

This PDF was generated on 28/01/2022 from online resources of
the **Qatar Digital Library**

The online record can be viewed at:

http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100000001700.0x000399

It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

‘Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/416/10286
Date(s)	18 May 1809-29 Oct 1811 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (29 folios)
Copyright for document	Public Domain



About this record

The title given above is an amended title. The original title, ‘Prohibition of a Trade with Abyssinia and the Governor of Tigrée, on the part of the Company’, which is written in ink, has been partly crossed out, and the title given above has been added in pencil.

The item consists of copies and extracts of correspondence and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, letters from the Government of Bombay and the Government of Bengal. The item is concerned with the mission of Captain Henry Rudland, Resident at Mocha, to the Gulph [Gulf] of Arabia in order to establish trade links between England and Abyssinia. The item is chiefly concerned with:

- The utility of establishing a Resident at Mocha for purposes including the re-establishment of communications between India and England via the Red Sea; the ability to watch the proceedings of the French in the Red Sea and report intelligence back to the Indian Government; the facilitation of trade between England and Abyssinia
- The Government of Bombay's pessimism regarding the profitability of establishing trade links with Abyssinia given the cost of maintaining and protecting trade channels, due to the presence of different tribes on the coast, and their criticism of Captain Rudland for making unfounded claims on the profitability of the mission
- The debate between the Government of Bombay and the Government of Bengal on the utility

of pursuing commercial links with Abyssinia and the utility of allowing Captain Rudland to remain in the Arabian Gulph as Resident

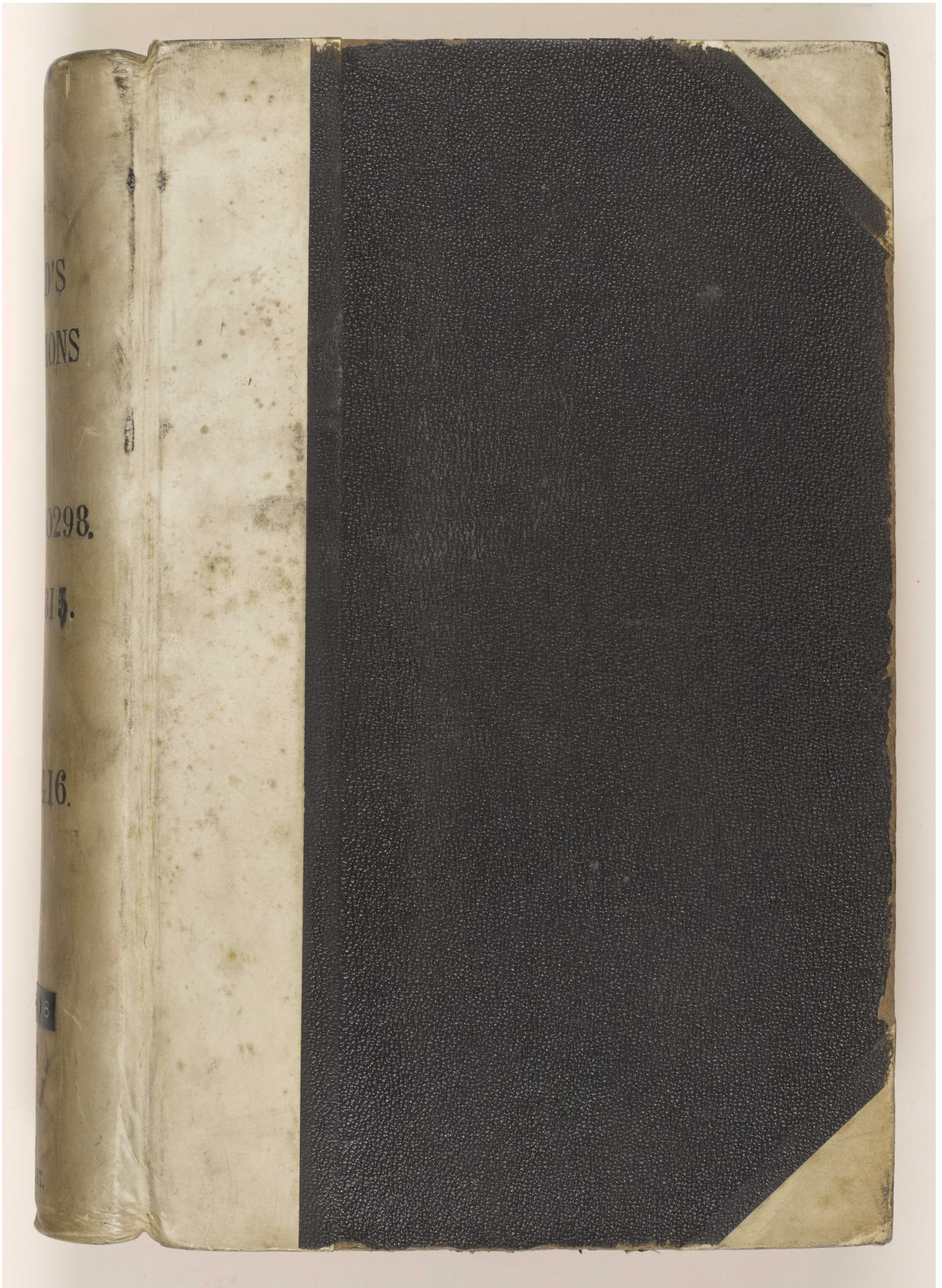
- Discussions between Captain Rudland and Henry Salt, His Majesty's Envoy in the Gulph of Arabia, regarding the benefits of trade links with Abyssinia and the site of Amphilah [Eritrean Coast] as an ideal location for the English to have a foothold
- Correspondence between: Captain Rudland; Ras Wellata Sellassi [Wolde Selassie], Governor of the Provinces of Tigre [Tigray] and Endula [Enderta], Antalow [Hint'alo], Abyssinia; and Nathaniel Pearce, an Englishman in the service of Ras Wellata Sellassi; regarding the potential trade links between Abyssinia and England and the exchange of gifts in friendship.

Correspondents include: Government of Bombay; Captain Henry Rudland; Francis Warden, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay; Ras Wellata Sellassi; Nathaniel Pearce; Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay; Government of Bengal; George Osborne, Secretary to the Government of Bombay; Henry Salt, His Majesty's Envoy in the Gulph of Arabia.

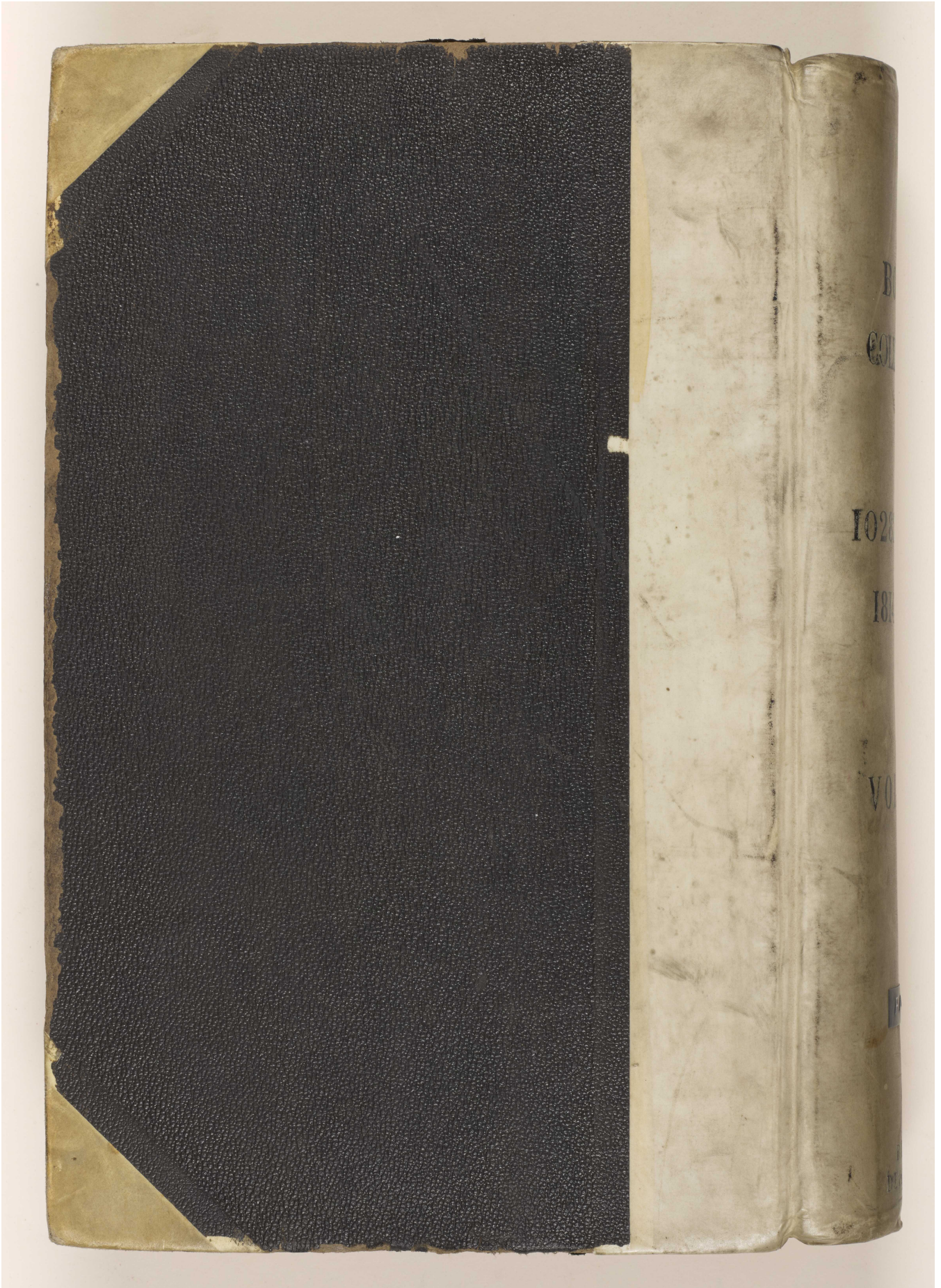
Captain Rudland is alternatively referred to as the Resident at Mocha, the Agent in the Gulph of Arabia and the Agent in the Red Sea. The item includes multiple spellings for Ras Wellata Sellassi.

The title page of the item contains the following references: 'Political No. 18, Season 1814/15, Draft 20' and 'Examiner's Office November 1812'.

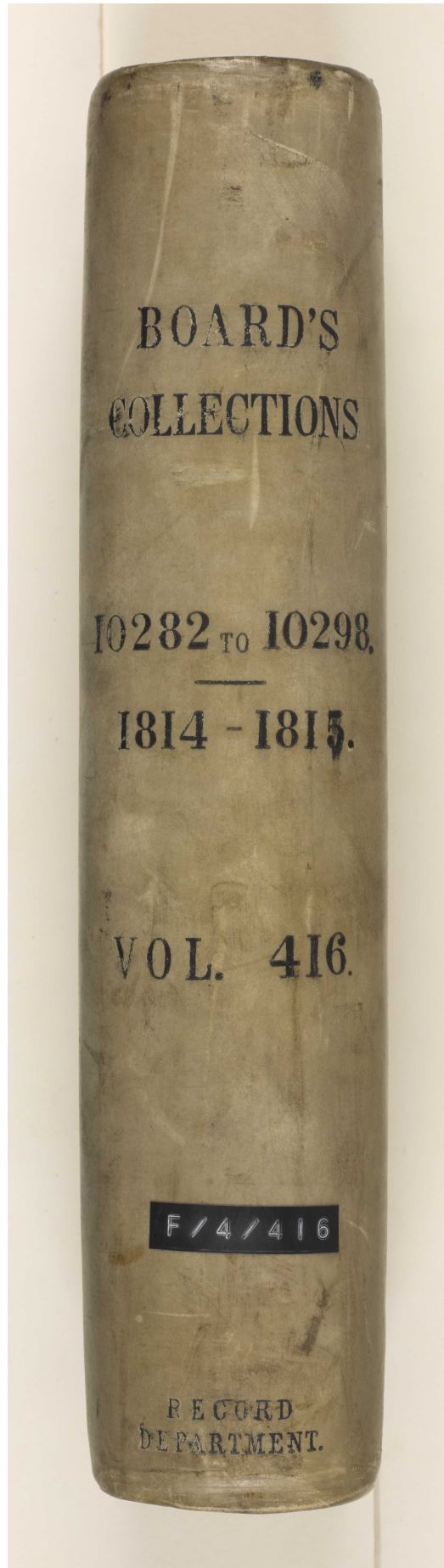
'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [front] (1/64)



'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [back] (2/64)



'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [spine] (3/64)



'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [edge] (4/64)

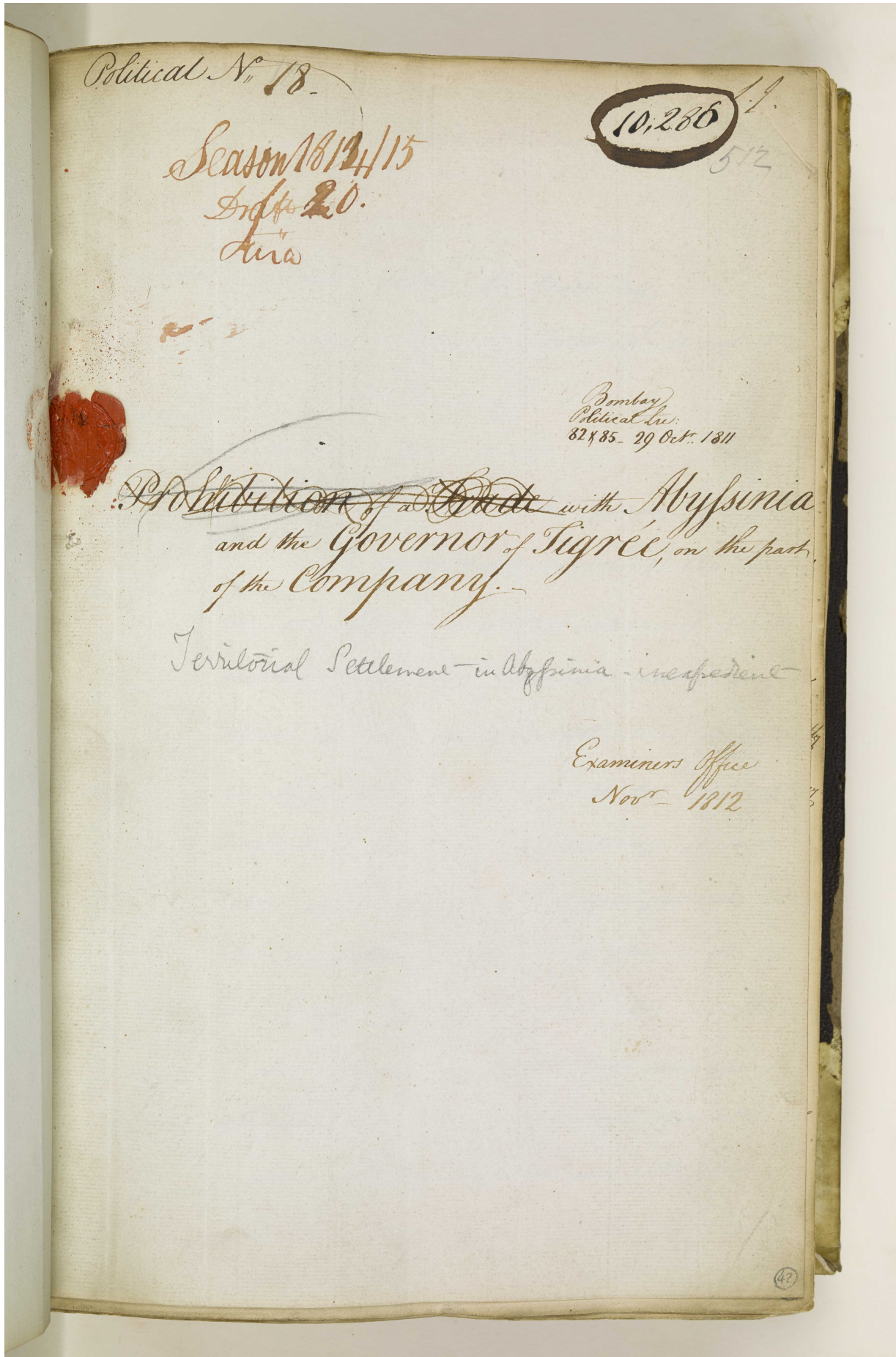


'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [head] (5/64)

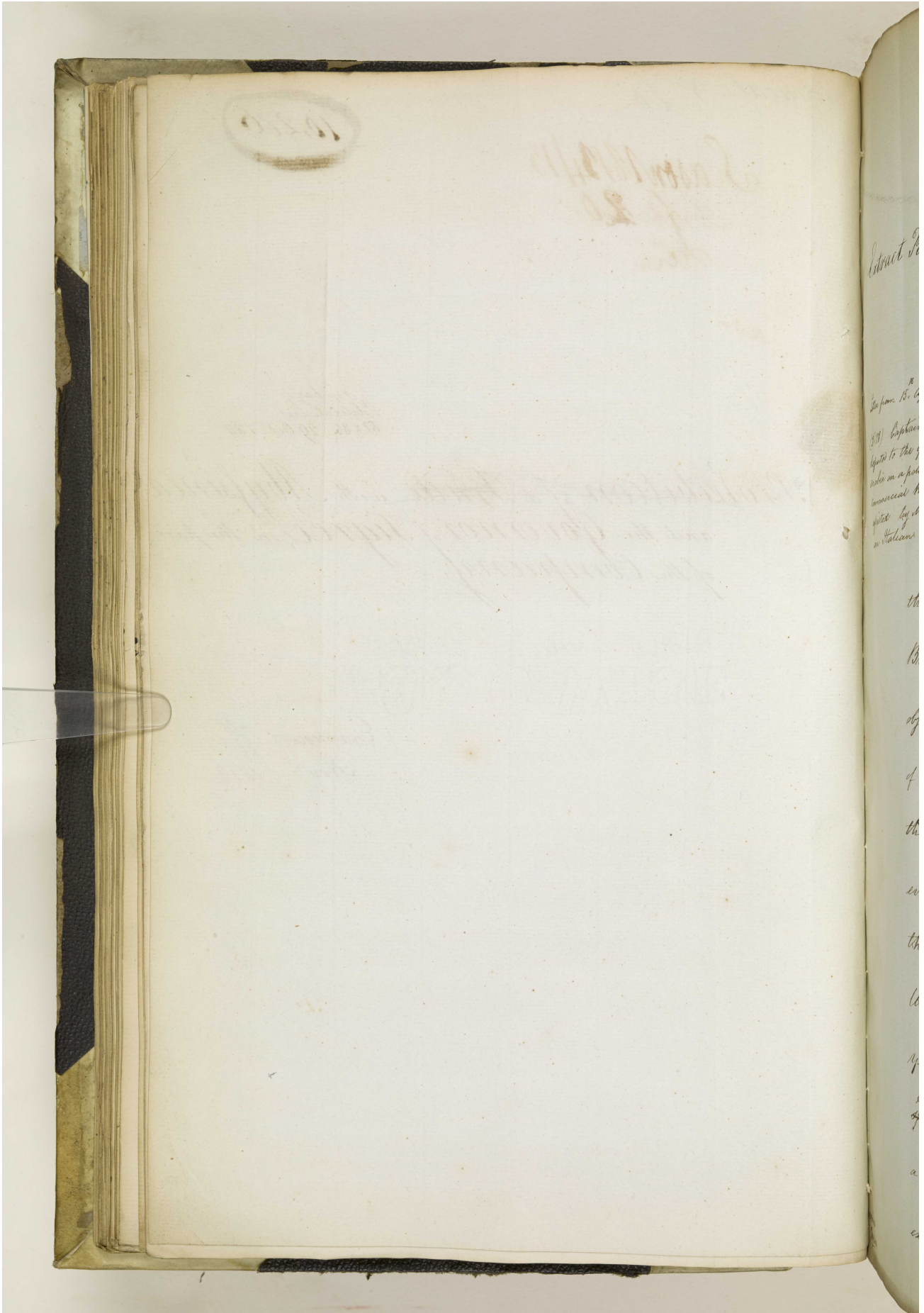


'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [tail] (6/64)





'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [42v] (8/64)



1A

Extract Political Letter to Bombay

Dated 29th August 1810

Letter from 15th April 1809

(21228) Captain Redland
deputa to the Gulph of
Arabia on a political and
Commercial Mission
assisted by Mr. Bensoni
an Italian

182

The opening of new

channels for extending the sale of

the manufactures and produce of Great
Britain has ever been so much an
object of our anxious attention independently
of any profit to be derived by the Company
therefrom, that we are willing to act
even upon very slight encouragement for
the promotion of views of this nature.
We have within the last two or three
years on finding that some sanguine
~~speculations~~ ^{expectations} were entertained of establishing
a trade between England and Abyssinia,
examined particularly into that subject; and

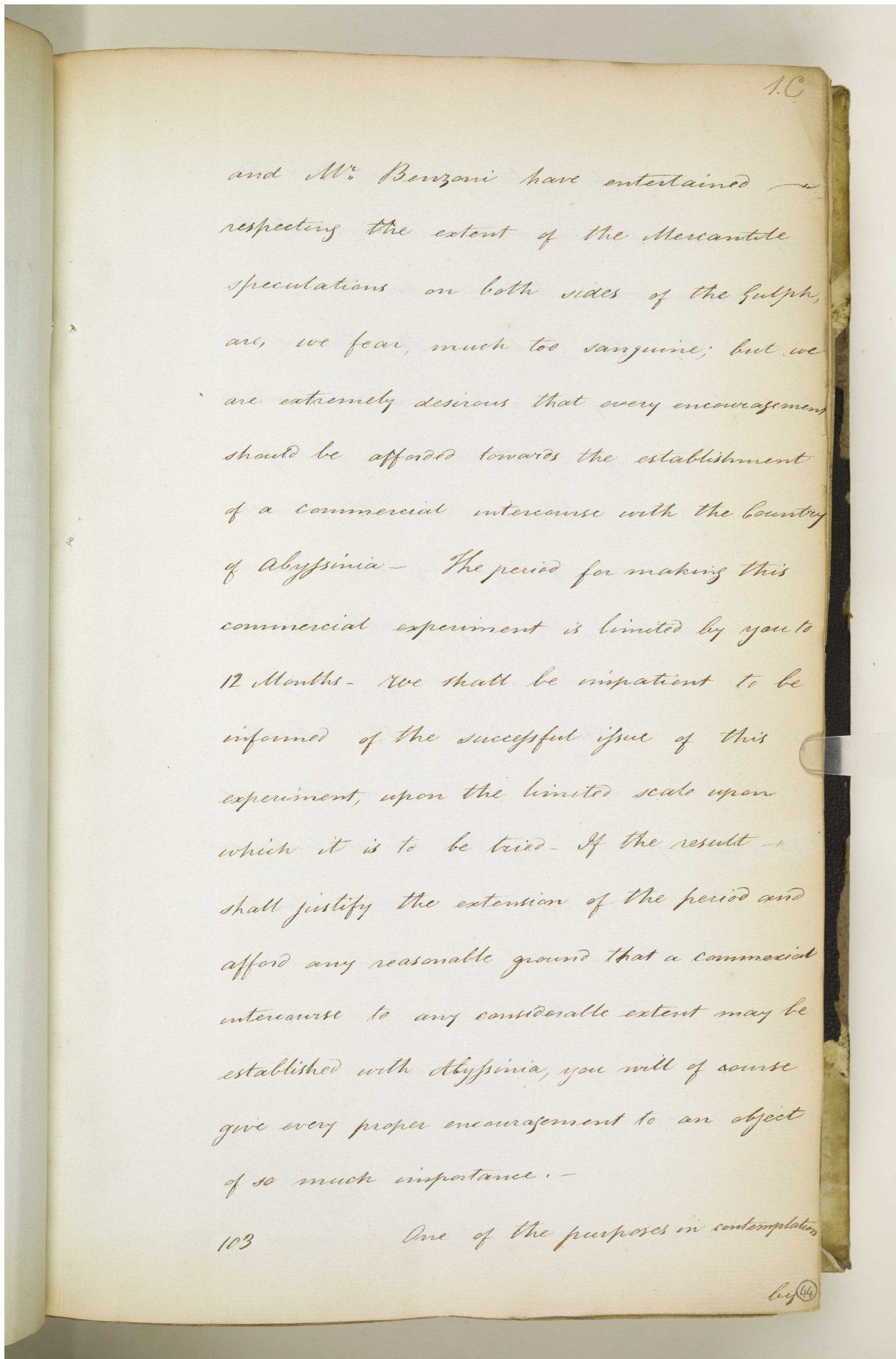
it

(43)

113

it has appeared to us, that as far as the Inhabitants of the Western shore of the Arabian Gulph were able to purchase British Commodities they were supplied with them from Bombay, between which and the Eastern Coast of Africa, a trade not very trivial has long subsisted. We are however well pleased that under the sanction of the Supreme Government you have deputed Captain Rudland to the Gulph of Arabia, with the assistance of Mr. Benzoni for the purposes mentioned in the paragraphs before us, and which are more particularly explained in your Instructions to Captain Rudland of the 24th March 1809. As this deputation to the Arabian Gulph is professedly an experiment only, you have very properly limited its operation to a certain period—
The expectations which Captain Rudland

and



1.C

and Mr. Benzoni have entertained
 respecting the extent of the Mercantile
 speculations on both sides of the Gulph,
 are, we fear, much too sanguine; but we
 are extremely desirous that every encouragement
 should be afforded towards the establishment
 of a commercial intercourse with the Country
 of Abyssinia - The period for making this
 commercial experiment is limited by you to
 12 Months - We shall be impatient to be
 informed of the successful issue of this
 experiment, upon the limited scale upon
 which it is to be tried - If the result
 shall justify the extension of the period and
 afford any reasonable ground that a commercial
 intercourse to any considerable extent may be
 established with Abyssinia, you will of course
 give every proper encouragement to an object
 of so much importance. -

103

One of the purposes in contemplation

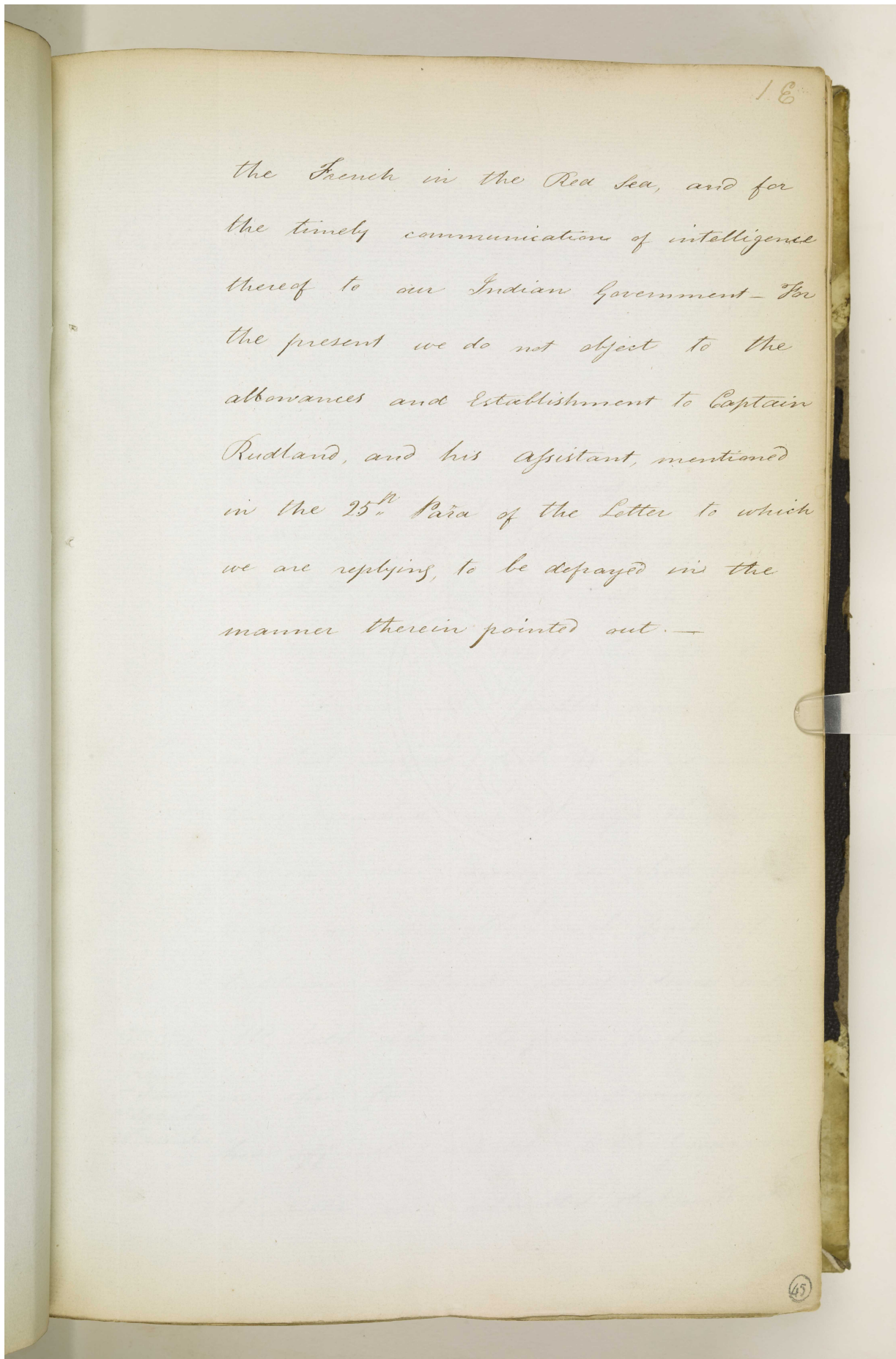
11/64

1.2

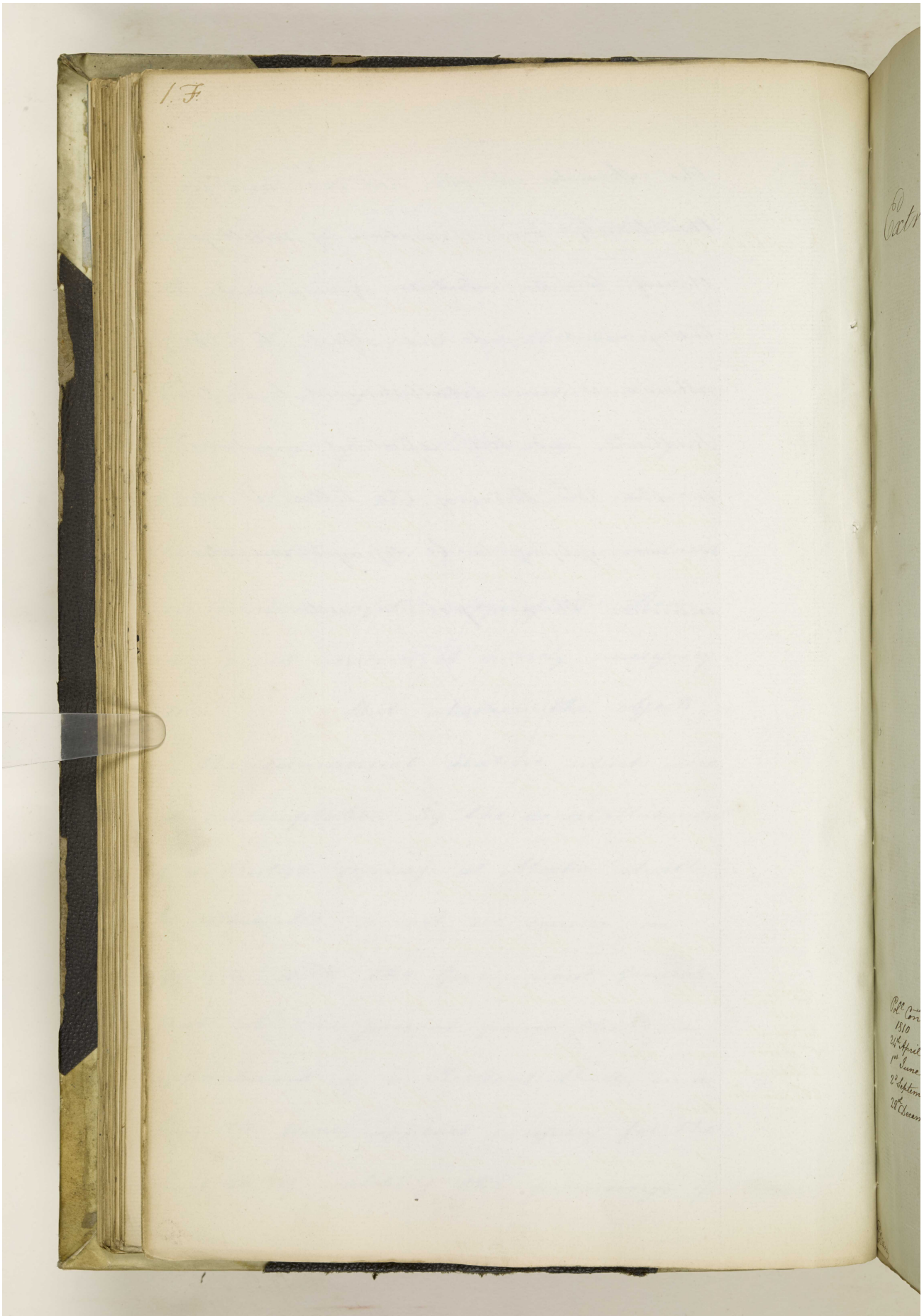
by this deputation to the Arabian
Gulph was to endeavour to re-establish
a communication between India and
England by the route of the Red sea-
The Channel of communication, however,
by the way of Constantinople being
again opened, has very much reduced
the importance of effecting an overland
correspondence by the way of the Red
Sea, if not rendered it entirely unnecessary.

102

But whether the objects
of the commercial nature which were
in contemplation by the re-establishment
of a British agency at Mocha shall
be attainable or not, we concur in
opinion with the Government General
that at the present period the
appointment of a Resident there, on a
limited scale, appears necessary for the
purpose of watching the proceedings of
the



'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [45v] (14/64)



Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated the 29th Oct^r 1811.

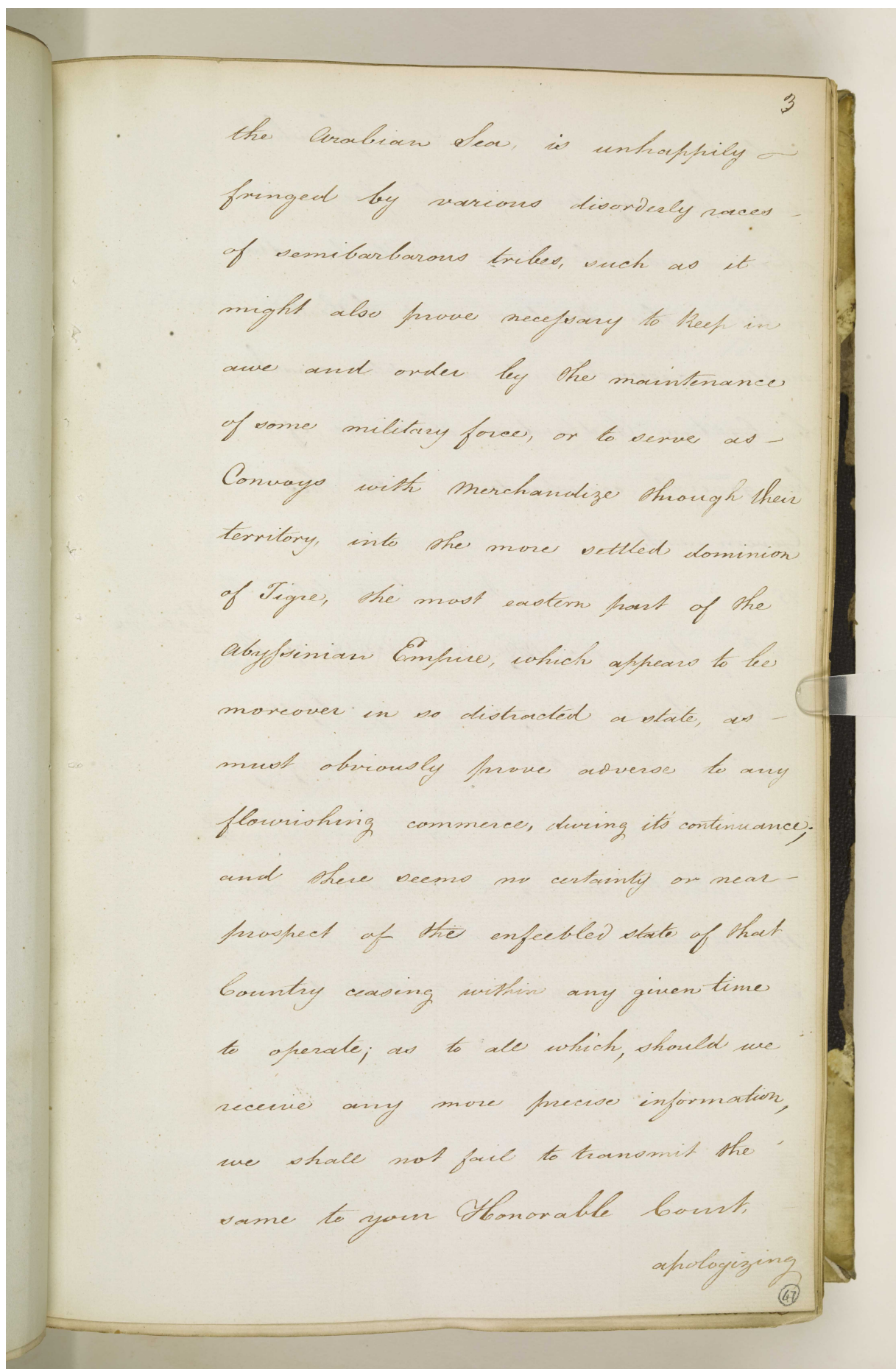
Para 22. With respect to the establishment of a trade to Abyssinia Mr Salt who has been last in that country, will no doubt be able to lay before the public some information on that subject, but as far as accounts have reached us, through the medium of our own Agency in that Gulf, and as derivable ^{from} such part of Captain Rudland's correspondence with Mr Salt which the former has transmitted in the form of accompaniments to his official dispatches to this Government it would seem admitted that, without the

Col. Coles
1810
24th April
1st June
2^d September
28th December

22/11/11

64

the establishment of a place of some
 strength on our part on the western
 shore of the Arabian Gulph, or of the
 acquisition for instance of the Island
 of Mafowa; which might possibly
 be obtained thro negotiation at the
 Court of Constantinople, and with the
 Sherif of Judda (who appears however
 to be extremely jealous of any growing
 intercourse on our part, with Abyssinia)
 no flattering expectation can be indulged
 of any increased commerce thro
 English Channels, with that part of
 the Coast of Africa, whilst the probability
 is, that the expence of maintaining
 such establishments, would absorb for
 at least a considerable time to come,
 all views of mercantile profit from
 such an undertaking; nearly, if not
 the whole Coast of Abyssinia facing
 the



apologizing in the meantime, for what may be defective in the foregoing observations which are chiefly founded on the rather desultory and hitherto merely occasional and incomplete remarks by Captain Rudland in the course of his general correspondence with this Government.

85 In a Letter dated the 28th of December 1809, the desire of His Excellency the Governor of Sigeie, was communicated to us, of carrying on a Trade with the English, enumerating the several articles of British Manufacture that would the most advantageously enter into that Commerce.

*Paldeem Copy
24th April 1810*

5

Extract Bombay Secret Political Consultations
The 29th September 1809—

Read the following further Letters from
Captains Rudland with sundry Enclosures—

Francis Warden Esq^r
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay—

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting you
for the information of the Honble the Governor in
Council the annexed copies of Correspondence
which have passed between me and the several
Captains in Zenna and Habesh, with whom,
on subjects therein named, and in obedience to
the orders of Government, I was directed to
communicate—

British Factory }
Mocha }
1st August 1809 }

I have &
Signed James Rudland
Agent—
Translator

Translate of an Official Letter from Captain
Rudland to His Excellency Ras Woltata Sellappi
Governor of the Provinces of Tigre and Endula
Antalaw - Abyssinia -

1. (The usual Compliments)

2. I have the honor of transmitting to
your Excellency herewith, a copy of a letter from
His Most Excellent the Governor of Bombay, expressing of
the friendship and interest which the British
feel for the cultivating a good understanding with the Govt
Government of Abyssinia, for the introduction and
promotion in particular of a Commercial intercourse
between the two Countries such as cannot fail to
be equally conducive to the welfare, happiness
and prosperity of both -

3. To provide the means of carrying
these measures into effect, the Most Excellent Company's
Government have been pleased to appoint and
British Agent in the Arabian Gulf and Resident
at Mecca, and have entrusted to my charge
sundry Articles of Merchandise both of European

and

7
and Indian produce, and such as are suitable to
the market of Arabia and Abyssinia, which I can
dispose of for Dollars or in exchange for the produce
of your Country, such as Gold, Ivory, Bees wax,
Civet, Horses, Mules and Grain—

4 Understanding from Mr. Pearce
that the Country in the interior from Boree,
Agt or Arib on the Sea coast to Anteloo,
belongs exclusively to your Excellency, they leave
to recommend that the intercourse we may have
with each other may be carried on from these
places, they will be found much more
convenient both in point of distance and otherwise
than the route of Mr. Batt, and myself, took by the
way of Mapowda to your Capital, and I shall
at the same time avoid all interference with
the petty tribes of Mahometans at Mapowda
and Akkeko and others in the vicinity of these
places, who perplexed us so much on our
journey to your presence in 1805—

5. I write by this opportunity to Mr. Pearce
who I trust is happy and comfortable under your
protection and friendly care, and who will explain
more fully to your Excellency the nature and
objects of my mission to this part of the world,
than I have the power of doing here, from his
having made himself I trust by this time, by
industry and attention, perfectly familiar with
your own Language

6. I have to request that you will
permit Mr. Pearce to pay me a visit the
very earliest opportunity after the receipt of this
Letter, I will meet him at the Port of Bocea in
one of the English Ships, and return him soon to
your presence with a few articles of the produce
of England, which I have brought with me, and
which I offer to your Excellency as a mark of that
esteem and regard I shall ever feel towards you
for your kindness and attention to Mr. Patt and
myself (Strangers as we are in your Country and

truly

Recd
11 May

9

totally unprotected) which you & on all occasions
shewed with so much tenderness and fatherly care

Mocha
18th May 1809-

Yours &c

Signed) H. Rudland
Agent-

Extract Letter from Nathaniel Pearce in the
Service of His Excellency Ras Mellata Sellope to
Captain H. Rudland British Resident at Mocha -

Dated 26th July 1809-

I received your Letter and Newspapers
on the 13th June which I and the Ras immediately
answered by the way of Massowah by which they
came, and also sent Ager Hammed the Ras's
Walter with the answer, bearing a Letter from
the Ras to Governor Duncan at Bombay, with a
Cloth such as he wears and of the best Manufacture
of the Country, as a mark of future friendship -
I also sent you 2 large horns of & shall be
better able to tell you by word of mouth when
I have the pleasure of seeing you, as I have

nothing

50

nothing to write with but Unas's wooden pen—
The people of this place are very much afraid
the Mail will send Soldiers to destroy them my
accounts, if he hears of the matter—

Thanks a Letter from the Ras and
Bathas Abdala, which I send by Unas

If Agce Hammet is with you, it
will be best for him to come with you, but I fear
he has not yet arrived at Mocha—

I hope, Sir, you will relieve our
distresses as soon as possible, as we are almost
starved with nothing but fish—

Translation of a Letter from Ras Dallet Selajee
to Captain H. Prudland British Resident at Mocha—

(The usual Compliments)

I have to acknowledge the receipt
of your Letter and understand its contents, and
whatever you may wish from me it shall be
done I approve of that part of your letter where
you suggest the Road by Bacer for our future
communications

11

communication and agreement that it be
advised

All the articles specified in your letter
in the way of trade, such as Muskets, Lead,
Powder, Velvet, Cloth & you may send, and
whatever you may wish as the produce of my
Country I will send it you such as Ivory, Livit,
Bees-wax & Gold, all of which I am able to
supply you with, Horses and Mules also if
you stand in need of them, in short whatever
you may do in my behalf, I will act the same
towards you

The sentiments of friendship you have
expressed to me on the authority of the British
Government I am gratefully sensible of, and
whatever you have expressed in favor of me
I consider for the general benefit of Abyssinia -
Whatever Government are with you make my
good wishes to them, and when you wish to
honor me with a visit, either by way of Bress

or

(51)

on Meppaw, Peace will furnish you with Horses
& Mules. Basham Abdela is one of my Subjects
and your friend, therefore any business you may
have to transact he may be trusted —

Note. This translation is from the Arabic
given by Hajee Abdoola Captain Rudland's Moushee

British Factory Signed J. Benzoni —
Mocha
26th July 1809 —

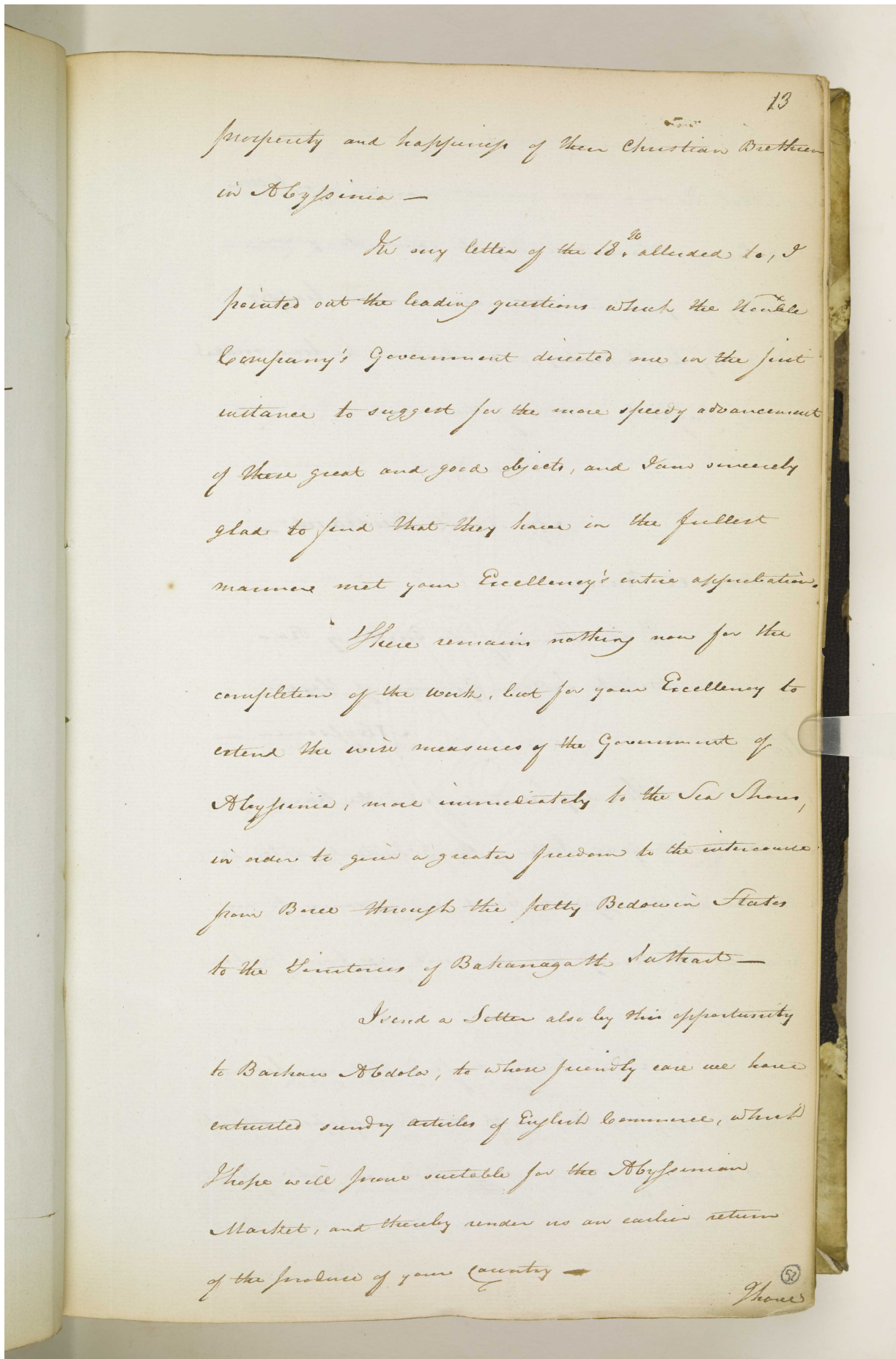
The above letter is written without date —

Translate of a Letter from Captain W. Rudland
to His Excellency Ras Wellata Selasse, under
date 28th July 1809 —

(The usual Compliments)

Your Excellency's Letter under date
Antataw in reply to mine of the 18th May 1809,
has reached me safe by way of Bocei, and I am
extremely happy to find you continue in the
enjoyment of good health —

I again repeat to your Excellency
the solicitude the English feel for the future
Prosperity



I have explained every particular
circumstance in a more minute manner in a letter
to N. Pearce, who will convey the same to your
Excellency in your own Language, as I am happy
to find by his Industry and attention he has made
himself perfectly master of the same.

I am &c

Signed, W. Rudland —

Nathaniel Pearce

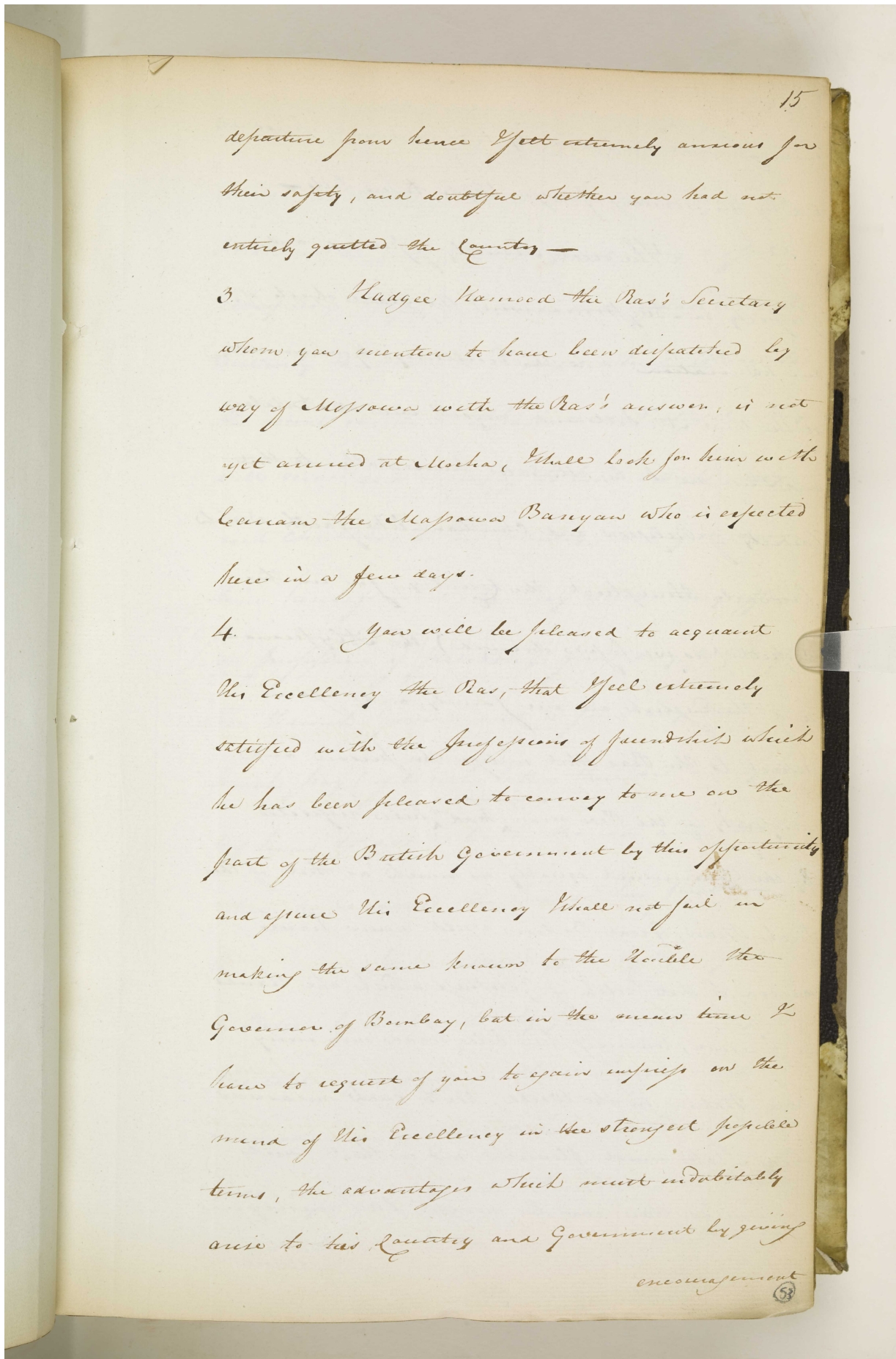
In the Service of His Excellency Ras
Wellata Sellegu Governor of Hegel

Abyssinia —

Sir

1. This day received from the hand of
Jonas Barali your Letter of the 3^d Instant dated at
Mardin on the opposite Coast, giving cover to me
from His Excellency the Ras and one from Rascham
Abdola —

2. I am happy to find that my Letter
of the 29th May together with the Newspapers which
I sent by way of Meppaw reached you safe, from
the length of time which had elapsed since their
departure



15

departure from hence I feel extremely anxious for their safety, and doubtful whether you had not entirely quitted the Country —

3. Hudge Harrod the Ras's Secretary whom you mention to have been dispatched by way of Meppow with the Ras's answer, is not yet arrived at Mecha, I shall look for him with Coman the Meppow Banyan who is expected here in a few days.

4. You will be pleased to acquaint His Excellency the Ras, that I feel extremely satisfied with the Professions of Friendship which he has been pleased to convey to me on the part of the British Government by this opportunity and since His Excellency I shall not fail in making the same known to the Honble the Governor of Bombay, but in the mean time I have to request of you to explain on the mind of His Excellency in the strongest possible terms, the advantages which must undoubtably arise to his Majesty and Government by giving encouragement

53

encouragement and security to Commercial pursuits
and by his inviting foreign Trade to his Ports —

5. The great Security of persons and
property in Abyssinia would the grand object of
our Administration in His Excellency's Government,
at the time Mr. Salt and myself were at Adaloo,
and these are to be attributed principally to that
purity of Religion and Christian-like faith which
prevails throughout the Country, for in this
respect (as we before observed) the Abyssinians
and the English are one family, and again
repeat to the King that unless the person and
property of the ^{in England} Poor man had been respected
by the Government equally as much as that of the
Rich Man, Great Britain could never have
arisen to that pitch of Greatness which she stands
at present, towering her bold head over every
other Nation in the World. With such measures
every State must flourish, and without such
measures there can be sought but misery and
discord

17

discord accompanied by oppression, tyranny and
ruin; - the truth of this remark the newspapers
I transmitted give you many and very awful
examples; I hope you read and explained to His
Excellency the several papers which allude to
the recent events in Spain and Portugal, they
will serve as a warning to him and to every
good Christian in his Country, - and if at any
time hereafter he may receive any offer
or profession of friendship from any agent of
the French Government or from any deal in
French pay (of which latter there are many here)
beg him to avoid both the one and the
other, as he would the Lion in his paws -

G. I send Mr Benzoni by this opportunity
to Rome, he is appointed by Government my
Assistant, you may without reserve make
every communication to him as he is in my
full confidence - Mr Benzoni is the bearer
of a Letter also to His Excellency the Præ and

ms
56

one to the Bathan Abdoola, with which, as the
distance is only five days I think it would be
advisable for you to return to Antaboa immediately,
the Ras having approved of the plan which I
suggested for our future intercourse, I am desirous
it should be adopted immediately -

British Factory Kerman &
Mocha -
26th July 1809 Signed W. Rudland
Agent -

Extract Letter from W. Rudland

Agent &

Dated 28th August 1809 -

I have delivered to the Commanders of
the Bonaire a parcel directed to the Honble the
Governor from His Excellency Ras Mellata Sellepe
containing a dup of His Excellency's which he begs
me to send to Bombay for the Honble the Governor
acceptance together with a Packet which contains
the correspondence generally that has passed between
the several Chaptains therein named and the British
Agency in this Gulf since our arrival in May last -
Resolution.

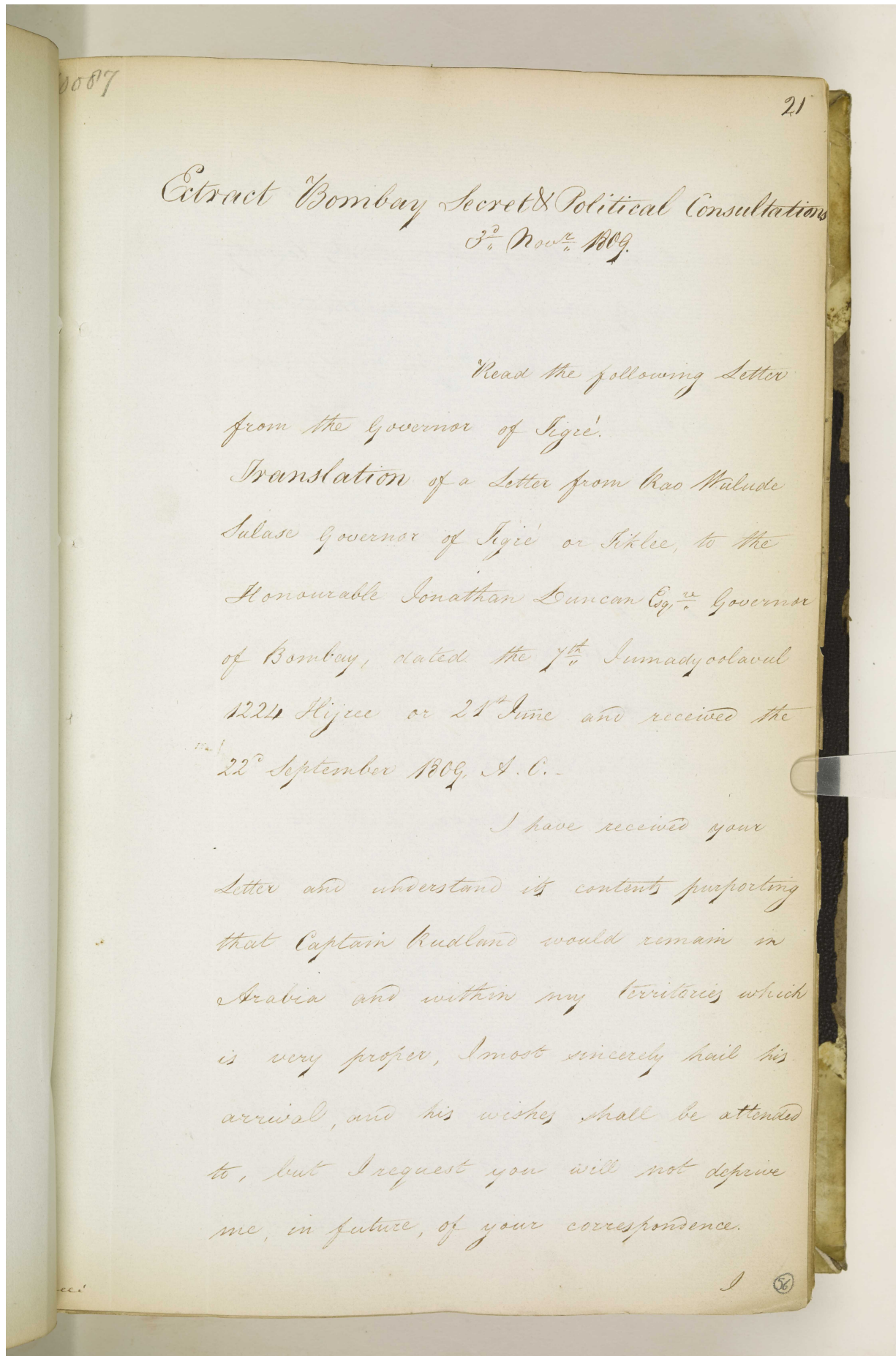
With reference to the above recorded correspondence the Board cannot but remark
that it contains very unsatisfactory and affords but little prospect, as far especially
as

as can be judge from Nathl^l Pearce's communication of such a Commerce being Established
in a course of years between India and Abyssinia
tho' the Double Company's or Individual British
Channels as shall any wise compensate the
certain expence of maintaining and protecting it -

Unless therefore the Supreme Government
shall continue to desire the permanency of Capt^l
Nudland's Agency for Political purposes in the
Gulph, the Govern^l in Council is disposed to
return the Benares to Mocha as soon as the
Season will permit, with Instructions to
Captain Nudland to return on her, as soon as
propable to the Presidency; after realizing the
proceeds of the Goods he was entrusted - &
experimentally with the Sale of, and upon
which Govern^l will rely on his realizing the
profit held out, as one of the inducements to his
dispatch thither -

Ordered that the Chief Secretary transmit to
Mr. Secretary Edmonstone at West B. George
Copies of the above recorded advice from Captain
Nudland.

Rudland with a Letter to the effect of the preceding
remarks, and requesting to be thereon favoured with
the signification of His Lordship's Sentiments on the
necessity or expediency there may be, for the
continuance of an European Political Agency in
the Gulf of Arabia, in view to the existing or
prospective state of circumstances – since in the
event of His Lordship's consideration that these
appointments may be dispensed with, a requisite
regard to economy will induce the Government
in Council to withdraw the present European
Establishment as speedily as possible –



I have forwarded by
Wahid Khullee Hajie Mochammed Noor,
a Garment the Manufacture of this Country,
that you may have an opportunity of
inspecting the same. It goes merely as a
token of Friendship, the European here
having suggested to me to send it
first, and afterwards to forward whatever
you may require, such as Horses, or
Mules, since (as he added) it must be
known to me, that a person
acquainted with the Tigre, Amaree
and Abyssinia languages will be
necessary to act as Translator on the
occasion.

I have also further to
inform you that I have made known
my wishes to Captain Rudland, who
will communicate to you the views
entertained by me; I have not announced
them

23

them in the Arabic tongue, to avoid
the object thereof being disclosed, but you
may rest satisfied that what I have
imparted to him constitutes the utmost
wish entertained on my part.

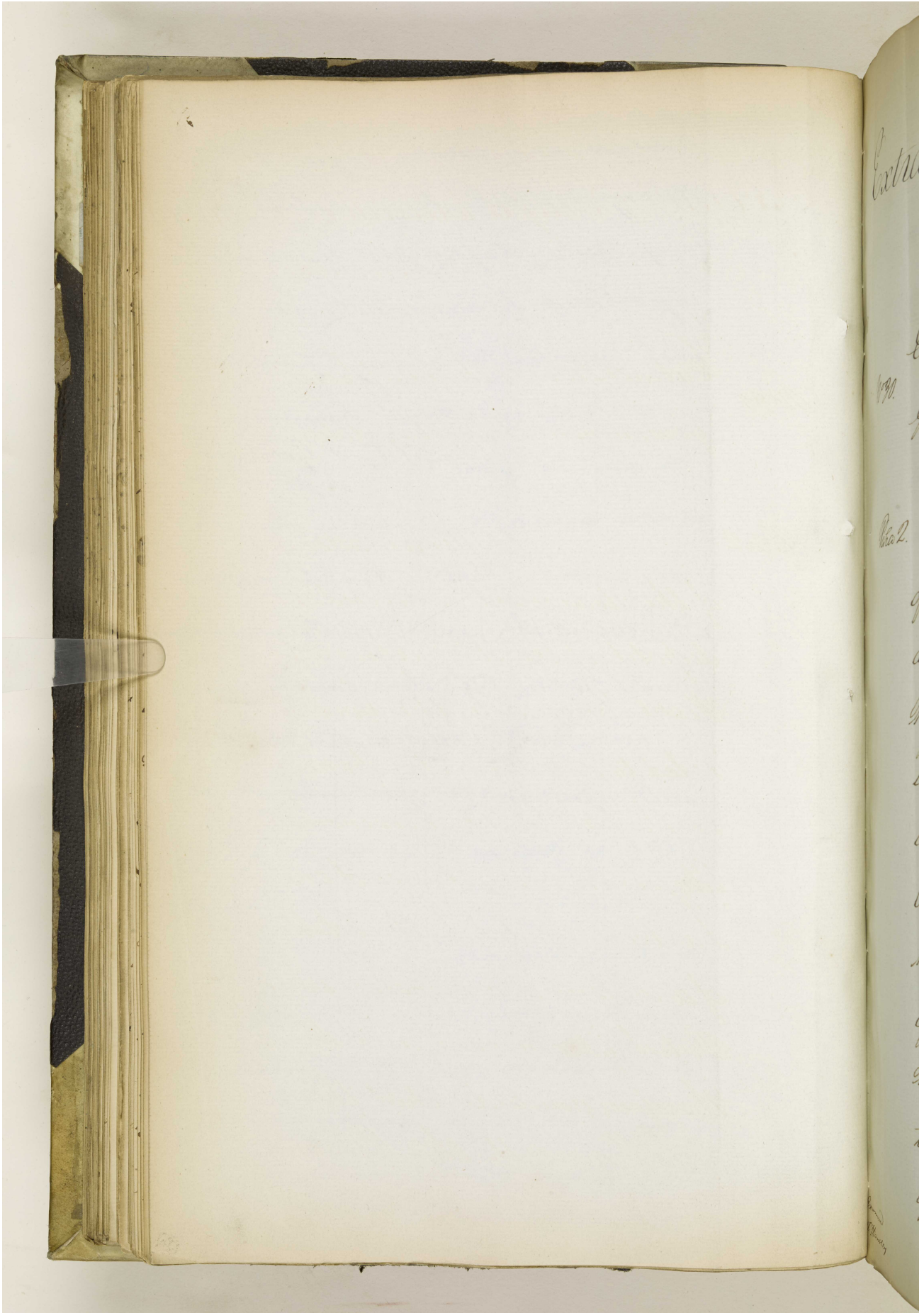
A true Translation
(Signed) R. J. Goodwin
Secy & Translator

Captain. Rudland not having
adverted to the contents of the communication
alluded to in the above Letter,

Ordered that he be
called upon for the particulars thereof -

(57)

'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [57v] (38/64)



25

Extract Bengal Political Consultations
5th December 1809.

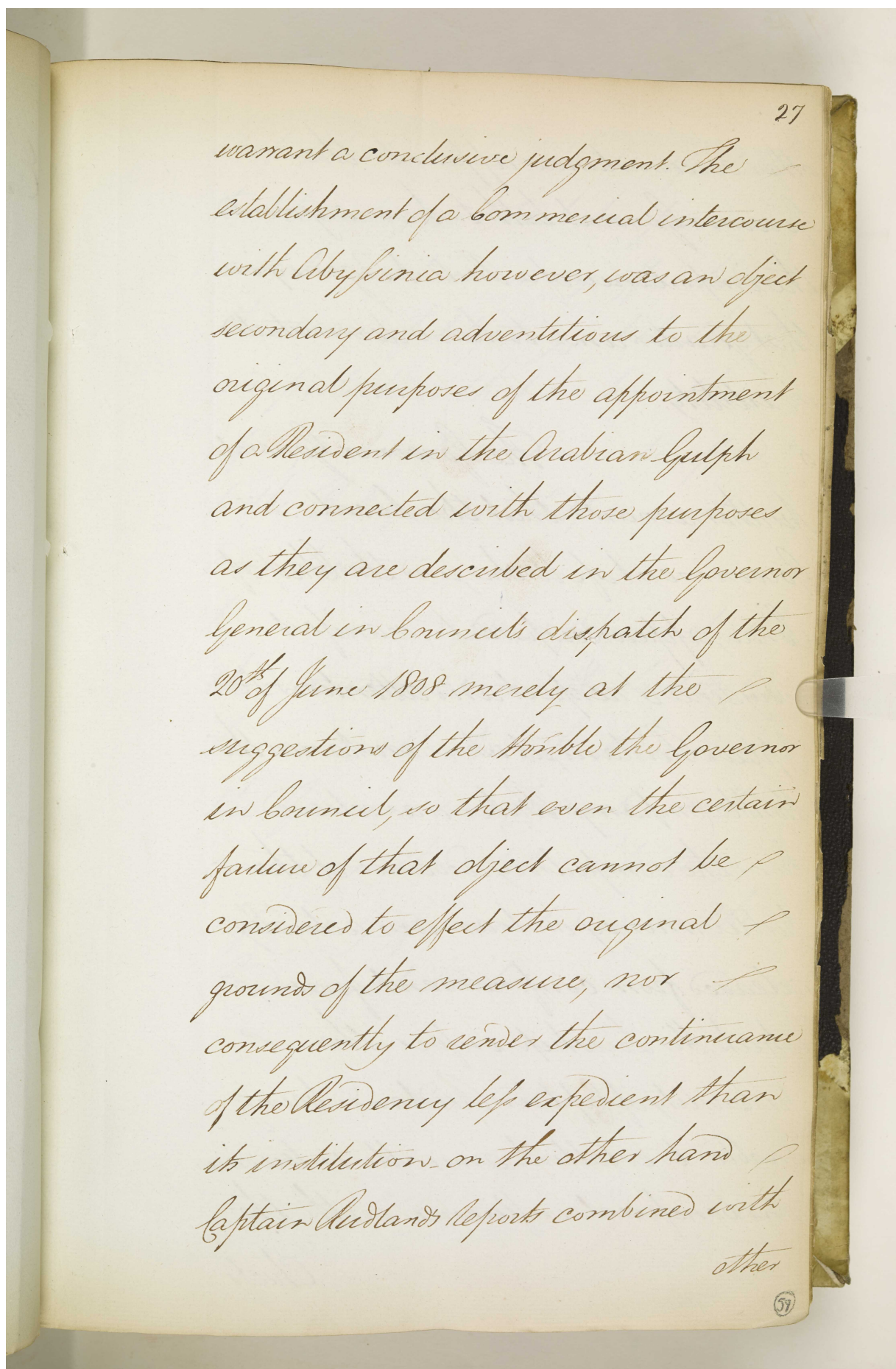
No 30. Extract-Letter to the Chief Secretary to
Government at Bombay, dated 11th Nov. 1809.

Para 2. After an attentive perusal
of the documents enclosed in your
dispatch of the 26th of September the
Right Honourable the Governor General
is led to entertain the opinion that
on the part of the Government of
Abyssinia, every degree of encouragement
has been afforded to the establishment
of a system of commerce with the
British Government, and His Lordship
therefore concludes that the observations
of the Honourable the Governor in
Council

examined
H. Stanley

58

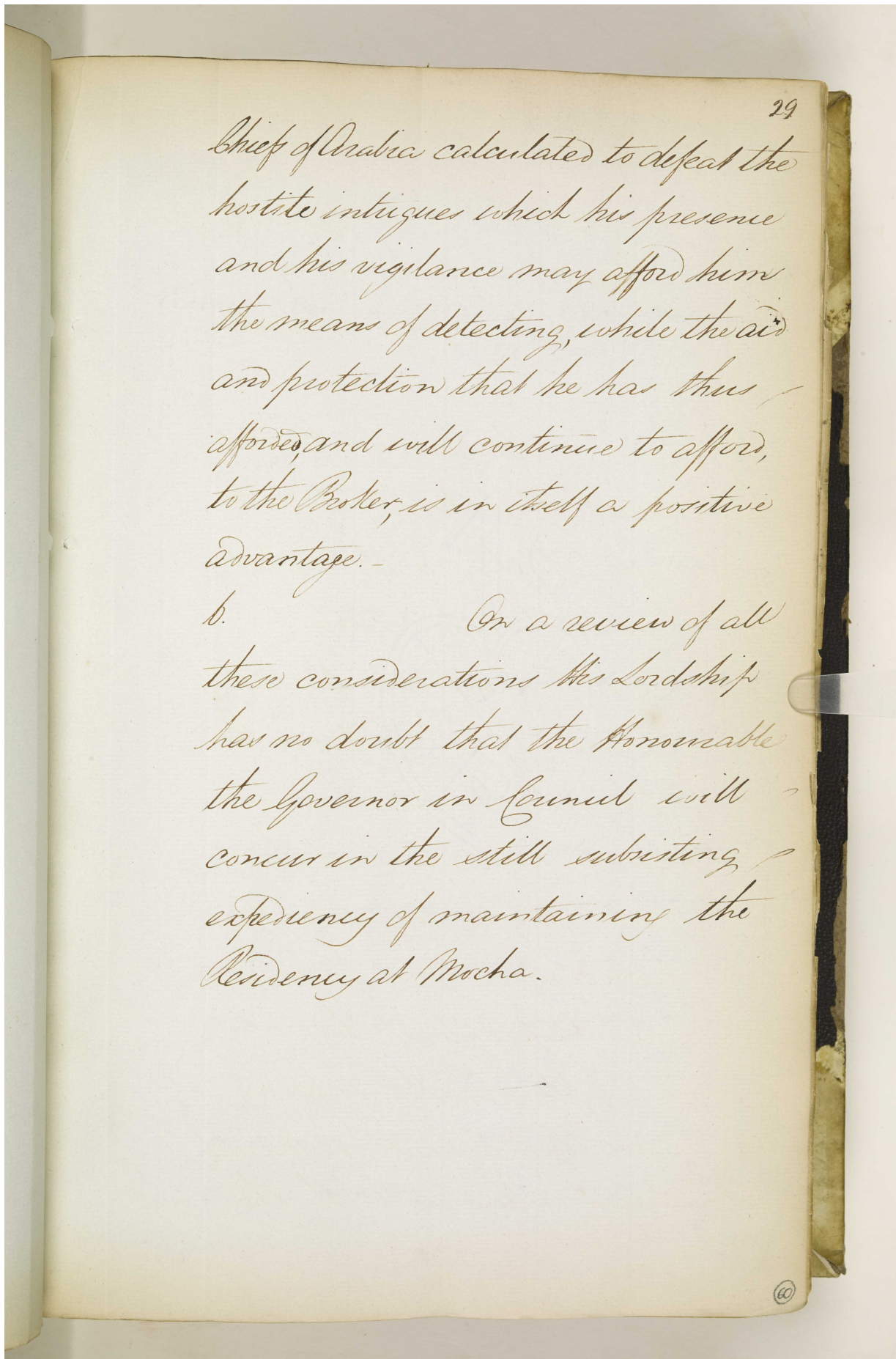
Council relative to the unsatisfactory nature of Captain Rudland's communications and the unpromising prospect of the Commercial objects of the Mission, refer rather to the deficiency of the probable demands of Abyssinia for the articles of European and Indian produce, and the insufficiency of its returns, than to the disposition of the State, and to the impediments to a Commercial intercourse with that Country under this supposed view of the subject His Lordship observes that if the opinion expressed by the Honble the Governor in Council be founded exclusively on Captain Rudland's report of his proceedings, the duration of the experiment does not appear to have been sufficient to warrant



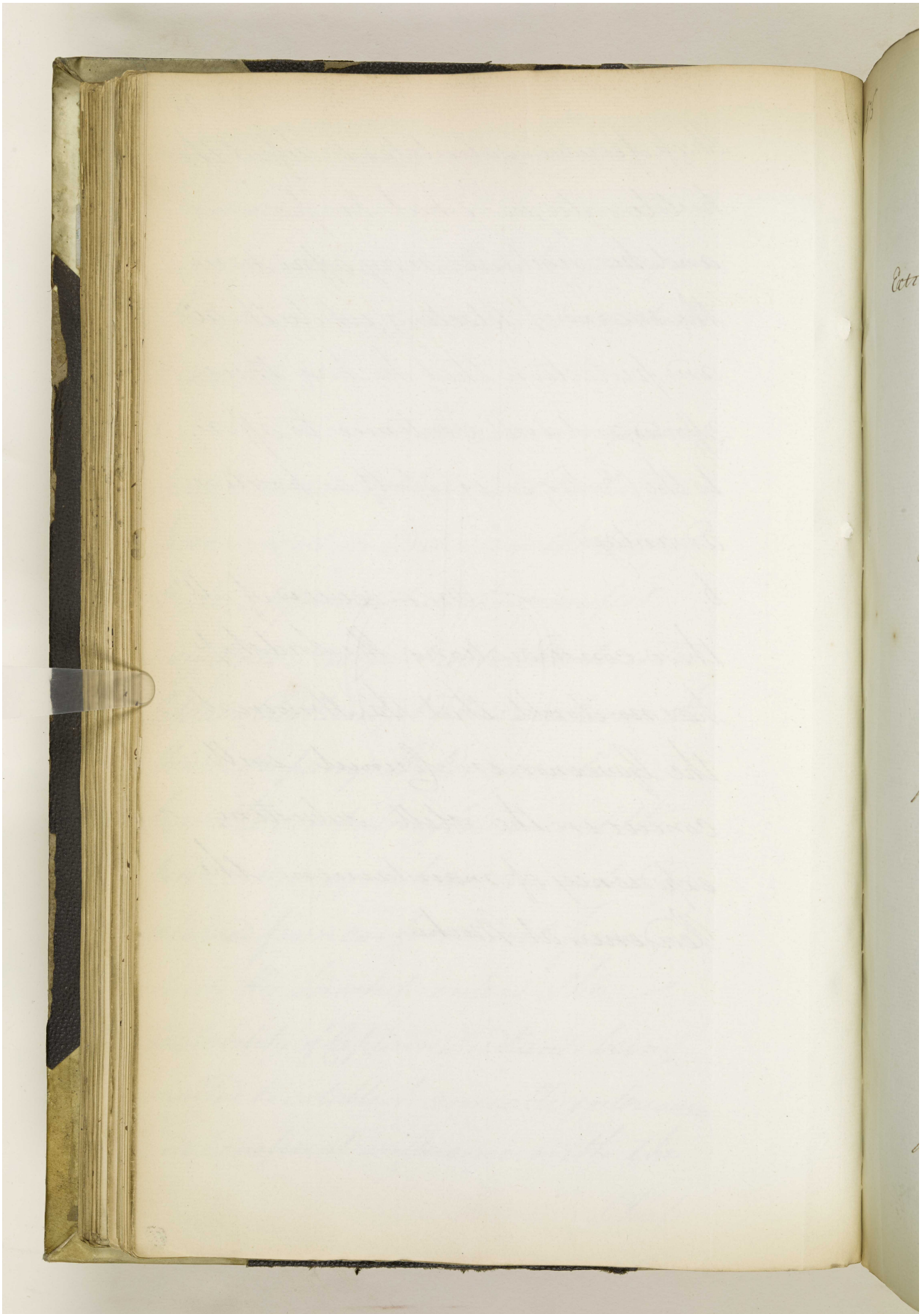
27
warrant a conclusive judgment. The
establishment of a commercial intercourse
with Abyssinia however, was an object
secondary and adventitious to the
original purposes of the appointment
of a Resident in the Arabian Gulf
and connected with those purposes
as they are described in the Governor
General in Council's dispatch of the
20th of June 1808 merely at the
suggestions of the Honble the Governor
in Council, so that even the certain
failure of that object cannot be
considered to effect the original
grounds of the measure, nor
consequently to render the continuance
of the Residency less expedient than
its institution. on the other hand
Captain Audland's reports combined with
other

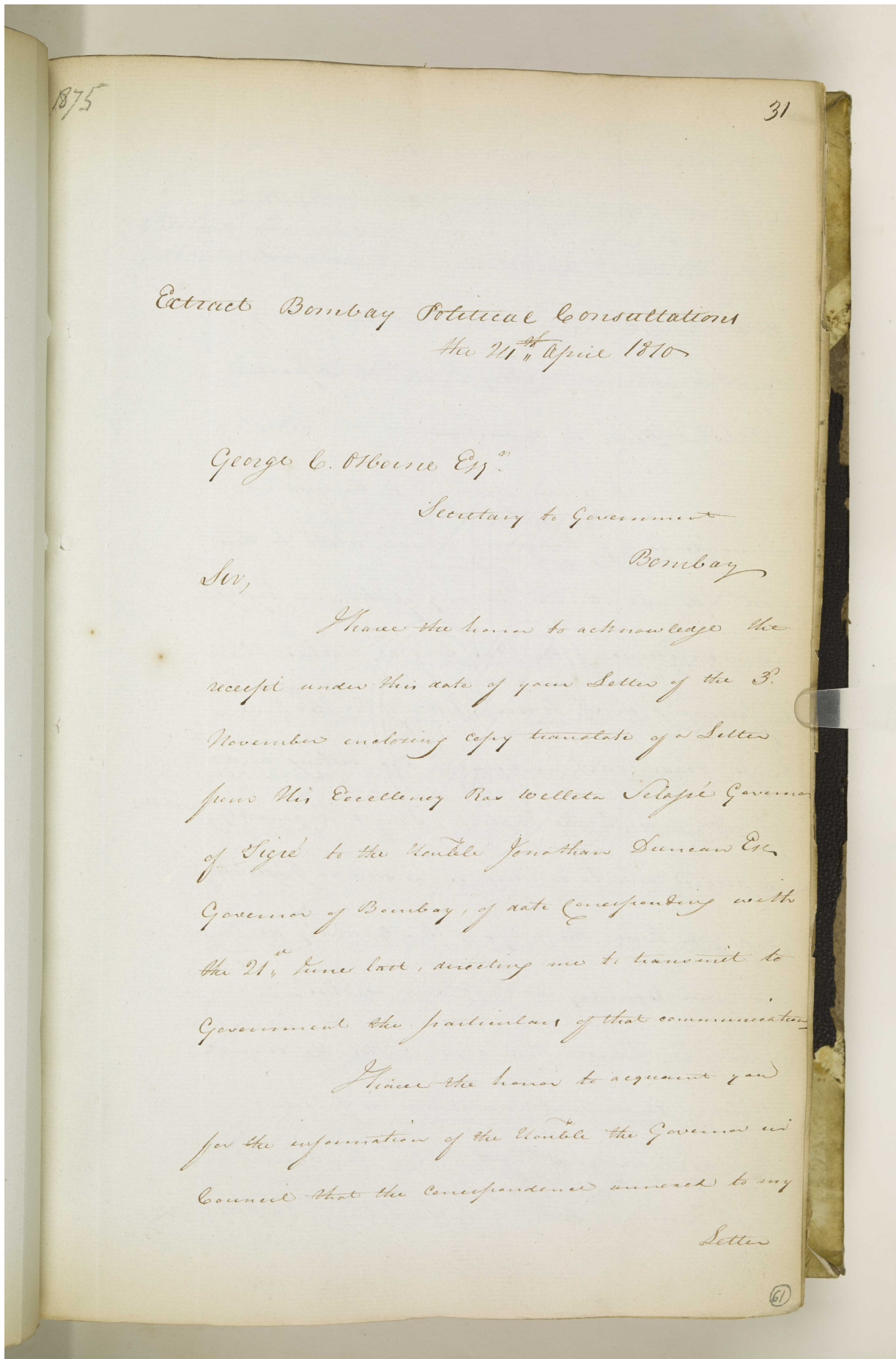
other circumstances appear to the
Governor General both to have augmented
the importance of a British Agency in
that quarter and to have demonstrated
its utility.

5 The Governor General
further remarks that the local
Government of Mocha, and the Chief of
Senaa, appear disposed to manifest
every degree of respect and attention to
Captain Audland, at whose instance the
Honble Company's Proctor was relieved
from the compulsory advance of the
public money on loan and actually
released from confinement from
which His Lordship infers the
probability of Captain Audland's being
enabled to establish amicable intercourse
and beneficial influence with the
Chiefs



'Territorial settlement in Abyssinia – inexpedient' [60v] (44/64)

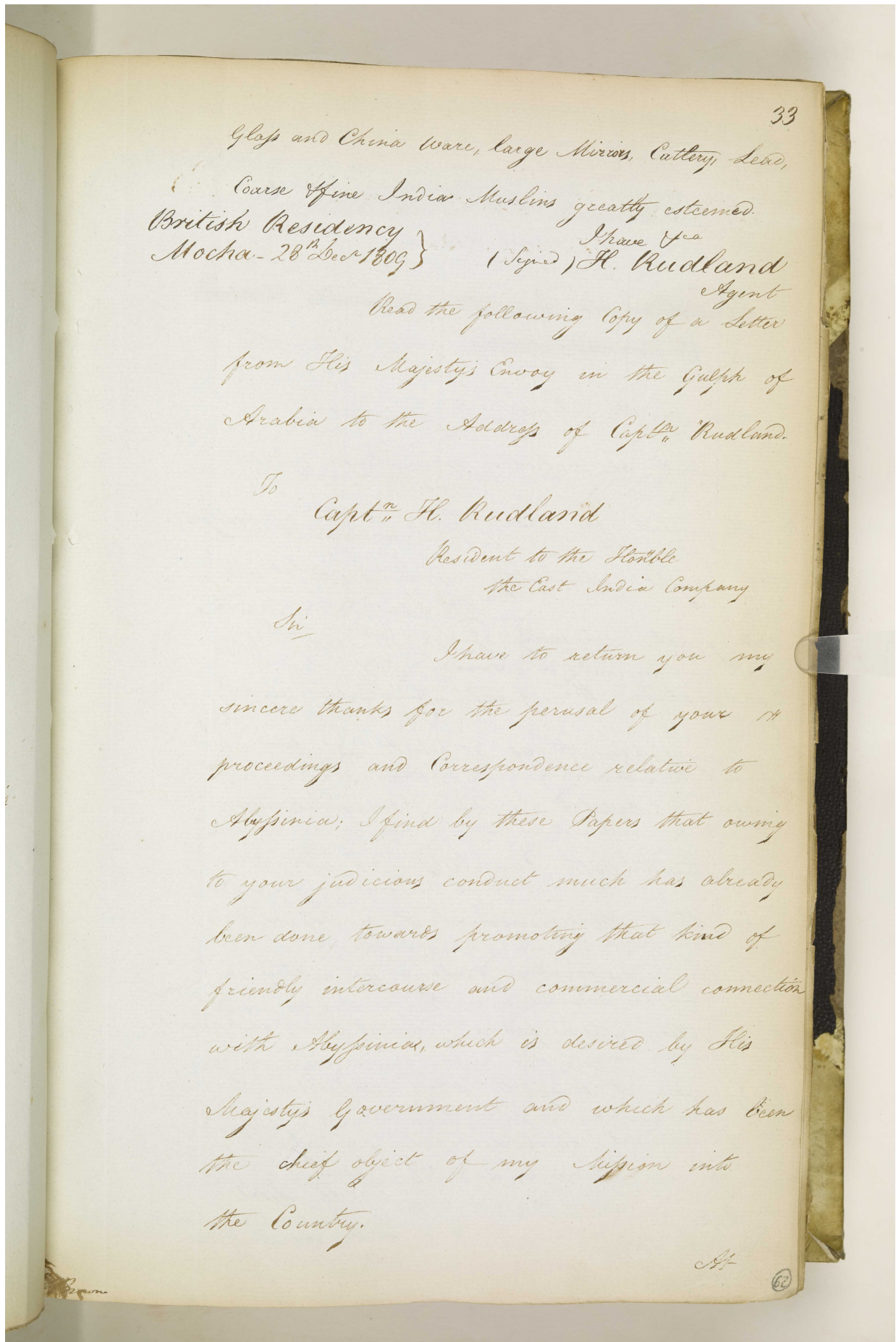




Letter of the 1st August to Mr. Chief Secretary Marden
contains the substance of all my communications
with His Excellency Ras Wellata Selasse, and
with Nathaniel Pearce, from the time of my
arrival at Mocha in May until the departure
of the Surat Trade in August —

I'm again referring to the original
Documents in my possession which relate to this
subject. I do not observe in any of them a proposal
more expressive of the Ras Selasse's wishes than
the following in N. Pearce's Letter of the 16th June —
"As for Trade such as buying and selling and
"exchanging with the English, I wish it greatly; ^{See over}
"and desired me to commence as soon as possible;
"saying you know the ways of this country dealing,
"so for your country as Rudland wishes" —

Nathaniel Pearce then enumerates the several
articles of English Manufacture as follows,
"Scarlet Superfine Cloth, Blue & Coarse
"of both Colours, Silk, Delvets, Tattens, Carpets,
"Gloves



33

Glass and China ware, large Mirrors, Cutlery, Lead,
Coarse & Fine India Muslins greatly esteemed.
British Residency }
Mocha - 28th Decr 1809 } (Signed) H. Rudland
Agent

Read the following Copy of a Letter
from His Majesty's Envoy in the Gulf of
Arabia to the Address of Capt^l Rudland.

To
Capt^l H. Rudland
Resident to the Honble
the East India Company

Sir

I have to return you my
sincere thanks for the perusal of your
proceedings and Correspondence relative to
Abyssinia; I find by these Papers that owing
to your judicious conduct much has already
been done towards promoting that kind of
friendly intercourse and commercial connection
with Abyssinia, which is desired by His
Majesty's Government and which has been
the chief object of my Mission into
the Country.

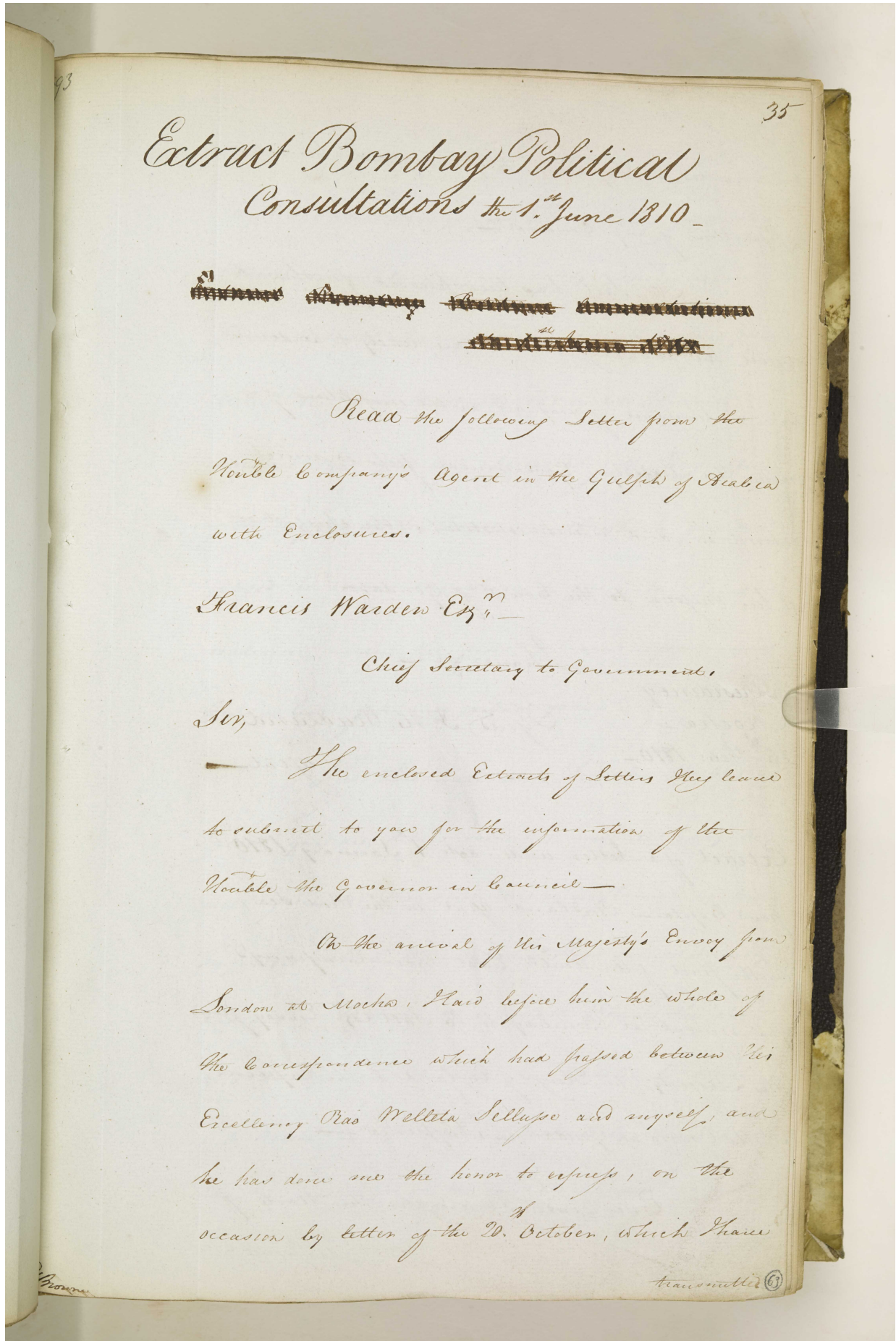
H

62

At the same I beg
leave to observe the Government under
which you act must be aware, that
an object of such importance cannot
be at once accomplished; To turn the
channel of the Trade, to secure any
permanent or valuable connection, must
be the work of time: But, as the advantages
that might ultimately result from it are
very great, especially if we take into
consideration the fund of knowledge
it may open to us, as well as the
reciprocal benefit which may accrue
from it to both Countries, I have to
hope that the Government of India, will
on further consideration prolong your stay in
the situation which you at present hold, as I am
of opinion it may be very conducive to
the attainment of so desirable an object.

Mocha
20th October 1809 }

I have &c
(Signed) H. Salt
Deputed on a Mission from
the King of Great Britain
to the Emperor of Abyssinia.



transmitted in Duplicate to Government, his entire
appreciation of my conduct—

Mr. Salt has been pleased further to
suggest the advantages which are likely to be derived
by a continuance of my aid in the completion of so
works. His Majesty's Government feels so much
interest in, and which constitutes the chief object
of his mission to the Court of Gondar—

I have &c

B. Residency

Mocha—

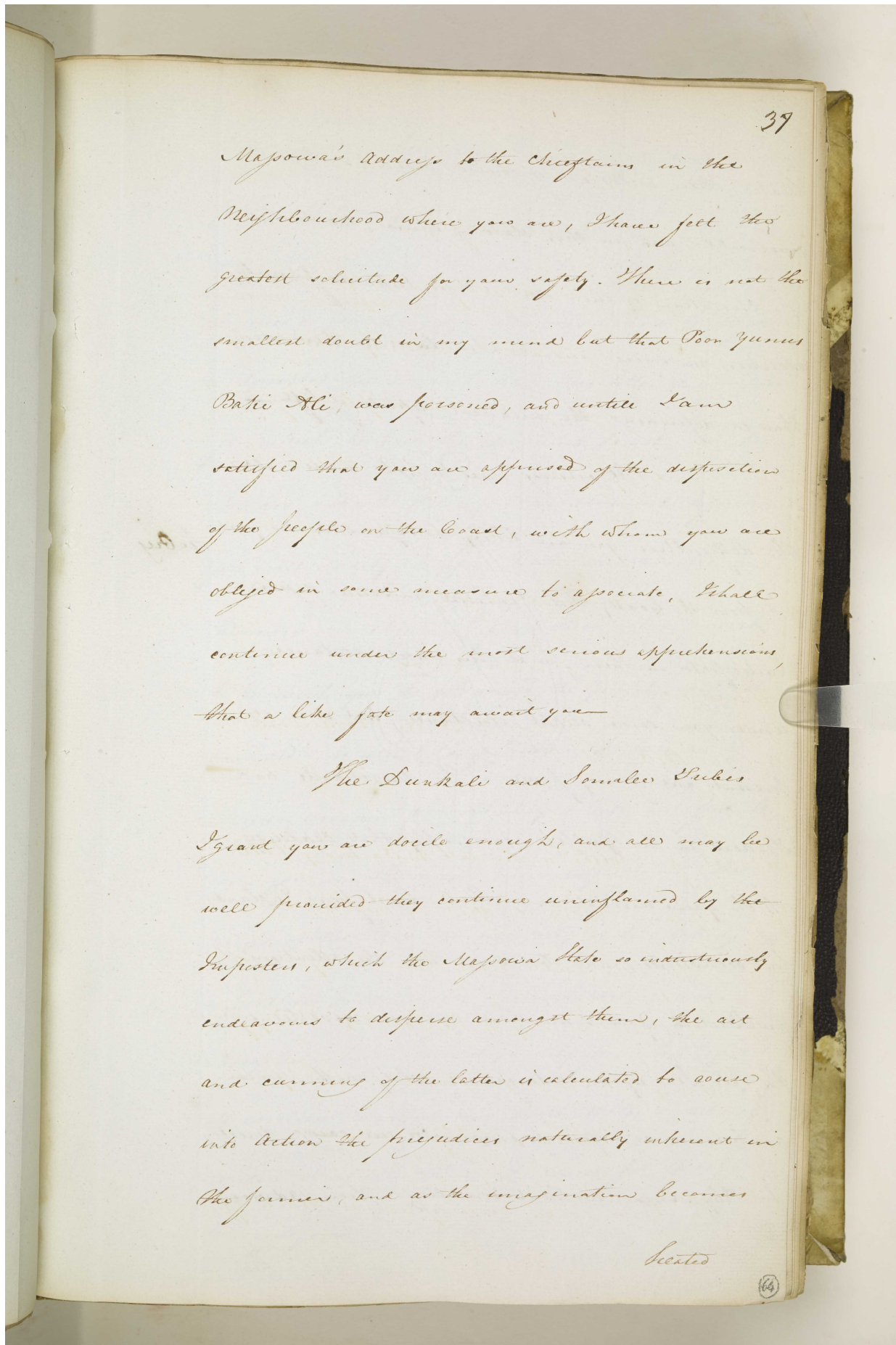
16th Feb: 1810—

Signed J. W. Rudland

Agent—

Extract of a Letter under date 1st January 1810
from Captain Rudland Agent in the Red Sea,
on the part of the Honble East India Company's
Government at Bombay to Mr. Salt Esq^r Envoy from
His Majesty the King of England to the Emperor
Ayto Gualo at Gondar in Abyssinia—

Ever since I intercepted the Mail of
Mafrowa's



39

Mapowa's Address to the Chieftains in the
Neighbourhood where you are, I have felt the
greatest solicitude for your safety. There is not the
smallest doubt in my mind but that Poor Yunus
Baki Ali, was poisoned, and until I am
satisfied that you are apprised of the disposition
of the people on the Coast, with whom you are
obliged in some measure to associate, I shall
continue under the most serious apprehensions,
that a like fate may await you

The Durkali and Somalee Tribes
I fear you are double enough, and all may be
well provided they continue uninflamed by the
Rajastens, which the Mapowa State so industriously
endeavours to disperse amongst them, the art
and cunning of the latter is calculated to rouse
into Action the prejudices naturally inherent in
the former, and as the imagination becomes
heated

hated, their widows of course become less
governable, and in this state of mind, the murder
of a Christian or even one of their tribe or family,
attaches no more moral sin to it in their ideas,
than in depriving the meanest reptile of life —

It grieves me much, under all
the difficulties you are likely to experience in your
voyage to the Coast, that I cannot in some degree
participate in them, or at this short distance,
render you some slight assistance, but it is at
present out of my power — The Merchants and
Traders in the Gulfs, excited by that jealousy
which your arrival in a Ship, direct from England,
has occasioned, and observing that the attention of
the British Government is no longer diverted in
the Red Sea by an intercourse solely with Yemen,
are become so averse to encourage our going direct
to Abyssinia, without consulting their advice,

That

39

— that neither Presents nor Prayers will induce any
of them to convey me, or even a letter from me, to
you. The Bavarian brought the Navicida of Sawa
to me a few days ago, who was bound to Meppora.
I requested the Man to keep this letter at Amphihela
for which he had the assurance to ask me 100
Dollars, and the Money to be advanced by merchants.
You will easily perceive how I am situated, and
however much I may form Inclinations, with
to be with you to get across the Gulph without
your aid, is utterly impossible. So soon as a
Cruizer arrives from Bombay I shall not fail to
join you, in the mean time impress on the
mind of the Ras the necessity of his taking up
a position on the Coast immediately, and
Amphihela being four days only from his Capital,
its excellent Harbour and fresh Water undoubtably
renders it of all others, the most fit place
to occupy—

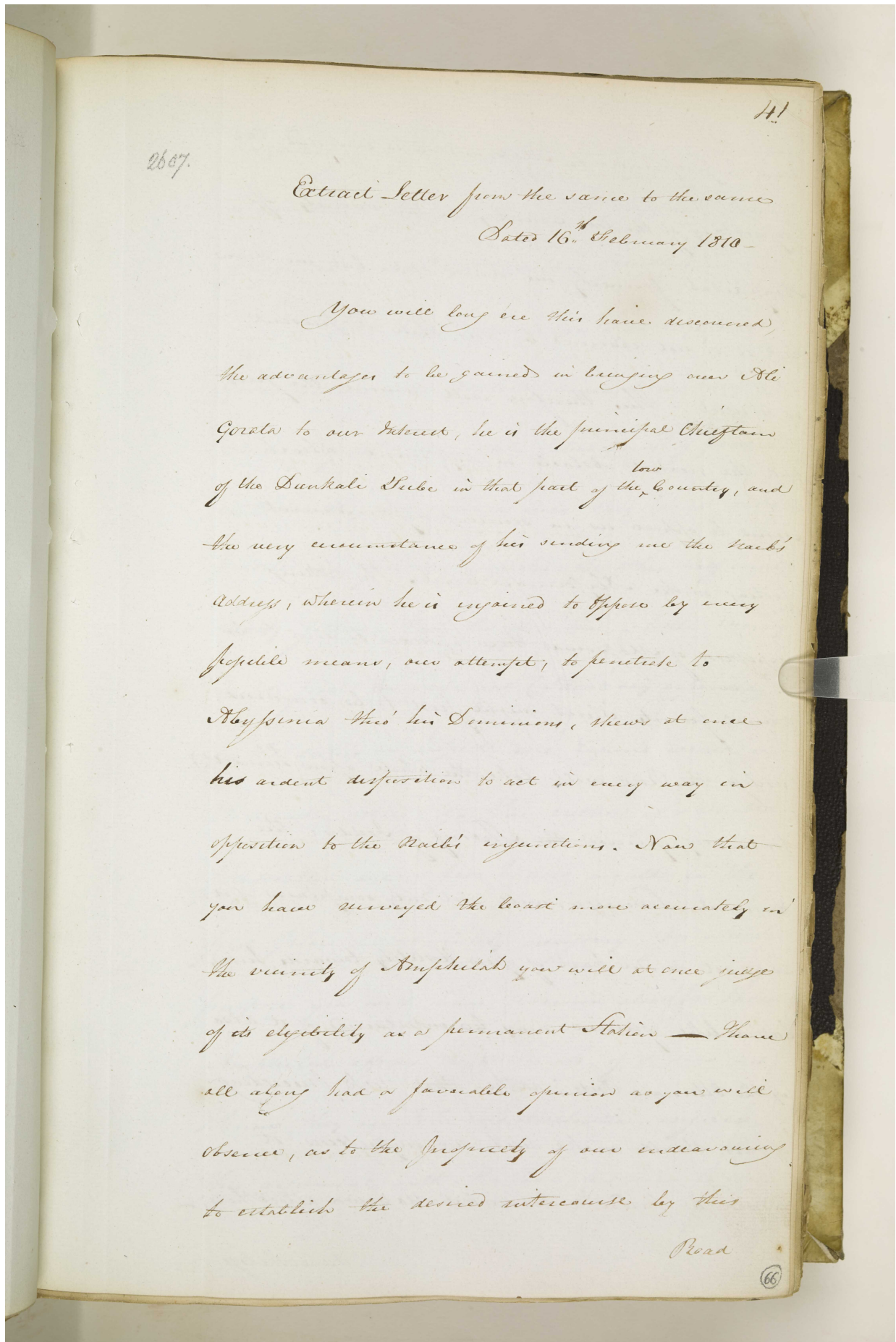
Should (6)

Should His Excellency the Ras, be
disposed to adopt the arrangement which you have
to propose with the permission of the Government of
Bombay, I gladly offer him and you my aid in
its completion; and further should any hesitation
on the part of the Ras, be made, as to expences,
which in the event would accordingly be incurred,
or that he should appear to entertain a suspicion
of doubt that he would not be reimbursed in
the given time, let him relinquish to me the
Revenue of the Import and Export Customs for
2 years, as less houses here will gladly advance
30 or 40,000 Dollars to morrow, to raise a small
Redoubt, pay the few Akarics (Christians) to
be furnished by the Ras, and get out an armed
Regiment for our protection by Sea

B. Residency
Mocha
1st Jan'y 1840

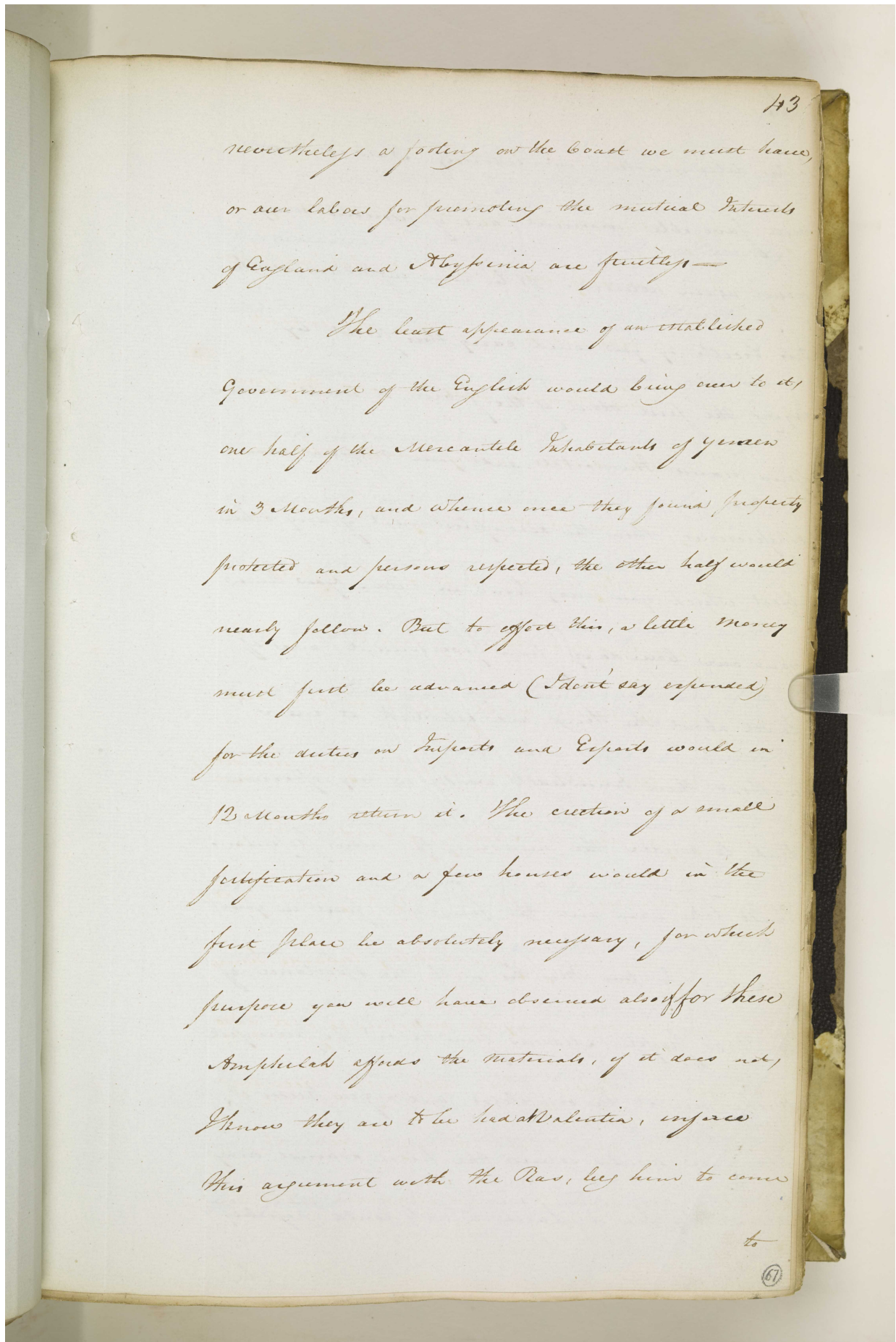
Signed) W. Rudland

Extract



Road in preference to Mapowad; who claimed the
Proprietary of the low Country in the vicinity of
Amphiblah formerly we know not, but we know
that it is not claimed by any State at present
as a right. This therefore will remove the first
and the greatest obstacle in my mind, which
seems to oppose us in securing a permanent
footing on the Abyssinian Coast. The taking
possession of Mapowad there appears to me to be
several points which ought just to be considered
(unless the Ras will take the whole upon himself)
for in my opinion the Sheriff of Soddah, the
nominal Sovereign, will not only complain of it,
as an act on our part of open Hostility towards him,
but a like opinion may be entertained of it also
by the Ottoman Porte; rather that such proceeding
of ours should make such an impression it
would be prudent to neglect Mapowad altogether;—

Nevertheless



143
nevertheless a footing on the Coast we must have,
or our labours for promoting the mutual Interests
of England and Abyssinia are fruitless—

The least appearance of an established
Government of the English would bring over to us
one half of the Mercantile Inhabitants of Yemens
in 3 Months, and whence once they found property
protected and persons respected, the other half would
nearly follow. But to effect this, a little money
must first be advanced (I don't say expended)
for the duties on Imports and Exports would in
12 Months return it. The erection of a small
fortification and a few houses would in the
first place be absolutely necessary, for which
purpose you will have observed also if for these
Amphilets afford the materials, if it does not,
I know they are to be had at Valencia, enforce
this argument with the Ras, beg him to come

to

(6)

to the determination immediately. Now is the
 most favorable moment, and if neglected may
 never again return. If by your influence with
 His Excellency you could carry this point by
 laying the first stone of the fabric, it would render
 your name immortal and your mission more
 conspicuous, than the accomplishment of any other
 object which you may have in view. You know
 your own boundary from Government, and if
 to set about the thing and establish it even
 without their knowledge would in my opinion
 tend to render the measure the more popular.
 I will take upon me the finishing part in your
 absence. In two months with the assistance of
 the Ras's people (Masons from hence) the principal
 works might be completed, and a few pieces of
 Ordnance would secure the place against any
 attack by sea or land which could possibly
 be

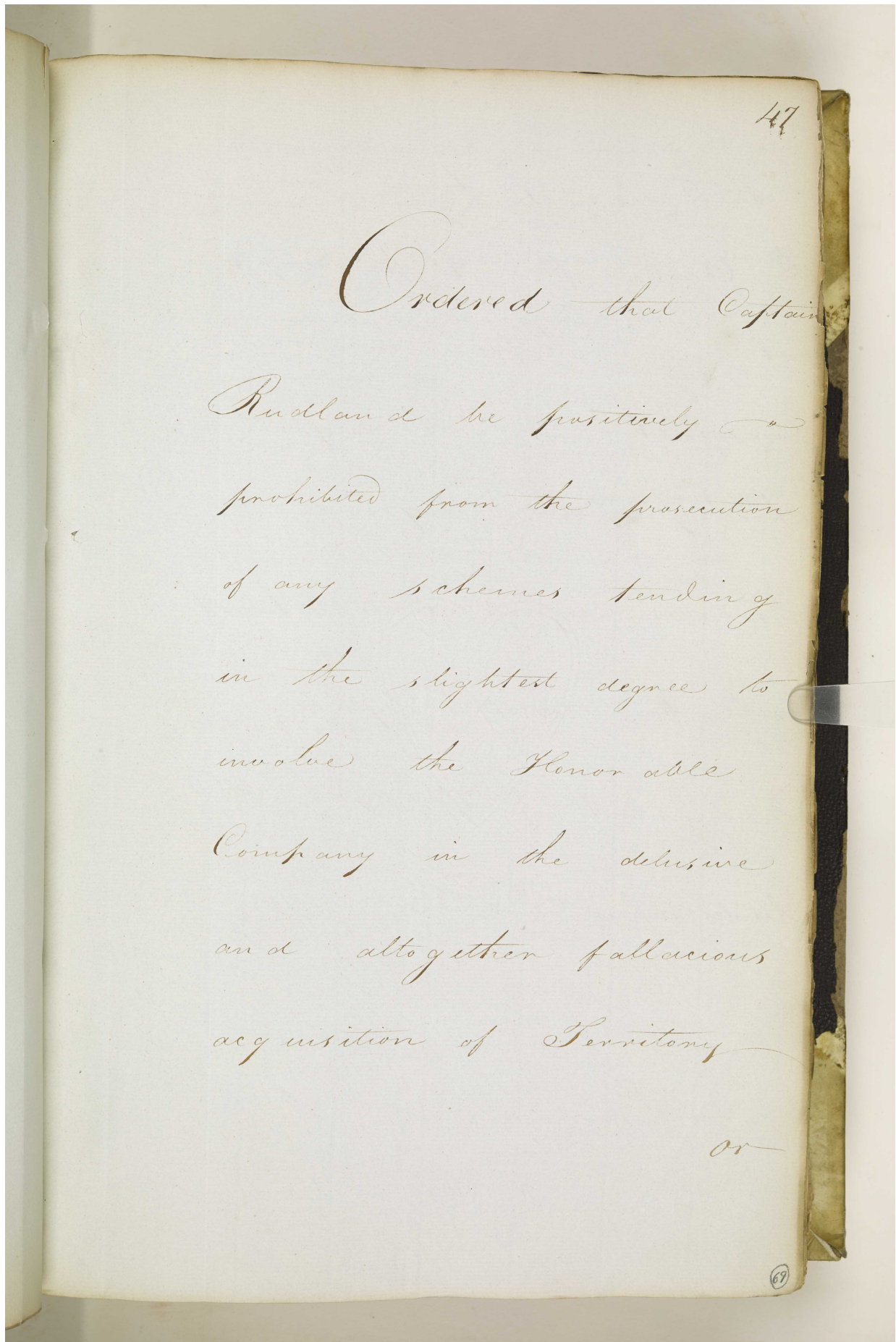
45

be premeditated by Mahometans. The Government of Bombay will assuredly send a Cruizer here in a Month or two, during her stay much assistance towards accomplishing the labour might be derived, and by the period of her return should she be ordered to withdraw again in August, a request from you seconded by the Ras, for the temporary aid of a small vessel would I am sure, be complied with on the part of Mr. Duncan, and even in this case if a question was to arise as to the expences additional which would be incurred to the Honble Company thereon, I will be answerable for its liquidation if His Excellency the Ras may be pleased to entrust the management

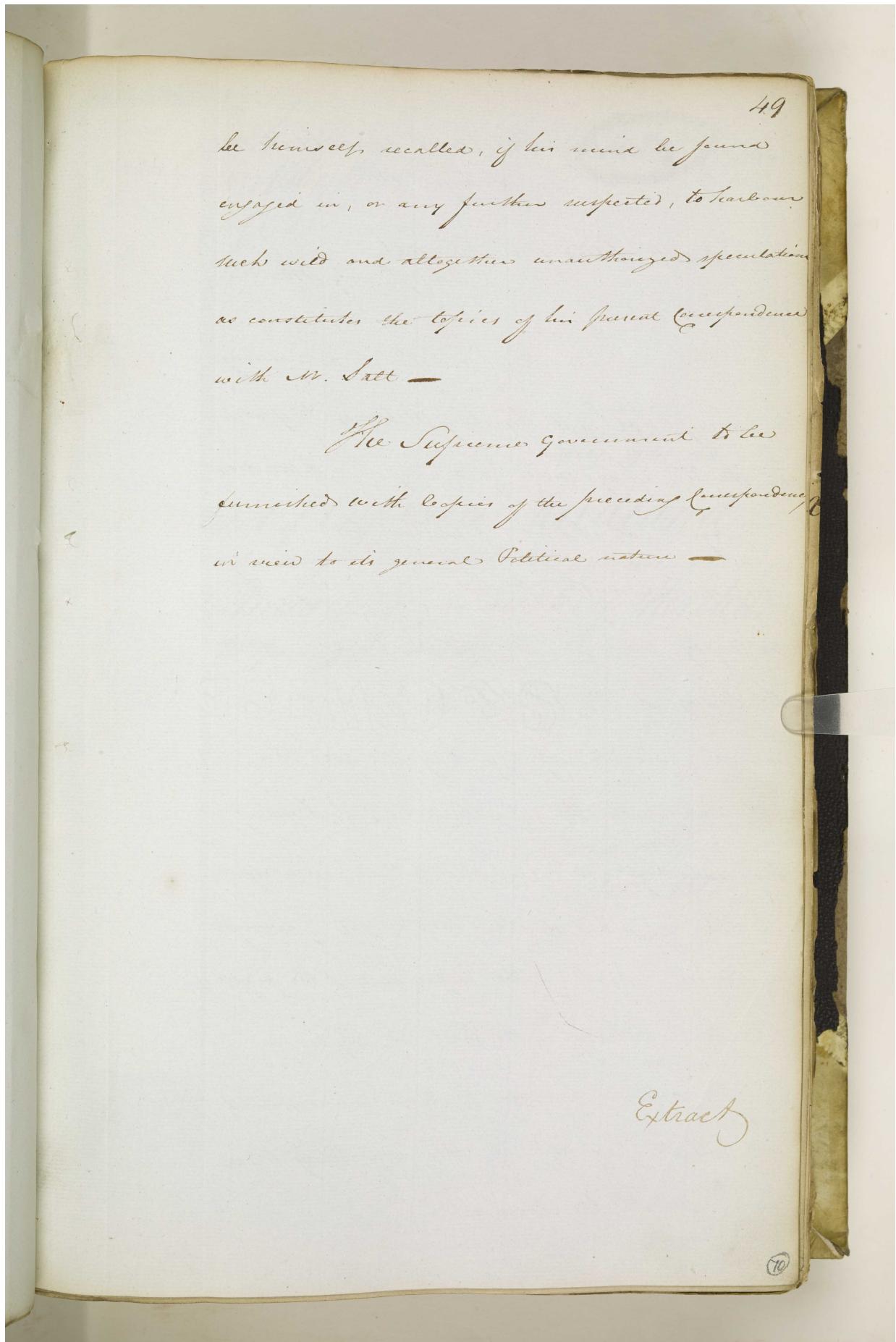
f
④

of the Revenues on the event to
me, This is written in a hurry
and perhaps may be drawn with
this simple inference. That by
establishing ourselves in the manner
here suggested, it will secure
a permanent and safe intercourse
with the interior of Hebbesh—
The security offered to the persons
and property of the Traders would
render it the general place of
Rendezvous, and all this may
be effected without any expence
or trouble to our Governments,
and without interfering with
any other State, Power or
authority.

Ordered



or ports of any kind on
the Coast of Abyssinia,
not one Purpee incurred
for which or for any
other purpose beyond
his own express Establishment
will be admitted by the
Government of this Presidency;
besides which he will infallibly
be



Extract Bombay Political Consultations
8th August 1810.

Extract Letter from Bengal
dated 7th July 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of Mr Secretary Osborn's Dispatch
of the 31st May enclosing a Copy of a Letter from
the Agent at Mocha, containing his
Correspondence with Mr Salt, and a Copy of
the reply addressed to Captain Rudland under
the Orders of the Honble the Governor in
Council, and to signify to you for the
information of the Government of Bombay
His Lordship in Council's entire concurrence
in the opinion of the Honble the Governor
in Council regarding the impropriety of the project of
a territorial Settlement on the Coast of Abyssinia
agitated between Captain Rudland and Mr Salt
and in the propriety of the prohibitory Orders
transmitted to the former.

J. M. Mason