Letters from Sir Charles Umpherston and Lady Beatrice Aitchison to Lewis Pelly

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F126/4
Date(s)	4 Oct 1872-28 Oct 1877 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file, 29 items (78 folios)
Copyright for document	Unknown

About this record

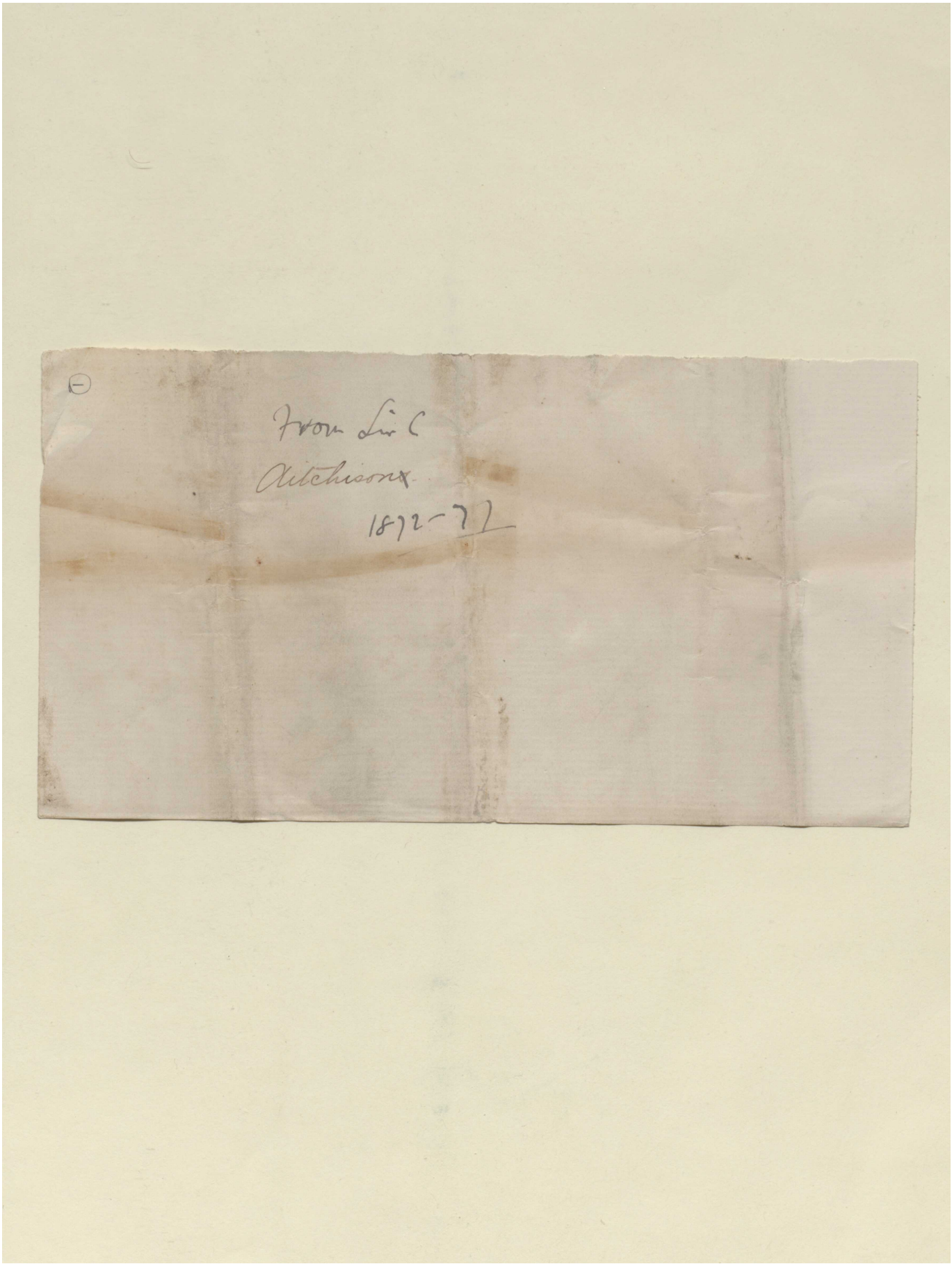
File of demi-official and personal correspondence from Sir Charles Umpherston Aitchison and his wife Lady Beatrice Lyall Aitichison to Lewis Pelly discussing both work and personal matters.

The first nineteen letters, covering folios 2-58, were written during the Aitchison's time in India 1872-1873 and discuss matters relating to Pelly's appointments in Rajputana and Baroda; news of appointments, engagements and periods of leave of friends and colleagues; and political matters in both India and England.

The eight letters on folios 59-74 are written during Aitchison's leave in England 1874-1877 and mostly discuss the familiy's travel arrangements and residences, and various arrangements to meet with Pelly both in London and Edinburgh.

The last two letters, folios 75-78, are written from India following Aitchison's return there in 1877 and discuss how he has found India on his return, and his return to the Foreign Office. There is also mention of the news of Pelly's engagement and rumours he will be the next Governor of Bombay.

Folio one contains a note stating that the contents of the file are from Sir Charles Aitchison and cover the period 1872-1877.



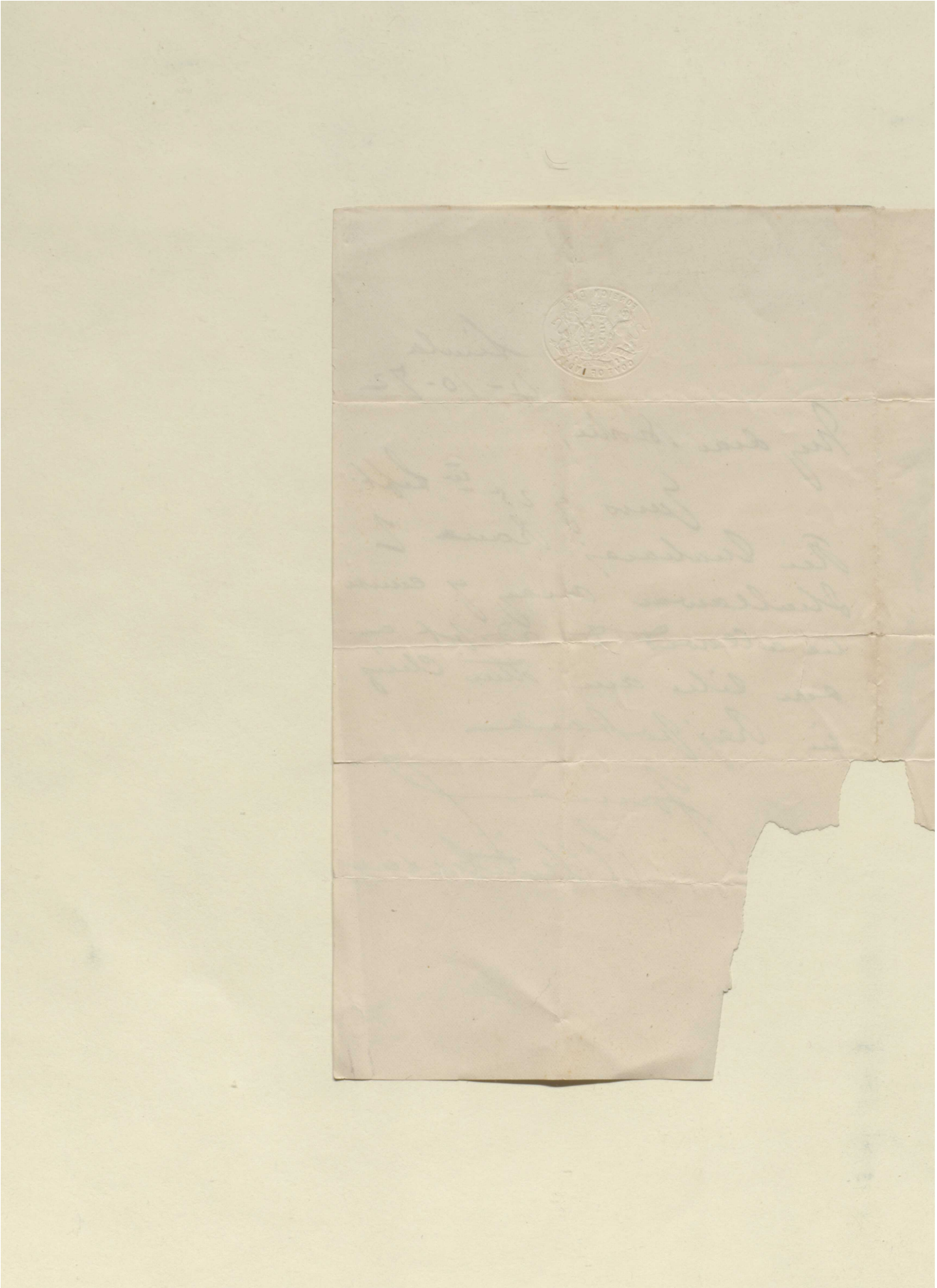
②

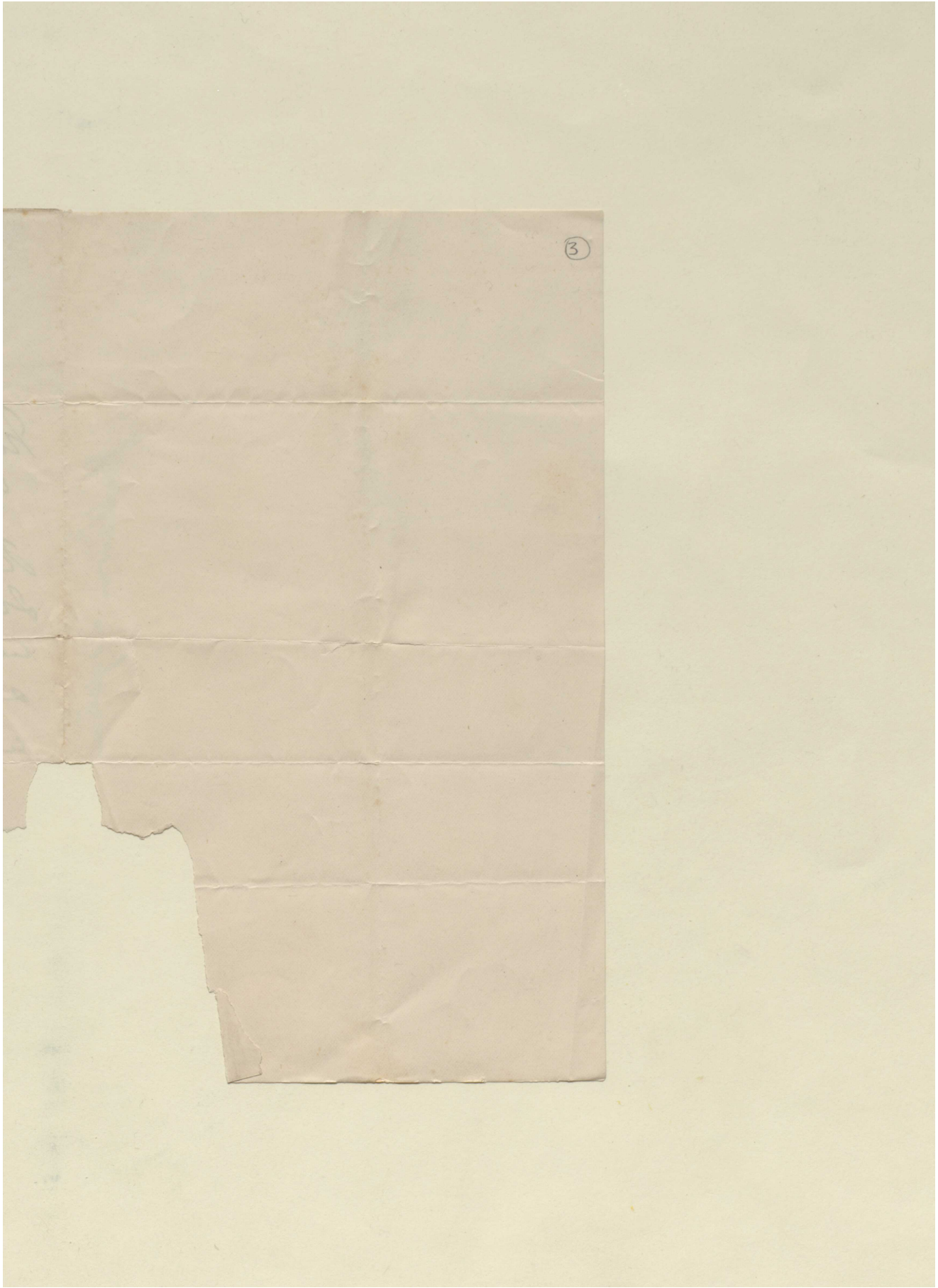
Simla
4-10-72

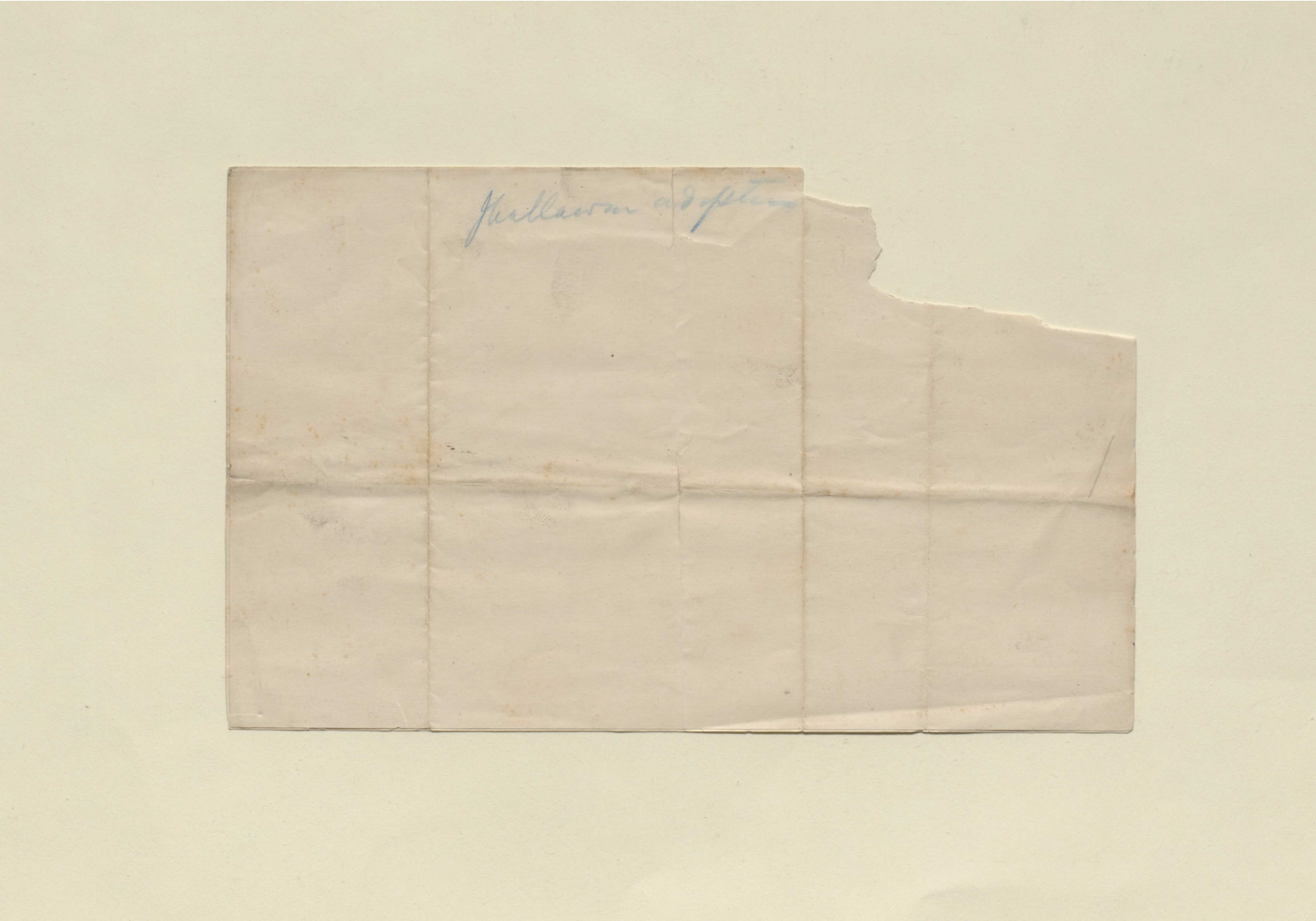
My dear Brooke,

Yours of 25th left.
The Maharaj Rana of
Shahpura may of course
be allowed to adopt a
son like any other Chief
in Rajpootana.

Yours
C U Aitchison







(4)

Simla
3-8-73

My dear Pelly,

I can imagine your cares very well. You cannot write to me too often – only I must ask you to be merciful & not too exacting of replies. I will always answer when I can & sometimes acknowledge letters in a heap as I now do yours of 8th, 10th, 9th, 16th, 20th & 25th July. You are making a good start & you will like the appointment more as you get familiar with the work. It is very natural that you shd incline to the policy of influence rather than force; it is the right policy. But you will find Rajputana terribly backward in all the essentials of good government & influence doesn't go very far unless the Chiefs know that there is something else behind & be used in case of real necessity. Nowhere more than

in Rajpu^a is it necessary that Chiefs
shd plainly understand that moral
force is the shadow precedent of physical
force. You will find that influence alone
will not go far in overcoming the vis
inertiae of the Rajfoots. At the same time
there is no worse or more mischievous policy
than interfering intermittently, badgering
& worrying. Our interference shd be limited
to matters of importance & when we do make
up our minds to interfere it shd be sharply
& decidedly, so that there may be no
uncertainty as to what we mean. Any
other course is unfair both to Chiefs &
to our own officers. I am glad you like the
ideas about Kishengurh, as I was afraid
they savoured so much of the brick and
& physical force that you wd have
preferred less of the substance & a little
more of the shadow. However we have
left you six months in wh to try
what the shadow can do!

So Seyfoor is coming to Simla after all. (5)
What a pity Faiz Ali has resigned. He had
al no other course. But altho' the weather
is as you say a domestic one, the Nawab
has been a true & steadfast friend to us
& I thought it right therefore to suggest
to the Viceroy that he should express the
great regret with wh he has learnt that
the Seyfoor State has lost the services
of so able & valuable a minister. I shd
be very glad if you cd see your way to
getting him appointed minister of Kotah.
I am with you entirely in preferring that
in such cases the details of internal
govt shd be in the hands of Native rather
than European officers. I wd reserve an
agent for general control & advice of conduct
of the relns of the State with the Brit.
govt, leaving the actual working of the country
out by other instruments. In some cases
however no remedy less drastic than
the assumption of power by the P.A.
will do. I don't think e.g. any less
radical measures in Kelvin wd have

done any good. Caddell has done wonders & I only hope he will stay long enough to allow the adm.n to take root. If Fazl Ali goes to Kotah he sh.d have the most ample powers & be supported in every possible way by us & we sh.d be careful not to weaken his authority by too minute control or criticism of his proceedings. He will have a very difficult task & unless he has our confidence & support fully & without stint he will assuredly fail.

There is to be a Court of Inquiry regarding Mackeson's accident. I am afraid it will raise a good deal of rumour & the surface & I sh.d have been glad if the affair c.d have been got over in a less conspicuous way. I have sent Maja Clay's letter to Earle. It is right that Earle sh.d see it & it will do Clay no harm. He is a good fellow. I quite agree with you in the feeling of maintaining these Local Political Corps. Earle has been making enquiries about them. But no one in his senses w.d propose to abolish them. They have been the civilizers of that part of India

2/ (6)

& I will to the extent of my little power
defeat the abolition of them tooth & nail.
I doubt however whether they require that
you shd. have a local Comdr. in Chief
at Aboo!

I return you the Reuter papers. I see
no harm whatever in your supplying
the Coy. with all the information in your
power – only I wd. do it in a private
& not in an official letter & wd. send
a copy to Bosp. There is little news from
this part of the world. Of Abdool Cayum
we have heard nothing since his boast
a month ago that he wd. be in Swadin
in 4 days! Tooker has strengthened the
garrison. We have heard by telegraph
that Tooker captured Lohar on the 20th
July but nothing is said as to what
has become of Swakim bin Shes. I
wonder if Tooker's successes are due
to the replenishment of his coffers
by the subsidy money. We took no
notice of his enhanced demand, but

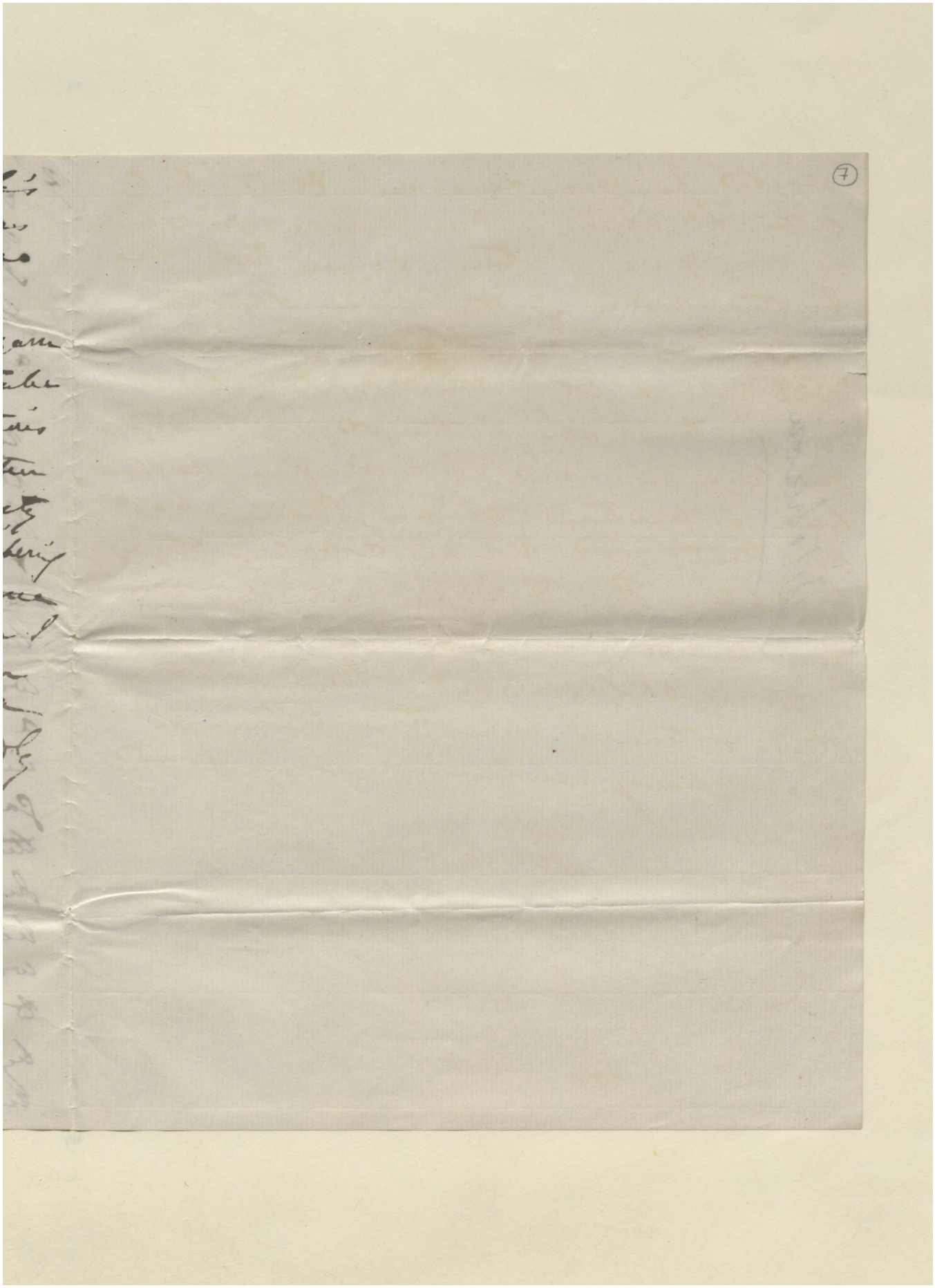
waited for his answer to the E. C's letter. It came in due course & was in very grateful tone, & we took no further notice of the other demand.

Now I must cease & spin a large yarn as I have a lot of other d.o. to write. Take care you are true about the diff.t questions you have in hand. We wd. far rather have a matured opinion than a hasty one that wd require cobbling & tinkering hereafter. The Durbar will be some time between 7th & 21st Sept. when I hope we shall meet. Best between this & then I hope there will be a good many interchanges of friendly letters.

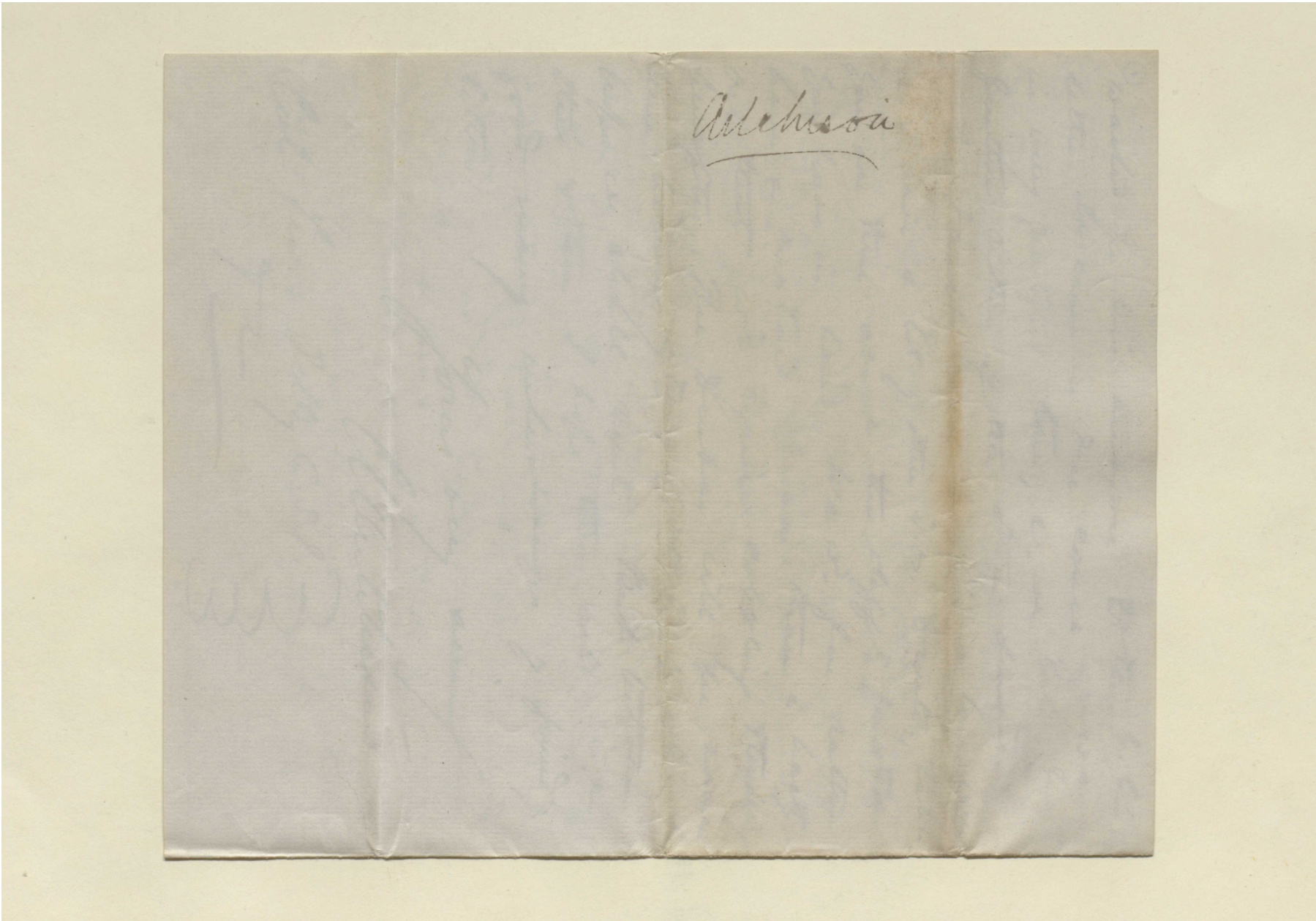
Yours very sincerely

C U Aitchison

Col: Lewis Pelly C.S.I.



Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Simla to Lewis Pelly [7v] (8/8)



(8)

Gorton Castle. Simla
Sunday 22nd June.
[1874]

My dear Col Pelly
Your long short note written at Kalka was duly delivered here - I'm glad you are not scalded altogether seeing as how you did not act up to our instructions but sent poor old Kenworthy during the heat of the afternoon!

Why did you return at
the rezai - I meant ta
you to leave it as
something to lie
on in the Bungalow
as you go along - & now
I shall think of
you being very un-
comfortable until you
can supply yourself
with necessary bits
of bedding at Abbo.
Do tell me how the
hat was received.
I have not heard

(9)

abt it get x it certainly didn't please
me — Charlie
Capt V. and Dr Moir
are off to Fagoo today
They started abt 8½
this morning & wd have
had a cool walk as it
is cloudy and very
cold I think. They
come back to break-
fast tomorrow.
Charlie says he feels
his head going
fast. Wh is to me

a very alarming
statement - outsiders
won't believe him.
tho' I'm sure he isn't
looking well & I wish
sincerely he would
go away for a week
or so - His work is
as heavy as ever
again and the rains
are fairly beginning
- if not begun - so there
isn't much to induce
him to go & live in
a dirty dak bungalow

(10)

with nothing to do -
Lady Napier has been
very ill but is getting
all right again -
Minnie was also on
the sick list - was
seized with croup the
night after you left
& gave us a great
fright - but she is
almost well again -
She was pulled down
for a few days, but

since she recovered
her appetite she is
getting as fat & rosy
as ever.
You remember Mr.
Cotton whom you so
largely patronized
here?— a whole house
was packed coming
down for Jakko last
Saturday! He fell
from his horse that
same night & died

(11)

on Monday. That
is fatal accident
No 1 of 1873. There
was very nearly
another last Wednes-
day. Capt Boyle
was mounting his
horse on the Club
road just above the
Band stand. The
brute bucked & he
managed to unhorse
himself quickly whereupon

The horse backed right
over & fell on the
mall quite dead -
Fancy the fate of the
poor man had his
foot over with the
horse - Wd horrible -
This is getting doleful
Pa I sure you will say
What more can I tell
you - Miss Thurlliers
is engaged to Mr. Miller
& Mr. Wallace - of 4th
Twelve years service.
So Capt. Bridgeway told

(12)

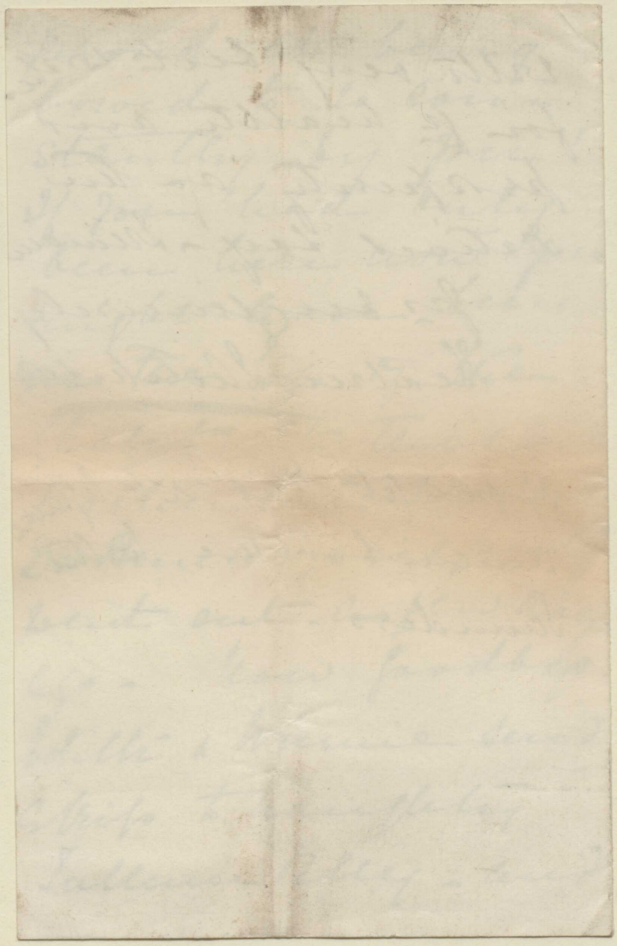
us last night as the
last thing out. You
ch.d recommend Col
Brook to bring his
lovely daughter to
Simla where she w.d
have a fair chance!
I'm sure Capt R. w.d
not be able to resist
her here!
Dr Muir goes to Calcutta
Starts on Thursday.
He is so pleased to
know his fate at last
tho' the appointment
is very small. The
old Nurse feels very

proud at being
bowed to so con-
stantly by you!
If you had only
been here now you
might have been
on the top of the
Chalet at this
particular moment.
Dr. Hunter & his party
went out a few days
ago. Now good bye.
Edith & Winnie send
a kiss to naughty
Julian Pelly. And

(13)

With very best wishes
for yr health and
prosperity as the
Natives say. I remain
yrs sincerely.
Beatrice Aitchison

If you get this at Ajmere
remember me to the
Saunders'.



(14)

Sunday 18 July
[1873]
Simla

My dear Col: Pelly
It is an age since we have heard from you except in a way which you ought to have a very big scolding - I'm not good at using hard language tile I feel you need a lecture and

on taking care of
the pence & the
pounds will take
care of themselves.
Last Wednesday C.
had a mixed party
in honour of the
Cabul Envoy & I
went to dine with
my friend Mrs.
Moir - just before

(15)

going out Charlie
brought me a toy
& said see what
that naughty
Julian Pelly had
sent - Thereupon
we both rated you
soundly. Really
tho' you ought
never to have sent
those lovely things
here and after

thanking you for
them as I must, I
say, as Dr. Moir said
Dine on sending
him a fee, I'd rather
have had the boy
without the enclosure.
Oh the singing
that goes on here all
day long. It's awful.
Edith still goes to
school & what's more

(16)

she goes to church &
seems to like it.
Winnie is very white
but well & grace
to the picture of
goodnature. but
I don't think you
two lads grace –
The rain is kept to
nothing here, tho'
of course it is
coming down now

just because I was
to take Winnie out
in my pampas —
Parties go on as before
everyone hates drinking
in the rains & no
one has courage to
give them up. Ser:
Family I have cut as
I bore my friends

(17)

by making them
come to dinner to
save calling on
them! There are
theatricals being

We hear that the
Miley Secy is getting
more & more un-
popular. We find
Miss Kerry pleasant.

(18)

continue to deserve
the character you
have started with!
Mr. Cappel goes home,
on some telegraph
work, with Major
Champain (I asked
Mr Mick his name was
Champagne) Experience
teachers — . Capt
Filgate comes to stay

with us till he gets
over the grief of
parting with his-
more than wife -
We have come to the
conclusion little
Mr. Lappel is in love
but can't make
him out at all -
Col Stewart is up
at last. The rather

(19)

rides himself - poor
man he very sorry for
him & wrote him a
note giving him a
standing invite for
the season Wm. Pw
quite angry with
him for shewing to
all his friends -
Charlie suggests
it is a kind of

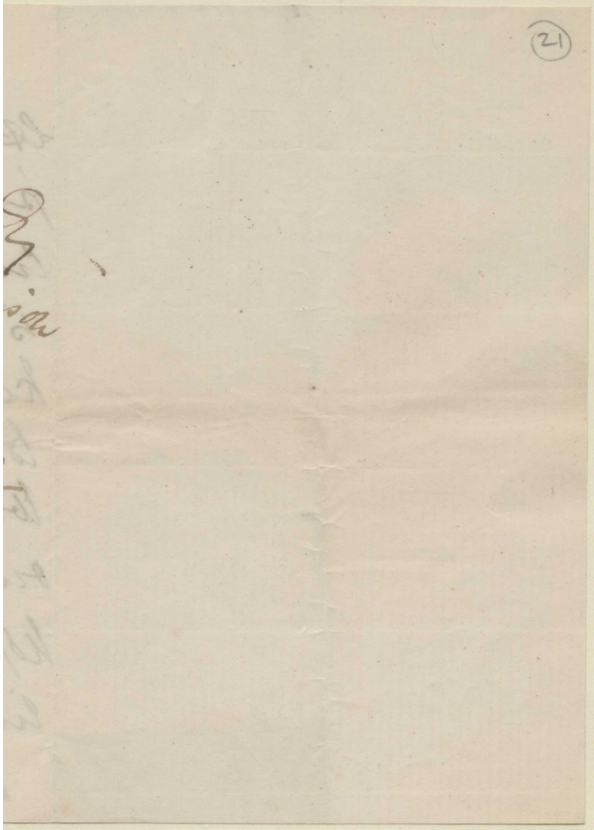
passport shewing
his respectability!
Oh such nonsense
I do talk. How
do you like Chaos
& "married boys."
How did you like
Mrs Saunders? She
used to be very pretty
Now I must say
Goodbye. Lady Napier
is well again I believe

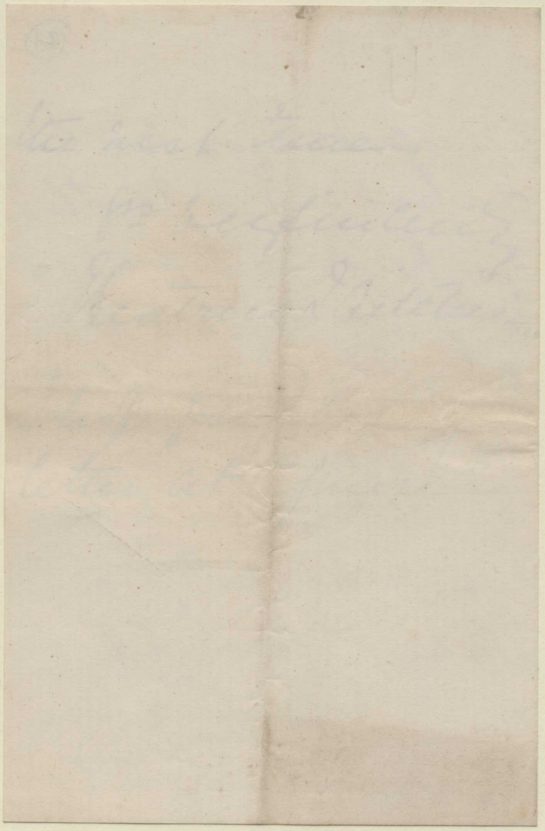
(20)

excuse bad writing
paper. It is Edith's
too my note paper
is just done & I
know of objection
to overland.
Winchester sends you
one kiss only —
Hoping you will pardon
in a becoming manner
I remain, till

the next time
for beginning
Beatrice Aitchison

I hope you got my
letter at Ajmere?





(22)

Gorton Castle Simla
18th August 73

My dear Pelly

I am not sorry for the poor grouse yesterday or were you sorry that you had accepted your present post thereby losing a pot at the poor birdies — I am sorry to have got into Tullum Pillip's black books. But have been so seedy — have constant neuralgic headache and have had large dealings

in new stories with
our next door neighbour
Dr O'Meara – I declare
me if those rains wd
only stop – Don't you
find that living in
the clouds depresses you
very much? It does
us here –

I don't think there is
much in the way of
news – We are told that
"Lord Charles" (Mr. Buck-
land) is at last en-
gaged to Laura Lindsay

(23)

But that it isn't given
out yet - I'm always
generous you know, so
I dont care whom he marries
now as he is leaving our
office so soon! It would
not be nice to have any
one I dislike in the F.O.
and I cant abide this
young woman - Next
there seems to be some-
thing going on between
our other attaché (not
the Raja) and the younger
Miss Thuillier - But he
is very deep & does not
confide in us so you

must not mention it to
him or he will pounce
down on me at once -
He rails agt matrimony
& wd talk abt it so con-
stantly that it is now
a forbidden subject at
our table. Capt Filgate
was with us for a
fortnight & is now with
the Chapmans — He
thinks Mr. Cappel has
treated him shamefully -
Have you had a dun
from B. Francis for
2e payment of yr. six
pairs of boots? He is
bankrupt poor creature

(24)

And everyone is being dun-
ned for repayt. of bills -
If you get one you will
know how to treat it.
There have been very good
theatricals at Govt. House
"a scrap of paper" - Miss
Baring seemed to enjoy
it immensely & the
public say it is the first
acting she has saw -
His blessed money is
still sitting on Charlie's
head - I wish he was
off & think he goes on
Saturday - Mr. Forsyth
goes off some day soon -
His man was to have

left Constantinople yesterday
but nothing has been heard
of him up to the present
time - When he does
turn up I'm sorry to say
C. has to go down to Ben=
balla to meet him &
send him on his way
rejoicing - This is to save
time & to prevent any
more Envoys from
coming here - They seem
to like being here and
won't go away again -
The Cabo folks seem
delighted with their
new chief - He hears
no end of stories in
his praise - and quietly

25

between ourselves, we have
come to the conclusion
that work must be so very
light that an extra
asst. is quite unnecessary!!
Have you had to give
up your den for foot
ball or cricket yet?
I must tell you what
I did with what you
sent us lockets for
Edith & Michen – Made
them into ear-rings and
they are so much ad-
mired – they are some-
thing perfectly new &
I feel proud to shew
them –

How nice it will be to see
you in Agra again - They
wont tell us whether the
weaker sex are to be
allowed in camp - but
I'm tolerably independent
as Mrs Furnivall has offered
me quarters - We want
her to come out now
for the rest of the season
but she has not agreed
to come yet. How
did the Quadrille party
come off?
We hope you have quite
recovered yr accident.
Capt Henderson had a
bad spill a week ago
all on acct of that snoozy

(26)

He was riding quietly & dreaming I suppose when his pony shied & he woke up to find himself on his back on the road. He is still very stiff & has to go abt in a pinafore. Fortunately no bones are broken - I think I told you of Miss Cherry's engagt - Capt Law is in Simla. came to live with the Hendersons and they never told him of Miss C's little affair - he first heard it at the Club or in the F. O. - and was very much astonished. We think he had a weak

ness for Mary Cherry him-
self! everyone is
Badminton mad here.
making bats is quite a
trade in the Bazaar
The difficulty is to get the
shuttlecocks they can't
make them to fly properly.
We even have taken to
it, in a quiet way – we
play by ourselves instead
of going out to walk
It's good exercise and
the Tom's lady thoroughly
enjoys it –
I forget whether I ever
told you that Rosy Chick

27

She is very pale now –
always remembers you
& says "God bless Dillum
Pelly" in her little
prayer at night. Edith
thinks this a highly
improper proceeding &
she cannot be got to
say it – Our Raja's
health is still "fluctuating"
as he calls it – He comes
up & sits on the F.S. very
often – Couldn't you
give him an appt. in
Rajpootana – It wd be
a great kindness if you wd –
Edith's stile goes to school

In spite of the rain & the
& Minnie sing to their
hearts content half
the day - The Happy
Land is still a favorite
tune I must stop - The
F.S very often says he's
going to write to a certain
friend - but he is dread-
fully overworked - His
office is piled up with
boxes again - almost
worse than when you
were here - He does
so enjoy yr letters so
do write often to the
poor creature and to
me yrs sincerely
Beatrice Aitchison

(28)

Rhigate Simla
24-8-73

My dear Pelly,

It is a glorious bright afternoon – a Sunday – I am sorely tempted between my duty to you & my inclination to go out & lounge on the Hill side. But as I know not when I may have another chance of writing for at least a week, I take the other alternative, cause! wd you not no doubt appreciate at its proper worth. You know acknowledge a very long yarn wd I sent you three weeks ago & as I gather from one of your notes that Tullum Pelly thinks Sahib Castle has forgotten him, I fear the Post Office may be to blame.

You last bought really good news. I am truly glad the Home authorities

are going to do you justice at last.
I shall keep my eye upon the tele=
grams & hope to be the first to
wire to you my congratulations. Sir
Bartle writes rather despondingly to
Lord Hartbrook. He says the Home
Govt will absolutely do nothing; they are
only recovering from the fit & the Cabinet
have no earnestness in the Cleare
question after having exhausted themselves
by the explosion of fine-words.
It is truly despicable. I do hope in
a few months Gladstone will get the
sack & England will be relieved from
that old man of the sea, who has
done more unconstitutional things
than England has seen since the
days of the Stuarts. & has let the
old Cleanness flag of England be
trailed in the dust. I am sick of
him & she? like to see him im=
peached.

(29)

Wak is leaving them now. We have
not yet got rid of that Cabool story
after weeks & weeks of bolaver. As soon
as you think something is settled, he
starts some new point & last week he
was very rude to Henderson for wh I
made him eat humble pie & apologize.
So far as I can gather matters, Britten
he saw his master treats us. They look
upon us as a good milch-cow from wh
they may draw supplies at pleasure,
& the conditions wh we wish to prescribe
as their alone on wh we will plead
ourselves to help Afghs are considered
by them as loopholes wh we are
prudently leaving as a way of escape
out of our promises of Afghs &c. here=
after ask for our help. We have been
firm & unyielding with him on all
main points, altho. not yielding on
all minor matters.

Many thanks for the help plates.
They arrived all safe & are very

highly appreciated. They have helped to
clear up my ideas wonderfully. What
a God-forsaken place Sark is! I would
not live in that telegraph barracks for
a kingdom. In yesterday's gazette you
will see the whole scheme regarding the
Civil Service. One cannot indulge the
hope that it will give satisfaction to
individuals, & I know my wife's friend
Raja Raja Jewrich will discharge his
shafts at it once; but I am satis=
fied after long cogitation that the
scheme will be of great advantage to
the public service.

I am afraid that Ajmere & Raj=
matters have been thrown aside for the
last week or two owing to pressing more
urgent work. You seem to be getting
everything into tip-top order. Next when
you write about communications with
Vakeels was capital. By the way
between ourselves strictly, there is
every chance of your being made

(30)

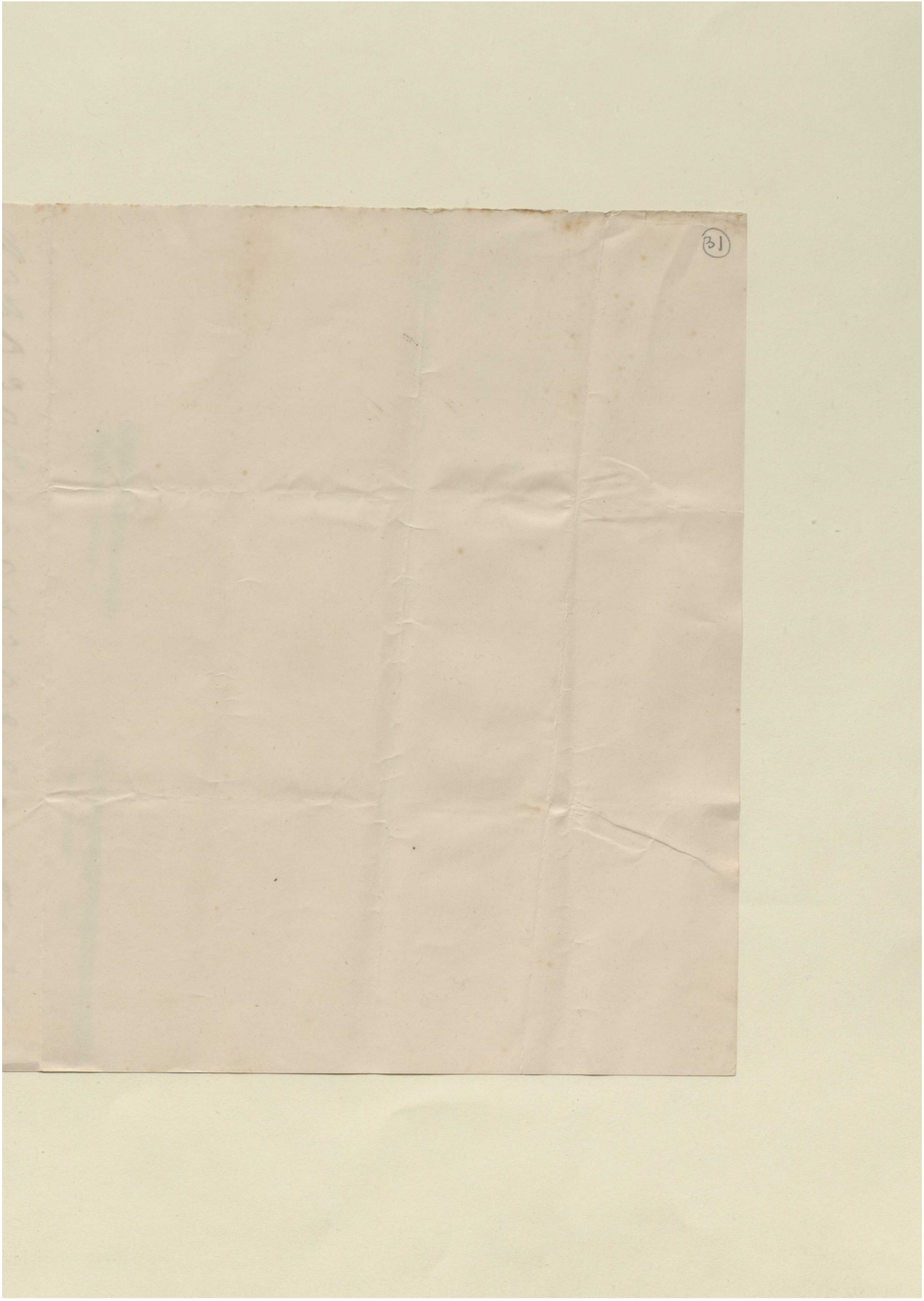
Jubbal. The new Chief Comr. ship of Afghan will be offered in the first instance to Keatinge & he accepts as I am certain he will, your seat in the saddle is safe. Keatinge told me before he went home that he wd. take any administrative post rather than go back to Raj.a. The appointment will probably not be available for a year or so. In that case you will not be deprived of your year leave. We have almost made up our minds to spend home on privilege leave in the spring & we carry out our plans we shall meet in the old country. Meanwhile we expect to see you at Agra.

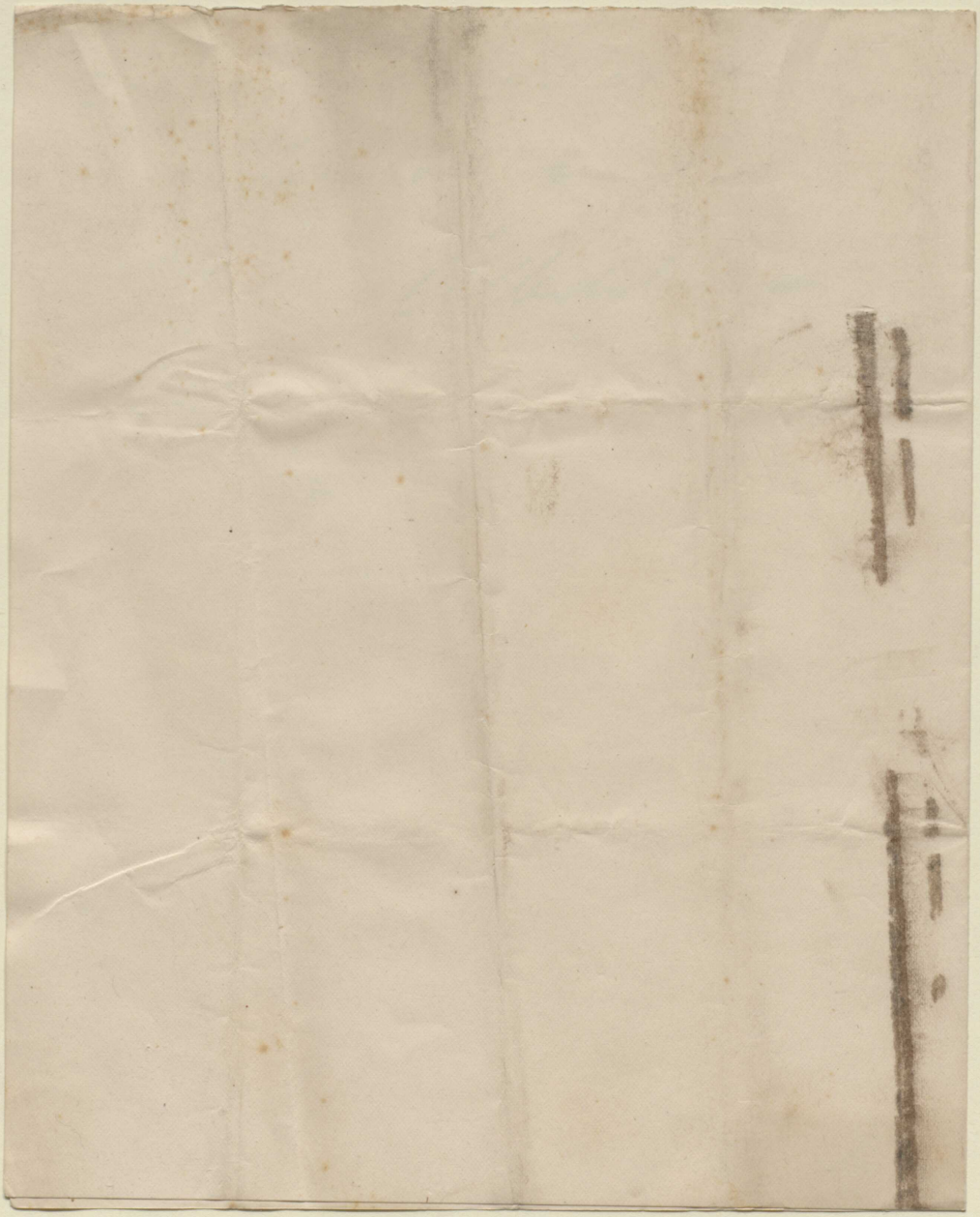
Rutland is done for at last — engaged to Miss Lindsay, Lady Tweeddale's sister. Ridgeway is still free but I don't think he is heart-whole. He has been out to the Chalis for the day. Rosy Charles & Edette salute

Yes, as soon hot it —

Yours ever &c

C U Aitchison





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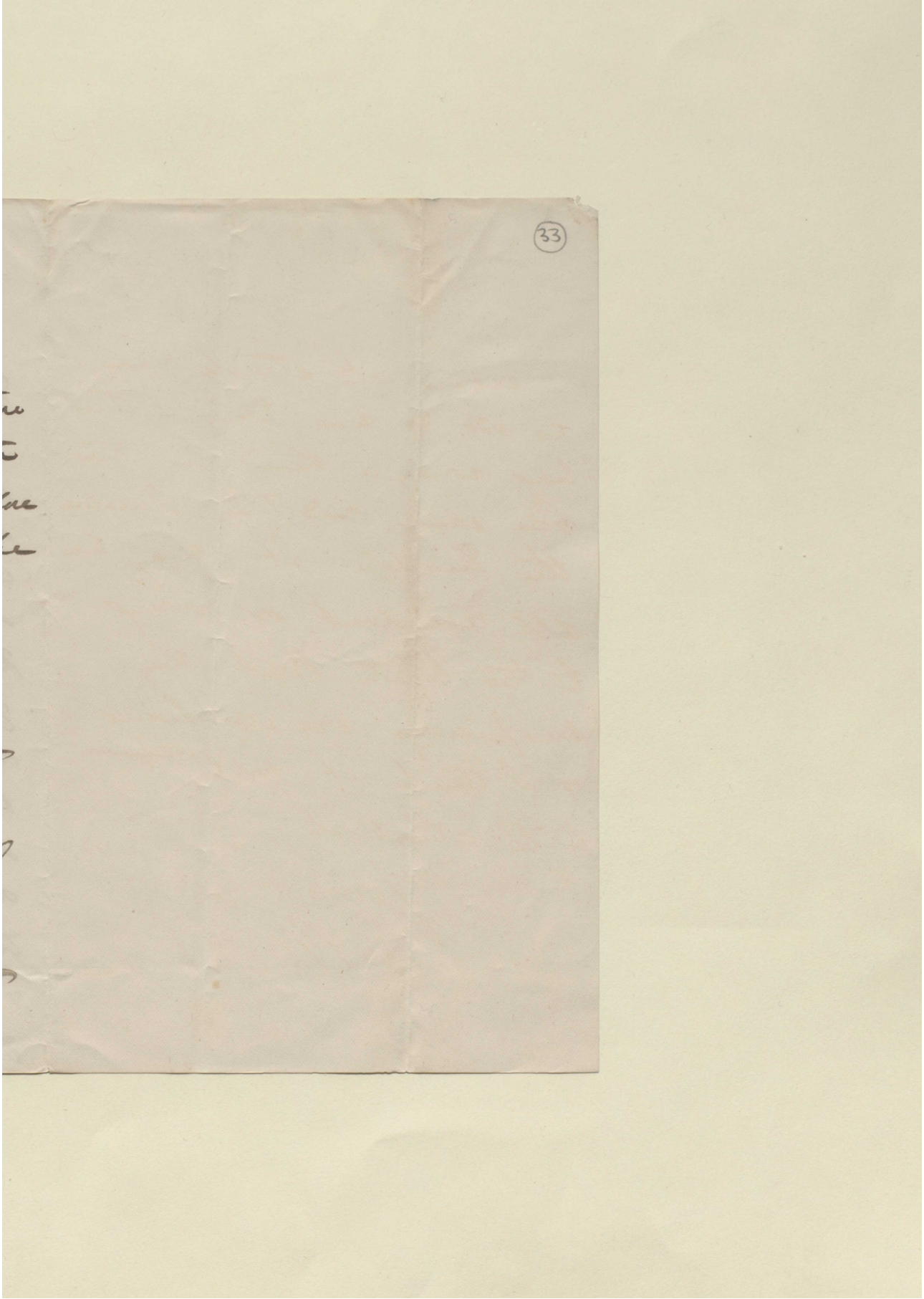
28-8-73

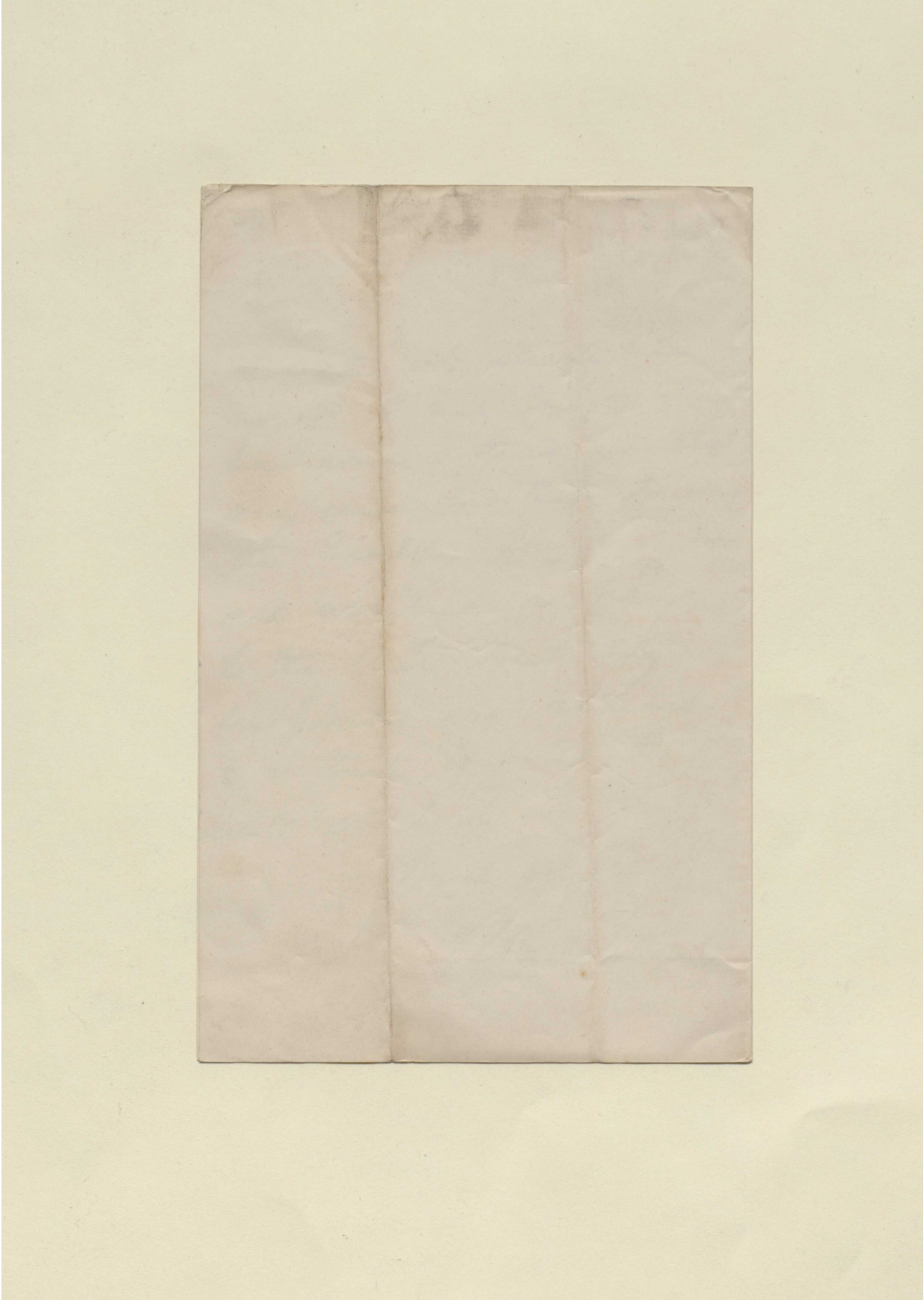
Dear Pelly,

I have several letters wh. I will answer in a day or two. Meanwhile I write with ref.ce to what you have told me about the Raj.a Post Office. You said your letters wd always bear a private seal with your name in Persian. So they did for some time. Three days ago I got a letter with the seal quite obliterated & smooth. I thought nothing of it. But then there came

a second w^h struck me
as odd & now tonight there
has come a third in the
very same condition. I enclose
the Envelope. It may be
all accident or some
to the best. But my
suspicions are aroused
& I think it will be
wise about it

Yours ever
C U Aitchison





Simla
31-8-73

My dear Pelly,

Many thanks for your letters of 18th, 19th & 22nd August. I think I have already in former letters answered all your questions about the Durbar. But if I have not, remind me. I am not yet able to answer your telegram about Ulwar & Kurnool but will do so as soon as I can. Their proper position will be assigned them; but no bargain or conditions can be made with them. They will obey the Viceroy's summons unless excused.

As to Ketah I have not been able to look at the report, nor shall I be for some time. Meanwhile

but
now
be

Cabool affairs simply swamp me. If you can get Faiz Ali, he will be a great acquisition; but I hear Seyfoor the are likely to make matters up. At any rate the Nawab accompanies the Maharaja to Simla. I have spoken seriously to Seyfoor about their Dacoities in Seyfoor, also to Ram Koonwr & I will do so to the Maharaja himself when he comes. We cannot accept European venery for the subsistance of Sect. Seyfoor seems to me too soft & to be too easily satisfied with written promises from the Durbar. I return you his two letters. I shd be very glad to see the Nawab back at Seyfoor

but he cannot go back as our
nominee; then there's no fear of
be worse.

I have seen Dr Fabech but he
made no allusion to the disputed
accounts & so I did not broach
the subject.

You were quite right to have it
out with the D.P.W. key. The
mischief was done by Commissioner
Jindeman & not by C. who is
said to be a very good fellow.
I think I mentioned the subject
to you at Simla. It has always
been a matter of wonder to me why
the A.G.G. shd have a key in
the D.P.W. when he sends all
letters in the Polit. Dept. directly.
The present arrangt have more
than once led to matters being
referred in the D.P.W. wh shd
have been sent first to the
Foreign Office & Govt being com-
mitted to serious discussions

before the Pol. agent & the
Secretary had been considered. In
an instance the D.P.W. concluded
an engagt with Lodbfon for the
hire of a labels & refers, a gear
for roads & the first thing we
heard of it was when we were
called on to find the screws in
the Pol. Deptt. to make the Maha-
raja pay up arrears!

It is within five minutes of
dinner time so I must close.
You will have a letter in the
Lady's Deptt. soon. I enclose such
les. of Mr. has come obliterated.
With kindest regards from all
here

Yours ever
C U Aitchison

Col: Pelly C.S.I.

Letter from Lewis Pelly, Aboo [Abu], Agent to the Governor General at Rajpootana [Rajasthan] to Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Secretary, Government of India [36r] (1/2)

(36)

Aboo Sunday 7 Sept. 1870

My dear Aitchison

Your telegram reached me last evening concerning the Shallum affair. Before you sent this you will have received my letters of the 3 & 5th.

Luckily I kept the affair in dernier official hiem.

But I think badly of it and you will see the Officer who gave me their unofficial opinion (Mr Simon) think it bad or worse. because they know

Letter from Lewis Pelly, Aboo [Abu], Agent to the Governor General at Rajpootana [Rajasthan] to Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Secretary, Government of India [36v] (2/2)

know more.

I confess my blood boiled when I found that an unofficial letter from you, ~~was made use~~ has been used as official, "enclude" an official business of great importance, affecting the states.

You will see from my previous letter that I lost no time in instructing you not to call it. It is not yet arrived, & in obedience to your wishes I now cease action pending arrival of your letter.

~~Pray keep me informed of your wishes & policy.~~ This affair causes me ~~deep~~ sorrow. all the trouble because the special refused to be open with me in respect

37

14-9-73

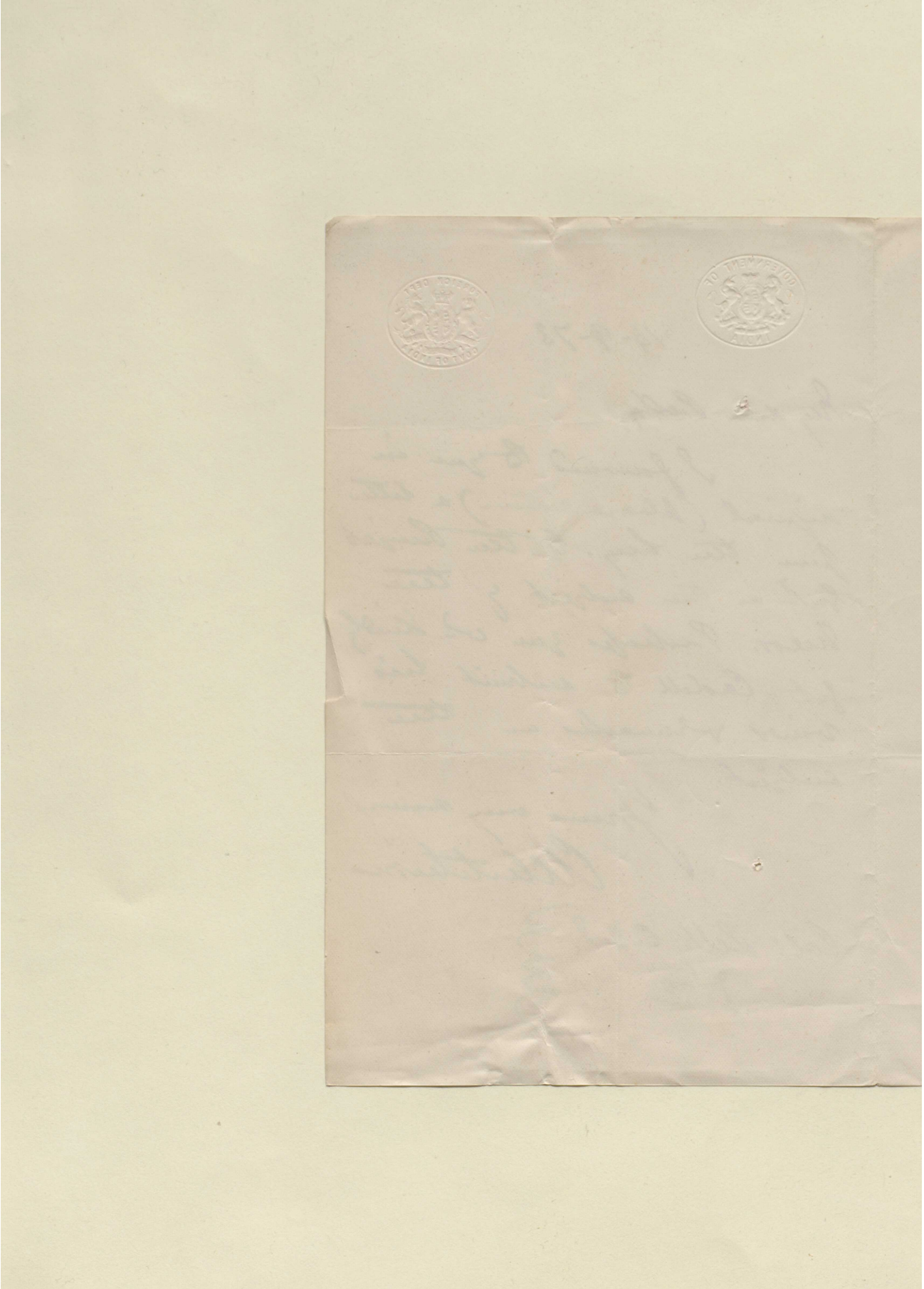
My dear Pelly,

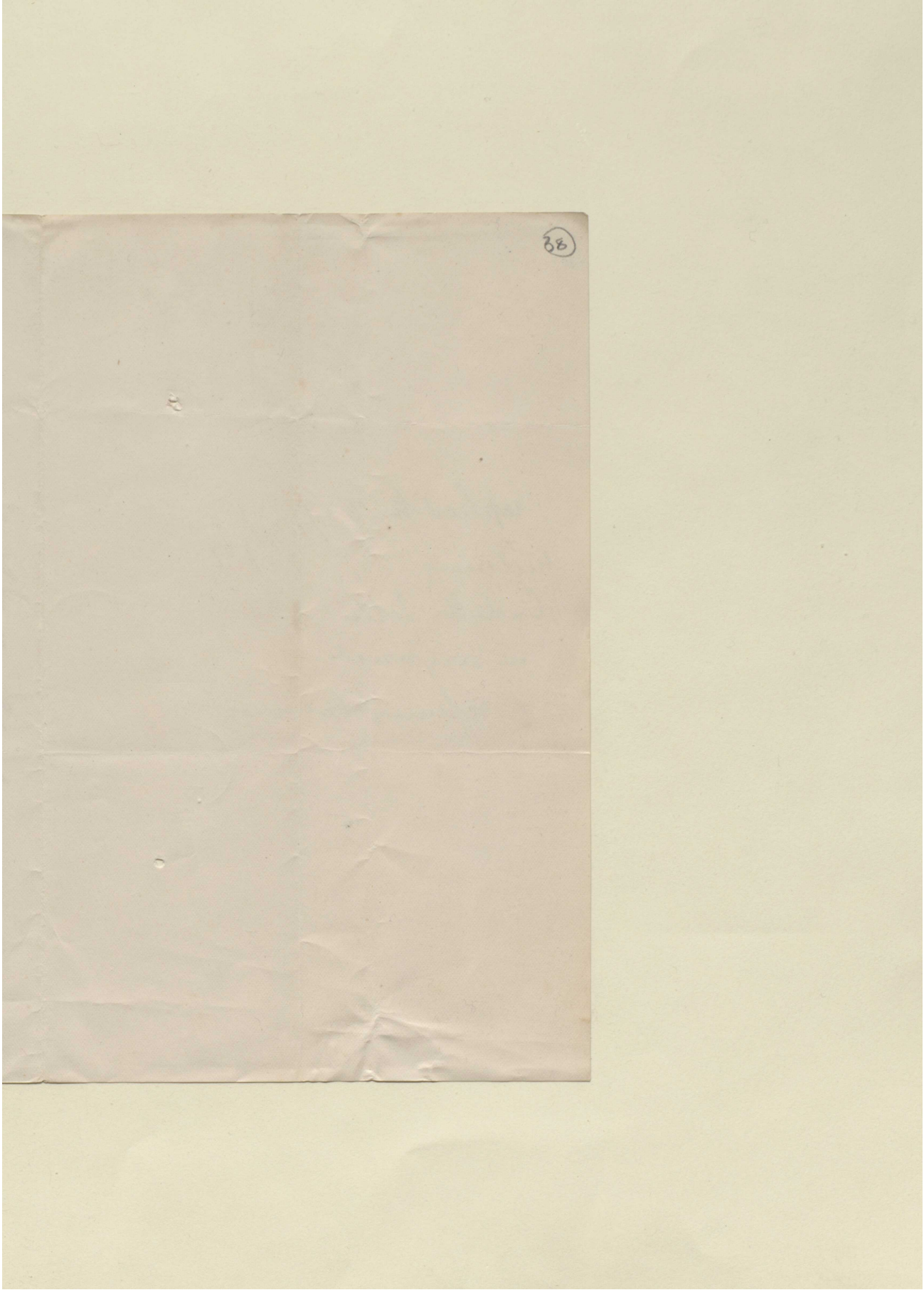
I forward to you in original (kindly return) a letter from the Lieut. Gov. of the Punjab Govt. on the subject of the Neos. Perhaps you will kindly get Cadell to submit his views & remarks on the subject.

Yours very sincerely
C U Aitchison

Col: Pelly C.S.I.

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Department, Government of India, to Colonel Lewis Pelly [37v] (2/4)





replied to 25/10/72
enclosing
Cuthell's letter
in original
& returning Documents

39

5-10-73

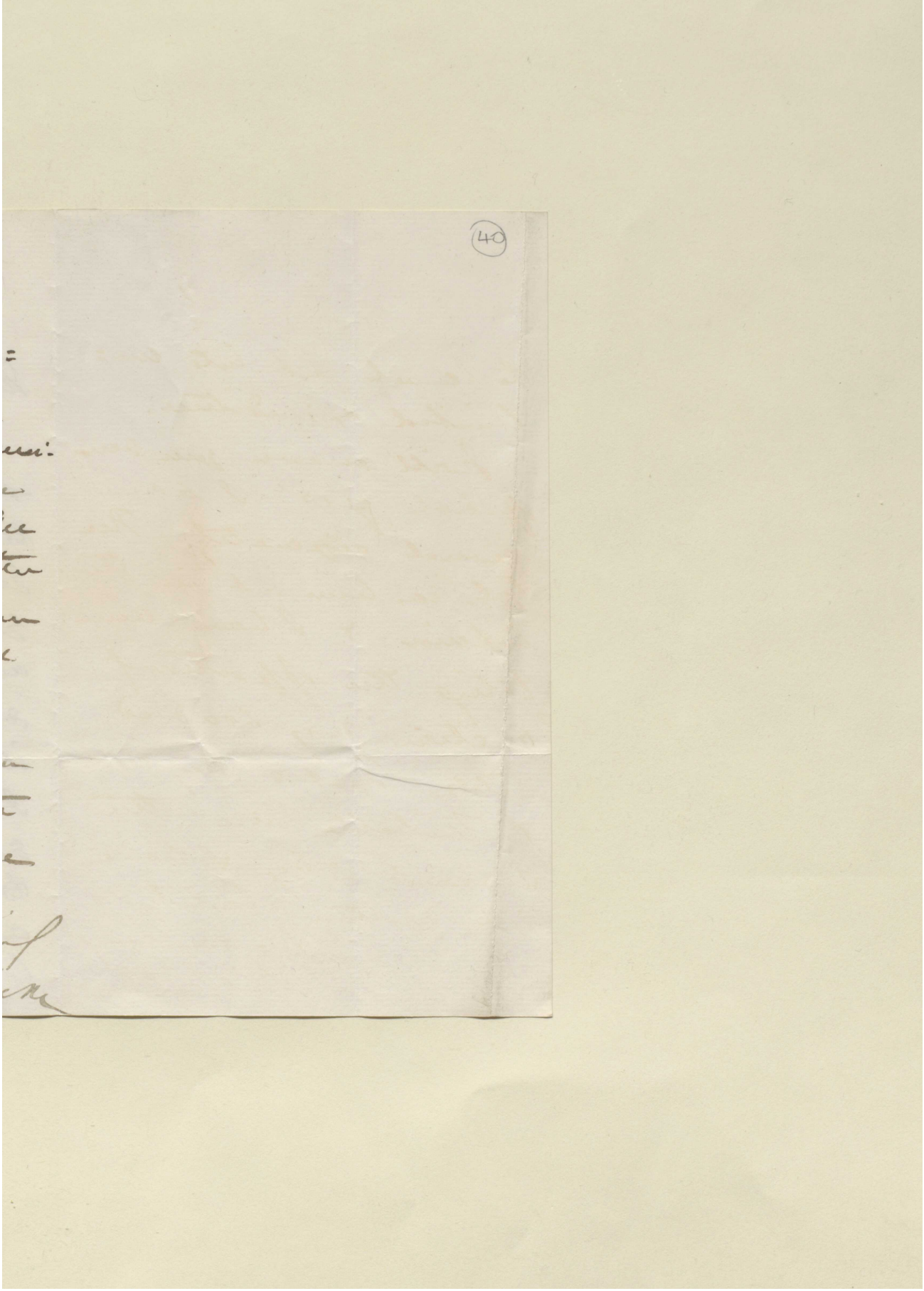
My dear Pelly,

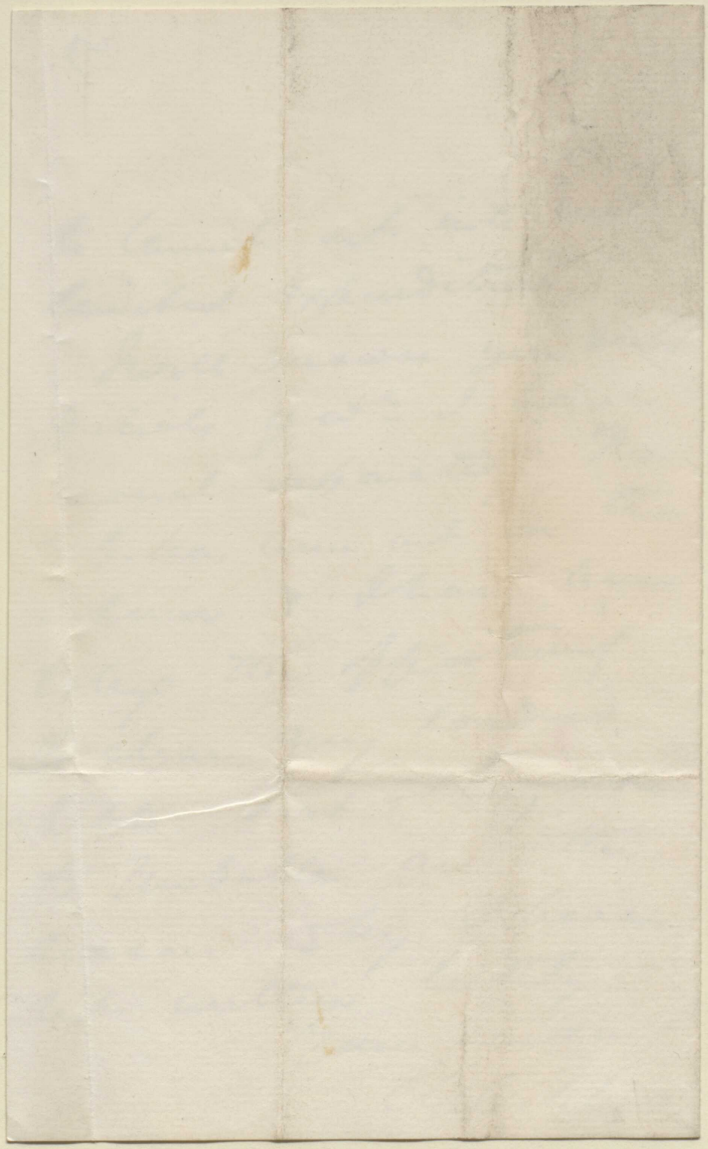
Yours of 25th sept: from Beawar about the Persian play. I think you are right in what you propose viz: to get only one or two scenes done & see what the illustrations will cost. I shall be very glad to do my part to help to give to the world a good written big volume but of course proper not

to launch out into un-
limited expenditure.

I will answer your demi-
official qs. I have
received separately. The
G.G. has been out in the
interior & I have been
taking the opportunity
to clear my loaded
table. Next to my own
& Umballa are the
reasons why I have
not written lately.

Yours ever sincerely
C U Aitchison





(41)

14-10-73

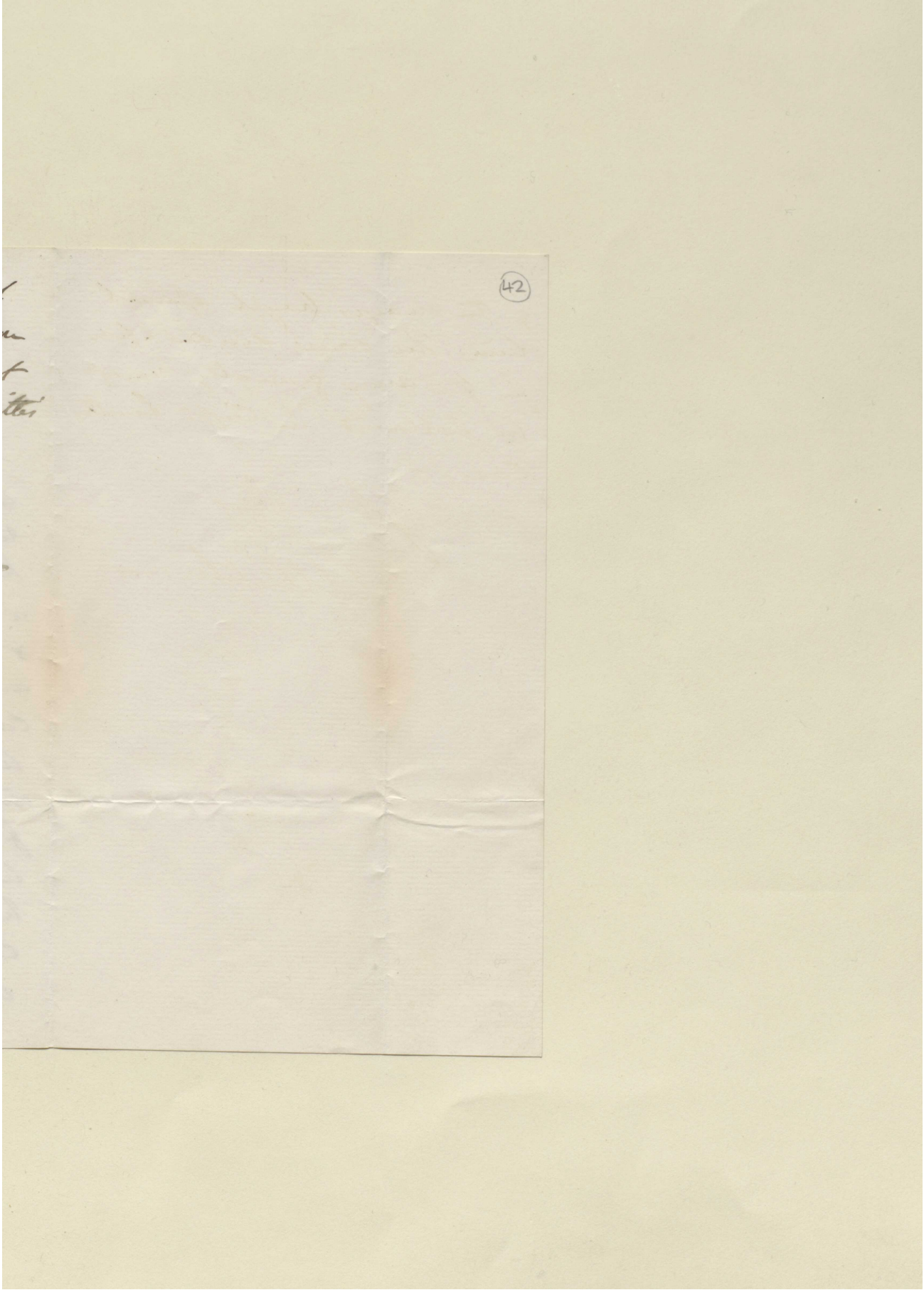
My dear Pelly,

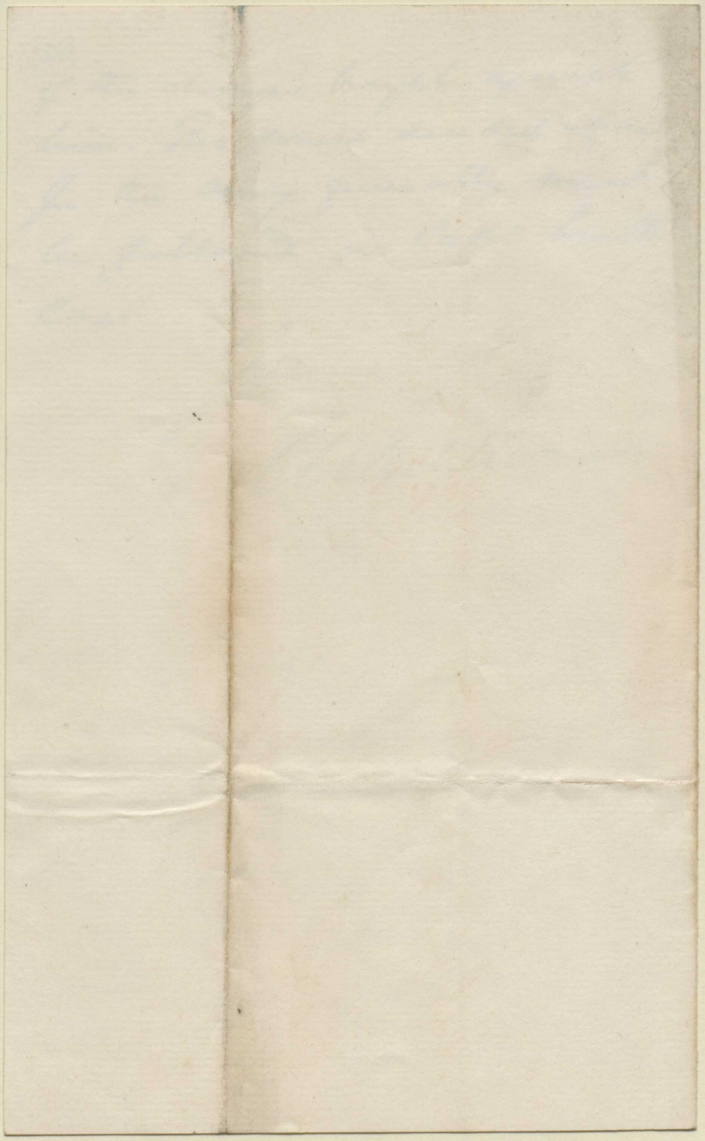
The question you referred in your letter No. 7 of 3rd Oct: regarding Capt. Smith was referred by the Adjutant General a few days ago to H.E. the C.in.C. & he decided that it was better under all the circumstances to continue the custom of his having hitherto provided against entering in the State's service the fact of an officer having been tried & of his conduct having been the subject of a Court of Inquiry even though he may have been acquitted

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Government of India, to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General in Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [41v] (2/4)

of the charges brought against
him. The course decided upon
for the army generally must
be followed in Capt.n Lemitt's
case.

Yours
C U Aitchison





Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Department, Government of India, Simla to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General in Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [43r] (1/4)

43

Simla
16-10-73

My dear Pelly,

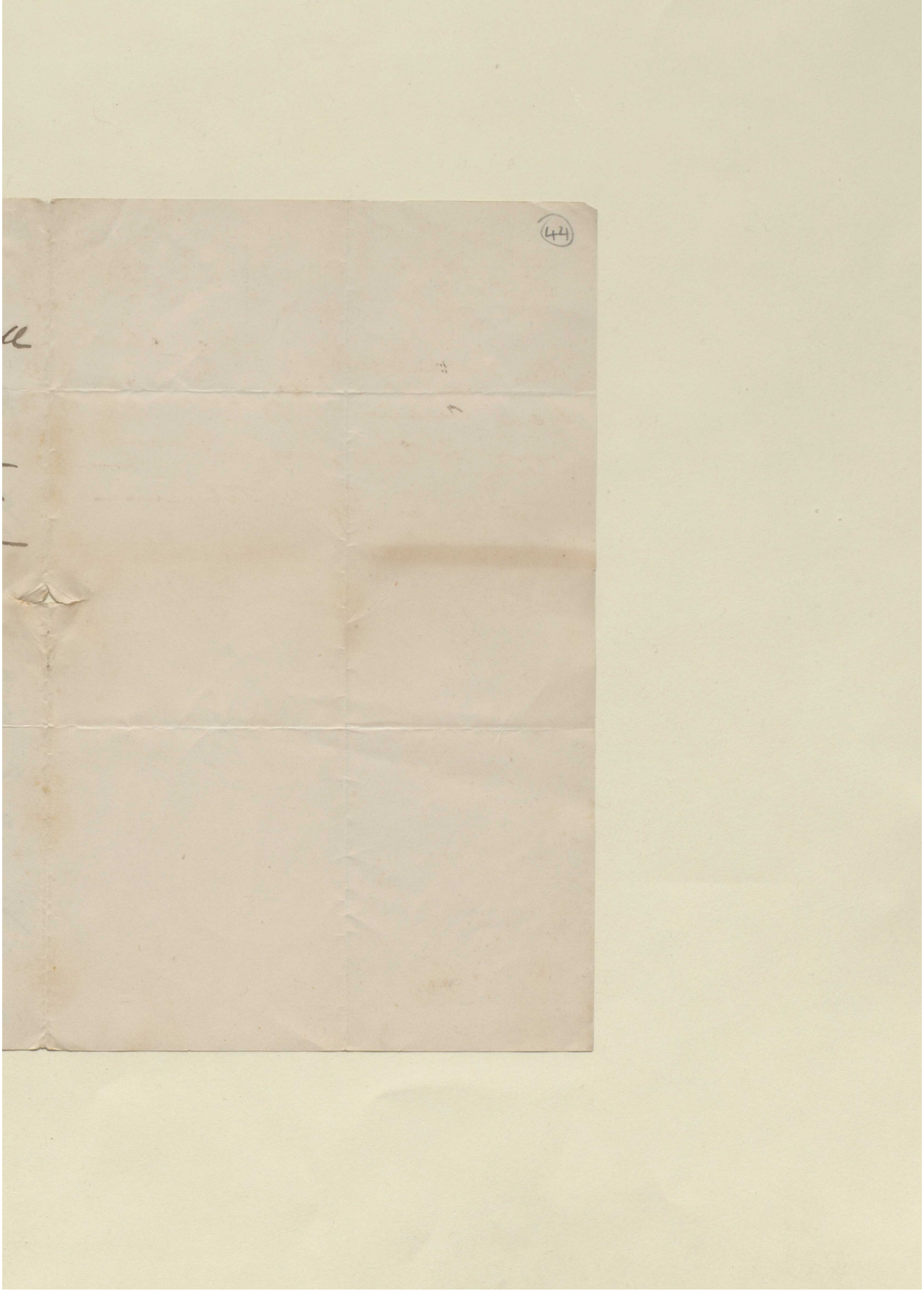
Thanks for yours of the 9th from Kekreen just received. Things are taking a better form in Raj.a & the effects of the discipline you are enforcing are already visible here. Macte virtute I say & the wheels will soon all run smooth enough.

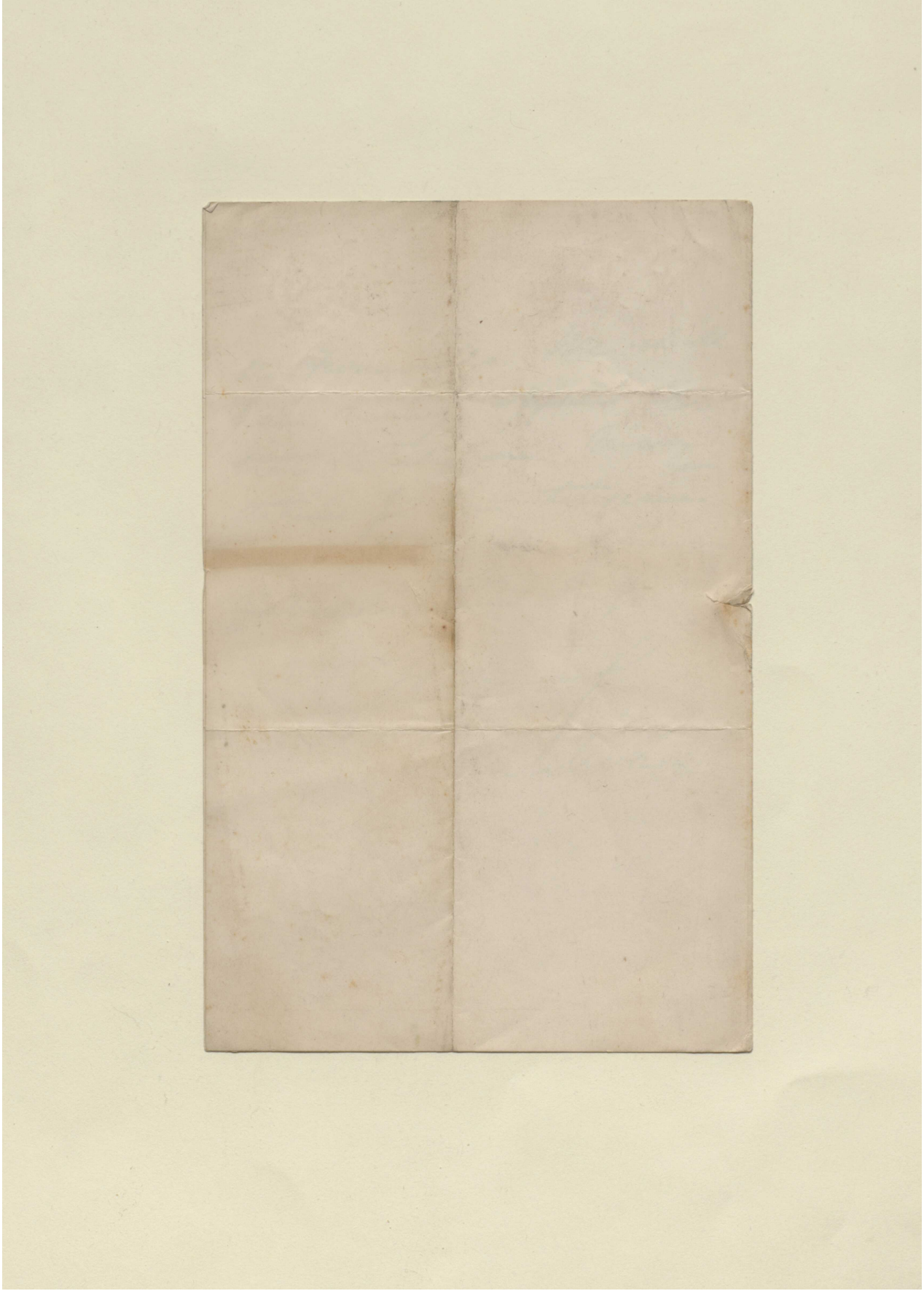
You reach Ajmer on the 7th. I hope to be there on the morning of the 11th. You will hear of me at

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Department, Government of India, Simla to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General in Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [43v] (2/4)

the Fermiralls. We shall
have many affairs of
state to talk over. Many
thanks for your telegram
about Miles. We have
forbidden him to go.

Yours
C U Aitchison





Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Office, Government of India, Simla to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General in Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [45r] (1/4)

(45)

Foreign Office
Simla, 16th Octr 1873.

My Dear Pelly,

Your official letter as offg. A.G.G. Rajpootana No. 1630 of 24th ultimo=

The Viceroy quite concurs with you in opinion that it is inexpedient and unnecessary to raise the question of the restoration of the Chittore Gates to the Maharajah of Oodeypore. You will see in the Pioneer

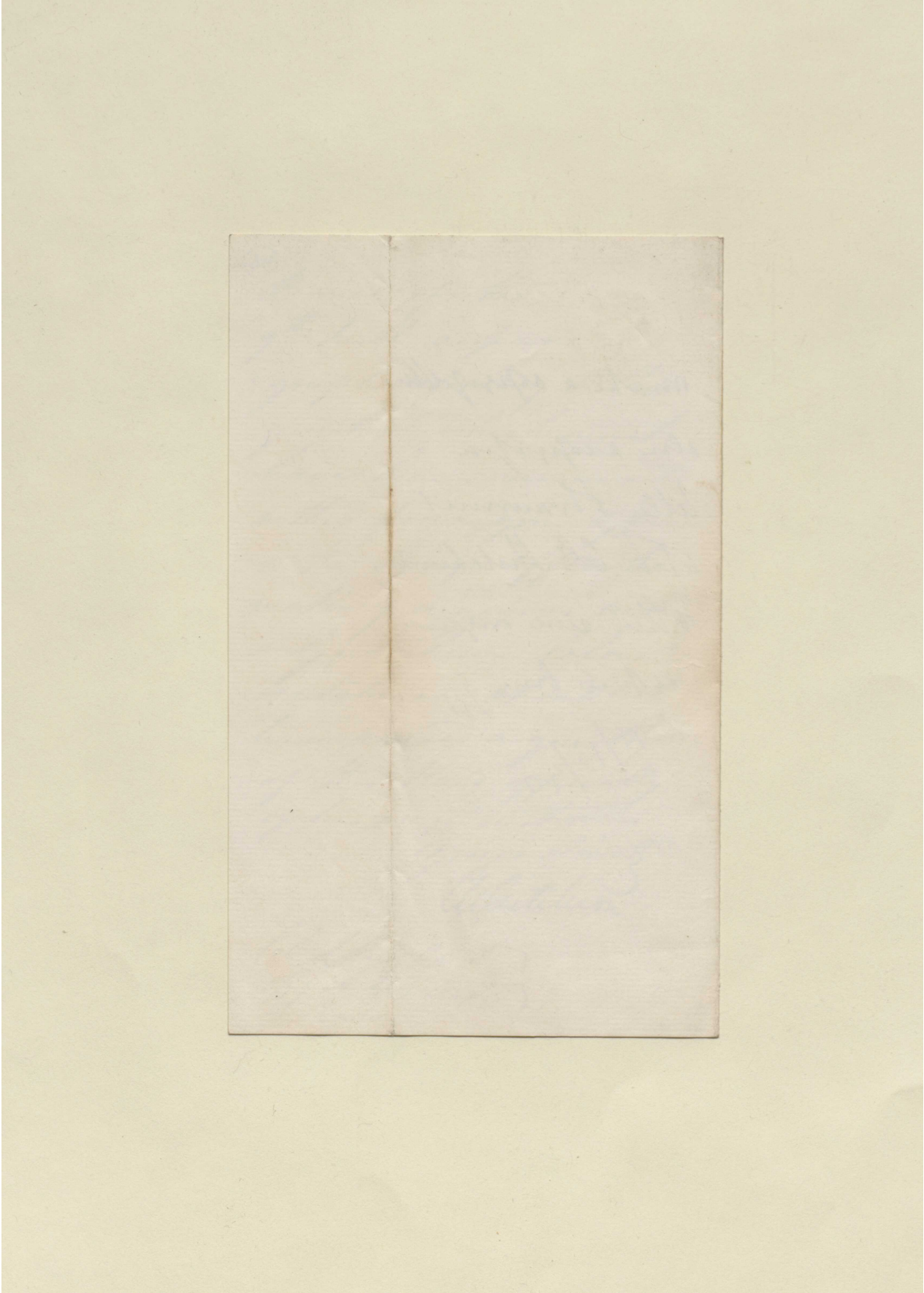
Premier of the
9th instt a para:
=graph referring to this
question which must
have been communicated
either from your office
or the Foreign Office, Sam
making enquiries on the
subject here – Colonel
Hutchinson should not
have raised a question
of this kind officially
of his own motion –

Yours Sincy
C U Aitchison

Col: L Pelly C.S.I
Offg A.G.G. Rajpu

(46)

make a copy of this
also a copy of a
letter transmitted
to Colt Hutchinson
& then send original
respects bme
21/10/73
Copies submitted
22/10/73.



Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Office, Government of India, Simla to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [47r] (1/4)

(47)

Foreign Office
Simla, 17. Octr 1873

My dear Pelly,

Your letter, as officiating Chief Commissioner of Ajmere, No. 767 of 19th Septr 1873 regarding the alteration of the dates of payment of the Govt. revenue by the Thakoors, &c., of the Ajmere District.

You propose to fix the collection on account of the rubbee and Khureef harvests at the 1st July and the 1st January respectively, but will not this allow the Thakoors rather too wide a margin.

It should be borne in

in mind that it is
as bad to demand
too late as too soon.
In the latter case the zemindar
borrows and pays say an
anna in the rupee per month
for one or two months; in
the former he is likely to
spend the money right off
on some wedding or other folly
and it is all gone and no good.
It is not often that we
find a native who can be
both provident and prudent.
I understand that there
is no rubber crop in Ajmire
of any importance which is
not cut and carried by the
1st April. To give a man
until the 1st of July to pay
up

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Office, Government of India, Simla to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [48r] (3/4)

(48)

up the revenue on this would appear to be undesirable in his own interests.

Please call on Captain Repton to state categorically what are the chief staples of his district in (1) the Kharif, (2) the Rubbee, and on what dates approximately each of these is harvested, and submit the same with your carefully considered opinion.

Yours Sincerely
C U Aitchison

Col: L. Pelly C.S.I.
Offg A.G.G. for
Rajpootana

+? bear

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Office, Government of India, Simla to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [48v] (4/4)

Hill Sajeer
appeal Murder
Bhawana Bridu

return hence with
a copy, also
a fair copy of
a hawmullay note
sending it on to
Mr Saunders

24/10

Complied with & submitted
Mr Saunders 25/10/73

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Government of India, to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [49r] (1/4)

(49)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

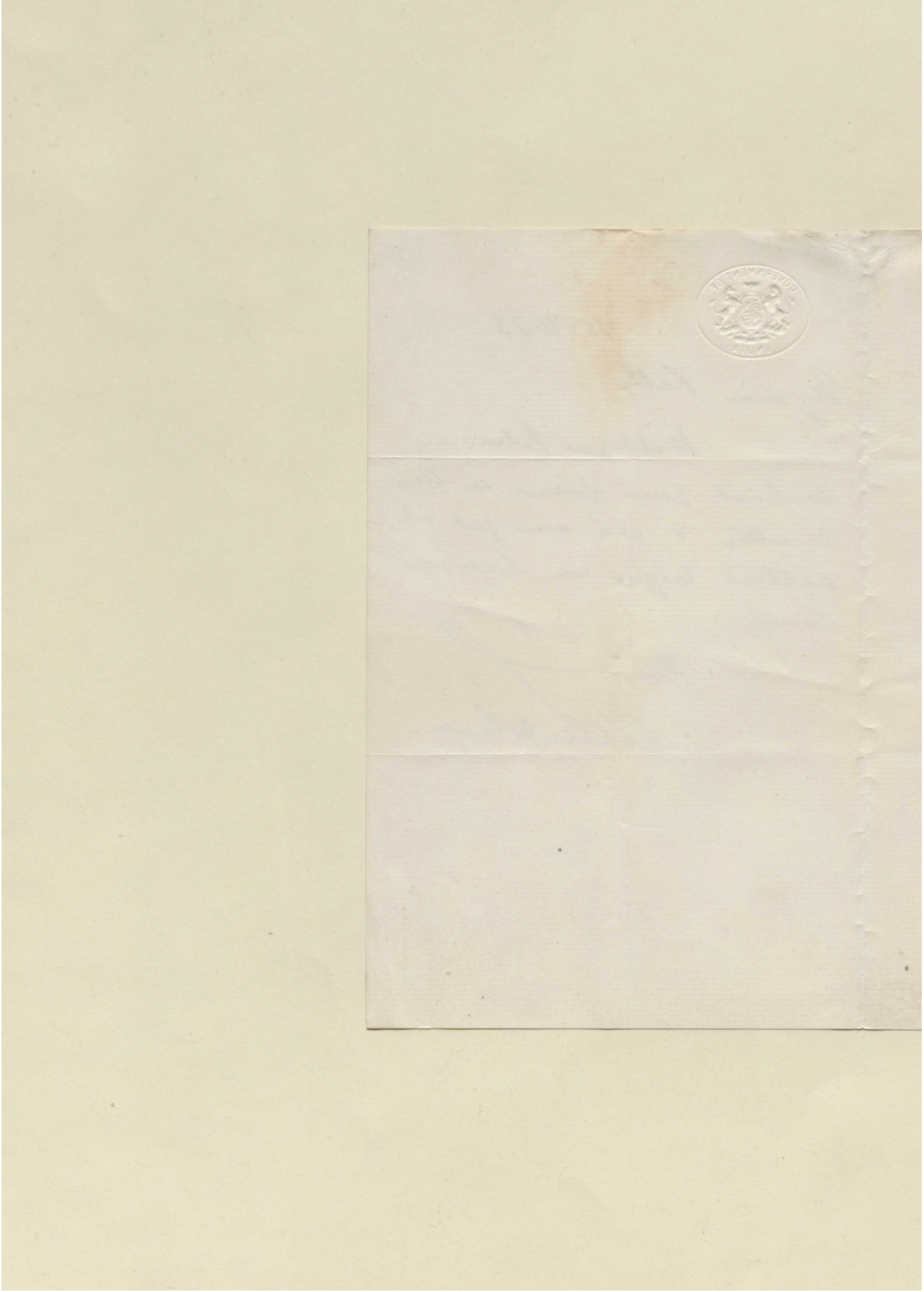
15-11-73

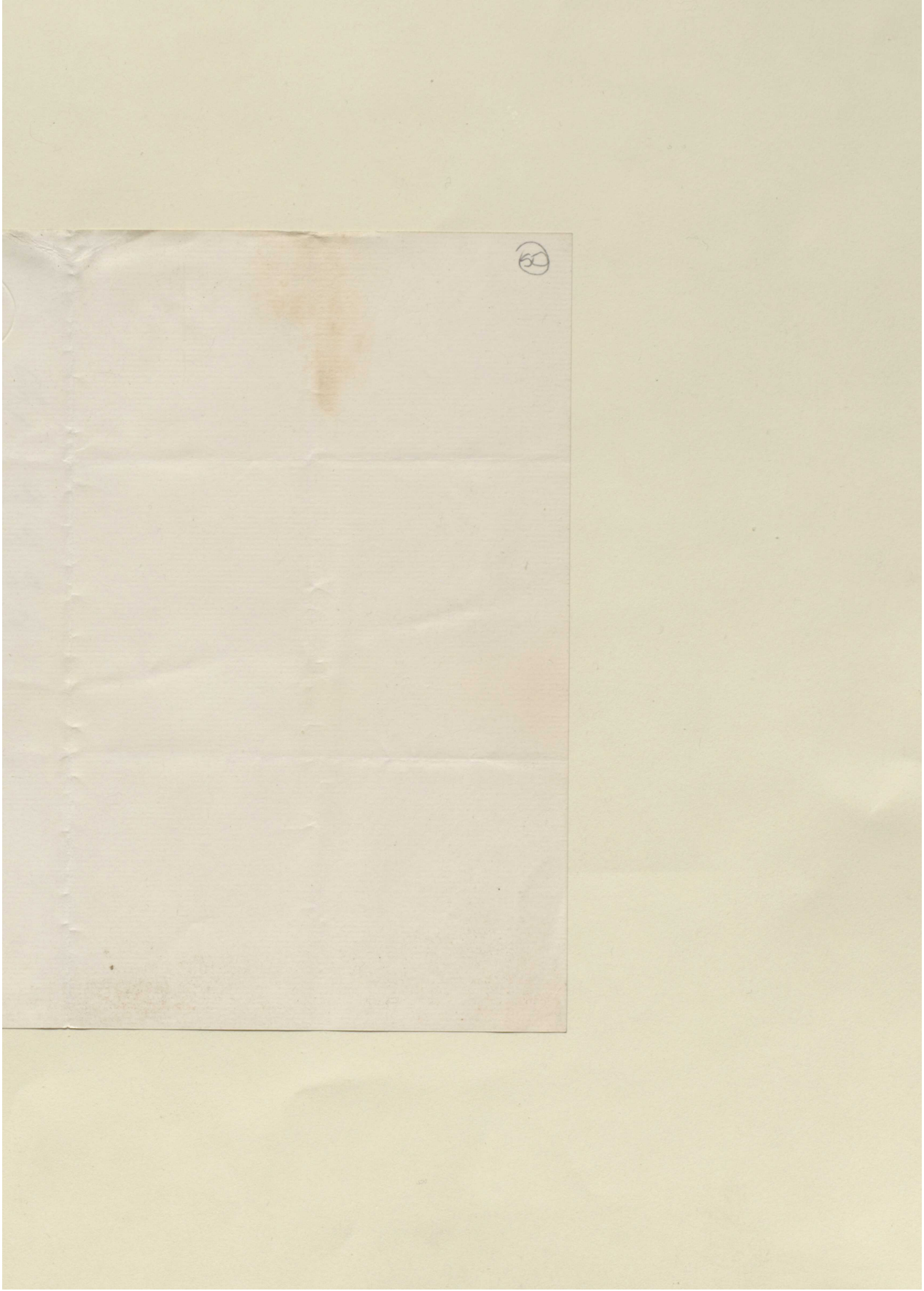
My dear Pelly,

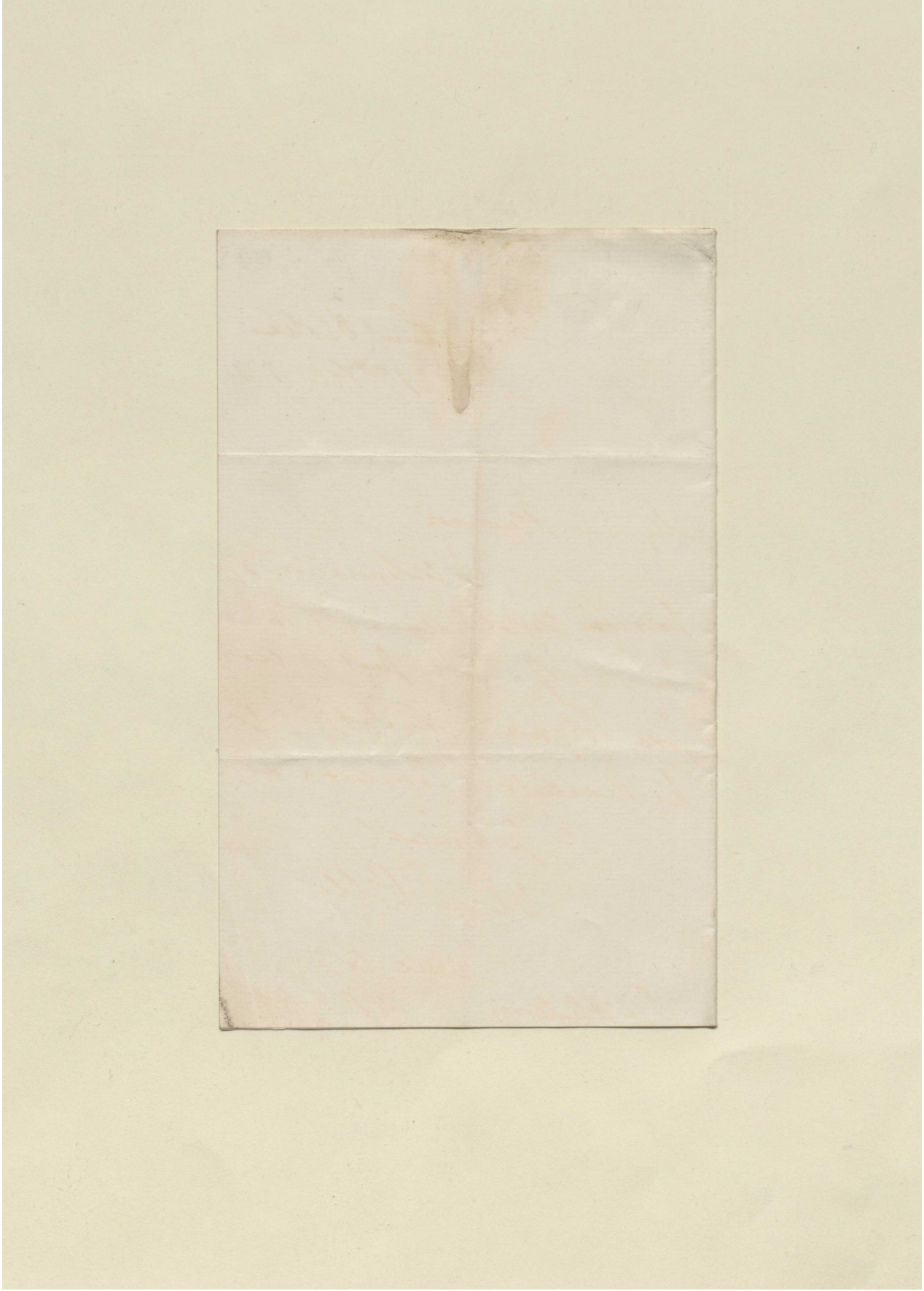
Will you please resubmit your opinion on this matter & we can get it settled before we leave camp.

Yours

C U Aitchison







Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Government of India, Camp to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [51r] (1/4)

(61)

Camp
16-11-73

My dear Pelly

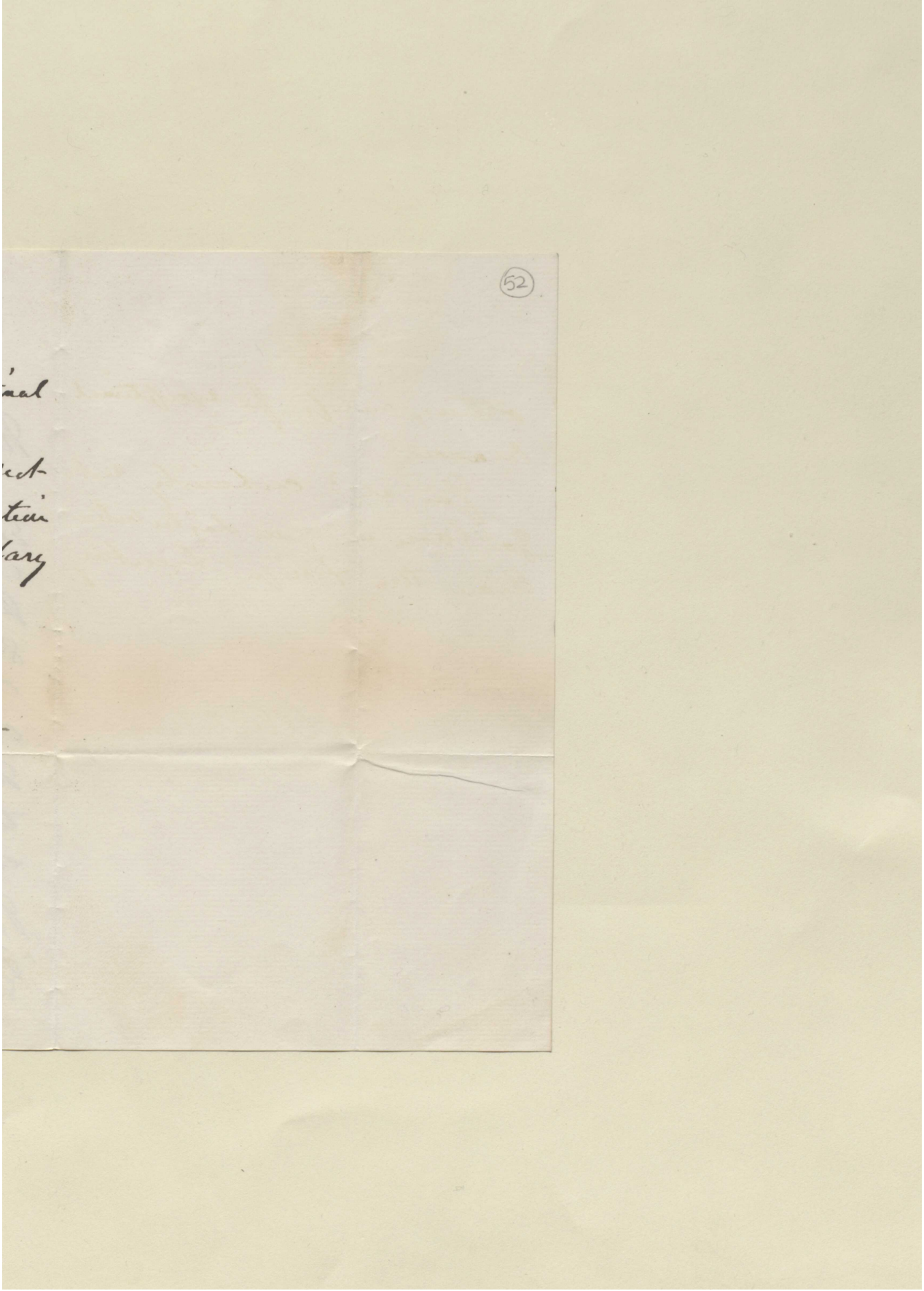
Write informing to
Jaos of this morning
will tell you what our
practice is. The Viceroy
gives either a Pan only to
chiefs of the highest
class; none to any others.
The Foreign Secy. gives it
to chiefs of a class not
entitled to receive it
from the Viceroy, to sons
or heirs apparent of chiefs & to Prime
Ministers of States; to no

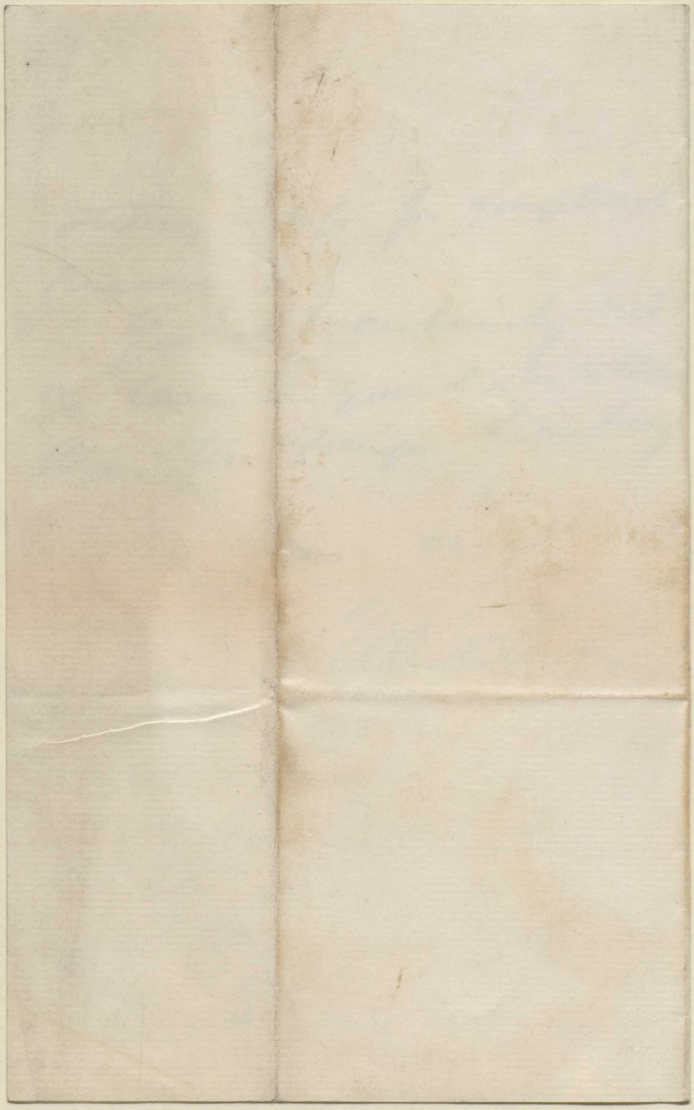
others, unless for exceptional reasons.

You ch^d certainly not go lower in your distribution than the Foreign Secretary

Yours sincerely

C U Aitchison





Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Government of India, Calcutta to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [53r] (1/8)

(53)

Calcutta
13-1-74

My dear Pelly,

I must not delay any longer to answer your numerous & kind letters & hope you won't think me cruel for having so long delayed to acknowledge them. Here are on my table your of 4th Decr, three of 12th Decr, three of 20th Decr, one of 4th January & two of the 9th. The last being the best of news namely your recovery & resumption of your march. We were all very sorry to hear of your illness & I did not at all like your symptoms. They seemed very like jungle fever & I was afraid you had caught it by coming down too soon from Abo into the malarious plains. You had better take care of yourself & get up your strength while

the cold weather lasts — or better still
come home with me. We sail from
Bombay on 6th April. I do not think
you will find much difficulty in getting
away after the illness you have had.

Keatinge has been here for some
time. A telegram from England is all
that is wanted to complete matters.
As soon as I hear I will telegraph
to you. There is no doubt in the matter
either. Keatinge seems somewhat nervous
about the delay. It is only a question
of time. The vis inertiae of the Indian
Office has to be overcome

I am sorry to find that one of your
unanswered letters is an application for
a confidential clerk. ~~I will hand it to~~
~~Chapman to-day & write as soon~~
~~as I get his answer.~~ But it will mean
no to abolish one of your Assistant=
ships to provide the Clerk. But it will not

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Government of India, Calcutta to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Officiating Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [54r] (3/8)

be likely to agree to that. It was because your letter contained that suggestion that I did not send it to Chapman on second thoughts I will not send it now. Your best plan will be to refer the matter officially stating clearly your reasons for it, the way you perceive & whether or not you can provide any part of the increase from savings in the ministerial establ^t, not from among your offic^s. I will then say what I know & saw & you could write back the personal up to the best of my power. I see no reason why the proposal shd be objected to & there seems more chance of your getting it that way than by the suggestion made in your D.O. letter w^h I think Chapman had better not see.

Pundit Kunjbehari will be happier out of Bikaneer. He seemed to have no real power & many enemies. I will send you

letter on Bikaneer affairs carefully. If there is difficult work to be done I hardly think Burton is the man. He is not a strong man & seems to me to interest himself too much in the petty squabbles & party politics of the Court. But I may be mistaken. Nawab Faiz Ali Khan will join you very soon. Meade writes that he probably will not be able to leave before the 8th or 9th of January. I doubt whether he can get away even then for the amount of the evidence taken at Baroda & the elaboration of the report seems a work of difficulty. However I have telegraphed twice to Meade who will let the Nawab so the moment he can be spared. We have just repeated the ~~Baroda~~ Kotah papers to the Foy. & ~~State~~ I have no doubt whatever that the action taken will be approved. The strong point is the request of the chief himself for an interference. Letter. I shd never hesitate when misgovernment is serious & state is even against the

55

Chiefs wishes to protect the people from heavy oppression, set our position in India is so little understood at home that the voluntary pressure of a agent for our interference by the native chiefs themselves makes one's path very much smoother.

Having I believe wrote to you about the Bhavnagar affair hurrah. As so many outsiders have been lately put into the political service, but felt that it was only right to give the service their turn was Bradford is an uncommonly good man. The Viceroy resolved to send him to Bhavnagar & give the step all down the list. I think you will be satisfied with Bradford. I wish I c^d get that grading scheme out. Unless it is settled soon we shall get into a dreadful muddle. The G.G. has agreed to it generally but the Fin^l Dept are begging over it. However I hope to get it fairly started by the beginning of the Financial year. You did not send me the copy of Abbotts'

letter referred to in your confidential
of 20th Dec. But from some note I am
told Abbott sent privately to Ridgeway
yesterday. Ridgeway showed me I can
understand its tone. I gave Ridgeway
an answer to send to him from whom
I don't think Abbott will be able
to extract much consolation. I observe
you ask for the return of Caswell's letter
so I enclose it. I do not quite under=
stand the reference about Capt. Rem=
with & Lt: Ulmer. Will the proposal
involve the appt of an additional officer
to the force? If so I doubt whether
Govt will agree. Perhaps you wd write
me such a letter explaining the thing
fully as I wd show to Col: Earle or
Sir Hy Norman; I don't myself
quite understand what it is proposed
to do or what will be the effect as
regards strength & pay of officers with

the Resd^t. As regards Alwar I think the arrangt proposed by Cadell are very sensible. As all the vacancies likely to occur – Bharatpur, Swalin & Khetpal – have been provided for, Cadell need not postpone his journey; & he is still anxious to go; promotion in connection with these vacancies will not reach him.

Take matters easy till your strength is quite restored. There are no reports so far as I know due from Raj^a that cannot be postponed except perhaps the Ajmere report. I hope my d.o. note about our policy in regard to native servants was clear – also about the Court & Vakeels. We must be careful not to allow these gentlemen to constitute themselves

into an organized body for the discussion of political affairs. The position of Native States is that of isolation from each other & subordination as units to the Brit: Govt. which is the sole connecting link between them. There is no such thing permissible in India as a confederation of Native States or Parliament of Vakeels.

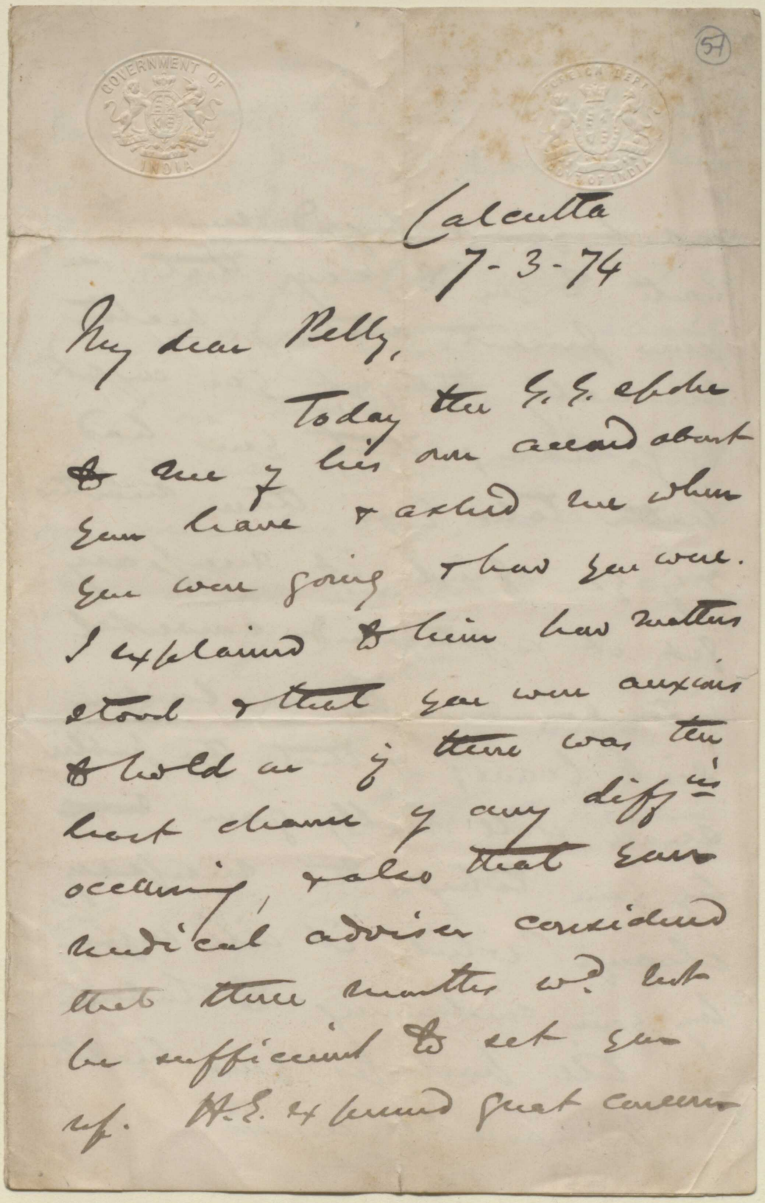
Now good bye. I have tired Bertie for my sins by a large crowd there. You will care to read — many words, much sound & very little substance I fear! There can be no objection to the publication of your famine letter; as to the Bikaner letter I will let you know when I have studied it.

Yours ever very sincerely

C U Aitchison

P.S. I did not send the letter & promised to do so. Sorry for the delay. There is nothing wrong in the Pol. Office.

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Department, Government of India, Calcutta to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [57r] (1/4)



57

Calcutta
7-3-74

My dear Pelly,

Today the G. G. spoke to me of his own accord about you have & asked me when you were going & how you were. I explained to him how matters stood & that you were anxious to hold on if there was the least chance of any diffy occurring, & also that your medical adviser considered that three months wd. not be sufficient to set you up. H. E. expressed great concern

about you & begged me to
write to you & say that in
your present state of health
he really thought you ought
to go home; that you had
better take your three months
& if you find it necessary
get it afterwards converted
into six months or longer
sick leave; & that the public
service will really gain
by your taking the necessary
change while it will suffer
by your continuing to labour
on till breaks your health
is permanently injured.

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Foreign Department, Government of India, Calcutta to Colonel Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General for Rajpootana [Rajasthan] [58r] (3/4)

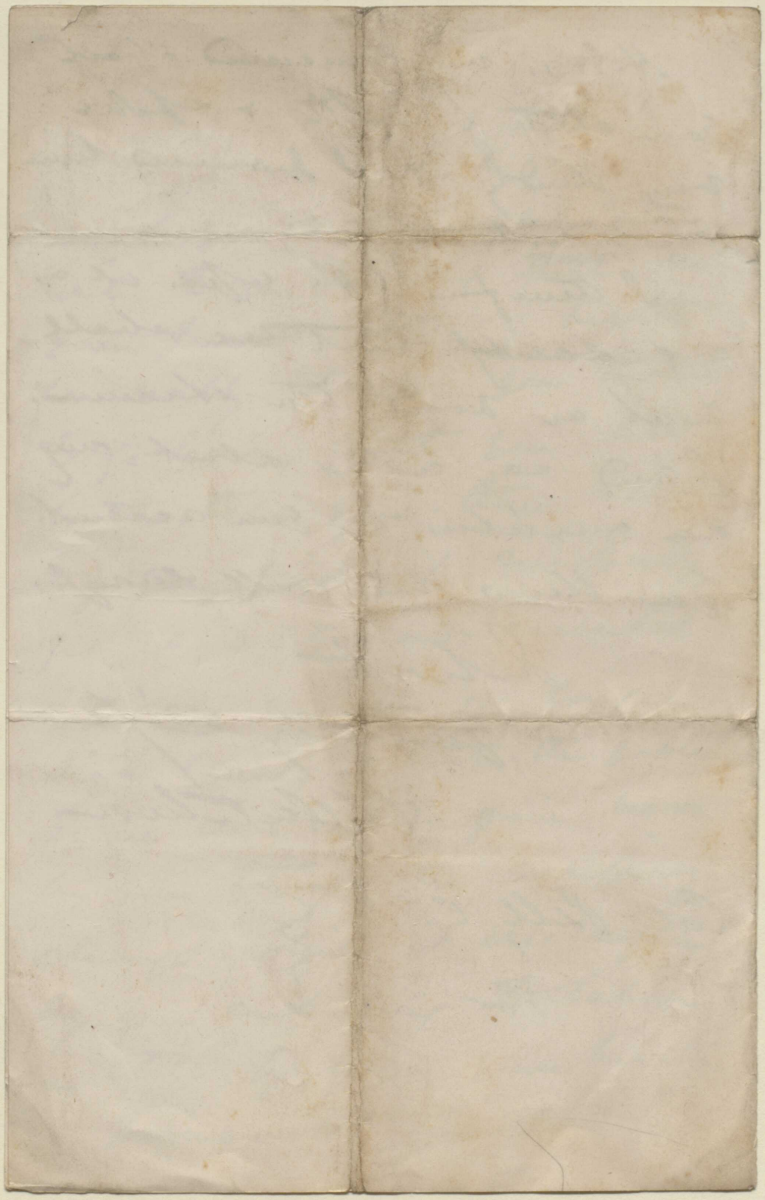
56

H.E. is very concerned about
your state of health & spoke
very kindly & I promised him
I wd write at once.

I therefore look upon it as
a certainty that we shall
meet on board the steamer.
I need say nothing about my
own anxieties in your account.
You know me well enough.

In haste
Yours very
C U Aitchison

Col: Pelly C.S.I.,
&c



59

1-5-74

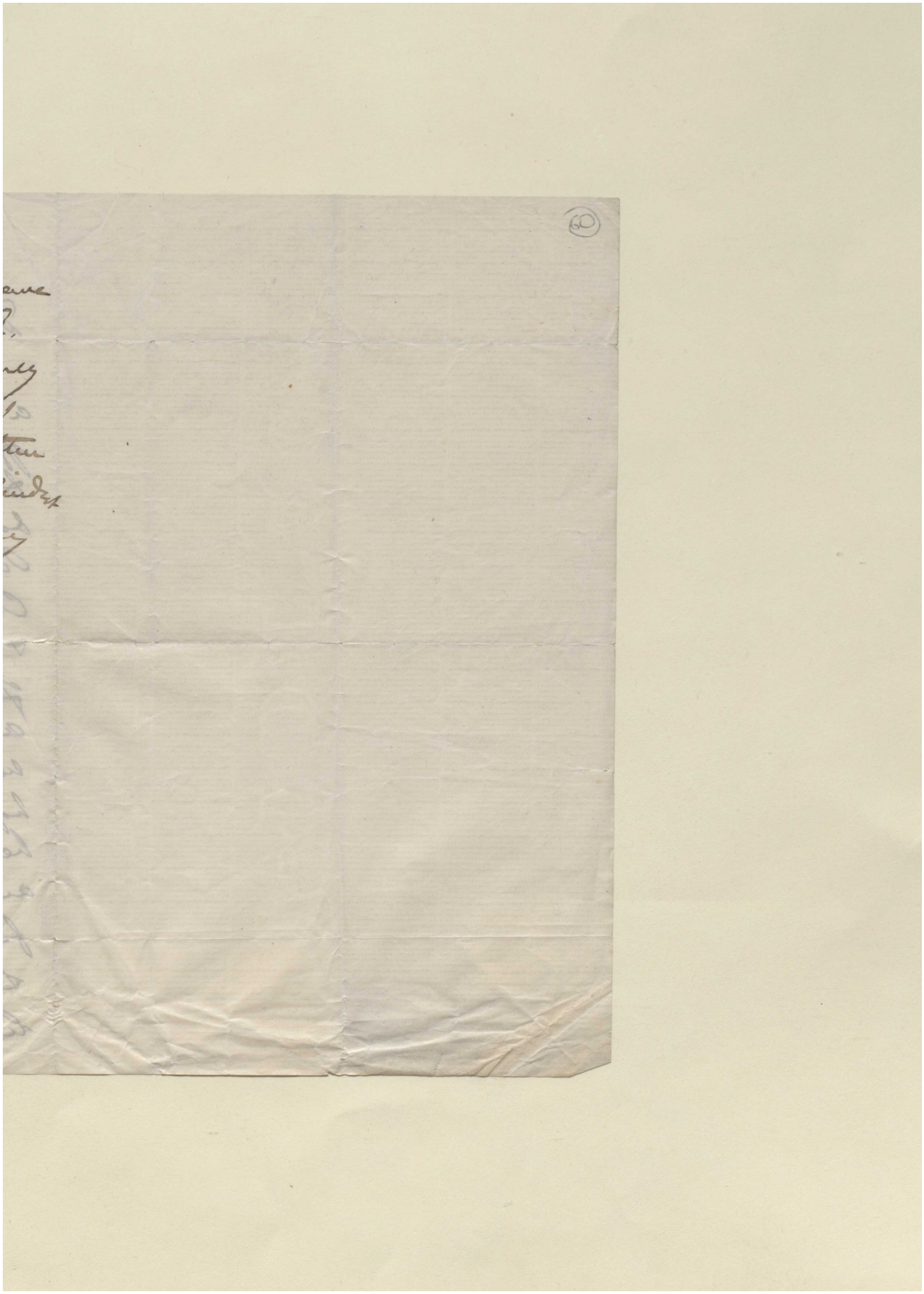
Dear Pelly,

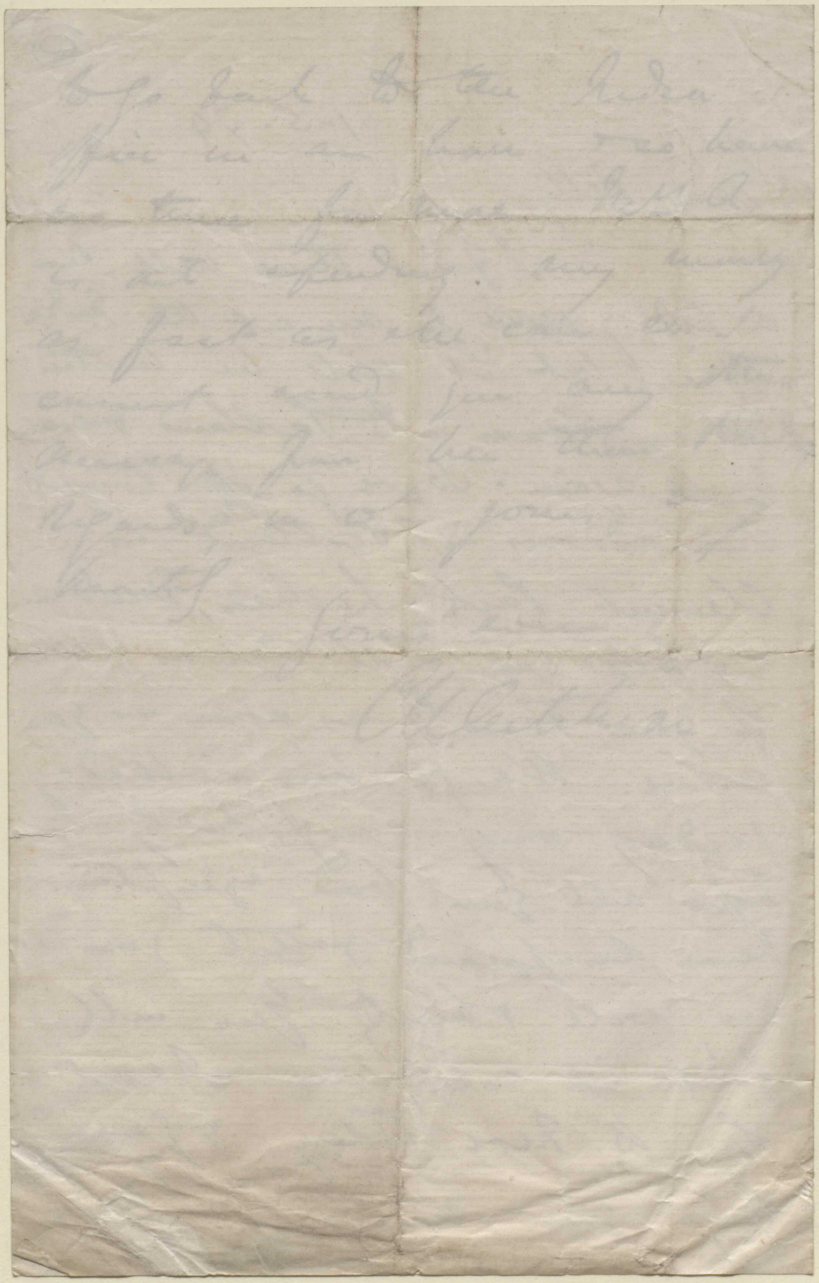
I find there will be a lot of work for me at the India office but it will be better to run down to Scotland & come back again. So we go off tonight. Our address in Scotland is Clement Park, Lochee, Dundee & I hope you will let us hear if you move at as soon as you arrive. We got here on Wednesday very comfortably. I hope all your bad symptoms have disappeared & that you are well & hearty. You will find it cold here. I saw Sir W. Rose today & gave him your message. I have

I go back to the India
Office in an hour & so have
no time for more. Mrs A.
is out spending my money
as fast as she can so I
cannot send you any other
message from her than kind
regards to Mrs Pelly & my
heartiest

Yours ever

C U Aitchison





(61)

Clement Park
LOCHEE.
DUNDEE.

7-5-74

My dear Pelly

We have got your letter of the 3rd & 6th & are glad to hear you are safe in the old country. When are we to expect you here? Can you come next week? I see you are engaged for Monday & Tuesday. Try & get off on Tuesday night. Take the "Flying Scotsman" from King's Cross. It leaves at 8.30 p.m.

& reaches Edinr. at 6 in the morning. It is by far the quickest & best train & you can get sleeping accomr. in the train by speaking in time. You can if you like catch the 6.25 a.m. train from Edinr. for Dundee, arriving here at 10.9. But I fancy you will prefer a rest in Edinr. If so, the other trains are:-

Leave Edinr.	—	Arrive in Dundee
9.40 a.m.	—	1.9 p.m.
1.30 p.m.	—	4.47 p.m.
4.- p.m.	—	7.49 p.m.

The above trains are all by the Fife line.

By the Caledonian line via Stirling & Perth, the trains are: - (2)

Leave Edin.		Reach Dundee
6.30 a.m.	—	10.20 a.m.
8.35 a.m.	—	12.35 p.m.
1.30 p.m.	—	5.35 p.m.
3.45 p.m.	—	8.15 p.m.

By the Fife line you have two ferries & cross (1) Granton to Burntisland across the Firth (2) Tayport to Broughty Ferry across the Tay.

Let me know by tele= gram from Edin: by what line & train you come & I will meet you at the Station.

I am dreadfully shaked about poor Wynne.

With kind regards from us both

Yours ever

C U Aitchison

Mr & Mrs Cox (i.e. my wife's father & mother with whom we are staying) hope you will come as soon as you can & bid me say they have plenty room for you

Private

(63)

Umballa
31-3-75

My dear Pelly

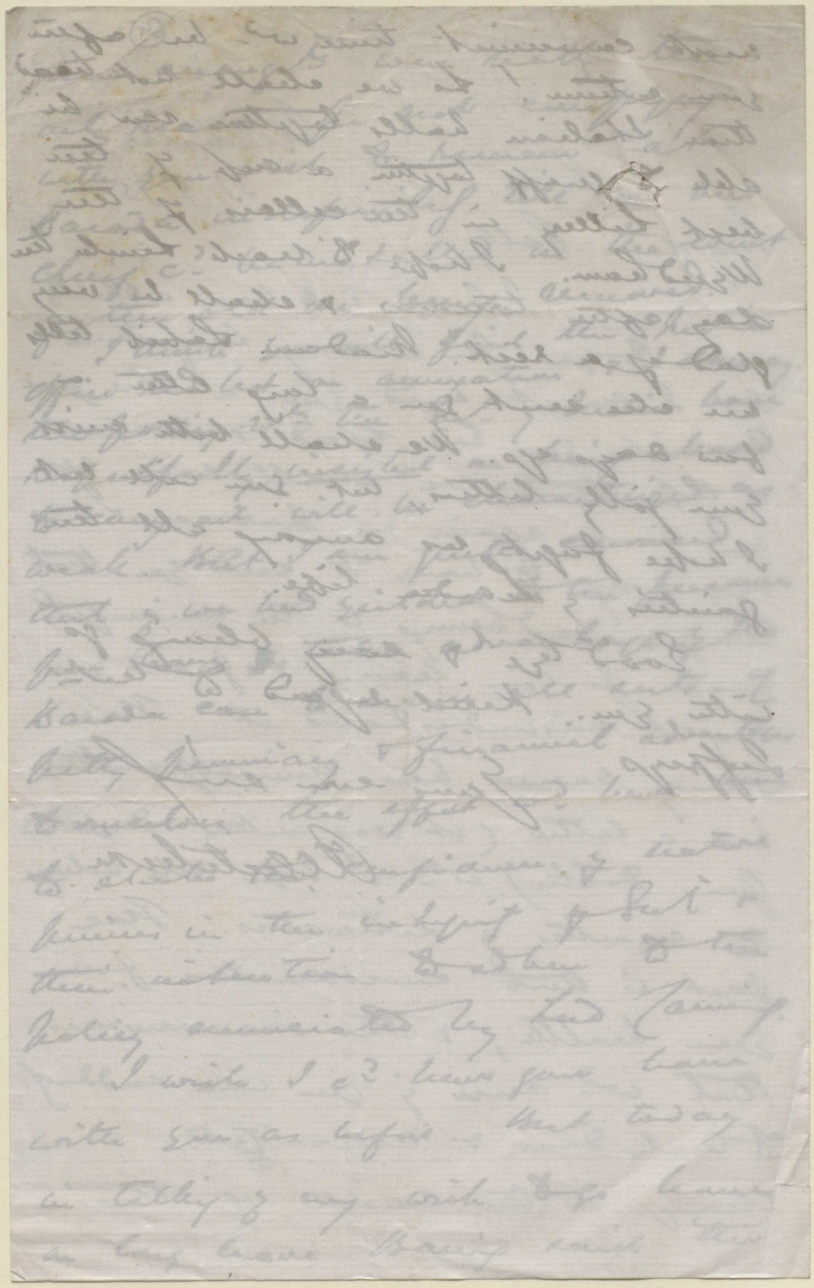
I have not been able to write to you for a very long time but I must send you a line just to wish you God speed & happiness & to hope that we shall soon see you back again in harness. I was very sorry to have to send you that telegram about being the arrangts made for your leaving & fear you might misunderstand it. The Viceroy himself written you a letter (it was written & drafted from Delhi) wh. I hope will silence the mouths of detractors. The fact is that consideration for your health, & the inconvenience that wd. arise if you were suddenly struck down & necessitate a change in the middle of the

now amongst were really the
only reason for not complying
with your wish & remain at
Baroda indefinitely till a new
Chief c^d be installed in the court
& the old one being removed.
I think you will find the Indian
Office had lost an occasion & I doubt
the policy w^h the Sec^y of India have
respectfully insisted on being allowed
to carry out will be characterized as
weak. But I am quite convinced
that if we had yielded to the pressure
from home & taken advantage of the
Baroda case to secure all sorts of
petty pecuniary & financial advantages
to ourselves the effect w^d have been
to shake the confidence of native
princes in the integrity of Sec^y &
their intention to adhere to the
policy enunciated by Lord Canning.
I wish I c^d have gone home
with you as before. But today
in talking of my wish to go home
on long leave having reach the

next convenient time wd. be after
your return! So we shall not read
those Italian balls together nor be
able to quaff together a cup of the
best Lillery in the cellars of the
Wyndham. I hope & trust hereafter the
day after tomorrow I shall be very
glad of a rest. Madame Habib tells
me she sent you a long letter a
few days ago. We shall both miss
your jolly letters, but you will not
I hope forget us among all the
gaieties of London life.

Good bye & every blessing go
with you. Kind regards to Mr
Jeffreys. Yours ever sincerely

A C Aitchison



(65)

30.3.76

My dear Pelly,

You have given us the slip! We expected to find you in London & I sent two notes to your Club asking you to come & dine with us. It was only when I went to the India Office to report myself that I found you had gone to India with Lord Lytton! I suppose from the mystery of your movement you are either Cons. designate for

Khelat affairs & Energy
designate ~~to~~ the Court of
Cabool. In either case I fully
you. As however you have
probably been infected with
the Indian Office poison on
both questions I will not
trouble you with any rig:
marole of mine regarding
matters whereon we are
not likely to agree.

I am really sorry to
have missed you in
London & so in the Lobby.
We were both looking forward

with much pleasant anti-
cipation ~~to~~ meeting you
again. Why did you run
away from the Fugitive
Slave Cont. You are the
only man in England who
could speak from recent
information & with authority
on the question. I have to
appear on Tuesday next but
have really nothing to say
that is not already in the
Blue Book.

We are living in the
country just now; but
our address will always
be Clement Park, Lochee,
Dundee. I write in

hasta to catch the mail
to enquire about your
movements. I will send this
to the care of Burne as I
hear you do not go back
to Rej.a. Mrs Aitch joins
me in kindest remembrances
with respects that we
missed you.

Yours ever sincerely
C U Aitchison

Col: Sir Lewis Pelly K.C.S.I.

Private

Hotel Metropole
Schwalbach
10-8-77

(67)

My dear Pelly,

I read in the papers this morning you addressed Commons & got your letter about an hour ago. No one congratulates you more heartily than I do. A voice more in your furtherings & advancement. What I said to you at the India Office referred not to you personally but to the feeling for the time prevailed. I mean for a moment doubted that you had most zealously done all you could for the end in view & that the East whose view it was would reward you. But I thought the feeling a bad one w^h you were instructed to carry out; I still think so, with such information

as I have to nothing that I have heard since I saw you induces me to think otherwise. But my view on the general question, or call it prejudice if you like, is quite a different matter from my view of the personnel, & you have not learned to know me if you do not understand that while differing from you entirely on the question of policy, I can still rejoice that your personal services to the Eat have met with just recognition. I am very glad & congratulate you most sincerely. I hear that a tremendous despatch on Central Asian affairs comes home a mail or two ago.

I am very sorry not to be able to see you in our house in Edin^r. It is shut up & will not be opened again (except to put out my traps) till the

beginning of October. Our only chance of meeting is when I am passing thro' London about 10th Sept. Where shall you be then? Let me know & try to meet me if you can. You will always find the same habits & children in Edinr after 1st Oct. & if you can pay them a visit they will be very glad to see you. If we don't meet in London I don't know if we shall ever meet again unless you return to India, so I do hope you will try to see me, old chap. I feel very downhearted at going back for many reasons some of wh. perhaps are best not expressed. I do not form any opinions hastily & then you perhaps take less kindly to changes, & going there might for some reasons be desirable

things have changed a good
deal since I left India in July
last year & I know that my
position will be both exceedingly
difficult & very delicate. And
then family separations are not
very easy to bear — so that altho=
getter, old chap, I am a little
down & claim something of your
sympathy as a friend, altho' I
expect none on public grounds.
No doubt my duty will be made
plain to me step by step if I
honestly try always to do the
duty that lies nearest me.
Good bye, old fellow, for the
present & believe me to be
now as ever
Your true friend & well-wisher
C U Aitchison

(69)

My dear Lillian Pelly

Before continuing my mail writing I must just send you a line to thank you for yr. kind perusal of Charlie's letter. He writes me abt. Ld. Lytton's kindness & courtesy towards him & I think if Govt. wd. only do more as he says things wd. go on

— they have
been doing! — However
I'm naturally sup-
posed to be prejudiced
in his favour — so must
say no more abt. him —
I shall be delighted
to see you at anytime
you can tear yrself
away from Society —
Maybe you wd. like to
come for the Opening
of the Tay Bridge wh.
will, or ought to be,

(70)

a grand sight – That
won't be for quite two
months yet Papa says
– but really tho' it
wd be nice to see you
again I cannot have
the conscience to ask
you to come to Edinbr
in such weather
as we now have –
Will you note the
above address as
my permanent one
in this country –
Initials "C. U" not U.S.
no you put on y. letter!!!
you must have imagined

you were writing to
Col Burne! Take care
of yrself & don't go in for
too much Society -
Yr very sincerely
K. Aitchison

I enclose Cs letter.

(71)

Private

2 Manor Place, North,
Edinburgh.

27-8-77

My dear Pelly,

Very many thanks for your kind & hearty letter wh. I received on my arrival last night. We had a wretched passage from Rotterdam & we are now elbow deep in packing boxes. When they are clear we go off on a round of farewell visits to friends. I shall

probably start for
London on the morning
of Monday the 10th Sept.
& reach London the
same Evg. – Destination
Charing + Hotel – If I
come alone I will dine
with you at the Athenaeum.
If the wife is with me
you will dine with us
at the Hotel. We shall
also I hope see something
of each other on the

(72)

Tuesday, as and parting is likely to be a long one. There is much, very much, I want to talk to you about particularly in the light of certain proposals just made to me this the Private Secy. — (I may as well say at once in confidence that I have been offered the C.C.ship of Assam). We will talk it all over when we meet. I shall be glad of your confidential advice either verbal or written as to accepting or rejecting.

I feel as if the offer
was hardly left me to
reject, altho' personally
under diff.t conditions
I w.d rather be in the F.O.
You need never be afraid
so far as I am concerned
if any official unpleasant-
nesses interfering with
private friendship &
affection.

The wife joins in very
kindest regards & I hope
you will come & see her
& the children after I am
away. I am more sorry than
I can tell you that we c.d
not possibly arrange to receive
you before I leave. Ever
do have old chap
Yours ever
Aitchison.

Letter from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, 2 Manor Place, North, Edinburgh to Lewis Pelly [73r] (1/4)

(73)

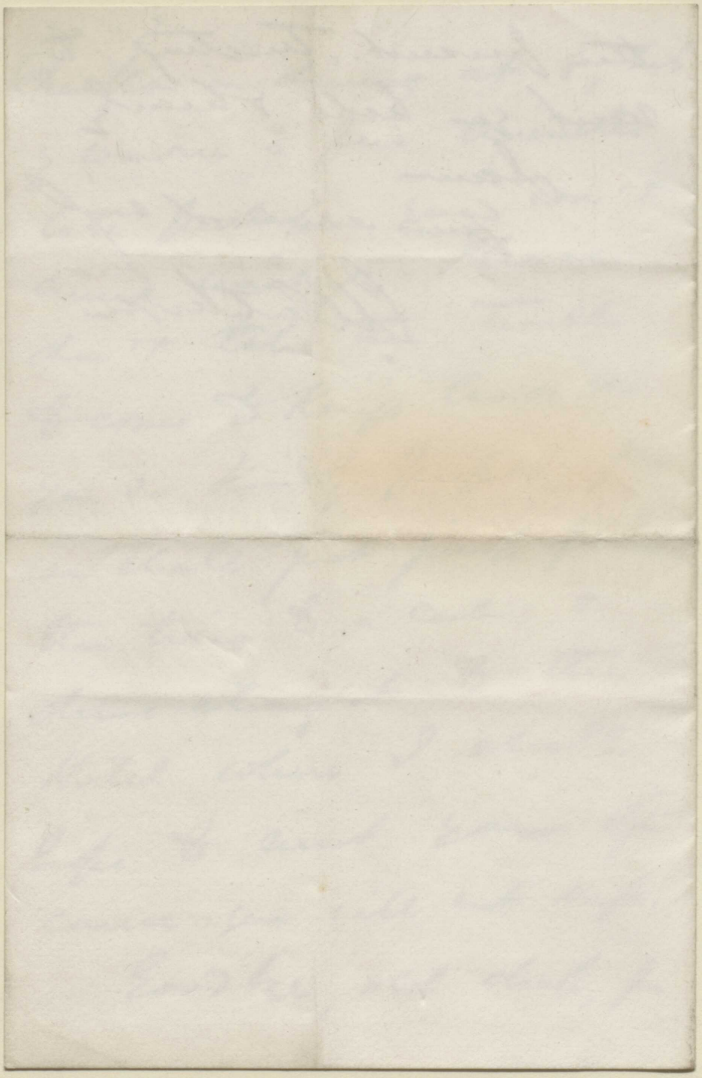
Edinburgh
2 Manor Pl: North
7th Sept: 1877

My dear Pelly,

Our plans are at last settled. Mrs Aitchison accompanies me to London. Mr Cox will also be with me. So you will please dine with me at the Charing + at 8 o'clock on Monday Evg. We leave Edinr by 10 A.M. train due in London at 7 P.M. The train is usually a punctual one & I think we may

Rechan in dining at 8; but the
if we are a few minutes we
late perhaps you won't
mind waiting. Please
don't take the trouble
to come to King's Cross as
you so kindly propose; for
we shall just pick pour
the train & a cab or
drive straight to the
Hotel where I shall
hope to meet you. Of
course you will not dress.
Good bye, old chap, for

the present. Trusting
74
meet you hale & hearty
Jane
Yours ever most
C U Aitchison



Private

Simla
28/10/77

My dear Pelly,

You were ~~[illegible]~~ quite right when you said I ought probably on arrival find things different from what I anticipated. At Bombay I found orders directing me to go to Simla. As soon as I arrived H.E. sent for me & the result is a three hours talk in that I am reestablished in the F.D. for the present at least. Nothing could exceed the kindness & courtesy with which he & my old bête in language & manner. He said he was very sorry to offer me Assam but it was the only thing going. He told me other proposals he had made for me, which he had better perhaps not have told me seeing that the India Office are not likely to show me any favour. And then over he said he hoped I wd. take up the F.D. work & he made it a personal request. Of course I had nothing left but to thank him for his kindness, which was indeed very touching, & to say that I ought be better happy & proud to resume my old post in H.E.'s Council with

his confidence, & I explained to him
that the difficulty I felt in the matter
was lest, differing from him as I do
on leading questions of policy, he shd
not get the same help from me wh
he had the right to expect from the
Resy, & to be able to get more fully from
one who shared his views. He was
very kind & urgent on the point
of the policy explaining that
Sherkoot be quiet & gradually have
started into life & had faced a
policy of quiescence in him & there
cdd no question likely to arise in
wh there wd be much room for
difference of opinion. Our interview
was most satisfactory & took a
great load off my mind. So here
I am, starting at all events fair,
determined to remove all pre=
judices from my mind, & do
the daily duty that lies before
me, trg I find I am wrong it
will then be time enough to look
out for something else.

I hope you made out a few

to Scotland to see the wife & bairns.
Let me have a line from you for
our old friendship sake when you
can spare time from the dissipat.
of London life & the intellectual
demoralisation of the Athenaeum!
With best regards
I am
Ever your old friend
C U Aitchison

(77)

unexpectedly fortunate in
having our Pass 1st hand. The
Viceroy leaves here about the
middle of Oct: & goes to Kumaon
for a little trip, reaching Bombay
by 2d hand where I join him.
After that we go a short trip
by Rhore, Meerut, Abu, Oudey-
pore & Ajmere to Calcutta.

Mr Cox has been paying you
a visit he tells me.

Mrs A. wrote to you a
few mails ago & will write
again soon. The Bombay
papers have it you are
going to be (1) married & (2) the
next Sec. of Bombay. I hope
both are true.

Love from all here, not
omitting Winnie.

Yours ever sincerely
C U Aitchison