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Copies of letters from Lewis Pelly to the Military Department, Bombay and the Foreign Department, Government of India.

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F126/89
Date(s)	10 Feb 1875-31 Mar 1875 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file, 4 items (15 folios)
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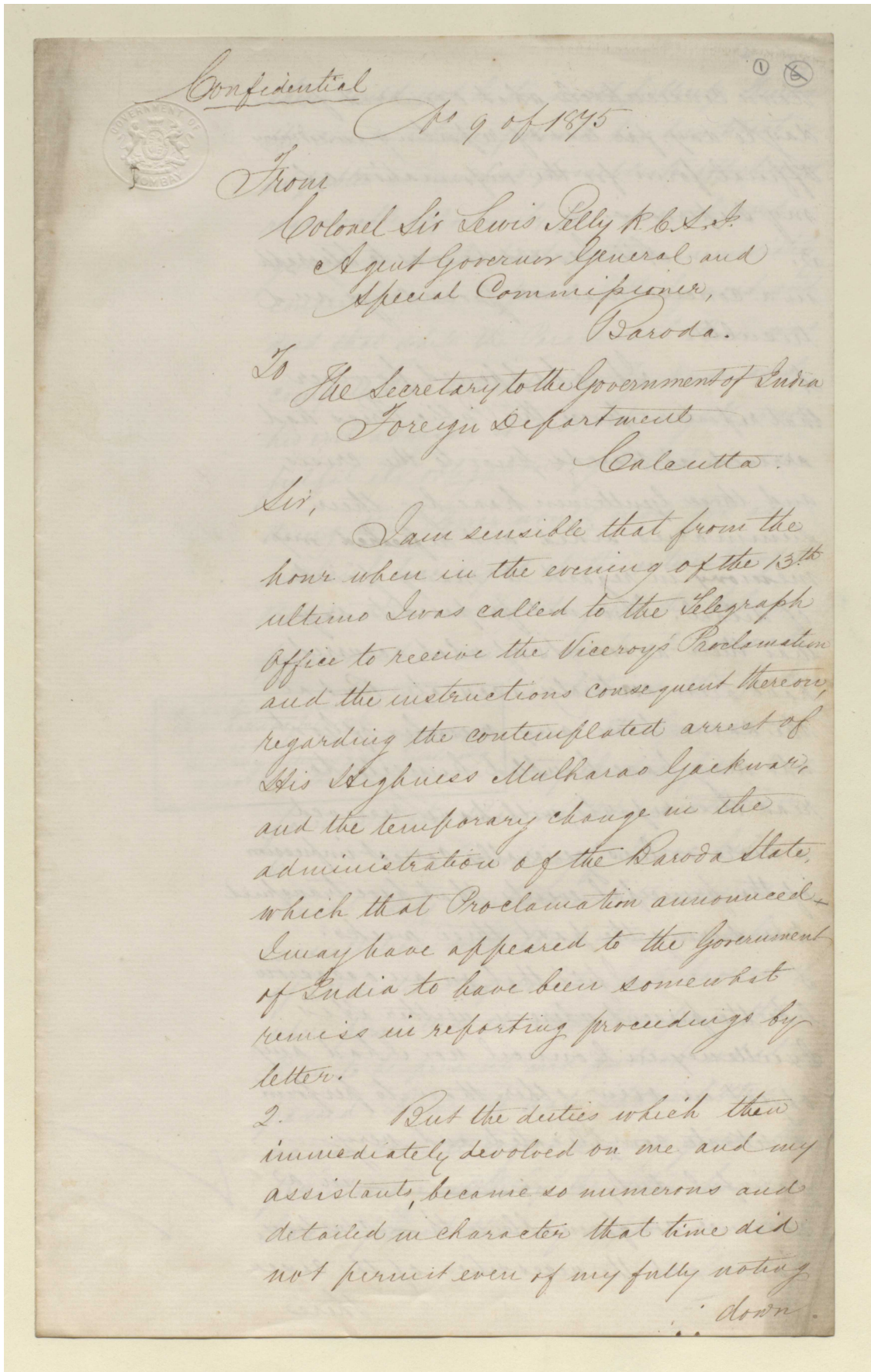


About this record

Correspondence to and from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department and Colonel John Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department.

The correspondence relates to the measures taken by Pelly in regard to the administration of the Baroda state, the approval by the Government of India of these measures; and Pelly's thanks to the Government of Bombay and the military officials stationed in Baroda for their assistance in all military matters.

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [1r] (1/16)



Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [1v] (2/16)

down consecutively what occurred from
day to day, far less of reporting in ordinary
official form for the information of
my superiors.

3. All I could do was to telegraph
in a concise manner proceedings and
results.

4. It so happened however
that reporters from the Public Press had
arrived at Baroda prior to the crisis,
and these gentlemen have by their
summaries aided and refreshed my
memory in regard to many points
of detail. I am not prepared to say
that their accounts of what occurred
have been entirely accurate. But at
the same time any member of Govt
who may have troubled himself to
read these reports, will have received
a more or less generally correct impression
of the principal events that have transpired
here during the past three weeks.

5. I felt that on an occasion
like the present wherein neither His
Excellency in Council nor I had any
object in view other than to perform
a delicate, complicated and very
painful duty ————— in a
manner conformable with ————— courtesy,
honor, and the necessities of the case —
there

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Calcutta [2r] (3/16)

there could not be too much publicity. Therefore the course I have followed has been to act in public as much as possible - to afford every reasonable opportunity for counsel and guidance on the part of those immediately concerned, and to prove both by word and deed that while the Paramount Power was compelled as towards the Gaekwar and his evil advisers to assert its rights, and fulfil its obligations, yet that in so doing that Power would never for an instant lose sight of the interests of the Baroda State, nor deviate from the policy pre-resolved on under mutual consent

vide Government of India
Letter dated 25 July 1874
Letter and also Khuruts of 25 Novr
and my letter of 7 Decr. enclosing
"yads" from the Gaekwar -

as between the Gaekwar and the Government of India, for re-forming the Baroda Administration.

6. Accordingly I have held almost daily Darbars or Interviews or Consultations with the leading members of all sections of society, and have every where permitted the Reporters from the Press to be present and publish what passed. Down to date I have little or no occasion to regret having given this permission, while on the other hand I have found that by explaining my actions

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [2v] (4/16)

actions or intentions I have caused those
concerned with me, and have left no
room for reasonable civil or mis-
-apprehension.

7. The more important of the
proceedings thus
dealt with have
been submitted
by me to your
office in the
form of Resumes
drawn up by
my small staff,
accompanied
by brief trans-
mitting letters from myself.

No 107	4/20	January 1875
" 29/112	20 th	"
" 30/113	21 st	"
" 129	21 st	"
" 32/132	22 nd	"
" 33/133	22 nd	"
" 37/140	25 th	"
" 42/180	27 th	"
" 45/186	28 th	"
" 50/225	1 st	February 1875
" 52/227	1 st	"
" 54/250	2 nd	"
" 60/287	3 rd	"
" 61/293	3 rd	"
" 62/300	4 th	"
" 64/322	5 th	"

8. I am now however forwarding
an account of my recent visit to the leading
Bankers and Merchants of Baroda I hope
to conclude my resumes of the series of
Interviews and special Durbars which have
consequently devolved on me. And I desire
therefore, in transmitting this account,
to dwell at somewhat greater length than
I have hitherto done on the character of the
measures which I have taken with respect
to the general administration of the State.

9. But in so doing I would premise
that these measures by no means pretend
to

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [3r] (5/16)



③ ⑥

to include all those that have suggested themselves to me, or have been placed before me as beneficial in the abstract. My measures have been limited to those which appeared to me to be at once emergent, conformable to instructions, agreeable with what had been previously discussed and arranged for as between myself and the Gaekwar and his Minister, and expedient in themselves having regard to the abnormal and peculiar circumstances of the time and place.

10. Among the graver questions which on assuming charge I had instantly to consider as being not only pressing in themselves, but which would have speedily involved danger to the peace, had I started them off, were those of the grievances and complaints of 1st The Nobility and Military Classes, and 2^d those of the Agricultural Classes.

11. It will be in the recollection of the Government that prior to the date of my assuming the powers delegated to me by the Viceroy in regard to the administration of the Baroda State I had, in communication with the late Government of His Highness, continued to submit to His Excellency in Council my opinions as to the political com-
- bination

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [3v] (6/16)

combination which existed on the part
of the Nobles and the Military,
and the passive resistance almost
amounting to Rebellion which existed on the
part of the Agricultural classes as towards
the Government and person of Mulkarao
Gackwar. I had further submitted my
opinion as to the Insanity of the Baroda
Financial Budget. And these representations
grave though they were, were yet far less
emphatic than ^{had been those} those of my Predecessors in
office.

Letter No 933
of 17 December 1874
and
No 934 of 27 December 1874
of same date & other correspondence

12. For I considered that however
dangerous and emergent these questions
might be, my instructions were to afford
the Gackwar one last opportunity for
reforming his departments of State under
my advice, and that in so far as I was
aware His Highness was fully cognizant
of the situation, and sincerely desirous
of redeeming the past by carrying into effect
a thorough reform of his administration

13. Nevertheless when from among
the antecedents of His Highness, alleged facts
were suddenly discovered, tending to show
that His Highness had prior to my arrival
instigated an attempt to poison the representative
of the British Power, I felt that reorganization
was for the moment in great part paralyzed -
and thus reforms for some days being in
Suspense

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Calcutta [4r] (7/16)

(4) (9)
suspense pending the receipt of instructions from Calcutta.

14. But this temporary lull was not understood by outsiders; Expectancy became irritation, and the earnestness of my own wish for reform ^{was} in some instances doubted.

15. Therefore when the change came, and the ^{power} authority of the Garkwar were temporarily vested in me, not a day was to be lost in assuring the community that what had been promised should

vide paras 8. 9. of the Government of India letter of 25 July 1874.

be fulfilled: that a Land Revenue

settlement and a reasonable and liberal treatment of the cultivators should be introduced; that the grievances and complaints and debts of the Sirdars and Silledars should be enquired into, and if practicable be arranged; that the lavish expenditure of the past should be reduced; and that income should be made to balance outlay.

16. I acted accordingly, but always with and in communion with those concerned. And two important practical facts have thus ensued: 1st the Agricultural classes, who had previously harassed my Premises and the roads in thousands, went away satisfied with my simple assurance and

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [4v] (8/16)

and I have never since seen a complaint
of this class. 2^d the Sardars have become
quite amenable, and down to date patiently
await the results of the Committee of
inquiry recently appointed.

17. In the foregoing and in all
other cases I have carefully borne in mind
that the task before me was not to form
a theoretically perfect administration
regardless of circumstances, but rather
to reform an administration already
in being, and to do this so far as possible
in harmony with the prejudices usages
and institutions of the state, and so far
as practicable to utilize in these reforms
the Personnel and material which the state
itself afforded.

18. I trust that the reports already
submitted by me may have convinced
His Excellency in Council that I have
been consistent in carrying out this
policy: as a matter of fact, I have scarcely
introduced a single Foreign Asiatic,
beyond those who were to be introduced
under arrangements previously made with
the Gachwar, or such as have been
temporarily introduced for the purpose
of investigating the alleged delinquencies
of previous employees.

19. The only Europeans introduced
are

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [5r] (9/16)



are the gentlemen who form a portion of
my personal staff, and whose aid was
rendered essential by the duties imposed
to me in connection with my conduct
of the Proceedings about to come before
the Special Commission of Enquiry into
the attempt at poisoning.

20. In regard to judicial reforms I
have done no more than collect information,
confirm the Personell already accepted by
the Garkwar, and rule that where as in
cases of caste dispute the Baroda Code
differed from ours, or where on points such
as that of various descriptions of imprisonment
the Baroda Code was silent, we should
for the present deal with the former
classes by arbitration, and with the latter
in a manner conformable with the
spirit of our own code and with the
merits of each particular case.

21. As regards waste lands I issued
a proclamation confirmatory of that issued
a few weeks previously by the Garkwar.
This confirmation was necessary, because
the Cultivating classes had lost confidence
in the assurances of the late Government.

22. In respect to the Mint and Coinage
I have received an able report from my
subordinates, but have taken and intend
to take no action unless compelled thereto
by deficiency of metallic currency.

23. As regards the enquiries into
the

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [5v] (10/16)

the entangled mass of complaints of
tyranny and so forth which immediately
pressed on me, I appointed a committee
and whenever clear prima facie cases
arise they will be referred to the ordinary
Courts of Law.

24. I have already in my No ³²/₁₈₂
of 22^d January 1875 reported some of the
circumstances which compelled me much
against my will to cause treasure concealed
in the Palace to be disintegrated and credited
to the State. It will have been gathered that
in conducting this search great care and
precautions have been observed, and that
I closed the search Committee so soon as
funds were discovered adequate for present
state necessities, and so soon as I felt I
could do so without incurring extraordinary
risk of a repetition of proceedings like those
summarized in my report on the discovery
of the 40 Lakhs.

25. The examination of suspected
goods about to be removed was necessitated
by frequent alleged attempts to carry off
State valuables. I believe that cash and
valuables to an immense amount
have been removed, and that a large
proportion of the above is bona fide
State property, or money fraudulently
or irregularly abstracted from the State
Funds. Many sums have been recovered,
but

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [6r] (11/16)

(6) (11)

but many more, and among these the
hoardings of Stana Khanvilkar have
eluded detection. The restriction in the
removal of suspected property was not
continued a day longer than was absolutely
essential for the immediate protection of
State Interests, and His Excellency in Council
will observe from the enclosed summary
that on the 29th ultimo I was enabled to
inform the Commercial Community
that all restrictions had been removed,
and that Trade might resume its
natural course without fear of molestation.

26. In respect to Charities and Religious
outlays, I have been careful to refrain from
all direct interference. At the Durbars where
the Sardars and the leading Bankers were
present, I drew attention to the fact that
expenditure under the above heading had
increased from 10 to more than 20 lacs of
Rupees annually, but having said this
I paused, and left the matter wholly in
the discretion of the Baroda Community
itself, adding that whatever the Community
decided on this question I would accept.

27. Daily almost hourly past traces
of iniquity are discovered. But I am contracting
the area of inquiries, at all events for the
present, because I am unwilling that any
proceedings should be carried out which
might involve numerous miscellaneous
arrests, and thus perhaps frighten the
people

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [6v] (12/16)

people in general.

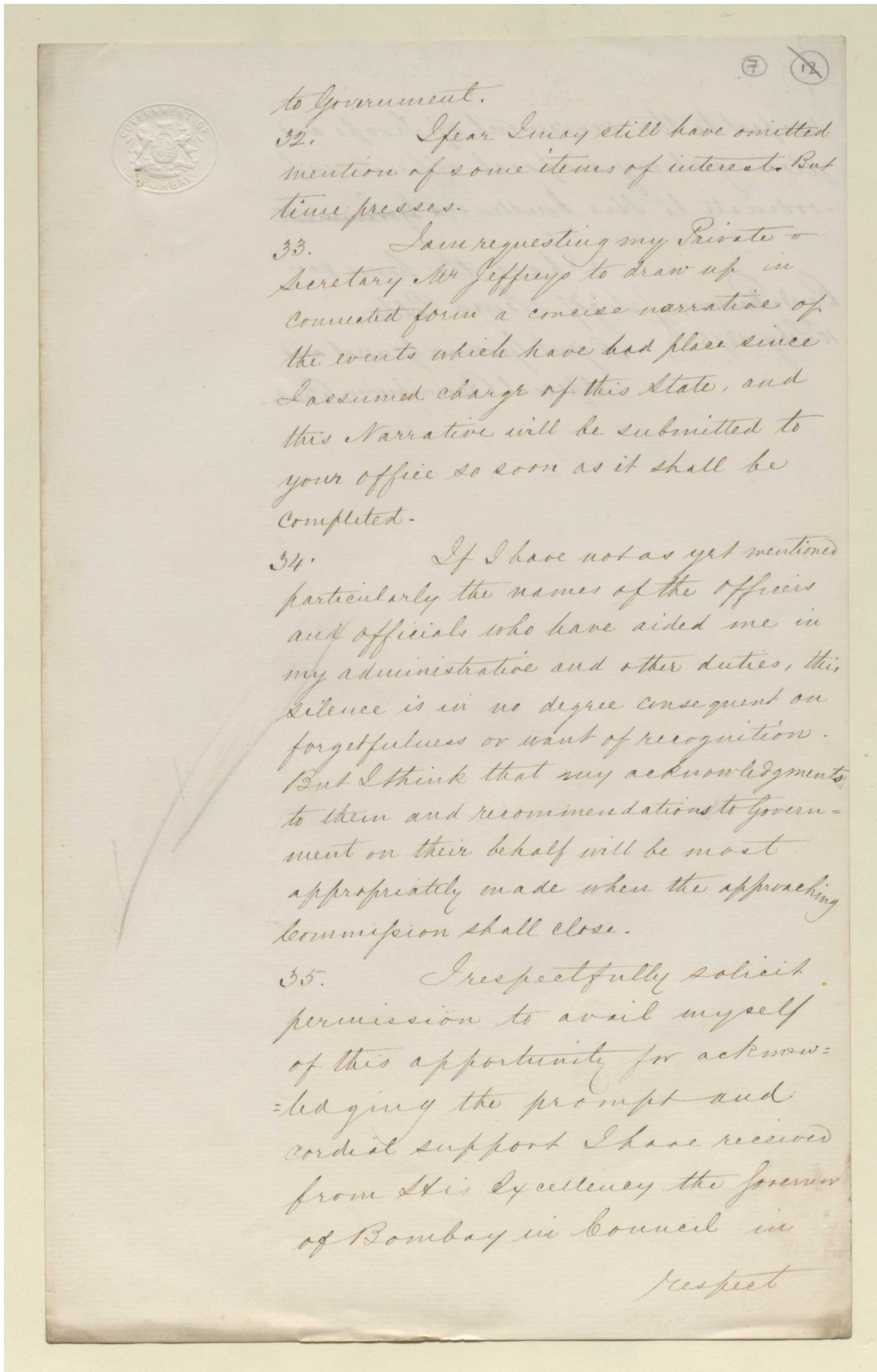
28. The question of the Contingent will require minute consideration, but it would be premature to enter on it at present. I am therefore doing no more in this matter than collect information.

29. As to the Military strictly so called, that is to say the organized Regiments and Batteries - these have conducted themselves with perfect order, and I have not received a complaint against them. Their Commanders in Chief visit ^{the} every morning and reports. Any necessary orders are then issued direct, as I wish to keep the Head of the Baroda Forces apart from the influence or control of other Departments.

30. I am calling a trustworthy Native officer of the Public Works Department to scrutinize and settle the claims of Contractors and others heretofore employed under the Durbar in constructing Bridges, Palaces &c.

31. The adjustment of the accounts as between the Baroda State and its Banks or shops at Bombay I have confided to the Presidency New Bank of Bombay, with a request that in the event of their needing legal advice they should consult Messrs. Hearn & Cleveland. It seemed fitting that matters of the above description should be entrusted to a State Bank in communication with the Solicitors
to

Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [7r] (13/16)



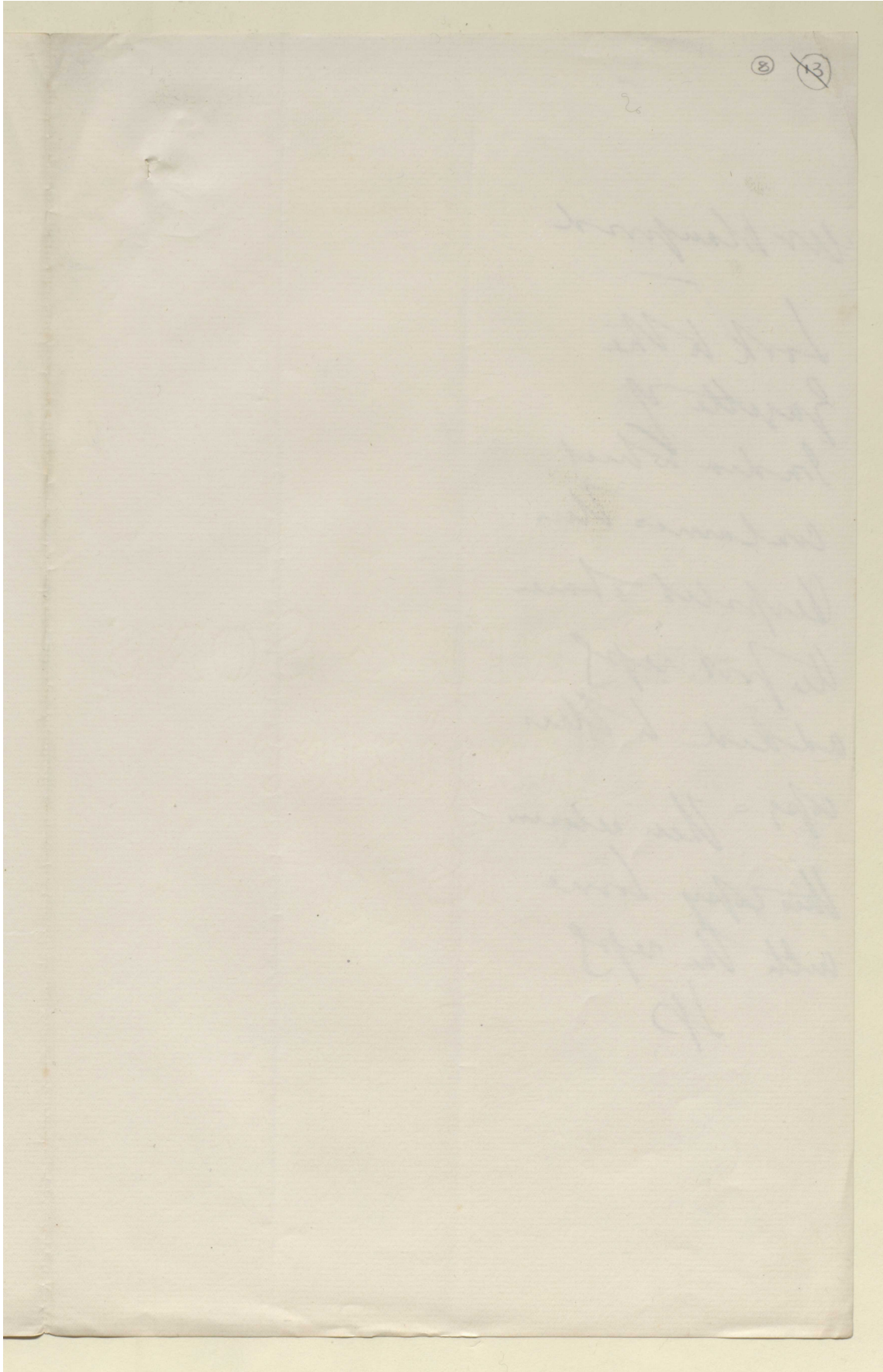
Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [7v] (14/16)

respect to the movement of Troops and
placing at my disposal officials sub-
-ordinate to His Excellency's Government.

I have the honor per
Baroda Residency of Sir Lewis Pelly.
10 Feb 1875 B Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda.



**Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [8r] (15/16)**

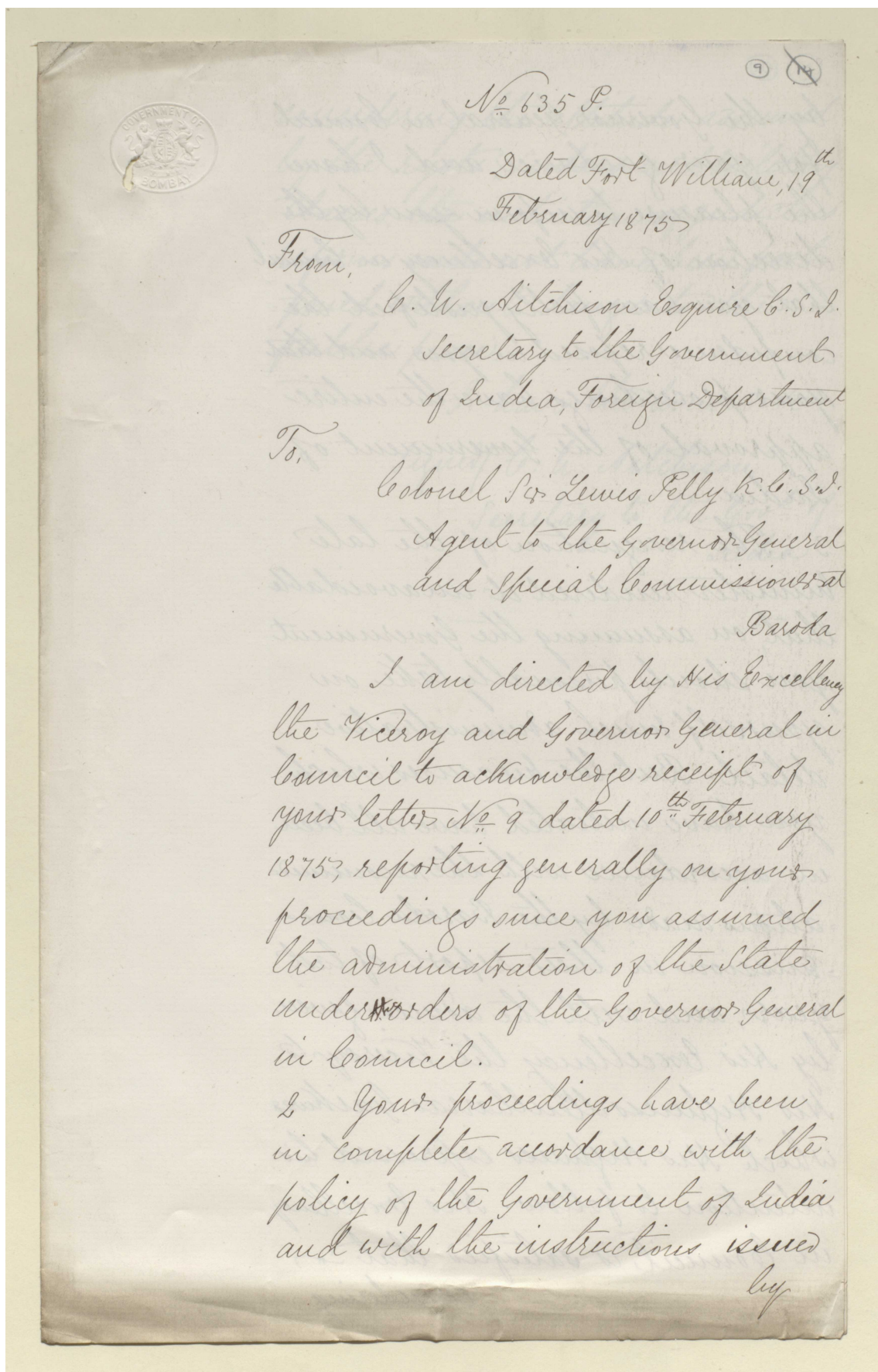


Letter No.9 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and
Special Commissioner, Baroda to The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta [8v] (16/16)

Mr. Mansford

Look to the
Gazette of
India which
contains the
despatch to have
the first copy
added to this
copy - then return
this copy home
with the rest
LP

Letter No.635P from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Fort William to Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General and Special Commissioner at Baroda [9r] (1/4)



Letter No.635P from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Fort William to Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General and Special Commissioner at Baroda [9v] (2/4)

by the Governor General in Council for your guidance, and I have the pleasure to inform you by the direction of His Excellency in Council that you have fully justified the confidence reposed in you, and that your proceedings have the entire approval of the Government of India.

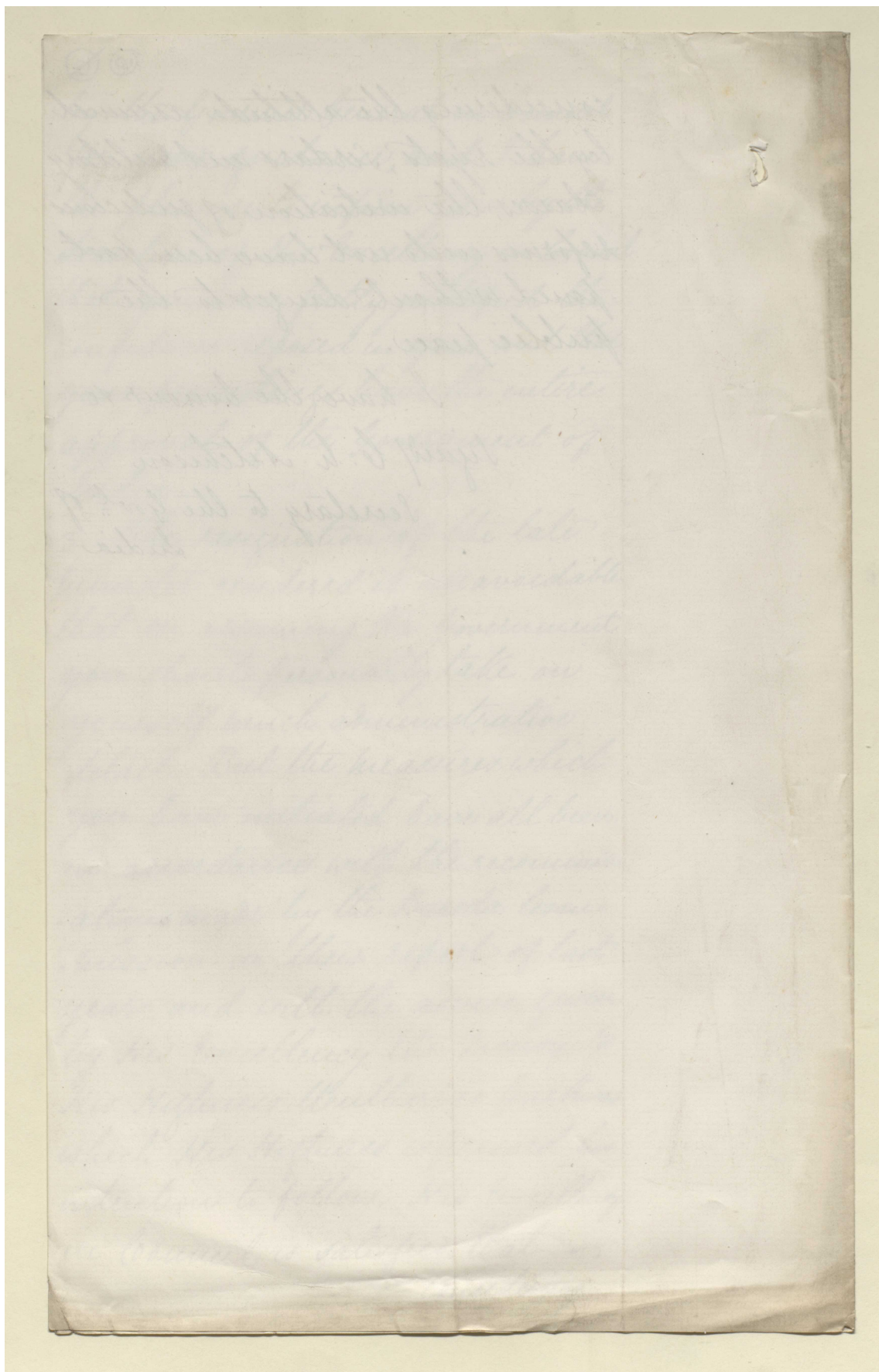
3 The resignation of the late Minister rendered it unavoidable that, on assuming the Government you should personally take on yourself much administrative detail. But the measures which you have initiated have all been in accordance with the recommendations made by the Baroda Commission in their report of last year, and with the advice given by His Excellency the Viceroy to His Highness Mulharrao Gaikwar which His Highness expressed his intention to follow. His Excellency in Council is satisfied that
considering.

Letter No.635P from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Fort William to Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General and Special Commissioner at Baroda [10r] (3/4)

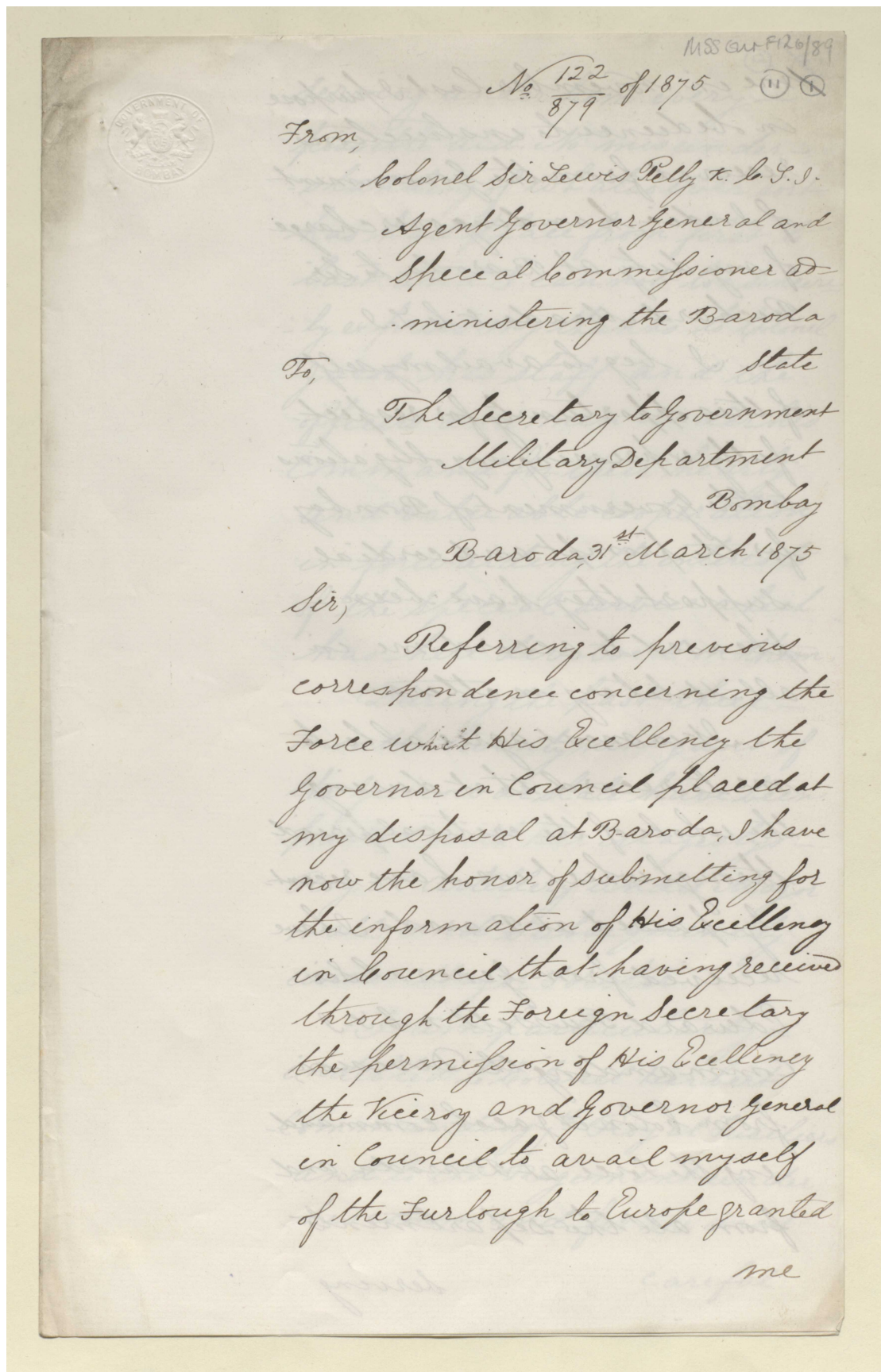
(10) (5)
considering the attitude assumed
by the ryots, Sardars and military
Classes, the initiation of judicious
reforms could not have been post-
-poned without danger to the
public peace.

I have the honour to
Signy C. U. Aitchison
Secretary to the Gov^t of
India

Letter No.635P from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Fort William to Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent to the Governor General and Special Commissioner at Baroda [10v] (4/4)



Letter No.122/879 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General
and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to John
Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military
Department, Bombay [11r] (1/6)



Letter No.122/879 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to John Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department, Bombay [11v] (2/6)

me in November last. I purpose
in obedience to instructions
received from the Government
of India handing over charge
of my duty at Baroda to Sir
Richard Meade K. b. I. I.

I beg to avail myself
of this opportunity for respect-
fully expressing my obligations
to the Government of Bombay
for the prompt and cordial
support they have been
pleased to accord me in
all Military matters.

It is most agreeable to
me to record that, during
the whole of the critical period
through which we have recent-
ly passed at Baroda, I have
received from General Sir
Edward Russell K. b. I. I.
Commanding the Division,
from Colonel Jacob, command-
ing the Force at Baroda, and
from all the Departments
serving

Letter No.122/879 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to John Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department, Bombay [12r] (3/6)

(12) ~~12~~
Serving under him every —
possible aid. No misunder-
standing of wh also ever sort
has had place from first to
last and I can not too sincere-
ly express my thanks to Colonel
Jacob, his staff and the
officers and men under his
command for their hearty
and valuable cooperation
in forwarding the interests
of the Special service which
has here devolved on them.

During the past three —
months twenty nine guns of
the Guicowar state have been
parked with Her Majesty's —
Royal artillery under Major
Hall, and subsequently
under Major Forster.

I am particularly
indebted to Colonel Herbert
Commanding^g the Royal Fusiliers
and to the Regiment under
his command for the most
careful

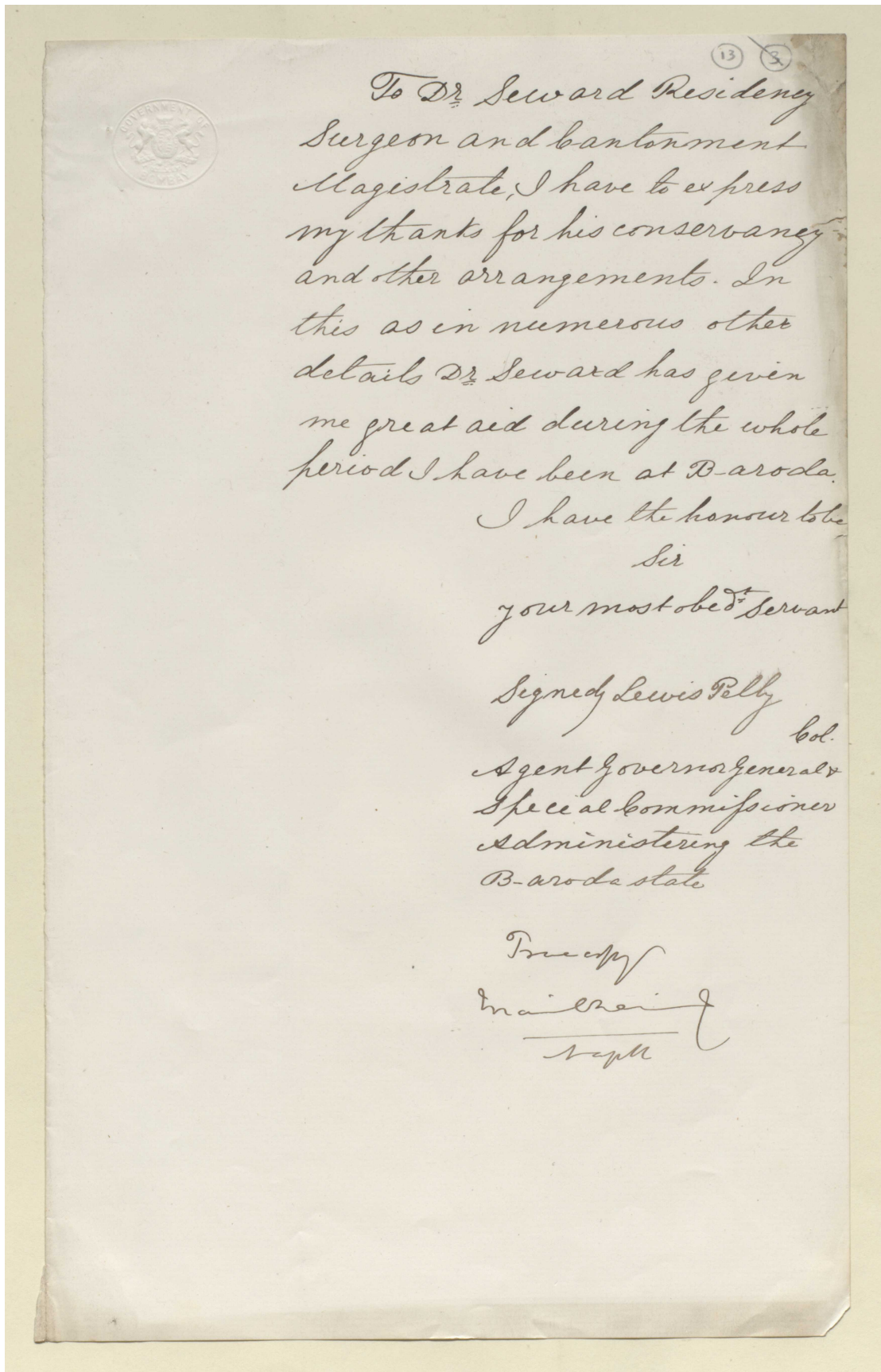
Letter No.122/879 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to John Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department, Bombay [12v] (4/6)

careful and efficient manner
in which they have performed
the tedious and trying duty
of guarding the person of the
Guicowar and the prisoners
and witnesses concerned
in the Enquiry before the Special
Commission lately assembled
for the purpose of investigating
certain charges made against
His Highness the Guicowar.
In my opinion the ends of
justice have been materially
served by the unremitting
watchfulness of these
British Troops.

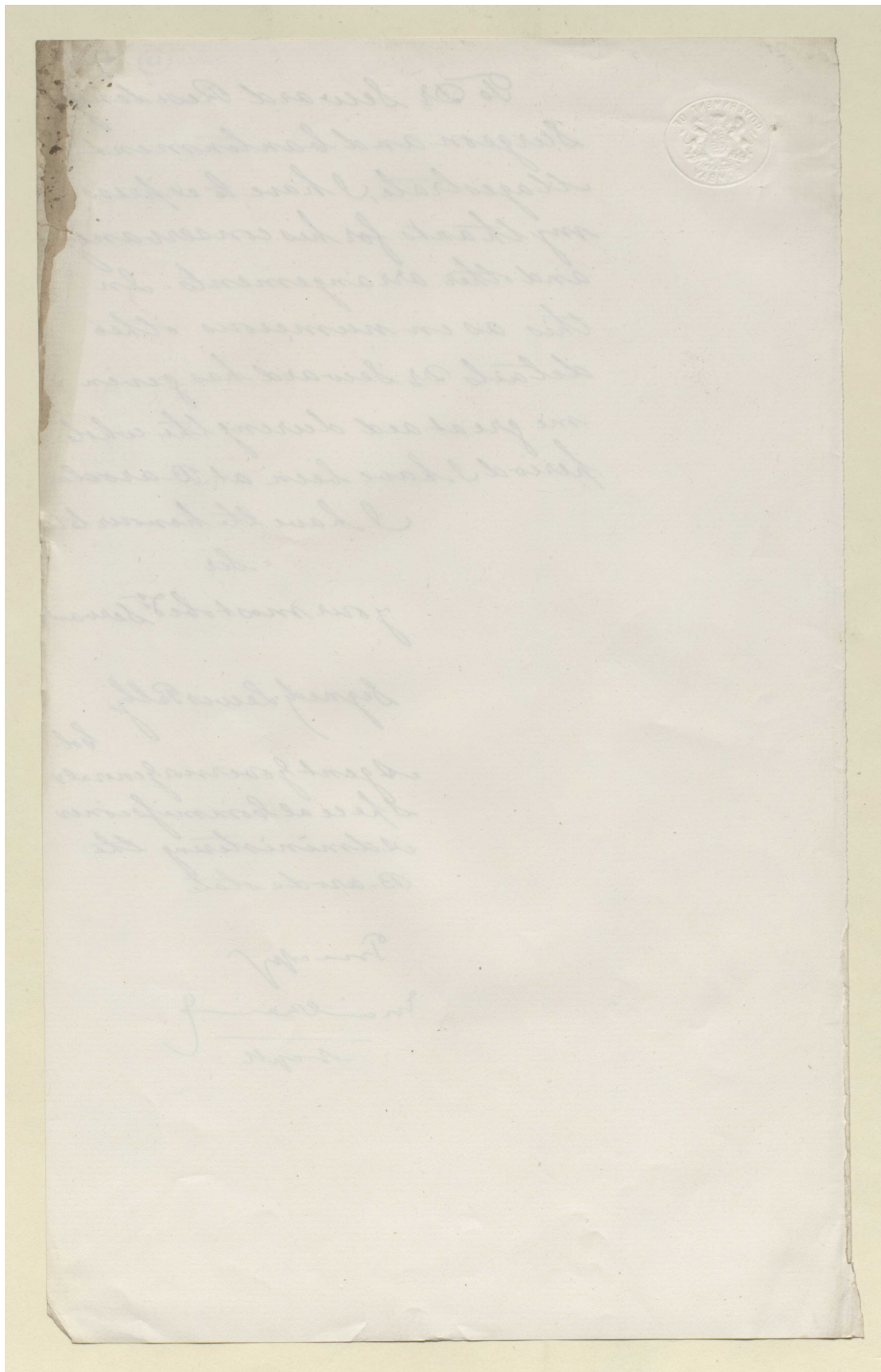
I enclose a daily report
of the sick from which it
will be seen that sickness
in this force is almost at
a minimum. We have
doubtless to thank the
Senior medical officer Dr
Wade and his colleagues
for this healthful condition

To

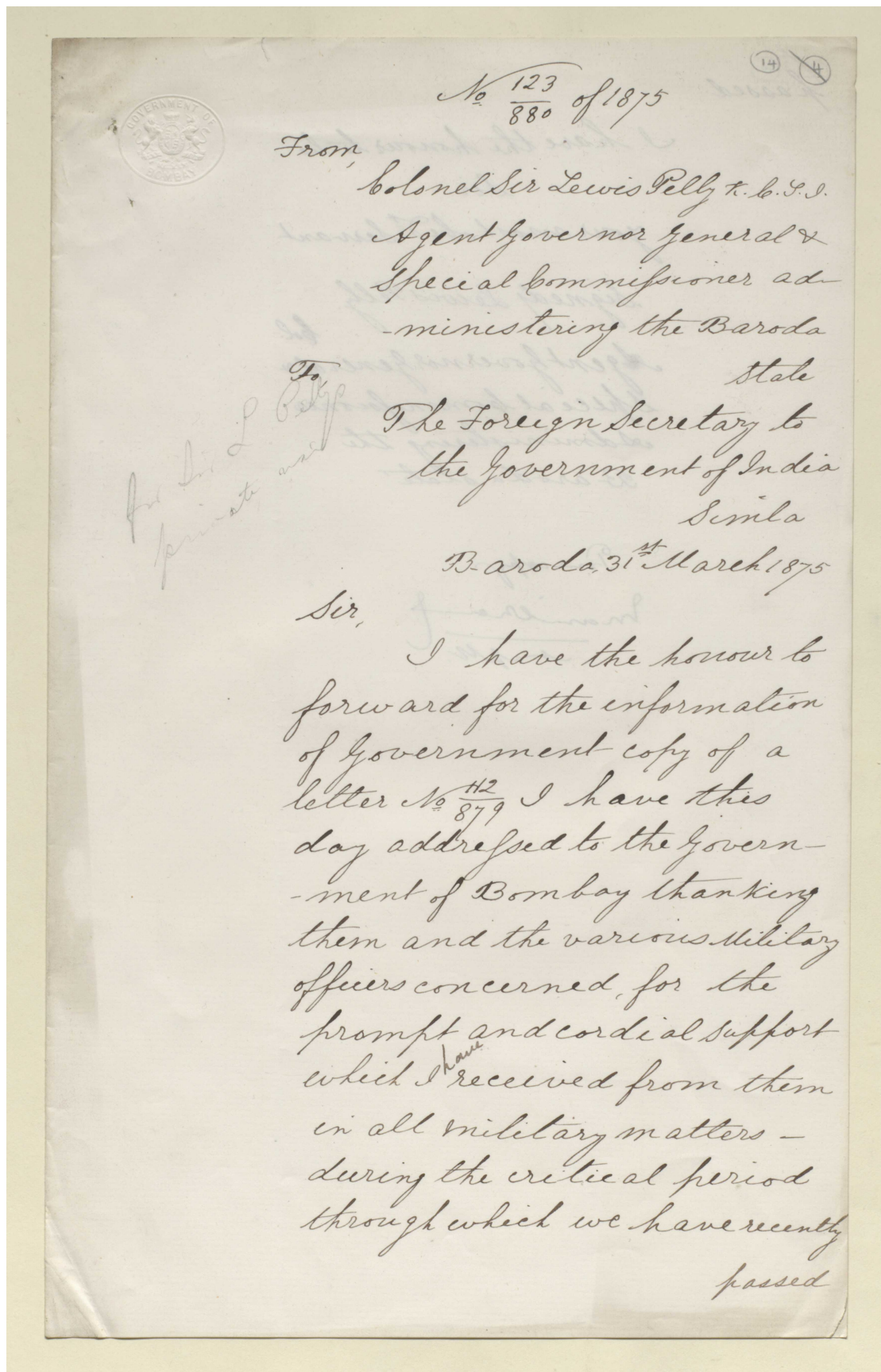
Letter No.122/879 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to John Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department, Bombay [13r] (5/6)



Letter No.122/879 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General
and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to John
Alexander Matthew Macdonald, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military
Department, Bombay [13v] (6/6)



Letter No.123/880 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General
and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to Charles
Umpherston Aitchison, The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, Simla
[14r] (1/4)



Letter No.123/880 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General
and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to Charles
Umpherston Aitchison, The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, Simla
[14v] (2/4)

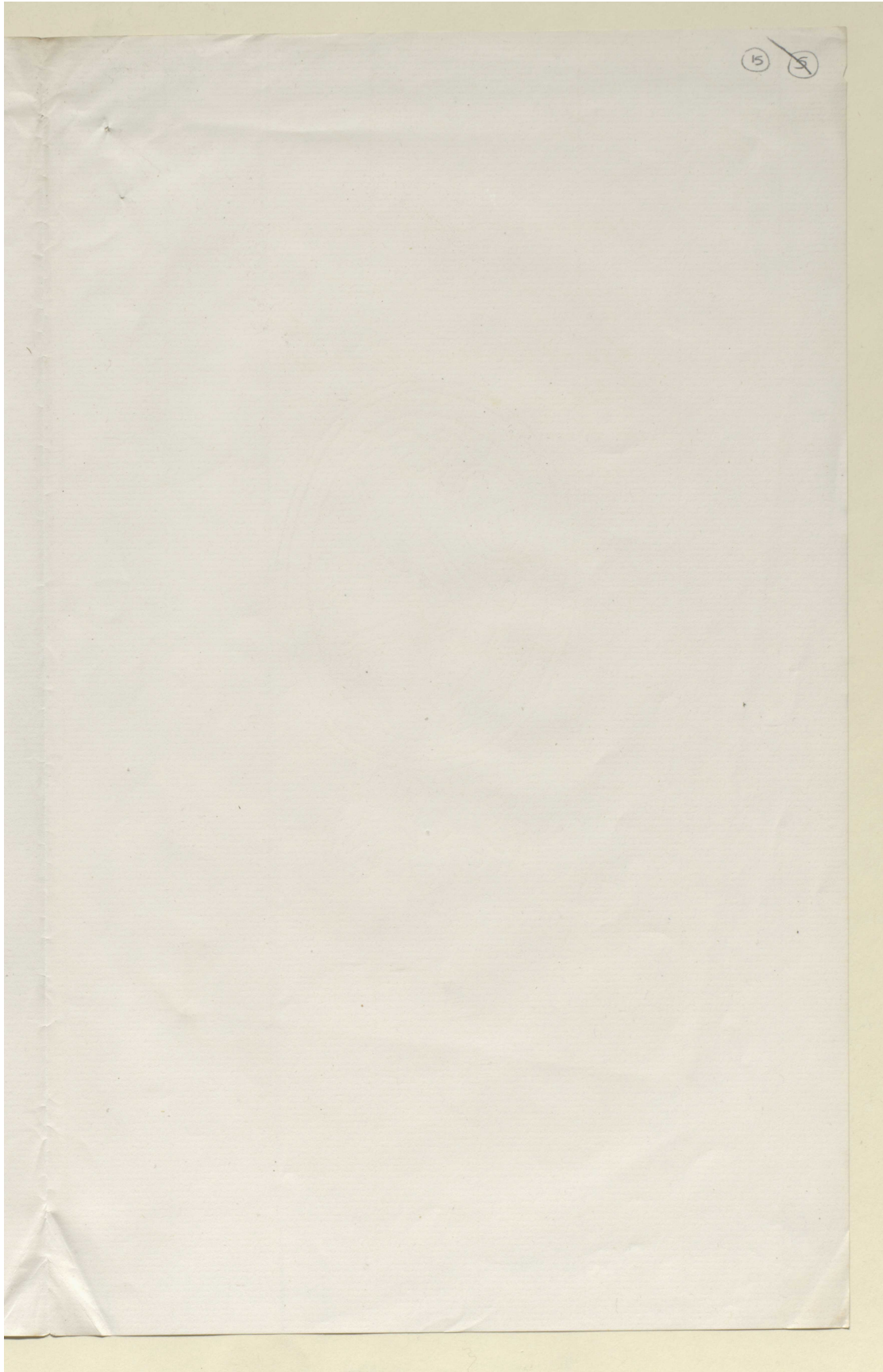
passed.

*I have the honour to be
Sir
your most obed^t servant*

*Signed Lewis Pelly. Col.
Agent Governor General &
Special Commissioner
Administering the
Baroda state*

*For copy
Manila
14th.*

Letter No.123/880 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to Charles Umpherston Aitchison, The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, Simla [15r] (3/4)



Letter No.123/880 of 1875 from Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly, Agent Governor General
and Special Commissioner administering the Baroda state, Baroda to Charles
Umpherston Aitchison, The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, Simla
[15v] (4/4)

