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## Letters from Sir Owen Tudor Burne to Sir Lewis Pelly

|                               |                                                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Holding Institution</b>    | British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers |
| <b>Reference</b>              | Mss Eur F126/5                                           |
| <b>Date(s)</b>                | 4 Jun 1877-18 Oct 1878 (CE, Gregorian)                   |
| <b>Written in</b>             | English in Latin                                         |
| <b>Extent and Format</b>      | 1 file, 12 items (32 folios)                             |
| <b>Copyright for document</b> | <u>Unknown</u>                                           |



### About this record

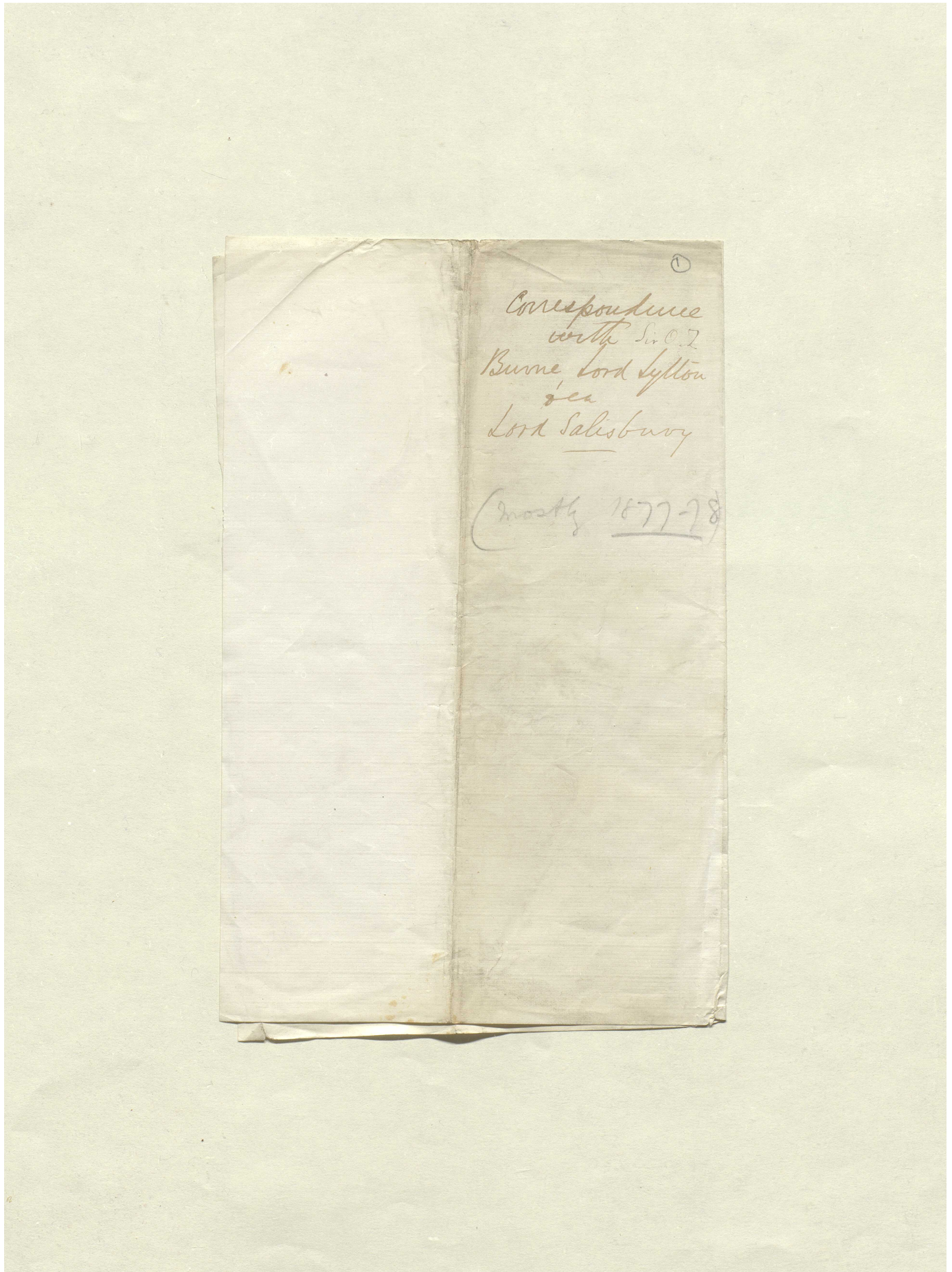
Personal and demi-official correspondence from Sir Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary to the Viceroy of India to Sir Lewis Pelly, who retired from service with the India Office in August 1877.

The official correspondence relates primarily to affairs in Cabul [Kabul] and the British Government's relationship with its ruler Shere Ali [Sher Ali Khan]. These affairs follow on from a special mission on which Pelly had accompanied Lord Lytton (Robert Bulwer-Lytton, 2nd Baron Lytton) in an attempt to prevent what would become the second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-1880). Also discussed are matters relating to the Indian Frontier and the India Office, the work of Lord Lytton as Viceroy, and Lord Salisbury's (Robert Gascoyne-Cecil) work since leaving the India Office.

Personal matters discussed in the correspondence include Burne's wife Evelyne's illness and subsequent death in April 1878, their attempts at meeting up with each other in both London and Bournemouth and matters relating to his brother George William Burne.

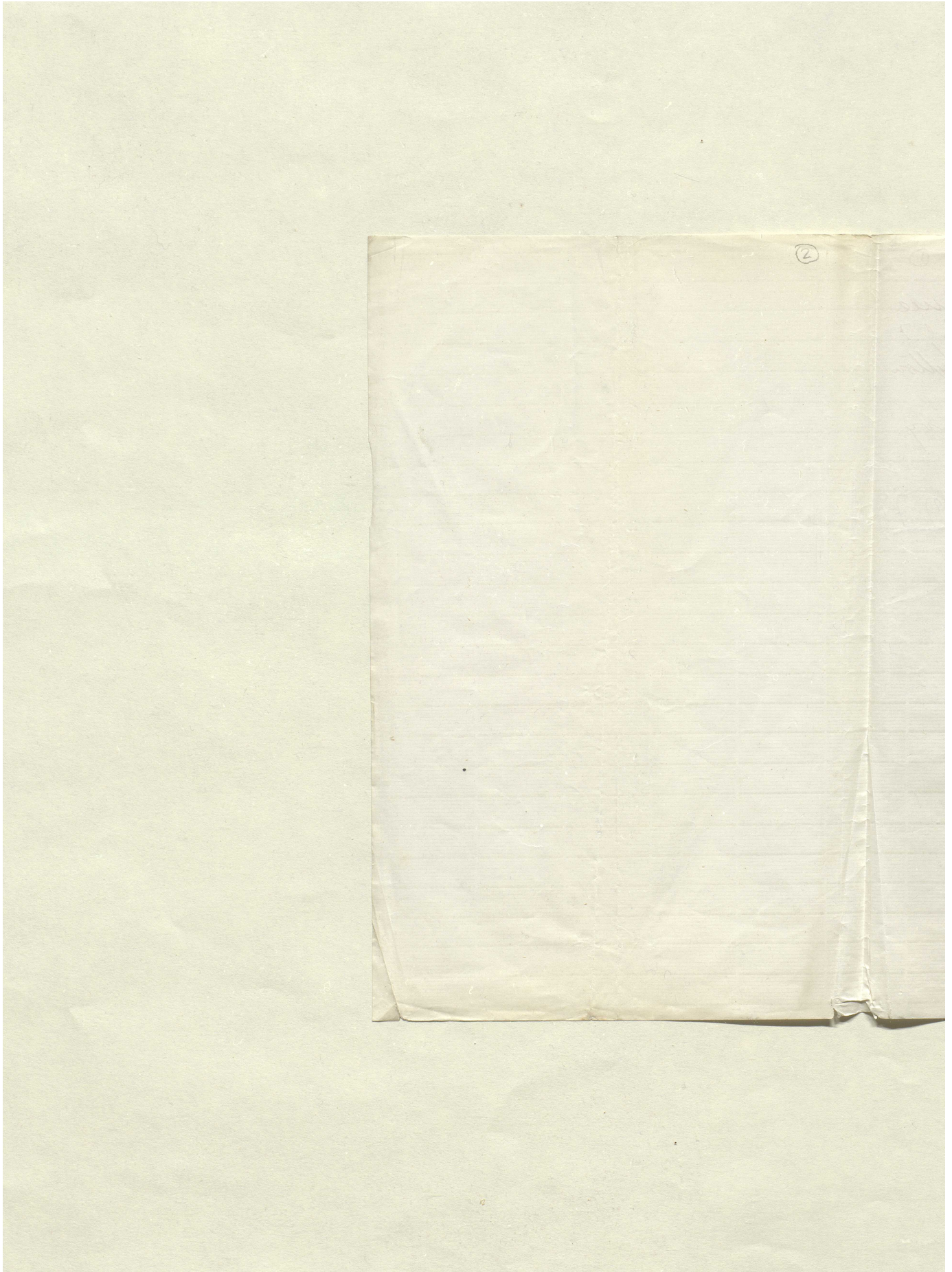
Cover note (folios 1-2) states that the file contains correspondence from Sir Owen Tudor Burne, Lord Lytton and Lord Salisbury 1877-1878. The correspondence from Lord Lytton and Lord Salisbury was removed from the file at the request of Lady Amy Pelly in 1924.

Letters from Sir Owen Tudor Burne to Sir Lewis Pelly [1r] (1/64)





Letters from Sir Owen Tudor Burne to Sir Lewis Pelly [1v] (2/64)



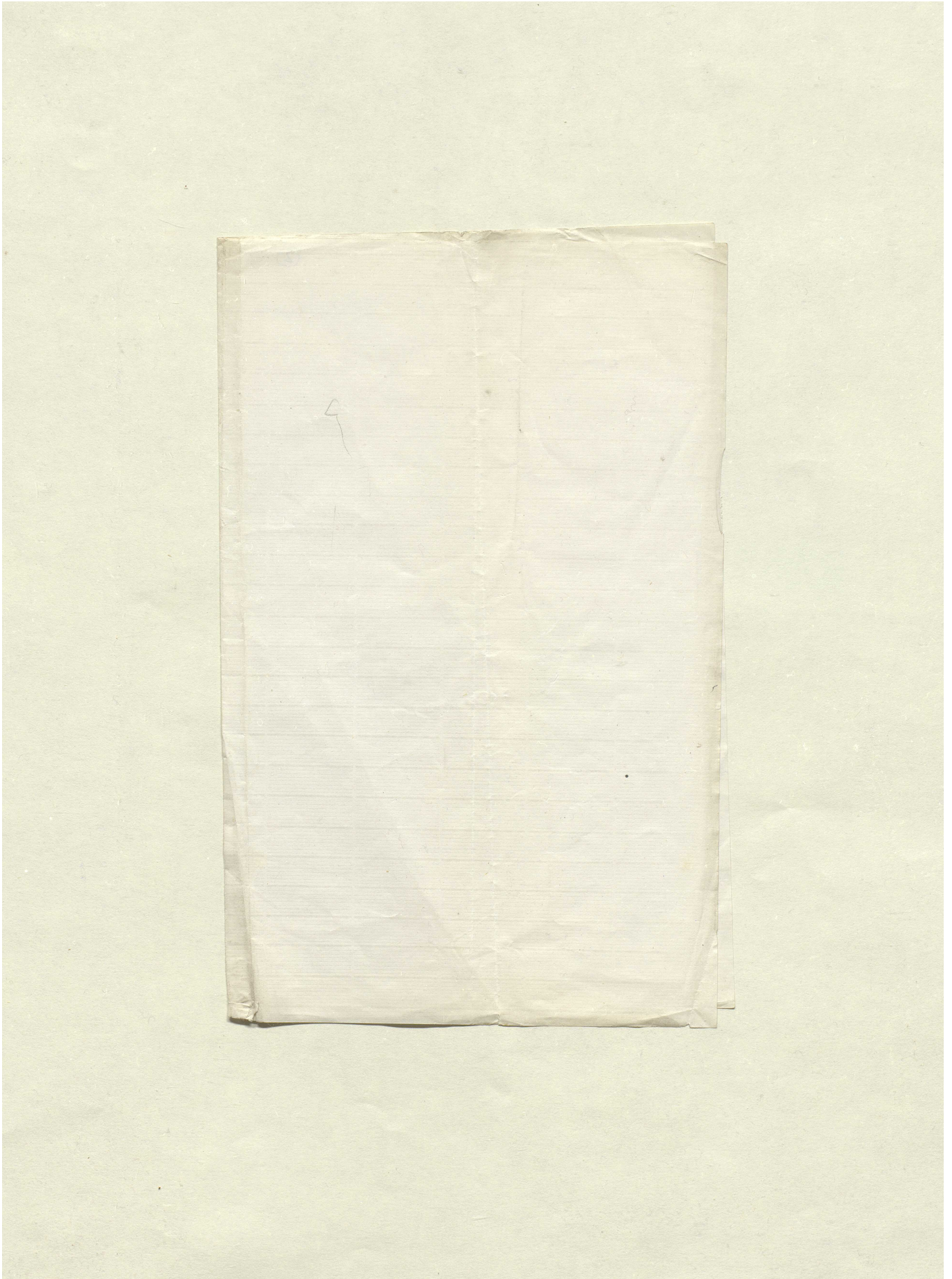


Letters from Sir Owen Tudor Burne to Sir Lewis Pelly [2r] (3/64)





Letters from Sir Owen Tudor Burne to Sir Lewis Pelly [2v] (4/64)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [3r] (1/8)

MSS Eur F126/5 ③

Confidential

Government House  
Simla

June 4. 1877.

Dear old Pelly.

I feel quite ashamed  
not to have written to you ere  
this, but I have been hard  
worked & you will I know  
make every allowance - I was  
so sorry to miss you before  
coming - I was rather washed  
out in fact - & I was glad



to get on to Simla for a few  
days rest altho' that blessed  
Afghan Despatch & other matters  
kept me going after all. I  
enclose the Afghan Despatch  
for your confidential keeping  
altho' you have probably already  
seen it from Moore.  
Since you left things have  
remained in statu quo. At the



④  
Mahomed & Bakhtiar Khan are  
up at Simla in part disgrace  
& are very low spirited! The  
Ameer is we hear from all  
sides repenting of his sins, &  
I feel no doubt in my own  
mind that a few months  
if we can tide them over  
patiently will see a triumphant  
vindication of the policy. We  
are absolutely quiescent &  
haughty - the Ameer wavering  
& hoping that we will make



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [4v] (4/8)

an advance of the hand - but  
we are indifferent & cold  
& come what may are resolved  
not to move hand or foot  
towards him. Meanwhile we  
are going on in Cashmere &  
Khelat quietly strengthening  
our position.

All seems pretty  
quiet in India altho' we  
never know when we may  
have a bust up. I hope the  
policy may have time to work



2

and consolidate itself before  
we have any actual cam-  
paigning. I rather envy you  
your homeward trip - once  
more in your comfortable rooms  
I suppose in Derbyshire. May  
good luck attend you -  
I fear English  
public opinion is still against



und  
web  
gett  
com  
Del  
mon  
lent  
a  
hea  
who  
on

action of any kind on our  
frontier. How blind - These  
attacks on Lord Lytton are very  
unfair & ungenerous - He  
is really better in health  
this year & I think popular  
opinion in India is turning  
round in his favor altho'  
the outside critical & edate  
public will never quite



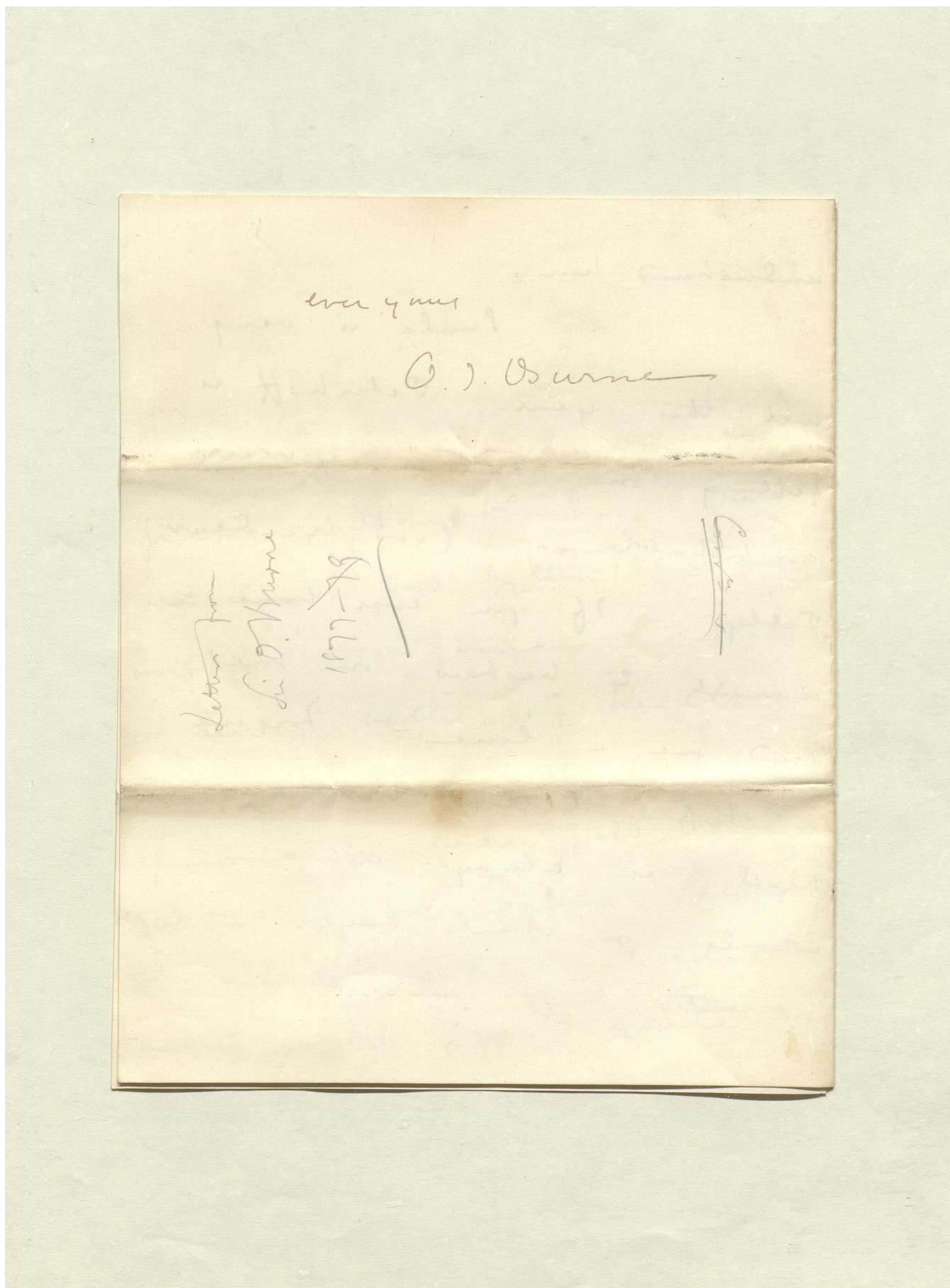
(6)

understand him.

Simla is very  
wet this year - Peterhoff is  
getting on & will be very  
comfortable - Good bye dear  
Pelly - If you ever have a  
moment to bestow on me  
send me a line - Excuse  
a stupid letter, but my  
head is always in a  
whirl on mail days - & indeed  
on other days also -

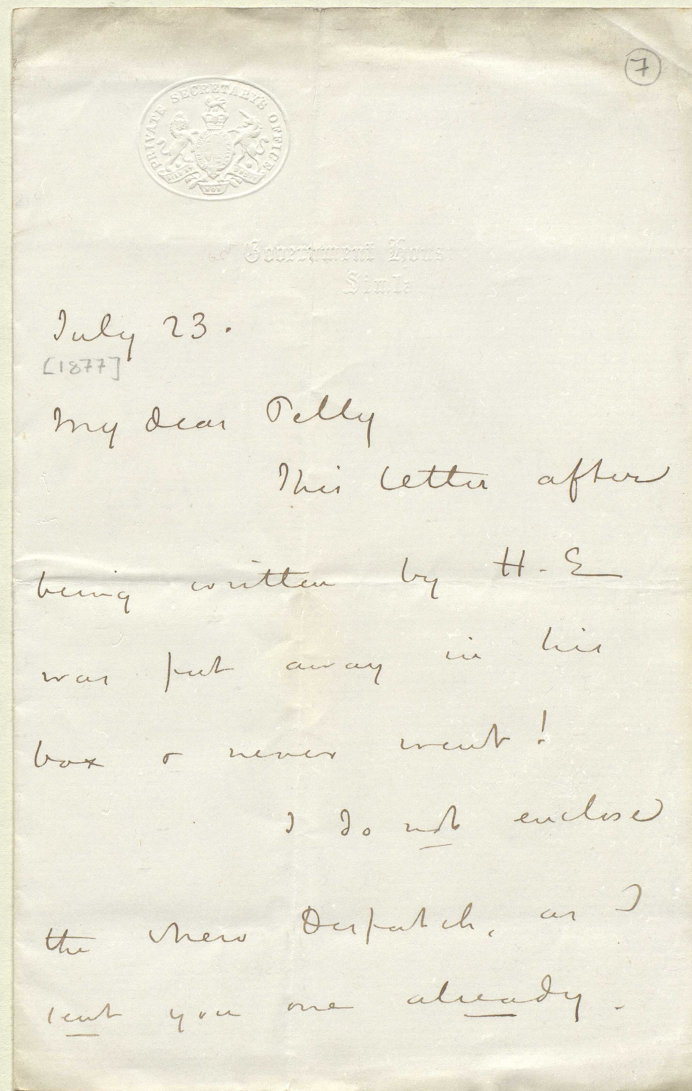


Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [6v] (8/8)

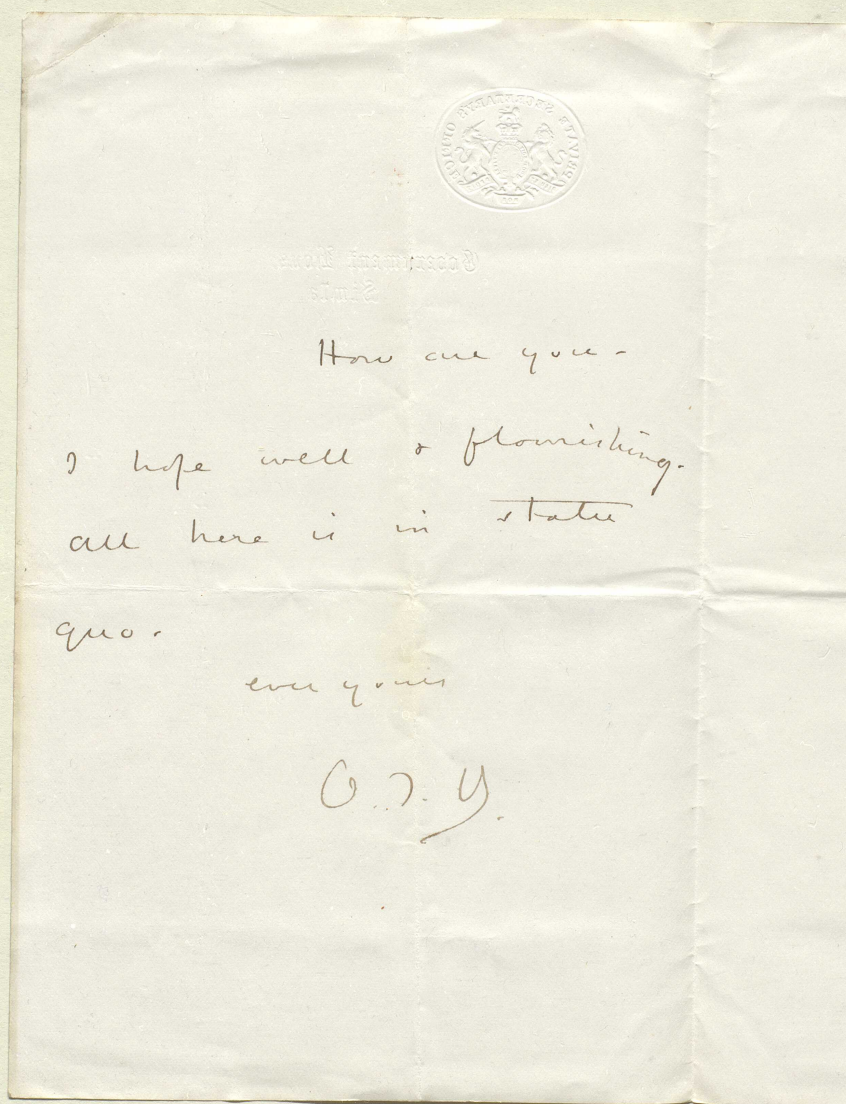




Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [7r] (1/4)

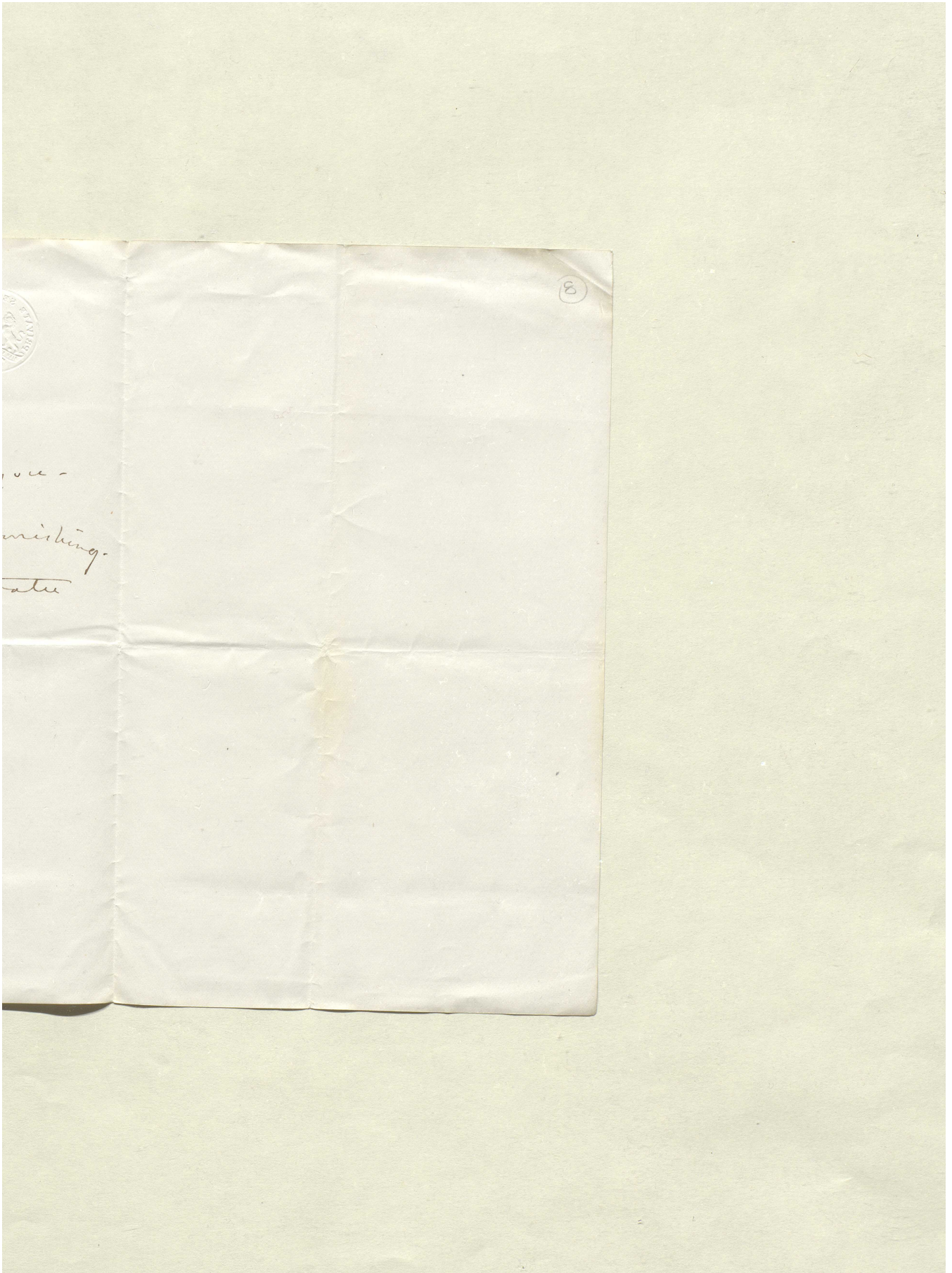








Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [8r] (3/4)



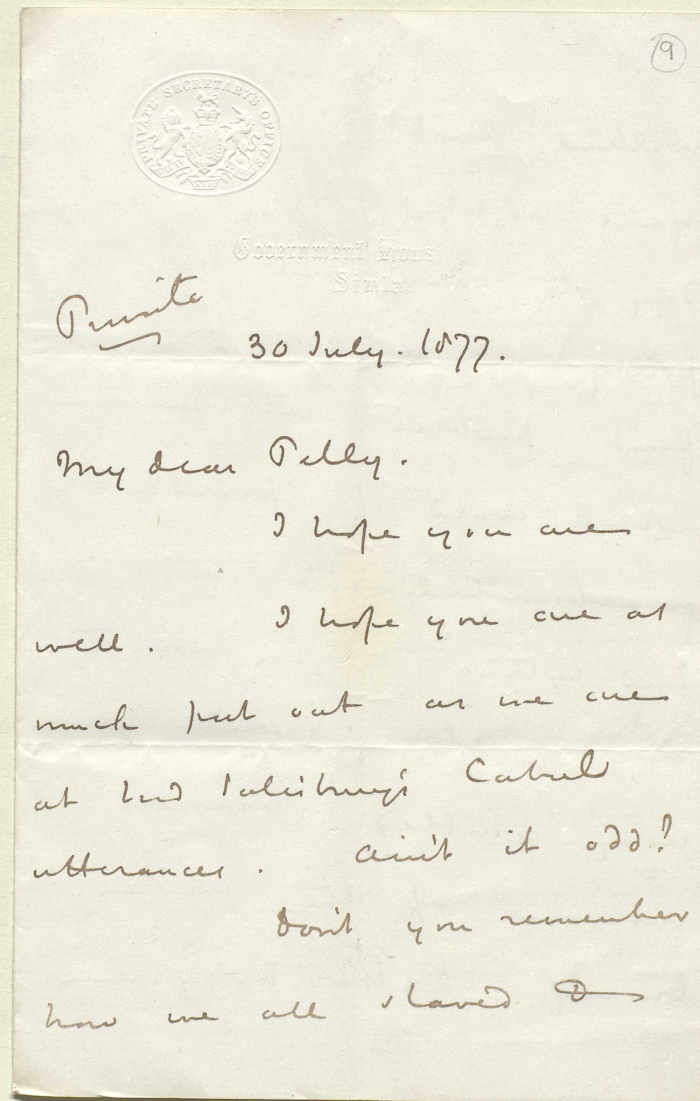


Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [8v] (4/4)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [9r] (1/4)





worked last  
year night &  
day to carry out his  
policy & yet on his  
first public utterances  
not a word of praise  
or acknowledgment to  
him by those to whom, or to  
any one else - and a  
very garbled version  
moreover of the whole  
business. How do you



acc  
pref  
you  
hear  
you  
of  
but  
well  
are  
is



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [10r] (3/4)

account for it.

(10)

And by then

prepared for a K.C.U. for

you & I am glad to

hear from Walpole that

you have a good chance

of an early one.

I am overworked

but otherwise well. All

well up here, but we

are anxious as to what

is going to be done at



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [10v] (4/4)

home - The English Minister  
seem to have a Russian  
score !  
J. O. T. Burne



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [11r] (1/8)

11

Government House  
Simla

5 Aug. 1877.

My dear Pelly.

I was delighted  
to get your letter of  
the 13<sup>th</sup> all is going  
on pretty much the same  
as ever here. The Ameer  
is a very unsatisfactory  
mood, & shows no sign



at present of giving  
in, or breaking  
down. He is off his head  
or I suspect that any re-  
establishment of relations  
with him is impossible.

Our policy is  
as you will see veering  
round to this conclusion.

Shere Ali has  
behaved infernally badly. If  
a united & strong Afghan  
-mistar under such a man to the



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [12r] (3/8)

or indeed any other is an <sup>(12)</sup>  
mistake - At any rate  
partly thro' our own fault  
& failures of your part it  
has failed in our hands.  
Therefore we  
have only two things  
now left.  
(1) If Sher Ali  
has come forward for restoration  
badly. of relations we must  
try to do it on different bases  
a more to the very favorable ones



offered to him last year;  
we must change our front  
- avoid recognition of  
Abdulla Jan - & he  
prepared to see if money  
will bribe him to sign  
away Candahar & Herat.  
i.e. make the getting  
of western Afghanistan  
(or agents at Candahar  
& Herat) under our imme-  
diate influence the  
basis of our next step



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary's Office, Government House,  
Simla to Lewis Pelly [13r] (5/8)

(13)

2

  
Government House  
Simla

paying if necessary a good  
round sum to these Ali  
if he willingly consents  
to any arrangement putting  
western Afghanistan under  
a ruler of our nomination.

[?] If he won't do  
it in a friendly way  
then to endeavor to  
extend our influence from



Quetta quietly  
+ do our best to  
refuse the ground  
for doing it if necessary  
by force, of course at-  
tributing clearly before-  
hand that the chiefs  
+ people would go with  
us. On this point  
we should I think have  
little fear.  
In short our  
ideas now rather run

to the  
-miller  
Refuse  
attribu-  
by fo  
the  
Afghan  
Prope  
futan  
Oller



to the importance of an-  
nulling the effect of  
Russian advances on the  
attraction, or of quietly, or  
by force if necessary, make  
the detaching of Western  
Afghanistan from Cabul  
proper, the object of our  
future general policy.

Good bye dear  
our Pelly  
O. T. Burne.  
We go down to



Madras next week. I hope  
Lord Lytton will get thro'  
the journey all right. He  
is much better in health  
this year than last.  
How jolly you must be in  
London. Rather an improve-  
ment on Deshamus eh?  
I am very sorry to hear  
of the chance of Lord S.  
leaving the India office. I  
think he might have given  
you or us a little credit  
in his first Afghan speech.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [15r]  
(1/12)

(15)

Private  
Campore.  
Nov. 20. 1877

Dear old Pelly. I was  
awfully glad to get your  
letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> I quite  
see, & agree in, all you  
say. Clever & true as  
was H. E.'s letter about the  
German Alliance I warned  
him against it. A viceroy  
has always quite enough to  
attend to in his own work  
& if he goes into the region  
of Cabinet policy he is always



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [15v]  
(2/12)

sure to get wrong & to have  
establish a sore - my whole very  
time is spent on the desk feel  
to keep his writing less at  
& shorter, but you know it cannot  
is not easy! I am - tions  
personally so fond of him me  
that I feel sorry at the  
these little faults which what  
cause him to be depreciated  
to a certain extent at it  
the India office, & increase on our  
his many difficulties. He. office.  
is such a good generous soul. office.  
I feel it the more as my are  
position



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [16r]  
(3/12)

o to has, as you know ~~peace~~ is a <sup>(16)</sup>  
 my whole very difficult one, and I  
 to which feel that Mallet & others  
 less at India Office to whom I  
 know it cannot well write explana-  
 am tions with somewhat on  
 him me a share of much in  
 at the line you mention of  
 rich what has been going on!  
 situated Half the credit of  
 at it has been a great remedy  
 cease on our part of want of  
 He official support at India  
 our local office. Mrs. Lushington's letters  
 my are most kind, but his  
 position official utterances have all



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [16v]  
(4/12)

tended to leave his by then  
entirely out in the cold  
hanging between two vicious  
fires. I fail to understand  
it. It is this which made  
his by then last July rather  
more desperate & inclined  
to send copies of his letters  
home for his own defence  
as he did not let that  
defence publicly.

Has Lord S.

been content to say. 'his  
by then is not aggressive nor  
is he a fool. He has acted  
under the order of H. M. P.'.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [17r]  
(5/12)

2 (17)  
• logically endeavored to carry  
them out, but no aggression  
is intended by him nor will  
be permitted by H. M. (C. A. I.) -  
all would have gone smoother.  
As it is, he has been 'publicly'  
rather left unsupported - &  
the consequence is a feeling of  
soreness & anger - altho' it  
is now all obliterated.  
I myself have  
always preached unity - &  
you know how we carried  
on our Afghan, Cap. & black, &  
other matters without the



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [17v]  
(6/12)

public getting hold of it!  
 but he writes too much  
 but he is beginning to see  
 this himself - & I think  
 he does too much to  
 the opinion of too many  
 people - a viceroy should  
 never have in his office more  
 than one or two confidential  
 advisers - the increase of  
 numbers in this sense has  
 increased my personal  
 difficulties, altho I don't  
 wish to complain - for I  
 like him too well -

in a  
 to as  
 I can  
 up.  
 where  
 after  
 ...  
 ...  
 L. is  
 going  
 from  
 leave  
 like  
 smooth



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [18r]  
(7/12)

18  
Yes I come home  
in April. I did not like  
to ask for more leave - &  
I could not afford to throw  
up. I really intend to  
return as soon as I can, &  
after a great struggle I re-  
solved to throw the die  
in my Indian office. But  
L. is in real grief at my  
going, but I had to be  
firm, as I also to  
leave him. I have worked  
like a slave to keep things  
smooth & to keep the coach



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [18v]  
(8/12)

which ceased & I shall not  
now be sorry for a little rest  
& quiet.

The Amer is

still holding aloof pretending  
to have a grievance against  
us about Quetta. I have  
by H. E. with written to  
Layard & others shewing  
that it is a mere ploy  
for him to hang his hat  
upon for he insulted us  
long before we even dreamt  
of Quetta. Since 1873 he  
was changed - our overtures



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [19r]  
(9/12)

3 (19)  
to him were in May up  
to October - & he rejected us  
in every way - whereas the  
Entha occupation did not take  
place till Nov. & Dec.  
I dare say the  
Amur is read at Entha, because  
we command him from there  
& he cannot play the horn fool  
with us any longer, but  
Shere Ali has read the newspapers -  
he sees we are divided & that  
the abuse party is ready  
today that we have lost the  
Amur because we have occupied



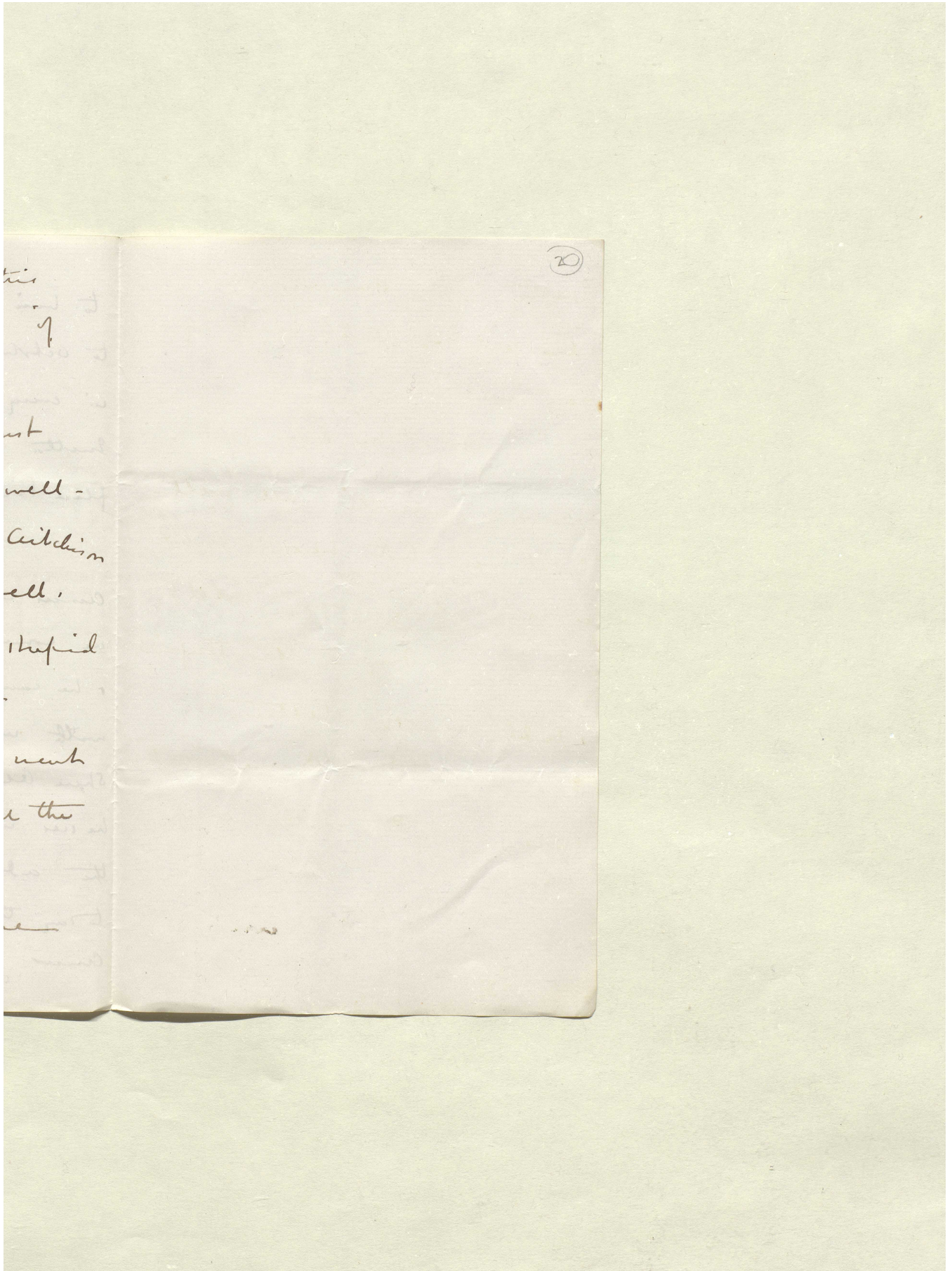
Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [19v]  
(10/12)

Letters. Hammer this  
idea out of their heads if  
you can -  
We have just  
reached Calcutta all well -  
It is very hot here - Arthur  
is here looking very well.  
I give this stupid  
half written letter -  
Mrs Burne went  
home on 19<sup>th</sup> with all the  
children -

O. T. Burne

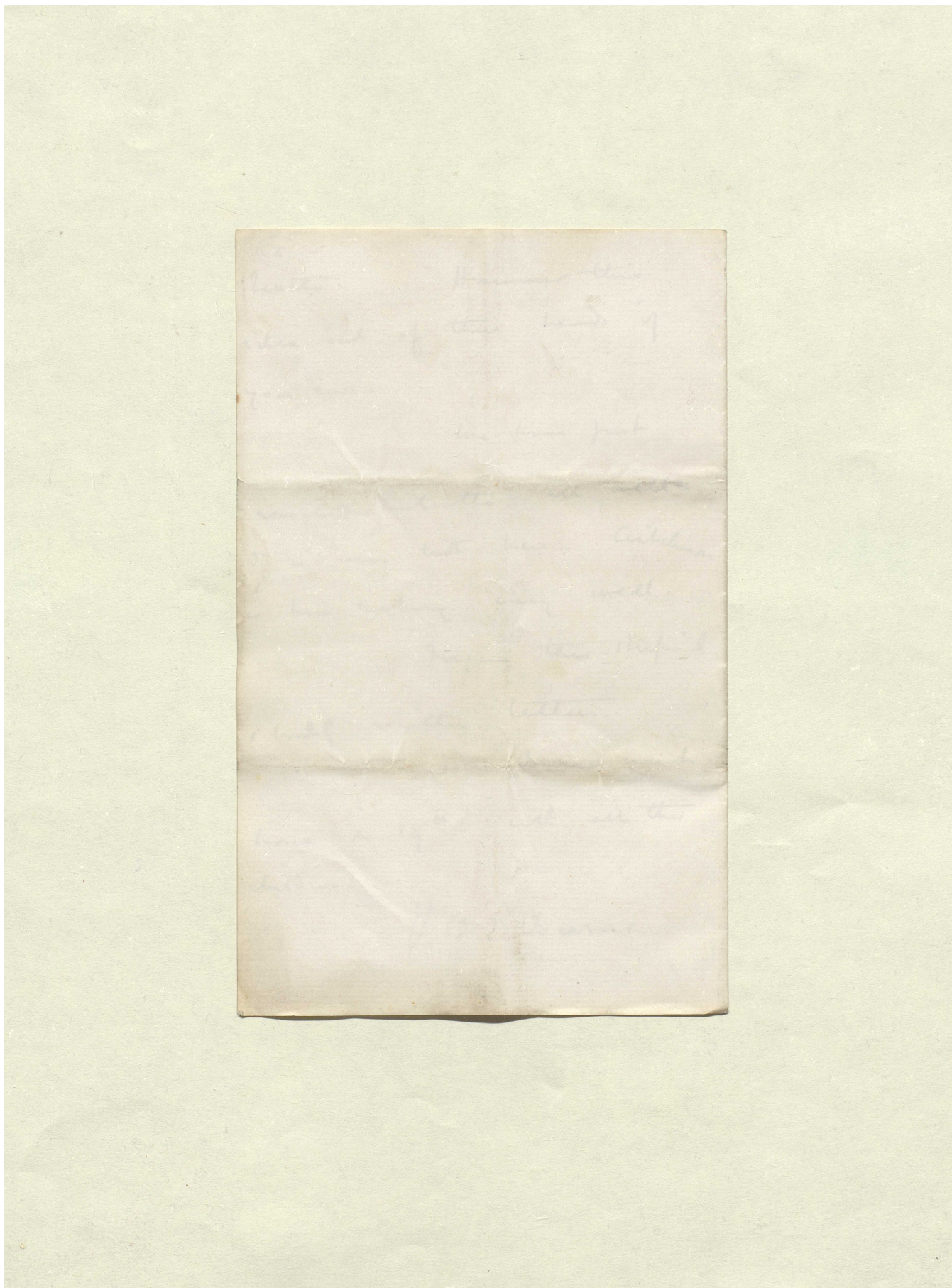


Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [20r]  
(11/12)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Campore [Kampur], India to Lewis Pelly [20v]  
(12/12)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Heathercliff, Bournemouth to Lewis Pelly [21r]  
(1/2)

(21)  
HEATHERCLIFF,  
BOURNEMOUTH.  
6 Feb. 1878.  
My dear Pelly.  
So glad to hear  
from you. Poor Mrs  
Burne is in so preca-  
rious a state that I  
hardly dare leave her  
but when I do venture  
on a day in London I



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Heathercliff, Bournemouth to Lewis Pelly [21v]  
(2/2)

shall be so glad to  
find you out at the  
Athenaeum for a chat.  
I am rather weary  
& with very companionable  
just now.  
Y<sup>rs</sup> O.T.B.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Heathercliff, Bournemouth to Lewis Pelly [22r]  
(1/4)

pte  
HEATHERCLIFF,  
BOURNEMOUTH.

20 Feb. 1870

Dear old Pelly.  
So many thanks  
for your kind note.  
My poor wife is I  
fear going fast. I  
can hardly disguise



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Heathercliff, Bournemouth to Lewis Pelly [22v]  
(2/4)

it to myself, & I  
much value your  
sympathy.

I should

much like to see you  
but at present I never  
leave my poor wife's  
room & am very  
bad

conf

bright

shall

down

much

for

The

no

nothing



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Heathercliff, Bournemouth to Lewis Pelly [23r]  
(3/4)

company. If then  
I brightens up then I  
shall make you comes  
down for a day!  
I thank you.  
much Dear old Pelly  
for your kind D.S.  
The fact is I have  
no ambition & want  
nothing except to



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Heathercliff, Bournemouth to Lewis Pelly [23v]  
(4/4)

Devise some means of  
retiring from active  
public life. In this  
I fear you cannot  
help me. It is dif-  
ficult for me to look  
forward with anything  
but dismay to serving  
with Perry & Co. & losing  
my dear wife  
Yours truly  
O.T.B.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Alnwick Castle, Northumberland to Lewis Pelly  
[24r] (1/4)

Alnwick Castle  
Sept 10. 1870  
My dear Pelly.  
How are you? I  
hope thoroughly well &  
happy. You had not  
left England many days  
before the Cabul question  
came to the front again  
by the arrival of Genl  
Abrams at Cabul on  
22 July with letters from



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Alnwick Castle, Northumberland to Lewis Pelly  
[24v] (2/4)

the Crar. notwithstanding on a  
the Emperor's disclaimer two -dall  
days beforehand that he was  
had given no authority with  
for such a step! Poor -beula  
Lord Lytton was furious 16th, in  
& telegraphed home for each  
authority to send a counter 1000  
Memorandum at once. The  
Cabinet sanctioned this  
on the spot & Chamberlain my l  
was telegraphed for to take  
India, but that when 70 h  
matter has been delayed Cabul  
of



king on acct. of the death of ab. (25)  
ten -dalla I am. I am very  
- be anxious for Indian letters  
twenty with all particulars. Cham-  
Poor -berlain starts on the  
was 16<sup>th</sup>, but with a large  
for each & what is to happen  
counters I know not.  
The I am doing  
is my best to get the post to  
claim have a very fine stand.  
to keep Russia out of  
be Cabul even at the expense  
ayed of our occupying the

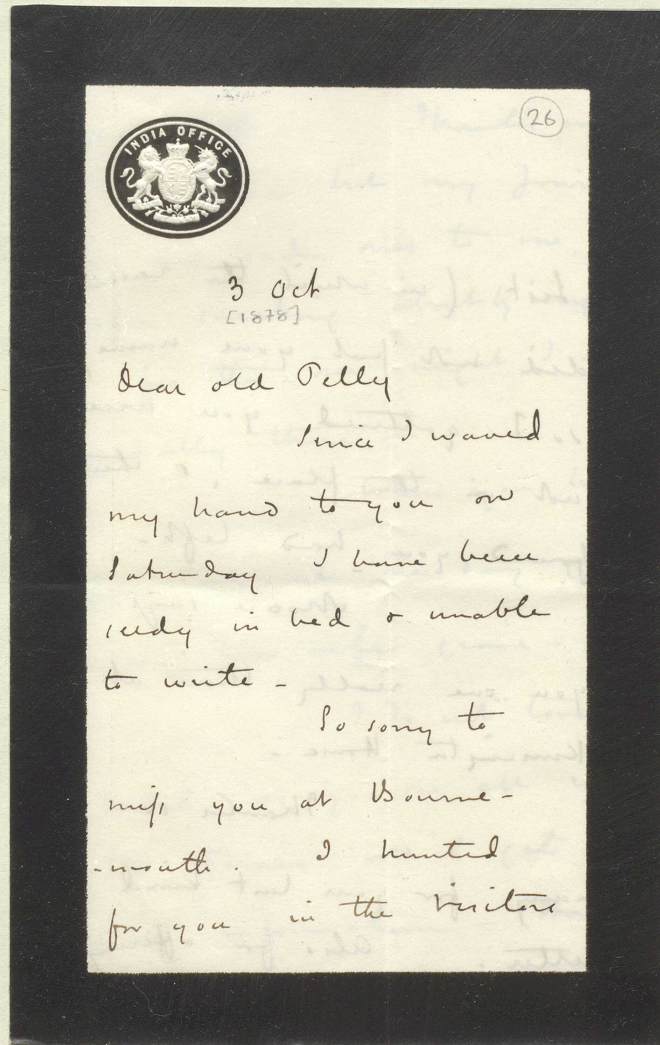


Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Alnwick Castle, Northumberland to Lewis Pelly  
[25v] (4/4)

country ourselves & to  
back up can amuse all  
and by the. Does. It is  
our last chance. I  
wish you, I could  
have been in India &  
shared the risks &  
glories of this suddenly  
developed drama. I  
return to India office  
this week. My very  
kind regards to yourself  
& Lady Pelly  
O. T. Burne.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [26r] (1/4)





to  
Hon  
Dear  
there  
I pr  
just  
occa  
a sp  
ore  
on  
in  
of

list (in which the rascals  
did not put your name)  
so I gathered you were  
not in the place, & then  
found you had left.  
Moore says  
you are really there at  
Kensington House -  
I thank you  
very much for your last kind  
letter. Also for offering



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [27r] (3/4)

to Moore to put me up at <sup>(27)</sup>  
Bournemouth. Thanks my  
dear fellow - but my journey  
there are bad ones to me, so  
I prefer speaking about by myself  
just for the one night I am  
occasionally there -

When you have  
a spare moment me say so  
and my poor wife come -

I do not touch

on Calcut as you see all really  
in the Times which gets hold  
of good information. And



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [27v] (4/4)

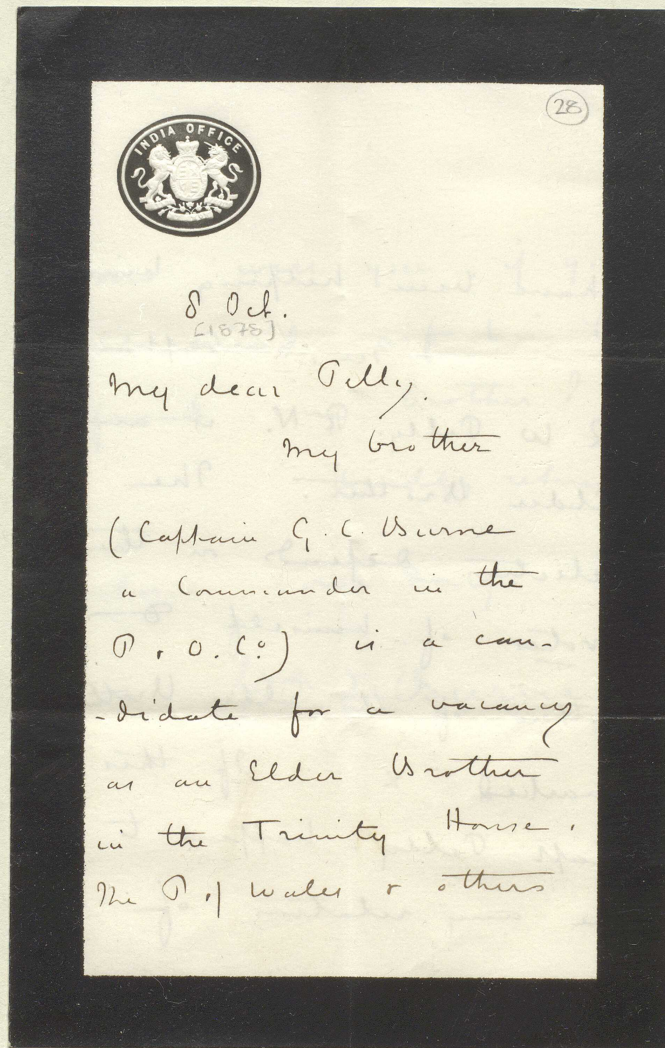
funny it is all turning  
out! The column won't  
be ready till end of October  
or then if Amos does not  
apologize & come to India  
we are to punch his head!

kindest regards to  
Lady Pelly & yourself

/O.T. Burne.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [28r] (1/4)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [28v] (2/4)



have been helping him. you  
I see a Captain Don't  
R. W. Pelly. R.N. is an before  
Elder Brother. The  
election depends on the such  
voter of himself &  
others of the Elder Brethren  
marked x. If this  
Capt Pelly happens to  
be any relation of



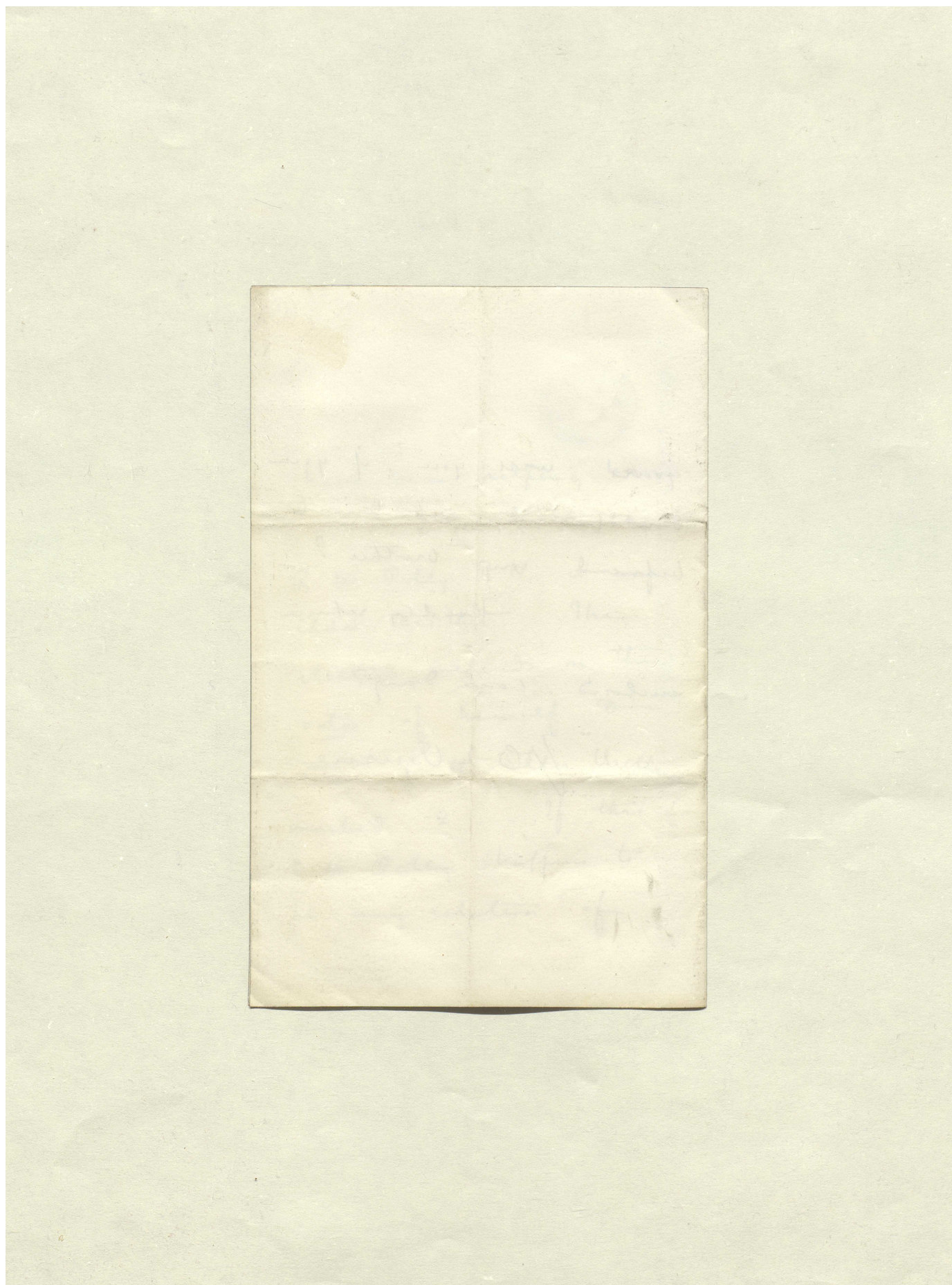
Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [29r] (3/4)

(29)

him. yours will you, if you  
don't mind, ask him to  
befriend my brother?  
Kindly return  
enclosed 1 one day.  
J. O. Burne

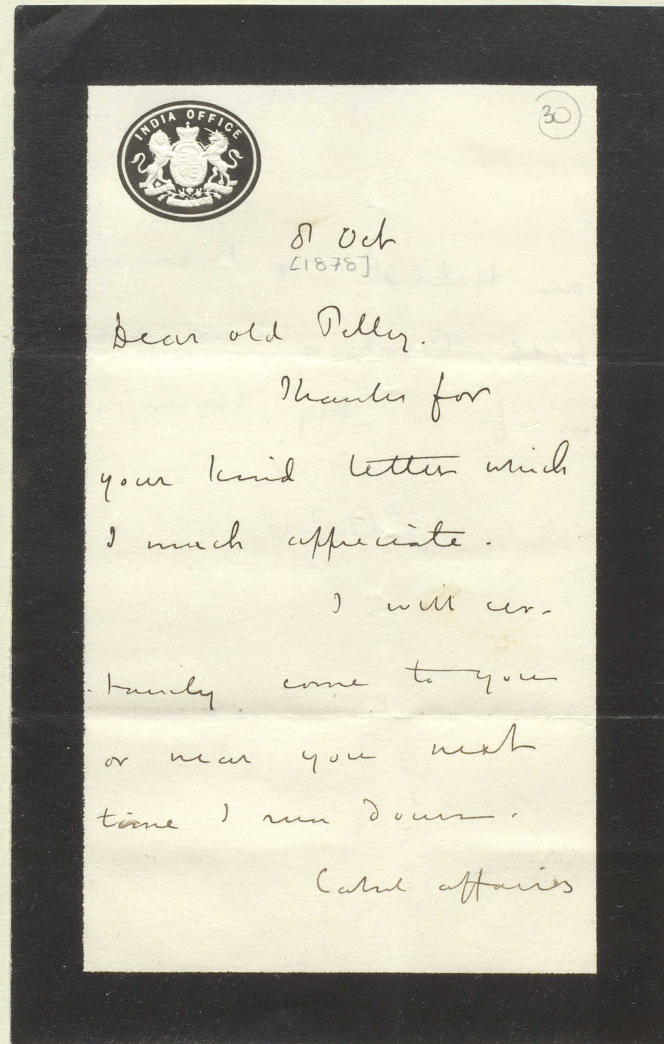


Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [29v] (4/4)



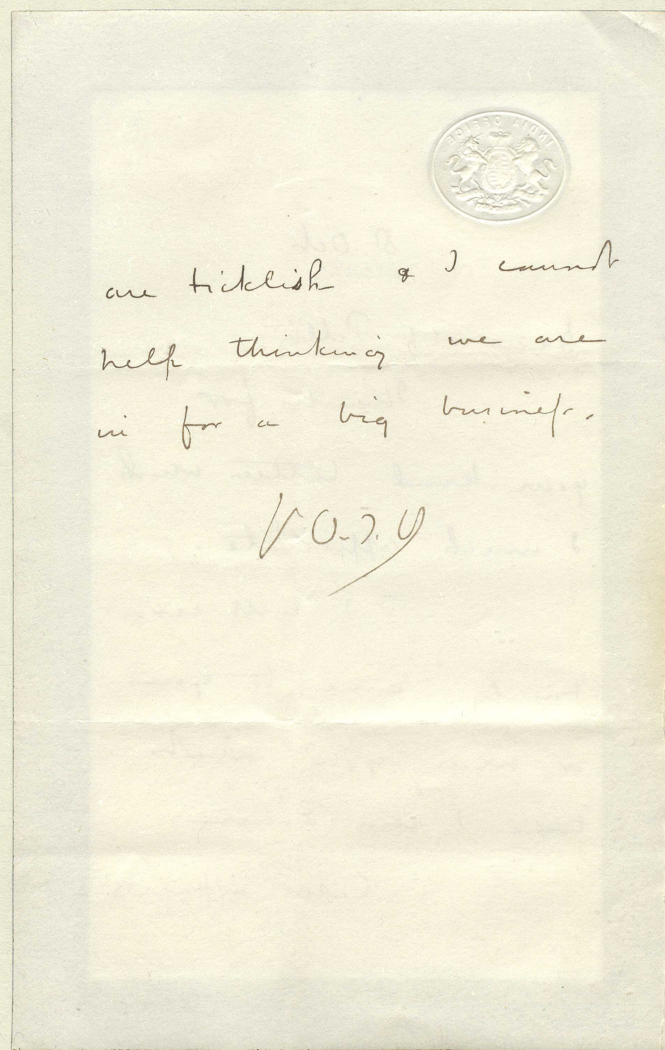


Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [30r] (1/2)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, India Office to Lewis Pelly [30v] (2/2)





Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Albury, Surrey to Lewis Pelly [31r] (1/4)

(31)

Albury.  
Oct. 10.  
[1876]

My dear Pelly  
many thanks  
for your kind letter which  
I sent to my brother, &  
told him to go & call  
on your Cousin. I think  
his chances of the Trinity  
House are very fair.  
I found we  
could not after all



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Albury, Surrey to Lewis Pelly [31v] (2/4)

addressed an official to the  
Treasury about your  
baggage. They would not  
hear of it. So I wrote  
to the Secretary of the  
Custom House & send  
you his reply.

Can you do  
what he directs & I think  
you will have no  
trouble about it.

I am glad  
you are republishing your

paper  
to I  
all  
may  
some  
to I.  
is  
me.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Albury, Surrey to Lewis Pelly [32r] (3/4)

(32)  
to the papers. When you come next  
to D.O. I will show you  
all our recent Calcut papers  
They are always at your  
service when you come  
to D.O. The next month  
is likely to be an interesting  
one.  
Do  
think  
and  
your  
V.O.D.O.



Letter from Owen Tudor Burne, Albury, Surrey to Lewis Pelly [32v] (4/4)

