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Journal of Lewis Pelly's official journey overland from Persia to India through Afghanistan including Mashhad, Herat and Kabul.

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F126/30
Date(s)	15 Sep-16 Nov 1860 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (45 folios)
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About this record

Journal of the journey which the British Government requested that Lewis Pelly take overland through Persia and Afghanistan in returning to India in order to ascertain the situation throughout the country, to visit the rulers of key places such as Herat and Cabul [Kabul] with a view to the re-establishment of British relations with them, to attempt to gain a sense of how the British might now be received there and to attempt to ascertain details of the Persian expedition to Mero [Marv].

The journal covers the period 10 September to 16 November 1860 and documents the geography and landscapes of the regions travelled through, with where known the names of hills and plateaus, the locations of water sources and the distances between each place visited and the overall distances travelled each day.

For each village, town or caravanserai visited Pelly recorded its size, any known history, information on the local ruler and his allegiances, observations on trade and agriculture, with particular interest paid to gardens and orchards, and the hospitality they offered to him at each stage of his journey.

The journal also records the people who travelled with him, the equipment and provisions they took with them and the gifts and letters they had been requested to take and present to various local rulers.

Information of particular interest within the journal includes details of the situation in Candahar [Kandahar] and Cabul (folio 4), his conversations with the Khan of Khaff [Khaf] about England (folio 15), his visit to

Herat and discussions with the ministers and ruler there (folios 19-20), information on the Turcoman's victory over the Persians at Mero including Pelly's intentions of aiding the Prince Hurnza Mirza [Hamzeh Mirza "Heshmat ed-Dowleh"] and desire to rescue a French photographer who had been travelling with the Persian forces (folios 20-21), the Sirdar of Sebpur's plans to seize power in Candahar (folios 25-26), a meeting with some Russians travelling in the area, and the civil war in Seistan [Sistan] (folio 26), information on the official reports that Pelly submitted to Government during his journey (folios 32 and 43) and an ink sketch by Pelly of a post house similar to the ones he stayed in during his journey (folio 45).

The cover label for the journal states: 'Journals (including Afghan mission 1860)' and is numbered 3, implying that this was originally the third series in Lewis Pelly's papers when they were donated to the Foreign Office in 1925 and that all of his journals were originally contained within the leather bound cover. The Pelly collection was reorganised at some point after it was donated to the Foreign Office in 1925 and the other journals removed and placed elsewhere with only the Afghanistan journal being kept within the original journals cover.

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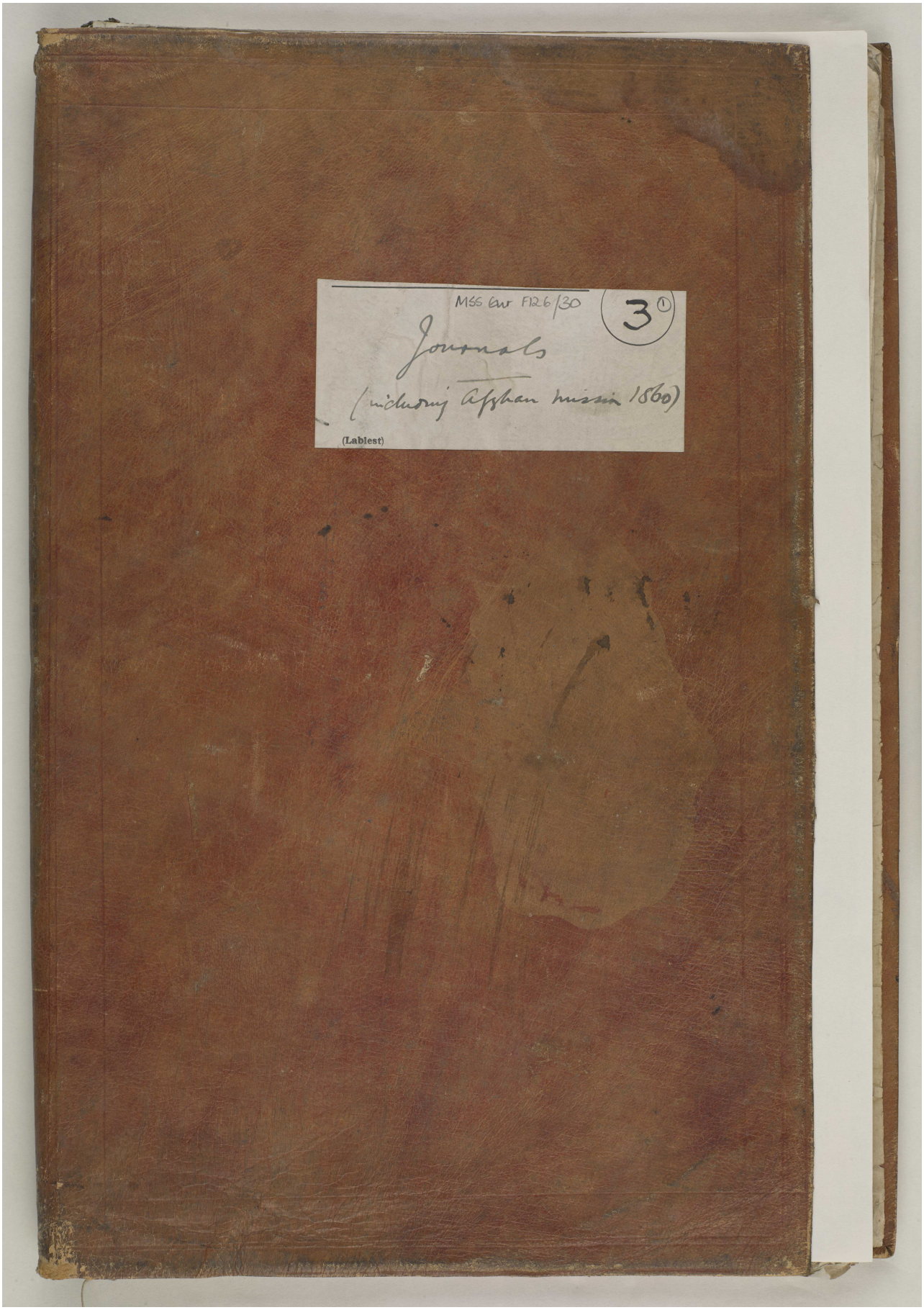
Journal of Lewis Pelly's official journey overland from Persia to India through Afghanistan including Mashhad, Herat and Kabul. [front] (1/90)



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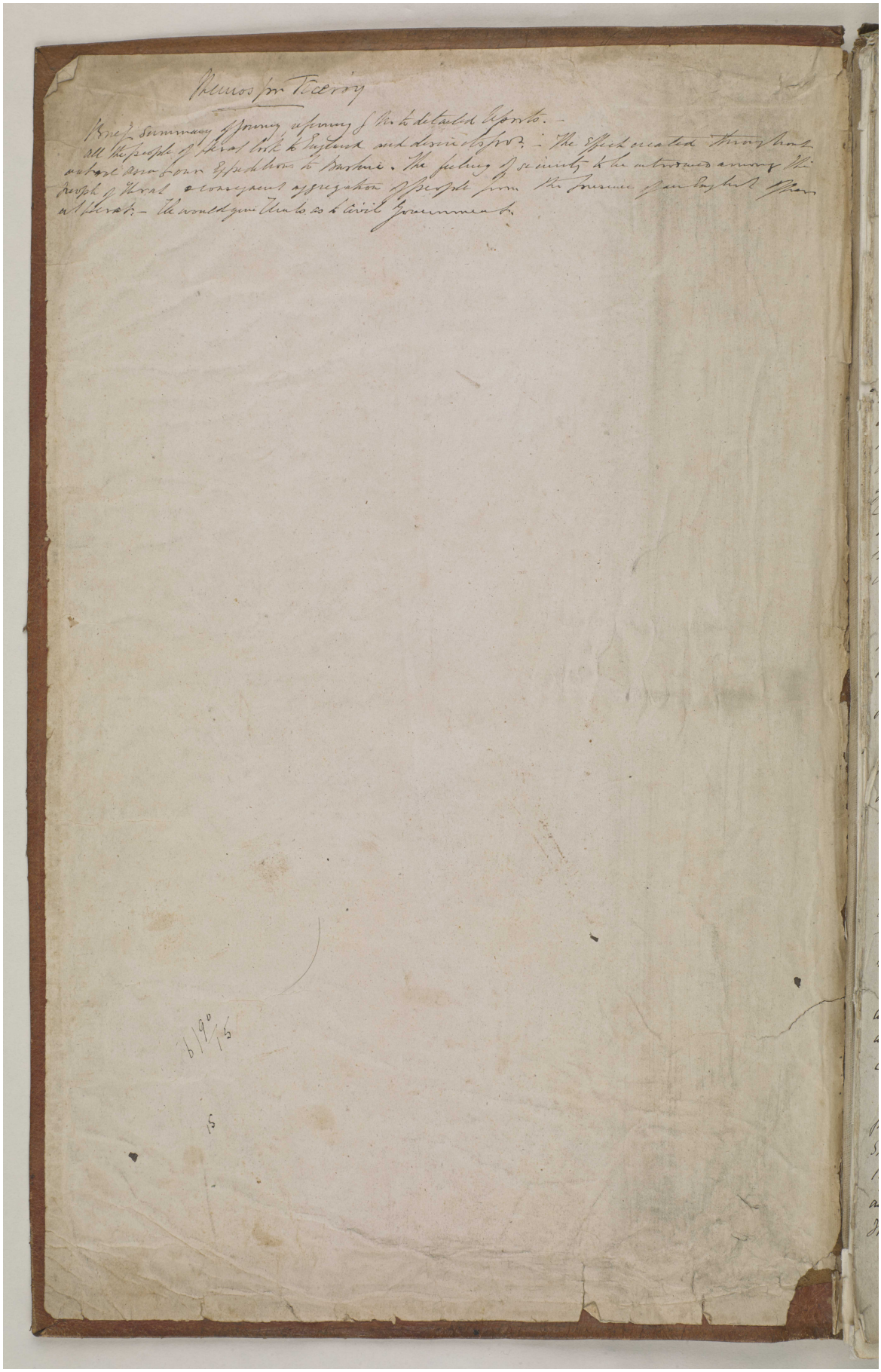

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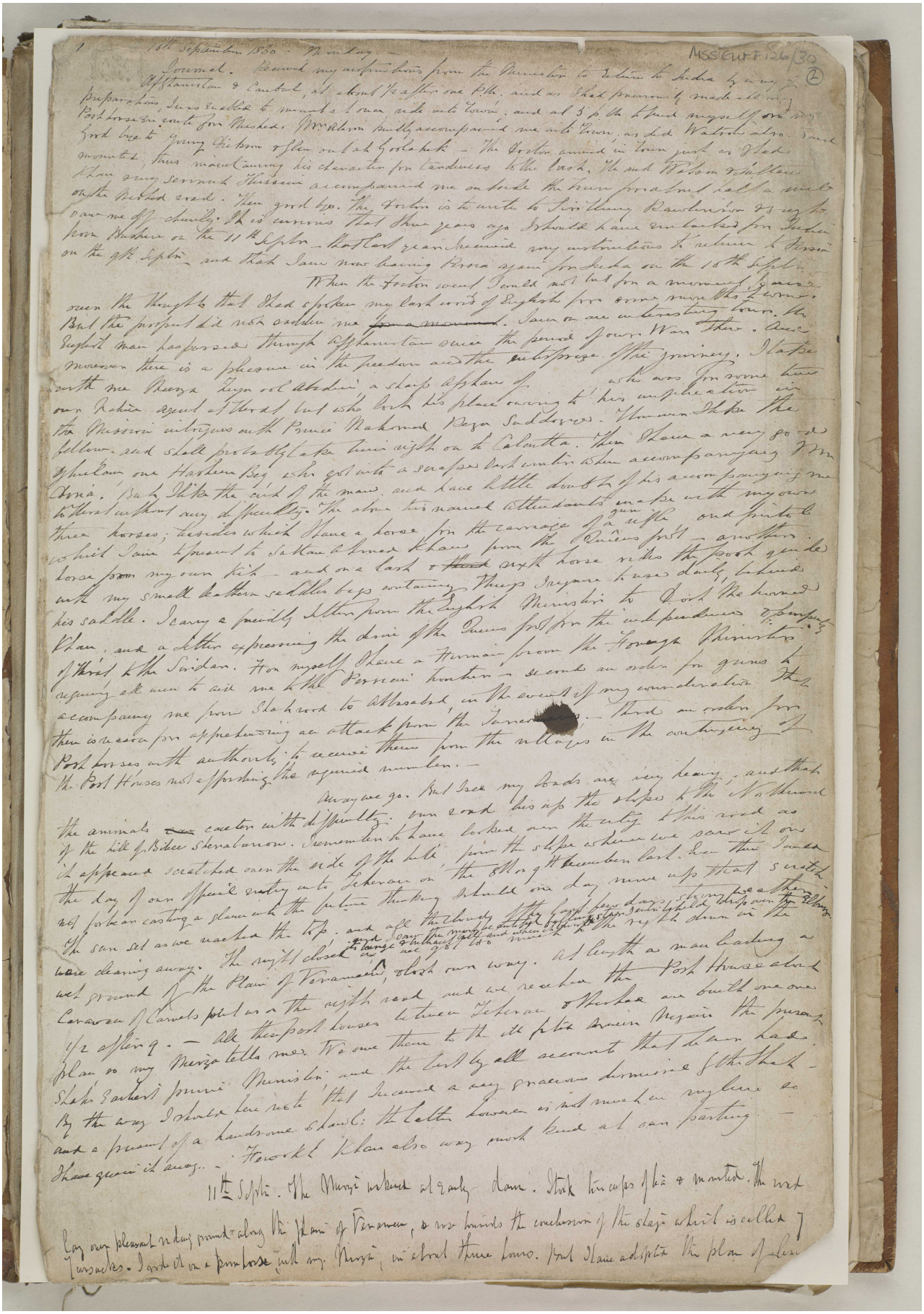

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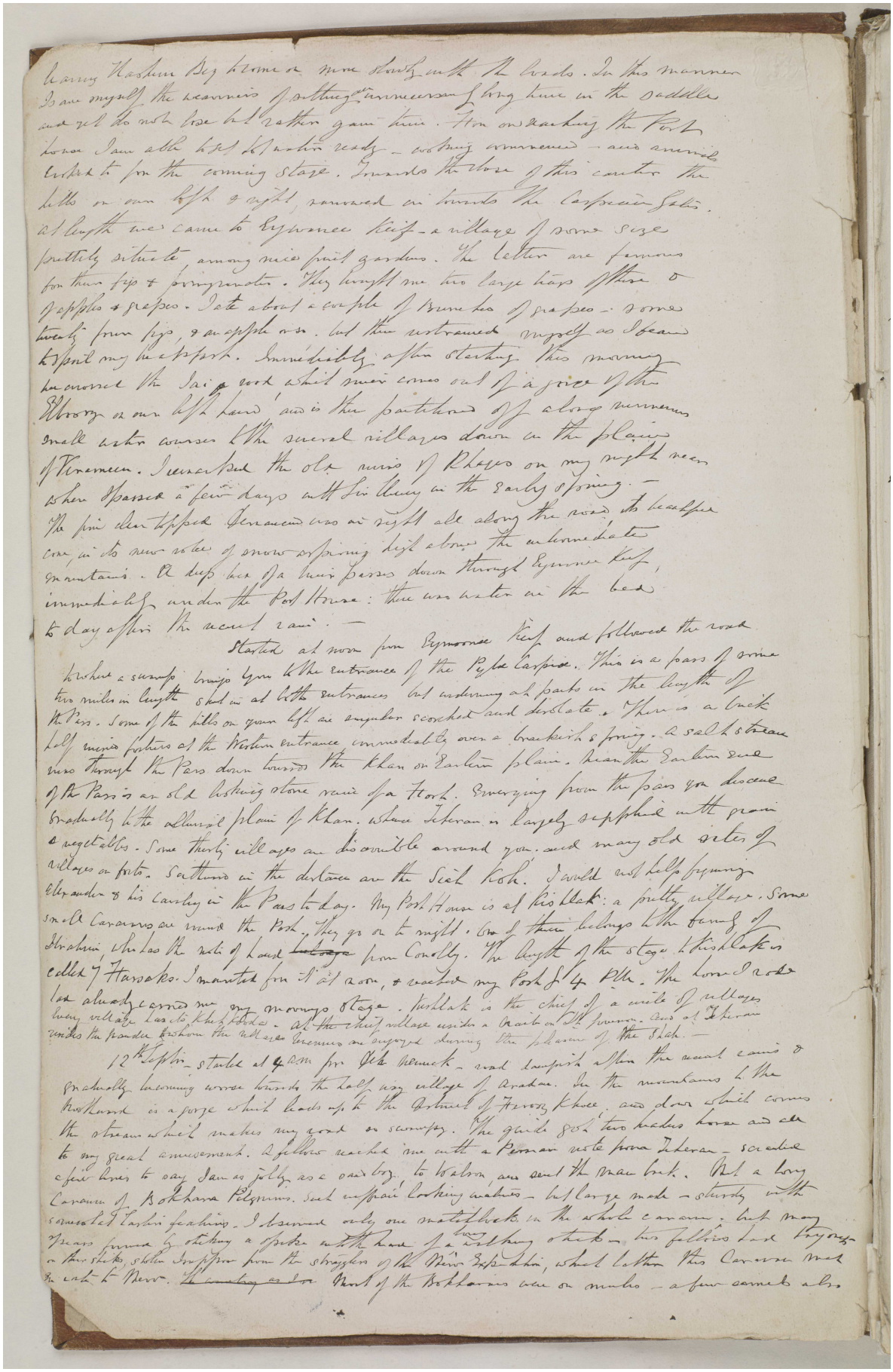

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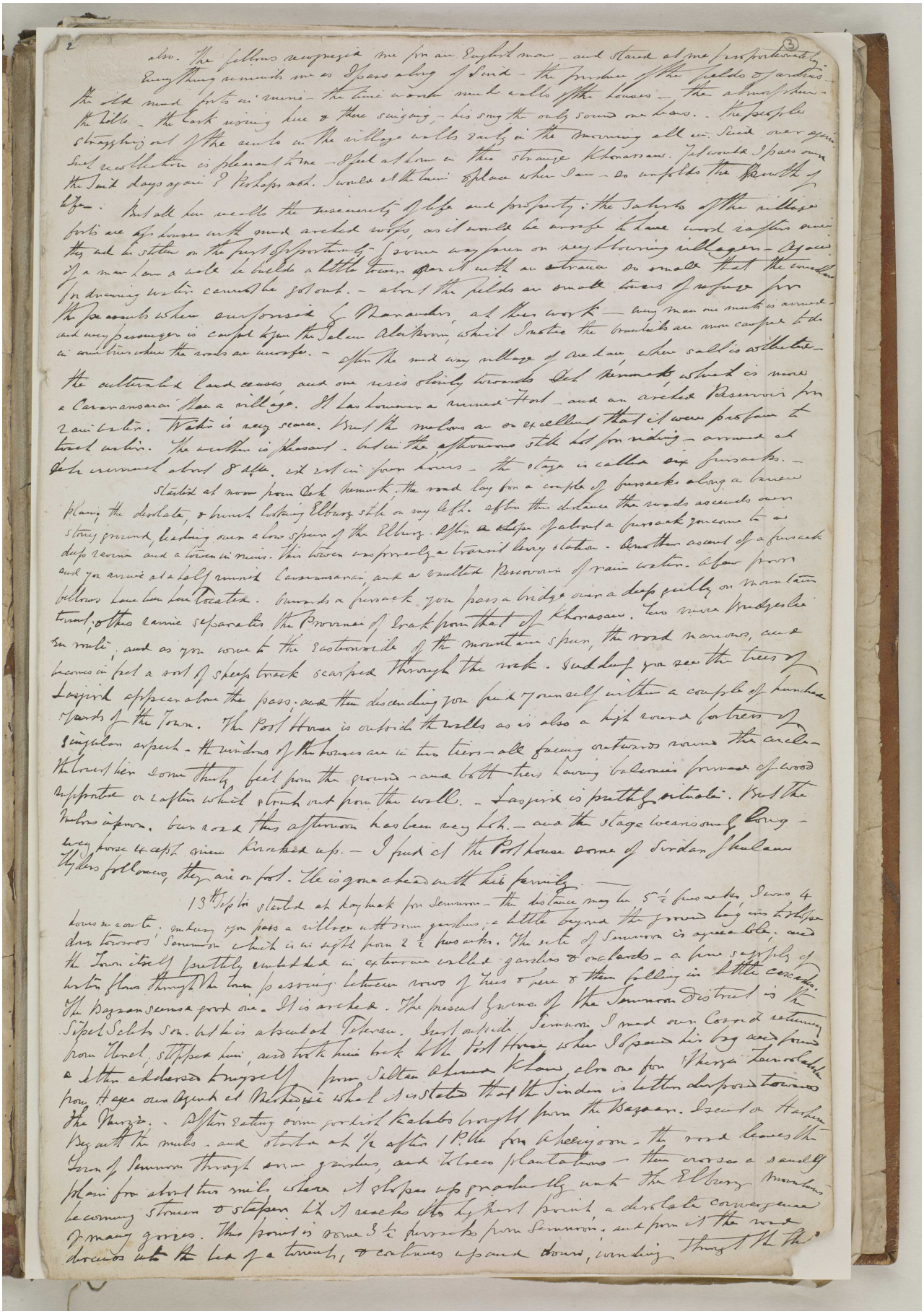

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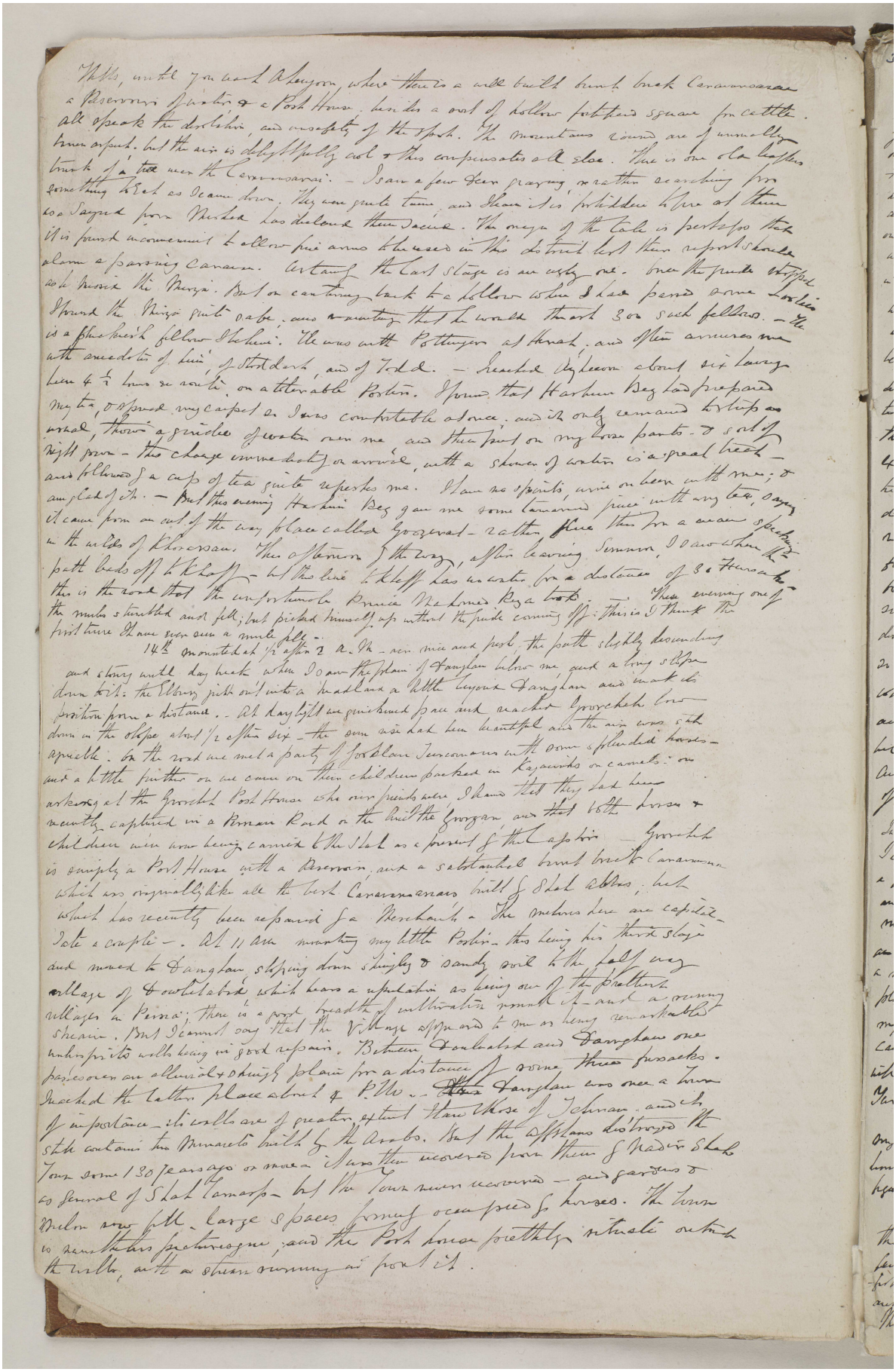

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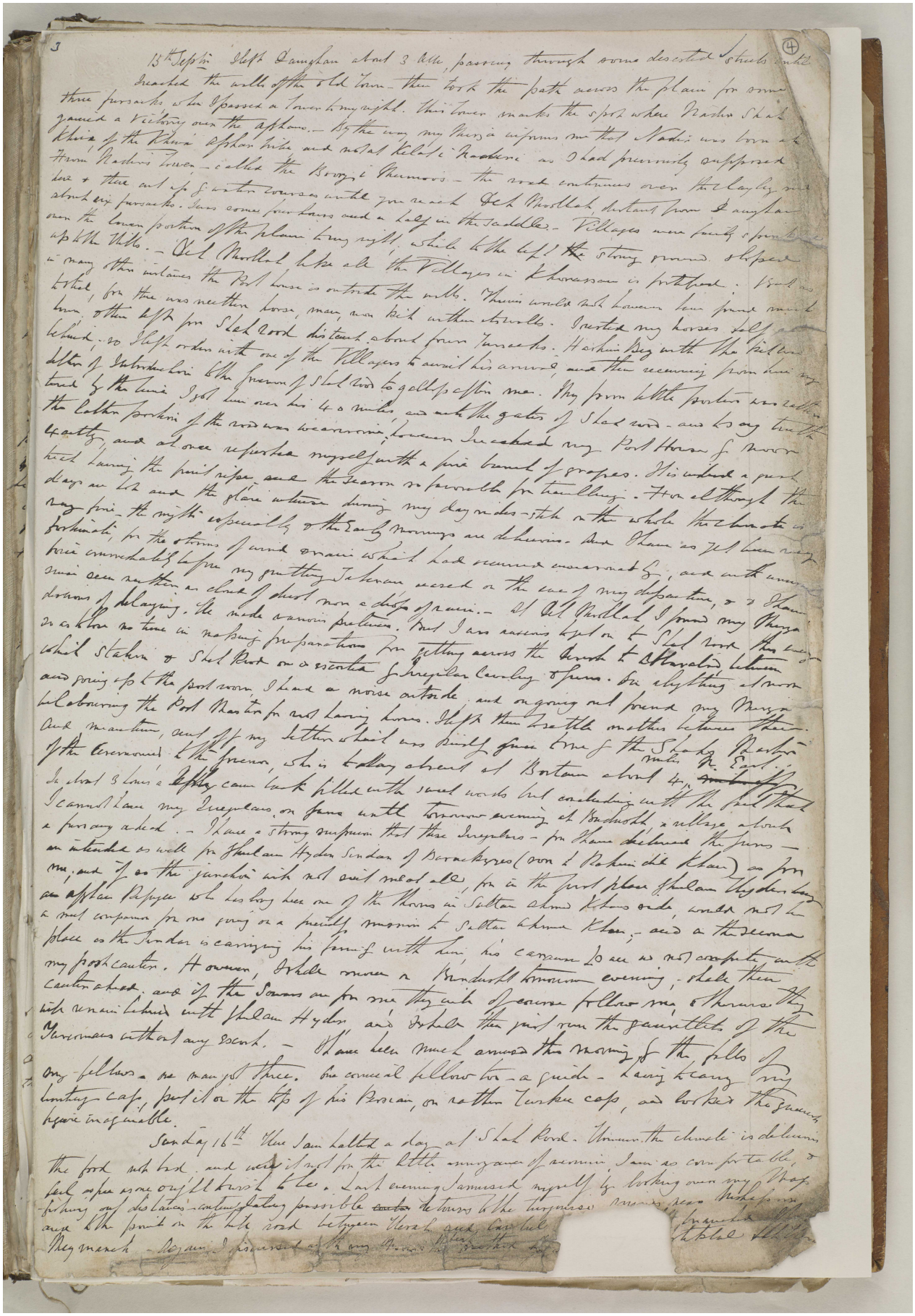

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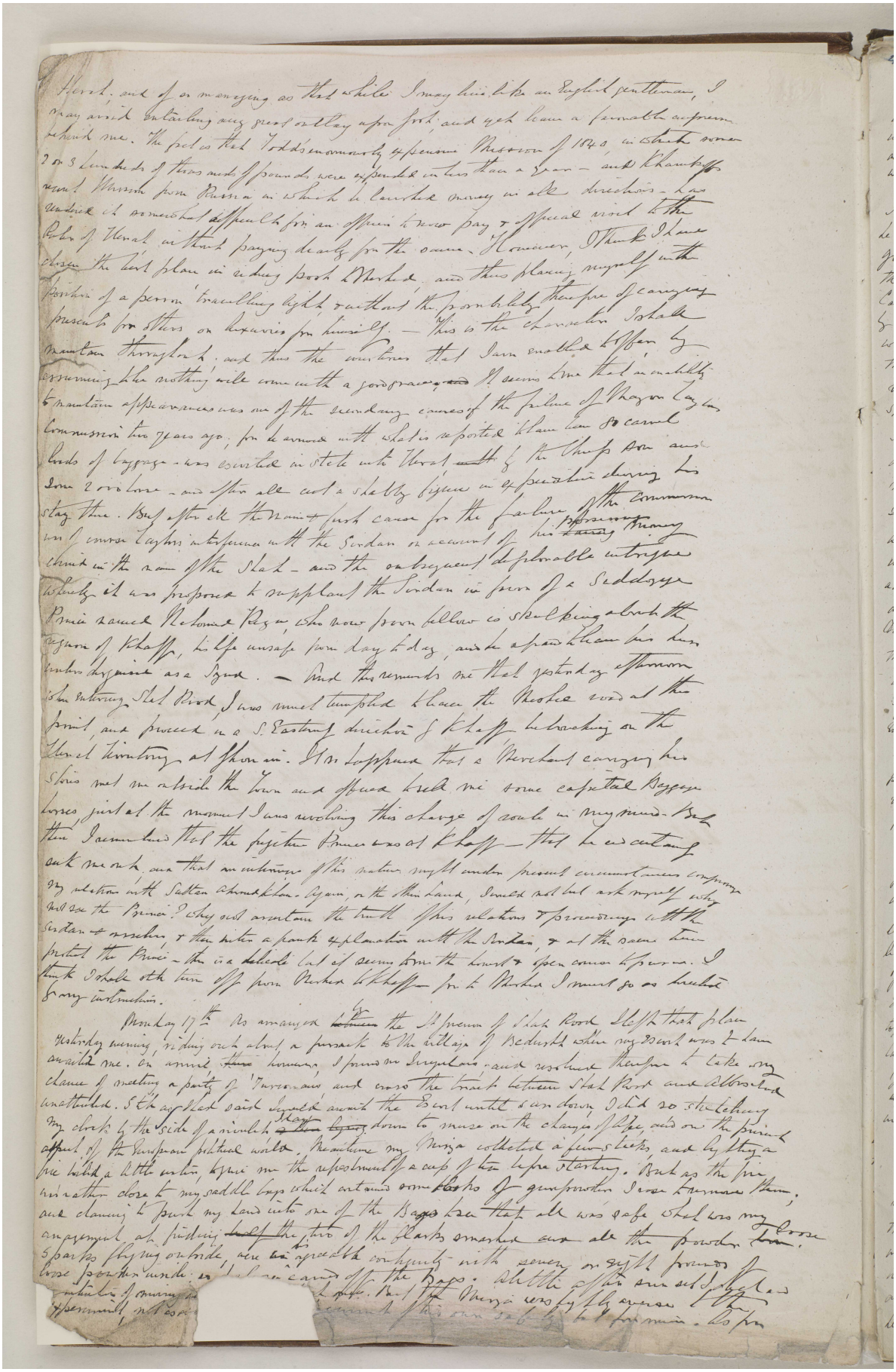

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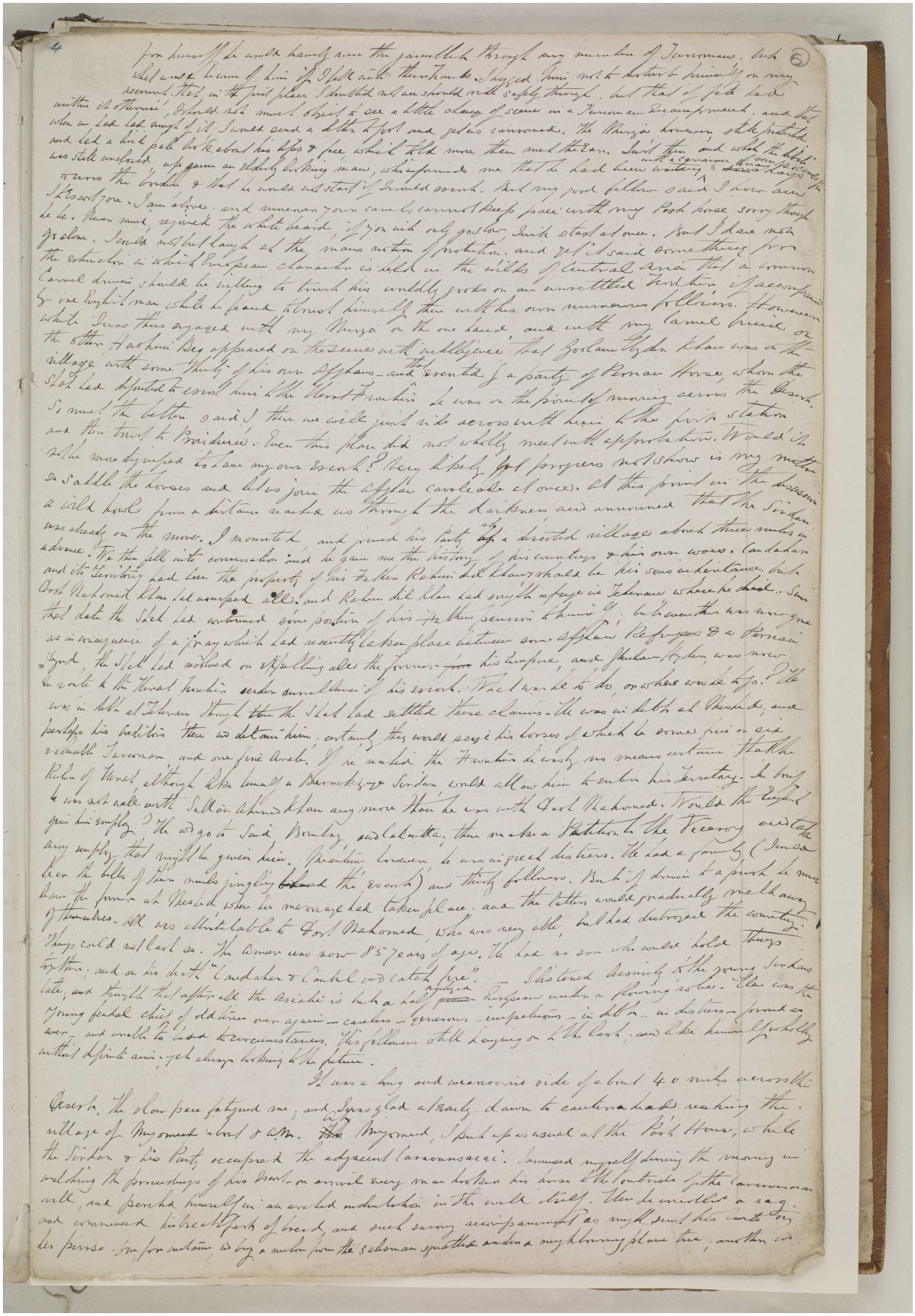

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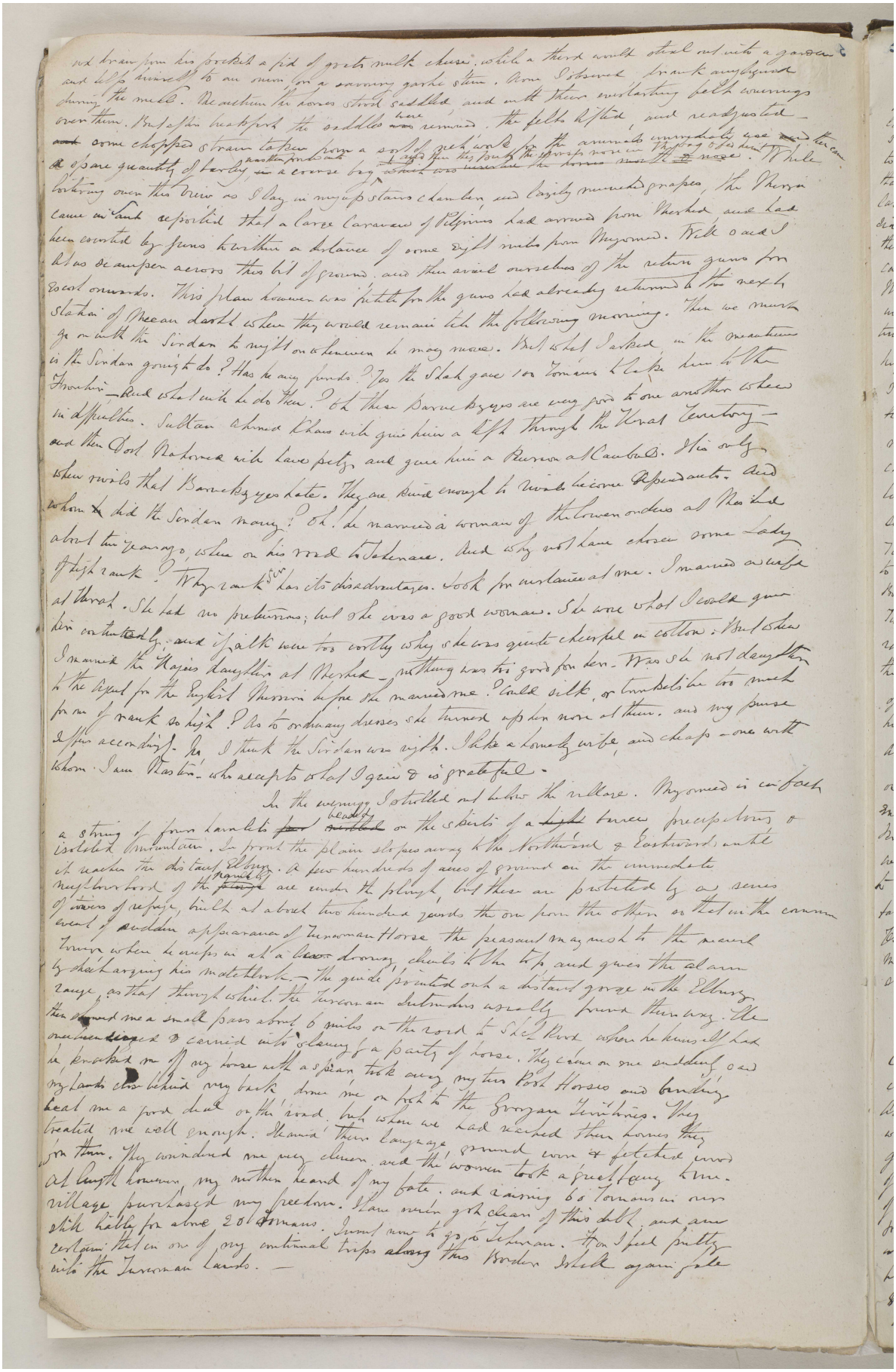

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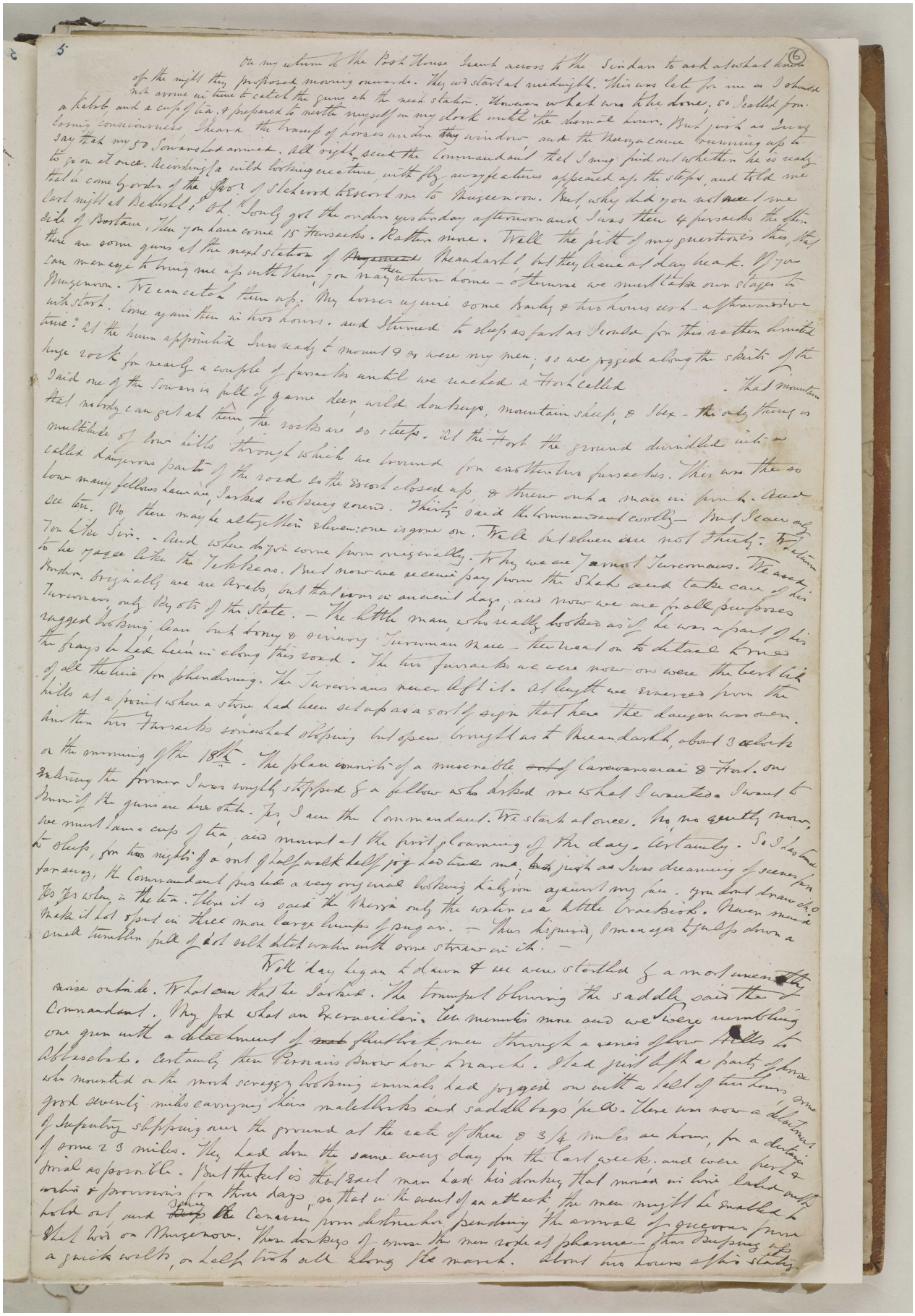

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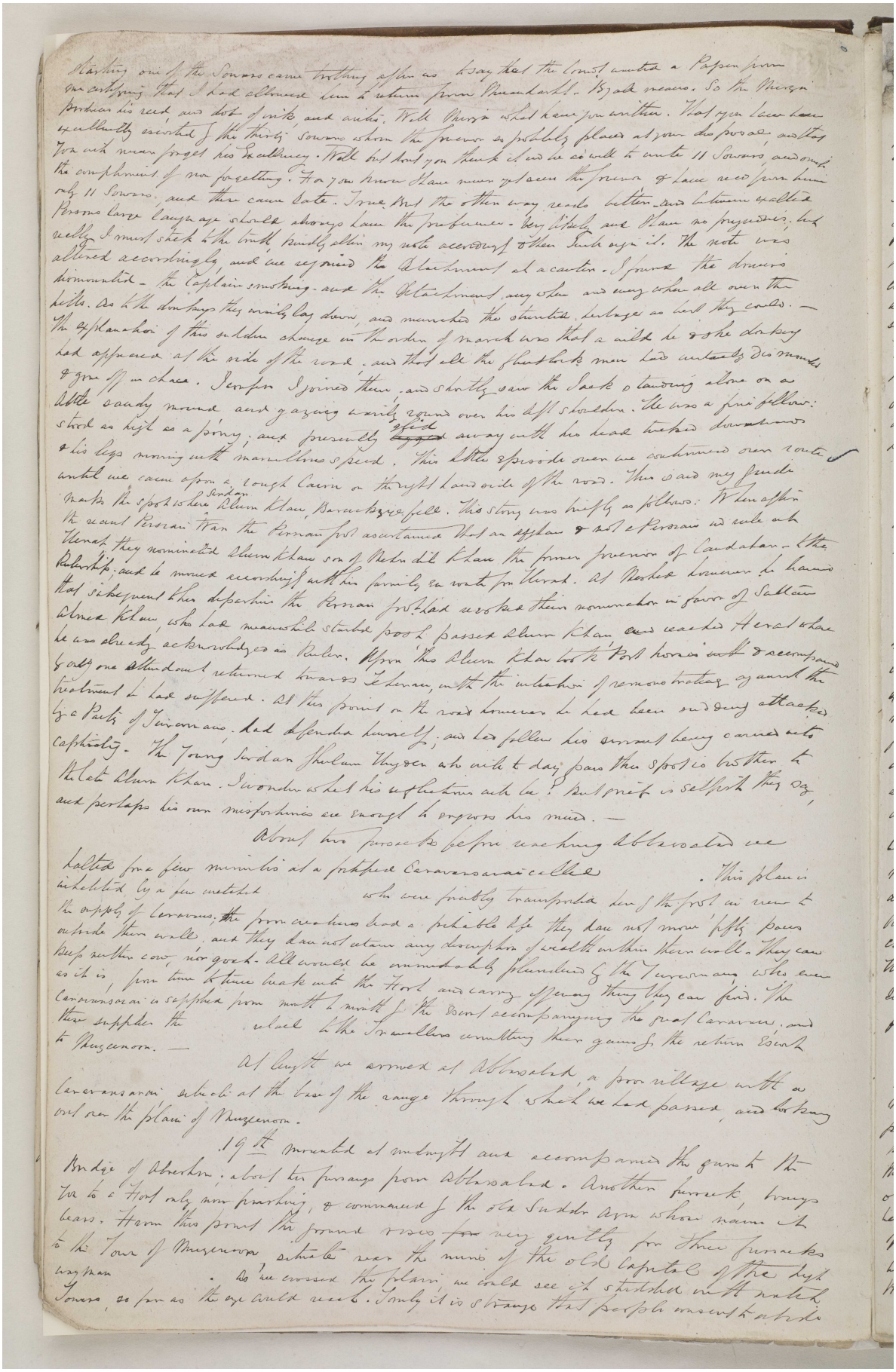

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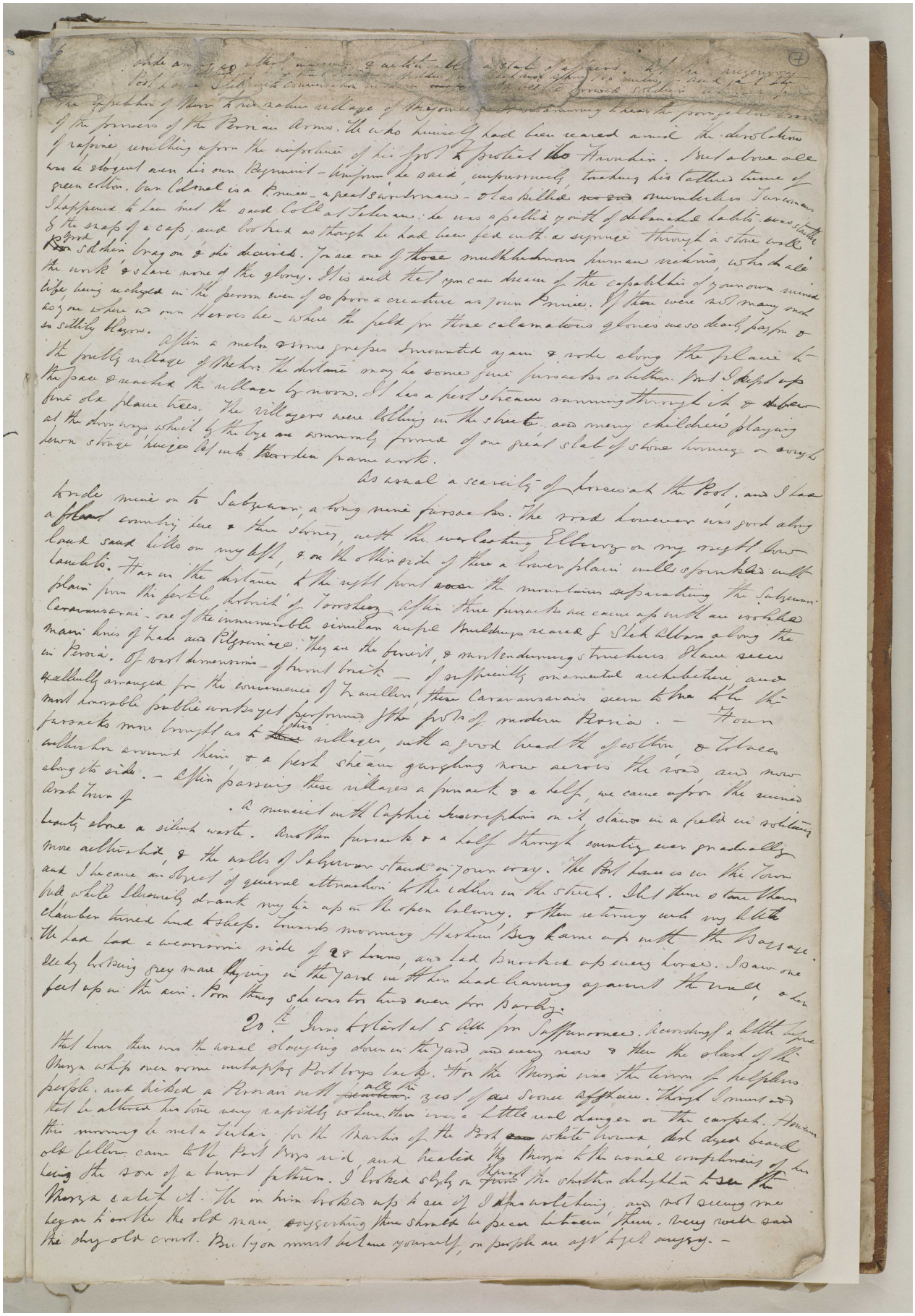

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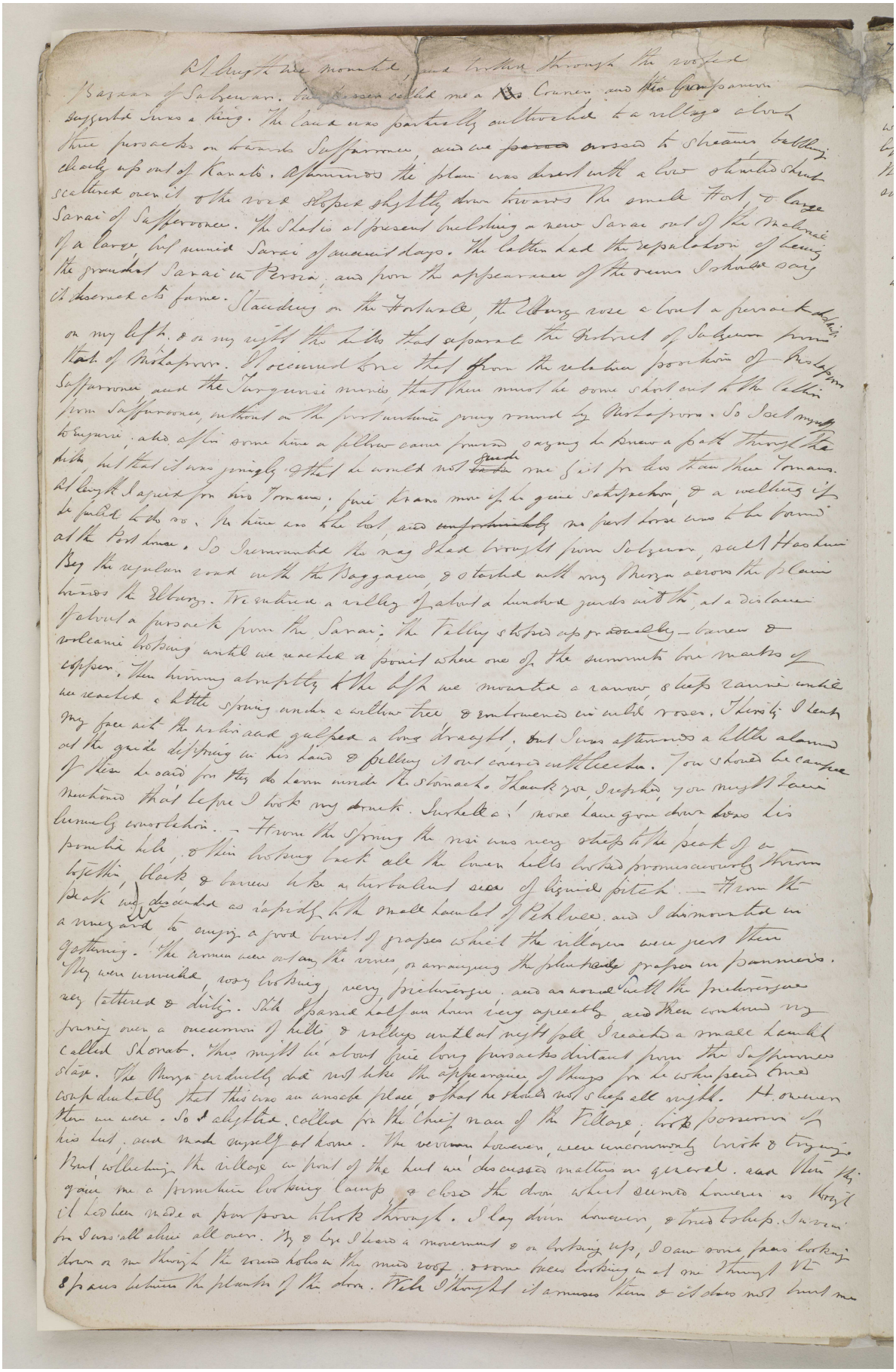
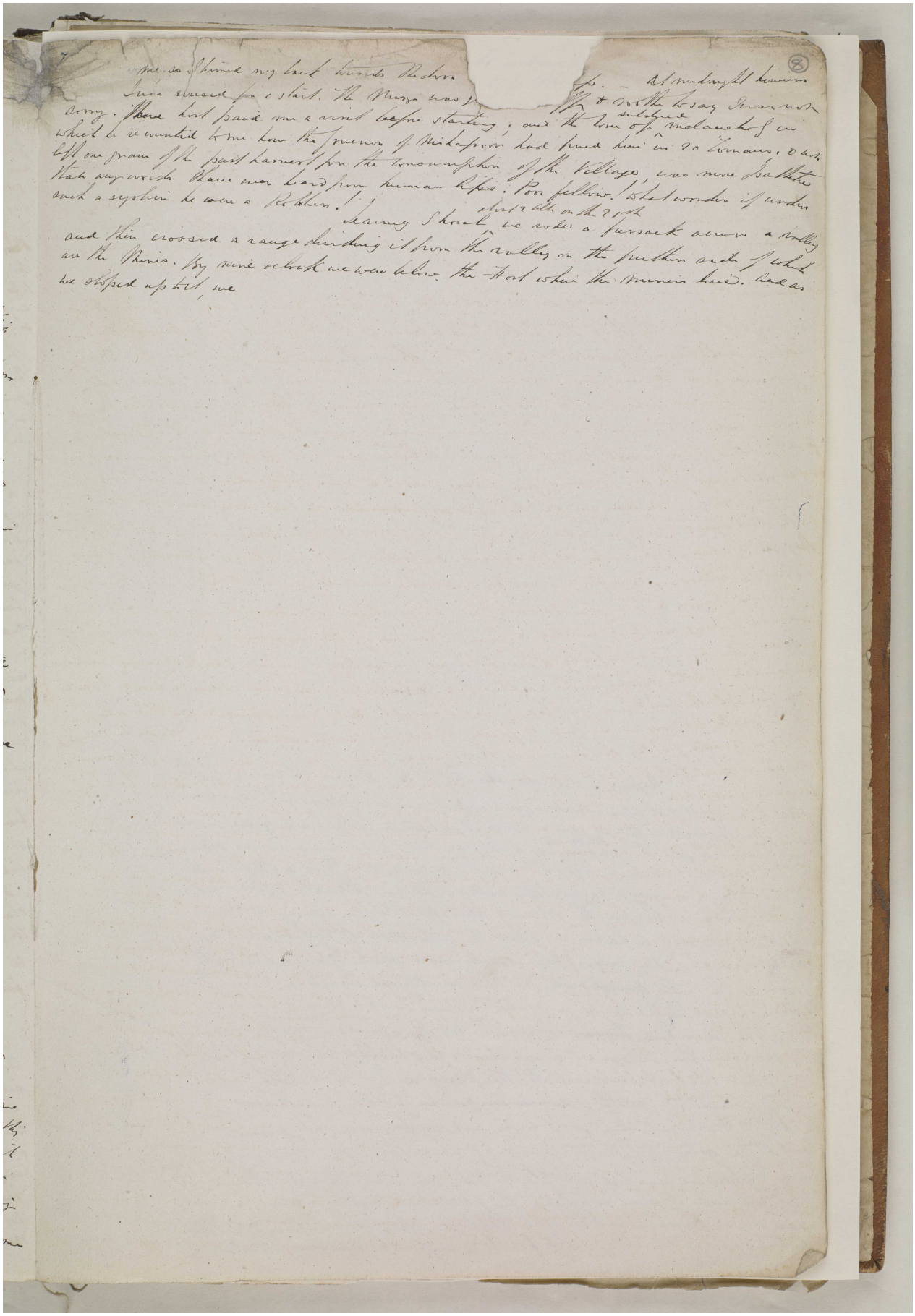


At length we mounted and trotted through the rocky Pass of Sabzevar. The Persian called me a Khan Crimea and the Governor suggested I was a King. The land was partially cultivated & a village about three parasangs on towards Soffarroue, and we passed crossed to Sheamee bathing closely up out of Kanats. Afterwards the plain was dotted with a few stunted shrubs scattered over it & the rock sloped slightly down towards the small Fort & large Sarai of Soffarroue. The Shah is at present building a new Sarai out of the Materials of a larger but ruined Sarai of ancient days. The latter had the reputation of being the grandest Sarai in Persia, and from the appearance of the ruins I should say it deserved its fame. Standing on the Footwalk, the Elburz rose about a parasang on my left, & on my right the hills that separate the District of Sabzevar from that of Nishapoor. I observed here that from the relative position of Nishapoor Soffarroue and the Turquoise mines that there must be some short cut to the latter from Soffarroue, without on the post-routes going round by Nishapoor. So I set myself to enquire: and after some time a fellow came forward saying he knew a path through the hills but that it was jungly & that he would not guide me for less than three Tomans. At length I agreed for two Tomans, five krans more if he guide safely, & a walking if he failed to do so. We hire and the bet, and unfortunately we post horse was the worst at the Post house. So I remounted the nag I had brought from Sabzevar, and Hashim Beg the regular road with the Baggages & started with my Persian across the plain towards the Elburz. We entered a valley of about a hundred yards wide at a distance of about a parasang from the Sarai. The valley sloped up gradually - barren & volcanic looking until we reached a point where one of the summits bore marks of cypress. Then turning abruptly to the left we mounted a narrow steep ravine until we reached a little spring under a willow tree & embowered in wild roses. Thirsty I dashed my face into the water and gulped a long draught, but I was afterwards a little alarmed at the guide dipping in his hand & pelting it out covered with Insects. You should be careful how he said for they do harm inside the stomach. Thanks for the hint, you might have mentioned that before I took my draught. Sure hell a! more than you know how his unwholesome. From the Spring the ascent was very steep to the peak of the pass hill. & then looking back all the lower hills looked promiscuously thrown together black & barren like a turbulent sea of liquid pitch. From the peak we descended as rapidly to the small hamlet of Pekhoos, and I dismounted in a vineyard to enjoy a good bunch of grapes which the villagers were just then gathering. The women were at on the vines, arranging the plentiful grapes in panniers. They were unveiled very looking very picturesque, and as usual with the picturesque very tattered & dirty. Sikh I said how you know very speedily, and then continued my journey over a succession of hills & valleys until night fell I reached a small hamlet called Shorab. This might be about five long parasangs distant from the Soffarroue stage. The Persian evidently did not like the appearance of things for he whispered confidentially that this was an unsafe place & that he should not sleep all night. However there we were. So I alighted, called for the Chief man of the Village, took possession of his hut, and made myself at home. The women however were uncommonly brisk & inquisitive. But collecting the village in front of the hut we discussed matters in general, and then they gave me a fourth in looking Lamp & closed the door which seemed however as though it had been made a purpose to look through. I lay down however, & tried to sleep. But was all alive all over. By & bye I heard a movement & on looking up, I saw some faces looking down at me through the round hole in the mud roof, & some eyes looking at me through the spaces between the planks of the door. Well I thought it amuses them & it does not hurt me



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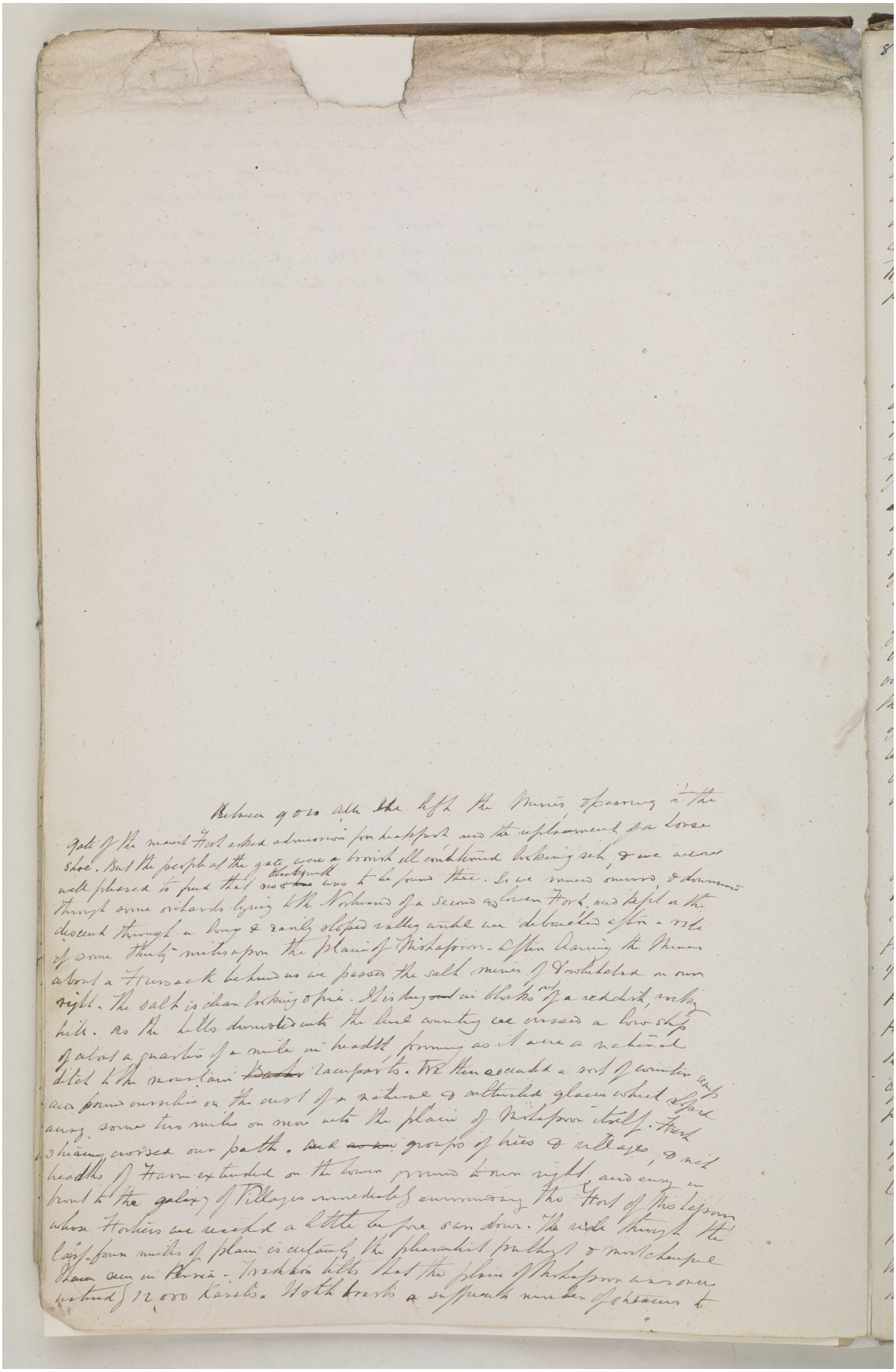

Between 9 & 10 a.m. I left the Mines, & passing to the gate of the nearest Fort asked admission for breakfast and the replacement of a horse shoe. But the people at the gate were a boorish ill conditioned looking set, & we were well pleased to find that no ~~shoe~~ blacksmith was to be found there. So we moved onward & downward through some orchards lying to the Northward of a second and lower Fort, and kept on the descent through a long & easily sloped valley until we debouched after a ride of some thirty miles upon the plain of Mishapoor. After leaving the Mines about a Hursack behind us we passed the salt mines of Dowlutabad on our right. The salt is clear looking & fine. It is dug ~~out~~ in blocks out of a reddish, rocky hill. As the hills diminished into the level country we crossed a low ship of about a quarter of a mile in breadth forming as it were a natural ditch to the mountain ~~Bastar~~ Ramparts. We then ascended a sort of counter scarp and found ourselves on the crest of a natural & cultivated glacis which sloped away some two miles on more into the plain of Mishapoor itself. Fresh streams crossed our path. And ~~as we~~ groups of trees & villages, & rich breadths of Farm extended on the lower ground to our right, and away in front to the galaxy of Villages immediately surrounding the Fort of Mishapoor whose Fortiers we reached a little before sun down. The ride through the last four miles of plain is certainly the pleasantest pulhaps & most cheerful Thana seen in Persia. Tradition tells that the plain of Mishapoor was once watered by 12,000 Kanats. It still boasts a sufficient number of streams to

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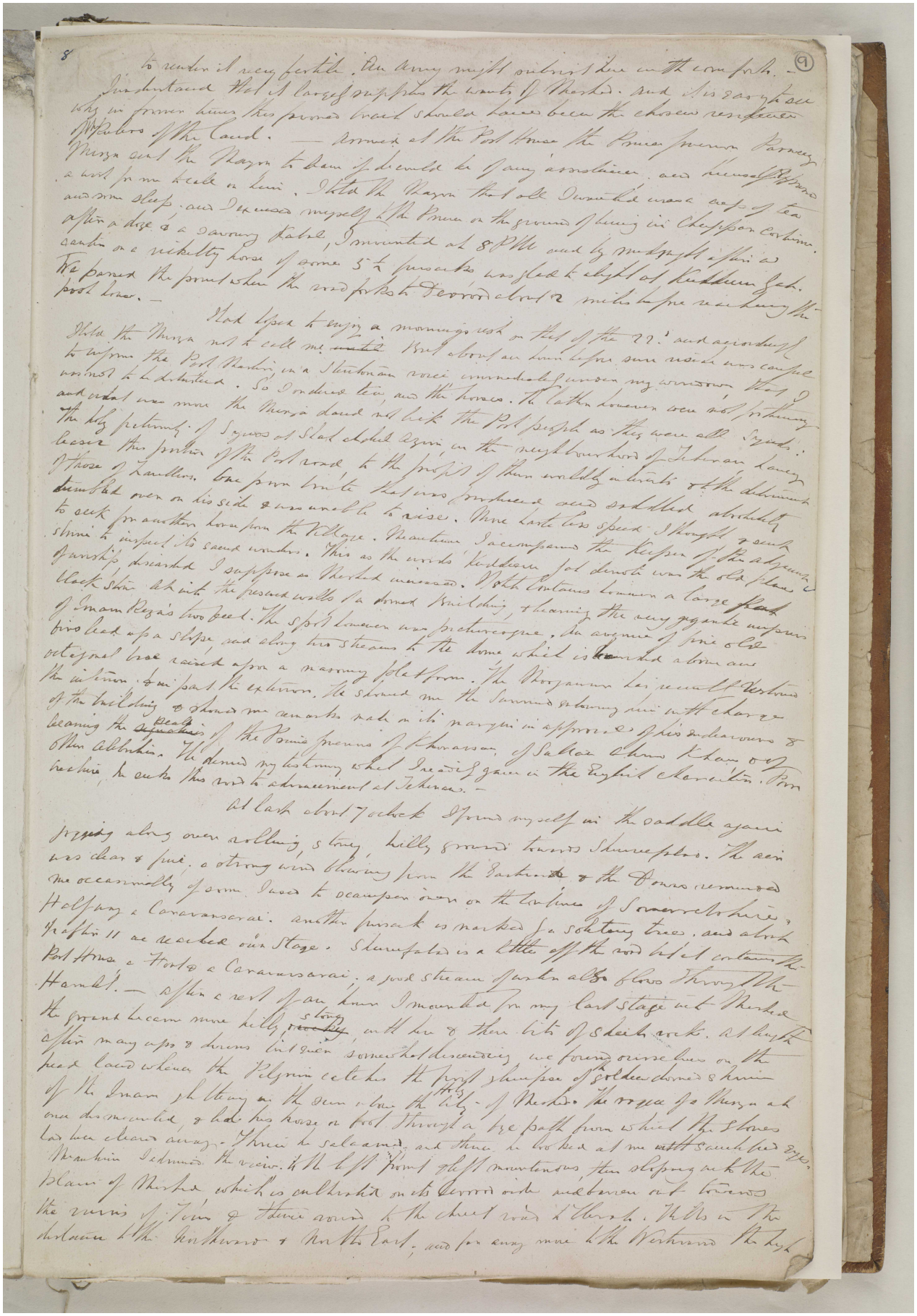

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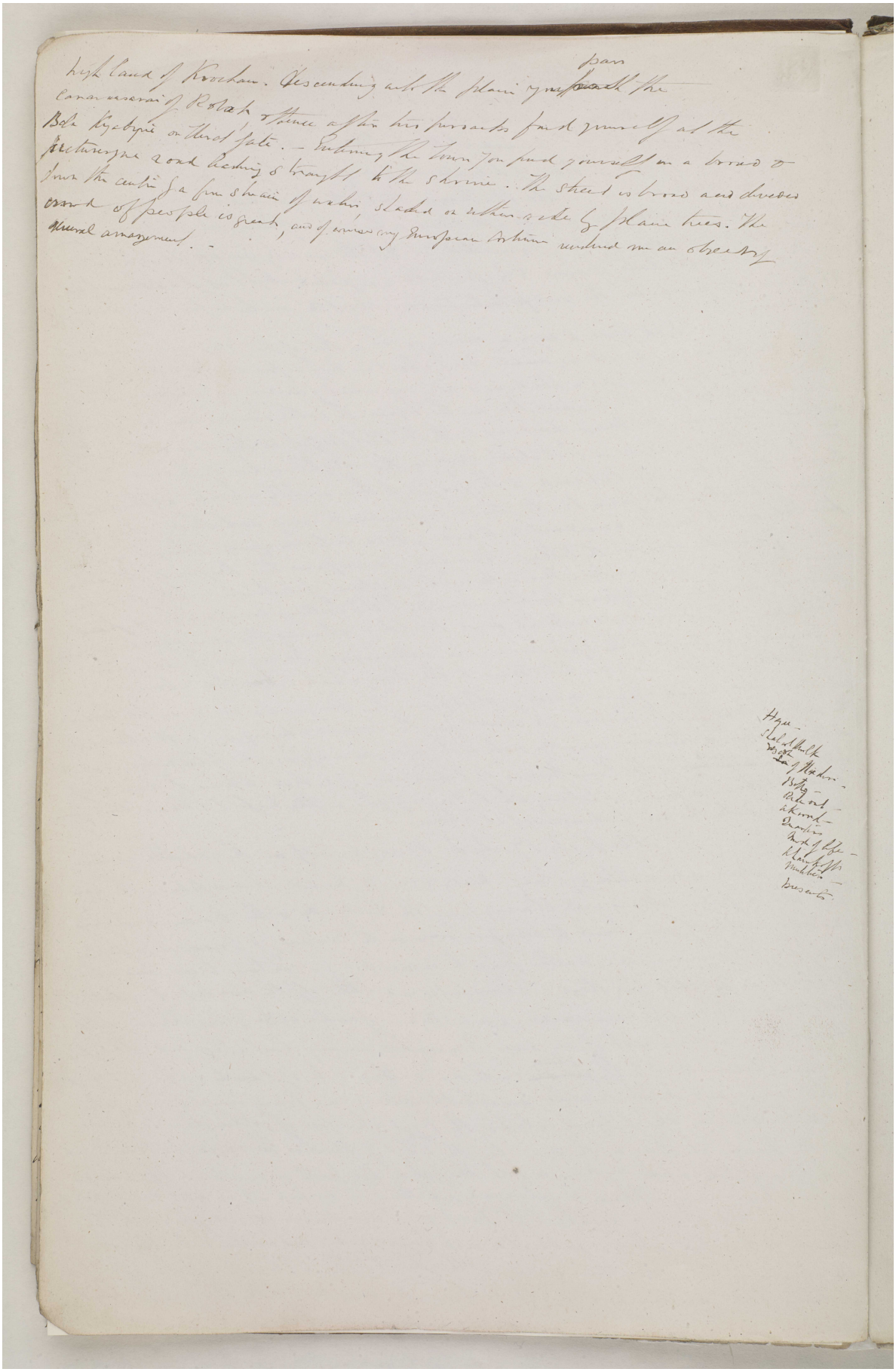

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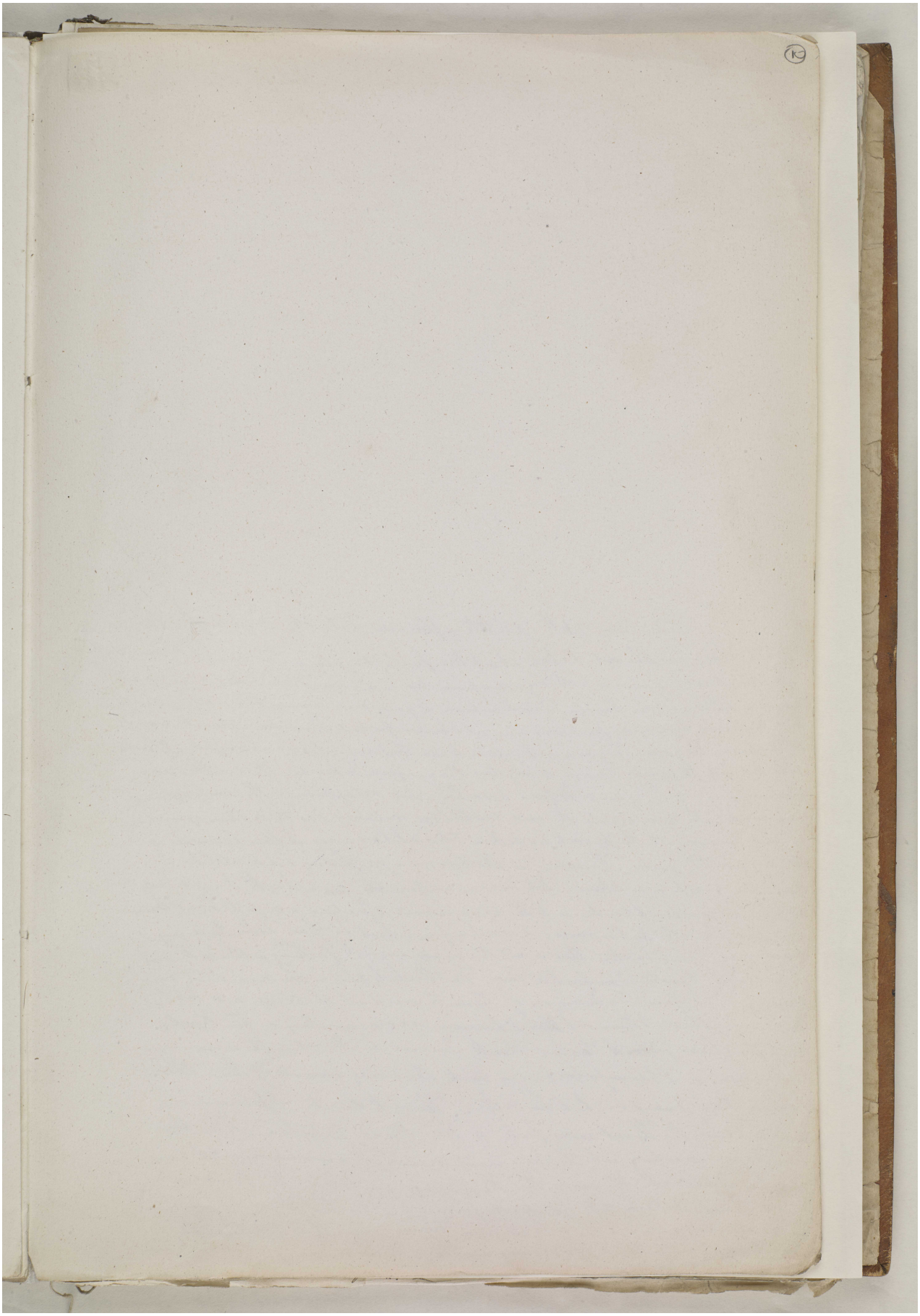

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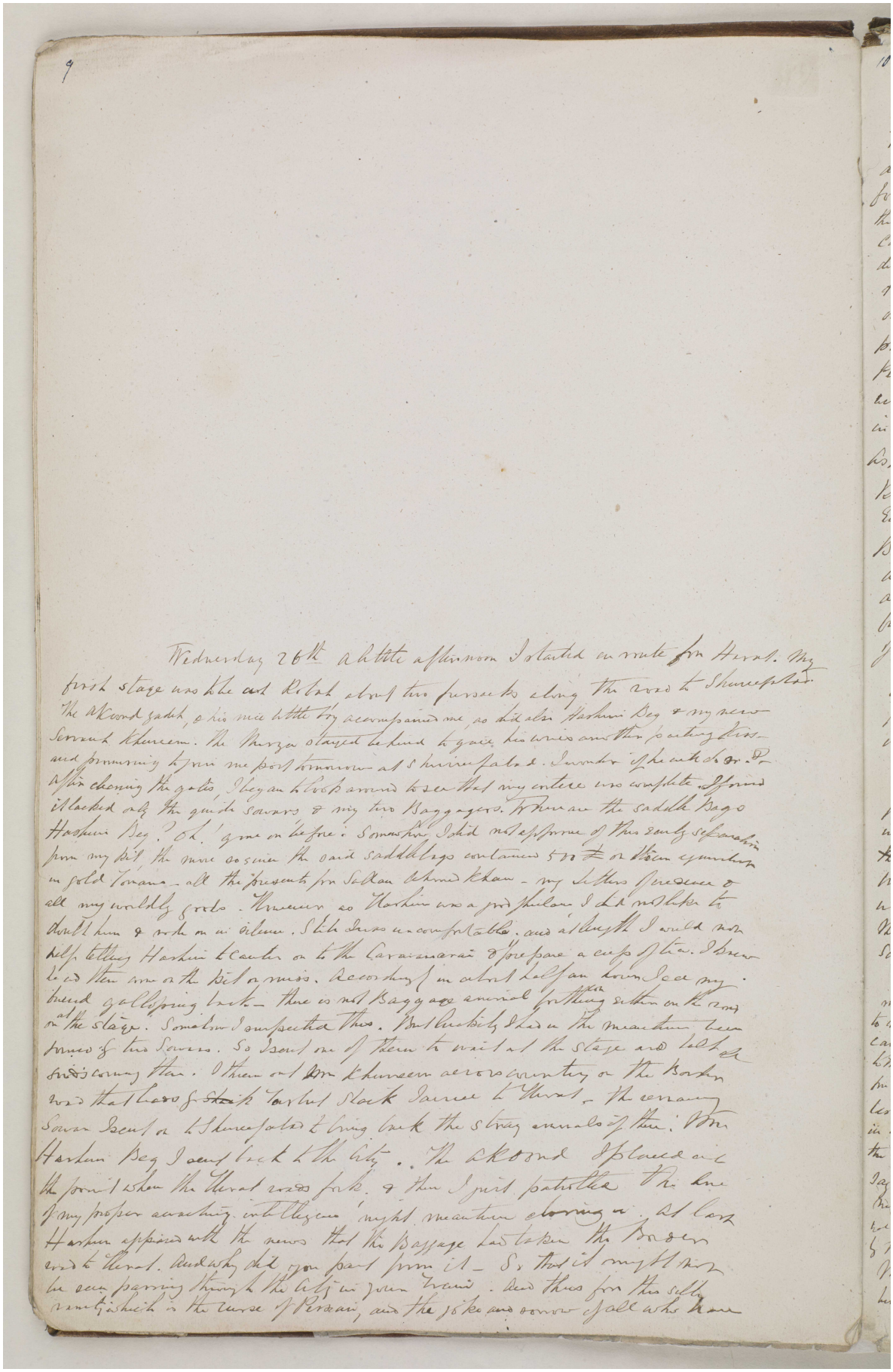

Wednesday 26th A little afternoon I started en route for Herat. My first stage was the east Robat about two parasangs along the road to Shirinposht. The Akoond Zadeh, a nice little boy accompanied me, as did also Hashim Beg & my new Servant Khanem. The Mirza stayed behind to guide his wives another parasang & promising to join me post tomorrow at Shirinposht. I wonder if he will do so. Dr. After clearing the gates I began to look around to see that my entire was complete. I found it backed of the guide Savars & my two Baggagers. To these the saddle bags of Hashim Beg & I. I gave in charge. Somehow I did not approve of this early separation from my kit, the more so since the said saddlebags contained £70 or £80 in specie in gold Tomans - all the presents for Sultan Ahmed Khan - my letters of credence & all my worldly goods. However as Hashim was a good fellow I did not like to doubt him & took no notice. I felt uncomfortable. and at length I could not help telling Hashim to canter on to the Caravanserai & prepare a cup of tea. I drew level then one of the Sais a miss. according to arrangement I left him & saw my friend galloping back. There is not baggage animal for the saddle bags on the stage. Somehow I suspected this. But luckily I had in the meantime been joined by two Savars. So I sent one of them to wait at the stage and tell me if I was coming there. Others on Dr. Khanem across country on the Borders road that I was to take the first track I came to Herat. The remaining Savar I sent on to Shirinposht to bring back the stray animals if there. Dr. Hashim Beg I sent back to the city. The Akoond & I waited at the point where the Herat roads forks. & then I just patrolled the line of my proper awaiting intelligence. I might meantime observing it. At last Hashim appeared with the news that the Baggage had taken the Borders road to Herat. Suddenly did you part from it - So that it might then be seen passing through the city in your hand. Now thus for this silly manœuvre which is the curse of Persian, and the joke and sorrow of all who have

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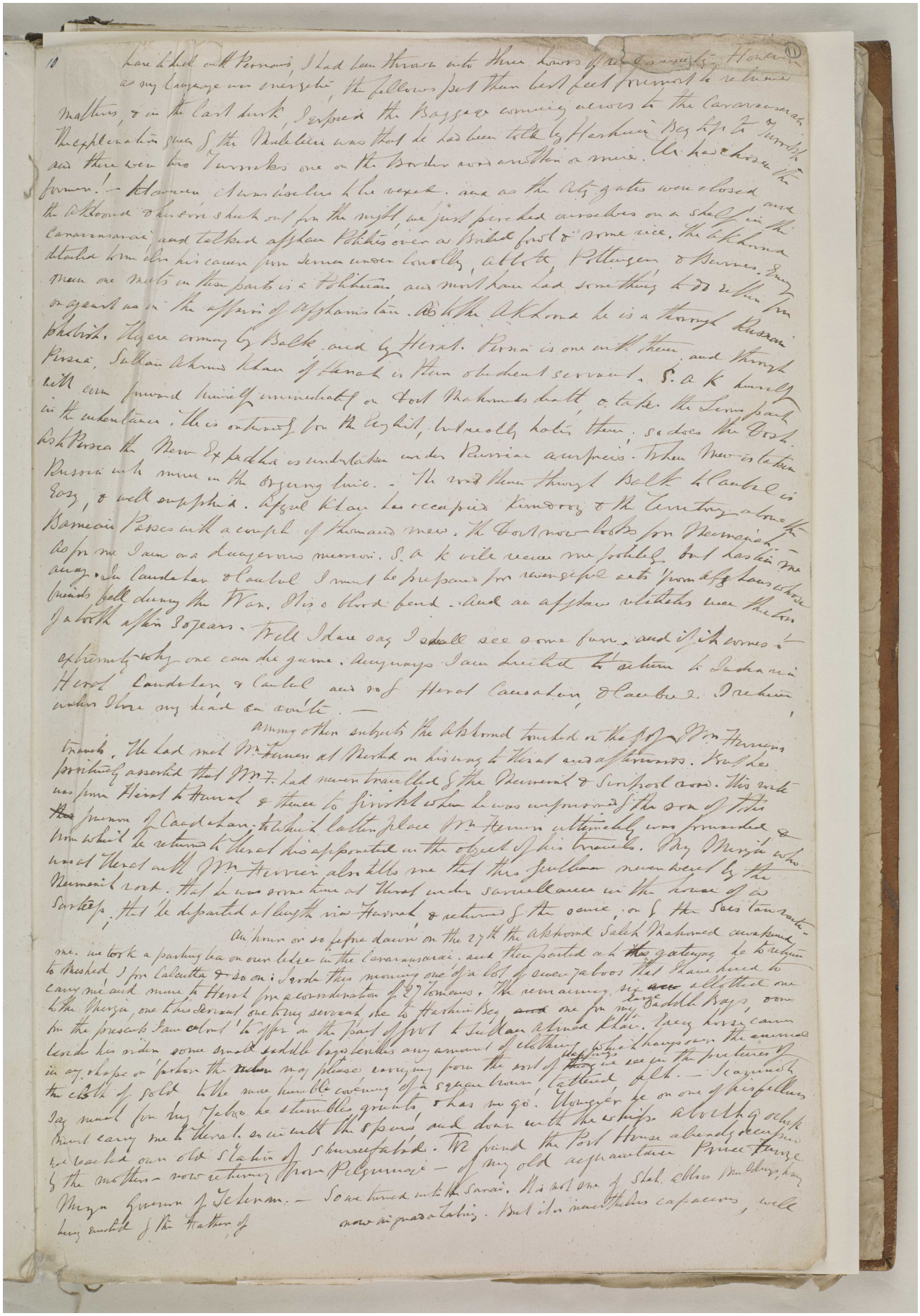

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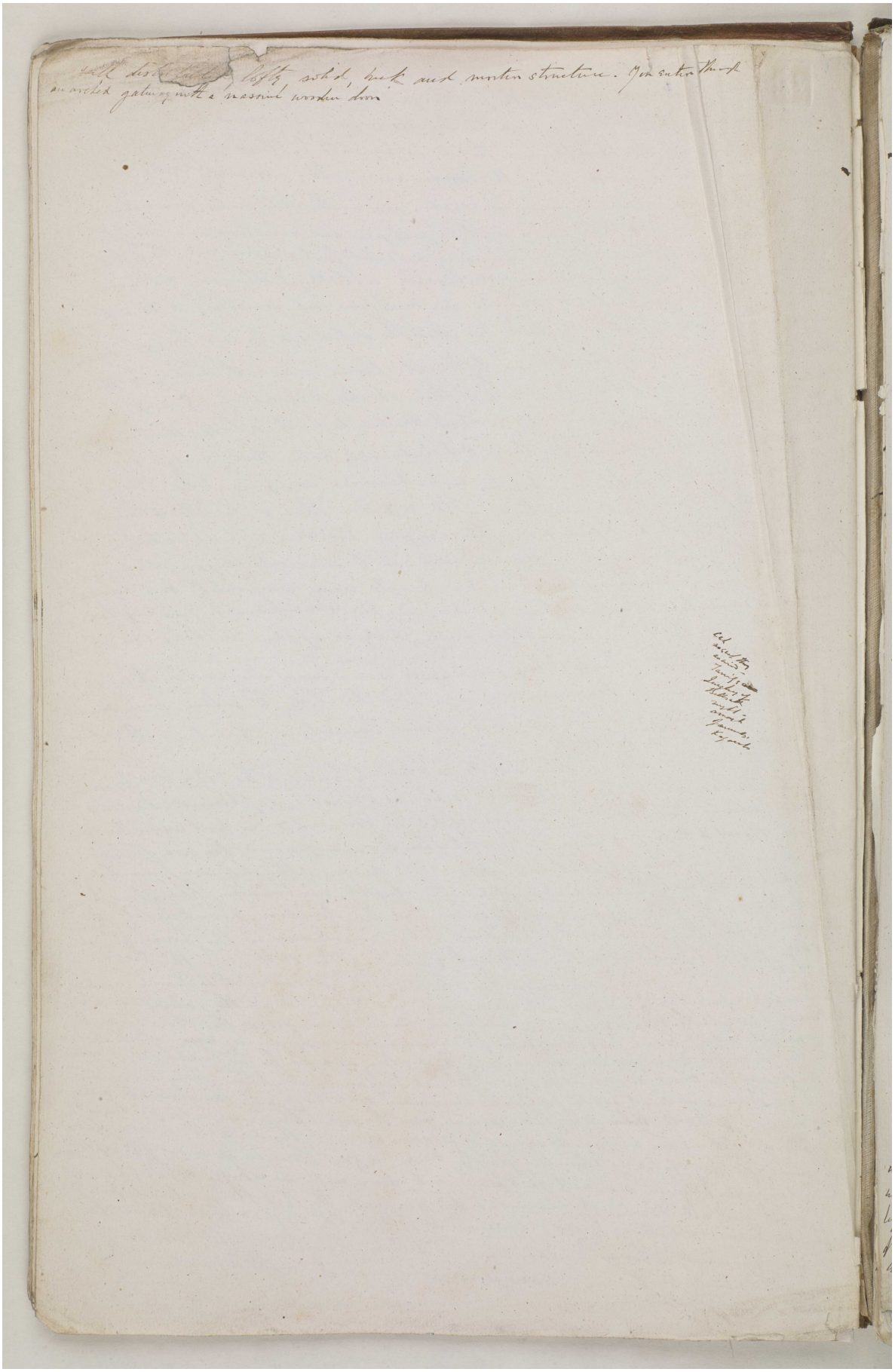

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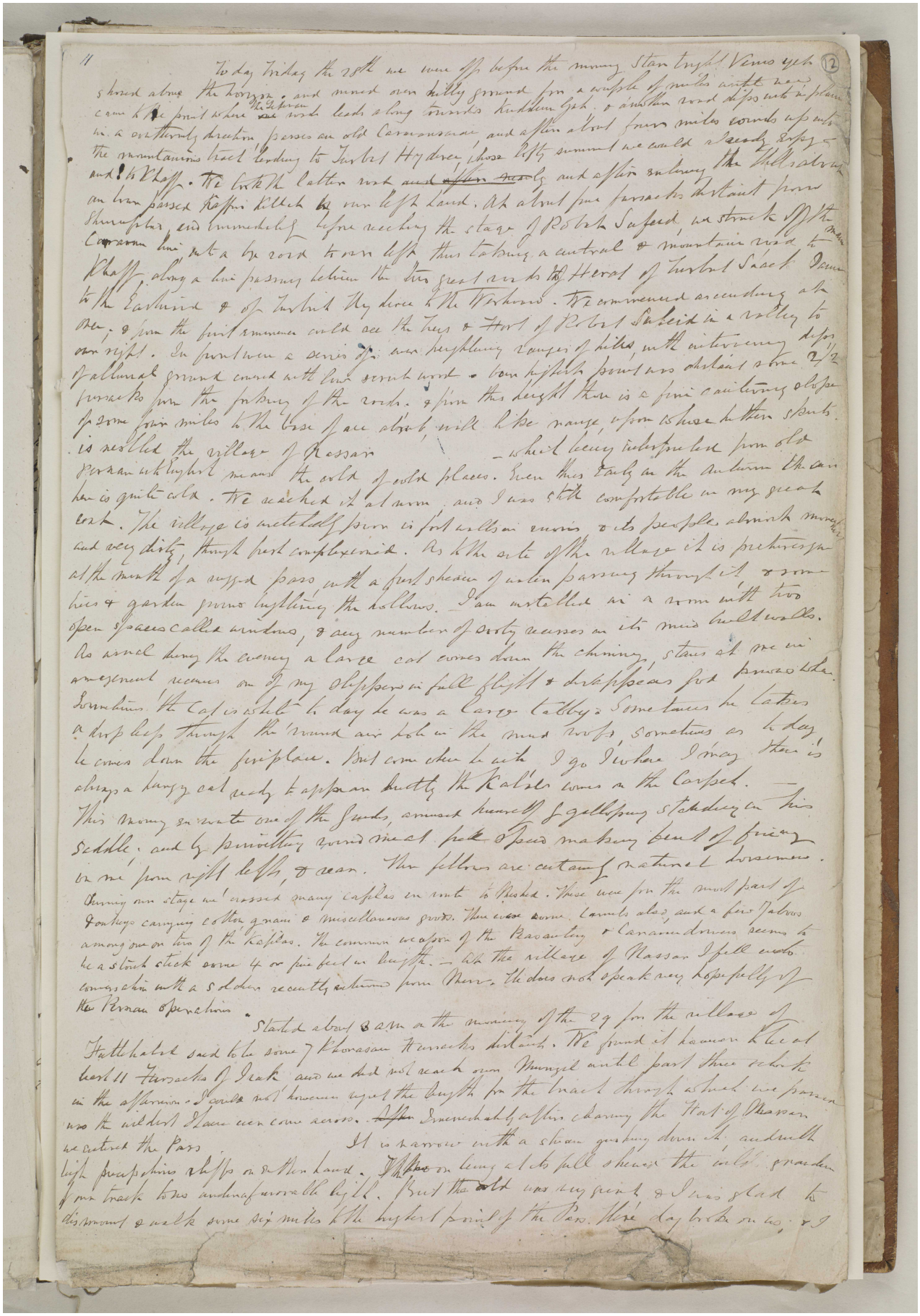

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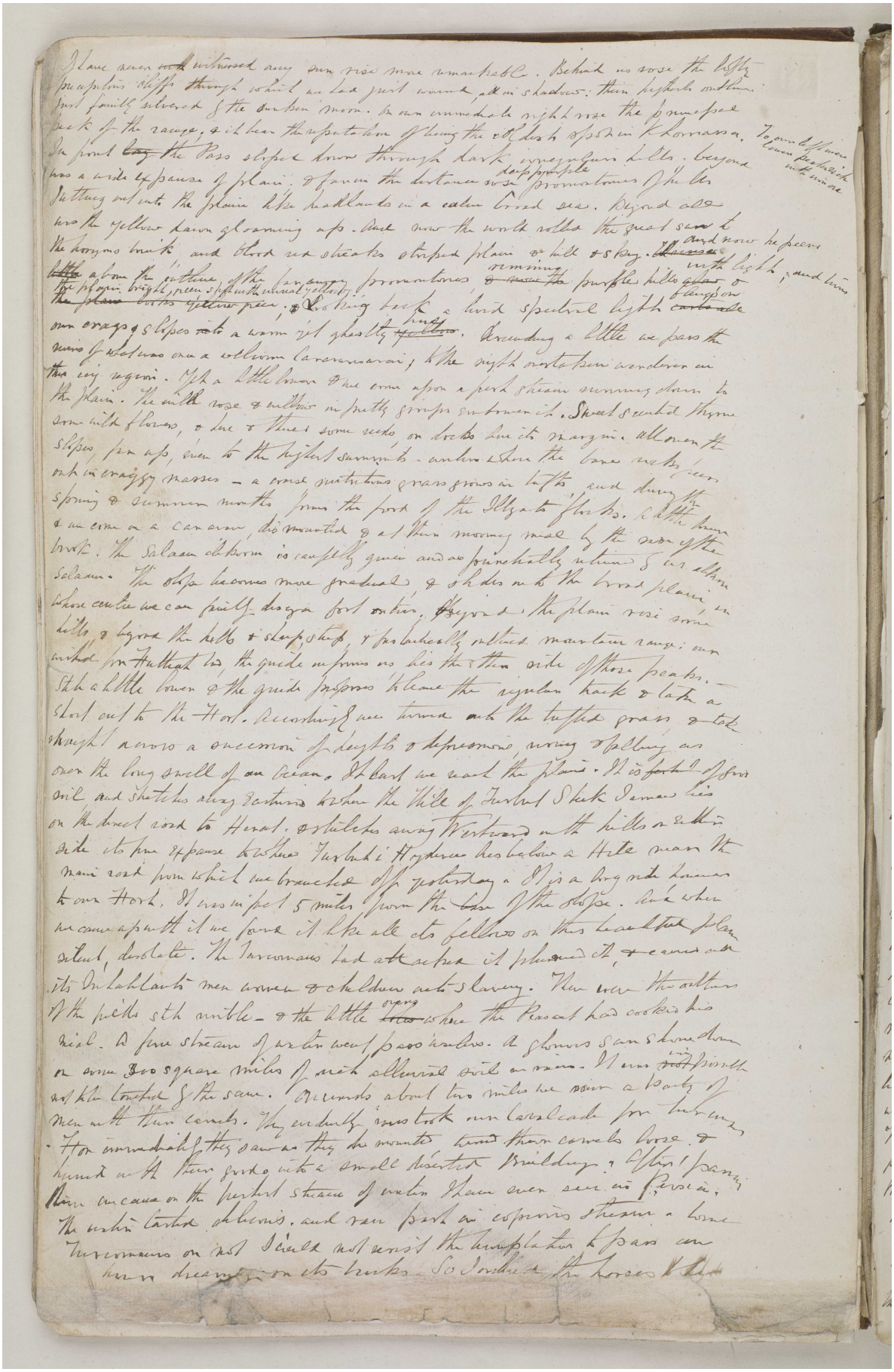

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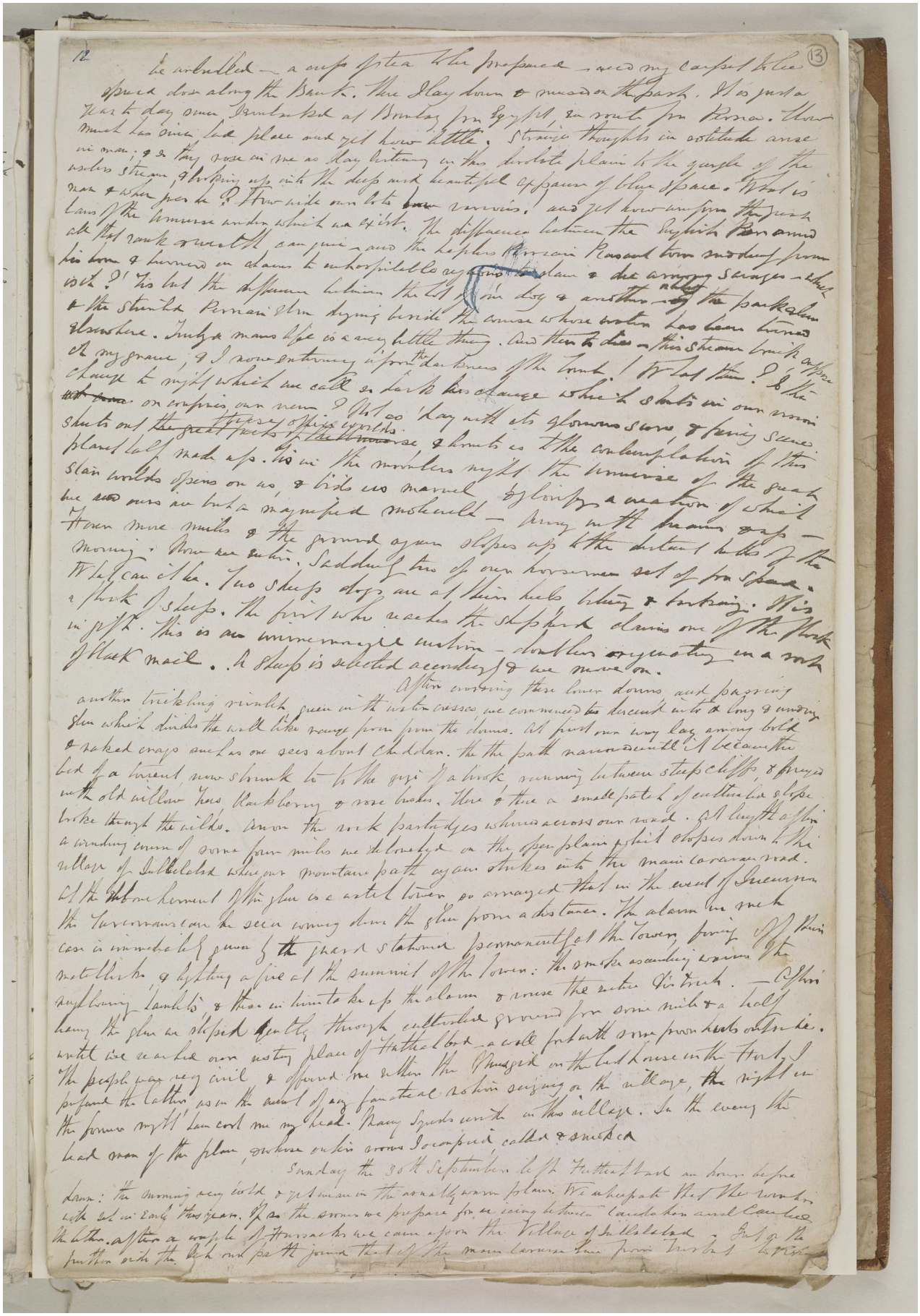

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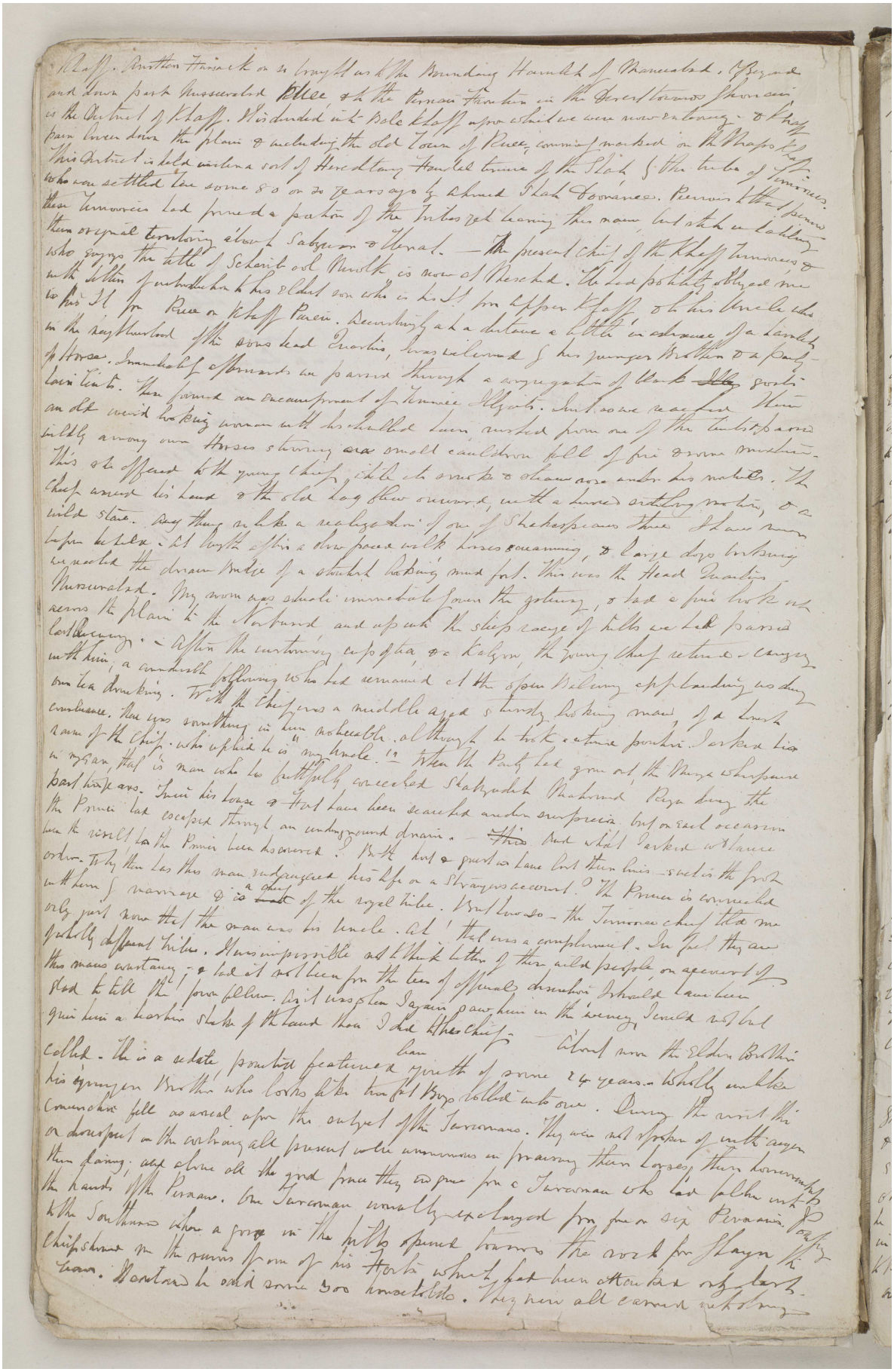

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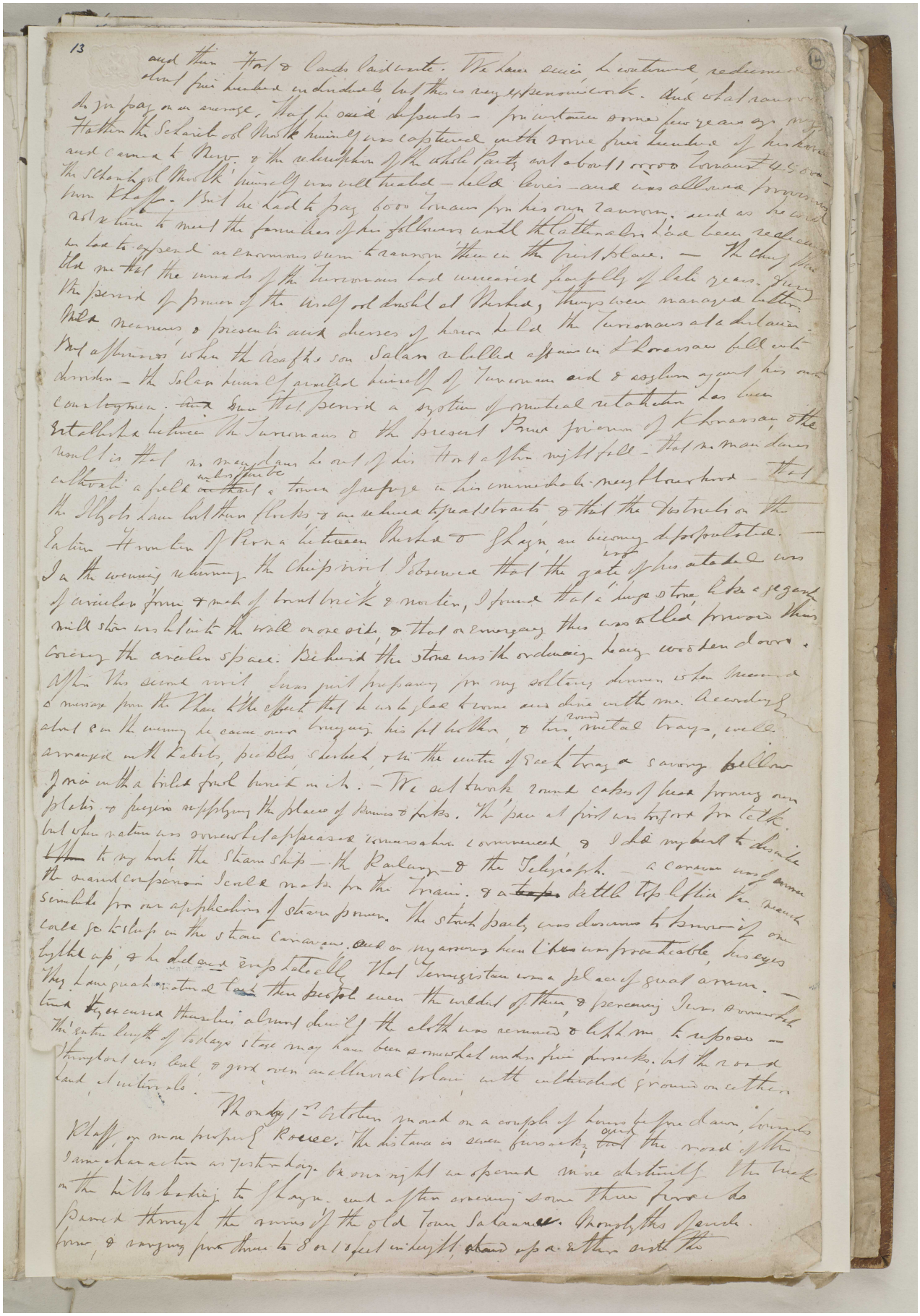

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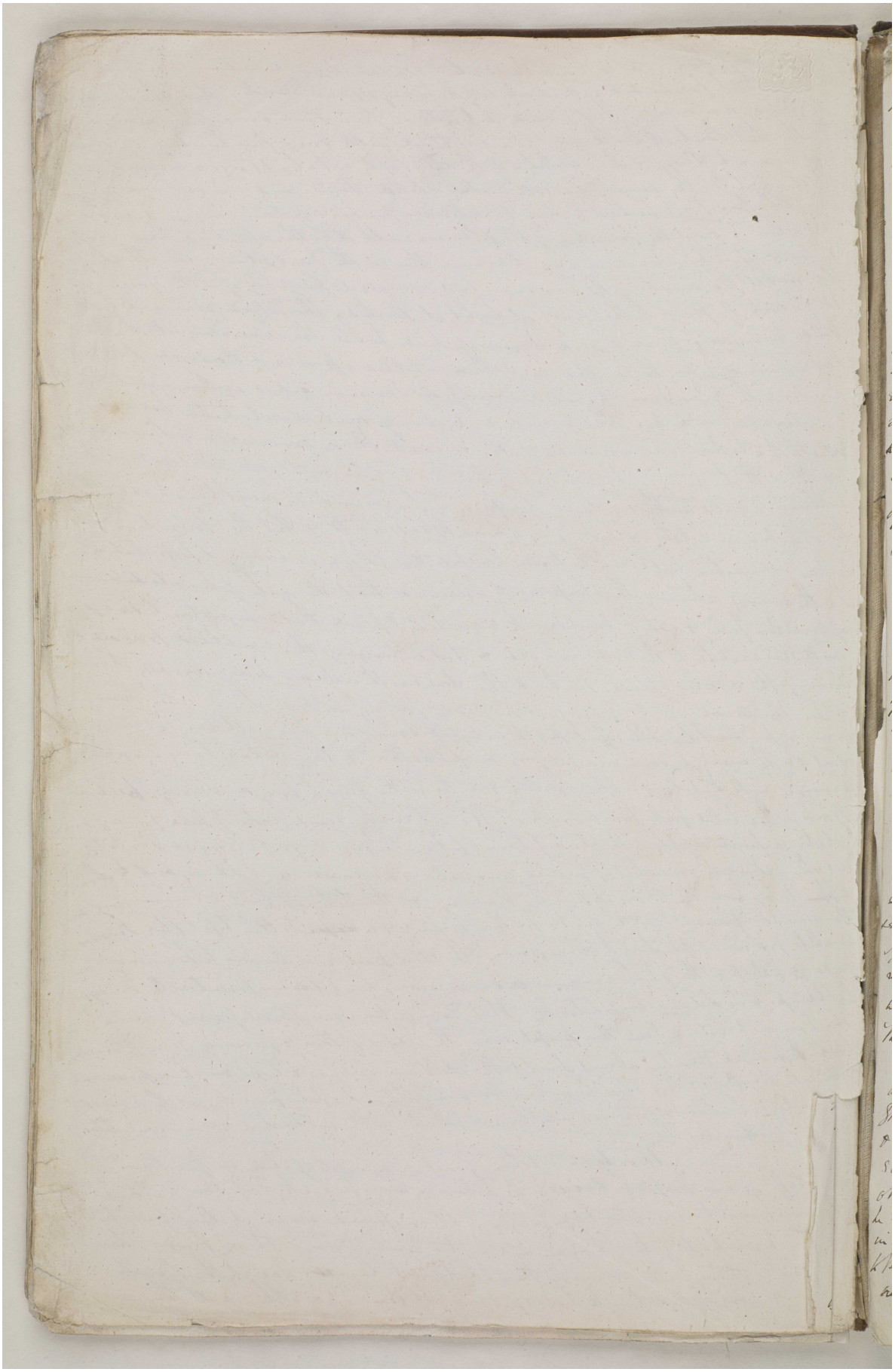
and then that of Candy's Lieutenant. We have since learnt that the real number of Turcomans redeemed about four hundred individuals but there is very little encouragement to work. And what encouragement do they get on an average. That he would dispose - For instance some few years ago my Father the Sehaik-ol-Mashaik himself was captured with some four hundred of his horses and carried to Merv & the redemption of the whole party cost about 10,000 Tomans - The Sehaik-ol-Mashaik himself was well treated - held levies - and was allowed prowess from Khiva. But he had to pay 6000 Tomans from his own pocket, and as he would not like to meet the families of his followers until the Tomans had been reduced he had to expend an enormous sum to ransom them in the first place. - The Chief then told me that the inroads of the Turcomans had increased fearfully of late years. During the period of power of the Uzbeg rule at Merv, things were managed better. Bribe, presents & presents and dresses of honor held the Turcomans at a distance. But after when the Asaf-ke son Salam was killed after in Khiva all was confusion - the Salar since Sarvilled himself of Turcomans and a asylum against his own countrymen. Since then a system of mutual retaliation has been established between the Turcomans & the present Prime Minister of Khiva, the result is that as many Persians be sent of his Horde as they might fall - that no man dares walk a field without a tower for purpose in his immediate neighbourhood - that the Uzbeg Law but three Khans & one behind to protect & that the districts of the Atrek Hamlets of Persia between Merv & Shahr are becoming depopulated. -

In the evening returning the Chief point I observed that the gate of his citadel was of circular form & made of burnt brick & mortar, I found that a huge stone like a pigeon mill stone was built into the wall on one side, & that an emergency this was rolled forward thus covering the circular space. Behind the stone was the ordinary heavy wooden door & after this second visit I was just preparing for my solitary dinner when I received a message from the Khan to the effect that he would take tea with me. According about 8 in the evening he came over bringing his pot luck, & two round metal trays, well arranged with kabobs, pickles, sherbet, & in the centre of each tray a savory pillow filled with a little fowl & rice. - We sat round cakes of bread forming our plates & fingers supplying the place of knives & forks. The pace at first was too fast for talk, but when nature was somewhat appeased conversation commenced & I did my best to describe to my host the Steam Ships - the Railway - & the Telegraph. - A caravan was arranged the usual compass scale made for the train. & a kettle top & flue for the steam similar for our applications of steam power. The stock party was desirous to know if on calm days the steam caravans could be kept up & he did not seem to believe that Tennyson was a place of great account. - They have quaint notions of time & space. Even the wildest of them & persevering Jews remarked that they measured themselves almost daily. The cloth was removed & left me to repose - The entire length of today's stage may have been somewhat under five parasangs. but the ground throughout was level & good over an alluvial plain with cultivated grounds on either hand & watercourses.

Monday 1st October moved on a couple of hours before dawn, towards Khaff, on more prosperous Route. The distance is seven parasangs, about the usual of the same character as yesterday. Encamping at night we spend nine shortly after the track on the hill sloping to Khaff. and after crossing some three parasangs passed through the ruins of the old Town Salaam. Shortly this ground rose, & ranging from three to 800 feet in height, stood up on either side the



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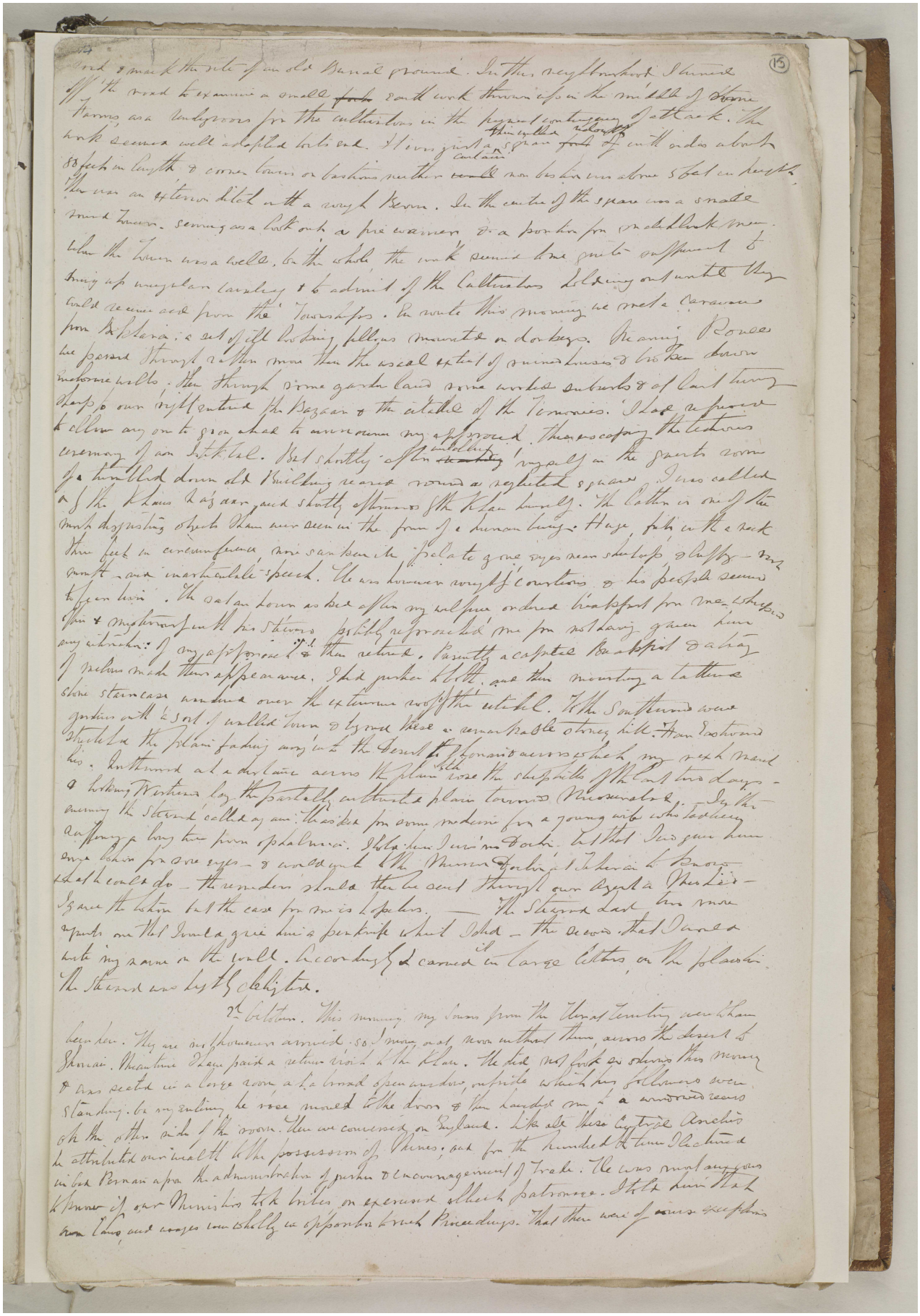

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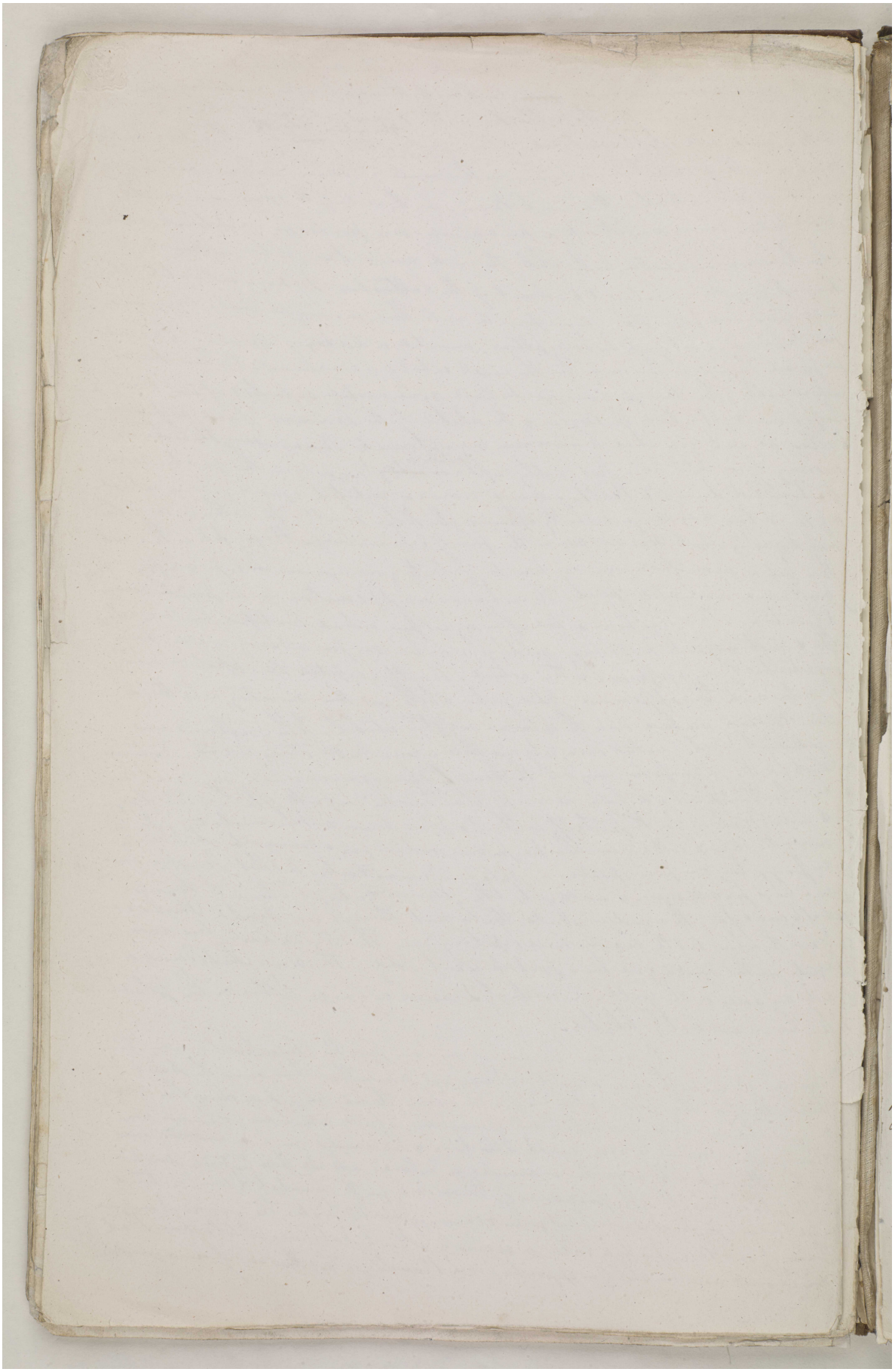

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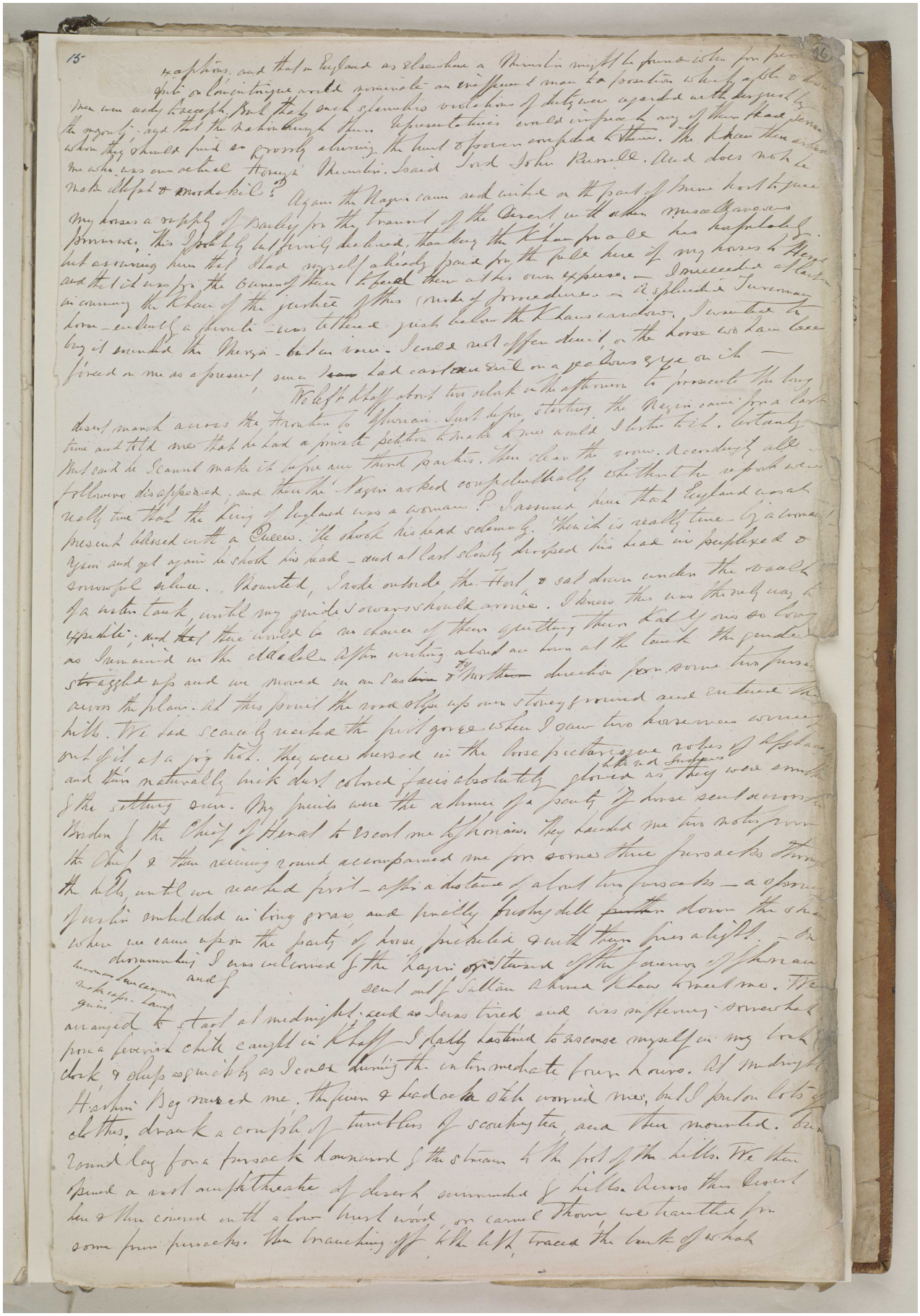

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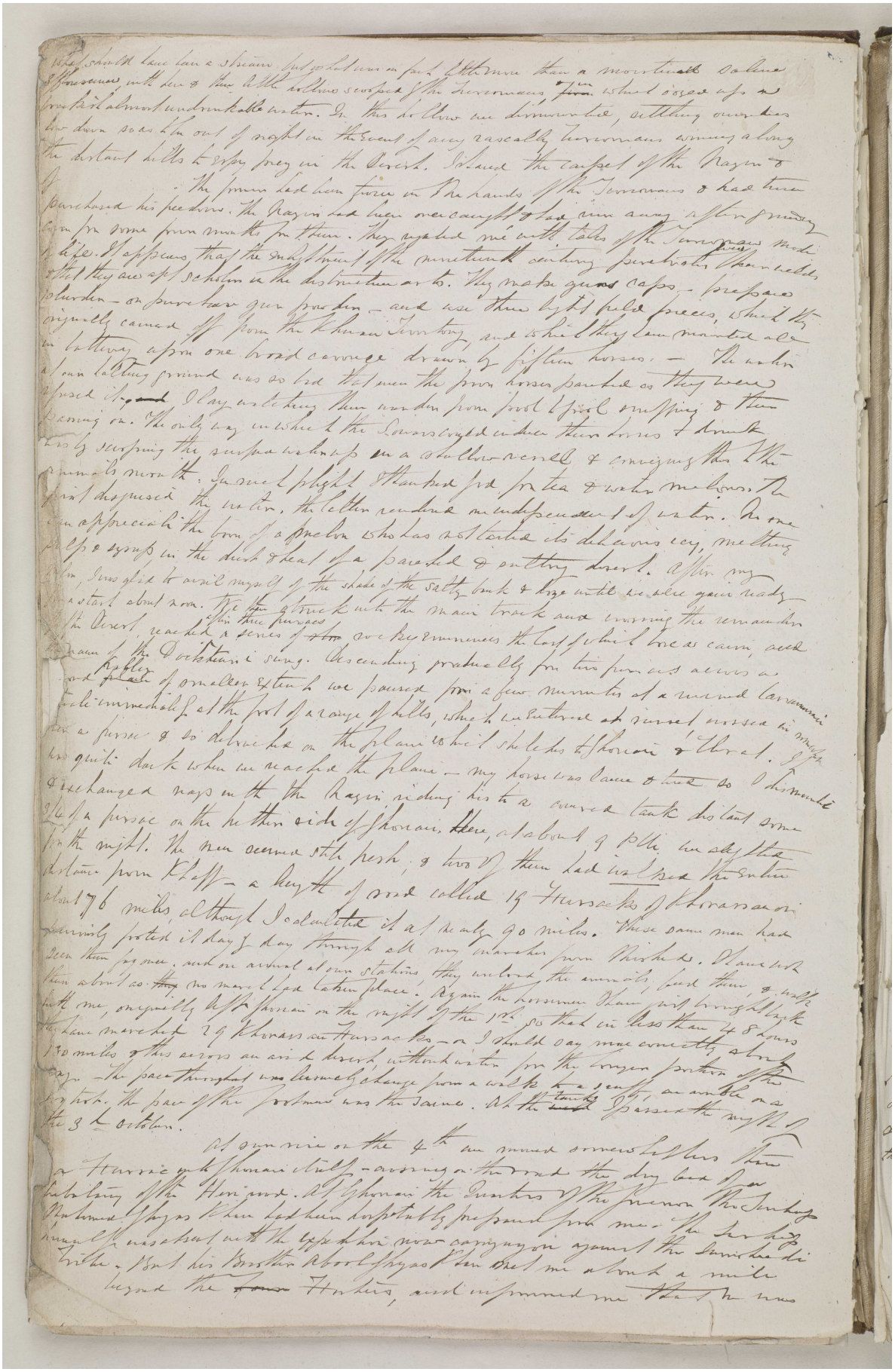

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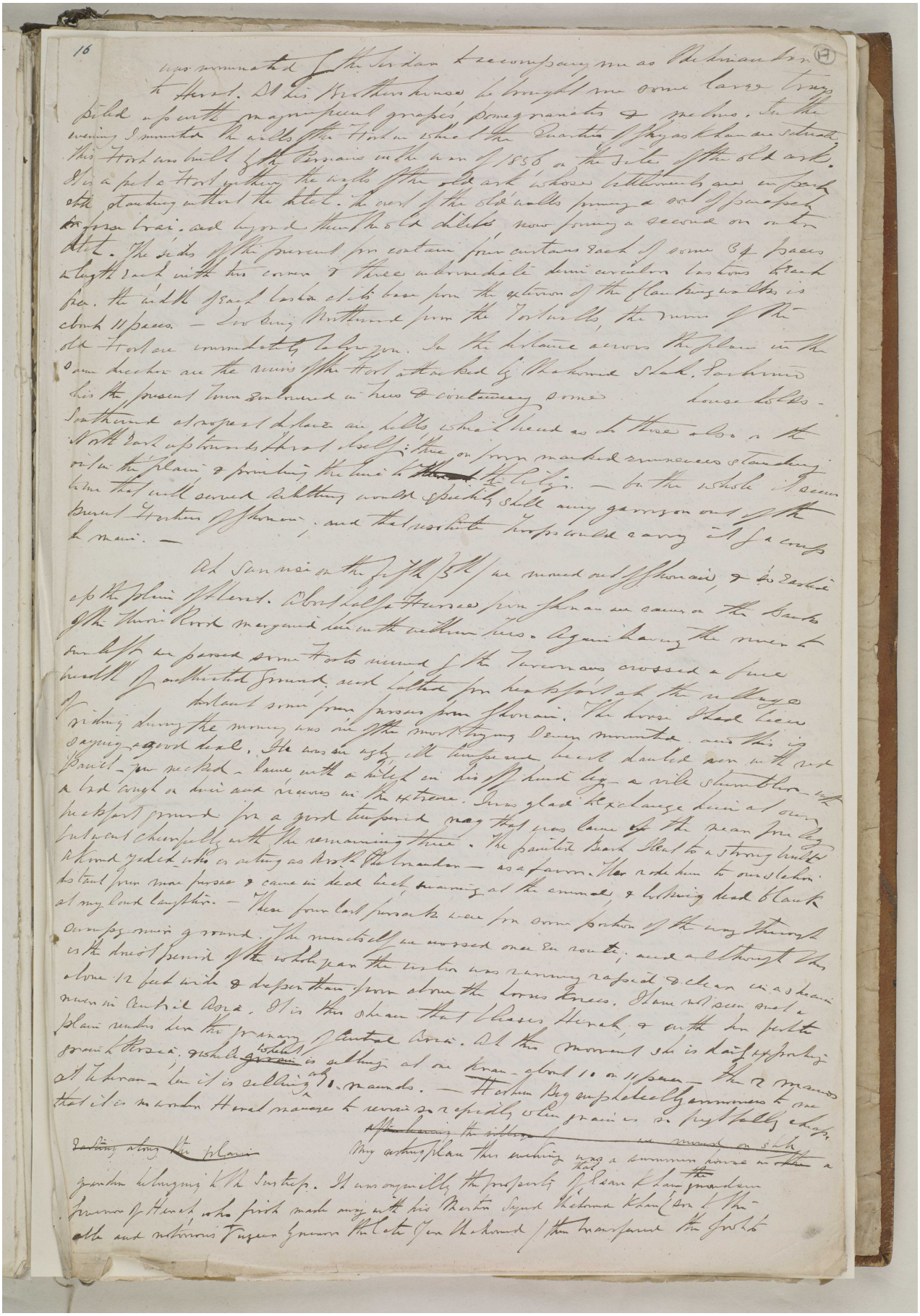

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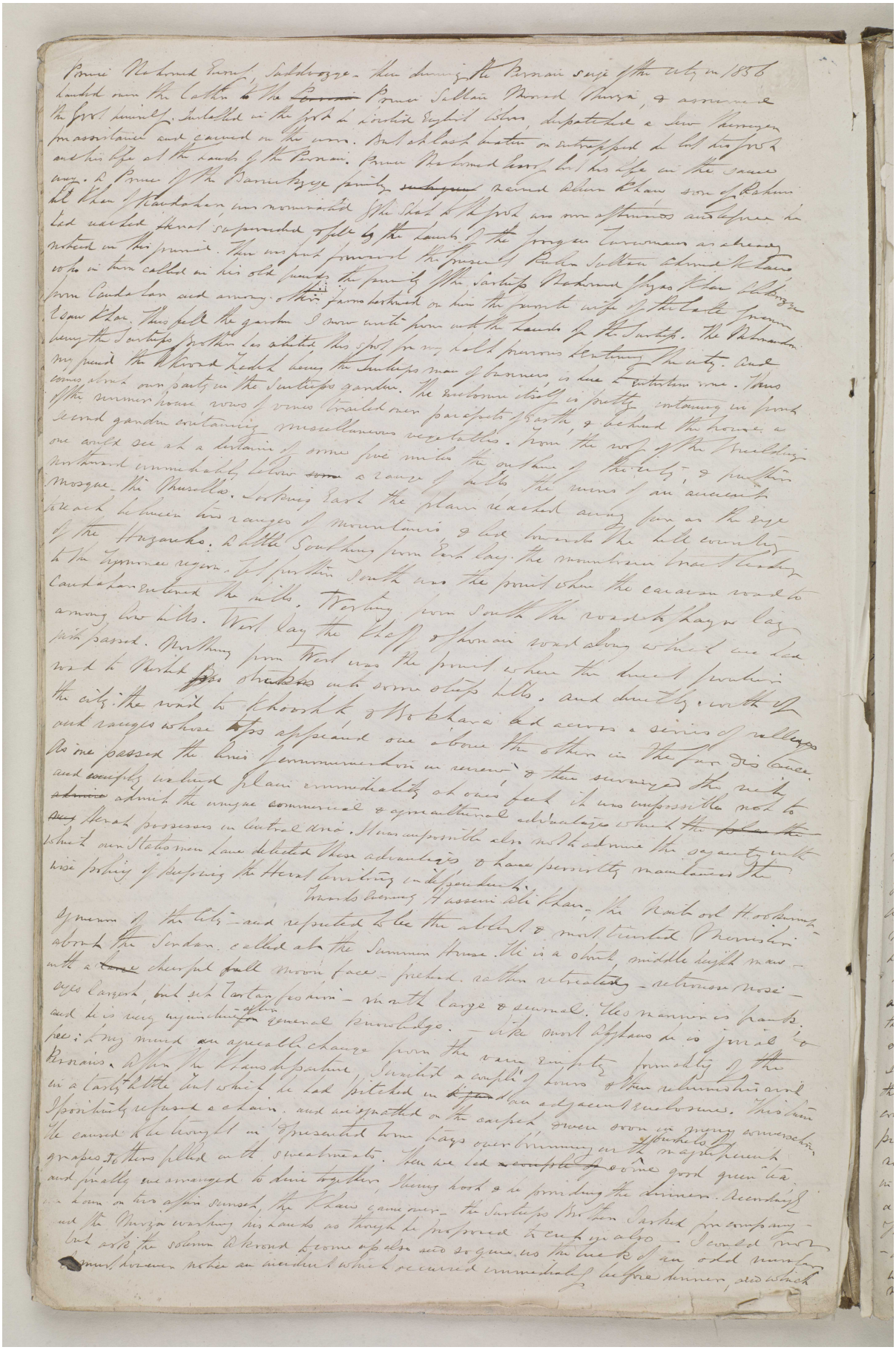

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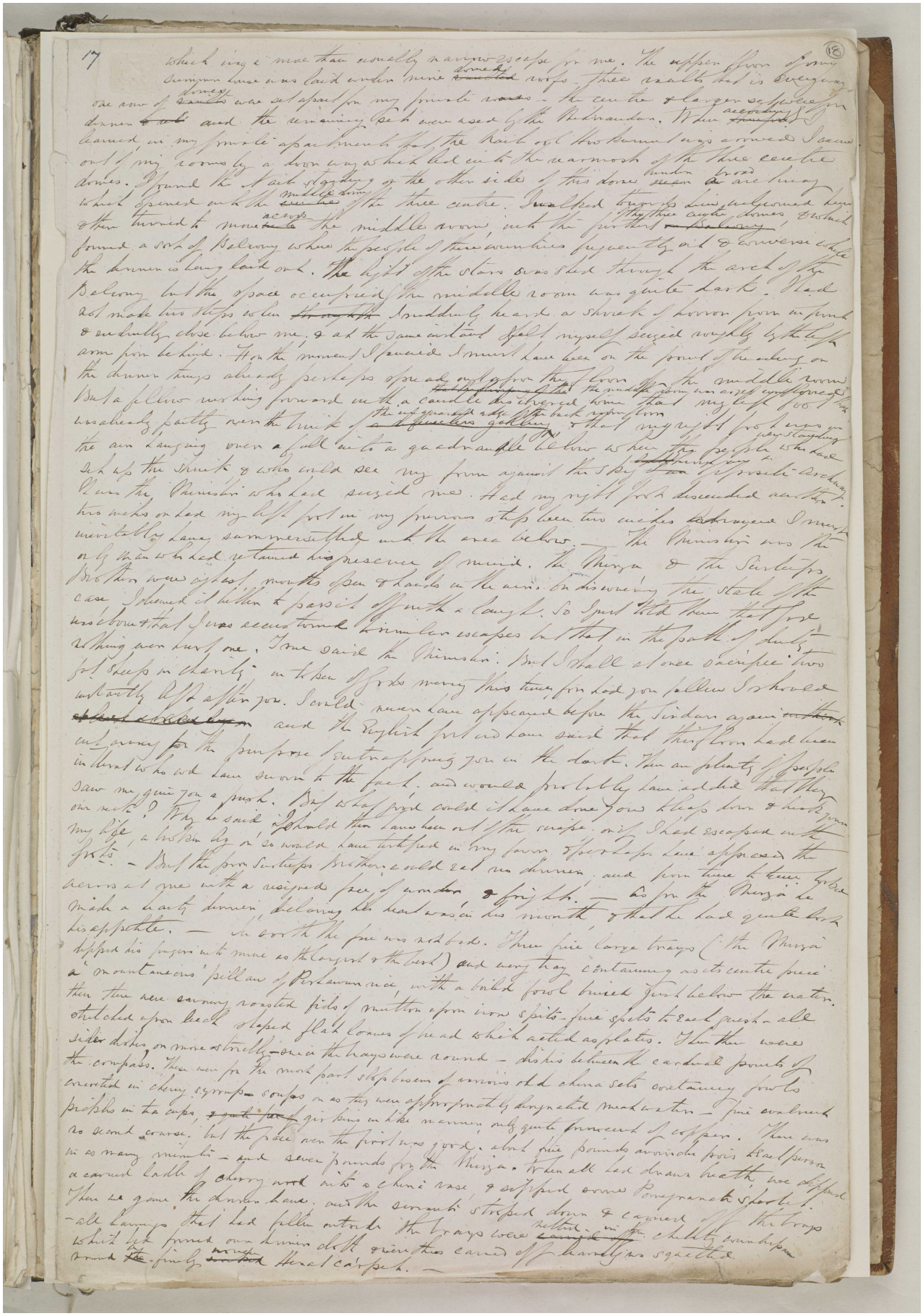

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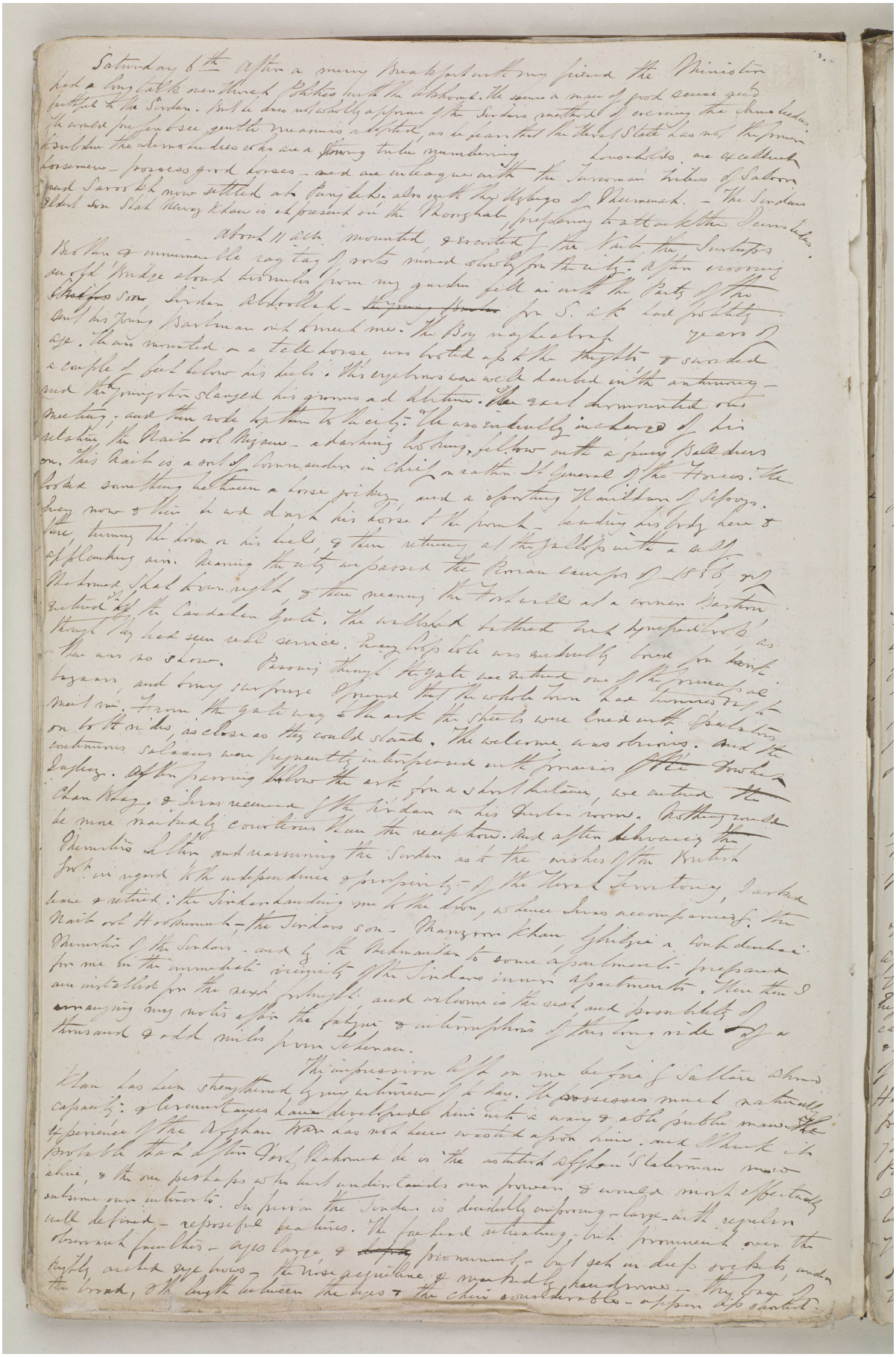

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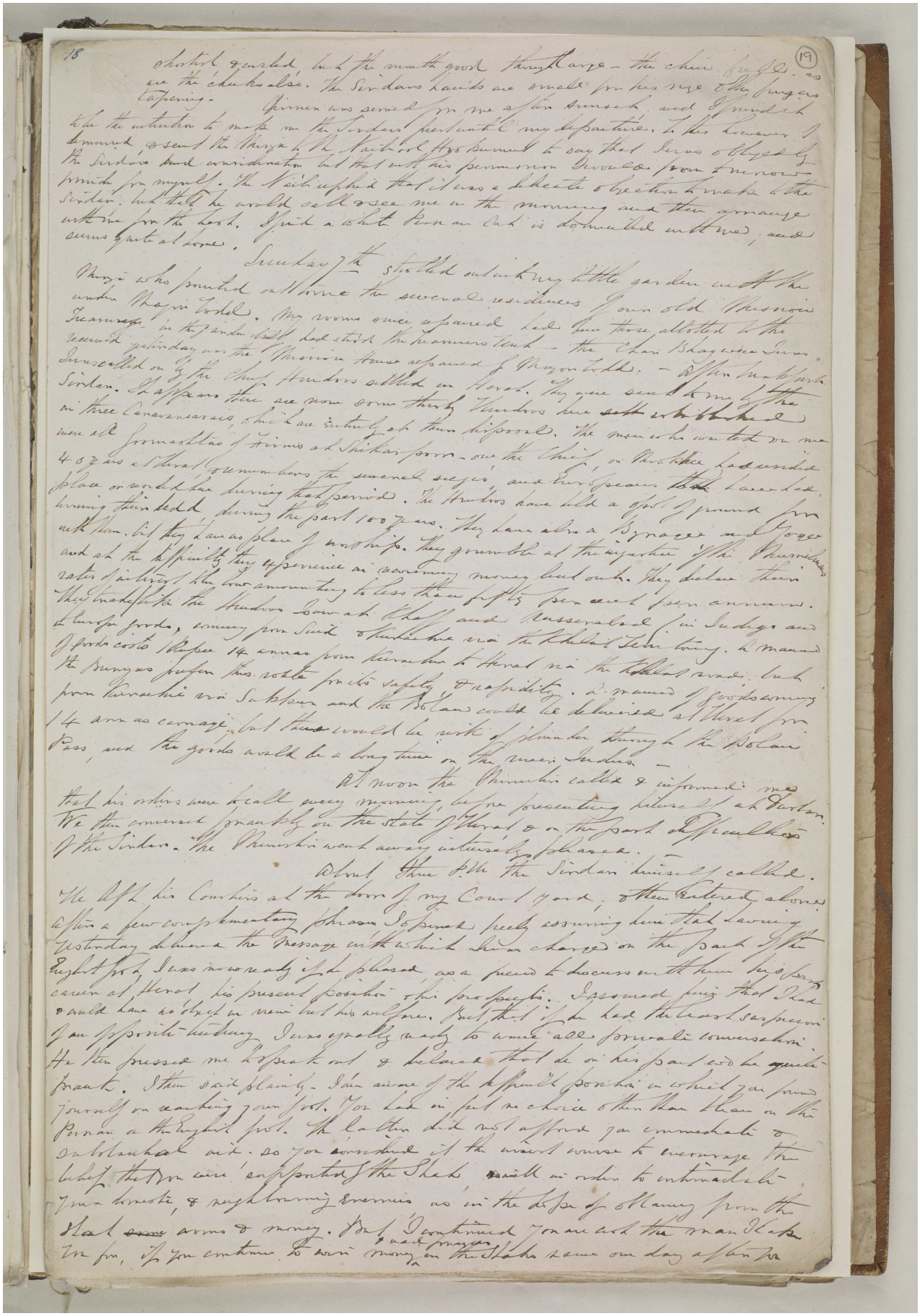

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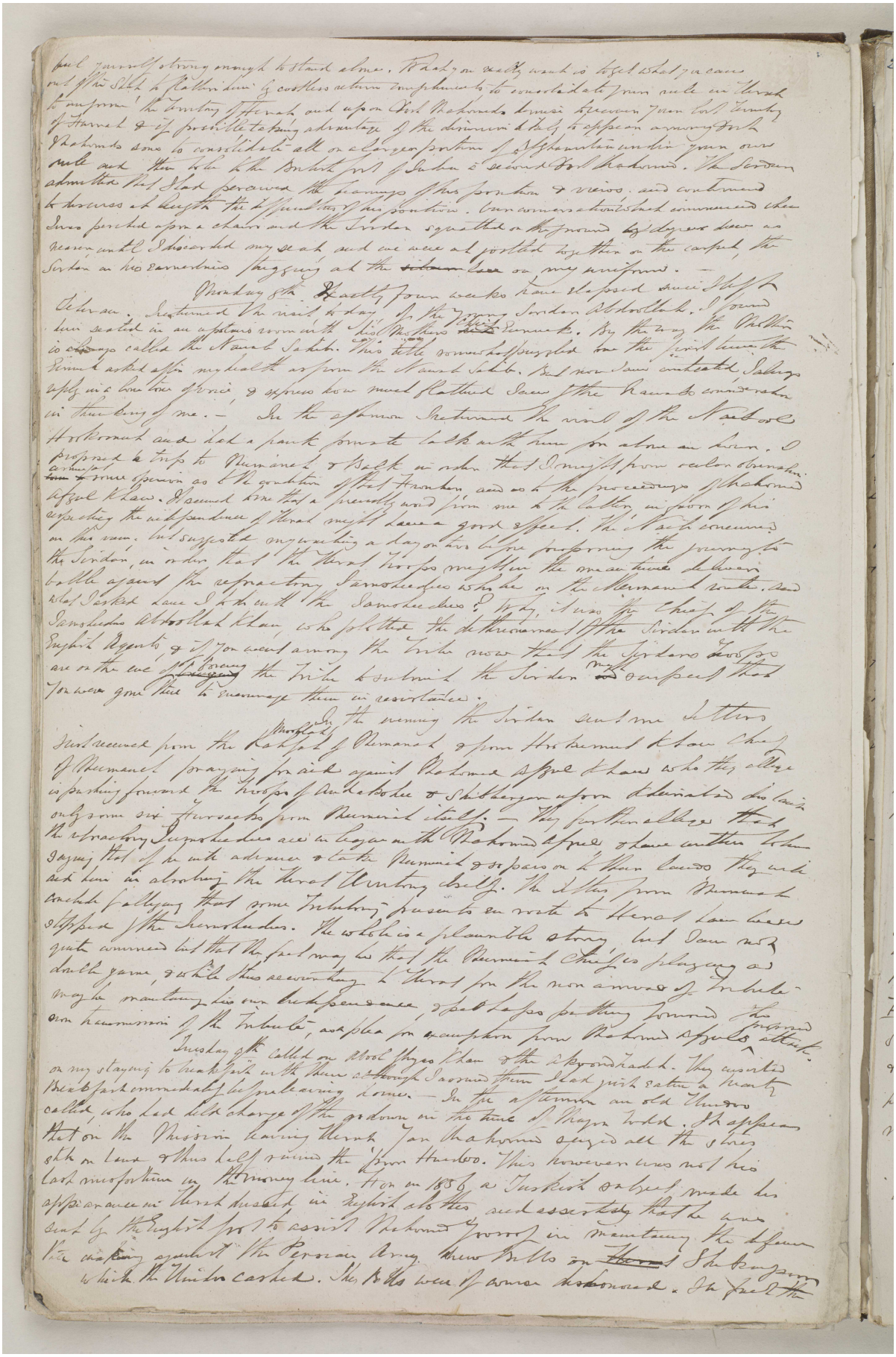

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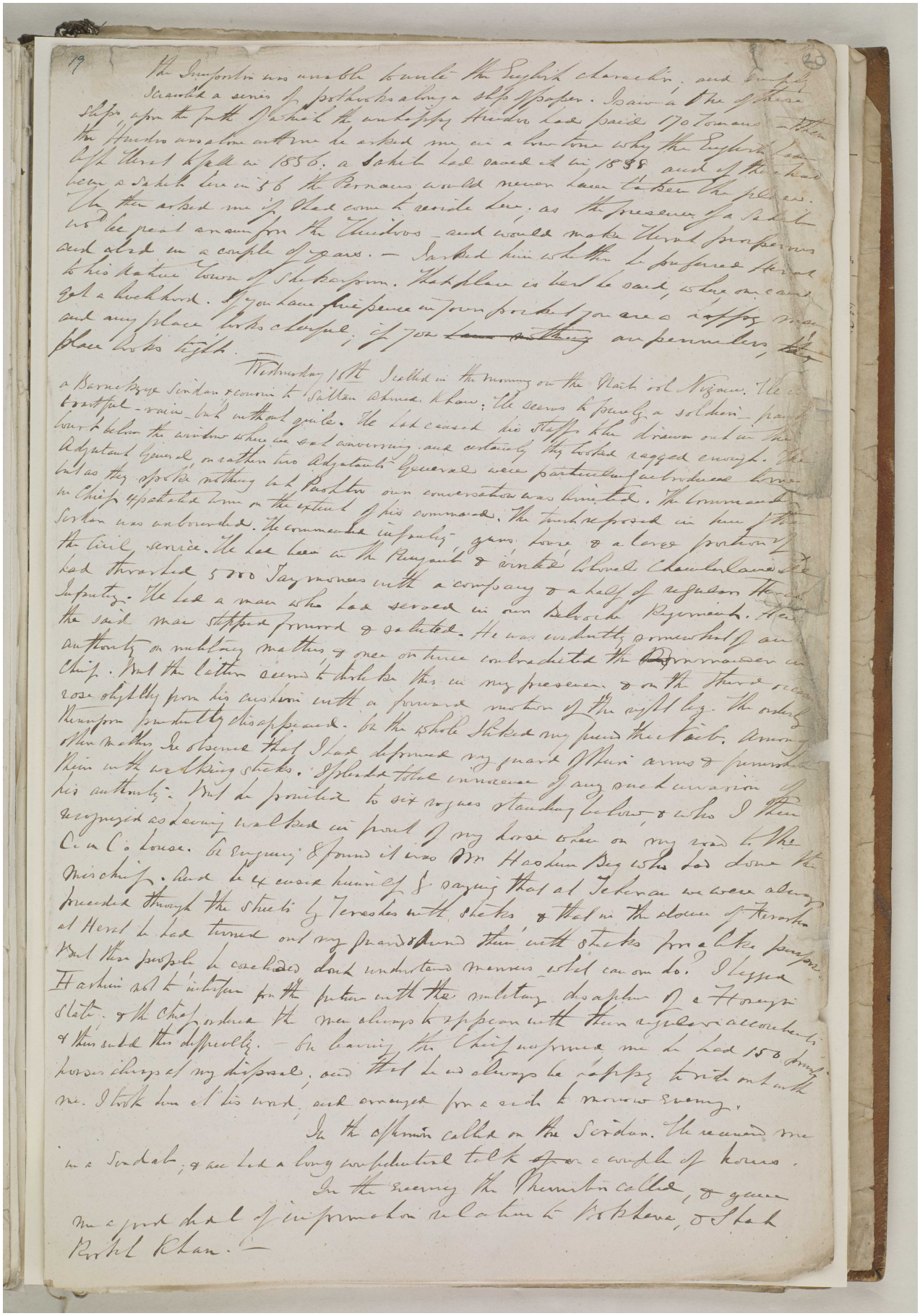

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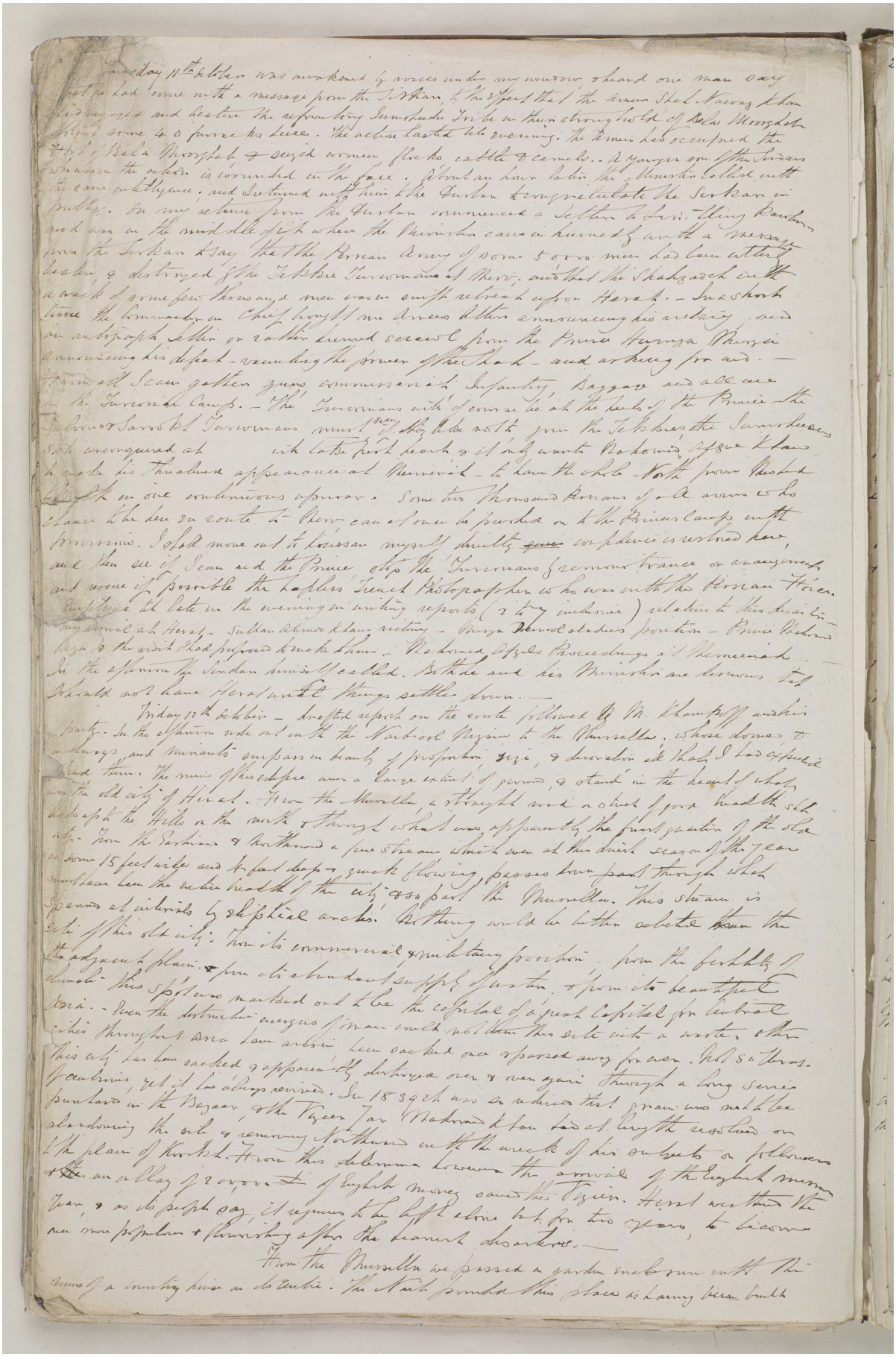

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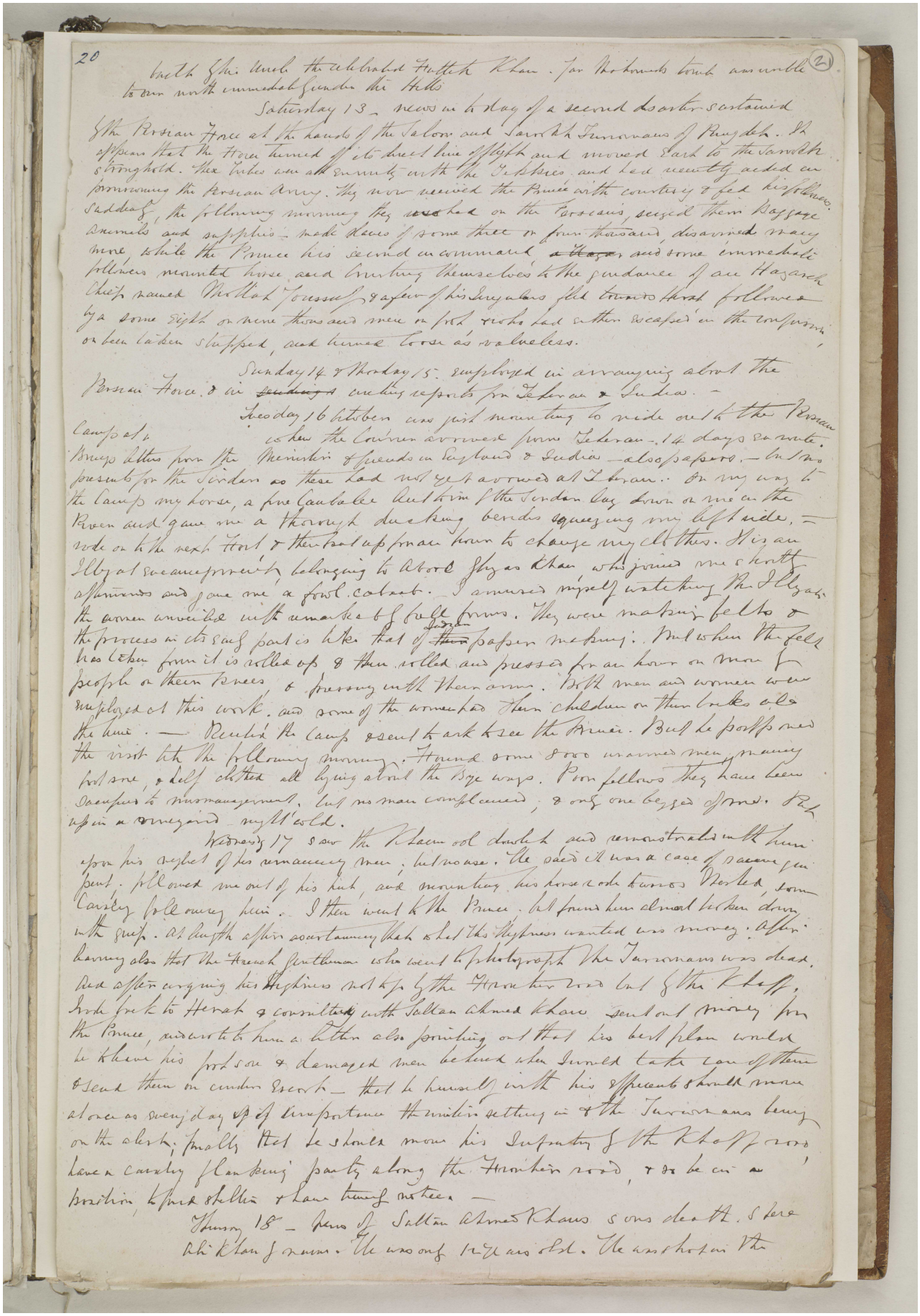

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(2)

both of this week the celebrated Hottick Khan. For the towns tomb was visible to our north immediately under the Hills

Saturday 13 – News on this day of a second disaster sustained by the Persian Force at the hands of the Salors and Sarrakh Turcomans of Merv. It appears that the Horse turned off to their line of flight and moved East to the Sarrakh stronghold. These tribes are all mounted with the Persians and had recently acted in force against the Persian Army. They never received the Prince with courtesy & fed his followers. Saddened, the following morning they attacked on the Persians, seized their Baggage Camels and supplies – made slaves of some three or four thousand, disarmed many more, while the Prince his second in command & staff, and some immediate followers mounted horse and hurried themselves to the Sardaree of an Hazara Chief named Mirkad Youssuf & safety of his Zeyatans fled towards Herat followed by a some eight or nine thousand men on foot who had either escaped in the confusion or been taken & stripped, and hurried home as valueless.

Sunday 14 & Monday 15. employed in arranging about the Persian Force & in ~~sending~~ making reports for Teheran & India. –

Tuesday 16 October was just mounting to ride out to the Persian Camp at 4 o'clock when the Courier arrived from Teheran – 14 days en route. Brings letters from the Secretary of State in England & India – also papers. – But no presents for the Sirdar as these had not yet arrived at Teheran. On my way to the Camp my horse, a fine Cavalier Arab from the Sirdar lay down & rolled on the Rider and gave me a thorough duckening besides squeezing my left side. – rode on to the next Post & then had up from town to change my clothes. His an Illyat encampment belonging to Abdool Shyas Khan who joined me & both afterwards and gave me a fowl. Cabaab. I amused myself watching the Illyat women unveiled with remarks of bold frowns. They were making felts & the process in its early part is like that of paper making. But when the felt has taken form it is rolled up & then rolled and pressed for an hour or more by people on their knees & pressing with their arms. Both men and women were employed at this work, and some of the women had their children on their backs all the time. – Rested the Camp & went back to see the Prince. But he postponed the visit till the following morning. Found some 8000 unarmed men, many foot sore, & half clothed all lying about the Bye ways. Poor fellows they have been sacrificed to mismanagement. But no man complained, & only one begged from me. Put upon a vineyard wall I'd sold.

Wednesday 17 saw the Khan col dashed and remonstrated with him upon his neglect of his remaining men; but no use. He said it was a case of Paramount. Followed me out of his hut, and mounting his horse rode towards Herat, some Cavalry following him. I then went to the Prince. But found him almost broken down with grief. At length after ascertaining that what the Highness wanted was money. After hearing also that the French Gentleman who went to photograph the Turcomans was dead. And after urging his Highness not to go to the Frontier road but to the Khaff, took leave to Herat & consulted with Sultan Ahmed Khan sent out money for the Prince, and wrote him a letter also pointing out that his best plan would be to leave his foot sore & damaged men behind when I would take care of them & send them on under escort – that he himself with his effects should move at once as every day of inexpectance the winter setting in & the Turcomans being on the alert, finally that he should move his Infantry & the Khaff road have a cavalry flanking party along the Frontier road, & so be in a position to punish Shiekh & Lane turning out here. –

Thursday 18 – News of Sultan Ahmed Khans sons death. Shere Ali Khan & wounds. He was only 12 years old. He was shot in the

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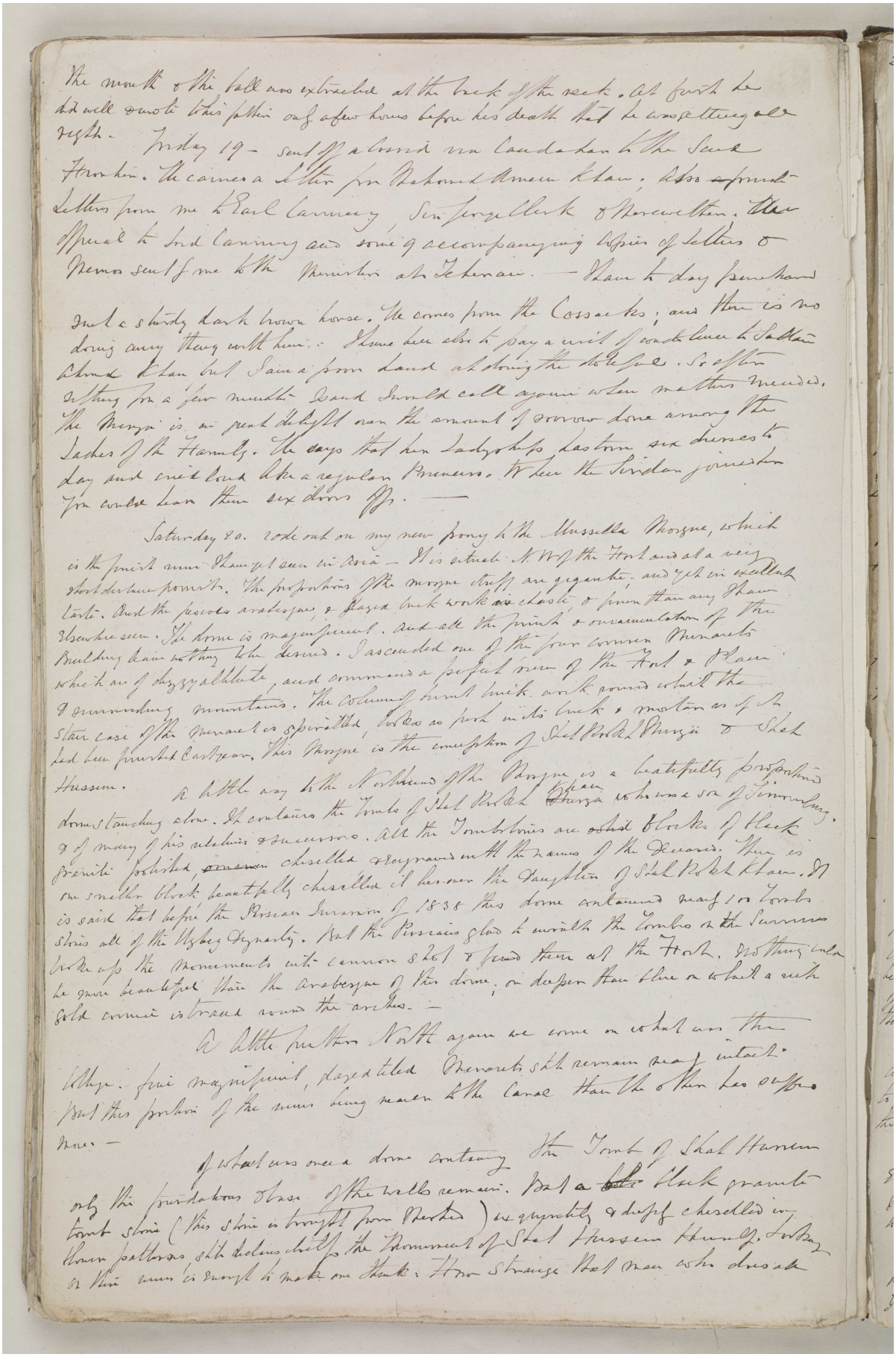

The mouth of the ball was extracted at the back of the neck. At first he did well & wrote this letter only a few hours before his death that he was getting all right.

Friday 19- Sent Mahomed Ameen Candahar to the Sadr Hossein. He carries a letter for Mahomed Ameen Khan, also ~~a~~ private letters from me to Earl Canning Sir Jorge Clerk & Mr Secretary Thomson. Also Appeal to Lord Canning and some of accompanying Copies of letters & Memos sent from me to the Minister at Teheran. — Have to day purchased a strong dark brown horse. He comes from the Cossacks; and there is no doing any thing with him. — Have also to pay a visit of condolence to Sultan Ahmed Khan but I am a prisoner confined to the house. Shall be getting on a few months hand I would call again when matters mended. The Mosque is in great delight over the amount of sorrow done among the Ladies of the Family. The days that her Ladyships has been six times to day and cried loud like a regular Mourner. When the Sirdars join them you could hear them six doors off. —

Saturday 20. rode out on my new pony to the Mussella Mosque, which is the finest ~~one~~ I have yet seen in Asia — It is situated N.W. of the Fort and at a very short distance from it. The proportions of the mosque itself are gigantic and yet in excellent taste. And the pencils arabesque & glazed brick work are chaste & finer than any I have elsewhere seen. The dome is magnificent. And all the finish & ornamentation of the Building leave nothing to be desired. I ascended one of the four corner Minarets which are of 3 gazz altitude, and commands a perfect view of the Fort & Plain & surrounding mountains. The column I counted 144 brick work round which the Stair case of the Minaret ascended, looks as fine in its brick & mortar as if it had been finished Carbeam. This Mosque is the completion of Shah Rookh Mirza to Shah Hussein.

A little way to the N. Westward of the Mosque is a beautifully proportioned dome standing alone. It contains the Tombs of Shah Rookh Mirza who was a son of Timour & of many of his relations & successors. All the Tombstones are of black & black Pranite polished, ~~one~~ chiselled & engraved with the names of the Deceased. There is one smaller block beautifully chiselled & hung over the daughter of Shah Rookh Khan. It is said that before the Persian Invasion of 1838 this dome contained nearly 100 Tombs stones all of the Uzbeg Dynasty. But the Persians stole & wrenched the Tombs & the Summers broke up the Monuments into common slabs & found them all the Fort. Nothing can be more beautiful than the Arabesque of this dome, or deeper than blue as to what a rich gold enamel is traced round the arches. —

A little further North again we come on what was the Mosque, fine magnificent, decorated Minarets still remain near intact. But this portion of the town being nearer to the Canal than the other has suffered more. —

Of what was once a dome containing the Tomb of Shah Hussein only the foundations & base of the walls remain. But a ~~block~~ black granite Tomb stone (this stone is brought from Merdeh) exquisitely & deeply chiselled in flower patterns still declares that the Monument of Shah Hussein formerly existed. Of this ruins is enough to make one thank: How strange that man who does all

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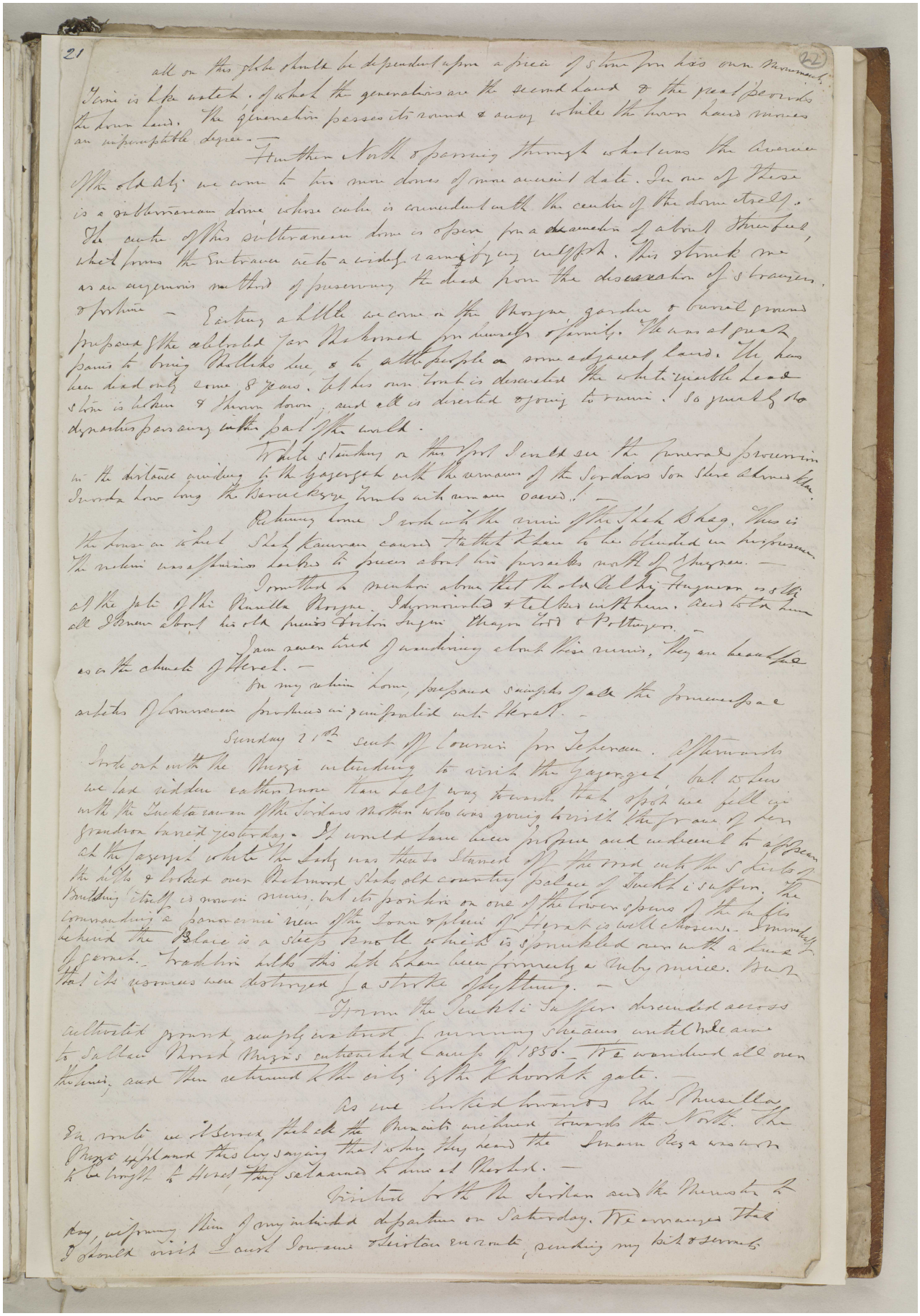

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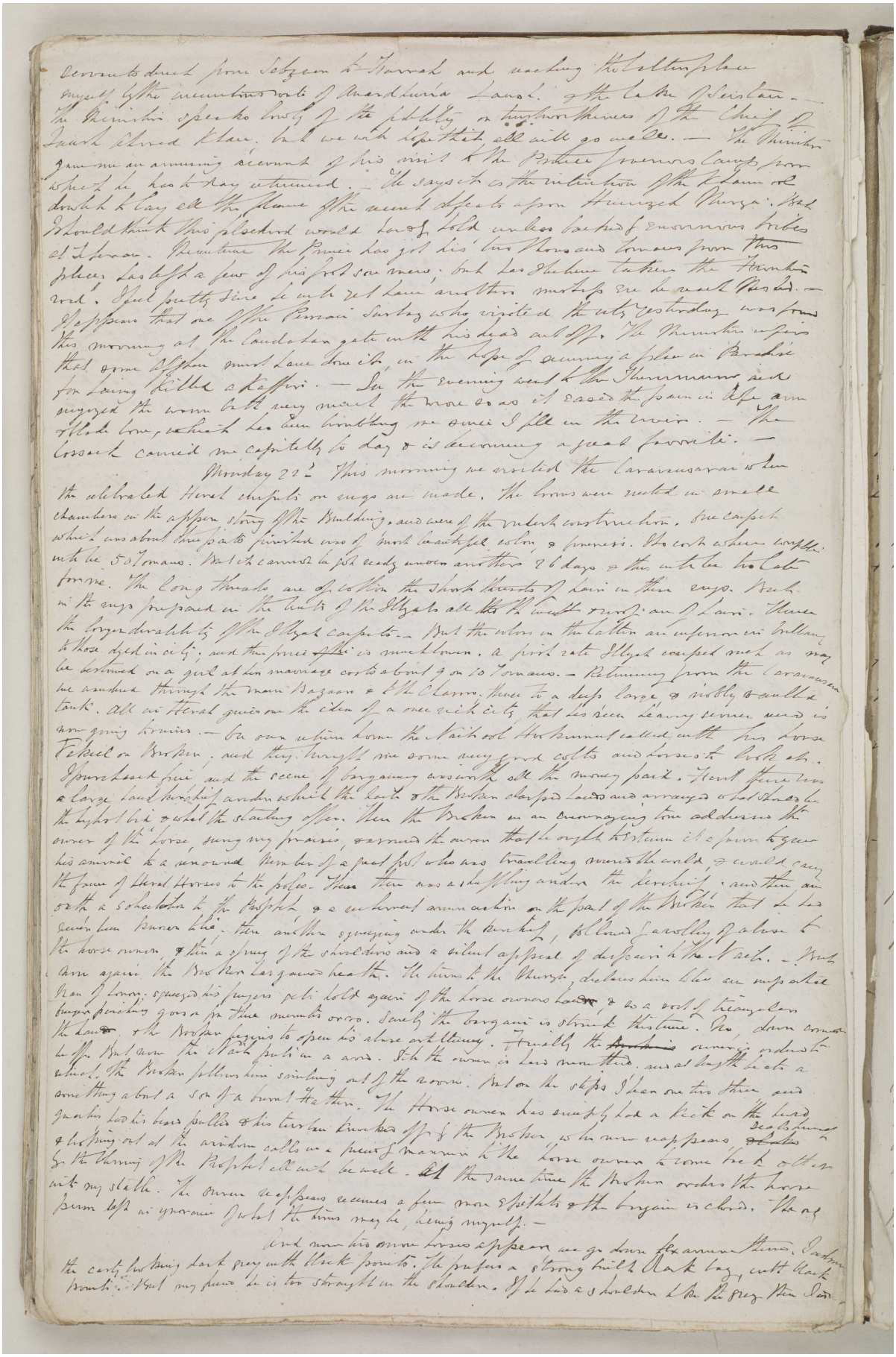

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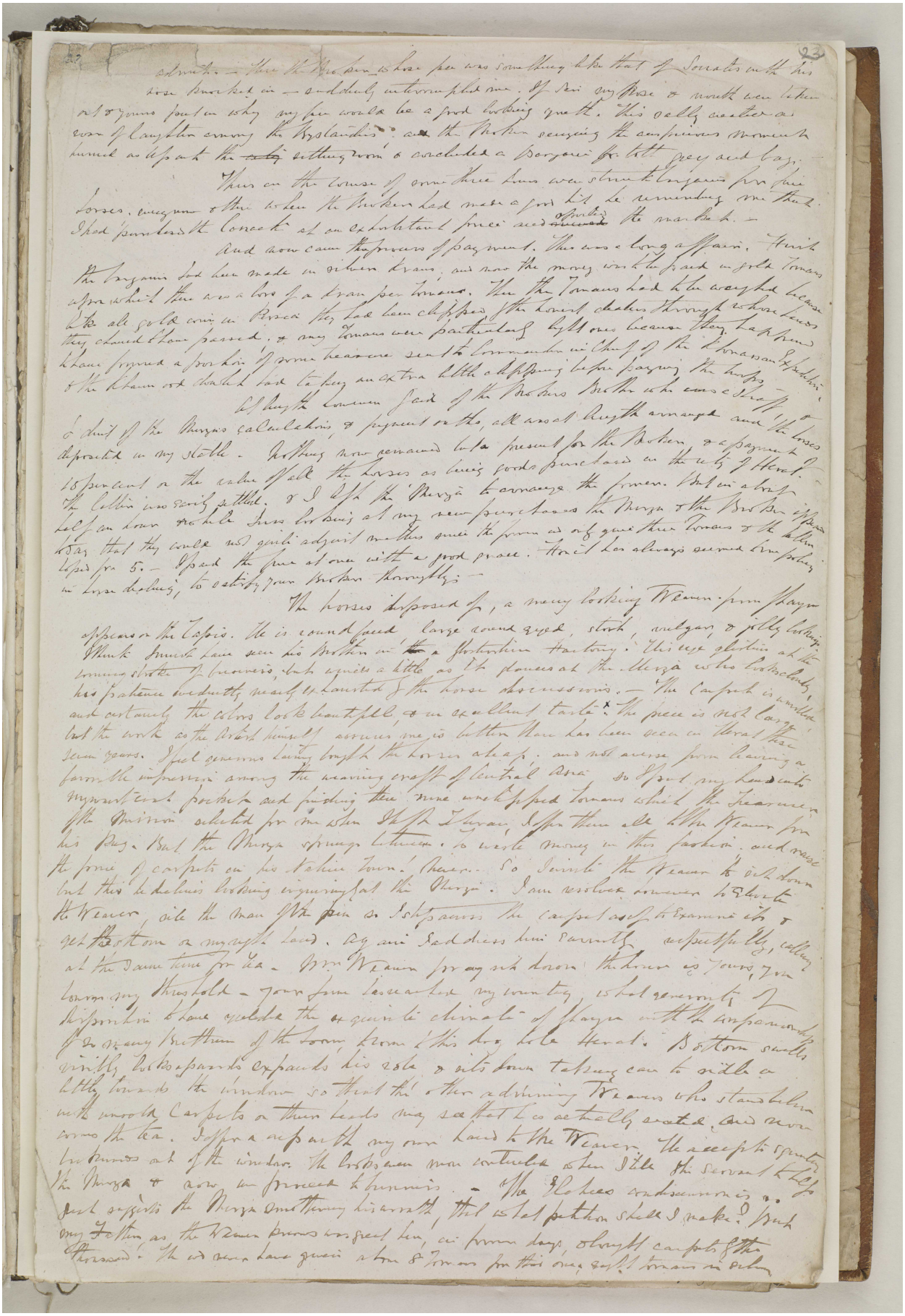

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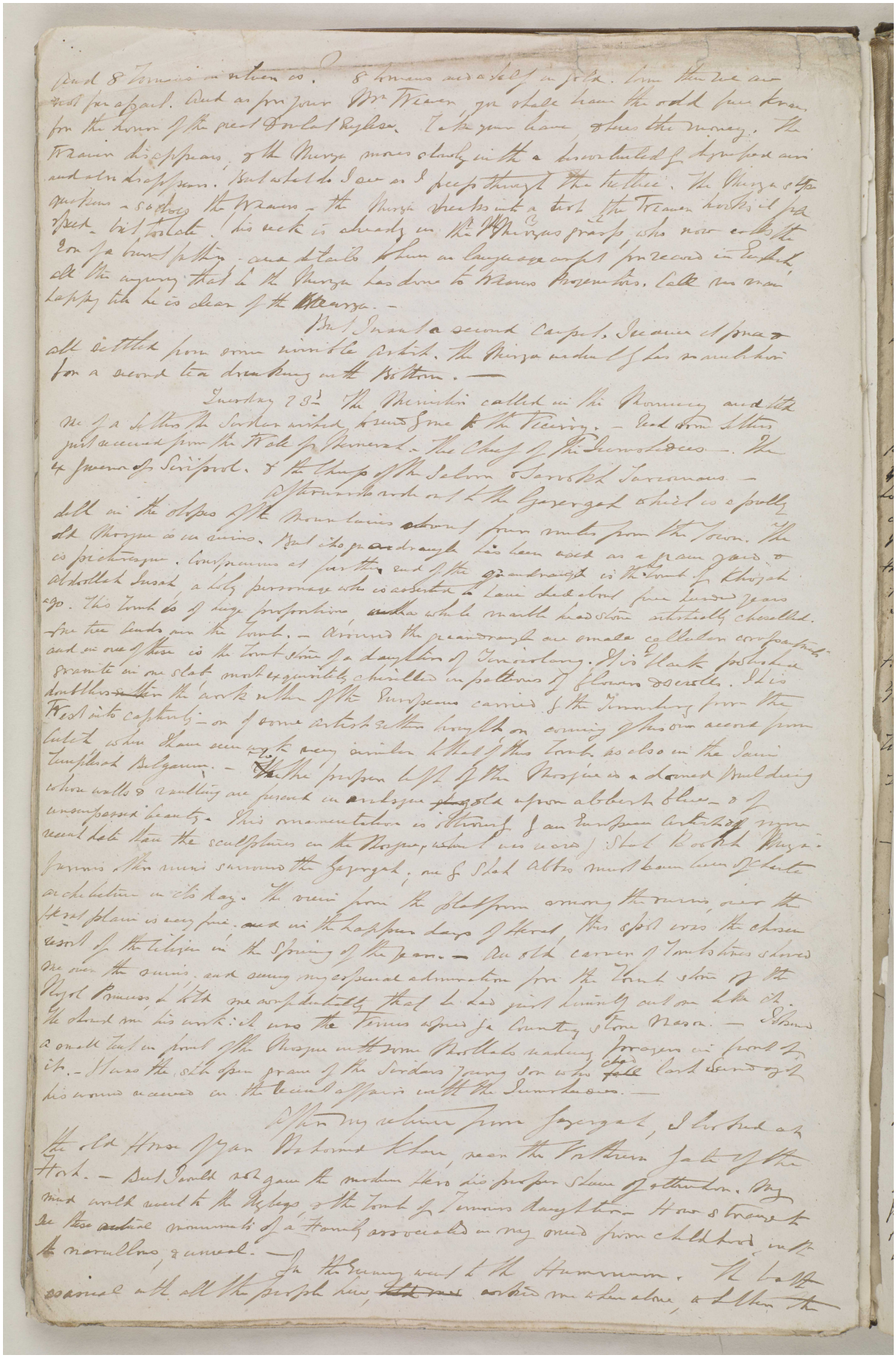

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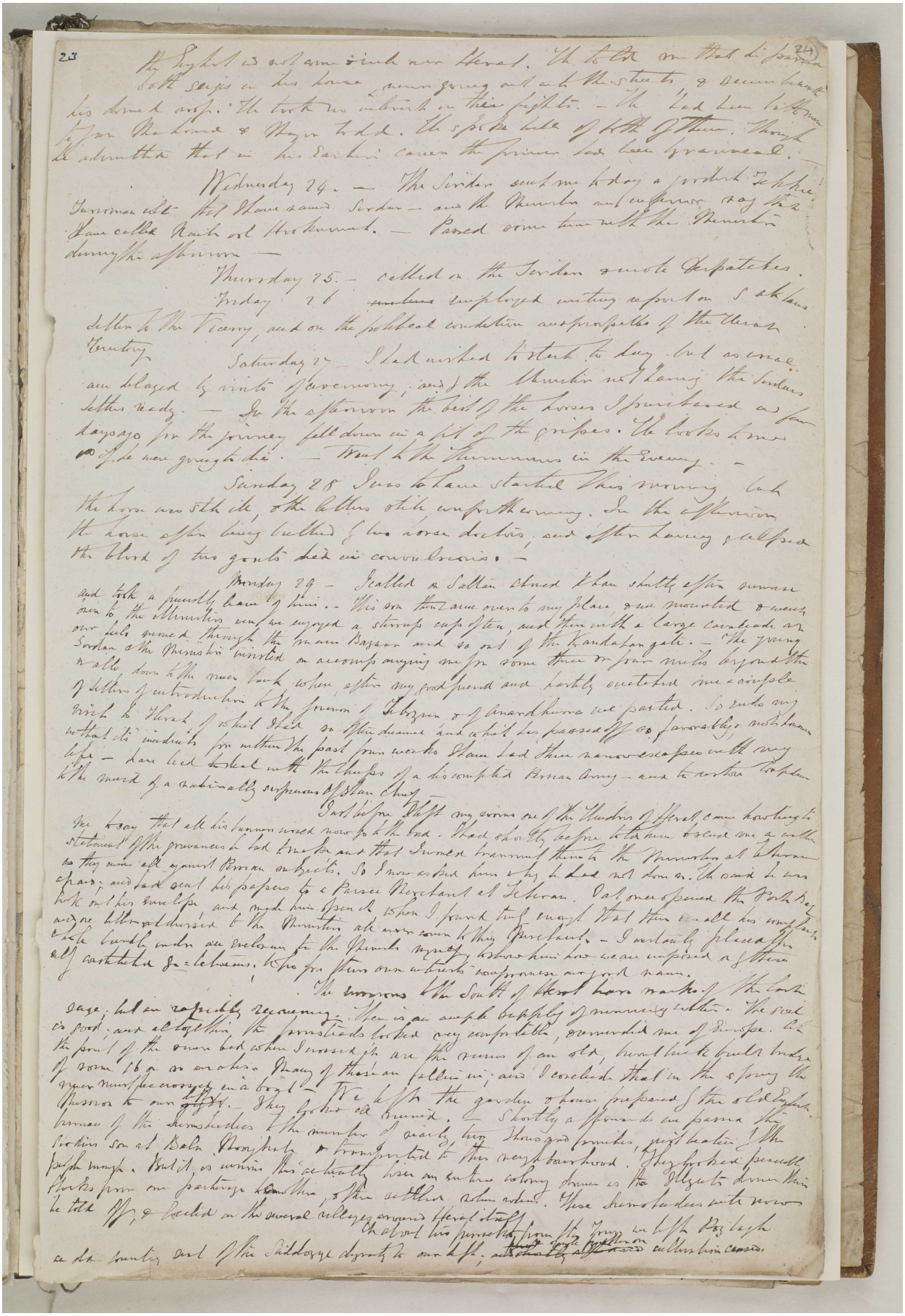

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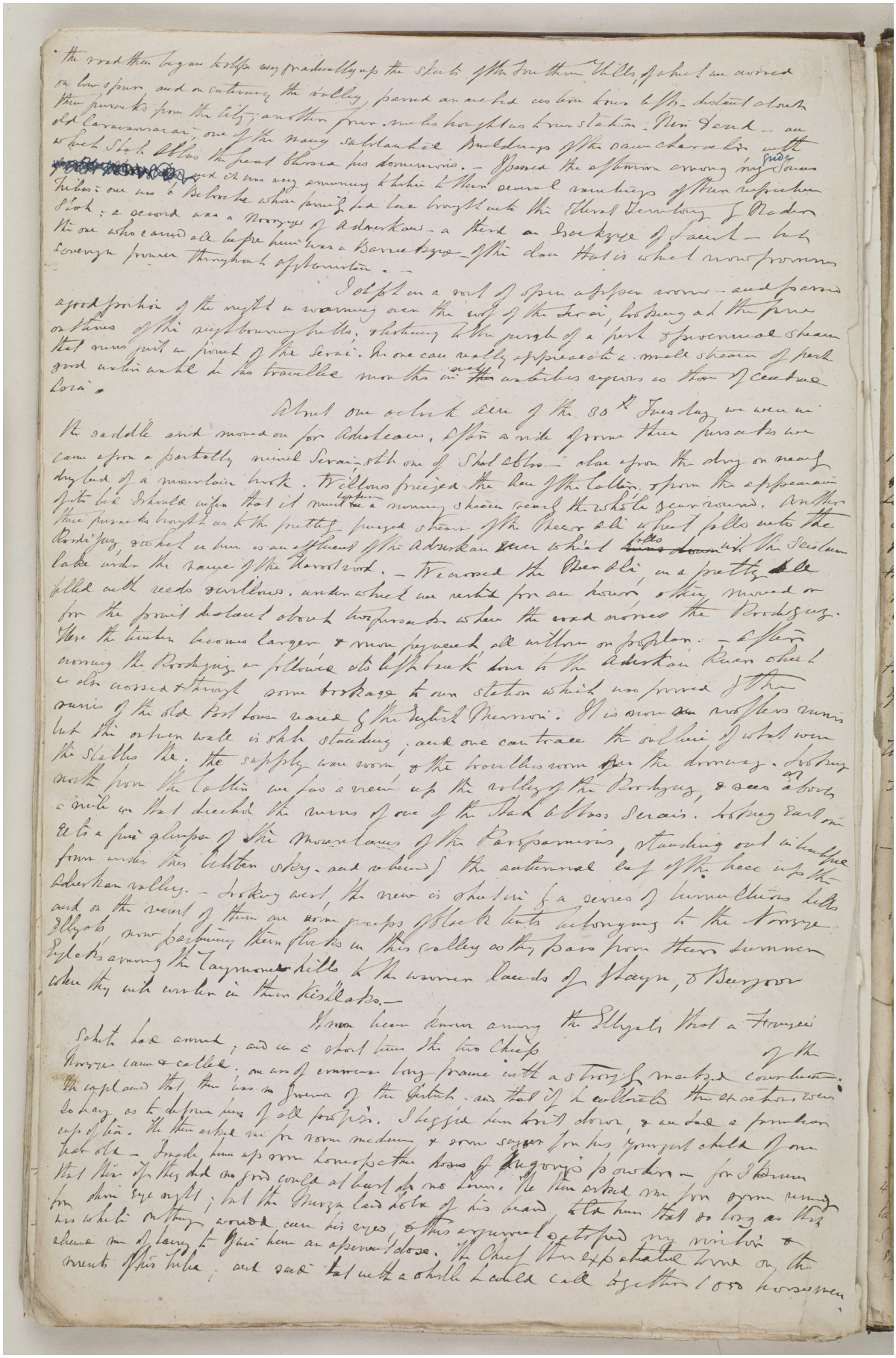

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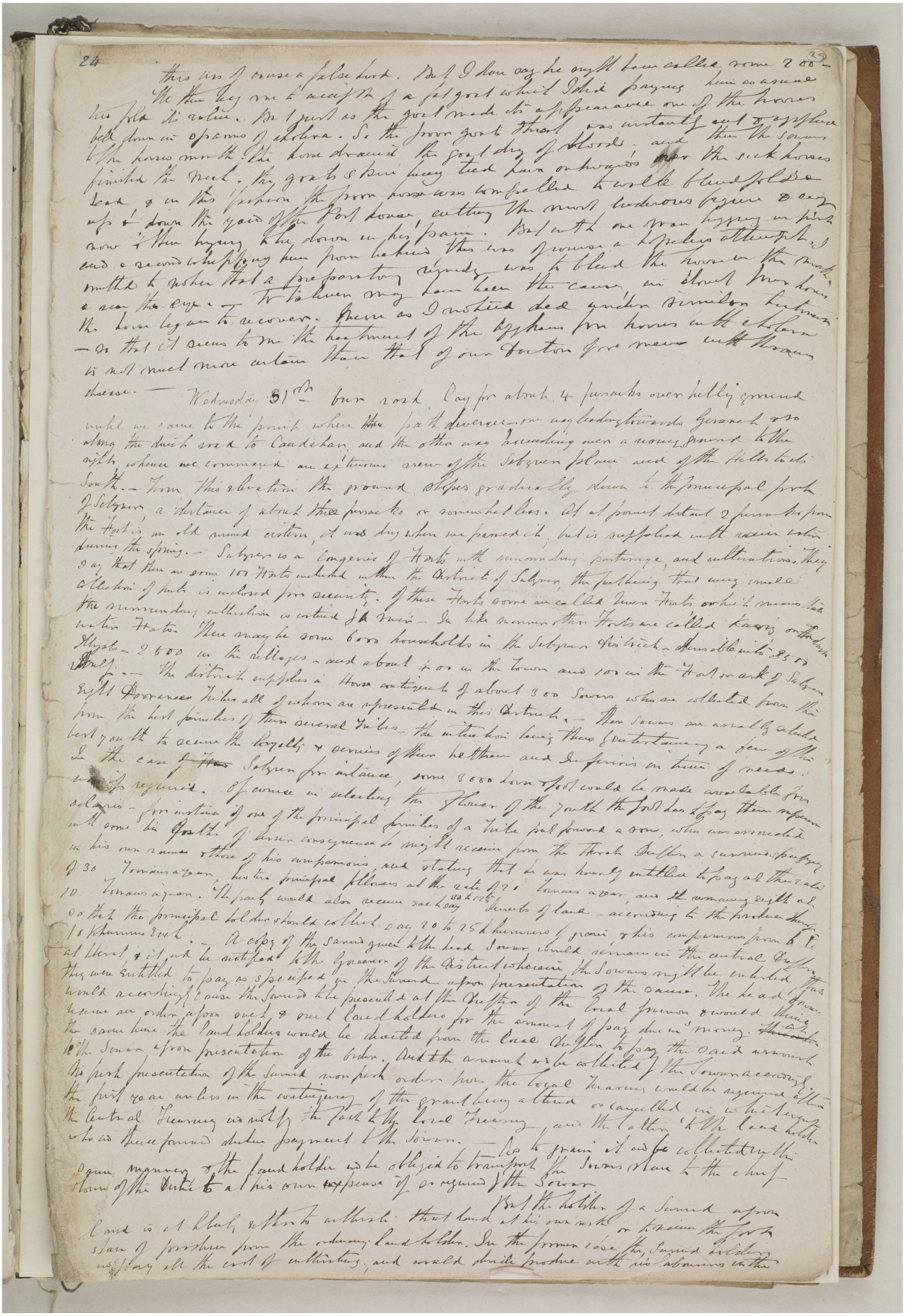

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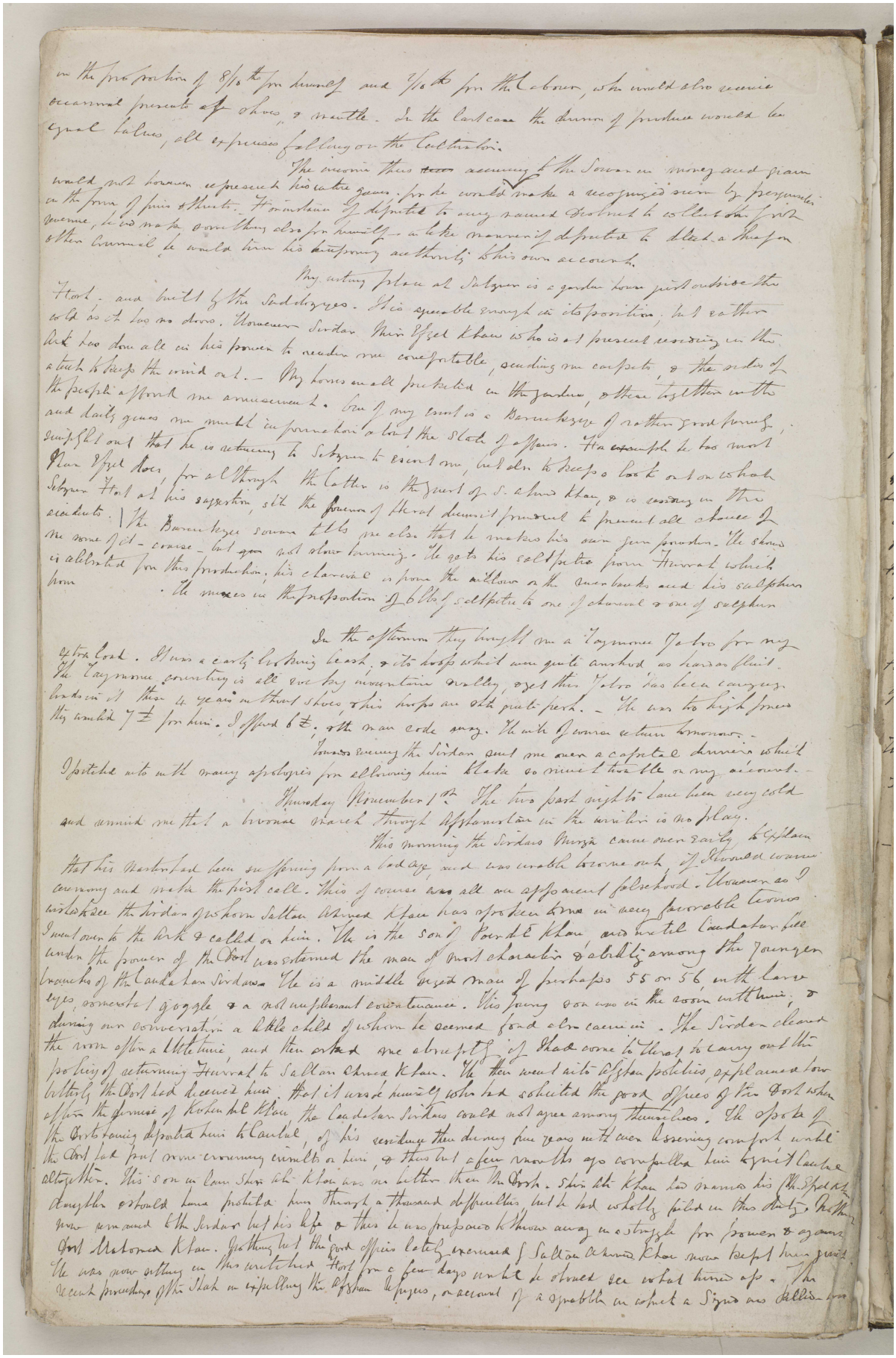

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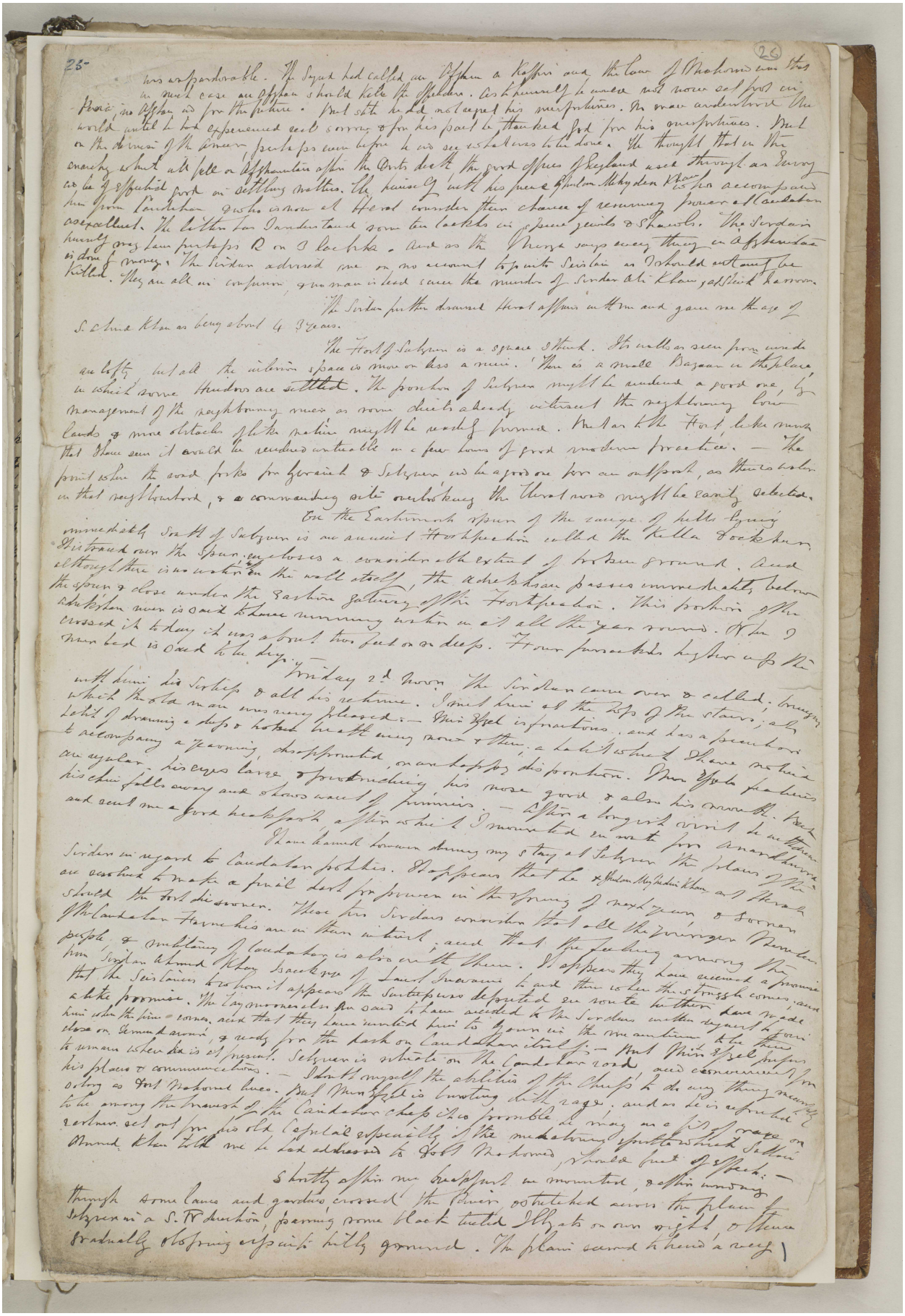

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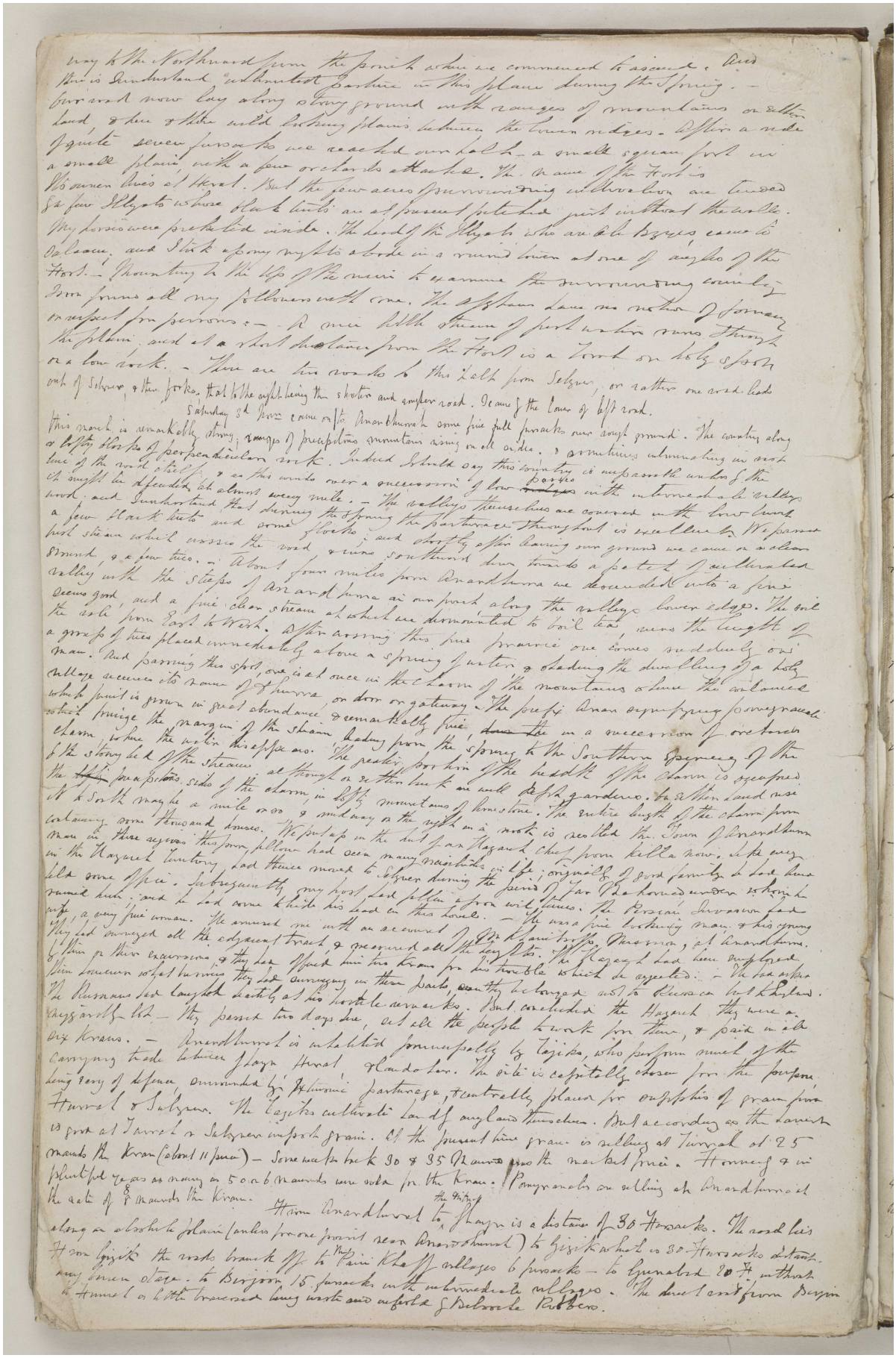

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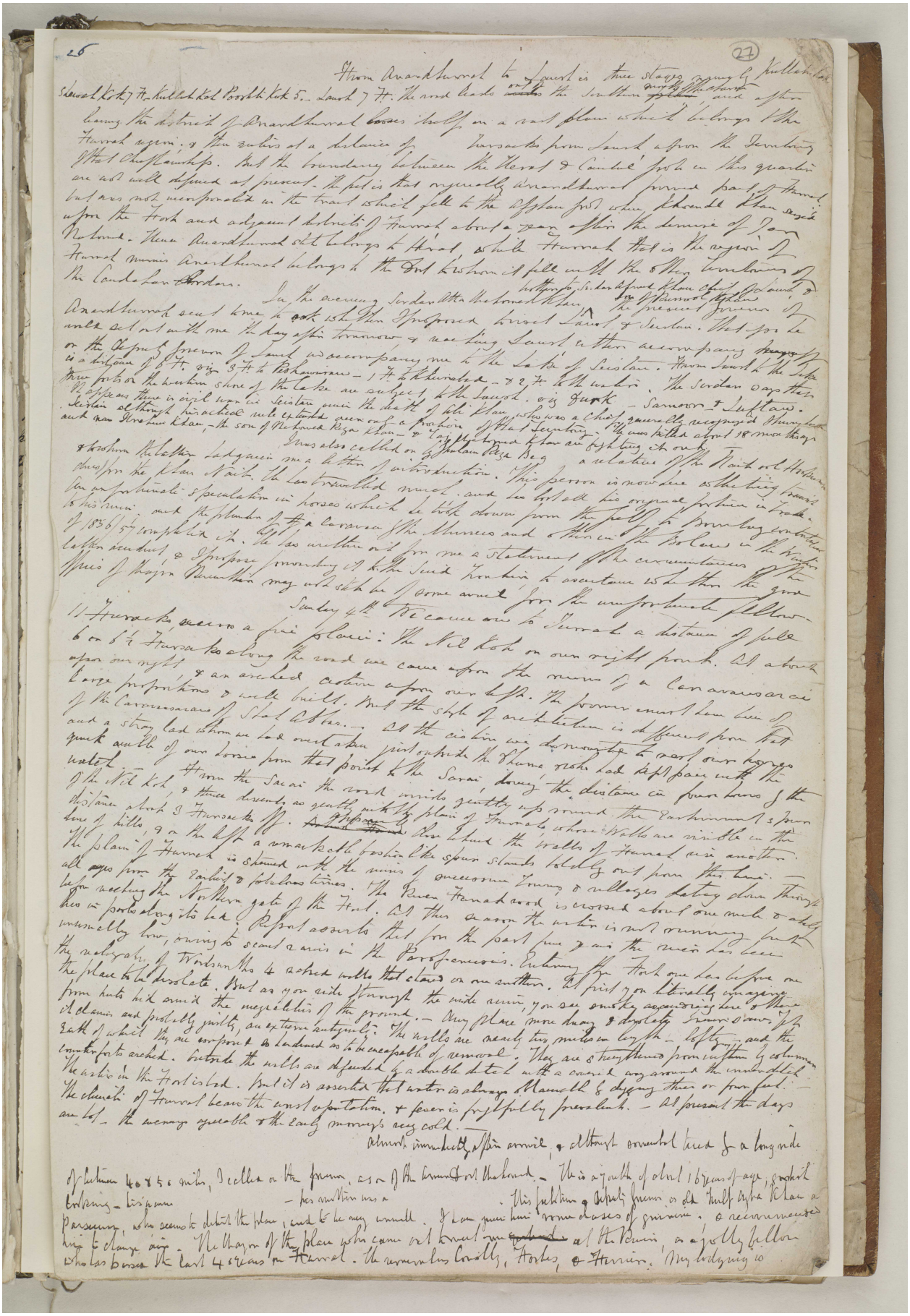

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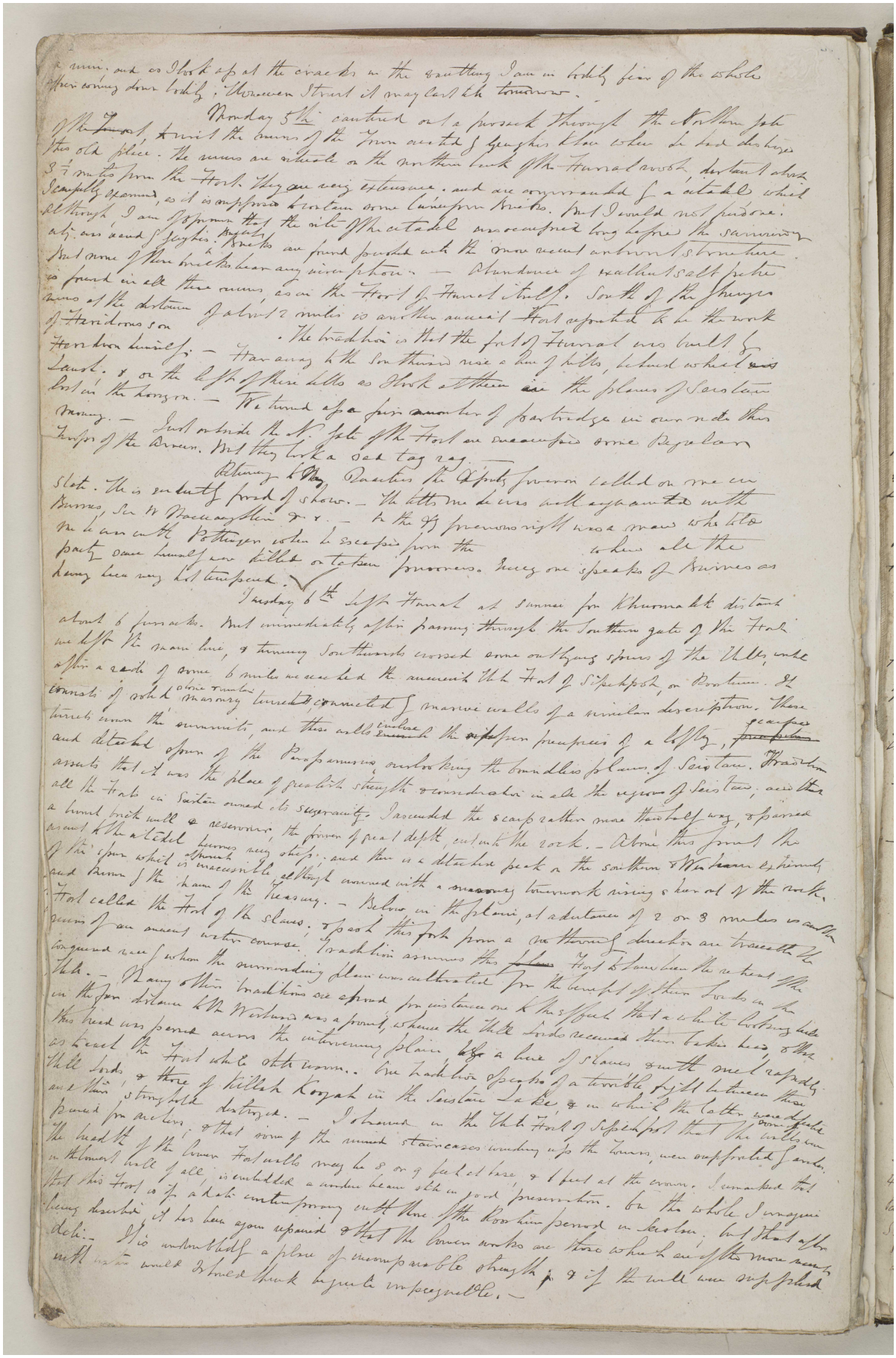

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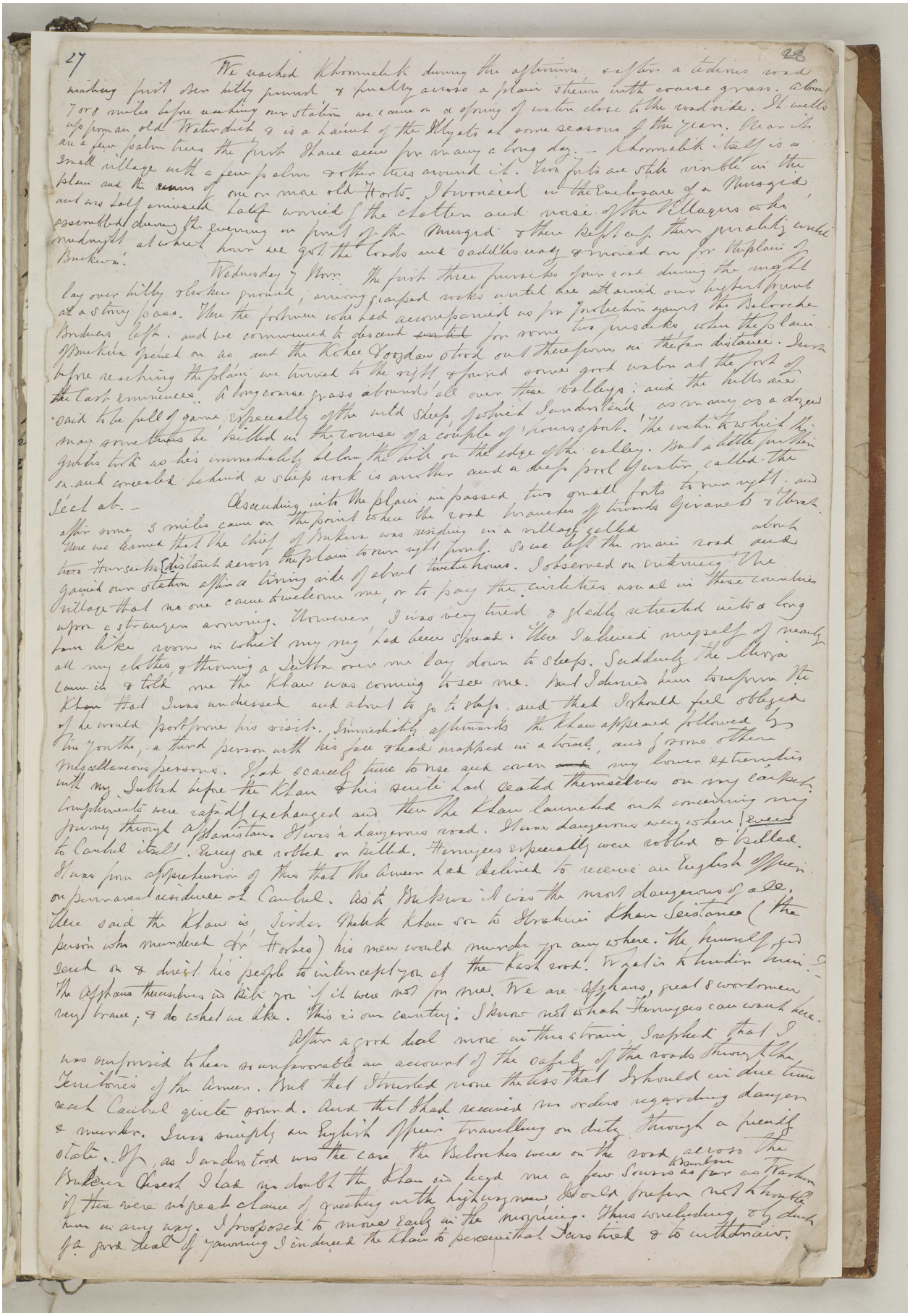

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We reached Khormalek during the afternoon after a tedious road winding first over hilly ground & finally across a plain thinly with coarse grass. About 7 or 8 miles before reaching our station we came on a spring of water close to the road side. It wells up from an old Water duct & is a haunt of the Khyats at some seasons of the year. Near it are a few palm trees the first I have seen for many a long day. – Khormalek itself is a small village with a few palm & other trees around it. Two forts are visible in the plain and the ruins of one or more old Forts. I encamped in the enclosure of a Mosque, and was sadly annoyed & worried by the clatter and noise of the villagers who assembled during the evening in front of the Mosque & there by their garrulity until midnight at which hour we got the Cooks and saddles ready & moved on for the plain of Bukwa.

Wednesday – Nov. The first three parasangs from Khormalek during the night lay over hilly & broken ground, among cleaved rocks until we attained our highest point at a stony pass. Here the footmen who had accompanied us for protection against the Beloochee Brothers left. and we commenced to descend ~~gradual~~ for some two parasangs when the plain of Bukwa opened on us and the Kohee Koordan stood out three farsangs in the distance. Ours before reaching the plain we turned to the right & found some good water at the foot of the last eminences. A long coarse grass abounds all over these valleys: and the hills are said to be full of game, especially of the wild sheep & ibex. I understand, as many as a dozen may sometimes be killed in the course of a couple of hours sport. The water which Hajee Gobbi took us to immediately below the hill on the edge of the valley. But a little further on and concealed behind a steep rock is another and a deep pool of water, called the Seeah ab. –

Ascending into the plain we passed two small forts to our right: and after some 3 miles came on the point where the road branches off towards Girjawan & Herat. Here we learned that the chief of Bukwa was residing in a village called about two farsangs distant across the plain to our right front. So we left the main road and gained our station after a tiring ride of about twelve hours. I observed on entering the village that no one came to welcome me, or to pay the civilities usual in these countries upon a stranger arriving. However I was very tired & gladly retreated into a long low room in which my ~~my~~ bed had been spread. There I relieved myself of nearly all my clothes & throwing a Resai over me lay down to sleep. Suddenly the Khan came in & told me the Khan was coming to see me. But I declined him to inform the Khan that I was undressed and about to go to sleep, and that I should feel obliged if he would postpone his visit. Immediately afterwards the Khan appeared followed by his youths, a third person with his face & head wrapped in a towel, and some other miscellaneous persons. I had scarcely time to rise and cover ~~my~~ my lower extremities with my Sabbah before the Khan & his people had seated themselves on my carpet. Compliments were rapidly exchanged and then the Khan launched into conversing my journey through Afghanistan. It was a dangerous road. It was dangerous every where! Even to Cabul itself. Every one robbed or killed. Ferangees especially were robbed & killed. It was from apprehension of this that the Ameer had declined to receive an English Officer on permanent residence at Cabul. As to Bukwa it was the most dangerous of all. There said the Khan is Sirdar Rahik Khan son to Hashim Khan Seistanee (the person who murdered Dr Forbes) his men would murder you any where. He himself would send on & direct his people to intercept you at the last road. What a thief is that man! The Afghans themselves are like you if it were not for steel. We are Afghans, great & courteous very brave, & do what we like. This is our country. I know not what Ferangees can want here.

After a good deal more in this strain, I inferred that I was surprised to hear so unfavorable an account of the safety of the roads throughout the Territories of the Ameer. But that I trusted none the less that I should in due time reach Cabul quite sound. And that I had received no orders regarding danger & murder. I was simply an English Officer travelling on duty through a friendly state. If, as I understood was the case the Beloochees were on the road across the Bukwa Desert I had no doubt the Khan would lend me a few Sowars as far as Farah if there were a great chance of meeting with highwaymen. I should prefer not to trouble him in any way. I proposed to move early in the morning. Thus unclenching & declining a good deal of yawning I induced the Khan to persuade that I was tired & to withdraw.

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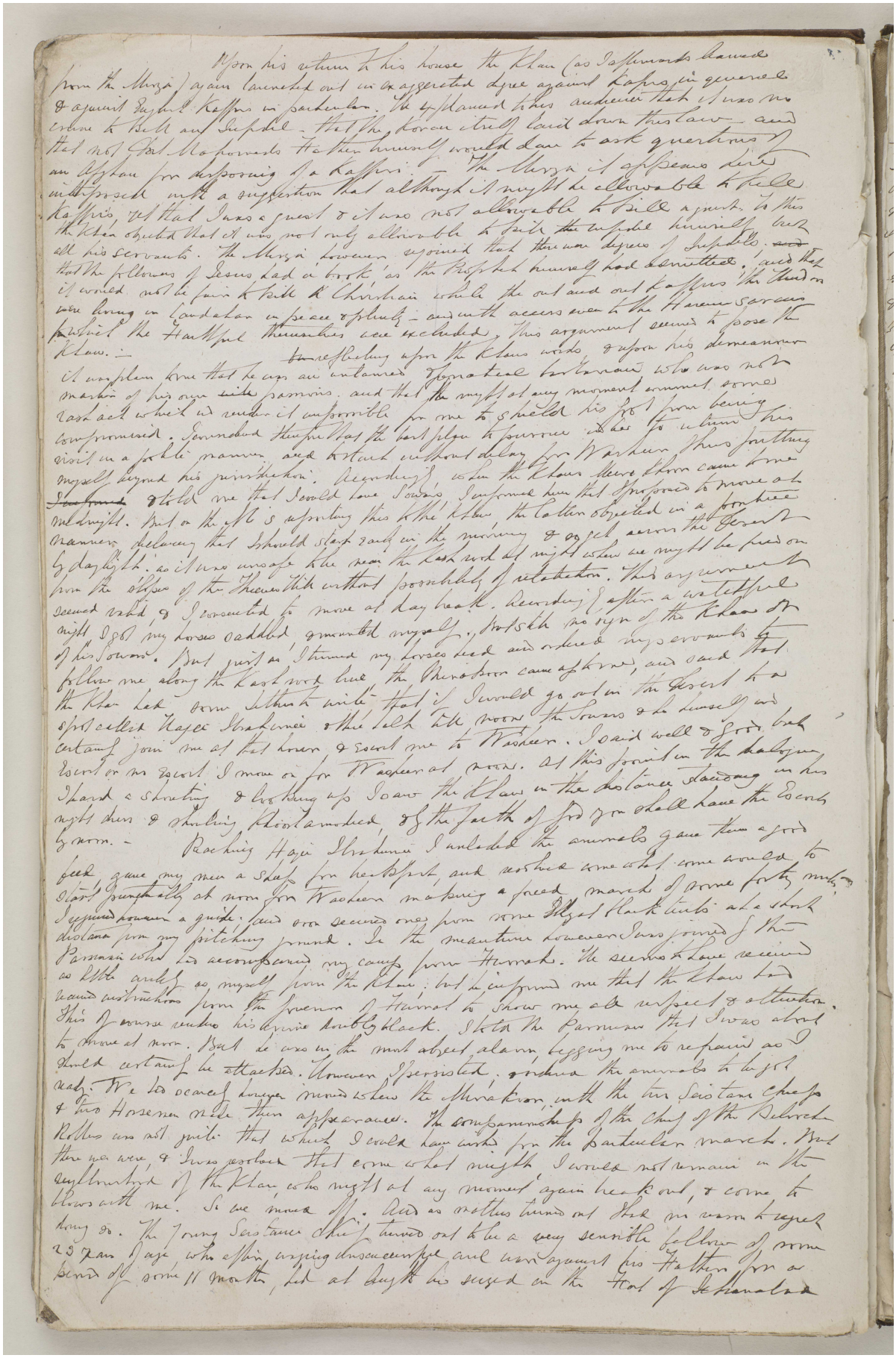

Upon his return to his house the Khan (as I afterwards learned from the Mirza) again launched out in exaggerated abuse against Kafirs in general & against English Kaffirs in particular. He explained that it was no crime to kill an Infidel - that the Koran itself laid down this law - and that not Gul Mahomed's father himself would dare to ask questions of an Afghan for disposing of a Kaffir. - The Mirza it appears dared interpose with a suggestion that although it might be allowable to kill Kaffirs, yet that I was a guest & it was not allowable to kill a guest. To this the Khan objected that it was not only allowable to kill the Infidel himself, but all his servants. The Mirza however opined that there were degrees of Infidels, and that the followers of Jesus had a book as the Prophet himself had admitted, and that it would not be fair to kill a Christian while the out and out Kaffirs the Hindus were living in Candahar in peace & plenty - and with access even to the Harems of Sirdars whilst the Faithful themselves were excluded. This argument seemed to pose the Khan. -

He then fell to reflecting upon the Khans words & upon his demeanour. It was plain that he was an untamed Tartar savage who was not master of his own wild passions, and that he might at any moment commit some rash act which would render it impossible for me to shield his people from being compromised. I remarked therefore that the best plan I perceived was for me to return his visit in a public manner, and to start without delay for Washeer. I was just putting myself in the saddle when the Khan's Mirza came to me & told me that I could have Sowars. I informed him that I proposed to move at midnight. But on the Mirza supporting this the Khan, the latter objected in a courteous manner, declaring that I should start early in the morning & go with a strong escort from the village of the Shewultik without possibility of interception. This argument seemed valid, & I consented to move at day break. Accordingly after a watchful night I got my horses saddled & mounted myself, but with no sign of the Khans or of his Sowars. But just as I turned my horses head and ordered my servants to follow me along the Kafir road that the Shewultiks came up & now, and said that the Khan had now altered his mind - that if I would go out in the desert to the Khan Lak some 12 miles that I should take with me 100 Sowars & he himself and 500 select Hazara Shekarees & that he would then accompany me as far as Washeer. I said well & good but I must be back at Washeer at noon. At this point in the dialogue I heard a shouting & looking up I saw the Khan in the distance standing in his stirrups & shaking his clenched fist & the oath of God you shall have the escort by noon. -

Reaching Haji Ibrahim I unloaded the animals gave them a good feed, gave my men a short rest & breakfast, and at 8 o'clock we started punctually at noon from Washeer making a speed march of some forty miles. I procured however a guide, and one second one from some Ilgat Kuki tents at a short distance from my pitching ground. In the meantime however I was joined by the Persian who had accompanied my camp from Herrock. He seems to have received as little credit as myself from the Khan: but he informed me that the Khan had received instructions from the Governor of Herrock to show me all respect & attention. This of course explains his divine double Black. I told the Persian that I was about to move at noon. But he was in the most abject alarm, begging me to remain as I should certainly be attacked. However I persisted, ordered the animals to be got ready. We had scarcely however moved when the two Sistanee Chiefs & two Horsemen rode their appearance. The countenances of the Chief of the Belooch Rebbers was not quite that which I could have wished for the Particular march. But there we were, & I was resolved that come what might I would not remain in the neighbourhood of the Khan, who might at any moment again break out, & come to blows with me. So we moved off. Rain as matters turned out took us reason to regret having so. The young Sistanee Chief turned out to be a very sensible fellow of some 23 years of age who after urging unsuccessfully and unwisely against his father for a period of some 11 months, left at daylight his seized on the Hirat of Seistan and

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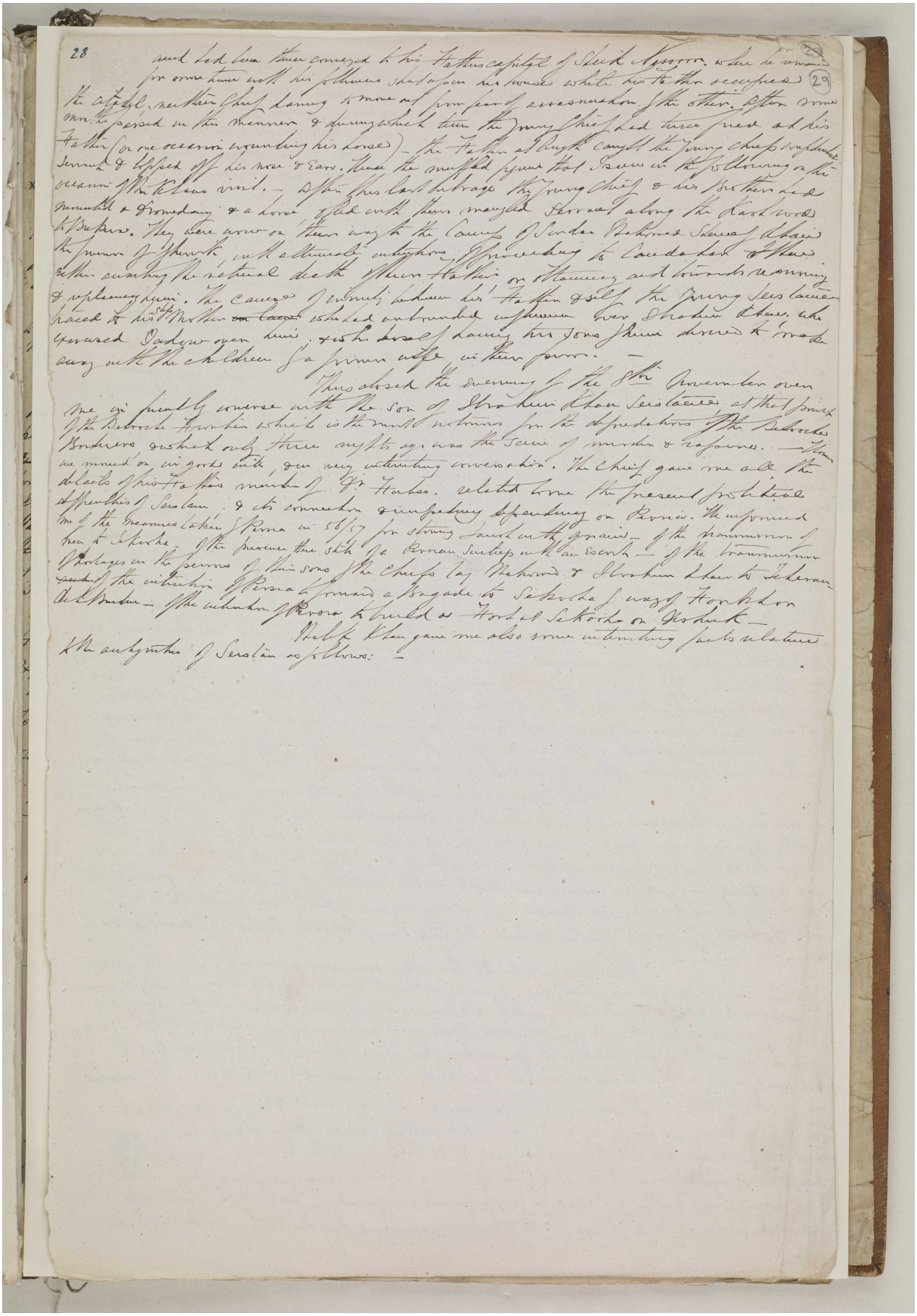

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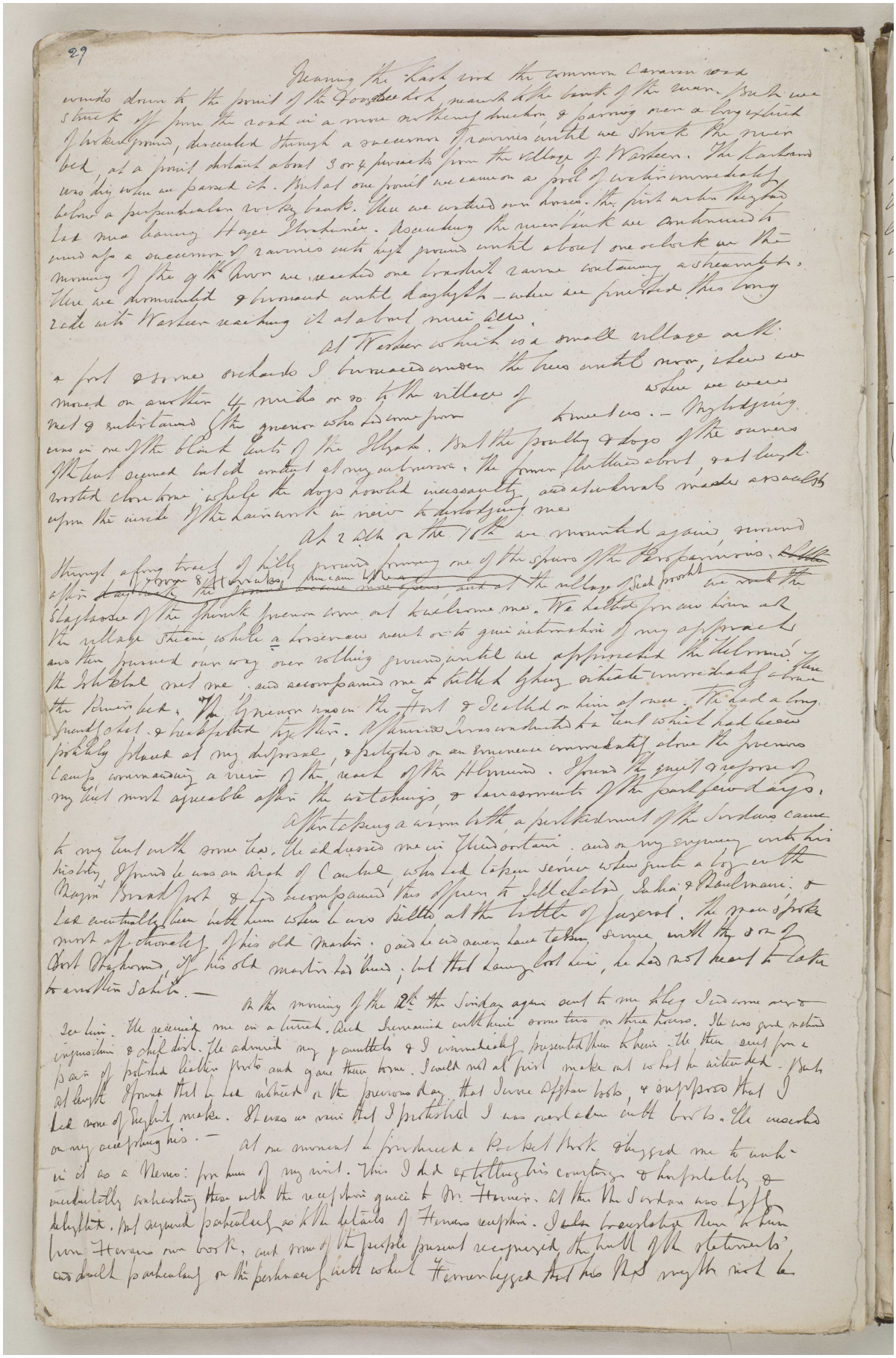

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Bearing the track and the common caravan road
wends down to the point of the Zangbeleh, near the bank of the river. Here we
struck off from the road in a more northerly direction & passing over a long stretch
of undulating ground, descended through a succession of ravines until we struck the river
bed, at a point distant about 3 or 4 furseks from the village of Warkeer. The Kashand
was dry when we passed it. But at one point we came on a pool of water immediately
below a perpendicular rock by bank. Here we watered our horses. The pista nuts being
but now coming to Hagee Ebrahimee. Ascending the river bank we continued to
wind up a succession of ravines until high ground until about one o'clock we then
morning of the 9th Nov we reached one bracketed ravine containing a stream of water.
Here we dismounted & breakfasted until daylight — when we pursued this long
rocky path into Warkeer reaching it at about nine o'clock.

At Warkeer which is a small village with
a few & stone orchards I encamped under the trees until noon, when we
moved on another 4 miles or so to the village of where we were
met & entertained by the governor who had come from Kowtees. — My lodging
was in one of the black tents of the Illyats. But the poultry & dogs of the owners
of the tent caused me constant annoyance. The former flutter about, and the
roosted close to me, while the dogs howled incessantly, and attempted to make an assault
upon the inside of the tent in order to devour me.

At 2 o'clk on the 10th we mounted again ascending
through a long track of hilly ground forming one of the spurs of the Hindoo Koosh mountains. [illegible]
after [illegible] hours & a half's ride [illegible] the village of Sedi-parsha we took the
diligence of the Chief's servants who came out to welcome me. We halted for an hour at
the village Chief, while a horseman went on to give information of my approach
and then pursued our way over rolling ground until we approached the Helmund, &
the Ishkobal met me, and accompanied me to Kilah Ghiz situate immediately above
the Ferry Ford. The Governor was on the Ford & received me in his camp. He had a long
pavilion of chintz & kanaut type there. A mission was conducted to a tent which had been
probably placed at my disposal, & pitched on an eminence immediately above the previous
camp commanding a view of the reach of the Helmund. I found the quiet & repose of
my tent most agreeable after the watchings & harassments of the past few days.

After taking a warm bath, a present of the Sirdars came
to my tent with some tea. He addressed me in Hindoostanee, and on my expressing much his
history. I found he was an Arab of Caubul who had taken service when quite a boy with the
Begum Broad foot & had accompanied this Queen to Allahabad, Lahore & Bahawalpore. &
had eventually been with him when he was settled at the bottle of Jaisalmere. He spoke
most affectionately of his old master. Said he had never taken service with the son of
Dost Mahomed, of his old master's friend; but that having lost him, he had not heart to take
to another Sahib. —

On the morning of the 12th the Sirdar again sent to me to say he had come over to
see him. He received me in a tent. Dick Newcomb with him some time on three horses. He was good natured
ingenuous & chief dish. He admired my pantaloons & I immediately presented them to him. He then sent for a
pair of polished leather boots and gave them to me. I would not at first make out to what he alluded. But
at length I found that he had wished on the previous day that I were Afghan both, & supposed that I
had some of the kind make. It was in vain that I protested I was not a Mahomedan both by birth & education
on my accepting his. —

At one moment he produced a Pocket Book & begged me to write
in it as a Memorial from him of my visit. This I did after telling his courtiers & household, &
immediately exhausting them with the reception given to Dr. Harrison. At this the Sirdar was highly
delighted. Not appeased particularly as to the details of Harrison's reception. I also translated him to him
from Harrison's own book, and some of the people present recognized the handwriting of the statements,
and dwelt particularly on the performance with which Harrison begged that his Khan might not be

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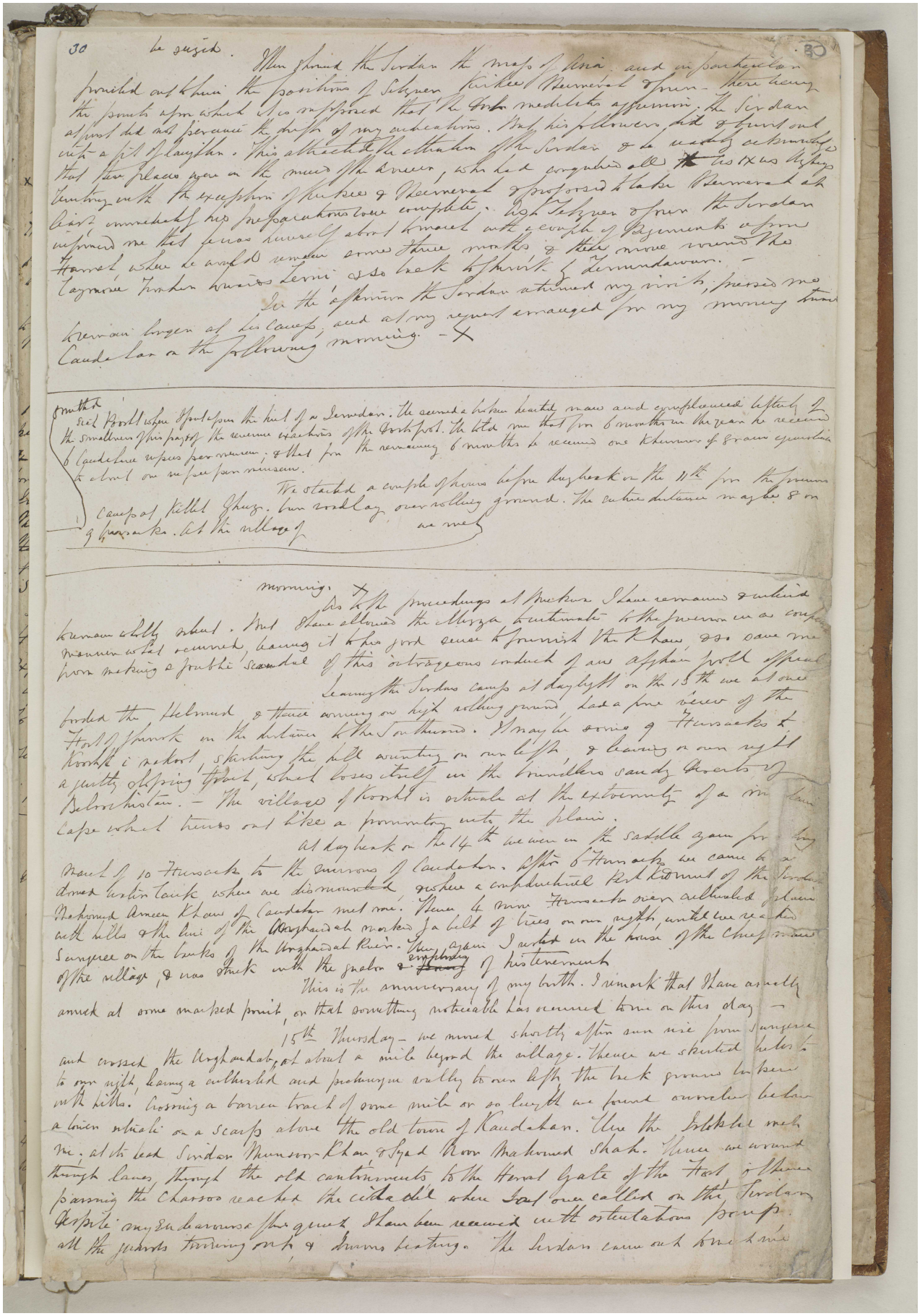

30 be inside.

When I found the Sirdar the master of Asia and in particular provided with the sanctions of Schyeer Turkee Reserved & Queen - there being the points upon which I was supposed that the Sirdar meditated opposition. The Sirdar at first did not perceive the drift of my observations. But his followers did & burst out into a fit of laughter. This attracted the attention of the Sirdar & he readily acknowledged that these places were in the power of the Queen, who had conquered all [illegible] as it was lying entirely in the exception of Kurkee & Reserved & professed to take Reserved at last immediately up. Preparations were complete. Both Schyeer & Queen the Sirdar informed me that Queen Victoria about to proceed with a couple of Regiments & some Hazarek where he would remain some three months & then move towards the Caspian Sea. Leaving Herat & back to Shorik & Dermandawar. -

In the afternoon the Sirdar returned my visit, pressed me to remain longer at his camp, and at my request arranged for my journey from Candahar on the following morning. - X

Sirdar Wali Mohd who first spoke the last of a Serwdan. He seemed a brave hearted man and complained bitterly of the smallness of his pay of the revenue statistics of the Govt post. He told me that from 6 months in the year he received 8 Candahar rupees per annum; & that for the remaining 6 months he received one Khanum of Grain equivalent to about 10 rupees per annum.

We started a couple of hours before daybreak on the 11th for the ground camp of Killat Ghuz. Our road lay over rolling ground. The entire distance may be 8 or 9 Parasanks. At the village of we met

morning. X

As to the proceedings at Quetta I have remained entirely silent. But I have allowed the Meerza Lutimate to the Governor as conveyed to me, leaving it to his good sense to furnish the Khan, & so save me from making a fool the scandal of this outrageous conduct of an Afghan public officer.

Leaving the Sirdars camp at daylight on the 13th we at once forded the Helmund & thence running on high rolling ground had a fine view of the Hindoo Koosh in the distance to the Southward. We may be some 9 Parasanks to Koorkh i Nekhot, starting the hill country on our left, & leaving on our right a gently sloping front, which loses itself in the boundless sandy deserts of Beloochistan. - The village of Koorkh is situate at the extremity of a low Cape which turns out like a promontory into the plain.

At daybreak on the 14th we were in the saddle again for a long march of 10 Parasanks to the environs of Candahar. After 6 Parasanks we came to a wide dried water course where we dismounted & where a confidential Retainer of the Sirdar Mahomed Ameen Khan of Candahar met me. Here 4 more Parasanks over undulated plains with hills & the line of the Arghandab marked by a belt of trees on our right, until we reached Sungaree on the banks of the Arghandab River. Here again I rested in the house of the Chief man of the village, & was struck with the [illegible] of his tenement.

This is the anniversary of my birth. I remark that I have usually arrived at some marked point, or that something noticeable has occurred to me on this day -

15th Thursday - we moved shortly after sun rise from Sungaree and crossed the Arghandab, at about a mile beyond the village. Thence we skirted hills to our right, having a cultivated and picturesque valley to our left, the back ground being with hills. Crossing a barren tract of some mile or so length we found ourselves below a town situate on a scarp above the old town of Candahar. Here the Sirdar met me, at the head Sirdar Mumsoor Khan & Syad Noor Mahomed Shah. Thence we wound through lanes, through the old cantonments to the Herat Gate of the Town, & thence passing the Chaoos reached the citadel where Sirdar Ooman called on the Sirdar. Despite my endeavours to [illegible] I have been received with ostentatious pomp. All the guards turning out & drums beating. The Sirdar came out to me &

me, and we had a brief conversation after which I was conducted to my apartments – being those formerly occupied by Sultan ab Khan – in the citadel. – A captain and a guard of twenty are over my doors – and orderly captain is in attendance – and four of the Sirdars confidential servants never leave me day or night. This is something very like being a Prisoner of State, however I pretend not to notice the fact. –

16th Scalled on the Sirdar early in the morning & in the course of conversation he made several objections to my going to Caubul to the Ameer. In the first place the coldness of the season – the danger en route – and the length of war I parried all these objections but I see I shall have difficulty in getting off. – In the afternoon the Syud called repeating the Sirdars conversation. The Sirdar then sent to sound me as to whether I expected him to return my call: I begged that he would on no account disturb himself on my account, that I should always consider myself as at his service during my stay in Kandahar, and would at any hour go over to see him. It is evident then is the greatest jealousy relative to my visit to the Ameer; I propose to wait until orders arrive from the Ameer himself and then either to proceed to Caubul, or to Quetta as circumstances may seem to dictate. –

From Candahar Munzils

Nowdeh –
Khalzeh –
Kojeick –
Pishing –
Hydenzye –
Shawlon Quetta –
Bak. –
Mustrong
Moonguchen
Khelah
Pundarau
Noorgaum
Mishk
Khutt (Sirdar Tag Md)
Bhagwan
Khozdar

Sungeeau
Maree
Kund
Peer Kuleel
Giricher
Balach –
Shagree
Omeid Ali
Kund
Laree

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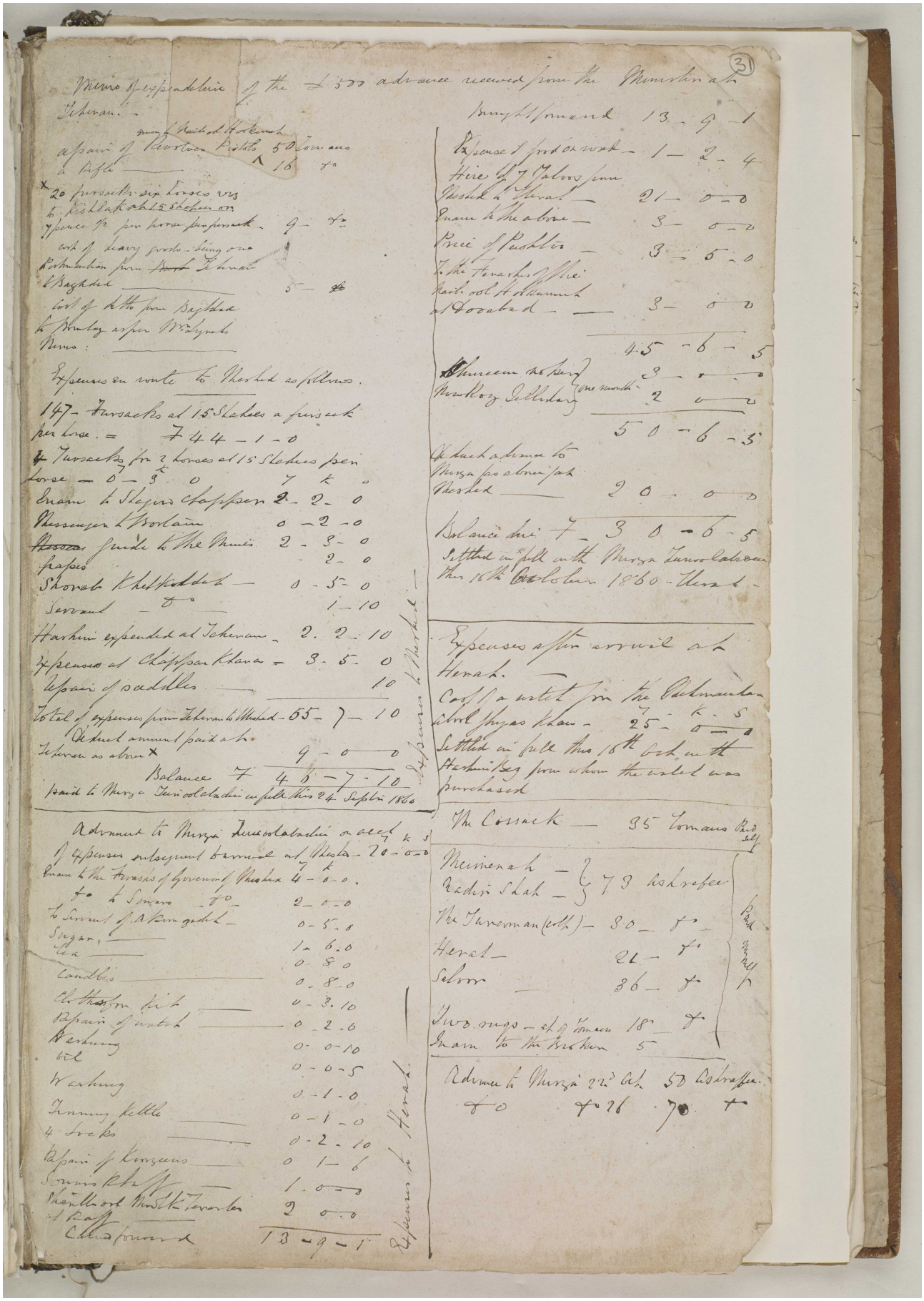

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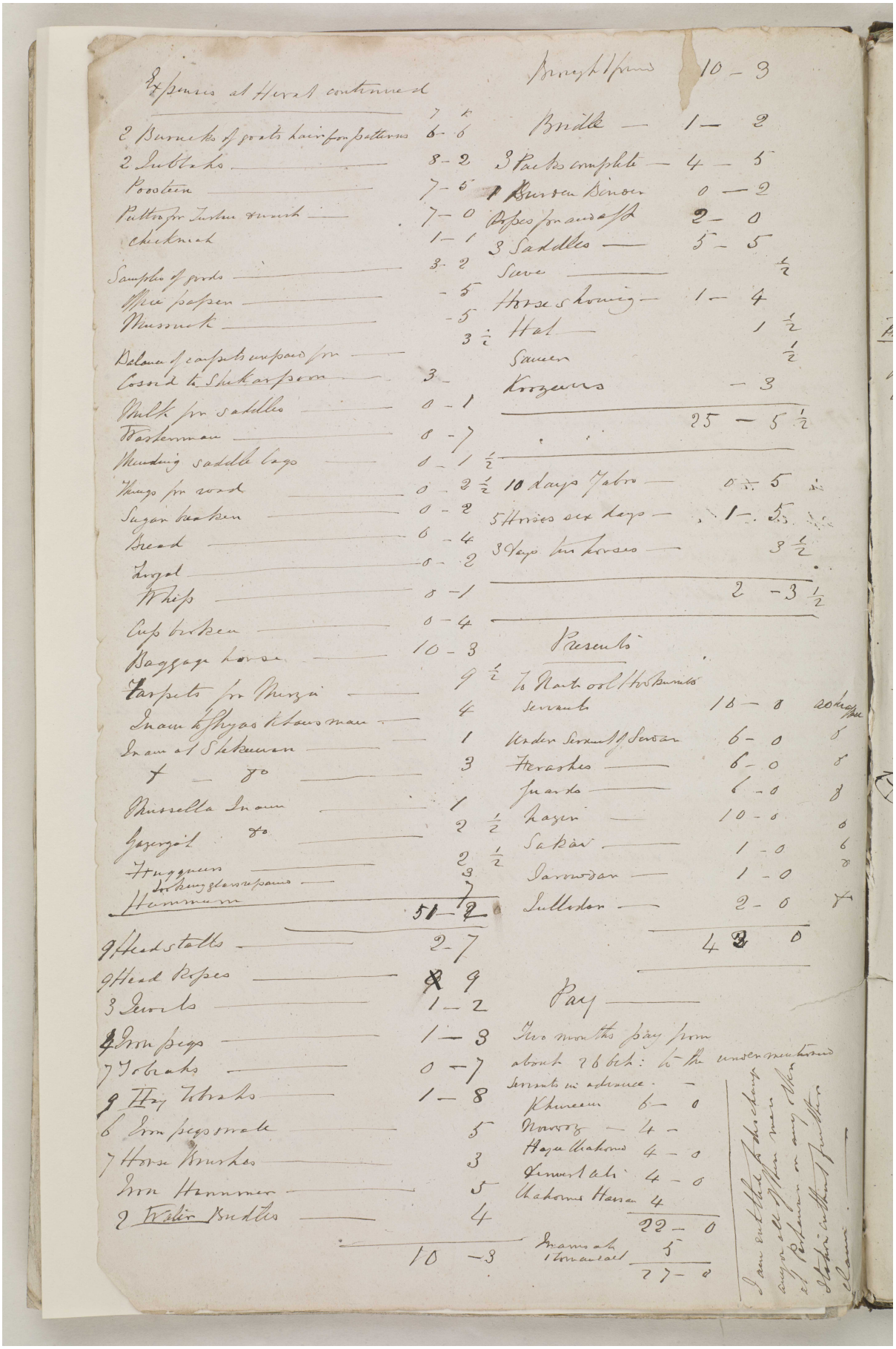

Expenses at Herat continued

2 Burnecks of goats hair for patterns	6 - 6
2 Jubbahs	8 - 2
Poostein	7 - 6
Putto for Turbun & cummerbund	7 - 0
Chudnah	1 - 1
Samples of goods	3 - 2
Wax papers	- 5
Mussuck	- 5
Balance of carpets unpaid for	3 -
Cossid to Shikarpoor	0 - 1
Milk for saddles	0 - 7
Washerman	0 - 1 ½
Mending saddle bags	0 - 2 ½
Things for road	0 - 2
Sugar broken	0 - 4
Bread	0 - 2
Lugd	0 - 1
Whip	0 - 4
Cup broken	10 - 3
Baggage horse	9 ½
Carpets for Nurza	4
Inam to Shyas Khans man	1
Inam at Sekaman	3
† — 80	
Russella Inam	1
Jazerjal do	2 ½
Hunguers	2 ½
Hammum	7
	51 - 2
9 Headstalls	2 - 7
9 Head Ropes	8 9
3 Swivels	1 - 2
4 Iron pegs	1 - 3
7 Tobrahs	0 - 7
9 Hay Tobrahs	1 - 8
6 Iron pegs small	5
7 Horse Brushes	3
Iron Hammer	5
2 Valise Saddles	4
	10 - 3

Brought from	10 - 3
Bridle	1 - 2
3 Packs complete	4 - 5
1 Burton Sinoor	0 - 2
Ropes for saddles	2 - 0
3 Saddles	5 - 5
Sieve	½
Horse shoeing	1 - 4
Hat	1 ½
Saucer	½
Krozeers	- 3
	25 - 5 ½
10 days Jabo	0 - 5
5 Horses six days	1 - 5
3 days for horses	3 ½
	2 - 3 ½

Presents

To Nasir-ool Hr Bunds servants	10 - 0	20 Rupees
Order Servants of Sardar	6 - 0	8
Herashes	6 - 0	8
Guards	6 - 0	8
Nazir	10 - 0	6
Sakar	1 - 0	6
Darwodar	1 - 0	8
Sullutan	2 - 0	8
	43 0	

Pay

Two months pay from about 26th Feb: to the undermentioned servants in advance —

Khureem	6 - 0
Nowroz	4 -
Haja Khakoms	4 - 0
Dinwut Ali	4 - 0
Khakoms Hasan	4
	22 - 0
Inam on account of Travancore	5
	77 - 0

Inam entitled to Khakoms
Inam at 10 Rupees on account
Pelly in addition to Inam

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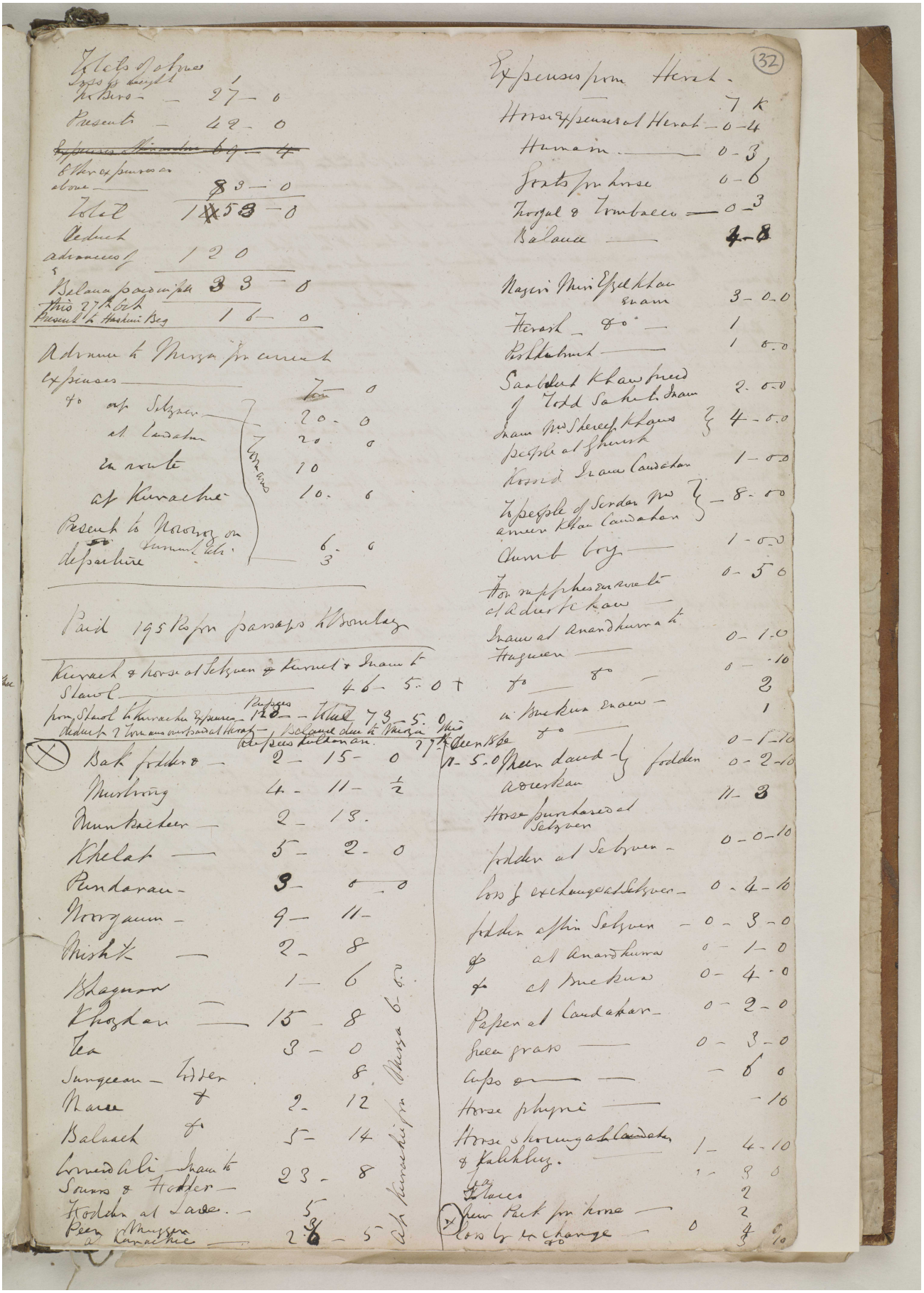

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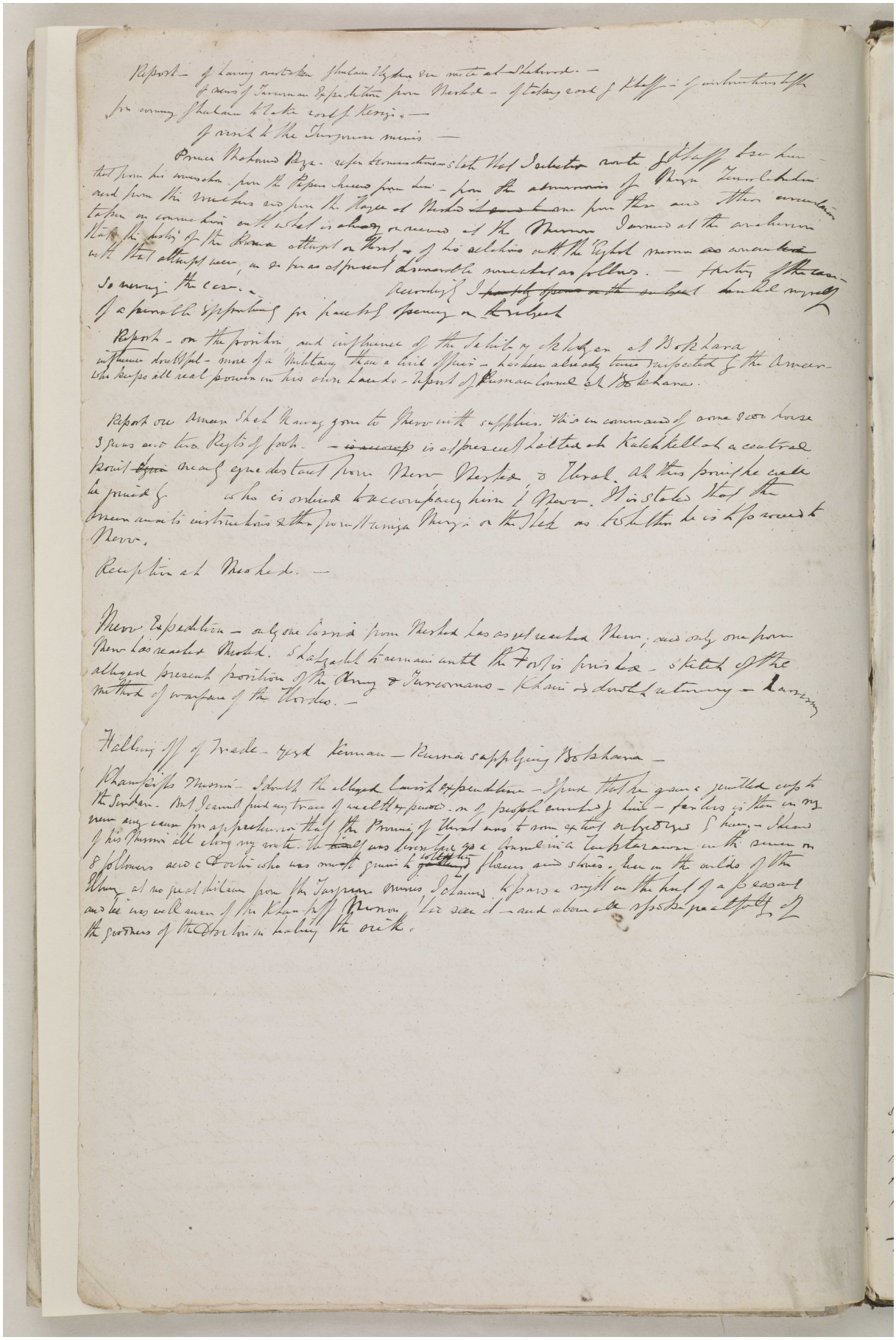

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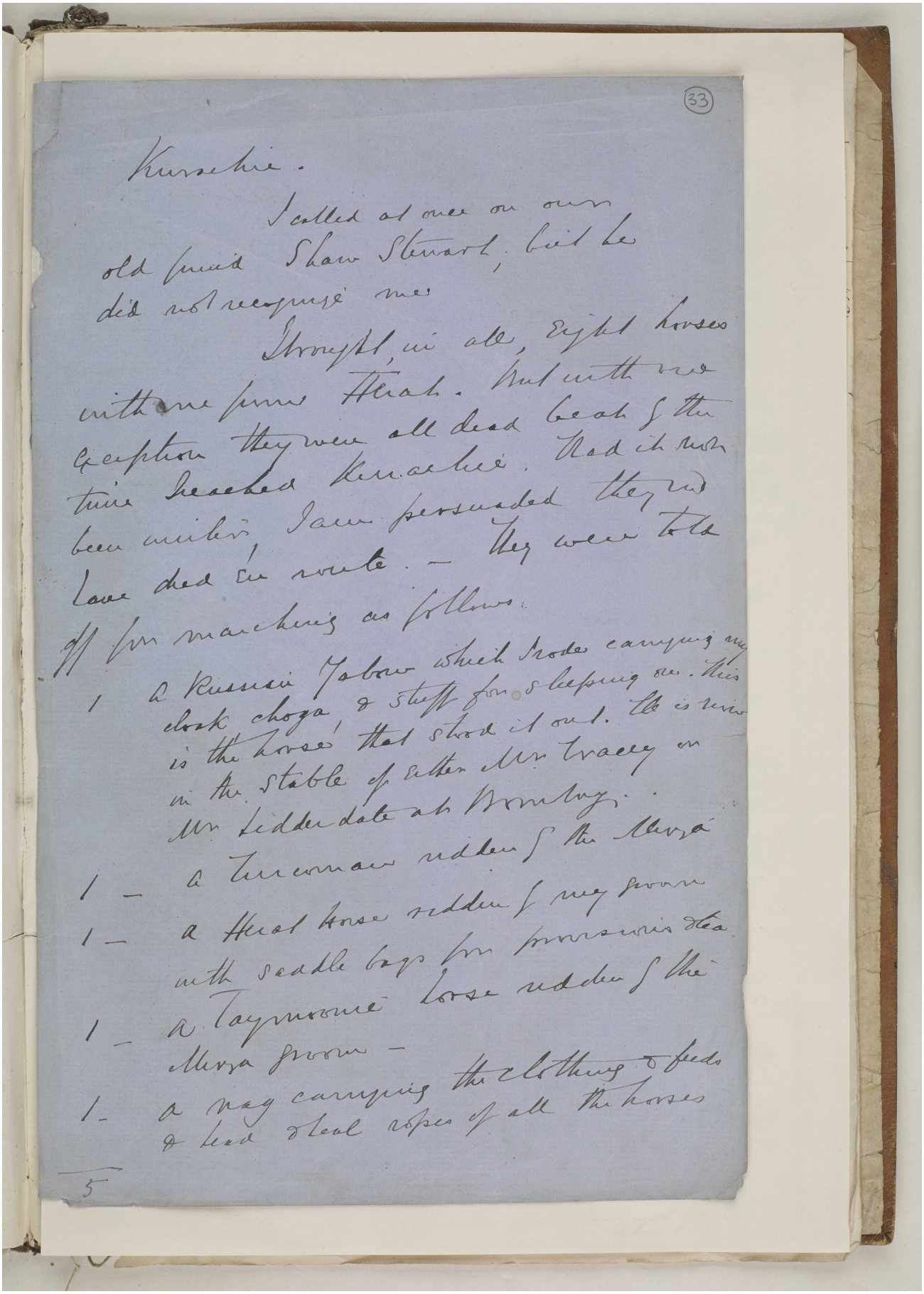

Kurachee.

I called at once on our old friend Shaw Stewart, but he did not recognize me.

I brought, in all, eight horses with me from Herat. But with one exception they were all dead beat by the time I reached Kurachee. Had it not been winter, I am persuaded they wd have died en route. — They were told off for marching as follows:

1 A Russian Yabow which I rode carrying my cloak, choga, & stuff for sleeping on. This is the horse that stood it out. He is now in the stable of either Mr Tracey or Mr Sidderdale at Bombay.

1 — A Turcoman ridden by the Mirza

1 — A Herat horse ridden by my groom with saddle bags for provisions & tea

1 — A Taymoonee horse ridden by the Mirza groom —

1 — A nag carrying the clothing & feeds & head & heal ropes of all the horses

5

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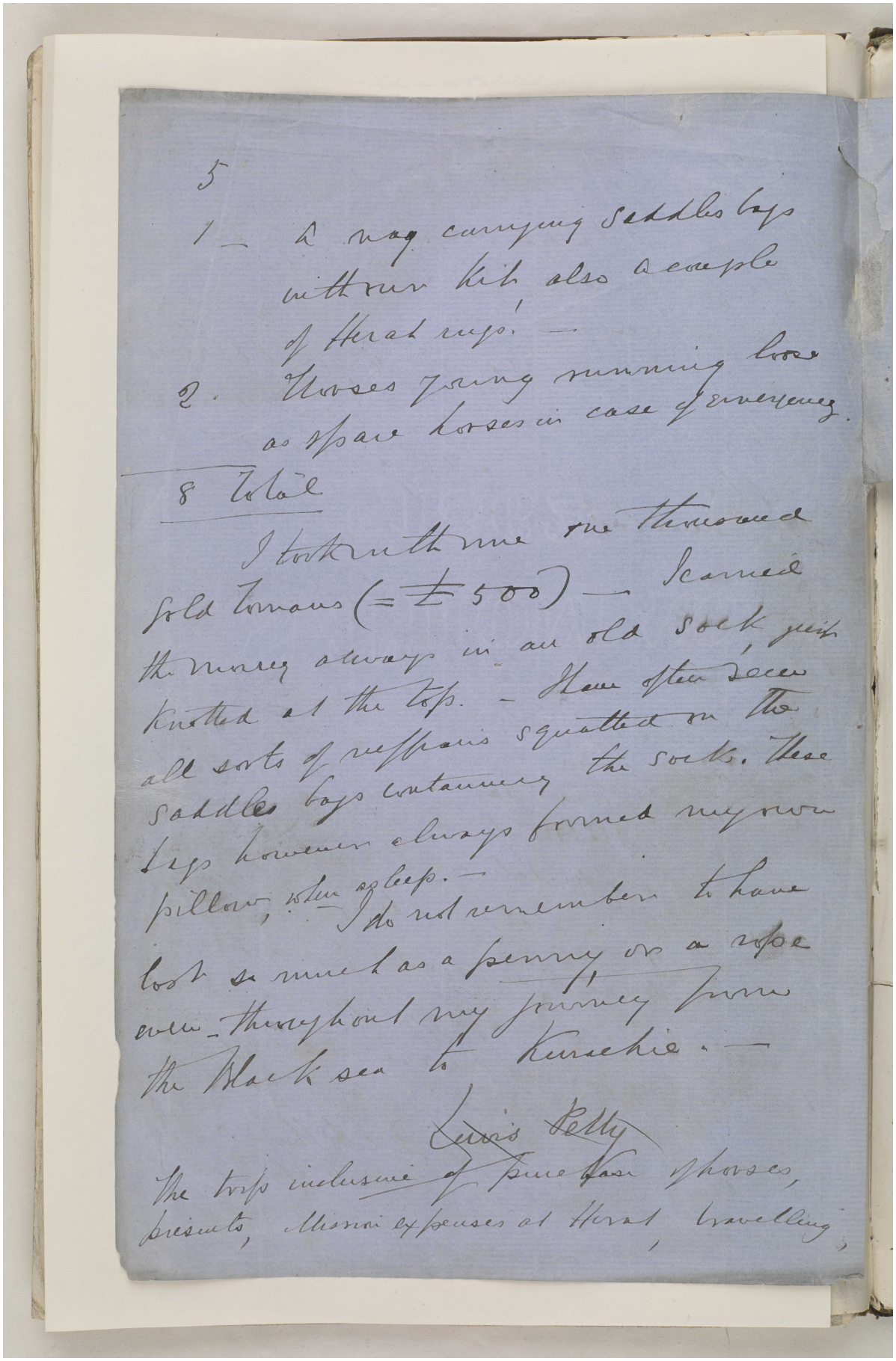

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1— 2 mag carrying Saddles bags with our kit also a couple of Herat rugs. —

2. Horses going running loose as spare horses in case of emergency.

8 Total

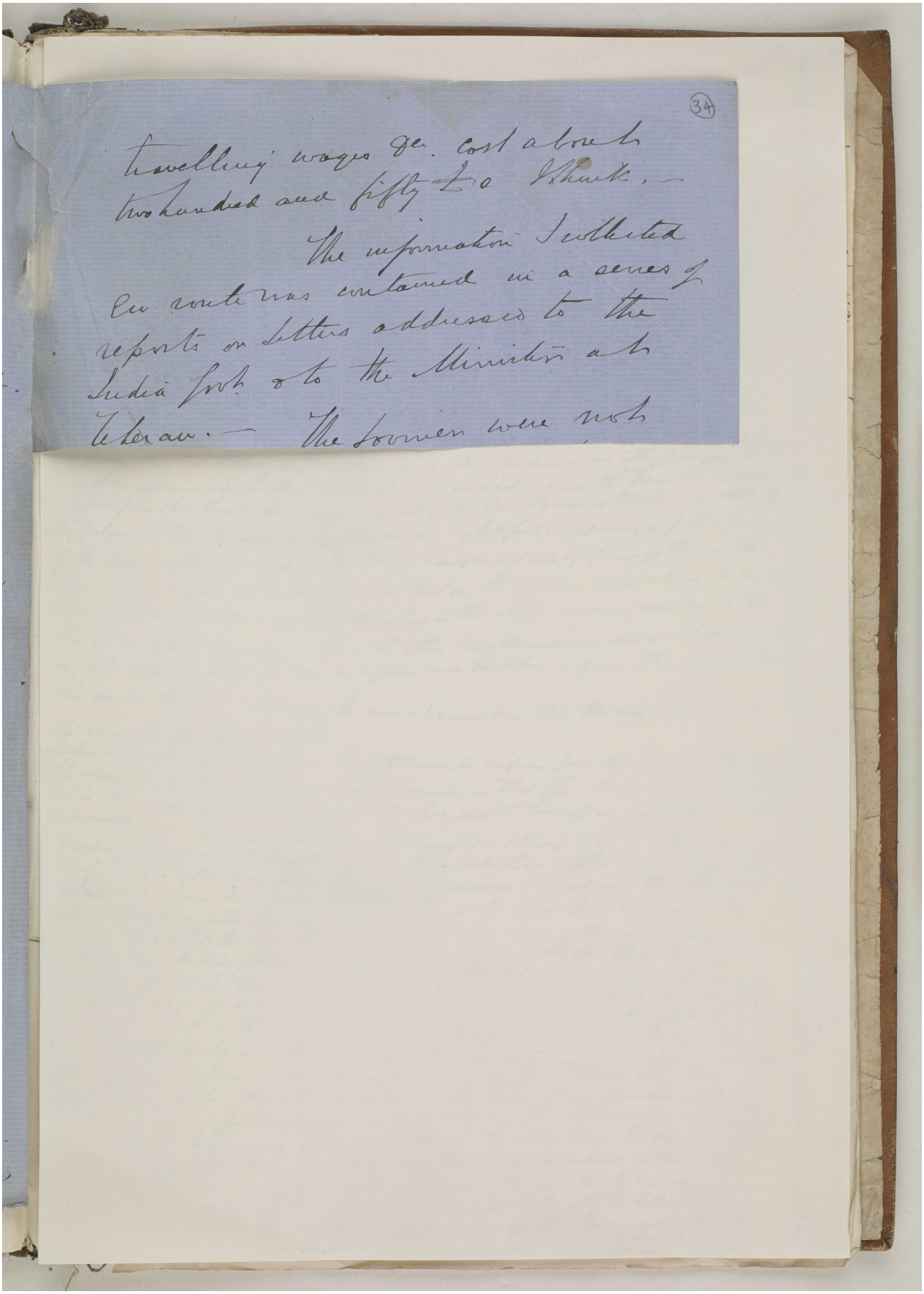
I took with me one thousand Gold Tomans (= £500) — I carried the money always in an old sock, just knotted at the top. — How often I've seen all sorts of persons squatted on the Saddles bags containing the socks. These bags however always formed my own pillow, when asleep. —

I do not remember to have lost so much as a penny or a rope even throughout my journey from the Black sea to Kurachee. —

Lewis Pelly

The trip inclusive of purchase of horses, presents, Mission expenses at Herat, travelling,

Journal of Lewis Pelly's official journey overland from Persia to India through Afghanistan including Mashhad, Herat and Kabul. [34r] (67/90)



(34)

travelling wages &c. cost about two hundred and fifty £s I think. —

The information I collected en route was contained in a series of reports on letters addressed to the India Govt. & to the Minister at Teheran. — The Sowmen were not

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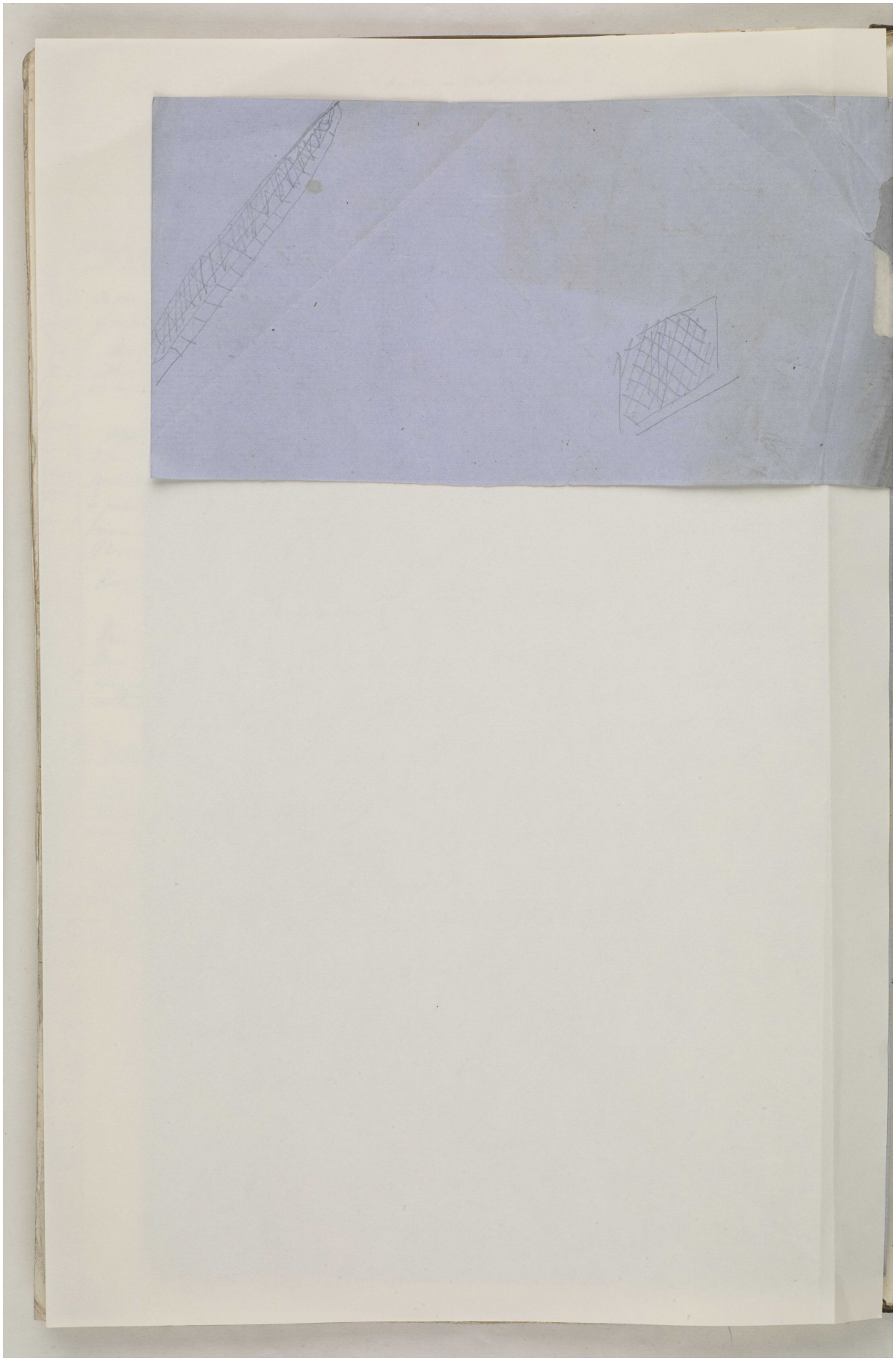

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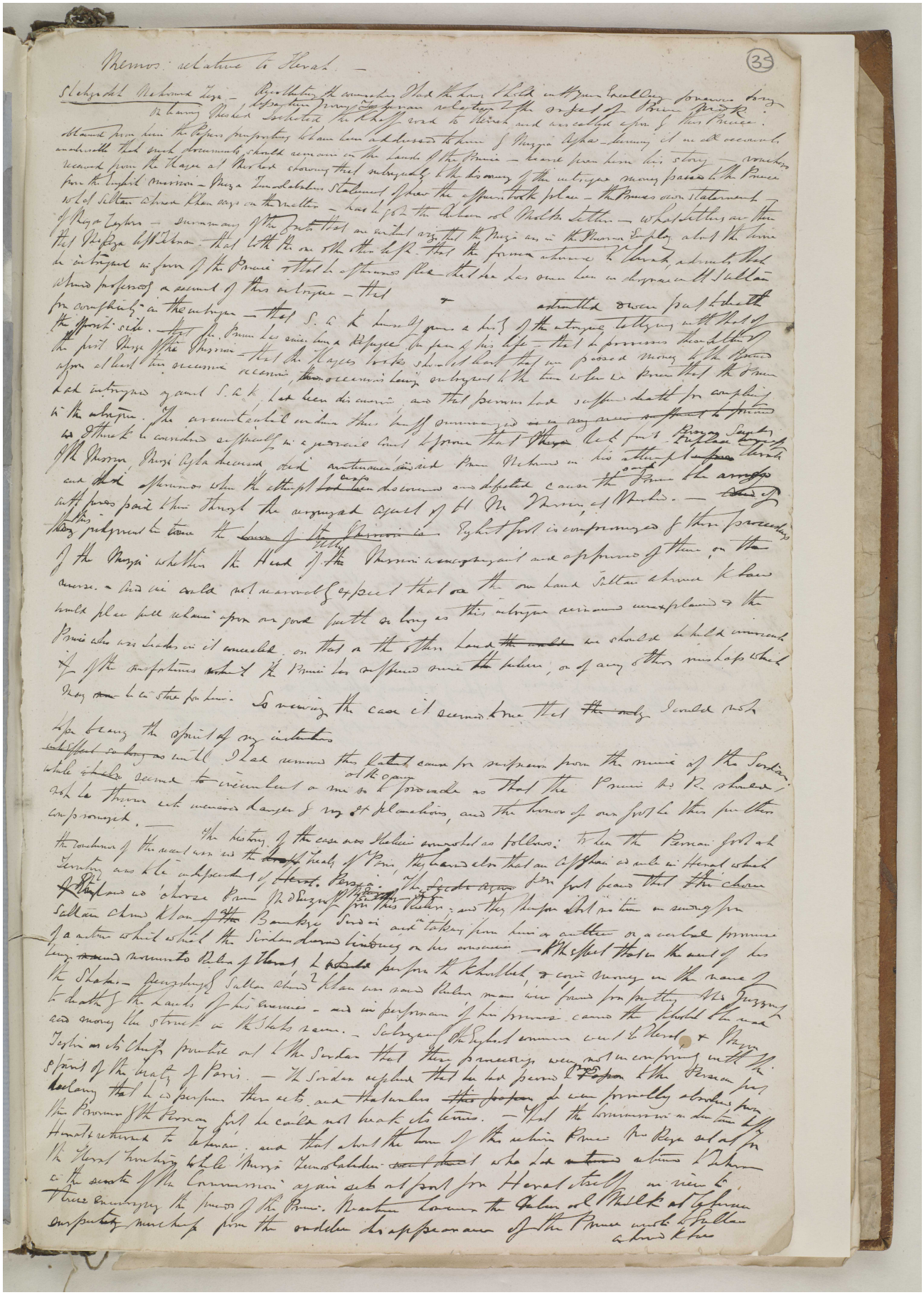

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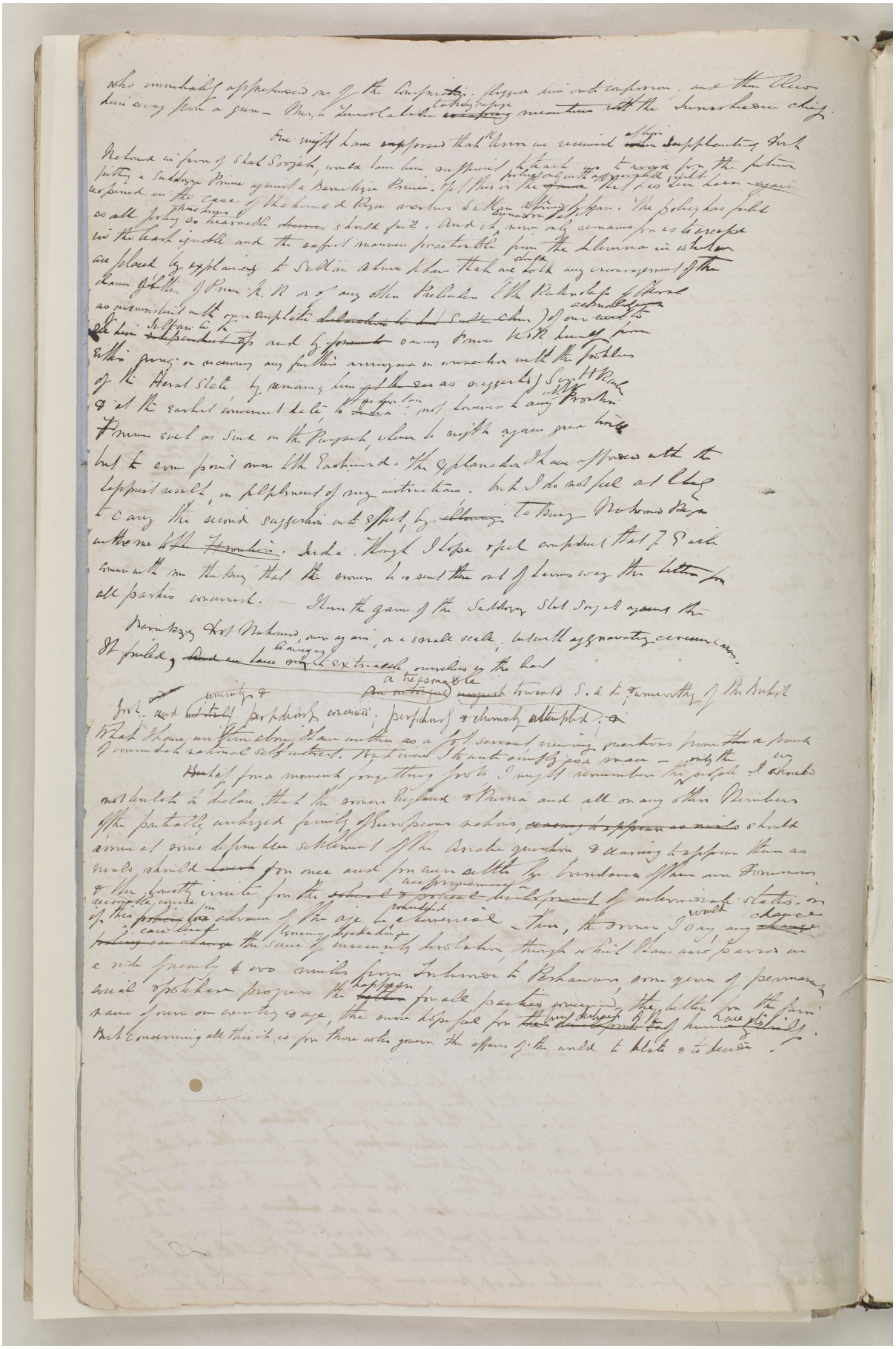

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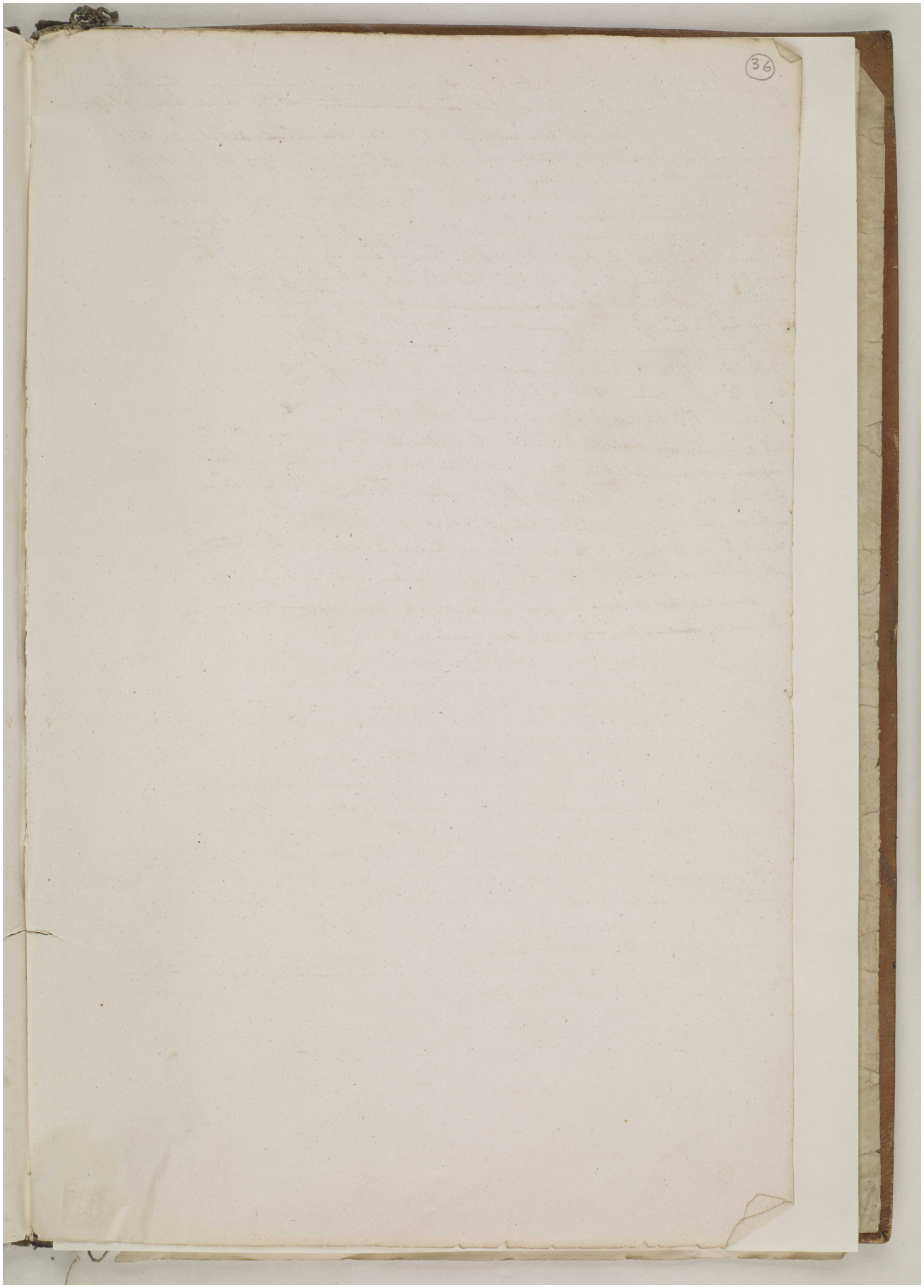

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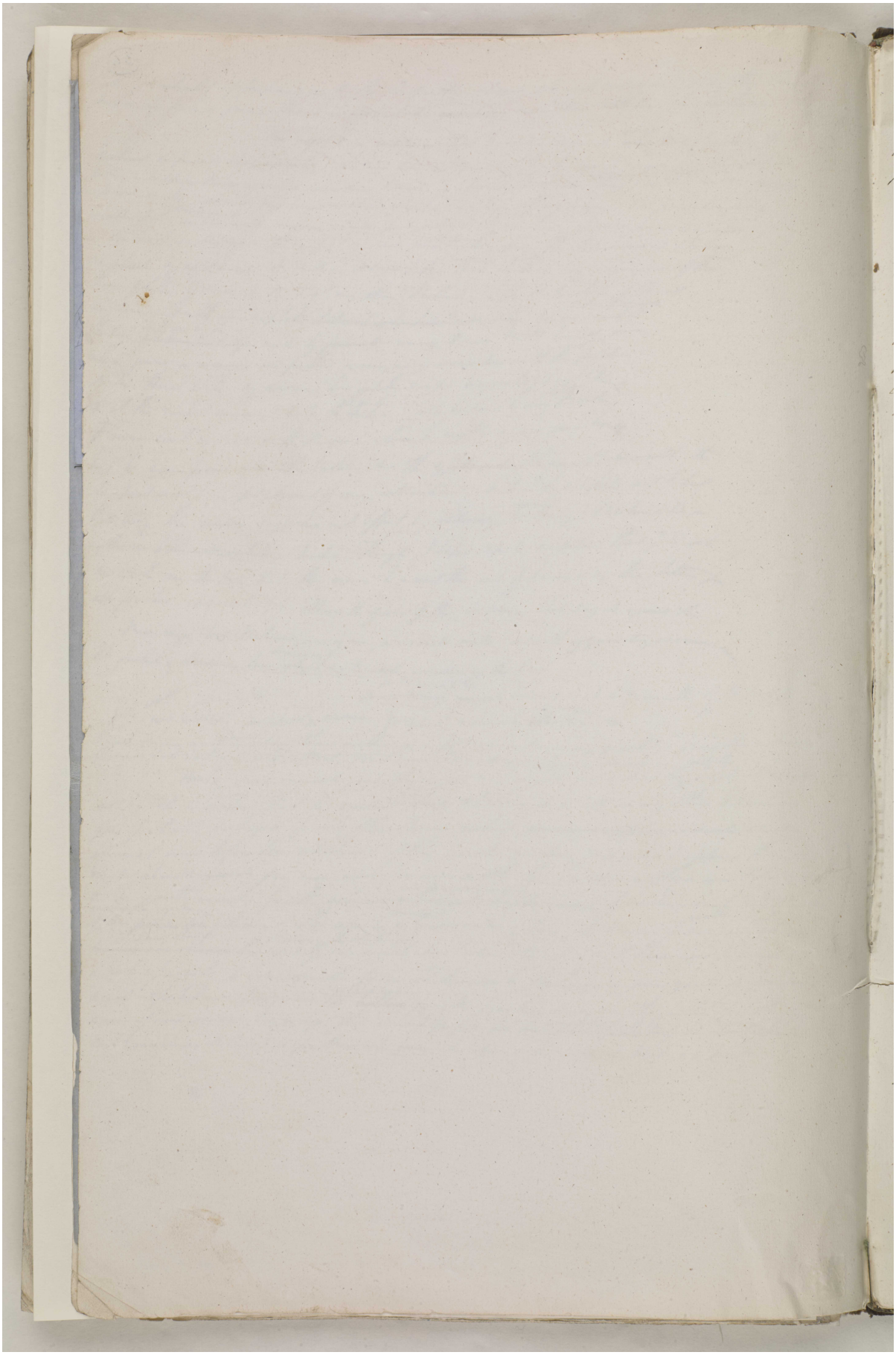

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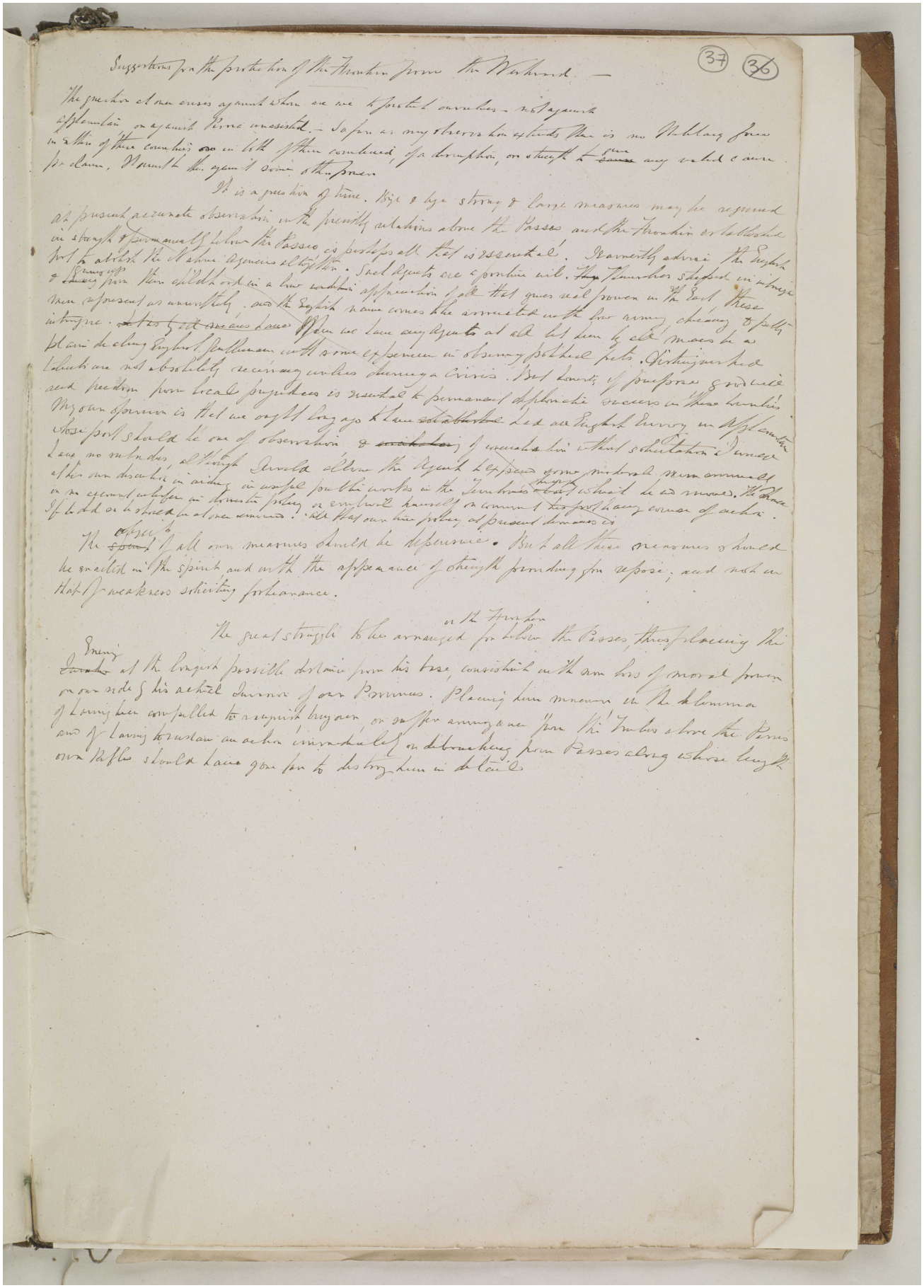


Suggestions for the protection of the Frontier from the Northward —

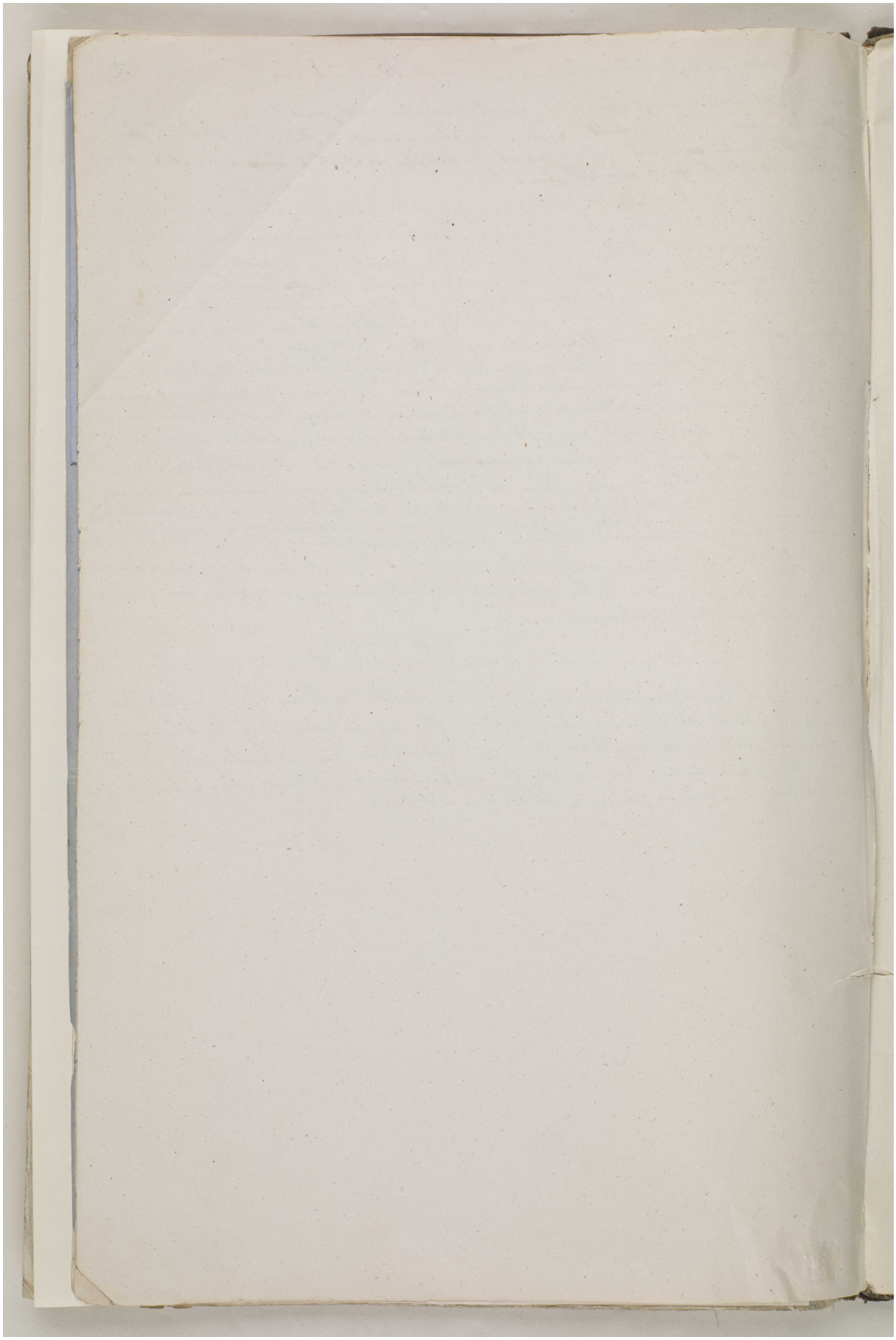
(37) (36)

The practice of our enemies against whom we are to protect ourselves — not against Afghanistan or against Persia unassisted — So far as my observation extends there is no Nobleborg spirit in either of these countries ~~as~~ in both of them combined, for a demonstration, or struggle to ~~save~~ any valued cause or claim. We must therefore against domestic Enemies

It is a question of time. Bye & bye strong & large measures may be required at present accurate observation in the friendly relations above the Passes and the Frontier or battalions in strength & permanently above the Passes is perhaps all that is essential. I earnestly advise the Indian Govt to establish the Persian Agencies at Herat. Such Agents are a frontier will. The Frontiers should be in always & every year their childhood in a low condition of preparation for all the great purposes in the East these men represent as unworthily. and the English name comes like a sunbeam with her rarely cheering & fully intrigue. ~~as to all sea and Land~~ When we have any Agents at all let them be all means be as plain dealing English Gentlemen with as little of secrecy in observing political facts. Distinguished talents are not absolutely necessary unless during a crisis. But Loyalty of purpose & moderate zeal and freedom from local prejudices is essential to permanent influence & success in these countries. My own opinion is that we ought long ago to have established Dak and Telegraph lines in Afghanistan those posts should be one of observation & ~~cricketing~~ I would hire without scruple a Persian Land no subsidies, although I would allow the Agent to expend some pocket money on arms or other such discretion in aiding in useful public works in the Frontiers that should be their chief means. Where or an agent might be in danger in times of policy or embroil himself or compromise his post having a corps of archers If he did or should be always removed. All that our true policy at present demands is

The ~~spirit~~ appearance of all our measures should be defensive. But all these measures should be guarded in the spirit and with the appearance of strength pointing for repose; and not as an act of weakness soliciting forbearance.

The great struggle to be arranged for in the Frontier or the Passes, thus placing the Enemy ~~Invader~~ at the longest possible distance from his base, consistent with the non loss of moral power on our side & his actual Surrender of our Provinces. Placing him moreover in the dilemma of having been compelled to acquire by over or superannuate from his Frontiers above the Passes and of having to sustain an active irregular & debouching from Passes along whose long line our Rifles should have got him to destroy him in detail.



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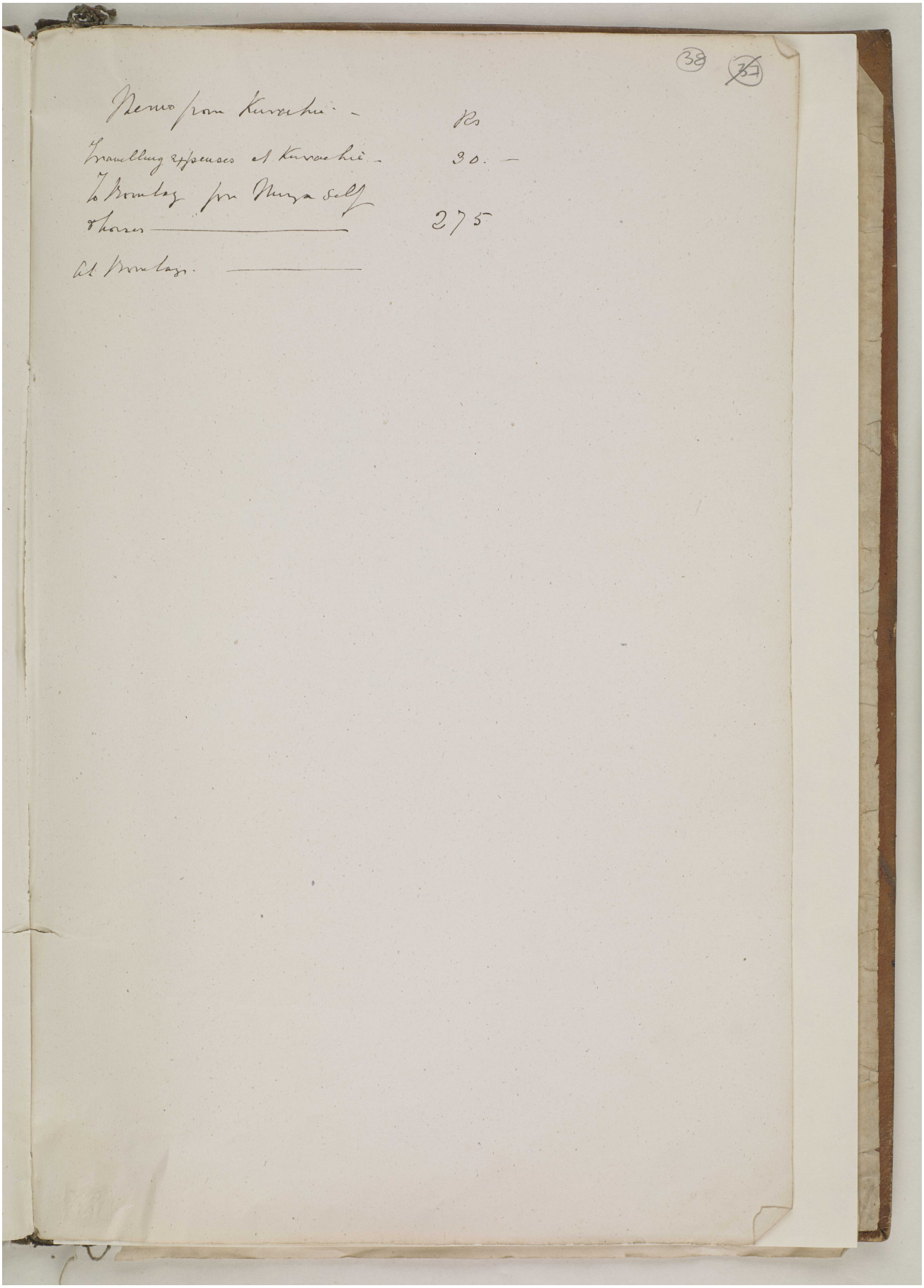

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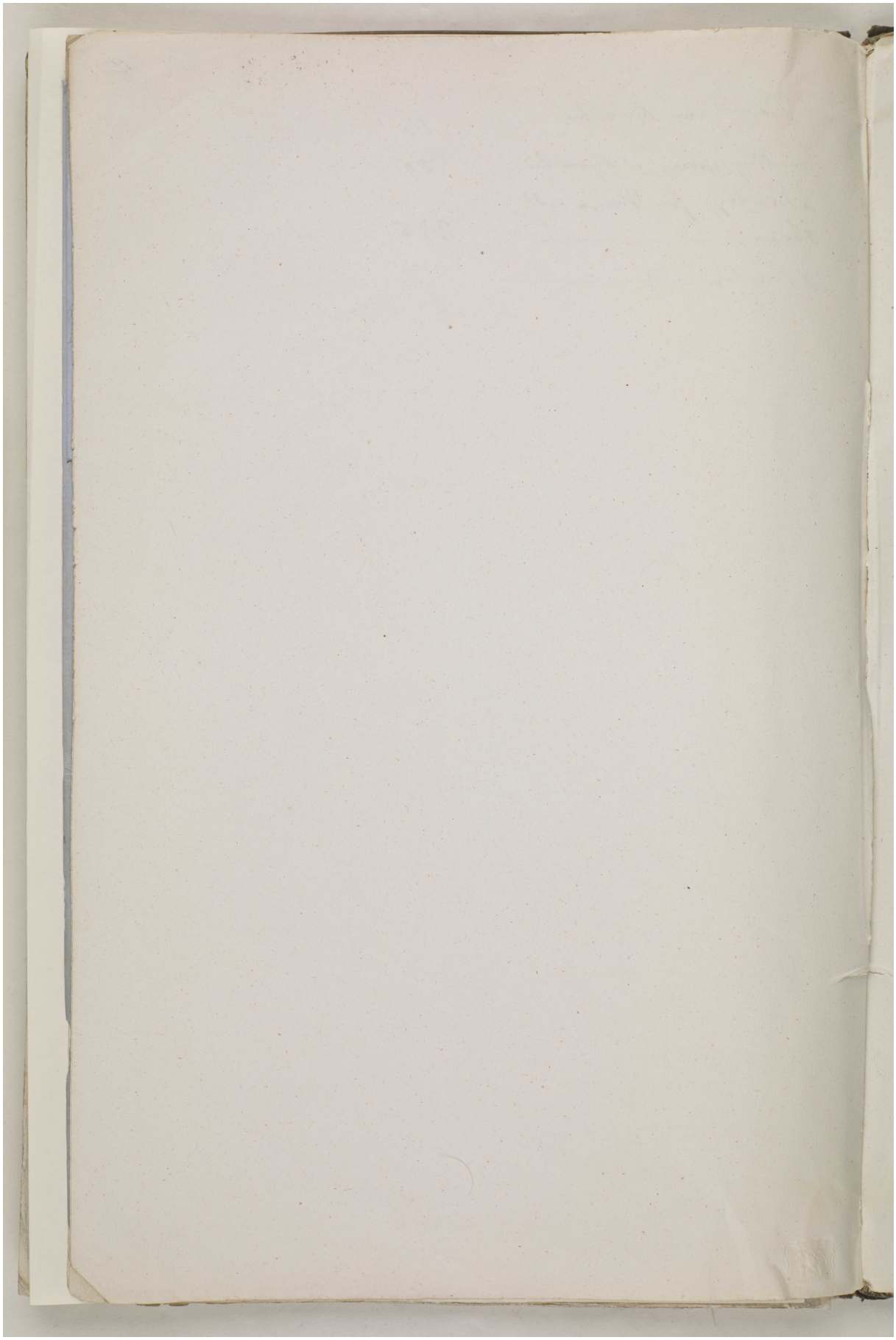

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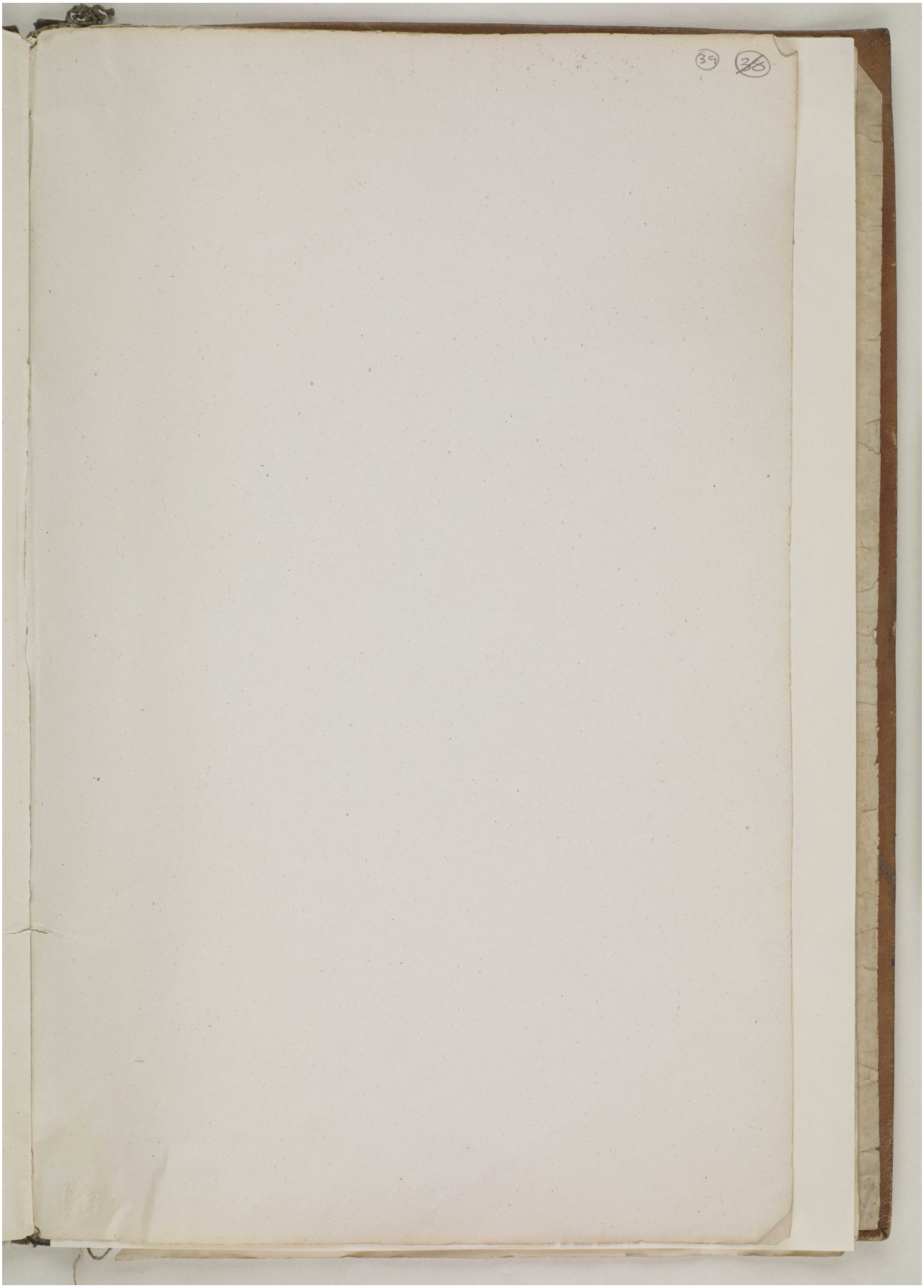

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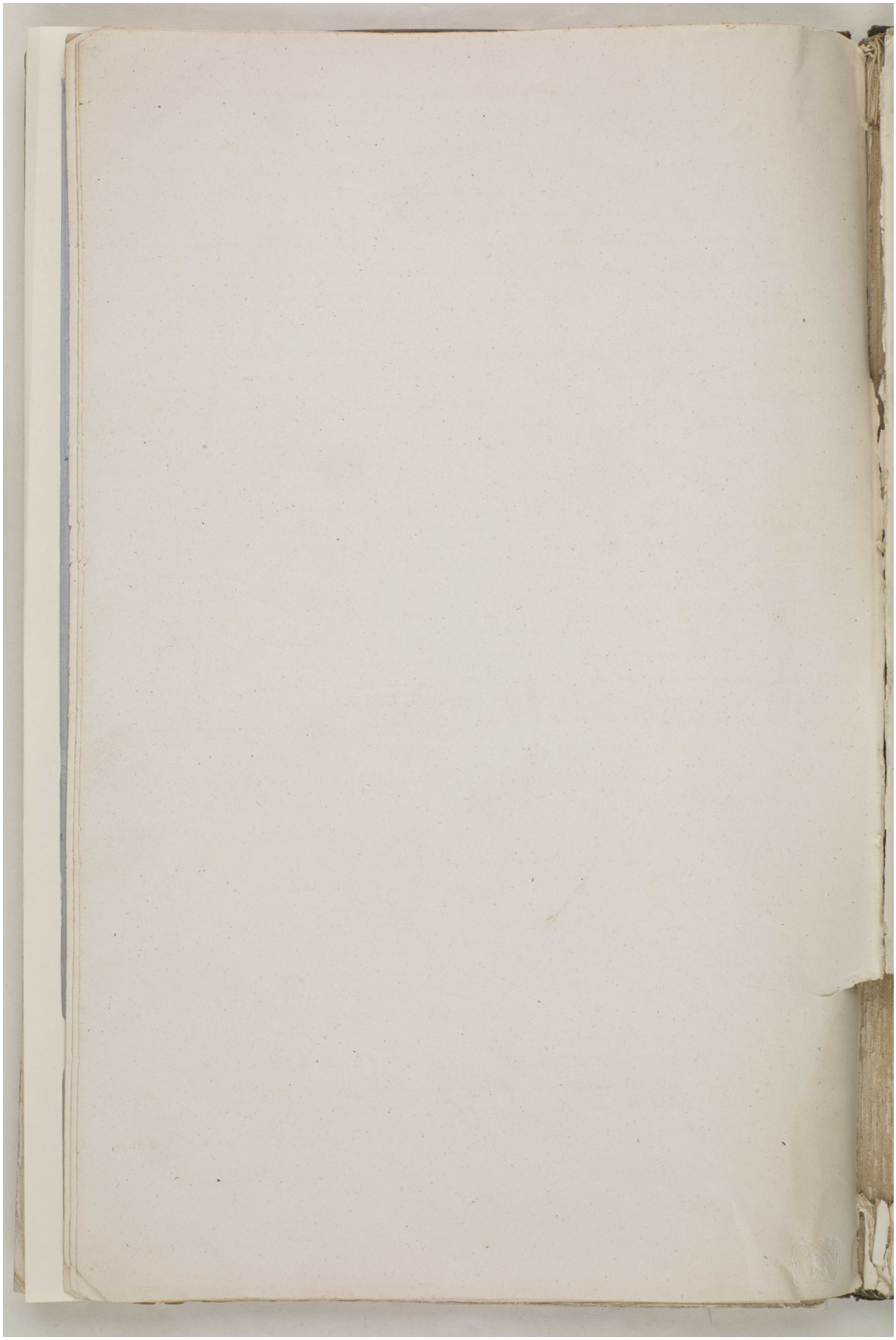

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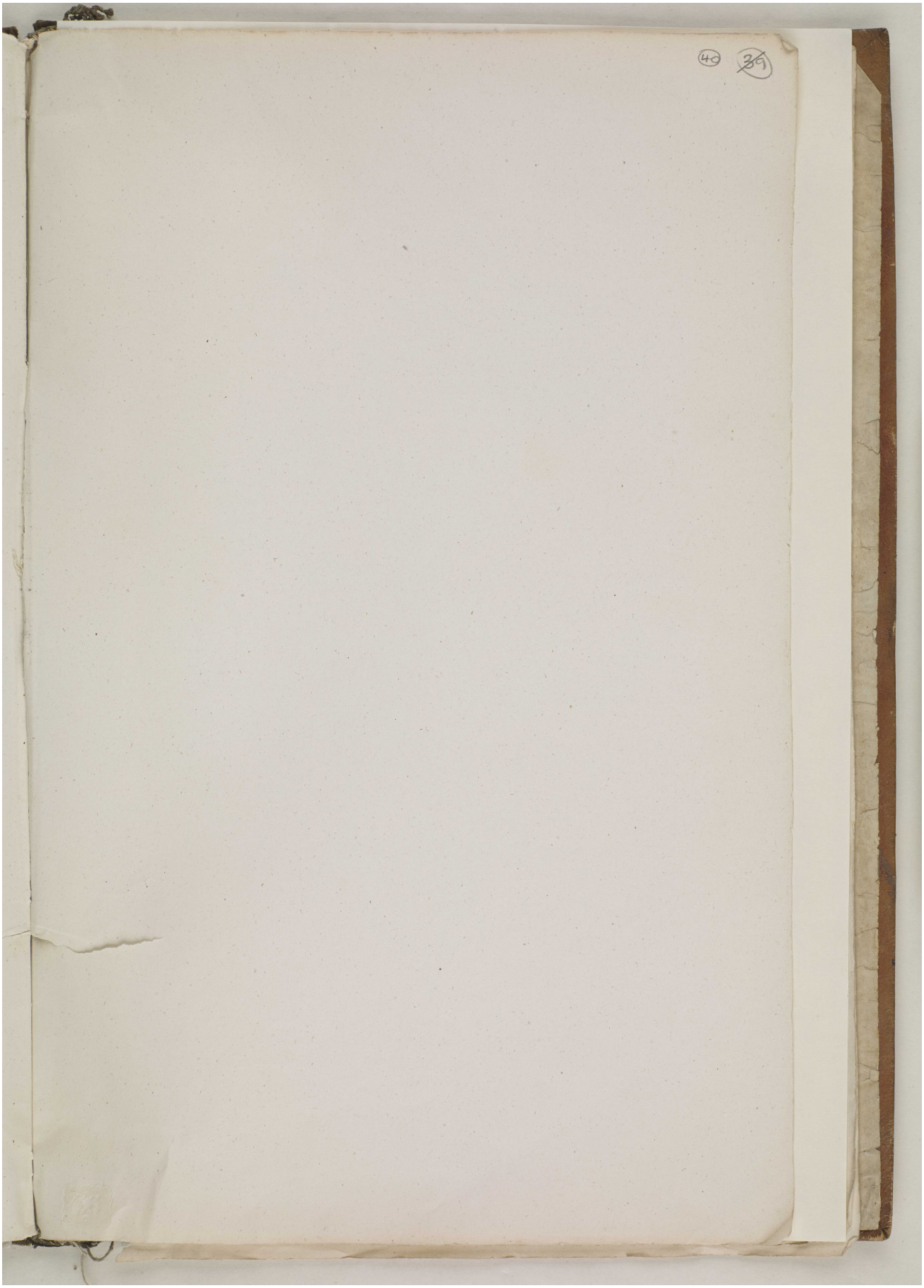

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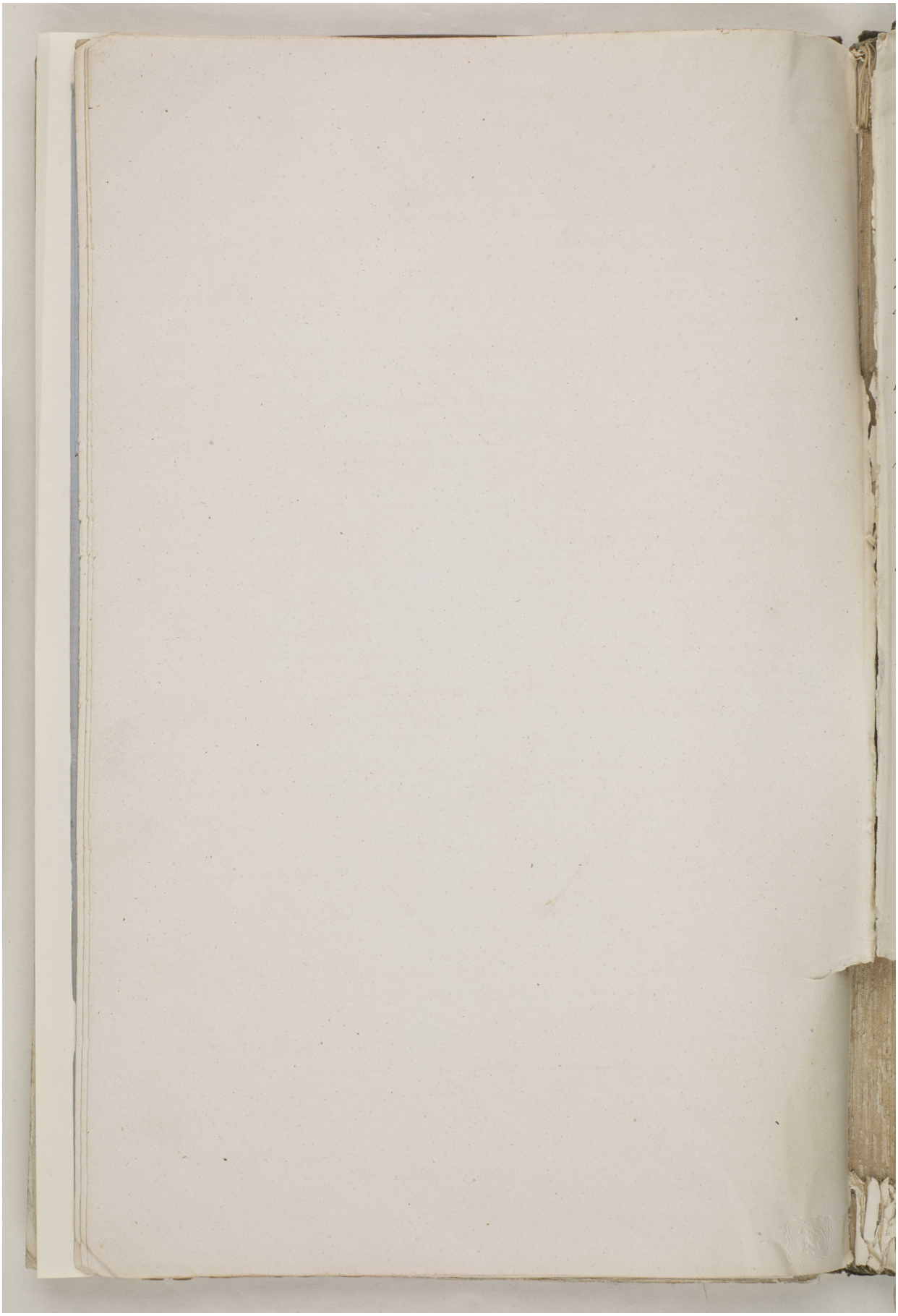

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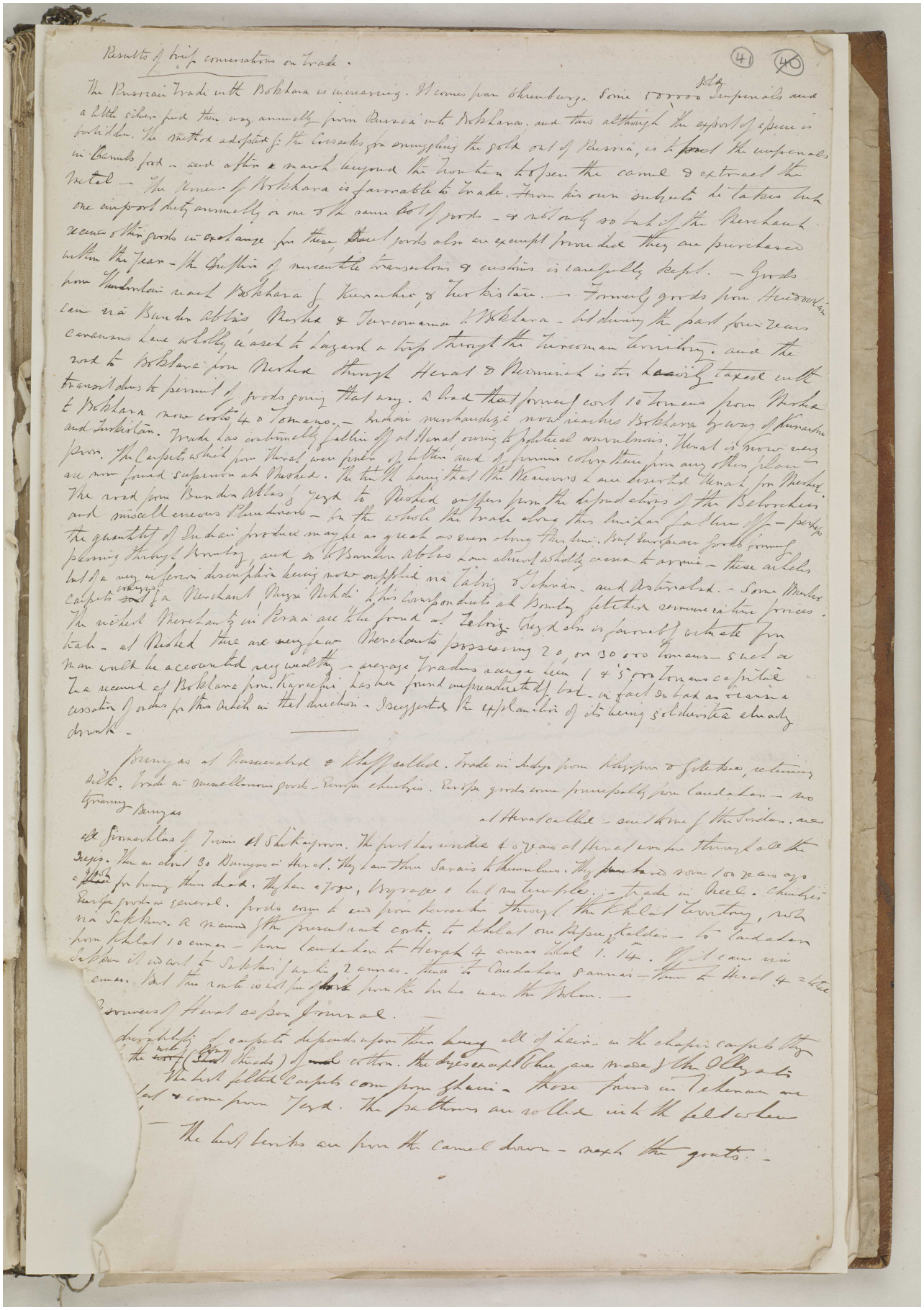

Results of trip conversations on Trade.

(41) (40)

The Russian Trade with Bokhara is increasing. It comes from Orenburg. Some 500000 Silg Imperials and a little silver find their way annually from Russia into Bokhara. and thus although the export of specie is forbidden. The method adopted by the Cossacks for smuggling the gold out of Russia, is to exact the imperials in Coronals first - and after a march beyond the frontier to open the camel & extract the Metal - The Ameer of Bokhara is favorable to trade. From his own outputs he takes but one import duty annually & one & the same list of goods - & not only so but all the Merchants accompanying his goods in exchange for these duty goods also are exempt from duty they are purchased within the year - The Custom of mercantile transactions & customs is carefully kept. - Goods from Hindostan reach Bokhara by Kurrachee & Herat & Seistan. - Formerly goods from Herat came via Bunder Abbas Meshed & Turcomania to Bokhara - but during the past four years Caravans have wholly ceased to hazard a trip through the Turcoman territory. and the road to Bokhara from Meshed through Herat & Merve is too heavily taxed with transit dues to permit of goods going that way. A load that formerly cost 10 tomans from Meshed to Bokhara now costs 40 to 50 tomans. - Indian merchandize now reaches Bokhara by way of Kurrachee and Seistan. Trade has continually fallen off at Herat owing to political commotions. Herat is now very poor. The Carpets which from Herat were finer & better and of firmer colour than any others - are now found suspended at Meshed. In truth being that the Weavers have deserted Herat for Meshed. The road from Bunder Abbas & Yezd to Meshed suffers from the depredations of the Beloochees and miscellaneous Plunderers - So the whole the trade along this Persian Caravan Route - perhaps the quantity of Indian produce may be as great as ever along this line. But European goods coming passing through Bombay and so to Bunder Abbas have almost wholly ceased to arrive - these articles but of a very inferior description being now supplied via Tabriz & Teheran - and Astrakhan. - Some Muhr carpets are brought by a Merchant Mirza Mehdi & his Correspondents at Bombay selection commercial time princes. The richest Merchants in Persia are to be found at Tabriz. Yezd also is favored with trade from Kerbela - at Meshed there are very few Merchants possessing 20, or 30 000 tomans - such a man would be accounted very wealthy - average Traders range from 1 & 5 000 tomans capital The account of Bokhara from Kerbela has been found unprecedented bad - in fact so bad as to cause a cessation of orders for this which in that direction - I suggested the explanation of its being sold under cheap drink -

Serrys as at Nasserabad & the so called. Trade in Indigo from Khojend & Fetchas, returning silk. Trade in miscellaneous goods - Turkish chemicals. Turkish goods come principally from Caudahar - no Caravanserais - Serrys at Herat called - and some of the Indian. are at Serrais of Tarin at Shikarpoor. The first has existed 400 years at Herat and has through all the ages. There are about 30 Serrys in Herat. They have three Serais & Shops. They are 100 years ago for being then dear. They have a Joint, very roomy & well arranged. - Trade in Wheat. Chemicals Turkish products general. goods come to and from Kurrachee through the Khelat Territory, via Sakhar. A comparison of the present rate costs, to Khelat one Rupee & Caudahar from Khelat 10 annas - from Caudahar to Herat 4 annas Total 1. 14. If it came via Sakhar it would be to Sakhar from here 2 annas. thence to Caudahar 8 annas - thence to Herat 4 = 14 annas. But this route is not fully open from the hostility of the Khan.

Sources of Herat as per Journal.

The durability of carpets depends upon their being all of hair - in the cheaper carpets the web (Warp) threads) of cotton. The dyes except Blue are made of the Oleander. The best felted carpets come from Khiva - those found in Teheran are Coarse & come from Yezd. The patterns are worked with the feet when

The best knots are from the Camel down - mixed the goats -

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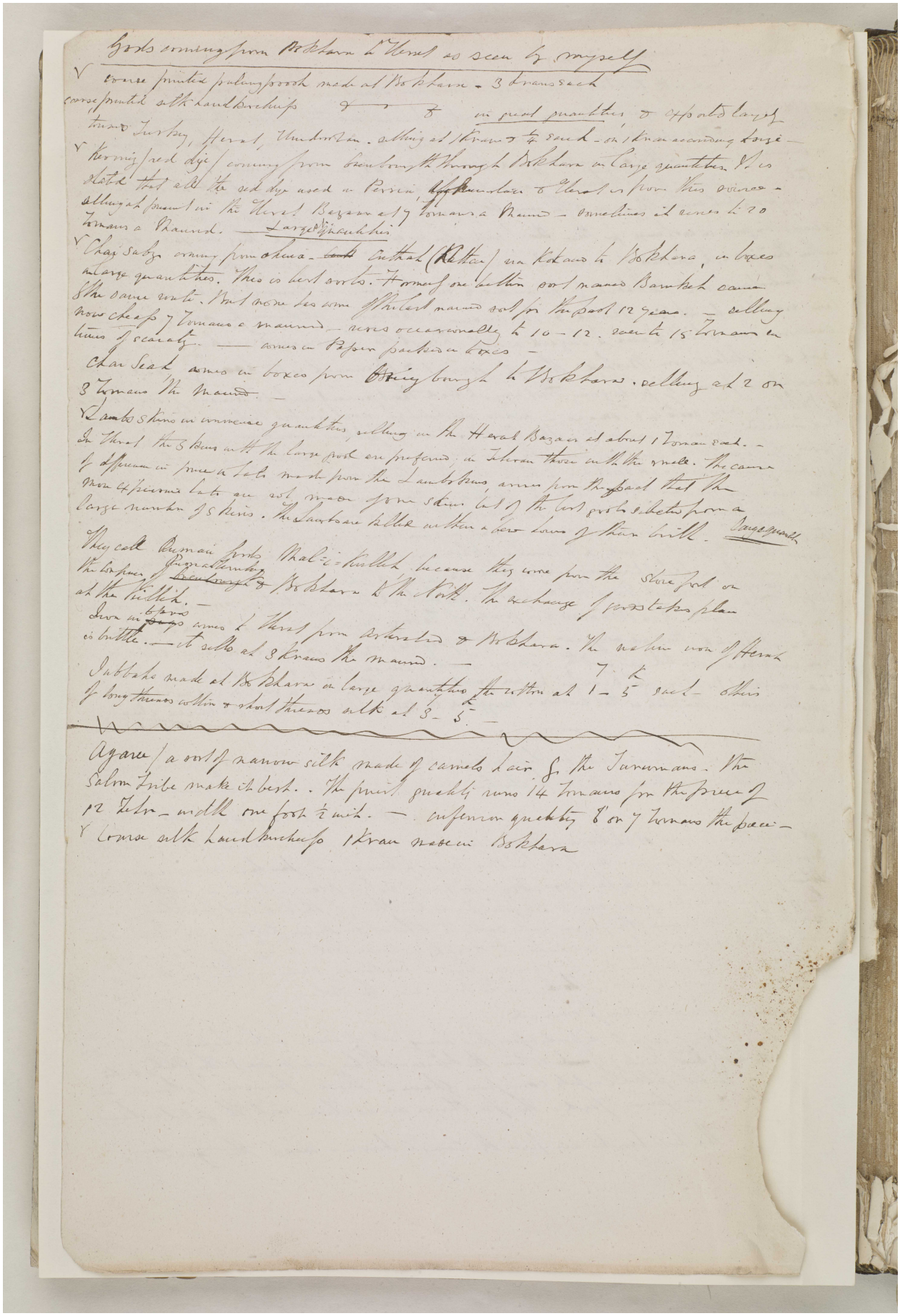

Goods coming from Bokhara to Herat as seen by myself

Coarse printed palempoore made at Bokhara - 3 Krans each
coarse printed silk handkerchiefs 2 — 5 in great quantities & Hyats largest towns Turkey, Herat, Khelat &c. selling at 3 krans to 1 each - 20 krans according large
Kermijred dye coming from Scanderoon through Bokhara in large quantities It is stated that all the red dye used in Persia, Bokhara & Herat is from this source -
selling at present in the Herat Bazaar at 7 tomans a Maund - sometimes it comes to 20 tomans a Maund. Large quantities
Chaj Sabz coming from Khiva - cloth cutchah (Kelat) via Kokand to Bokhara, in boxes in large quantities. This is best sorts. Formerly one other sort named Bamboo came the same route. But now less seen. Thick named sort for the past 12 years. - selling now cheap 7 tomans a maund - rates occasionally to 10 - 12. even to 15 tomans in times of scarcity. — comes in Paper packed in boxes -
Char Seah comes in boxes from Astrakhan through to Bokhara. selling at 2 or 3 tomans the maund. -
Lambs Skins in immense quantities, selling in the Herat Bazaar at about 1 toman each. -
In Herat the Skins with the large pods are preferred, in Tehran those with the wells. The cause of difference in price & taste made from the Lambs Skins arises from the fact that the Mow after the Lamb is cast much some skins but of the best sorts selected from a large number of Skins. The Lambs are killed within a few hours of their birth. Large quantities
They call Russia Kirks Khalic = bullock because they come from the Steppes or the Steppes of Russia through Bokhara to the North. The exchange of goods takes place at the Kirkid. —
Khiva silk comes to Herat from Astrakhan & Bokhara. The native wove of Herat is better. — it sells at 3 krans the maund. —
Dubbahs made at Bokhara in large quantities the cotton at 1 — 5 each — Khiva of long krans within & short krans silk at 3 — 5. —

Aganee a sort of narrow silk made of camels hair & the Turcomans. The Salore Tribe make the best. The finest quality runs 14 tomans for the piece of 12 Zehr — width one foot & inch. — inferior quality 8 or 9 tomans the piece —
Coarse silk handkerchiefs 1 kran each Bokhara

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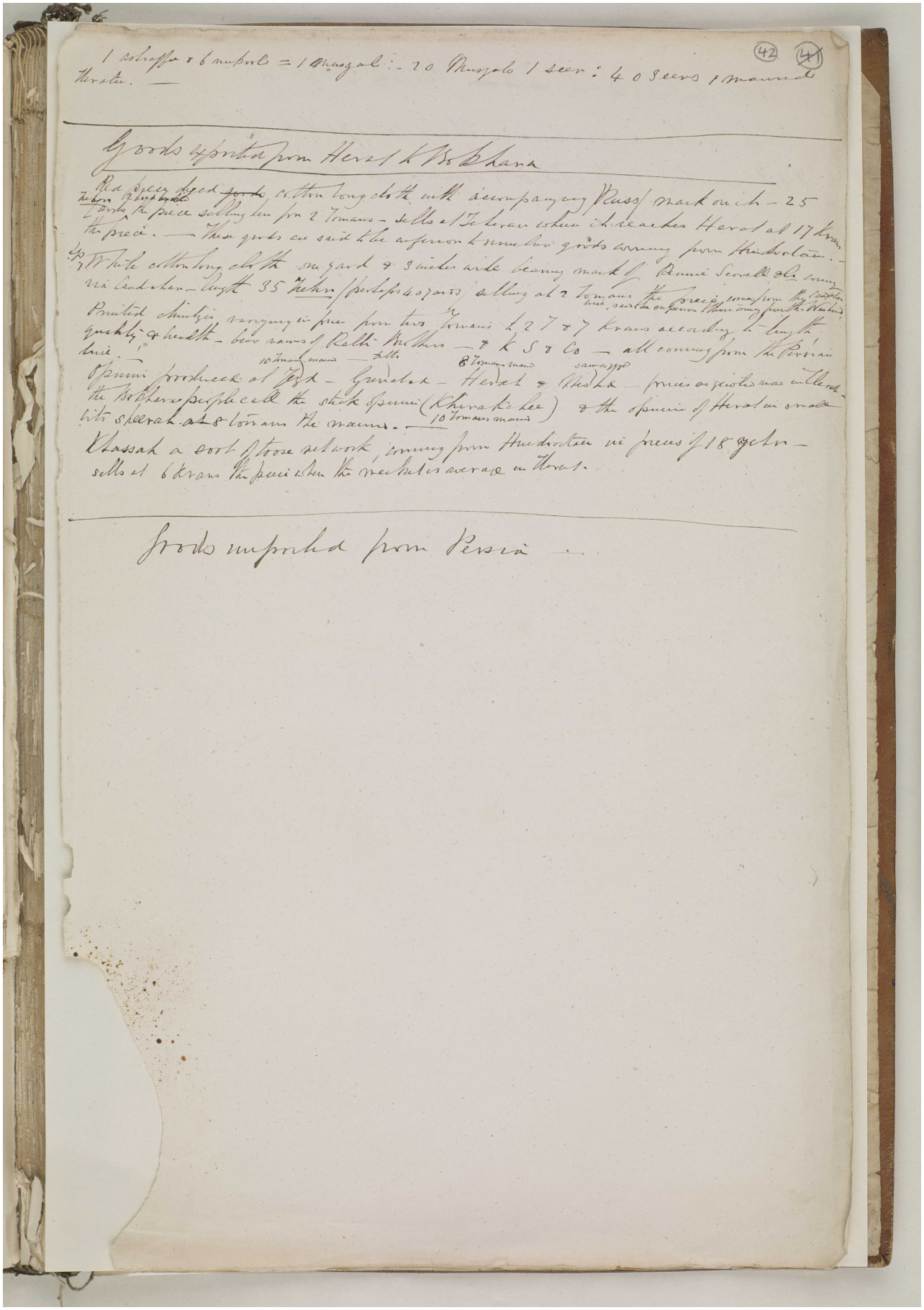

(42) (41)

1 ashraffee & 6 nuprol = 1 Musgal :- 20 Musgals 1 seer : 40 seers 1 maund Herat. —

Goods exported from Herat to Bokhara

Red piece dyed ~~goods~~ cotton long cloth with accompanying (Russ) mark on it - 25 Tehran 2 high breaded yards the piece selling here for 2 Tomans - sells at Teheran when it reaches Herat at 17 Krans the piece. — These goods are said to be inferior to similar goods coming from Hindoostan. —

Sp. 7 White cotton long cloth one yard & 3 inches wide bearing mark of Bennie Scovell & Co coming via Candahar - length 35 Tehran (perhaps 40 yards) selling at 2 Tomans the piece, comes from the Candahar line, said to be superior to those coming from the Western.

Printed chintzes varying in price from two Tomans to 27 & 7 Krans according to length quality & breadth - bear names of Ralli Brothers - & K S & Co - all coming from the Persian line. —

Opium produced at Yezd - Grenabad - Herat & Mishad - prices as quoted now in Herat - the Bokhara people call the stick opium (Khirakchee) & the opium of Herat in small cits sheerah at 8 Tomans the maund. —

10 Tomans maund — 8 Tomans maund — 10 Tomans maund — same as yezd

Khassah a sort of loose network, coming from Hindoostan in pieces of 18 yehr - sells at 6 Krans the piece when the market is average in Herat.

Goods imported from Persia —

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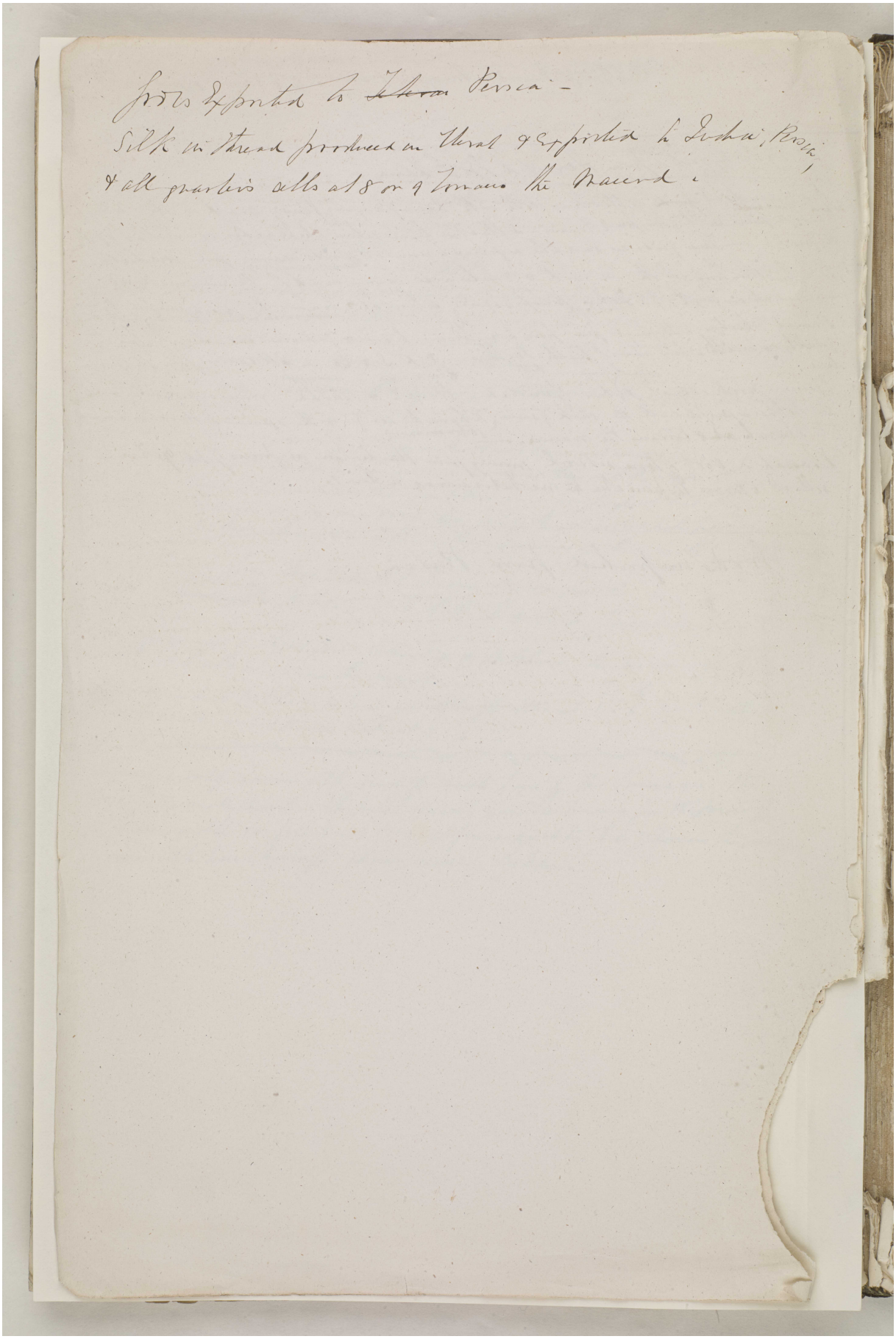

Goods Exported to ~~Teheran~~ Persia –

Silk in thread produced in Herat & exported to India, Persia, & all quarters sells at 8 or 9 Tomans the Maund.

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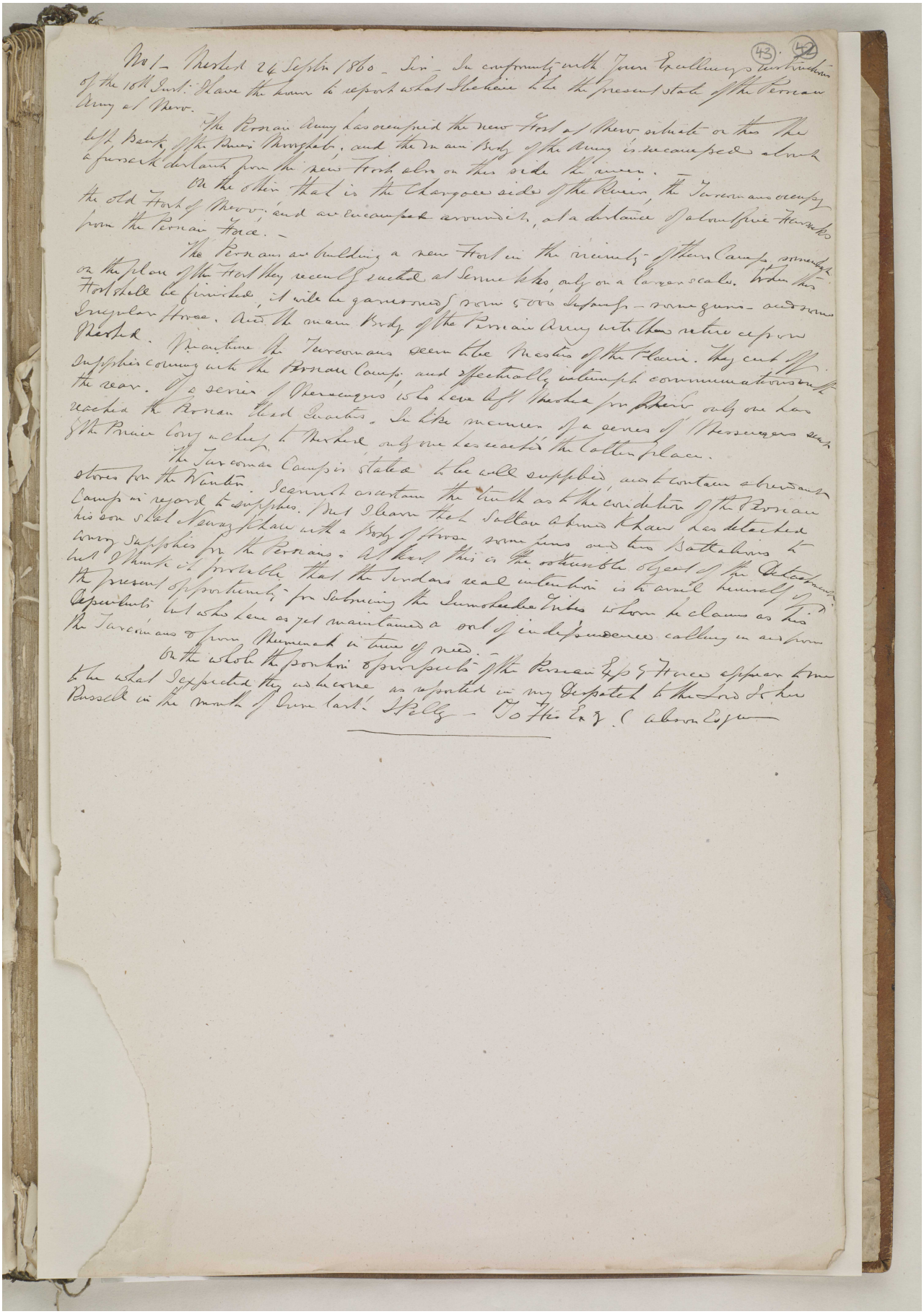

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(43) (42)

No 1 – Mashed 24 Septr 1860 – Sir – In conformity with Your Excellency's instructions of the 10th Inst: I have the honor to report what I believe to be the present state of the Persian Army at Merv.

The Persian Army has occupied the new Fort at Merv situate on this the left Bank of the River Moorghab, and the main Body of the Army is encamped about a fursack distant from the new Fort also on this side the river. –

On the other, that is the Chargoee side of the River, the Turcomans occupy the old Fort of Merv, and are encamped around it, at a distance of about five Farsacks from the Persian Force. –

The Persians are building a new Fort in the vicinity of their Camp, somewhat on the plan of the Fort they recently erected at Serme Kks, only on a larger scale. When this Fort shall be finished, it will be garrisoned by some 5000 Infantry – some guns – and some Irregular Horse. And the main Body of the Persian Army with their retire upon Mashed.

Meantime the Turcomans seem to be Masters of the Plains. They cut off supplies coming into the Persian Camp, and effectually intempt communications with the rear. Of a series of Messengers who have left Mashed for Merv only one has reached the Persian Head Quarters. In like manner of a series of Messengers sent by the Prince Cong in chief to Mashed, only one has reached the latter place.

The Turcoman Camp is stated to be well supplied, and to contain abundant stores for the Winter. I cannot ascertain the truth as to the condition of the Persian Camp in regard to supplies. But I learn that Sultan Ahmed Khan has detached his son Shah Nawaz Khan with a Body of Horse some guns and two Battalions to convoy supplies for the Persians. At least this is the ostensible object of the Detachment but I think it probable that the Sirdar's real intention is to avail himself of the present opportunity for subjuring the Jumshedee Tribes whom he claims as his Dependents but who have as yet maintained a sort of independence calling in and from the Turcomans & from Meemenah in time of need. –

On the whole the position & prospects of the Persian Expy Force appear to me to be what I expected they will become as reported in my Despatch to the Lord John Russell in the month of June last. L Pelly – To His Exy C Alison Esqr

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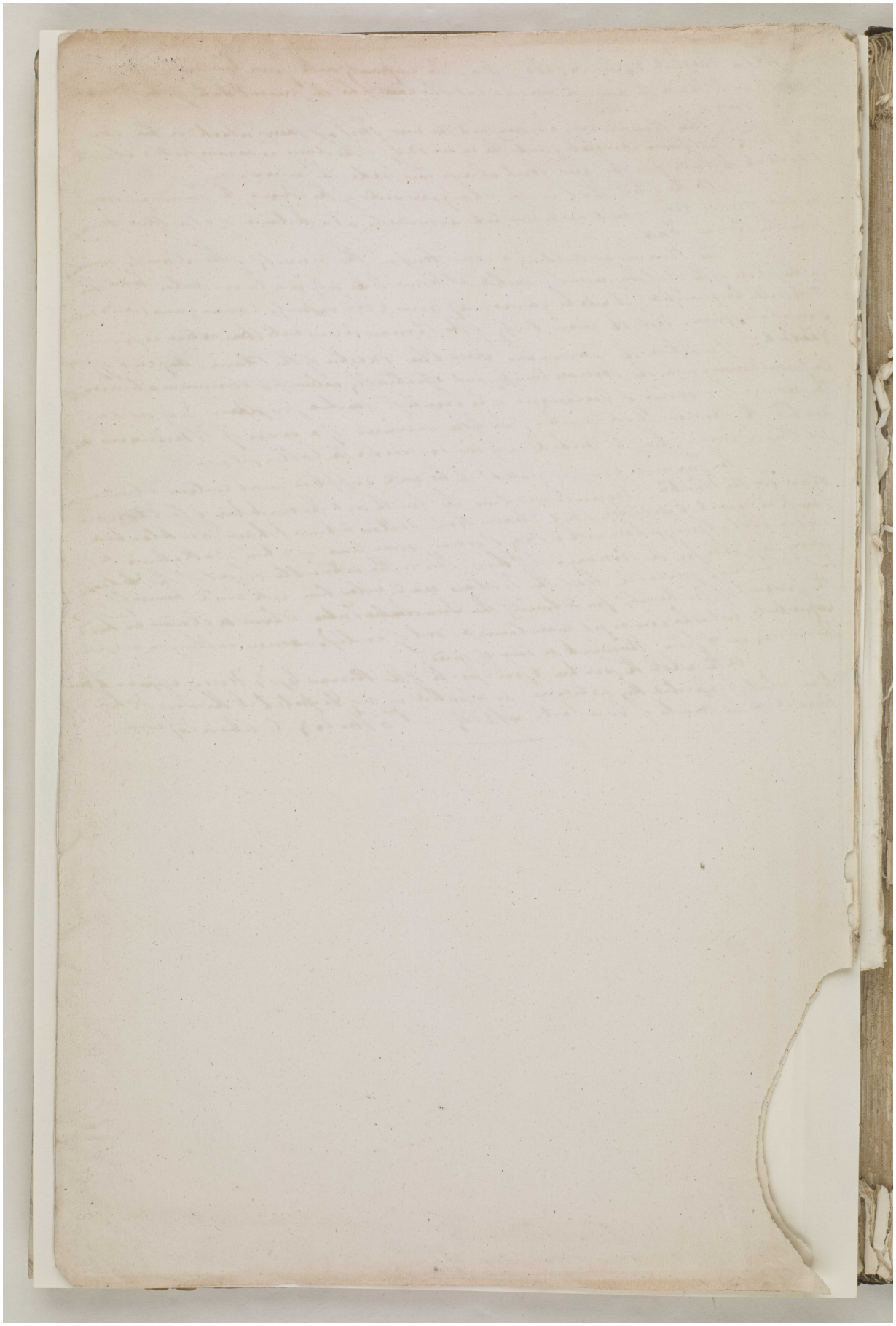

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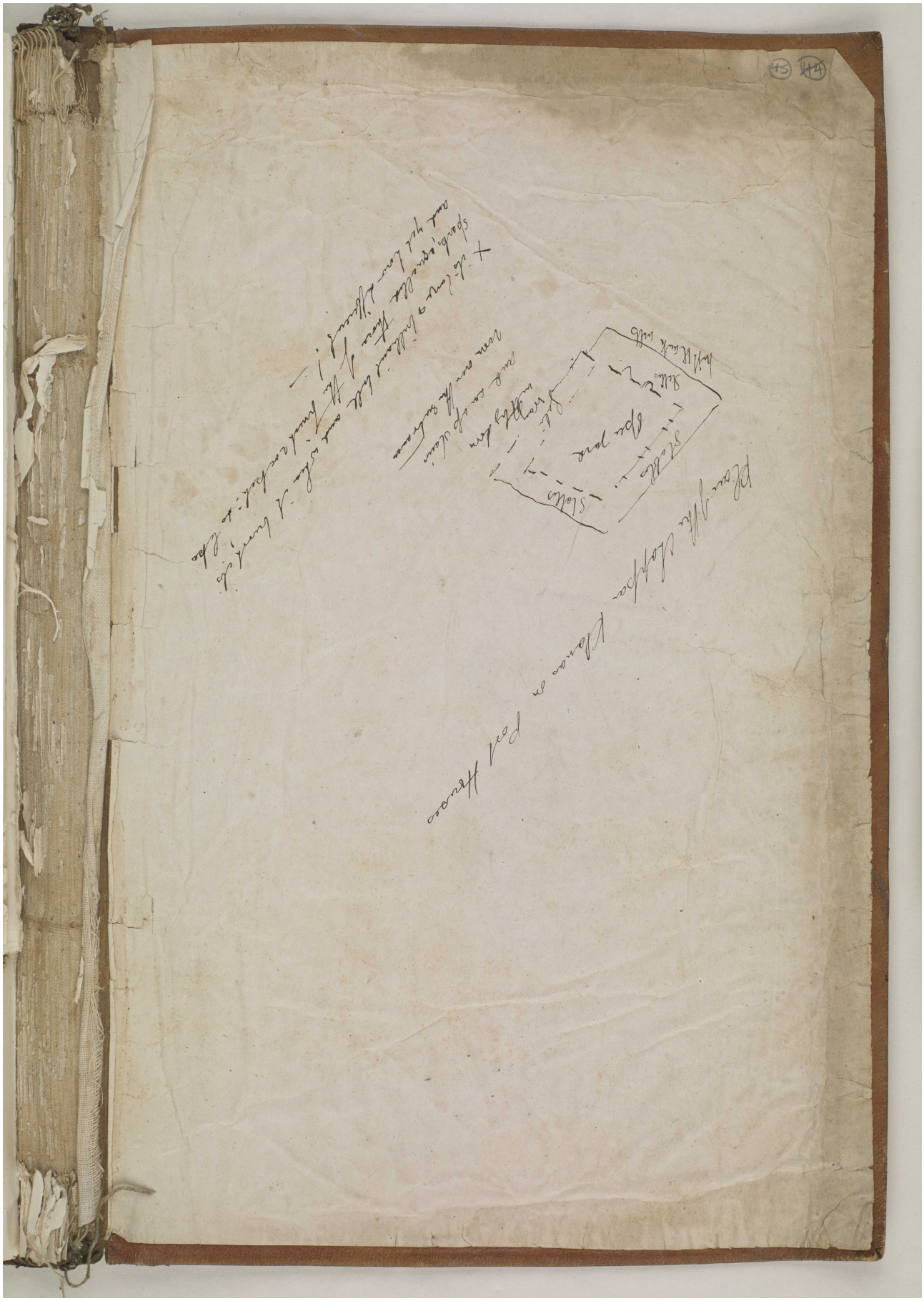

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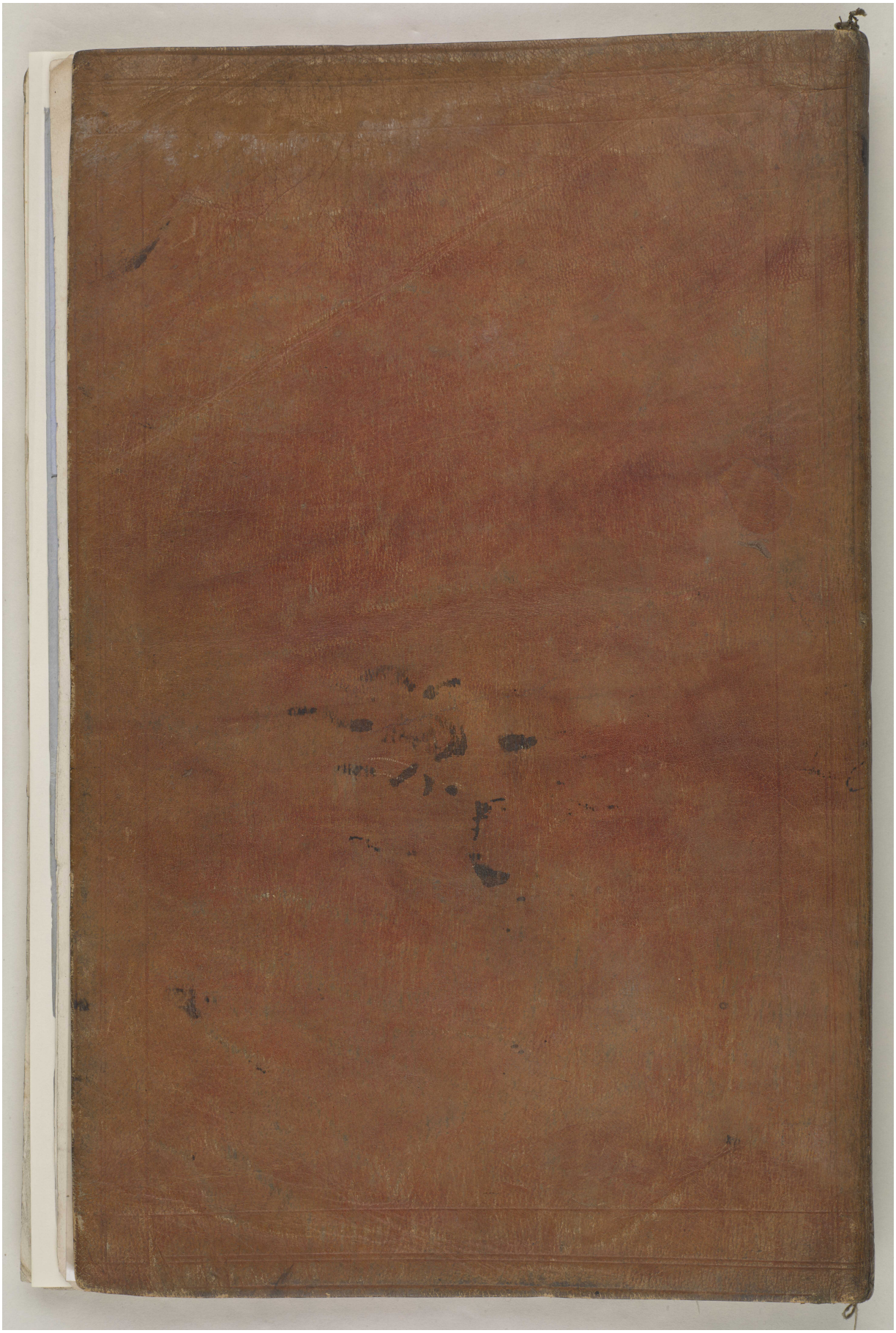

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