du numéro : 1 franc.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

La France en Perse, *essai de réponse à un questionnaire*, par C. Roberts. — Cette brochure a surtout pour but de faire ressortir l'intérêt qu'il y aurait pour la France à être sérieusement documentée sur les choses de Perse. Elle constate le peu d'ouvrages de source française qui existent sur ce pays dans nos fonds publics. C'est à l'étranger que les Français doivent aller se renseigner, et on cite comme exemple — bien surprenant en vérité — la publication dans le *Moniteur officiel du commerce* (publication officielle du gouvernement français) du rapport du ministre de Belgique à Téhéran sur les importations et les exportations de la Perse. « De quoi « donc peut bien s'occuper notre chargé « d'affaires auprès du Schah, s'il ne renseigne « pas son gouvernement sur les débouchés « que notre industrie peut trouver en Perse? « L'agent diplomatique belge entend différemment sa mission et il faut bien dire « que c'est l'agent belge qui a raison. Force « nous a donc été, à défaut d'un document « français, de recourir au belge pour les ren« seignements commerciaux dont nous avions « besoin. »

Nous trouvons dans cette brochure une indication assez curieuse et qui permet de tirer les conséquences que peut avoir pour un pays l'activité de ses agents diplomatiques à l'étranger.

Nous citons :

« Une industrie très importante, puisqu'elle a donné lieu à la création, par les Belges, d'une usine indigène, est celle du sucre dont les Persans font une énorme consommation.

« Les raffineries russes ont accaparé la consommation du Nord et du Centre jusqu'à Ispahan. Les sucres importés de Russie représentent annuellement une somme de 19 à 20 millions de francs. Rien que Téhéran et quelques localités des environs en consomment à peu près 5 millions de kilogrammes par an.

« Les approvisionnements du sud de la Perse sont faits par les raffineries françaises de Saint-Louis de Marseille et par celles de la Méditerranée.

« Les 8/10e du sucre raffiné introduit par Bushir proviennent des raffineries de Saint-Louis, dont les produits sont préférés à cause de la supériorité constante de leur qualité.

« L'importation totale du sucre pour le sud de la Perse n'est pas moindre de 7 millions de francs par an.

« Quelques raffineries allemandes ont essayé d'entrer en concurrence avec les sucres russes et français : mais jusqu'à présent, elles n'y sont pas parvenues. On peut donc dire, sans manquer à la vérité, que le sucre consommé en Perse est fourni presque exclusivement par la France et la Russie, en même temps que par la sucrerie-raffinerie construite par les Belges à Kherizek, à 20 kilomètres de Téhéran, dans laquelle on traite la betterave dont la culture se développe chaque année.

« Disons à ce sujet, que la production de cette sucrerie-raffinerie a été pour 1895, c'est-à-dire pour la première année d'exploitation de 220,861 kilogrammes de sucre raffiné.

« L'exportation allemande fournit à la Perse une partie de la verrerie et gobeleterie qu'elle consomme. C'est la Bohême qui lui envoie les qualités supérieures. L'usine française de Baccarat fournit, elle, la cristallerie de luxe. Enfin, les Persans ont établi des verreries qui commencent à produire les articles courants, bouteilles, carafes, etc. C'est encore une société belge qui a créé à Téhéran la verrerie dont il vient d'être question.

« Il est curieux de constater que les Belges ont été les introducteurs en Perse d'un certain nombre d'industries faisant concurrence, plus particulièrement, à l'industrie française.

« Avait-on réfléchi à cela, au ministère, avant de publier, dans le *Moniteur officiel du commerce*, des extraits du rapport du ministre de Belgique à Téhéran? Il est probable que non! Si seulement on tirait profit de cette situation pour inviter nos agents à mieux nous renseigner dans l'avenir.

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JUIN 1900

REVUE FRANCO-PERSANE

ÉCONOMIQUE ET POLITIQUE

PARAISSANT TOUS LES MOIS

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Pour la Perse amie

N'en serait-il pas un peu aujourd'hui des aspirations nationales comme de ces revendications populaires qui s'expriment toujours au nom de l'absolu à la façon des antiques théologies, alors que la vérité et, sinon la vérité — qui pourrait délimiter en effet le domaine de la vérité de celui de la force en de tels sujets? — du moins la logique des événements s'accommode si bien du relatif?

L'histoire du monde est pourtant là pour nous apprendre qu'il n'est pas un progrès, pas une amélioration dans la vie des peuples et des individus, qui n'aient été le produit d'une transaction entre les faits tels qu'ils résultent des efforts de la veille et le mieux pouvant provenir des efforts du lendemain.

Lord Curzon, par exemple, a écrit sur la Perse un ouvrage d'ailleurs remarquable. Clarté, précision, compétence technique, universalité des aptitudes, rien n'y manque, pas même l'humour. Nous ne pourrions faire grief qu'à sa perspicacité et nul doute que le vice-roi des Indes n'exerce lui-même aujourd'hui sa verve, d'ordinaire si prompte à jaillir, aux dépens de l'écrivain, qui, de la meilleure foi du monde, soutenait, il y a huit ans, que si l'Angleterre avait seule le droit de tout tenter dans les deux hémisphères, c'est qu'elle disposait seule du moyen d'aboutir. Ceci à propos de la Russie, de cette Russie qui, après avoir conduit ses locomotives à Tashkend, couvre en ce moment de ses rails les vastes espaces compris entre le 50e et le 60e parallèle, de la Baltique à la mer du Japon.

De grands événements se sont produits, depuis 1892, que lord Curzon n'avait pas prévus, ce qui prouve une fois de plus que les hommes d'Etat font toujours bien de se méfier de la manie prophétisante et que mieux vaudrait pour eux s'en tenir à diriger les événements de chaque jour en vue de déterminer au moment venu le résultat qu'ils souhaitent, que de conclure trop longtemps à l'avance de ce qui est à ce qui sera.

La Russie, la pieuse Russie, croit à sa mission providentielle. Elle se prépare à jouer

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ce rôle tutélaire, rêvé par Constantin quand il édifiait l'empire de Bysance, qui consiste à protéger le vieux monde contre le péril asiatique. Pour accomplir son œuvre, elle a commencé par ce chemin de fer qui rattache la mer Caspienne — mer encore en partie européenne — à l'ancien empire de Tamerlan.

Procédant avec une méthode digne surtout de l'attention des hommes de la valeur de lord Curzon, elle déroule en ce moment son Transsibérien autour de la Chine, et son œuvre de demain, son œuvre complémentaire sera, n'en doutons plus, le réseau qui reliera ses voies de communication d'Europe et d'Asie à la mer des Indes.

Cet ordonnancement logique dans la conception de ces vastes projets, la possibilité de leur réalisation par une alliance politique étroite entre la grande puissance territoriale qui obéit au Czar autocrate et la grande puissance financière qu'est la République française, étaient certainement rangés par lord Curzon dans le domaine des choses irréalisables. Aurait-il écrit, autrement, quand les Russes, voulant empêcher que des faits accomplis en dehors d'eux ne vinssent contrecarrer leur propre programme, s'étaient fait concéder par le gouvernement du Schah un droit d'option sur toutes les voies ferrées persanes, ces lignes extraordinaires :

« Personnellement, je ne pense pas que les diplomates russes de ce moment soient sages. En dehors du fait que leur attitude est de nature à confirmer les suspicions déjà entretenues par le Schah et par ses ministres, que les intérêts russes en Perse sont exclusivement personnels, et que s'ils préfèrent la stagnation au progrès, c'est qu'ils préfèrent un voisin débilité à un voisin robuste, je pense que, jugée à leur propre point de vue, la politique des Russes ne saurait manquer de retomber sur eux-mêmes. Je ne suis pas moins certain qu'un intervalle de dix ans durant lesquels les entreprises commerciales et industrielles récemment créées pourraient être sérieusement et tranquillement poursuivies ; durant lesquels les routes, ces naturels précurseurs des chemins de fer et leurs « approvisionneurs » naturels, seront construites à travers le pays ; durant lesquels on aura étudié et reconnu de plus près les richesses minérales et autres ressources de la Perse, et durant lesquels le système européen d'affaires (organisation et administration) deviendrait familier au peuple persan, doivent être dans l'avenir d'un plus grand avantage pour la Perse et pour les Européens ses amis.

« Et malgré tout, j'incline à penser que la puissance la mieux placée pour profiter de cet état de choses est, non la Russie, mais la Grande-Bretagne, d'abord *parce que c'est par les capitaux anglais et non par les capitaux russes que les ressources naturelles de ce pays pourront être développées dans l'intérim.* C'est sur des données les plus dignes de confiance qui existent aujourd'hui, que j'estime que l'Angleterre en fin de compte résoudra le problème des chemins de fer de la Perse, dont chaque année qui passe rend le rattachement au réseau britannique plus vraisemblable. Bien qu'en Perse il ne soit jamais sage d'envisager la question trop longtemps à l'avance et de prédire trop hardiment l'avenir, des circonstances peuvent se produire qui amèneraient les Russes à regretter leur conspiration d'aujourd'hui en hâtant la réalisation de ce qu'ils sont aujourd'hui si anxieux d'éviter. »

Tout le passage valait la peine d'une citation. Il montre comment les cerveaux les mieux équilibrés peuvent en arriver à mal voir dès qu'ils argumentent sur des données par trop absolues. Disons bien vite, afin d'éloigner toute accusation de parti pris, que nous pourrions étayer cette observation d'exemples pris un peu partout, en Russie tout autant qu'en Angleterre. Nous n'aurions pour ceci qu'à feuilleter les grands journaux russes parus en ces derniers temps. Nous consta-

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terions tout de suite qu'ici comme là un point de départ par trop exclusif doit amener des déductions au même degré excessives.

Serait-il possible de concilier des esprits argumentant à de pareilles distances? Etant de ceux qui croient, en dépit des apparences, à la bonne volonté humaine, alors qu'il s'agit de faire œuvre de civilisation ; étant même de ceux qui se laisseraient volontiers persuader que la civilisation est le produit d'une force mystérieuse qui sait s'imposer à son heure aux plus réfractaires, nous nous demandons pourquoi on n'essaierait pas, et pourquoi on n'essaierait pas surtout en France de concilier les extrêmes, en vue d'amener un *modus vivendi* qui, tout en respectant les légitimes aspirations de chacun, permettrait à notre pays d'accomplir en Orient son œuvre traditionnelle de civilisation et de progrès.

Tout semble inviter la France à s'engager dans cette voie, où son cœur aussi bien que son intérêt trouveraient des satisfactions immédiates. Eh oui! il est de mode aujourd'hui d'affecter un certain dédain pour la politique du cœur, pour ce que les diplomates de cette fin de siècle ont appelé la politique du sentiment. Disons donc, d'abord pour faire comme tout le monde, mais aussi pour parler vrai, que notre production nationale, que notre épargne pourraient trouver, dans le dénouement pacifique du conflit latent qui divise deux grands empires, dans les régions historiques qui séparent la mer Caspienne du golfe Persique, une source sérieuse d'avantages matériels. — Nous ajouterons : La France serait-elle encore la France, du jour où elle ne prêterait plus une oreille sympathique à des arguments de cette nature? — On aime la France en Perse. N'est-ce pas de la Perse que nous vint, au lendemain de nos épreuves de l'année terrible, le premier témoignage public de sympathie? Petit pays asiatique tant que vous voudrez, mais acte moral d'autant plus considérable, car les petits s'honorent doublement quand, insensibles à l'influence de la force triomphante, ils osent tendre la main au droit humilié. Aussi a-t-on gardé pieusement chez nous le souvenir du voyage du schah Nasr-Eddin en France, sous la présidence du maréchal de Mac-Mahon, ce voyage où des revues sensationnelles permirent à notre jeune armée de faire apparaître au grand jour sa reconstitution naissante, ce voyage où, en des fêtes mémorables en l'honneur du souverain persan, le peuple de Paris ressaisi retrouvait sa vieille gaieté et sa bonne humeur d'avant les désastres, et voyait resplendir dans le firmament l'étoile d'une France nouvelle.

Ceux qui savent mesurer à sa juste valeur l'influence des élans du cœur sur les déterminations de notre pays ne manqueront pas de tenir compte du parti que les hommes d'État pourraient tirer de cet état de l'âme française, au point de vue du développement moral et matériel de la Perse.

Il y a dans ce passé, dans ce passé dont la tradition a été entretenue par un nouveau voyage de S. M. Nasr-Eddin à l'occasion de l'Exposition de 1889, par une visite plus récente de l'héritier présomptif de la couronne, S. A. Mélik-Mansour-Mirza, par le séjour de plusieurs semaines que va faire en France, le nouveau souverain de l'Iran, S. M. Mouzafer-Eddin schah.

N'y a-t-il pas là de quoi déterminer en France un sérieux mouvement en faveur de l'européanisation de la Perse, par la mise en valeur des nombreuses richesses naturelles que recèle son sol? La France doit aimer ceux qui l'aiment. Ce journal est né de ce sentiment et il n'aura garde de s'en dédire.

C'est parce qu'ils portent un grand intérêt à la Perse que ceux qui l'ont fondé ont résolu d'étudier avec soin la situation de cet empire, les éléments de prospérité que recèle son sol. Ils ont cherché à déterminer les moyens d'action qui pourraient être le plus utilement employés pour assurer le développement moral et matériel de cet empire.

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C'est pour entretenir le courant de sympathie qui existe en France et pour préparer la collaboration effective de notre pays à la mise en valeur des richesses persanes, que nous avons résolu de diriger de plus en plus l'attention publique de ce côté, en la tenant, par une publication périodique spéciale, au courant des travaux que nous allions entreprendre. La France disposera ainsi d'une source de renseignements indépendants de toute contribution étrangère et aussi sûre que celle que possèdent déjà les Anglais, les Russes et même les Allemands.

Et comme nous avons la prétention de faire œuvre de gens pratiques, et non de ratiociner au pays des chimères, qu'il soit bien entendu que nous nous sommes parfaitement rendu compte des situations internationales existantes. Nous savons — Lord Curzon n'a rien dissimulé à ce sujet — que l'Angleterre dit : — elle ne soutient peut-être plus aussi fort ce qu'elle a longtemps crié si haut — la Perse est à moi. Nous n'ignorons pas que la Russie estime que son œuvre d'Orient ne sera complète, que lorsque elle aura rattaché ses lignes de rails d'Europe et d'Asie à un point de la mer des Indes et que le territoire persan qui l'en sépare ne saurait dans ces conditions être abandonné par elle aux convoitises d'un voisin au tempérament par trop envahissant.

Nous savons, enfin, que la France est l'alliée de la Russie et qu'elle se doit à son alliance ; mais nous ne savons pas moins qu'il lui sera d'autant plus facile de rester fidèle à cette alliance, que son intérêt, que l'intérêt même de la Russie peut être mis ici d'accord avec le respect des engagements contractés.

Nous n'ignorons donc aucune des données du problème, nous en voyons, au contraire, toutes les difficultés, mais nous n'en sommes pas moins résolus à mettre toute notre bonne volonté et toute notre énergie en œuvre pour le résoudre. Et pourquoi ne pas dire toute notre pensée à ce sujet ? C'est justement parce que nous avons envisagé tous les obstacles qui nous séparent du but, que nous avons de bonnes raisons pour avoir foi dans le succès de notre entreprise.

De l'Europe à l'Inde par voies ferrées

La Russie sait parler aux yeux.

Les visiteurs de l'Exposition universelle auront beau n'avoir fait que traverser les grandes avenues bordées de palais, que jeter un coup d'œil accablé par la monotonie des mêmes choses vues dans les galeries internationales sous les étiquettes aux noms de désinences plus ou moins variées, il est une chose qu'ils n'oublieront plus, c'est le Kremlin du Trocadéro.

Ils auront vu là des Tartares authentiques servir, en costumes blancs, des liqueurs diverses dans une cour intérieure d'un caractère moscovite bien accentué, mais dont l'un des côtés est fermé par une porte aux faïences bleues d'une architecture tout à fait persane. Dans le fond, comme encadré par cette porte, un tableau d'une originalité voulue représentant, au-dessus de la confusion étudiée des fourrures, des produits du sol et de la main-d'œuvre russe, d'une grande salle d'exposition, l'entrée d'une ville persane — est-ce Tauris, est-ce Isfahan ? — avec ses chameaux, ses costumes populaires et ses minarets.

Tous ceux qui passèrent par là, venus des quatre coins du monde, ne sauraient plus séparer, dans leur souvenir, ce lambeau de la Perse entrevue, du majestueux monument élevé par la Russie à l'Exposition de 1900, pas plus qu'ils ne sépareront désormais les murs rouges de l'exposition de la Chine, les blouses bleues des Chinois apparus sur des balcons abrités par des toits bizarres, des flèches surmontées de l'aigle d'or à deux têtes qui brille au grand soleil.

L'imagination de tous, humbles et grands, suivra dans leurs courses sans fin, à travers les paysages du Nord, les wagons aux inscriptions russes de ce train de la Compagnie des Express européens simulant un voyage de Moscou à Pékin. Cet ensemble constitue, n'est-il pas vrai, une merveilleuse leçon de choses... des choses d'après 1900.

La Russie, disions-nous, sait parler aux yeux ; elle ne sait pas moins faire penser tous les cerveaux, fussent-ils les plus réfractaires, par habitude, aux abstractions et aux déductions de la logique !

Nous ne sortirons pas du palais russe du Trocadéro pour en fournir la preuve. Revoyez cette salle aux murs couverts de cartes à grande échelle, où de

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larges traits, s'imposant au regard, marquent le tracé de ce colossal chemin de fer transsibérien appelé à établir, sans conteste, la grandeur de la Russie à la fin du XIXe siècle. Après des heures passées dans cette salle, il resterait encore quelque chose à étudier, tant on a eu soin d'accumuler les détails, d'aller au devant des incompétences techniques par des réductions en fac-similé des ouvrages d'art, par des photographies, par des graphiques...

Le Transcaspien porte les locomotives russes au pays de Tamerlan, jusqu'à Taschkend; demain, c'est le Transsibérien qui reliera l'Europe à l'empire du Milieu, et après le Transsibérien, c'est le grand Indo-Européen qui est appelé à marquer la troisième phase de l'action civilisatrice de la Russie d'Europe dans l'Asie, sa voisine.

Le chemin de fer Indo-Européen, c'est-à-dire la grande ligne qui reliera Moscou et, par Moscou, le réseau de chemins de fer d'Europe à l'océan Indien, hante en ce moment tous les esprits en Russie. Comme on explique maintenant les bonnes raisons — ces raisons qui avaient échappé à lord Curzon en 1892 — qui ont amené la Russie à entraver les opérations de tous ceux — et ils furent légion — qui, depuis le baron de Reuter, en 1892, avaient songé au grand avenir des voies ferrées persanes.

On formerait de gros volumes avec les nombreux articles consacrés par la presse russe, depuis quelques mois, aux chemins de fer de la Perse. Nous nous contenterons de résumer un volume qui a paru il y a quelques semaines, en Russie. Il les contient tous, en ce sens qu'il semble exprimer le sentiment général des Russes à l'égard des nouveaux chemins de fer à créer en Asie, soit par la Russie, soit sous le contrôle du gouvernement de S. M. le Tzar.

Le volume dont nous parlons a pour titre : *Un chemin de fer à travers la Perse*, et pour auteur M. P.-A. Rittich. Il vient d'être édité à Saint-Pétersbourg par A.-A. Porokhovchtchik. Tous les journaux russes l'ont commenté et en partie reproduit. Nous nous contenterons de le résumer et de publier une réduction de la carte qui l'accompagne, cette carte nous dispensant de longs commentaires.

Voici donc l'argumentation de M. Rittich :

« La guerre sud-africaine a ce bon côté qu'elle nous ouvre les yeux sur ce qui constitue notre mission politique aux Indes et en Perse. Tôt ou tard, nous nous rendrons maîtres du Séistan et d'un port dans l'océan Indien ou plutôt dans la baie d'Ormouz. Par là se terminera notre mission historique au Sud et nous n'aurons plus qu'à nous occuper de l'Orient. En vue de nous frayer une issue sur l'océan Indien, nous devons construire un chemin de fer traversant la Perse dans la direction du Nord au Sud. Ce chemin de fer nous donnera de grands revenus, car il constituera la ligne de transit universel sans compter qu'il sera d'une très grande importance locale.

« Depuis Pierre le Grand, notre politique n'a cessé de graviter vers les Indes. Maintenant, nous sommes aux portes de cette contrée et nous nous en emparerons au premier conflit qui se produira entre l'Angleterre et la Russie.

« Quand nous réussirons à réunir le réseau de nos chemins de fer avec celui des Indes, en traversant l'Afghanistan, tout le commerce de l'Indoustan et de l'extrême Asie sera entre nos mains. Alors les rôles s'intervertiront : c'est l'Europe occidentale qui, jusqu'à présent, nous fournit tous les produits exotiques et à laquelle nous payons, de ce fait, des millions de roubles de commission; dès que nous aurons atteint le but susindiqué, nous deviendrons les commissionnaires de l'Europe et celle-ci sera forcée de nous rembourser avec usure les millions qu'elle a su nous prendre.

« En ce moment expire le délai de notre traité avec la Perse, en vertu duquel cette puissance ne pouvait, pendant 15 ans, accorder de concession pour la construction de chemins de fer. Il faut maintenant renouveler ce traité, et construire le chemin de fer dont nous venons de parler. La ligne de Konia à Bassora viâ Bagdad crée un chemin de transit entre Changhaï et Constantinople et compromet de ce fait l'avenir du Transsibérien. Pour parer à ce danger, nous devons sans hésiter construire la ligne perpendiculaire à la précédente, et cela nous pouvons le faire sans que qui que ce soit puisse nous en empêcher.

« Les avantages résultant de la réunion du Transcaucasien avec le port de Bender-Abbas sont énormes. C'est un coup de massue qui annihile toute l'importance des chemins de fer d'Anatolie, et auquel les Anglais sont incapables de riposter. Toutes les lignes à l'ouest de Téhéran et de Bender-Abbas traverseront des contrées désertes et peu peuplées; elles n'offriront donc aux Anglais aucun intérêt commercial.

« Quant à la ligne de chemin de fer allant de Bouchir au centre de la Perse, elle sera beaucoup trop coûteuse et incomparablement moins importante que la ligne qui reliera Bender-Abbas avec Tiflis en passant par Téhéran.

« La ligne de transit réunissant Changhaï et Constantinople offre l'inconvénient énorme résultant du transbordement à Constantinople et de la nécessité de traverser le golfe Persique, large d'environ 1,000 kilomètres. Quant au service des postes et des passagers, il nous est assuré d'avance.

« Bien d'autres personnes que nous ont envisagé

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cette question sous ce même jour, tels le baron de Reuter, M. le général Folkenhagen, MM. Khomiakov, baron de Kort et Tretiakousky.

« Le 25 juillet 1872, une concession fut accordée au baron de Reuter pour la construction d'un chemin de fer partant de la mer Caspienne et aboutissant au golfe Persique. Aux termes du traité, le concessionnaire était autorisé à exploiter pendant 70 ans tous les gisements de la Perse (sauf les gisements de métaux et de pierres précieux), tant sur les terres de l'État que des particuliers qui n'exploiteraient pas leur sous-sol depuis au moins 5 ans avant la présentation de la demande pour la susdite concession. La Compagnie de M. de Reuter avait le droit de construire des embranchements aboutissant aux mines exploitées par elle et ce terrain requis par ces embranchements lui était donné gratuitement. En outre, cette Compagnie ne devait payer aucun droit d'entrée ni aucun autre impôt pour tout ce qui avait trait à l'exploitation des mines et le gouvernement persan se contentait de participer aux bénéfices de cette exploitation dans la mesure de 15 %.

« La susdite Compagnie avait, en outre, le droit exclusif d'exploiter les forêts de la Perse pendant une période de 70 ans en payant au gouvernement 15 % sur les bénéfices nets de cette exploitation. Elle avait aussi le droit exclusif de faire tous nouveaux travaux d'irrigation et de vendre l'eau aux habitants à un prix approuvé par le gouvernement et d'utiliser tous les cours d'eau non utilisés, toujours en versant 15 % des bénéfices au gouvernement.

« La Compagnie susdite avait la préférence pour le droit de créer des établissements de crédit en Perse ainsi que pour y établir des usines de gaz, d'y construire des chemins, des télégraphes, des moulins, des fabriques, des usines de matériel de chemin de fer, etc., et pour exécuter tous travaux en vue d'agrandir et d'embellir la capitale du royaume et d'y organiser le service postal.

« En 1874, notre gouvernement s'était beaucoup intéressé à la concession accordée au général Folkenhagen. Ce dernier avait obtenu la concession pour la construction d'un chemin de fer de Djoulta sur l'Arax à Tauris. Folkenhagen avait aussi demandé et obtenu l'autorisation d'exploiter les houillères situées dans un rayon de 50 milles anglais de la ligne du chemin de fer susdit. Bref, la concession de Folkenhagen était d'autant plus intéressante qu'il agissait pour le compte du gouvernement russe.

« Le 29 juin 1878, la maison de banque Alleon obtint la concession pour la construction et l'exploitation de la ligne de chemin de fer de Rescht à Téhéran. Le concessionnaire ne bénéficiait d'aucun privilège spécial, on lui avait cependant donné, à titre gracieux, le droit d'utiliser tout le matériel de construction et le charbon dont il aurait besoin pour réaliser son projet et pour exploiter la ligne une fois qu'elle serait construite.

« Le 26 décembre 1881, la concession pour la construction de la ligne Rescht-Téhéran fut donnée à M. Boital, le premier concessionnaire n'ayant pu mener à bien ses projets. M. Boital fut en même temps autorisé à construire un embranchement allant d'Enchiman à Féchenda où se trouvent des mines de charbon. Boital devait construire une ligne Decauville. Il ne bénéficiait d'aucun privilège spécial et ses revenus n'étaient pas garantis par l'État. Il n'eut, du reste, pas plus de succès que son prédécesseur.

« Les derniers concessionnaires russes furent : MM. Khomiakov, Tretiakov, Korf et l'ingénieur Palachkowski. Ces messieurs avaient été autorisés par l'empereur de demander la concession pour la construction d'un chemin de fer de Rescht à la baie de Tchakbar, dans l'océan Indien. Ils ne devaient pas participer à l'exécution du susdit projet, mais ils s'étaient engagés à céder leur concession au gouvernement russe dès qu'ils l'auraient obtenue. Aux termes d'un traité provisoire, la Banque d'Escompte de Paris s'était chargée de réaliser un capital d'obligations de 300 millions de francs. L'affaire était absolument sérieuse et le gouvernement persan se montrait très accommodant vis-à-vis de nous. Nasr Eddin était tout à fait conquis à ce projet, et l'on espérait terminer l'affaire en 1889, lors de son séjour à Saint-Pétersbourg. Mais il se produisit un fait inattendu : le ministre Giers et M. Zinovieff arrachèrent au Schah la promesse que, pendant quinze ans, il n'accorderait la concession pour la construction de ce chemin de fer à personne, sans le consentement du gouvernement russe.

« En agissant ainsi, on prétexta la crainte de l'Angleterre. Celle-ci, disait-on, demanderait une compensation, et nous ne serons pas vis-à-vis d'elle en état de sauvegarder nos intérêts et nos droits exclusifs.

« Il y a lieu de croire, cependant, que le vrai motif qui dicta la conduite à Zinovieff était de nature économique. On sait que c'est lui qui convainquit le gouvernement de la nécessité d'abolir le transit en Perse par Batoum. Cette mesure, jointe aux droits de protection sur le coton, nous vaut en effet quelques succès commerciaux dans l'Azerbaïdjan et dans les autres provinces de la Perse septentrionale.

« Dans son rapport annuel de 1898, notre consul général à Asfahan nous dit que les marchandises russes importées en Perse constituent déjà 1/10 de la totalité des marchandises importées dans ce pays et que leur valeur s'élève à environ 334,650 toumans.

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(le touman vaut environ 5 francs). Quant à l'exportation des produits persans en Russie, elle se chiffre par 304,150 toumans. La victoire commerciale due à la circonspection de M. Zinovieff est, par conséquent, très appréciable.

« Il est de l'avis, que beaucoup de personnes partagent, qu'en prolongeant nos lignes de chemins de fer jusqu'à l'Océan nous donnerions à la marchandise anglaise la possibilité d'inonder les marchés de la Perse septentrionale, au détriment de nos propres intérêts. Ces personnes croient que l'Angleterre se heurte en Perse à une barrière naturelle que son commerce ne peut franchir. Cela était vrai dans le passé, alors que les brigandages continuels rendaient les montagnes du Chiraz infranchissables aux caravanes. Mais il n'en est plus de même en ce moment?

« En vertu de la convention qui ouvre le Karoun à la navigation libre, les marchandises anglaises peuvent être transportées à Schouster, de là, elles peuvent être dirigées sur Téhéran via Isfahan, sur une route carrossable récemment construite.

« Les calculs de Zinovieff sont, en conséquence, erronés. Les Anglais ont contourné notre concession. Notre commerce n'en souffre pas encore, attendu que nos marchandises, loin d'être évincées du nord de la Perse, gagnent du terrain et se frayent un chemin vers le sud de ce pays.

« Malgré cela sont nombreux les hommes d'État chez nous qui estiment que, construire le chemin de fer de la Caspienne à Bender-Abas, c'est faire le jeu de l'Angleterre.

« Nous ne partageons pas cette manière de voir. Une ligne de chemins de fer allant de Kara-Kilisa à Tauris-Téhéran-Mechhed-Kouchka ne doit inspirer aucune appréhension même aux gens les plus peureux, attendu qu'elle ne pourra profiter aux Anglais d'aucune façon : elle ne pourra que rendre des services à notre commerce en évinçant le commerce anglais.

« Plus tard, quand nous aurons un terrain ferme sous les pieds, nous pourrons toujours construire la branche de Téhéran à Bender-Abbas. Notre diplomatie doit, en ce moment, faire tous ses efforts pour obtenir le monopole exclusif pour la construction des chemins de fer persans. Cela est possible : preuve en font les concessions accordées à Khomiakov et à Folkenhagen.

« Notre gouvernement a, très probablement, pris en considération ce qui précède, car nous avons entendu dire que, dans le procès-verbal de la réunion de la Commission chargée d'élaborer le projet des chemins de fer persans, se trouve formulée la décision de construire dès à présent un chemin de fer jusqu'à Tauris. Les considérations stratégiques nous obligent, en outre, de prolonger la ligne de Kouchka à Méched. Le premier pas est donc fait. La ligne de Kara-Kilis à Tauris (383 verstes) et l'embranchement de Méched (300 verstes) seront construits dans un prochain avenir. Plus tard, il sera indispensable de prolonger cette ligne jusqu'à Téhéran, distant de Méched de 840 verstes, ce qui ne constitue que 2/5 de la distance qui sépare Kara-Kilis de Kouchka (2,042 verstes).

« Si l'on prend en considération que la construction du tronçon de Téhéran à Méched ne comporte point de difficultés techniques, on se convainct de la nécessité de réunir ces deux centres en raison des avantages politiques, commerciaux et stratégiques qui en résulteront.

« Les avantages politiques sont les suivants :

1° Nous nous rendrons de fait maîtres de la partie de la Perse qui nous appartenait en vertu du traité de 1723. Jamais nous ne nous sommes définitivement dessaisis de ces possessions : nous ne les avons cédées que par « amitié et amour », ainsi que cela est dit dans les traités ultérieurs. Peu de personnes ont connaissance de ce fait qui, pour cela, n'en est pas moins indiscutable. Et nous rentrerons dans nos droits au moment où la Perse se décomposera ;

2° Le chemin de fer en question augmentera notre prestige et l'on ne discutera plus pour savoir qui des deux, de l'Angleterre ou de la Russie, est la plus puissante ;

3° Ce chemin de fer sera le premier pas fait vers la fusion des deux puissances voisines, car actuellement un pays est dépendant de l'autre quand il l'est au point de vue économique.

« Les intérêts des Persans seront identiques avec les nôtres et les sujets du Schah nous considéreront comme leurs bienfaiteurs. Le chemin de fer, cela est certain, enrichira le pays. Les déserts se peupleront et fleuriront : c'est à cela que doit aboutir notre mission civilisatrice. »

Tel est le résumé, aussi fidèle qu'il était possible de le présenter, en quelques lignes, du volume de M. Rittich.

La situation financière de la Russie lui permettrait-elle en ce moment de réaliser ce grand programme? D'excellents esprits, en Russie, ont exprimé des doutes — des doutes d'enfants gâtés peut-être — à ce sujet. C'est ainsi que nous avons trouvé le curieux article qu'on va lire dans un numéro récent des *Novoïe Vremia* :

« Le correspondant du *Times* à Saint-Pétersbourg, dit le *Novoïe Vrémia*, examine notre article tendant à prouver la nécessité d'établir notre influence en Perse, admet que nos paroles expriment les intentions

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de la Russie, mais que la réalisation de ces désirs est très douteuse.

« Le correspondant du journal anglais base son opinion sur l'attitude de la Russie en ce qui concerne la construction des chemins de fer en Perse. Il estime que la Russie n'a que le souci d'empêcher tout autre puissance de construire ces lignes et qu'elle aime mieux ne rien entreprendre dans cette direction.

« Nous ne chercherons pas à approfondir l'exactitude des renseignements du correspondant susdit. L'état actuel de nos finances nous empêche peut-être réellement de procéder à la réalisation de cette immense entreprise qui consisterait à construire un chemin de fer partant de notre territoire et aboutissant à l'océan Indien ou bien au golfe Persique. S'il en est ainsi, nous devons à tout prix opposer notre *veto* à toutes les velléités des étrangers désireux de construire des chemins de fer dans l'Iran. Cela ne nous empêche pas de songer à établir notre influence en Perse par d'autres moyens.

« Ces moyens sont nombreux. L'un d'eux consisterait à y envoyer des agents diplomatiques. Nous n'avons pas un seul consulat sur tout le littoral méridional de la Perse.

« Ces derniers temps nous avons fait quelques progrès vers le Sud. Un consulat a été établi à Isfahan et un vice-consulat à Seïstan. C'est trop peu. Nous manquons de représentants dans des centres très importants tels que Chiraz, Yezd, Kirman, Bender-Bouchir, Bender-Abbas, Lingah, en sorte que nous sommes très souvent mal renseignés sur ce qui se passe dans la partie méridionale de la Perse. L'Allemagne a déjà nommé un consul à Bender-Bouchir, et nous autres, anciens voisins des Persans, n'y avons pas encore songé.

« C'est encore l'argent qui nous fait défaut, attendu que la création de nouveaux consulats exige des frais considérables, mais ces frais ne sont pas exorbitants au point que nous ne puissions les supporter. Point n'est nécessaire de clouer le consul à telle ou telle autre place déterminée. En cela, il faut s'inspirer de l'exemple que nous donnent les Anglais qui nomment un seul agent dans les rayons où le rôle de ce dernier est plutôt diplomatique que commercial.

« C'est ainsi que nos concurrents n'ont qu'un seul consul sur le littoral sud de la Caspienne ; son activité s'étend à Resht et à Asterabad.

« Il serait, en outre, très utile de nommer des agents commerciaux dans les ports principaux de la Perse Méridionale, afin que ces agents y propageassent notre influence commerciale. Le commerce russe en Perse est exclusivement entre les mains d'Arméniens qui n'ont en vue que leur propre intérêt, sans se soucier du moyen servant à le satisfaire.

« Ces négociants arméniens compromettent notre prestige au lieu de le relever. Quant aux rares consuls que nous entretenons chez nos voisins, ils ne sont pas en mesure de faire grand'chose dans cette direction. Les affaires courantes absorbent la majeure partie de



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leur temps en sorte qu'ils n'ont pas le loisir d'étudier le marché de la place où ils résident. Ils font très rarement des tournées dans la contrée (celle accomplie l'année passée par le consul d'Isfahan dans le Sud constitue une exception unique) et par suite beaucoup de faits très importants leur échappent.

« Les Anglais, eux, ont des agents commerciaux. Ce sont pour la plupart des représentants de grandes maisons de commerce qui possèdent des succursales dans tous les centres les plus importants du pays. Quant aux négociants russes, on ne peut attendre d'eux qu'ils rendent des services analogues à leur pays, étant donné leur inertie innée, leur développement inférieur, leur moins grande envergure et l'absence de garanties nécessaires. Notre commerce en Perse n'est pas encore suffisamment enraciné, il faut, à cet effet, préparer le terrain et c'est au gouvernement qu'incombe ce devoir.

« Il est facile d'indiquer une série d'autres mesures servant à consolider l'influence russe en Perse. Or, il est absolument nécessaire de la consolider, car la Perse méridionale est menacée d'un grand danger.

« A l'Ouest, c'est l'Allemagne qui la presse ; à l'Est, c'est l'Angleterre. Nous ne pouvons admettre qu'après l'Asie Mineure, la Perse soit partagée entre les Anglais et les Allemands. »

Les *Novoïe Vremia* exagèrent un peu la situation. Si nous nous en rapportons aux articles publiés en ces derniers temps par la presse allemande, il semblerait au contraire qu'il ne serait pas désagréable à Berlin que la Russie affirmât son action en Perse par des actes formels. Est-il bien sûr, d'autre part, que si la France pouvait trouver sur le marché persan un débouché facile pour les produits de son commerce et de son industrie — et à cet effet l'intervention sympathique de la Russie lui pourrait être d'un concours inappréciable — est-il bien certain, disons-nous, que si la France pouvait trouver en Perse la juste rémunération de ses efforts, elle ne s'empresserait pas de fournir à son alliée les moyens d'action dont elle dispose pour l'aider à accomplir son œuvre civilisatrice en Asie ?

LA PERSE A L'EXPOSITION

Le pavillon de la Perse s'élève dans la rue des Nations, entre le pavillon du Pérou et celui du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg.

Construit d'après les plans de M. Mériat, architecte, il est la reproduction exacte du palais de Medresseye-Maderschachi, qui fait à Ispahan l'admiration des voyageurs.

Les murs extérieurs du pavillon sont revêtus de riches céramiques fabriquées à Paris. A droite et à gauche de la porte d'honneur, haute de quatorze mètres, qui s'ouvre sur une petite place très gracieuse, sont placés deux larges panneaux en céramique représentant, en un dessin élégant où les couleurs sont d'une harmonie très douce, deux archers de l'ancienne Perse. Au-dessus de la porte, encadrée par deux faisceaux de drapeaux, se détache la couronne impériale soulignée par cette inscription en langue persane : « Es soultané Mozaffer ed Din Schah Kadjar ».



LE GÉNÉRAL KITABGI KHAN

Le commissaire général du pavillon de la Perse est le général Kitabgi Khan, homme aimable et d'une très grande distinction, qui parle avec aisance le français. Le général Kitabgi Khan a conduit très habilement l'installation du pavillon ; il était secondé par ses fils : MM. Vincent et Edouard Kitabgi et par M. E. Henri.

La direction de la section a été confiée à un Persan très érudit, le cheick Mohammed Hassou.

LE SALON D'HONNEUR

En pénétrant dans le salon d'honneur, on s'arrête ébloui par les merveilles que l'on a sous les yeux. Toutes les pièces les plus rares, les plus belles, les plus riches, ont été exposées dans ce salon. On se croirait transporté en un pays de rêve. Au surplus, deux grands vitraux, laissant passer une lumière

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indécise et mystérieuse, ajoutent encore à la beauté du tableau.

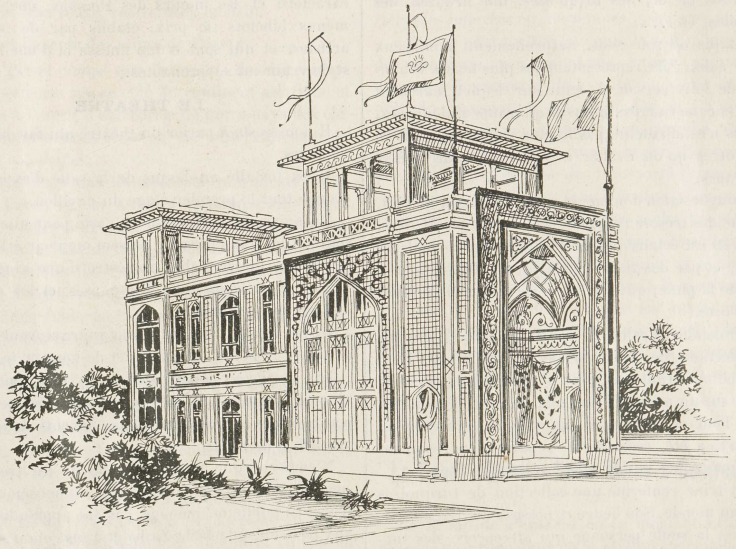
Lorsque le schah de Perse visitera l'Exposition universelle — il sera à Paris vers le 27 ou 28 juillet — il recevra ses invités dans ce salon d'honneur. Aussi, à son intention, y a-t-on élevé un divan impérial vraiment digne du souverain à qui il est destiné.

Le divan lui-même et les coussins sont recouverts de tapis de velours de soie frangés de broderies d'or. Une couronne impériale, en or, agrémentée de pierres précieuses, surmonte le divan et, de cette couronne, retombent en plis harmonieux des draperies qui moutonnent, soyeuses, sur les degrés du divan.

Derrière ce dernier, plaqué à plat, se trouve un drap d'or, dit de « pière » avec les deux lions symboliques.

Sur l'un des vitraux, sont écrits des vers, du poète persan Zaka el Molk, dont voici la traduction :

« Le gouvernement de S. M. I. le Schah fit élever ce pavillon en l'honneur de l'Exposition universelle de 1900. Au milieu de tous les palais qu'elle renferme, il rappellera l'art des siècles disparus en même temps qu'il attestera les progrès de l'époque présente.



LE PALAIS DE LA PERSE

Le monde entier est frappé d'admiration devant l'œuvre gigantesque, à laquelle la France, par un acte d'hospitalité très gracieuse, a convié toutes les nations. Si le pavillon persan n'expose qu'une petite partie des produits de la Perse, il renferme, en lui, un trésor précieux : ce sont les vœux ardents qu'elle forme pour la prospérité et pour la gloire de la France. Le poète Zaka el Molk a été heureux d'écrire ces vers à Téhéran et de les chanter en l'honneur de cette belle ville de Paris, terre nourricière de toutes les sciences et de tous les arts. »

Voyons, maintenant, les curiosités, œuvres d'art et antiquités contenues dans le salon d'honneur.

Tout d'abord, mentionnons spécialement un pavillon sacré, religieusement conservé, et que peu de visiteurs pourront admirer, roulé, qu'il est, dans une housse, à l'abri de la poussière. C'est un chant de gloire écrit par le célèbre calligraphe Yagoud, qui fut secrétaire de Motta Riza, vénéré encore de nos jours à Khorassan.

Yagoud a composé six poèmes qu'il a écrits de sa main, en vert, en bleu et en rouge, sur des pièces de soie et dont ses compatriotes ne veulent pas se séparer. On conçoit parfaitement le prix que les Persans attachent à ces feuillets, si l'on considère que depuis huit cents ans, aucun des calligraphes de la Perse — et cependant certains sont de véritables

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artistes — n'a pu arriver à imiter l'écriture de Yagoud.

Mais, continuons notre visite. Quatre vitrines en bois laqué blanc renferment des trésors inestimables : poteries à reflets métalliques datant du Ve siècle ; faïences du style bizantin ; des bronzes, des coffrets en argent et en or, finement ciselés ; des armes, aux manches d'ivoire incrustée d'or ; des potiches en argent ; des figurines ornées d'émaux, de turquoises et de rubis ; des poteries ajourées ; des justaucorps du siècle dernier, damasquinés et incrustés d'or ; une collection extraordinaire de monnaies anciennes, des pendants d'oreilles, de petits coraux contenus dans des gardes en or, des turquoises, une firouzée, des émeraudes, etc....

Les tapis de soie sont, naturellement, nombreux dans ce salon ; ils représentent les plus beaux échantillons de l'art persan et celui sur lequel marchent les visiteurs ne vaut pas moins de quarante mille francs. Ce tapis n'est d'ailleurs pas le plus riche, puisqu'il en est d'autres qu'on évalue à plus de quatre-vingt mille francs.

La nuit, le salon d'honneur qui, comme on le voit, renferme des trésors rappelant les contes des *Mille et une Nuits* est éclairé par un immense soleil établi au plafond, et par des gerbes électriques, disposées aux angles de la pièce, qui l'inondent de lueurs électriques multicolores.

Les trois autres salles du pavillon sont occupées par des collections de tapis anciens et modernes. L'un d'eux, ne mesurant pas plus d'un mètre et demi de hauteur sur un mètre de largeur, est d'un prix inestimable. Tout en soie et en or, ce tapis, qui était en morceaux, a été, récemment, réparé et sa restauration n'a pas coûté moins de trente mille francs.

Une vitrine renferme une collection de turquoises unique au monde. Son heureux possesseur, Bagad-Ali, est même la seule personne qui ait encore des turquoises provenant d'une des plus riches mines de turquoises de la Perse, aujourd'hui complètement épuisée. Certaines des turquoises que nous montre Bagad Ali, avec orgueil, sont réellement belles, d'une couleur limpide, d'un poli brillant, et ne présentant à leur surface ni raies, ni filets, ni inégalités, elles atteignent la grosseur d'un petit œuf.

LES POÈTES

Les poètes persans figurent en bonne place à l'Exposition.

On sait que les Persans sont très fiers de leurs poètes ; l'un des plus illustres est le célèbre Ferdousi qui écrivit le *Schah-Nameh* ; il en est d'autres également très en faveur, notamment : Nisami Chakani, Ferid-Eddin-Ahar, Djellah Eddin Rumi que l'on considère comme le plus grand poète religieux de la Perse ; Saadi, Khamsé Anzami, Chahnamé Ferdossi, etc., etc. Or, un des plus grands collectionneurs de livres et d'objets d'art de la Perse, Gavamé Defter, a réuni dans une longue vitrine des œuvres de plusieurs grands poètes persans : de Saadi, de Djellah Eddin Rumi, de Khamsé Anzami, de Chahnamé Ferdossi... Ces livres admirables, écrits à la main par des calligraphes, sont illustrés, presque à toutes les pages, de figurines en couleur qui sont de véritables chefs-d'œuvre de l'art persan.

Gavamé Defter expose, en outre, de riches instruments de musique, des tableaux reflétant bien le caractère et les mœurs des Persans, une foule de menus bibelots de prix, établis par de véritables artistes, et qui sont d'une finesse et d'une beauté de style vraiment surprenantes.

LE THÉATRE

Il nous reste à parler du théâtre qui fait la joie des visiteurs.

Il est installé au-dessus de la salle d'exposition et occupe tout le premier étage du pavillon.

La scène est suffisamment vaste pour que les danseurs et les danseuses s'y puisent mouvoir à l'aise. Un orchestre, un véritable orchestre d'une vingtaine de musiciens, accompagne les danses et les exercices d'escrime asiatiques.

Un chef conduit les musiciens qui se servent d'aouds, de nays, de nefirs, de fenons et de kématchie.

Les musiciens jouent sur un rythme lent, monotone qui surprend et, même, indispose les spectateurs peu habitués aux brusques changements de mode des musiciens persans.

N'empêche que le théâtre obtient un très grand succès. D'ailleurs la salle est très luxueusement décorée et le public ne ménage pas ses applaudissements aux *artistes*, à la belle Zaïba et à ses camarades.

Telle est, décrite à grands traits, l'intéressante et très belle exposition des Persans. Elle sera un précieux enseignement pour les visiteurs qui s'apercevront que la Perse n'est pas, ainsi qu'on se le figure malheureusement trop, une puissance anémiée où tous les arts sont morts et dont les habitants sont incapables d'un mouvement quelconque.

Leur exposition est là pour dissiper cette grosse erreur.

Géographie Minière

La Perse est un des pays du monde les plus riches en minerais de toute nature.

On y compte généralement six zones métallifères correspondant aux divisions suivantes :

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1° **District Nord-Ouest** (Azerbaïjan). — Fer, plomb, cuivre, salpêtre, houille, mercure, marbres ;

2° **Districts Nord et Ouest de l'Elburz.** — Très riches en fer et en houille. Mines dans des positions extrêmement avantageuses sur les bords de la mer Caspienne et sur le versant sud de l'Elburz sur lequel est bâti Téhéran ;

3° **District Nord-Est** (Khorassan). — Cuivre, fer, plomb, houille, or, sel, turquoises de Nishapour ;

4° **District du Sud-Est** (Kerman). — Plomb, cuivre, turquoises, houille, fer, borax, amianthe, marbres jaunes transparents ;

5° **Districts centraux** (Kum, Shiraz, Isfahan et Naïn). — Fer, cuivre, houille, mercure, antimoine, nickel, coball, manganèse, soufre ;

6° **Littoral du golfe Persique**. — Pétroles, mumiai, sel gemme, ocre rouge, soufre, zing et étain.

Quel est l'avenir des mines de Perse ?

Il est grand temps que l'attention des ingénieurs français se porte sur ce côté du continent asiatique et fournisse à l'esprit d'entreprise de notre pays des éléments d'informations basés sur des observations techniques scrupuleuses.

Au bon vieux temps, les explorateurs français visitèrent la Perse, et les auteurs contemporains citent volontiers leurs ouvrages. Vers le milieu du XVIIe siècle Chardin et Tavernier ont publié de longs renseignements sur les diverses mines, mais en ces temps éloignés, l'esprit scientifique manquait un peu aux prospecteurs et on ne peut guère demander à leurs écrits que des indications sommaires sur la situation des divers gisements.

Dans ce siècle, nous avons de nombreux ouvrages dus à la plume des spécialistes ; mais comme tous les spécialistes, et pour peu qu'ils écrivent dans un but différent, ils mettent l'esprit dénué de parti pris à la torture par leurs contradictions.

C'est ainsi que Malcolm a pu écrire il y a trois quarts de siècle : « La Perse n'est pas riche en mine-« rais, on trouve cependant du plomb et cuivre en « beaucoup d'endroits. »

Pollak, il y a vingt-cinq ans, écrit au contraire : « Il n'y a peut-être pas une contrée de la terre aussi « riche en métaux que la Perse, surtout en mines. « Les énormes gisements de fer, de houille et cuivre « n'attendent que d'être explorés pour donner lieu à « une industrie florissante. »

Il est bien regrettable que l'on n'ait pas fait figurer à l'Exposition, en dehors des turquoises, quelques spécimens des richesses minérales de la Perse. On a même le droit de reprocher à la Compagnie anglaise, qui détient la concession gouvernementale d'une bonne partie des mines en Perse, d'avoir négligé de prendre part à l'Exposition universelle de 1900. Cette négligence est vraiment préjudiciable à la Perse.

Y a-t-il là une mauvaise intention de la part des Anglais ? Nous nous garderons bien de rien affirmer à ce sujet, il nous suffira de citer l'opinion de lord Curzon pour montrer que dans tous les cas l'exposition des richesses minérales de la Perse eût pu être très favorable à ce pays.

Voici ce qu'écrivait lord Curzon en 1892 :

« Il est encore trop tôt pour émettre un avis de quelque valeur sur l'avenir de l'industrie minière en Perse. Les informations que je viens de donner, et qui seraient bien plus nombreuses dans une prochaine édition, montrent que le champ ouvert à l'industrie minière est très varié, étendu et fertile. Je ne doute pas qu'avec le temps on ne trouve de nouvelles richesses ignorées ou méconnues jusqu'à ce jour.

« On ne peut mettre en doute la valeur intrinsèque des minerais persans. Leur valeur commerciale dépend entièrement de la localité où ils sont situés, du prix du transport à dos de mulet ou de chameau jusqu'à un port ou le plus proche marché. Ces difficultés, jointes à celles dues à la sévérité du climat persan, du prix énorme des transports de machines, le caractère tracassier des fonctionnaires persans constituent un réseau d'obstacles que seules les personnes qui en ont fait l'expérience peuvent s'imaginer. Si on peut parvenir à produire la houille et le cuivre en assez grande quantité pour suffire à la consommation du pays et à l'augmenter, et si les autres minerais plus chers peuvent être transportés jusqu'à la mer à des prix permettant de les expédier avec bénéfice en Europe ou ailleurs, je crois que l'avenir des mines sera prospère. »

Le Schah Mozaffer-Eddin-Mirza à Contrexéville

Le Schah de Perse est en ce moment à Contrexéville. Il va rester dans cette station thermale jusqu'à son départ pour Paris, qui aura lieu dans un mois environ.

Mozaffer-Eddin-Mirza, qui est accompagné de son grand vizir et d'une suite de quarante personnes, occupe le pavillon de *la Souveraine*, composé de quarante chambres de maîtres et de seize chambres de domestiques.

Toutes ces chambres ont été aménagées spécialement d'après les ordres de Nazar-Agha, ministre de la Perse à Paris.

Un détachement de troupe compose le service d'honneur du Schah qui, dans ses excursions, est placé sous la surveillance de plusieurs inspecteurs du service de la sûreté.

La musique militaire d'un régiment en garnison à Épinal vient, deux fois par semaine, donner des

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concerts dans le jardin de l'hôtel, en l'honneur du grand voyageur, et des landaus de luxe et un train spécial sont à sa disposition pour ses excursions.



LE SCHAH MOZAFFER-EDDIN-MIRZA

Le Schah Mozaffer-Eddin-Mirza est né en 1853; son nom signifie en persan « Victorieux de la foi ». C'est un homme d'une grande intelligence et d'une réelle instruction. L'histoire et la botanique l'ont tout particulièrement intéressé dans sa jeunesse. C'est, d'autre part, un chasseur plein d'entrain et un tireur de tout premier ordre.

Sa famille est très nombreuse. Les Parisiens n'ont pas oublié son fils aîné, le prince Malck-Mansour, qui leur fit visite au commencement de l'année dernière. Nous citons même avec plaisir cet extrait d'un article consacré par le *Figaro* (22 février 1899), au voyage de l'héritier présomptif de la couronne persane.

« Le prince, écrivait M. G. Calmettes, n'a pas perdu une seule journée: il a voulu tout voir, il a visité en détail la Chambre des députés, les Invalides, l'Observatoire, Versailles, Saint-Cyr, Notre-Dame, le Palais de justice, le tombeau de l'Empereur, les théâtres, voire les coulisses, sans même négliger le bal de l'Opéra, avec son décor de féerie et ses fantastiques illuminations.

« Partout il a pris, en excellent français — car il écrit et parle fort correctement la langue française — des notes sur tout ce qu'il voyait; il écrivait même en voiture, ou dictait aux ministres qui l'accompagnaient, et son esprit avide de science n'était jamais lassé.

« — Je suis charmé de tout ce que j'ai vu, me disait-il à ce propos, en me contant, en phrases souvent interrompues, comme s'il rêvait encore, ses impressions et le plaisir de son séjour. Et Paris plaît à mon cœur comme à mes yeux.

« On a dit que nous sommes les Français d'Asie: j'en suis très fier, car je comprends désormais tout l'orgueil que l'on doit mettre dans ce titre.

« Je suis venu chez vous comme un simple touriste.

« Je n'ai en Europe aucune mission politique; mon rôle est tout simplement de rechercher partout le progrès, le progrès moral et pacifique, le seul que j'aime, et de me faire le propagateur et l'instrument de ce progrès, en étudiant vos mœurs, en visitant vos établissements d'instruction publique desquels, pour moi, tout découle.

« Je tiens d'ailleurs ces sentiments de mon père. Plus qu'aucun souverain d'Asie, il a la passion du progrès, et il a su à toute époque, mieux que personne, s'entourer des hommes les plus capables de seconder ses idées de régénération nationale.

« Si vous avez l'occasion de parler de mon auguste père ou de nous autres, ses fils respectueux, dites, je vous en prie, que nous aimons beaucoup la France. Son influence en Orient a toujours été bienfaisante, et mieux que jamais je comprends maintenant combien tout le monde a raison chez nous de vouloir apprendre le français et votre littérature, qui reste toujours la reine du monde.

« Je n'ai qu'un regret, c'est de n'avoir pu prolonger assez longtemps mon séjour en France, et de n'avoir pas eu d'assez fréquentes occasions de voir vos ministres pour étudier ce grand pays.

« Car il y a ici tout à apprendre!

« Mais je reviendrai l'an prochain, avec mon père, pour admirer votre Exposition universelle qui sera la grande fête des progrès du monde entier. Et non seulement mon auguste père viendra, très certainement, mais je ferai tous mes efforts pour que mes frères puissent accompagner Sa Majesté, car ils sont tous, comme moi, avides d'études, d'observations et de progrès.

« Un des bonheurs de mon voyage, c'est que Sa Majesté a eu soin de m'entourer, pendant ce voyage, de tout ce que la Perse a de plus respectable et de plus éclairé, comme Son Excellence Kagmalkan, le doyen de nos ministres, qui est ici, à mes côtés, et qui réunit en sa personne toutes les noblesses de notre histoire et de notre religion.

« Par une faveur sans égale, et dont je sens tout le prix, mon père a permis que la plupart de ses minis-

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tres en Europe et ses fonctionnaires les plus éminents vinssent, à cette même occasion, m'aider de leurs sages conseils, comme pour me mettre à même de rapporter de mes diverses visites à travers l'Europe le plus grand nombre d'idées et de bienfaits.

« De tout mon cœur, je rends grâce à mon auguste et vénéré père, et c'est par ce remerciement reconnaissant que je désire terminer cette conversation comme je terminerai ce merveilleux voyage en votre pays français. »

UNE MISSION ÉCONOMIQUE FRANÇAISE

entre la Caspienne et le golfe Persique

On nous communique la circulaire suivante :

SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-PERSANE
D'ÉTUDES

Paris, le 25 mai 1900.

« S. M. le roi de Perse arrivera en France à la fin du mois de juillet. Ce voyage, annoncé par tous les journaux, nous a mis dans l'obligation d'ajourner le départ de la mission d'études qui devait partir dans le courant du mois de mai. Il eût, en effet, été contraire au résultat des travaux de cette mission de poursuivre ses opérations en Asie, au moment où S. M. le Schah et les principaux officiers de sa couronne eussent été en Europe. Aussi, avons-nous résolu d'attendre le mois de septembre pour mettre notre mission en marche. Elle aura le temps, d'ici là, de compléter ses études préparatoires et aura pu profiter de l'Exposition et de la présence à Paris des grands personnages persans pour se créer des relations qu'elle ne manquera pas de mettre à profit quand elle aura à accomplir son œuvre sur le terrain persan.

« Sous le bénéfice des observations qui précèdent nous croyons devoir reproduire ici les principaux passages de notre circulaire du 15 janvier :

« La concession du chemin de fer de Bassorah à la Banque allemande vient d'ouvrir aux intérêts allemands une fenêtre sur le golfe Persique et, partant, sur la mer des Indes. La France ne serait plus la France si elle ne se préoccupait pas de cet état de choses. Il est dans sa tradition nationale, non de rechercher des territoires, mais de conquérir des âmes et de répandre les produits de son industrie, dans les parages sur lesquels l'Allemagne veut désormais exercer son action.

« Sans remonter aux ambassades envoyées en Perse par Richelieu et par Colbert, sans rappeler que la Compagnie des Indes eut des comptoirs à Isfahan et à Bunder-Abbas, qu'il nous suffise de dire que la langue française est, de toutes les langues européennes, la plus répandue en Perse, grâce aux efforts séculaires de nos Lazaristes et de nos Sœurs de charité, et que les produits de nos artisans de Paris, de Lyon et de Marseille sont encore les plus estimées de la haute société persane. Est-ce que l'héritier présomptif du royaume d'Iran, ce prince charmant qui sut conquérir les Parisiens par son esprit et par sa grâce, est-ce que le prince Malek Mansour ne disait pas à un rédacteur du *Figaro*, il y a un an à peine : « Nous sommes les Français de l'Asie ? » Le mot voulait être retenu. Il le sera.

« Sachant donc que notre grande alliée, la Russie, jouit à la cour de Téhéran d'une influence, pourrait-on dire prépondérante ; sachant que c'est à elle et à nul autre, quoi qu'on ait pu écrire à ce sujet en Angleterre, qu'est réservé l'honneur de l'adduction à la civilisation européenne de la « Terre du Lion et du Soleil », nous nous sommes posé les questions suivantes :

« Quelle est la nature et l'importance des relations économiques existant, en ce moment, entre la Perse et la France ?

« Ces relations seraient-elles utilement développées par l'amélioration des voies de communication et de transport des vastes régions comprises entre le Caucase, la Caspienne et le golfe Persique ?

« Quels avantages pourrait retirer la production française de l'européanisation de la Perse ?

« Si la Russie, enfin, mettant à profit la légitime influence qu'elle peut exercer sur les conseils du Schah, était amenée à faire appel au concours financier de la France pour favoriser la création d'un réseau de voies ferrées mettant, par une ligne ininterrompue de rails, les ports asiatiques de la Perse (Bunder-Abbas, par exemple) en communication avec l'Europe, quel accueil la France devrait-elle faire à cet appel ?

« C'est ce que nous demandons à tous ceux qui s'intéressent à l'œuvre de la civilisation en Asie. *Aperire terram Gallis* est une noble formule pour tous ceux qui sentent que la France s'ennuie, et qu'il est grand temps que de nobles préoccupations viennent l'arracher aux misères de ses dissensions intestines.

« Il nous a semblé que la meilleure façon de répondre aux questions que nous venons d'énumérer, était de faire appel à la collaboration de tous ceux qu'elles ont pu préoccuper et aussi de charger quelques spécialistes d'aller les étudier sur place, dès que la belle saison aura rendu les plateaux de l'Iran plus accessibles. Une mission d'études sera chargée de nous renseigner sur les richesses de la Perse, sur la possibilité qu'il y aurait d'atteindre ces richesses, sur l'outillage industriel de ce pays et les perfectionnements à y apporter, enfin sur les débouchés qu'il pourrait ouvrir aux produits français.

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« Nous accueillerons avec plaisir tous les renseignements qu'on voudra bien nous envoyer, tous les conseils qu'on voudra bien nous donner, sur les questions posées et sur celles qu'il serait utile de charger la mission de résoudre, afin de satisfaire ceux de nos fabricants qui voudraient trouver en Perse soit des matières premières à utiliser, soit une clientèle pour leurs propres produits. »

LE COSTUME DES FEMMES PERSANES

« Un mouvement se produit, en ce moment, en Perse, dans le domaine des modes féminines, annonçaient les *Novoie Vremia*, et les femmes persanes commencent à renoncer à leur costume national pour le remplacer par des vêtements féminins. »

Cette information de notre confrère russe nous surprit agréablement ; aussi, dans notre désir d'avoir des données très exactes sur cette révolution des mœurs persanes, nous adressâmes-nous au grand couturier Worth qui possède, à Téhéran, une maison que dirige fort habilement Mme Hoffmann.

Justement, le secrétaire général de la maison Worth, M. Doriot, rentrait à Paris, de retour d'un assez long voyage en Perse. Très obligeamment, M. Doriot voulut bien se mettre à notre disposition.

— Je ne vois pas où votre confrère a pu puiser cette information, nous répondit-il ; je viens de passer plusieurs mois en Perse, je suis resté quelques semaines à Téhéran et je puis vous certifier que les femmes persanes n'ont aucune tendance à s'habiller à l'européenne.

La maison Worth a, à Téhéran, un comptoir dans lequel on vend un peu de tout, mais on n'y voit aucune robe ni aucun autre vêtement féminin.

Dans la rue, les femmes persanes sont, en effet, vêtues d'une façon uniforme. Le costume, obligatoire pour les musulmanes et qu'adoptent toutes les autres femmes, se compose d'un large pantalon à pied, le *chalvar* ; du *tchader*, grand manteau bleu indigo enveloppant complètement le corps, et du *roubend*, long morceau de toile blanche qui cache complètement la figure. Quelques petits trous percés dans le *roubend* à l'endroit où se trouve la figure, permettent à la Persane de se conduire.

Les femmes sont, en général, fort coquettes, et les costumes qu'elles portent, dans l'enderoum, par exemple, sont très riches. Ainsi, il arrive fréquemment que nos clientes nous achètent des pièces d'étoffe entières de façon à empêcher qu'une autre femme ne soit revêtue d'étoffes de la même couleur que celles qu'elles désirent porter.

A notre maison de Téhéran, nous vendons un très grand nombre de pièces de soie très riche. Mais jamais nous n'avons vendu une seule jupe ou un seul corsage. Ce sont, en général, des Arméniennes qui sont chargées de la confection des costumes des femmes persanes.

La France à Suze

La France a, comme on sait, le monopole des fouilles en Perse.

Ce monopole, accordé par Nasr-Eddin schah et respecté par Mozaffer-Eddin schah a été ratifié, en 1897, par un vote du Parlement.

Pour mettre en valeur ce privilège, d'une très grande importance au point de vue scientifique et au point de vue archéologique, car il nous permettra de savoir, un jour, ce qu'était la Perse avant les écrivains grecs et latins, le ministre de l'instruction publique organisait, aussitôt après la décision des Chambres, une expédition dont elle confiait la direction à M. de Morgan, ingénieur.

M. de Morgan a accompli plusieurs missions pour le compte de la France. Il est resté, notamment, vingt-sept mois en Perse, de 1889 au 1er décembre 1891, et il a publié sur son voyage, au cours duquel il parcourut plus de vingt mille kilomètres, cinq volumes d'un réel intérêt : 1° *Etudes géographiques* ; 2° *Etudes linguistiques et ethnographiques* ; 3° *Recherches archéologiques* ; 4° *Recherches géologiques et paléontologiques*.

M. de Morgan partit à la fin de 1897 ; il s'était adjoint trois collaborateurs : MM. Lampué et Jequier, archéologues, et le R. P. Scheil, professeur de langue assyrienne à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes.

M. de Morgan, qui commença ses fouilles à Suze, l'ancienne capitale des rois de l'Elam, renfermant encore le fameux tombeau de Daniel, est actuellement en France, mais il lui est impossible de faire connaître, en ce moment, le résultat de ses recherches, qui sont, paraît-il, très fructueuses.

D'ailleurs, M. de Morgan doit repartir en Perse au mois d'octobre prochain, pour continuer ses études dans quatre cent cinquante ou cinq cents villes détruites.

Cette expédition coûte très cher à la France, M. de Morgan emploie, en effet, constamment un millier d'ouvriers, mais ce sacrifice est relativement léger si on le compare à la haute valeur des documents qu'elle peut nous procurer.

Orléans. — *Imprimerie Orléanaise*, rue Royale, 68.

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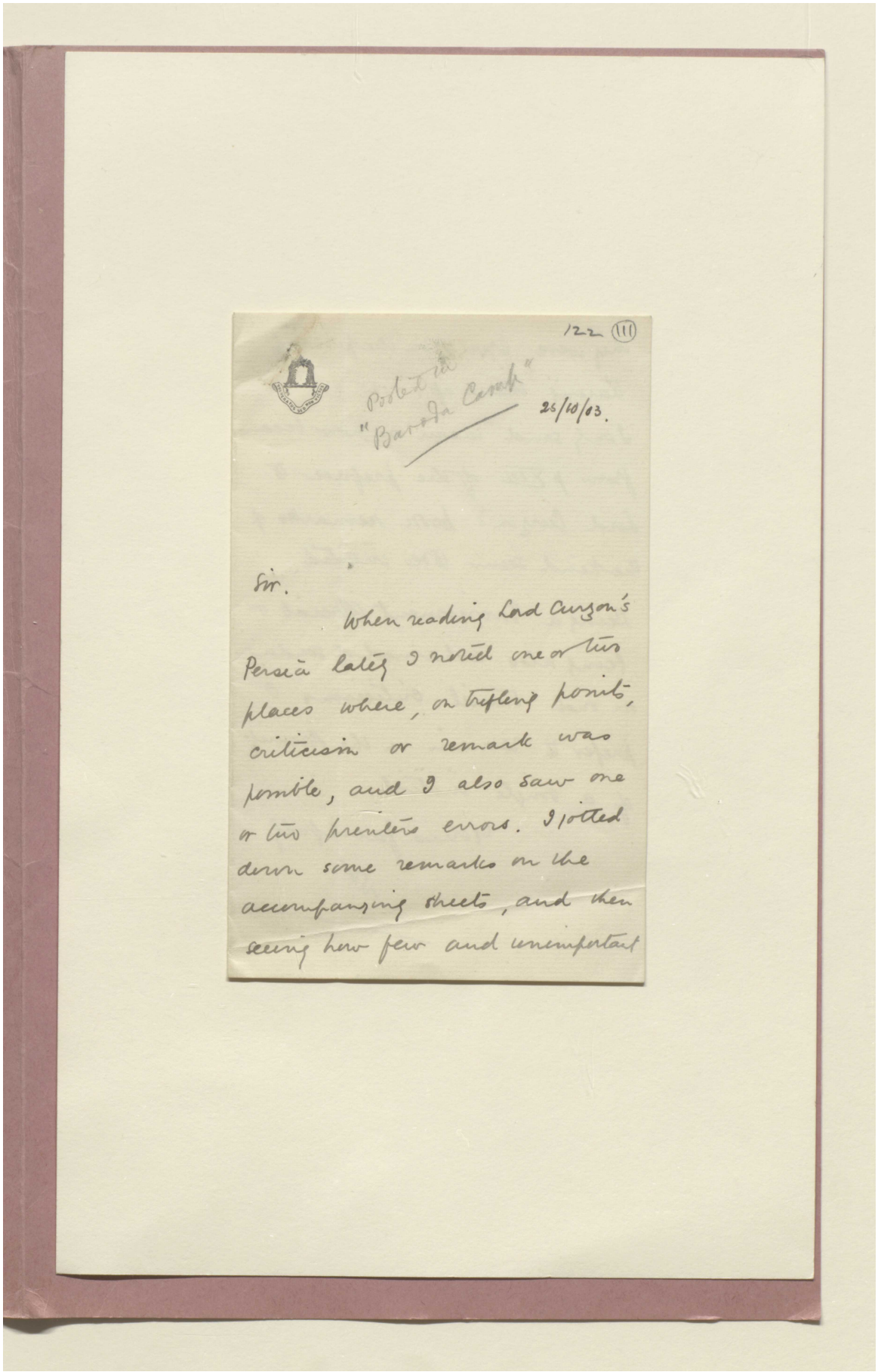

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Posted in "Baroda Castle" 25/10/03.

Sir.

When reading Lord Curzon's Persia lately I noted one or two places where, on trifling points, criticism or remark was possible, and I also saw one or two printers errors. I jotted down some remarks on the accompanying sheets, and then seeing how few and unimportant

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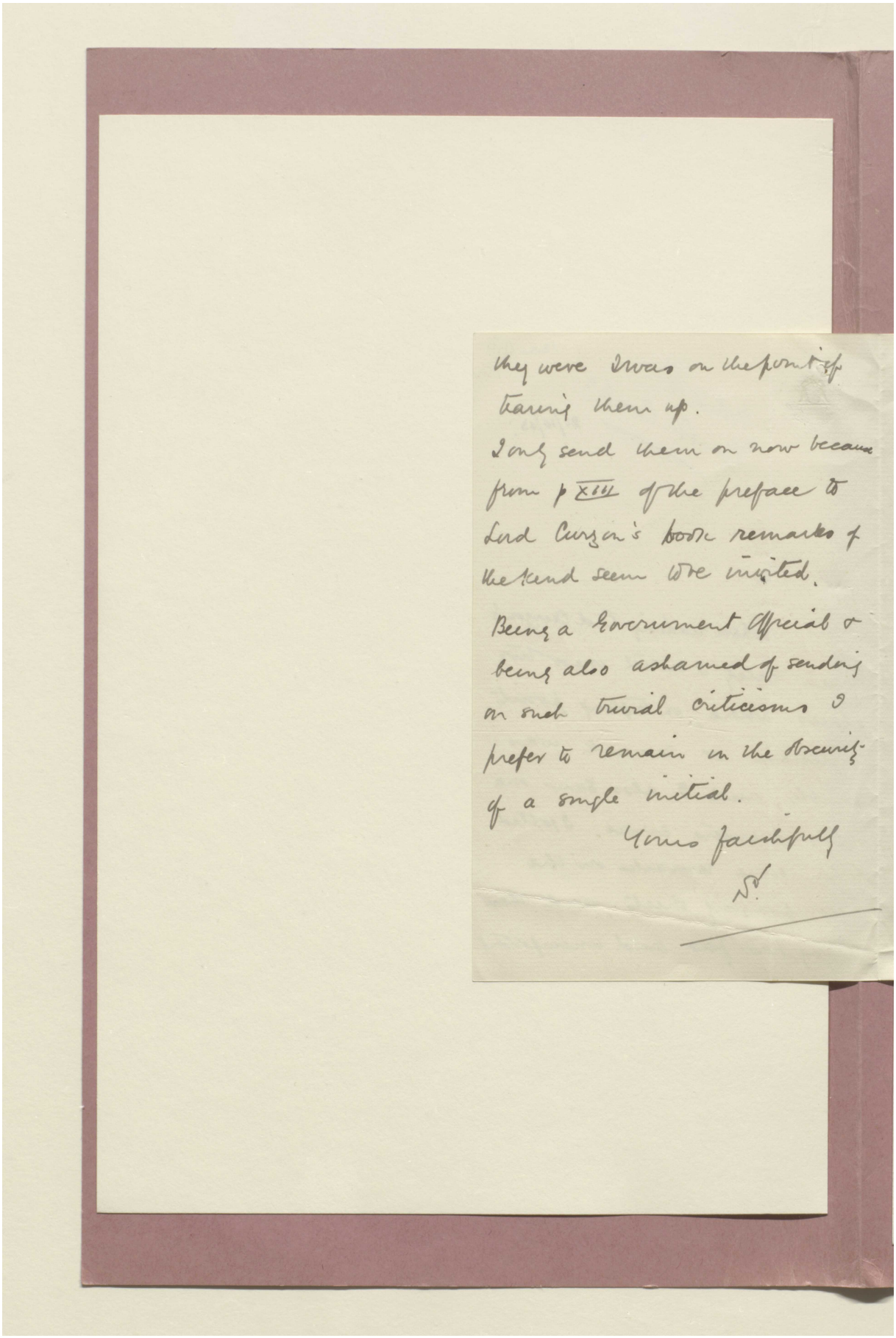

they were I was on the point of
leaving them up.
I only send them on now because
from p xiii of the preface to
Lord Curzon's book remarks of
the kind seem to be invited.
Being a Government official &
being also ashamed of sending
on such trivial criticisms I
prefer to remain in the obscurity
of a single initial.
Yours faithfully
N.

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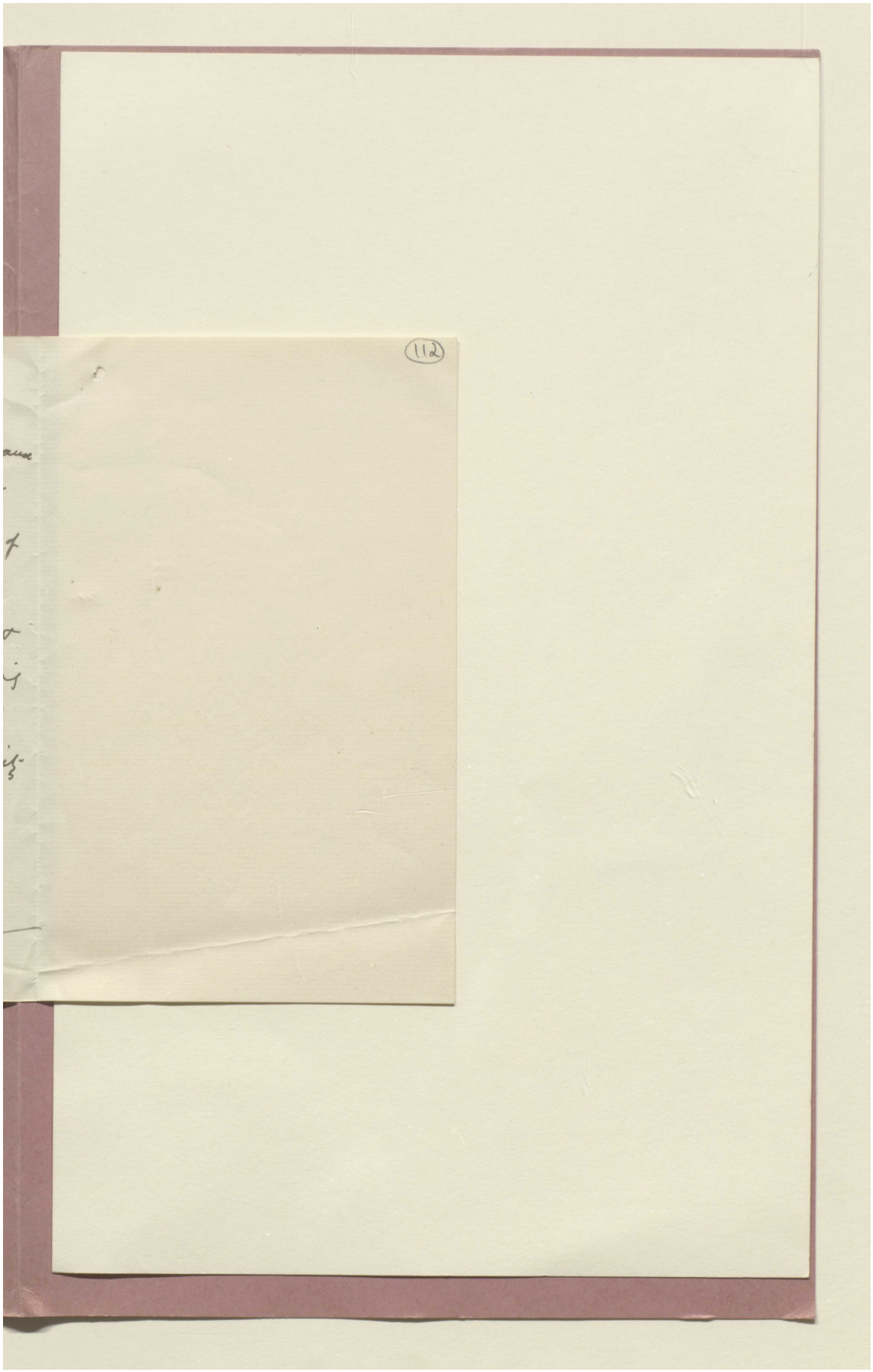

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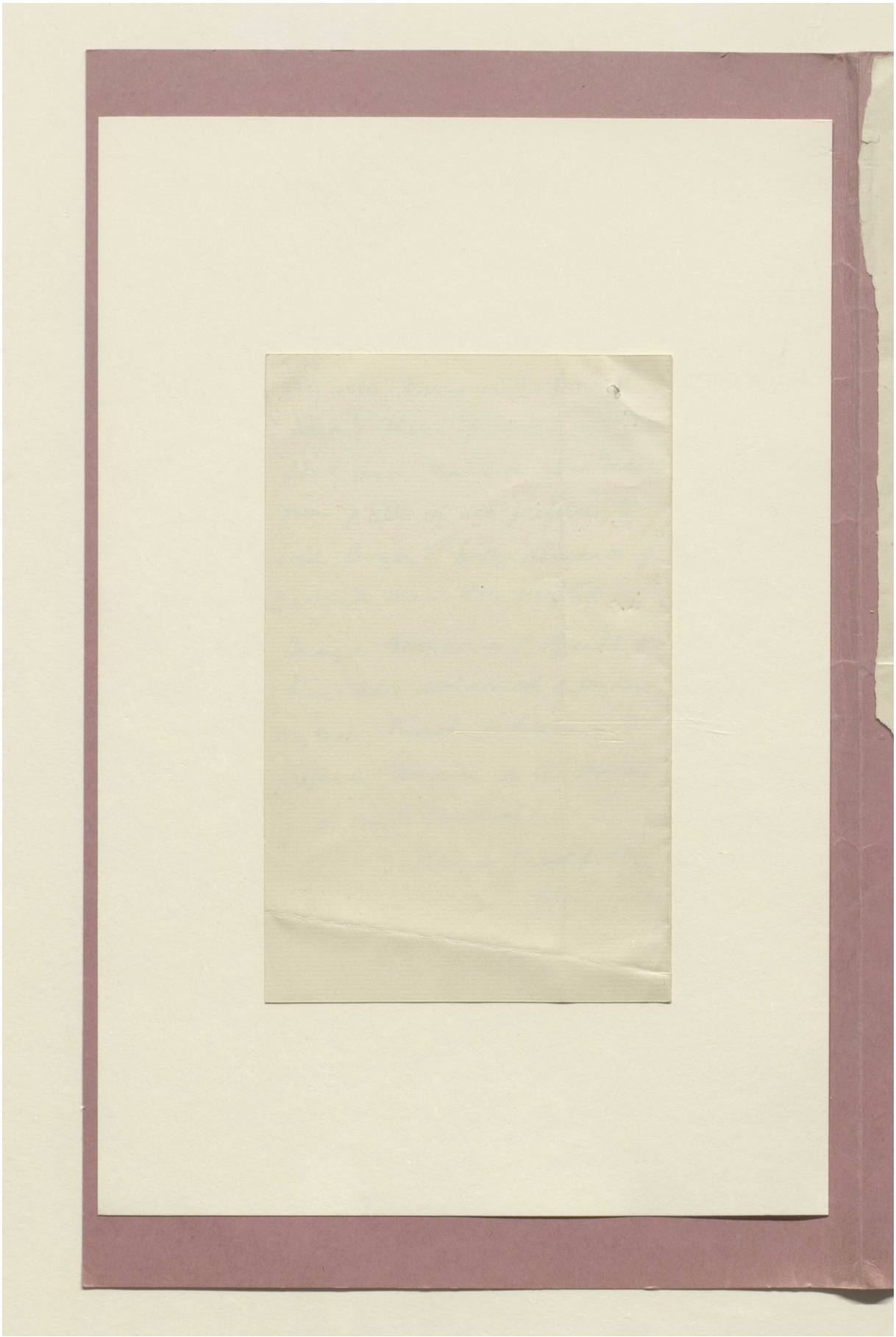

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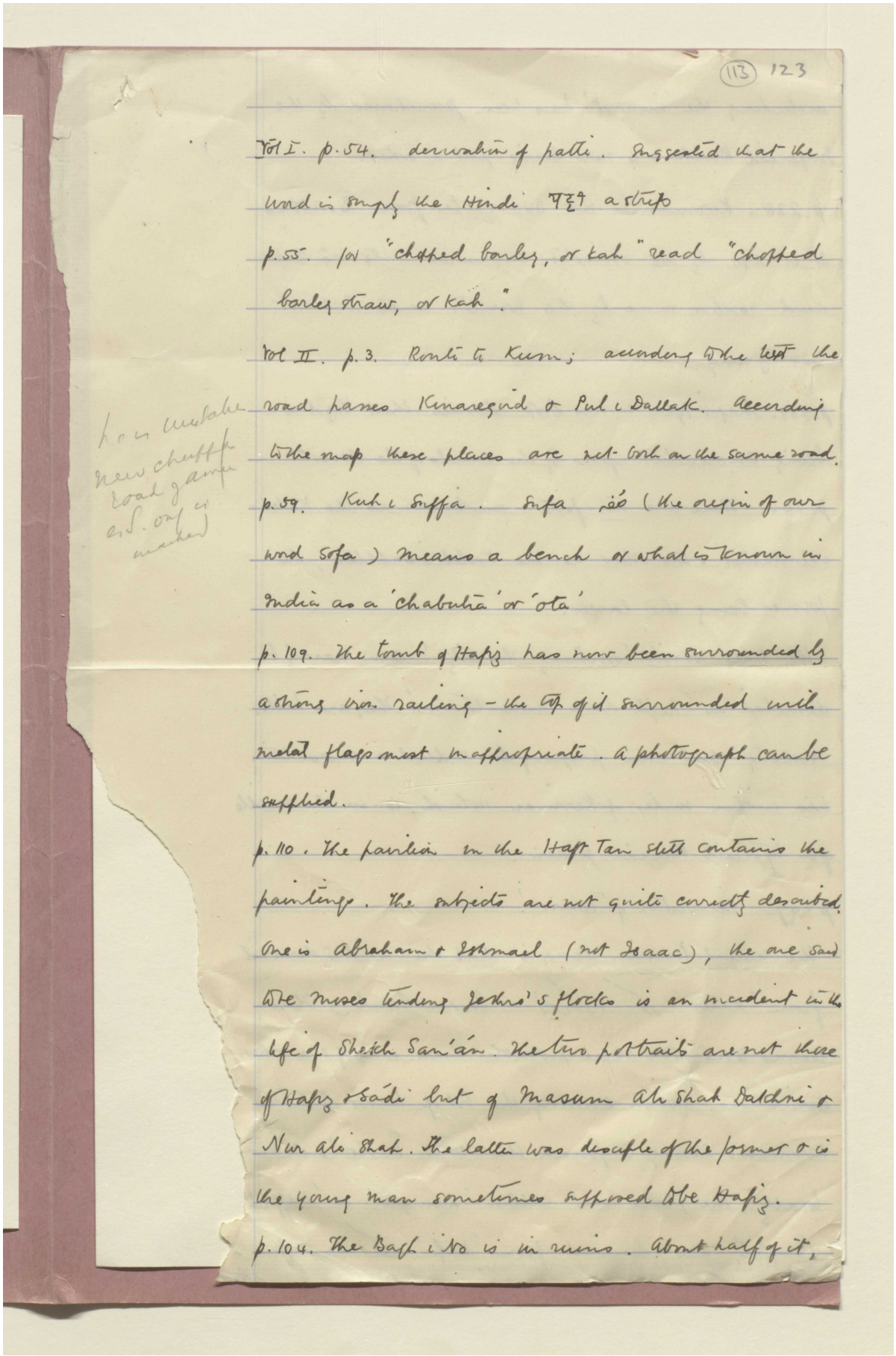

(113) 123

Vol I. p. 54. derivation of patti. Suggested that the word is simply the Hindi पट्टी a strip

p. 55. for "chopped barley, or kah" read "chopped barley straw, or kah."

Vol II. p. 3. Ronti to Kum; according to the text the road passes Kinareguid & Pul i Dallak. According to the map these places are not both on the same road.

p. 59. Kuh i Suffa. Sufa صفه (the origin of our word Sofa) means a bench or what is known in India as a 'chabutra' or 'ota'

p. 109. The tomb of Hafiz has now been surrounded by a thing viz. railing - the top of it surrounded with metal flags most inappropriate. a photograph can be supplied.

p. 110. The paintings in the Hasht Tan shelf contains the paintings. The subjects are not quite correctly described. One is Abraham & Ishmael (not Isaac), the one said to be Moses tending Jethro's flocks is an incident in the life of Sheikh San'án. The two portraits are not those of Hafiz & Sádi but of Masum Ali Shah Dakhni & Nur Ali Shah. The latter was disciple of the former & is the young man sometimes supposed to be Hafiz.

p. 104. The Bagh i No is in ruins. About half of it,

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including the 'imaret' has been purchased by the Imperial Bank & is now being put in order.

p. 238. Kirman is not 380 miles from B. Abbas. It is 290 by the directer Summer route via Baft and rather more by the winter routes, but not 380 by any.

p. 239. Major Sykes in his book denies that Yezd is being encroached upon by the sands of the desert.

p. 244. There are two forts — one known as the Kaleh-i Ardashir & the other as the Kaleh i Dukhtar, the former being the larger.

The hills which 'overhang the City' can hardly be described as 'high dark mountains'. They are hills. Nothing that can properly be called a mountain lies within miles of Kirman which is in the middle of a typical Persian plain.

p. 247. Derivation of 'Kavir'.

The usual Persian theory is that the word is derived from 'kaur' کور (زمین کور = barren land.) This seems to me to be more probable than any of the other derivations. When crossing the bit of Kavir between Kirman & Shiraz I found the term 'Kavir' not known locally. The place was called 'namak' or 'kaffeh' & 'kaffeh' was derived from 'kaf' کف the palm

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of the hand, the idea being that this salt-plain is as flat as the palm of one's hand.

p. 363 etc. for 'mudatchil' read 'madatchil'.

p. 523. It is not quite correct to describe Kerman carpets as made wholly of cotton. The ground work alone is of cotton; all the pile of the carpet is of wool.

It is doubtful whether the products of Meshed & Mughat can be described as among the best of the Fars products.

Kashkai carpets are not long haired, but on the contrary have a short pile. They are regarded in Shiraz as being the best rugs made in that locality. They are made wholly of wool and they are closely and finely woven, and their colours are usually to be trusted. Accordingly they are also expensive. The term Kashkai as applied to carpets at Shiraz generally includes the products of several other nomadic tribes e.g. Wulli, Kashkuli etc. Of them all the 'Wulli' carpets have the greatest reputation at the present time in Shiraz.

p. 136. For 'Kaleb-i-sarb' read Kaleh-i-sarb.

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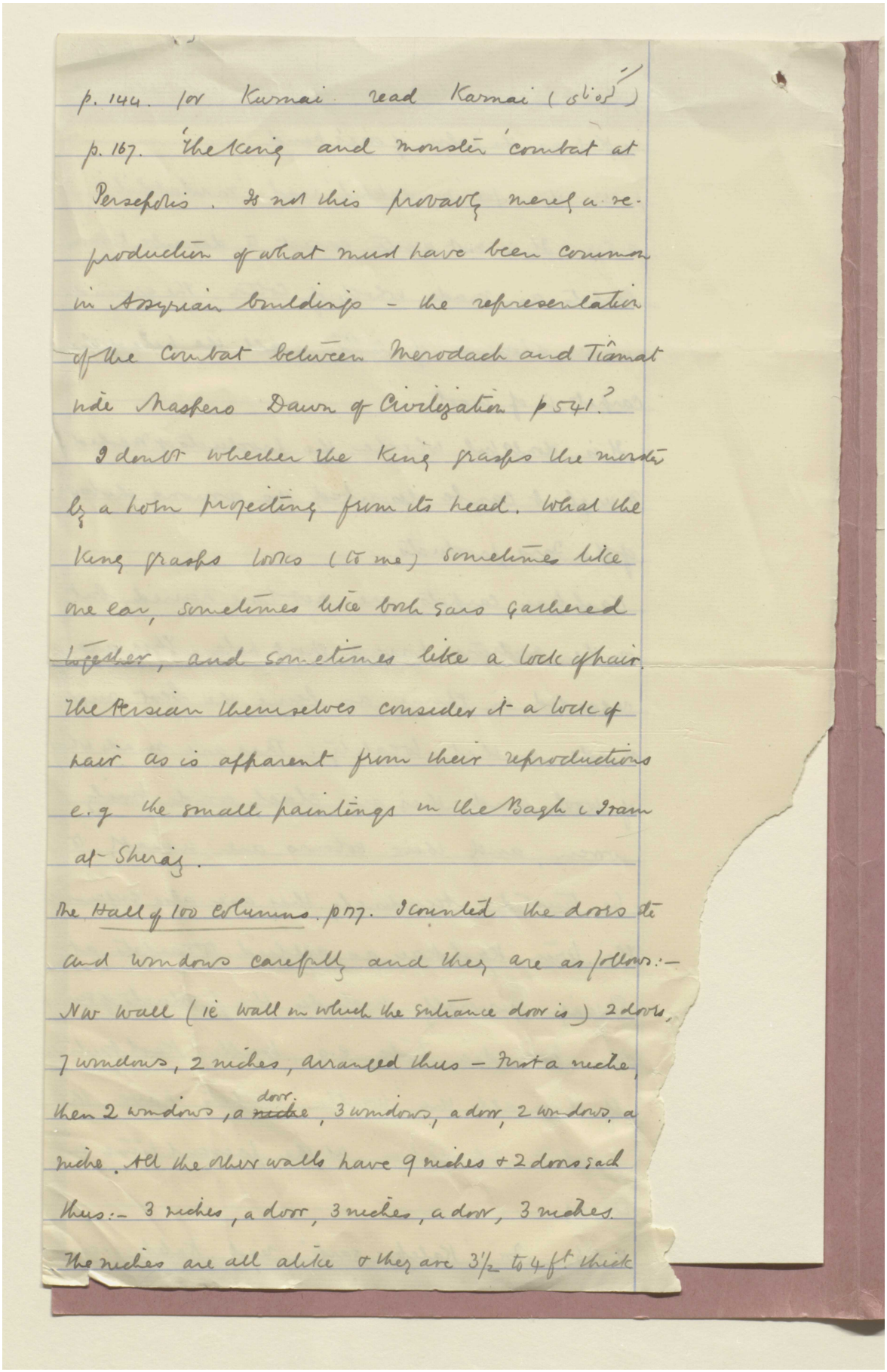

p. 144. for Kurnai read Karnai (کرنای)

p. 167. 'the King and monster' combat at Persepolis. Is not this probably merely a reproduction of what must have been common in Assyrian buildings – the representation of the combat between Merodach and Tiâmat vide Maspero Dawn of Civilization p 541?

I doubt whether the King grasps the monster by a horn projecting from its head. What the King grasps looks (to me) sometimes like one ear, sometimes like both ears gathered together, and sometimes like a lock of hair. The Persian themselves consider it a lock of hair as is apparent from their reproductions e.g the small paintings in the Bagh i Iram at Shiraz.

The Hall of 100 columns. p 177. I counted the doors etc and windows carefully and they are as follows:– Nw wall (ie wall in which the entrance door is) 2 doors, 7 windows, 2 niches, arranged thus – First a niche, then 2 windows, a ~~niche~~ door, 3 windows, a door, 2 windows, a niche. All the other walls have 9 niches + 2 doors each thus:– 3 niches, a door, 3 niches, a door, 3 niches. The niches are all alike + they are 3½ to 4 ft thick

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and it does not appear that the walls of the Hall were thicker than this. The *windows of the Entrance wall are it is true 10 ft through but none of the other openings are. The doors of the building are not all of the same size. Those of the N.W. wall & that opposite to it are large doors the sides of which are ornamented with elaborate carving (as illustrated in 'Persia') Those of the other walls are smaller & have only the king monster fight as ornament.

* or they may be passages

p. 159. The cistern. Without excavating it is impossible to say whether this cistern is hollowed out of a single mass of stone, or hewn out of the rock itself. The latter appears however the most likely explanation.

A remain which has not I think been noticed in 'Persia' near the Persepolis platform is the single gateway about 500 yards north of the platform standing by itself on the plain. There is nothing to indicate of what it is the gate but it closely resembles one of the doorways of the Palace of Darius & there must have been some building of note away from the platform & on the plain.

With regard to the carving on the side of the staircase up to the Hall of Xerxes. I regard the attack of the lion on the bull as pure ornament. Such

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scenes are common both in India & Persia both in tile work & in ordinary colouring on house fronts to this day & seem to have no symbolical meaning whatever.

Naqsh i Rustam. The Naqareh Khana. p 144 et seq.

I would suggest that this building was used either for washing or for embalming the bodies destined for the rock tombs – as Handen & Coste surmise. – & is not itself a tomb. I think this because there is nothing to show that such places were used for tombs, and because the indications in its doorway point to arrangements (as M. Dieulafoy & says) for the hauling up of a weight. Now there is no room for more than one or two bodies, and for one or two occasions it would be unnecessary to construct an arrangement to facilitate the entrance of a body; while if the building was for constant use the advantage of doing so is clear. Just inside the door are two parallel grooves & between them is a sloping surface exactly suitable for dragging up anything placed on a flat board by means of rollers.

We want some place conveniently situated for the preparation of the body. This naqareh khana is such a place.

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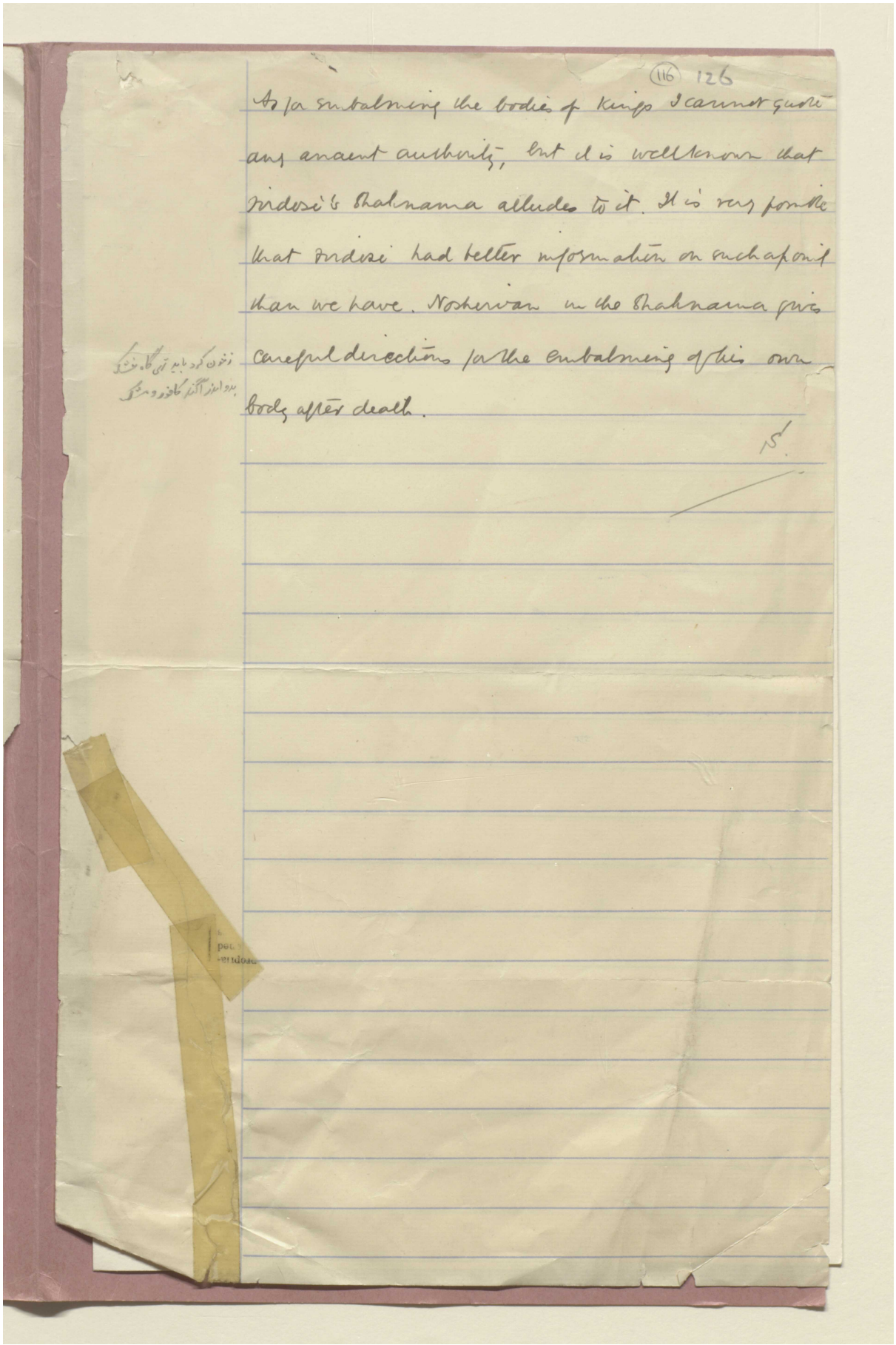

(116) 126

As for embalming the bodies of kings I cannot quote any ancient authority, but it is well known that Firdosi's Shahnama alludes to it. It is very possible that Firdosi had better information on such a point than we have. Nosherwan in the Shahnama gives careful directions for the embalming of his own body after death.

15

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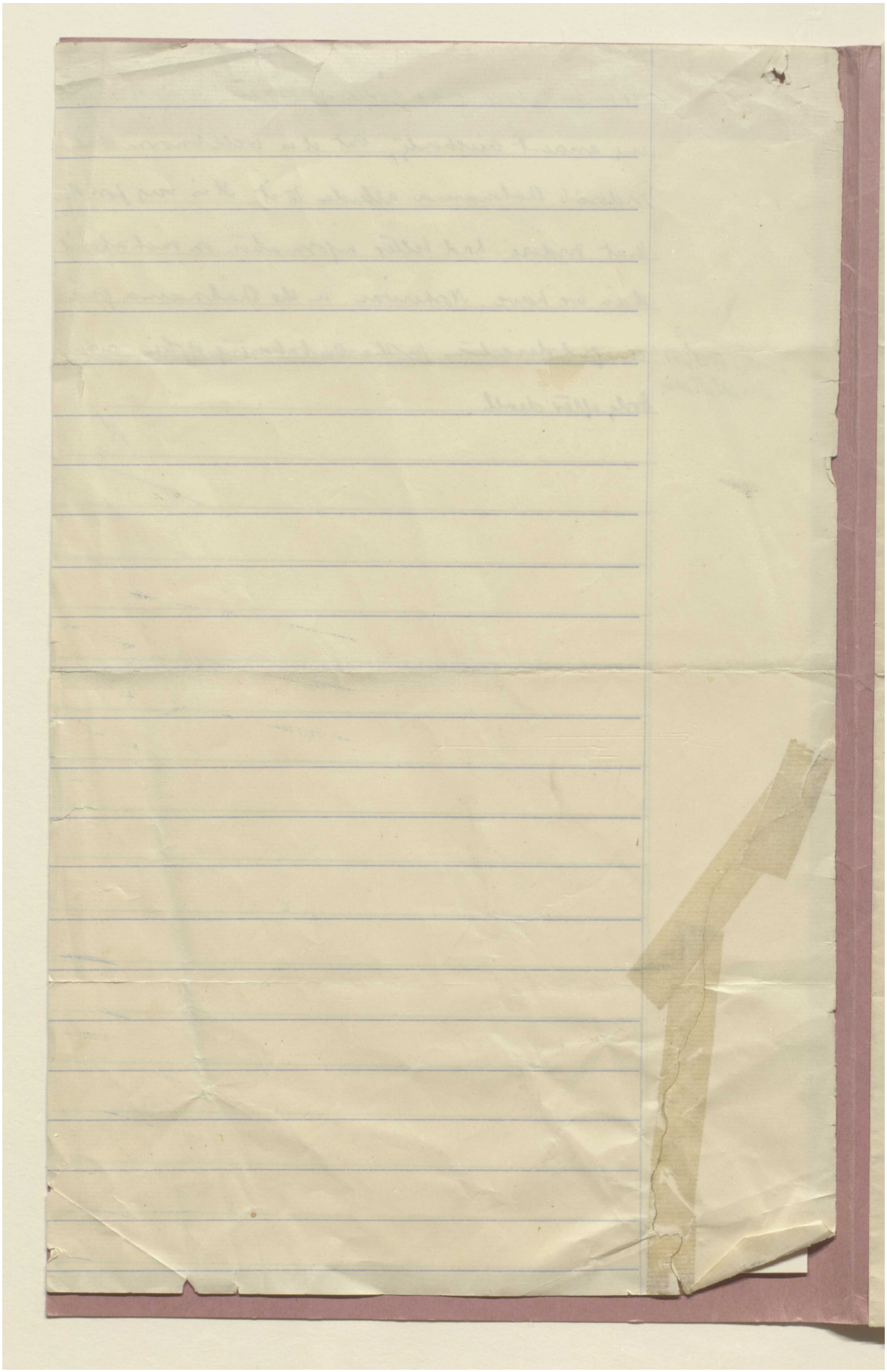

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Copy for P.S.V.

Koweit 127

No. 56, dated Bushire, the 11th March 1901 (Confidential).

From—Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Kemball, Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Although I have received no recent news which can be considered to be absolutely reliable, regarding the progress of the struggle between Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit and the Emir of Nejd, I have received information from His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah, which, if it is true, is of considerable importance.

Sheikh Selman, the cousin and Deputy of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, has informed Mr. McDouall that he has heard from Sheikh Jaber, a brother of Sheikh Mubarek, that Nejd has welcomed Mubarek and Ibn Saud, and that the tribes of Aneyza, Boreyda and Zulfi have sent in their submission, and that Sheikhs inimical to Ibn Rashid have been appointed to these tribes by Mubarek.

Kazim Pasha, who is the brother of a wife of the Sultan, but who is not allowed to reside at Constantinople, is said to have gone with about 400 horsemen on a mission to the Emir of Nejd from the Sultan. Sheikh Selman is afraid that Kazim Pasha may compel the Wali of Basrah to order Mubarek to evacuate Nejd, and that if, as is not improbable, Mubarek refuses, the Turks might attack Koweit.

It is impossible to judge if the information is trustworthy, but it is well known that the Sheikhs of Koweit and Mohammerah are on very friendly terms and that Sheikh Khazal's sympathies are entirely on Sheikh Mubarek's side in the present quarrel. It seems to me, therefore, that news which reaches Mohammerah from Koweit is deserving of some credit, and I have thought the information sufficiently important to be communicated to you. Mr. McDouall says that Sheikh Selman seems to think that Mubarek is in a fair way to become the ruler of Central Arabia with Ibn Saud as his Lieutenant.

2. His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah has informed me that he has received a telegram from Sir Nicholas O'Connor, the purport of which is that the Consul at Damascus reports that some squadrons of cavalry are leaving to assist the Emir of Nejd who is hard pressed. Mr. Wratislaw suggests that this may really mean that the Turks, profiting by Ibn Rashid's difficulties, intend to re-occupy El-Jauf. It certainly seems curious that the Turks should be sending troops from Damascus with the Nejd country as their objective.

No. 60, dated Bushire, the 16th March 1901 (Confidential).

From—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

In continuation of this office No. 56, dated 11th instant, I have the honour to forward the accompanying translations of three reports* which have been received from our Koweit news-agent regarding Sheikh Mubarek's proceedings.

* 1. Report, dated the 19th February 1901.
2. " " 27th " "
3. " " 4th March "

2. A letter received by the Chief of Bahrein from Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saud corroborates the report about the occupation of Riadh by Sheikh Mubarek.

Translation of a report from the Residency News Agent at Koweit, dated the 19th February 1901.

Sheikh Mubarek with all the tribes of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal arrived on 12th February at a place one day distant from Nejd, and has encamped there. The next day the Chiefs of the Aneiza and Kaseem tribes came to see

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him and submitted to him without opposition. Sheikh Mubarek received them with honour. Those who have not yet made their submission are only the inhabitants of Riadh which has been guarded by Ibn Rashid's men. Sheikh Mubarek wants to attack them. If he takes Riadh, it will amount to his conquering the Nejd province. The troops with Sheikh Mubarek amount to about 70,000 men. On reaching Nejd he took (married) the daughter of Sultan-el-Dweish. On 17th February, Sheikh Sadun of Muntafik joined Sheikh Mubarek with his troops numbering about 10,000 men. It is not yet known where Ibn Rashid now is. At one time he is reported to be at Khaza and Ayena; at another (at a place) between Meshed Ali and Smava, collecting stores for his troops. Up to now he has not met Sheikh Mubarek in a fight, while Sheikh Mubarek has reached his territory. If he is able to fight, he would not be keeping himself in the background, and this shows his weakness. On 30th January 1901, Abdul Aziz Ibn Rashid wrote a letter to Sheikh Jasim-bin-Thani asking for his help in fighting Sheikh Mubarek. This was found out from the bearers of the letter who were three men. They were arrested and brought before Sheikh Mubarek, who took the letter and read it and ascertained Ibn Rashid's circumstances and plans. He at once imprisoned them and then sent them to Koweit to his son, Sheikh Jaber, to whom he sent a letter enclosing Ibn Rashid's letter.

As regards "Haj", this year nobody has gone overland with Ibn Rashid's men. The pilgrims are afraid of their lives. Most of them have gone to the Hedjaz by sea.

As regards Ibn Rashid he has a caravan consisting of 300 camels at Zubeir. They had come there as usual to load for Hayel. They are waiting these two months in Zubeir as they are afraid of leaving it.

As regards Koweit and the surrounding district they are safe, and Sheikh Jaber is taking pains to protect the place. Every night about 4,000 armed men are employed to protect the place against the enemy.

On 18th February, news reached Sheikh Jaber from his father to the effect that Hamood's sons, who are Ibn Rashid's cousins had come to see him (Sheikh Mubarek). They sued for peace and asked for a pardon. They stated:—"Ibn Rashid has taken up the quarrel with you without our consent, and as he is acting against our advice we have come to you. Take us into your favour and we will obey your orders and you are our Emir now. We do not recognise Abdul Aziz Ibn Rashid, as he does not listen to our advice and does not consult us. We are his cousins, and by right the Sheikhship should pass to us after Muhammad Ibn Rashid, but we ourselves gave up the idea of pressing our right. In fact, he is not fit to be the Chief. He creates discord between us and causes bloodshed. Now we are under your orders and you, Sheikh Mubarek, are our father. We won't submit to Ibn Rashid".

Sheikh Mubarak accepted their apology and treated them with respect.

On 17th February, news reached from Sheikh Mubarak's friends at Zubeir that a disturbance had taken place there among the inhabitants: that the leading men of Zubeir thereupon wrote to Mohsin Pasha (Wali of Basrah) asking him to send about 100 soldiers for the protection of the place: that Mohsin Pasha accordingly sent 100 cavalry, but the latter were prevented by the rioters from entering the town, and in the conflict which ensued two of the cavalry and 4 of the rioters were killed. The leading inhabitants then intervened, and the soldiers entered the town and informed Moshin Pasha of the affair. Mohsin Pasha sent word to the leading men of Zubeir and asked them to come with Ibn Aun to Basrah (to see him). They at once went there, but I have not heard the result.

Translation of a Report from the Residency News Agent at Koweit, dated the 27th February 1901.

On the 19th February, I sent you some news about Sheikh Mubarek and Abdul Aziz Ibn Rashid, and I now beg to inform you that on 25th February

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Sheikh Jaber received a letter from his father, Sheikh Mubarek, in which it was stated that "as regards the province of Nejd, the whole of it has submitted to me without opposition, and I have now appointed Abdul Aziz-bin-Feysal as Governor of Riadh. I have also appointed Governors to other places in the province, and am now in my camp opposite Kaseem, where I am awaiting Sheikh Sadun. After his arrival I hope to march against Hayel. I must also pursue Ibn Rashid, as I have now come to know where he is. He is three days from Hayel and is running away to avoid meeting us, with some of the Shammar Arabs who are with him. I hope shortly to take Hayel and put a stop to your anxieties. As regards Hamood's sons who sued for peace, I did not comply with their request, as they did not agree to my terms and I have not given them anything. Sheikh Sadun has promised to join me on 22nd February, and I will go (with him on his arrival) towards Hayel. I have nothing to complain of the troops or the climate. By the grace of God I have conquered the whole province of Nejd without opposition and bloodshed, and hope shortly to take Hayel and kill Ibn Rashid".

On the 23rd February, Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem-el-Badr, Sheikh Mubarek's Basrah agent, came by sea to Koweit and is putting up in Sheikh Jaber's house. I have not heard why he has come, but should I hear anything about him I will let you know.

Translation of a Report from the Residency News Agent at Koweit, dated the 4th March 1901.

I beg to report that on 27th February Sheikh Mubarek marched out of the province of Nejd with the intention of attacking Hayel, the territory belonging to Ibn Rashid. He is accompanied by Sheikh Sadun of Muntafik and Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal. The whereabouts of Ibn Rashid are not known yet, but Sheikh Mubarak has learnt where he now is. On 28th February, Ibn Rashid left Akuyeh bound for his territory which he was trying to reach before Sheikh Mubarek's arrival there. They are bound to encounter each other and the battle will be a decisive one. Up till now no news has been received from Sheikh Mubarek as to what he has been doing, but we are awaiting the arrival of a messenger who is expected here in a day or two, and I will report further later on.

As regards Zubeir, the Wali (of Basrah) Mohsin Pasha sent (to Zubeir) 100 soldiers who are to remain there as a guard. The sons of Muhammad Sabah and Jerrah Sabah (the late brothers of Sheikh Mubarek) who were living in Zubeir, seeing the power of the (Turkish) Government, quietly left Zubeir one night to join Ibn Rashid. They were afraid of their lives because the (Turkish) Government consider them disloyal.

By the grace of God Koweit and the environs are safe, and Sheikh Jaber is attending to their protection.

Foreign Office Press—No. 3—1-4-01—55.

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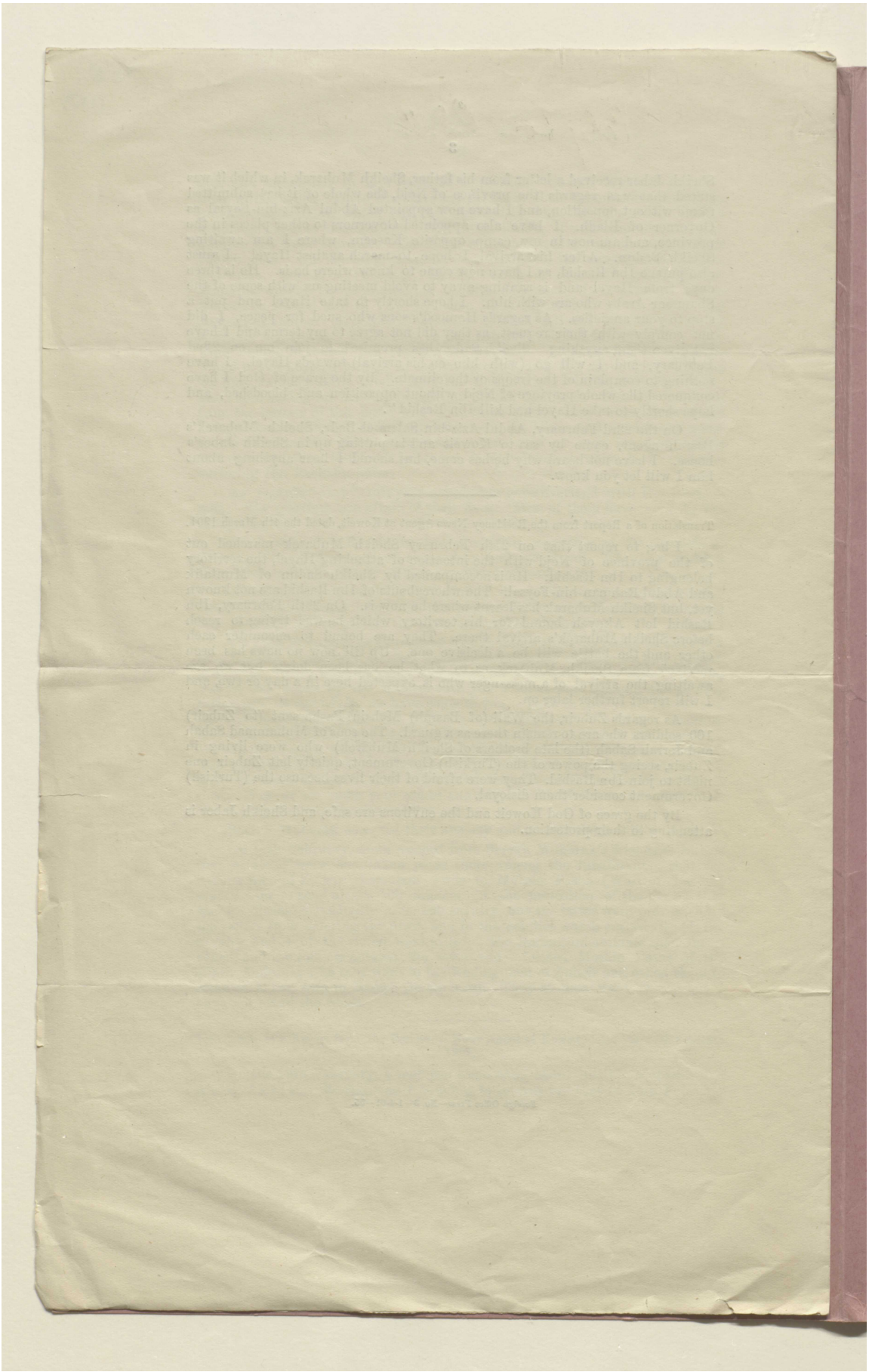

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REGISTERED No. A. 1.

The Pioneer.

ALLAHABAD:—THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1903 NO. 13111.

order of things to shoot first and enquire afterwards. But however appropriate such conduct may have been in the early days of California it is scarcely suitable to all conditions of society, and even in California it not infrequently led to regrettable mistakes. Sir George Birdwood has recently been telling a distinguished company of Anglo-Indians and others what he would have done had he been Governor of Aden when a Russian officer was sent ashore to clandestinely inspect the fortifications." Sir George Birdwood has held many offices under the Indian Government, but it is fortunate for the Empire, and fortunate also for Sir George, that fate never put him in a position in which he could carry out his pugnacious principles. The Russian bogey appears fairly to have mastered the late Special Assistant in the Statistics and Commerce Department at the India Office; but even that is no excuse for holding such language as he did on the occasion referred to. Had the incident occurred, the language would have been quite justifiable, but what are we to think of one who, having held responsible positions under the Crown, indulges in such an utterly foolish diatribe on the strength of a newspaper paragraph which has since been shown to be unsupported by the facts? Happily Englishmen do not often allow their zeal to outrun their discretion as Sir George Birdwood did; otherwise the Foreign Office would be kept busy explaining their imprudent utterances.

THE CEYLON PAPERS HAVE BEEN CONCERNing themselves about an alleged revolution in Ceylon's only dependency, the Maldive Islands. A trawler, recently returned from the islands, brought news that, in consequence of certain messages from the Sultan, who was stated to be on a visit to Egypt, Ibrahim Samsu Deen, former Sultan, deposed the present Sultan's brother, who was acting as Regent, and himself seized the Regency, with the idea of ousting the Sultan altogether. Revolutions in the Maldives are not infrequent, and are generally bloodless, being usually due to the discontent of a few powerful people who combine to create a disturbance in the chief island, burn a few huts, and then inform the Sultan that he is deposed. As he has no armed force to support him, he generally acquiesces without protest, at any rate until the instructions of the Ceylon Government have been received. However, it is little difficult to get at the truth about the present situation, for one of the latest arrivals from the islands, Captain Skinner, of the *Ethiopia*, declares that there has been no revolution, that the young man who now rules is the rightful heir to the throne, and that the man in Suez is not the Sultan but a former Regent. It is not of very much consequence to the Empire in any case, but the confused condition of affairs seems to point to the need of some reform of the Maldivian Constitution which would enable the Ceylon Government to exercise more control over the officials than it does at present. Six Ministers of State, not to mention the Sultan and the head priest or judge, is perhaps a rather too liberal allowance for a population of some 30,000, and it is not surprising that the bolder spirits among the Ministers should occasionally be tempted to make a bid for the control of the others.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SIR ANTONY MACDONnell some months ago as Permanent Under-Secretary for Ireland was at the time regarded as one of the most interesting political experiments that had been made for some years. It was known that a big Irish Land Bill was to be introduced in the coming Session of Parliament, and Sir Antony's wide experience of land legislation in India, and his views on Irish problems, not unnaturally suggested the idea that he was appointed with a special view to the forthcoming legislation, and, further, that the new Bill would be on a scale generous enough to placate Irish opinion, and to ensure at least the sympathy, if not the entire support, of the Irish party in Parliament. In his speech introducing the measure Mr. Wyndham alluded in high terms of eulogy to the assistance and services of Sir Antony MacDonnell, and it is not difficult, even without the full text of the measure before us, to trace the influence of our former Lieutenant-Governor's Indian experience. Sometime ago Sir Antony MacDonnell pointed out that the danger of creating tenant-proprietors in Ireland on a wholesale scale was that the land would soon become mortgaged to money-lenders, and the last state of the tenants would be worse than the first. So we find in the new measure clauses making stringent regulations against sub-division and mortgaging of holdings, evidently built on the lines of the recent alienation of land legislation in India. Again, there are provisions against the sale of estates to non-agriculturists, and those who remember what happened in these Provinces while the recent land legislation was under discussion will see in the limitation of the benefits of the Bill to tenancies created before March of this year that a very similar spirit has been abroad in Ireland. In India the landlords tried to evade the purpose of the coming legislation by serving notices on their tenants; in Ireland people have been trying to obtain the benefits of the new Bill by creating tenancies out of untenanted land. Sir Antony MacDonnell devised an effectual method of checkmating those who wished to circumvent his Indian legislation, and the new Bill equally effectively provides for the sharp practice of Irish beneficiaries. Other instances might be quoted, but enough has been said to show that in seeking the aid of one of the most distinguished Anglo-Indian officials the British Government adopted a very prudent course, and if, as there is good reason to anticipate, the new Irish Land Bill should have an appreciable influence on the future of Anglo-Irish relations not a little of the credit will be due to Sir Antony MacDonnell.

PARIS HAS DEVELOPED YET ANOTHER "AFfaire;" this is in regard to a tiara of embossed gold, purchased by the Louvre in 1896 for 400,000 francs, in the belief that it belonged to an ancient Scythian king named Saitapharnes. The story of the vendor was that the relic had been discovered in a tumulus in the Crimea. A certain M. Elina, however, while under examination in another case, declared that he himself had designed the famous tiara, and that consequently it was spurious. Incidentally he gave some interesting particulars of the art of "faking." In order to make golden objects look antiquated a number of eggs are broken and dropped into the skin of an animal, dog or cat preferred. In three or four months the gold is oxydised and it is only necessary to smooth down the angles with a brush. Ivory is made archaic by being dipped into a strong solution of nicotine and afterwards washed with oxygenised water, the dull yellow thus produced being indelible. Mummies are made up out of oakum and pitch, though the high class mummy requires a skeleton. It appears that the character of the tiara in question has already occasioned a good deal of controversy, but the Louvre authorities seem to have been quite satisfied with the proofs furnished by the vendor. Dr. Murray of the British Museum has no doubt as to the tiara being false, but acknowledges that three of the most competent British authorities have always maintained its genuineness. Dr. Murray also declared that some obviously false relics offered him by a Russian dealer were subsequently sold to Mr. Pierpont Morgan. "It was doubtless the first time that Mr. Pierpont Morgan paid too high a price for anything." When the smartest of modern financiers can be taken in, it is time for all of us to be wary. Meanwhile M. Elina has retracted his statements, saying that he only made these assertions in order to draw attention to the wholesale fashion in which spurious art is fabricated in Paris. Whether the tiara is genuine or not, he should have the satisfaction of knowing that he has divulged enough to shake the confidence of the most confirmed collector.

A FEW MONTHS AGO SIGNOR TARGGI startled the world by declaring that he could convey letters by his system of overhead wires at the rate of 250 miles an hour. From America now comes the news that a certain Professor A. C. Albertson has invented a magnetic train, which will travel, if necessary, at a rate of 300 miles in sixty minutes or nearly five times as fast as any British express train. The Professor is a Dane, resident in New York and a man of some eminence in his native land. His idea, which is certainly novel, is to overcome the weight of a railway train by means of powerful magnets, which slide underneath the rail. If a train weighed 15 tons, the Albertson engineer would merely turn on a magnetic force of sixteen tons, thus overcoming the weight of the train and allowing it to slide along the rails at a friction of only one ton. The train, in fact, no longer weighs anything. It pulls upward instead of pressing downward. The magnets are caught in a hoodlike fashion underneath the rails, and are fastened above to the cars. When the magnetic force is turned off, the car drops down to rest upon eight small wheels; when the car is in motion the current is turned on and the magnetic hooks grip the rail and slide along the smooth surface with the minimum friction. The inventor claims for his new train that it will travel five times the speed of any other kind of train at one-sixth of the cost; that there will be no noise or vibration, no derailing, hot boxes or grade crossing accidents, and no need for purchasing land, as his is an over-head system, and the structure can be supported by single iron pillars. He has already taken out patents in Great Britain, America, Germany, Italy, France, Denmark and Sweden, and has persuaded the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway to place its shops and land at his disposal. Magnetism, says the Professor, "is the greatest source of power ever known. It is now possible to move a whole building with the touch of a man's hand. The power of magnetism is as infinite as that of electricity itself, yet it has never been put to work by man for purposes of industry or transportation. The cost of it is very trivial. Two per cent of an electric current is sufficient to operate the magnets, while the remaining 98 per cent can be used for any other purpose." The Professor may be a little over-enthusiastic, but his principle is generally regarded as sound. We may thus, perhaps, all hope to see the day when the South-Eastern *et hoc genus omne* are no more.

SENATOR MATHESON'S VIEWS, AS HE EXPRESSED them in his recent paper on Australia and Naval Defence read before the Colonial Institute may or may not be those of Australians generally; it is devoutly to be hoped that they are not, or the Defence Committee will find its task greatly complicated from the first. Because the British Navy cannot absolutely ensure the safety of Australian commerce from attack, or absolutely prevent the possibility of raids by hostile cruisers, it is wiser for Australia to make her own arrangements. The £126,000, which has hitherto been paid to the Admiralty for the maintenance of the local squadron, and is now to be increased to £200,000 might be better spent on a purely local Navy under local management. The experience of the past twelve years has satisfied Senator Matheson at least that local control could not have worse and might "possibly" have better results than the present system; that, all sentiment apart, the Admiralty has treated Australia with "neglect;" and, finally, that the entire organisation of the Admiralty is out of date and requires readjusting to deal with modern needs in modern ways. It is disappointing to learn that there is any "*possibility*" of the local scheme being not much more successful than the one it is to replace; of that at least one would have expected certainty. Another possibility, however, is unaccountably overlooked, namely, the willingness of the Commonwealth or indeed its power to pay the bill. Senator Matheson appears to think that a start might be made with the additional subsidy; but, as the existing admittedly more or less obsolete squadron cost Great Britain three-quarters of a million to build, it will cost Australia a good many times the amount of that subsidy to replace them and then to keep them in commission. Mr. Arnold Forster estimates the lowest cost of such a Navy as at least a million a year, taking new construction and repairs into consideration. Another extraordinary statement made by Senator Matheson was to the effect that the benefit derived by Australia from the operations of the British Fleet was practically accidental, and that the British ratepayers' burden would not be reduced one penny if there were no Australia to-morrow. Whether Senator Matheson and his party really believe that in the event, say, of our loss of the command of the sea finally and for all, other nations would respect them in their isolation, it is difficult to say; apparently they do—and in that belief they must remain until a healthier state of public opinion has developed. Meanwhile Senator Matheson might take note of the ever-increasing feeling at Home that the burden of Imperial Defence is rapidly getting too heavy for the Mother Country to bear alone.

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THE THREATENED ABSORPTION OF PERSIA.—In a recent article on the strategy of the future, it was shown that the military frontier of the Empire as laid down by the *Times'* writer on Army Reform must be accepted not as a matter of opinion, but as one of absorbing fact. Whether England accepts or rejects his proposal to have the obligatory Army Corps in South Africa, reckoned as part of the Home Establishment, or on foreign service, makes not the slightest difference from a strategic point of view. Its services would be equally available for defensive purposes under whichever category it might be classed. It is also evident that the Asiatic military frontier is by far the most important section of the land-line of the Empire's borders. The Asiatic frontier, which we defined as starting from the Persian Gulf at Gwetter Bay and following the defined frontier of Baluchistan and Afghanistan thence along the northern limits of Indian influence until it touches the western confines of China, thence trending south to terminate at the Gulf of Siam, is in round numbers about 4,000 miles in length. It is a self-evident proposition that the defence of such a border is no ordinary task, but happily a large portion of it being protected by nature the actual line to be defended reduces itself to that portion which is most liable to attack from Russia. A simultaneous attack by the French from Tonquin is a very far-fetched contingency. France cannot act except by means of large reinforcements to her garrison in the Far East, and these she cannot obtain as long as we maintain our supremacy as a sea Power. As long as we hold the custody of the Suez Canal and can prevent a fleet of transports rounding the Cape of Good Hope no reinforcements can make their way eastwards. The route *viâ* Cape Horn and across the broad Pacific Ocean is evidently out of the question. Besides, the point arises, would France now, after more than a decade's experience of the Russian alliance, run the risk of war with England for the sake of her more than doubtful ally? If we are not mistaken there is not only a distinct abatement of the enthusiasm that characterised the Toulon fêtes of some years ago, but there is, since the pronounced popular estrangement between the English and German peoples, a tendency to a *rapprochement* between the French and the English that may eventuate in a revival of the *entente cordiale* of the Crimean epoch. The question, then, as regards our military frontier is reduced to a consideration of the possible action of Russia towards Afghanistan and the Perso-Baluch frontiers.

As regards Afghanistan, there is no reason to suppose that the appearance of Russian troops within her borders would be unopposed. The Afghans are fanatical and patriotic. They are well-armed and likely to make a stout resistance. Besides an invasion of Afghanistan would mean war with England, and so, possibly, besides treasure and munitions of war, a large portion of the Indian Army, as well as reinforcements from Australia and the Cape, might enter Afghanistan to take part in the struggle. It is, therefore, more than doubtful whether Russia would embark on an enterprise whose issue is more than likely to be unfavourable to her. It has been pointed out, moreover, and among others by the present Viceroy, that Russia, without violating the letter of her engagements with us, and without encroaching on Afghan territory, might, by an advance into the Shah of Persia's territory—by his leave or without it, in alliance with that monarch or in opposition to his wishes—occupy positions on the Perso-Baluch frontier that might be fraught with menace to the peace of India, unless checked in time. All who know Khorasan are unanimous in saying that, against a Russian occupation of Khorasan, there would be no opposition on the part of the inhabitants from Astrabad and Shahrud right away to Meshed. There would be no active resistance; the Persians among themselves might curse the Muscovites, but individually they would be delighted to exchange the régime of the Tsar for that of the Kajars with their rapacious, revenue-farming rulers. Patriotic feeling towards the Kajar dynasty does not exist in Khorasan; the Mullahs and Mujtehids, if guaranteed their pensions and perquisites, would like Providence be on the side of the big battalions. Now, assuming that a Russian occupation of Khorasan came about, would it be a *casus belli*? If Russia were as vulnerable to British attack as France, it certainly would. An occupation of Khorasan by Russia would undoubtedly cause us much harm morally and materially. Our prestige would suffer and our trade with Khorasan would be ruined; but unless the Afghans, alarmed at the progress of the Russian arms, made a distinct appeal to us to join forces and carry the war into Russian territory, it would be foolish to embark on such distant operations of our own initiative. But there are other ways of checking an advance by Russia into Khorasan than by means of actual hostilities carried on at a distance not less than 1,000 miles from Peshawar or Quetta by road. With an enemy who is so effectively out of our reach every where, except by sea, perhaps, in the Far East, the only alternative is retaliation. Possibly, if Russia was given to know by unmistakeable plain-speaking, and a certain amount of action, that her absorption of Khorasan would immediately be followed by the advance of the Perso-Baluch frontier line, which at present denotes the territory under British protection and influence, westwards as far as Bunder Abbas pivoting, as it were, about Koh-i-Malik Siah in Seistan, she might reflect before embarking on an enterprise that could lead to nothing tending to further her interests or the political objects she has in view.

A British protectorate extending to Bunder Abbas along the northern shore of the Persian Gulf, would as effectually seal up the northern portion of the Gulf, as does the possession of the Dardanelles the Black Sea. If our zone of influence and protection extended from Karachi to Bunder Abbas on the northern shore of the Gulf of Oman its corollary would be a still more effective protection and domination over the territory of Oman than we now by Treaty exercise. The re-occupation and fortifying of Cape Musendom and all the islands of the Straits of Ormus, that have all within the last fifty years been in our possession at one time or another would follow as a matter of course. The Russian and British armies of occupation would be kept apart by the great desert that stretches its dreary and saline solitude almost from the gates of Teheran to the present Perso-Baluch frontier, and which is never less than four days' journey across. It is unlikely that Russian outposts would be pushed further south than Turbut Haidari and Turbut-i-Shaik Jam, because the resources of the country south of these points would be insufficient until the fertile plains of Seistan are reached. Would a Russian army starting from its base in the Transcaspian Provinces be able to reach Seistan before a British force was able to do so? Distance is in favour of the British. It is 400 miles from Quetta to Nasirabad against 510 miles from Doshak, on the Transcaspian Railway, that runs from Krasnovodsk to Merv, to the same place. The odds are much in our favour and will be increasingly so as the Nushki line is pushed on to the west.

An occupation of Persian Baluchistan in retaliation for a Russian occupation of Khorasan would make it advisable to let the Nushki-Seistan Railway push on to Bunder Abbas *viâ* Minab. From such ports as Sonmeani, Ormara, Pasni, Gwadur and Chahbar, roads should be constructed to tap the Nushki-Bunder Abbas line. Seistan is 400 miles from Ormara, Bampur 180 miles from Chaubar, and about the same from Gwetter Bay *viâ* Kasrkund; Regan and Bam, on the borders of the Great Desert, are about 200 miles from Minab. Thus positions, which it might be expedient to occupy, are not more distant from the sea than is Bohotle from Berbera or Gerlogabi from Obbia. As to climate and resources in the way of water, cereals, wood, sheep and pack animals there is no comparison between Somaliland and Persian Baluchistan. Now Russia, not having yet occupied Khorasan, we evidently have no right or title to occupy Southern Persia in any part; still it might be just as well to improve the ports of Gwadur, Pasni, Ormara and Sonmeani. Piers might be constructed, alongside of which ships of small burden might lie. We have every right to erect these, as also to improve such roads as exist by deviations, bridging, etc., so as to render them good enough for cart traffic and improvable into a 2-ft. 6-in guage railway by and bye, as trade improves.

Also, as we have distinctly a grievance at present against Persia over the revised customs dues, we might resume our protectorate over Kishm and re-establish our naval station at Basidah. Besides this, what we should have at hand is a score or so of senior Lieutenants and junior Captains fairly well up in colloquial Persian, as spoken in Persia, and not the extraordinary lingo taught by the munshis of the Examiner's department in Calcutta. These young men might be attached to the Consulates and Vice-Consulates in Seistan, Kerman, Yezd, Bushire, Bunder Abbas, etc., for a year. This would be perfectly sufficient, with a little previous grounding in Persian classics in India, to enable them to become quite sufficiently adept to be extremely useful when the day comes to exercise their knowledge should a military occupation ever be necessary. The indebtedness of the Shah's Government to Russia is increasing very rapidly. When a country produces hardly more than 1½ millions of revenue the repayment of successive loans of several millions, contracted since the accession of the present Shah, seems hopeless. The assignment of the revenues of Khorasan, and the handing over of its administration to Russia would be a way out of the difficulty. If ever the Shah should sign away his patrimony in that way, we are perfectly justified in demanding a concession sufficiently extensive to equilibrate our prestige and recoup us for our ruined trade with Khorasan. Russia is perfectly aware that whatever advantages she might gain in Northern Persia, be it by an extension of her territory from the Caucasus or from Transcaspian Turkistan, they cannot lead to her advance to the Persian Gulf if we oppose her. Russia knows that Persian administration of the Gulf Coast by governors and rulers nominated from Teheran, and as such, if so instructed, bound to carry out an anti-British policy to us, could be replaced by a very different administration in a very short time. The Viceroy has but to instruct the British Resident at Bushire that a re-establishment of the Arab Government of the northern littoral of the Persian Gulf is expedient and must be carried out and forthwith every vestige of Teheran rule or authority from Mohammerah to Gwetter Bay would rapidly disappear. The ousted Arab Chiefs would again reign over the coast populations, most of which are of Arab descent and whose mother-tongue is Arabic. A re-establishment of Arab rule, under our protection and control, on both shores of the Gulf, would be welcomed by the coast populations of the northern coast, and would be a final rebuff to Russia's pretensions to establish herself on the Gulf. We should have all the fighting men from Bab-el-Mandeb round by Hadramaut and Oman at our back and call as well as from Koweit to the Pirate Coast and the hinterland. Therefore, if Russia realises that a move into Khorasan or into Azarbijan means the resuscitation under the British flag of the Arab Governments in the Gulf, the extension of British Protected Baluchistan to Bunder Abbas, as well as the occupation of Seistan, she may think the game hardly worth the candle, and chose rather to observe her solemn undertaking to maintain in all its integrity the independence of Persia.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

LORD ROSEBERY AS LIBERAL LEADER. THE £112,000,000 LAND PURCHASE SCHEME.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

WESTMINSTER, 27TH MARCH.

LORD ROSEBERY was greeted in the House of Lords on Tuesday afternoon as the next Prime Minister. That was the meaning of the great gathering of the almost excited crowd at the Bar, of the jostling throng of Privy Councillors on the steps of the Throne, of the total eclipse at the moment of the House of Commons. The significance of all this dramatic circumstance was reflected in the words of Lord Selborne. The thought which moved the curiosity of the hour found expression in an aside to which the First Lord of the Admiralty was, as it seemed, drawn in spite of himself. There was much to challenge discussion, and something to challenge controversy in what Lord Rosebery had to say, and Lord Selborne was, on the whole, the Minister most capable of dealing with it, for in these days the Duke of Devonshire is suffering from waning vitality—he is becoming more and more acclimatised to the somnolent condition of the House of Lords—and no other Peer has personal knowledge and experience of the Service Departments in their relation to the new Committee of Defence. The aside into which Lord Selborne was induced by the psychological influence of the debate could not have occurred a year ago—perhaps not even a few months ago. These few words dropped by the way meant much. "Which is probable,"—how much does this assumption imply? The sentence without it would have been sufficiently interesting, but it might have been uttered at any time since Lord Rosebery returned to political life. Accentuated by this interjection, it became an intimate expression of the mind of the Minister, which one may say, brought the interest of the occasion to a climax. The passage had reference to India. Lord Rosebery had, with superficial reticence, suggested that all this talk about the Indian frontier was somewhat awkward, but he had, nevertheless, made his contribution to it. Lord Selborne offered no apology to anybody or any Power for discussing the future of that part of the Empire. "India is ours," he said, and that settled the matter. But he was, he said, amazed at the suggestion of Lord Rosebery when he contemplated the possibility of a war in which India might be involved, and in which it would not be necessary for us to send the reinforcements, and still more amazed at the suggestion that these reinforcements would not be necessary because they could not reach India for thirty-six days, and then they would be too late. Then came the pregnant sentence in which Lord Rosebery found himself invested with the halo of the Premiership. "I do say unhesitatingly that if Lord Rosebery is again in the position of authority, which is probable, and he gives his mind to these questions, as President of the Council of Defence, as I know he will, he will not hold for many hours the opinion which he has expressed so confidently to-day."

The Parliamentary conditions emphasised the peculiar importance of Lord Rosebery's action. It was the first direct bid he has yet made for leadership at Westminster. Hitherto he has been content to gather strength in the

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The Pioneer.

ALLAHABAD:—SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 1903. NO. 13037.

the station to see what changes had taken place in their absence.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM, after leaving the Delhi Durbar, was to arrive at Goalundo on the 14th January, and was then to tour in Upper Assam, visiting Rowhari, Tura, and other places. He will visit Manipur during February, and return *viâ* Silchar, reaching the latter place on the 20th February.

ON THE 14TH INSTANT—JUST THREE YEARS after the foundations were started—took place the final inspection and opening of the Turtipar bridge on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, the second great span now thrown across the Gogra river. Another great highway of the past, that from Benares to the north has thus come to be replaced by the iron road. The bridge, which is 3,912 feet long, consists of 18 spans of steel girders, and its construction may be said to have involved an exceptional variety of demands on engineering science and practice. The management and the Board at Home are to be congratulated on the completion of a work that should add considerably to the reputation of the Company which has grappled so successfully with so big a job.

THURSDAY'S METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS SEEMED to hold out some promise of rain over Upper India. The barometer was falling briskly to rapidly over Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier Provinces and a storm was entering the west of the Punjab and Upper Sind. Friday's reports, however, show that nothing important is to be anticipated from this source. The barometer is indeed still falling in Kashmir, and some of the higher stations of that Province have received snow, but of the depression which was crossing the Indus Valley yesterday morning there is now practically no evidence, it having disappeared under a general rise of pressure which has taken place over North-West India. In the meantime the winter rains are some three weeks overdue in the Punjab and a fortnight overdue in the Gangetic Plain, and the deficiency is becoming serious in the case of unirrigated tracts. Thus for the area represented by Simla the normal rainfall for December and the first half of January is 2·46 inches, while the actual rainfall received this year has been only 0·19 inch; for the Ludhiana area the normal rainfall for the above period is 1·52 inches and the actual only 0·04 inch; for the Cawapore area the normal is 0·70 inch and the actual only 0·02 inch; in the Lahore area the normal is 0·91 inch and the actual only 0·04 inch, and for the Bikanir area the normal is 0·57 inch and the actual only 0·01 inch. Thus all over Upper India the rainfall is becoming distinctly short, while the advance of rainless depressions to the North-West of India is hardly a good augury for the remainder of the cold weather.

THE OTHER DAY WE GAVE THE OUTLINE OF A scheme for a Teaching University for Allahabad. The whole matter, we understand, has been referred to the Government of India, and before that authority it will no doubt be considered alongside of the plan propounded by the Universities Commission. Now those who have followed the controversy throughout will recognise that the present University system has been tried and found wanting. If then a Teaching University is started in Allahabad it will be an experiment, to be followed if successful in other University centres. Allahabad is well suited for such an experiment. In Calcutta, Bombay and Madras there are many colleges with diverse interests. But the Muir Central College stands practically by itself, and Government will thus have a free hand. In these circumstances the experiment will be one of great interest and importance to all India, and it is the more necessary that we should clearly understand the ends to be aimed at and the conditions to be dealt with. To begin with, Indian students may be divided into two classes, those who desire a good education and those who merely wish to pass a degree examination in order to become clerks in the railway or in the subordinate establishments of Government. It is plain that the interests of these two classes are diametrically opposed; and this is what makes the University problem in India peculiar. Here English education has become identical with University education. The student the summit of whose ambition is to copy English letters of business or to become a type-writing clerk on Rs. 40 a month goes to the same college and attends the same classes as the member of a wealthy family who aspires to rise high in the law or the Government service or to become himself a professor. Is there any other country in the world where this great difference is not recognised? In England the commercial clerk does not receive his education at Oxford, and in Germany the two classes are divided long before they reach the University. It is plain that the result of our system must be disastrous. It divides our Universities into two opposing camps, those who aspire to learning and those whose interest it is to turn out clerks. How can standards be raised or degrees be made anything much more than mere certificates of literacy as long as there is this dead weight upon higher education? At the same time the complaint is common that the University cannot produce a good clerk. The retort is obvious: a University is not meant for the production of clerks. Indeed, it might almost be said that the better the University the worse clerks would its students make.

IT IS PLAIN THAT IF A UNIVERSITY IS TO do anything in real learning, it must either get rid of this class of students altogether or relegate them to a separate department. But as these students form the great majority, and are to be found in every college, and as, moreover, there is no other means of teaching them, they cannot be ejected from the University, nor is it the intention of Government to disaffiliate even those colleges which deal with the humblest class of students. It remains then to separate them, and this might be done by the creation of a special course which would deal with commercial subjects. If this were done, and Government made this course the test for employment in its subordinate offices, the problem might be solved in a fairly satisfactory manner. The student in need of a commercial or clerical education would receive a training which might prove adequate to his own wants and those of his employers, while the college professors who had to deal with higher matters would no longer be embarrassed by students who had no object in learning. This change would also do much to remove the jealousy between those colleges whose attention is wholly devoted to the training of such students and the few powerful colleges which desire to attain to higher things. Colleges would naturally divide themselves under the two divisions as their staffs, their students and their means permitted. Then, also, the students with high aims would know where to go; and if Government should follow the plan at present being considered, and devote its energies to the concentration of the higher studies in one centre, if the additional Chairs were chosen with discretion and filled by good men, there would gradually be erected an institution which might be deemed worthy the name of University.

BUT IN THE WORKING OF THE SCHEME THE two great objects—higher education and clerical or commercial education—would have constantly to be kept in view. Higher education would have to be put in the hands of the men who understood it, and so also with the other. Let us not deceive ourselves. Even though a man be a High Court Judge, even though he be an ideal husband, father and citizen, he may not be able to conduct the affairs of a University. Of course it is possible that professors may err; but surely they are more likely to be right than those who have not made teaching their vocation; while the work of the Bench and the Bar would not suffer if judges and lawyers were allowed to mind their own business. There are some who say that India has no need of higher education, and that it has done more harm than good. But they confuse the issues. Higher education is forced upon a large class that has no need for it, that makes the mere name of it ridiculous. What have railway clerks to do with philosophy or literature or science? But India has need of a class of highly educated men just like any other country. If not, why have Universities at all?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S REMARKS ON THE SOUTH African labour question may be compared with the long but extremely interesting statement on the same subject recently contributed by Sir H. Johnston to the *Times*. While calculating from the figures given in the census returns that 400,000 is about the total number of able-bodied men available for labour from the coloured population of the countries south of the Zambesi and that of this number some 300,000 are already employed in various occupations, he remarks that the remaining 100,000 shown on paper, are "apparently non-obtainable, either because they will not for the reduced pay which is offered leave their homes or because the census returns are too high." The development of the Rand, on the other hand, will in a few years require at least 320,000 unskilled workers while if the needs of the whole of South Africa be taken into consideration the labour force "will not be less than seven or eight hundred thousand." Sir H. Johnston then proceeds to discuss the proposals for importing white men or natives of India or China into South Africa. To the white labourer he objects on the score of economy—the white man costing at least £140 per annum in contrast to the £44 spent on the negro—and also because not only would he encourage strikes and further free trade, in the one case to the detriment of industry and in the other to agriculture, but would probably be drawn from European races other than British. "Asiatic labour would solve the difficulty, but for the fact that the whole of white and black South Africa is opposed to its introduction." Sir H. Johnston is hardly convincing on this point, since, as far as the Indian coolie is concerned, we know from the report of the Protector of Immigrants that the Indian is considered indispensible in Natal, and we have but lately heard that he is being recruited in Kimberley for mining purposes. "Indian coolies," Sir H. Johnston adds, "are said to be too weak in muscle to compete with the black man, but on this point I beg to disagree, having seen what work the same coolies can do in India, and East Africa on the Uganda Railway." The Chinese are, no doubt, in many ways objectionable as near neighbours in a civilised community, though the experience of the Malay States would seem to suggest that the advantages in employing them may sometimes outweigh the disadvantages. The Indian, however, is both a good worker and an orderly member of society, and if we wish to understand the prejudice against him we are driven to the fear, certainly largely entertained, that he may oust the white population of South Africa from their present monopoly of skilled labour.

BUT TO RETURN TO SIR H. JOHNSTON. THE only possible source for coloured labour lies, in his opinion, north of the Zambesi River and here "the best recruiting grounds in the immediate future will be North-Eastern Rhodesia and British Central Africa, all Portuguese Africa, and the interior of British East Africa and Uganda." British East Africa is "somewhat disappointing" owing to the sparsity of its population; but in Uganda you find, says its Special Commissioner with natural pride, "the Japanese of Africa—a remarkably intelligent, docile, pleasant people, who would offer themselves by the thousand." On the other hand, Mr. Chamberlain's objection against employing the Baganda is certainly a sound one. No one would wish to increase the problems of South Africa by introducing the Sleeping Sickness. We are thus thrown back practically on three main sources. In Portuguese Africa the tribes most suitable, in Sir H. Johnston's view, are the Machinjiri, Batonga, Makua and Yao, and he does not anticipate any unreasonable objections being made by the Portuguese against their employment. British Central Africa might supply some 50,000, but at present there are two difficulties in the way—the local need for labour and the conveyance of the men. Both these will disappear when the Chiromo-Lake Nyasa Railway is built, and by the employment of steamers on Lake Nyasa and along the Shire. Before these conditions are satisfied, however, some time must elapse, and the South African labour problem is a present one requiring speedy solution. The same objection can be made in regard to North-Eastern Rhodesia. Doubtless the contemplated Zambesi-Tanganyika section of the Cape-Cairo Railway may be "a most important factor in the future of British Africa," but till it is built there must be, as Sir H. Johnston admits, the difficulty of the long march to and from the Zambesi or the shores of Lake Nyasa before or after the labourers have made use of existing means of conveyance." In short, a close inspection of Sir H. Johnston's argument only leads to much the same hopeless conclusion that Reuter makes Mr. Chamberlain arrive at, when he practically dismisses all sources of coloured labour but the local, which is admittedly inadequate. It can only serve still more to convince those who hold that the Indian coolie has not as yet received a sufficient trial, and that it is in this direction that we must for the present look for the solution of what is now perhaps becoming the most serious of South African problems.

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THE SEISTAN BOUNDARY.—In a few days the Boundary Mission to Seistan, under Major MacMahon, will be well on its way to Nushki and the Helmund to rectify the sins of omission and commission made, thirty years ago, by the Boundary Mission under Sir Frederic Goldsmid. One object of the Mission is to adjust certain territorial disputes, between Persians and Afghans, which the changeful nature of a portion of the boundary, viz., the Helmund river, has by its vagaries aroused. The first Mission was despatched under the direct orders of the English Foreign Office and this second Mission is under the direct control of the Indian Foreign Office, that is, of the Viceroy himself.

Before diplomacy can effectually be employed in settling frontier disputes, above all things it is necessary to have accurate topographical information. Settling frontier questions with the aid of accurate maps and full local information, is a very different matter from determining territorial limits from imperfect maps and by the aid of defective and semi-digested reports. The latter was the task of the Seistan Mission under Sir Frederic Goldsmid. The information available regarding Seistan in 1870, when the Mission was first organised, was almost a blank. A few notes and a rough map by Conolly and a short notice by Khanikoff, together with a brief account in Ferrier's travels constituted the whole stock. The MacMahon Mission starts on a totally different basis. Our knowledge of Seistan topographically, thanks to the labours of the surveyor to the Goldsmid Mission and subsequently to those of Sir Thomas Holdich and his subordinates, is now as good and perfect as that of any part of India surveyed and mapped on a small scale. Whilst, thanks to the accumulation of information during the last thirty years and especially to the establishment of Consulates at Kirman and in Seistan and to the personal travels and investigations of Yate, Sykes and Webb-Ware and others, the *dossier* on Seistan affairs in the Chancellery of the Foreign Office at Simla, has assumed weighty proportions.

In constitution and equipment the two Missions stand in great contrast. One, the Mission under Goldsmid, was as modest as the MacMahon Mission is sumptuous. Instead of 1,300 transport animals, the Goldsmid Mission had about 100, inclusive of riding horses. For escort it had two ghulams or sowars from the British Legation at Teheran, and at times twenty to thirty ragamuffin Tufanchis furnished by the Persian authorities instead of one squadron of cavalry and two companies of infantry and a machine-gun. When Colonel Goldsmid and his Secretary, Captain E. Smith, arrived in Teheran in the summer of 1870 to organise the Mission, the late Sir Robert Murdock Smith, then Director of the Persian Telegraphs in Teheran, pointed out to the head of the Mission that a surveyor to accompany the Mission was absolutely necessary. It is indeed strange that this matter was overlooked in London, and that an important Mission charged with the fixation of frontiers was permitted to leave without the question of its technical *personnel* being considered of sufficient importance to secure at all events the co-operation of the Survey Department in India. In consequence of Sir Robert Murdock Smith's advice Government decided to depute one of the Superintendents of the Persian Telegraph as Surveyor to the Mission. Captain Beresford Lovett, R.E., the officer who was selected for this duty, had to undertake this at very short notice, so that it was not possible to procure a proper outfit for a survey of this importance either as regards subordinate establishment, instruments or stationery from India, and he had to do the best he could with a sextant and a prismatic compass. Moreover, the surveyor had to conform his movements with those of the Mission, naturally to the detriment of the accuracy or completeness of the survey.

The public have a right to know why another and more expensive Mission is now required to rectify errors committed by the former one, and to know to what cause to attribute such failure. Looking back through the vista of thirty years, the defects in the settlement of the Seistan boundaries must undoubtedly be attributed to undue haste. It was unfortunate that Sir Frederic Goldsmid's laudable desire to save the public purse should have induced him to get over the work too rapidly. It is now apparent that a diplomatic Mission to Seistan in 1870 was premature. The proper course to have taken would have been to despatch at first a fully equipped technical Mission, for the survey only of the whole region included within the scope of the inquiry and such a Mission would with advantage have remained for two seasons in the field, retiring to the hill country during the great heats. Moreover, the presence of a technical Mission with ordinary tact, and without political power or pretension, would not have excited the suspicions of the Amir of Kain, Mir Alum Khan, as did the presence of the arbitrator who was popularly suspected by the Persians of intentions inimical to their rule in Seistan. Consequently the greatest obstacles were placed by the Persian Commissioners, Mirza Maasum Khan and Mir Alum Khan in the way of the Mission's obtaining topographical or historical information.

Nevertheless, the fact that the Helmund had altered its course previous to 1872 was pointed out by the surveyor to the Mission; but in making his award Sir Frederic Goldsmid neglected to appreciate the importance of this point and consulted only the mapped results of the survey. Now a technical Commission would never have overlooked such a contingency as the Helmund changing its course, and would not only have insisted that this might happen again, but would have suggested a remedy.

However, this, after all, is really a minor point, and one that affects but the interests of Persians and Afghans. Sir Frederic Goldsmid's award was founded on imperfect topographical data, due to the hurried nature of his movements; his judicial acumen was warpt by perturbation caused in his mind by the sudden and unexpected arrival with Nur Mahamad Khan, the Afghan Commissioner, of Sir Richard Pollock, the Commissioner of Peshawar, with Dr. Bellew as his interpreter. When Sir Frederic Goldsmid arrived at Band on his way to Seistan he had no knowledge that it was Lord Mayo's intention to send the officer that had been the exclusive medium of communication with the late Amir Shir Ali Khan and the Government of India to back up the Afghan Commissioner. Naturally Mirza Maasum Khan, the Persian Commissioner, when informed that the Afghan Commissioner was to be accompanied by a very high British official was as indignant as his wily diplomatic training in Russia permitted him to be. Nevertheless, he and the Persian Government considered the introduction of Sir Richard Pollock in the negotiations an act of treachery. It was in consequence of these circumstances that the importance of the northern boundary of Baluchistan was not sufficiently recognised, and in fact lost sight of. It is easy to be wise after the event; still the sin of the non-recognition of the importance of the Baluch frontiers was committed by others besides the head of the Seistan Mission. The question of the boundaries and delimitation of Baluchistan was submitted to the criticism of some very astute minds. How was it that neither Sir Charles Aitcheson nor Sir Bartle Frere nor Sir William Merrywether nor the officials at the Foreign and India Offices in London had the prescience to foresee that the delimitation of Baluchistan meant the extension of the Indian Empire up to those limits? Had any of these high officials formulated such a prediction, undoubtedly the delimitation of Baluchistan would have been viewed differently.

A demarcation line from Kob Malik-i-Seah to the Seistan band and thence along the left bank of the Helmund to about Rudbeer, and from that point south to the present northern boundary of Baluchistan, was it is true, suggested to the arbitrator by the survey officer as the Baluch frontier abutting on Seistan, from the fact that in 1872 the country south of those points was deserted by all, except nomad Baluchis. This territory was, moreover, neither actively claimed nor desired by either Persians or Afghans, being a barren and deserted *terra incognita*. Unfortunately this important suggestion was not appreciated, and the territory in question was added by a stroke of the pen to Afghanistan. The Afghans, as well as the Persians, have neither the money nor the skill necessary to turn this howling wilderness into a smiling paradise; but had the award been made as was suggested, although the suggestion was motived entirely free from political prescience, it would have been just as possible, at this present time, for the Government of India to have undertaken the resuscitation of and modernised the old system of canalisation, at the elbow of the Helmund, at the Bund-i-Kamal Khan, as it is for Government to undertake a railway to Nushki, a link in the chain of the future railway to join, possibly, the German system in Asia Minor. It would then have been possible to reclaim and irrigate a very large tract of this wilderness without detriment to the agricultural prospects of any land in Seistan now watered by the Helmund. On the contrary, irrigation headworks at Bund-i-Kamal Khan could have been used as a regulator and escape channel and have thus averted the danger and damage caused by excessive floods to which Seistan is still liable. The tract in question contains several hundred square miles, and it would have by its fertility attracted a mixed population of Indians, Baluchis, Persians and Afghans who would have settled down to experience the rule of a civilised Government.

The question now arises—is this "might-have-been" impossible of realisation? Can MacMahon's Mission rectify the precipitancy and want of prescience of Goldsmid's award? The Afghans by that award are the actual possessors of this tract, which is to them utterly useless, so that possibly for a consideration the Amir of Afghanistan might consent to a rectification of the boundaries of his dominions beyond Rudbeer. In connection with the Seistan question at present and in 1872, it is impossible not to contrast our political preponderance now in that part of the world with what it was in Lord Mayo's time. Then Quetta was not in our hands, nor was the influence of our rule felt much beyond the borders of our revenue-paying territories. Matters in a military sense are now on a different footing. To enter Afghanistan as friends or as foes, we no longer require to follow the old routes of 1838 or 1878. We have now no need to cross that belt of mountain fastnesses tenanted by fierce Pathan warriors that has hitherto constituted the most formidable factor in our military operations with the Afghans. We can from railhead at Chaman, without fear for our communications, advance on Kandahar any day—as friends let us hope. We can also by pushing to Nushki and further westwards completely outflank all possible opposition. Undoubtedly when the railway is pushed beyond Nushki some point on it should be connected by a direct line of cart road with the sea at Pusin or Gwadur, distant not more than 250 miles. By this means our position for operations in Southern Afghanistan would be immensely strengthened and still more so if that part of Baluchistan were, as we have pointed out, by a readjustment of the boundaries, made conterminous with the Helmund below Rudbeer. The populations of south Afghanistan west of Kandahar are not like the warlike barbarians, with no property to lose, that have heretofore given us trouble in getting into Afghanistan proper. The country is comparatively open and resistance to a force supplied not only from Quetta, but also from the sea, at Gwadur, would be very much less effective than when as heretofore our column and lines of communication with our bases of supply extended for scores of miles through hostile populations favoured by all the advantages of inhospitable and rugged highlands. Doubtless the Afghan rulers are astute enough to realise the difference of the situation, militarily, now and thirty years ago—and the advisability, therefore, of being on good terms with a Government, whose earnest desire is to live on the best of terms with them and to stand by them in the hour of need.

THE LAW AND LAWYERS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, DECEMBER 29TH.

It cannot be said that the year now drawing to a close has been a particularly eventful or fruitful one in the domain of law. There have been no vacancies on the Bench and no legal reputations made or marred, and the memorable decisions have been few. The most striking perhaps was that of the House of Lords in the appeal in the Driefontien Mines case—on the validity of an insurance effected on goods of an alien corporation on the eve of hostilities. In the course of next month, however, there will be what has not fortunately been known for more than half a century, a trial for high treason. The House of Lords, though it began its judicial labours some weeks earlier than usual, has left its business in a less satisfactory state than it was at the beginning of the year. Their Lordships have sat, I find, on fewer days than in several previous years. They only assembled on 79 days for the hearing of appeals, whereas in other years the numbers have been 86, 84 and 82. The Judicial Committee are however fully abreast of their work.

The judgment and verdict of Mr. Justice Wills and a special jury in the Taff Vale case do, indeed, constitute a landmark in the history of Trade Union. But the real point of departure was the decision of the House of Lords last year, arising out of the same transactions, which replaced the law in the position assigned by Mr. Justice Farwell, and made Unions in their collective capacity responsible for the authorised acts of their members. That decision was strengthened and elucidated in the Irish case of *Quinn* vs. *Leathem*. It can hardly be doubted that the recent decision will be taken further, and possibly reach the House of Lords. It is not easy to define how the law now stands. Hitherto, apart from a corporation or a partnership, there has been no legal entity constituted of individuals. A Trade Union is neither corporation nor partnership, although registration gives it a *quasi*-corporate existence. Further legislation is desirable, but hardly probable in the immediate future. Fundamental political conceptions are involved in this question than which none can be more difficult of solution. Historically, one may say, the judges have shown themselves hostile to combinations; and a severe struggle was needed to obtain legal recognition of Trade Unions. The Act of 1875 which bears the rather misleading title of 'The Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act' bears on the face of it the elements of compromise. The name would lead one to suppose it was a Statute abridging, whereas it really liberates, in the matter of united action. It is only incidentally and accidentally in the Act that recognition is made of Unions in their collective capacity, and one feels that if Lords Herschell, Watson, Hob-

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MAN, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1903.

THE RELIGIOUS DISTURBANCES IN PERSIA.

MASSACRE OF BABIS.

ACCORDING to information received from trustworthy sources, says the *Times*, the city and province of Yezd, in Southern Persia, were the scenes of very serious disturbances during the latter part of June. Rioting, which lasted for more than a fortnight at Yezd, culminated towards the end of June in a popular outbreak directed against the Babis, religious reformers whose aspirations have always been viewed with great suspicion by the ruling classes. Rumours of a demonstration against them circulated in Yezd early in June on the arrival from Nedjef of a new Mujtahid, or high priest, Mirza Muhammad Ibrahim. On the 27th and 28th especially the position, even of foreign residents, became at times critical when the mob were searching for certain well-known Babis in the quarter of the town in which the houses of the English missionaries are situated. Throughout the whole of those two days every Babi who fell into the hands of the rabble was butchered in whatever manner was most pleasing to the mob at the moment, and mutilated bodies were drawn through the town in all directions, followed by an exultant crowd. Houses were searched and plundered, women beaten, and in one or two cases killed, and the town was in the hands of a mob whose only programme was to kill. The houses of Babis were broken into and plundered by the mob, assisted by ghulams and soldiers. On Sunday, the 28th, the Mujtahids enjoined the populace to bring all Babis either before them or before the Governor for judgment. The Prince refused at first to give way to the threats of the mob, but his palace was surrounded by a turbulent crowd, and on the next day he gave way, and had one man taken before him blown from the mouth of a cannon, and the throat of another one cut, the body being dragged afterwards through the town. Order is reported to have been finally restored in the city, but the province was very disturbed, and no one could leave the town with safety. All Babis who attempted to fly were either killed or had to return and hide themselves in the ruins and ditches around the town, some to be captured, others to escape.

The *Times* publishes the following interesting leading article on this serious outbreak of religious fanaticism :—

It is a far cry to Yezd, in South-Western Persia, and only now, at the end of July, are the first authentic reports of the horrors which were committed there in June reaching this country. We shall probably never hear the full truth about the massacre of the Babis, of which we publish a brief account this morning. Neither the prosecutors nor their victims could give a complete and accurate narrative of what has taken place, even if they desired to do so, and the European inhabitants of the province and its capital are too few to be able to collect anything resembling a full statement of the facts. Yezd, however, is the seat of a British Consulate, and we may hope that, when the facts we describe to-day have been brought to the knowledge of the public, the Foreign Office may be stimulated to direct Sir Arthur Hardinge to investigate them through our Consular representative on the spot. The first rumours of a demonstration against the Babis circulated in Yezd early in June, immediately after the arrival there of one Mirza Muhammad Ibrahim from Nedjef, who is said to have received some religious appointment in the city. It speedily took the form of popular persecution and mob-violence, and it culminated for the time being in the crimes of June 26-28. The innocence of the unfortunate Babis, whose sole offence seems to have consisted in their unalterable fidelity to the tenets of their sect, and the weakness, or worse, of the Government are proved by the action of the Governor of Yezd. On Saturday, June 27th, the rabble brought a Babi prisoner before him. He refused to examine the man, presumably because there was no real case against him. Thereupon the whole city rose in disorder. The bazaars were all closed, the Palace was surrounded by a howling mob, and a hunt for the hated Babis was begun by the populace, who were assisted in their pious undertaking by the official messengers of the Governor, and even by the soldiers. The houses of the hated sectaries were broken into and looted, and the Babis themselves, wherever they were met, were murdered with such cruelties as suggested themselves to their persecutors, and their mutilated bodies were dragged in triumph through the streets. Even women were not safe. Several were severely beaten, and one or two were killed. The Governor had had his lesson. On the following morning he blew one Babi from a gun, and ordered the throat of a second to be cut, and his corpse to be delivered to the rabble. On the same day the Mujtahids, who are the religious guides of the people, exhorted them either to bring the Babis before the Governor or before themselves for judgment. After the authorities had surrendered to the mob the town became quieter, but the persecution went on. All the Babis who attempted to fly were either killed or forced to hide in the ruins and other lurking places which surround Oriental towns where many of them have been tracked out and captured. Those who escaped from the city itself were by no means out of danger, for similar scenes of unprovoked murder were being enacted in every village of the province.

It is so difficult to estimate the real causes of this bloody outburst of fanaticism in Yezd as to gauge those which underlay the very similar movement at Kishm. In both cases the victims were members of an unpopular religious faith, who are accused, in the main unjustly, of political agitation hostile to the Government. In both the Government made no active attempt to save the objects of popular hatred from the fury of the rabble, and in both the subordinates of the Government aided and abetted the rioters. The charges of cruelty to the Government of the Shah, which need to be brought against the Babis, were, in the opinions of the best judges, as little founded as those of socialism, communism, and immorality which were so freely levelled against them. On the other hand, the course of treatment which they have received at the hands of the Sovereign and his representatives during the 50 or 60 years of their existence is not exactly calculated to fill them with loyalty to his Throne. Though the Babis are not a political sect, their impassioned devotion to freedom of thought and to purity of life cannot but place them in opposition to a despotism which yearly becomes more and more shameless in its debauchery and corruption. Our Special Correspondent in the Middle East pointed last autumn to the great revival of Babism in a new and quasi-political form as one of the symptoms of grave popular discontent which have appeared in more than one quarter in Persia. The Government know, at all events, that this faith of purity and brotherly love is not likely in any circumstances to be a bulwark of the Court of Teheran. They know that it is hated by the orthodox priesthood—though, strangely enough, it has always drawn a large number of its best recruits from the ranks of the Mullahs—and they know that the rabble are always glad to rob and kill its adherents. A massacre of the Babis is as popular in Persia as a massacre of the Jews is in Russia; and the simple Machiavellianism of Oriental administrators may suggest, in the one case as in the other, that such a deed ought to be looked on with an eye of indulgence, if it serves to divert the mind of the people from dwelling upon the shortcomings of their rulers.

Lord Curzon, who estimated the Babis as probably amounting to nearly a million more than ten years ago, then expressed the opinion that not impossibly they might in time oust the Shiah faith from Persia. Babism, as he observes, is the one Oriental heresy which seems to be imbued with the spirit of progress and of reform. Its mystic pantheism appeals very strongly to a people amongst whom the mysticism of the Sufis is already a power, and even the orthodox Musselman cannot deny the force of the contention that the Bab or his successor is the promised Mahdi. The splendid heroism which the Babis have invariably displayed under the atrocious persecutions which they have repeatedly undergone since their founder proclaimed his mission in 1844 has, however, been their chief claim to the faith of the people. It is said that but one Babi has ever recanted, and he retracted his renunciation and died a martyr. The Bab and his successor have advanced claims which to European eyes are scarcely distinguishable from claims to divinity, and there is, of course, plenty about their pretensions which seems to us repulsive or absurd. But their ethical doctrine, notably in regard to the position of women and to toleration, their open testimony against the profligate impostures of degraded Mahomedanism, and certain aspects of their conception of the Deity, of the universe, and of the relation of man to both, raise them high above the level of their oppressors and entitle them to the interest and the regard of European observers. They may fail in their efforts at reform, but at least it is something that they should cling to lofty ideals with undaunted cours c

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THE STATESMAN, WEDNESDAY, AU

THE LATE POPE.

ENTOMBMENT IN ST. PETER'S.

The Rome correspondent of the Times wired on July 20th:—

The temporary entombment of the body of the late Pontiff took place yesterday evening at 9.15 after a ceremony of more than two hours' duration. About a thousand people altogether must have been given the privilege of witnessing the solemnity, and at seven o'clock quite a crowd had assembled between the chapels of the Choir and Holy Sacrament. As that hour precisely the Sacred College, to the number of 42 Cardinals, issued from the sacristy and took their places in the stalls of the chapel of the Choir where other dignitaries, the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Vatican, and members of the Roman nobility were already assembled. Almost simultaneously the procession of the Chapter, headed by Cardinal Rampolla, Archpriest of the Basilica, made its way to the chapel of the Holy Sacrament, where the body still lay in state. The litter was raised by acolytes and singers belonging to the Basilica, as the Chapter did not wish to cede their privilege to the soldiers, who would otherwise have performed the duty. The procession was formed of the Chapter,

earter we set down our last wishes in th holograph will. Before all we humbly pra the infinite goodness and mercy of God t pardon us the errors of our life and graciousl to receive our soul into the beatitude of ete nity. We hope for this particularly throug the merits of Jesus Christ, our Redeem trusting in His most sacred heart, most ardet furnace of charity, and the source of salvatio for the human race. We also implore the i tercession of the blessed Virgin Mary, mothe of God, and our most loving mother, and th saints whom we have venerated during ou life as our patrons. In disposing of th family patrimony which belongs to us w appoint as our heir our nephew Count Lodovico Pecci. From this property must b excepted the gifts made to Count Ricardo our other nephew, on the occasion of hi marriage. In addition to this exceptio ment be made to all the property existi at Carpineto, which belongs to the Hol See in accordance with the declaratio made in our will of February 8t 1900. In this will we have not mad bequests either in favour of our nephe Camillo or of our nieces Anna and Marth the son and daughters respectively of ou brother Giovanni Battista, having on th occasion of their marriages made suitabl provision for their maintenance during o life. We declare that no member of ou family can make good any claim not grante in this document, for all the rest of u property has come to us through the harvest ture of the Pontificate, and consequently i and in any case we wish it to be, the abs lute property of the Holy See. We entru the exact execution of these dispositions t Cardinals Rampolla, Mocenni, and Creton We declare that these are our last wishes. Rome, at the Vatican, July 9th, 190 GIOACCHINO PECCI, Leo P.P. XIII."

The will is written on a sheet of lar foolscap. The writing, although small, very distinct and regular, and shows n sign of weakness.

THE TRADE OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

The report for 1902 on the trade a commerce of the Persian Gulf has be issued as a Parliamentary paper [Cd. 1389 1131. No. 3036 in the annual series Diplomatic and Consular Reports. It begi with the following report on the trade a commerce of the Persian Gulf for 19 by Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Kemball, B Majesty's Acting Consul-General for Fa Khuzistan, etc., dated Bushire, May 29 1903:—

The depression of trade noticed in la year's report became more pronounced du ing the year under review owing to al serious failure of the crops, and operations all the chief articles, both of import a export, proved unremunerative, not to m reference, in some instances. But fortunate the timely and abundant rains which fe at the close of the year materially improv the prospects, and the splendid condition the crops throughout Persia promises good harvest. There is thus every hop of the trade assuming its normal prospe tions in the coming year. It may, however be useful to point out that the los credit system, largely resorted to by some the chief British importing firms, constitut an unsatisfactory feature in the Persia trade owing to the absence of any home legal machinery for bringing the defaultin native customers to justice.

The imports into Bushire, exclusive specie, declined by £313,800, as compare with the previous year; while those int Lingah improved by about £244,400 due t large importation of pearls from the Ara coast. The exports from Bushire declin by £206,000 while those from Lingah exce an increase of £220,600, due also t the large exportation of pearls. The fallin of the crops was more marked tha in the previous year, resulting in th importation of large quantities of food grai and flour from India. The highest poi reached in the sterling exchange was 1 November last, when the price was 69 krans per £1. The lowest was in the January preceding, when the Imperial Bank of Persi quoted 34½ krans. The average for the thre years works out at 57½ krans. The highes rupee exchange was 397 krans per 10 rupees in October last, and the lowest in th January preceding—viz., 264½ krans per 10 rupees.

Transport has throughout the year been maintained at a high level and at no time has it been less than 80 krans per 10 mannds of 7250lbs. This rate, too, could only be secured by agreeing to a delivery date of 60 days to Sairaz. The dear prices of fodder combined with the transport of the material for the new telegraph line, have contributed to the maintenance of this high rate. As the year closes the rates are rapidly rising owing to an improvement in the Shiraz markets. Freights to London for the first three months of the year were fairly steady at about £1, but during the dale season, fell to 14s. owing to keen competition, brought about by a third British line having commenced to run direct steamers to the Gulf. At the close of the year the freights again recovered, owing to steamers of all the three lines having been diverted to India on their return voyage to load, and opportunities for shipments having become infrequent.

Our hundred and thirty-eight steamers, with a tonnage of 155,392, entered the port of Bushire, showing an increase of 26 steamers of the tonnage of 25,119, as compared with the previous year. Of the total number entered, 133 were British, with a tonnage of 148,329, one Austro-Hungarian of 1,280 tons, one Turkish of 1,013 tons, and three Russian of 4,270 tons. The increase of 26 steamers over the previous year is due to a third British line having appeared on the field. The number of steamers which cleared from Bushire was 131, with a tonnage of 138,966, or an increase of ten steamers of 6,812 tons, which is all British. Of the total number cleared only four steamers of 5,883 tons belonged to other nationalities—viz., three Russian of 4,270 tons and one Turkish of 1,613 tons.

THE CAPE COMORIN HARBOUR.

A NAGERCOIL correspondent writes under date 13th August:—For the first time in the annals of Cape Comorin, a steamer anchored at the site of the proposed Cape Comorin Harbour on Monday last for taking a consignment of palmyra fibre exported by Messrs. Colebrim and Co., of Colachel; and the event was made the occasion of considerable rejoicing by the commercial population of South Travancore. When the harbour question was mooted some time back many people shook their heads with a knowing look and almost ridiculed the idea of the development of Comorin into a commercial port; but, nothing daunted, Diwan Peishkar Kesava Pillay firmly set to work and has, be it said to his credit, succeeded in founding the nucleus of an excellent harbour at the Land End of India. Considerable excitement prevailed in commercial circles when it was known the B.I.S.N. Co.'s steamer Chilka was expected to be in the roads on Monday morning. Large numbers of people of all classes wended their way to the Cape to have a glimpse of the first steamer calling at the proposed harbour, and by sunrise on Monday the Leopram beach presented quite an animated spectacle. The steamer was sighted at 5 A. M. and by half-past six it was well nigh within a mile of the shore, Mr. P. Madhava Pillay, the Superintendent of Customs, with a large staff of boatmen and coolies, was present to render the necessary help to ship the cargo, which consisted of 40 tons of palmyra fibre and sundry other articles. Notwithstanding the absence of facilities for landing in the shape of pier or landing stage, it is gratifying to note that the process went off without a hitch. The Chilka left Cape Comorin on Monday evening on her way to London via Colombo.

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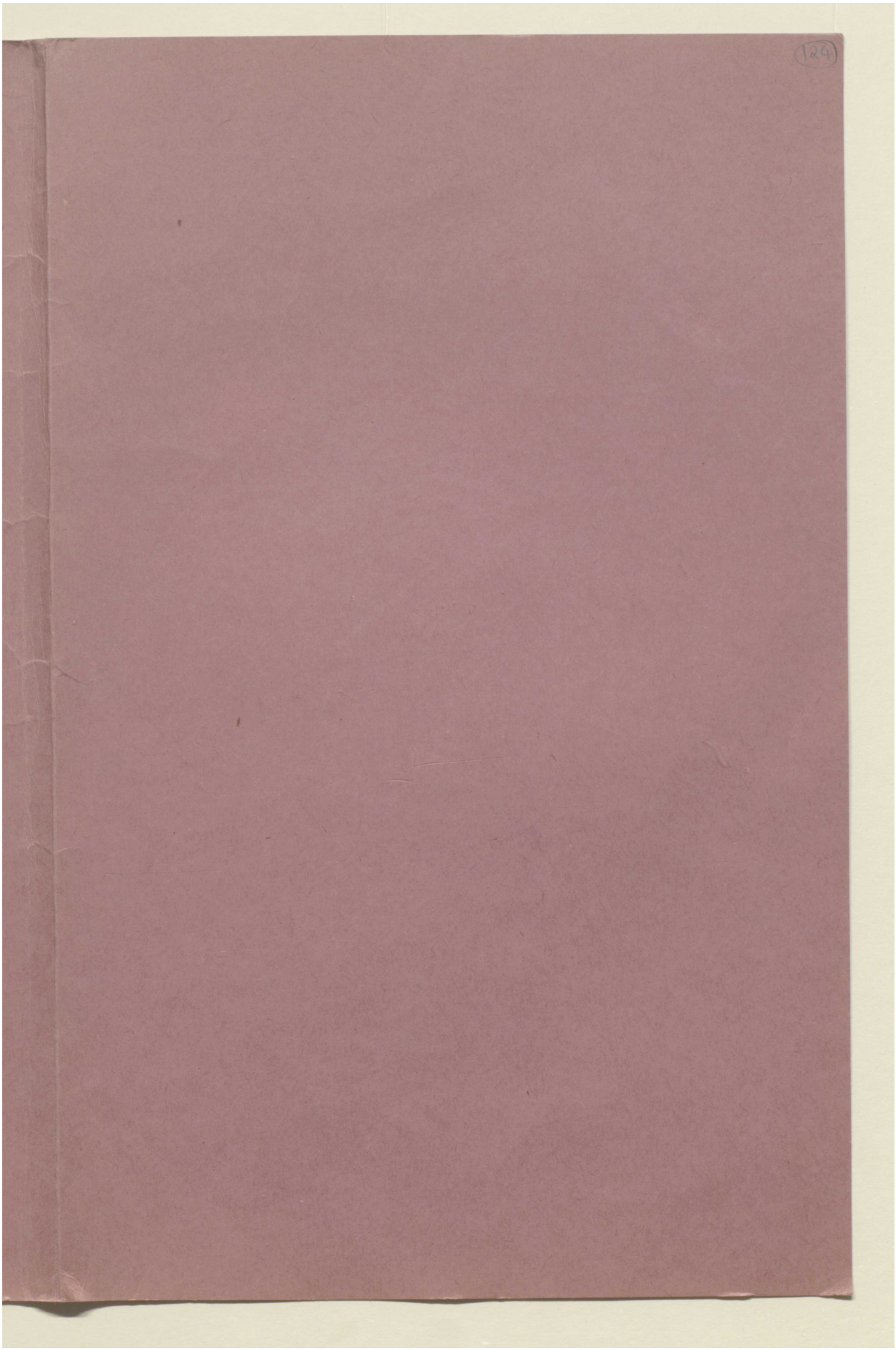

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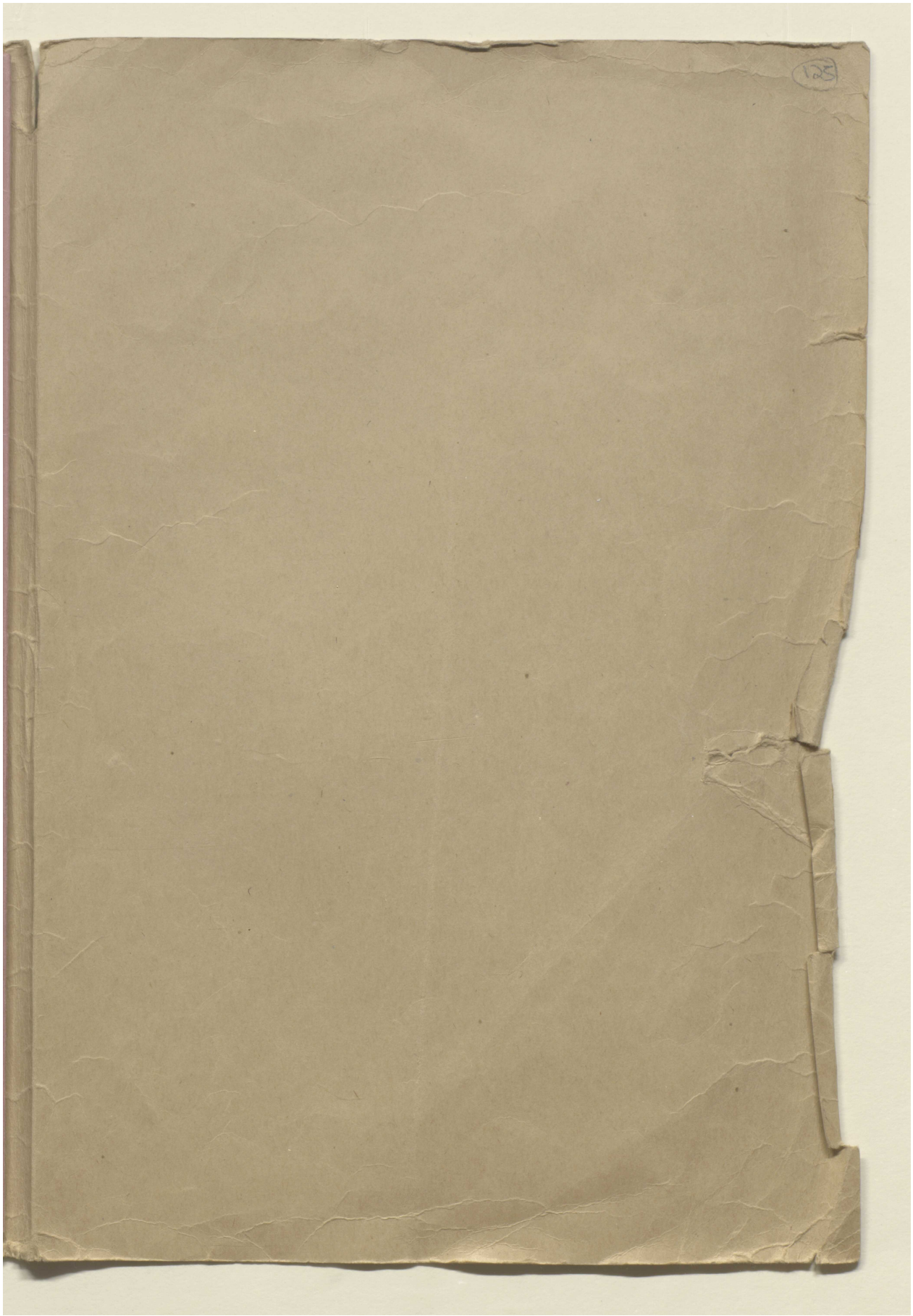

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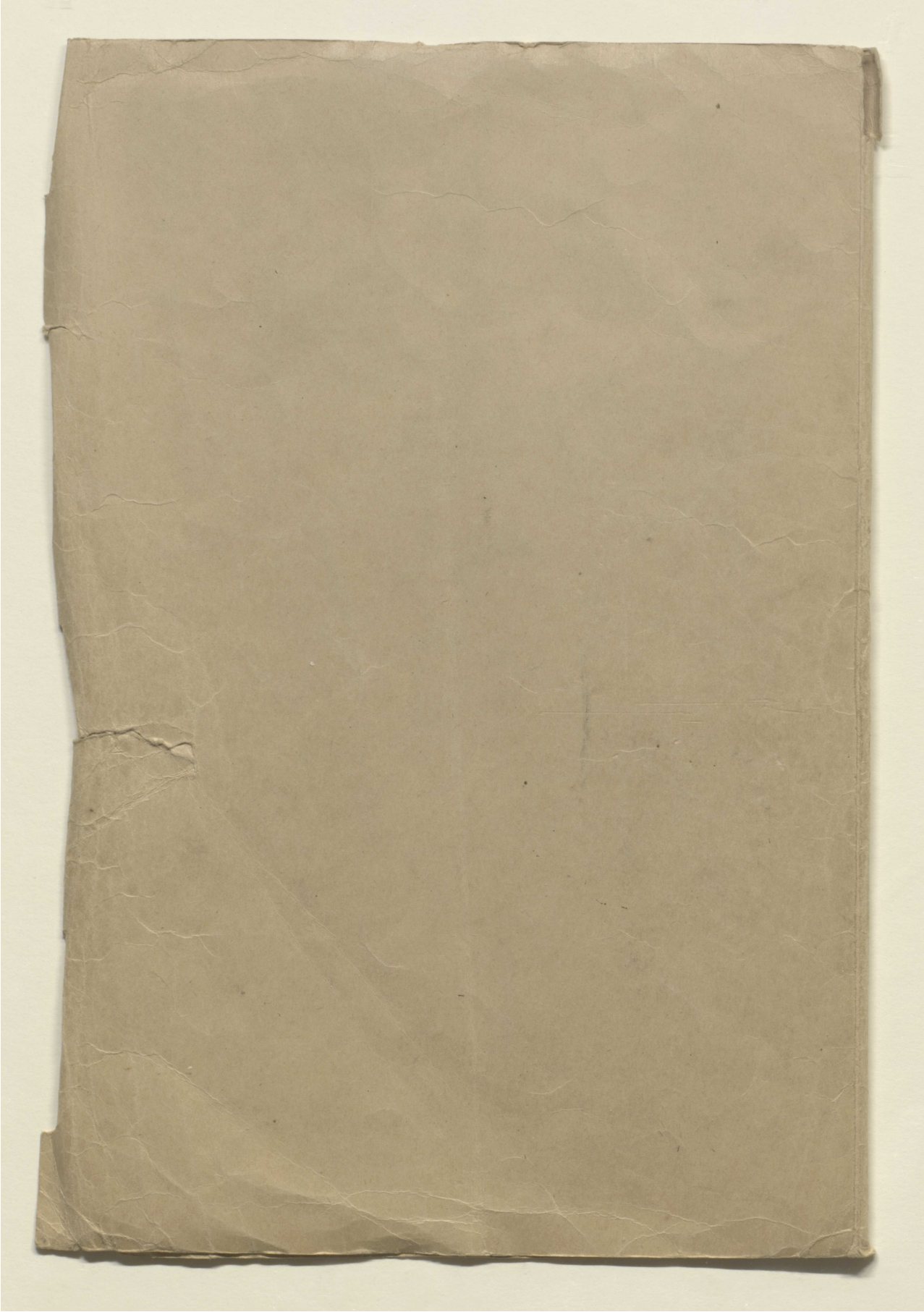

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