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‘Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/288/6500
Date(s)	3 Jul 1805-31 Jan 1810 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (13 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



About this record

The item consists mostly of copies of correspondence, memoranda and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, letters to and from the Government of Bombay. It concerns the allowance of Captain David Seton, Resident at Muscat, and includes:

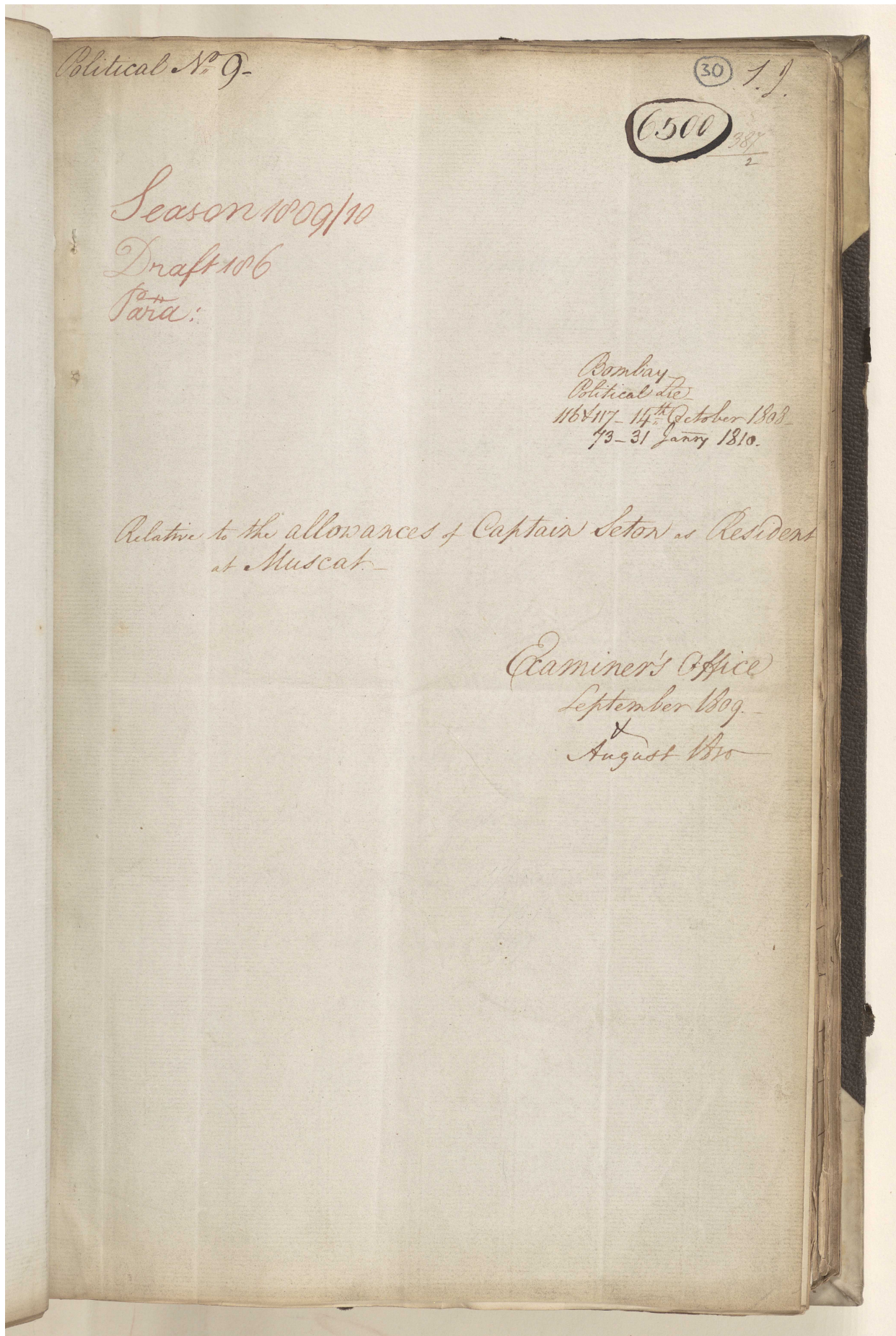
- A request from Seton for an increase in his allowance, and discussions regarding the level at which the Resident's allowance should be fixed
- The question of whether Seton's increased allowance should be applied retrospectively
- Seton's death, and the suggestion that a sum, equivalent to the retrospectively-applied allowance, should be paid to his estate.

The item also contains:

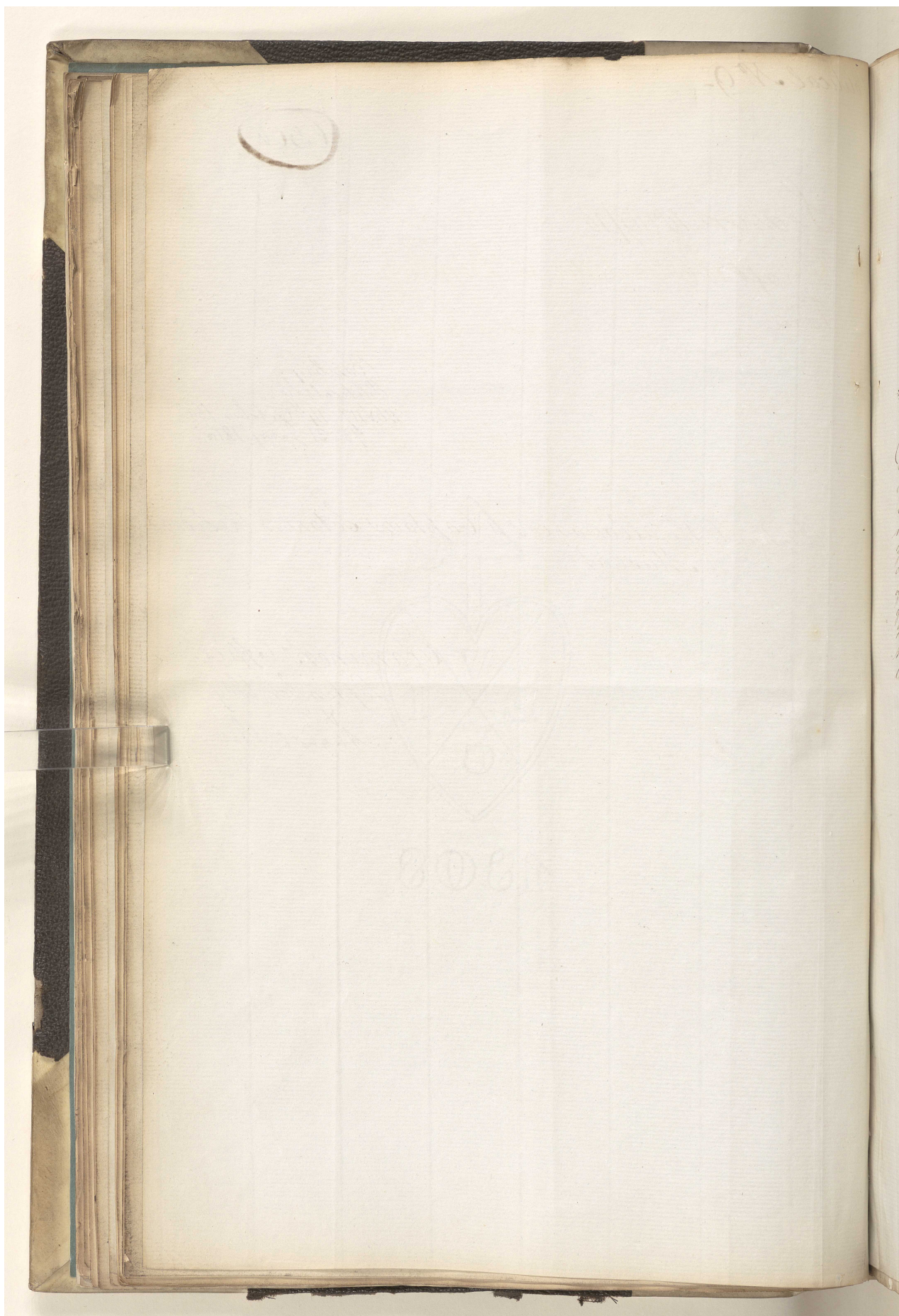
- A response to Samuel Manesty, Resident at Bussora [Basra], regarding his request for the retrospective application of a salary increase for his assistants
- A copy of a medical certificate outlining the health problems suffered by Seton
- A memorandum providing a brief history of the post of Resident at Muscat.

The title page (f 30) of the item contains the following references: 'Political No. 9, Season 1809/10, Draft 186'; and 'Examiner's Office, September 1809 and August 1810'.

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [30r] (1/26)



'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [30v] (2/26)



(31)

Extract Public Letter to Bombay

Dated 3 July 1805.

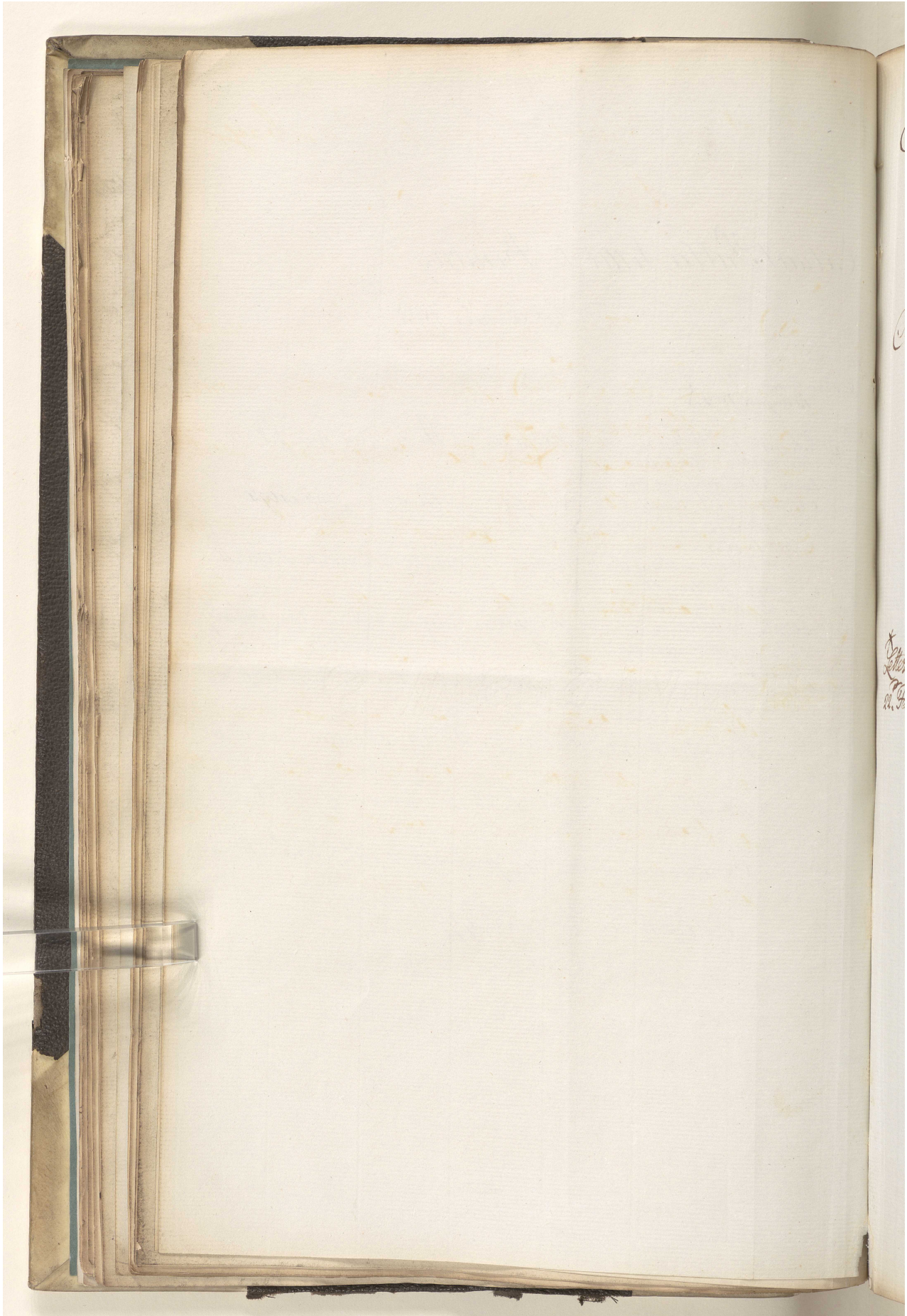
* Letter from
10 August 1804.

(B) Referring to Mr. Manesty's recommendation that his Assistant Mr. Day and his late Assistant Mr. Kinlock may be allowed from the year 1797 to 1803 the difference between the salary of 400 Rupees p. Month granted by the Court in Feb. 1803 and their respective monthly receipts during that period.

Para 25. - We do not see fit to comply with Mr. Manesty's request that our Orders of the 1st Dec^r 1803 for augmenting the salary of his Assistant Mr. Day to four

hundred (400) Rupees p. Month should have a retrospective effect both in favor of that gentleman and his predecessor Mr. Kinlock as far back as the year 1797.

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [31v] (4/26)



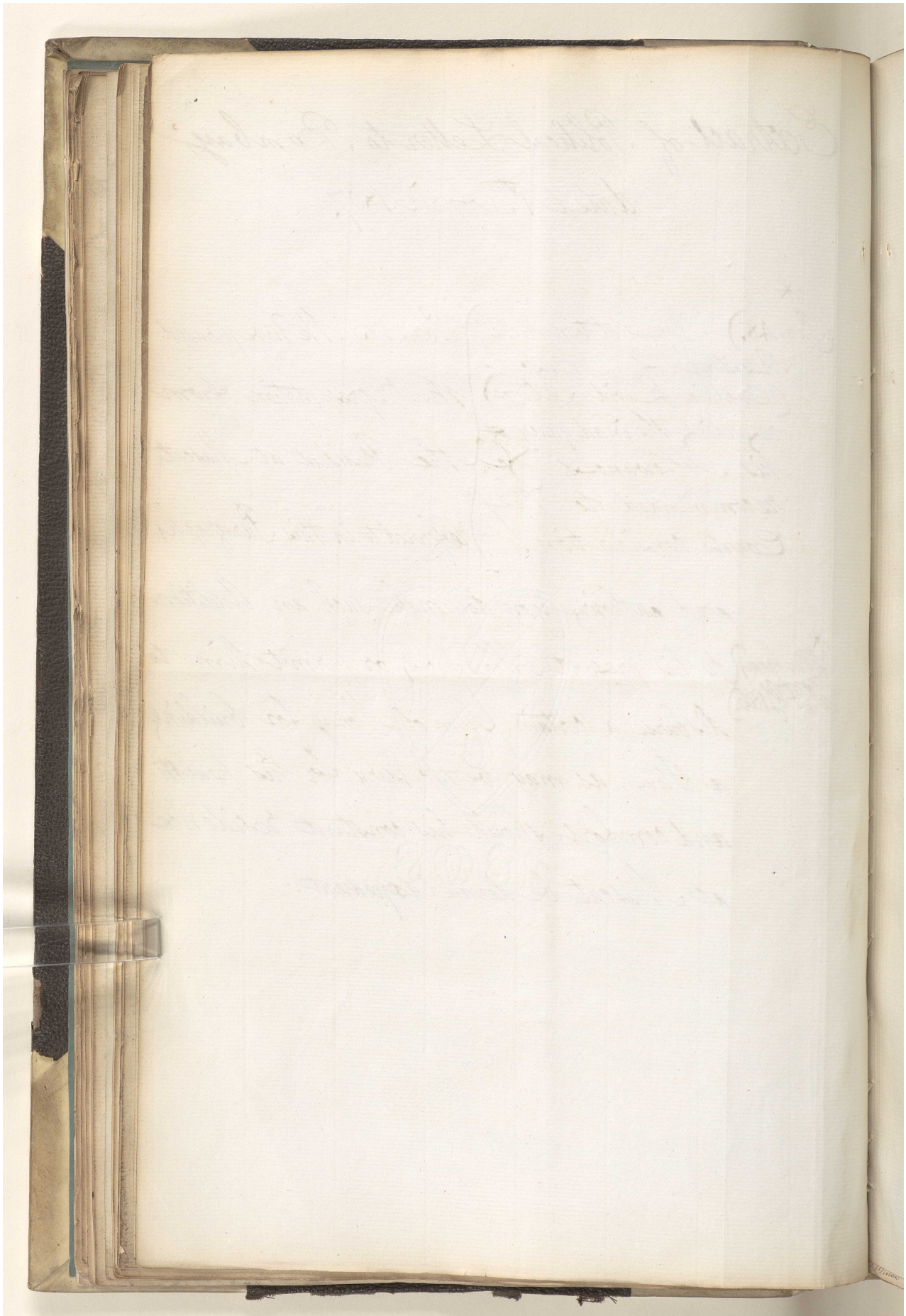
3
32

Extract of Political Letter to Bombay
dated 1st April 1807.

*
(Pr. 48.) Representation of the President of Muscat (Captain David Seton) regarding the inadequacy of his Allowances, &c. recommended to the Courts consideration. } Par. 17. We have perused the representation from the President at Muscat, referred to in this Paragraph and authorizing you to make such an Addition to his present Allowances, or permit him to disburse a certain Sum of Money for building a House, as may be necessary for his health and comfort, should his constant residence at Muscat be deemed expedient.

Letter from 22. Feb 1806.

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [32v] (6/26)



5
33

Extract, Political Letter from Bombay.

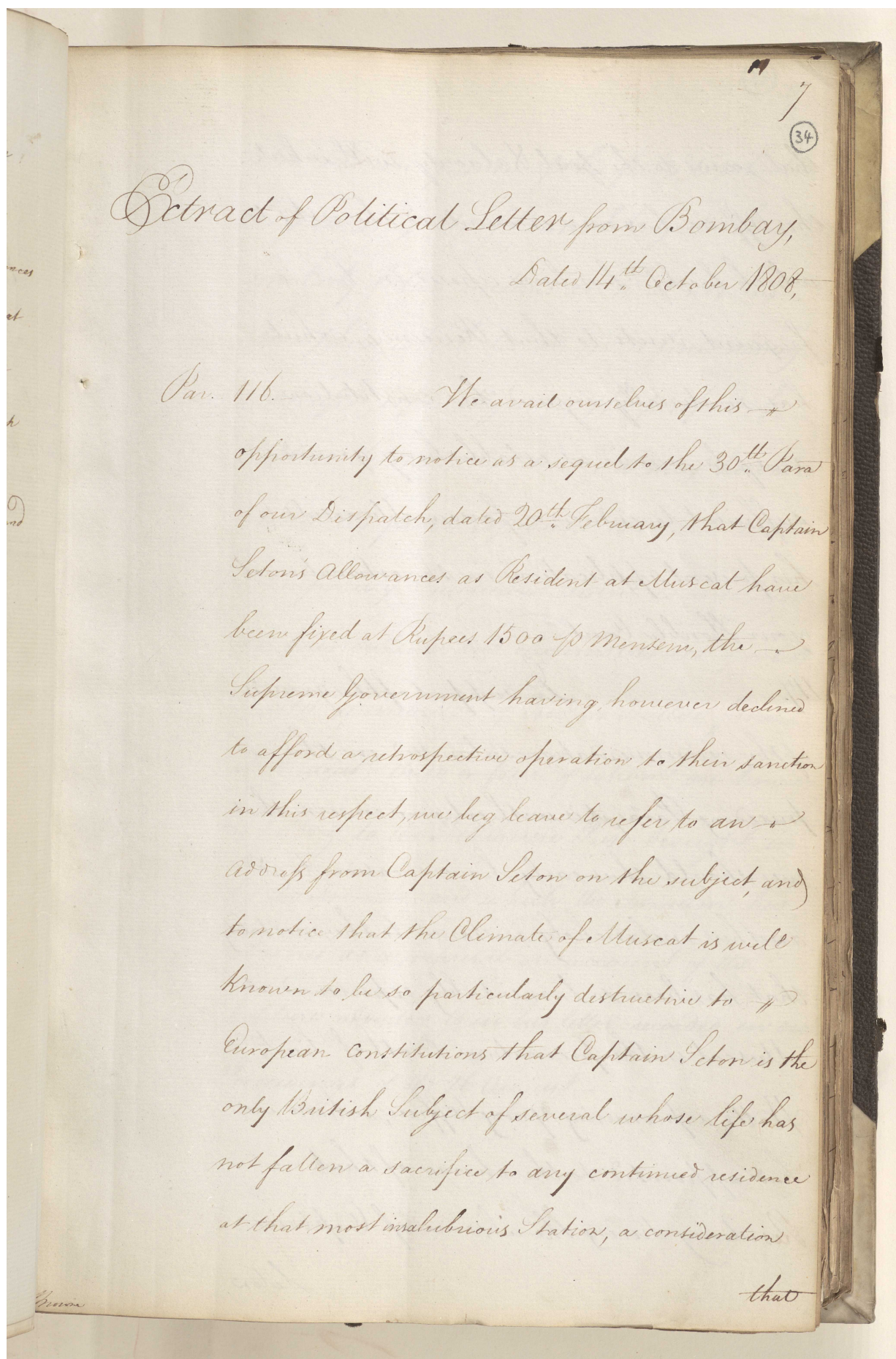
dated the 20th Feby-1808.

Letter to - dated 1st April, 1807.

Par: 17- Authorizing an increase } Para. 30th - On reference to our
to the Salary of the Resident at }
Muscat and the issue of a sum } Proceedings dated the 2^d February
of money to build a house. } your Honorable Court will perceive

the grounds upon which we have, in concurrence with
your instructions of the 4th of April 1807- granted
to the Resident at Muscat the sum of Rupees
ten thousand /10,000/ to enable him to build a
House for the future suitable Residence of himself
and his successors, having also agreed, that should
not this amount prove adequate for that purpose
he shall be allowed to make a charge on honor
for the difference. - With respect to increasing
Captain Seton's allowance as Resident at Muscat
We beg leave to refer your Honorable Court to an
address to the Supreme Government of the 30th of
January, as containing the considerations which
have

have induced^{ed} to request the Governor General in
Council to afford the assistance of his Lordship's
sentiments with respect to the amount of the allowances
that it may be deemed fit to fix in future for that
Residency in view to the terms of your Honble
Court's above-cited commands, inclusive of such
retrospective effect as the Governor General in
Council may be pleased to assign, or to recommend
in regard to them. —

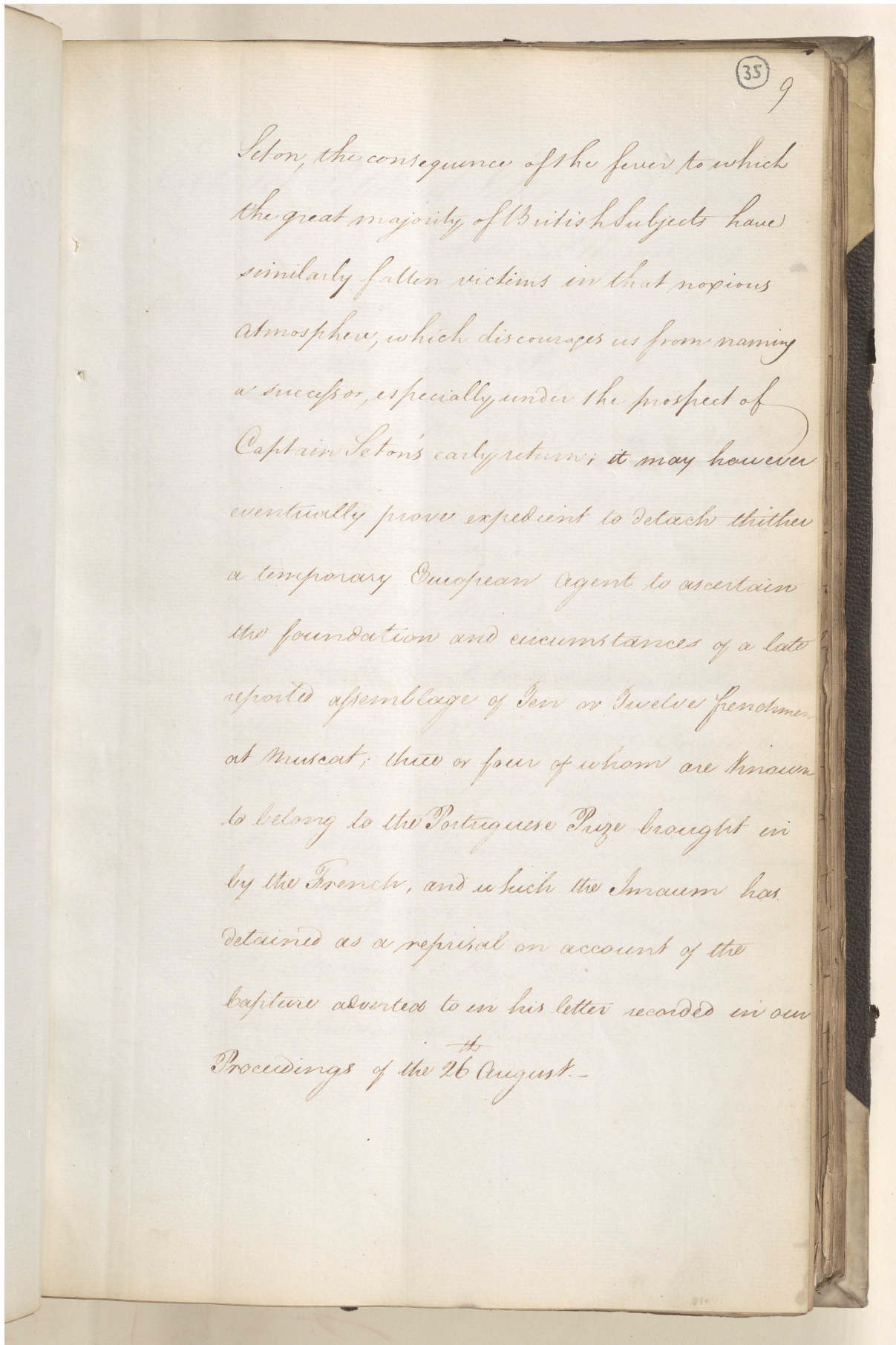


'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [34v]
(10/26)

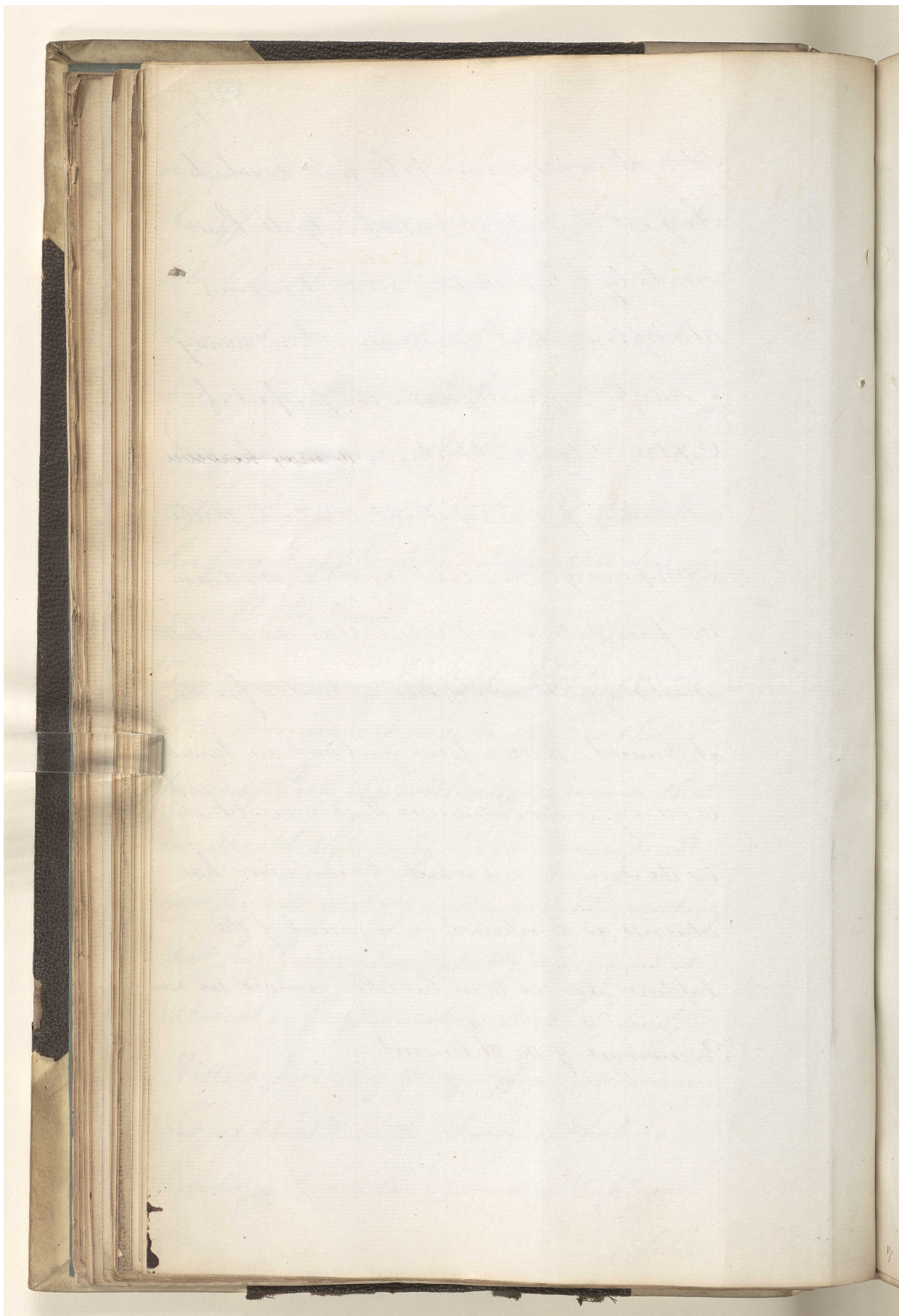
that joined to the zeal & alacrity with which
this Officer has ever encountered the risks to
which his life has been exposed in his
frequent visits to that Residency, which
has materially injured his constitution,
may be viewed as establishing grounds
sufficient to induce a favourable result to
his present application in the estimation of
your Honble Court.

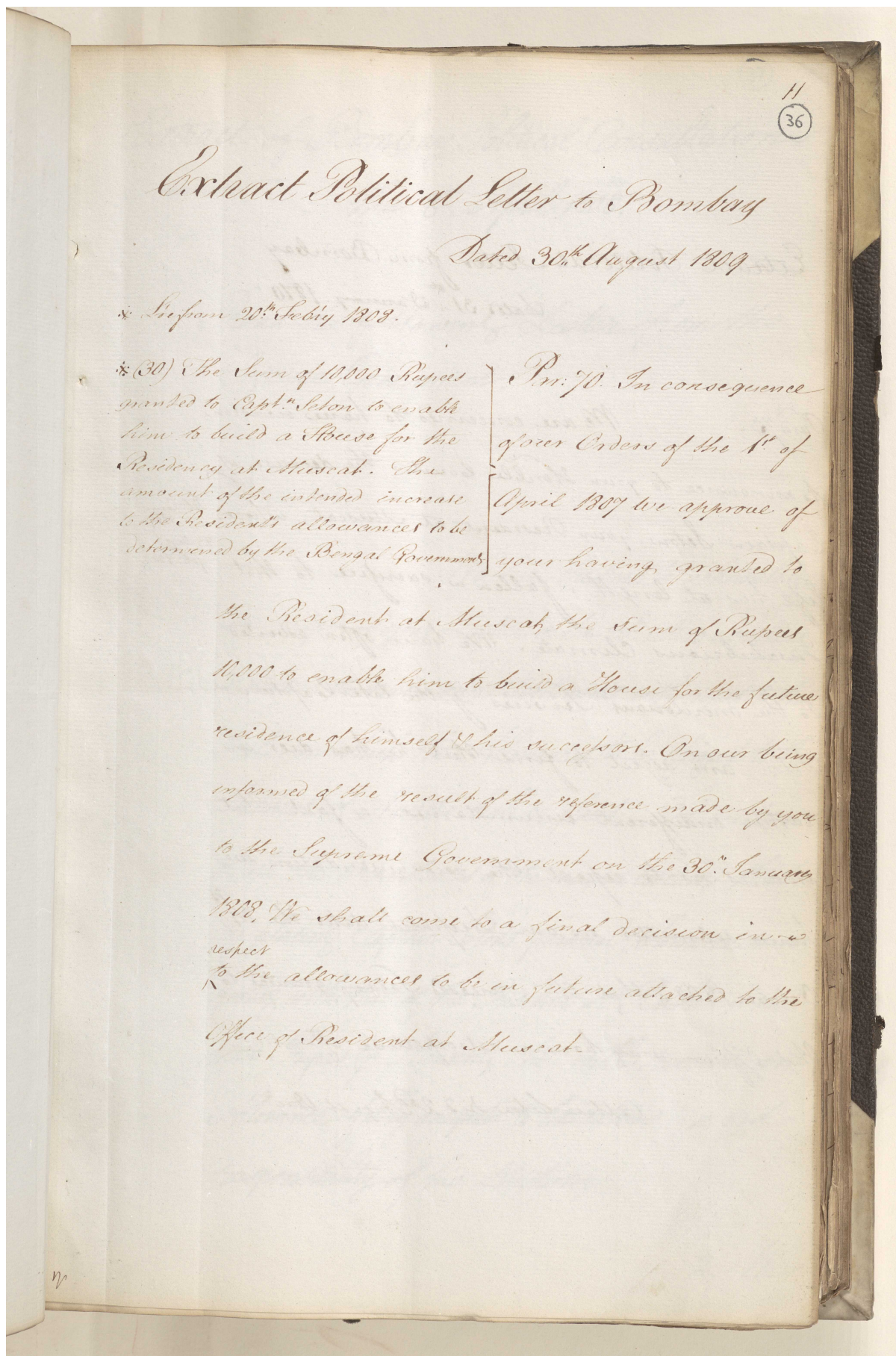
117. - In support of the grounds
of the recommendation submitted in the
preceding Para, it is with extreme concern that
we should thus early have occasion to add
another, melancholy instance to the mortality
that has been so lamentably experienced at
Muscat in the premature Death of Lieut.
Watts, a promising Young Officer, whom we
had appointed to the charge of that
Residency during the absence of Captain
Seton.

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [35r]
(11/26)



**'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [35v]
(12/26)**



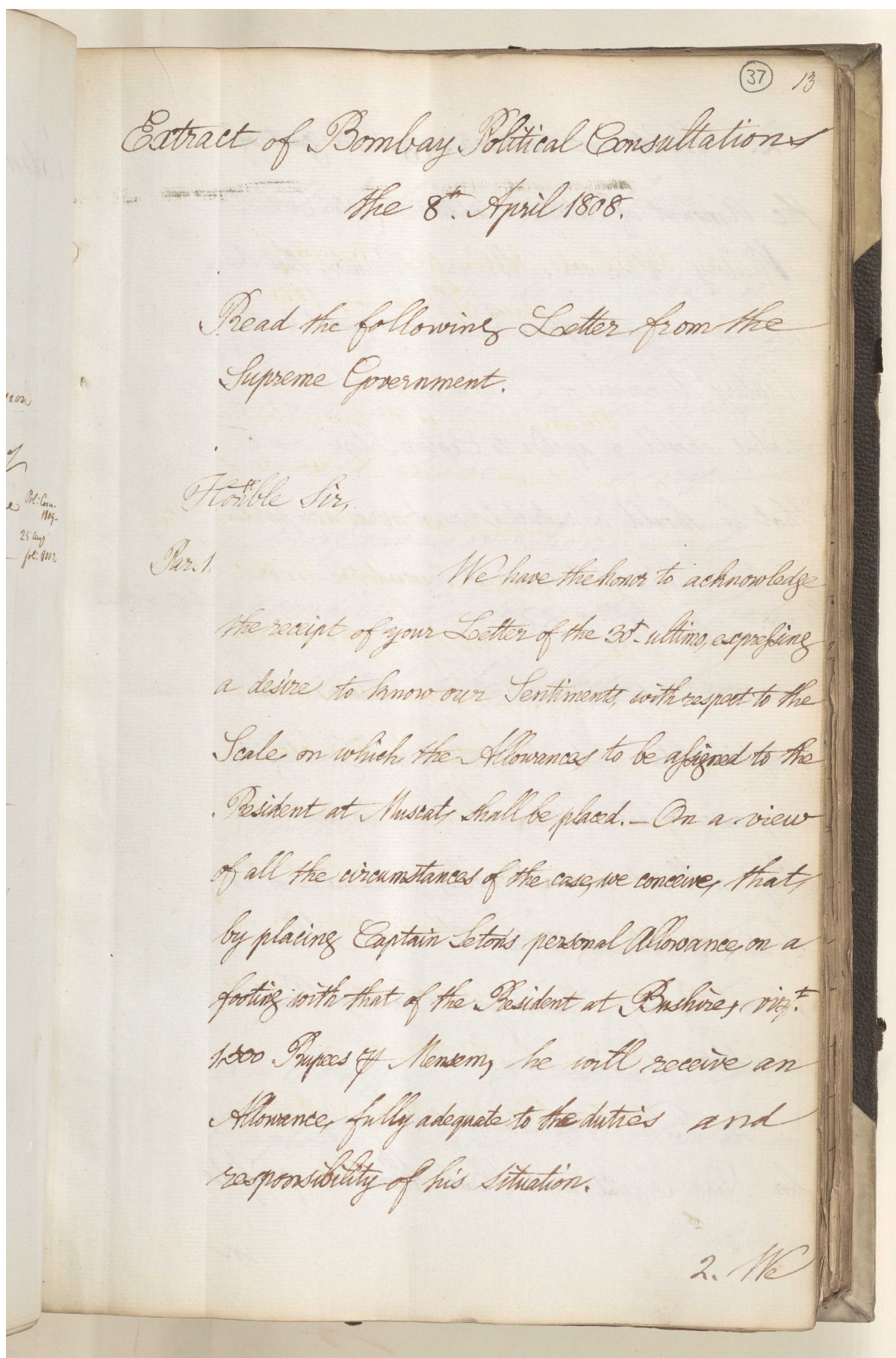


'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [36v]
(14/26)

Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 31st January 1810

And 4th. We are concerned to have occasion
to announce to your Honble Court, the decease of
Captain Seton, your Resident at Muscat, whose ^{Pl: Com- 1809-}
life has at length, fallen a sacrifice to that ^{25 Aug 1809}
Insalubrious Climate. We have often adverted
to the meritorious Services of the late Captain
Seton, and regret to find that he has died in
rather indifferent circumstances: a fact that
induces us to repeat the recommendation we
have submitted in our Despatch dated the 14th
October 1808, that the increased Salary granted to
that Officer may have a retrospective operation.

Captain Seton died 2nd August 1809.



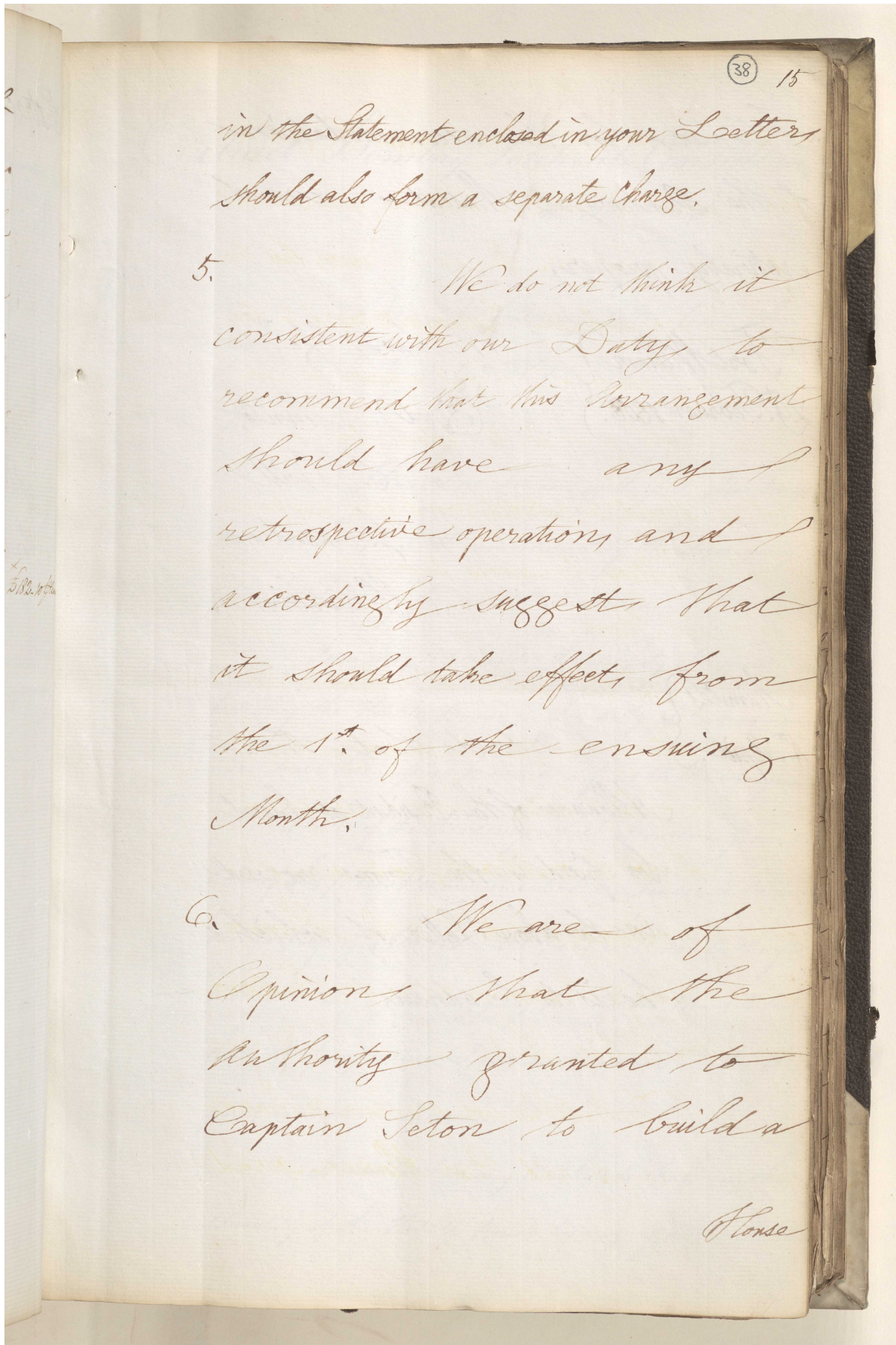
'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [37v]
(16/26)

2. We do not however suggest the grant of the Amount of Salary, in addition to Captain Seton's Military Allowances. We are of Opinion that the rule in force under this Presidency with regard to the Military Allowances of Officers employed in Civil Duties, should be applied to Captain Seton, and that he should be restricted from drawing any part of his Military Allowances beyond the mere Pay of his Rank. ^{5132-10 (Alman)}

3. As the increase of Allowance to Captain Seton under this Arrangement (including the Suspension of his Military Allowances inclusive of Pay) will not be considerable, we are aware of no objection to continuing to that Officer the Allowance of 100 Rupees & Mensem for a Country Residence in addition to his Salary.

4. The Establishment of 70 Rupees & Mensem for Native Agents, and Boat Allowance, specified in

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [38r]
(17/26)



'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [38v]
(18/26)

House, for the accommodation
of the Presidency at Muscat, was
entirely proper.

Fort William, }
29th February 1808. }

We have, &c."

(Signed) Minto,

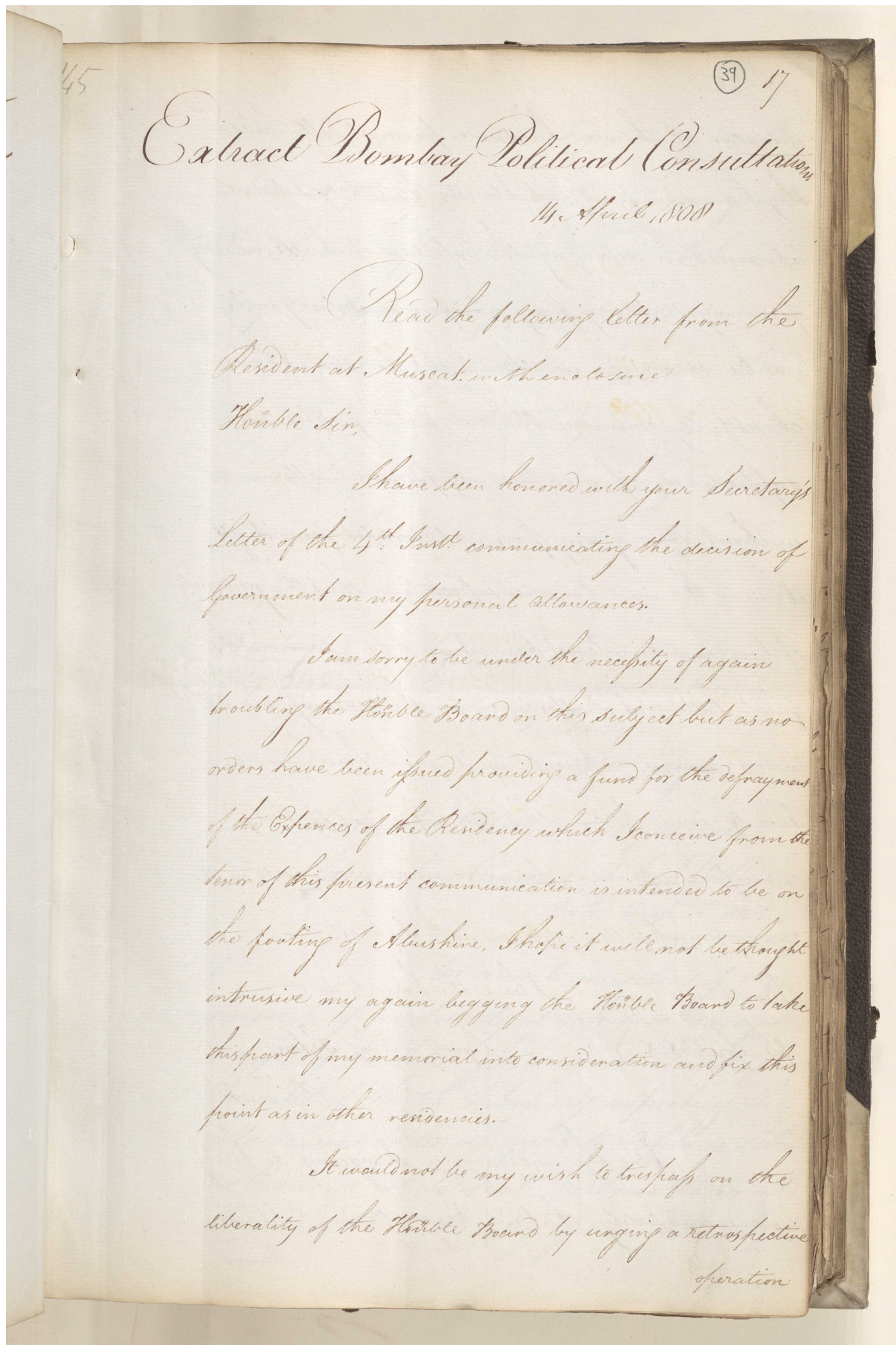
" S. Hewitt,

" J. Lumsden,

" H. Colebrooke.

Minutes }
4th April. }

Ordered that the
Allowance of the Resident at Muscat
be fixed in the Terms proposed
in the above Letter, of which
he is to be advised.



'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [39v]
(20/26)

operation of the very handsome personal allowance
they have now paid but I trust the money I have
advanced in defraying the Expenses of the Residency
from my Military pay and former Salary will
not be considered in this light, for tho' I have
cheerfully continued the duties of my office and
supported its expenses from my personal allowances
without deriving any personal benefit from it, yet
it was in the well founded expectation, that the generosity
of Government would not permit me to be a loser on the
final Settlement of allowances for the residency and the
enclosed medical certificate will show how unable
I am to redeem the time that has elapsed, and that my
principal dependence for a provision in reference to the
reimbursement of this advance with interest.

Bombay
8th April 1808.

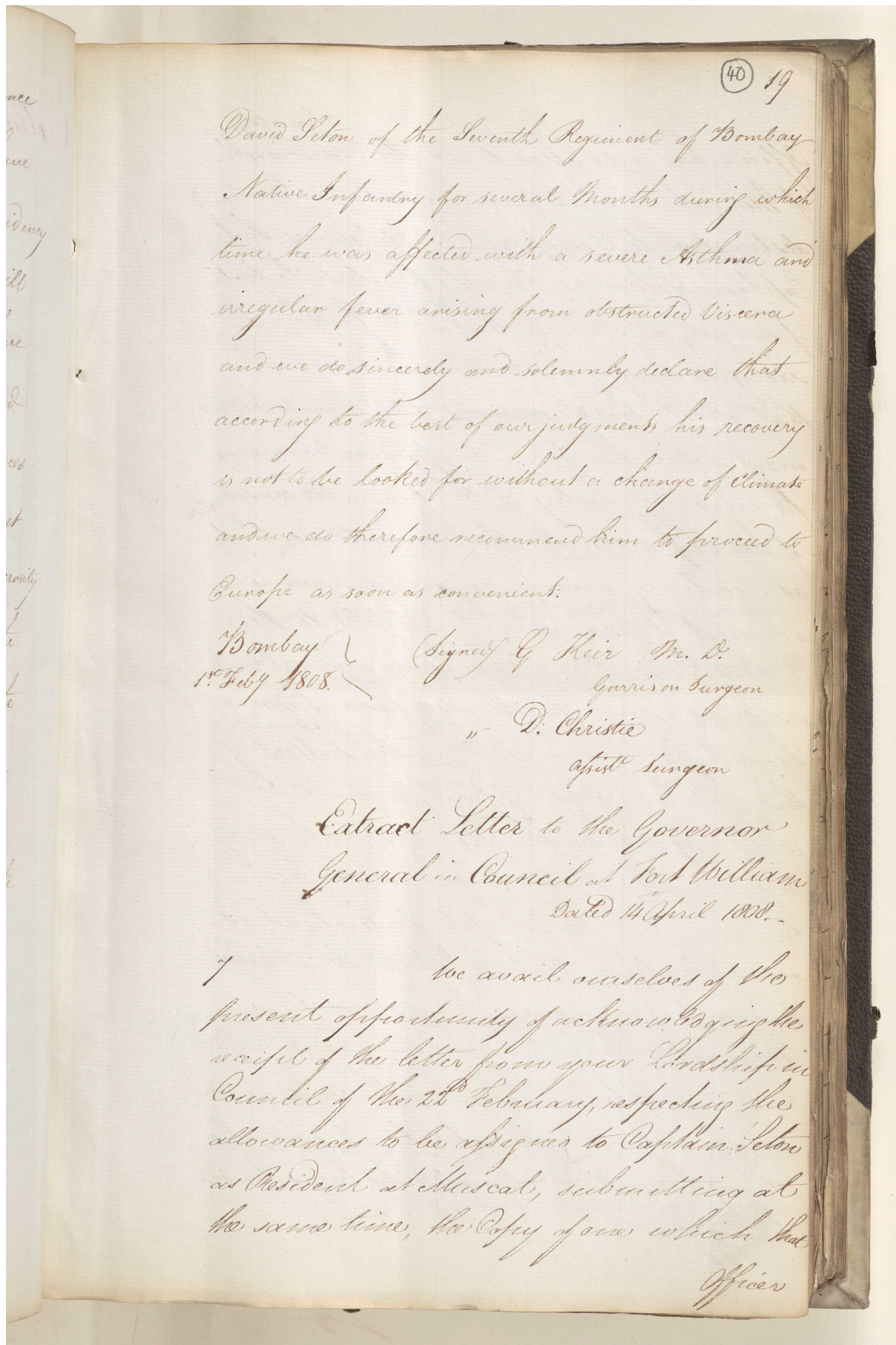
I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) David Seton

Resident

We the undersigned Surgeons do hereby
declare and certify, that we have attended Captain
David

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [40r]
(21/26)

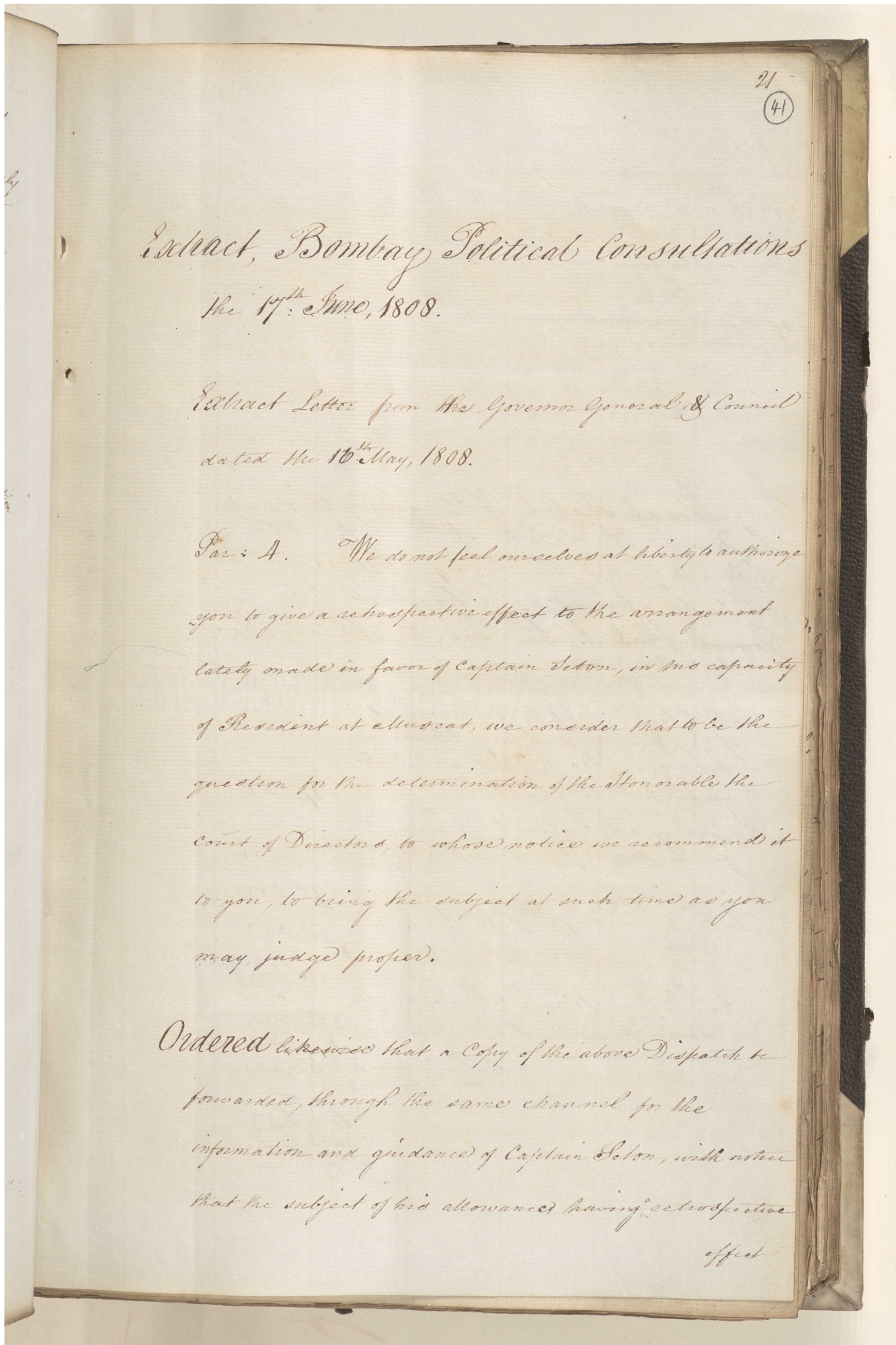


'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [40v]
(22/26)

climate
 Officer has addressed to us. The ~~Climate~~
 of Muscat is well known to be so peculiarly
 destructive to European Constitutions, that
 Captain Seton is the only British Subject
 of several, whose life has not fallen a
 sacrifice to any continued residence at
 that most insalubrious Station, which
 may render his present application more
 peculiarly worthy of the favorable consideration
 of his Superiors, at the same time, that
 as involving a considerable arrears on
 account of Services not limited to this
 Presidency it will be very agreeable to
 us to be guided by the decision of your
 Lordship's Government on the subject of
 this Officer's present Appeal, as well as
 with respect to the Allowances he may
 be permitted to draw on his Mission
 to Seend; till the receipt of which, it is
 our intention that he shall be allowed
 to draw what may be requisite on
 Account.

8. Captain Seton's health is now
 much restored, & he expects it will be
 strengthened & corroborated by his intended
 Journey.

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [41r]
(23/26)



'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [41v]
(24/26)

effect will be submitted for the decision of the
Honorable Court by the next dispatch as recommended
by the Supreme Government.

Rough sketch of the sum that will
be due to the Estate of the late Captain
Seton in case the salary of 1500 Ruffins
shall be allowed a retrospect from 1st
March 1808 to the month of Oct. 1809,
to the 1st March 1808.

Capt. Seton's receipts on account
of pay & other military allowances
from Oct. 1800 to 1st March 1808
amounted to about ———— 47,000

His salary as Resident at Muscat
for the same period at 500 Ruffins 14,500

Deduct Military Pay for the same
period ———— 91,500
10,830

A salary of 1500 Ruffins for the
same period should amount to 133,500

Balance due about 52,830

or
£ 6,603
reckoning the Ruffin
at 2/6. —

'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [42r]
(25/26)

Memorandum

(42) 73

In 1798 an Agreement was concluded with the Imam of Muscat thro' the agency of Sheikh Ali Khan by which the former engaged to consider as his Enemies those of the British Gov't - not to suffer during the continuance of the War, either the French or Dutch to settle within his Territory - & to permit an English factory to be established at Gombroon.

In the following year the Imam having preferred a request for Medical assistance, Mr Bogle was appointed surgeon to that Prince - A motive with the Bombay Gov't for consenting thereto, was the consideration that such an appointment would answer all the purposes of a political Resident and prove a check upon the Imam, whose conduct had excited suspicions of his fidelity to the above engagement. - Mr Bogle's allowances were fixed at 500 R. exclusive of his professional allowances.

As Capt. Malcolm, at that time, was about to proceed to the Gulf, he was accompanied by Mr Bogle, who in addition to his medical appointment at Muscat was to assume there such political character as eventually he might be authorized by that Officer.

They reached Muscat in January 1800, when the Imam by another Agreement confirmed that concluded in 1798 and consented to receive an European Agent as the part of the Company, & to allow him to reside at Muscat as a medium of communication between the two Governments. - Mr Bogle was accordingly appointed to this Office, & at the same time directed to continue to render Medical assistance to the Imam & the Natives generally, "in a manner calculated to answer the end of his original appointment and to give the fuller influence and energy to the separate charges conferred on him."

Accounts having been received of the death of Mr Bogle, the Bombay Gov't selected Captain D. Seton to succeed him as Resident at Muscat, and appointed an Assistant Surgeon to attend the Imam & to be attached to the Residency. - Capt. Seton's salary was fixed at the same amount as that of his Predecessor, viz. 500 R. exclusive of his Military Allowances. - He was restricted from being concerned in any commercial transactions except on account of the Company, and Gov't stated to him how desirable it would be to establish such a Commerce on the public account as should defray the expense of the Residency. -

**'Relative to the allowances of Captain Seton as Resident at Muscat' [42v]
(26/26)**

