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Letters from Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, and other members of the Frere family

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F126/2
Date(s)	11 Feb 1859-26 Feb 1875 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
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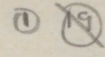
About this record

Correspondence to Lewis Pelly from Sir Bartle Frere, his wife Lady Catherine Frere, his niece Constance Eliza Frere and his brother William Edward Frere.

The correspondence with Sir Bartle Frere primarily discusses matters in India, the Gulf and Tehran and includes discussions on telegraphs, military forces and explorations of central Asia.

Lady Catherine's correspondence focuses on family matters and provides news of their five children, the family's health, travel arrangements and occasional updates from the British press including the reporting of the murder of the Calcutta Judge John Norman Paxton.

The correspondence from William Edward Frere primarily concerns Frere's work in Mauritius and Sir Bartle Frere and Pelly's anti-slavery mission to Zanzibar and Muscat.

 
Camp & Dornacote
Feb 11th 1869.
My dear Pelly
Many thanks
for yours of the 8th.
You have done exactly
as I sh^d have wished,
I trust Green will
approve. The fugitive
rebels from Kandahar
Central India are
making for Joudpore.

Letter from Sir Bartle Frere to Lewis Pelly [1v] (2/4)

Which through the
mismanagement of
our Politicals is in a
fit state to receive &
harbour them, & we
shall have another
hot weather campaign
after them unless
the G. G. Agent & his
people adopt a diff.
line of conduct to
that which they have
heretofore pursued.

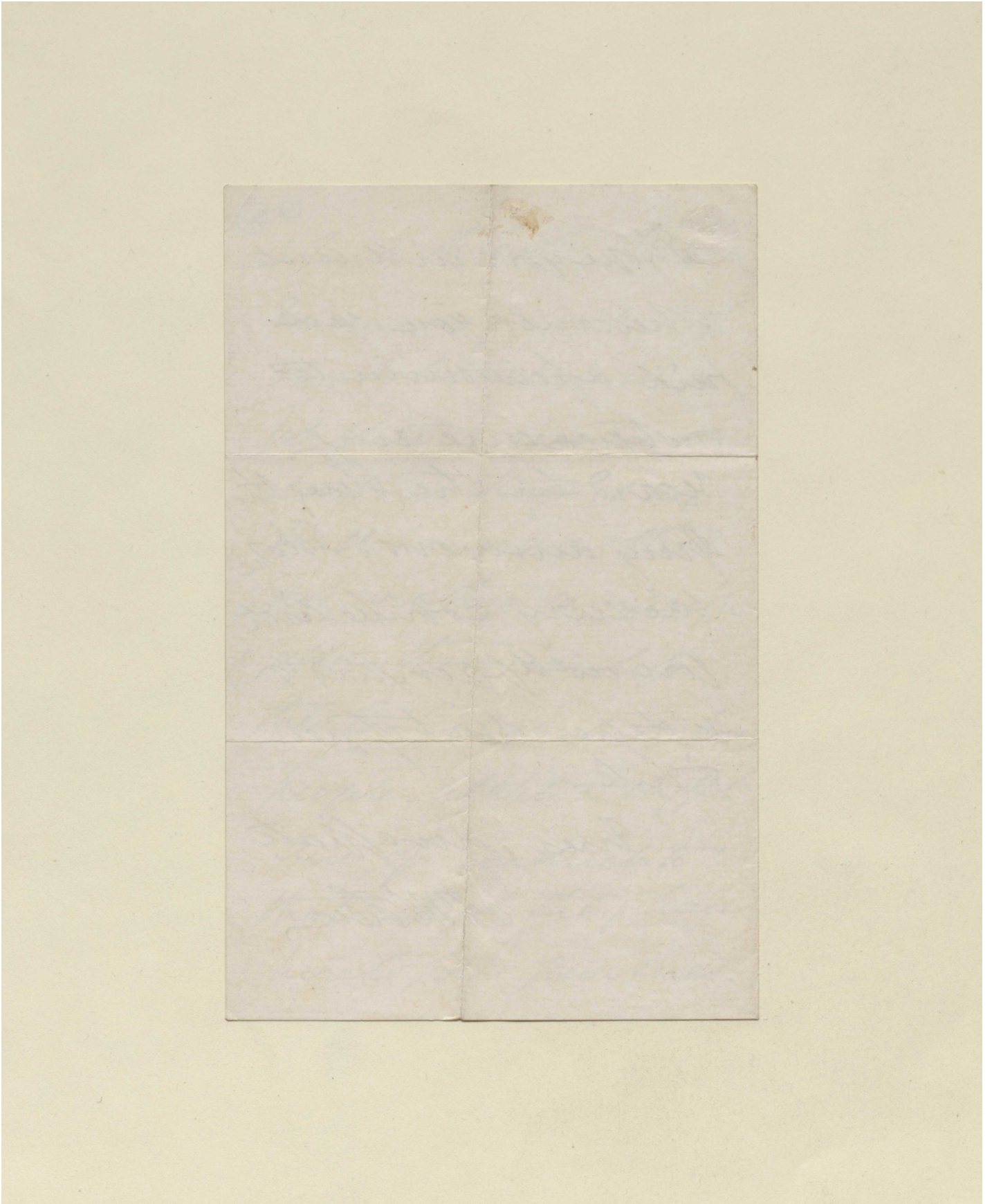
Letter from Sir Bartle Frere to Lewis Pelly [2r] (3/4)

(2) 20

I hope you will write
whenever you can
find a few minutes
not measure my
regard by the length
of my answers. I hope
we may sometime write
you in Upper Sind &
independent of pen
& ink.

Ever unwaveringly
M. Frere

Letter from Sir Bartle Frere to Lewis Pelly [2v] (4/4)



(3) (26)

My dear Captain Pelly,

I hope I am nearly
one of the first of your
friends to congratulate
you on your appointment
of Secretary of Legation at
Tehran — and we
will more sincerely wish
you all health, happiness
and prosperity in it —

but, I am ^{very} sorry to hear
from Mr. Stewart that
you will have to leave
immediately. —

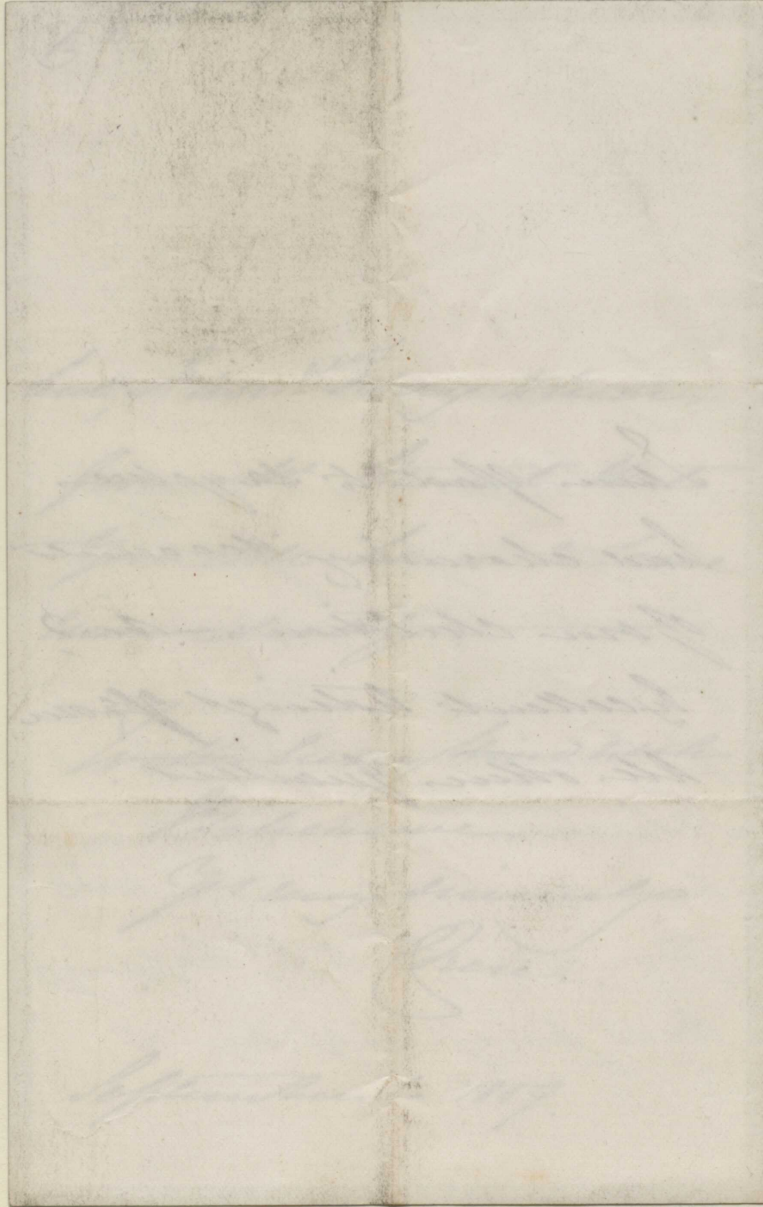
With very kind wish
Believe me,
Yrs very sincerely
Frere.

September 1. 1889.

Letter from Lady Catherine Frere to Lewis Pelly [4r] (3/4)

④ 26
I am glad to say we
had charming accounts
of our children - and
excellent tidings from
all other quarters.

Letter from Lady Catherine Frere to Lewis Pelly [4v] (4/4)



Letter from Sir Bartle Frere to Lewis Pelly [5r] (1/4)

My dear Pelly

Many very thanks
for your kind present.
I shall often think of
you whenever I am at
work of any kind that
aims at doing good -
& Chitty will remind
me of that branch in
which, though our
labors together have
been less in point of

time, you would, if you
had remained with us, have
have established as
strong a claim to my
gratitude for cordial
& effectual cooperation
as in other departments.

I hope we may yet
do a few strokes of good
work together again before
I am laid up as
past work - & then that

Letter from Sir Bartle Frere to Lewis Pelly [6r] (3/4)

62
I shall have the
pleasure of seeing
you & others carry
on the torches which
the old hands drop
again up.
God be with you
wherever you go my
dear Pelly, & lighten
your eyes to see the
wondrous things of
His Law, is a very
constant prayer

Letter from Sir Bartle Frere to Lewis Pelly [6v] (4/4)

Of your affec^{te} friend
JMW Frere
16th Sept 1859.

I enclose a note
 to you from I. L. L.
 saying that he
 highly pleased at
 your kind offer in
 writing to him -
 I will pay for
 your kind offer
 the cost of your
 but if I should be
 allowed to see him
 as convenient. I
 am of the opinion
 that I have to go
 to you never place
 in London. They
 are disappointed!
 I will write you
 in my kind
 regards to you
 with best wishes

My dear Major Petty -
 We were very glad to get
 your letter from New York - &
 with such a story
 beginning we hope you can
 into our weather & had a
 pleasant voyage to New York
 The chance not be disappointed
 to hear of your going ^{on} by steam
 to America - though as to
 discount I do fancy a journey
 at this time just as bad as
 with as the others - and that
 it is simply a matter of
 fancy. I do incline to anything
 more than the high waves
 in Gallic Harbour -
 I enclose you some letters

Bliss
for my
friend
Frere
 that have come from you -
 There has been some news
 Sir G. Clerk - so we did not
 telegraph to you at Madras -
 I hope you found all the relations
 relations at Madras. Bellamy
 well - Sir Robt. & Lady Napier
 have gone to Mauritius for air
 work - he was not quite well.
 I fear it will be long before he
 quite gets over such a cold from
 his horse. - 15th.
 We have had such a gale -
 & such rain! he has not
 seen the sun for 3 days - & have
 been anxious to hear of the
 Columbus ship reaching Madras.
 but fear you never have had
 the news yet. Mr. Cunningham
 & Mrs. W. are got on all well -
 but the night commenced hard
 rain & snow. Russell & Co.
 was 3 ft. ft. under water! I think

⑧ ④
The Chief will take Mr Lings home-
say - The poor man died, it very dis-
gracefully was sent one of our Hospital
Nurses to take care of him. The day
before he was better. Mr Brattle went
& bathed a few minutes to him. And
as the poor man said - "Bless that
Gentleman he has cheered me up."
But the first person he has cheered
is it? - Col & Mrs Eyre went out to
Singapore last Sunday - I saw her
from the page - The Midson looks
so green & pretty. Col. & Mrs. Norman
seem very nice people. He
is very young looking - but very
gentlemanly & pleasant.

I am sure you will be glad to
hear I have been quite well,
lately - And we have been
so delighted with the acct. of the
W. L. G. arrival.

I hope you have not had
cause to twist the pencil case!
And that you will remember

My advice has always proved
sound. - Macle asks to look you
to ask of your servants if the Macle asks
any of his books with J. Henry's
Macle's Dictionary he cannot
find. If you have it. He later
has to say you are to keep it
as a monument of N. 31.
The fear the voyage at such a
season, must have been any trying
to Mr. Loring - I have say Col. Bruce
has told us how he left him at Jalta -
I don't doubt his been trying the
climate of the "City of Palaces" again.
I hope you must have to give a
good report of us to Alhamont & -
His absence of Mr. Loring has not
lessened the work for my guide
husband! We hope soon to hear
of your arrival & all abt. gangibari.
I have what Col. Croftland just told us
there seems plenty of work ready to be
done! Col. Croftland is also well as I think
now hopes to get away soon - Poor Mr.
Dyball's things are all to be done -
Remember my old Sept! that it is
those who must agree with you in words
who are of best friends.

99

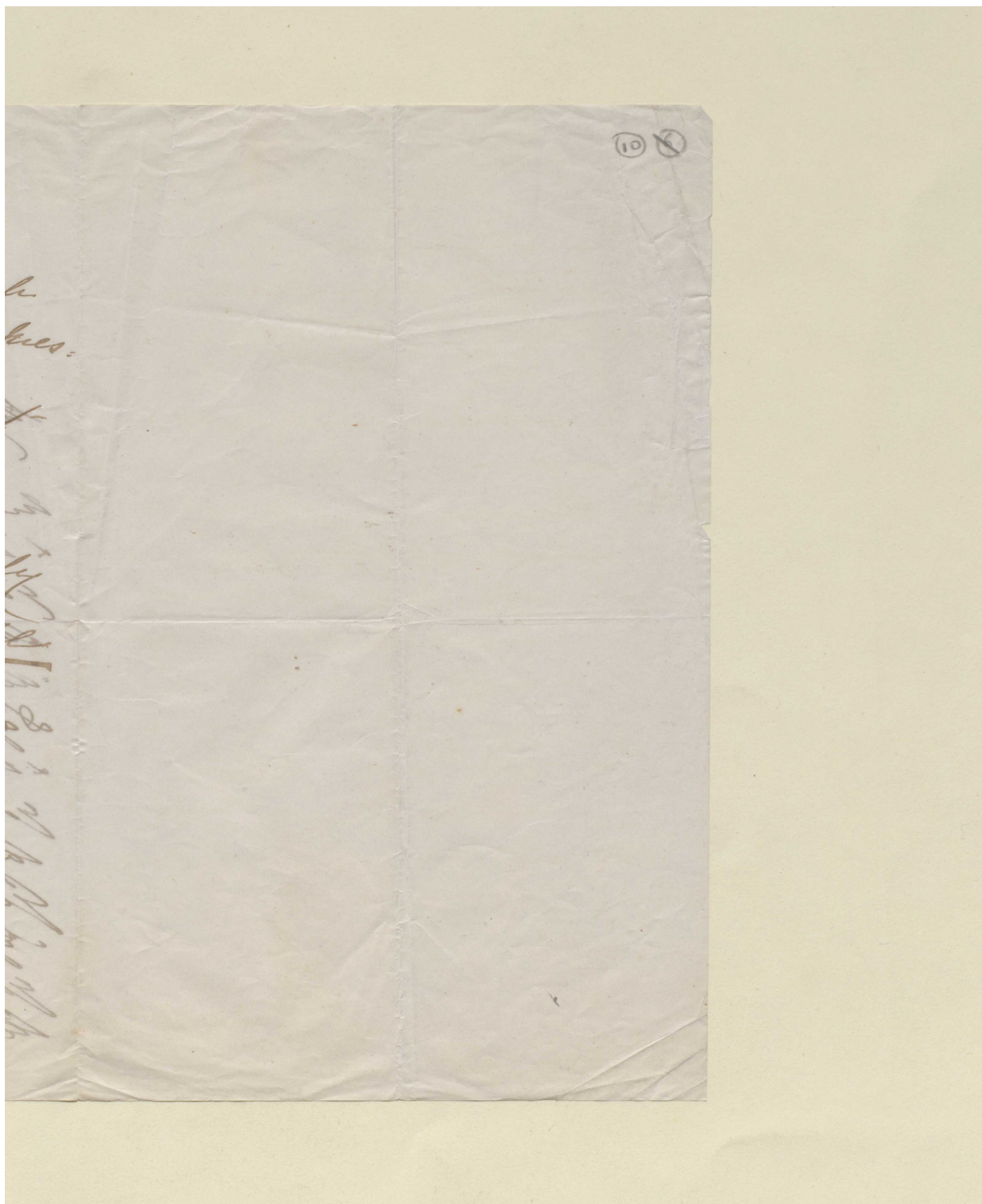
Attamout
July 13th 1864

My dear Captain Pelly

Rape never
me tonight when he is very busy
& thank you very much for
your note just received.
We hope to see you on Sat-
day next as we hope to be at
Daporie on that evening.
I hear all about Calcutta &
your trip from Madras.
We are sorry to hear Sir
George is unwell.
Rape hopes you will when
you see him approve of
the Surcoman "Debonair"

as much as he is.
The "Lady Abbas" is much
flattered by your kind mes-
sage.
Respectfully
Believe me
Yours very sincerely
Constance E. Frere

Letter from Constance E Frere, Attamout to Lewis Pelly [10r] (3/4)



11 21
Mahabuleshwar May 2^d 1863

My dear Pelly.

Yours of 11th ult^o brought
bravely to my mind my own sins in
not keeping you more au courant
as to what is going on here, & my
own loss in the departure of the best
of confidential Secretaries. Lady Drew
is I hope today in Paris, or on her way
thither from Marseilles - conveyed by
our cheerful friend Mr Devereux, &
within 2 days of Wexford Lodge. You
may rely on hearing from her - soon after
her arrival. I will send her your letter

& the very valuable box of coins which arrived all safe - as did the box of fragments of pottery. one of them has a fragment of a cuneiform stamp on it, & all the glazed colored specimens are interesting.

You are quite right about Captⁿ D. & M. E. I will put the former right.

You will have heard that Captⁿ Jones returned, & applied to resume his app^t, which I declined to permit. ^{to the India office for: official} we must be prepared for complaints but I am sure I was right.

Stansfield found the Akran

(12) (22)

his hire required more careful handling
than he anticipated, & asked leave
to visit the coast & see how the ^{working} parties
got on, which I of course permitted
he also asked to run on to Musree, to
see you, & up to Musree - all which I
thought ^{would} do good, so we assented. You
will not find him inclined to interfere
& you may have much profitable
talk with him about facilitating
the line both of Steamer traffic &

Del: I have not seen J. offl reports
on your tour but I am sure they will
be valuable.

M. McKinnon is anxious
to run the Steamers more frequently.
I expect before you have been there

long you will develop a great paper
as well as other traffic. It is so far off
& we here know really so little about
it that unless you tell us distinctly
what to do we shall hang fire & do
little.

Matheson you will have seen
& liked I am sure before you got
this. I let him take Merewether
with him, as he was quite new to
the whole thing, & it is important
that he sh^d. make no mistakes on
his first trip - All after that will
come smoothly & easy enough - One
of the old I.N. hands w^d. only have
given him an erroneous impression
of every thing, & every body, & the

(13) ~~(23)~~

Severn's departure was so sudden
that we had not time to ask
you to run down, have a talk
& return in her, which is what
we have been most useful.
But I am sure when you have
once made the old Commodore's
acquaintance you will be great
friends. He promises that he will
send off one of his smaller vessels after
he returns.

You will have been told
officially that you shall have a
^{Steam} yacht which will be under your
own direct command & will not give

you the trouble Mr Selby did. . . .

Here we are going on much as usual. Nothing more exciting than Public Works & Education - & an occasional fight with the Nergallees - but even they have got very mild & I much curse his fate at being pined among them.

I will promise to behave better in future, now that I cannot flatter myself that Lady Here's pen more than makes up for my

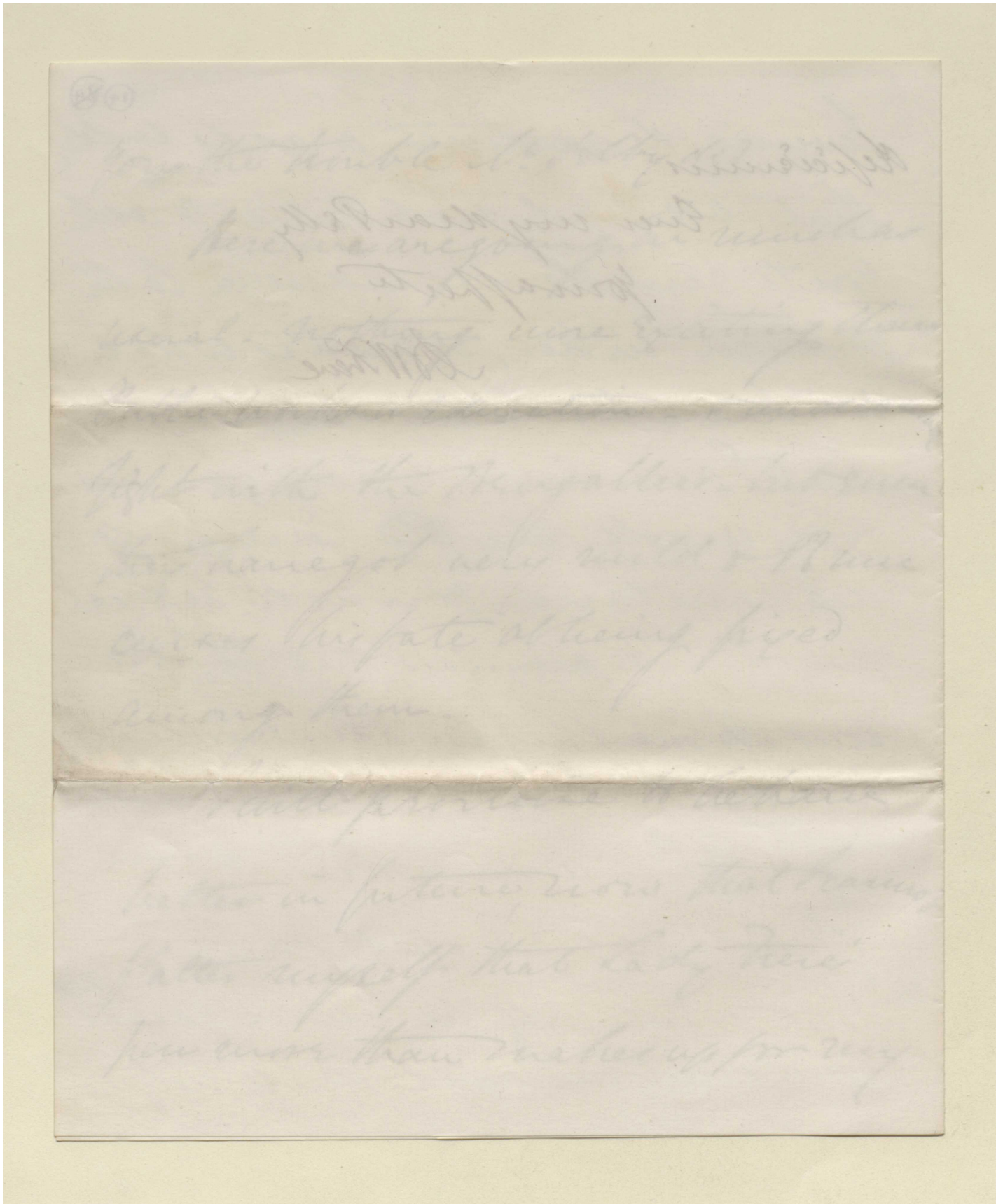
Letter from Sir Bartle Frere, Mahabuleshwar to Lewis Pelly [14r] (7/8)

(14) (7/8)

Respected Sir.

Ever my dear Pelly
Yours affectionately

B. Frere



Private

Matheran Nov. 8th 1863.

My dear Pelly
I have little official
to tell you, beyond what you will
learn from the Despatches. We
intend to do all you wish, but it
takes sometimes a woful time to
do it, & I ^{often} ~~sometimes~~ fear you may
be quite out of patience.

You will see there
has been delay in getting the Sec:
Cable off from Eng^d. the good season

is already past or passing, &
they must watch the intervals
between the sales in Jarry &
Feb.

Anyhow I hope we shall
be in telegraphic communication
with you
by March, & then we won't
play the same tricks your
Berkshire lads did in poor
Jacob's time.
I hope you were able to see

a little of Mr. Murdoch Smith. (16) (8)

for he seemed to me a man
you wd. like - & he had much to
tell of explorations in Asia

Minor, & N. Africa -

We expect Pat Stewart on
mail so hence. I hope you
will not be obliged to leave the
Gulf before the end of the
old weather.

We have told Capt^{Felix} Jones
that he is not likely to be

Required to resign. To you who know
what he has done, & what he ought
to have done, & what he ought not to have
done, this will cause no surprise,
& I am sure you will think me
right.

~~That~~ I fear you will not
like being kept there - but I hope
you will be able to hold on for a
while, as it is daily becoming
a matter of more importance
to have ^{really} a good man where
you

(17) (9)

You have already done so much.

This steamer will, I hope,
take 2 mercantile men "prospecting"
as they say in America. I have
given them both notes to you.

Mr. Stearns is an American,
of the house of Stearns & Hobart
& Co - an intelligent pleasant man,
well thought of here. His partner
is ^{American} ~~an~~ Consul in Sheny.

Mr. Forbes is a Secy of the
old house - shy but very well

Esteemed by his friends, & bent on
going to Eng^d by the Sigsbee.

I know you will do what
you can for them - as they ^{may} deserve
it.

I am afraid to say what I have
not received in the shape of old coins
& engraved gems. bundles of turquoises
beads & things. & all sorts of Persian
curiosities which have been duly
sent on to Wexford Lodge - All I know
is I must be deeply in your debt, &
that it is very difficult to get out
of you any account of commissions

Executed - There were two fine
Greyhounds too, but whether for
me or even Grant I cannot
learn - as he is at the Algeri
Hills where he has engaged himself
to Miss Pears, d. of Col. P. late of
the Madras Art.^y now Post M.
Genl there - not very young - 25
to 28 people say - very good looking
& agreeable & good. I mean true he
does nothing beyond announcing
the fact, & writing to Clerk for his
full dress uniform - & to Mr Scott
for a barrel of pickled herrings -

to be
Which is I conclude, a west coast
Hilandman's present to his betrothed.
Is this a relic of Scandinavian artistry?

The papers will tell you all
doing in the Punjab. I hope this
camp of exercise may not as it so

often does prove a camp of assembly.
for real work - There is no very
visible cause - but I am always
disturbed by a very vigorous cry of
"peace, peace," -

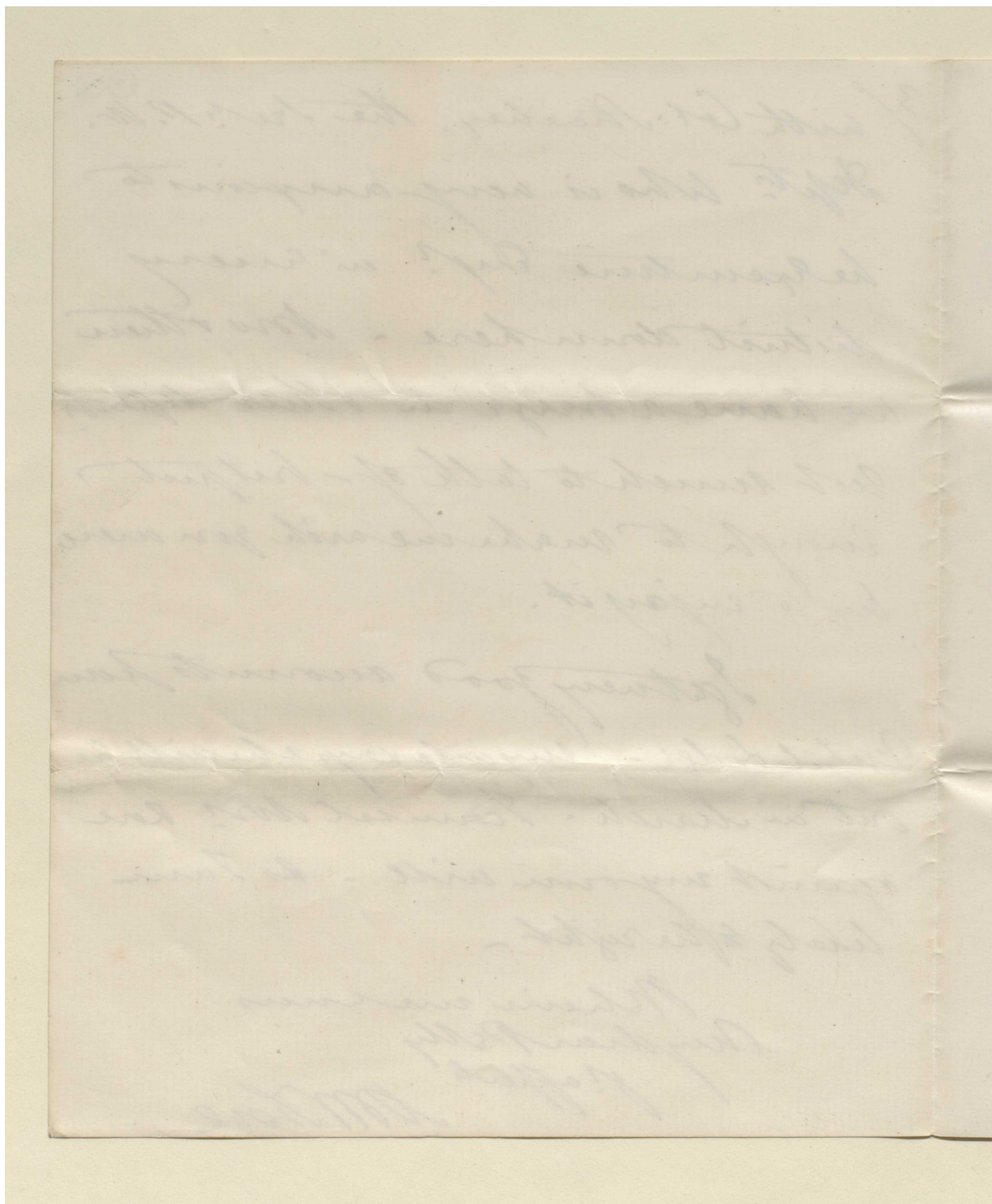
I am again I fear at loggerheads
with the Govt of India, or rather
with

3/ with Col. Sturtevant. The Secy P.W. ^{(19) (11)}
 Dept. who is very anxious to
 be expentive Eng? in every
 district down here. Now & then
 we have a breeze in other departments
 not much to talk of - but just
 enough to make me wish you were
 by to enjoy it.

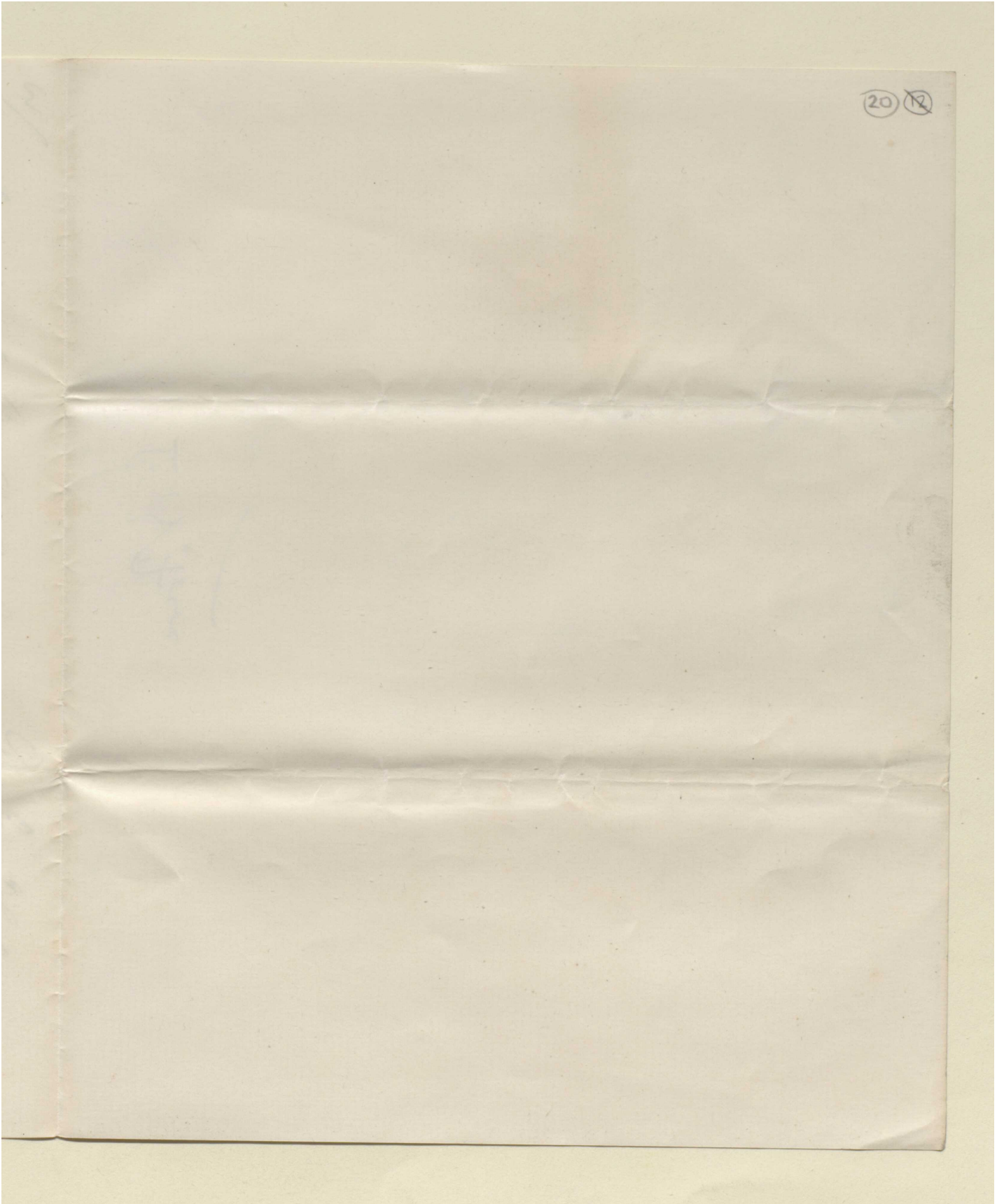
I get very good accounts from
 Miss Lodge - my wife says she will be
 out in March. I counsel Mr. Lane
 against my own will - so I am
 likely to be right -

Yours sincerely
 Lewis Pelly
 J. A. Pelly
 M. Lane

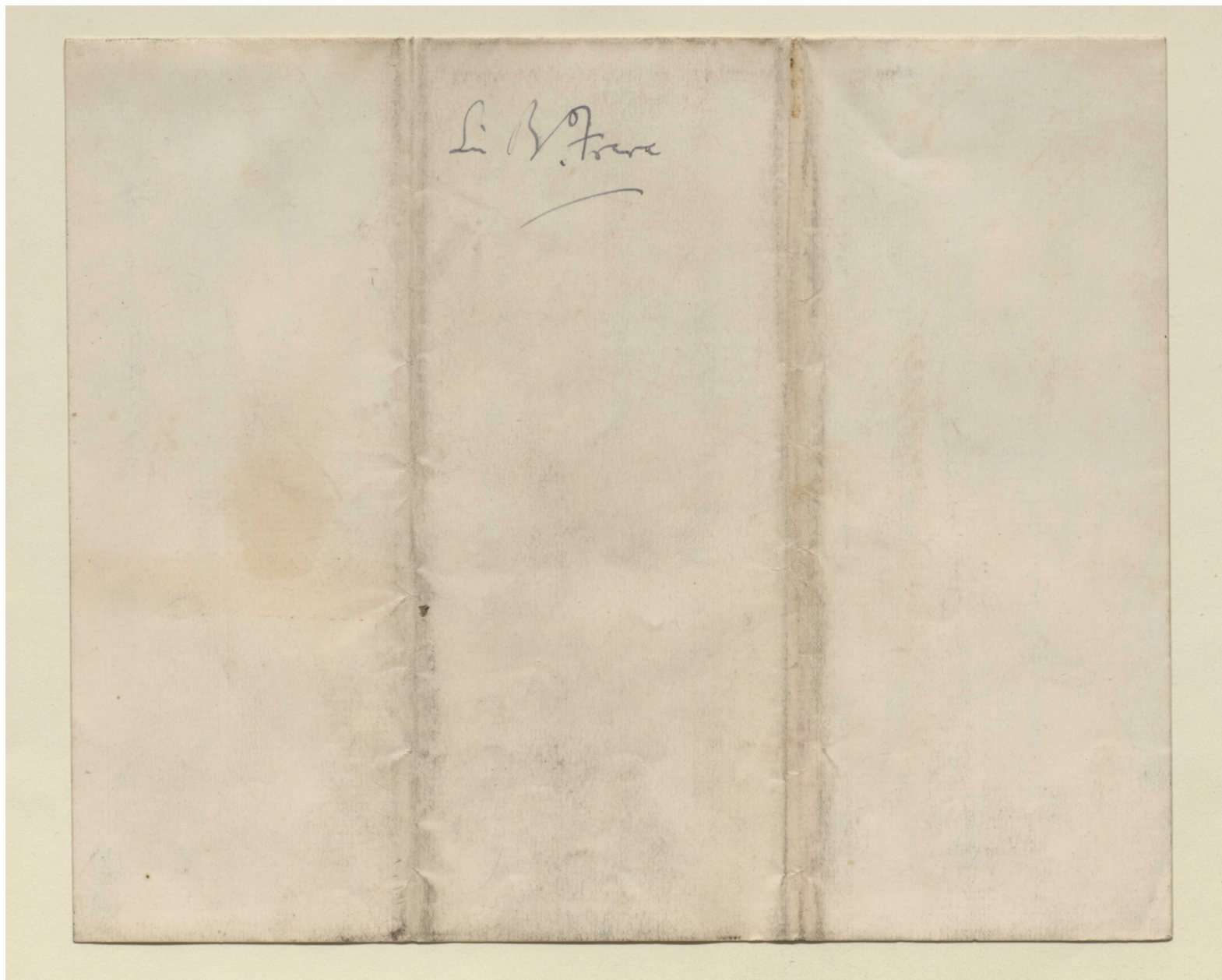
Sir Bartle Frere, Matheran to Lewis Pelly [19v] (10/12)



Sir Bartle Frere, Matheran to Lewis Pelly [20r] (11/12)



Sir Bartle Frere, Matheran to Lewis Pelly [20v] (12/12)



Lady Catherine Frere, Parell [Parel, Bombay] to Lewis Pelly [21r] (1/6)

(21) (13)

Parell -
19 January 1867

Dear Colonel Pelly,

I fancy the French steamer which has been here some few days is going this evening to the Persian Gulf to take advantage of it to send you a few lines -

The "Lt. Commandant" Capt. Boie was dining with us last evening. He is a cheerful intelligent gentlemanly little Frenchman. And I should think you will find him a very pleasant addition to your society. I fancy he takes "Officials" to all the "Negatives" but when he was dining with us last evening he told me he was going to Persian Gulf. I should think it would be to take you the way we were -

You will, I know, rejoice to hear that Lion Balle went for his first ride since his accident - yesterday & day before - The 1st thought

his health began to flag from
want of his wonted Exercise. &
he was looking very pale - and,
therefore, the King's men began
to avoid any shake or jerk for
the leg they decided Sir B. should
try a ride on. And I am thankful
to say it was managed & the
result good - Sir B. & his men
very much pleased that "Sherlock" was
chosen as the perfect guide
him in the State for the occasion.
Being the left leg it could not be
lent upon. mounting was the fear
known by bringing the horse
close to the ground. Sir B. could not
be able to step on without effort.
The newspapers tell you all going
on this morning the first edition of the
news started - By the way this
"day month" I suppose we shall
go. Sir B. has a lot of papers.
Cranborne saying that Mr.
Fitzgerald is to be here 16
July - 10 I suppose we shall go
19 - My present plan is to go

22 14
 bis a week in Egypt - a 12. scale
 few days. Naples on to Rome to
 work our way back. P. Elmer to
 Vice-Minister & Paris. have
 end of April - quite some time to go
 from an present heat into the
 wetted climate of England!
 I don't know how we shall get
 through all the duties & pleasures
 of the next month. There is a fearful
 list of Laureates & the list of
 Sir Balthazar has gone today to Kenning
 to lay the foundation stone of the
 long wanted Light House. No talk
 but 250 sentences. I don't think
 will be asked without the Parth
 has a morning and really I do
 not seem up to it for a
 sea trip! There will of course
 be ceremony & speeching - but
 to have in time to be a Reporter
 the papers will give you full
 news. I am sure you will
 There was a most successful
 Flower Show at the
 Wednesday & in a very short
 time it will be over.

new bracket place. One of our
believe it India - I believe it was
all captured with far it looked quite
fairly life! - It is a grand thing
to institute - I wish you I hope to be
announced - The stimulus to the
struggle will be great good.
I don't think there is any
news to give. Mr. Home letter
was good - I wish to know of you?
to Easter Holiday with Lord & Catherine!!
But when he wrote very happy in the
approach of May - I had just
received, I believe in much good.
to City, very business - I hope it may
be good - I wish to know of you?
with the same fate! I hope it may
prove a quiet harbor to us for
I suspect Mr. Pelly will not
have many vacant hours of
his time! - to be at a distance
if he is worked will involve pain
We have unusually warm
weather
I. Pelly looking very well and
living here the other evening -
but I don't think he quite

likes his kind of work: (23) (19)

We expect each mail now to
hear of the arrival of Mr. W. Thre
& Miss Alice Thre in England -
I had a letter from Mr. Thre
on their way to Calcutta. all
well.

From Mr. Newnham also I
heard of Calcutta on the 10 -
He hopes to meet his future
bride at Madras in April.

Mr. B. also left me for Reming
charged with all kind messages
to you - & my dear: join with
her in kind regards to you -
Believe me yours very
Sincerely

Mr. B. & I was to visit Mr. Thre
You for Mr. Thre's letter & say
how glad he was to hear from
you. I am so happy &
pleased.

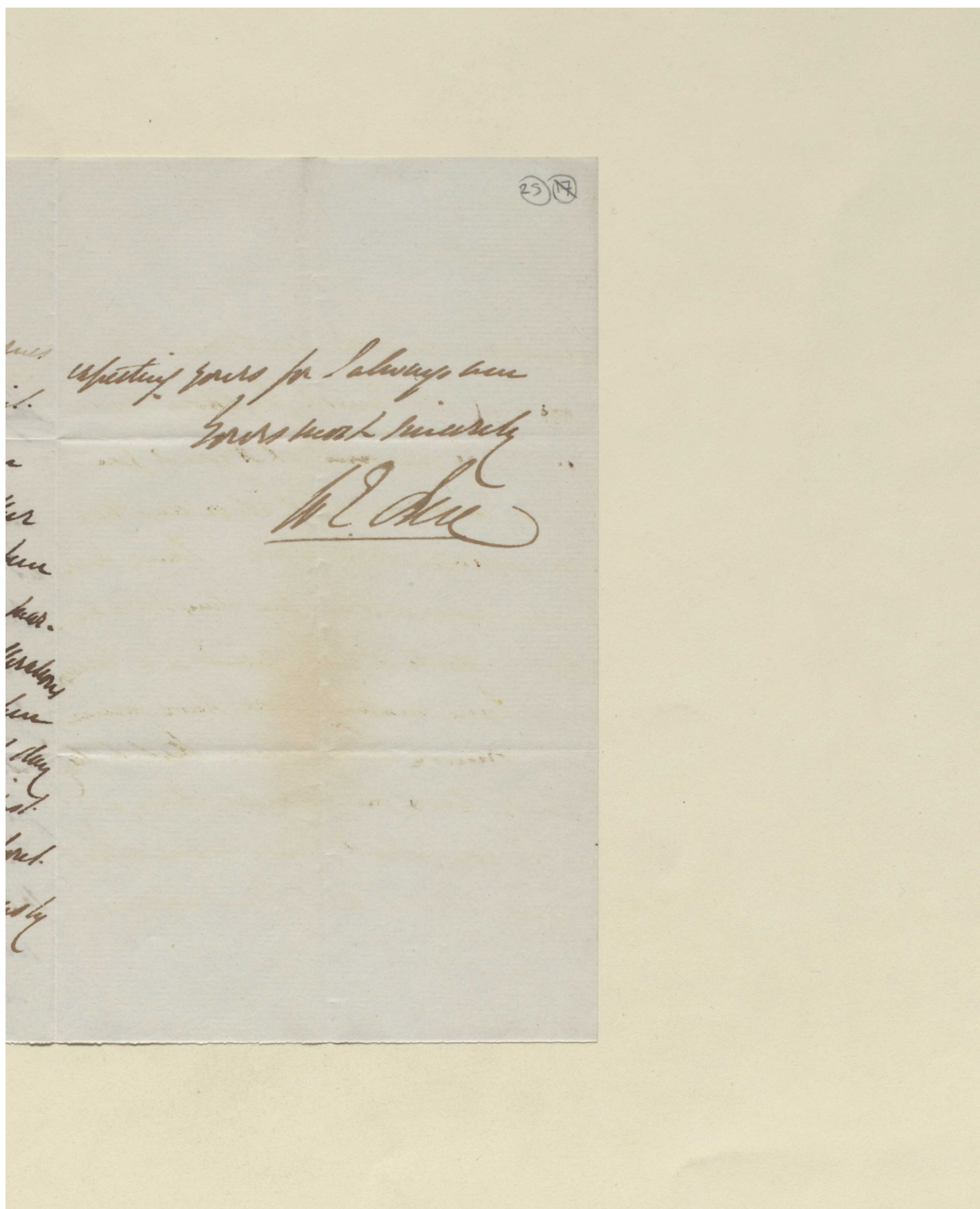
I had a difference of opinion
I have people pleasant to myself
to work with - C.F.

Lady Catherine Frere, Parell [Parel, Bombay] to Lewis Pelly [23v] (6/6)

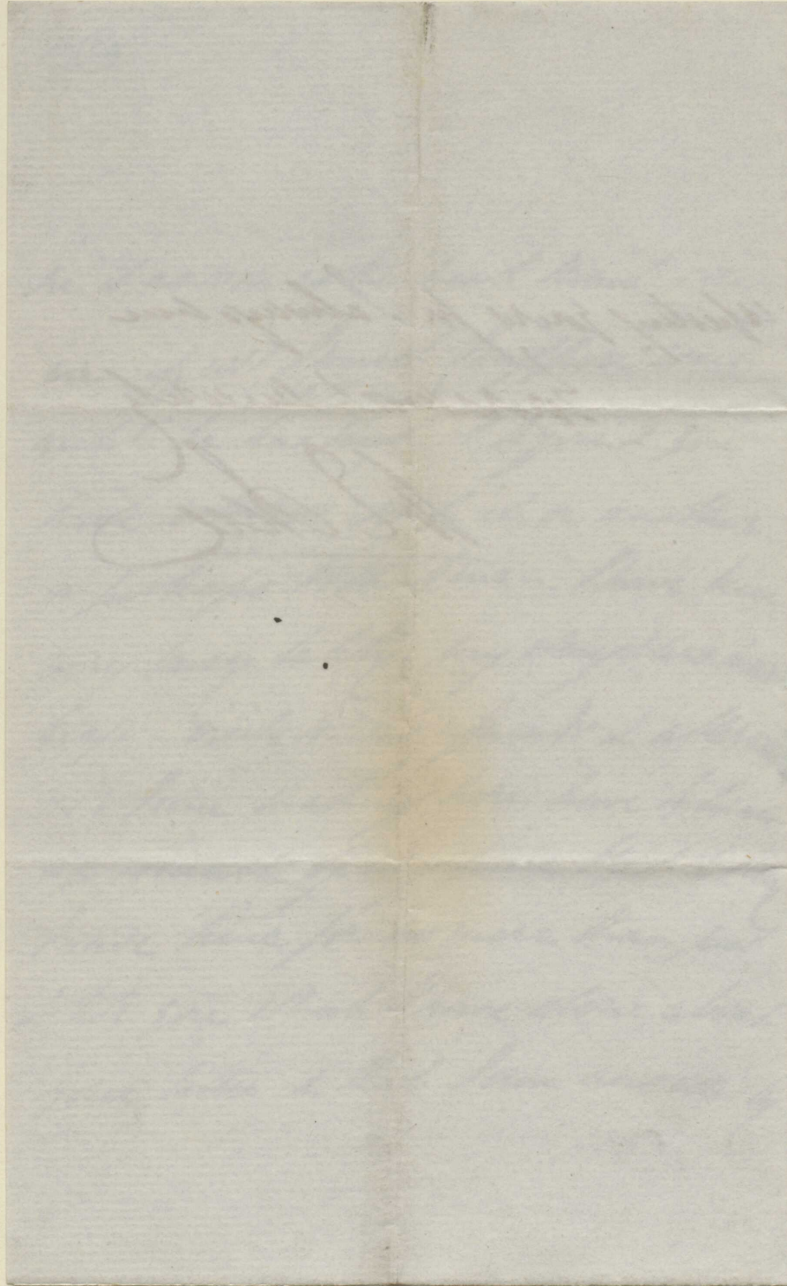
My dear Sir
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed sale of the land in the village of Parell, near Bombay. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and they have decided in favor of the sale of the land. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and they have decided in favor of the sale of the land. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and they have decided in favor of the sale of the land.

he it as soon as the next mail comes
 in. if not I must suppose wait.
 until he has ^{returned} it. If you & you
 have ~~others~~ sent it or another
 or perhaps both some. I have been
 very busy lately. my daughters keep
 me. visits to my friends & otherwise
 it I am making here have taken
 up so much of my time that I may
 have time for no more than just
 to tell you what I have done about
 your letter & that I am anxiously

William Edward Frere, Bitton, near Bristol to Lewis Pelly [25r] (3/4)



William Edward Frere, Bitton, near Bristol to Lewis Pelly [25v] (4/4)



Sir Bartle Frere, Marseilles to Lewis Pelly [26r] (1/2)

Marseilles
1 Jan. 14 1869.
Sir Bartle Frere
H. Merivale
London Secy to the
Col. Pelly C.S.I.
Bathurst
(via Boukhay)
M. Frere:

(26) (18)

Sir Bartle Frere, Marseilles to Lewis Pelly [26v] (2/2)



INDIA OFFICE
Jan^{ry} 14th 1870
My dear Pelly.
The inclosed was
as you will see written
some time ago, &
duly posted - but
returned from the
Genl. P. O. owing to
some informality in
the stamping - so my

wife has begged me to
write an envelope, & to
tell you that she
is rather better, but
has been suffering
so much from acute
rheumatism, that she
has been unable to
leave the house, &
almost restricted to
one floor.

We are anxious to

hear of your late doings ⁽²⁸⁾ ⁽³¹⁾
in the Gulf, & at Muscat
have yourself. I cannot
plead any desert - for
I have sadly neglected
my side of the
course. But I wait
& wait for something
to interest you beyond
possibilities. ~~But~~ Messrs
Hammond & Co. at
the F. O. seem

fully determined to do
nothing, but let every
thing drift. It is the
same story at Muscat
Zehran, & Bokhara -

I am utterly tired of this
2^d fit of wasteful inactivity.
Have you seen Seton Ross
in Blackwood, or Wyllie
in Fraser?

Wherein are
ever opposed?

M. Frere

29
29
A Happy New Year to you.
and all the best wishes of
the season from us all to
you -

January 7. 1870.
22. Princes Gardens
South Kensington
London.

Dear Colonel Pelly,

We don't see to have
heard from you for a long
while - From the papers
we see you have been very
as usual - And as you
would say at the "old works"
and as usual very successfully
accomplished - so you will
have closed the old - and
begin the New Year with
making peace - We have

all kept well. Except myself
this year - and we had all
the happiness of being
together on Christmas day
and New Year day - Last
year we were all separated
by scarlet fever - I ended
the last & began the new year
with a very severe attack of
rheumatic fever - I am mending
now - but such an acute attack
of rheumatism is not easily
shaken off! and I have been
3 weeks in the house - My illness
has prevented having "outings"
for my children of course - But
we have had some charming
Christmas weather of the olden
type - Clear frosty days - and
good skating - G. friend Liz
is getting quite a big young
lady - and enjoyed the skating

as much as her neighbours! Bartie
being home for holidays has added
much to the cheerfulness of the
house. He is away just now in
Norfolk paying a visit to an Elton
Cham of his Antenna Museum.
- I am sure you will think him
very like his Father in his ways
& manner. - Of old Calcutta friends
but see the Decrepit Eyes most
- as they generally "Season" it in London
The latter are in Rome now - You
will be so amused if you were to
see him now - I have been to
over the dreary of England &
I am sure Sir V. hardly left India
& the service - It certainly was a
mistake but poor man he thought
it was just what he needed &
that she thought she should be
exhausted to death in India!! -
But they thoroughly enjoy Society &
of course they find I cannot leave
that in London without money!
I wish he could get some off for the same
paper - but it is not such an easy

matter in overcrowded England!
 - Sir Bartle is very fairly well. -
 I think he stands the climate
 better than I do - Mr. John see. J.
 comes the Dawkins - He is a
 very charming person I think.
 We are all so pleased at poor
 old J. Livingstone turning up -
 - but - he must be very, very
 tired of his roaming life - and
 as he said to Sir Bartle in his
 last letter to him in July 1868, all
 his men were worn out with
 their everlasting tramping - and
 indeed so was he - only 4 of very
 attendants were on - I wish to say
 if it were not for the inveterate
 dislike I have to give up what I have
 undertaken with, finishing it -
 "Of public news the papers give
 you must - You will be glad
 to hear of the prospect of
 having Lord Napier as the
 new C. in C. of India -
 - There is a sketch of Dr.
 Temple's ^{five} sermon in the

Series of today I hear as brides
 of Egypt. I hear it is admirable
 I will get it to send you if I can.
 You will have been interested
 in seeing how his unminion
 has been fought over!! and
 how triumphantly he has
 acted under very difficult
 circumstances. His last
 Sunday at Rugby was very
 affecting - The crowds of old
 Rugbyans who came down
 to attend service in the Chapel
 there & receive the Holy Communion
 from him was great -
 We saw Lt John Hay
 occasionally - He is one of
 the big people at the
 Admiralty now - I wish the
 Grand gathering from all
 the Presidencies had happened
 in our time to meet the D. of
 Edin: Sir Bartle sends his
 aff. regards to you - we hope
 we shall soon hear from you
 & with yr own description of yr
 last bit of stirring life - all
 my daughter & Bartie join

Give in every kind remembrance
 to you, & wishing you a happy
 & prosperous year in 1870.
 Believe me ever very truly
 your affectionate friend
 J. W. W.

Wessil Lodge. Wimbledon (32)
Surrey. 19. June 1871.
My dear Colonel Pelly.
We were all so pleased
to hear of you by your last
letter to the Battle. You have
plenty of work to do. I think
you will have had an earlier
acknowledgment. But his
B. said he hoped to write to
you himself. Now he fears
he will have the time to take
up his own pen - so I take
up mine - I send you of
this mail "The Battle of
Dorking" - an engagement
that is exciting great attention
in London. It came out first
in Blackwood. So perhaps you
have read it. The authorship
has been given to many people
- now it seems it is very decidedly
thought to be written by Major

Hamilton P. G. Bro: to Col.
H. now at Sandhurst —
Public news you get in
public journals — How
all the world are now interested
in the Ditchburne case — and
opinions run high as to
whether the present claimant
is the true Sir Roger — The fact
Paris has caused the
matter of convenience —
of ourselves — We are all
fairly well — Young Baile
is going on well at Eton —
steady — and a dear boy —
Liz is out from y. recollection
— Miss Frier & her sister George
have just returned from a
visit to Oxford whether Sir
Baile told them — though
he had to come up himself

33
for the service on the 14 - then
he presented L. Montague. Mr.
J. Allman's brother. also Mr.
Francis Ford. nephew to me
old Laitana friend! - London
is desperately full just now -
and every body seems to have too
much to do - to see every body
they want to - and soon the
Wimbledon Experiment in
the form of the volunteer
camp will begin - we have
had a perfect storm
storm here the last
fortnight. And I am afraid
the day that it was taken
from days ago with the spirit.
We left our 14 in London until
July - & I only hope we may
find some one that is not

David to go to London from July
 to October. And also will like
 to take 22. Prince's garden
 The new great attraction to
 that part of London is the
 'International Exhibition' held
 in the Albert Memorial Hall
^{halls} Horticultural gardens —
 " One object of interest to
 us all — was — the Competition
 Exhibition of Fans. to be painted
 by Ladies until 25 years of
 age! My daughter Katie &
 sent in 2. — Two. They did
 not win a prize (at the merit
 deserved we think). They were
 admitted for Exhibition and
 consequently to her great delight,
 an Exhibitors Ticket was sent to
 her — One of the Fans. was
 a Representation of the Yager.

(34)

- Shakespear - on the Reverse
of the Fan - was the same story
told in 7 stages of the 14th Berry
Leaves - She carried the sticks
of the Fan - The lower part
was a plait of 7 -
the ~~lower~~ guards - (Do you
know what the guards of a Fan
are? - well they are those 2
little sticks - She carried on the
one side with grass - & lilies
with the heads raised - on
the other - the heads all
drooping to the grass within.
The other Fan was a Fete
Champêtre of the 5 leaves
very pretty I think.
Very nicely joining with

The subjects — was a few
 from the Prince's Cruise
 & skating scene — probably
 drawn — & well designed.
 The Eyes are in London now —
 one once from "Penny Press"
 The funeral being in London —
 The Dances respecting Sunday
 Traces — still Sunday Traces!!
 They have been very active
 in aiding the Hospital & Sick
 & wounded —
 Other old friends the
 Government — have been
 in Town — look well
 as ever — my best love

(35)

Solney. & his wife have just
 come from Satiaca - 1 Year & 10 days.
 - The first day (Clerk) (Miss Alice) (Fleming)
 are also in 3 months from
 Egypt. - W. St. J. old friend was
 in town last week - at Levee
 "presented by S. J. M. returned
 from Demerara" -
 and looked very well in his (S.
 uniform -
 I missed seeing the holidays
 from the other day - They have
 in London - W. Merrett & boy
 are at school here - via boy.
 I can't scribble now today. This
 is my to encourage you to write
 again & tell us what you are
 doing in J. Dominica -
 Sir Walter - and my daughters

Letters from Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, and other members of the Frere family [35v] (70/118)

Send kindly remembrances to
Mr. B. Frere -

Sir R. Muddison's health
dejected him to retire - Sir
R. Muddison has appointed
President A. S. Society -

(was not a little Com: but he was
kind from you? -) He is so very
suitable a successor to Sir R. M.
You can communicate Com:
the Chief & himself - and she
is so very specially suited to her
Post as Lady President. — for
Lady R. is so popular & so dear
in memory of

India Office address is abt. sale
for us!

We go to 22. Princes Gardens
South Kensington next week. (36)

Wessil Lodge. Wimbledon
20. October 1871.

My dear Colonel Pelly.

I have but a hurried 7/4 of
an hour today. but must write
it pass - & the Mail go - without me
Thanks for your most interesting
letter of the 7. August - Oh how
we all think English life very
lame compared to Russian
perhaps the dangers & uncertainties
add to the interest

My husband says I am to
tell you with his love all you
tell us of your Kingdom is
most interesting. You must
have had very trying times
lately with the various difficulties
not known by the French.
Cap. G. Smith (A. G. Smith)

Upistand) was dining with
us a night or two ago. What a very
pleasant intelligent person he is -
we were talking of you. He
told us so much of all you were
doing & how they enjoyed it.
I'm so profusely and
pleasant visit to you. We
asked St John to come
but he can't manage the
distance - also boys at home
to look after. But I hope he
will come one day before he
goes away -
Sir Galt has been away visiting
in Wales. Herefordshire (the
Doverens) & Gloucestershire
(the Forbes) - and returned all

(B7)

the better for his holidaying - Katie
& George went with him - The
Devenant are as you may suppose
very comfortable. The Forster's do -
George has now gone abroad
to Switzerland. And writes
us most delightful letters of her
travels. All is new to her - as
she has never crossed the waters since
she came home from India -
Bartie went for his holiday to
my sister Mrs. Stephens at
Tours - And Lily having been
at Brighton is now at Brighthelm
so all the family have been very
well - Mrs. Frere began the General
Exodus - by a visit to the Marriots
in Lincolnshire - I have been
quietly looking after the garden here

one
and of the chief amusements
has been having the gates painted!!
- Sir Vincent & Lady Egre - are coming
to London for the winter to please
him! - she hates this North
Climate - I wonder what you
think of the murder of Judge
Norman - Of course there is a
General out-cry of a defence of
Mahomedans - in all the papers.
The Times of today has an article
by Col. Nassau Lees -
I must stop now for post -
time is up - and with much
most kind remembrance
Believe me I am, my dear
Friend,
Yours most obediently
Lady Catherine Frere
Will you undertake a
Commission for me? -
To pick me up any old - or curious
Coins you can in V. wandering
through your Kingdom - worth to send
great expense - up to £20 -

38
+ Mr. Gifford Polpence is in Engnd now
having some business, all from
Trehagan - I think the wife
& child. and the distance of
mine that has elapsed since
he drained the fruit-garden.
have told right well - upon him
& I trust. that what he prepared
himself. & - may serve as a
blessing to them too -
Lie Battie Chayd me to give
you his aff^r regards - and
with very kind regards from
me & all of your friends
here - Believe me for
very sincerely
Catherine Frere

Did you hear of 300 has been
given to the Livingstone family
by the Royal Bounty Fund -
Sir B. wrote Mr. Gladstone abt it -
I wish it had been annual for them

My dear Mr. Pelly
I have just received your letter of the 11th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well. I am
very much interested in the
progress of your work and
hope to hear from you again
very soon. I am
Yours very truly
Catherine Frere

22. Prince's Gardens
Leath Kensington
London
I Dec 10/41

(39)

Mauritius 2 Feb 1873

My dear Pelly.

I was very glad to see your
kind writing and I know that
you had been well with Bartle &
Garrigue where you will be quite
at home with our old friend
Burgash. I wonder whether he con-
tinues as good a fellow as he was
when we used to dine with him
in Bombay or whether the Sultan
is quite a different man now

they say it.

We mention the probability of your
being in town by the end of June. I
had hoped to have been there in April. I
but I am afraid I shall not get there
before the ice is very anxious for
it.

Our work is very hard the questions
are not so difficult. As for the
Pole can at Barrow & they were
is not all covered with ice as it
was there but they have a wonderful
kind of cutting out hard work for
me where ever I go. what I have
now is not the easiest I have had.

(40)

but there is no end of all things so
I suppose there will be no end of our
trouble in this -
There was a report that the Treasury
Office were going to ask us to look in
at our line in our way home
I ask how the folks were there but
not having heard any thing of it
from the Treasury Office only having
heard it as a report I suppose the plan
has fallen thro' - it will not reach my
ears I hear that it has for some way
and is now back to England &
if so be there shall be additional

Pleasure of sending you there also I
will make up by word of mouth for
all the neglect of my pen -
I wonder whether you met Mr
Cotton in town at London or by chance
since he left. This we have been living
in. I think the price of Mauritius
& very good quarters we have every
pleasure. It is compared with other
houses. They say the climate here is
in the Island. Hope we shall enjoy
it. - Yours very sincerely
W. E. Frere

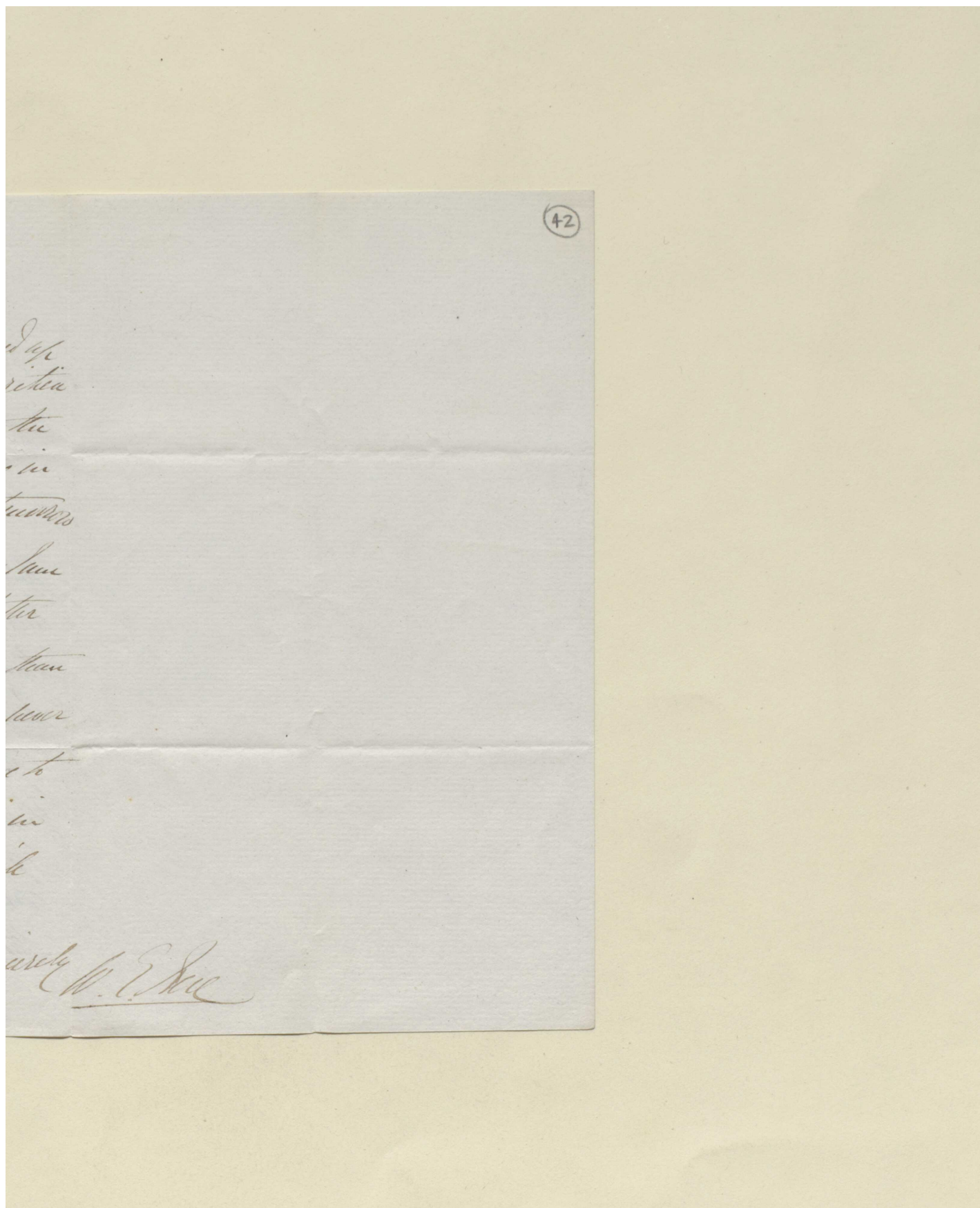
(41)
Mauritius March 23rd
BITTON RECTORY,
NEAR BRISTOL.

My dear Pelly -

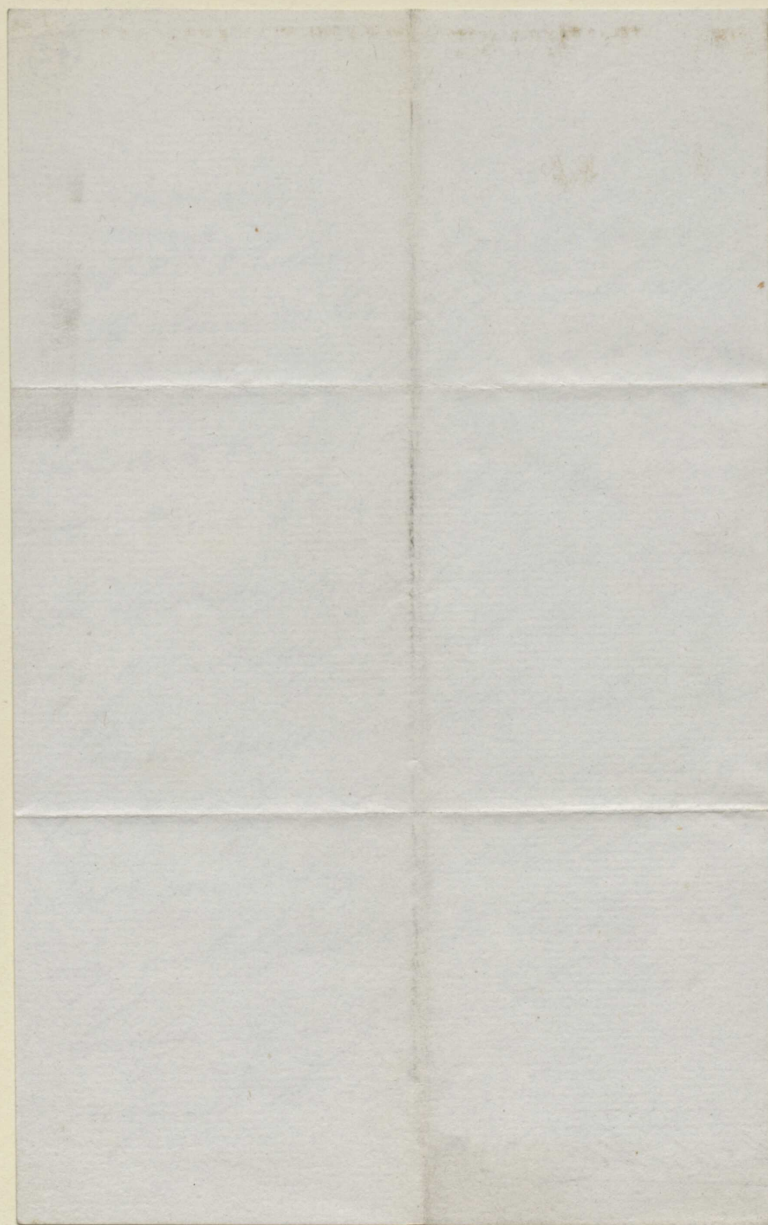
I don't know whether this will
find you at Zanzibar or not - but where
ever it does find you it will bear my
thanks for yours of the 17th Jan^y for your
keeping me apprised of your movements
& of my brother's health. I don't see
if you visit the French Islands & perhaps
begin to hope they may see you. I
come on here & to the table of
Huntley's house - I have already come

across the Whistore of it. It is mixed up
with immigration is very Mauritius
I am afraid we shall be here till the
beginning of May. There having in
the manner we will take this business
as it is very late put in me as have
enjoying very good health. better
I think during the hot weather than
in the cold. As this letter may never
reach you I am sure that I have to
say will be just as interesting in
London as in Zanzibar but
only add that. Always and
Yours very sincerely W. E. Frere

William Edward Frere, Mauritius to Lewis Pelly [42r] (3/4)



William Edward Frere, Mauritius to Lewis Pelly [42v] (4/4)



(43)
P.O.S. Indus 10th May
1873
My dear Pelly,
I am going to begin
a letter hoping to finish
it at Aden, & tell you
our news, if any, by the
mails we hope to find
there - I have not yet
ceased to fancy I hear
^{among the signal voices on board}
you, chaffing some of the
boys, or charging the Major
with immoderate sleep -

& I only hope you are
out of ~~that~~ such as we have
had for the last day or two.
We are a very quiet, rather
humdrum party - all our
invalids mending, I
think especially - most
of the children squalling
but no great nuisance, &
no "pigs to be shamed" -
I am writing positively the
last report (except 2 or 3) -
& wondering if anyone will
read it.

X By the way I wish you ⁽⁴⁴⁾
could impress on Lord Northbrook
the great importance of Aden
& the ^{demandably} duty of dredging
the Harbour, so as to allow
the long sharp ships of
the present generation
going inside - we shall
have to be outside tomorrow
& P.O. vessels sometimes
lose 12 hours waiting for
a tide - It is like Westminster
Bridge so useful for all
the world that it ought
not to be made to pay
for itself - I was at Aden &

Sir Bartle Frere, on board the Peninsular and Oriental Steamer Industo Lewis
Pelly [44v] (4/8)

I Bombay have a notion
that Lord N. has determined
not to spend anything on
it, & I fancy will not tell
him what they do not think
he will like - but he is too
wise to have any dislike to be
told the truth -

May 19th. Here we are having
stuck for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour on various
sandbanks, with 2500 tons of
cargo on board 300 for Aden. Surely
this ought to be remedied, a
dredge always at work does
not cost much, & in time
would make this a splendid
harbour -

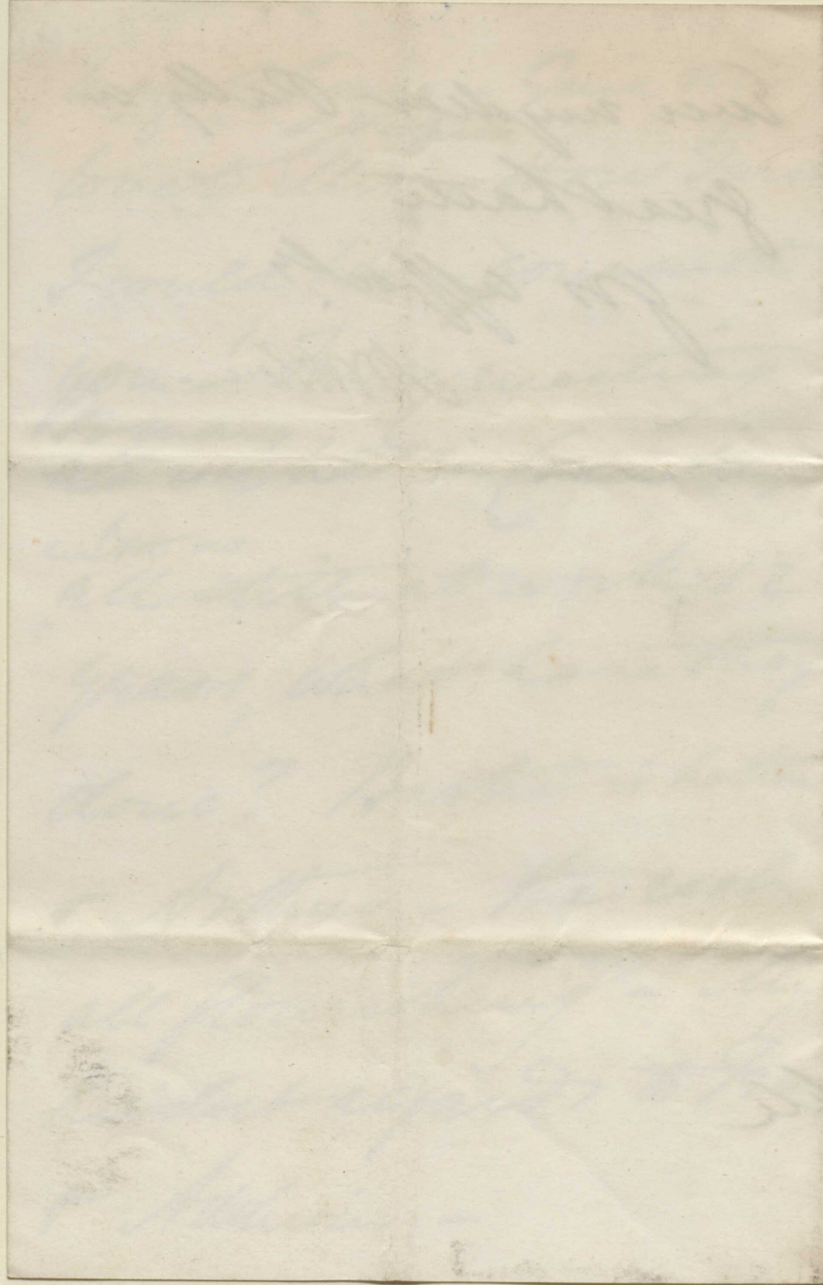
My wife says - "Thank
"Col. Pelly for his charming
"letter from Maculla." - She
gives good accounts of
all, & expected to see
you with us in some
indefinite future - for she
had got a del. saying
we were going to India -
Everyone seemed pleased
with all they heard of
our doings, but reserved
opinions & publication till

we got home - Give my
^{rapid} love to Ellis - How I wish
I could have gone with
you - Fancy meeting
~~so many~~
~~all~~ we had in Calcutta,
^{with us}
all still at work; 12
years, what have they
done? Barth is better
• Arthur - the verb
all flourishing - My
kindest regards to Fanny
& Arthur -

Sir Bartle Frere, on board the Peninsular and Oriental Steamer Industo Lewis
Pelly [46r] (7/8)

Ever my dear Pelly in ⁽⁴⁶⁾
Great haste
Yrs affectly
J. W. Frere.

Sir Bartle Frere, on board the Peninsular and Oriental Steamer Industo Lewis
Pelly [46v] (8/8)



Lady Catherine Frere and Sir Bartle Frere, 22 Princes Gardens, South Kensington
to Lewis Pelly [47r] (1/6)

22 Princes Gardens
South Kensington London
13. June - 1873 Friday

My dear Colonel Pelly.

I have yr. very welcome
kind letter from Bromley
(+ more than one) to thank
you for - and so I do - But,
I must first tell you Sir
Bartle arrived in London
last night at 7- 5/6 P.M.
from Paris - & thanks
God - he is looking - &
is remarkably well - And
My dear Boy too is far

better than I suspected
after a trip to Africa at
a growing age - He is
greatly thankful to have
him - & seems all he has
seems to be — He looks
Yellow - But that will
I suppose pass away
But I am thankful
& you who know me
so well will believe it
to see him so unspoiled
& so unchanged in all
good simple feeling &
such a true bit of the old

Block -

48

Well now I must talk of
Mey - I was so pleased &
happy of you - as of old -
and to hear of the complaint
(however disapp. to
Mey in not getting a new
house) of getting you to take
Rajpootana in hand -

I hope you will do - as
admirably as you have
done in the P. Gulf -
Sir B. has told me a good deal
of yr. work -

I am very glad you were
"to the front" to go up to

Lady Catherine Frere and Sir Bartle Frere, 22 Princes Gardens, South Kensington
to Lewis Pelly [48v] (4/6)

Simla - and say all that
my heart wd. have wished
but so clearly as I am sure
you will do to the Vicarage -
I can't tell you how disappd
Sir Bartle was not to go to
Simla himself - for many
- & every reasons -

Sir Bartle had a bad
deep bout of labour arising
from - he found you one of the
first - telling him of the Tel
- W. came just after he
left - & then he has got off -
Simla Tel:

One line I must send to thank you
for your Simla news. I found
all well here. but must defer
till next mail telling you what

Lady Catherine Frere and Sir Bartle Frere, 22 Princes Gardens, South Kensington
to Lewis Pelly [49r] (5/6)

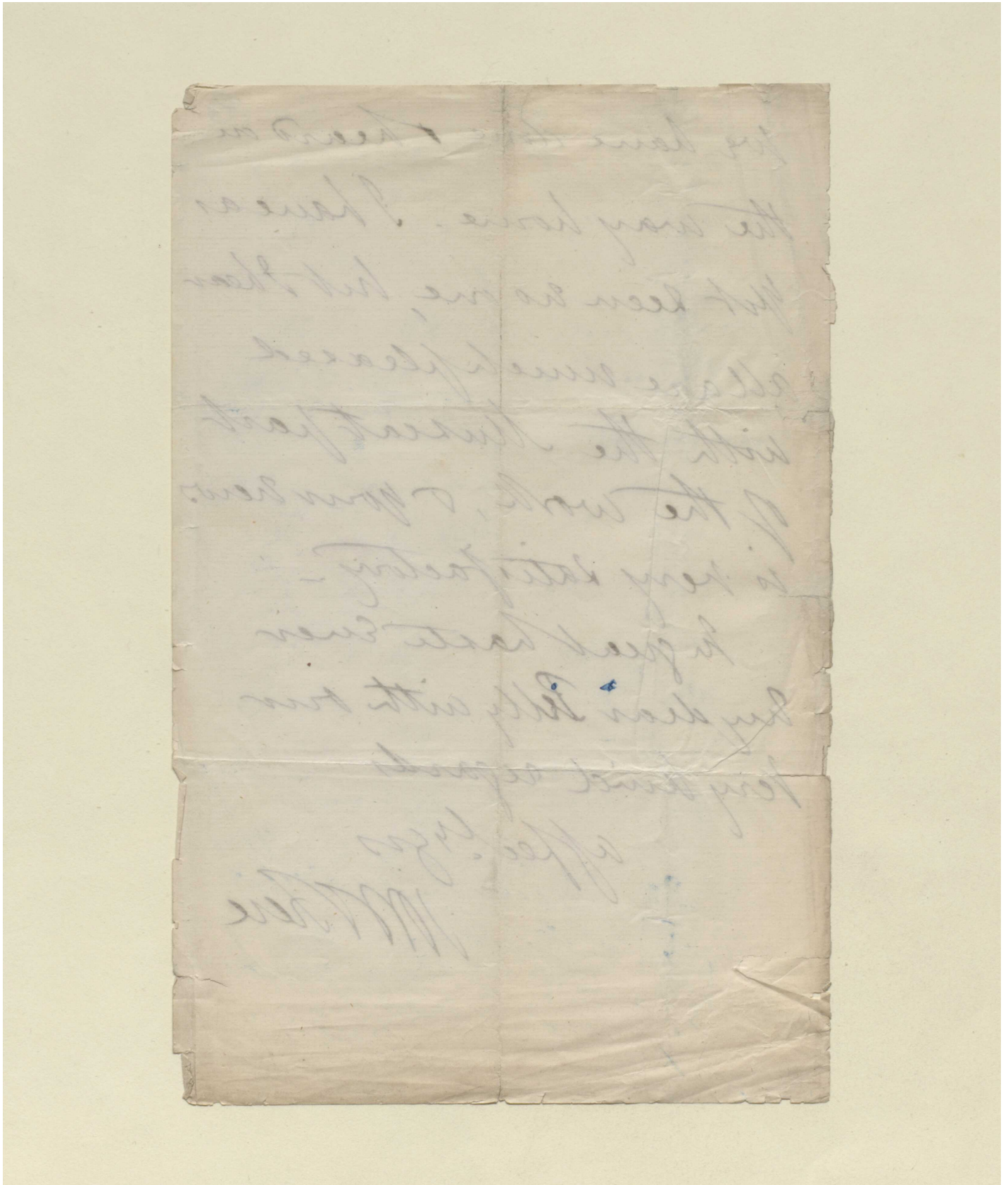
we have done & heard on
the way home. I have as
yet seen no one, but I hear
all are much pleased
with the Muscat part
of the work, & your news
is very satisfactory.

In great haste Ever
my dear Pelly with our
very kind regards

affecly yrs

M. Frere

Lady Catherine Frere and Sir Bartle Frere, 22 Princes Gardens, South Kensington
to Lewis Pelly [49v] (6/6)





July 11th 1873.

~~Private~~

My dear Pelly

Many thanks for your
Excellent & most acceptable
letter. Hereabouts we are
still printing, & emanulating
extracts of course. All are
very civil, but too much inclined
to think the Treaty all that
is needed - The Shah has been
occupying every one, & all
are tired with a profitable
Leperon, & long to be in Scotland -

but I think something will
come of it all at last -

I hope to see Sir H. Elliot in
a day or two, & will let you
know if there is anything of
interest about Turkish movements.

I hope they will now do justice
to your long uphill fight - but
the indifference of people here
is only equalled by their ignorance
For: Affairs.

One Under Secretary of State asked
me whether the Shah was a
Riowshipper?

(51)
You must arrange to come
home not later than March or
April next - & keep well till then.
Mind you tell me in time if you
send any thing from Rajpootana
I can help in, in any way - I will
let you know all about our old
work. My wife is greatly overtaken
with the dreary dissipating occupation
of London in early summer, which
she specially hates but cannot
avoid, but we often talk of you & she
hopes ^{to write} oftener than she accomplishes
it. Bartie is much better &

Sends kindest regards with
my dear Pelly yours ever affectly
M Waire

Under the Express.
 And to us its
 my dear very best
 friend who he of
 of value - I offer
 find myself making
 my husband had
 him some saying
 in one day in
 India - so later
 warning - We in
 India are too
 liberal - I mean
 I am shocked
 Green & his wife
 my own & their
 They have one little
 son - I think - he helps
 work - I reckon wth every
 a Parakee at Jacobabad
 He won't say it -!!
 52

Sir Bantle has desired
 Messrs. Pickering to send you by
 Book post - a book in 2 vols he
 has just published. The work
 his uncle - Mr. J. H. Frere - Mr.
 William Frere has chiefly collected
 the notes together - and
 my husband has had the
 writing of the Memoirs wth you
 will find - & I know care to
 read in Vol 1 - It was no easy
 task - but I think you will
 consider it has been ably
 handled - You remember

All the blame of our early
 reverses in Spain - when he
 was in. Every there was
 known before him! - he
 never w. vindicate himself
 on his policy - said if people did
 understand his despatches they
 were not likely to listen to his
 words - security as Anne had
 said - He used to say if he had lived
 he w. have fought it right. but
 he w. not fight a dead man.
 Now he too is gone - it seemed
 but fair to give a just statement
 of his policy. but Sir to
 Miss Baile was anxious to
 avoid saying any thing that
 might pain any surviving relations

That the Prince may struggle
 through now - but even when Frou
 is gone - the struggle may languish.
 We are all fairly well - & in Rome
 for winter - but Bartie with my two
 daughters - Kate & Georgie have just
 returned from a country visit - & my
 eldest daughter is at present with
 the Austons. Lily grows very
 well - & Bartie in the pursuit of
 learning & after study of
 a year with an Tutor will
 go to Cambridge - & so the
 world goes on! He is very fairly
 advancing in learning & I hope will carry his
 We were dining last night
 at Lady Rawlinsons - both
 well - & looking very happy.
 I have but time for this short
 scrawl. Set planning the book
 you will receive - & perhaps
 would add about it! I hope it
 will tell well - & a second edition be
 called for - The first will only first

Wessil Lodge
Wimbledon - Surrey
26 February 1875.

My dear Sir Lewis

I have threatened you
with a letter for many a
week past. — But you
will not have needed my
pen to tell you how
interestingly we have watched
your work — I wish you
I have seen Sir Butler
the first day he got the
intelligence of the G. G. and
act in sending you to
Baoda. We were all
sitting in the new library
and Sir Butler ^{just in from the garden} was sitting
opposite Mr. Butler — I
was knowing what he was
reading. I had a
surprise when he took

off his hat - and made you
 a bow - & then tipped his
 hat up - & said Pelly ^{will} do that
 right well - and we ed
 quite fancy you - just
 smiling - giving you a minute or two
 a twist & saying - Well
 Lady Frere - you see - on
 again!
 Sir Bantle says: "Tell Pelly
 I have not troubled him
 with letters on the subject
 when he must have such
 things to wade through about it -
 but that I have watched every
 step with keen interest and
 very much always the old clear
 insight & firm hand - & I feel
 I fully agree in all he has
~~you~~ ^{you} have done - & I am sure that
 he will have health & strength
 to carry out the difficult

53 58
work - but for he has insisted!
We have had most miserable
weather - cold winds & 2 or
3 winters already! Our season
began about a week ago with
heavy snow falls. But
today the sun is shining
& we really believe Spring
will soon come - We have
been alternating between
improving the garden about
the house - Sir Balle is
very well - a few weeks at
Town last year did him
good - He has been very
busy about his business
here - who 6 weeks ago had
a threatened apoplexy
attack. He has been finally
recovered. But he is very
weak - He has been in
Town - and now gone to

continued for change - The
Doctors tell us with care
he may keep going well for
years - Now - still a release
might come any day. He
is quite clear in intellect
but is a st - man, —
Lu Bault was at the service
last Monday - very full
one. St. Johnson was
with us for a day or two
here - and went with him.
You know him in Calcutta
I think.

If this bitter weather departs
I am going to the first Draining
man - on the 19. to present
Lily! - Can you fancy us all
grown up - ! & the sisters
are all very busy thinking what
our Benjamin shall wear!
Bartie is at Cambridge he is
going into the Army - one
day I hope he will be a

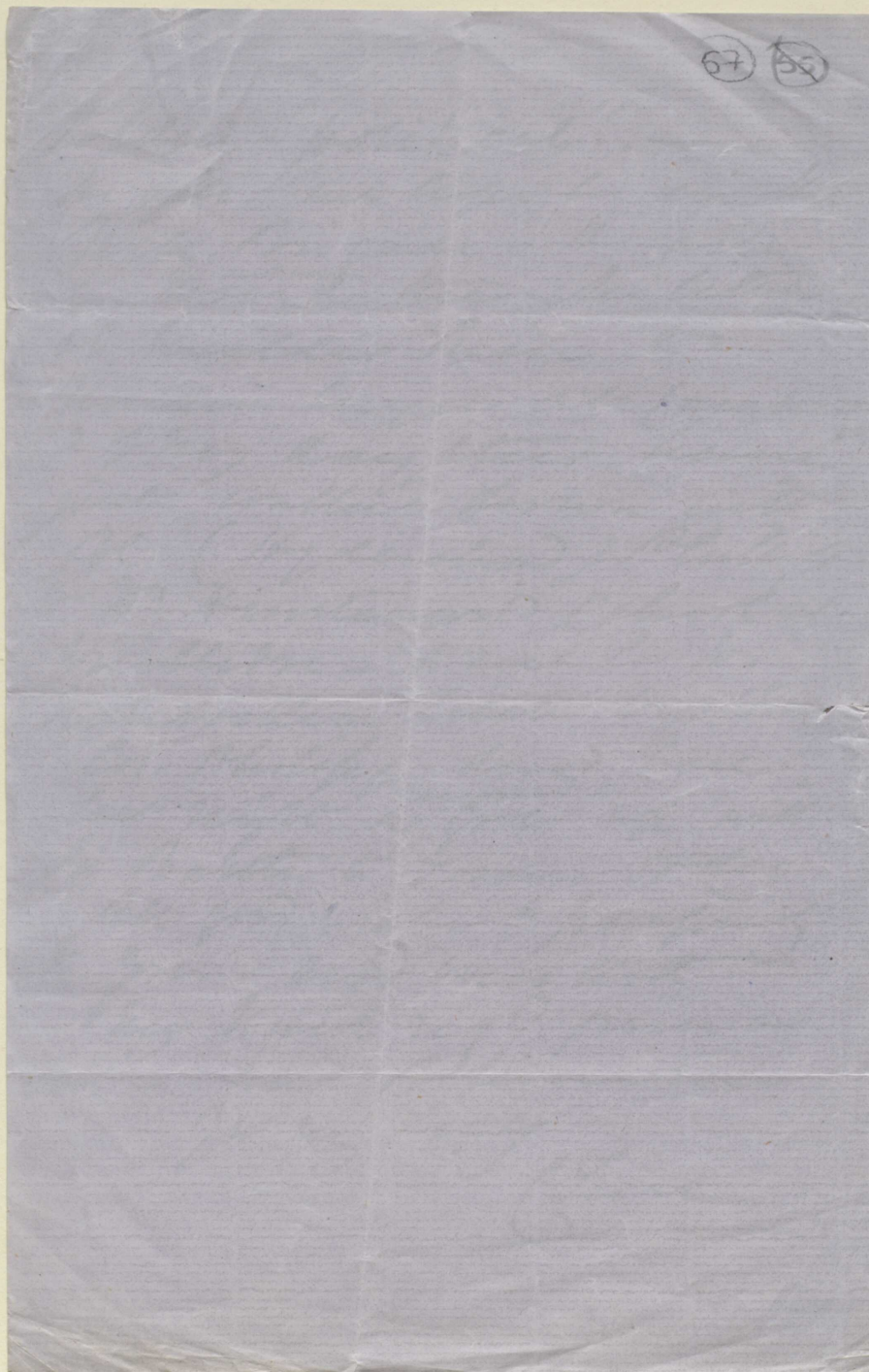
(56) (54)

Soldier - political! —
 He will be here in the
 Rifle Brigade - He will
 go with the Militia
 at Malabar Hill to
 remain here at (Canton)
 2 of my daughters have
 just walked down with
 Col (Hyderabad) Phillips
 to Dr. Huntingsford School at
 Wimbledon - to see Sir W.
 Hamilton with by the way
 Col. Phillips died here
 last night & goes up with
 Sir Bant to form today.
 All good wishes & sympathy
 to you - and most
 very kind regds from all
 — and believe me
 ever very
 Yours

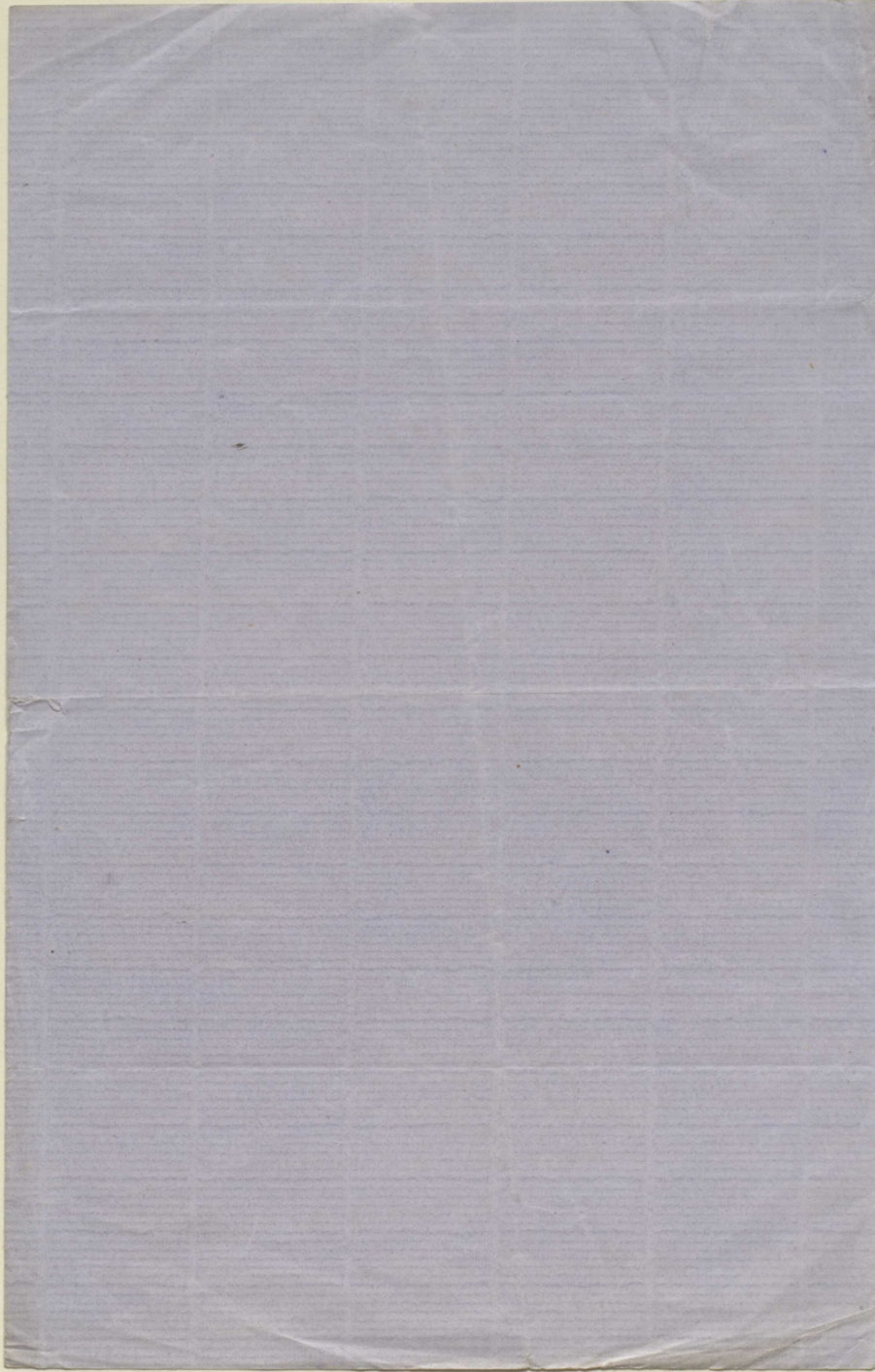
Catherine Frere, Wessil Lodge, Wimbledon to Lewis Pelly [56v] (6/8)

My dear Lewis
I have just received your letter of the 11th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well and happy. I am
also well and hope these few lines will find you
the same. I am writing you a few lines to let you
know that I am still thinking of you and hope
that you will write to me soon. I am
Yours truly
Catherine Frere

Catherine Frere, Wessil Lodge, Wimbledon to Lewis Pelly [57r] (7/8)



Catherine Frere, Wessil Lodge, Wimbledon to Lewis Pelly [57v] (8/8)



It has, I hear, retained
 several people - ! - who have
 had no idea but that
 this was some great
 winter work in India, where
 the word Mutiny was
 never mentioned - & as
 to European troops - I hope
 have advantage, taking
 troops to themselves &
 so it must be filled with
 British bayonets! -
 As to individuals the
 name of North is

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never he thought of being
spoken within the same
house as that of the Serious
of British India - Sir J. D.

Letter George was so pleased
with your kind little note
than to see read with the
General's book last night.
I was glad to hear from
it when had reached
you - I have been
very poorly the last
fortnight & the ^{Dr.} advised
me forthwith to the Sea.
Monday
So tomorrow morning I

Start by the 11 o'clock Train
from Waterloo Bridge for
Bournemouth - 4 miles
from Poole - where all my
husband's sisters are now.
- So that I have the double
purpose of "footage" & "re-
sidence". I am sorry your
friend seeing them all
- If you had not been so
to Bournemouth it would have
been a great opportunity for
you to have seen them. to
have escorted by two
white girls & myself down
there if you had had a
day to spare - I think I
should have pressed your
into our service too. I think