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'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/343/7962
Date(s)	1 May 1809-20 Aug 1810 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (147 folios)
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About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the governments of Bombay and Bengal. The principal correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; Captain
John Wainwright; Brigadier General John Malcolm; the Residents at Muscat, David Seton and William Bunce. The item concerns Persian Gulf campaign of 1809 against the Joasmee [Āl Qawāsim] involving HMS *Chiffonne* , HMS *Caroline* ; East India Company cruisers *Mornington* , *Aurora* , *Ariel* , *Fury* , *Strombolo* , *Ternate* , and *Vestal* ; the transports *Minerva* , *Friendship* , *Mary* , and *Duncan* .
The campaign was commanded by Captain John Wainwright of HMS *Chiffonne* and Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Smith of His Majesty's 65th Regiment of Foot.

The item contains a discussion of the following considerations before undertaking the campaign:

- The reasons for the campaign including the taking of the *Minerva*

• Alliances between tribes and the background to the link between the Joasmees and the Wahabees [Wahabi]

• Negotiations with the Imaum of Muscat [Imam of Muscat, Sayyid Saʿīd bin Sulṭān Āl Bū Saʿīd] for the campaign to include recovering Muscat's land from the Wahabees, defending Muscat against the Wahabees, and the Imaum's help in provisioning the expedition's ships

• Timings of the campaign

• Limitations on the campaign with respect to coming into conflict with the Wahabees

• Limitations on attacking areas of the Persian coast and attacking the pirate settlements on land

• Discussion of the opinion of Persia on the proposed campaign.

The description of the campaign focuses on the attack on Ras-ul-Khyma [Ras al-Khaimah] on 12 November, although there is also a description of the attack on the port of Luft [Laft, on the isle of Qeshm] 26 November, Linga [Bandar-e-Lengeh], and the capture of Shinnas [Shinas].

There is a detailed description of the loss of the *Strombolo* on 15 September and the subsequent inquiry on board the *Mornington* , which concluded that there was no evidence to court martial the men who had embarked in the *Strombolo'* s boat. The Government at Bombay were not satisfied with this inquiry and intended to reopen it.

The title page of this item contains the following references: 'Political No. 16, Draft 33, Season 1812/13, Examiner's Office March 1811'.

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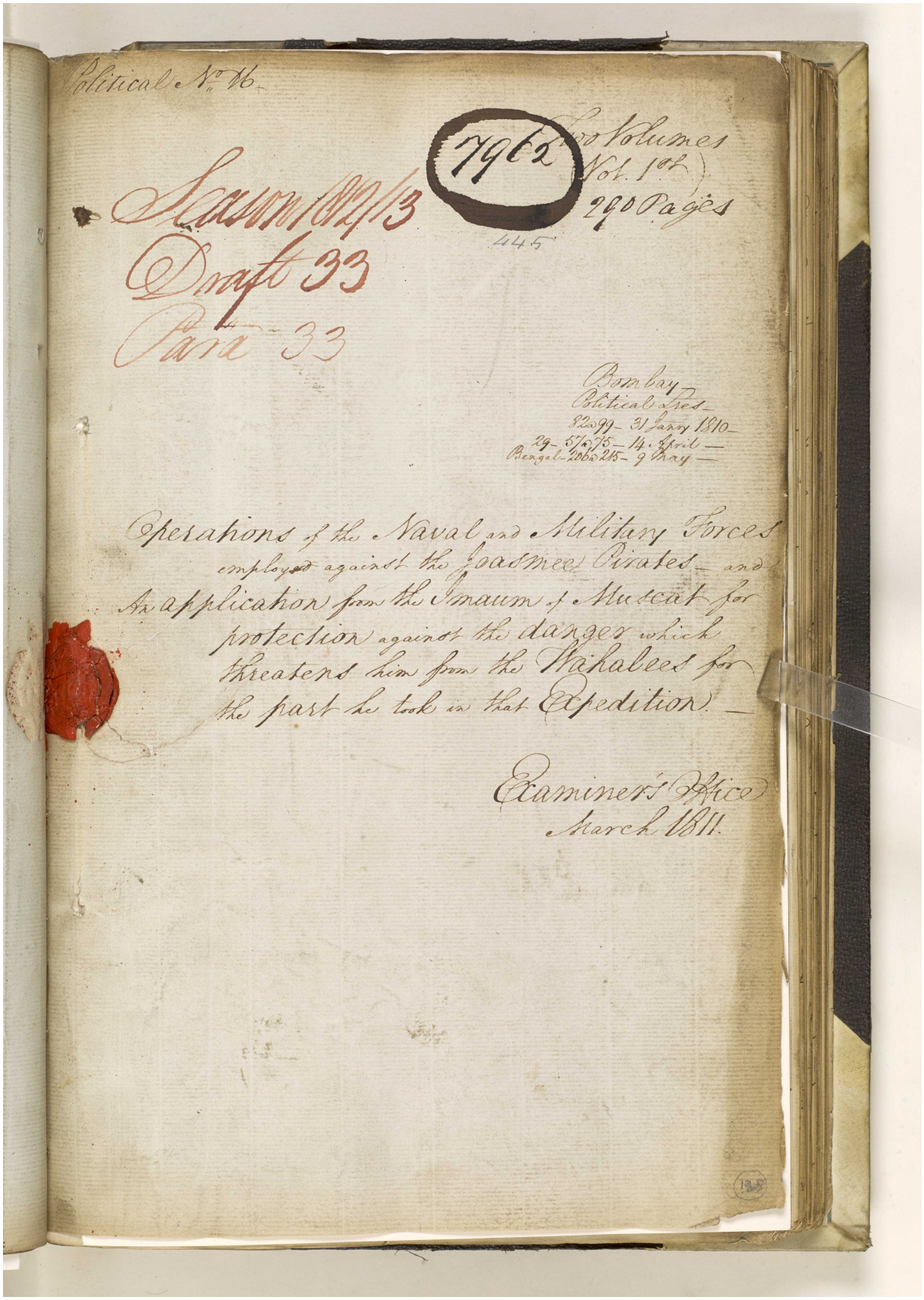
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [138r] (1/294)



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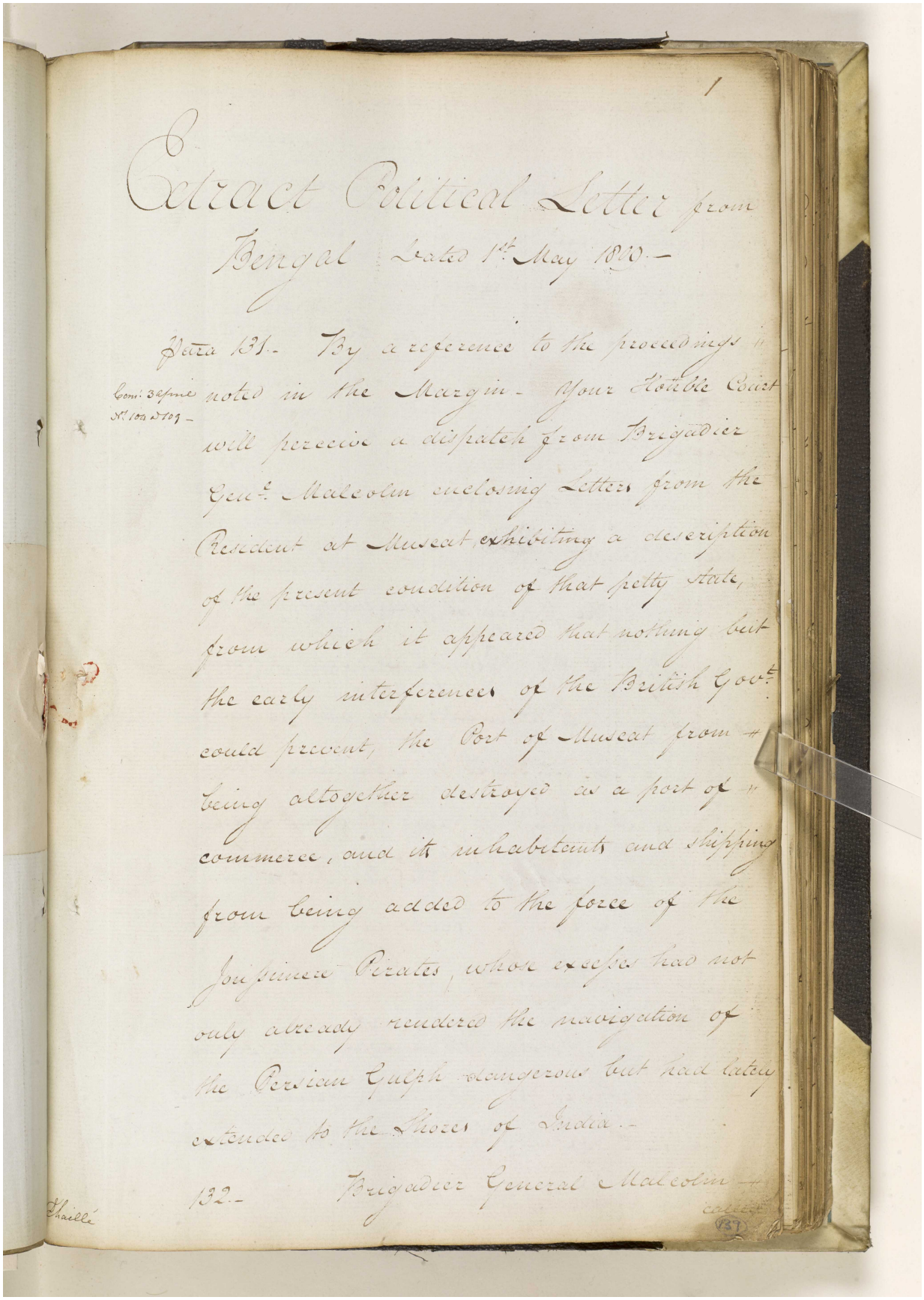
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [139r] (3/294)



Extract Political Letter from Bengal Dated 1st May 1800.–

Para 131.– By a reference to the proceedings noted in the Margin.– Your Hon'ble Court will perceive a dispatch from Brigadier Genl. Malcolm enclosing Letters from the Resident at Muscat exhibiting a description of the present condition of that petty state, from which it appeared that nothing but the early interferences of the British Govt. could prevent, the Port of Muscat from being altogether destroyed as a port of commerce, and its inhabitants and shipping from being added to the force of the Joussimere Pirates, whose excesses had not only already rendered the navigation of the Persian Gulph dangerous but had lately extended to the Shores of India.–

Com: 3 April No. 104 & 109.–

132.– Brigadier General Malcolm

Thaillé

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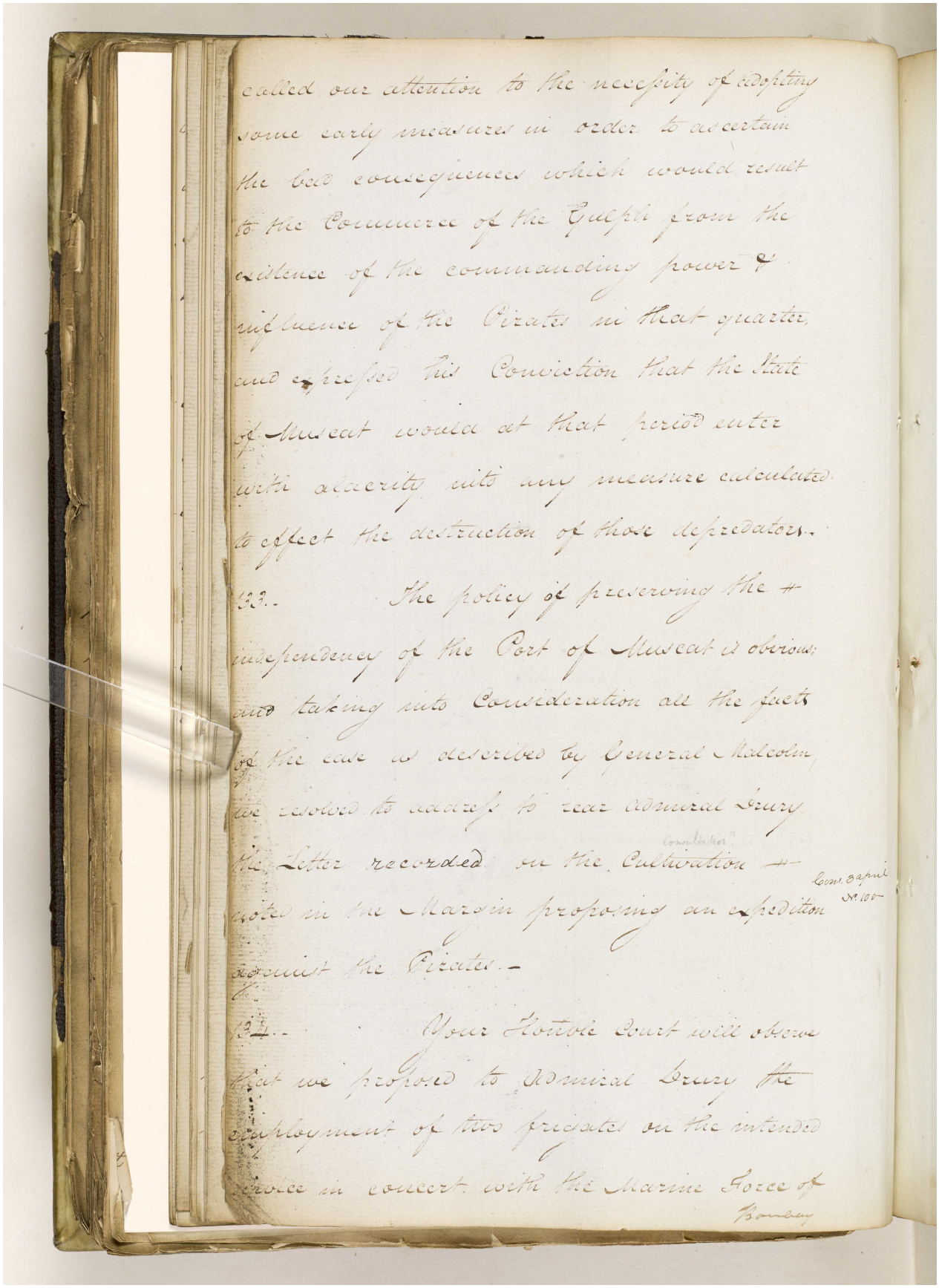

called our attention to the necessity of adopting
some early measures in order to ascertain
the bad consequences which would result
to the Commerce of the Gulph from the
evidence of the commanding power &
influence of the Pirates in that quarter,
and expressed his Conviction that the State
of Muscat would at that period enter
with alacrity into any measure calculated
to effect the destruction of those depredators.

133. The policy of preserving the
independency of the Port of Muscat is obvious
and taking into Consideration all the facts
of the case as described by General Malcolm
we resolved to address to Rear Admiral Drury
the Letter recorded in the Cultivation
noted in the Margin proposing an expedition
against the Pirates.

134. Your Honble Court will observe
that we proposed to Admiral Drury the
employment of two frigates on the intended
service in concert with the Marine Force of
Bombay

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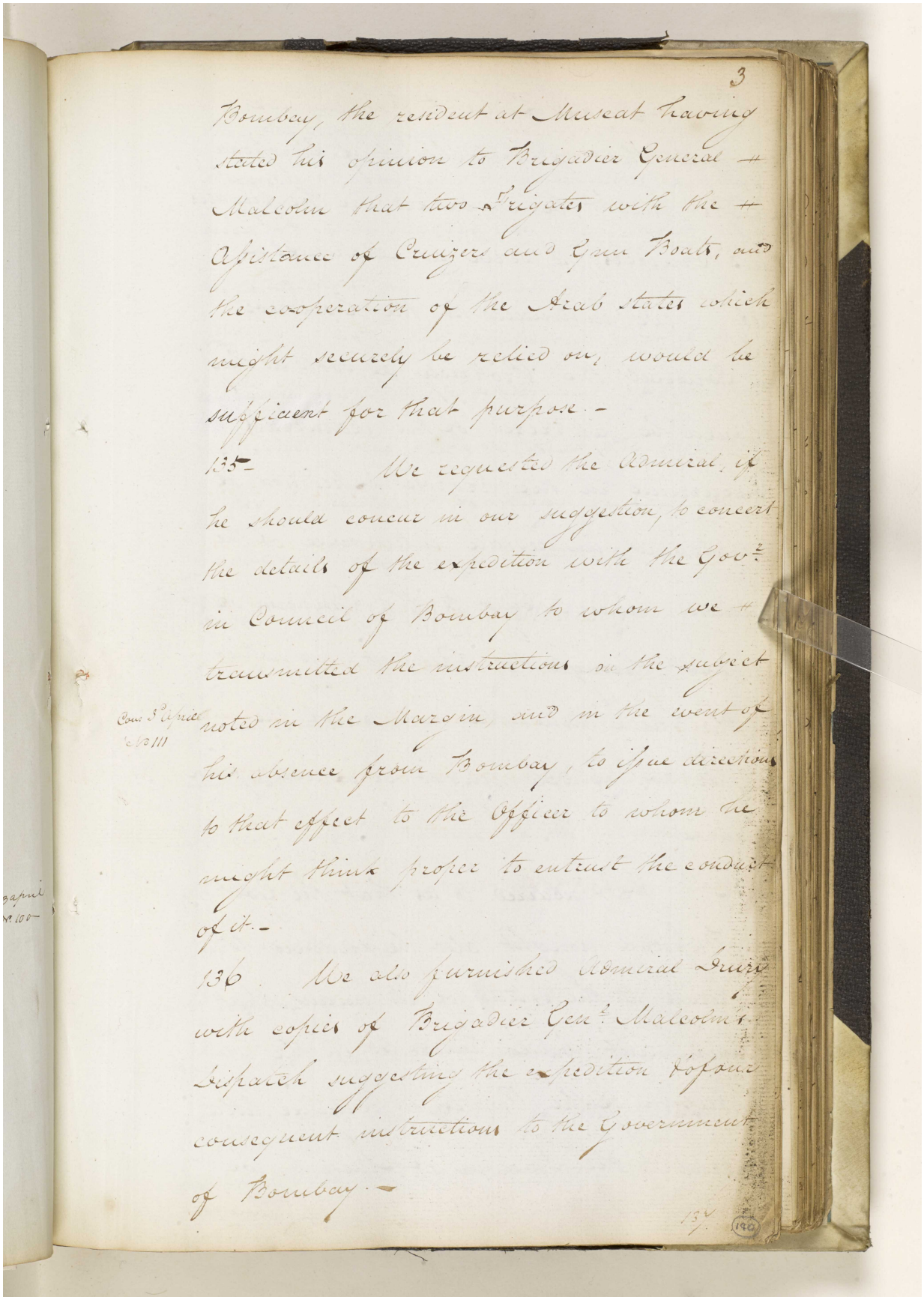

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Bombay, the resident at Muscat having stated his opinion to Brigadier General Malcolm that two Frigates with the assistance of Cruizers and Gun Boats, and the cooperation of the Arab states which might securely be relied on, would be sufficient for that purpose.–

135– We requested the Admiral, if he should concur in our suggestion, to concert the details of the expedition with the Gov.r in Council of Bombay to whom we transmitted the instructions in the subject noted in the Margin, and in the event of his absence from Bombay, to give directions to that effect to the Officer to whom he might think proper to entrust the conduct of it.–

Com.s Depatch No 111

136 We also furnished Admiral Drury with copies of Brigadier Gen.l Malcolm's Dispatch suggesting the expedition & our consequent instructions to the Government of Bombay.–

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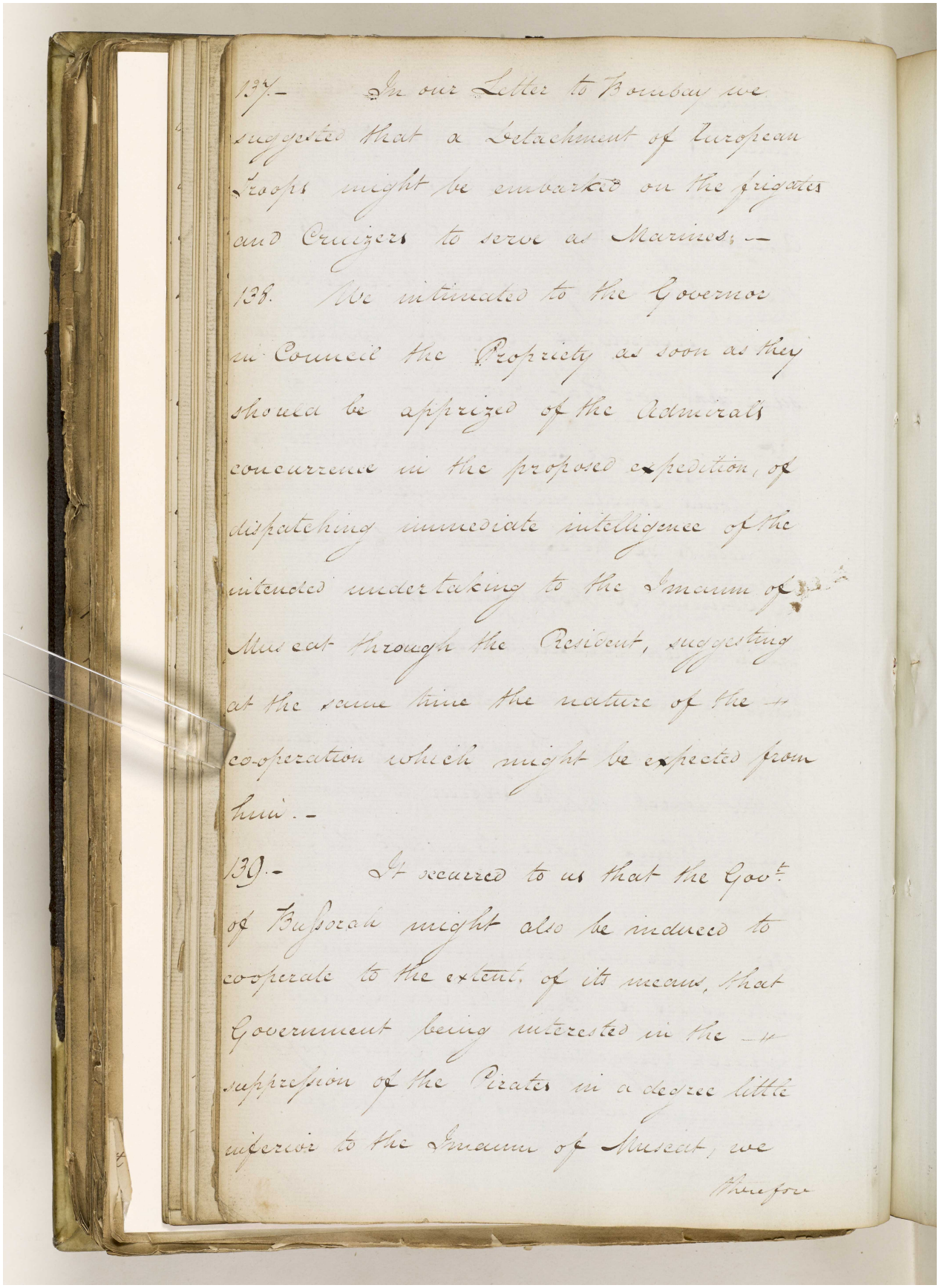

135.– In our Letter to Bombay we suggested that a Detachment of European Troops might be embarked on the frigates and Cruizers to serve as Marines.–

136. We intimated to the Governor in Council the Propriety as soon as they should be apprized of the Admiral's concurrence in the proposed expedition, of dispatching immediate intelligence of the intended undertaking to the Imaum of Muscat through the Resident, suggesting at the same time the nature of the co-operation which might be expected from him.–

137.– It occurred to us that the Govt. of Bussorah might also be induced to cooperate to the extent of its means, that Government being interested in the suppression of the Pirates in a degree little inferior to the Imaum of Muscat, we therefore

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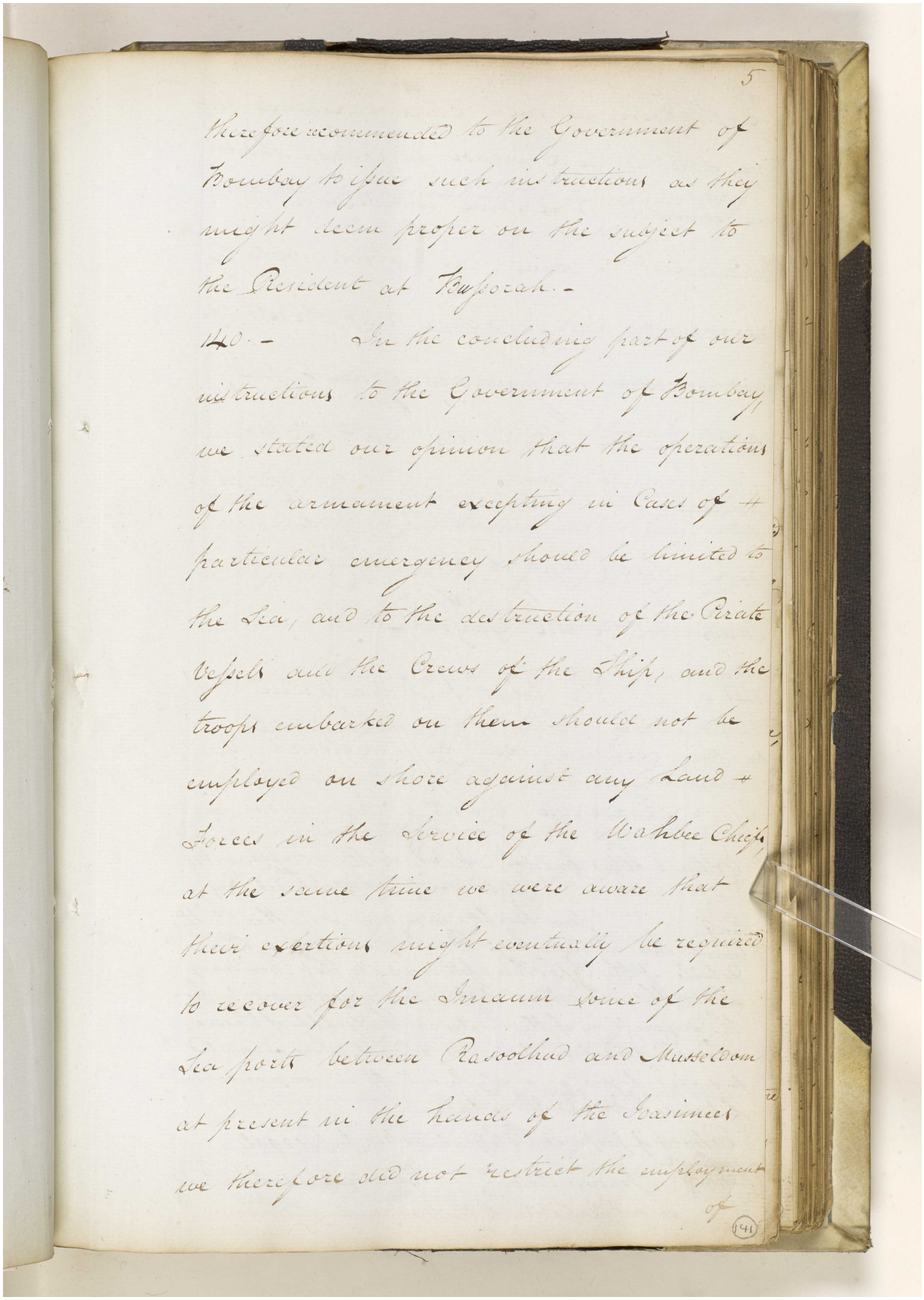

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Were fore recommended to the Government of Bombay to issue such instructions as they might deem proper on the subject to the President at Bussorah.–

140.– In the concluding part of our instructions to the Government of Bombay we stated our opinion that the operations of the armament excepting in Cases of particular emergency should be limited to the Sea, and to the destruction of the Pirate Vessels and the Crews of the Ship, and the troops embarked on them should not be employed on shore against any Land Forces in the Service of the Wahhee Chiefs, at the same time we were aware that their exertions might eventually be required to recover for the Imaum some of the Sea ports between Rasoolhud and Musseldom at present in the hands of the Joasmees we therefore did not restrict the employment of

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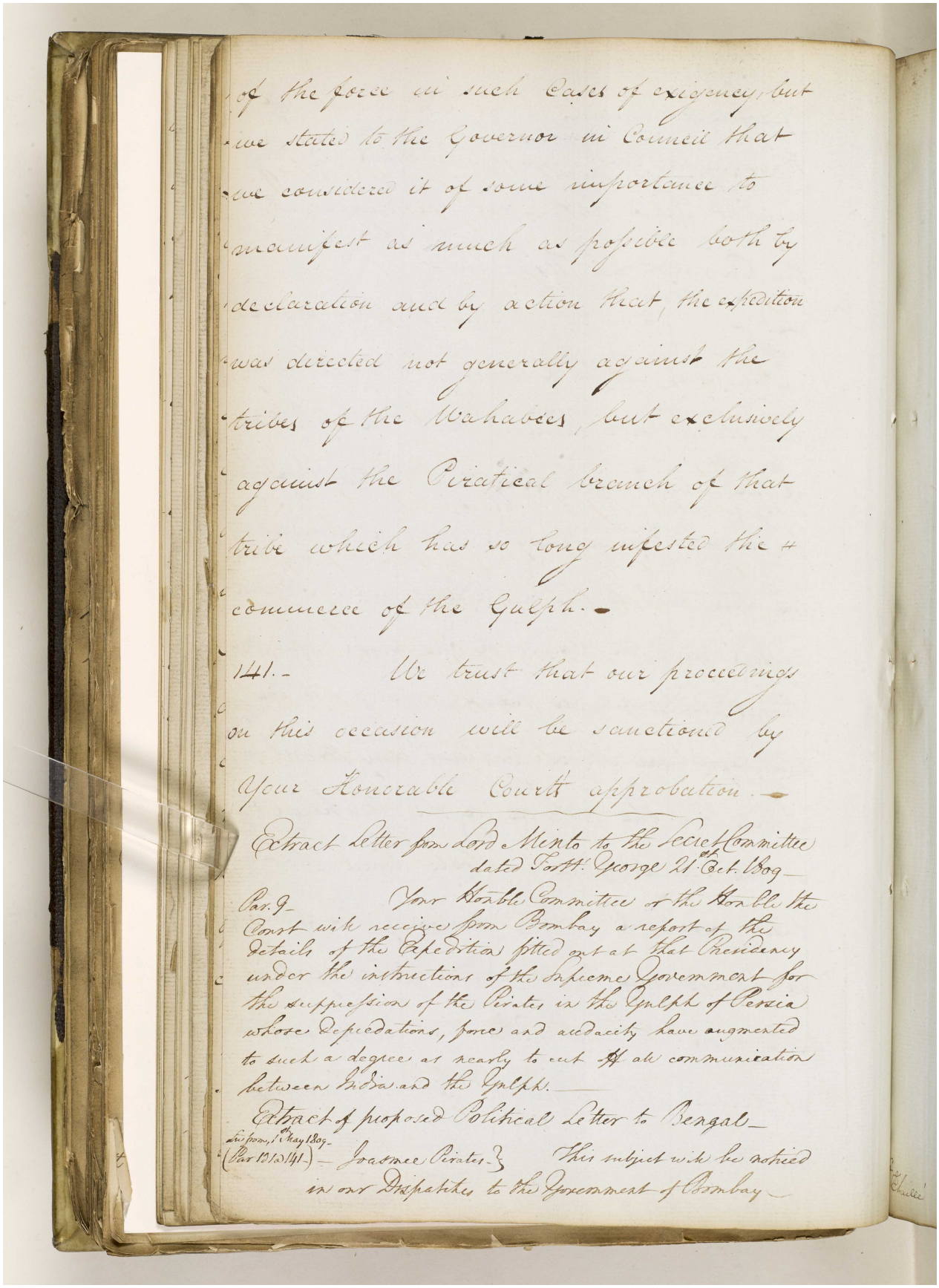

of the force in such Cases of exigency, but we stated to the Governor in Council that we considered it of some importance to manifest as much as possible both by declaration and by action that, the expedition was directed not generally against the tribes of the Wahabees, but exclusively against the Piratical branch of that tribe which has so long infested the commerce of the Gulph.

141.- We trust that our proceedings on this occasion will be sanctioned by Your Honorable Court's approbation.

Extract Letter from Lord Minto to the Secret Committee dated Fortt. George 21st Oct. 1809

Par. 9 Your Honble Committee or the Honble the Court will receive from Bombay a report of the details of the Expedition fitted out at that Presidency under the instructions of the Supreme Government for the suppression of the Pirates in the Gulph of Persia whose Depredations, force and audacity have augmented to such a degree as nearly to cut off all communication between India and the Gulph.

Extract of proposed Political Letter to Bengal

Lis from, 1st May 1809 (Par 131 & 141) Joasmee Pirates } This subject will be noticed in our Dispatches to the Government of Bombay

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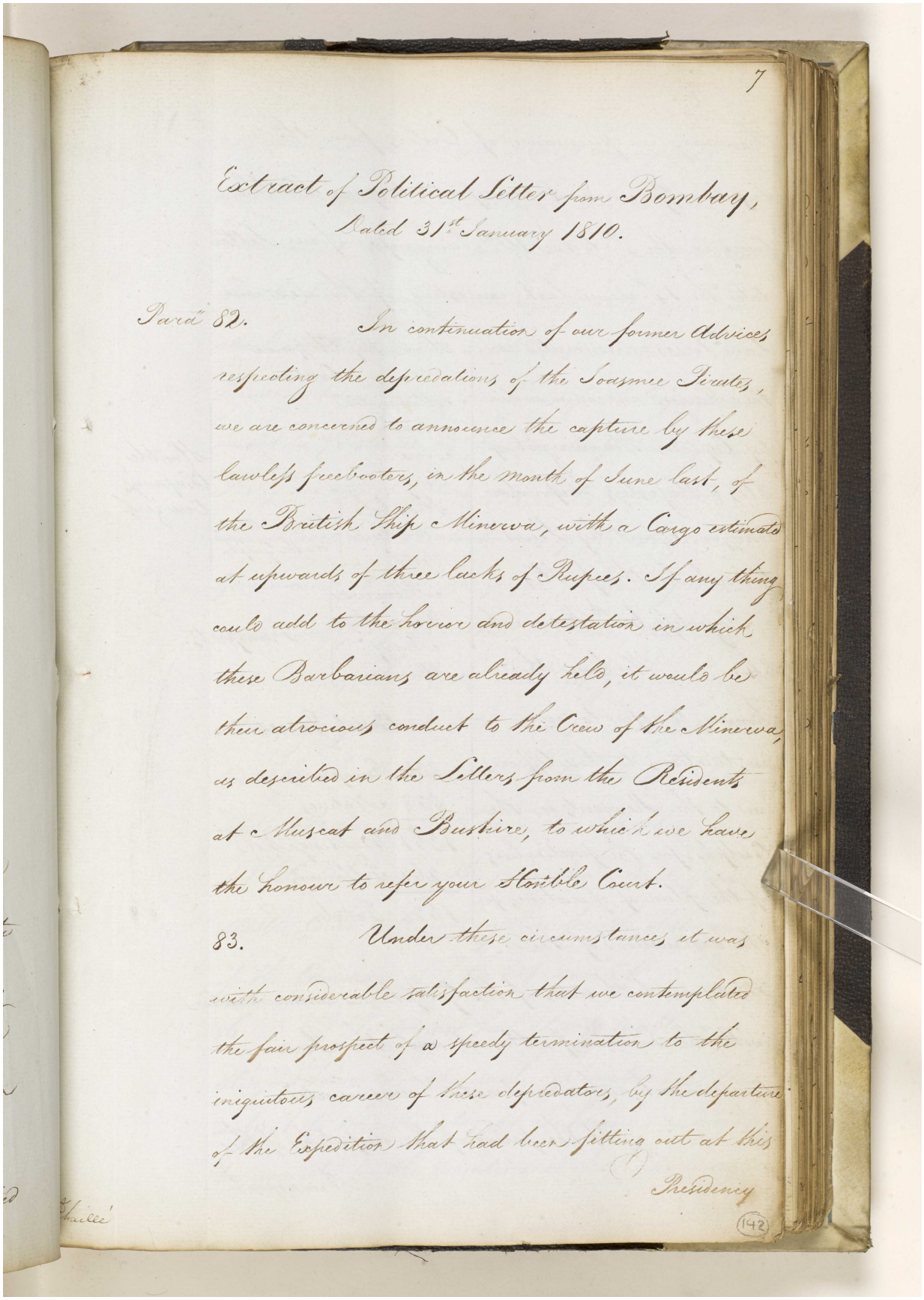

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Extract of Political Letter from Bombay,
Dated 31st January 1810.

Para 82. In continuation of our former Advices respecting the depredations of the Joasmee Pirates, we are concerned to announce the capture by these lawless freebooters, in the month of June last, of the British Ship Minerva, with a Cargo estimated at upwards of three lacks of Rupees. If any thing could add to the horror and detestation in which these Barbarians are already held, it would be their atrocious conduct to the Crew of the Minerva, as described in the Letters from the Residents at Muscat and Bushire, to which we have the honour to refer your Honble Court.

83. Under these circumstances it was with considerable satisfaction that we contemplated the fair prospect of a speedy termination to the iniquitous career of these depredators, by the departure of the Expedition that had been fitting out at this Presidency

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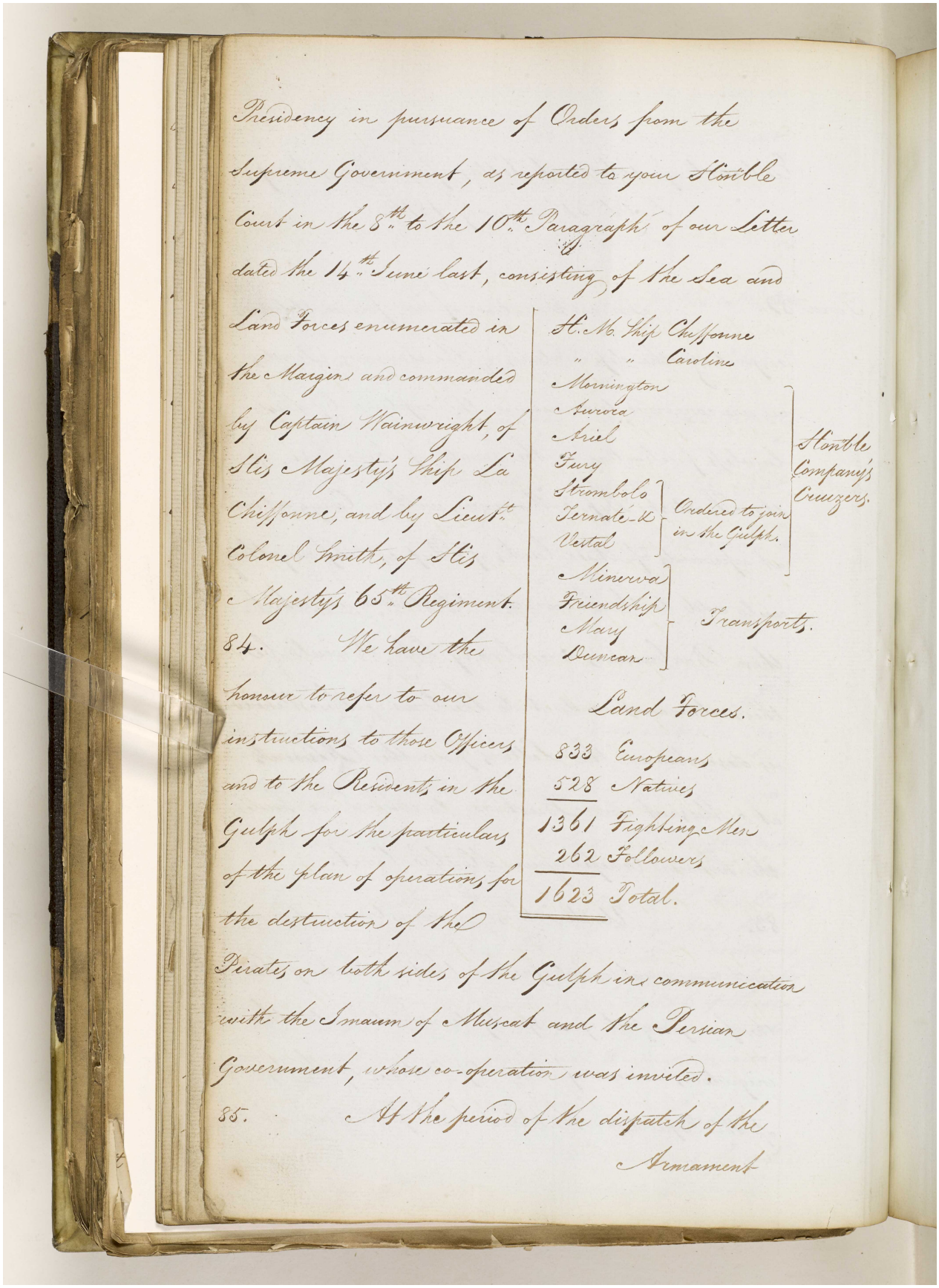


Presidency in pursuance of Orders from the Supreme Government, as reported to your Honble Court in the 8th. to the 10th. Paragraph of our Letter dated the 14th. June last, consisting of the Sea and Land Forces enumerated in the Margin and commanded by Captain Wainwright, of His Majesty's Ship La Chiffonne, and by Lieut.t Colonel Smith, of His Majesty's 65th. Regiment.

84. We have the honour to refer to our instructions to those Officers and to the Residents in the Gulph for the particulars of the plan of operations for the destruction of the Pirates on both sides of the Gulph in communication with the Imaum of Muscat and the Persian Government, whose co-operation was invited.

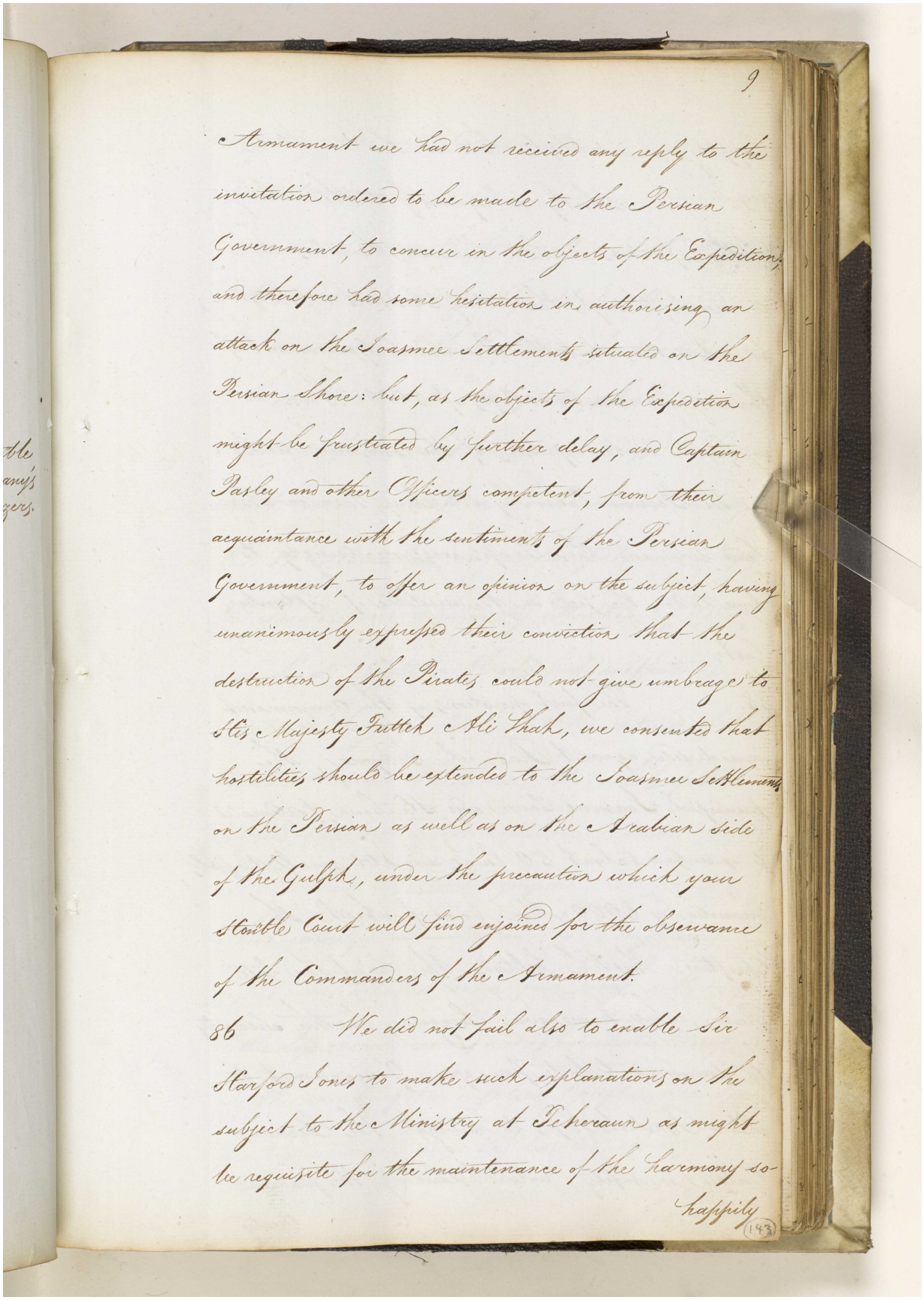
85. At the period of the dispatch of the Armament

H. M. Ship Chiffonne
" " Caroline
Mornington
Aurora
Ariel
Fury
Strombolo
Ternate
Vestal
} Ordered to join in the Gulph.
} Honble Company's Cruizers.

Minerva
Friendship
Mary
Duncan
} Transports.

Land Forces.

833	Europeans
528	Natives
1361	Fighting Men
262	Followers
1623	Total.



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Armament we had not received any reply to the invitation ordered to be made to the Persian Government, to concur in the objects of the Expedition, and therefore had some hesitation in authorising an attack on the Joasmee Settlements situated on the Persian Shore: but, as the objects of the Expedition might be frustrated by further delay, and Captain Pasley and other Officers competent, from their acquaintance with the sentiments of the Persian Government, to offer an opinion on the subject, having unanimously expressed their conviction that the destruction of the Pirates could not give umbrage to His Majesty Futteh Ali Shah, we consented that hostilities should be extended to the Joasmee Settlements on the Persian as well as on the Arabian side of the Gulph, under the precaution which your Humble Court will find enjoined for the observance of the Commanders of the Armament.

86 We did not fail also to enable Sir Harford Jones to make such explanations on the subject to the Ministry at Teheraun as might be requisite for the maintenance of the harmony so happily

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happily re-established between the two States.

87. Shortly subsequently to the sailing of the Expedition we had, however, the satisfaction to receive, through the acting Resident at Bushire, an intimation that the Provincial Government of Shiraz had detached a Corps of 5000 Horse to co-operate in the expulsion of the Joasmees settled on the Persian Coast by attacking them on the Land side, and these Troops were accordingly to have taken the field in the middle of September last.

88. The first operations of the armament were directed against Ras-ul-Khyma, the principal Joasmee Town and Harbour, (estimated to maintain about 50 large and 200 small Vessels, manned by 8000 Men,) and of which the Chieftain Sheikh Sultan, the Son of the late Ruler, whose name was Sugger, had the audacity to demand a tribute from your Government to allow British Ships to navigate the Persian Gulph in safety, notwithstanding the previous

treaty

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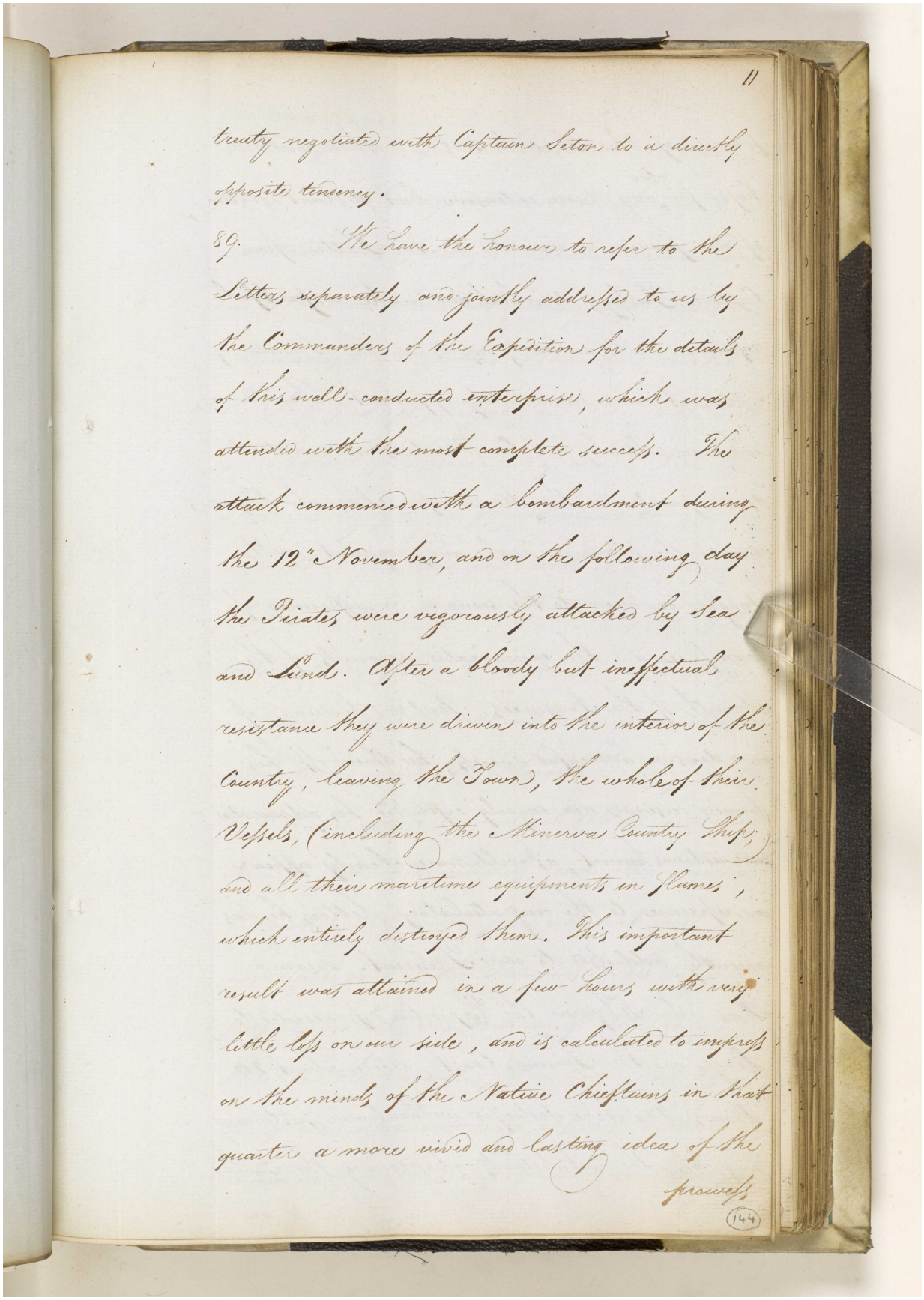

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treaty negotiated with Captain Seton to a directly opposite tendency.

89. We have the honour to refer to the Letters separately and jointly addressed to us by the Commanders of the Expedition for the details of this well-conducted enterprise, which was attended with the most complete success. The attack commenced with a bombardment during the 12th November, and on the following day the Pirates were vigorously attacked by Sea and Land. After a bloody but ineffectual resistance they were driven into the interior of the Country, leaving the Town, the whole of their Vessels, (including the Minerva Country Ship,) and all their maritime equipments in flames, which entirely destroyed them. This important result was attained in a few hours with very little loss on our side, and is calculated to impress on the minds of the Native Chieftains in that quarter a more vivid and lasting idea of the prowess

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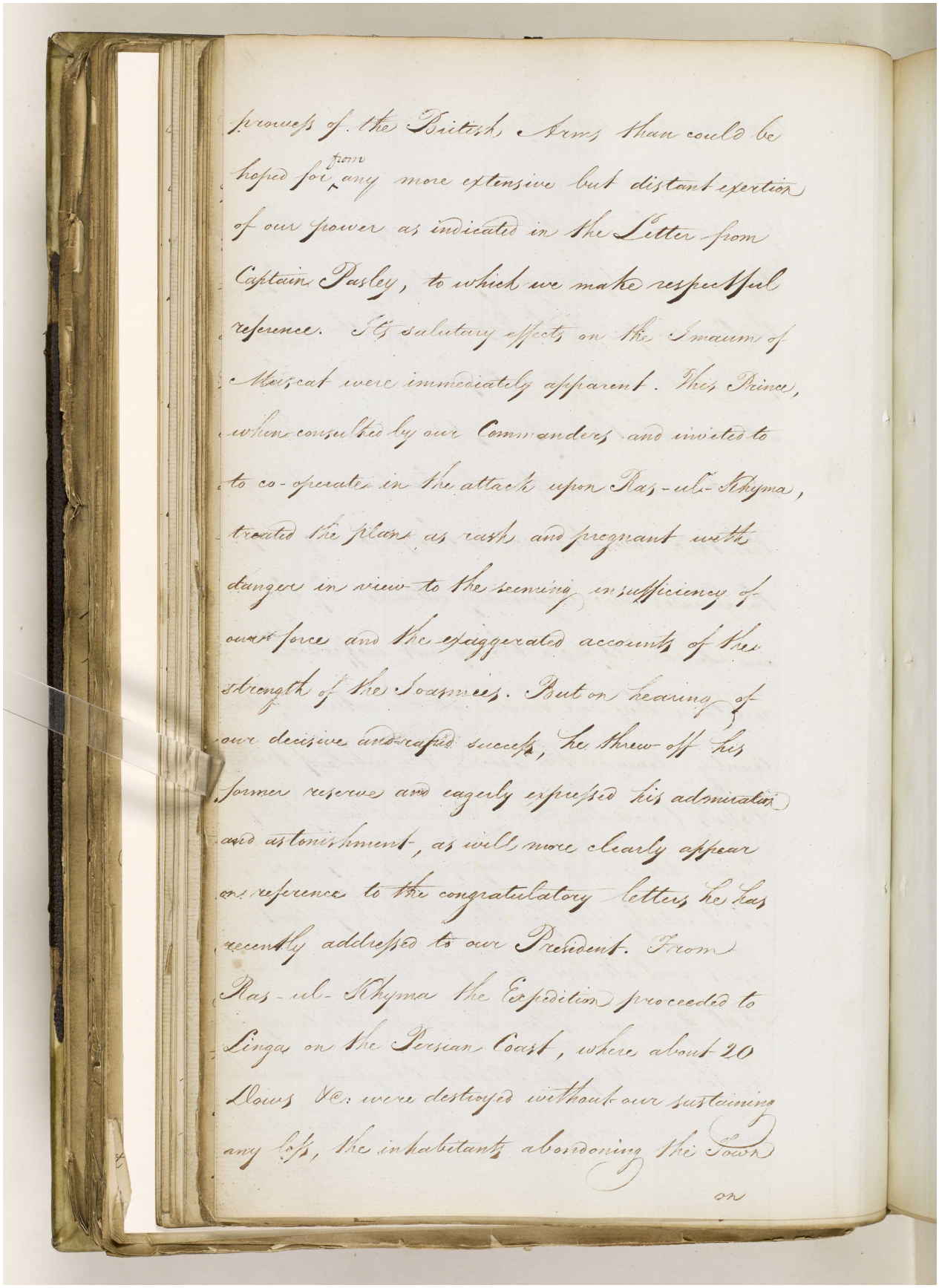

proofs of the British Arms than could be hoped for from any more extensive but distant exertion of our power as indicated in the Letter from Captain Pasley, to which we make respectful reference. Its salutary effects on the Imaum of Muscat were immediately apparent. This Prince, when consulted by our Commanders and invited to to co-operate in the attack upon Ras-ul-Khyma, treated the plans as rash and pregnant with danger in view to the seeming insufficiency of our force and the exaggerated accounts of the strength of the Joasmees. But on hearing of our decisive and rapid success, he threw off his former reserve and eagerly expressed his admiration and astonishment, as will more clearly appear on reference to the congratulatory letters he has recently addressed to our President. From Ras-ul-Khyma the Expedition proceeded to Linga on the Persian Coast, where about 20 Dows &c. were destroyed without our sustaining any loss, the inhabitants abandoning their Town

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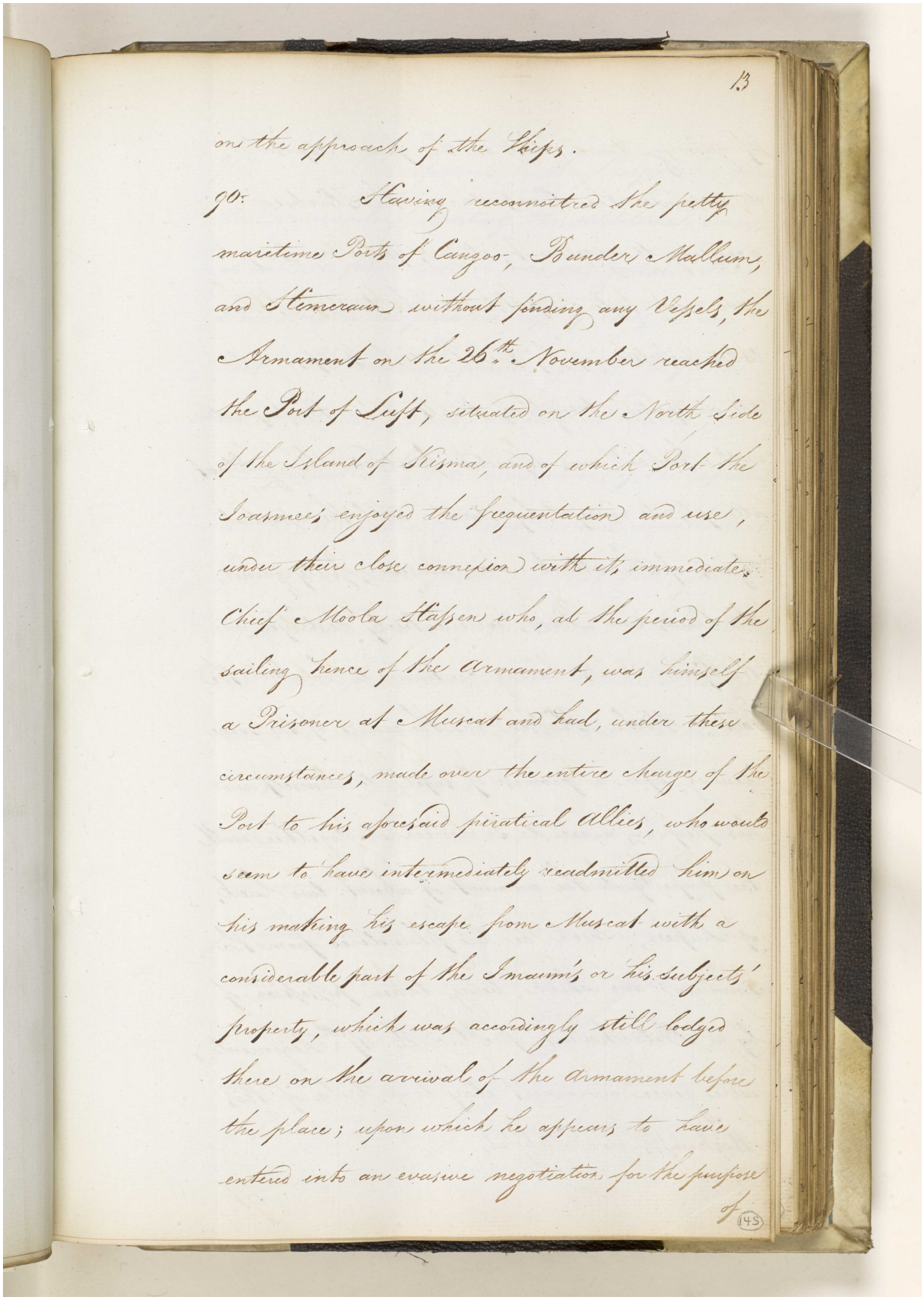

on the approach of the Ships.

90. Having reconnoitred the petty maritime Ports of Cangoo, Bunder Mallum, and Hemeraun without finding any Vessels, the Armament on the 26th November reached the Port of Luft, situated on the North Side of the Island of Kisma, and of which Port the Joasmees enjoyed the frequentation and use, under their close connexion with its immediate Chief Moola Hassen who, at the period of the sailing hence of the Armament, was himself a Prisoner at Muscat and had, under these circumstances, made over the entire charge of the Port to his aforesaid piratical Allies, who would seem to have intermediately readmitted him on his making his escape from Muscat with a considerable part of the Imaum's or his subjects' property, which was accordingly still lodged there on the arrival of the Armament before the place; upon which he appears to have entered into an evasive negotiation for the purpose

of

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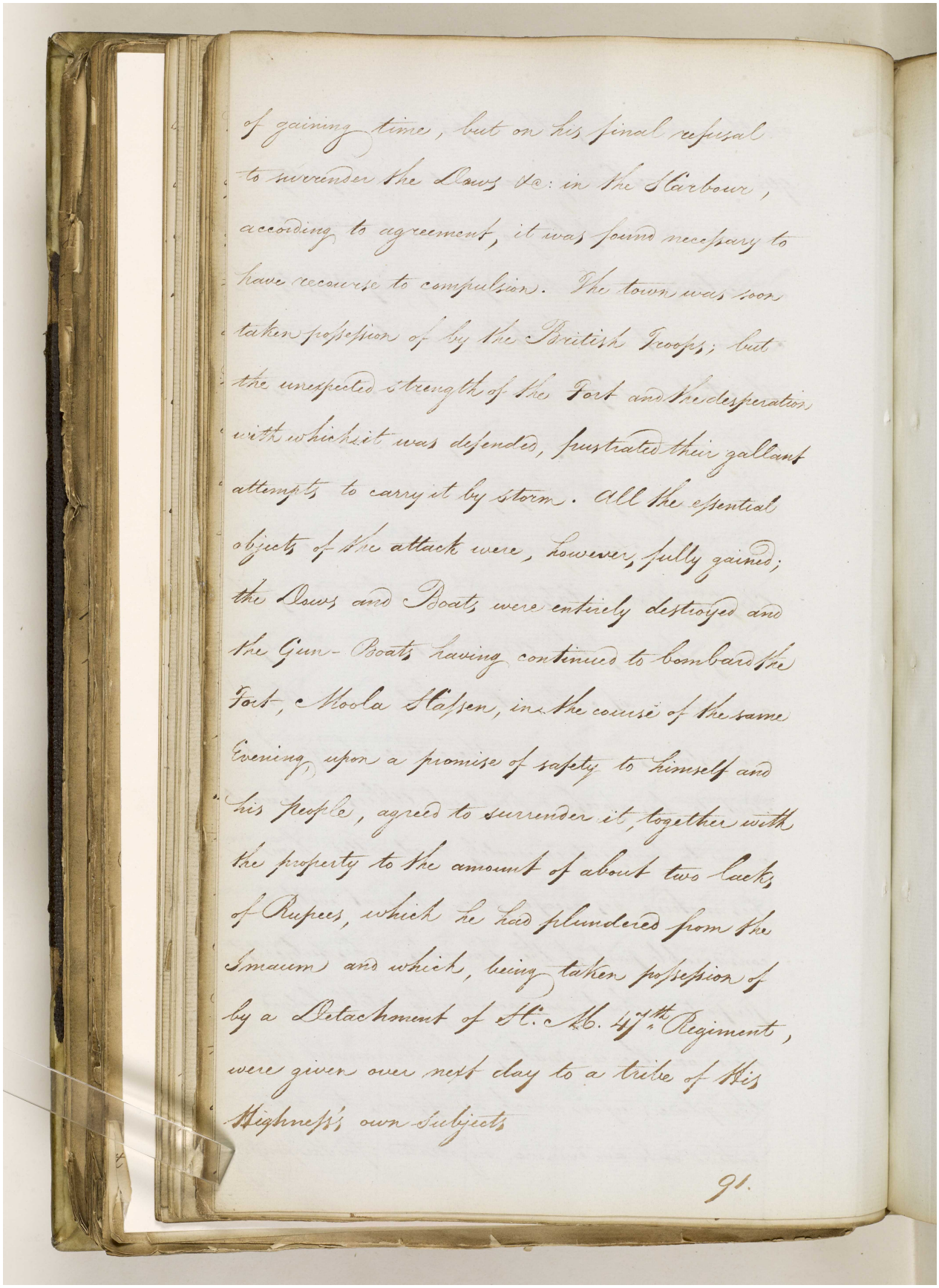

of gaining time, but on his final refusal to surrender the Dows &c: in the Harbour, according to agreement, it was found necessary to have recourse to compulsion. The town was soon taken possession of by the British Troops; but the unexpected strength of the Fort and the desperation with which it was defended, frustrated their gallant attempts to carry it by storm. All the essential objects of the attack were, however, fully gained; the Dows and Boats were entirely destroyed and the Gun-Boats having continued to bombard the Fort, Moola Hassen, in the course of the same Evening, upon a promise of safety to himself and his people, agreed to surrender it, together with the property to the amount of about two Lacks of Rupees, which he had plundered from the Imaum and which, being taken possession of by a Detachment of H. M. 47th Regiment, were given over next day to a tribe of His Highness's own Subjects

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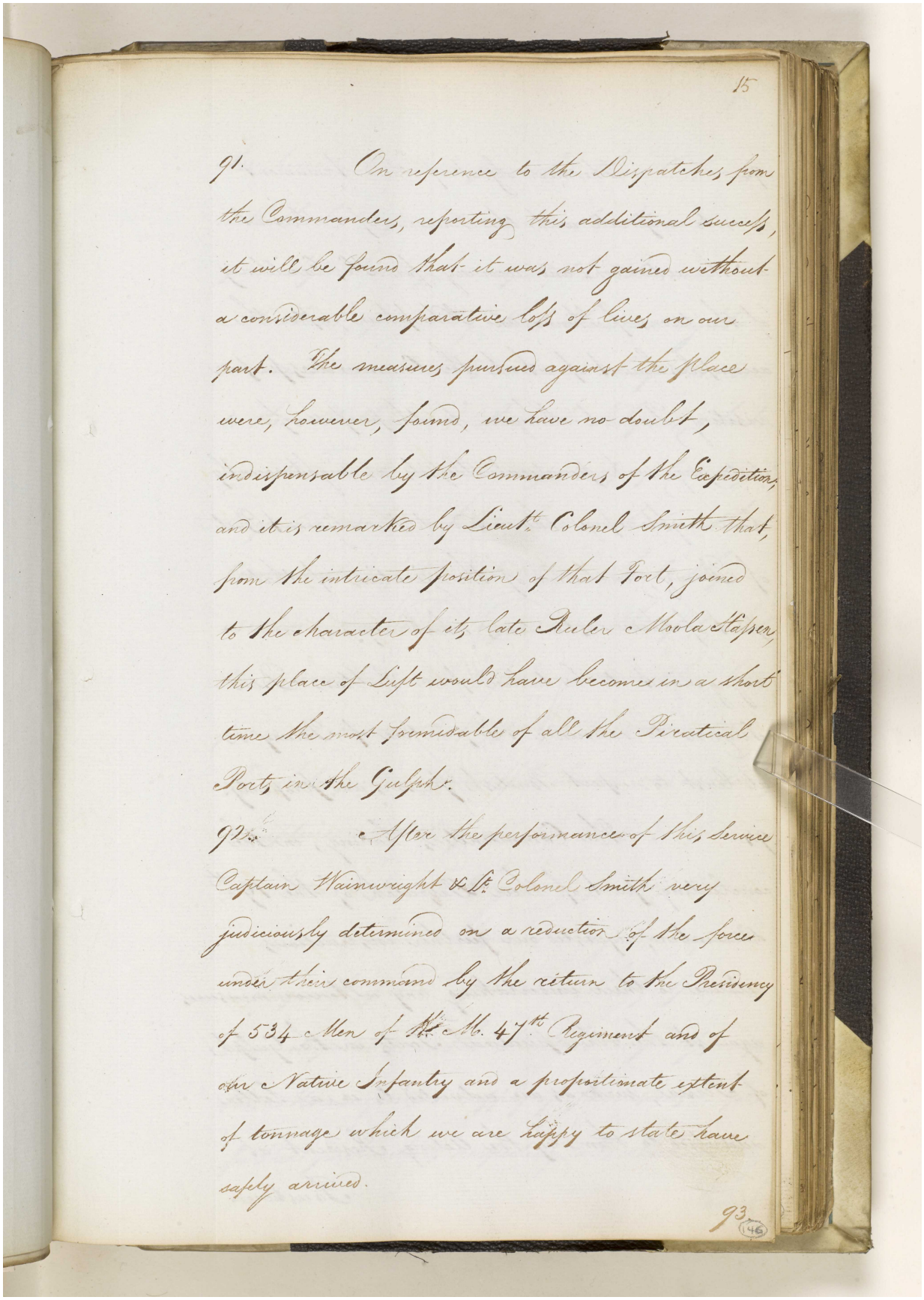

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91. On reference to the Dispatches from the Commanders, reporting this additional success, it will be found that it was not gained without a considerable comparative loss of lives on our part. The measures pursued against the place were, however, found, we have no doubt, indispensable by the Commanders of the Expedition, and it is remarked by Lieut.t Colonel Smith that, from the intricate position of that Port, joined to the character of its late Ruler Moola Kaper, this place of Lift would have become in a short time the most formidable of all the Piratical Ports in the Gulph.

92. After the performance of this Service Captain Wainwright & Lt. Colonel Smith very judiciously determined on a reduction of the force under their command by the return to the Presidency of 534 Men of H.M. 47th Regiment and of the Native Infantry and a proportionate extent of tonnage which we are happy to state have safely arrived.

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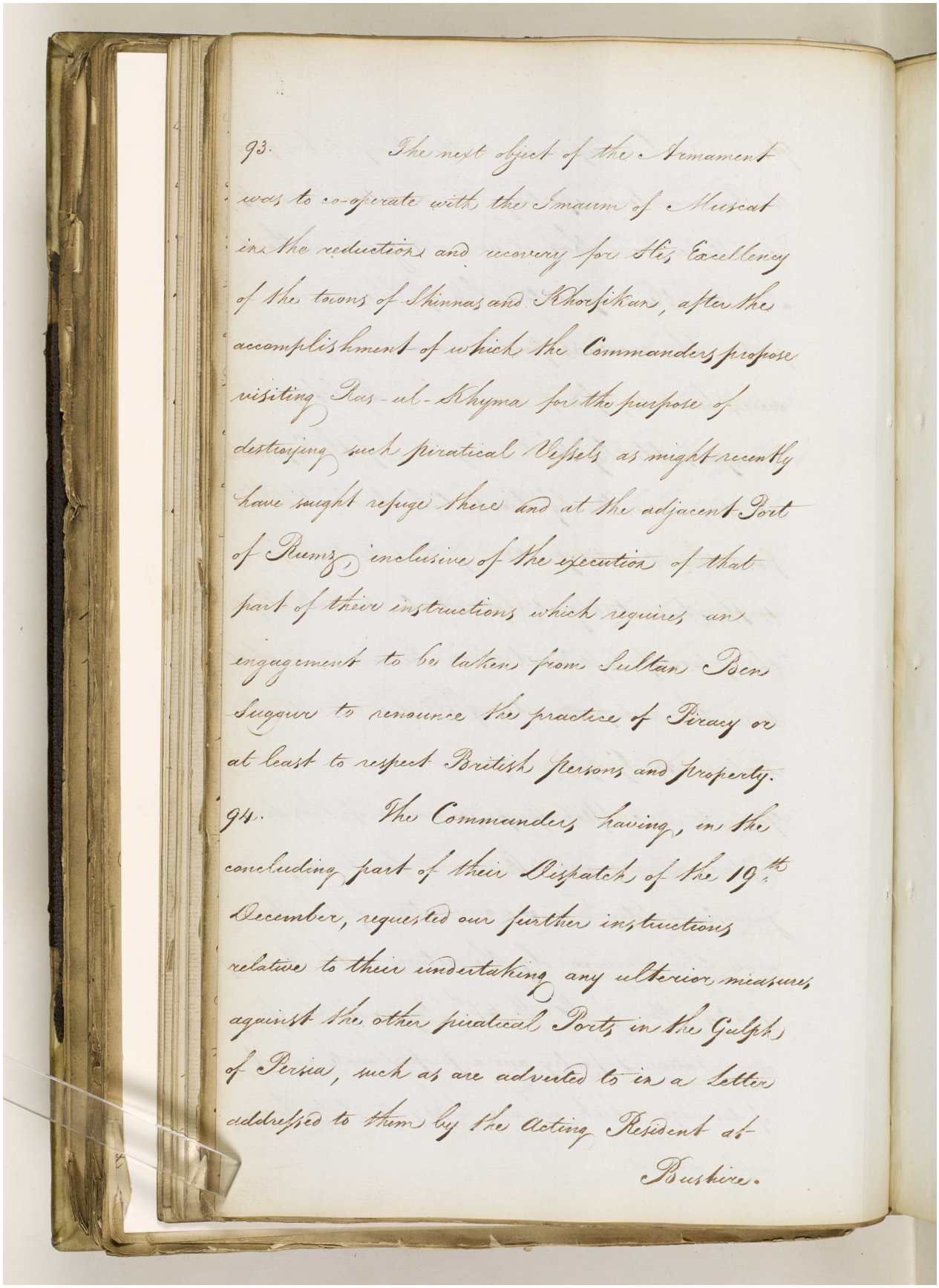

93. The next object of the Armament was to co-operate with the Imaum of Muscat in the reduction and recovery for His Excellency of the towns of Shinnas and Khorfakan, after the accomplishment of which the Commanders propose visiting Ras-ul-Khyma for the purpose of destroying such piratical Vessels as might recently have sought refuge there and at the adjacent Port of Rumz, inclusive of the execution of that part of their instructions which requires an engagement to be taken from Sultan Ben Sugoor to renounce the practice of Piracy or at least to respect British persons and property.

94. The Commanders having, in the concluding part of their Dispatch of the 19th December, requested our further instructions relative to their undertaking any ulterior measures against the other piratical Ports in the Gulph of Persia, such as are adverted to in a letter addressed to them by the acting Resident at Bushire.

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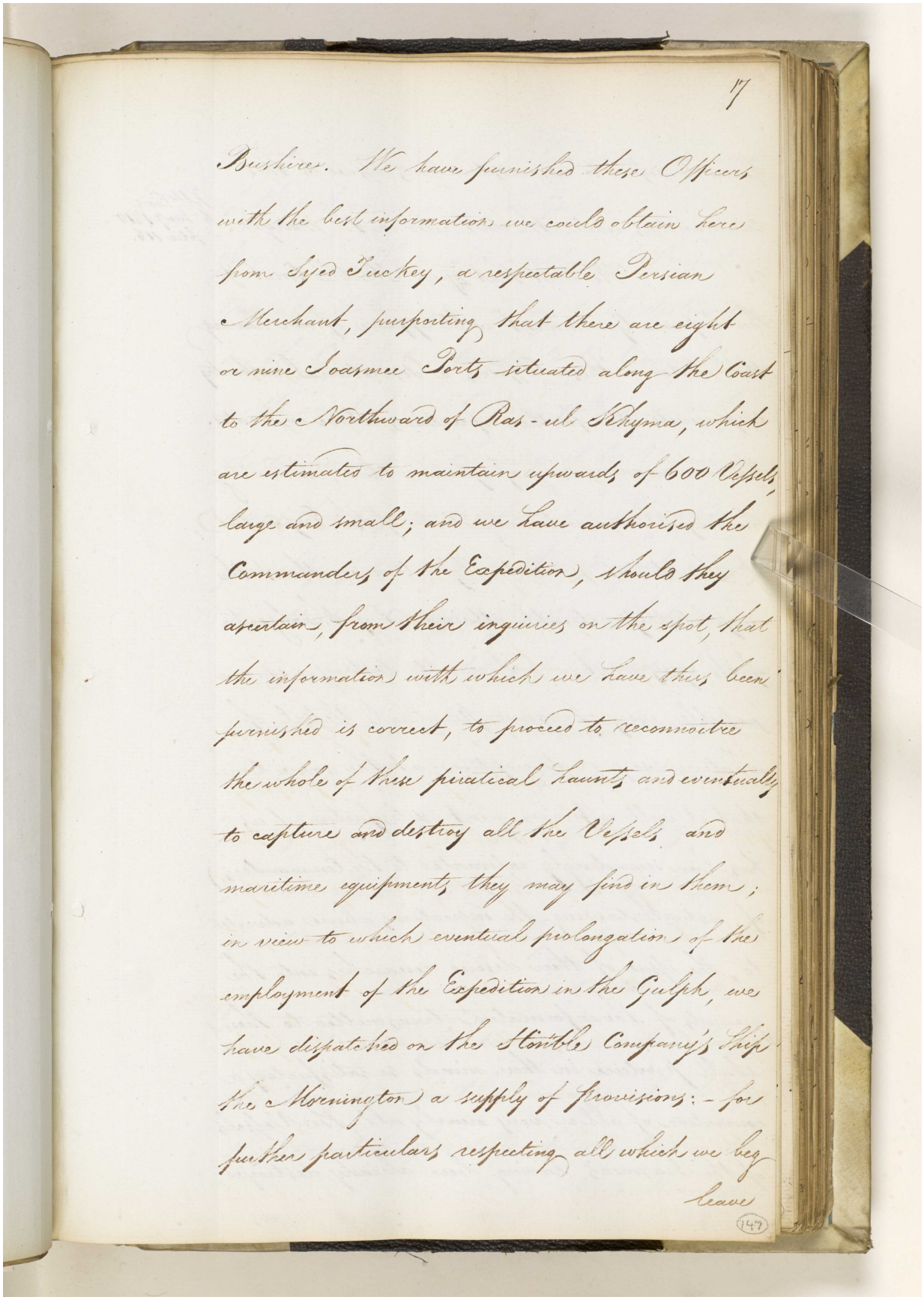

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Bushire. We have furnished these Officers with the best information we could obtain here from Syed Tuckey, a respectable Persian Merchant, purporting that there are eight or nine Joasmee Ports situated along the Coast to the Northward of Ras-ul Khyma, which are estimated to maintain upwards of 600 Vessels, large and small; and we have authorised the Commanders of the Expedition, should they ascertain, from their inquiries on the spot, that the information with which we have thus been furnished is correct, to proceed to reconnoitre the whole of these piratical haunts and eventually to capture and destroy all the Vessels and maritime equipments they may find in them; in view to which eventual prolongation of the employment of the Expedition in the Gulph, we have dispatched on the Stanhope Company's Ship the Mornington a supply of Provisions: – for further particulars respecting all which we beg

leave

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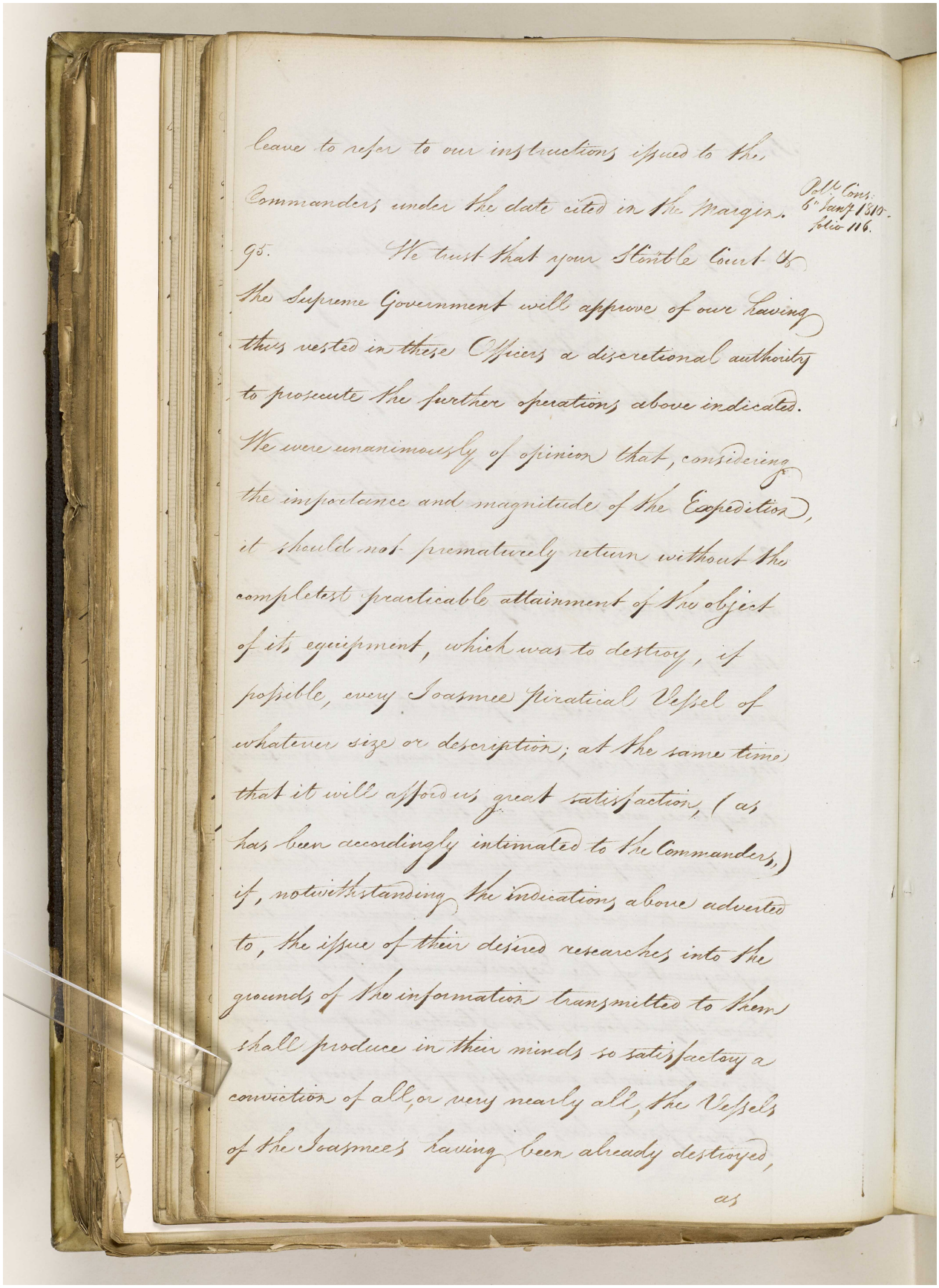

leave to refer to our instructions issued to the Commanders under the date cited in the Margin. Pol.l Cons. 6th Jany 1810. folio 116.

95. We trust that your Honble Court & the Supreme Government will approve of our having thus vested in these Officers a discretional authority to prosecute the further operations above indicated. We were unanimously of opinion that, considering the importance and magnitude of the Expedition, it should not prematurely return without the completest practicable attainment of the object of its equipment, which was to destroy, if possible, every Joasmee Piratical Vessel of whatever size or description; at the same time that it will afford us great satisfaction, (as has been accordingly intimated to the Commanders,) if, notwithstanding the indications above adverted to, the issue of their desired researches into the grounds of the information transmitted to them shall produce in their minds so satisfactory a conviction of all, or very nearly all, the Vessels of the Joasmees having been already destroyed,

as

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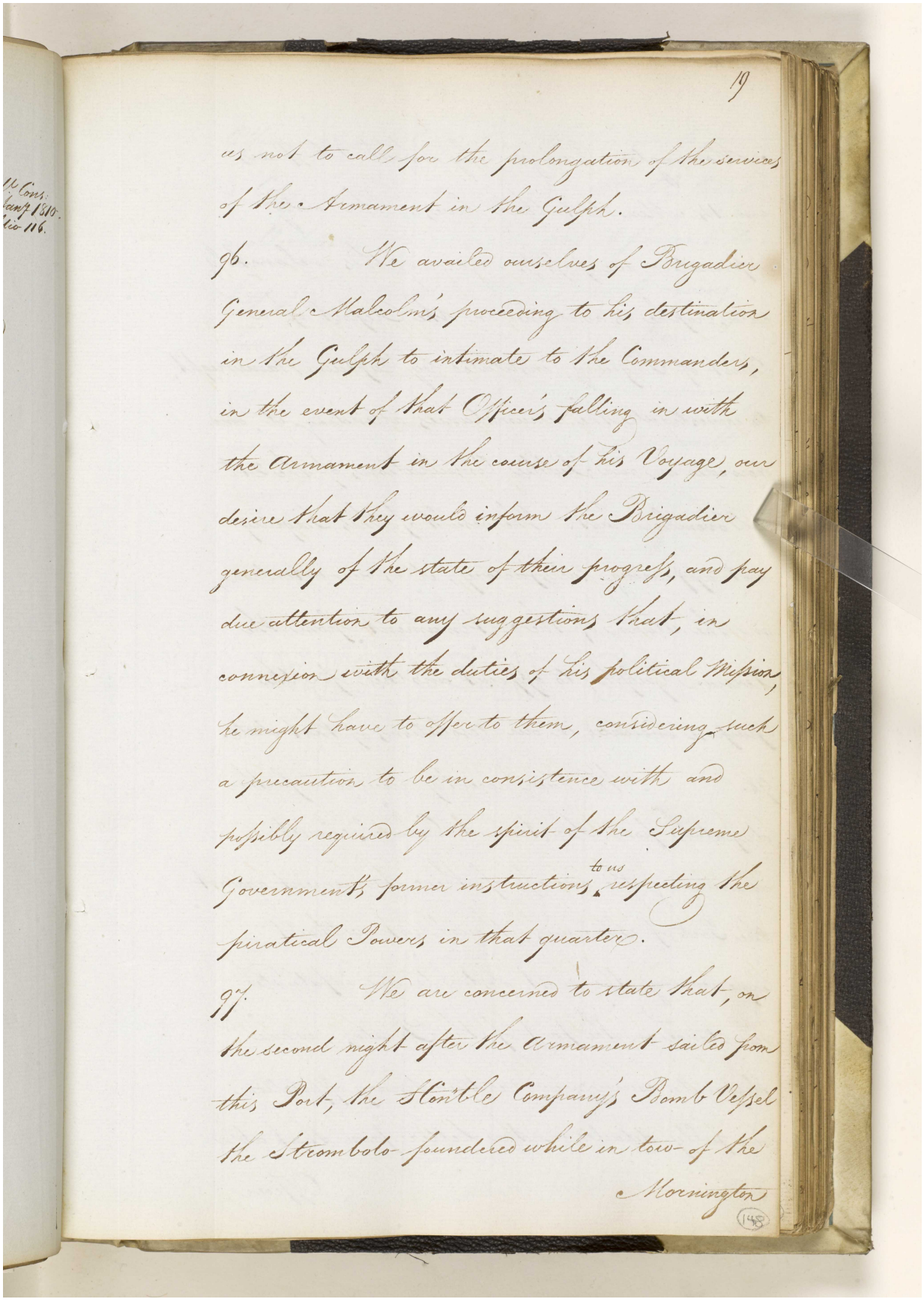

19

us not to call for the prolongation of the services
of the Armament in the Gulph.

96. We availed ourselves of Brigadier
General Malcolm's proceeding to his destination
in the Gulph to intimate to the Commanders,
in the event of that Officer's falling in with
the Armament in the course of his Voyage, our
desire that they would inform the Brigadier
generally of the state of their progress, and pay
due attention to any suggestions that, in
connexion with the duties of his political Mission,
he might have to offer to them, considering such
a precaution to be in consistence with and
possibly required by the spirit of the Supreme
Government's former instructions to us respecting the
piratical Powers in that quarter.

97. We are concerned to state that, on
the second night after the Armament sailed from
this Port, the Honble Company's Bomb Vessel
the Strombolo foundered while in tow of the
Mornington

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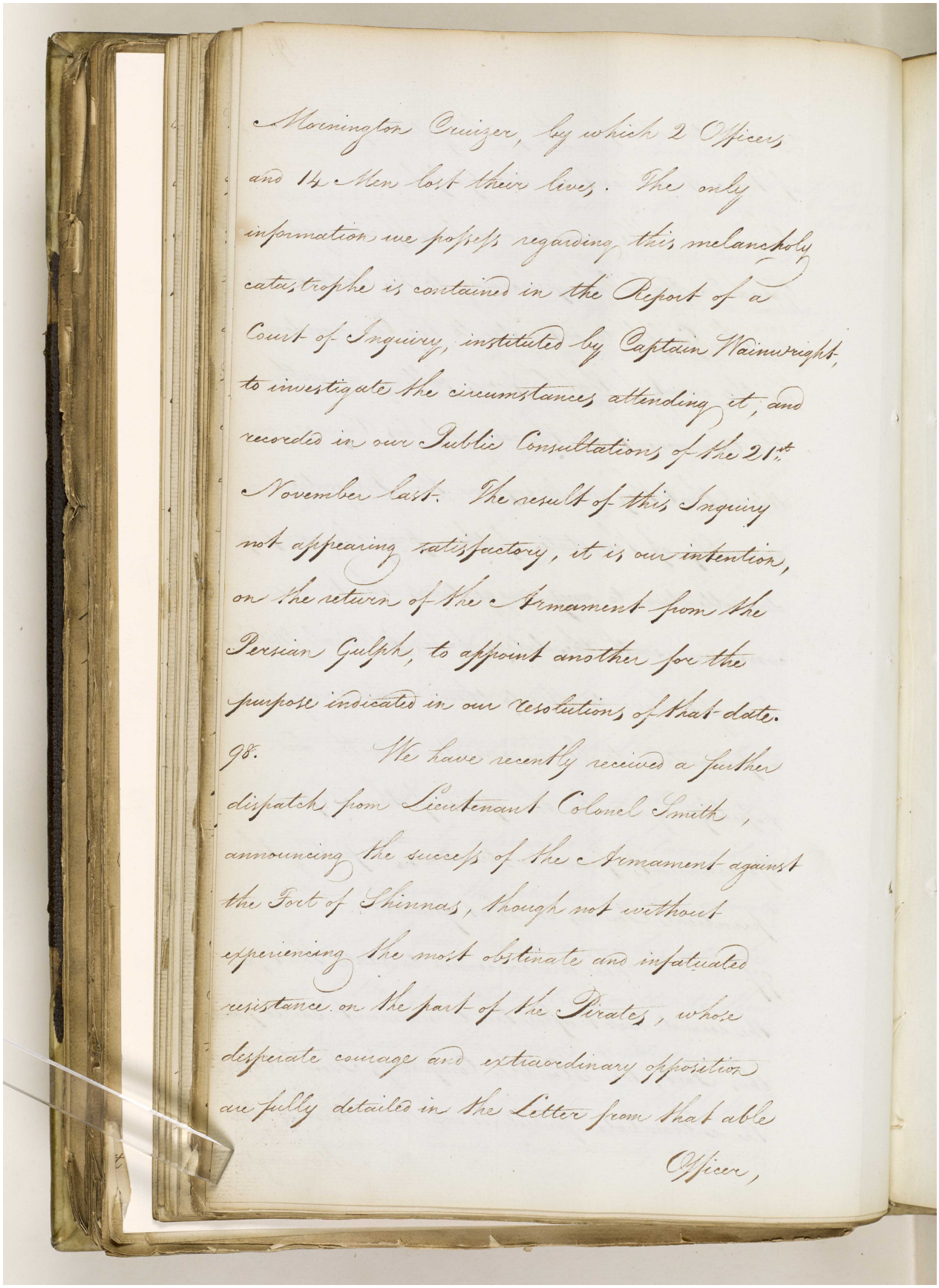

Mornington Cruizer, by which 2 Officers
and 14 Men lost their lives. The only
information we possess regarding this melancholy
catastrophe is contained in the Report of a
Court of Inquiry, instituted by Captain Wainwright,
to investigate the circumstances attending it, and
recorded in our Public Consultations of the 21st.
November last. The result of this Inquiry
not appearing satisfactory, it is our intention,
on the return of the Armament from the
Persian Gulph, to appoint another for the
purpose indicated in our Resolutions of that date.
98. We have recently received a further
dispatch from Lieutenant Colonel Smith,
announcing the success of the Armament against
the Fort of Shinnas, though not without
experiencing the most obstinate and infatuated
resistance on the part of the Pirates, whose
desperate courage and extraordinary opposition
are fully detailed in the Letter from that able
Officer,

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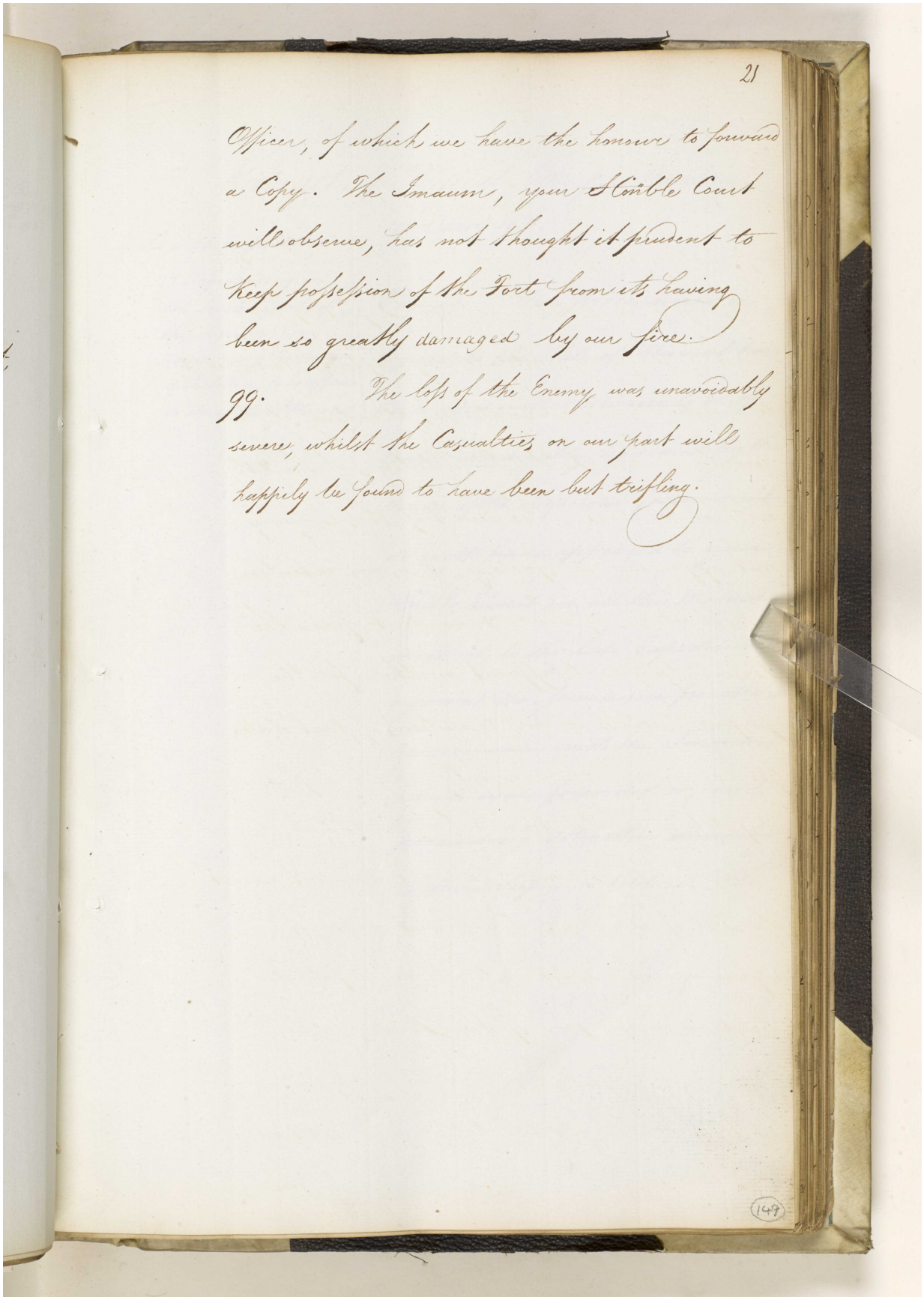
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [149r] (23/294)



Officer, of which we have the honour to forward a Copy. The Imaum, your Honble Court will observe, has not thought it prudent to keep possession of the Fort from its having been so greatly damaged by our fire.

99. The loss of the Enemy was unavoidably severe, whilst the Casualties on our part will happily be found to have been but trifling.

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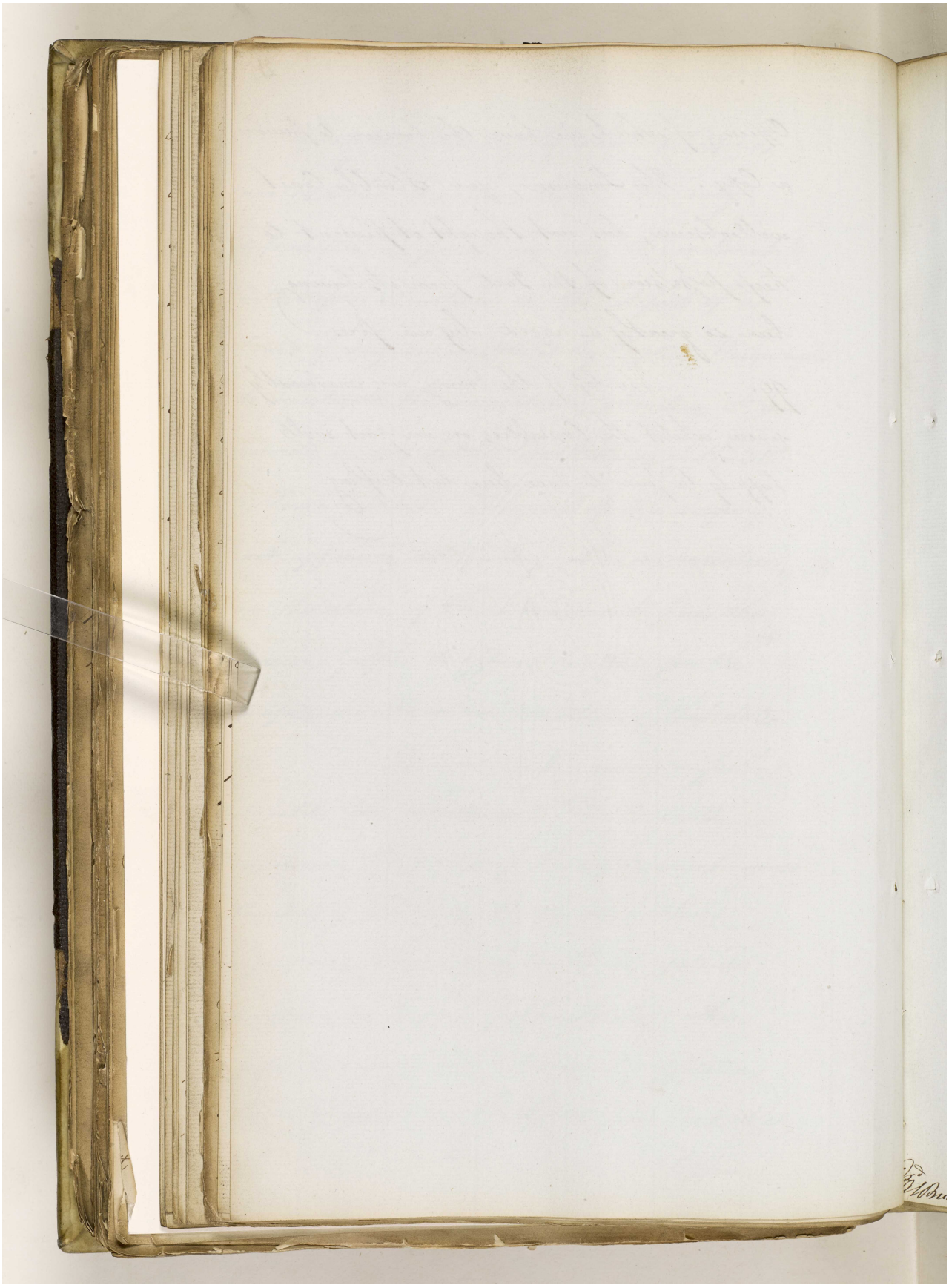

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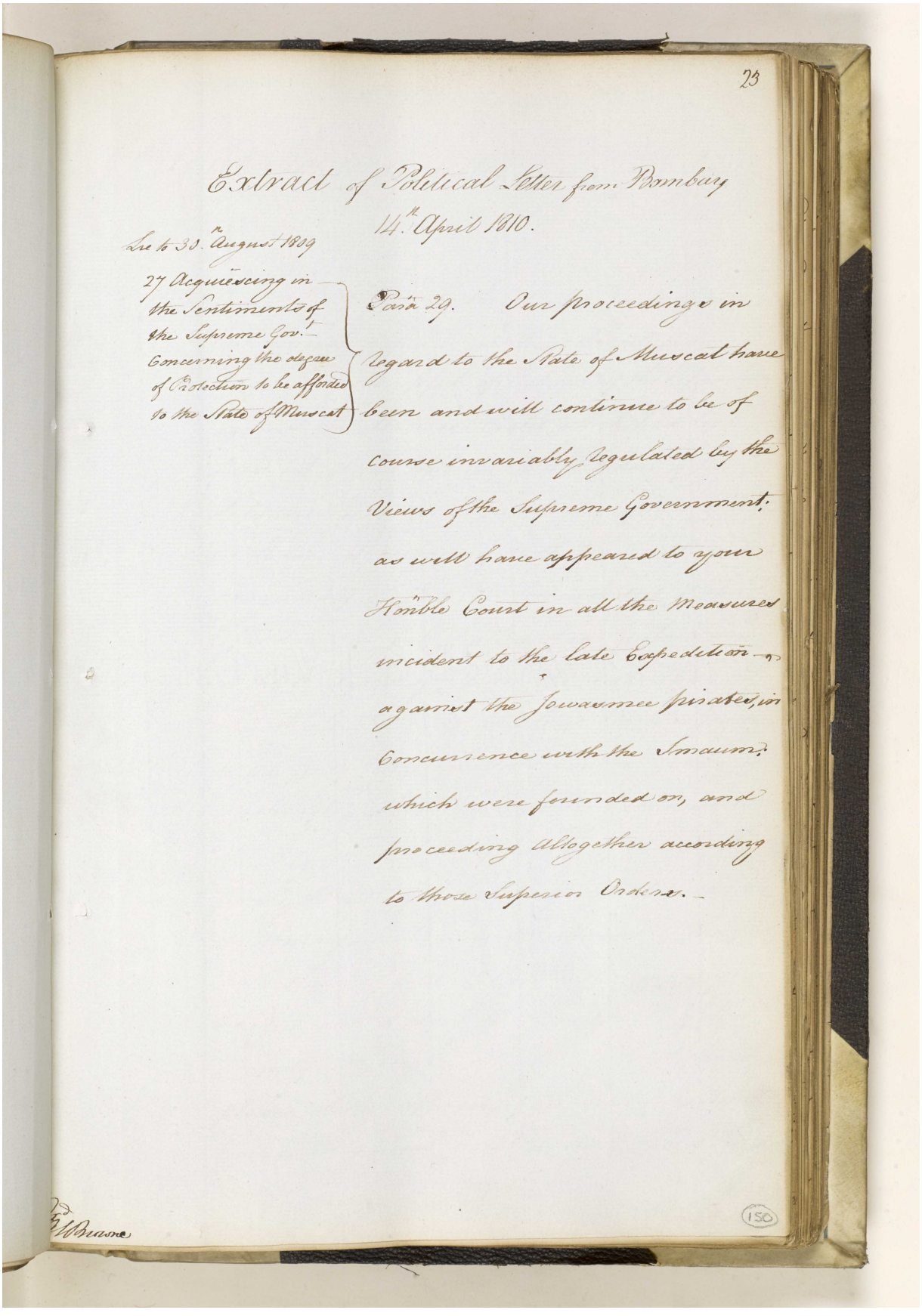
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [150r] (25/294)



Extract of Political Letter from Bombay 14th April 1810.

Lie to 30th August 1809

27 Acquiescing in the Sentiments of the Supreme Govt. Concerning the degree of Protection to be afforded to the State of Muscat

Para 29. Our proceedings in regard to the State of Muscat have been and will continue to be of course invariably regulated by the Views of the Supreme Government; as will have appeared to your Honble Court in all the Measures incident to the late Expedition against the Jowasmee pirates, in Concurrence with the Imaum; which were founded on, and proceeding altogether according to those Superior Orders.

Sd. J. Brasne

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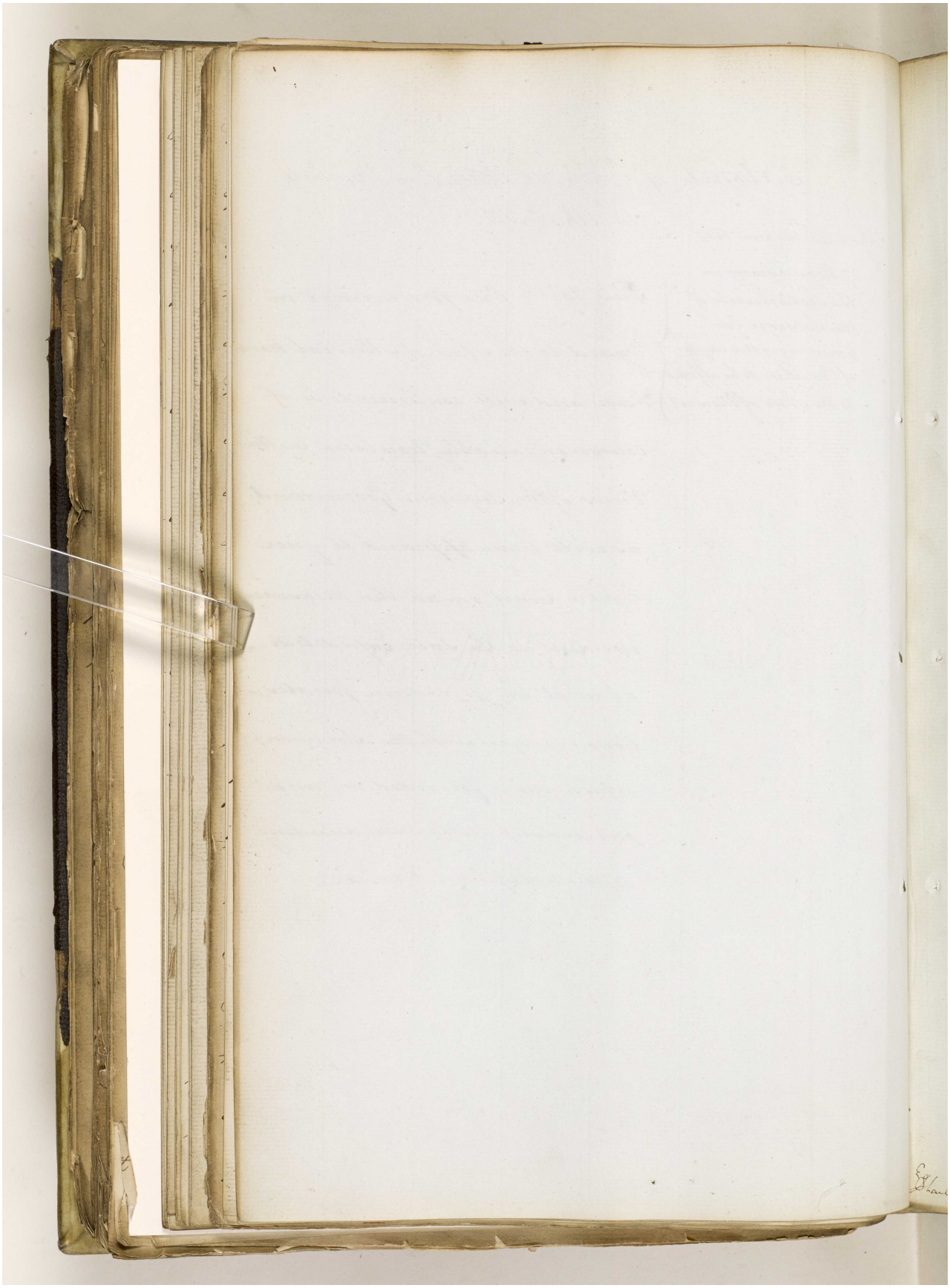

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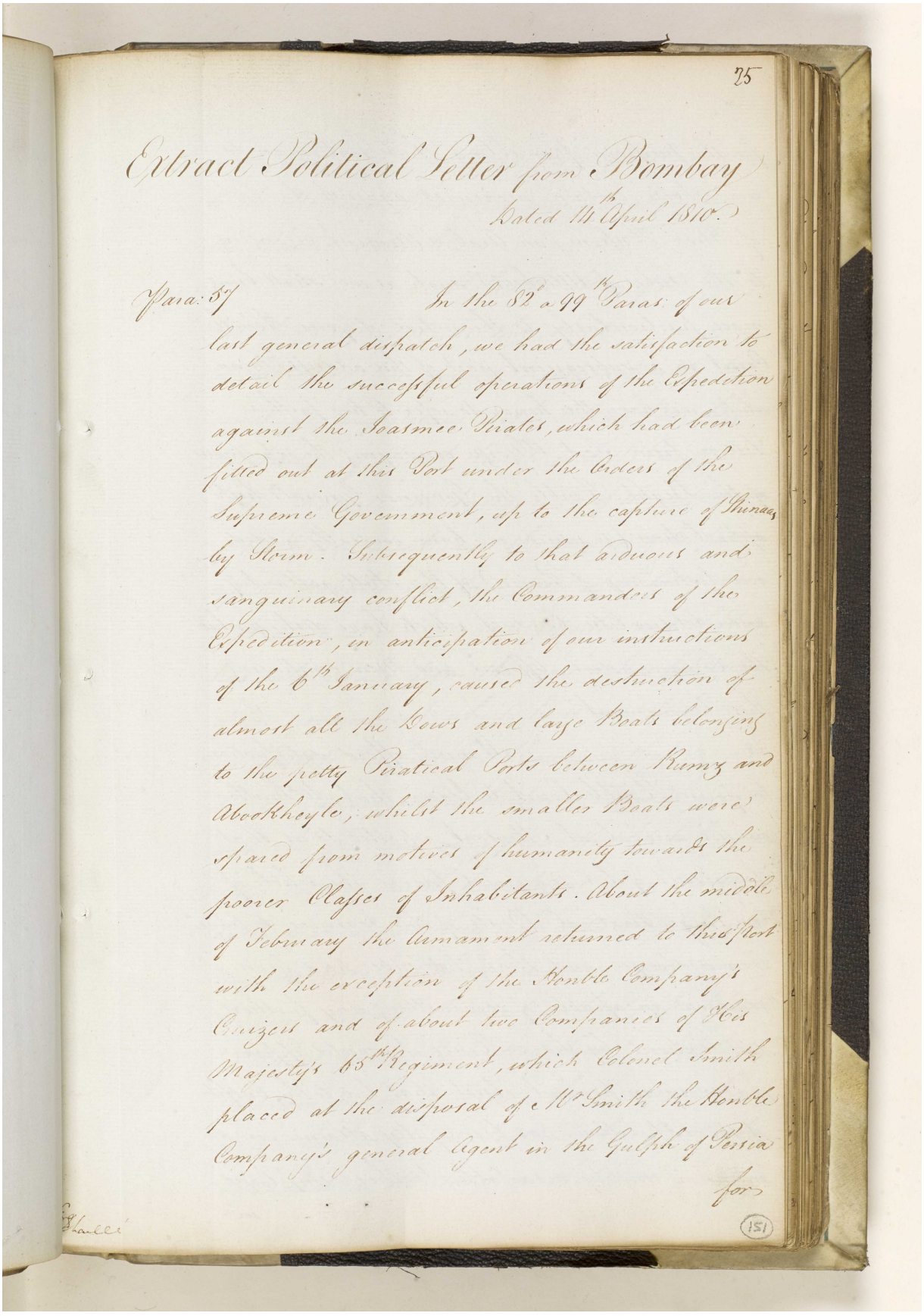

25

Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 11th April 1810.

Para: 57 In the 82d & 99th Paras of our last general dispatch, we had the satisfaction to detail the successful operations of the Expedition against the Joasmee Pirates, which had been fitted out at this Port under the orders of the Supreme Government, up to the capture of Shinas by Storm. Subsequently to that arduous and sanguinary conflict, the Commanders of the Expedition, in anticipation of our instructions of the 6th January, caused the destruction of almost all the Dows and large Boats belonging to the petty Piratical Ports between Rumz and Abookheyle; whilst the smaller Boats were spared from motives of humanity towards the poorer Classes of Inhabitants. About the middle of February the Armament returned to this Port with the exception of the Honble Company's Cruizer and of about two Companies of His Majesty's 65th Regiment, which Colonel Smith placed at the disposal of Mr Smith the Honble Company's general Agent in the Gulph of Persia for

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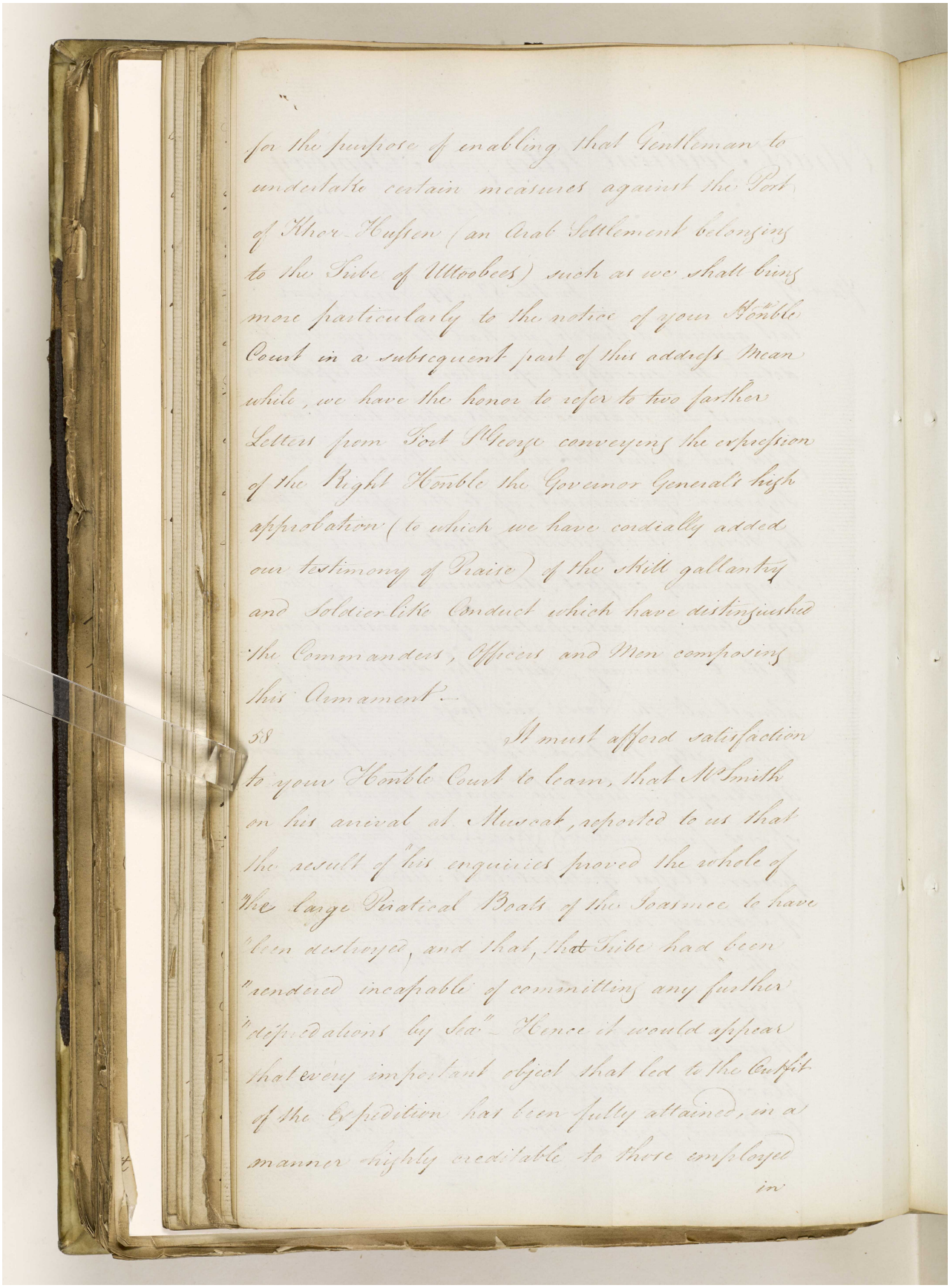

for the purpose of enabling that Gentleman to
undertake certain measures against the Port
of Khor-Hussen (an Arab Settlement belonging
to the Tribe of Wahoobees) such as we shall bring
more particularly to the notice of your Honble
Court in a subsequent part of this address Mean
while, we have the honor to refer to two farther
Letters from Fort St George conveying the expression
of the Right Honble the Governor Generals high
approbation (to which we have cordially added
our testimony of Praise) of the skill gallantry
and Soldier like Conduct which have distinguished
the Commanders, Officers and Men composing
this Armament.

58 It must afford satisfaction
to your Honble Court to learn, that Mr Smith
on his arrival at Muscat, reported to us that
the result of his enquiries proved the whole of
the large Piratical Boats of the Joasmee to have
"been destroyed, and that, that Tribe had been
"rendered incapable of committing any further
"depredations by Sea" Hence it would appear
that every important object that led to the outfit
of the Expedition has been fully attained, in a
manner highly creditable to those employed
in

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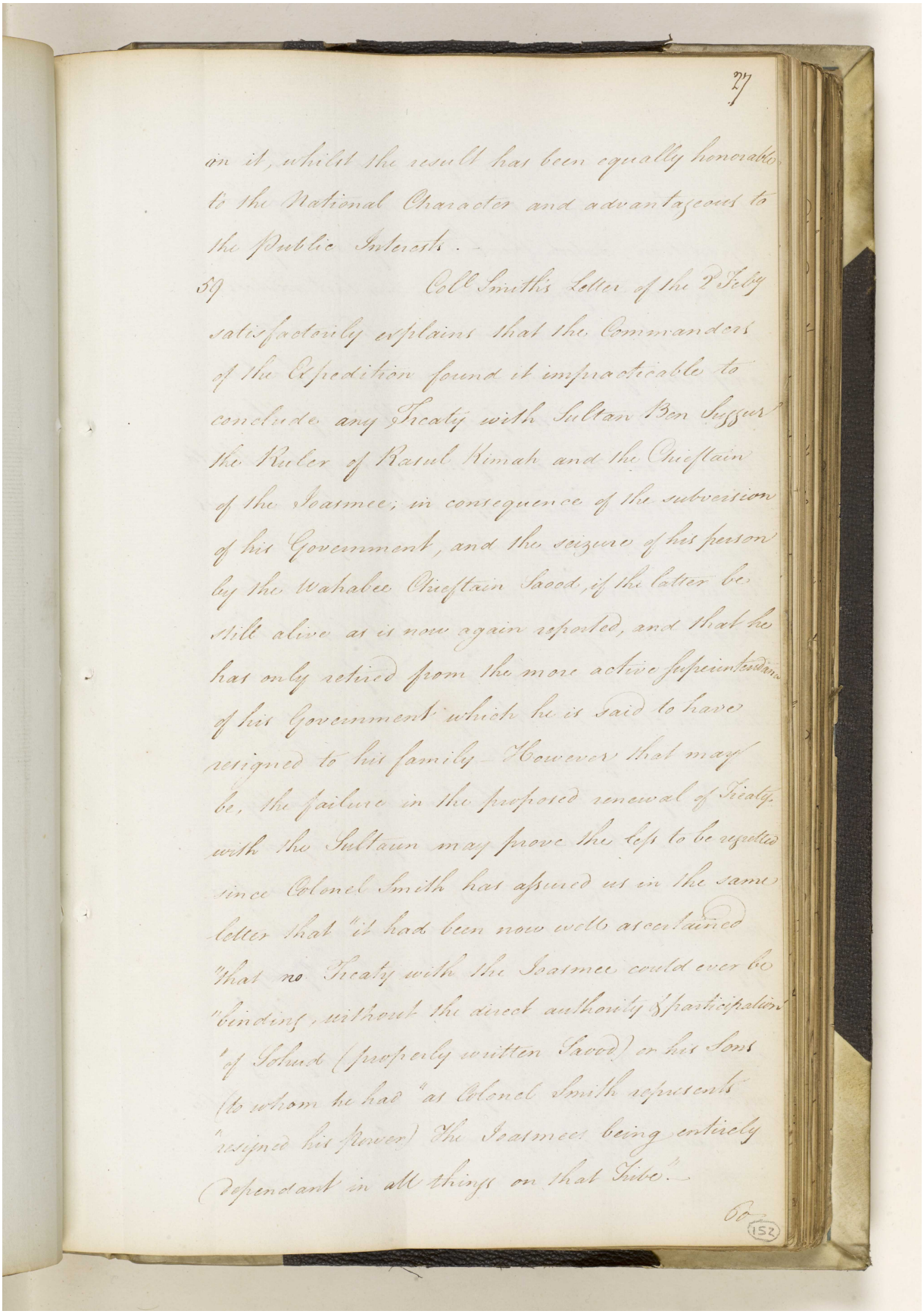

27

an it, whilst the result has been equally honorable to the National Character and advantageous to the Public Interests.

59 Coll Smiths Letter of the 2 July satisfactorily explains that the Commanders of the Expedition found it impracticable to conclude any Treaty with Sultan Ben Sugger the Ruler of Ras ul Kimah and the Chieftain of the Joasmee; in consequence of the subversion of his Government, and the seizure of his person by the Wahabee Chieftain Saood, if the latter be still alive as is now again reported, and that he has only retired from the more active superintendance of his Government which he is said to have resigned to his family. However that may be, the failure in the proposed renewal of Treaty with the Sultaun may prove the less to be regretted since Colonel Smith has assured us in the same letter that "it had been now well ascertained "that no Treaty with the Joasmee could ever be "binding, without the direct authority & participation "of Sohud (properly written Saood) or his Sons "(to whom he had "as Colonel Smith represents "resigned his power) the Joasmee being entirely "dependant in all things on that Tribe".

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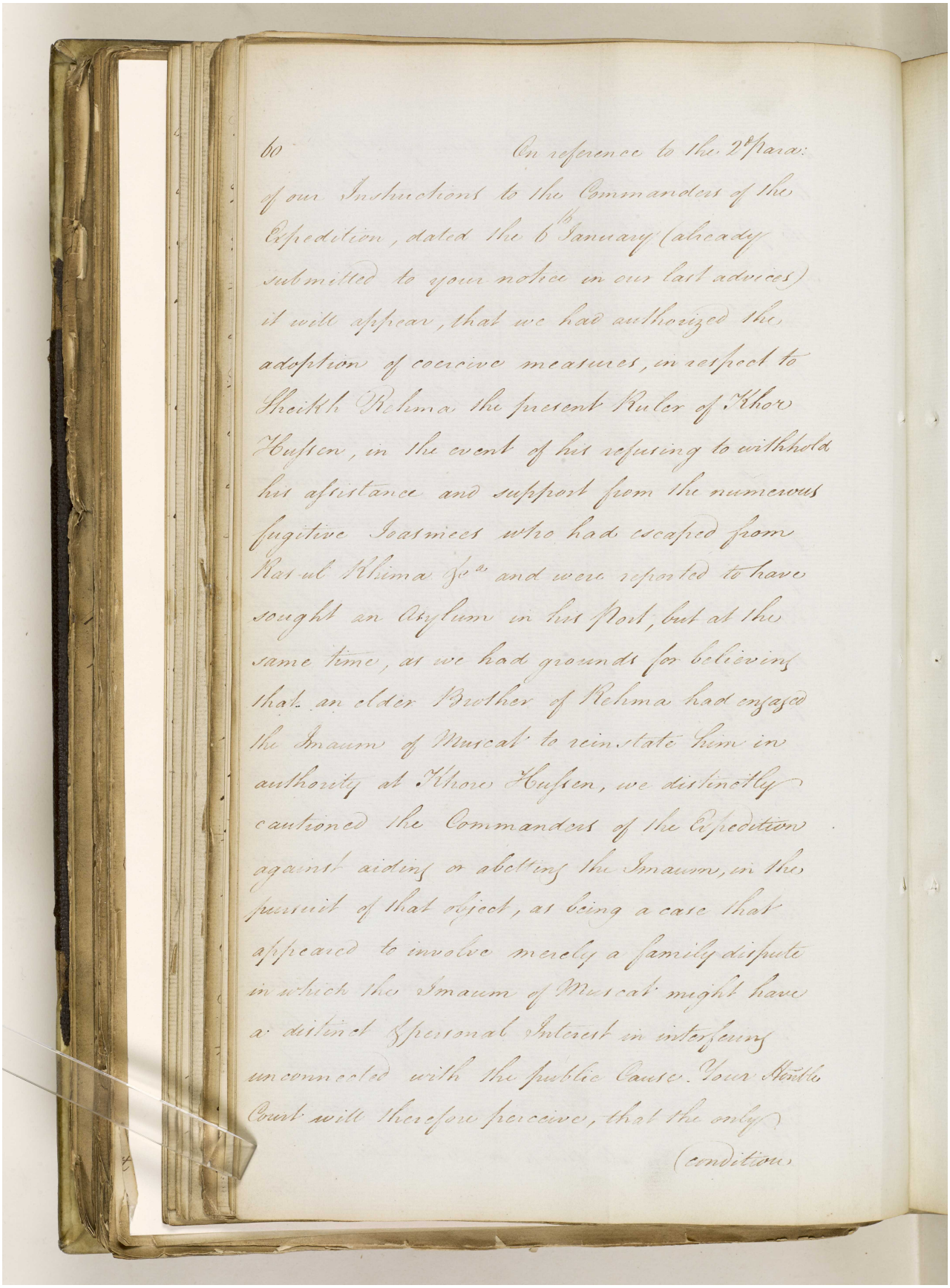

60 On reference to the 2d Para: of our Instructions to the Commanders of the Expedition, dated the 6 January (already submitted to your notice in our last advices) it will appear, that we had authorized the adoption of coercive measures, in respect to Sheikh Rehma the present Ruler of Khor Hussen, in the event of his refusing to withhold his assistance and support from the numerous fugitive Joasmees who had escaped from Ras ul Khima &c. and were reported to have sought an Asylum in his Port, but at the same time, as we had grounds for believing that an elder Brother of Rehma had engaged the Imaum of Muscat to reinstate him in authority at Khore Hussen, we distinctly cautioned the Commanders of the Expedition against aiding or abetting the Imaum, in the pursuit of that object, as being a case that appeared to involve merely a family dispute in which the Imaum of Muscat might have a distinct personal Interest in interfering unconnected with the public Cause. Your Honble Court will therefore perceive, that the only

(condition

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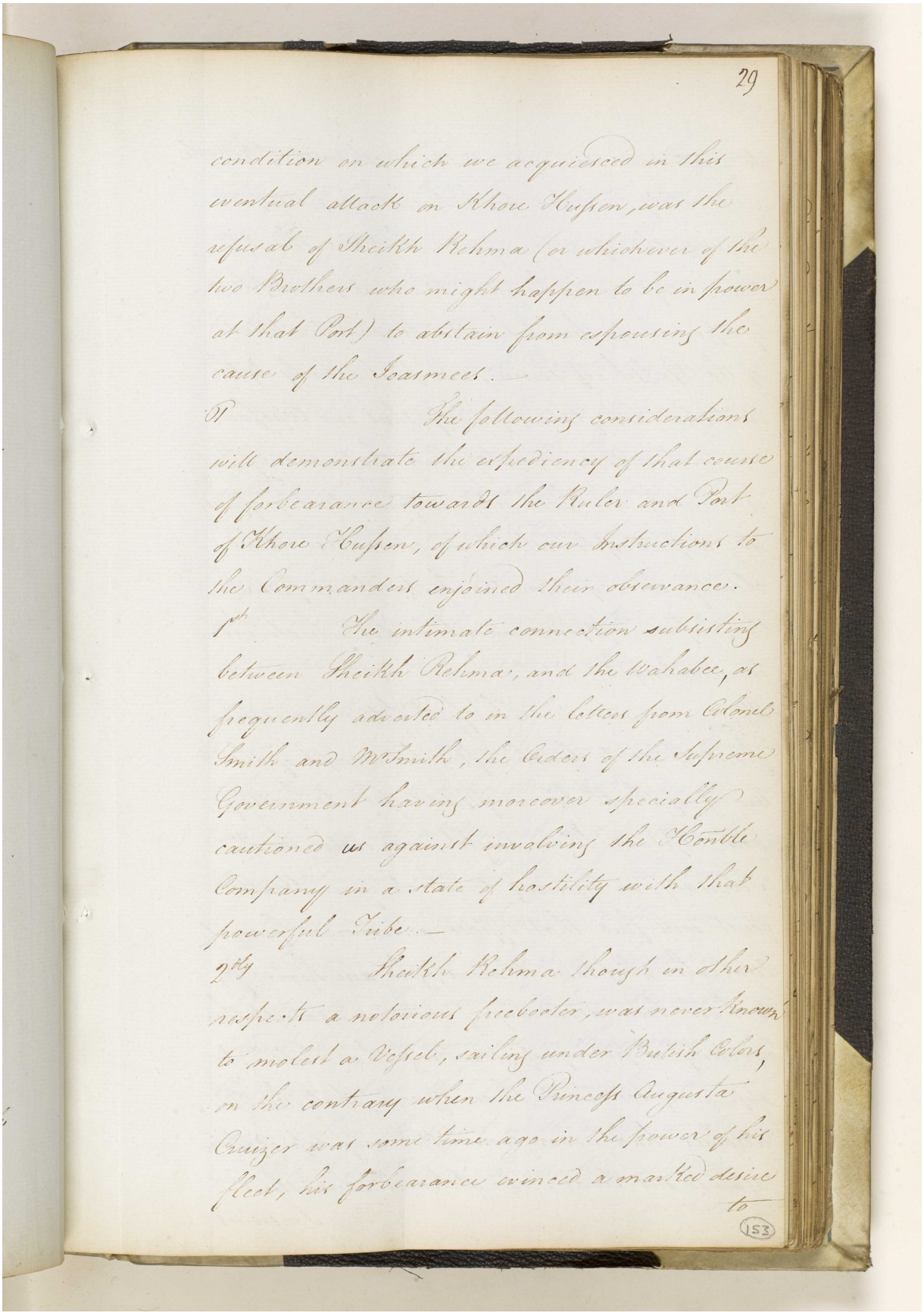

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condition on which we acquiesced in this
eventual attack on Khore Hufsen, was the
refusal of Sheikh Rehma (or whichever of the
two Brothers who might happen to be in power
at that Port) to abstain from espousing the
cause of the Joasmees.—

6th The following considerations
will demonstrate the expediency of that course
of forbearance towards the Ruler and Port
of Khore Hufsen, of which our Instructions to
the Commanders enjoined their observance.

1st The intimate connection subsisting
between Sheikh Rehma, and the Wahabee, as
frequently adverted to in the letters from Colonel
Smith and Mr Smith, the Orders of the Supreme
Government having moreover specially
cautioned us against involving the Honble
Company in a state of hostility with that
powerful Tribe.—

2dly Sheikh Rehma though in other
respects a notorious freebooter, was never known
to molest a Vessel, sailing under British Colors,
on the contrary when the Princess Augusta
Cruizer was some time ago in the power of his
fleet, his forbearance evinced a marked desire
to

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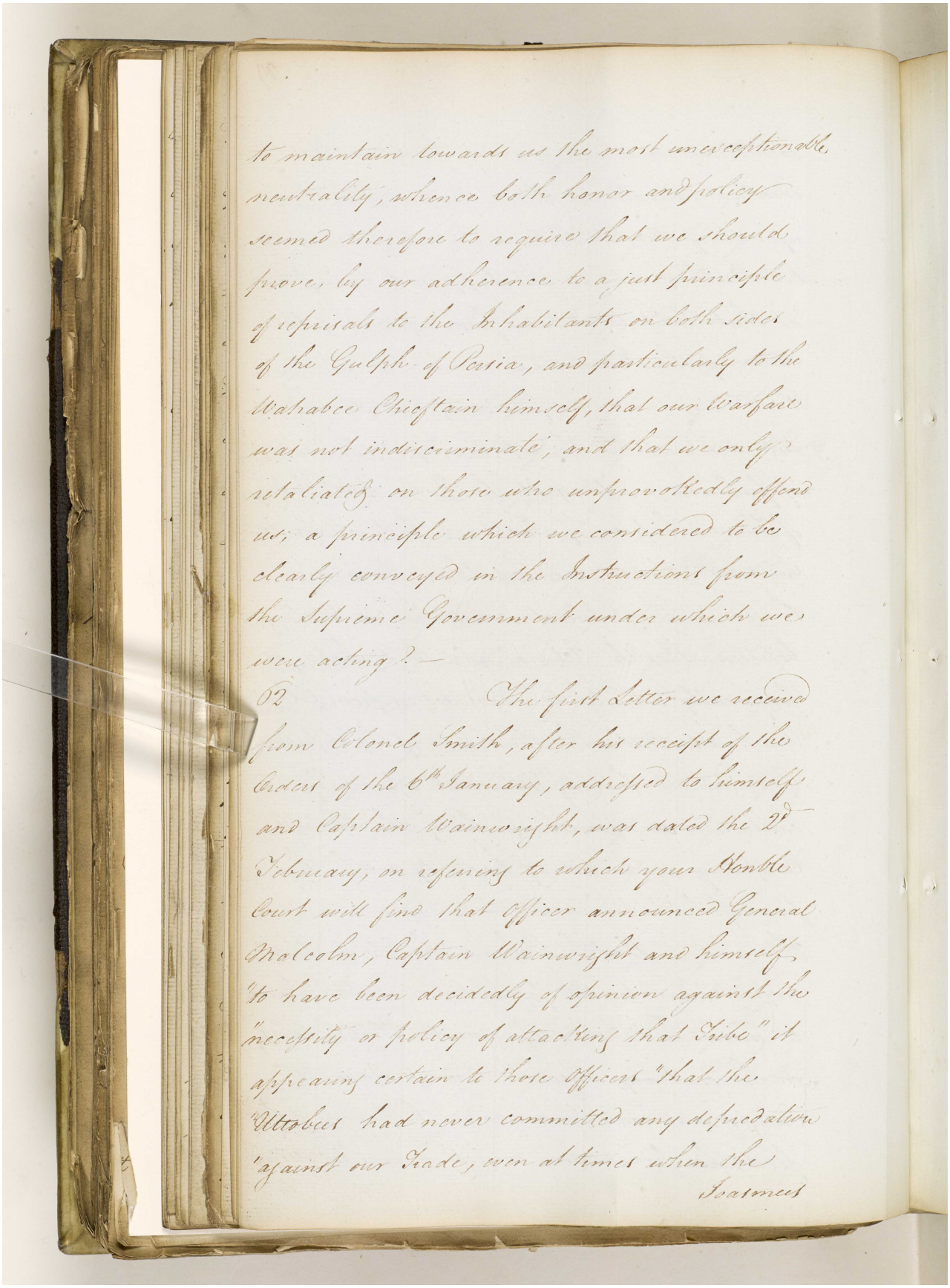

to maintain towards us the most unexceptionable neutrality, whence both honor and policy seemed therefore to require that we should prove, by our adherence to a just principle of reprisals to the Inhabitants on both sides of the Gulph of Persia, and particularly to the Wahabee Chieftain himself, that our warfare was not indiscriminate, and that we only retaliated on those who unprovokedly offend us; a principle which we considered to be clearly conveyed in the Instructions from the Supreme Government under which we were acting?—

62 The first Letter we received from Colonel Smith, after his receipt of the Orders of the 6th January, addressed to himself and Captain Wainwright, was dated the 2d February, on referring to which your Honble Court will find that Officer announced General Malcolm, Captain Wainwright and himself "to have been decidedly of opinion against the "necessity or policy of attacking that Tribe" it appearing certain to those Officers "that the "Uttobees had never committed any depredation "against our Trade, even at times when the

Joasmees

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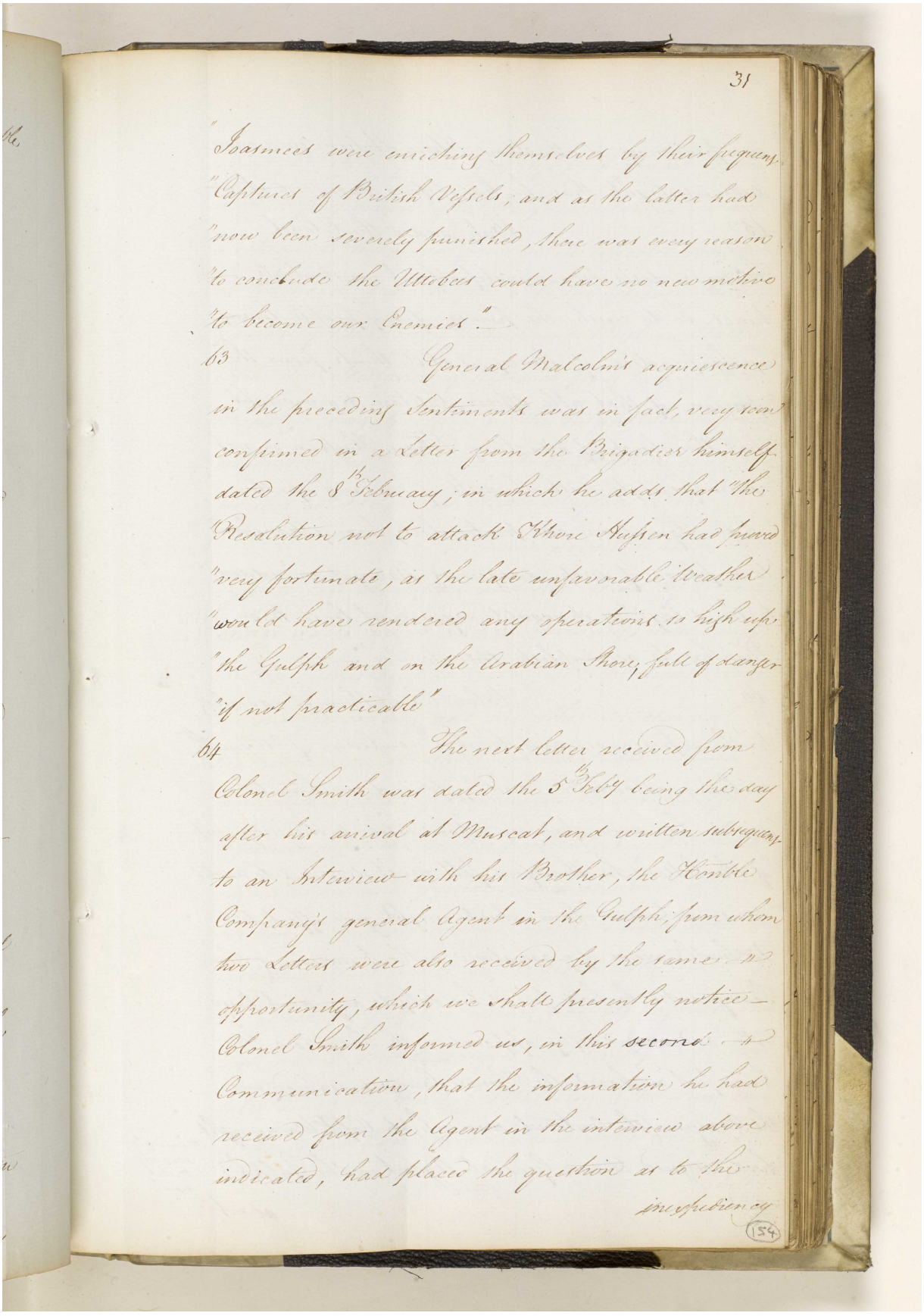

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"Joasmees were enriching themselves by their frequent
"Captures of British Vessels; and as the latter had
"now been severely punished, there was every reason
"to conclude the Wahabees could have no new motive
"to become our Enemies."

63 General Malcolm's acquiescence in the preceding sentiments was in fact, very soon confirmed in a letter from the Brigadier himself dated the 8th February; in which he adds that "the "Resolution not to attack Rhore Hussen had proved "very fortunate, as the late unfavorable Weather "would have rendered any operations so high up "the Gulph and on the Arabian Shore, full of danger "if not practicable"

64 The next letter received from Colonel Smith was dated the 5th Feby being the day after his arival at Muscat, and written subsequent to an Interview with his Brother, the Honble Company's general Agent in the Gulph, from whom two Letters were also received by the same opportunity, which we shall presently notice — Colonel Smith informed us, in this second Communication, that the information he had received from the Agent in the interview above indicated, had placed the question as to the inexpediency

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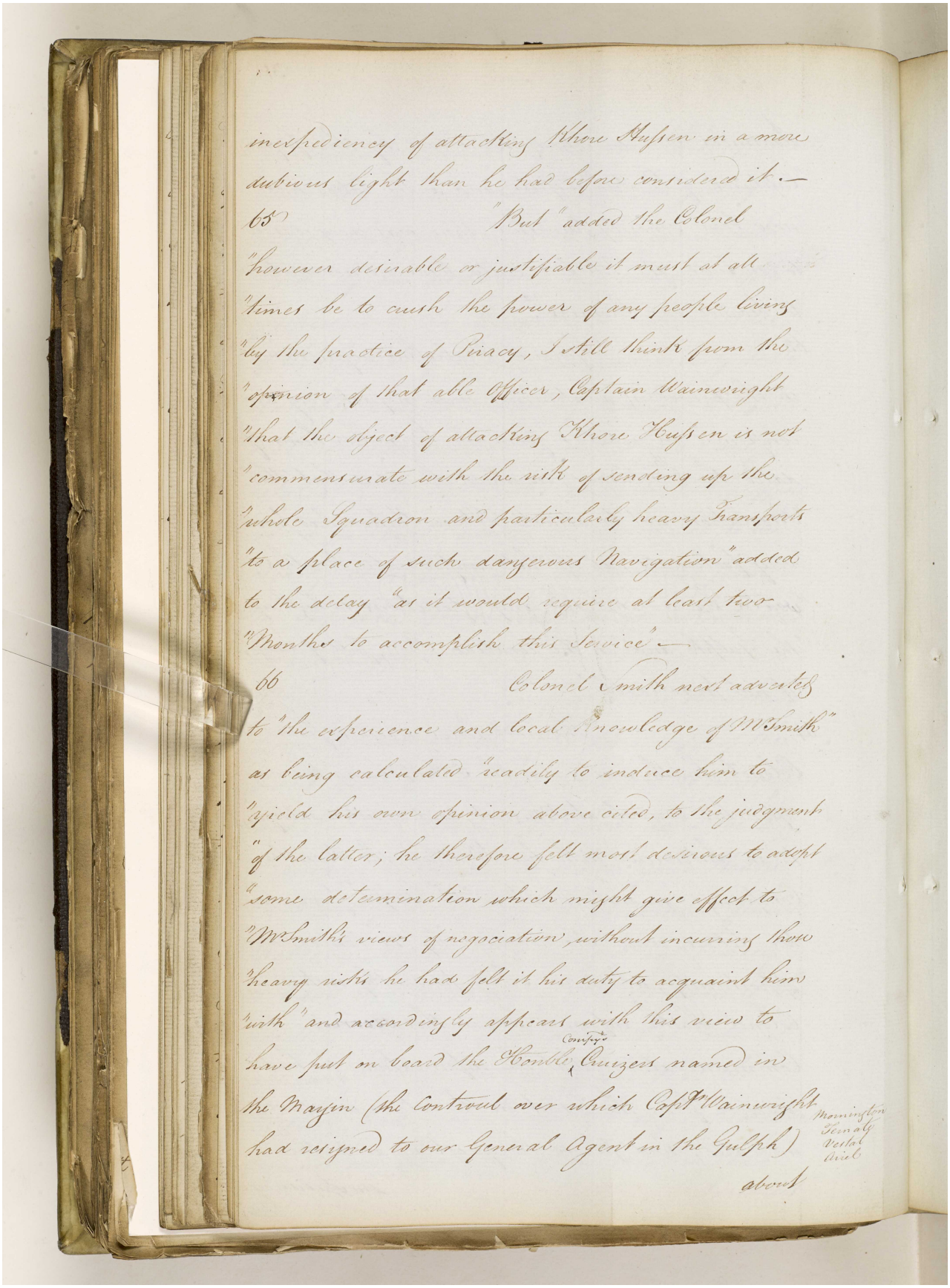

inexpediency of attacking Khore Hussen in a more
dubious light than he had before considered it.—
65 "But" added the Colonel
"however desirable or justifiable it must at all
"times be to crush the power of any people living
"by the practice of Piracy, I still think from the
"opinion of that able Officer, Captain Wainwright
"that the object of attacking Khore Hussen is not
"commensurate with the risk of sending up the
"whole Squadron and particularly heavy Transports
"to a place of such dangerous Navigation" added
to the delay "as it would require at least two
"Months to accomplish this Service"—
66 Colonel Smith next advertes
to "the experience and local knowledge of M.r Smith"
as being calculated "readily to induce him to
"yield his own opinion above cited, to the judgment
"of the latter; he therefore felt most desirous to adopt
"some determination which might give effect to
"M.r Smith's views of negociation, without incurring those
"heavy risks he had felt it his duty to acquaint him
"with" and accordingly appears with this view to
have put on board the Honble Cruizers named in
the Margin (the Command over which Capt.n Wainwright
had resigned to our General Agent in the Gulph)
about

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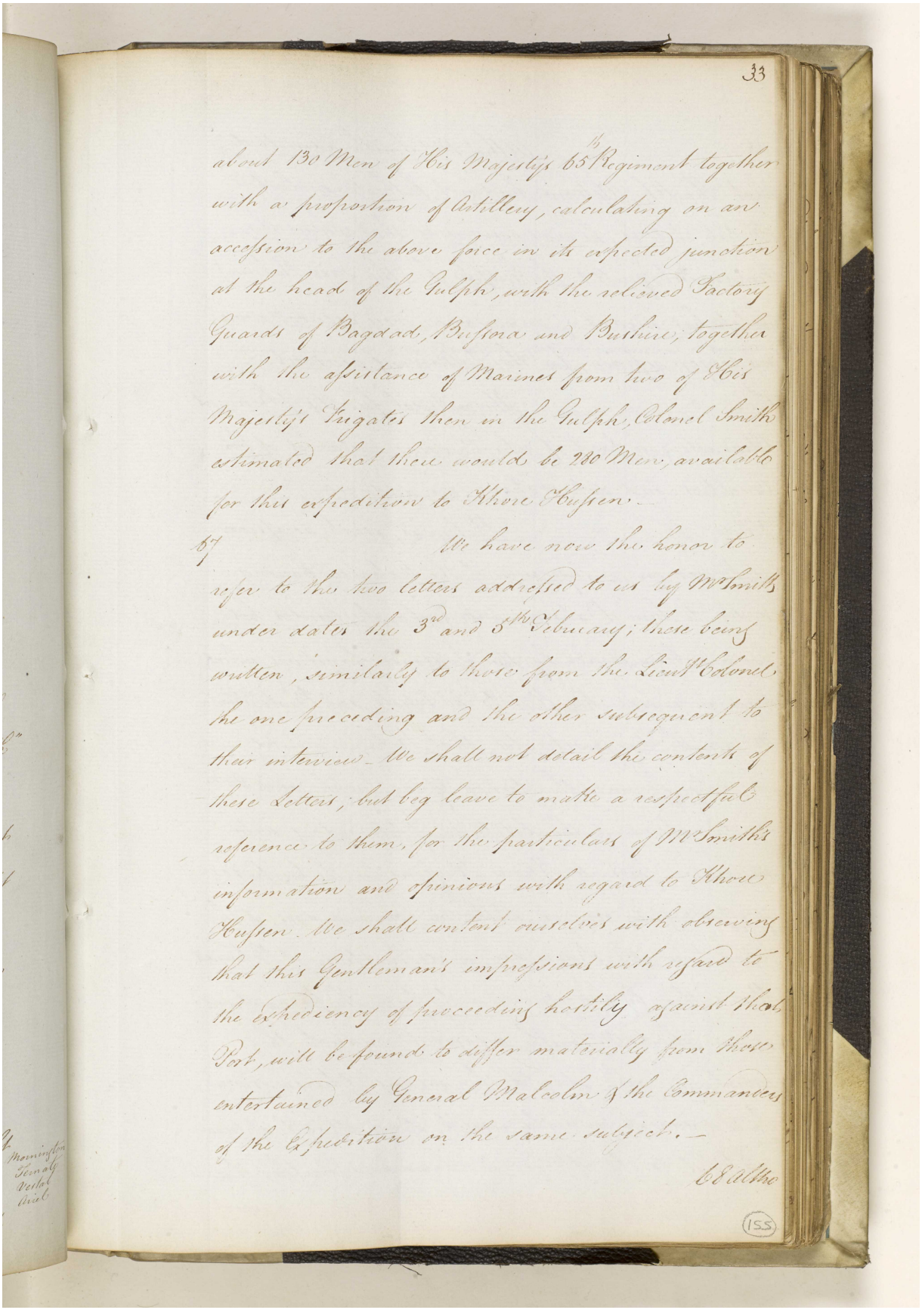

about 130 Men of His Majesty's 65th Regiment together with a proportion of Artillery, calculating on an accession to the above force in its expected junction at the head of the Gulph, with the relieved Factory Guards of Bagdad, Bussora and Bushire; together with the assistance of Marines from two of His Majesty's Frigates then in the Gulph, Colonel Smith estimated that there would be 280 Men, available for this expedition to Khore Hussen.—

67 We have now the honor to refer to the two letters addressed to us by Mr Smith under dates the 3rd and 5th February; these being written, similarly to those from the Lieut Colonel the one preceding and the other subsequent to their interview. We shall not detail the contents of these Letters; but beg leave to make a respectful reference to them, for the particulars of Mr Smith's information and opinions with regard to Khore Hussen. We shall content ourselves with observing that this Gentleman's impressions with regard to the expediency of proceeding hostily against that Port, will be found to differ materially from those entertained by General Malcolm & the Commanders of the Expedition on the same subject.—

C E Altho

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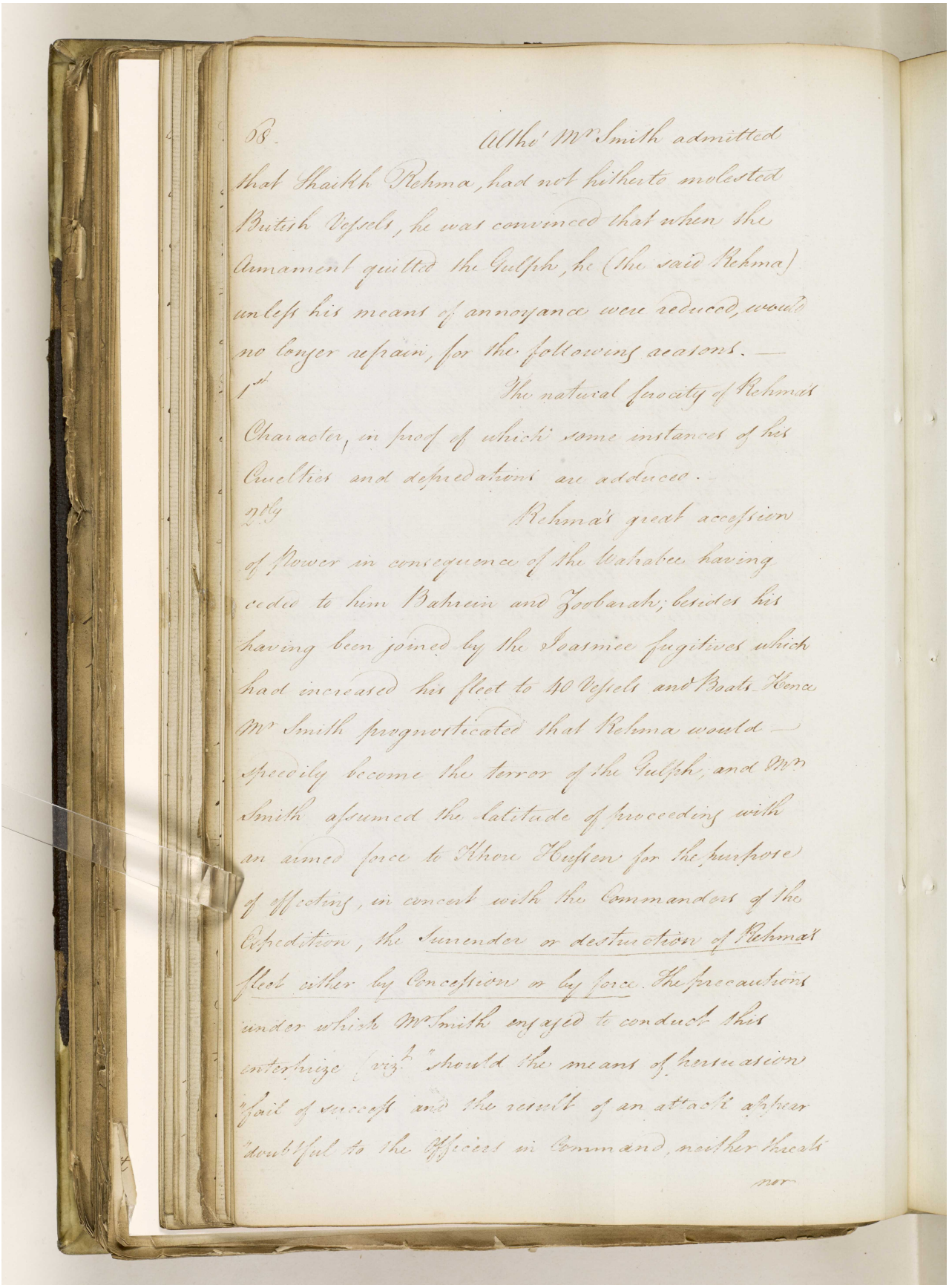

58. Altho' Mr Smith admitted that Shaikh Rehma, had not hitherto molested British Vessels, he was convinced that when the Armament quitted the Gulph, he (the said Rehma) unless his means of annoyance were reduced, would no longer refrain, for the following reasons. —

1st The natural ferocity of Rehma's Character, in proof of which some instances of his Cruelties and depredations are adduced.

2dly Rehma's great accession of Power in consequence of the Wahabee having ceded to him Bahrein and Zoobarah; besides his having been joined by the Joasmee fugitives which had increased his fleet to 40 Vessels and Boats. Hence Mr Smith prognosticated that Rehma would speedily become the terror of the Gulph, and Mr Smith assumed the latitude of proceeding with an armed force to Khore Hussen for the purpose of effecting, in concert with the Commanders of the Expedition, the Surrender or destruction of Rehma's fleet either by Concession or by force. The precautions under which Mr Smith engaged to conduct this enterprize (viz.) "should the means of persuasion "fail of success and the result of an attack appear "doubtful to the Officers in Command, neither threats

nor

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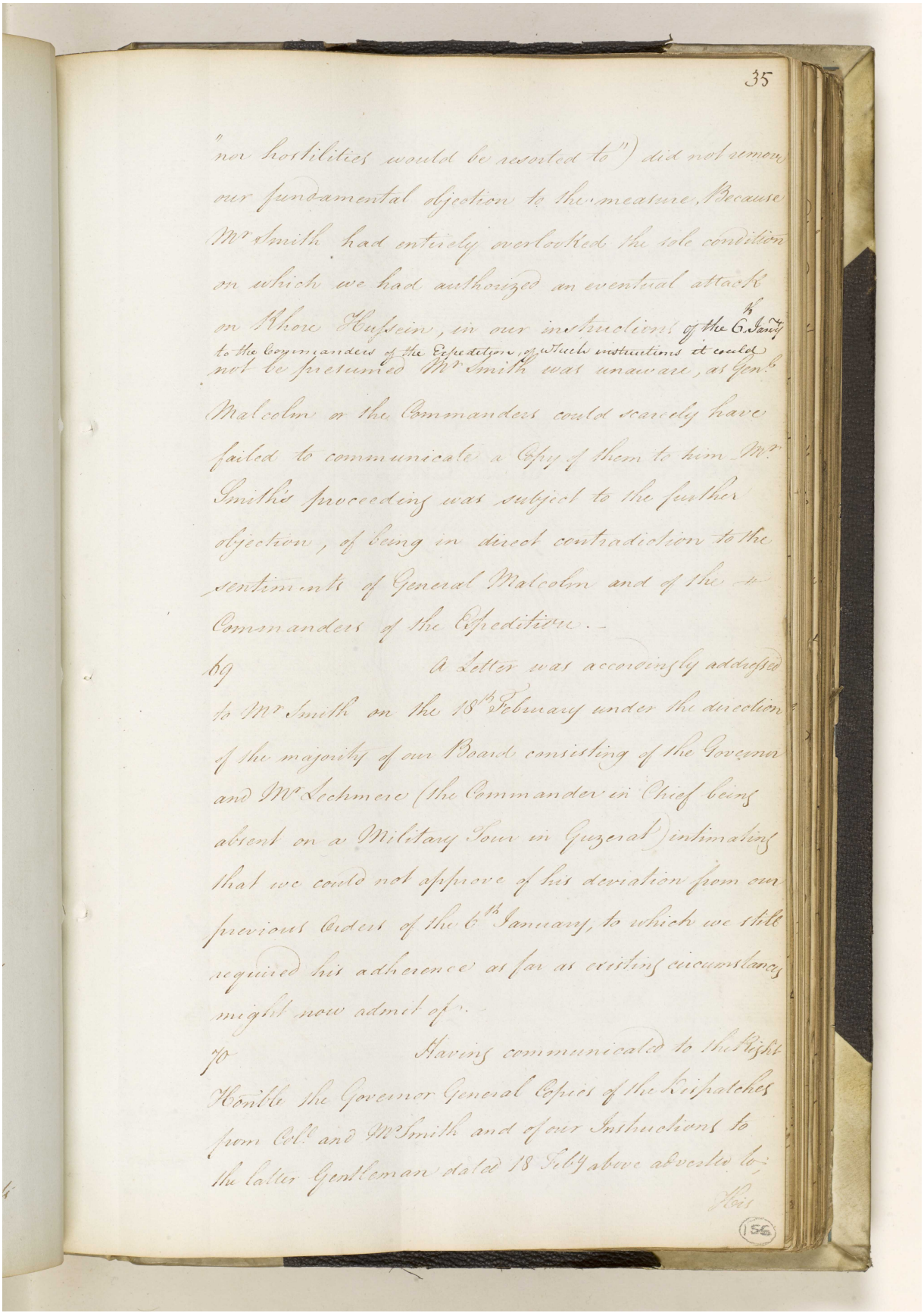

"nor hostilities would be resorted to") did not remove our fundamental objection to the measure, Because Mr Smith had entirely overlooked the sole condition on which we had authorized an eventual attack on Khore Hussein, in our instructions of the 6th Jany to the Commanders of the Expedition, of which instructions it could not be presumed Mr Smith was unaware, as Genl Malcolm or the Commanders could scarcely have failed to communicate a Copy of them to him Mr Smith's proceeding was subject to the further objection, of being in direct contradiction to the sentiments of General Malcolm and of the Commanders of the Expedition.–

69 A Letter was accordingly addressed to Mr Smith on the 18th February under the direction of the majority of our Board consisting of the Governor and Mr Lechmere (the Commander in Chief being absent on a Military Tour in Guzerat) intimating that we could not approve of his deviation from our previous Orders of the 6th January, to which we still required his adherence as far as existing circumstances might now admit of.–

70 Having communicated to the Right Honble the Governor General Copies of the Dispatches from Coll and Mr Smith and of our Instructions to the latter Gentleman dated 18 Feby above adverted to;

His

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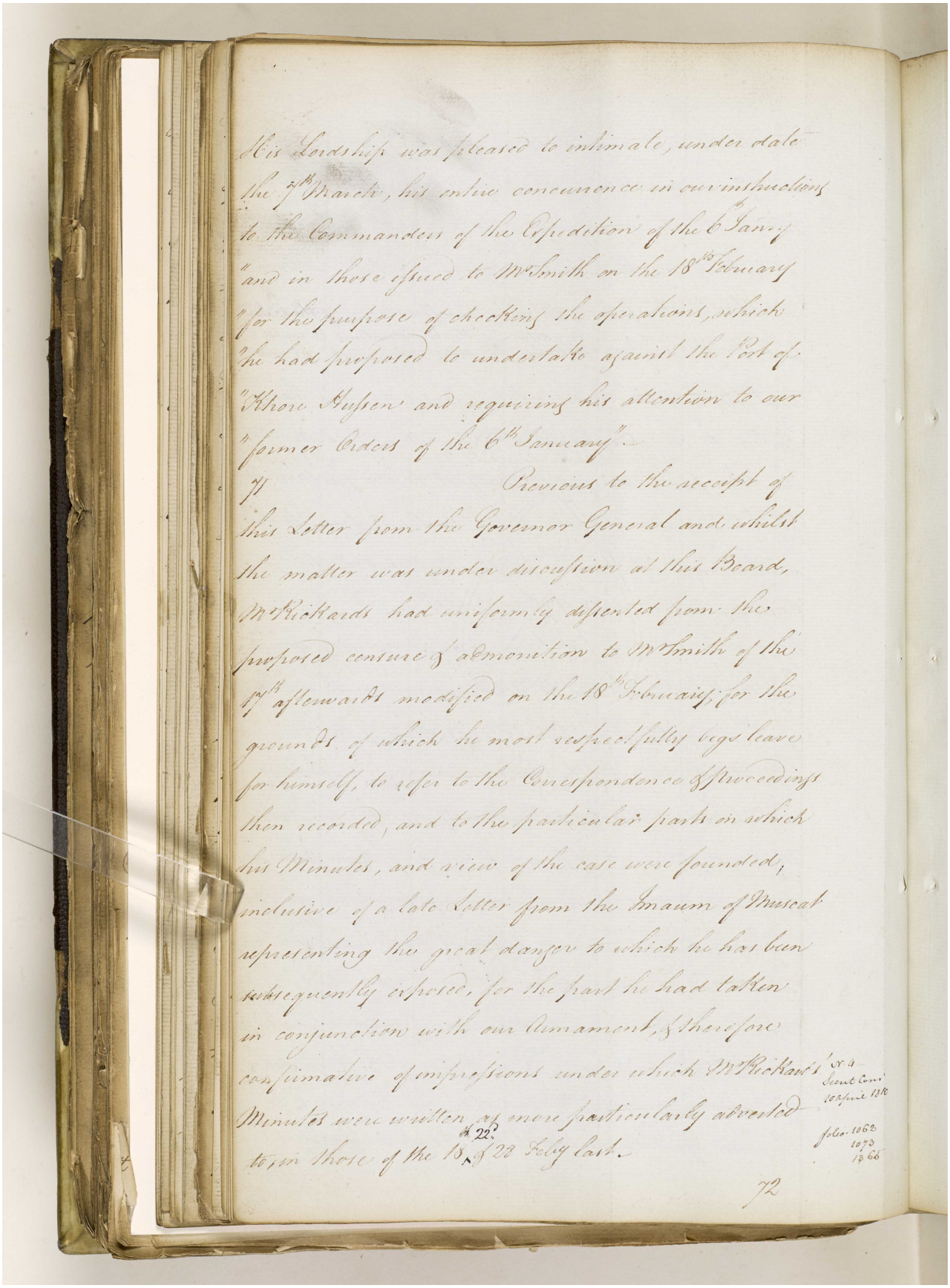

His Lordship was pleased to intimate, under date the 7th March, his entire concurrence in our instructions to the Commanders of the Expedition of the 6th Jany "and in those issued to Mr Smith on the 18th February "for the purpose of checking the operations, which "he had proposed to undertake against the Port of "Khore Hussen and requiring his attention to our "former Orders of the 6th January".

71 Previous to the receipt of this Letter from the Governor General and whilst the matter was under discussion at this Board, Mr Rickards had uniformly dissented from the proposed censure & admonition to Mr Smith of the 17th afterwards modified on the 18th February, for the grounds of which he most respectfully begs leave for himself, to refer to the Correspondence & Proceedings then recorded, and to the particular parts on which his Minutes, and view of the case were founded, inclusive of a late Letter from the Imaum of Muscat representing the great danger to which he has been subsequently exposed, for the part he had taken in conjunction with our Armament, & therefore confirmative of impressions under which Mr Rickards' Minutes were written as more particularly adverted to, in those of the 18th, 22d & 28 Feby last.

N. 4 Secret Cons 10 April 1818

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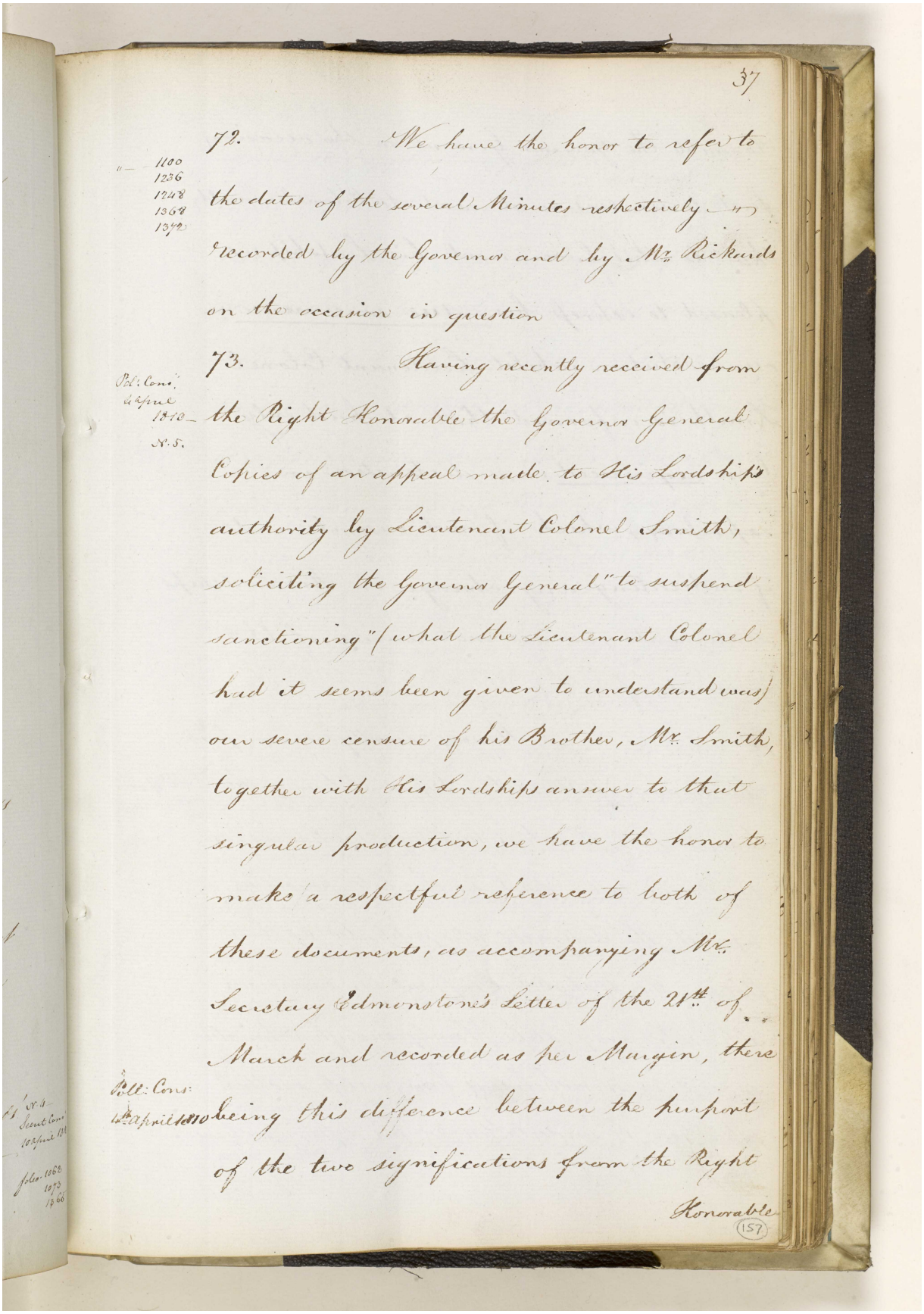

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72. We have the honor to refer to
1100 1236 1248 1368 1370
the dates of the several Minutes respectively recorded by the Governor and by Mr. Richards on the occasion in question

73. Having recently received from
Pol. Cons. 4 June 1819 No. 5.
the Right Honorable the Governor General Copies of an appeal made to His Lordship's authority by Lieutenant Colonel Smith, soliciting the Governor General "to suspend sanctioning" (what the Lieutenant Colonel had it seems been given to understand was) our severe censure of his Brother, Mr. Smith, together with His Lordship's answer to that singular production, we have the honor to make a respectful reference to both of these documents, as accompanying Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's Letter of the 21st. of March and recorded as per Margin, there
Pol. Cons. 10 April 1820
being this difference between the purport of the two significations from the Right Honorable

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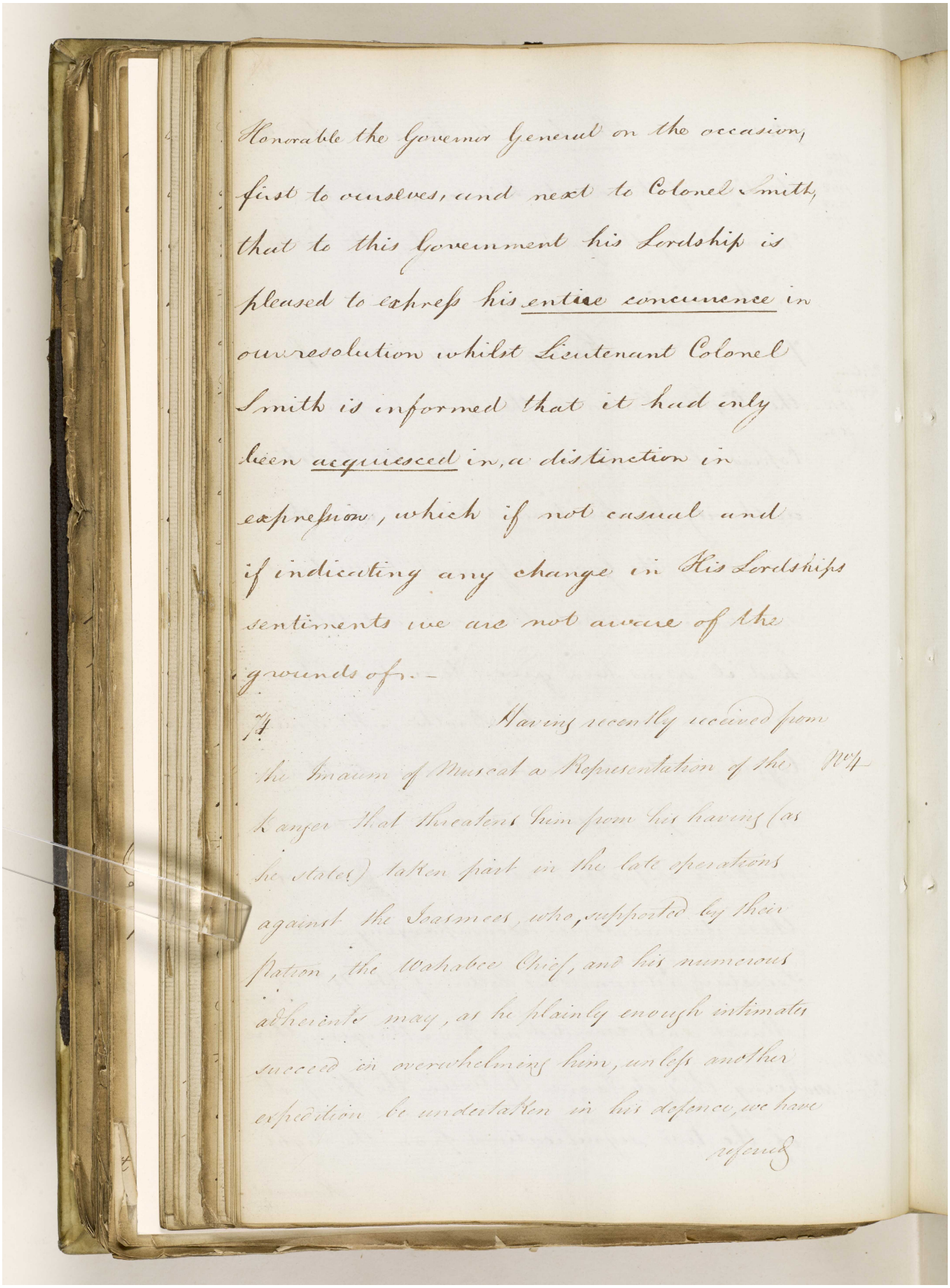

Honorable the Governor General on the occasion,
first to ourselves, and next to Colonel Smith,
that to this Government his Lordship is
pleased to express his entire concurrence in
our resolution whilst Lieutenant Colonel
Smith is informed that it had only
been acquiesced in, a distinction in
expression, which if not casual and
if indicating any change in His Lordships
sentiments we are not aware of the
grounds of.–

7th Having recently received from
the Imaum of Muscat a Representation of the
danger that threatens him from his having (as
he states) taken part in the late operations
against the Joasmees, who, supported by their
Patron, the Wahabee Chief, and his numerous
adherents may, as he plainly enough intimates
succeed in overwhelming him, unless another
expedition be undertaken in his defence, we have
referred

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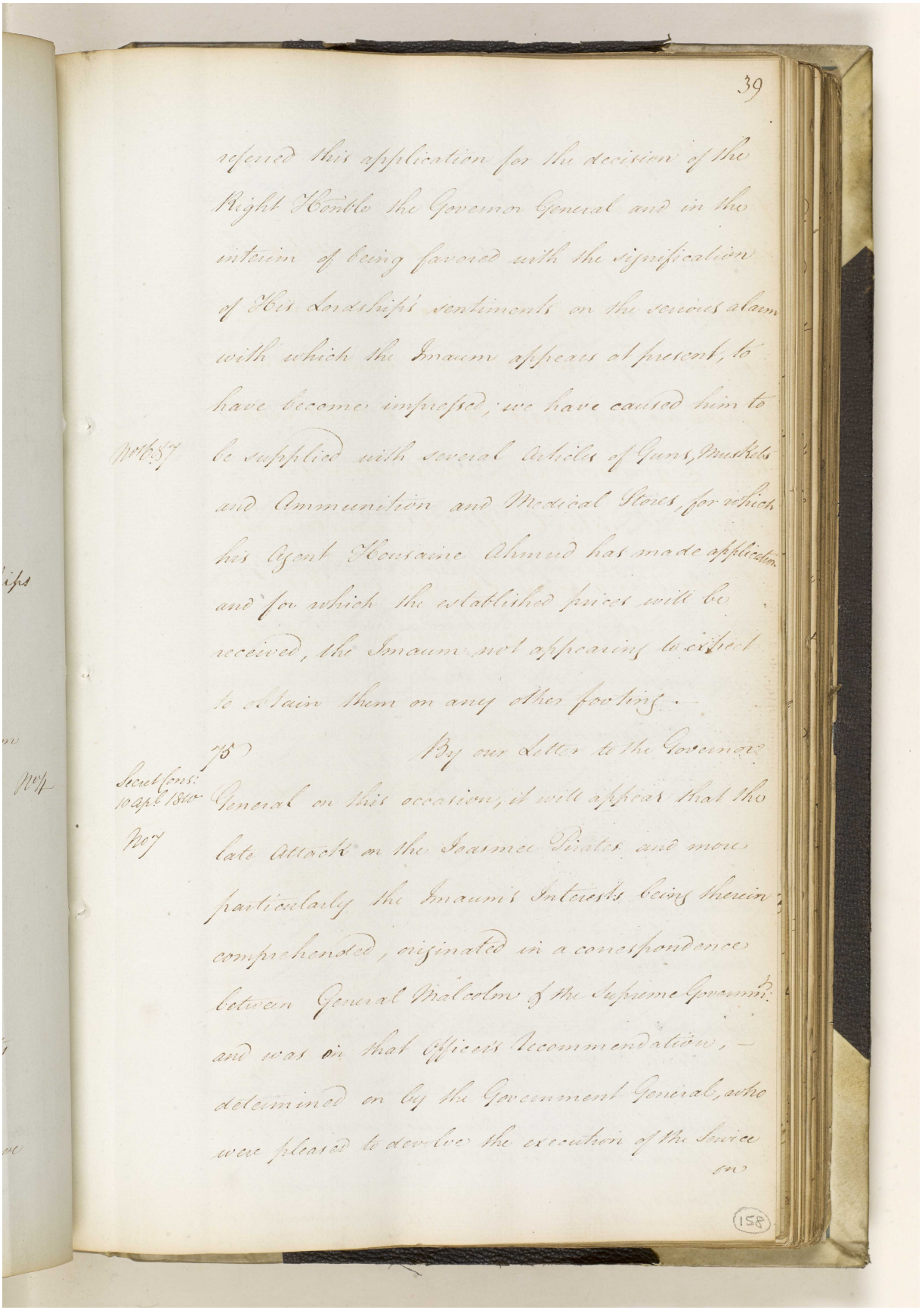

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referred this application for the decision of the
Right Honble the Governor General and in the
interim of being favored with the signification
of Her Lordship's sentiments on the serious alarm
with which the Imaum appears at present, to
have become impressed, we have caused him to
be supplied with several Articles of Guns, Muskets
and Ammunition and Medical Stores, for which
his Agent Hoosaine Ahmud has made application
and for which the established prices will be
received, the Imaum not appearing to either
to obtain them on any other footing.

By our Letter to the Governor
General on this occasion, it will appear that the
late Attack on the Joasmee Pirates and more
particularly the Imaum's Interests being therein
comprehended, originated in a correspondence
between General Malcolm & the Supreme Govern.t
and was in that Officer's recommendation,
determined on by the Government General, who
were pleased to devolve the execution of the Service
on

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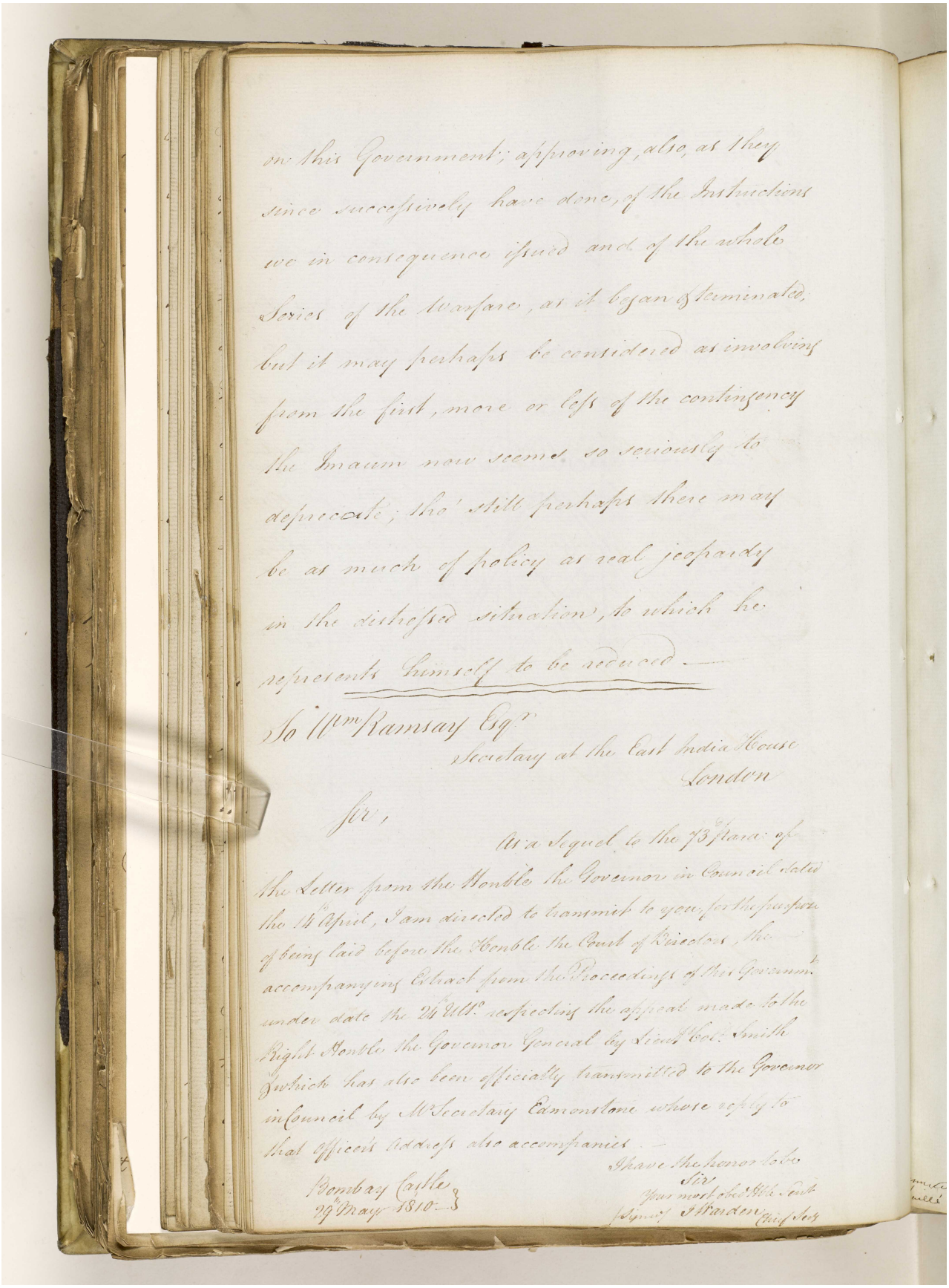

on this Government; approving, also, as they since successively have done, of the Instructions we in consequence issued and of the whole Series of the Warfare, as it began & terminated, but it may perhaps be considered as involving from the first, more or less of the contingency the Imaum now seems so seriously to deprecate; tho' still perhaps there may be as much of policy as real jeopardy in the distressed situation, to which he represents himself to be reduced —

To Wm Ramsay Esqr
Secretary at the East India House
London

Sir,

As a Sequel to the 73d Para: of the Letter from the Honble the Governor in Council dated the 14th April, I am directed to transmit to you, for the purpose of being laid before the Honble the Court of Directors, the accompanying Extract from the Proceedings of this Governmt under date the 24th Ult. respecting the appeal made to the Right Honble the Governor General by Lieut Col. Smith & which has also been officially transmitted to the Governor in Council by Mr Secretary Edmonstone whose reply to that Officer's Address also accompanies —

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Hble Servt
(Signed) J Warden Chief Secy

Bombay Castle
29th May 1810 —

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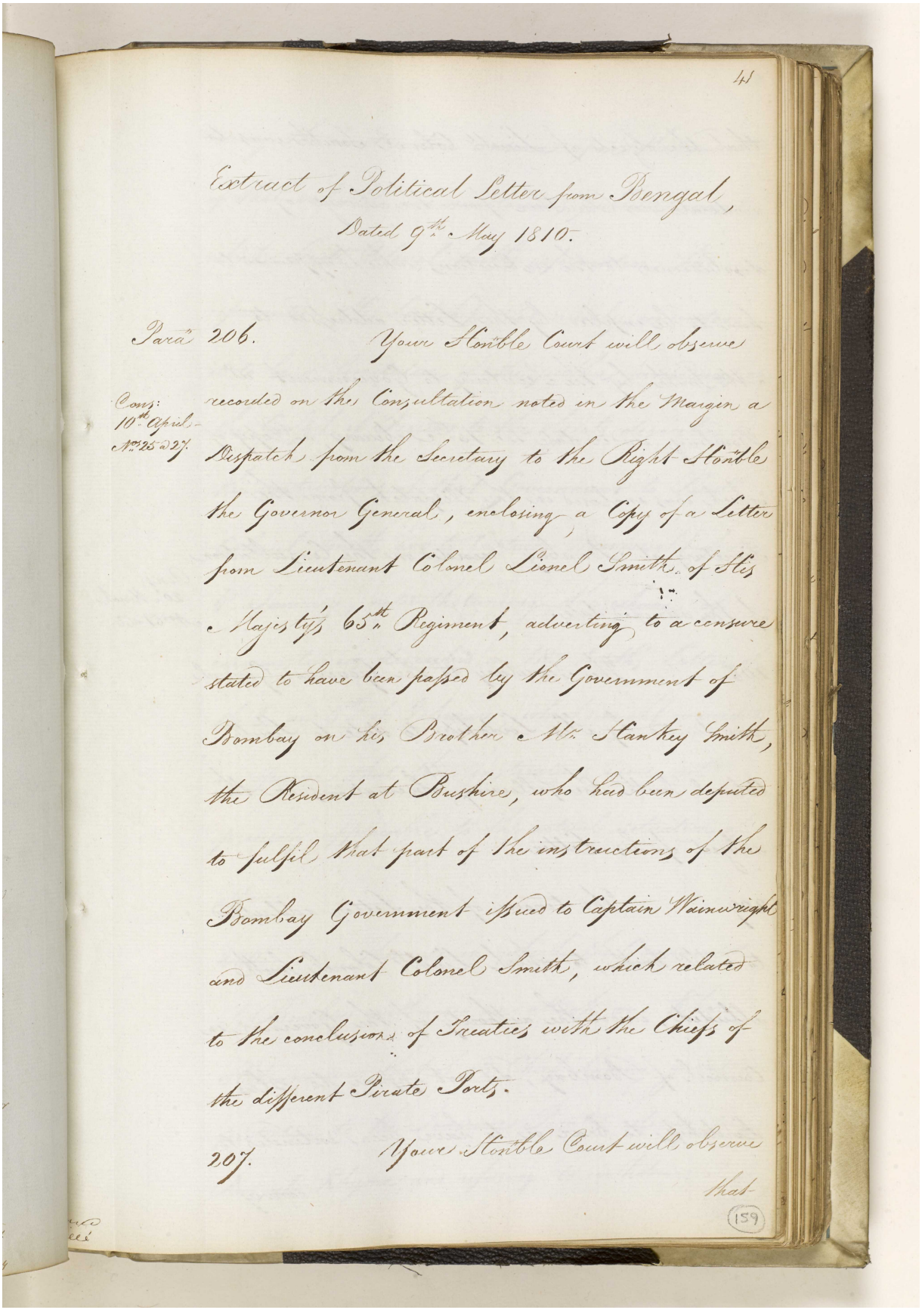

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Extract of Political Letter from Bengal,
Dated 9th May 1810.

Para 206. Your Honble Court will observe recorded on the Consultation noted in the Margin a Despatch from the Secretary to the Right Honble the Governor General, enclosing a Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Smith of His Majesty's 65th Regiment, adverting to a censure stated to have been passed by the Government of Bombay on his Brother Mr. Stankey Smith, the Resident at Bushire, who had been deputed to fulfil that part of the instructions of the Bombay Government issued to Captain Wainwright and Lieutenant Colonel Smith, which related to the conclusion of Treaties with the Chiefs of the different Pirate Ports.

Cons: 10th April – Nos 25 & 27

207. Your Honble Court will observe that

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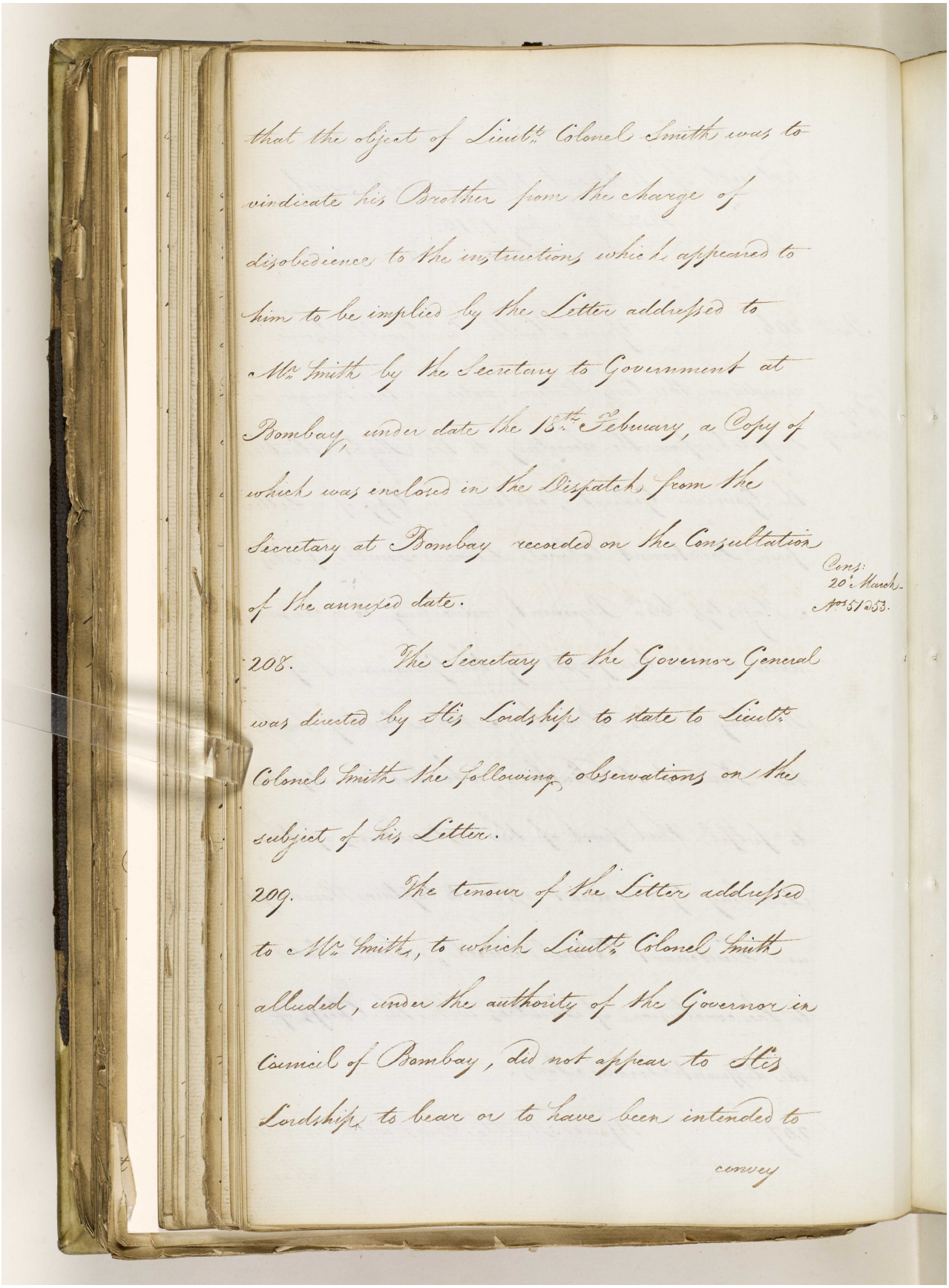

that the object of Lieut.t Colonel Smith was to vindicate his Brother from the charge of disobedience to the instructions which appeared to him to be implied by the Letter addressed to Mr. Smith by the Secretary to Government at Bombay, under date the 18th February, a Copy of which was enclosed in the Dispatch from the Secretary at Bombay recorded on the Consultation of the annexed date.

Cons: 20th March - Nos 51 & 53.

208. The Secretary to the Governor General was directed by His Lordship to state to Lieut.t Colonel Smith the following observations on the subject of his Letter.

209. The tenour of the Letter addressed to Mr. Smith, to which Lieut.t Colonel Smith alluded, under the authority of the Governor in Council of Bombay, did not appear to His Lordship to bear or to have been intended to

convey

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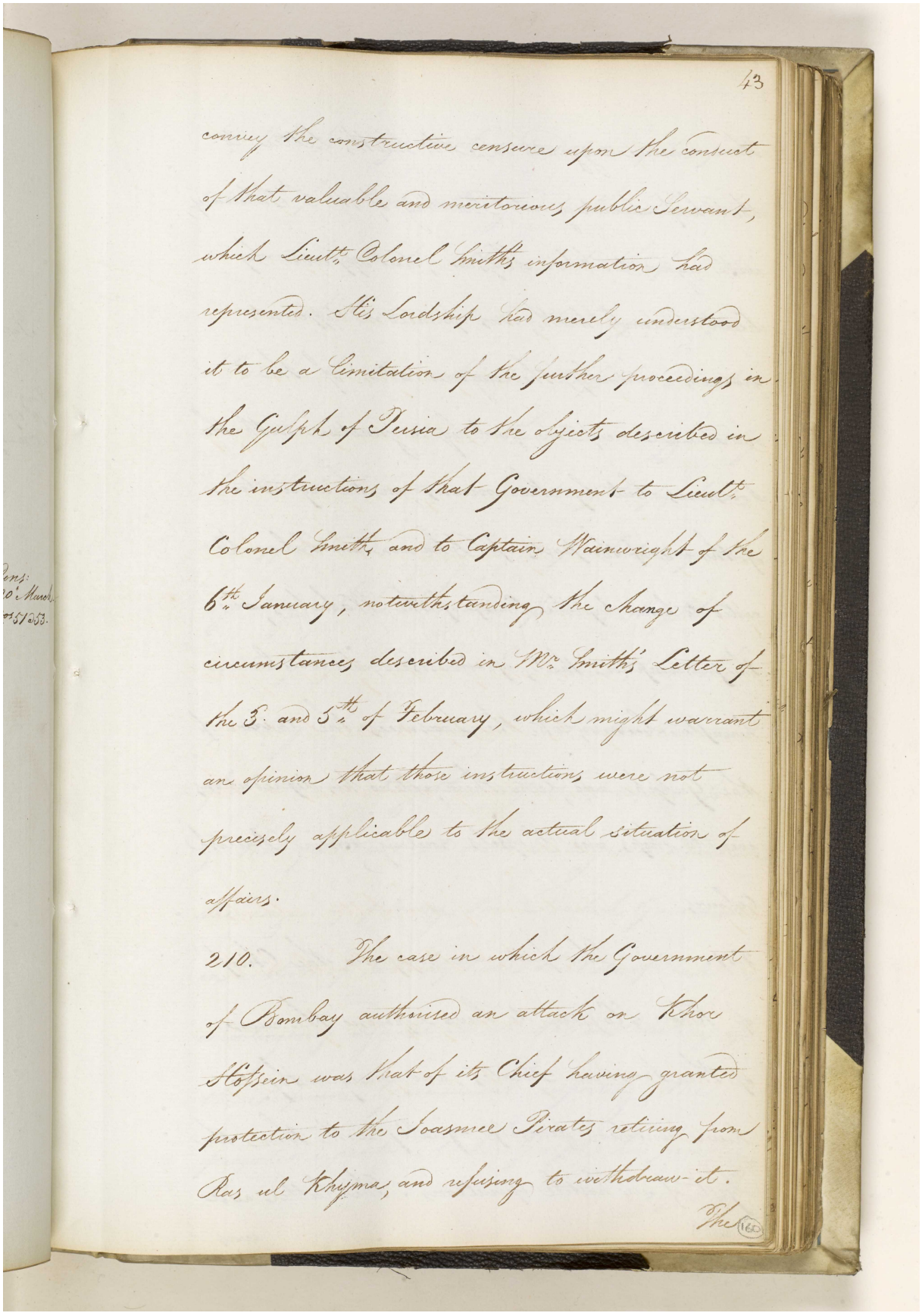

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convey the constructive censure upon the conduct of that valuable and meritorious public Servant, which Lieut.t Colonel Smith's information had represented. His Lordship has merely understood it to be a limitation of the further proceedings in the Gulph of Persia to the objects described in the instructions of that Government to Lieut.t Colonel Smith, and to Captain Wainwright of the 6.th January, notwithstanding the change of circumstances described in Mr. Smith's Letter of the 3.d and 5.th of February, which might warrant an opinion that those instructions were not precisely applicable to the actual situation of affairs.

210. The case in which the Government of Bombay authorised an attack on Khor Hoffein was that of its Chief having granted protection to the Joasmee Pirates retiring from Ras ul Khyma, and refusing to withdraw it.

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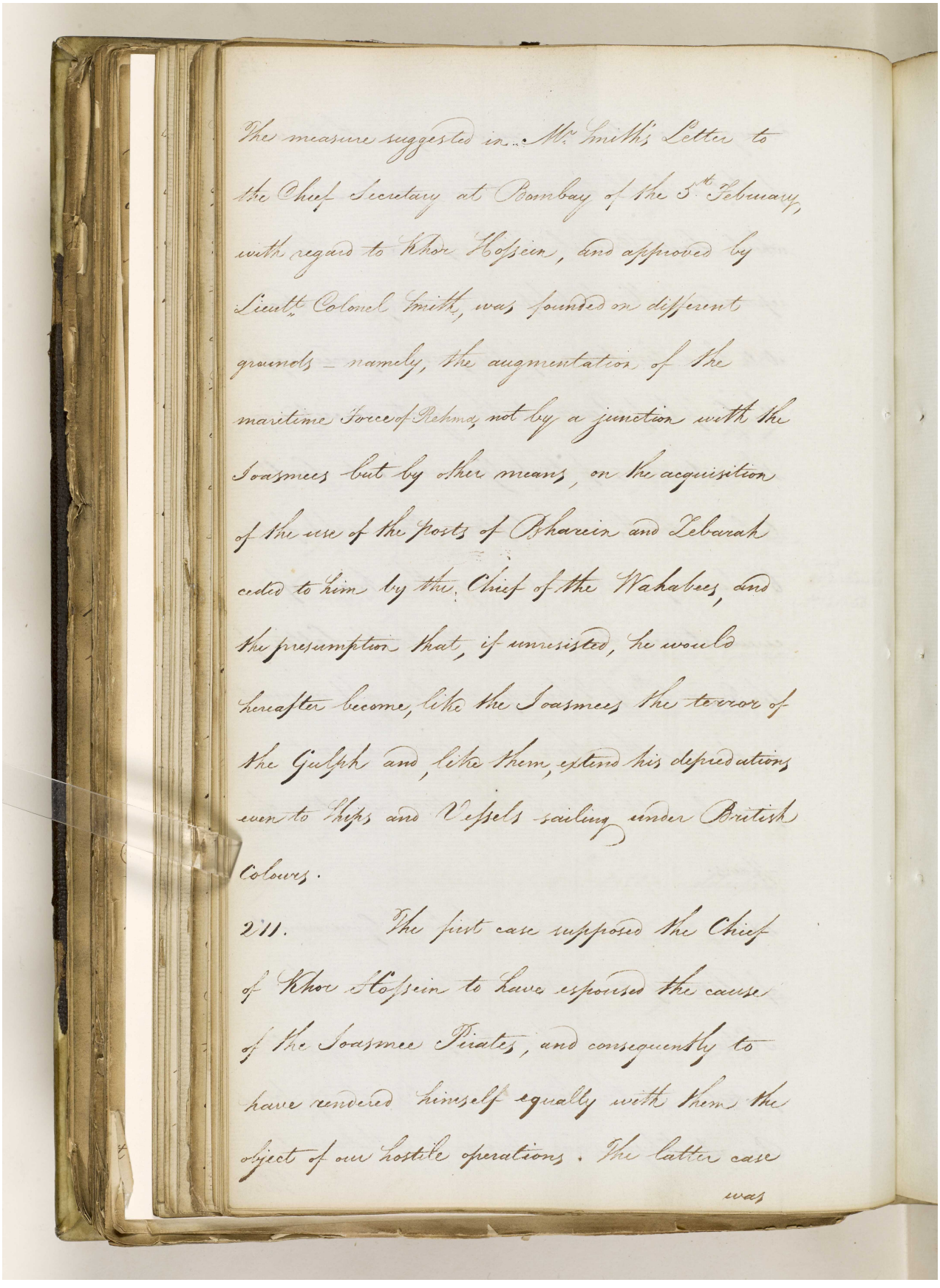

The measure suggested in Mr. Smith's Letter to the Chief Secretary at Bombay of the 5th February, with regard to Khor Hoseen, and approved by Lieut.t Colonel Smith, was founded on different grounds – namely, the augmentation of the maritime Force of Rehma, not by a junction with the Joasmees but by their means, on the acquisition of the use of the Ports of Bharein and Lebarah ceded to him by the Chief of the Wahabees, and the presumption that, if unresisted, he would hereafter become, like the Joasmees the terror of the Gulph and, like them, extend his depredations even to Ships and Vessels sailing under British Colours.

211. The first case supposed the Chief of Khor Hoseen to have espoused the cause of the Joasmee Pirates, and consequently to have rendered himself equally with them the object of our hostile operations. The latter case

was

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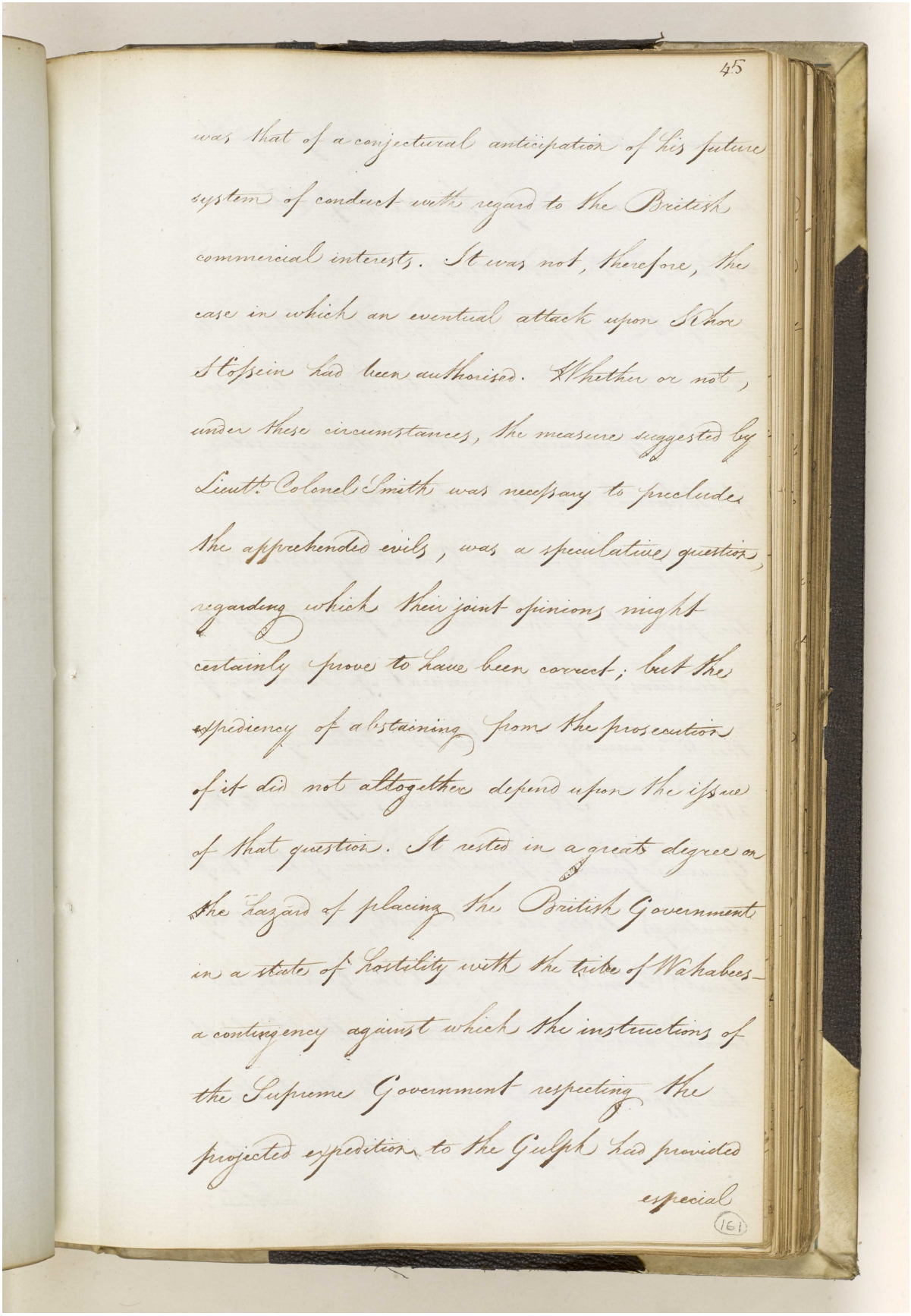

was that of a conjectural anticipation of his future system of conduct with regard to the British commercial interests. It was not, therefore, the case in which an eventual attack upon Khor Stossein had been authorised. Whether or not, under these circumstances, the measure suggested by Lieut.t Colonel Smith was necessary to preclude the apprehended evils, was a speculative question, regarding which their joint opinions might certainly prove to have been correct; but the expediency of abstaining from the prosecution of it did not altogether depend upon the issue of that question. It rested in a great degree on the hazard of placing the British Government in a state of hostility with the tribe of Wahabees – a contingency against which the instructions of the Supreme Government respecting the projected expedition to the Gulph had provided

especial

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especial caution, but which certainly might have been incurred by the attack of Khor Hossein or the destruction of the maritime force of its Chief, since he confessedly belonged to that tribe and had recently been united to it in the bonds of common interest, by the acquisition of Bharein and Zebarah. On this ground especially the Governor General acquiesced in the propriety of the limitation prescribed by the instructions of the Government of Bombay of the 6th January and the 18th February.

212. It by no means appeared to the Governor General, from the tenour of the Chief Secretary's Letter to Mr. Smith, alluded to by Lieut.t Colonel Smith, that the Governor in Council ascribed to Mr. Smith, as Lt. Col.l Smith had supposed, a rash resolution to attack the maritime force of Khor Hossein, and to abstain

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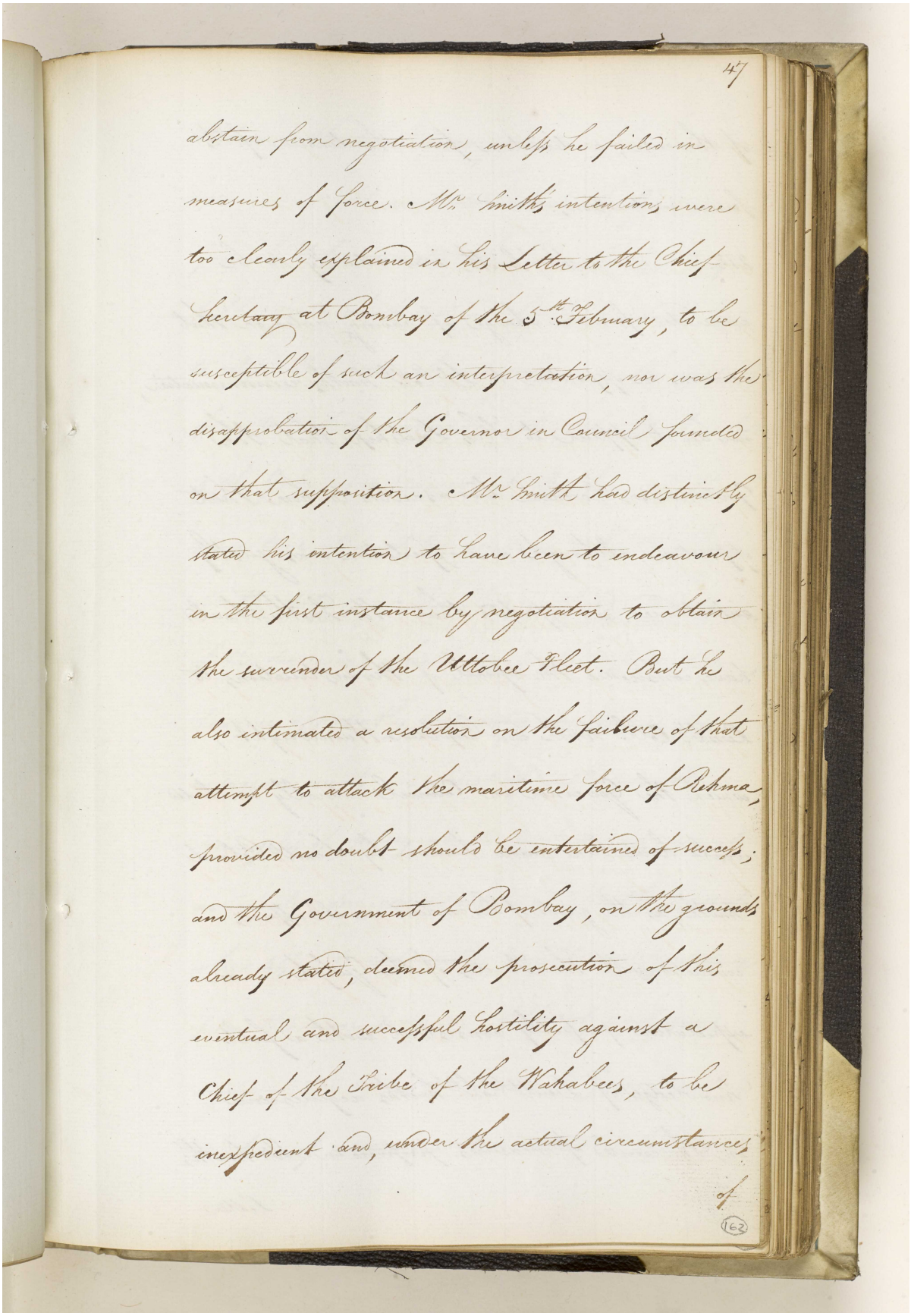

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abstain from negotiation, unless he failed in measures of force. Mr. Smiths intentions were too clearly explained in his Letter to the Chief Secretary at Bombay of the 5th. February, to be susceptible of such an interpretation, nor was the disapprobation of the Governor in Council founded on that supposition. Mr. Smith had distinctly stated his intention to have been to endeavour in the first instance by negotiation to obtain the surrender of the Uttobee Fleet. But he also intimated a resolution on the failure of that attempt to attack the maritime force of Rehma, provided no doubt should be entertained of success; and the Government of Bombay, on the grounds already stated, deemed the prosecution of this eventual and successful hostility against a Chief of the Tribe of the Wahabees, to be inexpedient and, under the actual circumstances,

of

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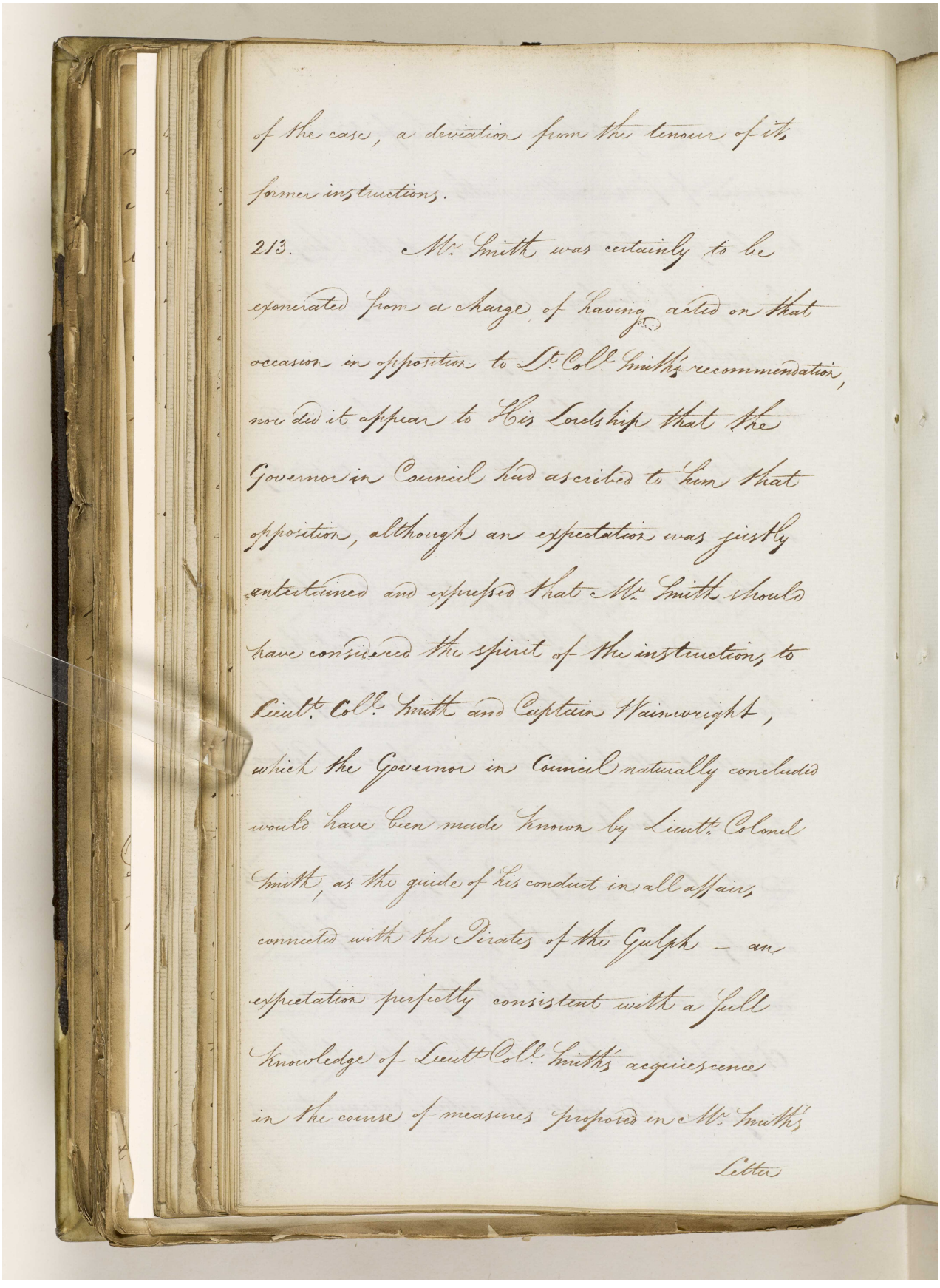

of the case, a deviation from the tenour of it's former instructions.

213. Mr Smith was certainly to be exonerated from a charge of having acted on that occasion in opposition to Lt Colo Smith's recommendation, nor did it appear to His Lordship that the Governor in Council had ascribed to him that opposition, although an expectation was justly entertained and expressed that Mr Smith should have considered the spirit of the instructions to Lieut. Colo Smith and Captain Wainwright, which the Governor in Council naturally concluded would have been made known by Lieut. Colonel Smith, as the guide of his conduct in all affairs connected with the Pirates of the Gulph – an expectation perfectly consistent with a full knowledge of Lieut. Colo Smith's acquiescence in the course of measures proposed in Mr Smith's

Letter

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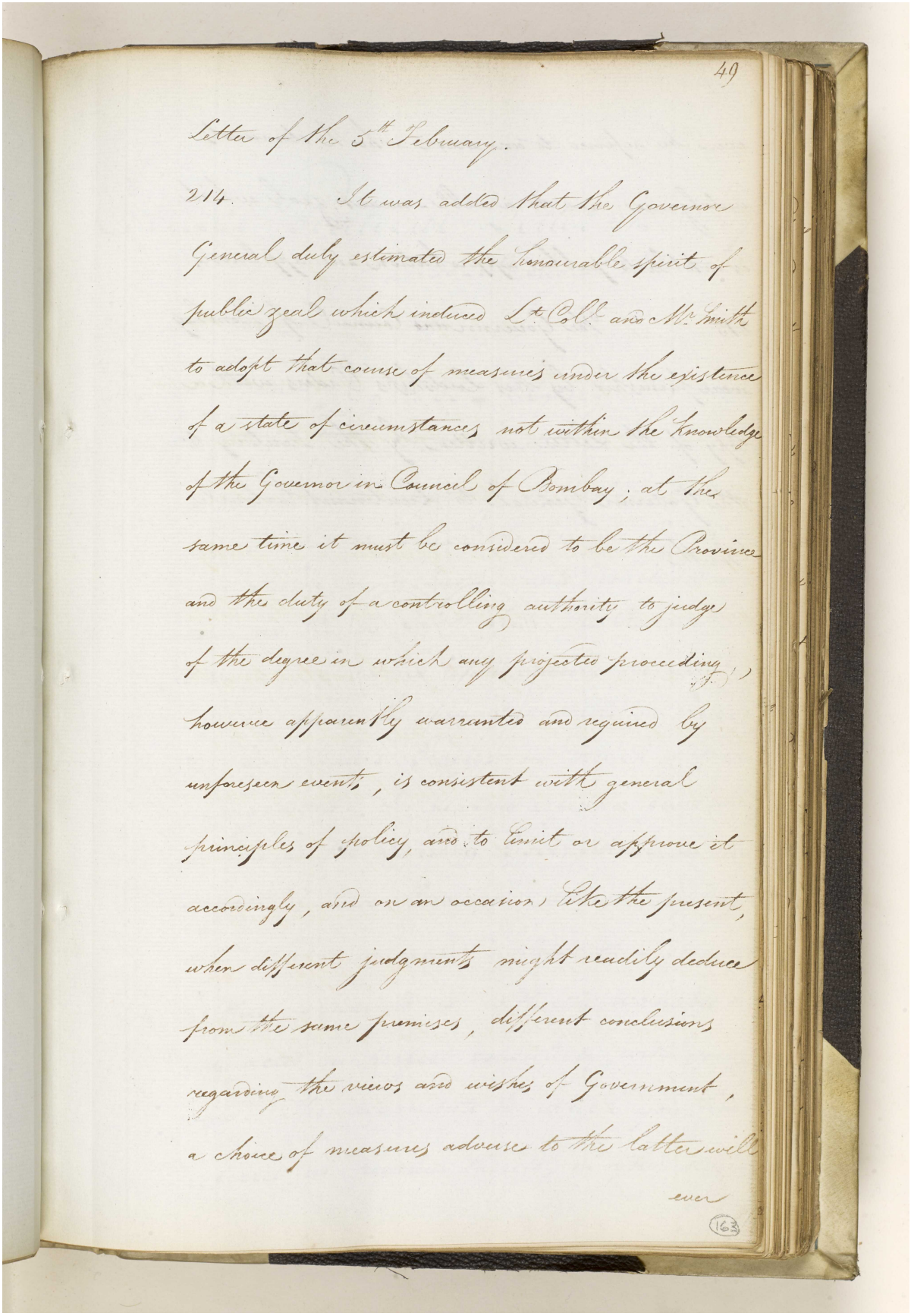

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Letter of the 5th February.

214. It was added that the Governor General duly estimated the honourable spirit of public zeal which induced Lt Col and Mr Smith to adopt that course of measures under the existence of a state of circumstances not within the knowledge of the Governor in Council of Bombay; at the same time it must be considered to be the province and the duty of a controlling authority to judge of the degree in which any projected proceeding, however apparently warranted and required by unforeseen events, is consistent with general principles of policy, and to limit or approve it accordingly, and on an occasion like the present, when different judgments might readily deduce from the same premises, different conclusions regarding the views and wishes of Government, a choice of measures adverse to the latter will ever

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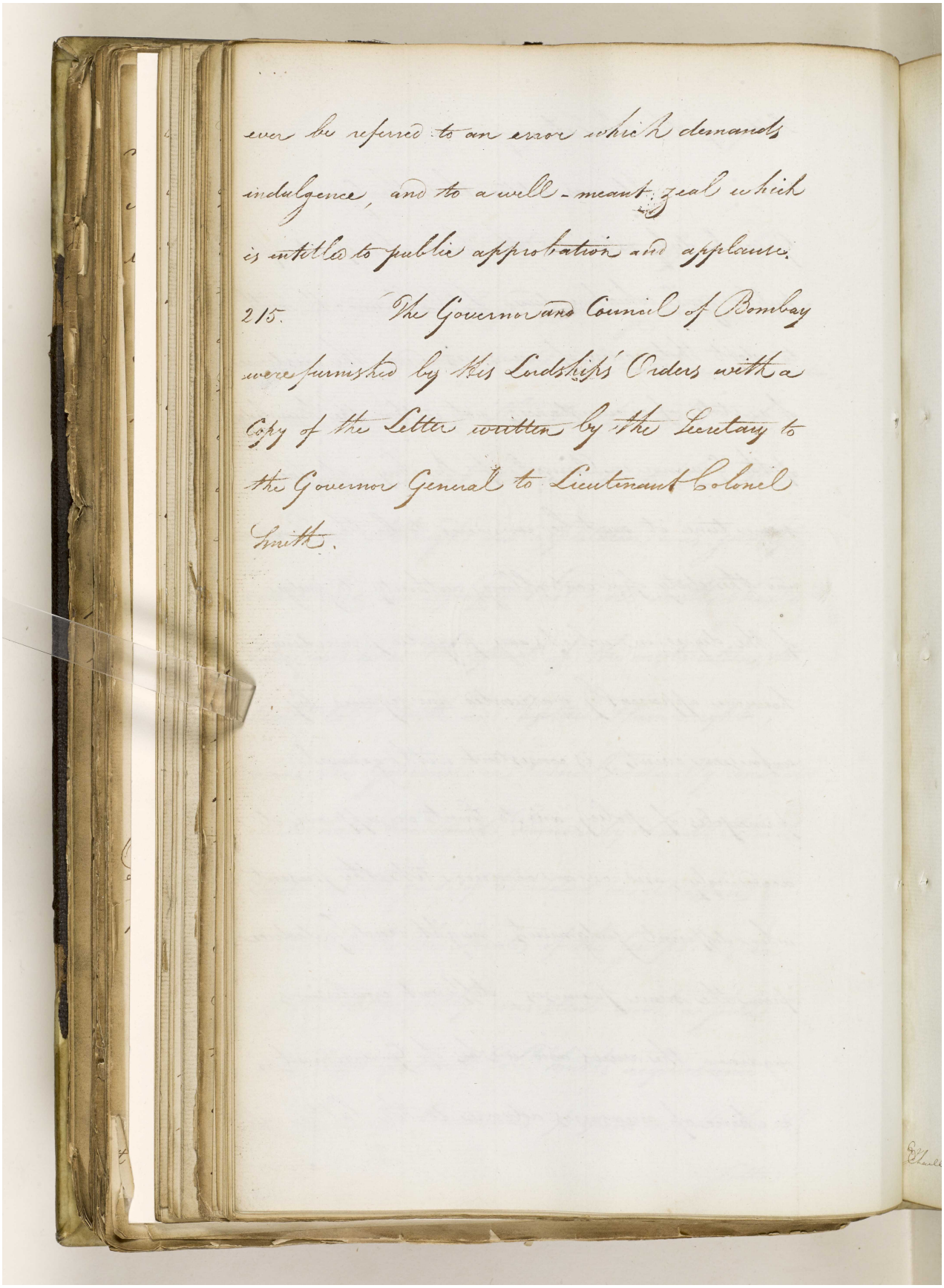

ever be referred to an error which demands
indulgence, and to a well-meant zeal which
is entitled to public approbation and applause.

215. The Governor and Council of Bombay
were furnished by His Lordship's Orders with a
Copy of the Letter written by the Secretary to
the Governor General to Lieutenant Colonel
Smith.

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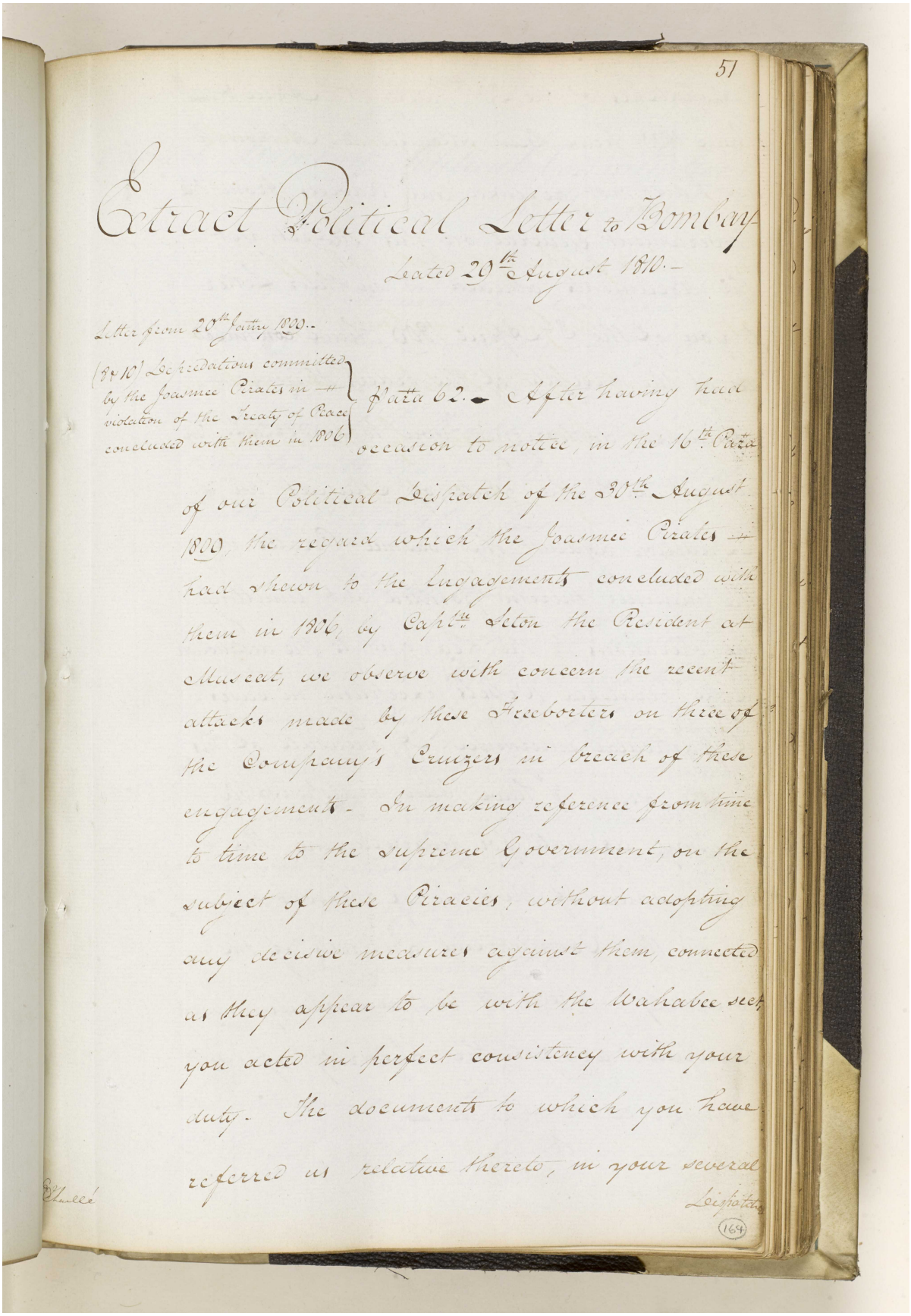

Extract Political Letter to Bombay

Dated 29th August 1810.–

Letter from 20th Jany 1809.–

(8 & 10) Depredations committed by the Joasmee Pirates in violation of the Treaty of Peace concluded with them in 1806

Para 62.– After having had occasion to notice, in the 16th Para of our Political Dispatch of the 30th August 1809, the regard which the Joasmee Pirates had shewn to the Engagements concluded with them in 1806, by Captn Seton the Resident at Muscat, we observe with concern the recent attacks made by these Freeborters on three of the Company's Cruizers in breach of these engagements. In making reference from time to time to the supreme Government, on the subject of these Piracies, without adopting any decisive measures against them, connected as they appear to be with the Wahabee sect, you acted in perfect consistency with your duty. The documents to which you have referred us relative thereto, in your several

Dispatches

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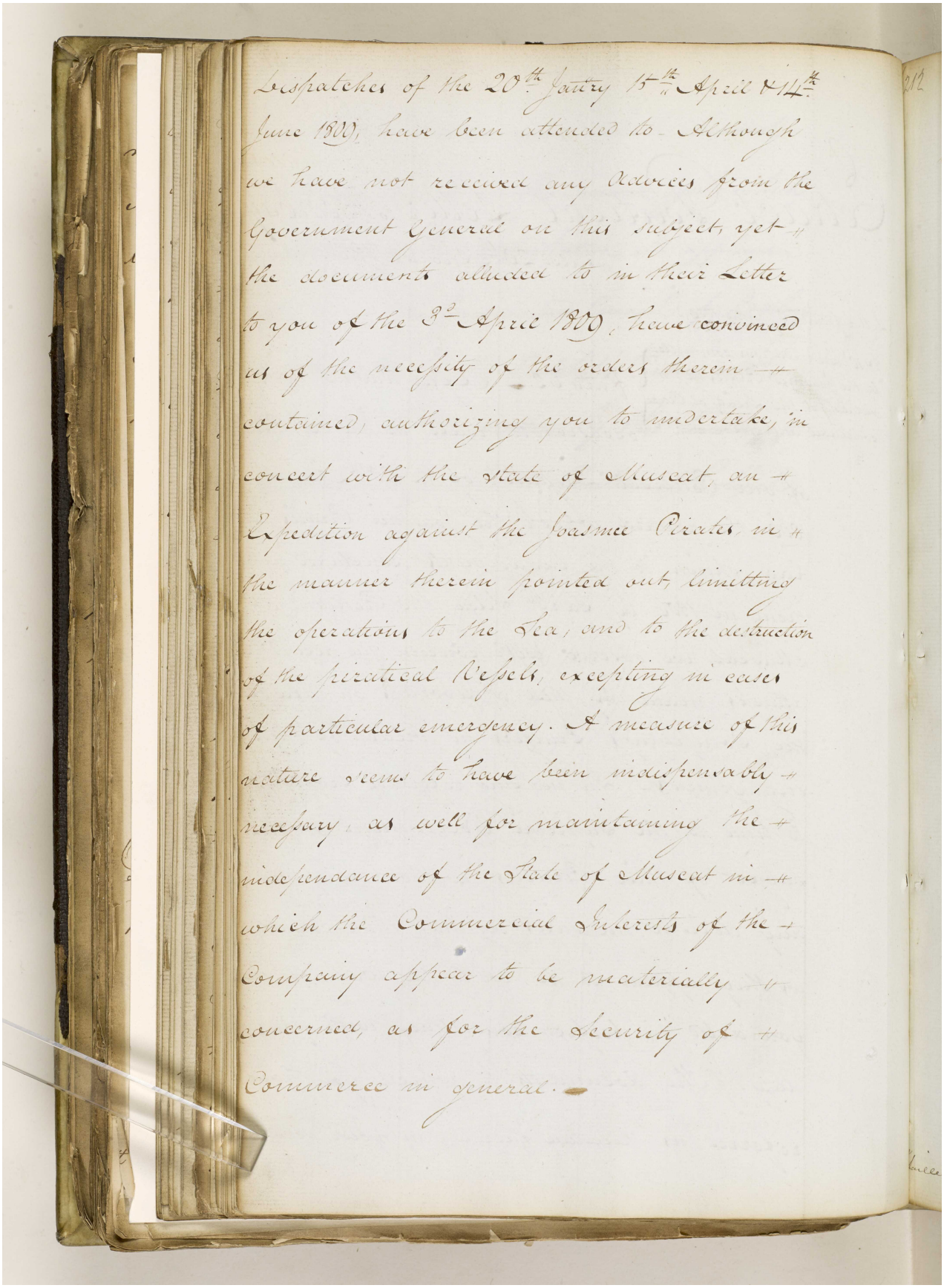

Dispatches of the 20th Janry 1st & 14th April & 14th June 1809, have been attended to. Although we have not received any Advices from the Government General on this subject, yet the documents alluded to in their Letter to you of the 3d April 1809, have convinced us of the necessity of the orders therein contained, authorizing you to undertake, in concert with the State of Muscat, an Expedition against the Joasmee Pirates in the manner therein pointed out, limitting the operations to the Sea, and to the destruction of the piratical Vessels, excepting in cases of particular emergency. A measure of this nature seems to have been indispensably necessary, as well for maintaining the independance of the State of Muscat in which the Commercial Interests of the Company appear to be materially concerned, as for the Security of Commerce in general.

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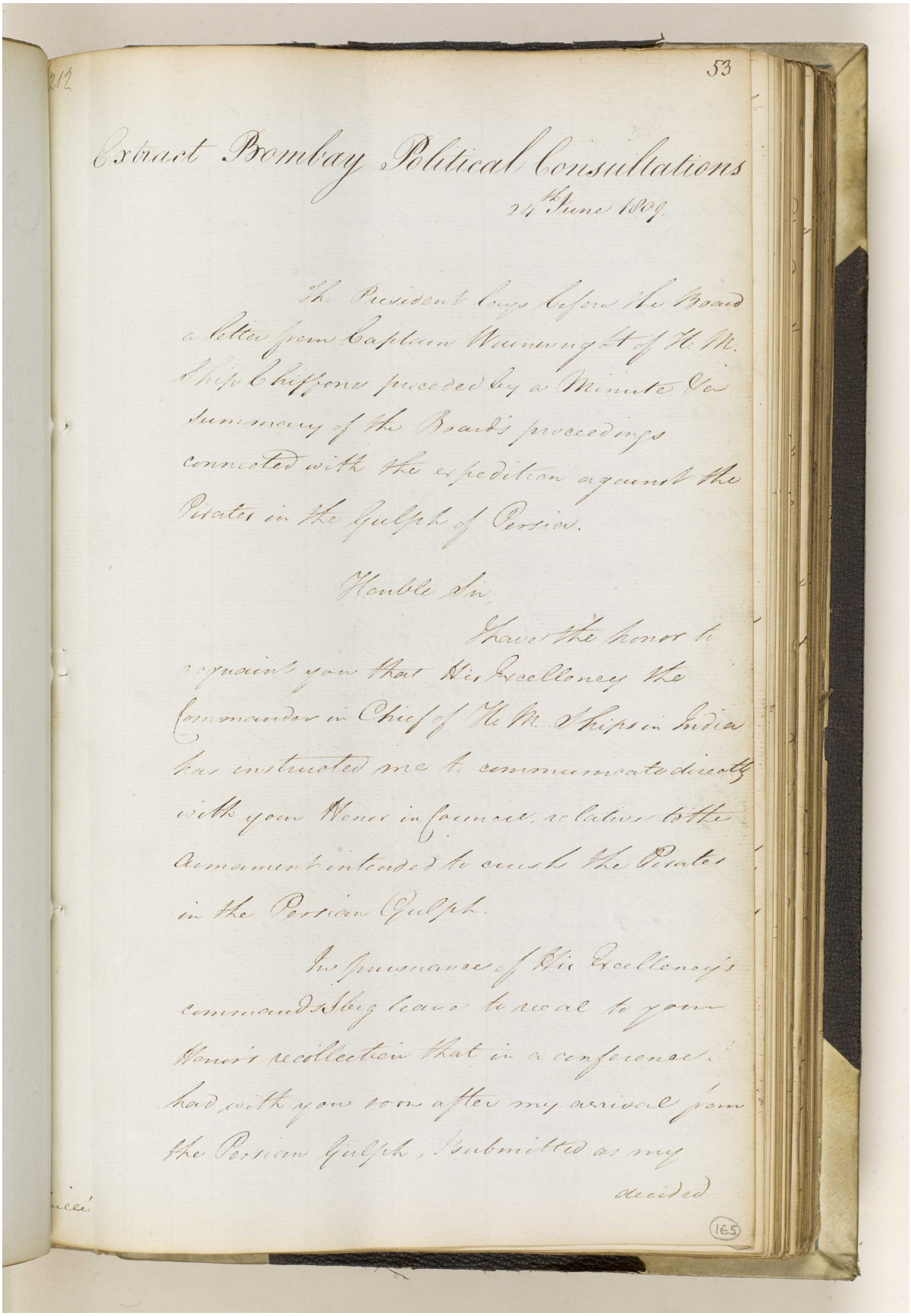

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
24th June 1809

The President lays before the Board a letter from Captain Wainwright of H.M. Ship Chiffone preceded by a Minute & a Summary of the Board's proceedings connected with the expedition against the Pirates in the Gulph of Persia.

Honble Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that His Excellency the Commander in Chief of H.M. Ships in India has instructed me to communicate directly with your Honor in Council relative to the Armament intended to assist the Pirates in the Persian Gulph.

In pursuance of His Excellency's commands I beg leave to recall to your Honor's recollection that in a conference I had with you soon after my arrival from the Persian Gulph, I submitted as my decided

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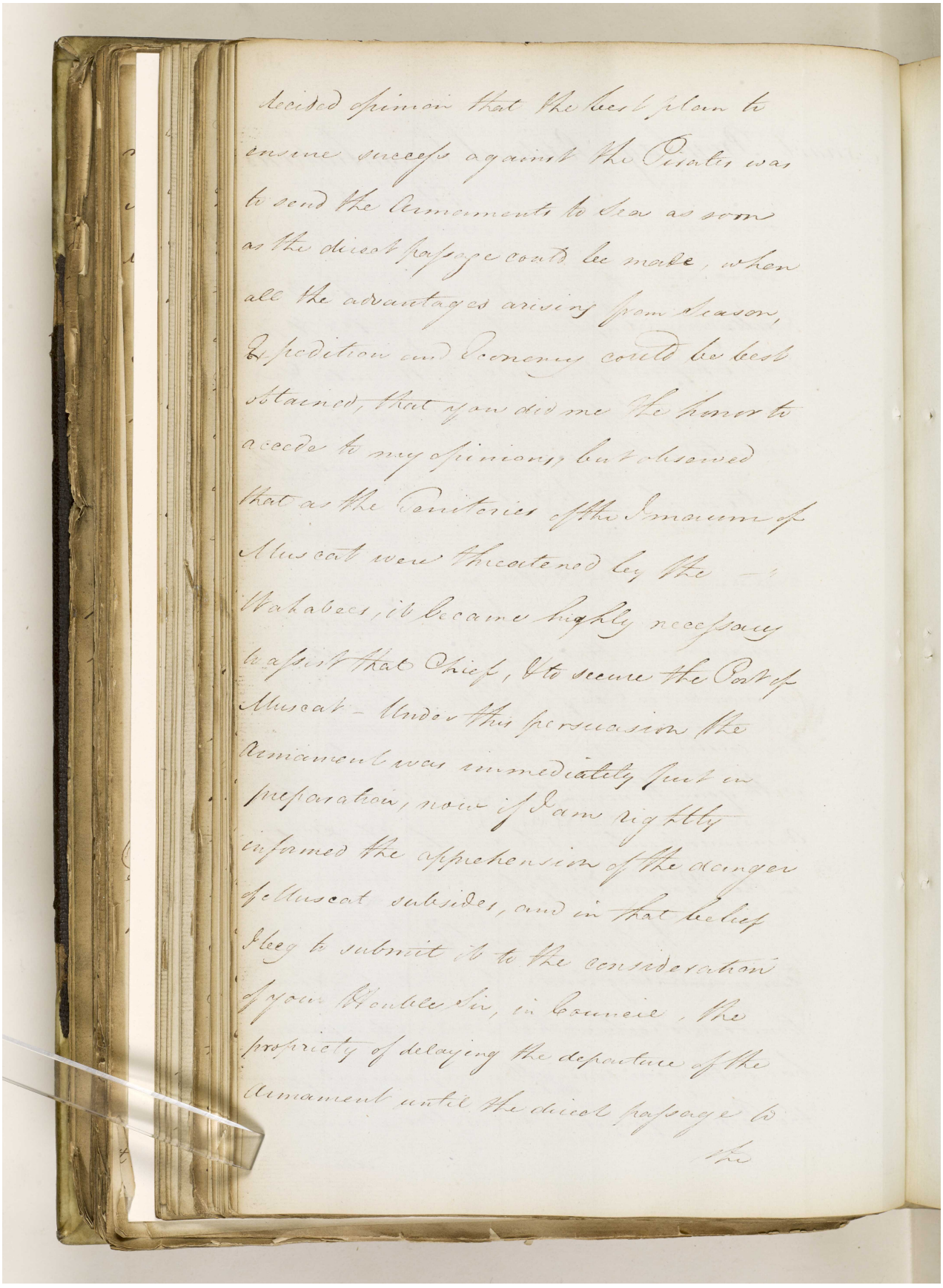

decided opinion that the best plan to
ensure success against the Pirates was
to send the Armament to Sea as soon
as the direct passage could be made, when
all the advantages arising from Season,
Expedition and Economy could be best
obtained, that you did me the honor to
accede to my opinions, but observed
that as the Territories of the Imaum of
Muscat were threatened by the
Wahabees, it became highly necessary
to assist that Chief, to secure the Port of
Muscat – Under this persuasion the
Armament was immediately put in
preparation, now if I am rightly
informed the apprehension of the danger
of Muscat subsides, and in that belief
I beg to submit it to the consideration
of your Honble Sir, in Council, the
propriety of delaying the departure of the
Armament until the direct passage to
the

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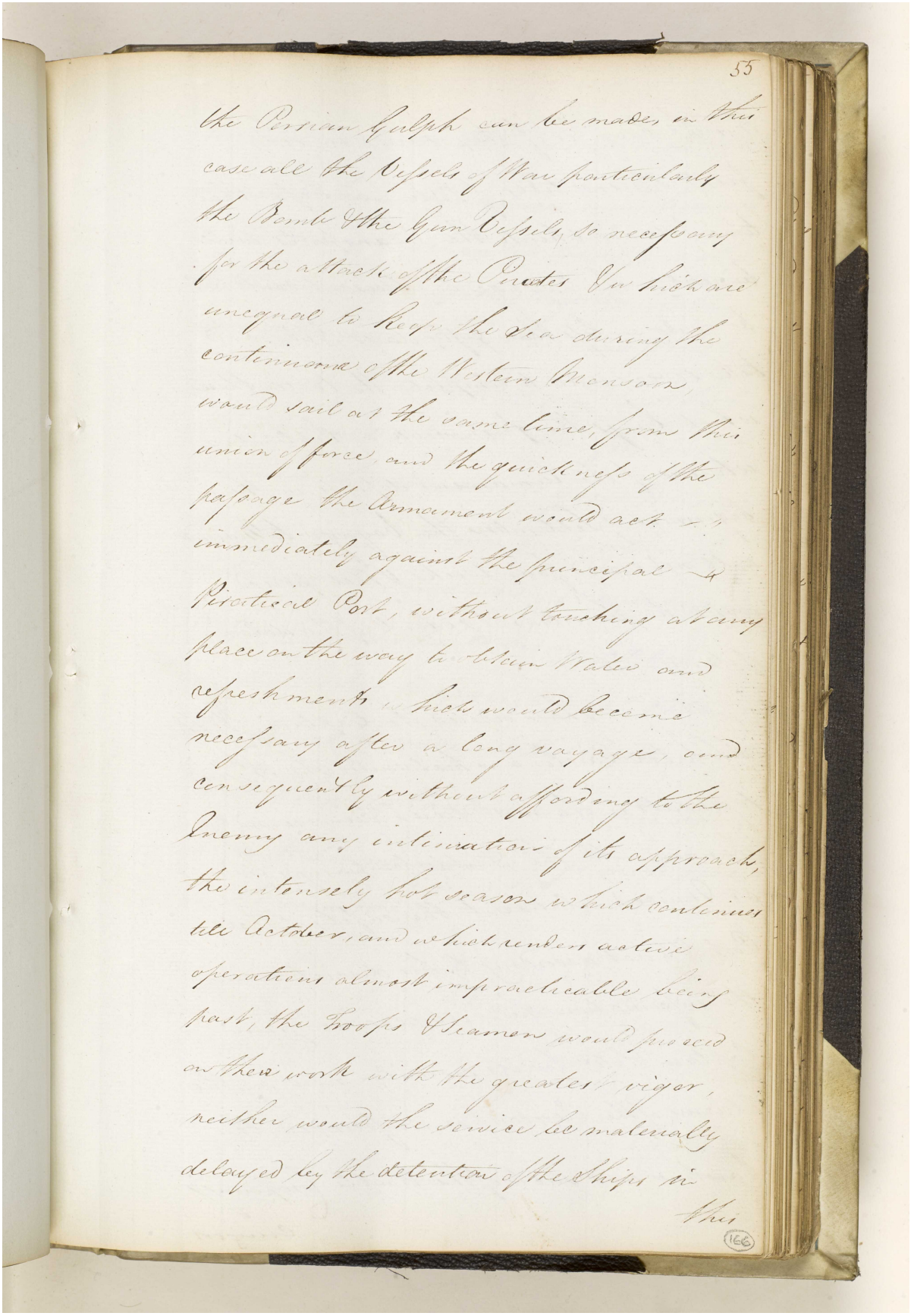

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the Persian Gulph can be made in this
case all the Vessels of War particularly
the Bomb & the Gun Vessels so necessary
for the attack of the Pirates Ports which are
unequal to keep the Sea during the
continuance of the Western Monsoon,
would sail at the same time, from this
union of force, and the quickness of the
passage the Armament would act
immediately against the principal
Piratical Port, without touching at any
place on the way to obtain Water and
refreshments which would become
necessary after a long voyage, and
consequently without affording to the
Enemy any intimation of its approach,
the intensely hot season which continues
till October, and which renders active
operations almost impracticable being
past, the Troops & Seamen would proceed
on their work with the greater vigor,
neither would the service be materially
delayed by the detention of the Ships in
this

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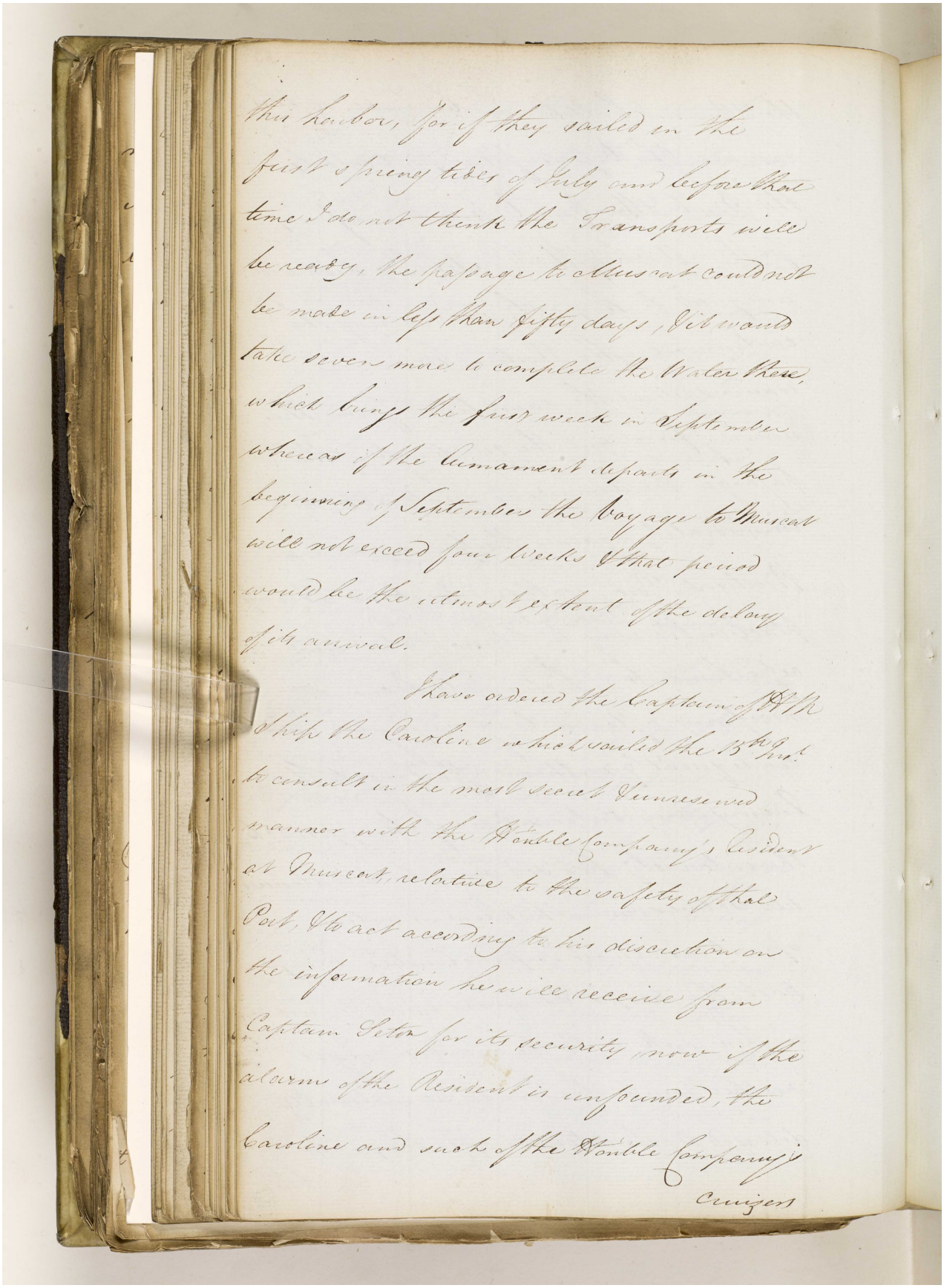

the harbour, for if they sailed in the first spring tides of July and before that time I do not think the Transports will be ready, the passage to Muscat could not be make in less than fifty days, & it would take seven more to complete the Water those, which brings the first week in September whereas if the Armament departs in the beginning of September the Voyage to Muscat will not exceed four weeks & that period would be the utmost extent of the delay of its arrival.

I have ordered the Captain of H.M. Ships the Caroline which sailed the 15th Inst. to consult in the most secret & unnoticed manner with the Honble Company's Resident at Muscat, relative to the safety of that Port, & to act according to his discretion on the information he will receive from Captain Seton for its security now if the alarm of the Resident is unfounded, the Caroline and such of the Honble Company's

Cruizers

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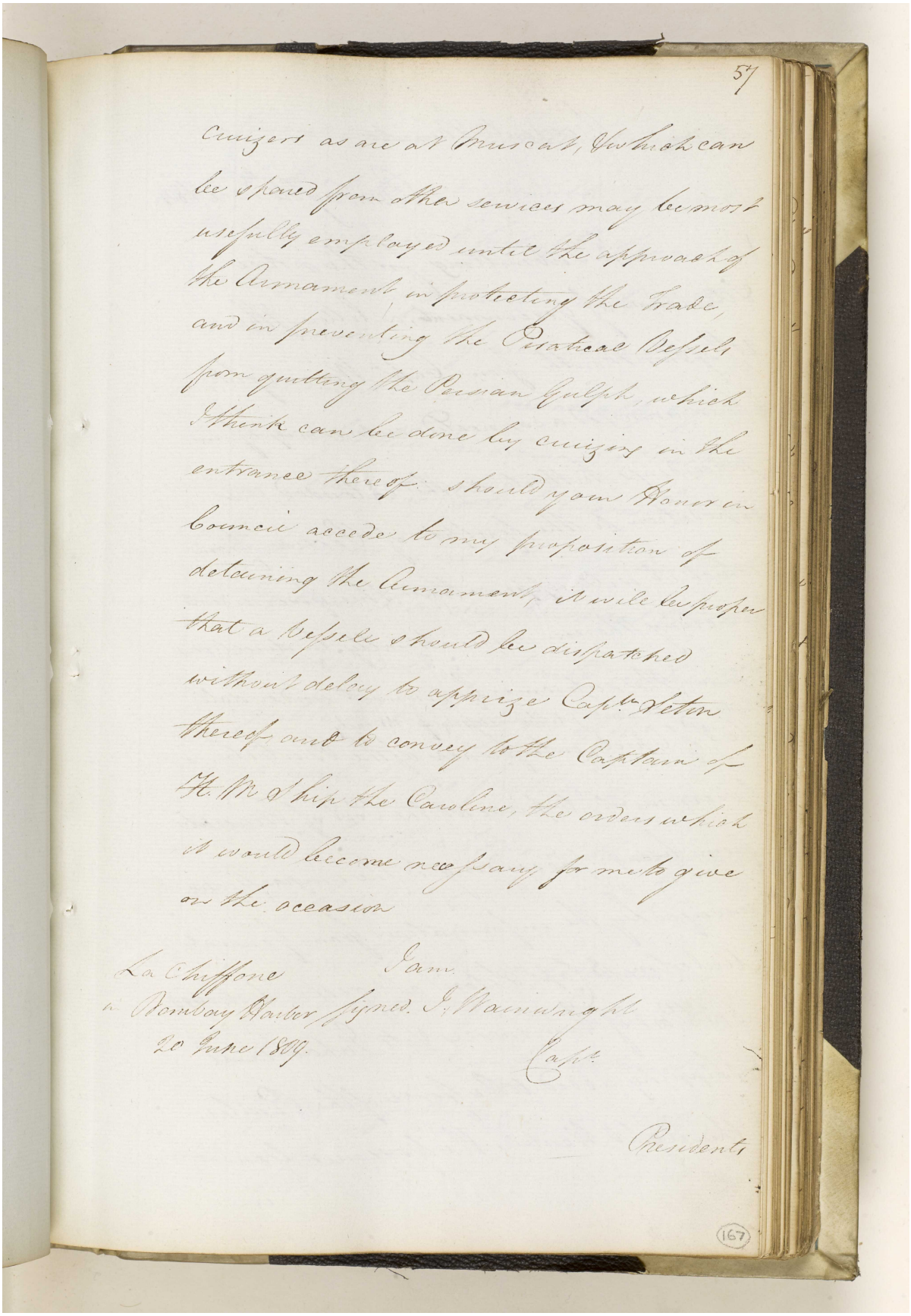

cruizers as are at Muscat, & which can be spared from other services may be most usefully employed until the approach of the Armament, in protecting the Trade, and in preventing the Piratical Vessels from quitting the Persian Gulph, which I think can be done by cruizing in the entrance thereof. should your Honor in Council accede to my proposition of detaining the Armament, it will be proper that a Vessel should be dispatched without delay to apprize Capt.n Seton thereof, and to convey to the Captain of H. M. Ship the Caroline, the orders which it would become necessary for me to give on the occasion

I am
Signed. J. Wainwright
Capt.

La Chiffone
in Bombay Harbor
20 June 1809.

President

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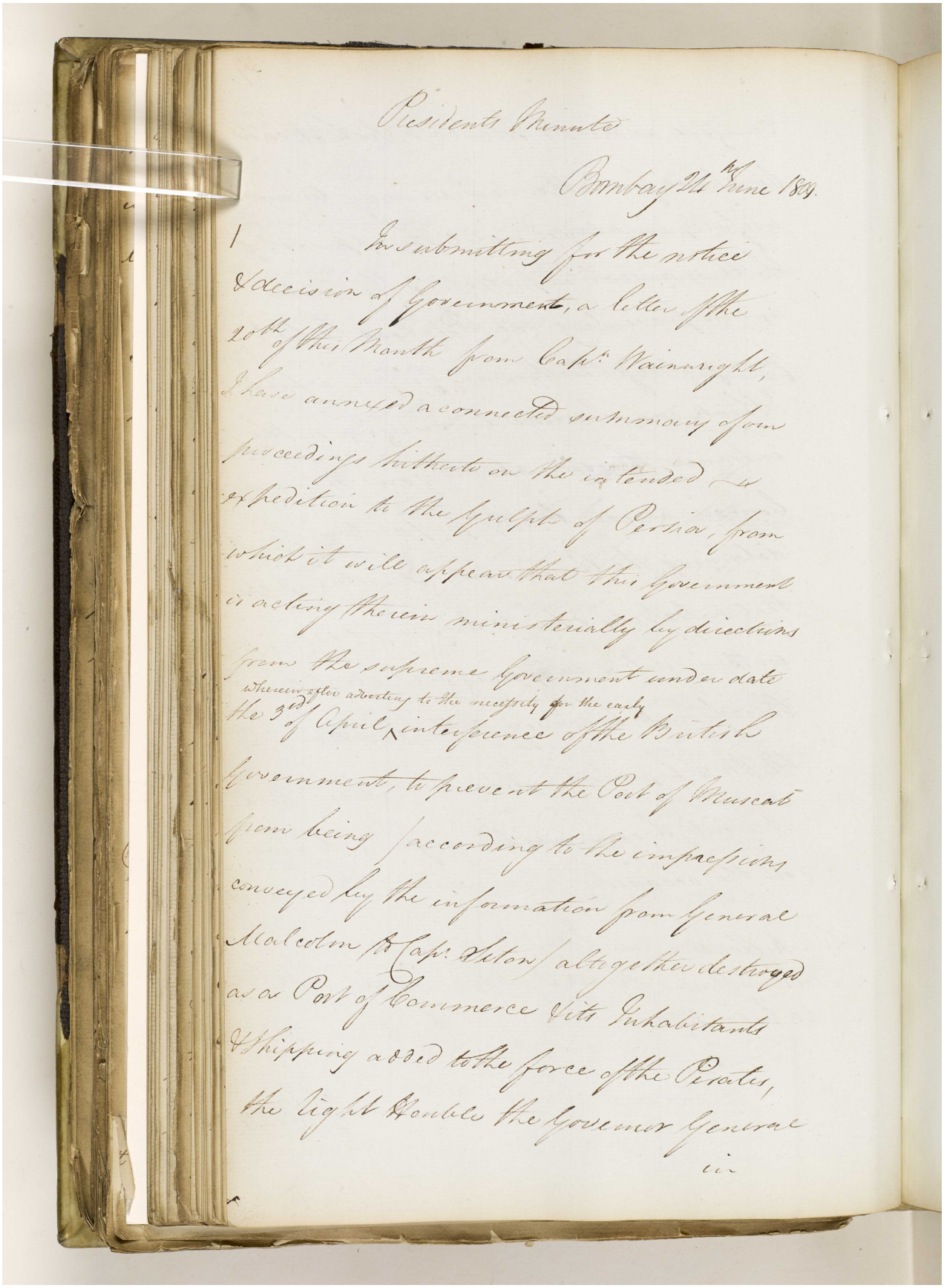

President's Minute

Bombay 21st June 1809.

In submitting for the notice & decision of Government, a letter of the 20th of this Month from Capt. Wainwright, I have annexed a connected summary of our proceedings hitherto on the intended expedition to the Gulph of Persia, from which it will appear that this Government is acting therein ministerially by directions from the supreme Government under date the 3rd of April, wherein after adverting to the necessity for the early interference of the British Government, to prevent the Coast of Muscat from being according to the impressions conveyed by the information from General Malcolm & Capt. Seton, altogether destroyed as a Port of Commerce its Inhabitants & Shipping added to the force of the Pirates, the Right Honble the Governor General in

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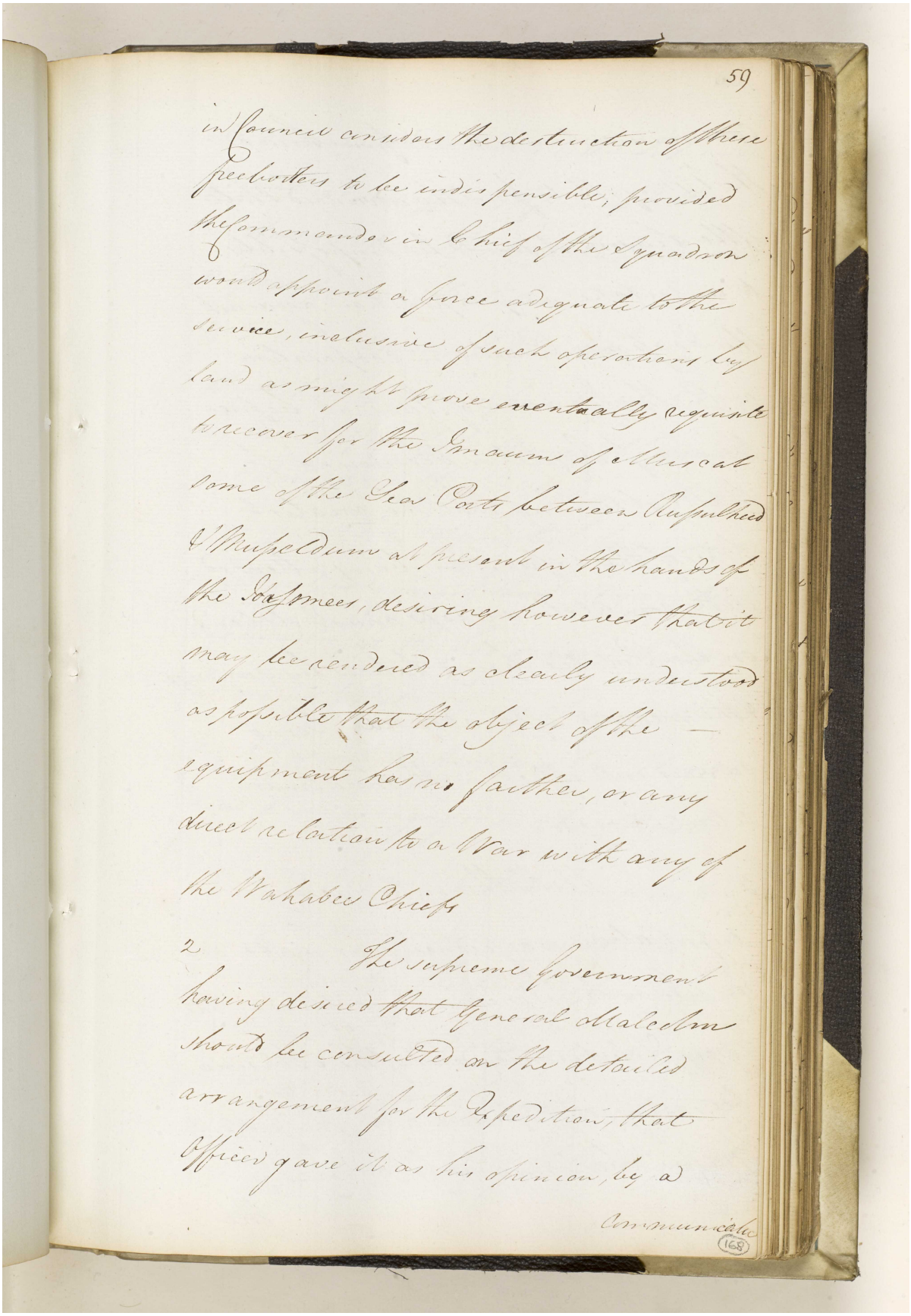

in Council considers the destruction of these freebotters to be indispensible; provided the Commander in Chief of the Squadron would appoint a force adequate to the service, inclusive of such operations by land as might prove eventually requisite to recover for the Imaum of Muscat some of the Sea Ports between Russulhead & Musseldum at present in the hands of the Joasmees, desiring however that it may be rendered as clearly understood as possible that the object of the equipment has no farther, or any direct relation to a War with any of the Wahabee Chiefs

2 The supreme Government having desired that General Malcolm should be consulted on the detailed arrangement for the Expedition, that Officer gave it as his opinion, by a

Communicatio

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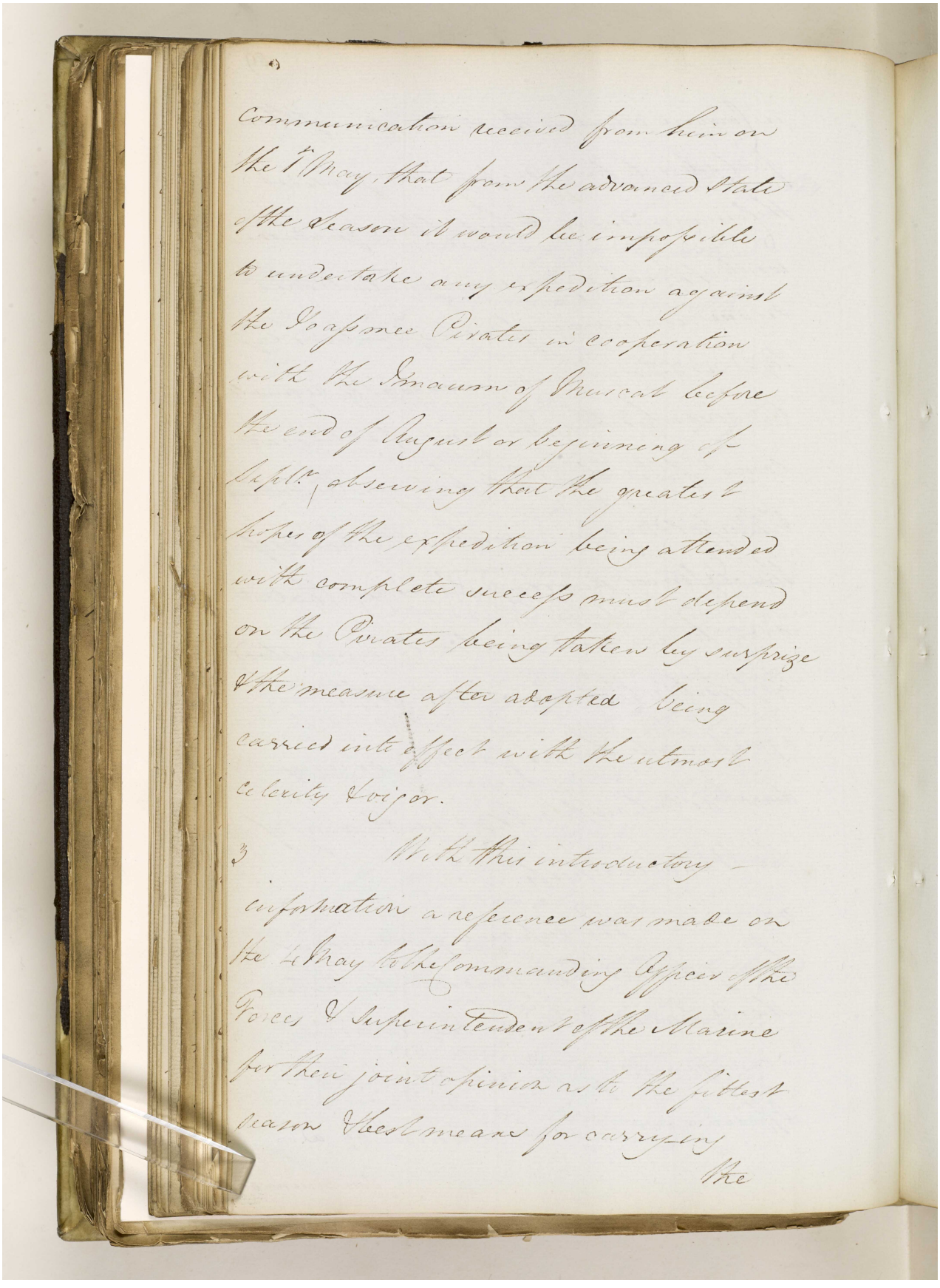

Communication received from him on the 1st May, that from the advanced state of the season it would be impossible to undertake any expedition against the Joasmee Pirates in cooperation with the Imaum of Muscat before the end of August or beginning of Sept.r observing that the greater hope of the expedition being attended with complete success must depend on the Pirates being taken by surprize & the measure after adopted being carried into effect with the utmost celerity & vigor.

3 With this introductory information a reference was made on the 4th May to the Commanding Officer of the Forces & Superintendent of the Marine for their joint opinion as to the fittest season & best means for carrying the

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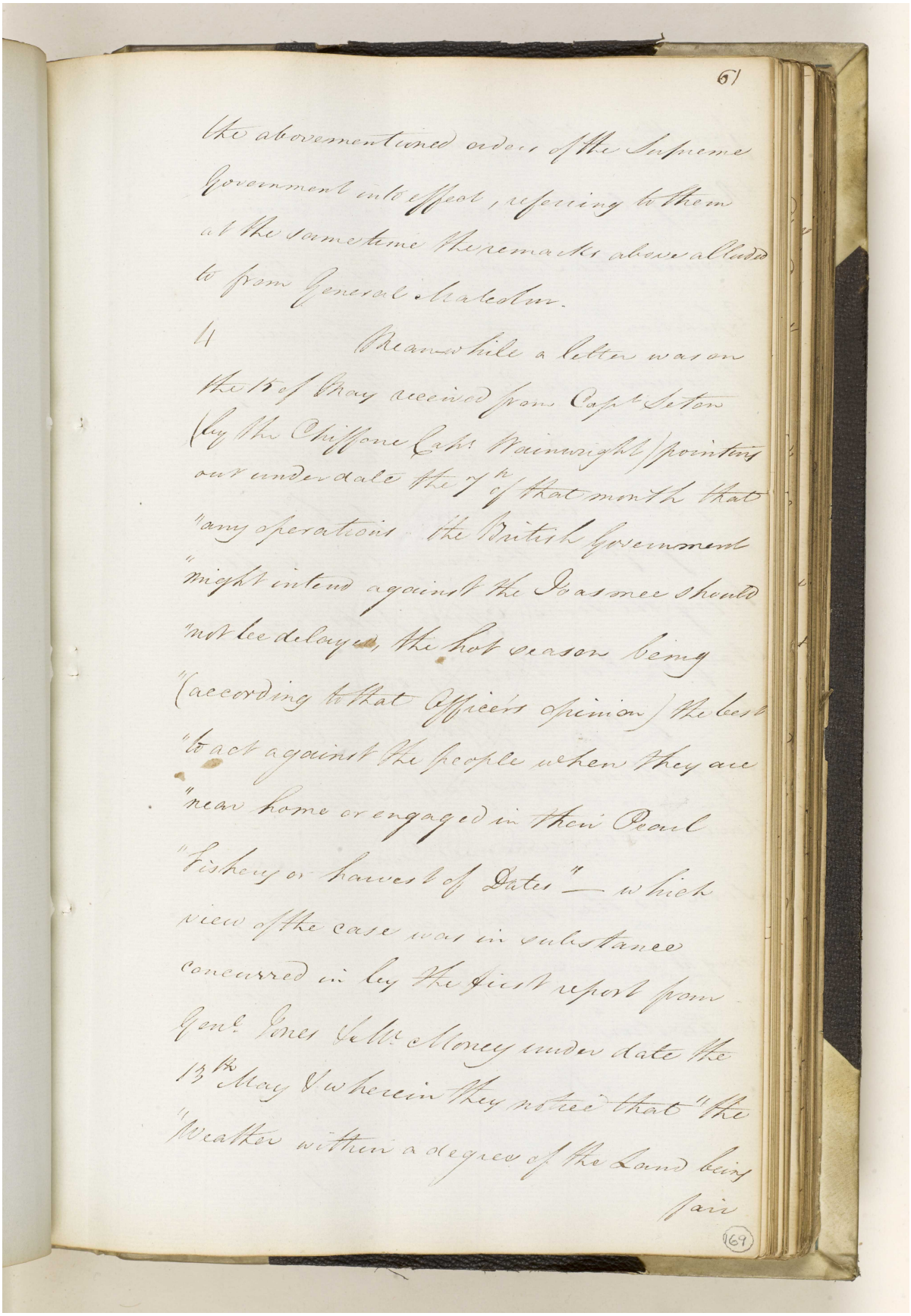

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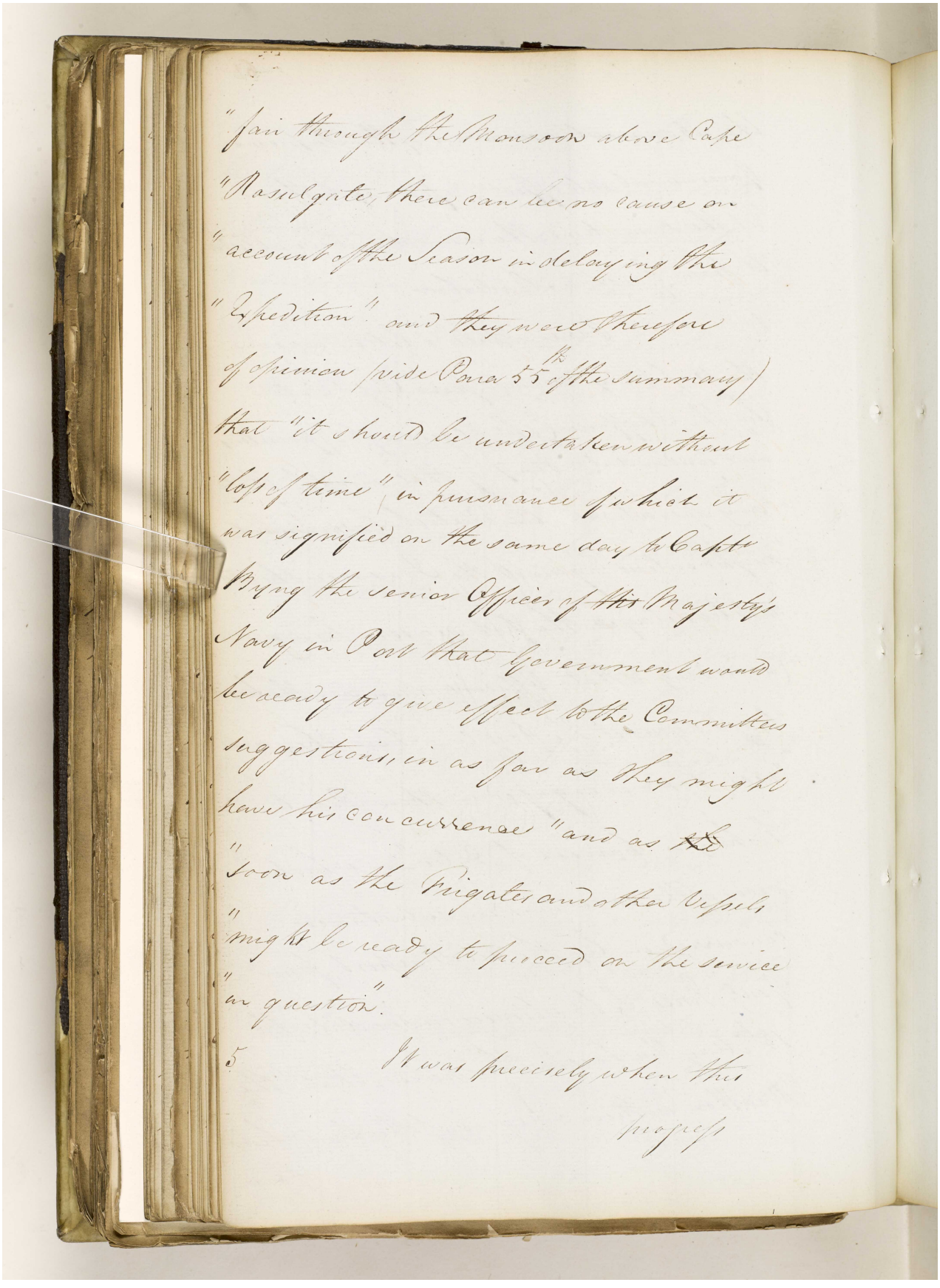

"fair through the Monsoon above Cape
"Ras al gate, there can be no cause on
"account of the Season in delaying the
"Expedition" and they were therefore
of opinion (vide Para 5th of the Summary)
that "it should be undertaken without
"loss of time" in pursuance of which it
was signified on the same day to Capt.
Byng the senior Officer of His Majesty's
Navy in Bombay that Government would
be ready to give effect to the Committees
suggestions in as far as they might
have his concurrence "and as
"soon as the Frigates and other Vessels
"might be ready to proceed on the service
"in question".

5 It was precisely when this
proposal

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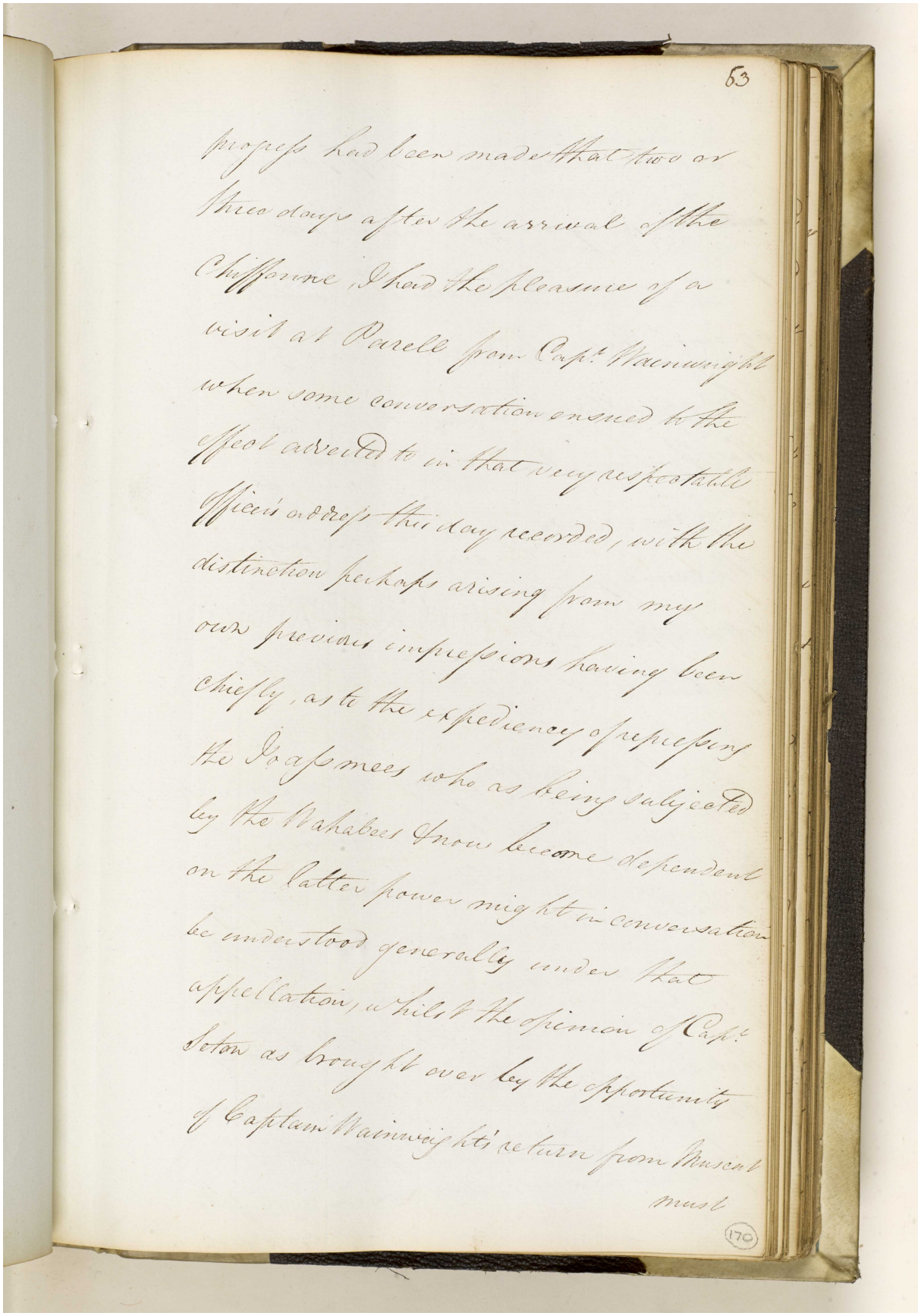
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [170r] (65/294)



progress had been made that two or three days after the arrival of the Chiffonne, I had the pleasure of a visit at Parell from Capt. Wainwright when some conversation ensued to the effect adverted to in that very respectable Officer's address this day recorded, with the distinction perhaps arising from my own previous impressions having been chiefly, as to the expediency of repressing the Joasmees who as being subjected by the Wahabees & now become dependent on the latter power might in conversation be understood generally under that appellation, whilst the opinion of Capt. Seton as brought over by the opportunity of Captain Wainwright's return from Muscat must

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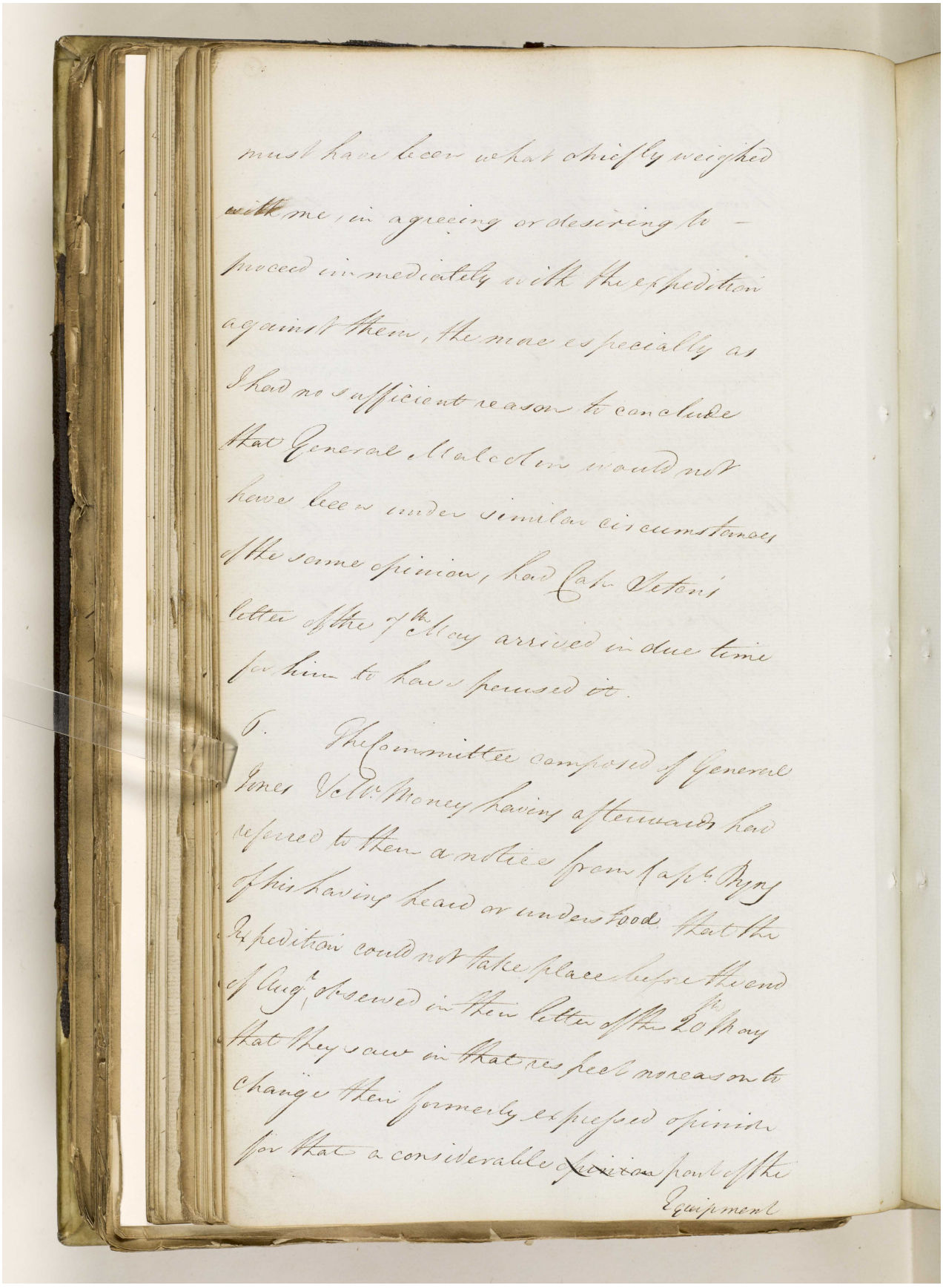

must have been what chiefly weighed with me, in agreeing or desiring to proceed immediately with the expedition against them, the more especially as I had no sufficient reason to conclude that General Malcolm would not have been under similar circumstances of the same opinion, had Capt. Nelson's letter of the 7th May arrived in due time for him to have perused it.

6. The committee composed of General Jones Col. Money having afterwards had referred to them a notice from Capt. Bruce of his having heard or understood that the Expedition could not take place before the end of Aug. observed in their letter of the 20th May that they saw in that no reason to change their formerly expressed opinion for that a considerable portion part of the Equipment

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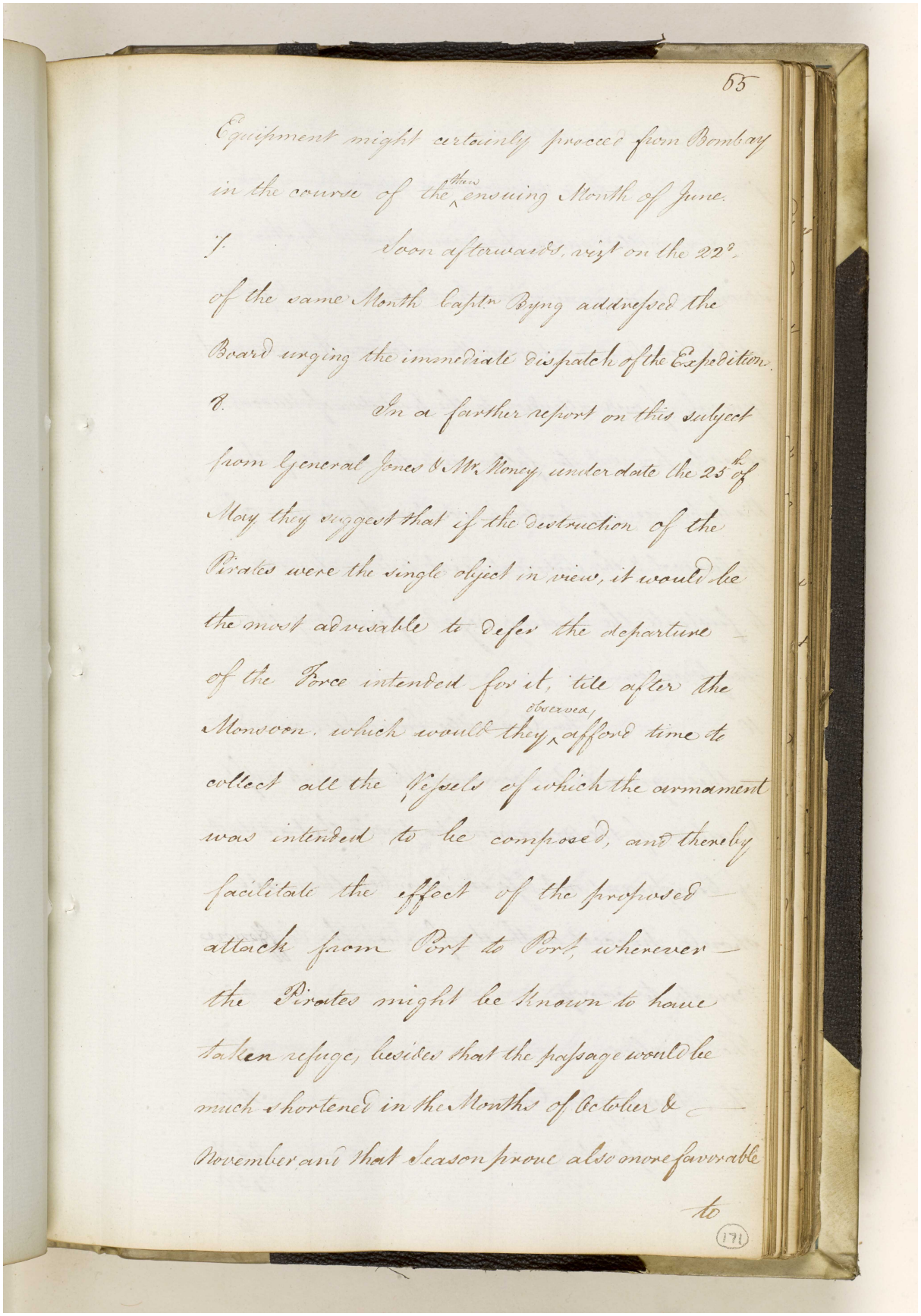

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Equipment might certainly proceed from Bombay
in the course of the ensuing Month of June.
7. Soon afterwards, vizt on the 22^d
of the same Month Captn Byng addressed the
Board urging the immediate dispatch of the Expedition.
8. In a farther report on this subject
from General Jones & Mr. Money under date the 25th of
May they suggest that if the destruction of the
Pirates were the single object in view, it would be
the most advisable to defer the departure
of the Force intended for it, till after the
Monsoon, which would they observed, afford time to
collect all the Vessels of which the armament
was intended to be composed, and thereby
facilitate the effect of the proposed
attack from Port to Port, wherever
the Pirates might be known to have
taken refuge, besides that the passage would be
much shortened in the Months of October &
November and that Season prove also more favorable
to

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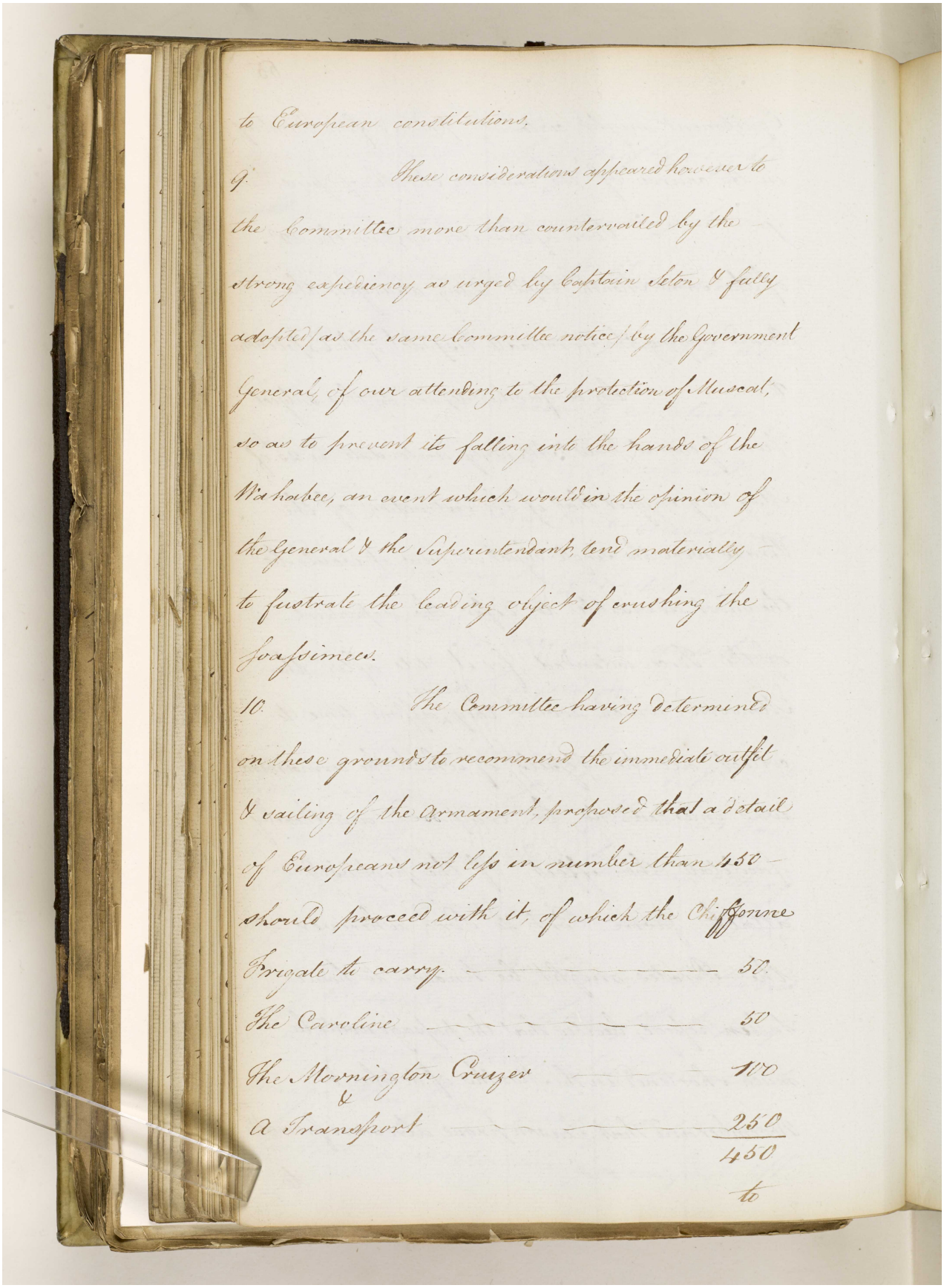

to European constitutions.

9. These considerations appeared however to the Committee more than countervailed by the strong expediency as urged by Captain Seton & fully adopted as the same Committee notice[d] by the Government General, of our attending to the protection of Muscat, so as to prevent its falling into the hands of the Wahabee, an event which would in the opinion of the General & the Superintendant, tend materially to frustrate the leading object of crushing the Joasmees.

10. The Committee having determined on these grounds to recommend the immediate outfit & sailing of the Armament, proposed that a detail of Europeans not less in number than 450 should proceed with it, of which the Chiffonne Brigade to carry ——— 50.
The Caroline ——— 50
The Mornington Cruizer ——— 100
& a Transport ——— 250
450
to

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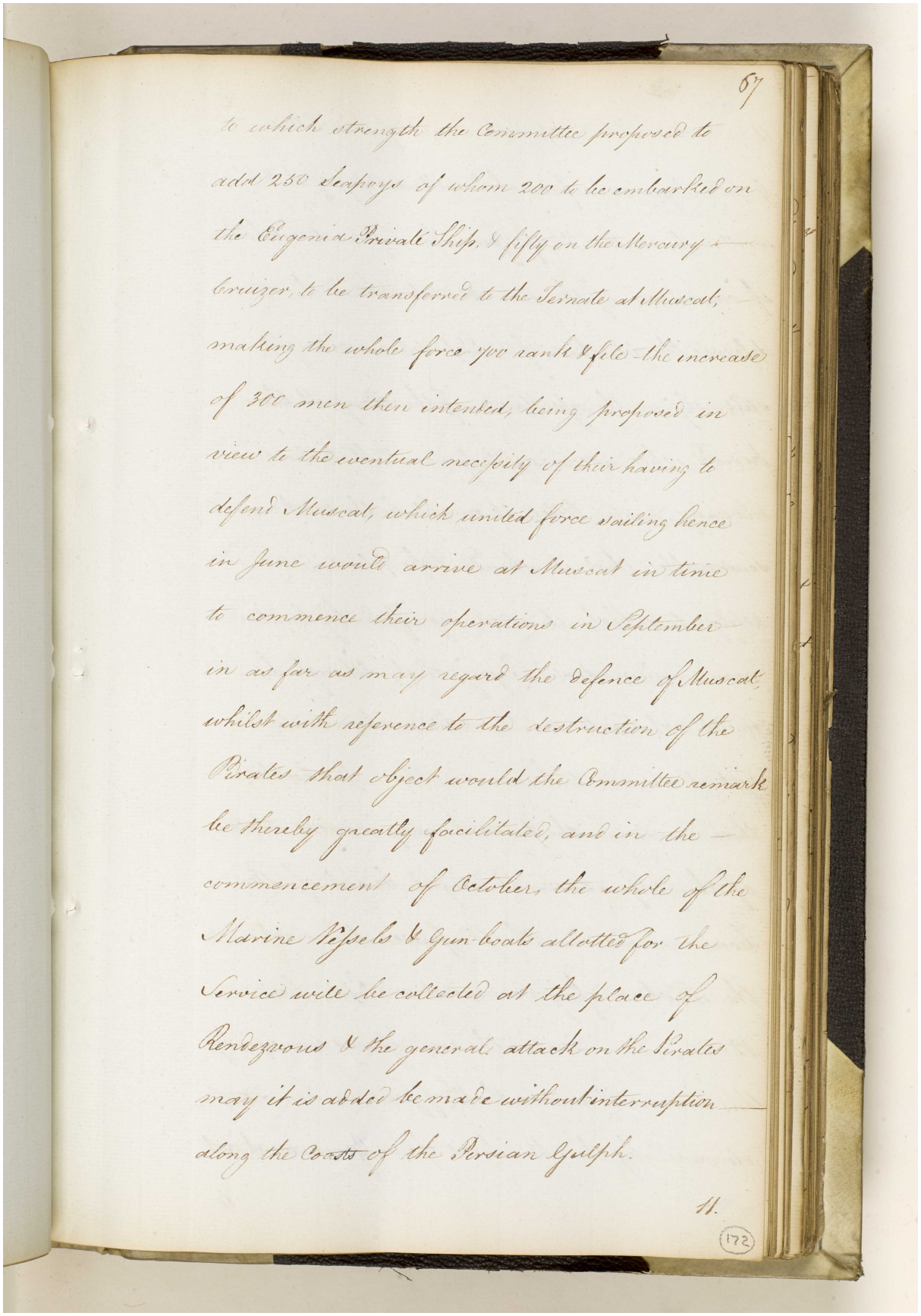

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to which strength the Committee proposed to add 250 Seapoys of whom 200 to be embarked on the Eugenia Private Ship, & fifty on the Mercury Cruizer, to be transferred to the Service at Muscat, making the whole force you rank & file the increase of 300 men then intended, being proposed in view to the eventual necessity of their having to defend Muscat, which united force sailing hence in June would arrive at Muscat in time to commence their operations in September in as far as may regard the defence of Muscat, whilst with reference to the destruction of the Pirates that object would the Committee remark be thereby greatly facilitated, and in the commencement of October, the whole of the Marine Vessels & Gun boats allotted for the Service will be collected at the place of Rendezvous & the general attack on the Pirates may it is added be made without interruption along the Coasts of the Persian Gulph.

H.

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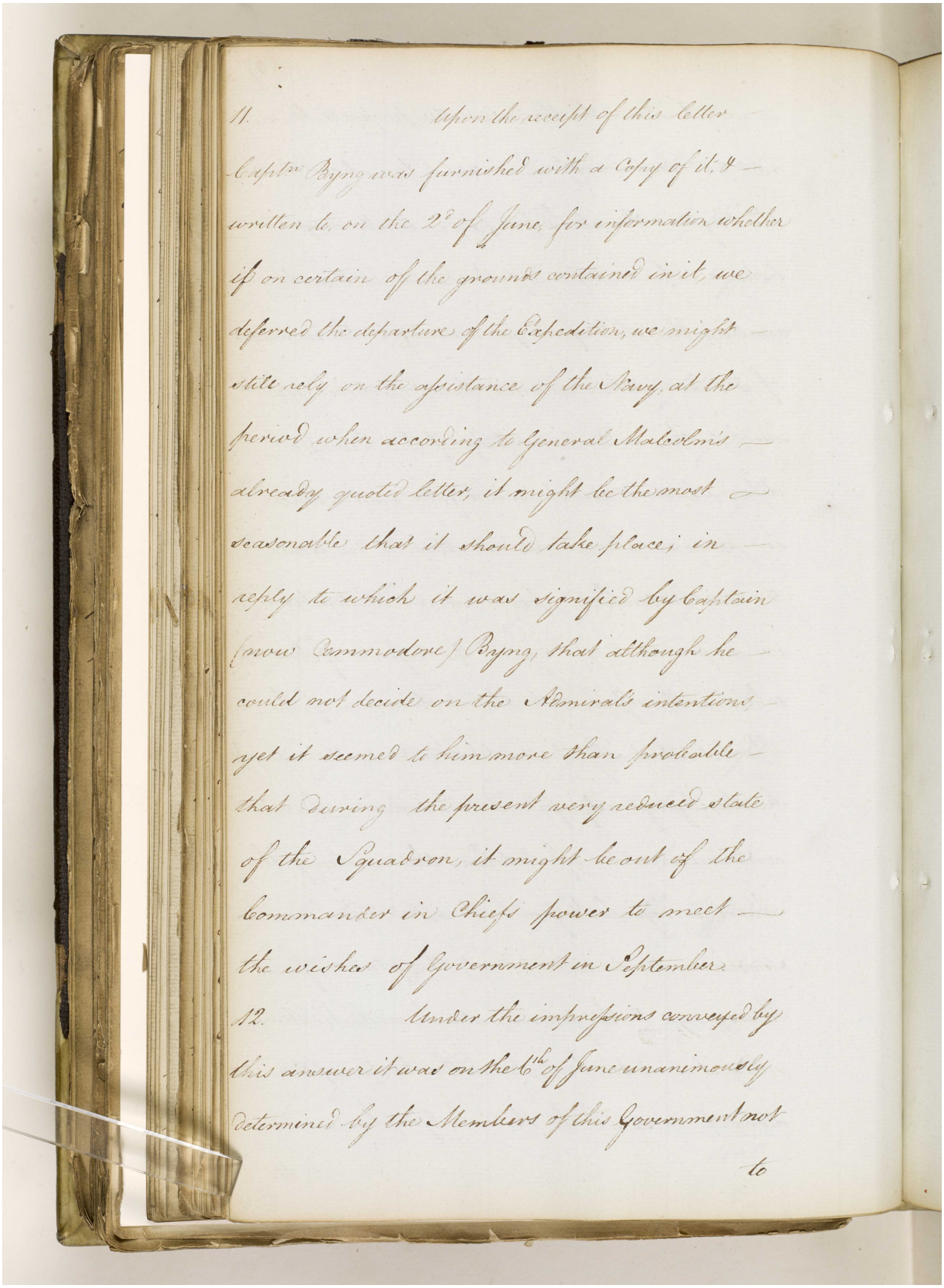

11. Upon the receipt of this letter Captn Byng was furnished with a Copy of it, & written to, on the 2^d of June, for information whether if on certain of the grounds contained in it, we deferred the departure of the Expedition, we might still rely on the assistance of the Navy, at the period when according to General Malcolm's already quoted letter, it might be the most seasonable that it should take place; in reply to which it was signified by Captain (now Commodore) Byng, that although he could not decide on the Admirals intentions, yet it seemed to him more than probable that during the present very reduced state of the Squadron, it might be out of the Commander in Chiefs power to meet the wishes of Government in September

12. Under the impressions conveyed by this answer it was on the 6th of June unanimously determined by the Members of this Government not to

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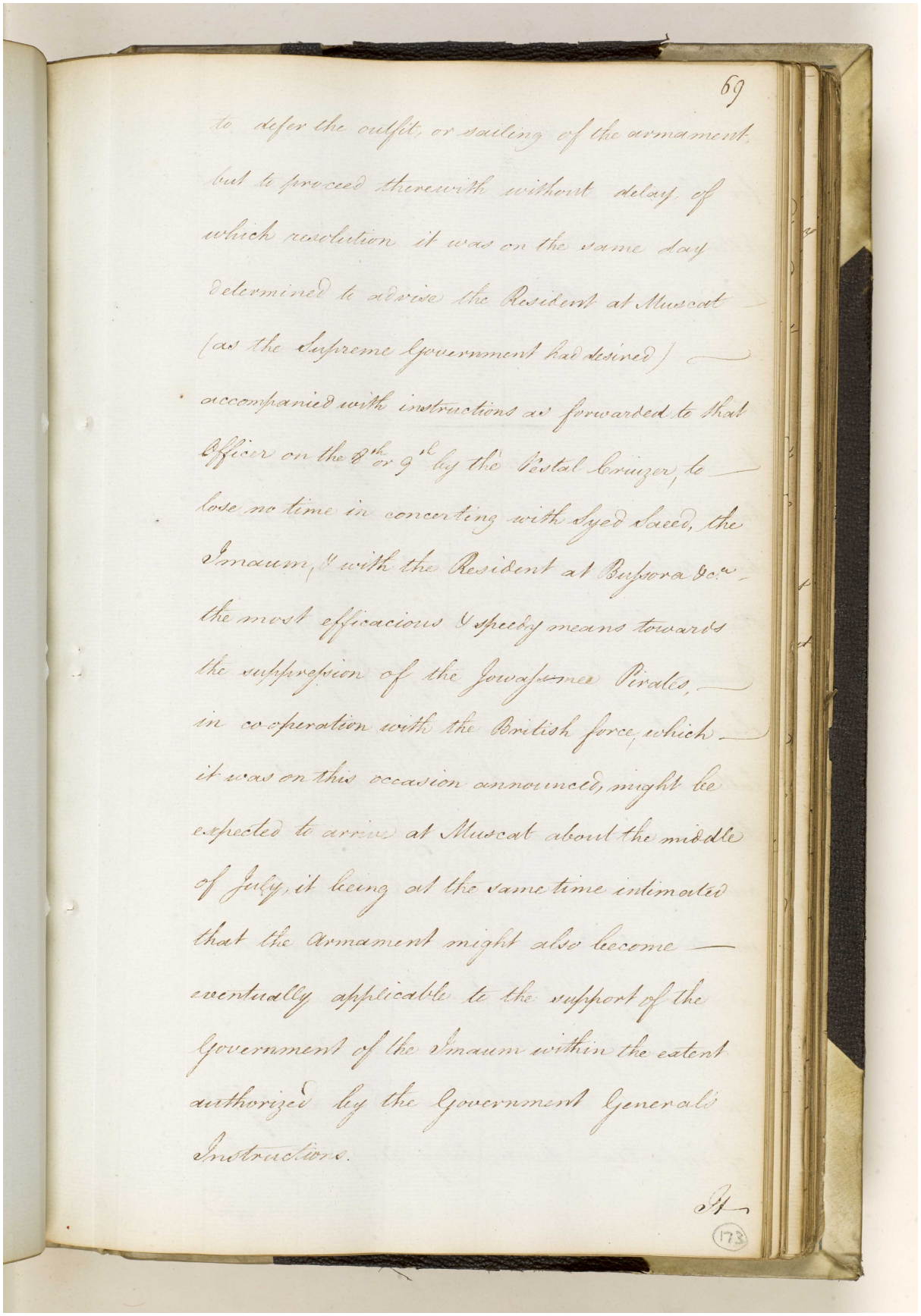

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to defer the outfit or sailing of the armament
but to proceed therewith without delay of
which resolution it was on the same day
determined to advise the Resident at Muscat
(as the Supreme Government had desired)
accompanied with instructions as forwarded to that
Officer on the 8th or 9th by the Postal Cruizer, to
lose no time in concerting with Syed Saeed, the
Imaum, & with the Resident at Bussora &c.a
the most efficacious & speedy means towards
the suppression of the Joowasmee Pirates,
in co-operation with the British force, which
it was on this occasion announced, might be
expected to arrive at Muscat about the middle
of July, it being at the same time intimated
that the Armament might also become
eventually applicable to the support of the
Government of the Imaum within the extent
authorized by the Government General's
Instructions.

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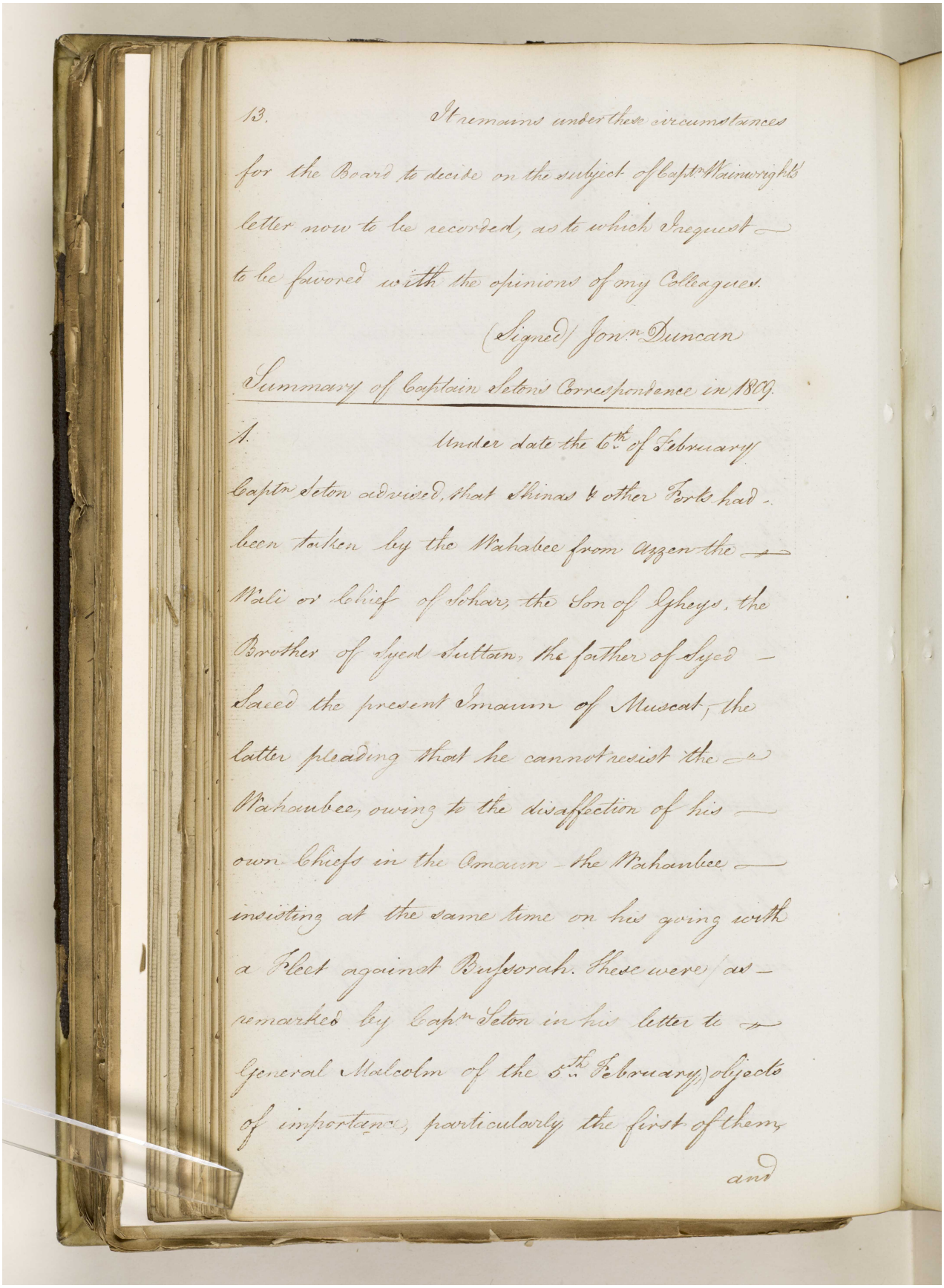

13. It remains under these circumstances for the Board to decide on the subject of Capt.n Wainwright's letter now to be recorded, as to which I request to be favored with the opinions of my Colleagues.

(Signed) Jon.n Duncan

Summary of Captain Seton's Correspondence in 1809.

1. Under date the 6th of February Capt.n Seton advised, that Shinas & other Forts had been taken by the Wahabee from Azzen the Wali or Chief of Sohar, the Son of Sheys, the Brother of Syed Sultan, the father of Syed Saeed the present Imaum of Muscat, the latter pleading that he cannot resist the Wahaubee, owing to the disaffection of his own Chiefs in the Omaun – the Wahaubee insisting at the same time on his going with a Fleet against Bussorah. These were (as remarked by Capt.n Seton in his letter to General Malcolm of the 5th February) objects of importance, particularly the first of them,

and

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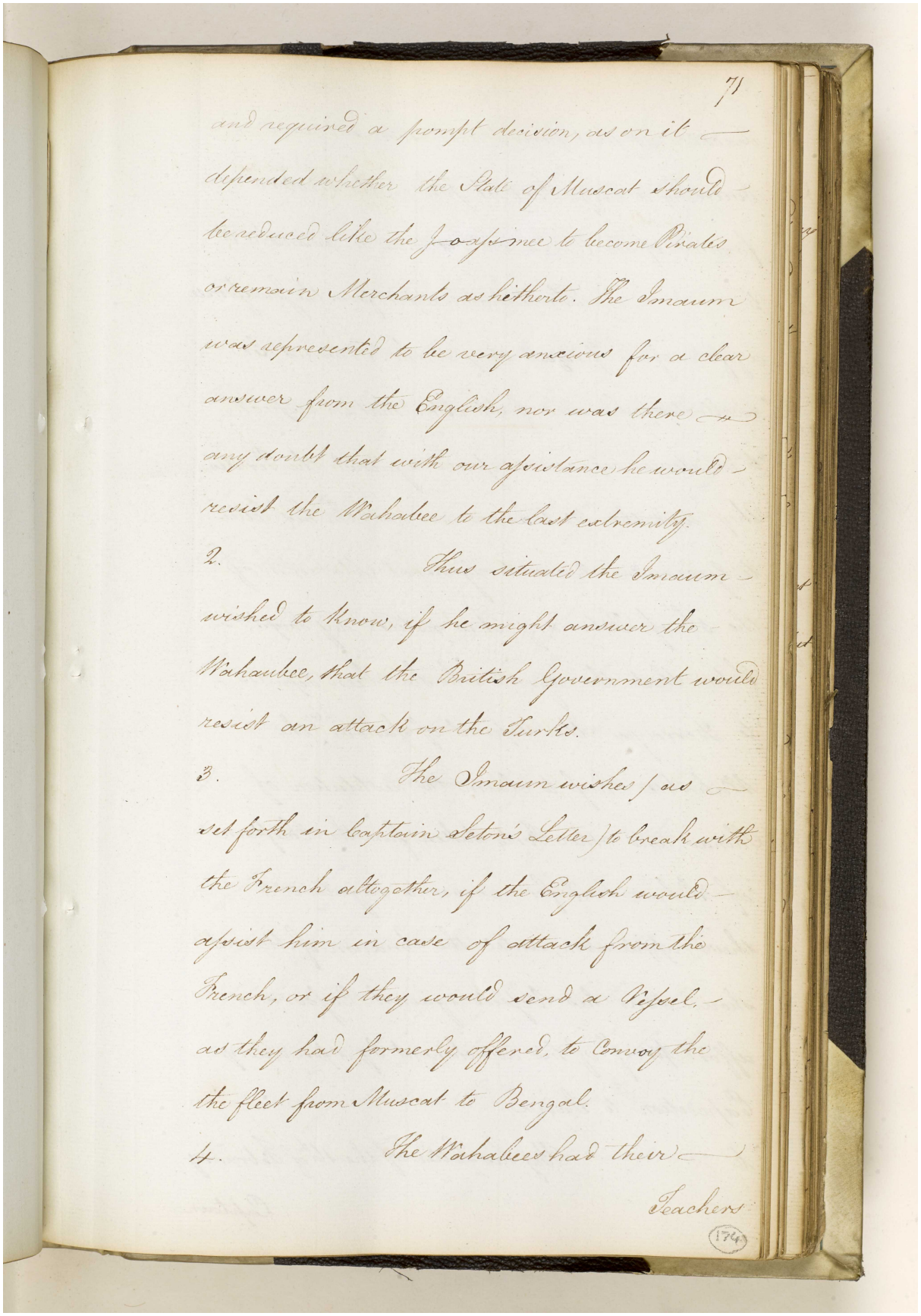

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and required a prompt decision, as on it
depended whether the State of Muscat should
be reduced like the Joasmee to become Pirates
or remain Merchants as hitherto. The Imaum
was represented to be very anxious for a clear
answer from the English, nor was there
any doubt that with our assistance he would
resist the Wahabee to the last extremity.

2. Thus situated the Imaum
wished to know, if he might answer the
Wahabee, that the British Government would
resist an attack on the Turks.

3. The Imaum wishes / as
set forth in Captain Seton's Letter / to break with
the French altogether, if the English would
assist him in case of attack from the
French, or if they would send a Vessel,
as they had formerly offered, to Convoy
the the fleet from Muscat to Bengal.

4. The Wahabees had their
Teachers

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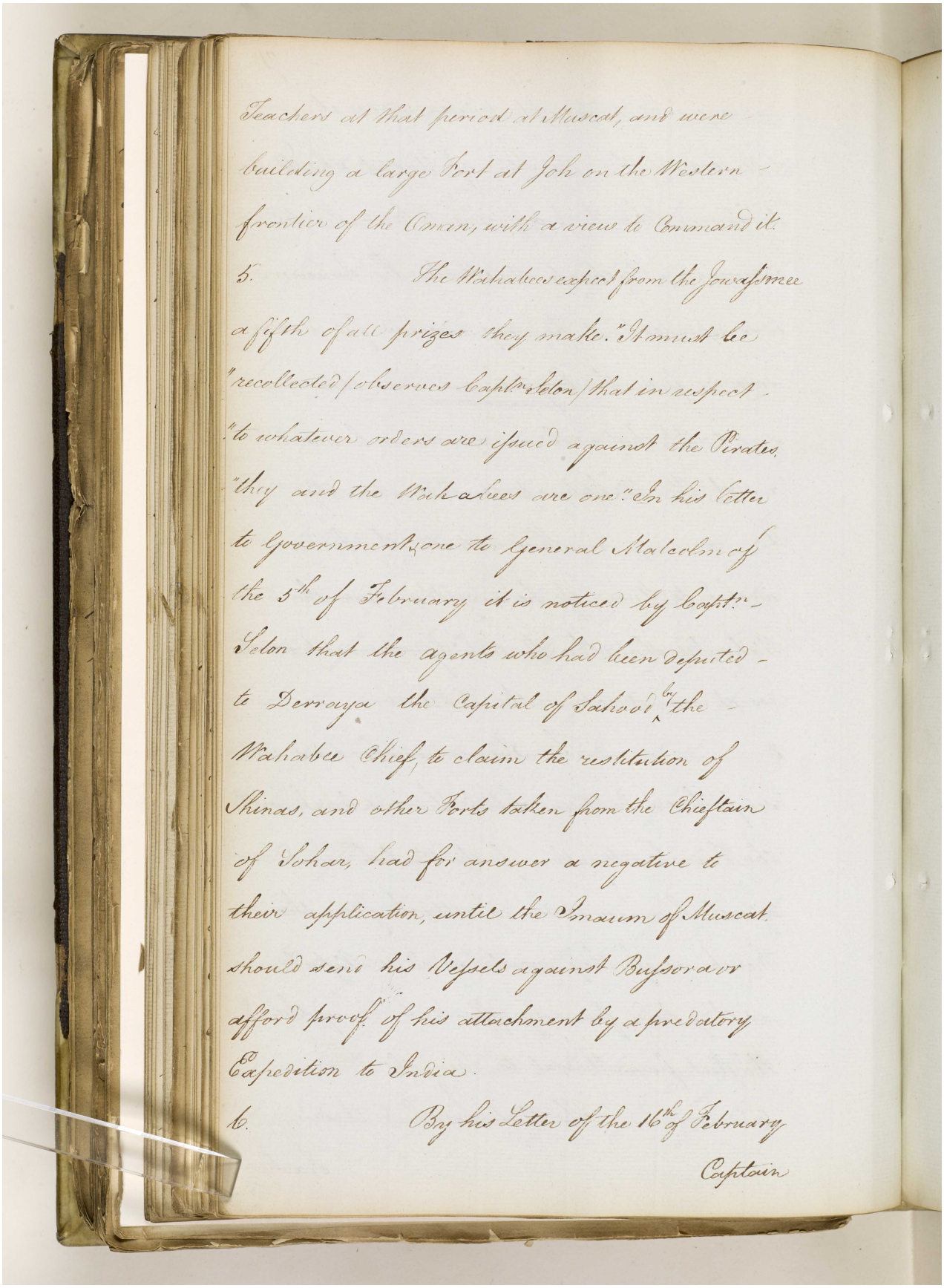

Teachers at that period at Muscat, and were building a large Fort at Joh on the Western frontier of the Oman, with a view to Command it.

5. The Wahabees expect from the Jowassmee a fifth of all prizes they make. "It must be "recollected (observes Captn. Selon) that in respect "to whatever orders are issued against the Pirates, "they and the Wahabees are one." In his letter to Government & one to General Malcolm of the 5th of February it is noticed by Captn. Selon that the agents who had been deputed to Derraya the Capital of Sahood by the Wahabee Chief, to claim the restitution of Shinas, and other Forts taken from the Chieftain of Sohar, had for answer a negative to their application, until the Imaum of Muscat should send his Vessels against Bussora or afford proof of his attachment by a predatory Expedition to India.

6. By his Letter of the 16th of February

Captain

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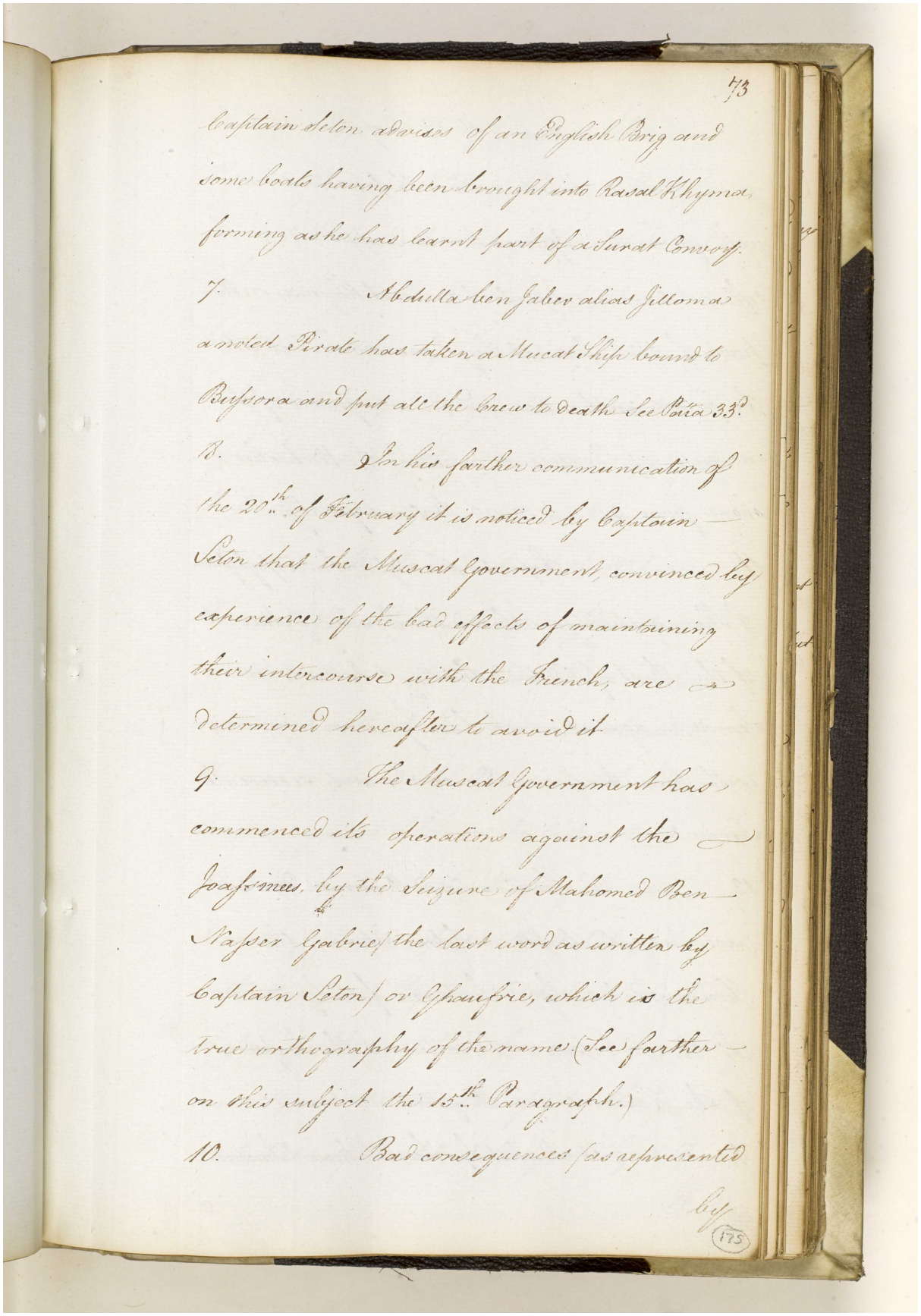

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Captain Seton advises of an English Brig and some boats having been brought into Rasal Khyma forming as he has learnt part of a Surat Convoy.

7. Abdulla ben Jaber alias Jillema a noted Pirate has taken a Muscat Ship bound to Bussora and put all the crew to death See Para 33.

8. In his farther communication of the 20th. of February it is noticed by Captain Seton that the Muscat Government convinced by experience of the bad effects of maintaining their intercourse with the French, are determined hereafter to avoid it

9. The Muscat Government has commenced its operations against the Joasmees, by the Seizure of Mahomed Ben Nasser Gabriel the last word as written by Captain Seton, or Ghaufrie, which is the true orthography of the name (See farther on this subject the 15th. Paragraph.)

10. Bad consequences (as represented by

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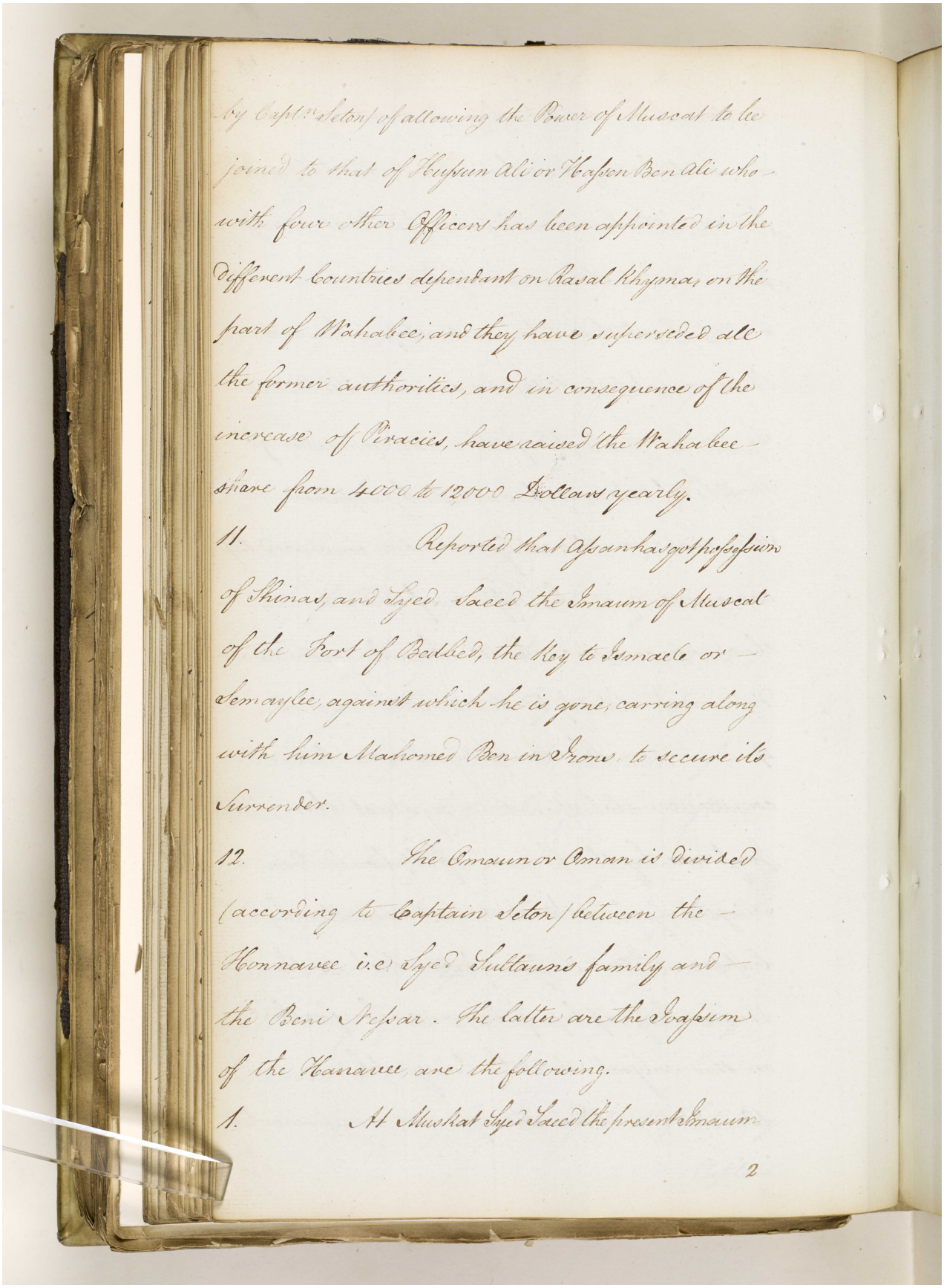

by Captn. Seton) of allowing the Power of Muscat to be joined to that of Hussun Ali or Hassen Ben Ali who with four other Officers has been appointed in the different Countries dependant on Rasal Khyma, on the part of Wahabee, and they have superseded all the former authorities, and in consequence of the increase of Piracies, have raised the Wahabee share from 4000 to 12000 Dollars yearly.

11. Reported that Assan has got possession of Shinas, and Syed Saeed the Imaum of Muscat of the Fort of Bedbed, the Key to Ismaele or Semaylee, against which he is gone, carring along with him Mahomed Ben in Irons to secure its Surrender.

12. The Omaun or Oman is divided (according to Captain Seton) between the Honnavee i.e. Syed Sultaun's family and the Beni Nessar. The latter are the Joassim of the Hanavee, are the following.

1. At Muskat Syed Saeed the present Imaum

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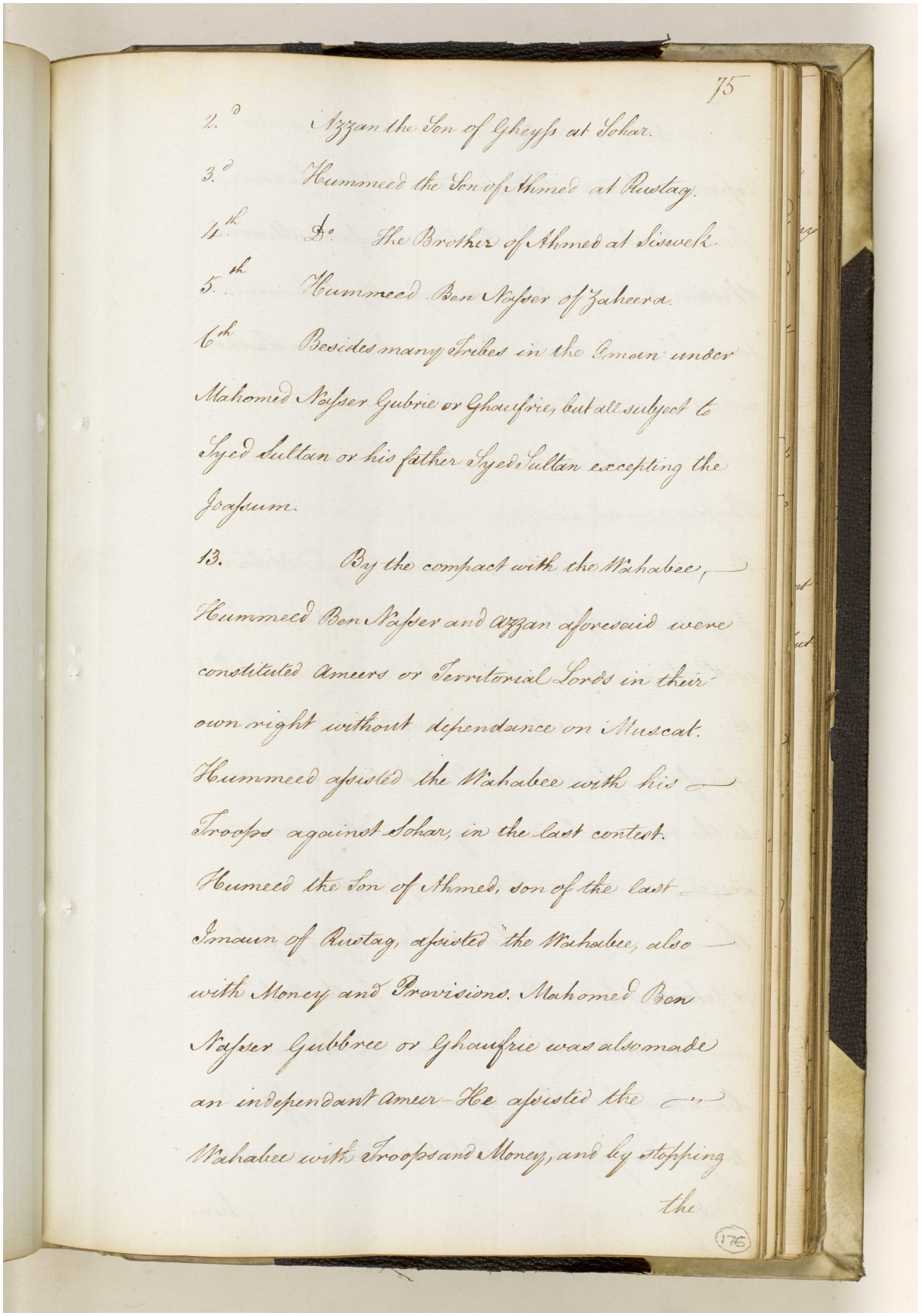

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2.d Azzan the Son of Gheyss at Sohar.

3.d Hummeed the Son of Ahmed at Rustag.

4.th Do The Brother of Ahmed at Sisweh.

5.th Hummeed Ben Nasser of Zaheera.

6.th Besides many Tribes in the Imaun under Mahomed Nasser Gubrie or Ghaufrie, but all subject to Syed Sultan or his father Syed Sultan excepting the Joasmee.

13. By the compact with the Wahabee, Hummeed Ben Nasser and Azzan aforesaid were constituted Ameers or Territorial Lords in their own right without dependance on Muscat. Hummeed assisted the Wahabee with his Troops against Sohar, in the last contest. Humeed the Son of Ahmed, son of the last Imaun of Rustag, assisted the Wahabee, also with Money and Provisions. Mahomed Ben Nasser Gubbree or Ghaufrie was also made an independant Ameer. He assisted the Wahabee with Troops and Money, and by stopping the

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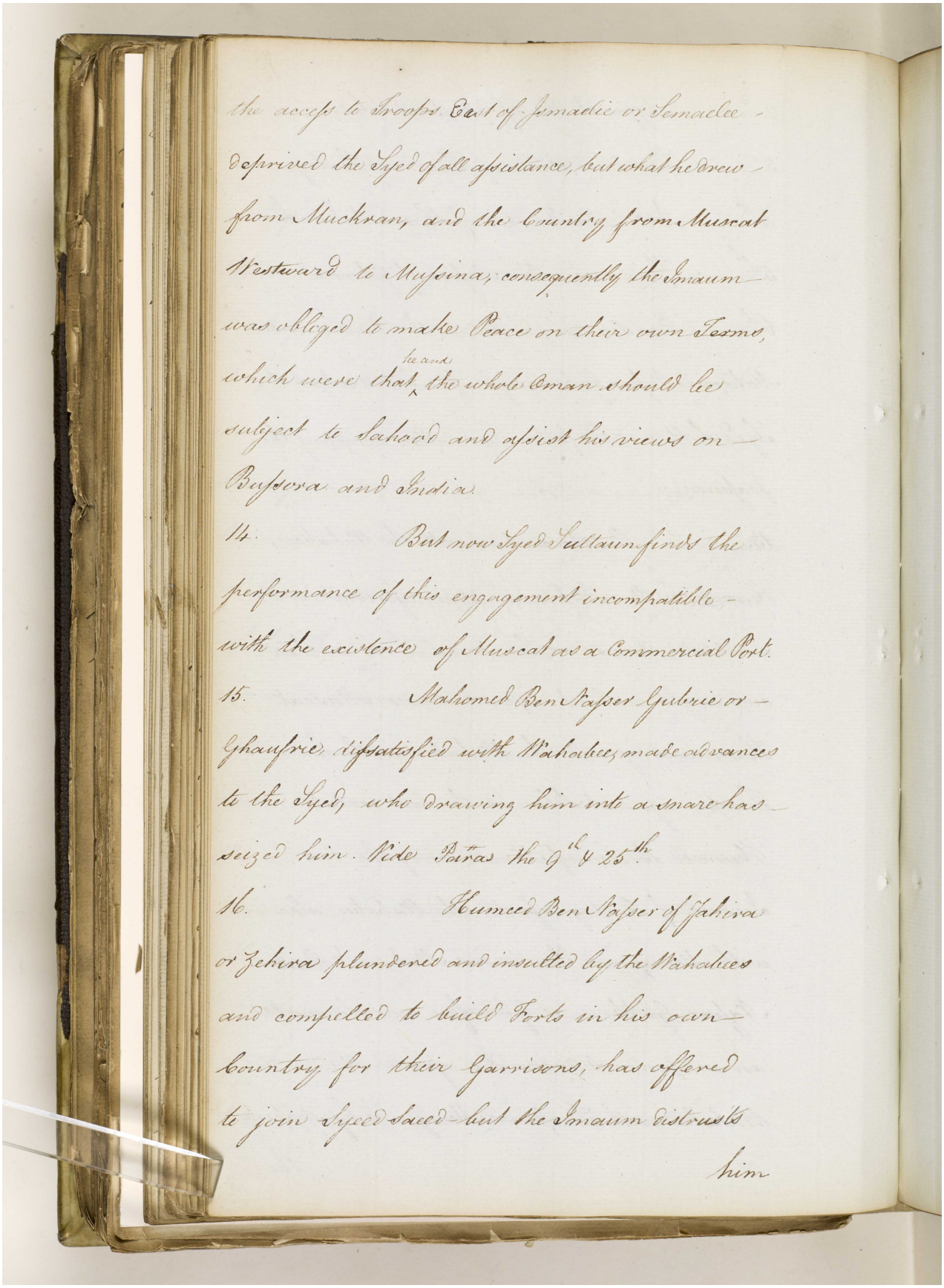

the access to Troops East of Jemadie or Semadee – deprived the Syed of all assistance, but what he drew from Muckran, and the Country from Muscat Westward to Muscina, consequently the Imaum was obliged to make Peace on their own Terms, which were that he and the whole Oman should be subject to Sahood and assist his views on Bussora and India.

14. But now Syed Sultaun finds the performance of this engagement incompatible with the existence of Muscat as a Commercial Port.

15. Mahomed Ben Nasser Gubrie or Ghaufrie dissatisfied with Wahabees, made advances to the Syed, who drawing him into a snare has seized him. Vide Paras the 9th & 25th.

16. Humeed Ben Nasser of Jahira or Zehira plundered and insulted by the Wahabees and compelled to build Forts in his own Country for their Garrisons, has offered to join Syed Saeed – but the Imaum distrusts him

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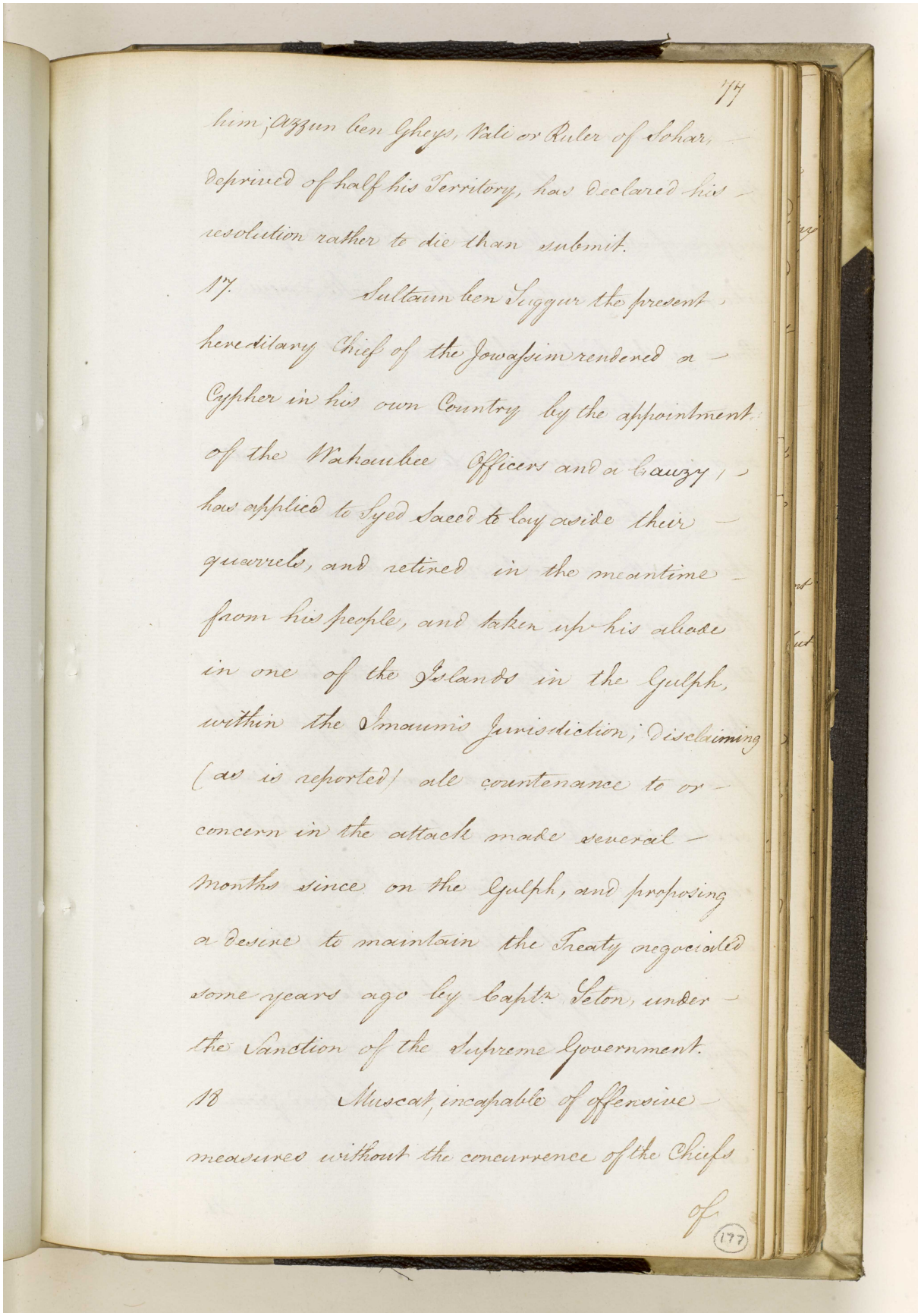

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him; Azzum ben Gheys, Vali or Ruler of Sohar, deprived of half his Territory, has declared his resolution rather to die than submit.

17. Sultaun ben Seggur the present hereditary Chief of the Jowasim rendered a Cypher in his own Country by the appointment of the Wahaubee Officers and a Cauzy, has applied to Syed Saeed to lay aside their quarrels, and retired in the meantime from his people, and taken up his abode in one of the Islands in the Gulph, within the Imaum's Jurisdiction; disclaiming (as is reported) all countenance to or concern in the attack made several months since on the Gulph, and proposing a desire to maintain the Treaty negociated some years ago by Capt. Seton, under the Sanction of the Supreme Government.

18. Muscat, incapable of offensive measures without the concurrence of the Chiefs

of

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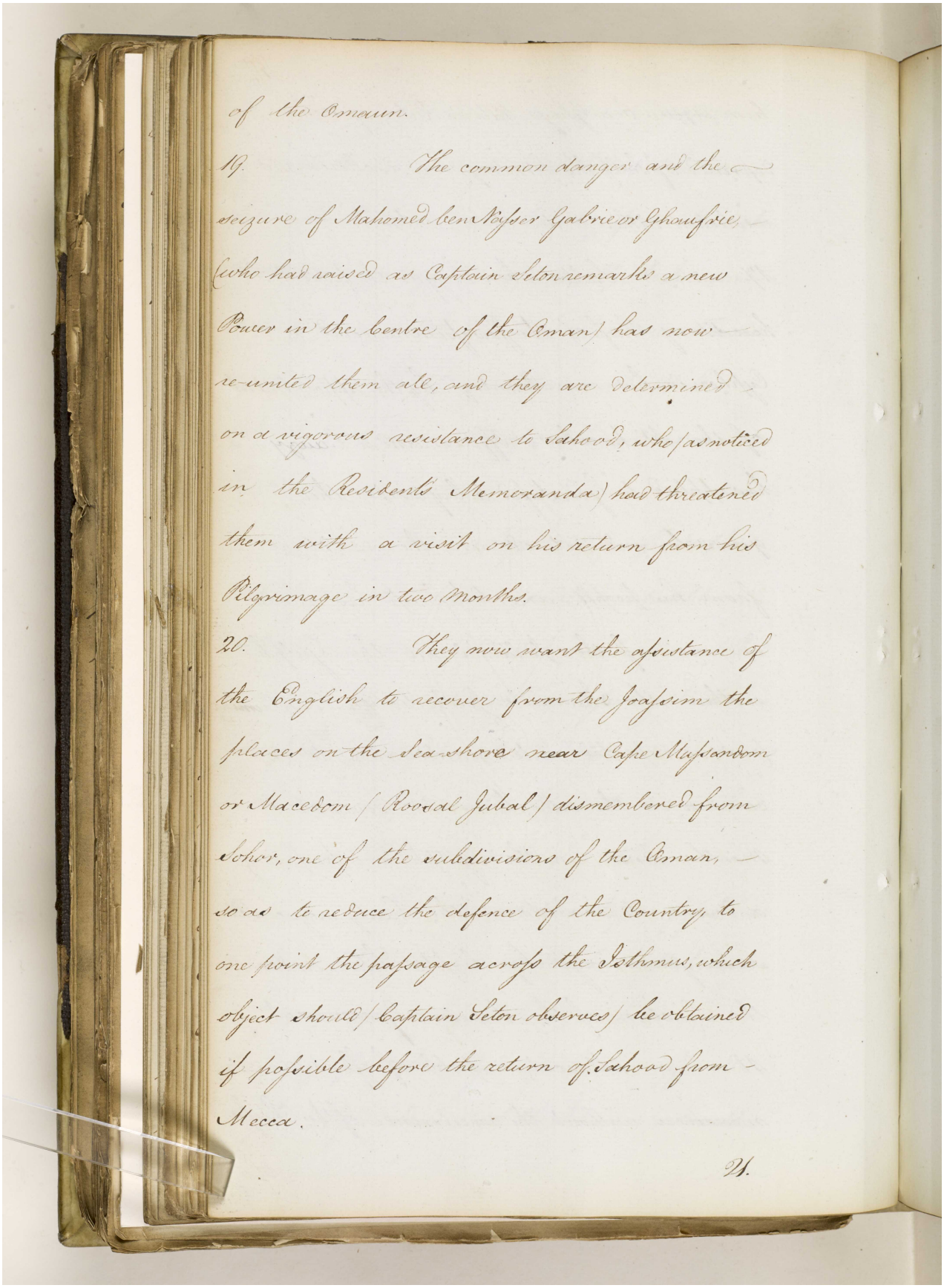

of the Imaum.

19. The common danger and the seizure of Mahomed ben Nasser Gabrie or Ghousbie (who had raised as Captain Seton remarks a new Power in the Centre of the Oman) has now re-united them all, and they are determined on a vigorous resistance to Sahood, who (as noticed in the Residents Memoranda) had threatened them with a visit on his return from his Pilgrimage in two Months.

20. They now want the assistance of the English to recover from the Joasmi the places on the Sea-shore near Cape Mussandom or Macedom (Roosal Jubal) dismembered from Sohar, one of the subdivisions of the Oman, so as to reduce the defence of the Country to one point the passage across the Isthmus, which object should (Captain Seton observes) be obtained if possible before the return of Sahood from Mecca.

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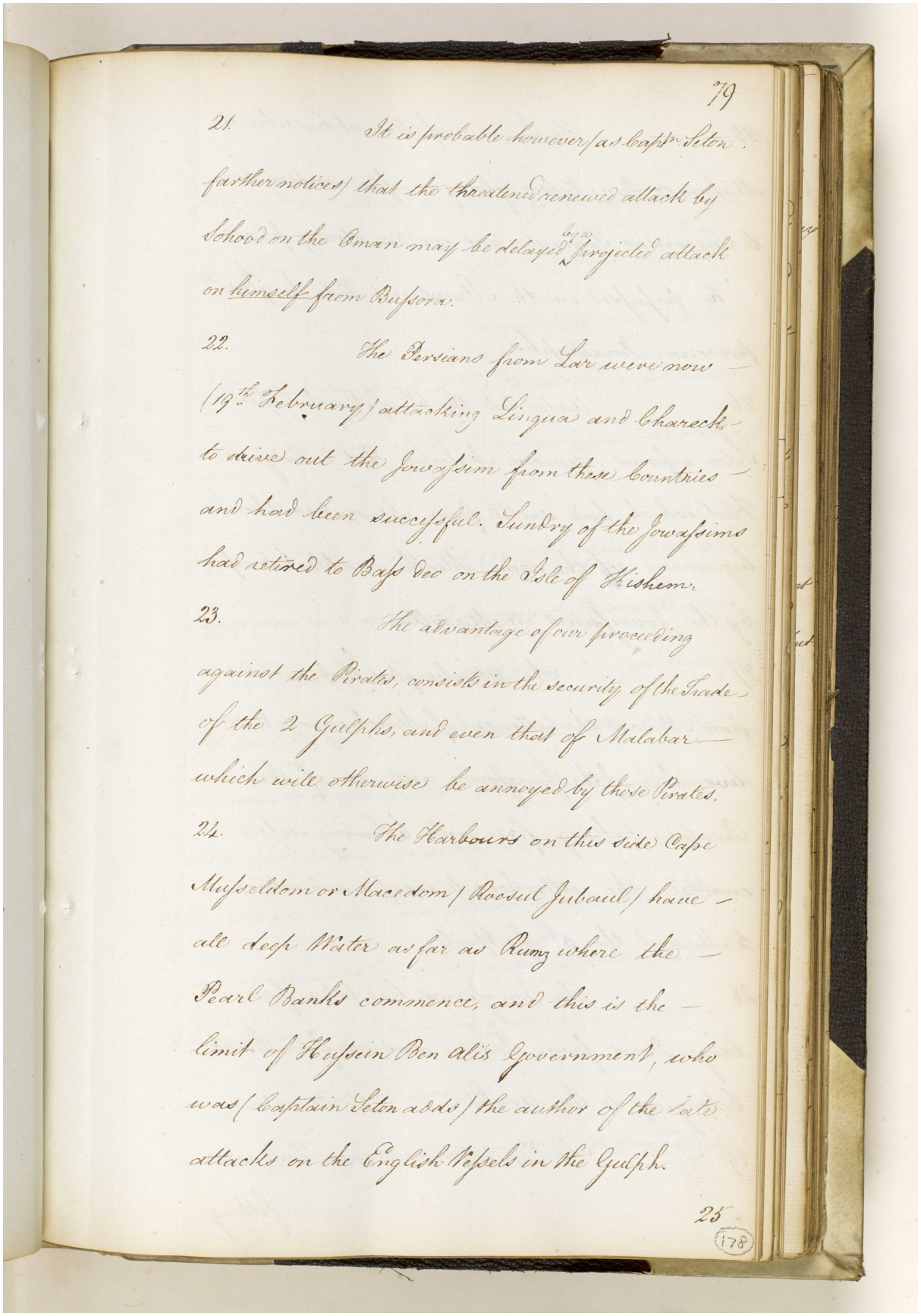

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21. It is probable however (as Capt.n Seton further notices) that the threatened renewed attack by Sohood on the Oman may be delayed by a projected attack on himself from Bussora.

22. The Persians from Lar were now (19th February) attacking Lingua and Charreck to drive out the Jowasimi from these Countries and had been successful. Sundry of the Jowasimis had retired to Bass Deo on the Isle of Kishem.

23. The advantage of our proceeding against the Pirates, consists in the security of the Trade of the 2 Gulphs, and even that of Malabar which will otherwise be annoyed by those Pirates.

24. The Harbours on this side Cape Musseldom or Macedom (Roosul Jubaul) have all deep Water as far as Rumy where the Pearl Banks commence, and this is the limit of Hussein Ben alis Government, who was (Captain Seton adds) the author of the late attacks on the English Vessels in the Gulph.

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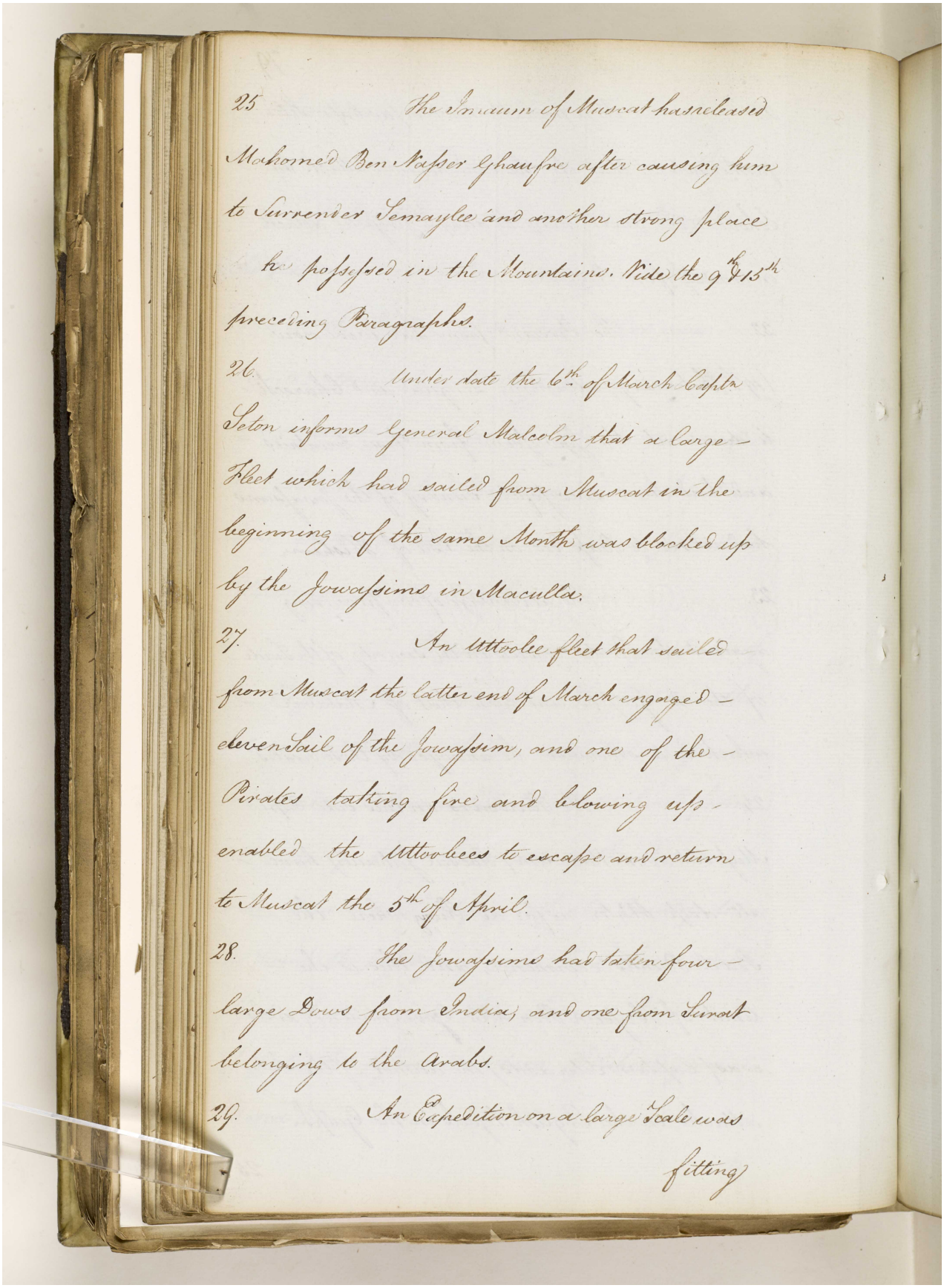

25 The Imaum of Muscat has released Mahomed Ben Nasser Ghaufre after causing him to Surrender Semaylee and another strong place he possessed in the Mountains. Vide the 9th & 15th preceding Paragraphs.

26 Under date the 6th of March Capt. Seton informs General Malcolm that a large Fleet which had sailed from Muscat in the beginning of the same Month was blocked up by the Jowasimee in Maculla.

27 An Uttoolee fleet that sailed from Muscat the latter end of March engaged eleven Sail of the Jowasimee, and one of the Pirates taking fire and blowing up enabled the Uttoolees to escape and return to Muscat the 5th of April.

28 The Jowasimee had taken four large Dows from India, and one from Surat belonging to the Arabs.

29 An Expedition on a large Scale was fitting

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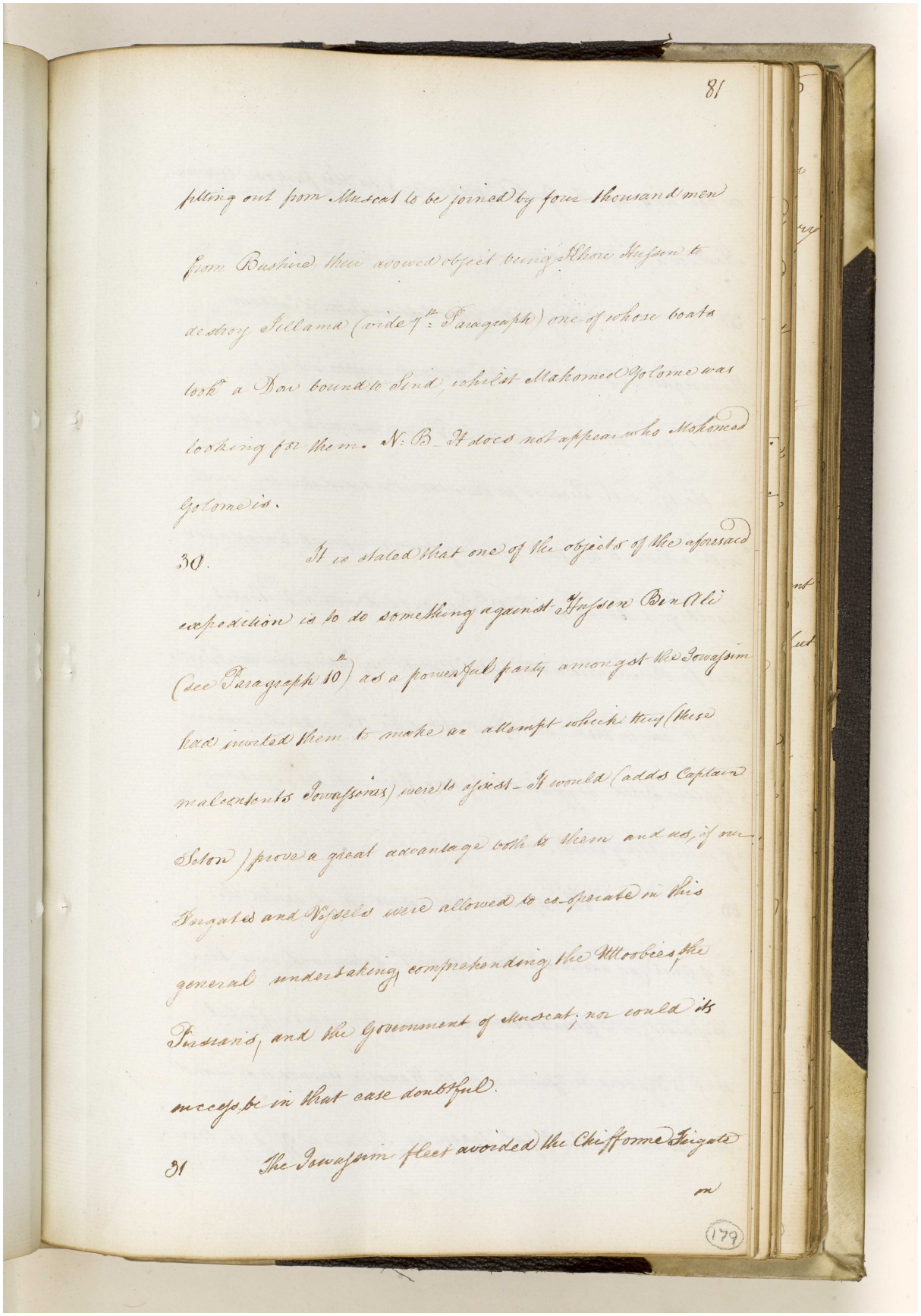

fitting out from Muscat to be joined by four thousand men from Bushire their avowed object being Khore Hussen to destroy Jillama (vide 7th Paragraph) one of whose boats took a Dow bound to Sind, whilst Mahomed Golome was looking for them. N: B. It does not appear who Mahomed Golome is.

30. It is stated that one of the objects of the aforesaid expedition is to do something against Hussen Ben Ali (see Paragraph 10th) as a powerful party amongst the Jowassim had invited them to make an attempt which they (these malcontents Jowassims) were to assist – It would (adds Captain Seton) prove a great advantage both to them and us, if our Frigates and Vessels were allowed to co-operate in this general undertaking, comprehending the Uttoobies, the Persians, and the Government of Muscat; nor could its success be in that case doubtful.

31 The Jowassim fleet avoided the Chiffonne Frigate on

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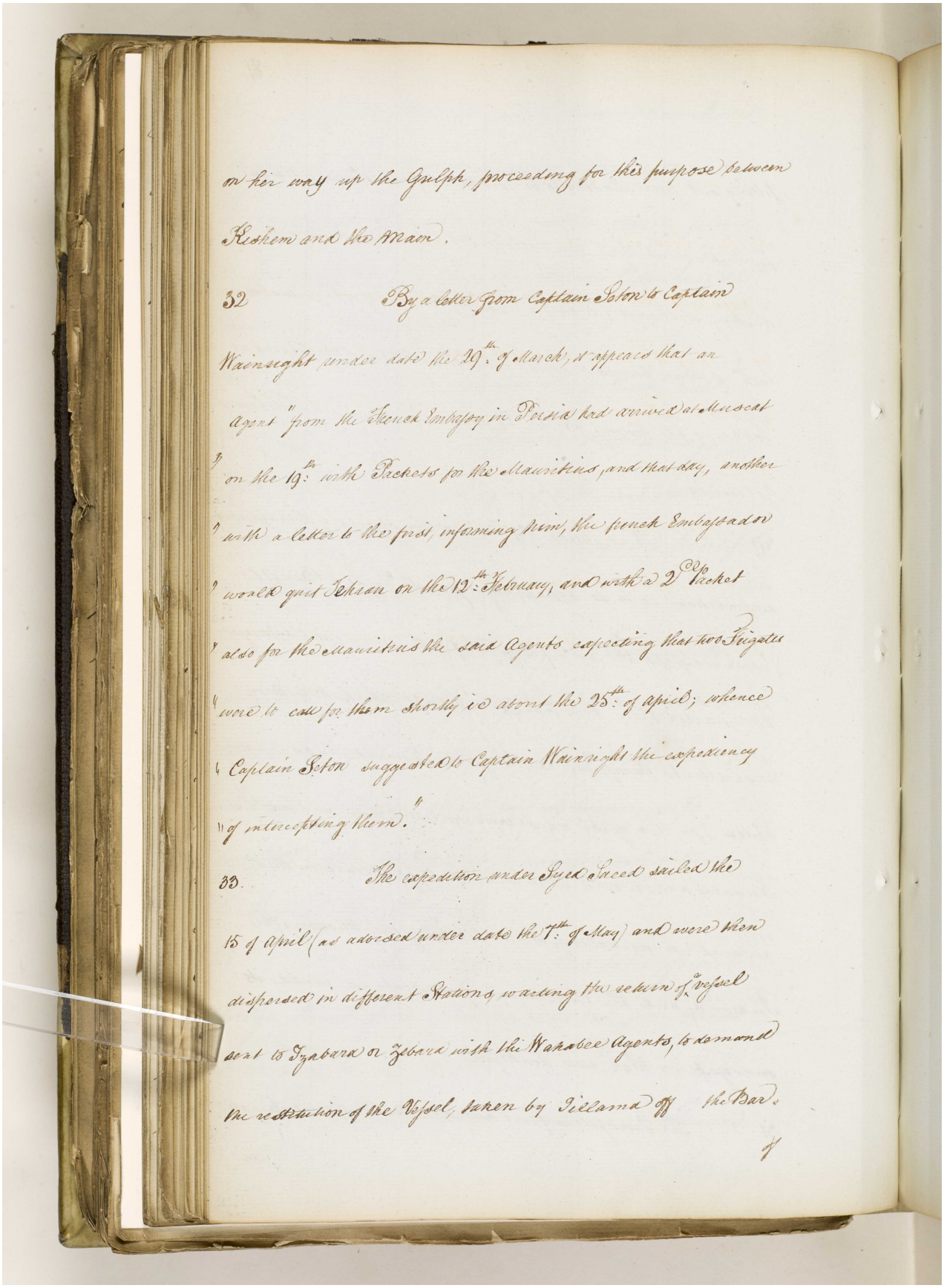

on her way up the Gulph, proceeding for this purpose between Rushem and the Main.

32 By a letter from Captain Seton to Captain Wainwright under date the 29th: of March, it appears that an Agent from the French Embassy in Persia had arrived at Muscat on the 19th: with Packets for the Mauritius, and that day, another with a letter to the first, informing him, the French Embassador would quit Tehran on the 12th: February, and with a 2d Packet also for the Mauritius the said Agents expecting that two Frigates were to call for them shortly i.e about the 25th: of April; whence Captain Seton suggested to Captain Wainright the expediency of intercepting them.

33. The expedition under Syed Saeed sailed the 15 of April (as advised under date the 7th: of May) and were then dispersed in different Stations awaiting the return of a vessel sent to Zanbara or Zebara with the Wahabee Agents, to demand the restitution of the Vessel, taken by Sellama off the Bar.

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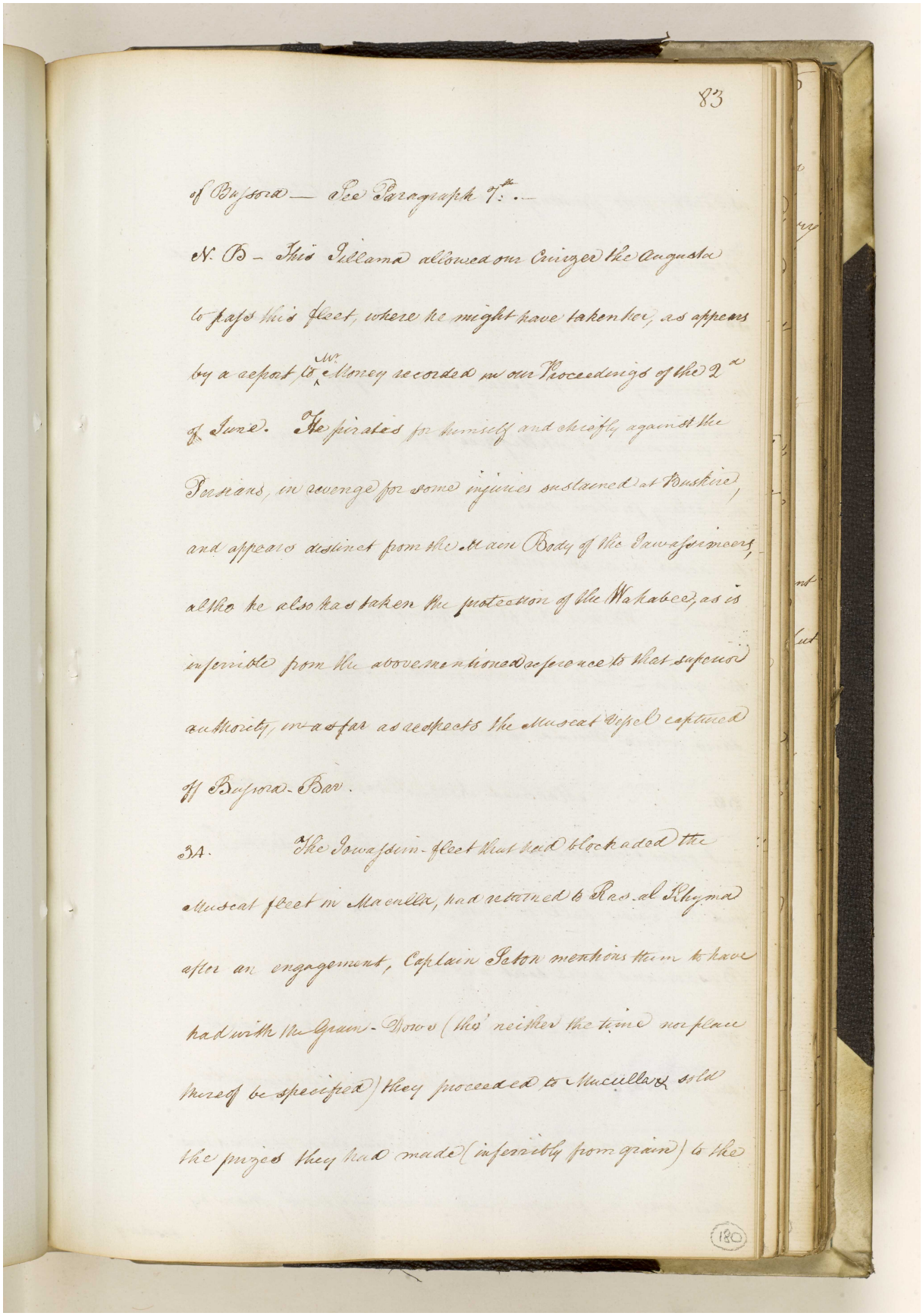

of Bussora — See Paragraph 7th. —

N. B — This Tillama allowed our Cruizer the Augusta to pass this fleet, where he might have taken her, as appears by a report to Mr. Money recorded in our Proceedings of the 2d of June. He pirates for himself and chiefly against the Persians, in revenge for some injuries sustained at Buskire, and appears distinct from the Main Body of the Jawassimeers, altho he also has taken the protection of the Wahabee, as is inferrible from the abovementioned reference to that superior authority, in as far as respects the Muscat Vessel captured off Bussora-Bar.

34. The Jowassim-fleet that had blockaded the Muscat fleet in Maculla, had returned to Ras-al Khyma after an engagement, Captain Seton mentions them to have had with the Grain-Dows (tho' neither the time nor place thereof be specified) they proceeded to Muculla & sold the prizes they had made (inferribly from grain) to the

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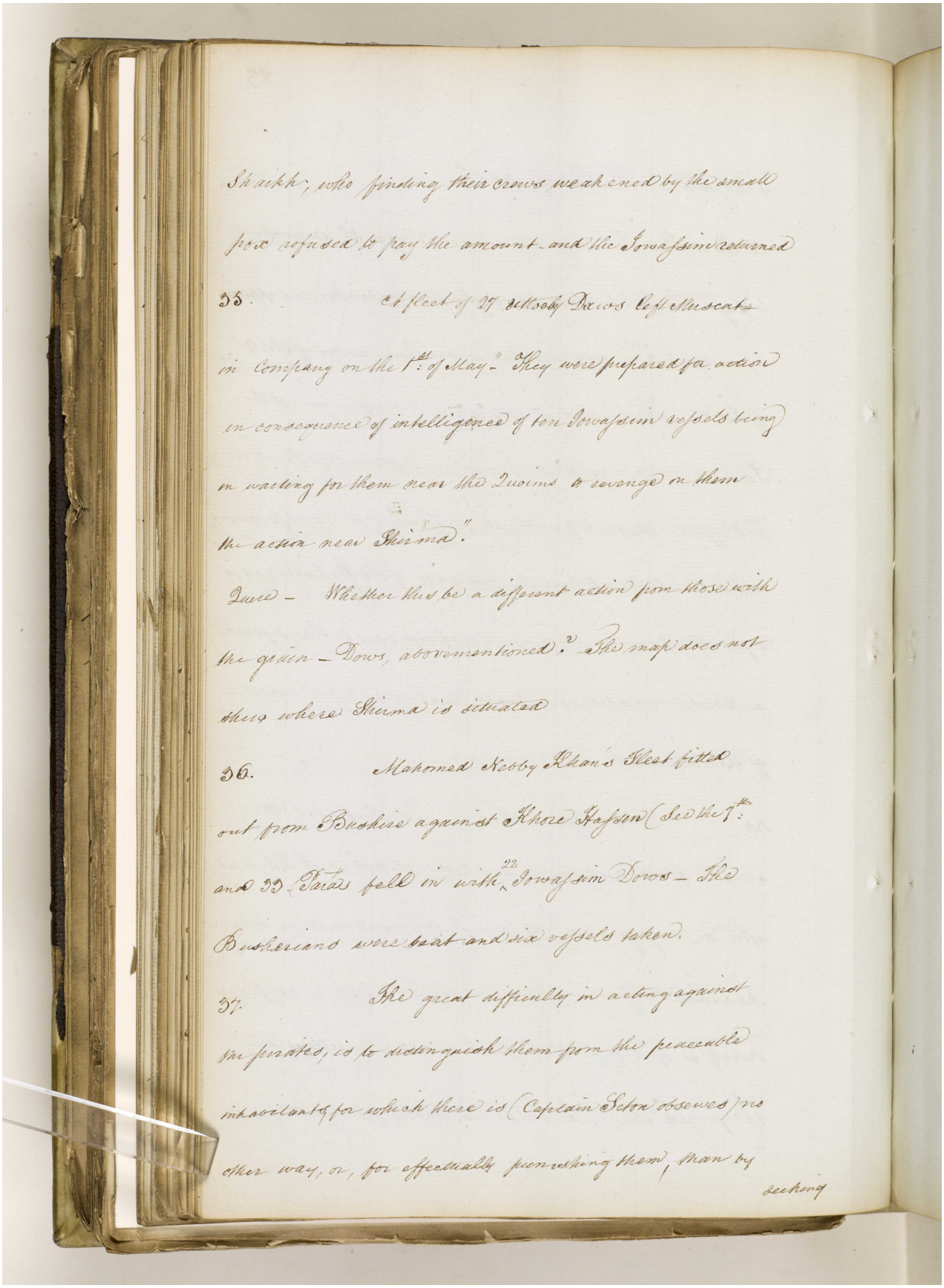

Shaikh; who finding their crews weakened by the small pox refused to pay the amount and the Jowassim returned

35. A fleet of 27 ultooly Dows left Muscat in Company on the 1st of May." They were prepared for action in consequence of intelligence of ten Jowassim vessels being in waiting for them near the Quoims to revenge on them the action near Shirma".

Quere – Whether this be a different action from those with the grain – Dows, abovementioned? The map does not shew where Shirma is situated

36. Mahomed Nebby Khan's Fleet fitted out from Bushire against Khore Hassen (See the 7th and 33 Paras fell in with 22 Jowassim Dows – The Busherians were beat and six vessels taken.

37. The great difficulty in acting against the pirates, is to distinguish them from the peaceable inhabitants, for which there is (Captain Seton obsewes) no other way, or, for effectually punishing them, than by

seeking

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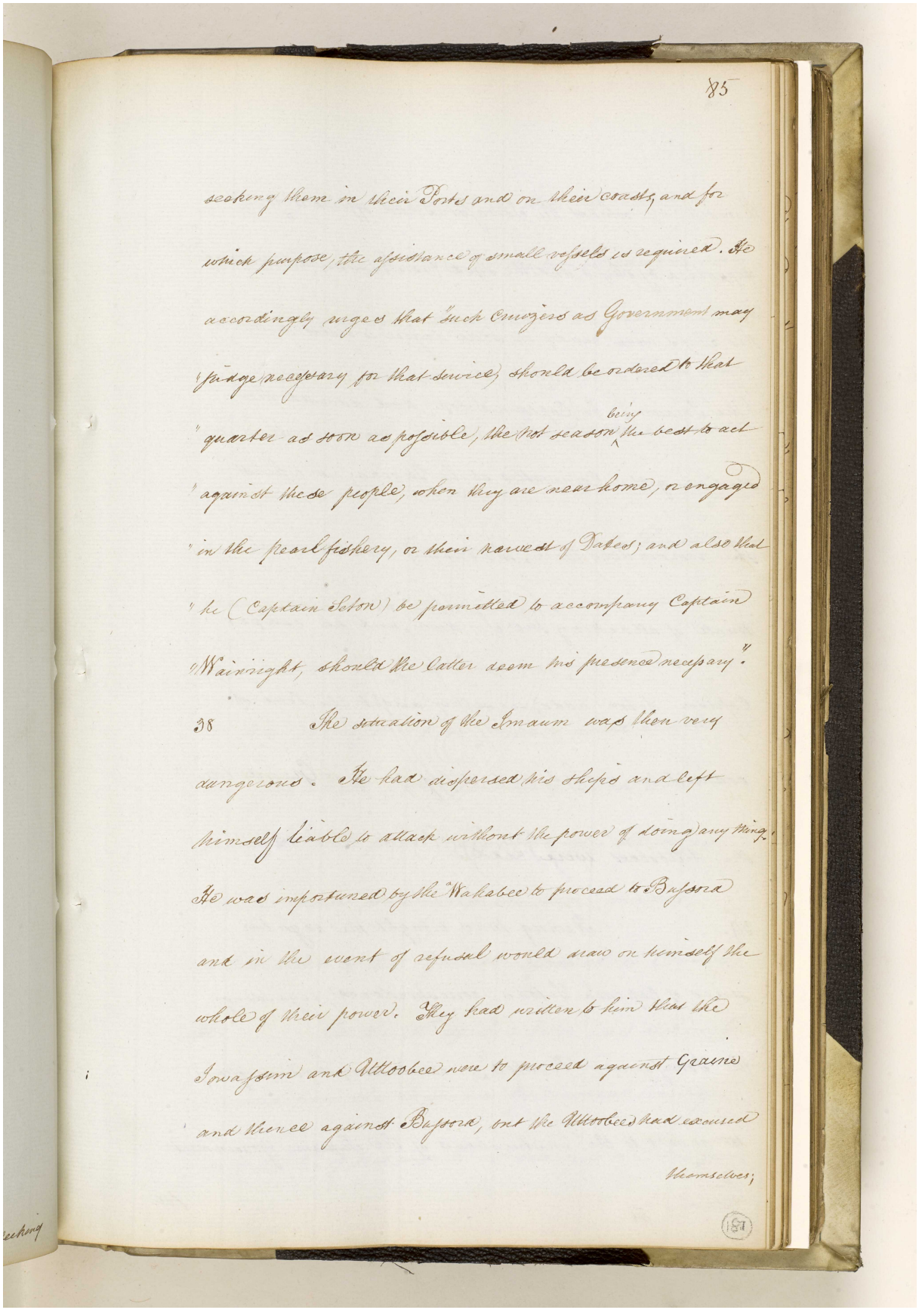

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seeking them in their Ports and on their coasts, and for which purpose, the assistance of small vessels is required. He accordingly urges that "such Cruizers as Government may "judge necessary for that service, should be ordered to that "quarter as soon as possible, the hot season being the best to act "against these people, when they are near home, or engaged "in the pearl fishery, or their harvest of Dates; and also that "he (Captain Seton) be permitted to accompany Captain "Wainright, should the latter deem his presence necessary."

38 The situation of the Imaum was then very dangerous. He had dispersed his ships and left himself liable to attack without the power of doing any thing. He was importuned by the Wahabee to proceed to Bussora and in the event of refusal would draw on himself the whole of their power. They had written to him that the Jowasmi and Attoobee were to proceed against Graine and thence against Bussora, but the Attoobees had excused themselves;

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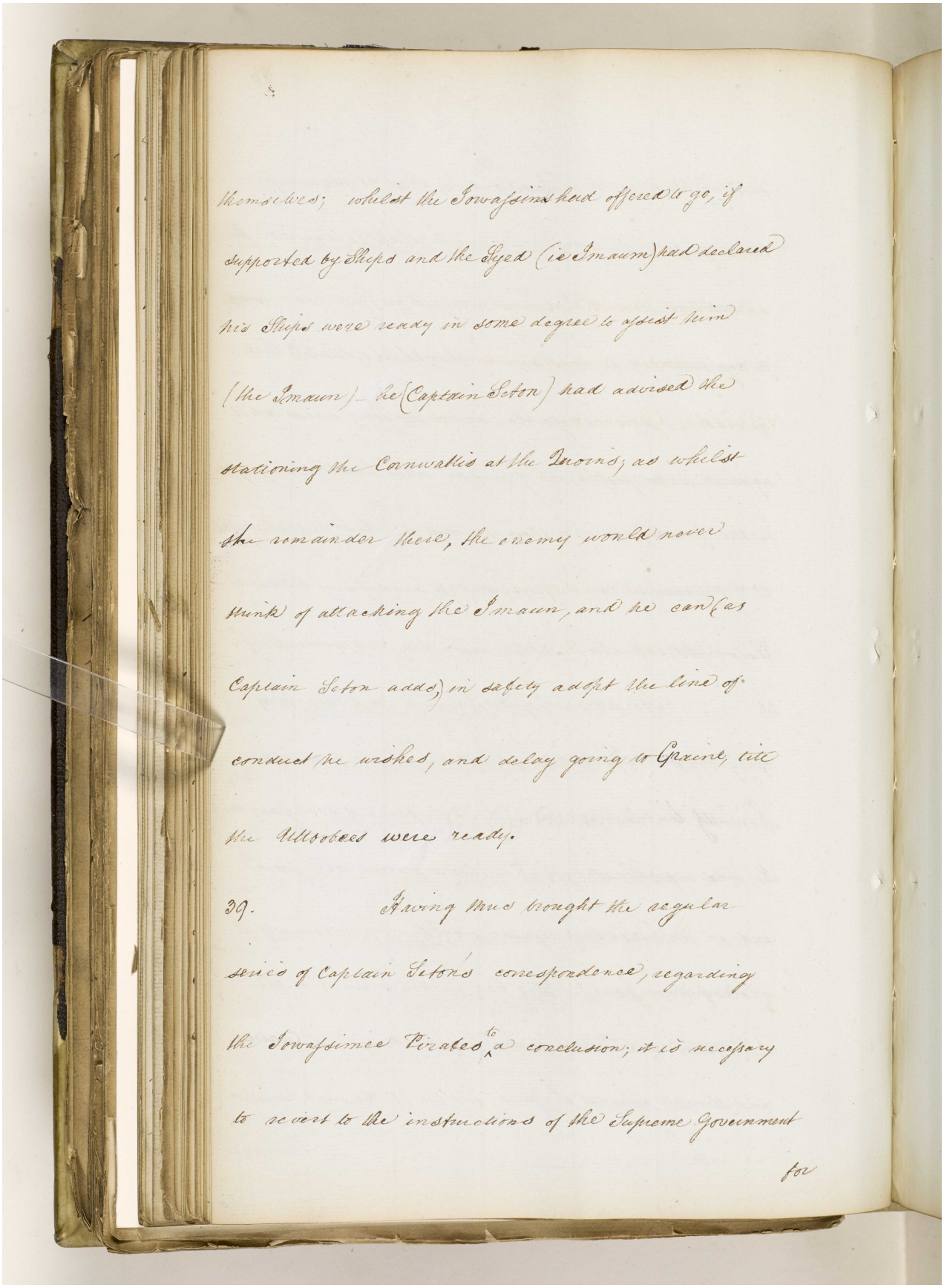

themselves; whilst the Jowasimee fleet offered to go, if supported by Ships and the Syed (ie Imaum) had declared his Ships were ready in some degree to assist him (the Imaum) – he (Captain Seton) had advised the stationing the Cornwallis at the Quoins; as whilst she remained there, the enemy would never think of attacking the Imaum, and he can (as Captain Seton adds) in safety adopt the line of conduct he wished, and delay going to Gwadel, till the Wahabees were ready.

39. Having thus brought the regular series of Captain Setons correspondence, regarding the Jowasimee Pirates to a conclusion; it is necessary to revert to the instructions of the Supreme Government for

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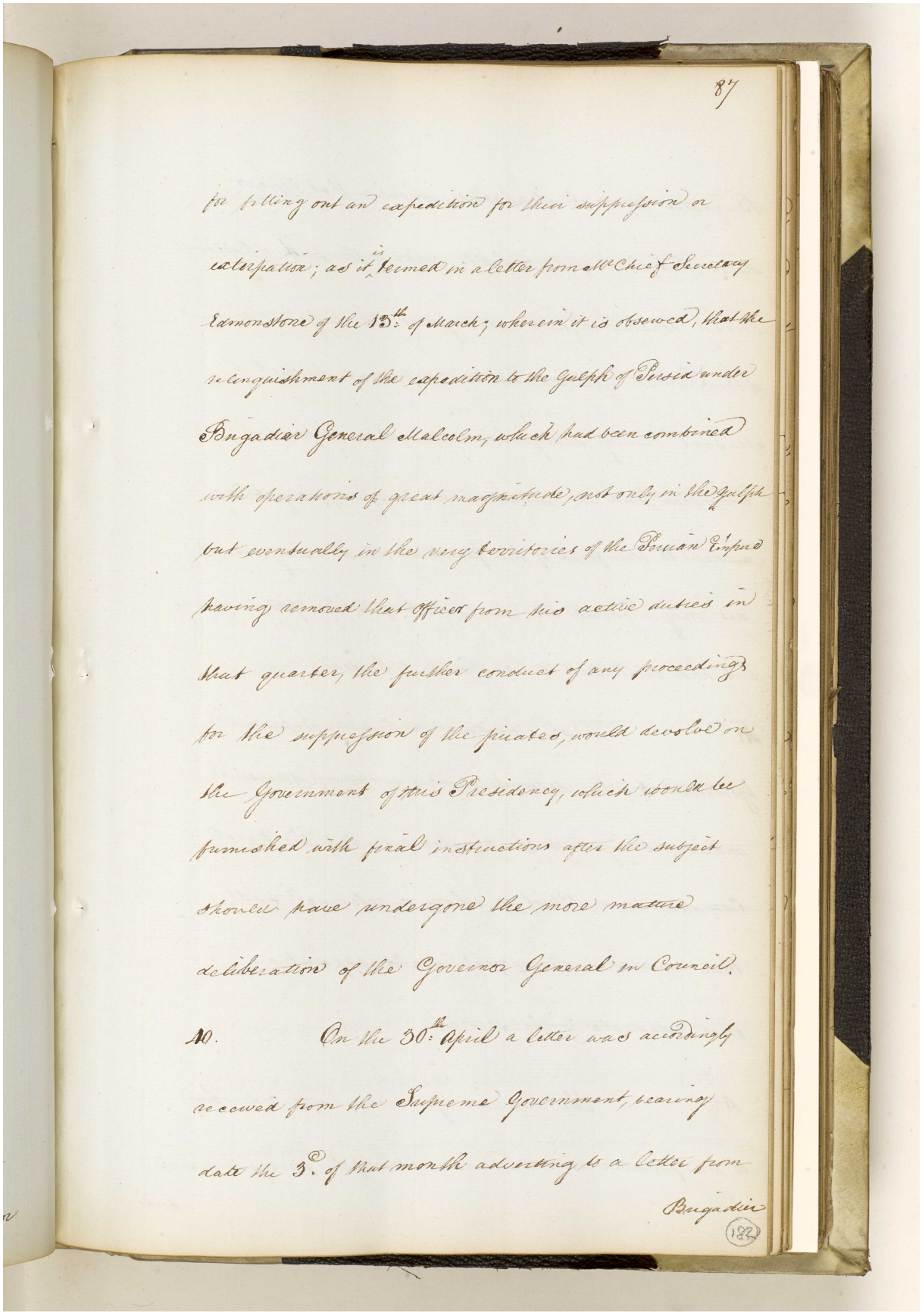

for fitting out an expedition for their suppression or extirpation; as it seemed in a letter from the Chief Secretary Edmonstone of the 13th. of March; wherein it is observed, that the relinquishment of the expedition to the Gulph of Persia under Brigadier General Malcolm, which had been combined with operations of great magnitude, not only in the Gulph but eventually in the very territories of the Persian Empire having removed that Officer from his active duties in that quarter, the further conduct of any proceedings for the suppression of the pirates, would devolve on the Government of this Presidency, which would be furnished with final instructions after the subject should have undergone the more mature deliberation of the Governor General in Council.

10. On the 30th. April a letter was accordingly received from the Supreme Government, bearing date the 3d. of that month adverting to a letter from Brigadier

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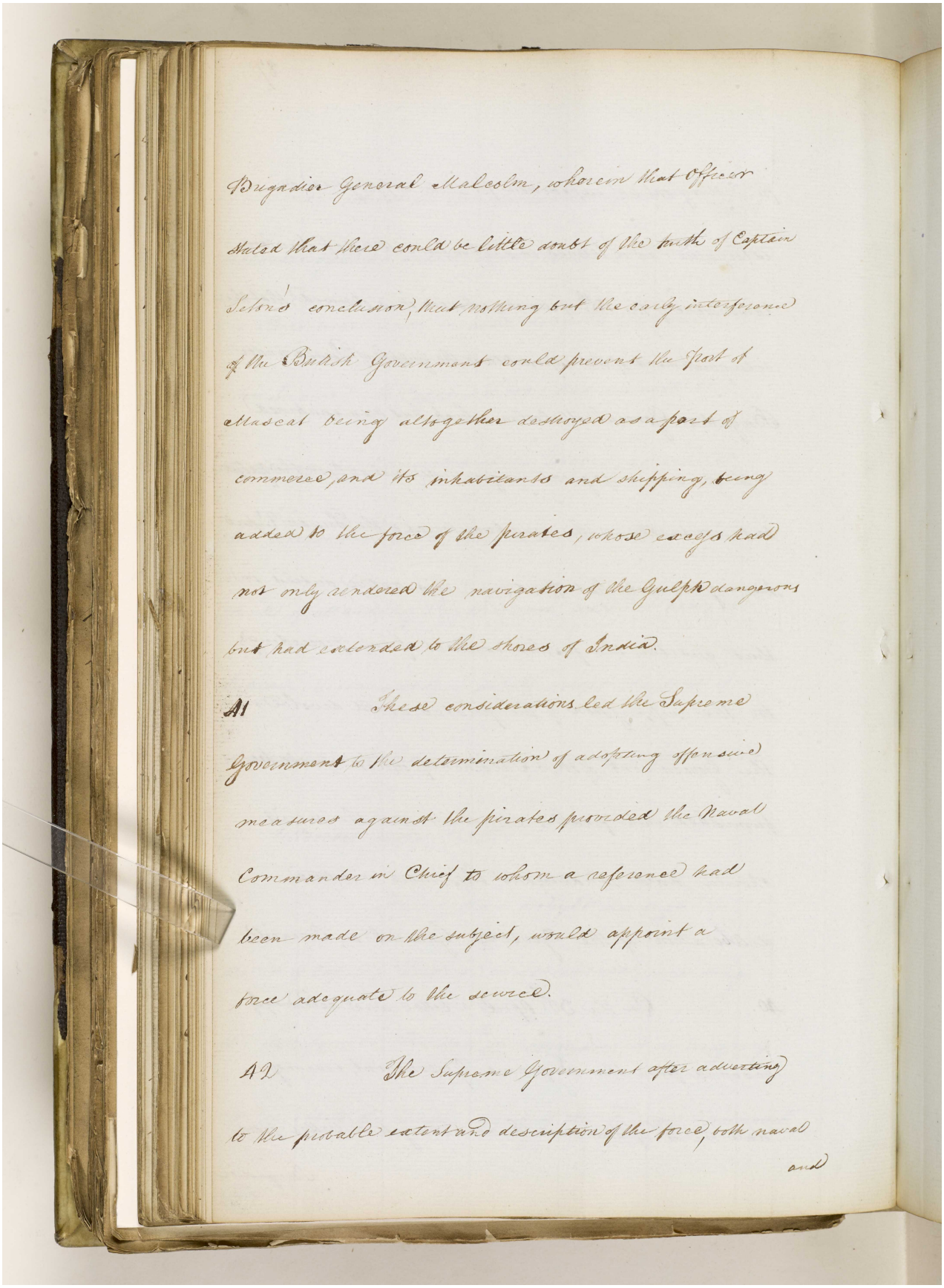

Brigadier General Malcolm, wherein that Officer
stated that there could be little doubt of the truth of Captain
Seton's conclusion, that nothing but the early interference
of the British Government could prevent the Port of
Muscat being altogether destroyed as a port of
commerce, and its inhabitants and shipping, being
added to the force of the pirates, whose excesses had
not only rendered the navigation of the Gulph dangerous
but had extended to the shores of India.

A1 These considerations led the Supreme
Government to the determination of adopting offensive
measures against the pirates provided the Naval
Commander in Chief to whom a reference had
been made on the subject, would appoint a
force adequate to the service.

A2 The Supreme Government after adverting
to the probable extent and description of the force, both naval
and

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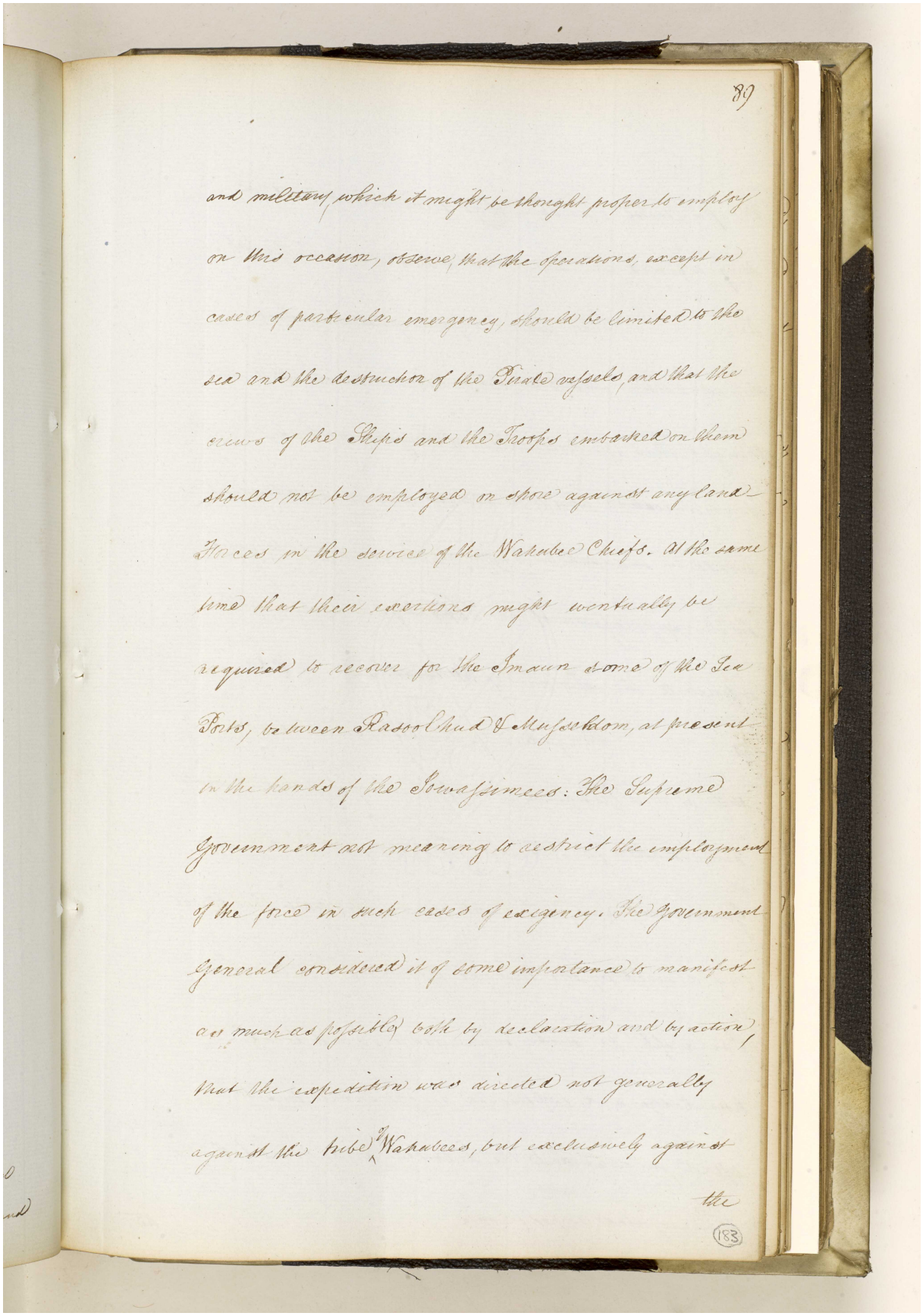

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and military, which it might be thought proper to employ on this occasion, observe that the operations, except in cases of particular emergency, should be limited to the sea and the destruction of the Pirate vessels, and that the crews of the Ships and the Troops embarked on them should not be employed on shore against any land Forces in the service of the Wahabee Chiefs. At the same time that their exertions might eventually be required to recover for the Imaum some of the Sea Ports, between Rasool Khud & Muscat, at present in the hands of the Joasmees: The Supreme Government not meaning to restrict the employment of the force in such cases of exigency. The Governmt General considered it of some importance to manifest as much as possible both by declaration and by action, that the expedition was directed not generally against the tribe of Wahabees, but exclusively against the

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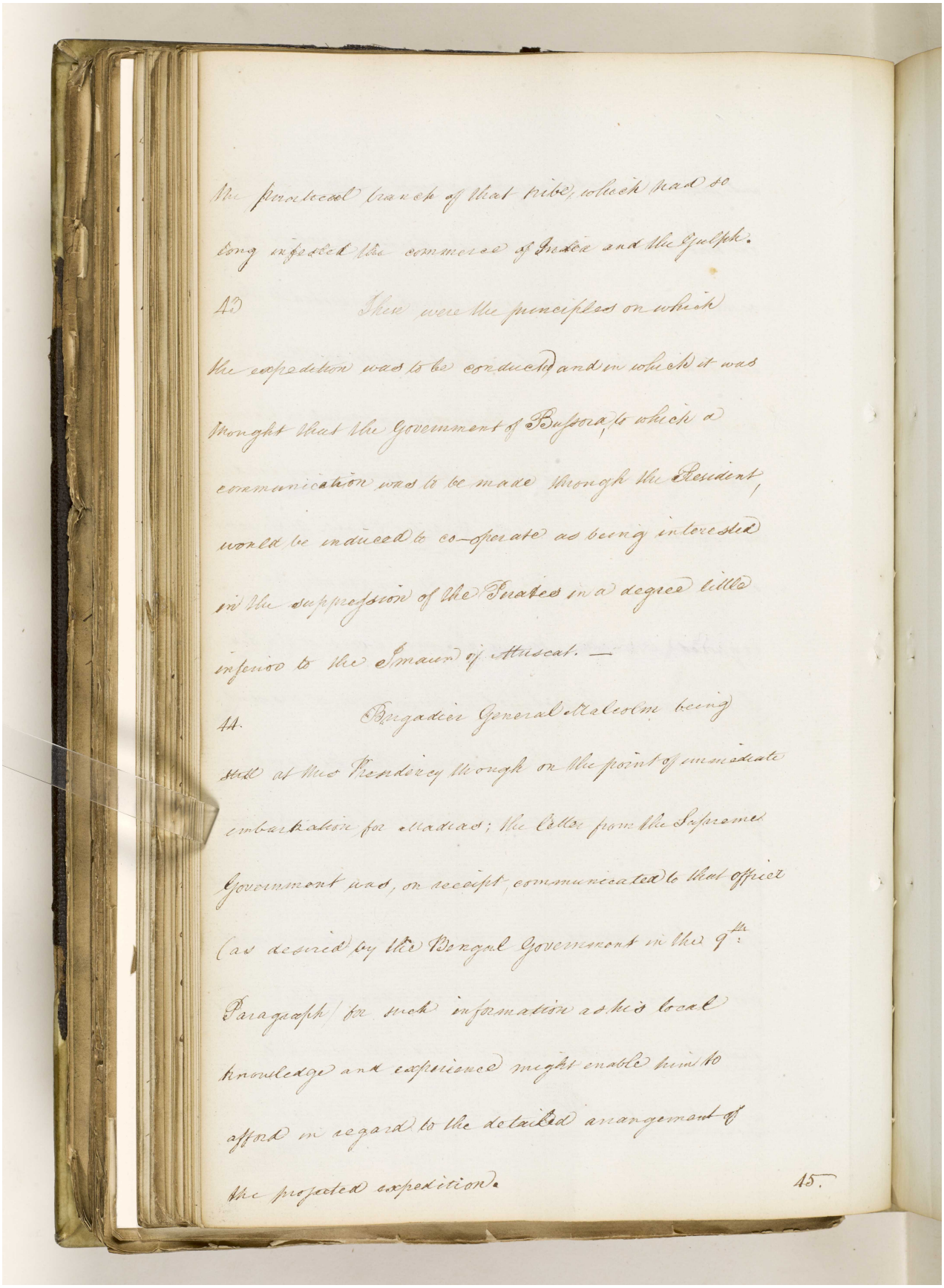

the piratical branch of that tribe, which had so long infested the commerce of India and the Gulph.

AD These were the principles on which the expedition was to be conducted and on which it was thought that the Government of Bussora, to which a communication was to be made through the Resident, would be induced to co-operate as being interested in the suppression of the Pirates in a degree little inferior to the Imaum of Muscat. —

AA Brigadier General Malcolm being still at this Presidency though on the point of immediate embarkation for Madras; the Letter from the Supreme Government was, on receipt, communicated to that Officer (as desired by the Bengal Government in the 9th Paragraph) for such information as his local knowledge and experience might enable him to afford in regard to the detailed arrangement of the projected expedition.

15.

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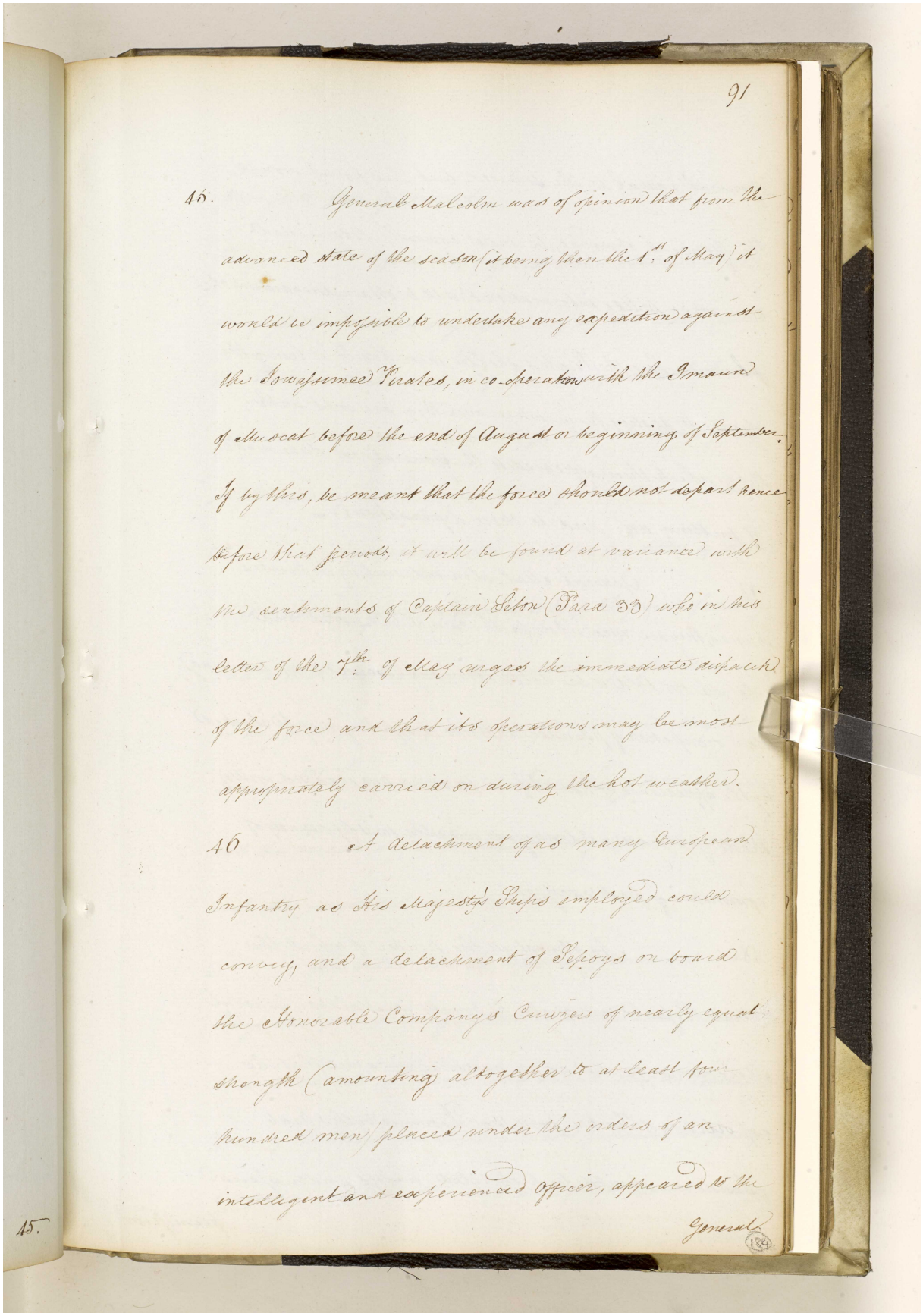

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15. General Malcolm was of opinion that from the advanced state of the season (it being then the 1st. of May) it would be impossible to undertake any expedition against the Joowasmee Pirates, in co-operation with the Imaum of Muscat before the end of August or beginning of September. If by this, be meant that the force should not depart hence before that period, it will be found at variance with the sentiments of Captain Seton (Para 38) who in his letter of the 7th. of May urges the immediate dispatch of the force, and that its operations may be most appropriately carried on during the hot weather.

16 A detachment of as many European Infantry as His Majesty's Ships employed could convey, and a detachment of Sepoys on board the Honorable Company's Cruizers of nearly equal strength (amounting altogether to at least four hundred men) placed under the orders of an intelligent and experienced Officer, appeared to the General

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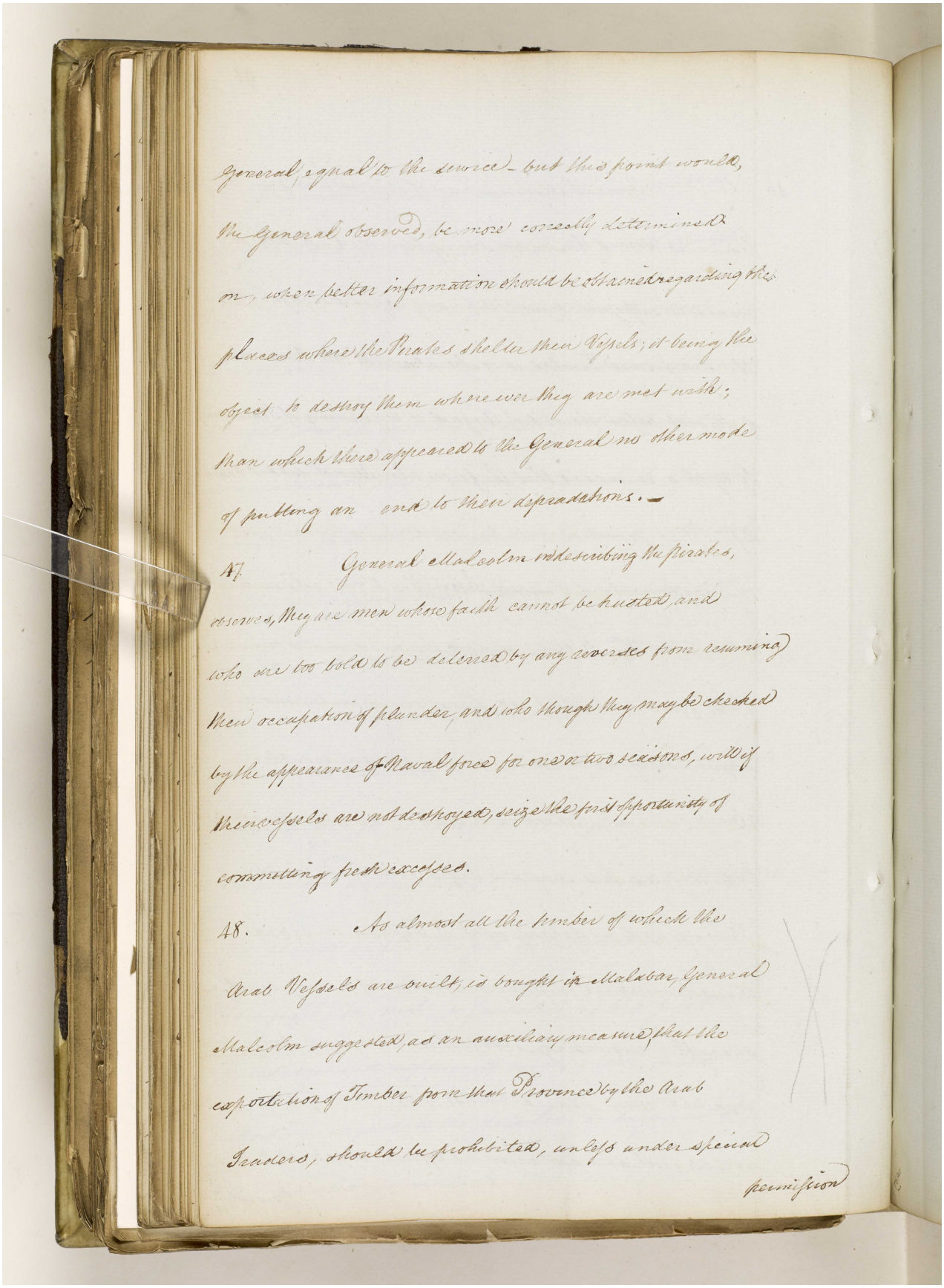

General, equal to the service – but this point would, the General observed, be more correctly determined on, when better information should be obtained regarding the places where the Pirates shelter their Vessels; it being the object to destroy them wherever they are met with; than which there appeared to the General no other mode of putting an end to their depradations. –

47. General Malcolm in describing the Pirates, observes, they are men whose faith cannot be trusted, and who are too bold to be deterred by any severities from resuming their occupation of plunder, and who thought they may be checked by the appearance of Naval force for one or two seasons, will if their vessels are not destroyed, seize the first opportunity of committing fresh excesses.

48. As almost all the timber of which the Arab Vessels are built, is bought in Malabar, General Malcolm suggested, as an auxiliary measure, that the exportation of Timber from that Province by the Arab Traders, should be prohibited, unless under special permission

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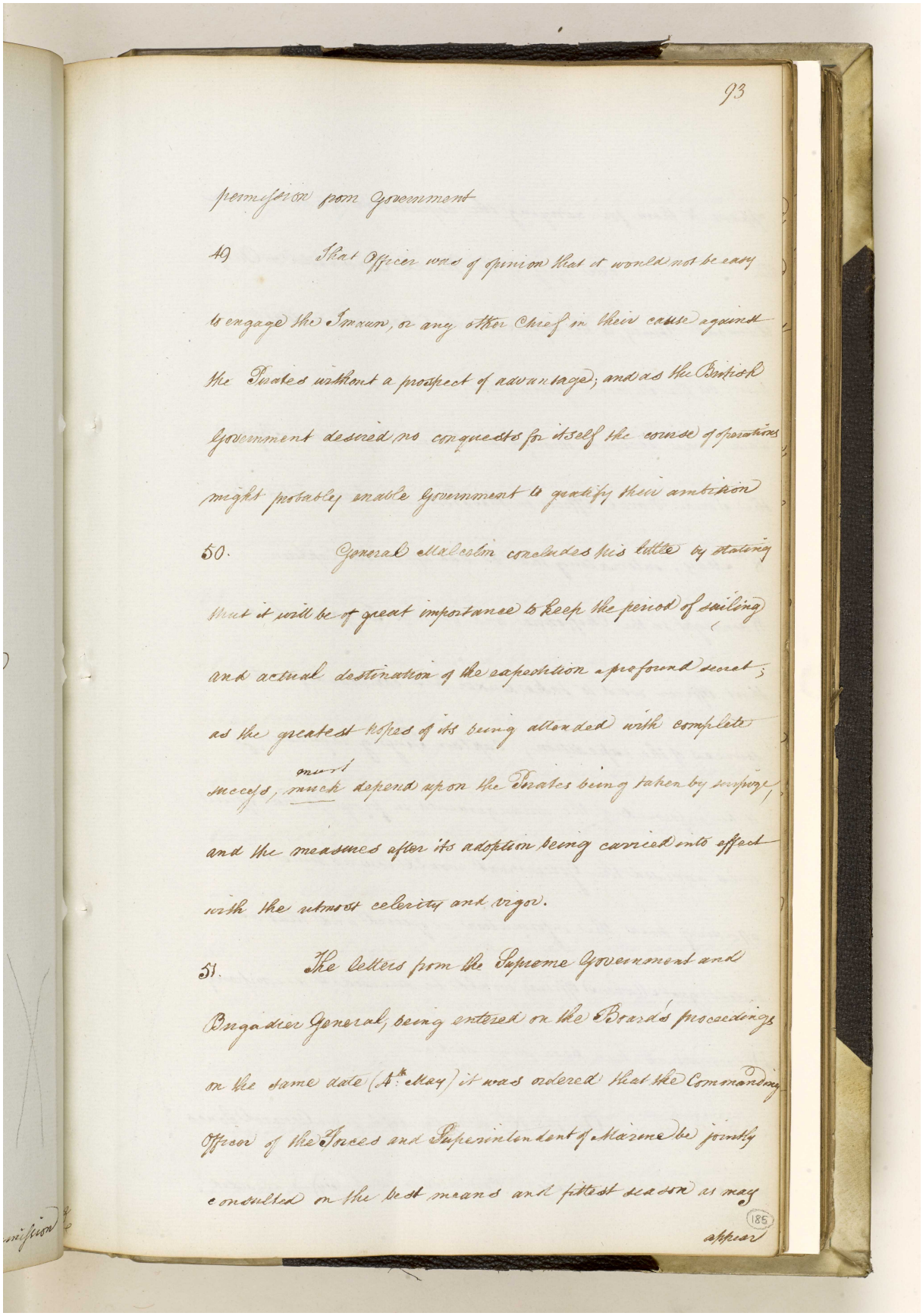

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permission from Government

49 That Officer was of opinion that it would not be easy to engage the Imaum, or any other Chief in their cause against the Pirates without a prospect of advantage; and as the British Government desired no conquests for itself the course of operations might probably enable Government to gratify their ambition

50. General Malcolm concludes his letter by stating that it will be of great importance to keep the period of sailing and actual destination of the expedition a profound secret; as the greatest hopes of its being attended with complete success, must depend upon the Pirates being taken by surprize, and the measures after its adoption being carried into effect with the utmost celerity and vigor.

51. The letters from the Supreme Government and Brigadier General, being entered on the Boards proceedings on the same date (4th May) it was ordered that the Commanding Officer of the Forces and Superintendent of Marine be jointly consulted on the best means and fittest season as may

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appear

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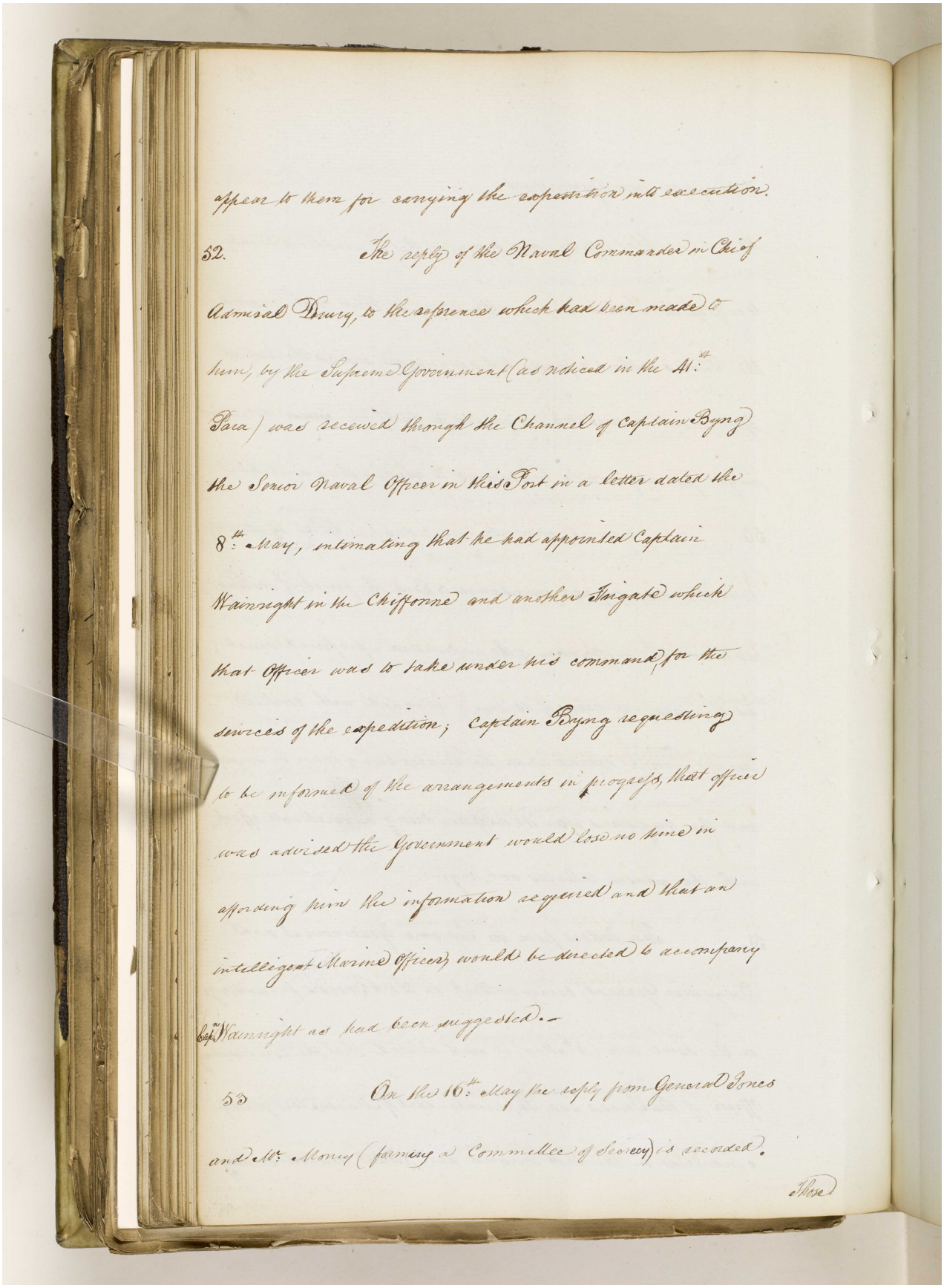

appear to them for carrying the expedition into execution.

52. The reply of the Naval Commander in Chief Admiral Drury, to the reference which had been made to him, by the Supreme Government (as noticed in the 41st Para) was received through the Channel of Captain Byng the Senior Naval Officer in this Port in a letter dated the 8th May, intimating that he had appointed Captain Wainright in the Chiffonne and another Frigate which that Officer was to take under his command, for the services of the expedition; Captain Byng requesting to be informed of the arrangements in progress, that Officer was advised the Government would lose no time in affording him the information required and that an intelligent Marine Officer, would be directed to accompany Captain Wainright as had been suggested.—

53 On the 16th May the reply from General Jones and Mr. Money (forming a Committee of Secrecy) is recorded.

Those

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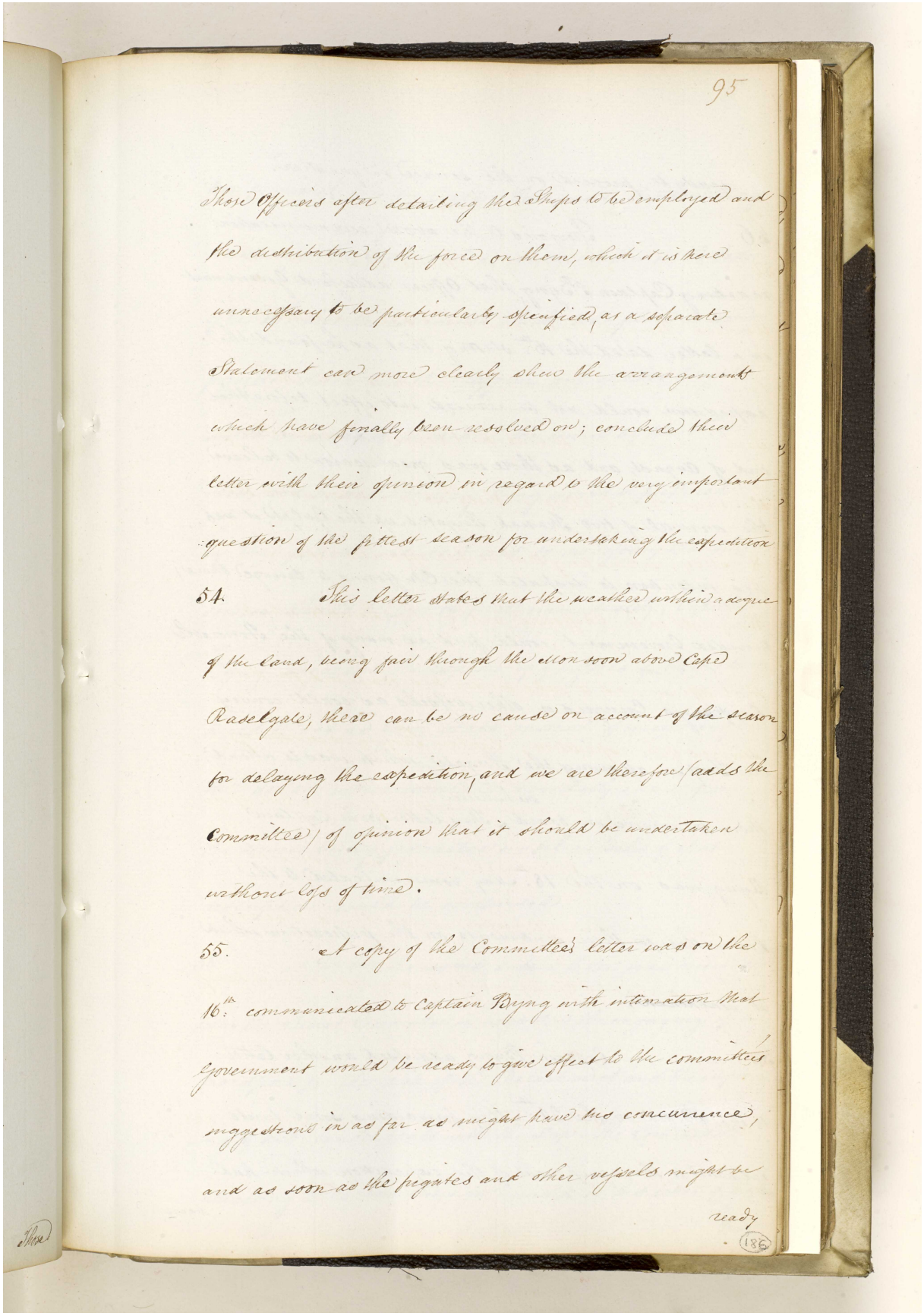

Those Officers after detailing the Ships to be employed and the distribution of the force on them, which it is here unnecessary to be particularly specified, as a separate Statement can more clearly shew the arrangements which have finally been resolved on; concluded their letter with their opinion in regard to the very important question of the fittest season for undertaking the expedition

54. This letter states that the weather within a league of the land, being fair through the Monsoon above Cape Raselgate, there can be no cause on account of the season for delaying the expedition, and we are therefore (adds the Committee) of opinion that it should be undertaken without loss of time.

55. A copy of the Committee's letter was on the 16th: communicated to Captain Byng with intimation that Government would be ready to give effect to the Committees suggestions in as far as might have his concurrence, and as soon as the frigates and other vessels might be

ready

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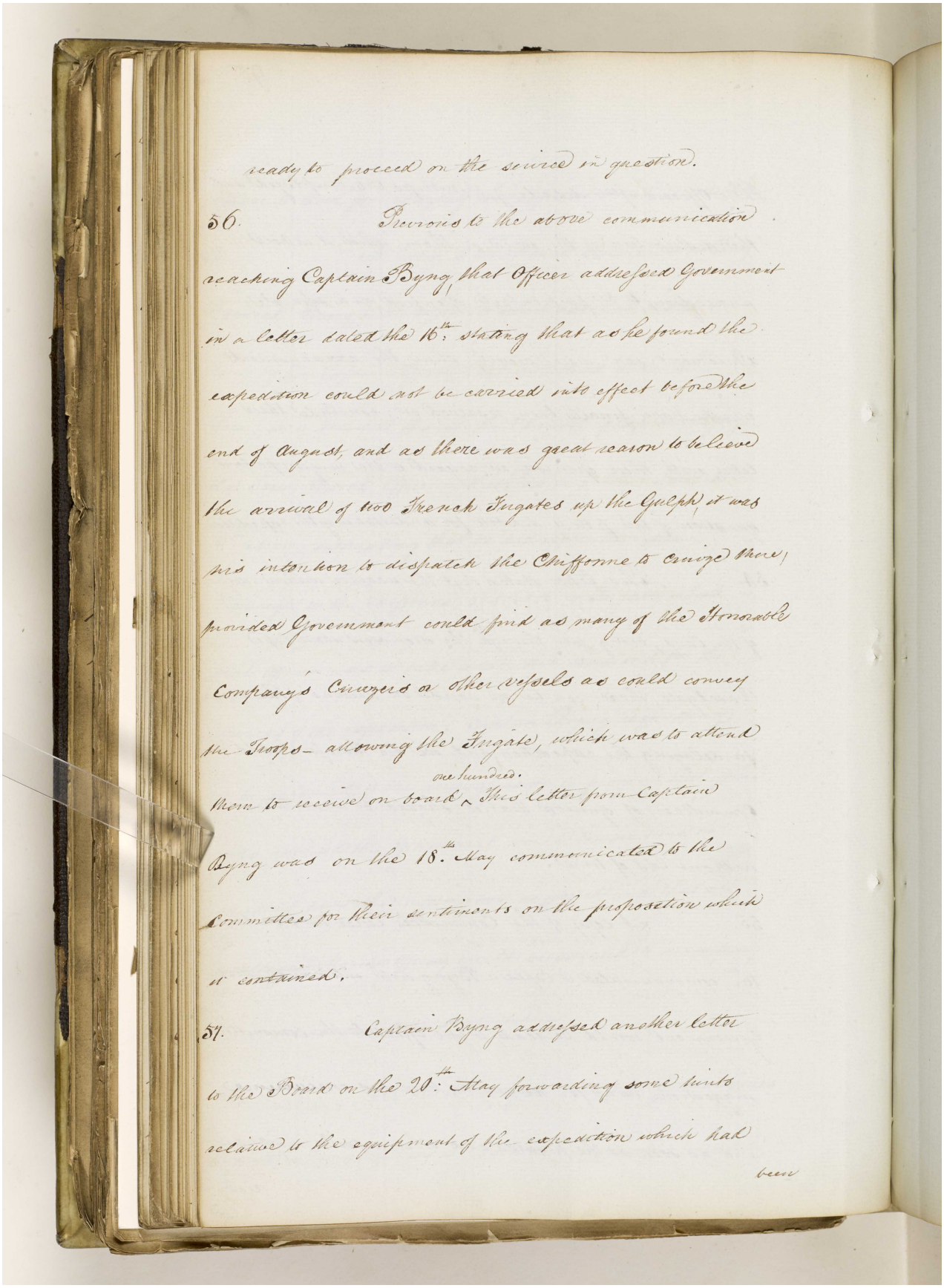

ready to proceed on the service in question.

56. Previous to the above communication reaching Captain Byng that Officer addressed Government in a letter dated the 16th: stating that as he found the expedition could not be carried into effect before the end of August, and as there was great reason to believe the arrival of two French Frigates up the Gulph, it was his intention to dispatch the Chiffonne to cruize there, provided Government could find as many of the Honorable Company's Cruizers or other vessels as could convey the Troops – allowing the Frigate, which was to attend them to receive on board one hundred. This letter from Captain Byng was on the 18th May communicated to the Committee for their sentiments on the proposition which it contained.

57. Captain Byng addressed another letter to the Board on the 20th May forwarding some hints relative to the equipment of the expedition which had been

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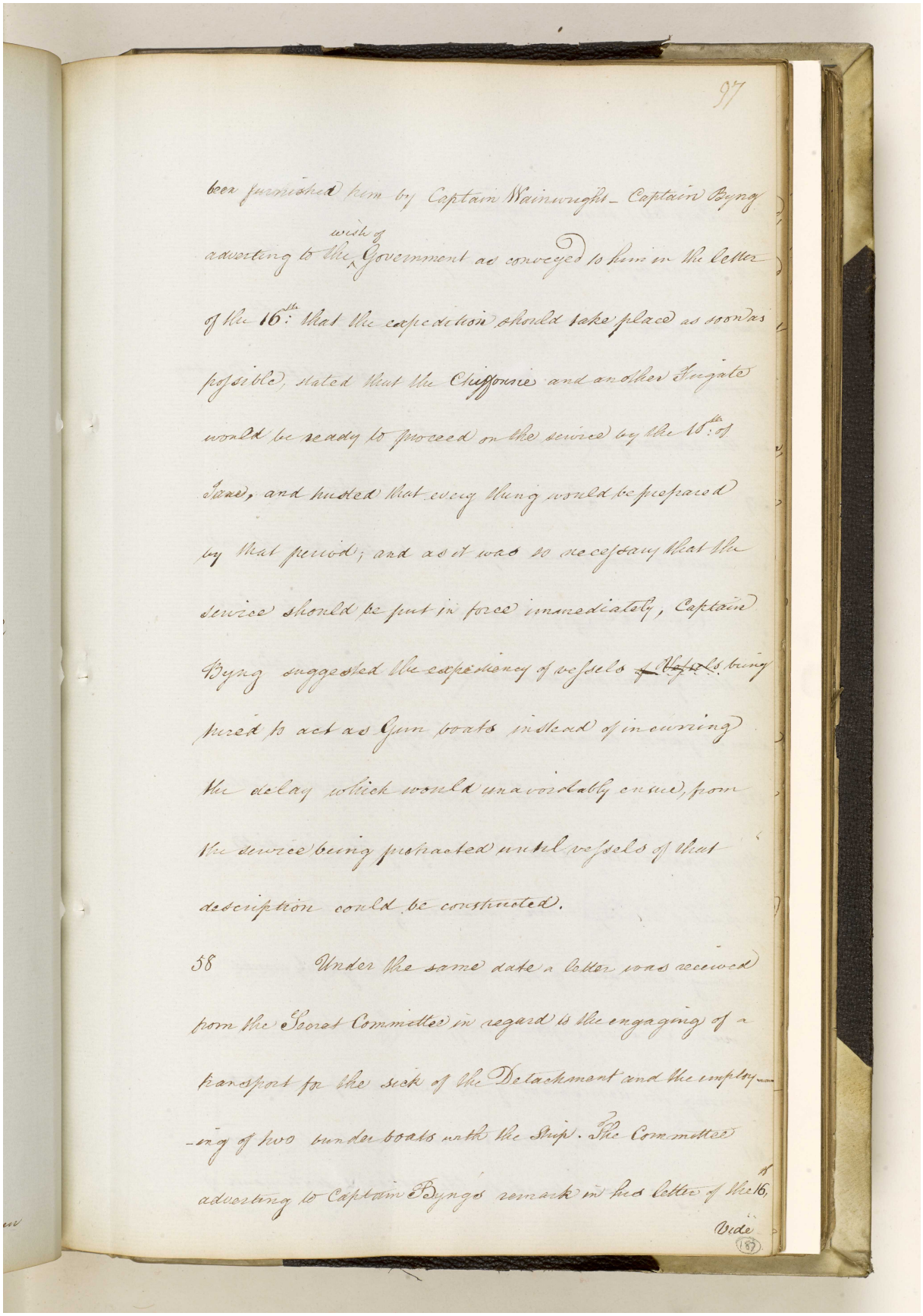

been furnished him by Captain Wainwright – Captain Byng adverting to the wish of Government as conveyed to him in the letter of the 16th: that the expedition should take place as soon as possible, stated that the Chiffonnie and another Frigate would be ready to proceed on the service by the 15th: of June, and trusted that every thing would be prepared by that period; and as it was so necessary that the service should be put in force immediately, Captain Byng suggested the expediency of vessels ~~of Vessels~~ being hired to act as Gun boats instead of incurring the delay which would unavoidably ensue, from the service being protracted until vessels of that description could be constructed.

58 Under the same date a letter was received from the Secret Committee in regard to the engaging of a transport for the sick of the Detachment and the employing of two bunder boats with the Ship. The Committee adverting to Captain Byng's remark in his letter of the 16th,

Vide

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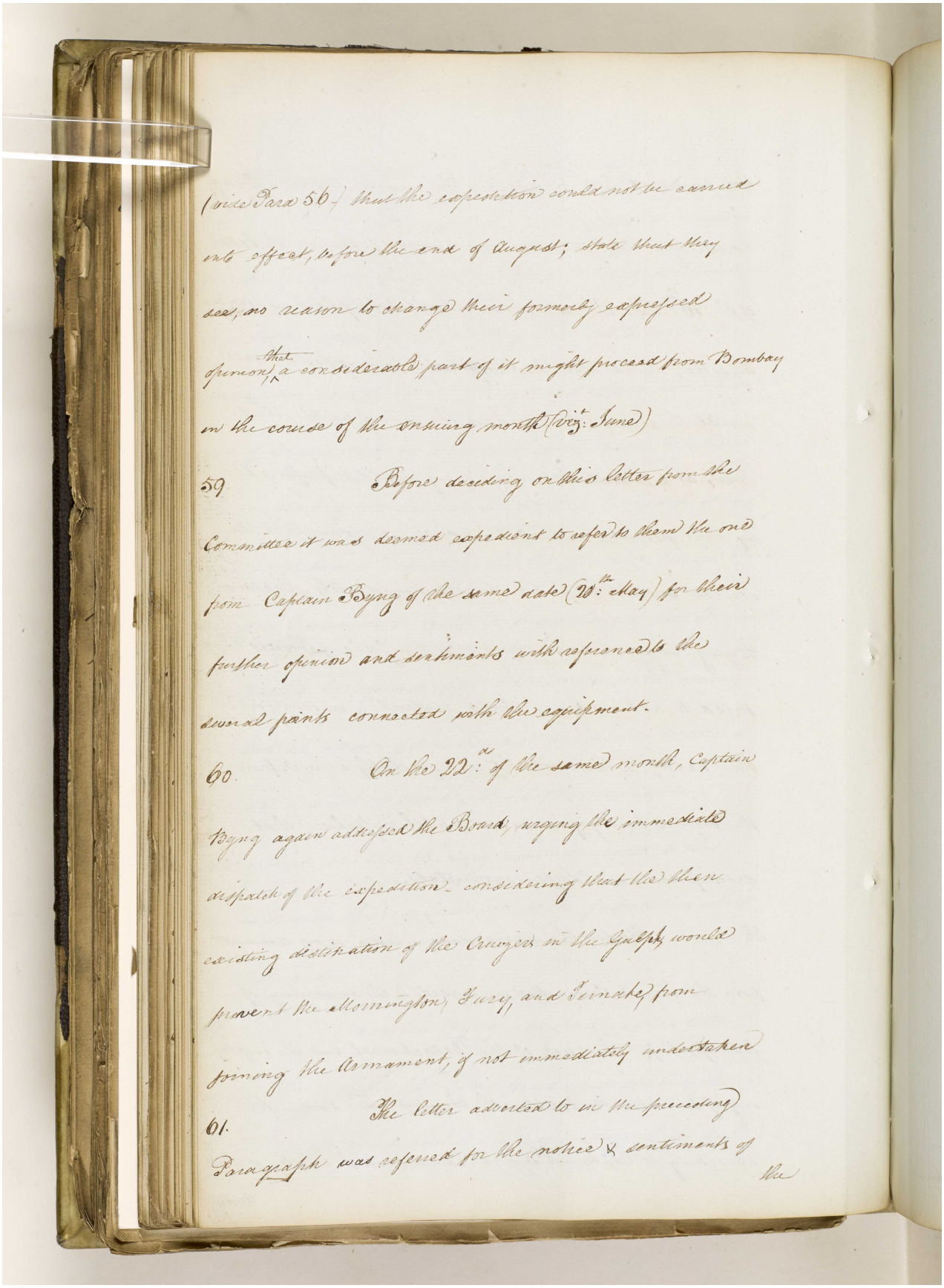

(vide Para 56) that the expedition could not be carried into effect, before the end of August; state that they see, no reason to change their formerly expressed opinion, that a considerable part of it might proceed from Bombay in the course of the ensuing month (viz: June)

59 Before deciding on this letter from the Committee it was deemed expedient to refer to them the one from Captain Byng of the same date (20th: May) for their further opinion and sentiments with reference to the several points connected with the equipment.

60 On the 22d: of the same month, Captain Byng again addressed the Board, urging the immediate despatch of the expedition – considering that the then existing distribution of the Cruizers in the Gulph, would prevent the Mornington, Fury, and Vimiera from joining the Armament, if not immediately undertaken

61. The letter adverted to in the preceding Paragraph was referred for the notice & sentiments of the

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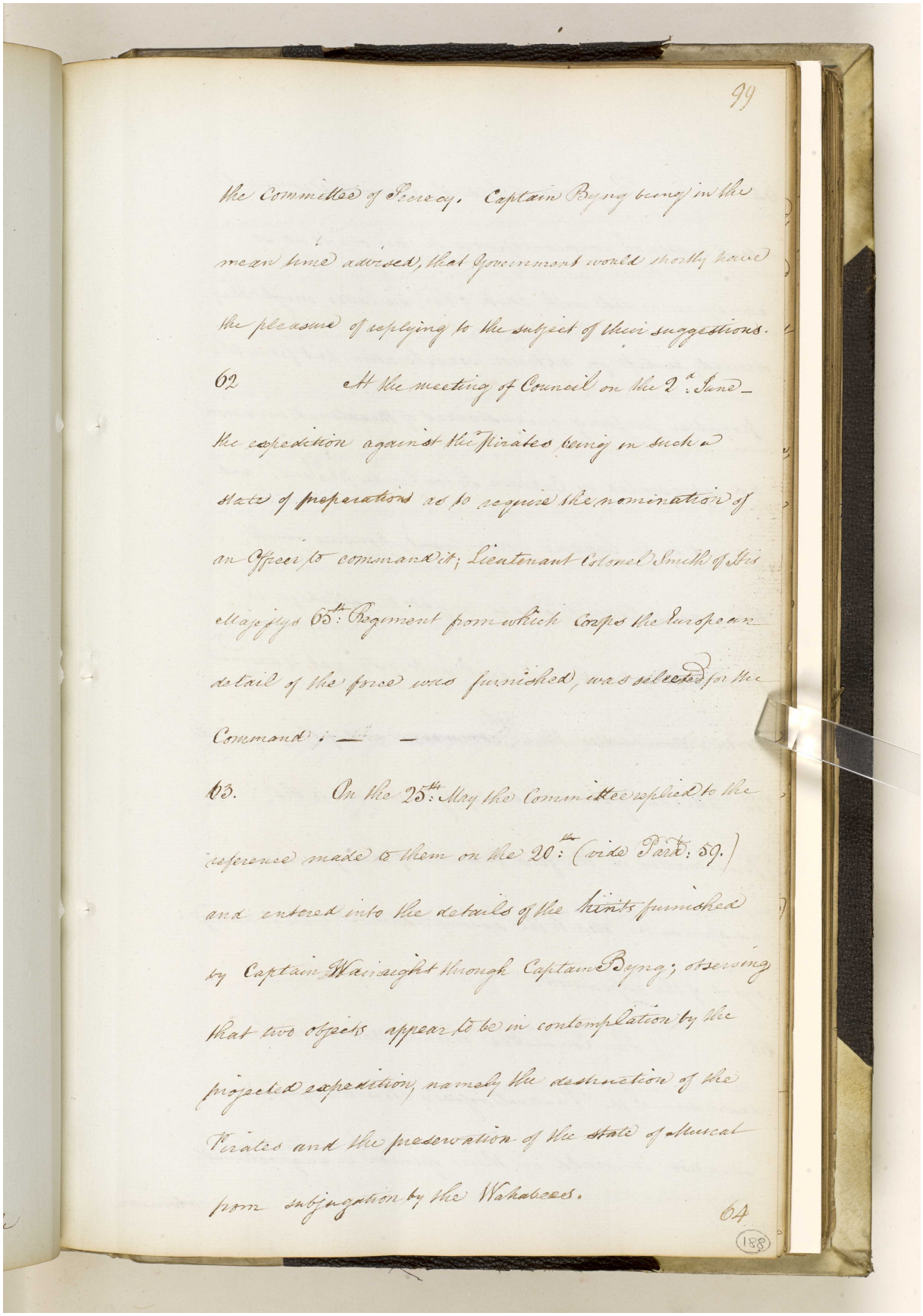

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the Committee of Secrecy. Captain Byng being in the
mean time advised, that Government would shortly have
the pleasure of replying to the subject of their suggestions.

62 At the meeting of Council on the 2d: June
the expedition against the Pirates being in such a
state of preparation as to require the nomination of
an Officer to command it; Lieutenant Colonel Smith of His
Majtys 65th: Regiment from which Corps the European
detail of the force was furnished, was selected for the
Command: — —

63. On the 25th: May the Committee replied to the
reference made to them on the 20th: (vide Para: 59.)
and entered into the details of the hints furnished
by Captain Wainwright through Captain Byng; observing
that two objects appear to be in contemplation by the
projected expedition, namely the destruction of the
Pirates and the preservation of the State of Muscat
from subjugation by the Wahabees.

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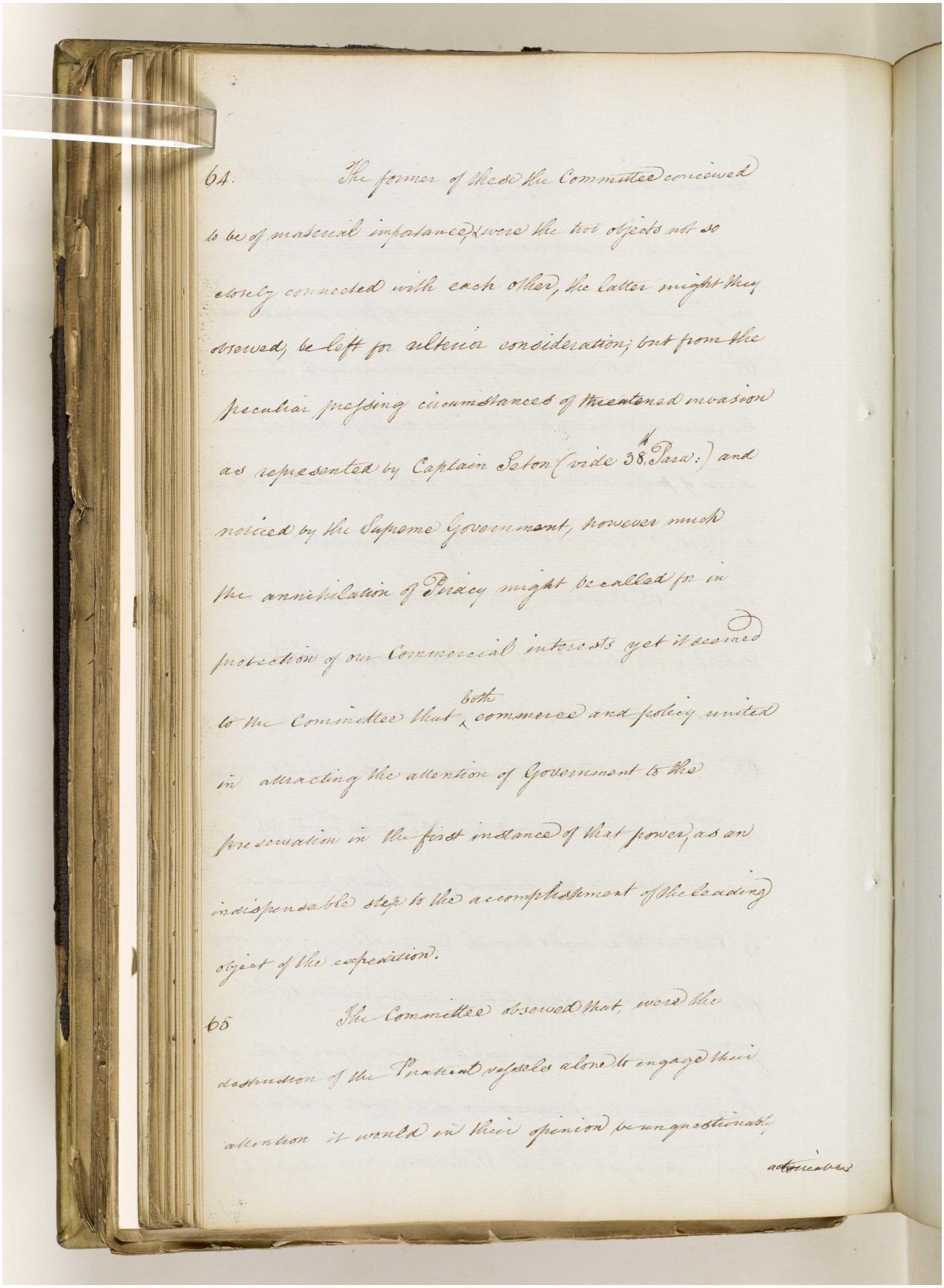

64. The former of these the Committee conceived to be of material importance, & were the two objects not so closely connected with each other, the latter might they observed, be left for ulterior consideration, but from the peculiar pressing circumstances of threatened invasion as represented by Captain Seton (vide 38th Para:) and noticed by the Supreme Government, however much the annihilation of Piracy might be called for in protection of our Commercial interests yet it seemed to the Committee that both commerce and policy united in attracting the attention of Government to the preservation in the first instance of that power as an indispensable step to the accomplishment of the leading object of the expedition.

65 The Committee observed that were the destruction of the Pirates vessels alone to engage their attention it would in their opinion be unquestionably advantageous

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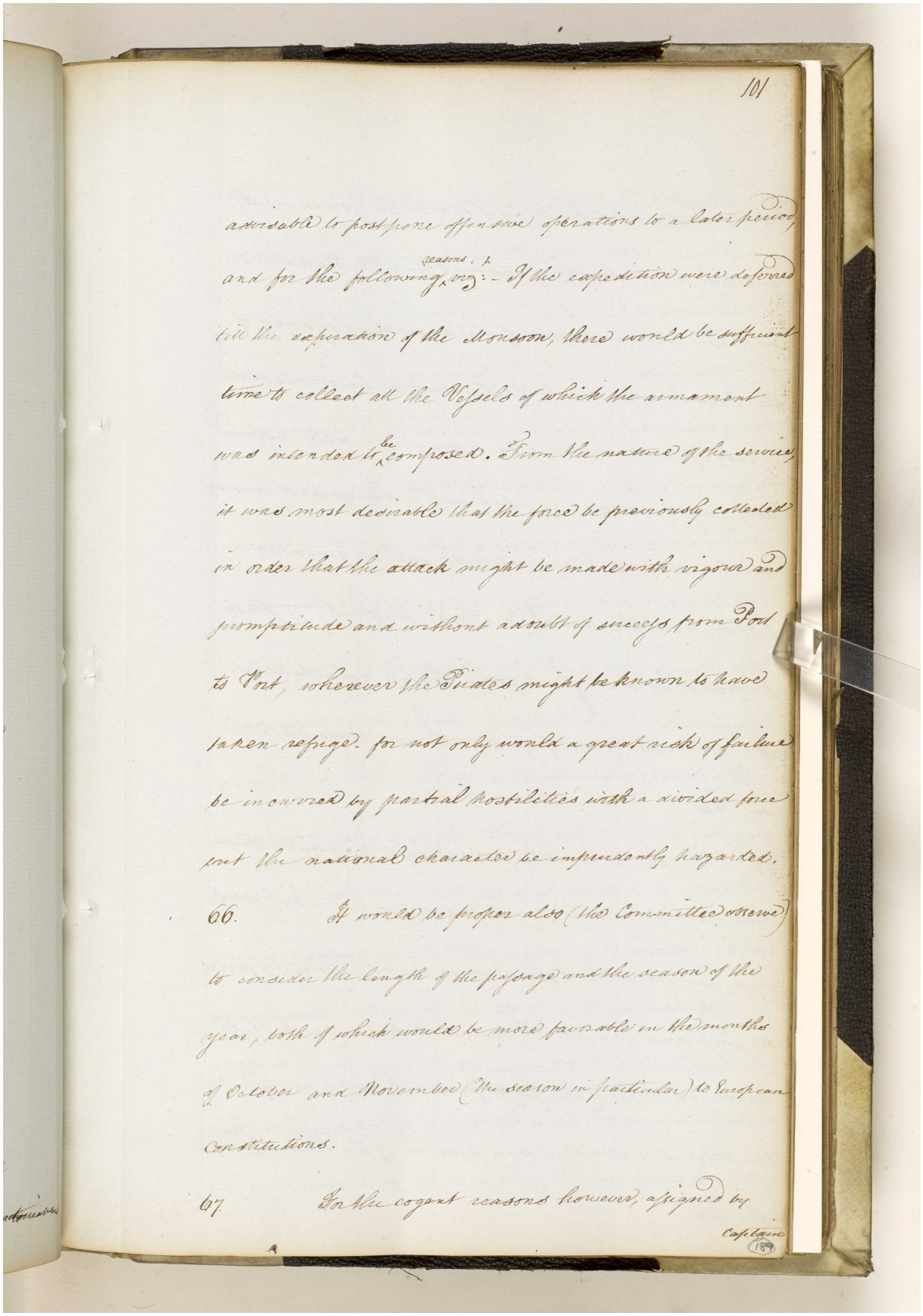

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advisable to postpone offensive operations to a later period,
and for the following reasons, viz:- If the expedition were deferred
till the expiration of the Monsoon, there would be sufficient
time to collect all the Vessels of which the armament
was intended to be composed. From the nature of the service,
it was most desirable that the force be previously collected
in order that the attack might be made with vigour and
promptitude and without a doubt of success from Port
to Port, wheresoever the Pirates might be known to have
taken refuge. for not only would a great risk of failure
be incurred by partial hostilities with a divided force
but the national character be imprudently hazarded.

66. It would be proper also (the Committee observe)
to consider the length of the passage and the season of the
year, both of which would be more favorable in the months
of October and November (the season in particular) to European
Constitutions.

67 For the cogent reasons however, assigned by

Captains

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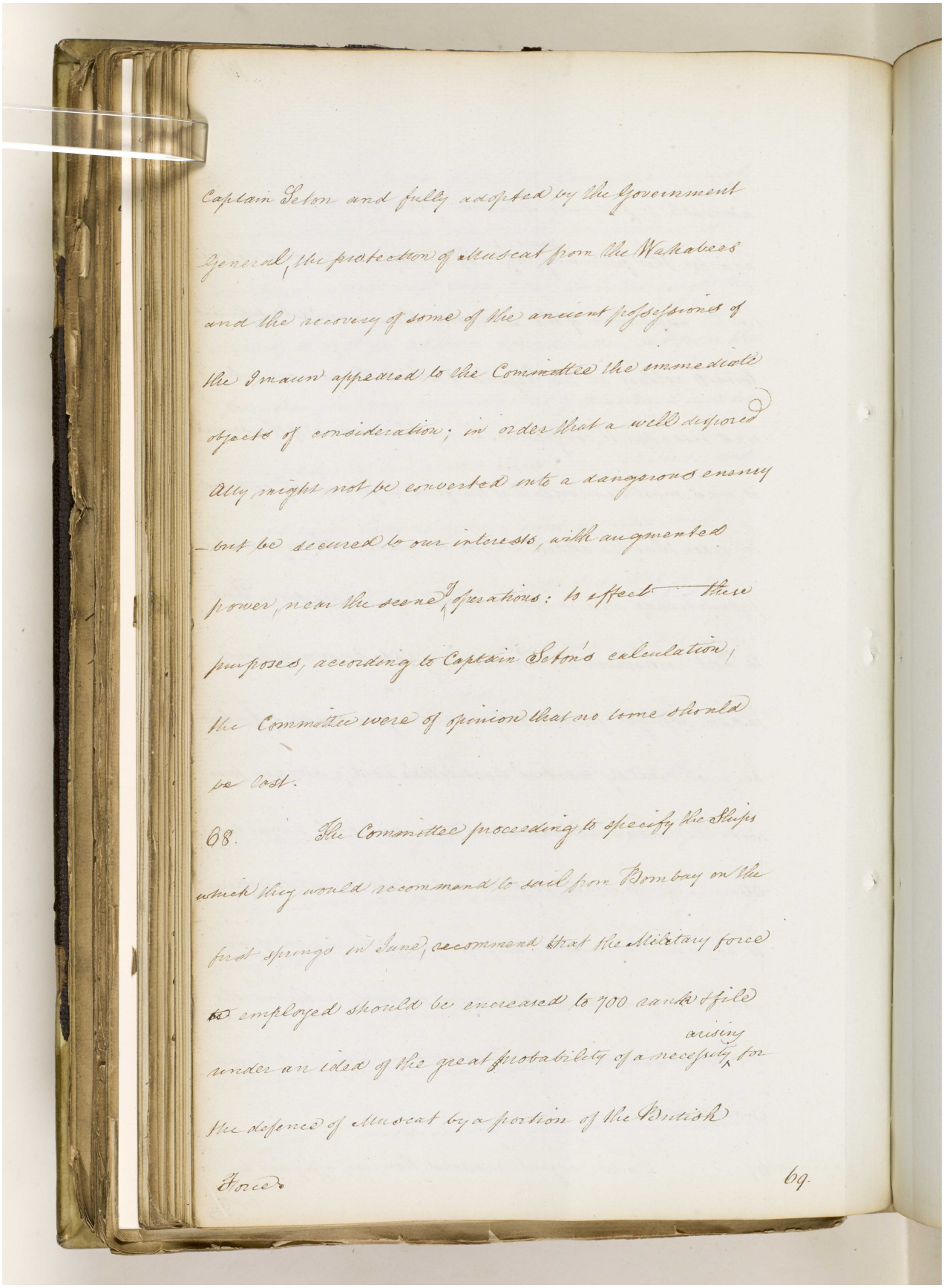

Captain Seton and fully adopted by the Government General, the protection of Muscat from the Wahabees and the recovery of some of the ancient possessions of the Imaum appeared to the Committee the immediate objects of consideration; in order that a well disposed Ally might not be converted into a dangerous enemy – but be secured to our interests, with augmented power, near the scene of operations: to effect these purposes, according to Captain Seton's calculation, the Committee were of opinion that no time should be lost.

68. The Committee proceeding to specify the Ships which they would recommend to sail from Bombay on the first springs in June, recommend that the Military force employed should be encreased to 700 rank & file under an idea of the great probability of a necessity arising for the defence of Muscat by a portion of the British Force.

69.

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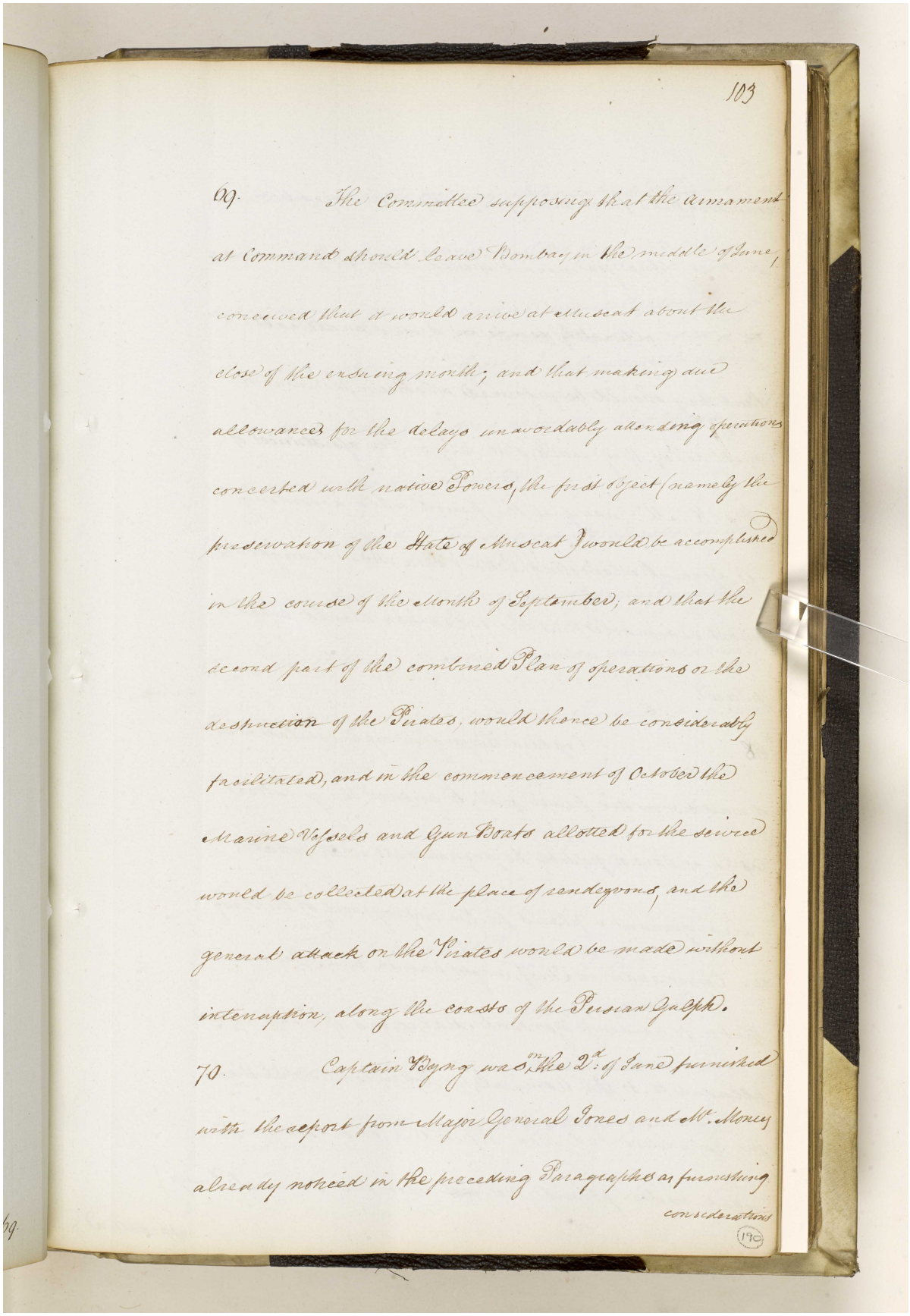

69. The Committee supposing that the Armament at Commando should leave Bombay in the middle of June, conceived that it would arrive at Muscat about the close of the ensuing month; and that making due allowances for the delays unavoidably attending operations concerted with native Powers, the first object (namely the preservation of the State of Muscat) would be accomplished in the course of the Months of September; and that the second part of the combined Plan of operations on the destruction of the Pirates, would thence be considerably facilitated, and in the commencement of October the Marine Vessels and Gun Boats allotted for the service would be collected at the place of rendezvous, and the general attack on the Pirates would be made without interruption, along the coasts of the Persian Gulph.

70. Captain Byng was on the 2d. of June furnished with the report from Major General Jones and Mr. Money already noticed in the preceding Paragraphs as furnishing considerations

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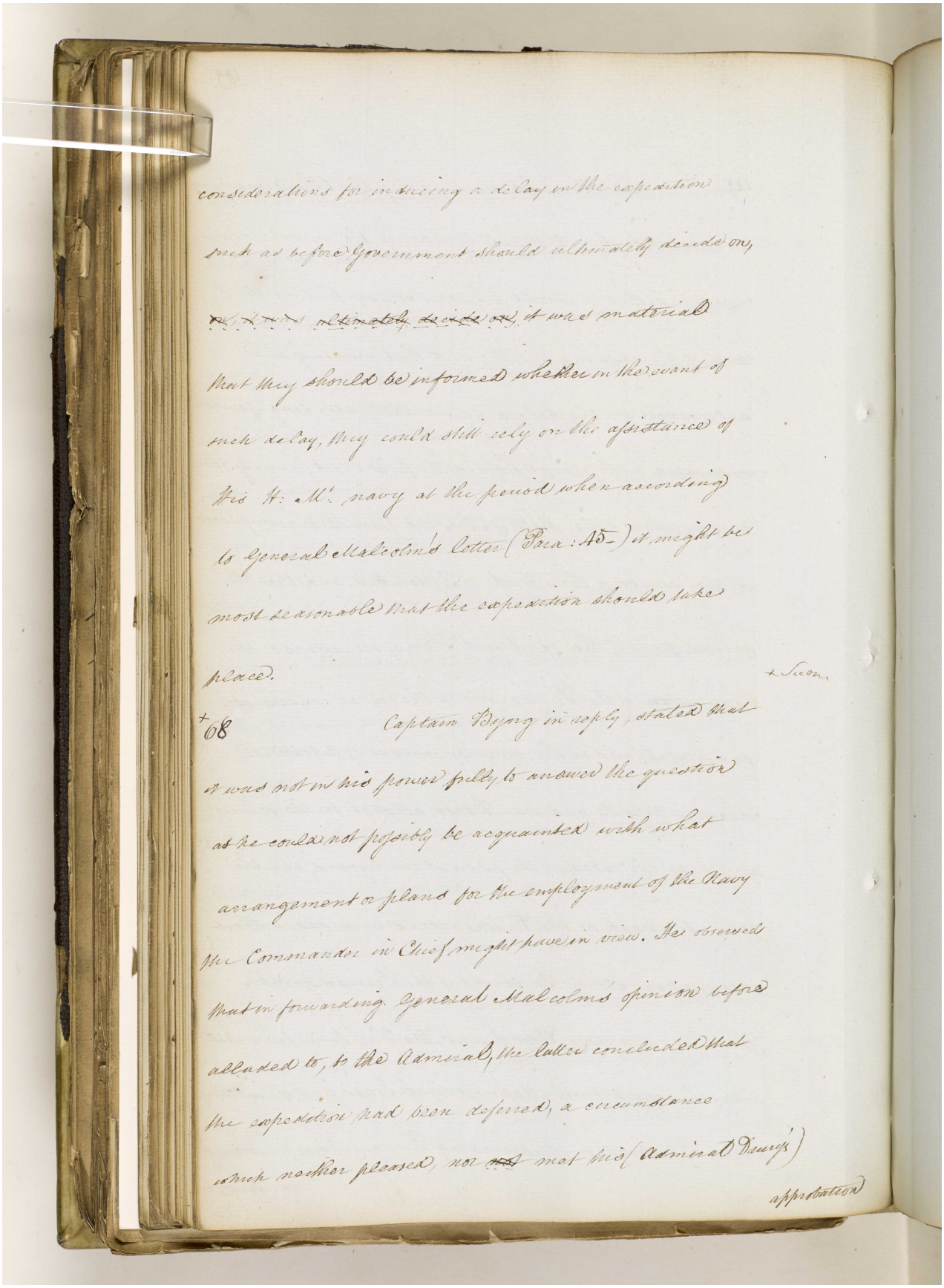

considerations for instructing a delay in the expedition such as before Government should ultimately decide on, ~~xx xxx ultimately decide xxx~~ it was material that they should be informed whether in the event of such delay, they could still rely on the assistance of His M.ty's navy at the period when according to General Malcolm's letter (Para: 15.) it might be most reasonable that the expedition should take place.

+ Secon.

+68 Captain Byng in reply, stated that it was not in his power fully to answer the question as he could not possibly be acquainted with what arrangements or plans for the employment of the Navy the Commander in Chief might have in view. He observed that in forwarding General Malcolm's opinion before alluded to, to the Admiralty, the latter concluded that the expedition had been deferred, a circumstance which neither pleased, nor ~~xxx~~ met his (Admiral Drury's) approbation

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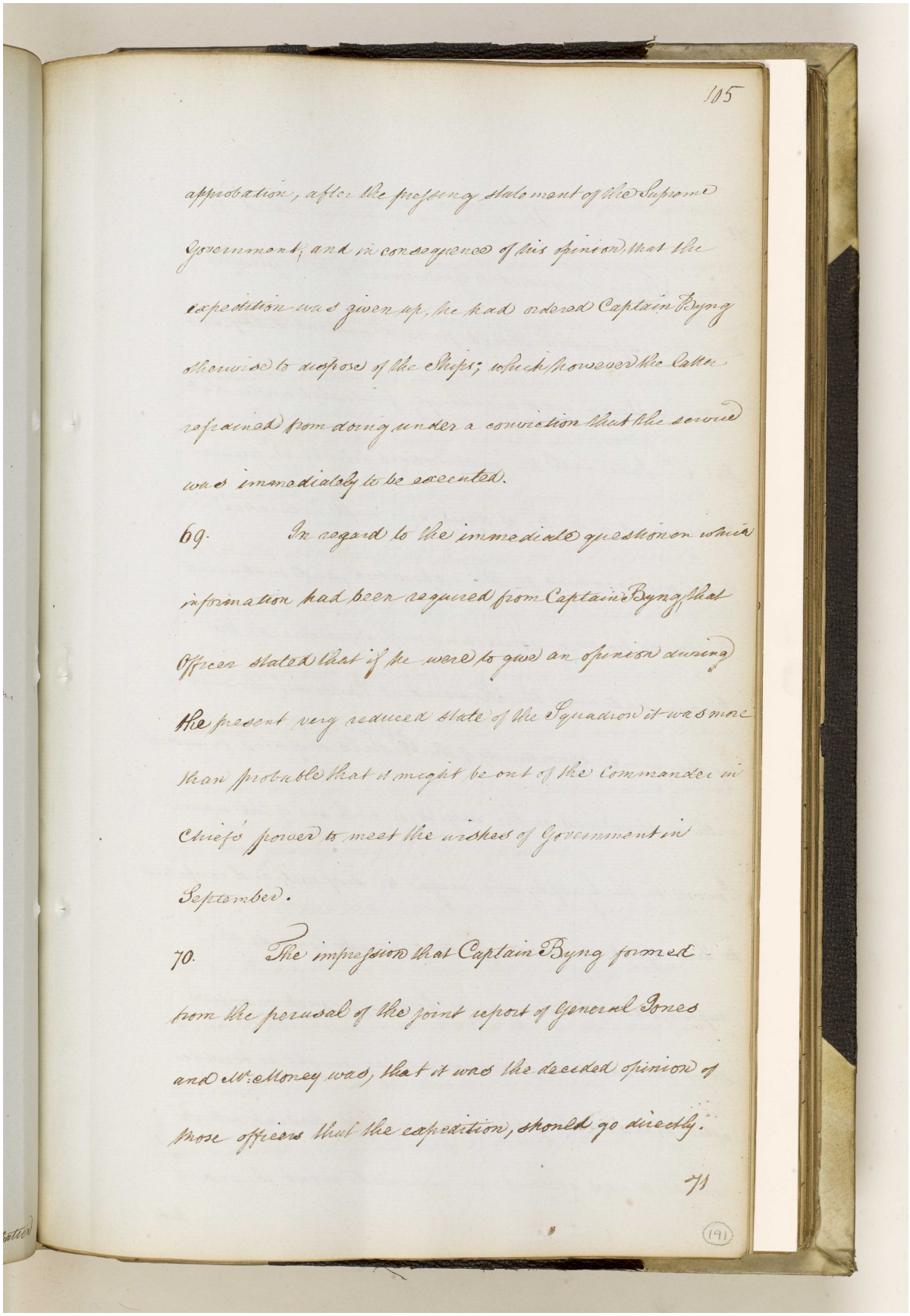

approbation, after the professing sentiments of the Supreme Government; and in consequence of this opinion that the expedition was given up, he had ordered Captain Byng likewise to dispose of the Ships; which however the latter refrained from doing under a conviction that the service was immediately to be executed.

69. In regard to the immediate question on which information had been required from Captain Byng, that Officer stated that if he were to give an opinion during the present very reduced state of the Squadron it was more than probable that it might be out of the Commander in Chief's power to meet the wishes of Government in September.

70. The impression that Captain Byng formed from the perusal of the joint report of General Jones and Mr. Money was, that it was the decided opinion of those officers that the expedition, should go directly.

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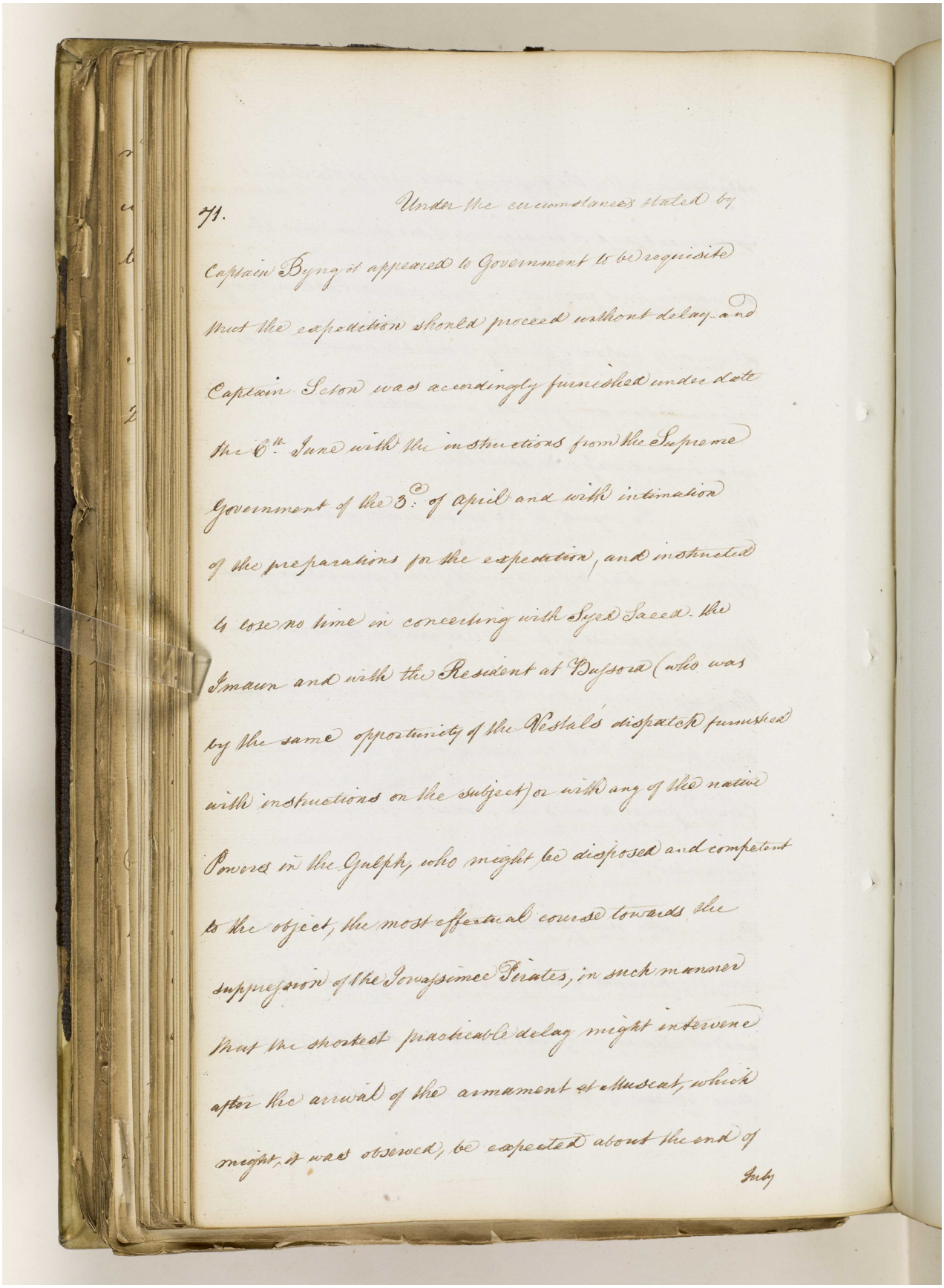

71.

Under the circumstances stated by Captain Byng it appeared to Government to be requisite that the expedition should proceed without delay and Captain Seton was accordingly furnished under date the 6th June with the instructions from the Supreme Government of the 3d of April and with intimation of the preparations for the expedition, and instructed to lose no time in concerting with Syed Saeed the Imaum and with the Resident at Bussora (who was by the same opportunity of the Restals dispatch furnished with instructions on the subject) or with any of the native Powers in the Gulph, who might be disposed and competent to the object, the most effectual course towards the suppression of the Joasmee Pirates, in such manner that the shortest practicable delay might intervene after the arrival of the armament at Muscat, which might, it was observed, be expected about the end of July

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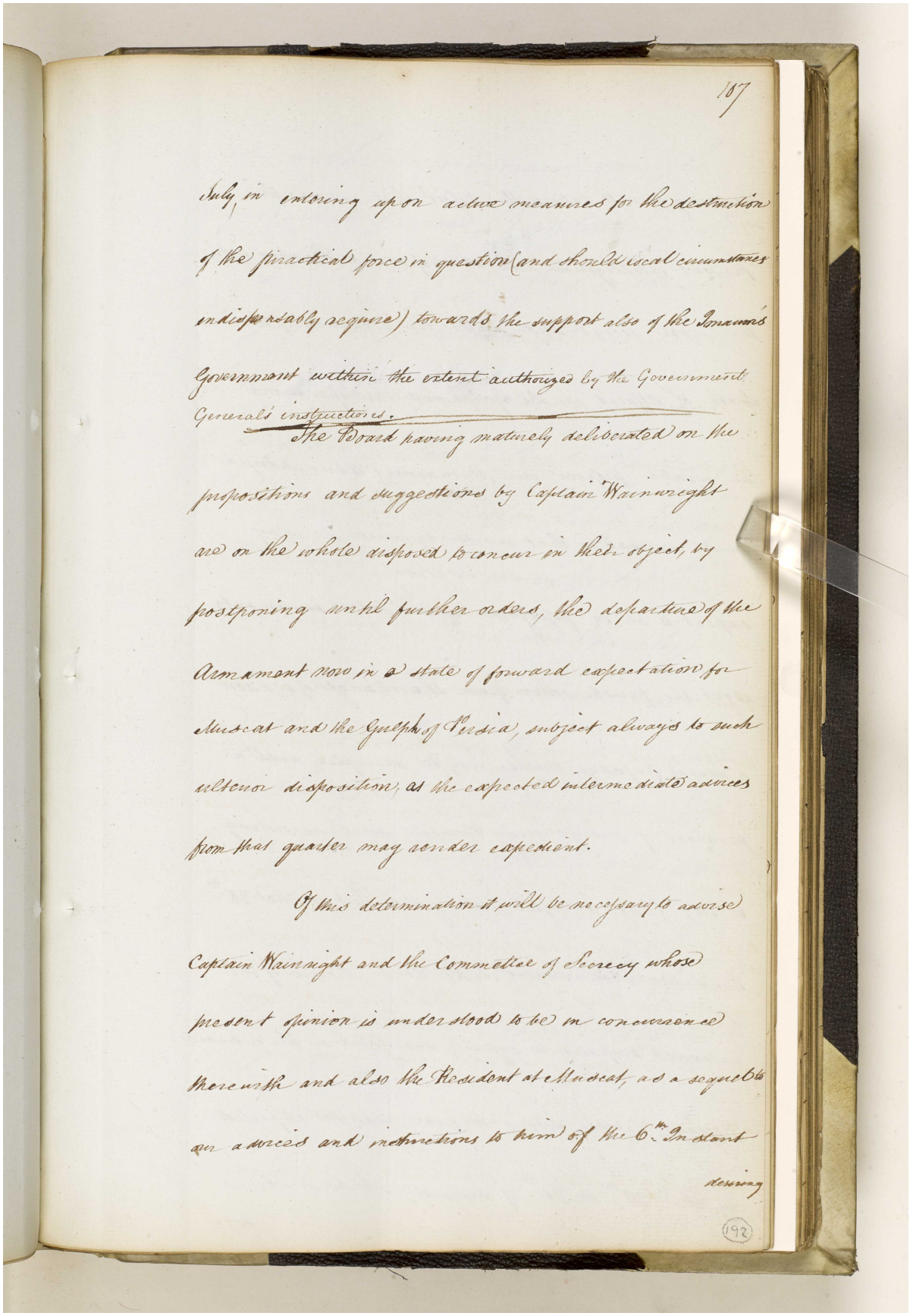

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July, in entering upon active measures for the destruction of the piratical force in question (and should local circumstances indispensably require) towards the support also of the Imaum's Government within the extent authorized by the Governments General's instructions.

The Board having maturely deliberated on the propositions and suggestions by Captain Wainwright are on the whole disposed to concur in their object, by postponing until further orders, the departure of the Armament now in a state of forward expectation for Muscat and the Gulph of Persia, subject always to such ulterior disposition, as the expected intermediate advices from that quarter may render expedient.

Of this determination it will be necessary to advise Captain Wainright and the Commodore of Secrecy whose present opinion is understood to be in consonance therewith and also the Resident at Muscat, as a sequel to our advices and instructions to him of the 6th. Instant

desiring

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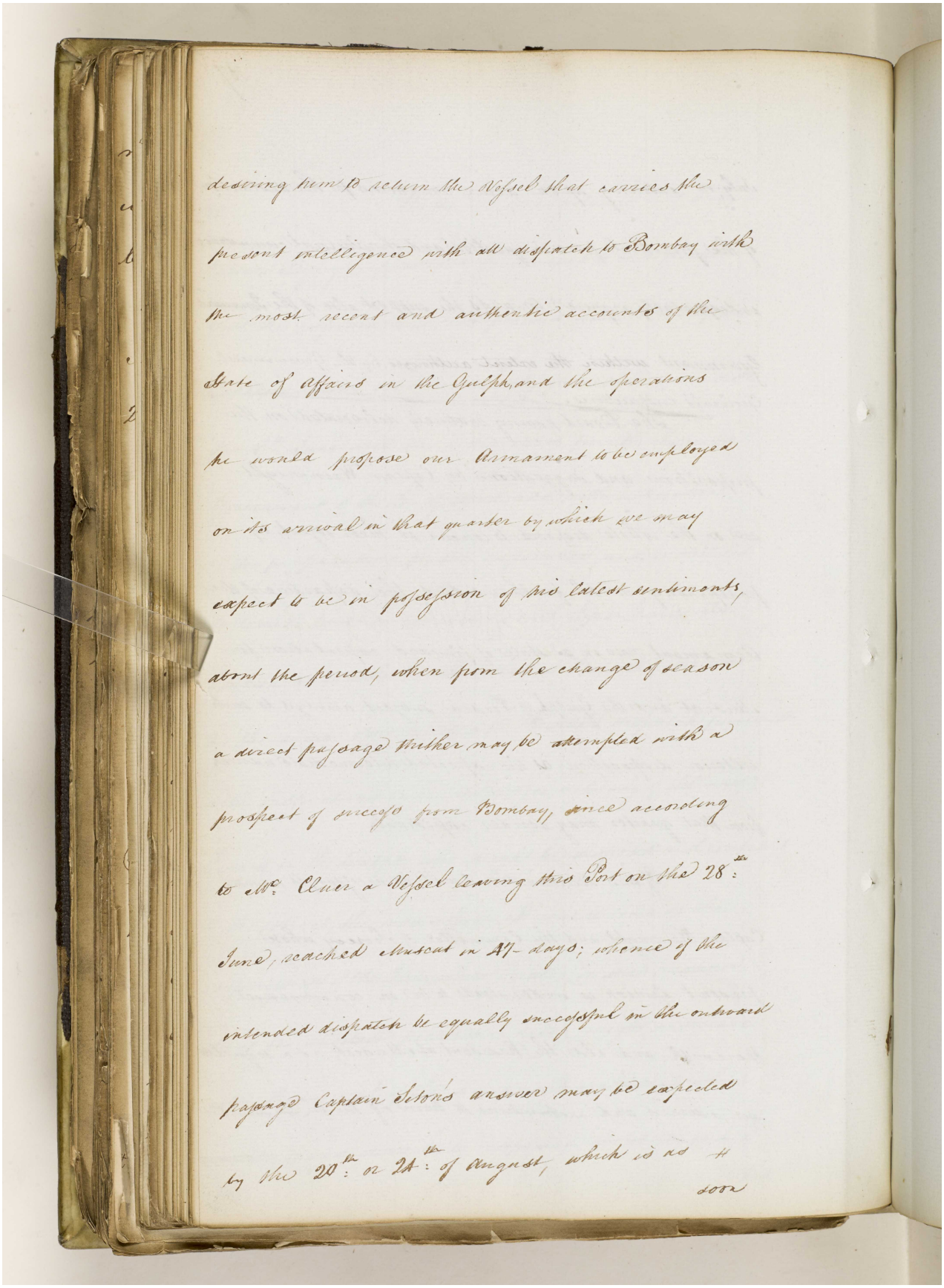

desiring him to return the Vessel that carries the present intelligence with all dispatch to Bombay with the most recent and authentic accounts of the state of affairs in the Gulph, and the operations he would propose our Armament to be employed on its arrival in that quarter by which we may expect to be in possession of the latest sentiments, about the period, when from the change of season a direct passage thither may be attempted with a prospect of success from Bombay, since according to Mr. Elmer a Vessel leaving this Port on the 28th: June, reached Muscat in 17 days; whence if the intended dispatch be equally successful in the outward passage Captain Seton's answer may be expected by the 20th: or 24th: of August, which is as soon

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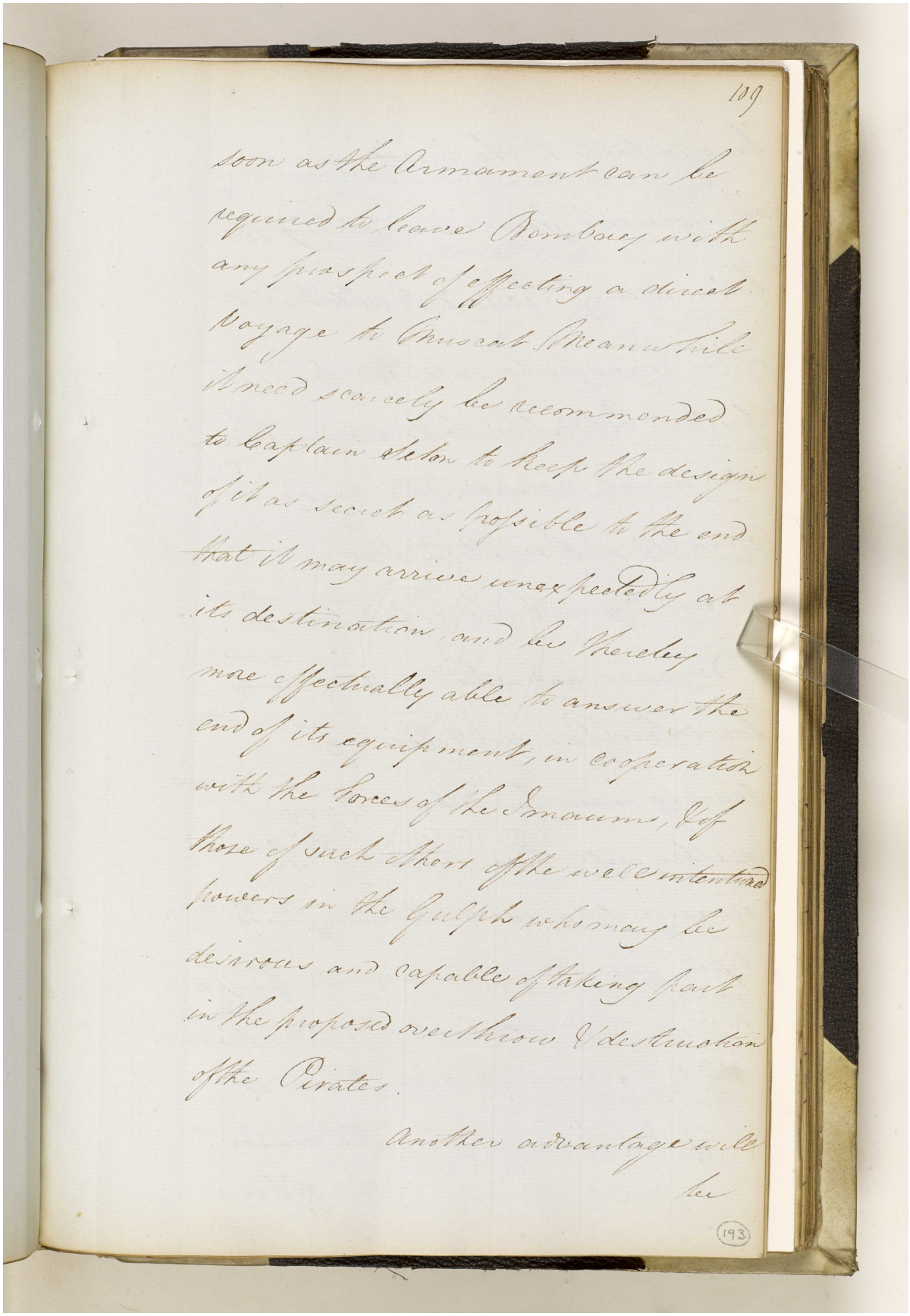

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soon as the Armament can be
required to leave Bombay with
any prospect of effecting a direct
Voyage to Muscat. Meanwhile
it need scarcely be recommended
to Captain Seton to keep the design
of it as secret as possible to the end
that it may arrive unexpectedly at
its destination, and be thereby
more effectually able to answer the
end of its equipment, in cooperation
with the forces of the Imaums, & of
those of such other of the well intentioned
powers in the Gulph who may be
desirous and capable of taking part
in the proposed overthrow & destruction
of the Pirates.

Another advantage will
be

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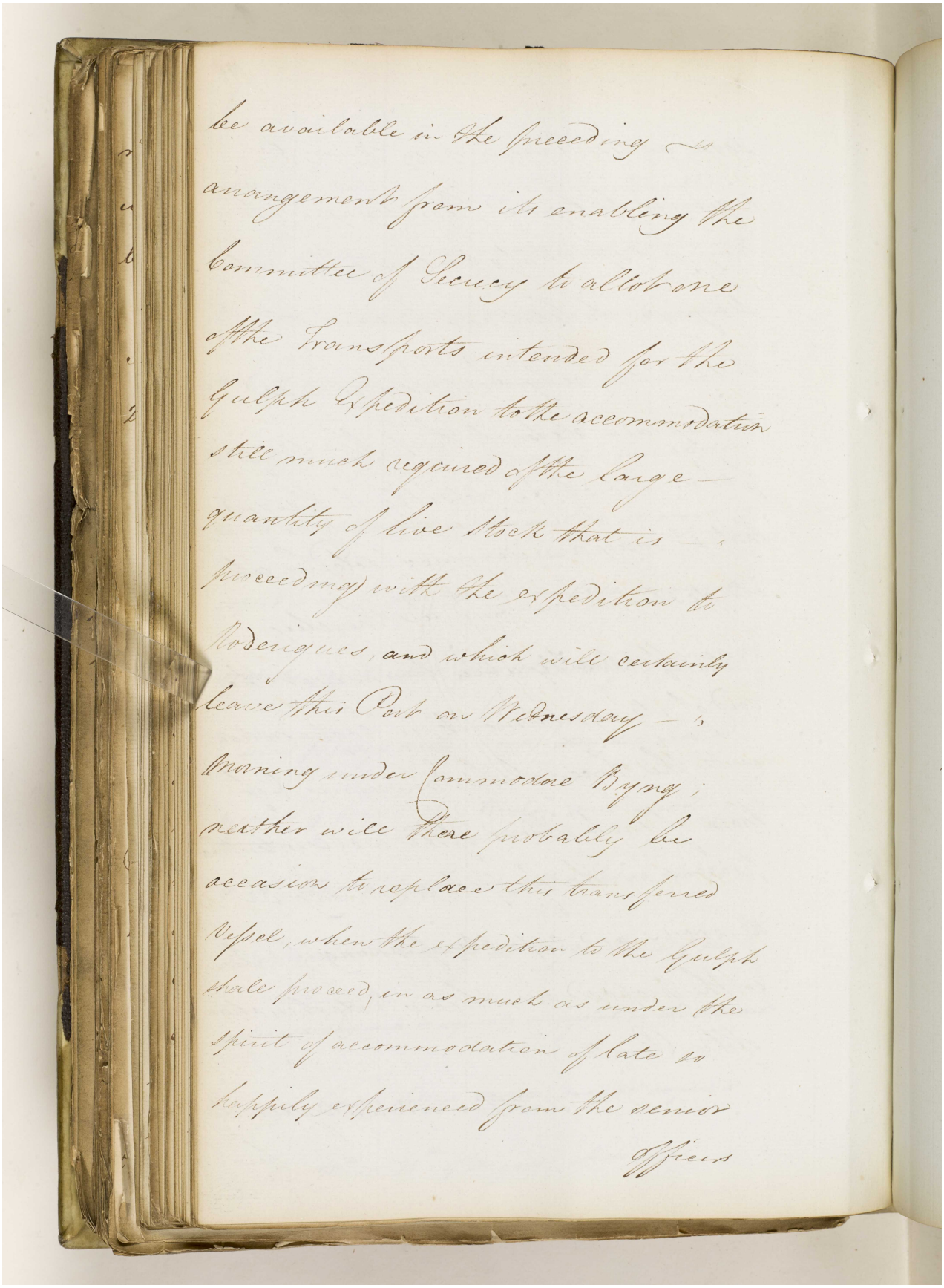

bee available in the preceding
arrangement from its enabling the
Committee of Secrecy to allot one
of the Transports intended for the
Gulph Expedition to the accommodation
still much required of the large
quantity of live Stock that is
proceeding with the expedition to
Rodrigues, and which will certainly
leave this Port on Wednesday
Morning under Commodore Byng;
neither will there probably be
occasion to replace this transferred
Vessel, when the Expedition to the Gulph
shall proceed, in as much as under the
Spirit of accommodation of late so
happily experienced from the senior
Officers

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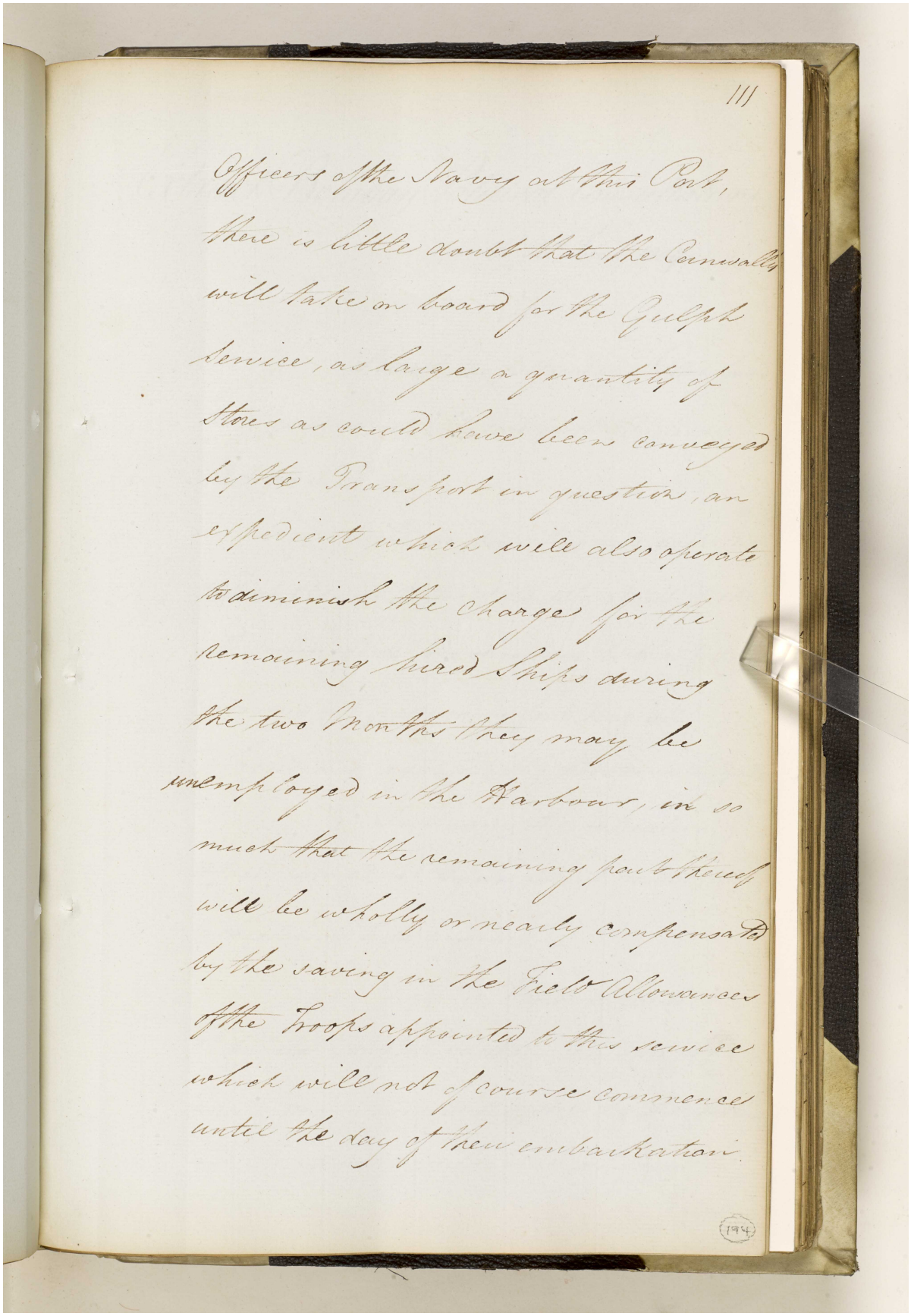

111

Officers of the Navy at this Port,
there is little doubt that the Cornwallis
will take on board for the Guelph
service, as large a quantity of
Stores as could have been conveyed
by the Transport in question, an
expedient which will also operate
to diminish the charge for the
remaining hired Ships during
the two Months they may be
unemployed in the Harbour, in so
much that the remaining portion thereof
will be wholly or nearly compensated
by the saving in the Field Allowances
of the Troops appointed to this service
which will not of course commence
until the day of their embarkation.

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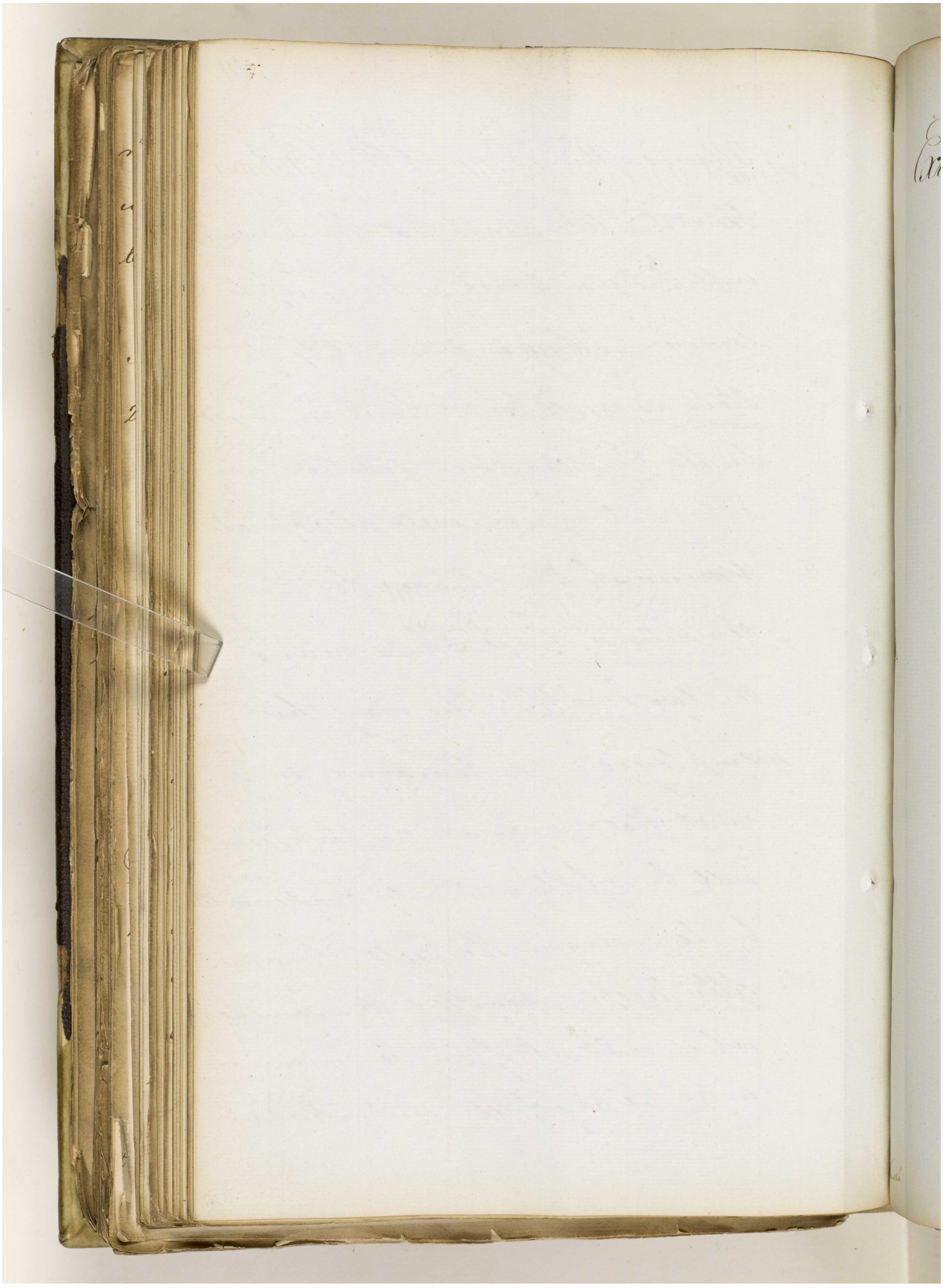

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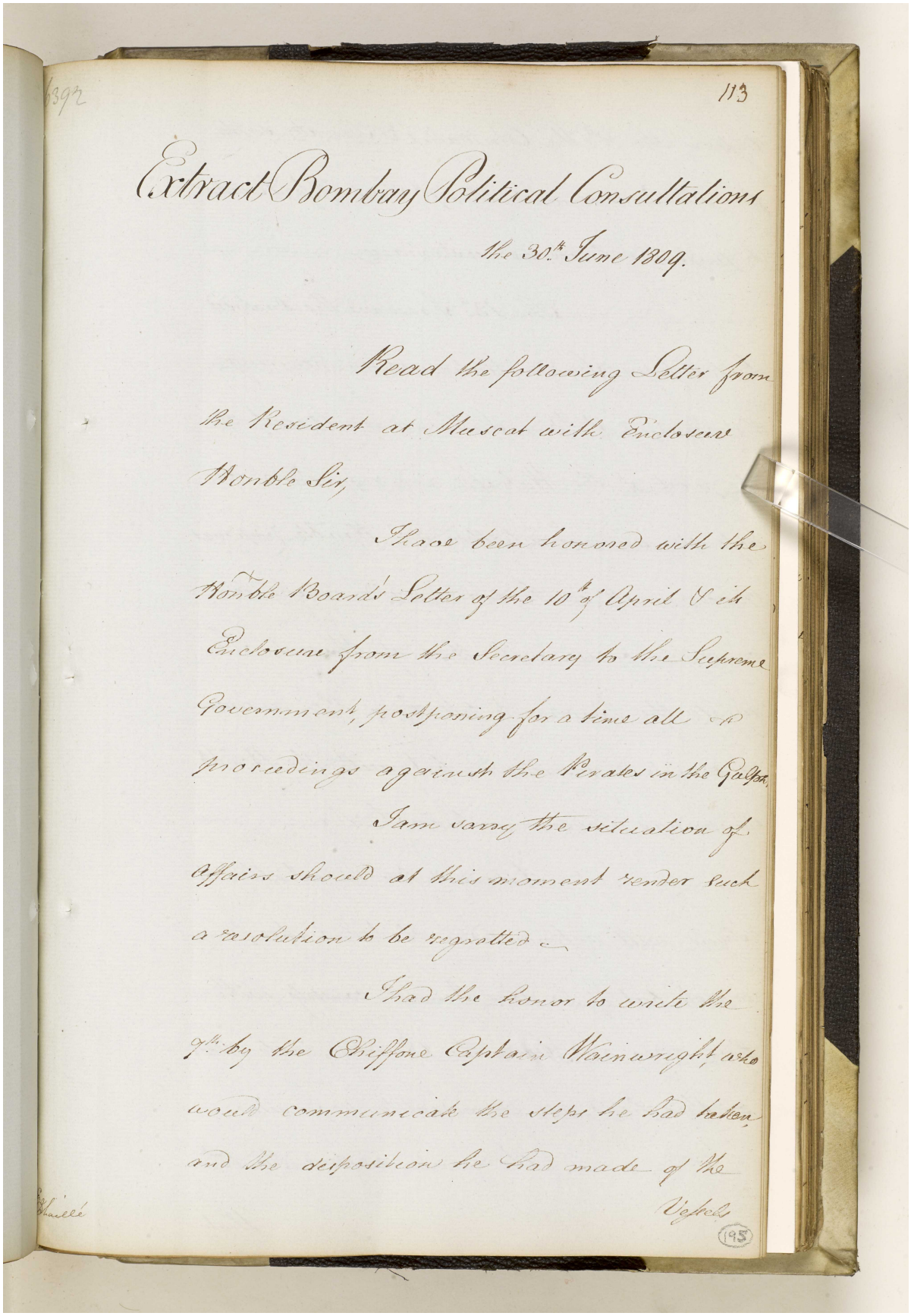

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 30th June 1809.

Read the following Letter from the Resident at Muscat with Enclosure

Honble Sir,

I have been honored with the Honble Board's Letter of the 10th of April & its Enclosure from the Secretary to the Supreme Government, postponing for a time all proceedings against the Pirates in the Gulph.

I am sorry the situation of affairs should at this moment render such a resolution to be regretted.

I had the honor to write the 7th by the Chiffone Captain Wainwright who would communicate the steps he had taken, and the disposition he had made of the Vessels

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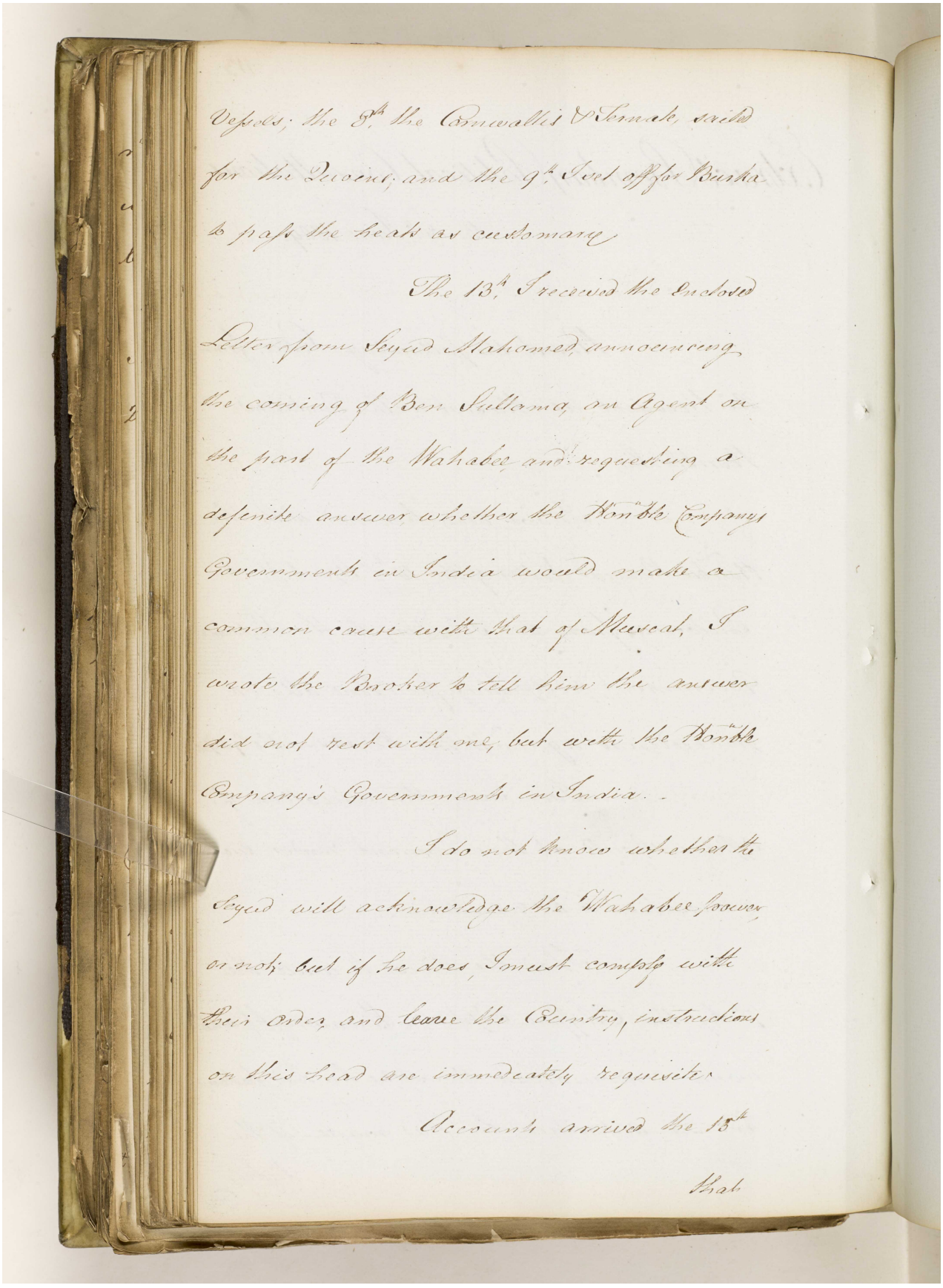

Vessels; the 8th the Cornwallis & Semiramis sailed for the Persian, and the 9th I set off for Burka to pass the heats as customary

The 13th I received the enclosed Letter from Seyed Mahomed announcing the coming of Ben Sultama an Agent on the part of the Wahabee and requesting a definite answer whether the Honble Company Government in India would make a common cause with that of Muscat, I wrote the Broker to tell him the answer did not rest with me, but with the Honble Company's Government in India.

I do not know whether the Seyed will acknowledge the Wahabees sooner or not; but if he does, I must comply with their order, and leave the Country, instructions on this head are immediately requisite.

Accounts arrived the 15th

that

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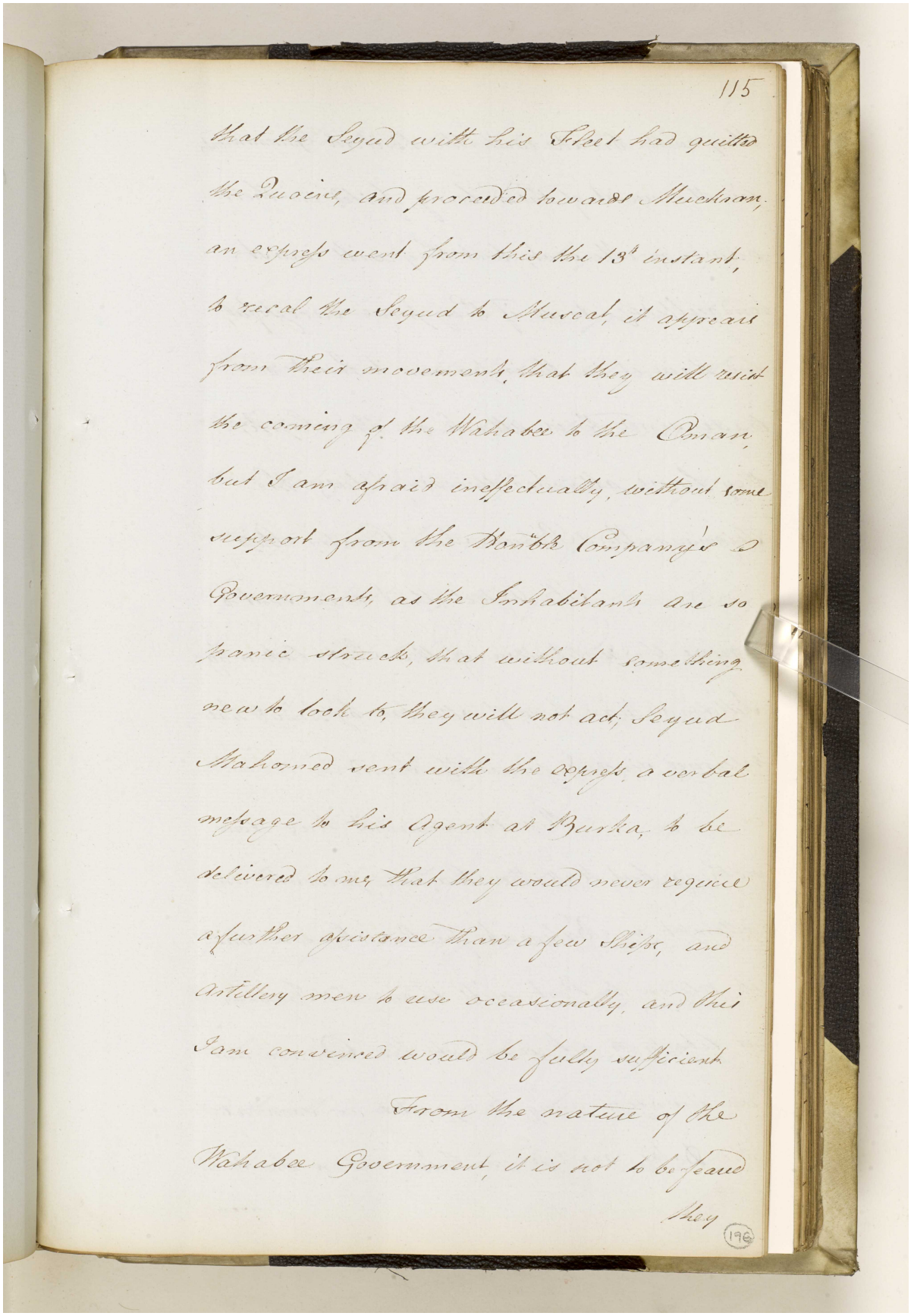

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that the Seyud with his Fleet had quitted the Persian, and proceeded towards Muckran, an express went from this the 13th instant, to recal the Seyud to Muscat, it appears from their movements, that they will resist the coming of the Wahabee to the Oman, but I am afraid ineffectually, without some support from the Bombay Company's Government, as the Inhabitants are so panic struck, that without something new to look to, they will not act, Seyud Mahomed sent with the express a verbal message to his Agent at Burka, to be delivered to me, that they would never require a further assistance than a few Ships, and Artillery men to use occasionally, and this I am convinced would be fully sufficient.

From the nature of the Wahabee Government, it is not to be feared they

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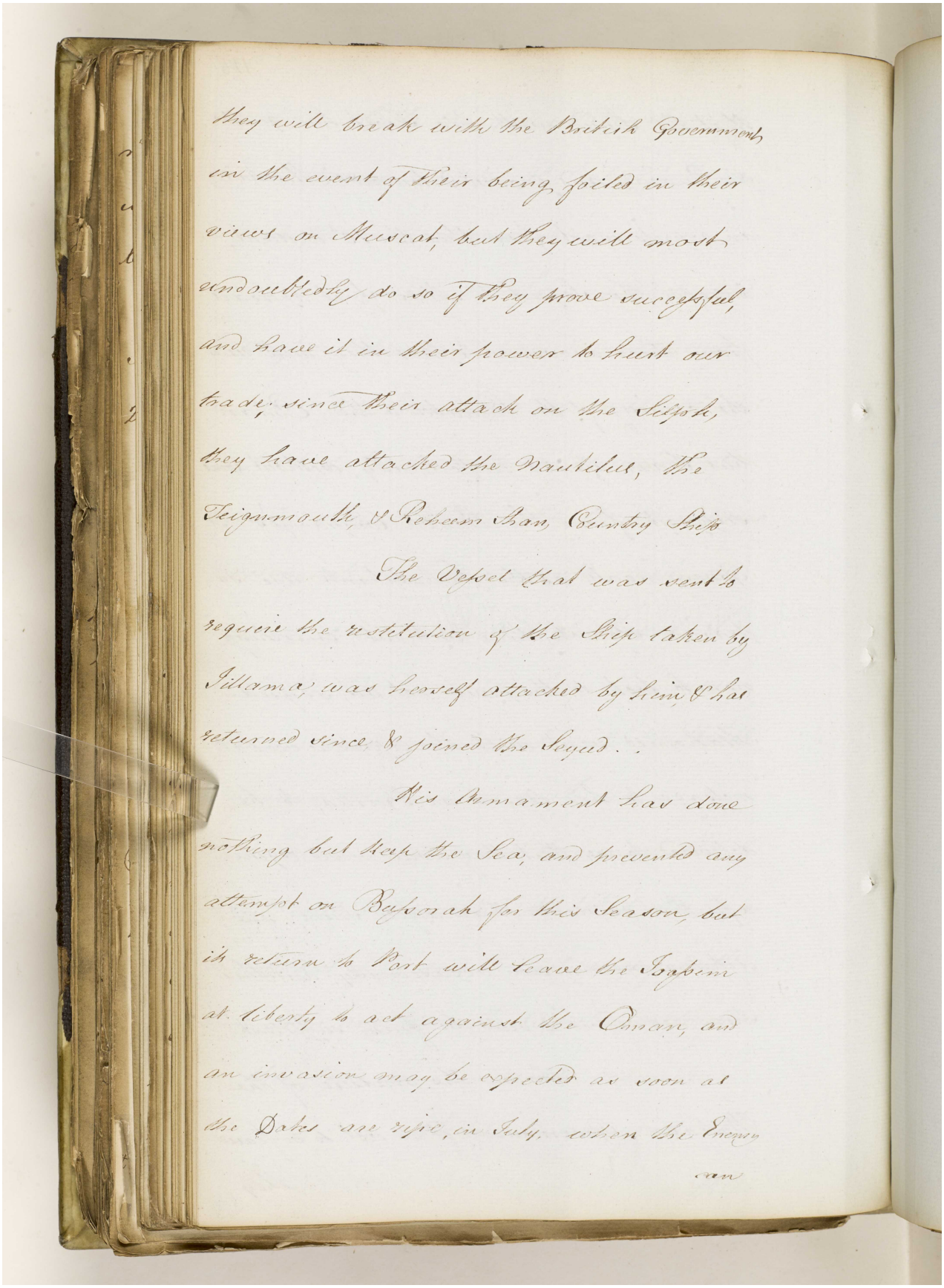

they will break with the British Government in the event of their being foiled in their views on Muscat, but they will most undoubtedly do so if they prove successful, and have it in their power to hurt our trade; since their attack on the Silph, they have attacked the Nautilus, the Teignmouth, & Reheem Shan, Country Ship

The Vessel that was sent to require the restitution of the Ship taken by Jillama, was herself attacked by him, & has returned since, & joined the Seyud.

His Armament has done nothing but keep the Sea, and prevented any attempt on Bussorah for this Season, but its return to Port will leave the Joassim at liberty to act against the Oman, and an invasion may be expected as soon as the Dates are ripe, in July, when the Enemy

can

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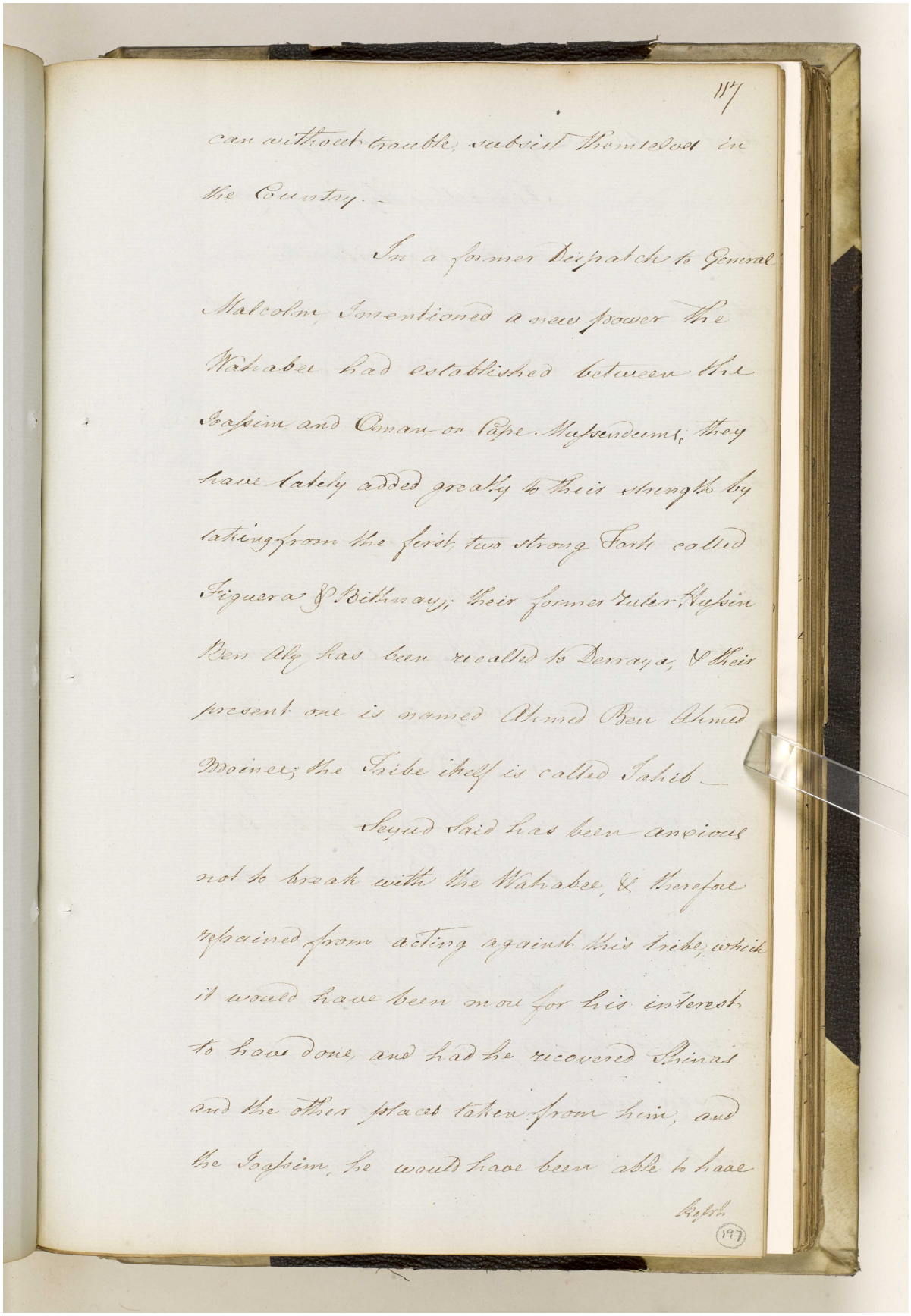

can without trouble, subsist themselves in the Country.—

In a former Dispatch to General Malcolm, I mentioned a new power the Wahabee had established between the Joassim and Oman on Cape Mussendeems; they have lately added greatly to their strength by taking from the first, two strong Forts called Figuera & Bithnay; their former ruler Hussin Ben Aly has been recalled to Derraya, & their present one is named Ahmed Ben Ahmed Moinee; the Tribe itself is called Jahib.—

Seyud Said has been anxious not to break with the Wahabee, & therefore refrained from acting against this tribe, which it would have been more for his interest to have done, and had he recovered Shinas and the other places taken from him, and the Joassim, he would have been able to have

kept

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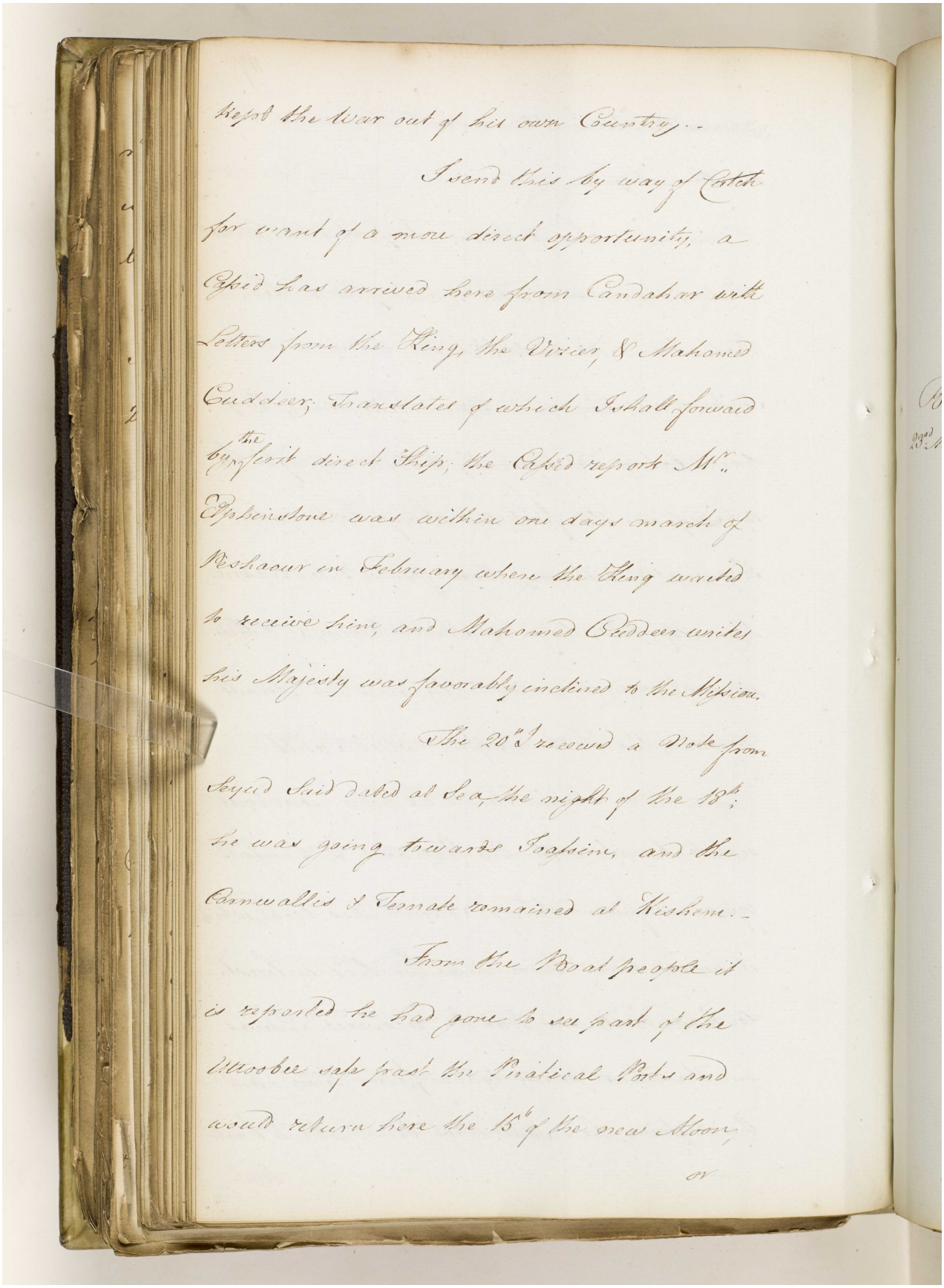

kept the War out of his own Country.-

I send this by way of Catch for want of a more direct opportunity, a Cassid has arrived here from Candahar with Letters from the King, the Vizier, & Mahomed Cuddeer; Translates of which I shall forward by the first direct Ship; the Cassid reports Mr. Elphinstone was within one days march of Peshaour in February where the King waited to receive him, and Mahomed Cuddeer writes his Majesty was favorably inclined to the Mission.

The 20th I received a Note from Seyud Said dated at Sea, the night of the 18th; he was going towards Joassim, and the Cornwallis & Ternate remained at Kishem.-

From the Boat people it is reported he had gone to see part of the Uttoobee safe past the Piratical Ports and would return here the 15th of the new Moon,

or

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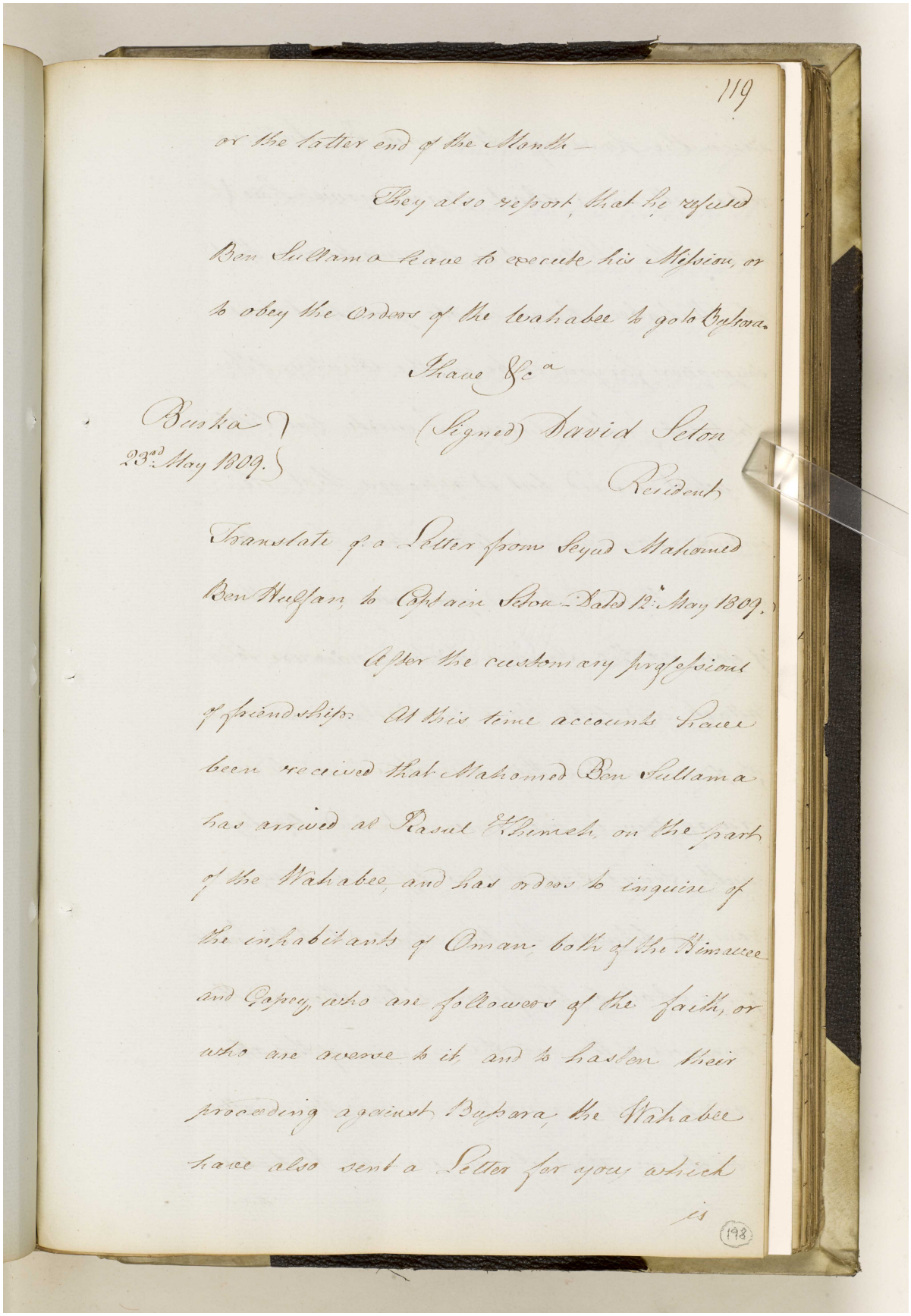

or the latter end of the Month –

They also report, that he refused Ben Sullama leave to execute his Mission, or to obey the Orders of the Wahabee to go to Bussora.

I have &c^a

Burka
23rd May 1809.

(Signed) David Seton
Resident

Translate of a Letter from Seyud Mahomed Ben Hulfan, to Captain Seton – Dated 12th May 1809.

After the customary professions of friendship: At this time accounts have been received that Mahomed Ben Sullama has arrived at Rasul Khimeh, on the part of the Wahabee, and has orders to inquire of the inhabitants of Oman, both of the Himawee and Gapey, who are followers of the faith, or who are averse to it, and to hasten their proceeding against Bussora, the Wahabee have also sent a Letter for you which

is

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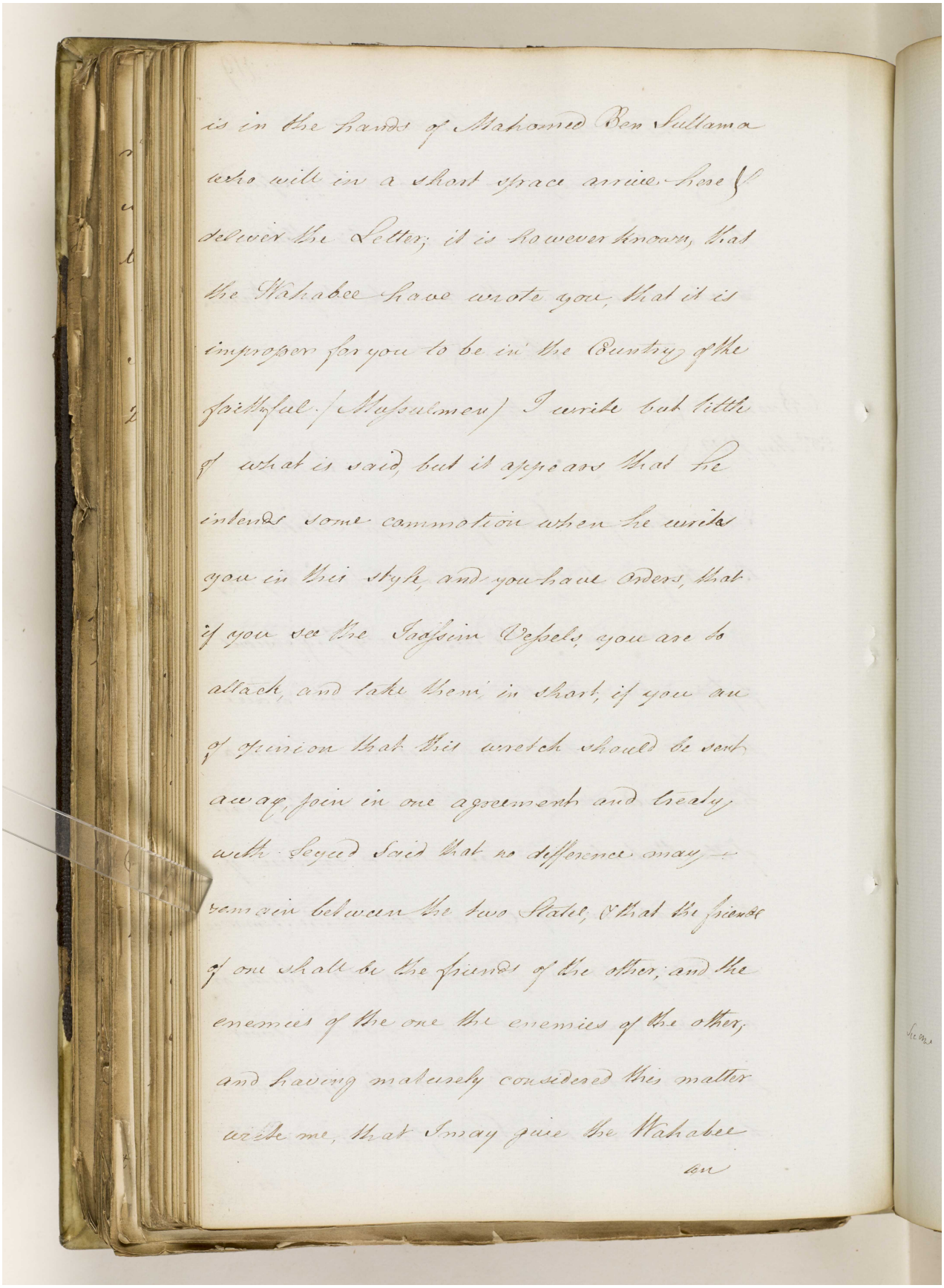

is in the hands of Mahomed Ben Sultama
who will in a short space arrive here &
deliver the Letter; it is however known, that
the Wahabee have wrote you, that it is
improper for you to be in the Country of the
faithful (Mussulmen) I write but little
of what is said but it appears that he
intends some commotion when he writes
you in this style, and you have orders, that
if you see the Joasmi Vessels, you are to
attack, and take them; in short, if you are
of opinion that this wretch should be sent
away, join in one agreement and treaty
with Seyed Said that no difference may
remain between the two States, & that the friends
of one shall be the friends of the other, and the
enemies of the one the enemies of the other,
and having maturely considered this matter
write me, that I may give the Wahabee
an

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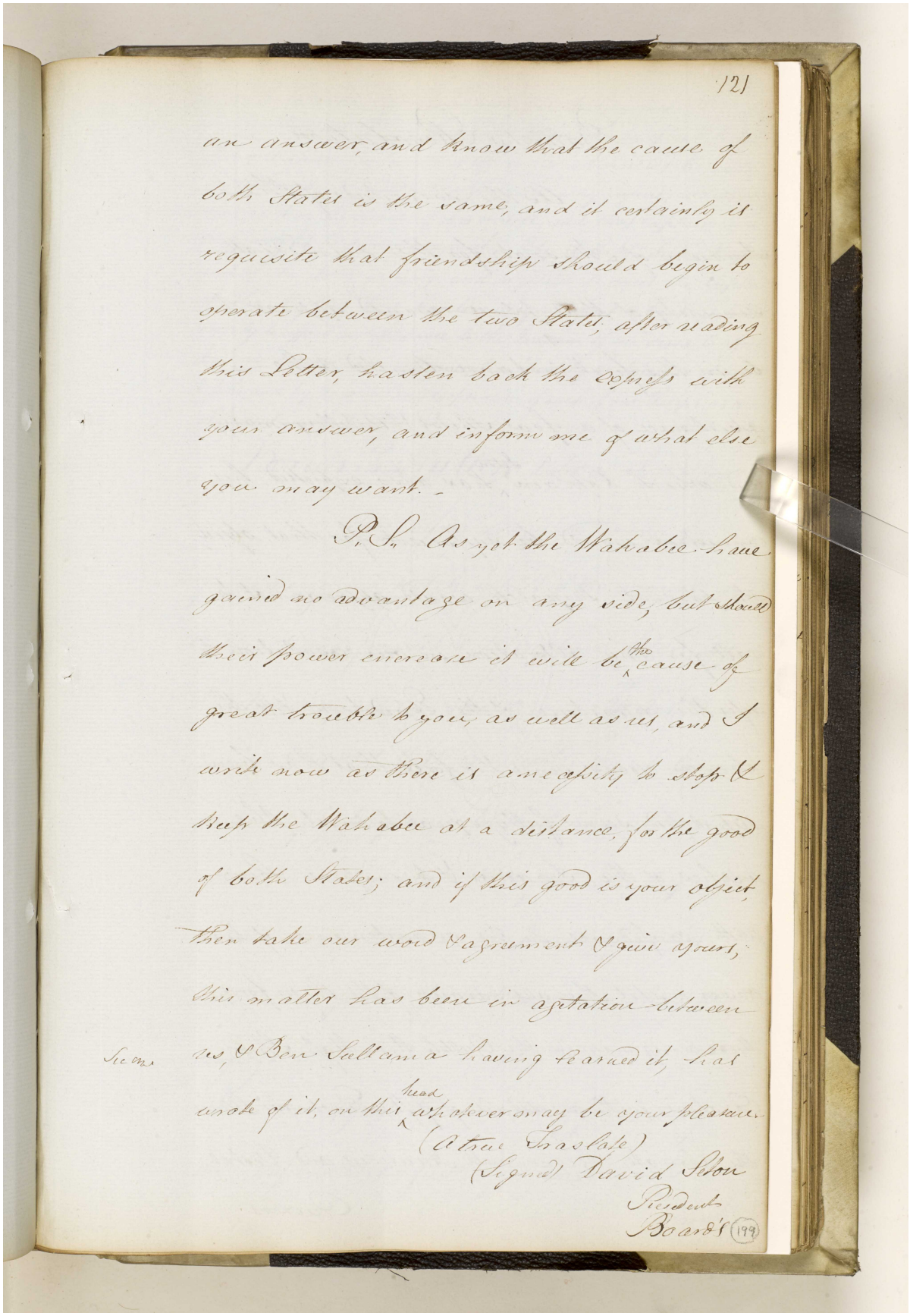

an answer, and know that the cause of both States is the same, and it certainly is requisite that friendship should begin to operate between the two States, after reading this Letter, hasten back the express with your answer, and inform me of what else you may want. –

P.S. As yet the Wahabee have gained no advantage on any side, but should their power encrease it will be the cause of great trouble to you, as well as us, and I write now as there is a necessity to stop & keep the Wahabee at a distance, for the good of both States; and if this good is your object, then take our word & agreement & give yours, this matter has been in agitation between us, & Ben Sullama having learned it, has wrote of it, on this head whatever may be your pleasure.

(A true Traslate)
(Signed) David Seton
Resident
Board's (199)

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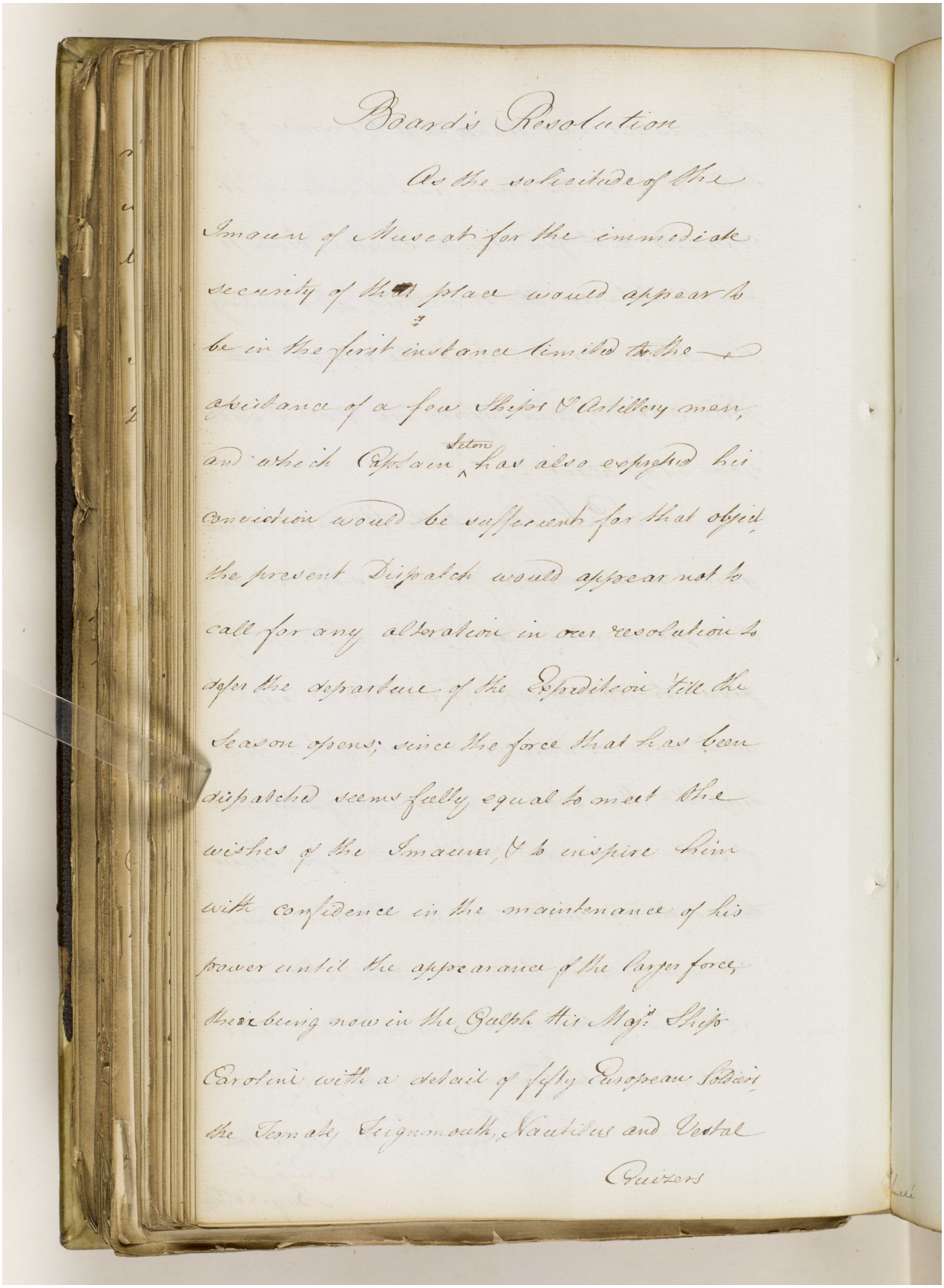

Board's Resolution

As the solicitude of the Imaum of Muscat for the immediate security of that place would appear to be in the first instance limited to the assistance of a few Ships & Artillery men, and which Captain Seton has also expected his conviction would be sufficient for that object the present Dispatch would appear not to call for any alteration in our resolutions to defer the departure of the Expedition 'till the season opens; since the force that has been dispatched seems fully equal to meet the wishes of the Imaum, & to inspire him with confidence in the maintenance of his power until the appearance of the Bayer force, there being now in the Gulph His Majs Ships Caroline with a detail of fifty European Soldiers the Female Teignmouth, Nautilus and Vestal Quizors

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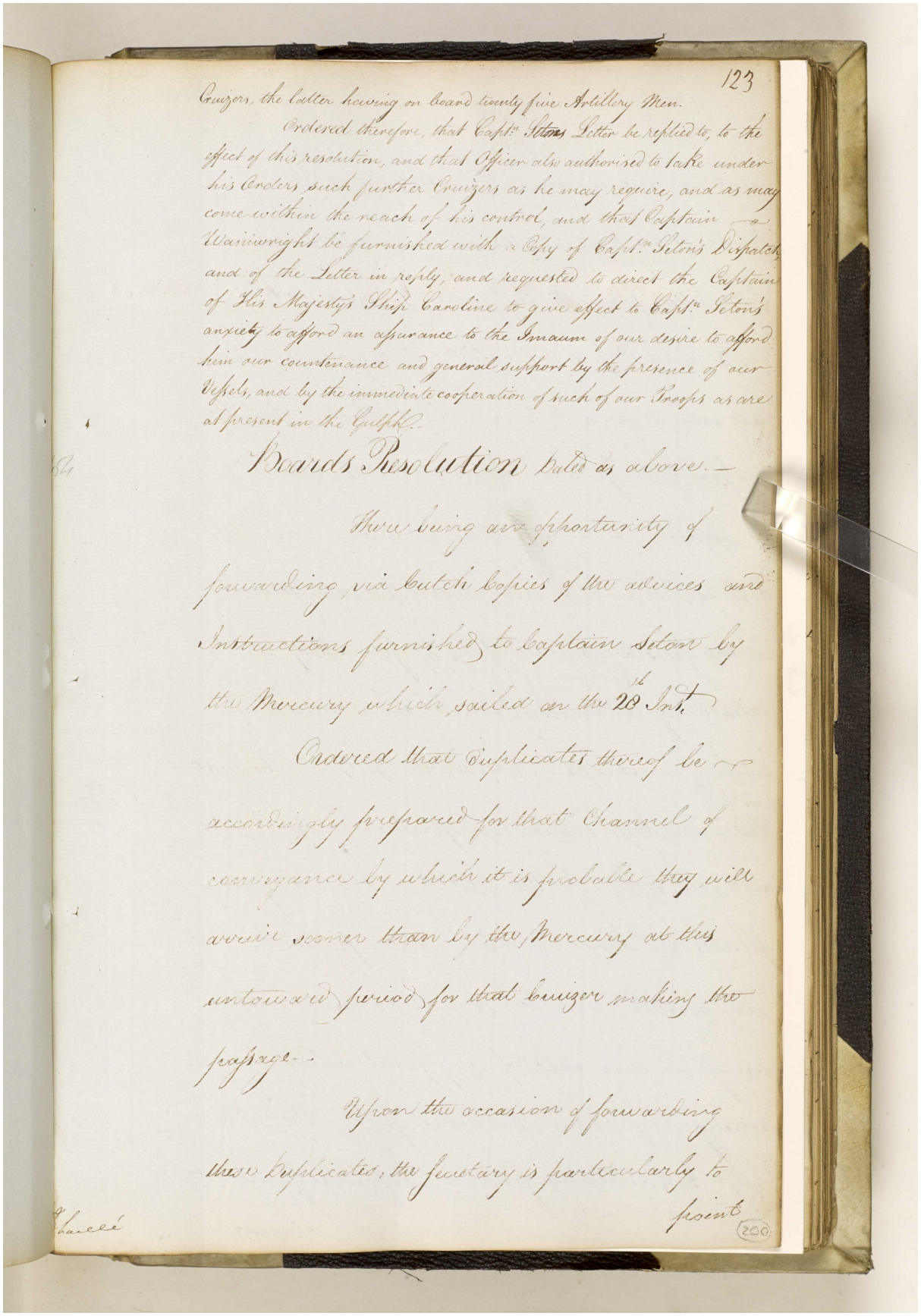

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Cruizers, the latter having on board twenty five Artillery Men.

Ordered therefore, that Capt.n Seton's Letter be replied to, to the effect of this resolution, and that Officer also authorised to take under his Orders such further Cruizers as he may require, and as may come within the reach of his control, and that Captain Wainwright be furnished with a Copy of Capt.n Seton's Dispatch and of the Letter in reply, and requested to direct the Captain of His Majesty's Ship Caroline to give effect to Capt.n Seton's anxiety to afford an assurance to the Imaum of our desire to afford him our countenance and general support by the presence of our Vessels, and by the immediate cooperation of such of our Troops as are at present in the Gulph.

Boards Resolution Dated as above.—

There being an opportunity of forwarding via Dutch Copies of the advices and Instructions furnished to Captain Seton by the Mercury which sailed on the 28th Inst.

Ordered that Duplicates thereof be accordingly prepared for that Channel of conveyance by which it is probable they will arrive sooner than by the Mercury at this unfavourable period for that Cruizer making the passage.

Upon the occasion of forwarding these Duplicates, the Secretary is particularly to point

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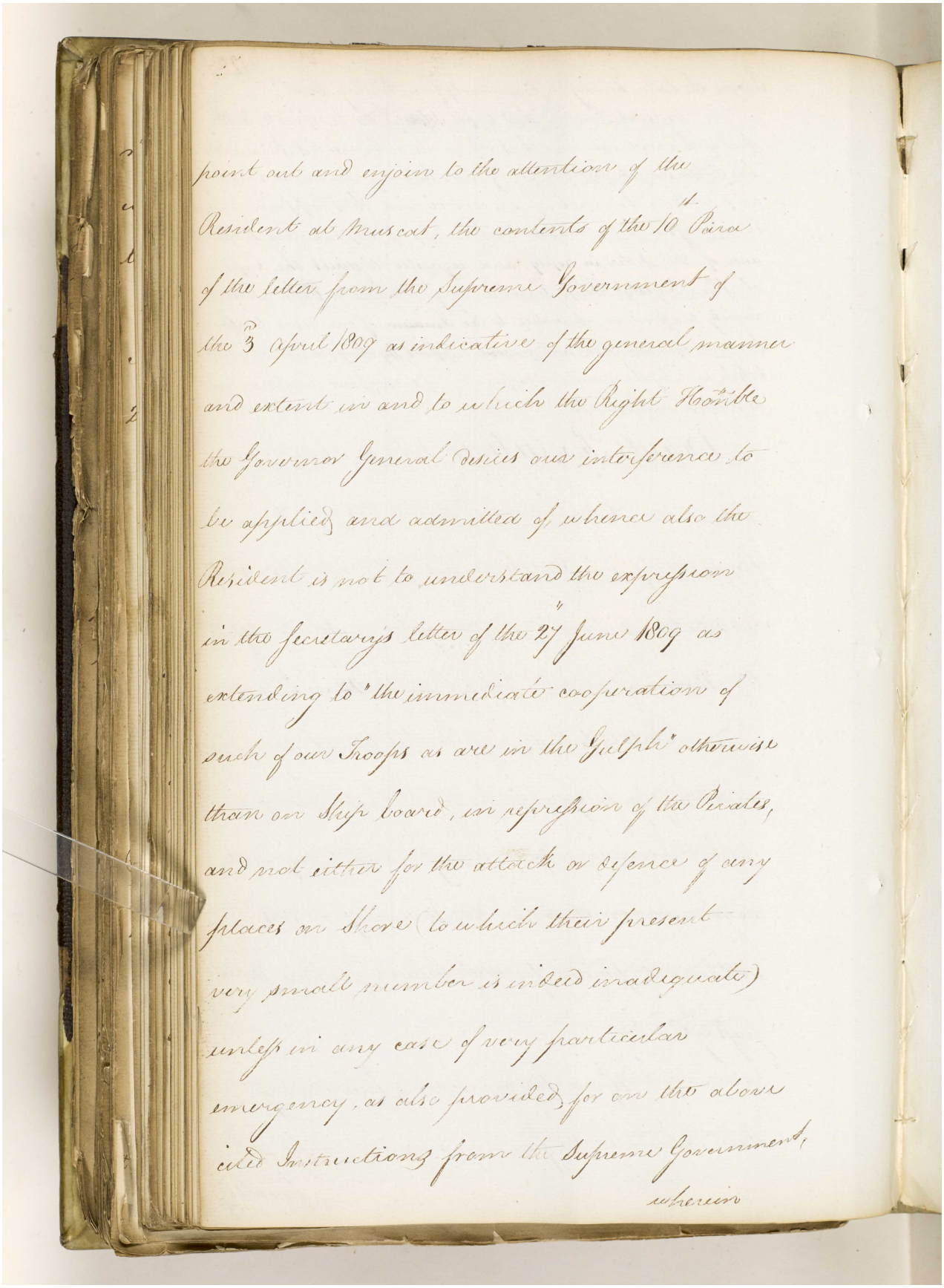

point out and enjoin to the attention of the
Resident at Muscat, the contents of the 10th Para
of the Letter from the Supreme Government of
the 3rd April 1809 as indicative of the general manner
and extent in and to which the Right Honble
the Governor General desires our interference to
be applied and admitted of whence also the
Resident is not to understand the expression
in the Secretary's Letter of the 27th June 1809 as
extending to "the immediate cooperation of
such of our Troops as are in the Gulph" otherwise
than on Ship board, in repression of the Pirates,
and not either for the attack or defence of any
places on Shore (to which their present
very small number is indeed inadequate)
unless in any case of very particular
emergency, as also provided for on the above
cited Instructions from the Supreme Government,
wherein

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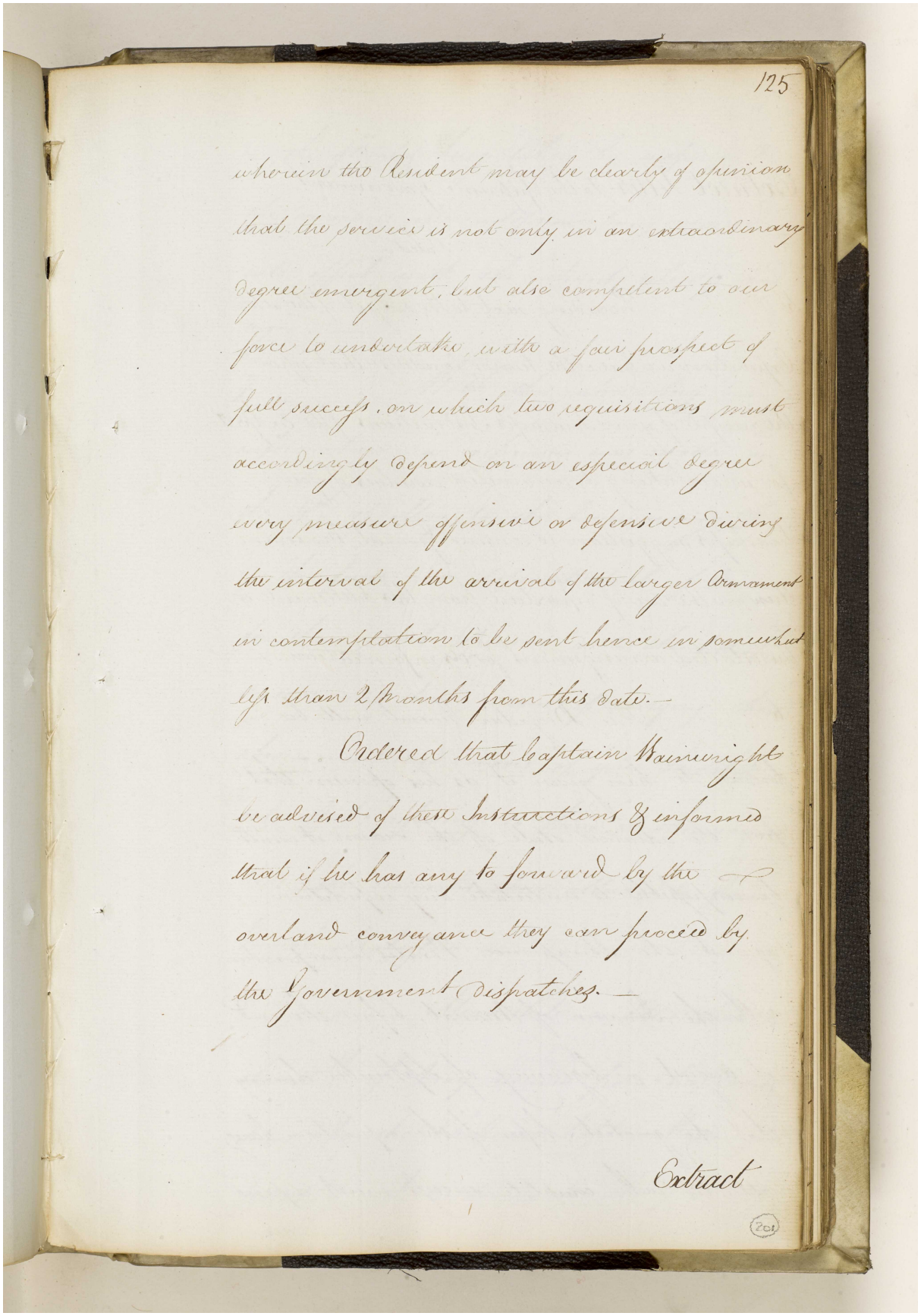

wherein the Resident may be clearly of opinion that the service is not only in an extraordinary degree emergent, but also competent to our force to undertake, with a fair prospect of full success, on which two requisitions must accordingly depend on an especial degree every measure offensive or defensive during the interval of the arrival of the larger Armament in contemplation to be sent hence in somewhat less than 2 Months from this date.—

Ordered that Captain Wainwright be advised of these Instructions & informed that if he has any to forward by the overland conveyance they can proceed by the Government dispatches.—

Extract

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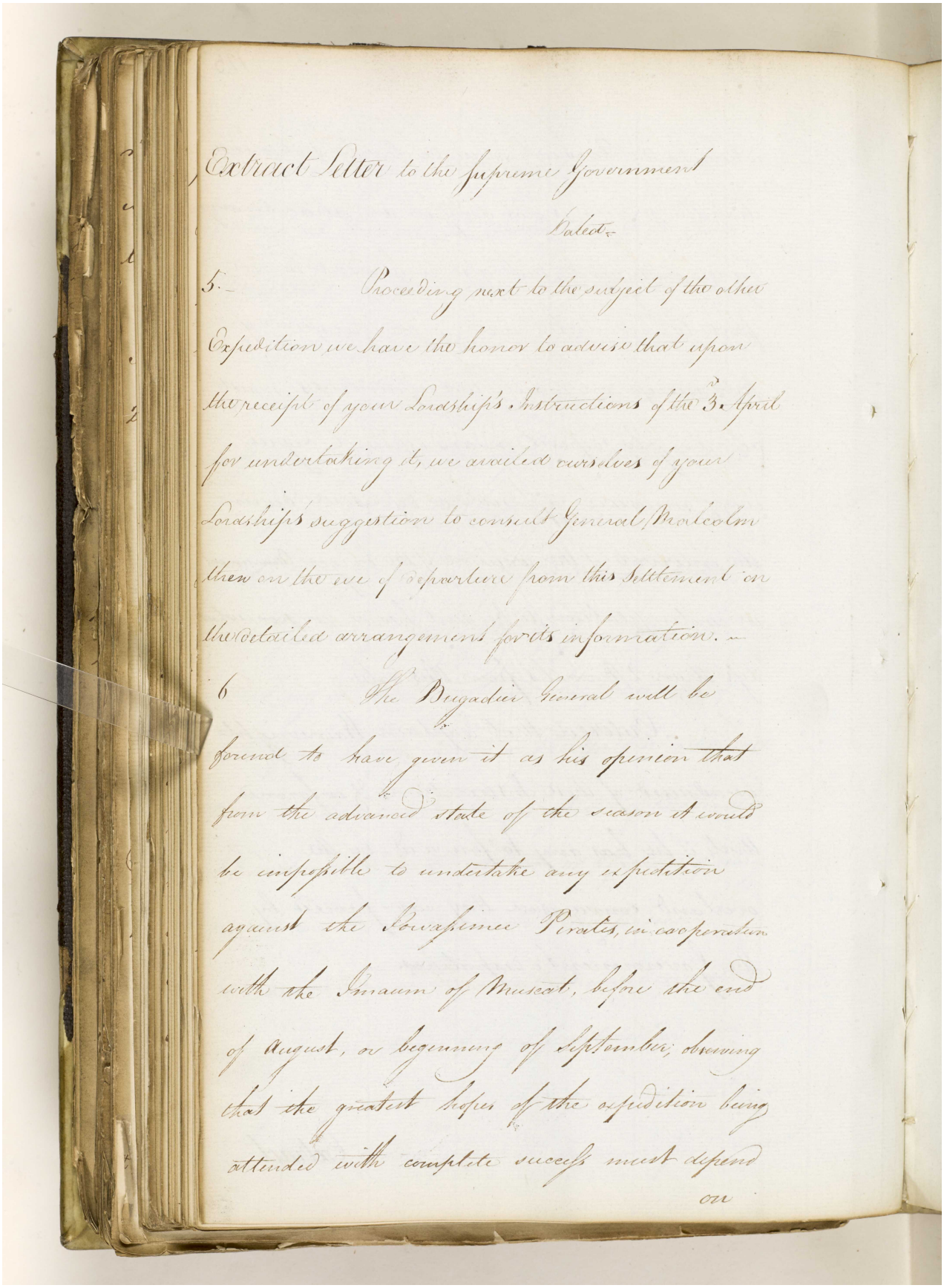

Extract Letter to the Supreme Government

Dated –

5. – Proceeding next to the subject of the other Expedition we have the honor to advise that upon the receipt of your Lordship's Instructions of the 3d April for undertaking it, we availed ourselves of your Lordship's suggestion to consult General Malcolm then on the eve of departure from this Settlement on the detailed arrangements for its information. –

6 The Brigadier General will be found to have given it as his opinion that from the advanced state of the season it would be impossible to undertake any expedition against the Joasmee Pirates, in cooperation with the Imaum of Muscat, before the end of August, or beginning of September, observing that the greatest hopes of the expedition being attended with complete success must depend on

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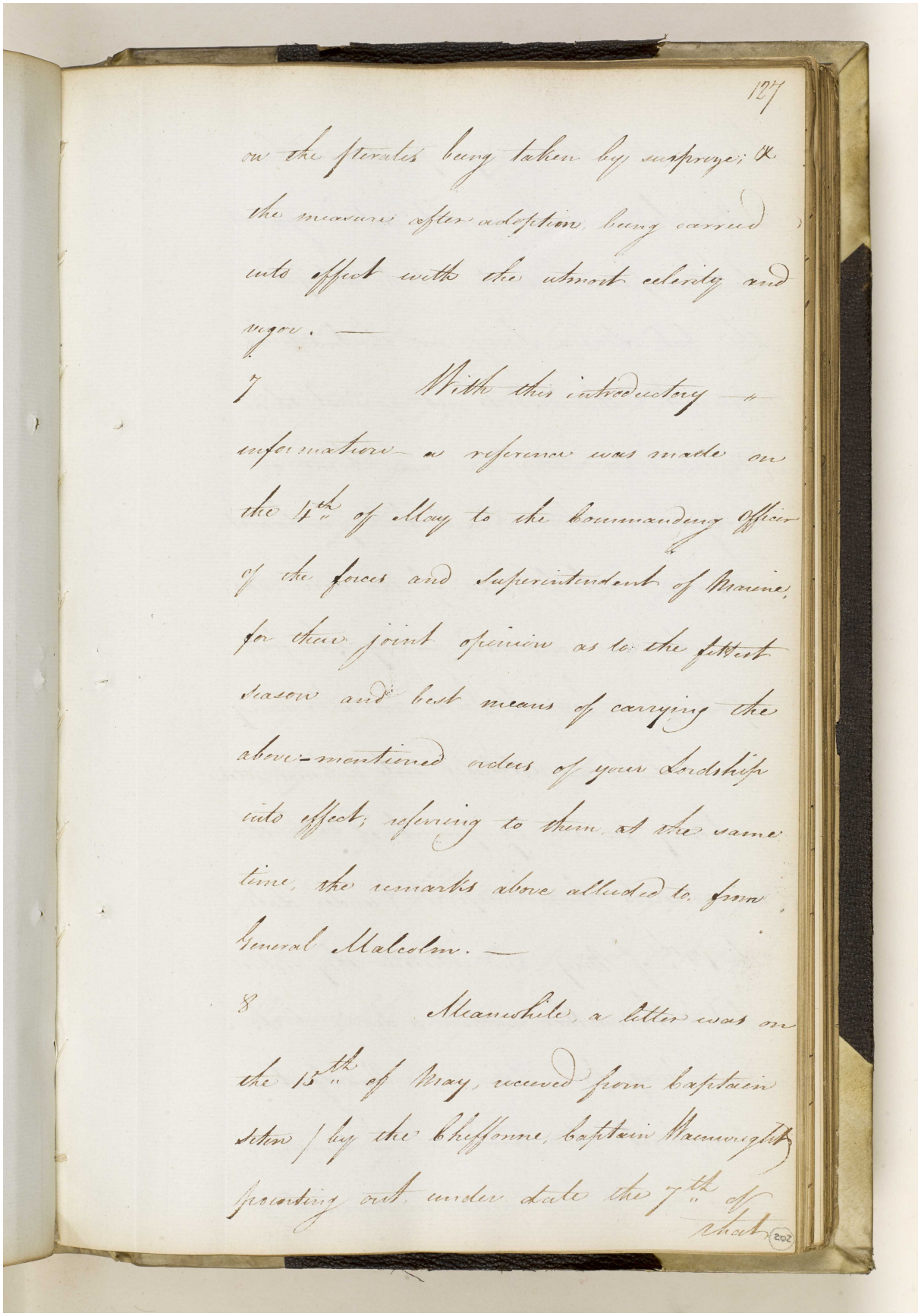

on the Pirates being taken by surprize; & the measure after adoption, being carried into effect with the utmost celerity and vigor. —

7 With this introductory information a reference was made on the 4th of May to the Commanding Officer of the forces and Superintendent of Marine, for their joint opinion as to the fittest season and best means of carrying the above-mentioned orders of your Lordship into effect; referring to them, at the same time, the remarks above alluded to, from General Malcolm. —

8 Meanwhile, a letter was on the 15th of May, received from Captain Seton (by the Cheffonne, Captain Wainwright) pointing out, under date the 7th of that

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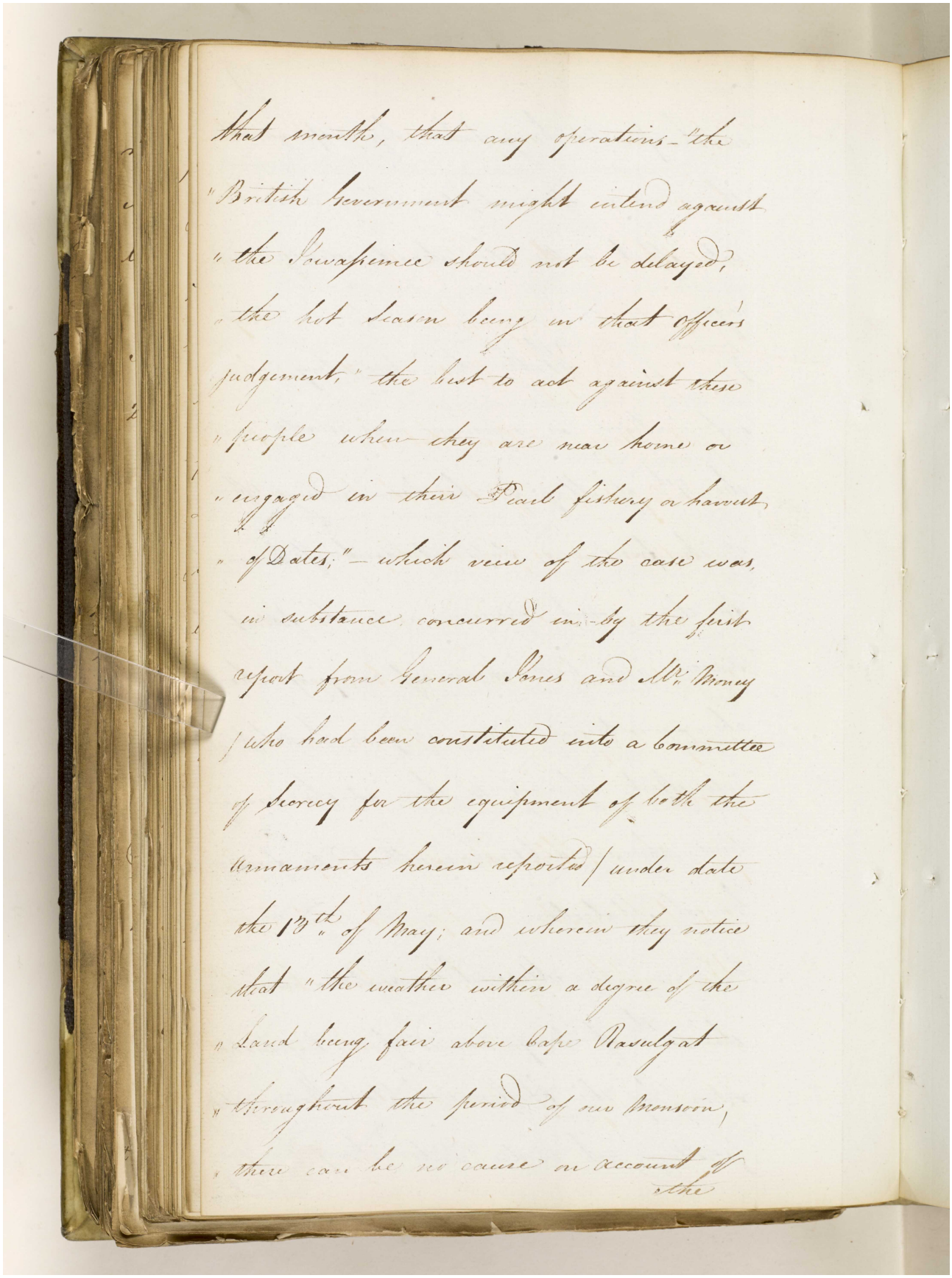

that month, that any operations the
" British Government might intend against
" the Joasmee should not be delayed,
" the hot season being in that Officer's
judgement," the best to act against these
" people when they are near home or
" engaged in their Pearl fishery or harvest
" of Dates;" – which view of the case was,
in substance concurred in by the first
report from General Jones and Mr. Money
who had been constituted into a Committee
of Secrecy for the equipment of both the
Armaments herein reported / under date
the 17th of May; and wherein they notice
that " the weather within a degree of the
" Land being fair above Cape Rasulgat
" throughout the period of our Monsoon,
" there can be no cause on account of
the

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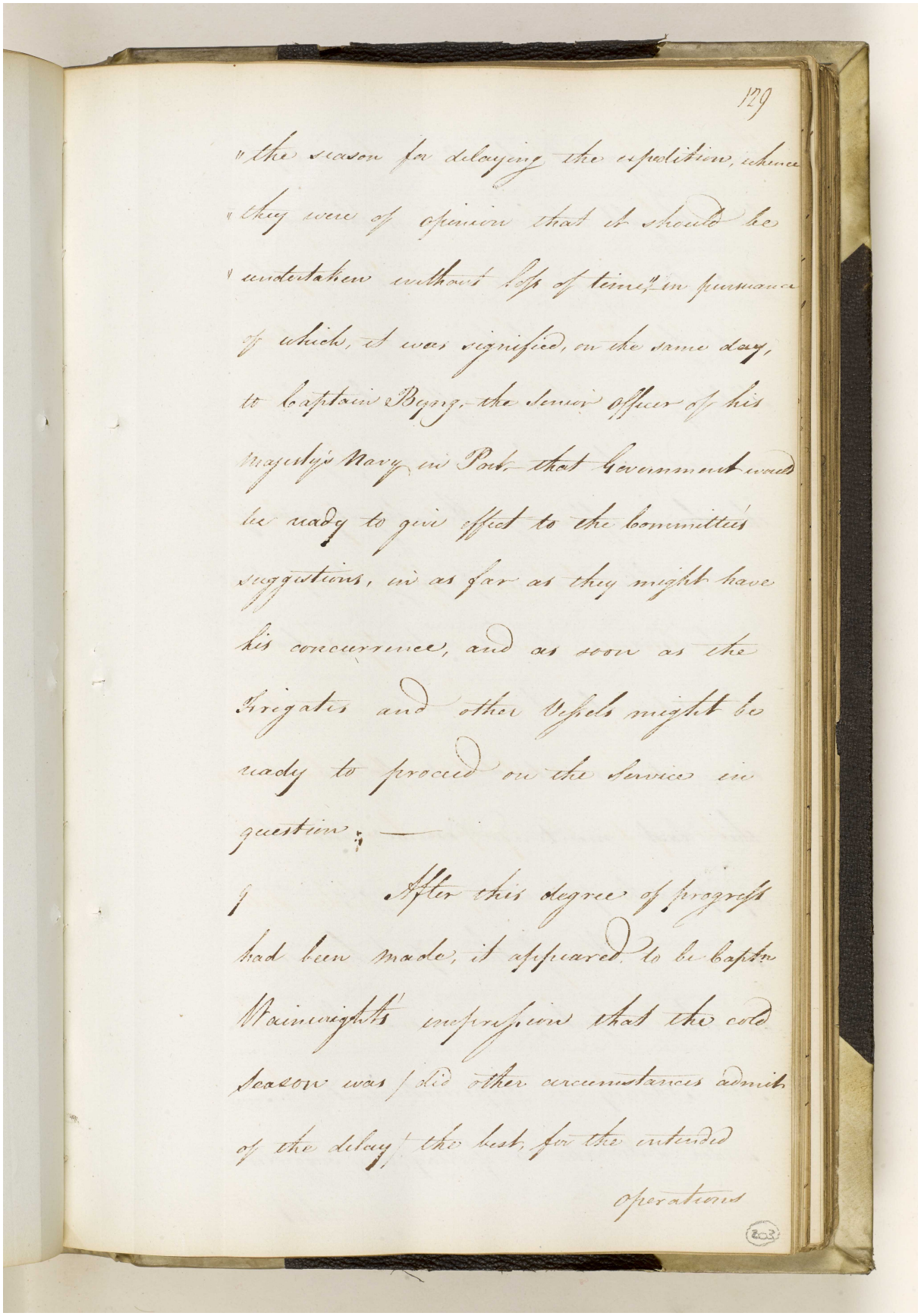

"the season for delaying the expedition, whence
"they were of opinion that it should be
"undertaken without loss of time," in pursuance
of which, it was signified, on the same day,
to Captain Byng, the Senior Officer of his
Majesty's Navy in Port, that Government would
be ready to give effect to the Committee's
suggestions, in as far as they might have
his concurrence, and as soon as the
Frigates and other Vessels might be
ready to proceed on the Service in
question; —

9 After this degree of progress
had been made, it appeared to be Captn
Wainwright's impression that the cold
season was (did other circumstances admit
of the delay) the best, for the intended

operations

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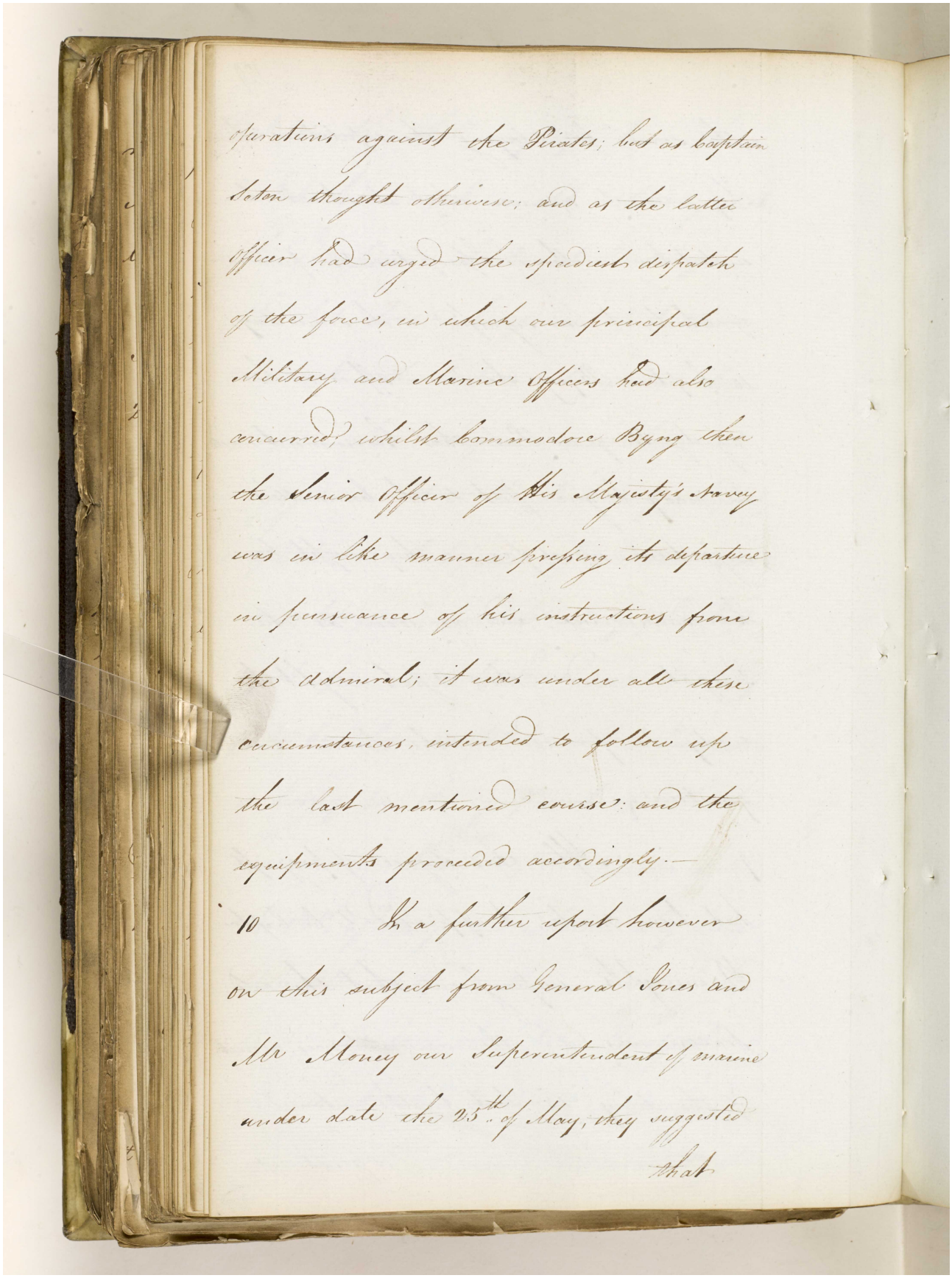

operations against the Pirates; but as Captain Seton thought otherwise; and as the latter Officer had urged the speediest dispatch of the force, in which our principal Military and Marine Officers had also concurred, whilst Commodore Byng then the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Navy was in like manner prepping its departure in pursuance of his instructions from the Admiral; it was under all these circumstances, intended to follow up the last mentioned course: and the equipments proceeded accordingly.—

10 In a further report however on this subject from General Jones and Mr Money our Superintendent of marine under date the 25th. of May, they suggested that

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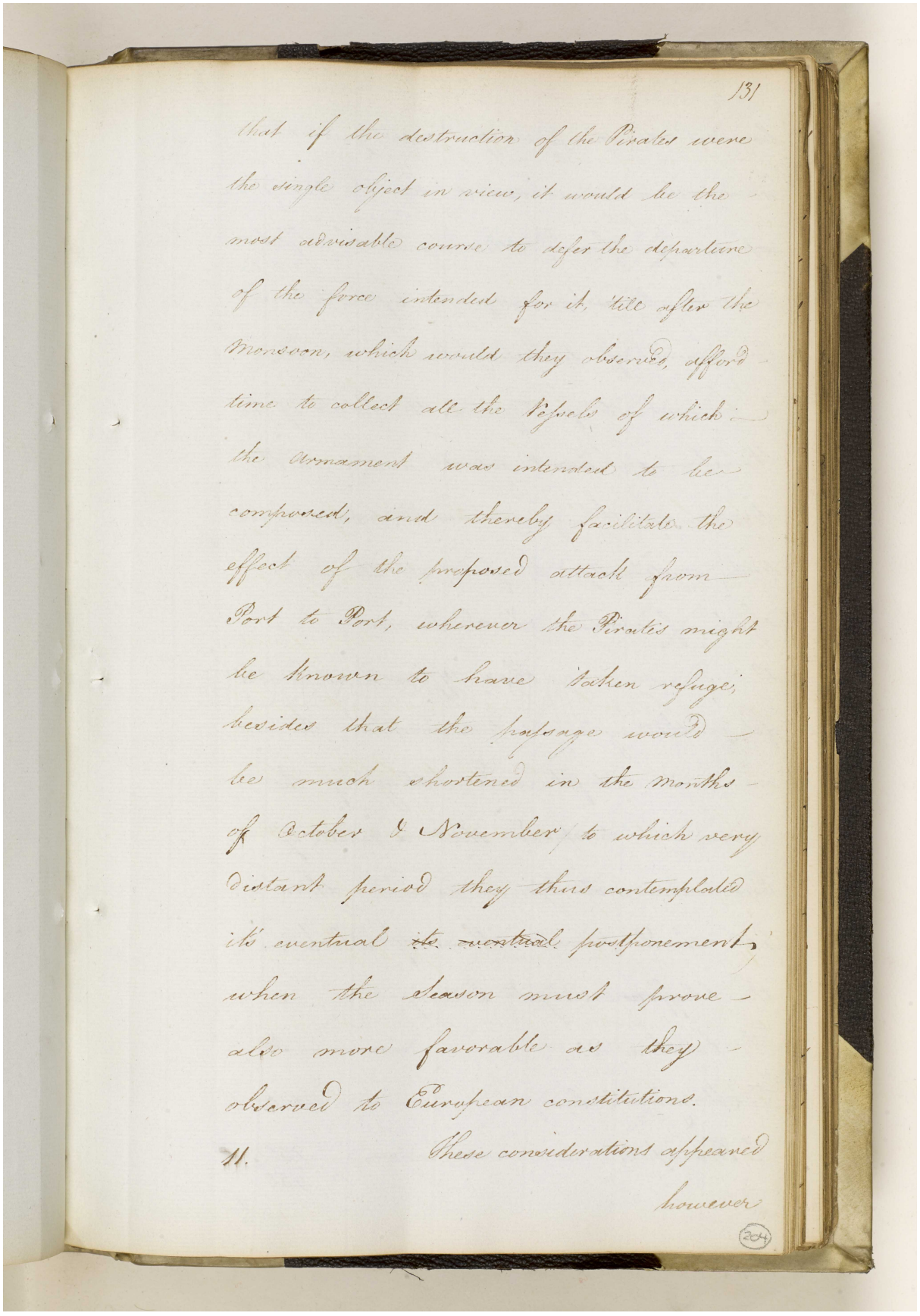

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that if the destruction of the Pirates were the single object in view, it would be the most advisable course to defer the departure of the force intended for it, till after the Monsoon, which would they observed, afford time to collect all the Vessels of which the Armament was intended to be composed, and thereby facilitate the effect of the proposed attack from Port to Port, wherever the Pirates might be known to have taken refuge; besides that the passage would be much shortened in the months of October & November, to which very distant period they thus contemplated its eventual ~~its eventual~~ postponement, when the season must prove also more favorable as they observed to European constitutions.

11. These considerations appeared however

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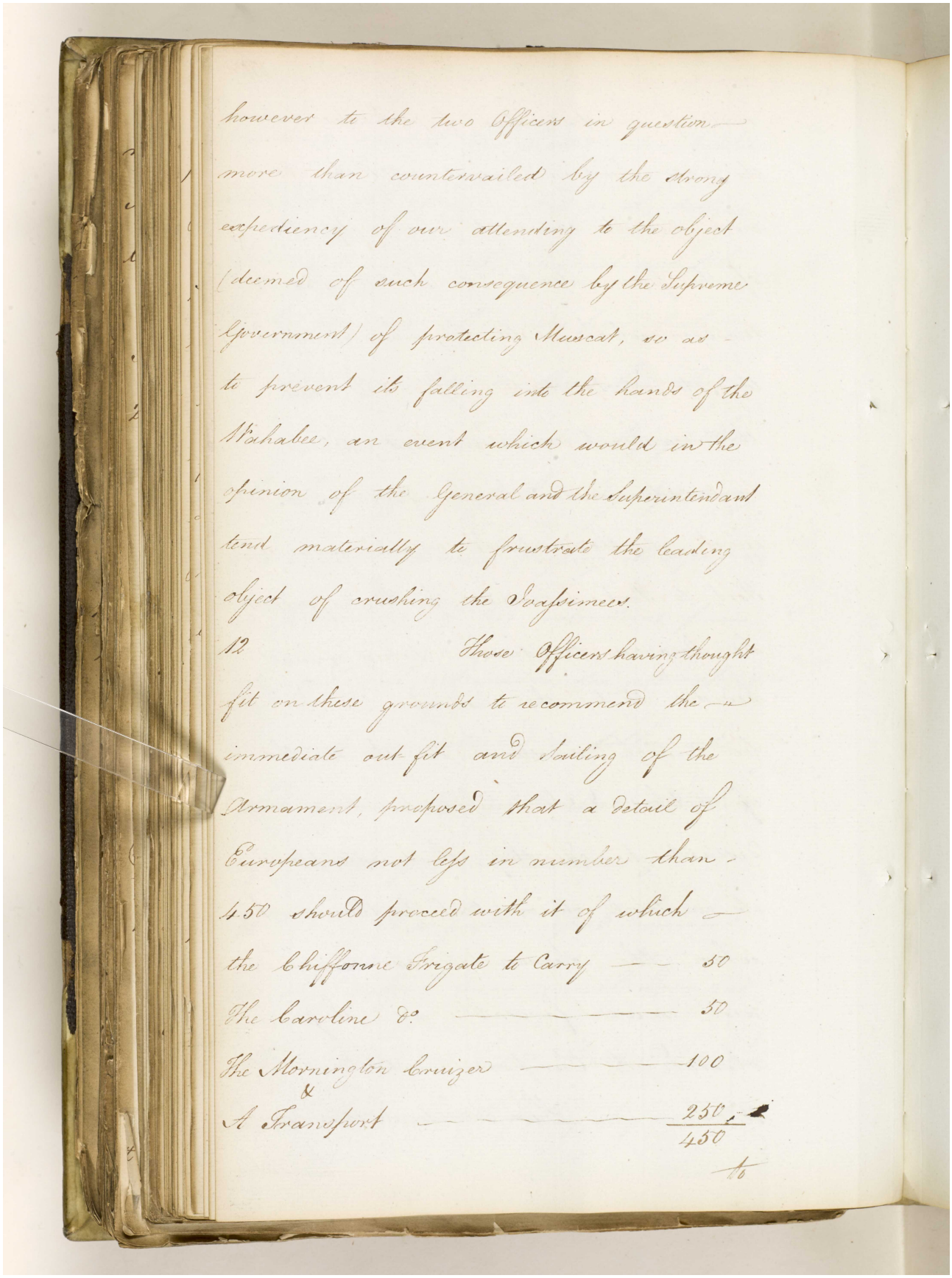

however to the two Officers in question more than countervailed by the strong expediency of our attending to the object (deemed of such consequence by the Supreme Government) of protecting Muscat, so as to prevent its falling into the hands of the Wahabee, an event which would in the opinion of the General and the Superintendant tend materially to frustrate the leading object of crushing the Joassimees.

12 Those Officers having thought fit on these grounds to recommend the immediate out-fit and sailing of the Armament, proposed that a detail of Europeans not less in number than 450 should proceed with it of which

the Chiffonne Frigate to Carry	50
The Caroline do.	50
The Mornington Cruizer	100
& A Transport	250
	450

to

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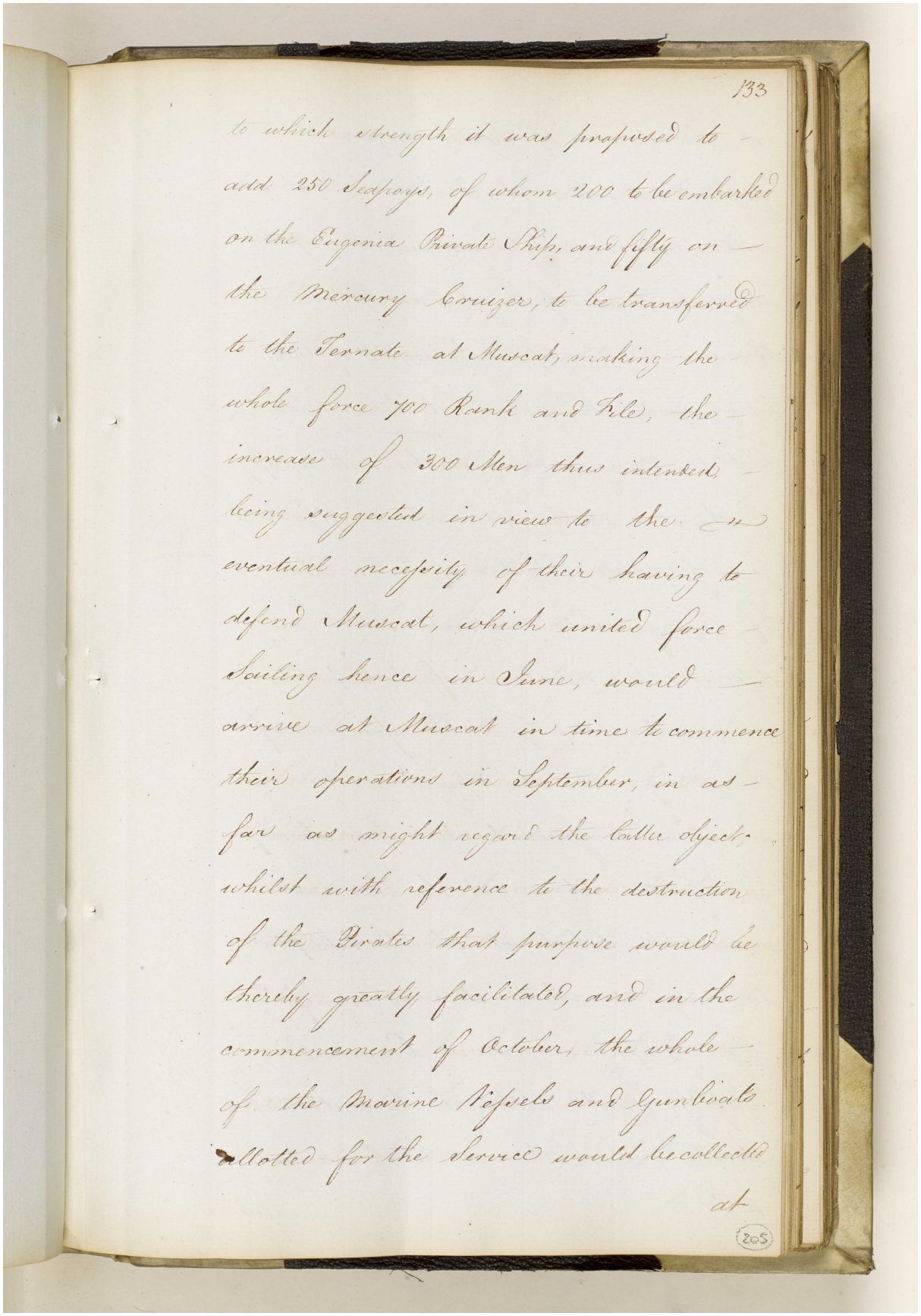

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to which strength it was proposed to
add 250 Seapoys, of whom 200 to be embarked
on the Eugenia Private Ship, and fifty on
the Mercury Cruizer, to be transferred
to the Ternate at Muscat, making the
whole force 700 Rank and File, the
increase of 300 Men thus intended
being suggested in view to the
eventual necessity of their having to
defend Muscat, which united force
Sailing hence in June, would
arrive at Muscat in time to commence
their operations in September, in as
far as might regard the latter object
whilst with reference to the destruction
of the Pirates that purpose would be
thereby greatly facilitated, and in the
commencement of October, the whole
of the Marine Vessels and Gunboats
allotted for the Service would be collected
at

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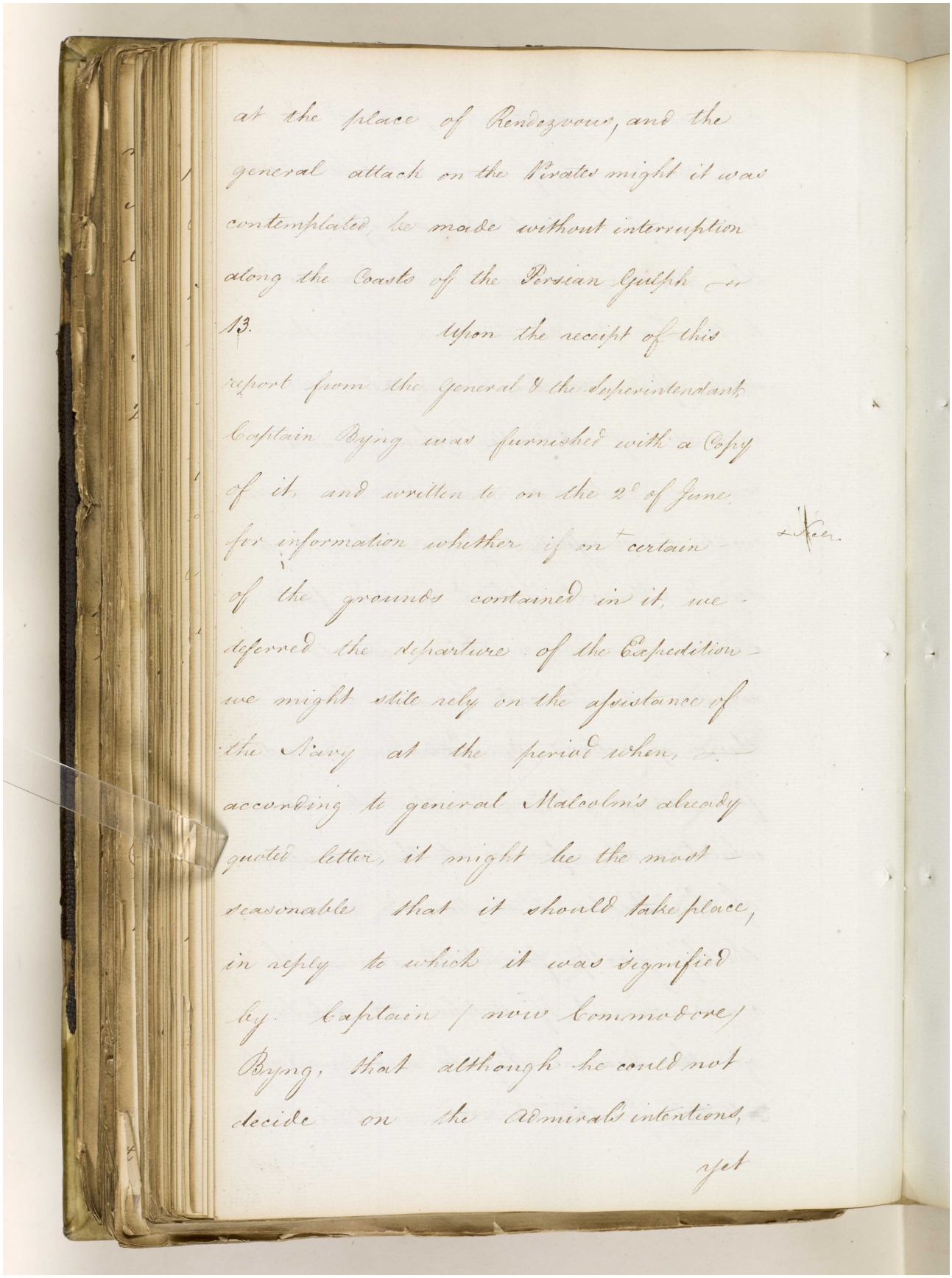

at the place of Rendezvous, and the
general attack on the Pirates might it was
contemplated, be made without interruption
along the Coasts of the Persian Gulph —
13. Upon the receipt of this
report from the General & the Superintendant
Captain Bying was furnished with a Copy
of it, and written to on the 2d of June,
for information whether if on certain
of the grounds contained in it, we
deferred the departure of the Expedition
we might still rely on the assistance of
the Navy at the period when,
according to general Malcolm's already
quoted letter, it might be the most
reasonable that it should take place,
in reply to which it was signified
by Captain (now Commodore)
Bying, that although he could not
decide on the Admirals intentions,
yet

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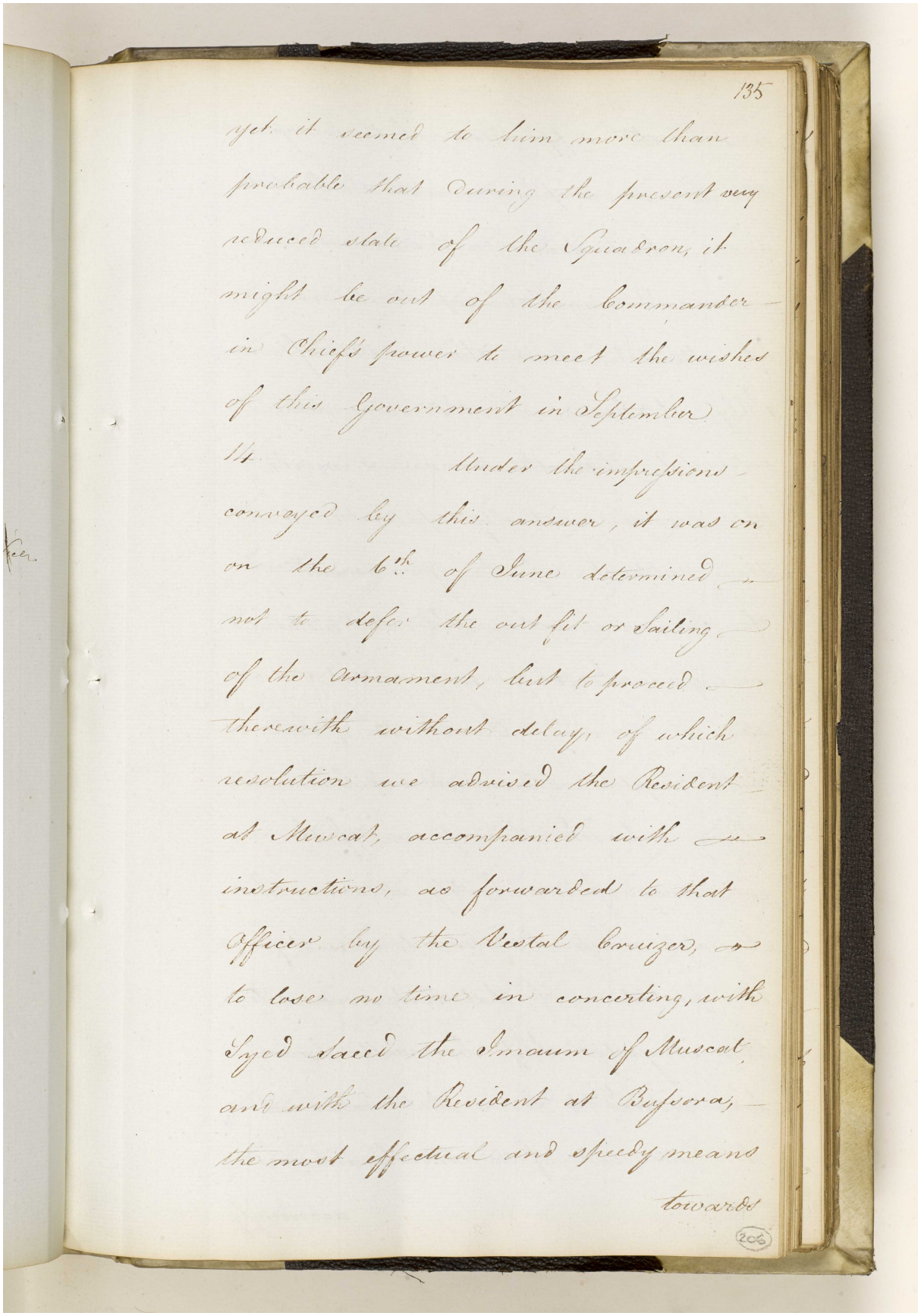

yet it seemed to him more than probable that during the present very reduced state of the Squadron, it might be out of the Commander in Chief's power to meet the wishes of this Government in September 14. Under the impressions conveyed by this answer, it was on on the 6th of June determined not to defer the out fit or Sailing of the Armament, but to proceed therewith without delay, of which resolution we advised the Resident at Muscat, accompanied with instructions, as forwarded to that Officer by the Vestal Cruizer, to lose no time in concerting, with Syed Saeed the Imaum of Muscat, and with the Resident at Bussora, the most effectual and speedy means

towards

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towards the suppression of the Joasmee
Pirates, in co operation with the British
force which it was on this occasion
announced might be expected to arrive
at Muscat about the middle of
July, it being at the same time
intimated that the armament might
also become eventually applicable to
the support of the Government of
the Imaum, within the extent authorized
by your Lordship's instructions.

15. On the 13th of June
both Captain Wainwright and Commodore
Byng expressed their opinion of the
expediency of immediately detaching His
Majesty's Ship Caroline to Muscat for
the protection of that Port, in view to
His Majesty's Ship Cornwallis having
been ordered to leave that Station at
the latter end of the Month, and we

accordingly

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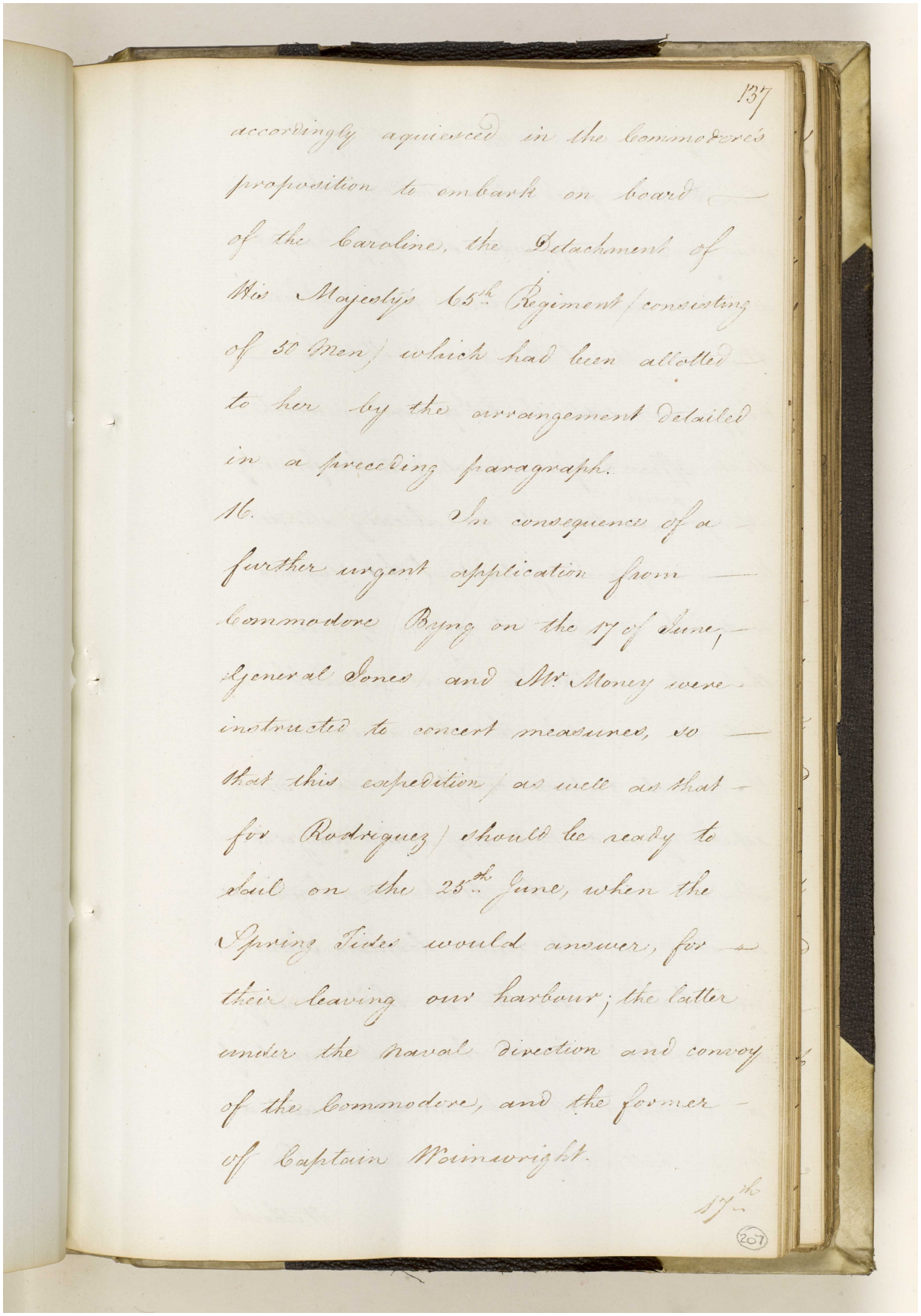

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accordingly aquiesced in the Commodore's
proposition to embark on board
of the Caroline, the Detachment of
His Majesty's 65th. Regiment, consisting
of 50 Men, which had been allotted
to her by the arrangement detailed
in a preceding paragraph.

16. In consequence of a
further urgent application from
Commodore Byng on the 17 of June,
General Jones and Mr. Money were
instructed to concert measures, so
that this expedition, as well as that
for Rodriguez, should be ready to
sail on the 25th. June, when the
Spring Tides would answer, for
their leaving our harbour; the latter
under the naval direction and convoy
of the Commodore, and the former
of Captain Mainwright.

17th

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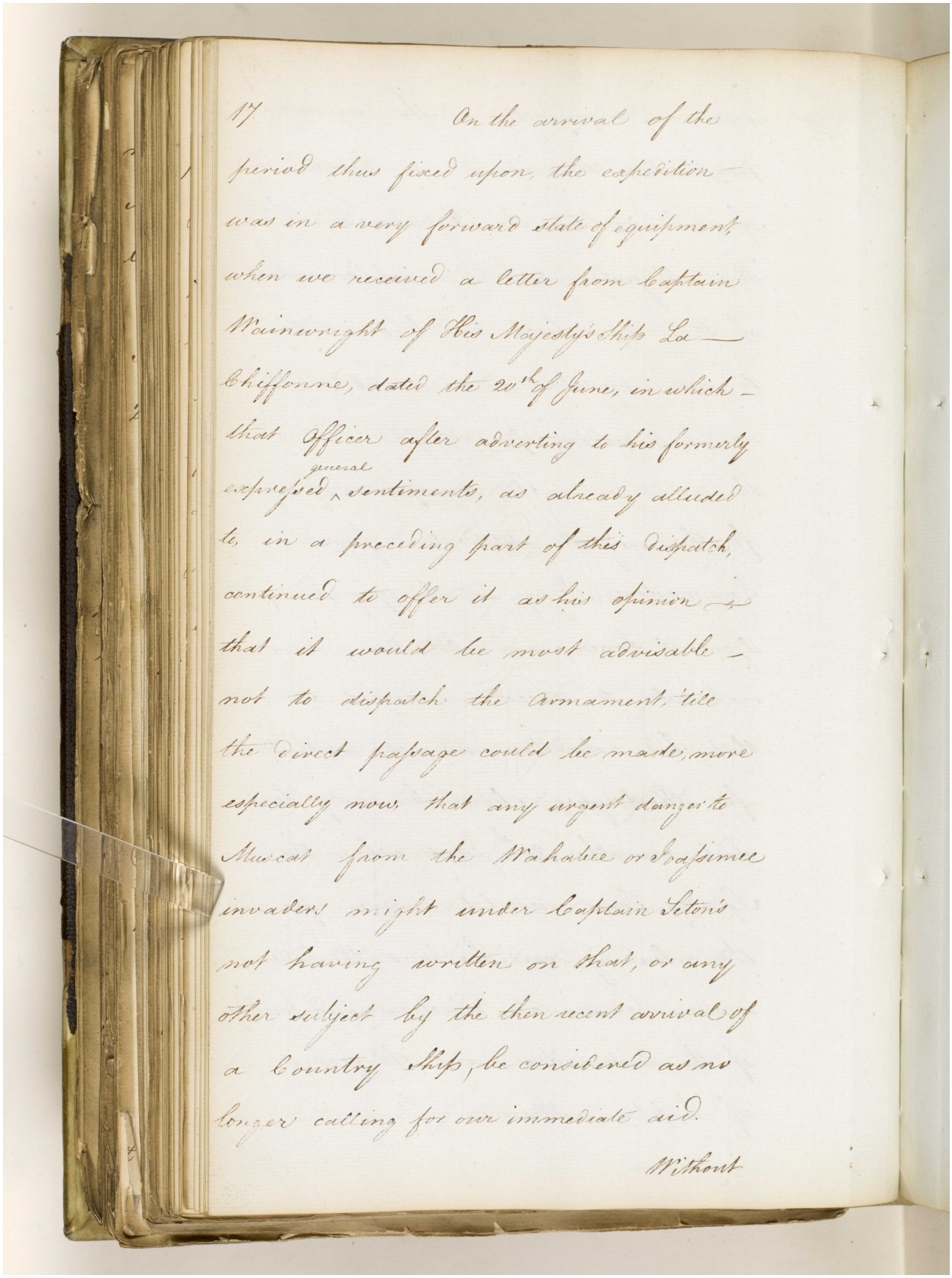

17 On the arrival of the
period thus fixed upon, the expedition
was in a very forward state of equipment,
when we received a letter from Captain
Wainewright of His Majesty's Ship La —
Chiffonne, dated the 20th of June, in which —
that Officer after adverting to his formerly
expressed general sentiments, as already alluded
to in a preceding part of this dispatch,
continued to offer it as his opinion —
that it would be most advisable —
not to dispatch the Armament, 'till
the direct passage could be made, more
especially now that any urgent danger to
Muscat from the Wahabee or Joasmee
invaders might under Captain Seton's
not having written on that, or any
other subject by the then recent arrival of
a Country Ship, be considered as no
longer calling for our immediate aid.

Without

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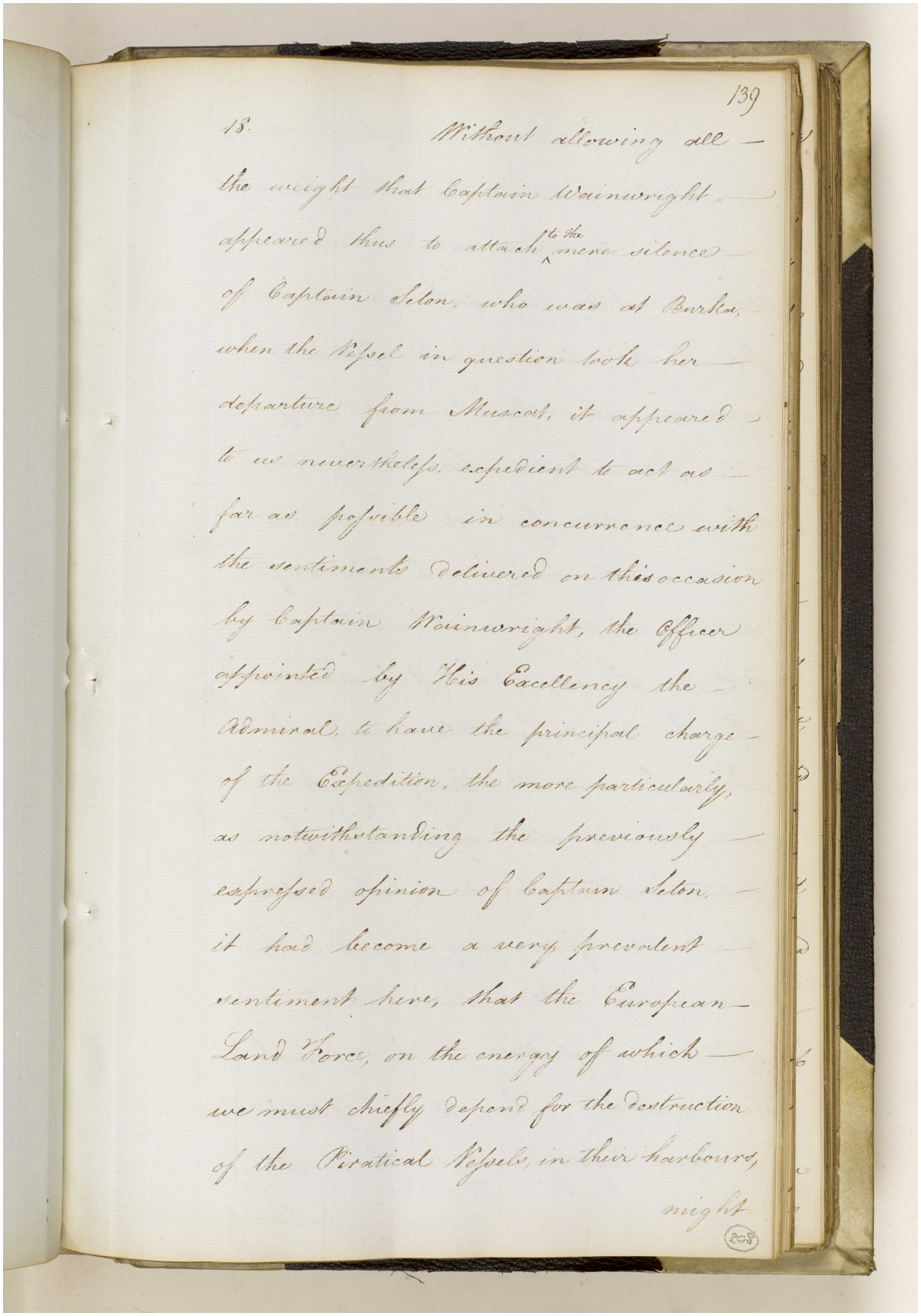

18. Without allowing all the weight that Captain Wainwright appeared thus to attach to the mere silence of Captain Seton, who was at Burka, when the Vessel in question took her departure from Muscat, it appeared to us nevertheless, expedient to act as far as possible in concurrence with the sentiments delivered on this occasion by Captain Wainwright, the Officer appointed by His Excellency the Admiral, to have the principal charge of the Expedition, the more particularly, as notwithstanding the previously expressed opinion of Captain Seton, it had become a very prevalent sentiment here, that the European Land Force, on the energy of which we must chiefly depend for the destruction of the Piratical Vessels, in their harbours, might

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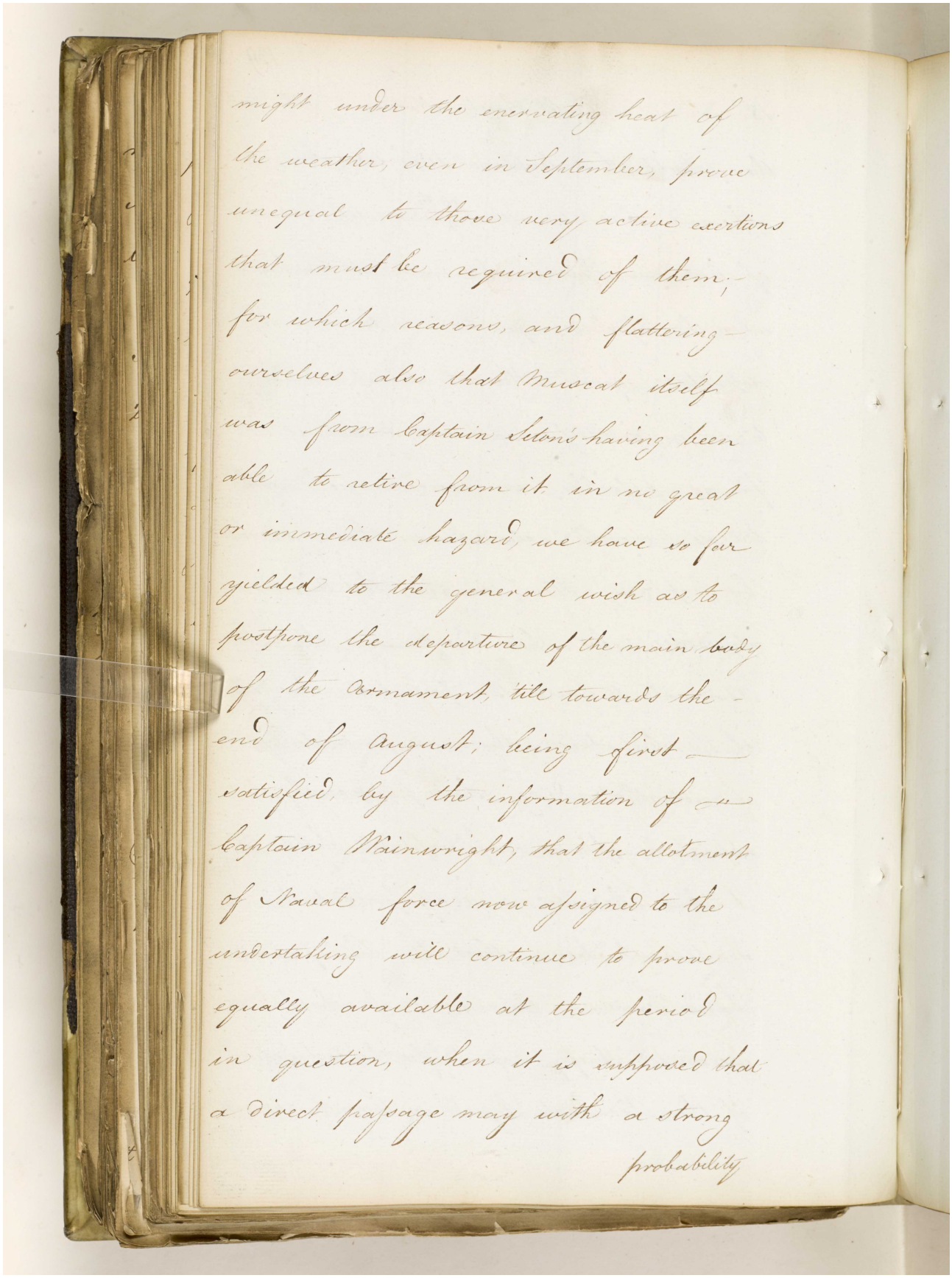

might under the enervating heat of
the weather, even in September, prove
unequal to those very active exertions
that must be required of them;
for which reasons, and flattering
ourselves also that Muscat itself
was from Captain Seton's having been
able to retire from it in no great
or immediate hazard, we have so far
yielded to the general wish as to
postpone the departure of the main body
of the Armament, 'till towards the
end of August, being first
satisfied by the information of
Captain Wainwright, that the allotment
of Naval force now assigned to the
undertaking will continue to prove
equally available at the period
in question, when it is supposed that
a direct passage may with a strong
probability

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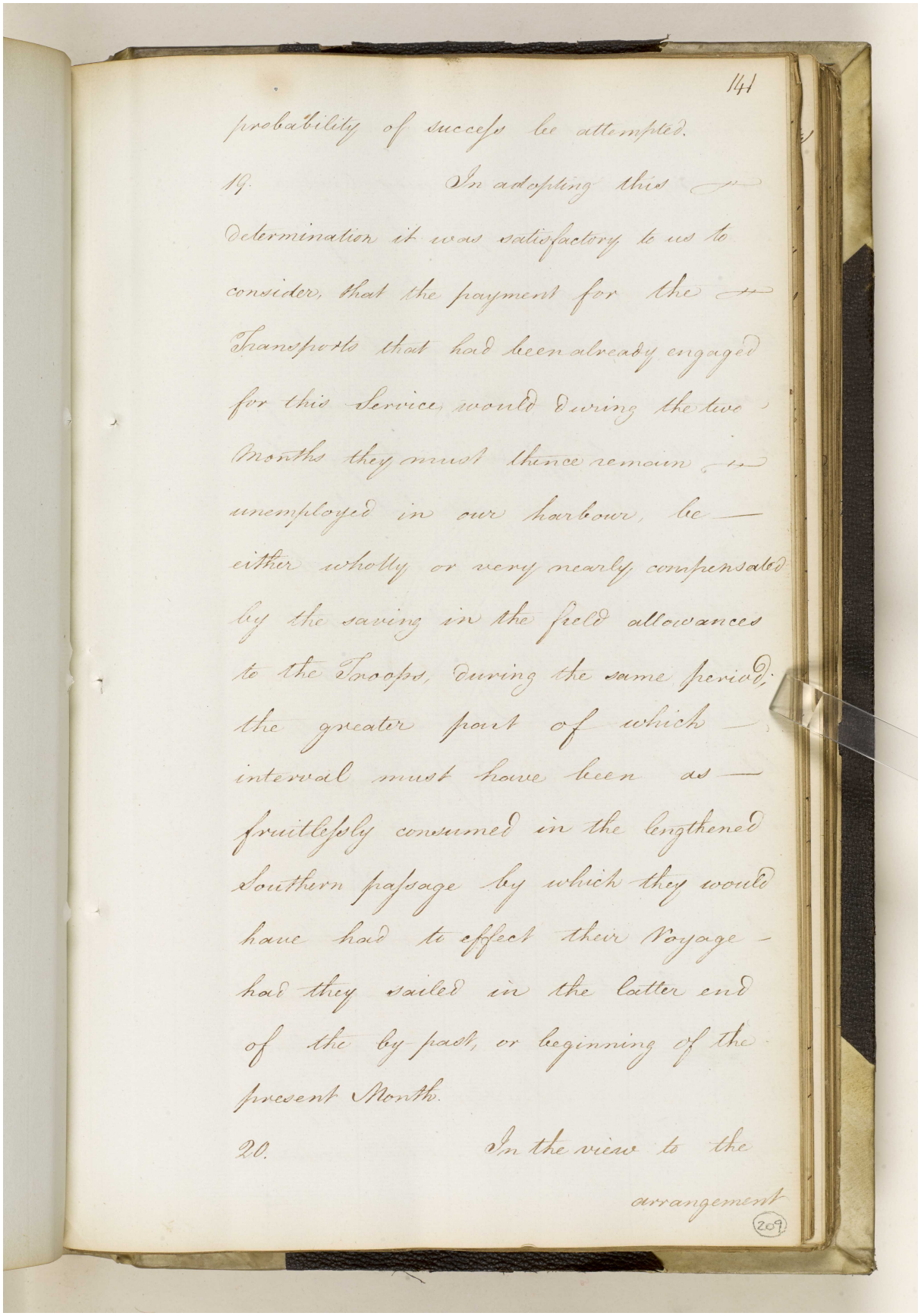

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probability of success be attempted.

19. In adopting this determination it was satisfactory to us to consider, that the payment for the Transports that had been already engaged for this Service would during the two Months they must thence remain unemployed in our harbour, be either wholly or very nearly compensated by the saving in the field allowances to the Troops, during the same period; the greater part of which interval must have been as fruitlessly consumed in the lengthened Southern passage by which they would have had to effect their Voyage – had they sailed in the latter end of the by past, or beginning of the present Month.

20. In the view to the arrangement

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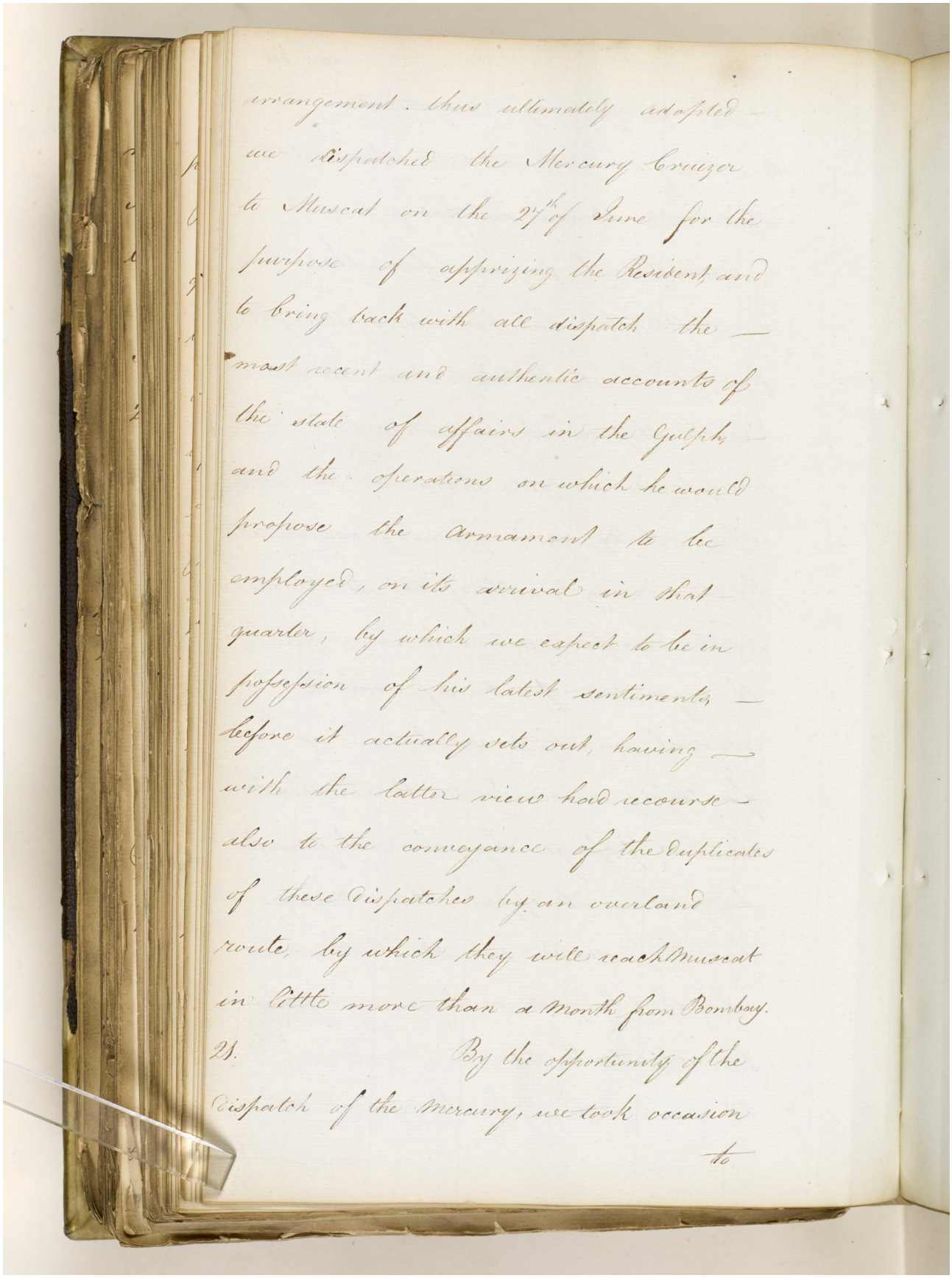

arrangement. thus ultimately adopted
we dispatched the Mercury Cruizer
to Muscat on the 27th of June for the
purpose of apprizing the Resident and
to bring back with all dispatch the
most recent and authentic accounts of
the state of affairs in the Gulph
and the operations on which he would
propose the Armament to be
employed, on its arrival in that
quarter, by which we expect to be in
possession of his latest sentiments
before it actually sets out, having
with the latter view had recourse
also to the conveyance of the Duplicates
of these dispatches by an overland
route, by which they will reach Muscat
in little more than a Month from Bombay.
28. By the opportunity of the
dispatch of the Mercury, we took occasion
to

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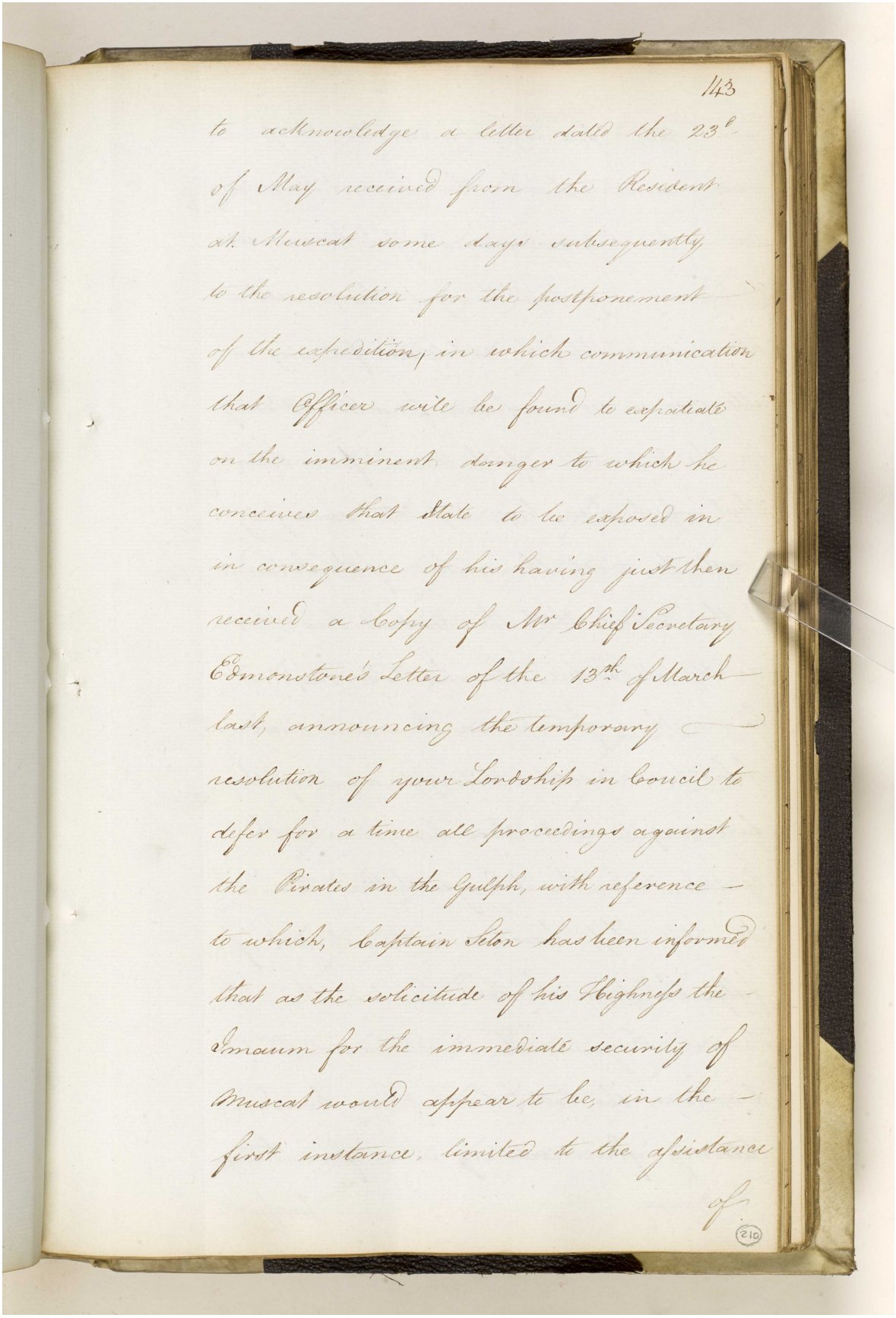

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to acknowledge a letter dated the 23d
of May received from the Resident
at Muscat some days subsequently
to the resolution for the postponement
of the expedition, in which communication
that Officer will be found to expatiate
on the imminent danger to which he
conceives that State to be exposed in
in consequence of his having just then
received a Copy of Mr Chief Secretary
Edmonstone's Letter of the 13th of March
last, announcing the temporary
resolution of your Lordship in Council to
defer for a time all proceedings against
the Pirates in the Gulph, with reference
to which, Captain Seton has been informed
that as the solicitude of his Highness the
Imaum for the immediate security of
Muscat would appear to be, in the
first instance, limited to the assistance
of

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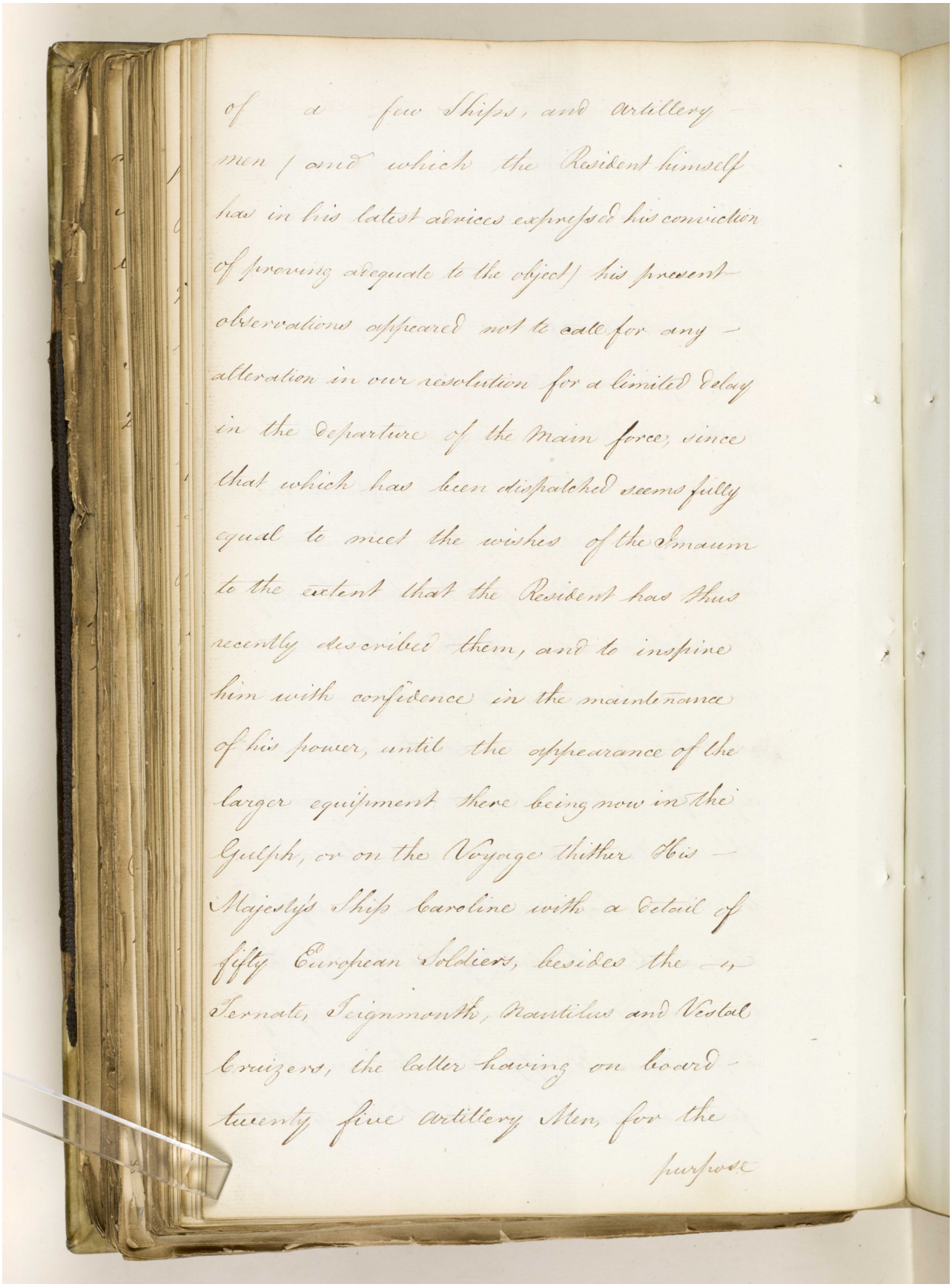

of a few Ships, and Artillery
men / and which the Resident himself
has in his latest advices expressed his conviction
of proving adequate to the object / his present
observations appeared not to call for any
alteration in our resolution for a limited Delay
in the departure of the main force, since
that which has been dispatched seems fully
equal to meet the wishes of the Imaum
to the extent that the Resident has thus
recently described them, and to inspire
him with confidence in the maintenance
of his power, until the appearance of the
larger equipment there being now in the
Gulph, or on the Voyage thither His
Majesty's Ship Caroline with a detail of
fifty European Soldiers, besides the
Ternate, Teignmouth, Nautilus and Vestal
Cruizers, the latter having on board
twenty five Artillery Men, for the
purpose

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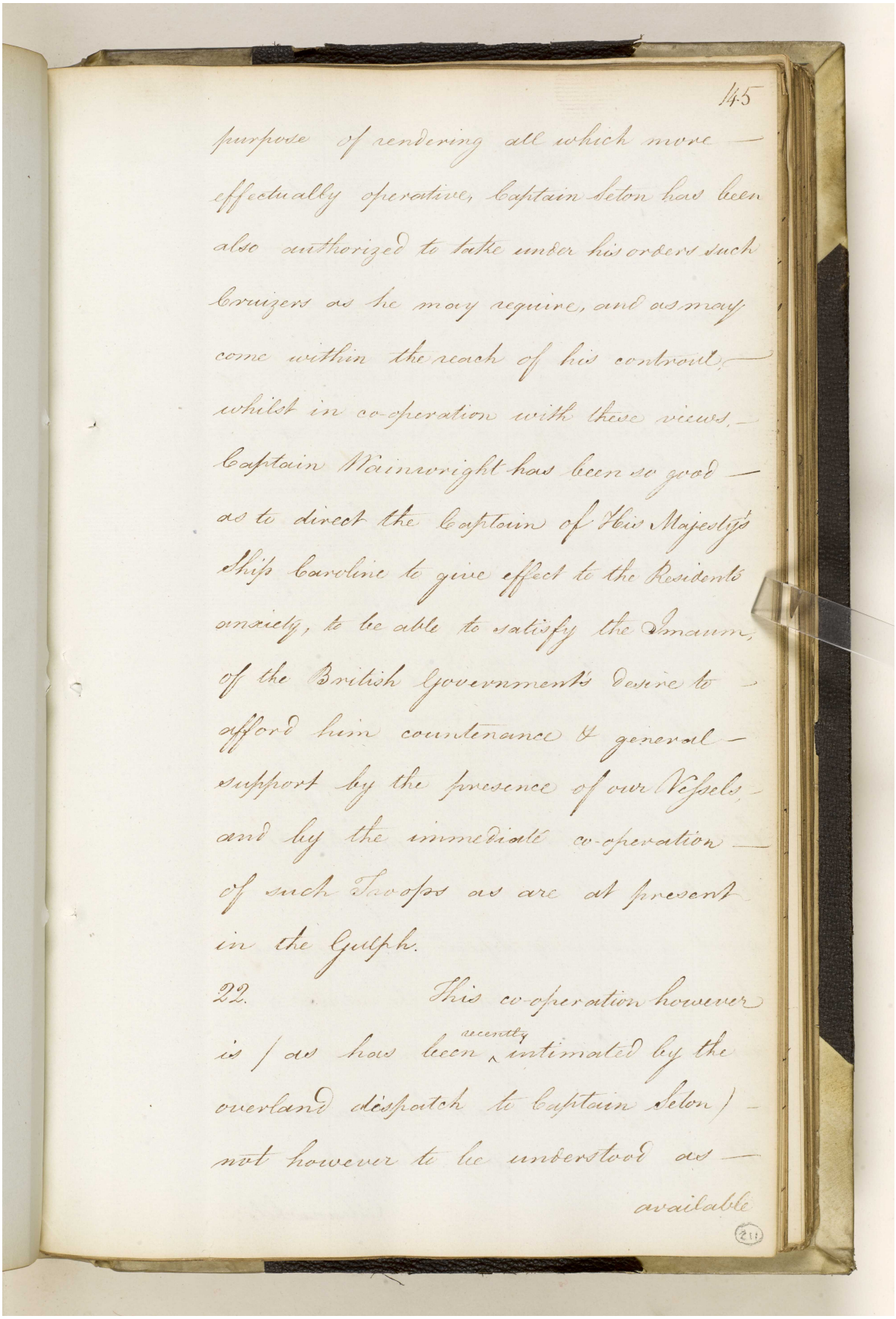

purpose of rendering all which more —
effectually operative, Captain Seton has been
also authorized to take under his orders such
Cruizers as he may require, and as may
come within the reach of his controul, —
whilst in co-operation with these views, —
Captain Wainwright has been so good —
as to direct the Captain of His Majesty's
Ship Caroline to give effect to the Resident's
anxiety, to be able to satisfy the Imaum,
of the British Government's desire to —
afford him countenance & general —
support by the presence of our Vessels,
and by the immediate co-operation —
of such Troops as are at present
in the Gulph.

22. This co-operation however
is / as has been recently intimated by the
overland dispatch to Captain Seton / —
not however to be understood as —
available

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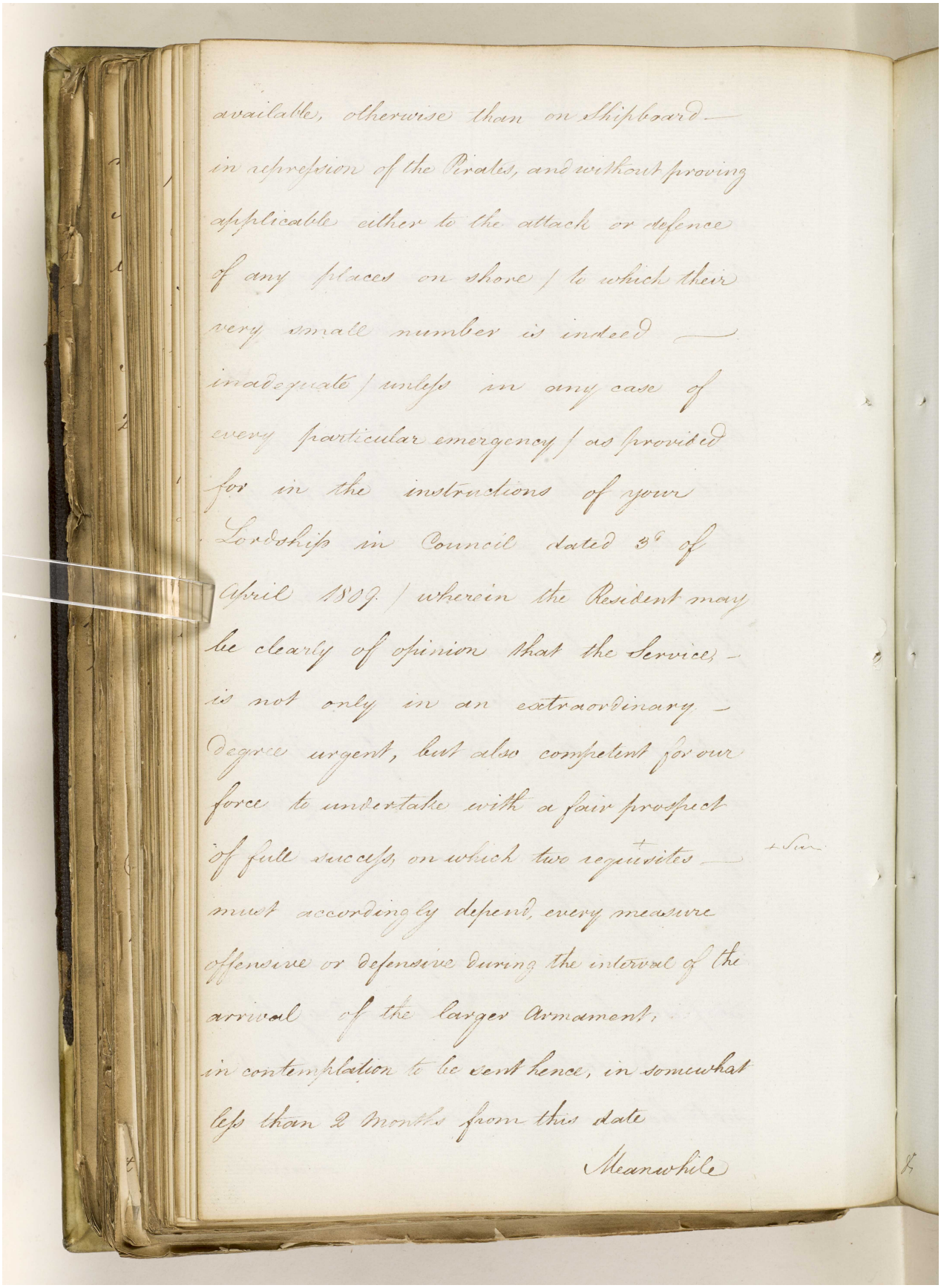

available, otherwise than on shipboard
in repression of the Pirates, and without proving
applicable either to the attack or defence
of any places on shore / to which their
very small number is indeed
inadequate / unless in any case of
every particular emergency / as provided
for in the instructions of your
Lordships in Council dated 3d of
April 1809 / wherein the Resident may
be clearly of opinion that the Service,
is not only in an extraordinary
degree urgent, but also competent for our
force to undertake with a fair prospect
of full success, on which two requisites
must accordingly depend, every measure
offensive or defensive during the interval of the
arrival of the larger Armament,
in contemplation to be sent hence, in somewhat
less than 2 months from this date
Meanwhile

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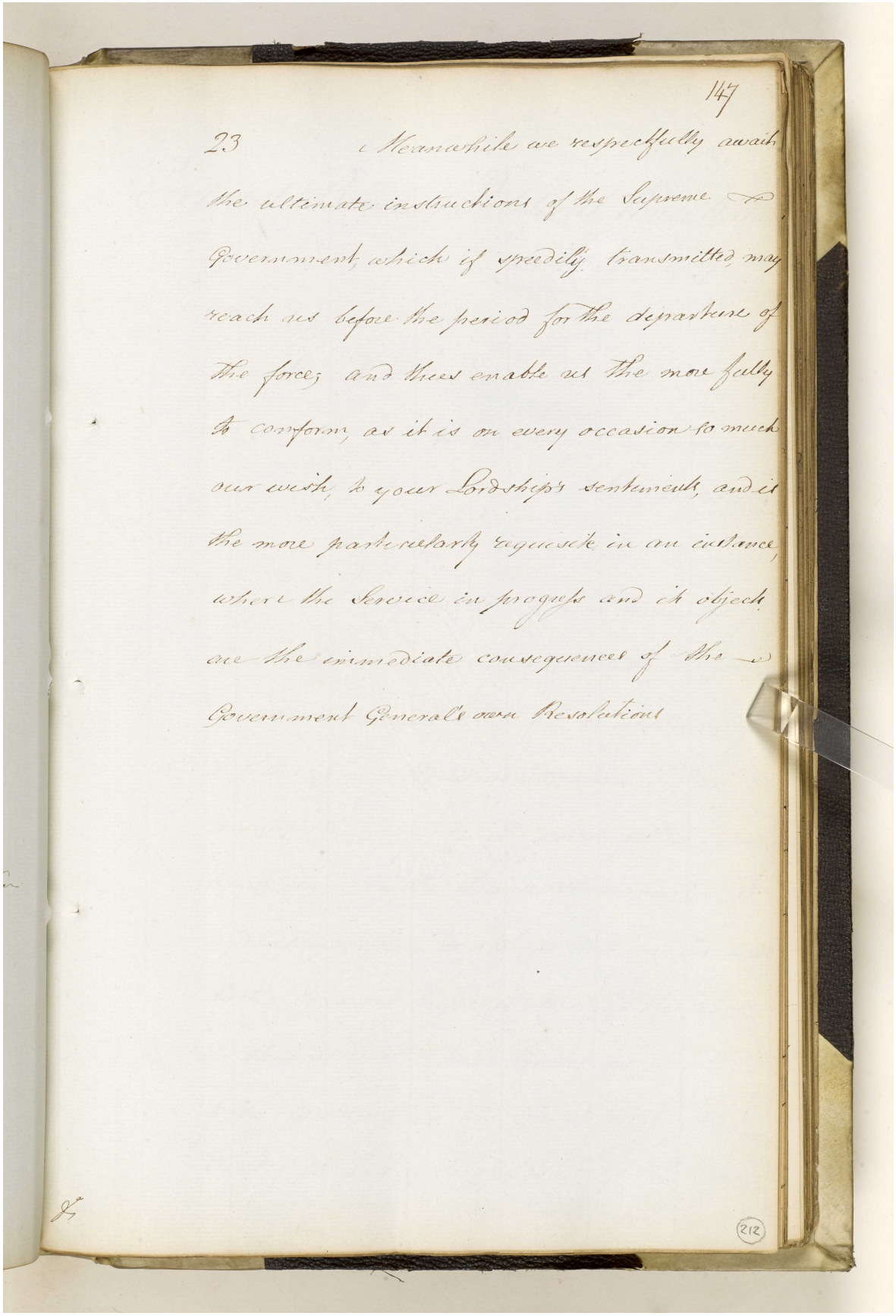

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23 Meanwhile we respectfully await the ultimate instructions of the Supreme Government, which if speedily transmitted, may reach us before the period for the departure of the forces; and thus enable us the more fully to conform, as it is on every occasion so much our wish, to your Lordship's sentiments, and it the more particularly requisite in an instance, where the Service in progress and it object are the immediate consequences of the Government Generals own Resolutions

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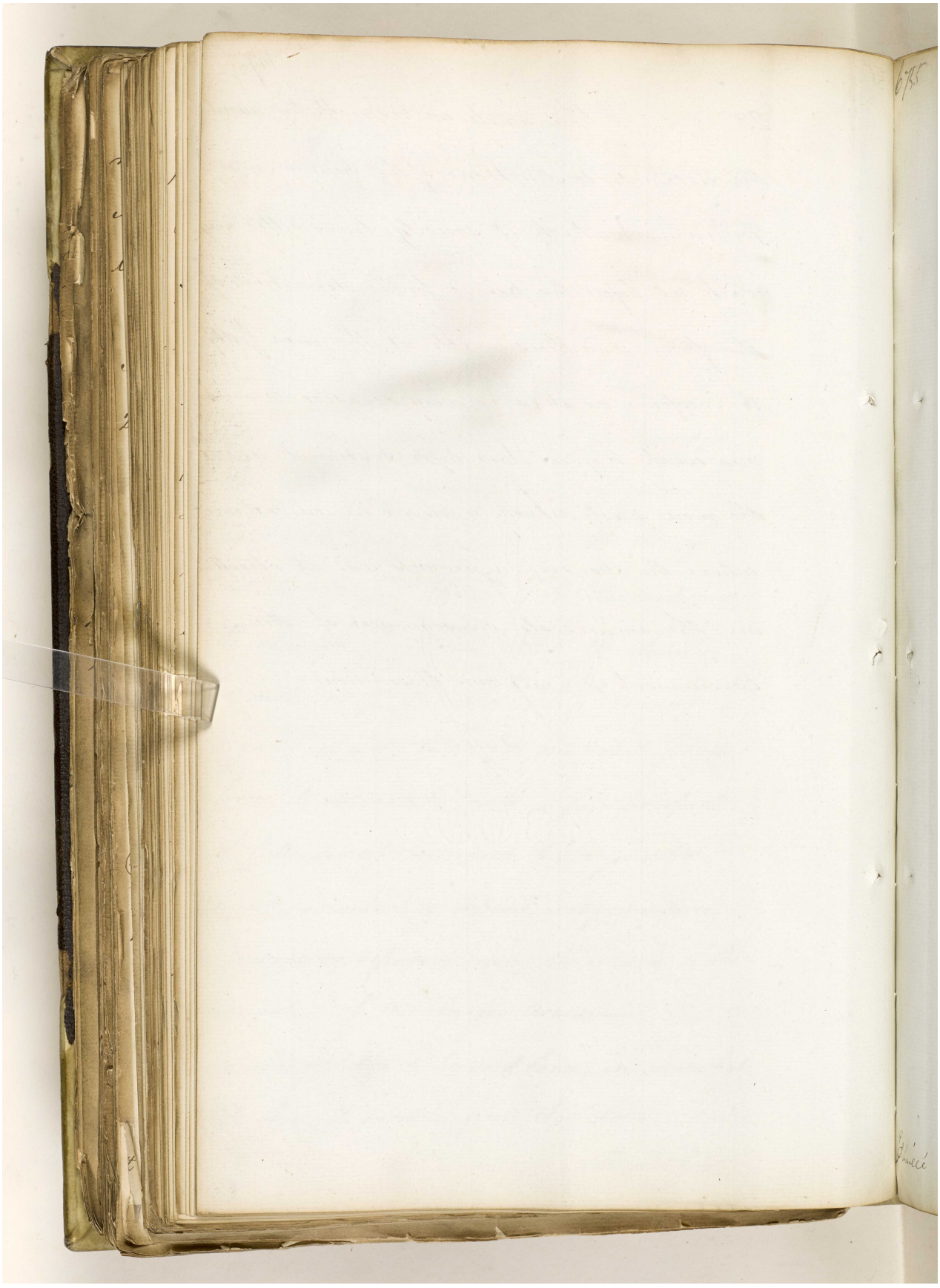

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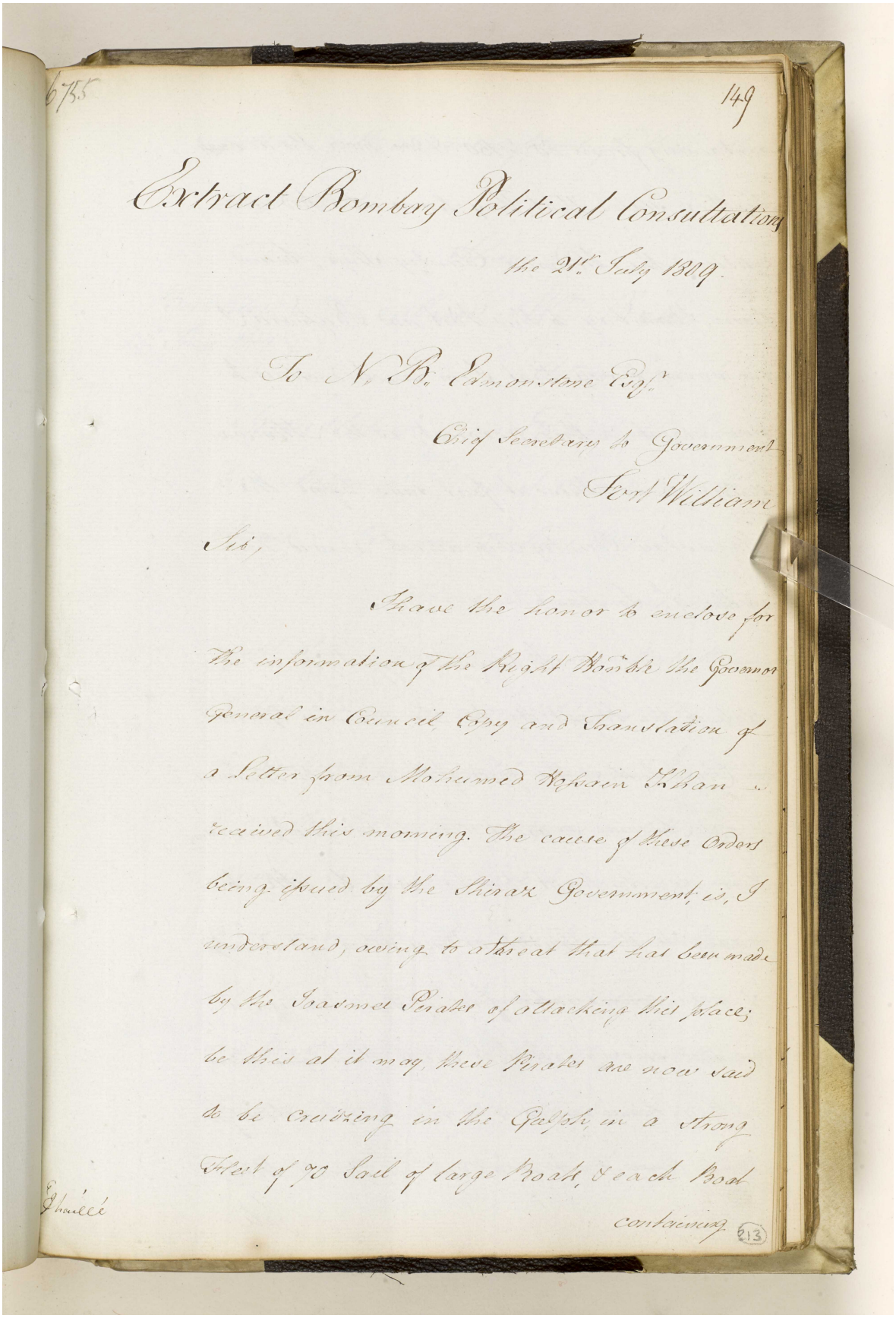

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 21st July 1809.

To N. B. Edmonstone Esqr
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort William

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Right Honble the Governor General in Council Copy and Translation of a Letter from Mohumed Kheirin Khan ... received this morning. The cause of these Orders being issued by the Shirauz Government is, I understand, owing to a threat that has been made by the Joasmee Pirates of attacking this place; be this as it may, these Pirates are now said to be cruizing in the Gulph in a strong Fleet of 70 Sail of large Boats, each Boat containing

Ghulée

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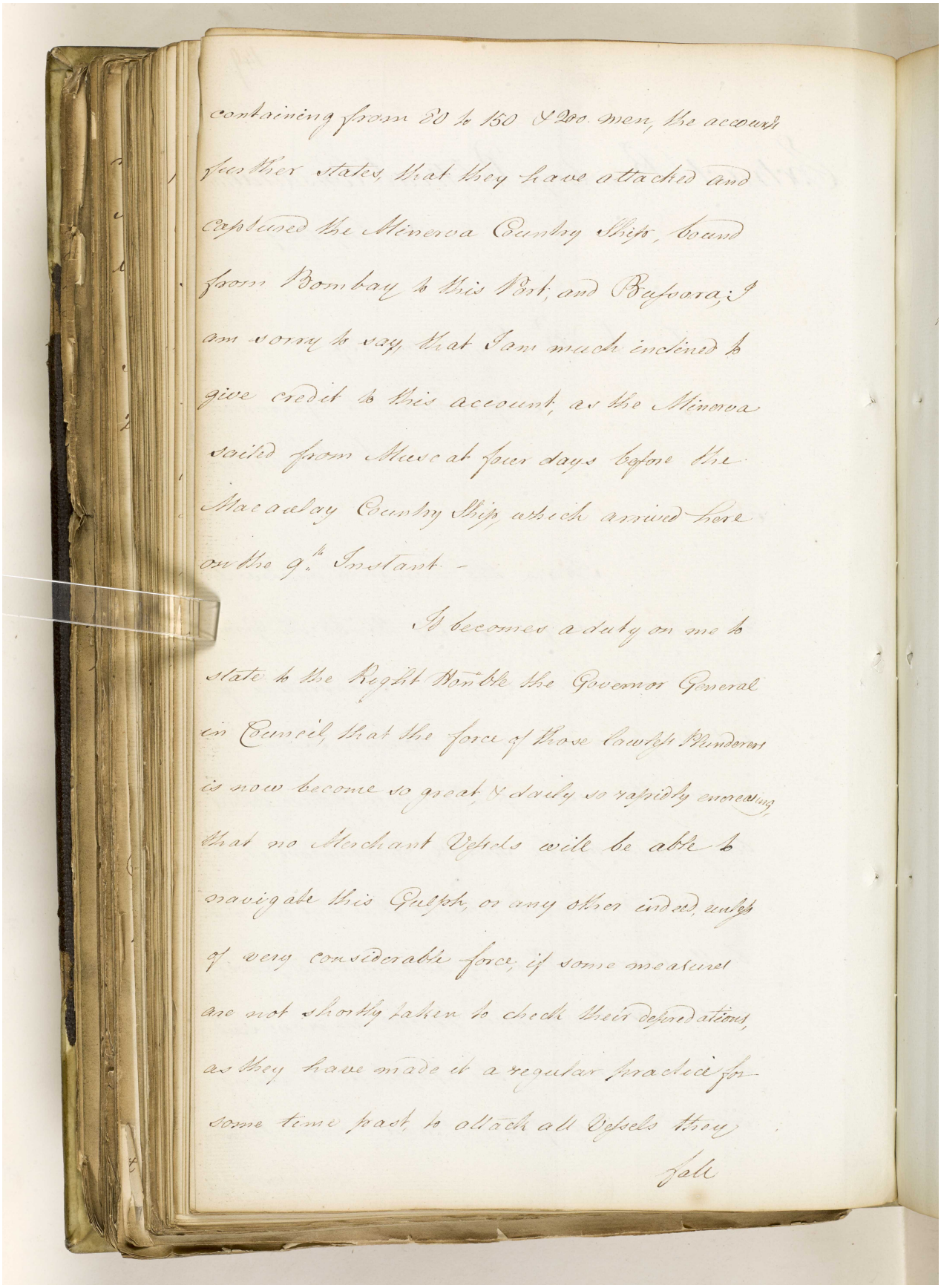

containing from 20 to 150 & 200 men, the account further states, that they have attacked and captured the Minerva Country Ship, bound from Bombay to this Port, and Bussora; I am sorry to say that I am much inclined to give credit to this account, as the Minerva sailed from Muscat four days before the Macaulay Country Ship which arrived here on the 9th Instant –

It becomes a duty on me to state to the Right Honble the Governor General in Council, that the force of those lawless Plunderers is now become so great & daily so rapidly encreasing that no Merchant Vessels will be able to navigate this Gulph, or any other indeed, unless of very considerable force, if some measures are not shortly taken to check their depredations, as they have made it a regular practice for some time past to attack all Vessels they

fall

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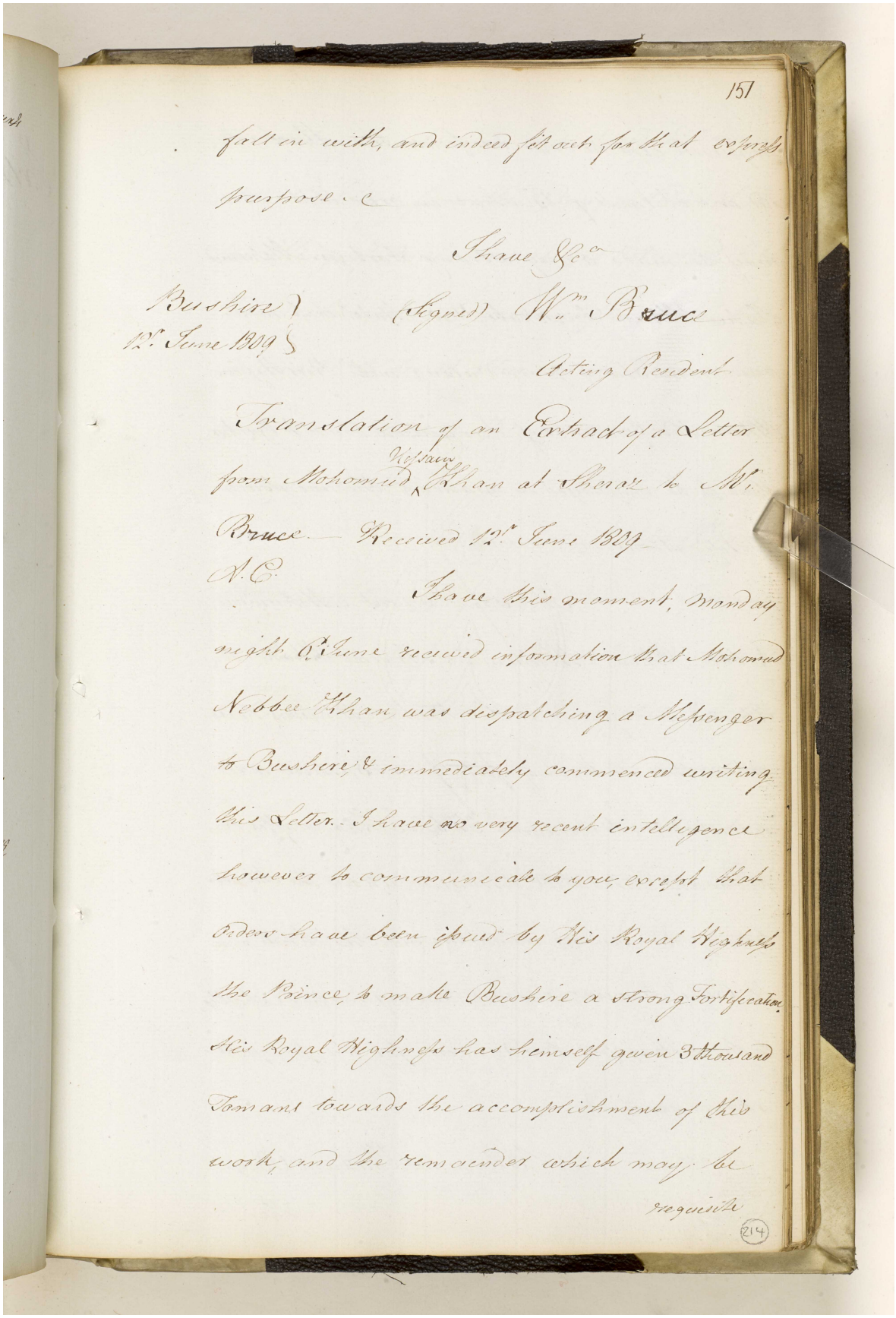

fall in with, and indeed fit out for that express purpose. &c

I have &c^a

Bushire
12th June 1809

(Signed) Wm Bruce
Acting Resident

Translation of an Extract of a Letter from Mohomud Hossain Khan at Sheraz to Mr Bruce — Received 12th June 1809
A.C.

I have this moment, Monday night 6th June received information that Mohomud Nebbee Khan was dispatching a Messenger to Bushire, & immediately commenced writing this Letter. I have no very recent intelligence however to communicate to you, except that Orders have been issued by His Royal Highness the Prince, to make Bushire a strong Fortification. His Royal Highness has himself given 3 thousand Tomans towards the accomplishment of this work, and the remainder which may be

requisite

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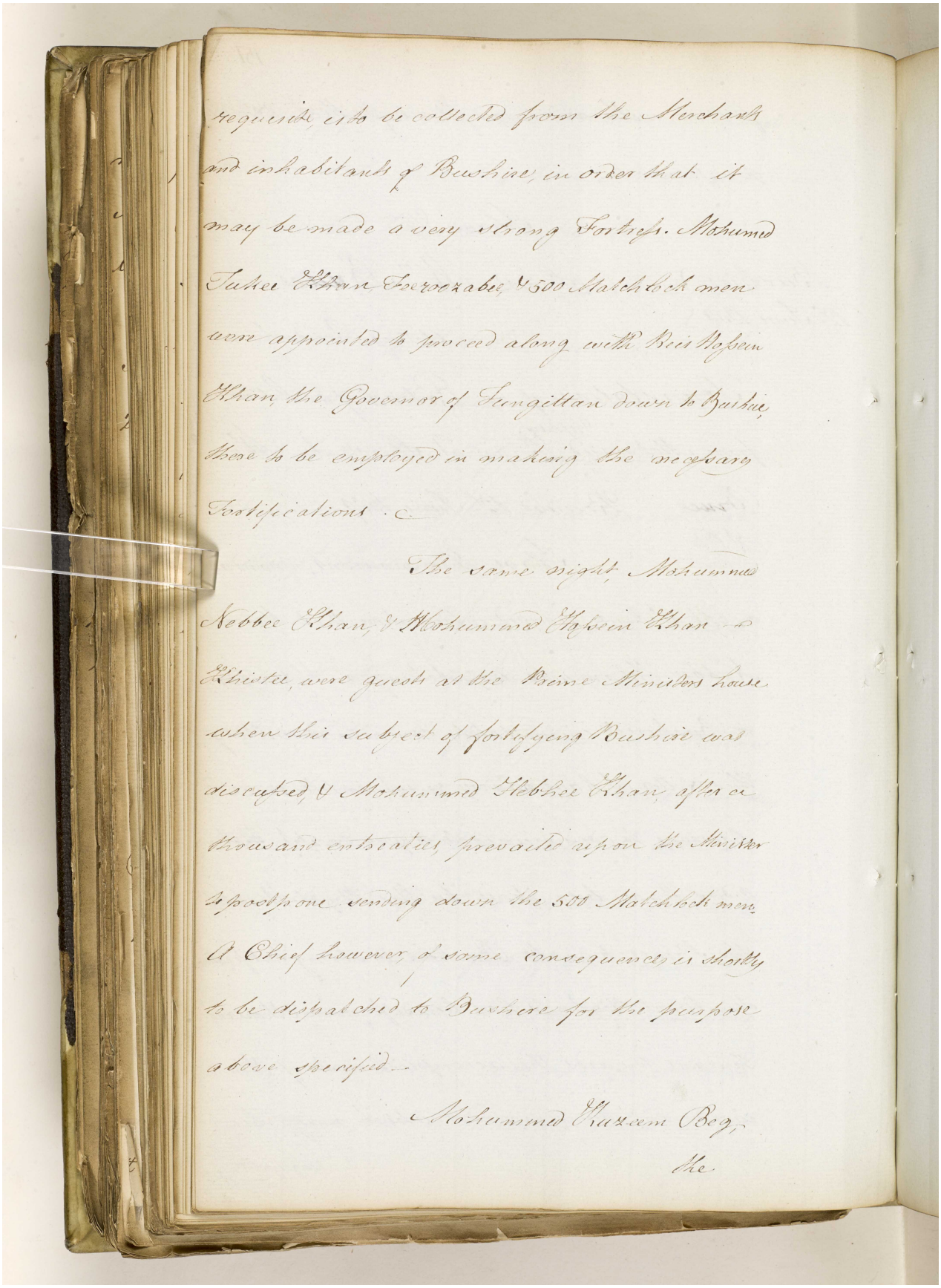

requisite, is to be collected from the Merchants and inhabitants of Bushire, in order that it may be made a very strong Fortress. Mohumed Tukee Khan, Feerozabee, & 500 Matchlock men were appointed to proceed along with Reis Hossein Khan, the Governor of Tungittan down to Bushire, there to be employed in making the necessary Fortifications.

The same night, Mohummed Nebbee Khan, & Mohummed Hossein Khan Khistee, were guests at the Prime Ministers house when this subject of fortifying Bushire was discussed, & Mohummed Hebhee Khan, after a thousand entreaties, prevailed upon the Minister to postpone sending down the 500 Matchlock men. A Chief however, of some consequence, is shortly to be dispatched to Bushire for the purpose above specified.

Mohummed Kuzeem Beg,

the

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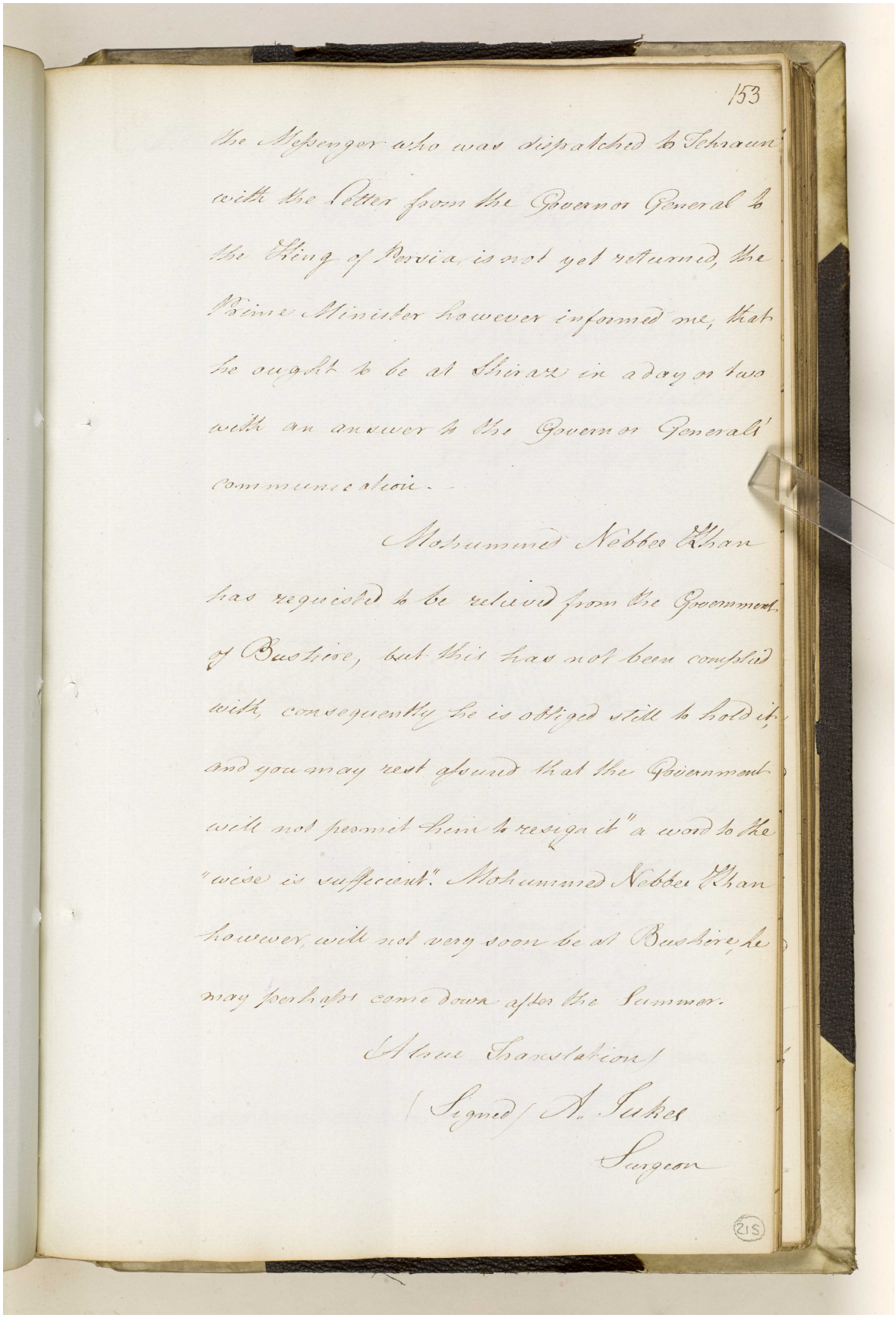

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the Messenger who was dispatched to Schiraun with the Letter from the Governor General to the King of Persia, is not yet returned, the Prime Minister however informed me, that he ought to be at Shiraz in a day or two with an answer to the Governor Generals' communication.

Mohammed Nebbee Khan has requested to be relieved from the Government of Bushire, but this has not been complied with, consequently he is obliged still to hold it, and you may rest assured that the Government will not permit him to resign it" a word to the "wise is sufficient". Mohammed Nebbee Khan however will not very soon be at Bushire he may perhaps come down after the Summer.

A true Translation
(Signed) A. Sutter
Surgeon

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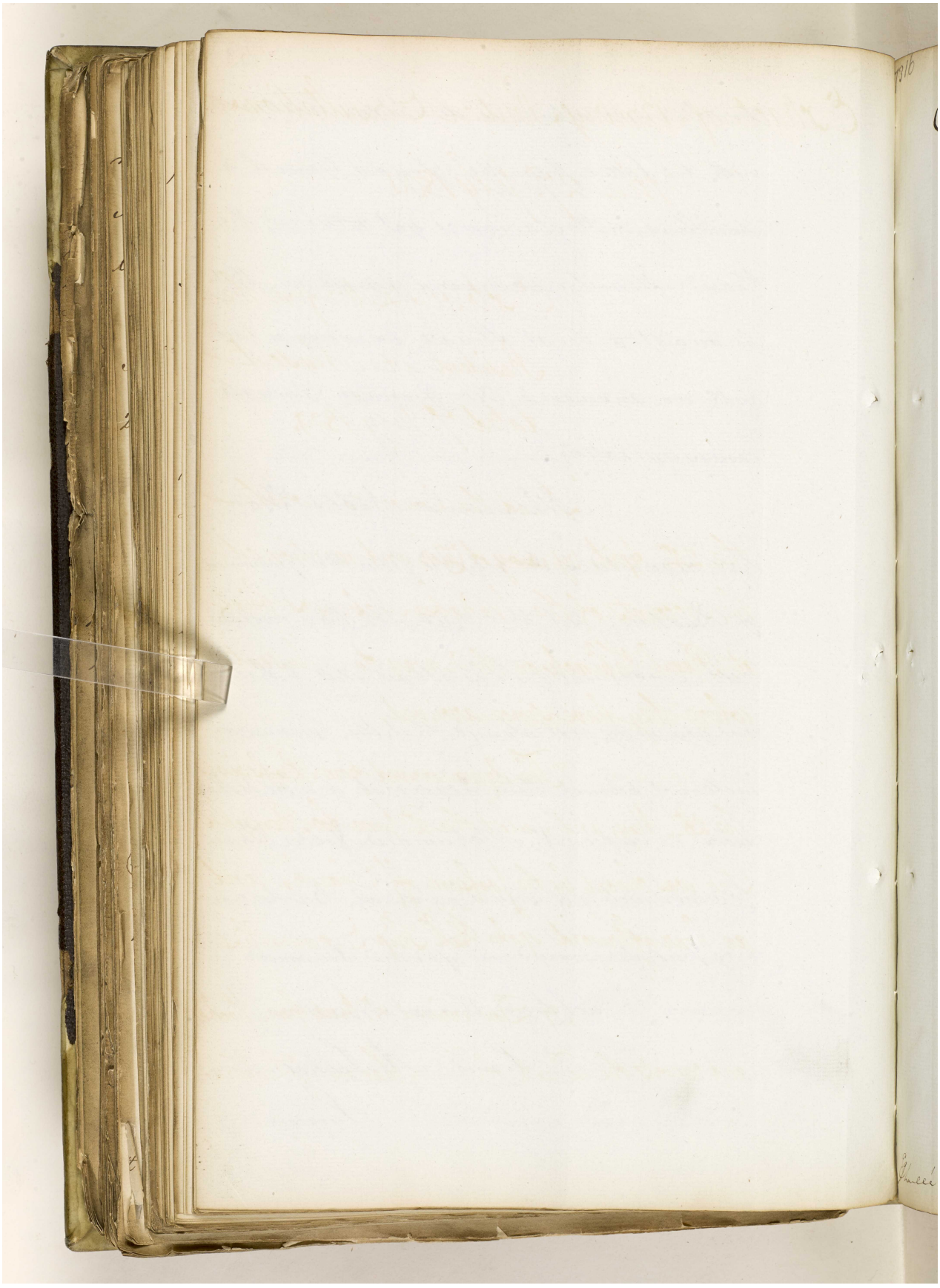

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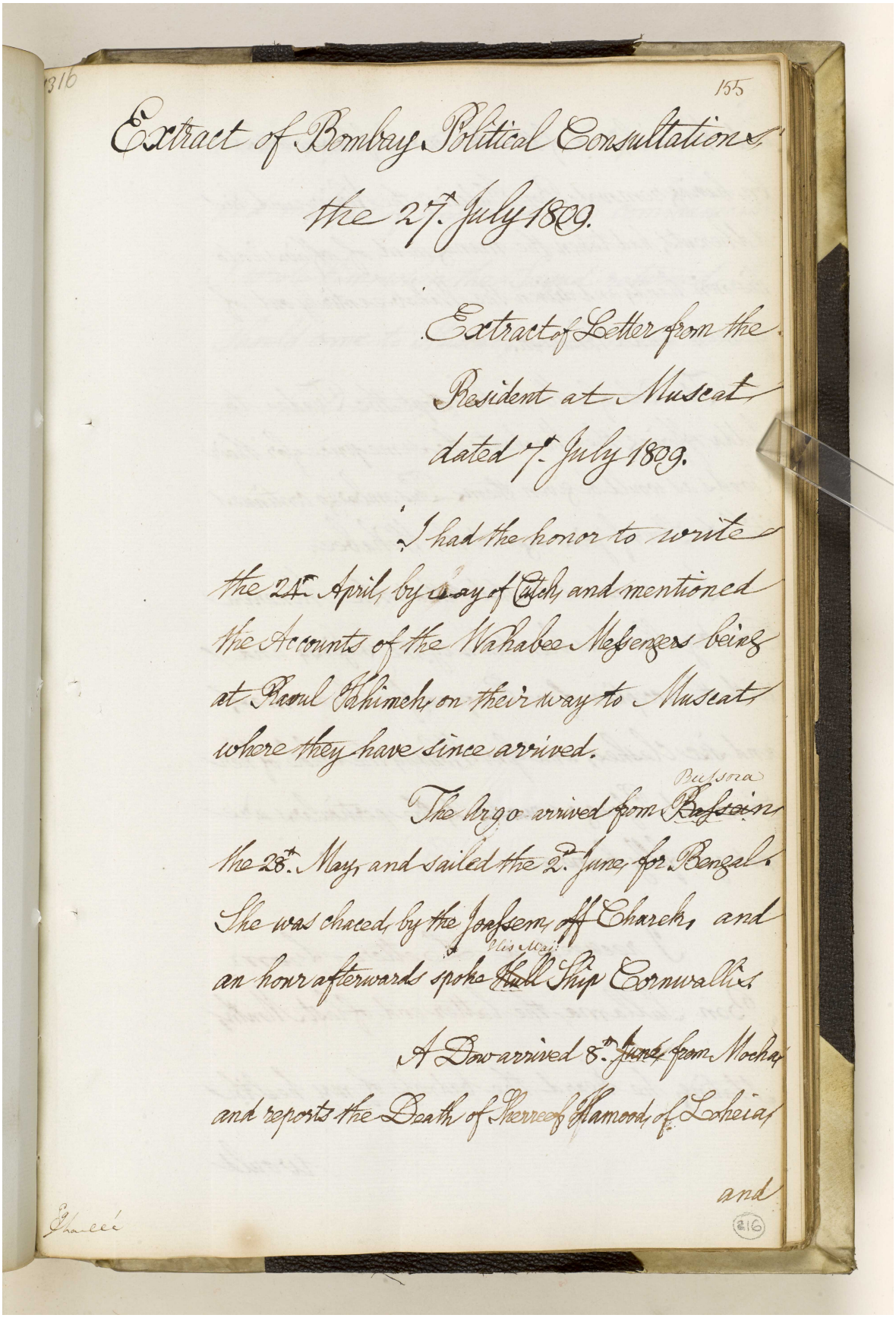

Extract of Bombay Political Consultations, the 27th July 1809.

Extract of Letter from the Resident at Muscat, dated 7th July 1809.

I had the honor to write the 24th April, by Bay of Cutch, and mentioned the Accounts of the Wahabee Messengers being at Rasul Khimeh, on their way to Muscat, where they have since arrived.

The Argo arrived from ~~Bassein~~ Bussora the 28th May, and sailed the 2d June, for Bengal. She was chaced, by the Joassem, off Charek, and an hour afterwards spoke ~~Hull~~ His Maj. Ship Cornwallis.

A Dow arrived 8th ~~June~~ from Mocha, and reports the Death of Sherreef Hamood, of Loheia,

and

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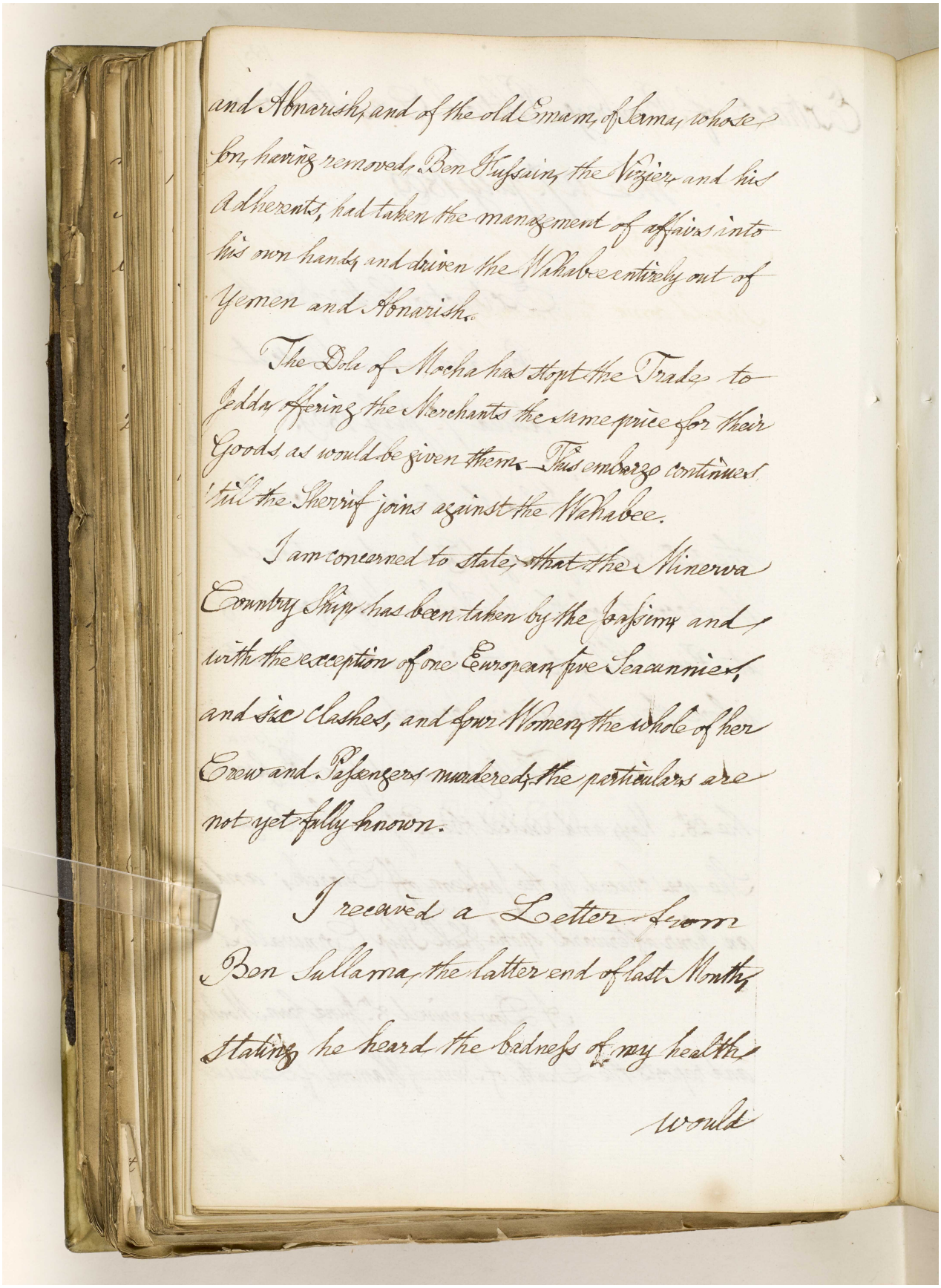

and Abnarish, and of the old Emam, of Serma, whose son, having removed, Ben Hussain, the Vizier, and his Adherents, had taken the management of affairs into his own hands, and driven the Wahabee entirely out of Yemen and Abnarish.

The Dola of Mocha has stopt the Trade to Jedda, offering the Merchants the same price for their Goods as would be given them. This embargo continues 'till the Sherrif joins against the Wahabee.

I am concerned to state, that the Minerva Country Ship has been taken by the Joassim, and with the exception of one European five Seacunnies, and six Clashes, and four Women, the whole of her Crew and Passengers murdered, the particulars are not yet fully known.

I received a Letter from Ben Sullama, the latter end of last Month, stating he heard the badness of my health

would

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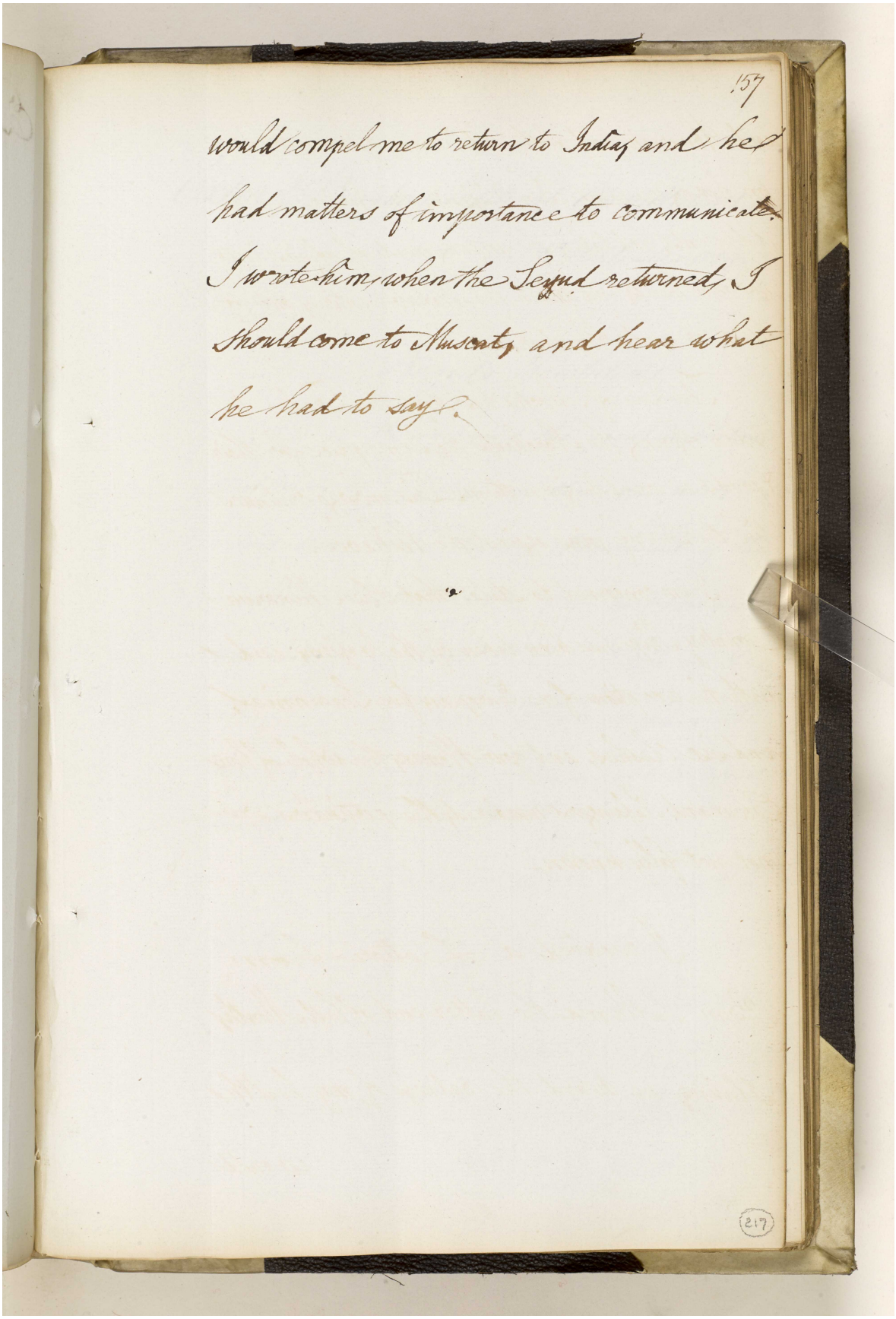

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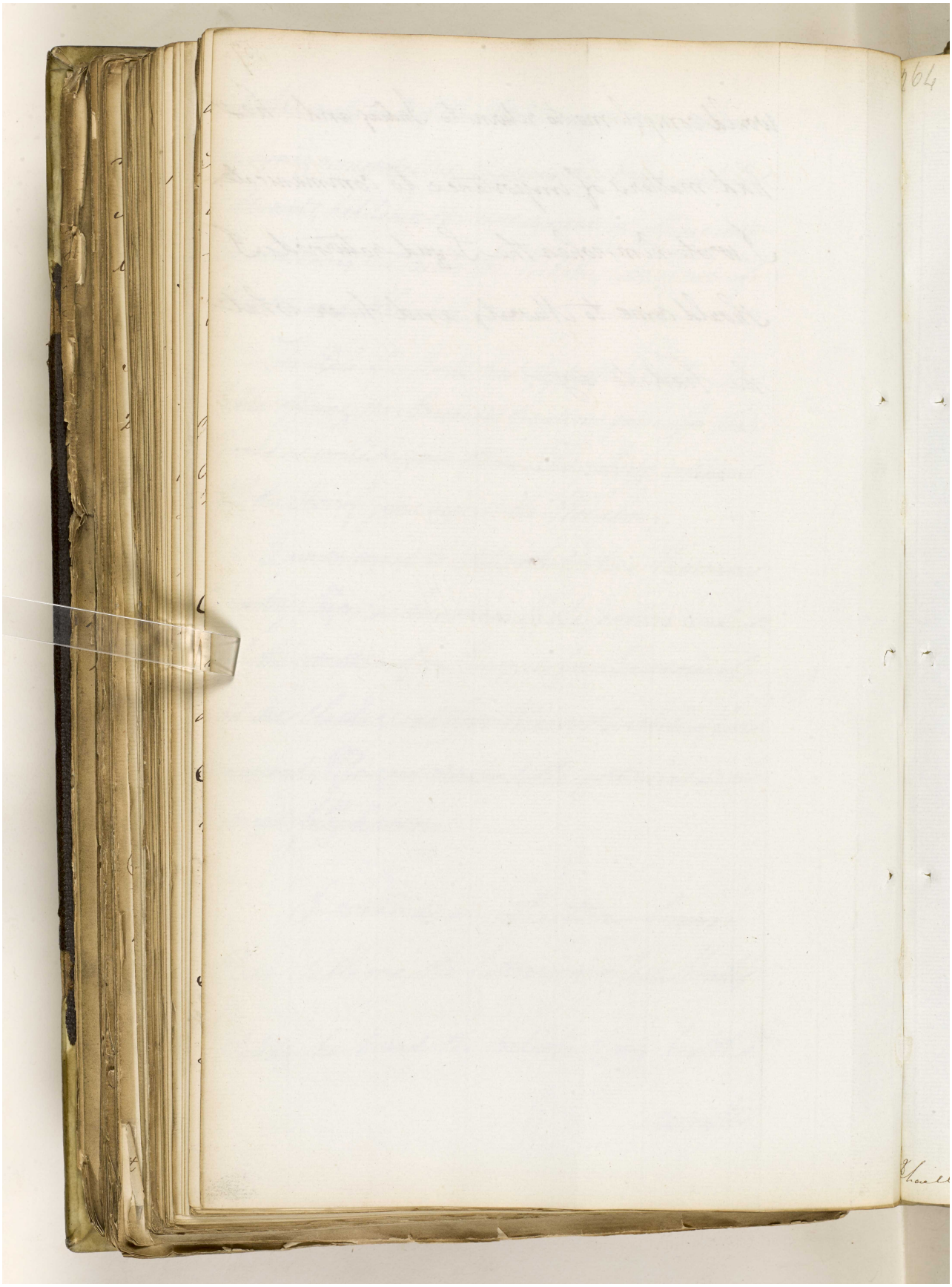

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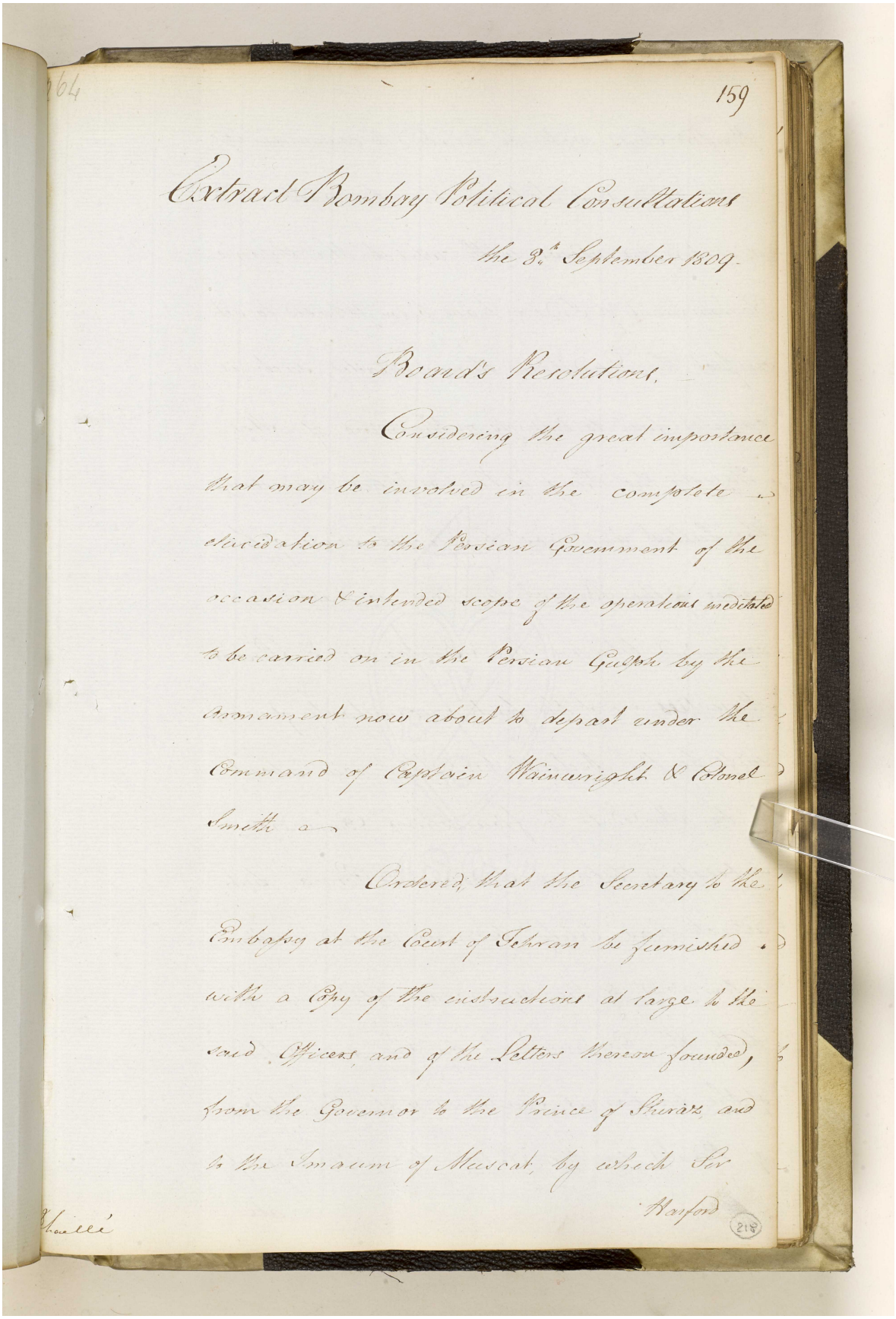

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 3d September 1809.

Board's Resolutions.

Considering the great importance that may be involved in the complete elucidation to the Persian Government of the occasion & intended scope of the operations meditated to be carried on in the Persian Gulph by the armament now about to depart under the Command of Captain Wainwright & Colonel Smith –

Ordered that the Secretary to the Embassy at the Court of Tehran be furnished with a Copy of the instructions at large to the said Officers, and of the Letters thereon founded, from the Governor to the Prince of Shiraz, and to the Imaum of Muscat, by which Sir Harford

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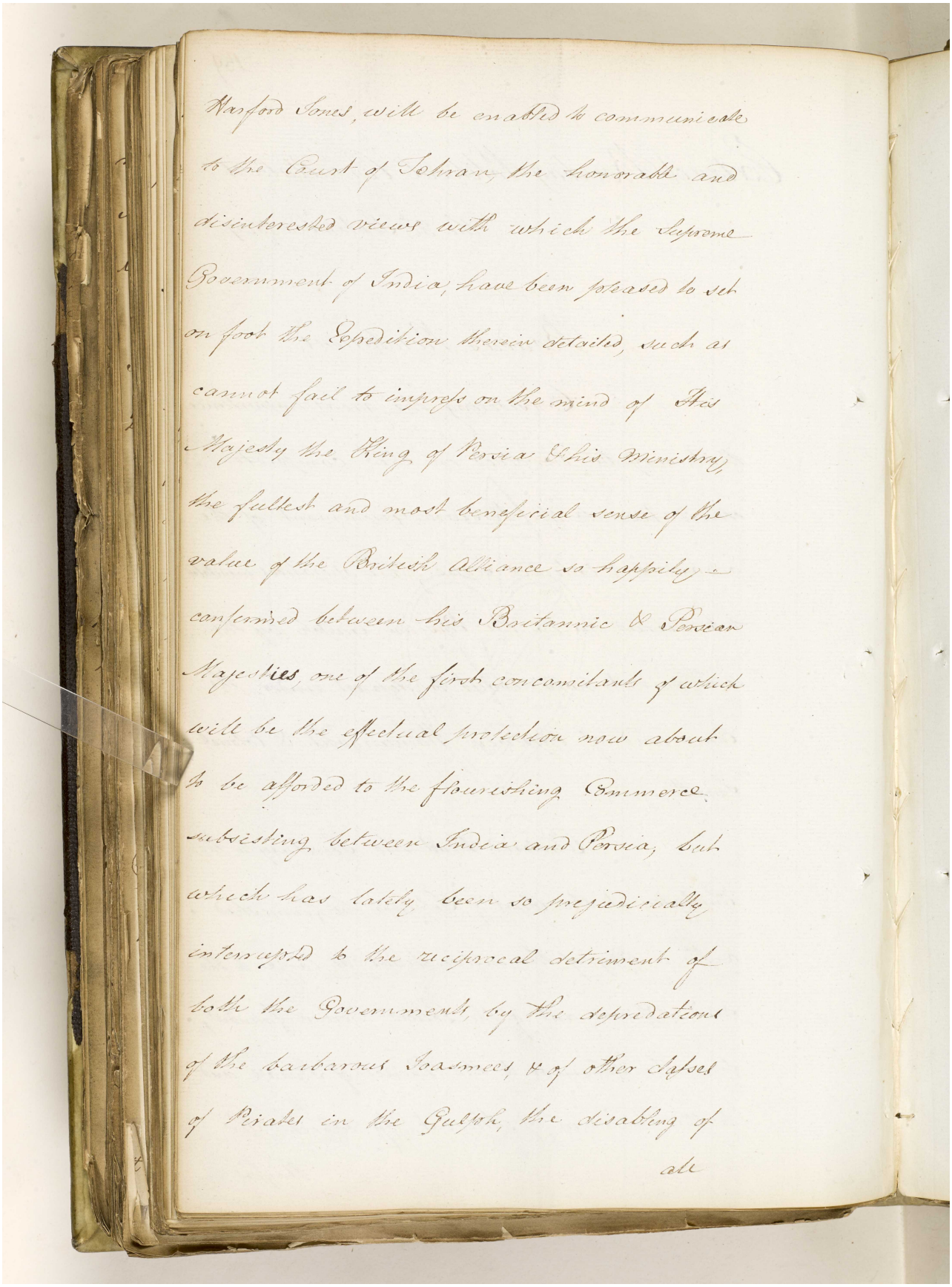

Hanford Jones, will be enabled to communicate
to the Court of Tehran the honorable and
disinterested views with which the Supreme
Government of India, have been pleased to set
on foot the Expedition therein detailed, such as
cannot fail to impress on the mind of His
Majesty the King of Persia & his Ministry,
the fullest and most beneficial sense of the
value of the British Alliance so happily
confirmed between his Britannic & Persian
Majesties, one of the first concomitants of which
will be the effectual protection now about
to be afforded to the flourishing Commerce
subsisting between India and Persia, but
which has lately been so prejudicially
interrupted to the reciprocal detriment of
both the Governments, by the depredations
of the barbarous Joasmees & of other Tribes
of Pirates in the Gulph, the disabling of
all

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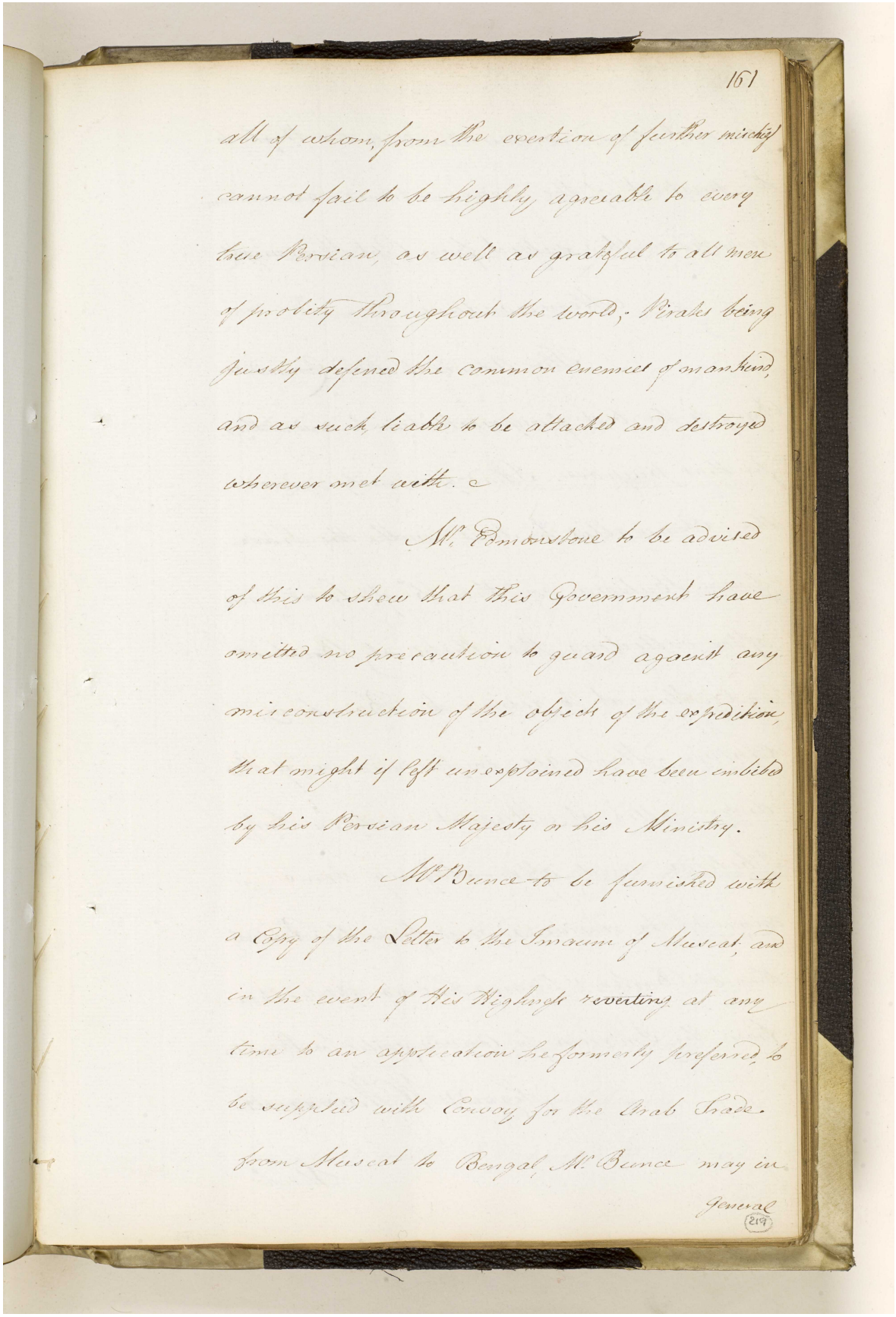

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all of whom, from the exertion of further mischief cannot fail to be highly agreeable to every true Persian, as well as grateful to all men of probity throughout the world; Pirates being justly defened the common enemies of mankind, and as such liable to be attacked and destroyed wherever met with.

Mr Bomanjee to be advised of this to shew that this Government have omitted no precaution to guard against any misconstruction of the objects of the expedition, that might if left unexplained have been imbibed by his Persian Majesty or his Ministry.

Mr Bunce to be furnished with a Copy of the Letter to the Imaum of Muscat, and in the event of His Highness resorting at any time to an application heformerly preferred to be supplied with Convoy for the Arab Trade from Muscat to Bengal Mr Bunce may in

General

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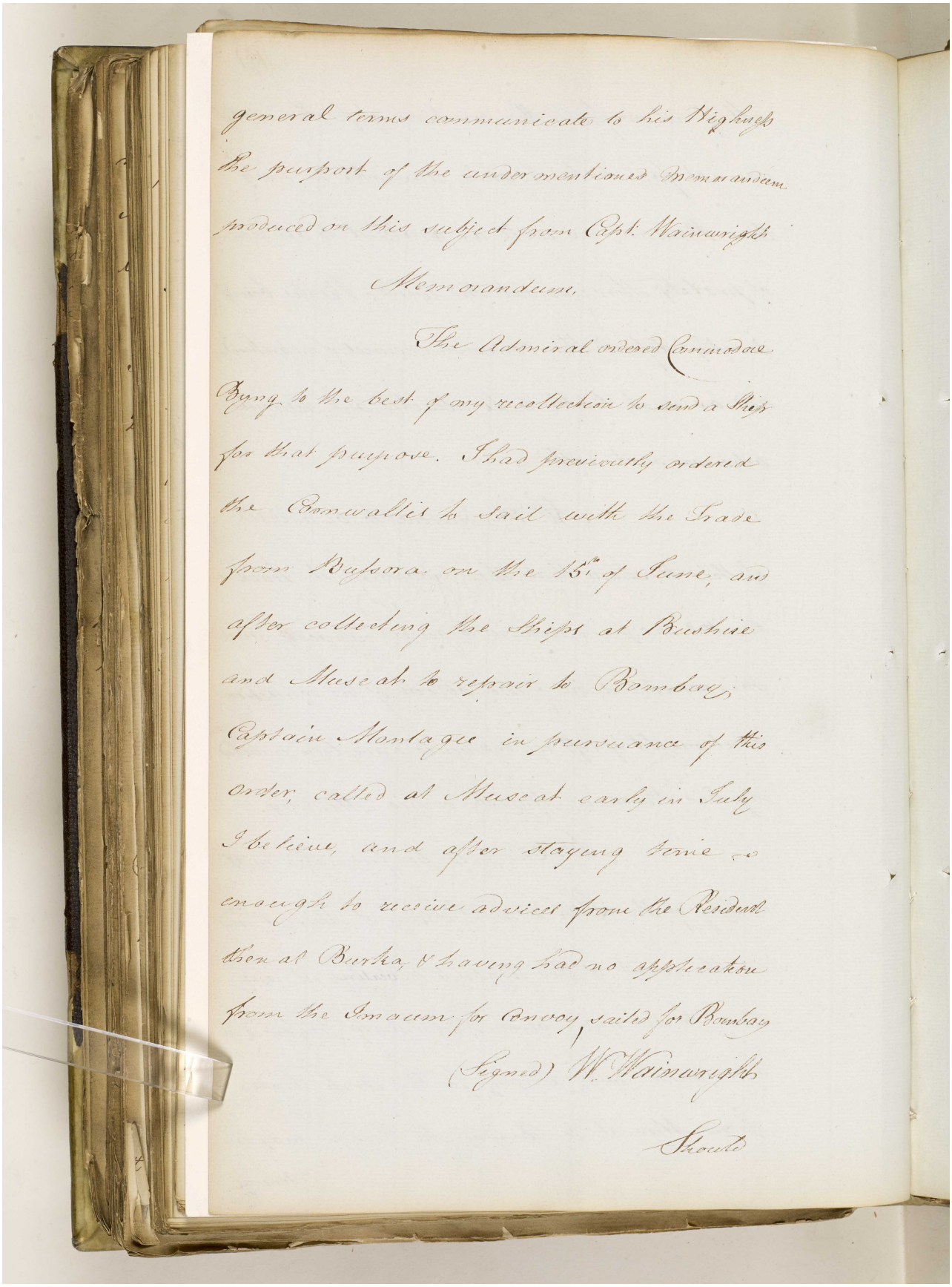
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [219v] (164/294)



general terms communicate to his Highness the purport of the undermentioned Memorandum produced on this subject from Capt. Wainwright

Memorandum.

The Admiral ordered Commodore Byng to the best of my recollection to send a Ship for that purpose. I had previously ordered the Cornwallis to sail with the Trade from Bussora on the 15th of June, and after collecting the Ships at Bushire and Muscat to repair to Bombay; Captain Montague in pursuance of this order, called at Muscat early in July I believe, and after staying time enough to receive advices from the Resident then at Burka, & having had no application from the Imaum for Convoy, sailed for Bombay

(Signed) W. Wainwright

Should

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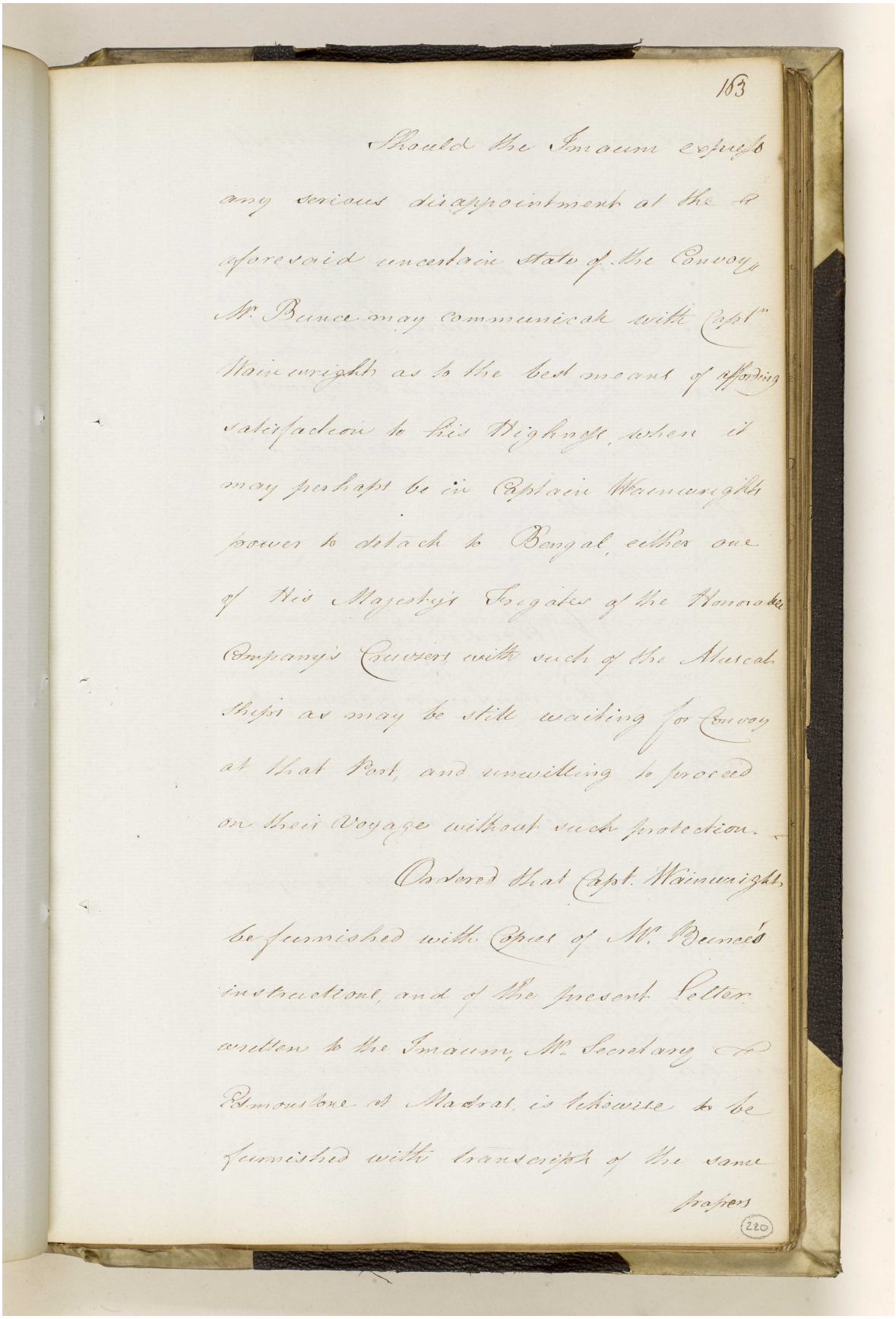

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Should the Imaum express any serious disappointment at the aforesaid uncertain state of the Convoy Mr Bunce may communicate with Captn Wainwright as to the best means of affording satisfaction to his Highness, when it may perhaps be in Captain Wainwrights power to detach to Bengal either one of His Majesty's Frigates of the Honorable Company's Cruizers with such of the Muscat Ships as may be still waiting for Convoy at that Port, and unwilling to proceed on their Voyage without such protection.

Ordered that Capt. Wainwright be furnished with Copies of Mr Bunce's instructions, and of the present Letter written to the Imaum, Mr Secretary Edmonstone & Madras is likewise to be furnished with transcripts of the same papers

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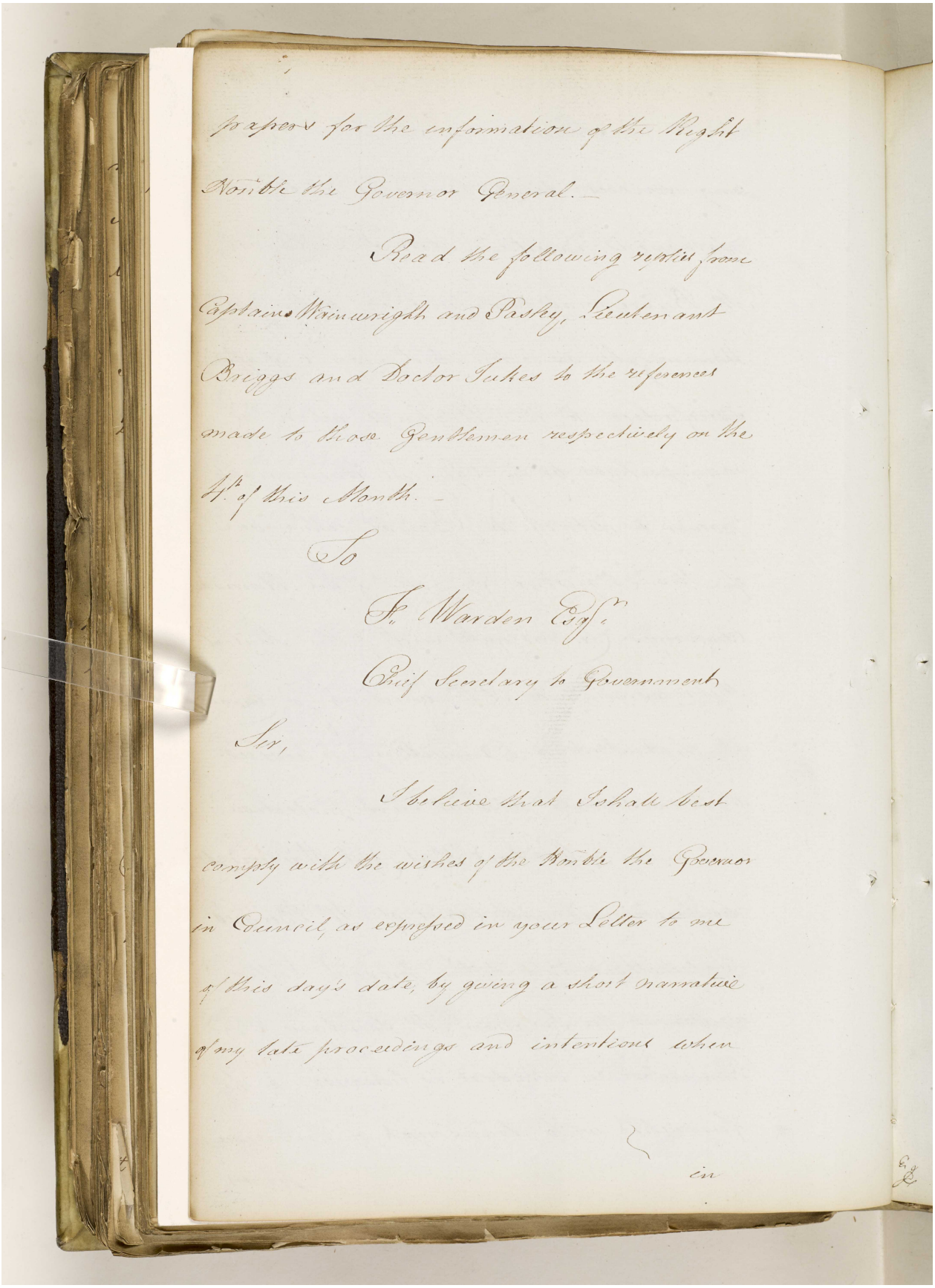

papers for the information of the Right
Honble the Governor General –

Read the following extract from
Captains Wainwright and Pasley, Lieutenant
Briggs and Doctor Lukes to the references
made to those Gentlemen respectively on the
4th of this Month –

To

H. Warden Esqr.
Chief Secretary to Government

Sir,

I believe that I shall best
comply with the wishes of the Honble the Governor
in Council, as expressed in your Letter to me
of this days date, by giving a short narrative
of my late proceedings and intentions when

in

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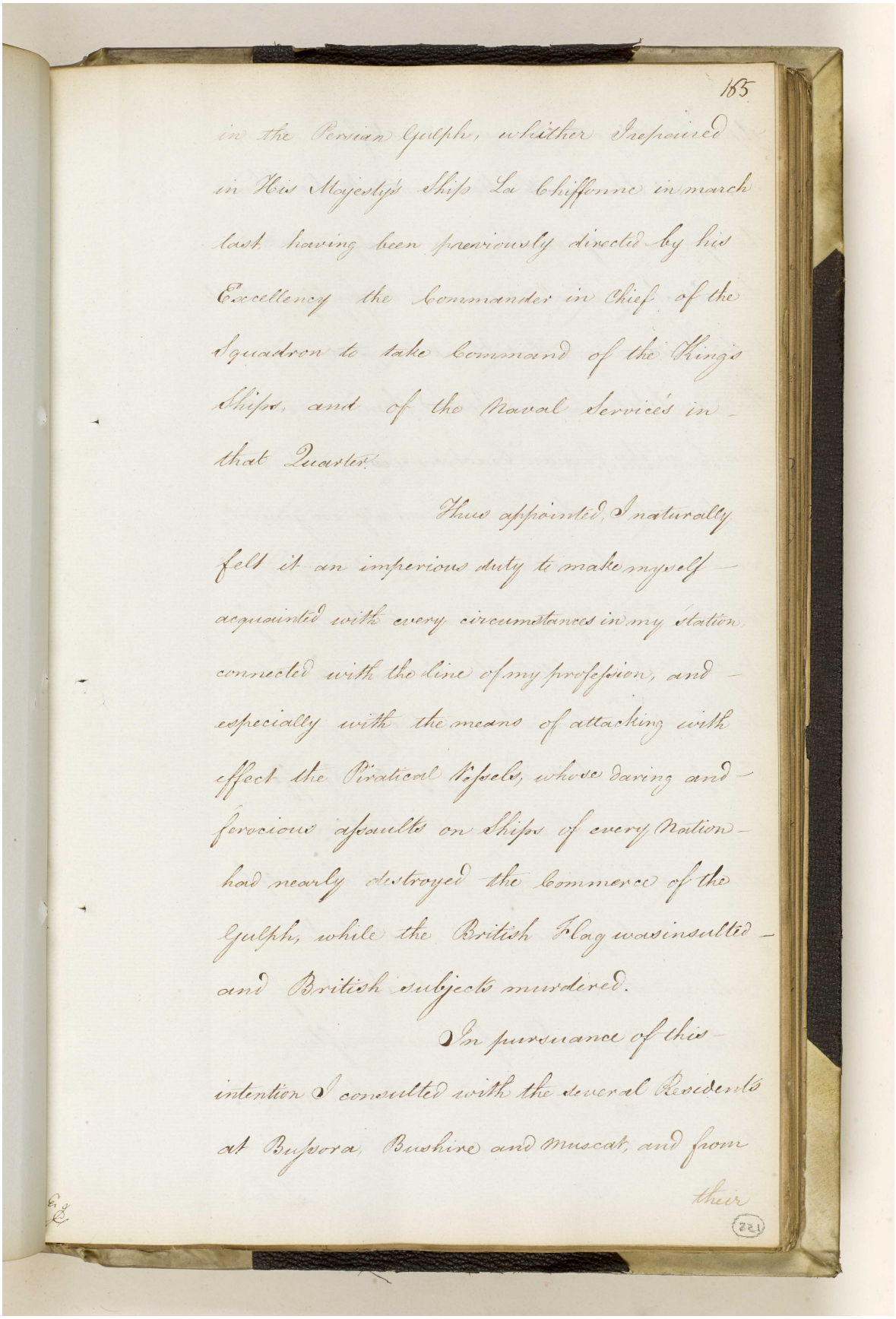

in the Persian Gulph, whither I repaired
in His Majesty's Ship La Chiffonne in march
last having been previously directed by his
Excellency the Commander in Chief of the
Squadron to take Command of the Kings
Ships, and of the Naval Services in
that Quarter.

Thus appointed, I naturally
felt it an imperious duty to make myself
acquainted with every circumstances in my station
connected with the line of my profession, and
especially with the means of attacking with
effect the Piratical Vessels, whose daring and
ferocious assaults on Ships of every Nation
had nearly destroyed the Commerce of the
Gulph, while the British Flag was insulted
and British subjects murdered.

In pursuance of this
intention I consulted with the several Residents
at Bussora, Bushire and Muscat, and from
their

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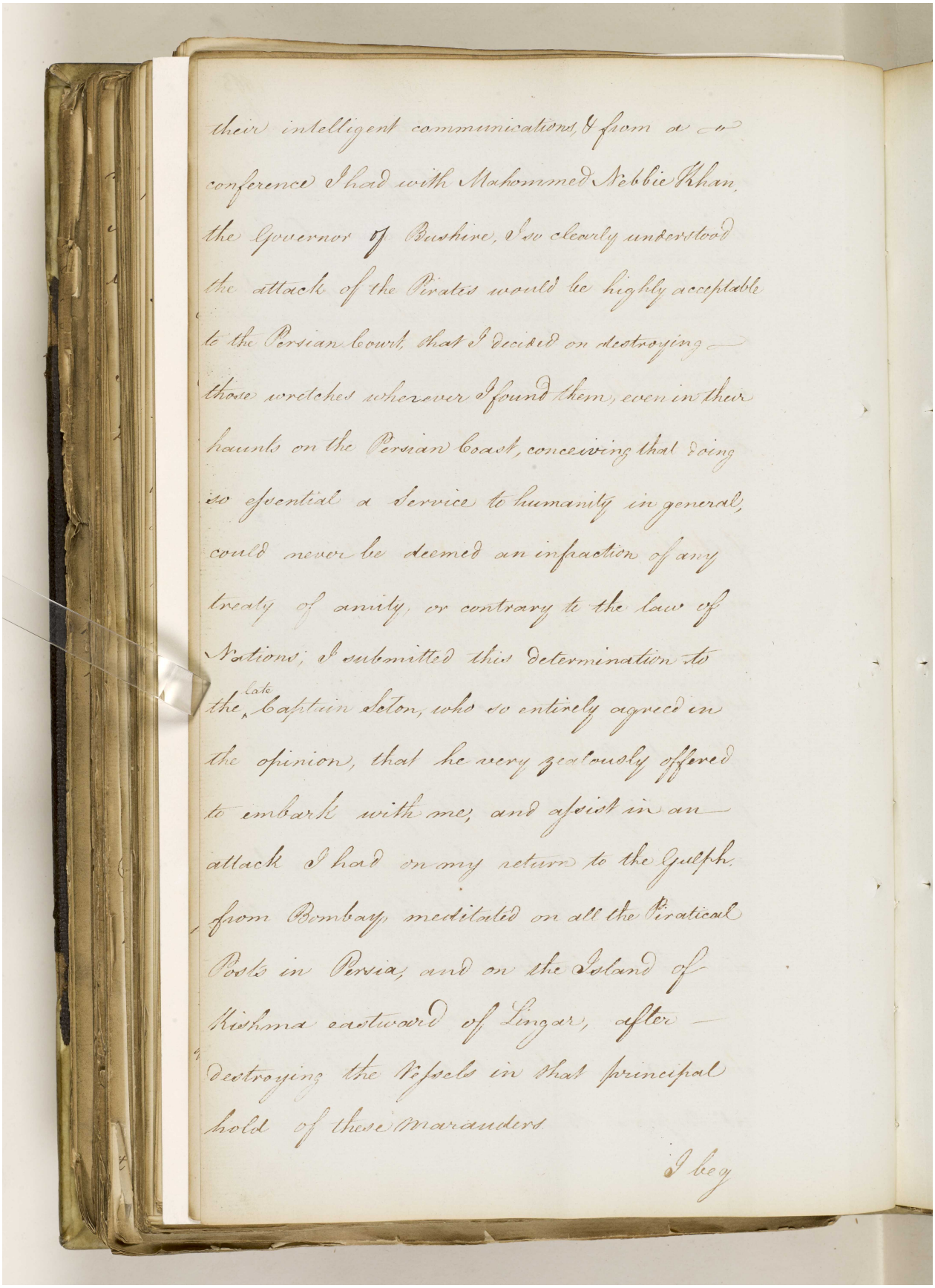

their intelligent communications, & from a
conference I had with Mahommed Nebbie Khan,
the Governor of Bushire, I so clearly understood
the attack of the Pirates would be highly acceptable
to the Persian Court, that I decided on destroying
those wretches wherever I found them, even in their
haunts on the Persian Coast, conceiving that doing
so essential a Service to humanity in general,
could never be deemed an infraction of any
treaty of amity, or contrary to the law of
Nations; I submitted this determination to
the late Captain Seton, who so entirely agreed in
the opinion, that he very zealously offered
to embark with me, and assist in an
attack I had on my return to the Gulph
from Bombay, meditated on all the Piratical
Posts in Persia, and on the Island of
Kishma eastward of Lingar, after
destroying the Vessels in that principal
hold of these Marauders

I beg

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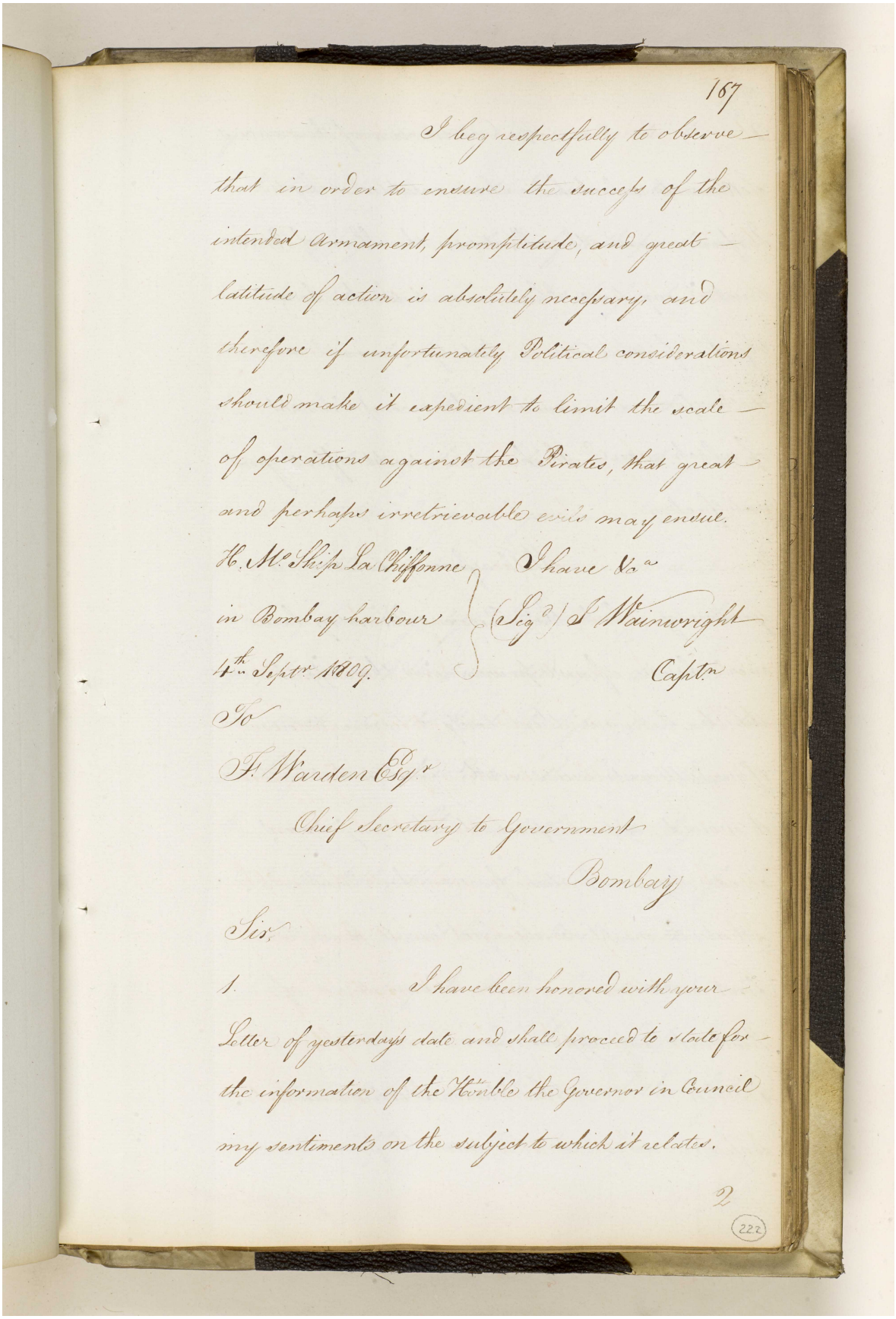

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I beg respectfully to observe that in order to ensure the success of the intended Armament, promptitude, and great latitude of action is absolutely necessary, and therefore if unfortunately Political considerations should make it expedient to limit the scale of operations against the Pirates, that great and perhaps irretrievable evils may ensue.

H. M. Ship La Chiffonne
in Bombay harbour
4th Septr 1809.

I have &c.
(Sigd) J. Wainwright
Captn

To
F. Warden Esqr
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir,

1. I have been honored with your Letter of yesterdays date and shall proceed to state for the information of the Honble the Governor in Council my sentiments on the subject to which it relates.

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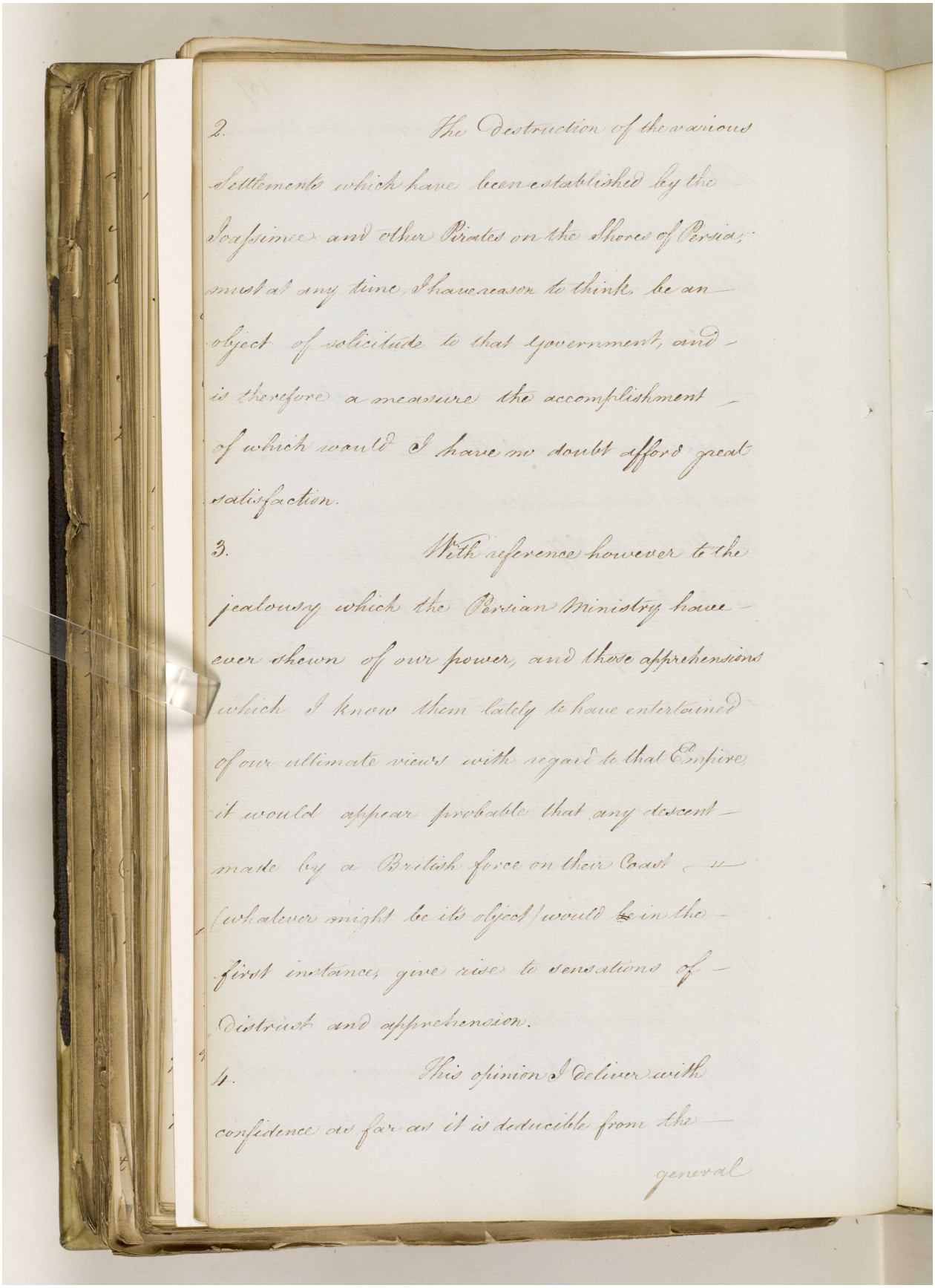

2. The destruction of the various Settlements which have been established by the Joasmee and other Pirates on the Shores of Persia, must at any time, I have reason to think, be an object of solicitude to that Government, and is therefore a measure the accomplishment of which would I have no doubt afford great satisfaction.

3. With reference however to the jealousy which the Persian Ministry have ever shewn of our power, and those apprehensions which I know them lately to have entertained of our ultimate views with regard to that Empire it would appear probable that any descent made by a British force on their Coast (whatever might be its object) would be in the first instance, give rise to sensations of distrust and apprehension.

4. This opinion I deliver with confidence as far as it is deducible from the general

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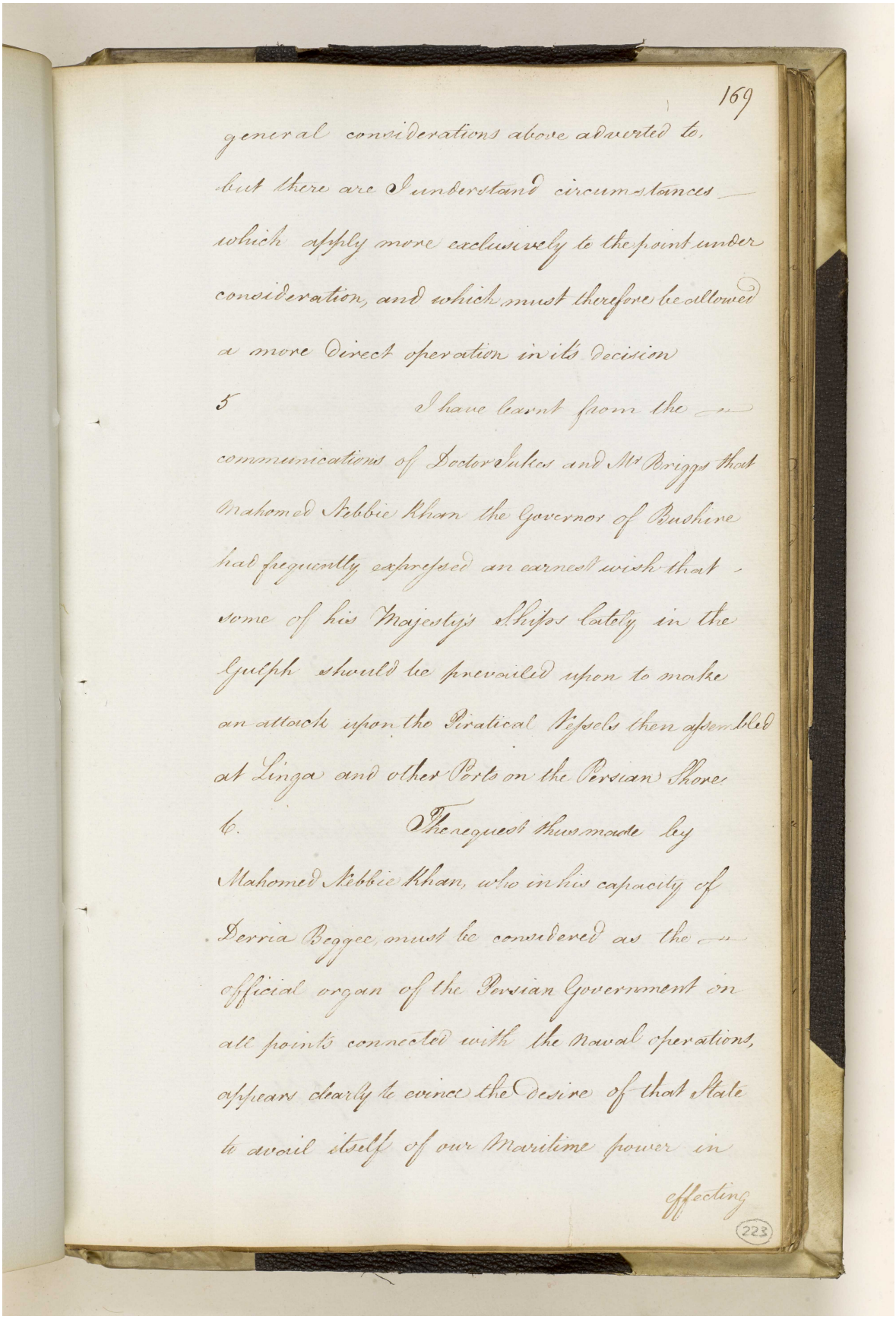

general considerations above adverted to,
but there are I understand circumstances
which apply more exclusively to the point under
consideration, and which must therefore be allowed
a more direct operation in its decision

5 I have learnt from the
communications of Doctor Yates and Mr Briggs that
Mahomed Nebbie Khan the Governor of Bushire
had frequently expressed an earnest wish that
some of his Majestys Ships lately in the
Gulph should be prevailed upon to make
an attack upon the Piratical Vessels then assembled
at Linga and other Ports on the Persian Shore

6. The request thus made by
Mahomed Nebbie Khan, who in his capacity of
Derria Beggee, must be considered as the
official organ of the Persian Government in
all points connected with the Naval operations,
appears clearly to evince the desire of that State
to avail itself of our Maritime power in

effecting

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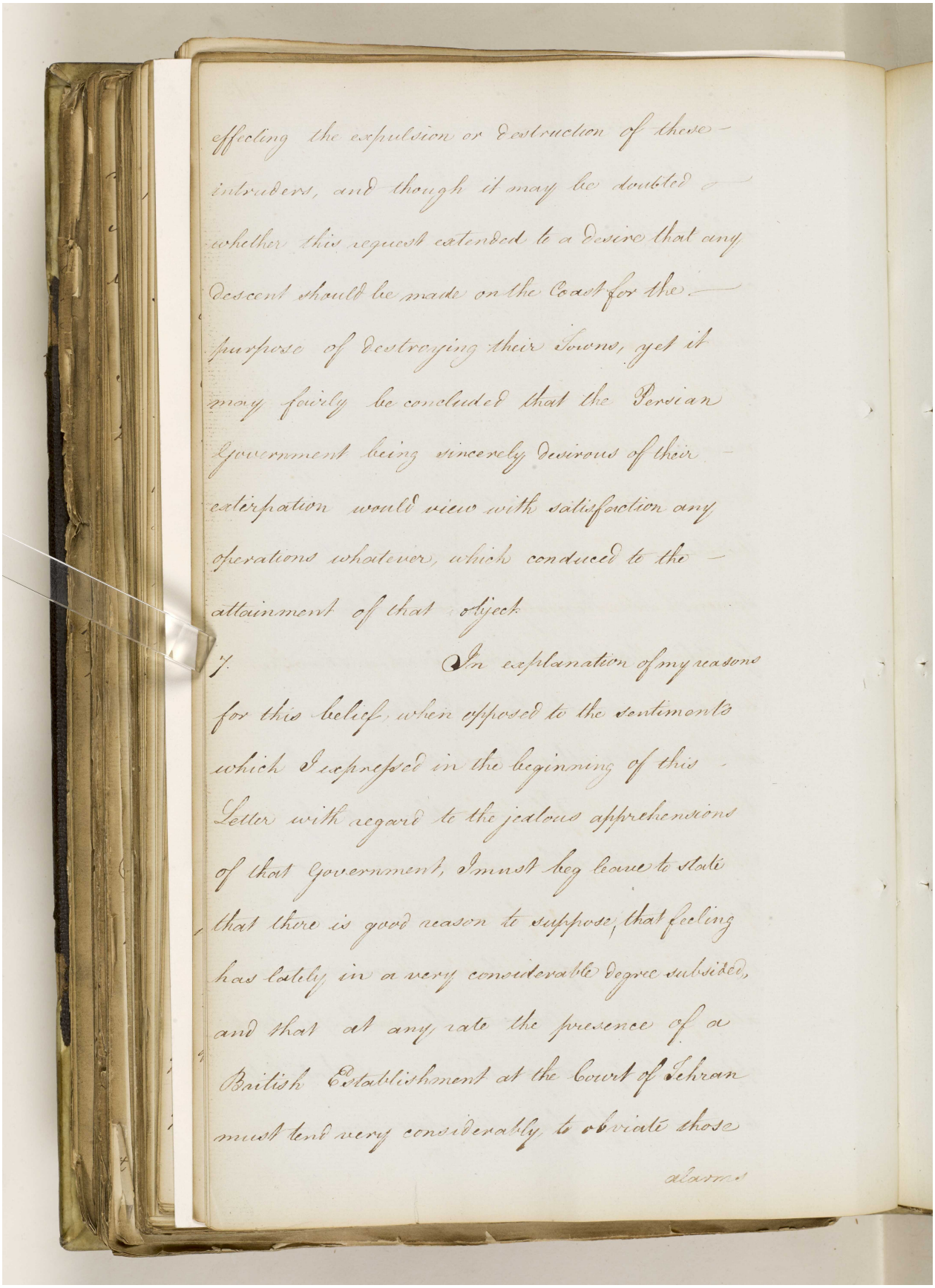

effecting the expulsion or destruction of these
intruders, and though it may be doubted
whether this request extended to a desire that any
descent should be made on the Coast for the
purpose of destroying their Towns, yet it
may fairly be concluded that the Persian
Government being sincerely desirous of their
extirpation would view with satisfaction any
operations whatever, which conduced to the
attainment of that object.

7. In explanation of my reasons
for this belief when opposed to the sentiments
which I expressed in the beginning of this
Letter with regard to the jealous apprehensions
of that Government, I must beg leave to state
that there is good reason to suppose, that feeling
has lately in a very considerable degree subsided,
and that at any rate the presence of a
British Establishment at the Court of Tehran
must tend very considerably to obviate those

alarms

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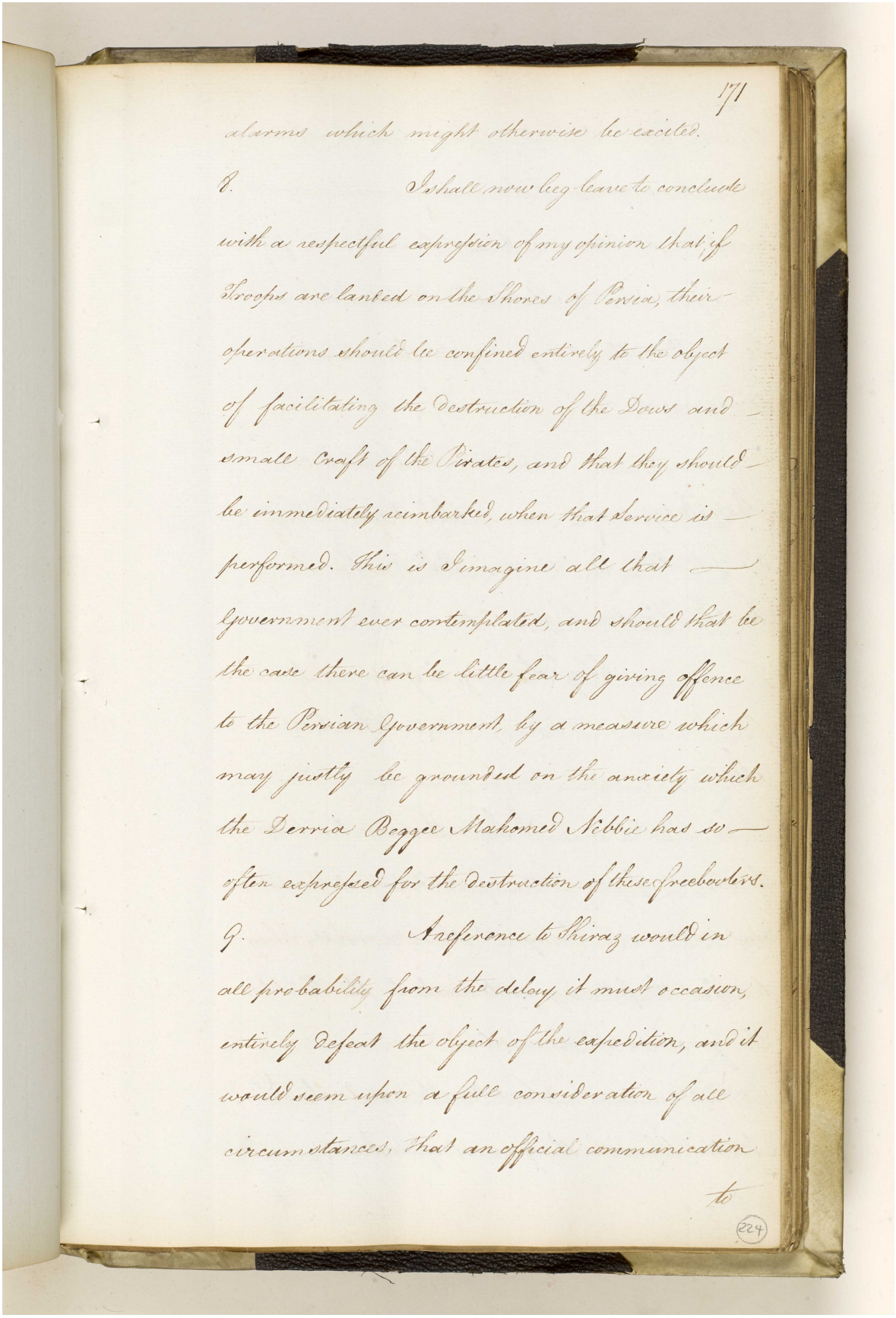

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alarms which might otherwise be excited.

8. I shall now beg leave to conclude with a respectful expression of my opinion that if Troops are landed on the Shores of Persia, their operations should be confined entirely to the object of facilitating the destruction of the Dows and small Craft of the Pirates, and that they should be immediately reimbarked, when that service is performed. This is I imagine all that Government ever contemplated, and should that be the case there can be little fear of giving offence to the Persian Government by a measure which may justly be grounded on the anxiety which the Derria Beggee Mahomed Nebbie has so often expressed for the destruction of these freebooters.

9. A reference to Shiraz would in all probability from the delay it must occasion, entirely defeat the object of the expedition, and it would seem upon a full consideration of all circumstances, that an official communication

to

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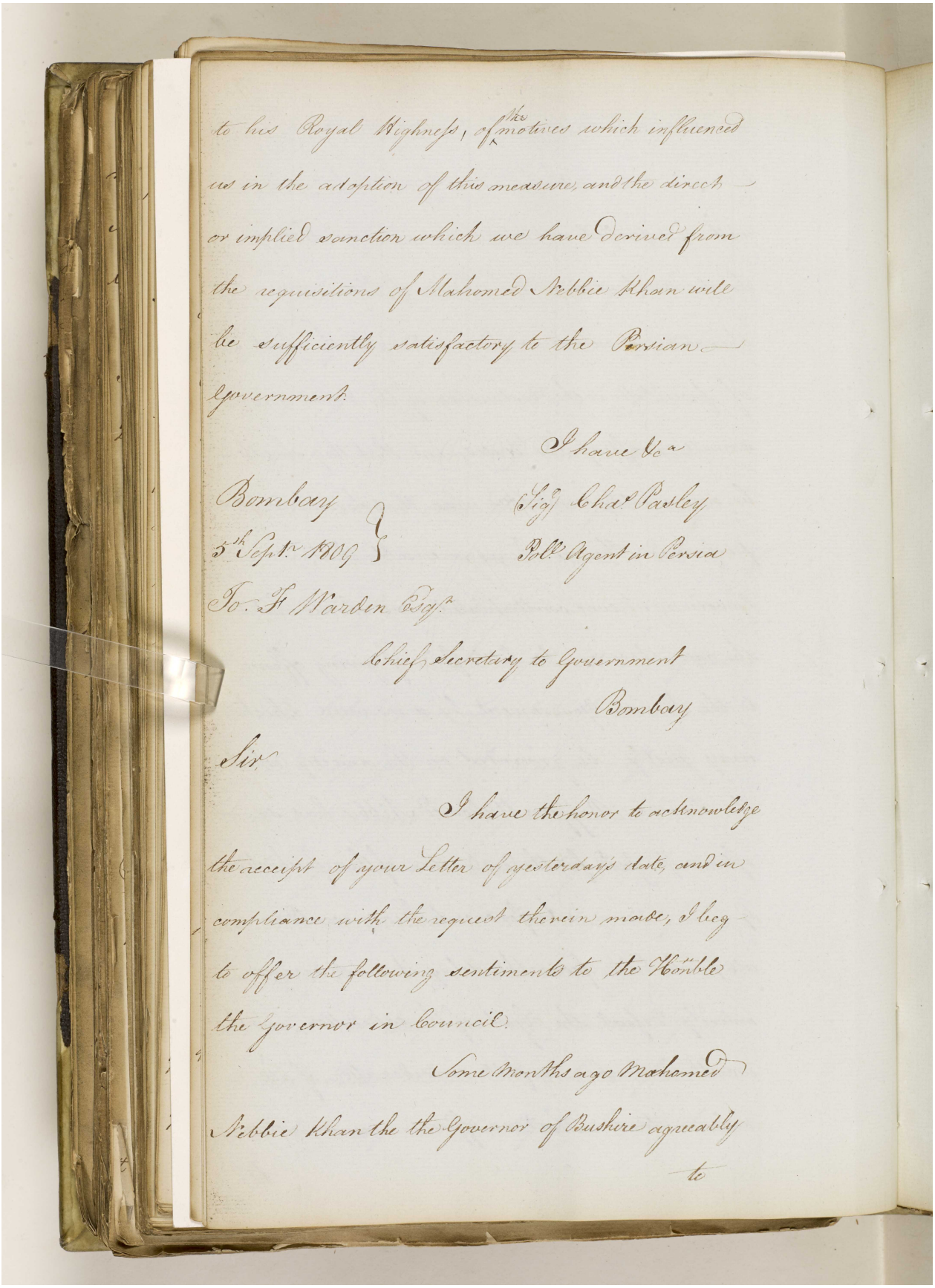

to his Royal Highness, of the motives which influenced us in the adoption of this measure and the direct or implied sanction which we have derived from the requisitions of Mahomed Nebbie Khan will be sufficiently satisfactory to the Persian Government.

I have &c.

Bombay
5th Sept. 1809

Sigd Chas Pasley
Pol. Agent in Persia

To. F. Warden Esqr.
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of yesterdays date, and in compliance with the request therein made, I beg to offer the following sentiments to the Honble the Governor in Council.

Some months ago Mahamed Nebbie Khan the the Governor of Bushire agreably to

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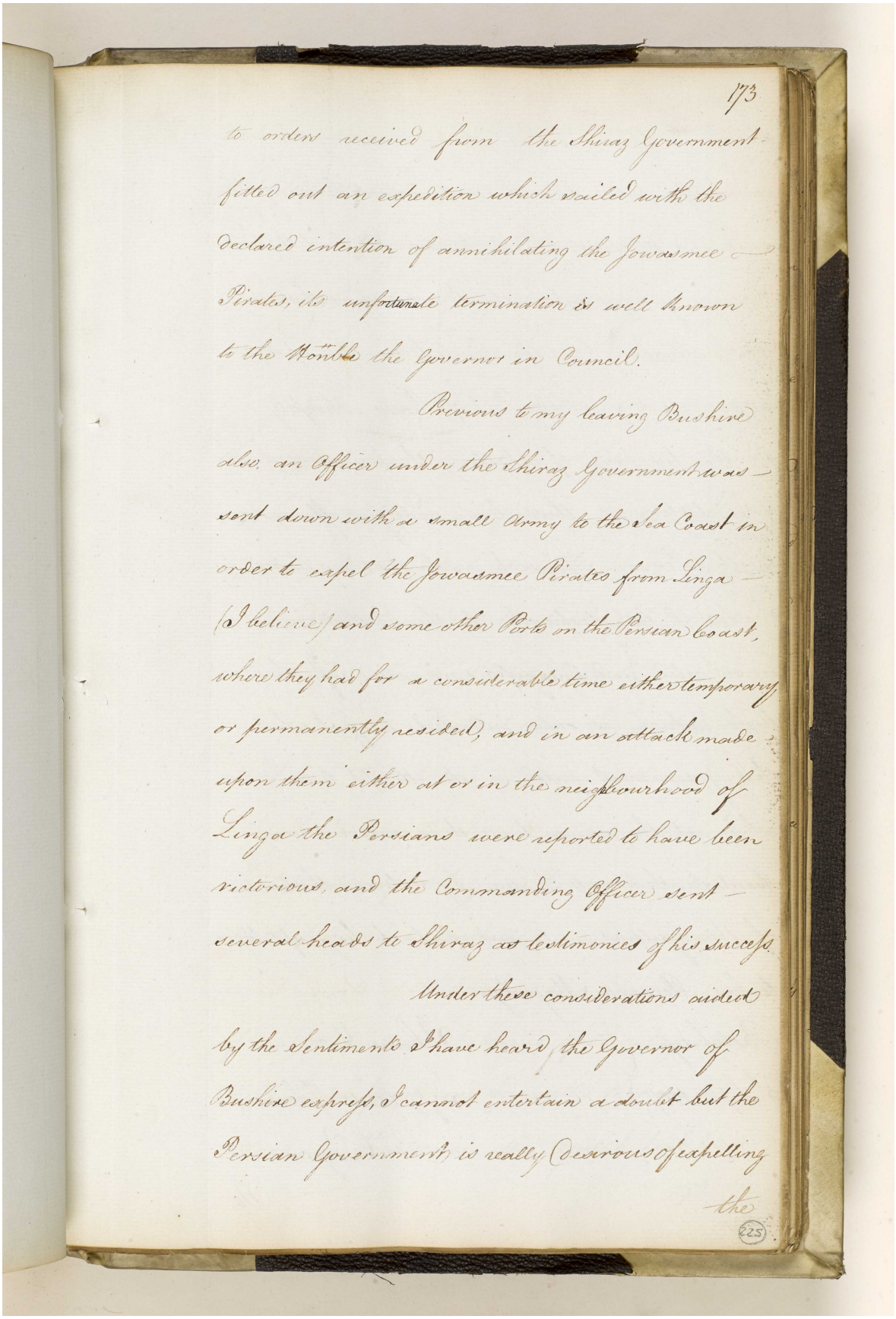

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to orders received from the Shiraz Government fitted out an expedition which sailed with the declared intention of annihilating the Joasmee Pirates, its unfortunate termination is well known to the Honble the Governor in Council.

Previous to my leaving Bushire also, an Officer under the Shiraz Government was sent down with a small Army to the Sea Coast in order to expel the Joasmee Pirates from Linga (I believe) and some other Ports on the Persian Coast, where they had for a considerable time either temporary or permanently resided, and in an attack made upon them either at or in the neighbourhood of Linga the Persians were reported to have been victorious, and the Commanding Officer sent several heads to Shiraz as testimonies of his success.

Under these considerations aided by the Sentiments I have heard the Governor of Bushire express, I cannot entertain a doubt but the Persian Government is really desirous of expelling the

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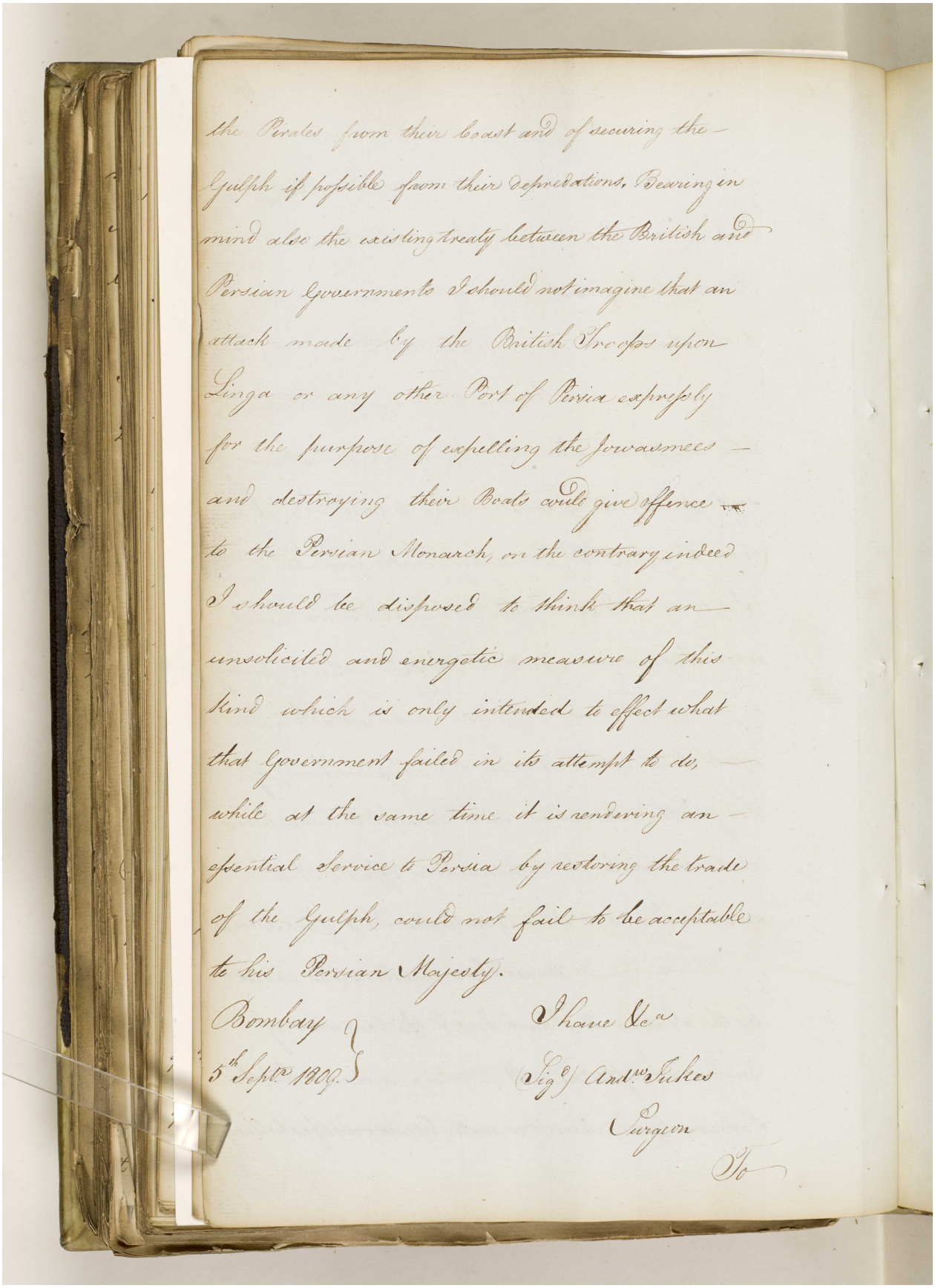

the Pirates from their Coast and of securing the Gulph if possible from their depredations. Bearing in mind also the existing treaty between the British and Persian Governments I should not imagine that an attack made by the British Troops upon Linga or any other Port of Persia expressly for the purpose of expelling the Jowasmees and destroying their Boats could give offence to the Persian Monarch, on the contrary indeed I should be disposed to think that an unsolicited and energetic measure of this kind which is only intended to effect what that Government failed in its attempt to do, while at the same time it is rendering an essential Service to Persia by restoring the trade of the Gulph, could not fail to be acceptable to his Persian Majesty.

Bombay
5th Septr 1809.

I have &ca
(Sigd) Andw Jukes
Surgeon

To

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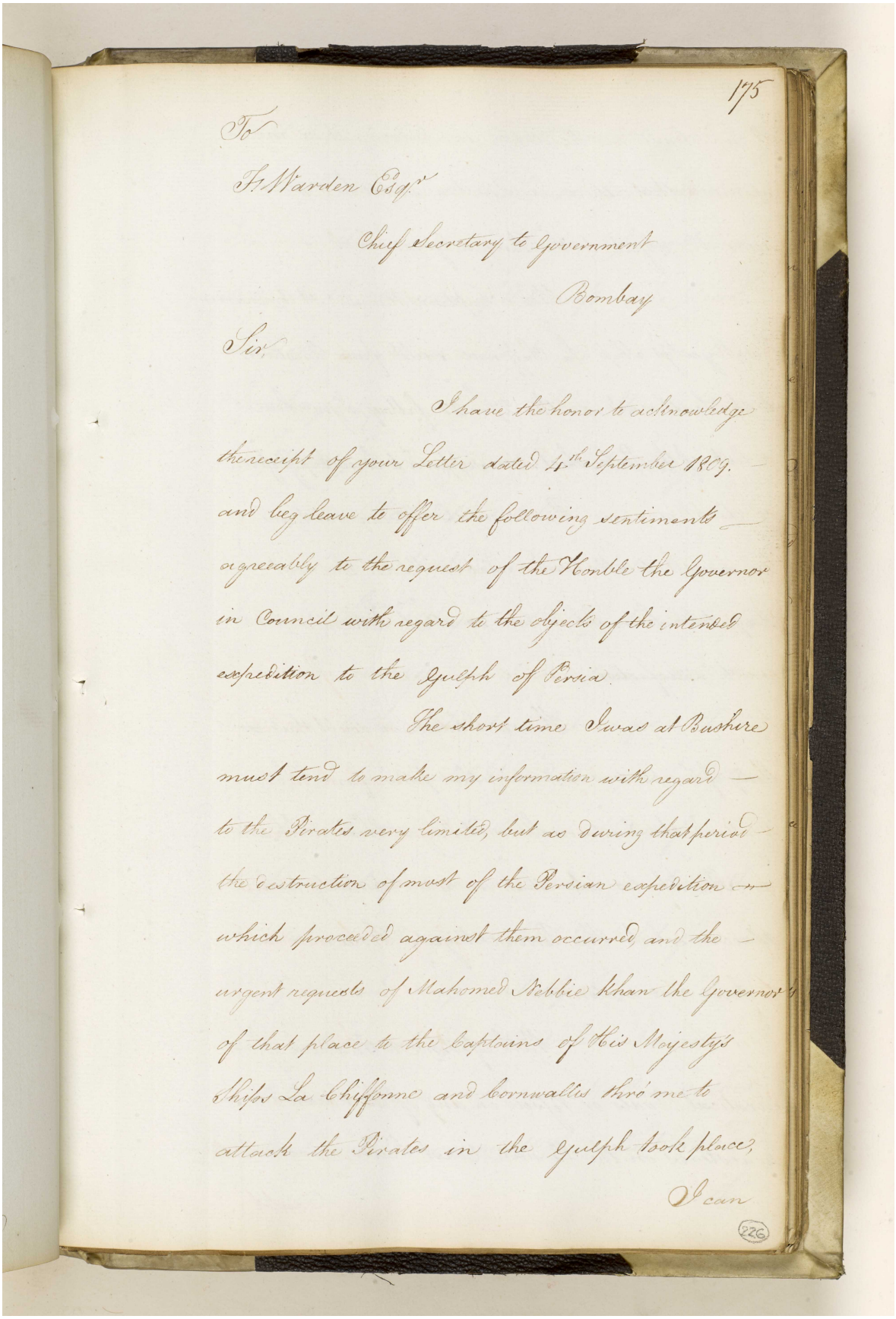

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To

F. Warden Esq.r

Chief Secretary to Government

Bombay

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter dated 4th September 1809. and beg leave to offer the following sentiments agreeably to the request of the Honble the Governor in Council with regard to the objects of the intended expedition to the Gulph of Persia.

The short time I was at Bushire must tend to make my information with regard to the Pirates very limited, but as during that period the destruction of most of the Persian expedition which proceeded against them occurred and the urgent requests of Mahomed Nabbie Khan the Governor of that place to the Captains of His Majestys Ships La Chiffonne and Cornwallis thro' me to attack the Pirates in the Gulph took place,

I can

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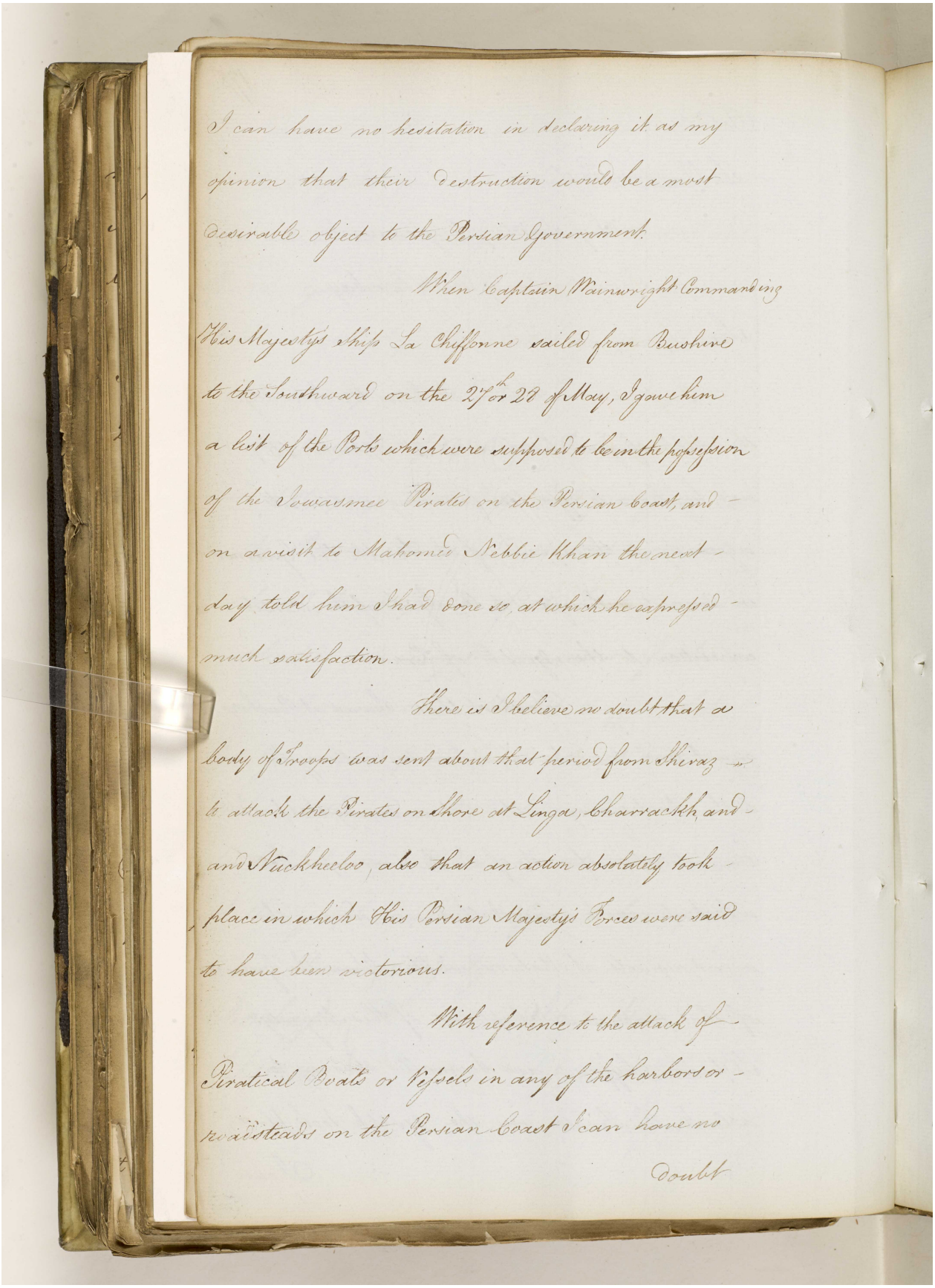

I can have no hesitation in declaring it as my opinion that their Destruction would be a most desirable object to the Persian Government.

When Captain Wainwright Commanding His Majesty's Ship La Chiffonne sailed from Bushire to the Southward on the 27th or 28 of May, I gave him a list of the Ports which were supposed to be in the possession of the Joasmee Pirates on the Persian Coast, and on a visit to Mahomed Nebbie Khan the next day told him I had done so, at which he expressed much satisfaction.

There is I believe no doubt that a body of Troops was sent about that period from Shiraz to attack the Pirates on Shore at Linga, Charrackh and and Nuckheeloo, also that an action absolutely took place in which His Persian Majesty's Forces were said to have been victorious.

With reference to the attack of Piratical Boats or Vessels in any of the harbors or roadsteads on the Persian Coast I can have no

Doubt

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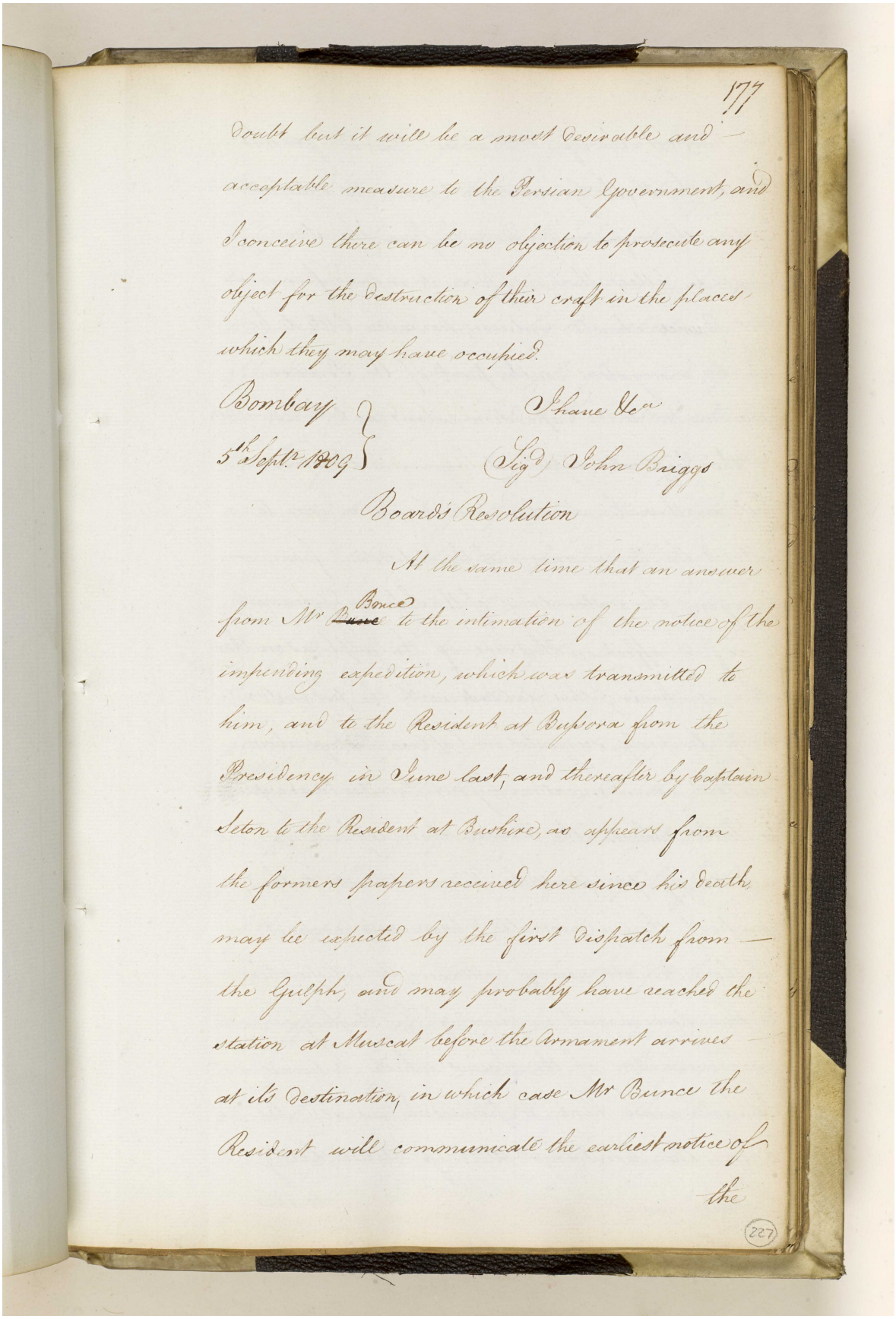

Doubt but it will be a most desirable and
acceptable measure to the Persian Government, and
I conceive there can be no objection to prosecute any
object for the destruction of their craft in the places
which they may have occupied.

Bombay
5th Sept.r 1809

I have &c.
(Sig.d) John Briggs

Board's Resolution

At the same time that an answer
from Mr ~~Bruce~~ Bunce to the intimation of the notice of the
impending expedition, which was transmitted to
him, and to the Resident at Bussora from the
Presidency in June last, and thereafter by Captain
Seton to the Resident at Bushire, as appears from
the formers papers received here since his death
may be expected by the first dispatch from
the Guelph, and may probably have reached the
station at Muscat before the Armament arrives
at its destination, in which case Mr Bunce the
Resident will communicate the earliest notice of
the

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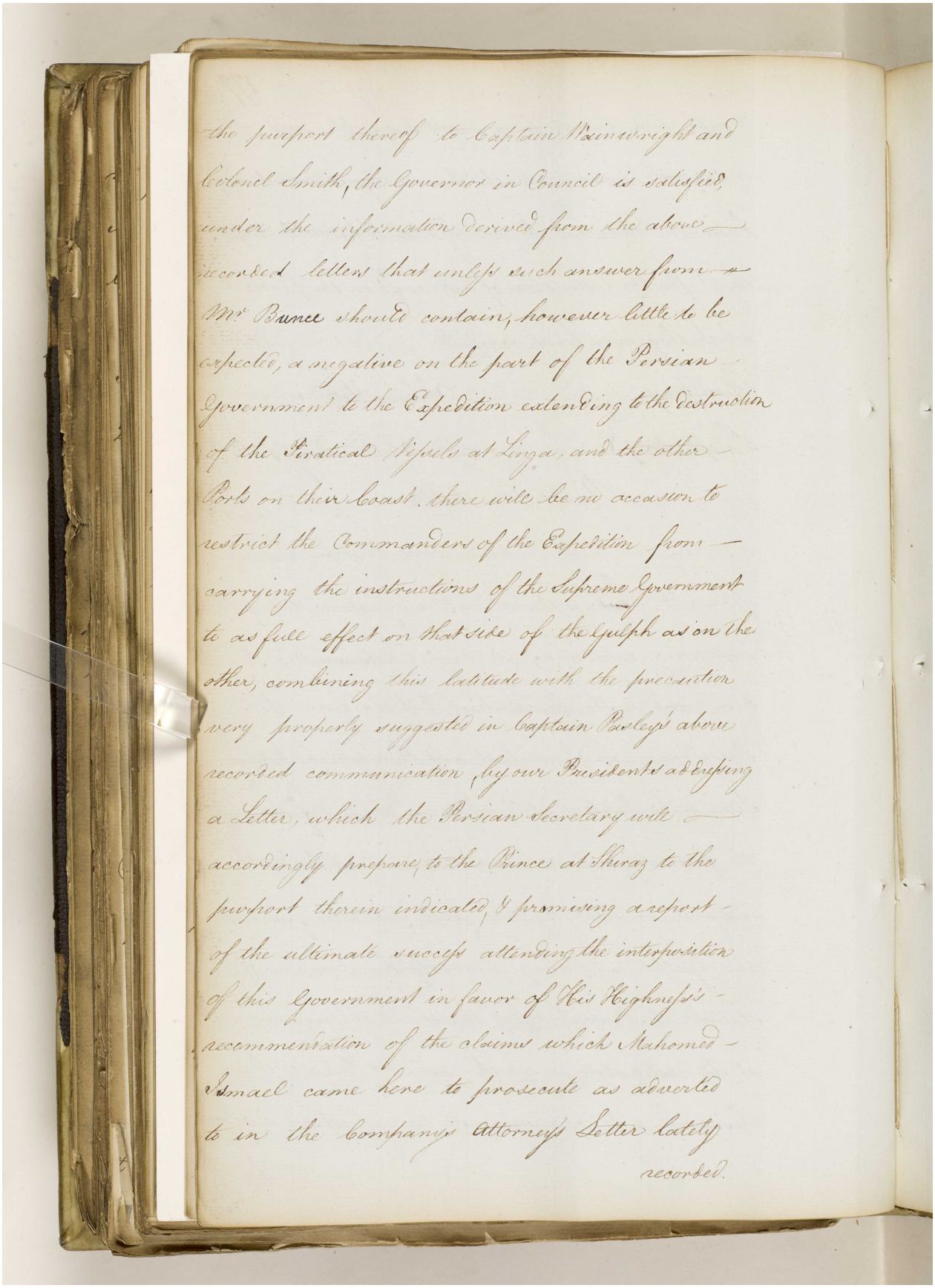

the purport thereof to Captain Wainwright and Colonel Smith, the Governor in Council is satisfied, under the information derived from the above recorded letters that unless such answer from Mr. Bruce should contain, however little to be expected, a negative on the part of the Persian Government to the Expedition extending to the destruction of the Piratical Vessels at Linga, and the other Ports on their Coast, there will be no occasion to restrict the Commanders of the Expedition from carrying the instructions of the Supreme Government to as full effect on that side of the Gulph as on the other, combining this latitude with the precaution very properly suggested in Captain Bushey's above recorded communication, by our President's addressing a Letter, which the Persian Secretary will accordingly prepare, to the Prince at Shiraz to the purport therein indicated & promising a report of the ultimate success attending the interposition of this Government in favor of His Highness's recommendation of the claims which Mahomed Ismael came here to prosecute as adverted to in the Company's Attorney's Letter lately recorded.

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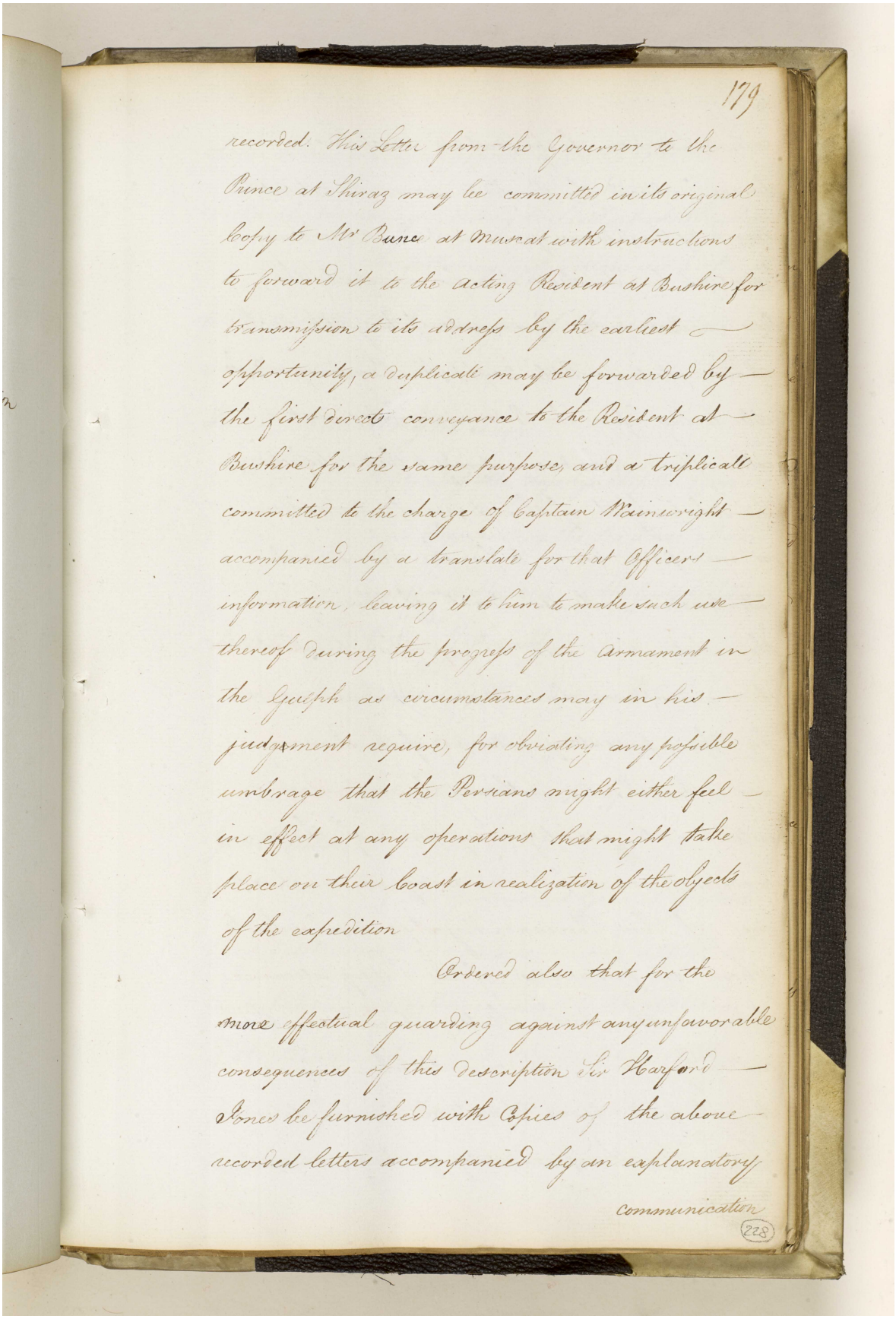

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recorded. This Letter from the Governor to the Prince at Shiraz may be committed in its original Copy to Mr Bunce at Muscat with instructions to forward it to the acting Resident at Bushire for transmission to its address by the earliest opportunity, a Duplicate may be forwarded by the first direct conveyance to the Resident at Bushire for the same purpose, and a Triplicate committed to the charge of Captain Wainwright accompanied by a translate for that Officers information, leaving it to him to make such use thereof during the progress of the Armament in the Gulph as circumstances may in his judgment require, for obviating any possible umbrage that the Persians might either feel in effect at any operations that might take place on their Coast in realization of the objects of the expedition

Ordered also that for the more effectual guarding against any unfavorable consequences of this description Sir Harford Jones be furnished with Copies of the above recorded letters accompanied by an explanatory

communication

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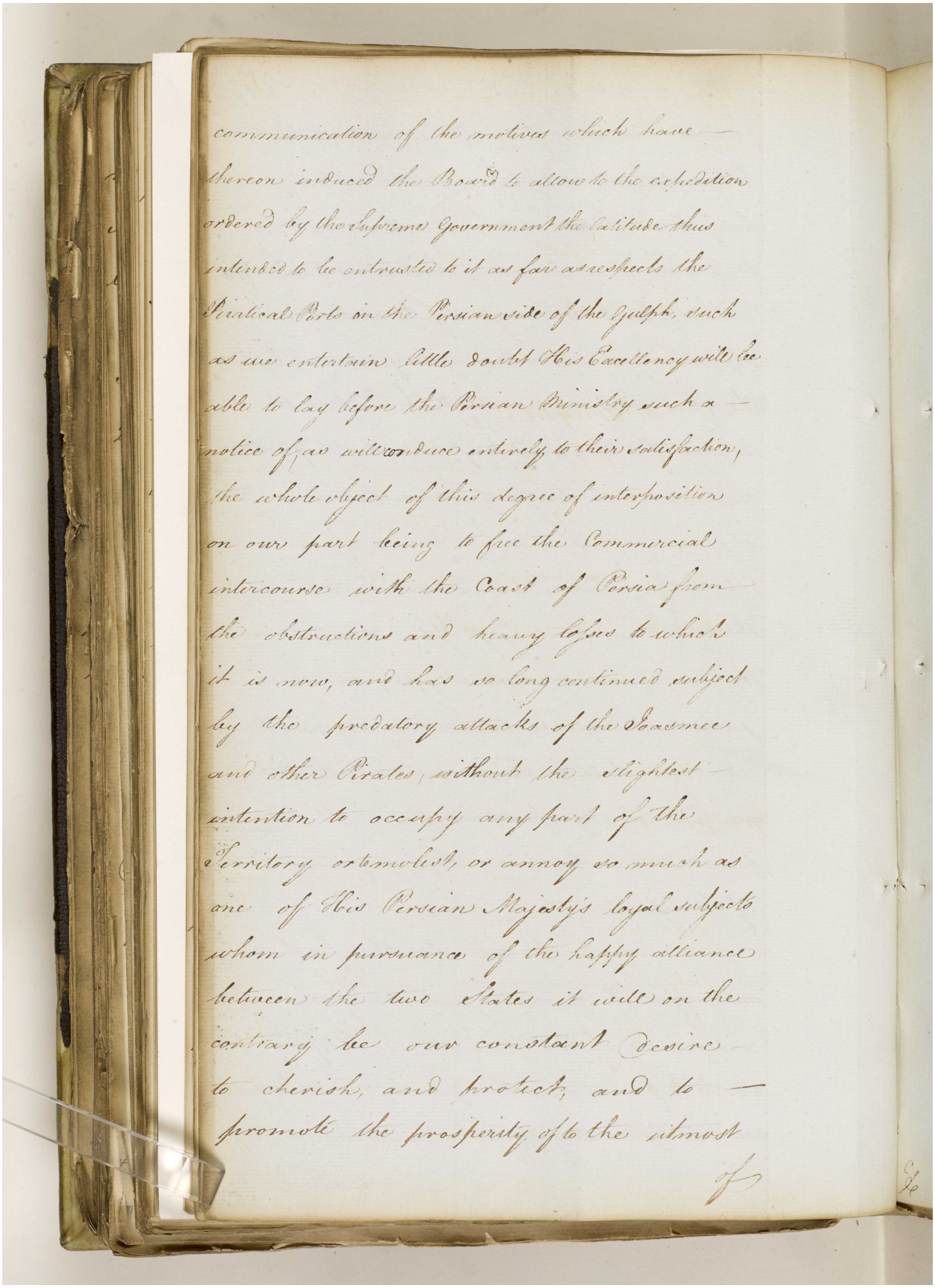

communication of the motives which have
thereon induced the Board to allow to the expedition
ordered by the Supreme Government the latitude thus
intended to be entrusted to it as far as respects the
Piratical Ports on the Persian side of the Gulph, such
as we entertain little doubt His Excellency will be
able to lay before the Persian Ministry such a
notice of as will conduce entirely to their satisfaction,
the whole object of this degree of interposition
on our part being to free the Commercial
intercourse with the Coast of Persia from
the obstructions and heavy losses to which
it is now, and has so long continued subject
by the predatory attacks of the Joasmee
and other Pirates, without the slightest
intention to occupy any part of the
Territory or to molest, or annoy so much as
one of His Persian Majesty's loyal subjects
whom in pursuance of the happy alliance
between the two States it will on the
contrary be our constant desire
to cherish, and protect, and to
promote the prosperity of to the utmost

of

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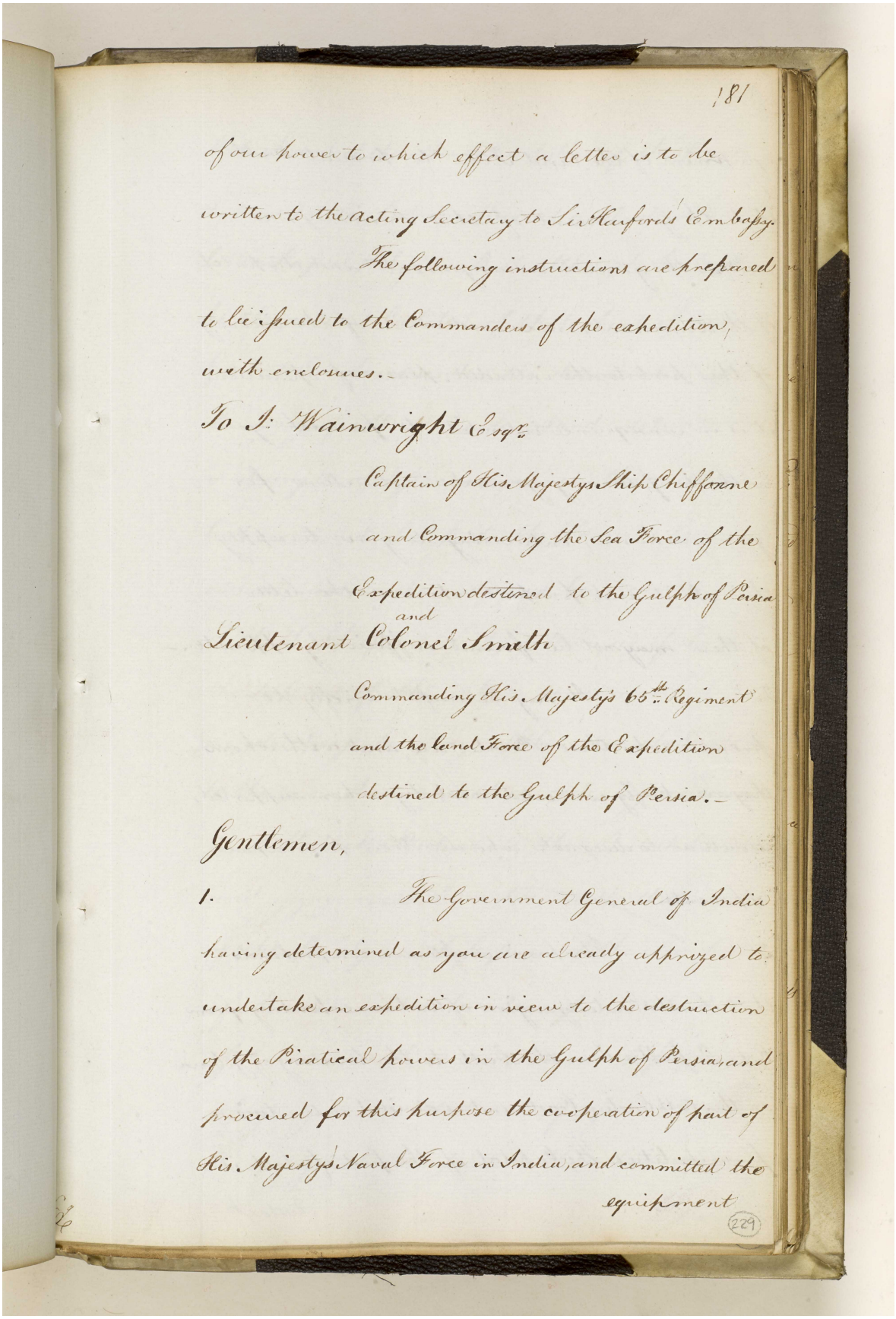

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of our power to which effect a letter is to be
written to the acting Secretary to Sir Hunfords Embassy.

The following instructions are prepared
to be issued to the Commanders of the expedition,
with enclosures.-

To J. Wainwright Esqr.
Captain of His Majestys Ship Chiffonne
and Commanding the Sea Force of the
Expedition destined to the Gulph of Persia
and
Lieutenant Colonel Smith
Commanding His Majesty's 65th Regiment
and the Land Force of the Expedition
destined to the Gulph of Persia.-

Gentlemen,

1. The Government General of India
having determined as you are already apprized to
undertake an expedition in view to the destruction
of the Piratical powers in the Gulph of Persia, and
procured for this purpose the cooperation of part of
His Majestys Naval Force in India, and committed the
equipment

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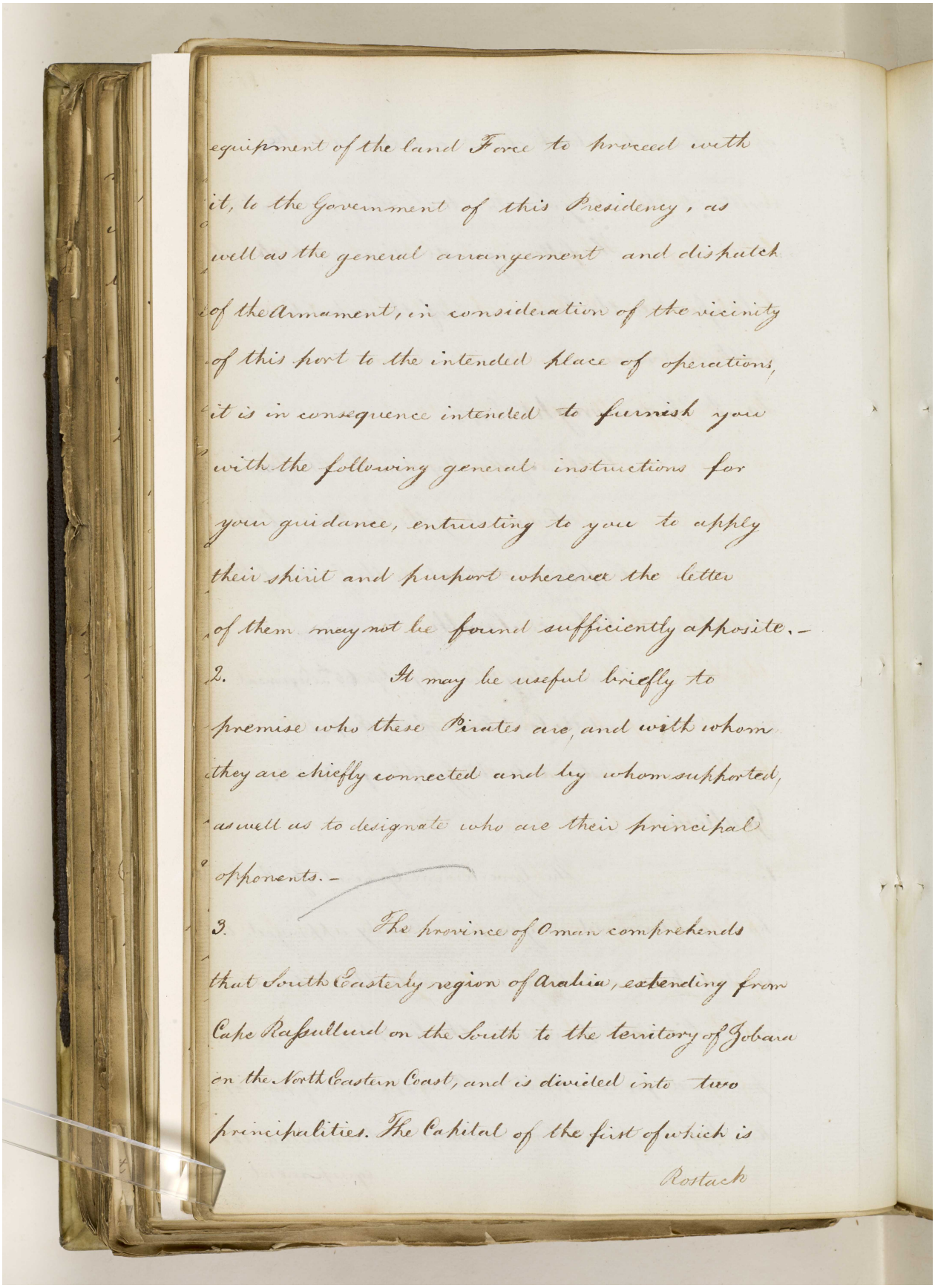

equipment of the land Force to proceed with
it, to the Government of this Presidency, as
well as the general arrangement and dispatch
of the Armament, in consideration of the vicinity
of this port to the intended place of operations,
it is in consequence intended to furnish you
with the following general instructions for
your guidance, entrusting to you to apply
their spirit and purport wherever the letter
of them may not be found sufficiently apposite.–

2. It may be useful briefly to
premise who these Pirates are, and with whom
they are chiefly connected and by whom supported,
as well as to designate who are their principal
opponents.–

3. The province of Oman comprehends
that South Easterly region of Arabia, extending from
Cape Rasulkund on the South to the territory of Jobara
on the North Eastern Coast, and is divided into two
principalities. The Capital of the first of which is

Rostack

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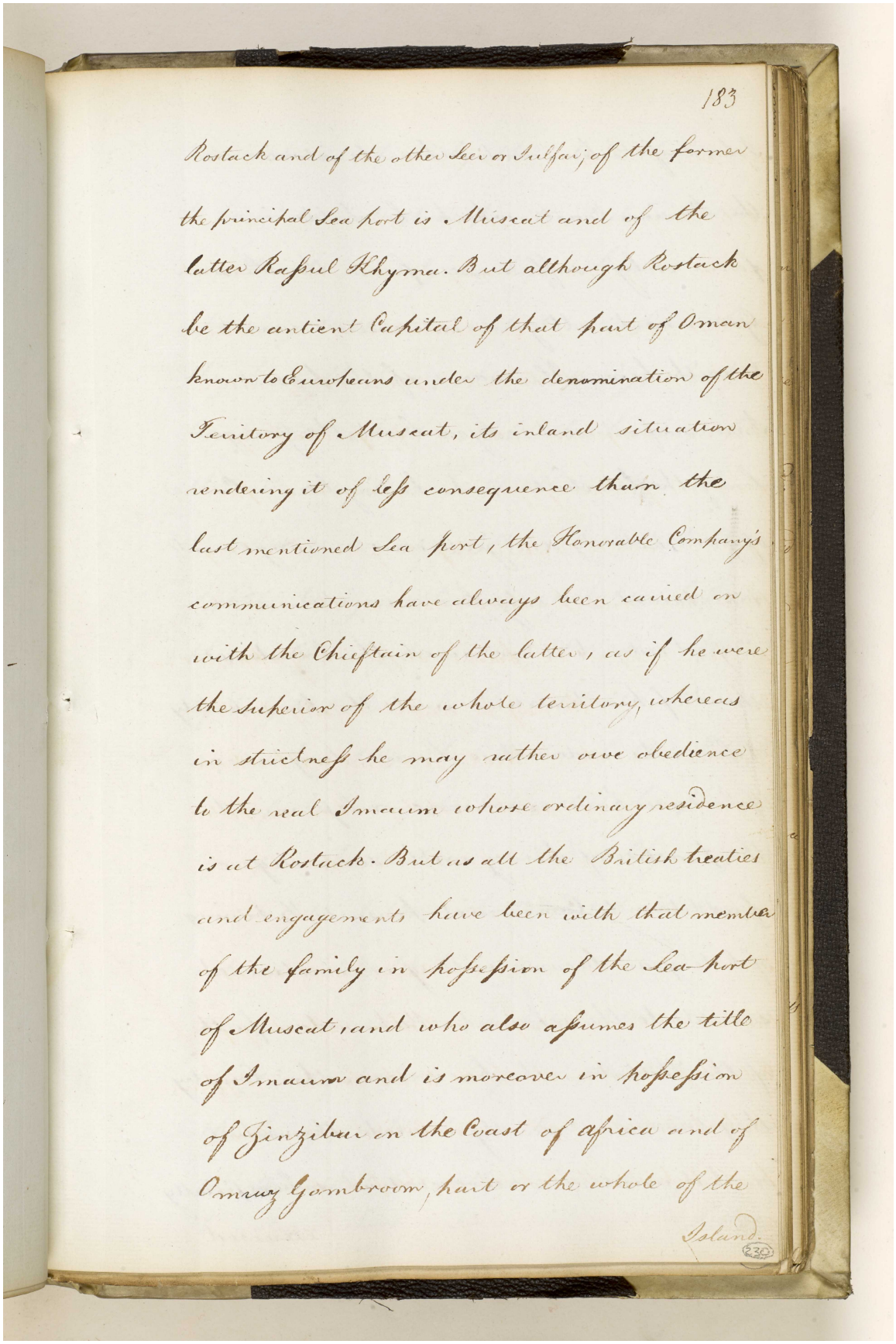

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Rostack and of the other Seer or Sulfar; of the former the principal Sea port is Muscat and of the latter Rasul Khyma. But although Rostack be the antient Capital of that part of Oman known to Europeans under the denomination of the Territory of Muscat, its inland situation rendering it of less consequence than the last mentioned Sea port, the Honorable Company's communications have always been carried on with the Chieftain of the latter, as if he were the Superior of the whole territory, whereas in strictness he may rather owe obedience to the real Imaum whose ordinary residence is at Rostack. But as all the British treaties and engagements have been with that member of the family in possession of the Sea-port of Muscat, and who also assumes the title of Imaum and is moreover in possession of Zinzibar on the Coast of africa and of Omuz Gombroon, part or the whole of the

Island.

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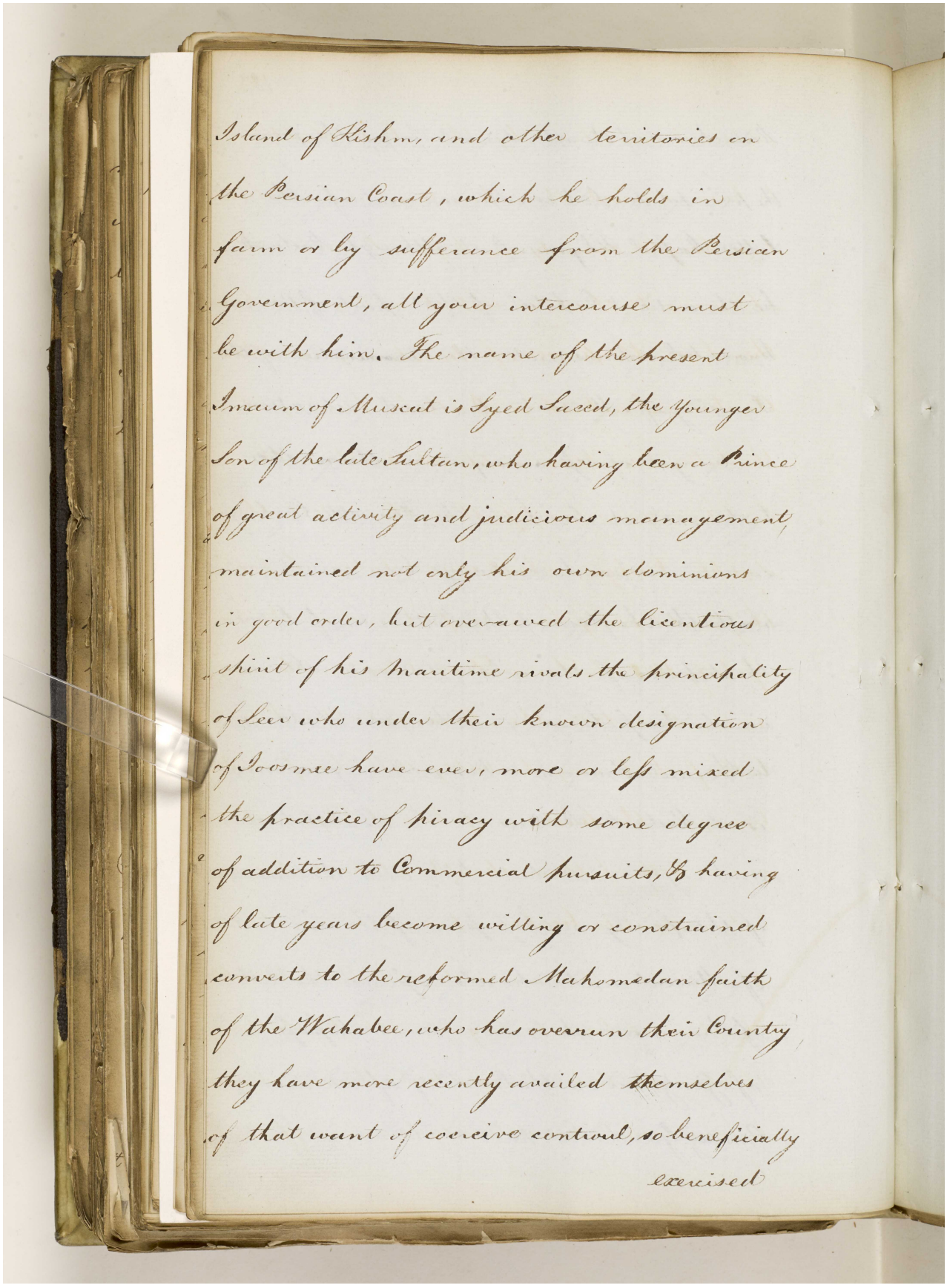

Island of Kishm, and other territories on
the Persian Coast, which he holds in
farm or by sufferance from the Persian
Government, all your intercourse must
be with him. The name of the present
Imaum of Muscat is Syed Saeed, the Younger
Son of the late Sultan, who having been a Prince
of great activity and judicious management
maintained not only his own dominions
in good order, but over-awed the licentious
spirit of his maritime rivals the principality
of Seer who under their known designation
of Joosmee have ever, more or less mixed
the practice of piracy with some degree
of addition to Commercial pursuits, & having
of late years become willing or constrained
converts to the reformed Mahomedan faith
of the Wahabee, who has overrun their Country
they have more recently availed themselves
of that want of coercive control, so beneficially
exercised

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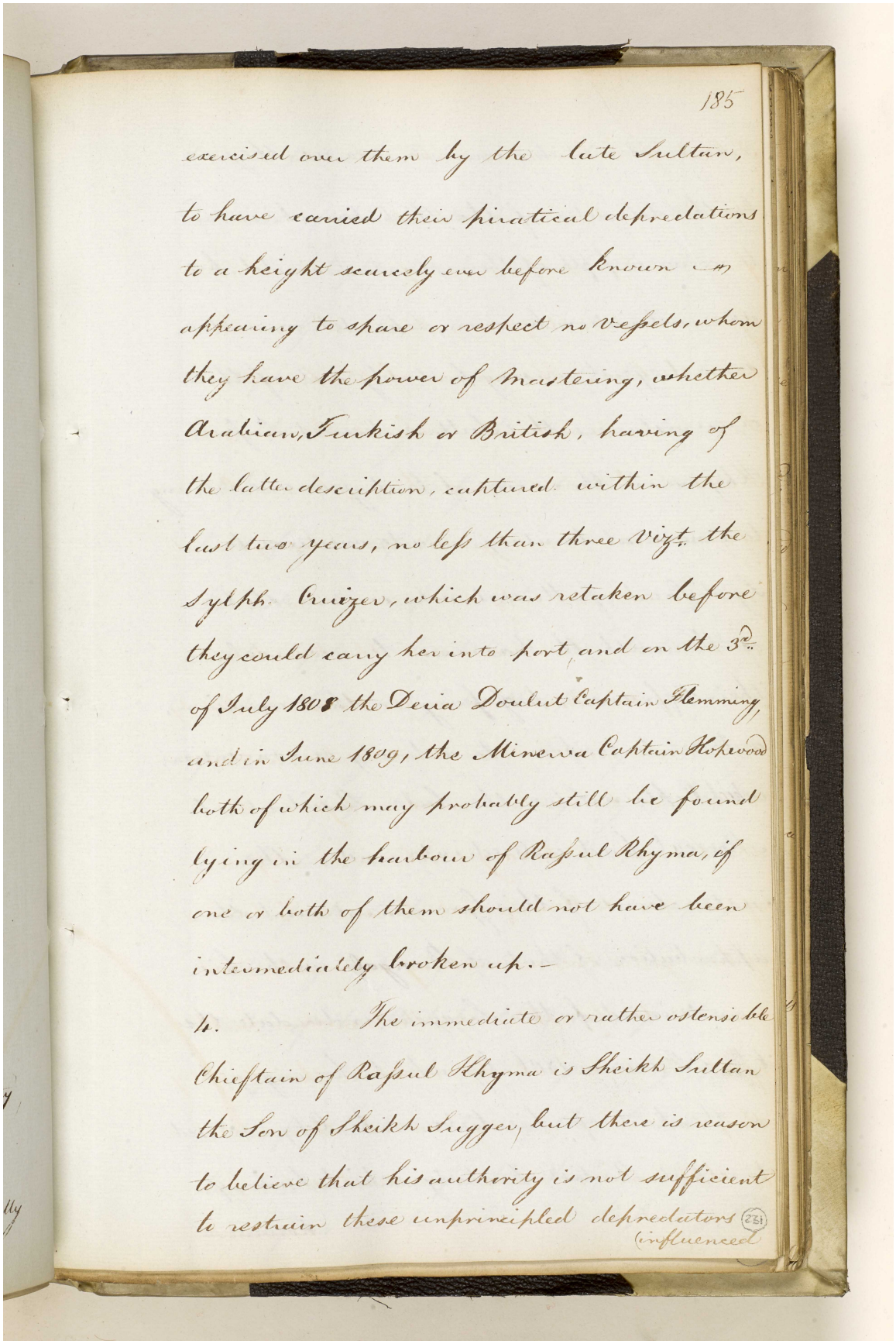

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exercised over them by the late Sultan,
to have carried their piratical depredations
to a height scarcely ever before known —
appearing to spare or respect no vessels, whom
they have the power of mastering, whether
Arabian, Turkish or British, having of
the latter description, captured within the
last two years, no less than three Viz.t the
Sylph Cruizer, which was retaken before
they could carry her into port, and on the 3.d
of July 1808 the Dewa Doulut Captain Flemming,
and in June 1809, the Minerva Captain Hopewood
both of which may probably still be found
lying in the harbour of Rasul Khyma, if
one or both of them should not have been
intermediately broken up. —

4. The immediate or rather ostensible
Chieftain of Rasul Khyma is Sheikh Sultan
the Son of Sheikh Saggar, but there is reason
to believe that his authority is not sufficient
to restrain these unprincipled depredations (122)
(influenced

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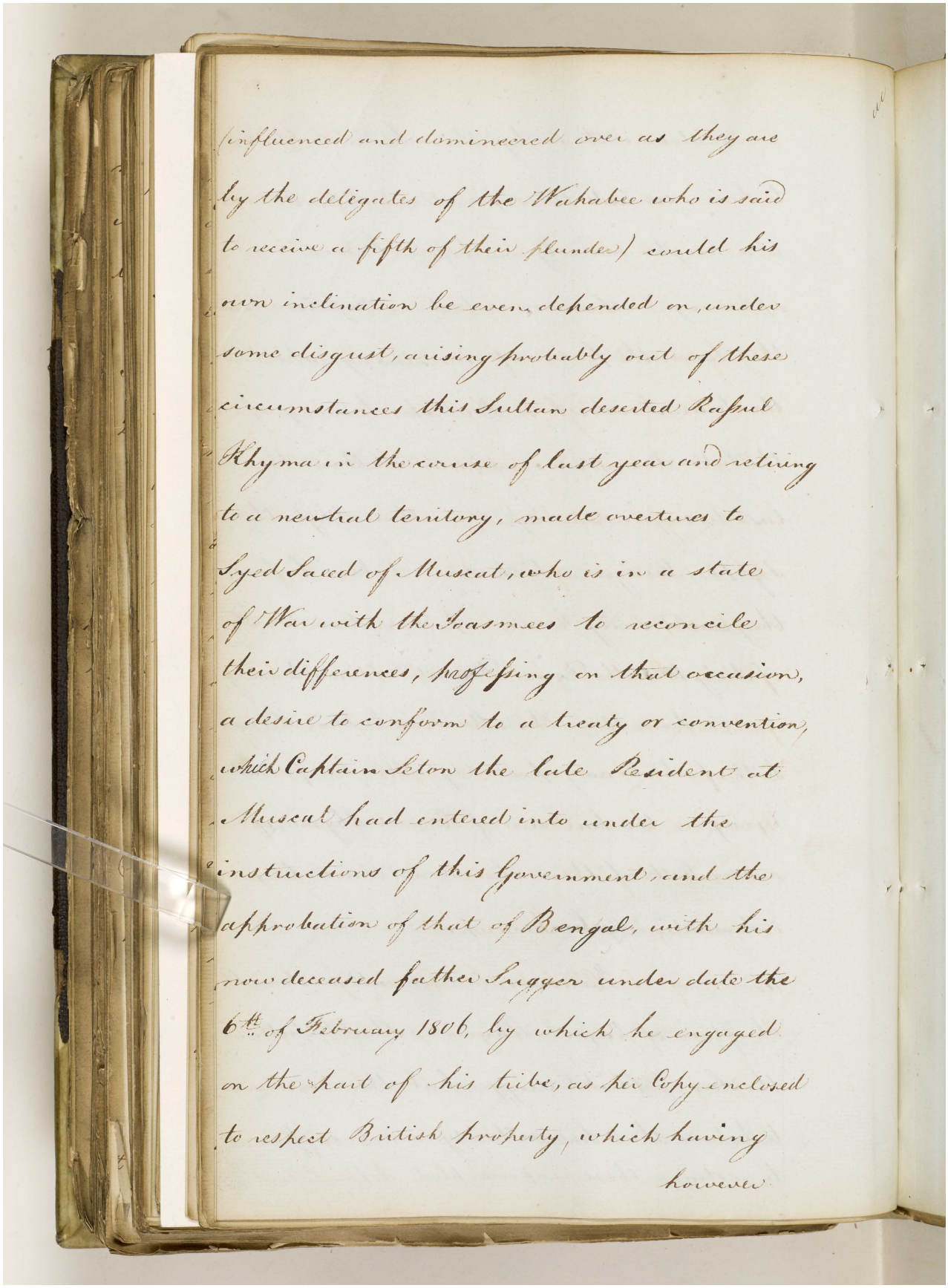

(influenced and domineered over as they are
by the delegates of the Wahabee who is said
to receive a fifth of their plunder) could his
own inclination be even depended on, under
some disgust, arising probably out of these
circumstances this Sultan deserted Rasful
Khyma in the course of last year and retiring
to a neutral territory, made overtures to
Syed Saeed of Muscat, who is in a state
of War with the Joasmees to reconcile
their differences, professing on that occasion,
a desire to conform to a treaty or convention,
which Captain Seton the late Resident at
Muscat had entered into under the
instructions of this Government, and the
approbation of that of Bengal, with his
now deceased father Sugger under date the
6th of February 1806, by which he engaged
on the part of his tribe, as per Copy enclosed
to respect British property, which having
however

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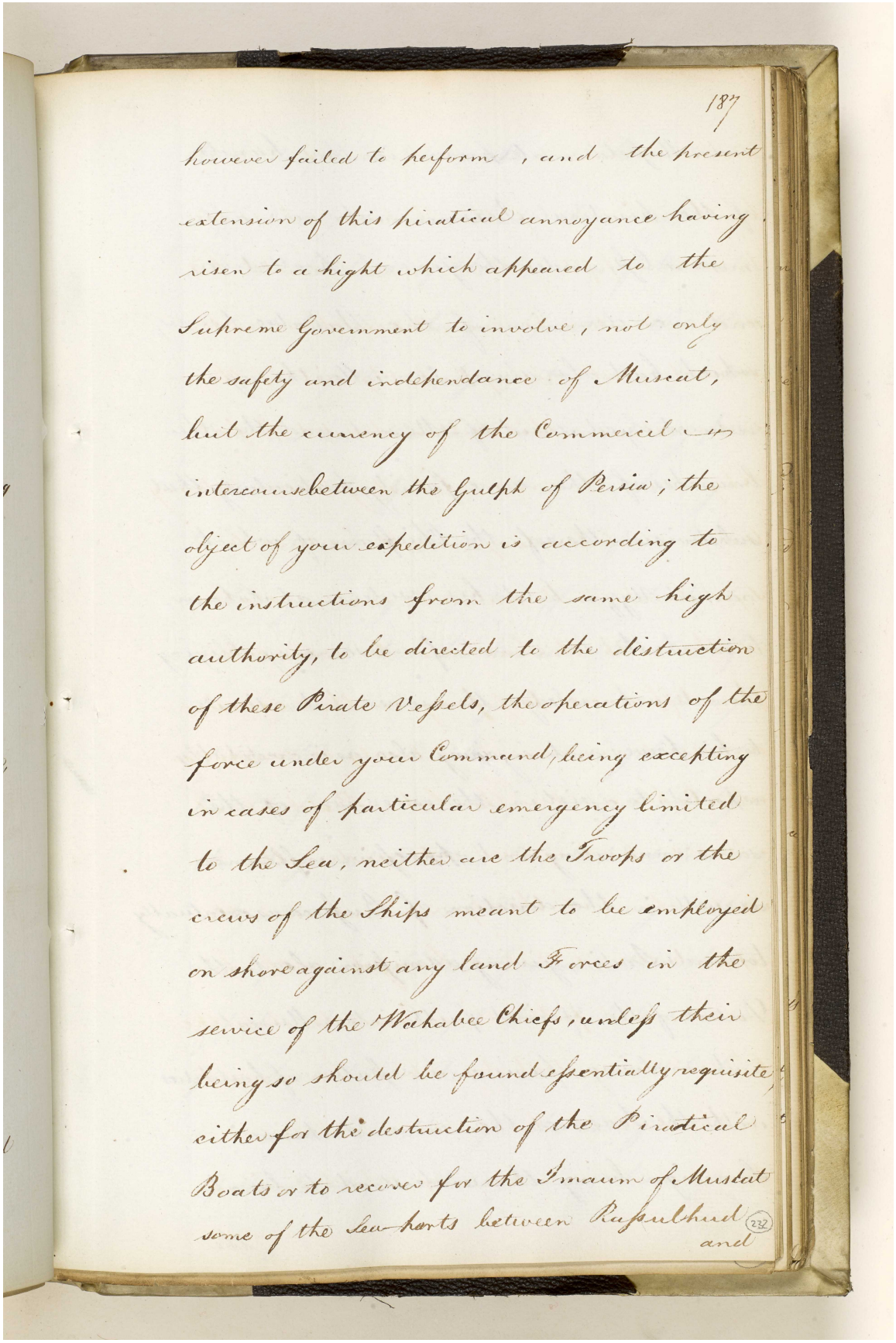

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however failed to perform, and the present extension of this piratical annoyance having risen to a hight which appeared to the Supreme Government to involve, not only the safety and independance of Muscat, but the currency of the Commercial intercourse between the Gulph of Persia; the object of your expedition is according to the instructions from the same high authority, to be directed to the destruction of these Pirate Vessels, the operations of the force under your Command, being excepting in cases of particular emergency limited to the Sea, neither are the Troops or the crews of the Ships meant to be employed on shore against any land Forces in the service of the Wahabee Chiefs, unless their being so should be found essentially requisite either for the destruction of the Piratical Boats or to recover for the Imaum of Muscat some of the Sea-ports between Rasulkhud (232) and

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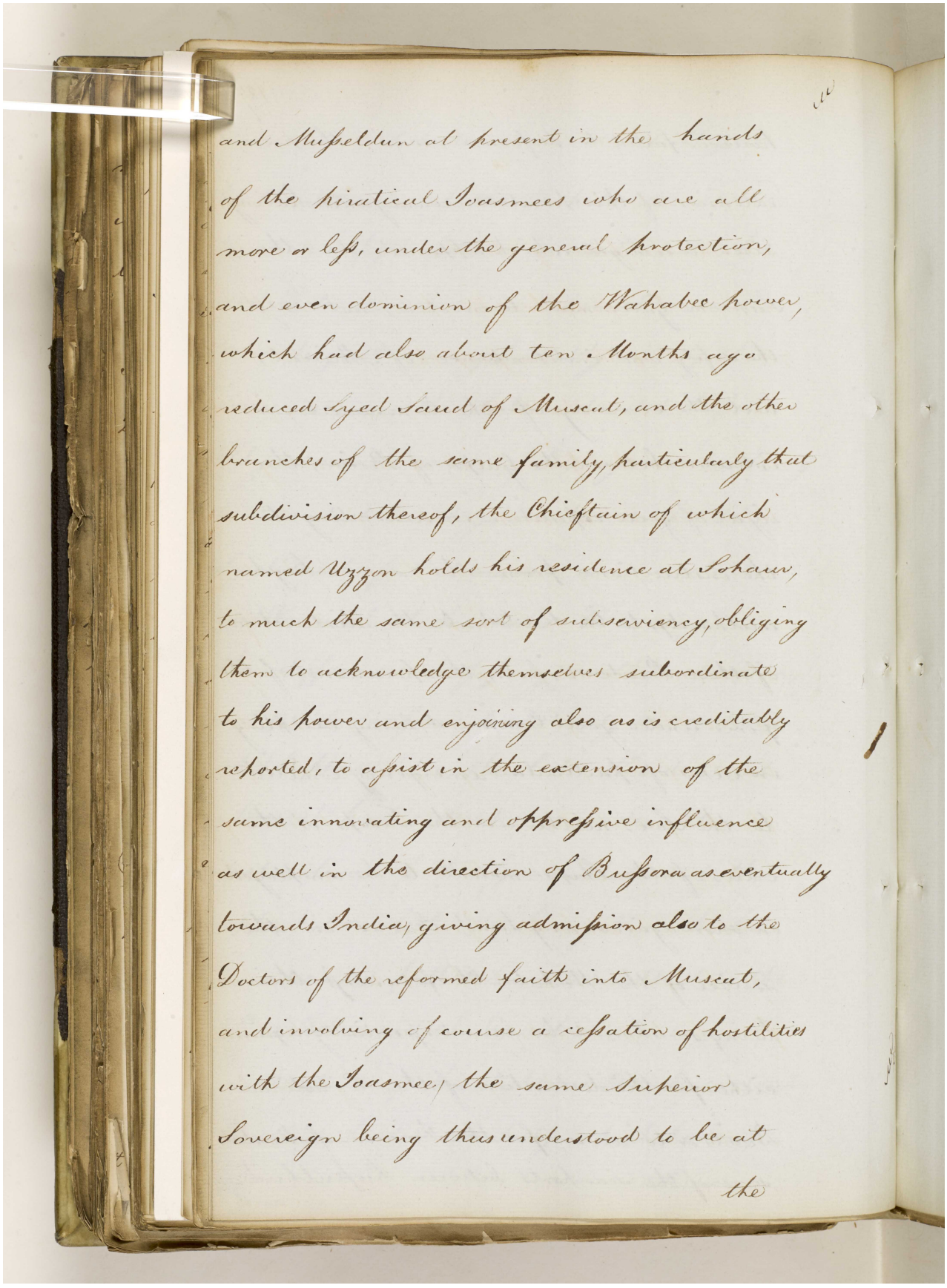

and Muspeldun at present in the hands
of the piratical Joasmees who are all
more or less, under the general protection,
and even dominion of the Wahabee power,
which had also about ten Months ago
reduced Syed Saud of Muscat, and the other
branches of the same family, particularly that
subdivision thereof, the Chieftain of which
named Uzzun holds his residence at Sohaur,
to much the same sort of subsaviency, obliging
them to acknowledge themselves subordinate
to his power and enjoining also as is creditably
reported, to assist in the extension of the
same innovating and oppressive influence
as well in the direction of Bussora as eventually
towards India, giving admission also to the
Doctors of the reformed faith into Muscat,
and involving of course a cessation of hostilities
with the Joasmee, the same Superior
Sovereign being thus understood to be at
the

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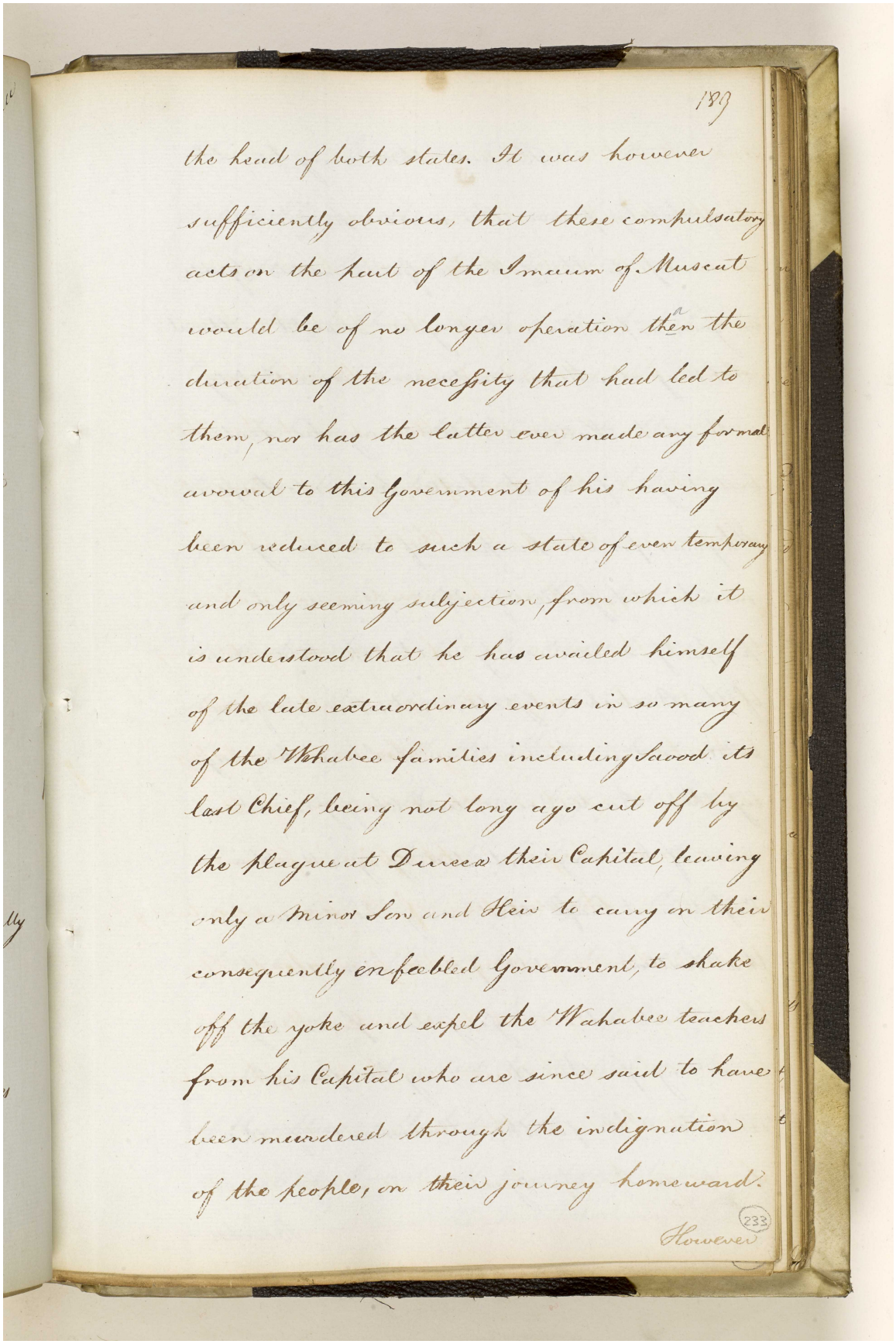

the head of both states. It was however sufficiently obvious, that these compulsatory acts on the part of the Imaum of Muscat would be of no longer operation then the duration of the necessity that had led to them, nor has the latter ever made any formal avowal to this Government of his having been reduced to such a state of even temporary and only seeming subjection, from which it is understood that he has availed himself of the late extraordinary events in so many of the Wahabee families including Saood its last Chief, being not long ago cut off by the plague at Dureea their Capital, leaving only a Minor Son and Heir to carry on their consequently enfeebled Government, to shake off the yoke and expel the Wahabee teachers from his Capital who are since said to have been murdered through the indignation of the people, on their journey homeward.

However

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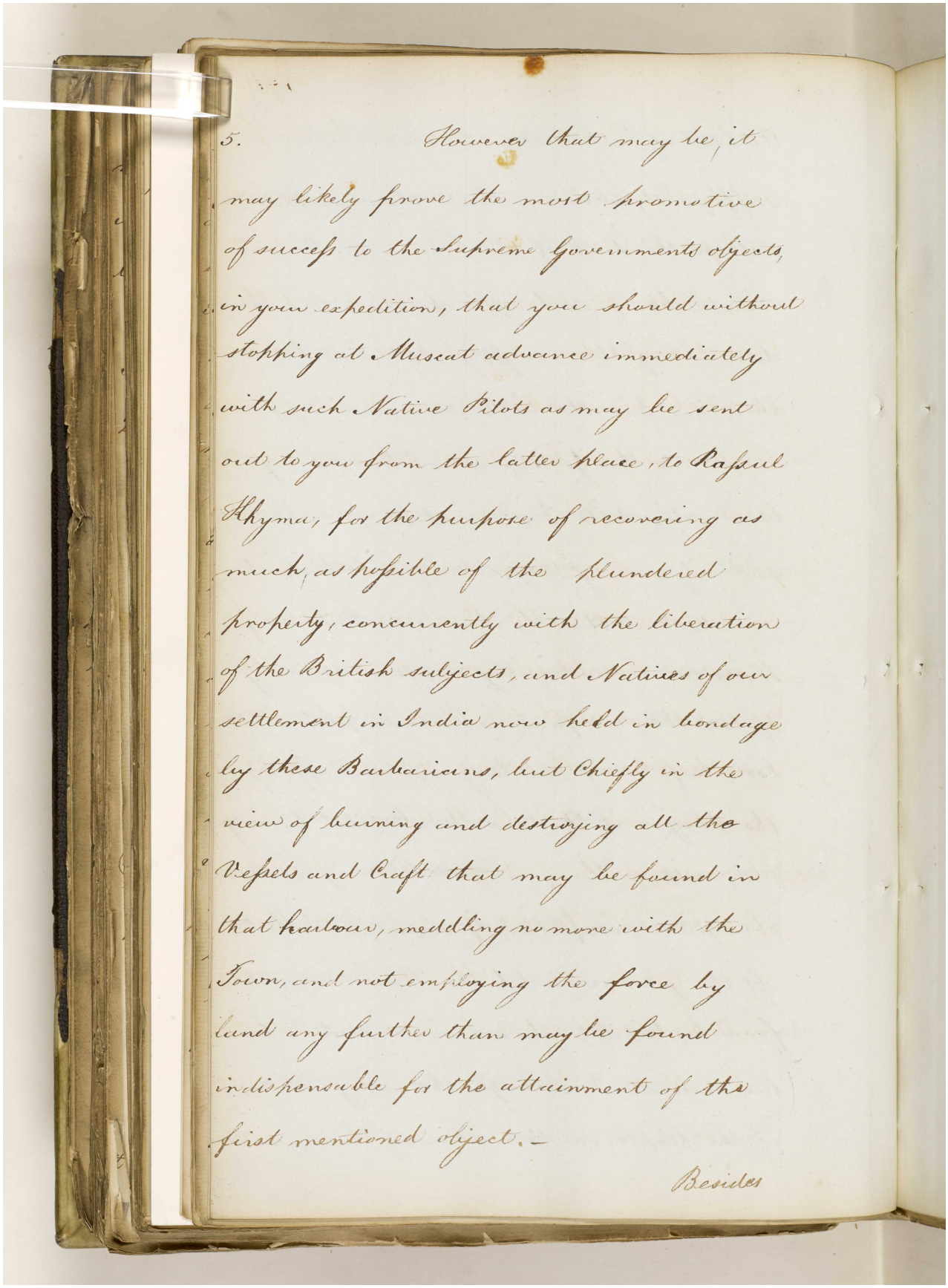

5. However that may be, it may likely prove the most promotive of success to the Supreme Government's objects, in your expedition, that you should without stopping at Muscat advance immediately with such Native Pilots as may be sent out to you from the latter place, to Rasul Khyma, for the purpose of recovering as much, as possible of the plundered property, concurrently with the liberation of the British subjects, and Natives of our settlement in India now held in bondage by these Barbarians, but Chiefly in the view of burning and destroying all the Vessels and Craft that may be found in that harbour, meddling no more with the Town, and not employing the force by land any further than may be found indispensable for the attainment of the first mentioned object. –

Besides

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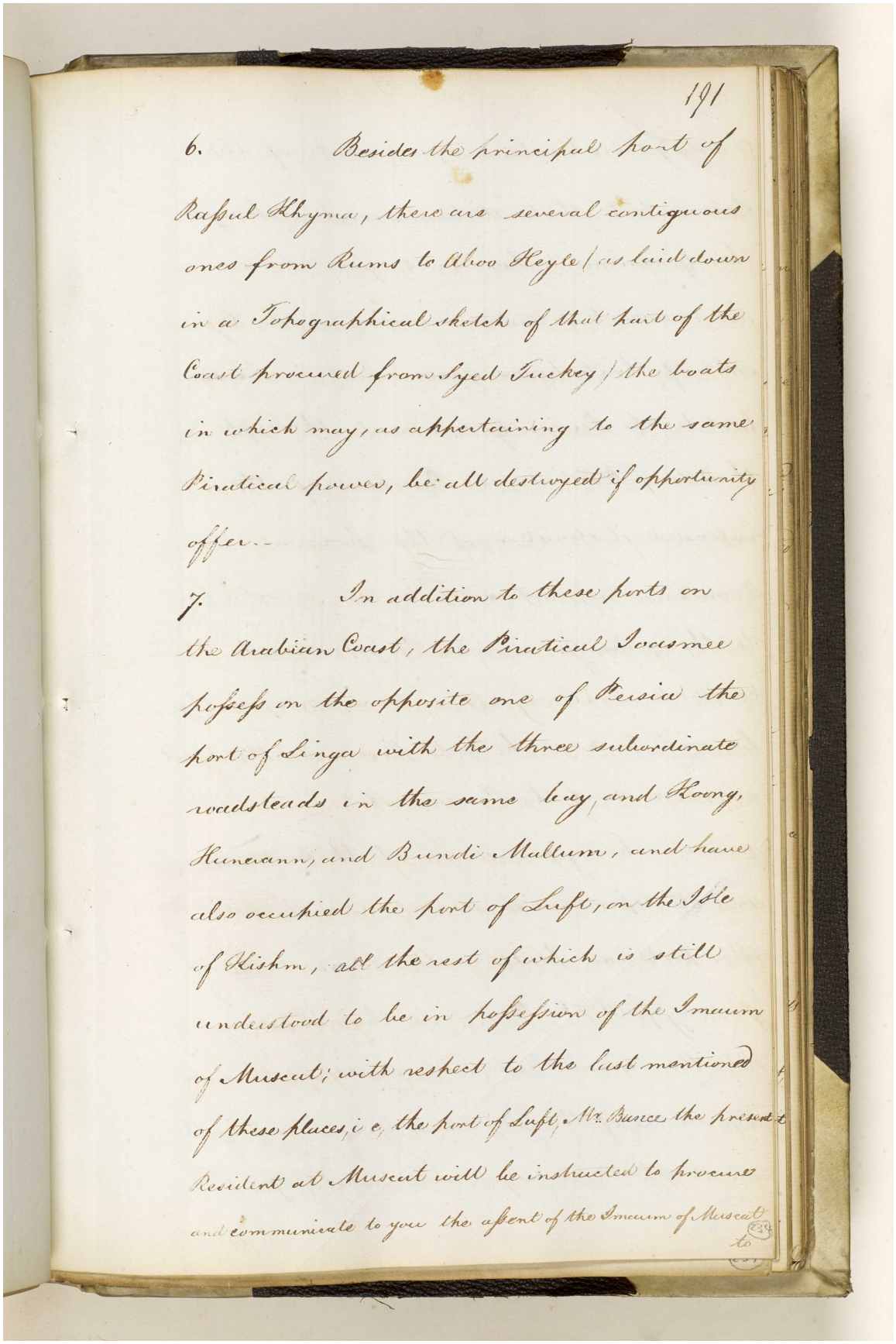

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6. Besides the principal Port of Rasul Khyma, there are several contiguous ones from Rums to Aboo Heyle / as laid down in a Topographical sketch of that part of the Coast procured from Syed Tuckey / the boats in which may, as appertaining to the same Piratical power, be all destroyed if opportunity offer.-

7. In addition to these ports on the Arabian Coast, the Piratical Joasmee possess on the opposite one of Persia the Port of Linga with the three subordinate roadsteads in the same bay, and Kong, Kunevann, and Bundi Mallum, and have also occupied the Port of Luft, on the Isle of Kishm, all the rest of which is still understood to be in possession of the Imaum of Muscat; with respect to the last mentioned of these places, i e, the Port of Luft, Mr. Bance the present Resident at Muscat will be instructed to procure and communicate to you the assent of the Imaum of Muscat to

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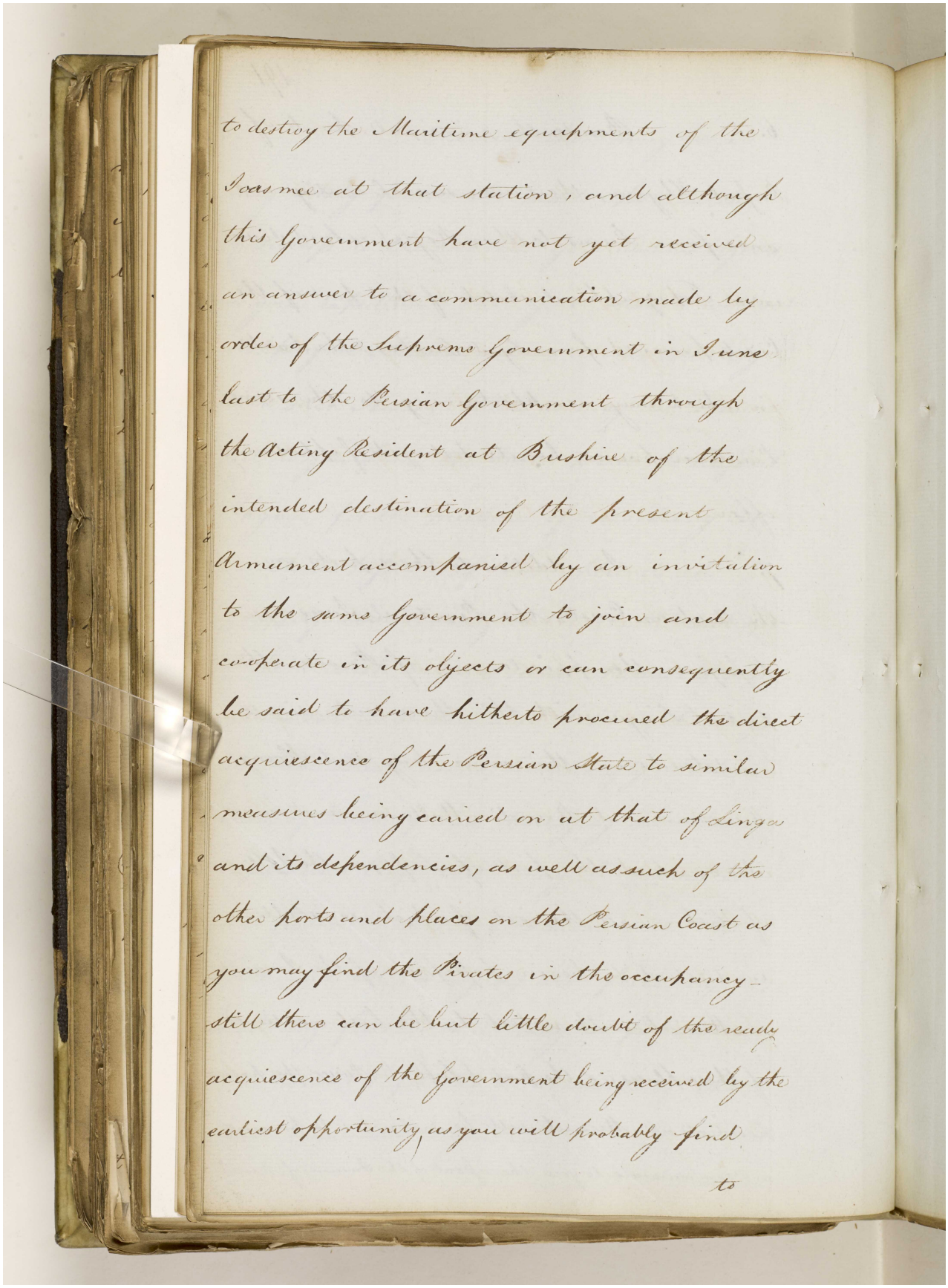

to destroy the Maritime equipments of the
Joasmee at that station, and although
this Government have not yet received
an answer to a communication made by
order of the Supreme Government in June
last to the Persian Government through
the Acting Resident at Bushire of the
intended destination of the present
Armament accompanied by an invitation
to the same Government to join and
co-operate in its objects or can consequently
be said to have hitherto procured the direct
acquiescence of the Persian State to similar
measures being carried on at that of Linga
and its dependencies, as well as such of the
other ports and places on the Persian Coast as
you may find the Pirates in the occupancy –
still there can be but little doubt of the ready
acquiescence of the Government being received by the
earliest opportunity as you will probably find

to

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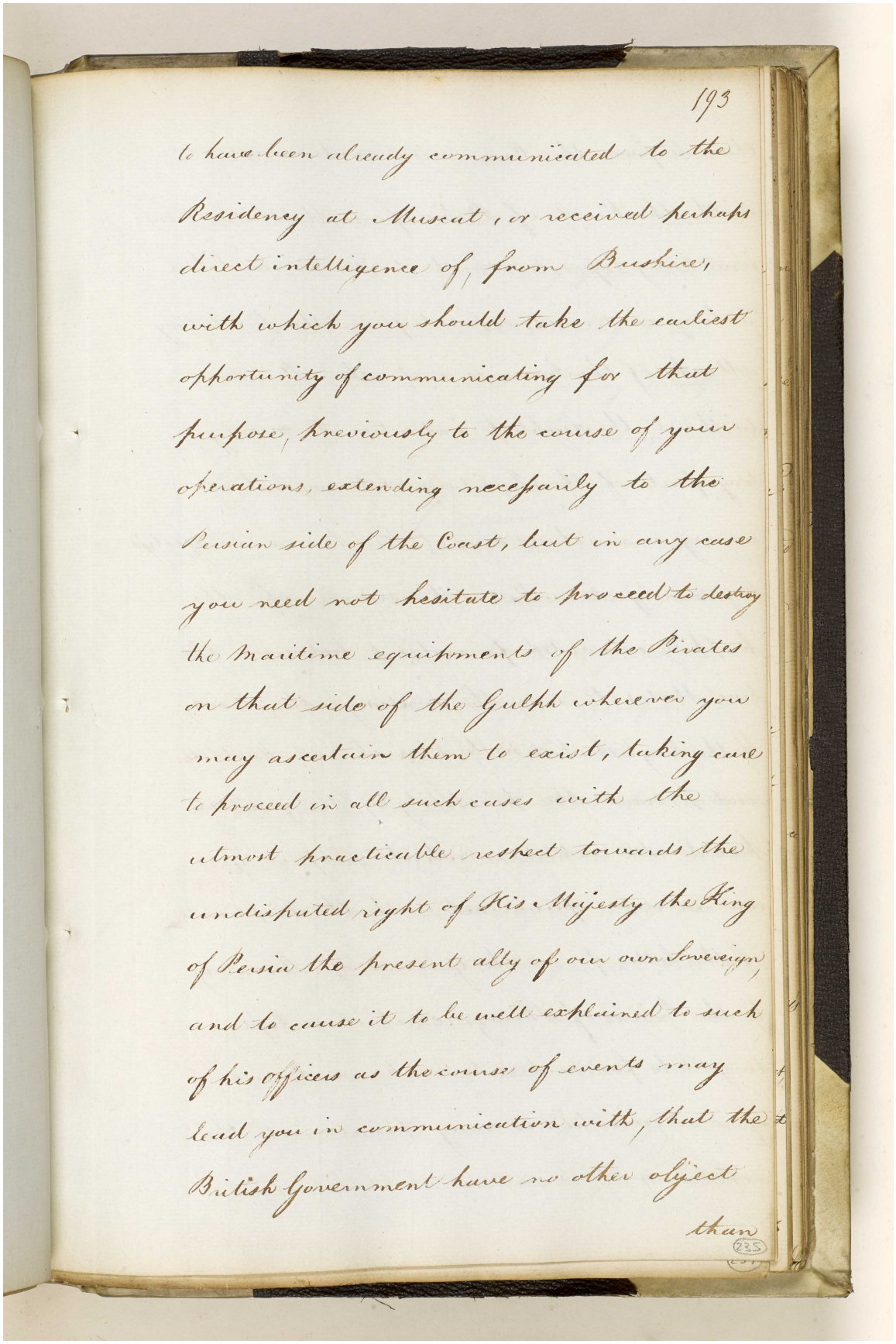

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to have been already communicated to the Residency at Muscat, or received perhaps direct intelligence of, from Bushire, with which you should take the earliest opportunity of communicating for that purpose, previously to the course of your operations, extending necessarily to the Persian side of the Coast, but in any case you need not hesitate to proceed to destroy the Maritime equipments of the Pirates on that side of the Gulph wherever you may ascertain them to exist, taking care to proceed in all such cases with the utmost practicable respect towards the undisputed right of His Majesty the King of Persia the present ally of our own Sovereign, and to cause it to be well explained to such of his officers as the course of events may lead you in communication with, that the British Government have no other object than

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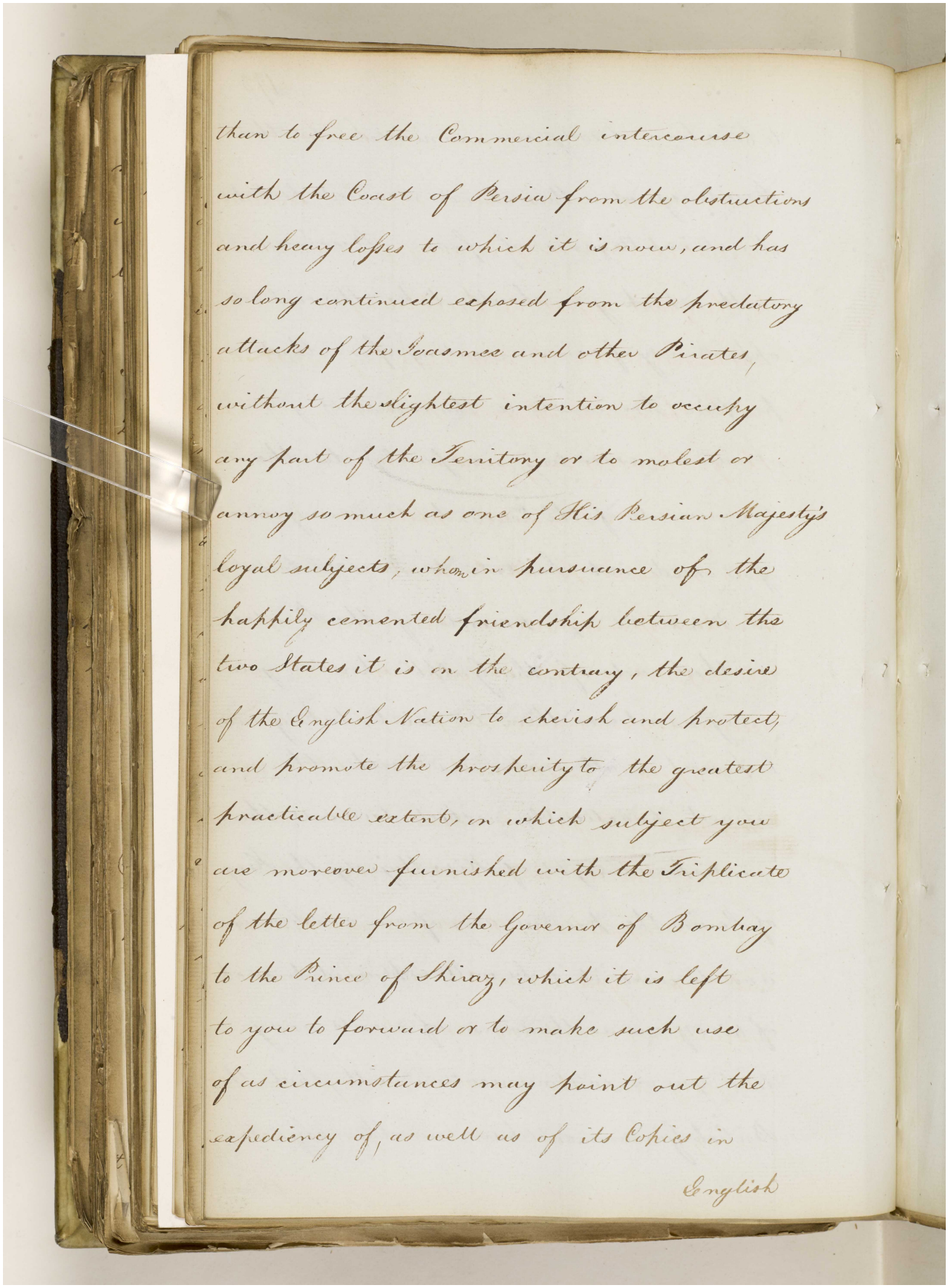

than to free the Commercial intercourse
with the Coast of Persia from the obstructions
and heavy losses to which it is now, and has
so long continued exposed from the predatory
attacks of the Joasmee and other Pirates,
without the slightest intention to occupy
any part of the Territory or to molest or
annoy so much as one of His Persian Majesty's
loyal subjects, whom in pursuance of the
happily cemented friendship between the
two States it is on the contrary, the desire
of the English Nation to cherish and protect,
and promote the prosperity to the greatest
practicable extent, on which subject you
are moreover furnished with the Triplicate
of the letter from the Governor of Bombay
to the Prince of Shiraz, which it is left
to you to forward or to make such use
of as circumstances may point out the
expediency of, as well as of its Copies in
English

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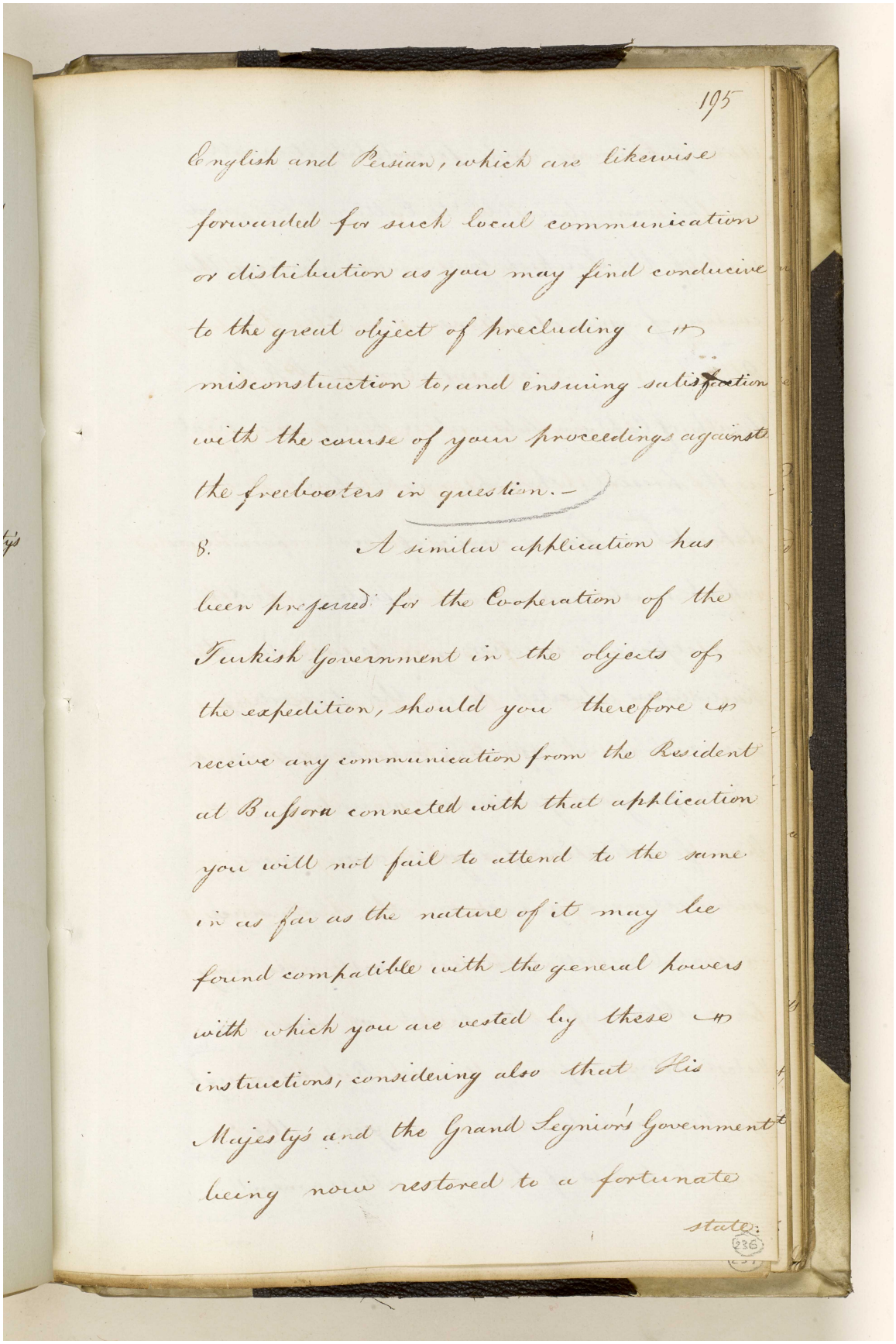

English and Persian, which are likewise
forwarded for such local communication
or distribution as you may find conducive
to the great object of precluding
misconstruction to, and insuring satisfaction
with the course of your proceedings against
the freebooters in question.–

8. A similar application has
been prepared for the Cooperation of the
Turkish Government in the objects of
the expedition, should you therefore
receive any communication from the Resident
at Bussora connected with that application
you will not fail to attend to the same
in as far as the nature of it may be
found compatible with the general powers
with which you are vested by these
instructions, considering also that His
Majesty's and the Grand Seignior's Government
being now restored to a fortunate

state:

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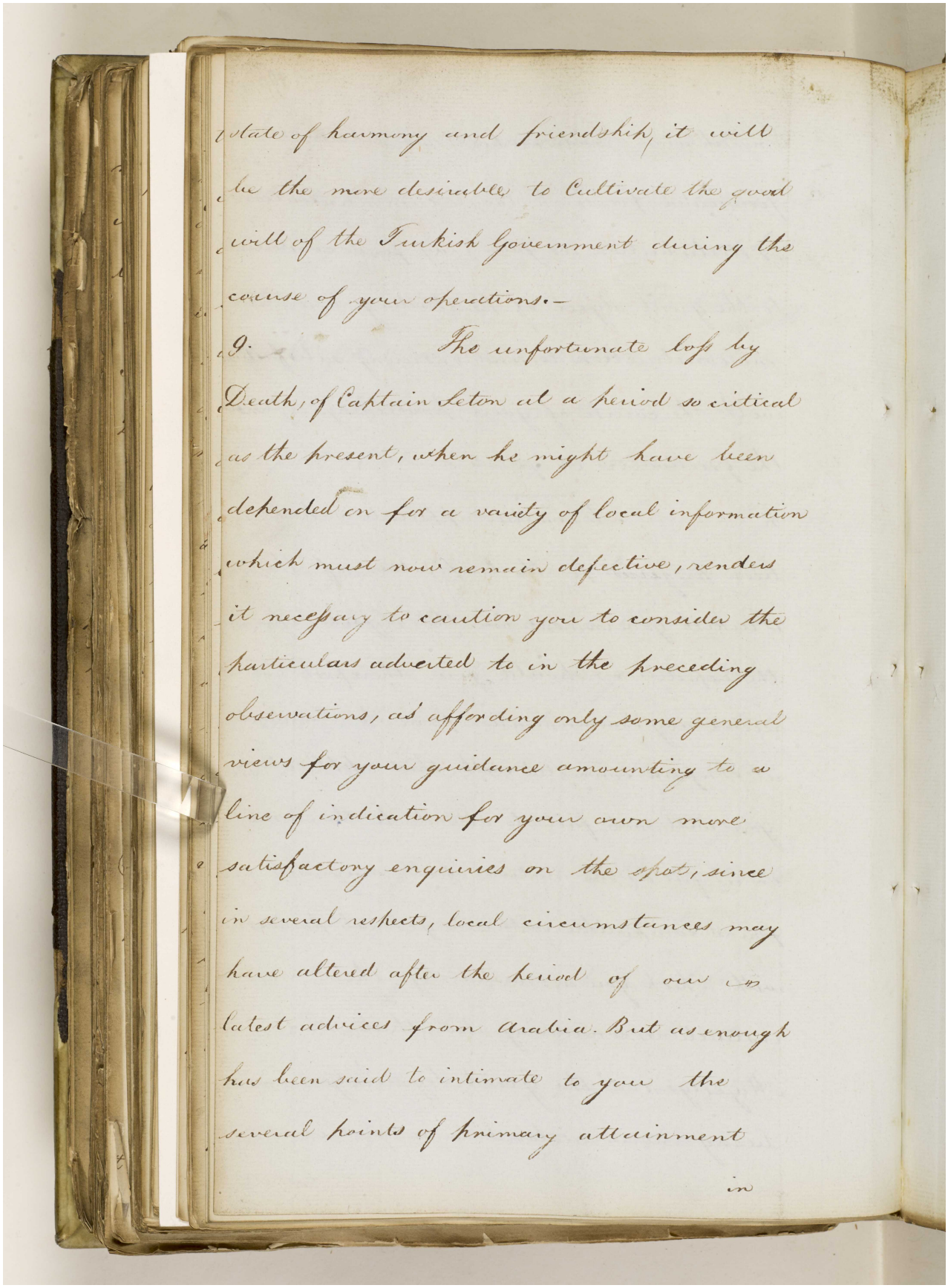

state of harmony and friendship, it will be the more desirable to Cultivate the good will of the Turkish Government during the course of your operations.–

9. The unfortunate loss by Death, of Captain Seton at a period so critical as the present, when he might have been depended on for a variety of local information which must now remain defective, renders it necessary to caution you to consider the particulars adverted to in the preceding observations, as affording only some general views for your guidance amounting to a line of indication for your own more satisfactory enquiries on the spot, since in several respects, local circumstances may have altered after the period of our latest advices from Arabia. But as enough has been said to intimate to you the several points of primary attainment

in

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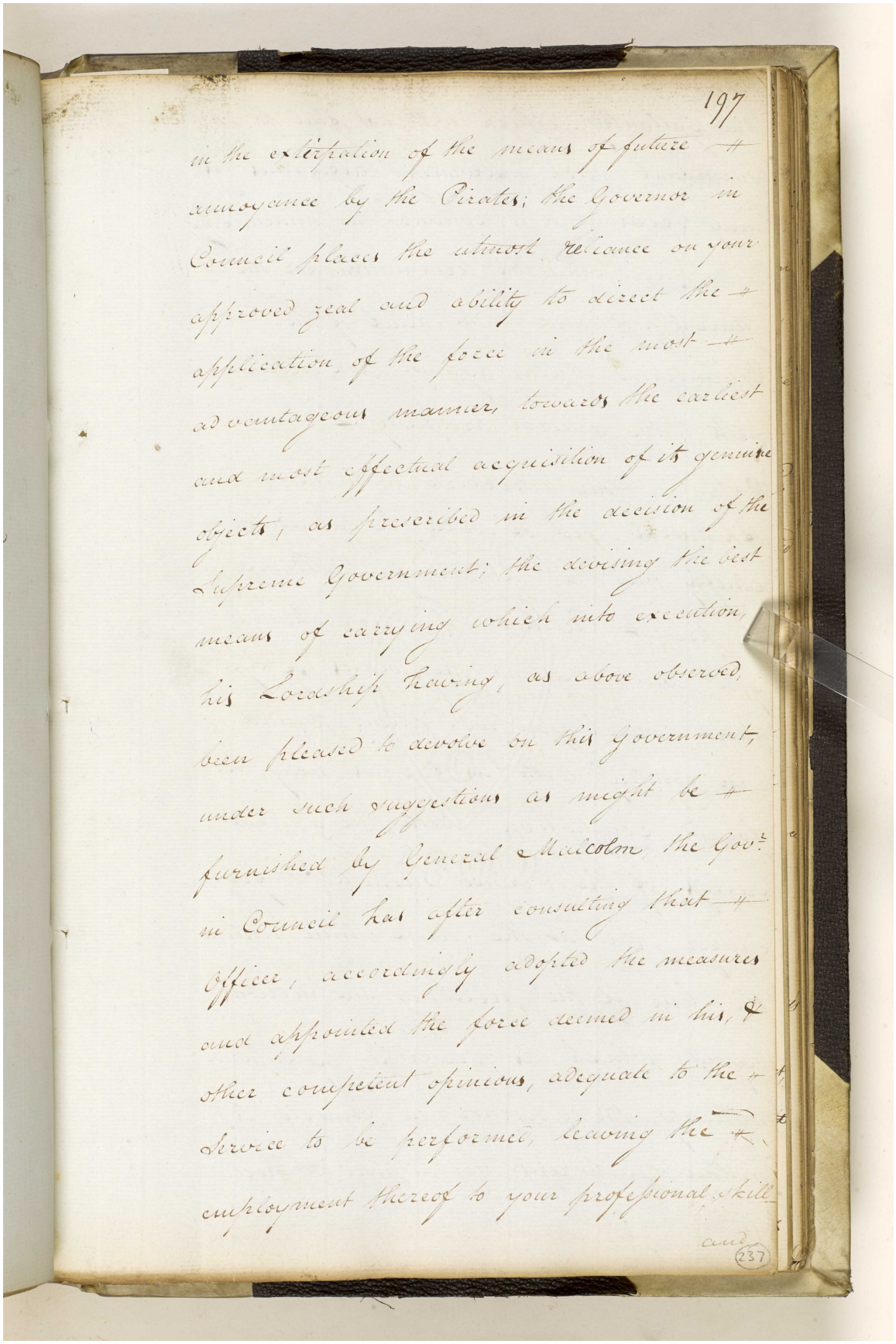

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in the extirpation of the means of future
annoyance by the Pirates; the Governor in
Council places the utmost reliance on your
approved zeal and ability to direct the
application of the force in the most
advantageous manner, towards the earliest
and most effectual acquisition of its genuine
objects, as prescribed in the decision of the
Supreme Government; the devising the best
means of carrying which into execution,
his Lordship having, as above observed,
been pleased to devolve on this Government,
under such suggestions as might be
furnished by General Malcolm, the Gov.
in Council has after consulting that
Officer, accordingly adopted the measures
and appointed the force deemed in his, &
other competent opinions, adequate to the
Service to be performed, leaving the
employment thereof to your professional skill

and

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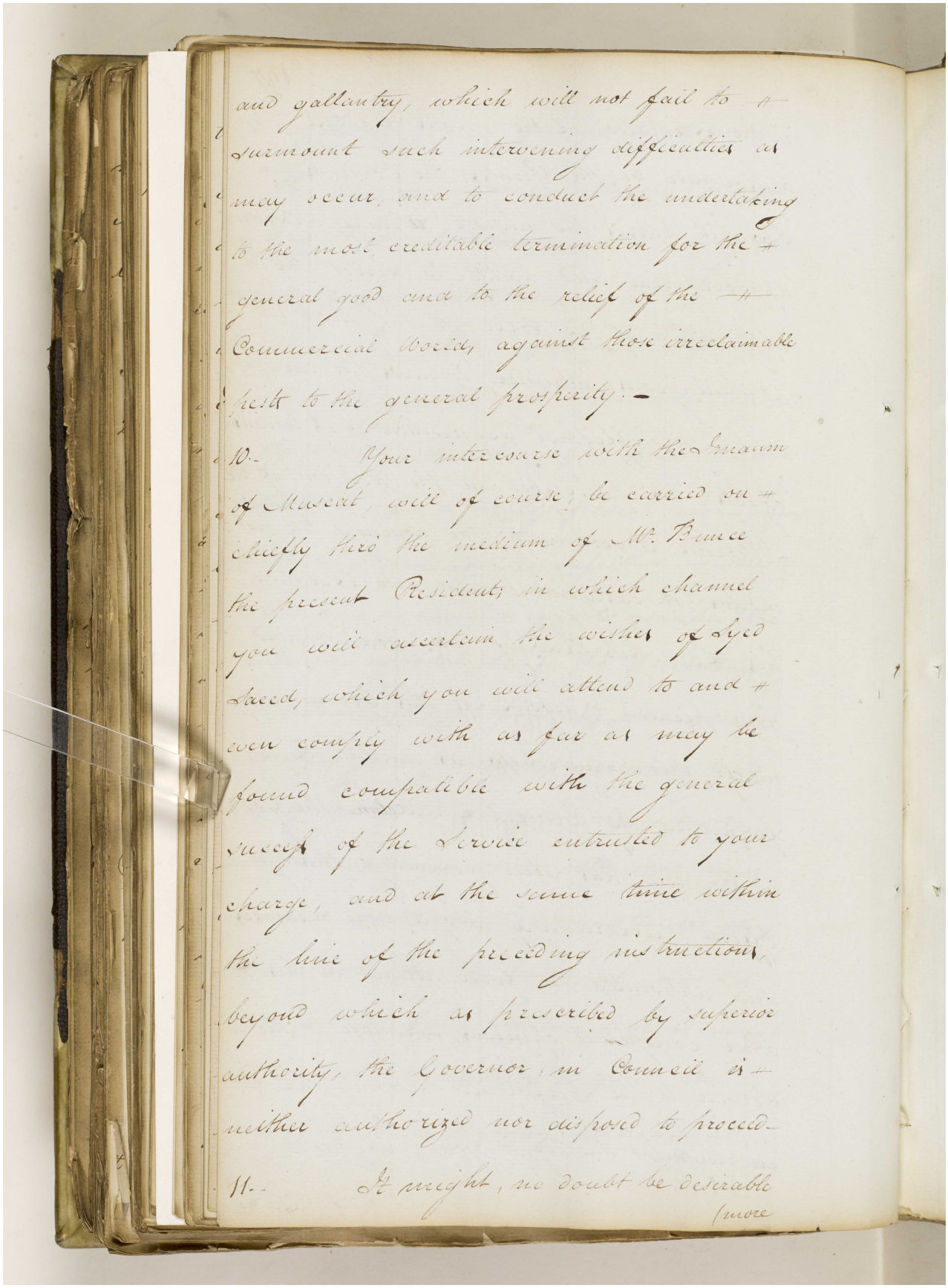
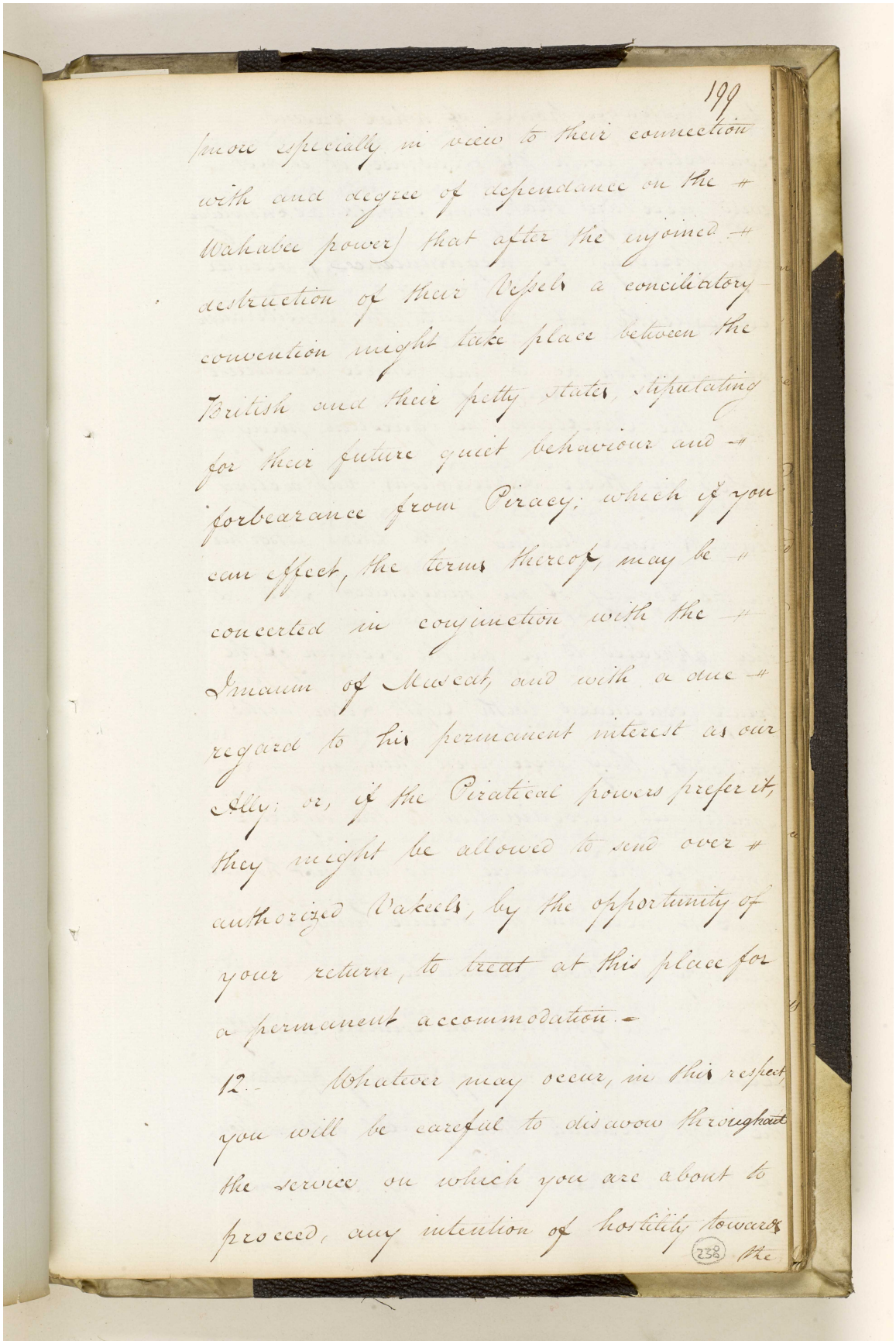


and gallantry, which will not fail to surmount such intervening difficulties as may occur, and to conduct the undertaking to the most creditable termination for the general good and to the relief of the Commercial World, against those irreclaimable pests to the general prosperity.—

10.— Your intercourse with the Imaum of Muscat will of course be carried on chiefly thro' the medium of Mr. Bruce the present Resident; in which channel you will ascertain the wishes of Syed Saeed, which you will attend to and even comply with as far as may be found compatible with the general success of the Service entrusted to your charge, and at the same time within the line of the preceding instructions, beyond which as prescribed by superior authority, the Governor in Council is neither authorized nor disposed to proceed.—

11.— It might, no doubt be desirable

(more



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more especially in view to their connection
with and degree of dependance on the
Wahabee power) that after the enjoined
destruction of their Vessels a conciliatory
convention might take place between the
British and their petty states, stipulating
for their future quiet behaviour and
forbearance from Piracy; which if you
can effect, the terms thereof, may be
concerted in conjunction with the
Imaum of Muscat, and with due
regard to his permanent interest as our
Ally; or, if the Piratical powers prefer it,
they might be allowed to send over
authorized Vakeels, by the opportunity of
your return, to treat at this place for
a permanent accommodation.

12.– Whatever may occur, in this respect,
you will be careful to disavow throughout
the service on which you are about to
proceed, any intention of hostility towards
the

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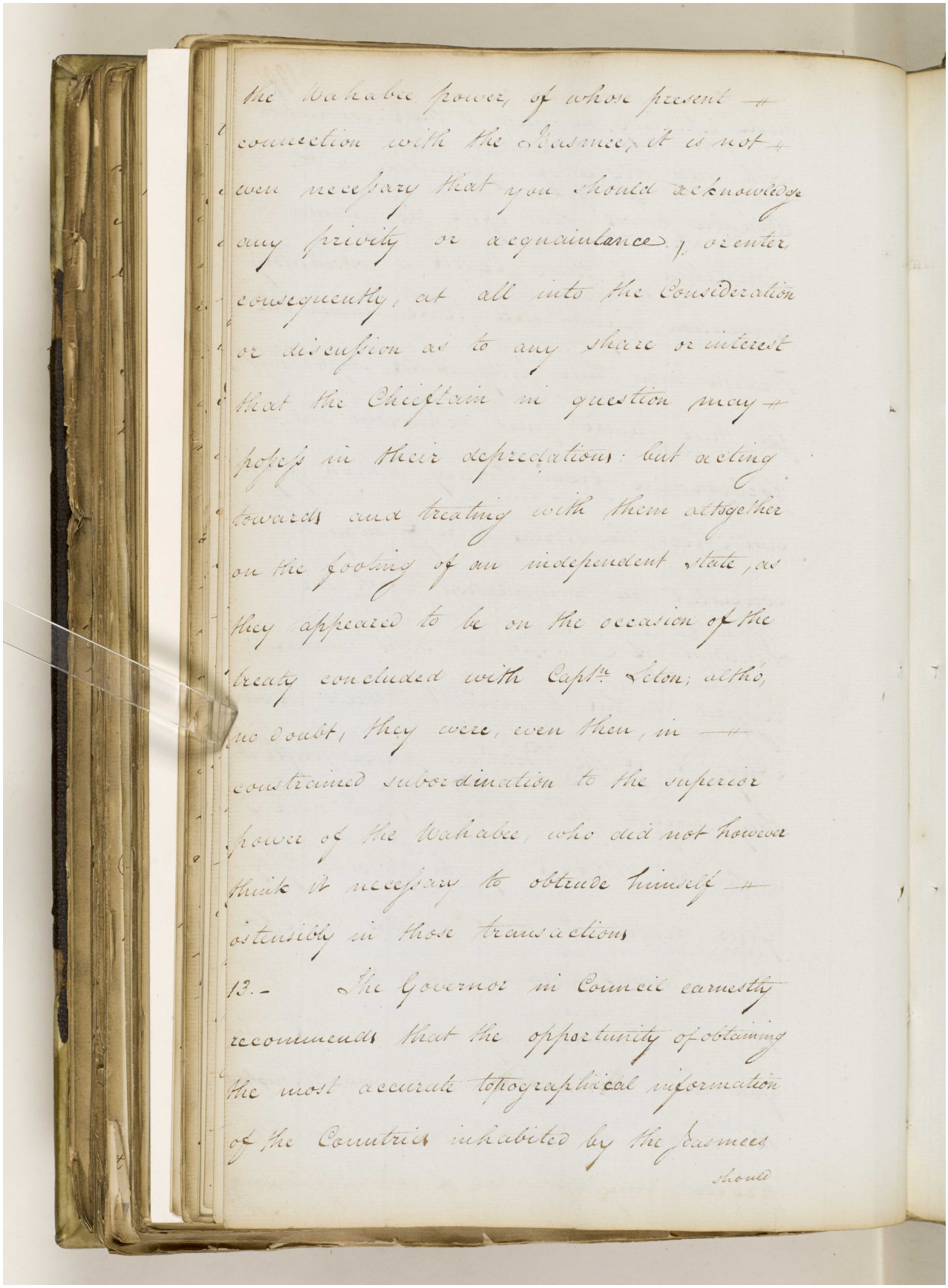

the Wahabee power, of whose present
connection with the Joasmee, it is not
even necessary that you should acknowledge
any privity or acquaintance, or enter
consequently, at all into the consideration
or discussion as to any share or interest
that the Chieftain in question may
hope's in their depredations: but acting
towards and treating with them altogether
on the footing of an independent state, as
they appeared to be on the occasion of the
treaty concluded with Capt.n Lelon; altho,
no doubt, they were, even then, in
constrained subordination to the superior
power of the Wahabee, who did not however
think it necessary to obtrude himself
ostensibly in those transactions

13.– The Governor in Council earnestly
recommends that the opportunity of obtaining
the most accurate topographical information
of the Countries inhabited by the Joasmees

should

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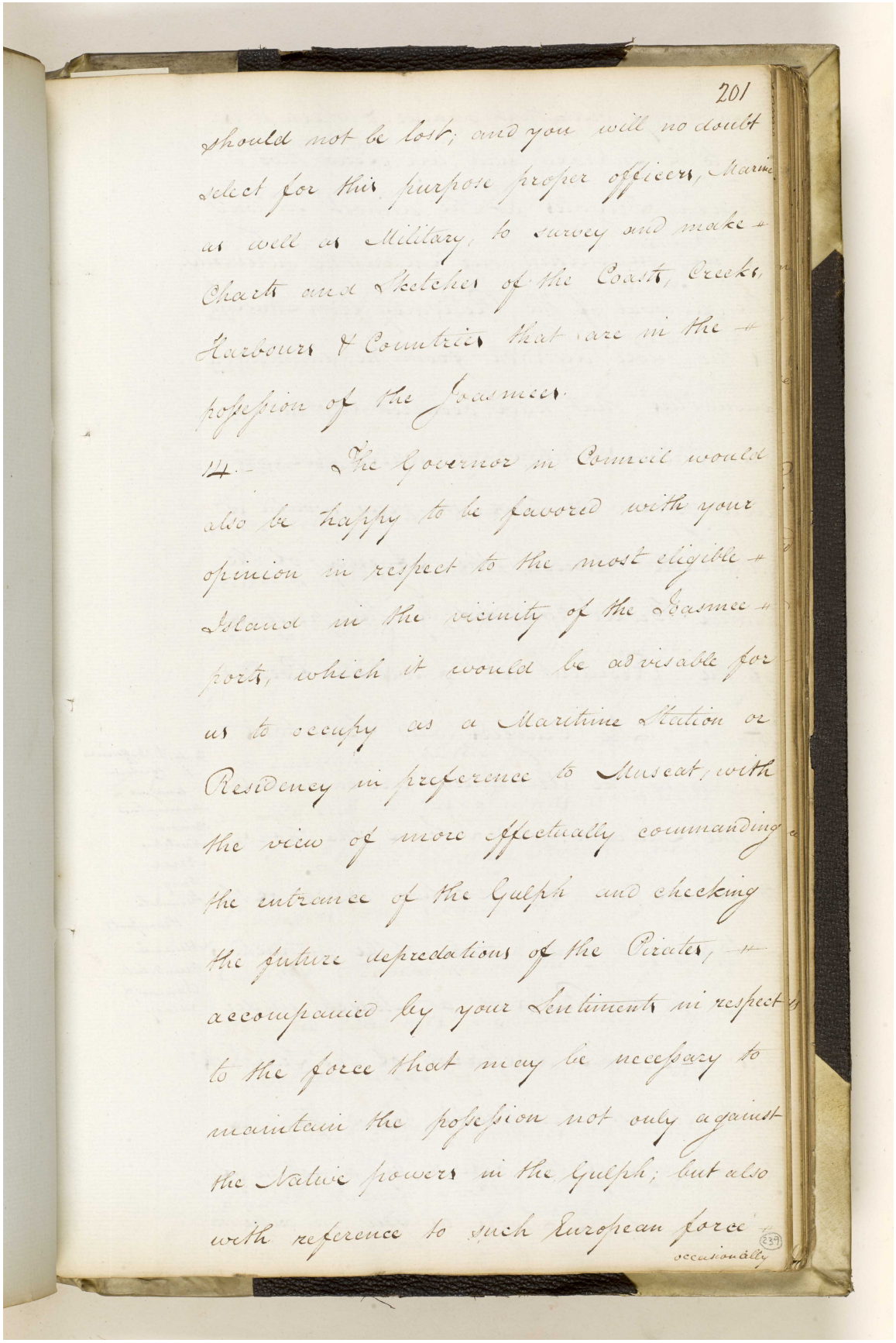

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should not be lost; and you will no doubt select for this purpose proper officers, Marine as well as Military, to survey and make Charts and Sketches of the Coast, Creeks, Harbours & Countries that are in the possession of the Joasmees.

14.– The Governor in Council would also be happy to be favored with your opinion in respect to the most eligible Island in the vicinity of the Joasmee ports, which it would be advisable for us to occupy as a Maritime Station or Residency in preference to Muscat, with the view of more effectually commanding the entrance of the Gulph and checking the future depredations of the Pirates, accompanied by your Sentiments in respect to the force that may be necessary to maintain the possession not only against the Native powers in the Gulph; but also with reference to such European force occasionally

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occasionally visiting that quarter, & which it is not to be supposed will ever exceed two French Frigates at the utmost, so long as we maintain our Maritime superiority. The removal of the Residency from Muscat is the more desirable from the lamentable casualties that have occurred at that insalubrious Station, at which perhaps every object we have in view would be attainable through the Agency of the native Broker controled by the presence of the Resident at a vicinal Port.–

15.– The Cruizers and Transports composing the Armament are enumerated in the Margin, and I have the honor to enclose an embarkation return of the Detachment and a copy of the instructions issued to the Resident at Muscat under this date. The discharge of the Transports at the earliest practicable period after the performance of the Service by a return of as many of the Troops as you can dispense with

H. M. S. Chiffonne & Caroline
Cruizers
Mornington
Aurora
Nautilus
Ariel
Fury
Hambolo
Transports
Minerva
Friendship
Duncan &
Mary

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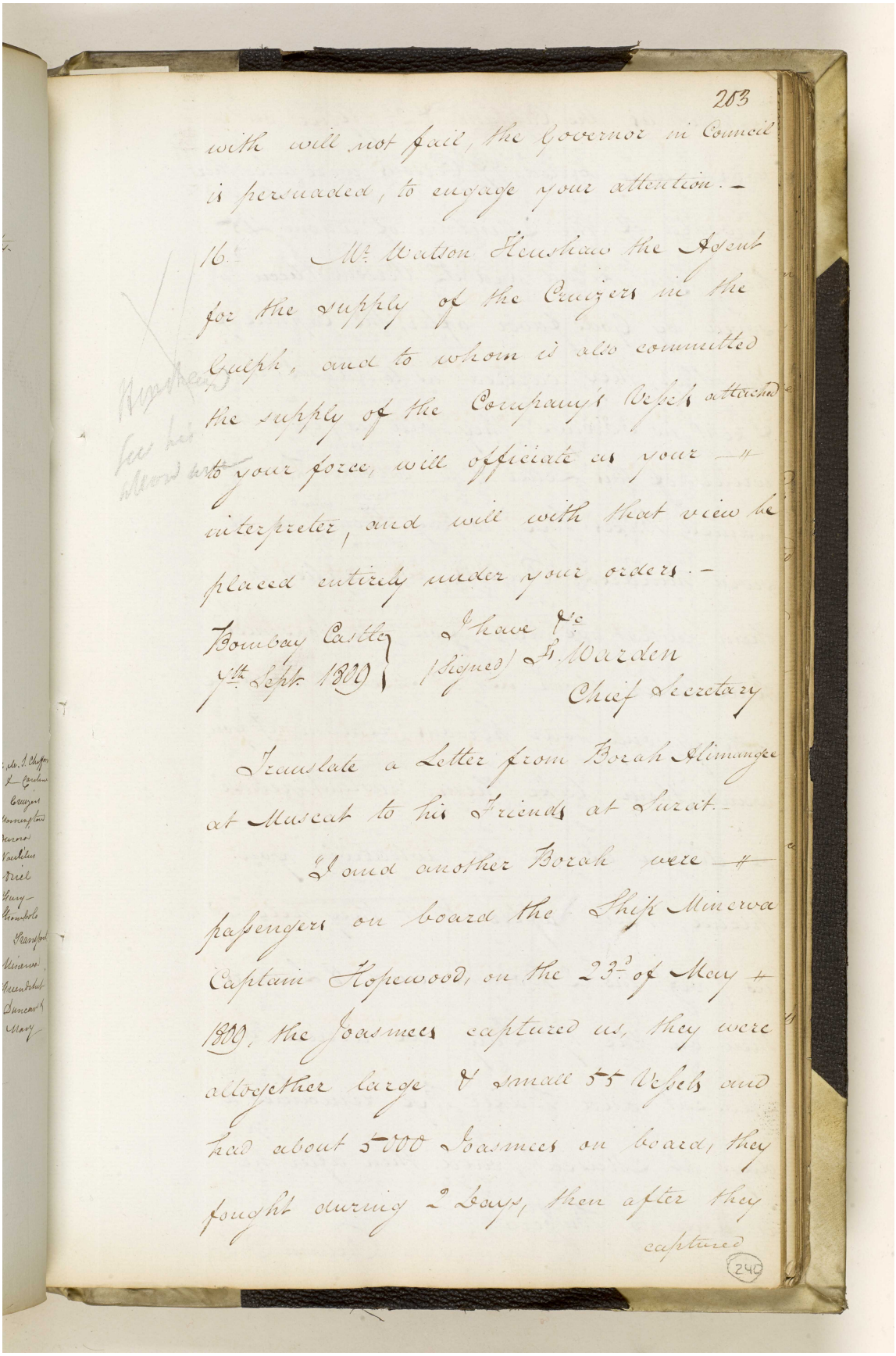
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [240r] (205/294)



with will not fail, the Governor in Council is persuaded, to engage your attention.—

16. Mr. Watson Henshaw the Agent for the supply of the Cruizers in the Gulph, and to whom is also committed the supply of the Company's Vessels attached to your force, will officiate as your interpreter, and will with that view be placed entirely under your orders.—

Henshaw
See his
allowance

Bombay Castle
7th Sept. 1809

I have &c.
(Signed) F. Warden
Chief Secretary

Translate a Letter from Borah Alimangee at Muscat to his Friends at Surat.—

I and another Borah were passengers on board the Ship Minerva Captain Hopewood, on the 23d of May 1809, the Joasmees captured us, they were altogether large & small 55 Vessels and had about 5000 Joasmees on board, they fought during 2 Days, then after they captured

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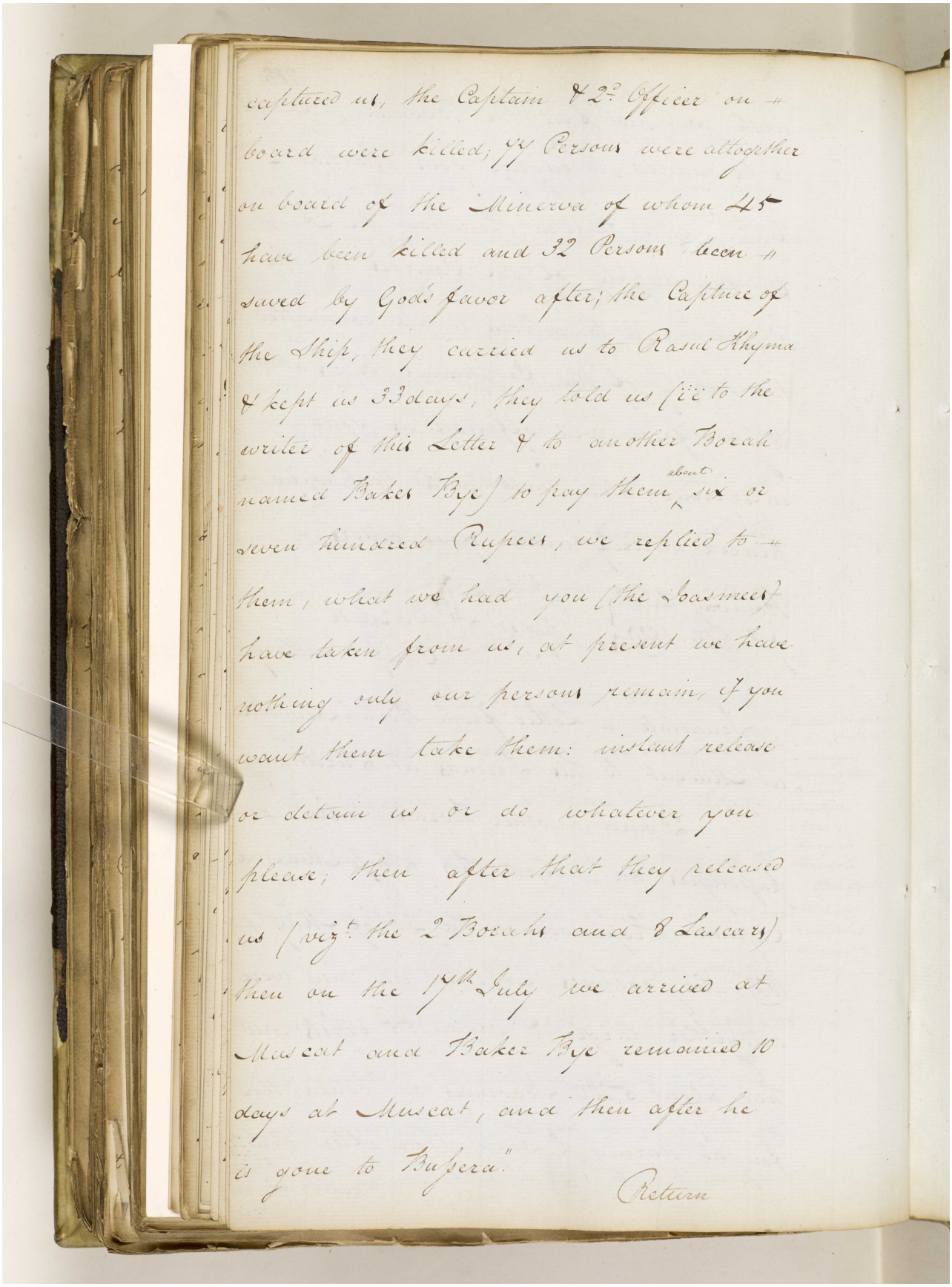

captured us, the Captain & 2d Officer on
board were killed; 77 Persons were altogether
on board of the Minerva of whom 45
have been killed and 32 Persons been
saved by Gods favor after; the Capture of
the Ship, they carried us to Rasul Khyma
& kept us 33 days, they told us (i.e. to the
writer of this Letter & to another Borah
named Baker Bye) to pay them about six or
seven hundred Rupees, we replied to
them, what we had you (the Joasmee)
have taken from us, at present we have
nothing only our persons remain, if you
want them take them: instant release
or detain us or do whatever you
please; then after that they released
us (viz. the 2 Borahs and 8 Lascars)
then on the 19th July we arrived at
Muscat and Baker Bye remained 10
days at Muscat, and then after he
is gone to Bussora."

Return

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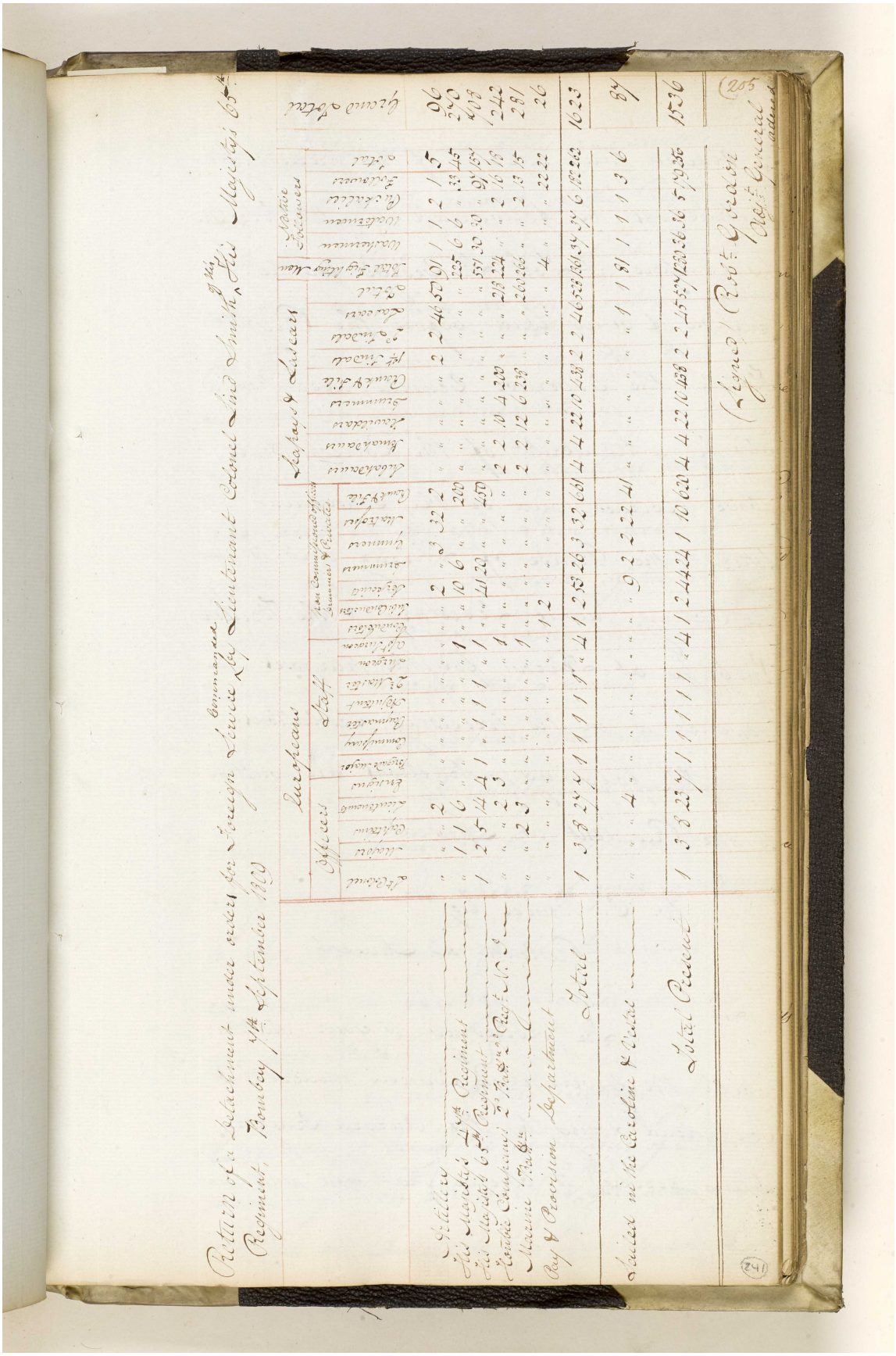
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [241r] (207/294)



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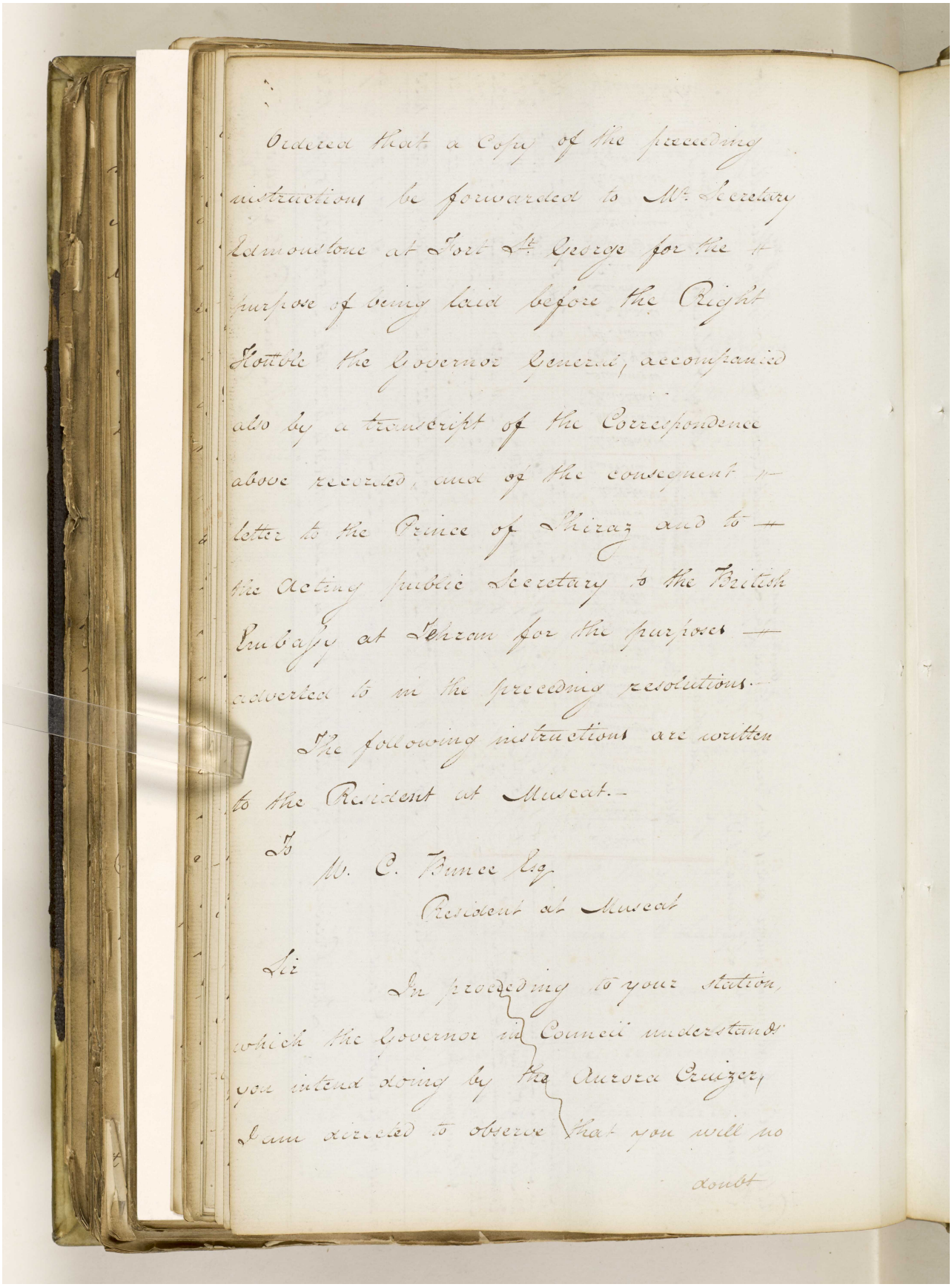

Ordered that a Copy of the preceding instruction be forwarded to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone at Fort St. George for the purpose of being laid before the Right Honble the Governor General, accompanied also by a transcript of the Correspondence above recorded, and of the enclosed letter to the Prince of Shiraz and to the acting public Secretary to the British Embassy at Tehran for the purposes adverted to in the preceding resolutions.

The following instructions are written to the Resident at Muscat.—

To

W. C. Bruce Esq.
Resident at Muscat

Sir

In proceeding to your station, which the Governor in Council understands you intend doing by the Aurora Cruizer, I am directed to observe that you will no doubt

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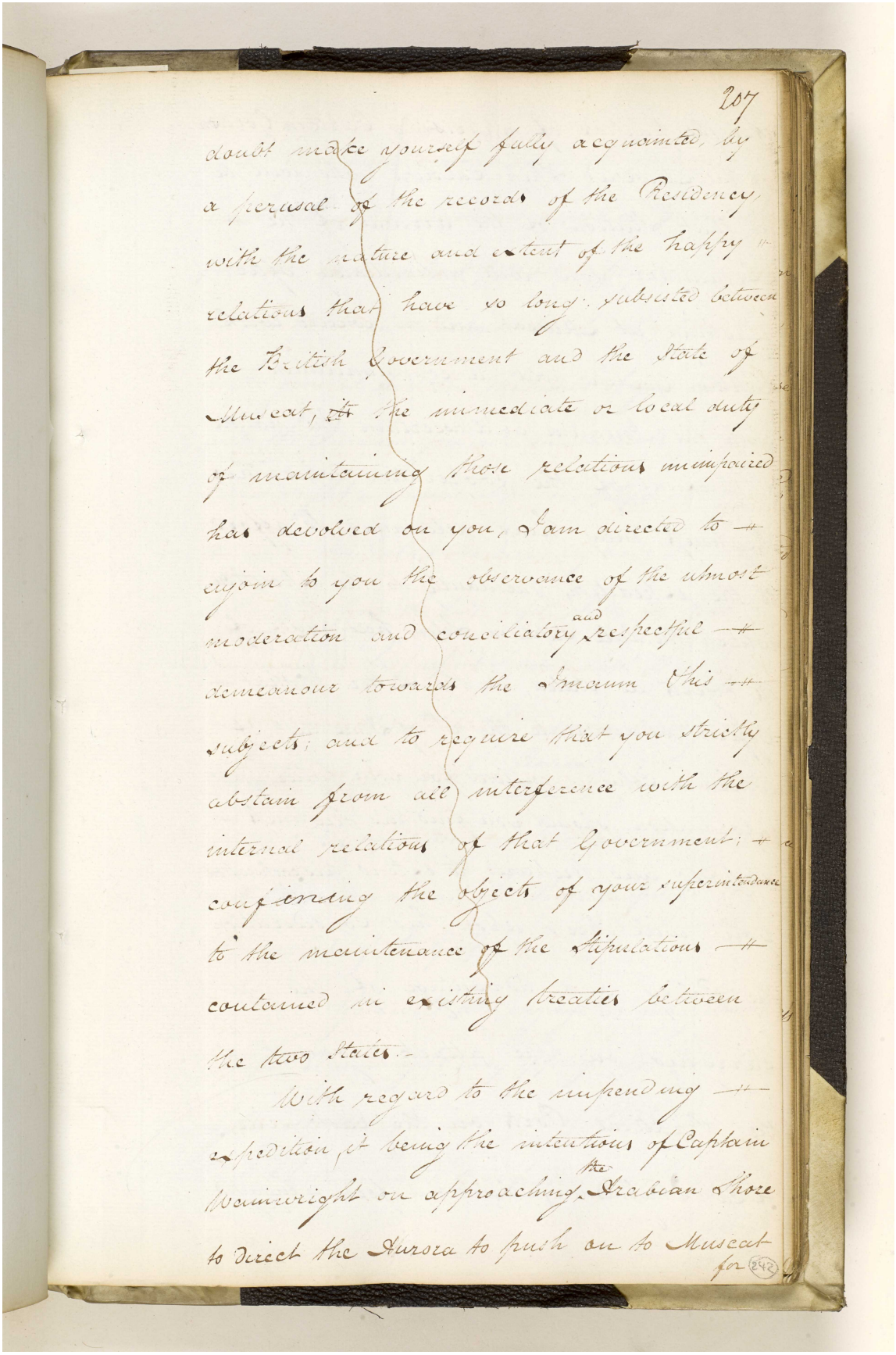

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doubt make yourself fully acquainted by a perusal of the records of the Residency with the nature and extent of the happy relations that have so long subsisted between the British Government and the State of Muscat, & the immediate & local duty of maintaining those relations unimpaired has devolved on you, I am directed to enjoin to you the observance of the utmost moderation and conciliatory and respectful demeanour towards the Imaum this subject; and to require that you strictly abstain from all interference with the internal relations of that Government; & concerning the objects of your superintendance to the maintenance of the stipulations contained in existing treaties between the two States.-

With regard to the impending expedition, it being the intentions of Captain Wainwright on approaching the Arabian shore to direct the Aurora to push on to Muscat for

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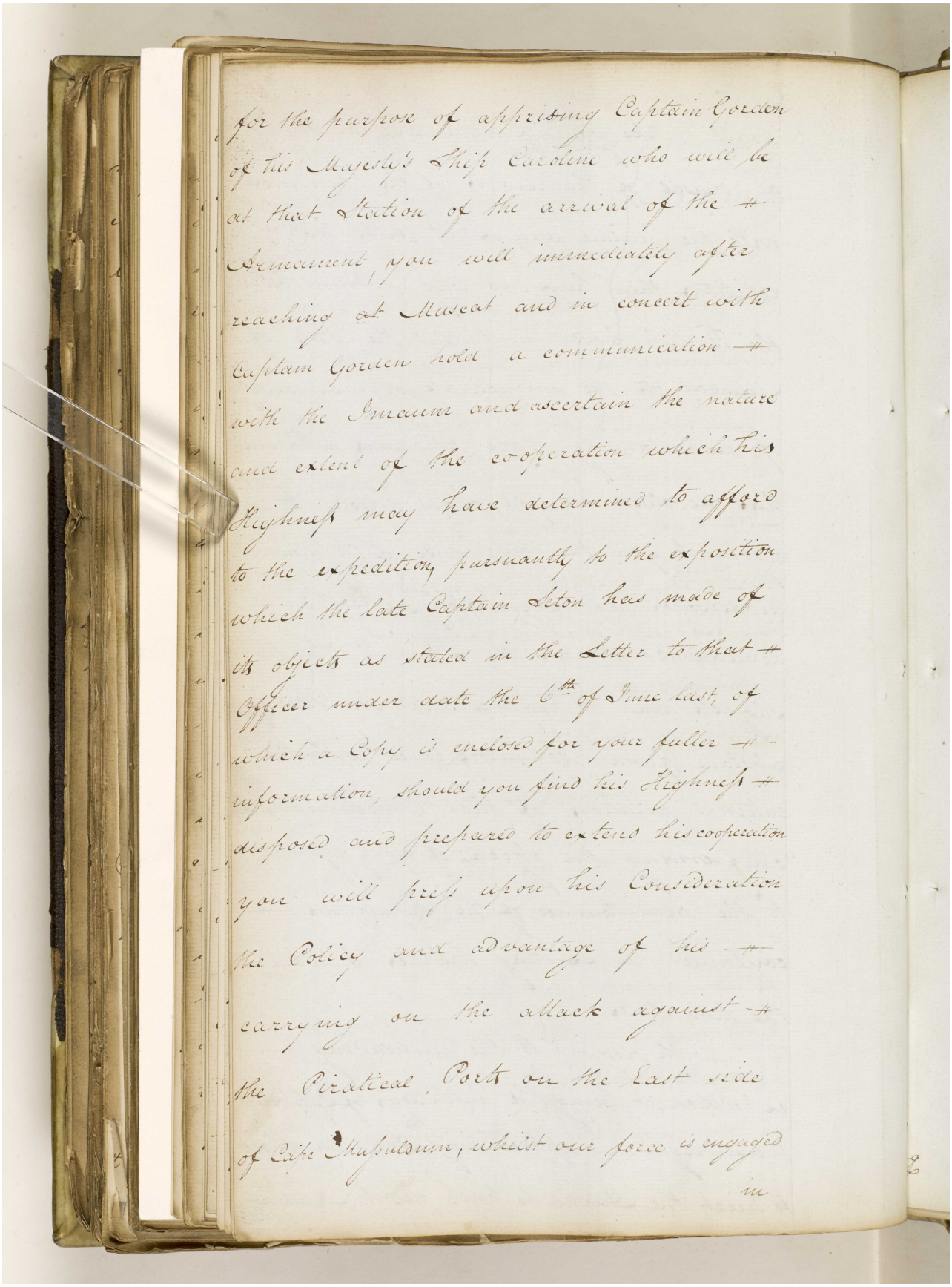

for the purpose of apprising Captain Gordon of his Majesty's Ship Caroline who will be at that Station of the arrival of the Armament, you will immediately after reaching Muscat and in concert with Captain Gordon hold a communication with the Imaum and ascertain the nature and extent of the cooperation which his Highness may have determined to afford to the expedition, pursuantly to the exposition which the late Captain Seton has made of its objects as stated in the Letter to that Officer under date the 6th of June last, of which a Copy is enclosed for your further information, should you find his Highness disposed and prepared to extend his cooperation you will press upon his Consideration the Policy and advantage of his carrying on the attack against the Piratical Ports on the East side of Cape Mussulum, whilst our force is engaged in

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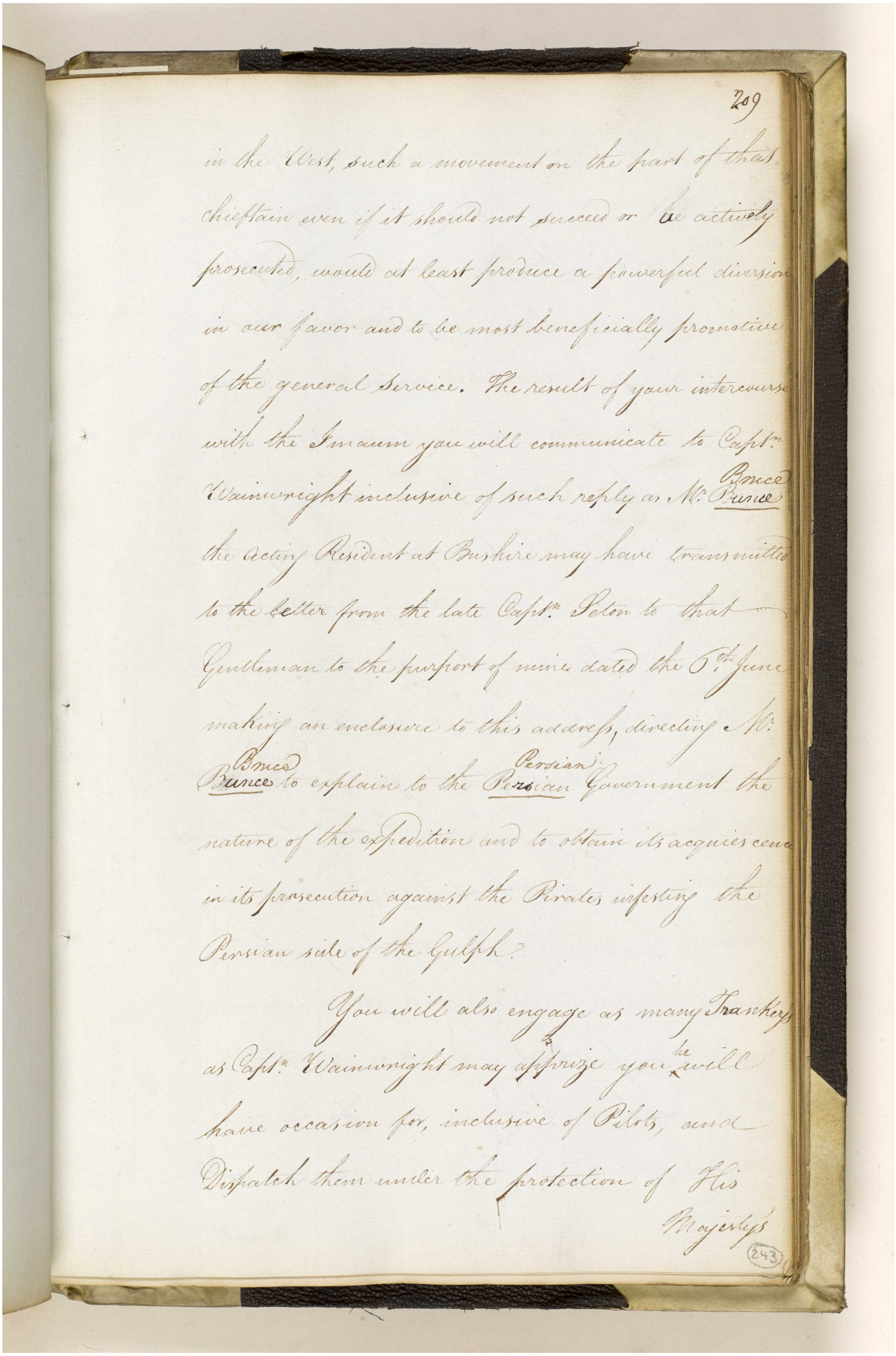

209

in the West, such a movement on the part of that Chieftain even if it should not succeed or be actively prosecuted, would at least produce a powerful diversion in our favor and to be most beneficially promotive of the general Service. The result of your intercourse with the Imaum you will communicate to Capt.n Wainwright inclusive of such reply as Mr. Bruce the acting Resident at Bushire may have transmitted to the letter from the late Capt.n Pelon to that Gentleman to the purport of mine dated the 5.th June making an enclosure to this address, directing Mr. Bruce to explain to the Persian Government the nature of the expedition and to obtain its acquiescence in its prosecution against the Pirates infesting the Persian side of the Gulph.

You will also engage as many Trankies as Capt.n Wainwright may apprize you he will have occasion for, inclusive of Pilots, and Dispatch them under the protection of His Majesty's

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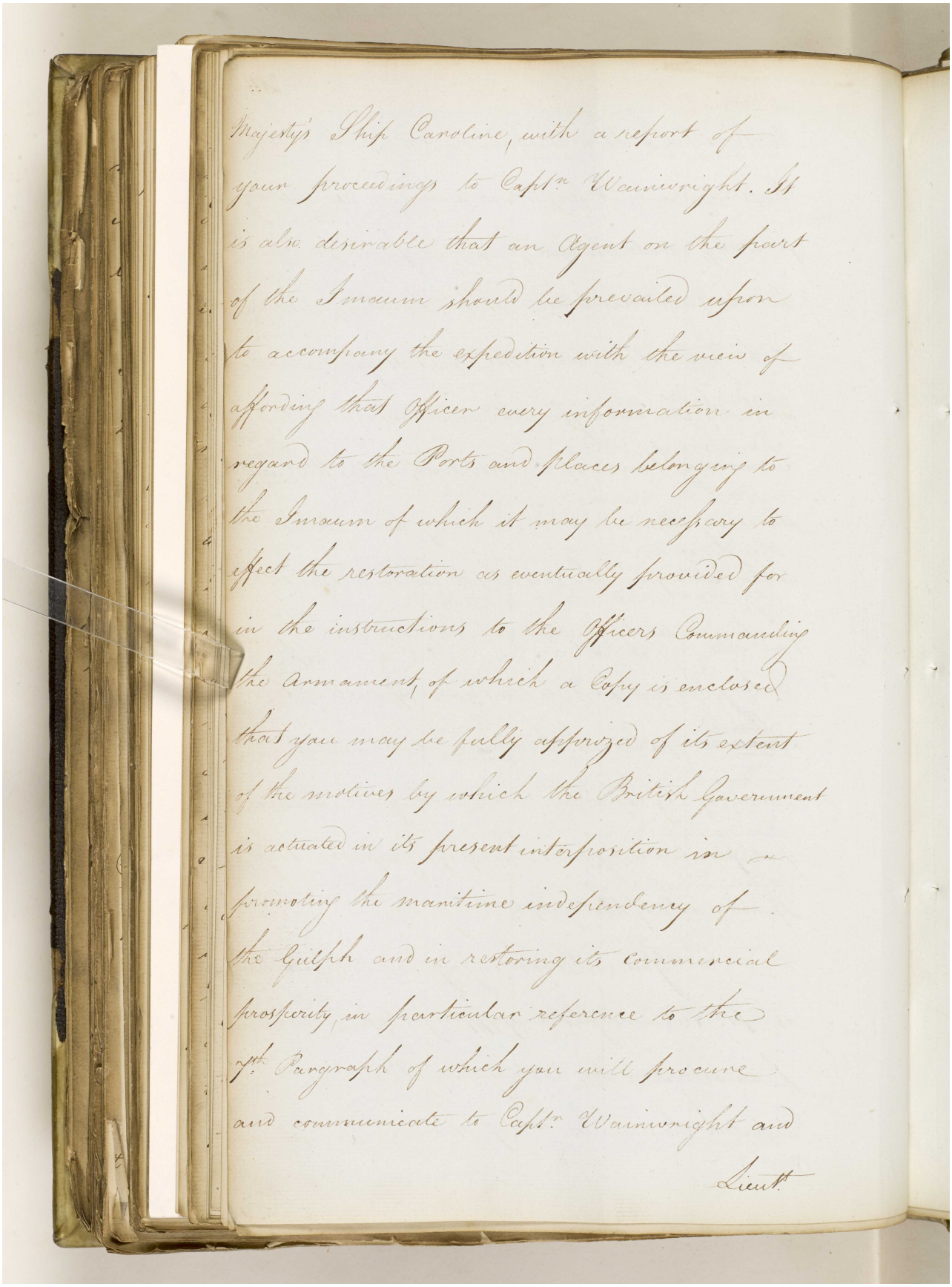

Majesty's Ship Caroline, with a report of
your proceedings to Captn Wainwright. It
is also desirable that an Agent on the part
of the Imaum should be prevailed upon
to accompany the expedition with the view of
affording that Officer every information in
regard to the Ports and places belonging to
the Imaum of which it may be necessary to
effect the restoration as eventually provided for
in the instructions to the Officers Commanding
the Armament, of which a Copy is enclosed
that you may be fully apprized of its extent
of the motives by which the British Government
is actuated in its present interposition in
promoting the maritime independency of
the Gulph and in restoring its commercial
prosperity, in particular reference to the
7th Paragraph of which you will procure
and communicate to Captn Wainwright and
Lieut.

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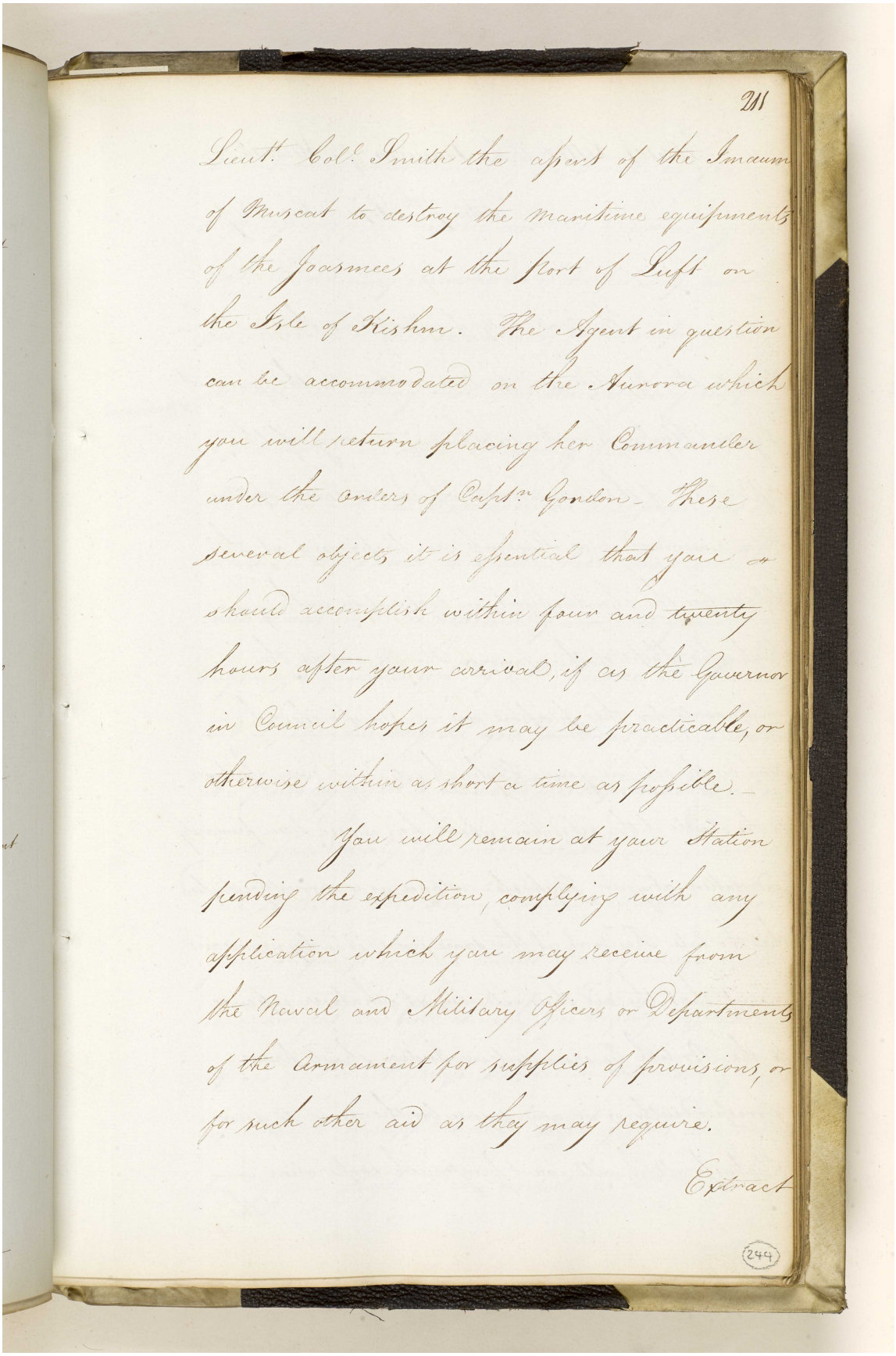

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Lieut.t Col.e Smith the agent of the Imaum of Muscat to destroy the maritime equipments of the Joasmees at the Port of Luft on the Isle of Kishm. The Agent in question can be accommodated on the Aurora which you will return placing her Commander under the orders of Capt.n Gordon. These several objects it is essential that you should accomplish within four and twenty hours after your arrival, if as the Governor in Council hopes it may be practicable, or otherwise within as short a time as possible.

You will remain at your station pending the expedition, complying with any application which you may receive from the Naval and Military Officers or Departments of the Armament for supplies of provisions, or for such other aid as they may require.

Extract

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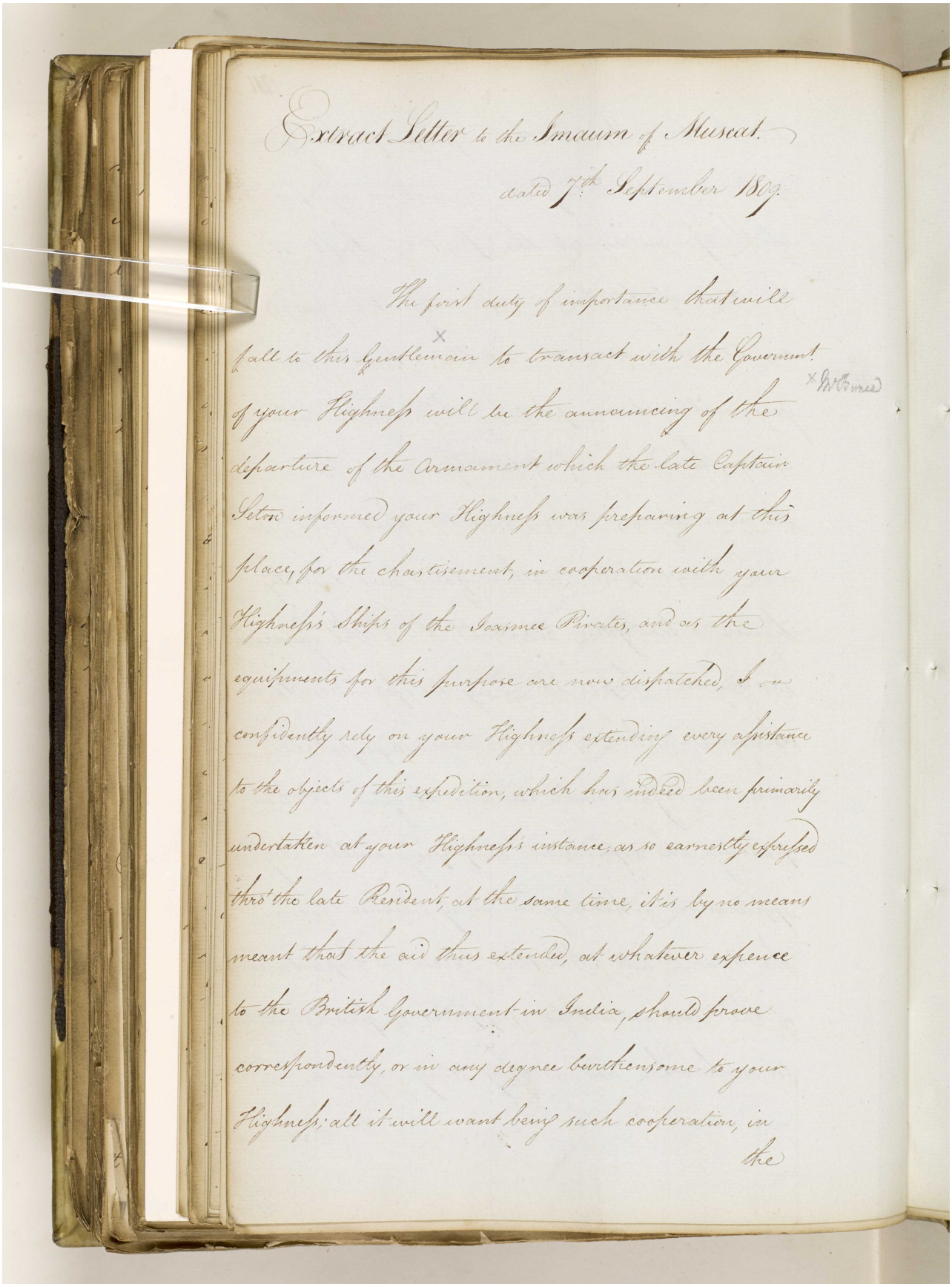
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [244v] (214/294)



Extract Letter to the Imaum of Muscat.
dated 7th September 1809.

The first duty of importance that will
fall to this Gentleman to transact with the Govermt
of your Highness will be the announcing of the
departure of the Armament which the late Captain
Seton informed your Highness was preparing at this
place, for the chastisement, in cooperation with your
Highness's Ships of the Joasmee Pirates, and as the
equipments for this purpose are now dispatched, I am
confidently rely on your Highness extending every assistance
to the objects of this expedition, which has indeed been primarily
undertaken at your Highness's instance, as so earnestly expressed
thro' the late Resident, at the same time, it is by no means
meant that the aid thus extended, at whatever expence
to the British Government in India, should prove
correspondently, or in any degree burthensome to your
Highness; all it will want being such cooperation, in
the

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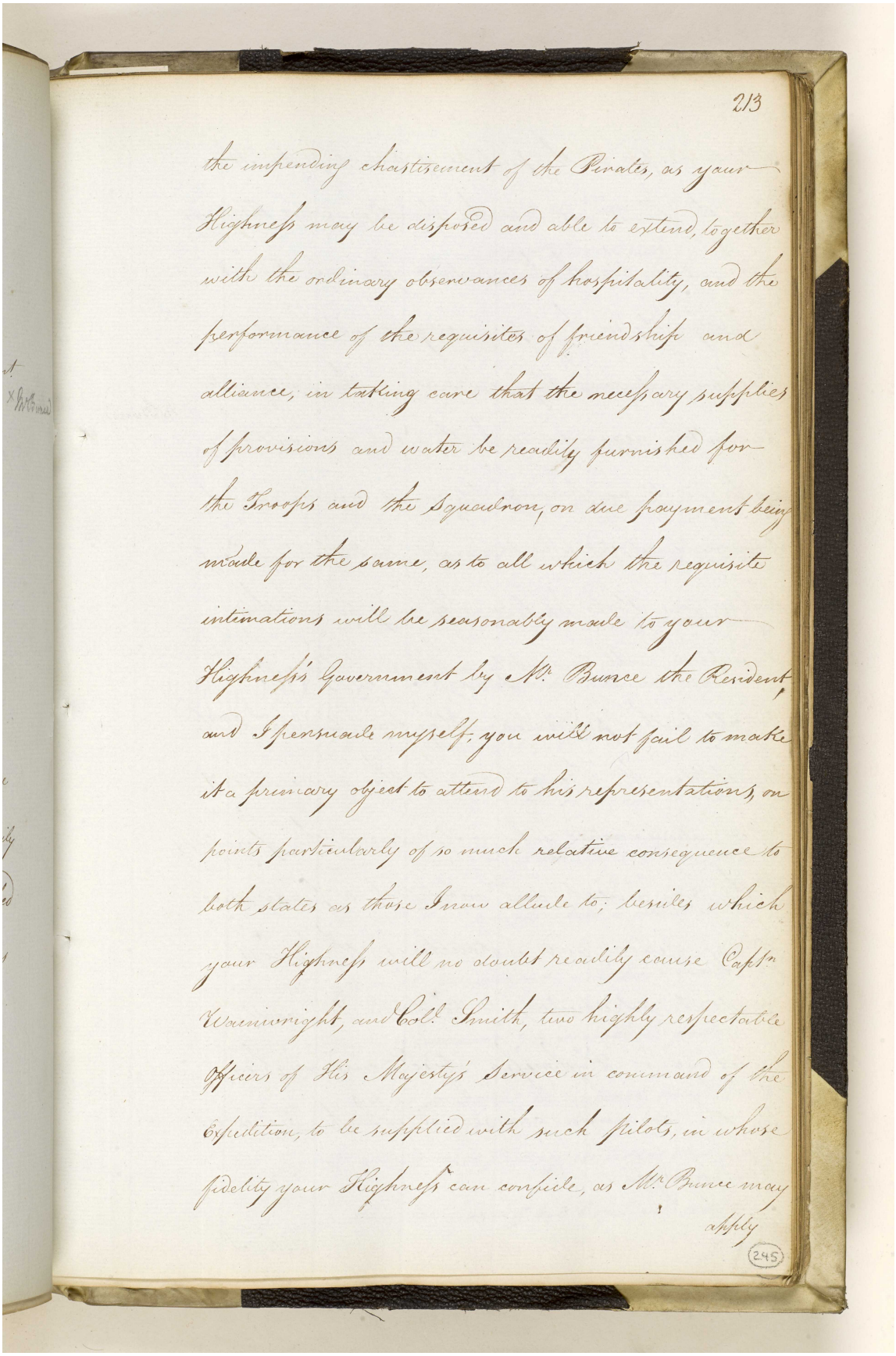

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the impending chastisement of the Pirates, as your Highness may be disposed and able to extend, together with the ordinary observances of hospitality, and the performance of the requisites of friendship and alliance, in taking care that the necessary supplies of provisions and water be readily furnished for the Troops and the Squadron, on due payment being made for the same, as to all which the requisite intimations will be seasonably made to your Highness's Government by Mr. Bruce the Resident, and I persuade myself, you will not fail to make it a primary object to attend to his representations, on points particularly of so much relative consequence to both states as those I now allude to; besides which your Highness will no doubt readily cause Capt.n Wainwright, and Col.l Smith, two highly respectable Officers of His Majesty's Service in command of the Expedition, to be supplied with such pilots, in whose fidelity your Highness can confide, as Mr. Bruce may apply

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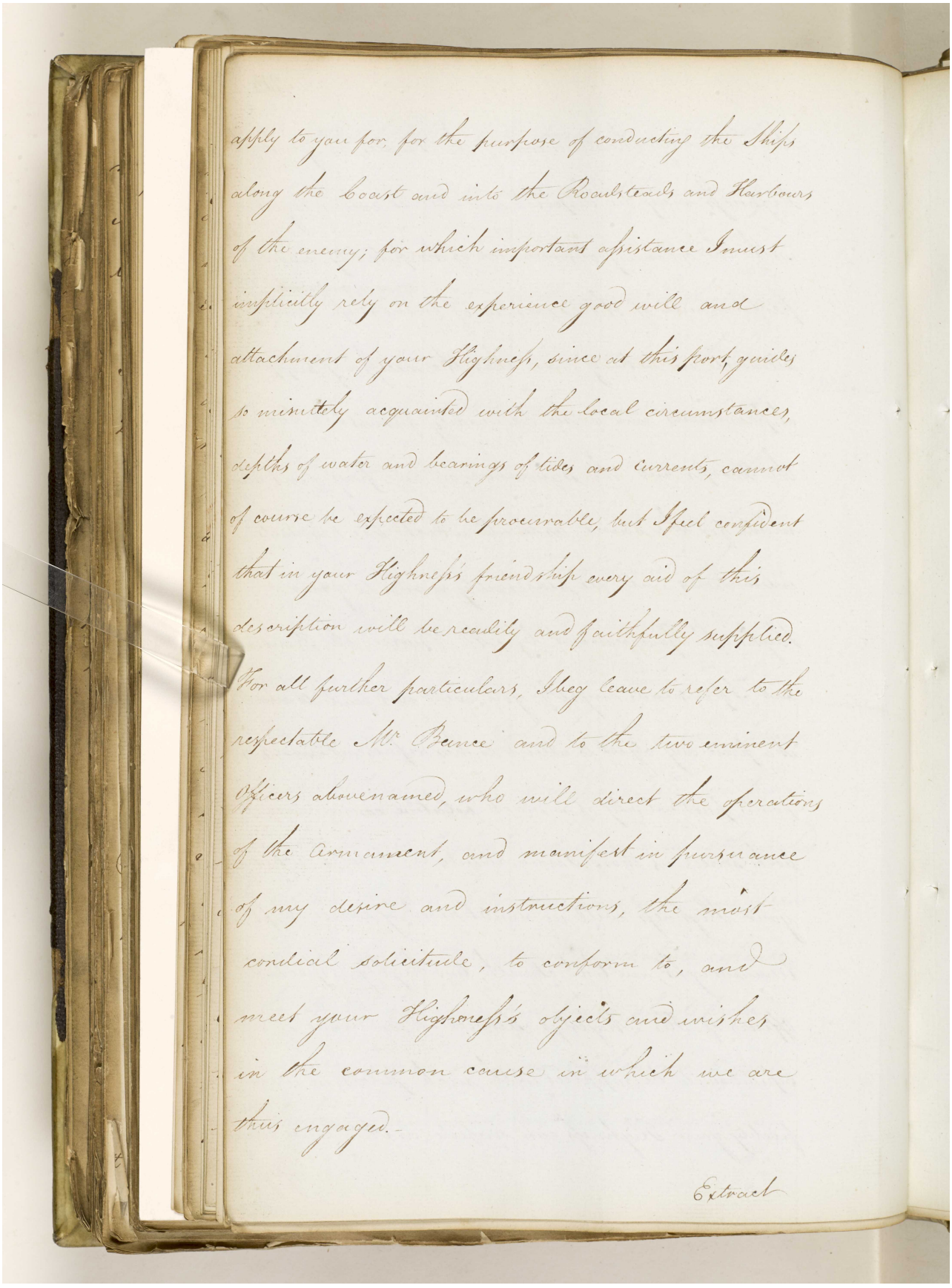

apply to you for, for the purpose of conducting the Ships along the Coast and into the Roadsteads and Harbours of the enemy; for which important assistance I must implicitly rely on the experience good will and attachment of your Highness, since at this port you are so minutely acquainted with the local circumstances, depths of water and bearings of tides and currents, cannot of course be expected to be procurable, but I feel confident that in your Highness's friendship every aid of this description will be readily and faithfully supplied.

For all further particulars, I beg leave to refer to the respectable Mr. Bence and to the two eminent Officers abovenamed, who will direct the operations of the Armament, and manifest in pursuance of my desire and instructions, the most cordial solicitude, to conform to, and meet your Highness's objects and wishes in the common cause in which we are thus engaged.

Extract

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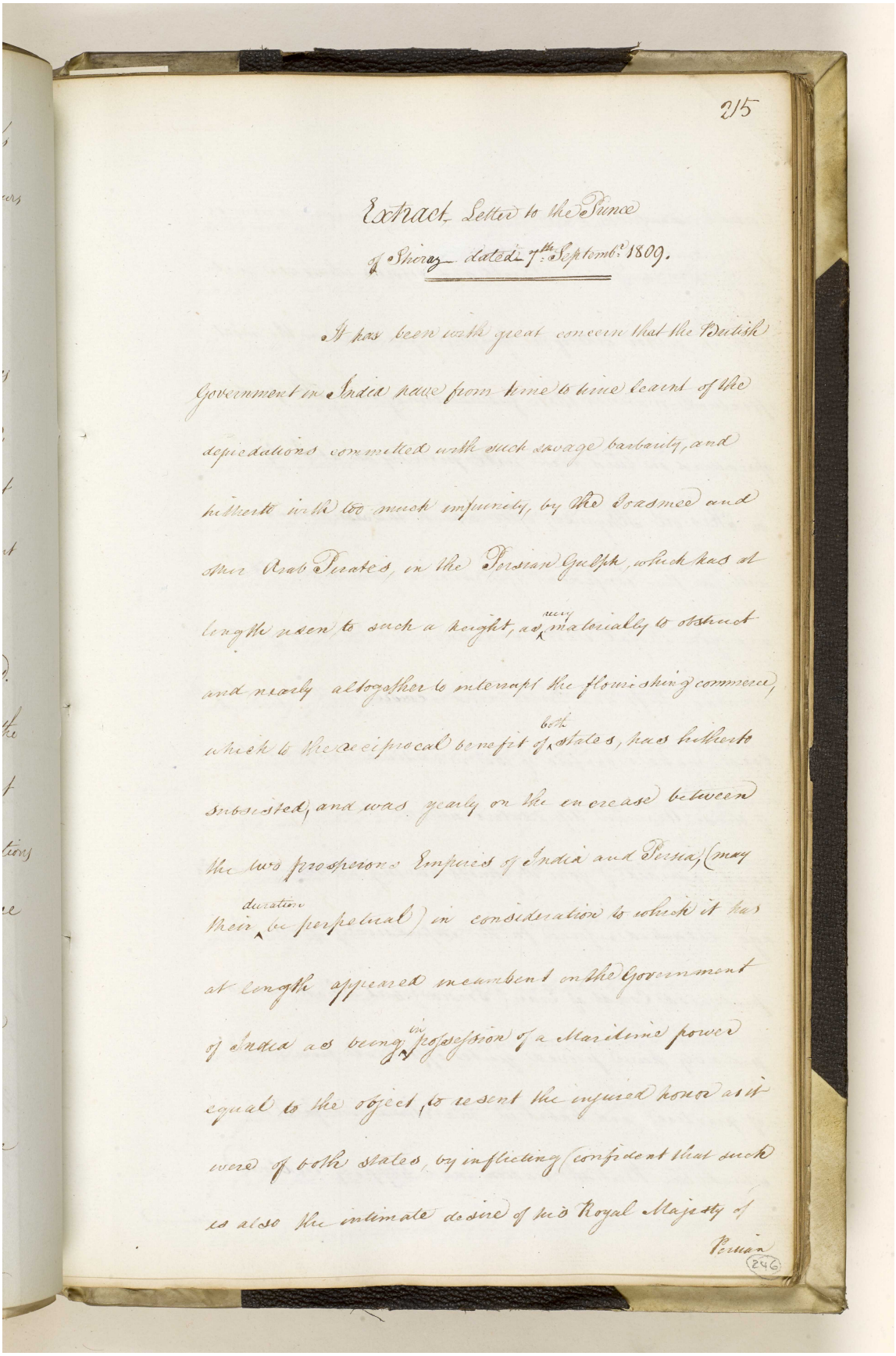
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [246r] (217/294)



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Extract Letter to the Prince of Shiraz dated 7th September 1809.

It has been with great concern that the British Government in India have from time to time learnt of the depredations committed with such savage barbarity, and hitherto with too much impunity, by the Joasmee and other Arab Pirates, in the Persian Gulph, which has at length risen to such a height, as very materially to obstruct and nearly altogether to interrupt the flourishing commerce, which to the reciprocal benefit of both states, has hitherto subsisted, and was yearly on the increase between the two prosperous Empires of India and Persia, (may their duration be perpetual) in consideration to which it has at length appeared incumbent on the Government of India as being in possession of a Maritime power equal to the object, to resent the injuried honor as it were of both States, by inflicting (confident that such is also the intimate desire of his Royal Majesty of Persia

(246)

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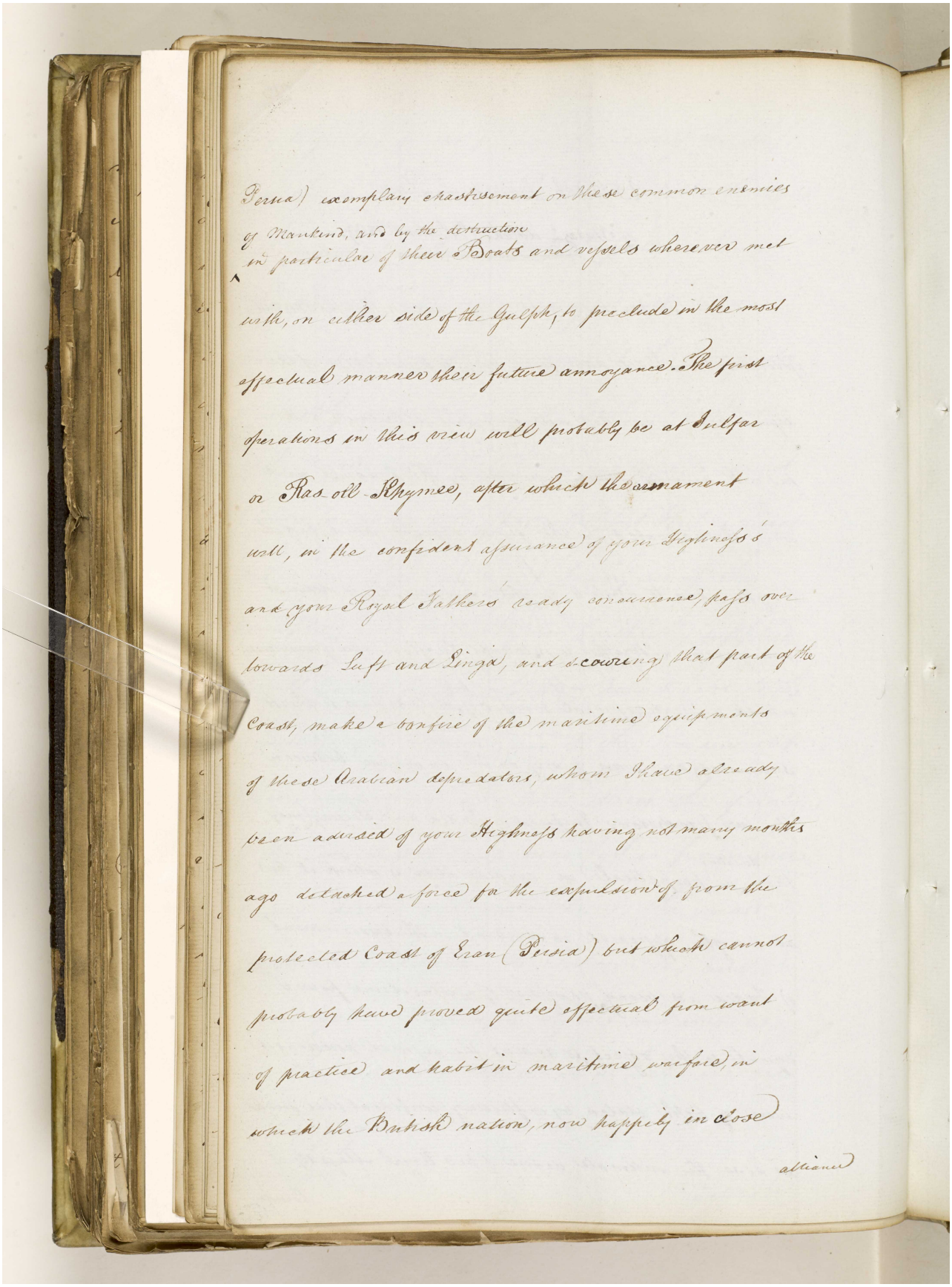

Persia) exemplary chastisement on these common enemies
of Mankind, and by the destruction
in particular of their Boats and vessels wherever met
with, on either side of the Gulph, to preclude in the most
effectual manner their future annoyance. The first
operations in this view will probably be at Bulfar
or Ras ool Khymer, after which the armament
will, in the confident assurance of your Highness's
and your Royal Fathers ready concurrence pass over
towards Luft and Linga, and discovering that part of the
Coast, make a bonfire of the maritime equipments
of these Arabian depredators, whom I have already
been advised of your Highness having not many months
ago detached a force for the expulsion of, from the
protected Coast of Eran (Persia) but which cannot
probably have proved quite effectual from want
of practice and habit in maritime warfare, in
which the British nation, now happily in close
alliance

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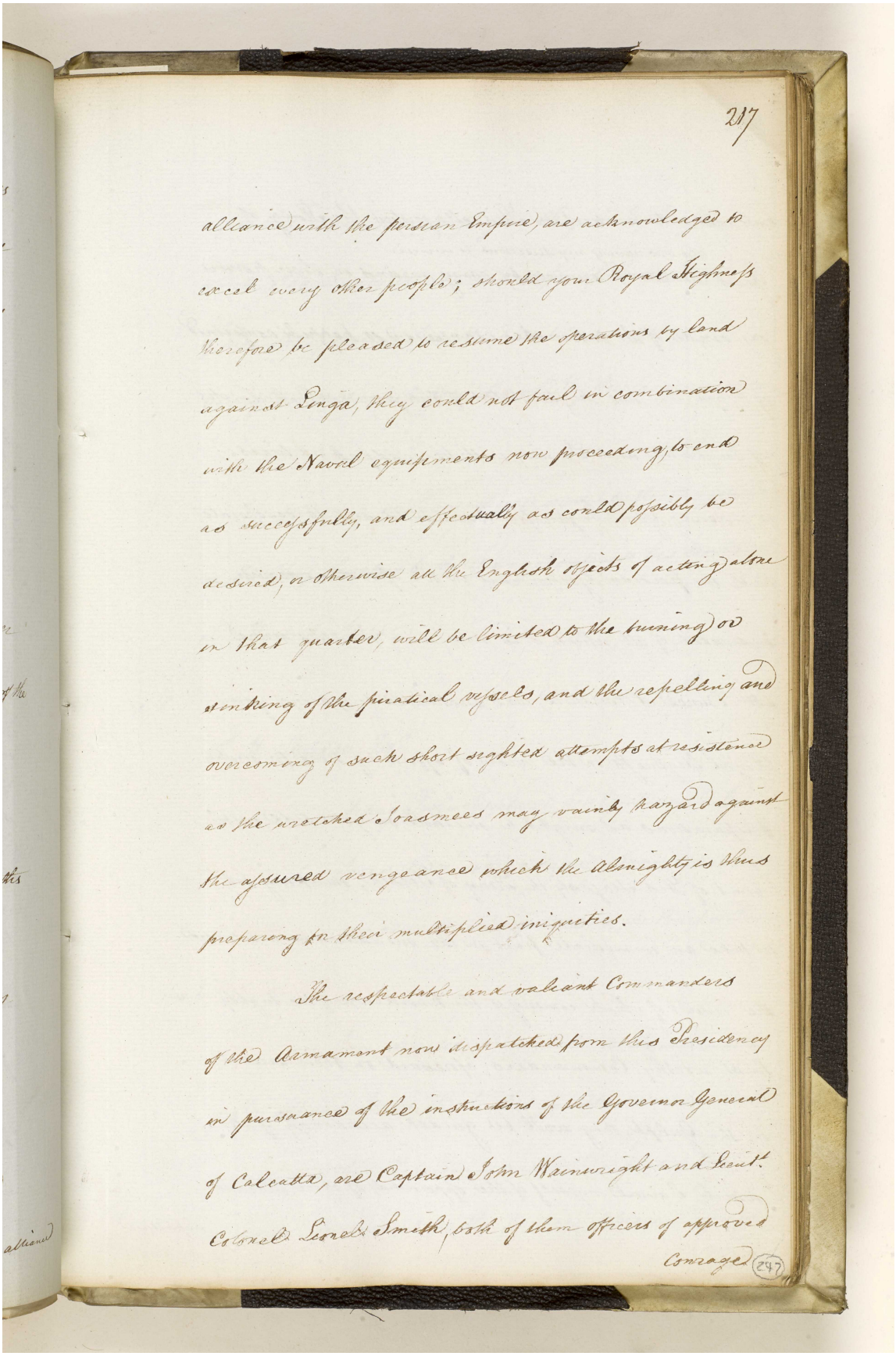

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alliance with the persian Empire, are acknowledged to excel every other people; should your Royal Highness therefore be pleased to resume the operations by land against Linga, they could not fail in combination with the Naval equipments now proceeding, to end as successfully, and effectually as could possibly be desired, or otherwise all the English objects of acting alone in that quarter, will be limited to the burning or sinking of the piratical vessels, and the repelling and overcoming of such short sighted attempts at resistence as the wretched Joasmees may vainly hazard against the assured vengeance which the Almighty is thus preparing for their multiplied iniquities.

The respectable and valiant Commanders of the Armament now dispatched from this Presidency in pursuance of the instructions of the Governor General of Calcutta, are Captain John Wainwright and Lieut.t Colonel Leonel Smith, both of them officers of approved Courage (247)

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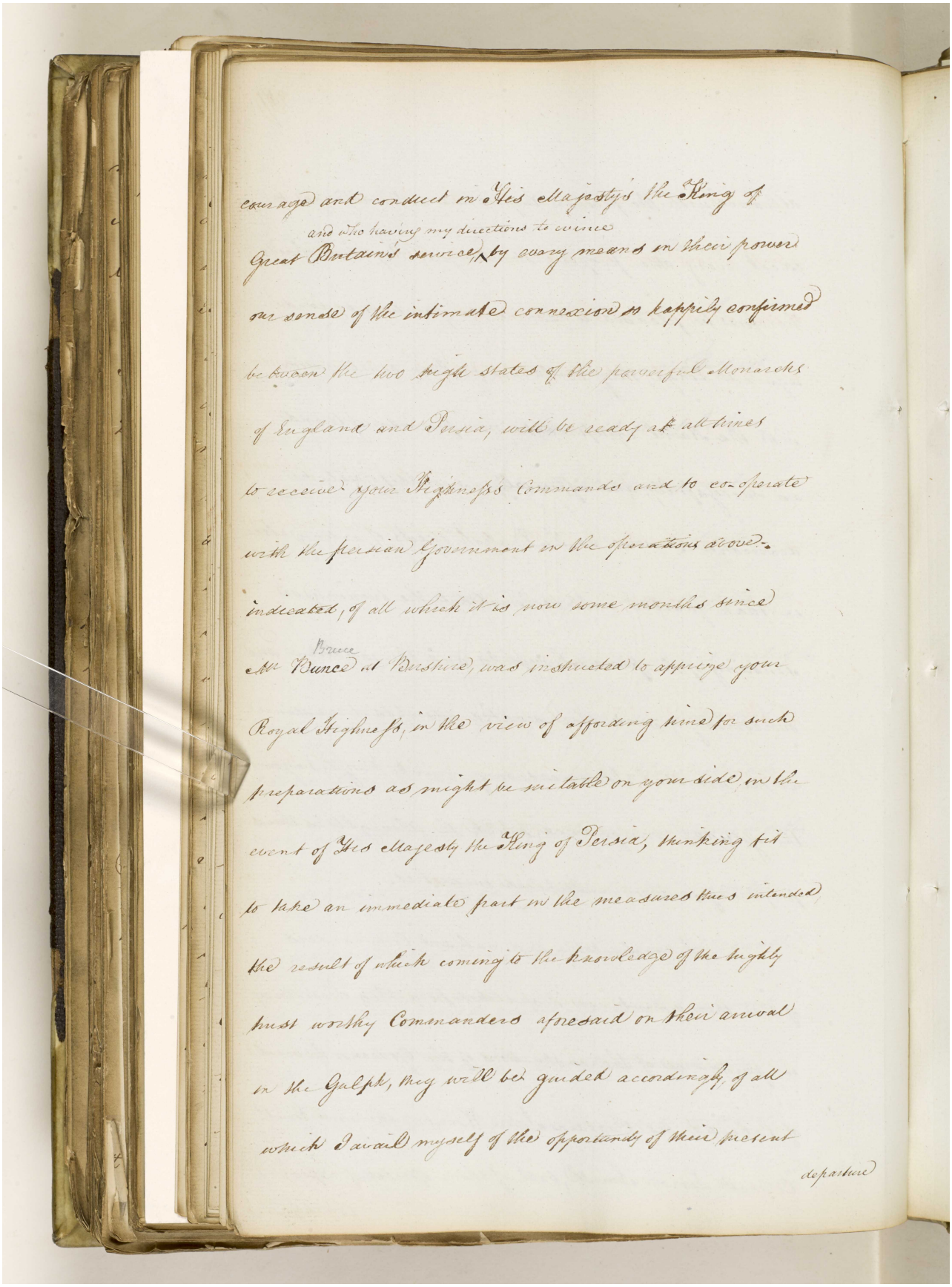

courage and conduct in His Majesty's the King of
and who having my directions to evince
Great Britain's service, by every means in their power
no sense of the intimate connexion so happily confirmed
between the two Right States of the powerful Monarchs
of England and Persia, will be ready at all times
to receive your Highness's Commands and to co-operate
with the Persian Government in the operations above-
indicated, of all which it is now some months since
Mr Bunce at Bushire, was instructed to apprize your
Bruce
Royal Highness, in the view of affording time for such
preparations as might be suitable on your side, in the
event of His Majesty the King of Persia, thinking fit
to take an immediate part in the measures thus intended
the result of which coming to the knowledge of the highly
trust worthy Commanders aforesaid on their arrival
in the Gulph, they will be guided accordingly, of all
which I avail myself of the opportunity of their present
departure

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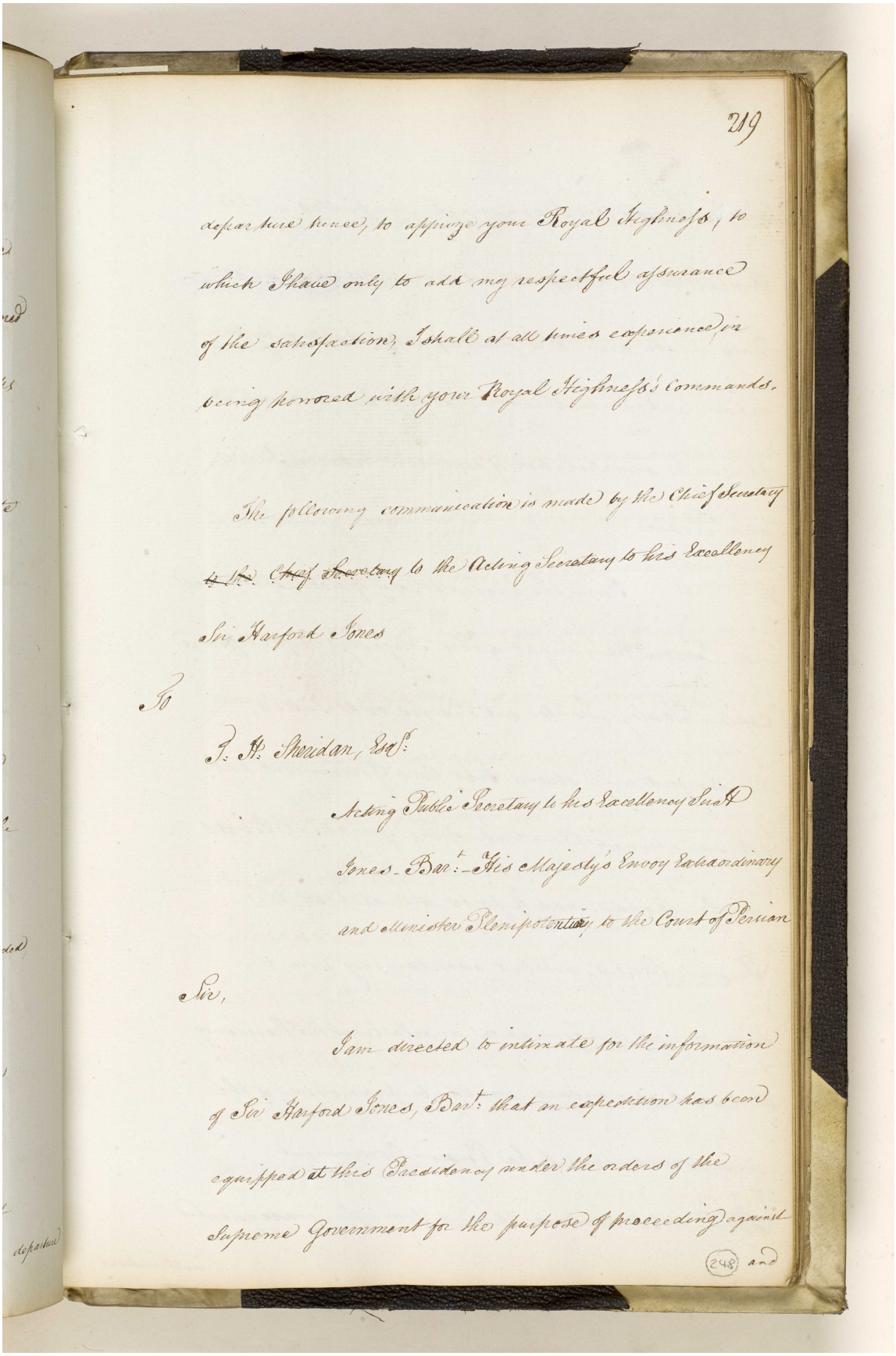

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departure hence, to appraize your Royal Highness, to which I have only to add my respectful assurance of the satisfaction I shall at all times experience in being honored with your Royal Highness's commands.

The following communication is made by the Chief Secretary ~~to the Chief Secretary~~ to the Acting Secretary to his Excellency Sir Harford Jones

To

J. H. Sheridan, Esq.

Acting Public Secretary to his Excellency Sir H. Jones Bart. – His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Persian

Sir,

I am directed to intimate for the information of Sir Harford Jones, Bart. that an expedition has been equipped at this Presidency under the orders of the Supreme Government for the purpose of proceeding against

(248) and

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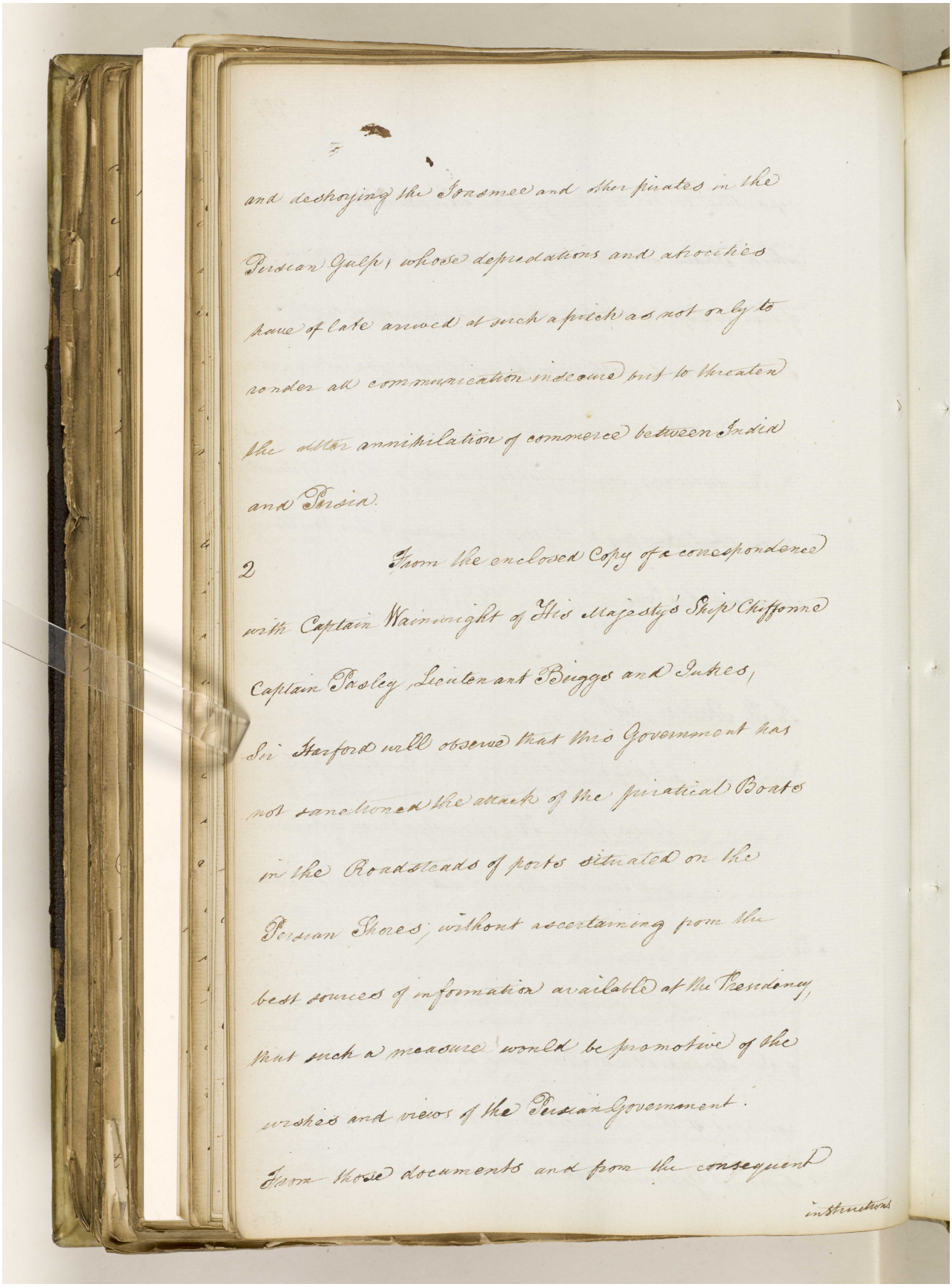

and destroying the Joasmee and other pirates in the Persian Gulph, whose depredations and atrocities have of late arrived at such a pitch as not only to render all communication insecure but to threaten the utter annihilation of commerce between India and Persia.

2 From the enclosed Copy of a correspondence with Captain Wainwright of His Majesty's Ship Chiffonne Captain Pasley, Lieutenant Briggs and Jukes, Sir Hartford will observe that this Government has not sanctioned the attack of the piratical Boats in the Roadsteads of ports situated on the Persian Shores; without ascertaining from the best sources of information available at the Residency, that such a measure would be promotive of the wishes and views of the Persian Government. From those documents and from the consequent

instructions

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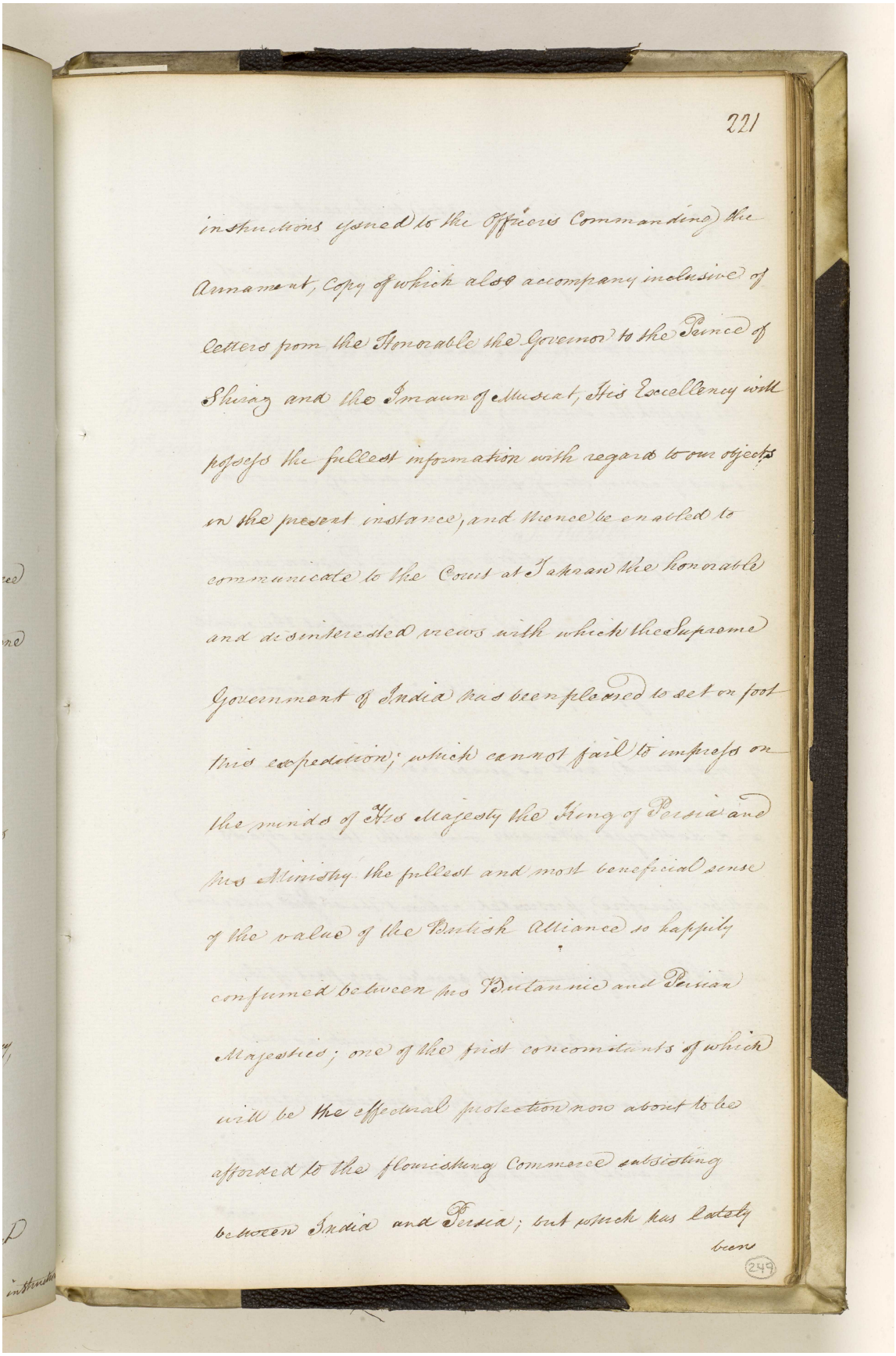

instructions issued to the Officers Commanding the
Armament, Copy of which also accompany inclusive of
Letters from the Honorable the Governor to the Prince of
Shiraz and the Imaum of Muscat, His Excellency will
possess the fullest information with regard to our objects
in the present instance, and thence be enabled to
communicate to the Court at Tehran the honorable
and disinterested views with which the Supreme
Government of India has been pleased to set on foot
this expedition; which cannot fail to impress on
the minds of His Majesty the King of Persia and
his Ministry the fullest and most beneficial sense
of the value of the British Alliance so happily
confirmed between his Britannic and Persian
Majesties; one of the first concomitants of which
will be the effectual protection now about to be
afforded to the flourishing Commerce subsisting
between India and Persia; but which has lately
been

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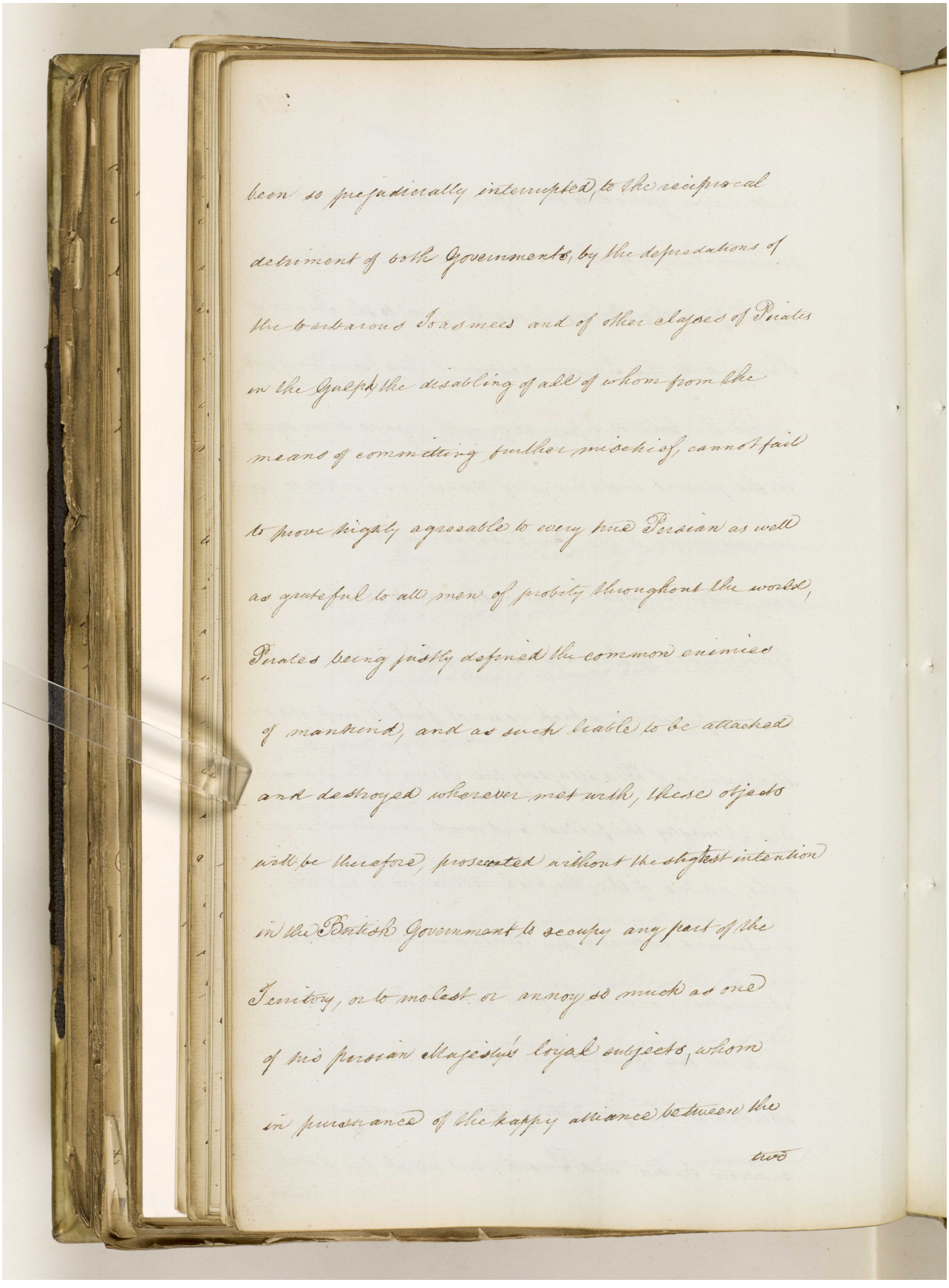

been so prejudicially interrupted, to the reciprocal
detriment of both Governments, by the depredations of
the barbarous Joasmees and of other classes of Pirates
in the Gulph, the disabling of all of whom from the
means of committing further mischief, cannot fail
to prove highly agreeable to every true Persian as well
as grateful to all men of probity throughout the world,
Pirates being justly defined the common enimies
of mankind, and as such liable to be attacked
and destroyed wherever met with, these objects
will be therefore, prosecuted without the slightest intention
in the British Government to occupy any part of the
Territory, or to molest or annoy so much as one
of his persian Majesty's loyal subjects, whom
in pursuance of the happy alliance between the
two

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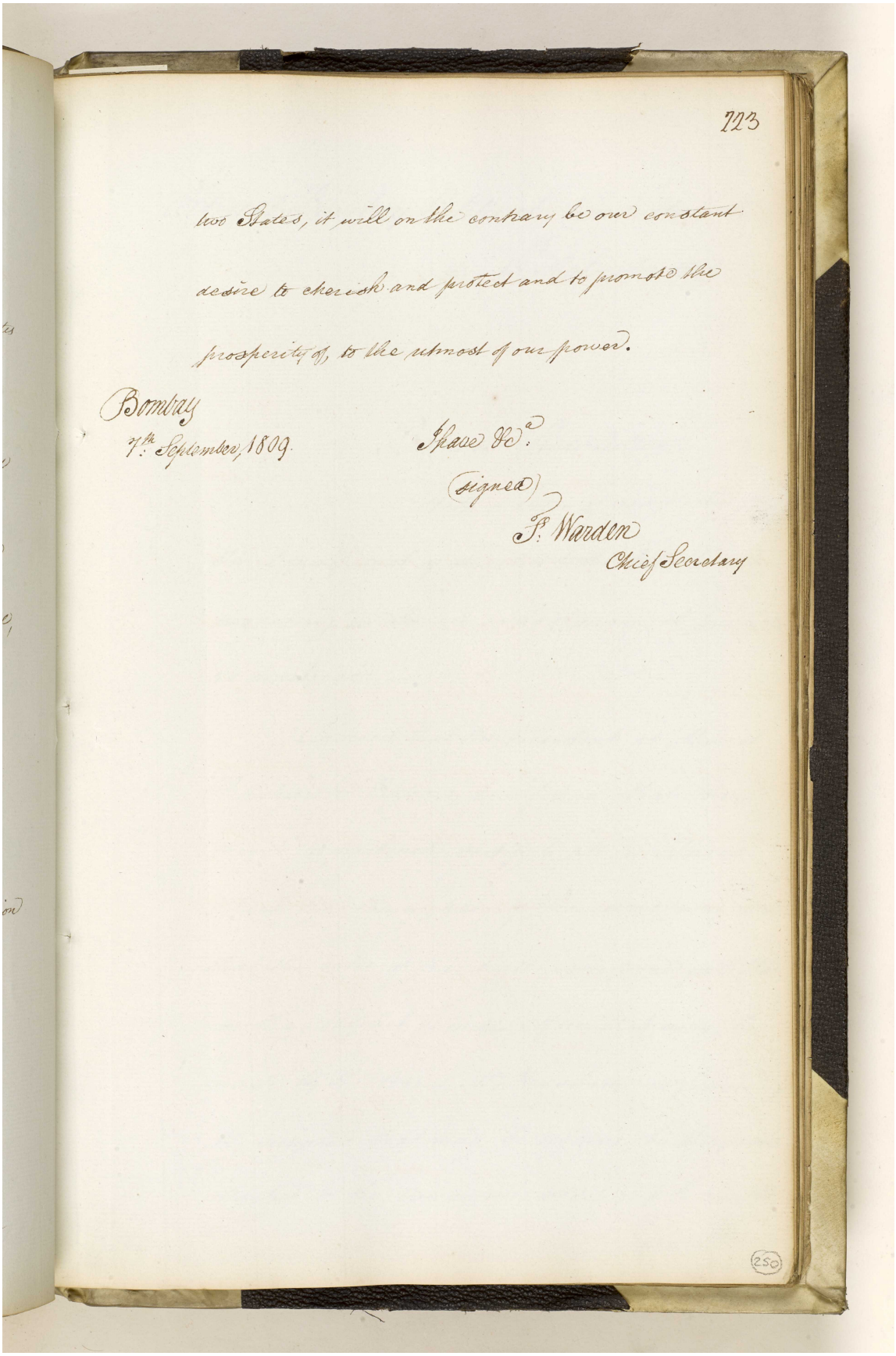

two States, it will on the contrary be our constant desire to cherish and protect and to promote the prosperity of, to the utmost of our power.

Bombay
7th. September, 1809.

I have &c.
(signed)
F. Warden
Chief Secretary

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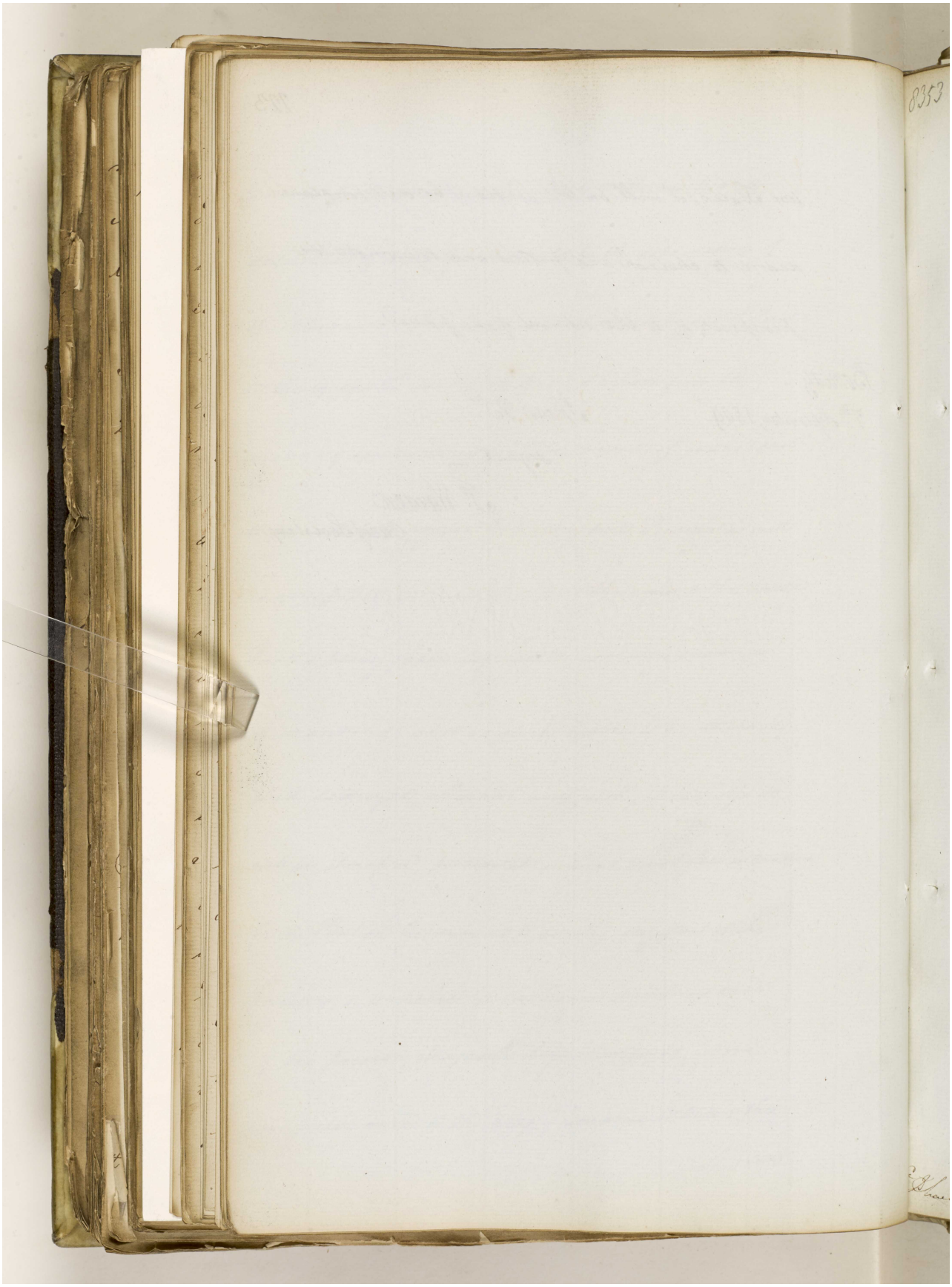

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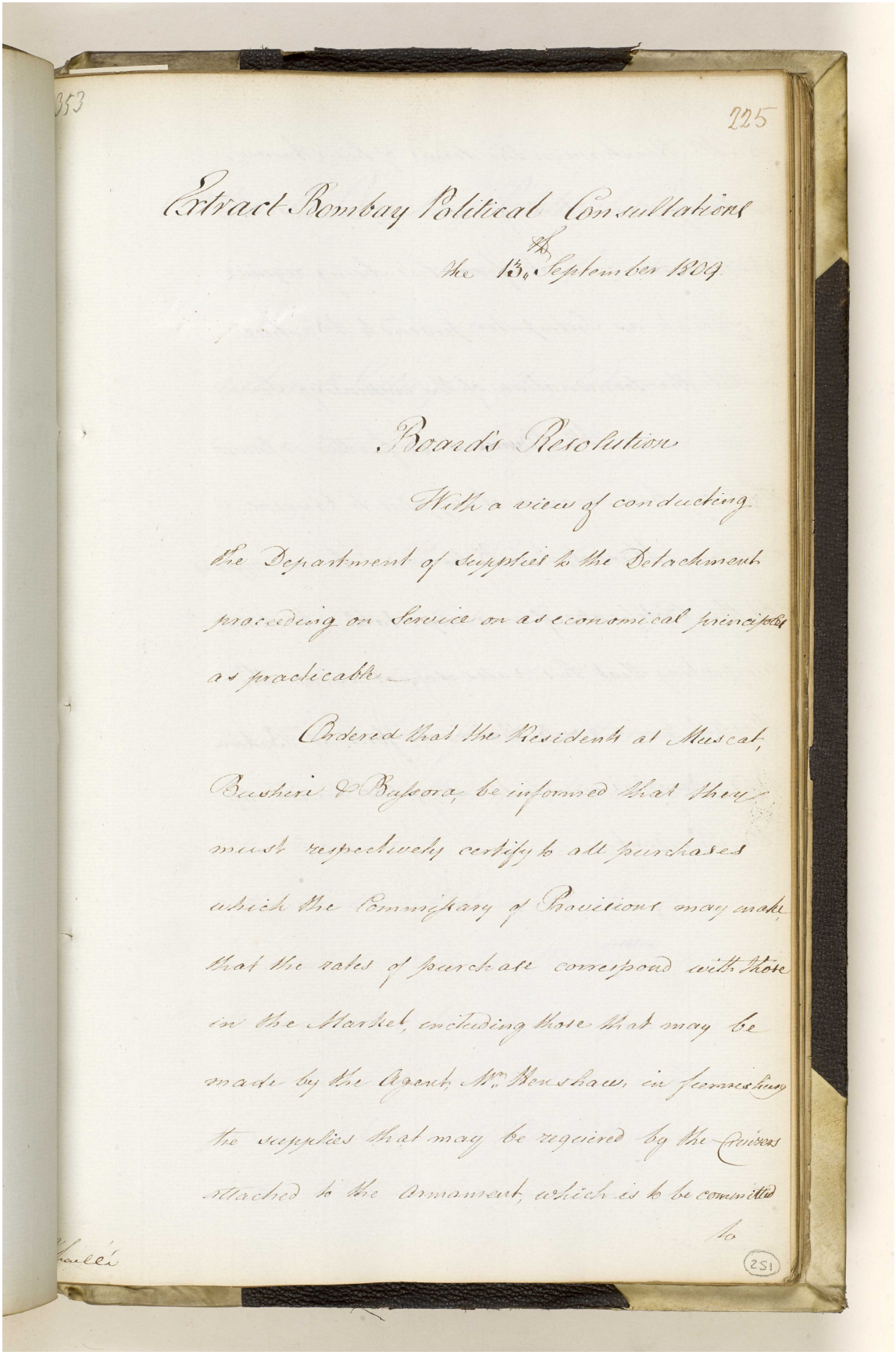

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 13th September 1809

Board's Resolution

With a view of conducting the Department of Supplies to the Detachment proceeding on Service on as economical principles as practicable—

Ordered that the Residents at Muscat, Bushire & Bussora, be informed that they must respectively certify to all purchases which the Commissary of Provisions may make, that the rates of purchase correspond with those in the Market, excluding those that may be made by the Agents Mr. Benshaw, in furnishing the supplies that may be required by the Gunboats attached to the Armament, which is to be committed to

Charles

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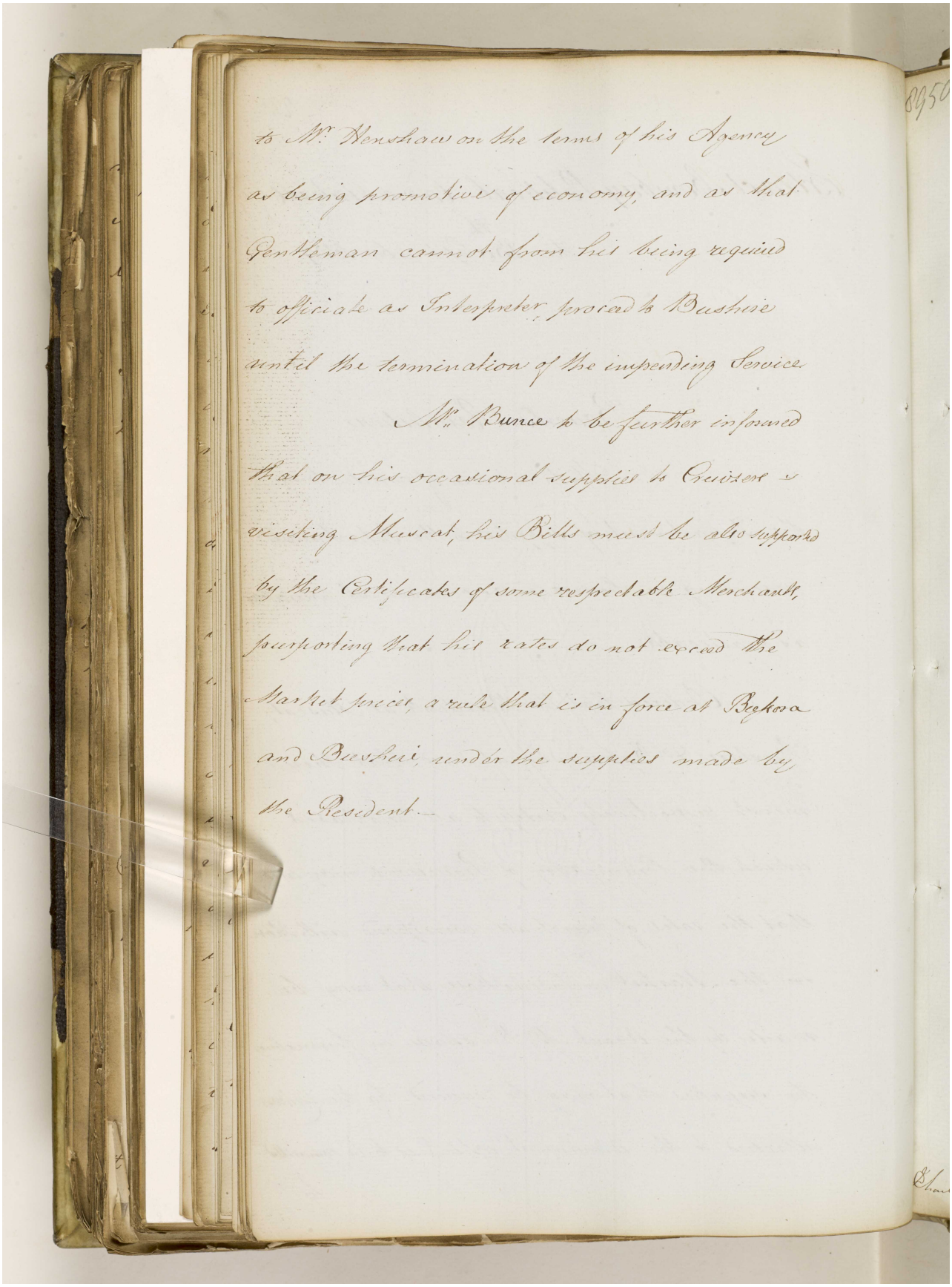

to Mr. Henshaw on the terms of his Agency as being promotive of economy, and as that Gentleman cannot from his being required to officiate as Interpreter proceed to Bushire until the termination of the impending Service

Mr. Bunce to be further informed that on his occasional supplies to Cruizers visiting Muscat, his Bills must be also supported by the Certificates of some respectable Merchants, purporting that his rates do not exceed the Market prices, a rule that is in force at Bykoa and Bussheir, under the supplies made by the Resident.—

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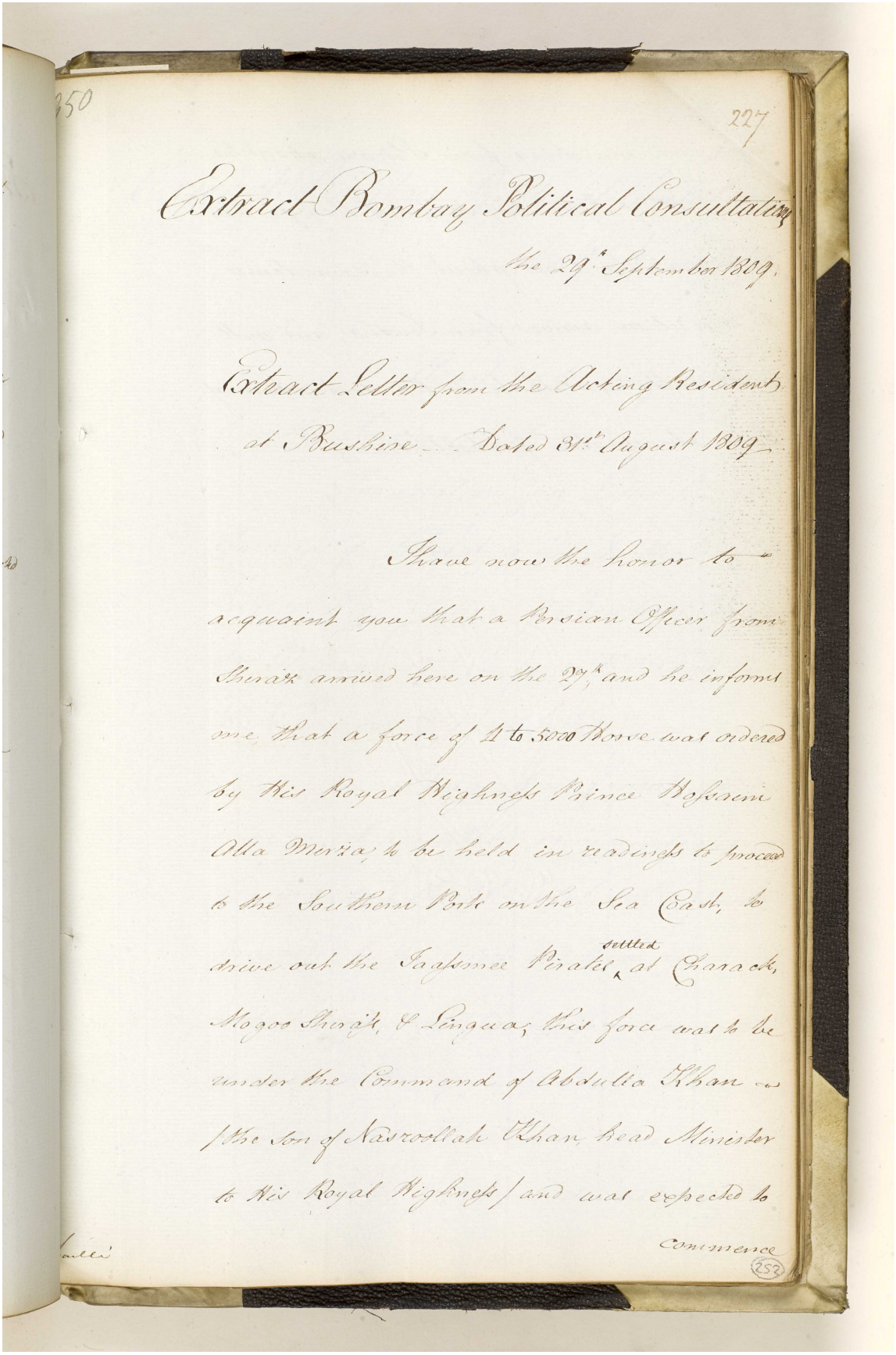

Extract Bombay Political Consultation

the 29th September 1809.

Extract Letter from the Acting Resident at Bushire — Dated 31st August 1809.

I have now the honor to acquaint you that a Persian Officer from Shiraz arrived here on the 27th, and he informs me, that a force of 4 to 5000 Horse was ordered by His Royal Highness Prince Hossaim Alla Mirza, to be held in readiness to proceed to the Southern Ports on the Sea Coast, to drive out the Jaassmee Pirates settled at Charack, Mogoo Shiraz, & Lingua; this force was to be under the Command of Abdulla Khan — (the son of Nasroollah Khan, head Minister to His Royal Highness) and was expected to

commence

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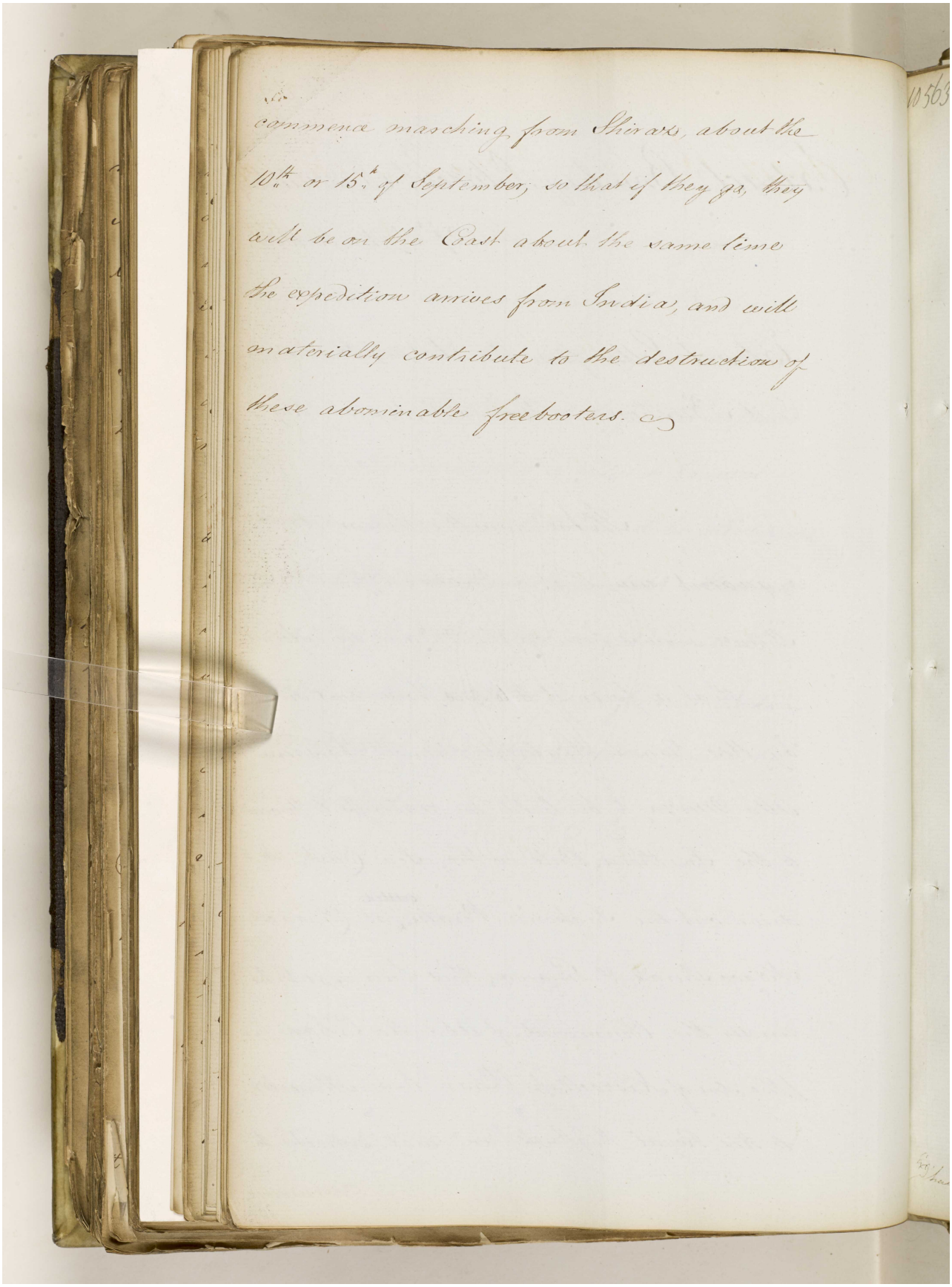

commence marching from Shiraz, about the
10th or 15th of September, so that if they go, they
will be on the Coast about the same time
the expedition arrives from India, and will
materially contribute to the destruction of
these abominable freebooters.

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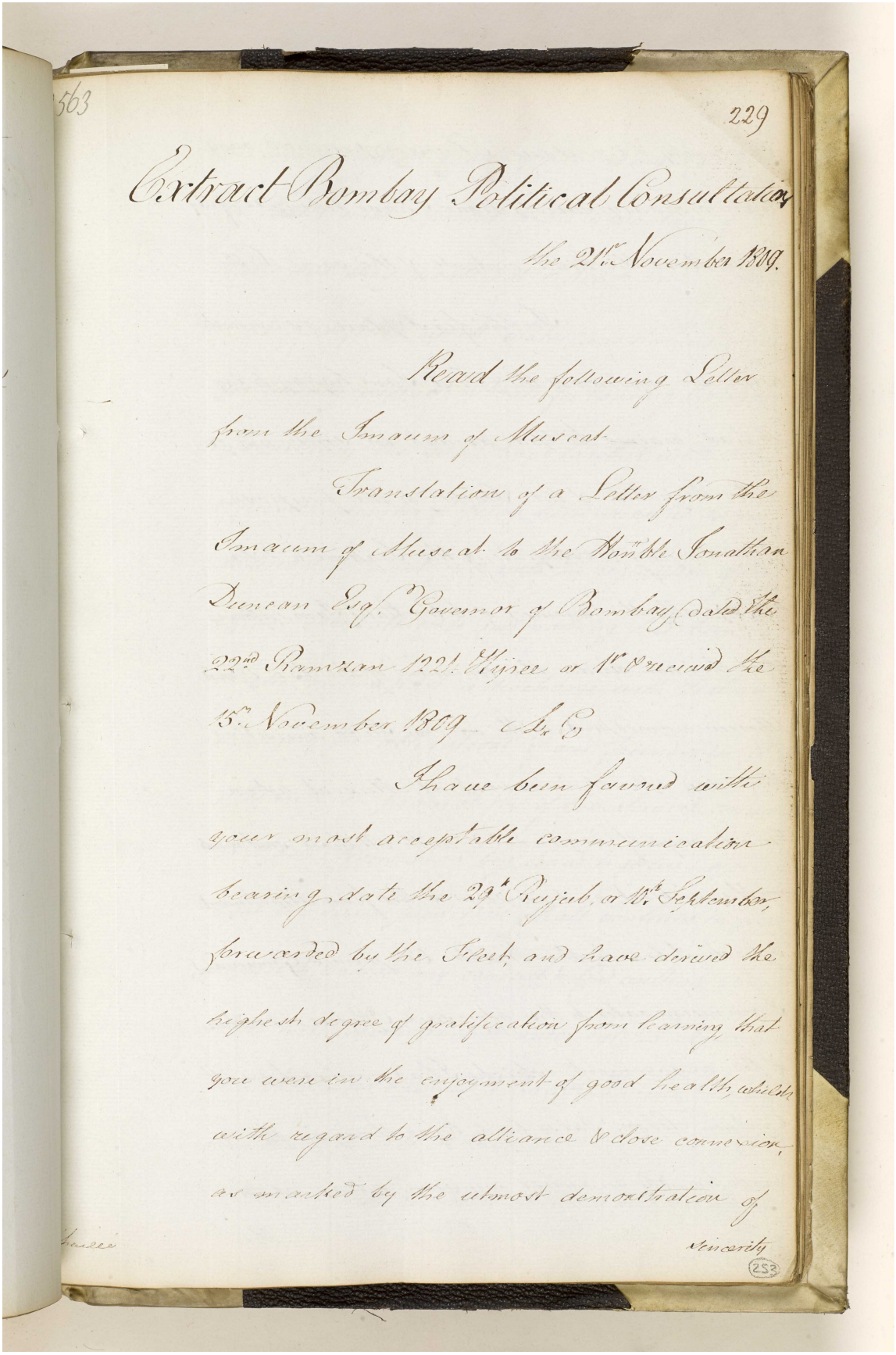

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Extract Bombay Political Consultation
the 21st November 1809.

Read the following Letter
from the Imaum of Muscat

Translation of a Letter from the
Imaum of Muscat to the Honble Jonathan
Duncan Esq. Governor of Bombay dated the
22nd Ramzan 1224 Hijree or 1st Octr received the
15th November 1809 A.D.

I have been favord with
your most acceptable communication
bearing date the 29th Rujeb or 11th September,
forwarded by the Fleet, and have derived the
highest degree of gratification from learning that
you were in the enjoyment of good health, which
with regard to the alliance & close connexion
as cemented by the utmost demonstration of
sincerity

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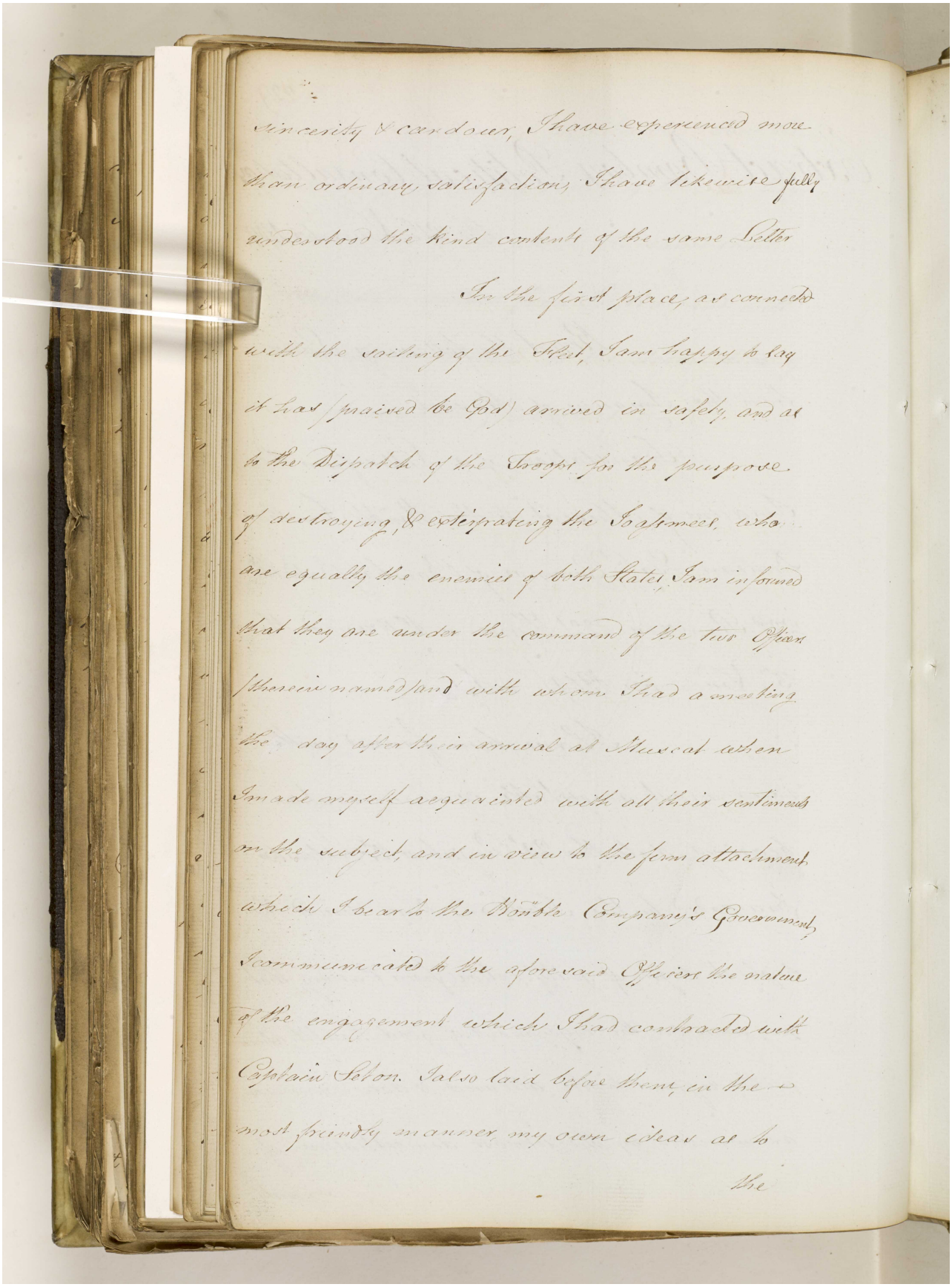

sincerity & candour, I have experienced more
than ordinary satisfaction, I have likewise fully
understood the kind contents of the same Letter

As the first place, as connected
with the writing of the Fleet, I am happy to say
it has (praised be God) arrived in safety, and as
to the Dispatch of the Troops for the purpose
of destroying & exterpating the Joasmees, who
are equally the enemies of both States, I am informed
that they are under the command of the two Officers
therein named, and with whom I had a meeting
the day after their arrival at Muscat when
I made myself acquainted with all their sentiments
on the subject, and in view to the firm attachment
which I bear to the Honble Company's Government
I communicated to the aforesaid Officers the nature
of the engagement which I had contracted with
Capt. Seton. I also laid before them, in the
most friendly manner, my own ideas as to
the

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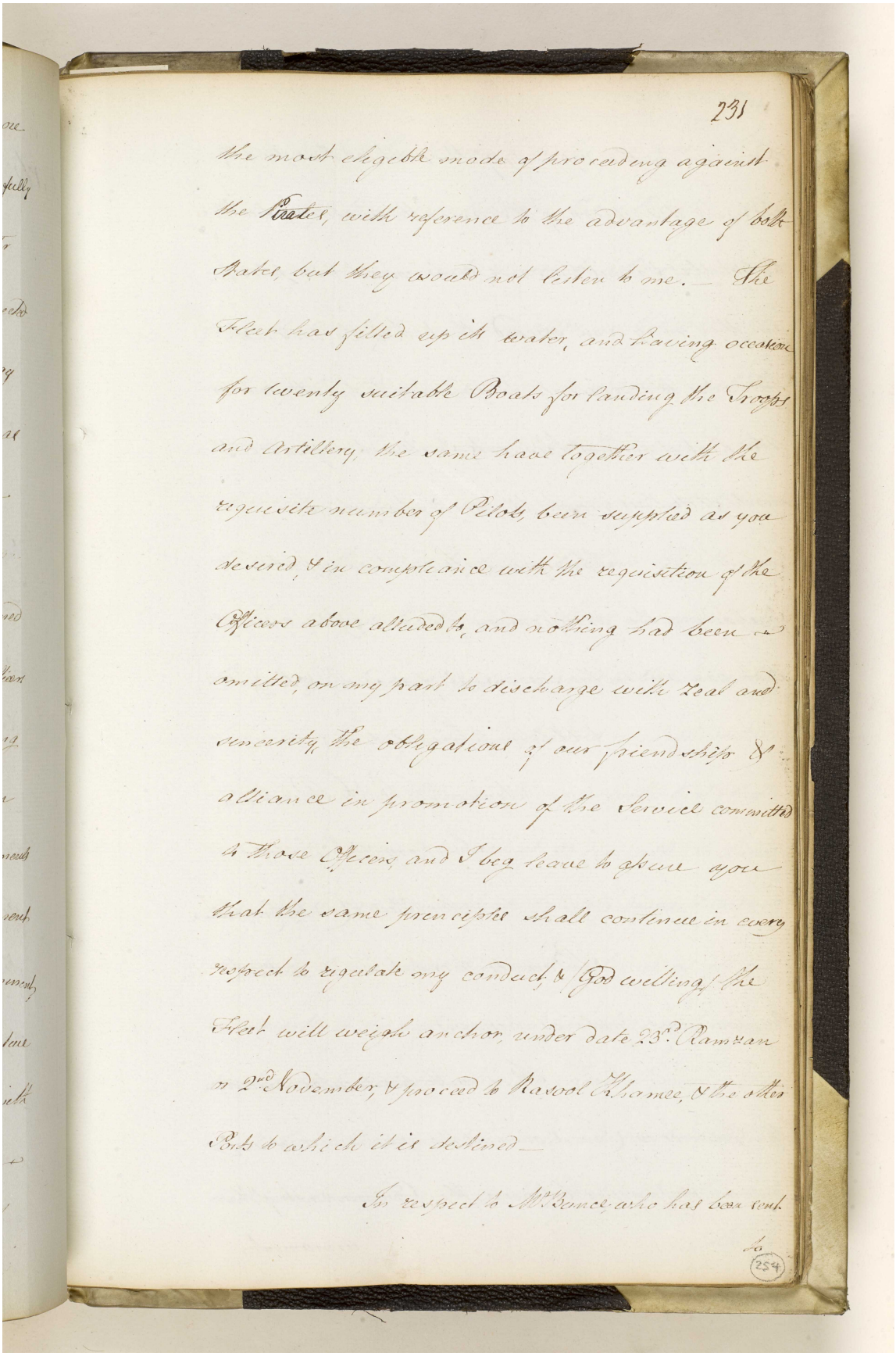

the most eligible mode of proceeding against the Pirates, with reference to the advantage of both States, but they would not listen to me. — The Fleet has filled up its water, and having occasion for twenty suitable Boats for landing the Troops and Artillery, the same have together with the requisite number of Pilots, been supplied as you desired, & in compliance with the requisition of the Officers above alluded to, and nothing had been omitted, on my part to discharge with zeal and sincerity the obligations of our friendship & alliance in promotion of the Service committed to those Officers, and I beg leave to assure you that the same principles shall continue in every respect to regulate my conduct, & (God willing) the Fleet will weigh anchor, under date 23rd Ramzan or 2nd November, & proceed to Rasool Khamee, & the other Ports to which it is destined —

In respect to Mr Bunce, who has been sent

to

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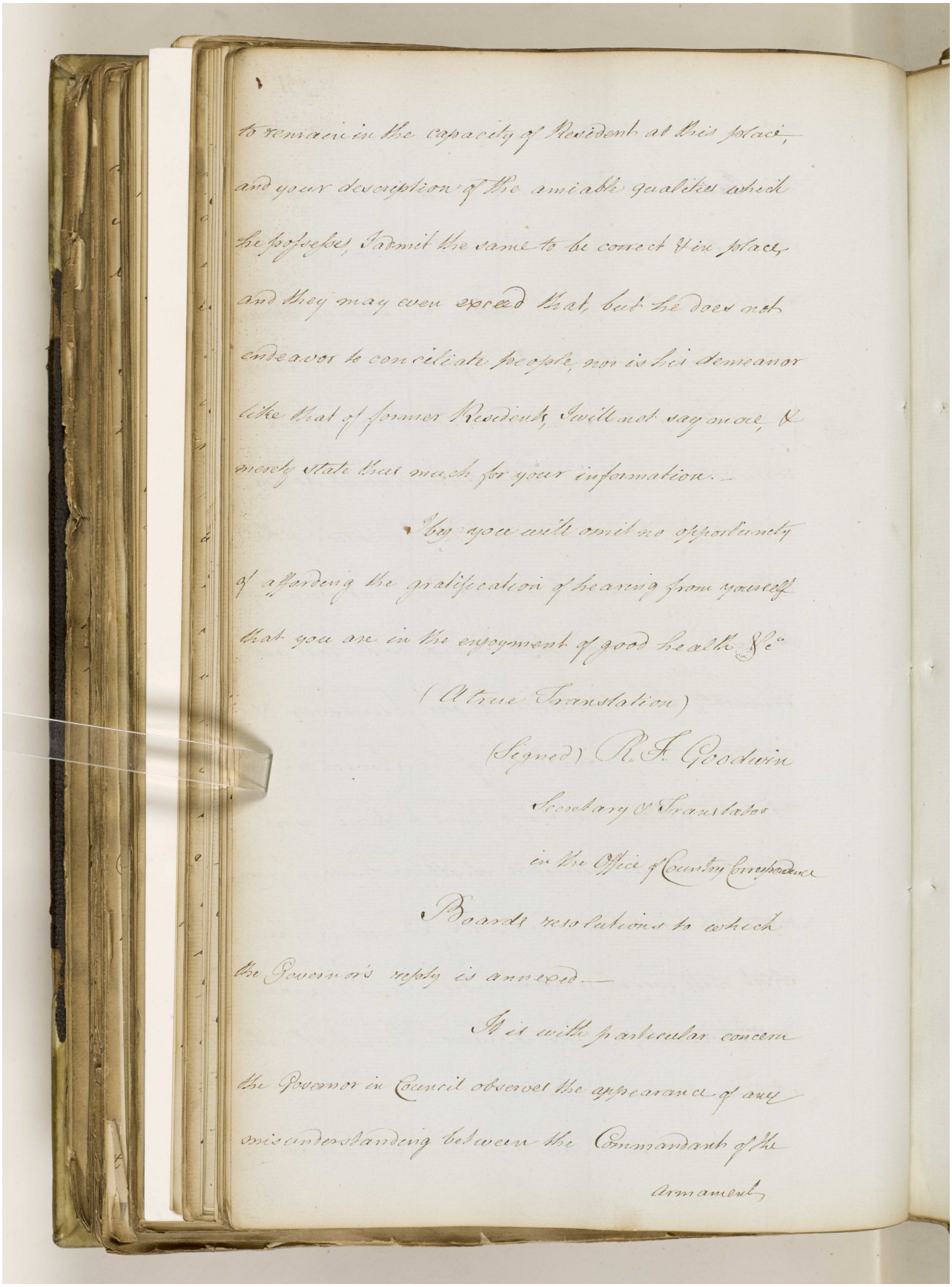

to remain in the capacity of Resident at this place, and your description of the amiable qualities which he possesses, I admit the same to be correct & in place, and they may even exceed that, but he does not endeavor to conciliate people, nor is his demeanor like that of former Residents, I will not say more, & merely state thus much for your information.—

I beg you will omit no opportunity of affording the gratification of hearing from yourself that you are in the enjoyment of good health &c.

(A true Translation)

(Signed) R. F. Goodwin
Secretary & Translator
in the Office of Country Correspondence

Boards resolutions to which the Governor's reply is annexed.—

It is with particular concern the Governor in Council observes the appearance of any misunderstanding between the Commandant of the

armament

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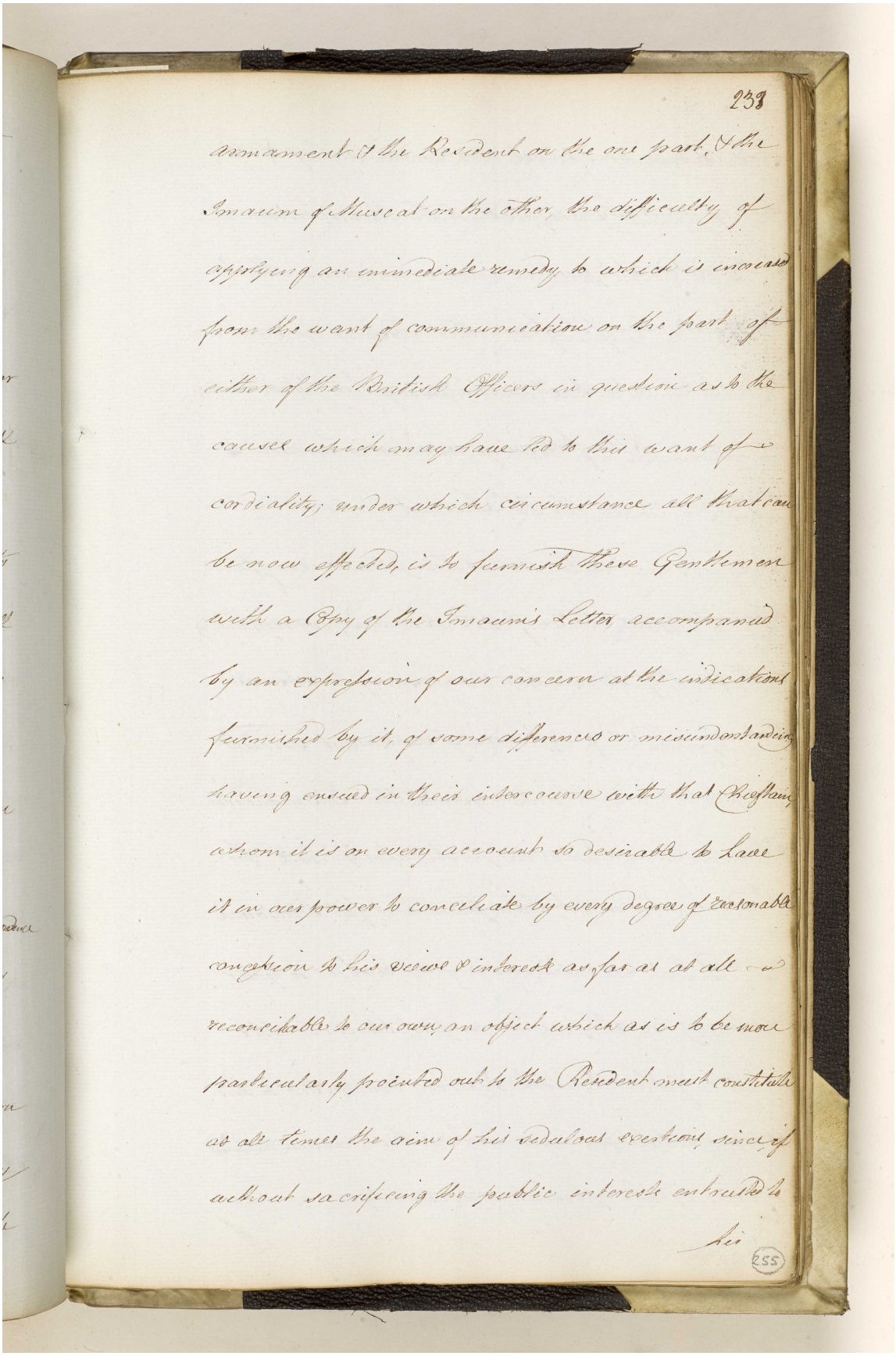

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armament of the Resident on the one part, & the Imaum of Muscat on the other, the difficulty of applying an immediate remedy to which is increased from the want of communication on the part of either of the British Officers in question as to the cause which may have led to this want of cordiality, under which circumstance all that can be now effected, is to furnish these Gentlemen with a Copy of the Imaum's Letter accompanied by an expression of our concern at the indications furnished by it, of some differences or misunderstandings having ensued in their intercourse with that Chieftain, whom it is on every account so desirable to have it in our power to conciliate by every degree of reasonable concession to his views & interests as far as at all reconcilable to our own, an object which as is to be more particularly pointed out to the Resident must constitute at all times the aim of his assiduous exertions, since if without sacrificing the public interests entrusted to his

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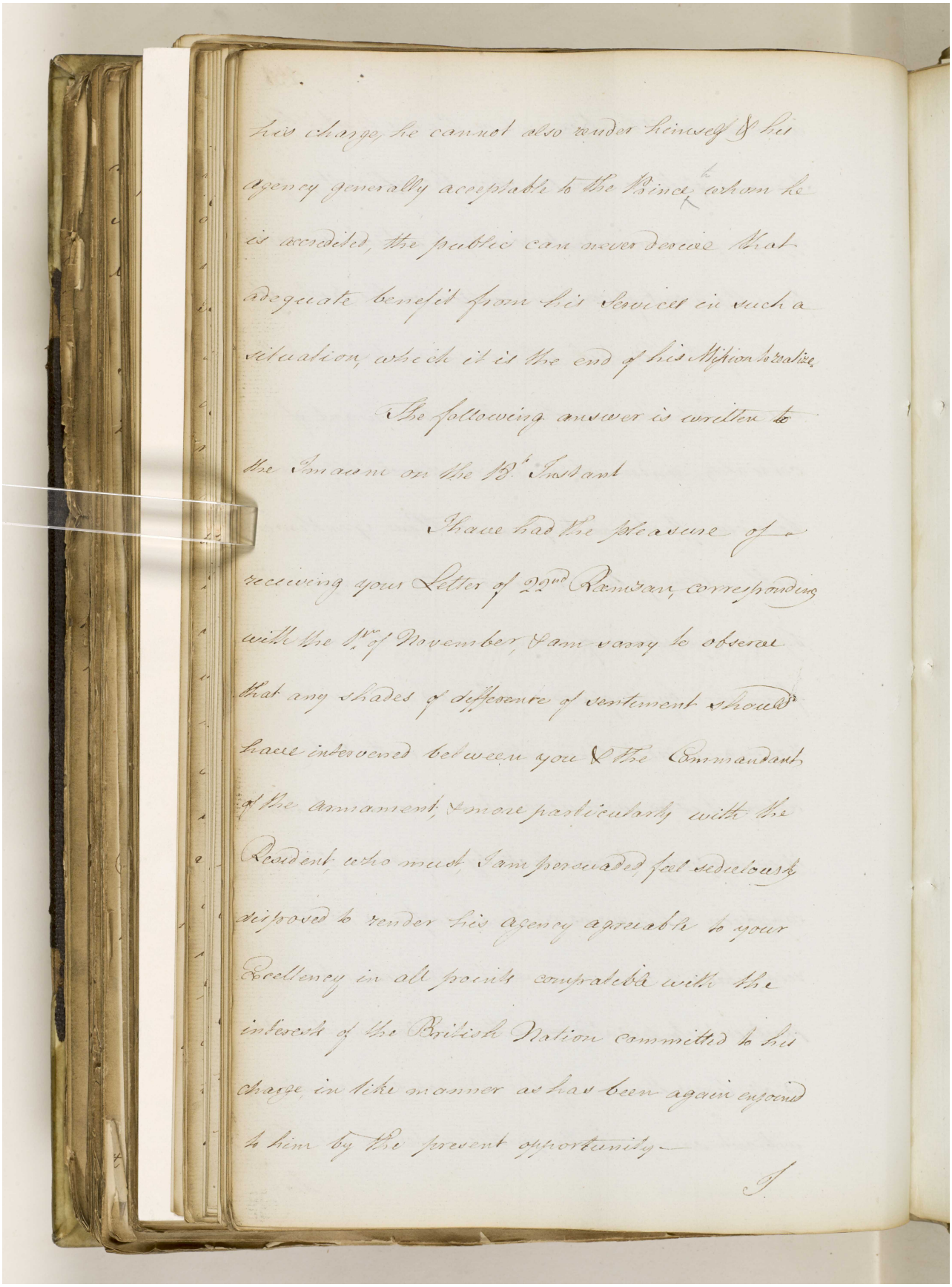

his charge he cannot also render himself & his
agency generally acceptable to the Prince to whom he
is accredited, the public can never derive that
adequate benefit from his services in such a
situation, which it is the end of his Mission to realize

The following answer is written to
the Imaum on the 18th Instant

I have had the pleasure of
receiving your Letter of 22nd Ramzan, corresponding
with the 5th of November, & am sorry to observe
that any shades of difference of sentiment should
have intervened between you & the Commandant
of the armament, & more particularly with the
Resident, who must, I am persuaded, feel sedulously
disposed to render his agency agreeable to your
Excellency in all points compatible with the
interests of the British Nation committed to his
charge, in like manner as has been again enjoined
to him by the present opportunity —

I

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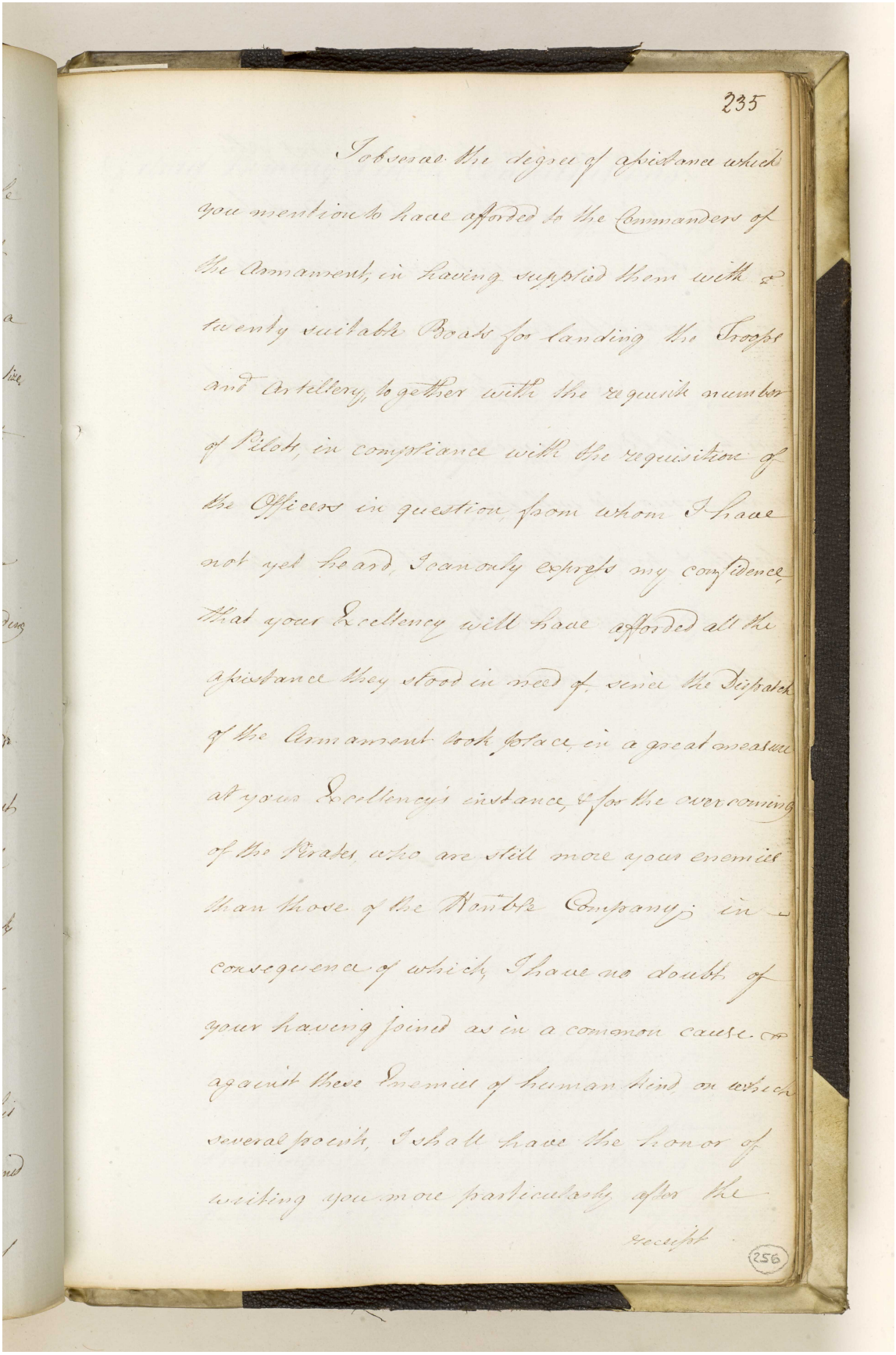

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I observe the degree of assistance which you mention to have afforded to the Commanders of the Armament, in having supplied them with 2 twenty suitable Boats for landing the Troops and Artillery, together with the requisite number of Pilots, in compliance with the requisition of the Officers in question from whom I have not yet heard, I can only express my confidence that your Excellency will have afforded all the assistance they stood in need of, since the Dispatch of the Armament took place in a great measure at your Excellency's instance, & for the extirpating of the Pirates, who are still more your enemies than those of the Honble Company; in consequence of which I have no doubt of your having joined us in a common cause against these Enemies of human kind on which several points, I shall have the honor of writing you more particularly after the receipt

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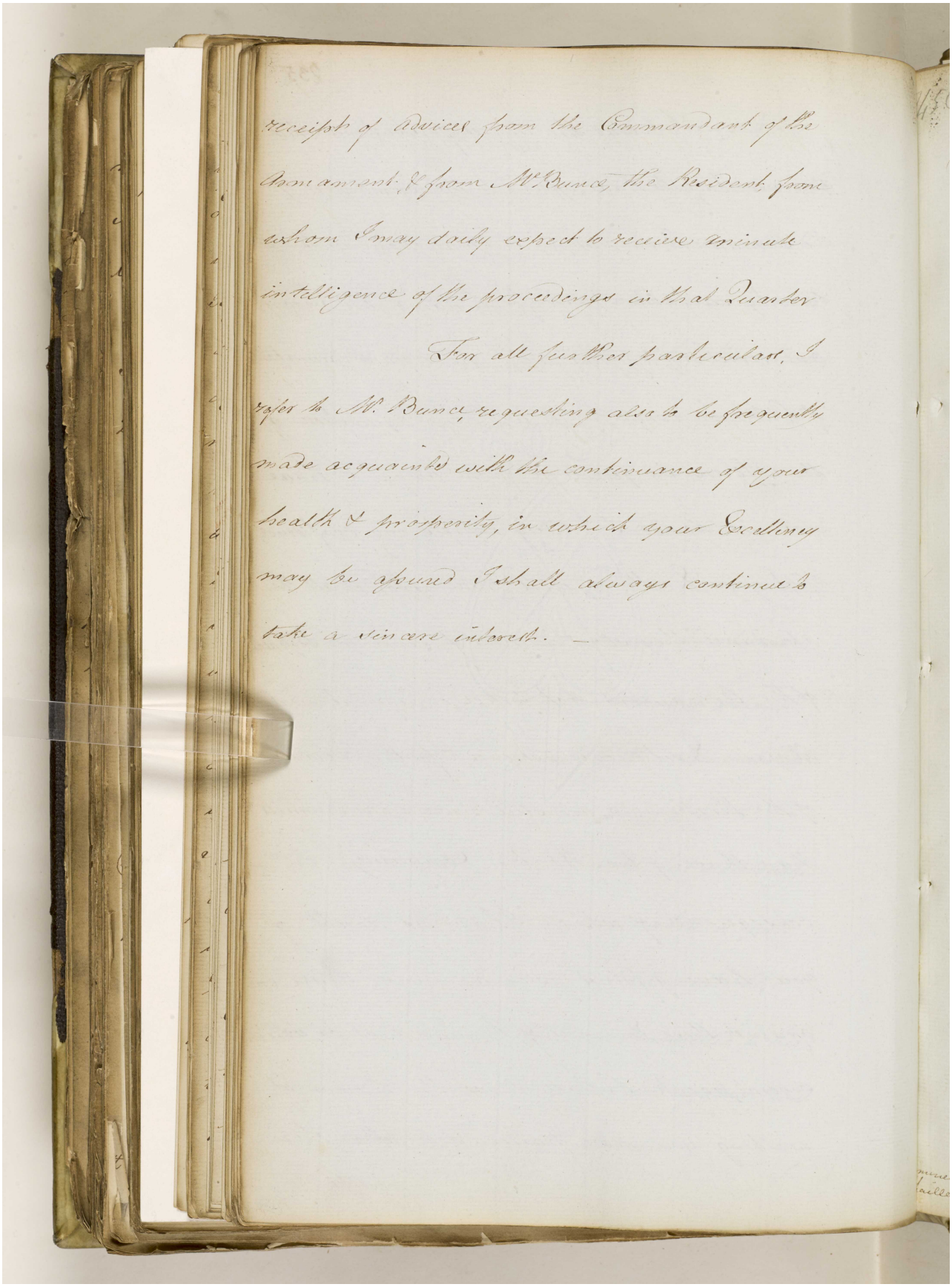

receipt of advices from the Commandant of the Armament & from Mr Bunce, the Resident from whom I may daily expect to receive minute intelligence of the proceedings in that Quarter

For all further particulars, I refer to Mr Bunce, requesting also to be frequently made acquainted with the continuance of your health & prosperity, in which your Excellency may be assured I shall always continue to take a sincere interest. —

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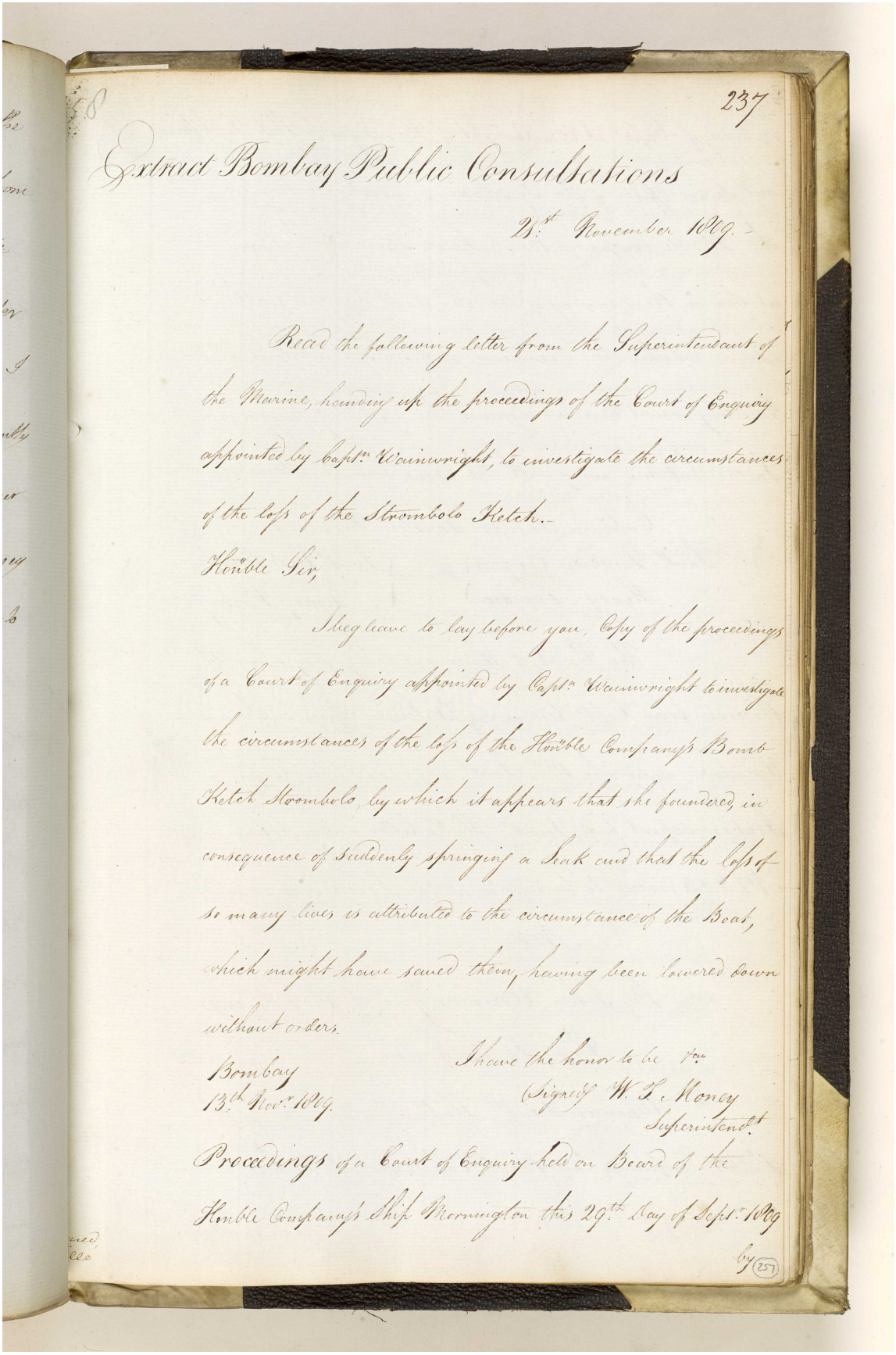

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Extract Bombay Public Consultations

25th November 1809.

Read the following letter from the Superintendant of the Marine, handing up the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry appointed by Capt. Wainwright, to investigate the circumstances of the loss of the Strombolo Ketch.

Honble Sir,

I beg leave to lay before you, Copy of the proceedings of a Court of Enquiry appointed by Capt. Wainwright to investigate the circumstances of the loss of the Honble Company's Bomb Ketch Stromboli, by which it appears that she foundered, in consequence of suddenly springing a leak and that the loss of so many lives is attributed to the circumstance of the Boat, which might have saved them, having been lowered down without orders.

I have the honor to be &c.
Signed W. F. Money
Superintendt.

Bombay
13th Novr 1809.

Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry held on Board of the Honble Company's Ship Mornington this 29th Day of Septr 1809

by (257)

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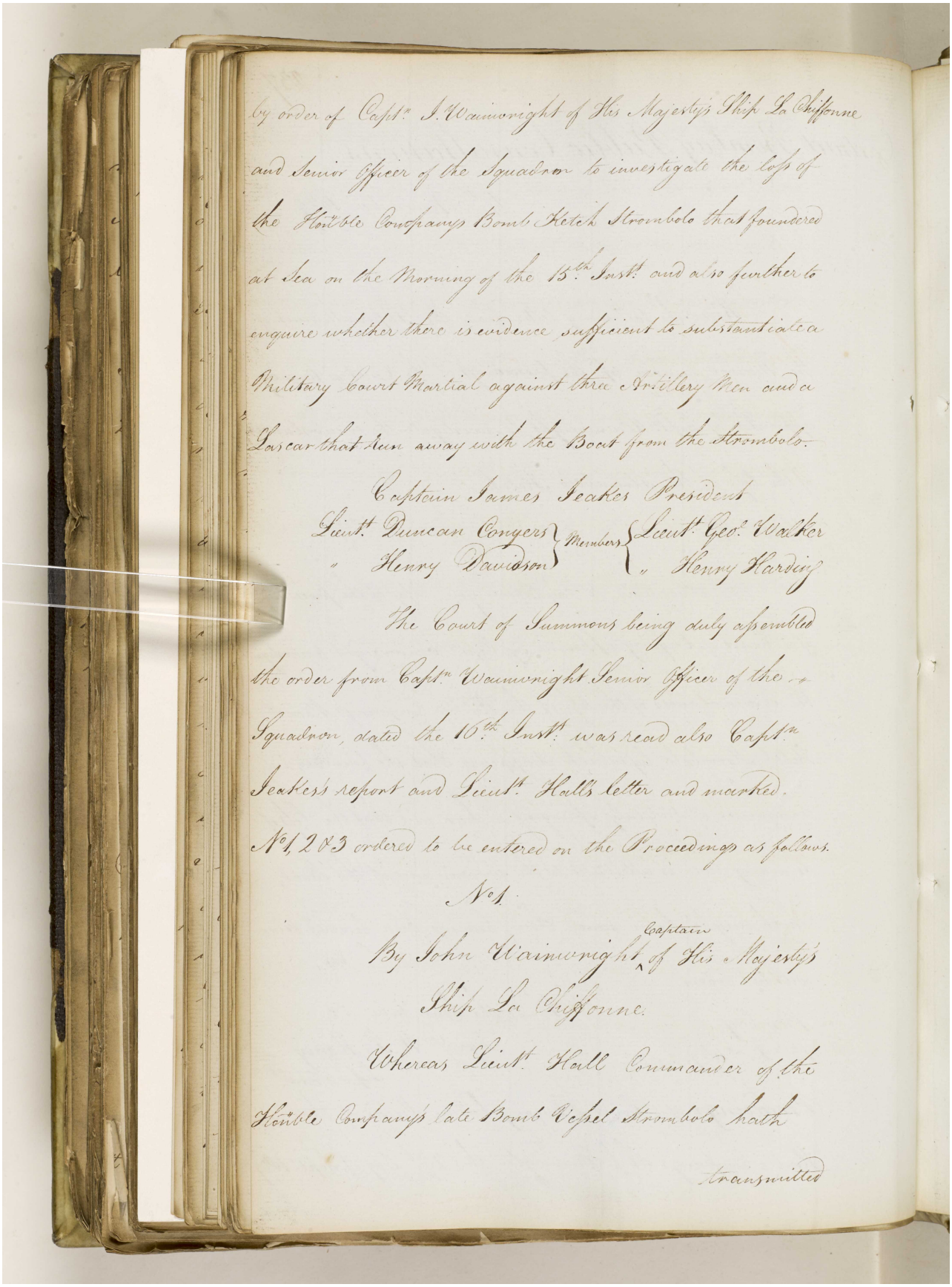

by order of Capt.n J. Wainwright of His Majesty's Ship La Chiffonne and Senior Officer of the Squadron to investigate the loss of the Hon.ble Comp.ys Bomb Ketch Strombolo that foundered at Sea on the Morning of the 15.th Inst.t and also further to enquire whether there is evidence sufficient to substantiate a Military Court Martial against three Artillery Men and a Lascar that run away with the Boat from the Strombolo.

Captain James Seaker President
Lieut.t Duncan Conyers, Lieut.t Geo.e Walker
" Henry Davidson } Members { " Henry Harding

The Court of Summons being duly assembled the order from Capt.n Wainwright Senior Officer of the Squadron, dated the 16.th Inst.t was read also Capt.n Seaker's report and Lieut.t Hall's letter and marked. №1, 2 & 3 ordered to be entered on the Proceedings as follows.

№1.

By John Wainwright Captain of His Majesty's Ship La Chiffonne.

Whereas Lieut.t Hall Commander of the Hon.ble Comp.ys late Bomb Vessel Strombolo hath transmitted

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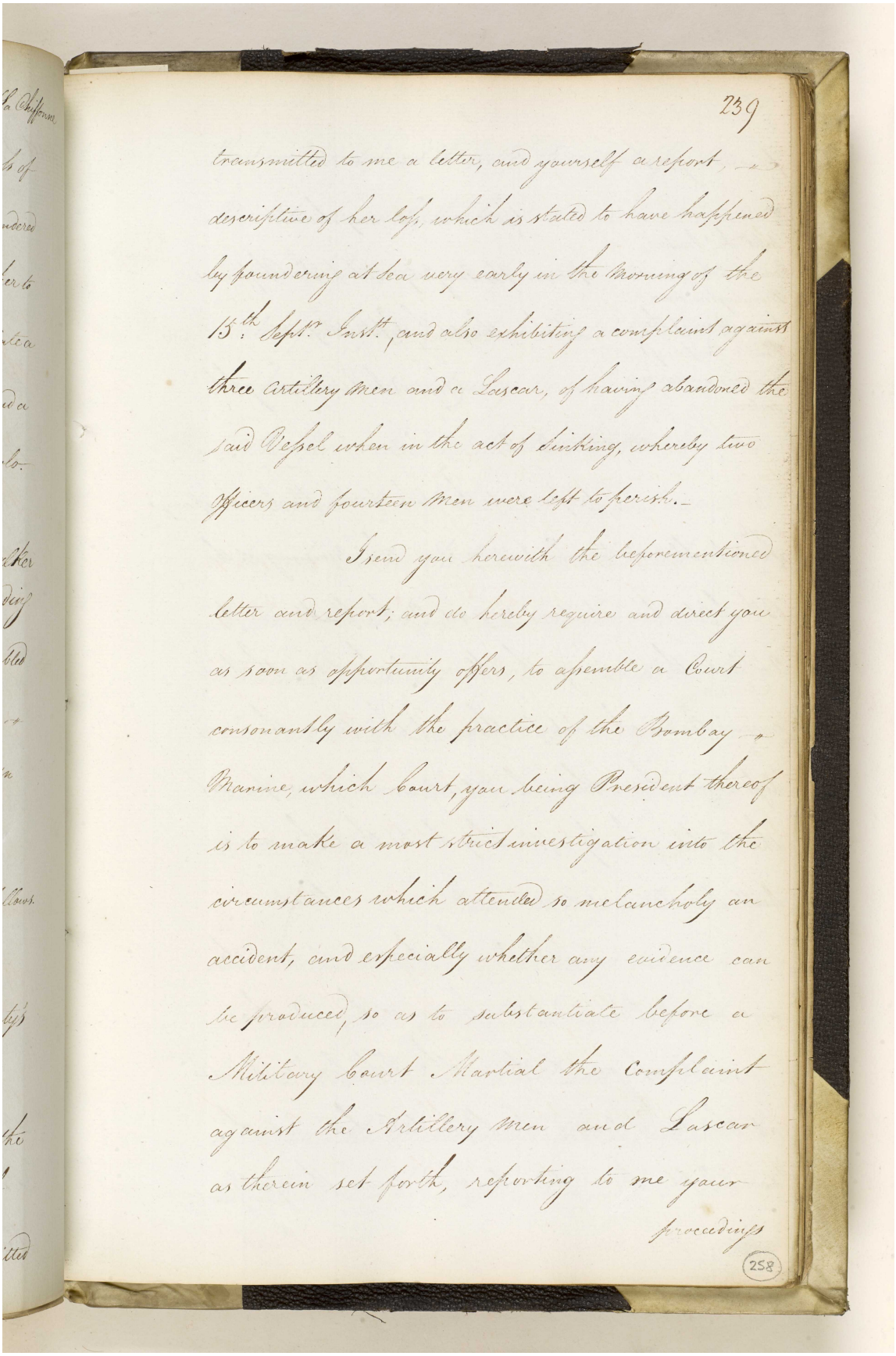

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transmitted to me a letter, and yourself a report, descriptive of her loss, which is stated to have happened by foundering at sea very early in the Morning of the 15th. Sept.r Inst.t, and also exhibiting a complaint against three Artillery Men and a Lascar, of having abandoned the said Vessel when in the act of sinking, whereby two Officers and fourteen Men were left to perish.–

I send you herewith the beforementioned letter and report; and do hereby require and direct you as soon as opportunity offers, to assemble a Court consonantly with the practice of the Bombay Marine, which Court, you being President thereof is to make a most strict investigation into the circumstances which attended so melancholy an accident, and especially whether any evidence can be produced, so as to substantiate before a Military Court Martial the Complaint against the Artillery Men and Lascar as therein set forth, reporting to me your proceedings

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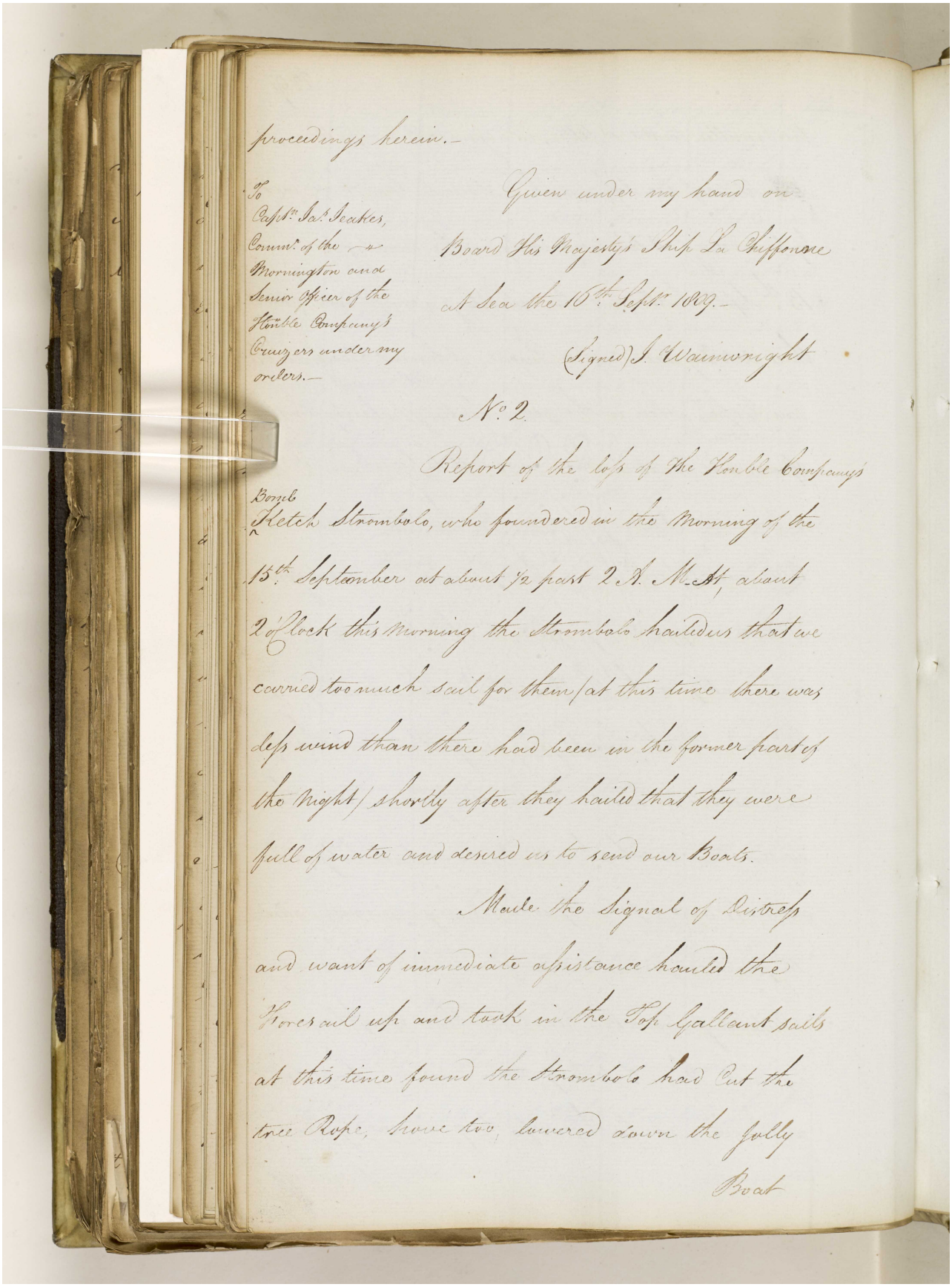

proceedings herein.–

To
Captn. Jas. Jeakes,
Commr. of the
Mornington and
Senior Officer of the
Honble Company's
Cruizers under my
orders.–

Given under my hand on
Board His Majesty's Ship La Chiffonne
at Sea the 16th. Septr. 1809.–

(Signed) J. Wainwright

No. 2.

Report of the loss of the Honble Company's Bomb Ketch Strombolo, who foundered in the Morning of the 15th. September at about ½ past 2 A. M. At, about 2 o'Clock this Morning the Strombolo hailed us that we carried too much sail for them (at this time there was less wind than there had been in the former part of the Night) shortly after they hailed that they were full of water and desired us to send our Boats.

Made the Signal of Distress and want of immediate assistance hauled the Foresail up and took in the Top Gallant sails at this time found the Strombolo had Cut the tree Rope, hove too, lowered down the Jolly

Boat

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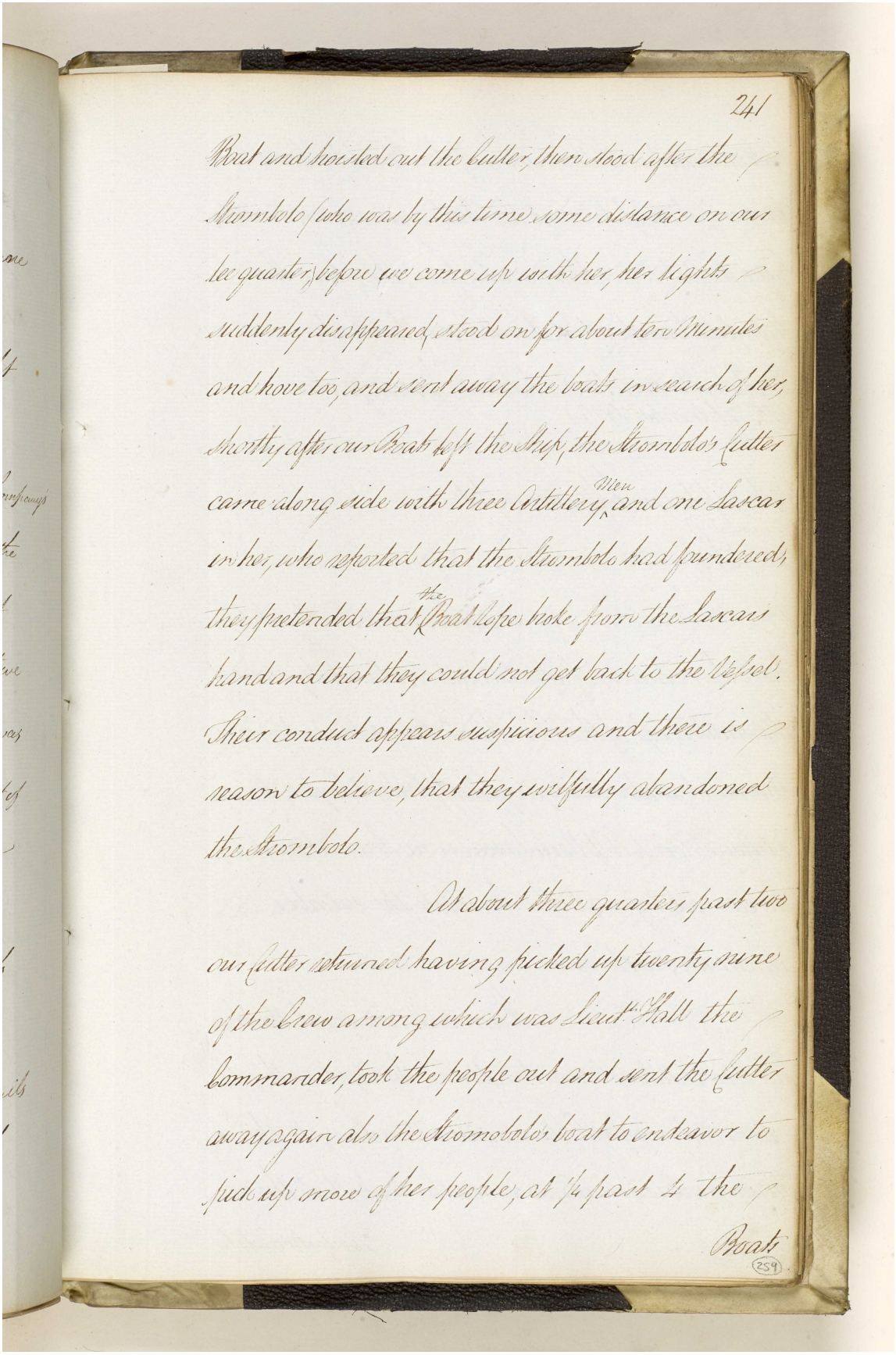

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Boat and hoisted out the Cutter, then stood after the Strombolo [who was by this time some distance on our lee quarter] before we come up with her, her lights suddenly disappeared, stood on for about ten Minutes and hove too, and sent away the boats in search of her, shortly after our Boats left the Ship, the Strombolos Cutter came along side with three Artillery Men and one Lascar in her, who reported that the Strombolo had foundered, they pretended that the Boat Rope broke from the Lascars hand and that they could not get back to the Vessel. Their conduct appears suspicious and there is reason to believe, that they wilfully abandoned the Strombolo.

At about three quarters past two our Cutter returned having picked up twenty nine of the Crew among which was Lieut. Hall the Commander, took the people out and sent the Cutter away again also the Strombolos boat to endeavor to pick up more of her people, at ¼ past 4 the Boats

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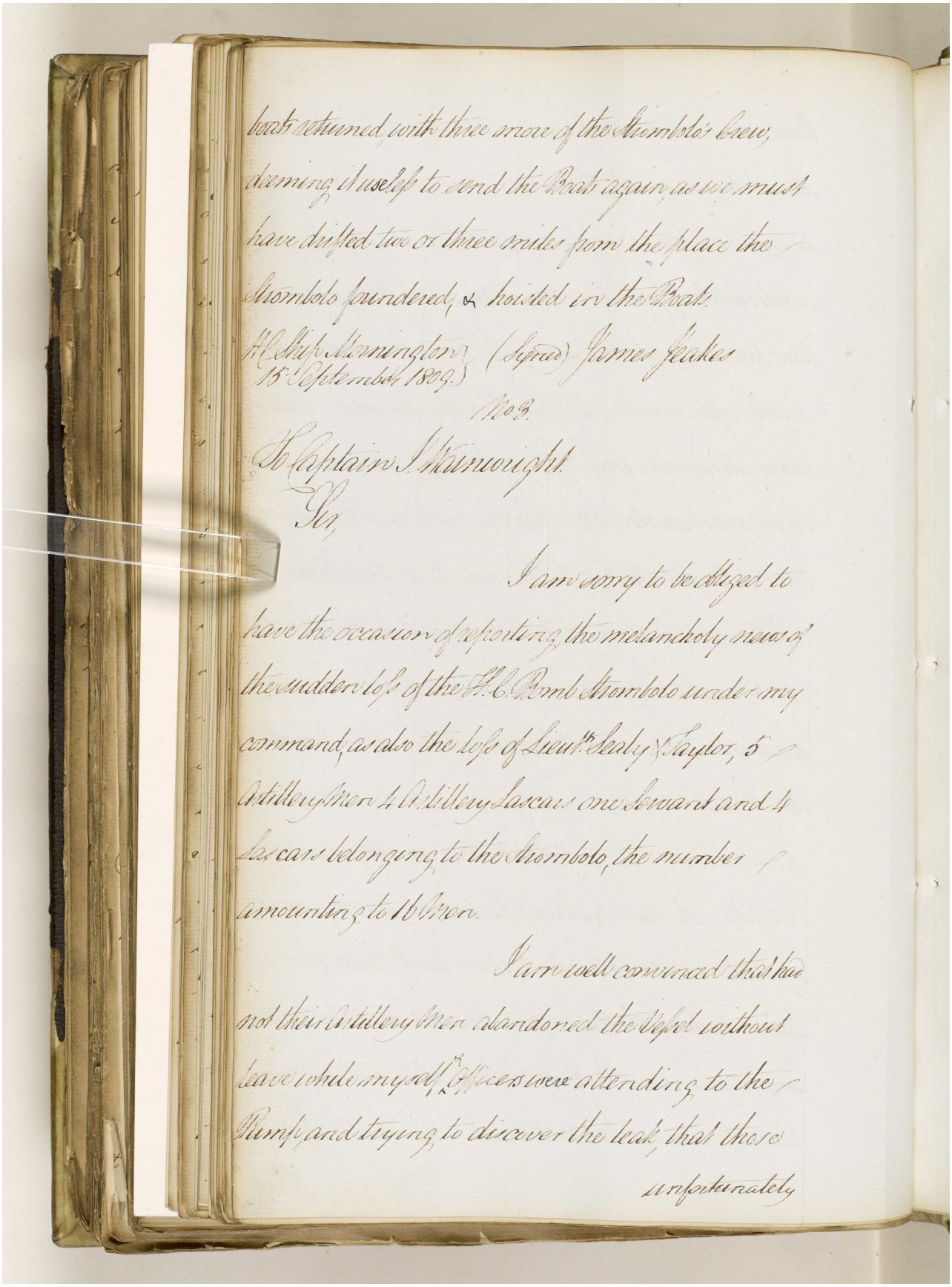

boats returned with three more of the Arrombolo's Crew,
deeming it useless to send the Boats again, as we must
have drifted two or three miles from the place the
Arrombolo foundered, & hoisted in the Boats.
H.C. Ship Mornington (Signed) James Scales
15th September 1809.

No 3.

To Captain S. Wainwright

Sir,

I am sorry to be obliged to
have the occasion of reporting the melancholy news of
the sudden loss of the H.C. Bomb Arrombolo under my
command, as also the loss of Lieut.t Leahy & Taylor, 5
Artillery Men 4 Artillery Lascars one Servant and 4
Lascars belonging to the Arrombolo, the number
amounting to 16 Men.

I am well convinced that had
not their Artillery Men abandoned the Vessel without
leave while myself & Officers were attending to the
Pumps and trying to discover the leak, that those
unfortunately

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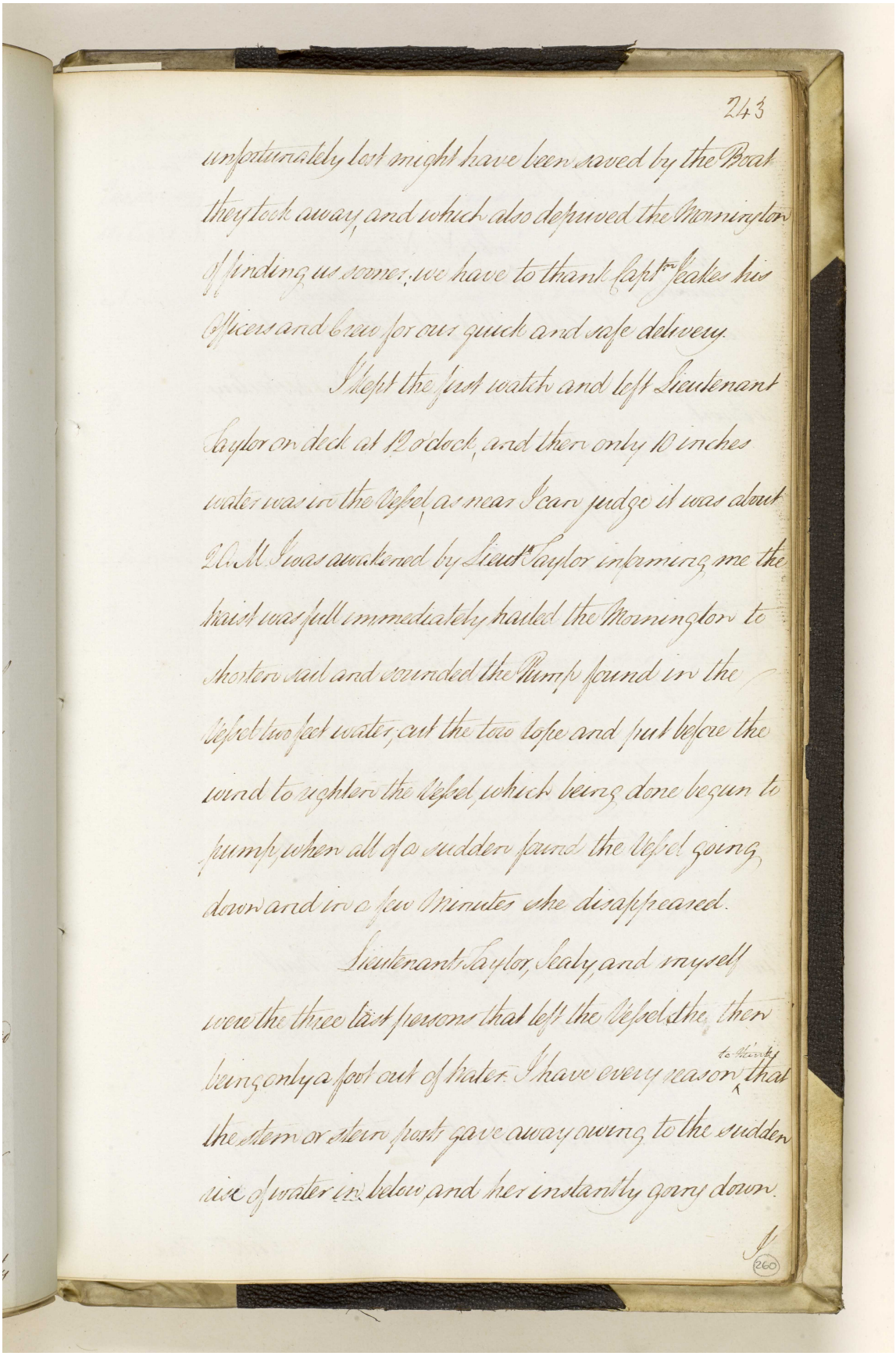

unfortunately lost might have been saved by the Boat they took away, and which also deprived the Mornington of finding us sooner; we have to thank Captn Jeakes his Officers and Crew for our quick and safe delivery.

I kept the first watch and left Lieutenant Taylor on deck at 12 o'clock, and then only 10 inches water was in the Vessel, as near I can judge it was about 2 A.M. I was awakened by Lieutt Taylor informing me the haist was full immediately hailed the Mornington to shorten sail and sounded the Pump found in the Vessel two feet water, cut the tow rope and put before the wind to righten the Vessel, which being done begun to pump, when all of a sudden found the Vessel going down and in a few Minutes she disappeared.

Lieutenants Taylor, Sealy, and myself were the three last persons that left the Vessel, the then being only a foot out of water. I have every reason to think that the stem or stern posts gave away owing to the sudden rise of water in below, and her instantly going down.

I

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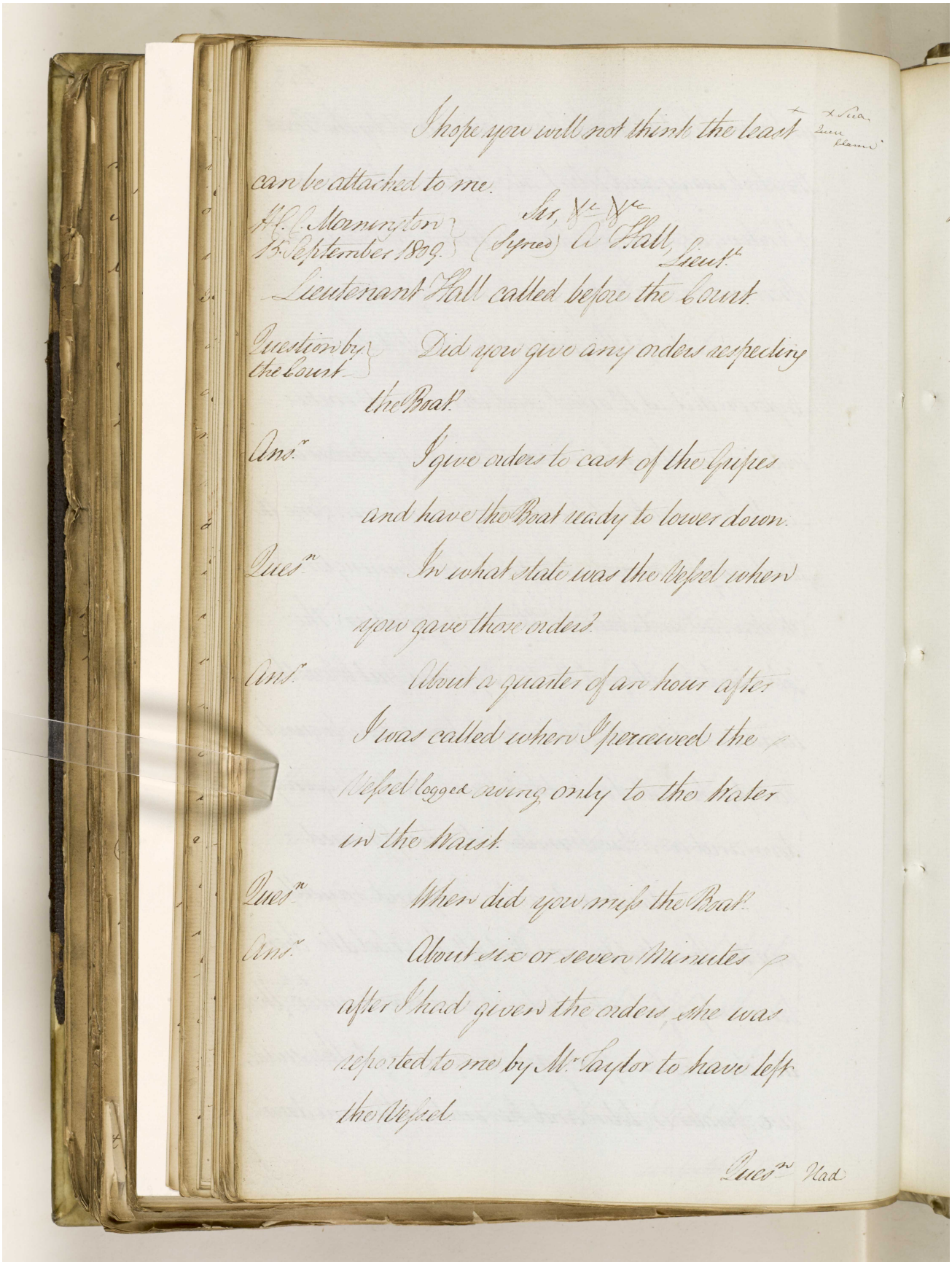

I hope you will not think the least can be attached to me.

H. C. C. Mornington
15 September 1809.

Sir, &c &c
(Signed) A Hall,
Lieut.

Lieutenant Hall called before the Court.

Question by the Court — Did you give any orders respecting the Boat?

Ans.r — I give orders to cast of the Gripes and have the Boat ready to lower down.

Ques.n — In what state was the Vessel when you gave those orders?

Ans.r — About a quarter of an hour after I was called when I perceived the Vessel logged owing only to the Water in the Waist.

Ques.n — When did you miss the Boat?

Ans.r — About six or seven Minutes after I had given the orders, she was reported to me by Mr. Taylor to have left the Vessel.

Ques.n Had

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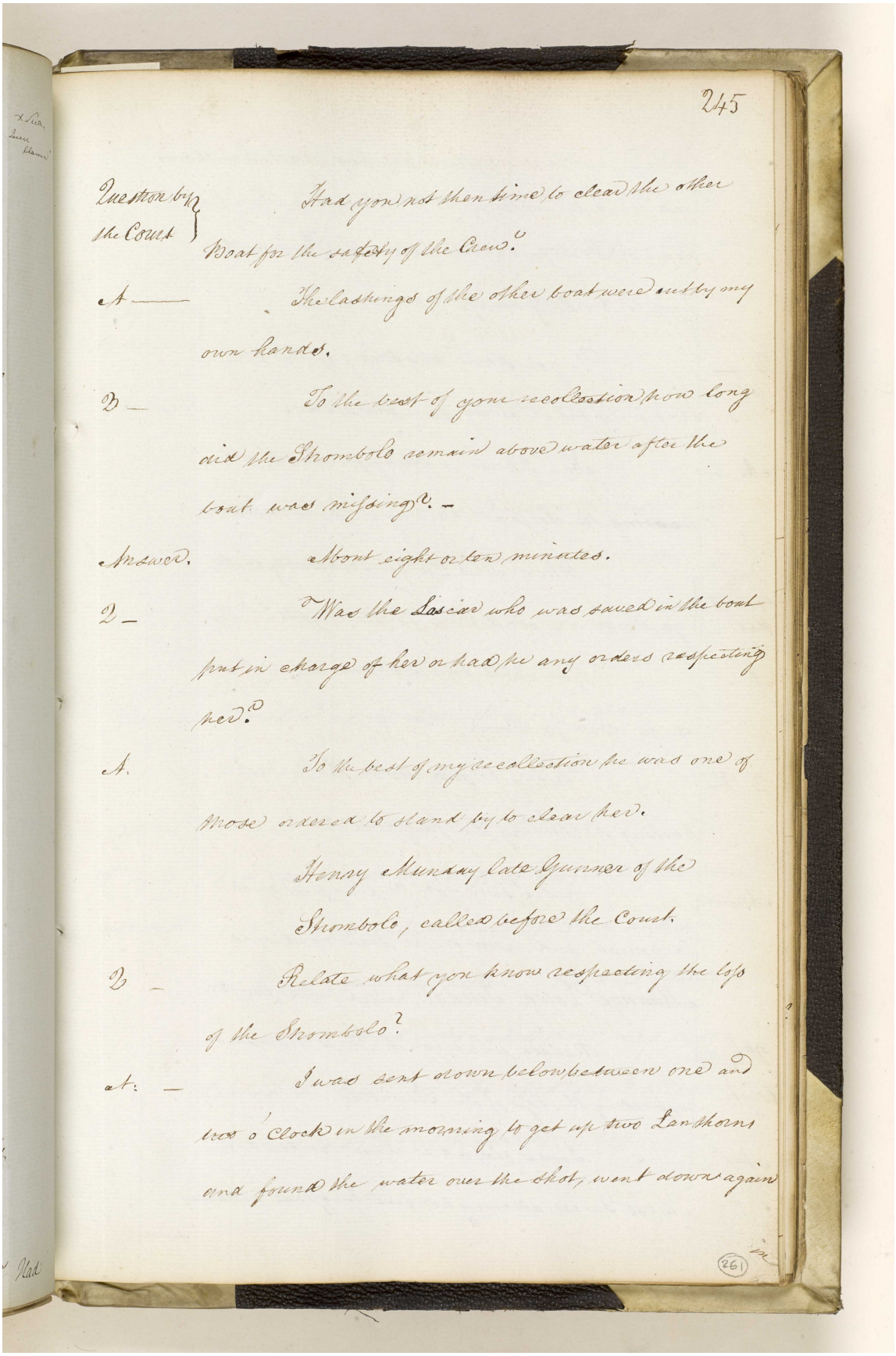

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Question by the Court } Had you not then time to clear the other Boat for the safety of the Crew?

A — The lashings of the other boat were cut by my own hands.

Q — To the best of your recollection how long did the Strombolo remain above water after the boat was missing?

Answer. About eight or ten minutes.

Q — Was the Lascar who was saved in the boat put in charge of her or had he any orders respecting her?

A. To the best of my recollection he was one of those ordered to stand by to clear her.

Henry Munday late Gunner of the Strombolo, called before the Court.

Q — Relate what you know respecting the loss of the Strombolo?

A: — I was sent down below between one and two o'Clock in the morning to get up two Lanthorns and found the water over the shot, went down again

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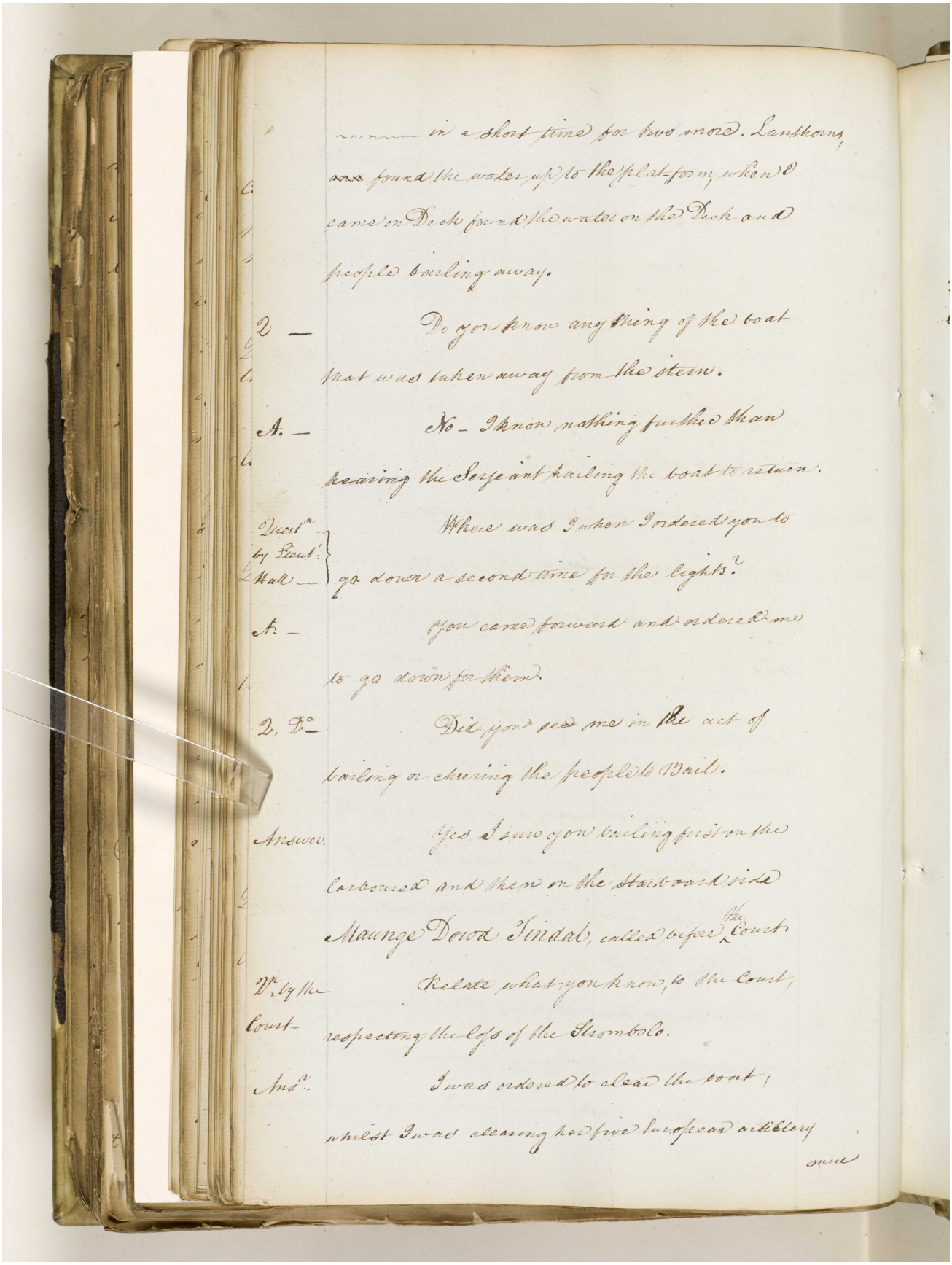

—— in a short time for two more. Lanthorns
xxxx found the water up to the plat-form, when I
came on Deck found the water on the Deck and
people bailing away.

2 — Do you know any thing of the boat
that was taken away from the stern.

A. — No – I know nothing further than
hearing the Serjeant hailing the boat to return.

Quest^n by Lieut: Hall — Where was I when I ordered you to go down a second time for the lights?

A: — You came forward and ordered me
to go down for them.

2. Q^n — Did you see me in the act of
bailing or cheering the people to Bail.

Answer. Yes I saw you bailing first on the
larboard and then on the Starboard side

Maunge Dewar Jindal, called in for the Court.

Q^n by the Court — Relate what you know, to the Court,
respecting the loss of the Shumbolo.

Ans^r. I was ordered to clear the boat,
whilst I was clearing her five European artillery
men

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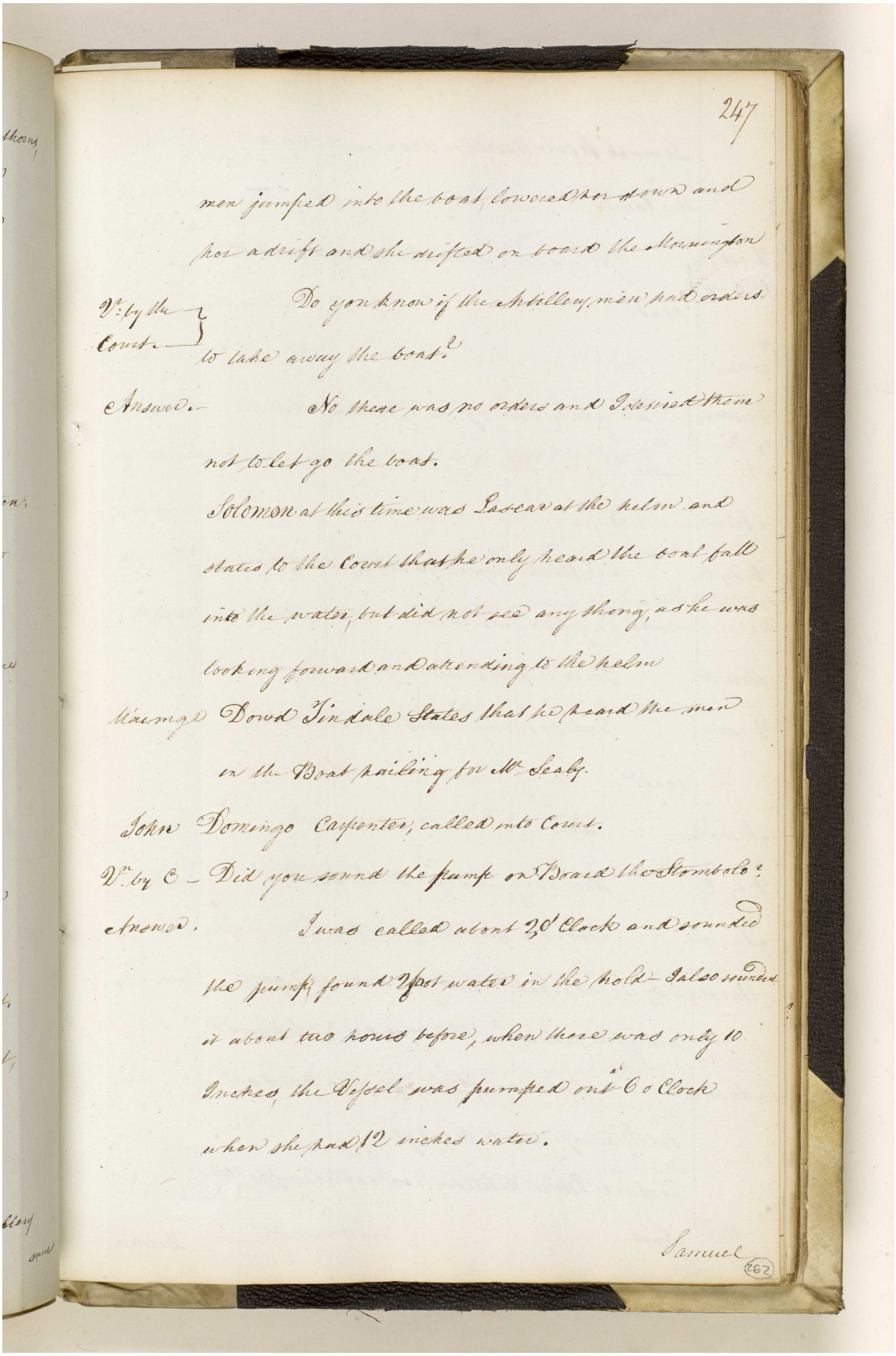

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men jumped into the boat lowered her down and
put adrift and she drifted on board the Mornington

Qr. by the Court. Do you know if the Artillery men had orders to take away the boat?

Answer. No there was no orders and I desired them not to let go the boat.

Solomon at this time was Lascar at the helm and states to the Court that he only heard the boat fall into the water, but did not see any thing, as he was looking forward and attending to the helm

Maung Dowd Jindale States that he heard the men in the Boat hailing for Mr Sealy.

John Domingo Carpenter, called into Court.

Qr. by C – Did you sound the pump on Board the Stromboli?

Answer. I was called about 2 O Clock and sounded the pumps found 9 foot water in the hold – I also sounded it about two hours before, when there was only 10 Inches, the Vessel was pumped out 6 o Clock when she had 12 inches water.

Samuel

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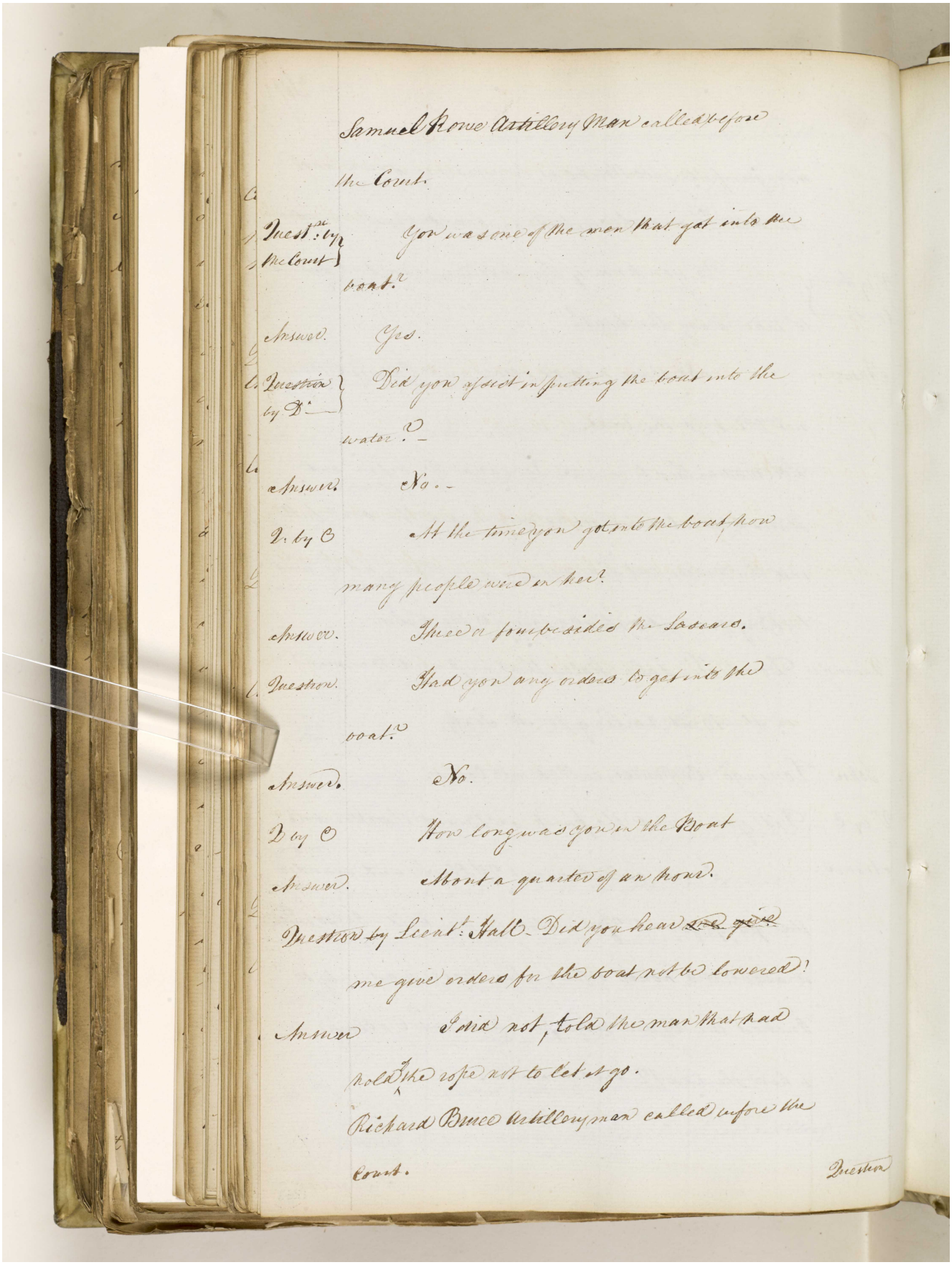

Samuel Rowe Artillery Man called & sworn
the Court.

Quest.n by the Court } You was one of the men that got into the boat.?

Answer. Yes.

Question by D.o } Did you assist in putting the boat into the water.?

Answer. No.

Q. by C. At the time you got into the boat how many people were in her?

Answer. There was four besides the Lascars.

Question. Had you any orders to get into the boat?

Answer. No.

Q by C. How long was you in the Boat

Answer. About a quarter of an hour.

Question by Lieut. Hall. Did you hear ~~me~~ give me give orders for the boat not to be lowered?

Answer. I did not, I told the man that had hold of the rope not to let it go.

Richard Bruce Artillery man called before the Court.

Question

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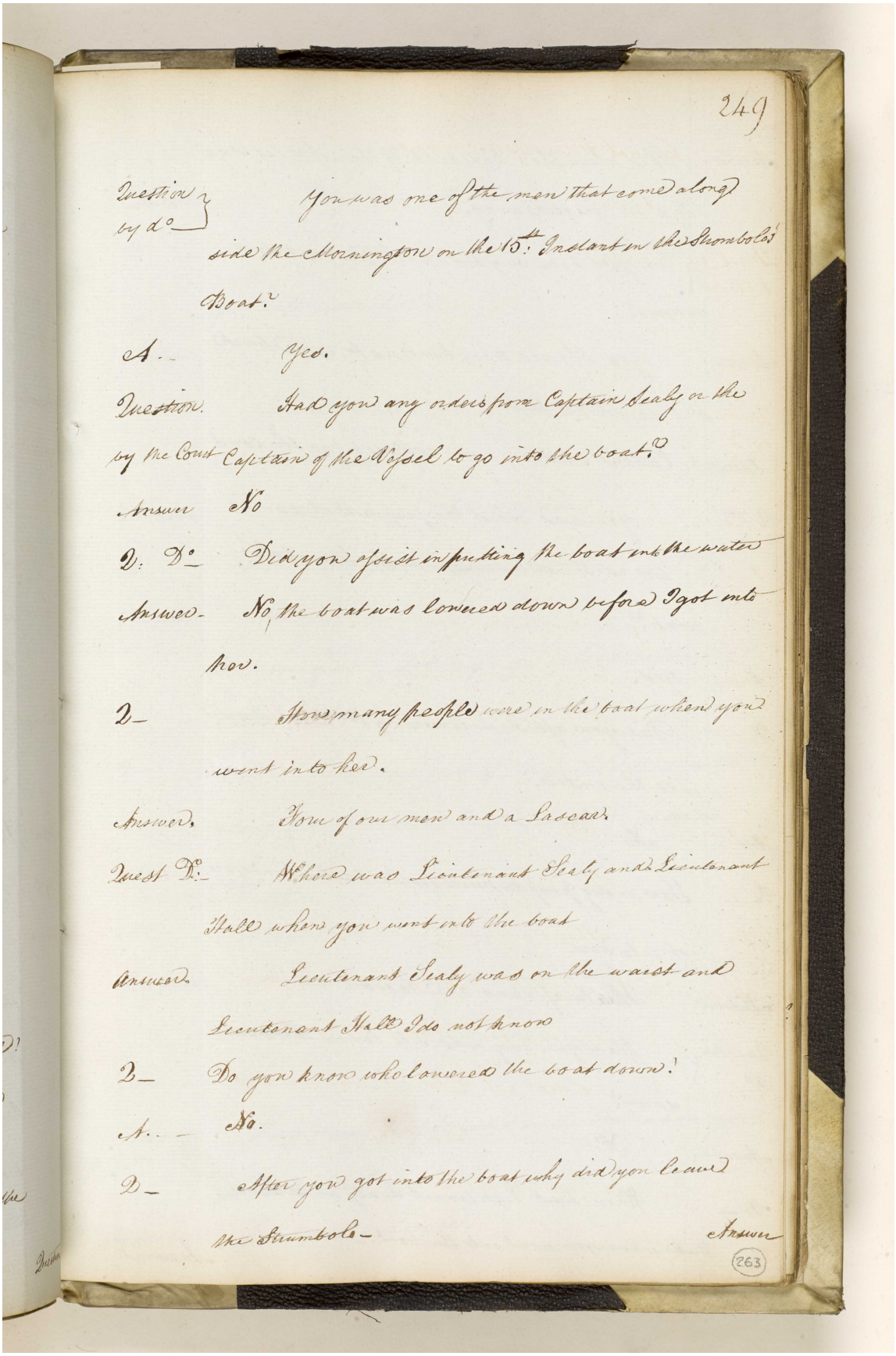

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Question by d°: You was one of the men that come along side the Mornington on the 15th Instant in the Shumbole's Boat?

A.— Yes.

Question by the Court: Had you any orders from Captain Scaly or the Captain of the Vessel to go into the boat?

Answer No

Q. D°— Did you assist in putting the boat into the water

Answer— No, the boat was lowered down before I got into her.

Q— How many people were in the boat when you went into her.

Answer. Four of our men and a Lascar.

Quest D°: Where was Lieutenant Scaly and Lieutenant Hall when you went into the boat

Answer. Lieutenant Scaly was on the waist and Lieutenant Hall I do not know

Q— Do you know who lowered the boat down?

A.— No.

Q— After you got into the boat why did you leave the Shumbole— Answer

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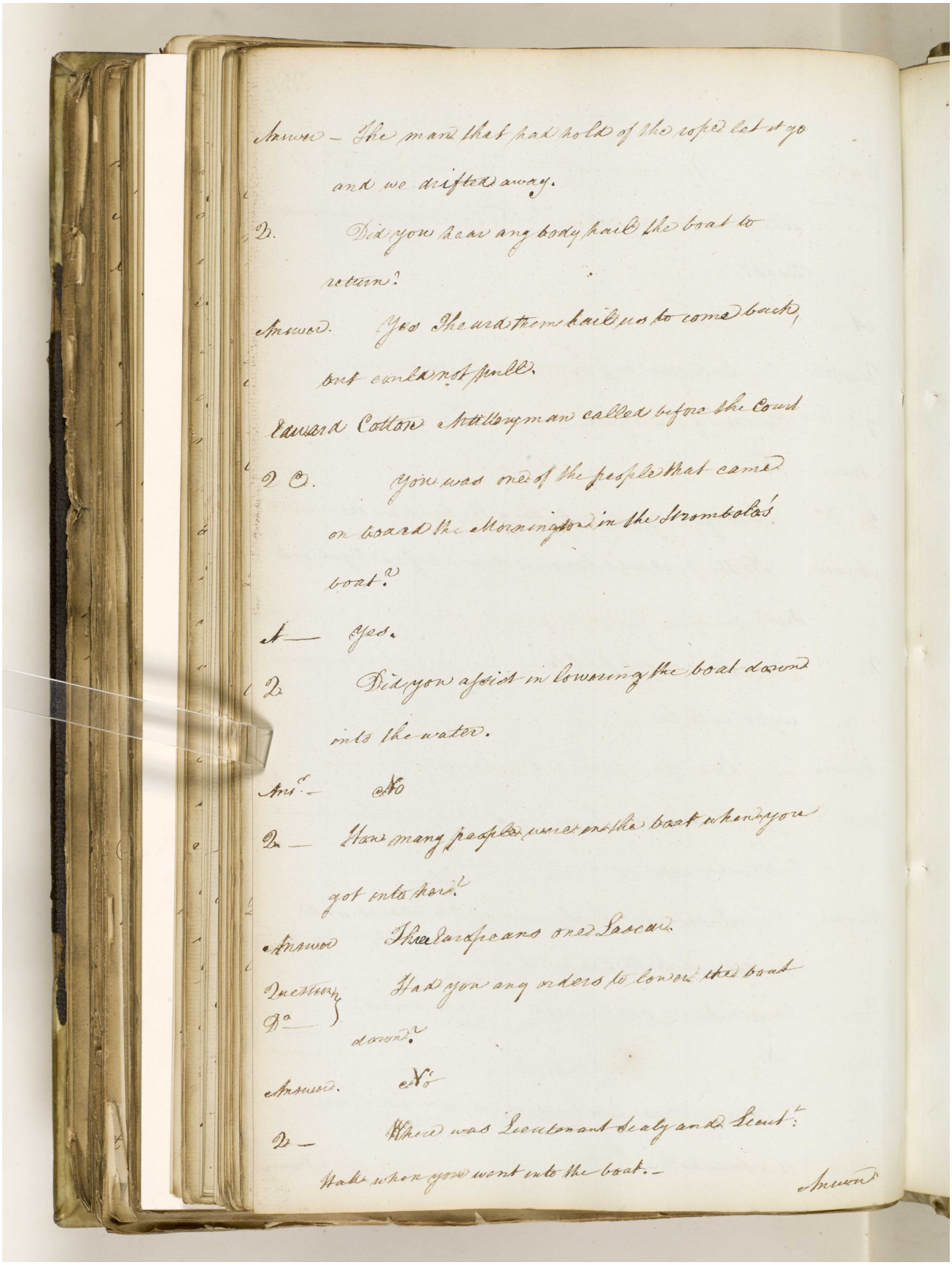

Answer – The man that had hold of the rope let it go and we drifted away.

Q. Did you hear any body hail the boat to return?

Answer. Yes I heard them hail us to come back, but could not pull.

Edward Cotton Midshipman called before the Court

Q. You was one of the people that came on board the Mornington in the Strombolo's boat?

A – Yes.

Q. Did you assist in lowering the boat down into the water.

Ans.r – No

Q. – How many people were in the boat when you got into her?

Answer. Three Europeans one Lascar.

Question Q.a – Had you any orders to lower the boat down?

Answer. No

Q. – Who was Lieutenant Sealy and Lieut.t Hall when you went into the boat. – Answer

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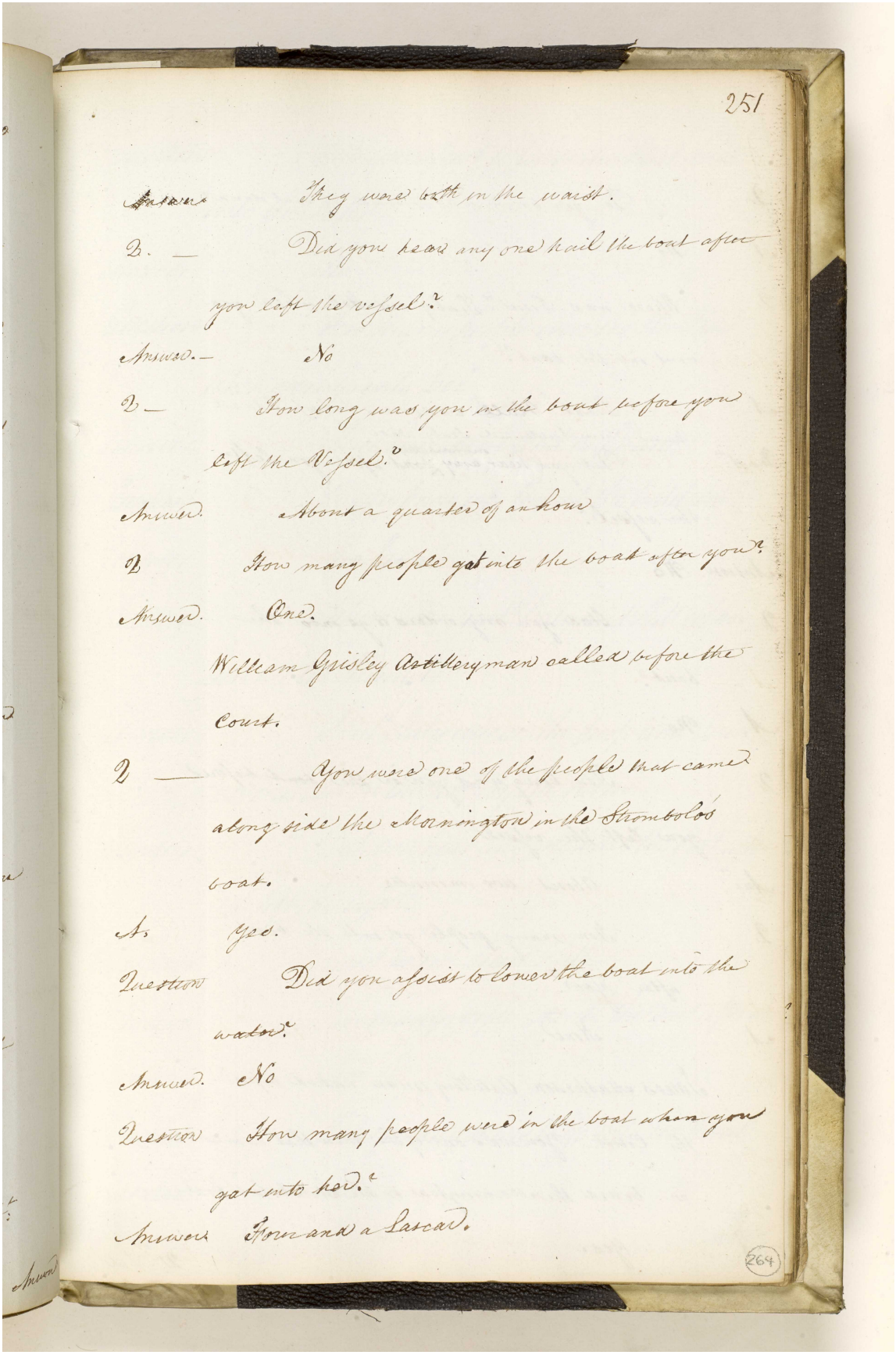

Answer. They were both in the waist.

Q. — Did you hear any one hail the boat after you left the vessel?

Answer. — No

Q. — How long was you in the boat before you left the Vessel?

Answer. About a quarter of an hour

Q. How many people got into the boat after you?

Answer. One.

William Grisley Artilleryman called before the Court.

Q. — You were one of the people that came along side the Mornington in the Strombolo boat.

A. Yes.

Question Did you assist to lower the boat into the water?

Answer. No

Question How many people were in the boat when you got into her?

Answer Four and a Lascar.

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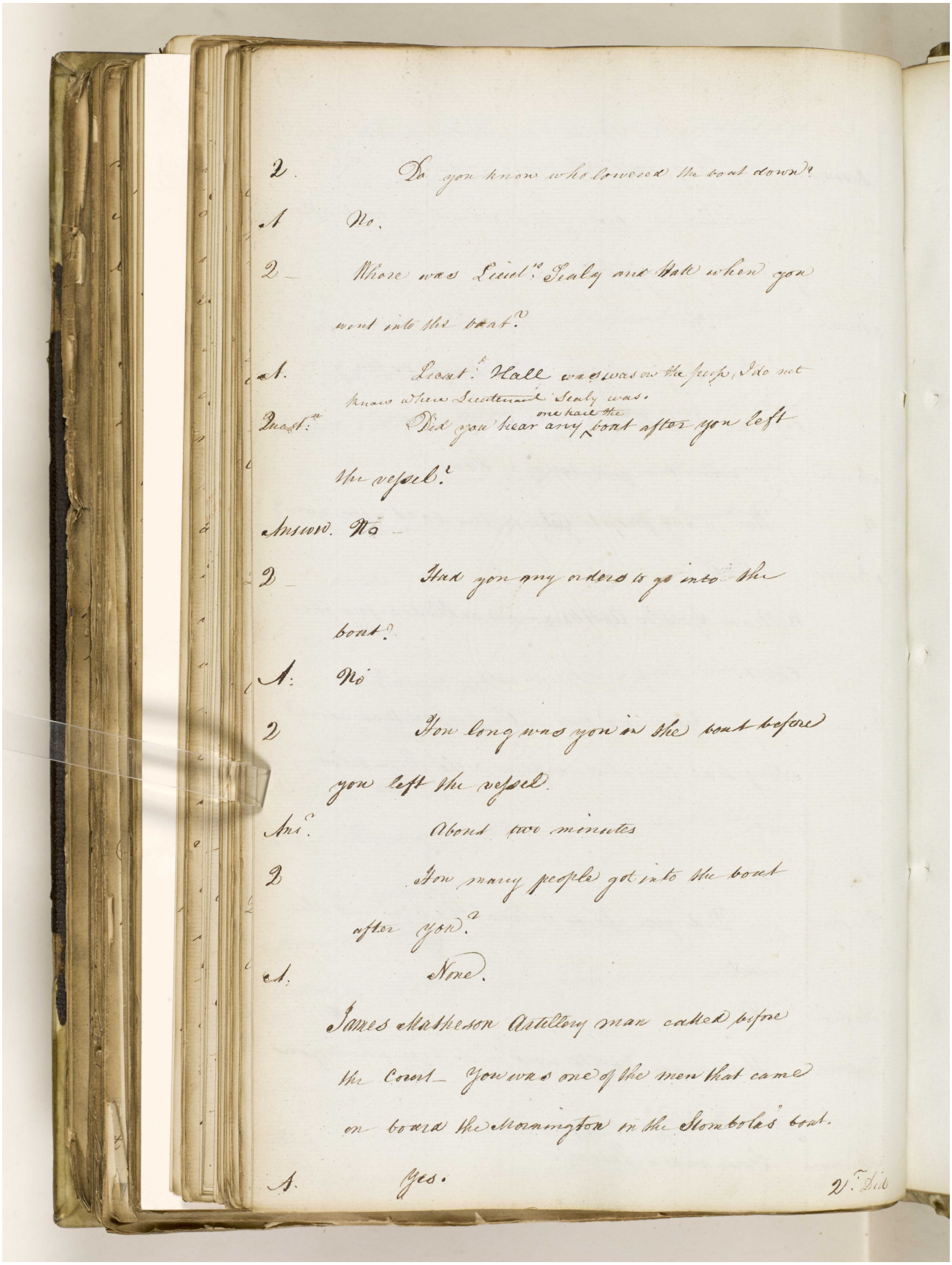

Q. Do you know who lowered the boat down?

A No.

Q – Where was Lieut.ts Sealy and Hall when you went into the boat?

A. Lieut.t Hall was was on the poop, I do not know where Lieutenant Sealy was.

Quest.n Did you hear any one hail the boat after you left the vessel?

Answer. No –

Q – Had you any orders to go into the boat?

A: No

Q How long was you in the boat before you left the vessel.

Ans.r About two minutes

Q How many people got into the boat after you?

A. None.

James Matheson Artillery man called before the Court – You was one of the men that came on board the Mornington in the Stombola's boat.

A. Yes.

2.d Did

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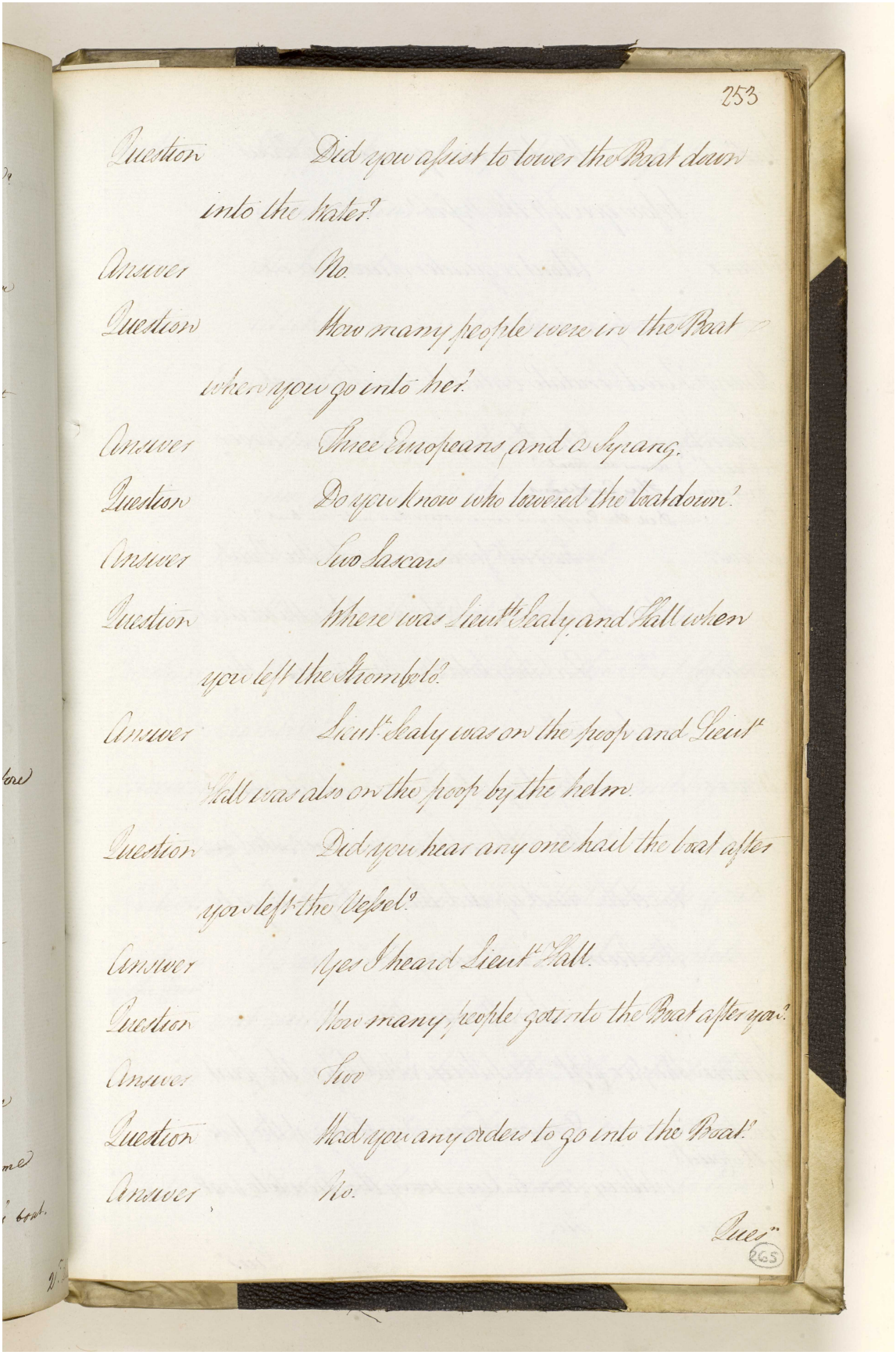

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Question Did you assist to lower the Boat down into the Water?

Answer No

Question How many people were in the Boat when you go into her?

Answer Three Europeans and a Lascar.

Question Do you know who lowered the boat down?

Answer Two Lascars

Question Where was Lieut.t Leahy and Hall when you left the Steamboat?

Answer Lieut.t Leahy was on the poop and Lieut.t Hall was also on the poop by the helm.

Question Did you hear any one hail the boat after you left the Vessel?

Answer Yes I heard Lieut.t Hall.

Question How many people got into the Boat after you?

Answer Two

Question Had you any orders to go into the Boat?

Answer No.

Ques.n

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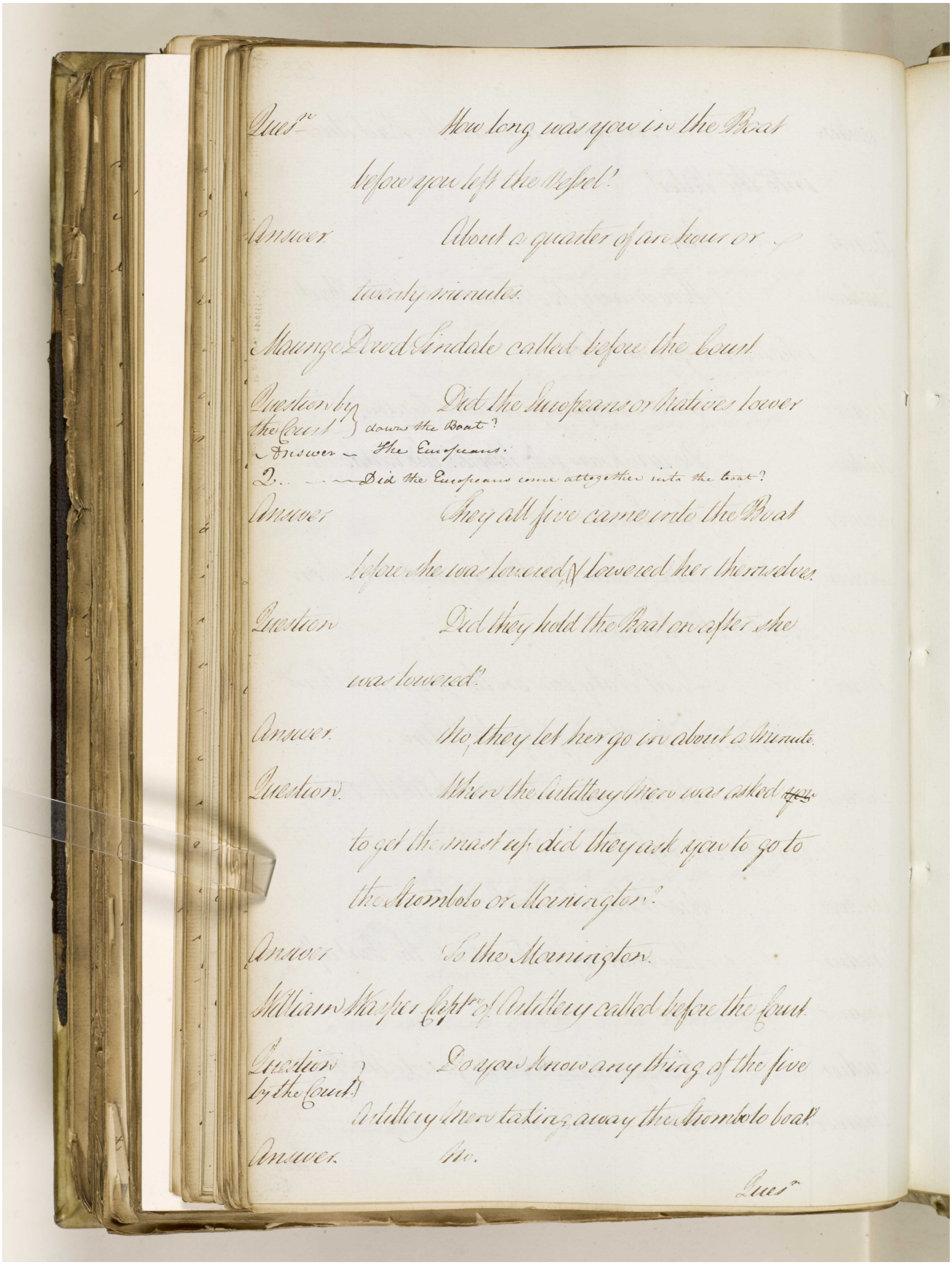

Ques^n How long was you in the Boat before you left the Vessel?

Answer About a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes.

Maunge Dowd Sindale called before the Court.

Question by the Court } Did the Europeans or Natives lower down the Boat?

Answer – The Europeans.

Q. – – – Did the Europeans come altogether into the boat?

Answer They all five came into the Boat before she was lowered, & lowered her themselves.

Question Did they hold the Boat on after she was lowered?

Answer. No, they let her go in about a Minute.

Question. When the Artillery Men was asked ~~you~~ to get the mast up did they ask you to go to the Strombolo or Mornington?

Answer So the Mornington.

William Wasper Captn of Artillery called before the Court.

Question by the Court } Do you know any thing of the five Artillery Men taking away the Strombolo boat?

Answer. No.

Ques^n

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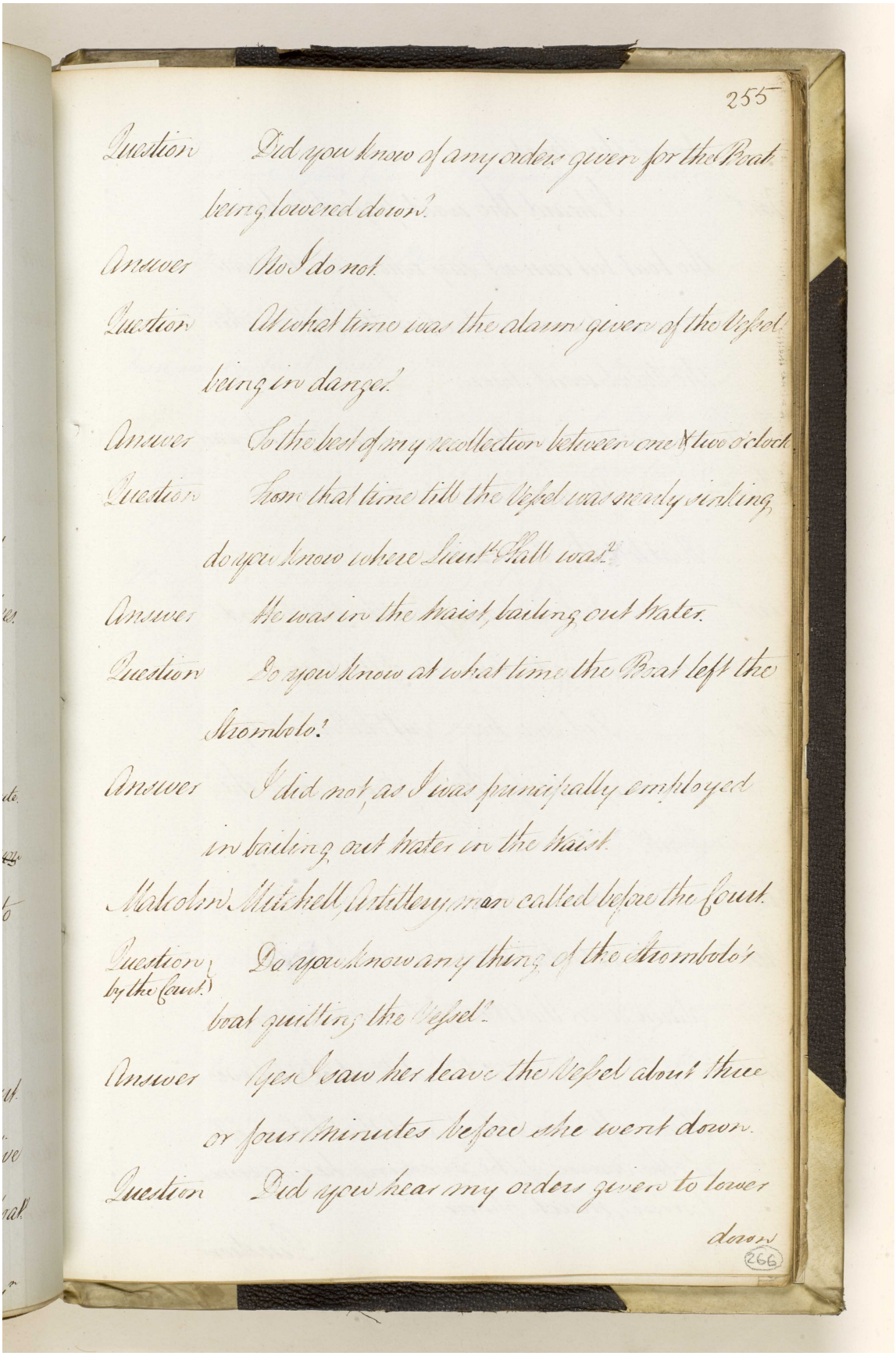

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Question Did you know of any orders given for the Boat being lowered down?

Answer No I do not

Question At what time was the alarm given of the Vessel being in danger?

Answer To the best of my recollection between one & two o'clock

Question From that time till the Vessel was nearly sinking, do you know where Lieut. Hall was?

Answer He was in the waist, bailing out water.

Question Do you know at what time the Boat left the Arrombolo?

Answer I did not as I was principally employed in bailing out water in the waist

Malcolm Mitchell Artillery man called before the Court.

Question by the Court Do you know any thing of the Arrombolo's boat quitting the Vessel?

Answer Yes I saw her leave the Vessel about three or four Minutes before she went down.

Question Did you hear any orders given to lower down

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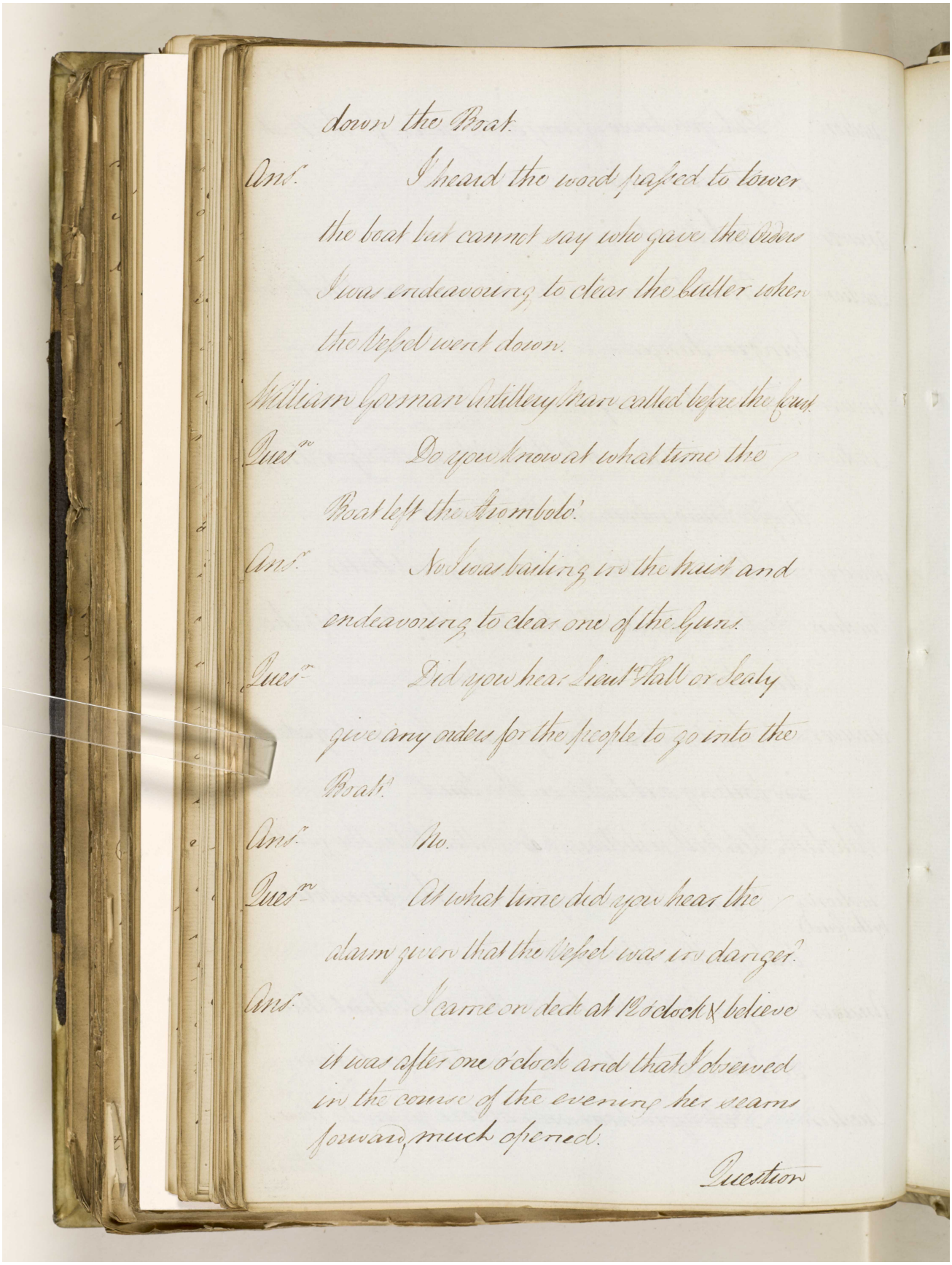

down the Boat.

Ans.r I heard the word passed to lower the boat but cannot say who gave the Order I was endeavouring to clear the Gutter when the Vessel went down.

William Gorman Artillery Man called before the Court

Ques.n Do you know at what time the Boat left the Arrombolo.

Ans.r No I was bailing in the Waist and endeavouring to clear one of the Guns.

Ques.n Did you hear Lieut.t Hall or Seaby give any orders for the people to go into the Boat.

Ans.r No.

Ques.n At what time did you hear the alarm given that the Vessel was in danger.

Ans.r I came on deck at 12 o'clock & believe it was after one o'clock and that I observed in the course of the evening her seams forward much opened.

Question

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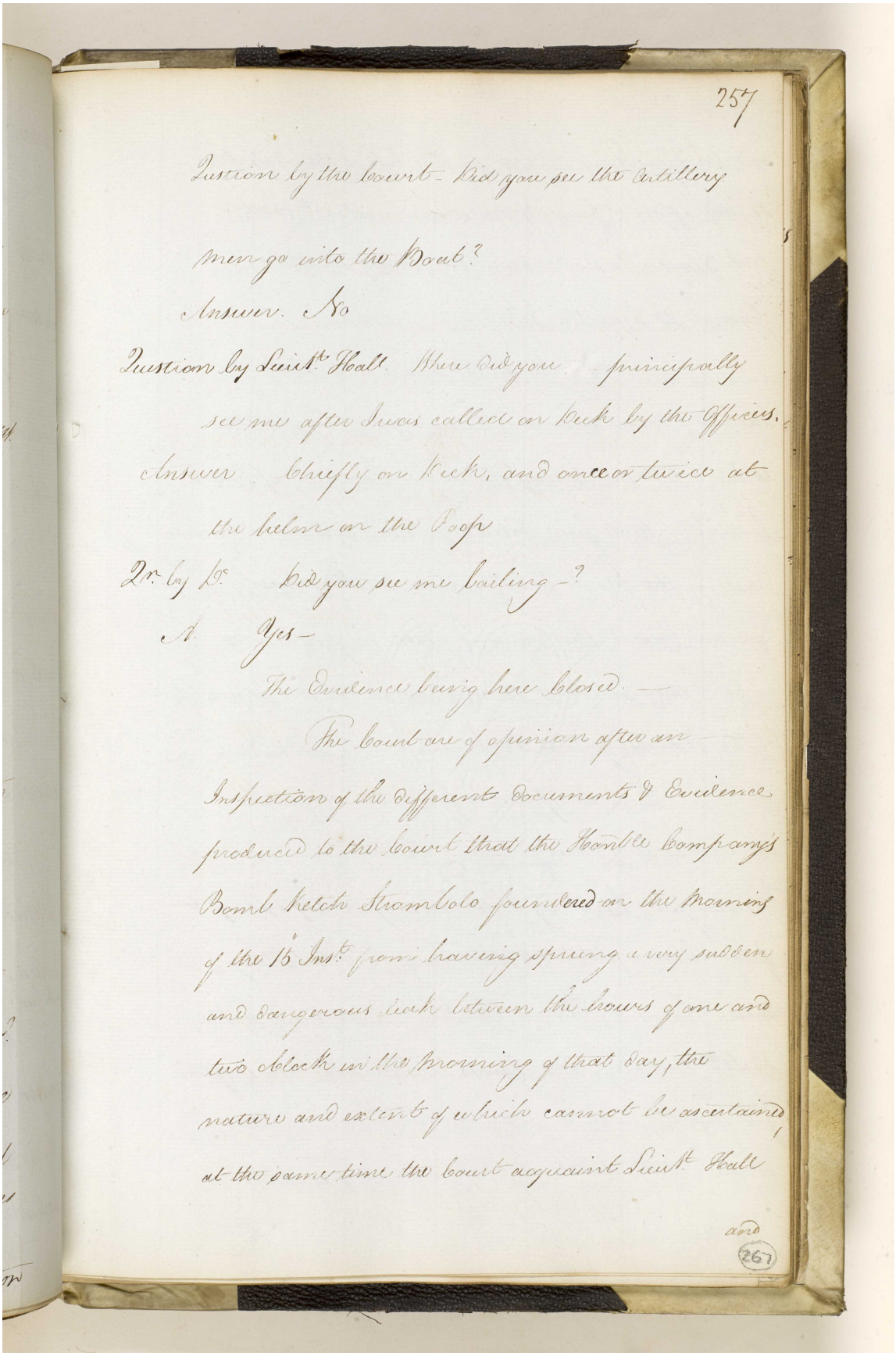

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Question by the Court – Did you see the Artillery men go into the Boat?

Answer. No

Question by Lieut. Hall. Where did you principally see me after I was called on deck by the Officers.

Answer. Chiefly on deck, and once or twice at the helm on the Poop

2d. by Do. Did you see me bailing –?

A. Yes –

The Evidence being here closed –

The Court are of opinion after an Inspection of the different Documents & Evidence produced to the Court that the Honble Company's Bomb Ketch Strombolo foundered on the Morning of the 15th Inst. from having sprung a very sudden and dangerous leak between the hours of one and two o'clock in the Morning of that day, the nature and extent of which cannot be ascertained

at the same time the Court acquaint Lieut. Hall

and

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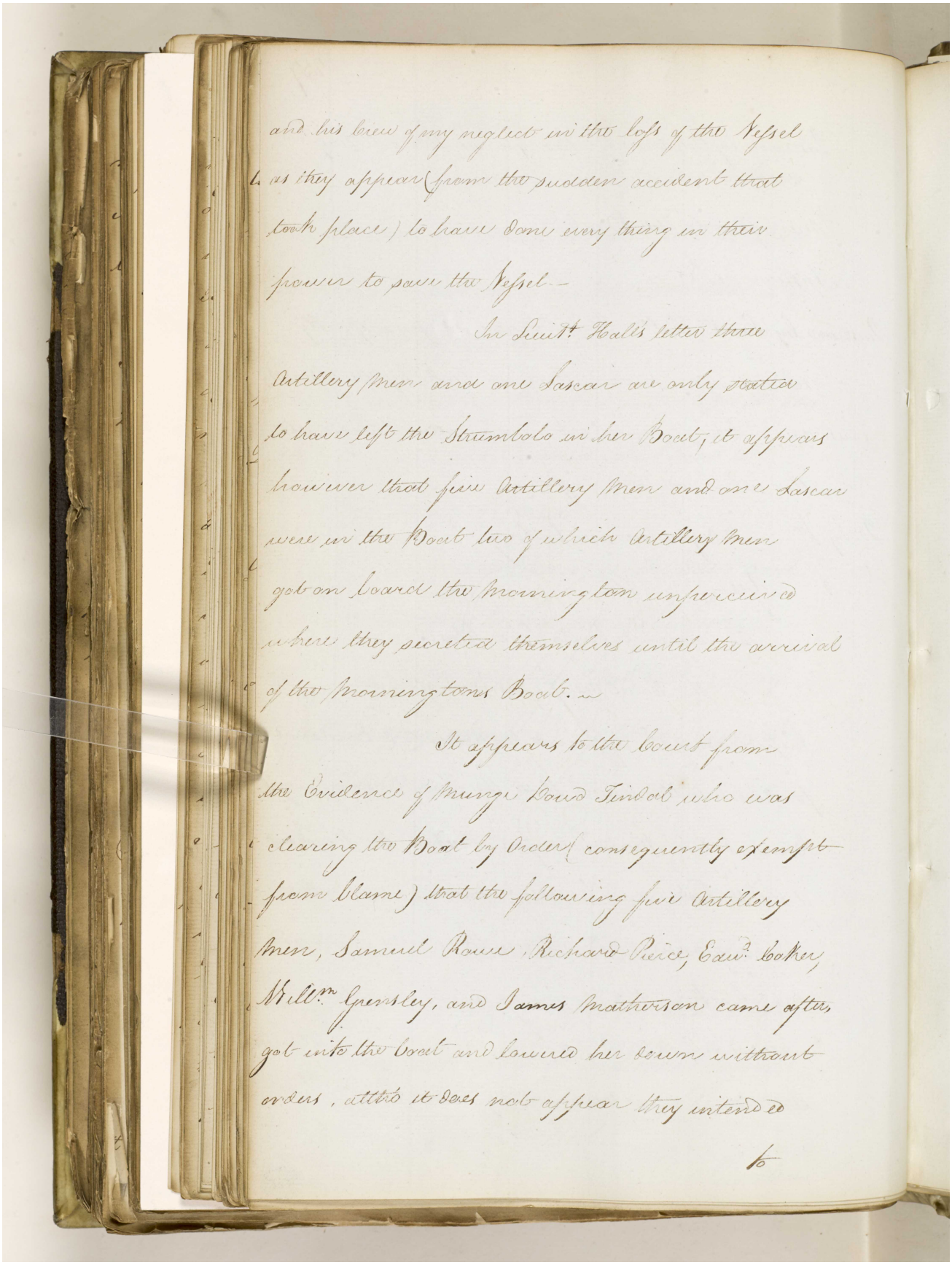

and his knew of my neglect in the loss of the Vessel as they appear (from the sudden accident that took place) to have done every thing in their power to save the Vessel –

In Lieut.t Hall's letter three Artillery Men and one Lascar are only stated to have left the Strumbolo in her Boat, it appears however that five Artillery Men and one Lascar were in the Boat two of which Artillery Men got on board the Mornington unperceived where they secreted themselves until the arrival of the Mornington's Boat. –

It appears to the Court from the Evidence of Mungo Lawd Tindal who was clearing the Boat by Order (consequently exempt from blame) that the following five Artillery Men, Samuel Rouse, Richard Price, Edw.d Coker, Will.m Ipensley, and James Matherson came after, got into the boat and lowered her down without orders, altho it does not appear they intended

to

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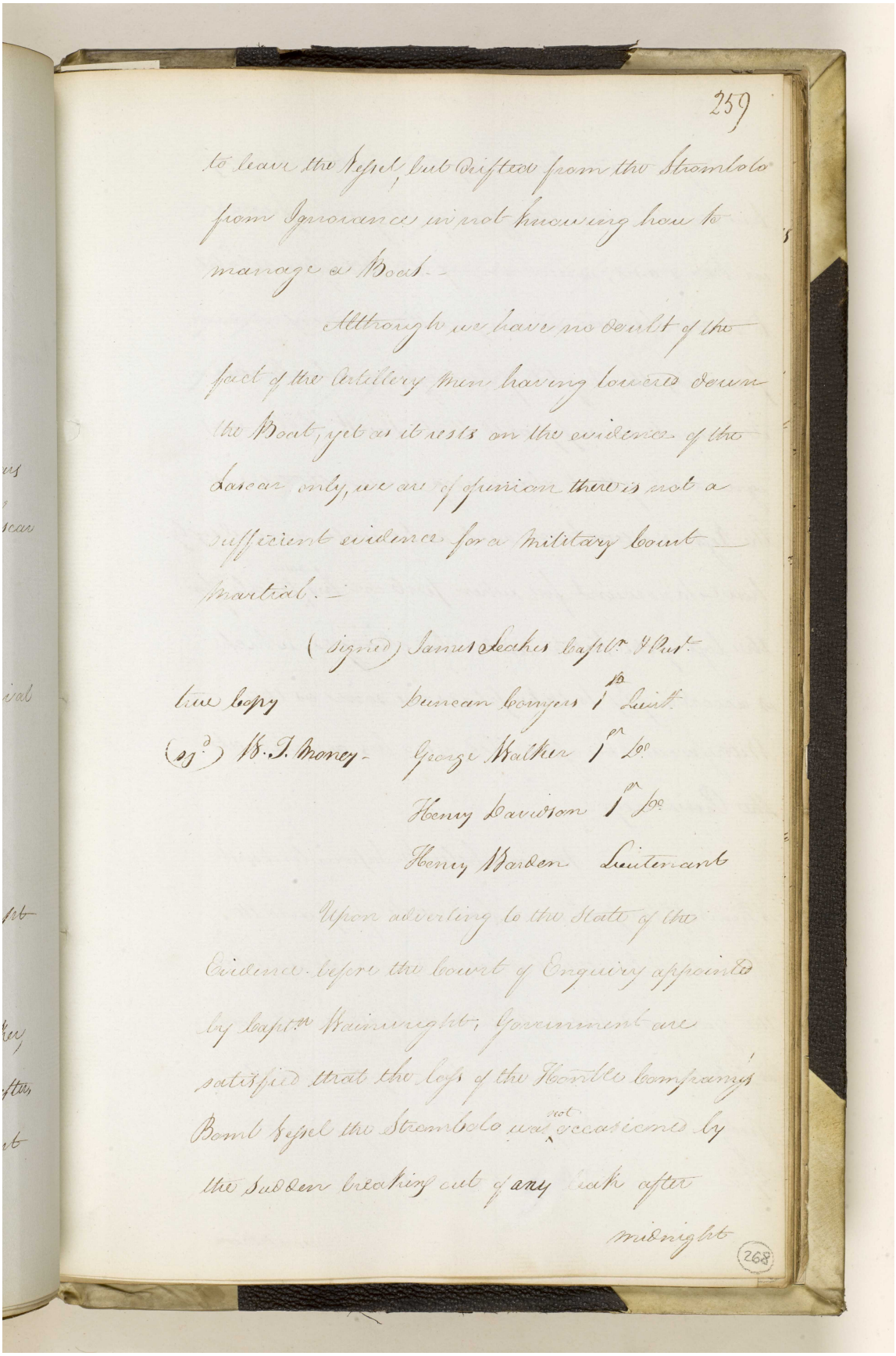

to leave the Vessel, but drifted from the Strombolo from Ignorance in not knowing how to manage a Boat.—

Although we have no doubt of the fact of the Artillery men having lowered down the Boat, yet as it rests on the evidence of the Lascar only, we are of opinion there is not a sufficient evidence for a Military Court Martial.—

(signed) James Leakes Captn. & Pres.
Duncan Conyers 1st Lieut.
George Walker 1st Do.
Henry Davidson 1st Do.
Henry Warden Lieutenant

true Copy
(sgd.) W. T. Money.

Upon adverting to the State of the Evidence before the Court of Enquiry appointed by Captn. Wainwright, Government are satisfied that the loss of the Honble Company's Bomb Vessel the Strombolo was not occasioned by the Sudden breaking out of any leak after midnight

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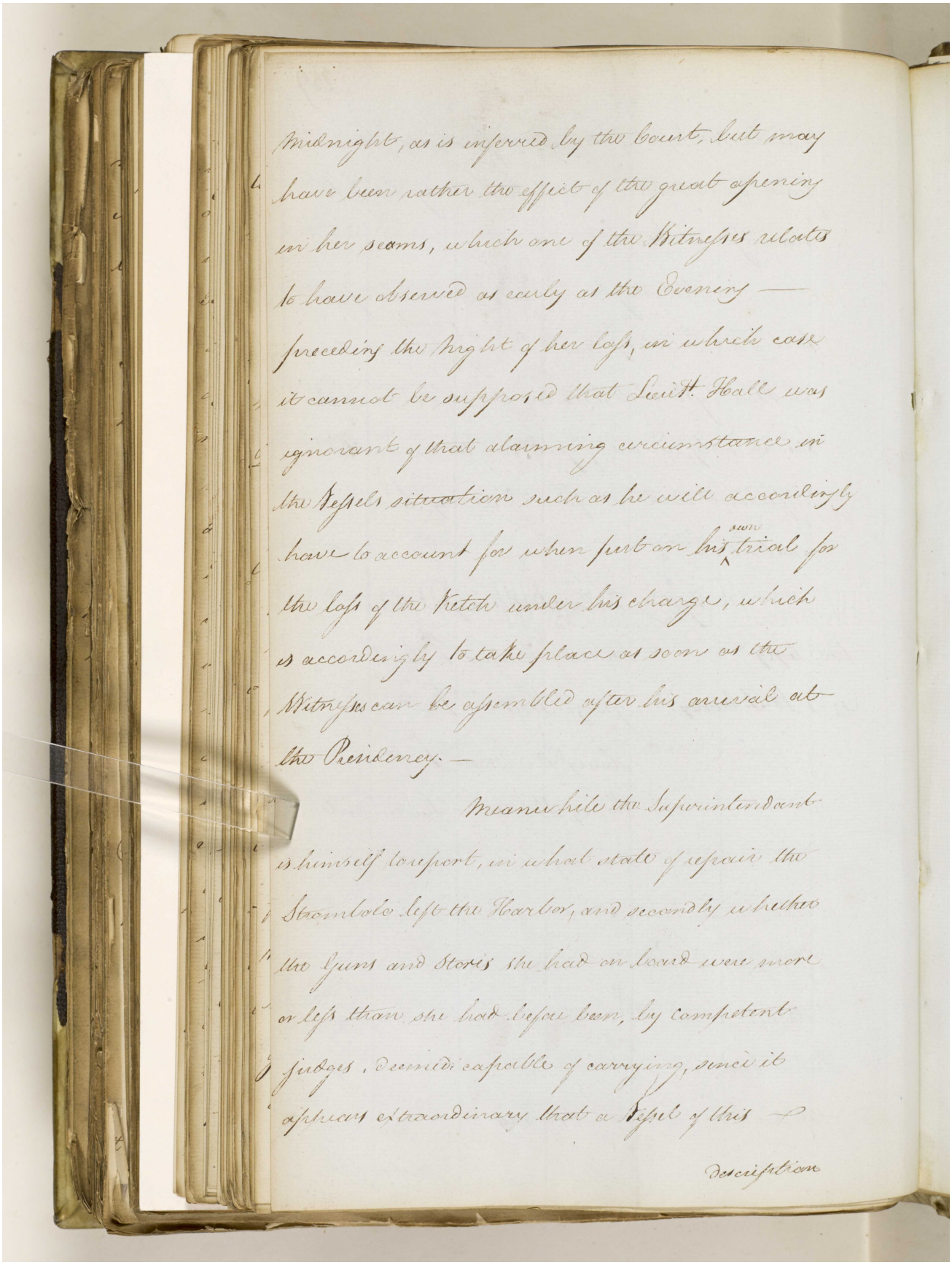

Midnight, as is inferred by the Court, but may have been rather the effect of the great opening in her seams, which one of the Witnesses relates to have observed as early as the Evening — preceding the Night of her loss, in which case it cannot be supposed that Lieut. Hall was ignorant of that alarming circumstance in the Vessels situation such as he will accordingly have to account for when put on his soon trial for the loss of the Vessel under his charge, which is accordingly to take place as soon as the Witnesses can be assembled after his arrival at the Residency. —

Meanwhile the Superintendant is himself to report, in what state of repair the Steamboat left the Harbor, and secondly whether the Guns and Stores she had on board were more or less than she had before been, by competent Judges, deemed capable of carrying, since it appears extraordinary that a Vessel of this —

description

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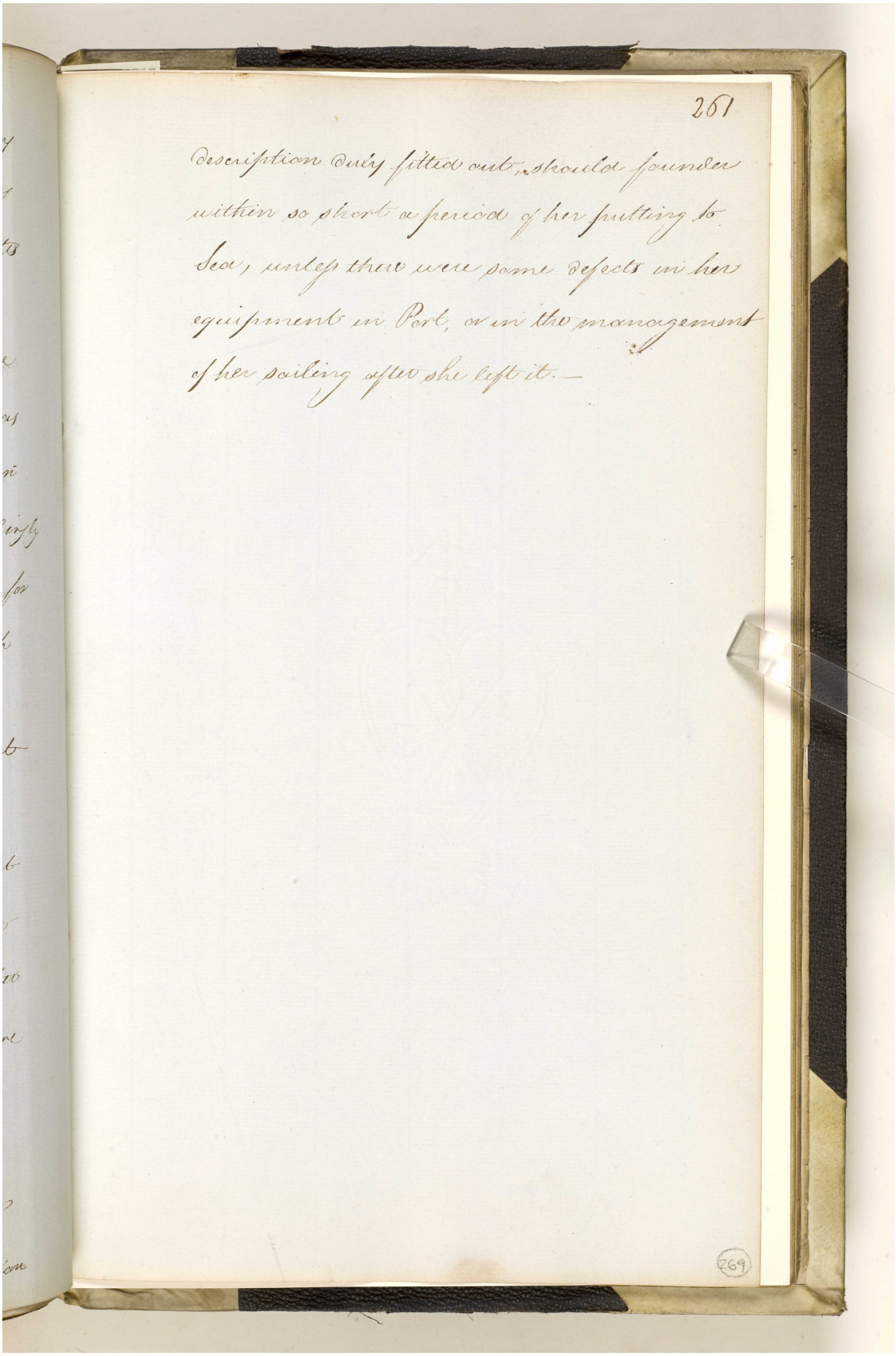

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Description duly fitted out, should founder within so short a period of her putting to Sea, unless there were some defects in her equipment in Port, or in the management of her sailing after she left it. —

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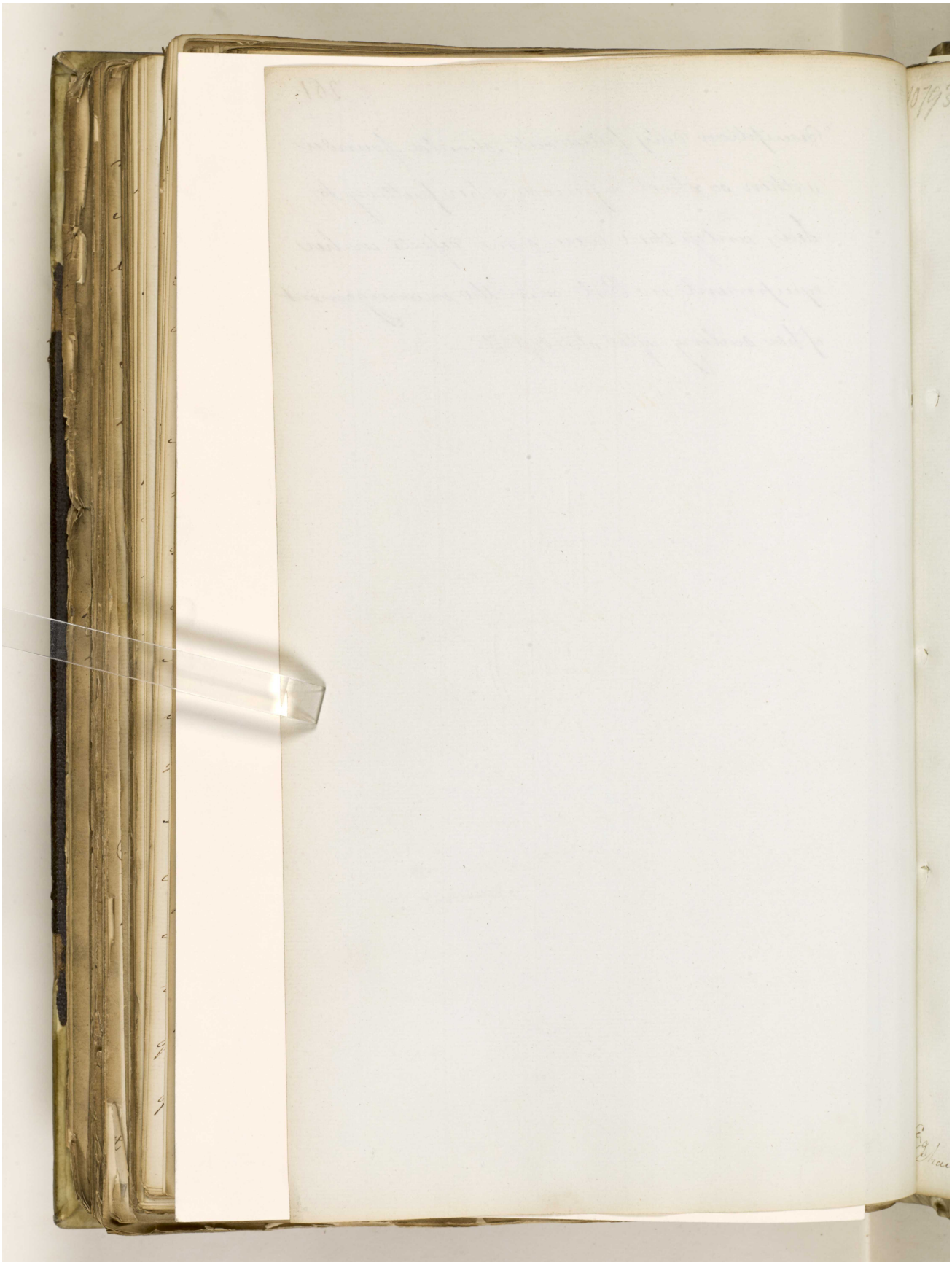

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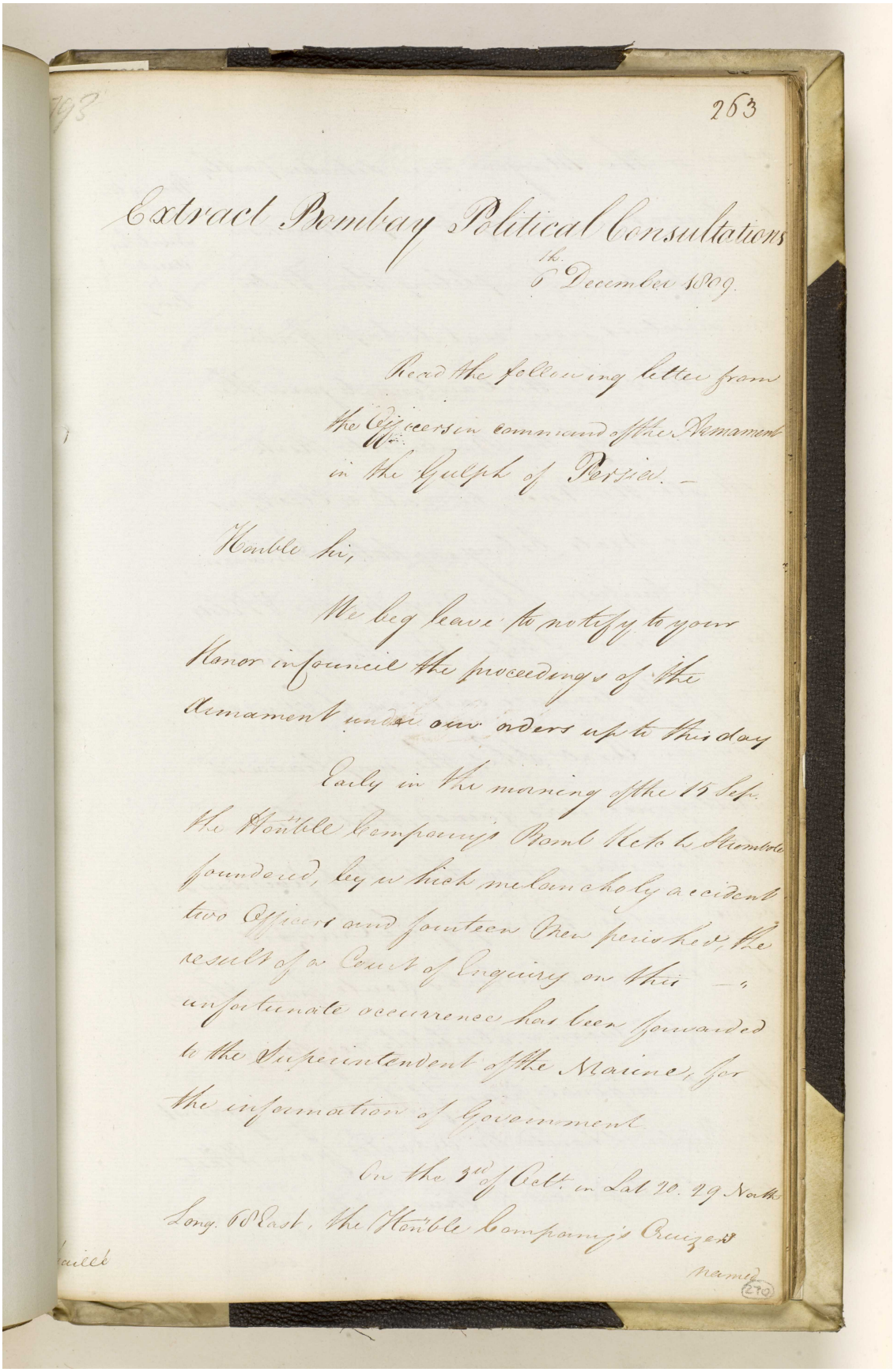

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
6th December 1809.

Read the following letter from the Officers in command of the Armament in the Gulph of Persia. –

Honble Sir,

We beg leave to notify to your Honor in Council the proceedings of the Armament under our orders up to this day

Early in the morning of the 15th Sept. the Honble Company's Bomb Ketch Stromboli foundered, by which melancholy accident two Officers and fourteen Men perished, the result of a Court of Enquiry on this unfortunate occurrence has been forwarded to the Superintendent of the Marine, for the information of Government

On the 3rd of Oct. in Lat 20. 29 North Long. 60 East, the Honble Company's Cruizers

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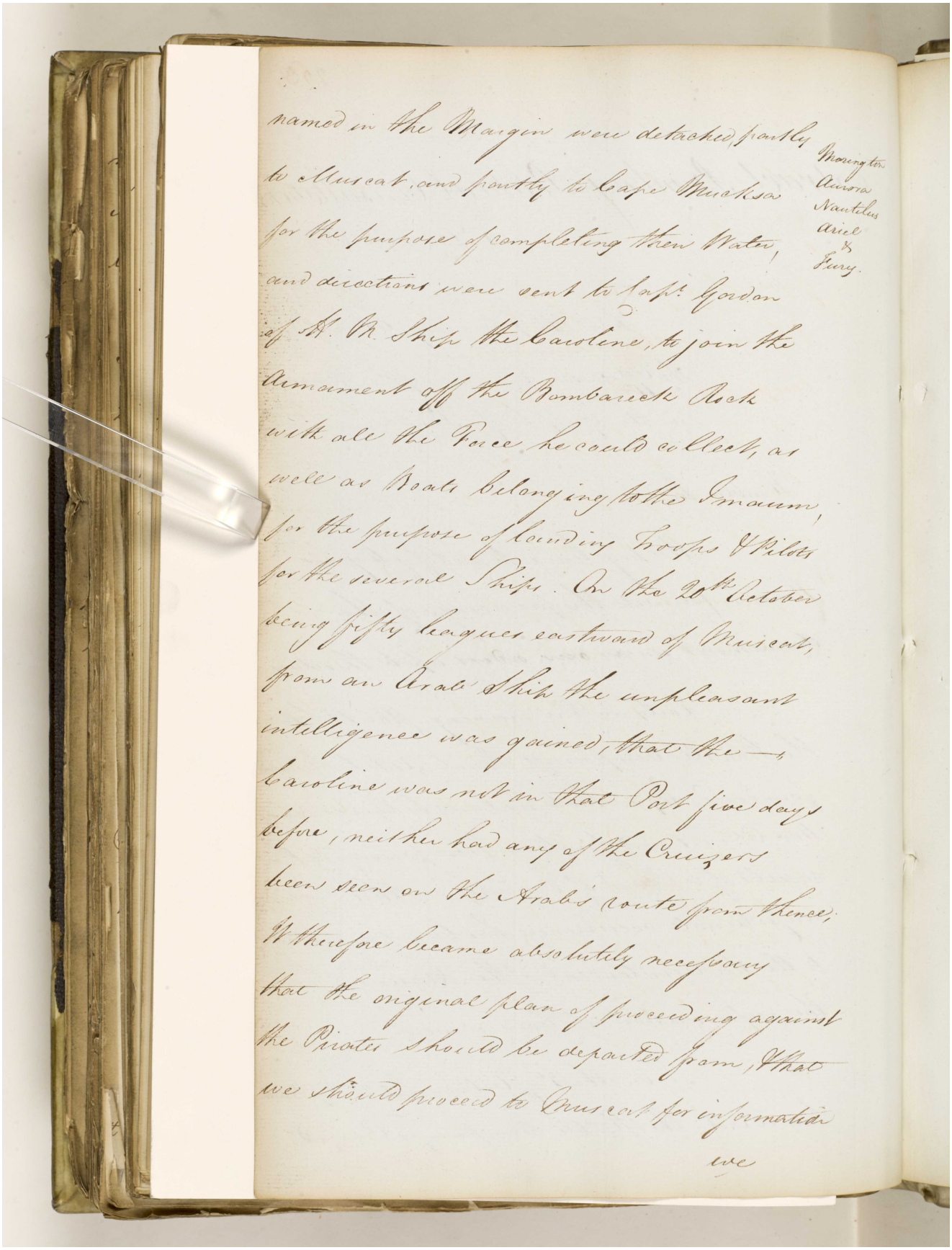

named in the Margin were detached partly
to Muscat, and partly to Cape Muarkaa
for the purpose of completing their Water,
and directions were sent to Capt. Gordon
of H. M. Ship the Caroline, to join the
Armament off the Bombareek Rock
with all the Force he could collect, as
well as Boats belonging to the Imaum,
for the purpose of landing Troops & Pilots
for the several Ships. On the 20th October
being fifty Leagues eastward of Muscat,
from an Arab Ship the unpleasant
intelligence was gained, that the
Caroline was not in that Port five days
before, neither had any of the Cruizers
been seen on the Arabs route from thence.
It therefore became absolutely necessary
that the original plan of proceeding against
the Pirates should be departed from, & that
we should proceed to Muscat for information
we

Mooring to
Aurora
Nautilus
Ariel
&
Fury.

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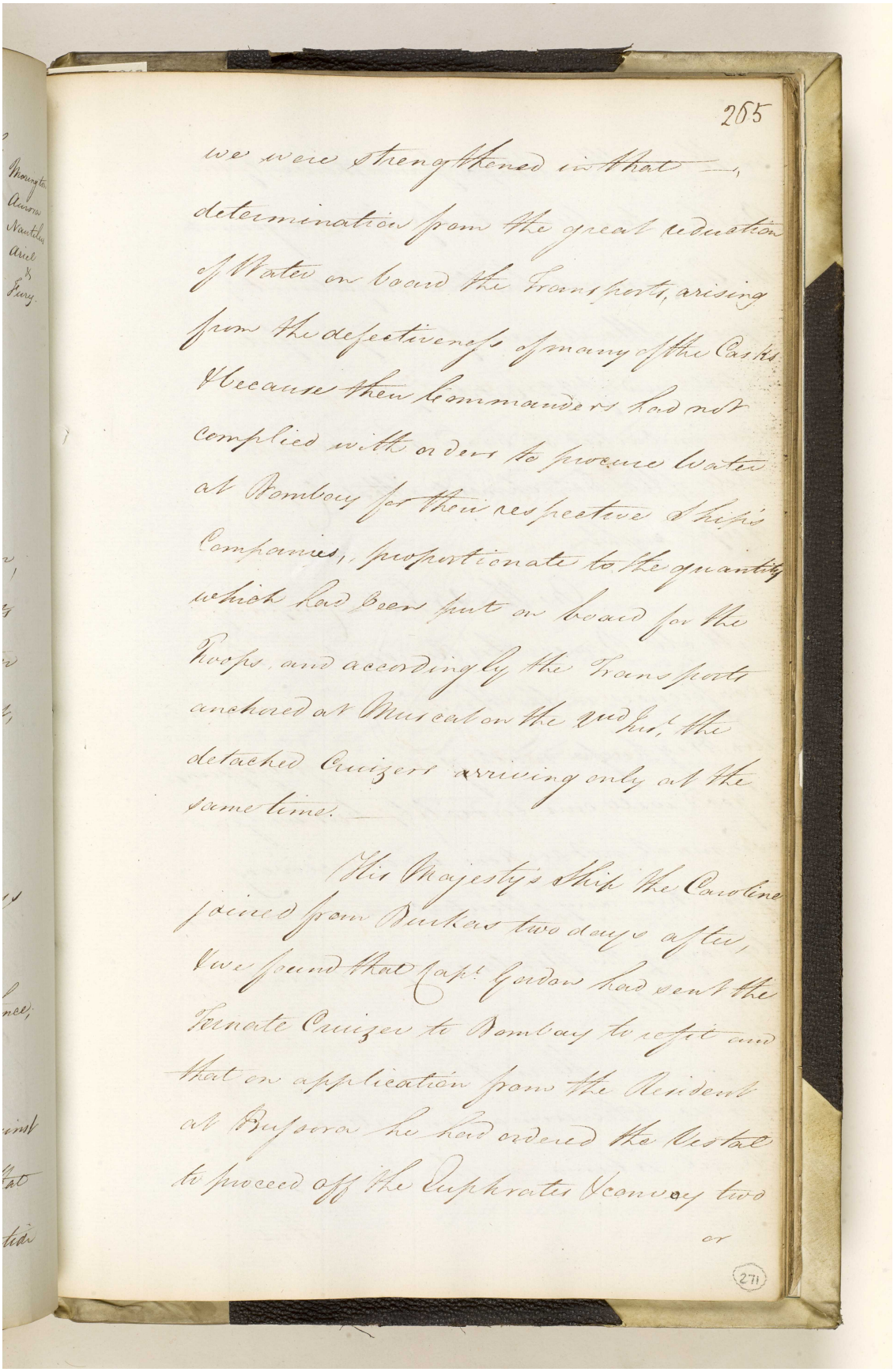

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we were strengthened in that —,
determination from the great reduction
of Water on board the Transports, arising
from the defectiveness of many of the Casks
Because their Commanders had not
complied with orders to procure Water
at Bombay for their respective Ships
Companies, proportionate to the quantity
which had been put on board for the
Troops, and accordingly the Transports
anchored at Muscat on the 2nd Inst. the
detached Cruizers arriving only at the
same time.

His Majesty's Ship the Caroline
joined from Bankas two days after,
We found that Capt. Gordon had sent the
Penate Cruizer to Bombay to refit and
that on application from the Resident
at Bussora he had ordered the Victor
to proceed off the Euphrates & convoy two
or

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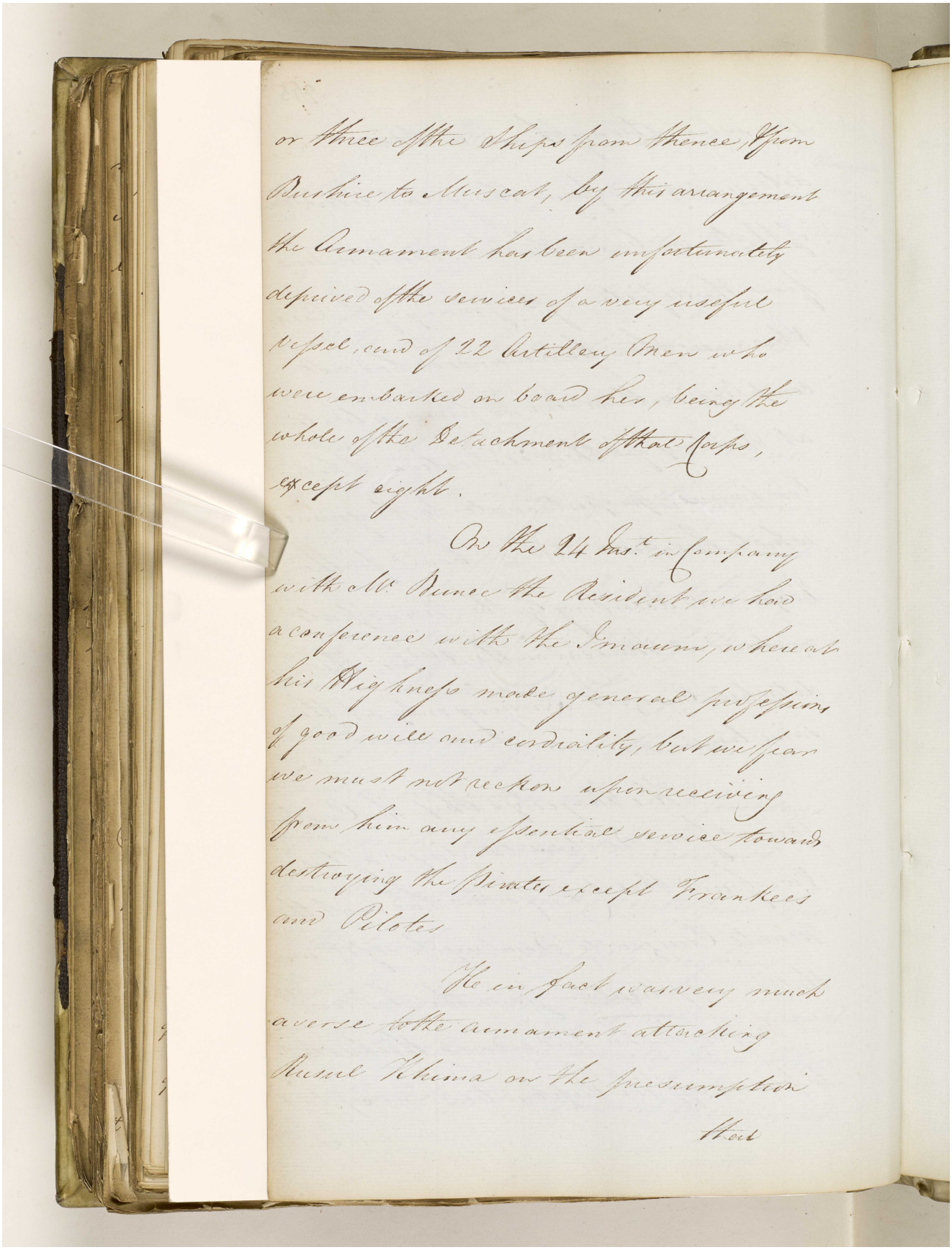

or three of the Ships from thence, from Bushire to Muscat, by this arrangement the Armament has been unfortunately deprived of the services of a very useful Vessel, and of 22 Artillery Men who were embarked on board her, being the whole of the Detachment of that Corps, except eight.

On the 24 Inst.t in company with Mr. Bruce the Resident we had a conference with the Imaum, whereat his Highness made general professions of good will and cordiality, but we fear we must not reckon upon receiving from him any essential service towards destroying the Pirates except Frankees and Pilots

He in fact is very much averse to the Armament attacking Ruse Alkima on the presumption that

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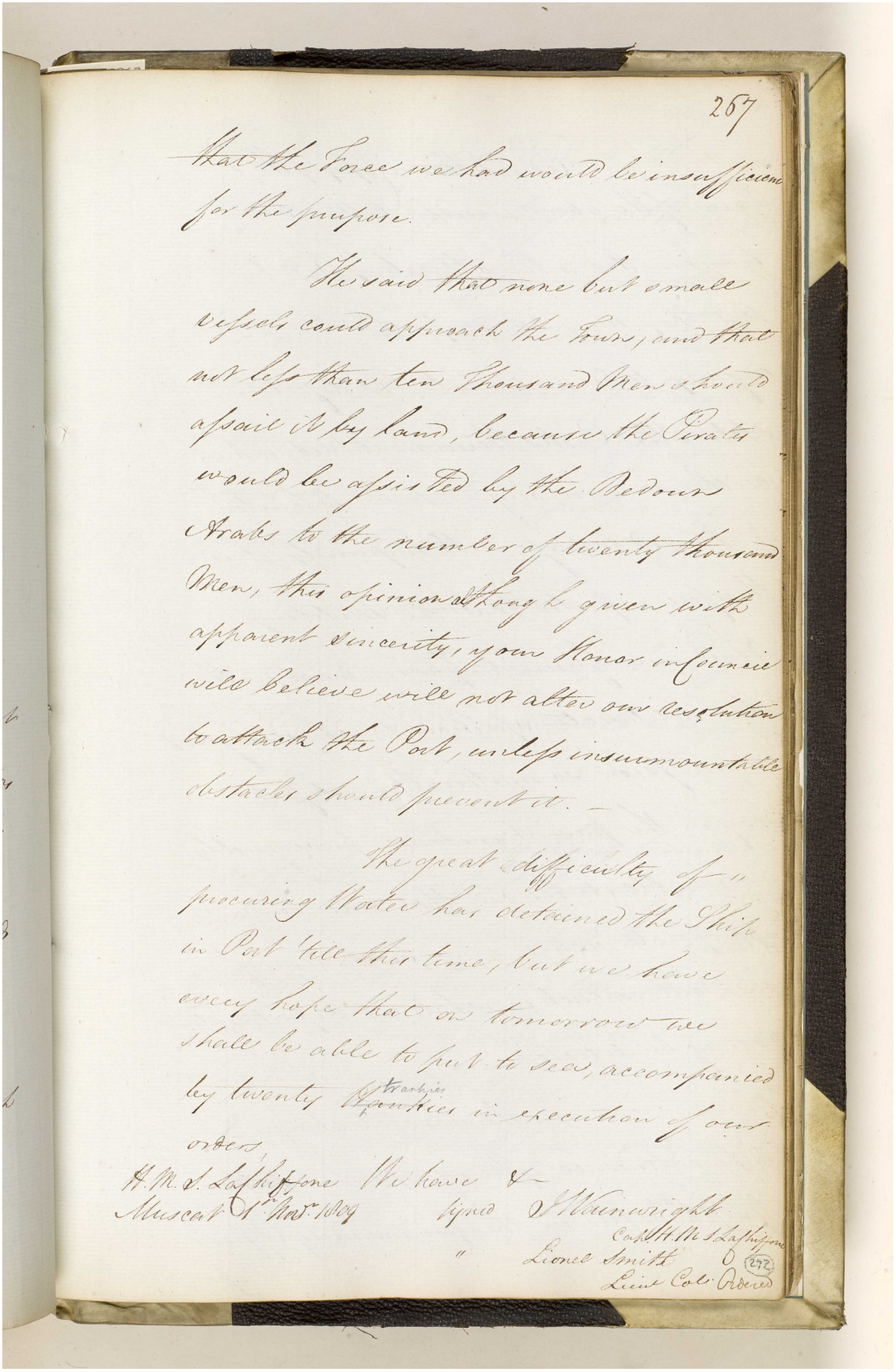

that the Force we had would be insufficient for the purpose.

He said that none but small vessels could approach the Town, and that not less than ten Thousand Men should assail it by land, because the Pirates would be assisted by the Bedoun Arabs to the number of twenty thousand Men, this opinion although given with apparent sincerity, your Honor in Council will believe will not alter our resolution to attack the Port, unless insurmountable obstacles should prevent it. —

The great difficulty of " procuring Water has detained the Ship in Port 'till this time, but we have every hope that on tomorrow we shall be able to put to sea, accompanied by twenty ~~Hankies~~ trankies in execution of our orders,

H. M. S. LaChiffone
Muscat 1st Novr. 1809

We have &c
signed J Wainwright
Capt. H. M. S. LaChiffone
" Lionel Smith
Lieut Col. Ordered

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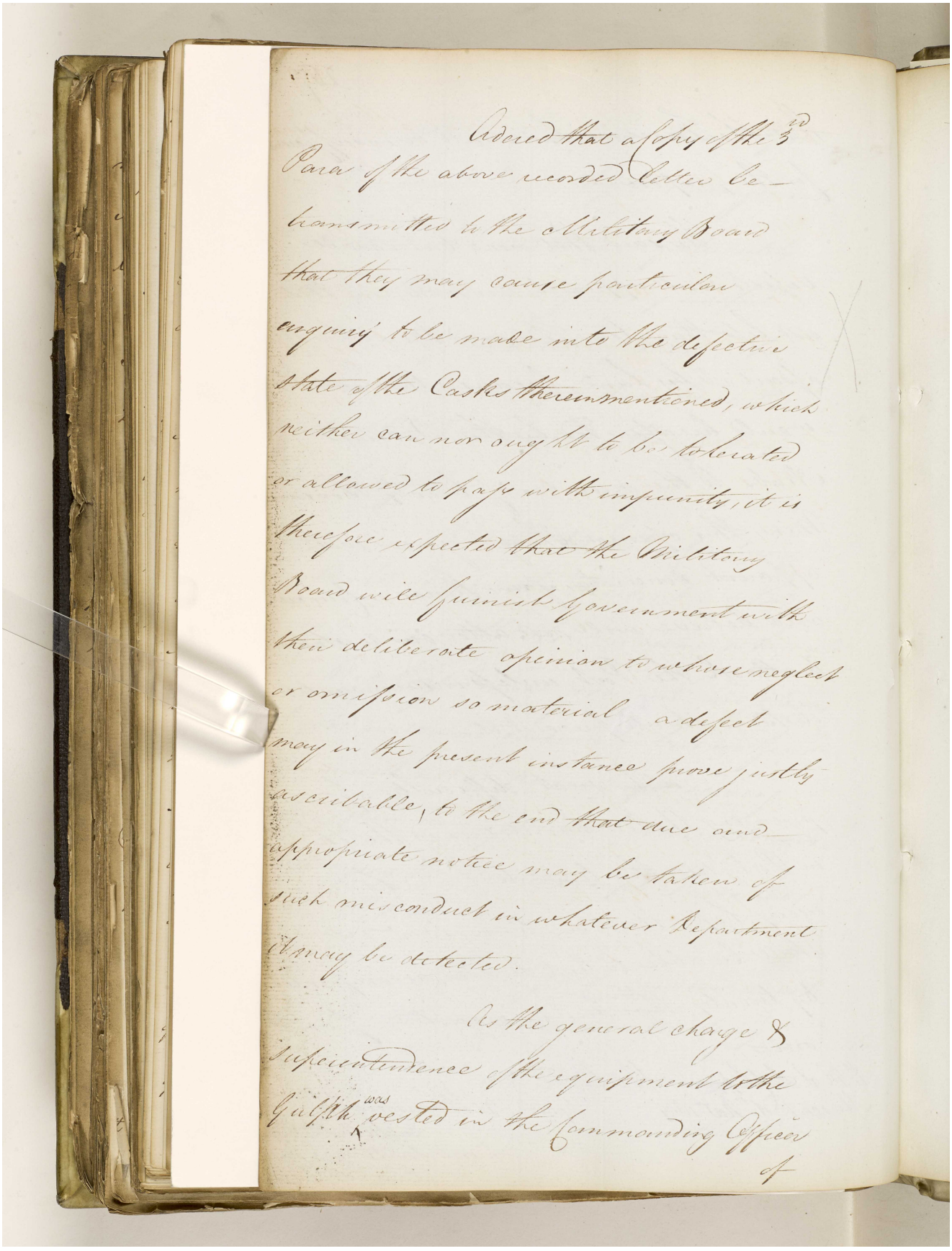

Ordered that a copy of the 3rd
Para of the above recorded letter be
transmitted to the Military Board
that they may cause particular
enquiry to be made into the defective
state of the Casks therein mentioned, which
neither can nor ought to be tolerated
or allowed to pass with impunity, it is
therefore expected that the Military
Board will furnish Government with
their deliberate opinion to whose neglect
or omission so material a defect
may in the present instance prove justly
ascribable, to the end that due and
appropriate notice may be taken of
such misconduct in whatever Department
it may be detected.

As the general charge &
superintendence of the equipment of the
Gulph was vested in the Commanding Officer
of

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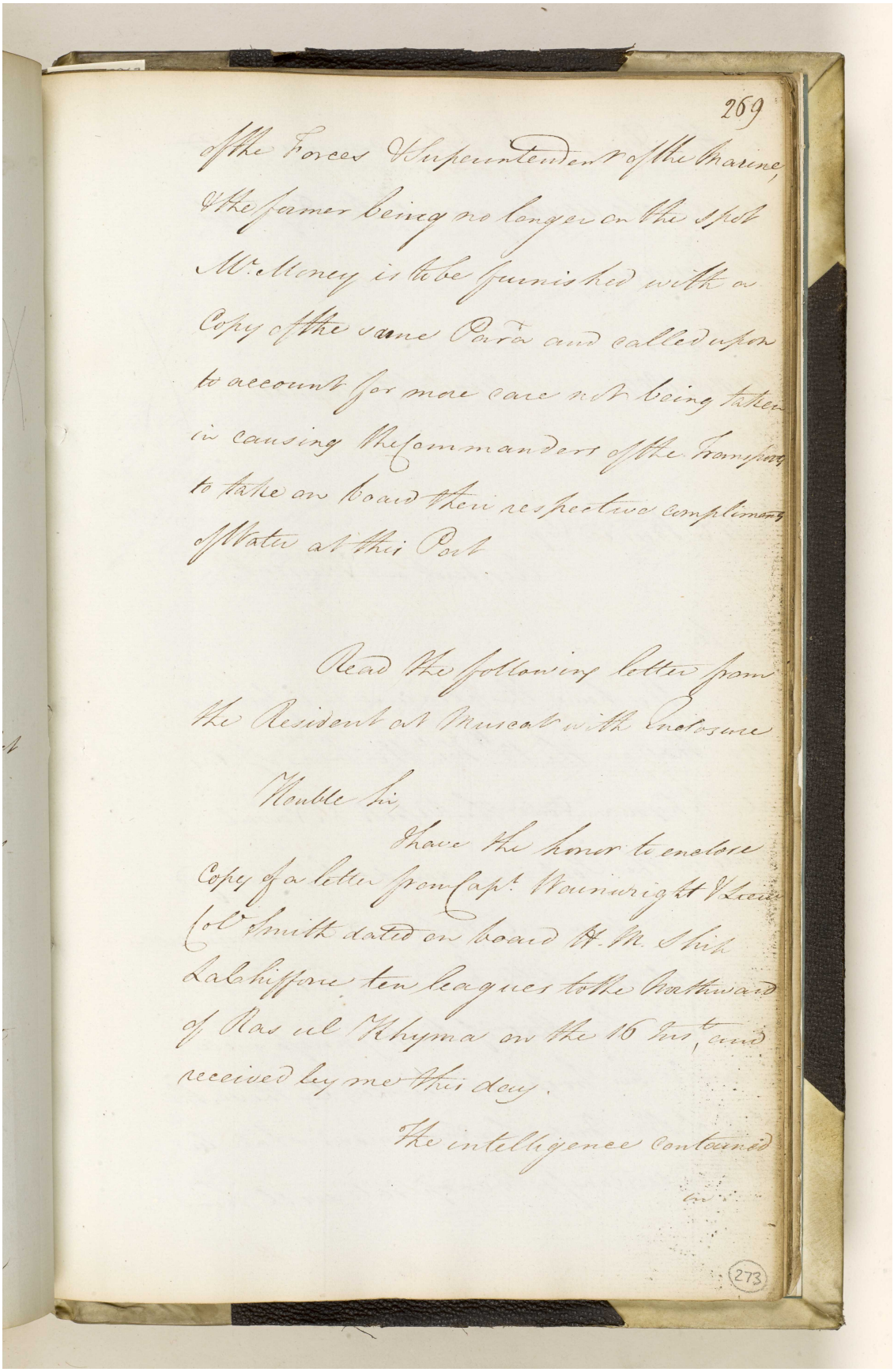

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of the Forces & Superintendent of the Marine,
the Samer being no longer on the Spot
Mr. Money is to be furnished with a
Copy of the same Para and called upon
to account for more care not being taken
in causing the Commanders of the Transports
to take on board their respective complement
of Water at this Port

Read the following letter from
the Resident at Muscat with Enclosure

Honble Sir,

I have the honor to enclose
Copy of a letter from Capt. Wainwright & Lieut.
Col. Smith dated on board H.M. Ship
Calchiffone ten leagues to the Northward
of Ras ul Khyma on the 16 Inst. and
received by me this day.

The intelligence contained

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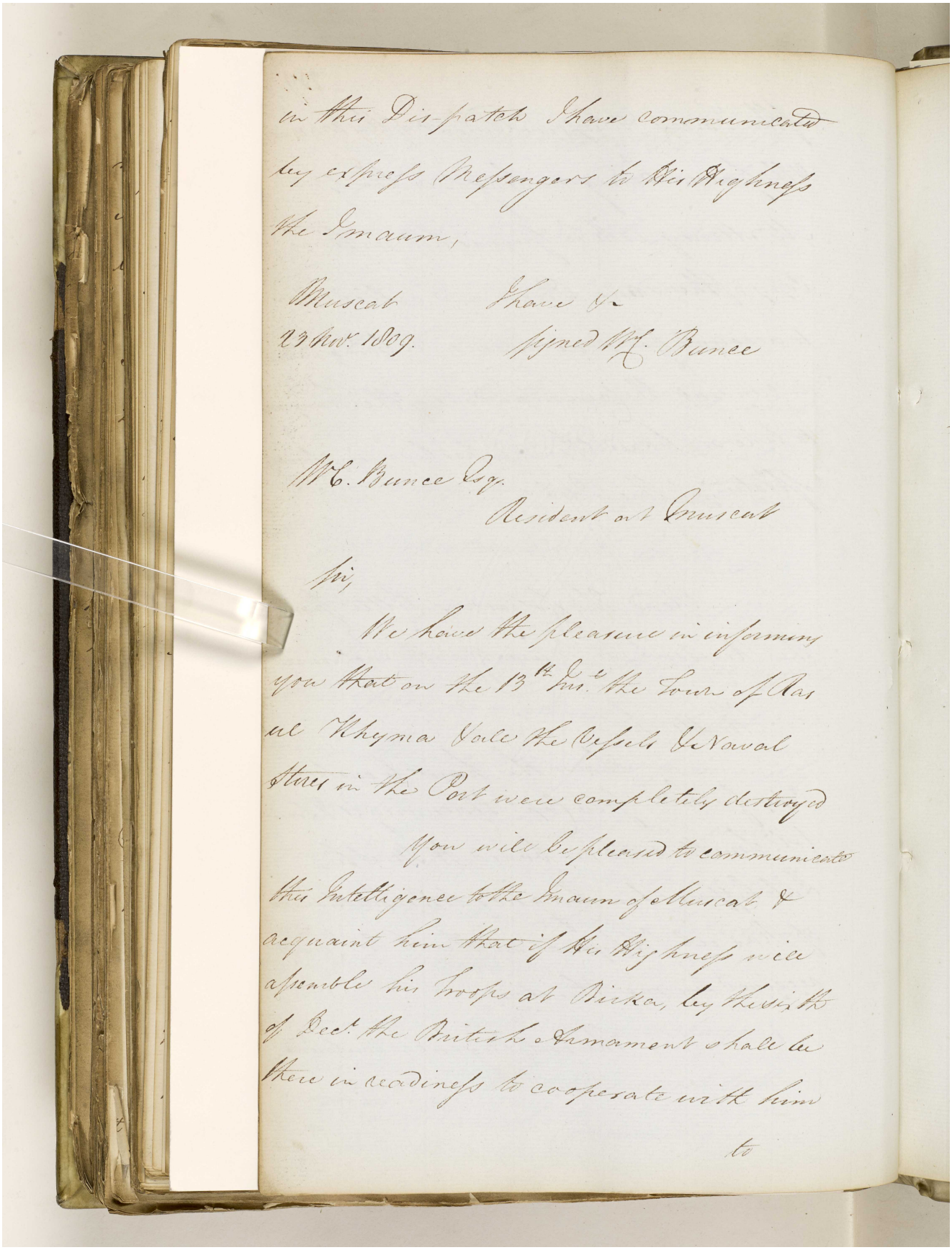

in this Dis-patch I have communicated by express Messengers to His Highness the Imaum,

Muscat
23 Nov. 1809.

I have &c
Signed W. C. Bunce

W. C. Bunce Esq.
Resident at Muscat

Sir,

We have the pleasure in informing you that on the 13th Inst. the Town of Ras ul Khyma & all the Vessels & Naval Stores in the Port were completely destroyed

You will be pleased to communicate this Intelligence to the Imaum of Muscat & acquaint him that if His Highness will assemble his Troops at Birka, by the sixth of Decr. the British Armament shall be there in readiness to cooperate with him

to

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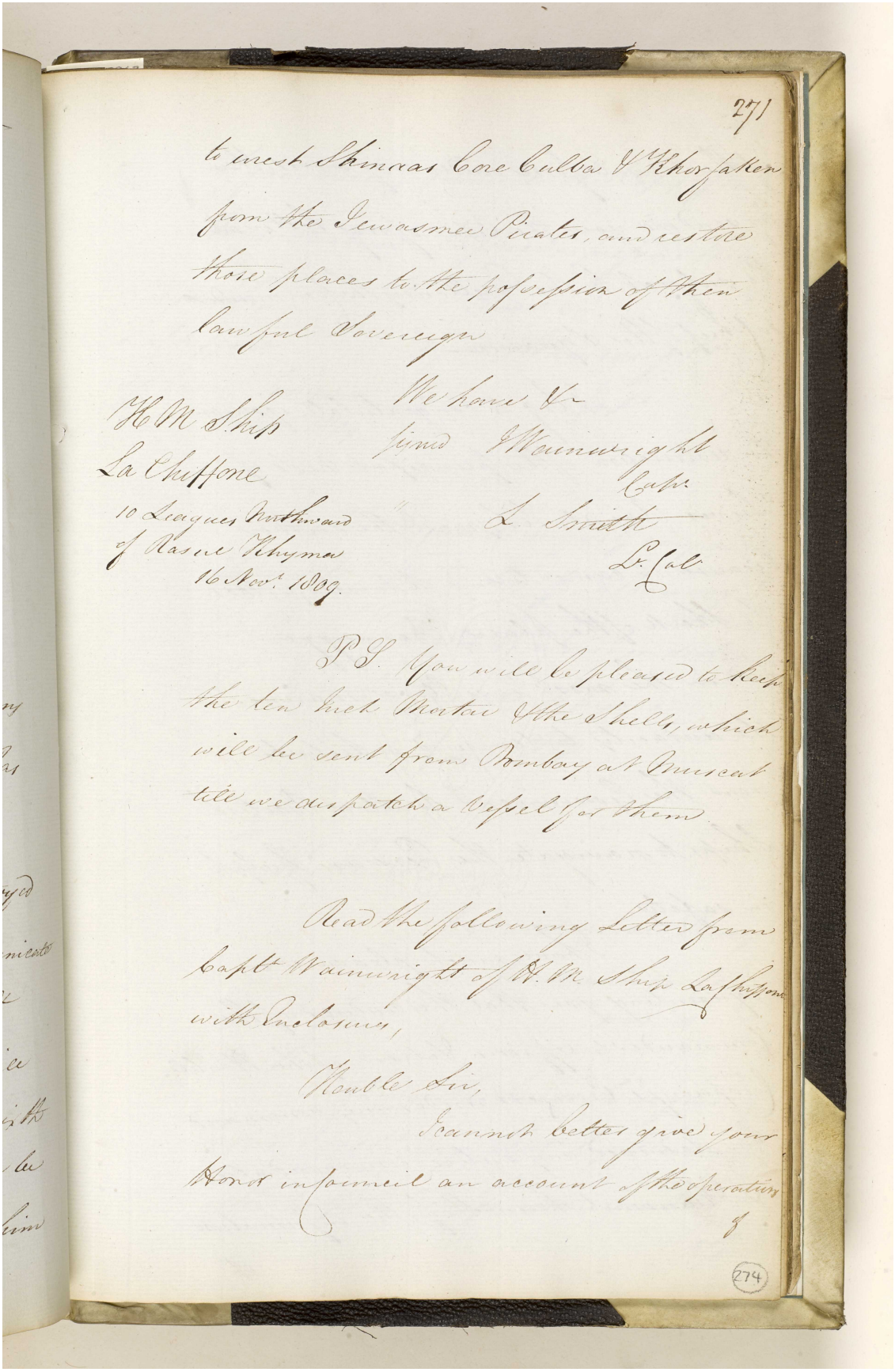

to wrest Shinaas Core Culba & Khorfaken from the Jewasmee Pirates, and restore those places to the possession of their lawful Sovereign

We have &c
signed J Wainwright
Capt.
" L. Smith
Lt. Col

H M Ship
La Chiffone
10 Leagues Northward
of Rasul Khyma
16 Novr. 1809.

P.S. You will be pleased to keep the ten Inch Mortar & the Shells, which will be sent from Bombay at Muscat till we dispatch a Vessel for them

Read the following Letter from Captt Wainwright of H.M. Ship La Chiffone with Enclosures,

Hon'ble Sir,

I cannot better give your Honor in Council an account of the operations of

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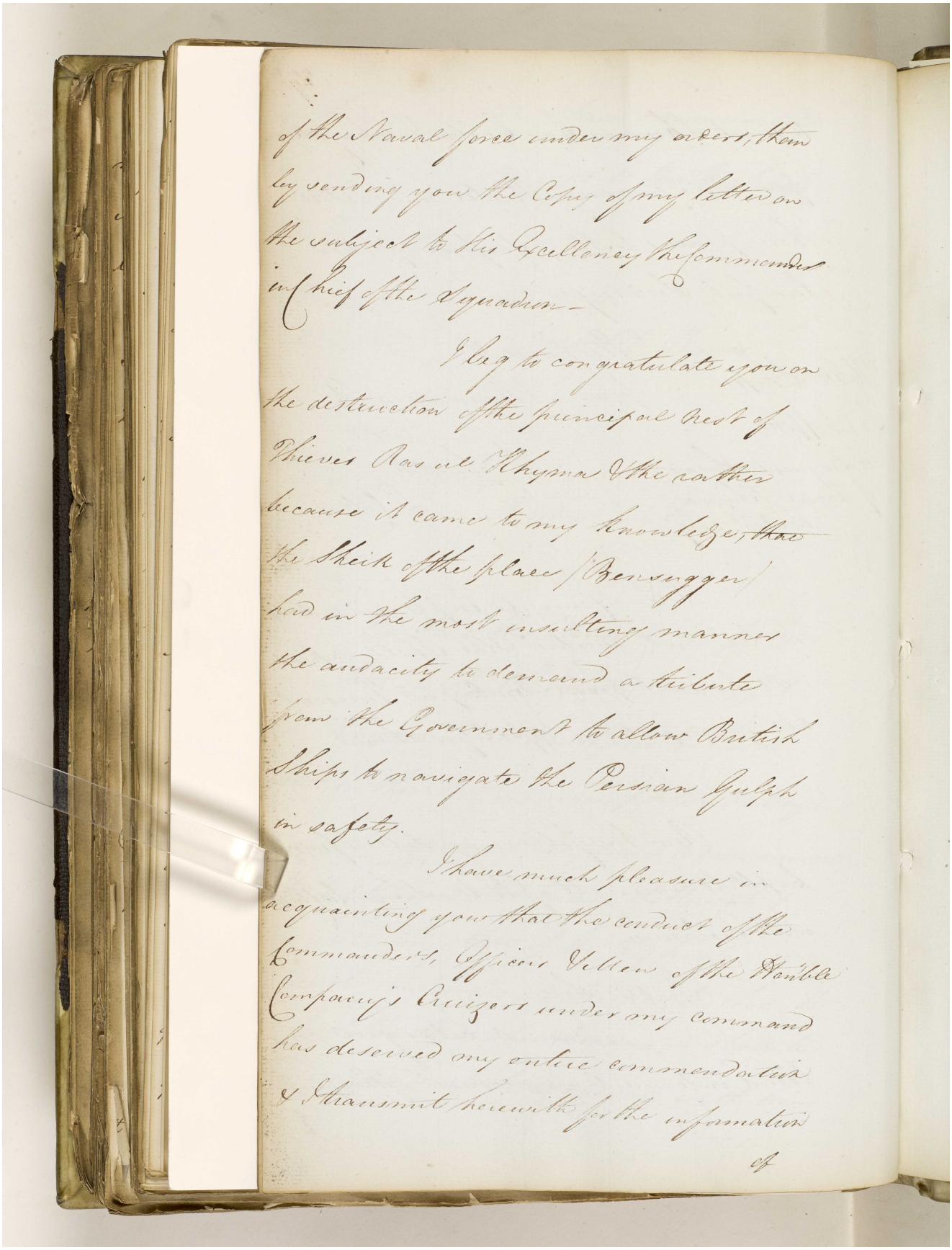

of the Naval force under my orders, than by sending you the Copy of my letter on the subject to His Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Squadron –

I beg to congratulate you on the destruction of the principal nest of Thieves Ras ul Khyma & the rather because it came to my knowledge, that the Sheik of the place (Bensugger) had in the most insulting manner the audacity to demand a tribute from the Government to allow British Ships to navigate the Persian Gulph in safety.

I have much pleasure in acquainting you that the conduct of the Commanders, Officers & Men of the Hon'ble Company's Cruizers under my command has deserved my entire commendation & I transmit herewith for the information

of

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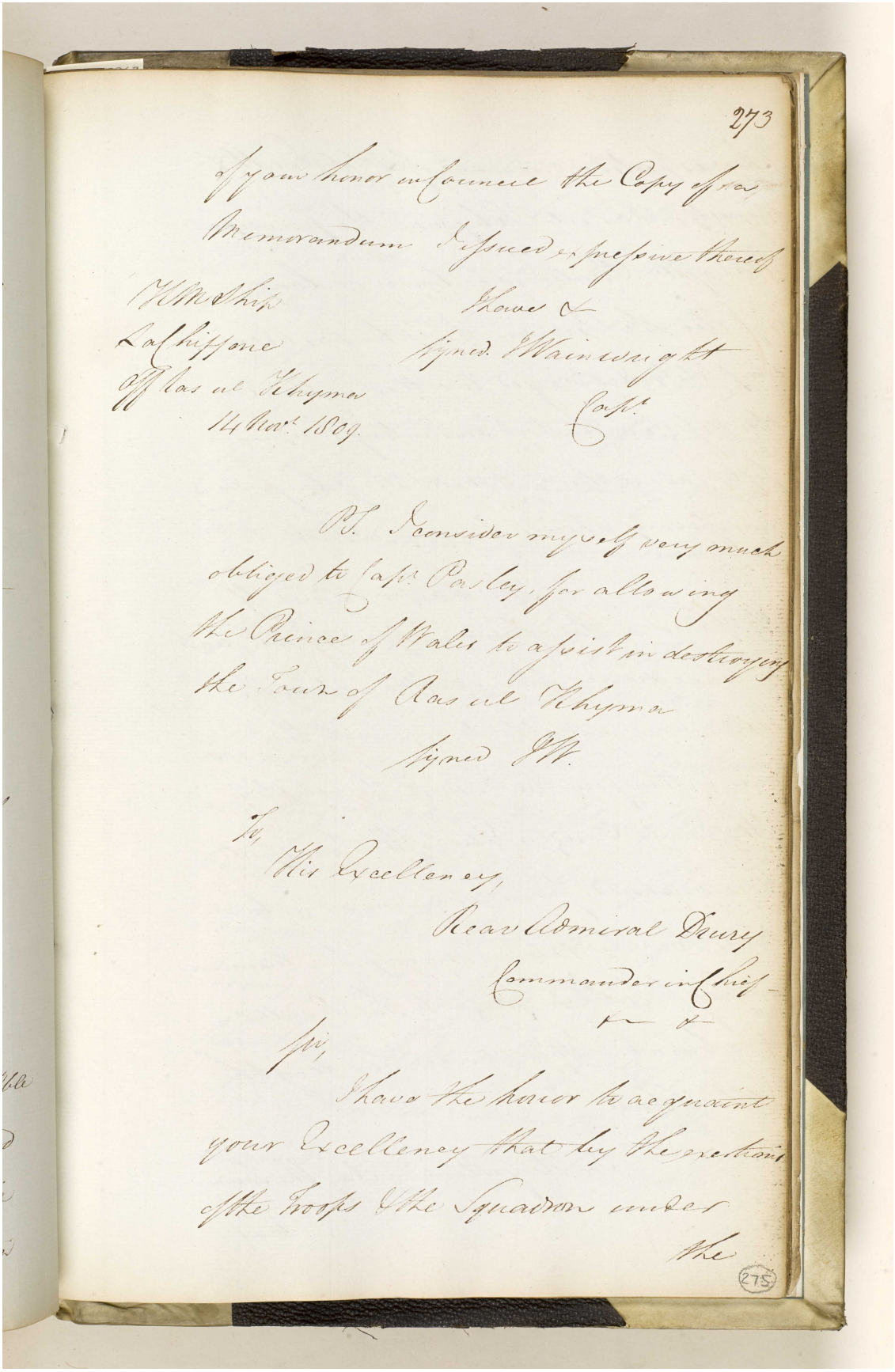
'Operations of the Naval and Military Forces employed against the Joasmee Pirates – and An application from the Imaum of Muscat for protection against the danger which threatens him from the Wahabees for the part he took in that Expedition' [275r] (275/294)



of your honor in Council the Copy of a Memorandum I issued expressive thereof

I have &

Signed J Wainwright
Capt.

H.M. Ship
La Chiffone
Off Ras ul Khyma
14 Novr. 1809.

P.S. I consider myself very much obliged to Capt. Pasley, for allowing the Prince of Wales to assist in destroying the Town of Ras ul Khyma

Signed J.W.

To,
His Excellency,
Rear Admiral Drury
Commander in Chief
&c &c

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that by the exertions of the Troops & the Squadron under the

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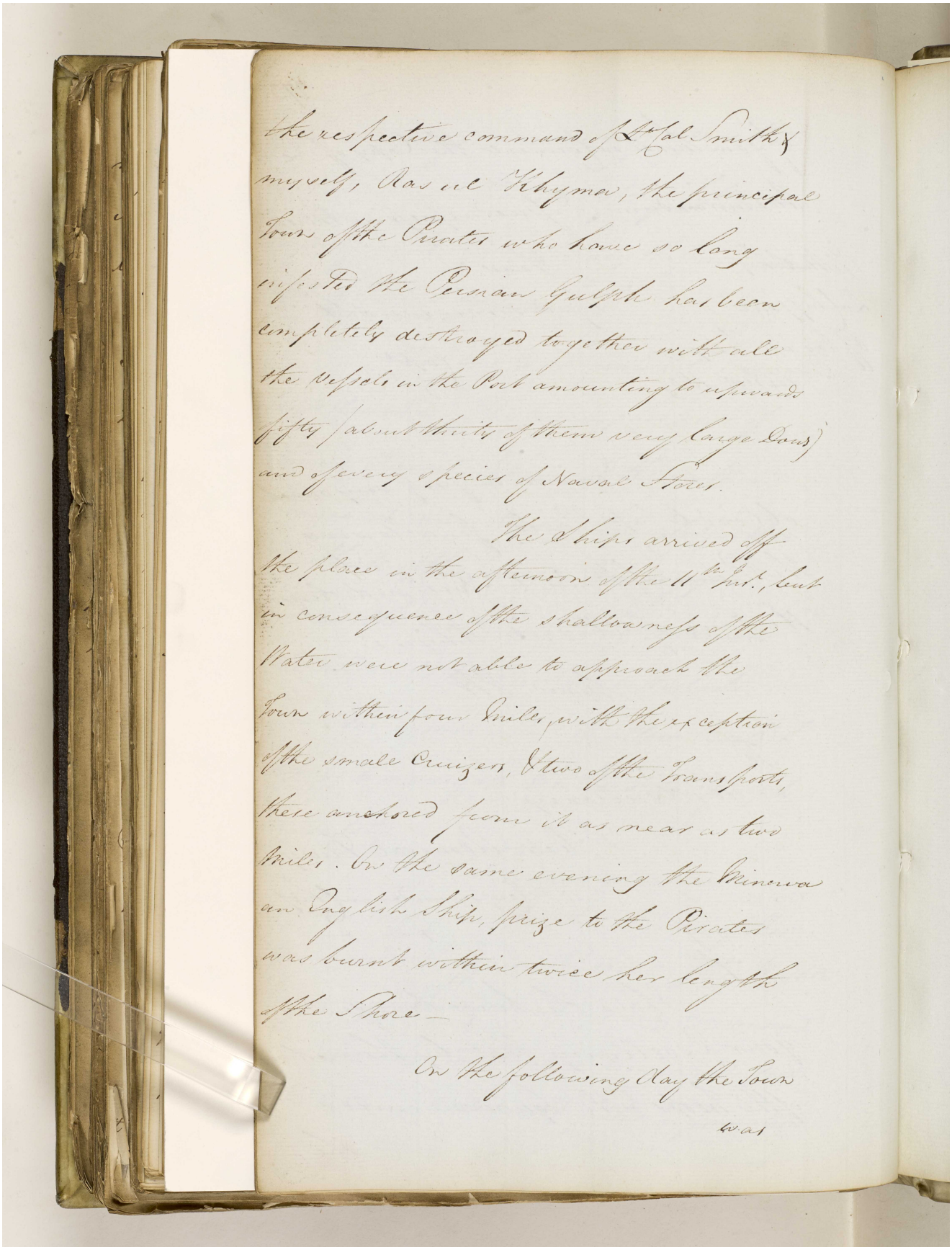

the respective command of Capt Smith & myself, Ras ul Khyma, the principal Town of the Pirates who have so long infested the Persian Gulph has been completely destroyed together with all the Vessels in the Port amounting to upwards fifty (about thirty of them very large Dows) and of every species of Naval Stores.

The Ships arrived off the place in the afternoon of the 11th Inst., but in consequence of the shallowness of the Water were not able to approach the Town within four Miles, with the exception of the small Cruizers, & two of the Transports, these anchored from it as near as two Miles. On the same evening the Minerva an English Ship, Prize to the Pirates was burnt within twice her length of the Shore.

On the following day the Town

was

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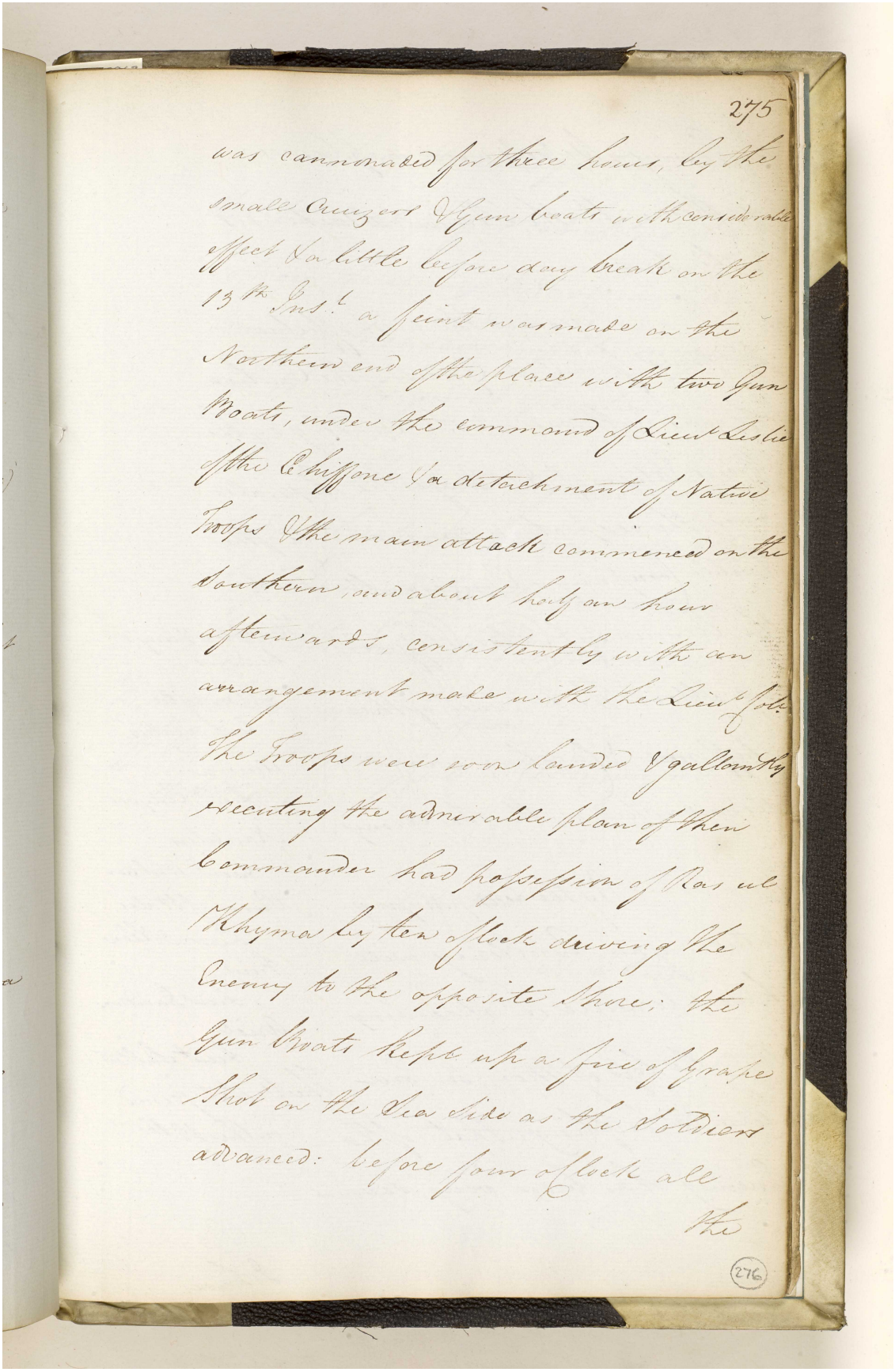

was cannonaded for three hours, by the
smale Cruizers & Gun boats with considerable
effect & a little before day break on the
13th Inst.o a feint was made on the
Northern end of the place with two Gun
Boats, under the command of Lieut Leslie
of the Chiffone & a detachment of Native
troops & the main attack commenced on the
Southern, and about half an hour
afterwards, consistently with an
arrangement made with the Lieut Col.o
the Troops were soon landed & gallantly
executing the admirable plan of their
Commander had possession of Ras ul
Khyma by ten o'clock driving the
Enemy to the opposite Shore. the
Gun Boats kept up a fire of Grape
Shot on the Sea side as the Soldiers
advanced. before four o'clock all
the

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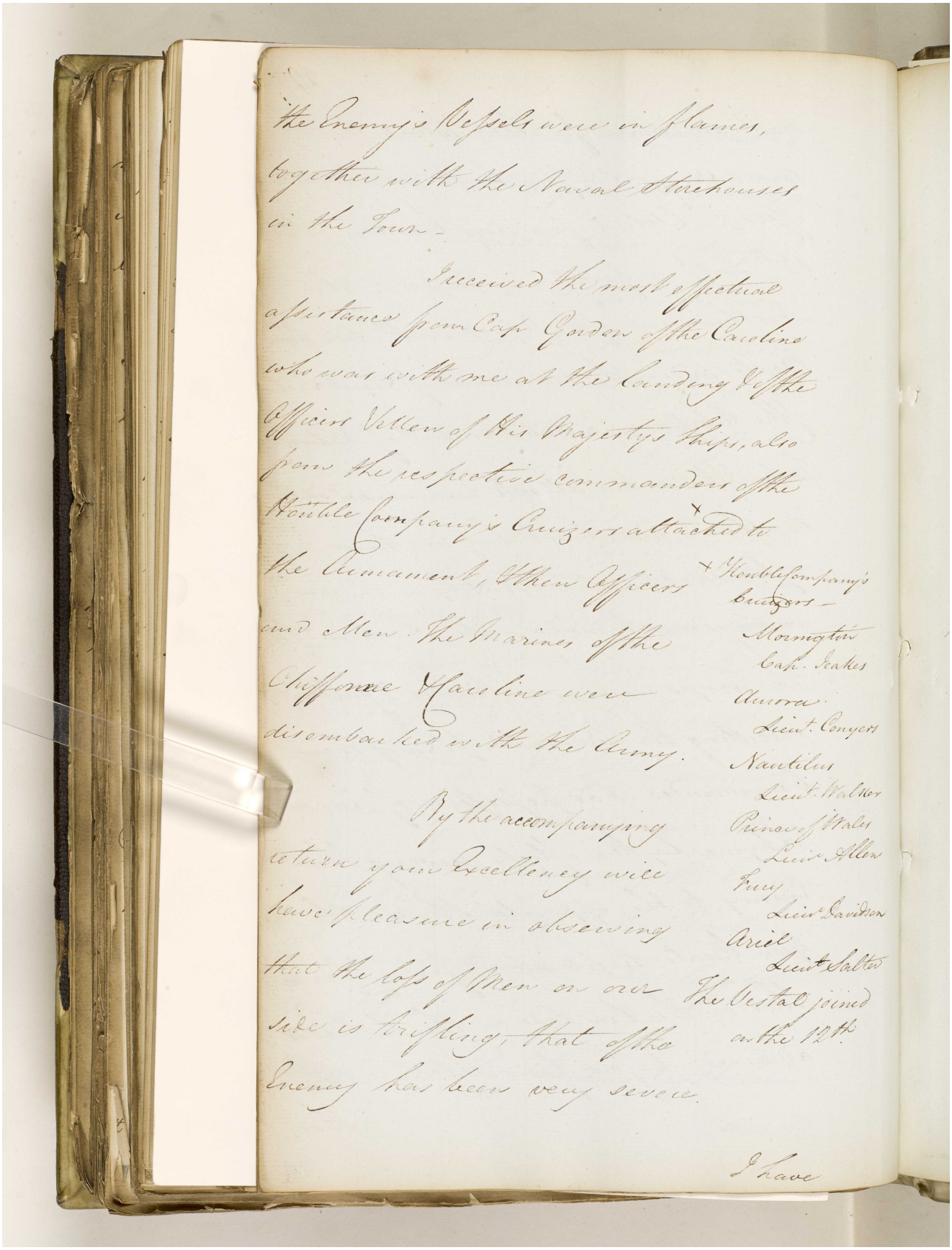

the Enemy's Vessels were in flames,
together with the Naval Storehouses
in the Town –

I received the most effectual
assistance from Capt Gordon of the Caroline
who was with me at the landing & the
Officers Vollen of His Majesty's Ships, also
from the respective commanders of the
Honble Company's Cruizers attached to
the Armament, & their Officers
and Men. The Marines of the
Chiffonne & Caroline were
disembarked with the Army.

By the accompanying
return your Excellency will
have pleasure in observing
that the loss of Men on our
side is trifling, that of the
Enemy has been very severe.

I have

× Honble Company's
Cruizers –
Mornington
Capt. Seakes
Aurora
Lieut. Conyers
Nautilus
Lieut. Walker
Prince of Wales
Lieut. Allen
Fury
Lieut. Davidson
Ariel
Lieut. Salter
The Vestal joined
on the 12th

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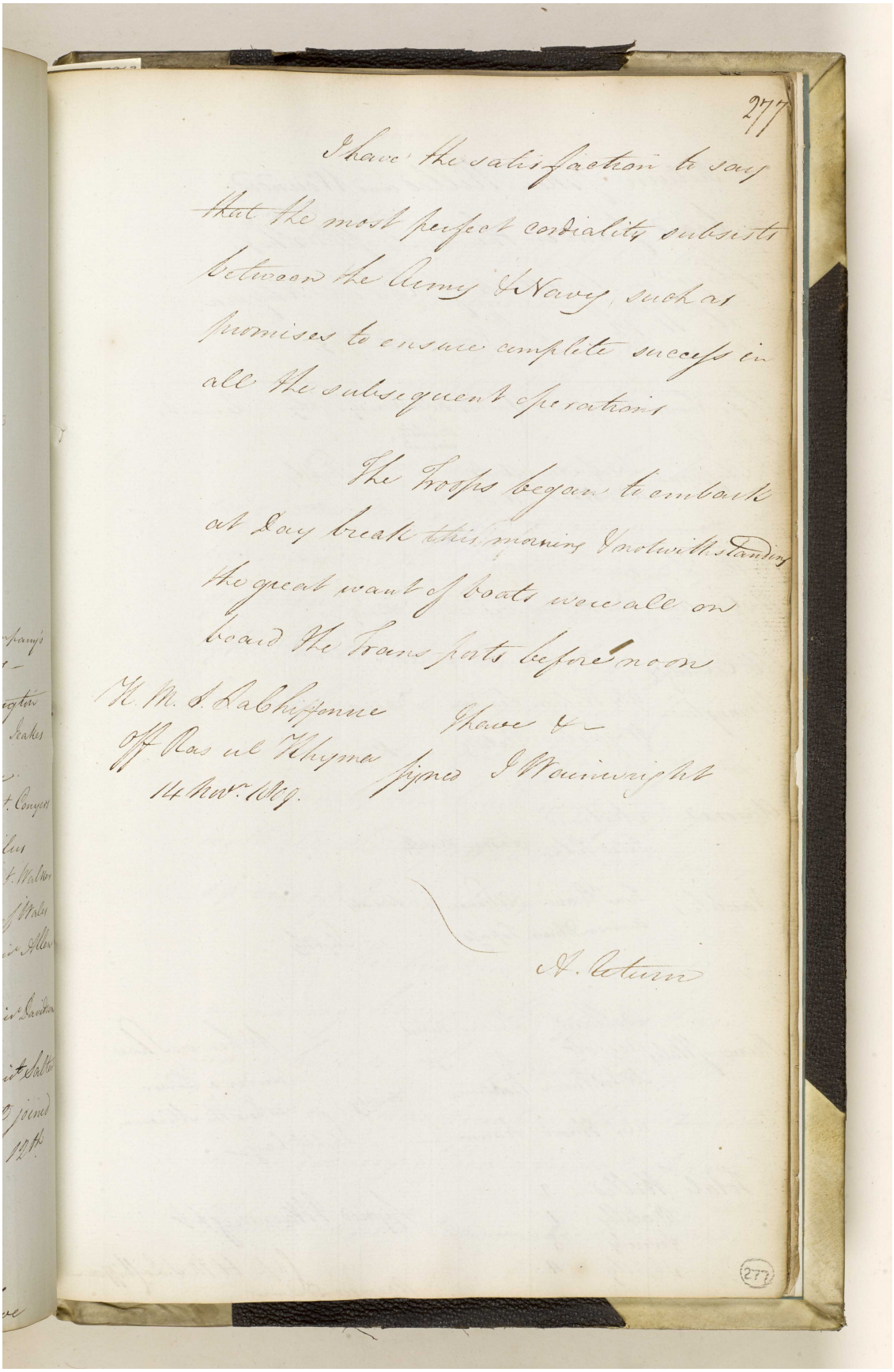

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I have the satisfaction to say
that the most perfect cordiality subsists
between the Army & Navy, such as
promises to ensure complete success in
all the subsequent operations

The troops began to embark
at Day break this morning & notwithstanding
the great want of boats we were all on
board the Transports before noon

H. M. S. La Chiffonne
off Ras ul Khyma
14 Nov. 1819.

I have &c
Signed J. Wainwright

A. Return

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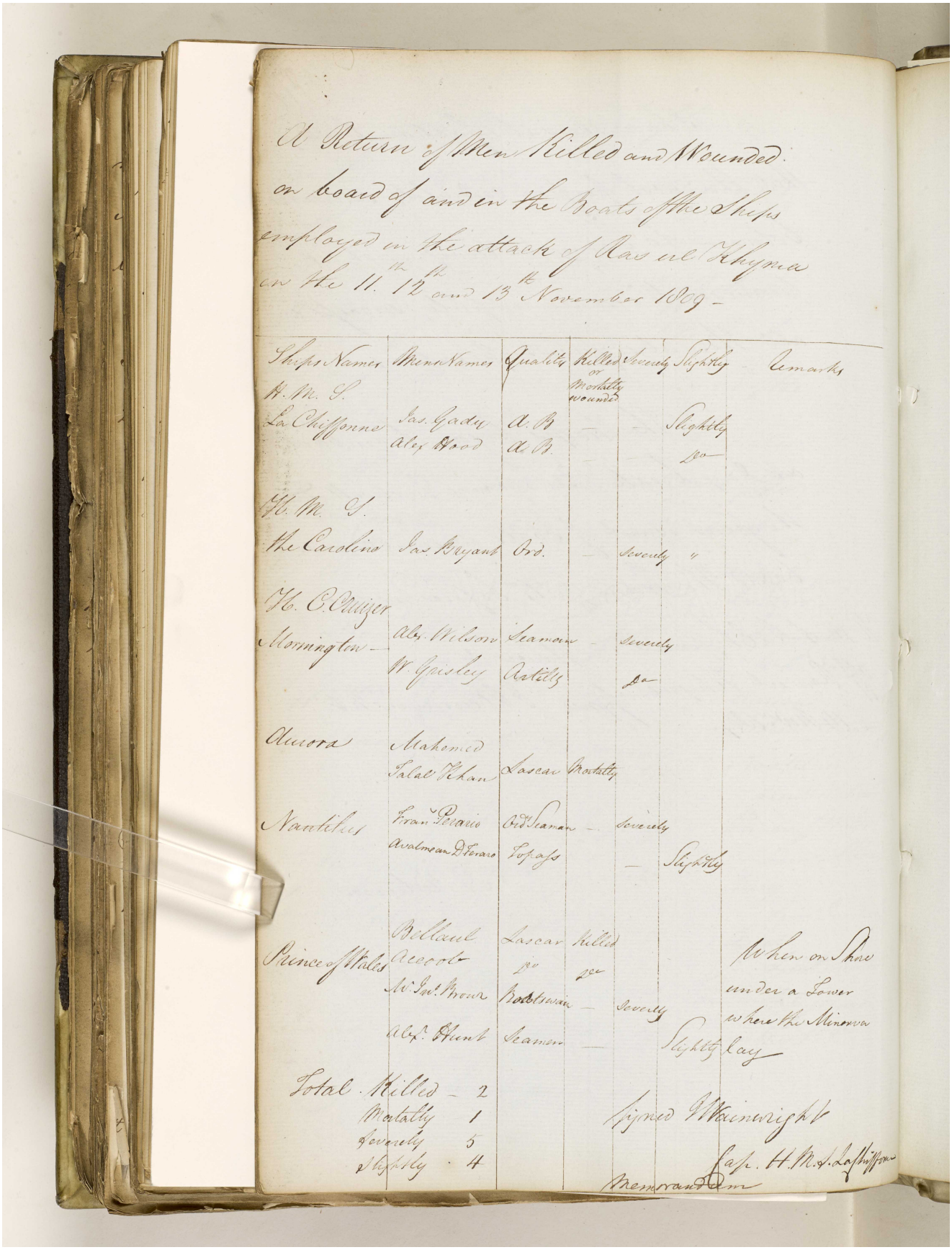

A Return of Men Killed and Wounded on board of and in the Boats of the Ships employed in the attack of Ras ul Khyma on the 11th 12th and 13th November 1809 –

Ships Names	Men's Names	Quality	Killed or Mortally wounded	Severely	Slightly	Remarks
H. M. S. La Chiffonne	Jas. Grady	A. B.	—	—	Slightly	
	Alex. Wood	A. B.	—	—	do	
H. M. S. the Carolina	Jas. Bryant	Ord.	—	Severely	"	
H. C. Cruizer Mornington	Alex. Wilson	Seaman	—	Severely		
	W. Grisley	Artilly		do		
Aurora	Mahomed Salat Khan	Lascar	Mortally			
Narcissus	Fran. Serrano	Ord. Seaman	—	Severely		
	Avalmean D. Serano	Topass		—	Slightly	
Prince of Wales	Billiard Records	Lascar	killed			When on Shore under a Tower where the Minerva lay
	Mr. Jas. Brown	Boatswain	—	Severely		
	Alex. Hunt	Seaman	—		Slightly	
Total	Killed	2				
	Mortally	1				
	Severely	5				
	Slightly	4				

Signed W. Wainwright
Capt. H.M.S. La Chiffonne

Memorandum

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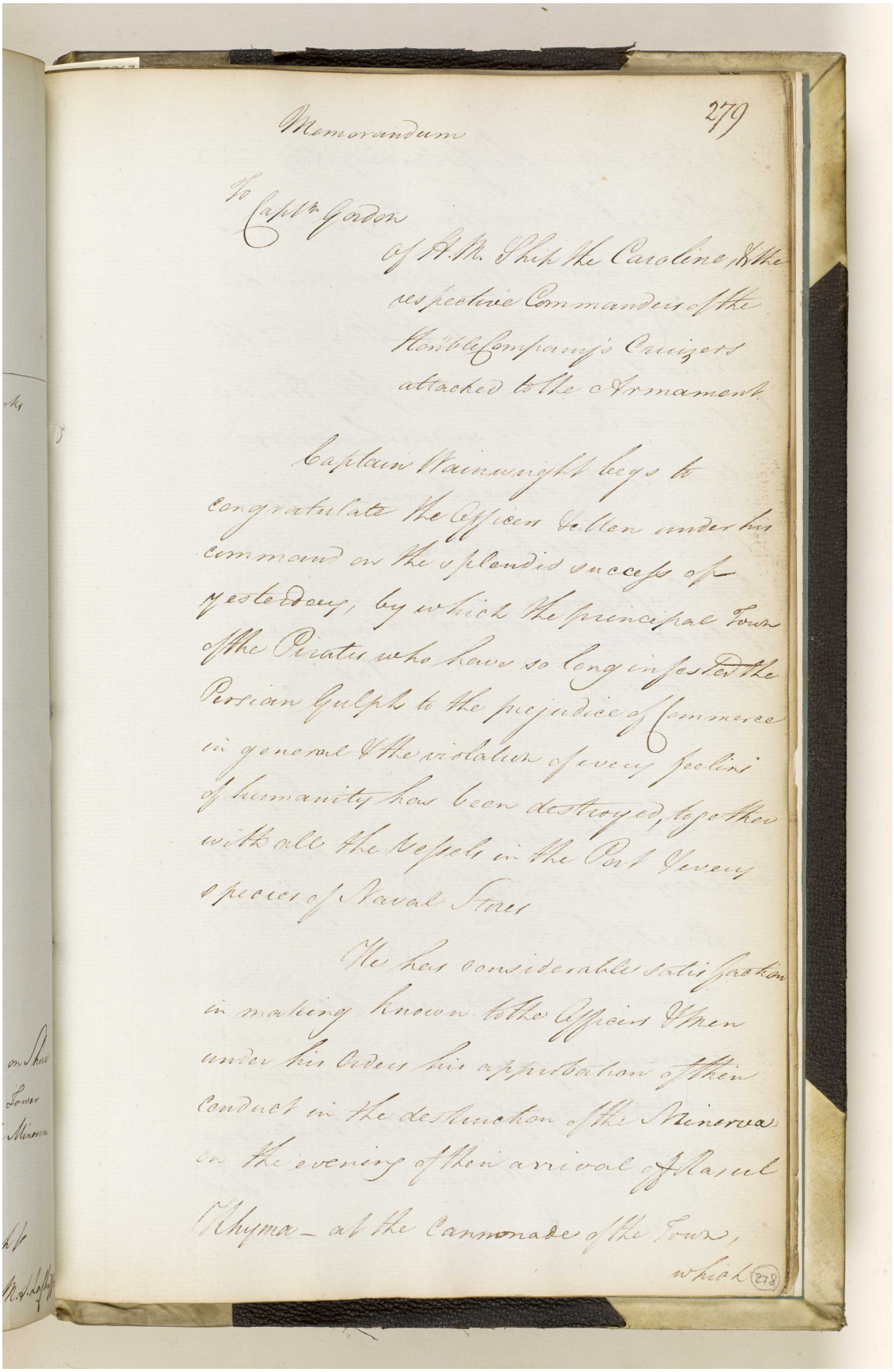

Memorandum

To Captn Gordon

of H.M. Ship the Caroline & the respective Commanders of the Honble Company's Cruizers attached to the Armament.

Captain Wainwright begs to congratulate the Officers & Men under his command on the splendid success of yesterday, by which the principal Town of the Pirates who have so long infested the Persian Gulph to the prejudice of Commerce in general & the violation of every feeling of humanity has been destroyed, together with all the Vessels in the Port & every species of Naval Stores

He has considerable satisfaction in making known to the Officers & Men under his Orders his approbation of their conduct in the destruction of the Minerva on the evening of their arrival off Rasul Khyma – at the Cannonade of the Town, which

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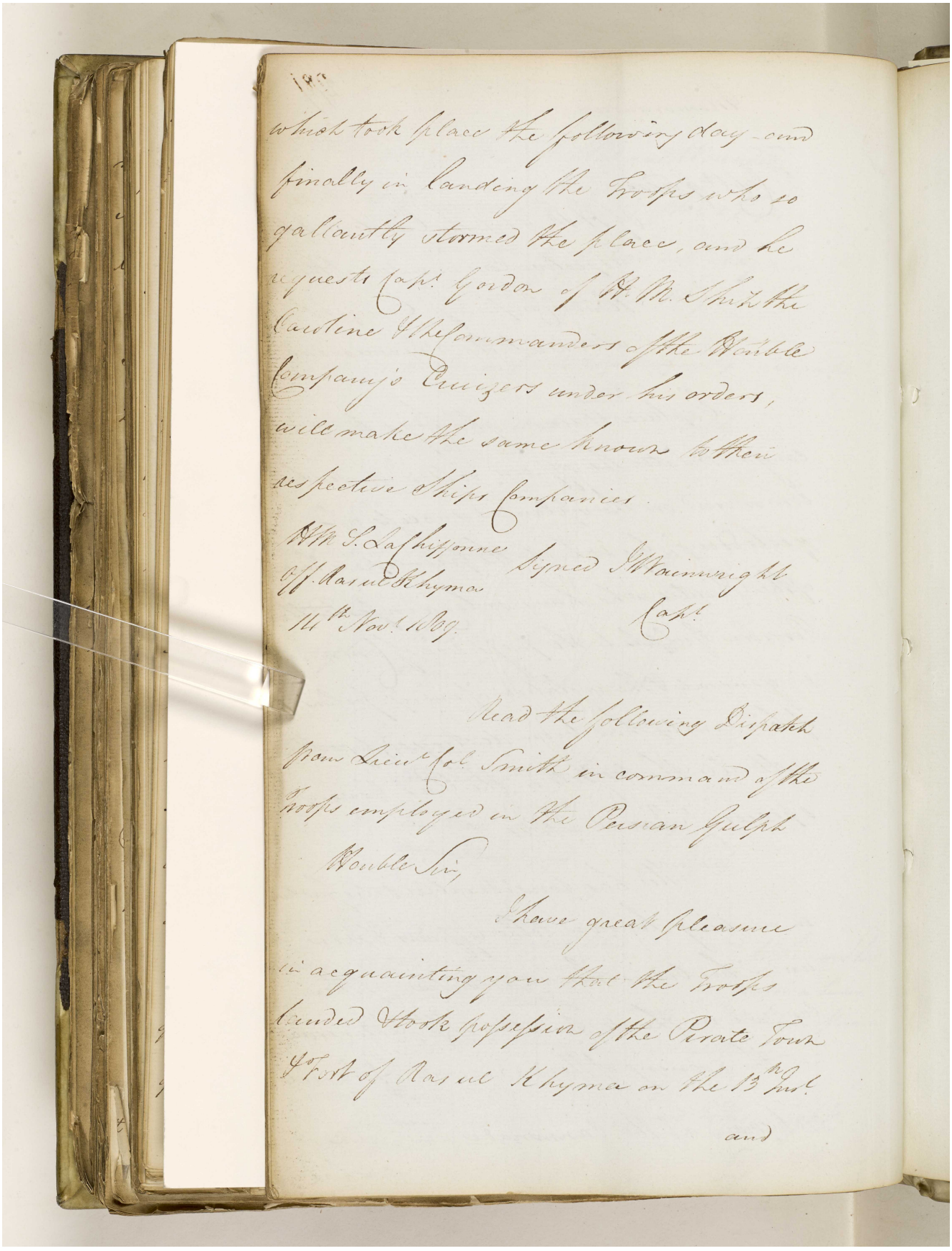

which took place the following day - and finally in landing the Troops who so gallantly stormed the place, and he requests Capt. Gordon of H. M. Ship the Caroline & the Commanders of the Honble Company's Cruizers under his orders, will make the same known to their respective Ships Companies.

H M S. La Chiffonne
Off. Ras ul Khyma
14th Novr. 1809.

Signed J Wainwright
Capt.

Read the following Dispatch from Lieut. Col. Smith in command of the Troops employed in the Persian Gulph

Honble Sir,

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that the Troops landed & took possession of the Pirate Town & Fort of Ras ul Khyma on the 13th Inst.

and

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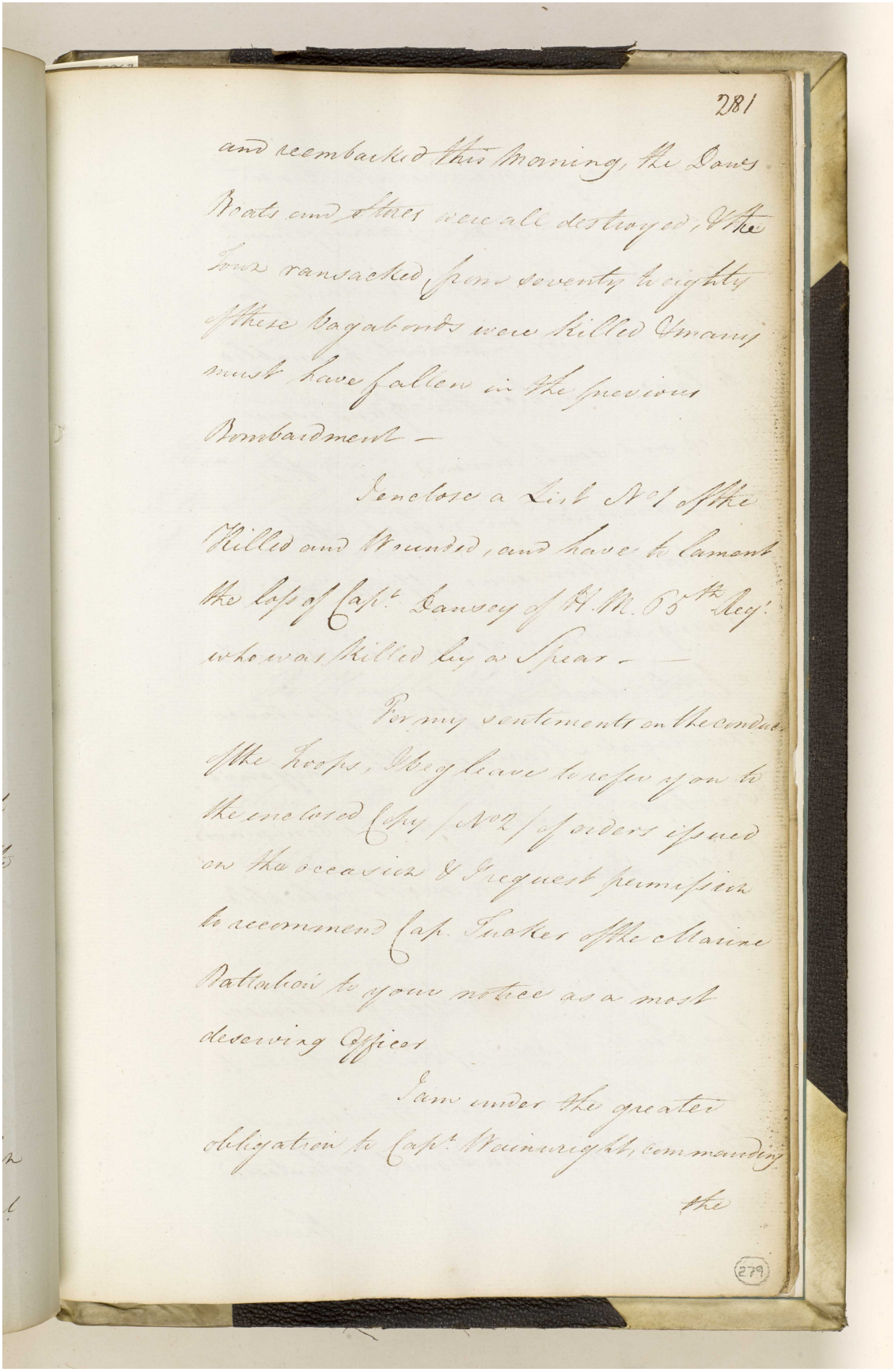

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and reembarked this Morning, the Dows Boats and Stores were all destroyed, & the Town ransacked from seventy to eighty of these Vagabonds were killed Many must have fallen in the previous Bombardment –

I enclose a List No 1 of the Killed and Wounded, and have to lament the loss of Capt. Lawrey of H.M. 65th Regt. who was killed by a Spear – –

For my sentiments on the conduct of the Troops, I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed Copy No 2 of Orders issued on the occasion & I request permission to recommend Capt. Tucker of the Marine Battalion to your notice as a most deserving Officer

I am under the greater obligation to Capt. Mainwaring R.N. commanding the

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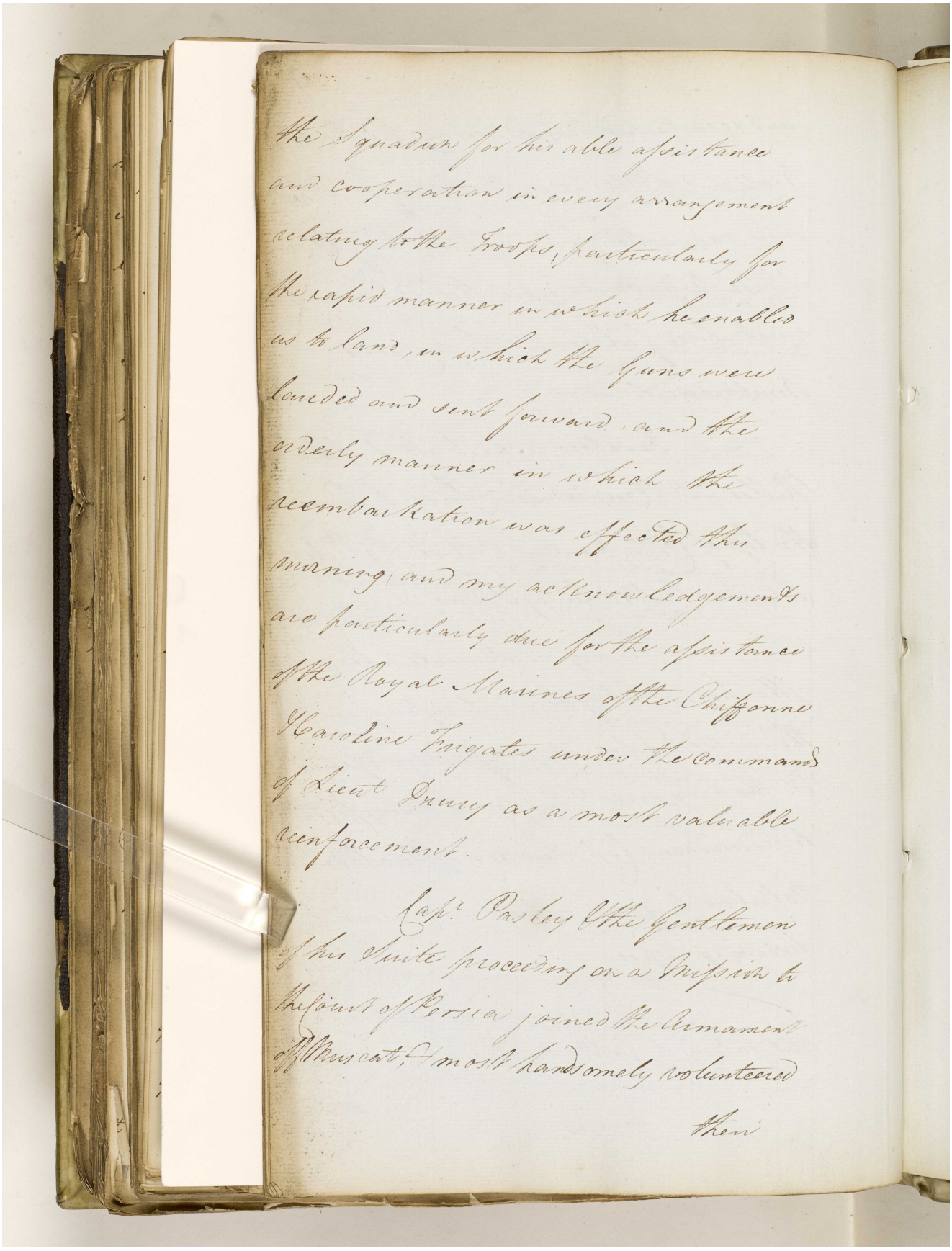

the Squadron for his able assistance and cooperation in every arrangement relating to the Troops, particularly for the rapid manner in which he enabled us to land, in which the Guns were landed and sent forward, and the orderly manner in which the reembarkation was effected this morning, and my acknowledgements are particularly due for the assistance of the Royal Marines of the Chiffonne Havoline Frigates under the Commands of Lieut Drury as a most valuable reinforcement.

Capt Pasley & the Gentlemen of his Suite proceeding on a Mission to the Court of Persia joined the Armament off Muscat, & most handsomely volunteered their

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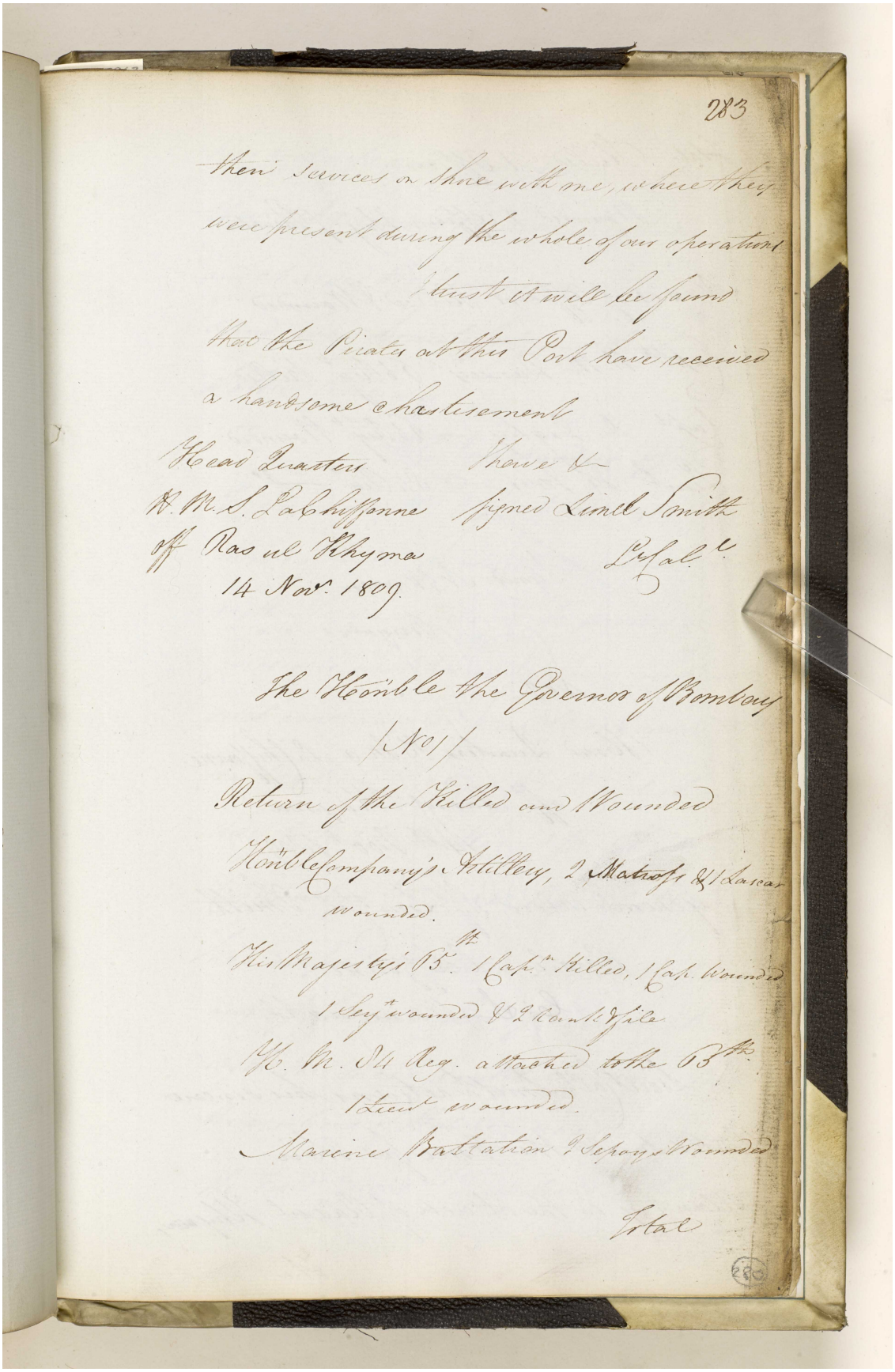

their services on shore with me, where they were present during the whole of our operations

I trust it will be found that the Pirates at this Port have received a handsome chastisement

Head Quarters
H. M. S. La Chiffonne
off Ras ul Khyma
14 Novr. 1809.

I have &c
Signed Lionel Smith
Lt Cal.l

The Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay

(No 1)

Return of the Killed and Wounded

Hon'ble Company's Artillery, 2 Matross & 1 Lascar wounded.

His Majesty's 65th. 1 Capn. Killed, 1 Cap. Wounded 1 Seyt wounded & 2 Rank & file

H. M. 84 Reg. attached to the 65th. 1 Lieut wounded.

Marine Battalion 2 Sepoys Wounded

Total

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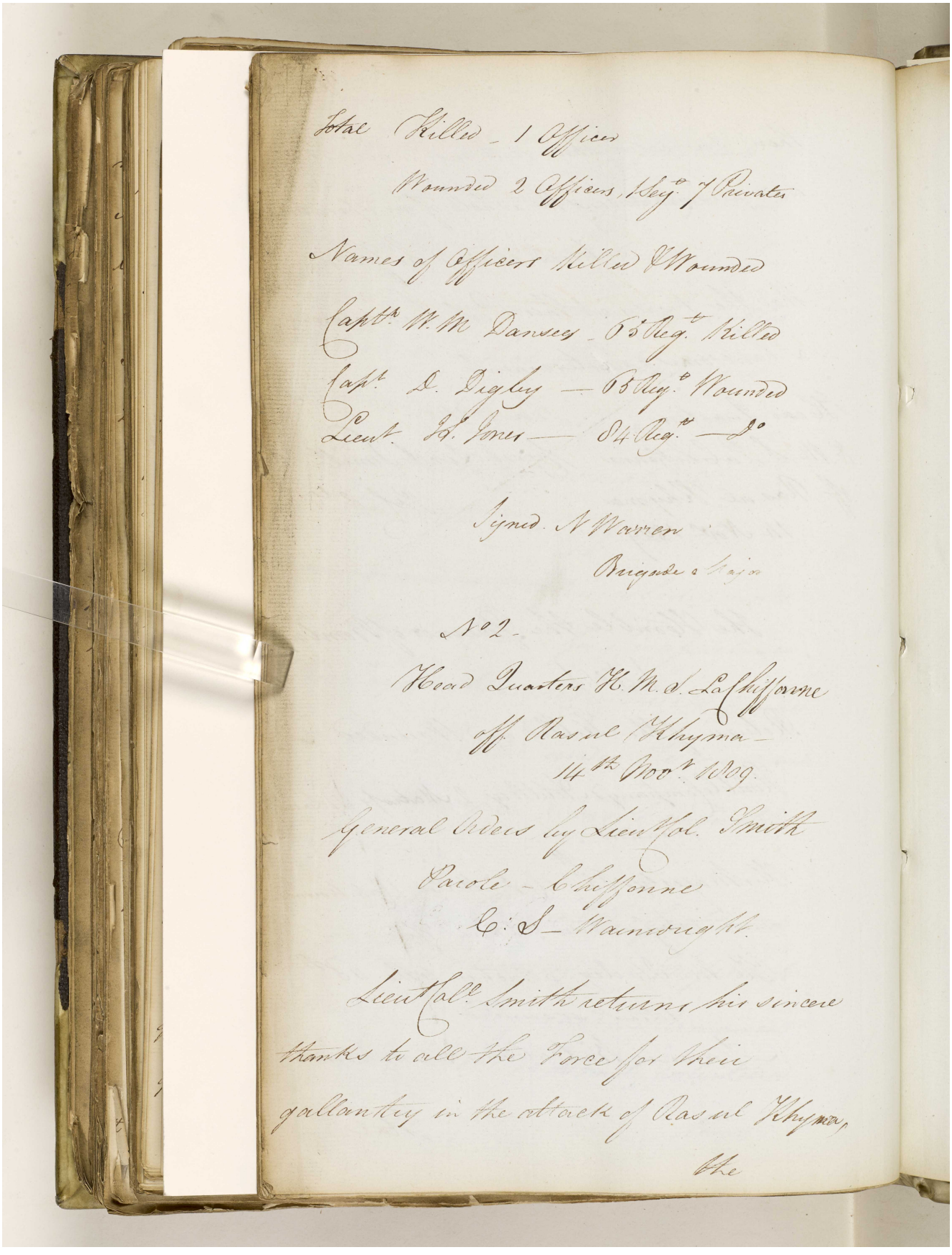

Total Killed 1 Officer
Wounded 2 Officers 1 Serjt. 7 Privates

Names of Officers Killed & Wounded

Capt. W. M. Dansey 65 Regt. Killed
Capt. D. Digby — 65 Regt. Wounded
Lieut. D. Jones — 84 Regt. — Do

Signed N. Warren
Brigade Major

No 2.

Head Quarters H.M.S. Chiffonne
off Rasul Khyma
14th Novr. 1809.

General Orders by Lieut. Col. Smith

Parole – Chiffonne
C: S – Wainwright

Lieut. Col. Smith returns his sincere thanks to all the Force for their gallantry in the attack of Rasul Khyma,

the

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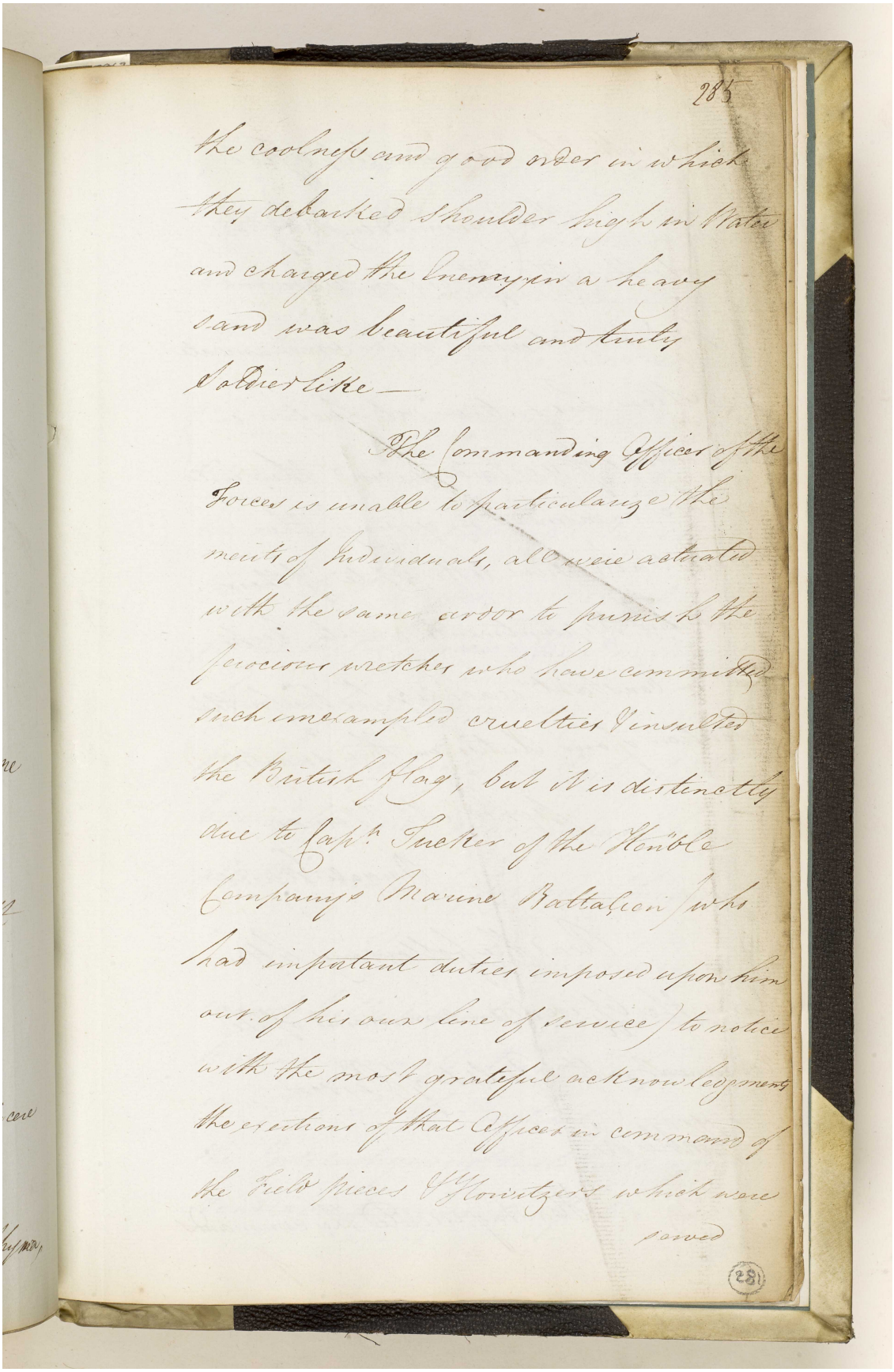

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the coolness and good order in which they debarked Shoulder high in Water and charged the Enemy in a heavy sand was beautiful and truly Soldier like—

The Commanding Officer of the Forces is unable to particularize the merits of Individuals, all were actuated with the same ardor to punish the ferocious wretches who have committed such unexampled cruelties & insulted the British Flag, but it is distinctly due to Capt.n Tucker of the Hon.ble Company's Marine Battalion (who had important duties imposed upon him out of his own line of service) to notice with the most grateful acknowleggments the exertions of that Officer in command of the Field pieces & Howitzers which were served

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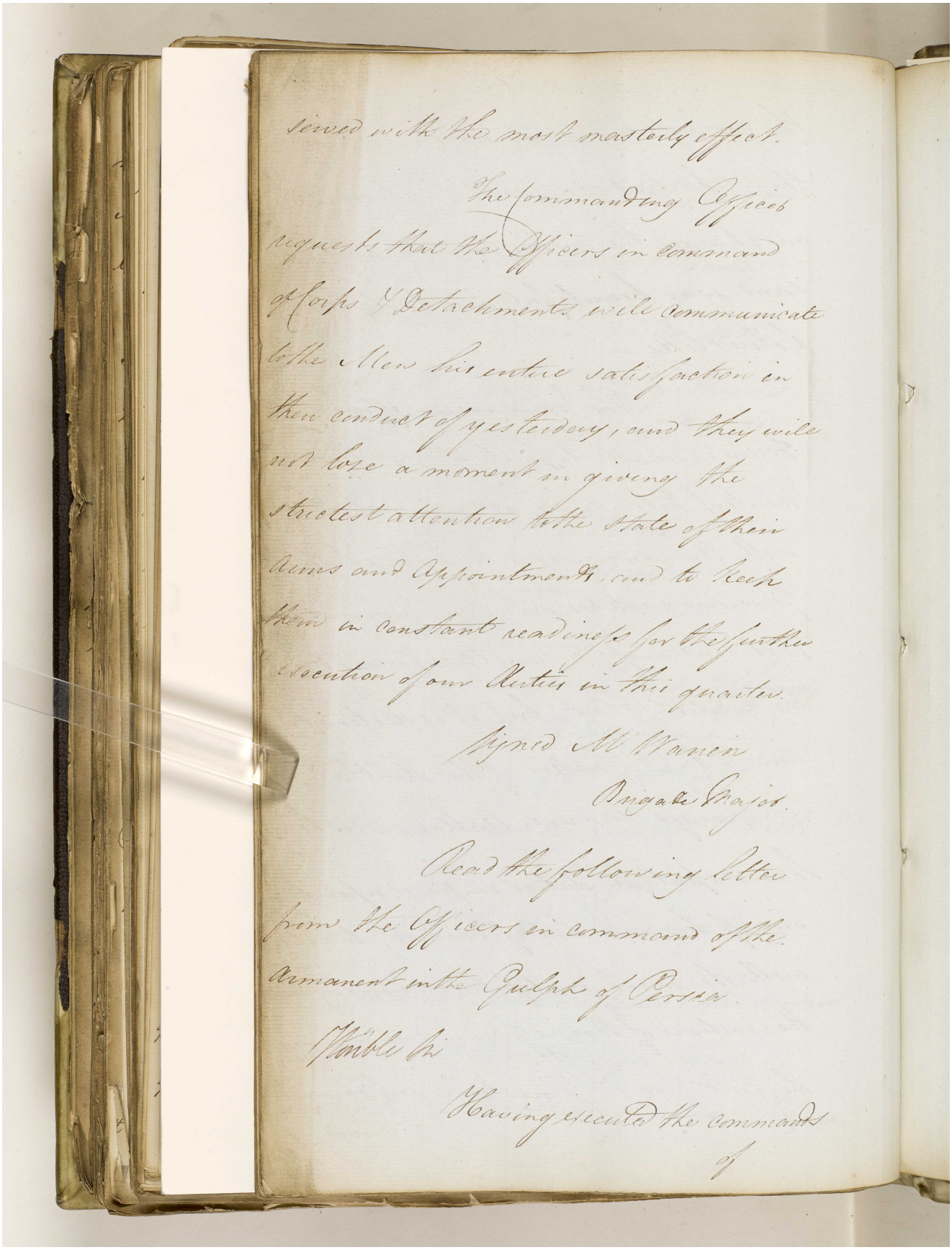

served with the most masterly effect.

The Commanding Officer requests that the Officers in command of Corps & Detachments will communicate to the Men his entire satisfaction in their conduct of yesterday, and they will not lose a moment in giving the strictest attention to the state of their Arms and Appointments, and to keep them in constant readiness for the further execution of our duties in this quarter.

Signed M. Warren
Brigade Major.

Read the following letter from the Officers in command of the Armament in the Gulph of Persia.

Honble Sir

Having executed the commands of

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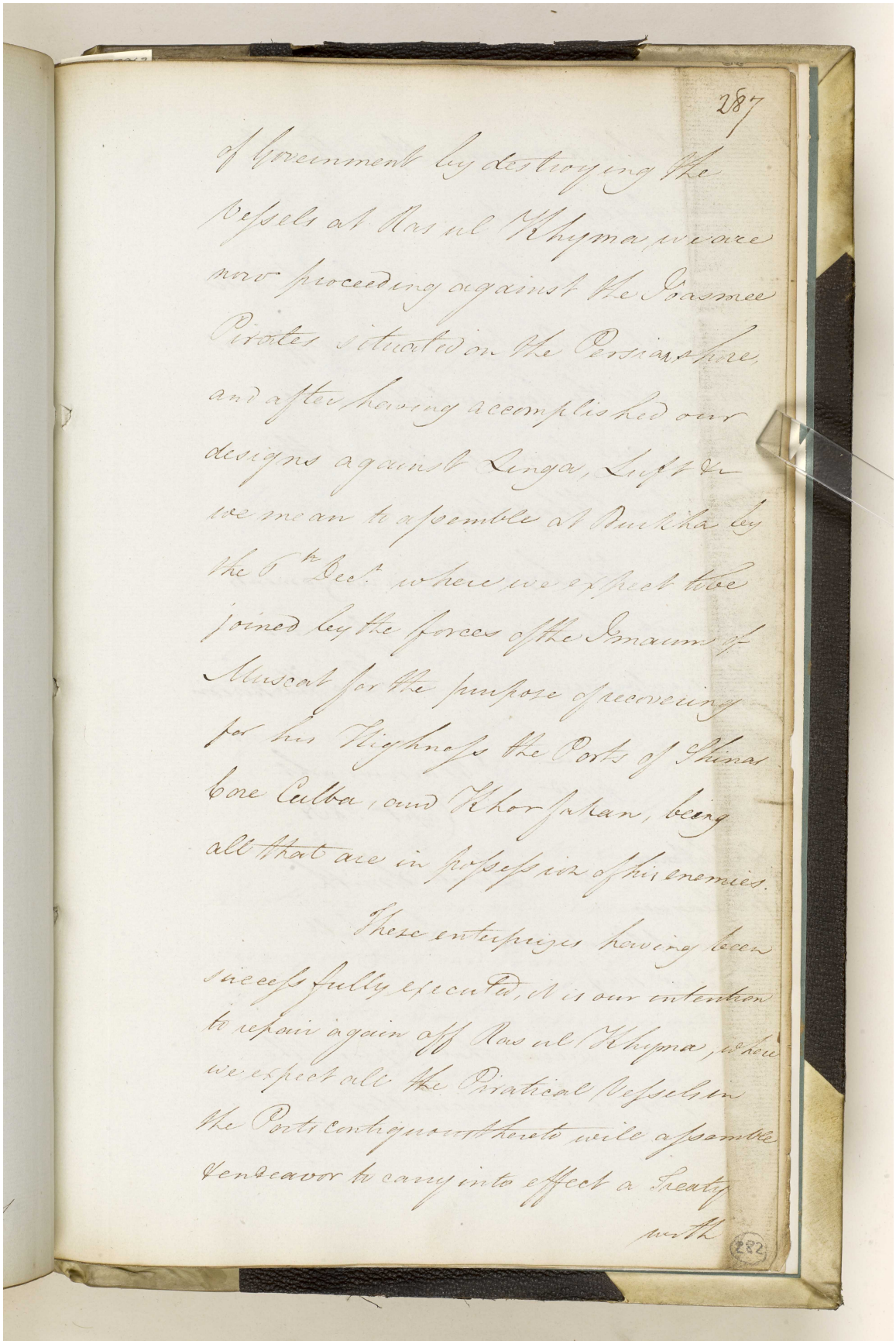

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of Government by destroying the
Vessels at Ras ul Khyma, we were
now proceeding against the Joasmee
Pirates situated on the Persian shore,
and after having accomplished our
designs against Lunga, Luft &c
we mean to assemble at Bunkha by
the 6th Dec.r where we expect to be
joined by the forces of the Imaum of
Muscat for the purpose of preserving
for his Highness the Ports of Shinas
Core Cubba, and Khor Jahan, being
all that are in possession of his enemies.

These enterprizes having been
successfully executed, it is our intention
to repair again off Ras ul Khyma, where
we expect all the Piratical Vessels in
the Ports contiguous thereto will assemble
& endeavor to carry into effect a Treaty
with

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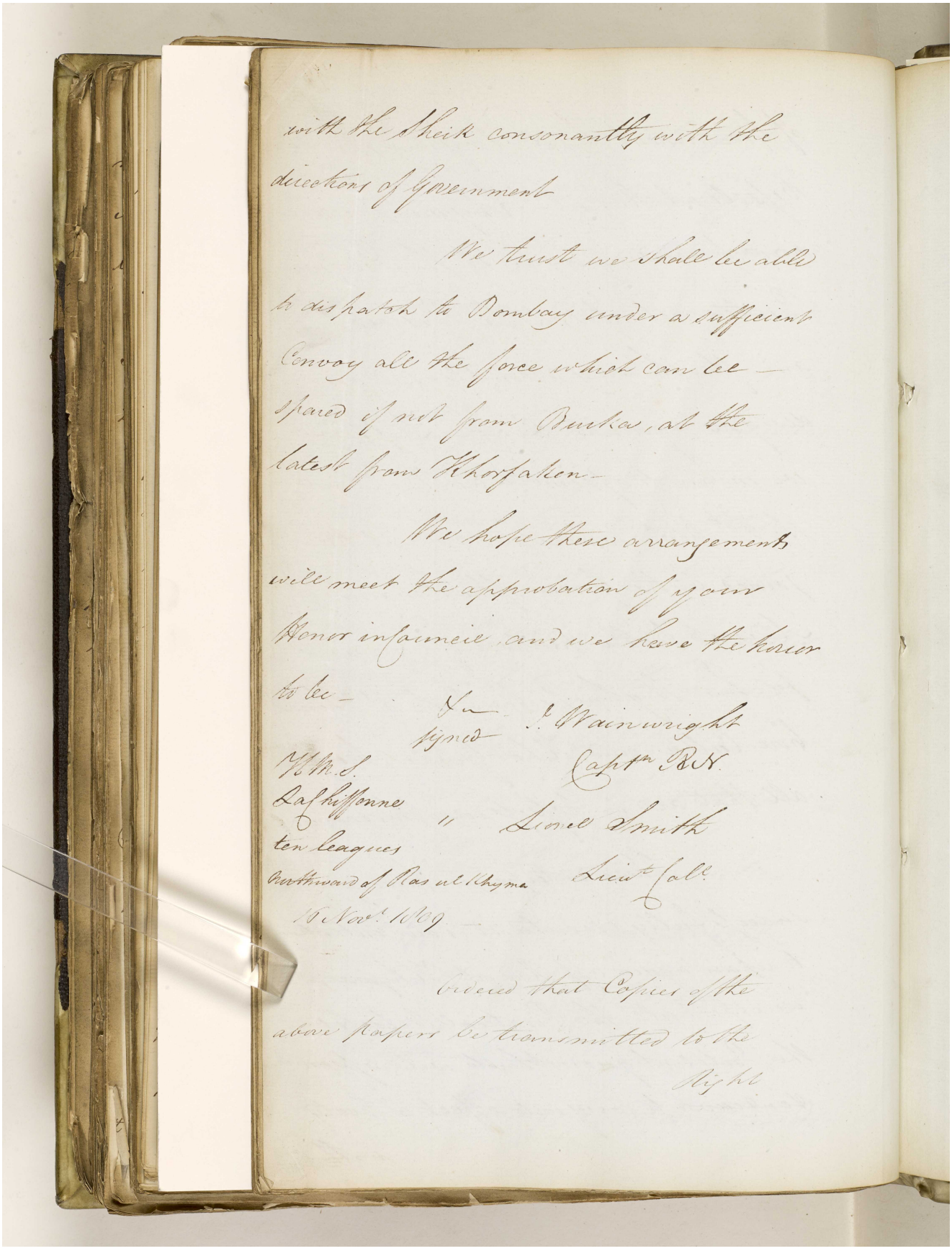

with the Sheik consonantly with the directions of Government

We trust we shall be able to dispatch to Bombay under a sufficient Convoy all the force which can be spared if not from Burka, at the latest from Khorfaken –

We hope these arrangements will meet the approbation of your Honor in Council, and we have the honor to be –

Yrs
signed J. Wainwright
Captn R.N.

H.M.S.
La Chiffonne
ten leagues
northward of Ras ul Khyma
16 Novr 1809

" Lionel Smith
Lieut Coll.

Ordered that Copies of the above papers be transmitted to the

Right

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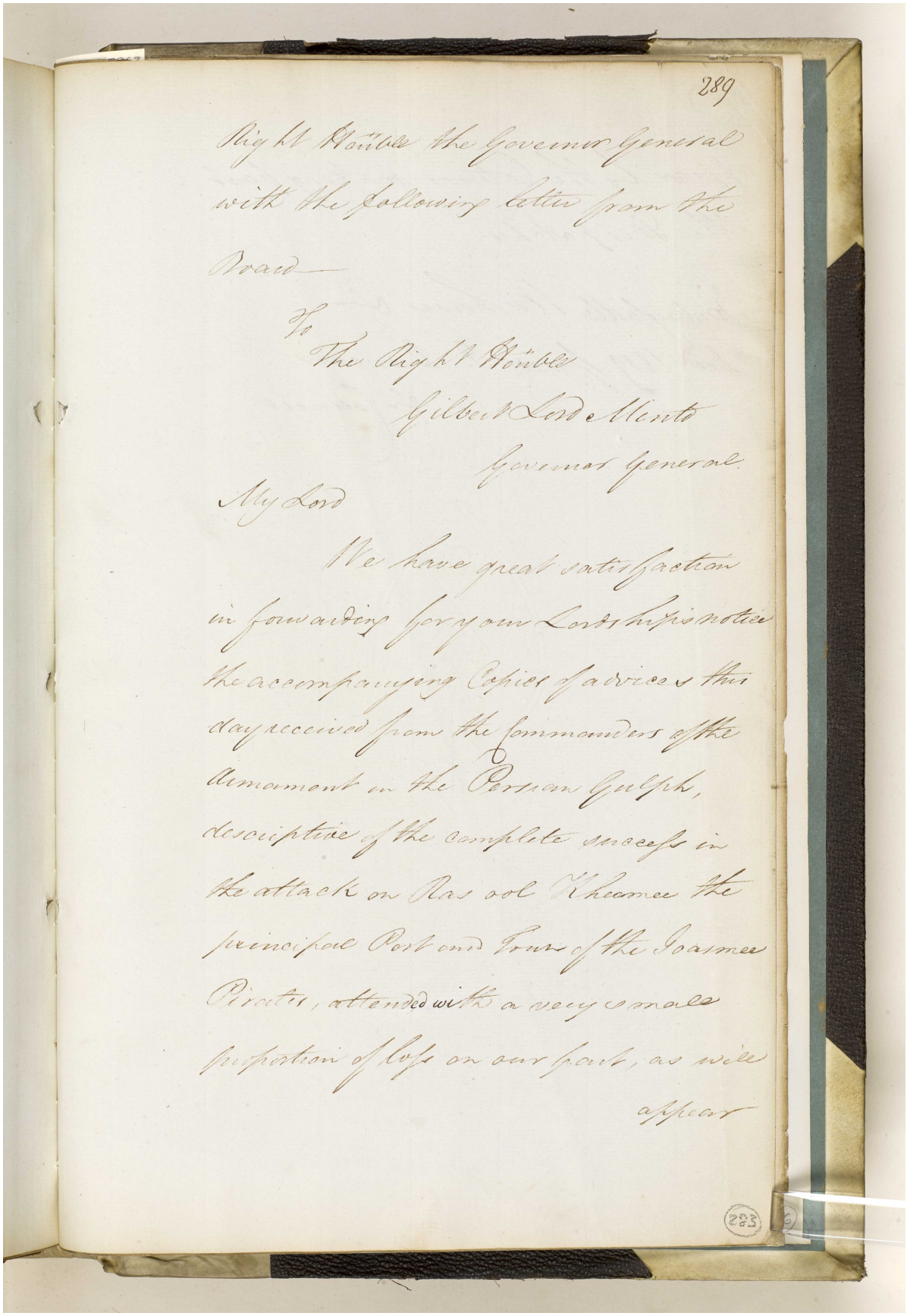

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Right Honble the Governor General
with the following letter from the
Board—

To
The Right Honble
Gilbert Lord Minto
Governor General

My Lord

We have great satisfaction
in forwarding for your Lordship's notice
the accompanying Copies of advices this
day received from the Commanders of the
Armament in the Persian Gulph,
descriptive of the complete success in
the attack on Ras ool Kheimer the
principal Port and Town of the Joasmee
Pirates, attended with a very small
proportion of loss on our part, as will
appear

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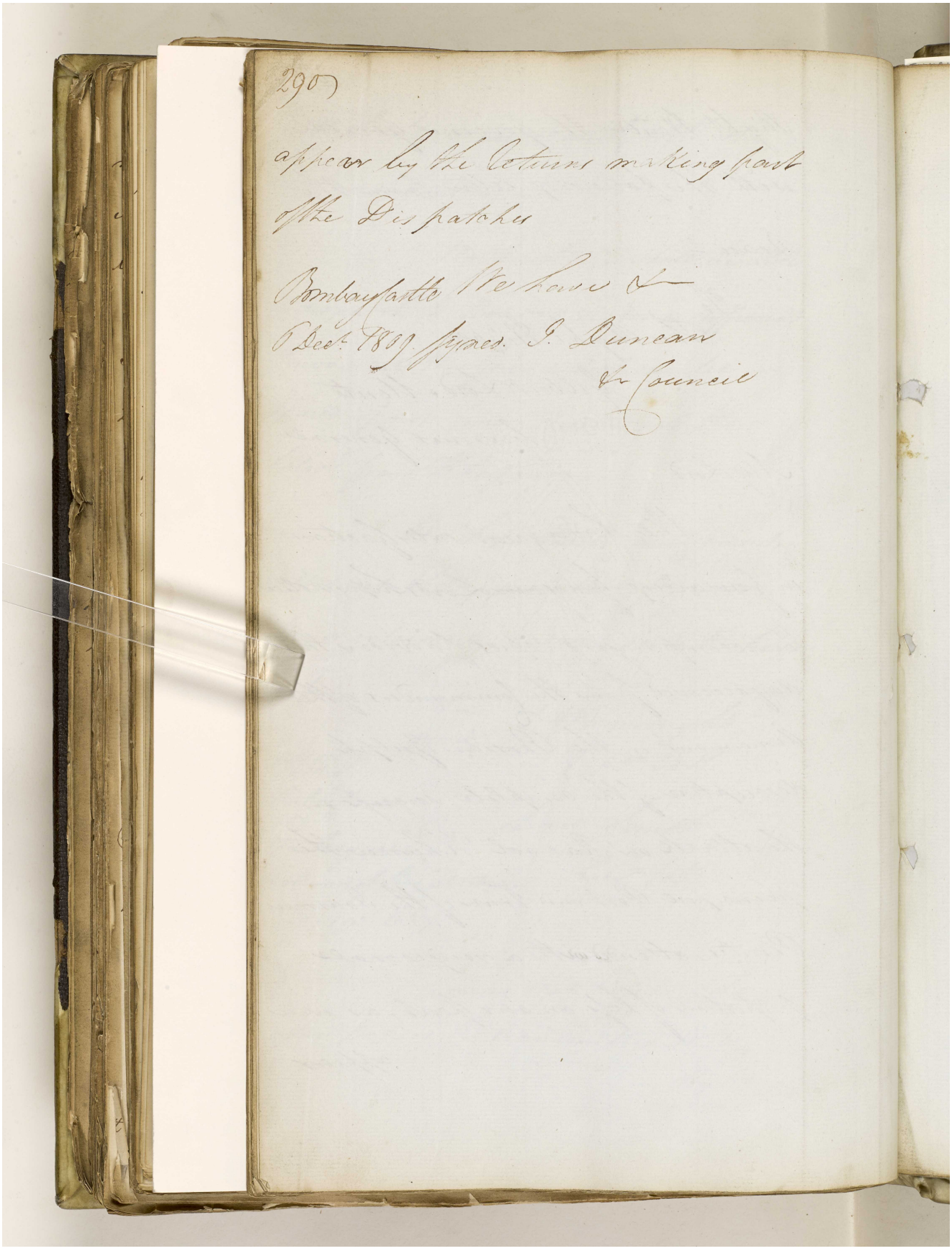

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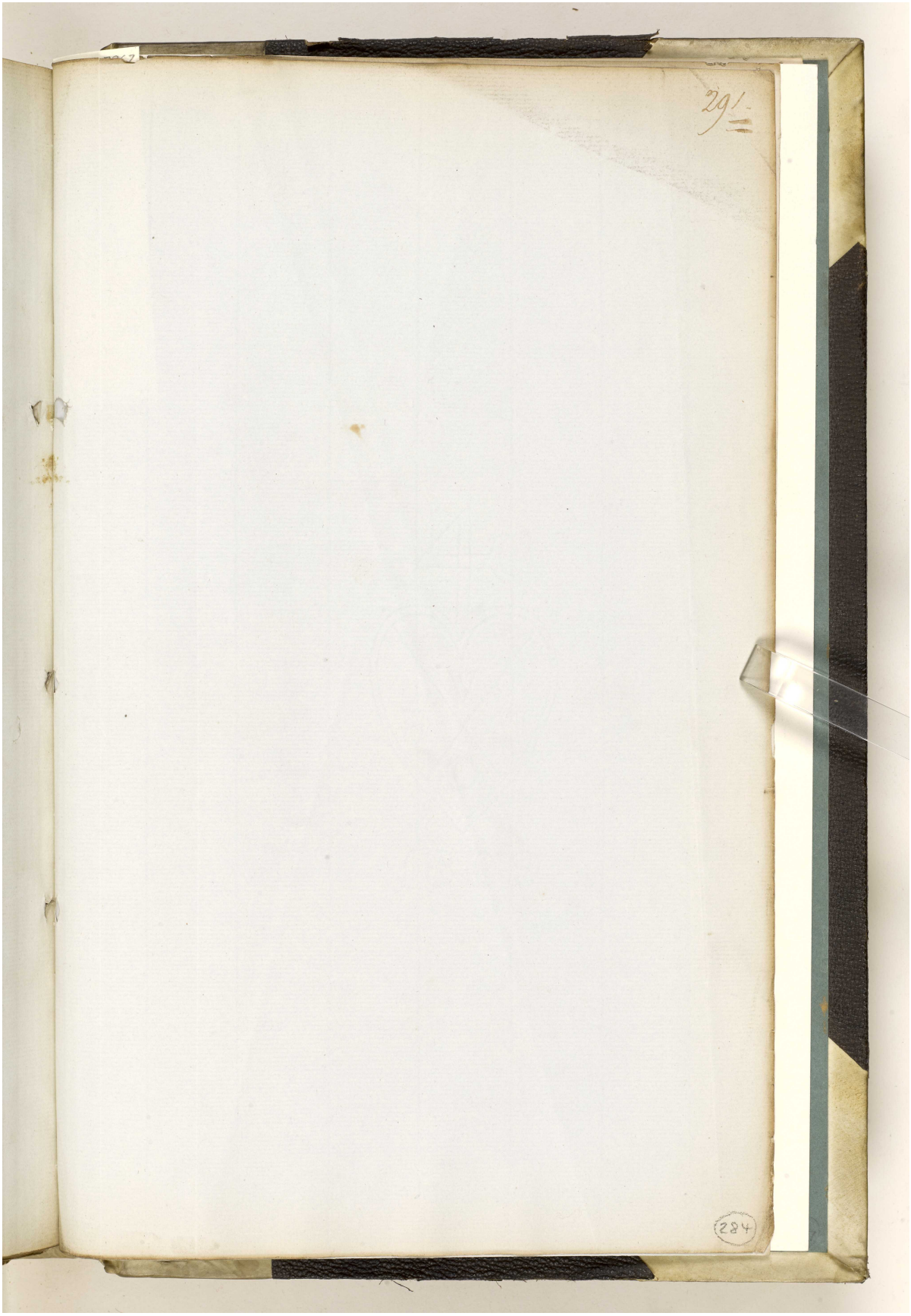

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