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## **Copies of personal letters from Pelly to various persons including colleagues in the Gulf.**

|                               |                                                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Holding Institution</b>    | British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers |
| <b>Reference</b>              | Mss Eur F126/42                                          |
| <b>Date(s)</b>                | 17 Jan 1863-24 Apr 1869 (CE, Gregorian)                  |
| <b>Written in</b>             | English in Latin                                         |
| <b>Extent and Format</b>      | 1 file, 14 items (29 folios)                             |
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### **About this record**

Copies of correspondence relating to affairs in the Gulf, including during periods of absence from Bushire for Lewis Pelly. Most of the copies have been written on Pelly's behalf by his assistant James Charles Edwards.

The correspondence is primarily with individuals who reported to Pelly including James Charles Edwards, Alfred Cotton Way and George Andrew Atkinson and discusses matters at the Residency, Pelly's movements around the Gulf and affairs in Muscat, Bahrain and Bandar Abbas. Also included with this correspondence is a report, possibly to the Governor of Bombay summarising many of the matters discussed in these letters.

There is also correspondence with Charles Alison which focuses on the working relationship between the Resident at Bushire and the Persian Authorities and the difficulties that often arose with this around communication. Matters in relation to Russia are also discussed in letters with Sir Bartle Frere and Philip Howard Colomb, and trade matters are discussed in letters with William Mackinnon and Messrs Coyle and Company.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Pelly, Acting Political Resident Persian Gulf, Chughudduk [Choghadak] [1r] (1/2)

Memorandum

Dated Chughudduk 17<sup>th</sup> January 1863

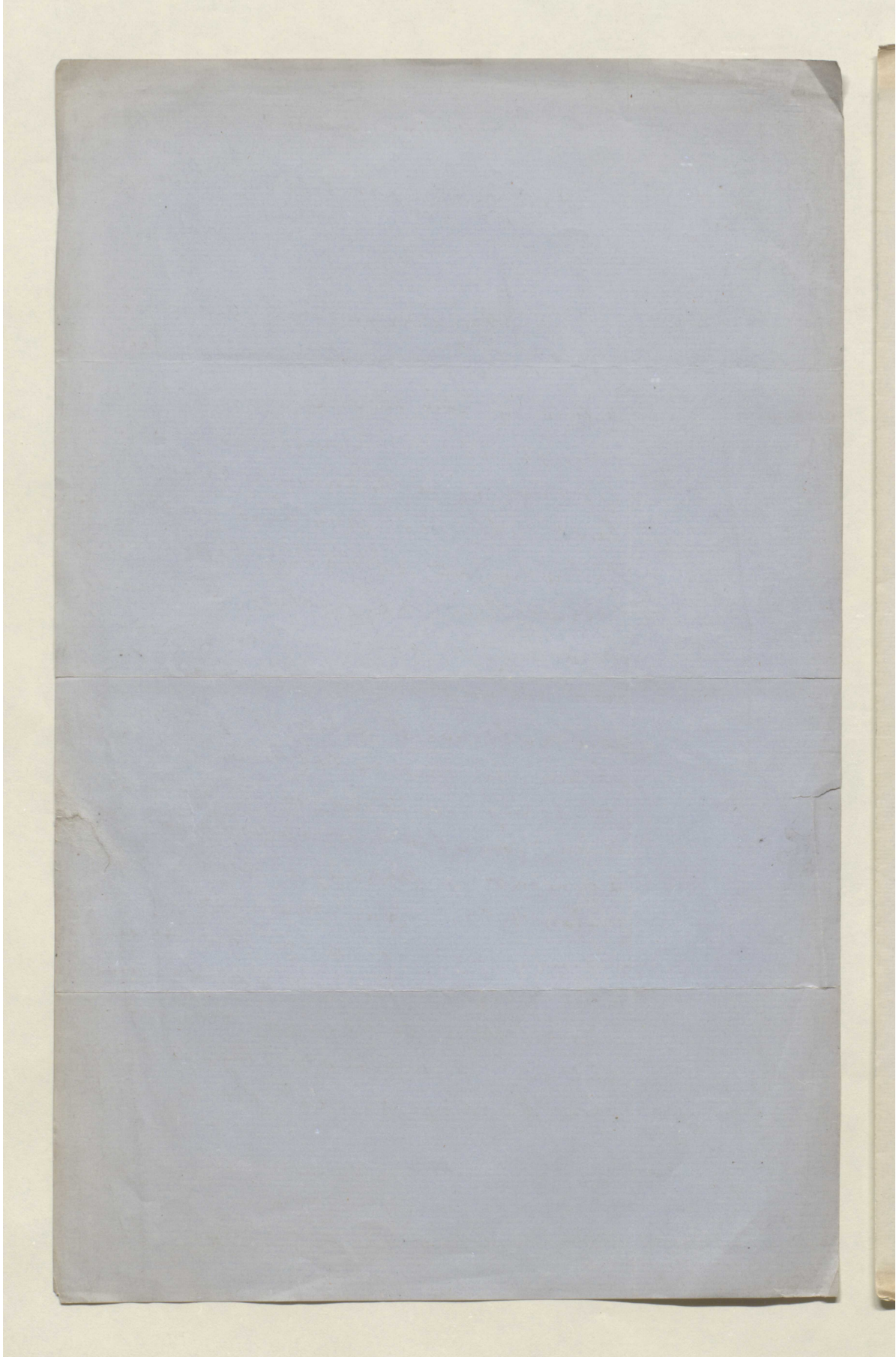
An irregularity seems to prevail in regard to carriage arrangements in this Residency. The rule throughout the Service is that when official Establishments travel by land, all the Members of that Establishment actually travelling receive their respective Batta's or Travelling Allowances, and make their own arrangements for travelling. This rule will henceforth strictly obtain in this Establishment, and the Acting Resident will not listen to any complaint or application for payment of carriage, tentage, provisions &c. Any Member of the Residency not accepting this arrangement should at once say so, and he is at liberty to resign his position. But any Member objecting to march when the day arrives will be fined.

Chughudduk  
17<sup>th</sup> January 1863

Leith Coll  
Acting Pol. Resident Pers. Gulf



**Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Pelly, Acting Political Resident Persian  
Gulf, Chughudduk [Choghadak] [1v] (2/2)**





Bushire 17<sup>th</sup> January 1865

My dear Sir Bartle Frere

Your Excellency will notice that the despatches transmitted by this Mail from Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran are of more than ordinary interest in relation to the proceedings of Russia in Southern Central Asia. These proceedings may be a ruse, or they may be the first move of a wave destined to break on British India. In any case a Minister so experienced, so little given to illusions and so careful neither to anticipate evil nor needlessly to alarm his Government, as Mr. Alison, deems it expedient to turn his direct attention towards this question. We have further before us the broad facts First - That the isthmus between the Black Sea and the Caspian is really Russian and that her large army of the Caucasus is disengaged.

Secondly - That the Persian provinces on the Southern Coast of the Caspian from the Russian frontier to Asterabad seem ripe for annexation and quite at the mercy of Russia and

Thirdly - That we find Russia pressing simultaneously on many points to the East of the Caspian all tending to the Northern frontier of Afghanistan and Cashmere.

His Excellency  
Sir Bartle Frere R. G. B.  
x x x



The recommendation by the Shah of Russia's proceedings in Central Asia to the serious attention of Government does not seem premature and I venture to think that any remarks bearing on this question submitted even from the restricted point of view of a local servant of Government will not be held by Your Excellency as intrusive.

Four points strike me

First - Past experience and observation of the map must have assured Russia that her only chance of eventually winning in a struggle for Europe becoming French or Cossack lies in her strengthening herself from the rear by rendering available by whatever means for her purposes of War the immense hordes of war-like and comparatively idle men which the countries beyond her Asiatic frontiers present.

Secondly - and without being able to give any reliable detail of facts there is unquestionably so far as I have observed an increasing feeling of assurance that a great struggle between England and Russia is coming on in Southern Central Asia. And when such a feeling becomes familiar to the hordes of these regions it may of itself in some degree tend to facilitate the crisis.

Thirdly - Whatever may be the present intentions of Russia whether in the direction of the Trans Oxus states or as from the South East point



point of the Caspian in the direction  
of Kerat, I remain of the opinion  
submitted in my let-  
ters to the late Earl  
Banning. That the dis-  
tances to be traversed  
are so great and the character of the  
countries so difficult and sterile  
that a Russian General would  
hesitate to appear on the Indian  
frontier until Russia should in  
the first instance have consolidated  
intermediate territory and given  
him a base of operations much  
nearer and more accessible than  
any she can yet pretend to.

Fourth - The fourth point and that which  
has perhaps been more particu-  
larly impressed on my mind from  
the accident of my local position  
in the Persian Gulf is this that  
Russia's proceedings on the line of  
the Baku are for the present affairs  
of outpost or rather that Russia  
feels perhaps that she can aggress  
even in times of peace upon the  
chieftainship of Turkestan without  
making a crisis on behalf of those  
small and little known states and  
that the country which it most im-  
ports Russia next to deal with  
whether by annexation or by tho-  
roughly subduing it to her will  
is Persia. I glance at the map  
with a knowledge of the status  
quo shows;

1<sup>st</sup> - That Russia has an actual  
basis of operations from Oren-  
burg to the South West corner of  
the Caspian -

That



2<sup>ndly</sup> That all is ripe for the annexation of Geelan and Mazenderan and the extension of this base to the South East corner or Asterabad -

3<sup>rdly</sup> That a vast army has long been gathered on a portion of this base; that Russia's European Frontier was, or is to be a point of aggression the army of the Cossacks might be increased and become available in close proximity with Tabreez and Tehran, respectively, the Capital and principal town of Persia -

4<sup>thly</sup> - That if Russia wishes to stride across Southern Central Asia, the narrowest, the nearest, the best supplied and the most practicable line is from Tehran to the head of the Persian Gulf whether Bushire or Mahomerah. The extremities of this line form the Northern and Southern frontier of one and the same state so that an impulse emanating from the Russian frontier would be felt at one and the same time along the line of the Caspian and the line of the Persian Gulf -

5<sup>thly</sup> - That so astride her Western frontier presses along the entire Eastern frontier of Asiatic Turkey, while her Eastern frontier presses along the entire Western frontier of Afghanistan and Beloochistan equally as our Provinces of Punjab and Sind press on the Eastern frontier of those states.

6<sup>thly</sup> That Russia thus astride Persia as the saddle of Southern Central Asia would further press on



Turkistan and the Persians on her <sup>side</sup>  
thus connecting her Librarian frontier  
by means of her outposts at Khiva,  
Bokhara, Kokan or elsewhere in Tur-  
kistan with her Persian frontier and  
that Russia so astride would ac-  
tually dominate the Persian Gulf  
on her Southern frontier thus com-  
manding any line of communication  
whether of River, Telegraph or  
Railway from the head of that  
Gulf along the Euphrates valley.  
My duty has recently led me to in-  
spect in detail the Naval position  
at the mouth of the Persian Gulf  
and I do not hesitate to assert  
that if Russia were once to occu-  
py the inlet at the promontory  
of Muscudom and its adjacent  
Islands she would secure a posi-  
tion possessing almost un-  
rivalled natural advantages from  
which it would be exceedingly  
difficult to expel her and which  
to say the least of it could not  
be less than an emphatic and  
standing menace to Western  
India. It is unnecessary to  
add that so placed Russia  
would also influence Arabia.

It were easy to expatiate upon what  
I have now summarized I rather fear  
lest I may be considered to overstep my  
sphere of duty in submitting what I now  
submit, nor indeed would I venture to do  
so, were it not that the matter in ques-  
tion seems very grave, that the Government  
have for many years employed me in  
positions where this matter has become sub-  
ject of special study and that I find  
that I submitted to Earl Banning some years  
ago.

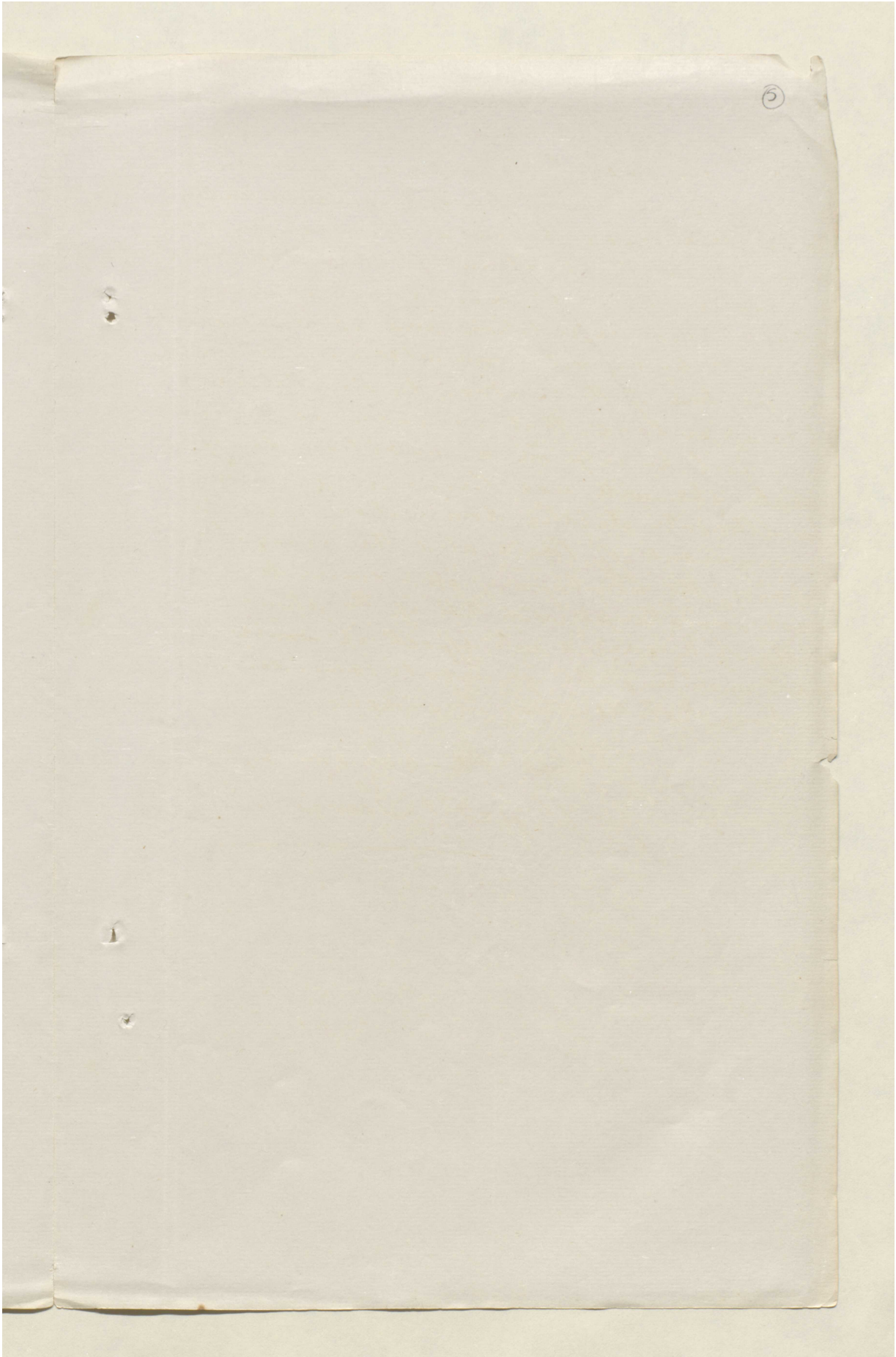


ago has not been belied by subsequent events in central Asia. At the same time I am careful to repeat after what I have seen of the lines of communication to be traversed between the Caspian Sea and our North Western frontier that I think a Russian General would not at present attempt that expedition and if he did would be met by us with overwhelming advantages on the line of the Indus. On the other hand I do apprehend that so soon as Russia may feel herself in a condition to aggress openly she will use Persia as a fulcrum for ultimate Asiatic domination. That the Government of Persia and the general condition of the Country are ill-suited to oppose such an attempt and that if the attempt were successfully carried into effect it would be a fact meriting the gravest consideration in Your Excellency's Presidency —

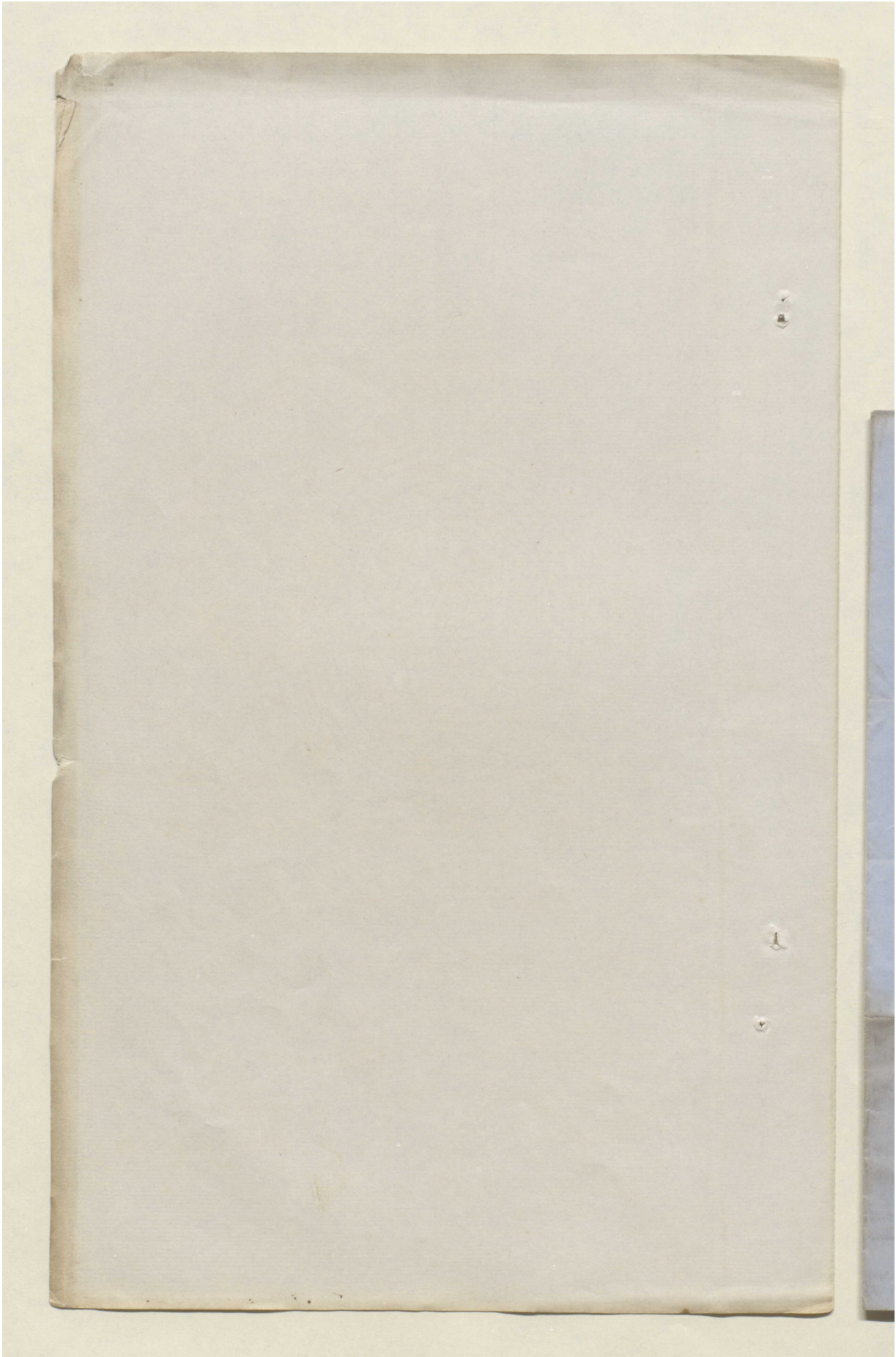
I have the honor &c  
Signed Lewis Pelly



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Sir Bartle Frere [5r] (7/8)



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Sir Bartle Frere [5v] (8/8)





Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bombay to an undisclosed recipient [6r] (1/4)

Bombay 18<sup>th</sup> April 1865. (6)

My dear Sir,

I shall probably leave in two or three days for Europe on six months private leave.

Please keep on Gholam Hussein in charge of my kit & <sup>other</sup> things and discharge all the other servants, - unless such as may be required in stable. Gholam Hussein will keep charge of my kit, but kindly let all my stores, wine &c, be sold remitting the amount as usual to the Bank of Bombay. Let my old pony be kept on, and please use him yourself as you like till I come back.

Mr. Lucas will bring with him all letters and papers that I have, most of them by post. -

I have proposed a considerable reorganization of the Establishment; they will I think be approved and ~~the~~ beneficial to all concerned.

You know, I requested the Ameen to send me four horses from Arabia - If they come, please



have them carefully sent to Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy  
sending a letter to him by the same steamer, stating  
that in accordance with his request, I have obtained  
from Rajde two horses for himself and two for Mr. Hindojie  
that they are now sent, & that their cost, export duty &c.  
amounts to 210, which sum you will feel obliged by his  
transmitting to him at his convenience -

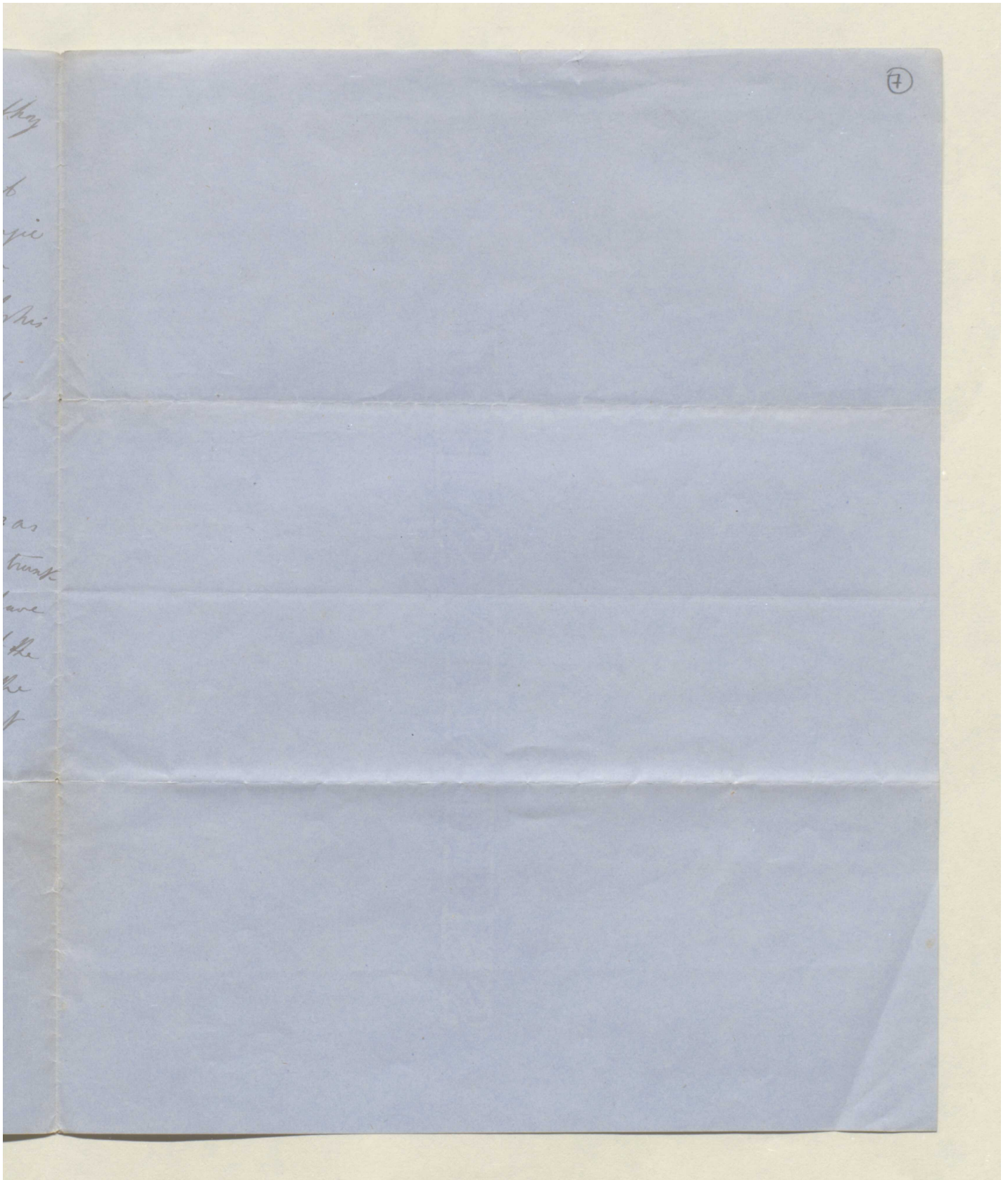
If no horses come on my former letter - do not  
trouble to write again for -

Do not buy any horses for me -

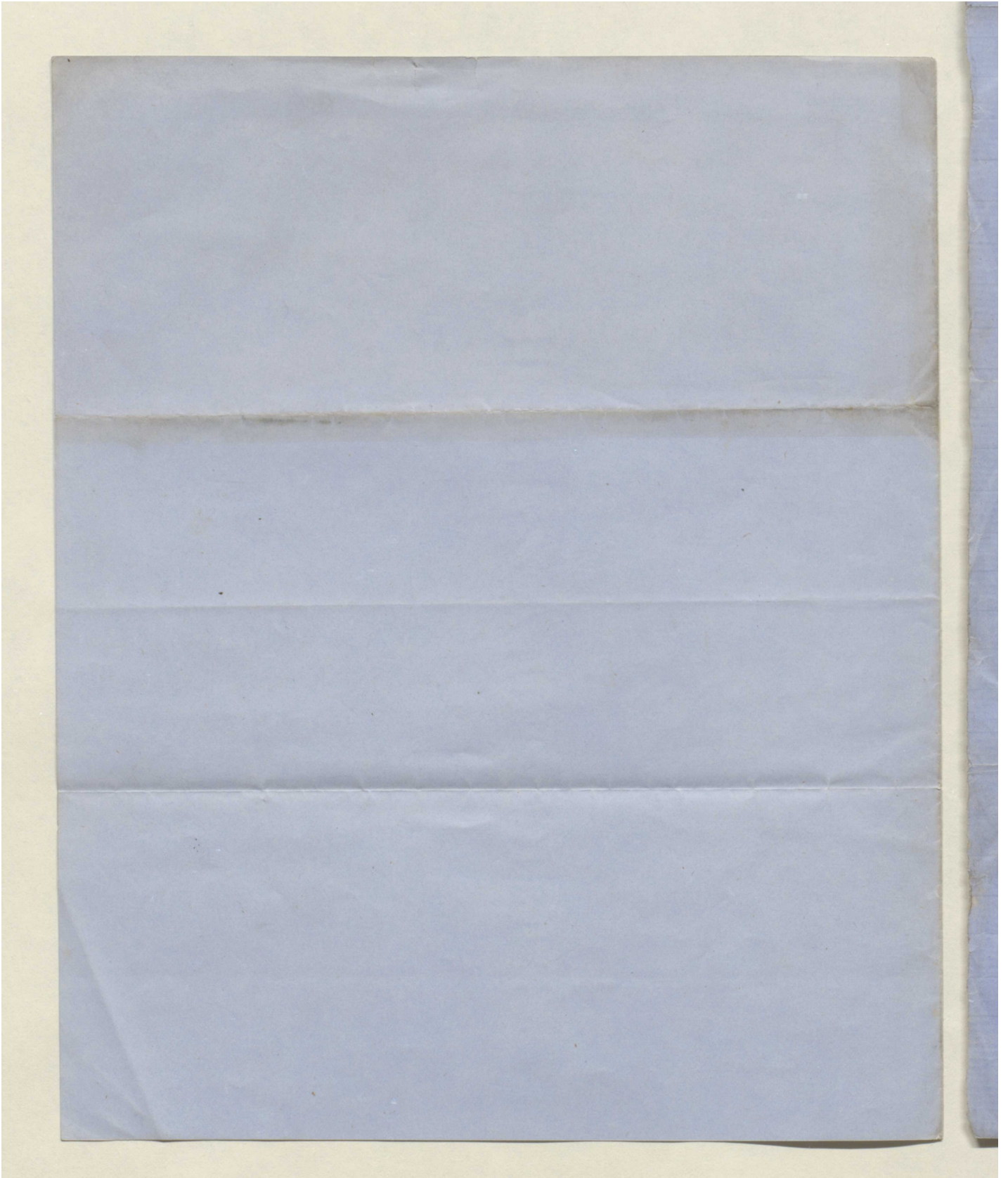
Please purchase a store of <sup>grain</sup> barley & straw so as  
to be ready for use when I return. There is a large wooden trunk  
with a sloping top, and padlock up in my room - Please have  
it corded and the official seal stamped on the place at the  
point where the cords join the direction ticket - Write on the  
direction ticket, Colonel Pelly's private papers, and put  
the box in the Treasury -



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bombay to an undisclosed recipient [7r] (3/4)



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bombay to an undisclosed recipient [7v] (4/4)





Burkeh 29<sup>th</sup> November 1865.

Dear Sir,

Your packet from Muskat just received.

I was not aware of any record having been taken by Colonel Disbrowe from the Residency - Please write at once sending a list of the papers and request the favor of his causing them to be returned.

I leave this tomorrow to proceed to Bassidore and thence to Bahrein which place I hope to reach about the 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec. I tow the Snoum's ship, and it is possible, they may attack the Wahabee ports. I hope to be at Bushire by the 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier though it is probable I may afterwards have to return to Muskat for a few days.

Every seems to be going all right at Bushire.

I should like to see Aboo Esau when he comes from Koweil. - I want to know from him all the details of his journey with Mr. Palgrave - Also how it happened that he did not mention any thing of this journey after its conclusion.

Do not delay any proceedings regarding Captain Jones' house for my return. - I think however an engineer officer should if practicable be on the committee.

Bassidore seems in a very unsatisfactory state.

You will have seen Mr. Walton

and



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Burkeh [Barka, Oman] to [James Charles Edwards] [8v]  
(2/2)

and received from him the Amir's watch  
and my letters --

I have drawn an advance of  
my November's pay --

Yours truly  
[Pelly] Lewis Pelly



Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board May Frere, Muscat to 'Right Honourable Sir'  
[9r] (1/4)

*Handwritten:* On board "May Frere" Muscat -  
25<sup>th</sup> October 1867.

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir -

I have recently had the honor of submitting to your Government the Conclusion of the Syed Lookie difficulty; & I trust the arrangement arrived at - may have been satisfactory to your Excellency.

Doctors are now quiet here. but I remain at Muscat a few weeks longer, as the Asst Political Agent, St. Atkinson has shown himself somewhat weak - & he authorized in his proceedings. It has been my duty to touch on these proceedings officially by the present mail; & I trust your Ex<sup>ty</sup> - I may be fit on the Agent the necessity of refraining from committing either for or myself. - In the Supremacy of his records, and in account of judicial work St. Atkinson has much ability. But for Political work beyond the Station he is too fond of excitement, and alarms me very much occasionally.

If I have the honor of meeting your Ex<sup>ty</sup> this Christmas, I shall lay out in few words what is required; that is if my official letter now sent the proper measure is distinctly.

The Sultan is a very poor Card to play. & he has neither head nor courage, nor troops nor money nor authorities to strengthen his position. His only hope lies in the Turks gradually settling down themselves and accepting the rule of the Sultan under our acknowledgment. But to succeed in this, it is essential that all excitement should be avoided.

A. Cunningham



Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board May Frere, Muscat to 'Right Honourable Sir'  
[9v] (2/4)

A Rumour is abroad that the Marine Cable is to  
"drop of transference from Newfoundland to England. But as  
Shaw &c <sup>are</sup> no anticipation of this change, I think the Rumour must  
be premature. -

In a letter Shaw just rec<sup>d</sup> from Sir B. L. says  
"I think all here are alive as to the importance of England; &  
"Shape some effectual step will be taken to secure a footing there. -  
"I think anything Mr. Fitzgerald did with that crew w<sup>as</sup> to be  
"Approved; and he knows the importance of not setting the  
"Eng. Officer either in Calcutta or Downing Street, against the place. -

The Persian Gulf is comparatively tranquil, but the  
Indians require much watching; & they are so interested in their  
proceedings & wars from the South of the Muscat-Lan<sup>d</sup> to the  
Arabian Frontiers in the North, that any violation at one point  
shows itself elsewhere in a few days. -

In obedience to G<sup>ov</sup> Ex<sup>ch</sup> orders the  
"Heddeney" Steam "May" <sup>was</sup> on the point of starting  
for Aden. - In obedience to similar orders the ship Port-  
"Chyde" will soon go down to Bombay. There will then remain only  
the "Hugh Ross", which has no accommodation, & can steam for only  
eight hours on a stretch. -

I am always on the look-out for a good  
large strong well bred bay Arab horse for G<sup>ov</sup> Ex<sup>ch</sup>. But as  
yet I have seen nothing I could thoroughly recommend. -  
Very truly  
Yours



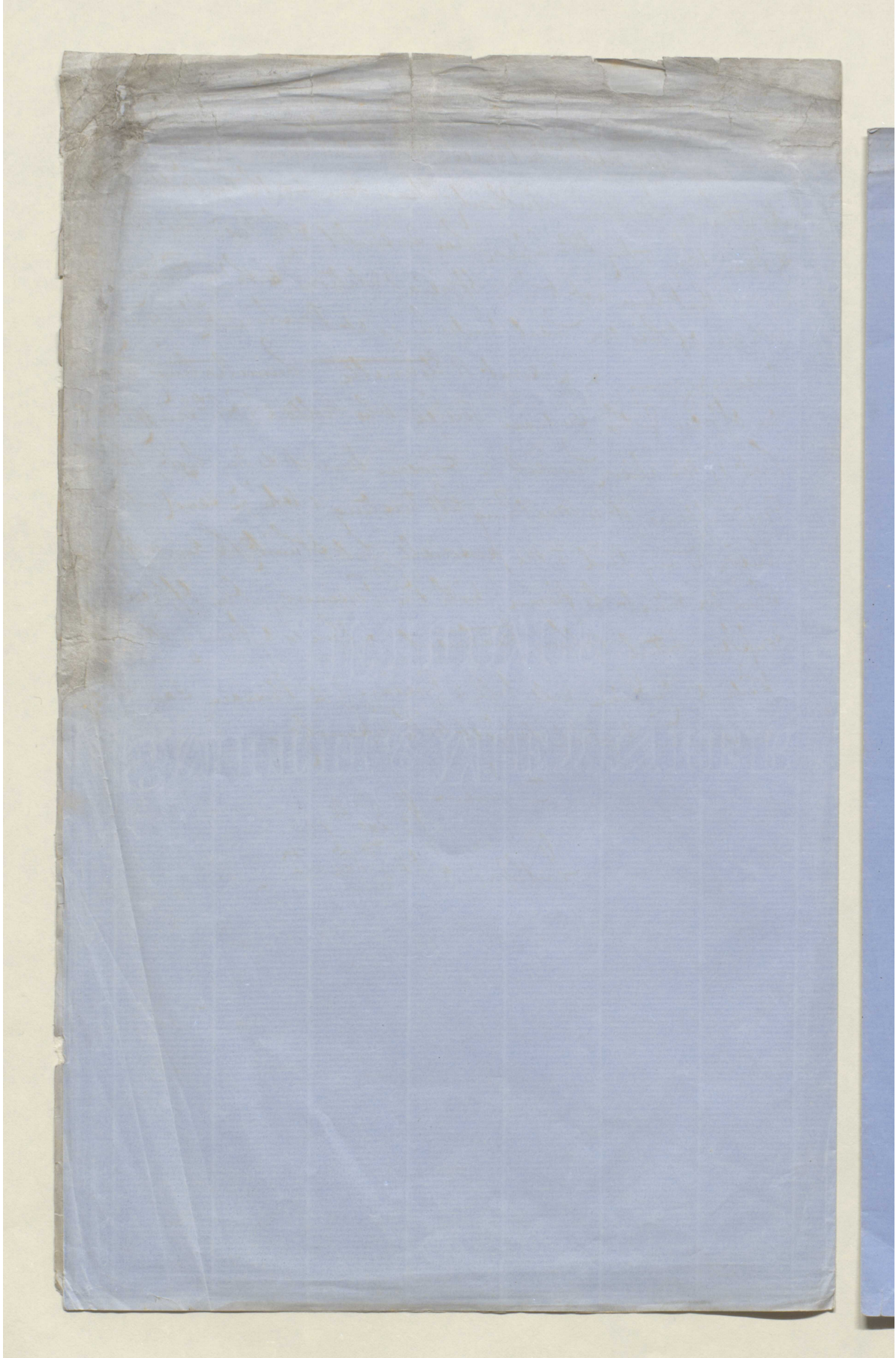
Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board May Frere, Muscat to 'Right Honourable Sir'  
[10r] (3/4)

My visit to the Prince for <sup>10</sup> 1/2 of 4 has ended very agreeably.  
He is the only Persian Authority - I have seen, worth his salt. -  
I am sorry to say Mr. Alison has consulted the Pers. Govt. Ministers  
request that I am not to be in official relations with the Prince but  
with one of his own local authorities at Bushire. This is very  
discouraging, & in point of etiquette humiliating towards  
an officer of the Indian Service who holds a Polt. rank next to  
that of Mr. Alison himself. - However I must do my best; this in  
Pers. Affairs it is something like trusting a lake in sand. - Mr.  
Alison is very kind to me personally; but I think the day is approaching  
when we must be firmer with the Persians. - Our Officers  
complain bitterly of their treatment; & there is a growing idea that  
while a Russian will bully a Persian; a Persian can bully  
or injure an English subject with impunity. -

Remain  
Yr. Ex. Servt.  
Faithful & Ob. Servt.



Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board May Frere, Muscat to 'Right Honourable Sir'  
[10v] (4/4)





Muskat 6<sup>th</sup> November 1867

My dear Mr. Alison

Your Excellency's letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> September reached me here.

It appears that the Foreign Minister has "hinted" that "individuals of an exceptional character" for whom admission as servants to my Establishment, and that your Excellency would be making "Candidates" submit Certificates of good Character signed by a competent Authority.

Your Excellency is aware that the only Persian Authority at Bushire with whom under your recent instructions the Resident in the Persian Gulf can communicate is the Passport and Foreign Office Moorash - a man whose objectionable conduct has been repeatedly brought before his notice. Whom the Persian Consul General informed



informing me was about to be removed  
on account of his Conduct -

I could have wished that the  
Foreign Minister had specified his  
instances, and the description of the  
Servants he alludes to - obviously  
he may mean Russian Servants,  
or British Servants whether male  
or female - As a matter of fact  
Caucasian very few Russian  
Servants because they are so filthy  
in their habits and dishonest in  
character. As a matter of fact also  
my Establishment can bear the  
inspection of any Government Spy.

And as an English Officer I should  
object to framing my private  
Establishment in accordance with  
the wishes of a Russian Foreign Office  
Agent - I do not would simply be  
to surround myself with Spies -  
Sooner



12  
18  
comes then do this I would send  
every Persian the door and refuse  
servants from Kullai, or without  
them. If a Persian servant in British  
employ commits an offence, the  
Tartumanchai Treaty lays down  
the mode of procedure. I do not  
remember that a pretension like  
that advanced for Bushire was ever  
advanced in Teheran.

If the Foreign Minister's hints  
refer to Kullai servants, I have no  
reason to suppose that our duties office  
will allow the officials of this Residency  
be elected or disallowed by the  
Persian Foreign Office.

Obvious too, if a Persian agent  
can hold this pretension, an agent  
from the Muskat State or from the  
numerous other Independent Chiefdoms  
-ships to which I am accredited might  
advance similar pretensions.



I should hope the Foreign Minister  
has not ventured to hint anything  
about female servants. And I  
beg your Excellency will at an  
early convenience inform me what  
the Foreign Minister does mean -  
what are his pretences and his  
Treaty Authority -

Your Excellency is observing marked  
"Pursuit" out of believing does not  
permit of my noting the Foreign  
Minister's hints publicly. But  
I beg for a repetition of them in detailed  
and public form. My own supposition  
is that the present is another instance  
of important misrepresentation on the part  
of the Bashir Passport Moonshee, having  
been accepted at Teheran, without asking  
me whether the man was speaking the  
truth or the reverse -

I remain

Yours Excellency  
Very Truly  
Signed / Lewis Pelly.



Outboard Mail Steamer

off Lingah 14<sup>th</sup> November 1867

My dear Mr. Alison

from Excellency's letter reached me at Muskat - I forwarded to the Asst. Resident both the - needed about flags & some sketches as he has done.

The Persian portion of my duties is becoming very difficult & will soon result in much trouble if the Persian & disallowed communication with the Persian & Arab authorities from the Persian side of the Gulf -

I have heard from the Russian. & Sultan that the British Agent has the desired permission to conduct - It now appears he has been entirely excluded as I have heard & that this man who was a Russian for a long time & whose name is I am not sure is not a channel of communication with the Russians - but the local Sub Governor of Bushir is that



Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board Mail Steamer off Lingah [Bandar-e-Lengeh] to  
Mr Alison [13v] (2/8)

Both Channel of Communication for the  
Persian side of the Gulf - My official  
letter on this subject will do of great  
service.

The British of the Persian Foreign  
Agent a news Agent (a functioning  
both known one) at Bandar Abbas  
has grossly abused the English Officer  
in Command of the mail boat -  
Assaulting him with the Lengeh.

The Arab Governor says he is opposed to  
punish a Persian - He is authorizing  
communication with any Persian  
authorizing at Bandar Abbas - all these  
been able to do is to show the Sultan  
subjects in whose hands the bulk of the  
trade is, that pending anything  
the above case to the knowledge of higher  
authorities - if they choose to remain at  
Bandar Abbas they must do so at  
their own risk - My official letter  
on this subject will do in due time.



(14) (12)  
The Chief of Arabs has been across to the  
Arab Coast endeavouring to secure a breach  
of the Maritime Treaty which is impossible.  
This sort of thing will soon disturb any  
charge the Arabs will pay the Defenders  
Remain side of the Gulf off in their position.

Even instructing the Assistant  
Resident to refrain from all official  
communication with the local Governors  
from the Persian Coast. I fear this  
method of work will soon result in  
trouble & delay. But I have not  
attended to what I believe the P. Secretary  
intends to do in Persian affairs.

However the fear of Intimidation being  
given me by the P. Secretary if the Persian  
Governor Agent at Bushin is to be considered  
as a Royal Appointment direct from  
the Capital.

Also whether there be anything else



Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board Mail Steamer off Lingah [Bandar-e-Lengeh] to  
Mr Alison [14v] (4/8)

whether of Royal or Consular appointment  
with whom the Resident & his Sub-  
ordinates are to communicate.

I assure you I am really  
perplexed as to how to work on the  
Persian side.

Yours truly  
Lewis Pelly

The Indian Government are very stern about  
the right to purchase houses and land in  
the Persianate, while they refer England.

Referring to the Persian side, I am doing  
everything possible to get things  
settled in relation to the Persian Sultan  
& this is almost impossible, especially as the  
Persian Government has instructed me that I must  
use my best office of the Persian Government  
will be given - but I will report on this  
I must leave.

I fear the Persian will be annoyed  
again when he finds that I am not his.

Under 'Albion' they must do as  
their own wish - my office letter  
on this subject will be in the hands.



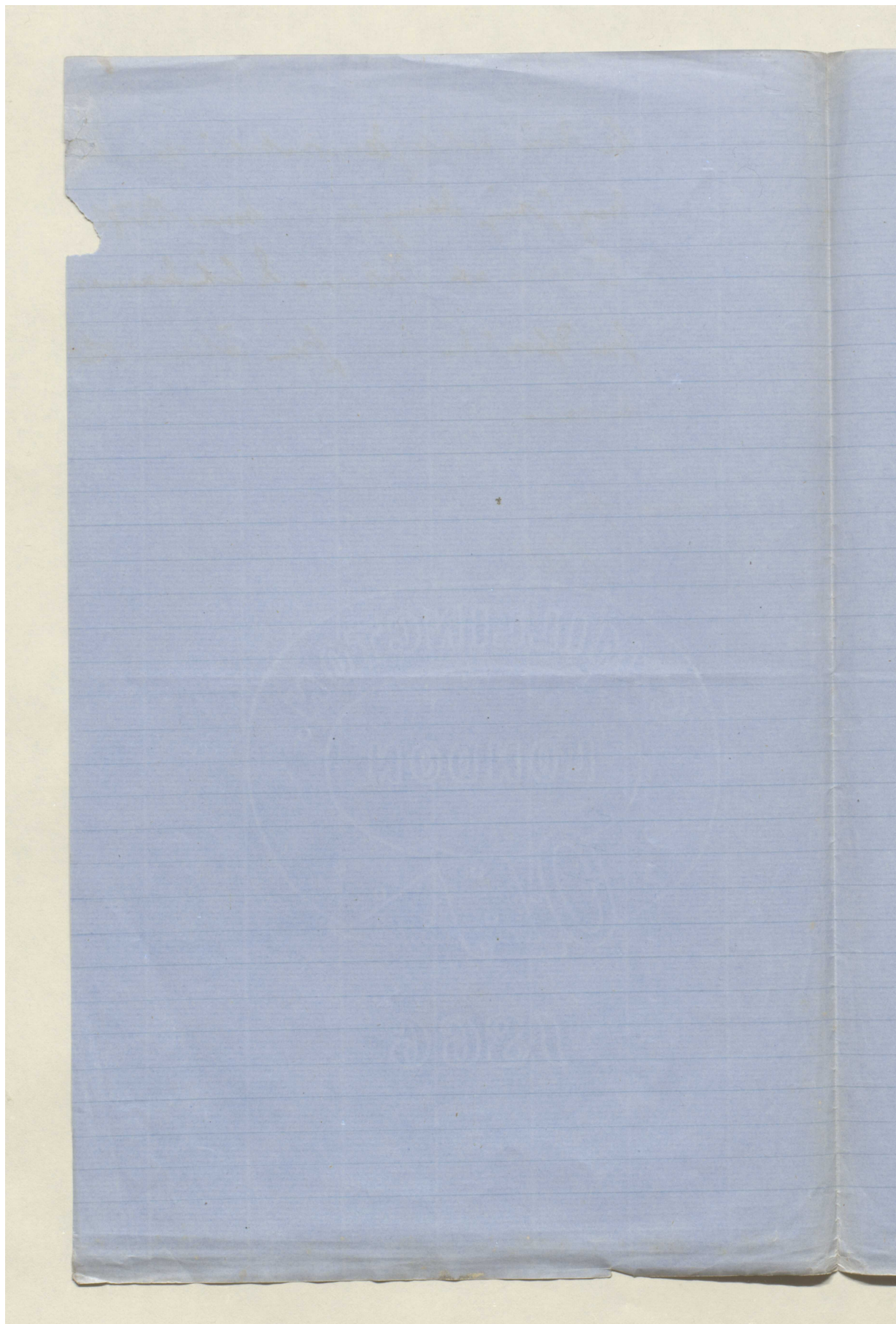
Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board Mail Steamer off Lingah [Bandar-e-Lengeh] to  
Mr Alison [15r] (5/8)

(15) (8)  
He was politely demonstrated against  
my going being on the ship, though  
the agent at Shiraz - he like me  
you deferred the boat from Tehran to the  
Kasran -

"I am Copy"  
Pelly

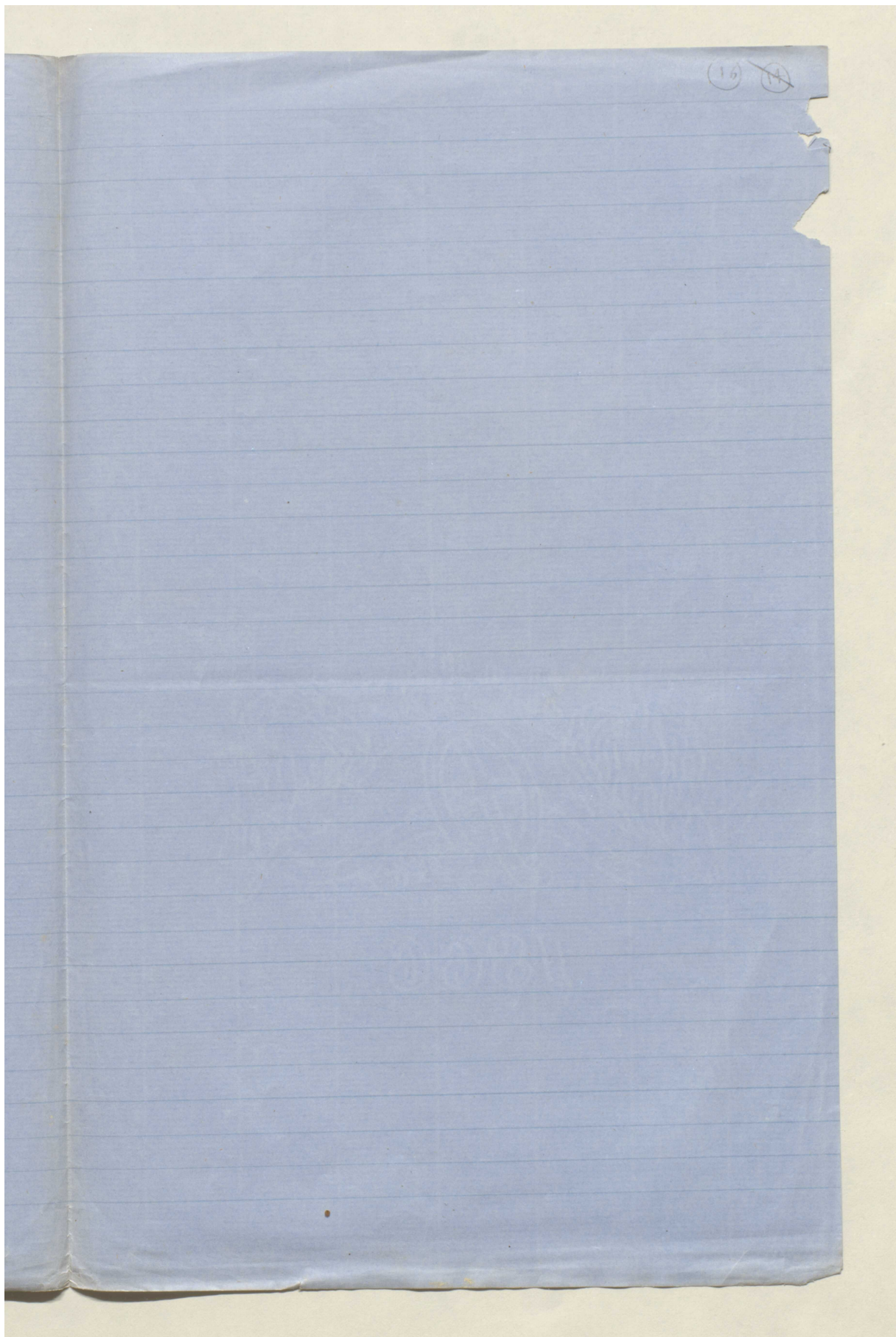


**Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board Mail Steamer off Lingah [Bandar-e-Lengeh] to  
Mr Alison [15v] (6/8)**



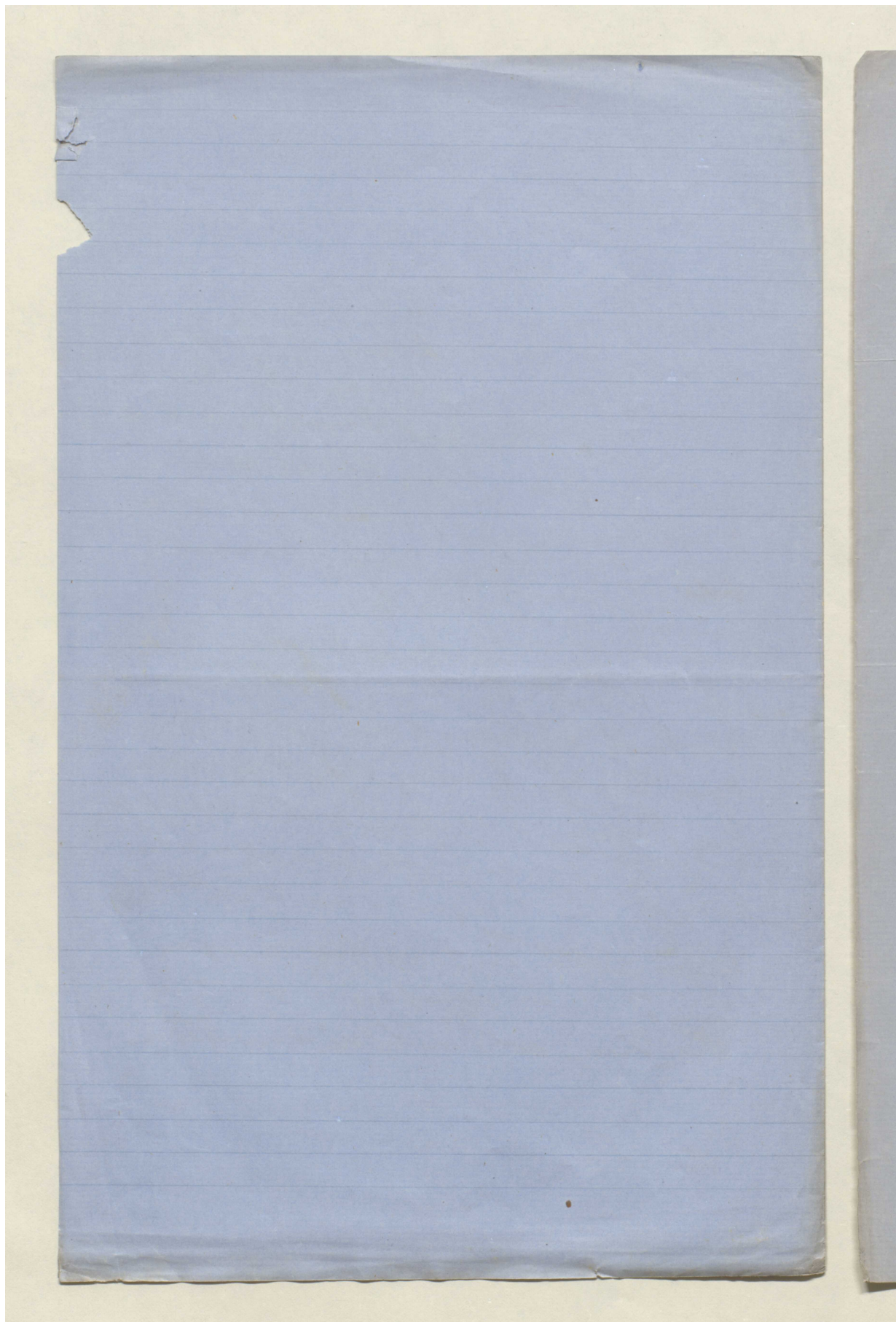


**Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board Mail Steamer off Lingah [Bandar-e-Lengeh] to  
Mr Alison [16r] (7/8)**





**Letter from Lewis Pelly, on board Mail Steamer off Lingah [Bandar-e-Lengeh] to  
Mr Alison [16v] (8/8)**





Koweit 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1868. (17) 18

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you some days ago by Dughla,  
you will have received my letter - and will have  
sent on my telegram to —

Mr Pelly - Esplanade - Beirut -

Consider my Postscript of 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> as cancelled

Please keep your eye on the bit of iron -

A Dughla has come in from Bushire, but  
no letter from you -

I hope to start for Rijath within four days  
from this time -

Please open any public letters arriving to  
my address from the Secretariat or the Departments,  
but do not open any letters which come addressed  
in a private hand or franked outside by Mr. Wilson  
Mr. Freere, Sir Bartle Freere & Co even although these  
letters should come on Her Majesty's Service - If the  
letters which you open contain any thing of interest,  
please have copies made of them at once, and keep  
these copies ready to send home in case the steamer  
should call for them -

Please write home by any opportunity  
which may offer either to Koweit or Bahrein en-  
closing to Yusuf ben Baidan in the first case to  
Sheikh Ali in the second - but send also an Arabic  
letter to the address of these persons advising them to  
retain the letter till called for or whether to send  
it on after me - in any case no letter from Bahrein  
should be sent after me, but should be kept by  
Sheikh Ali till I come - and in the case of Koweit no  
letter should be sent after me unless it be of a very im-  
portant nature -



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Koweit [Kuwait] to [James Charles Edwards] [17v] (2/2)

In the event of my not being back before  
the mail steamer starts for Bombay - you will  
submit a brief letter to Gov<sup>t</sup> reporting all quiet  
round the Gulf and adding that the Resident  
has not returned from his visit to the Wabatee  
Amir but that he is expected in the course of a few  
days and that good and solid results may be  
expected from friendly personal relations with  
a chief who dominates in fact all littoral chiefs  
of the Persian Gulf and Oman and whose influ-  
ence has hitherto been considered so hostile to us  
and noxious to the general peace -



Subzabad En route to Shiraz  
7<sup>th</sup> July 1868.

My dear Way - You have the advantage of me  
in letters, but I am really much pleased for them -  
I am always delighted to receive your Contented & cheerful  
notes. - This Pander Abbas affair will be a tough nut to  
crack, however I suppose we must win. -

You will learn from my official that  
I am going in at that Bahrain Chief -

Also that I am doing all I can to second  
Smith's wish for an Arabic moonshiee -

The new fort arrived at Bushire on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> & promises well. -

I rather find this hot march as I am  
not quite well - however it must be done or there will  
be a row -

I fear I shall be unable to reply to your  
officials this mail as both my office & self are already  
over written -

Do not interfere with the monuments of Ruessway  
Stones - the fact of their standing under our flag renders  
them whilst they are free to go or free to remain - do take  
no notice of them unless some Complaint of theft were  
made in which case you w<sup>d</sup> be guided by the Agent



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Subzabad en route to Shiraz to Alfred Cotton Way [18v]  
(2/2)

instructions —

I am glad Smith is all right again. Let him come to Bushire if he likes, but I have given up my house to Mr. Hojil. — He could however find a place or take his old quarters in the public. —

I hope to be down with you shortly after my return from Shiraz. Say good of Belcher

Remember me please very kindly

respectfully to the ladies.

Yours very sincerely.



Letter from Lewis Pelly, en route to Shiraz to George Andrew Atkinson [19r]  
(1/2)

7<sup>th</sup> July en route to Shiraz

(19) 12

My dear Atkinson -

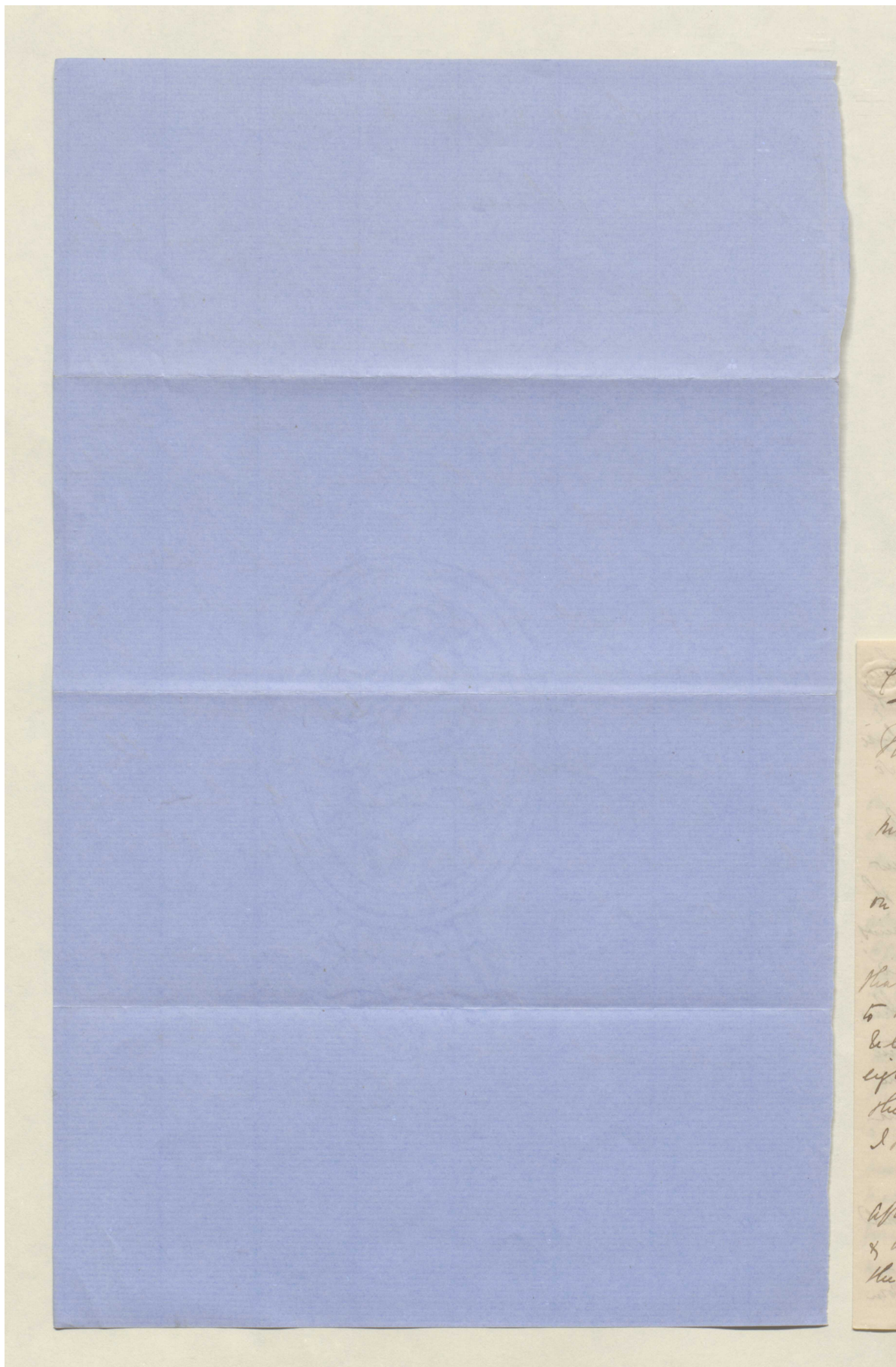
I am in receipt of your note, & Hajie Ahmed shall come back as soon as possible. But it is very important that this Bandar Abbas quarrel sh<sup>d</sup> be amicably settled & the Shah has at last given his assent to negotiation. I am now en route to meet the Prince for<sup>2</sup> few<sup>2</sup> at Shiraz, & H. A. is with me -

The Viceroys expects the Sultan to remain perfectly quiet during the negotiation, & says he will withdraw all countenance from the Muscat State if the Sultan neglect the good offices we are giving. - But of this there is no fear. - The Sultan can keep his ships ready in his harbor, but sh<sup>d</sup> not put to sea unless on being intimated to by his Minister with my consent -

I congratulate your family upon the Bombay Bank prospects. The letter of the English Committee reads to me very able & telling. -  
Yrs very truly



Letter from Lewis Pelly, en route to Shiraz to George Andrew Atkinson [19v]  
(2/2)





(20) 18

Copy Bushire 29<sup>th</sup> Aug: 1860

My dear Mr Mackinnon

Many thanks for yr  
interesting letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> June.

I Congratulate you sincerely  
on yr success in all yr undertakings.

You will be glad to hear  
that after some trouble I managed  
to induce the Persian Authorities to  
release B<sup>re</sup> Abbasp to Muscat for  
eight years; & before that term expires  
the Pers: Gulf will be a great loss,  
I think.

The Muscat Territories are now  
after three years trouble, entirely quiet  
& we can do what we like there in  
the way of trade.

I am glad to say that-



after a long fight I have at length  
brought the Gov<sup>t</sup> of the Shah to admit  
the right of B<sup>t</sup> Subjects to purchase  
house property - so you can do so  
at Bushire. -

The question of Aynan has  
been much disputed but only a few  
weeks ago I rec<sup>d</sup> a telegram from the  
Viceroy desiring me to state my views  
& I did so. If my ideas are carried  
out Aynan will become ours - I have  
rec<sup>d</sup> from the Muscat Gov<sup>t</sup> a written  
assurance of their willingness to cede  
it to us - The difficulty lies at Tehran  
where I am powerless. -

Bussorah is beyond my  
jurisdiction but I fancy you could  
easily get from there. -  
I am entirely aware from



Persia having a flotilla in the Gulf  
I hope the folly will not be insisted  
on - I have been everlastingly at work  
on the Abdee Case; & have at this moment  
a Special Com<sup>tee</sup> from Shiraz engaged on  
it - It appears we shall be able to secure  
about 20,000 Khans i.e.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the  
Claim out of the before - but I wait  
to feel the money in hand -  
I entirely concur in  
recommending the Khanaelue  
Museum & Aden route; & if you start  
a steamer I shall be happy to do my  
best to go in her the first trip & explain  
matters at the several ports - but please  
give me timely notice for my charge keeps  
me constantly employed & on the move -  
I shall return to England



next May, unless any duty of urgent-  
& unexpected Character detain me. -

The Gulf is now better in hand  
than I have ever known it. -

Sembark on Tuesday, &  
proceed with four armed ships to  
punish some Chiefs on the Arab Coast.

This done I think we shall be  
quiet for a long time.

I am glad to say that the  
Viceroy has at length come to feel that  
I deserve his support. - a more arduous  
responsible and dangerous task than  
I have had for the past three years has  
not been given thro' by any subordinate  
Officer in the Indian Service.

It will indeed be a pleasure  
to me to join you in Persia next year. -  
Kindly remember me to all our old  
shipmates of the Holland Expedition. -  
Sir Balthazar takes the



The greatest interest in the Gulf question  
was the first - who turned my attention -  
now 15 years ago - to the prospects of  
the Euphrates line -

I dare say if you are near  
him he might like to glance thro' this  
scrawl -

With kindest respects to  
Mr Mackinnon - & also to Sir F. Colburn  
if you see him

Believe me  
Yours very sincerely  
(Sd<sup>o</sup>) Lewis Pelly

Mr Paul seems a likely man. I think  
he C<sup>d</sup> do some business at Shiraz from  
what I heard there. But goods must not  
be too long in arriving after order.

Keep yr eye on the Opium trade, this  
may any day develop wonderfully -  
The great drawback is bad fortune - & you



with me as Russia advances that her  
two great advantages will be

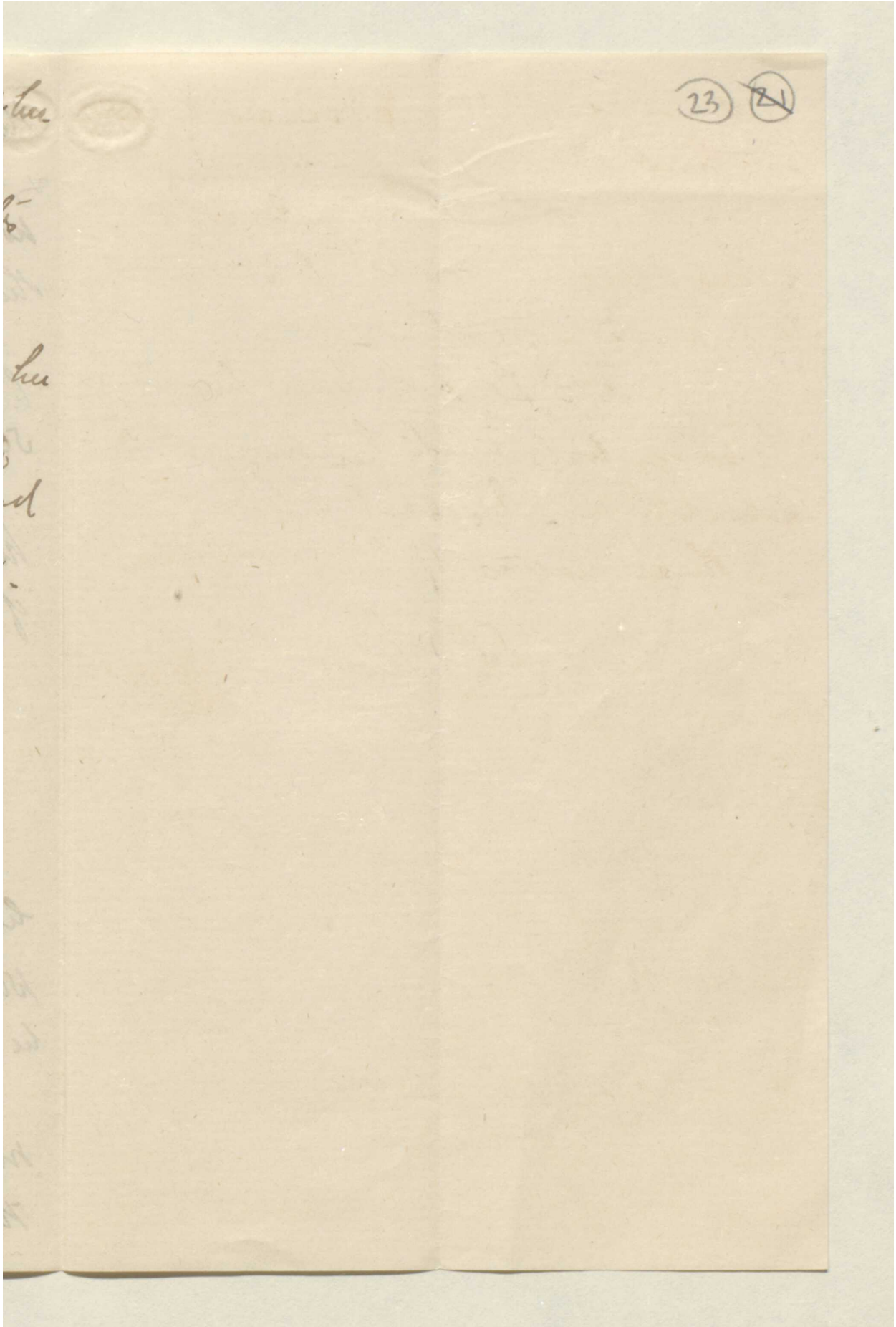
1<sup>st</sup> That she consolidates  
& has lines of commo<sup>n</sup> from her  
Capital to the Frontier -

2<sup>nd</sup> That the tribes beyond her  
Frontiers will invite her intervention  
& protection - We want a firm hand  
in these matters of Central Asia.

(Sig<sup>o</sup>) Lewis Pelly

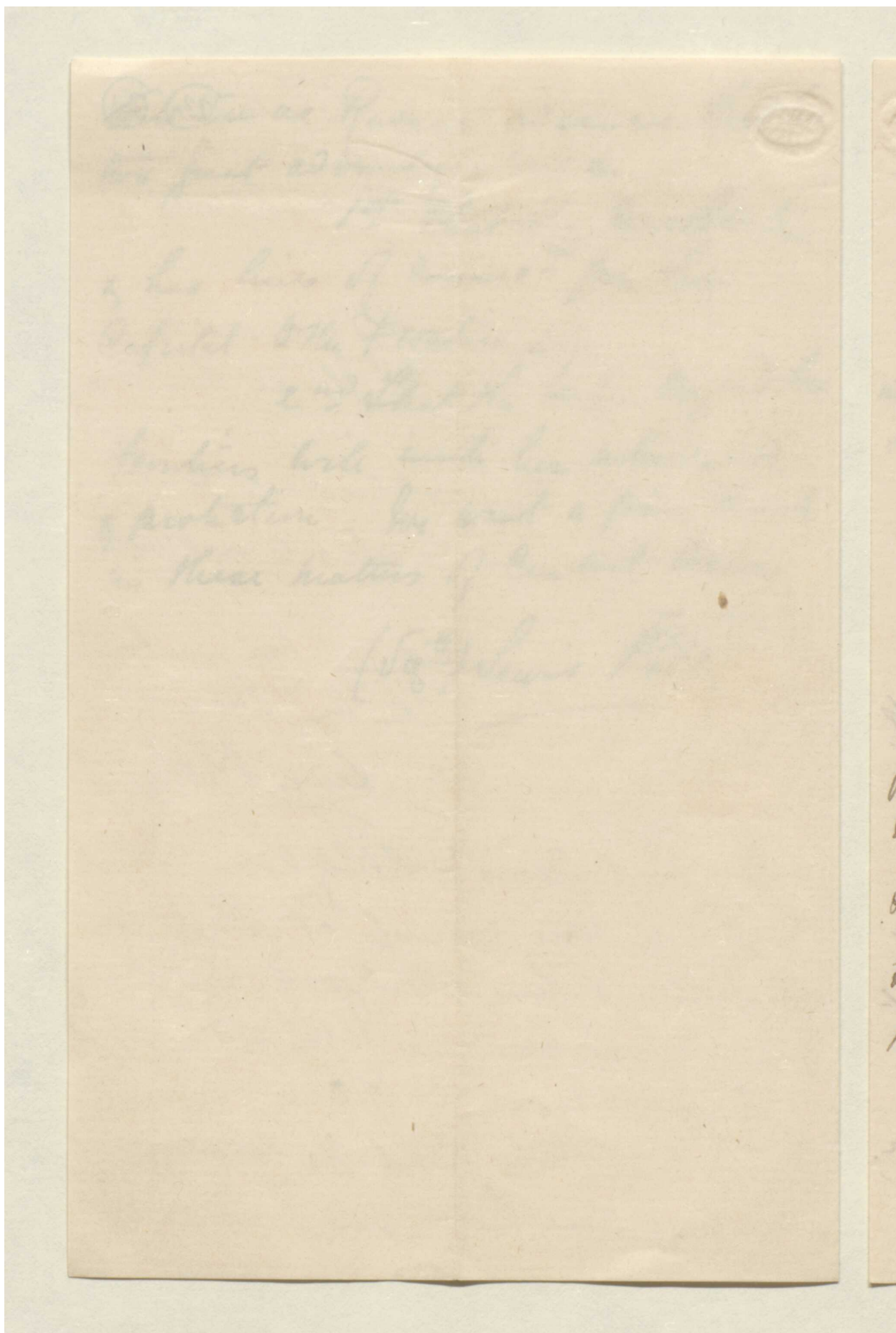


Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to William Mackinnon [23r] (7/8)





Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to William Mackinnon [23v] (8/8)





Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Messrs Coyle and Company, 31 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin [24r] (1/4)

Copy

Bushire 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1860.

Further, I am in receipt  
of your letter of 1<sup>st</sup> July 1860.

I shall be happy to  
present the Bill of Lading on  
arrival of "Asshur".

I wish that the account  
falls due on 4<sup>th</sup> March & I shall  
give myself the pleasure of  
requesting my Agents-Messrs Pennington  
& Co of Bombay to pay the amount  
£115-12-0 into the hands of  
Messrs Fiddling & Co who I  
observe are of Agents at Bombay.  
I am obliged by your  
addition of "Pendant Sherry".



The Minister of the Sultan  
of Muscat who is now with me,  
is desirous of troubling you by  
this or ~~next~~ the following mail -  
I think he might prove a good  
Customer.

Some other parts in the  
Persian Gulf Regions have also  
expressed their wishes, & I sh<sup>d</sup> think  
you might develop some trade on  
a small scale.

My own movements are  
for the present uncertain, but  
if I sh<sup>d</sup> resolve on not returning  
to England, I will telegram you,  
& on receipt of my telegram you

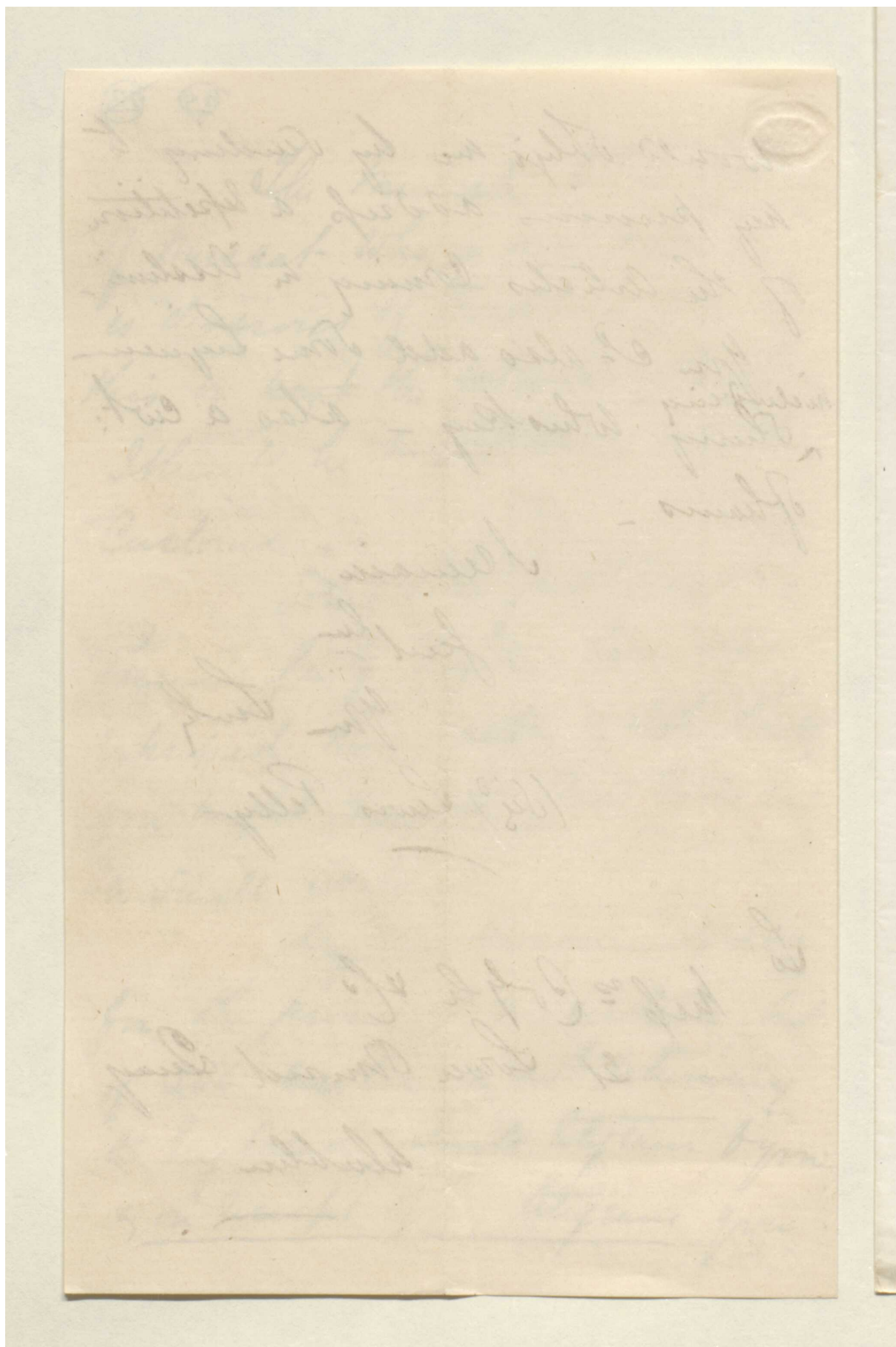


Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Messrs Coyle and Company, 31 Lower Ormond  
Quay, Dublin [25r] (3/4)

would oblige me by sending to  
 my previous address a repetition  
 of the Articles coming in "Assam".  
 You & also add some Liquor  
 including Whiskey - also a cut:  
 of Phans -  
 I remain  
 Yours truly  
 (Sig<sup>d</sup>) Lewis Pelly  
 To  
 Mess<sup>rs</sup> Coyle & Co  
 31 Lower Ormond Quay  
 Dublin



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Messrs Coyle and Company, 31 Lower Ormond  
Quay, Dublin [25v] (4/4)





Bushire 20<sup>th</sup> December 1888

My dear Narrayen,

I am at last after nearly six months knocking about returned to my head quarters and hope to pass Xmas and New Year's day at rest.

I wish to ask your good offices and influence with Captain Henry in the following case. My uncovenanted Assistant Mr. James Edwards after some quarter of a Century's service in the Gulf, has obtained six months leave of absence and is desirous of passing it in a profitable manner. But having a family of eight children he is unable to afford a passage to Europe and back. I have given him Rs. 500 as a help. but even this sum won't do all; and if you could aid him in any way to get a cheap 2<sup>nd</sup> class return ticket it would be a usefully kind act. It is possible perhaps you might be able to get him temporary employ aboard. He would be happy in any way just to get a glance at Europe.

Any ways I am sure Captain Henry and you would do any thing you thought right and proper in aid of so sensible a desire on Mr. Edwards' part.

Mr. E. will go to Bombay by next mail and will then call at your house. I don't don't the trouble I give you.

My kind salaam please to Mrs. Narrayen  
Yours very sincerely  
[Signature] Lewis Pelly



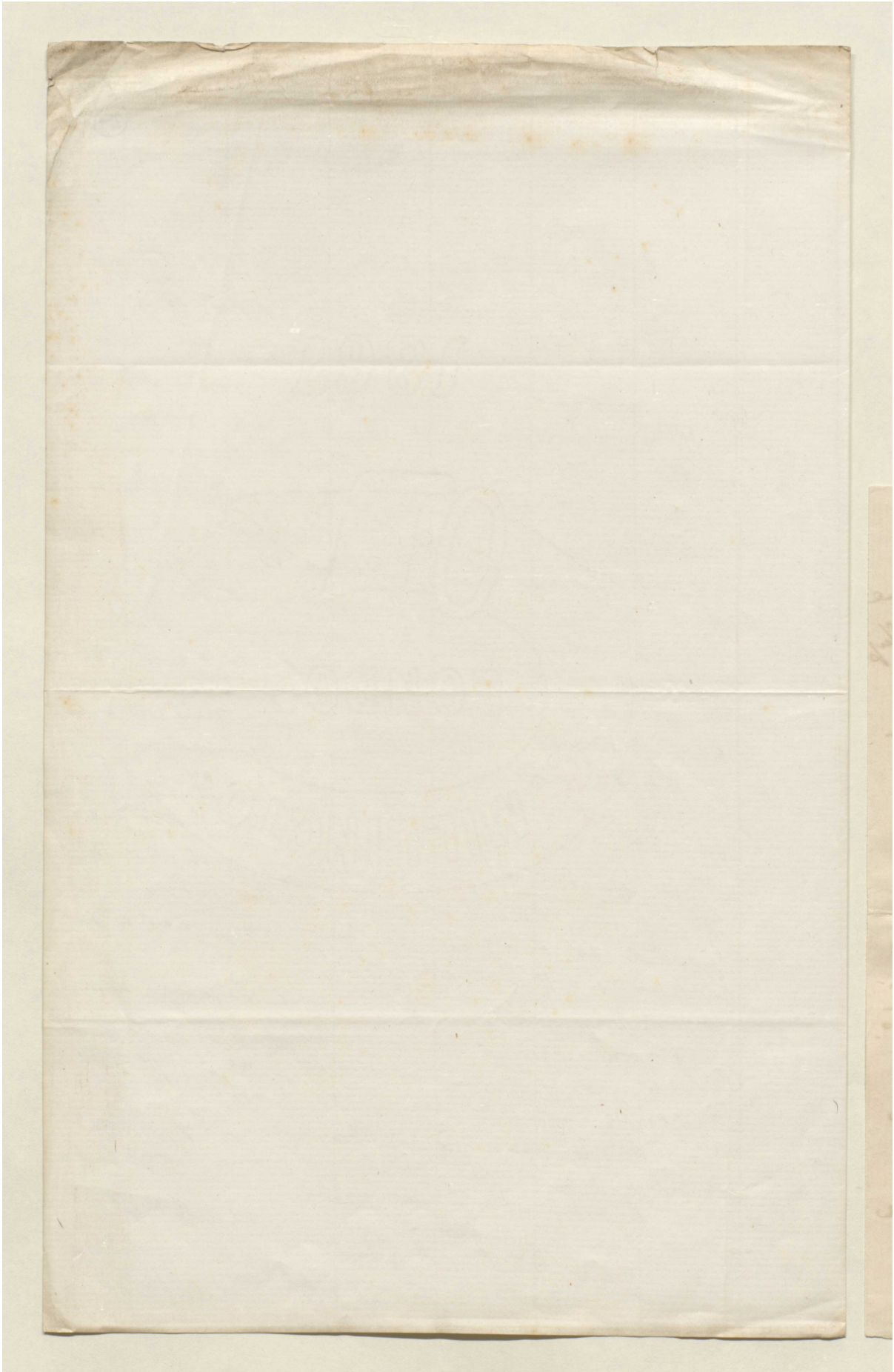




Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Narrayen Wassadeojee [27r] (3/4)



Letter from Lewis Pelly, Bushire to Narrayen Wassadeojee [27v] (4/4)





Bushire - 24<sup>th</sup>. April 1829.

My dear Captain Colomb

I wish her response I could  
be both here to thank you for your  
great care and good will in the ship.

I am sorry to hear that your  
fine ship touched the ground, but you  
told me before if she did so it would be at  
gentle speed and so it turned out.

I wish I could see you  
again - and I am sure we shall give  
you a hearty welcome.

"Hugh Rose" your boat starts  
shortly for Bombay for repairs - and she  
will be ready for shallow water here.



next winter -

The Governor is kindly sending me  
Leithouse and she is a comfortable ship.

There is a row about the Mogroo  
Craft - and I think some of the points  
are difficult to meet -

I have sent the Comptroller on and  
asked for information how to meet it -

if you could drop me unofficially what  
are the facts and the method of meeting  
the Remains it might facilitate matters.  
But these Remains are jealous enough  
when the home has the right, and when  
they have any chance they get counsel  
in Tehran from the Ministers - I have  
Russia - for example - and give no  
aid of both.



(27)  
(29)

However I need not say that while  
I have to give the case forward, I am  
certain I act for what I consider  
the Public Good, and in accordance  
with the Commodore's orders. — But I  
fear I shall have a defect which is  
not a common occurrence with me  
in attention with orientals — every  
body send me any information I can

How much and come up again  
and telegram when you are  
coming. so that I may meet you  
at the most convenient point and  
see all I can of you.

My work continues very heavy  
and I am doing less and less "delicious"

For the escape pass and  
your duties.

Very truly yours

L. Lewis Pelly

J. C.

Mrs

24/4/68.