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‘Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/418/10306
Date(s)	30 Aug 1809-16 Jan 1813 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
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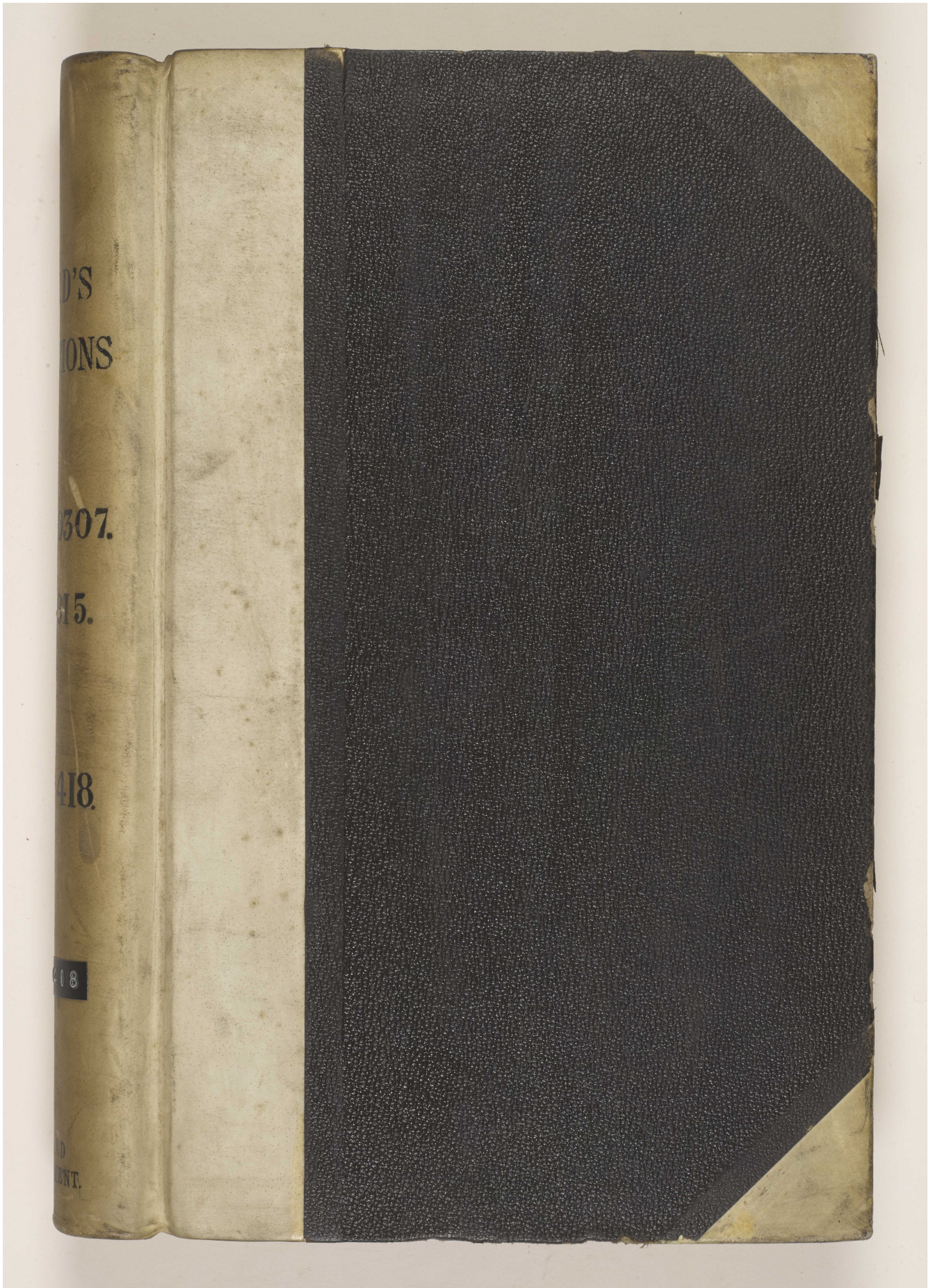
About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, letters to and from the Government of Bombay. It concerns the amount spent on presents by the Bagdad [Baghdad] Residency, and includes

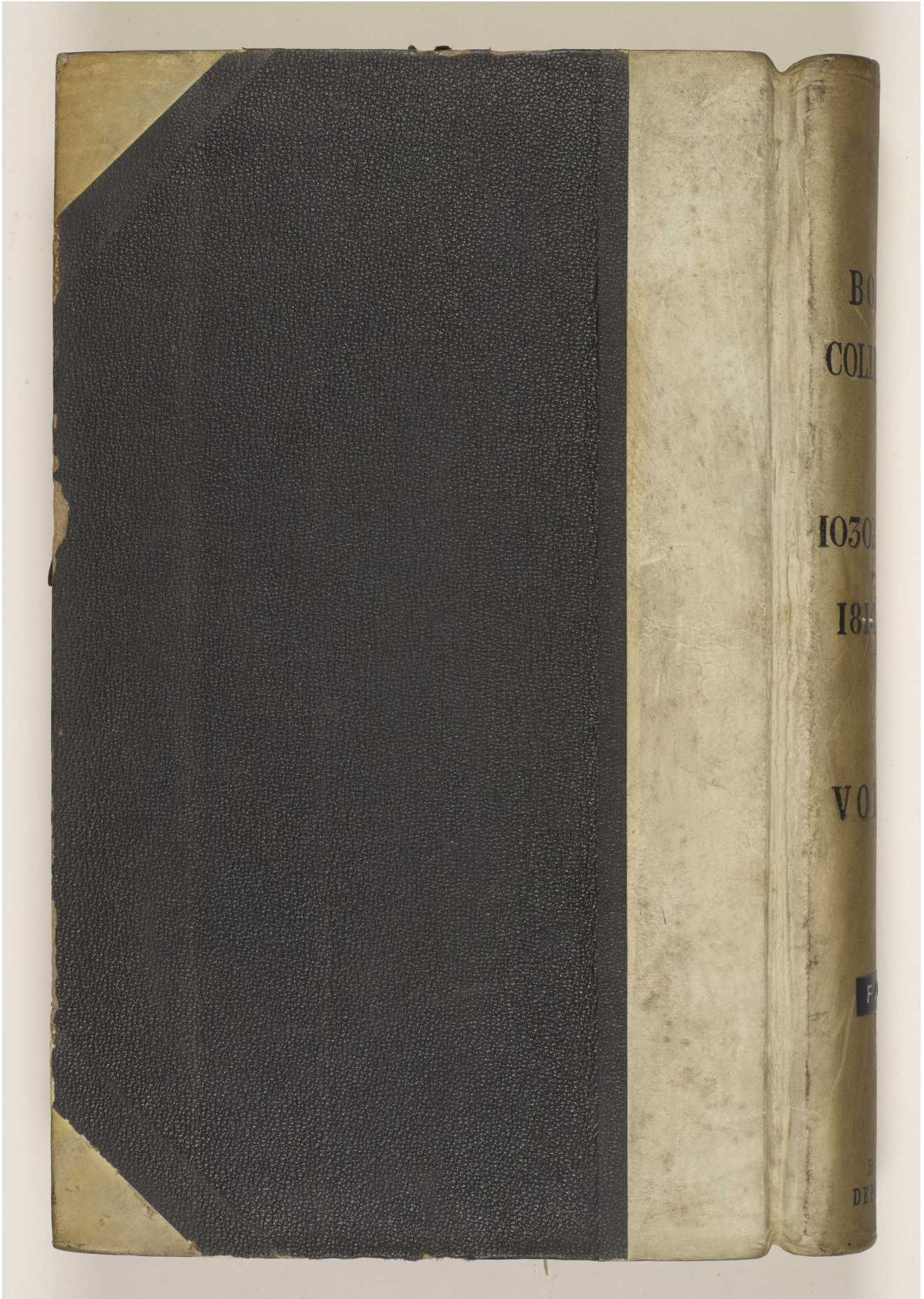
a statement showing this expenditure since 1798, along with instructions from the Government of Bombay to Claudius James Rich, Resident at Bagdad, to reduce the amount being spent. The item also includes a letter from the Government of Bombay in 1809 instructing Samuel Manesty, the Resident at Bussora [Basra], to limit his spending on presents, and instructions directed to the Bussora Residency in 1812 repeating those given to Rich.

The title page (f 266) of the item contains the following references: ‘Political No. 37, Season 1814/15, Draft 20’; and ‘Examiner’s Office, November 1813’.

'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [front] (1/24)



'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [back] (2/24)

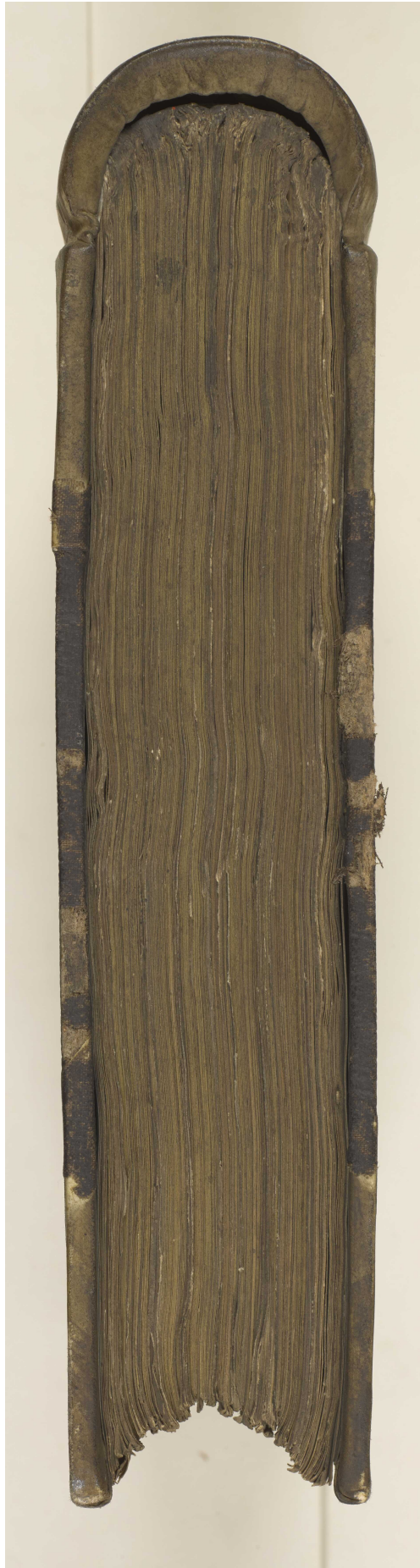


'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [spine] (3/24)





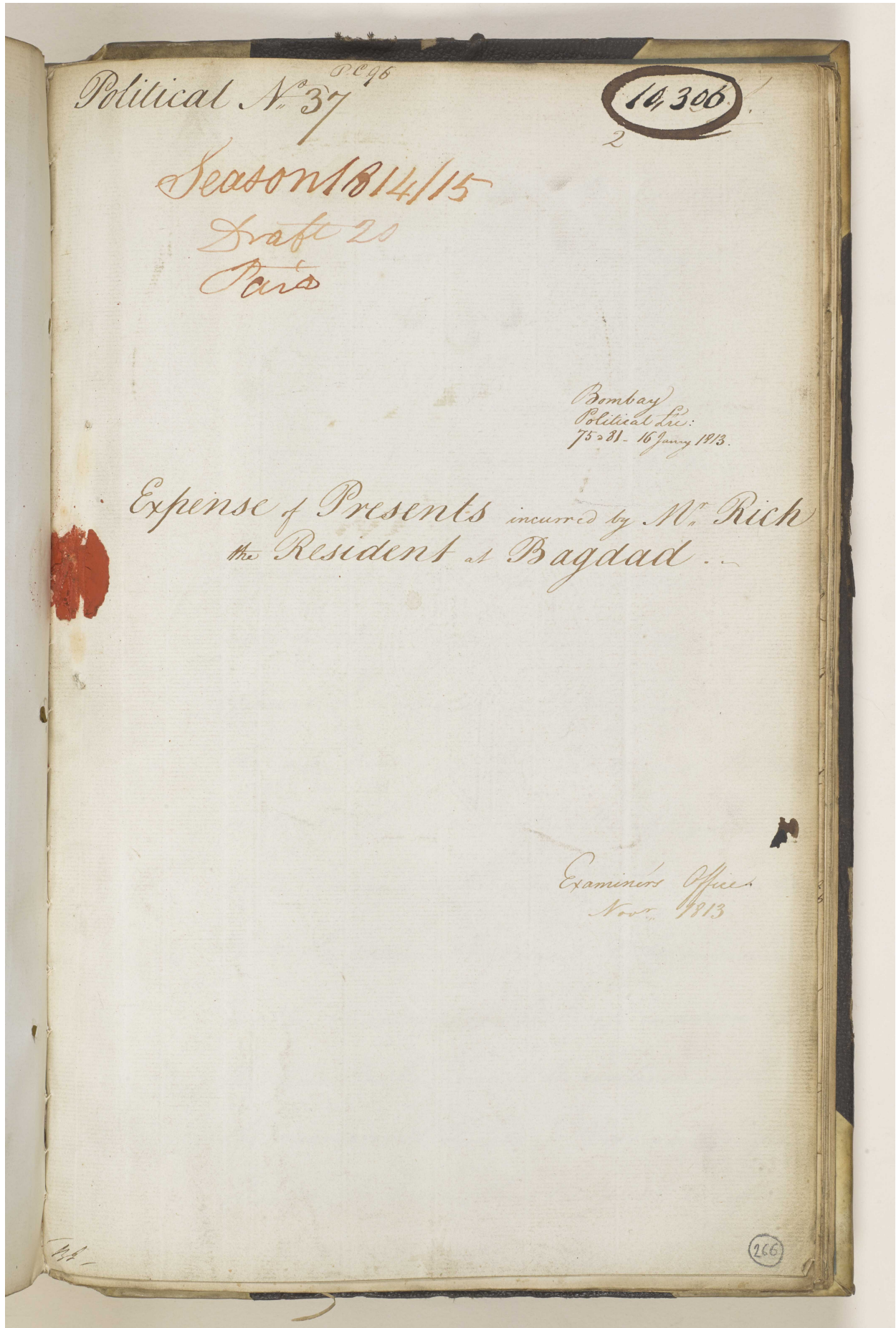
'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [head] (5/24)



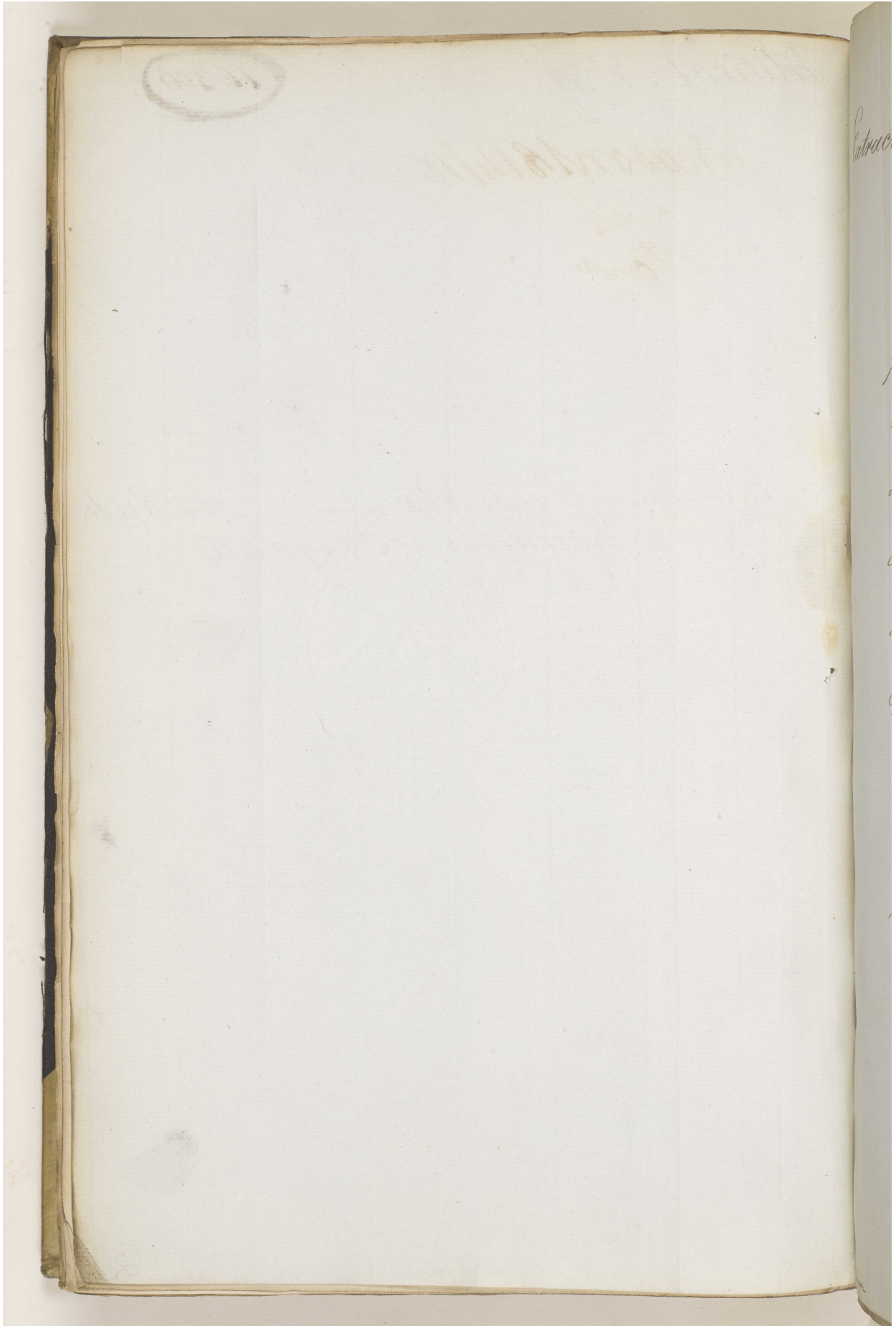
'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [tail] (6/24)



'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [266r] (7/24)



'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [266v] (8/24)

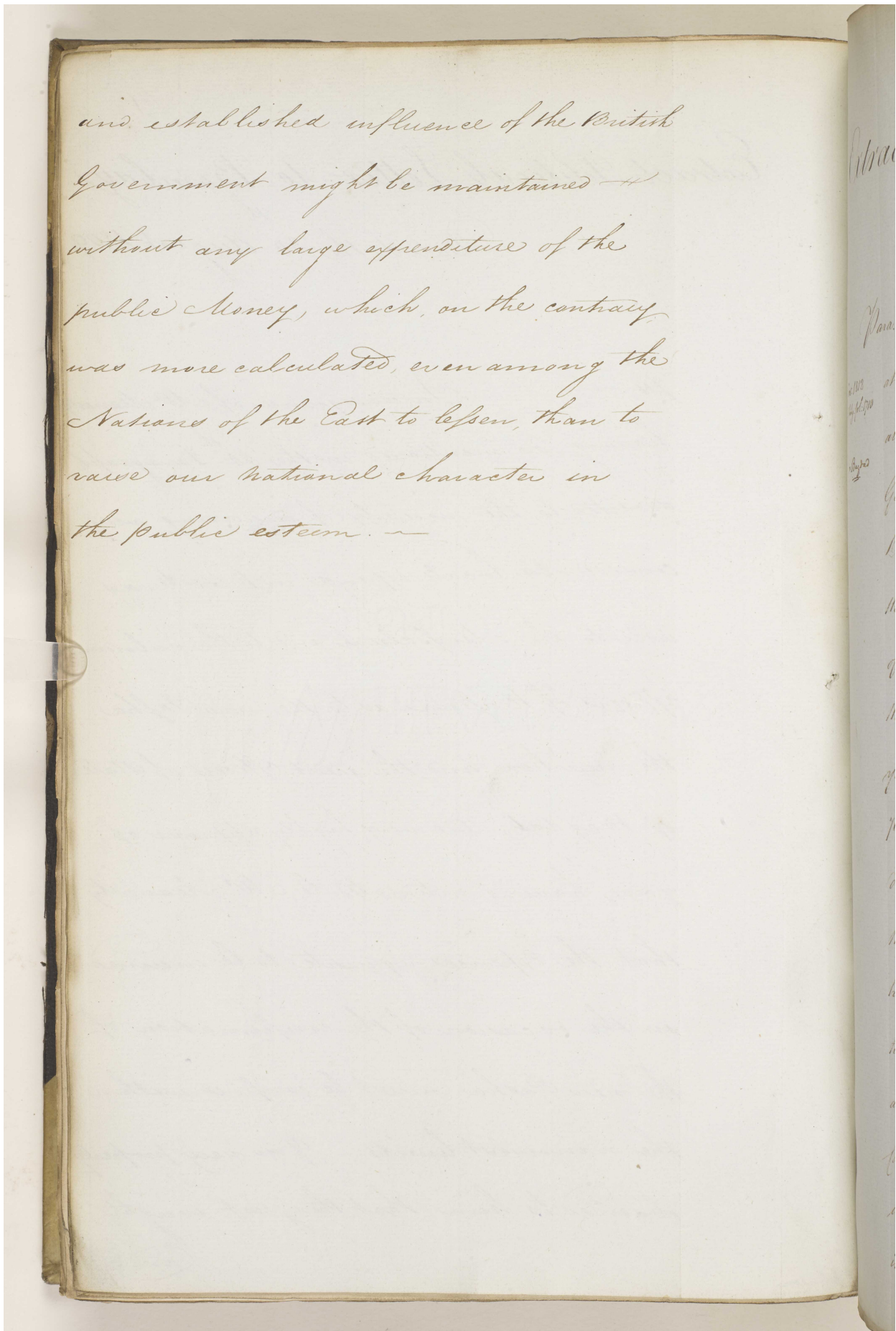


1
Extract Political Letter to Bombay
Dated the 30th August 1809.

74. — In consequence of M^r Manesty
having, as mentioned in the 50th Paragraph,
adverted to the necessity of incurring very
considerable local expence in presents, as
well to the Mussalim and to the subordinates
Officers of Bassora, as to the new Pasha,
the new Vizir and the great Officers of State
of Bagdad, we very highly approve of
your having intimated to M^r Manesty
that the Expences requisite to be incurred
on the occasion of the confirmation of
the new Pasha must be confined within
the narrowest limits. — You very properly
observed to him, that the just weight

J. Johnson

and 267



Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 16th January 1813.

Para: 75.

Cons: 1812
8 July. fol: 1710

* Bagdad

The very heavy expence incurred at this Station in the Article of Presents, having lately attracted our notice, we called upon the Accountant General to submit an Abstract Statement of the Disbursements on this account at Bagdad, during the Residency of Sir Harford Jones, Mr^r Stone, and of Mr Rich respectively; and beg leave to submit the result of that Reference, to the consideration of your Honble Court.

76

The statement will shew; that during a period of thirteen years and five months, the expence of the Residency at Bagdad in presents has aggregated the Sum of Rupees /1,23,247/ One Lac twenty three thousand, two hundred and forty seven, averaging 765 Rupees p^r Month; whilst the Honble Company, have not been credited for a single Rupee, in reduction of these Complimentary Donations, as is customary at the Residencies in India.

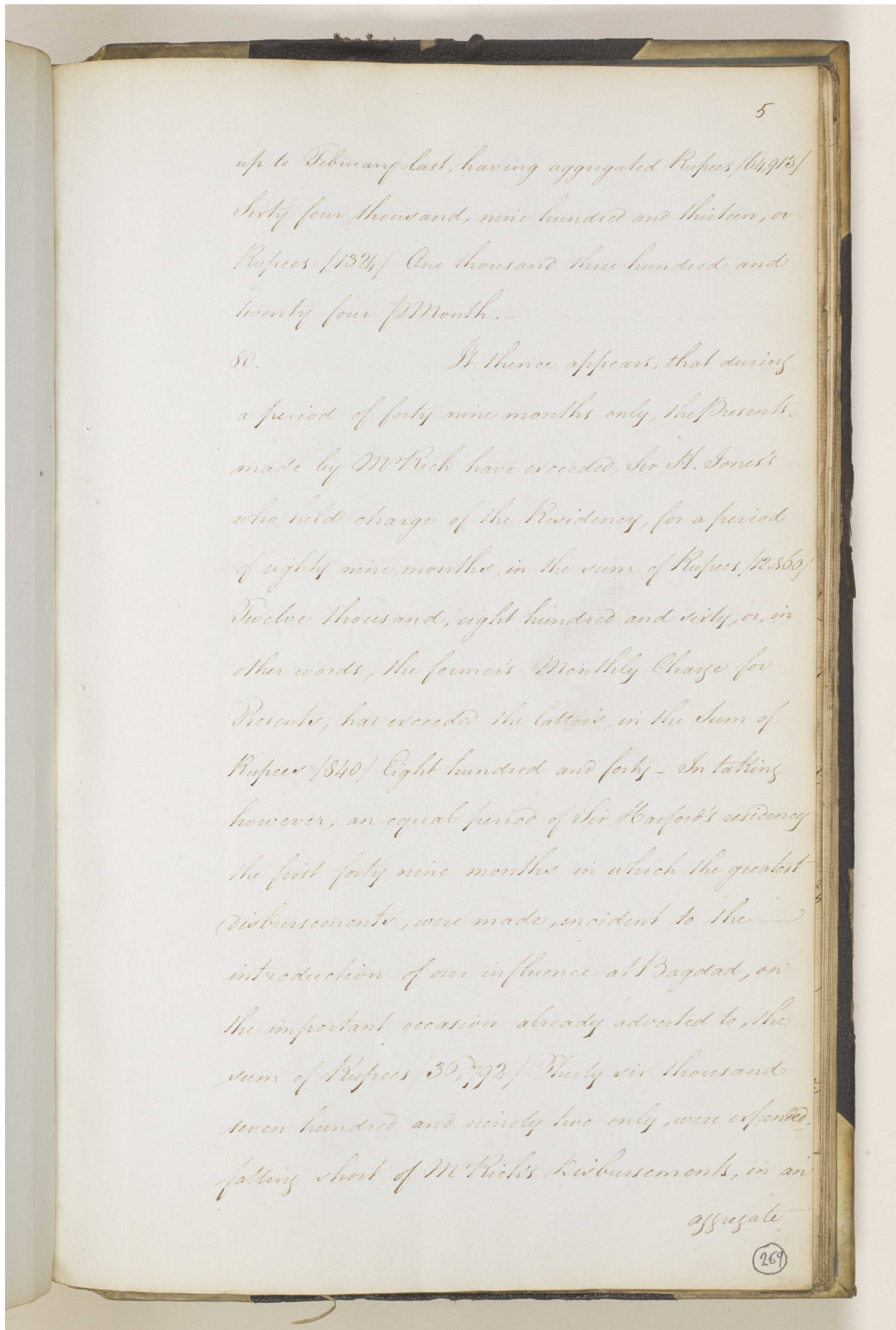
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77. During that period the
Residency of Bagdad, had been filled by the three
Gentlemen abovenamed - Sir Hartford Jones was
nominated in the Year 1798 for the important
purpose of counteracting the active & dangerous
intrigues of the French Government, which had
obtained possession of Egypt, with ulterior views
on this Country. Sir Hartford Jones quitted Bagdad
in February 1806; his charges on account of presents
amount to Rupees (52,053) Fifty two thousand
and fifty three; and average Rupees (384) Five hundred
and eighty four pMonth. —

78. Mr Hine succeeded Sir
Hartford Jones in the temporary charge of the
Residency, and officiated until the Month of
January 1808. The presents made during the
period of Mr Hine's Residency, amounted to
Rupees (5281) Five thousand, two hundred and
eighty one, or Rupees (229) Two hundred and
twenty nine pMonth.

79. Mr Rich succeeded Mr Hine
in January 1808, the charges on account of presents
up

'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [269r] (13/24)



aggregate of Rupees [28,121] Twenty eight thousand
one hundred and twenty one; the latter Gentleman
having, during a like period of time, expended
in presents Rupees [64,913] Sixty four thousand
nine hundred and thirteen.

81 So material an increase
in the Public expenditure since Mr Rich's
nomination to the charge of the Residency
imperiously required that the strictest injunctions
should be imposed upon Mr Rich's extraordinary
disbursements, on account of presents; and
referring on this occasion to the sentiments
of the late Government, as expressed to your
Honble Court in the 5th Para: of its Dispatch
dated the 20th February 1808, and to its reply,
in which the strongest opinions were offered
and confirmed by your Honble Court, against
the toleration at Bagdad, of the practice of
making presents publick in India has of late
years been reduced merely to complimentary
interchanges of Civilities, and those even on
but

'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [270r] (15/24)

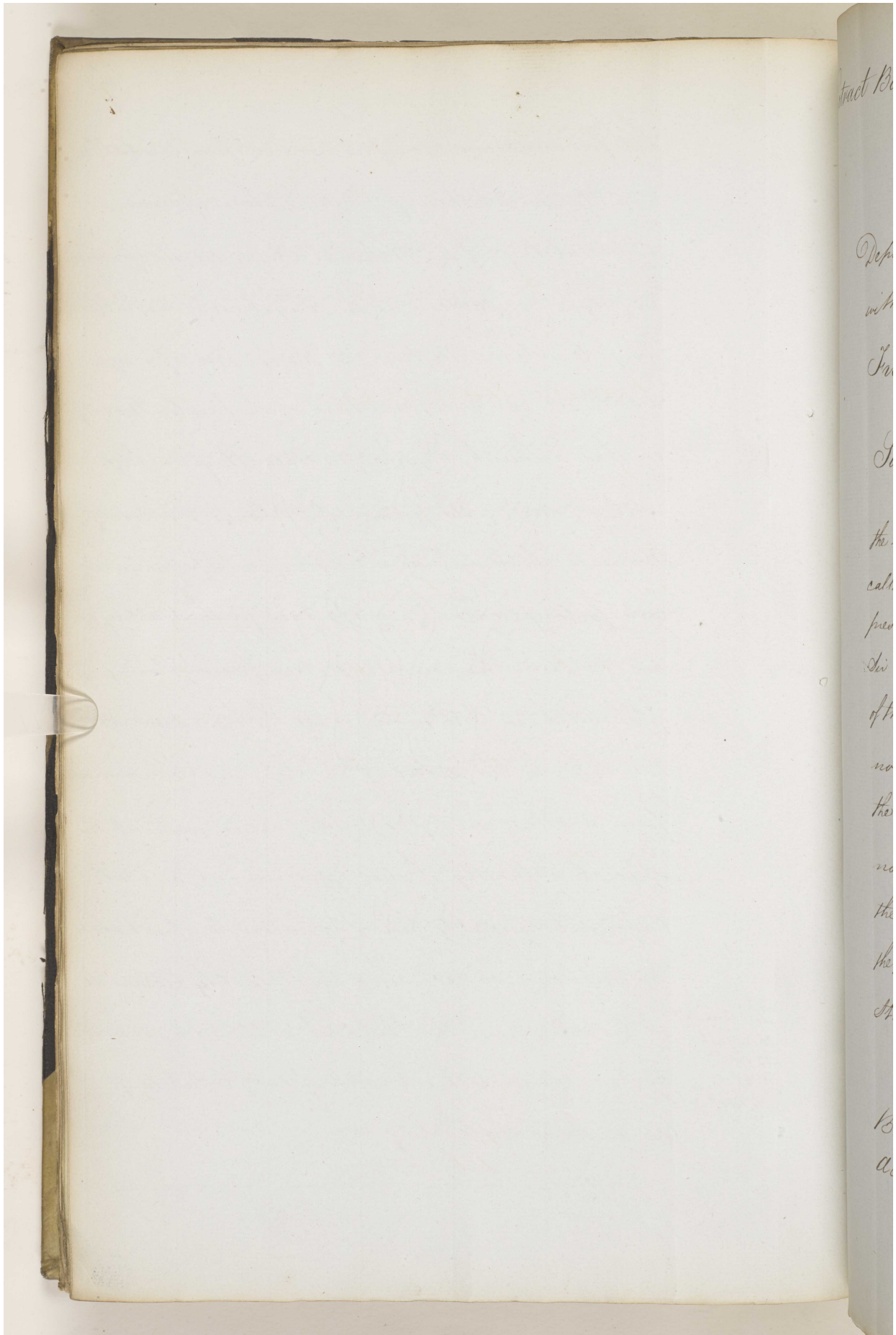
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but few occasions / as by no means essential to the
maintenance either of the Interests or of the
respectability of the National Character, the Govern-
in Council considered it an obligation of his public
duty, to restrain Mr Rich in the exercise of any
discretion, in the expenditure of the public Money
on this account, beyond the Monthly Average
outlay, during the period of Mr Rich's Residency;
Nor will these even be allowed of, unless the most
satisfactory reasons are assigned for the Outlay;
and Mr Rich has moreover been peremptorily
prohibited, in like manner as the Resident at
Bushire, by the orders of the Supreme Government
from making any presents of value, without the
special authority of this Government, and we
have subsequently taken occasion to repeat these
Instructions, on receiving the Monthly Accounts
of Presents, from the Resident at Bagdad, as made
however prior to his receipt of our prohibitory
Orders dated the 8th July.

Pol. Cons. 1812
 26 August
 23 Sept^r
 7th 14 Oct^r
 25 Nov^r

(270)

'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [270v] (16/24)



Extract Bombay Political Consultations 9

the 8th July 1812. -

Read the following Letter from the
Deputy Accountant General in charge
with enclosure. -

Francis Warden Esq^r

Chief Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your Letter dated 27th April last
calling for an abstract Statement of the
presents made at Bagdad during the period of
Sir Warford Jones's Mr Hines and Mr Richs charge
of the Residency respectively; and which I have
now the pleasure to enclose brought up to
the 29th February last, and to observe that
no presents whatever have been credited in
the cash accounts of that Residency during
the period embraced by the accompanying
Statement. -

I have &c

(Signed)

J. Best

Dep^y Acc^t Gen^l in charge

Bombay Justice
Acc^t Gen^l's Office
3rd July 1812

Dr.

(271)

'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [271v] (18/24)

Dr.	Bagdad	Residency Co ^{rs}
		1798/9 ----- 12929.1.-
		1799/1800 ----- 3114.3.-
		1800/1 ----- 7473. "-
		1801/2 ----- 8160.3.-
		1802/3 ----- 10230.3.-
		1803/4 ----- 2314.1.-
		1804/5 ----- 4848.2.-
		1805/6 ----- 3323.3.-
		1806/7 ----- 4014.2.-
		1807/8 ----- 716.2.-
		1808/9 ----- 1757. "-
		1809/10 ----- 19042.3.-
		1810/11 ----- 12196.3.-
		1811/12 ----- 15814.3.-
		<u>Rupces 1,23,247.1.-</u>

Resolutions

Minutes of
7 July 3

The above recorded Statement shews that during a period of thirteen years and five months the expence of the Residency at Bagdad in Presents has aggregated the sum of Rs 1,23,247.1.- averaging 756 £ month, whilst the Honble Company have not been credited for a single Rupee in reduction as is practised at the Residencies in India of these Complimentary Donations. -

During that period the Residency of Bagdad has been filled by these different Gentlemen, Sir Harford Jones
was

was nominated at a critical moment^H
and for the highly important purpose of
counteracting the active and dangerous
intrigues of our Enemy who had obtained
possession of Egypt with ulterior views
in this Country. - Sir Harford Jones
quitted Bagdad in February 1806, his
Charges on account of Presents amount
to Rs. 52053 and Average Rs. 584 $\frac{1}{2}$ Month.

Mr. Hine succeeded Sir Harford
Jones in the temporary Charge of the
Residency and officiated until the Month
of January 1808. - The presents made
during the period of Mr. Hines Residency
amounted to Rs. 5281 or Rs. 229 $\frac{1}{2}$ Month.

Mr. Rich succeeded Mr. Hine
in January 1808, the Charges on account
of presents up to February last aggregate
Rs. 64913 or a Monthly average of Rs. 1324.

H

(272)

It thence appears that
 during a period of forty nine Months only,
 the presents made by Mr Rich have exceeded,
 Sir Harford Jones who held charge of the
 Residency for a period of Eighty nine Months
 in the sum of Rs. 12,860; or, ⁱⁿ other words the
 former's Monthly charges for Presents have
 exceeded the latter in the sum of Rs. 340.

In taking however an equal period of Sir
 Harford's Residency, the first forty nine Months
 in which the greatest disbursements were
 made incident to the introduction of
 our influence at Bagdad on the important
 occasion already adverted to. The sum of
 Rs. 36,792 only were expended; falling short
 of Mr Rich's disbursements in an
 aggregate of Rs. 28,121, the latter Gentleman
 having during a like period of time
 expended in Presents Rs. 64,913. —

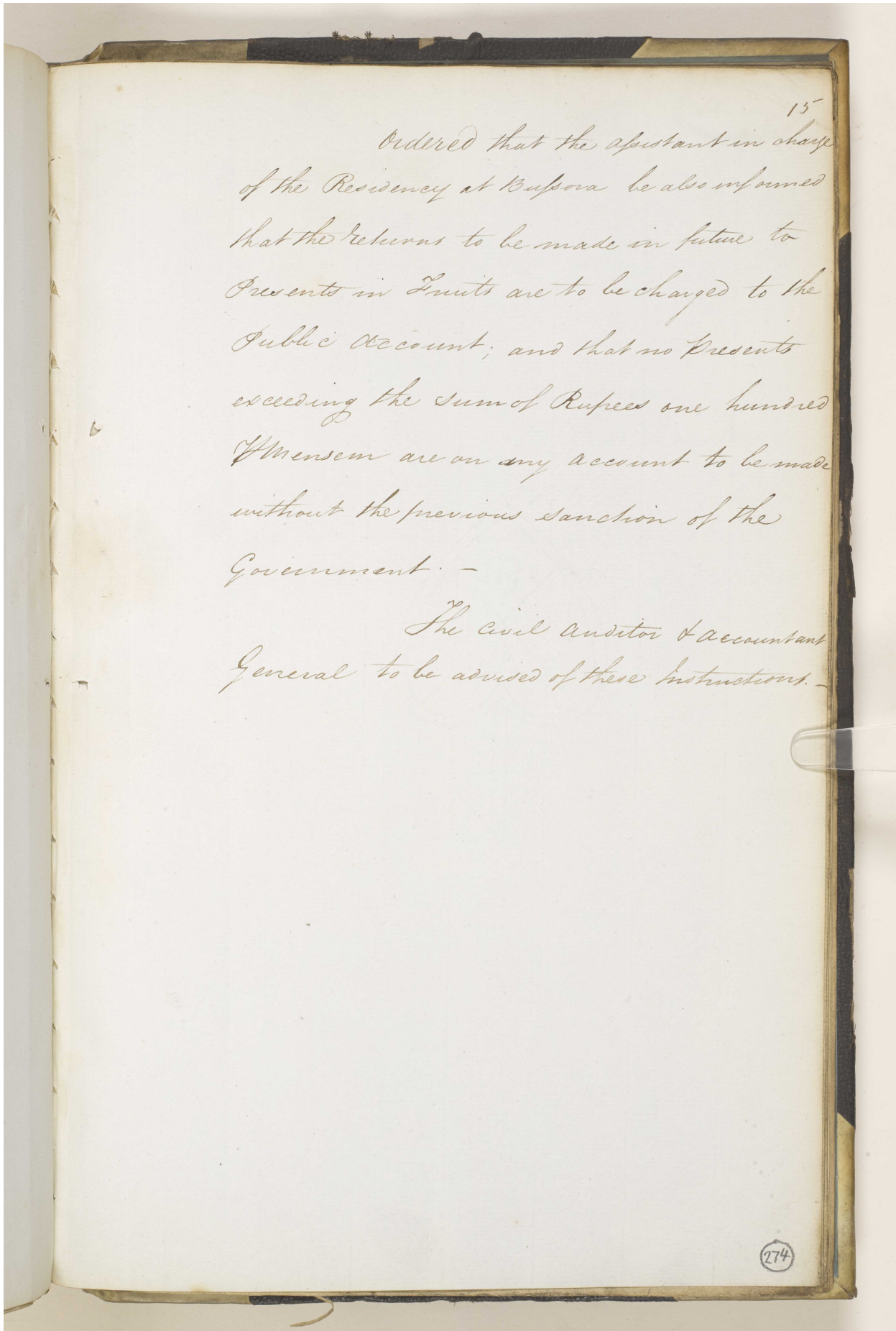
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So material an enhancement
in the public Expenditure since Mr Rich's
nomination to the charge of the Residency
imperiously require that the strictest
injunctious should be imposed upon Mr Rich's
extraordinary disbursements in account of
Presents; and referring on this occasion to
the sentiments of the late Government
as expressed to the Honble Court in the
50 Paragraph of their Dispatch dated
the 20th February 1808, and to its reply
in which the strongest opinions were
offered and confirmed by the Honble Court,
against the toleration at Bapora of the
practice of making Presents which in
India was also formerly ^{equally} prevalent, but
has of late years been reduced merely to
complimentary interchanges of civilities,
and those even on but few occasions, as
by no means essential to the maintenance
either (273)

either of the interests or of the respectability
of the National Character, the Governor
in Council considers it an obligation of
his public duty to restrain Mr Rich
in the exercise of any discretion in the
expenditure of the Public Money on account
of Presents beyond the monthly average
outlay during the period Mr Hine held
temporary charge of the situation, nor
will these even be allowed of, unless the
most satisfactory reasons are assigned
for the outlay, but Mr Rich is peremptorily
prohibited, in like manner as the Resident
at Bushire was by the orders of the
Supreme Government, from making
any presents of value, or that exceed those
that were given during Mr Hines Residency
without specific authority from
this Government.

Ordered



'Expense of presents incurred by Mr Rich the Resident at Bagdad' [274v] (24/24)

