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‘Proceedings adopted in consequence of the depredations committed by the Joasmee pirates in the Persian Gulph, Vol. 1’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/648/17850
Date(s)	19 May 1815-29 Aug 1821 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (210 folios)
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About this record

This item consists mostly of copies of correspondence, minutes and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, letters to and from the Government of Bombay. It is the first in a series of 8 items on the subject of the alleged piracy of the Joasmee [Qawasim] (the others are: IOR/F/4/649/17851 and 17852, IOR/F/4/650/17853 and 17854, IOR/F/4/651/17855, and IOR/F/4/652/17856 and 17857). The main subjects are:

Reports of piratical activity by the Joasmee along the coast between Bombay and the Persian Gulf between 1815 and 1818, and the measures taken to protect vessels sailing under British colours. The reports include:

- Details of a consultation between William Bruce, the Resident at Bushire and Hussan bin Rahmah [Ḥasan bin Raḥmah al-Qāsimī], the ruler of Rasul Khyma [Ra's al-Khaymah, also referred to as Ras-ul-Khima and Ras-ool Khyma], and Bruce’s demand for recompense for the alleged Joasmee capture and plunder of
three ships belonging to merchants from Surat

- Offers of assistance to Britain against the Joasmee from the Imam of Muscat and Shaikh Rahmah bin Jauber [Shaikh Raḥmah bin Jābir Āl Jalāhimah], the chief of the Āl Jalāhimah clan, along with an account of the history of this clan and the other clans of the Uttoobee [Banī ʿUtbah] tribe.

The expedition against Rasul Khyma carried out in December 1819 under the command of Major General Sir William

Grant Keir, including:

- The instructions issued and preparations made for the expedition
- Accounts of the attacks on the port of Rasul Khyma and the fort of Zyah [Dhayah]
- The articles of a General Treaty intended to bring about the cessation of piracy in the Gulf; and the articles of preliminary treaties with individual tribal rulers
- Plans for a new station in the Gulf, to be located in Kishm [Qeshm], to ensure that the new treaties are observed
- The reaction of Persia [Iran] to the expedition
- An account of the journey of Captain George Forster Sadlier across the Arabian Peninsula on a mission to Ibrahim, son of Muhammad Ali Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt.

The expeditions carried out against the Beni-boo Ali [Banī Bū ‘Alī] tribe in 1820 and 1821.

The title page (f 114) of the item contains the following references: 'Bombay Political No. 12', 'PC [Previous Communication] 16, Draft 383', and 'Examiner's Office'.

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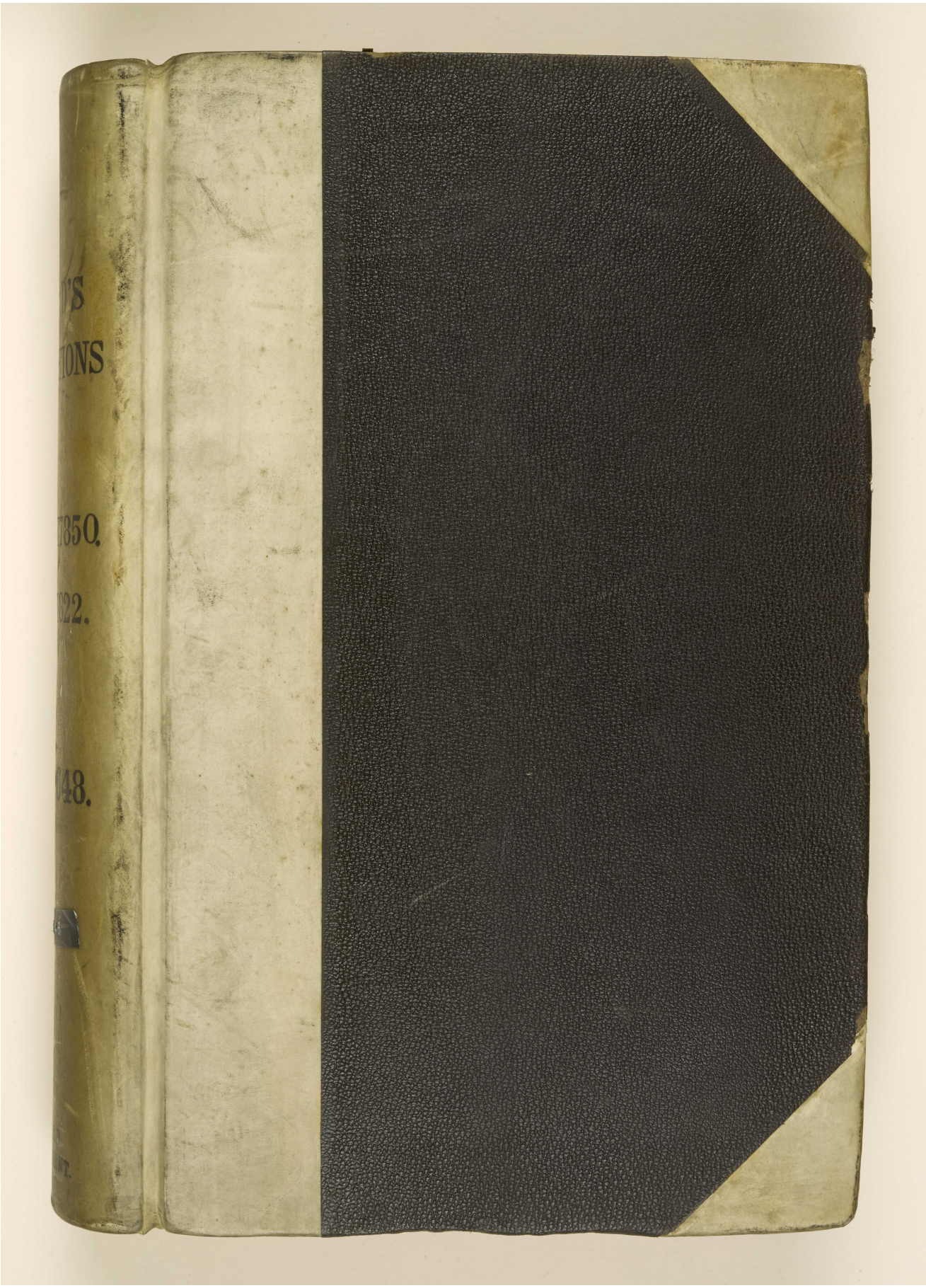

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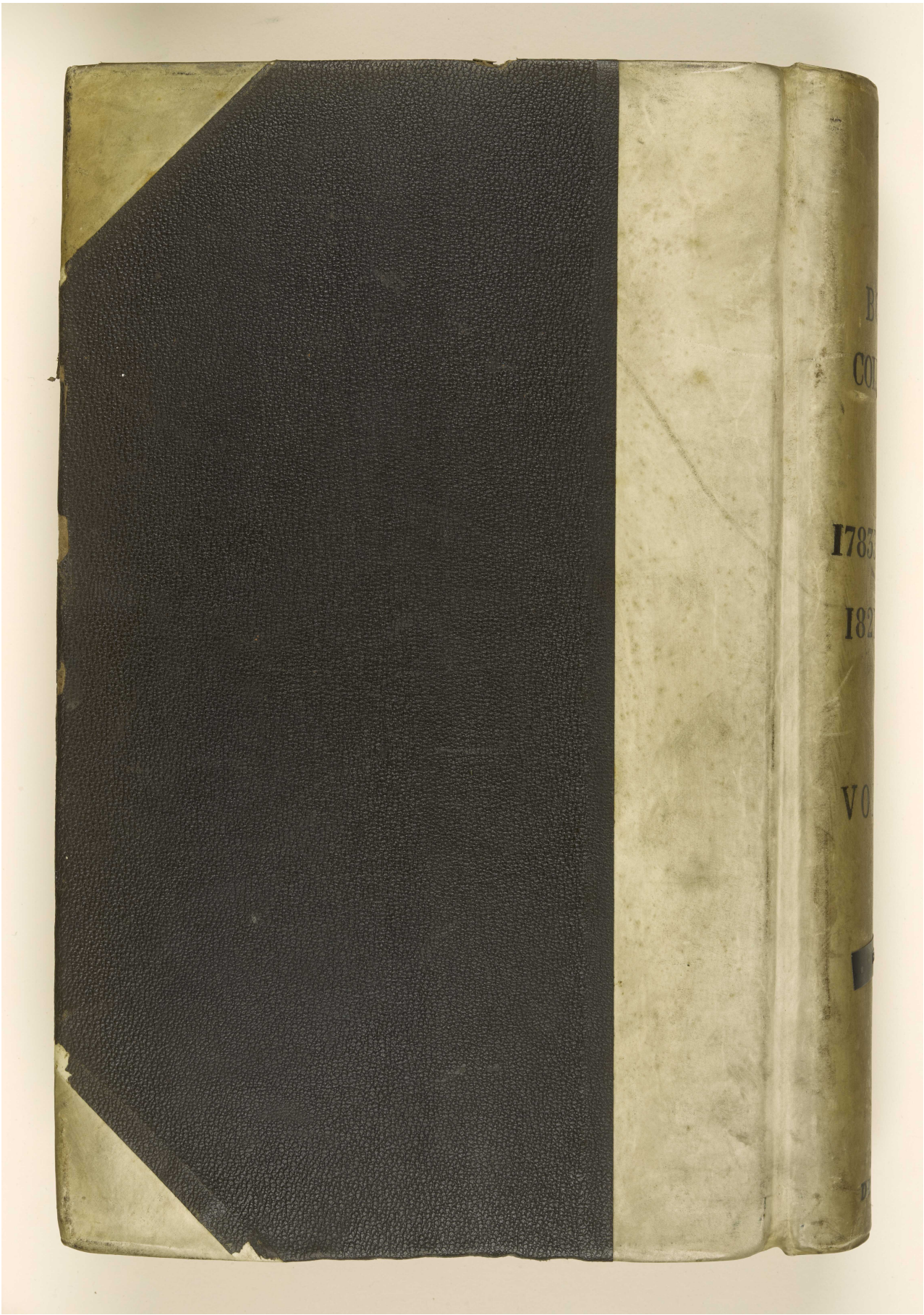

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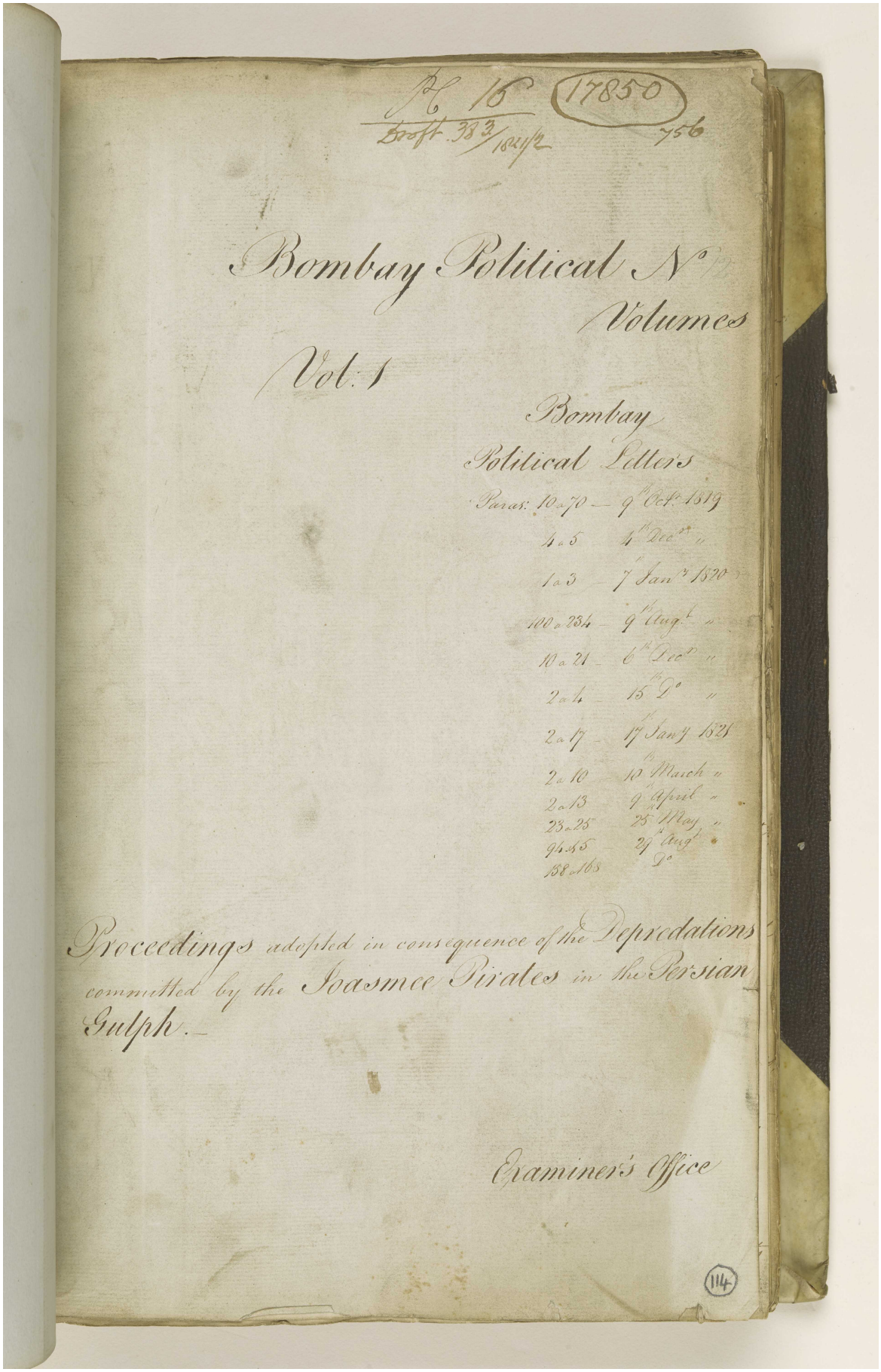
17850
Bombay Political N°
Volumes
Vol: 1
Bombay
Political Letters
Proceedings adopted in consequence of the Depredations committed by the Joasmee Pirates in the Persian Gulph.—
Examiner's Office
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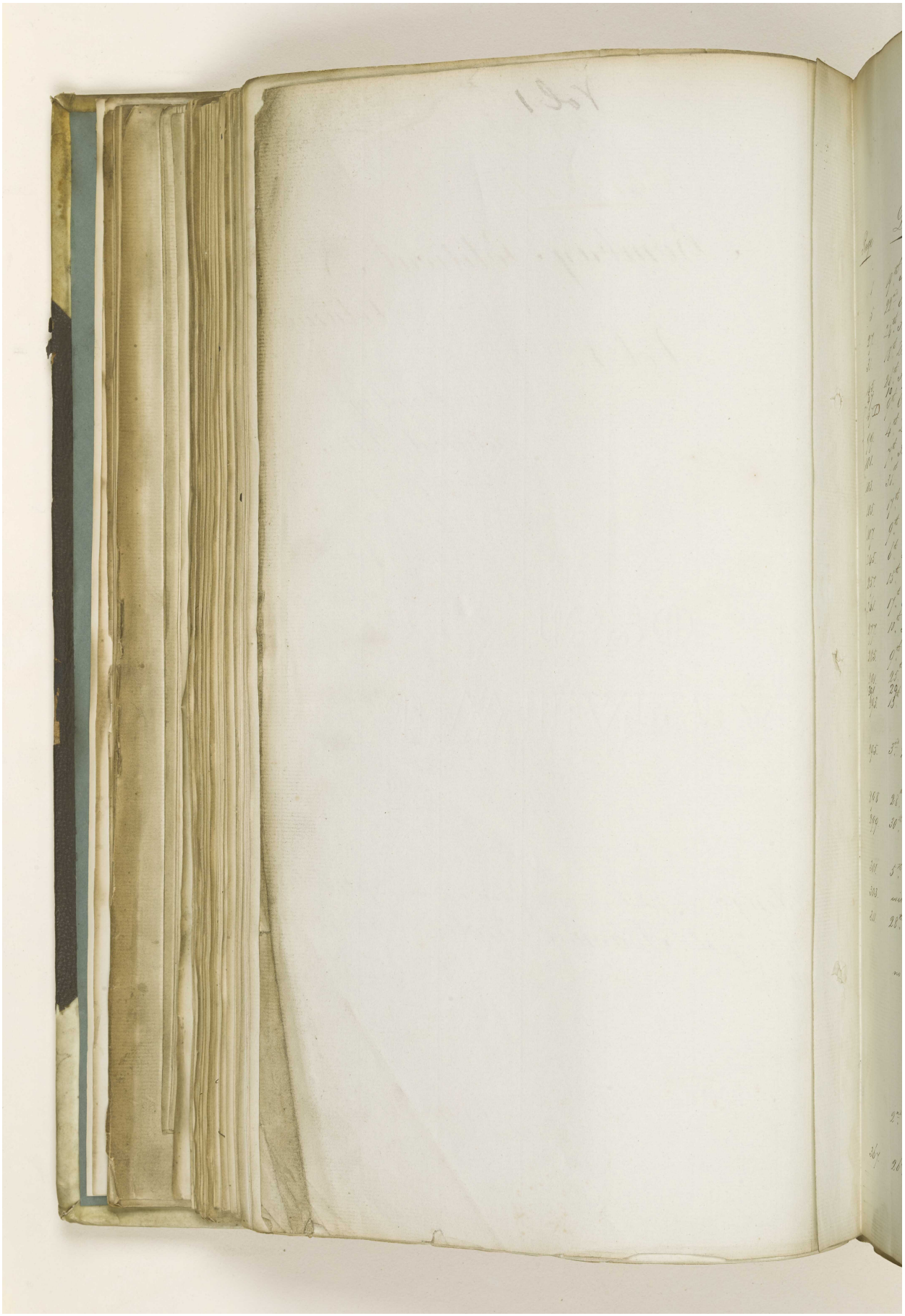

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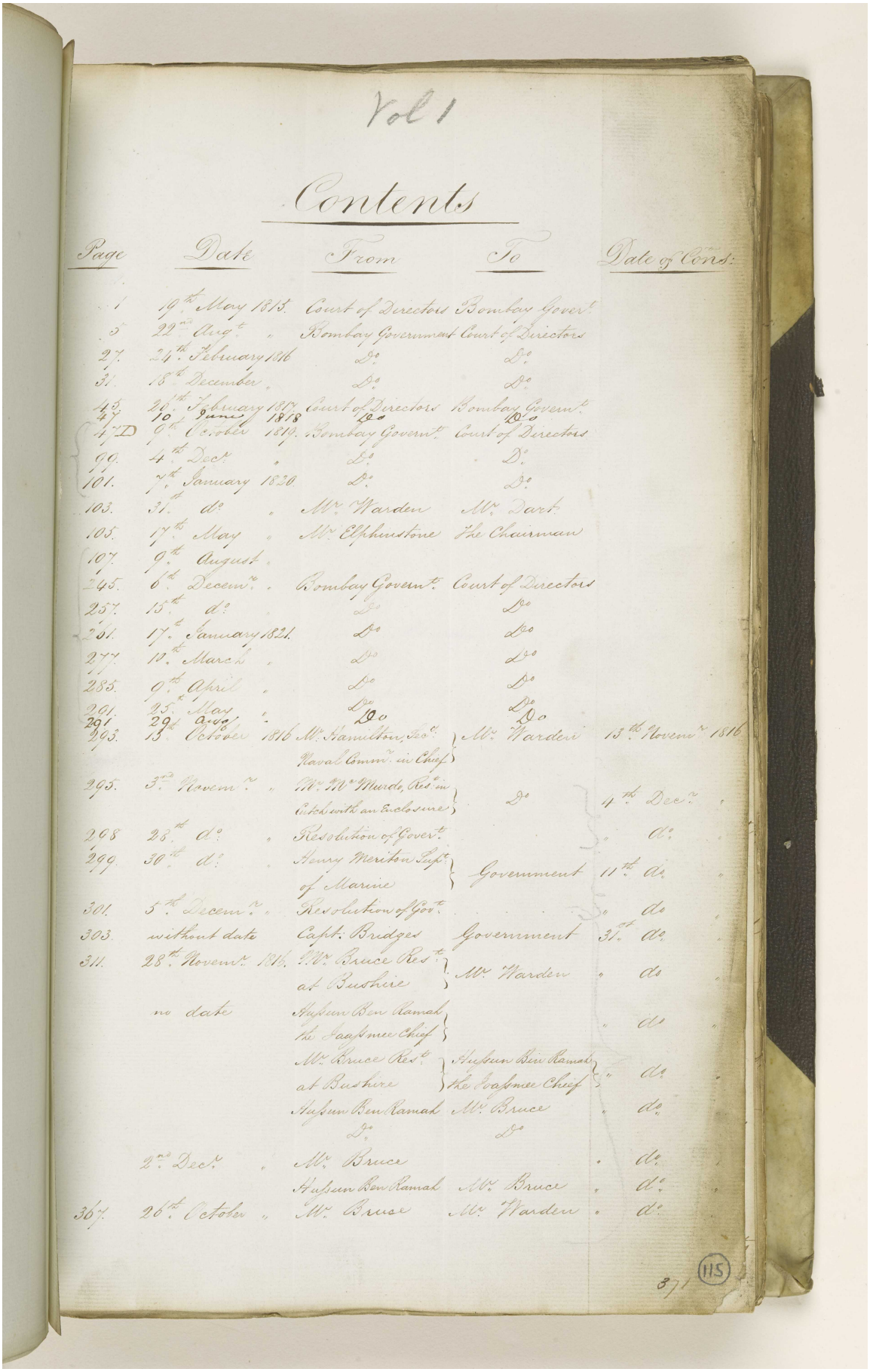

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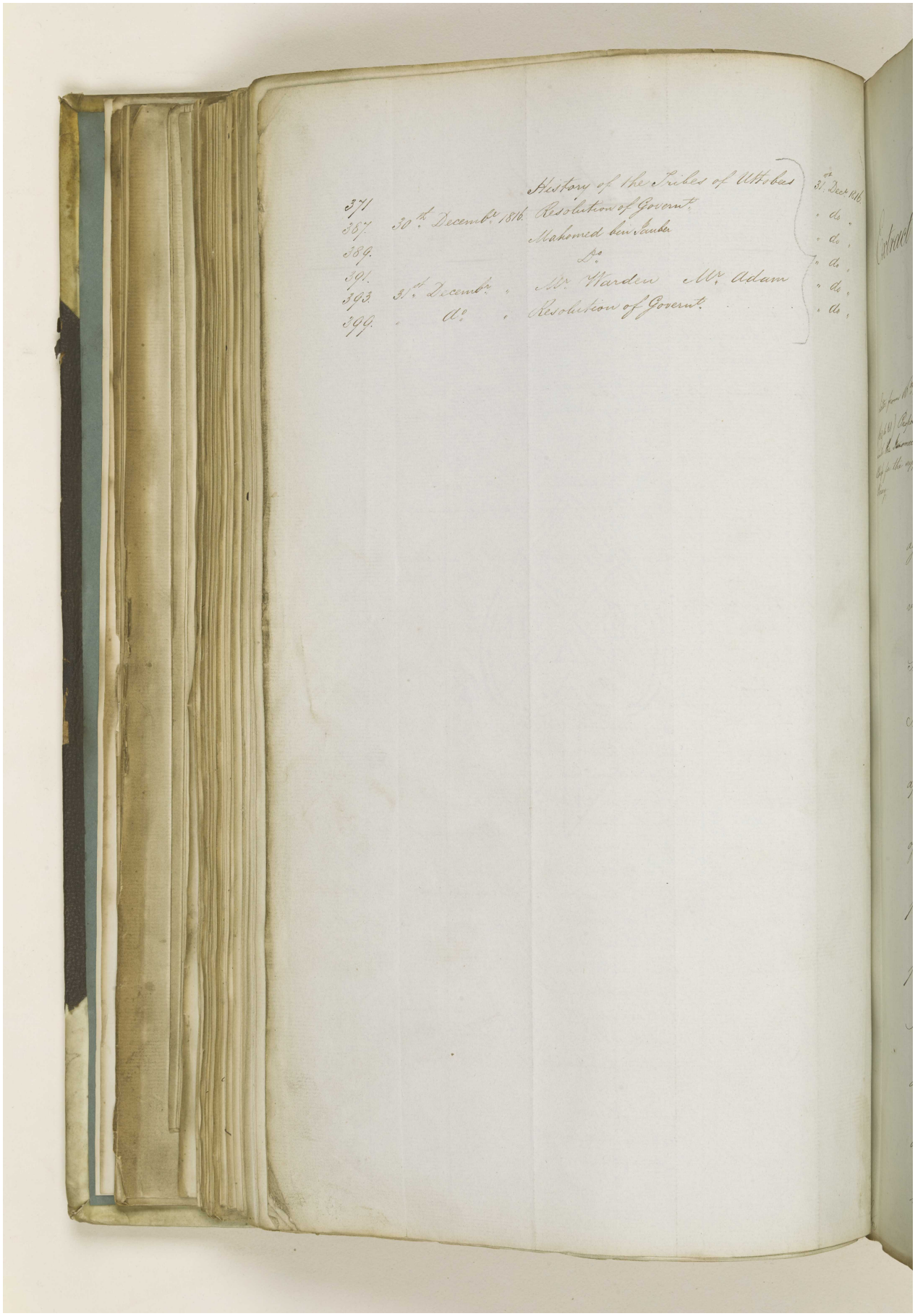

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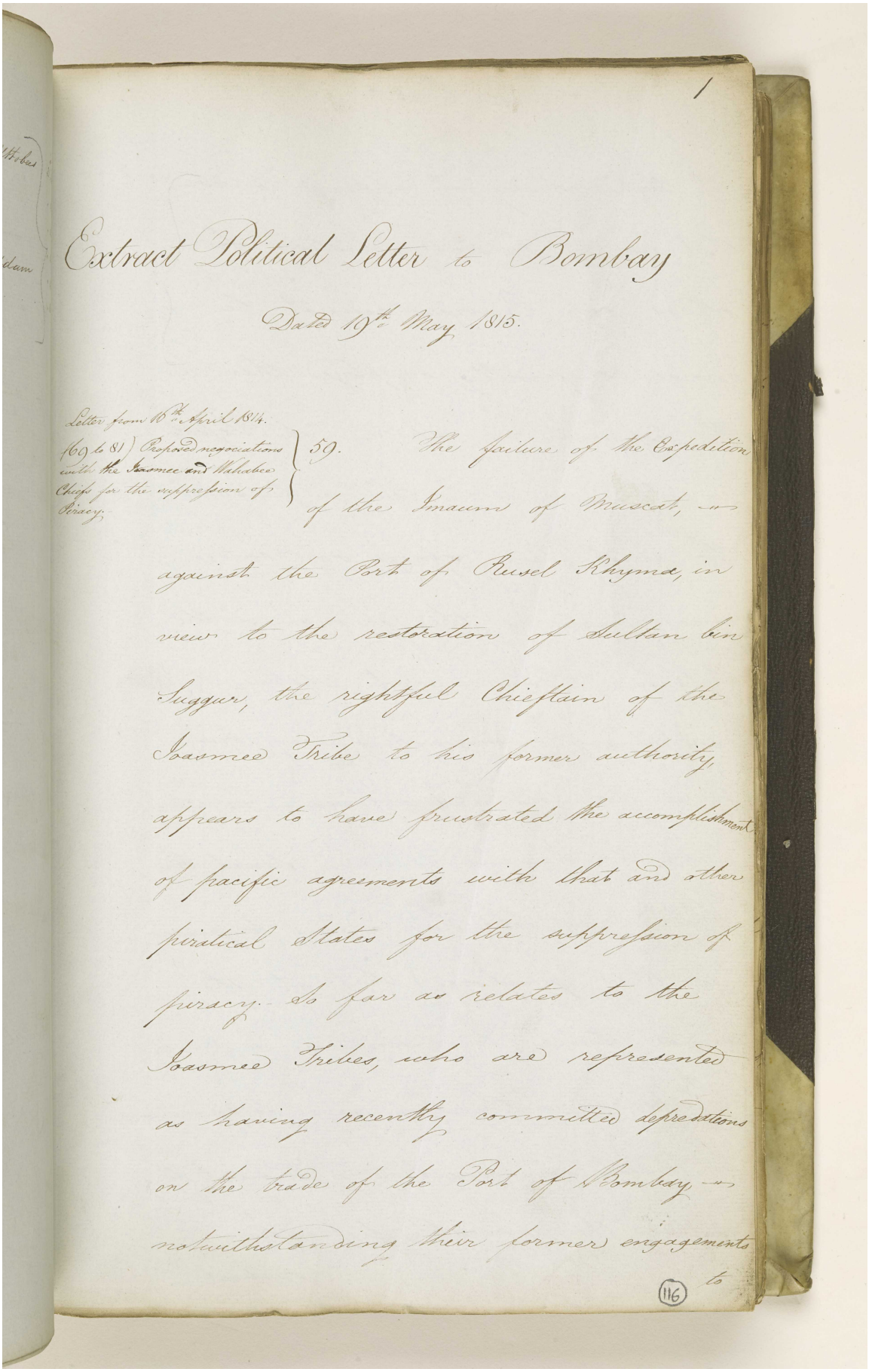

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Extract Political Letter to Bombay

Dated 19th May 1815.

Letter from Bt 6th April 1814.
(69 to 81) Proposed negociations with the Joasmee and Wahabee Chiefs for the suppression of Piracy.

59. The failure of the Expedition of the Imaum of Muscat, — against the Port of Rusel Khyma, in view to the restoration of Sultan bin Suggur, the rightful Chieftain of the Joasmee Tribe to his former authority, appears to have frustrated the accomplishment of pacific agreements with that and other piratical States for the suppression of piracy. So far as relates to the Joasmee Tribes, who are represented as having recently committed depredations on the trade of the Port of Bombay — notwithstanding their former engagements to

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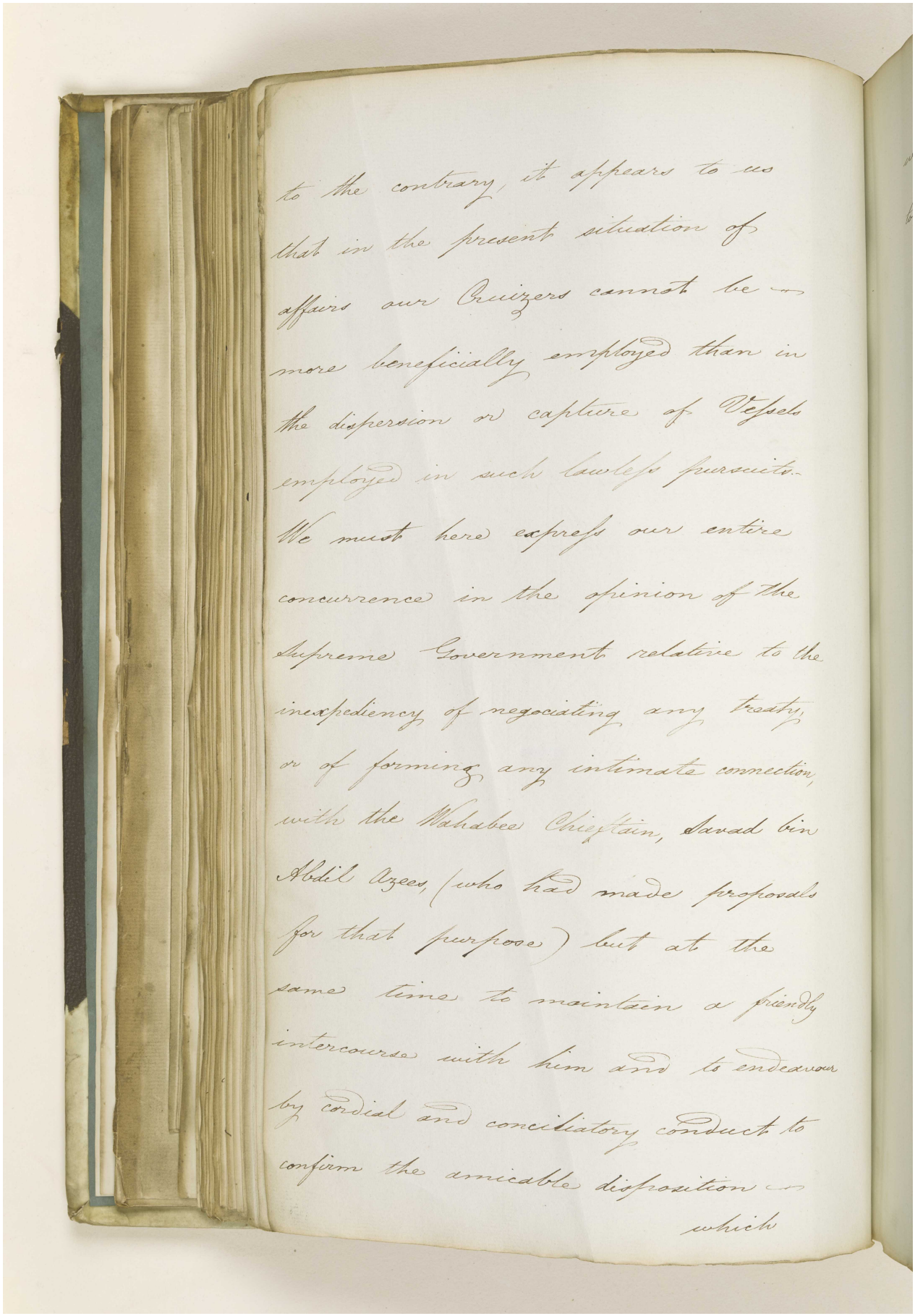
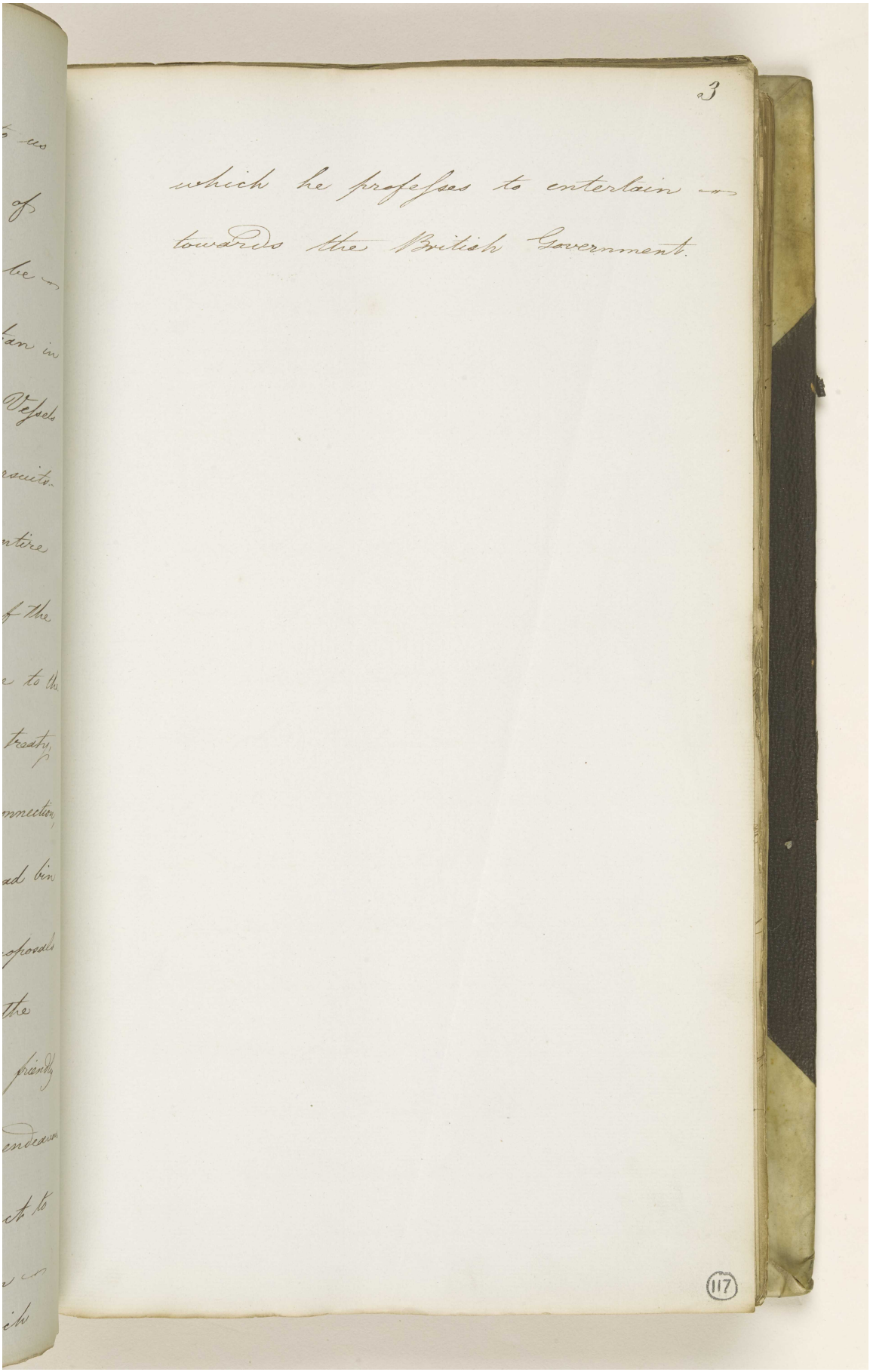


to the contrary, it appears to us
that in the present situation of
affairs our Cruizers cannot be
more beneficially employed than in
the dispersion or capture of Vessels
employed in such lawless pursuits.
We must here express our entire
concurrence in the opinion of the
Supreme Government relative to the
inexpediency of negociating any treaty,
or of forming any intimate connection,
with the Wahabee Chieftain, Sayad bin
Abdil Azees, (who had made proposals
for that purpose) but at the
same time to maintain a friendly
intercourse with him and to endeavour
by cordial and conciliatory conduct to
confirm the amicable disposition
which



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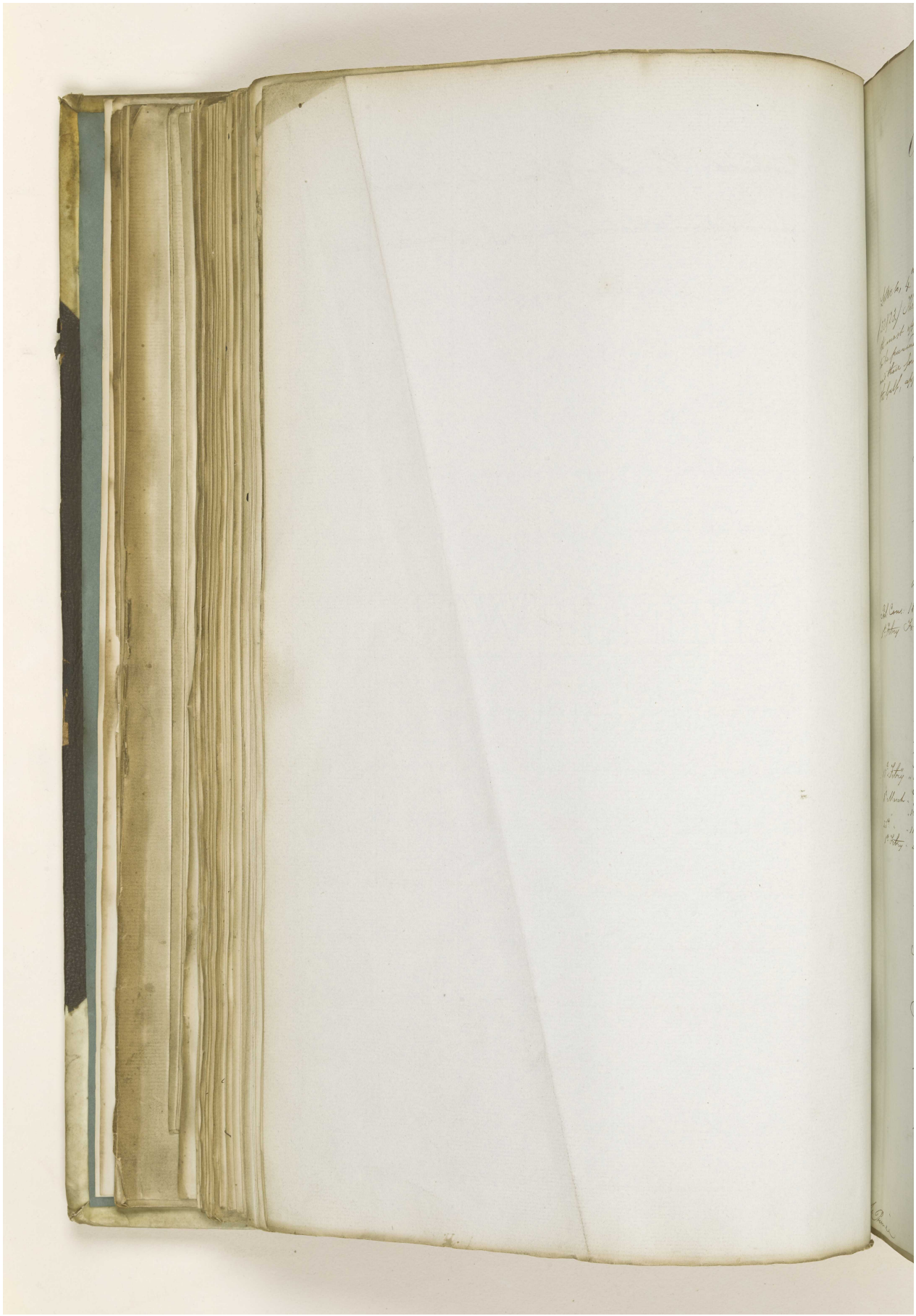

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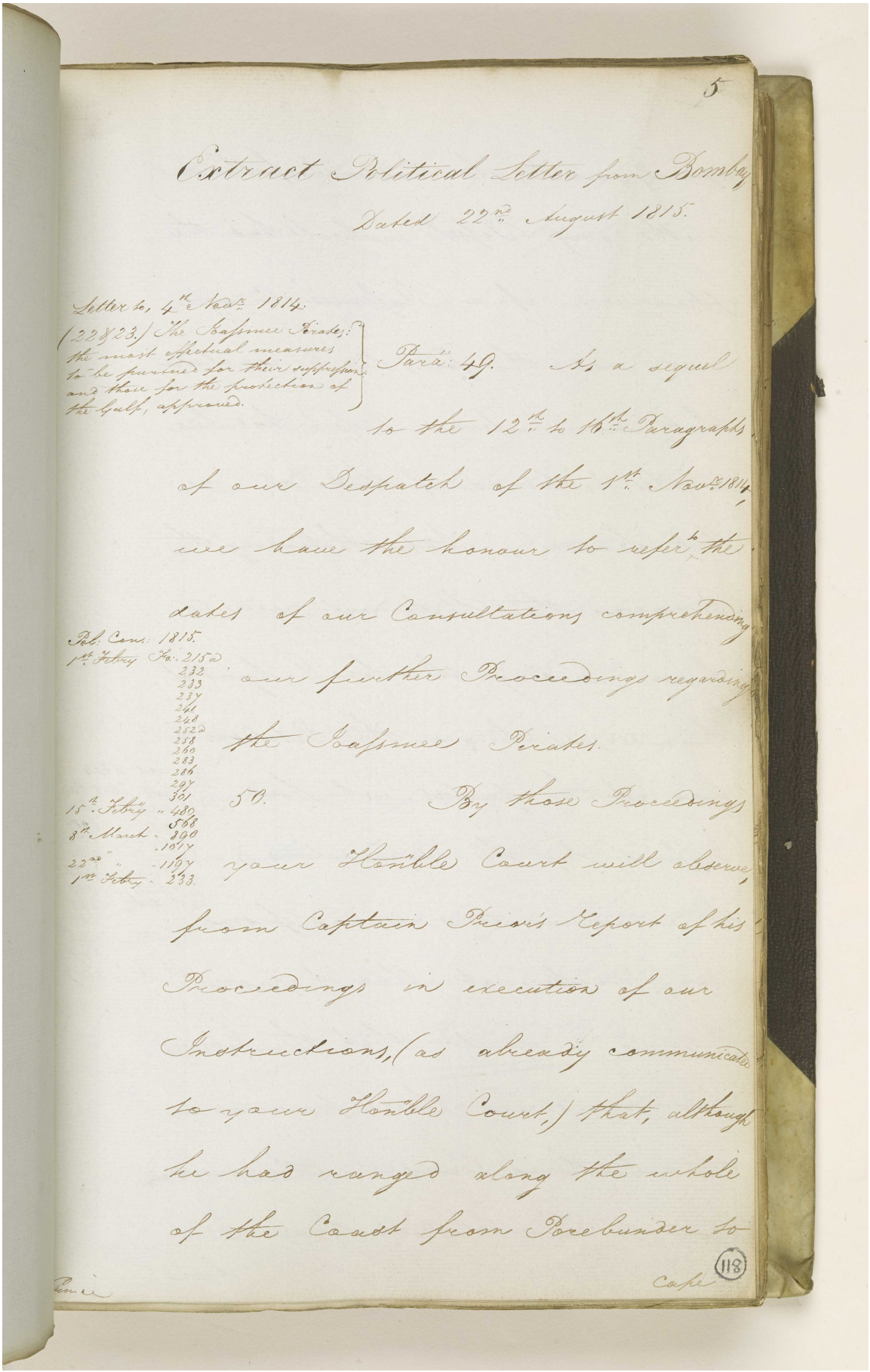

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 22nd August 1815.

Letter to, 4th Novr. 1814.
(22 & 23.) The Joassmee Pirates: the most effectual measures to be pursued for their suppression and those for the protection of the Gulf, approved.

Para: 49. As a sequel to the 12th to 16th Paragraphs of our Despatch of the 1st Novr. 1814, we have the honour to refer to the dates of our Consultations comprehending our further Proceedings regarding the Joassmee Pirates.

Pol: Cons: 1815.
1st Febry Fo: 215a
232
233
237
241
248
252a
258
260
283
286
297
301
15th Febry " 480
568
8th March " 890
" 1017
22nd " " 1197
1st Febry " 233.

50. By those Proceedings your Honble Court will observe, from Captain Prior's Report of his Proceedings in execution of our Instructions, (as already communicated to your Honble Court,) that, although he had ranged along the whole of the Coast from Porebunder to

Cape

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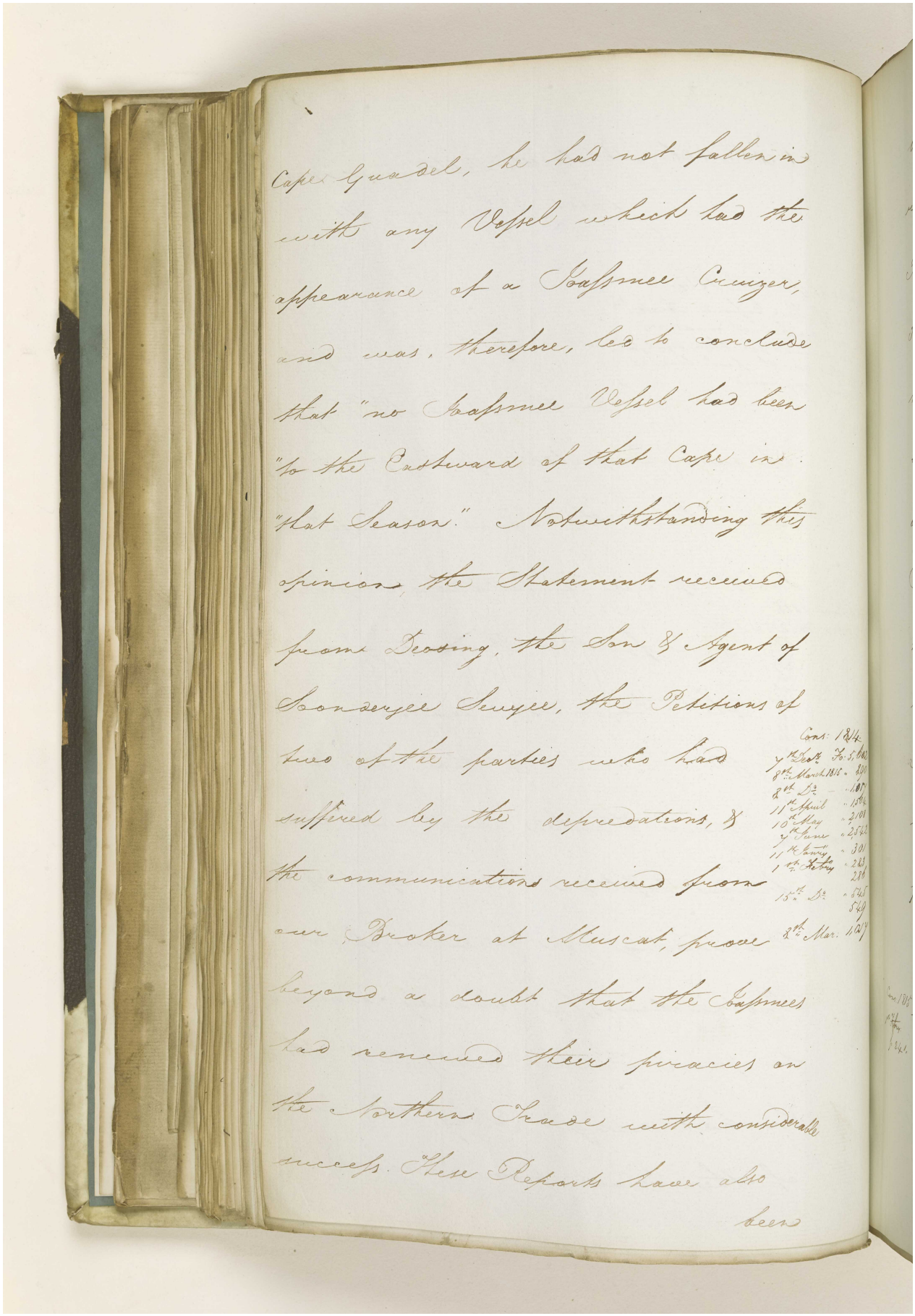
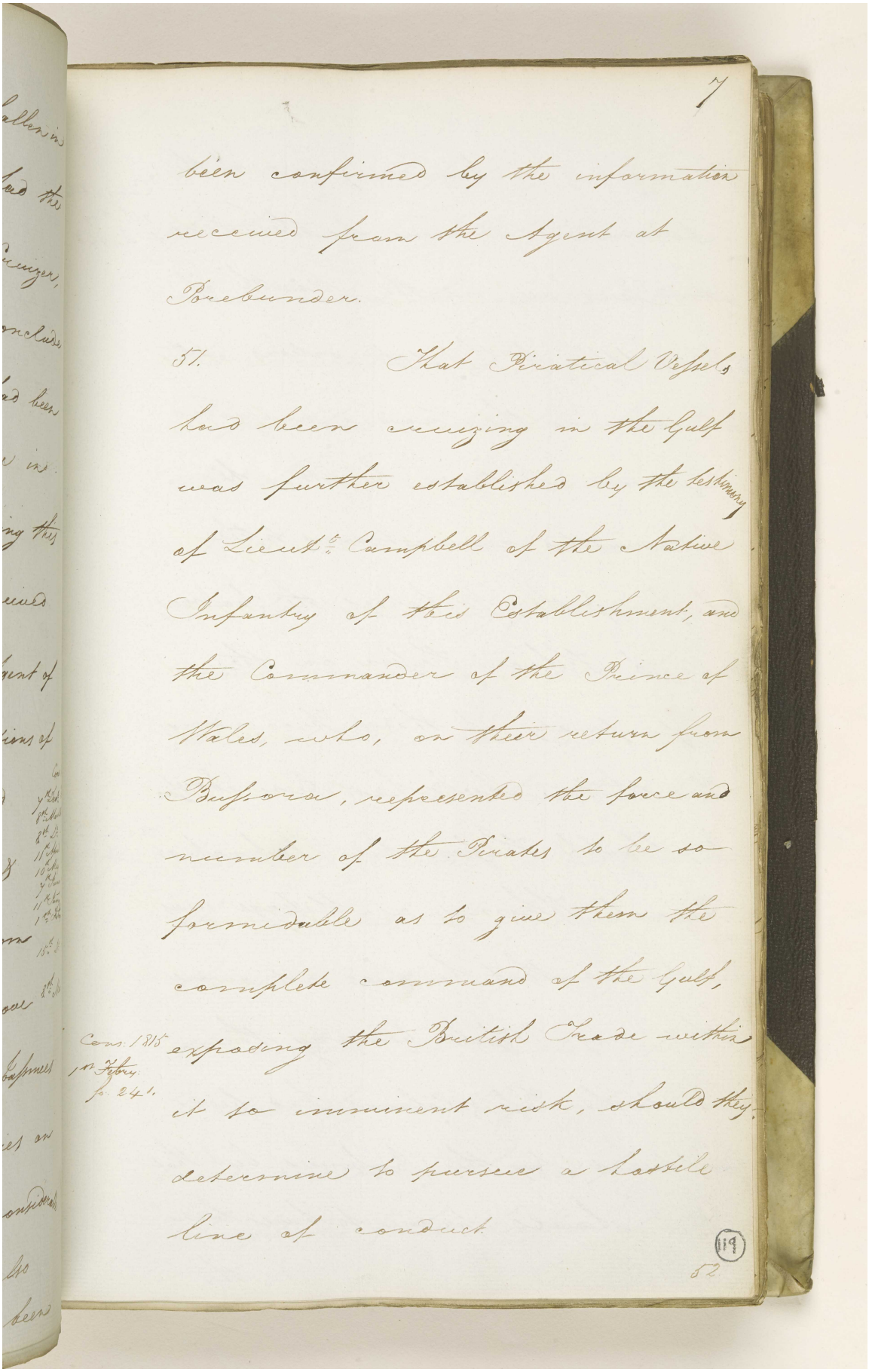


Cape Guadel, he had not fallen in with any Vessel which had the appearance of a Joassmee Cruizer, and was, therefore, led to conclude that "no Joassmee Vessel had been "to the Eastward of that Cape in "that Season." Notwithstanding this opinion, the Statement received from Deosing, the Son & Agent of Soonderjee Sewjee, the Petitions of two of the parties who had suffered by the depredations, & the communications received from our Broker at Muscat, prove beyond a doubt that the Joassmees had renewed their piracies on the Northern Trade with considerable success. These Reports have also been

Cons: 1814.
7th Decr. Fo: 5,602
8th March 1815 " 290
2nd Do. " 1,057
11th April " 1,564
10th May " 2,108
7th June " 2,542
11th Jany " 301
1st Febry " 283
286
15th Do. " 545
549
2nd Mar: 1,017



been confirmed by the information received from the Agent at Porebunder.

51. That Piratical Vessels had been cruizing in the Gulf was further established by the testimony of Lieut.t Campbell of the Native Infantry of this Establishment, and the Commander of the Prince of Wales, who, on their return from Bussora, represented the force and number of the Pirates to be so formidable as to give them the complete command of the Gulf, exposing the British Trade within it to imminent risk, should they determine to pursue a hostile line of conduct.

Cons: 1815 1st Febry: fo. 241.

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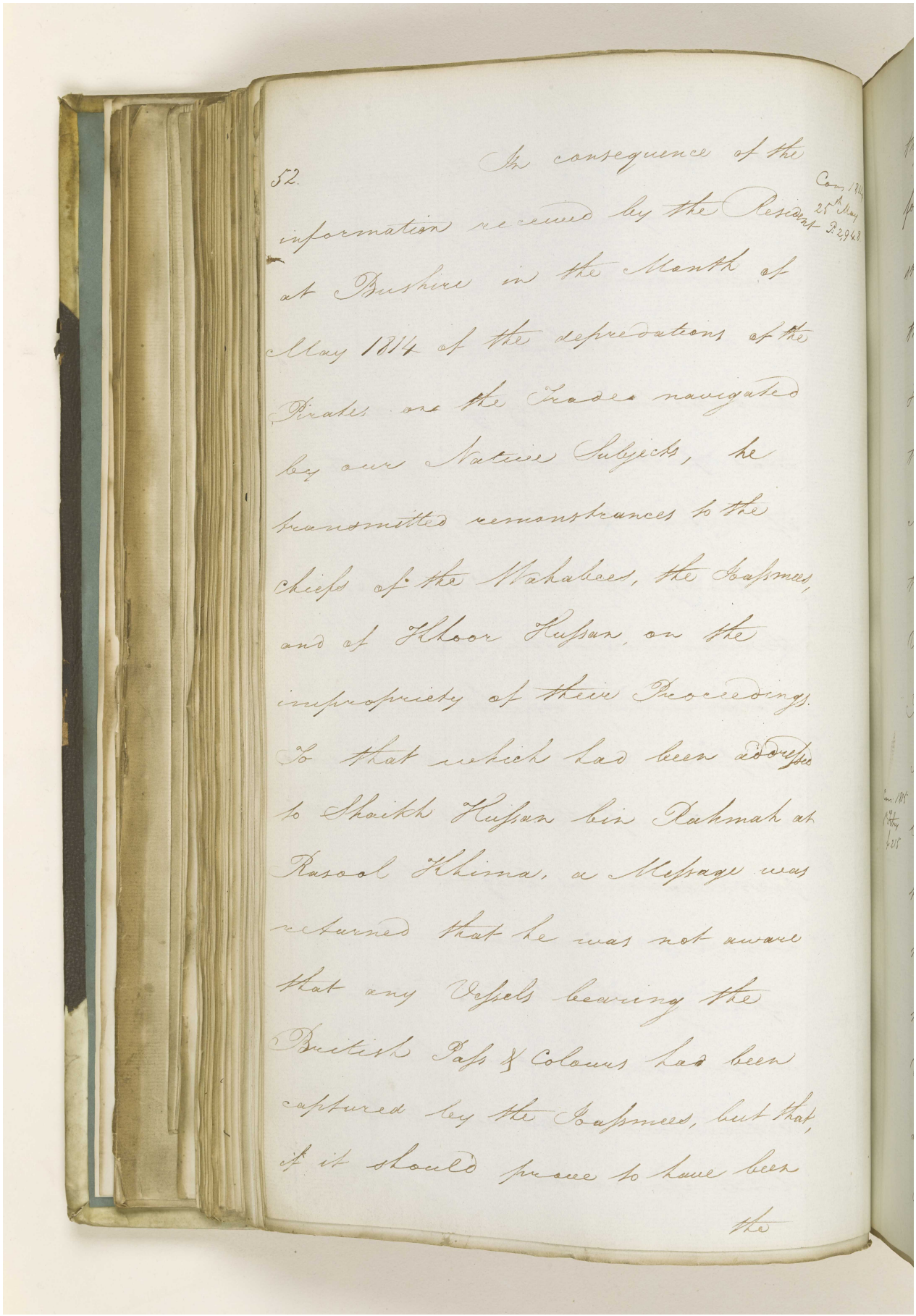
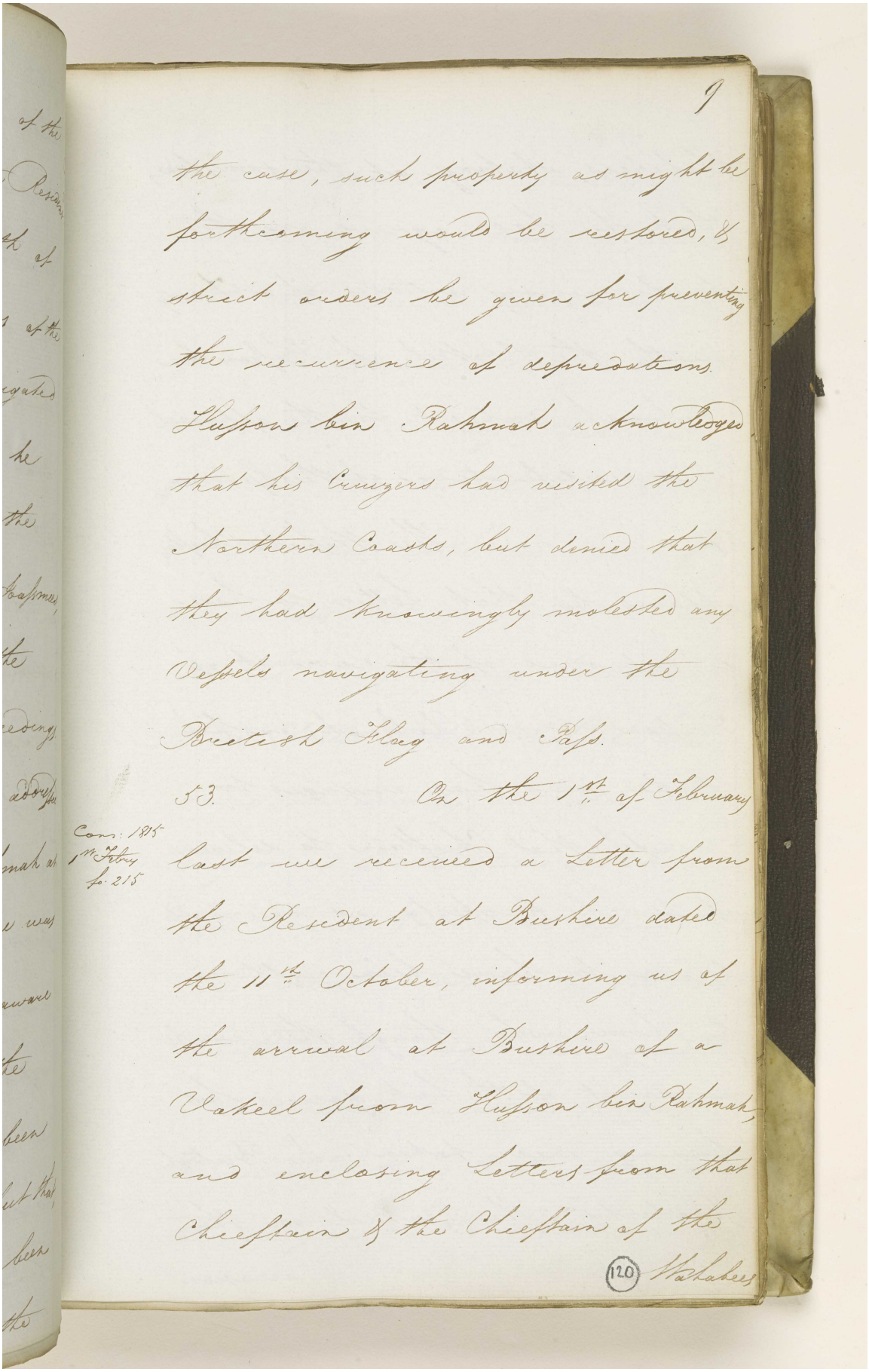


52.

In consequence of the information received by the Resident at Bushire in the Month of May 1814 of the depredations of the Pirates on the Trade navigated by our Native Subjects, he transmitted remonstrances to the Chiefs of the Wahabees, the Joasmee, and of Khoor Hussan, on the impropriety of their Proceedings. To that which had been addressed to Sheikh Hussan bin Rahmah at Rasool Khima, a Message was returned that he was not aware that any Vessels bearing the British Pass & Colours had been captured by the Joasmees, but that if it should prove to have been the

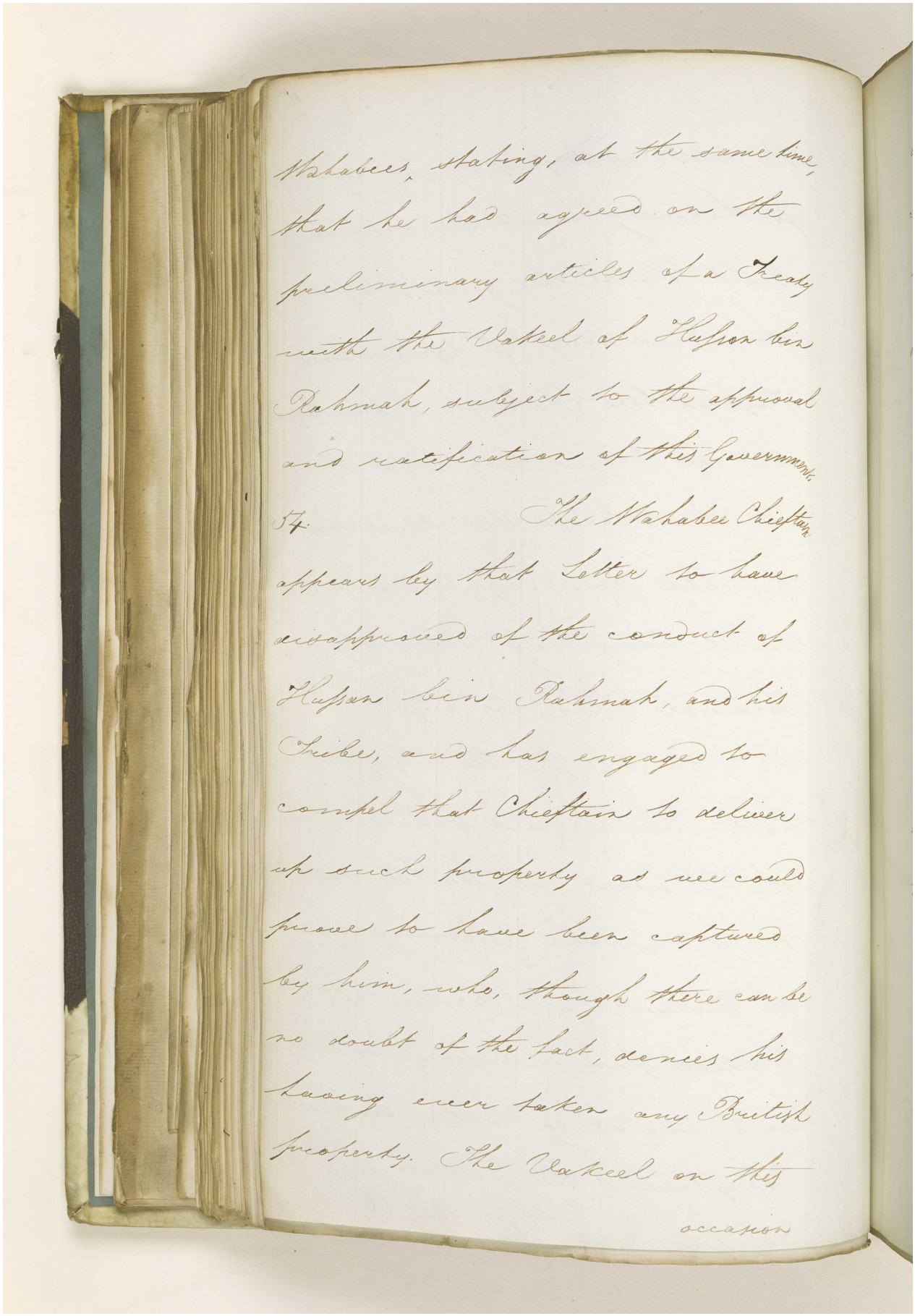


the case, such property as might be forthcoming would be restored, & strict orders be given for preventing the recurrence of depredations. Hussoon bin Rahmah acknowledged that his Cruizers had visited the Northern Coasts, but denied that they had knowingly molested any Vessels navigating under the British Flag and Pass.

53. On the 1st of February last we received a Letter from the Resident at Bushire dated the 11th October, informing us of the arrival at Bushire of a Vakeel from Hussoon bin Rahmah, and enclosing Letters from that Chieftain & the Chieftain of the

Cons: 1815 1st Febry fo. 215

(120) Wahabees



Wahabees, stating, at the same time, that he had agreed on the preliminary articles of a Treaty with the Vakeel of Hussun bin Rahmah, subject to the approval and ratification of this Governmt.

54. The Wahabee Chieftain appears by that Letter to have disapproved of the conduct of Hussun bin Rahmah, and his Tribe, and has engaged to compel that Chieftain to deliver up such property as we could prove to have been captured by him, who, though there can be no doubt of the fact, denies his having ever taken any British property. The Vakeel on this occasion

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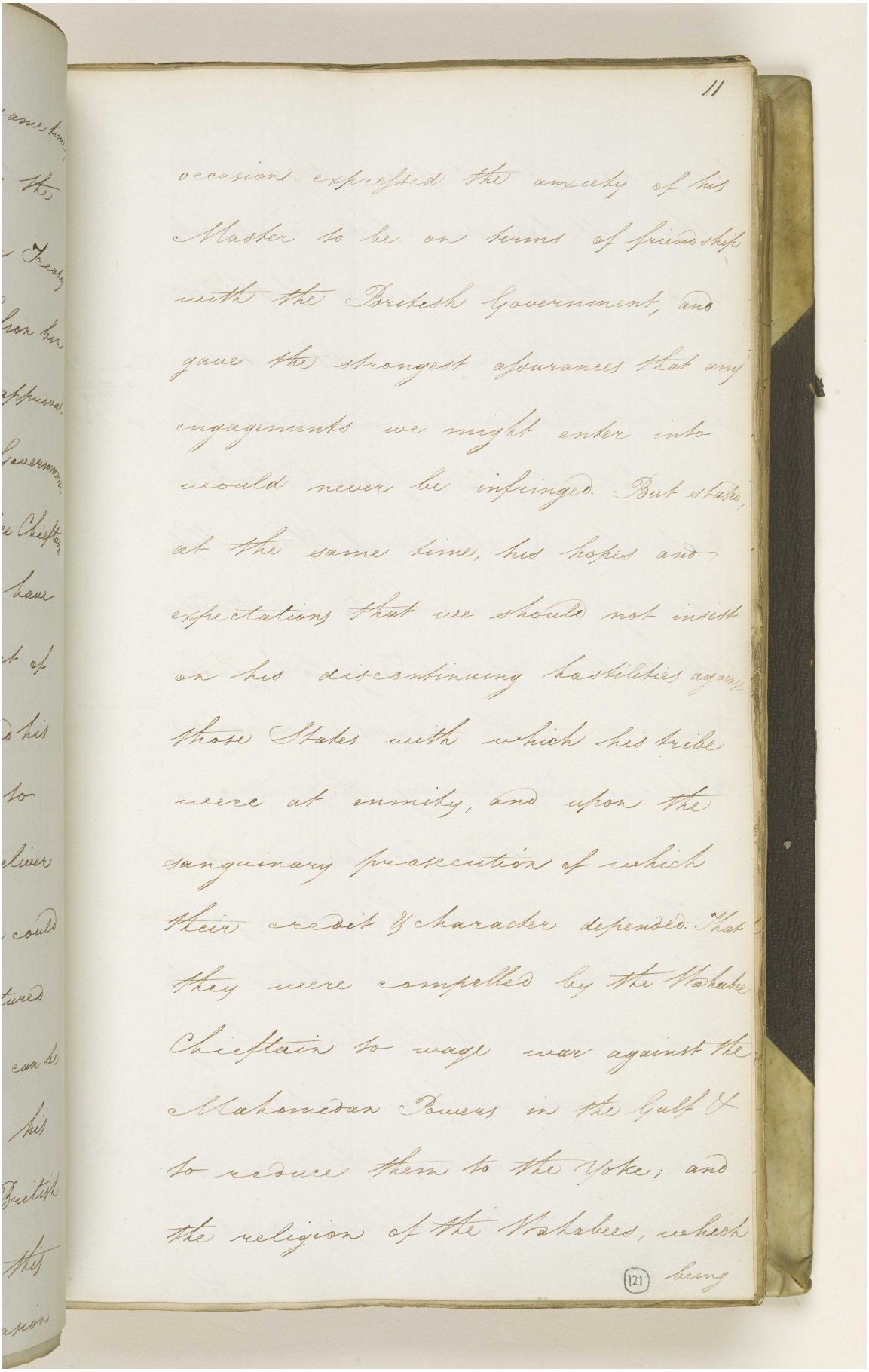

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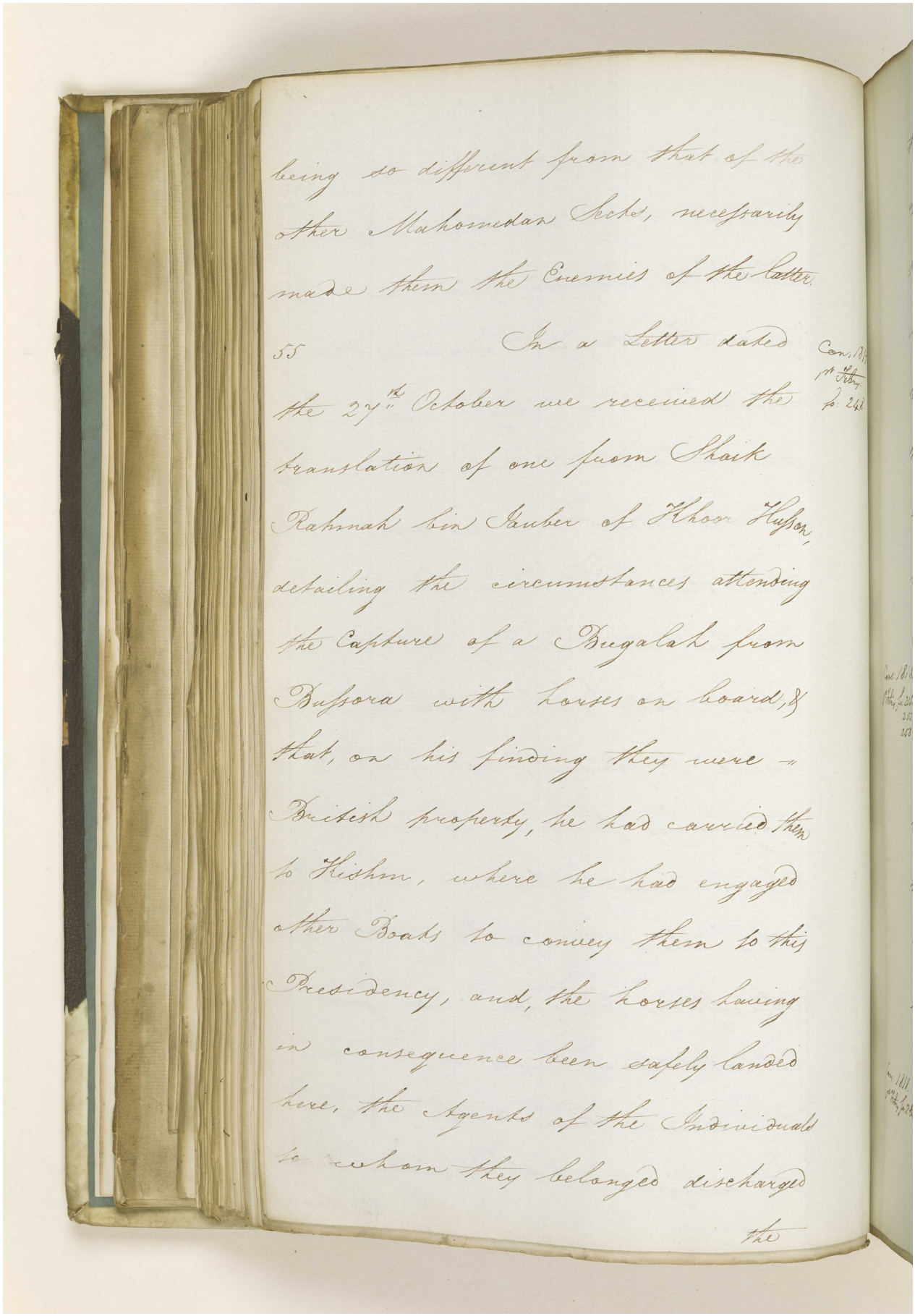
occasions expressed the anxiety of his
Master to be on terms of friendship
with the British Government, and
gave the strongest assurances that any
engagements we might enter into
would never be infringed. But States,
at the same time, his hopes and
expectations that we should not insist
on his discontinuing hostilities against
those States with which his tribe
were at enmity, and upon the
sanguinary prosecution of which
their credit & character depended. That
they were compelled by the Wahabee
Chieftain to wage war against the
Mahomedan Powers in the Gulf &
to reduce them to the Yoke; and
the religion of the Wahabees, which
(121) being



being so different from that of the other Mahomedan Sects, necessarily made them the Enemies of the latter.

55 In a Letter dated the 27th October we received the translation of one from Shaik Rahmah bin Jauber of Khoor Husson, detailing the circumstances attending the Capture of a Bugalah from Bussora with horses on board, & that, on his finding they were British property, he had carried them to Kishm, where he had engaged other Boats to convey them to this Presidency, and, the horses having in consequence been safely landed here, the Agents of the Individuals to whom they belonged discharged the

Cons. 1815 1st Febry. fo: 248

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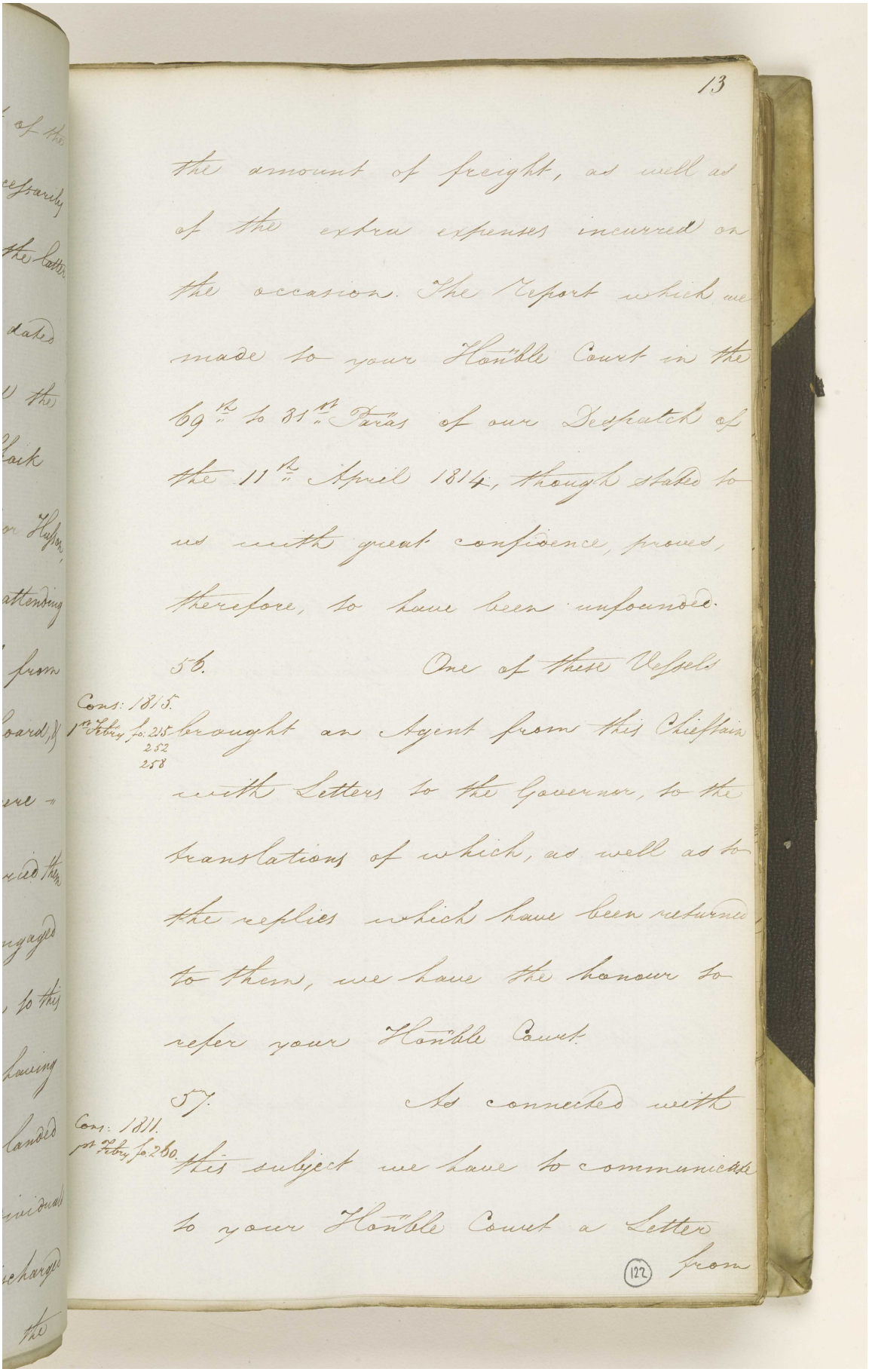

the amount of freight, as well as of the extra expenses incurred on the occasion. The Report which we made to your Honble Court in the 69th to 81st Paras of our Despatch of the 11th April 1814, though stated to us with great confidence, proves, therefore, to have been unfounded.

56. One of these Vessels brought an Agent from this Chieftain with Letters to the Governor, to the translations of which, as well as to the replies which have been returned to them, we have the honour to refer your Honble Court.

Cons: 1815. 1st Feby fo. 215. 252 258

57. As connected with this subject we have to communicate to your Honble Court a Letter from

Cons: 1811. 1st Feby fo. 260.

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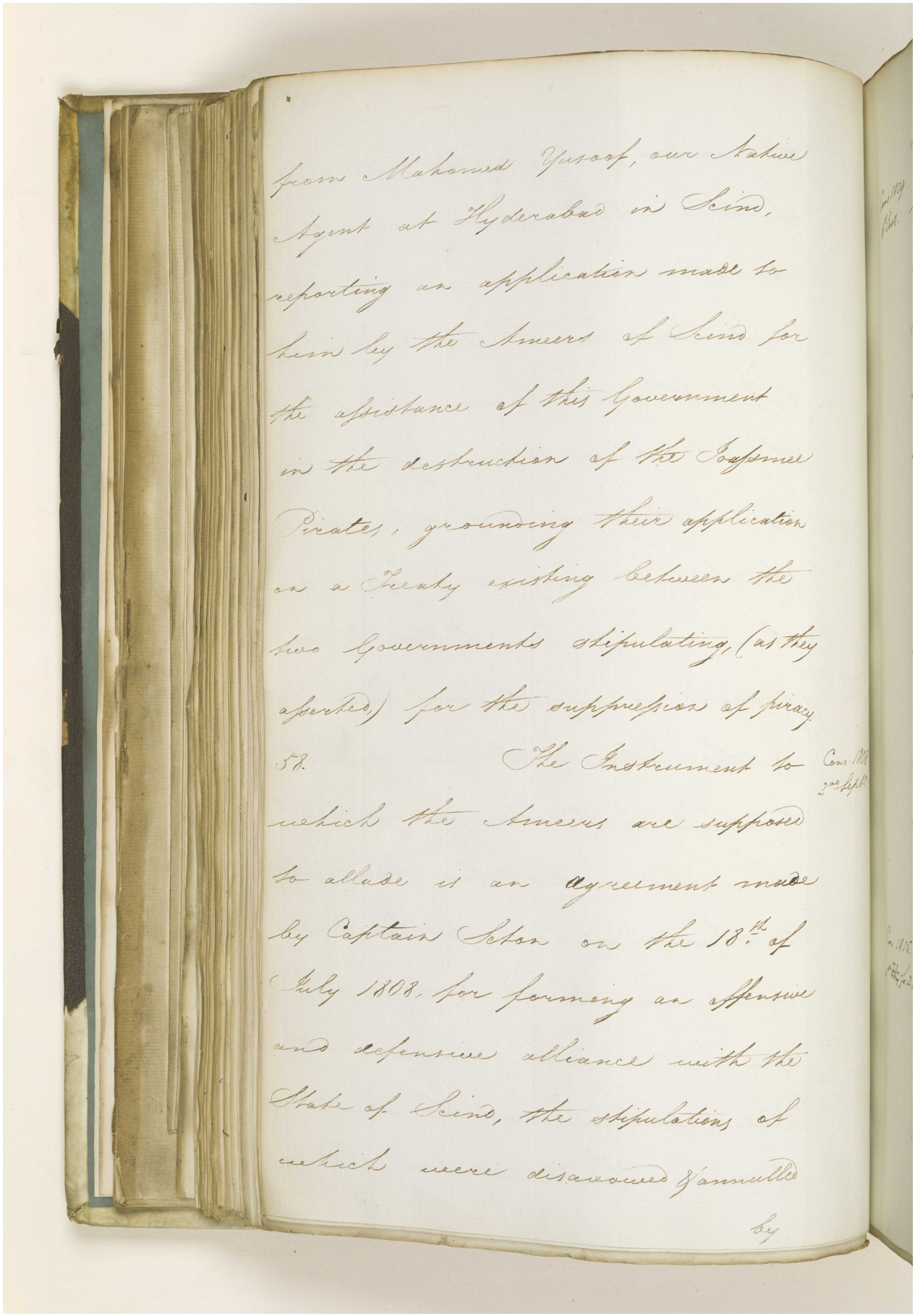
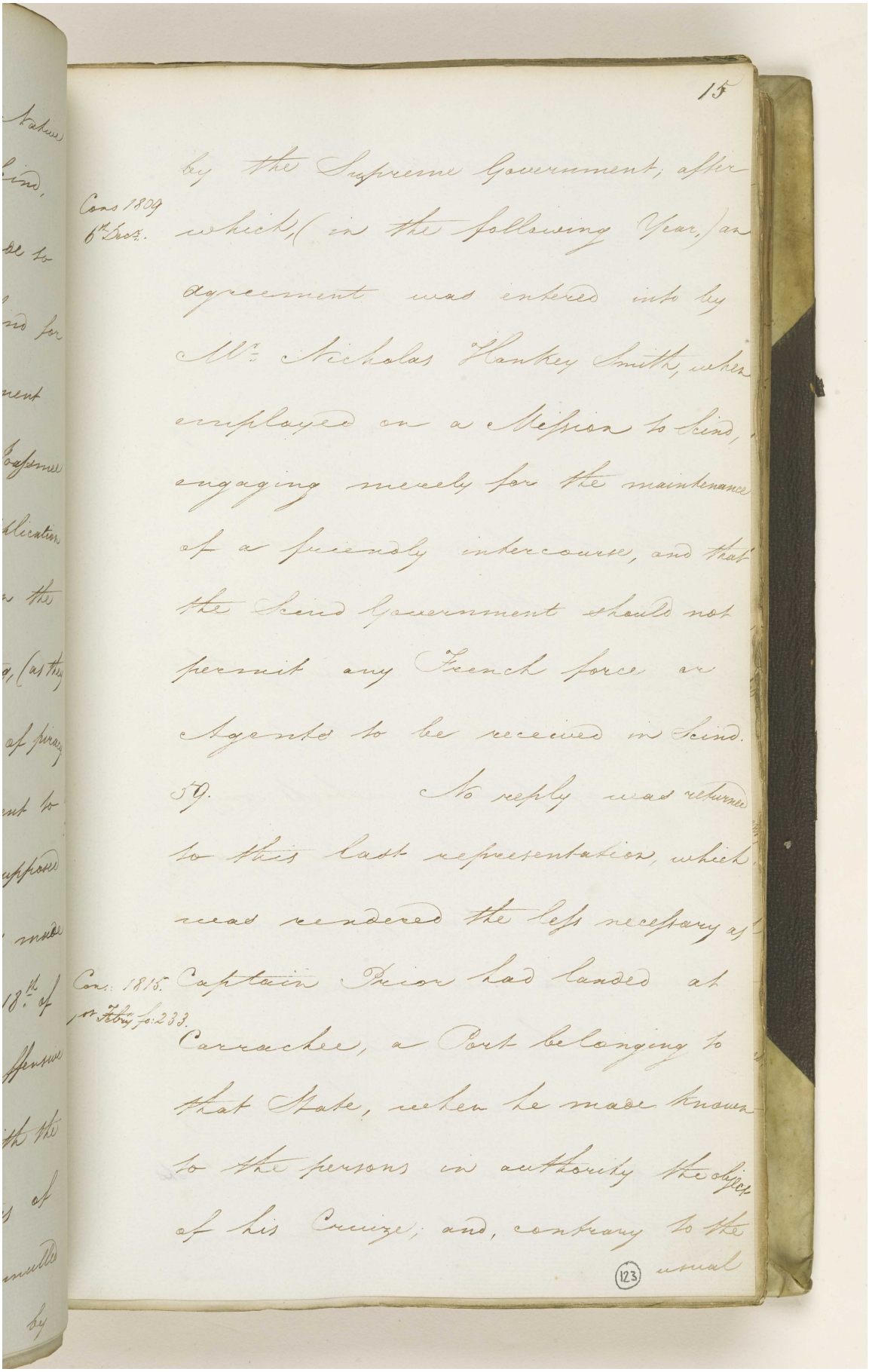


from Mahomed Yusoof, our Native Agent at Hyderabad in Scind, reporting an application made to him by the Ameers of Scind for the assistance of this Government in the destruction of the Joassmee Pirates, grounding their application on a Treaty existing between the two Governments stipulating, (as they asserted,) for the suppression of piracy.

58. The Instrument to which the Ameers are supposed to allude is an agreement made by Captain Seton on the 18th of July 1808, for forming an offensive and defensive alliance with the State of Scind, the stipulations of which were disavowed & annulled by

Cons. 1808 2nd Sept.



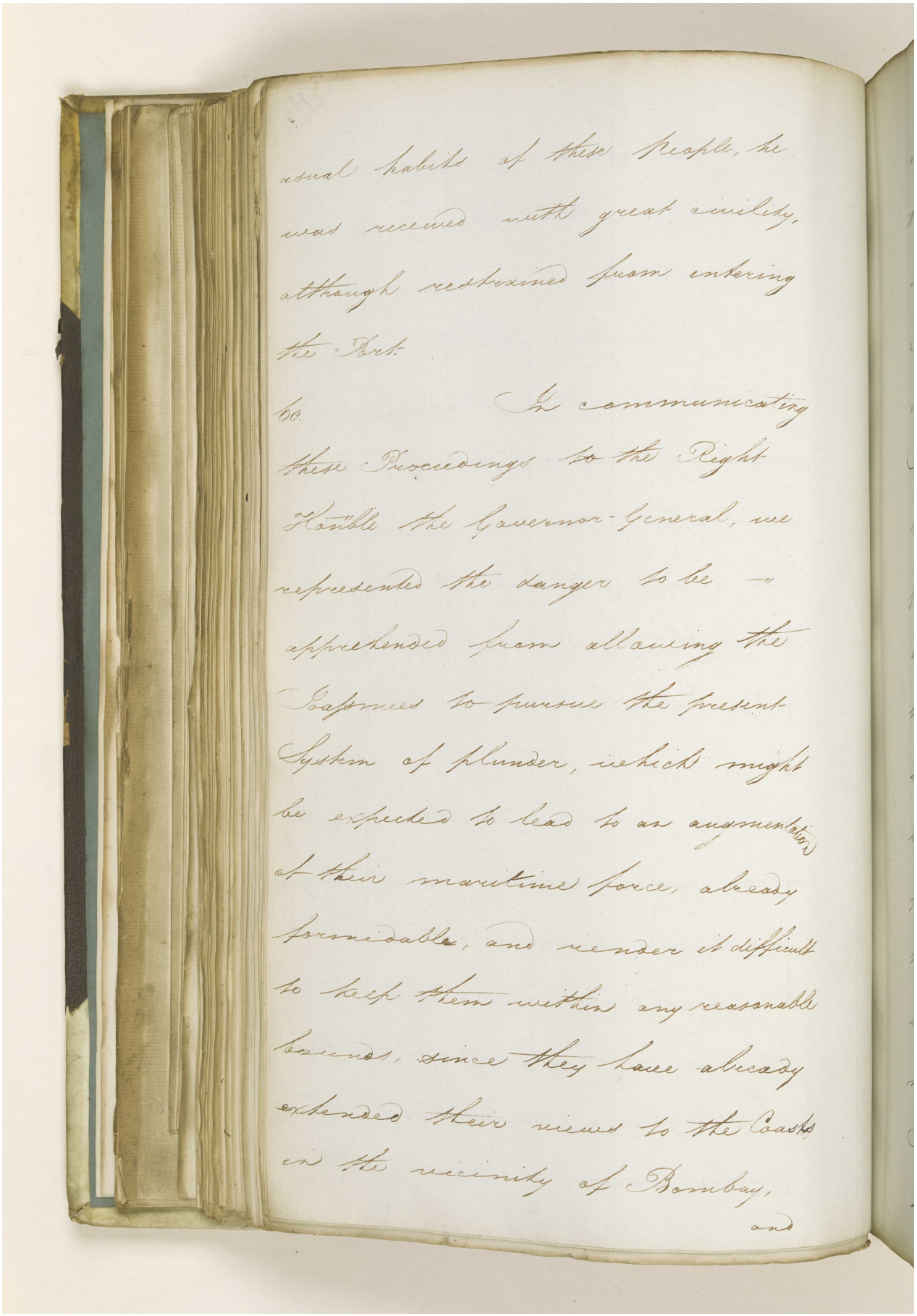
by the Supreme Government; after

Cons 1809 6th Decr. which, (in the following Year,) an agreement was entered into by Mr. Nicholas Hankey Smith, when employed on a Mission to Scind, engaging merely for the maintenance of a friendly intercourse, and that the Scind Government should not permit any French force or Agents to be received in Scind.

59. No reply was returned to this last representation, which was rendered the less necessary as

Cons: 1815. 1st Febry fo: 233. Captain Prior had landed at Carrachee, a Port belonging to that State, when he made known to the persons in authority the object of his Cruize; and, contrary to the

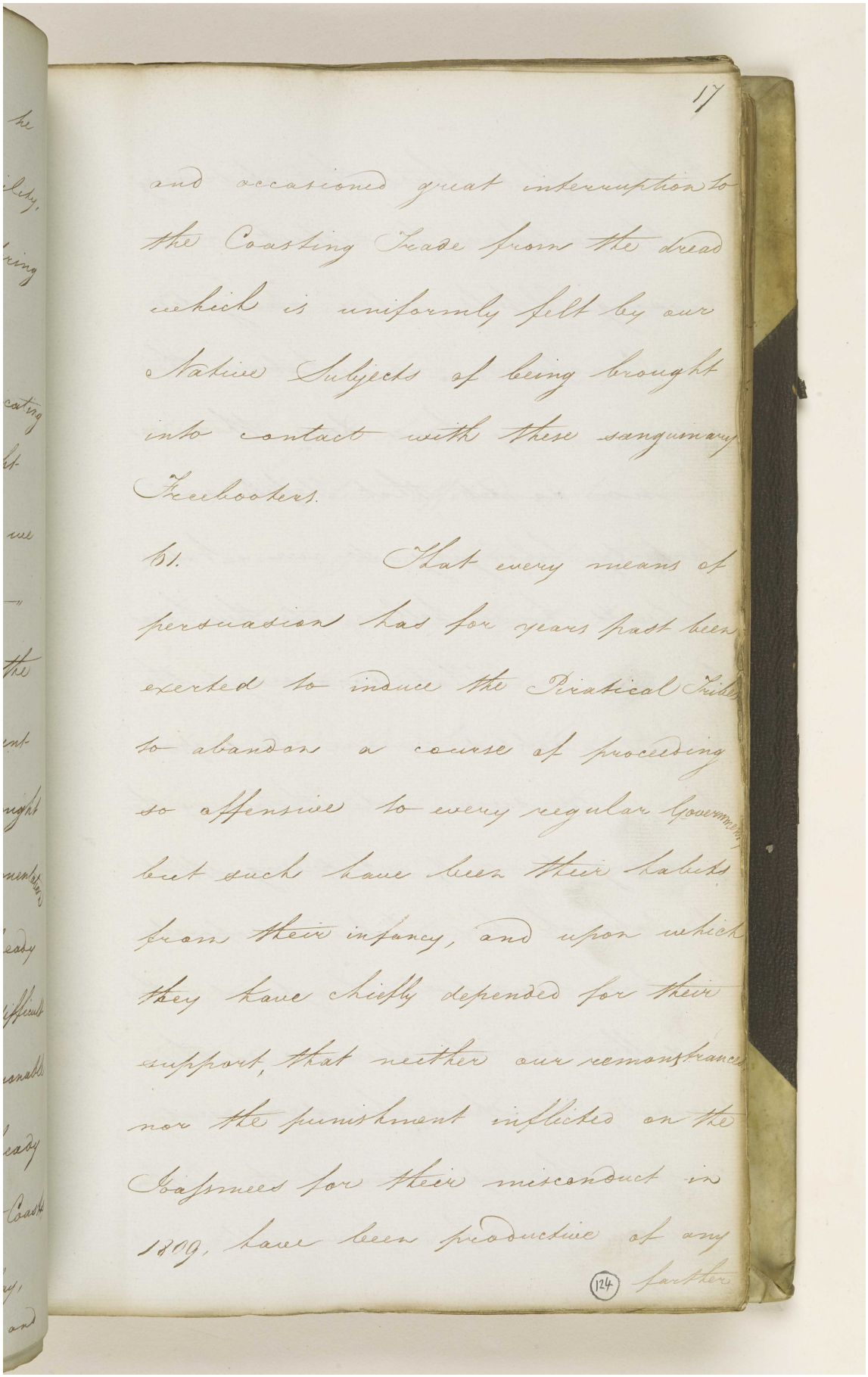
(123) usual



usual habits of these people, he was received with great civility, although restrained from entering the Port.

60. In communicating these Proceedings to the Right Honble the Governor-General, we represented the danger to be apprehended from allowing the Joasmees to pursue the present System of plunder, which might be expected to lead to an augmentation of their maritime force, already formidable, and render it difficult to keep them within any reasonable bounds, since they have already extended their views to the Coasts in the vicinity of Bombay,

and



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and occasioned great interruption to the Coasting Trade from the dread which is uniformly felt by our Native Subjects of being brought into contact with these sanguinary Freebooters.

51. That every means of persuasion has for years past been exerted to induce the Piratical Tribes to abandon a course of proceeding so offensive to every regular Government but such have been their habits from their infancy, and upon which they have chiefly depended for their support, that neither our remonstrances nor the punishment inflicted on the Joasmees for their misconduct in 1809, have been productive of any farthers

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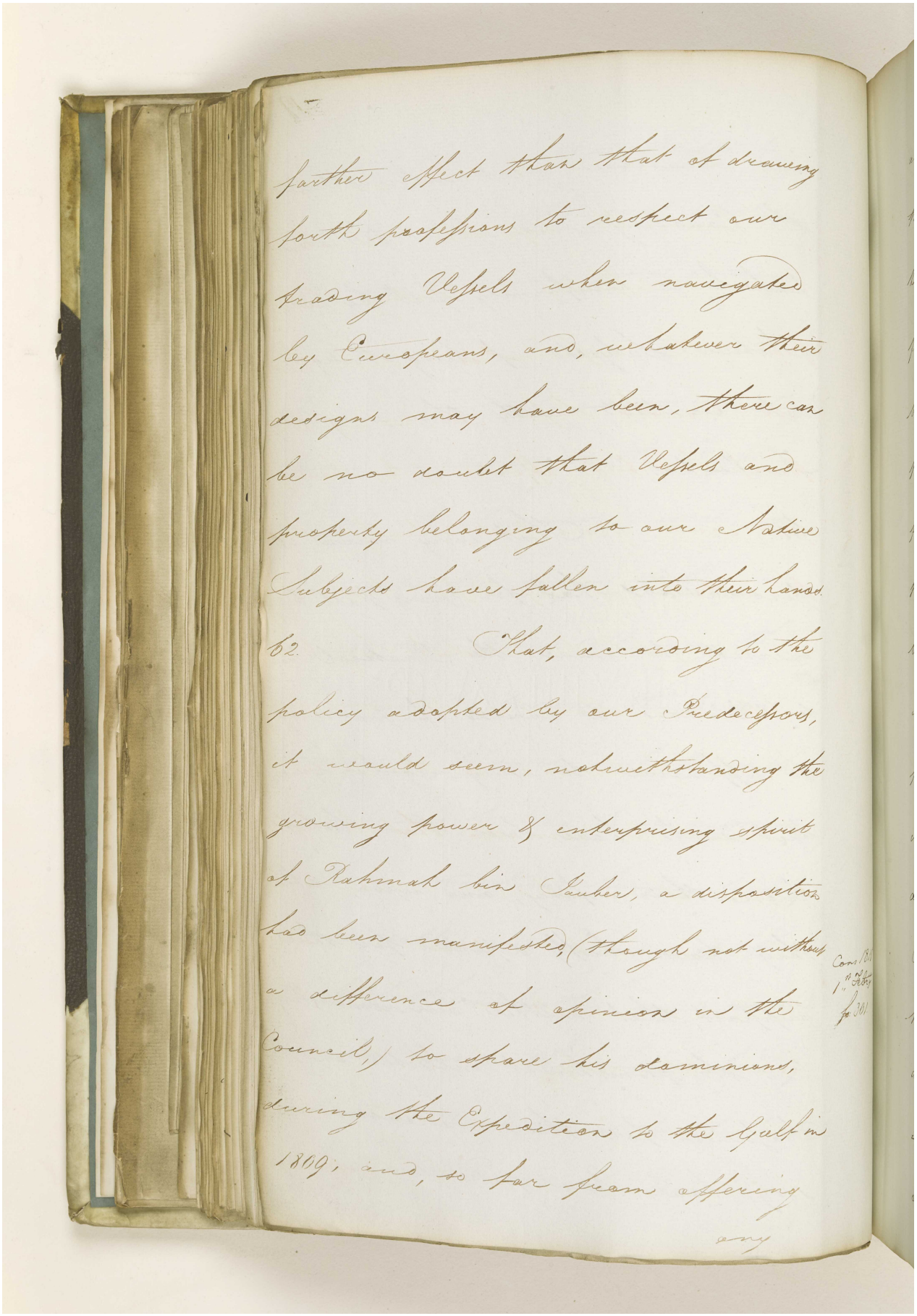
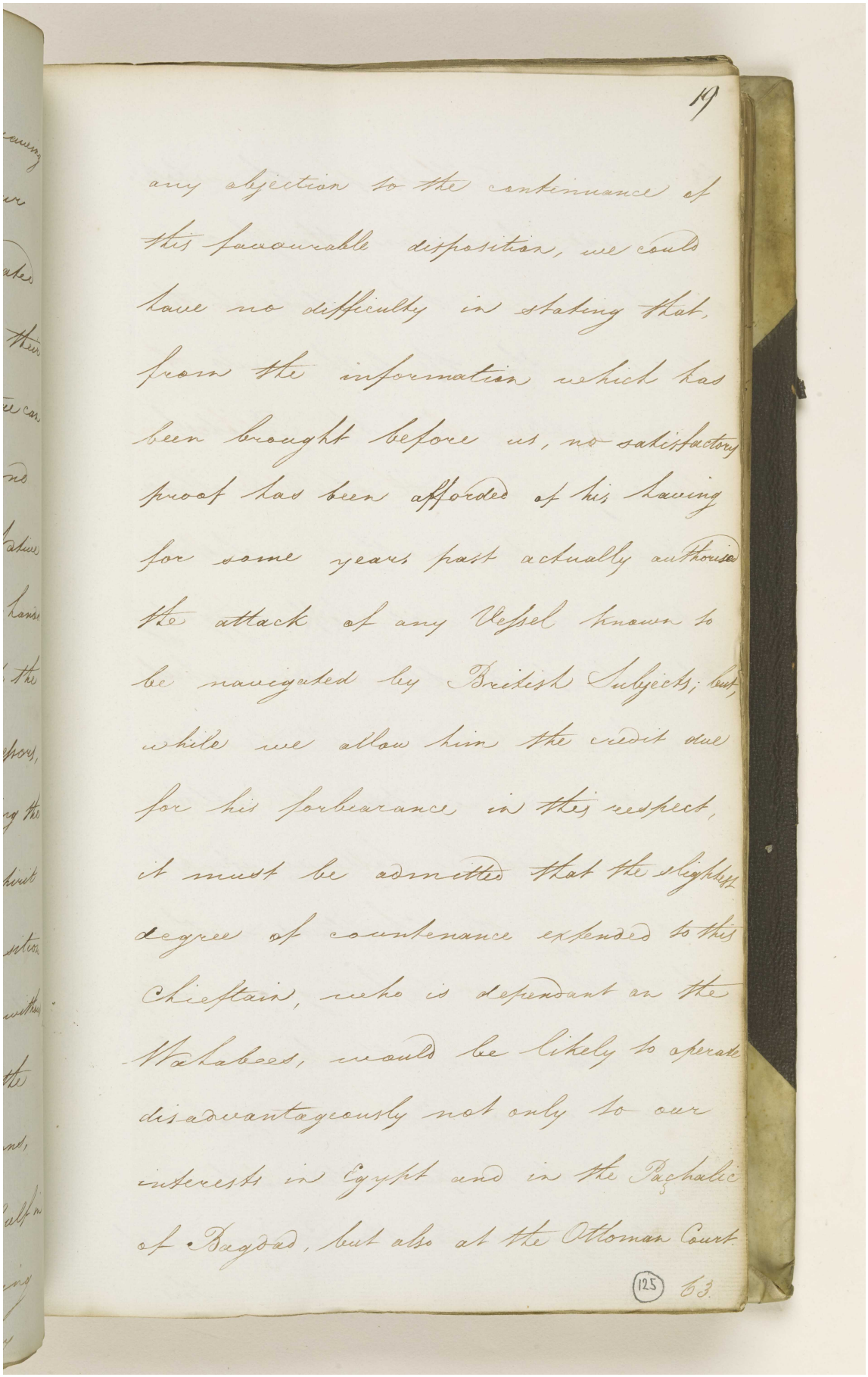


farther effect than that of drawing forth professions to respect our trading Vessels when navigated by Europeans, and, whatever their designs may have been, there can be no doubt that Vessels and property belonging to our Native Subjects have fallen into their hands.

62. That, according to the policy adopted by our Predecessors, it would seem, notwithstanding the growing power & enterprising spirit of Rahmah bin Jauber, a disposition had been manifested, (though not without a difference of opinion in the Council,) to spare his dominions, during the Expedition to the Gulf in 1809; and, so far from offering

any

Cons 1818 1st Feby fo 301



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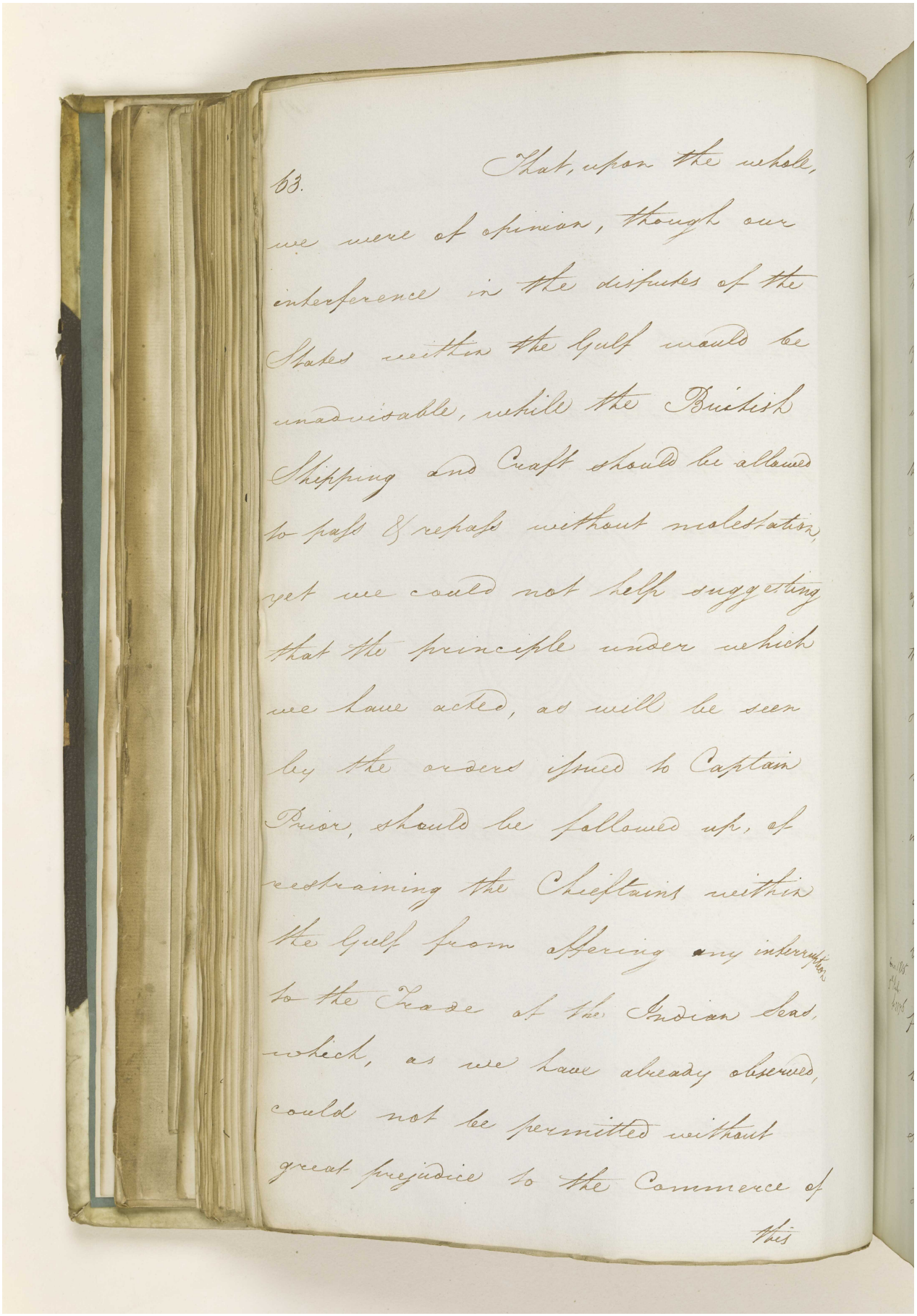
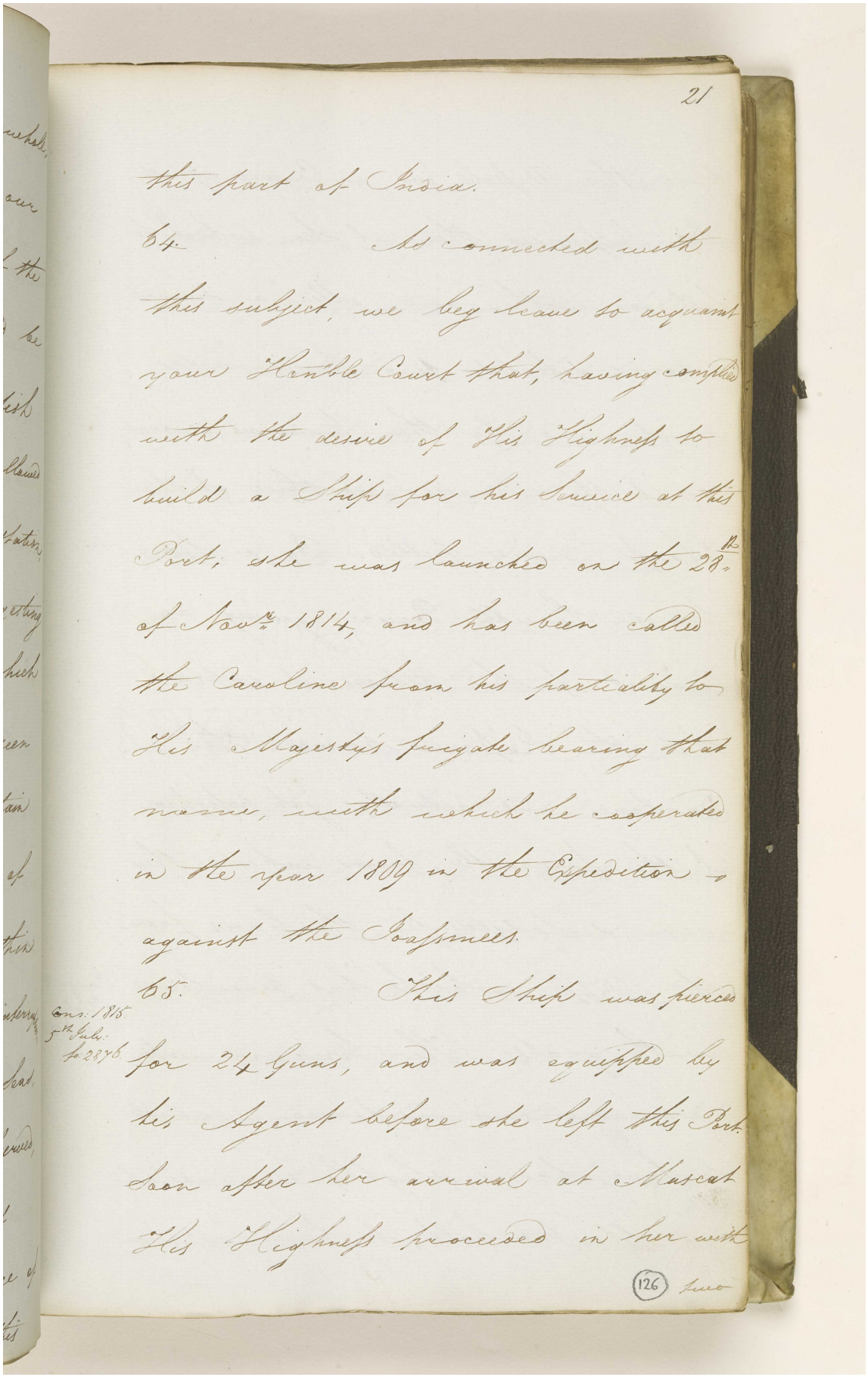
any objection to the continuance of
this favourable disposition, we could
have no difficulty in stating that,
from the information which has
been brought before us, no satisfactory
proof has been afforded of his having
for some years past actually authorised
the attack of any Vessel known to
be navigated by British Subjects; but,
while we allow him the credit due
for his forbearance in this respect,
it must be admitted that the slightest
degree of countenance extended to this
Chieftain, who is dependant on the
Wahabees, would be likely to operate
disadvantageously not only to our
interests in Egypt and in the Pachalic
of Bagdad, but also at the Ottoman Court.

125 63



63.

That, upon the whole, we were of opinion, though our interference in the disputes of the States within the Gulf would be unadvisable, while the British Shipping and Craft should be allowed to pass & repass without molestation, yet we could not help suggesting that the principle under which we have acted, as will be seen by the orders issued to Captain Prior, should be followed up, of restraining the Chieftains within the Gulf from offering any interruption to the Trade of the Indian Seas, which, as we have already observed, could not be permitted without great prejudice to the Commerce of this



21

this part of India.

64. As connected with this subject, we beg leave to acquaint your Honble Court that, having complied with the desire of His Highness to build a Ship for his Service at this Port; she was launched on the 28th of Novr 1814, and has been called the Caroline from his particular to His Majesty's Frigate bearing that name, with which he cooperated in the year 1809 in the Expedition against the Joasmees.

65. This Ship was pierced for 24 Guns, and was equipped by his Agent before she left this Port. Soon after her arrival at Muscat His Highness proceeded in her with

Cons. 1815. 5th July. fo. 2876

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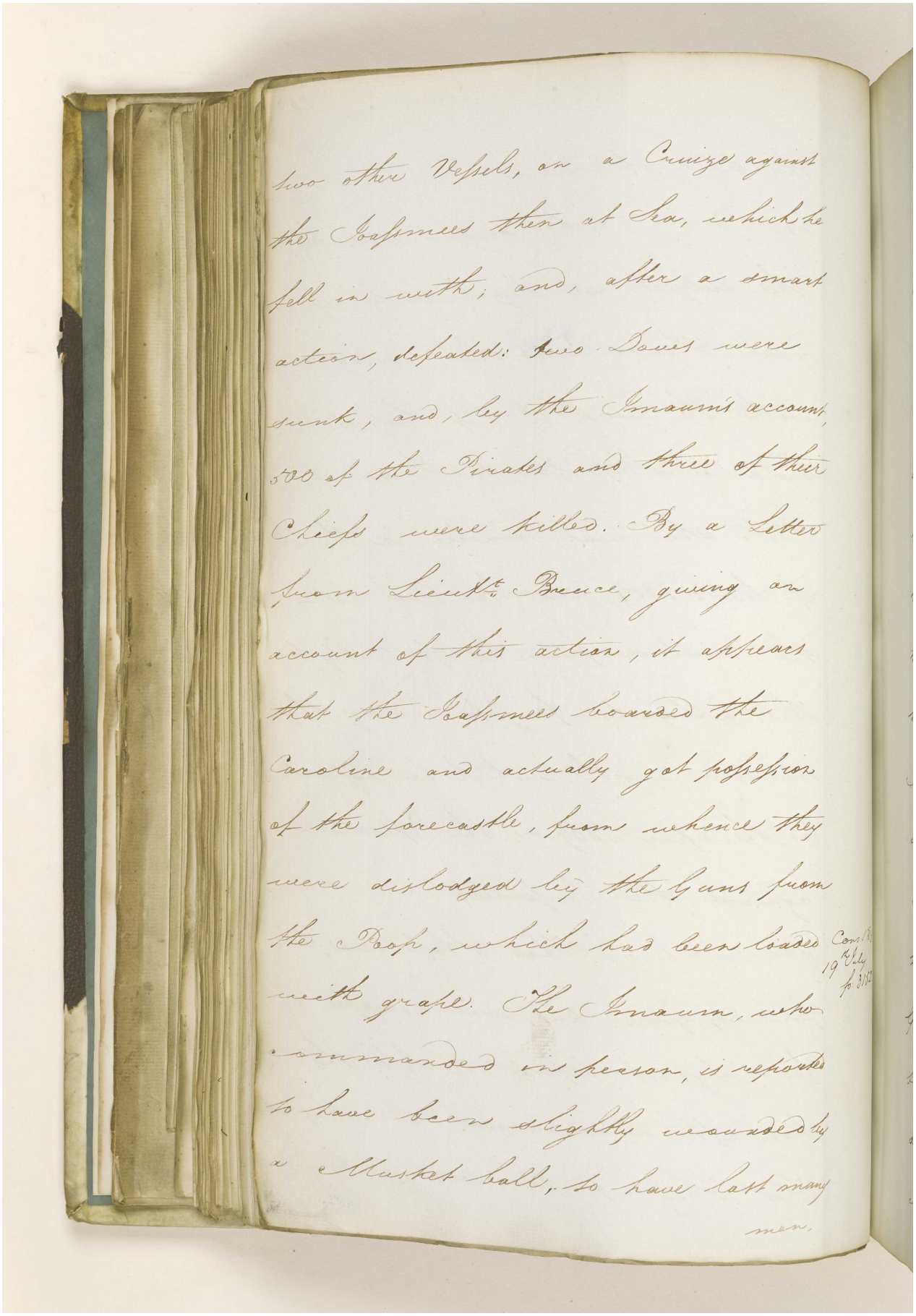
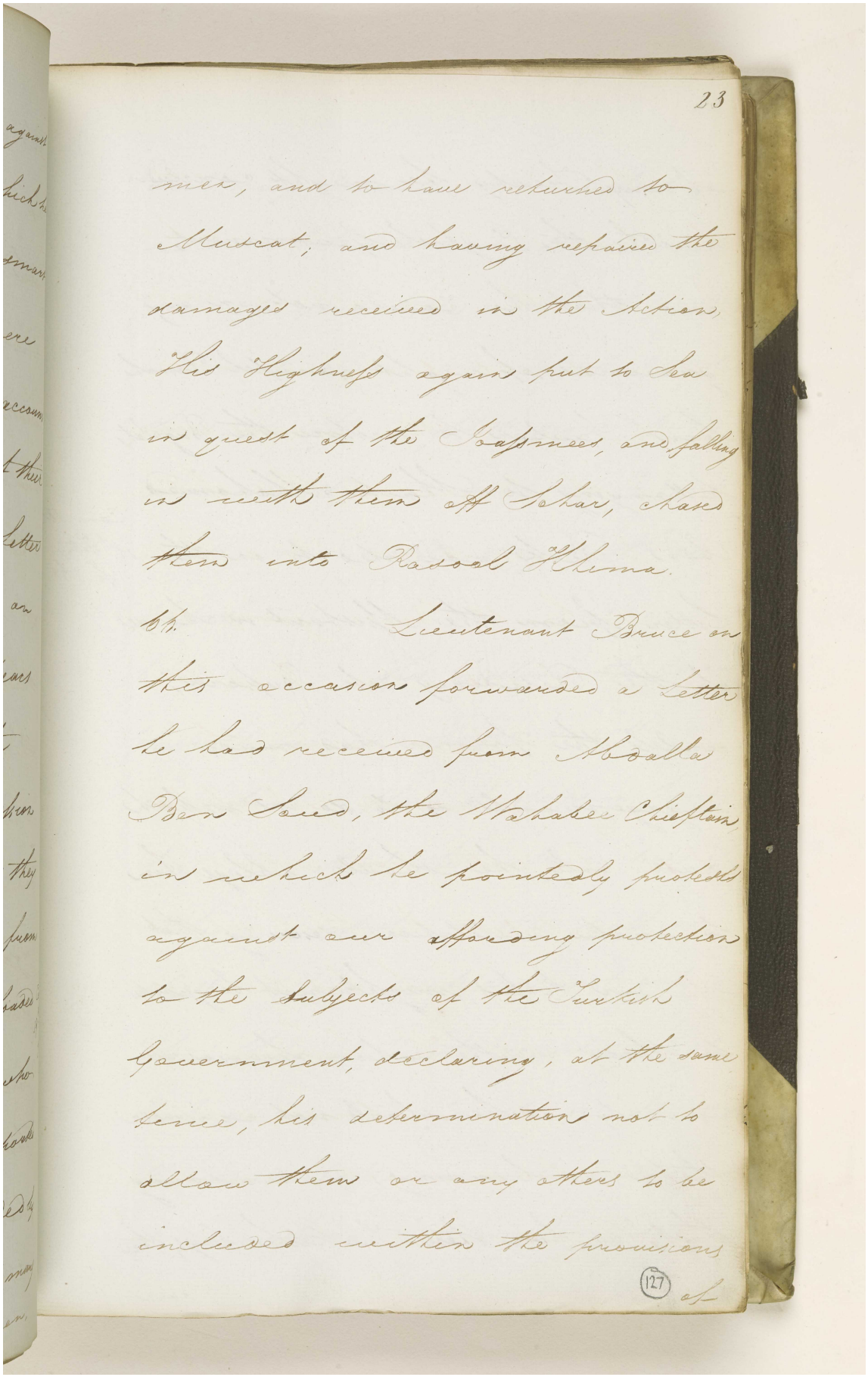


two other Vessels, on a Cruize against the Joassmees then at Sea, which he fell in with; and, after a smart action, defeated: two Doves were sunk, and, by the Imaum's account, 500 of the Pirates and three of their Chiefs were killed. By a Letter from Lieut.t Bruce, giving an account of this action, it appears that the Joassmees boarded the Caroline and actually got possession of the forecastle, from whence they were dislodged by the Guns from the Poop, which had been loaded with grape. The Imaum, who commanded in person, is reported to have been slightly wounded by a Musket ball, to have lost many men.

Cons 18 19th July fo. 3152



23

men, and to have returned to
Muscat, and having repaired the
damages received in the Action,
His Highness again put to Sea
in quest of the Joasmees, and falling
in with them off Lohar, chased
them into Rasool Khima.

6th. Lieutenant Bruce on
this occasion forwarded a Letter
he had received from Abdalla
Bin Saud, the Wahabee Chieftain,
in which he pointedly invoked
against our affording protection
to the subjects of the Turkish
Government, declaring, at the same
time, his determination not to
allow them or any others to be
included within the provisions

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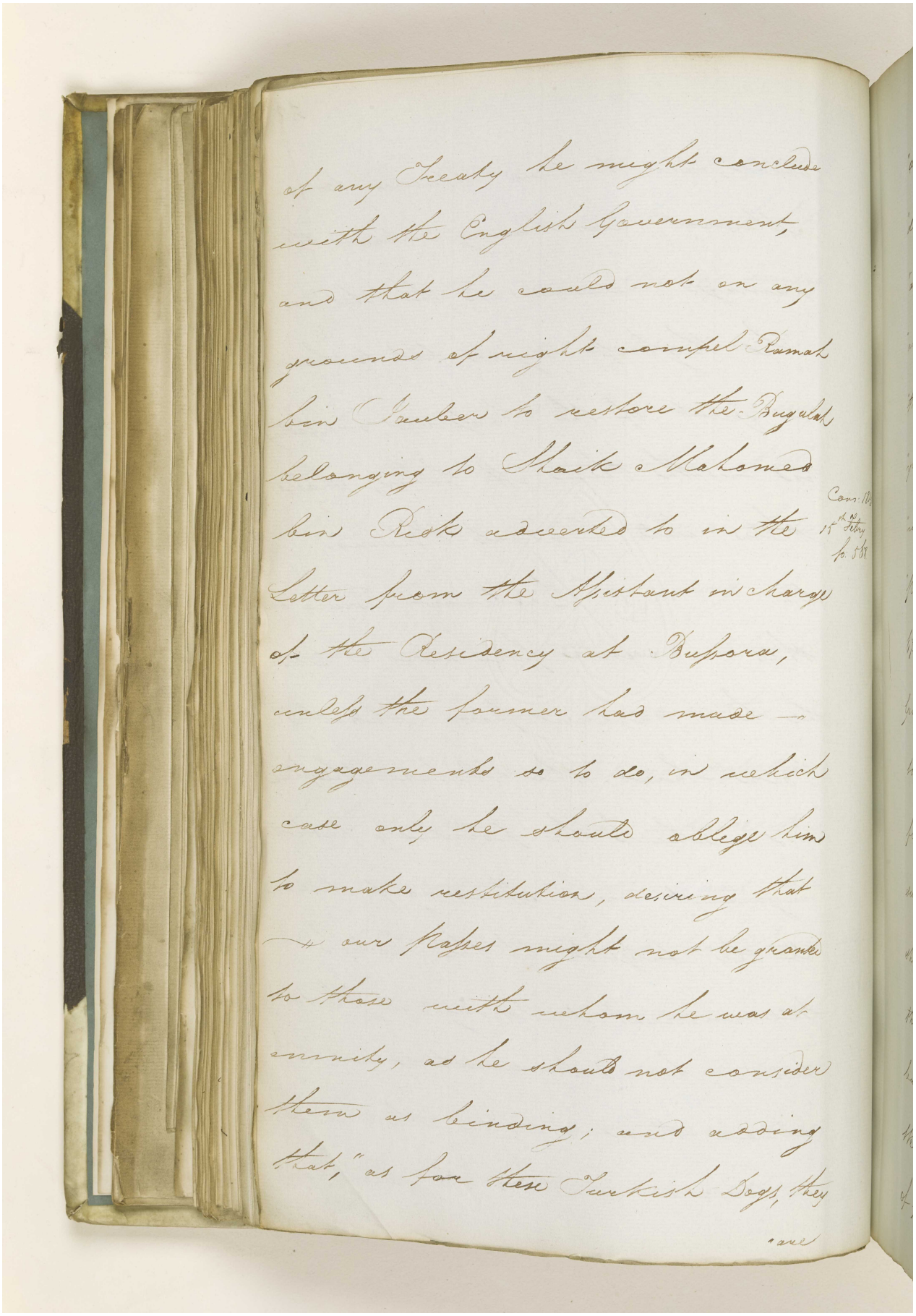

of any Treaty he might conclude
with the English Government,
and that he could not on any
grounds of right compel Ramah
bin Jauber to restore the Bugulah
belonging to Shaik Mahomed
bin Risk adverted to in the
Letter from the Assistant in charge
of the Residency at Bussora,
unless the former had made
engagements so to do, in which
case only he should oblige him
to make restitution, desiring that
our Passes might not be granted
to those with whom he was at
enmity, as he should not consider
them as binding; and adding
that, "as for these Turkish Dogs, they

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15th Febry
fo: 568

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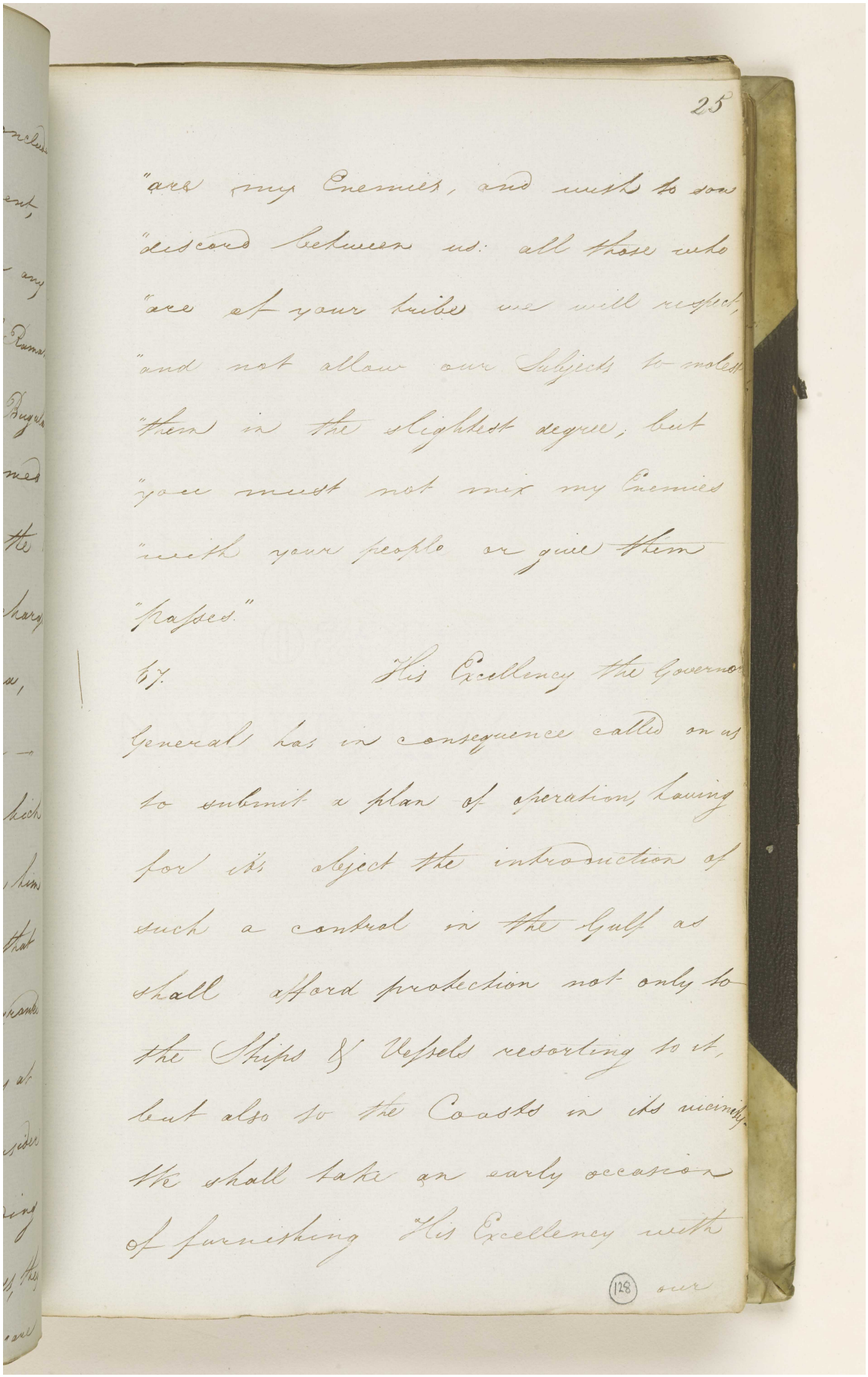
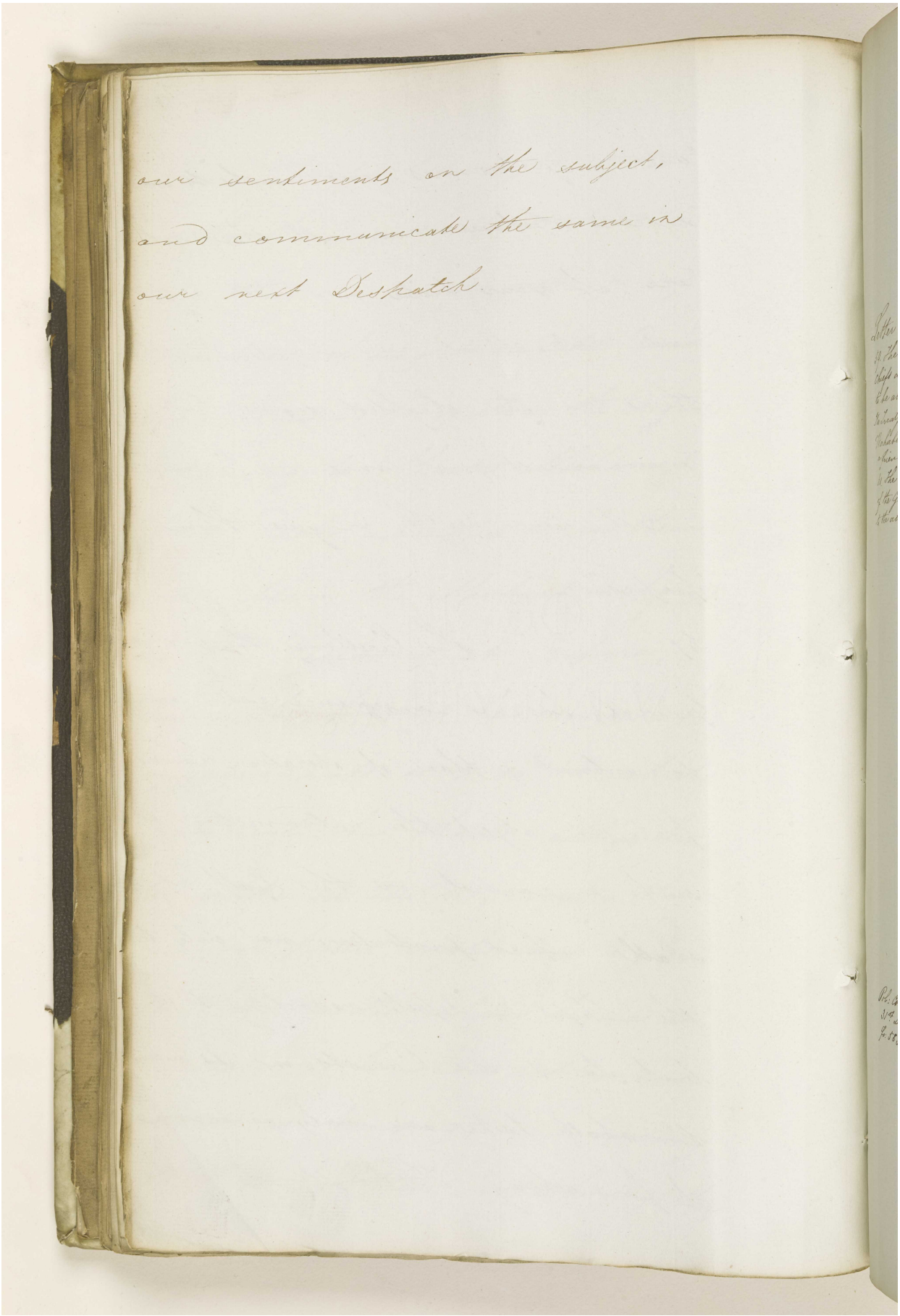


25

"are my Enemies, and wish to sow
"discord between us: all those who
"are of your tribe we will respect,
"and not allow our Subjects to molest
"them in the slightest degree, but
"you must not mix my Enemies
"with your people or give them
"shapes."

67. His Excellency the Governor General has in consequence called on us to submit a plan of operation, having for its object the introduction of such a control in the Gulf as shall afford protection not only to the Ships & Vessels resorting to it, but also to the Coasts in its vicinity. We shall take an early occasion of furnishing His Excellency with

128 our



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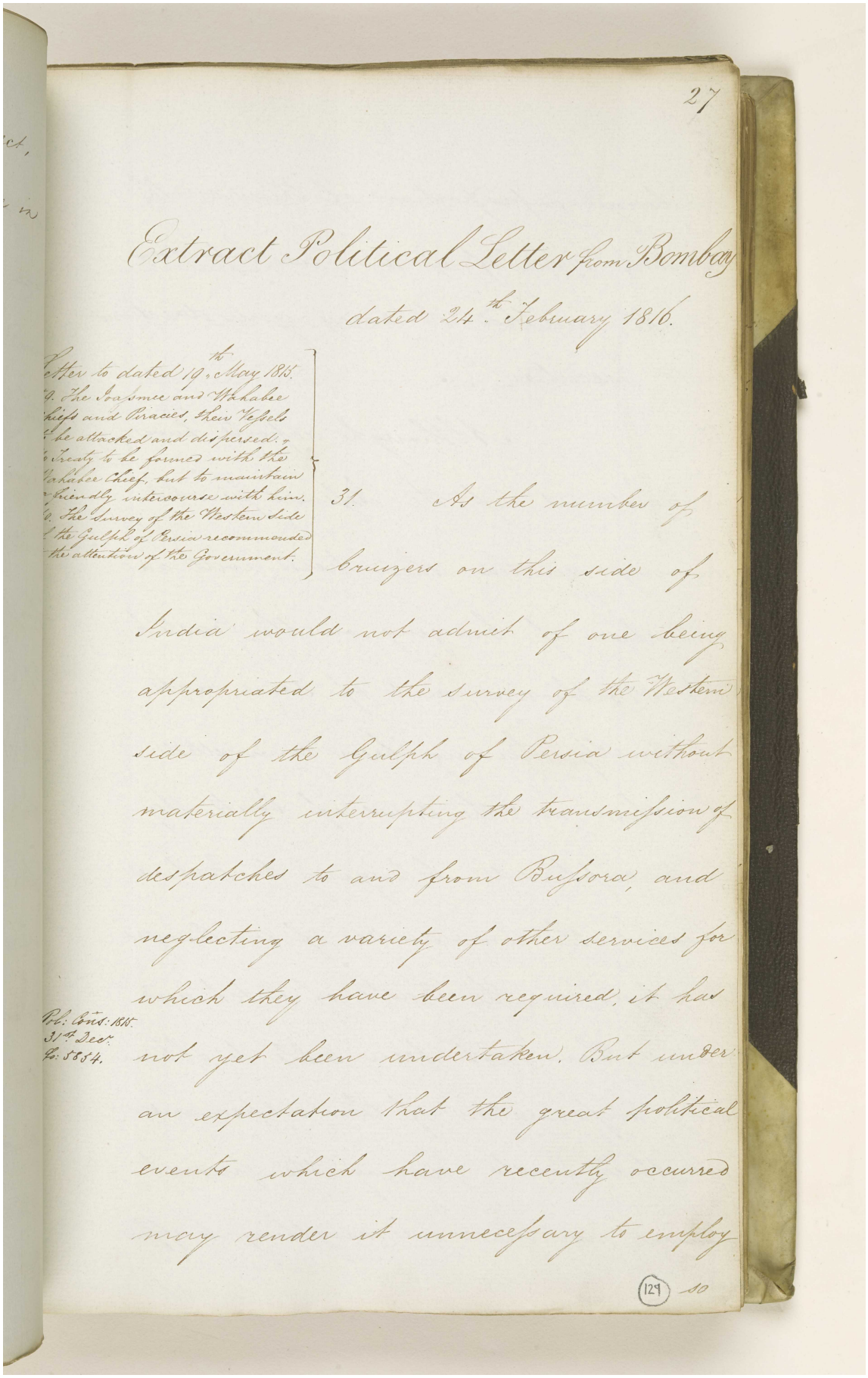

27

Extract Political Letter from Bombay dated 24th. February 1816.

Letter to dated 19th. May 1815.
9. The Joasmee and Wahabee Chiefs and Piracies, their Vessels to be attacked and dispersed.
10. Treaty to be formed with the Wahabee Chief, but to maintain friendly intercourse with him.
11. The Survey of the Western side of the Gulph of Persia recommended the attention of the Government.

31. As the number of cruizers on this side of India would not admit of one being appropriated to the survey of the Western side of the Gulph of Persia without materially interrupting the transmission of despatches to and from Bussora, and neglecting a variety of other services for which they have been required, it has not yet been undertaken. But under an expectation that the great political events which have recently occurred may render it unnecessary to employ

Pol: Cons: 1815. 31st Dec. No: 5854.

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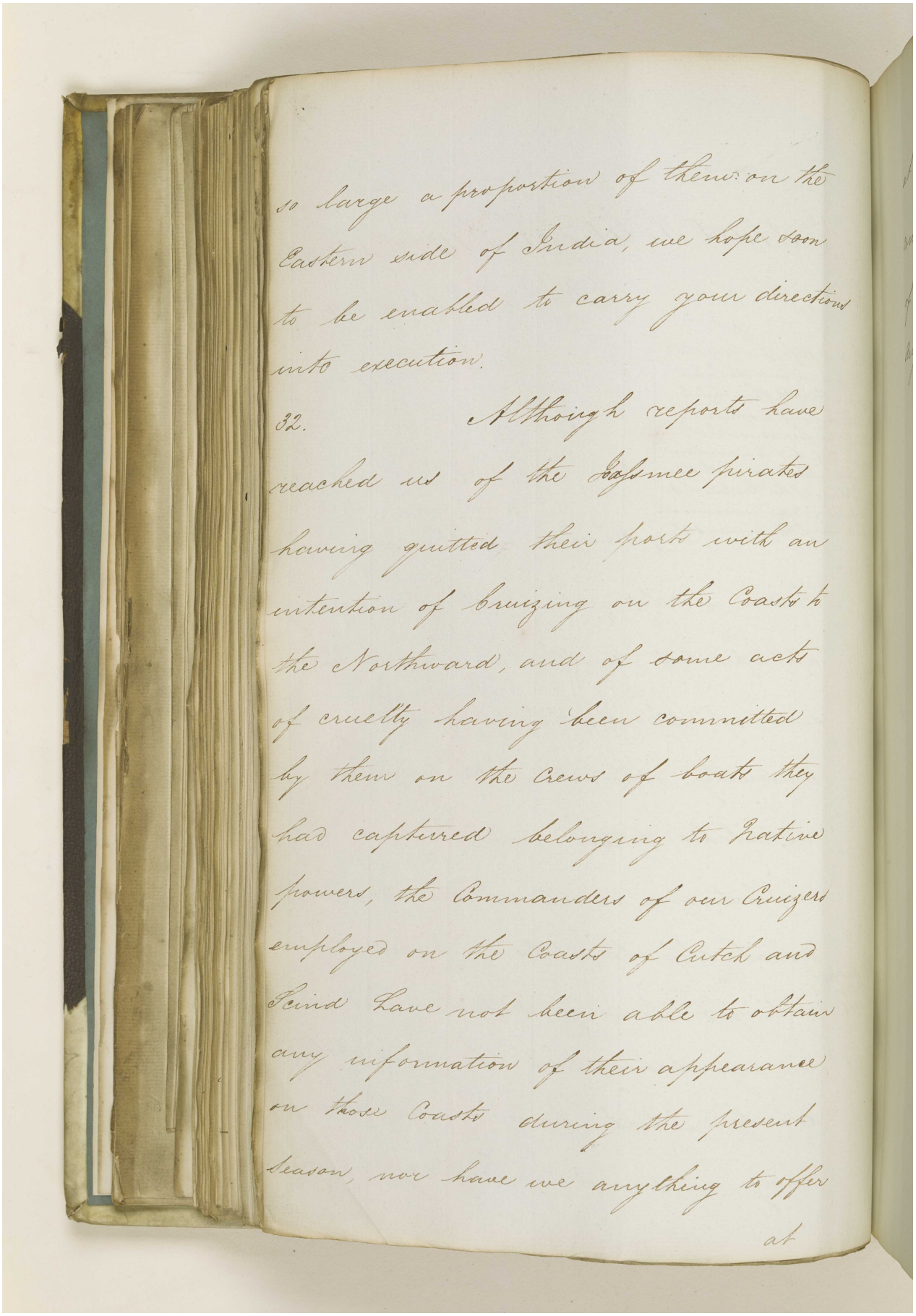
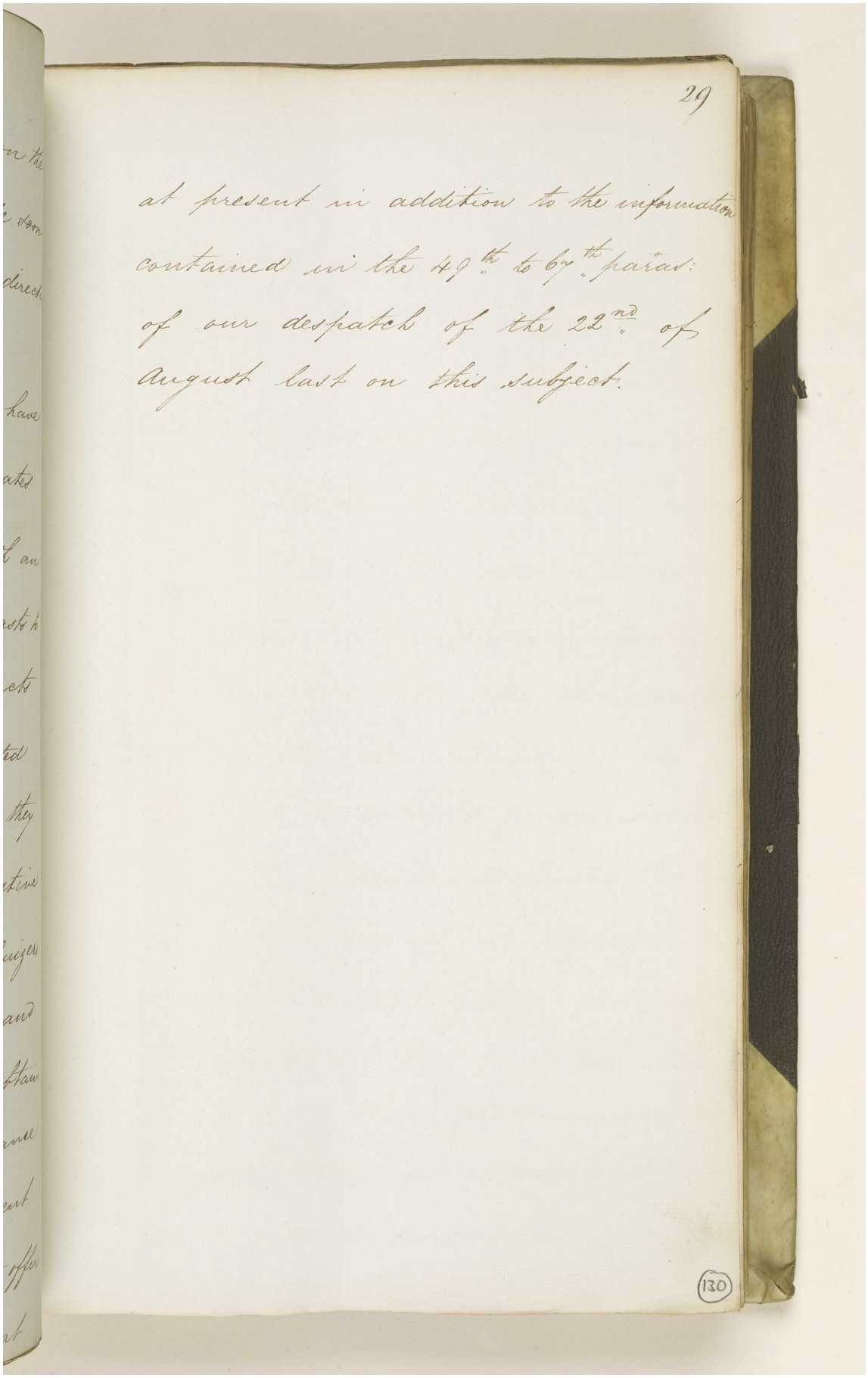


so large a proportion of them on the Eastern side of India, we hope soon to be enabled to carry your directions into execution.

32. Although reports have reached us of the Joasmee pirates having quitted their ports with an intention of cruizing on the Coasts to the Northward, and of some acts of cruelty having been committed by them on the Crews of boats they had captured belonging to Native powers, the Commanders of our Cruizers employed on the Coasts of Cutch and Scind have not been able to obtain any information of their appearance on those Coasts during the present season, nor have we anything to offer

at



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at present in addition to the information contained in the 49th to 67th parad: of our despatch of the 22nd. of August last on this subject.

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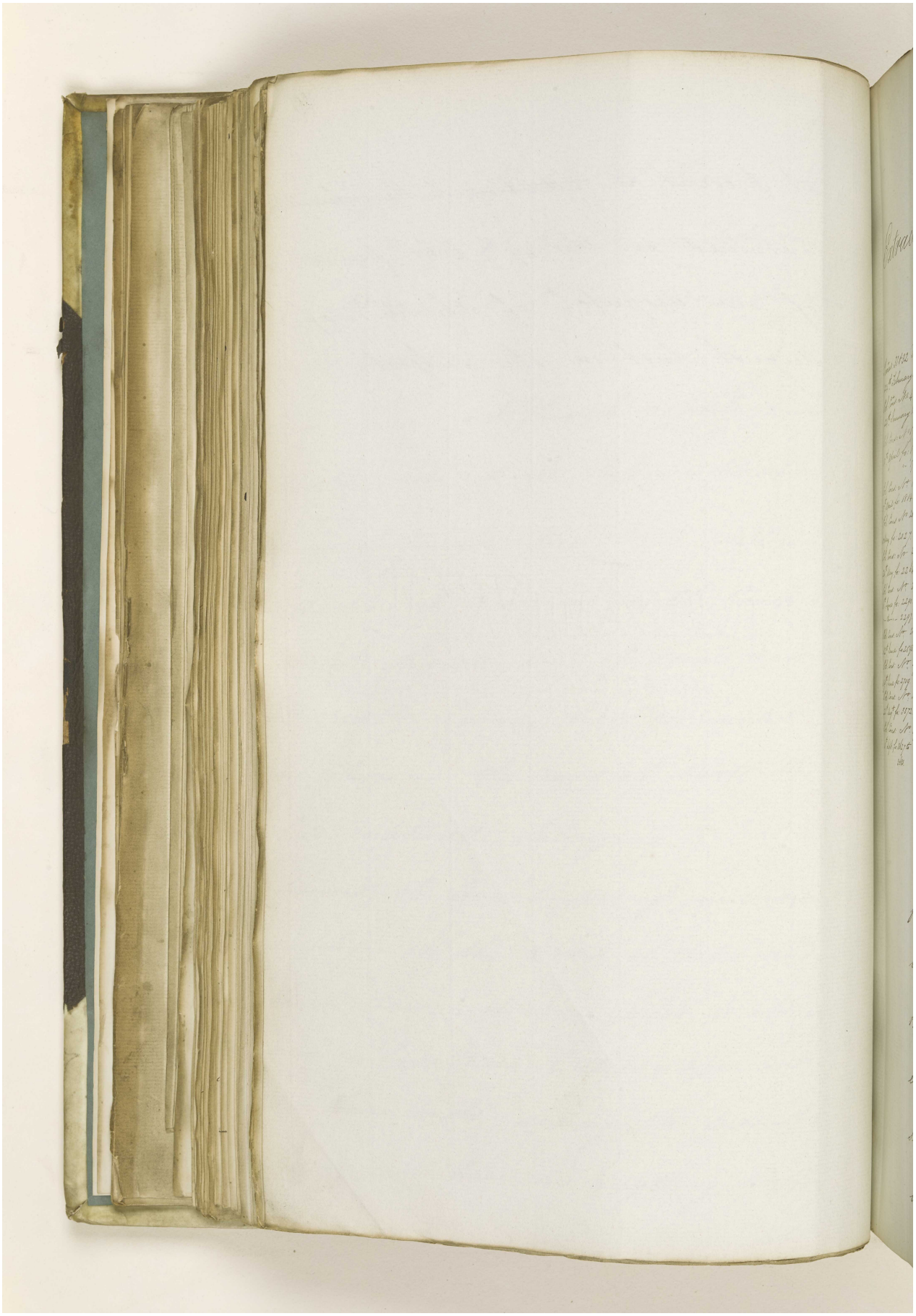

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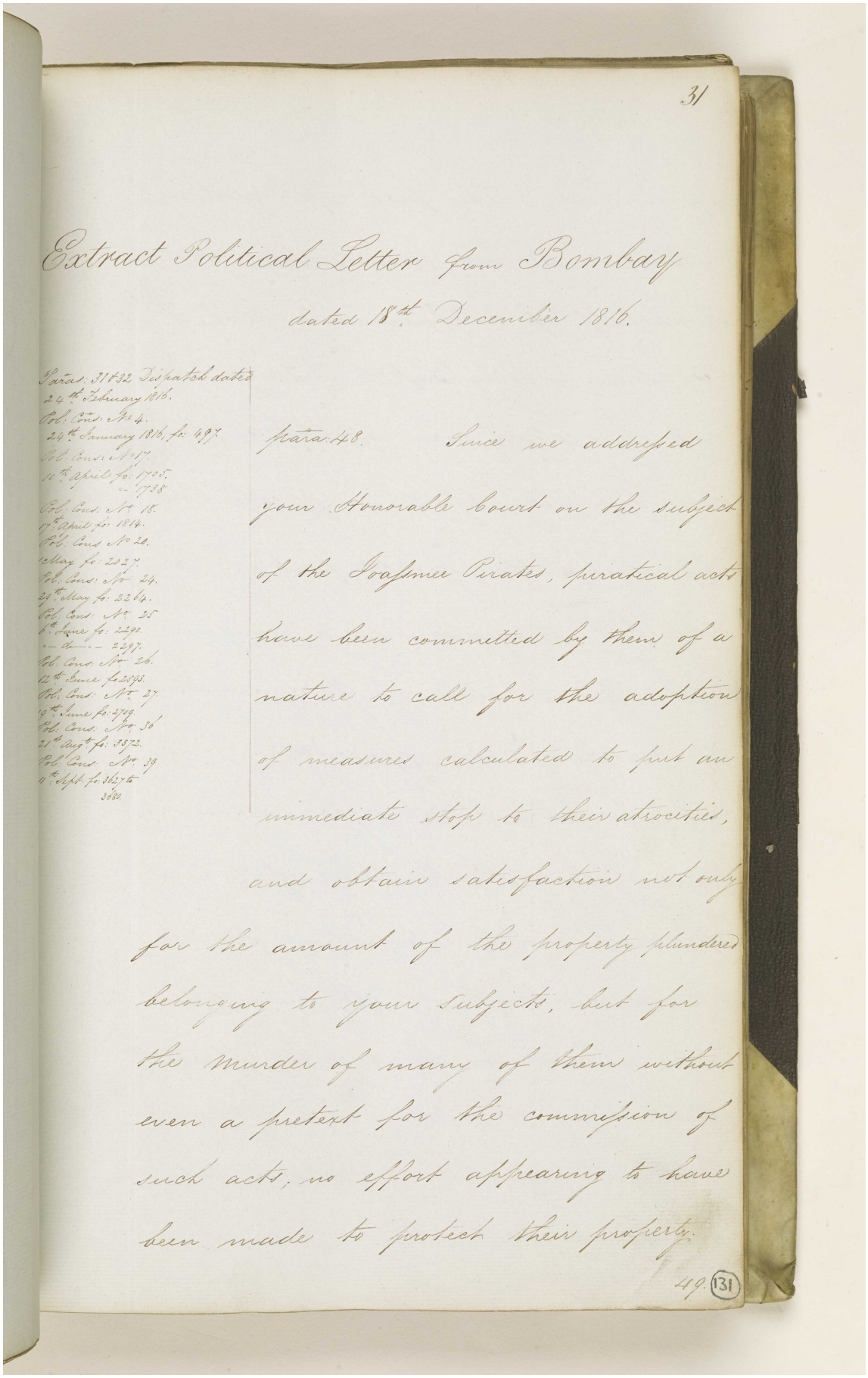


31

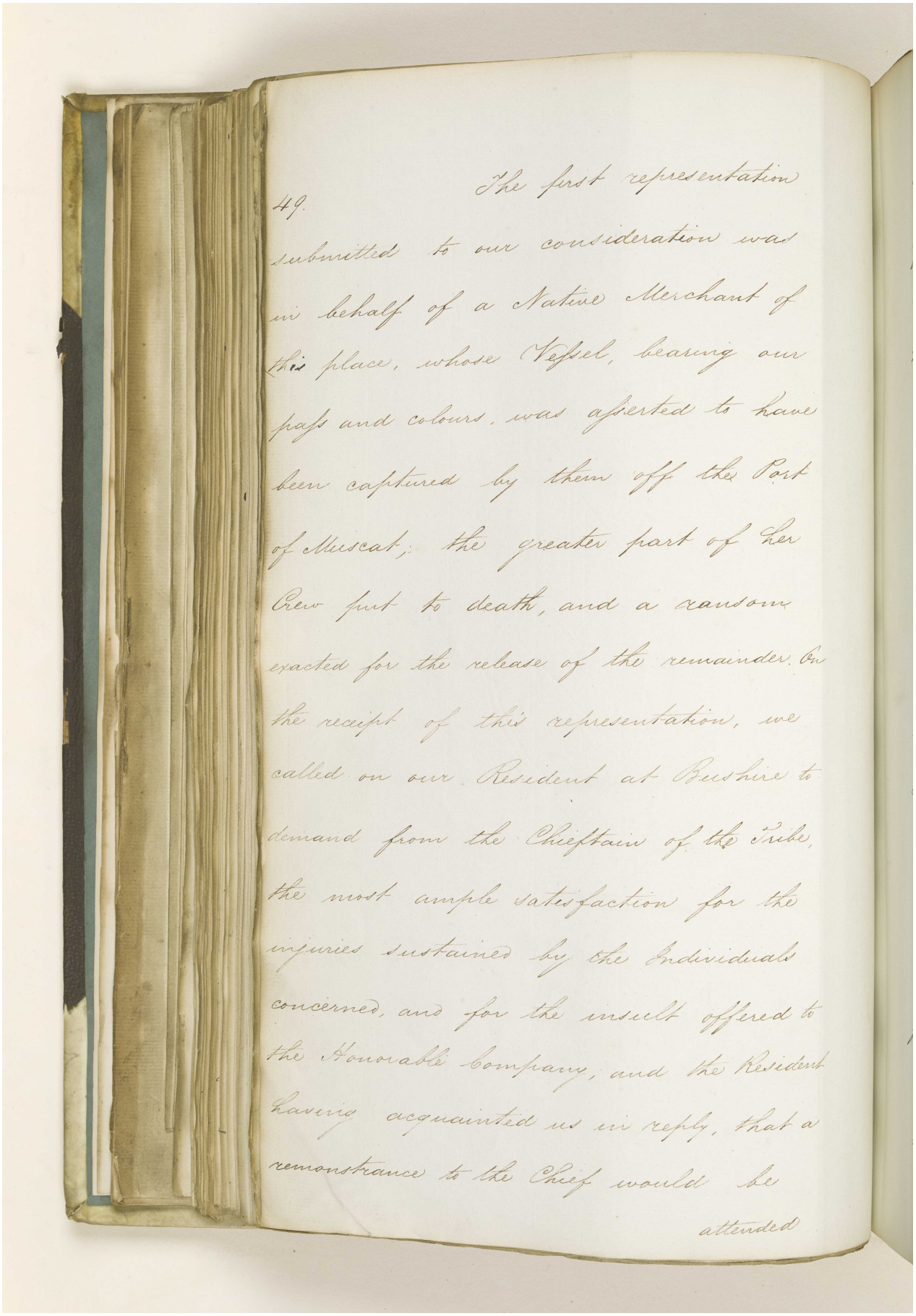
Extract Political Letter from Bombay

dated 18th December 1816.

Paras. 31 & 32 Dispatch dated 24th February 1816.
Pol. Cons. No 4.
24th January 1816, fo. 497
Pol. Cons. No 17.
10th April, fo. 1705.
" " 1738
Pol. Cons. No 18.
17th April, fo. 1814.
Pol. Cons No 20.
1st May fo. 2227.
Pol. Cons. No 24.
29th May fo. 2264.
Pol. Cons. No 25
6th June fo. 2290.
" do " 2297.
Pol Cons. No 26.
12th June fo. 2503.
Pol. Cons. No 27.
19th June fo. 2769.
Pol. Cons. No 36
21st Augt fo. 3572.
Pol. Cons. No 39
11th Sept. fo. 3627 to 3681.

para. 48. Since we addressed your Honorable Court on the subject of the Joasmee Pirates, piratical acts have been committed by them of a nature to call for the adoption of measures calculated to put an immediate stop to their atrocities, and obtain satisfaction not only for the amount of the property plundered belonging to your subjects, but for the murder of many of them without even a pretext for the commission of such acts, no effort appearing to have been made to protect their property.

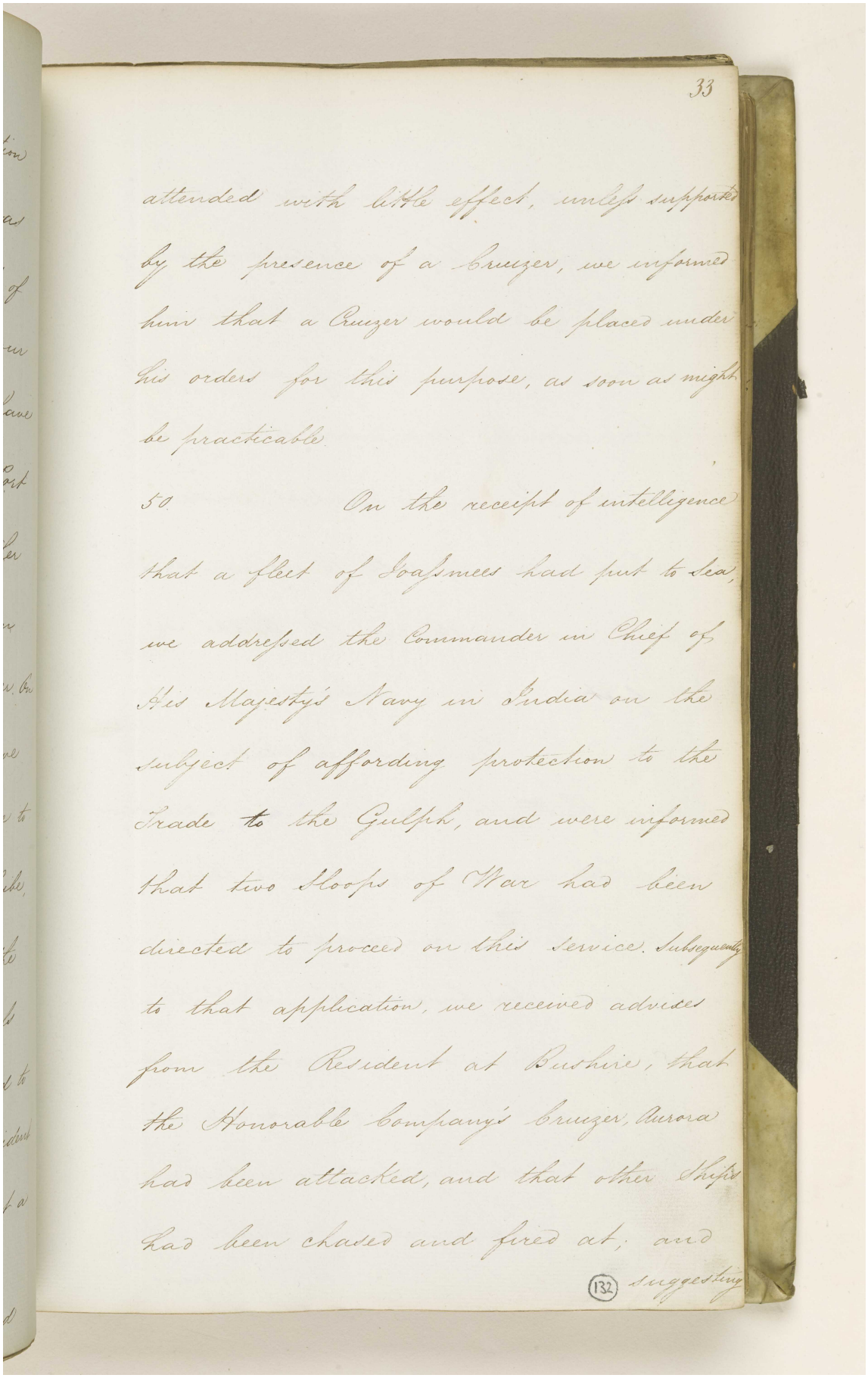
49 (131)



49.

The first representation submitted to our consideration was in behalf of a Native Merchant of this place, whose Vessel, bearing our pass and colours, was asserted to have been captured by them off the Port of Muscat; the greater part of her Crew put to death, and a ransom exacted for the release of the remainder. On the receipt of this representation, we called on our Resident at Bushire to demand from the Chieftain of the Tribe, the most ample satisfaction for the injuries sustained by the Individuals concerned, and for the insult offered to the Honorable Company, and the Resident having acquainted us in reply, that a remonstrance to the Chief would be

attended



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attended with little effect, unless supported by the presence of a Cruizer, we informed him that a Cruizer would be placed under his orders for this purpose, as soon as might be practicable.

50 On the receipt of intelligence that a fleet of Joasmees had put to sea, we addressed the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Navy in India on the subject of affording protection to the Trade to the Gulph, and were informed that two Sloops of War had been directed to proceed on this service. Subsequently to that application, we received advices from the Resident at Bushire, that the Honorable Company's Cruizer, Aurora had been attacked, and that other Ships had been chased and fired at; and

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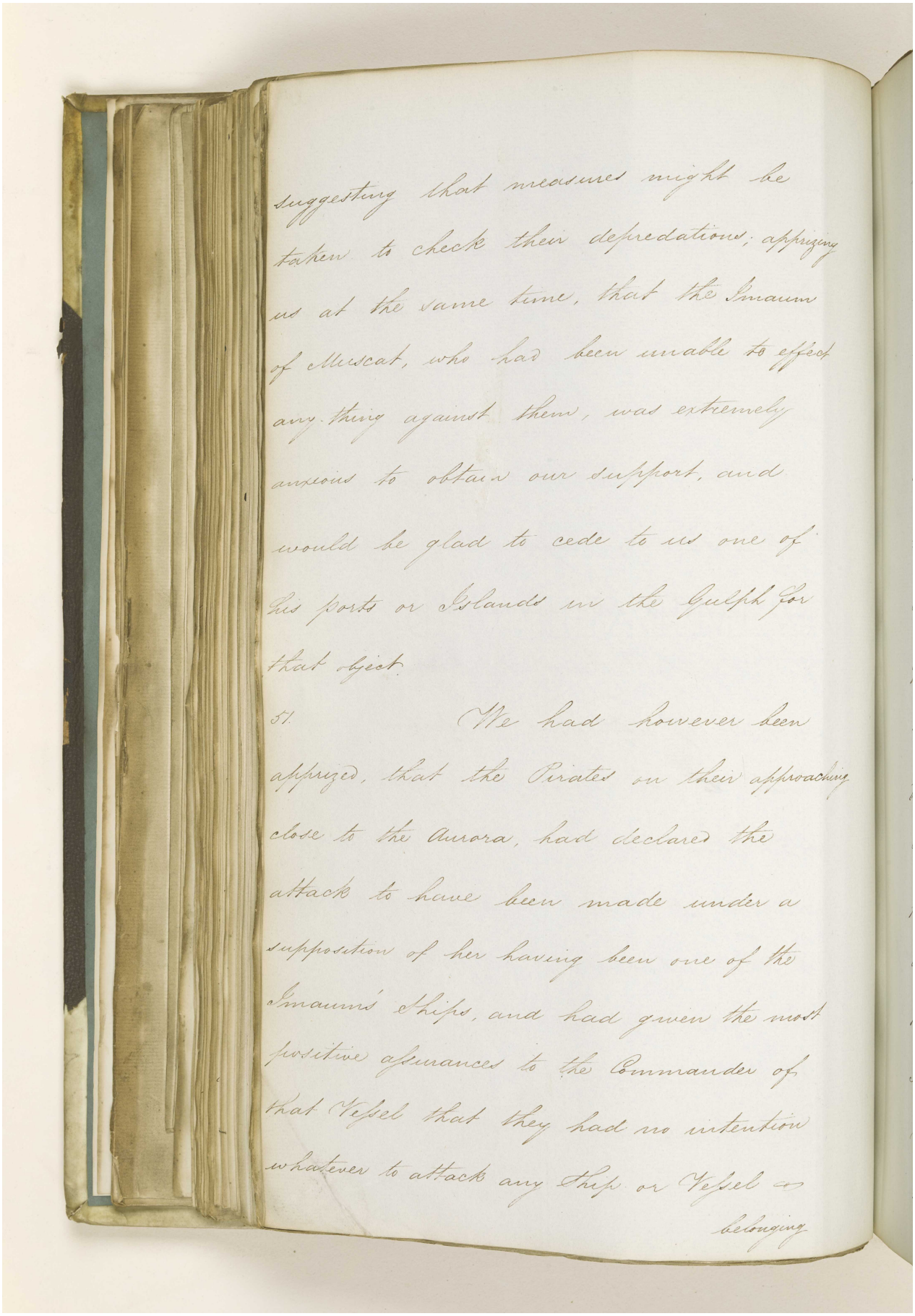
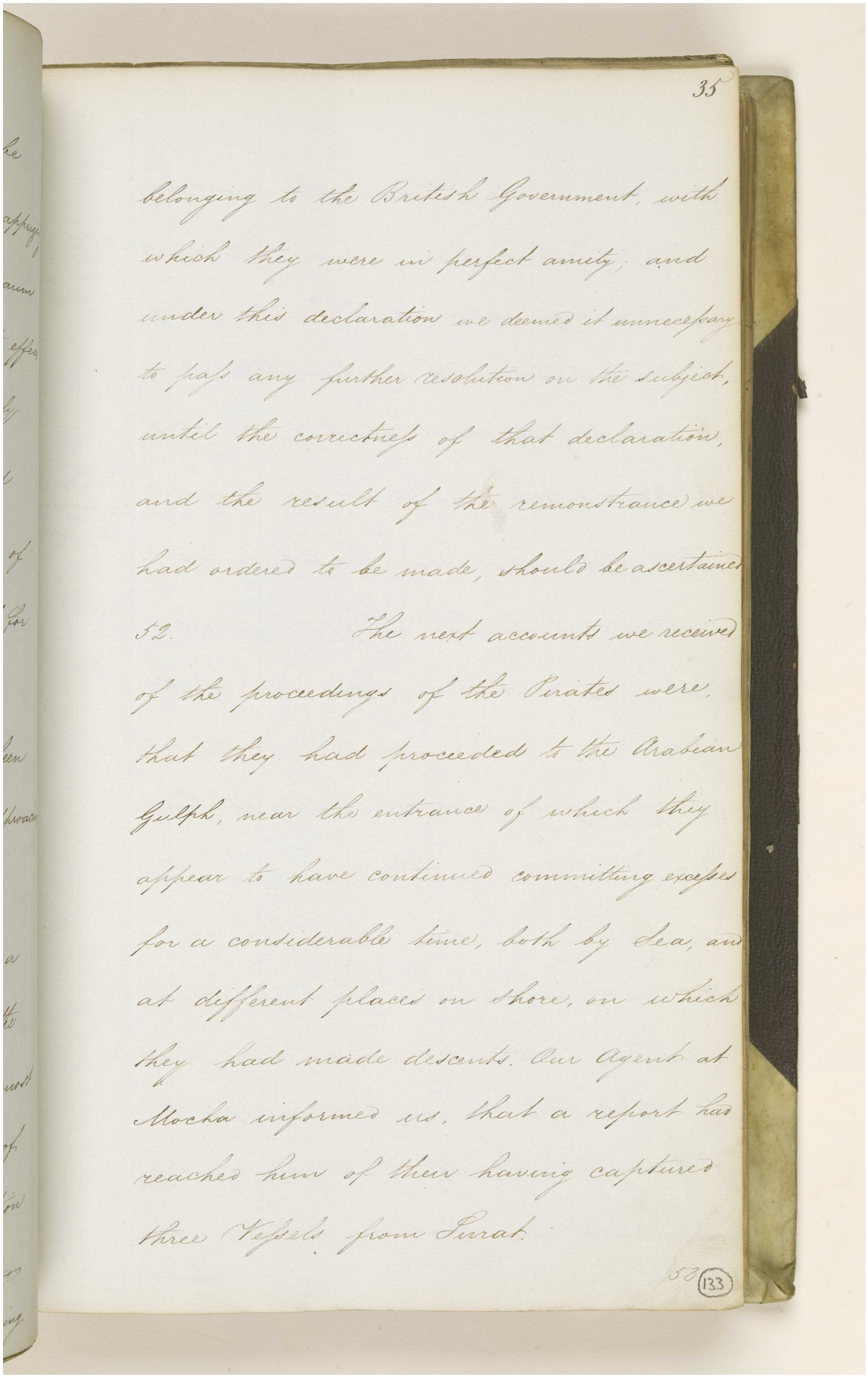


suggesting that measures might be
taken to check their depredations; apprizing
us at the same time, that the Imaum
of Muscat, who had been unable to effect
any thing against them, was extremely
anxious to obtain our support, and
would be glad to cede to us one of
his ports or Islands in the Gulph for
that object.

51. We had however been
apprized, that the Pirates on their approaching
close to the Aurora, had declared the
attack to have been made under a
supposition of her having been one of the
Imaum's ships, and had given the most
positive assurances to the Commander of
that Vessel that they had no intention
whatever to attack any Ship or Vessel
belonging



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belonging to the British Government, with which they were in perfect amity, and under this declaration we deemed it unnecessary to pass any further resolution on the subject, until the correctness of that declaration, and the result of the remonstrance we had ordered to be made, should be ascertained.

52. The next accounts we received of the proceedings of the Pirates were, that they had proceeded to the Arabian Gulph, near the entrance of which they appear to have continued committing excesses for a considerable time, both by Sea, and at different places on shore, on which they had made descents. Our Agent at Mocha informed us, that a report had reached him of their having captured three Vessels from Surat.

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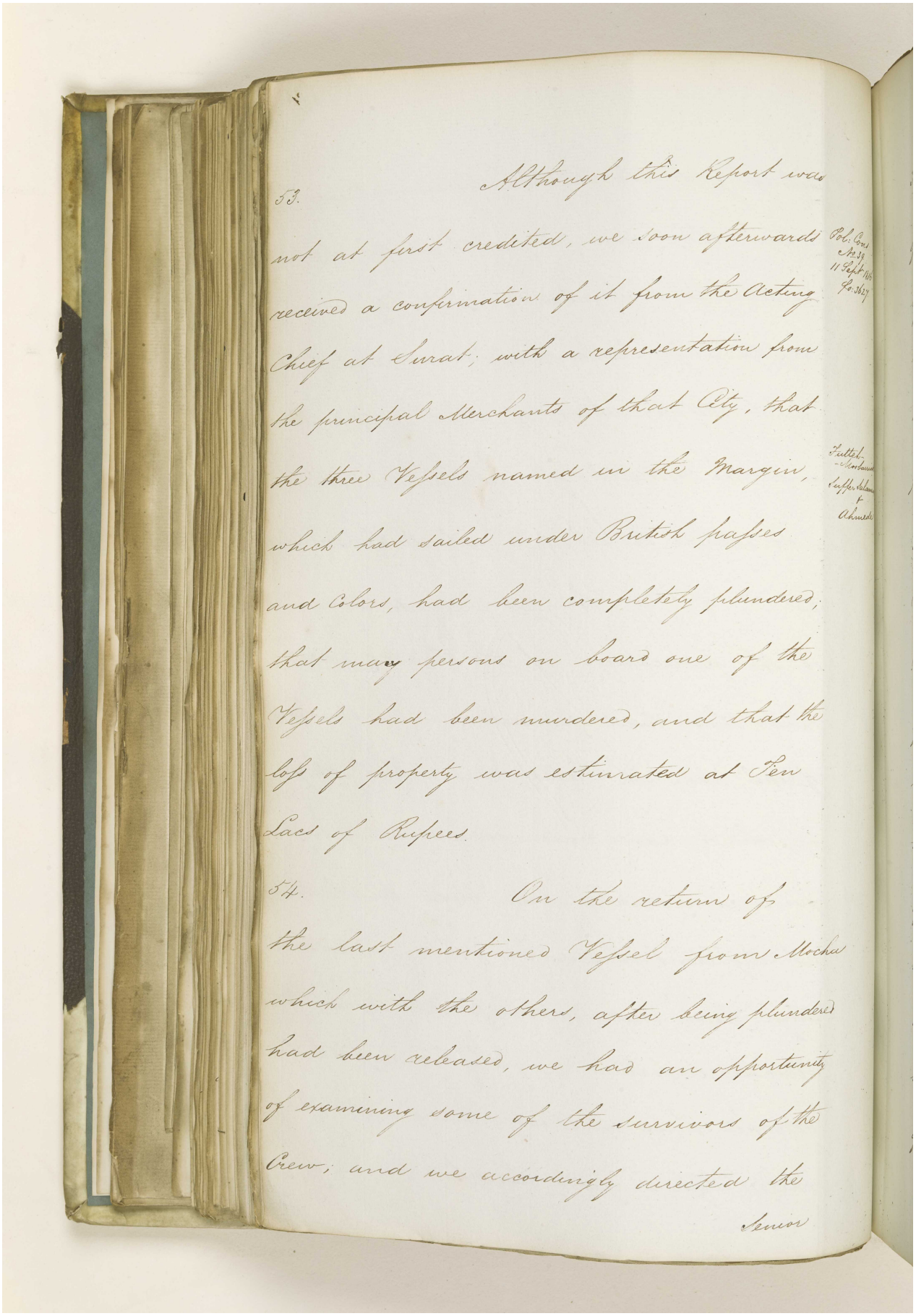


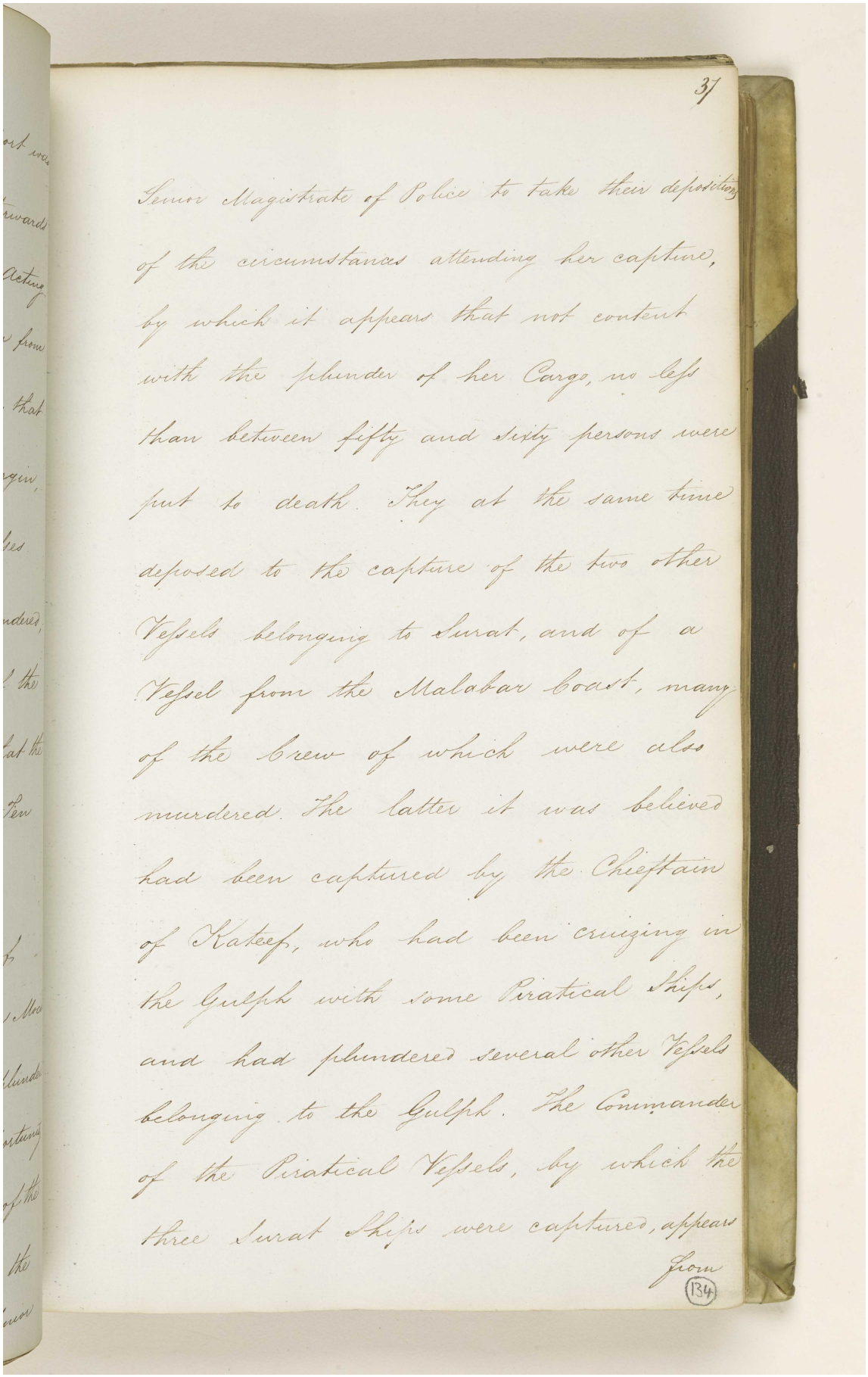
53. Although this Report was not at first credited, we soon afterwards received a confirmation of it from the Acting Chief at Surat; with a representation from the principal Merchants of that City, that the three Vessels named in the Margin, which had sailed under British passes and Colors, had been completely plundered; that many persons on board one of the Vessels had been murdered, and that the loss of property was estimated at Ten Lacs of Rupees.

Pol: Cons No 39 11 Sept 1816 Po: 3627

Futteh-Moobarrick Suffer Salamee & Ahmede

54. On the return of the last mentioned Vessel from Mocha which with the others, after being plundered had been released, we had an opportunity of examining some of the survivors of the Crew; and we accordingly directed the

Senior



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Senior Magistrate of Police to take their depositions
of the circumstances attending her capture,
by which it appears that not content
with the plunder of her Cargo, no less
than between fifty and sixty persons were
put to death. They at the same time
deposed to the capture of the two other
Vessels belonging to Surat, and of a
Vessel from the Malabar coast, many
of the Crew of which were also
murdered. The latter it was believed
had been captured by the Chieftain
of Kateef, who had been cruizing in
the Gulph with some Piratical Ships,
and had plundered several other Vessels
belonging to the Gulph. The Commander
of the Piratical Vessels, by which the
three Surat Ships were captured, appears
from

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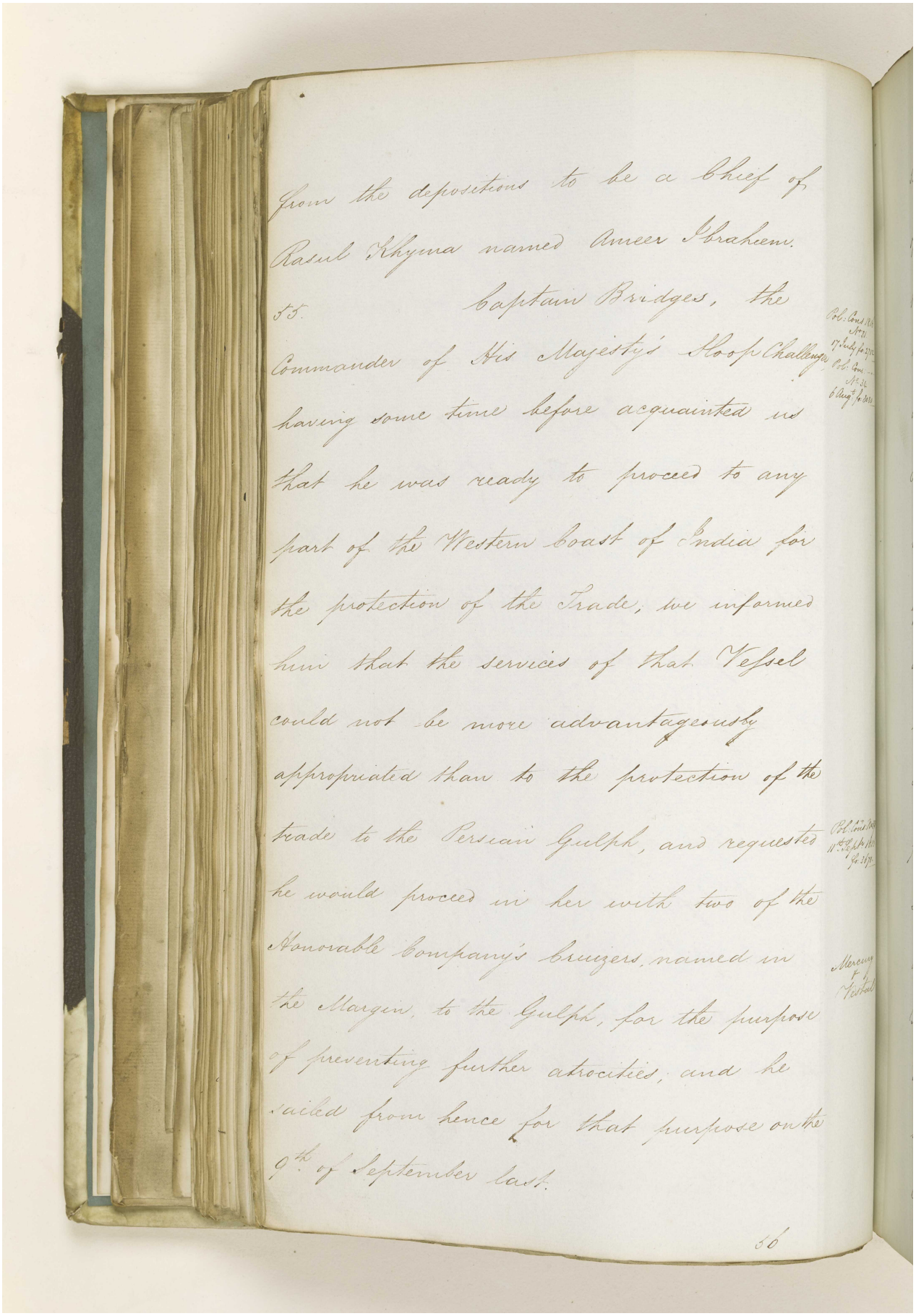

from the depositions to be a Chief of
Rasul Khyma named Ameer Ibraheem.

55. Captain Bridges, the
Commander of His Majesty's Sloop Challenger
having some time before acquainted us
that he was ready to proceed to any
part of the Western Coast of India for
the protection of the Trade, we informed
him that the services of that Vessel
could not be more advantageously
appropriated than to the protection of the
trade to the Persian Gulph, and requested
he would proceed in her with two of the
Honorable Company's Bruzers, named in
the Margin, to the Gulph, for the purpose
of preventing further atrocities, and he
sailed from hence for that purpose on the
9th of September last.

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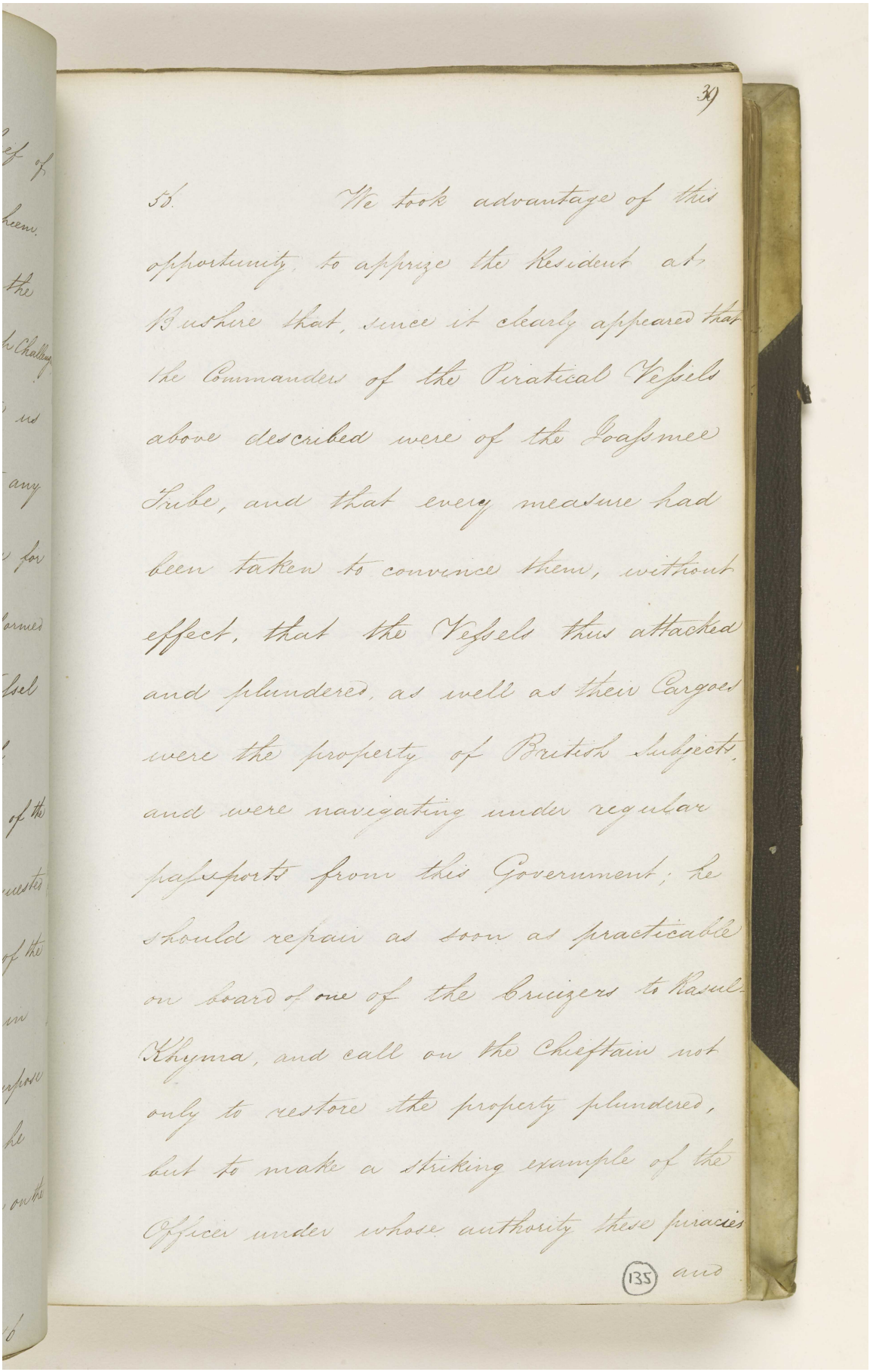

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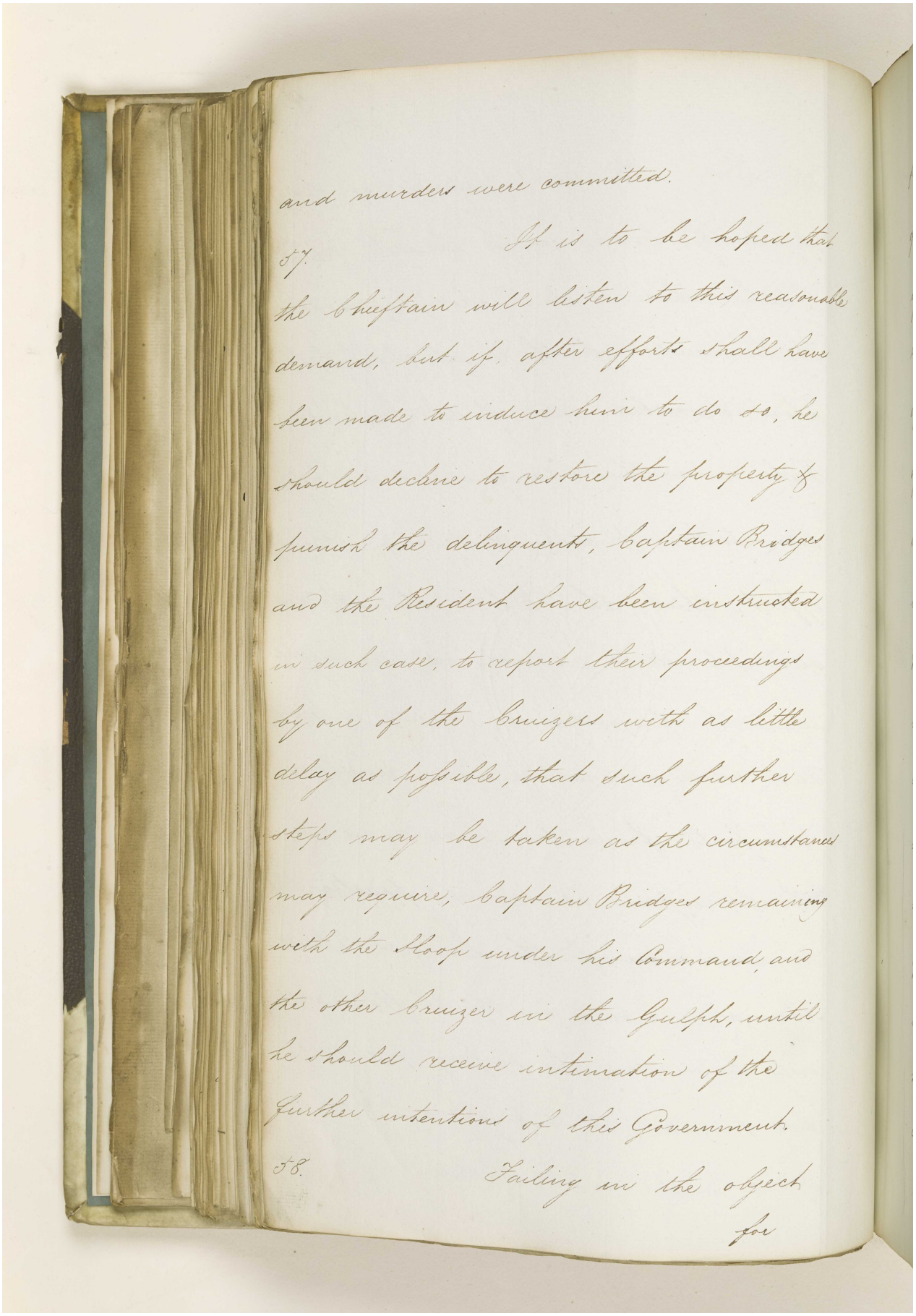
55. We took advantage of this opportunity to apprize the Resident at Bushire that, since it clearly appeared that the Commanders of the Piratical Vessels above described were of the Joasmee Tribe, and that every measure had been taken to convince them, without effect, that the Vessels thus attacked and plundered, as well as their Cargoes were the property of British Subjects, and were navigating under regular passports from this Government; he should repair as soon as practicable on board of one of the Cruizers to Rasul Khyma, and call on the Chieftain not only to restore the property plundered, but to make a striking example of the Officer under whose authority these piracies

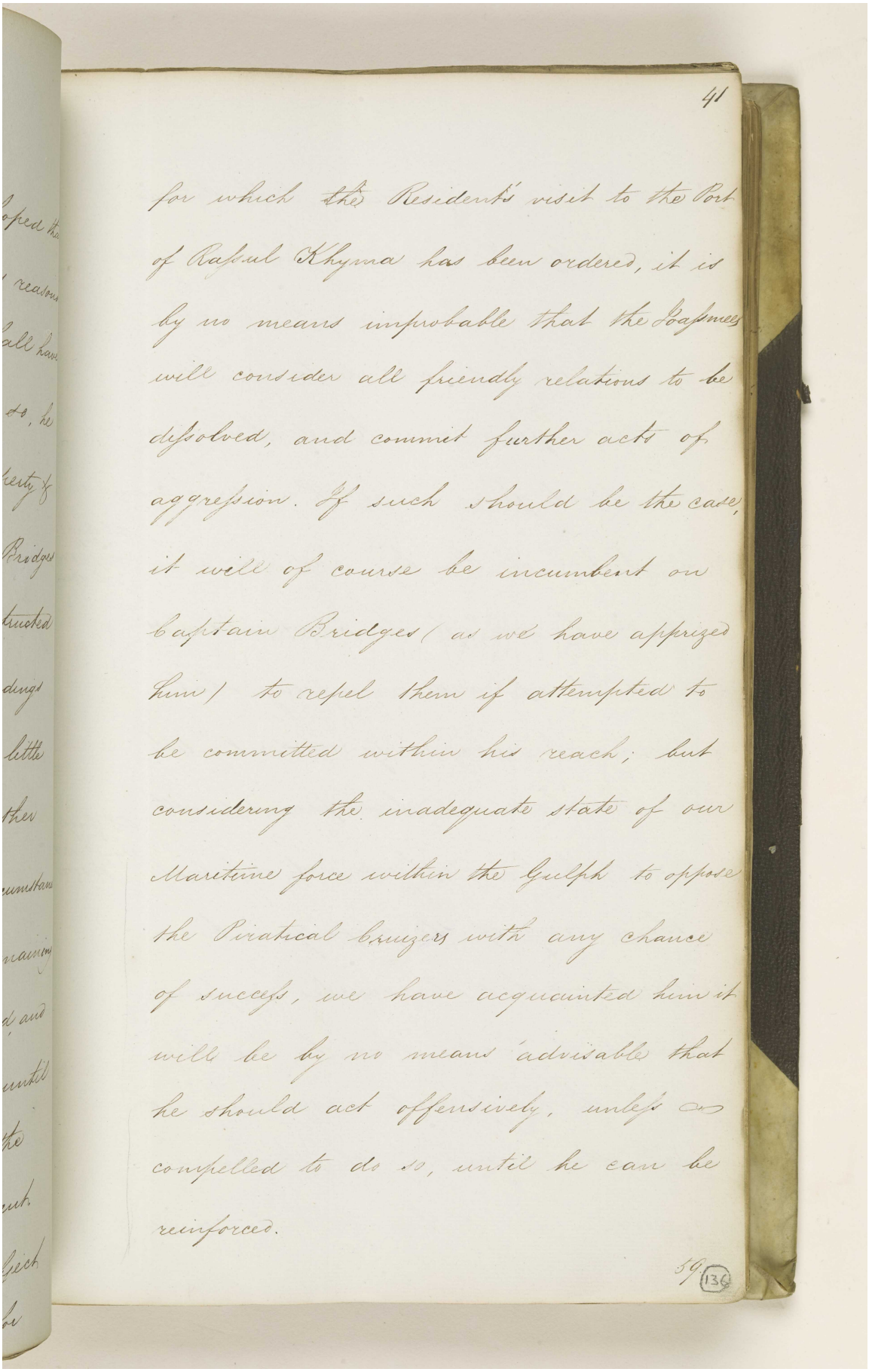
(135) and



and murders were committed.

57. It is to be hoped that the Chieftain will listen to this reasonable demand, but if after efforts shall have been made to induce him to do so, he should decline to restore the property & punish the delinquents, Captain Bridges and the Resident have been instructed in such case, to report their proceedings by one of the Cruizers with as little delay as possible, that such further steps may be taken as the circumstances may require, Captain Bridges remaining with the Sloop under his Command, and the other Cruizer in the Gulph, until he should receive intimation of the further intentions of this Government.

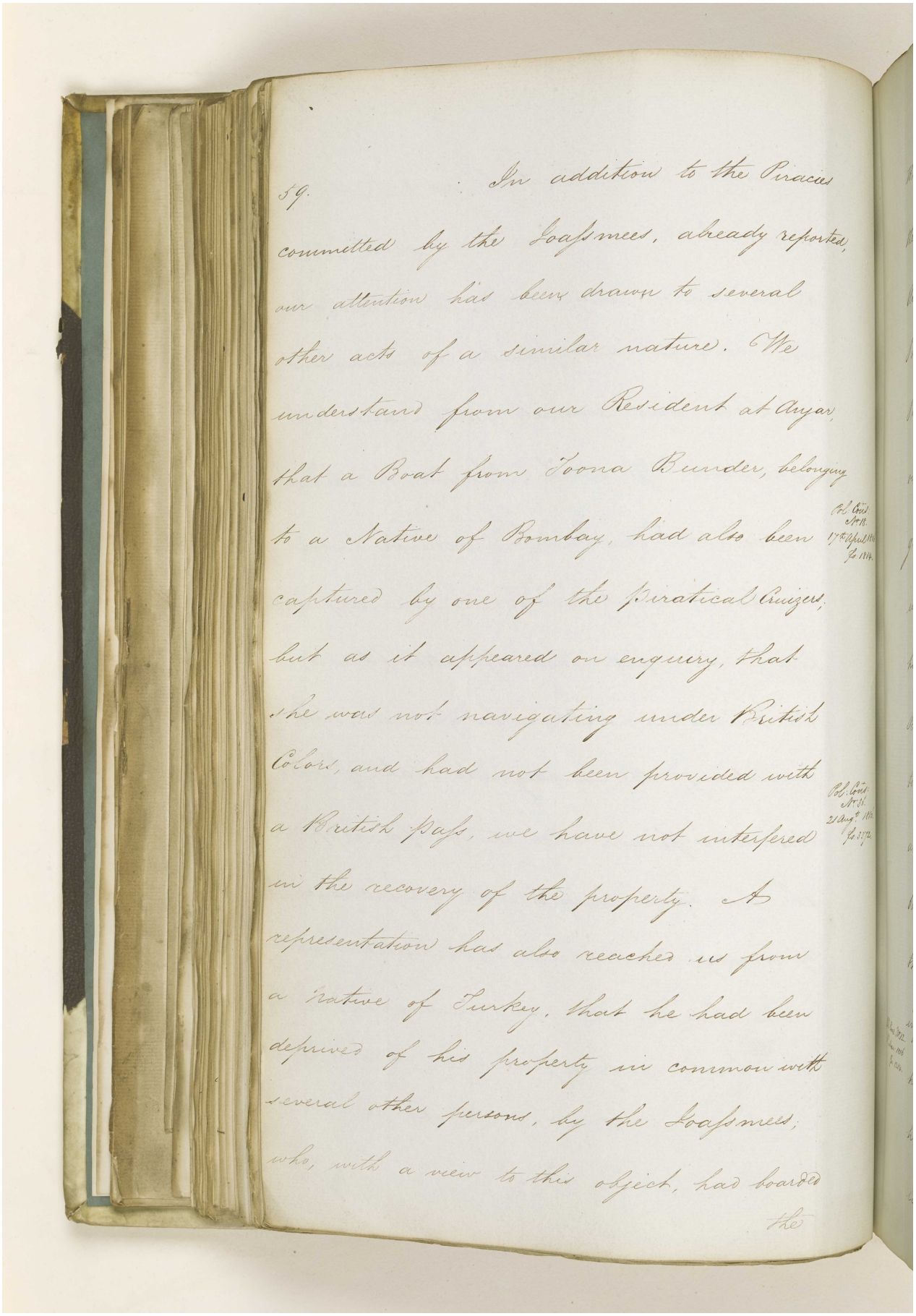
58. Failing in the object for



41

for which the Resident's visit to the Port of Rasul Khyma has been ordered, it is by no means improbable that the Joasmees will consider all friendly relations to be dissolved, and commit further acts of aggression. If such should be the case, it will of course be incumbent on Captain Bridges (as we have apprized him) to repel them if attempted to be committed within his reach; but considering the inadequate state of our Maritime force within the Gulph to oppose the Piratical buggers with any chance of success, we have acquainted him it will be by no means advisable that he should act offensively, unless compelled to do so, until he can be reinforced.

59 (136)



59. In addition to the Piracies committed by the Joassmees, already reported, our attention has been drawn to several other acts of a similar nature. We understand from our Resident at Anjar, that a Boat from Toona Bunder, belonging to a Native of Bombay, had also been captured by one of the Piratical Cruizers, but as it appeared on enquiry, that she was not navigating under British Colors, and had not been provided with a British Pass, we have not interfered in the recovery of the property. A representation has also reached us from a Native of Turkey, that he had been deprived of his property in common with several other persons, by the Joassmees, who, with a view to this object, had boarded the

Pol: Cons: No. 18. 17th April 1814. Fo. 1814.

Pol: Cons: No. 36. 21 Augt. 1816. Fo. 3372.

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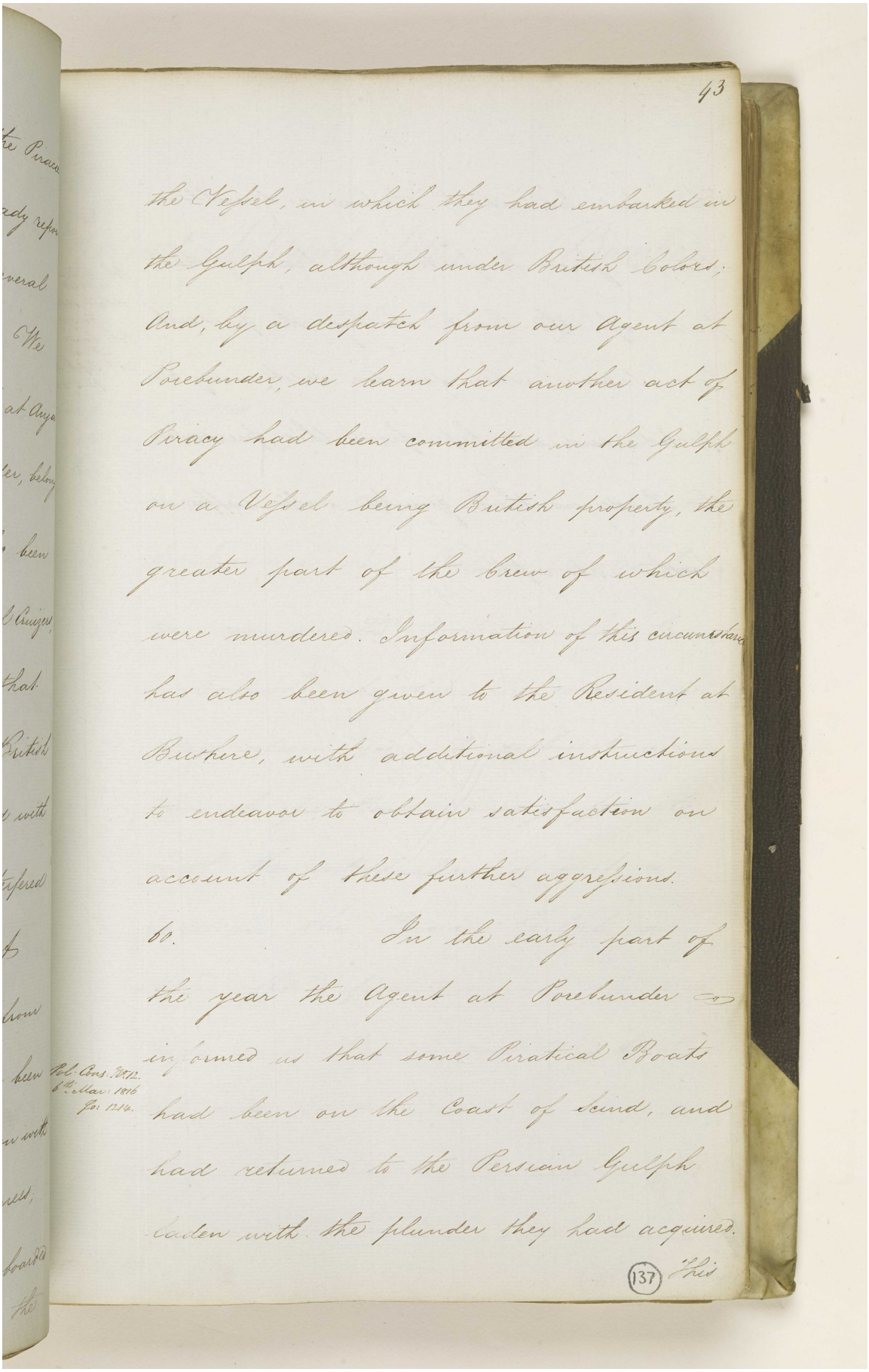

the Vessel, in which they had embarked in the Gulph, although under British Colors; And, by a despatch from our Agent at Porebunder, we learn that another act of Piracy had been committed in the Gulph on a Vessel being British property, the greater part of the Crew of which were murdered. Information of this circumstance has also been given to the Resident at Bushire, with additional instructions to endeavor to obtain satisfaction on account of these further aggressions.

60. In the early part of the year the Agent at Porebunder informed us that some Piratical Boats had been on the Coast of Scind, and had returned to the Persian Gulph laden with the plunder they had acquired.

Pol: Cons: No. 12. 6th Mar: 1816 Fo: 1214.

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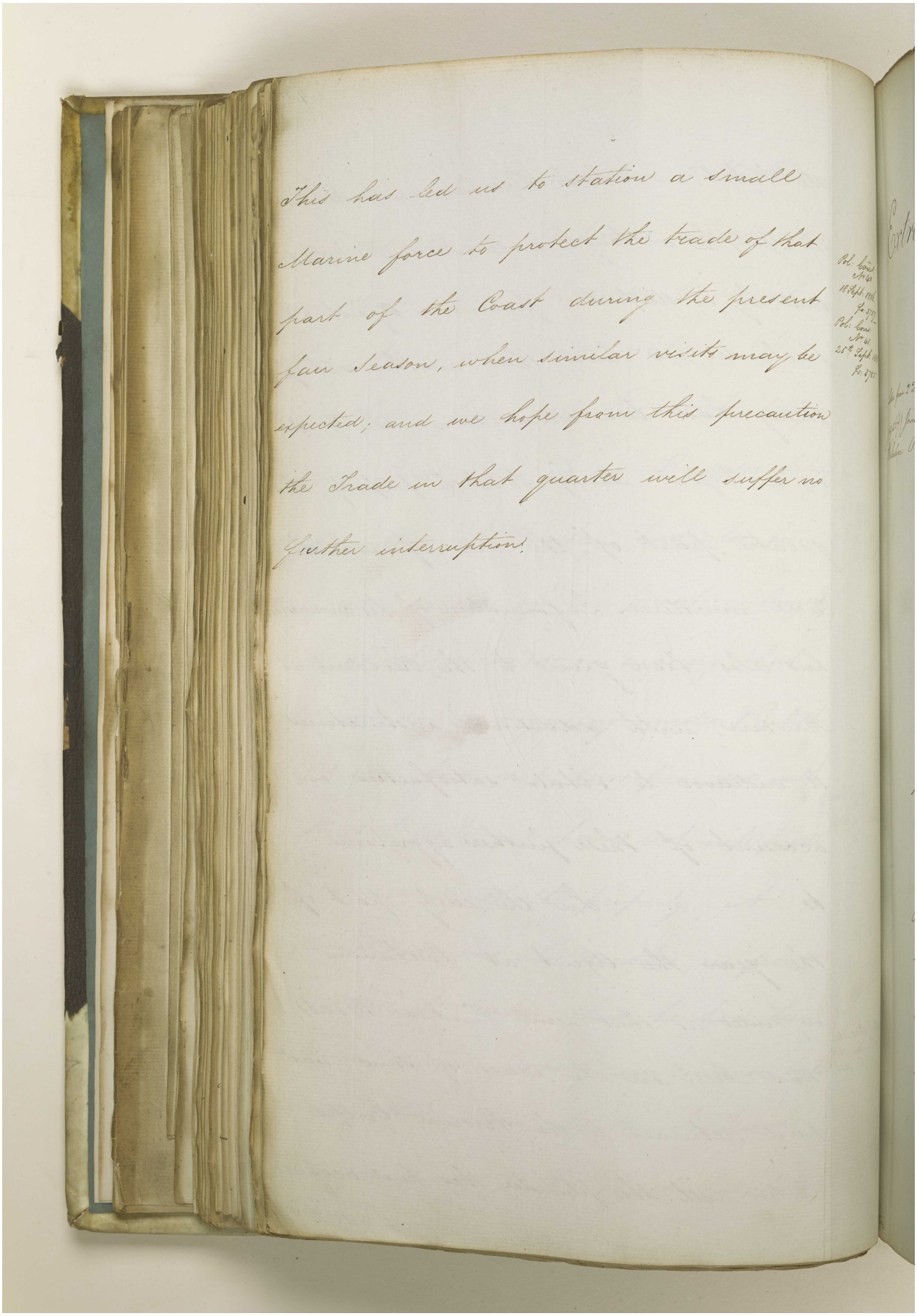

This has led us to station a small Marine force to protect the trade of that part of the Coast during the present fair Season, when similar visits may be expected; and we hope from this precaution the Trade in that quarter will suffer no further interruption.

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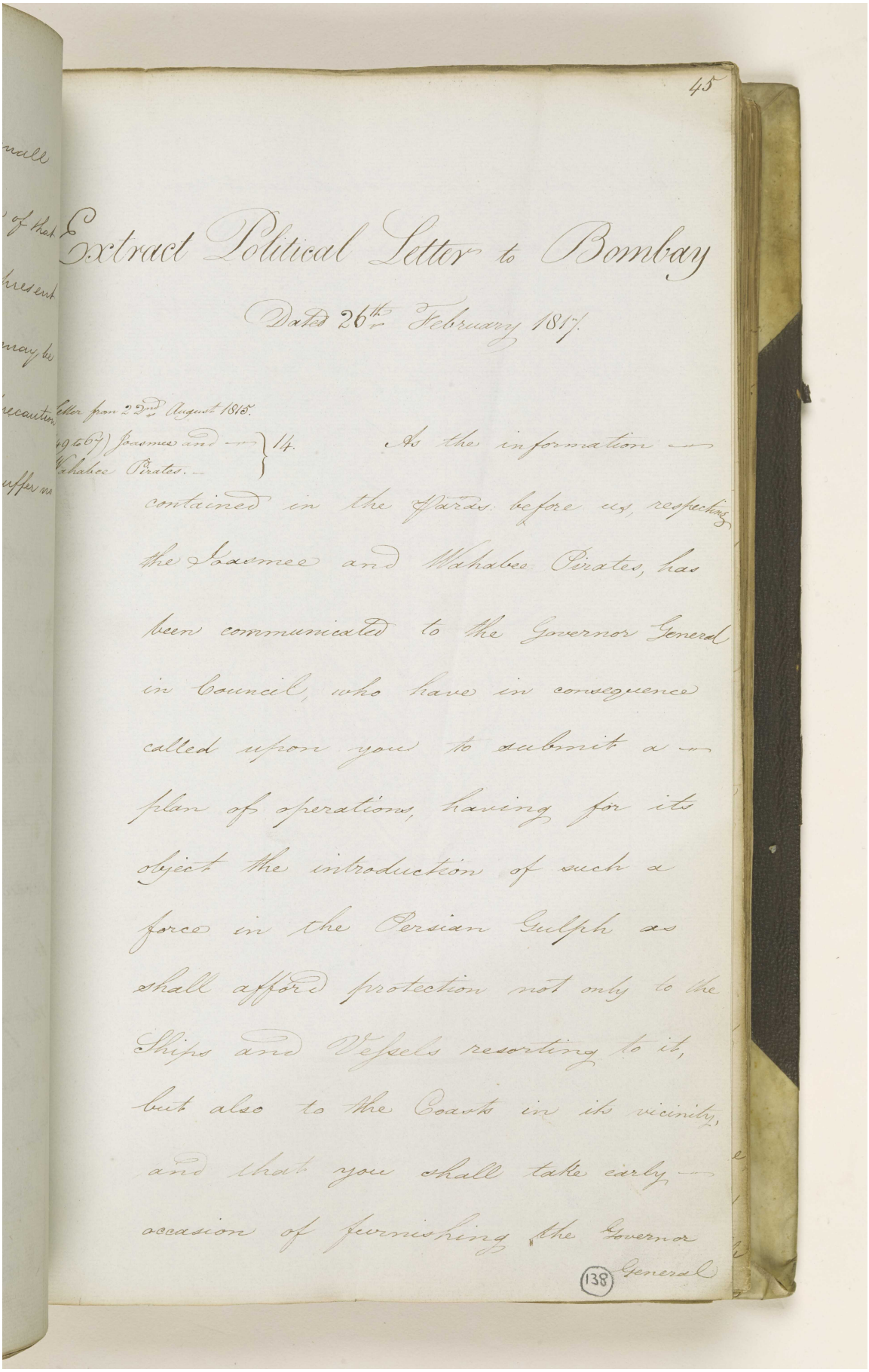

Extract Political Letter to Bombay

Dated 26th February 1817.

Letter from 22nd August 1815.
(49 to 67) Joasmee and Wahabee Pirates. } 14. As the information contained in the Paras. before us, respecting the Joasmee and Wahabee Pirates, has been communicated to the Governor General in Council, who have in consequence called upon you to submit a plan of operations, having for its object the introduction of such a force in the Persian Gulph as shall afford protection not only to the Ships and Vessels resorting to it, but also to the Coasts in its vicinity, and that you shall take early occasion of furnishing the Governor General

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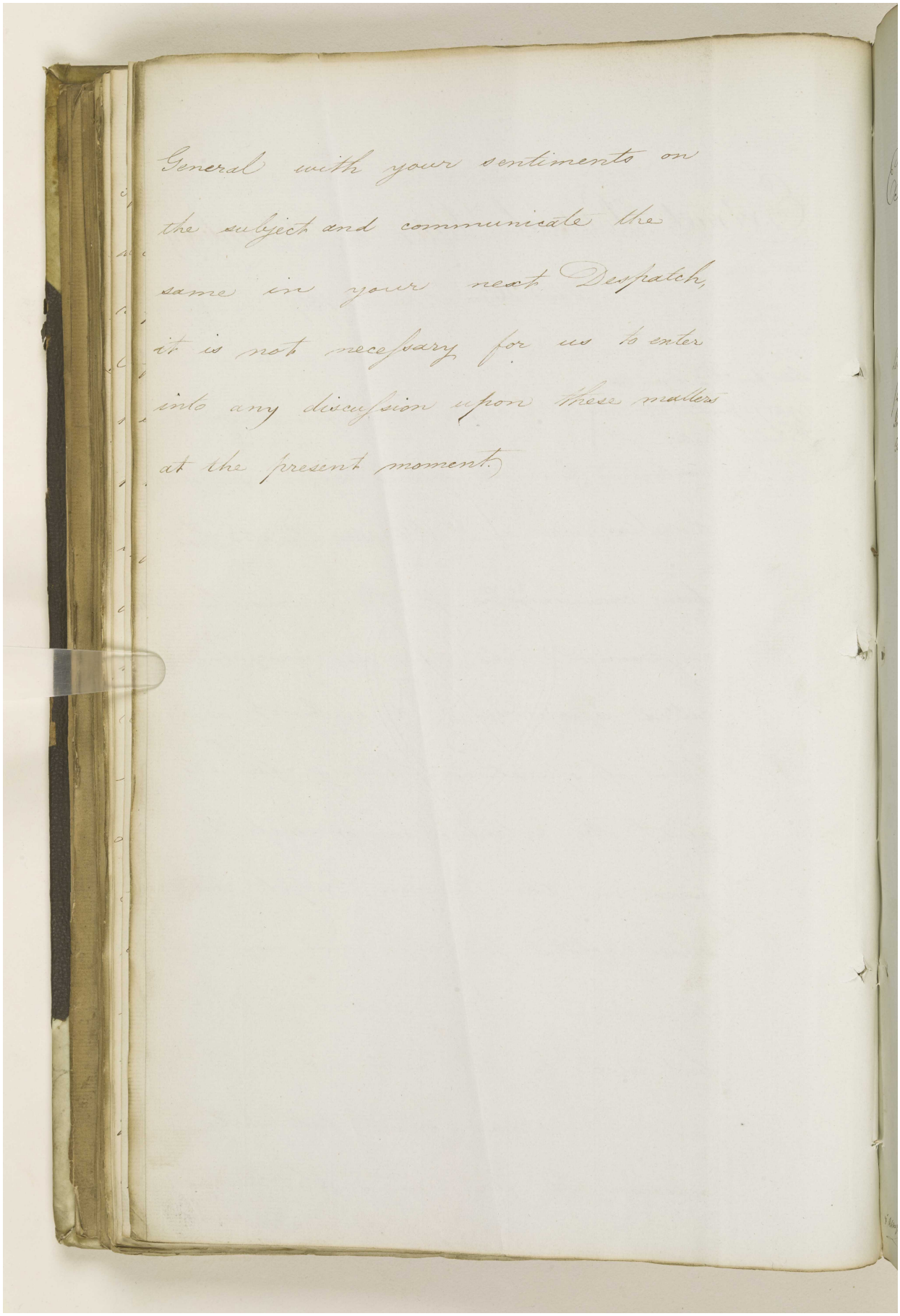

General with your sentiments on
the subject and communicate the
same in your next Despatch,
it is not necessary for us to enter
into any discussion upon these matters
at the present moment.

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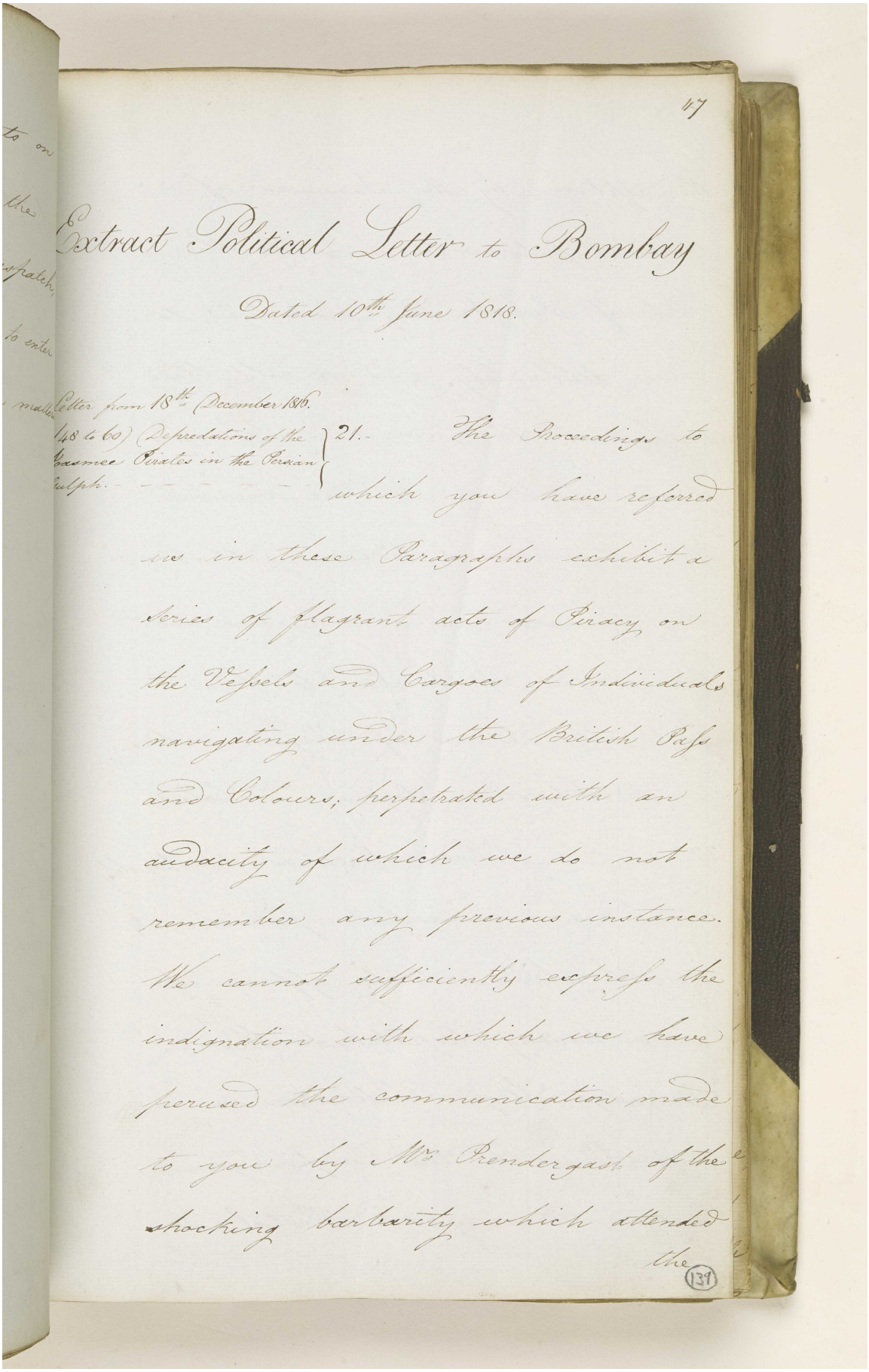

Extract Political Letter to Bombay

Dated 10th June 1818.

Letter from 18th December 1816.
(48 to 60) (Depredations of the Joasmee Pirates in the Persian Gulph.

21.- The Proceedings to which you have referred us in these Paragraphs exhibit a series of flagrant acts of Piracy on the Vessels and Cargoes of Individuals navigating under the British Pass and Colours; perpetrated with an audacity of which we do not remember any previous instance. We cannot sufficiently express the indignation with which we have perused the communication made to you by Mr Prendergast of the shocking barbarity which attended the

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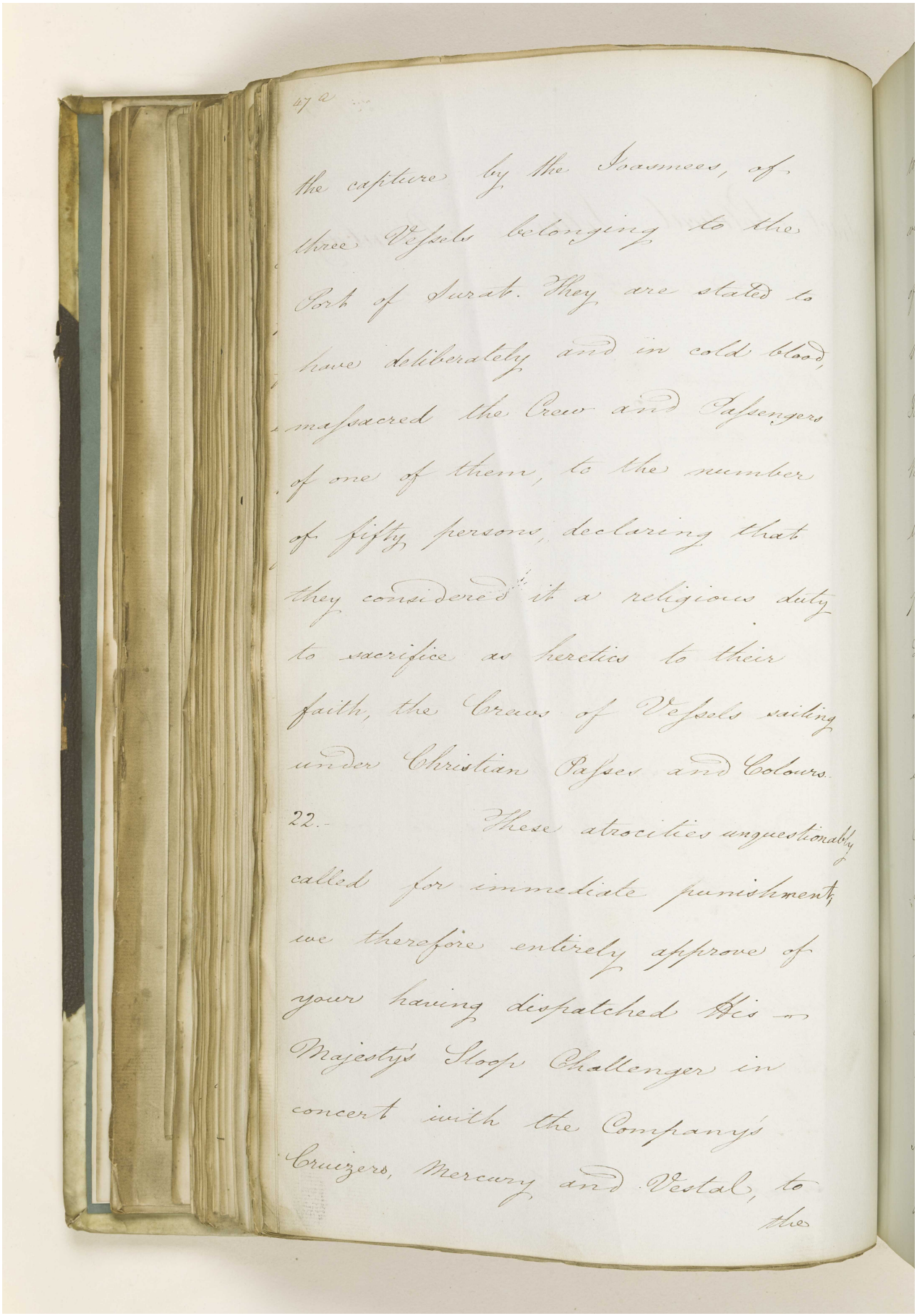

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the capture by the Joasmees, of three Vessels belonging to the Port of Surat. They are stated to have deliberately and in cold blood, massacred the Crew and Passengers of one of them, to the number of fifty persons, declaring that they considered it a religious duty to sacrifice as heretics to their faith, the Crews of Vessels sailing under Christian Passes and Colours.

22.- These atrocities unquestionably called for immediate punishment, we therefore entirely approve of your having dispatched His Majesty's Sloop Challenger in concert with the Company's Cruizers, Mercury and Vestal, to the

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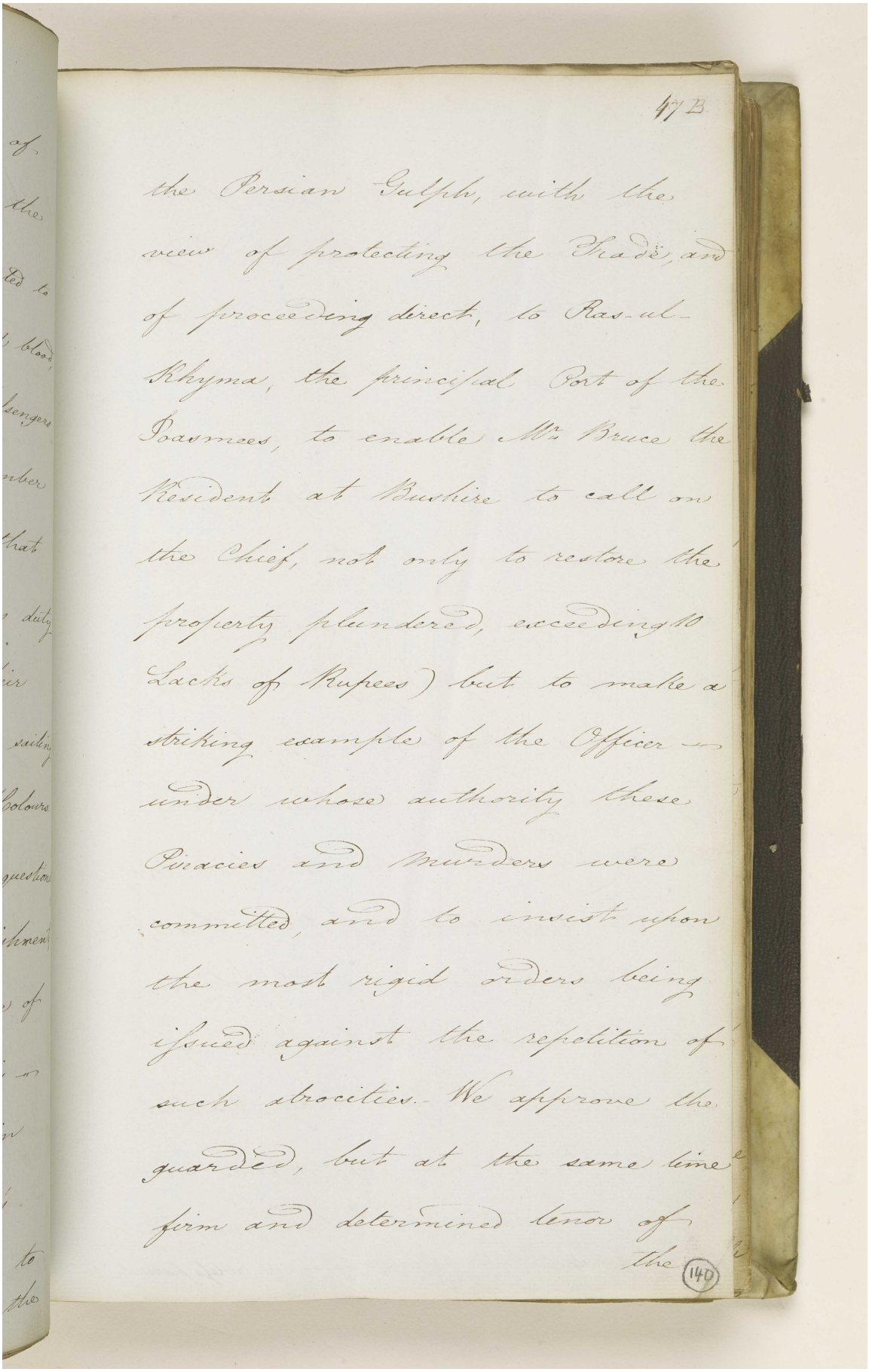

47 B.

the Persian Gulph, with the
view of protecting the Trade, and
of proceeding direct, to Ras-ul-
Khyma, the principal Port of the
Joasmees, to enable Mr. Bruce the
Resident at Bushire to call on
the Chief, not only to restore the
property plundered, exceeding 10
Lacks of Rupees) but to make a
striking example of the Officer
under whose authority these
Piracies and Murders were
committed, and to insist upon
the most rigid orders being
issued against the repetition of
such atrocities. We approve the
guarded, but at the same time
firm and determined tenor of
the

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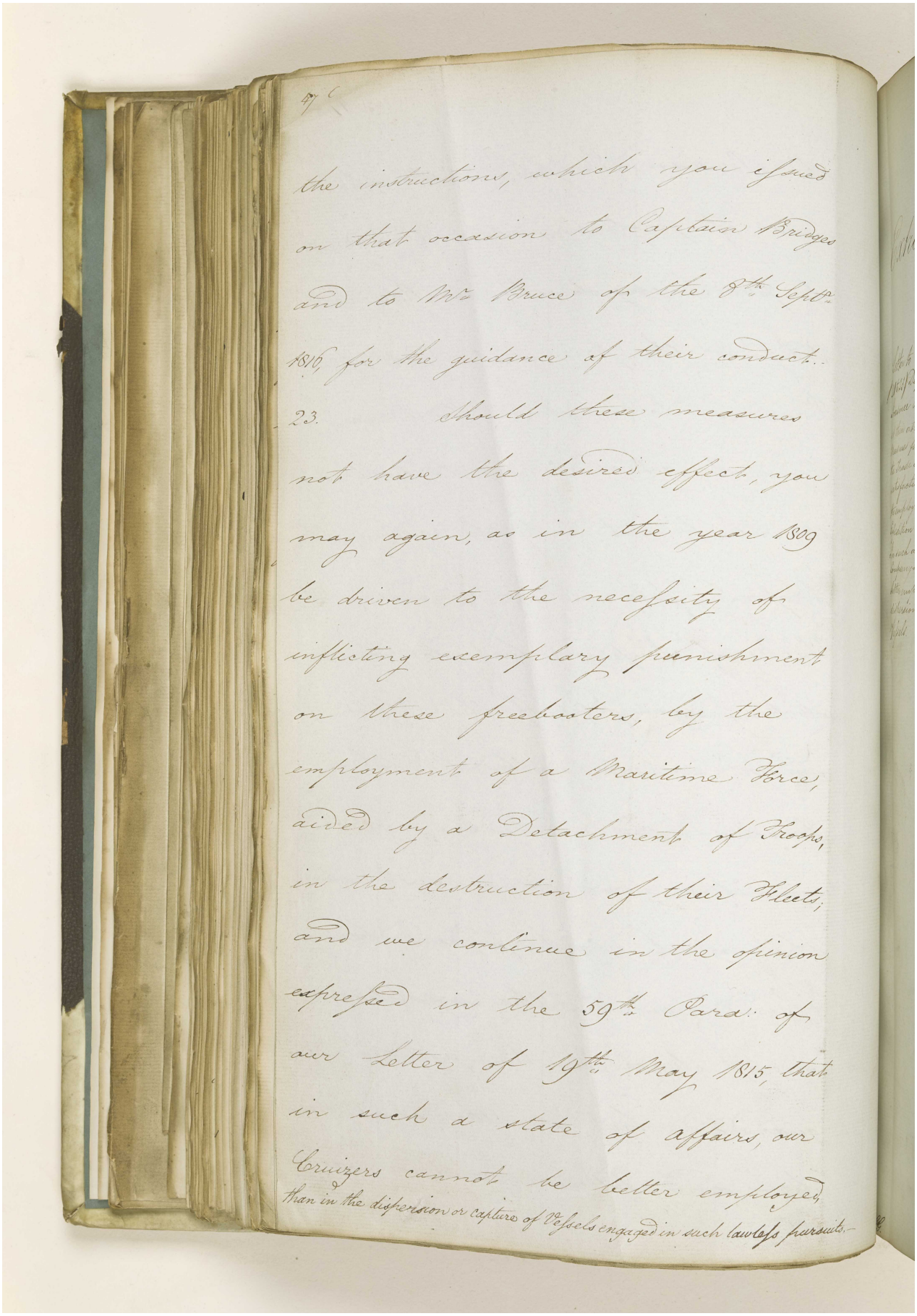

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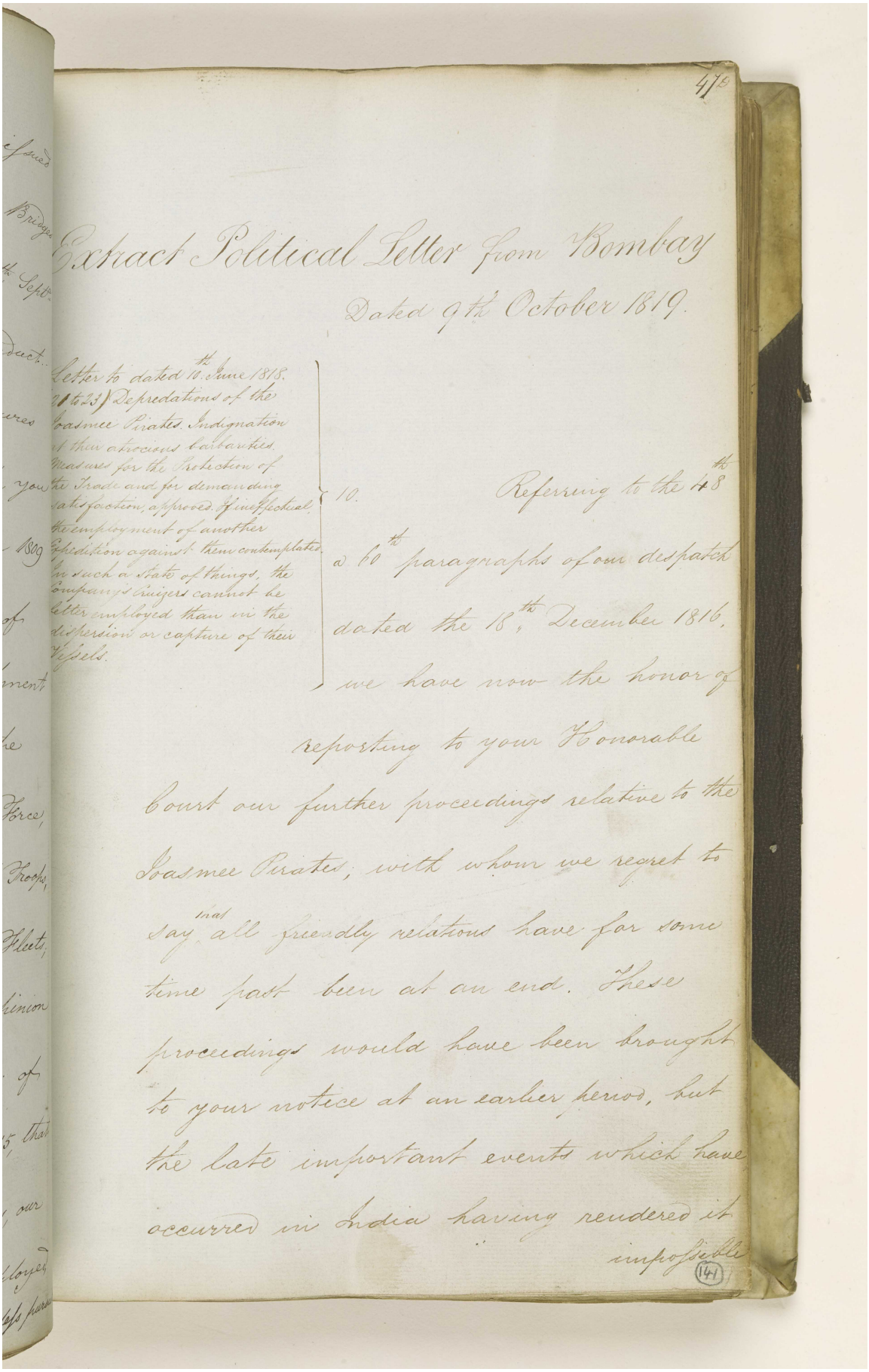
the instructions, which you issued on that occasion to Captain Bridges and to Mr. Bruce of the 8th. Sept. 1816, for the guidance of their conduct.

23. Should these measures not have the desired effect, you may again, as in the year 1809 be driven to the necessity of inflicting exemplary punishment on these freebooters, by the employment of a Maritime Force, aided by a Detachment of Troops, in the destruction of their Fleets, and we continue in the opinion expressed in the 59th. Para. of our Letter of 19th. May 1815, that in such a state of affairs, our Cruizers cannot be better employed than in the dispersion or capture of Vessels engaged in such lawless pursuits.



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Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 9th October 1819.

Letter to dated 10th June 1818.
(10 to 23) Depredations of the Joasmee Pirates. Indignation at their atrocious barbarities. Measures for the Protection of the Trade and for demanding satisfaction, approved. Ineffectual. the employment of another Expedition against them contemplated. In such a State of things, the Company's Cruizers cannot be better employed than in the dispersion or capture of their Vessels.

10. Referring to the 48th & 60th paragraphs of our despatch dated the 18th December 1816, we have now the honor of reporting to your Honorable Court our further proceedings relative to the Joasmee Pirates, with whom we regret to say that all friendly relations have for some time past been at an end. These proceedings would have been brought to your notice at an earlier period, but the late important events which have occurred in India having rendered it impossible

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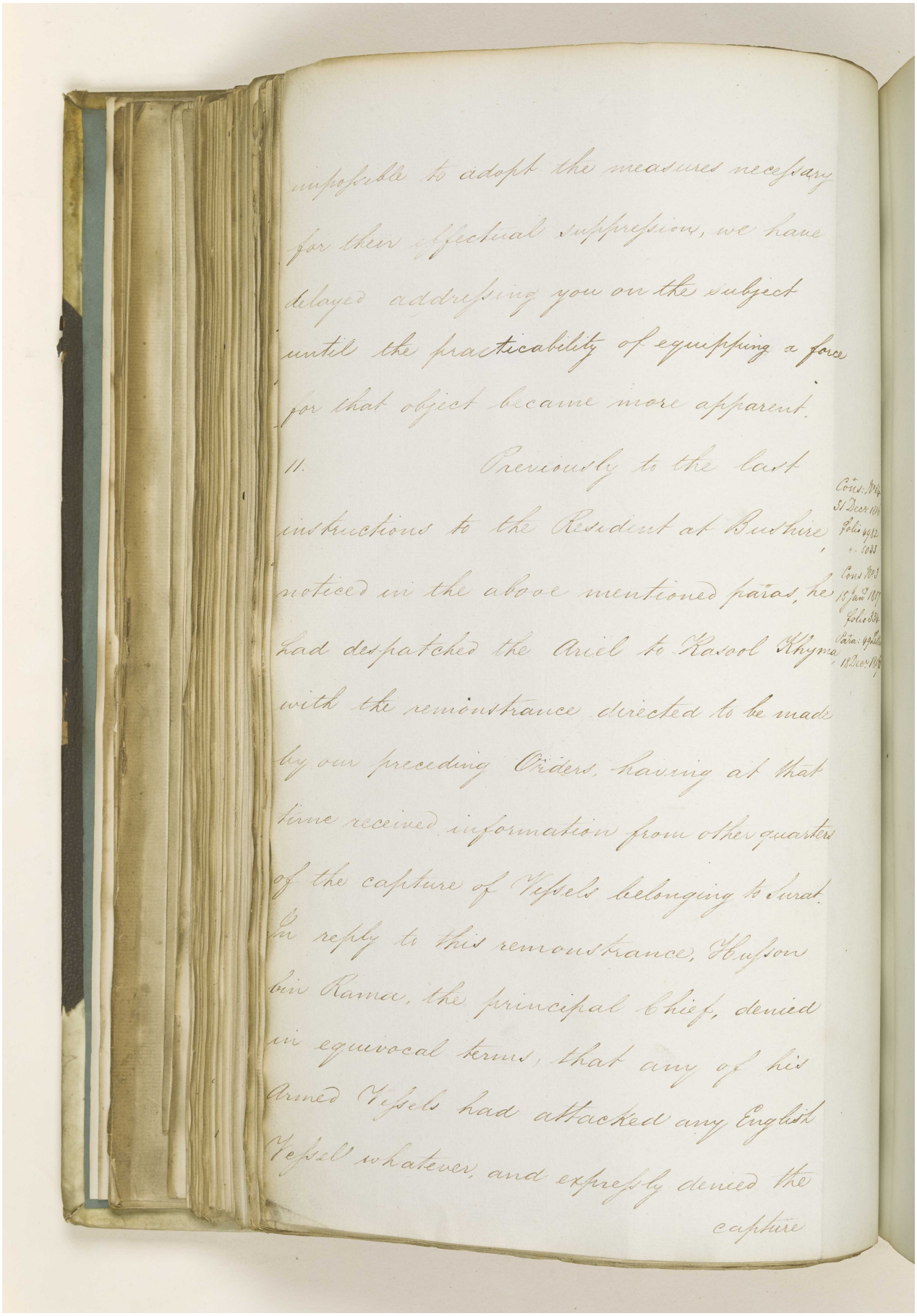

impossible to adopt the measures necessary for their effectual suppression, we have delayed addressing you on the subject until the practicability of equipping a force for that object became more apparent.

11. Previously to the last instructions to the Resident at Bushire, noticed in the above mentioned paras, he had despatched the Ariel to Rasool Khyma with the remonstrance directed to be made by our preceding Orders, having at that time received information from other quarters of the capture of Vessels belonging to Surat. In reply to this remonstrance, Husson bin Rama, the principal Chief, denied in equivocal terms, that any of his Armed Vessels had attacked any English Vessel whatever, and expressly denied the capture

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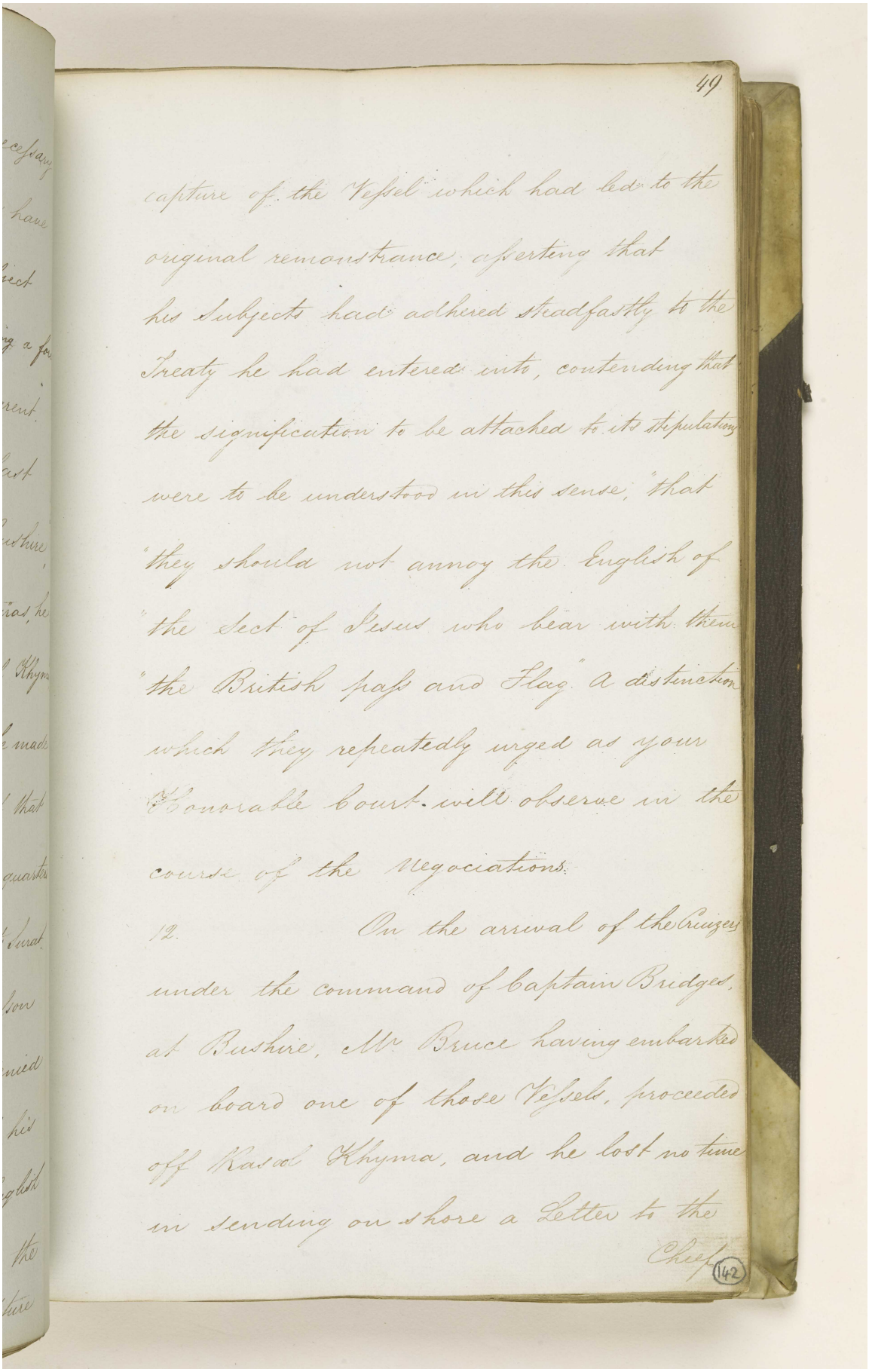
Cons No 3 15 Jan 1817 Folio 334
Para: 49 Feb 18 Decr 1817



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capture of the Vessel which had led to the original remonstrance, asserting that his Subjects had adhered steadfastly to the Treaty he had entered into, contending that the signification to be attached to its stipulations were to be understood in this sense, "that "they should not annoy the English of "the Sect of Jesus who bear with them "the British pass and Flag" a distinction which they repeatedly urged as your Honorable Court will observe in the course of the Negociations.

12. On the arrival of the Cruizers under the command of Captain Bridges at Bushire, Mr Bruce having embarked on board one of those Vessels, proceeded off Rasul Khyma, and he lost no time in sending on shore a Letter to the Chief

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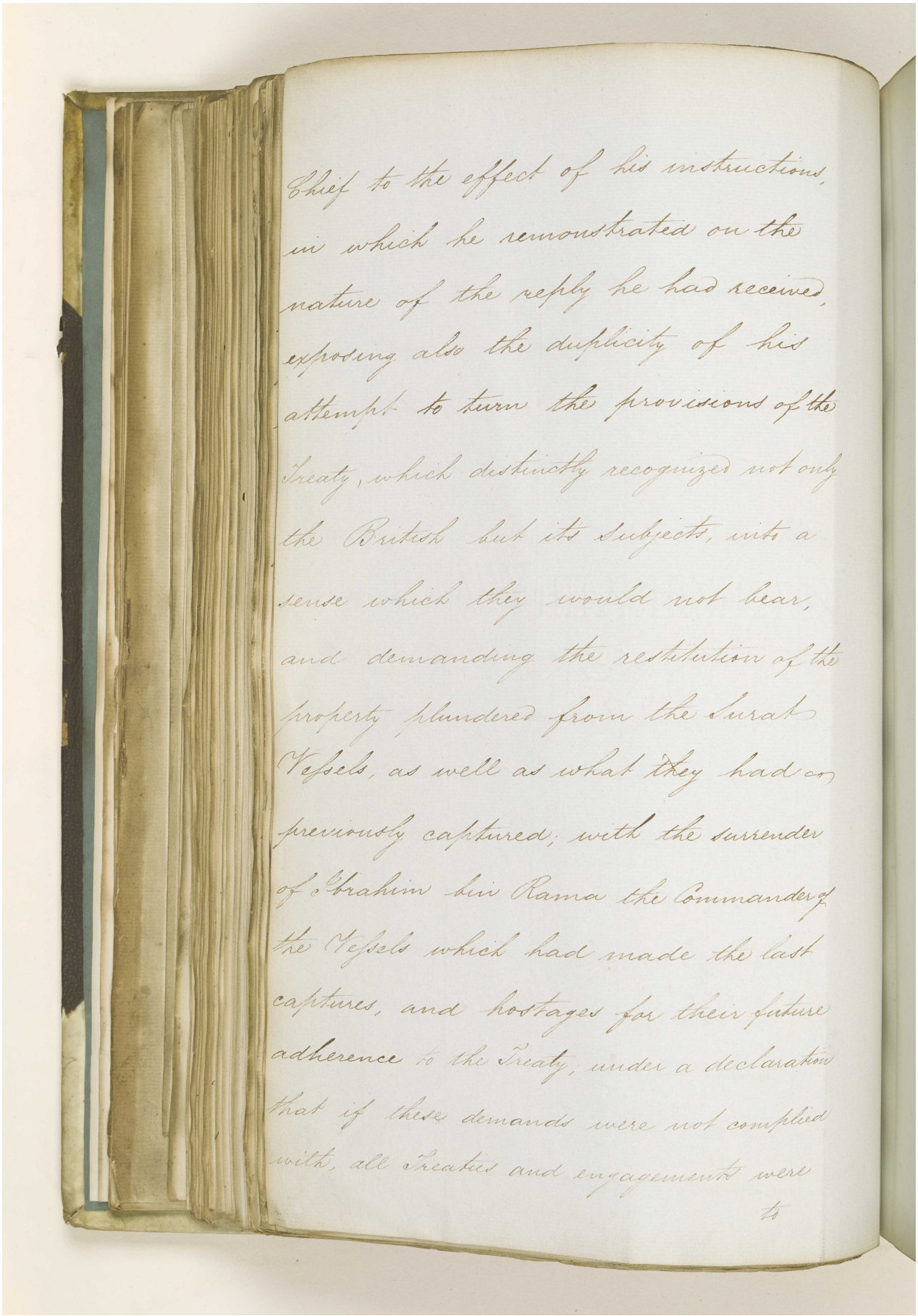

Chief to the effect of his instructions,
in which he remonstrated on the
nature of the reply he had received,
exposing also the duplicity of his
attempt to turn the provisions of the
Treaty, which distinctly recognized not only
the British but its subjects, into a
sense which they would not bear,
and demanding the restitution of the
property plundered from the Surat
Vessels, as well as what they had on
previously captured, with the surrender
of Ebrahim bin Rama the Commander of
the Vessels which had made the last
captures, and hostages for their future
adherence to the Treaty, under a declaration
that if these demands were not complied
with, all Treaties and engagements were
to

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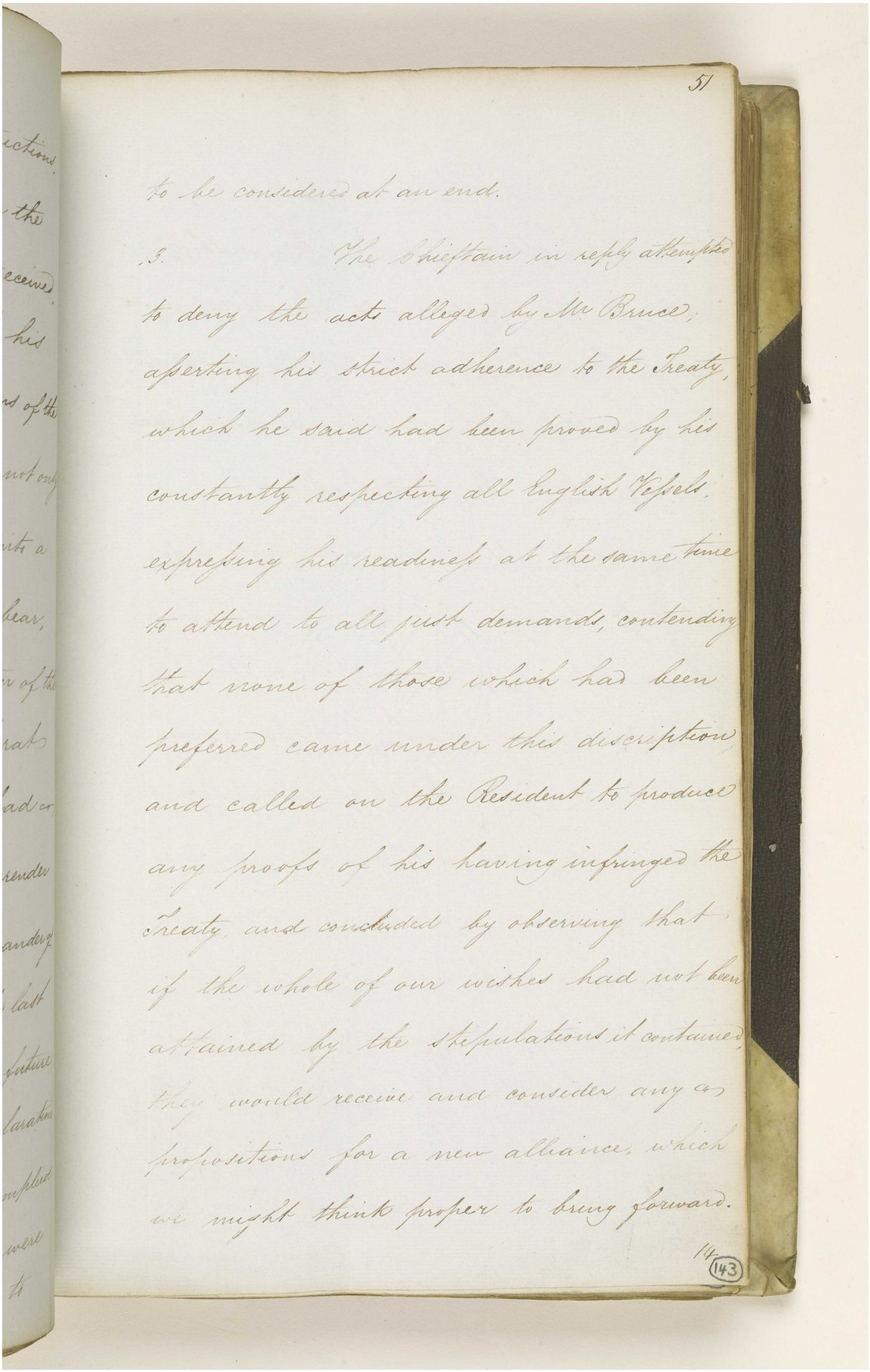

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to be considered at an end.

3. The Chieftain in reply attempted to deny the acts alleged by Mr Bruce, asserting his strict adherence to the Treaty, which he said had been proved by his constantly respecting all English Vessels, expressing his readiness at the same time to attend to all just demands, contending that none of those which had been preferred came under this discription, and called on the Resident to produce any proofs of his having infringed the Treaty, and concluded by observing that if the whole of our wishes had not been attained by the stipulations it contained, they would receive and consider any propositions for a new alliance, which we might think proper to bring forward.

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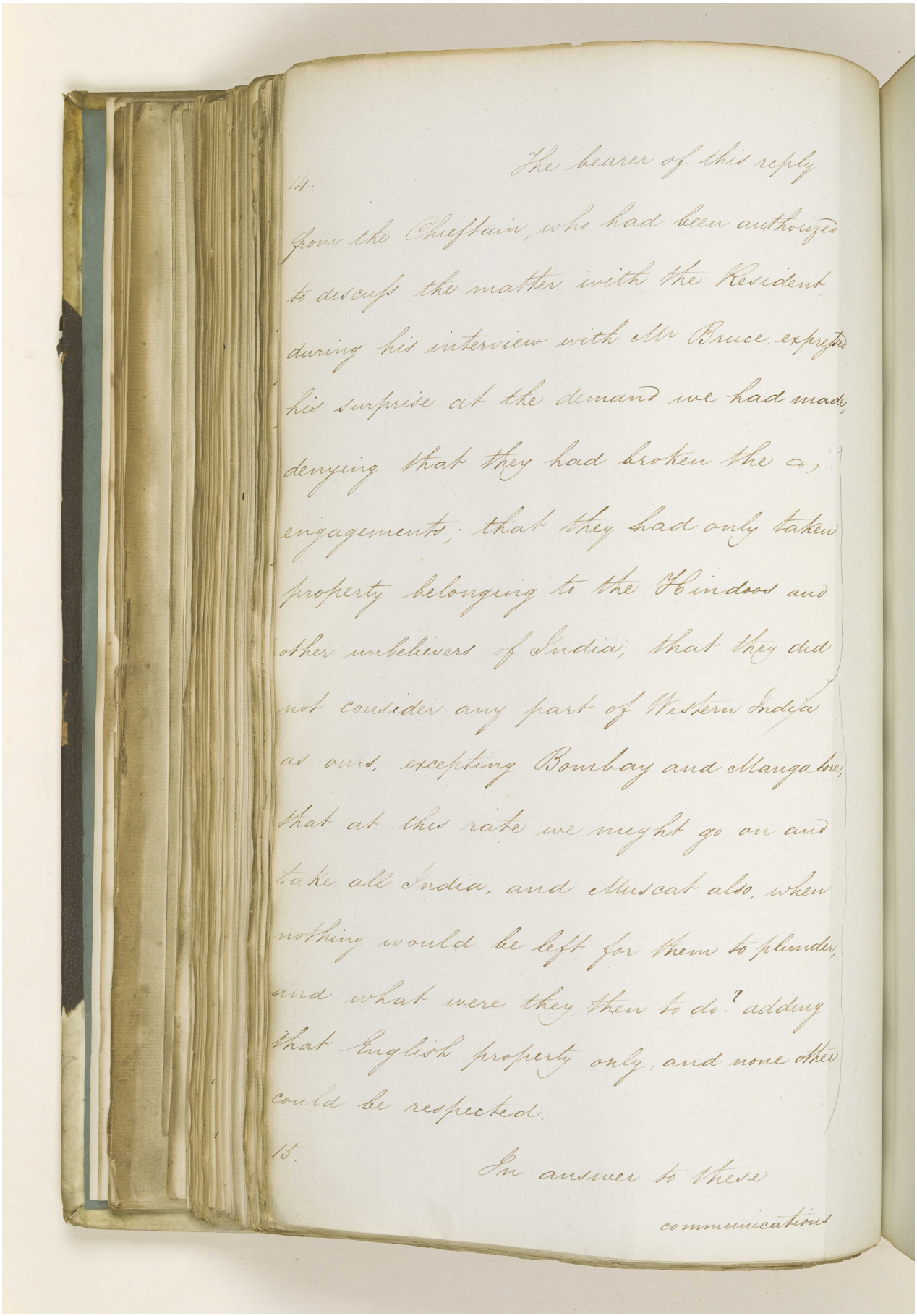
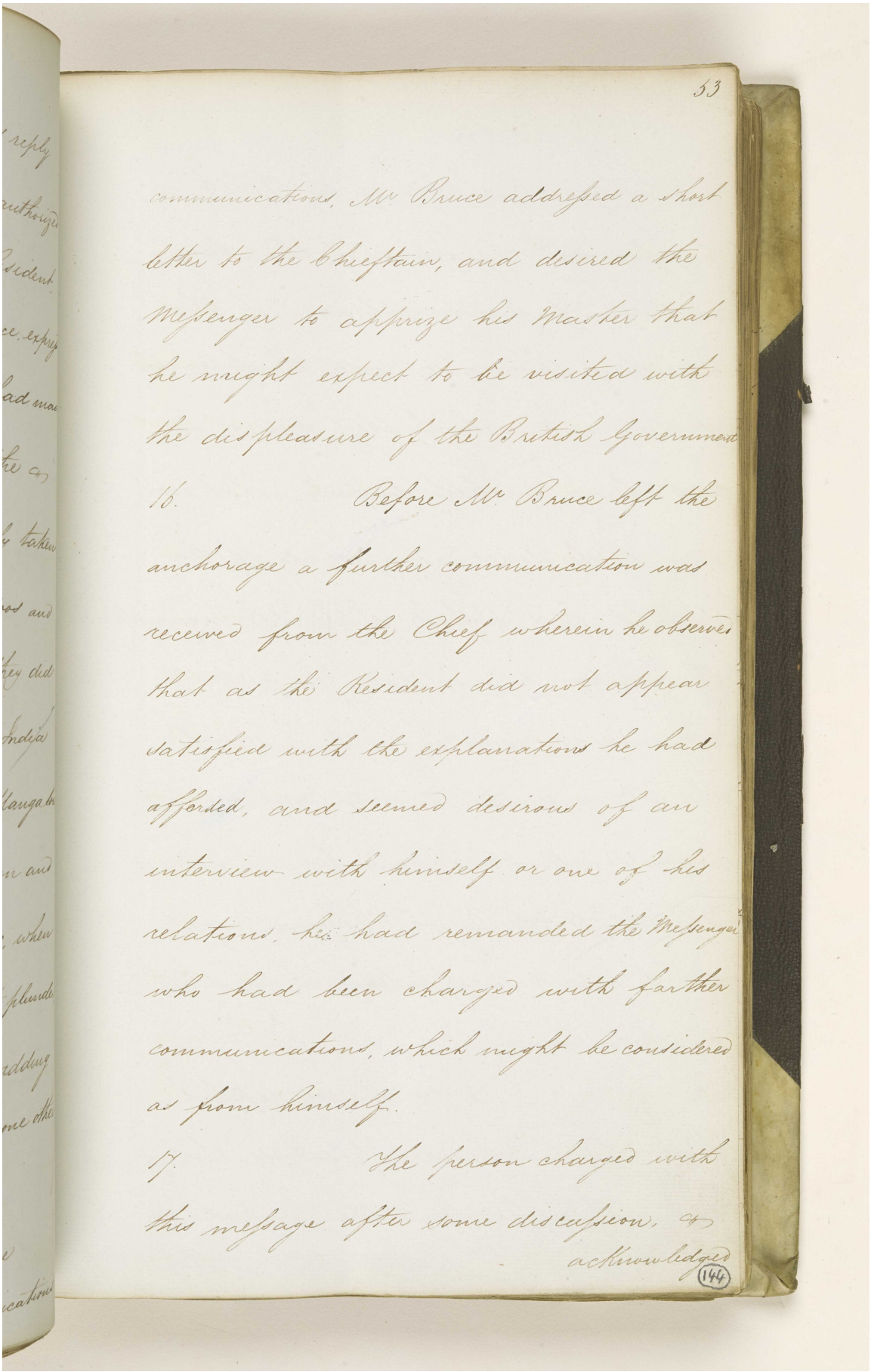


14. The bearer of this reply from the Chieftain, who had been authorized to discuss the matter with the Resident during his interview with Mr Bruce, expressed his surprise at the demand we had made, denying that they had broken the engagements, that they had only taken property belonging to the Hindoos and other unbelievers of India; that they did not consider any part of Western India as ours, excepting Bombay and Mangalore, that at this rate we might go on and take all India, and Muscat also, when nothing would be left for them to plunder, and what were they then to do? adding that English property only, and none other could be respected.

15. In answer to these communications



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communications, Mr Bruce addressed a short letter to the Chieftain, and desired the Messenger to apprize his Master that he might expect to be visited with the displeasure of the British Government

16. Before Mr Bruce left the anchorage a further communication was received from the Chief wherein he observed that as the Resident did not appear satisfied with the explanations he had afforded, and seemed desirous of an interview with himself or one of his relations, he had remanded the Messenger who had been charged with farther communications, which might be considered as from himself.

17. The person charged with this message after some discussion, & acknowledged

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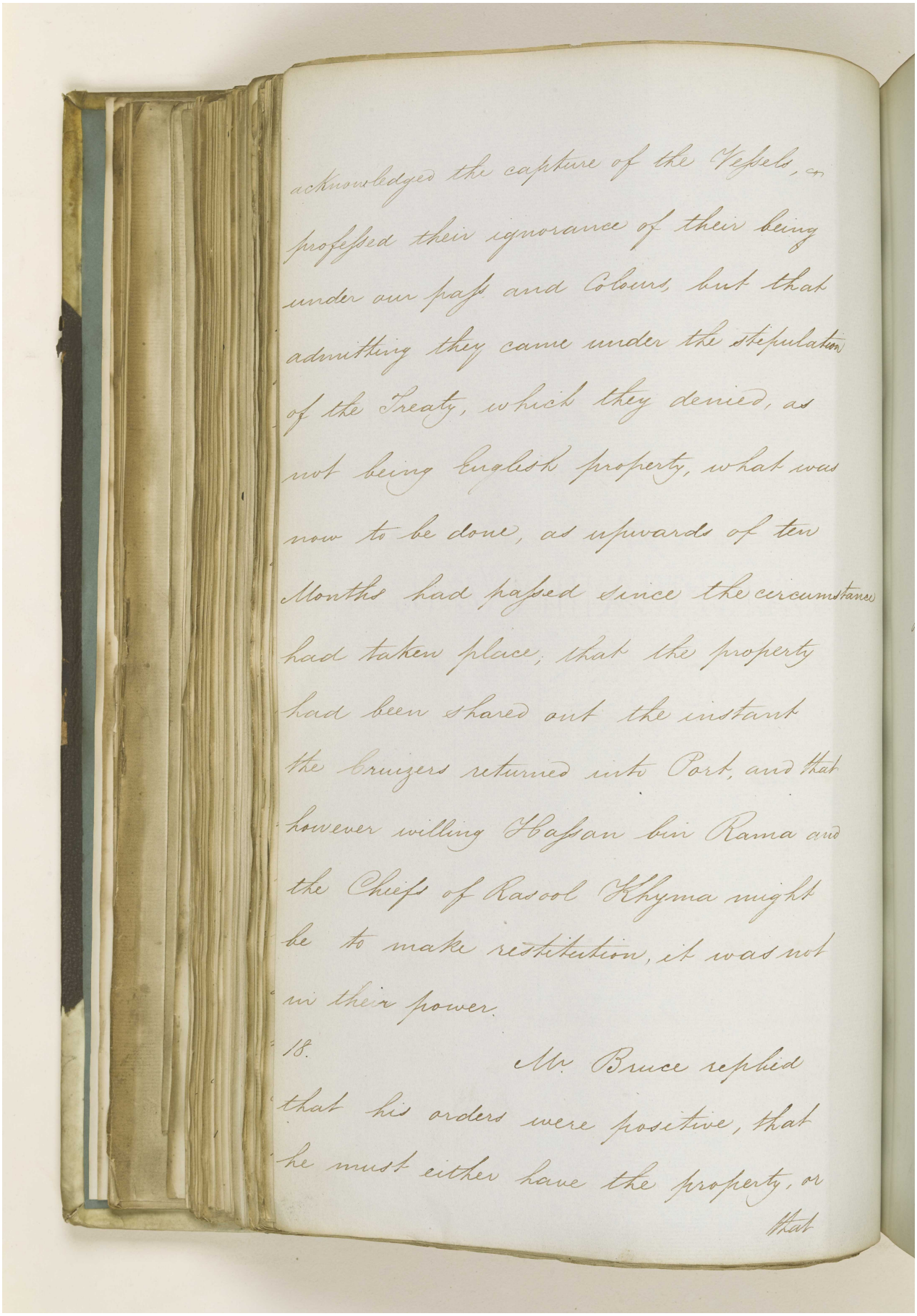
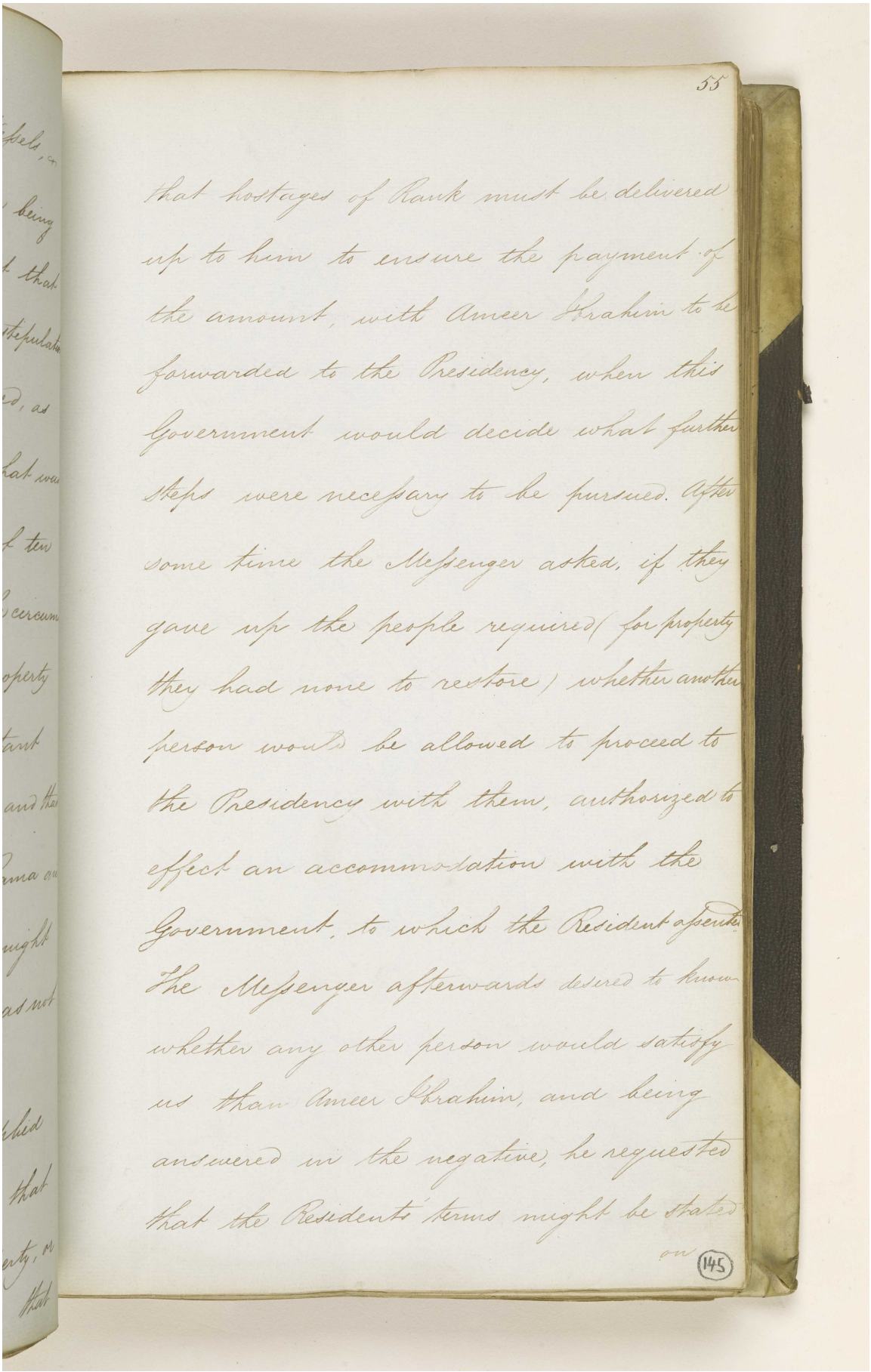


acknowledged the capture of the Vessels, &
professed their ignorance of their being
under our pass and Colours, but that
admitting they came under the stipulations
of the Treaty, which they denied, as
not being English property, what was
now to be done, as upwards of ten
Months had passed since the circumstances
had taken place, that the property
had been shared out the instant
the Cruizers returned into Port, and that
however willing Hassan bin Rama and
the Chiefs of Rasool Khyma might
be to make restitution, it was not
in their power.

18. Mr Bruce replied
that his orders were positive, that
he must either have the property, or
that



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that hostages of Rank must be delivered up to him to ensure the payment of the amount, with Ameer Ibrahim to be forwarded to the Presidency, when this Government would decide what further steps were necessary to be pursued. After some time the Messenger asked, if they gave up the people required for property they had none to restore, whether another person would be allowed to proceed to the Presidency with them, authorized to effect an accommodation with the Government, to which the Resident assented. The Messenger afterwards desired to know whether any other person would satisfy us than Ameer Ibrahim, and being answered in the negative, he requested that the Residents terms might be stated

on

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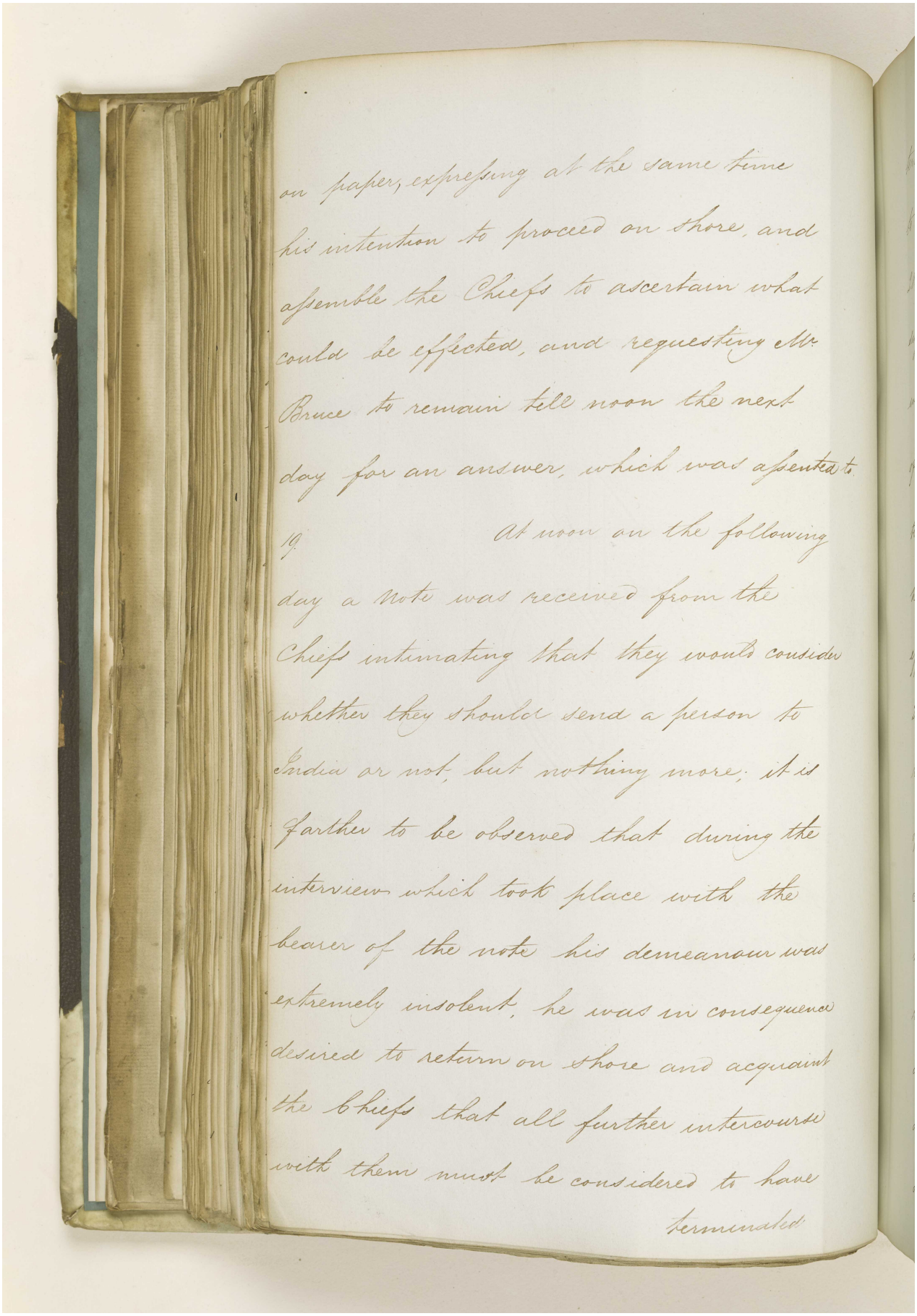
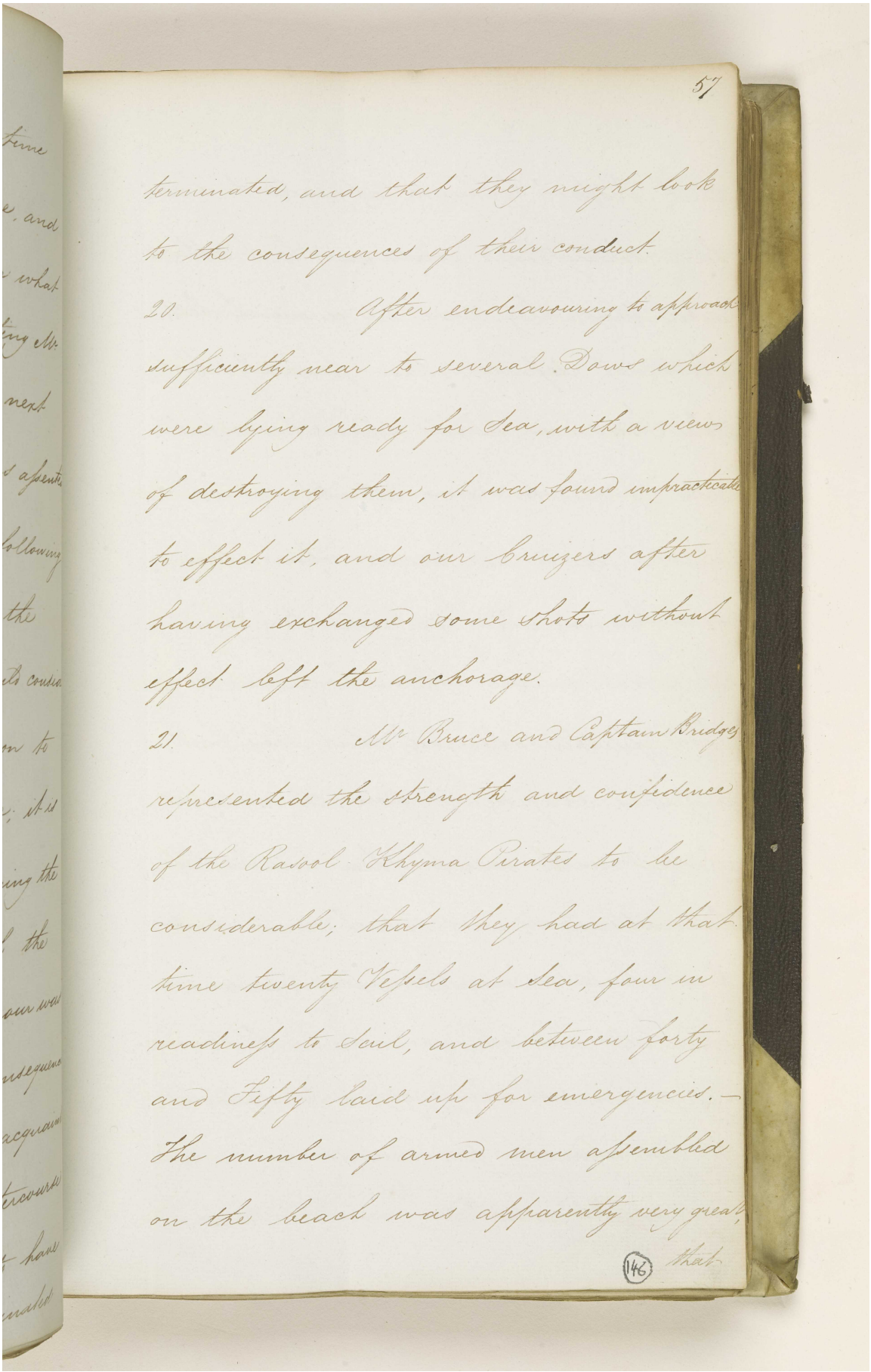


on paper, expressing at the same time
his intention to proceed on shore, and
assemble the Chiefs to ascertain what
could be effected, and requesting Mr.
Bruce to remain till noon the next
day for an answer, which was assented to.

19 At noon on the following
day a note was received from the
Chiefs intimating that they would consider
whether they should send a person to
India or not, but nothing more; it is
farther to be observed that during the
interview which took place with the
bearer of the note his demeanour was
extremely insolent, he was in consequence
desired to return on shore and acquaint
the Chiefs that all further intercourse
with them must be considered to have
terminated



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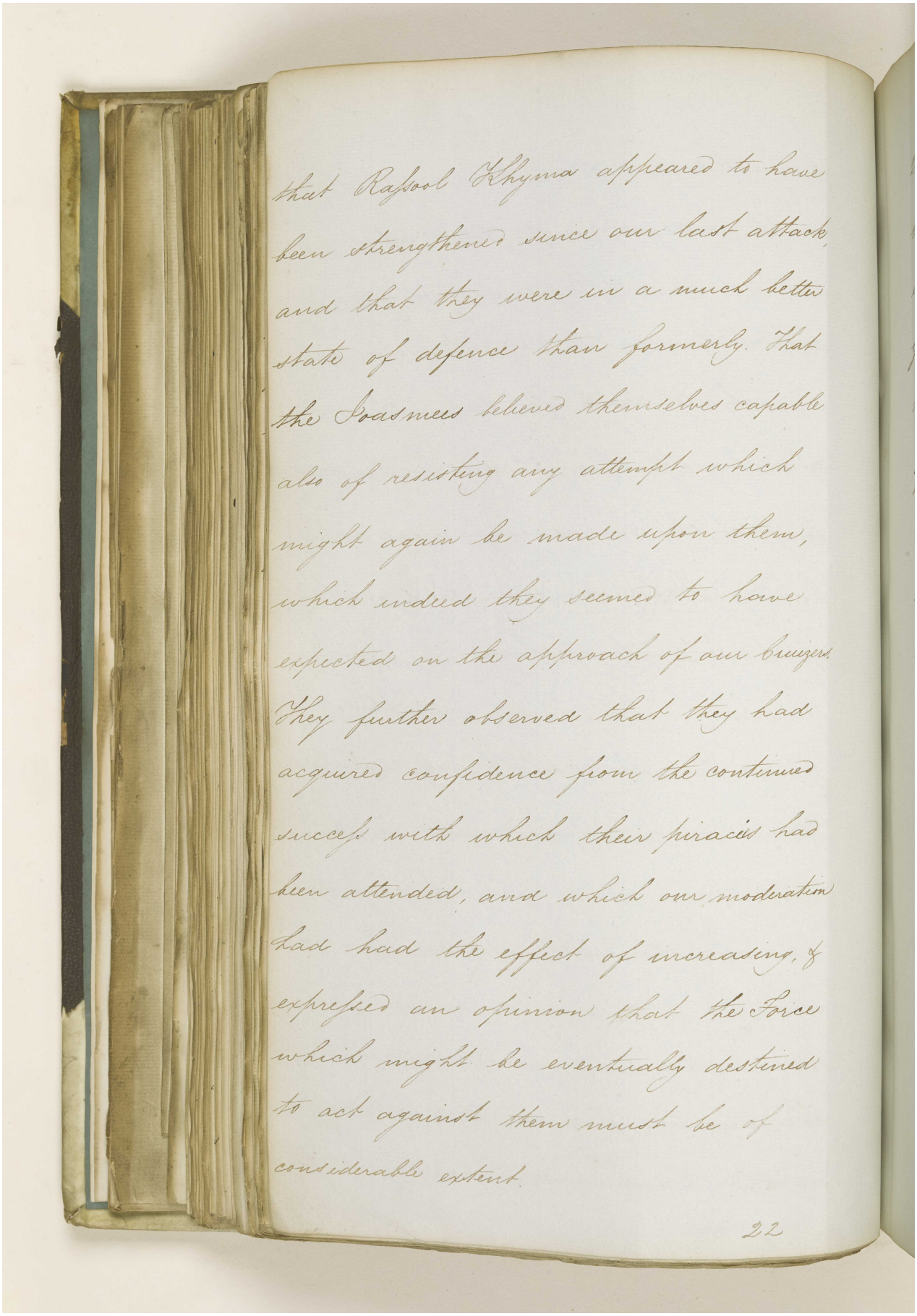
terminated, and that they might look
to the consequences of their conduct.

20. After endeavouring to approach sufficiently near to several Dows which were lying ready for Sea, with a view of destroying them, it was found impracticable to effect it, and our Cruizers after having exchanged some Shots without effect left the anchorage.

21. Mr Bruce and Captain Bridges represented the strength and confidence of the Rasool Khyma Pirates to be considerable; that they had at that time twenty Vessels at Sea, four in readiness to Sail, and between forty and Fifty laid up for emergencies.— The number of armed men assembled on the beach was apparently very great,

(146) that



that Rafsool Khyma appeared to have
been strengthened since our last attack,
and that they were in a much better
state of defence than formerly. That
the Joasmees believed themselves capable
also of resisting any attempt which
might again be made upon them,
which indeed they seemed to have
expected on the approach of our buggers.
They further observed that they had
acquired confidence from the continued
success with which their piracies had
been attended, and which our moderation
had had the effect of increasing, &
expressed an opinion that the Force
which might be eventually destined
to act against them must be of
considerable extent.

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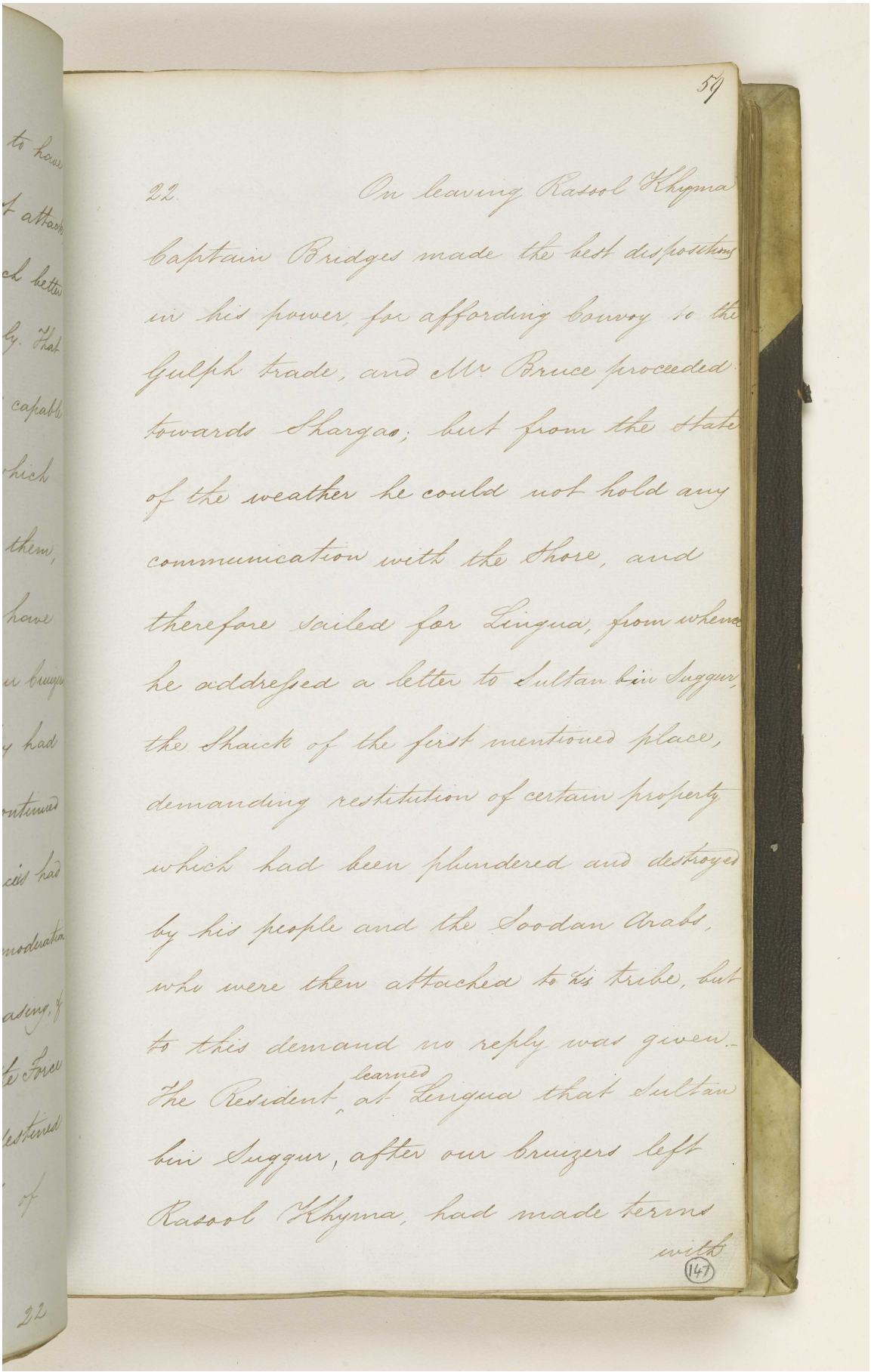

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22 On leaving Rasool Khyma Captain Bridges made the best dispositions in his power for affording convoy to the Gulph trade, and Mr Bruce proceeded towards Shargas; but from the state of the weather he could not hold any communication with the shore, and therefore sailed for Lingua, from whence he addressed a letter to Sultan bin Suggur, the Shaick of the first mentioned place, demanding restitution of certain property which had been plundered and destroyed by his people and the Soodan Arabs, who were then attached to his tribe, but to this demand no reply was given. The Resident learned at Lingua that Sultan bin Suggur, after our bruizers left Rasool Khyma, had made terms with

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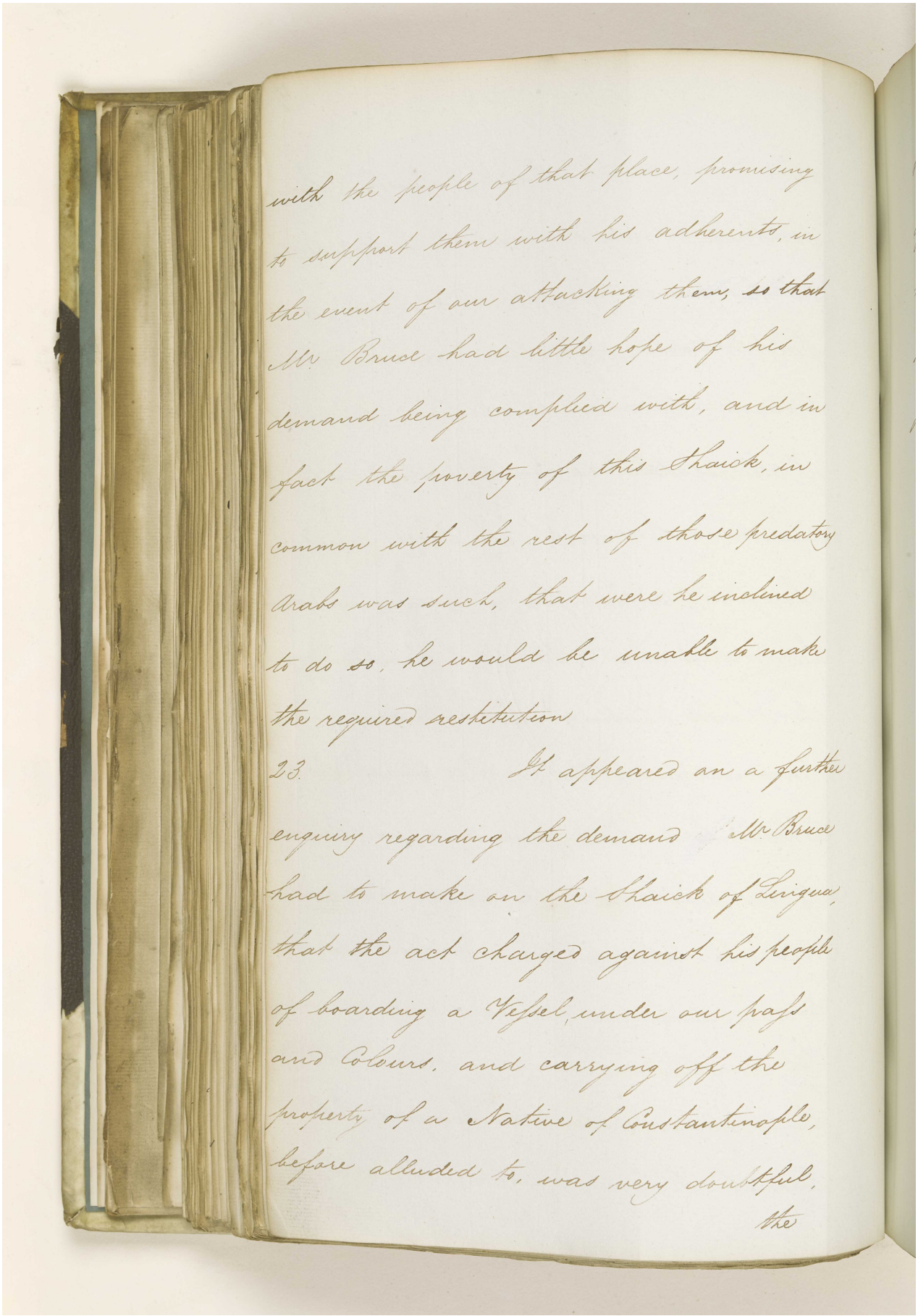
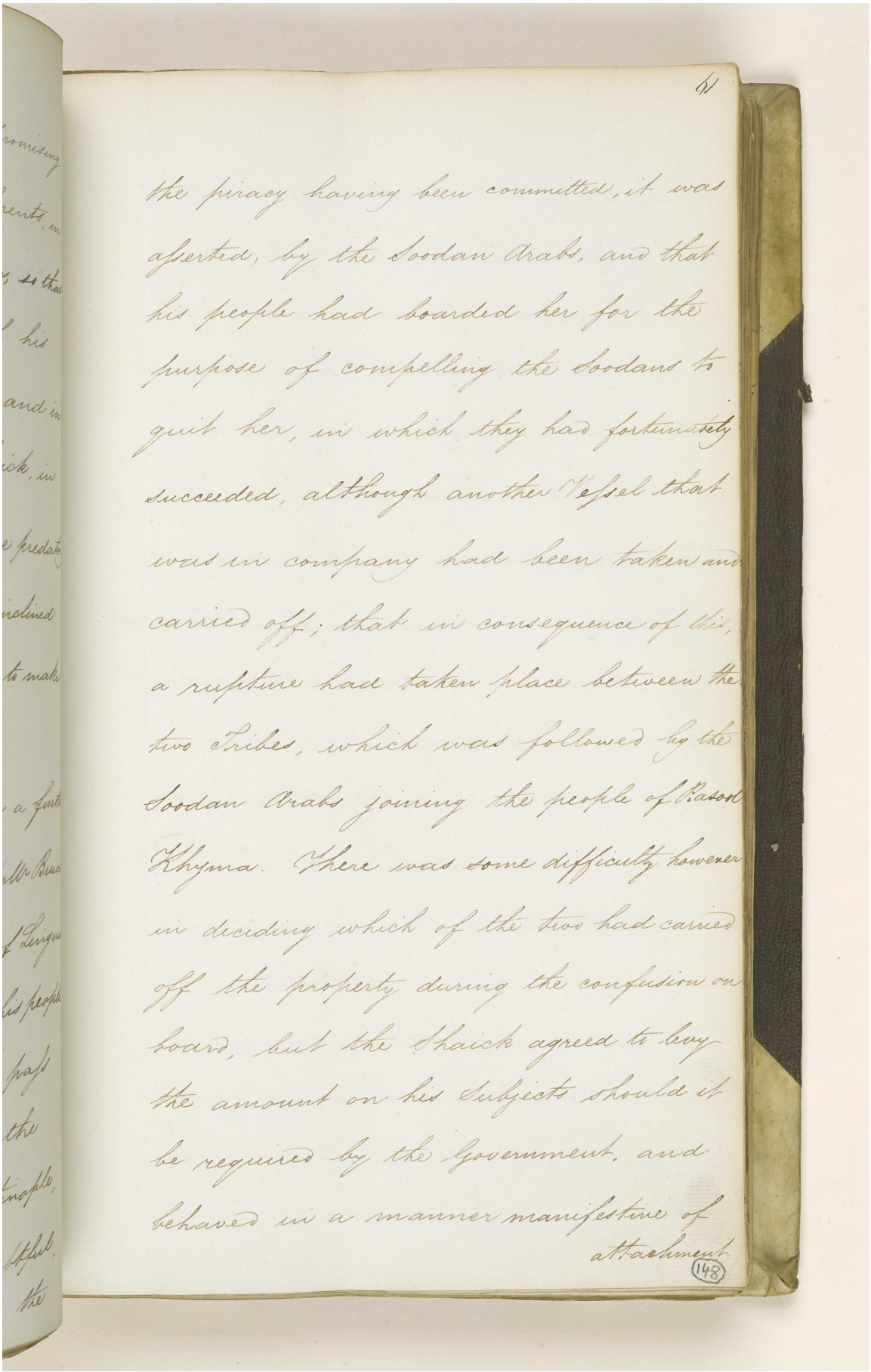


with the people of that place, promising
to support them with his adherents, in
the event of our attacking them, so that
Mr Bruce had little hope of his
demand being complied with, and in
fact the poverty of this Shaick, in
common with the rest of those predatory
Arabs was such, that were he inclined
to do so, he would be unable to make
the required restitution

23. It appeared on a further
enquiry regarding the demand Mr Bruce
had to make on the Shaick of Lingua,
that the act charged against his people
of boarding a Vessel under our pass
and Colours, and carrying off the
property of a Native of Constantinople,
before alluded to, was very doubtful,

the



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the piracy having been committed, it was asserted, by the Soodan Arabs, and that his people had boarded her for the purpose of compelling the Soodans to quit her, in which they had fortunately succeeded, although another Vessel that was in company had been taken and carried off; that in consequence of this, a rupture had taken place between the two Tribes, which was followed by the Soodan Arabs joining the people of Rasool Khyma. There was some difficulty however in deciding which of the two had carried off the property during the confusion on board, but the Shaick agreed to levy the amount on his Subjects should it be required by the Government, and behaved in a manner manifestive of attachment

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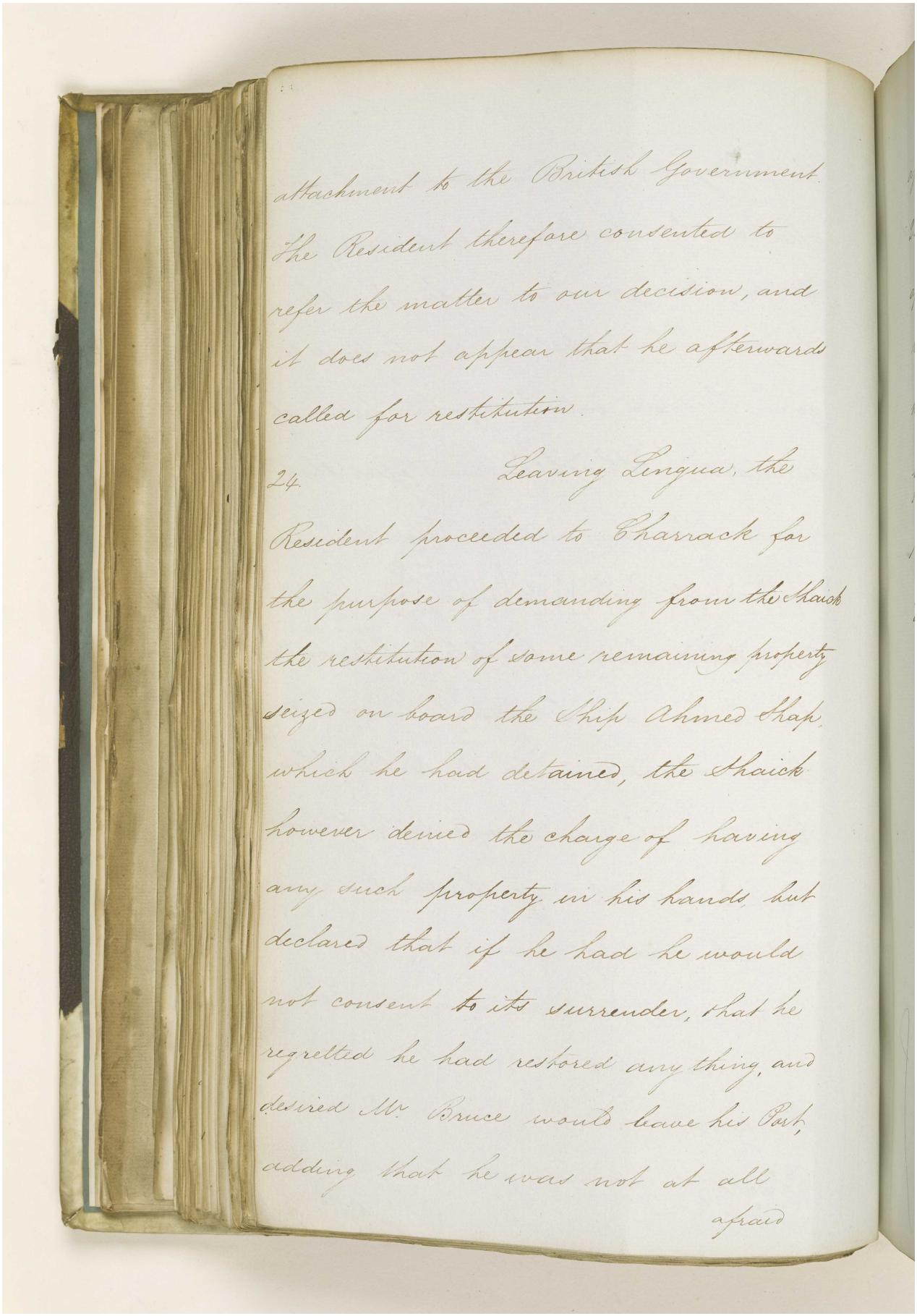
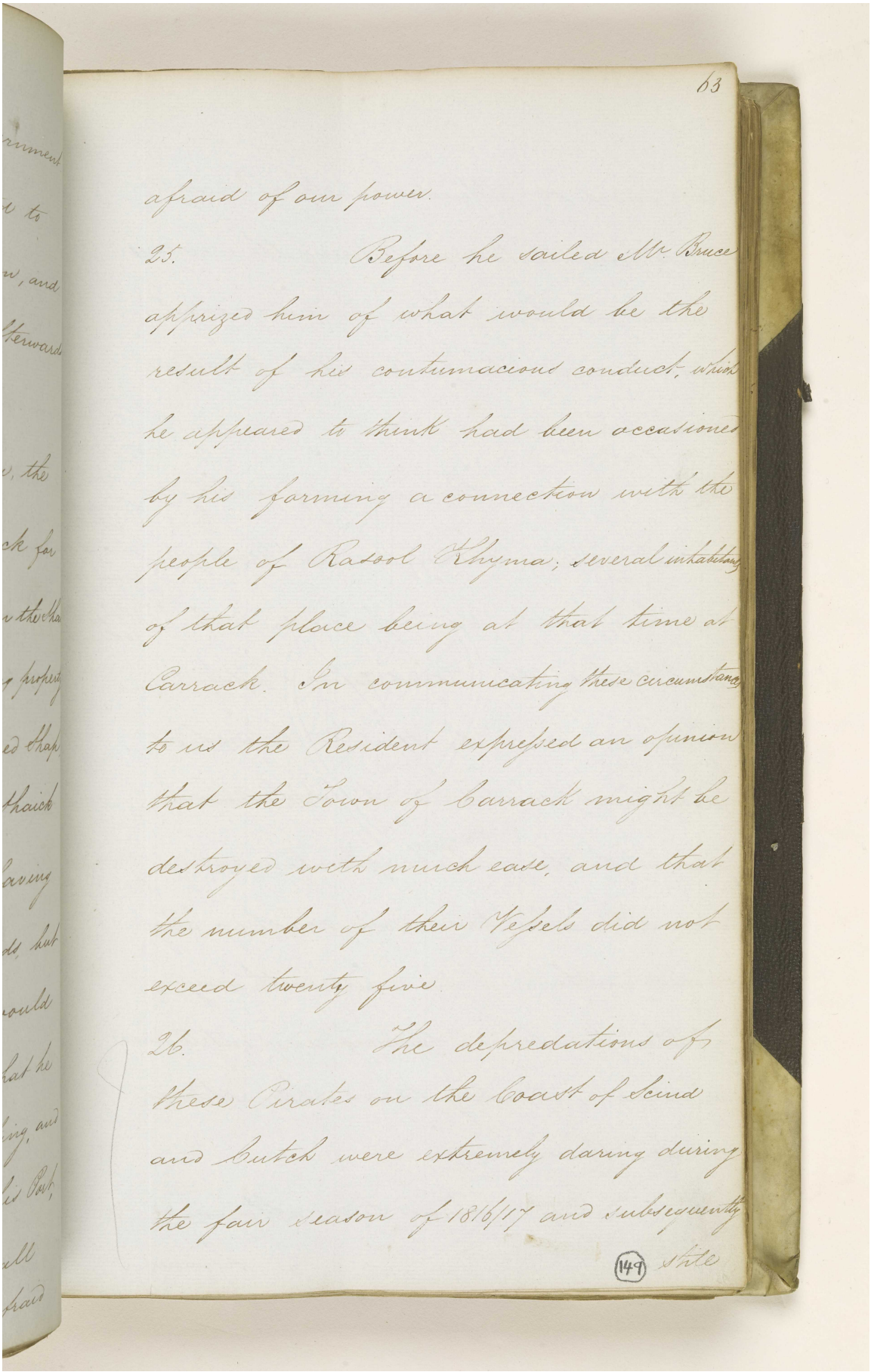


attachment to the British Government.
The Resident therefore consented to
refer the matter to our decision, and
it does not appear that he afterwards
called for restitution.

24 Leaving Lingua, the
Resident proceeded to Charrack for
the purpose of demanding from the Shaick
the restitution of some remaining property
seized on board the Ship Ahmed Shah,
which he had detained, the Shaick
however denied the charge of having
any such property in his hands, but
declared that if he had he would
not consent to its surrender, that he
regretted he had restored any thing, and
desired Mr. Bruce would leave his Port,
adding that he was not at all
afraid



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afraid of our power.

25. Before he sailed Mr. Bruce apprized him of what would be the result of his contumacious conduct, which he appeared to think had been occasioned by his forming a connection with the people of Rasool Khyma; several inhabitants of that place being at that time at Carrack. In communicating these circumstances to us the Resident expressed an opinion that the Town of Carrack might be destroyed with much ease, and that the number of their Vessels did not exceed twenty five.

26. The depredations of these Pirates on the Coast of Scind and Cutch were extremely daring during the fair season of 1816/17 and subsequently

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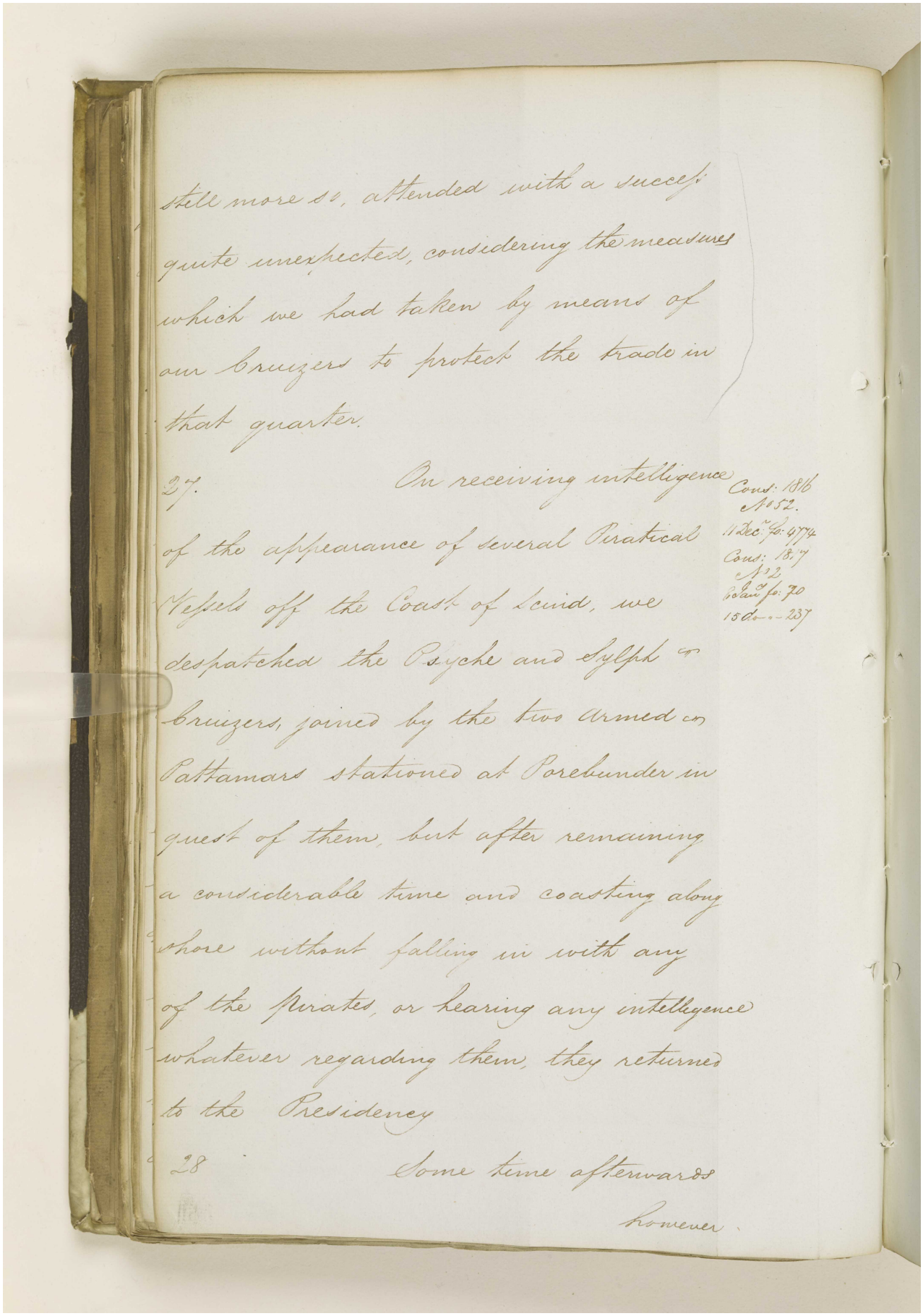

still more so, attended with a success quite unexpected, considering the measures which we had taken by means of our Cruizers to protect the trade in that quarter.

27. On receiving intelligence of the appearance of several Piratical Vessels off the Coast of Scind, we despatched the Psyche and Sylph Cruizers, joined by the two Armed Pattamars stationed at Porebunder in quest of them, but after remaining a considerable time and coasting along shore without falling in with any of the Pirates, or hearing any intelligence whatever regarding them, they returned to the Presidency

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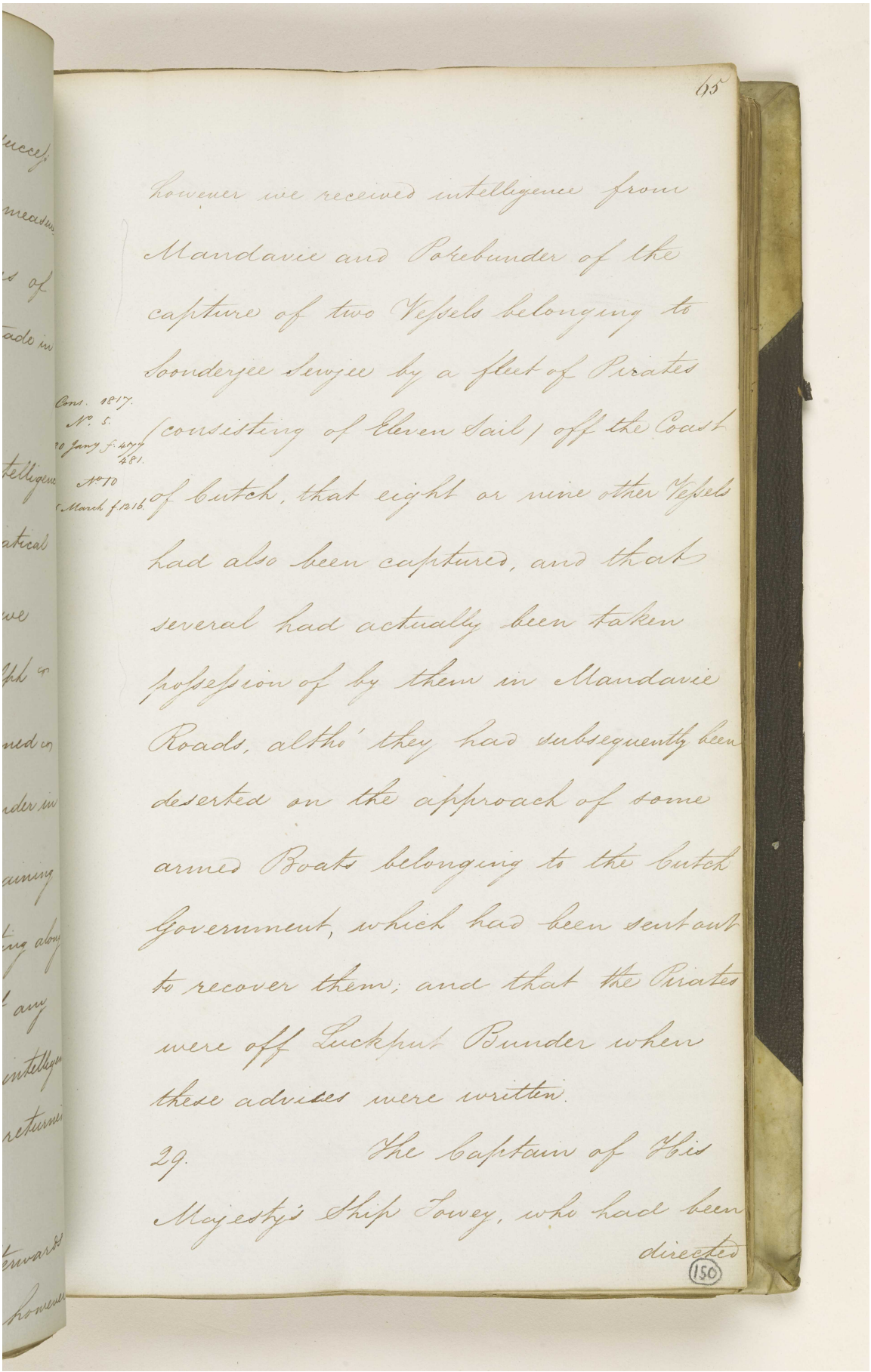
15 do — 237

28 Some time afterwards however



however we received intelligence from Mandavie and Porebunder of the capture of two Vessels belonging to Soonderjee Sewjee by a fleet of Pirates (consisting of Eleven Sail) off the Coast of Cutch, that eight or nine other Vessels had also been captured, and that several had actually been taken possession of by them in Mandavie Roads, altho' they had subsequently been deserted on the approach of some armed Boats belonging to the Cutch Government, which had been sent out to recover them; and that the Pirates were off Luckput Bunder when these advices were written.

Cons. 1817. No. 5. 20 Jany f. 477 481. No. 10 5 March f. 1216.

29. The Captain of His Majesty's Ship Towey, who had been directed

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directed by the Naval Commander in Chief
to proceed to the Gulph for the protection
of the trade, being on the eve of his
departure, he was requested to range
along the Northern Coast in the hope
of intercepting the Pirates, taking
under his orders the Prince of Wales
and Sylph Cruizers with the two
Pat.ah boats to the Northward, and directing
their Commanders to accompany the
Lowey to the entrance of the Gulph
&c. Captain Hall was
however equally unsuccessful in falling
in with the Pirates. In the Report
of the proceedings of that Officer your
Honorable Court will observe the
sanguinary conduct of the Pirates
towards the Crews of the Vessels
they

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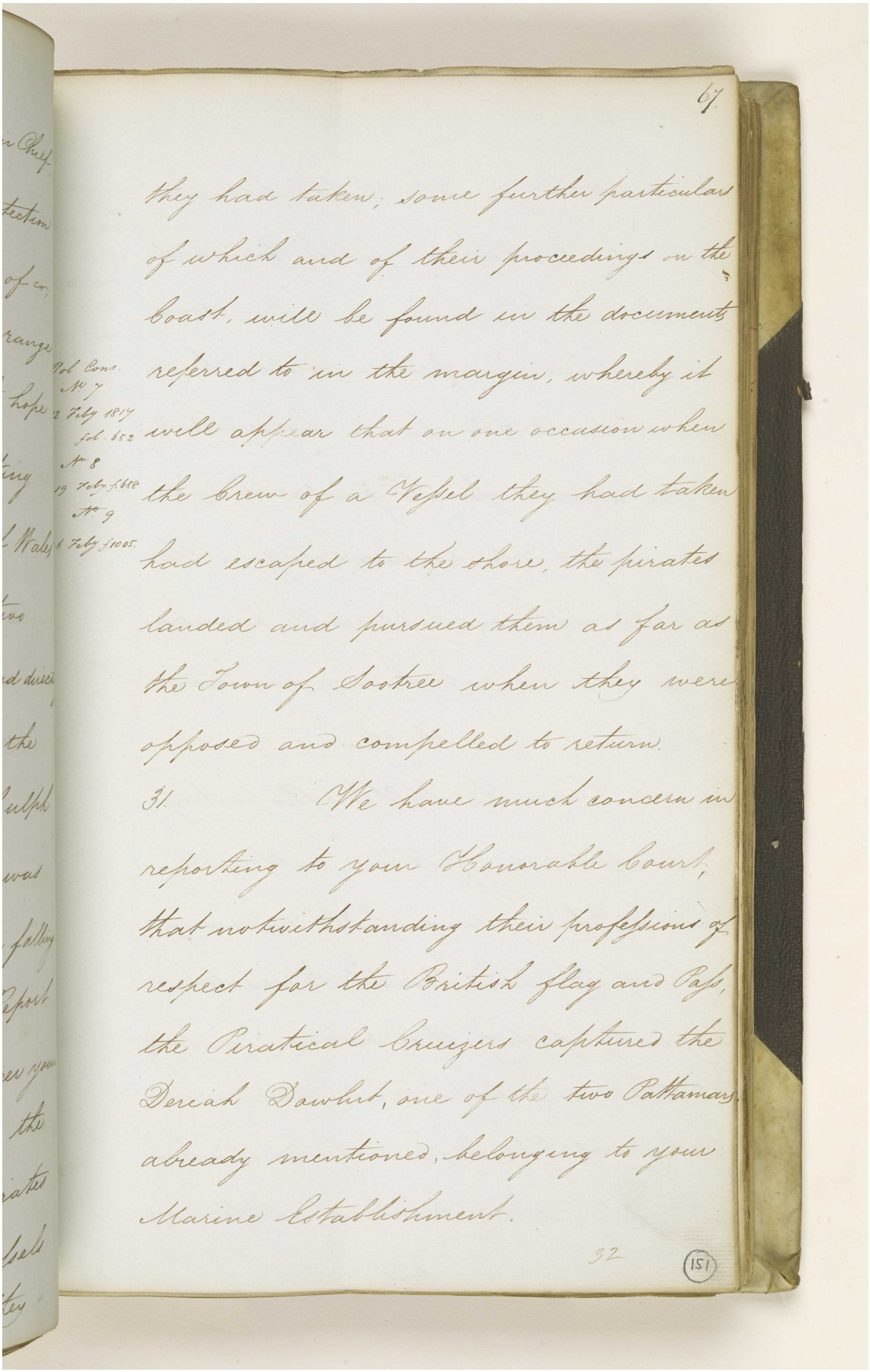

they had taken; some further particulars of which and of their proceedings on the Coast, will be found in the documents referred to in the margin, whereby it will appear that on one occasion when the Crew of a Vessel they had taken had escaped to the shore, the pirates landed and pursued them as far as the Town of Sootree when they were opposed and compelled to return.

Vol Cons. No 7 2 Feby 1817. fol. 652 No 8 19 Feby. f. 688 No 9 6 Feby f 1005.

31. We have much concern in reporting to your Honorable Court, that notwithstanding their professions of respect for the British flag and Pass, the Piratical Cruizers captured the Deriah Dowlut, one of the two Pattamars already mentioned, belonging to your Marine Establishment.

32

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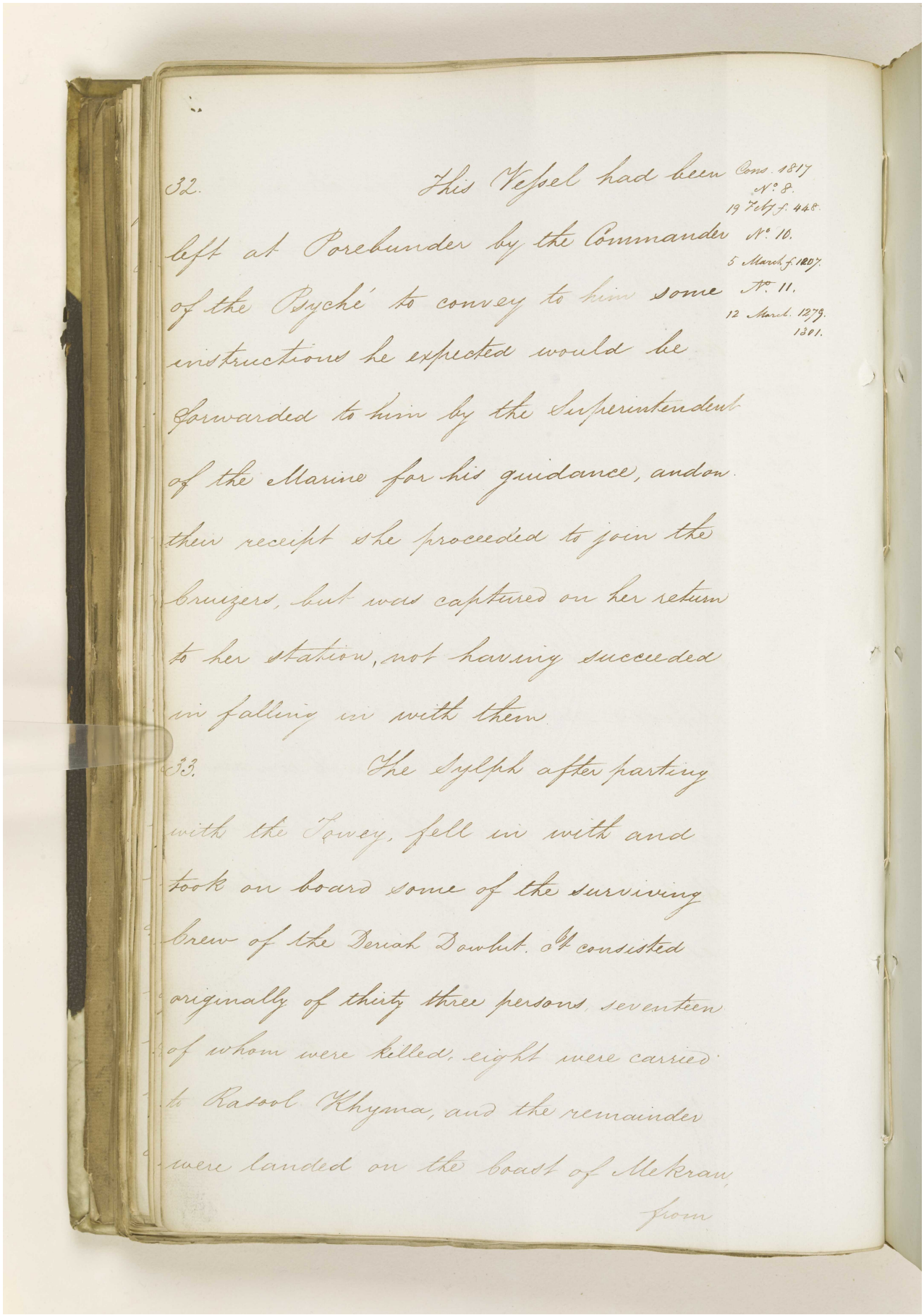
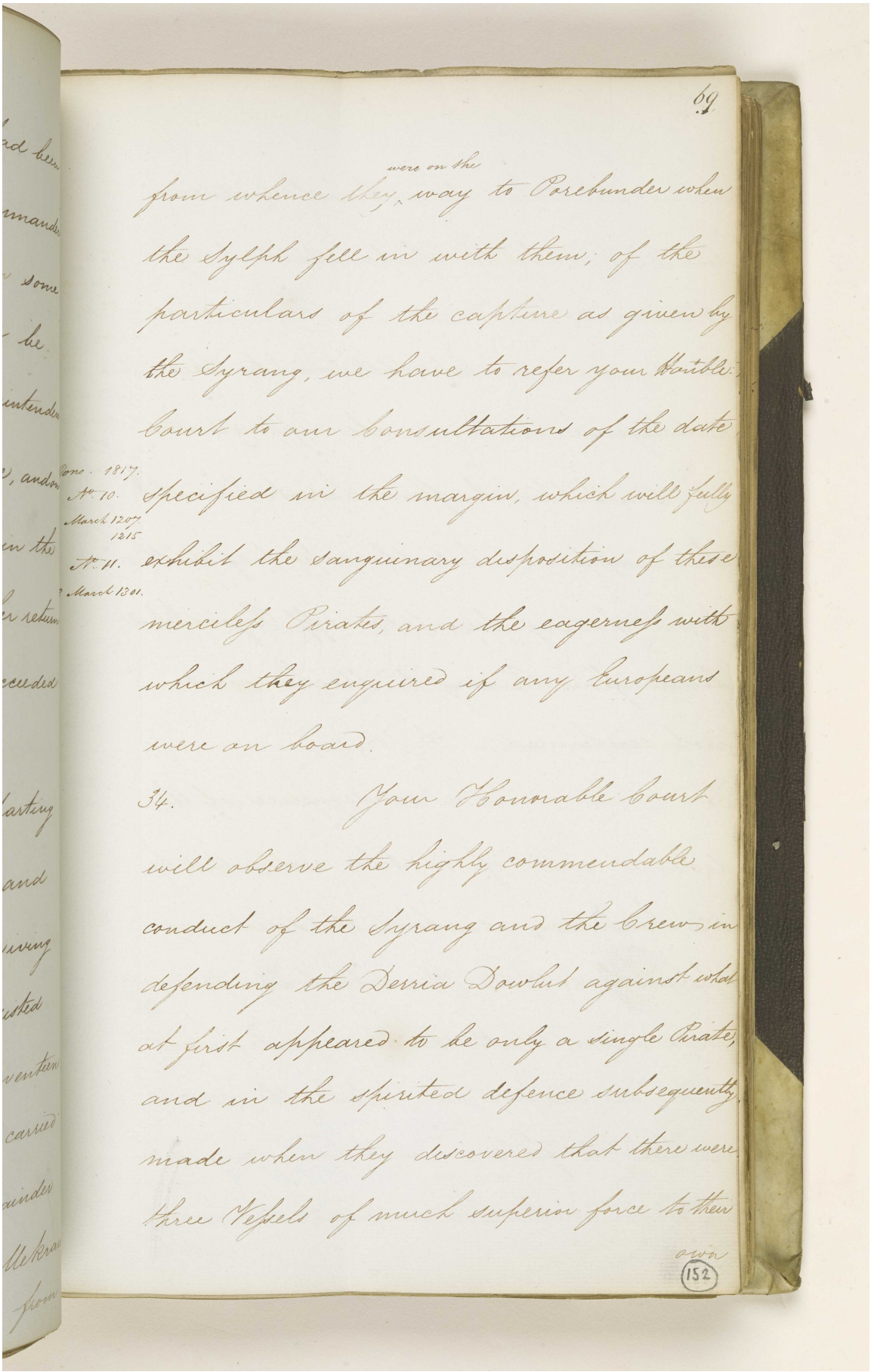


32. This Vessel had been left at Porebunder by the Commander of the Psyché to convey to him some instructions he expected would be forwarded to him by the Superintendent of the Marine for his guidance, and on their receipt she proceeded to join the Cruizers, but was captured on her return to her station, not having succeeded in falling in with them.

Cons. 1817 N°. 8. 19 July f. 448. N°. 10. 5 March f. 1807. N°. 11. 12 March 1279. 1301.

33. The Sylph after parting with the Fowey, fell in with and took on board some of the surviving Crew of the Deriah Dowlut. It consisted originally of thirty three persons, seventeen of whom were killed, eight were carried to Rasool Khyma, and the remainder were landed on the Coast of Mekran,

from



69

from whence they were on the way to Porebunder when the Sylph fell in with them; of the particulars of the capture as given by the Syrang, we have to refer your Honble. Court to our Consultations of the date specified in the margin, which will fully exhibit the sanguinary disposition of these merciless Pirates, and the eagerness with which they enquired if any Europeans were on board.

Cons. 1817. No. 10. March 1207. 1215 No. 11. March 1301.

34. Your Honorable Court will observe the highly commendable conduct of the Syrang and the Crew in defending the Derria Dowlut against what at first appeared to be only a single Pirate, and in the spirited defence subsequently made when they discovered that there were three Vessels of much superior force to their own

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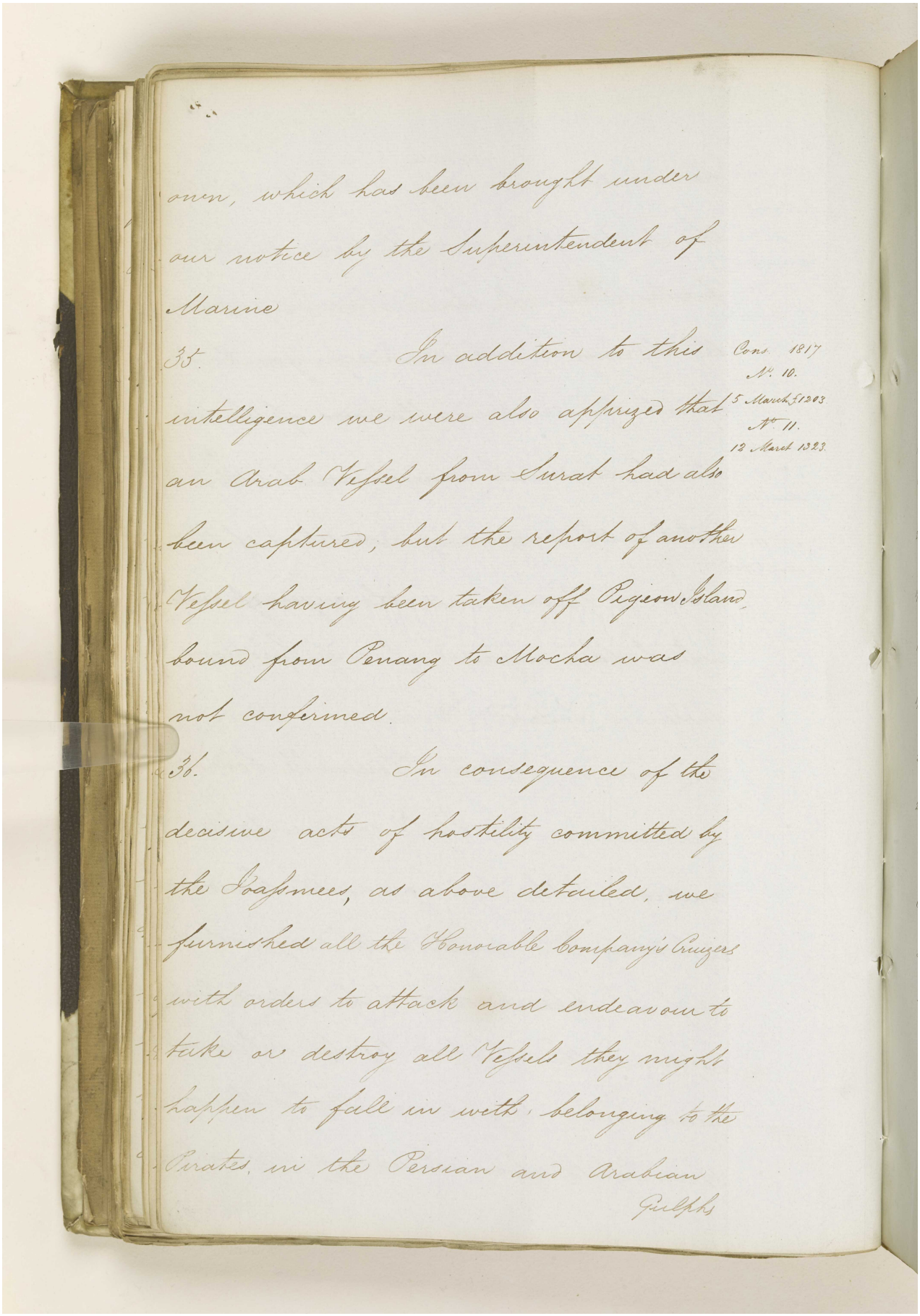
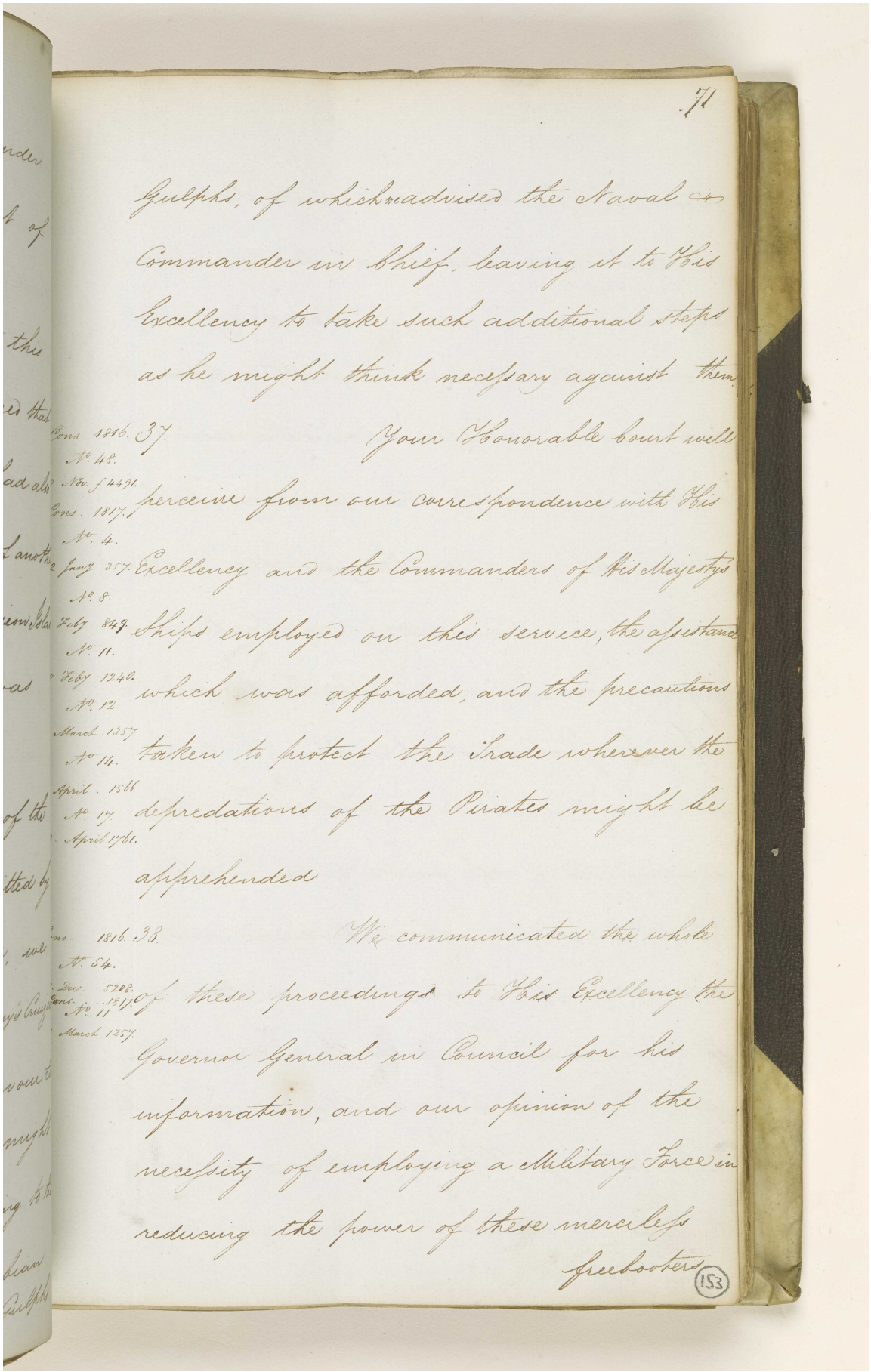


owen, which has been brought under
our notice by the Superintendent of
Marine

35. In addition to this intelligence we were also apprized that an Arab Vessel from Surat had also been captured, but the report of another Vessel having been taken off Pigeon Island bound from Penang to Mocha was not confirmed. Cons. 1817 N°. 10. 5 March 1303 N°. 11. 12 March 1323.

36. In consequence of the decisive acts of hostility committed by the Joasmees, as above detailed, we furnished all the Honorable Company's Cruizers with orders to attack and endeavour to take or destroy all Vessels they might happen to fall in with, belonging to the Pirates, in the Persian and Arabian Gulphs



Gulphs, of which we advised the Naval Commander in Chief, leaving it to His Excellency to take such additional steps as he might think necessary against them.

Cons. 1816. No. 48. Nov. f 4491. Cons. 1817. No. 4. Jany 357. No. 8. Feby 849. No. 11. Feby 1240. No. 12. March 1357. No. 14. April 1566. No. 17. April 1761.

37. Your Honorable Court will perceive from our correspondence with His Excellency and the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships employed on this service, the assistance which was afforded, and the precautions taken to protect the Trade wherever the depredations of the Pirates might be apprehended

Cons. 1816. No. 54. Dec. 5208. Cons. 1817. No. 11 March 1257.

38. We communicated the whole of these proceedings to His Excellency the Governor General in Council for his information, and our opinion of the necessity of employing a Military Force in reducing the power of these merciless freebooters

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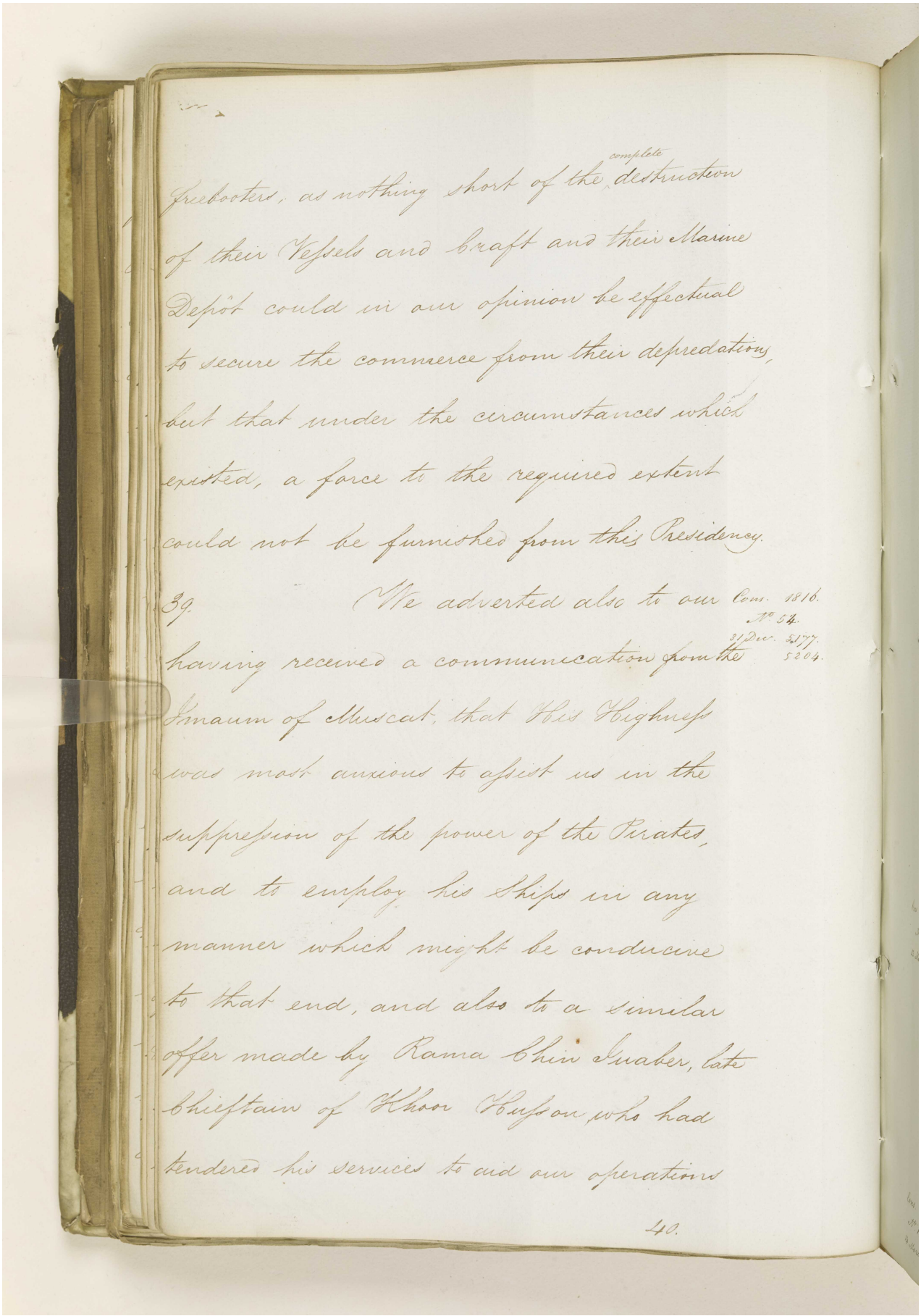

freebooters, as nothing short of the complete destruction of their Vessels and Craft and their Marine Depôt could in our opinion be effectual to secure the commerce from their depredations, but that under the circumstances which existed, a force to the required extent could not be furnished from this Presidency.

39. We adverted also to our having received a communication from the Imaum of Muscat, that His Highness was most anxious to assist us in the suppression of the power of the Pirates, and to employ his Ships in any manner which might be conducive to that end, and also to a similar offer made by Rama Chin Juaber, late Chieftain of Khoor Hussou, who had tendered his services to aid our operations

Com. 1816. No. 54. 31 Dec. 5177. 5204.

40.

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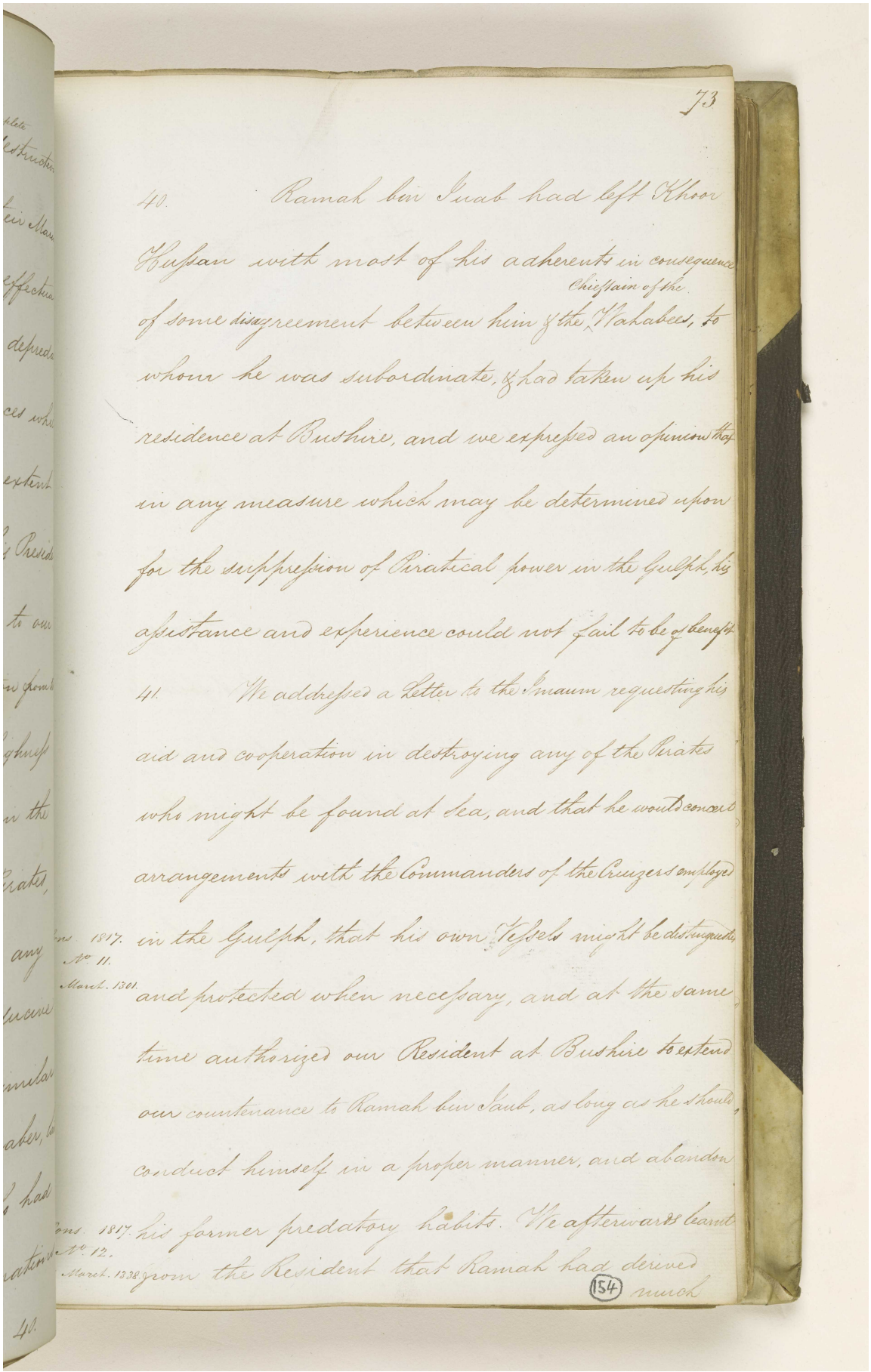

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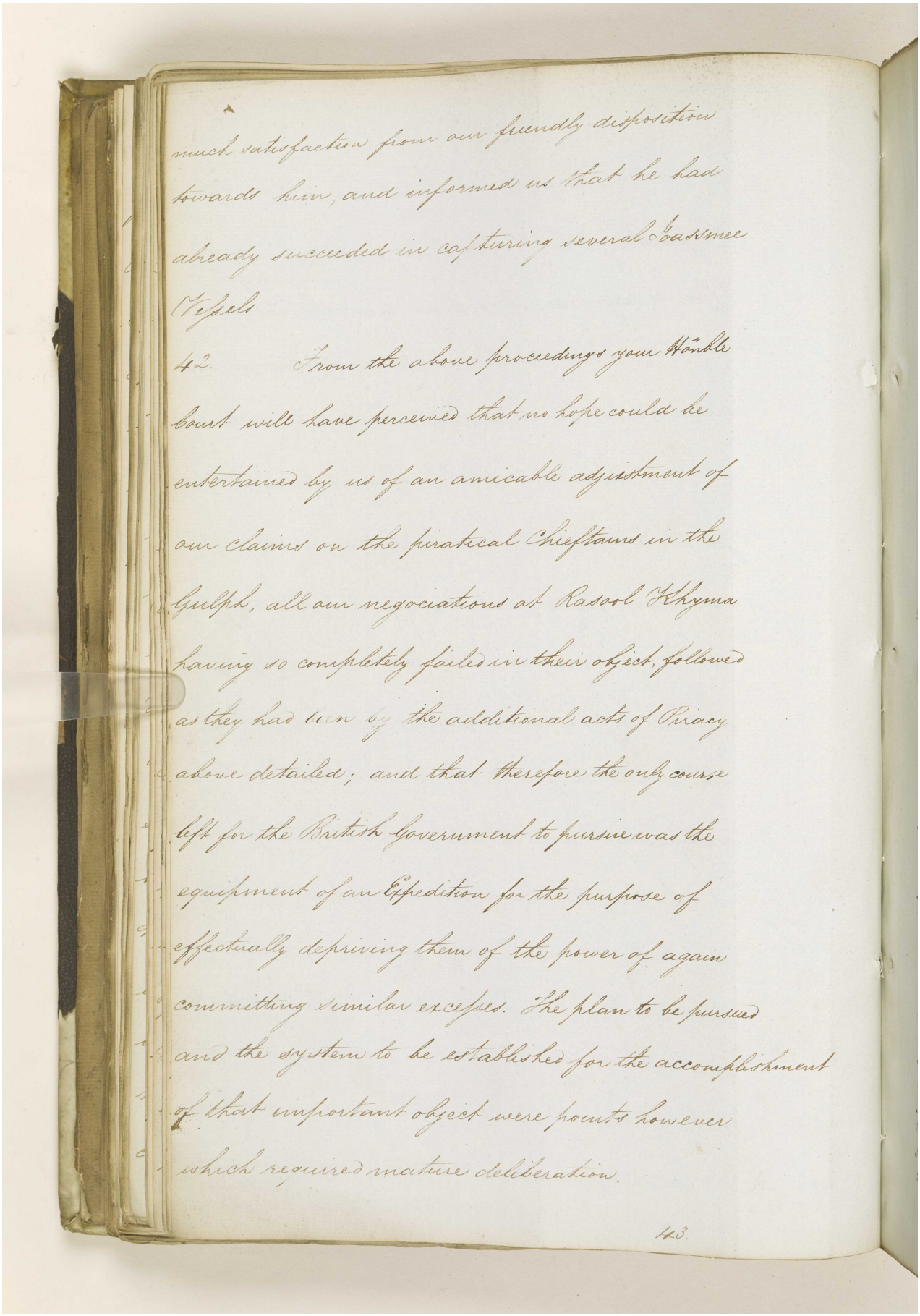
40. Ramah bin Suab had left Khoor Hassan with most of his adherents in consequence of some disagreement between him & the Chiefsain of the Wahabees, to whom he was subordinate, & had taken up his residence at Bushire, and we expressed an opinion that in any measure which may be determined upon for the suppression of Piratical power in the Gulph, his assistance and experience could not fail to be of benefit.

41. We addressed a Letter to the Imaum requesting his aid and cooperation in destroying any of the Pirates who might be found at Sea, and that he would concert arrangements with the Commanders of the Cruizers employed in the Gulph, that his own Vessels might be distinguished and protected when necessary, and at the same time authorized our Resident at Bushire to extend our countenance to Ramah bin Saub, as long as he should conduct himself in a proper manner, and abandon his former predatory habits. We afterwards learnt from the Resident that Ramah had derived much

Bms. 1817. No. 11. March. 1301.

Bms. 1817. No. 12. March. 1338.

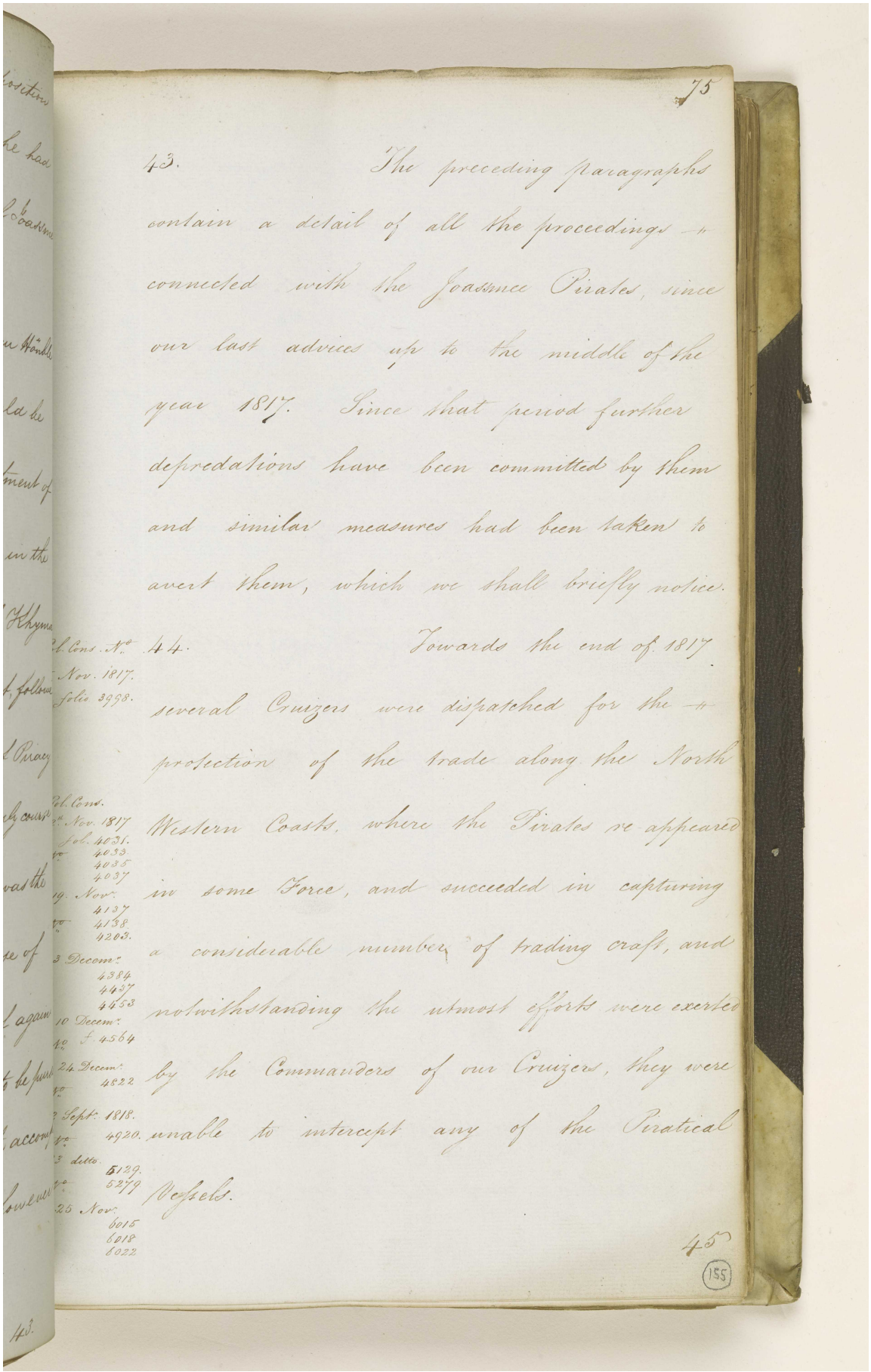
(154)



much satisfaction from our friendly disposition towards him, and informed us that he had already succeeded in capturing several Joasmee Vessels

42. From the above proceedings your Honble Court will have perceived that no hope could be entertained by us of an amicable adjustment of our claims on the piratical Chieftains in the Gulph, all our negociations at Rasool Khyma having so completely failed in their object, followed as they had been by the additional acts of Piracy above detailed; and that therefore the only course left for the British Government to pursue was the equipment of an Expedition for the purpose of effectually depriving them of the power of again committing similar excesses. The plan to be pursued and the system to be established for the accomplishment of that important object were points however which required mature deliberation.

43.



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43. The preceding paragraphs contain a detail of all the proceedings connected with the Joasmee Pirates, since our last advices up to the middle of the year 1817. Since that period further depredations have been committed by them and similar measures had been taken to avert them, which we shall briefly notice.

Bl. Cons. N°. 44. Towards the end of 1817
7 Nov. 1817.
folio 3998. several Cruizers were dispatched for the protection of the trade along the North Western Coasts, where the Pirates re appeared in some Force, and succeeded in capturing a considerable number of trading craft, and notwithstanding the utmost efforts were exerted by the Commanders of our Cruizers, they were unable to intercept any of the Piratical Vessels.

Bl. Cons.
2d. Nov. 1817
fol. 4031.
4033.
4035
4037
19. Nov.
4137
4138
4203.
3 Decem.
4384
4437
4453
10 Decem.
f. 4564
24 Decem.
4822
2 Sept. 1818.
4920.
3 ditto
5129.
5279
25 Nov.
6015
6018
6022

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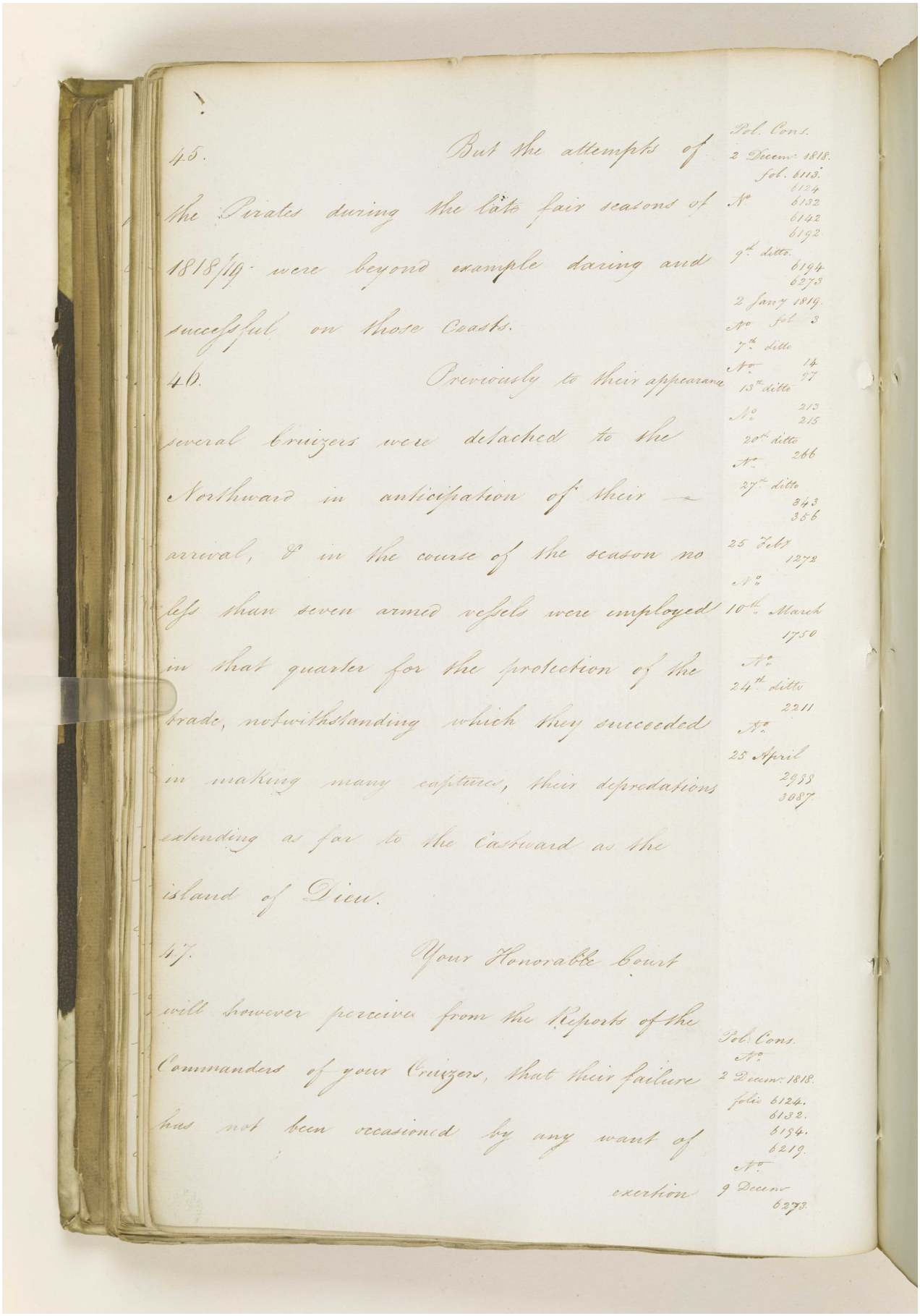
43.



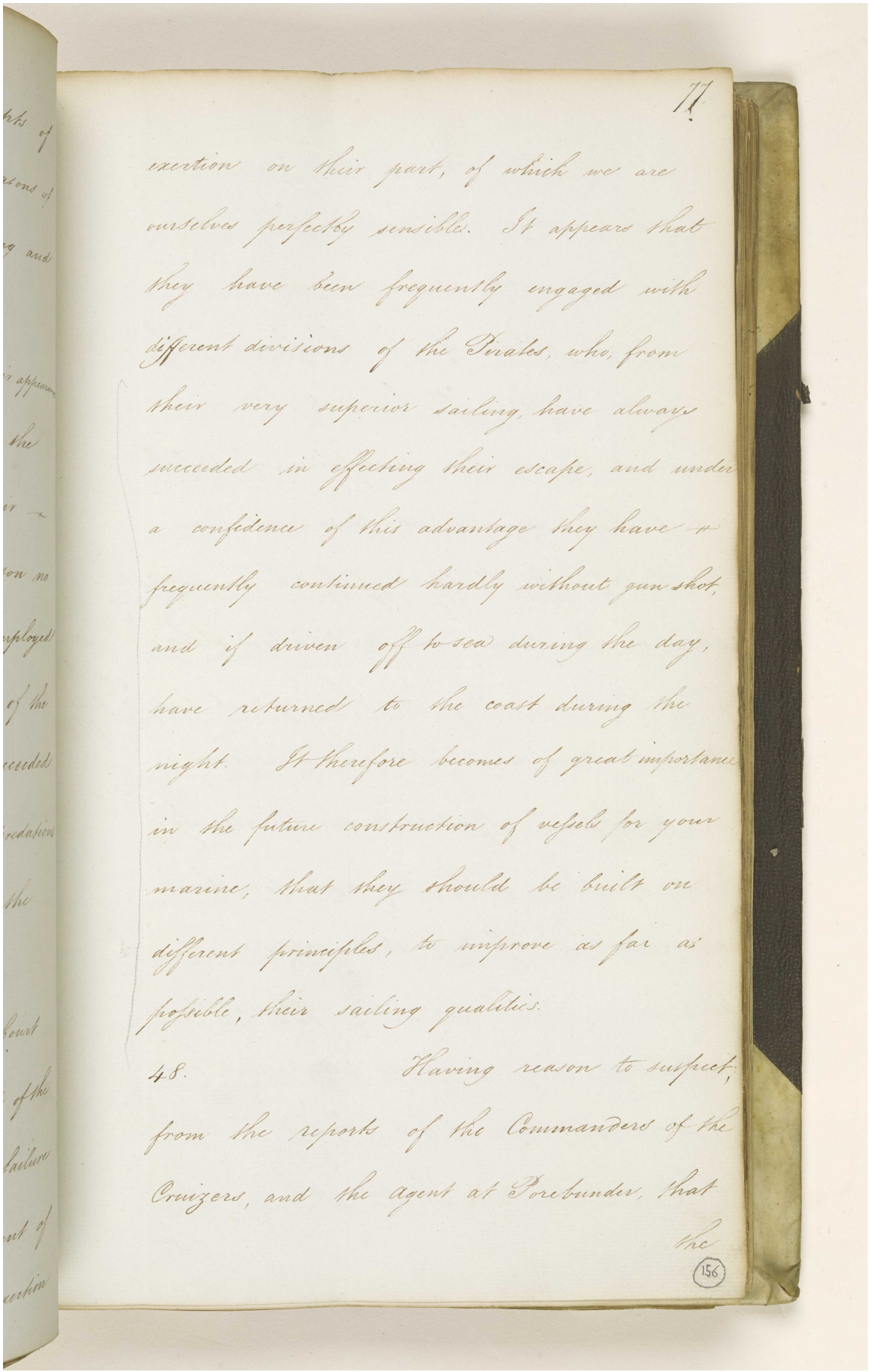
45. But the attempts of the Pirates during the late fair seasons of 1818/19 were beyond example daring and succesful on those Coasts.

Pol. Cons. 2 Decem: 1818. fol. 6113. 6124 6132 6142 6192 9th ditto 6194 6273 2 Jany 1819. No fol 3 7th ditto No 14 97 13th ditto No 213 215 20th ditto No 266 27th ditto 343 356 25 ditto 1272 No 10th March 1750 No 24th ditto 2211 No 25 April 2933 3087

46. Previously to their appearance several Cruizers were detached to the Northward in anticipation of their arrival, & in the course of the season no less than seven armed vessels were employed in that quarter for the protection of the trade, notwithstanding which they succeeded in making many captures, their depredations extending as far to the Eastward as the island of Diu.

47. Your Honorable Court will however perceive from the Reports of the Commanders of your Cruizers, that their failure has not been occasioned by any want of exertion

Pol. Cons. No 2 Decem: 1818. folio 6124. 6132. 6134. 6219. No 9 Decem 6273.



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exertion on their part, of which we are ourselves perfectly sensible. It appears that they have been frequently engaged with different divisions of the Pirates, who, from their very superior sailing, have always succeeded in effecting their escape, and under a confidence of this advantage they have frequently continued hardly without gun shot, and if driven off to sea during the day, have returned to the coast during the night. It therefore becomes of great importance in the future construction of vessels for your marine, that they should be built on different principles, to improve as far as possible, their sailing qualities.

48. Having reason to suspect, from the reports of the Commanders of the Cruizers, and the Agent at Porebunder, that the

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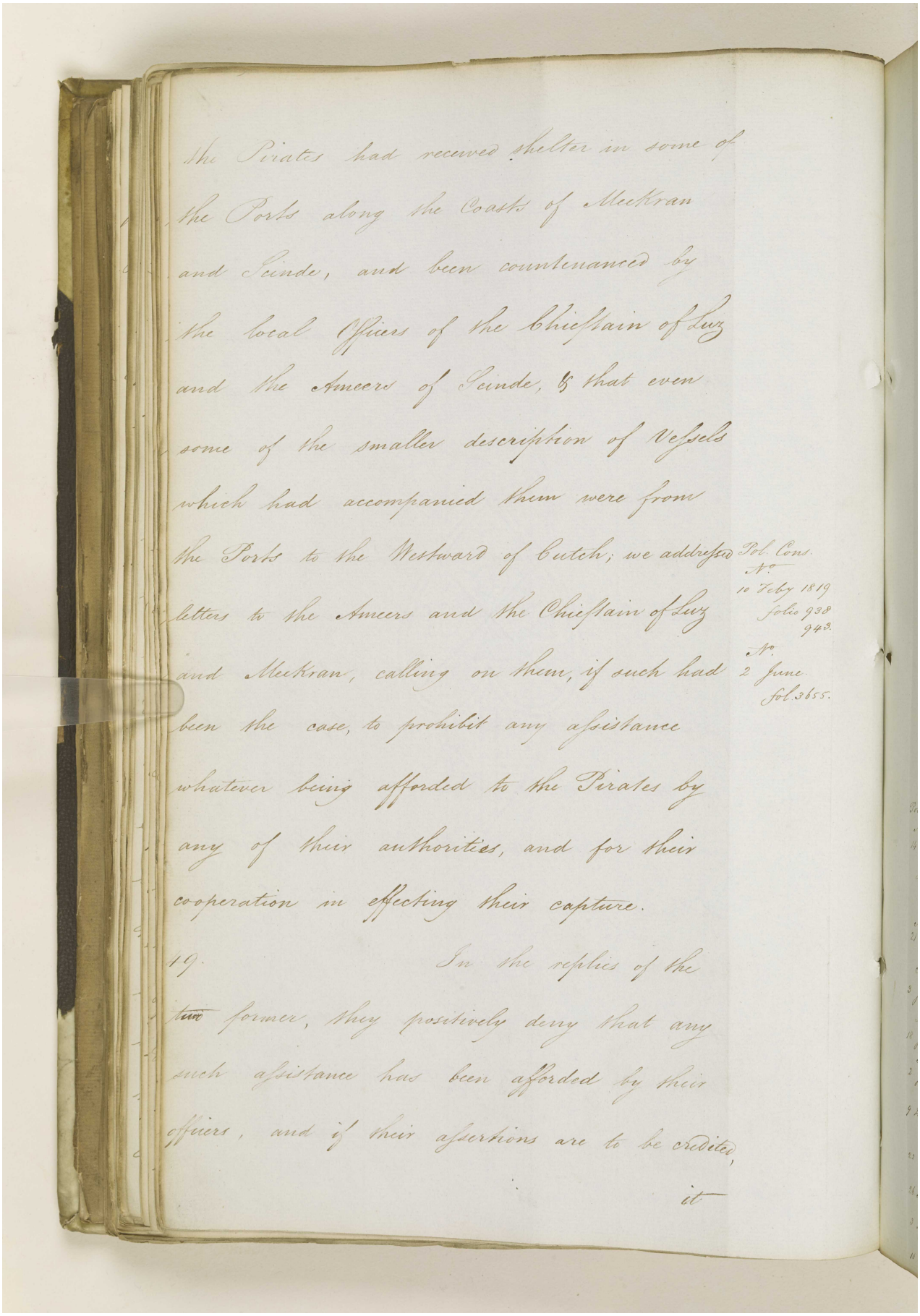
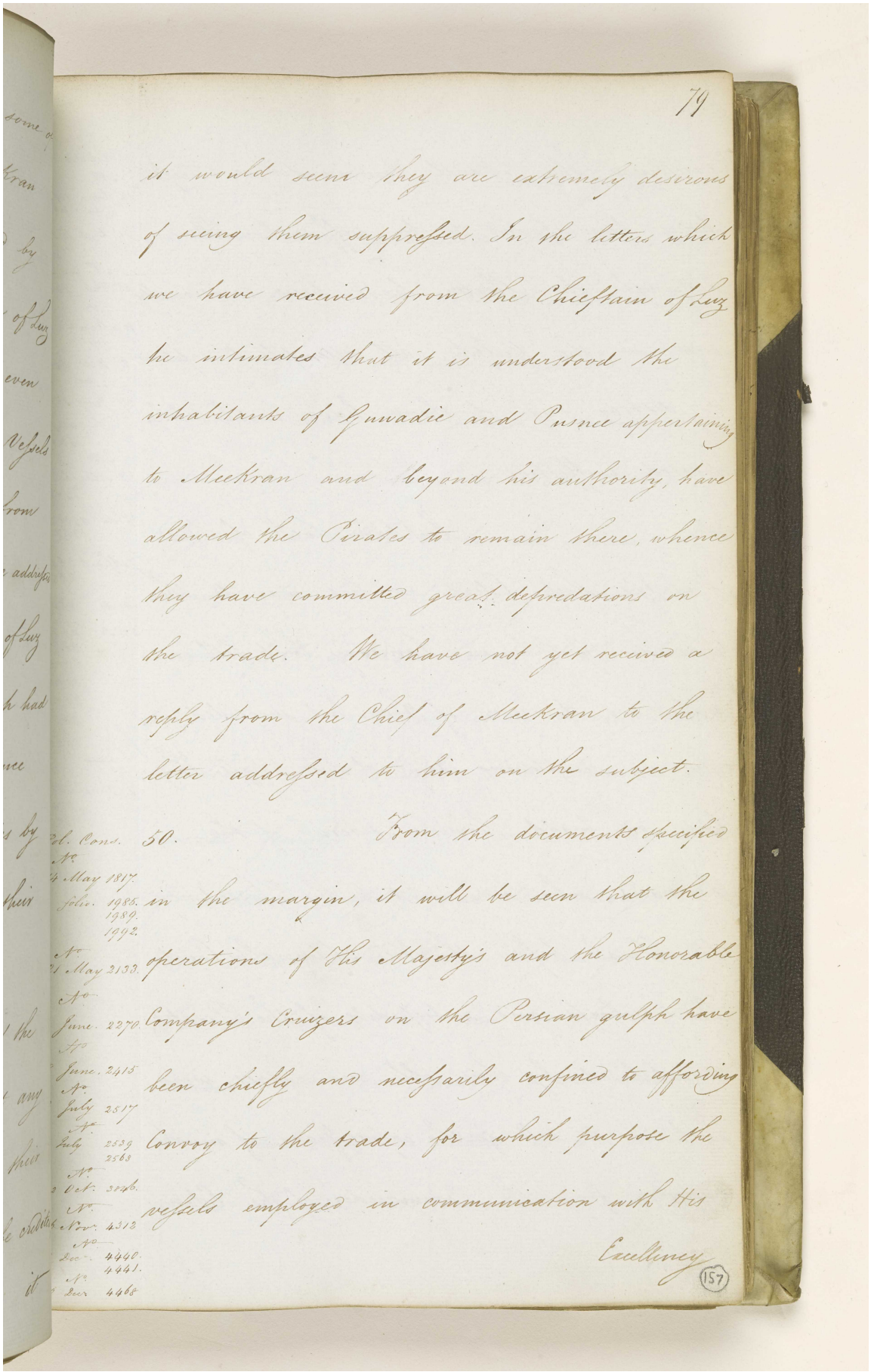


the Pirates had received shelter in some of the Ports along the Coasts of Mekran and Scinde, and been countenanced by the local Offices of the Chieftain of Luz and the Ameers of Scinde, & that even some of the smaller description of Vessels which had accompanied them were from the Ports to the Westward of Cutch; we addressed letters to the Ameers and the Chieftain of Luz and Mekran, calling on them, if such had been the case, to prohibit any assistance whatever being afforded to the Pirates by any of their authorities, and for their cooperation in effecting their capture.

Pol. Cons. No. 10 Feby 1819 Folio 938 943.
No. 2 June fol 3655.

19. In the replies of the two former, they positively deny that any such assistance has been afforded by their officers, and if their assertions are to be credited,

it



it would seem they are extremely desirous of seeing them suppressed. In the letters which we have received from the Chieftain of Luz he intimates that it is understood the inhabitants of Guwadie and Pusnee appertaining to Meekran and beyond his authority, have allowed the Pirates to remain there, whence they have committed great depredations on the trade. We have not yet received a reply from the Chief of Meekran to the letter addressed to him on the subject.

Pol. Cons. No. 4 May 1817. folio. 1985. 1989. 1992. No. 21 May 2133. No. June. 2270. No. June. 2415 No. July 2517 No. July 2539 2563 No. Oct. 3846. No. Nov. 4312 No. Dec. 4440. 4441. No. Dec. 4468

50. From the documents specified in the margin, it will be seen that the operations of His Majesty's and the Honorable Company's Cruizers on the Persian gulph have been chiefly and necessarily confined to affording Convoy to the trade, for which purpose the vessels employed in communication with His

Excellency

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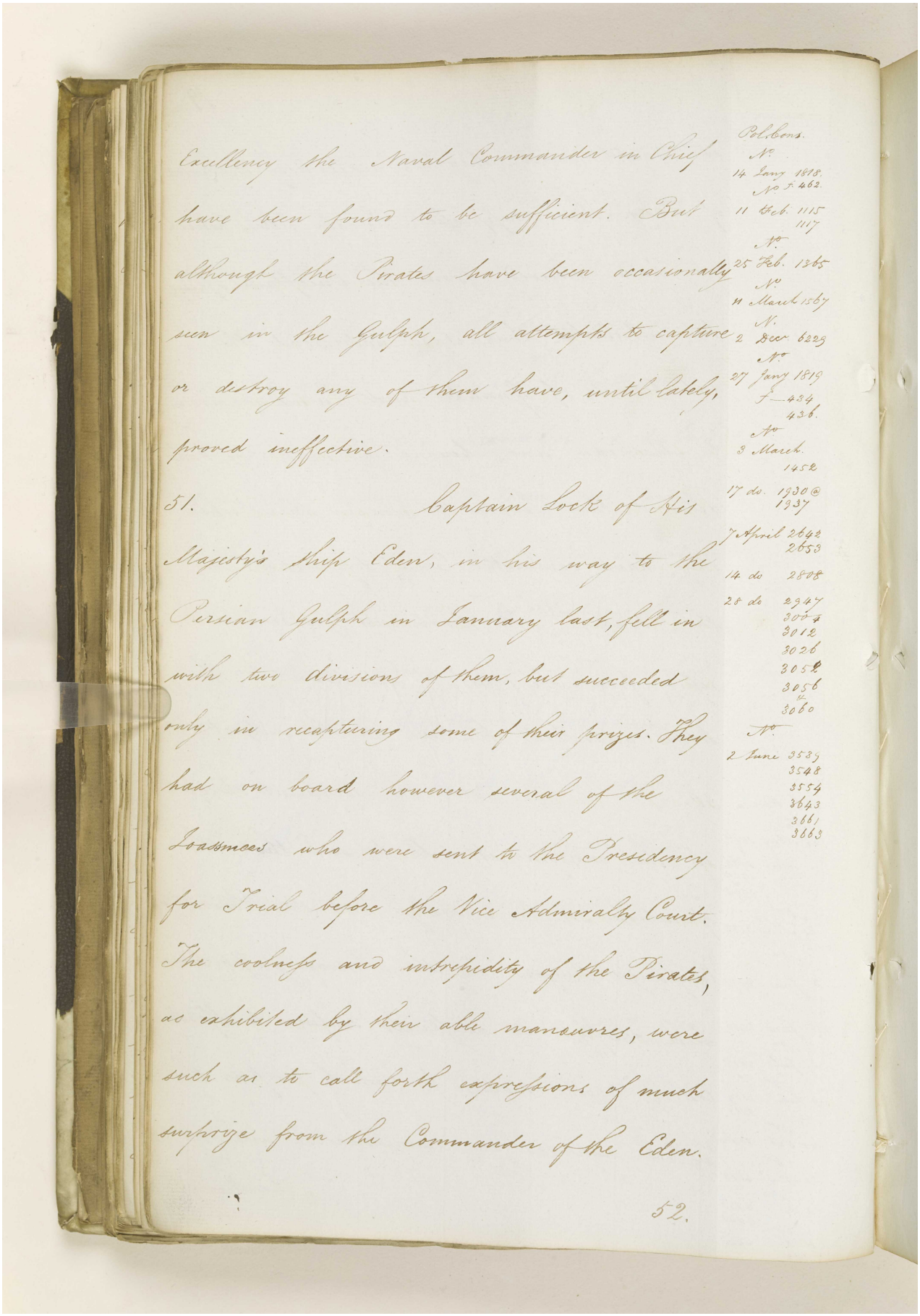

Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief have been found to be sufficient. But although the Pirates have been occasionally seen in the Gulph, all attempts to capture or destroy any of them have, until lately, proved ineffective.

51. Captain Lock of His Majesty's Ship Eden, in his way to the Persian Gulph in January last, fell in with two divisions of them, but succeeded only in recapturing some of their prizes. They had on board however several of the Joasmees who were sent to the Presidency for Trial before the Vice Admiralty Court. The coolness and intrepidity of the Pirates, as exhibited by their able manoeuvres, were such as to call forth expressions of much surprize from the Commander of the Eden.

52.

Pol Cons.
No.
14 Jany 1818. No 5 462.
11 Feb. 1115 1117
No.
25 Feb. 1365
No
11 March 1567
No.
2 Dec. 6223
No.
27 Jany 1819 5—434 436.
No
3 March. 1452
17 do. 1930@ 1937
7 April 2642 2653
14 do 2808
28 do 2347 3054 2012 3026 3052 3056 3060
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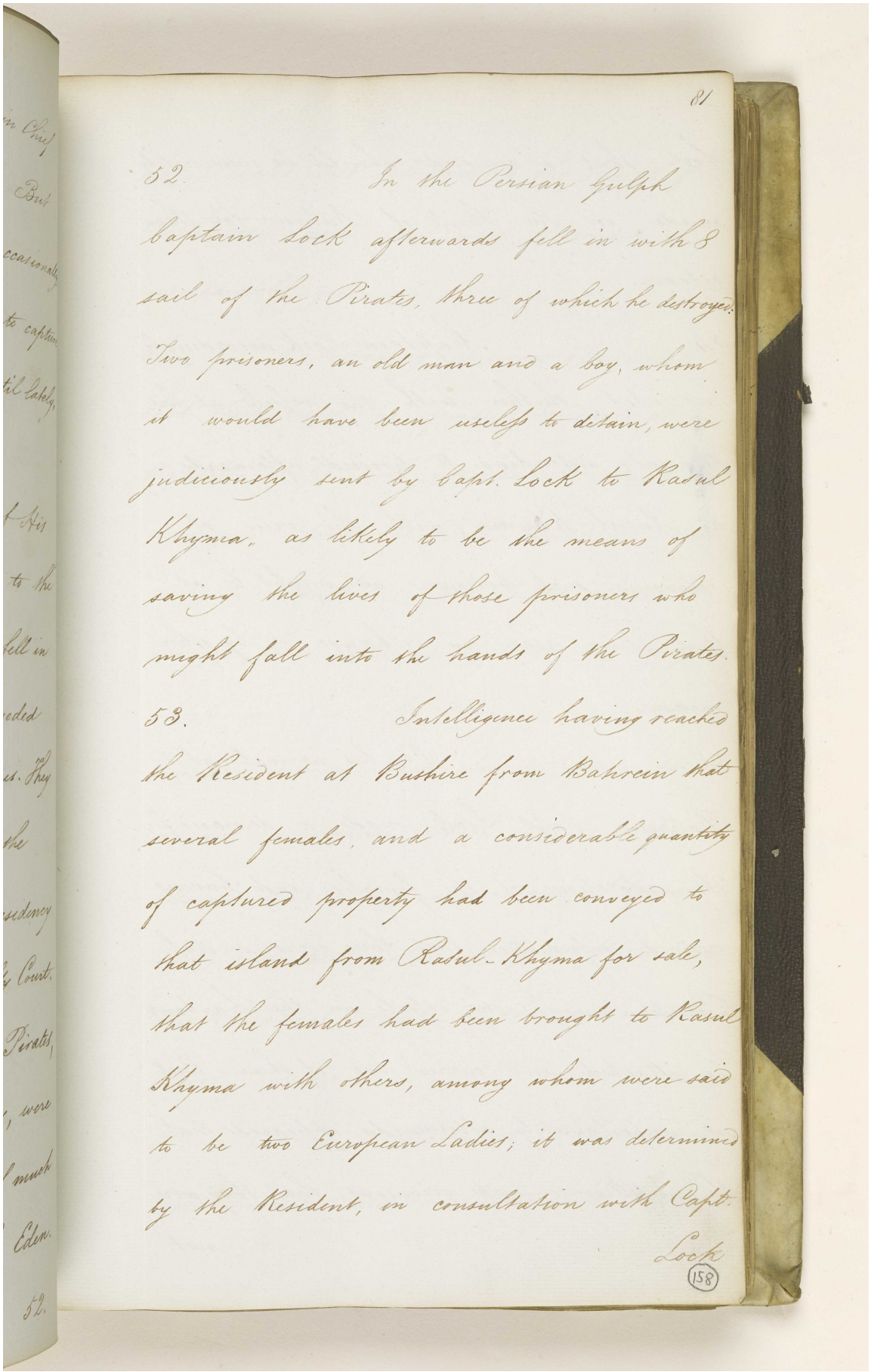
2 June 3537 3548 3554 3643 3661 3663



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52. In the Persian Gulph Captain Lock afterwards fell in with 8 sail of the Pirates, three of which he destroyed. Two prisoners, an old man and a boy, whom it would have been useless to detain, were judiciously sent by Capt. Lock to Rasul Khyma, as likely to be the means of saving the lives of those prisoners who might fall into the hands of the Pirates.

53. Intelligence having reached the Resident at Bushire from Bahrein that several females, and a considerable quantity of captured property had been conveyed to that island from Rasul-Khyma for sale, that the females had been brought to Rasul Khyma with others, among whom were said to be two European Ladies; it was determined by the Resident, in consultation with Capt. Lock

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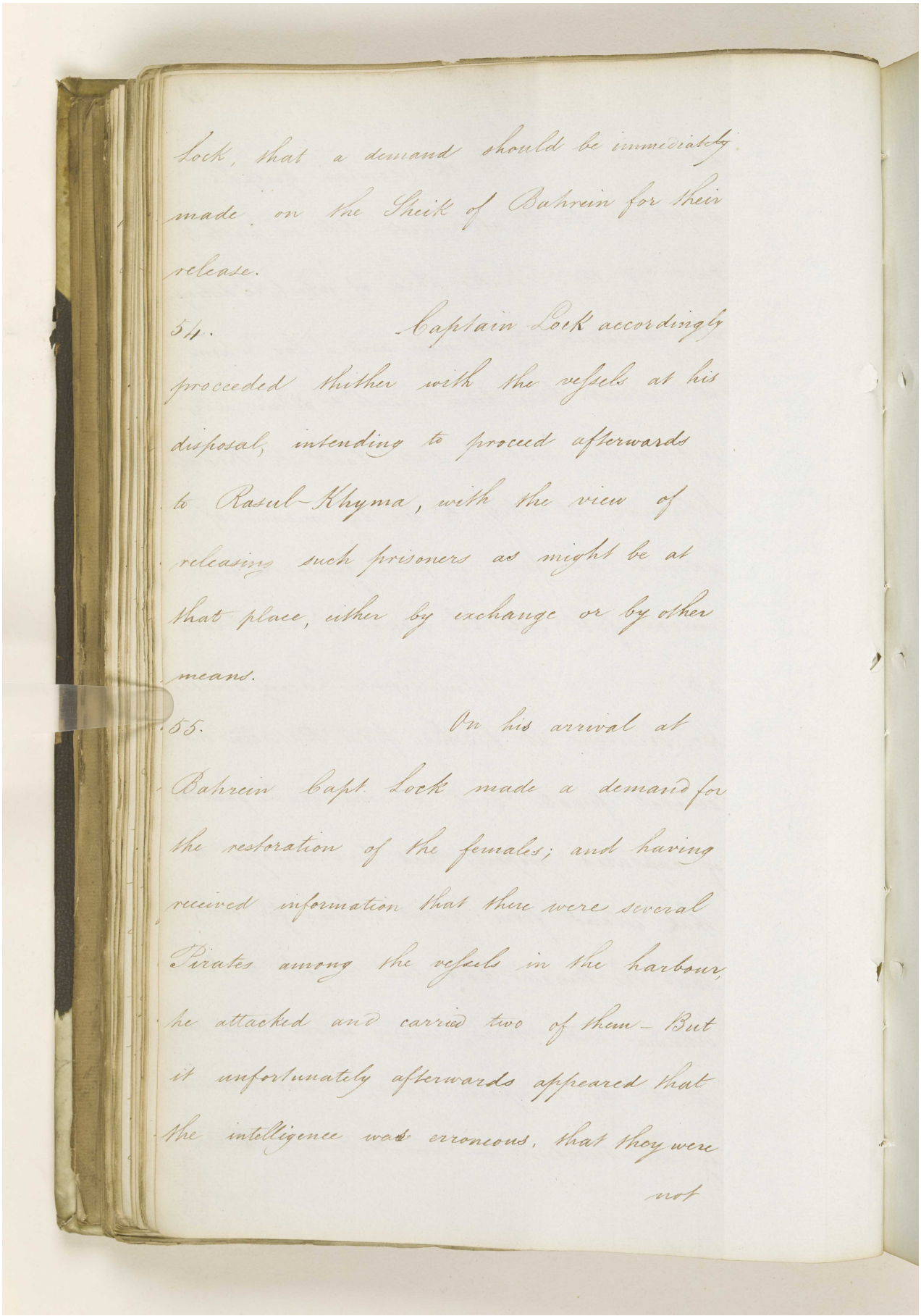
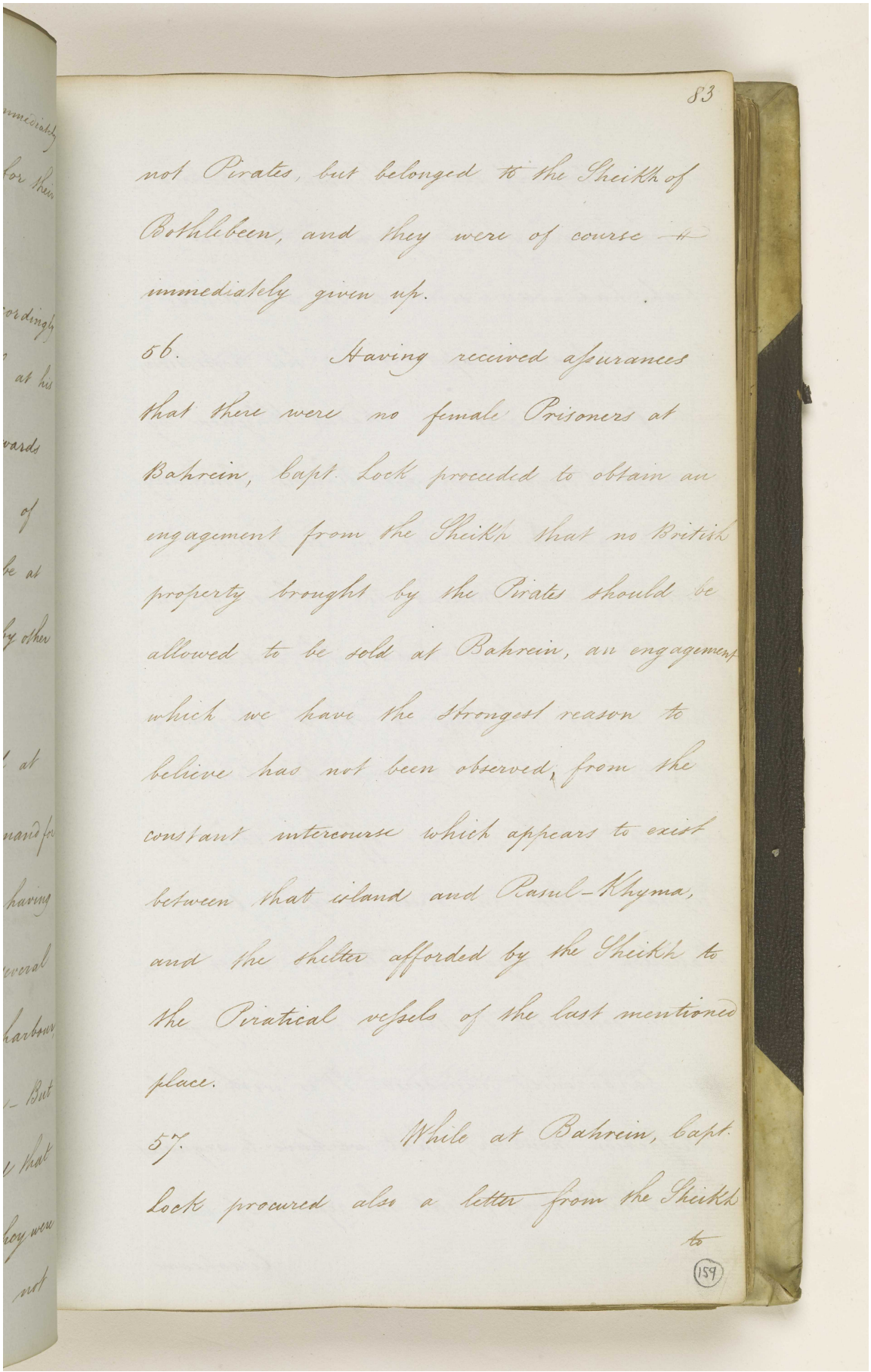


Lock, that a demand should be immediately made on the Sheik of Bahrein for their release.

54. Captain Lock accordingly proceeded thither with the vessels at his disposal, intending to proceed afterwards to Rasul-Khyma, with the view of releasing such prisoners as might be at that place, either by exchange or by other means.

55. On his arrival at Bahrein Capt. Lock made a demand for the restoration of the females; and having received information that there were several Pirates among the vessels in the harbour, he attacked and carried two of them – But it unfortunately afterwards appeared that the intelligence was erroneous, that they were not



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not Pirates, but belonged to the Sheikh of Bothlebeen, and they were of course immediately given up.

56. Having received assurances that there were no female Prisoners at Bahrein, Capt. Lock proceeded to obtain an engagement from the Sheikh that no British property brought by the Pirates should be allowed to be sold at Bahrein, an engagement which we have the strongest reason to believe has not been observed, from the constant intercourse which appears to exist between that island and Ras-ul-Khyma, and the shelter afforded by the Sheikh to the Piratical vessels of the last mentioned place.

57. While at Bahrein, Capt. Lock procured also a letter from the Sheikh to

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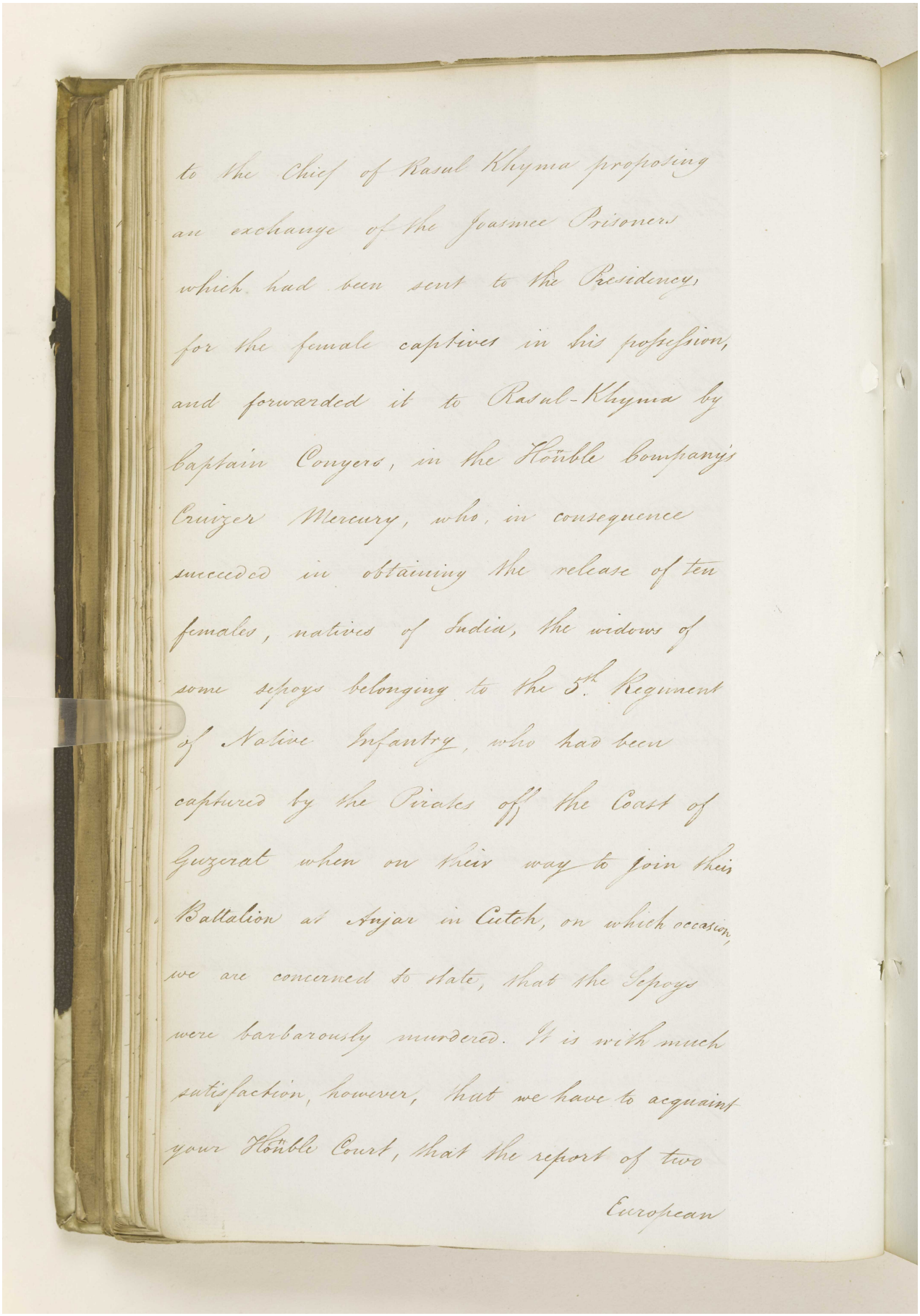
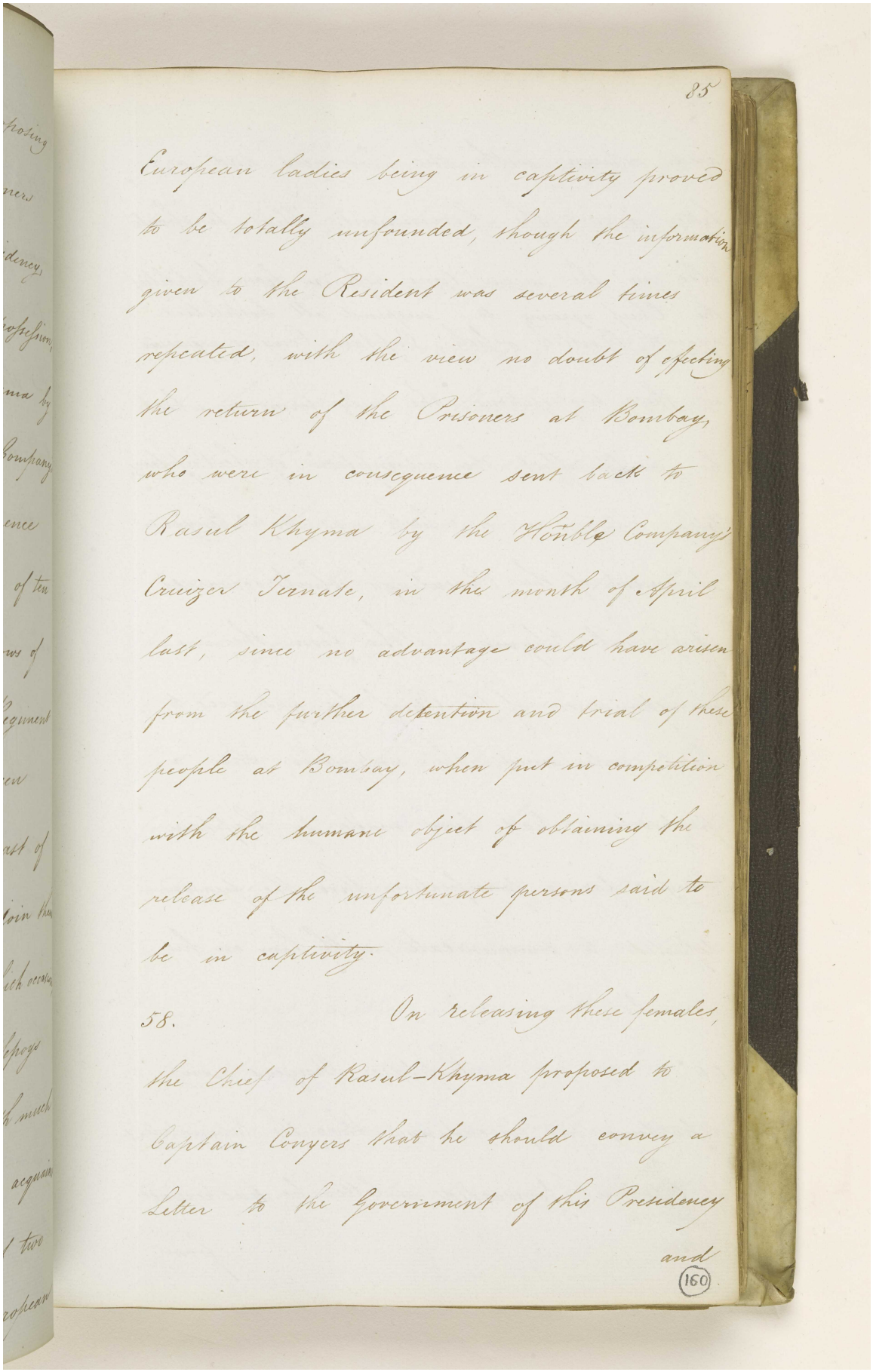


to the Chief of Rasul Khyma proposing
an exchange of the Joasmee Prisoners
which had been sent to the Presidency,
for the female captives in his possession,
and forwarded it to Rasul-Khyma by
Captain Conyers, in the Honble Company's
Cruizer Mercury, who, in consequence
succeeded in obtaining the release of ten
females, natives of India, the widows of
some sepoys belonging to the 5th Regiment
of Native Infantry, who had been
captured by the Pirates off the Coast of
Guzerat when on their way to join their
Battalion at Anjar in Cutch, on which occasion,
we are concerned to state, that the Sepoys
were barbarously murdered. It is with much
satisfaction, however, that we have to acquaint
your Honble Court, that the report of two
European



European ladies being in captivity proved to be totally unfounded, though the information given to the Resident was several times repeated, with the view no doubt of effecting the return of the Prisoners at Bombay, who were in consequence sent back to Rasul Khyma by the Honble Company's Cruizer Fernate, in the month of April last, since no advantage could have arisen from the further detention and trial of these people at Bombay, when put in competition with the humane object of obtaining the release of the unfortunate persons said to be in captivity.

58. On releasing these females, the Chief of Rasul-Khyma proposed to Captain Conyers that he should convey a Letter to the Government of this Presidency and

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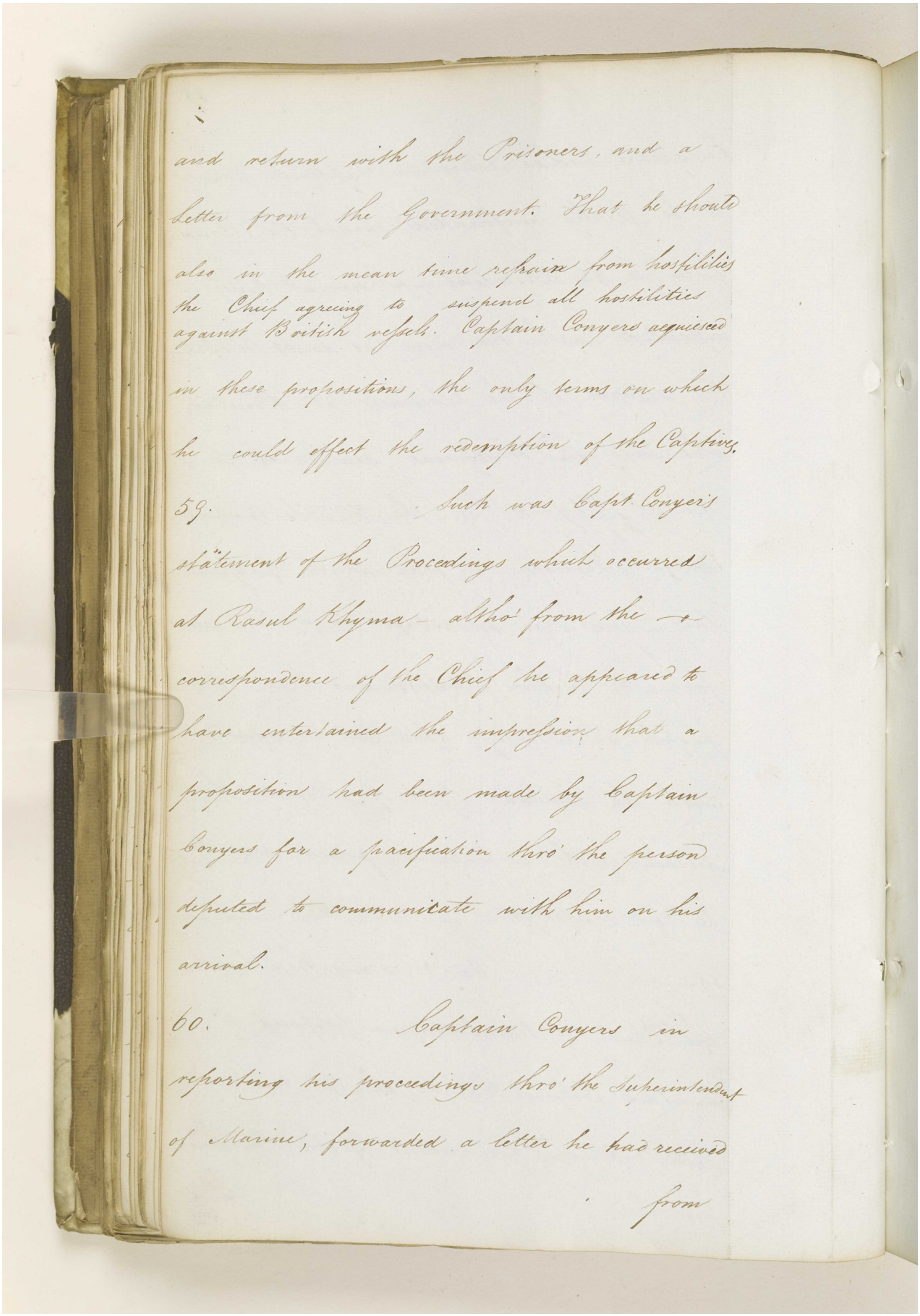
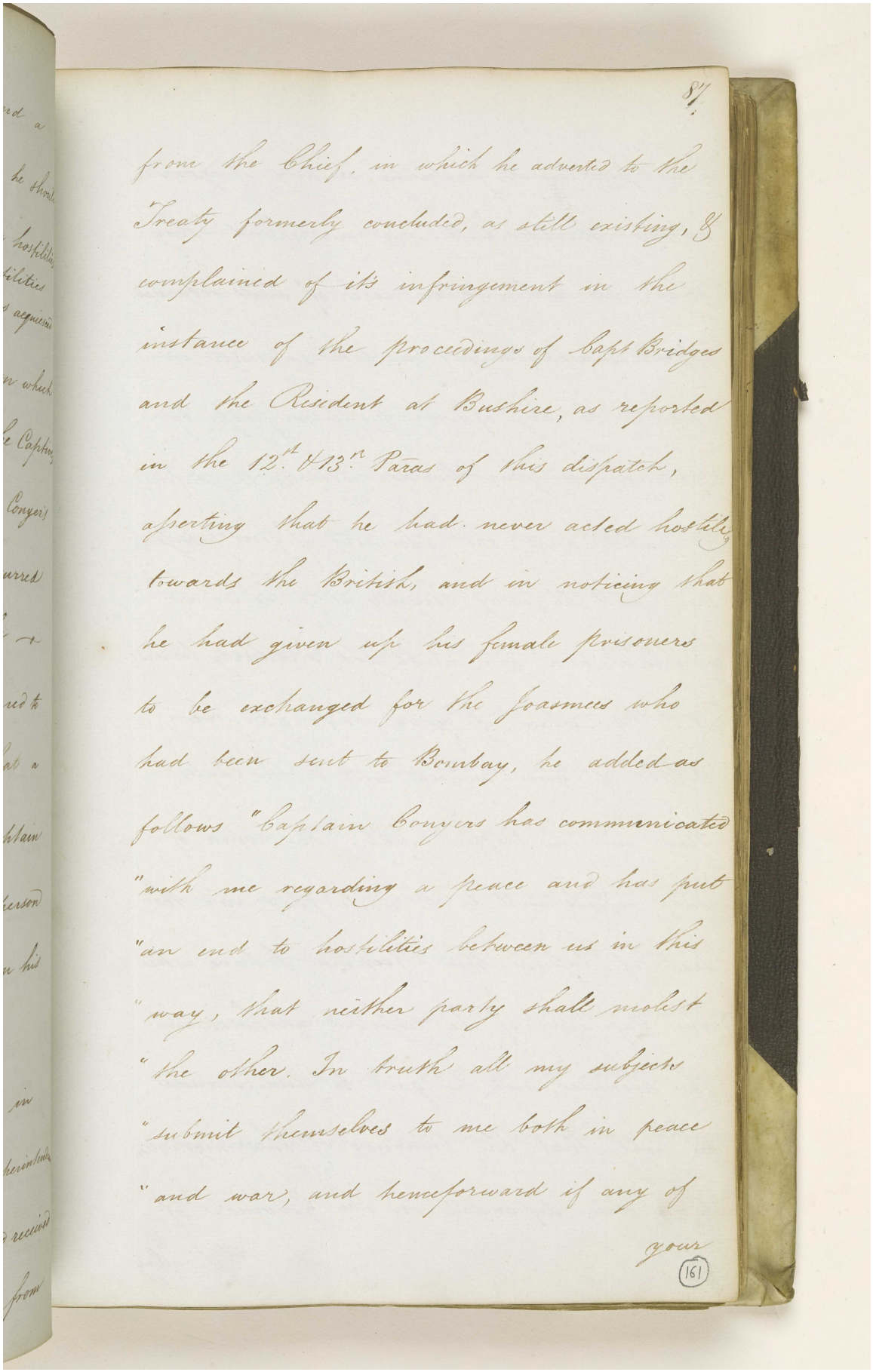


and return with the Prisoners, and a
Letter from the Government. That he should
also in the mean time refrain from hostilities
the Chief agreeing to suspend all hostilities
against British vessels. Captain Conyers acquiesced
in these propositions, the only terms on which
he could effect the redemption of the Captives.

59. Such was Capt. Conyers's
statement of the Proceedings which occurred
at Rasul Khyma — altho' from the —
correspondence of the Chief he appeared to
have entertained the impression that a
proposition had been made by Captain
Conyers for a pacification thro' the person
deputed to communicate with him on his
arrival.

60. Captain Conyers in
reporting his proceedings thro' the Superintendent
of Marine, forwarded a letter he had received
from



87.

from the Chief, in which he adverted to the Treaty formerly concluded, as still existing, & complained of its infringement in the instance of the proceedings of Capt Bridges and the Resident at Bushire, as reported in the 12th & 13th Paras of this dispatch, asserting that he had never acted hostilely towards the British, and in noticing that he had given up his female prisoners to be exchanged for the Joasmees who had been sent to Bombay, he added as follows "Captain Conyers has communicated "with me regarding a peace and has put "an end to hostilities between us in this "way, that neither party shall molest "the other. In truth all my subjects "submit themselves to me both in peace "and war, and henceforward if any of

your

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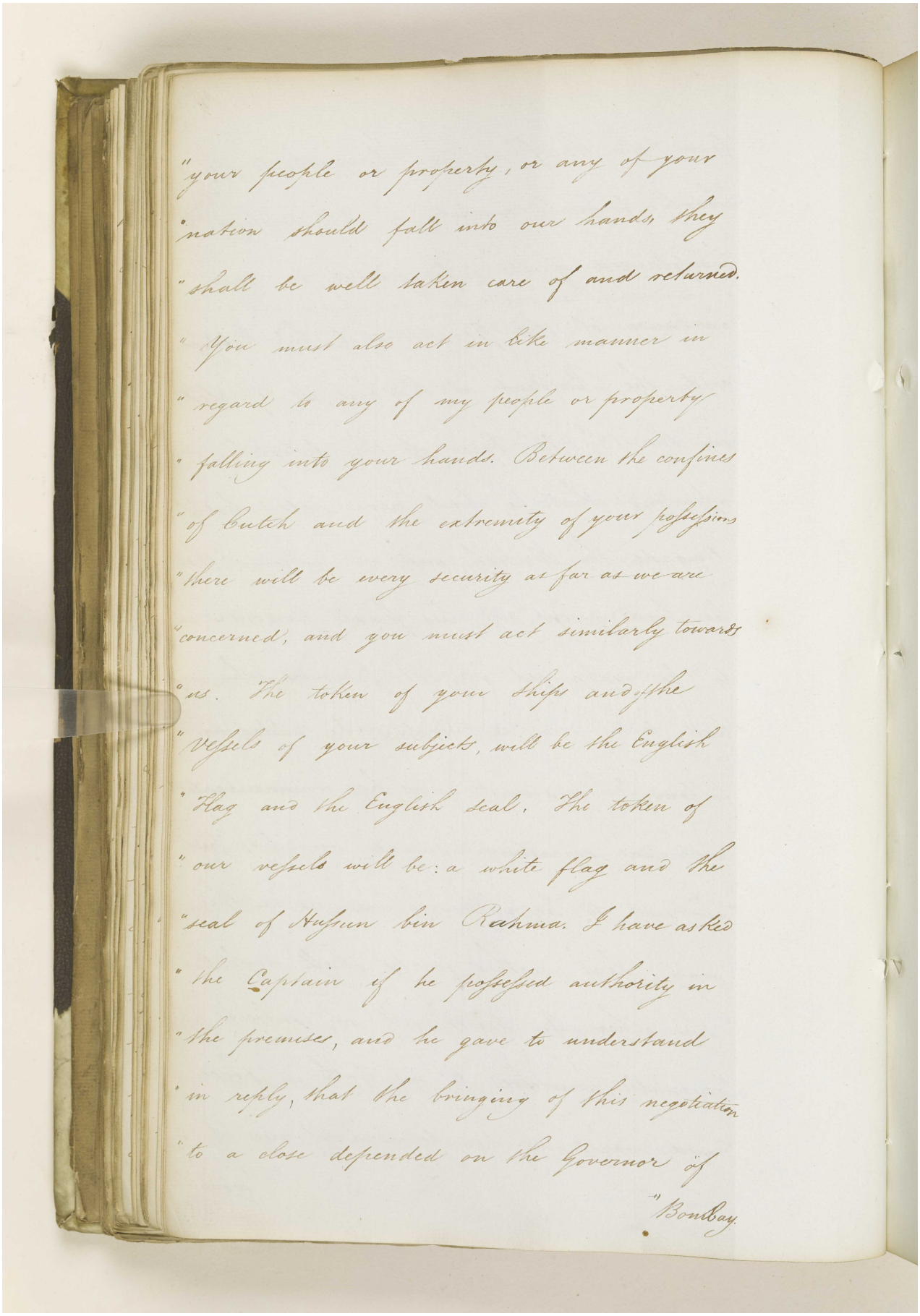

"your people or property, or any of your
"nation should fall into our hands, they
"shall be well taken care of and returned.
"You must also act in like manner in
"regard to any of my people or property
"falling into your hands. Between the confines
"of Cutch and the extremity of your possessions
"there will be every security as far as we are
"concerned, and you must act similarly towards
"us. The token of your ships and of the
"vessels of your subjects, will be the English
"flag and the English seal. The token of
"our vessels will be: a white flag and the
"seal of Nufsun bin Rahma. I have asked
"the Captain if he possessed authority in
"the premises, and he gave to understand
"in reply, that the bringing of this negotiation
"to a close depended on the Governor of
"Bombay

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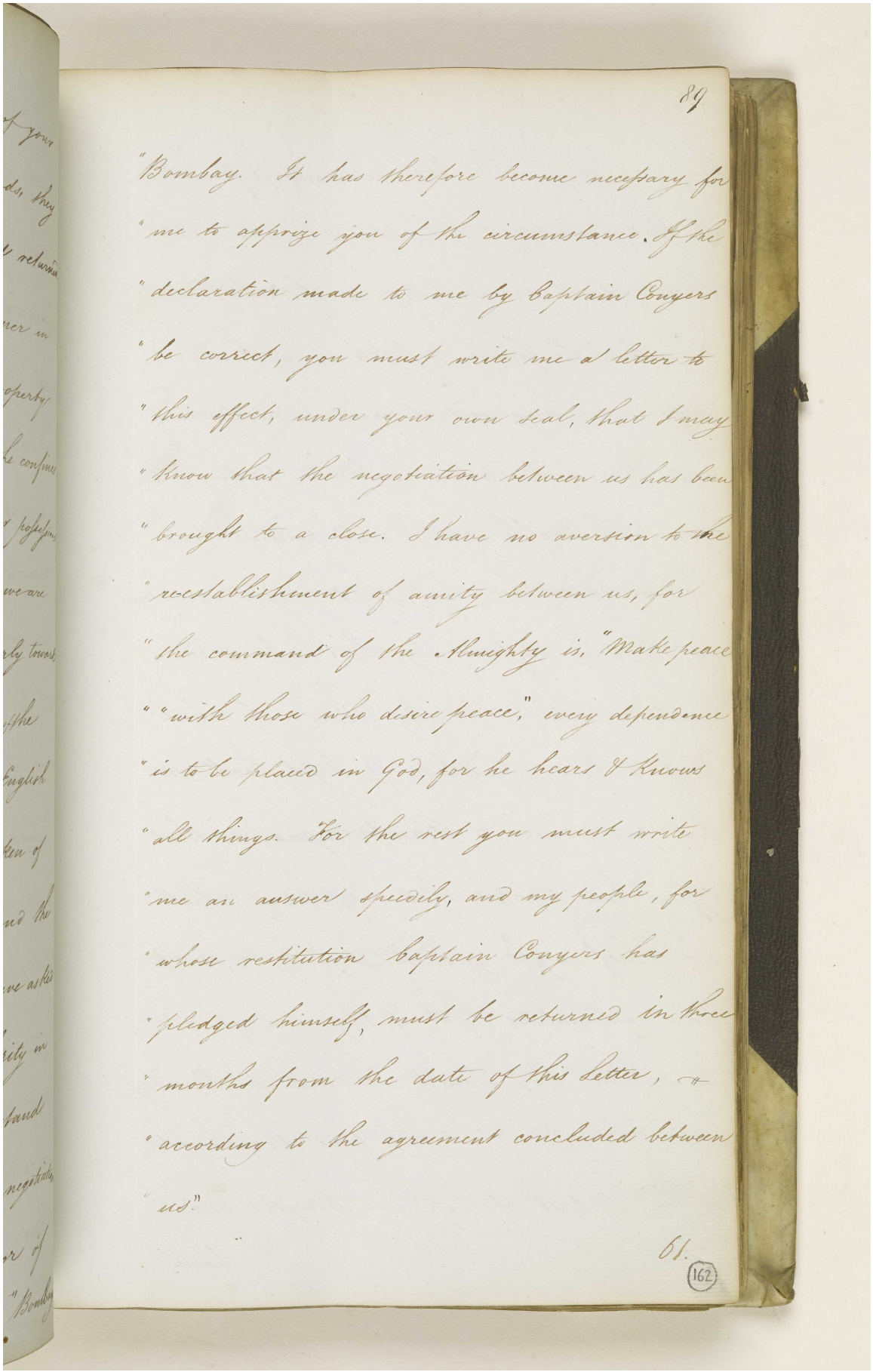

89

"Bombay. It has therefore become necessary for
"me to apprize you of the circumstance. If the
"declaration made to me by Captain Conyers
"be correct, you must write me a letter to
"this effect, under your own seal, that I may
"know that the negotiation between us has been
"brought to a close. I have no aversion to the
"re-establishment of amity between us, for
"the command of the Almighty is, "Make peace
""with those who desire peace," every dependence
"is to be placed in God, for he hears & knows
"all things. For the rest you must write
"me an answer speedily, and my people, for
"whose restitution Captain Conyers has
"pledged himself, must be returned in three
"months from the date of this letter, &
"according to the agreement concluded between
"us."

61.

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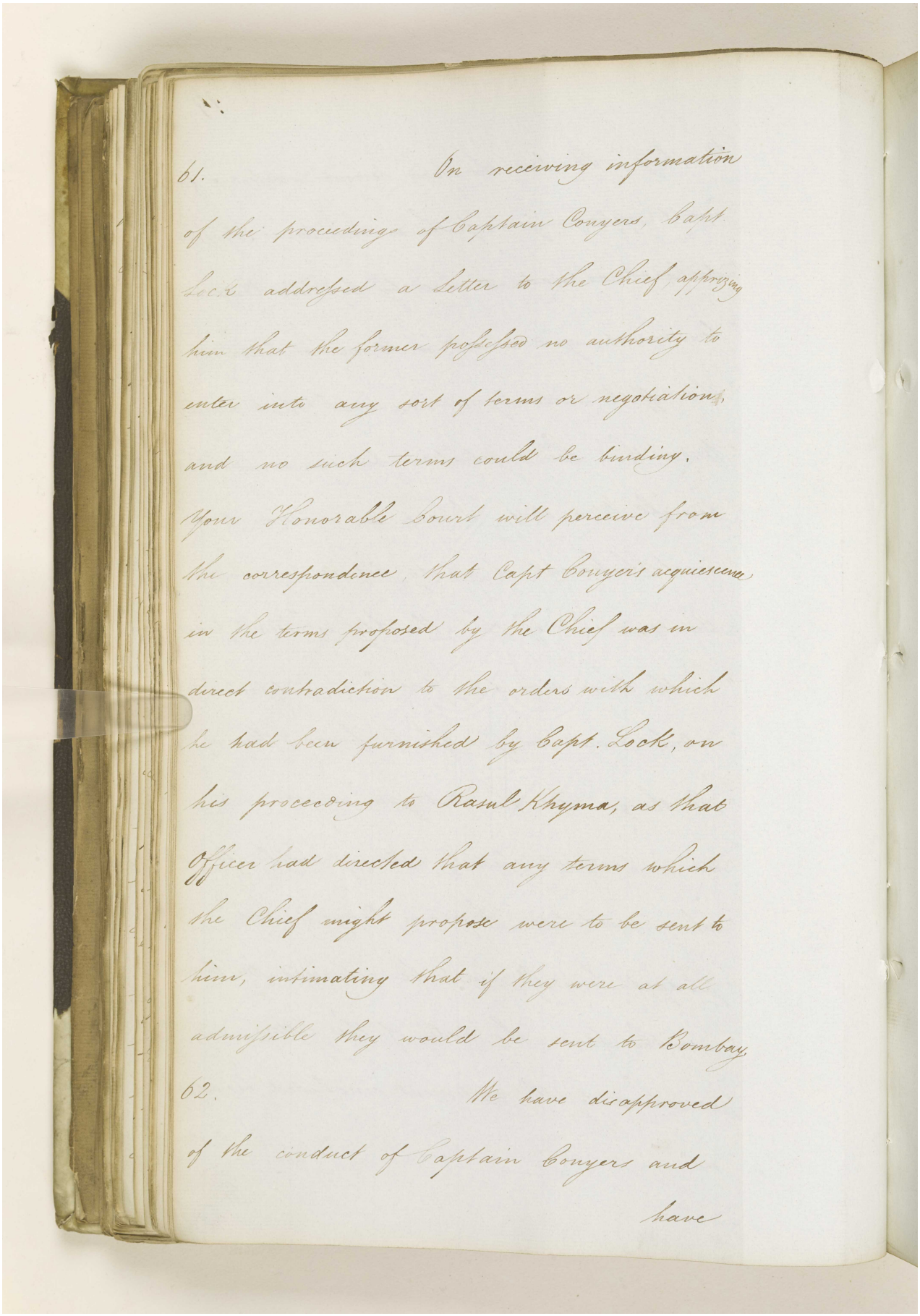

61. On receiving information of the proceedings of Captain Conyers, Capt Lock addressed a Letter to the Chief apprizing him that the former possessed no authority to enter into any sort of terms or negotiations, and no such terms could be binding. Your Honorable Court will perceive from the correspondence, that Capt Conyer's acquiescence in the terms proposed by the Chief was in direct contradiction to the orders with which he had been furnished by Capt. Lock, on his proceeding to Rasul Khyma, as that Officer had directed that any terms which the Chief might propose were to be sent to him, intimating that if they were at all admissible they would be sent to Bombay.

62. We have disapproved of the conduct of Captain Conyers and have

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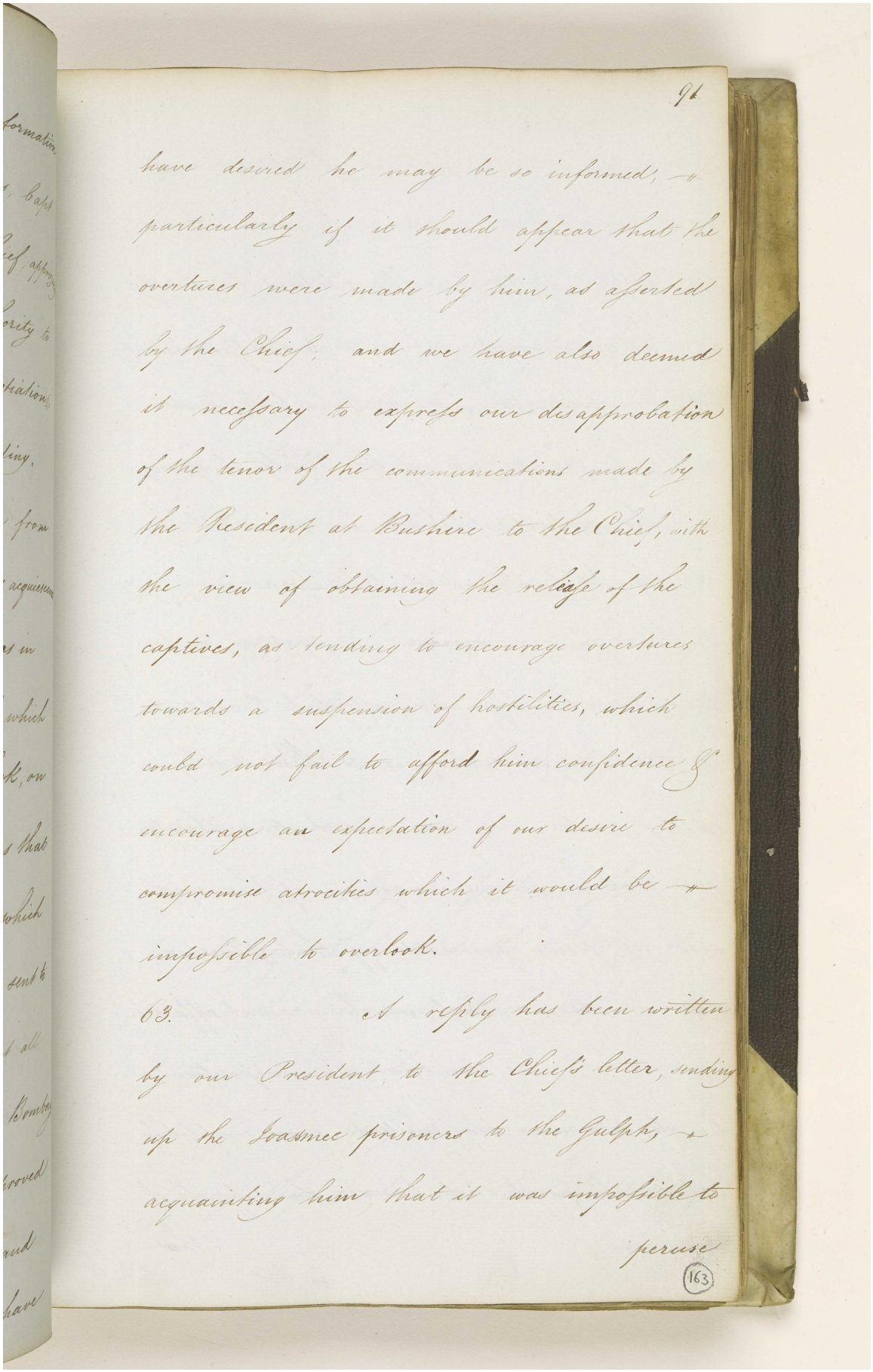

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have desired he may be so informed, — particularly if it should appear that the overtures were made by him, as asserted by the Chief; and we have also deemed it necessary to express our disapprobation of the tenor of the communications made by the Resident at Bushire to the Chief, with the view of obtaining the release of the captives, as tending to encourage overtures towards a suspension of hostilities, which could not fail to afford him confidence & encourage an expectation of our desire to compromise atrocities which it would be — impossible to overlook.

63. A reply has been written by our President to the Chief's letter, sending up the Joasmee prisoners to the Gulph, — acquainting him that it was impossible to peruse

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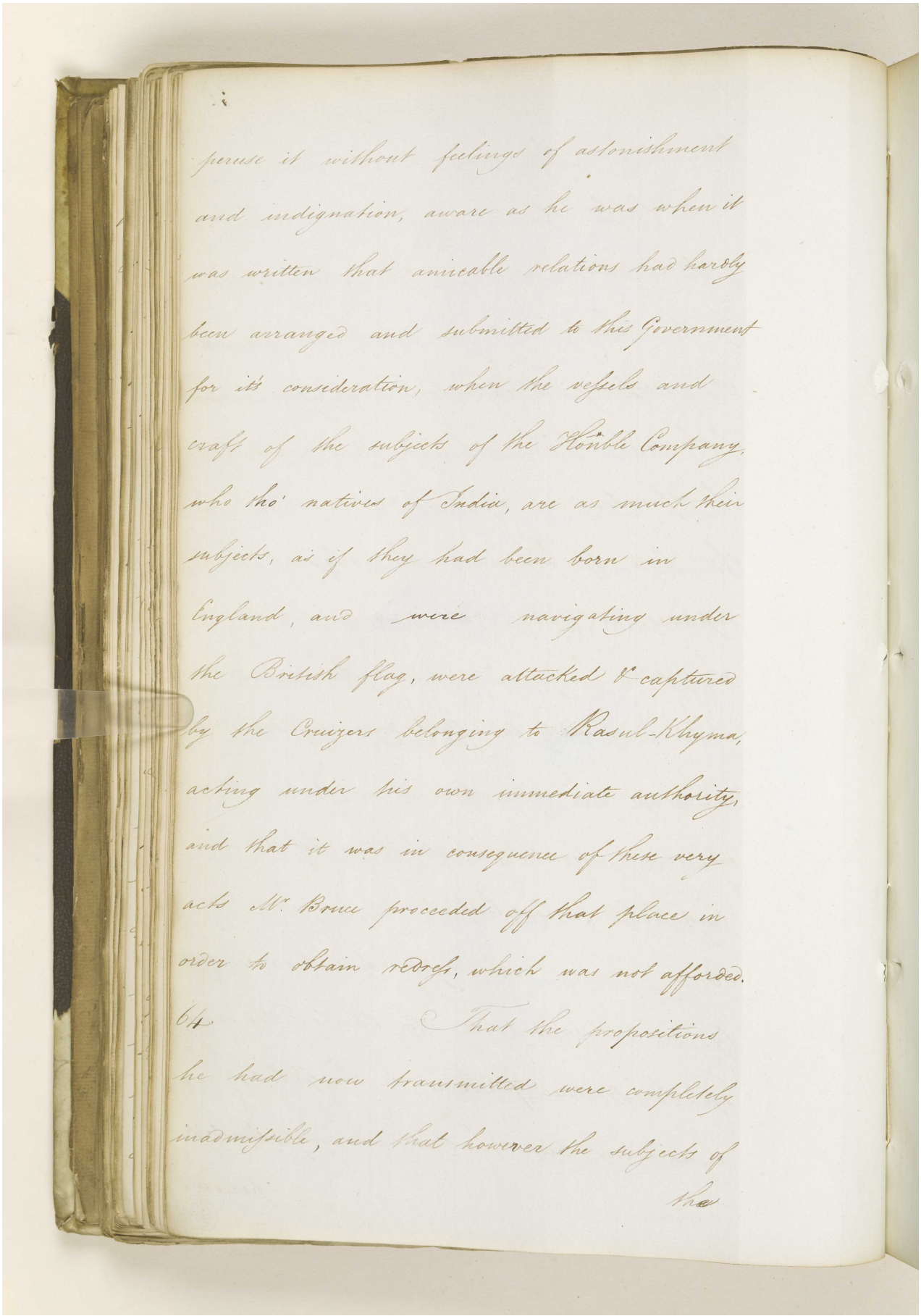
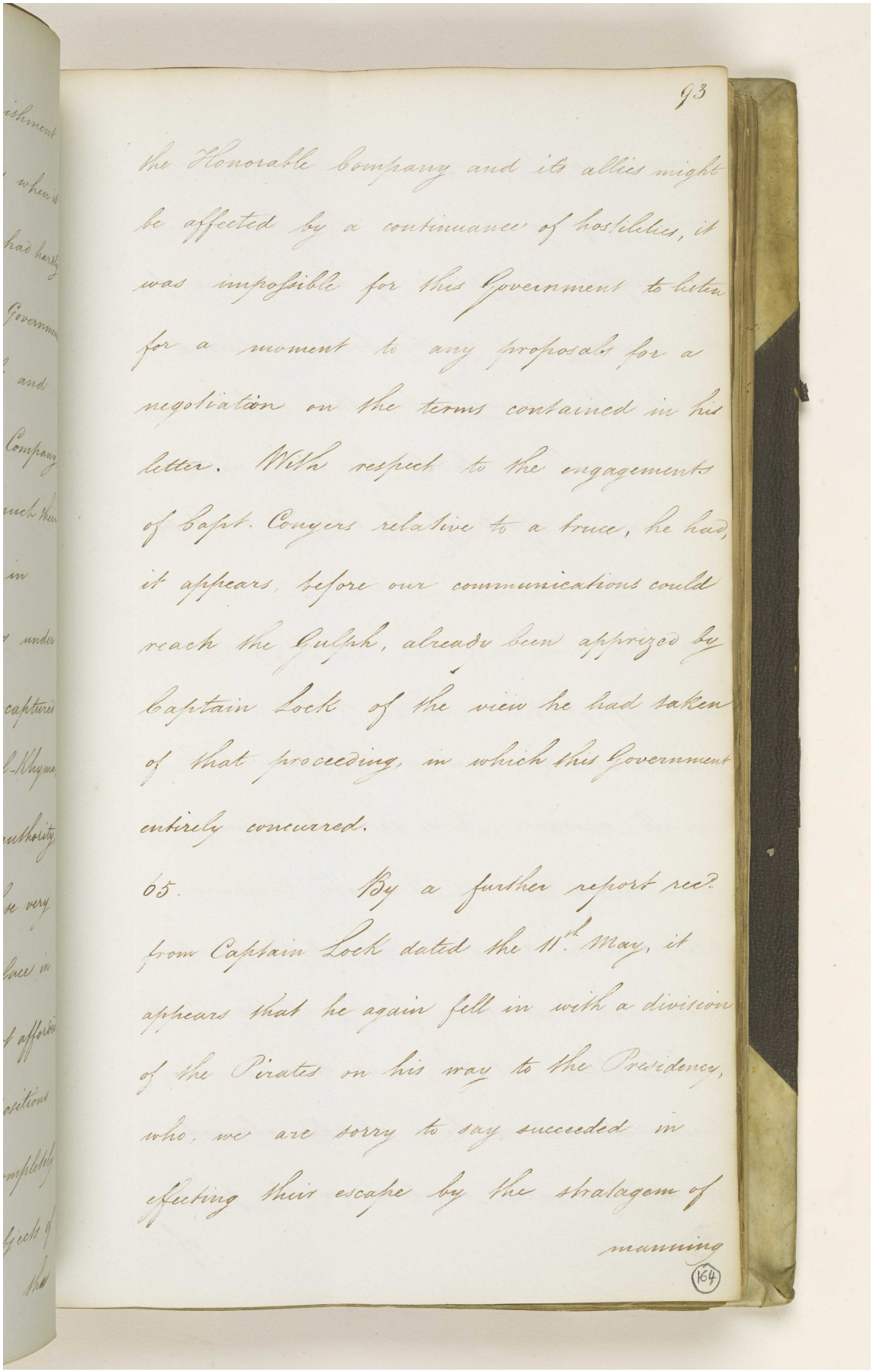


perose it without feelings of astonishment and indignation, aware as he was when it was written that amicable relations had hardly been arranged and submitted to this Government for its consideration, when the vessels and craft of the subjects of the Honble Company, who tho' natives of India, are as much their subjects, as if they had been born in England, and were navigating under the British flag, were attacked & captured by the Cruizers belonging to Rasul-Khyma, acting under his own immediate authority, and that it was in consequence of these very acts Mr. Bruce proceeded off that place in order to obtain redress, which was not afforded.

6th That the propositions he had now transmitted were completely inadmissible, and that however the subjects of the



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the Honorable Company and its allies might be affected by a continuance of hostilities, it was impossible for this Government to listen for a moment to any proposals for a negotiation on the terms contained in his letter. With respect to the engagements of Capt. Conyers relative to a truce, he had, it appears, before our communications could reach the Gulph, already been apprized by Captain Lock of the view he had taken of that proceeding, in which this Government entirely concurred.

65. By a further report rec.d from Captain Lock dated the 11.th May, it appears that he again fell in with a division of the Pirates on his way to the Presidency, who, we are sorry to say succeeded in effecting their escape by the stratagem of manning

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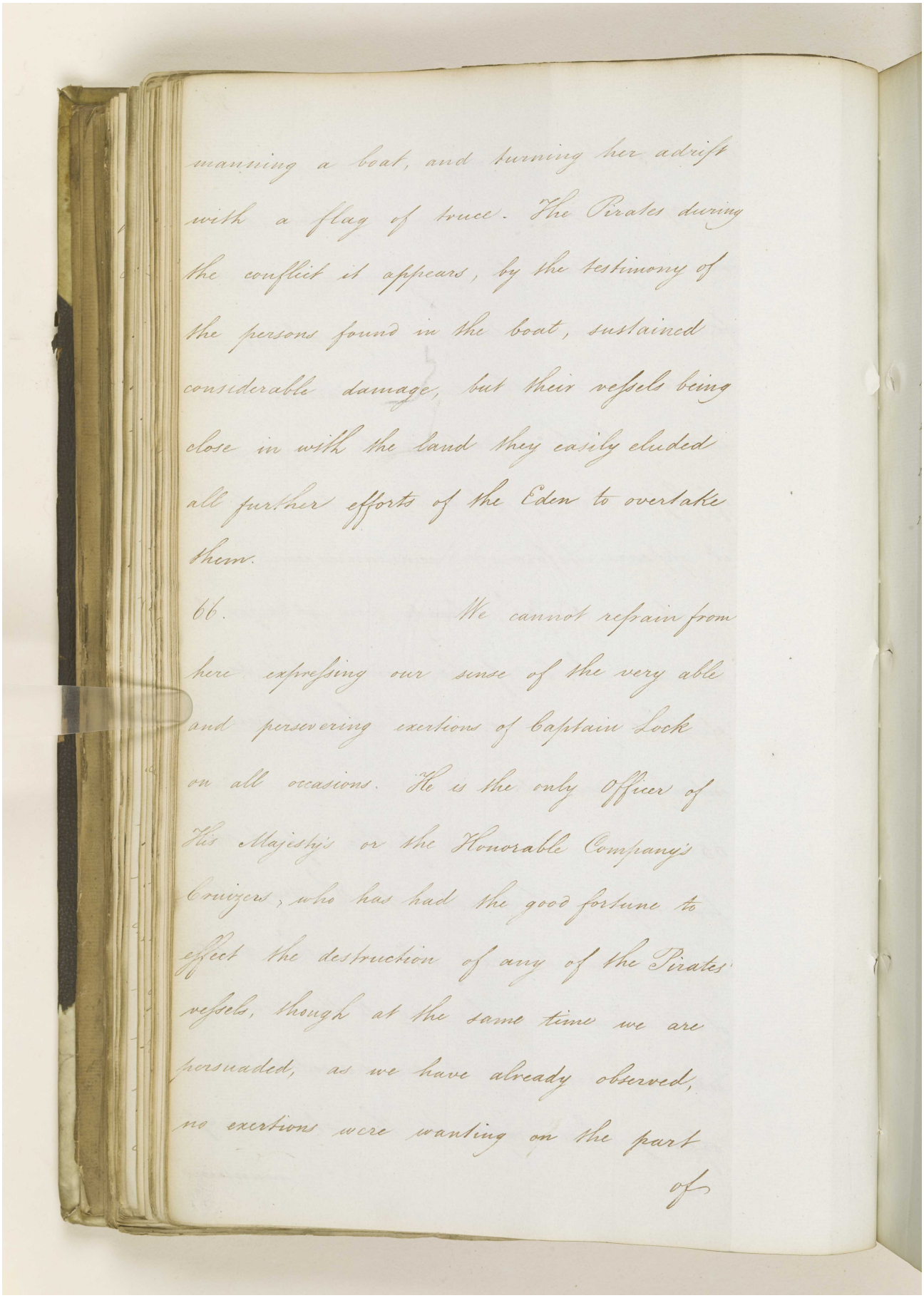

manning a boat, and turning her adrift with a flag of truce. The Pirates during the conflict it appears, by the testimony of the persons found in the boat, sustained considerable damage, but their vessels being close in with the land they easily eluded all further efforts of the Eden to overtake them.

66. We cannot refrain from here expressing our sense of the very able and persevering exertions of Captain Lock on all occasions. He is the only Officer of His Majesty's or the Honorable Company's Cruizers, who has had the good fortune to effect the destruction of any of the Pirates' vessels, though at the same time we are persuaded, as we have already observed, no exertions were wanting on the part of

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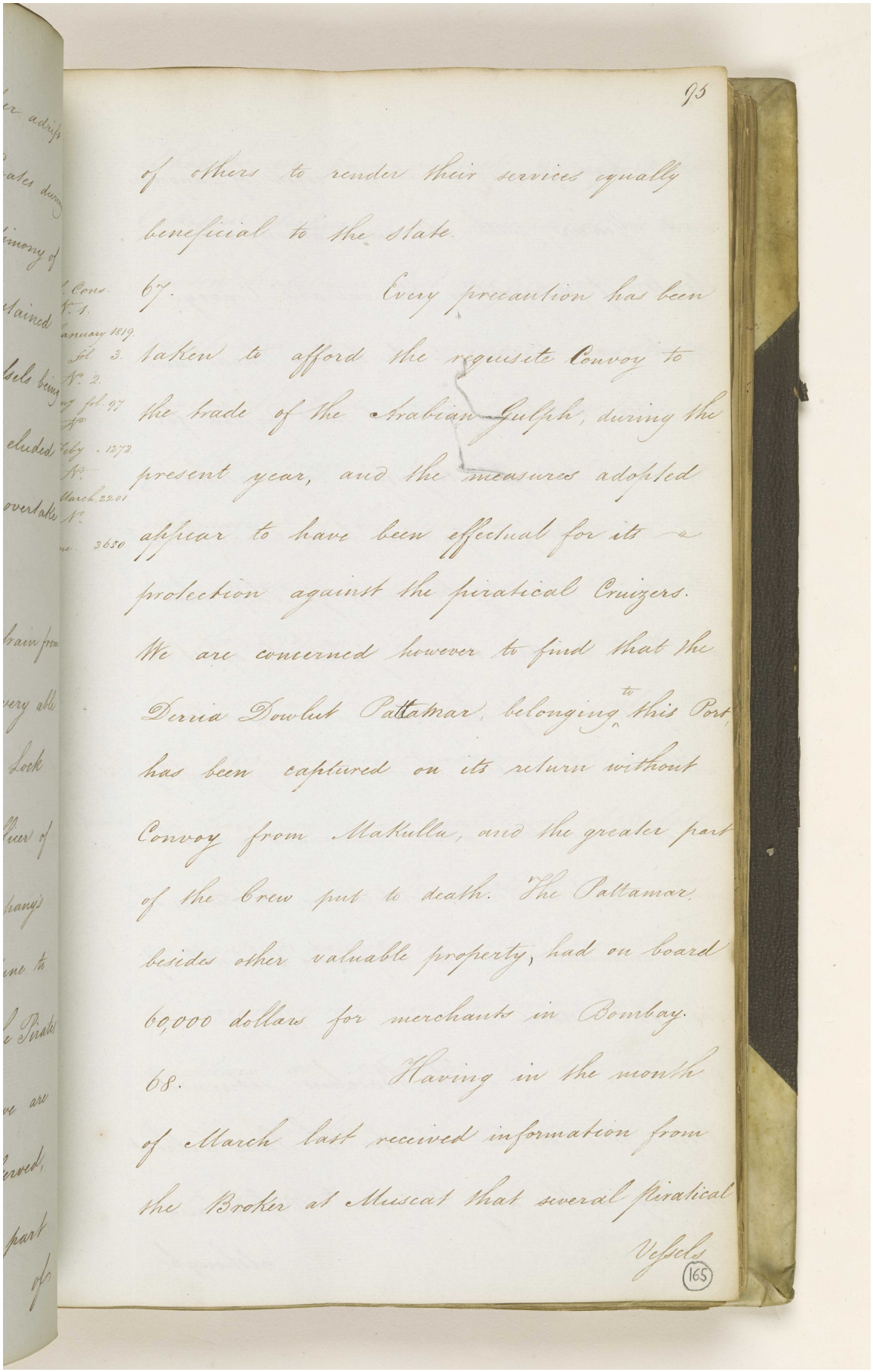

95

of others to render their services equally beneficial to the State.

67. Every precaution has been taken to afford the requisite Convoy to the trade of the Arabian Gulph, during the present year, and the measures adopted appear to have been effectual for its protection against the piratical Cruizers. We are concerned however to find that the Derria Dowlut Pattamar, belonging to this Port, has been captured on its return without Convoy from Mahulla, and the greater part of the Crew put to death. The Pattamar, besides other valuable property, had on board 60,000 dollars for merchants in Bombay.

68. Having in the month of March last received information from the Broker at Muscat that several piratical

Vessels

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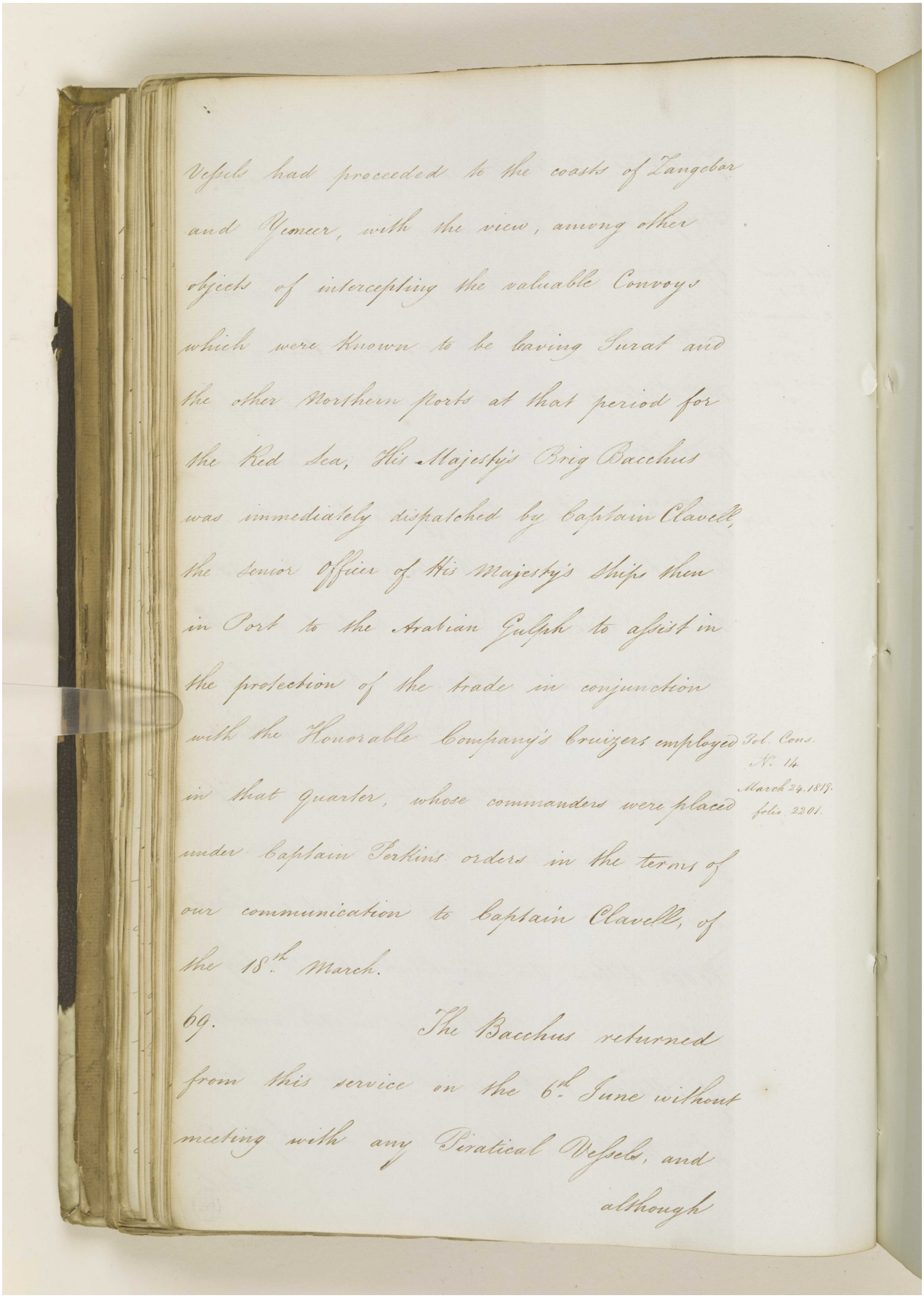
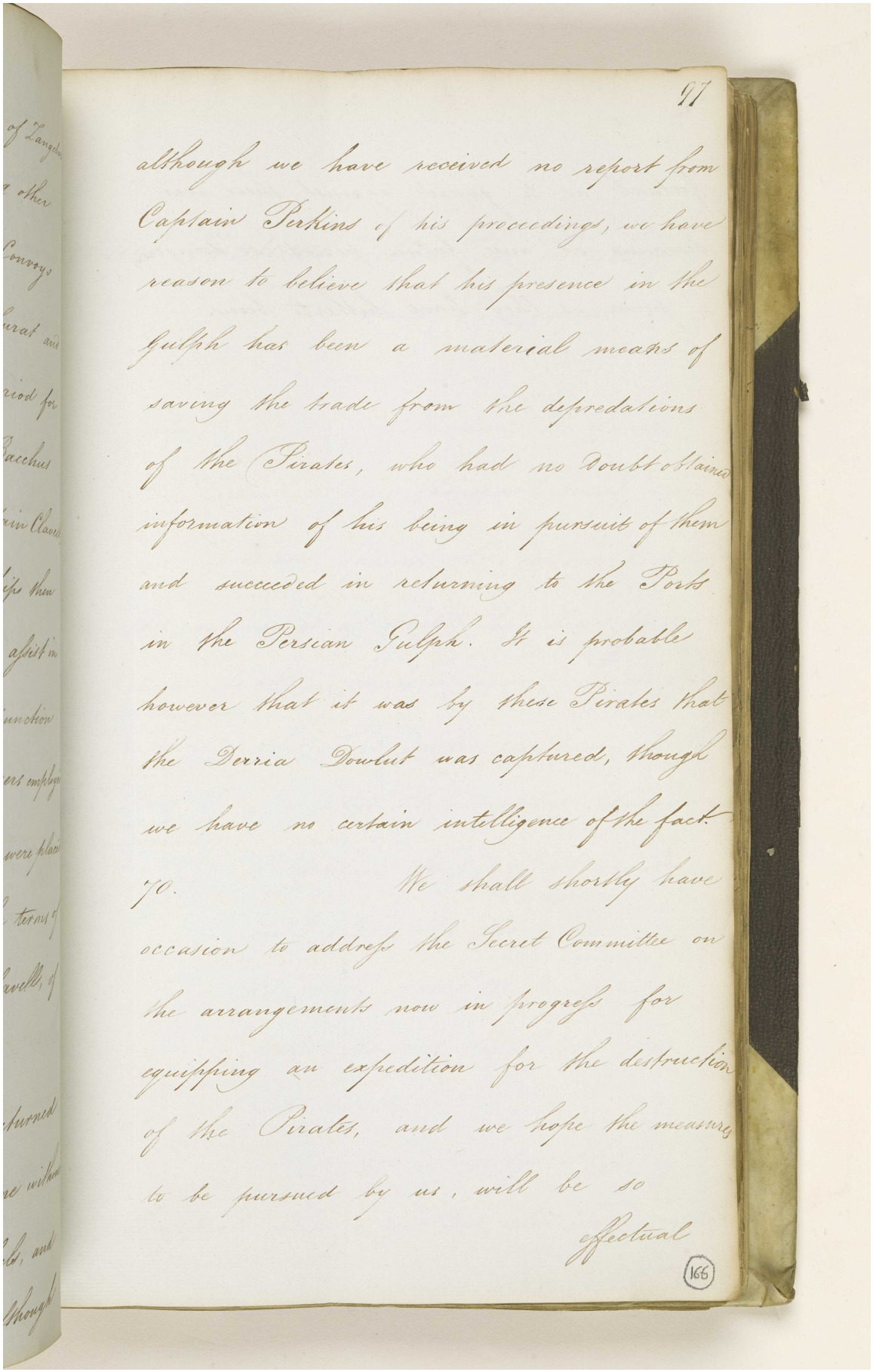


Vessels had proceeded to the coasts of Zangebar
and Yemeer, with the view, among other
objects of intercepting the valuable Convoys
which were known to be leaving Surat and
the other Northern ports at that period for
the Red Sea, His Majesty's Brig Bacchus
was immediately dispatched by Captain Clavell,
the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships then
in Port to the Arabian Gulph to assist in
the protection of the trade in conjunction
with the Honorable Company's Cruizers employed
in that quarter, whose commanders were placed
under Captain Perkins orders in the terms of
our communication to Captain Clavell, of
the 18th. March.

Bd. Cons.
N. 14
March 24. 1819.
folio 2201.

69. The Bacchus returned
from this service on the 6th. June without
meeting with any Piratical Vessels, and
although



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although we have received no report from Captain Perkins of his proceedings, we have reason to believe that his presence in the Gulph has been a material means of saving the trade from the depredations of the Pirates, who had no doubt obtained information of his being in pursuit of them and succeeded in returning to the Ports in the Persian Gulph. It is probable however that it was by these Pirates that the Derria Dowlut was captured, though we have no certain intelligence of the fact.

70. We shall shortly have occasion to address the Secret Committee on the arrangements now in progress for equipping an expedition for the destruction of the Pirates, and we hope the measures to be pursued by us, will be so effectual

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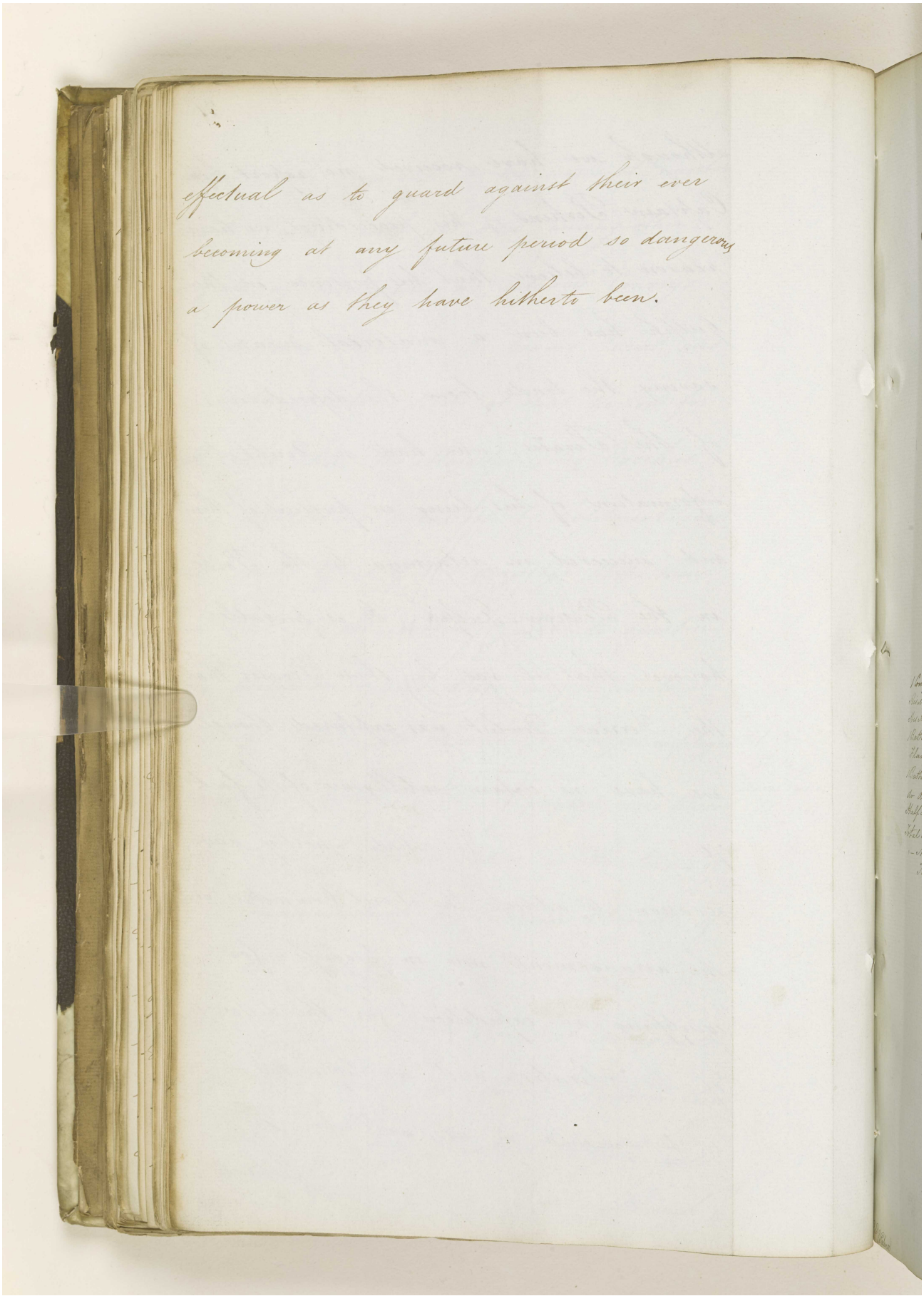
effectual as to guard against their ever
becoming at any future period so dangerous
a power as they have hitherto been.

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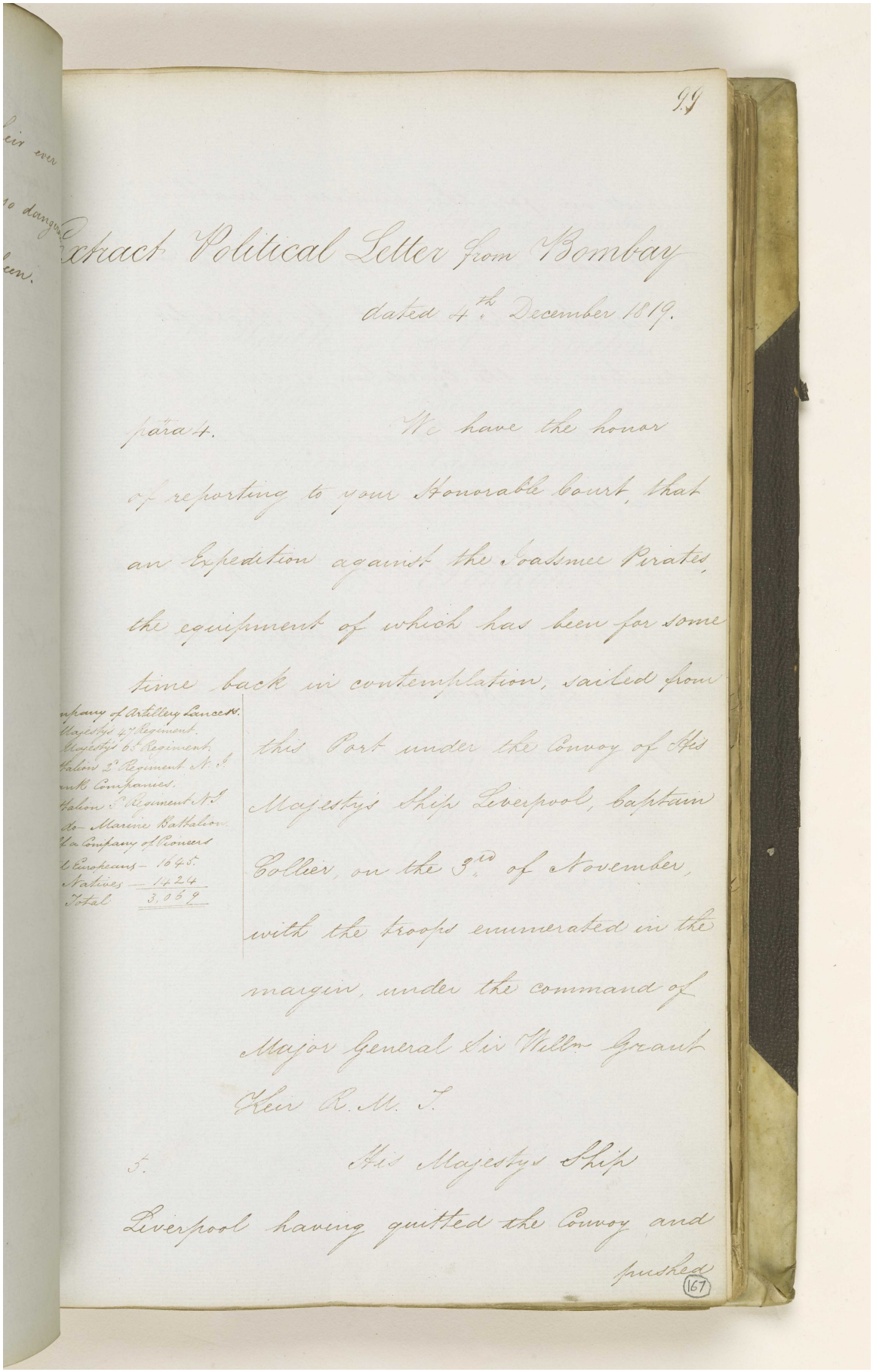

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

dated 4th December 1819.

para 4. We have the honor of reporting to your Honorable Court, that an Expedition against the Joassmee Pirates, the equipment of which has been for some time back in contemplation, sailed from this Port under the Convoy of His Majesty's Ship Liverpool, Captain Collier, on the 3rd of November, with the troops enumerated in the margin, under the command of Major General Sir Willm Grant Keir R.M.T.

...mpany of Artillery Lancers.
...Majesty's 47 Regiment.
...Majesty's 65 Regiment.
...talion 2d Regiment N.I.
...nk Companies.
...talion 5th Regiment N.I.
...do- Marine Battalion.
...f a Company of Pioneers
...l Europeans - 1645.
Natives - 1424
Total 3,069

5. His Majesty's Ship Liverpool having quitted the Convoy and pushed

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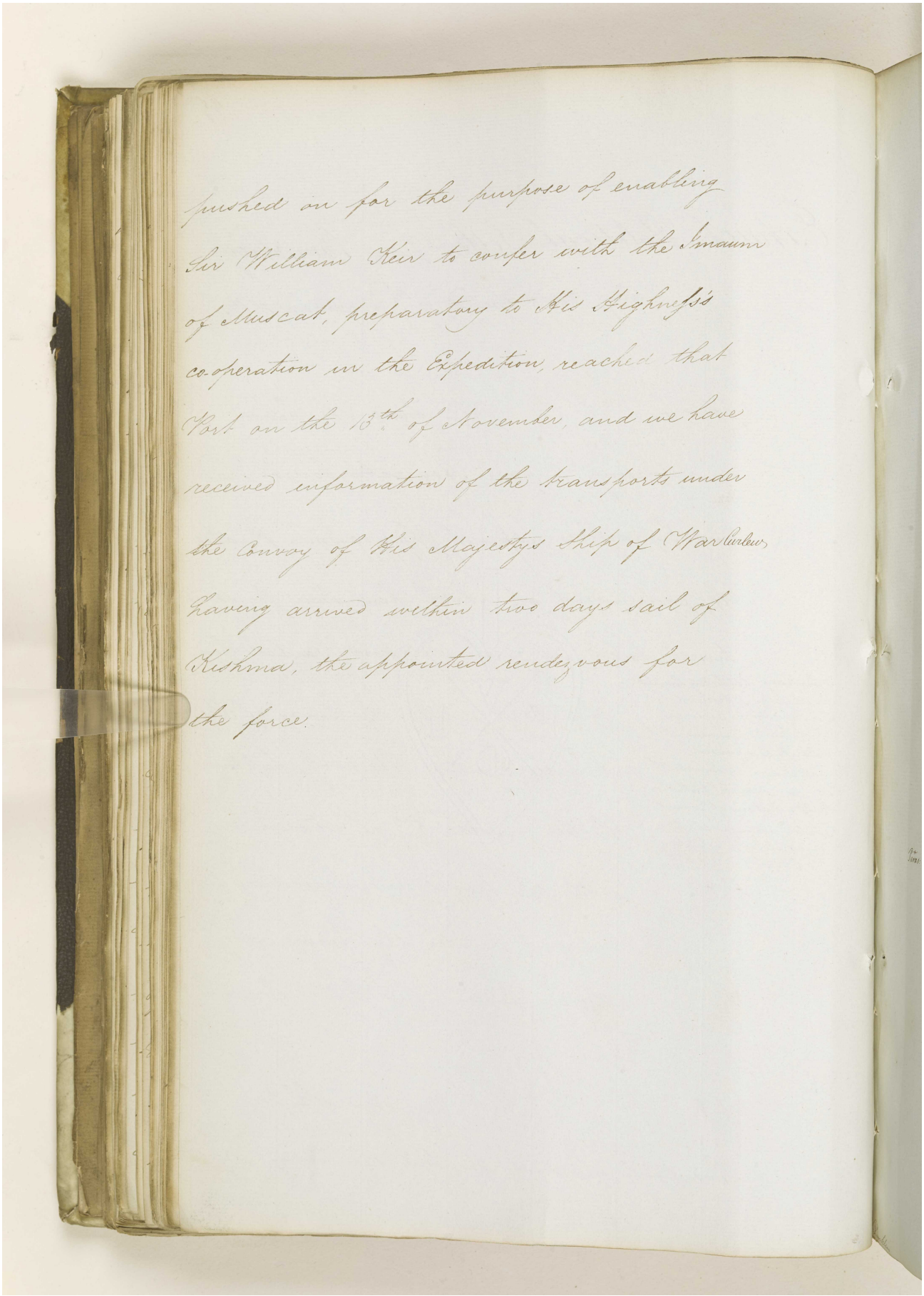

pushed on for the purpose of enabling
Sir William Keir to confer with the Imaum
of Muscat, preparatory to His Highness's
co-operation in the Expedition, reached that
Port on the 13th of November, and we have
received information of the transports under
the Convoy of His Majesty's Ship of War Barbadoes
having arrived within two days sail of
Kishma, the appointed rendezvous for
the force.

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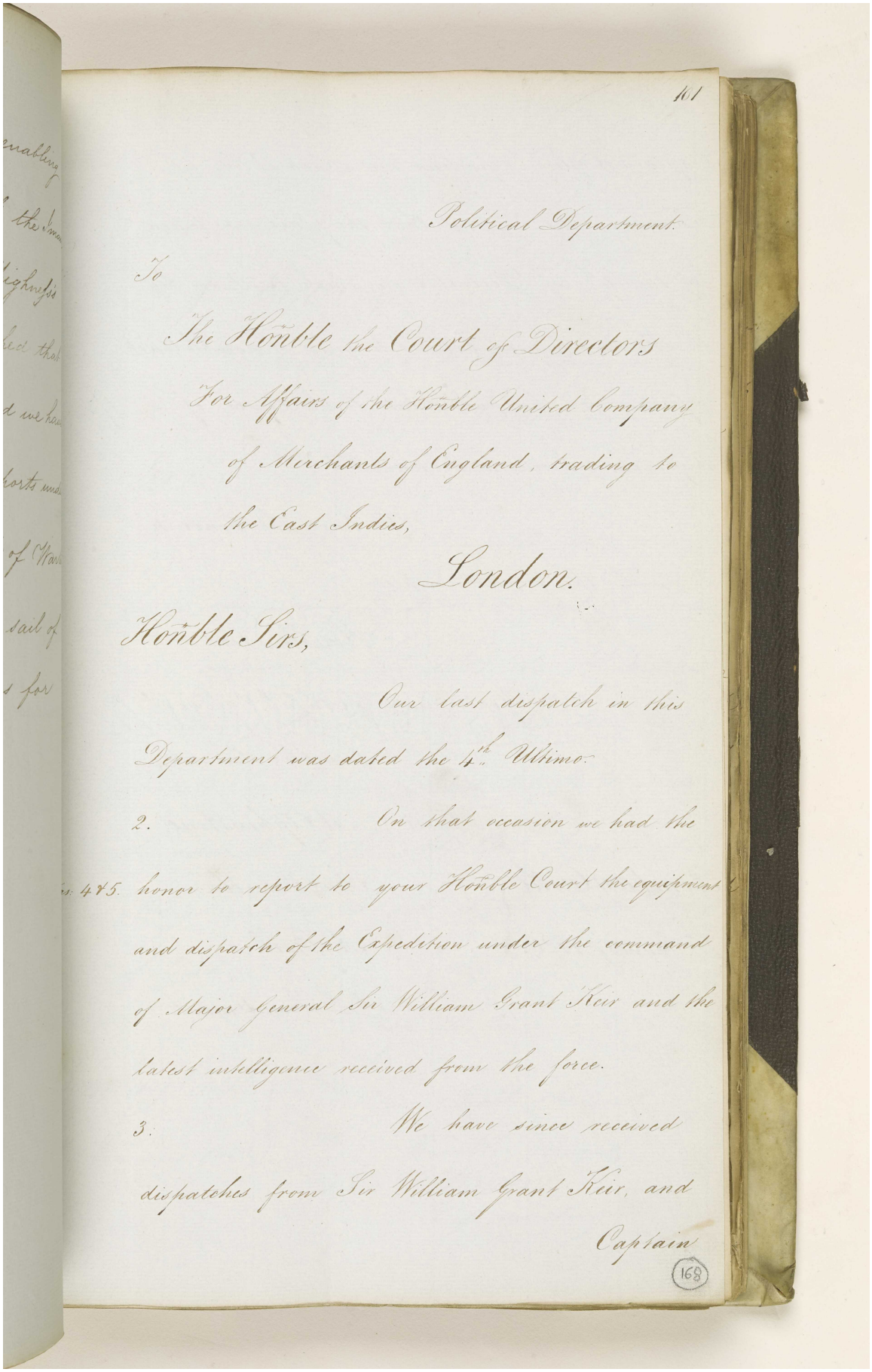

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Political Department.

To

The Honble the Court of Directors

For Affairs of the Honble United Company

of Merchants of England, trading to

the East Indies,

London.

Honble Sirs,

Our last dispatch in this Department was dated the 4th. Ultimo.

2. On that occasion we had the honor to report to your Honble Court the equipment and dispatch of the Expedition under the command of Major General Sir William Grant Keir and the latest intelligence received from the force.

3. We have since received dispatches from Sir William Grant Keir, and Captain

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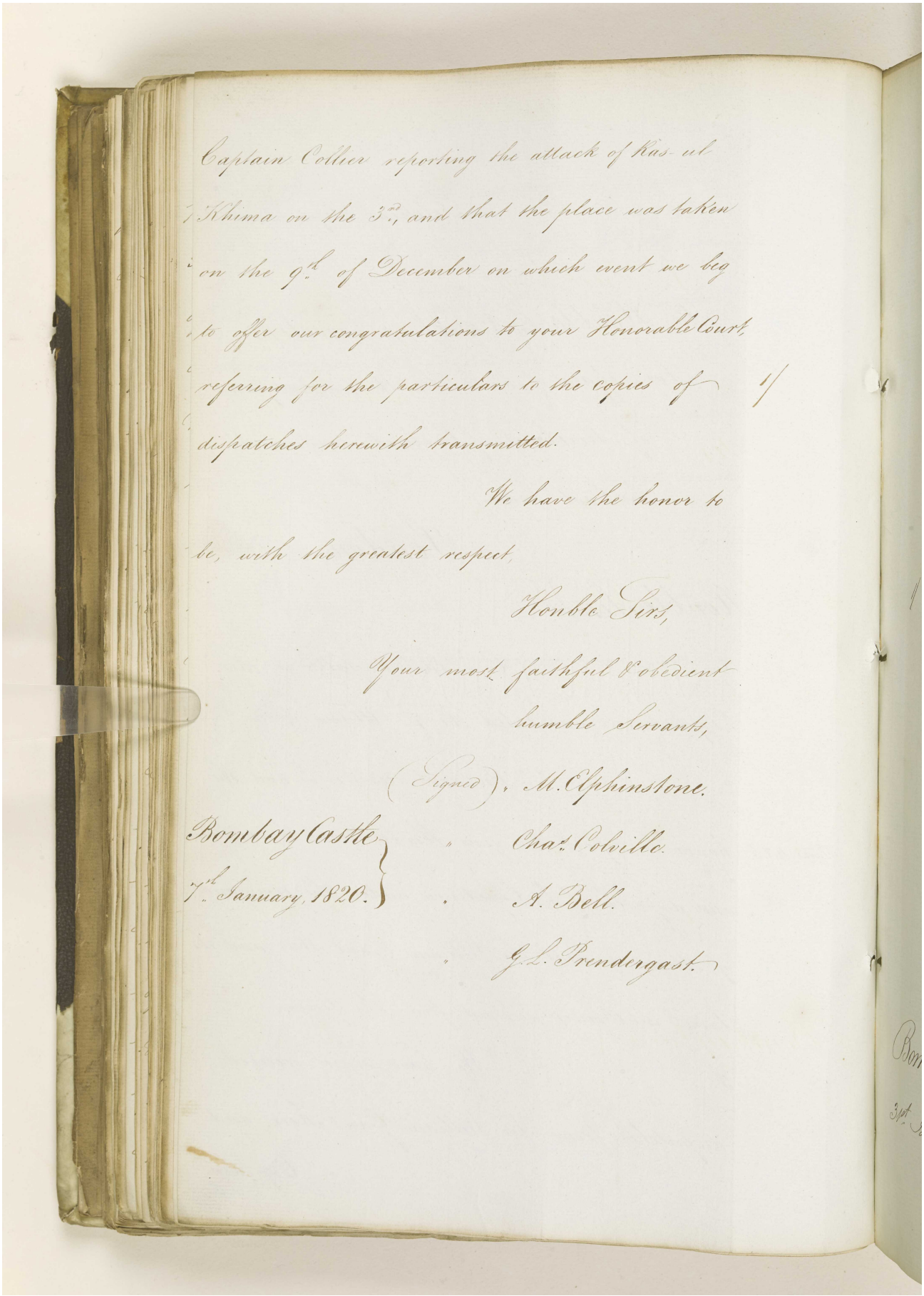


Captain Collier reporting the attack of Ras-ul
Khima on the 5th, and that the place was taken
on the 9th of December on which event we beg
to offer our congratulations to your Honorable Court,
referring for the particulars to the copies of
dispatches herewith transmitted.

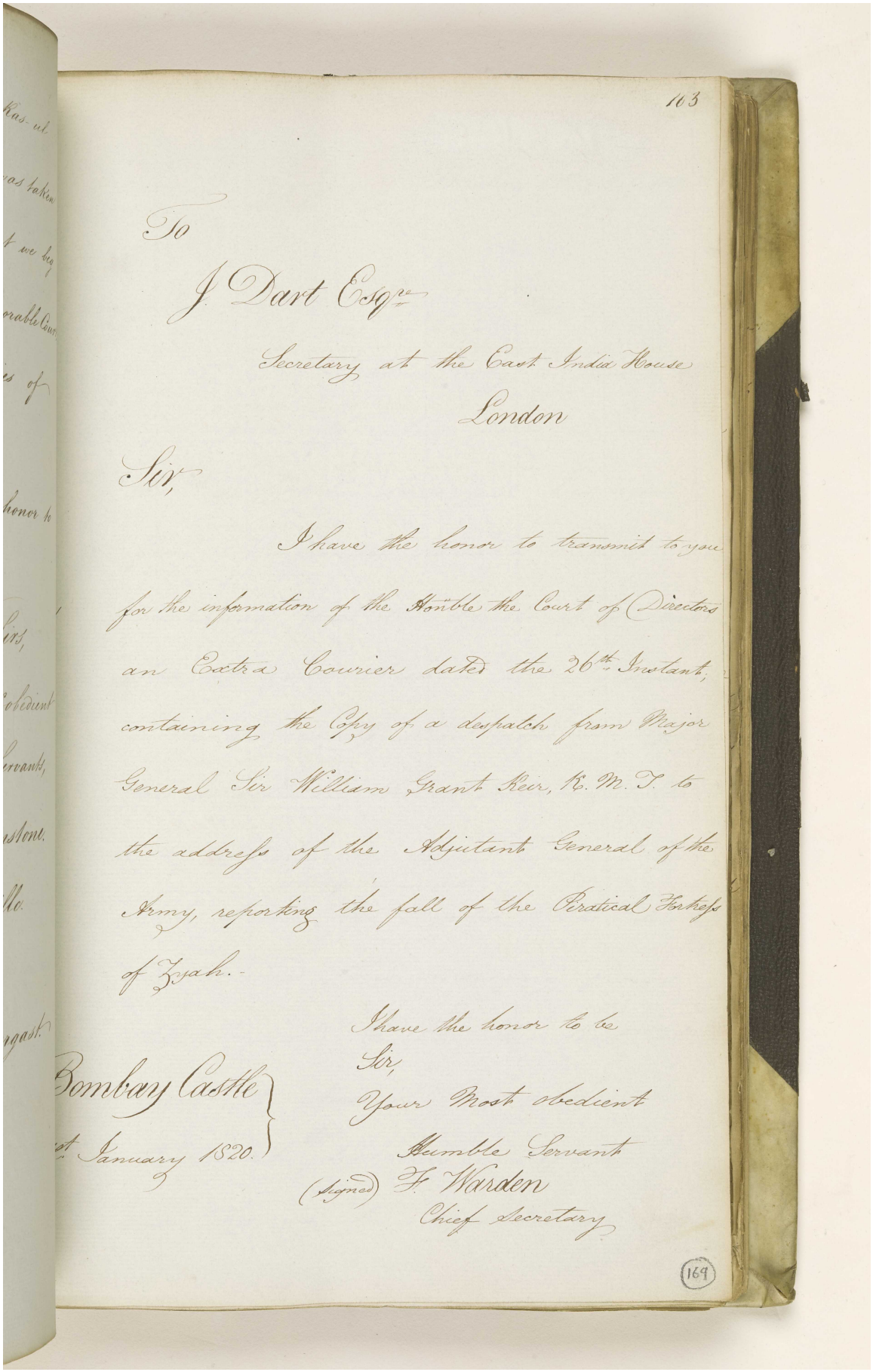
We have the honor to
be, with the greatest respect

Honble Sirs,

Your most faithful & obedient
humble Servants,

(Signed), M. Elphinstone.
" Chas. Colville.
" A. Bell.
" G.L. Prendergast.

Bombay Castle
7th January, 1820.



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To

J. Dart Esqre

Secretary at the East India House

London

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you for the information of the Honble the Court of Directors an Extra Courier dated the 26th. Instant, containing the Copy of a despatch from Major General Sir William Grant Keir, K. M. T. to the address of the Adjutant General of the Army, reporting the fall of the Piratical Forts of Zyah.-

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most obedient
Humble Servant
(Signed) F. Warden
Chief Secretary

Bombay Castle
1st January 1820.

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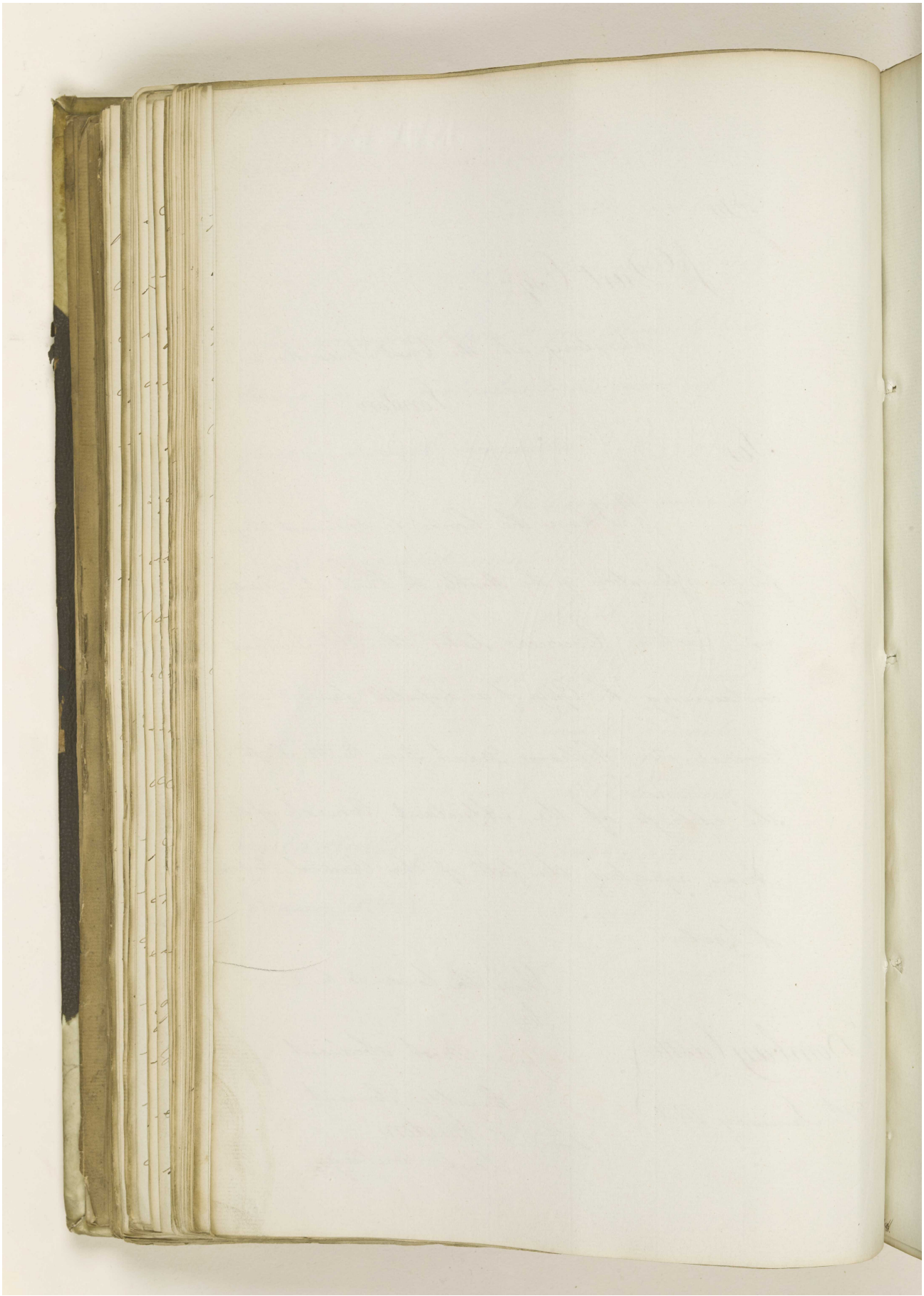

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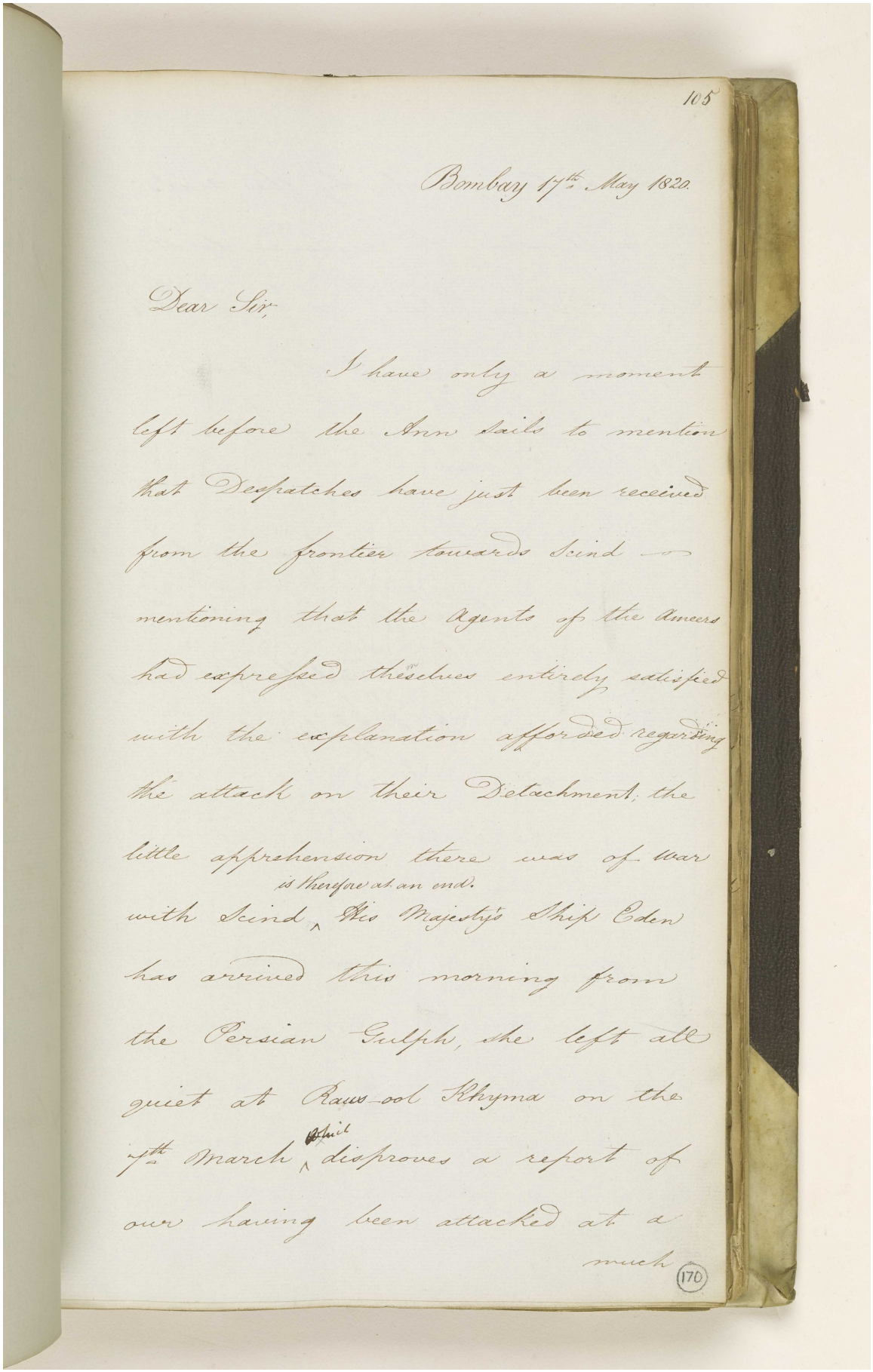

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Bombay 17th May 1820.

Dear Sir,

I have only a moment left before the Ann sails to mention that Despatches have just been received from the frontier towards Scind — mentioning that the Agents of the Ameers had expressed themselves entirely satisfied with the explanation afforded regarding the attack on their Detachment, the little apprehension there was of war with Scind, is therefore at an end. His Majesty's Ship Eden has arrived this morning from the Persian Gulph, she left all quiet at Ras-ool Khyma on the 7th March, which disproves a report of our having been attacked at a much

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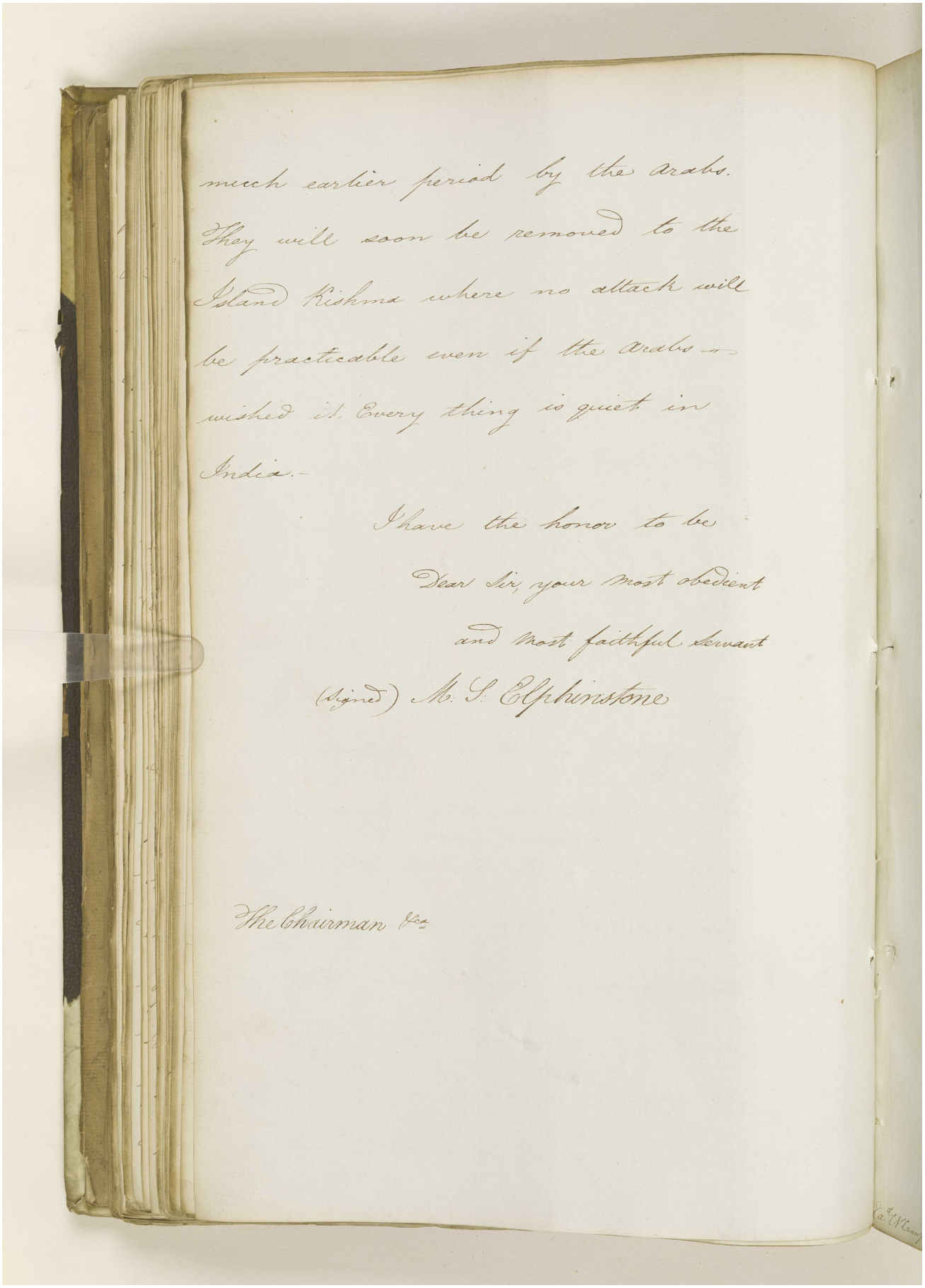

much earlier period by the Arabs.
They will soon be removed to the
Island Kishma where no attack will
be practicable even if the Arabs
wished it. Every thing is quiet in
India.-

I have the honor to be
Dear Sir, your most obedient
and most faithful Servant
(signed) M. S. Elphinstone

The Chairman &c.

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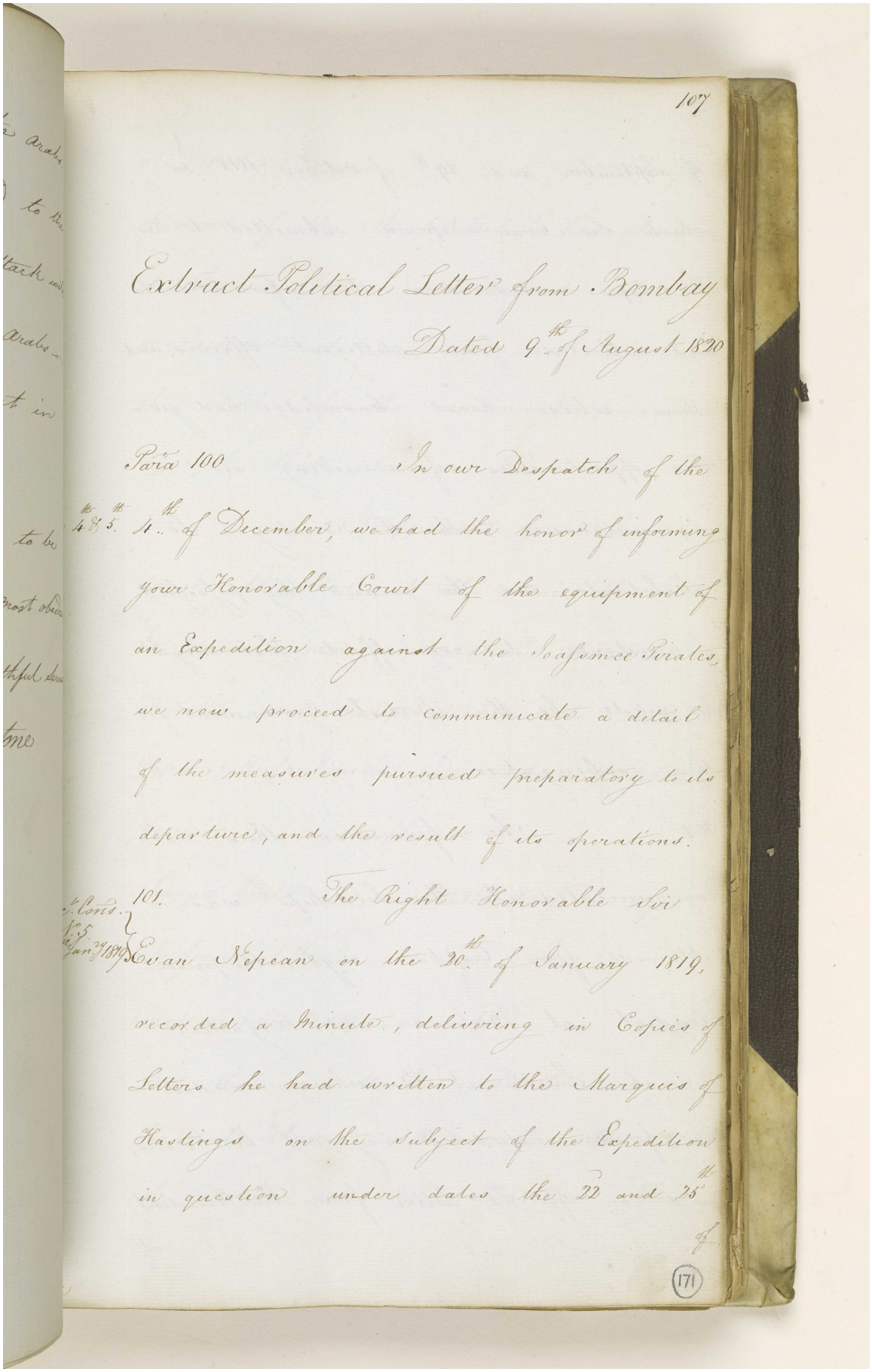

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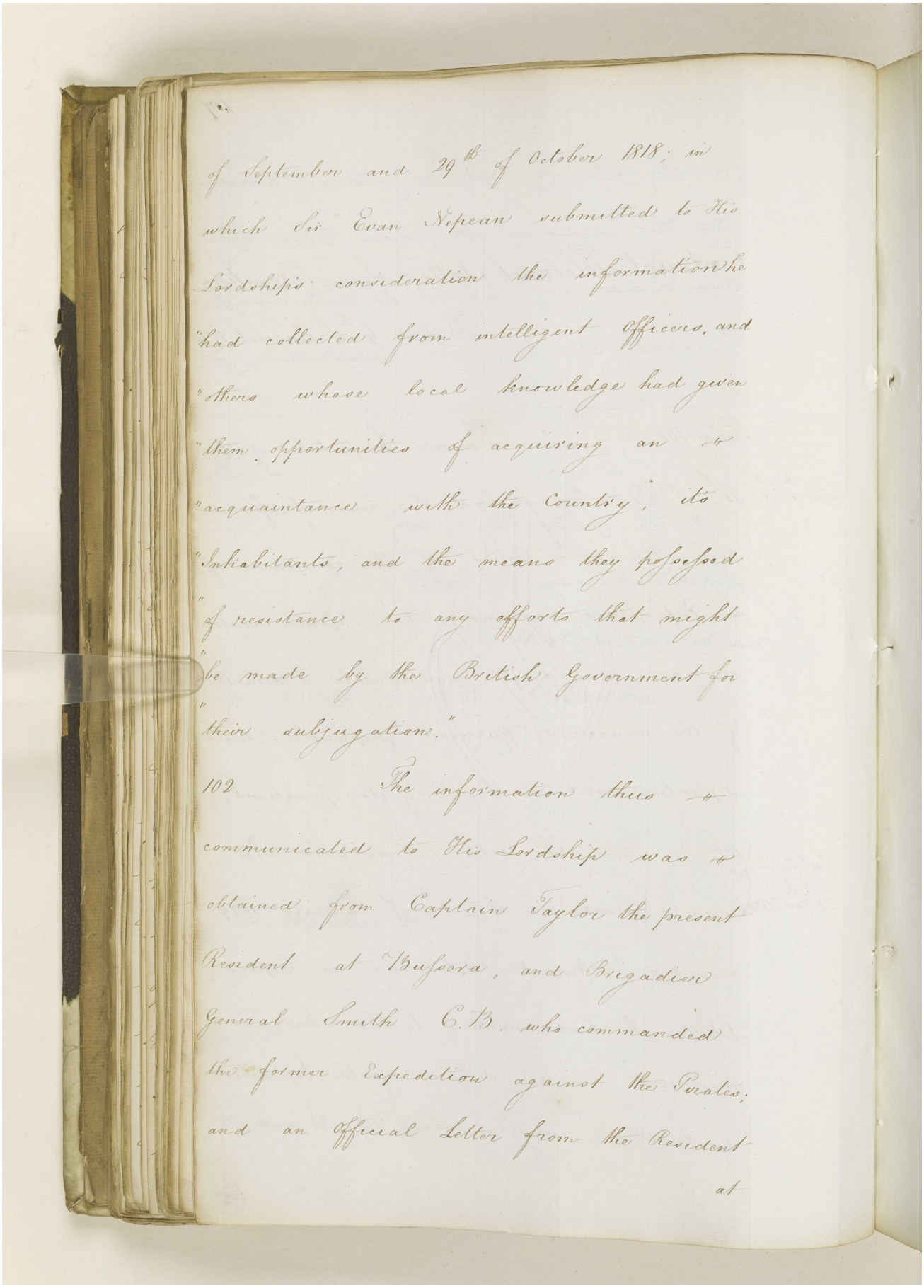
Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 9th of August 1820

Para 100 In our Despatch of the 4th 5th 11th of December, we had the honor of informing your Honorable Court of the equipment of an Expedition against the Joasmee Pirates, we now proceed to communicate a detail of the measures pursued preparatory to its departure, and the result of its operations.

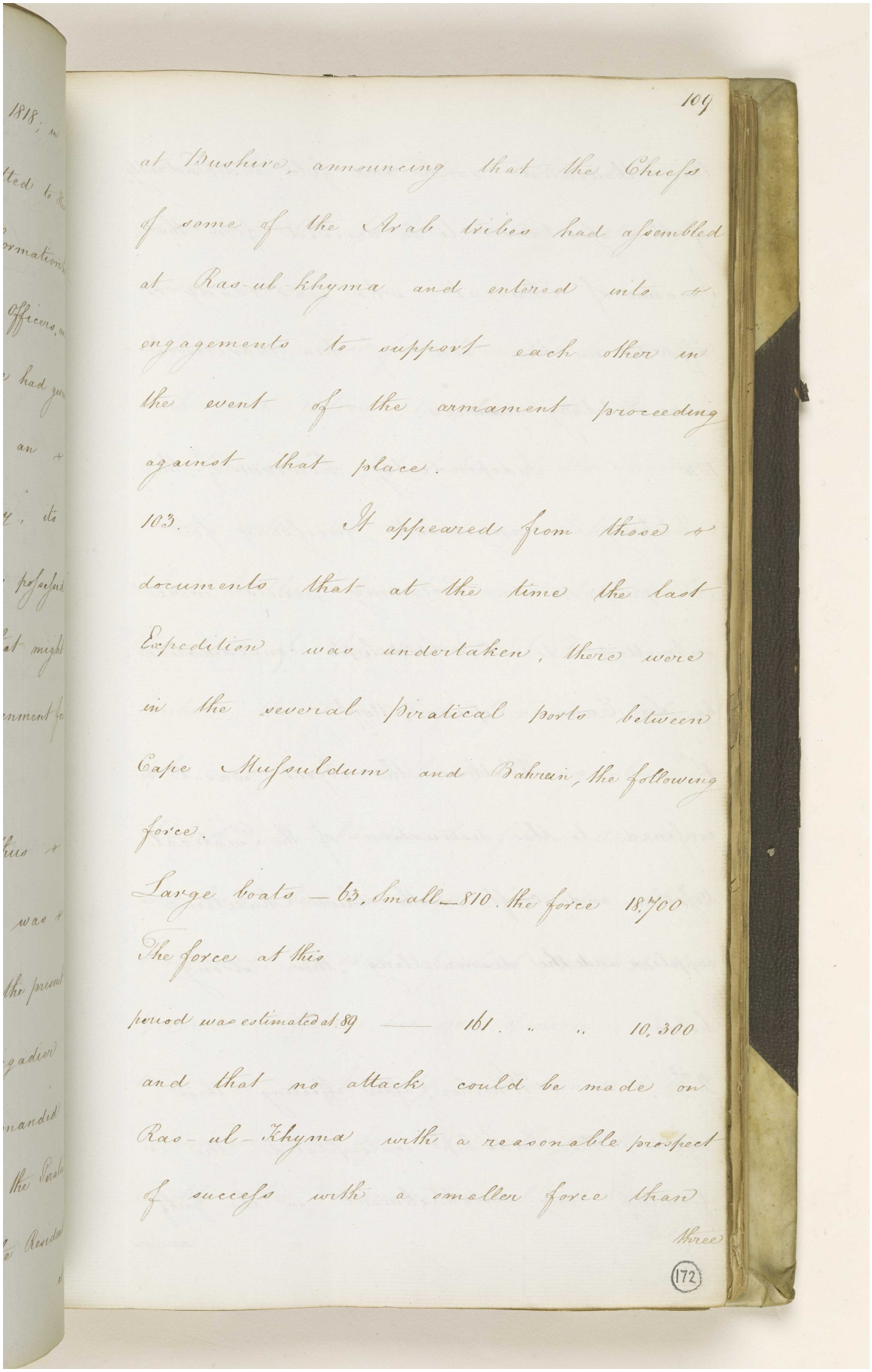
101. The Right Honorable Sir Evan Nepean on the 20th of January 1819, recorded a Minute, delivering in Copies of Letters he had written to the Marquis of Hastings on the subject of the Expedition in question under dates the 22 and 25th of

(171)



of September and 29th of October 1818; in
which Sir Evan Nepean submitted to His
Lordship's consideration the information he
"had collected from intelligent Officers, and
"others whose local knowledge had given
"them opportunities of acquiring an
"acquaintance with the Country, its
"Inhabitants, and the means they possessed
"of resistance to any efforts that might
"be made by the British Government for
"their subjugation."

102 The information thus
communicated to His Lordship was
obtained from Captain Taylor the present
Resident at Bussora, and Brigadier
General Smith C.B. who commanded
the former Expedition against the Pirates;
and an Official Letter from the Resident
at



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at Bushire, announcing that the Chiefs of some of the Arab tribes had assembled at Ras-ul-khyma and entered into engagements to support each other in the event of the armament proceeding against that place.

103. It appeared from those & documents that at the time the last Expedition was undertaken, there were in the several piratical ports between Cape Musseldum and Bahrein, the following force.

Large boats — 63, Small — 810. the force 18,700

The force at this

period was estimated at 89 —— 161 " " 10,300

and that no attack could be made on Ras-ul-Khyma with a reasonable prospect of success with a smaller force than

three

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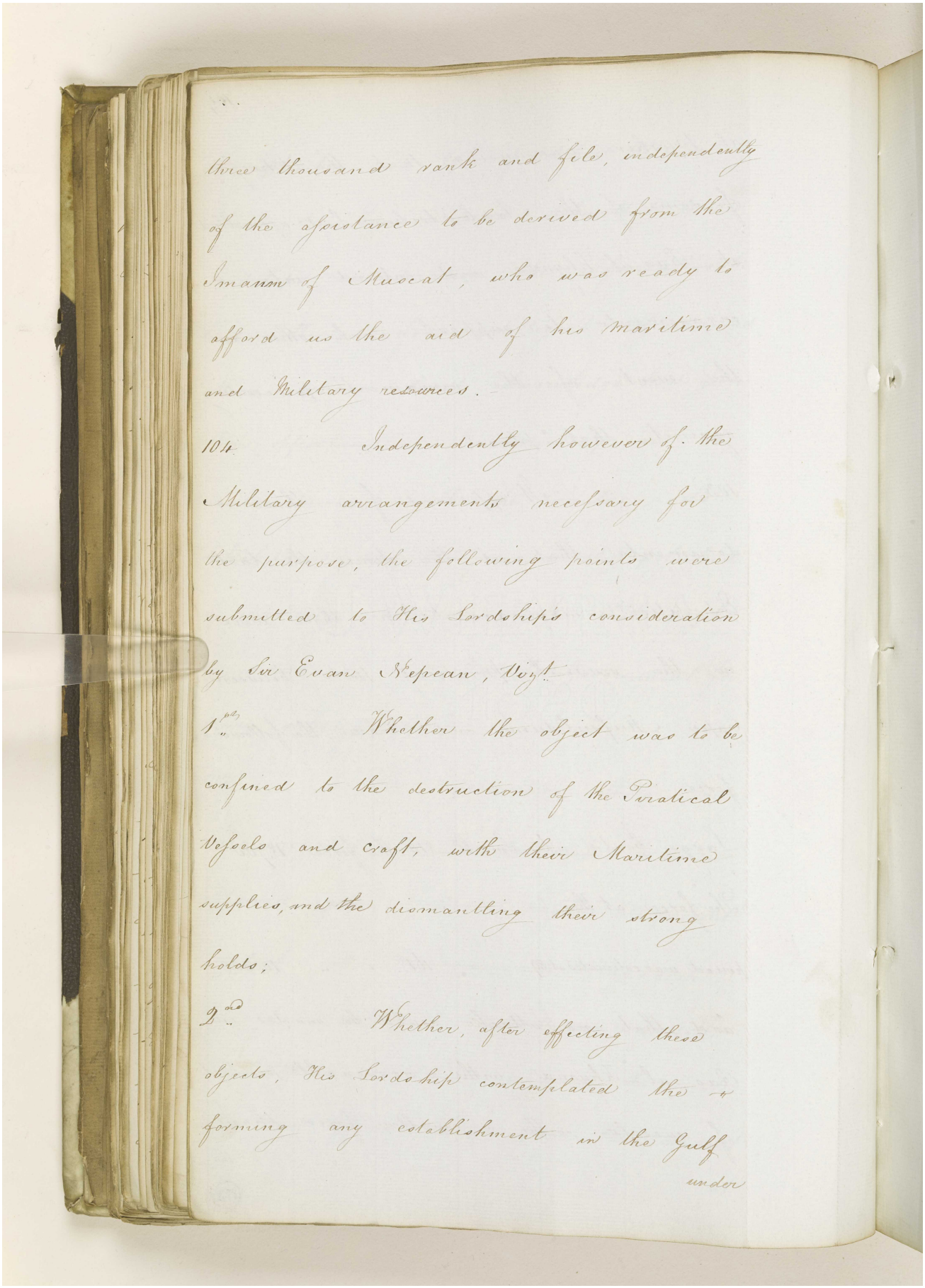

three thousand rank and file, independently of the assistance to be derived from the Imaum of Muscat, who was ready to afford us the aid of his maritime and Military resources.

10th Independently however of the Military arrangements necessary for the purpose, the following points were submitted to His Lordship's consideration by Sir Evan Nepean, Bart.

1st. Whether the object was to be confined to the destruction of the Piratical Vessels and craft, with their Maritime supplies, and the dismantling their strong holds;

2nd. Whether, after effecting these objects, His Lordship contemplated the forming any establishment in the Gulf under

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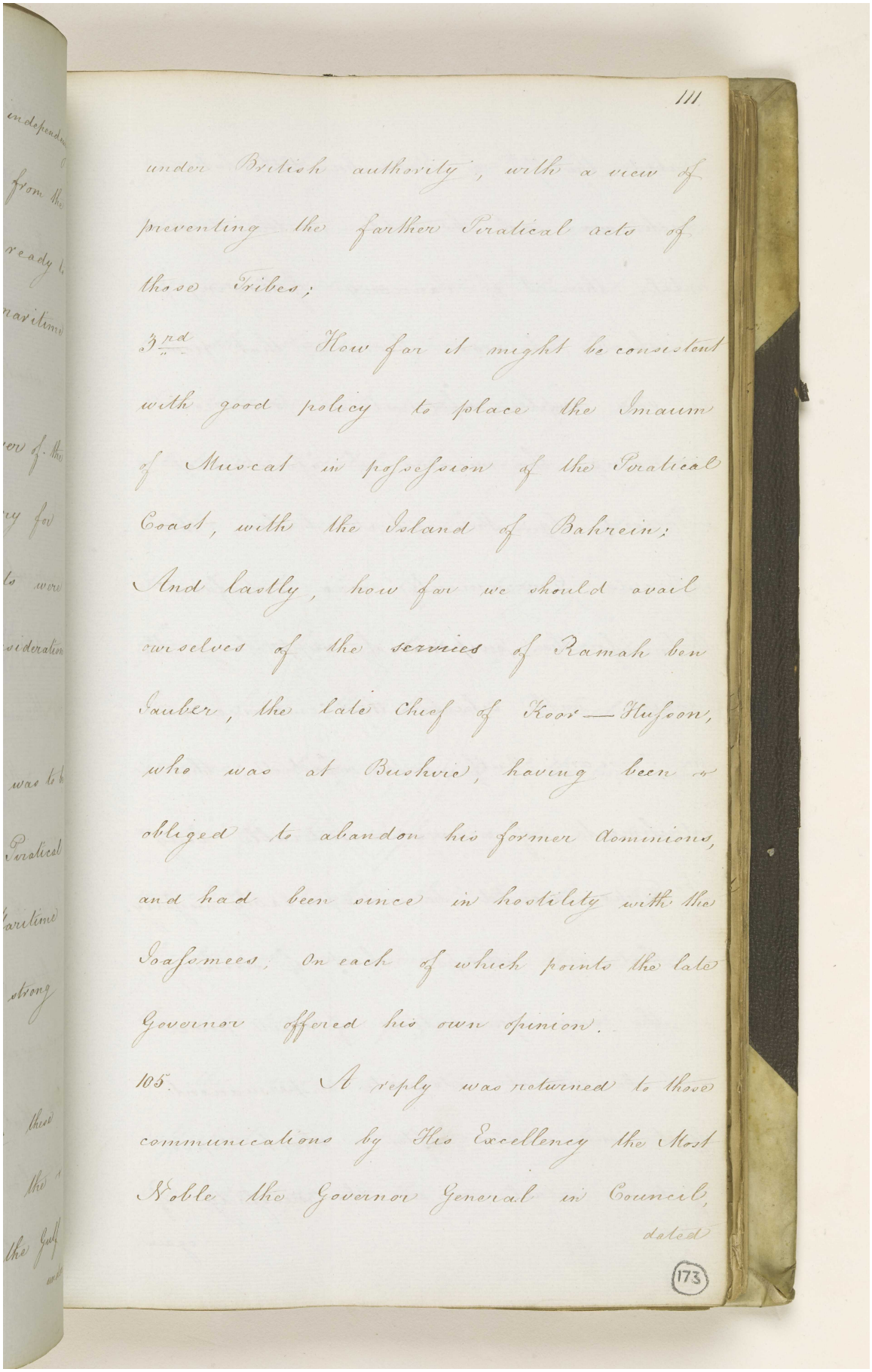

under British authority, with a view of preventing the farther Piratical acts of those Tribes;

3rd " — How far it might be consistent with good policy to place the Imaum of Muscat in possession of the Piratical Coast, with the Island of Bahrein;

And lastly, how far we should avail ourselves of the services of Ramah bin Jauber, the late Chief of Koor — Hufoon, who was at Bushire, having been obliged to abandon his former dominions, and had been since in hostility with the Joasmees, On each of which points the late Governor offered his own opinion.

105. A reply was returned to those communications by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council, dated

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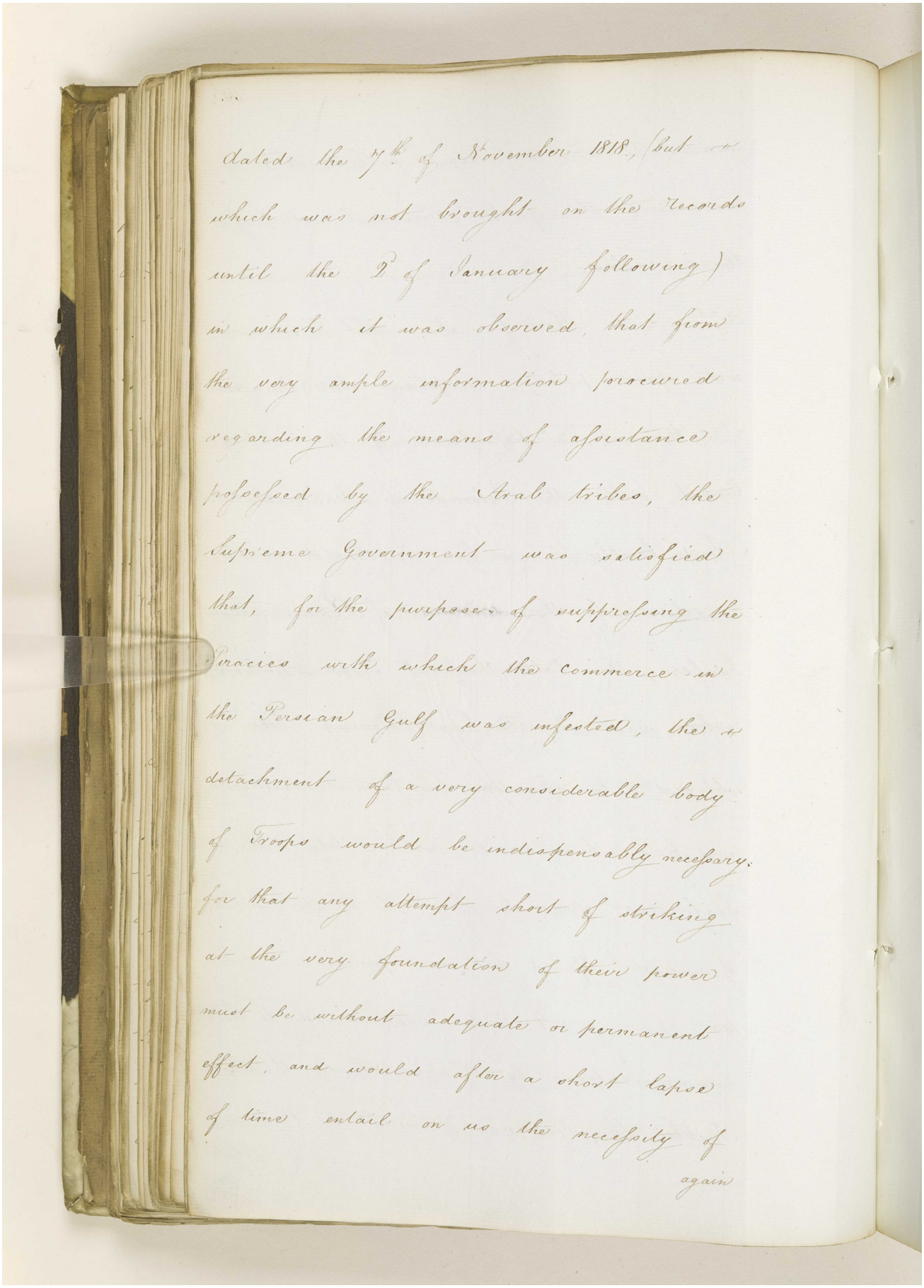

dated the 7th of November 1818, (but
which was not brought on the Records
until the 2 of January following)
in which it was observed, that from
the very ample information procured
regarding the means of assistance
possessed by the Arab tribes, the
Supreme Government was satisfied
that, for the purposes of suppressing the
Piracies with which the Commerce in
the Persian Gulf was infested, the
detachment of a very considerable body
of Troops would be indispensably necessary,
for that any attempt short of striking
at the very foundation of their power
must be without adequate or permanent
effect, and would after a short lapse
of time entail on us the necessity of
again

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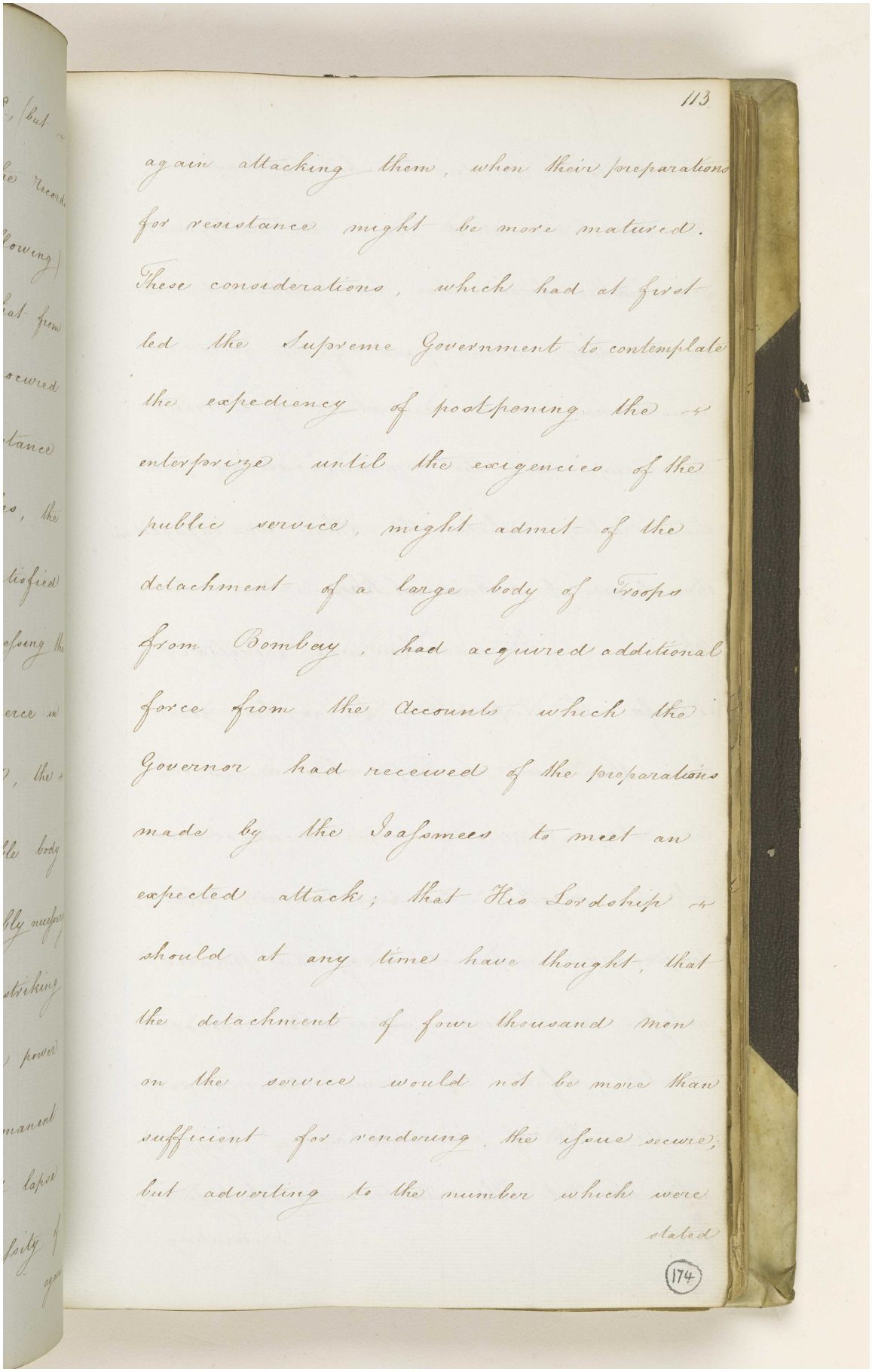

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again attacking them, when their preparations
for resistance might be more matured.
These considerations, which had at first
led the Supreme Government to contemplate
the expediency of postponing the
enterprize until the exigencies of the
public service, might admit of the
detachment of a large body of Troops
from Bombay, had acquired additional
force from the Accounts which the
Governor had received of the preparations
made by the Joasmees to meet an
expected attack; that His Lordship
should at any time have thought, that
the detachment of four thousand men
on the service would not be more than
sufficient for rendering the issue secure;
but adverting to the number which were
stated

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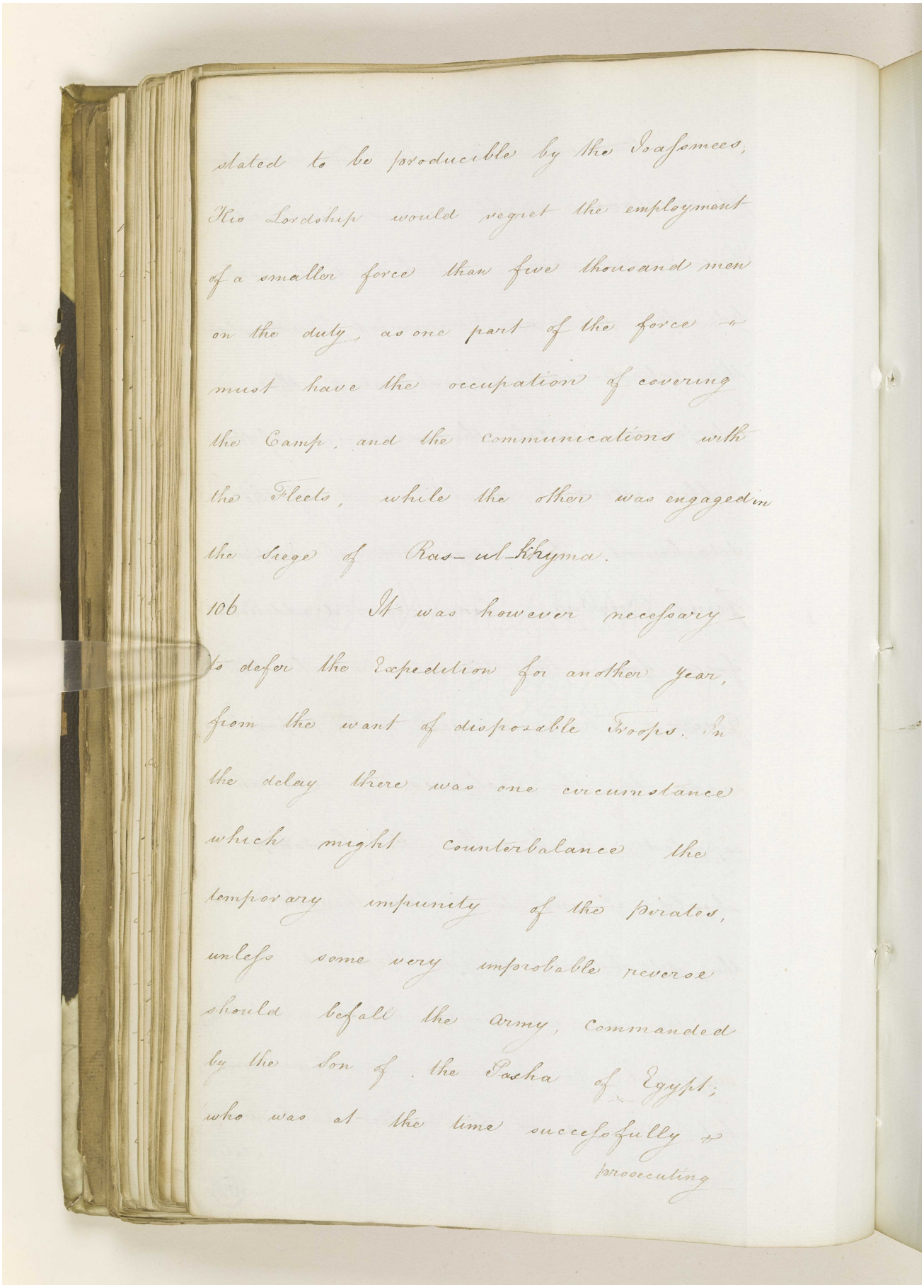

stated to be producible by the Joasmees,
His Lordship would regret the employment
of a smaller force than five thousand men
on the duty, as one part of the force
must have the occupation of covering
the Camp, and the communications with
the Fleets, while the other was engaged in
the Siege of Ras-ul-Khyma.

106 It was however necessary
to defer the Expedition for another year,
from the want of disposable Troops. In
the delay there was one circumstance
which might counterbalance the
temporary impunity of the pirates,
unless some very improbable reverse
should befall the Army, Commanded
by the Son of the Pasha of Egypt;
who was at the time successfully
prosecuting

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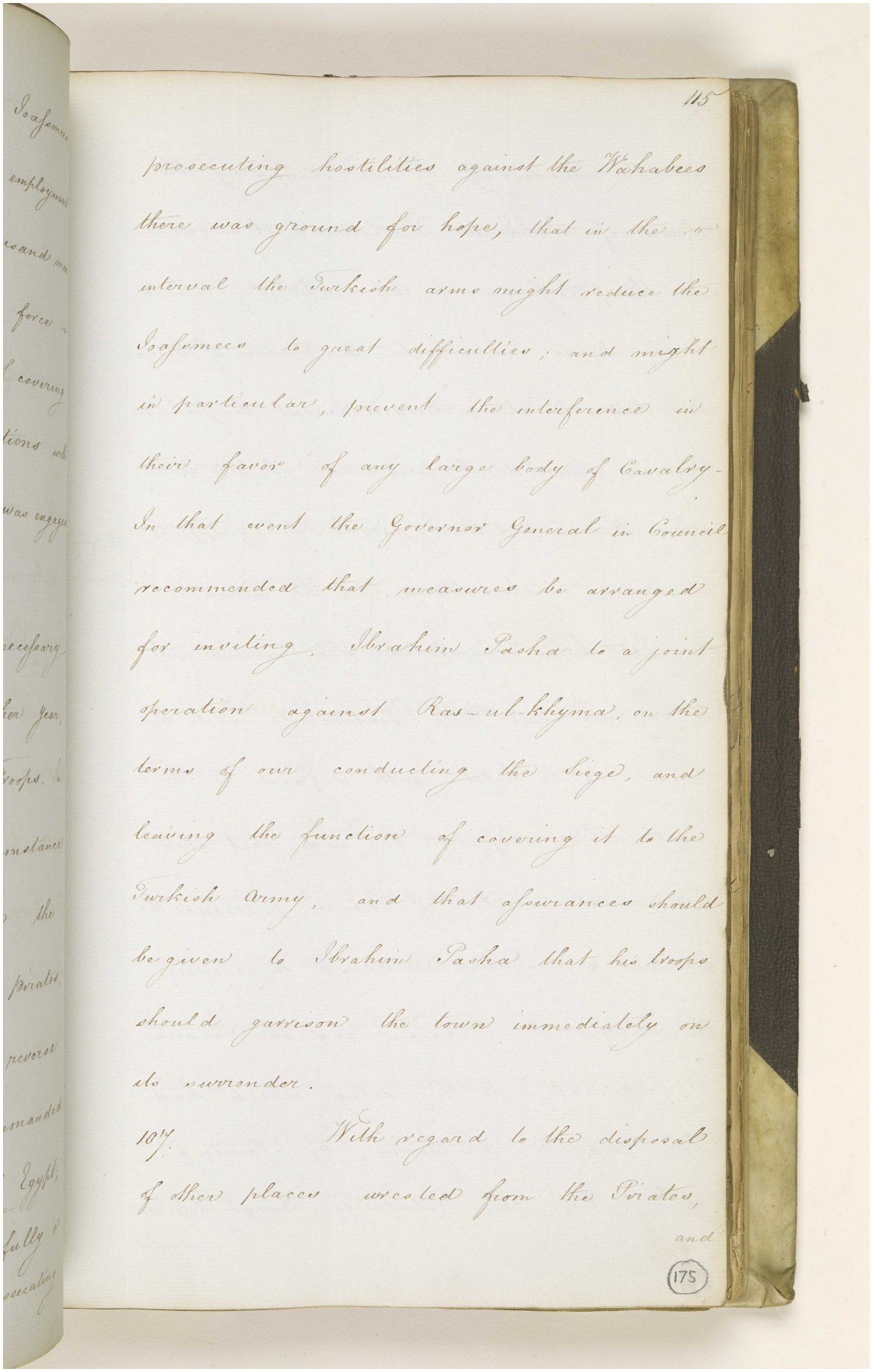

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prosecuting hostilities against the Wahabees there was ground for hope, that in the interval the Turkish arms might reduce the Joasmees to great difficulties; and might in particular, prevent the interference in their favor of any large body of Cavalry. In that event the Governor General in Council recommended that measures be arranged for inviting Ibrahim Pasha to a joint operation against Ras-ul-khyma, on the terms of our conducting the Siege, and leaving the function of covering it to the Turkish Army, and that assurances should be given to Ibrahim Pasha that his troops should garrison the town immediately on its surrender.

10th. With regard to the disposal of other places wrested from the Pirates, and

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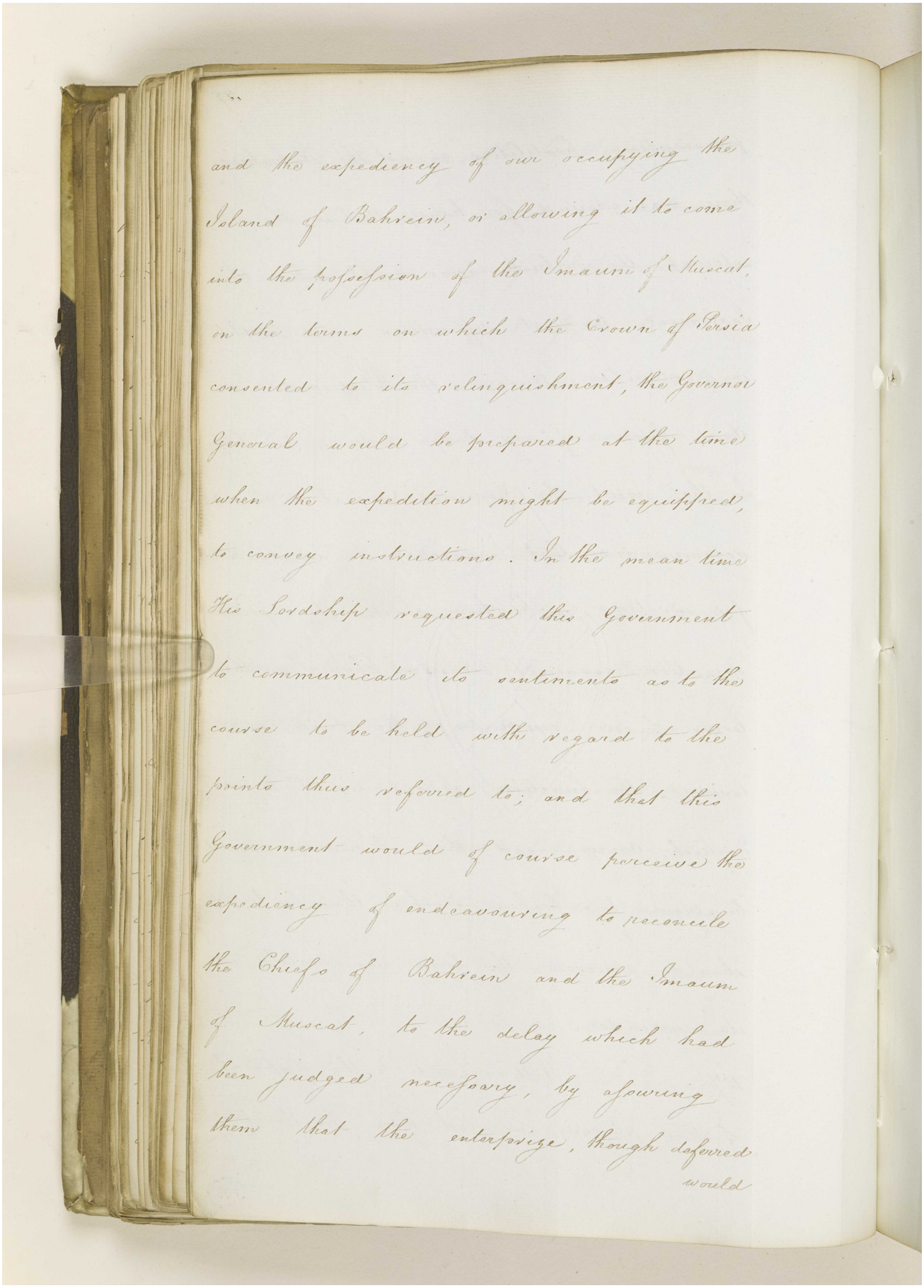

and the expediency of our occupying the Island of Bahrein, or allowing it to come into the possession of the Imaum of Muscat, on the terms on which the Crown of Persia consented to its relinquishment, the Governor General would be prepared at the time when the expedition might be equipped, to convey instructions. In the mean time His Lordship requested this Government to communicate its sentiments as to the course to be held with regard to the points thus referred to; and that this Government would of course perceive the expediency of endeavouring to reconcile the Chiefs of Bahrein and the Imaum of Muscat, to the delay which had been judged necessary, by assuring them that the enterprize, though deferred

would

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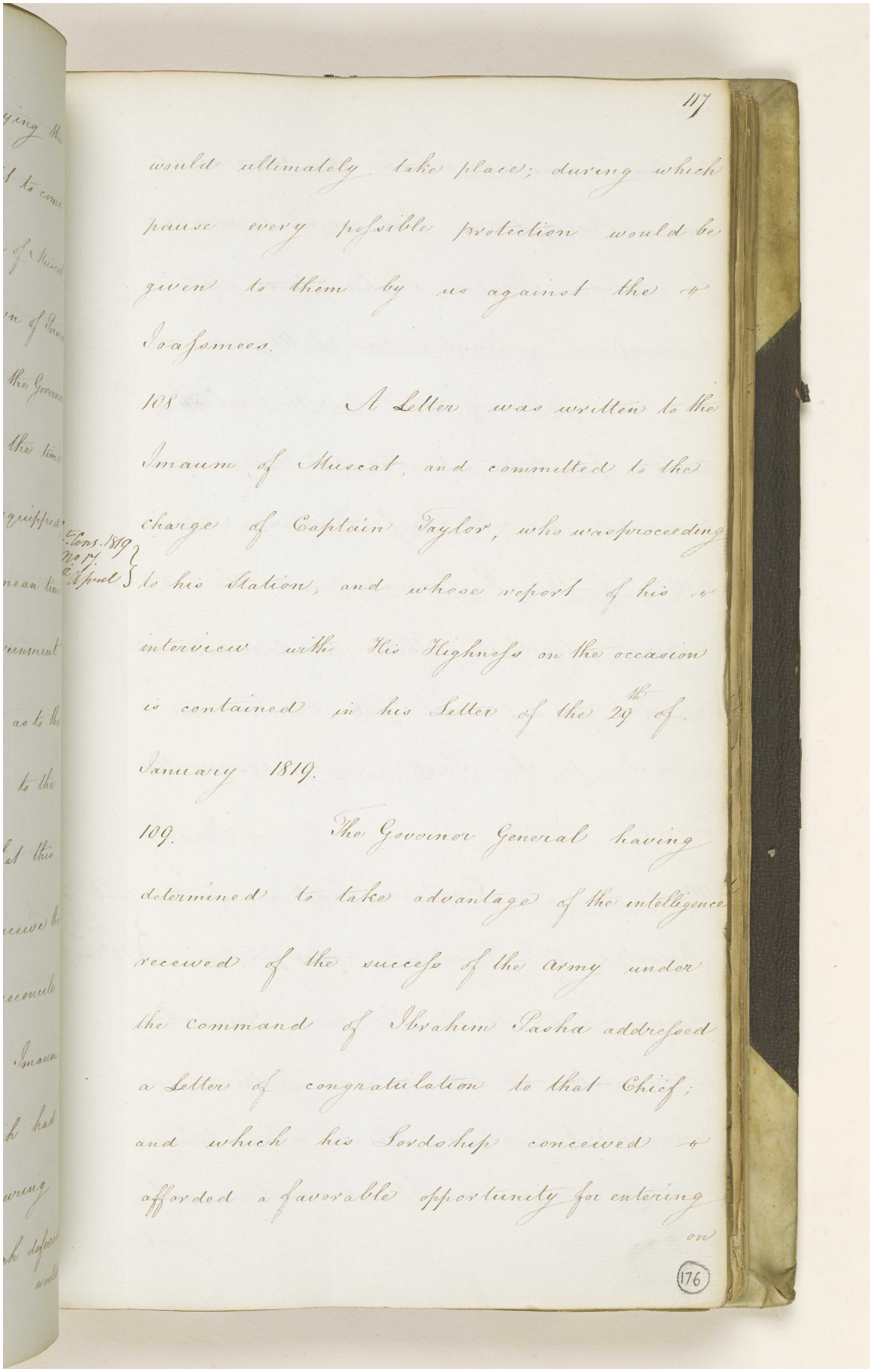

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would ultimately take place; during which pause every possible protection would be given to them by us against the Joasmees.

108 A Letter was written to the Imaum of Muscat, and committed to the charge of Captain Taylor, who was proceeding to his Station, and whose report of his interview with His Highness on the occasion is contained in his Letter of the 29th of January 1819.

Cons. 1819 No 17 & Appdx

109. The Governor General having determined to take advantage of the intelligence received of the success of the army under the command of Ibrahim Pasha addressed a Letter of congratulation to that Chief; and which his Lordship conceived to afforded a favorable opportunity for entering on

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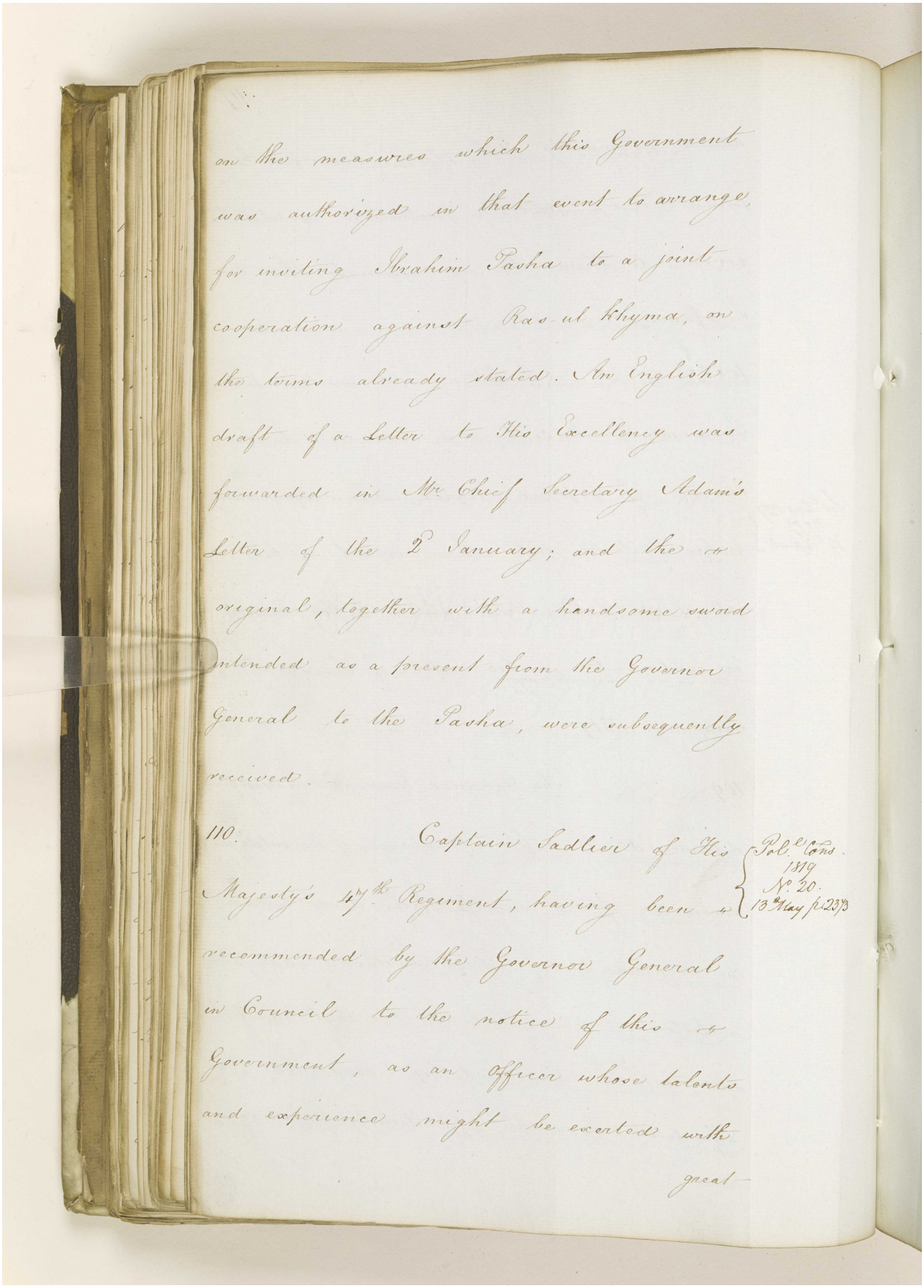

on the measures which this Government was authorized in that event to arrange, for inviting Ibrahim Pasha to a joint cooperation against Ras ul Khyma, on the terms already stated. An English draft of a Letter to His Excellency was forwarded in Mr. Chief Secretary Adam's Letter of the 2 January; and the original, together with a handsome sword intended as a present from the Governor General to the Pasha, were subsequently received.

110. Captain Sadlier of His Majesty's 47th Regiment, having been recommended by the Governor General in Council to the notice of this Government, as an Officer whose talents and experience might be exerted with great

Pol.l Cons. 1819 No. 20. 13th May p. 2373

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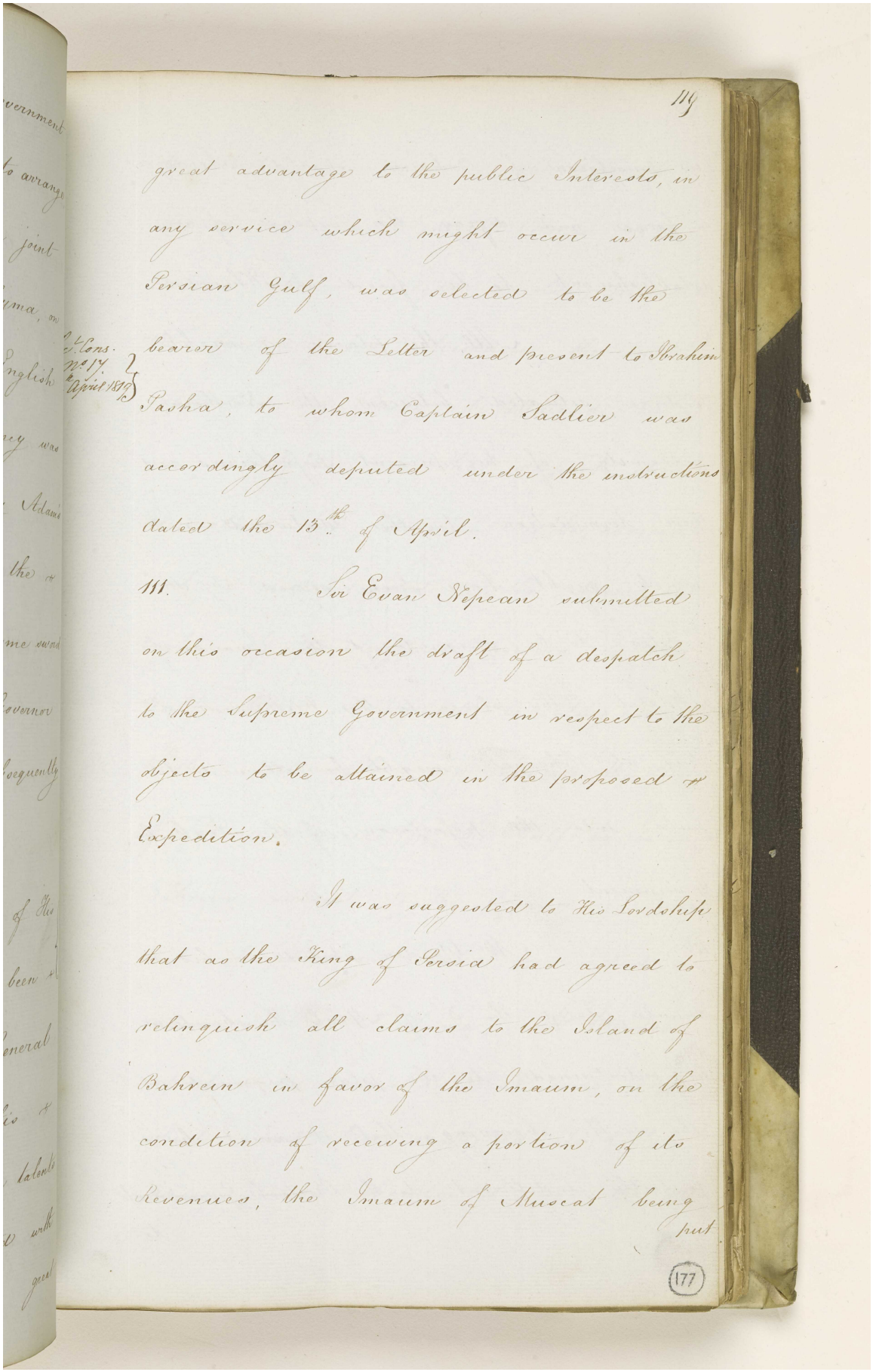

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great advantage to the public Interests, in any service which might occur in the Persian Gulf, was selected to be the bearer of the Letter and present to Ibrahim Pasha, to whom Captain Sadlier was accordingly deputed under the instructions dated the 13th. of April.

Secret Cons. No 14. 2 April 1819

111. Sir Evan Nepean submitted on this occasion the draft of a despatch to the Supreme Government in respect to the objects to be attained in the proposed Expedition.

It was suggested to His Lordship that as the King of Persia had agreed to relinquish all claims to the Island of Bahrein in favor of the Imaum, on the condition of receiving a portion of its Revenues, the Imaum of Muscat being put

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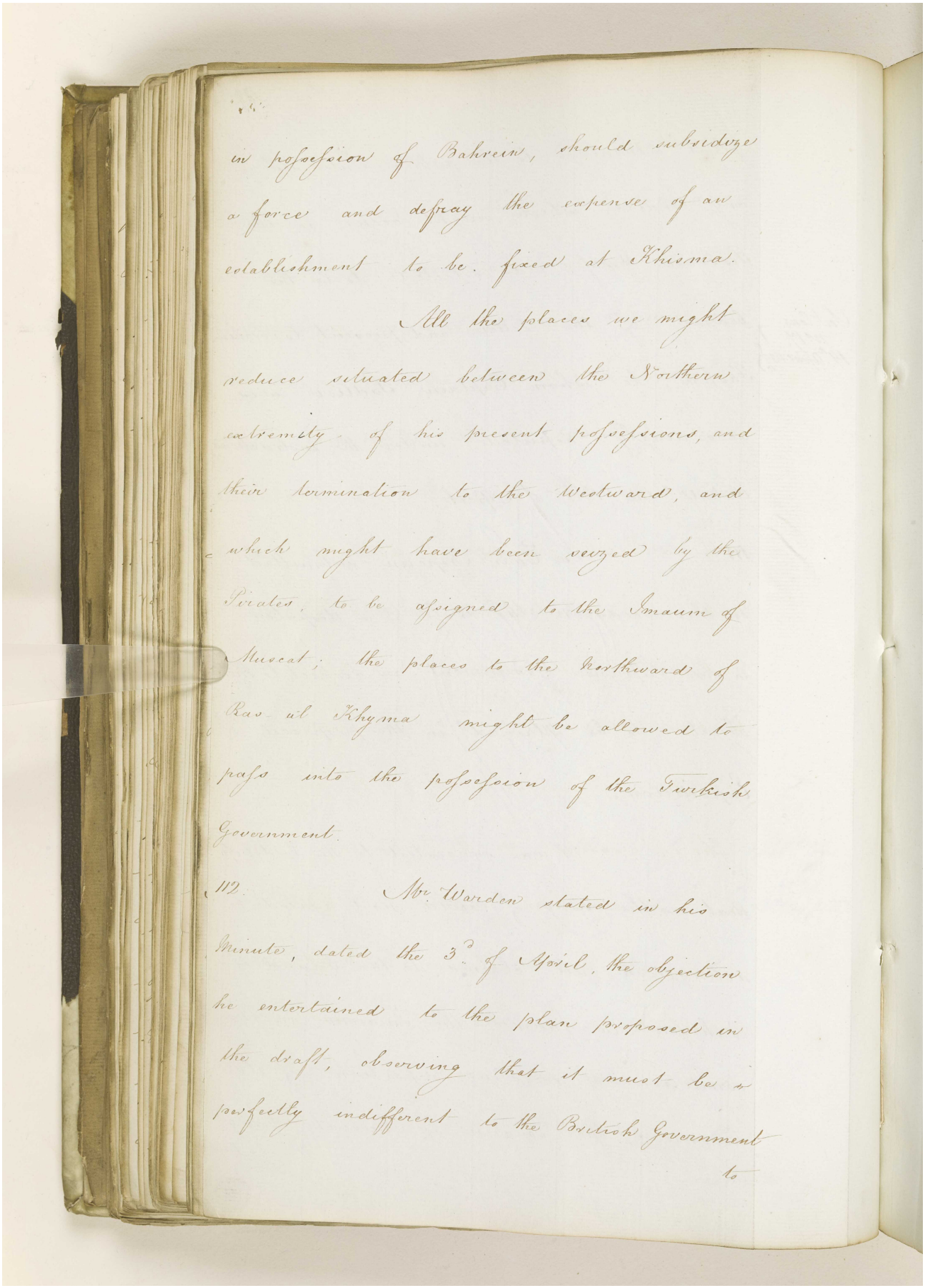
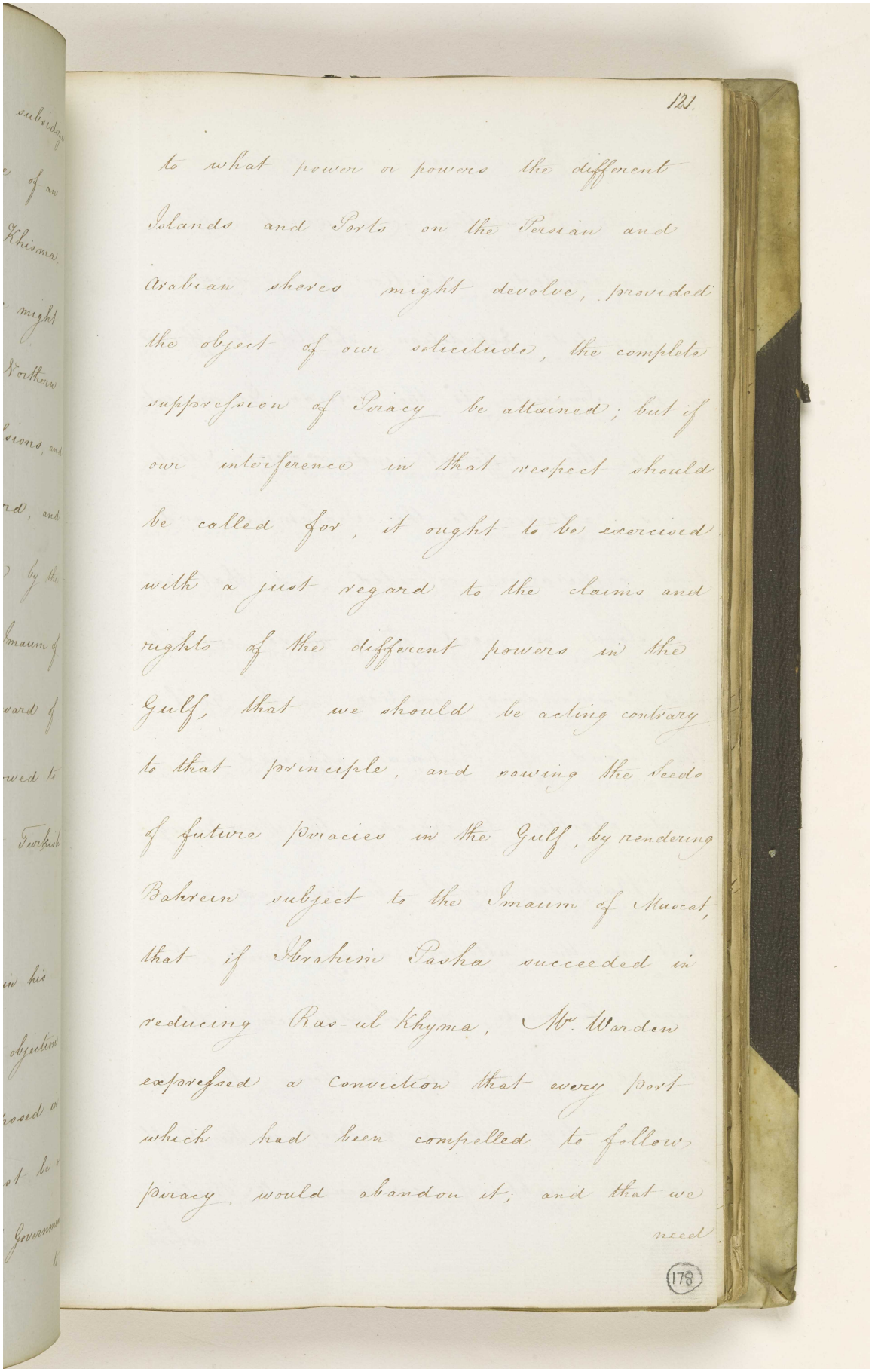


in possession of Bahrein, should subsidize a force and defray the expense of an establishment to be fixed at Khisma.

All the places we might reduce situated between the Northern extremity of his present possessions, and their termination to the Westward, and which might have been seized by the Pirates, to be assigned to the Imaum of Muscat; the places to the Northward of Ras ul Khyma might be allowed to pass into the possession of the Turkish Government.

112. Mr. Warden stated in his Minute, dated the 3d of April, the objection he entertained to the plan proposed in the draft, observing that it must be perfectly indifferent to the British Government to



121.

to what power or powers the different Islands and Ports on the Persian and Arabian shores might devolve, provided the object of our solicitude, the complete suppression of Piracy be attained; but if our interference in that respect should be called for, it ought to be exercised with a just regard to the claims and rights of the different powers in the Gulf, that we should be acting contrary to that principle, and sowing the seeds of future piracies in the Gulf, by rendering Bahrein subject to the Imaum of Muscat, that if Ibrahim Pasha succeeded in reducing Ras ul Khyma, Mr. Warden expressed a conviction that every port which had been compelled to follow piracy would abandon it; and that we need

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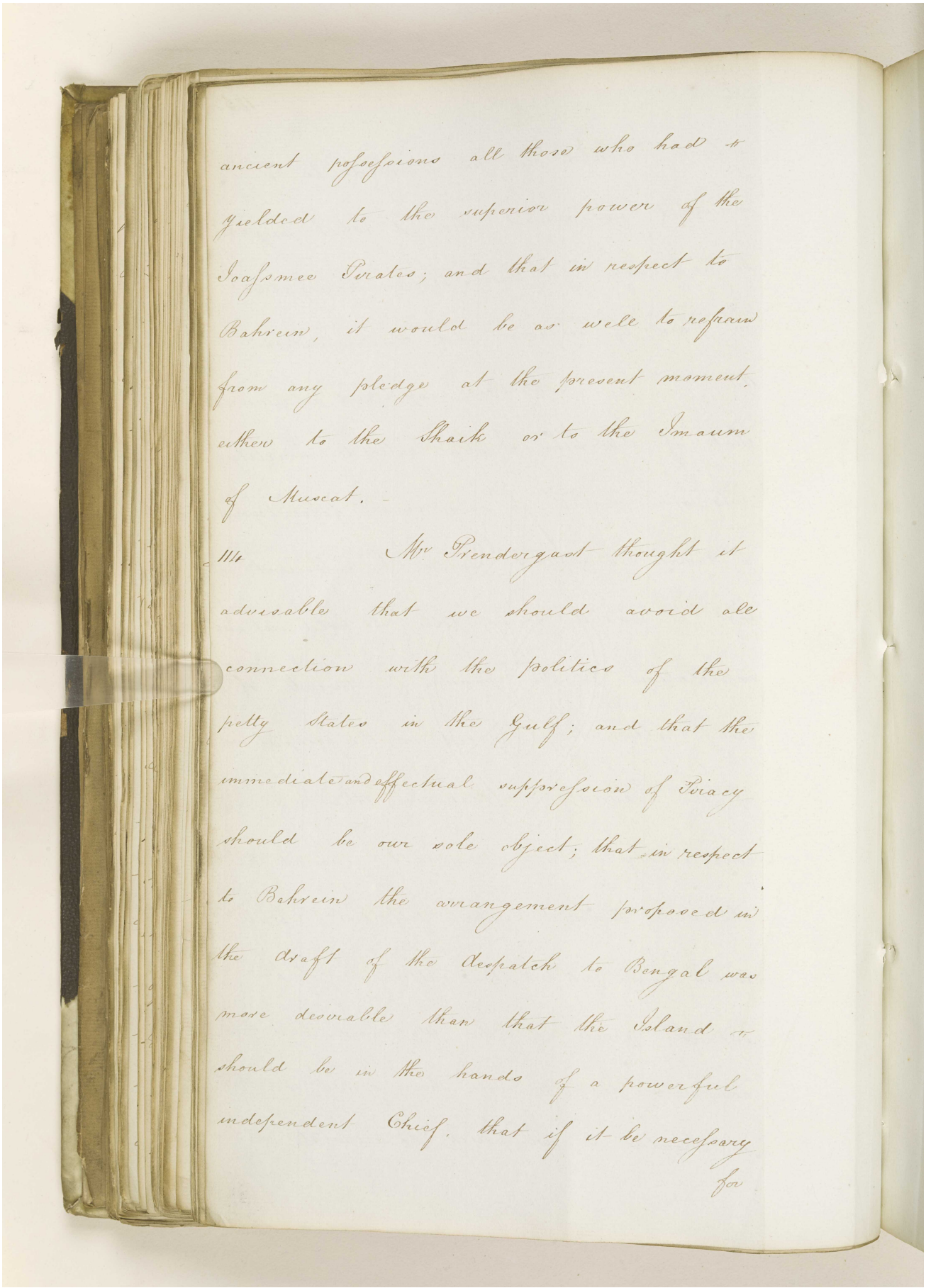

ancient possessions all those who had
yielded to the superior power of the
Joasmee Pirates; and that in respect to
Bahrein, it would be as well to refrain
from any pledge at the present moment,
either to the Shaik or to the Imaum
of Muscat.

111 Mr Prendergast thought it
advisable that we should avoid all
connection with the politics of the
petty States in the Gulf; and that the
immediate and effectual suppression of Piracy
should be our sole object; that in respect
to Bahrein the arrangement proposed in
the draft of the despatch to Bengal was
more desirable than that the Island
should be in the hands of a powerful
independent Chief, that if it be necessary
for

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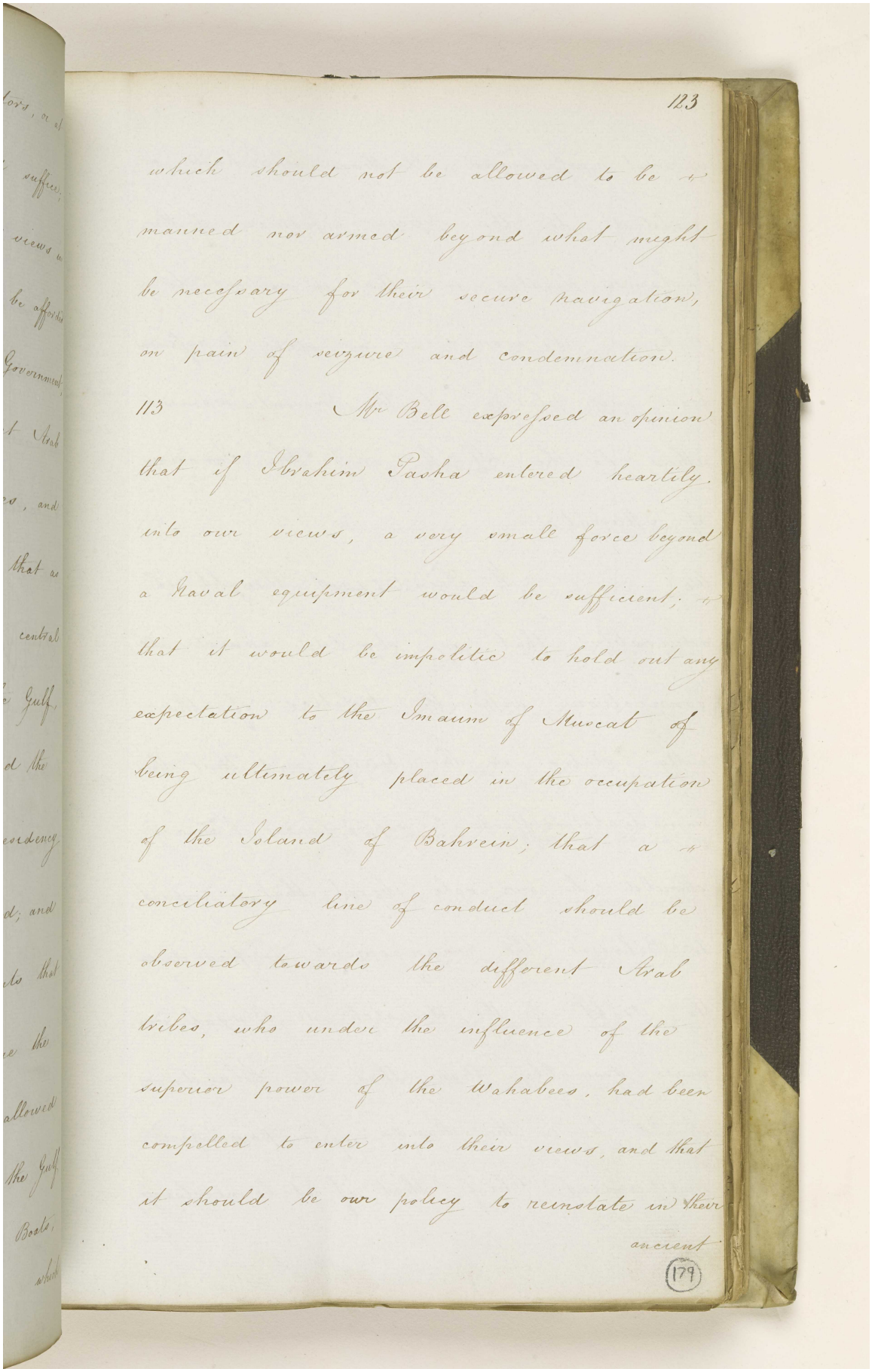
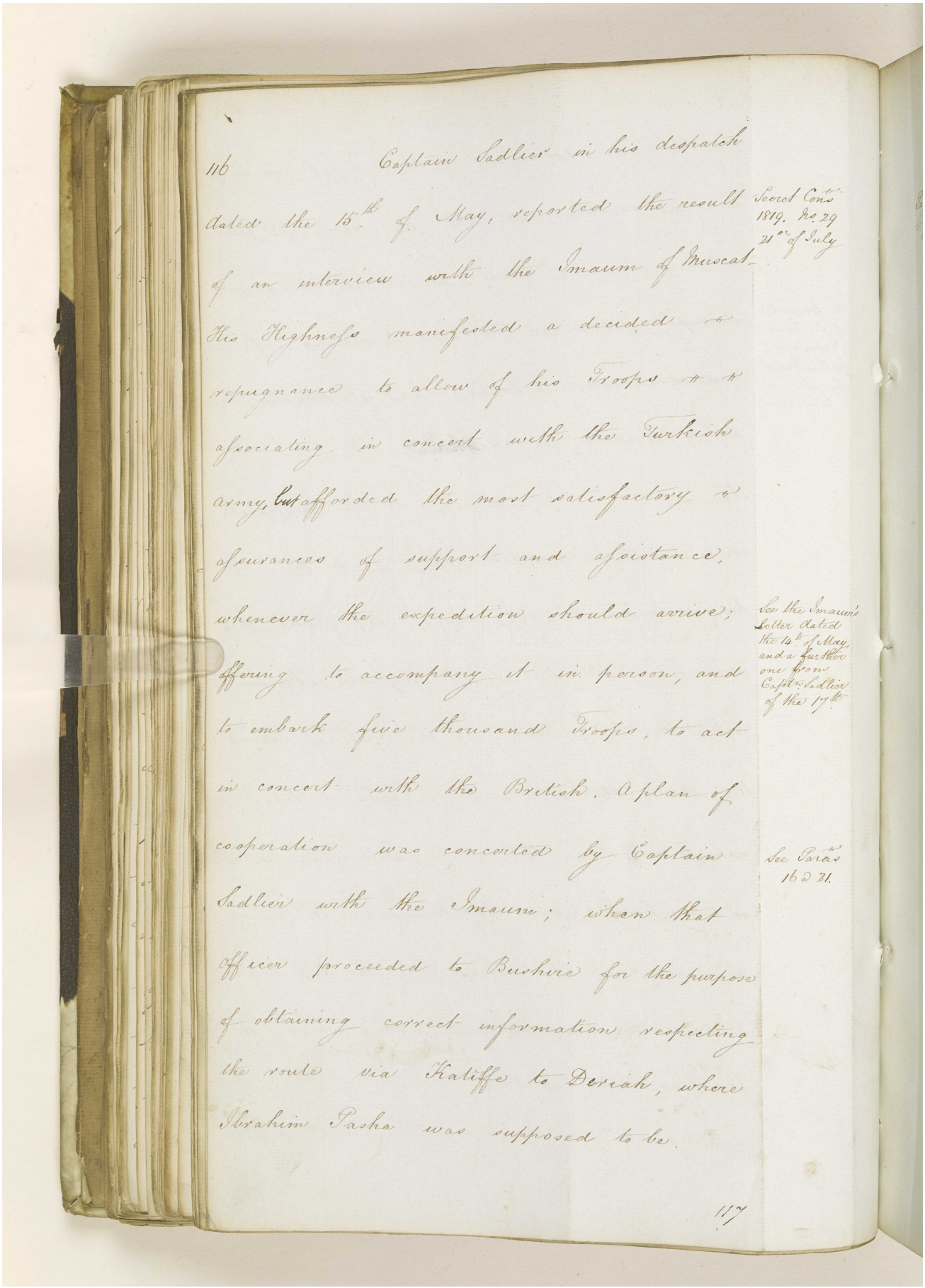


123

which should not be allowed to be manned nor armed beyond what might be necessary for their secure navigation, on pain of seizure and condemnation.

113 Mr Bell expressed an opinion that if Ibrahim Pasha entered heartily into our views, a very small force beyond a Naval equipment would be sufficient; that it would be impolitic to hold out any expectation to the Imaum of Muscat of being ultimately placed in the occupation of the Island of Bahrein; that a conciliatory line of conduct should be observed towards the different Arab tribes, who under the influence of the superior power of the Wahabees, had been compelled to enter into their views, and that it should be our policy to reinstate in their ancient

(179)



116 Captain Sadlier in his despatch dated the 15th of May, reported the result of an interview with the Imaum of Muscat. His Highness manifested a decided repugnance to allow of his Troops acting in concert with the Turkish army, but afforded the most satisfactory assurances of support and assistance, whenever the expedition should arrive; offering to accompany it in person, and to embark five thousand Troops, to act in concert with the British. A plan of co-operation was concerted by Captain Sadlier with the Imaum; when that Officer proceeded to Bushire for the purpose of obtaining correct information respecting the route via Kaliffe to Deriah, where Ibrahim Pasha was supposed to be.

Secret Cons. 1819. No. 29 21st of July

See the Imaum's Letter dated the 14th of May, and a further one from Capt. Sadlier of the 17th

See Paras 16 & 21.

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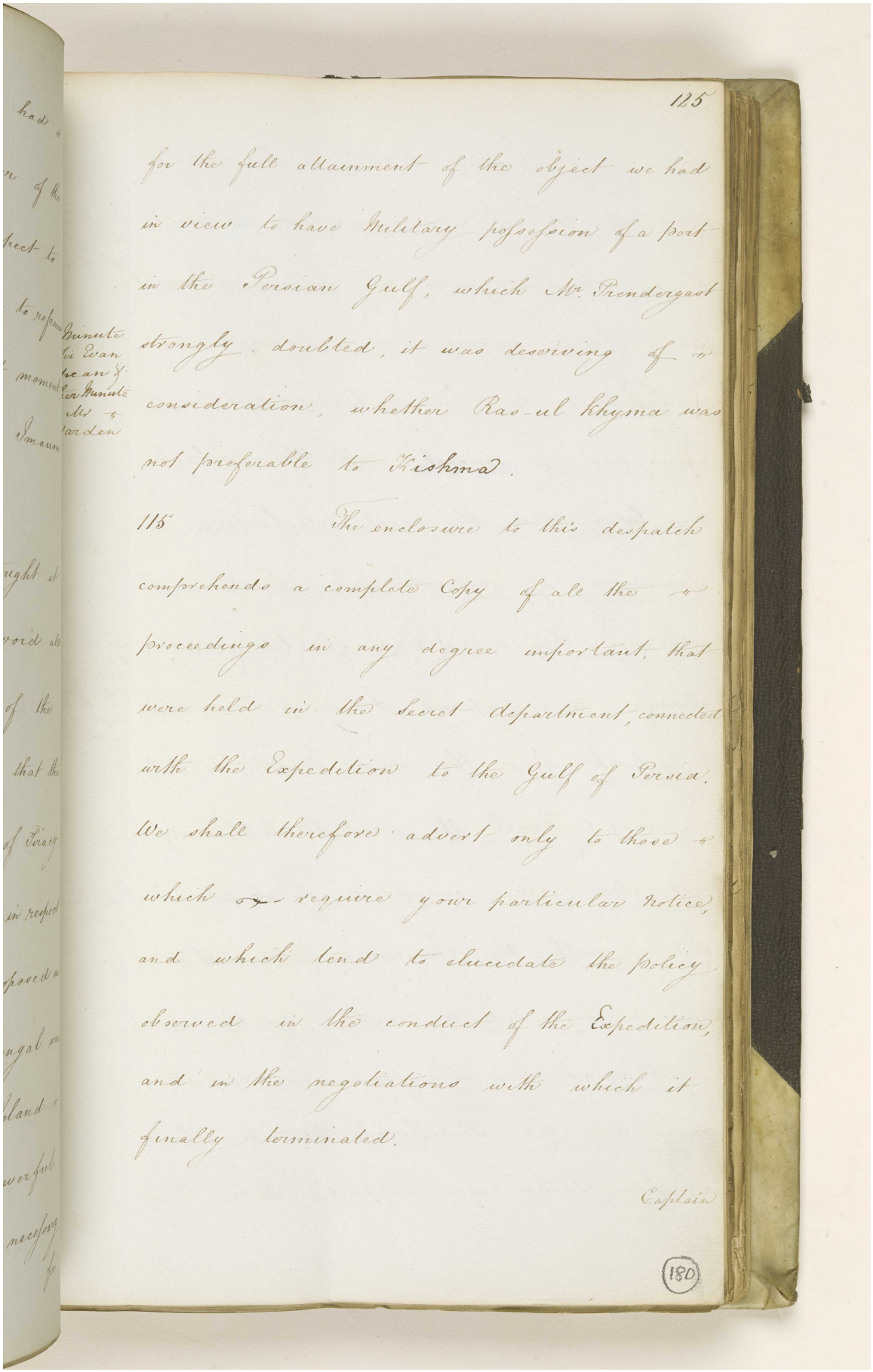

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for the full attainment of the object we had in view to have Military possession of a port in the Persian Gulf, which Mr. Prendergast strongly doubted, it was deserving of a consideration, whether Ras-ul khyma was not preferable to Kishma.

115 The enclosure to this despatch comprehends a complete Copy of all the proceedings in any degree important, that were held in the Secret department, connected with the Expedition to the Gulf of Persia. We shall therefore advert only to those which require your particular notice, and which tend to elucidate the policy observed in the conduct of the Expedition, and in the negotiations with which it finally terminated.

Captain

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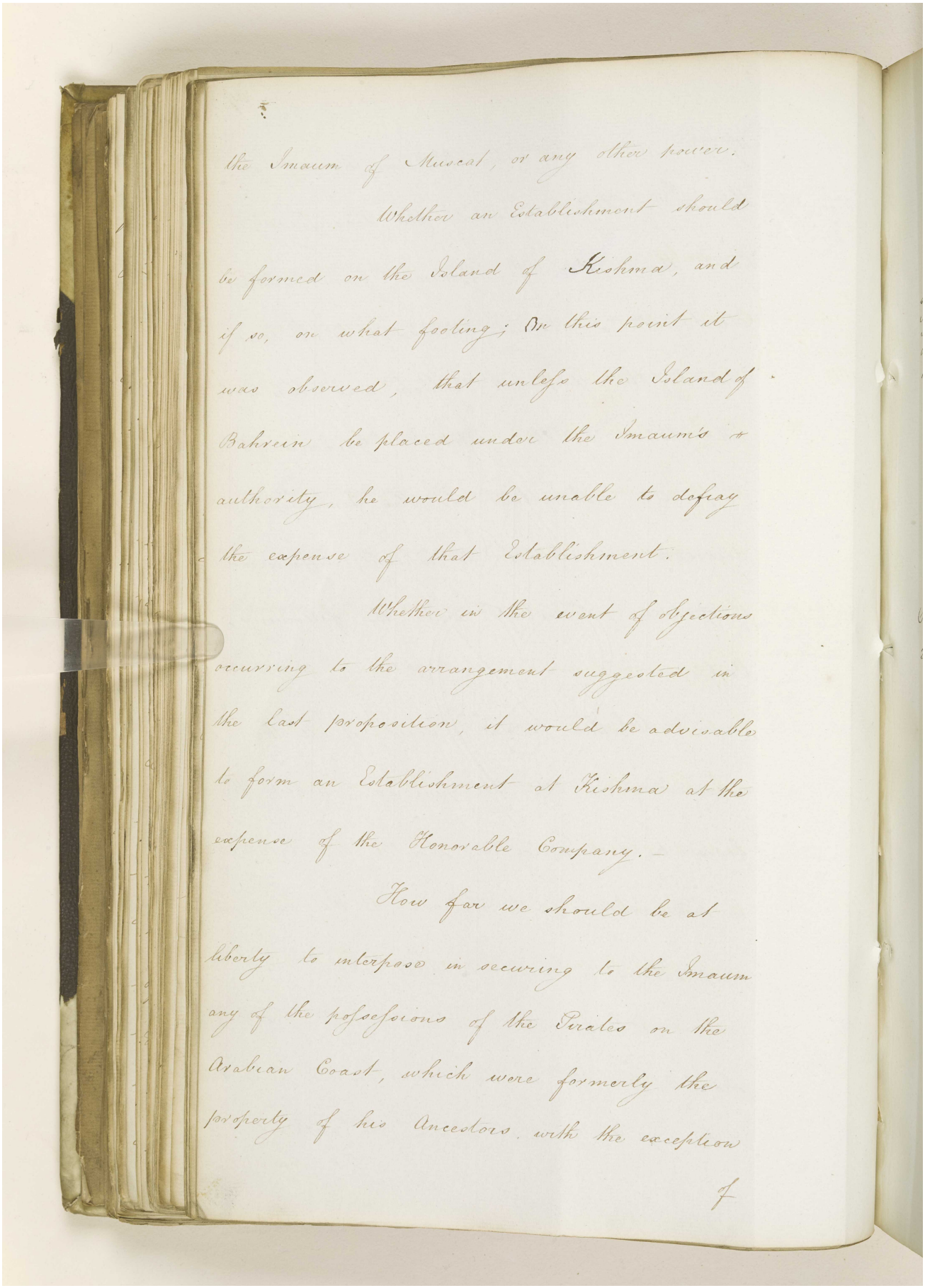

the Imaum of Muscat, or any other power.

Whether an Establishment should be formed on the Island of Kishma, and if so, on what footing; On this point it was observed, that unless the Island of Bahrein be placed under the Imaum's authority, he would be unable to defray the expense of that Establishment.

Whether in the event of objections occurring to the arrangement suggested in the last proposition, it would be advisable to form an Establishment at Kishma at the expense of the Honorable Company.—

How far we should be at liberty to interpose in securing to the Imaum any of the possessions of the Pirates on the Arabian Coast, which were formerly the property of his Ancestors, with the exception

of

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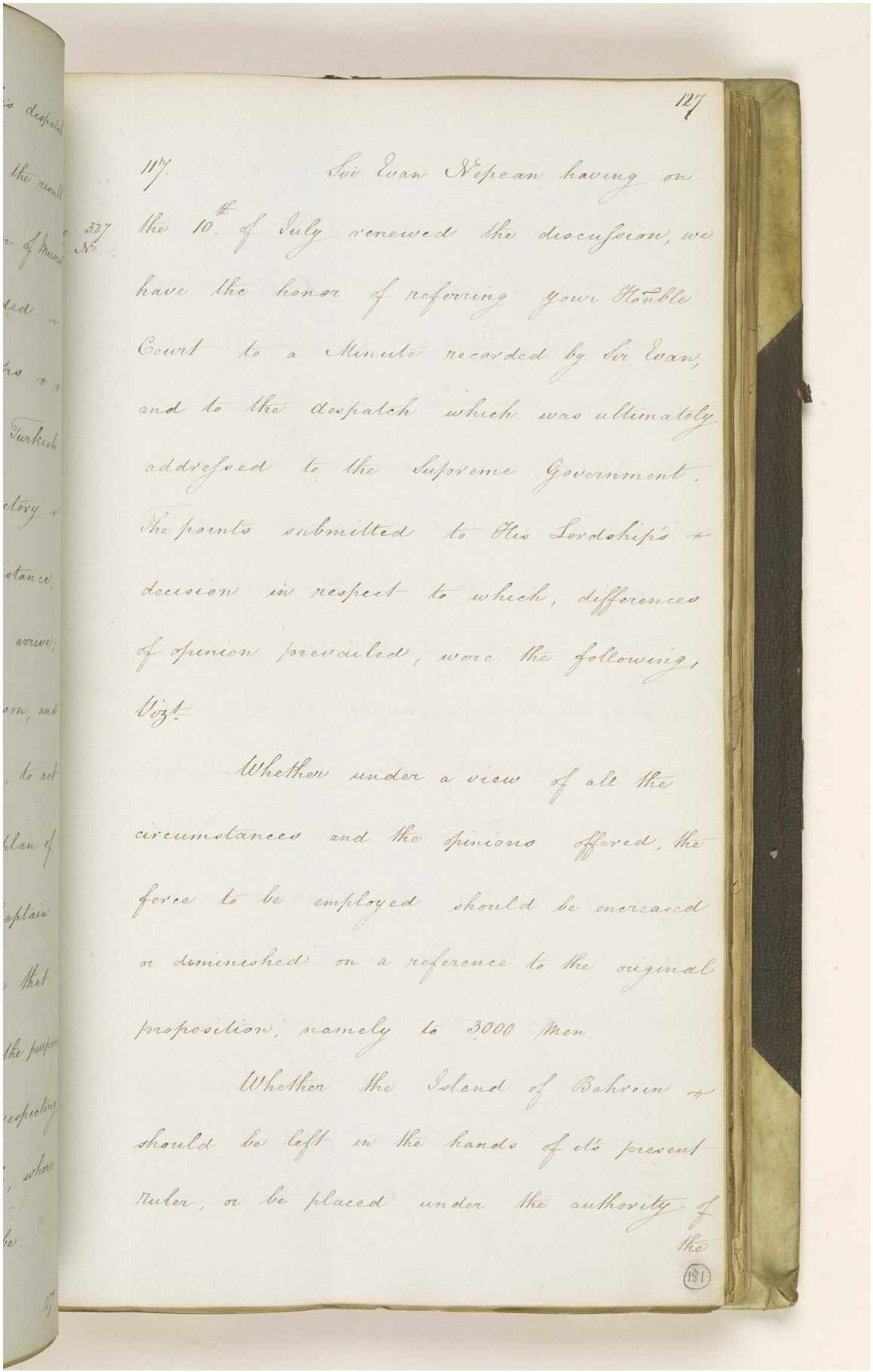

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117. Sir Evan Nepean having on
the 10th of July renewed the discussion, we
have the honor of referring your Honble
Court to a Minute recorded by Sir Evan,
and to the despatch which was ultimately
addressed to the Supreme Government.
The points submitted to His Lordship's
decision in respect to which, differences
of opinion prevailed, were the following,
Vizt.

Whether under a view of all the
circumstances and the opinions offered, the
force to be employed should be encreased
or diminished on a reference to the original
proposition, namely to 3000 Men.

Whether the Island of Bahrein
should be left in the hands of it's present
Ruler, or be placed under the authority of
the

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securing the future tranquillity of the Gulf; accompanying his Minute with sketches of the history of the different Tribes whose interests were likely to be more or less affected by those arrangements.

{Of the Oman, Of the Joasmees, Of Muscat, Of the Uttoobee Arabs, Of Khose Hussein, Of the Wahabees.}

120. A Copy of that Minute and of those recorded by the Members respectively were forwarded to the Supreme Government on the 20th of September

121. By Letters received from Bushire and from Captain Sadlier at this period, we learnt that, that Officer had arrived at Katiffe on the 21st of June; and after remaining there Eight days, set off, under the protection of a Bodorin Sheik of the tribe of Boni Khatid, to whose charge the Government of that place and of Lahissa, or El Hassa, had been

{Secret Cons. 1819. No. 37 20th of Septr.}

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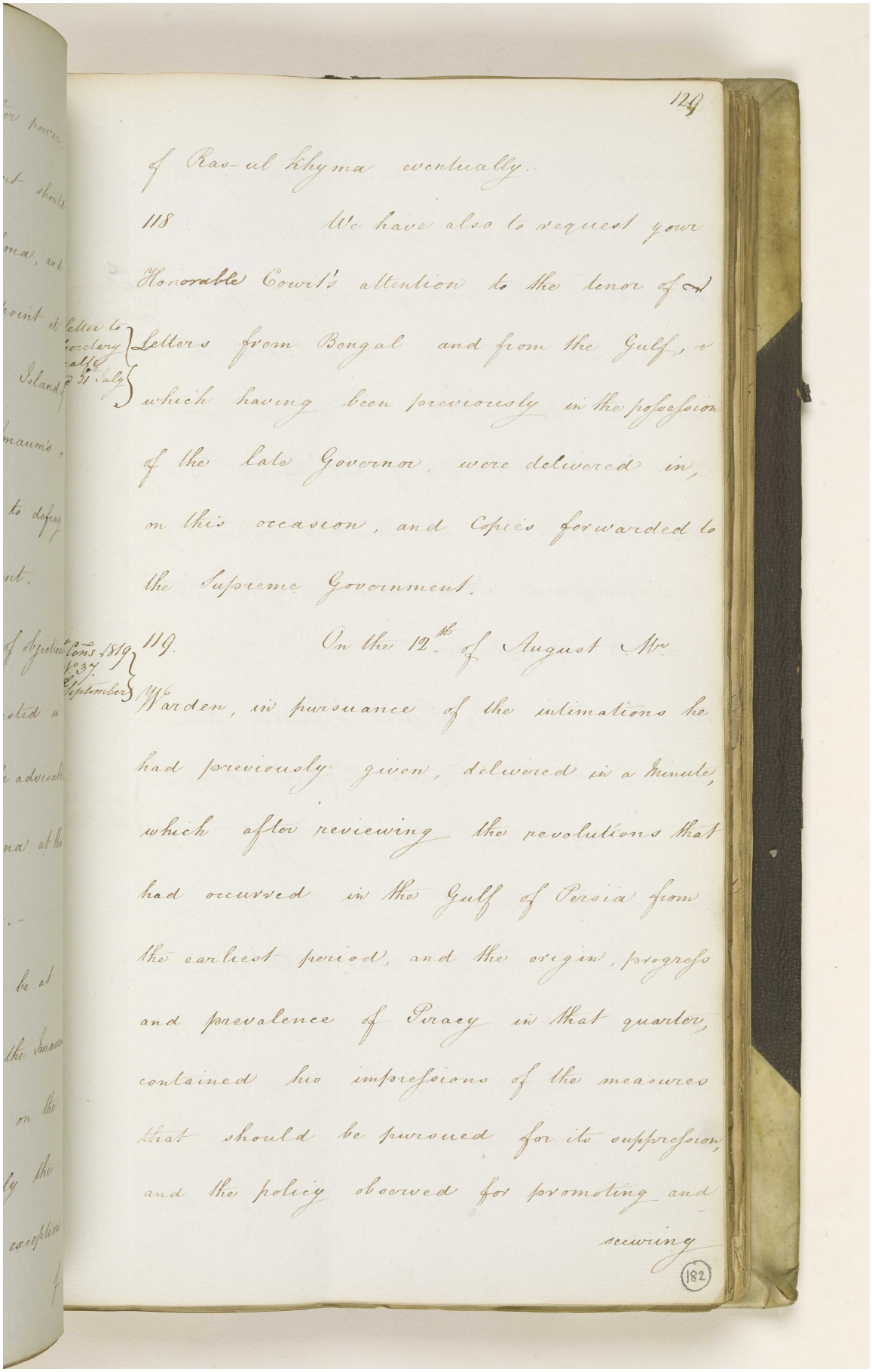

129

of Ras-ul khyma eventually.

118 We have also to request your Honorable Court's attention to the tenor of the Letters from Bengal and from the Gulf, which having been previously in the posession of the late Governor, were delivered in, on this occasion, and Copies forwarded to the Supreme Government.

119 On the 12th of August Mr Warden, in pursuance of the intimations he had previously given, delivered in a Minute, which after reviewing the revolutions that had occurred in the Gulf of Persia from the earliest period, and the origin, progress and prevalence of Piracy in that quarter, contained his impressions of the measures that should be pursued for its suppression, and the policy observed for promoting and securing

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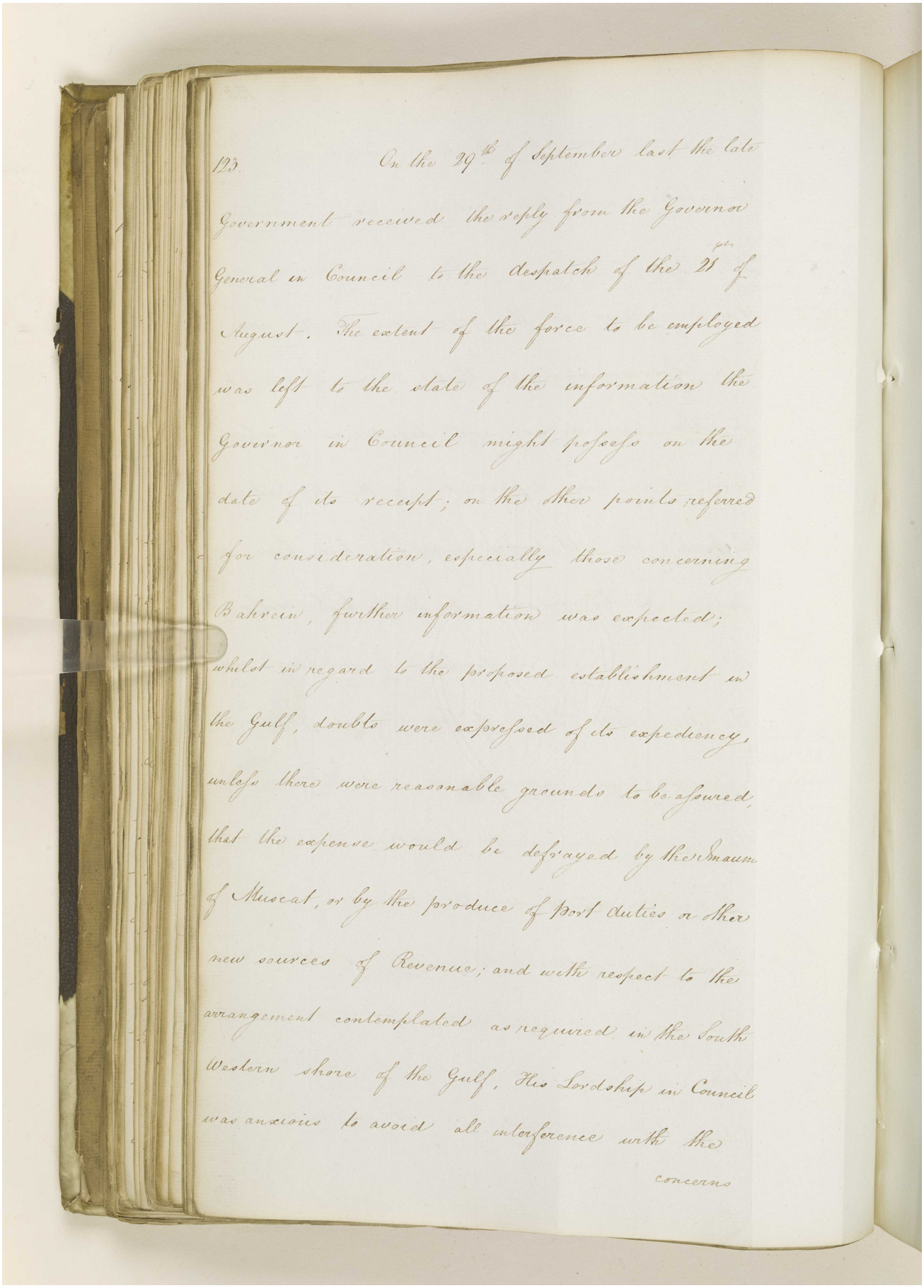

123 On the 29th of September last the late Government received the reply from the Governor General in Council to the despatch of the 21st of August. The extent of the force to be employed was left to the state of the information the Governor in Council might possess on the date of its receipt; on the other points referred for consideration, especially those concerning Bahrein, further information was expected; whilst in regard to the proposed establishment in the Gulf, doubts were expressed of its expediency, unless there were reasonable grounds to be assured, that the expense would be defrayed by the Imaum of Muscat, or by the produce of Port duties or other new sources of Revenue; and with respect to the arrangement contemplated as required in the South Western shore of the Gulf, His Lordship in Council was anxious to avoid all interference with the

concerns

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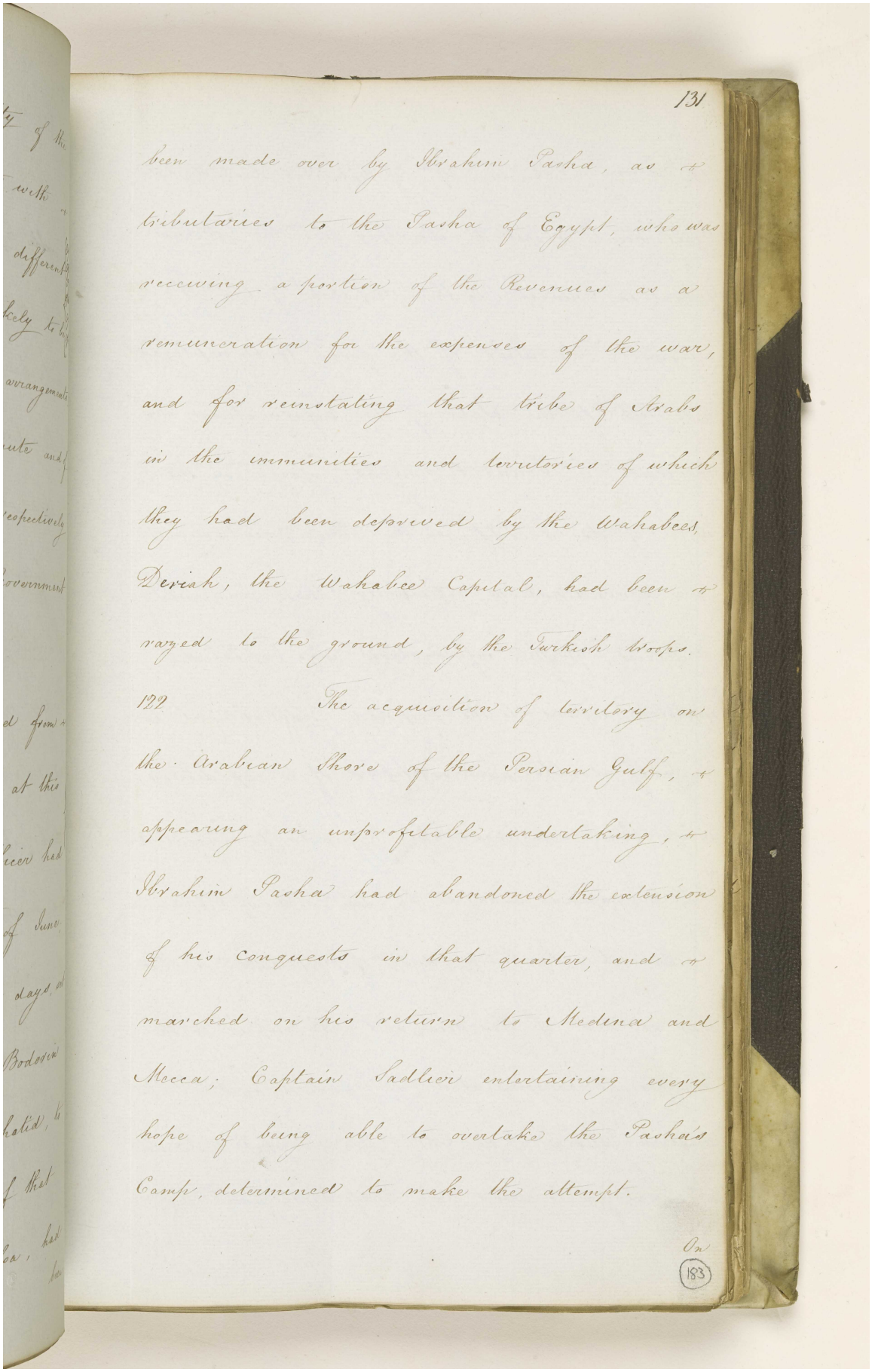

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been made over by Ibrahim Pasha, as a tributaries to the Pasha of Egypt, who was receiving a portion of the Revenues as a remuneration for the expenses of the war, and for reinstating that tribe of Arabs in the immunities and territories of which they had been deprived by the Wahabees, Deriah, the Wahabee Capital, had been a razed to the ground, by the Turkish troops.

132 The acquisition of territory on the Arabian Shore of the Persian Gulf, a appearing an unprofitable undertaking, a Ibrahim Pasha had abandoned the extension of his conquests in that quarter, and a marched on his return to Medina and Mecca; Captain Sadlier entertaining every hope of being able to overtake the Pasha's Camp, determined to make the attempt.

On

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taking part in the operations by land against Linga or other places on the Persian side of the Gulf; Copies of which were forwarded to the Resident at Bagdad and to His Majesty's Envoy at Tehran, for the information of those Governments respectively.

125. Measures having thus far advanced, the force ultimately prepared for the Expedition was fixed; 3,547 Rank and file, composed of the Corps specified in the Margin, for the Transport of which about 9,000 Tons were engaged, and sailed on the 1st of Novr. under Convoy of His Majesty's Ships Liverpool and Curlew, and the Honble Company's Cruizer Aurora; whilst His Majesty's Ship Eden, and the Cruizers named in the Margin were in the Gulf under Orders to join the force. The troops were under the command of Major General Sir William

Europeans
Artillery 95
H.M. 47 Regt 585
" " 65th " 773
1453
Natives
1st of the 2d 800
1 " " 3 800
Flank Coy of the 24 200
Marine Battn. 200
Pioneers 94
3,547

Nautilus
Vestal
Psyche
Ariel
Teignmouth
Ternate
& Benares

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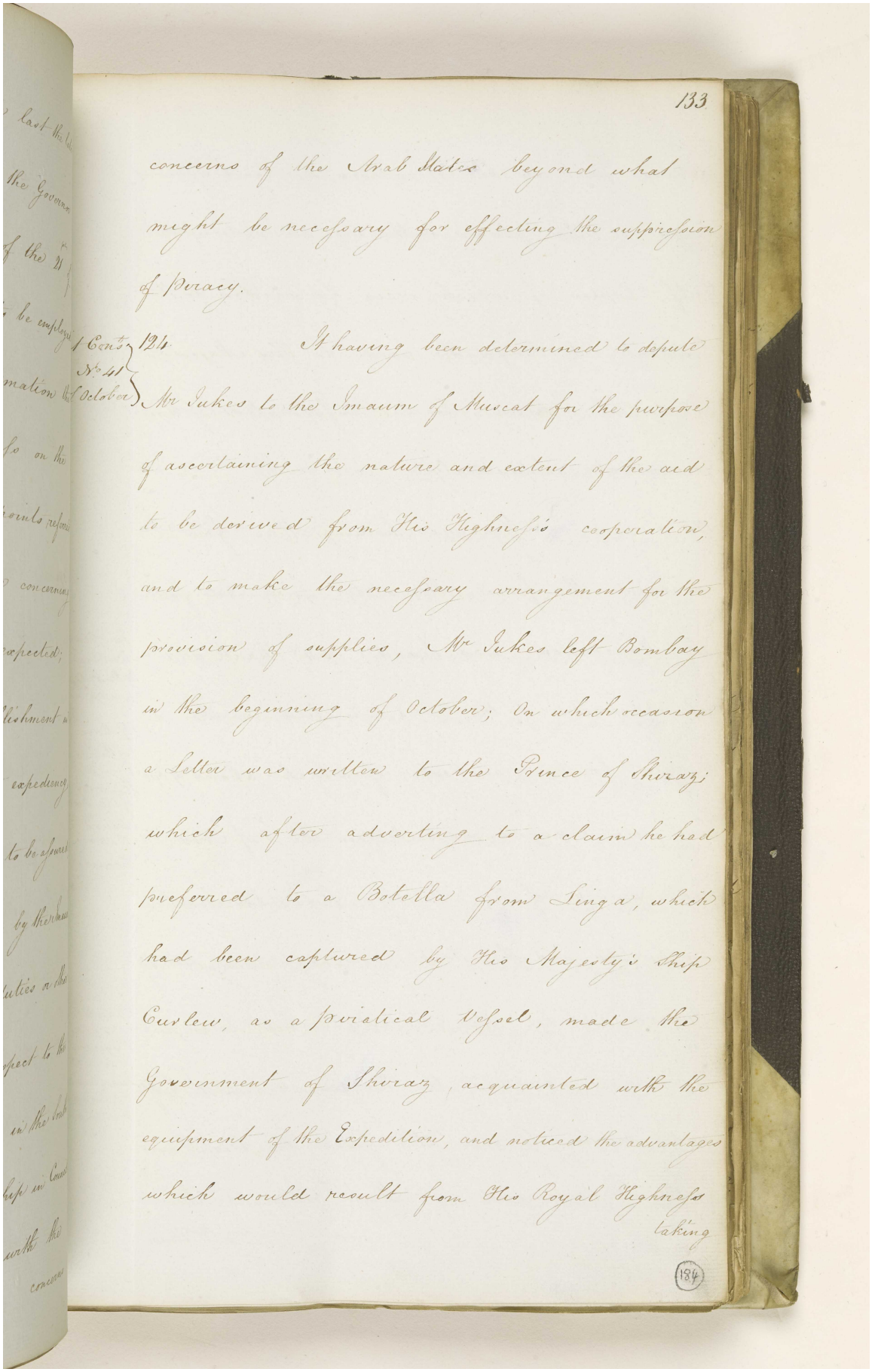

concerns of the Arab States beyond what might be necessary for effecting the suppression of Piracy.

1 Cons. No. 41 of October

124. It having been determined to depute Mr Jukes to the Imaum of Muscat for the purpose of ascertaining the nature and extent of the aid to be derived from His Highness's cooperation, and to make the necessary arrangement for the provision of supplies, Mr Jukes left Bombay in the beginning of October; On which occasion a Letter was written to the Prince of Shiraz; which after adverting to a claim he had preferred to a Botella from Linga, which had been captured by His Majesty's Ship Curlew, as a piratical Vessel, made the Government of Shiraz, acquainted with the equipment of the Expedition, and noticed the advantages which would result from His Royal Highness taking

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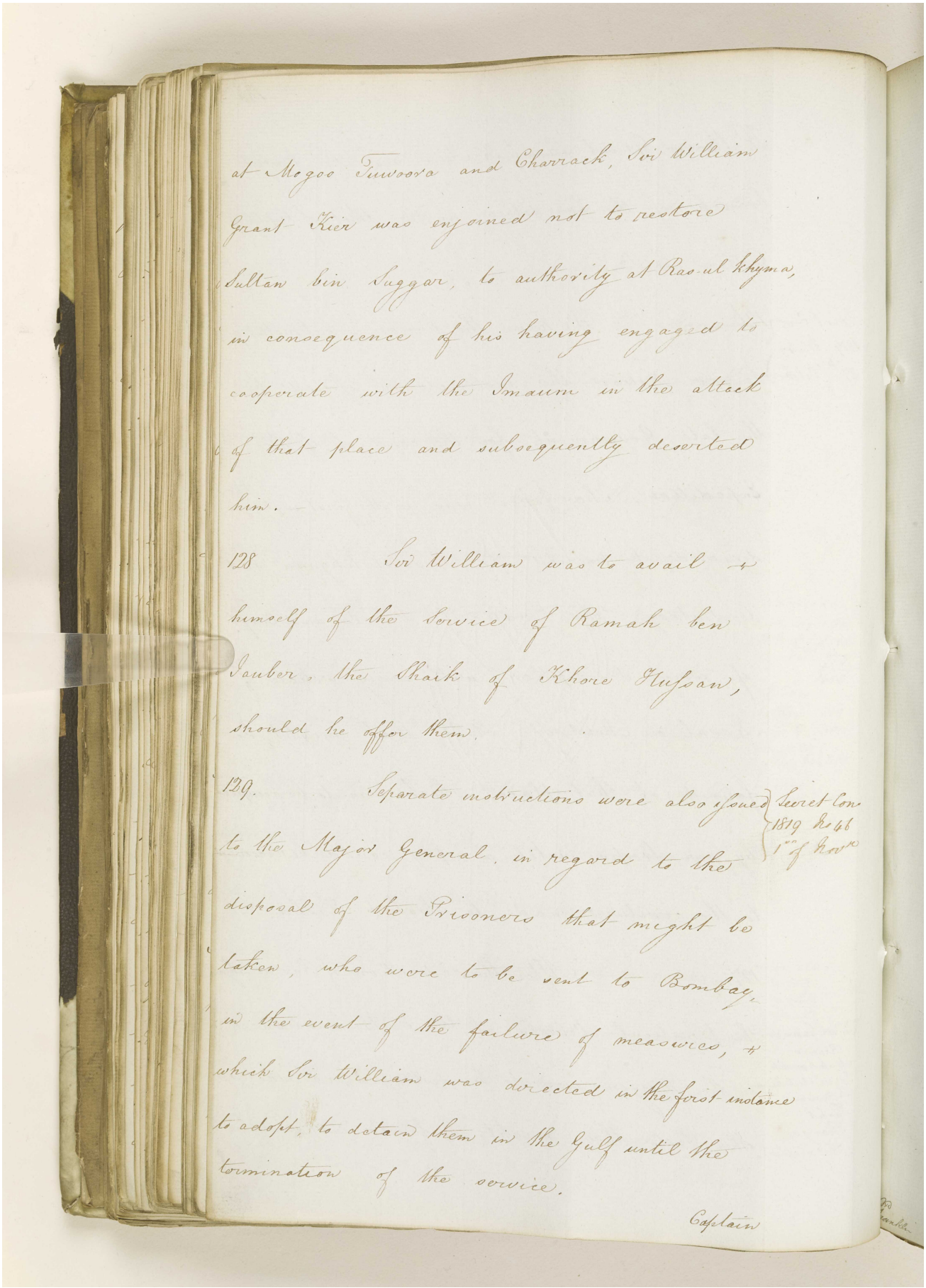


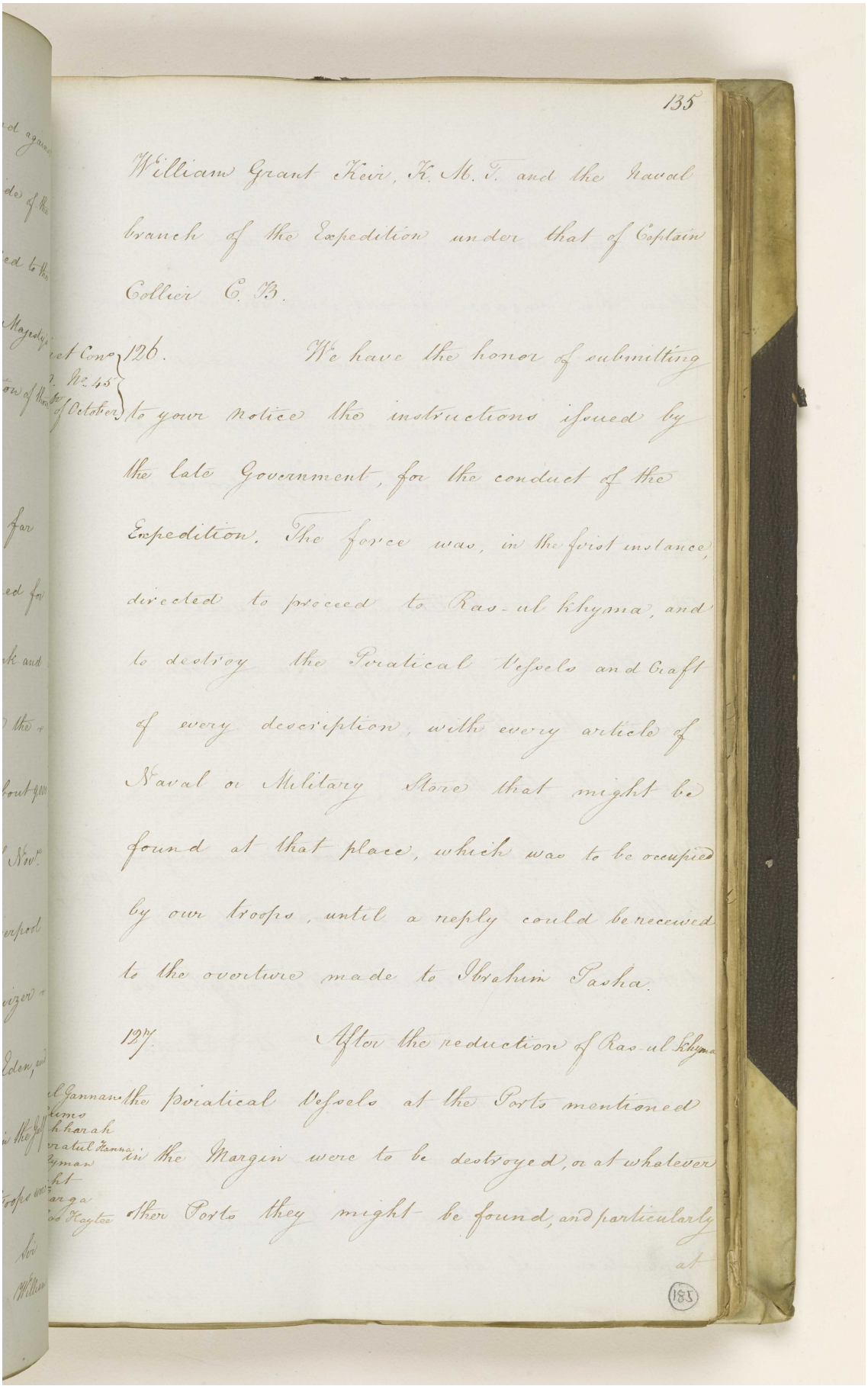
at Mogoo Tuwoora and Charrack, Sir William Grant Kier was enjoined not to restore Sultan bin Suggar, to authority at Ras-ul Khyma, in consequence of his having engaged to cooperate with the Imaum in the attack of that place and subsequently deserted him.

128 Sir William was to avail himself of the service of Ramah ben Jauber, the Shaik of Khore Hufsaw, should he offer them.

129. Separate instructions were also issued to the Major General, in regard to the disposal of the Prisoners that might be taken, who were to be sent to Bombay, in the event of the failure of measures, which Sir William was directed in the first instance to adopt, to detain them in the Gulf until the termination of the service.

Secret Letter 1819 No 46 1st of Nov.

Captain



William Grant Keir, K. M. T. and the Naval branch of the Expedition under that of Captain Collier C. B.

...et Con... No. 45 ... of October

126. We have the honor of submitting to your notice the instructions issued by the late Government, for the conduct of the Expedition. The force was, in the first instance, directed to proceed to Ras-ul Khyma, and to destroy the Piratical Vessels and Craft of every description, with every article of Naval or Military Store that might be found at that place, which was to be occupied by our troops, until a reply could be received to the overture made to Ibrahim Pasha.

127. After the reduction of Ras-ul Khyma the piratical Vessels at the Ports mentioned in the Margin were to be destroyed, or at whatever other Ports they might be found, and particularly at

...l Gannan ...ums ...hharah ...ratul Hanna ...yman ...ht ...arga ...oo Haytee

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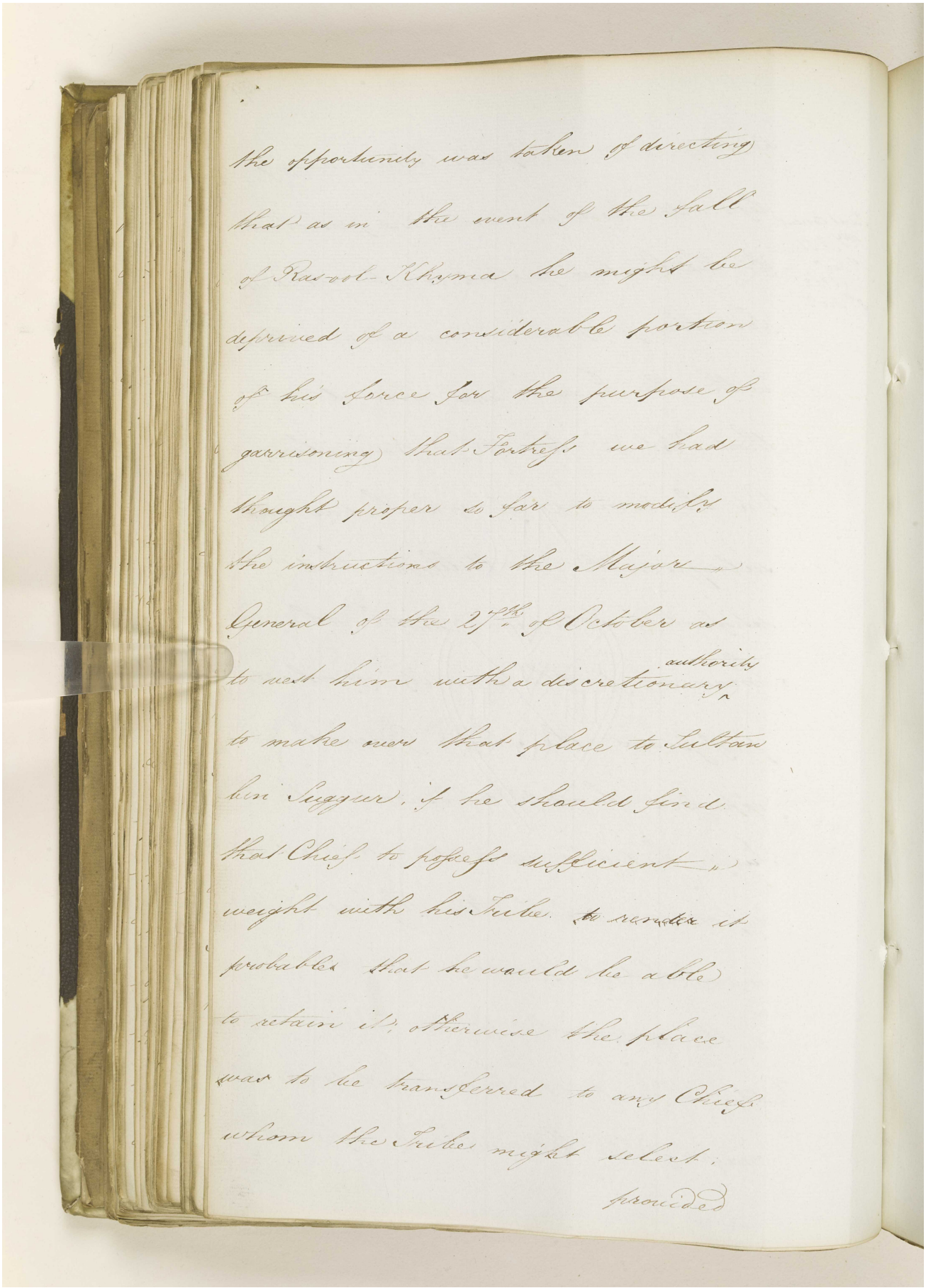

the opportunity was taken of directing that as in the event of the fall of Ras-ool-Khyma he might be deprived of a considerable portion of his force for the purpose of garrisoning that Fortress we had thought proper so far to modify the instructions to the Major General of the 27th. of October as to vest him with a discretionary authority to make over that place to Sultan bin Sugger, if he should find that Chief to possess sufficient weight with his Tribe to render it probable that he would be able to retain it, otherwise the place was to be transferred to any Chief whom the Tribes might select, provided

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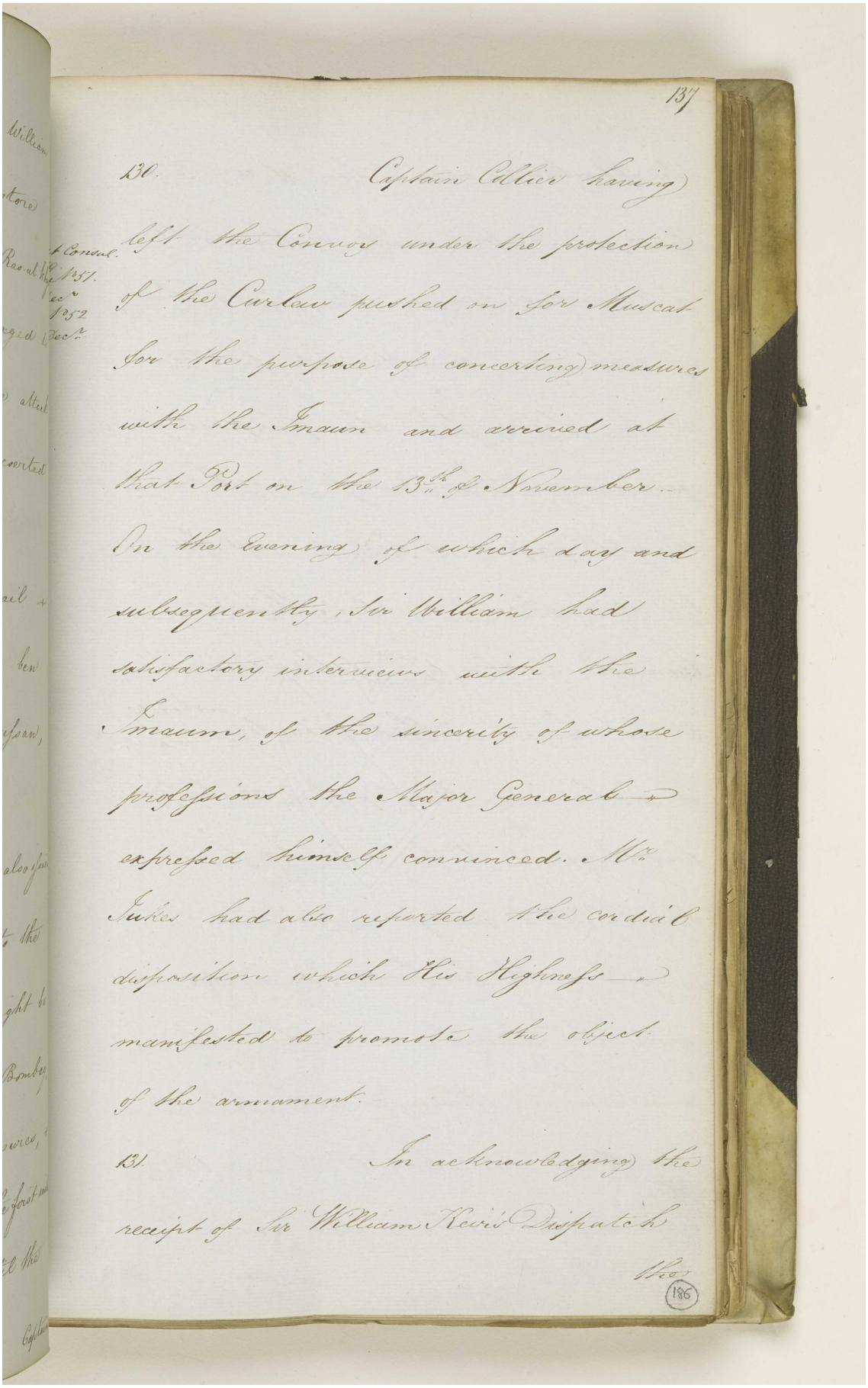

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130. Captain Collier having left the Convoy under the protection of the Curlew pushed on for Muscat for the purpose of concerting measures with the Imaum and arrived at that Port on the 13th of November. On the Evening of which day and subsequently, Sir William had satisfactory interviews with the Imaum, of the sincerity of whose professions the Major General expressed himself convinced. Mr. Jukes had also reported the cordial disposition which His Highness manifested to promote the object of the armament.

131 In acknowledging the receipt of Sir William Keir's Dispatch

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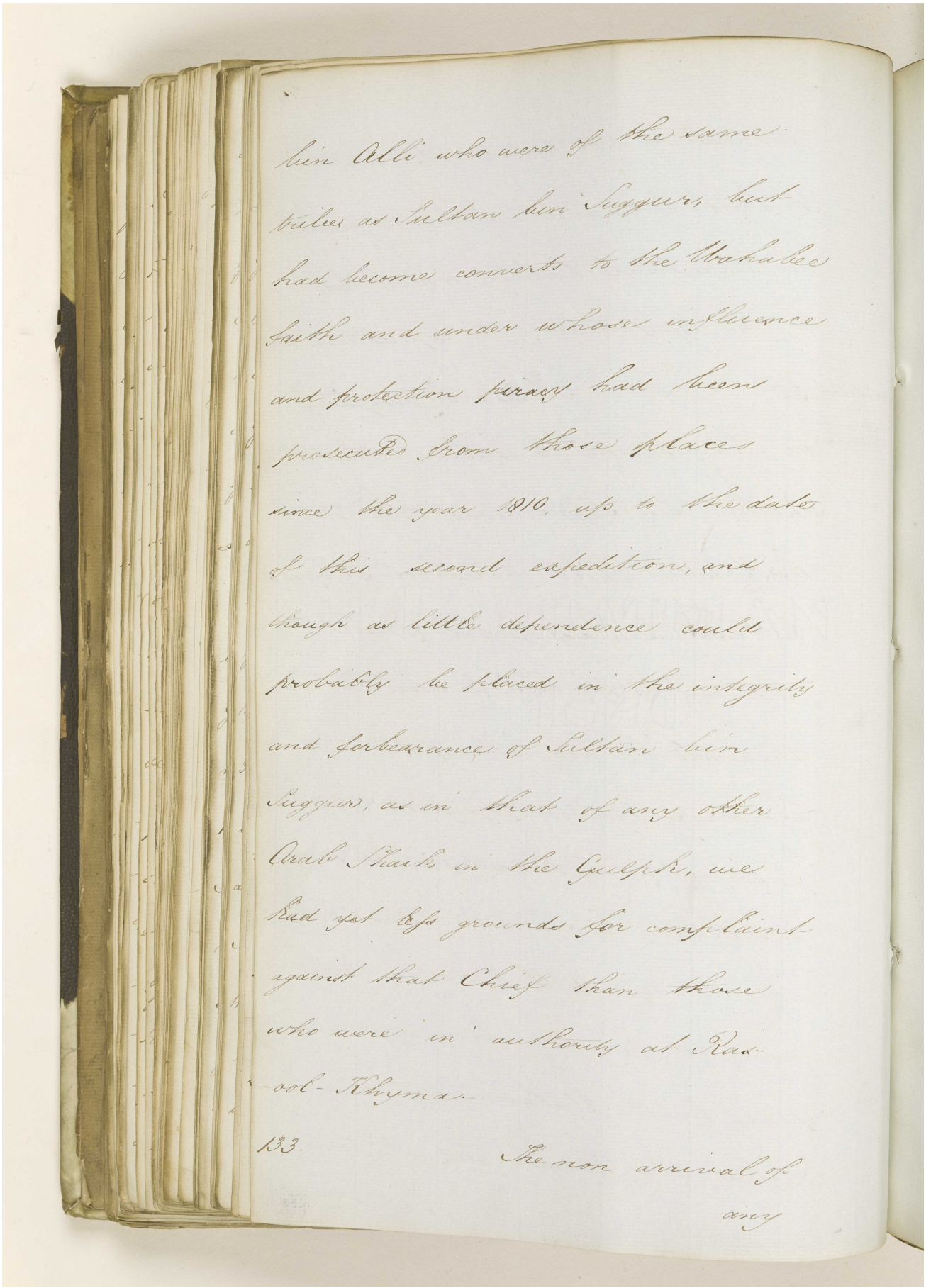
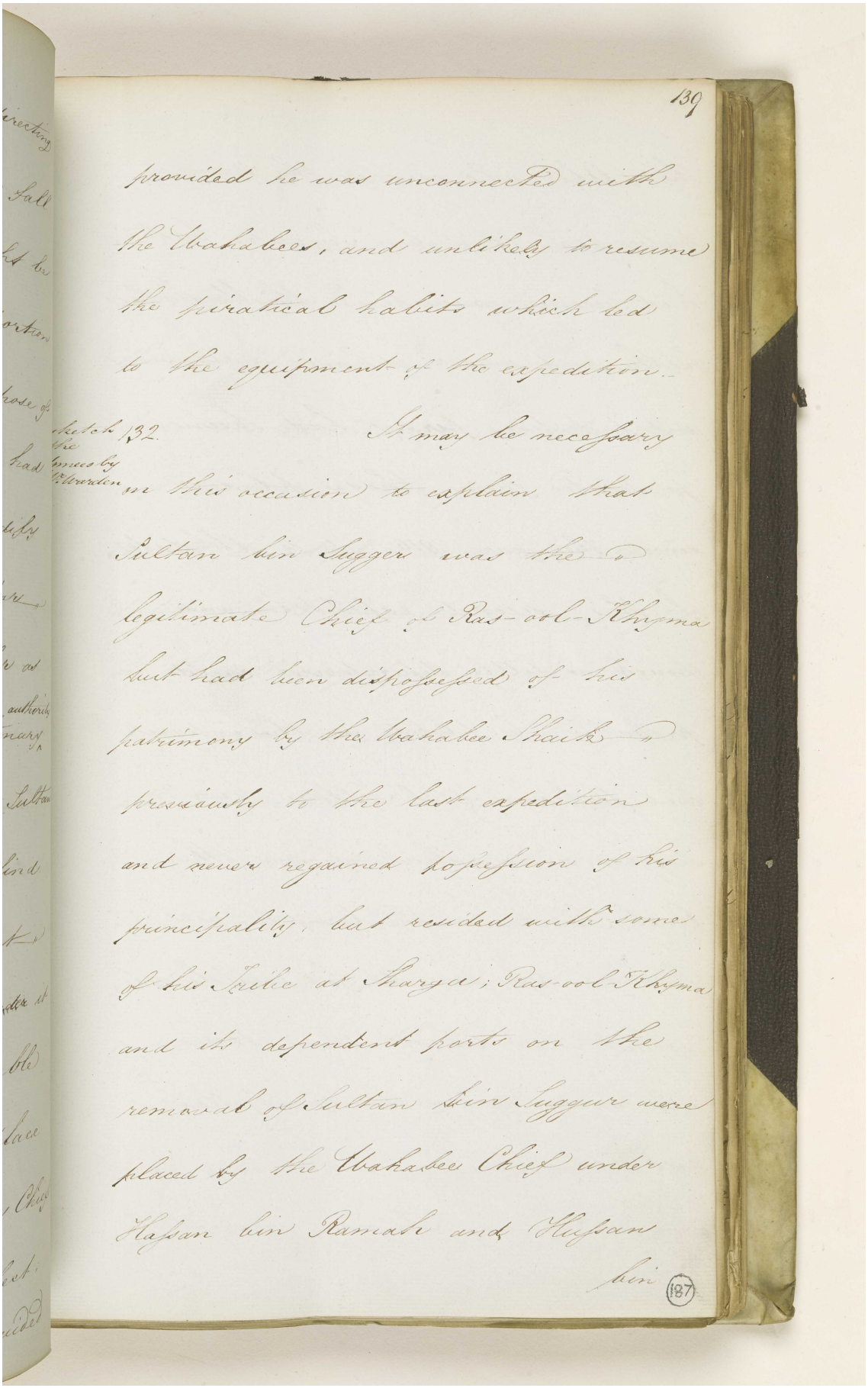


bin Ally who were of the same
tribes as Sultan bin Suggur, but
had become converts to the Wahabee
faith and under whose influence
and protection piracy had been
prosecuted from those places
since the year 1810. up to the date
of this second expedition, and
though as little dependence could
probably be placed in the integrity
and forbearance of Sultan bin
Suggur, as in that of any other
Arab Chief in the Gulph, we
had yet less grounds for complaint
against that Chief than those
who were in authority at Ras-
-ool- Khyma.

133. The non arrival of
any



provided he was unconnected with the Wahabees, and unlikely to resume the piratical habits which led to the equipment of the expedition.

132. It may be necessary on this occasion to explain that Sultan bin Sugger was the legitimate Chief of Ras-ool-Khyma but had been dispossessed of his patrimony by the Wahabee Shaik previously to the last expedition and never regained possession of his principality, but resided with some of his Tribe at Sharga; Ras-ool-Khyma and its dependent ports on the removal of Sultan bin Suggur were placed by the Wahabee Chief under Hassan bin Ramah and Hussan bin

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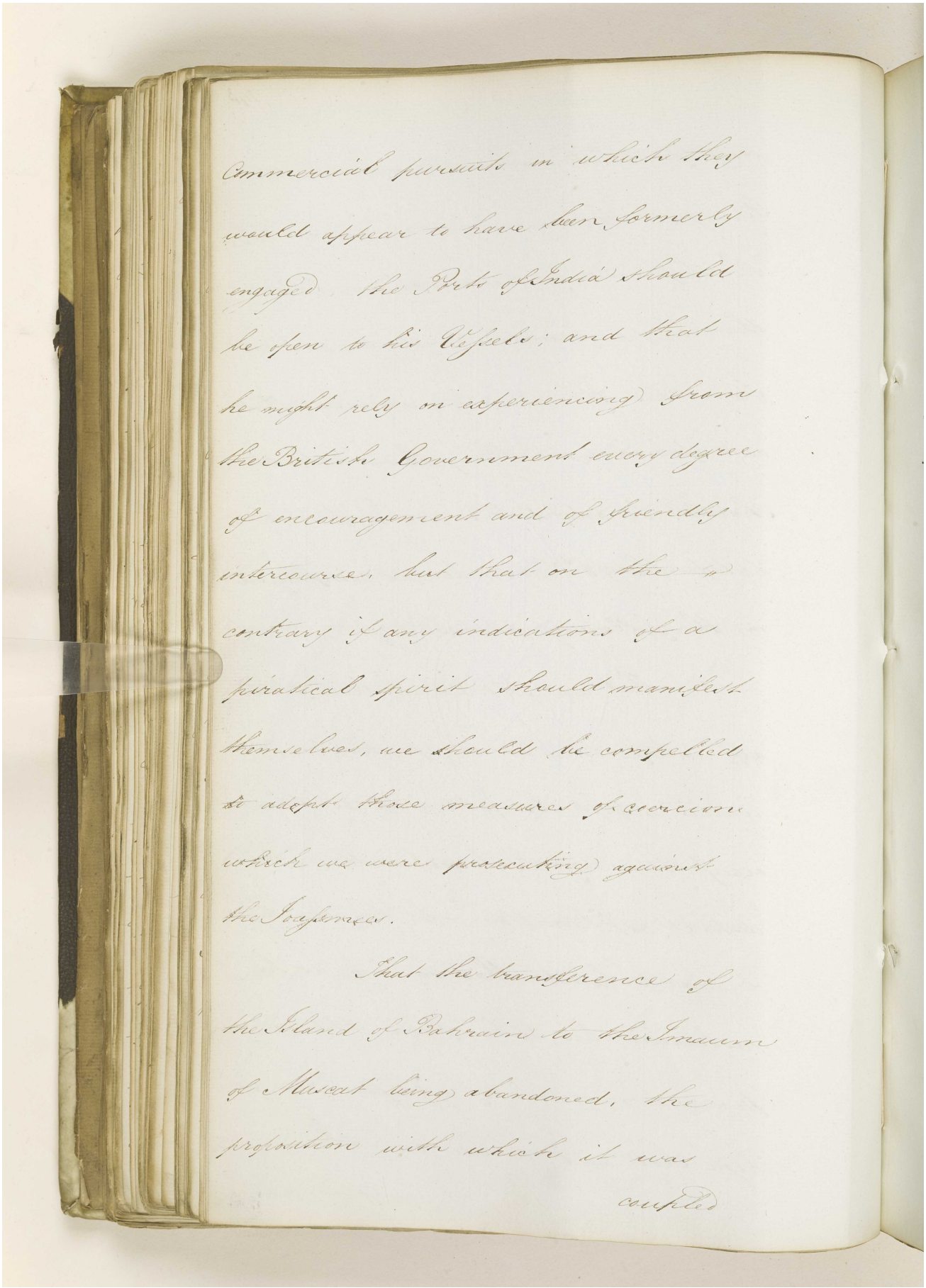

commercial pursuits in which they would appear to have been formerly engaged the Ports of India should be open to his Vessels; and that he might rely on experiencing from the British Government every degree of encouragement and of friendly intercourse, but that on the contrary if any indications of a piratical spirit should manifest themselves, we should be compelled to adopt those measures of coercion which we were prosecuting against the Joasmees.

That the transference of the Island of Bahrain to the Imaum of Muscat being abandoned, the proposition with which it was

coupled

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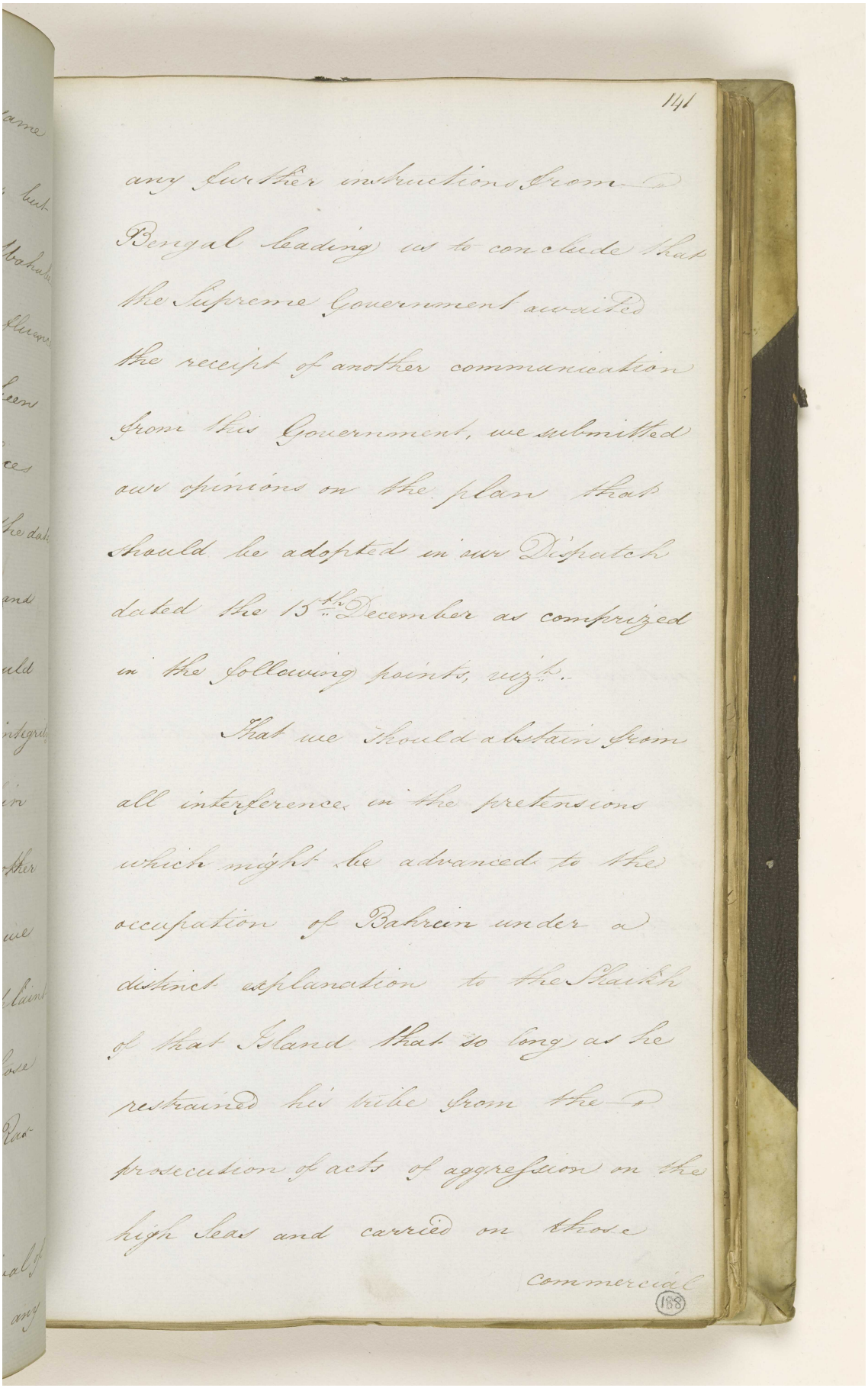

141

any further instructions from
Bengal leading us to conclude that
the Supreme Government awaited
the receipt of another communication
from this Government, we submitted
our opinions on the plan that
should be adopted in our Dispatch
dated the 15th December as comprized
in the following points, viz.t.

That we should abstain from
all interference in the pretensions
which might be advanced to the
occupation of Bahrein under a
distinct explanation to the Shaikh
of that Island that so long as he
restrained his tribe from the
prosecution of acts of aggression on the
high Seas and carried on those
commercial

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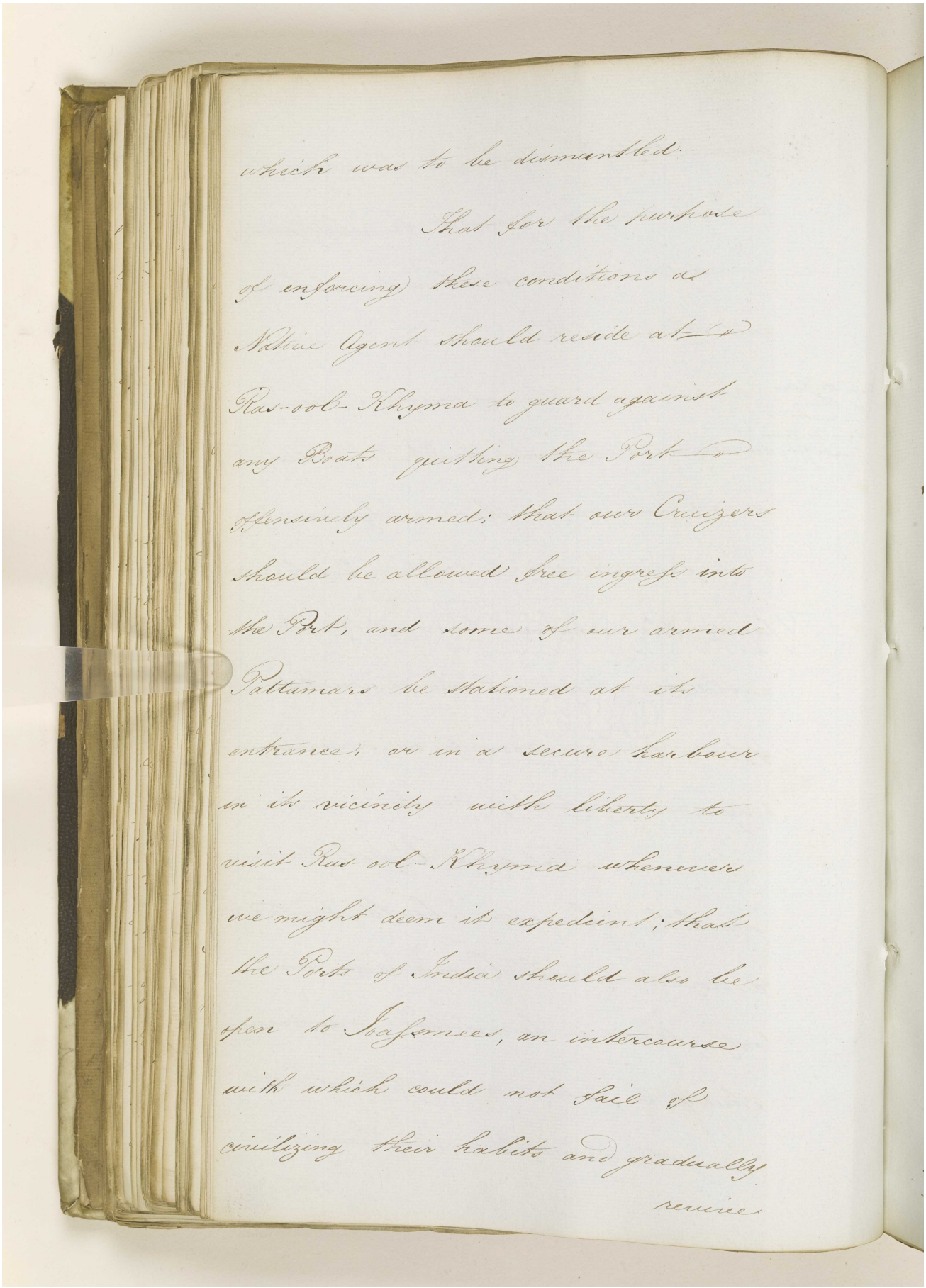

which was to be dismantled:

That for the purpose of enforcing these conditions a Native Agent should reside at Ras-ool-Khyma to guard against any Boats quitting the Port offensively armed; that our Cruizers should be allowed free ingress into the Port, and some of our armed Pattamars be stationed at its entrance, or in a secure harbour in its vicinity with liberty to visit Ras-ool-Khyma whenever we might deem it expedient; that the Ports of India should also be open to Joasmees, an intercourse with which could not fail of civilizing their habits and gradually

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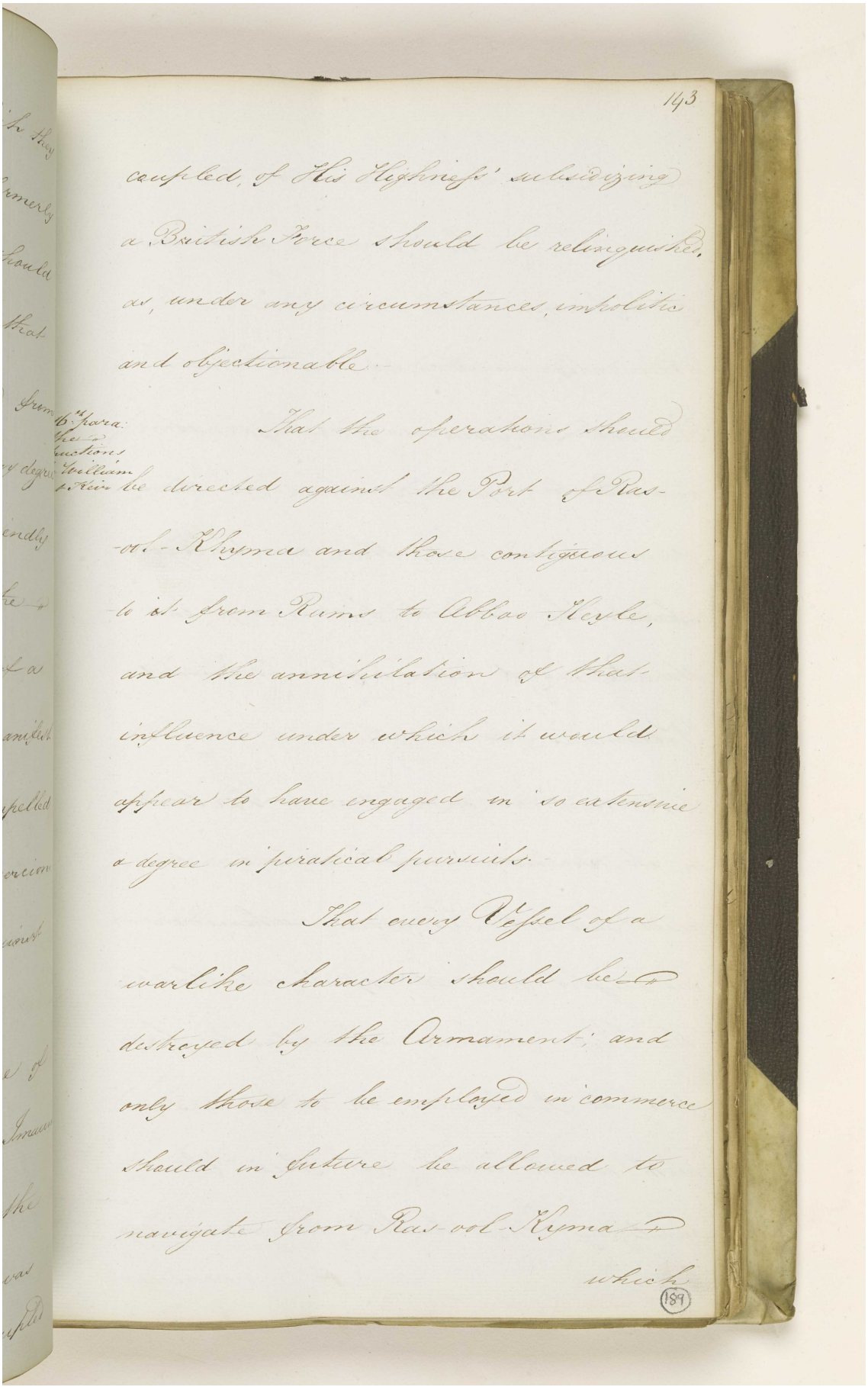

143

coupled, of His Highness' subsidizing
a British Force should be relinquished,
as, under any circumstances, impolitic
and objectionable.

That the operations should
be directed against the Port of Ras-
ul-Khyma and those contiguous
to it from Ruins to Abbas Keyle,
and the annihilation of that
influence under which it would
appear to have engaged in so extensive
a degree in piratical pursuits.

That every Vessel of a
warlike character should be
destroyed by the Armament; and
only those to be employed in commerce
should in future be allowed to
navigate from Ras-ul-Khyma
which

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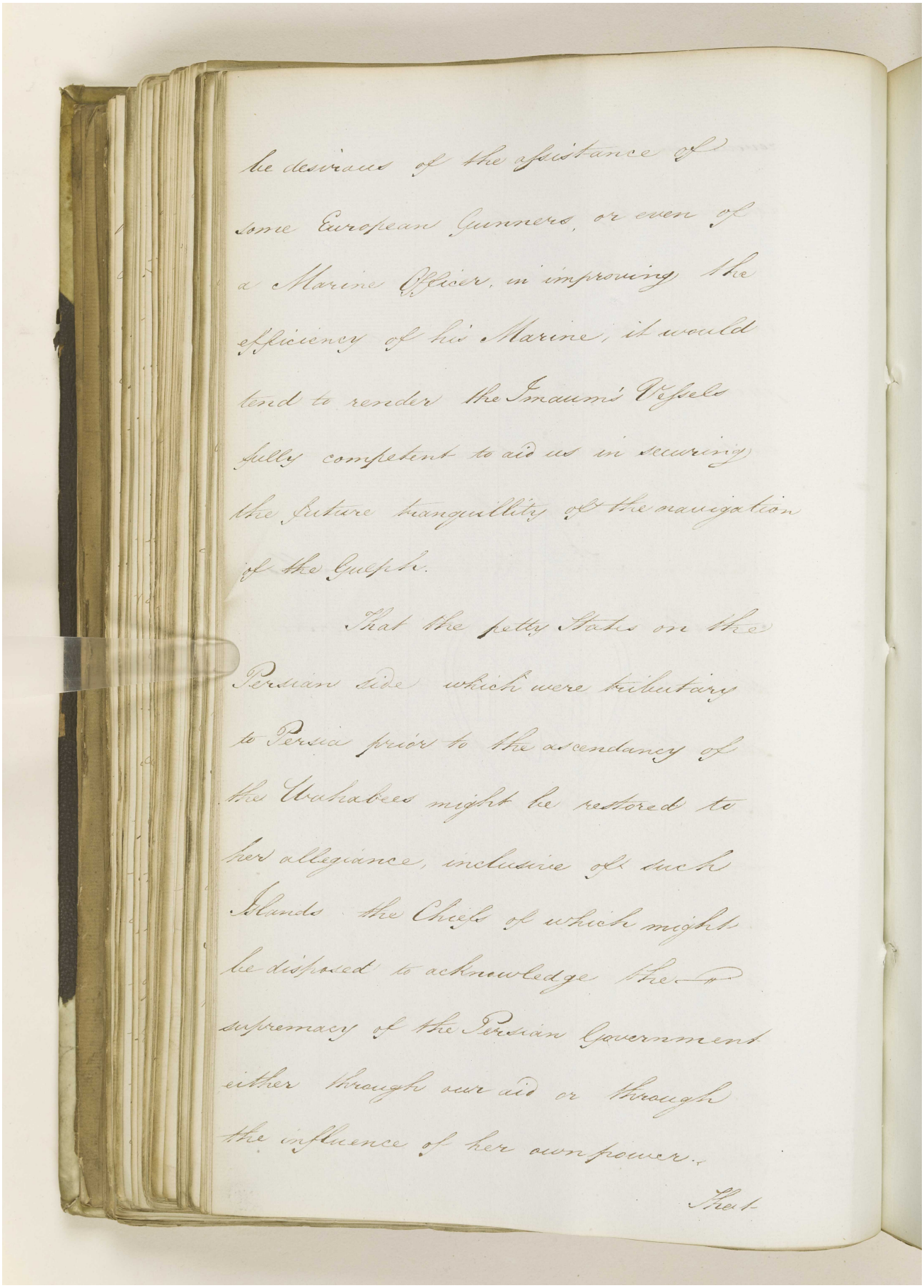
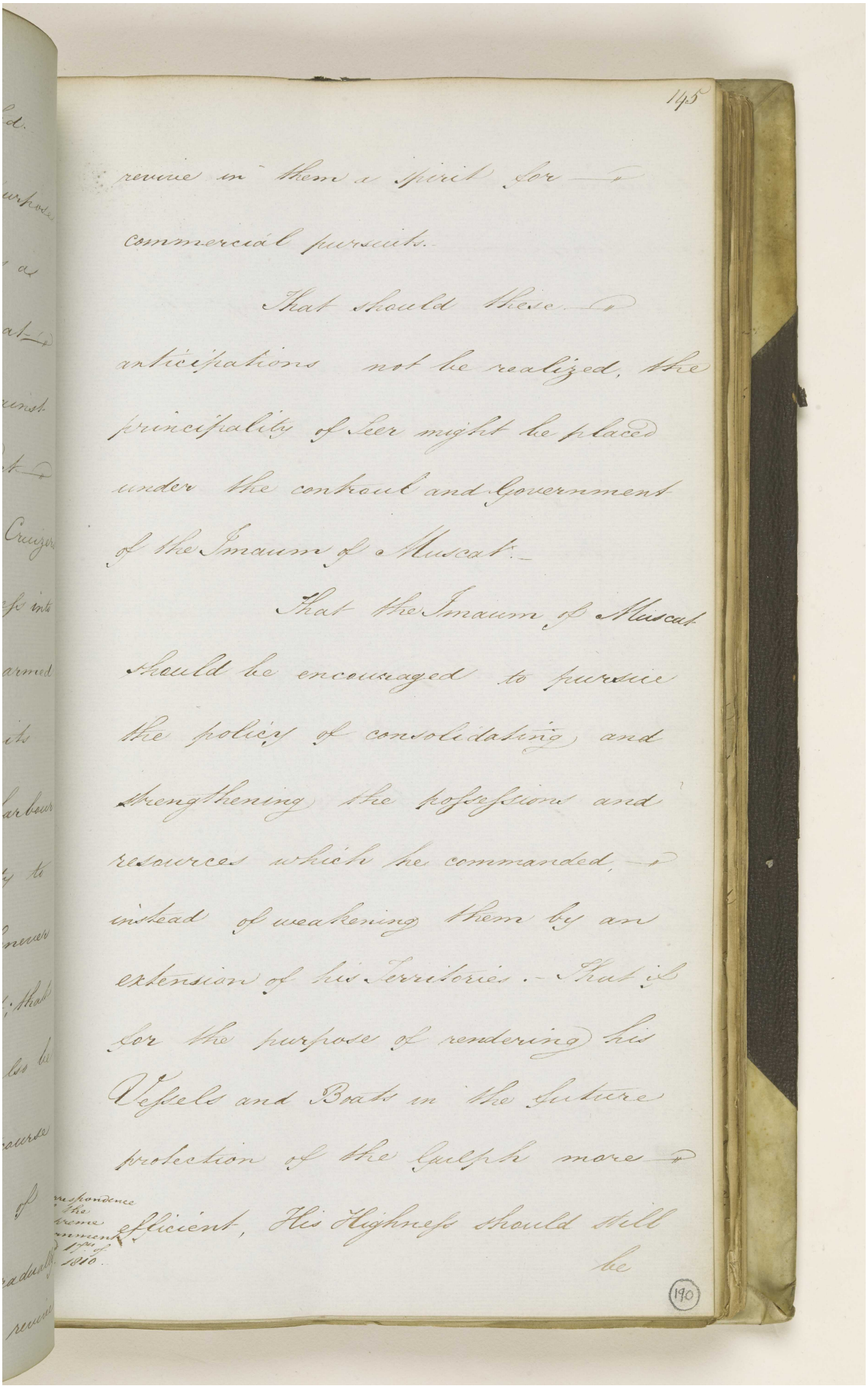


the desirous of the assistance of some European Gunners, or even of a Marine Officer, in improving the efficiency of his Marine, it would tend to render the Imaum's Vessels fully competent to aid us in securing the future tranquillity & the navigation of the Gulph.

That the petty States on the Persian side which were tributary to Persia prior to the ascendancy of the Wahabees might be restored to her allegiance, inclusive of such Islands the Chiefs of which might be disposed to acknowledge the supremacy of the Persian Government either through our aid or through the influence of her own power.

That

revive in them a spirit for commercial pursuits.



That should these anticipations not be realized, the principality of Seer might be placed under the controul and Government of the Imaum of Muscat.

That the Imaum of Muscat should be encouraged to pursue the policy of consolidating and strengthening the possessions and resources which he commanded, instead of weakening them by an extension of his Territories. That if for the purpose of rendering his Vessels and Boats in the future protection of the Gulph more efficient, His Highness should still be

[illegible]respondence [illegible] the [illegible]preme [illegible]nment [illegible] 17th of 1810.

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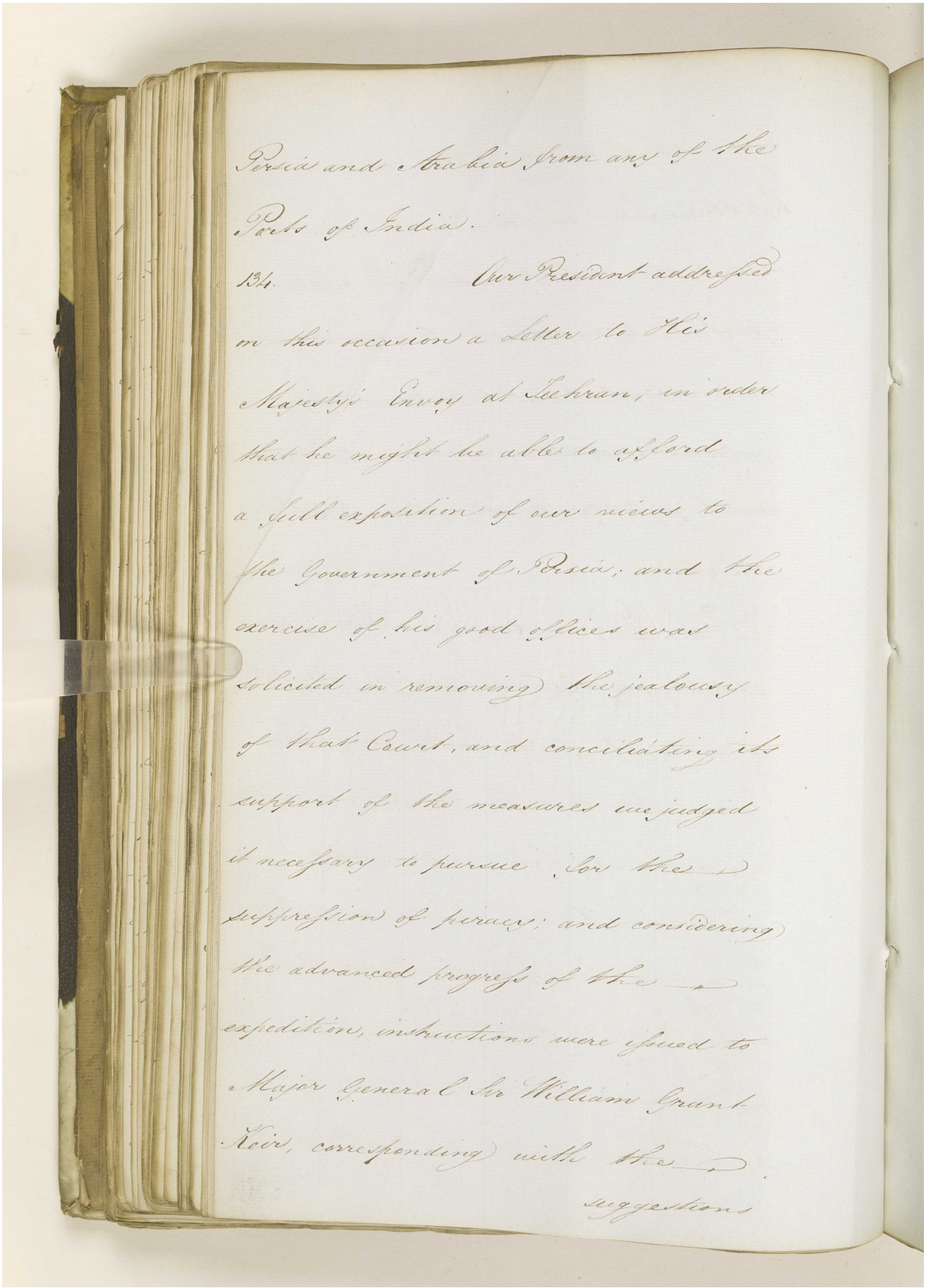
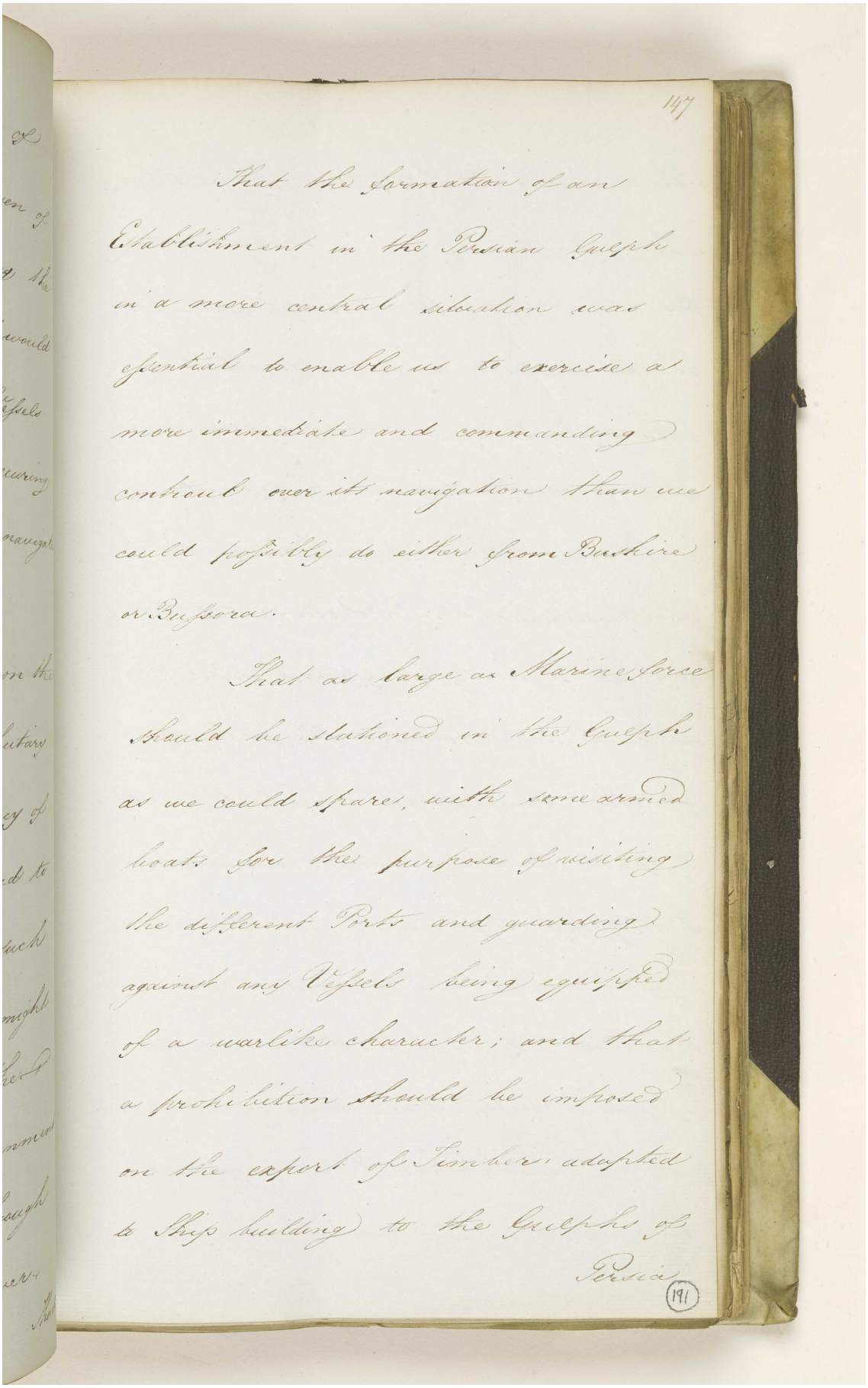


Persia and Arabia from any of the
Ports of India.

134. Our President addressed
on this occasion a Letter to His
Majesty's Envoy at Tehran, in order
that he might be able to afford
a full exposition of our views to
the Government of Persia; and the
exercise of his good offices was
solicited in removing the jealousy
of that Court, and conciliating its
support of the measures we judged
it necessary to pursue for the
suppression of piracy; and considering
the advanced progress of the
expedition, instructions were issued to
Major General Sir William Grant
Keir, corresponding with the
suggestions



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That the formation of an
Establishment in the Persian Gulph
in a more central situation was
essential to enable us to exercise a
more immediate and commanding
controul over its navigation than we
could possibly do either from Bushire
or Bussora.

That as large an Marine force
should be stationed in the Gulph
as we could spare, with some armed
boats for the purpose of visiting
the different Ports and guarding
against any Vessels being equipped
of a warlike character; and that
a prohibition should be imposed
on the export of Timber adapted
to Ship building to the Gulphs of
Persia

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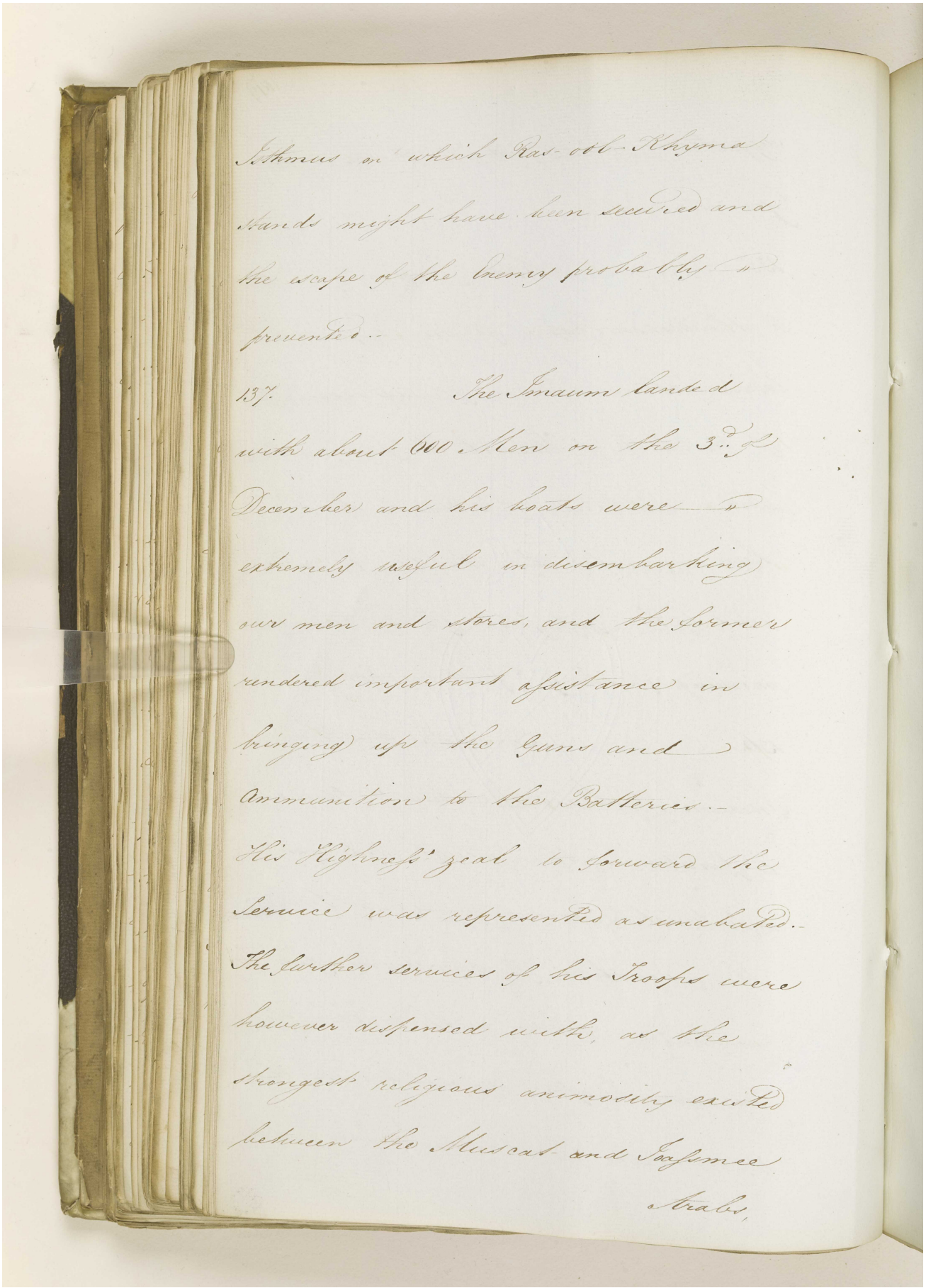

Isthmus on which Ras-ool-Khyma
Sands might have been secured and
the escape of the Enemy probably
prevented.-

137. The Imaum landed
with about 600 Men on the 3d.
December and his boats were
extremely useful in disembarking
our men and stores, and the former
rendered important assistance in
bringing up the Guns and
Ammunition to the Batteries.-
His Highness' zeal to forward the
Service was represented as unabated.-
The further services of his Troops were
however dispensed with, as the
strongest religious animosity existed
between the Muscat and Joasmee
Arabs,

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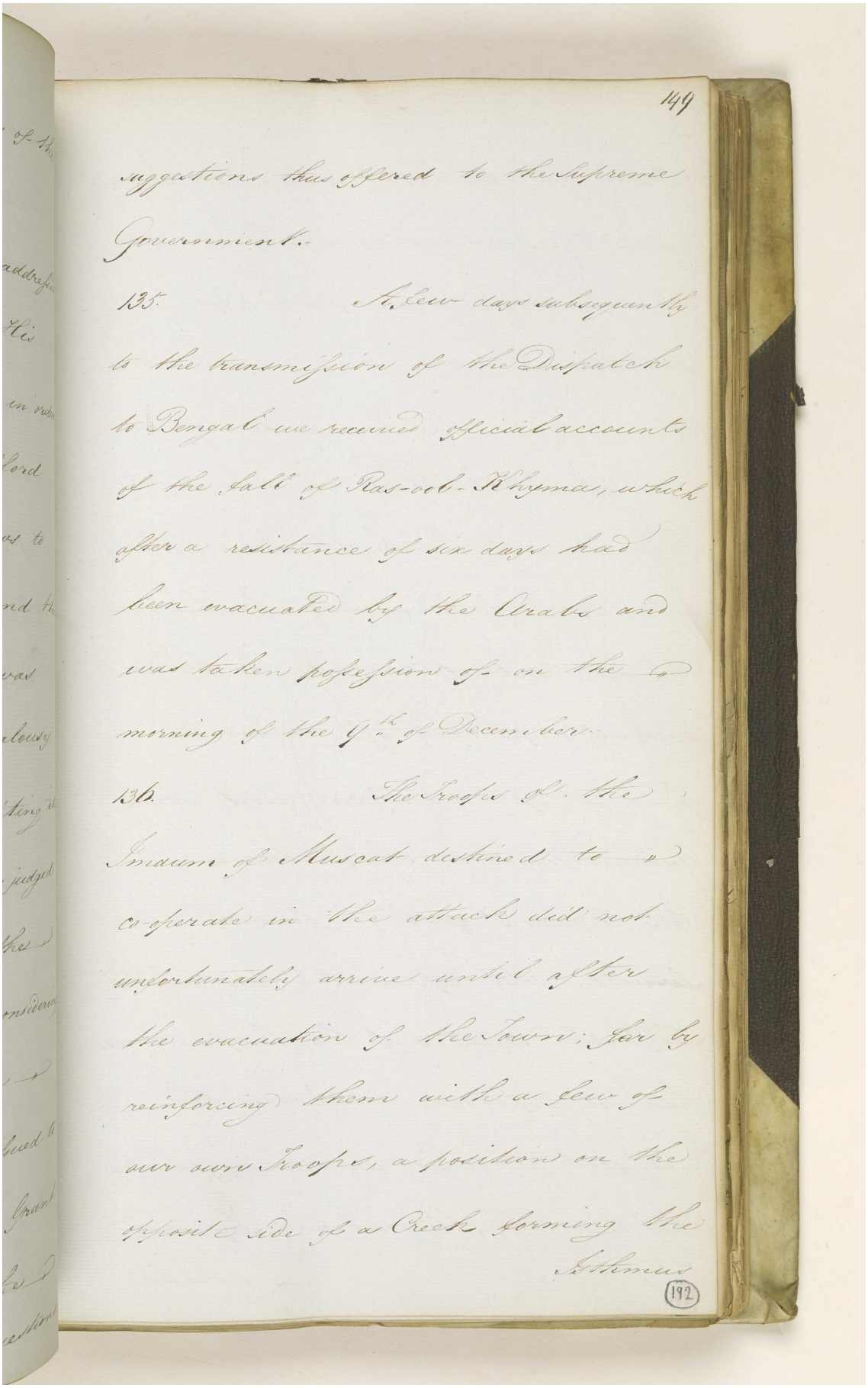

suggestions thus offered to the Supreme Government.

135. A few days subsequently to the transmission of the Dispatch to Bengal we received official accounts of the fall of Ras-ool-Khyma, which after a resistance of six days had been evacuated by the Arabs and was taken possession of on the morning of the 9th of December.

136. The Troops of the Imaum of Muscat destined to co-operate in the attack did not unfortunately arrive until after the evacuation of the Town; for by reinforcing them with a few of our own Troops, a position on the opposite side of a Creek forming the Isthmus

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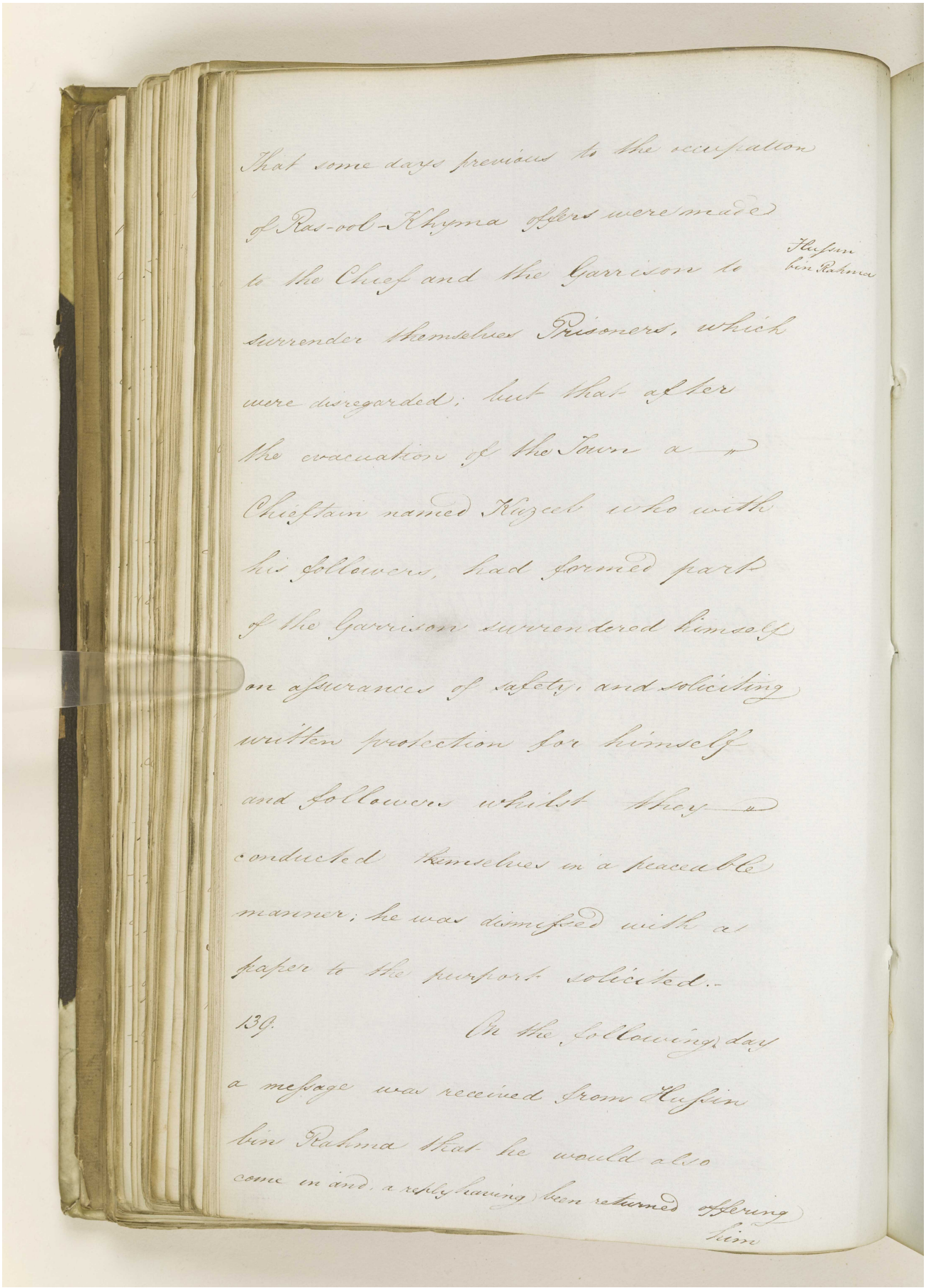

That some days previous to the occupation
of Ras-ool-Khyma Offers were made
to the Chief and the Garrison to
surrender themselves Prisoners, which
were disregarded; but that after
the evacuation of the Town a
Chieftain named Rujeed who with
his followers, had formed part
of the Garrison surrendered himself
on assurances of safety, and soliciting
written protection for himself
and followers whilst they
conducted themselves in a peaceable
manner; he was dismissed with a
paper to the purport solicited.-

Hussun bin Rahma

13. On the following day
a message was received from Hussun
bin Rahma that he would also
come in and, a reply having been returned offering
him

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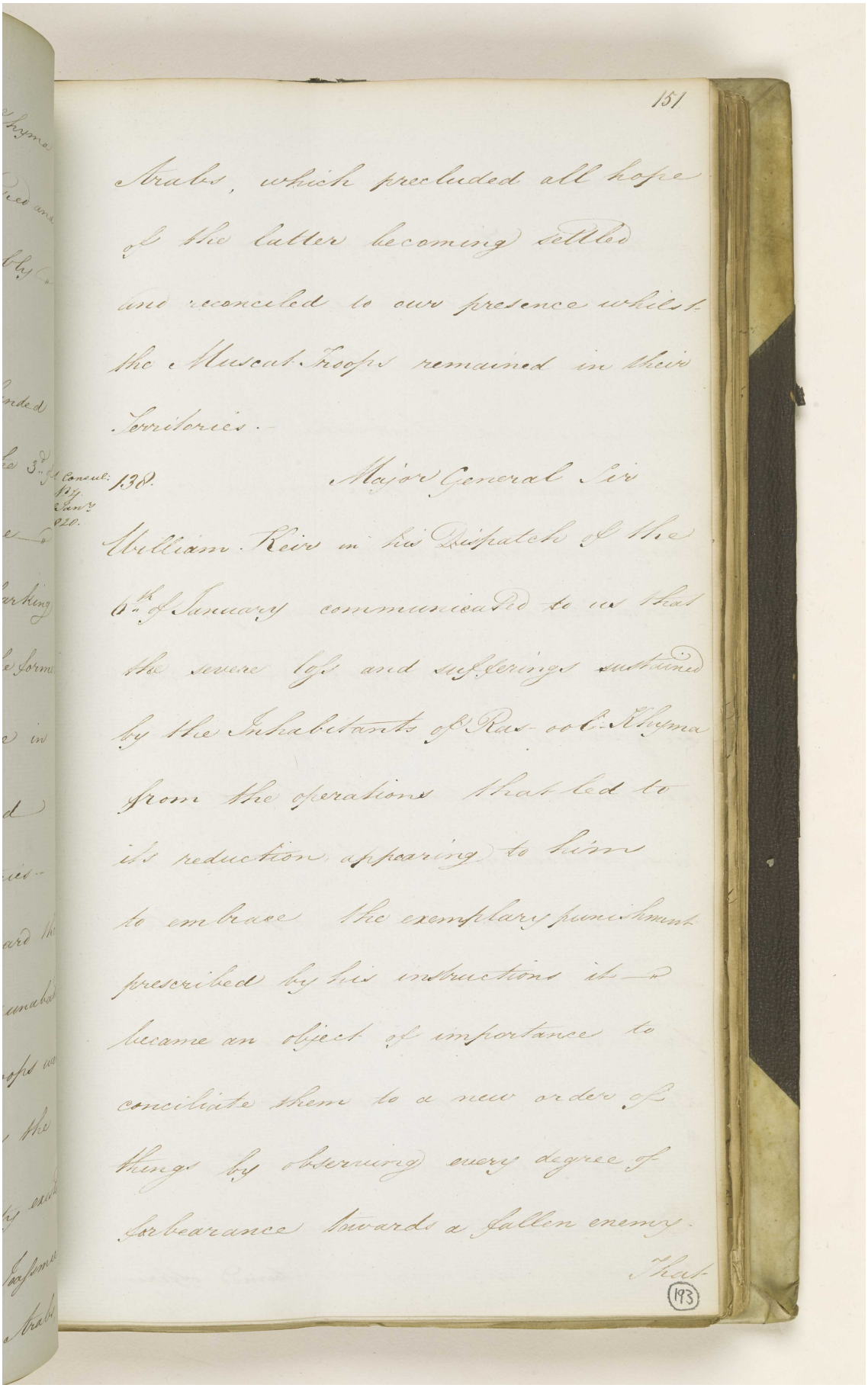


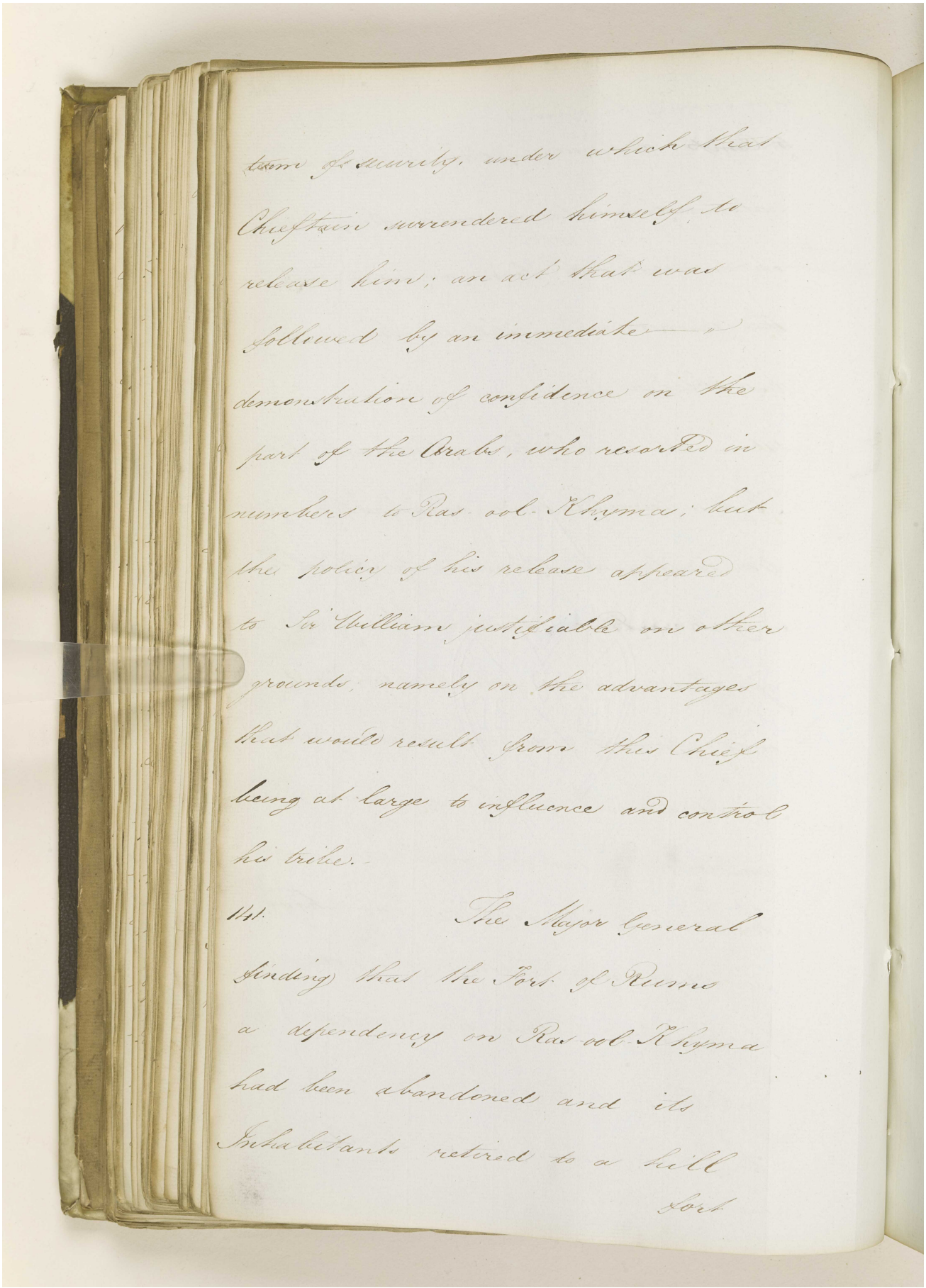
151

Arabs, which precluded all hope
of the latter becoming settled
and reconciled to our presence whilst
the Muscat Troops remained in their
Territories.-

138. Major General Sir
William Keir in his Dispatch of the
6th of January communicated to us that
the severe loss and sufferings sustained
by the Inhabitants of Ras-ool-Khyma
from the operations that led to
its reduction appearing to him
to embrace the exemplary punishment
prescribed by his instructions it
became an object of importance to
conciliate them to a new order of
things by observing every degree of
forbearance towards a fallen enemy.

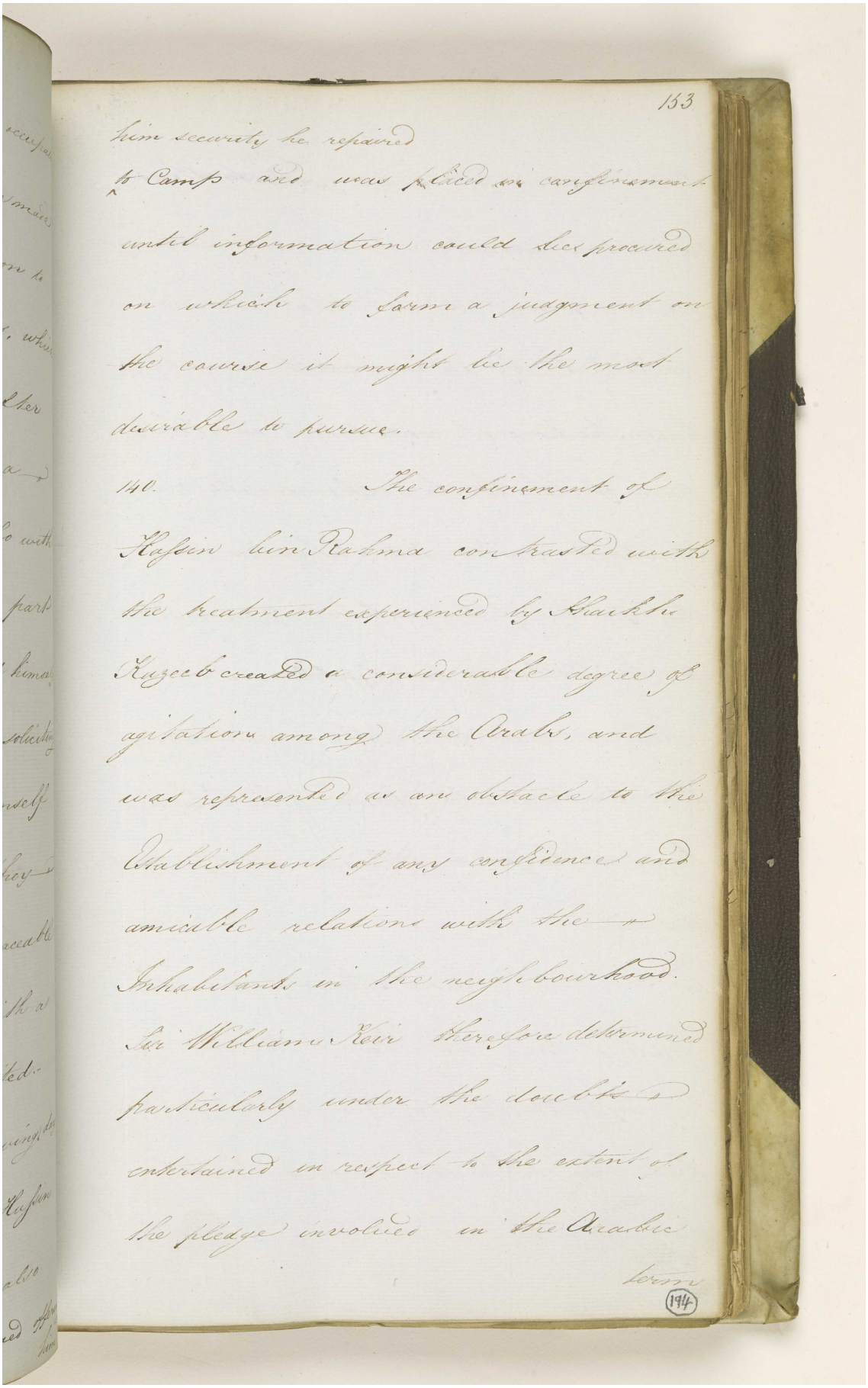
That

(193)



from the security under which that Chieftain surrendered himself to release him; an act that was followed by an immediate demonstrations of confidence on the part of the Arabs, who resorted in numbers to Ras-ool-Khyma; but the policy of his release appeared to Sir William justifiable on other grounds, namely on the advantages that would result from this Chief being at large to influence and control his tribe.

1st. The Major General finding that the Fort of Rumo a dependency on Ras-ool-Khyma had been abandoned and its Inhabitants retired to a hill Fort



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him security he repaired
to Camp and was placed in confinement
until information could be procured
on which to form a judgment on
the course it might be the most
desirable to pursue.

140. The confinement of
Hafsin bin Rahma contrasted with
the treatment experienced by Shaikh
Rageb created a considerable degree of
agitation among the Arabs, and
was represented as an obstacle to the
establishment of any confidence and
amicable relations with the
Inhabitants in the neighbourhood.
Sir William Keir therefore determined
particularly under the doubts
entertained in respect to the extent of
the pledge involved in the Arabic
term

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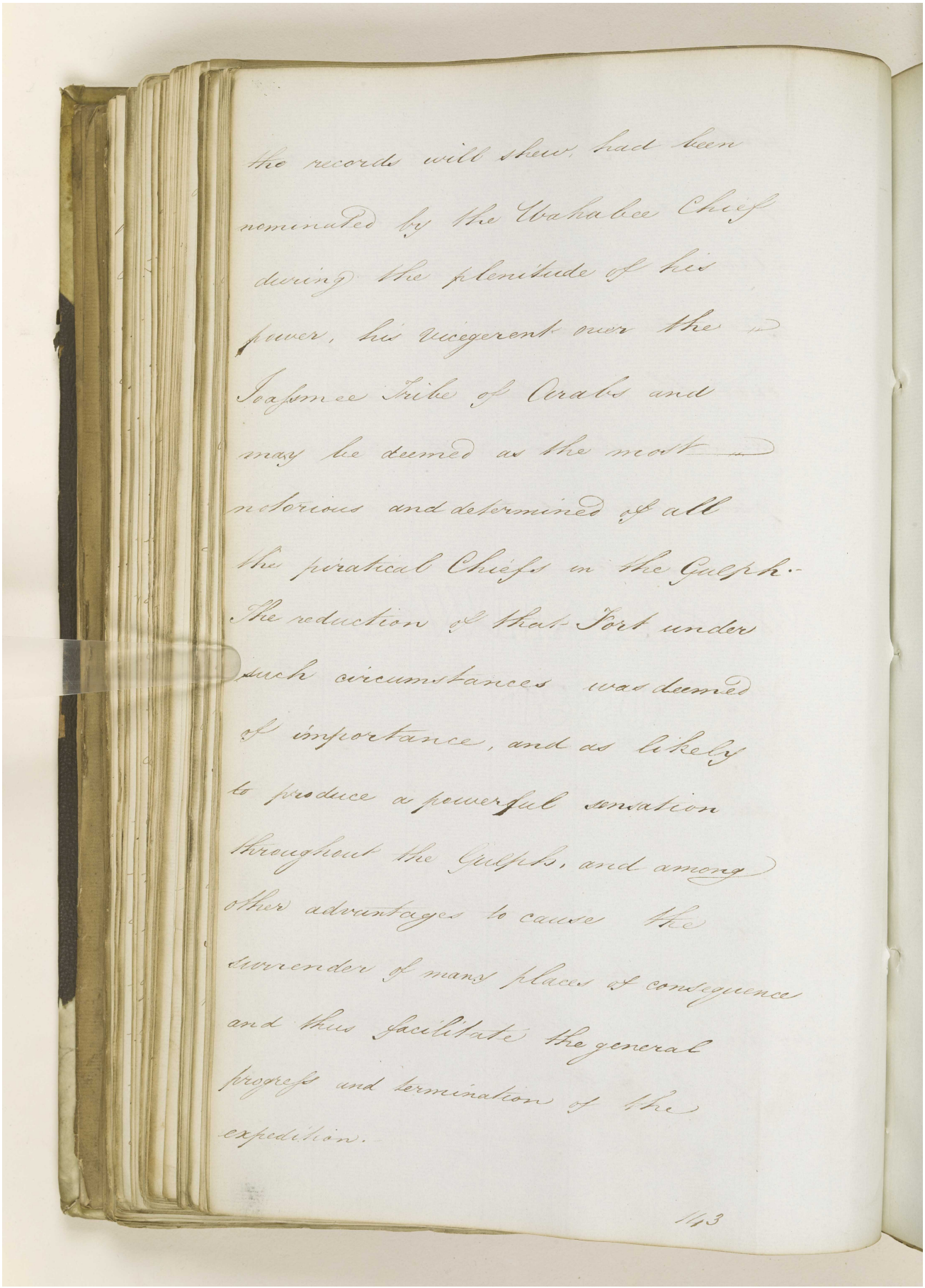

the records will shew, had been
nominated by the Wahabee Chief
during the plenitude of his
power, his Vicegerent over the
Joasmee Tribe of Arabs and
may be deemed as the most
notorious and determined of all
the piratical Chiefs in the Gulph.
The reduction of that Fort under
such circumstances was deemed
of importance, and as likely
to produce a powerful sensation
throughout the Gulphs, and among
other advantages to cause the
surrender of many places of consequence
and thus facilitate the general
progress and termination of the
expedition.

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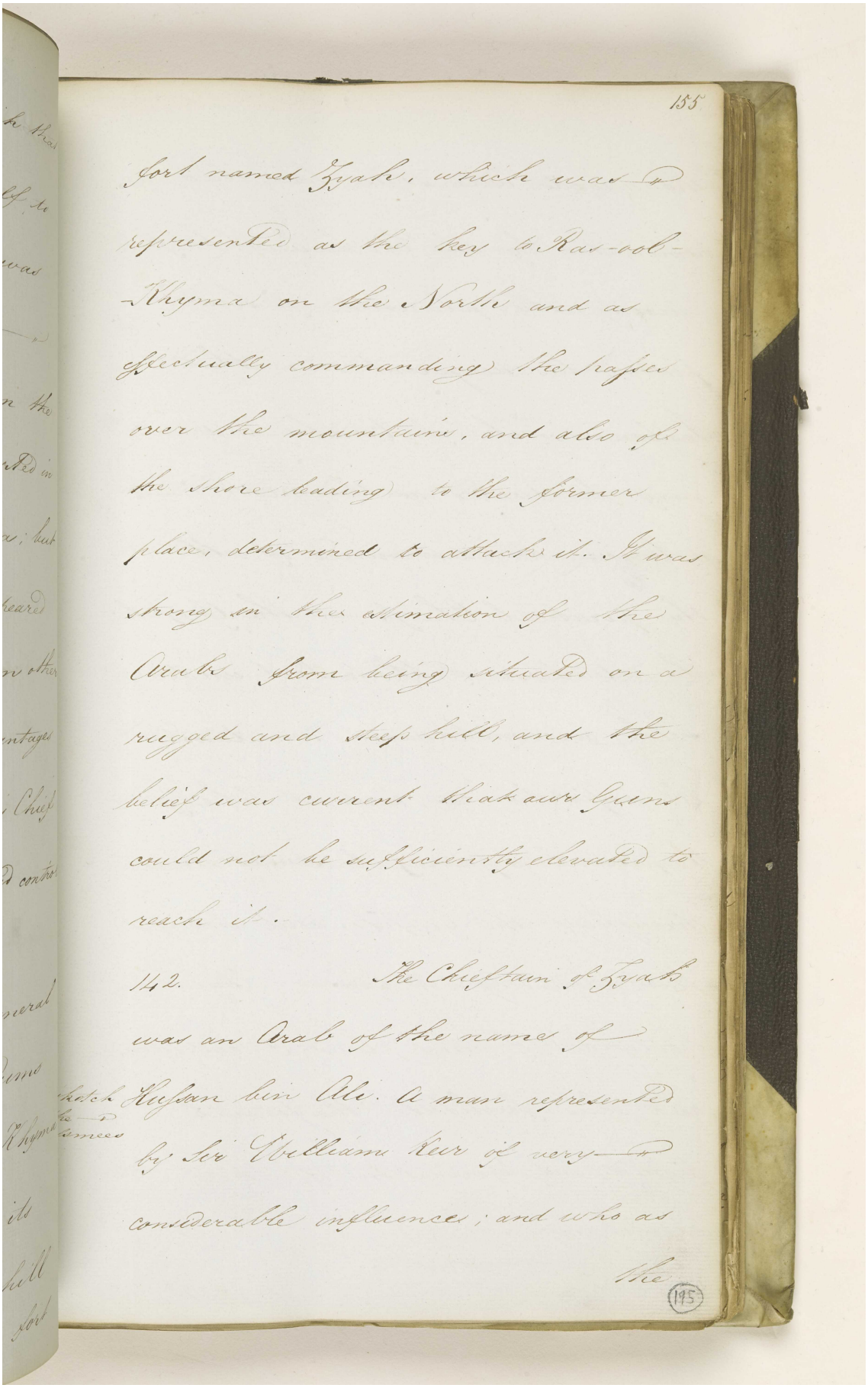

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fort named Zyah, which was represented as the key to Ras-ool-Khyma on the North and as effectually commanding the passes over the mountains, and also of the shore leading to the former place, determined to attack it. It was strong in the situation of the Arabs from being situated on a rugged and steep hill, and the belief was current that our Guns could not be sufficiently elevated to reach it.

142. The Chieftain of Zyah was an Arab of the name of Hussan bin Ali. a man represented by Sir Williams Keir of very considerable influences; and who as the

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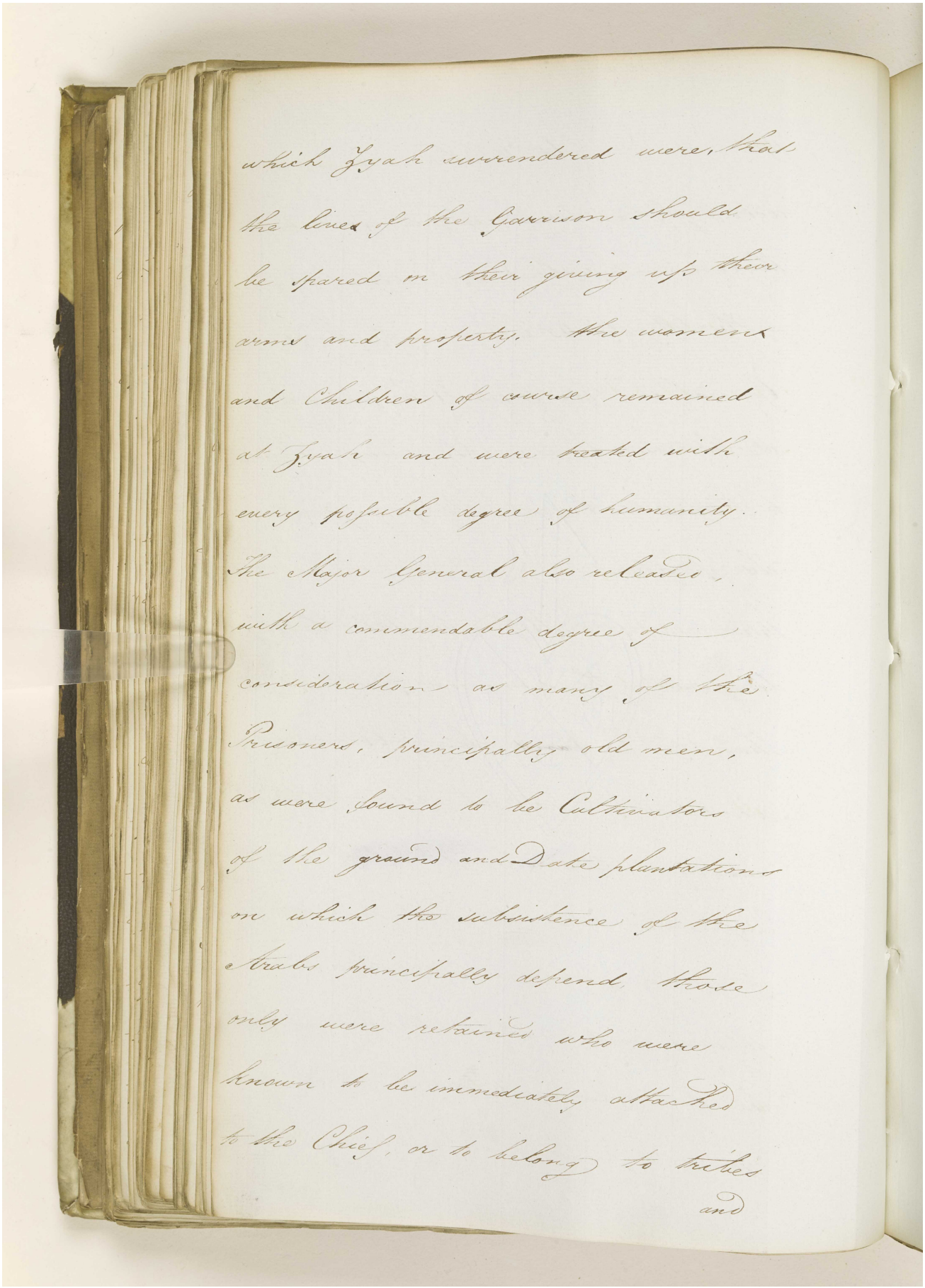

which Zyah surrendered were, that
the lives of the Garrison should
be spared on their giving up their
arms and property. The women
and Children of course remained
at Zyah and were treated with
every possible degree of humanity.
The Major General also released,
with a commendable degree of
consideration as many of the
Prisoners, principally old men,
as were found to be Cultivators
of the ground and Date plantations
on which the subsistence of the
Arabs principally depend, those
only were retained who were
known to be immediately attached
to the Chief, or to belong to tribes
and

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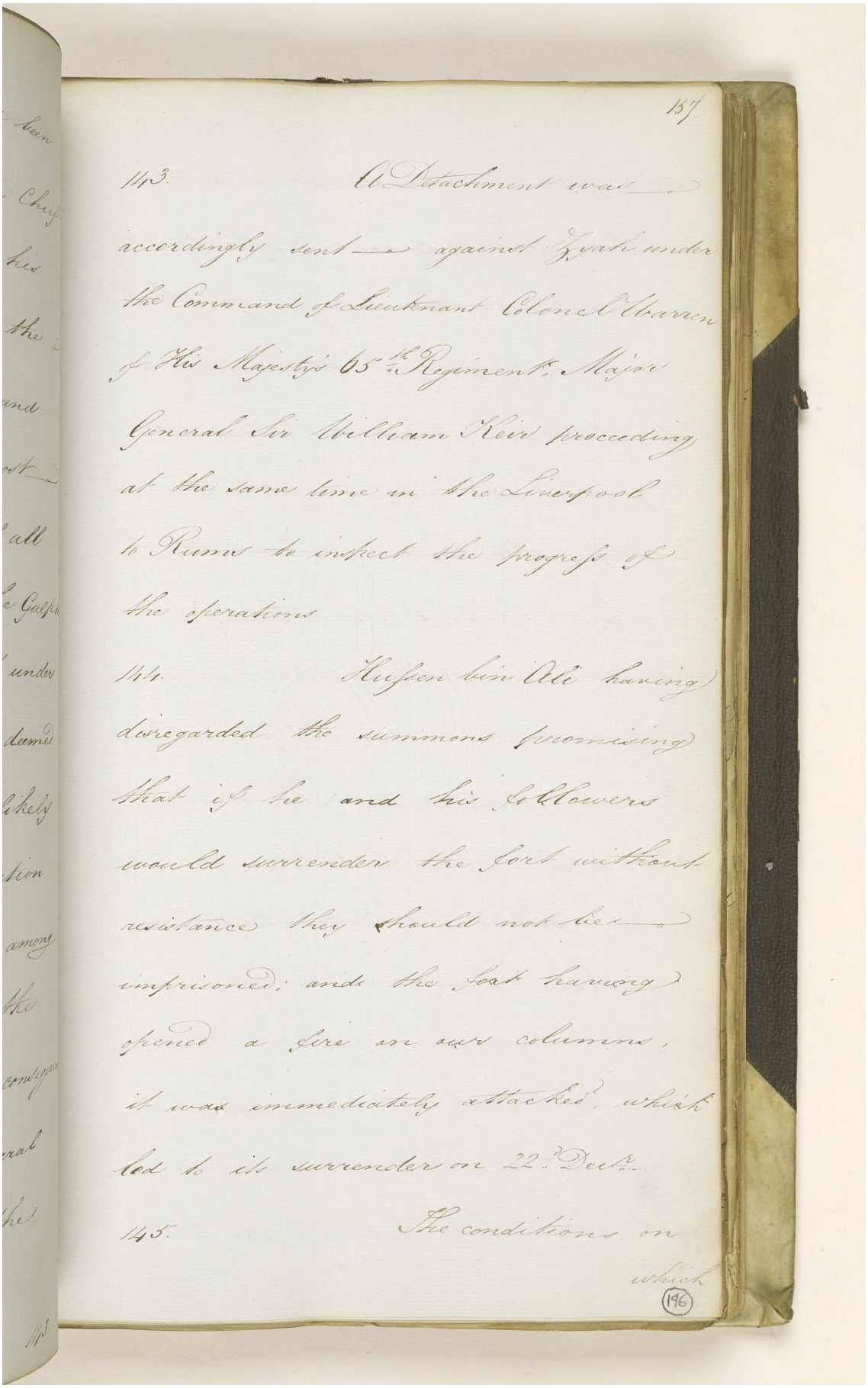

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143. A Detachment was accordingly sent against Zyah under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Warren of His Majesty's 65th Regiment. Major General Sir William Keir proceeding at the same time in the Liverpool to Rumm to inspect the progress of the operations

144. Hussun bin Ali having disregarded the summons promising that if he and his followers would surrender the fort without resistance they should not be imprisoned; and the fort having opened a fire on our columns, it was immediately attacked, which led to its surrender on 22d Dect.

145. The conditions on which

(196)

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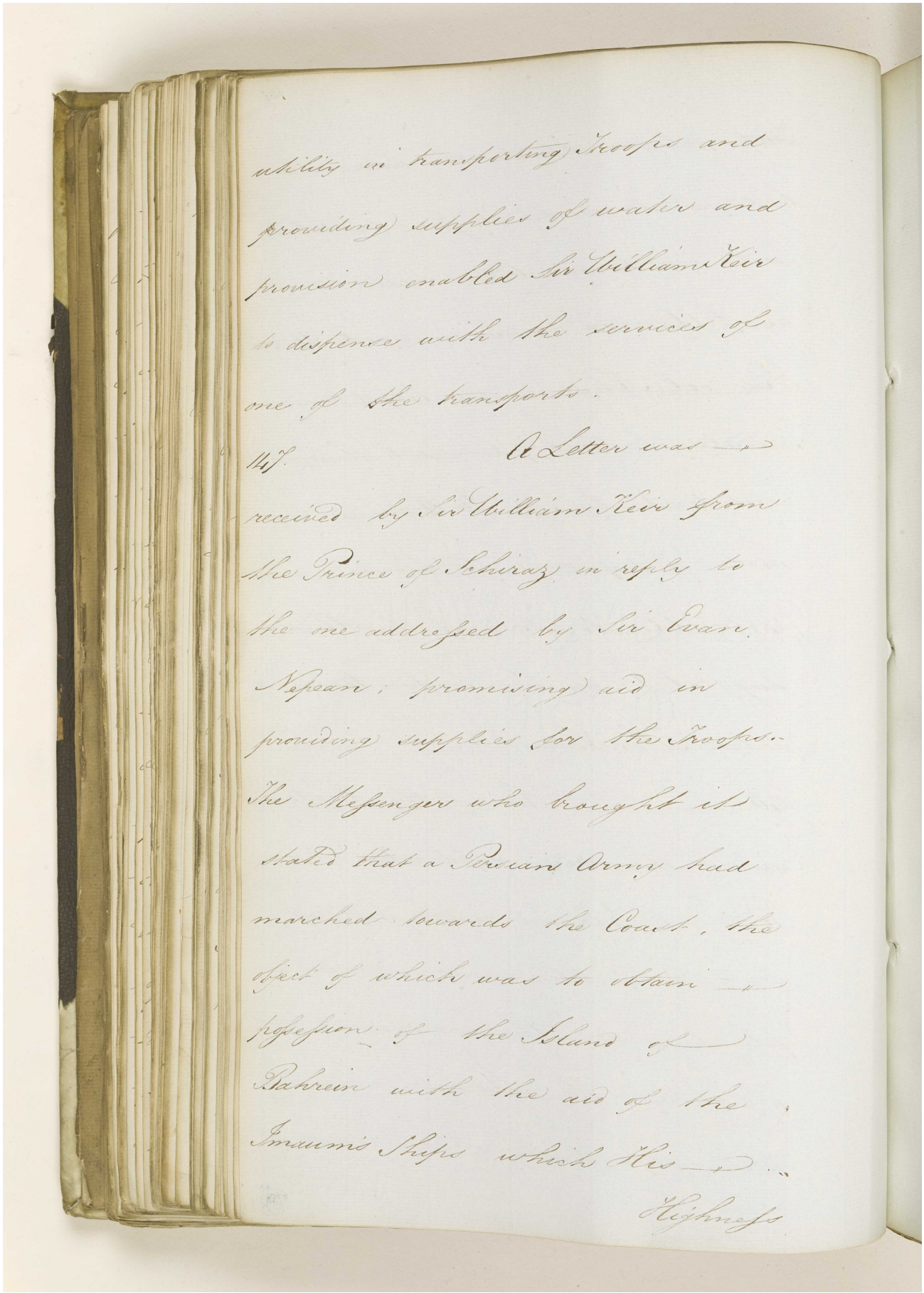
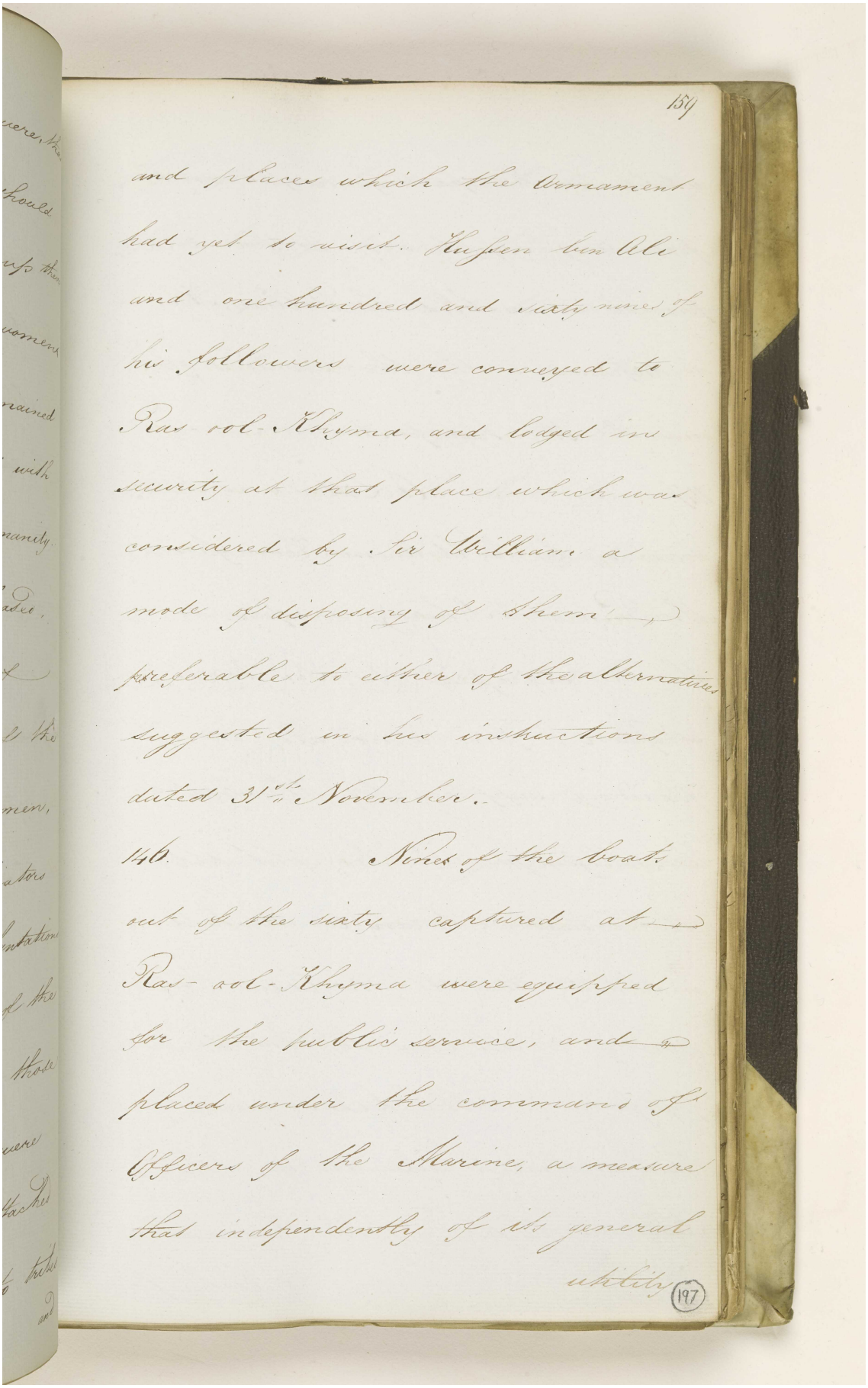


ability in transporting Troops and
providing supplies of water and
provision enabled Sir William Keir
to dispense with the services of
one of the transports.

14th A Letter was —
received by Sir William Keir from
the Prince of Schiraz in reply to
the one addressed by Sir Evan
Nepean, promising aid in
providing supplies for the Troops.
The Messengers who brought it
stated that a Persian Army had
marched towards the Coast, the
Object of which was to obtain —
possession of the Island of
Bahrein with the aid of the
Imaum's Ships which His —
Highness



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and places which the Armament had yet to visit. Hussen bin Ali and one hundred and sixty nine of his followers were conveyed to Ras-ool-Khyma, and lodged in security at that place which was considered by Sir William a mode of disposing of them preferable to either of the alternatives suggested in his instructions dated 31st November.

146. Nines of the boats out of the sixty captured at Ras-ool-Khyma were equipped for the public service, and placed under the command of Officers of the Marine, a measure that independently of its general

utility

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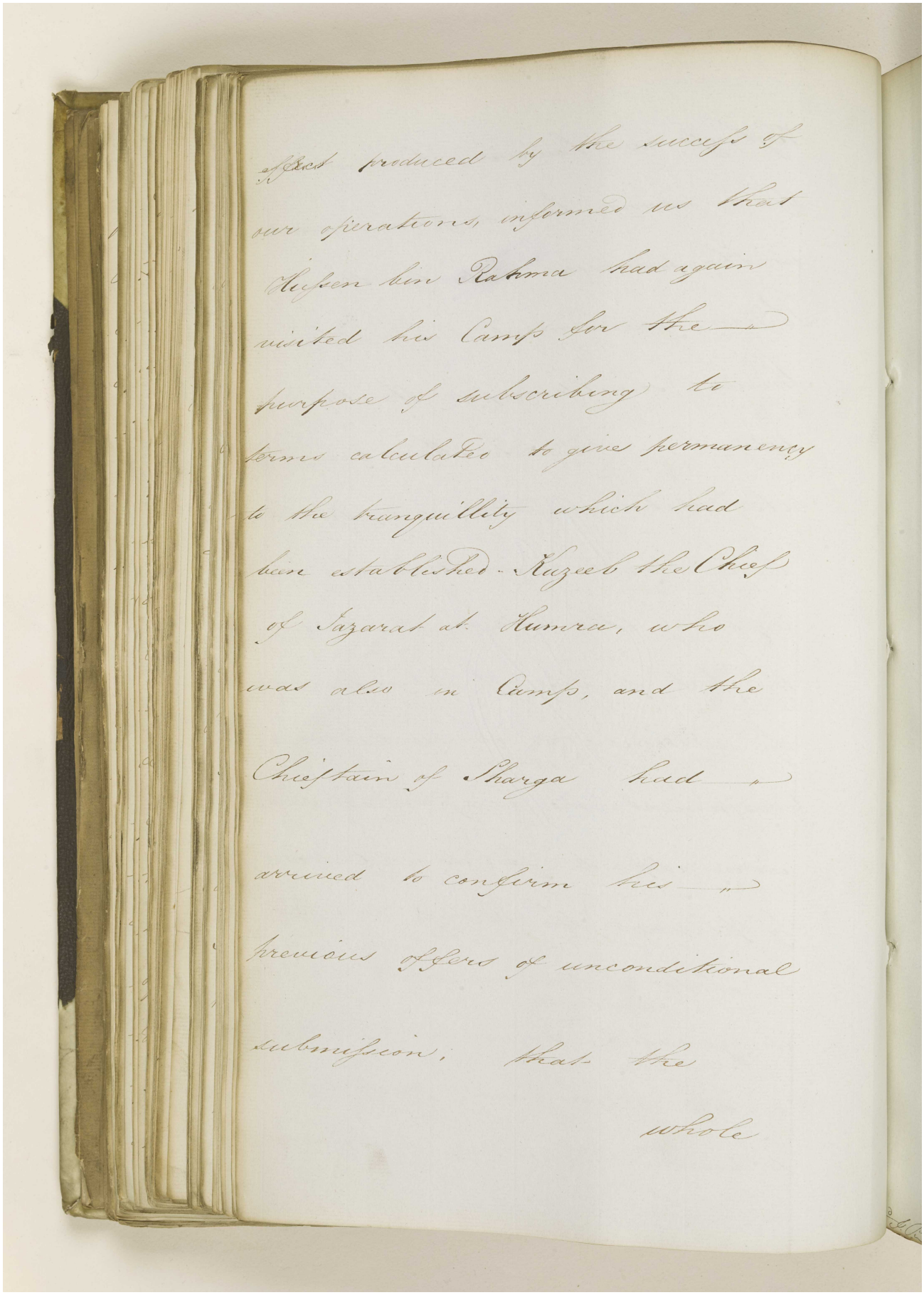
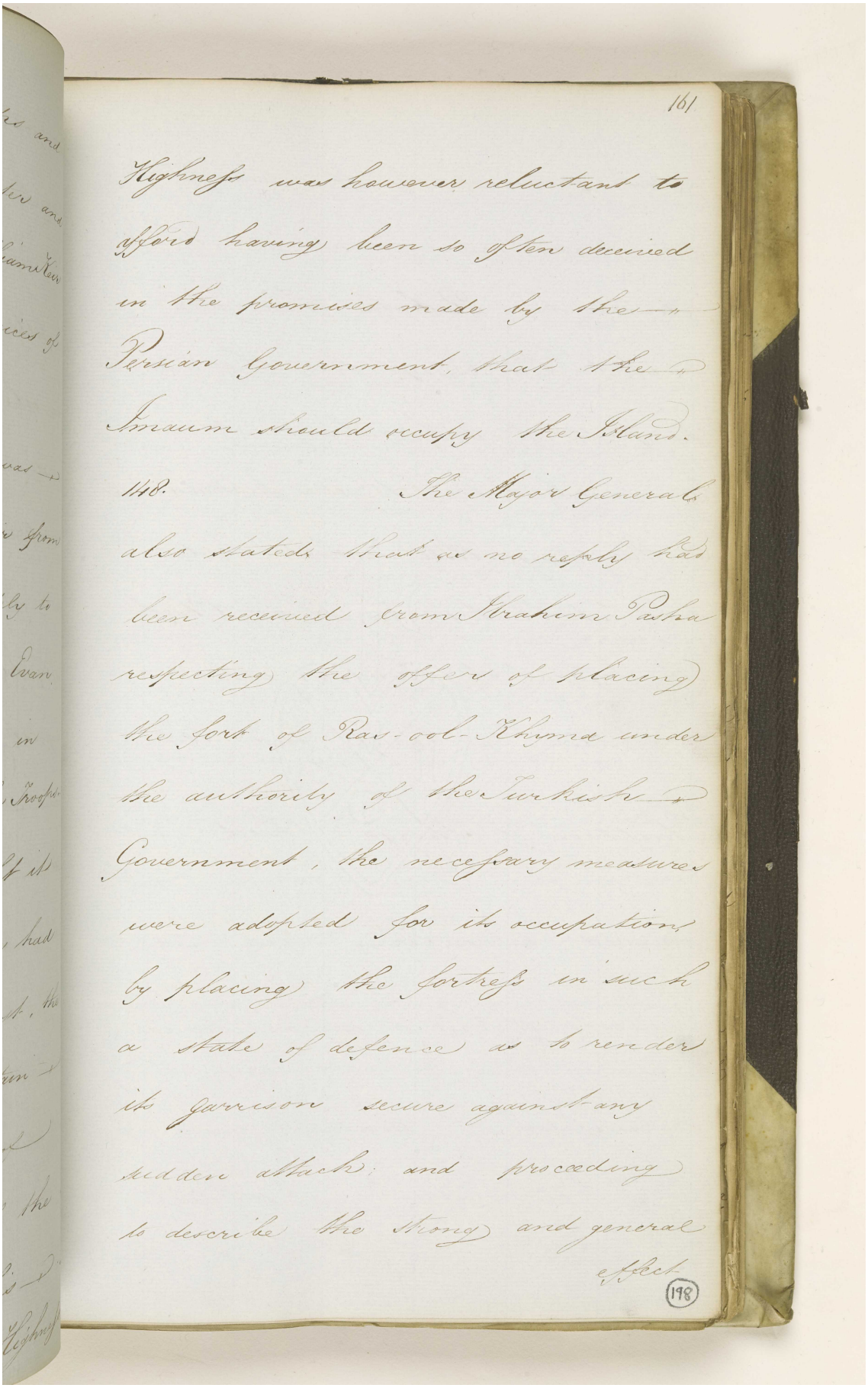


effect produced by the success of
our operations, informed us that
Nejem bin Rahma had again
visited his Camp for the
purpose of subscribing to
terms calculated to give permanency
to the tranquillity which had
been established - Kuzeel the Chief
of Jazarat al Kumra, who
was also in Camp, and the
Chieftain of Sharja had
arrived to confirm his
previous offers of unconditional
submission; that the
whole



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Highness was however reluctant to afford having been so often deceived in the promises made by the Persian Government, that the Imaum should occupy the Island.

148. The Major General also stated that as no reply had been received from Ibrahim Pasha respecting the offer of placing the fort of Ras-ool-Khyma under the authority of the Turkish Government, the necessary measures were adopted for its occupation, by placing the fortress in such a state of defence as to render its garrison secure against any sudden attack; and proceeding to describe the strong and general effect

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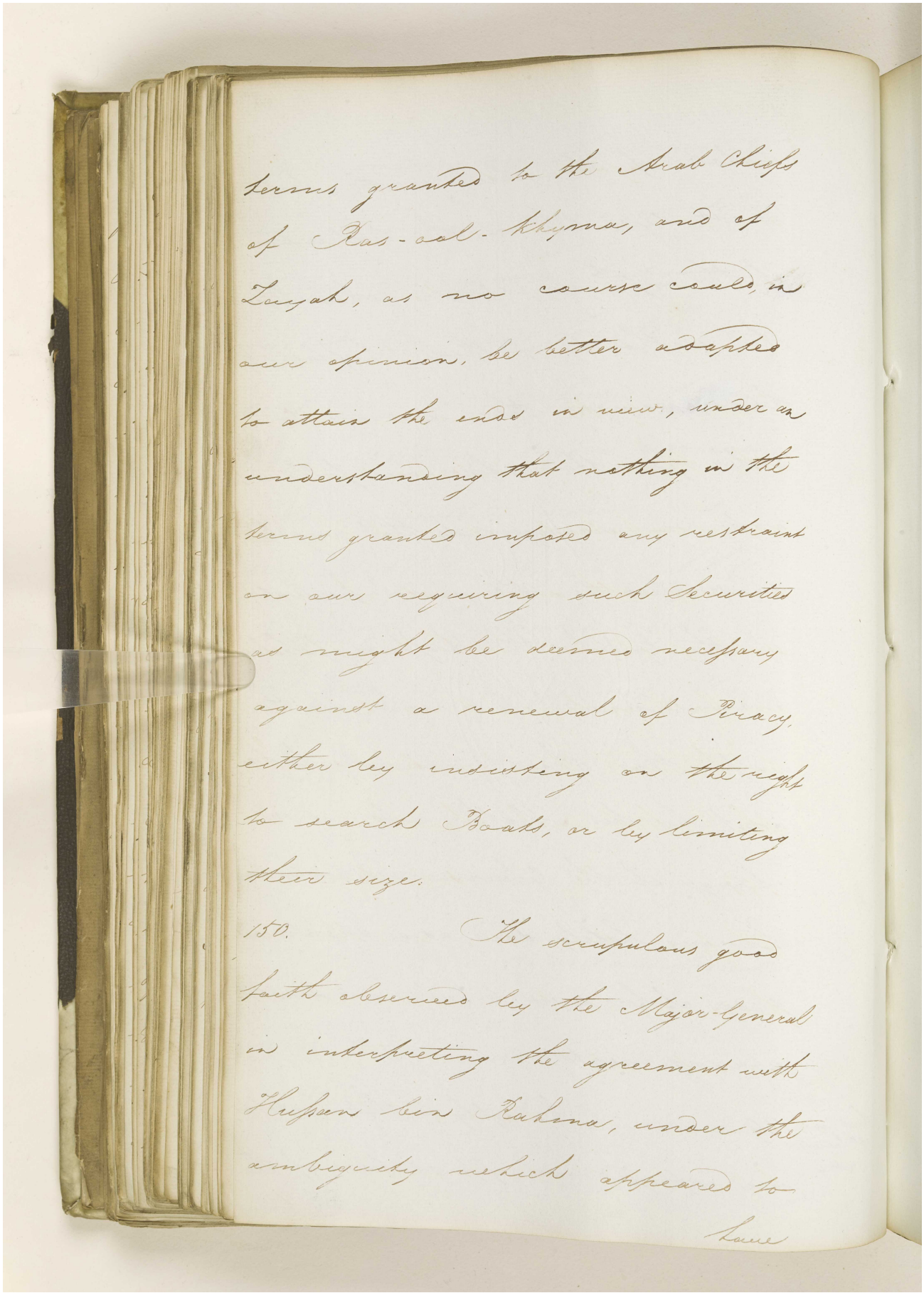

terms granted to the Arab Chiefs of Ras-al-Khyma, and of Zayah, as no course could, in our opinion, be better adapted to attain the end in view, under an understanding that nothing in the terms granted imposed any restraint on our requiring such Securities as might be deemed necessary against a renewal of Piracy, either by insisting on the right to search Boats, or by limiting their size.

150. The scrupulous good faith observed by the Major-General in interpreting the agreement with Hussun bin Rahma, under the ambiguity which appeares to

Lower

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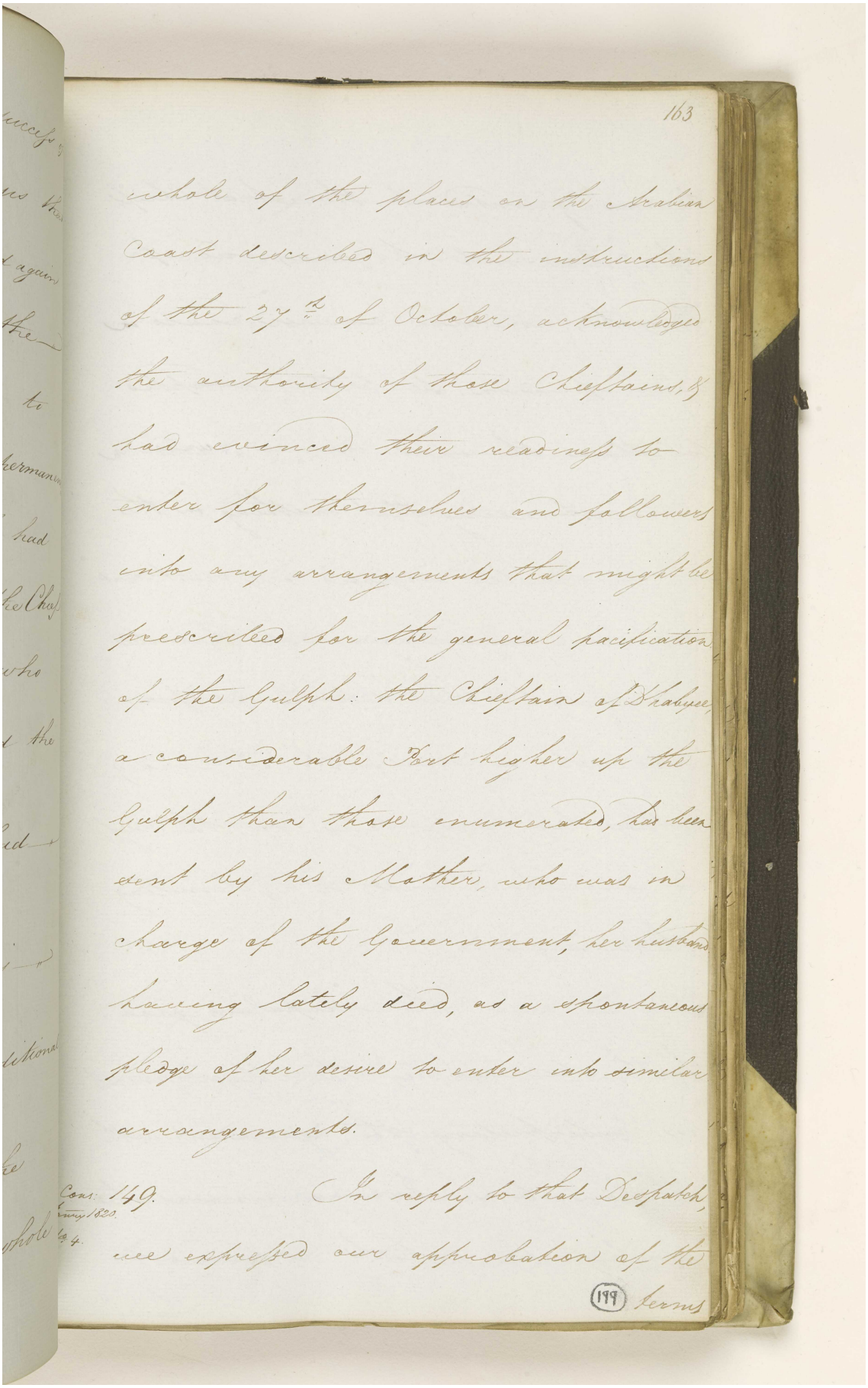

whole of the places on the Arabian
Coast described in the instructions
of the 27th of October, acknowledged
the authority of those Chieftains, &
had evinced their readiness to
enter for themselves and followers
into any arrangements that might be
prescribed for the general pacification
of the Gulph: the Chieftain of Dhabye,
a considerable Port higher up the
Gulph than those enumerated, has been
sent by his Mother, who was in
charge of the Government, her husband
having lately died, as a spontaneous
pledge of her desire to enter into similar
arrangements.

Cons. 149.
January 1820.
No 4.

In reply to that Despatch,
we expressed our approbation of the

terms

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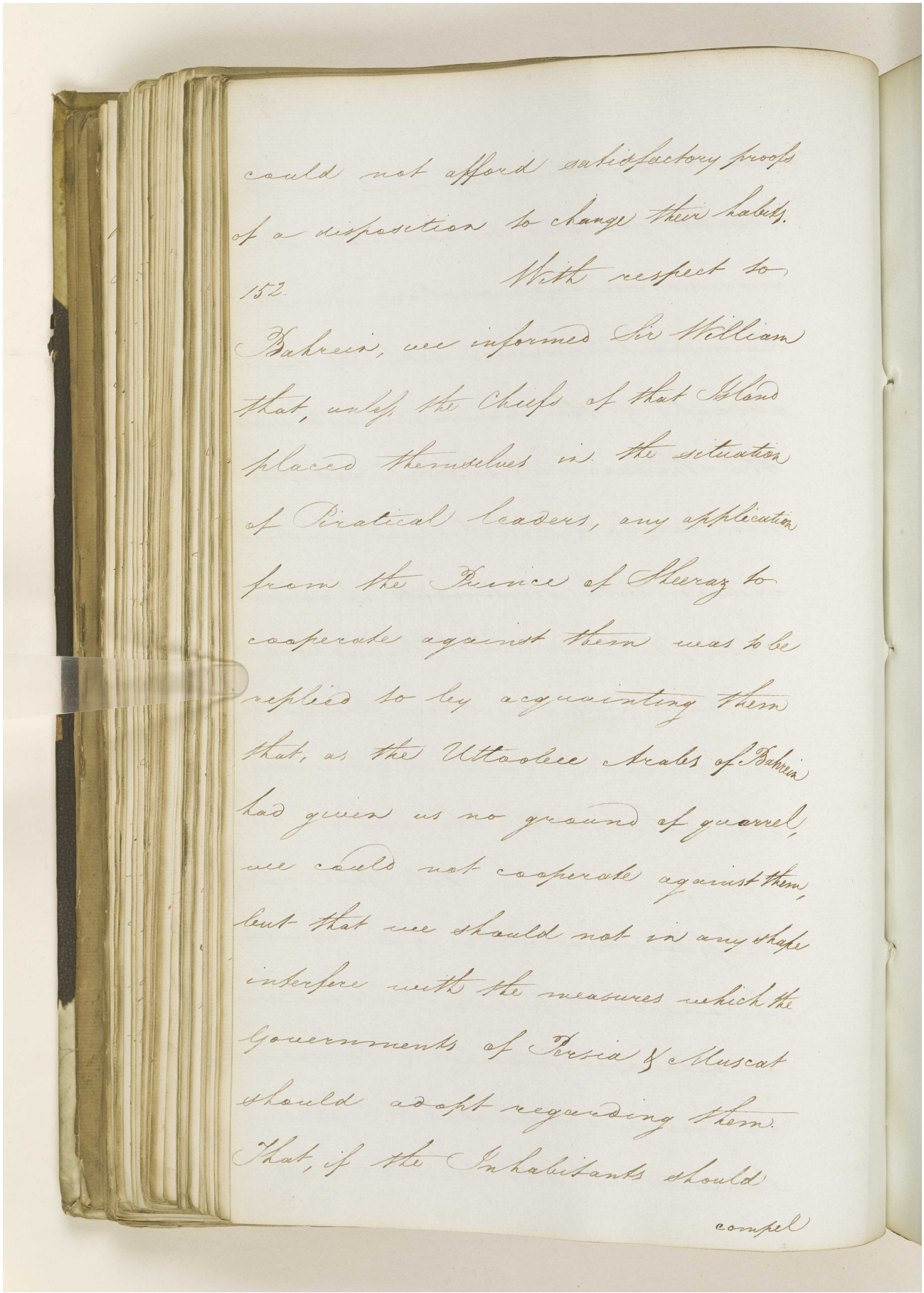

could not afford satisfactory proofs
of a disposition to change their habits.

152. With respect to
Bahrein, we informed Sir William
that, unless the Chiefs of that Island
placed themselves in the situation
of Piratical leaders, any application
from the Prince of Sheeraz to
cooperate against them was to be
replied to by acquainting them
that, as the Uttoobee Arabs of Bahrein
had given us no ground of quarrel,
we could not cooperate against them,
but that we should not in any shape
interfere with the measures which the
Governments of Persia & Muscat
should adopt regarding them.
That, if the Inhabitants should

compel

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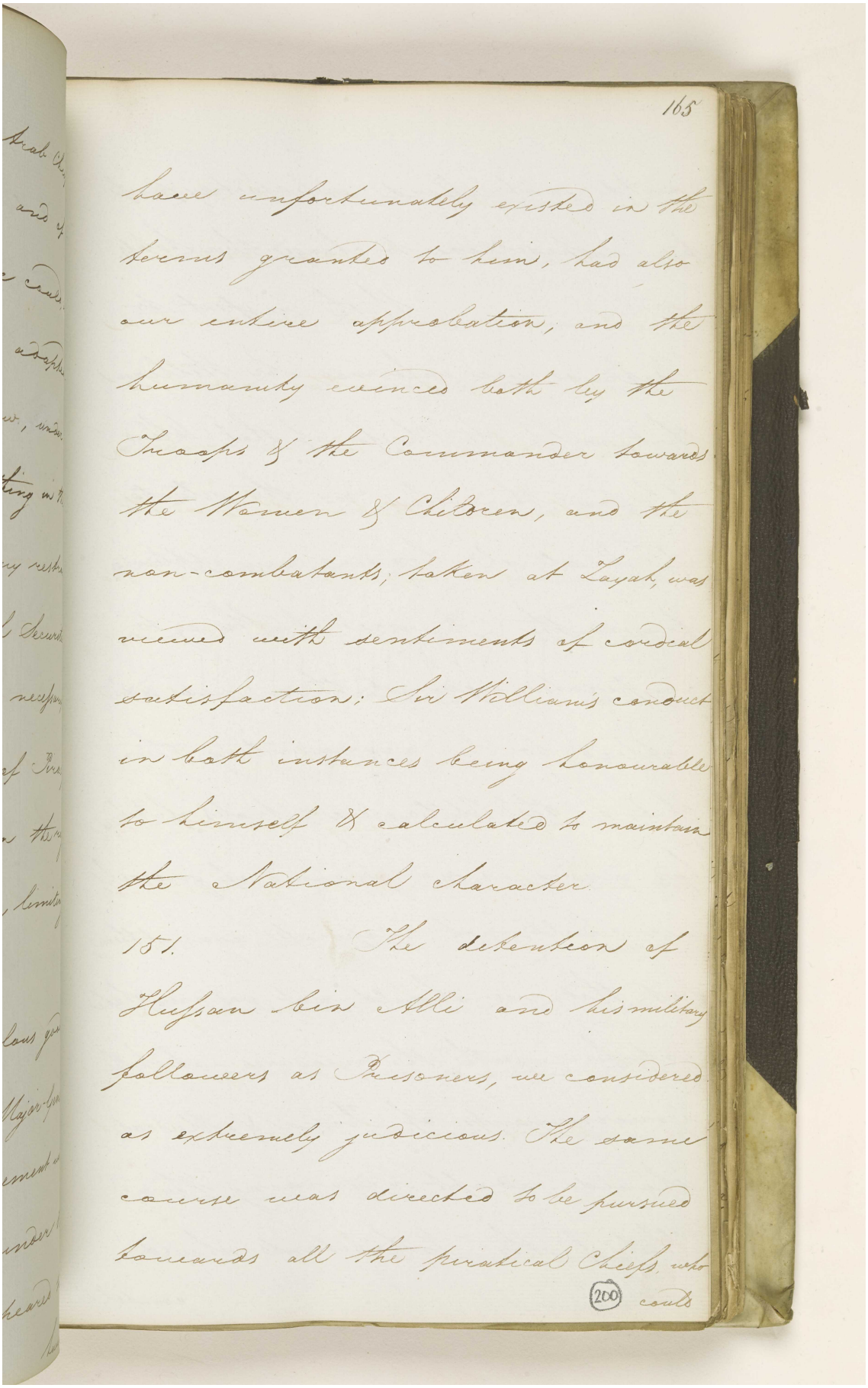
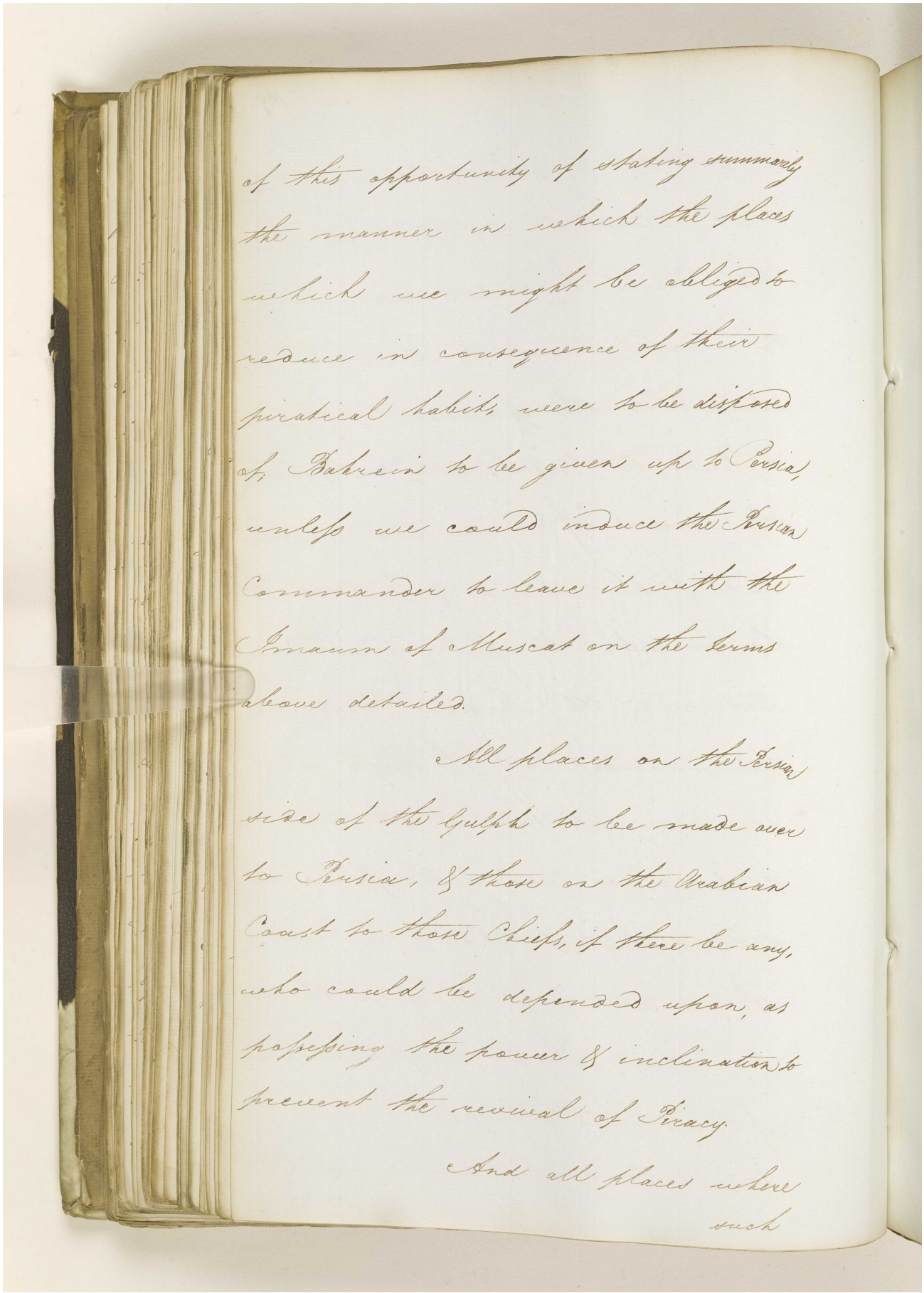


have unfortunately existed in the terms granted to him, had also our entire approbation, and the humanity evinced both by the Troops & the Commander towards the Women & Children, and the non-combatants, taken at Layah, was viewed with sentiments of cordial satisfaction: Sir William's conduct in both instances being honourable to himself & calculated to maintain the National Character

151. The detention of Hussan bin Alli and his military followers as Prisoners, we considered as extremely judicious. The same course was directed to be pursued towards all the piratical Chiefs who

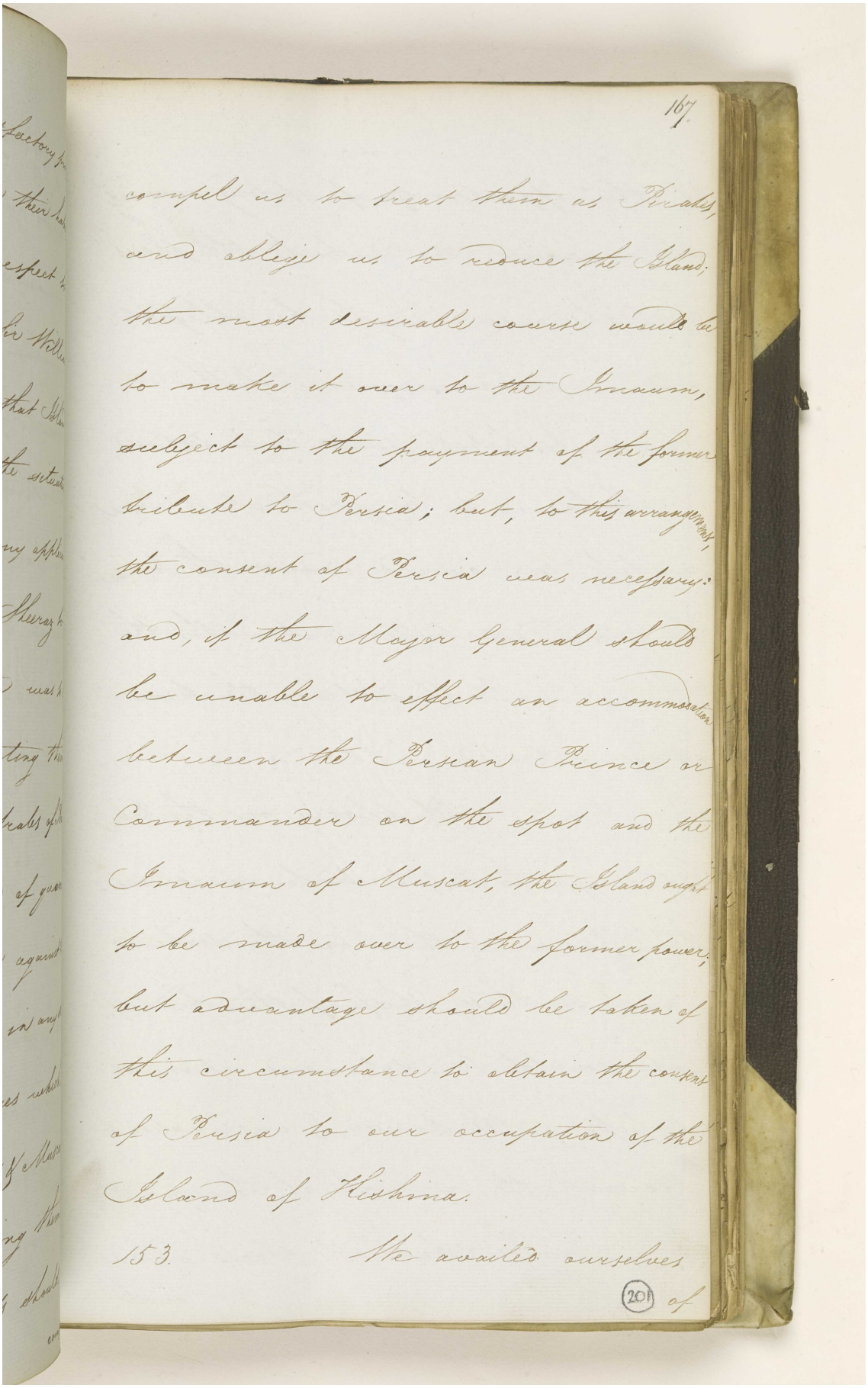
(200) courts



of this opportunity of stating summarily the manner in which the places which we might be obliged to reduce in consequence of their piratical habits were to be disposed of, Bahrein to be given up to Persia, unless we could induce the Persian Commander to leave it with the Imaum of Muscat on the terms above detailed.

All places on the Persian side of the Gulph to be made over to Persia, & those on the Arabian Coast to those Chiefs, if there be any, who could be depended upon, as possessing the power & inclination to prevent the revival of Piracy.

And all places where such

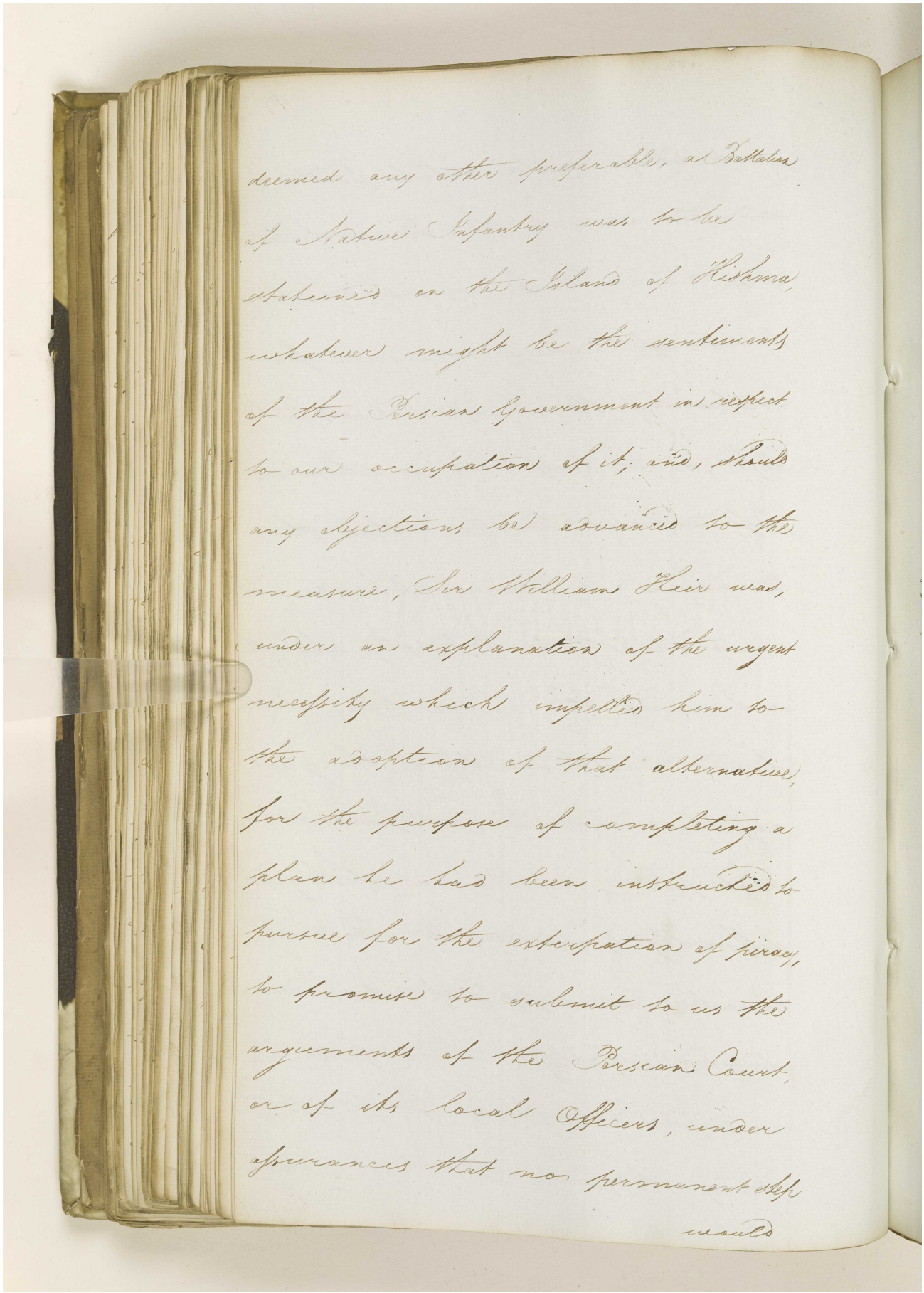


167

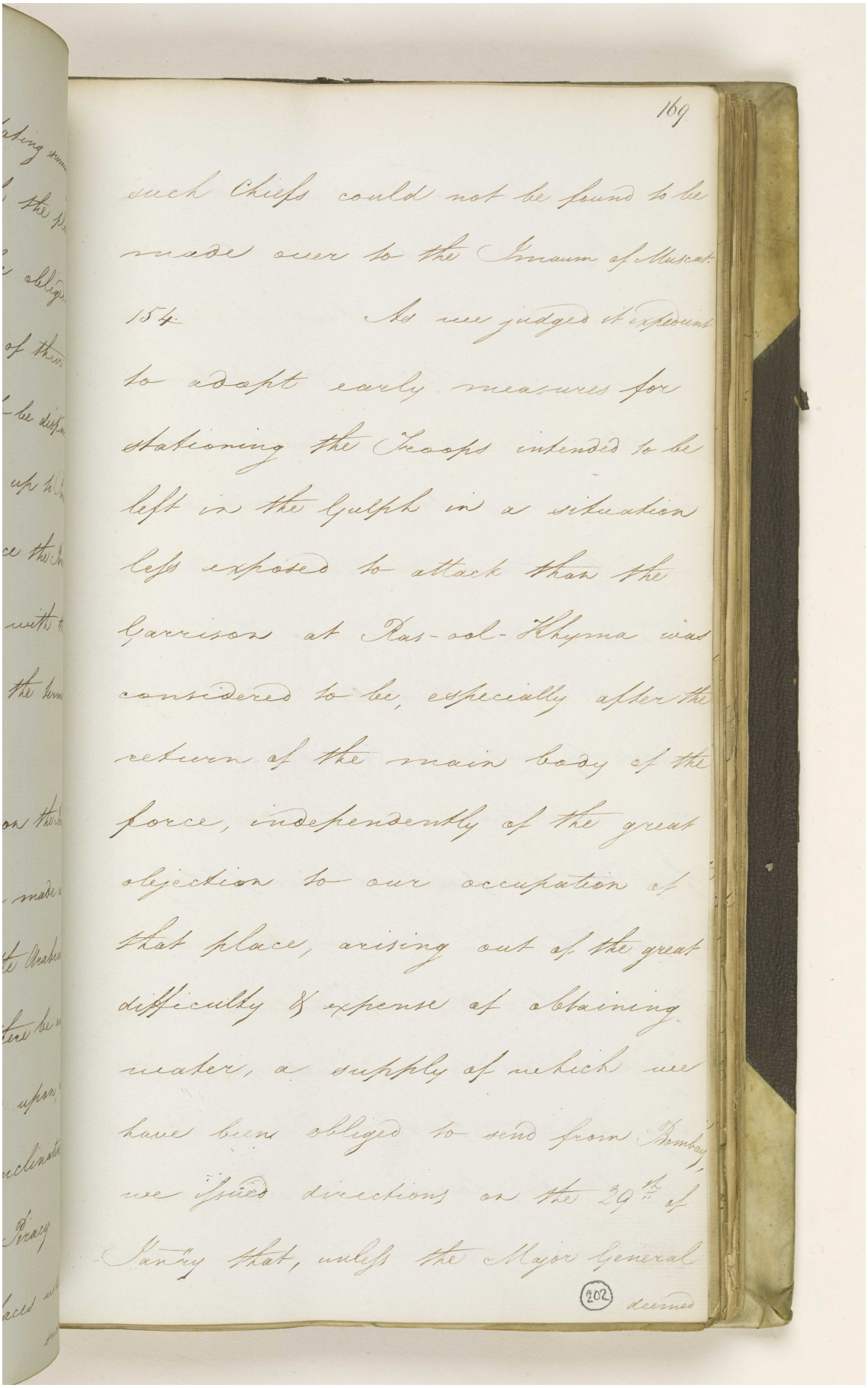
compel us to treat them as Pirates,
and allege us to reduce the Island;
the most desirable course would be
to make it over to the Imaum,
subject to the payment of the former
tribute to Persia; but, to this arrangement,
the consent of Persia was necessary:
and, if the Major General should
be unable to effect an accommodation
between the Persian Prince or
Commander on the spot and the
Imaum of Muscat, the Island ought
to be made over to the former power;
but advantage should be taken of
this circumstance to obtain the consent
of Persia to our occupation of the
Island of Kishma.

153. We availed ourselves

(201) of



deemed any other preferable, a Battalion
of Native Infantry was to be
stationed on the Island of Kishma,
whatever might be the sentiments
of the Persian Government in respect
to our occupation of it; and, Should
any objections be advanced to the
measure, Sir William Keir was,
under an explanation of the urgent
necessity which impelled him to
the adoption of that alternative,
for the purpose of completing a
plan he had been instructed to
pursue for the extirpation of piracy,
to promise to submit to us the
arguments of the Persian Court,
or of its local Officers, under
assurances that no permanent step
would



169

such Chiefs could not be found to be
made over to the Imaum of Muscat.
154. As we judged it expedient
to adopt early measures for
stationing the Troops intended to be
left in the Gulph in a situation
less exposed to attack than the
Garrison at Ras-ool-Khyma was
considered to be, especially after the
return of the main body of the
force, independently of the great
objection to our occupation of
that place, arising out of the great
difficulty & expense of obtaining
water, a supply of which we
have been obliged to send from Bombay,
we issued directions on the 29th of
January that, unless the Major General
(202) deemed

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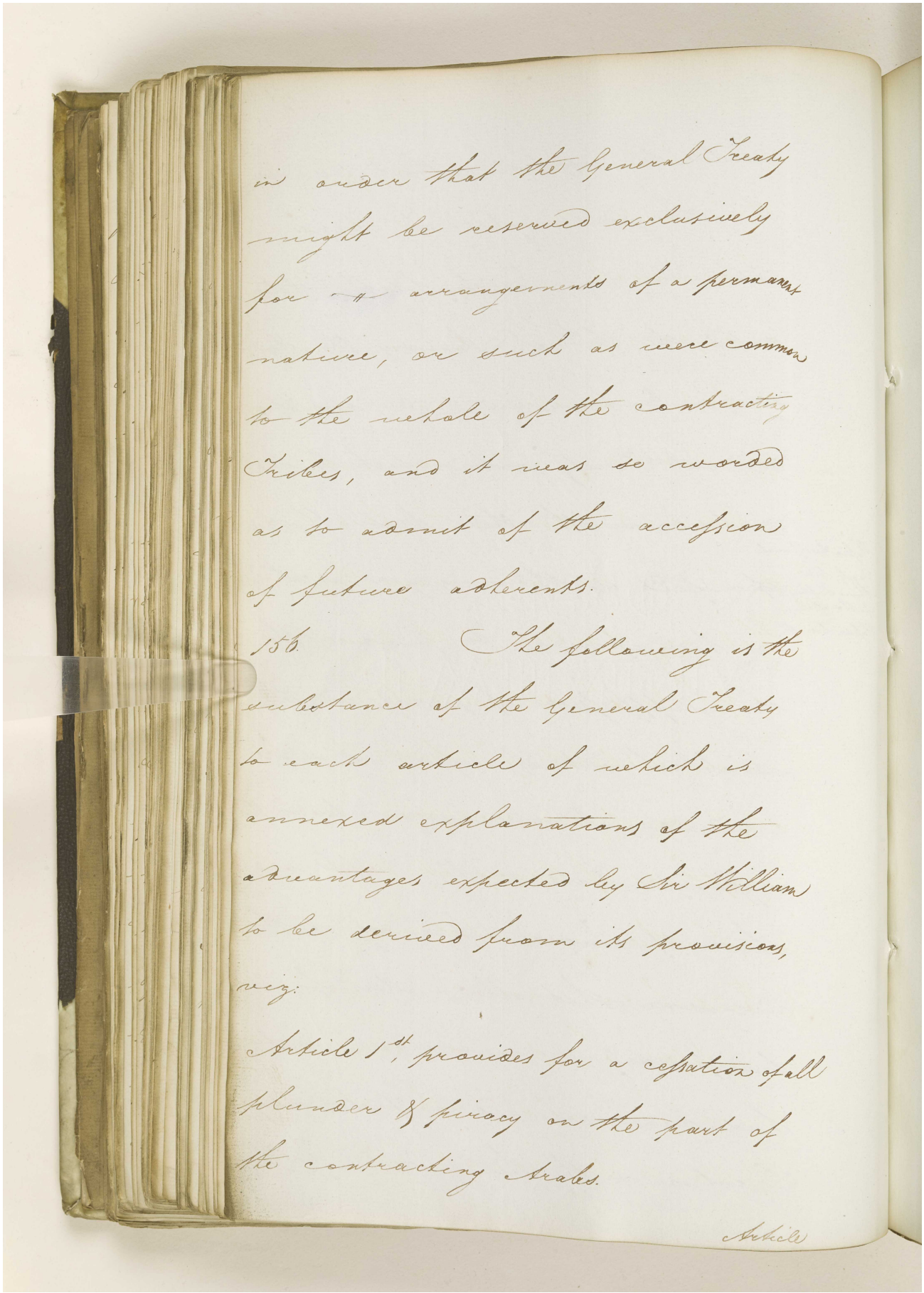

in order that the General Treaty might be reserved exclusively for the arrangements of a permanent nature, or such as were common to the whole of the contracting Tribes, and it was so worded as to admit of the accession of future adherents.

156. The following is the substance of the General Treaty to each article of which is annexed explanations of the advantages expected by Sir William to be derived from its provisions, viz:

Article 1st, provides for a cessation of all plunder & piracy on the part of the contracting Arabs.

Article

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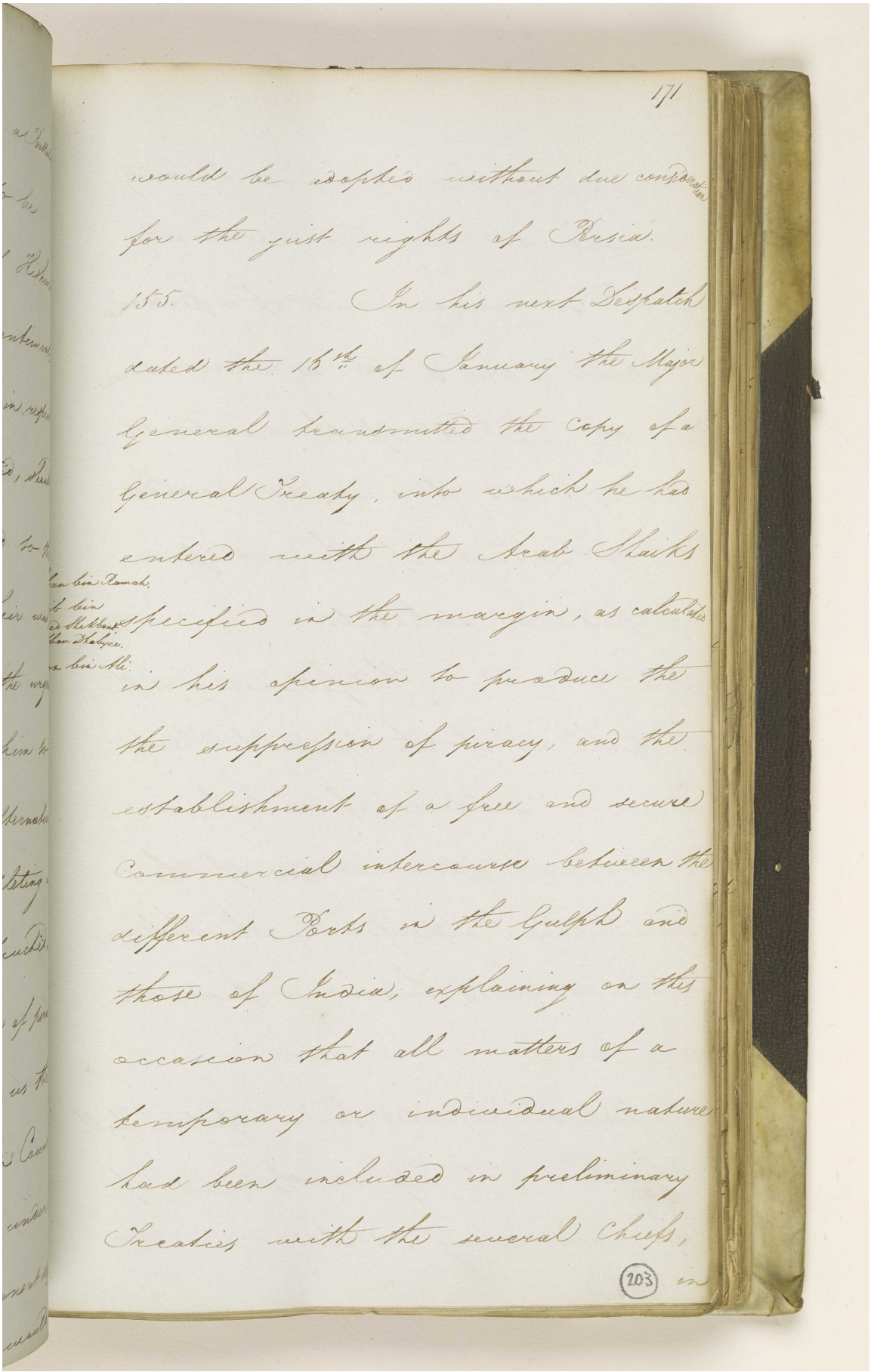

would be adopted without due consideration for the just rights of Persia.

155. In his next Despatch dated the 16th of January the Major General transmitted the copy of a General Treaty, into which he had entered with the Arab Shaiks specified in the margin, as calculated in his opinion to produce the the suppression of piracy, and the establishment of a free and secure Commercial intercourse between the different Ports in the Gulph and those of India, explaining on this occasion that all matters of a temporary or individual nature had been included in preliminary Treaties with the several Chiefs,

...an bin Ramah.
...ib bin
...ed Shakbout
...bou Dhabyee.
...n bin Ali.

203 in

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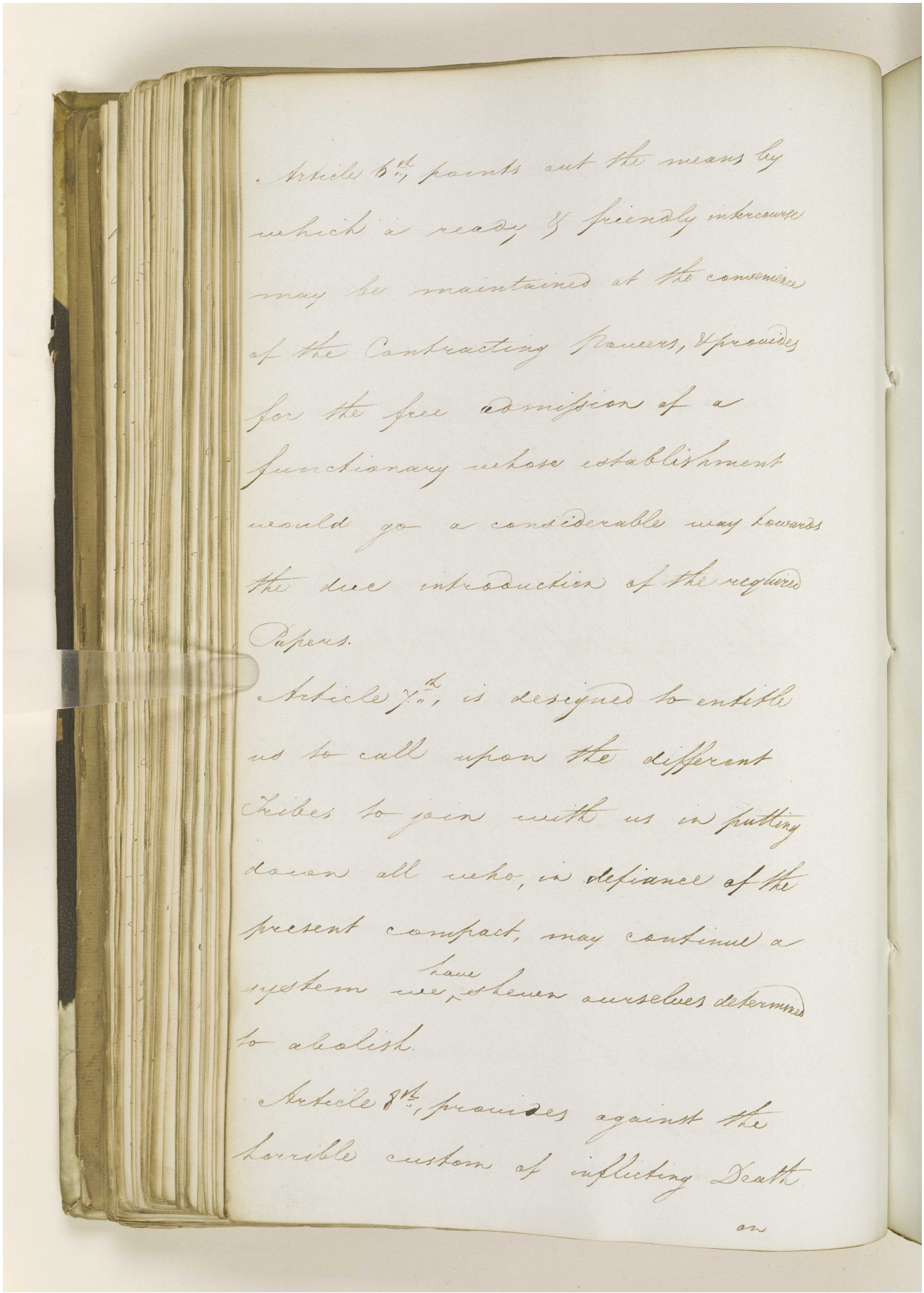
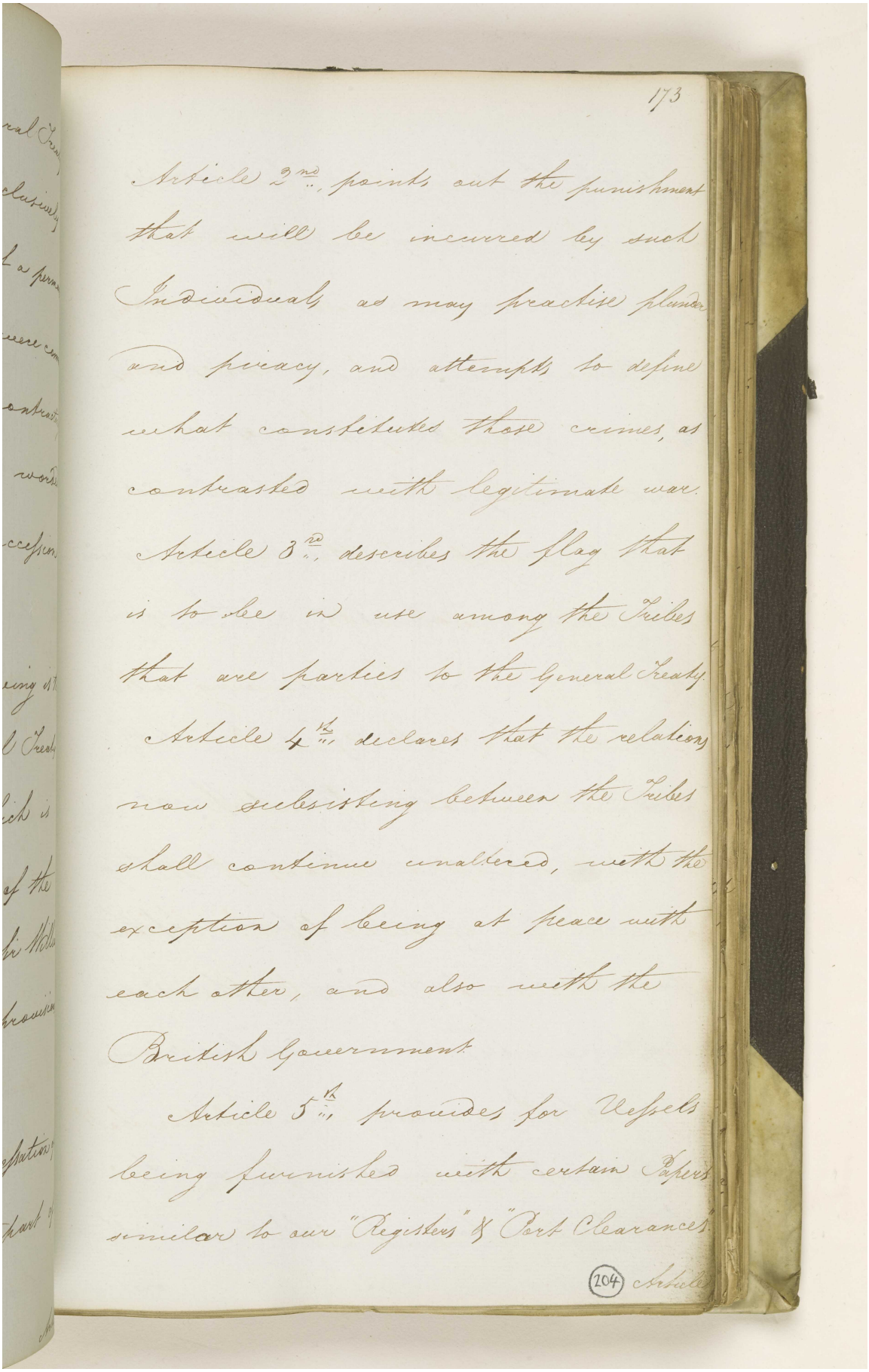


Article 6th, points out the means by which a ready & friendly intercourse may be maintained at the convenience of the Contracting Powers, & provides for the free admission of a functionary whose establishment would go a considerable way towards the due introduction of the required Papers.

Article 7th, is designed to entitle us to call upon the different Tribes to join with us in putting down all who, in defiance of the present compact, may continue a system we, & them ourselves have determined to abolish.

Article 8th, provides against the horrible custom of inflicting Death

on



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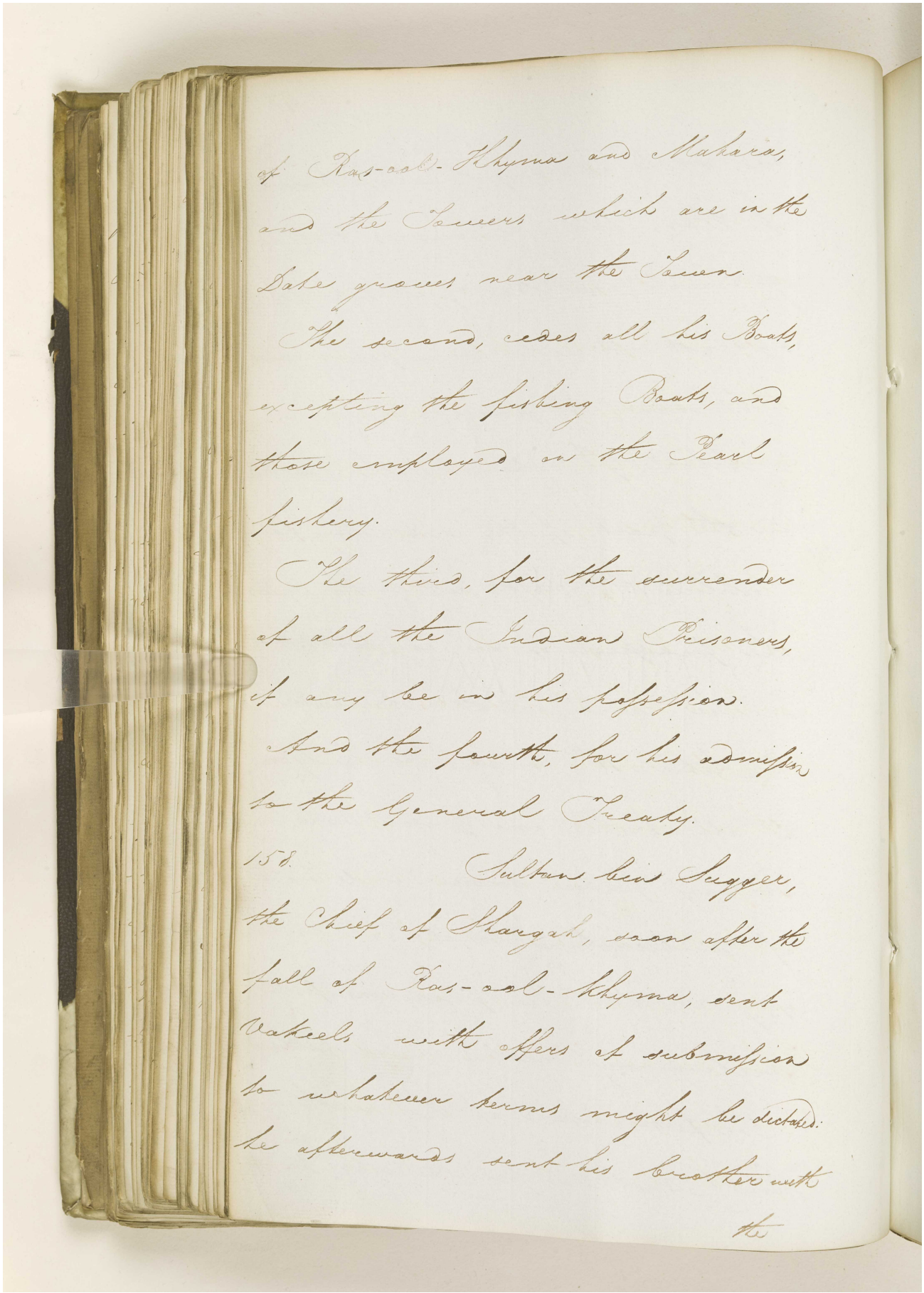
Article 2nd. points out the punishment that will be incurred by such Individuals as may practise plunder and piracy, and attempts to define what constituted those crimes, as contrasted with legitimate war.

Article 3rd. describes the flag that is to be in use among the Tribes that are parties to the General Treaty.

Article 4th. declares that the relations now subsisting between the Tribes shall continue unaltered, with the exception of being at peace with each other, and also with the British Government.

Article 5th. provides for Vessels being furnished with certain Papers similar to our "Registers" & "Port Clearances".

(204) Article



of Ras-ool-Khyma and Mahara, and the Towers which are in the Date groves near the Town.

The second, cedes all his Boats, excepting the fishing Boats, and those employed on the Pearl fishery.

The third, for the surrender of all the Indian Prisoners, if any be in his possession.

And the fourth, for his admission to the General Treaty.

158. Sultan bin Sugger, the Chief of Shargah, soon after the fall of Ras-ool-Khyma, sent Vakeels with offers of submission to whatever terms might be dictated: he afterwards sent his brother with

the

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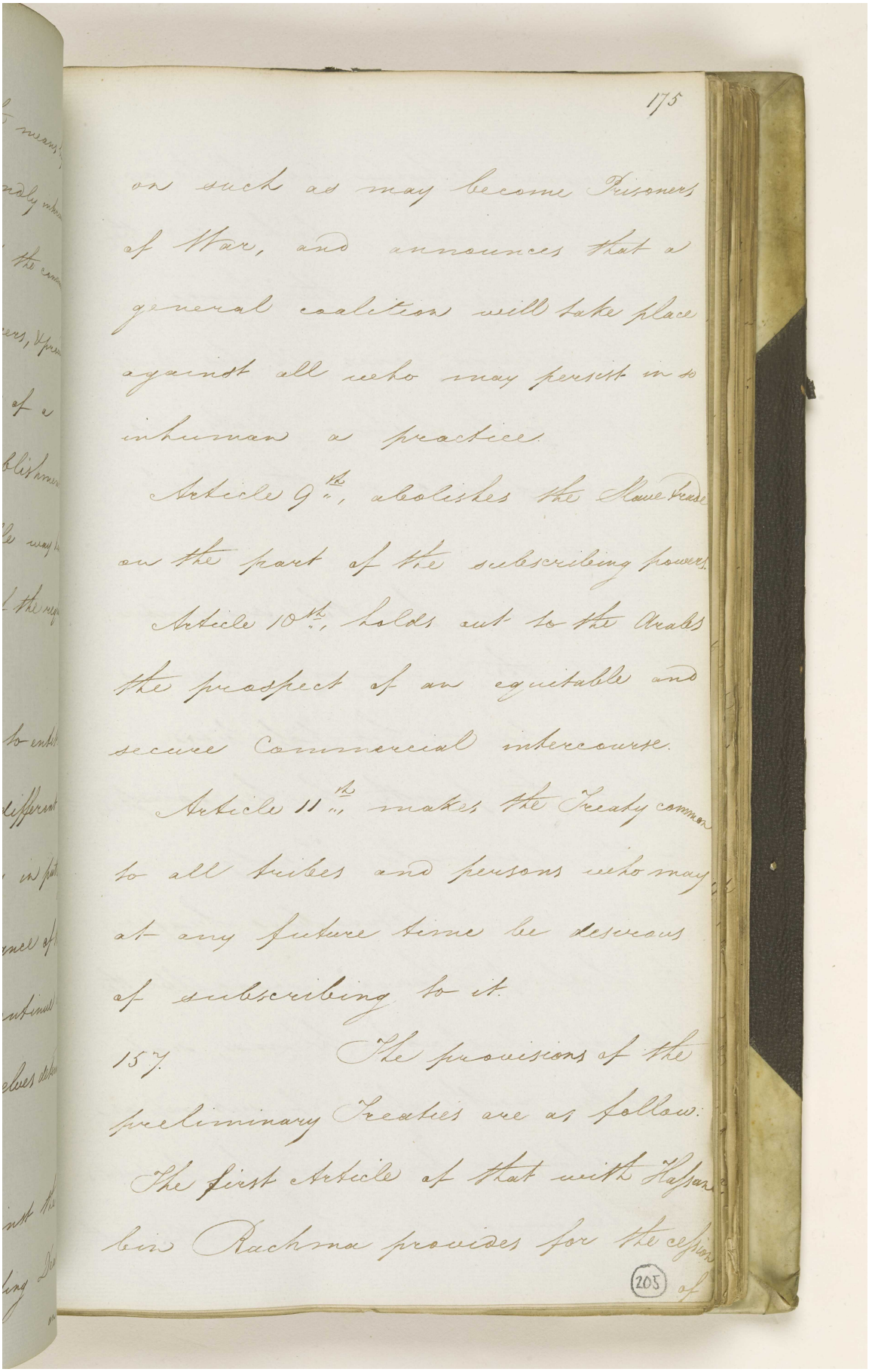

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on such as may become Prisoners
of War, and announces that a
general coalition will take place
against all who may persist in so
inhuman a practice.

Article 9th, abolishes the Slave trade
on the part of the subscribing powers.

Article 10th, holds out to the Arabs
the prospect of an equitable and
secure Commercial intercourse.

Article 11th, makes the Treaty common
to all tribes and persons who may
at any future time be desirous
of subscribing to it.

157. The provisions of the
preliminary Treaties are as follow.

The first Article of that with Hassan
bin Rachma provides for the cessation of

(205)

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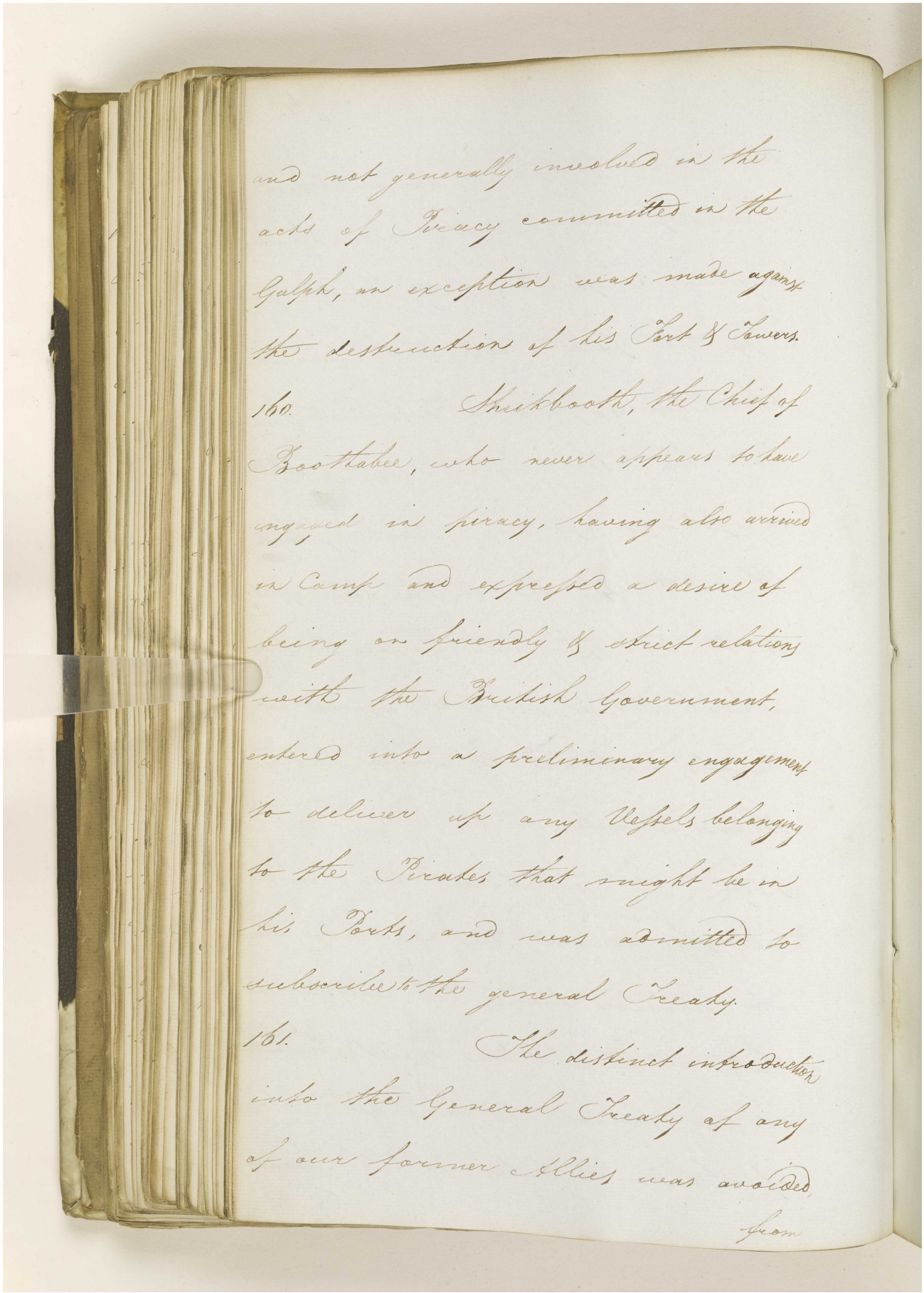
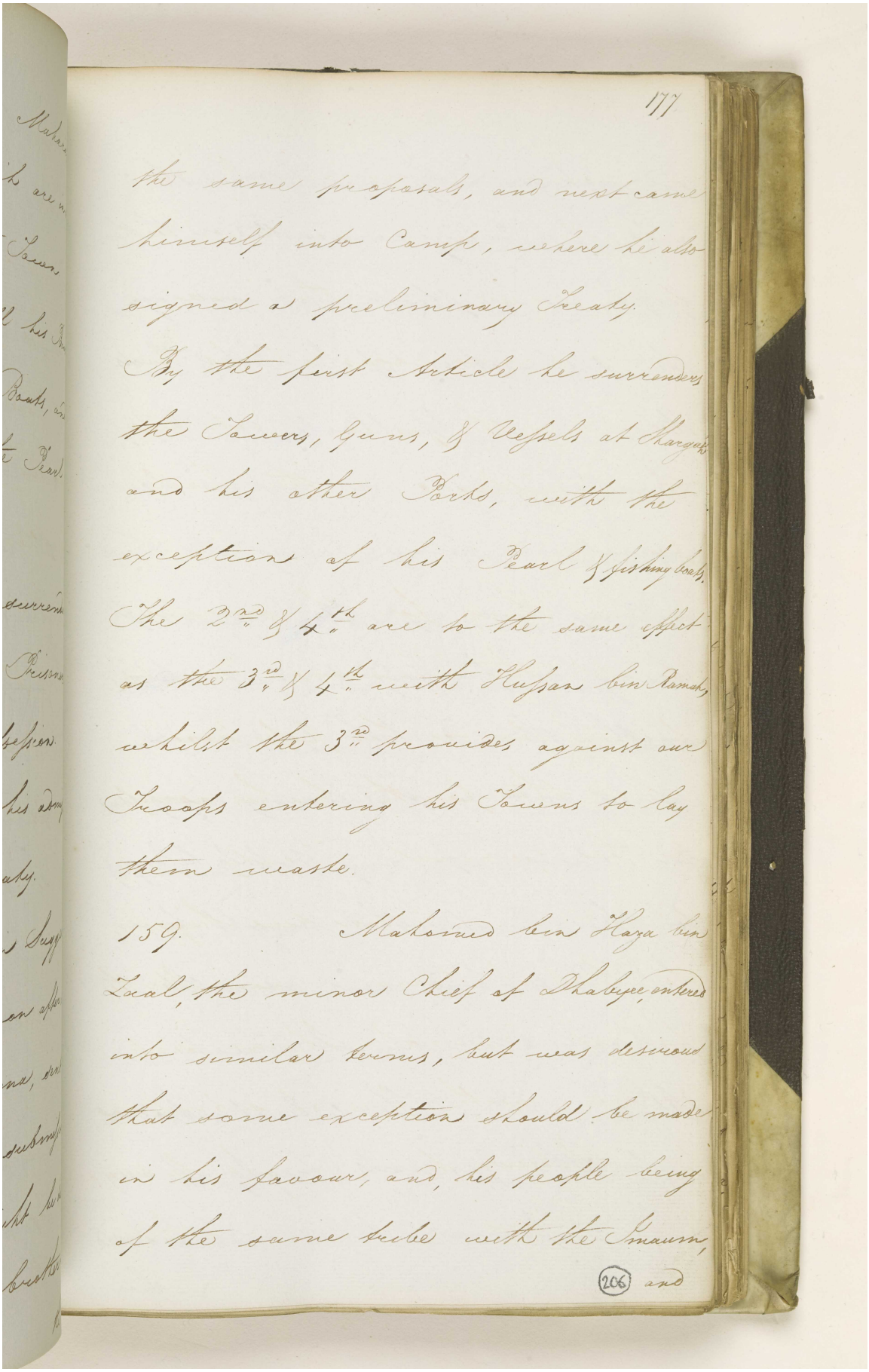


and not generally involved in the
acts of Piracy committed in the
Gulph, an exception was made against
the destruction of his Fort & Towers.

160. Shaikhooth, the Chief of
Boothabee, who never appears to have
engaged in piracy, having also arrived
in Camp and expressed a desire of
being on friendly & strict relations
with the British Government,
entered into a preliminary engagement
to deliver up any Vessels belonging
to the Pirates that might be in
his Ports, and was admitted to
subscribe to the general Treaty.

161. The distinct introduction
into the General Treaty of any
of our former Allies was avoided
from



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the same proposals, and next came himself into Camp, where he also signed a preliminary Treaty.

By the first Article he surrenders the Towers, Guns, & Vessels at Shargah and his other Ports, with the exception of his Pearl & fishing boats. The 2nd & 4th are to the same effect as the 3rd & 4th with Hussan bin Ramah, whilst the 3rd provides against our Troops entering his Towns to lay them waste.

159. Mahomed bin Haza bin Zaal, the minor Chief of Khabye, enters into similar terms, but was desirous that some exception should be made in his favour, and, his people being of the same tribe with the Imaum,

206 and

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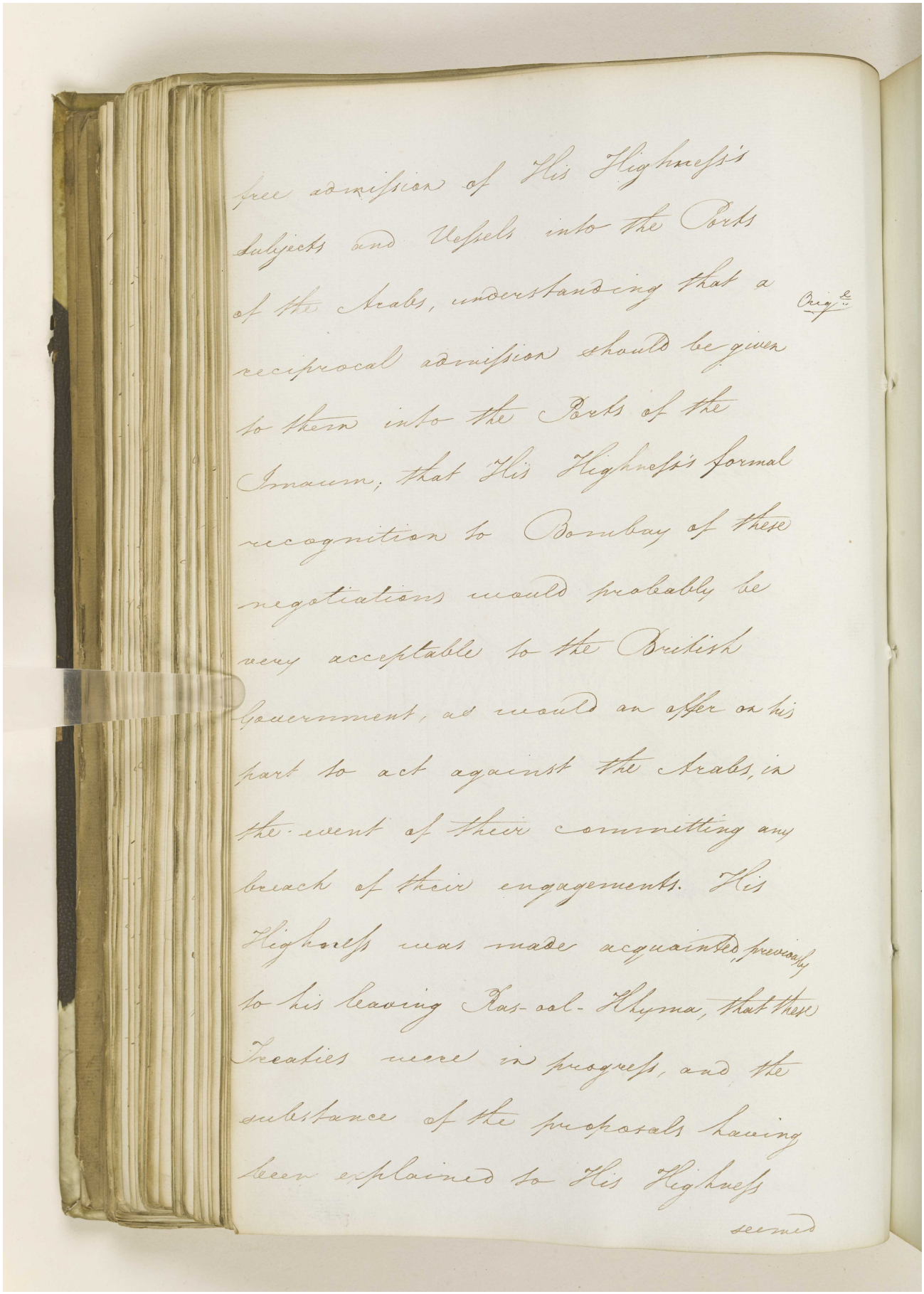
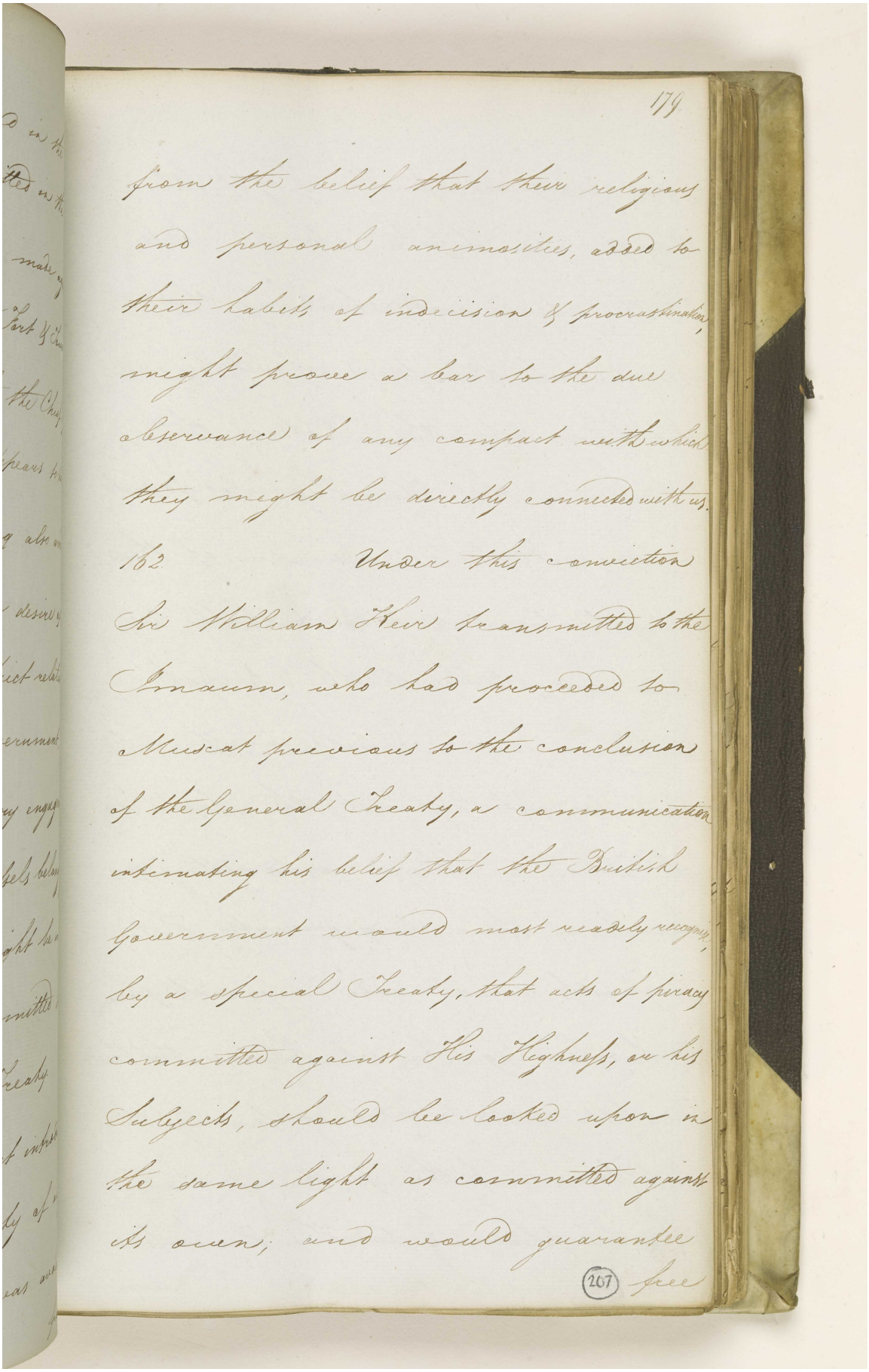


free admission of His Highness's
subjects and Vessels into the Ports
of the Arabs, understanding that a
reciprocal admission should be given
to them into the Ports of the
Imaum; that His Highness's formal
recognition to Bombay of these
negotiations would probably be
very acceptable to the British
Government, as would an offer on his
part to act against the Arabs, in
the event of their committing any
breach of their engagements. His
Highness was made acquainted, previously
to his leaving Ras-al-Khyma, that these
Treaties were in progress, and the
substance of the proposals having
been explained to His Highness
seemed



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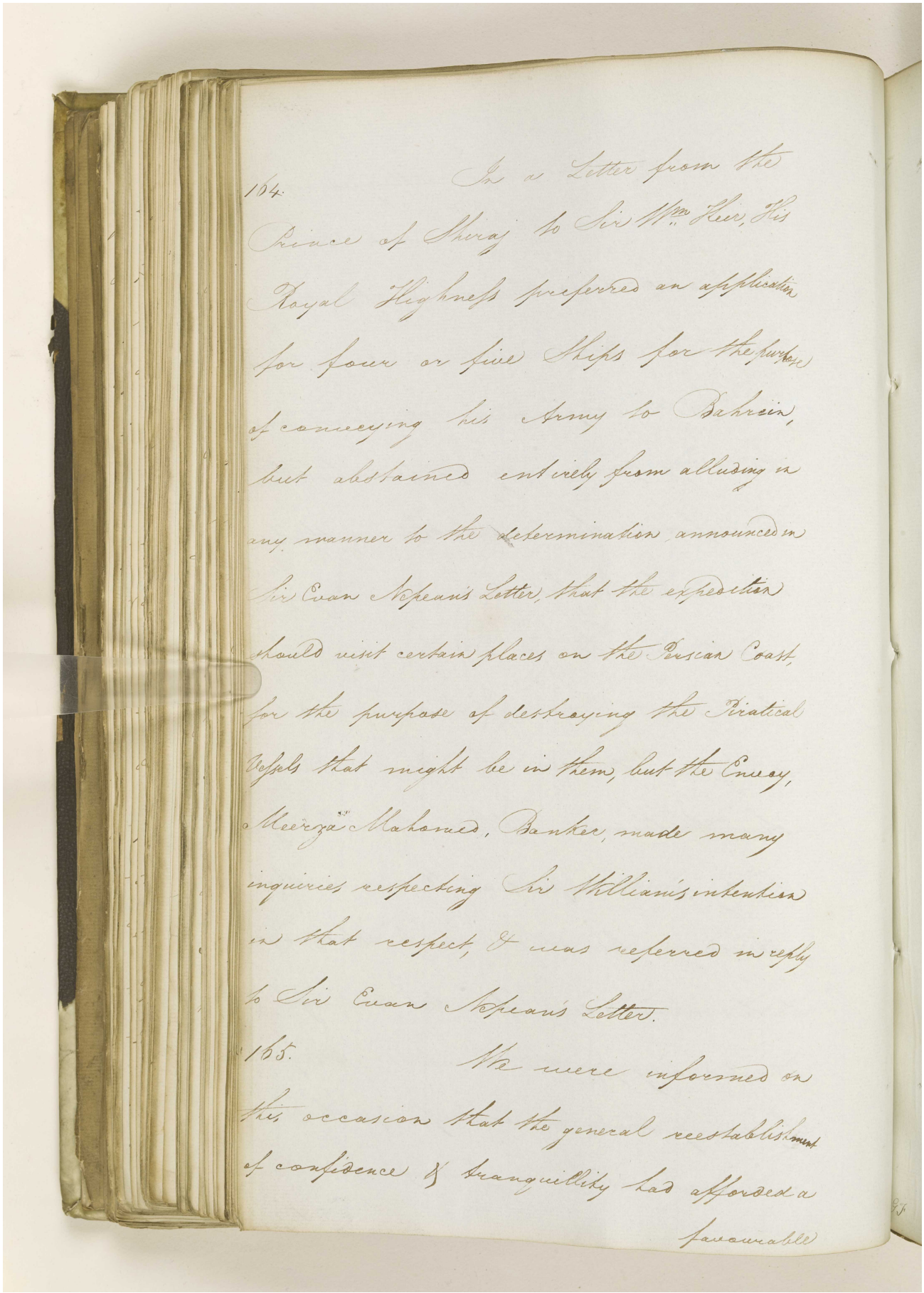
from the belief that their religious and personal animosities, added to their habits of indecision & procrastination, might prove a bar to the due observance of any compact with which they might be directly connected with us.

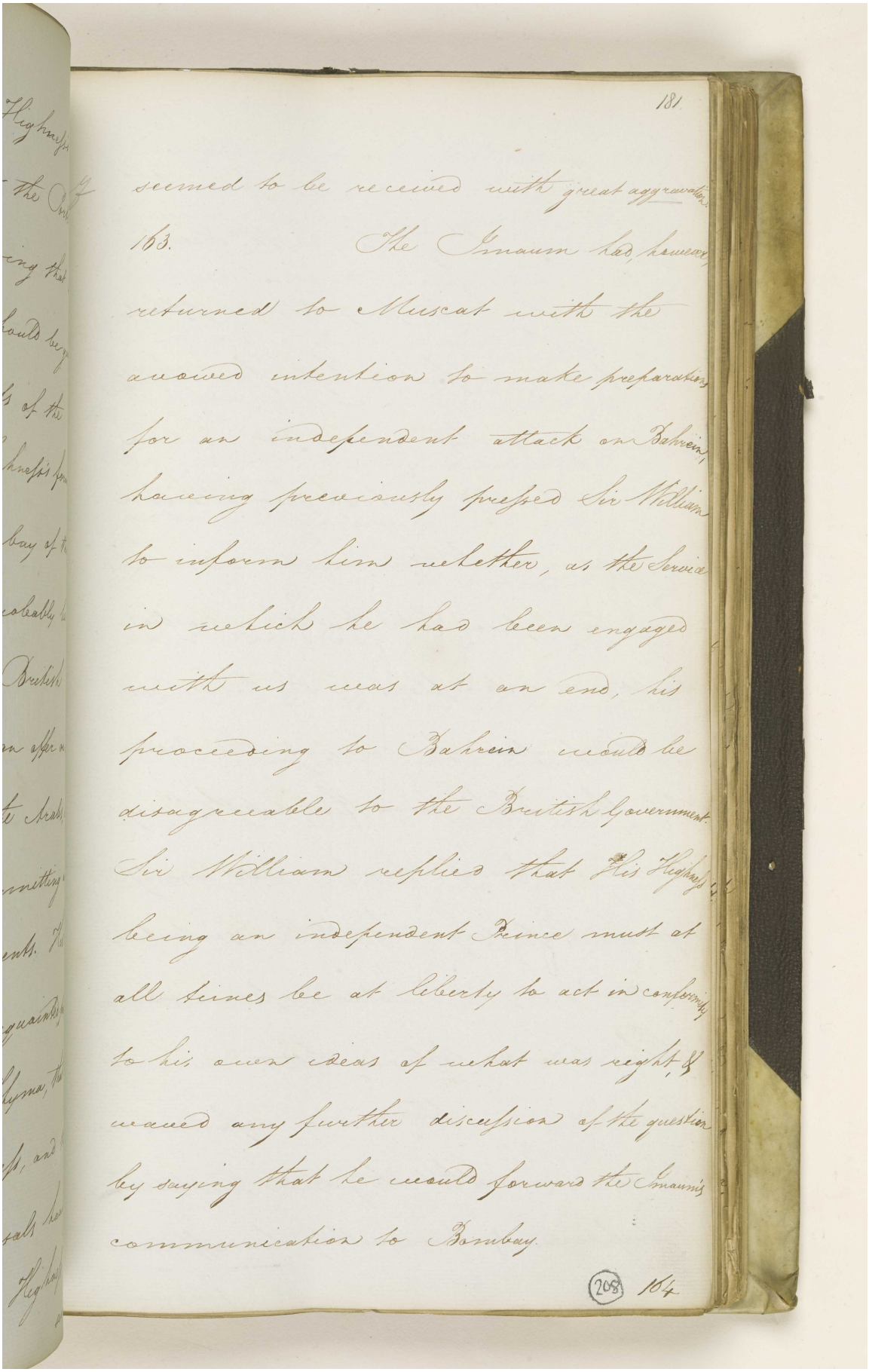
162 Under this conviction Sir William Keir transmitted to the Imaum, who had proceeded to Muscat previous to the conclusion of the General Treaty, a communication intimating his belief that the British Government would most readily recognize by a special Treaty, that acts of piracy committed against His Highness, or his Subjects, should be looked upon in the same light as committed against its own; and would guarantee

(207) free



164. In a Letter from the Prince of Sheraz to Sir Wm. Keir, His Royal Highness preferred an application for four or five Ships for the purpose of conveying his Army to Bahrein, but abstained entirely from alluding in any manner to the determination announced in Sir Evan Nepean's Letter, that the expedition should visit certain places on the Persian Coast, for the purpose of destroying the Piratical Vessels that might be in them, but the Envoy, Meerza Mahomed, Banker, made many inquiries respecting Sir William's intentions in that respect, & was referred in reply to Sir Evan Nepean's Letter.

165. We were informed on this occasion that the general reestablishment of confidence & tranquillity had afforded a favourable

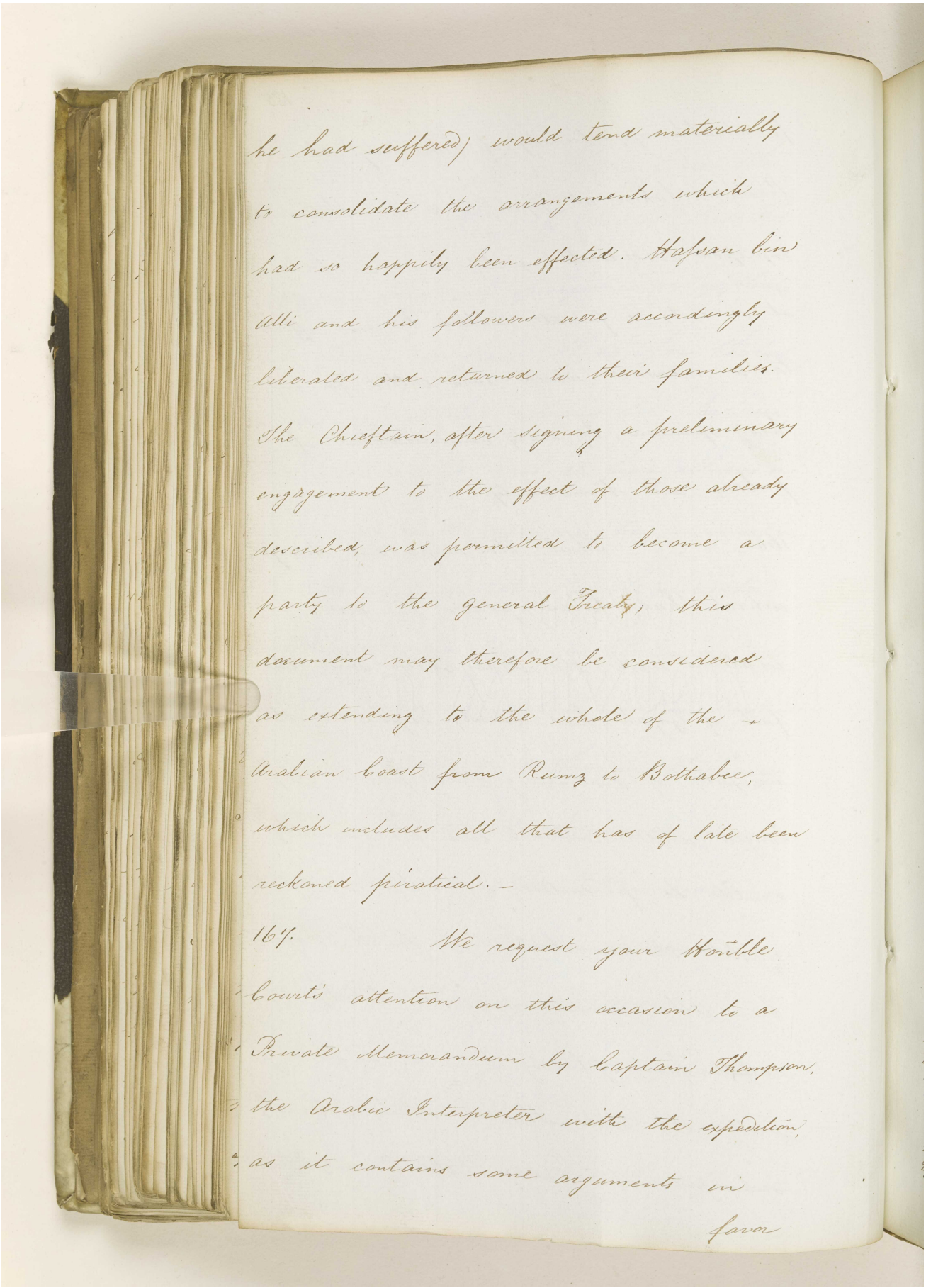


181.

seemed to be received with great aggravation.

163. The Imaum had however returned to Muscat with the avowed intention to make preparations for an independent attack on Bahrein, having previously prefsed Sir William to inform him whether, as the Service in which he had been engaged with us was at an end, his proceeding to Bahrein would be disagreeable to the British Government. Sir William replies that His Highness being an independent Prince must at all times be at liberty to act in conformity to his own ideas of what was right, & waved any further discussion of the question by saying that he would forward the Imaum's communication to Bombay.

(208) 164



he had suffered) would tend materially
to consolidate the arrangements which
had so happily been effected. Hassan bin
Alli and his followers were accordingly
liberated and returned to their families.
The Chieftain, after signing a preliminary
engagement to the effect of those already
described, was permitted to become a
party to the general Treaty; this
document may therefore be considered
as extending to the whole of the
Arabian Coast from Rumz to Bothabee,
which includes all that has of late been
reckoned piratical. –

16ᵗʰ. We request your Honble
Court's attention on this occasion to a
Private Memorandum by Captain Thompson,
the Arabic Interpreter with the expedition,
as it contains some arguments in
favor

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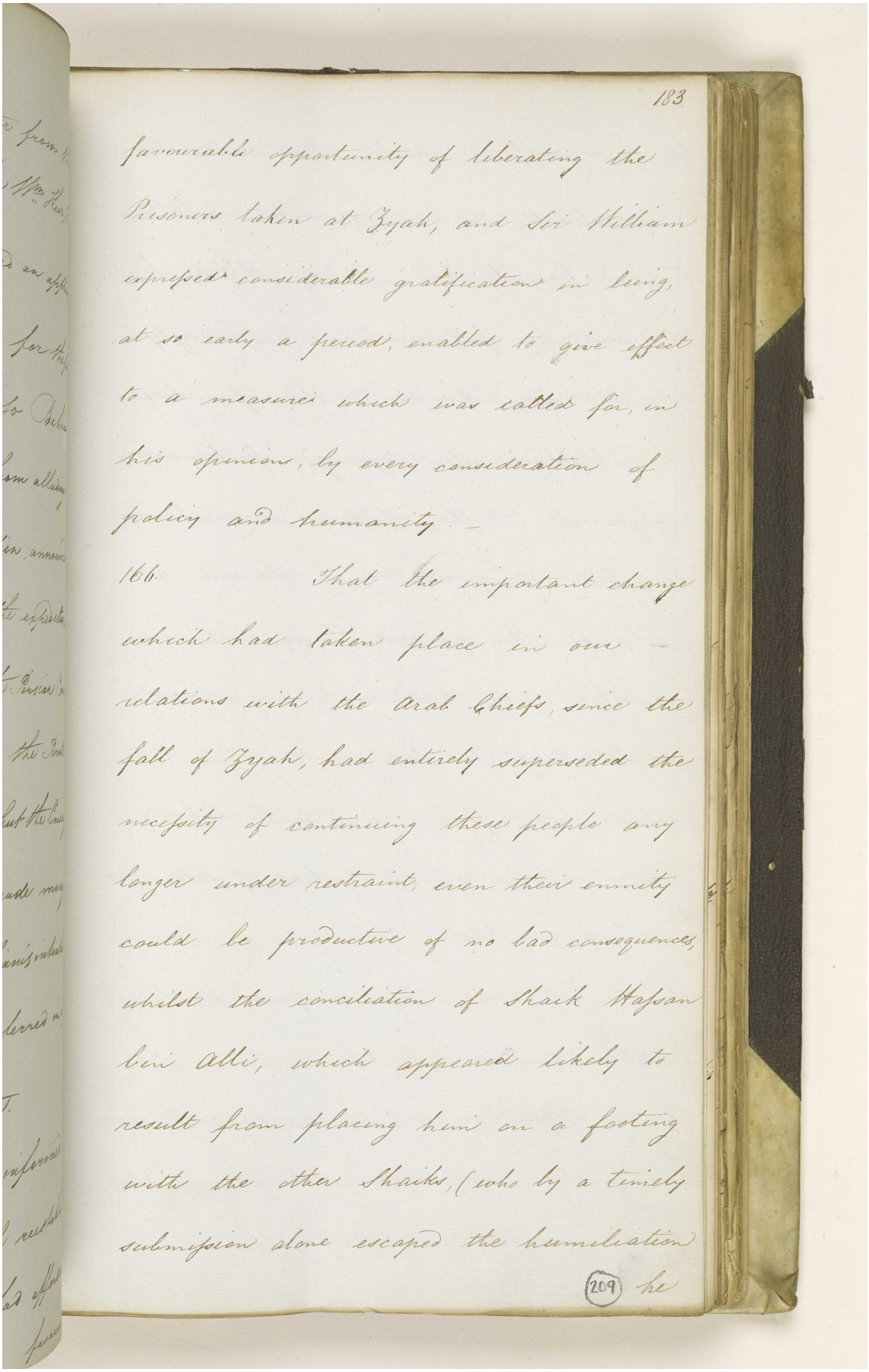

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favourable opportunity of liberating the Prisoners taken at Zyah, and Sir William expressed considerable gratification in being, at so early a period, enabled to give effect to a measure which was called for, in his opinion, by every consideration of policy and humanity.

166. That the important change which had taken place in our relations with the Arab Chiefs, since the fall of Zyah, had entirely superseded the necessity of continuing these people any longer under restraint, even their enmity could be productive of no bad consequences, whilst the conciliation of Shaik Hassan bin Alli, which appeared likely to result from placing him on a footing with the other Shaiks, (who by a timely submission alone escaped the humiliation

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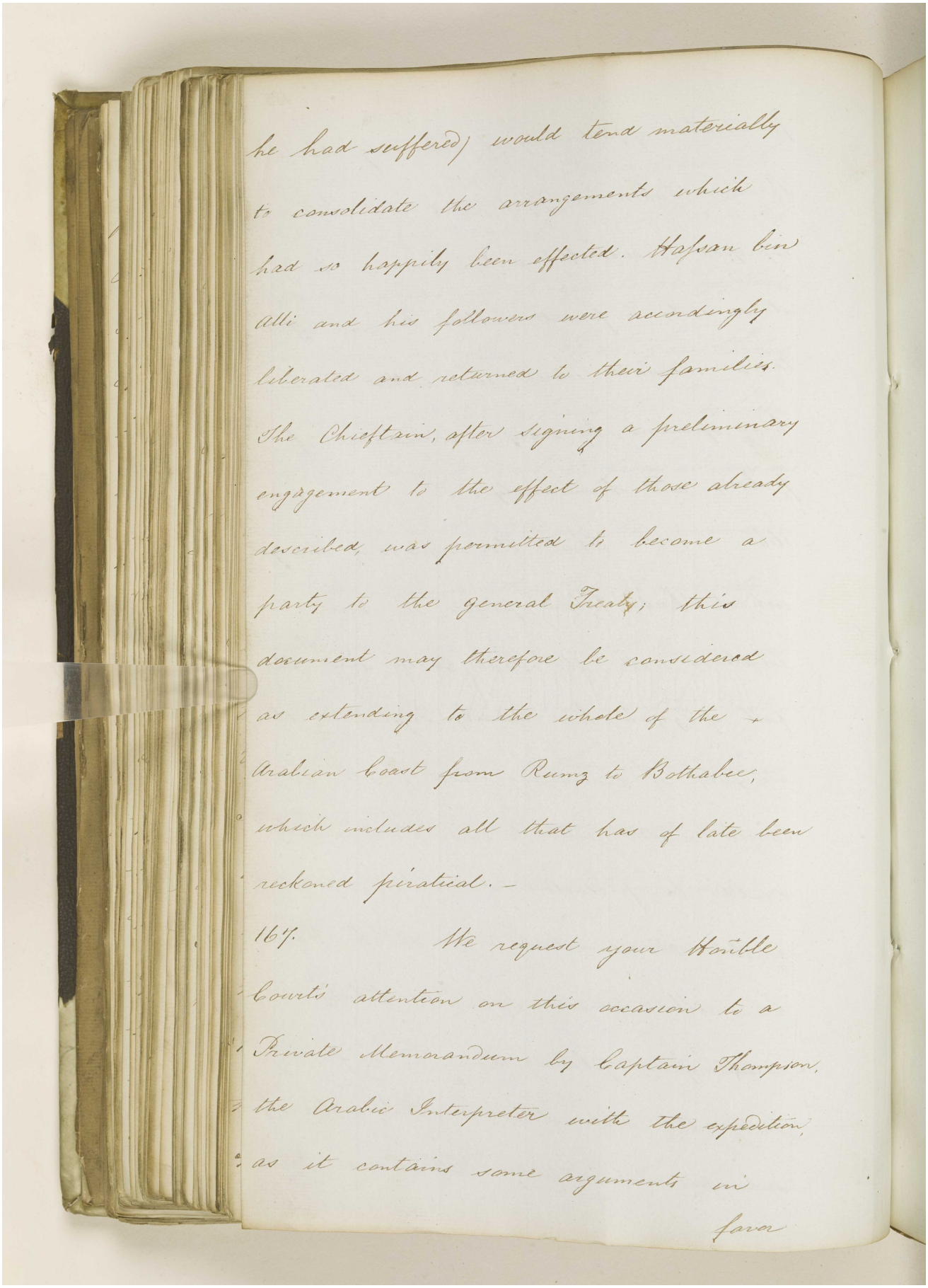

he had suffered) would tend materially
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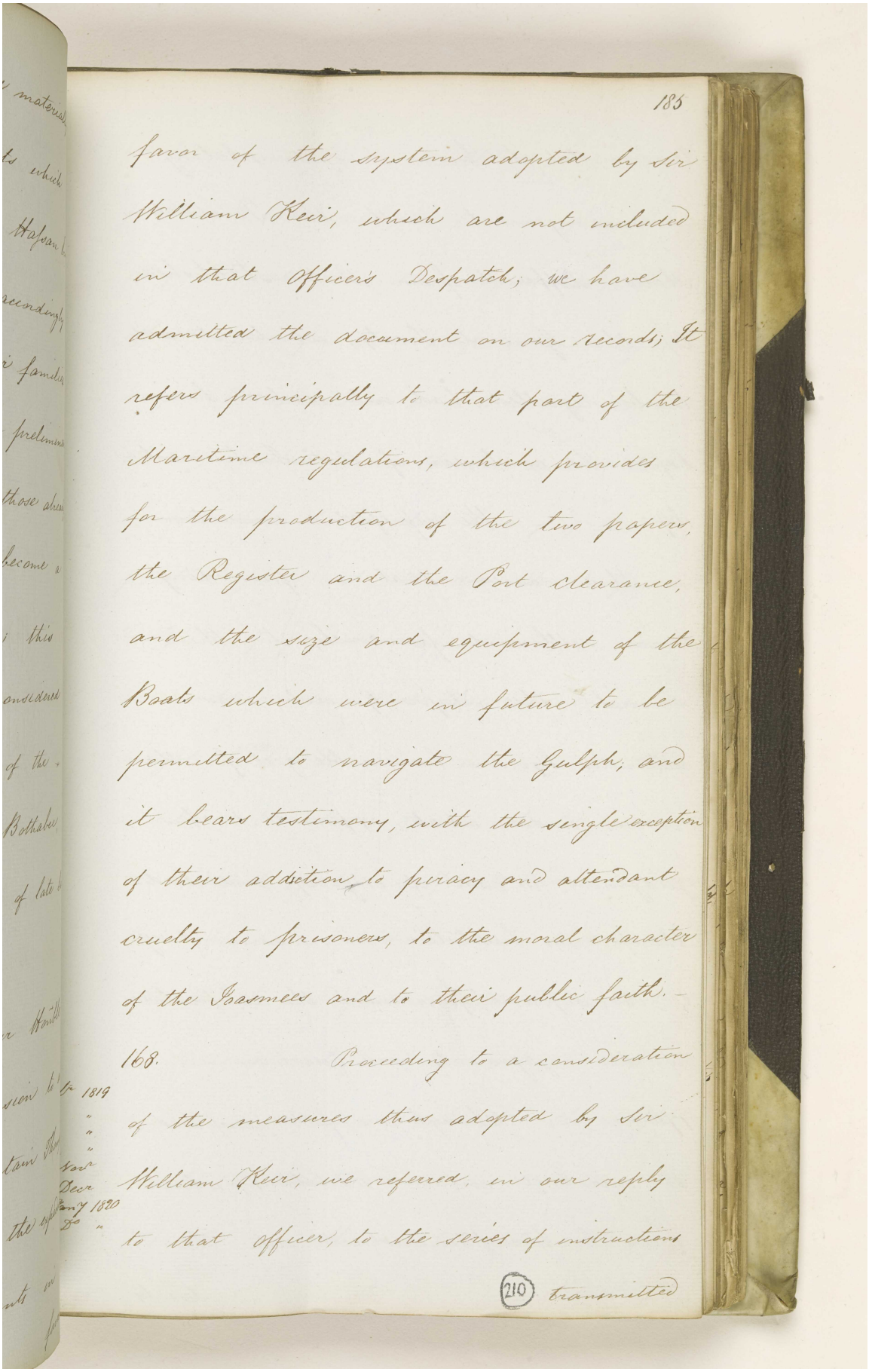

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favor of the system adopted by Sir William Keir, which are not included in that Officer's Despatch, we have admitted the document on our Records; It refers principally to that part of the Maritime regulations, which provides for the production of the two papers, the Register and the Port clearance, and the size and equipment of the Boats which were in future to be permitted to navigate the Gulph, and it bears testimony, with the single exception of their addiction to piracy and attendant cruelty to prisoners, to the moral character of the Joasmees and to their public faith.—

168. Proceeding to a consideration of the measures thus adopted by Sir William Keir, we referred, in our reply to that officer, to the series of instructions

(210) transmitted

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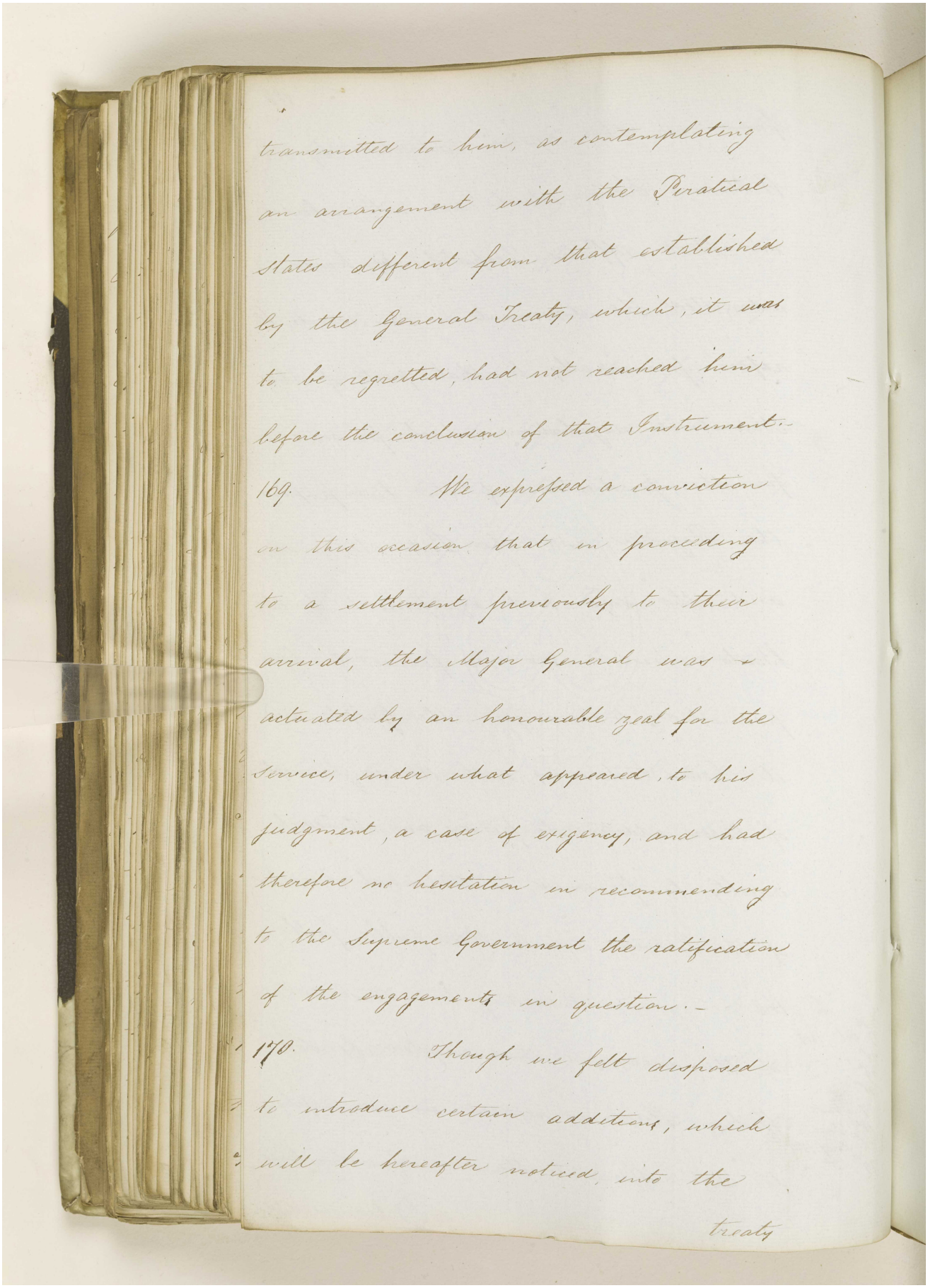

transmitted to him, as contemplating an arrangement with the Piratical States different from that established by the General Treaty, which, it was to be regretted, had not reached him before the conclusion of that Instrument.-

169. We expressed a conviction on this occasion that in proceeding to a settlement previously to their arrival, the Major General was actuated by an honourable zeal for the Service, under what appeared, to his judgment, a case of exigency, and had therefore no hesitation in recommending to the Supreme Government the ratification of the engagements in question.-

170. Though we felt disposed to introduce certain additions, which will be hereafter noticed, into the

treaty

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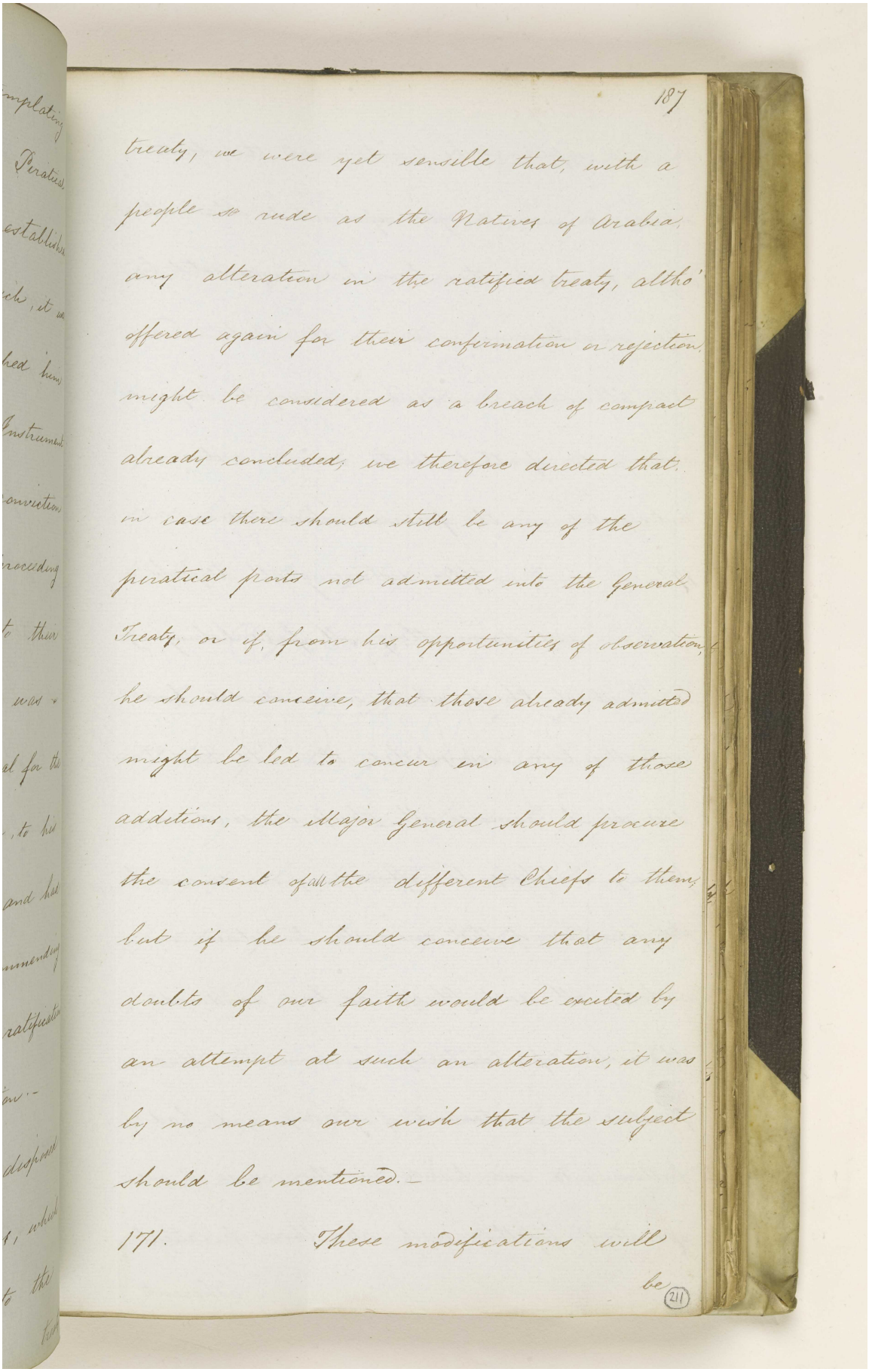

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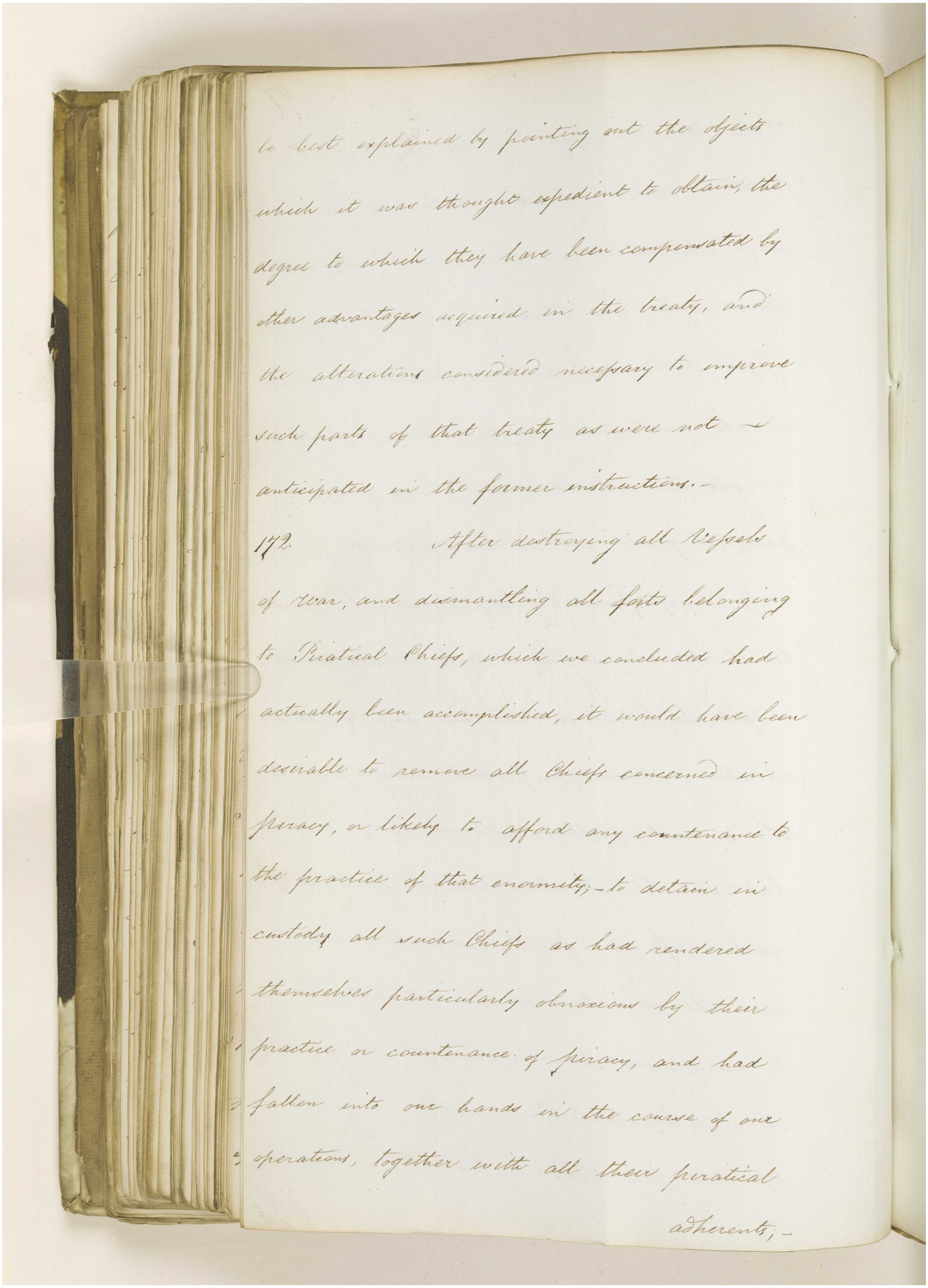
treaty, we were yet sensible that, with a people so rude as the Natives of Arabia, any alteration in the ratified treaty, altho' offered again for their confirmation or rejection, might be considered as a breach of compact already concluded, we therefore directed that, in case there should still be any of the piratical ports not admitted into the General Treaty, or if, from his opportunities of observation, he should conceive, that those already admitted might be led to concur in any of those additions, the Major General should procure the consent of all the different Chiefs to them; but if he should conceive that any doubts of our faith would be excited by an attempt at such an alteration, it was by no means our wish that the subject should be mentioned.—

171. These modifications will be

(211)



to best explained by pointing out the objects which it was thought expedient to obtain, the degree to which they have been compensated by other advantages acquired in the treaty, and the alterations considered necessary to improve such parts of that treaty as were not anticipated in the former instructions.-

172. After destroying all Vessels of War, and dismantling all forts belonging to Piratical Chiefs, which we concluded had actually been accomplished, it would have been desirable to remove all Chiefs concerned in piracy, or likely to afford any countenance to the practice of that enormity;- to detain in custody all such Chiefs as had rendered themselves particularly obnoxious by their practice or countenance of piracy, and had fallen into our hands in the course of our operations, together with all their piratical

adherents;-

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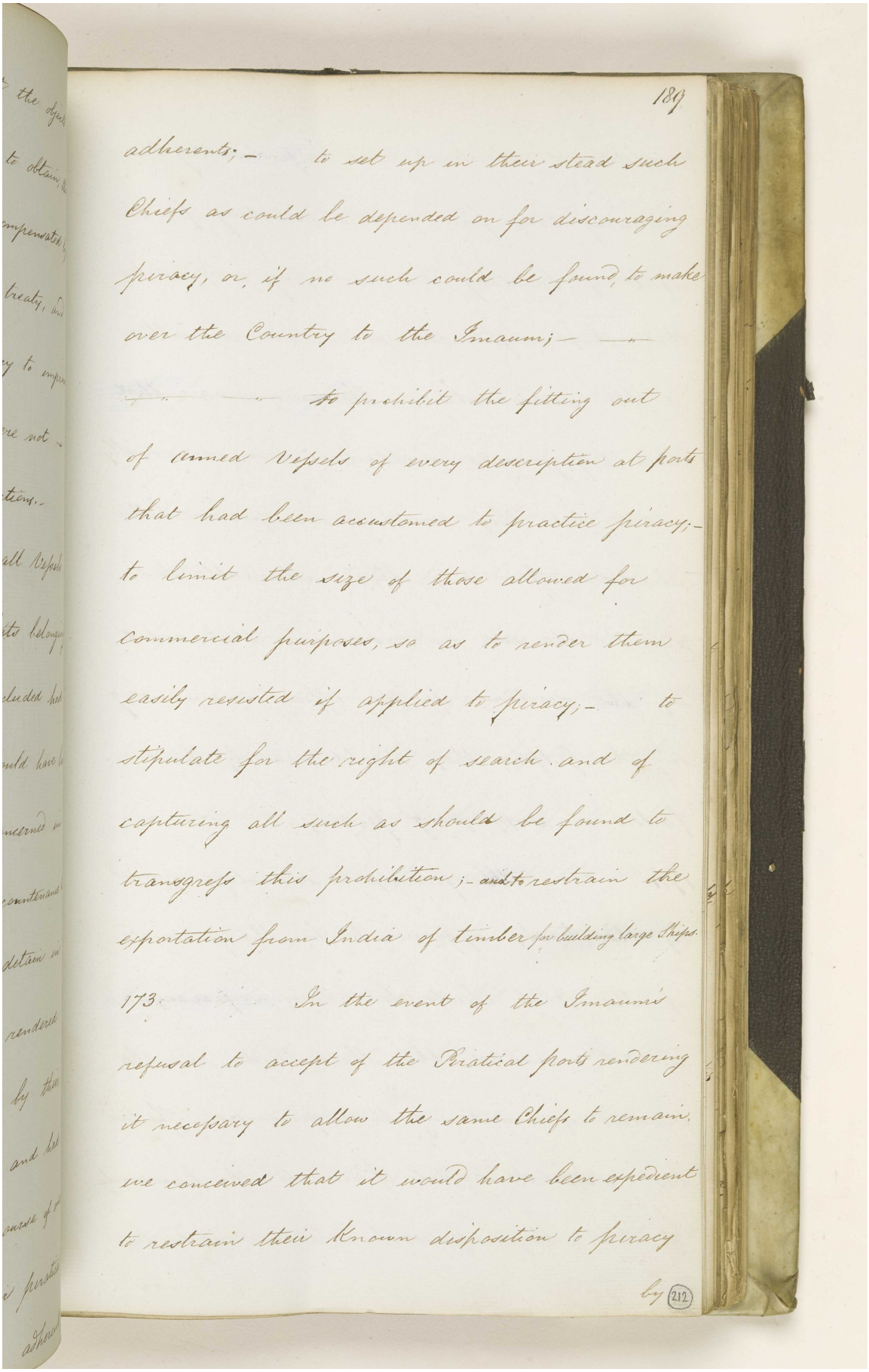

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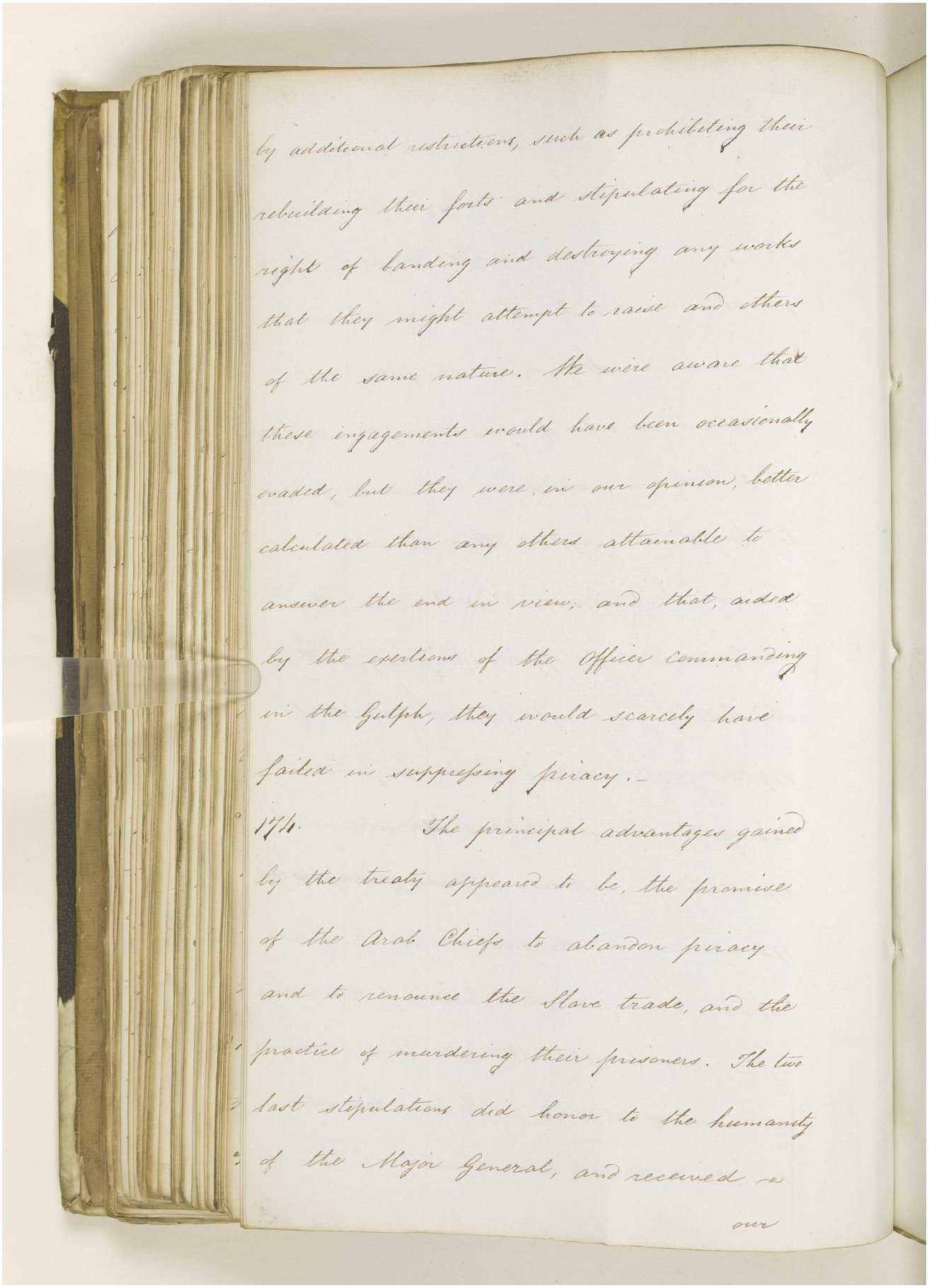
adherents;— to set up in their stead such Chiefs as could be depended on for discouraging piracy, or, if no such could be found, to make over the Country to the Imaum;— —

— — to prohibit the fitting out of armed Vessels of every description at ports that had been accustomed to practice piracy;— to limit the size of those allowed for Commercial purposes, so as to render them easily resisted if applied to piracy;— to stipulate for the right of search and of capturing all such as should be found to transgress this prohibition;— and to restrain the exportation from India of timber for building large Ships.

173. In the event of the Imaum's refusal to accept of the Piratical ports rendering it necessary to allow the same Chiefs to remain, we conceived that it would have been expedient to restrain their known disposition to piracy

by (212)



by additional restrictions, such as prohibiting their rebuilding their forts and stipulating for the right of landing and destroying any works that they might attempt to raise and others of the same nature. We were aware that these engagements would have been occasionally evaded, but they were, in our opinion, better calculated than any others attainable to answer the end in view, and that, aided by the exertions of the Officer Commanding in the Gulph, they would scarcely have failed in suppressing piracy.—

1806. The principal advantages gained by the treaty appeared to be, the promise of the Arab Chiefs to abandon piracy and to renounce the Slave trade, and the practice of murdering their prisoners. The two last stipulations did honor to the humanity of the Major General, and received the

our

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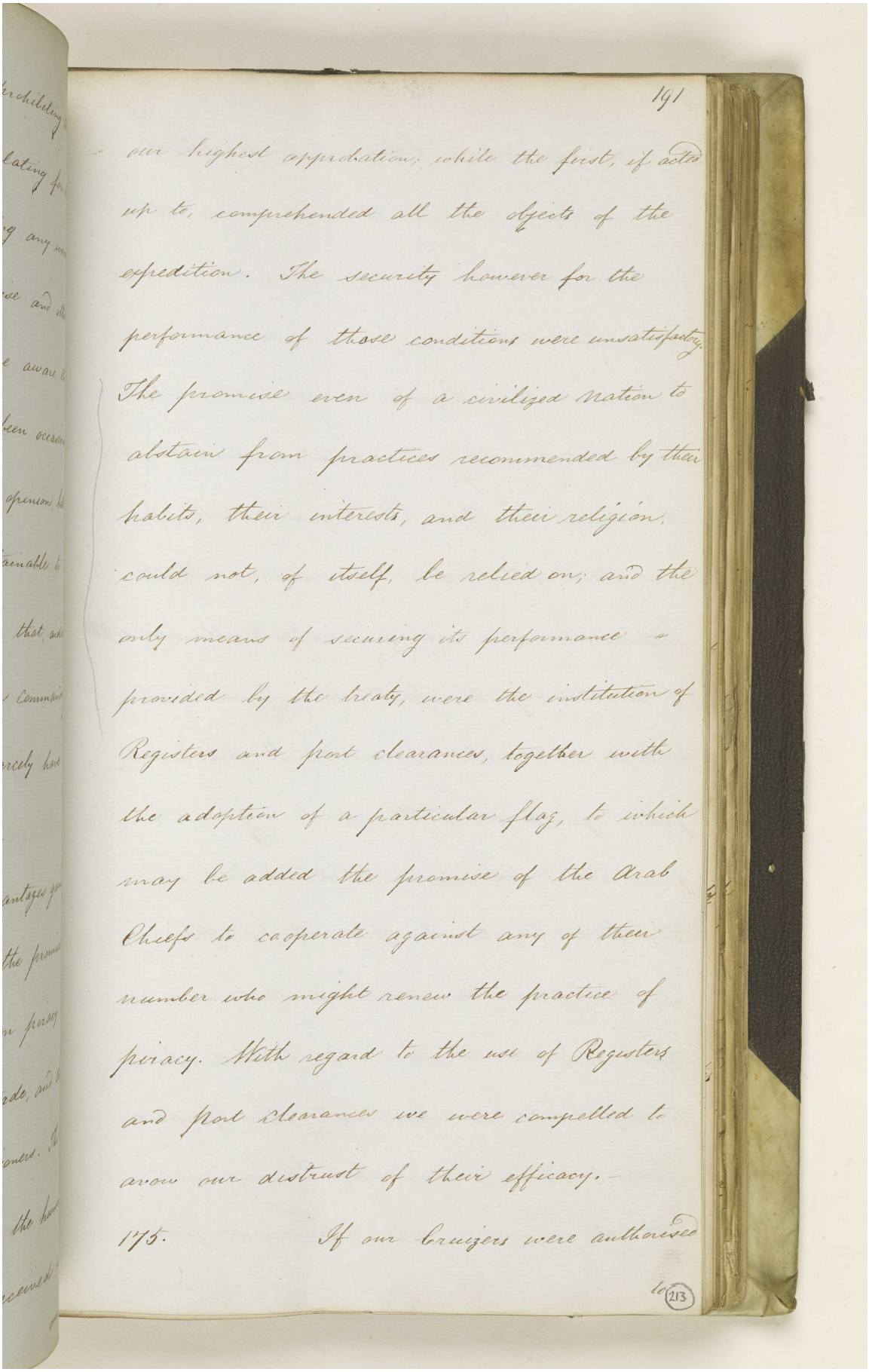

191

our highest approbation, while the first, if acted up to, comprehended all the objects of the expedition. The security however for the performance of those conditions were unsatisfactory. The promise even of a civilized nation to abstain from practices recommended by their habits, their interests, and their religion, could not, of itself, be relied on, and the only means of securing its performance provided by the treaty, were the institution of Registers and port clearances, together with the adoption of a particular flag, to which may be added the promise of the Arab Chiefs to cooperate against any of their number who might renew the practice of piracy. With regard to the use of Registers and port clearances we were compelled to avow our distrust of their efficacy.

175. If our Cruizers were authorised

to

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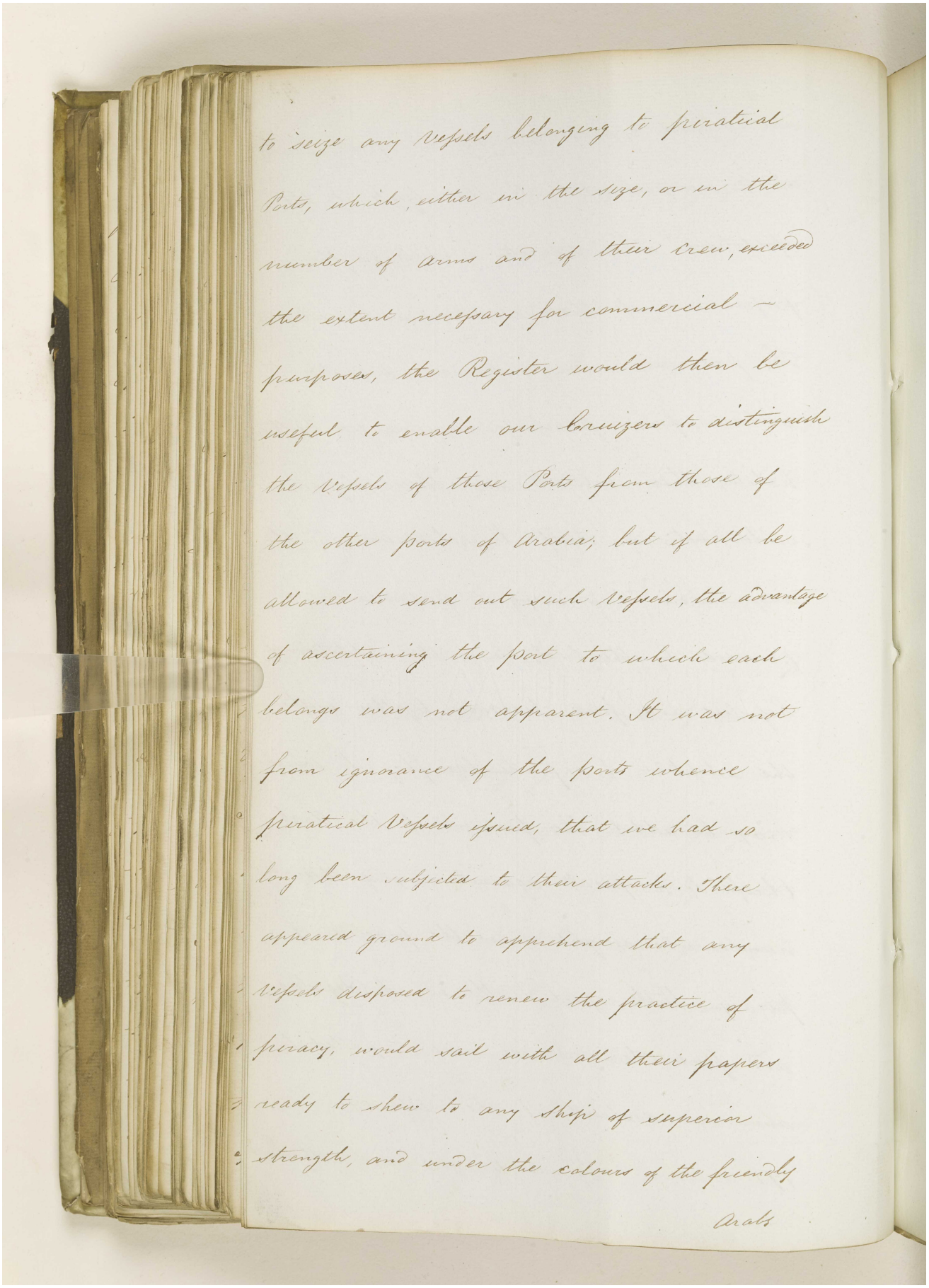

to seize any Vessels belonging to piratical
Ports, which, either in the size, or in the
number of arms and of their Crew, exceeded
the extent necessary for commercial
purposes, the Register would then be
useful to enable our Cruizers to distinguish
the Vessels of those Ports from those of
the other ports of Arabia; but if all be
allowed to send out such Vessels, the advantage
of ascertaining the port to which each
belongs was not apparent. It was not
from ignorance of the ports whence
piratical Vessels issued, that we had so
long been subjected to their attacks. There
appeared ground to apprehend that any
Vessels disposed to renew the practice of
piracy, would sail with all their papers
ready to shew to any Ship of superior
strength, and under the colours of the friendly
Arabs

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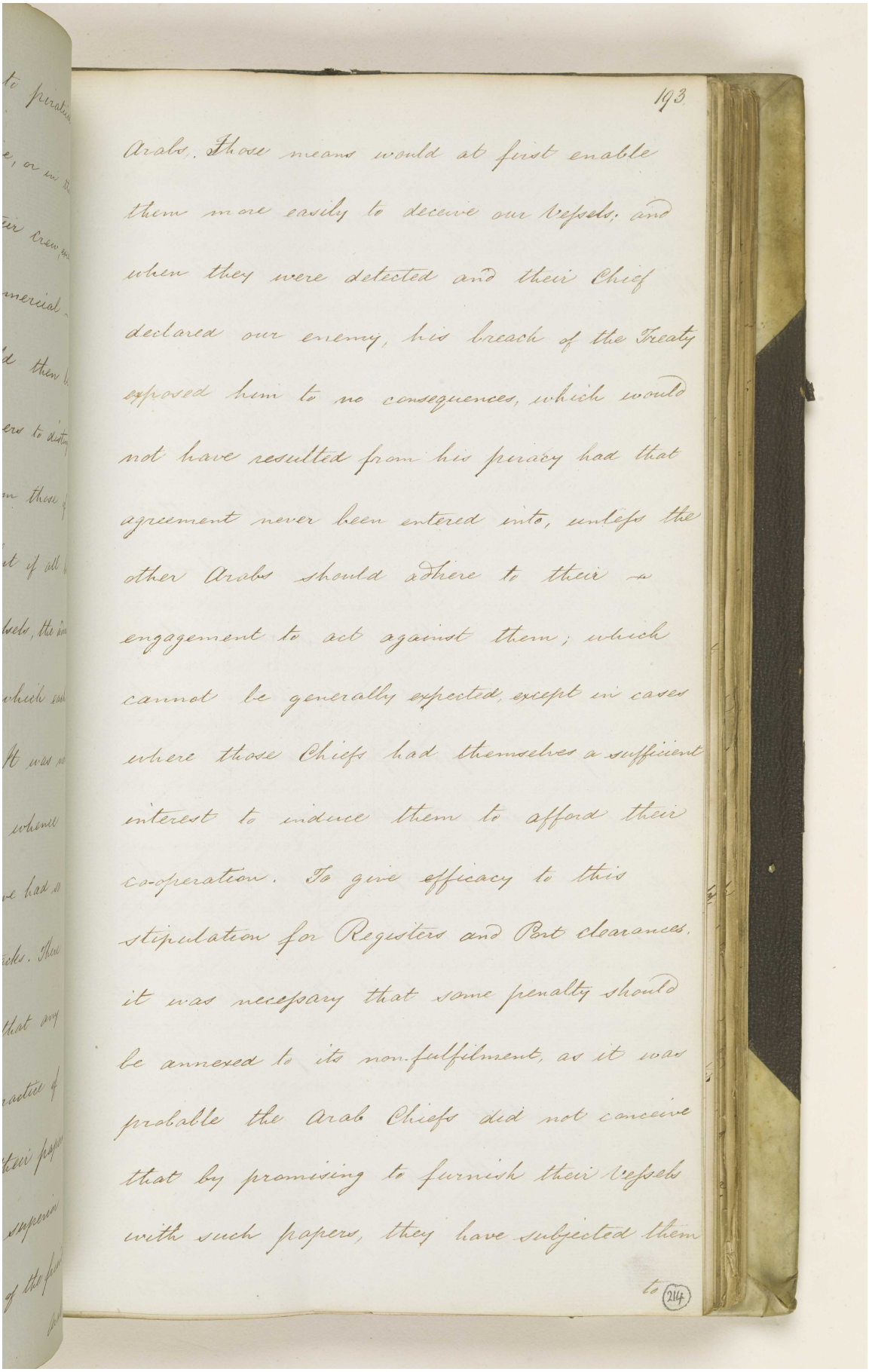

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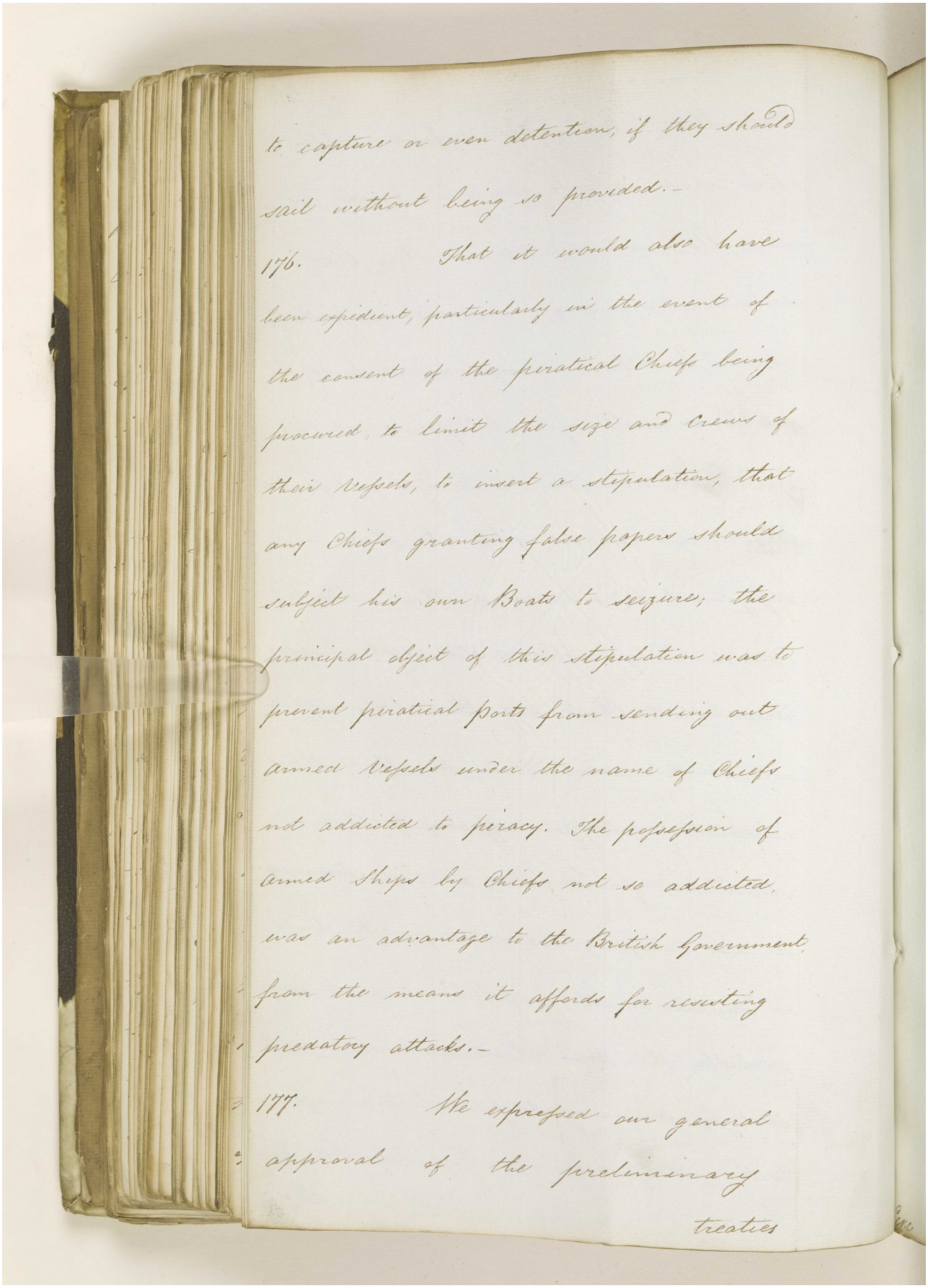
Arabs. Those means would at first enable them more easily to deceive our Vessels, and when they were detected and their Chief declared our enemy, his breach of the Treaty exposed him to no consequences, which would not have resulted from his piracy had that agreement never been entered into, unless the other Arabs should adhere to their engagement to act against them; which cannot be generally expected, except in cases where those Chiefs had themselves a sufficient interest to induce them to afford their co-operation. To give efficacy to this stipulation for Registers and Port clearances, it was necessary that some penalty should be annexed to its non-fulfilment, as it was probable the Arab Chiefs did not conceive that by promising to furnish their Vessels with such papers, they have subjected them

to (214)



to capture or even detention, if they should sail without being so provided.-

176. That it would also have been expedient, particularly in the event of the consent of the piratical Chiefs being procured, to limit the size and Crews of their Vessels, to insert a Stipulation, that any Chiefs granting false papers should subject his own Boats to seizure; the principal object of this Stipulation was to prevent piratical Ports from sending out armed Vessels under the name of Chiefs not addicted to piracy. The possession of armed Ships by Chiefs not so addicted, was an advantage to the British Government, from the means it affords for resisting predatory attacks.-

177. We expressed our general approval of the preliminary

treaties

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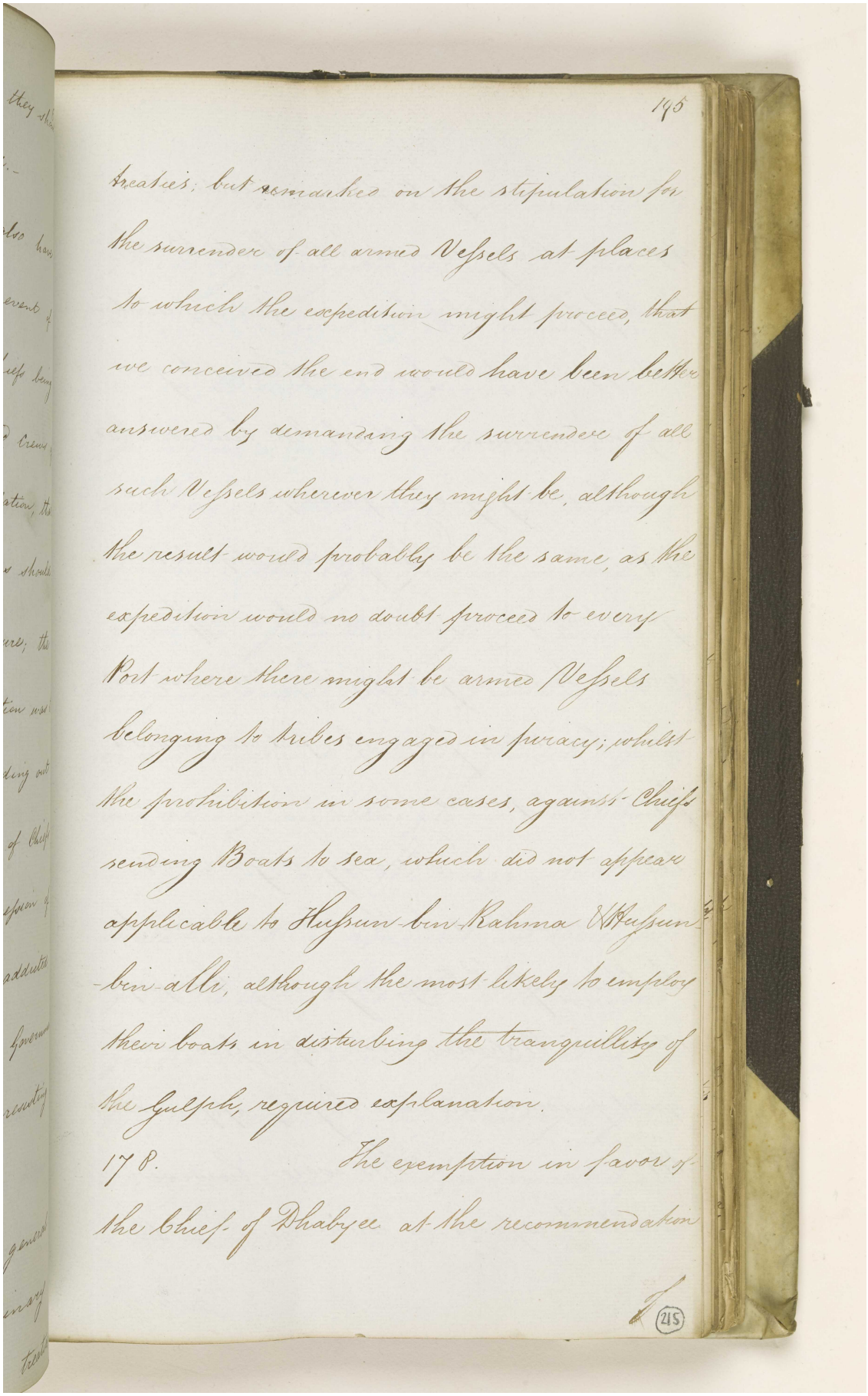
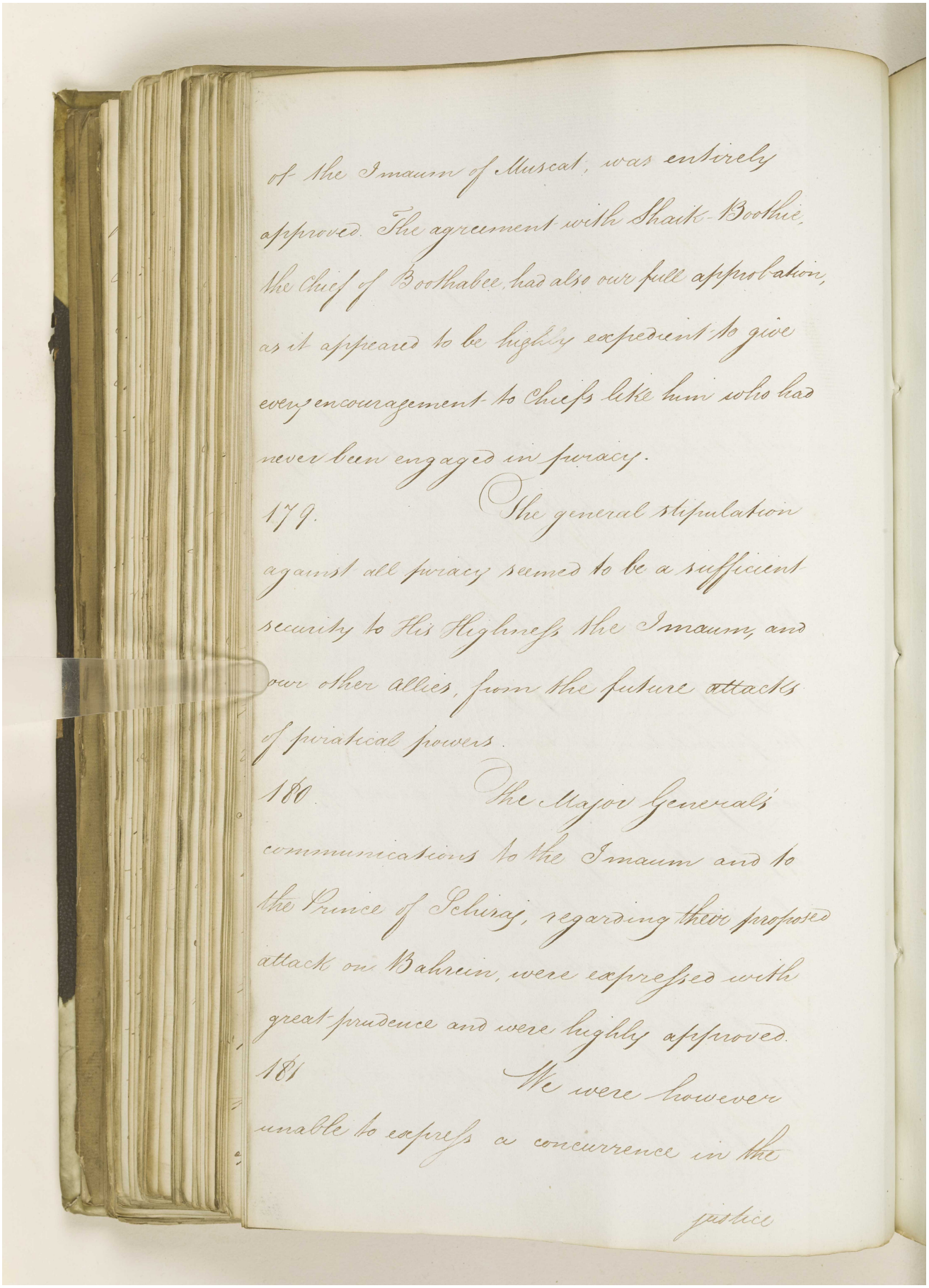


195

treaties; but remarkes on the stipulation for the surrender of all armed Vessels at places to which the expedition might proceed, that we conceived the end would have been better answered by demanding the surrendere of all such Vessels wherever they might be, although the result would probably be the same, as the expedition would no doubt proceed to every Port where there might be armed Vessels belonging to tribes engaged in piracy; whilst the prohibition in some cases, against Chiefs sending Boats to sea, which did not appear applicable to Hussun bin Rahma & Hussun bin Alli, although the most likely to employ their boats in disturbing the tranquillity of the Gulph, required explanation.

178. The exemption in favor of the Chief of Dhabyee at the recommendation

215



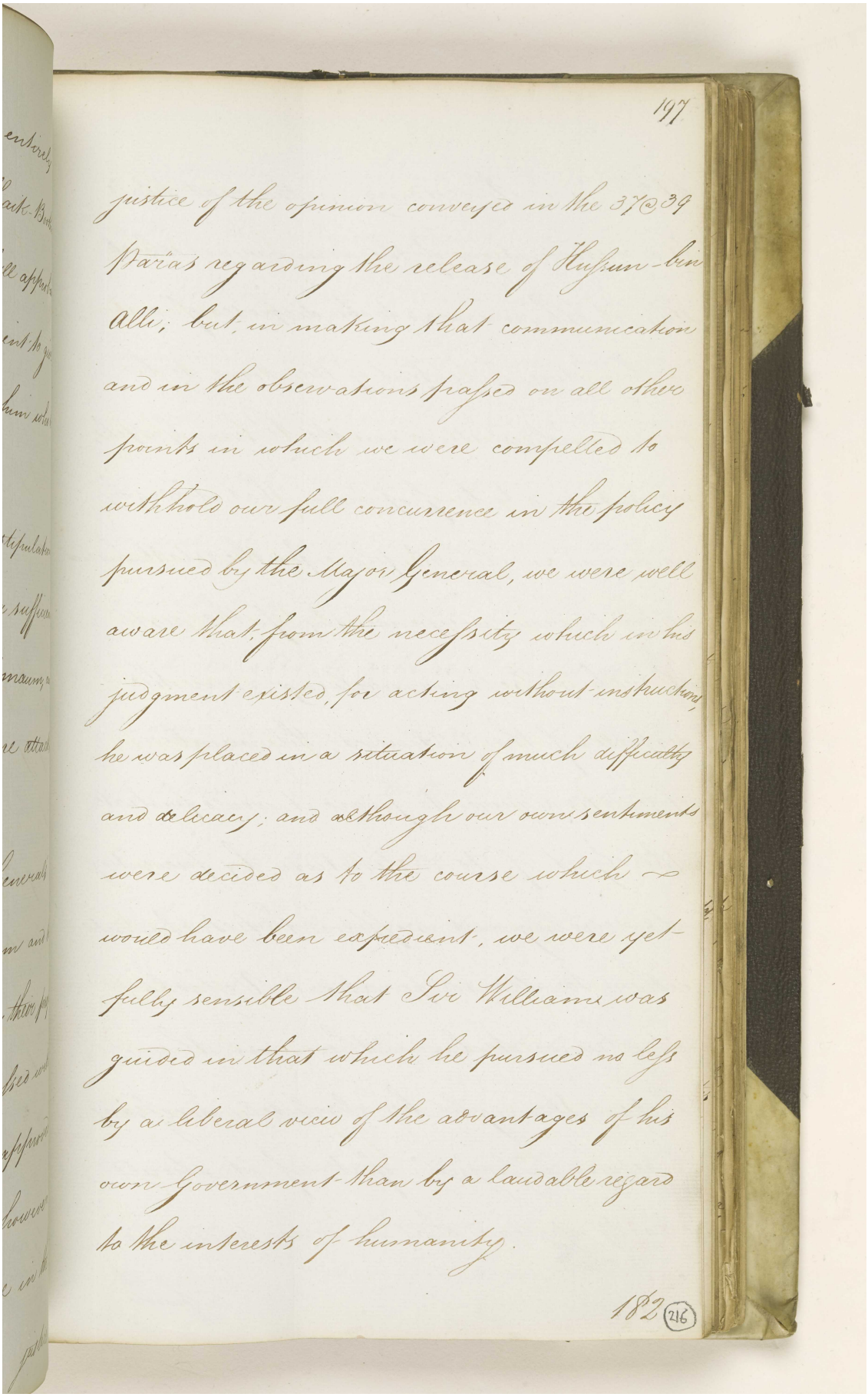
of the Imaum of Muscat, was entirely approved. The agreement with Shaik-Boothie, the Chief of Boothabee, had also our full approbation, as it appeared to be highly expedient to give every encouragement to Chiefs like him who had never been engaged in piracy.

179. The general stipulation against all piracy seemed to be a sufficient security to His Highness the Imaum, and our other allies, from the future attacks of piratical powers.

180. The Major General's communications to the Imaum and to the Prince of Schiraz, regarding their proposed attack on Bahrein, were expressed with great prudence and were highly approved.

181 We were however unable to express a concurrence in the

justice



197

justice of the opinion conveyed in the 37 & 39
Paras regarding the release of Hussun-bin
Alli; but, in making that communication
and in the observations passed on all other
points in which we were compelled to
withhold our full concurrence in the policy
pursued by the Major General, we were well
aware that, from the necessity which in his
judgment existed, for acting without instruction,
he was placed in a situation of much difficulty
and delicacy; and although our own sentiments
were decided as to the course which
would have been expedient, we were yet
fully sensible that Sir Williams was
guided in that which he pursued no less
by a liberal view of the advantages of his
own Government than by a laudable regard
to the interests of humanity.

182 (216)

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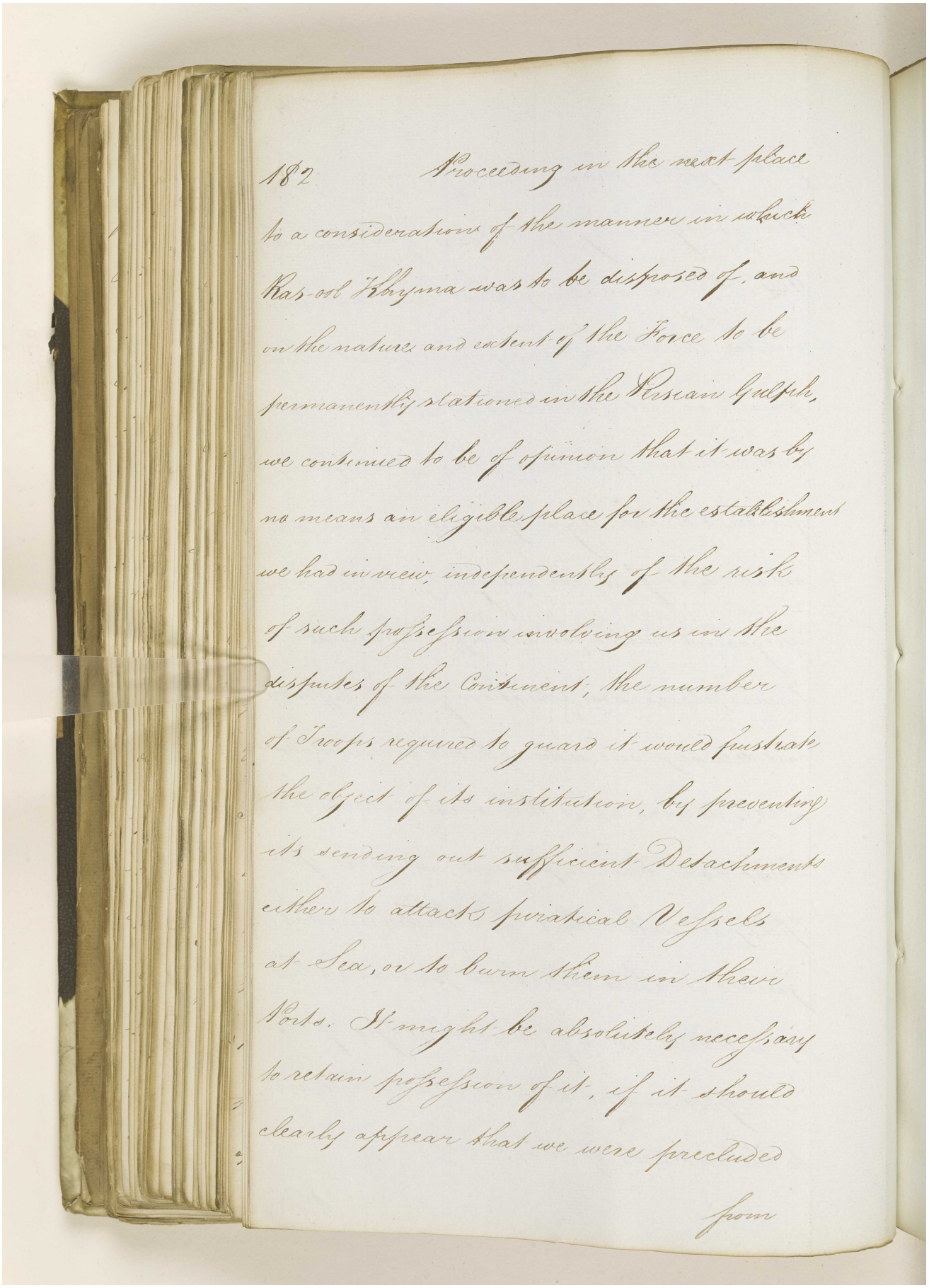

182 Proceeding in the next place
to a consideration of the manner in which
Ras-ool Khyma was to be disposed of, and
on the nature and extent of the Force to be
permanently stationed in the Persian Gulph,
we continued to be of opinion that it was by
no means an eligible place for the establishment
we had in view, independently of the risk
of such possession involving us in the
disputes of the Continent; the number
of Troops required to guard it would frustrate
the Object of its institution, by preventing
its sending out sufficient Detachments
either to attacks piratical Vessels
at Sea, or to burn them in their
Ports. It might be absolutely necessary
to retain possession of it, if it should
clearly appear that we were precluded
from

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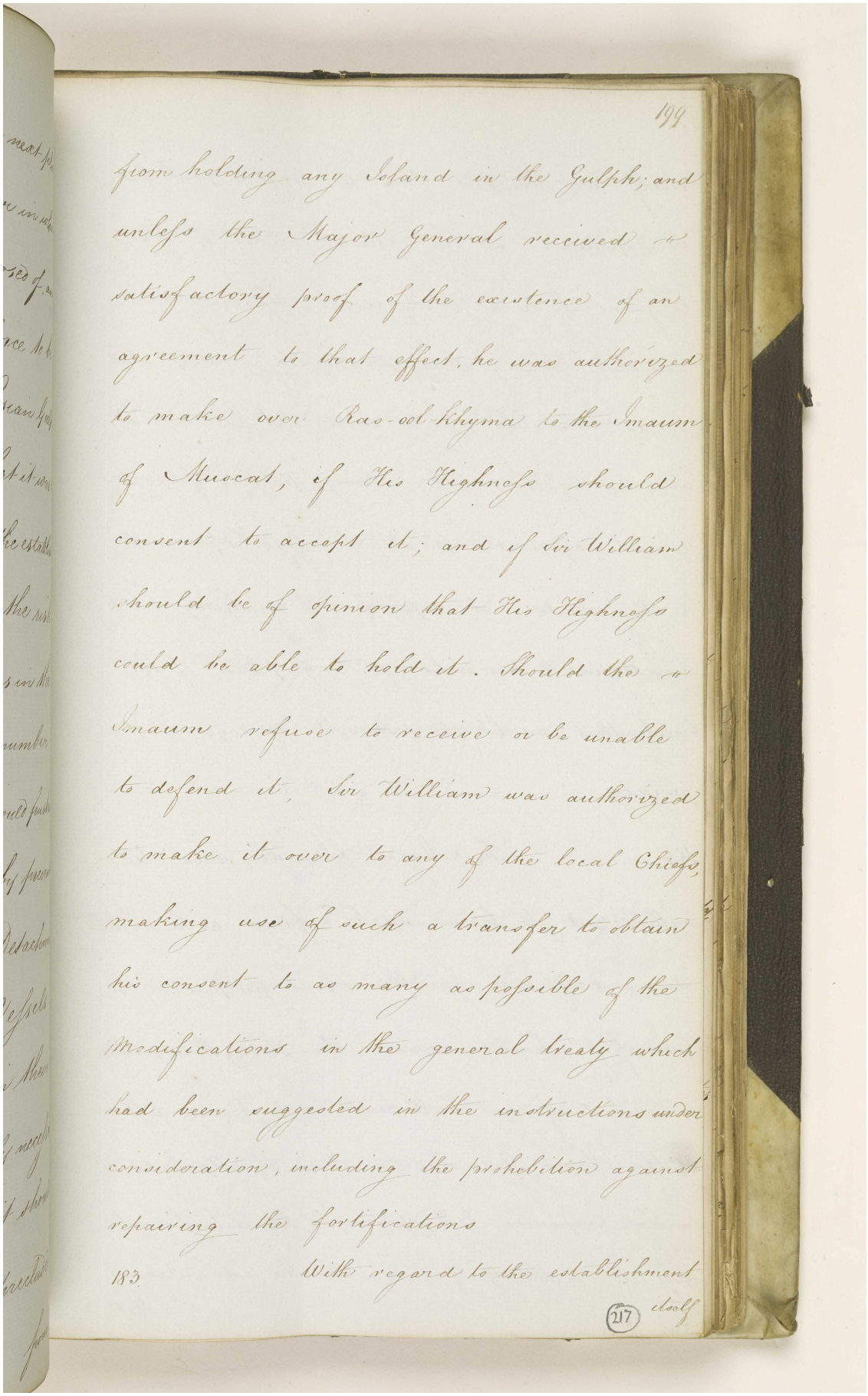

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from holding any Island in the Gulph; and unless the Major General received a satisfactory proof of the existence of an agreement to that effect, he was authorized to make over Ras-ool-khyma to the Imaum of Muscat, if His Highness should consent to accept it; and if Sir William should be of opinion that His Highness could be able to hold it. Should the Imaum refuse to receive or be unable to defend it, Sir William was authorized to make it over to any of the local Chiefs, making use of such a transfer to obtain his consent to as many as possible of the Modifications in the general treaty which had been suggested in the instructions under consideration, including the prohibition against repairing the fortifications

183 With regard to the establishment itself

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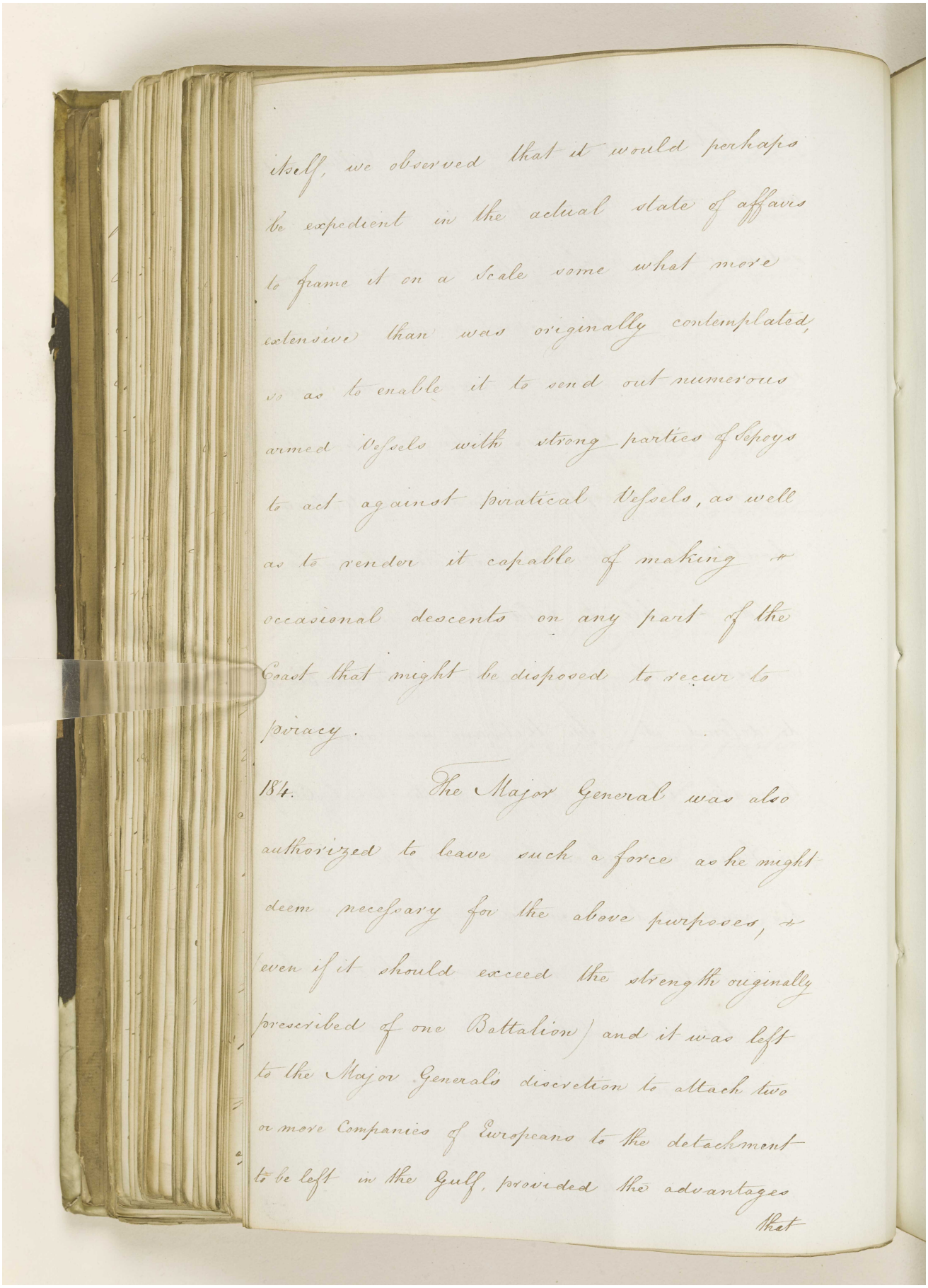

itself, we observed that it would perhaps be expedient in the actual state of affairs to frame it on a scale some what more extensive than was originally contemplated, so as to enable it to send out numerous armed Vessels with strong parties of Sepoys to act against piratical Vessels, as well as to render it capable of making occasional descents on any part of the Coast that might be disposed to recur to piracy.

184. The Major General was also authorized to leave such a force as he might deem necessary for the above purposes, even if it should exceed the strength originally prescribed of one Battalion) and it was left to the Major Generals discretion to attach two or more Companies of Europeans to the detachment to be left in the Gulf, provided the advantages

that

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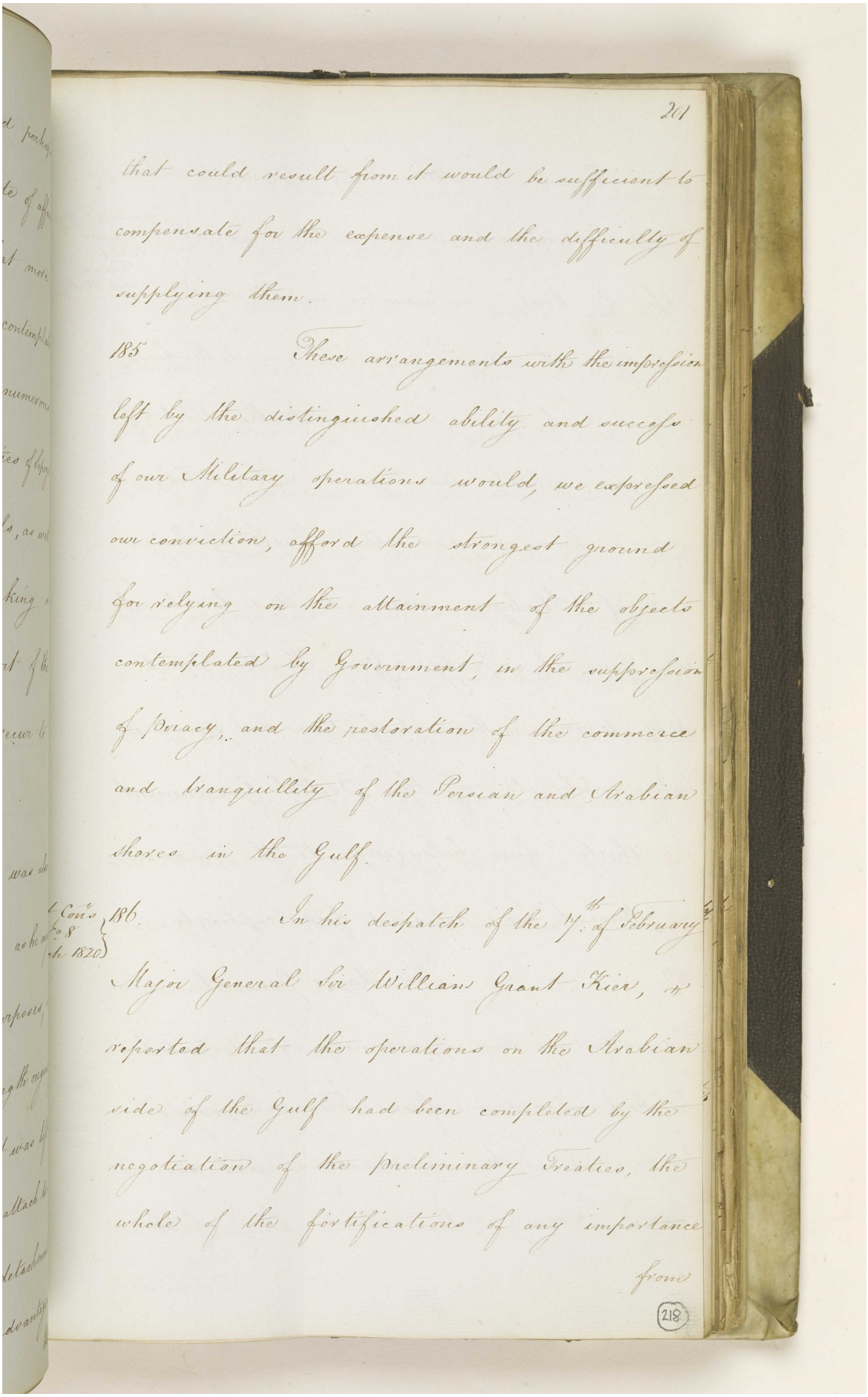

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that could result from it would be sufficient to compensate for the expense and the difficulty of supplying them.

185 These arrangements with the impression left by the distinguished ability and success of our Military operations would, we expressed our conviction, afford the strongest ground for relying on the attainment of the objects contemplated by Government, in the suppression of piracy, and the restoration of the commerce and tranquillity of the Persian and Arabian shores in the Gulf.

Con's No 8 ch 1820

186. In his despatch of the 7th of February Major General Sir William Grant Kier, reported that the operations on the Arabian side of the Gulf had been completed by the negotiation of the preliminary Treaties, the whole of the fortifications of any importance from

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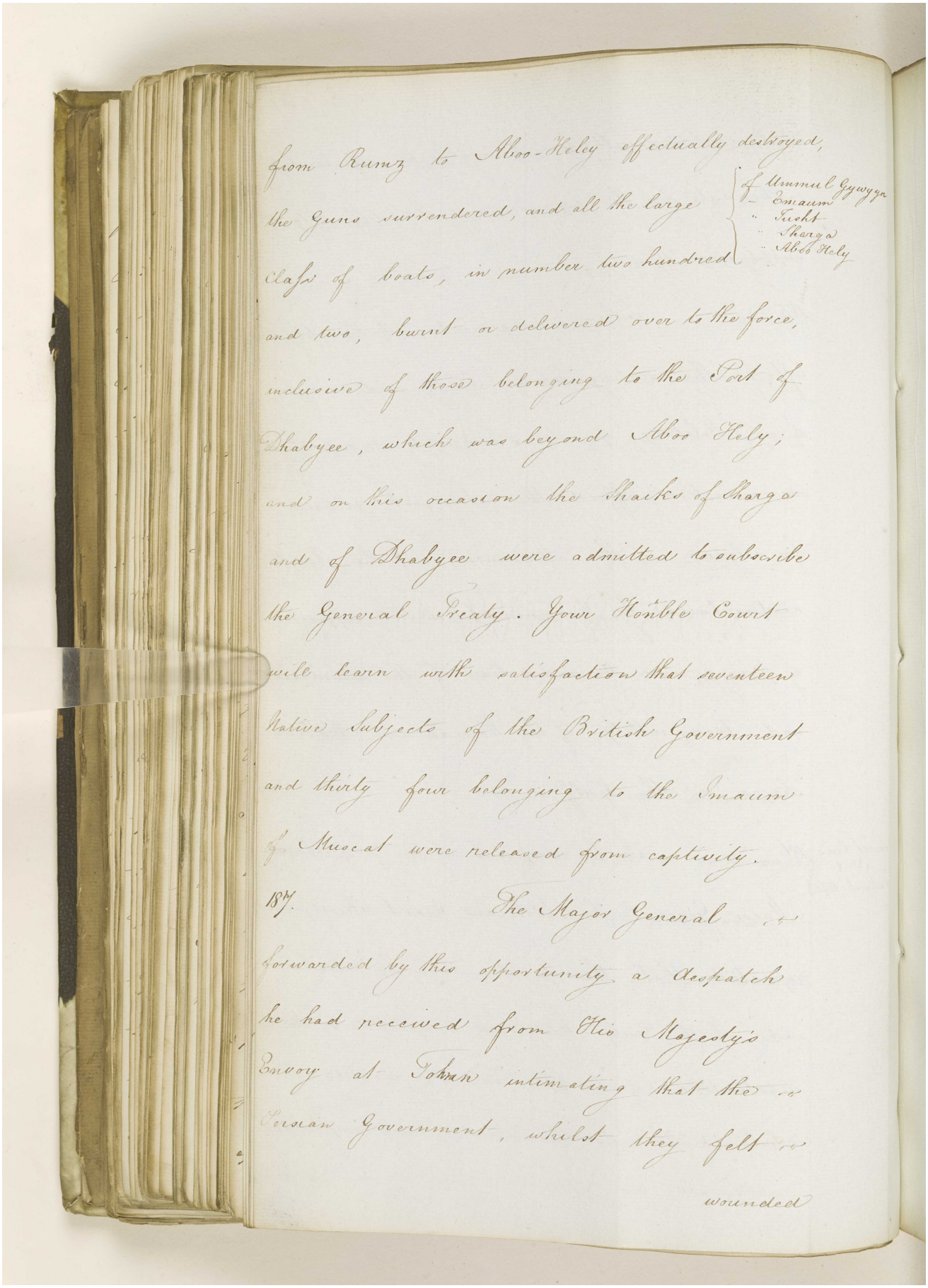

from Rumz to Aboo-Heley effectually destroyed,
the Guns surrendered, and all the large
class of boats, in number two hundred
of Ummul Gywyza
" Emaum
" Tusht
" Shanga
" Aboo Hely
and two, burnt or delivered over to the force,
inclusive of those belonging to the Port of
Dhabyee, which was beyond Aboo Hely;
and on this occasion the Shaiks of Shanga
and of Dhabyee were admitted to subscribe
the General Treaty. Your Honble Court
will learn with satisfaction that seventeen
Native Subjects of the British Government
and thirty four belonging to the Imaum
of Muscat were released from captivity.
187. The Major General
forwarded by this opportunity a despatch
he had received from His Majesty's
Envoy at Tehran intimating that the
Persian Government, whilst they felt
wounded

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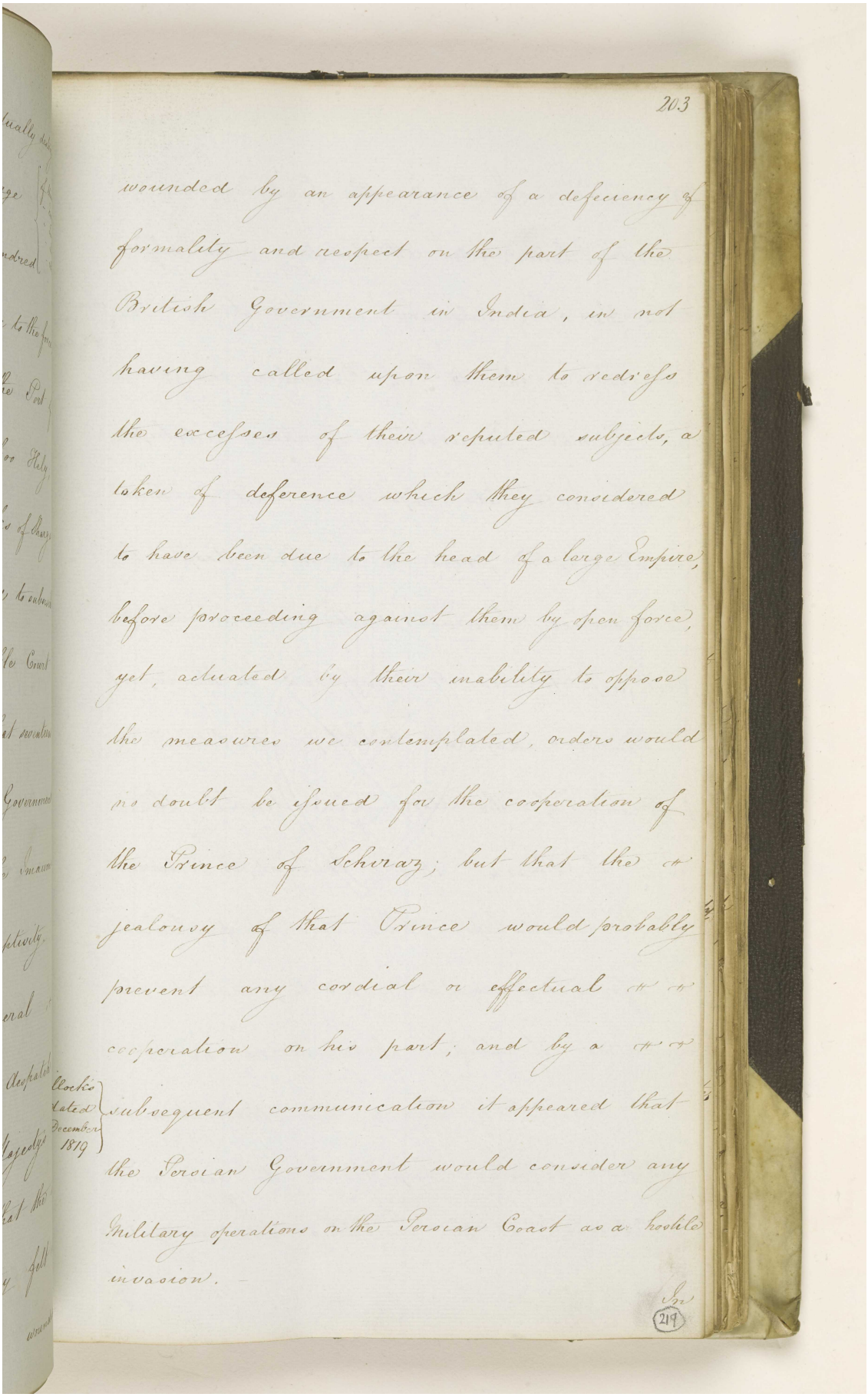

wounded by an appearance of a deficiency of formality and respect on the part of the British Government in India, in not having called upon them to redress the excesses of their reputed subjects, a token of deference which they considered to have been due to the head of a large Empire, before proceeding against them by open force, yet, actuated by their inability to oppose the measures we contemplated, orders would no doubt be issued for the cooperation of the Prince of Schiraz; but that the " jealousy of that Prince would probably prevent any cordial or effectual " " cooperation on his part; and by a " " subsequent communication it appeared that the Persian Government would consider any Military operations on the Persian Coast as a hostile invasion.

Clocks dated December 1819

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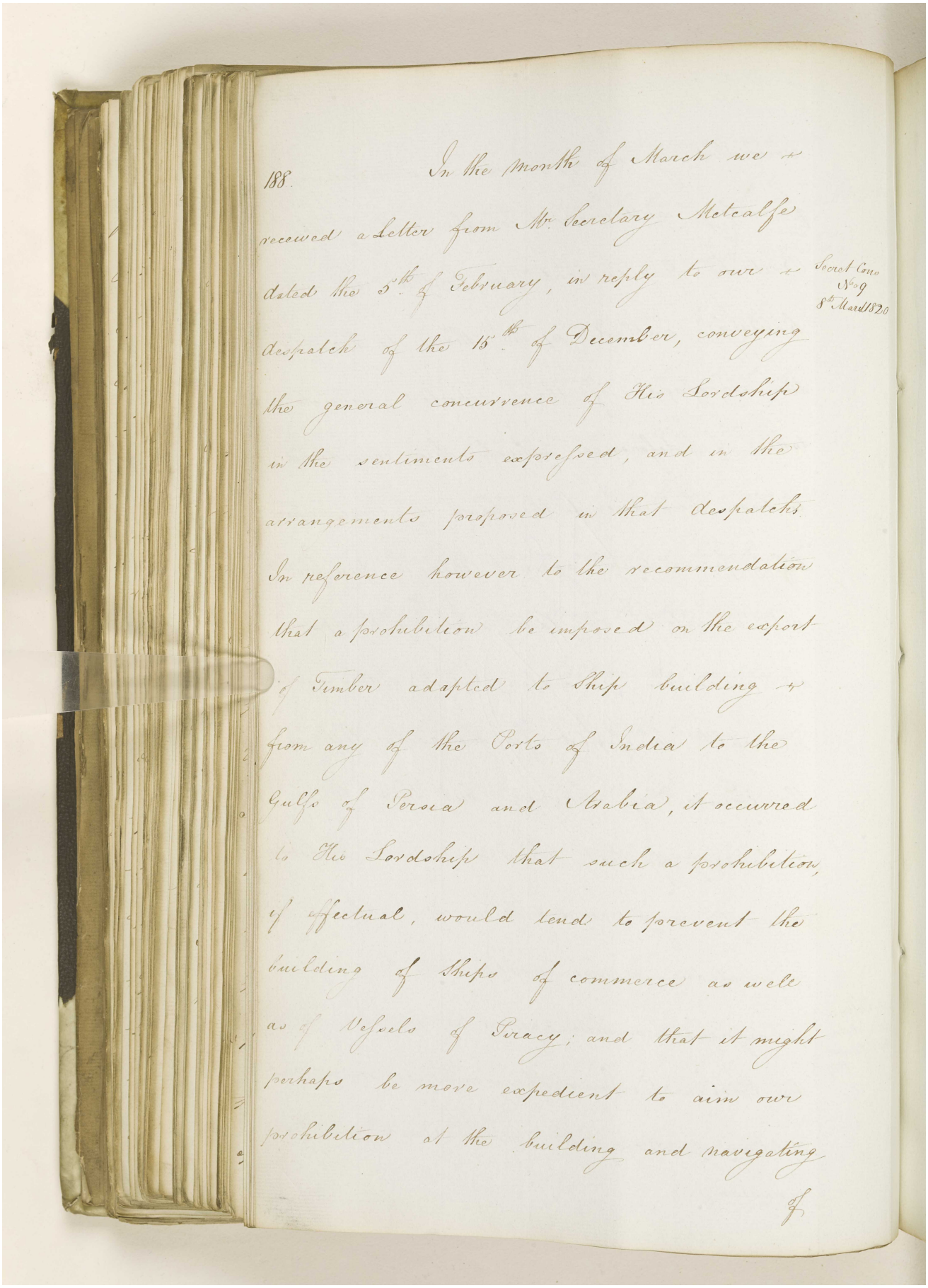
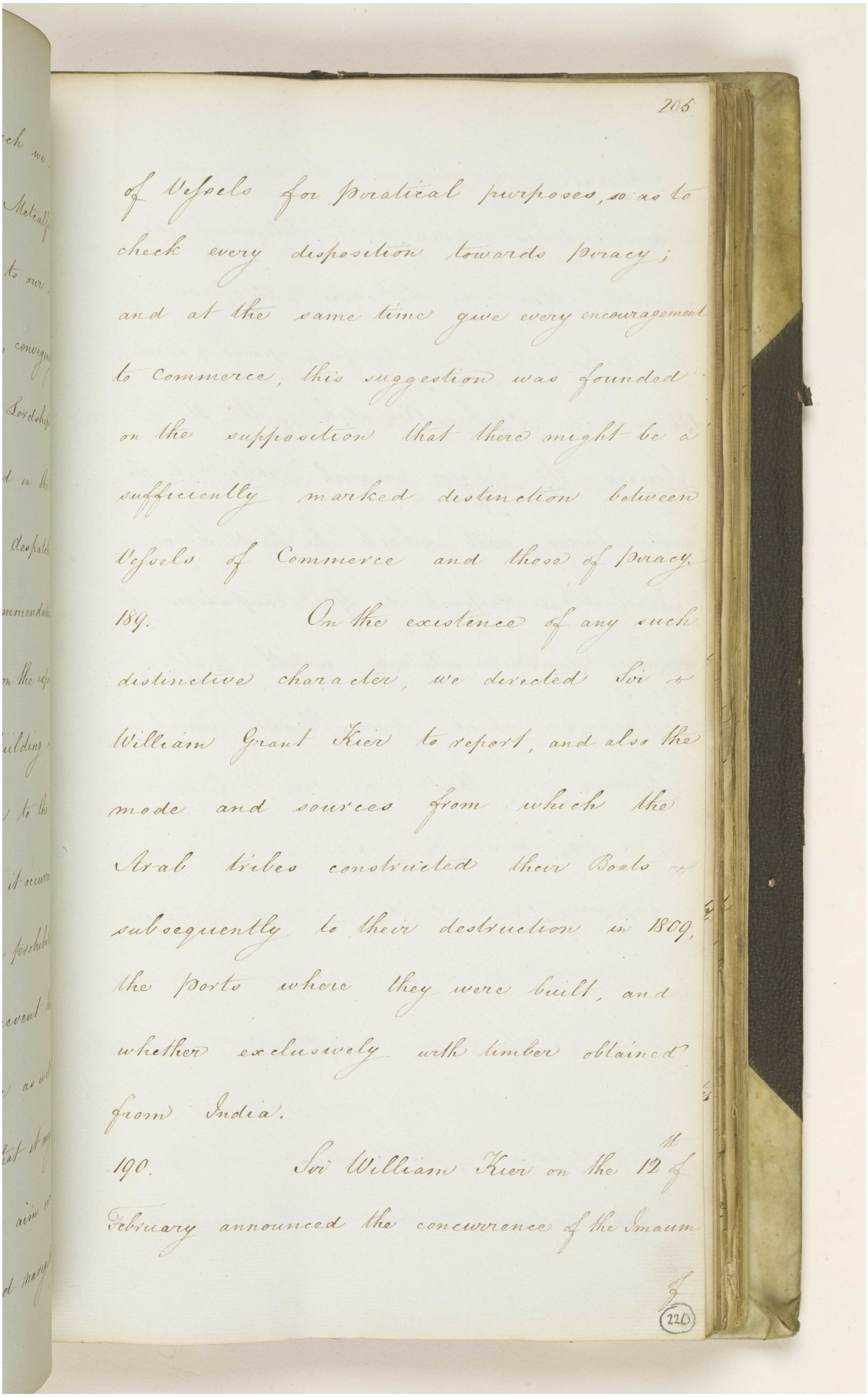


188.

In the month of March we
received a Letter from Mr. Secretary Metcalfe
dated the 5th. of February, in reply to our
despatch of the 15th. of December, conveying
the general concurrence of His Lordship
in the sentiments expressed, and in the
arrangements proposed in that despatch.
In reference however to the recommendation
that a prohibition be imposed on the export
of Timber adapted to Ship building
from any of the Ports of India to the
Gulfs of Persia and Arabia, it occurred
to His Lordship that such a prohibition,
if effectual, would tend to prevent the
building of Ships of commerce as well
as of Vessels of Piracy; and that it might
perhaps be more expedient to aim our
prohibition at the building and navigating

Secret Cons
No 9
8th March 1820

of



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of Vessels for piratical purposes, so as to check every disposition towards piracy; and at the same time give every encouragement to Commerce, this suggestion was founded on the supposition that there might be a sufficiently marked distinction between Vessels of Commerce and those of piracy.

189. On the existence of any such distinctive character, we directed Sir William Grant Keir to report, and also the mode and sources from which the Arab tribes constructed their Boats subsequently to their destruction in 1809, the ports where they were built, and whether exclusively with timber obtained from India.

190. Sir William Keir on the 12th February announced the concurrence of the Imaum

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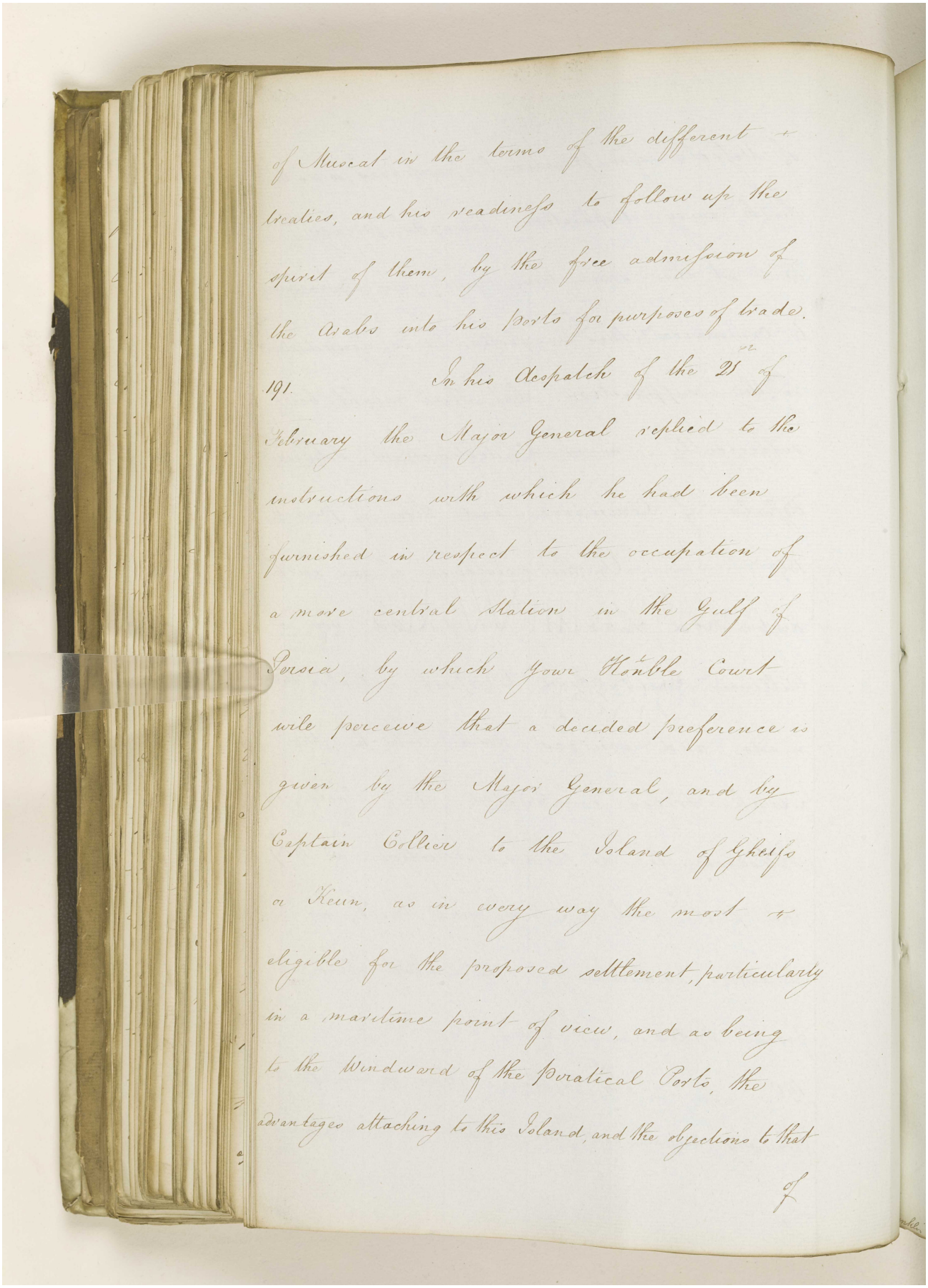

of Muscat in the terms of the different
treaties, and his readiness to follow up the
spirit of them, by the free admission of
the Arabs into his Ports for purposes of trade.
191. In his despatch of the 25th of
February the Major General replied to the
instructions with which he had been
furnished in respect to the occupation of
a more central Station in the Gulf of
Persia, by which your Honble Court
will perceive that a decided preference is
given by the Major General, and by
Captain Collier to the Island of Ghesis
or Keun, as in every way the most
eligible for the proposed settlement, particularly
in a maritime point of view, and as being
to the Windward of the Piratical Ports, the
advantages attaching to this Island, and the objections to that
of

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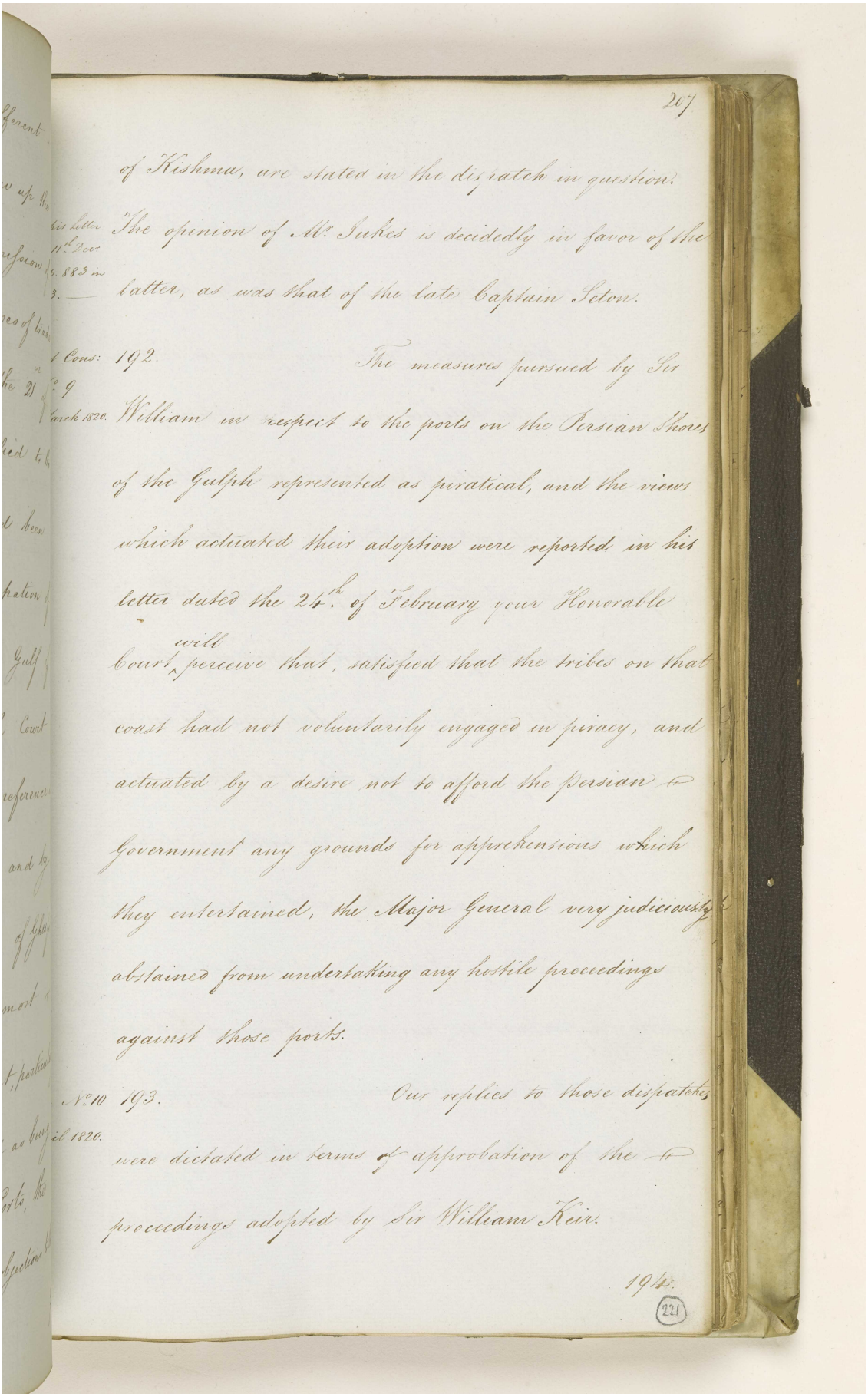

of Kishma, are stated in the dispatch in question.

his Letter 11th Dec. No. 883 in 3.

The opinion of Mr. Sukes is decidedly in favor of the latter, as was that of the late Captain Seton.

4 Cons: 192. 2d Oct. 9 March 1820.

The measures pursued by Sir William in respect to the ports on the Persian Shores of the Gulph represented as piratical, and the views which actuated their adoption were reported in his letter dated the 24th. of February your Honorable Court will perceive that, satisfied that the tribes on that coast had not voluntarily engaged in piracy, and actuated by a desire not to afford the persian Government any grounds for apprehensions which they entertained, the Major General very judiciously abstained from undertaking any hostile proceedings against those ports.

No 10 April 1820. 193.

Our replies to those dispatches were dictated in terms of approbation of the proceedings adopted by Sir William Keir.

194.

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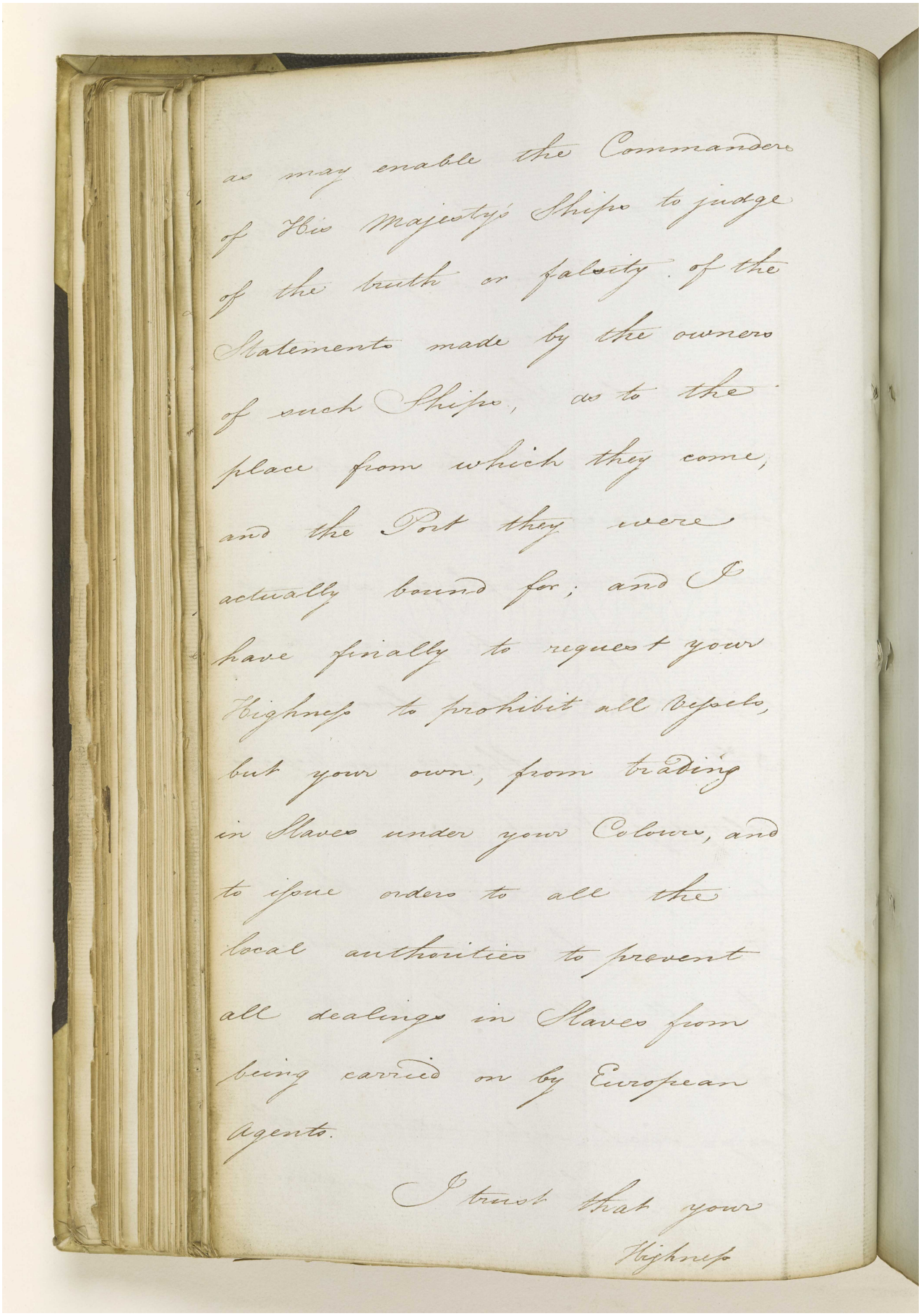
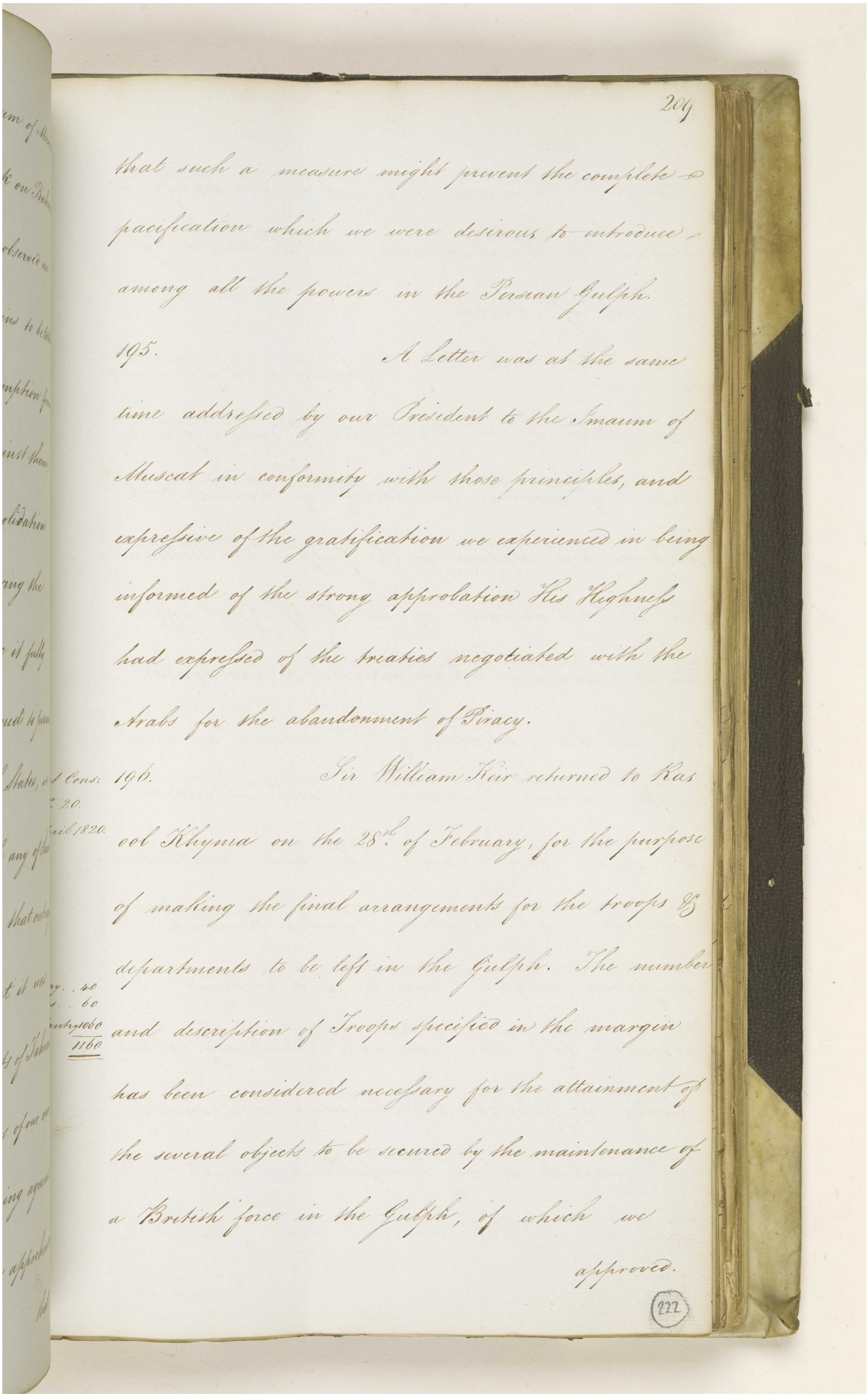


as may enable the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships to judge of the truth or falsity of the Statements made by the owners of such Ships, as to the place from which they come, and the Port they were actually bound for; and I have finally to request your Highness to prohibit all Vessels, but your own, from trading in Slaves under your Colours, and to issue orders to all the local authorities to prevent all dealings in Slaves from being carried on by European Agents.

I trust that your Highness



that such a measure might prevent the completion of pacification which we were desirous to introduce among all the powers in the Persian Gulph.

195. A Letter was at the same time addressed by our President to the Imaum of Muscat in conformity with those principles, and expressive of the gratification we experienced in being informed of the strong approbation His Highness had expressed of the treaties negotiated with the Arabs for the abandonment of Piracy.

196. Sir William Keir returned to Ras ool Khyma on the 28th. of February, for the purpose of making the final arrangements for the troops & departments to be left in the Gulph. The number and description of Troops specified in the margin has been considered necessary for the attainment of the several objects to be secured by the maintenance of a British force in the Gulph, of which we approved.

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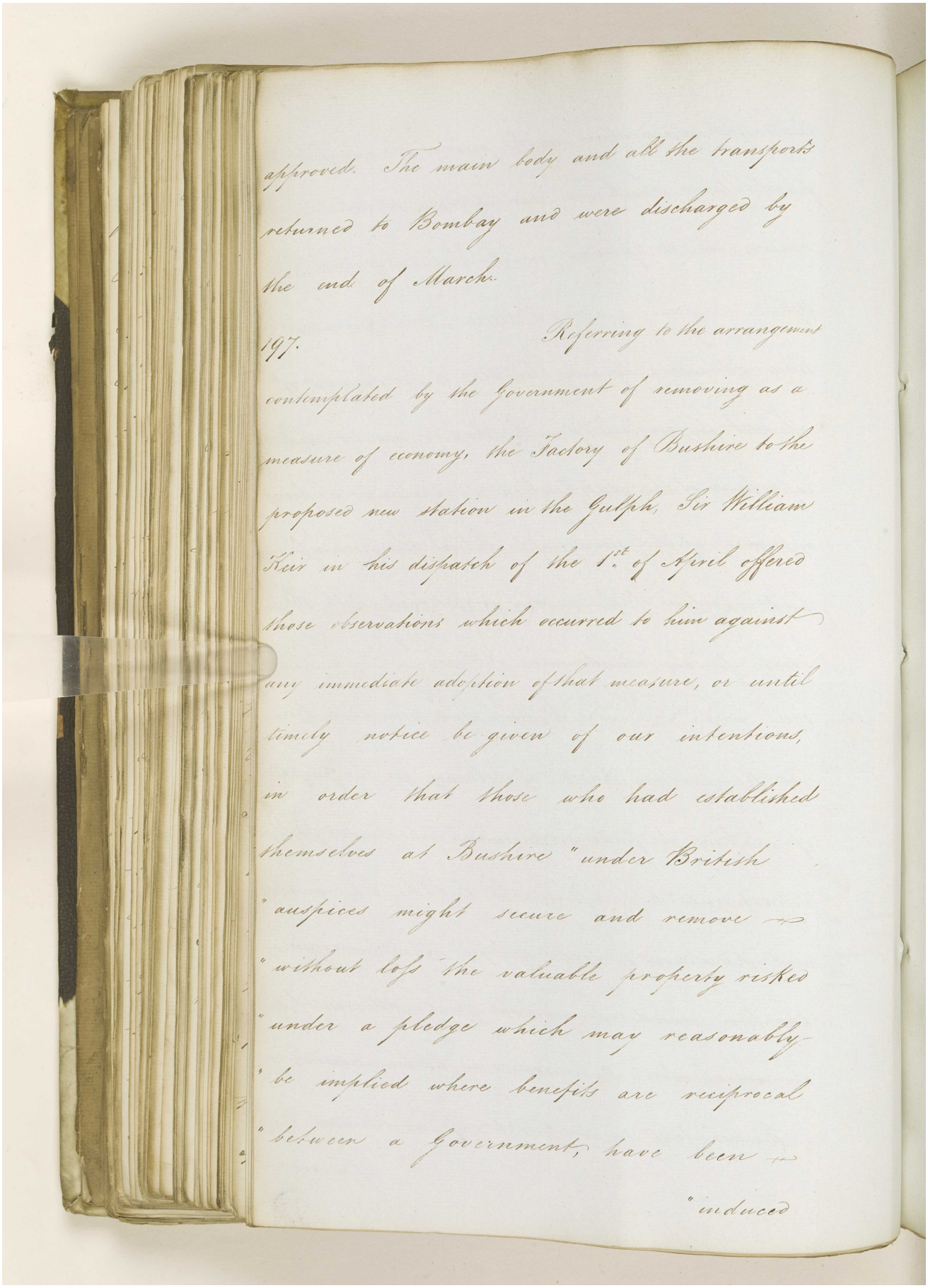
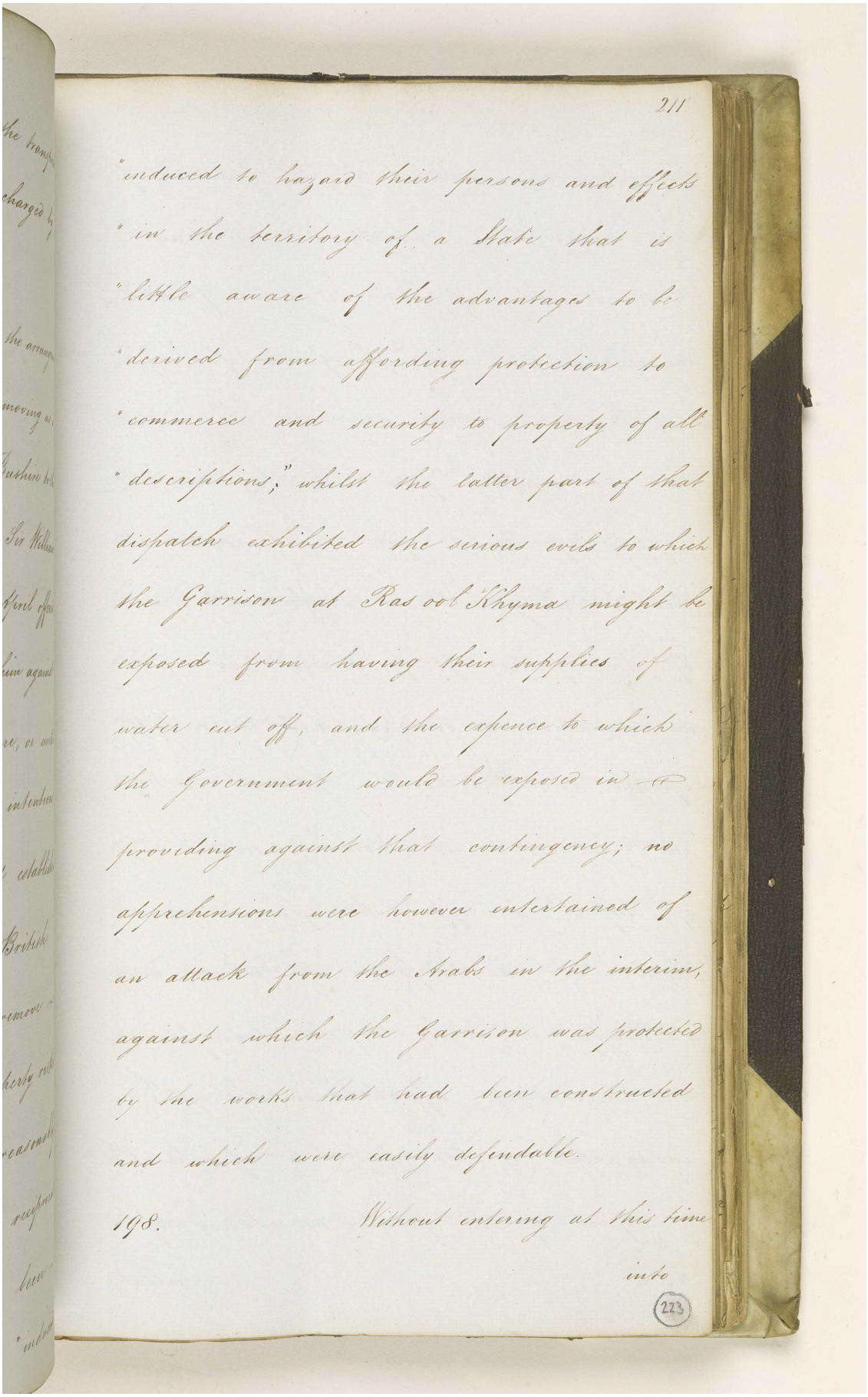


approved. The main body and all the transports returned to Bombay and were discharged by the end of March.

197. Referring to the arrangement contemplated by the Government of removing as a measure of economy, the Factory of Bushire to the proposed new station in the Gulph, Sir William Keir in his dispatch of the 1st. of April offered those observations which occurred to him against any immediate adoption of that measure, or until timely notice be given of our intentions, in order that those who had established themselves at Bushire "under British "auspices might secure and remove "without loss the valuable property risked "under a pledge which may reasonably "be implied where benefits are reciprocal "between a Government, have been

"induced



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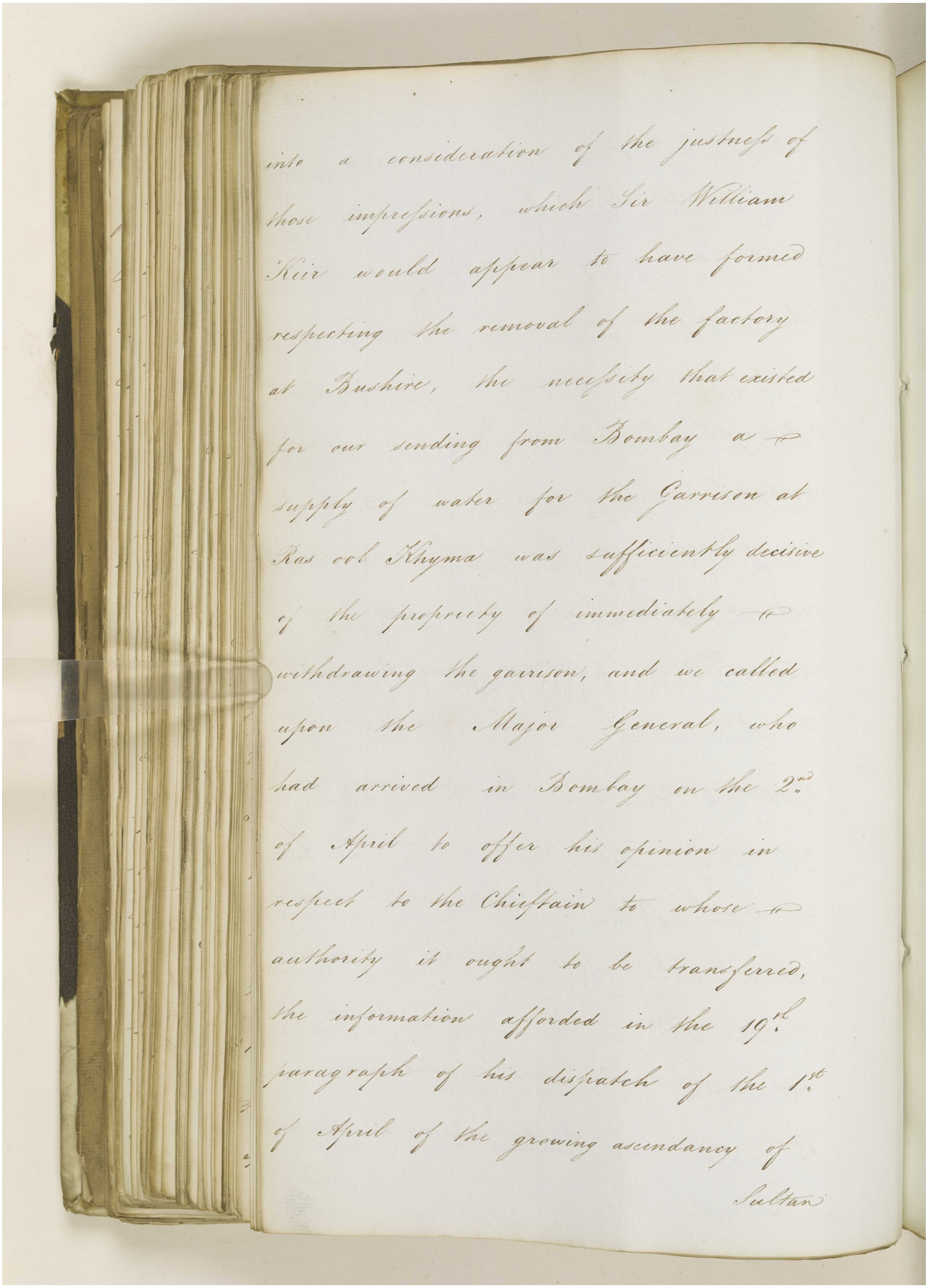
"induced to hazard their persons and effects
"in the territory of a State that is
"little aware of the advantages to be
"derived from affording protection to
"commerce and security to property of all
"descriptions;" whilst the latter part of that
dispatch exhibited the serious evils to which
the Garrison at Ras ool Khyma might be
exposed from having their supplies of
water cut off, and the expence to which
the Government would be exposed in
providing against that contingency; no
apprehensions were however entertained of
an attack from the Arabs in the interim,
against which the Garrison was protected
by the works that had been constructed
and which were easily defendable.

198. Without entering at this time
into

223



into a consideration of the justness of those impressions, which Sir William Keir would appear to have formed respecting the removal of the factory at Bushire, the necessity that existed for our sending from Bombay a supply of water for the Garrison at Ras ool Khyma was sufficiently decisive of the propriety of immediately withdrawing the garrison, and we called upon the Major General, who had arrived in Bombay on the 2nd of April to offer his opinion in respect to the Chieftain to whose authority it ought to be transferred, the information afforded in the 19th paragraph of his dispatch of the 1st of April of the growing ascendancy of Sultan

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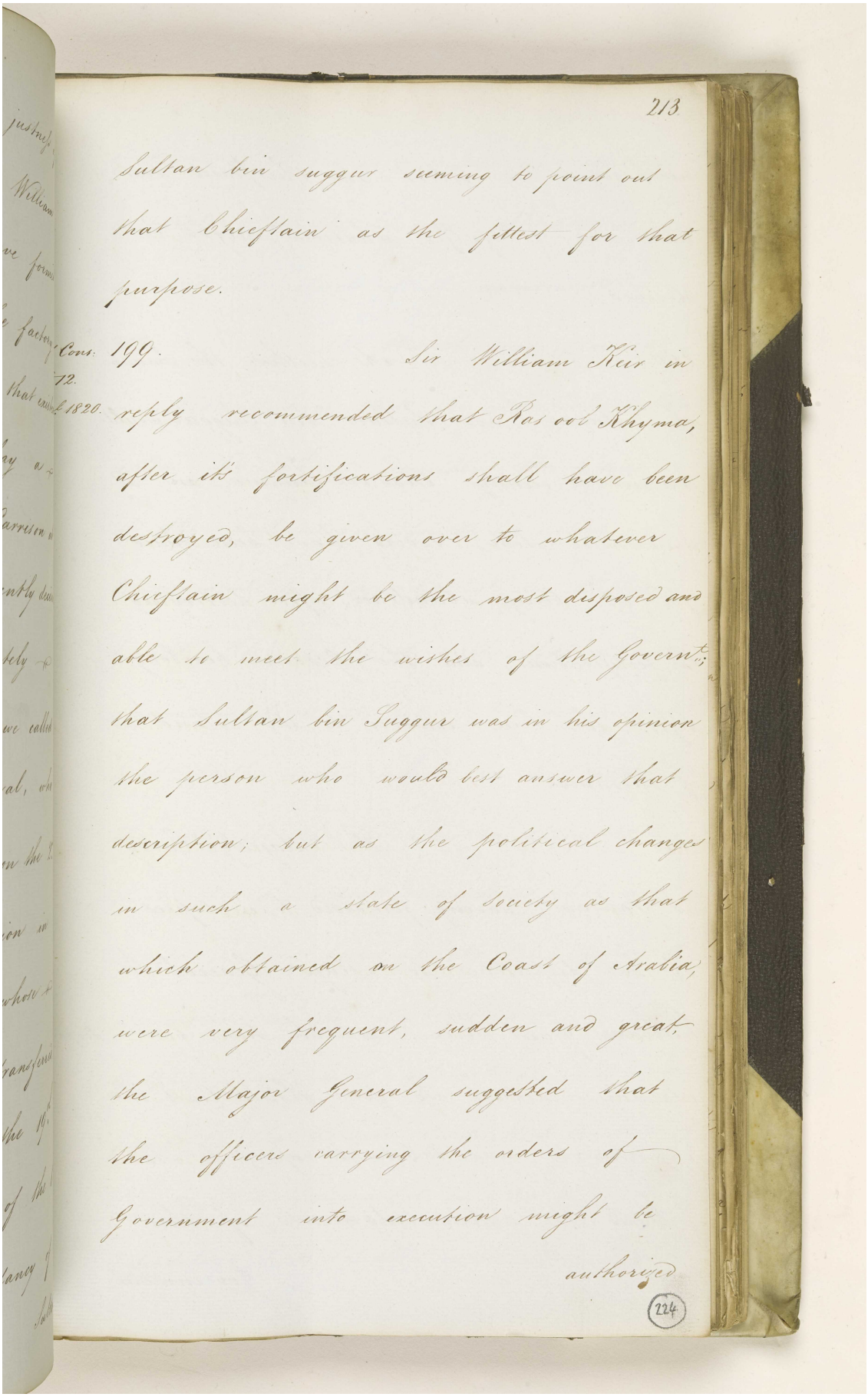

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Sultan bin Suggur seeming to point out that Chieftain as the fittest for that purpose.

Cons. 199. Sir William Keir in
72.
1820. reply recommended that Ras ool Khyma, after its fortifications shall have been destroyed, be given over to whatever Chieftain might be the most disposed and able to meet the wishes of the Govern.t; that Sultan bin Suggur was in his opinion the person who would best answer that description; but as the political changes in such a state of society as that which obtained on the Coast of Arabia, were very frequent, sudden and great the Major General suggested that the officers carrying the orders of Government into execution might be

authorized

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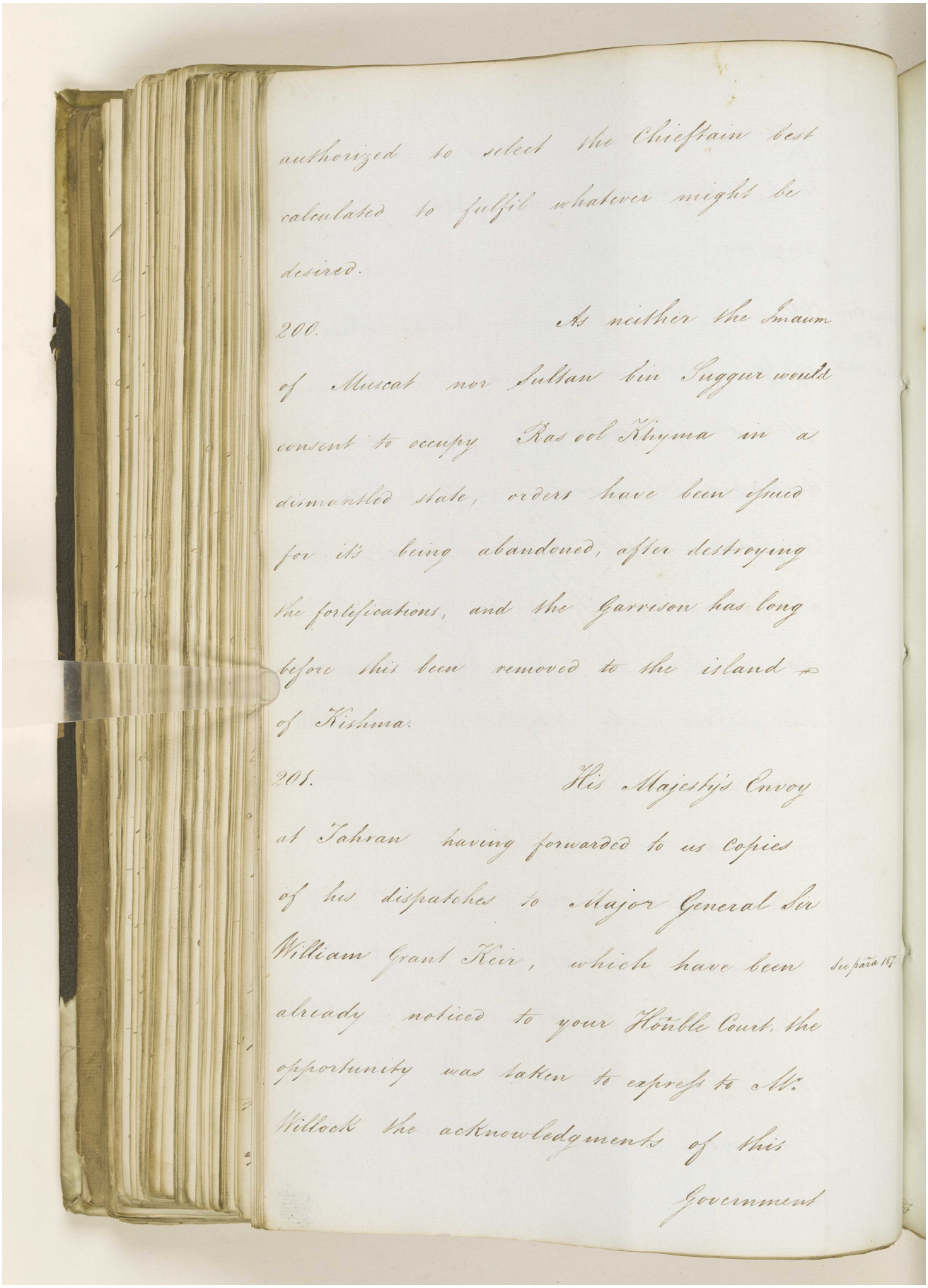

authorized to select the Chieftain best calculated to fulfil whatever might be desired.

200. As neither the Imaum of Muscat nor Sultan bin Suggur would consent to occupy Ras ool Khyma in a dismantled state, orders have been issued for it's being abandoned, after destroying the fortifications, and the Garrison has long before this been removed to the island of Kishma.

201. His Majesty's Envoy at Tahran having forwarded to us copies of his dispatches to Major General Sir William Grant Keir, which have been already noticed to your Honble Court, the opportunity was taken to express to Mr. Willcock the acknowledgments of this Government

See paras 187

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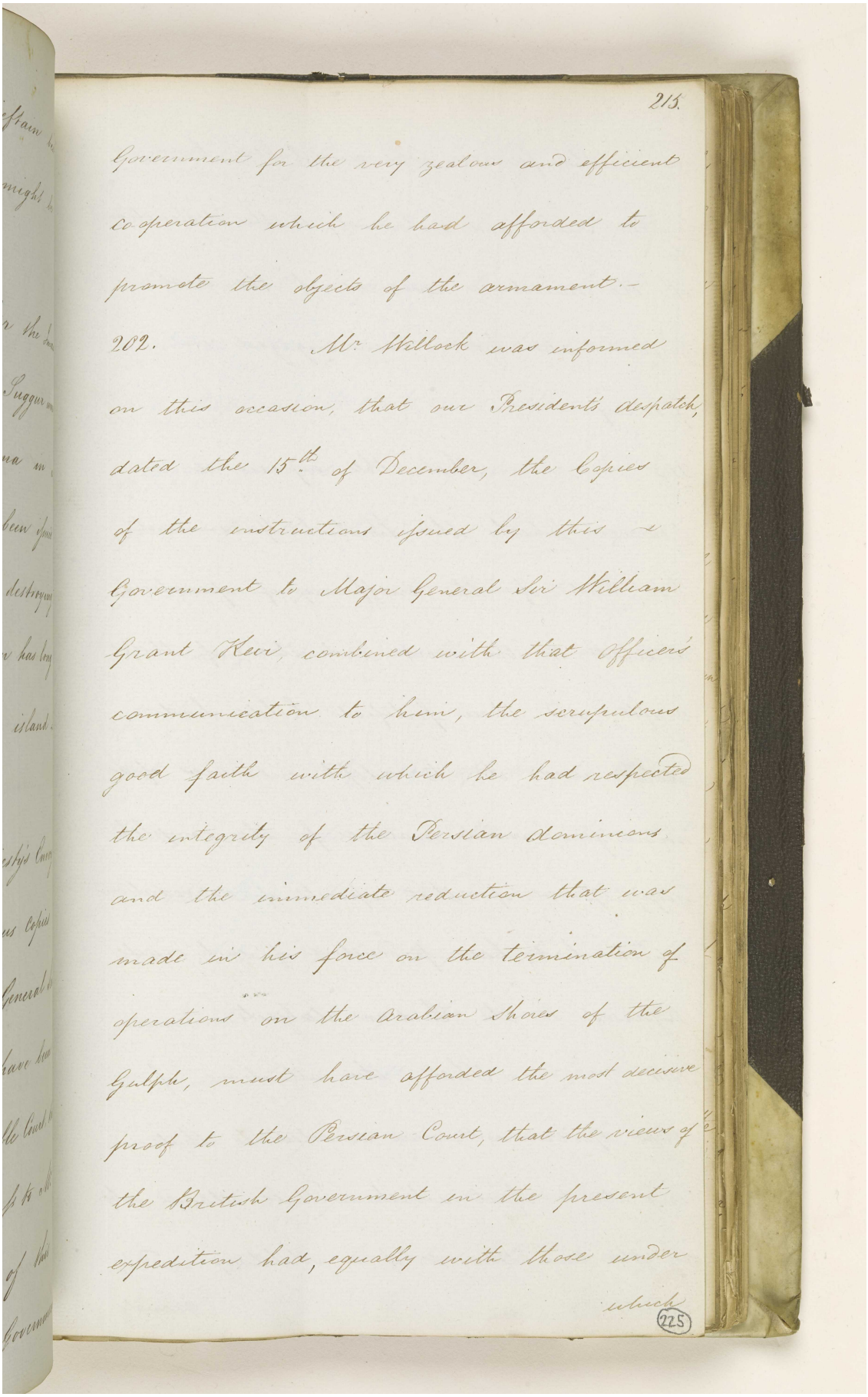

215.

Government for the very zealous and efficient co-operation which he had afforded to promote the objects of the armament.-

202. Mr Willock was informed on this occasion, that our Presidents despatch, dated the 15th of December, the Copies of the instructions issued by this Government to Major General Sir William Grant Keir, combined with that Officer's communication to him, the scrupulous good faith with which he had respected the integrity of the Persian dominions and the immediate reduction that was made in his force on the termination of operations on the Arabian Shores of the Gulph, must have afforded the most decisive proof to the Persian Court, that the views of the British Government in the present expedition had, equally with those under which

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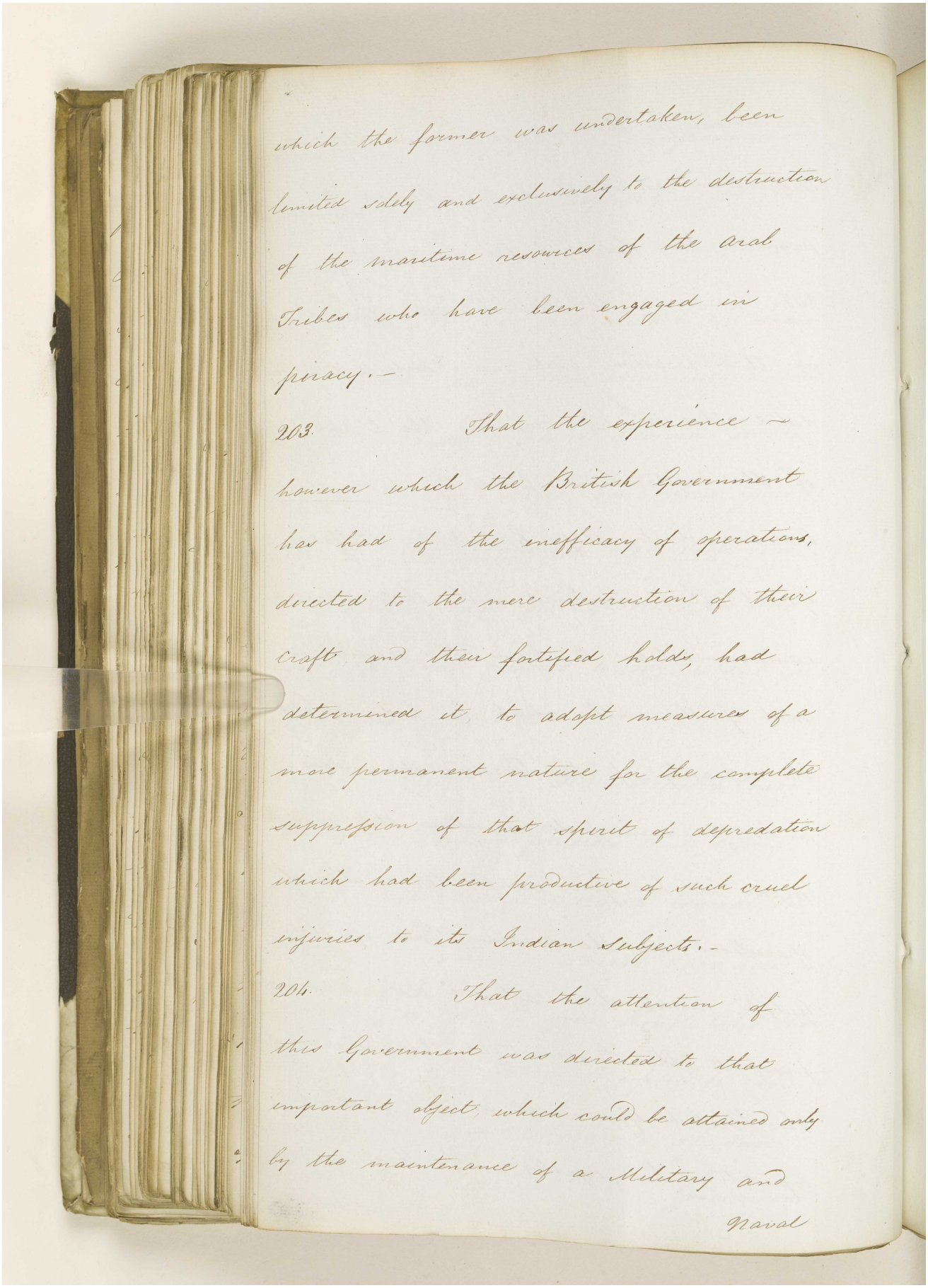
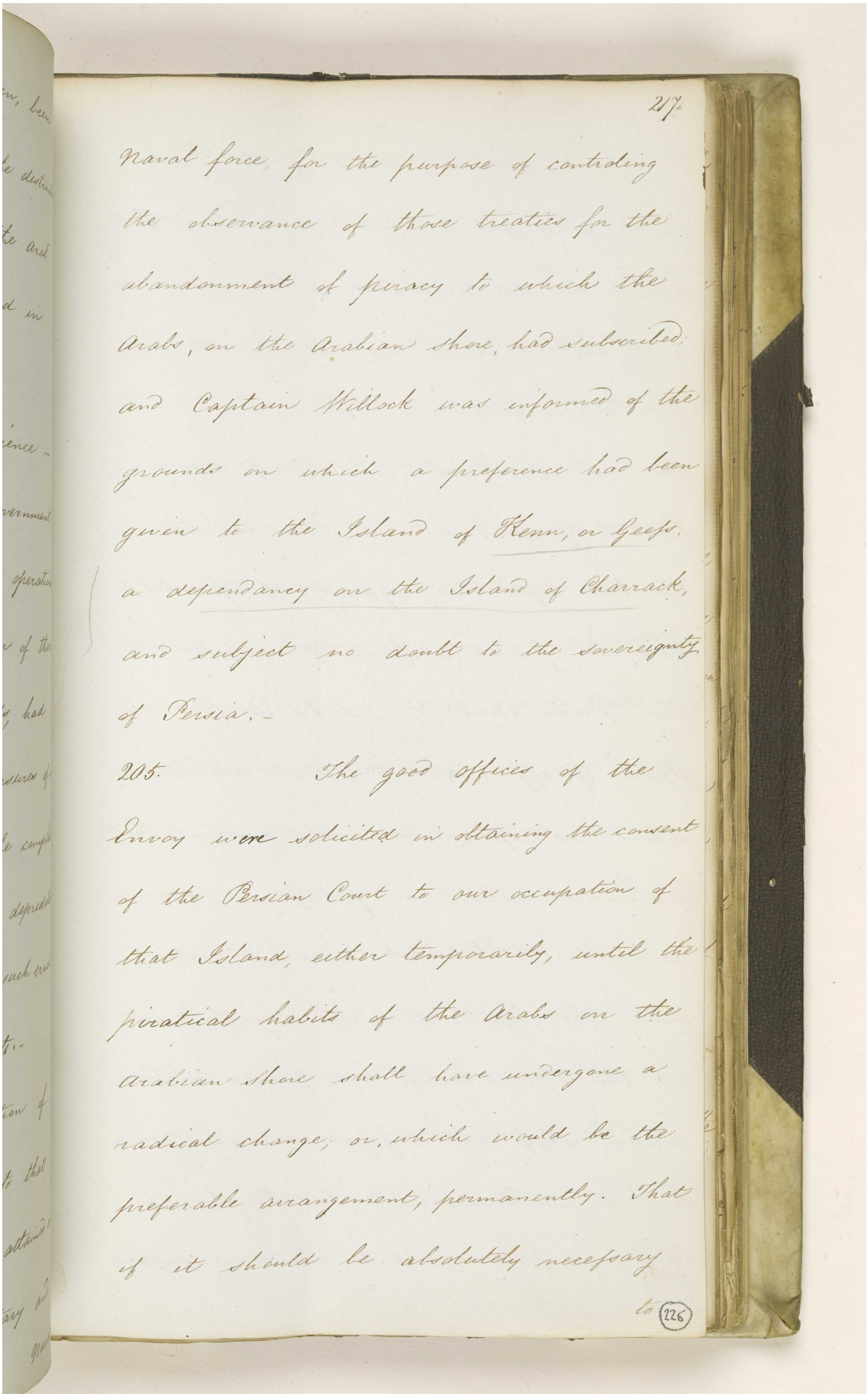


which the former was undertaken, been
limited solely and exclusively to the destruction
of the maritime resources of the Arab
Tribes who have been engaged in
piracy.—

203. That the experience —
however which the British Government
has had of the inefficacy of operations,
directed to the mere destruction of their
craft and their fortified holds, had
determined it to adopt measures of a
more permanent nature for the complete
suppression of that spirit of depredation
which had been productive of such cruel
injuries to its Indian Subjects.—

204. That the attention of
this Government was directed to that
important object, which could be attained only
by the maintenance of a Military and
Naval



217.

Naval force, for the purpose of controling the observance of those treaties for the abandonment of piracy to which the Arabs, on the Arabian Shore, had subscribed. and Captain Willock was informed of the grounds on which a preference had been given to the Island of Kenn, or Geeps. a dependancy on the Island of Charrack, and subject no doubt to the Sovereignty of Persia.-

205. The good offices of the Envoy were solicited in obtaining the consent of the Persian Court to our occupation of that Island, either temporarily, until the piratical habits of the Arabs on the Arabian Shore shall have undergone a radical change, or, which would be the preferable arrangement, permanently. That if it should be absolutely necessary

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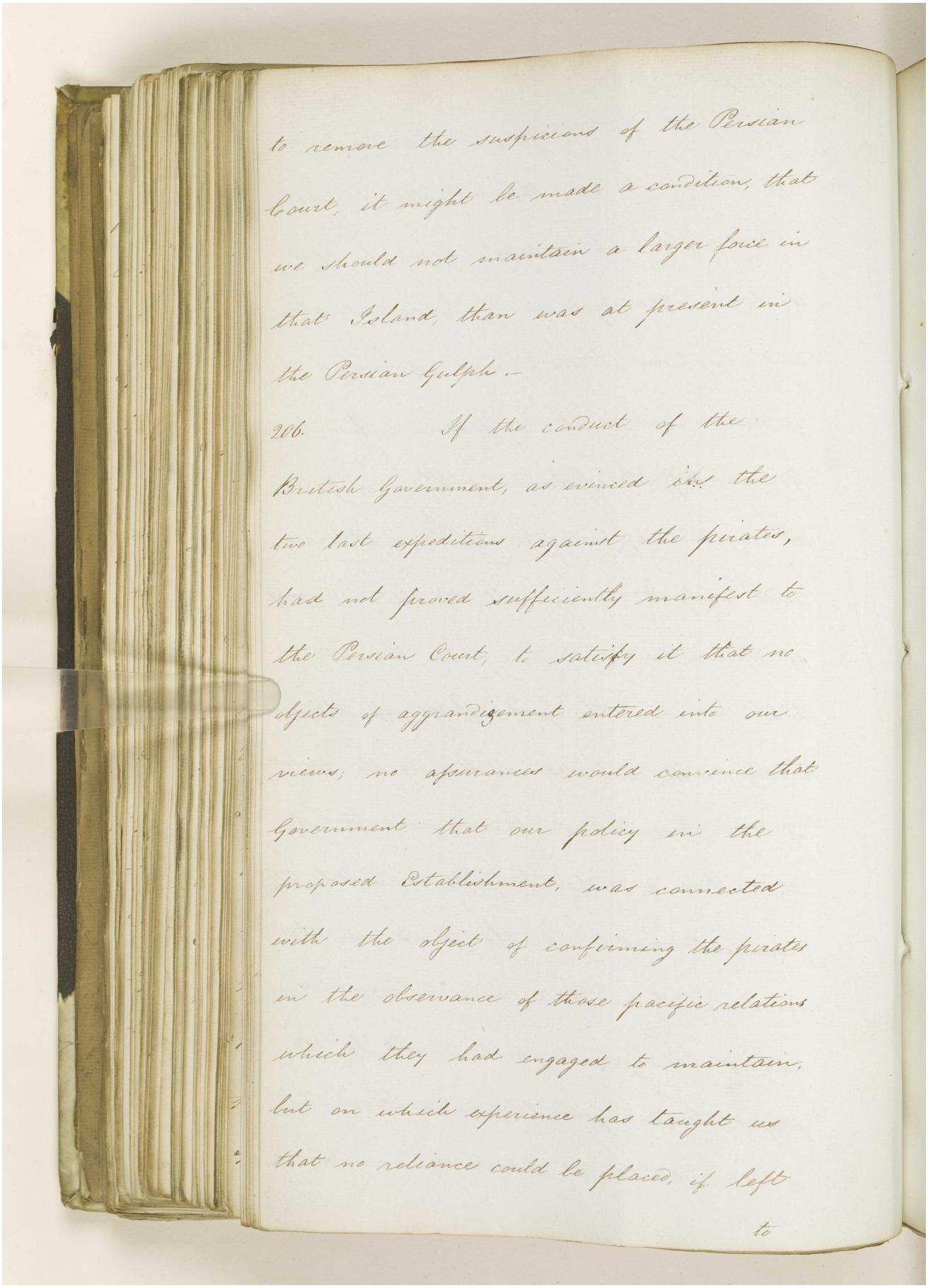
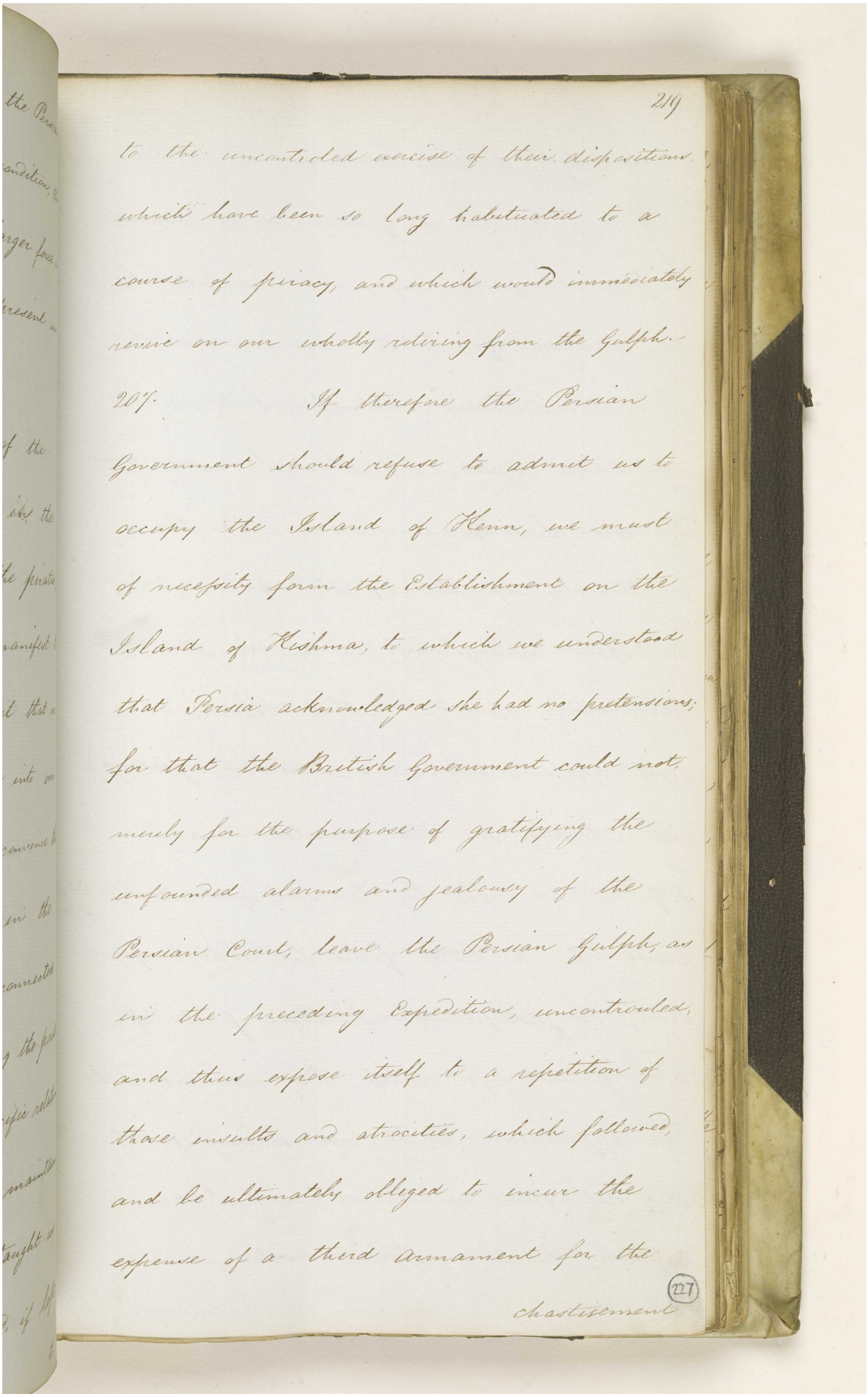


to remove the suspicions of the Persian Court, it might be made a condition, that we should not maintain a larger force in that Island, than was at present in the Persian Gulph.—

206. If the conduct of the British Government, as evinced in the two last expeditions against the pirates, had not proved sufficiently manifest to the Persian Court, to satisfy it that no objects of aggrandizement entered into our views; no assurances would convince that Government that our policy in the proposed Establishment, was connected with the object of confirming the pirates in the observance of those pacific relations which they had engaged to maintain; but on which experience has taught us that no reliance could be placed, if left

to



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to the uncontroled exercise of their dispositions
which have been so long habituated to a
course of piracy, and which would immediately
revive on our wholly retiring from the Gulph.
207. If therefore the Persian
Government should refuse to admit us to
occupy the Island of Henn, we must
of necessity form the Establishment on the
Island of Kishma, to which we understood
that Persia acknowledged she had no pretensions;
for that the British Government could not,
merely for the purpose of gratifying the
unfounded alarms and jealousy of the
Persian Court, leave the Persian Gulph, as
in the preceding Expedition, uncontrouled,
and thus expose itself to a repetition of
those insults and atrocities, which followed,
and be ultimately obliged to incur the
expense of a third armament for the
chastisement

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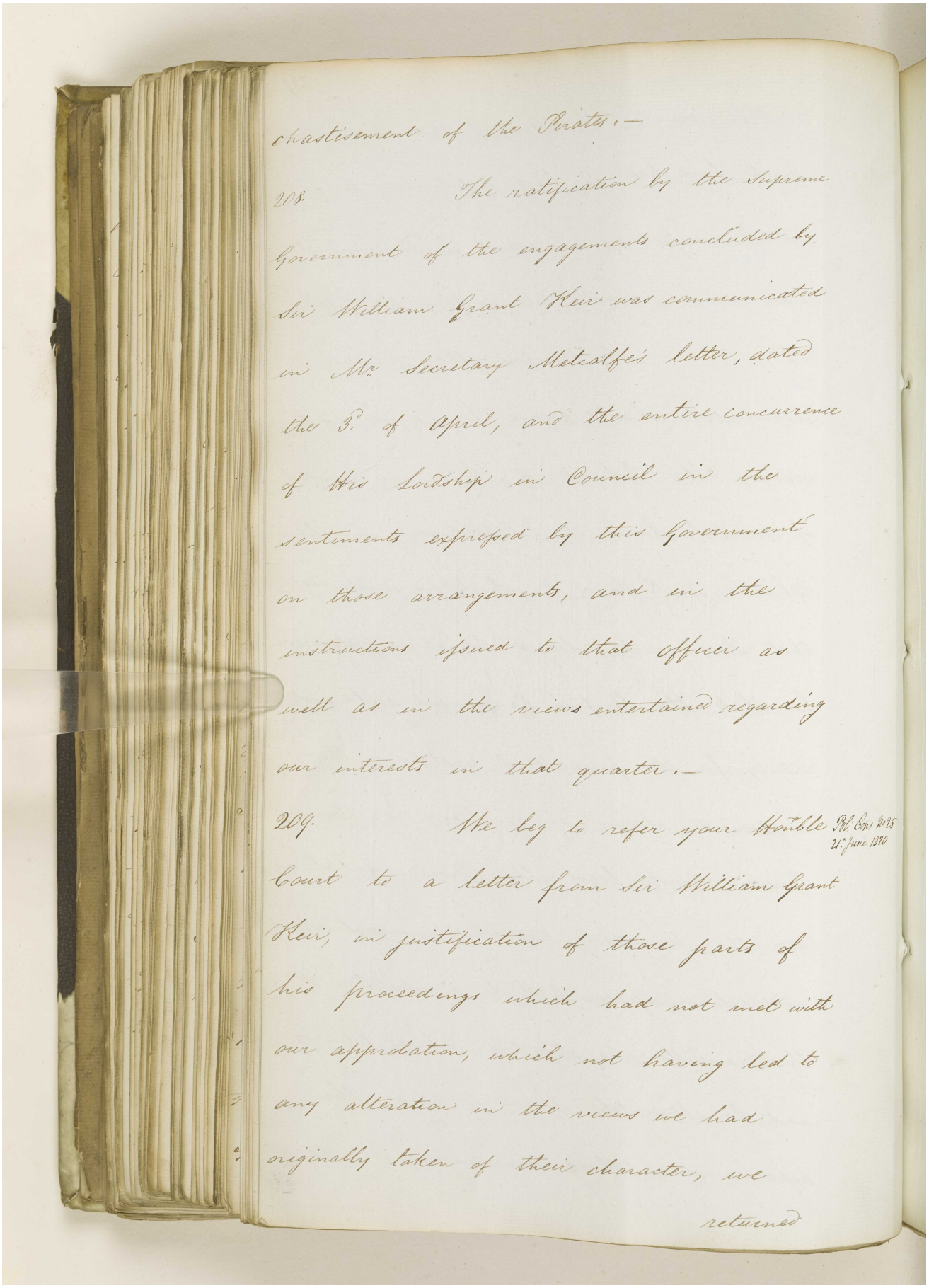

chastisement of the Pirates.—

208. The ratification by the Supreme Government of the engagements concluded by Sir William Grant Keir was communicated in Mr. Secretary Metcalfe's letter, dated the 3d. of April, and the entire concurrence of His Lordship in Council in the sentiments expressed by this Government on those arrangements, and in the instructions issued to that Officer as well as in the views entertained regarding our interests in that quarter.—

209. We beg to refer your Honble. Pol. Cons. No 25 21st June 1820
Court to a letter from Sir William Grant Keir, in justification of those parts of his proceedings which had not met with our approbation, which not having led to any alteration in the views we had originally taken of their character, we returned

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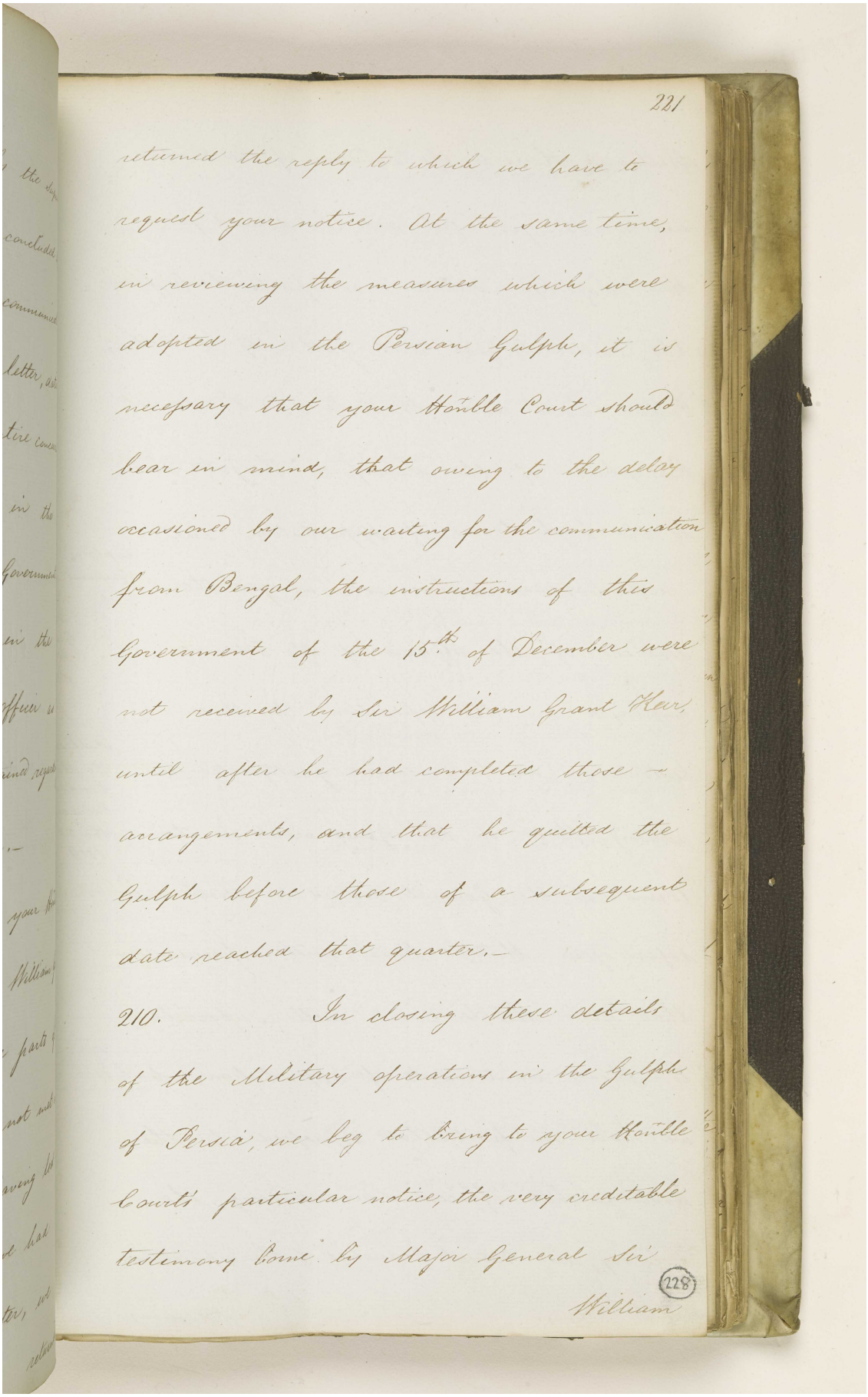
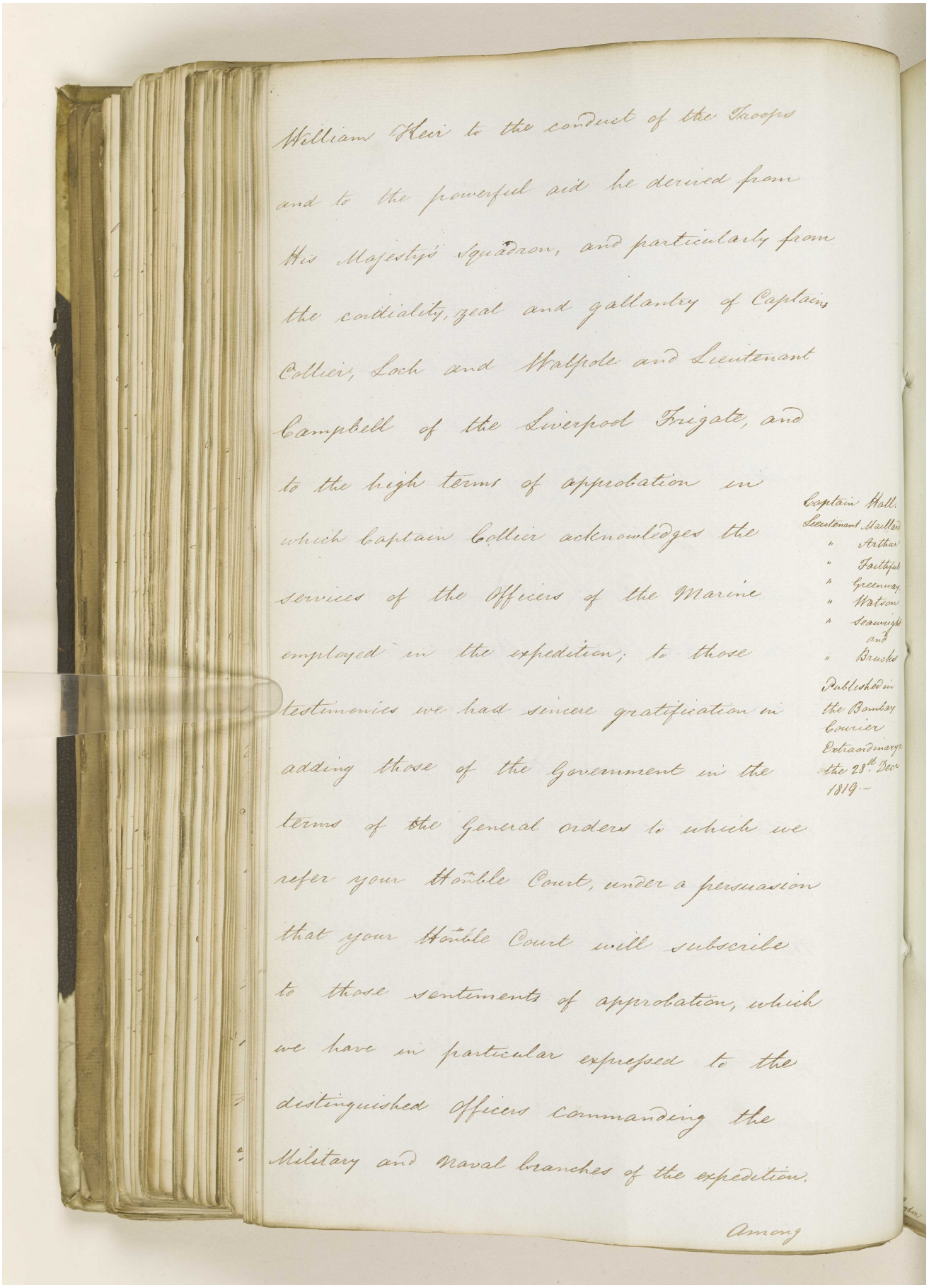


returned the reply to which we have to request your notice. At the same time, in reviewing the measures which were adopted in the Persian Gulph, it is necessary that your Honble Court should bear in mind, that owing to the delay occasioned by our waiting for the communication from Bengal, the instructions of this Government of the 15th of December were not received by Sir William Grant Keir, until after he had completed those arrangements, and that he quitted the Gulph before those of a subsequent date reached that quarter.—

210. In closing these details of the Military operations in the Gulphs of Persia, we beg to bring to your Honble Court's particular notice, the very creditable testimony borne by Major General Sir

(228)

William



William Keir to the conduct of the Troops
and to the powerful aid he derived from
His Majesty's Squadron, and particularly from
the cordiality, zeal and gallantry of Captain
Collier, Loch and Walpole and Lieutenant
Campbell of the Liverpool Frigate, and
to the high terms of approbation in
which Captain Collier acknowledges the
services of the Officers of the Marine
employed in the expedition; to those
testimonies we had sincere gratification in
adding those of the Government in the
terms of the General orders to which we
refer your Honble Court, under a persuasion
that your Honble Court will subscribe
to those sentiments of approbation, which
we have in particular expressed to the
distinguished Officers commanding the
Military and Naval branches of the expedition.

Among

Captain Hall.
Lieutenant Maillard
" Arthur
" Faithful
" Greenway
" Watson
" Seawright
and
" Brucks

Published in
the Bombay
Courier
Extraordinary
the 23d. Dec.
1819.

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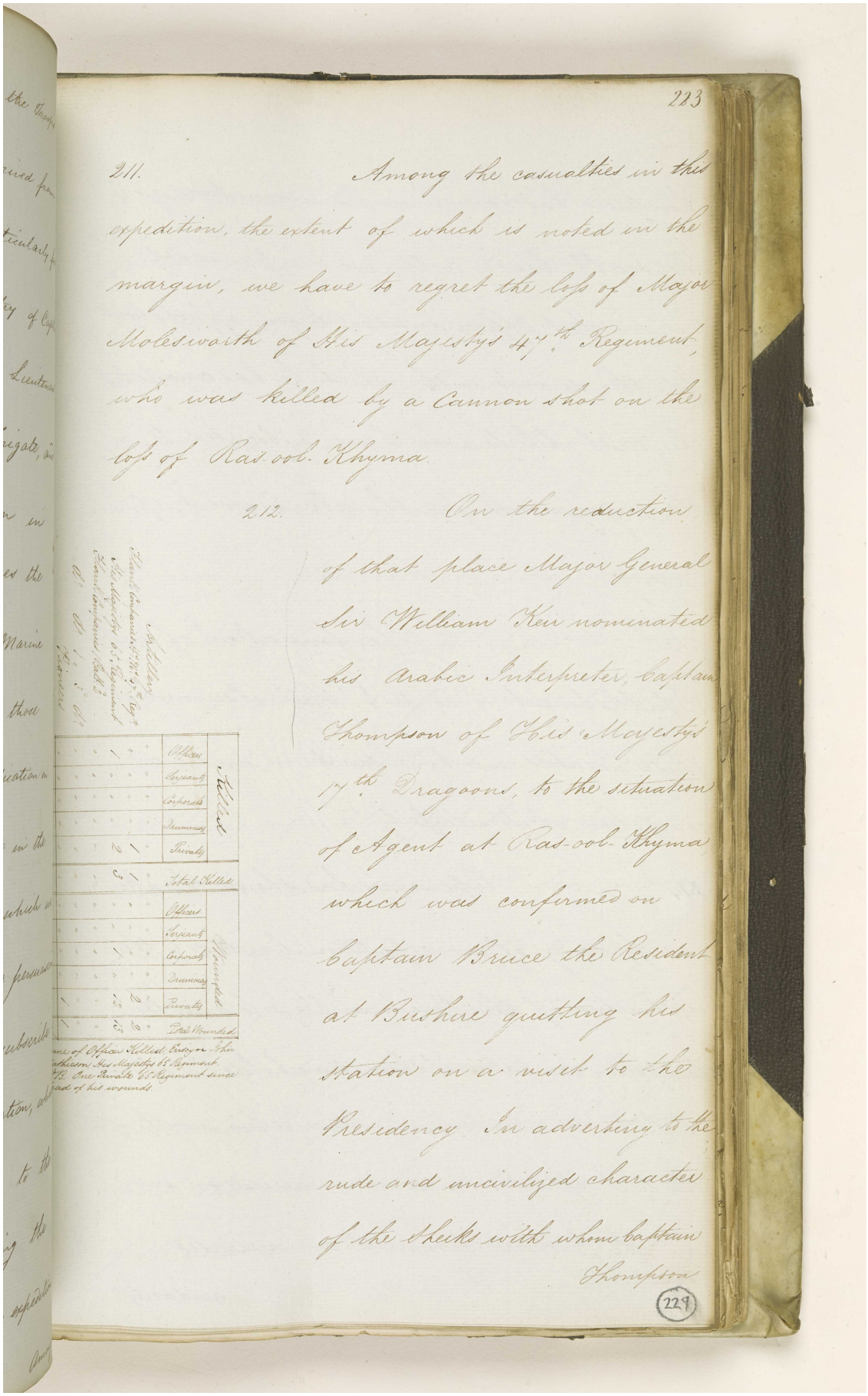

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211. Among the casualties in this expedition, the extent of which is noted in the margin, we have to regret the loss of Major Molesworth of His Majesty's 47th. Regiment, who was killed by a Cannon shot on the loss of Ras-ool-Khyma.

212. On the reduction of that place Major General Sir William Keir nominated his Arabic Interpreter, Captain Thompson of His Majesty's 17th. Dragoons, to the situation of Agent at Ras-ool-Khyma, which was confirmed on Captain Bruce the Resident at Bushire quitting his station on a visit to the Presidency. In adverting to the rude and uncivilized character of the Sheiks with whom Captain Thompson

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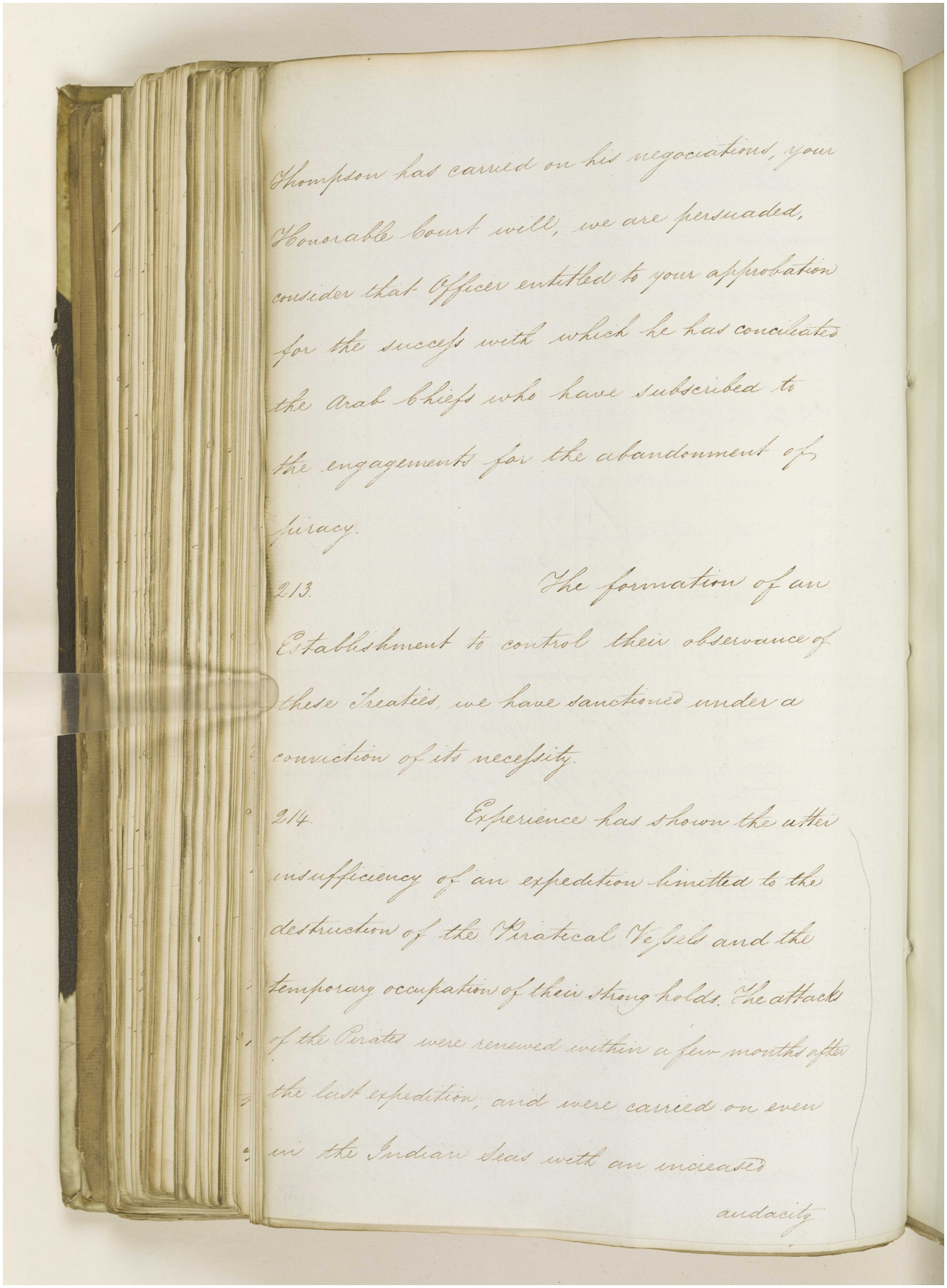
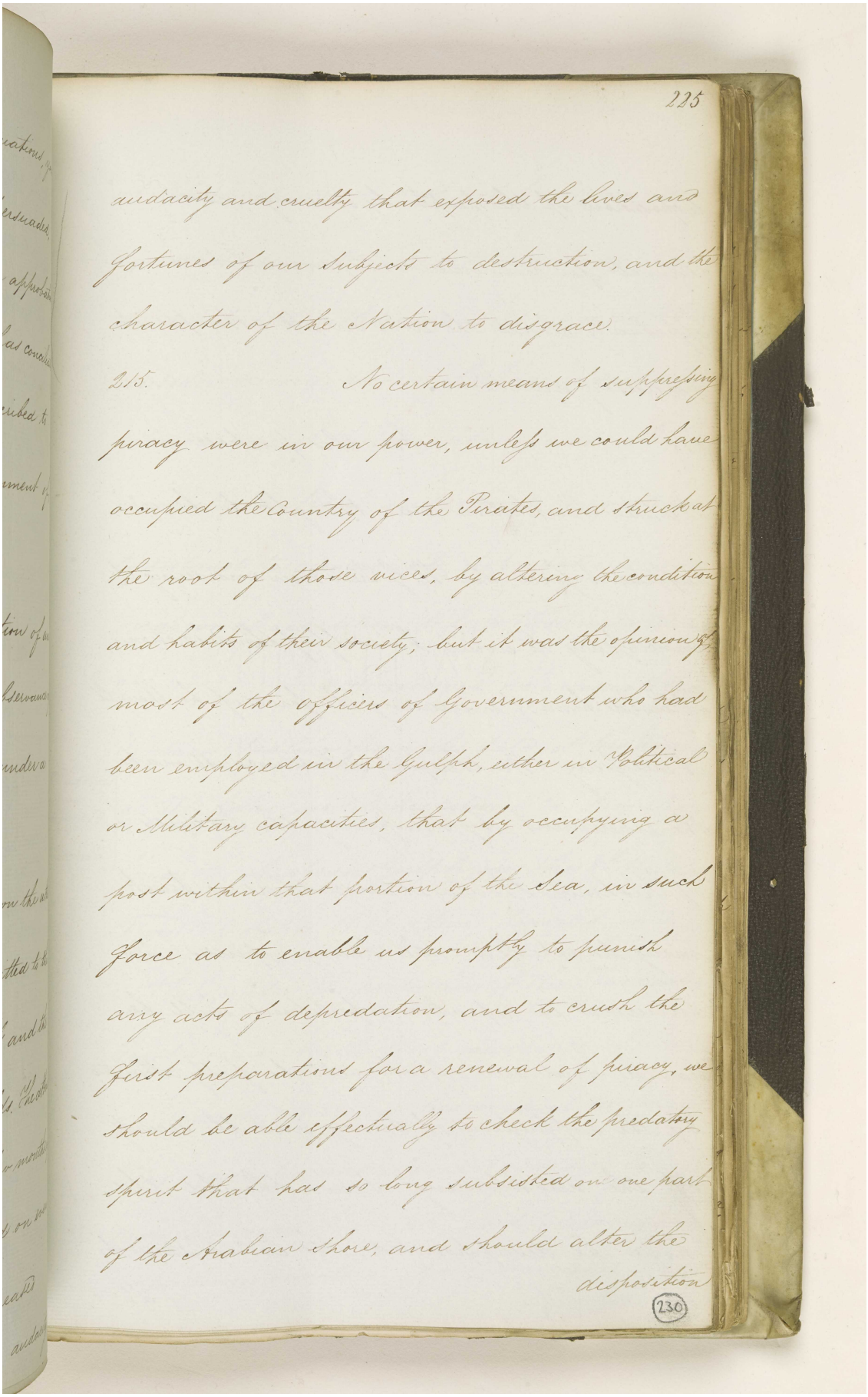


Thompson has carried on his negociations, your Honorable Court will, we are persuaded, consider that Officer entitled to your approbation for the success with which he has conciliated the Arab Chiefs who have subscribed to the engagements for the abandonment of piracy.

213. The formation of an Establishment to control their observance of these Treaties, we have sanctioned under a conviction of its necessity.

214. Experience has shown the utter insufficiency of an expedition limitted to the destruction of the Piratical Vessels and the temporary occupation of their strong holds. The attacks of the Pirates were renewed within a few months after the last expedition, and were carried on even in the Indian Seas with an increased

audacity



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audacity and cruelty that exposed the lives and
fortunes of our Subjects to destruction, and the
character of the Nation to disgrace.

215. No certain means of suppressing
piracy were in our power, unless we could have
occupied the Country of the Pirates, and struck at
the root of those vices, by altering the condition
and habits of their society; but it was the opinion of
most of the officers of Government who had
been employed in the Gulph, either in Political
or Military capacities, that by occupying a
post within that portion of the Sea, in such
force as to enable us promptly to punish
any acts of depredation, and to crush the
first preparations for a renewal of piracy, we
should be able effectually to check the predatory
spirit that has so long subsisted on one part
of the Arabian Shore, and should alter the
disposition

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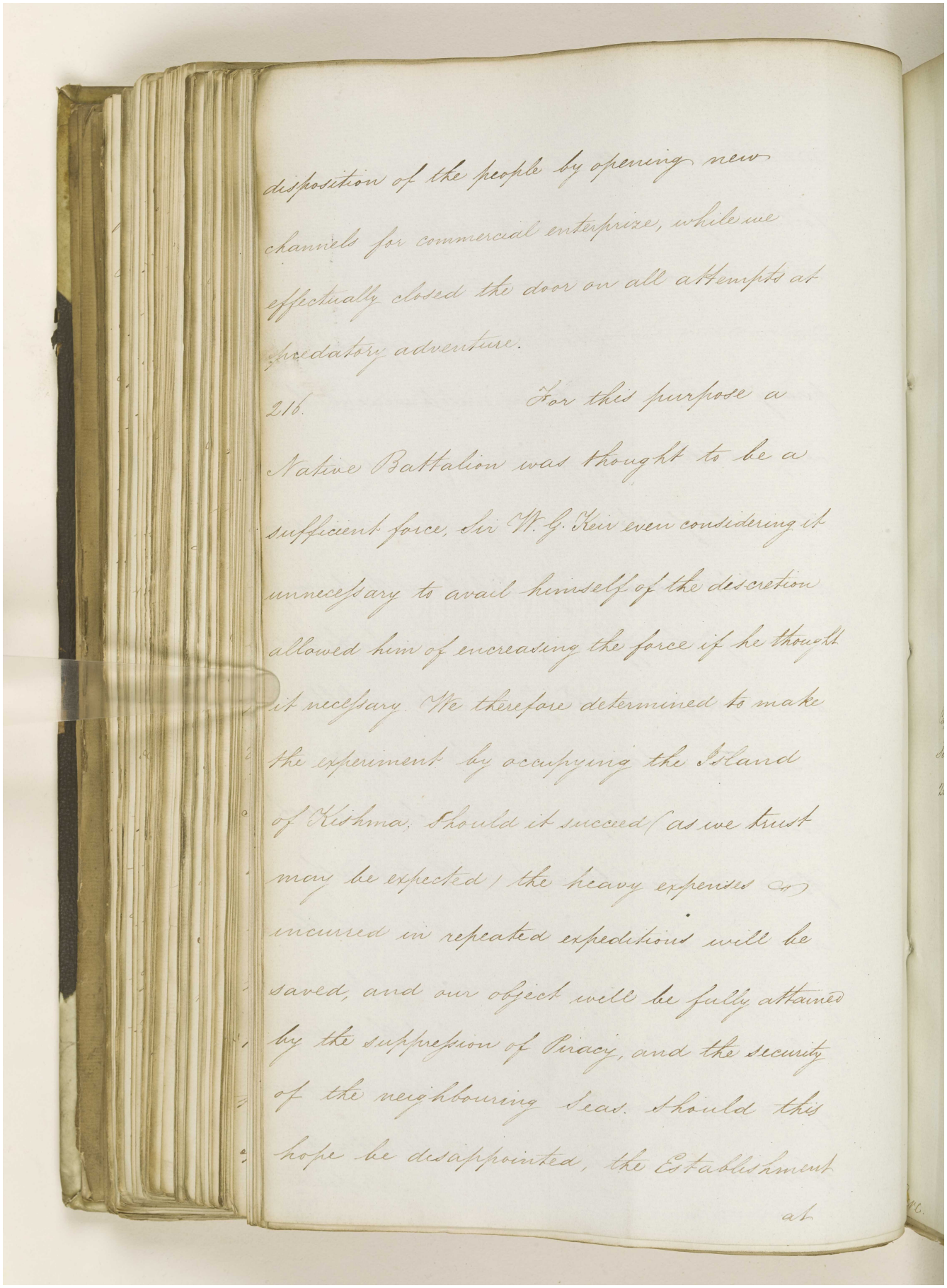
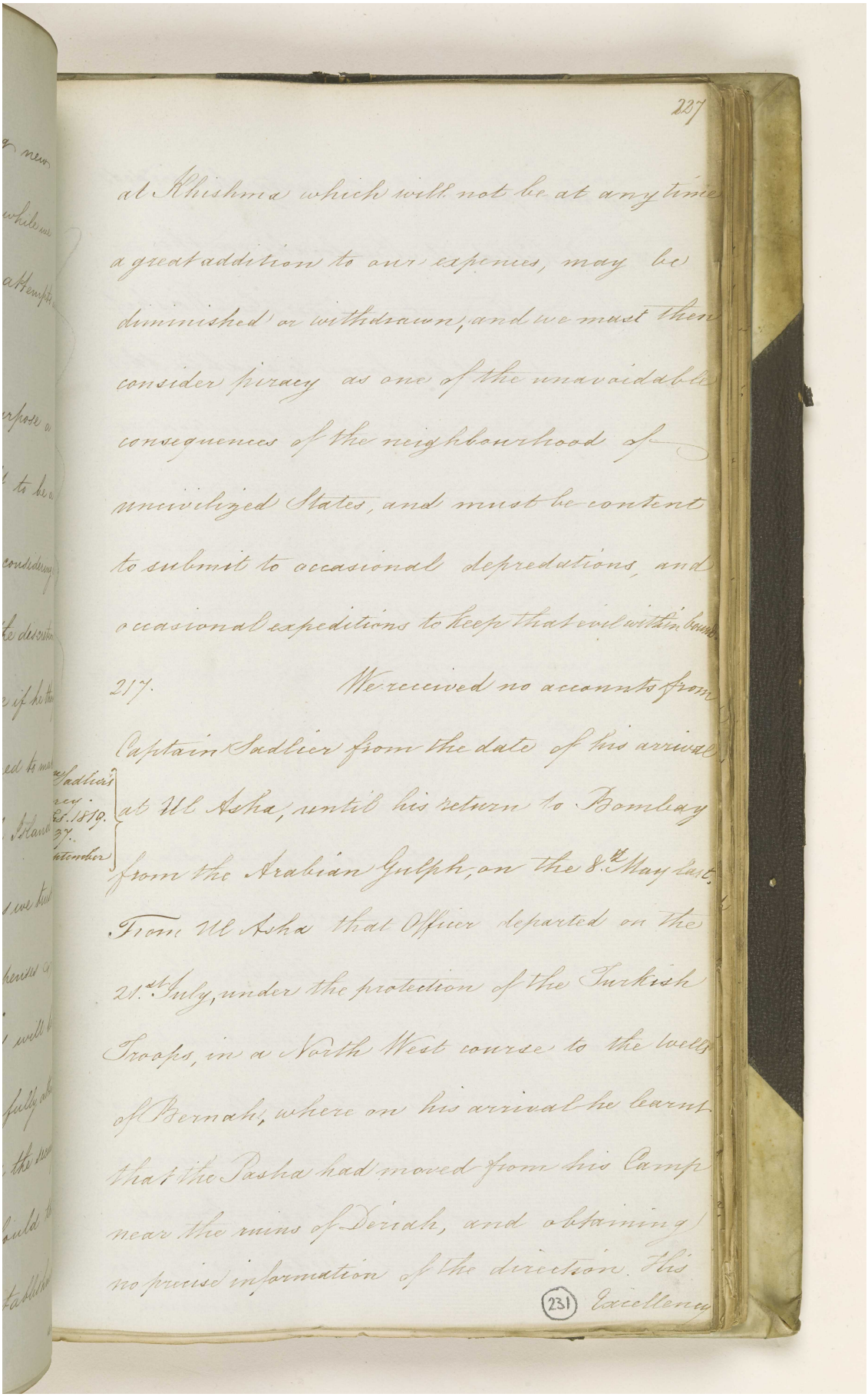


disposition of the people by opening new
channels for commercial enterprize, while we
effectually closed the door on all attempts at
predatory adventure.

216. For this purpose a
Native Battalion was thought to be a
sufficient force, Sir W. G. Keir even considering it
unnecessary to avail himself of the discretion
allowed him of encreasing the force if he thought
it necessary. We therefore determined to make
the experiment by occupying the Island
of Kishma. Should it succeed (as we trust
may be expected) the heavy expenses so
incurred in repeated expeditions will be
saved, and our object will be fully attained
by the suppression of Piracy, and the security
of the neighbouring Seas. Should this
hope be disappointed, the Establishment
at



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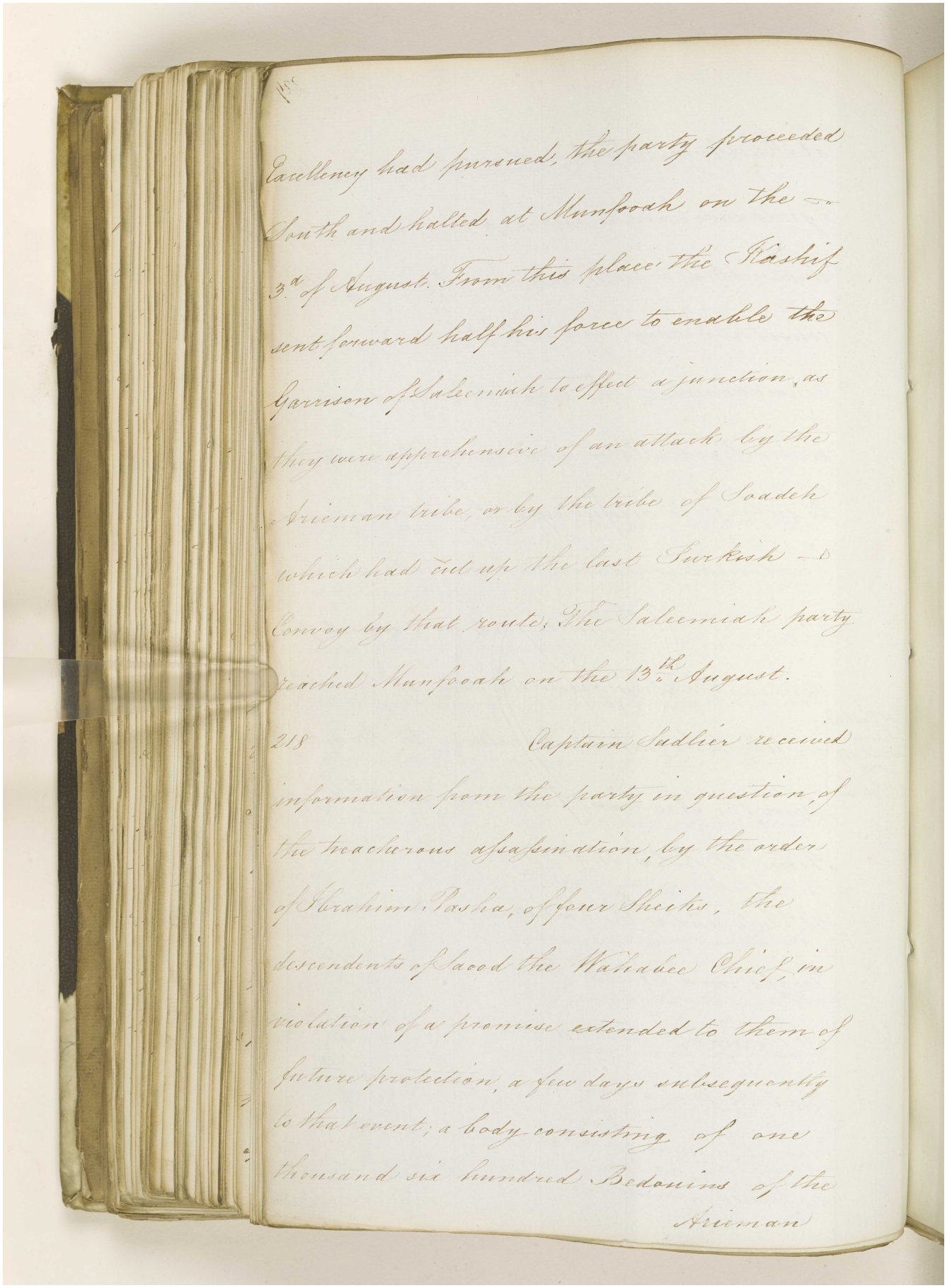
at Rhishma which will not be at any time a great addition to our expences, may be diminished or withdrawn, and we must then consider piracy as one of the unavoidable consequences of the neighbourhood of uncivilized States, and must be content to submit to occasional depredations, and occasional expeditions to keep that evil within bounds.

217. We received no accounts from Captain Sadlier from the date of his arrival at Ul Asha, until his return to Bombay from the Arabian Gulph, on the 8th May last. From Ul Asha that Officer departed on the 21st July, under the protection of the Turkish Troops, in a North West course to the wells of Bernah, where on his arrival he learnt that the Pasha had moved from his Camp near the ruins of Deriah, and obtaining no precise information of the direction. His

Sadlier's rec. 8.1819. 27. September

(231) Excellency



Excellency had pursued, the party proceeded South and halted at Munfoodh on the 3d of August. From this place the Kashif sent forward half his force to enable the Garrison of Saleemiah to effect a junction, as they were apprehensive of an attack by the Arieman tribe, or by the tribe of Soadeh which had cut up the last Turkish Convoy by that route. The Saleemiah party reached Munfoodh on the 13th August.

218 Captain Sadlier received information from the party in question, of the treacherous assassination, by the order of Ibrahim Pasha, of four Sheiks, the descendents of Jacob the Wahabee Chief, in violation of a promise extended to them of future protection, a few days subsequently to that event; a body consisting of one thousand six hundred Bedouins of the Arieman

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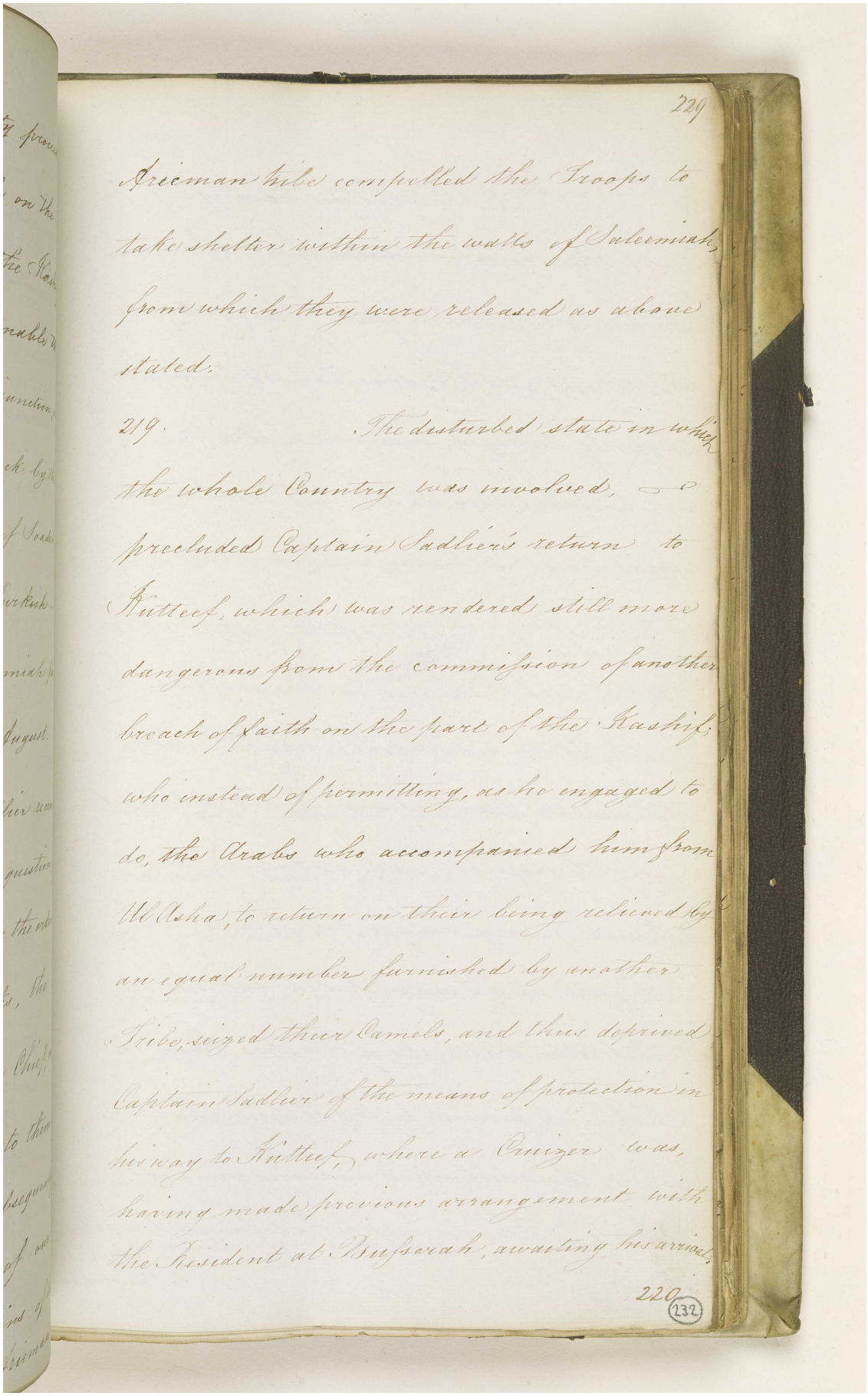

Freeman tribe compelled the Troops to take shelter within the walls of Salemiah, from which they were released as above stated.

219. The disturbed state in which the whole Country was involved, precluded Captain Sadlier's return to Kuttee, which was rendered still more dangerous from the commission of another breach of faith on the part of the Kashif; who instead of permitting, as he engaged to do, the Arabs who accompanied him from Ul Asha, to return on their being relieved by an equal number furnished by another Tribe, seized their Camels, and thus deprived Captain Sadlier of the means of protection in his way to Kuttee, where a Cruizer was, having made previous arrangement with the Resident at Bussorah, awaiting his arrival.

220.

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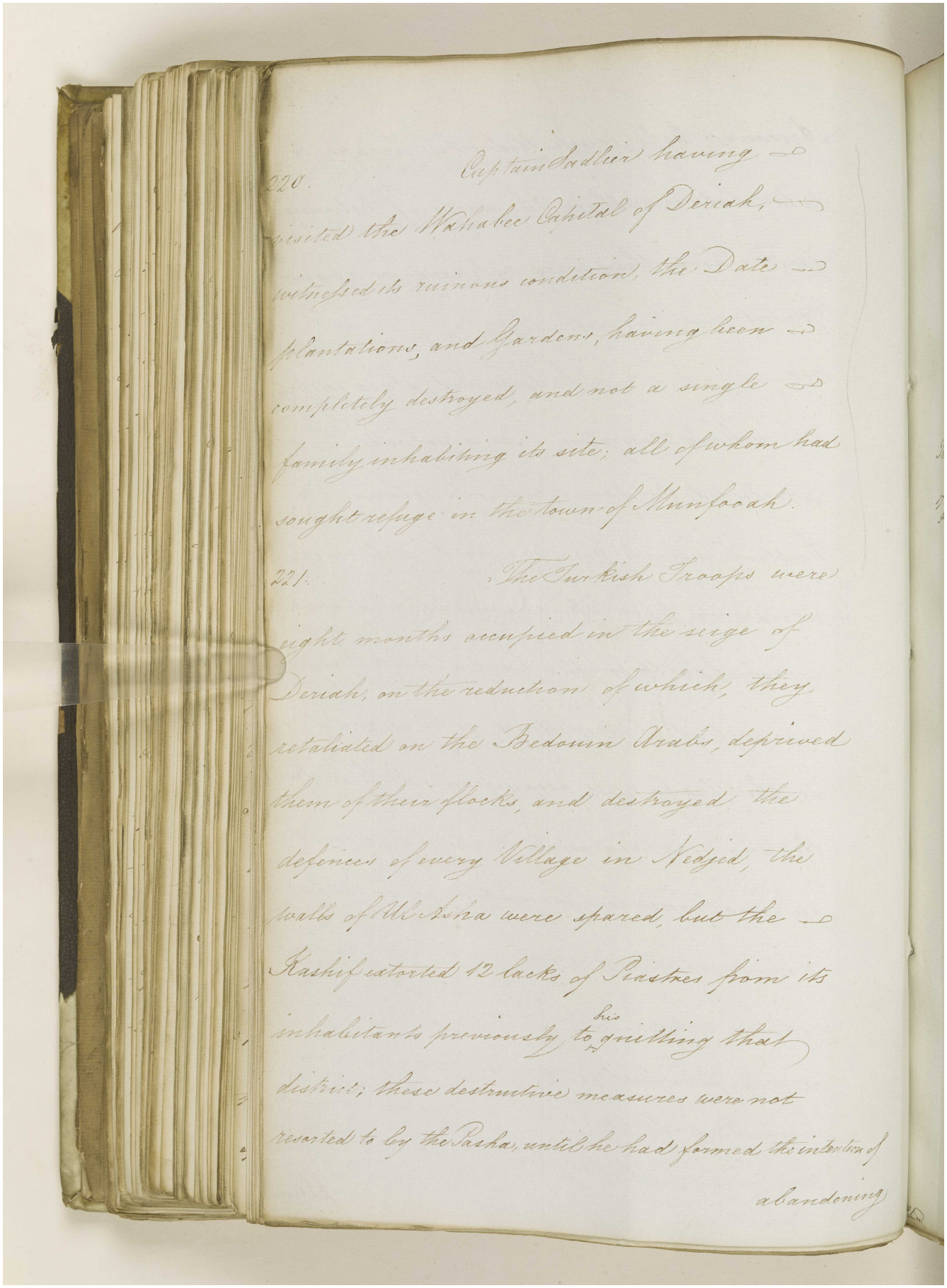

Captain Sadlier having
220. visited the Wahabee Capital of Deriah,
witnessed its ruinous condition, the Date
plantations, and Gardens, having been
completely destroyed, and not a single
family inhabiting its site; all of whom had
sought refuge in the town of Munfoodah.

221. The Turkish Troops were
eight months occupied in the seige of
Deriah, on the reduction of which, they
retaliated on the Bedouin Arabs, deprived
them of their flocks, and destroyed the
defences of every Village in Nedjed, the
walls of Ul Ahsa were spared, but the
Kashif extorted 12 lacks of Piastres from its
inhabitants previously to quitting that
district; these destructive measures were not
resorted to by the Pasha, until he had formed the intention of
abandoning

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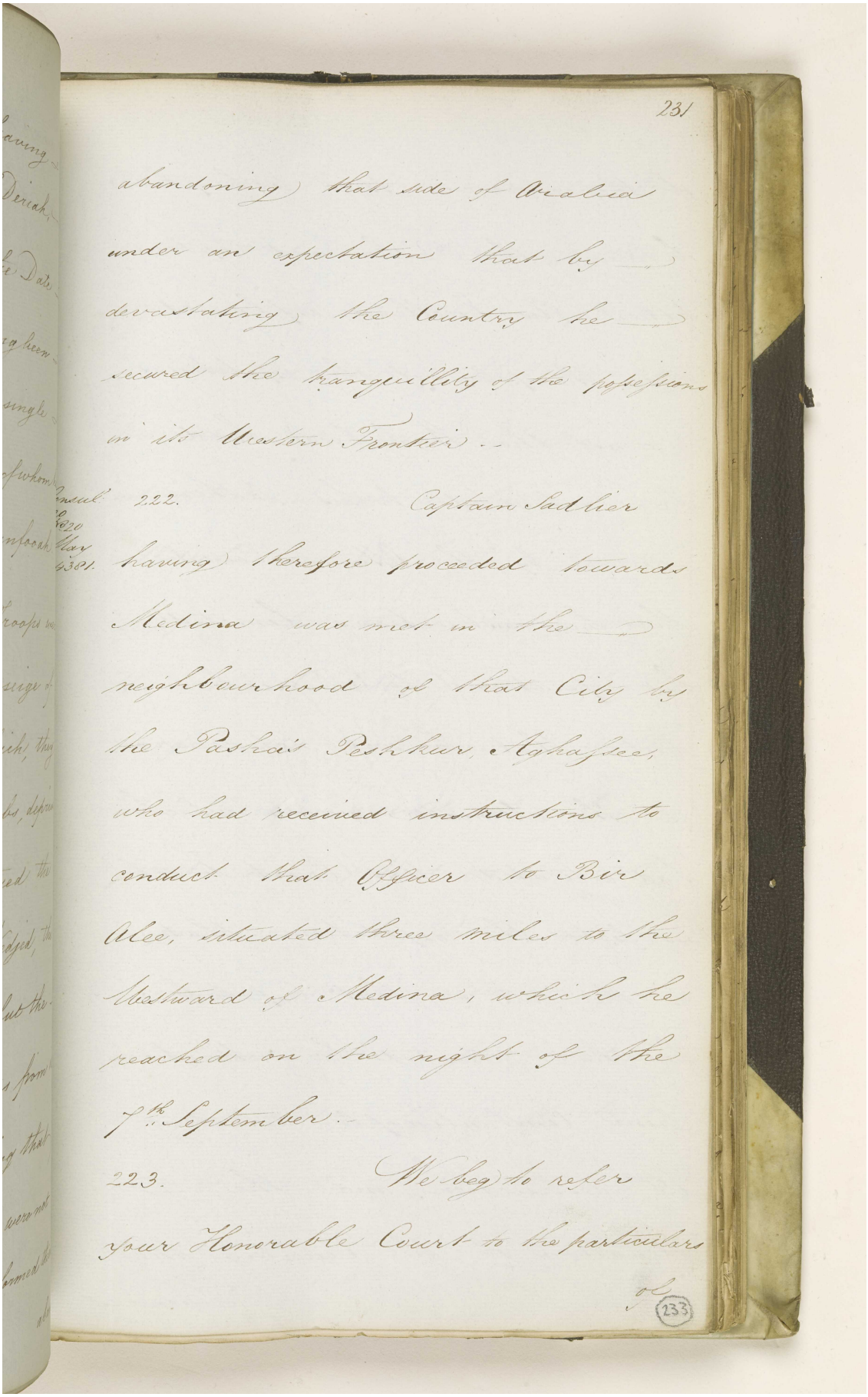

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abandoning that side of Arabia
under an expectation that by
devastating the Country he
secured the tranquillity of the possessions
on its Western Frontier.

222. Captain Sadlier
having therefore proceeded towards
Medina was met in the
neighbourhood of that City by
the Pasha's Peshkur, Aghassee,
who had received instructions to
conduct that Officer to Bir
Alee, situated three miles to the
Westward of Medina, which he
reached on the night of the
7th September.

223. We beg to refer
your Honorable Court to the particulars

of

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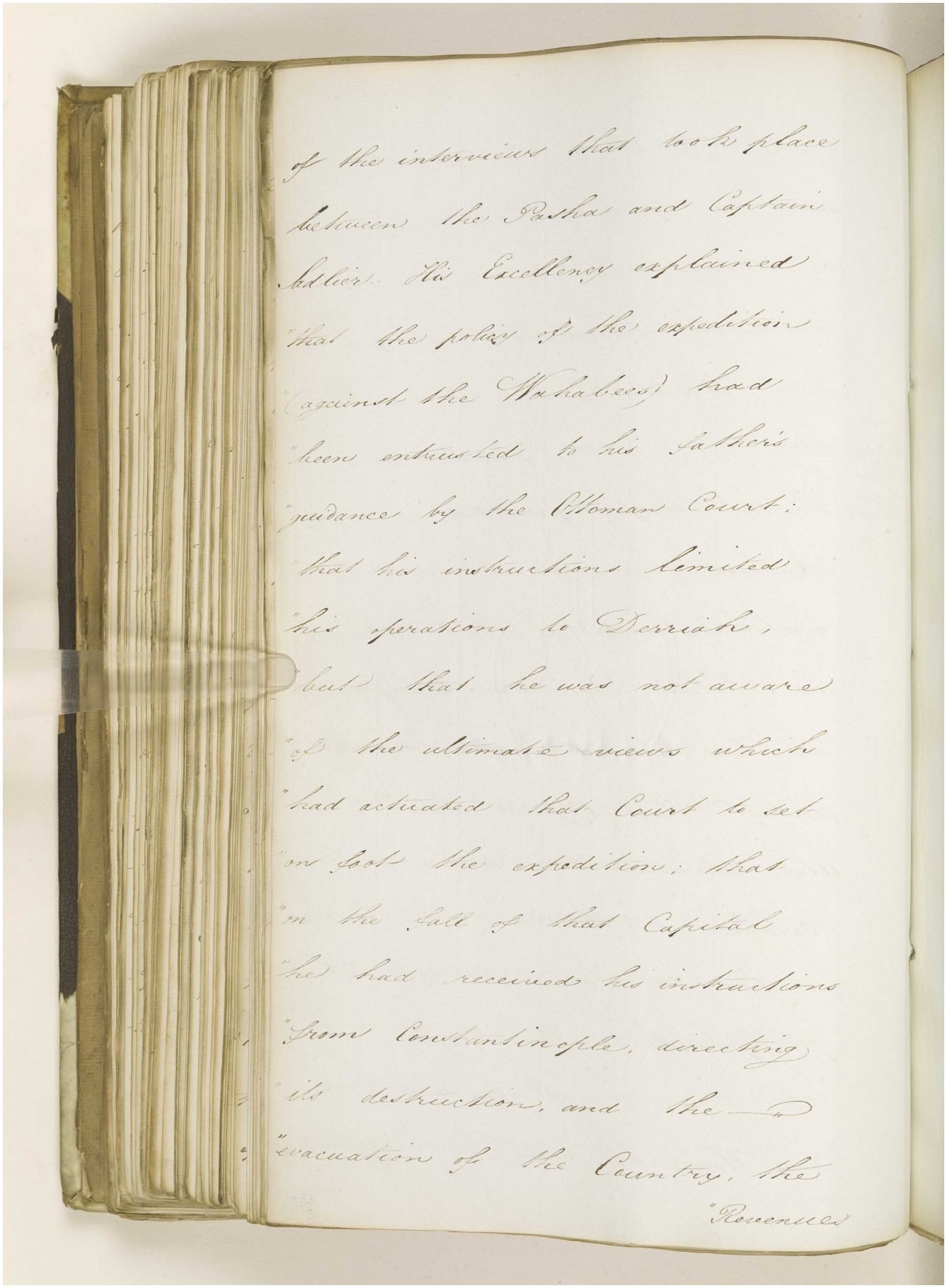

of the interviews that took place
between the Pasha and Captain
Sadlier. His Excellency explained
"that the policy of the expedition
"(against the Wahabees) had
"been entrusted to his Father's
"guidance by the Ottoman Court:
"that his instructions limited
"his operations to Derriah,
"but that he was not aware
"of the ultimate views which
"had actuated that Court to set
"on foot the expedition: that
"on the fall of that Capital
"he had received his instructions
"from Constantinople, directing
"its destruction, and the
"evacuation of the Country, the
"Revenues

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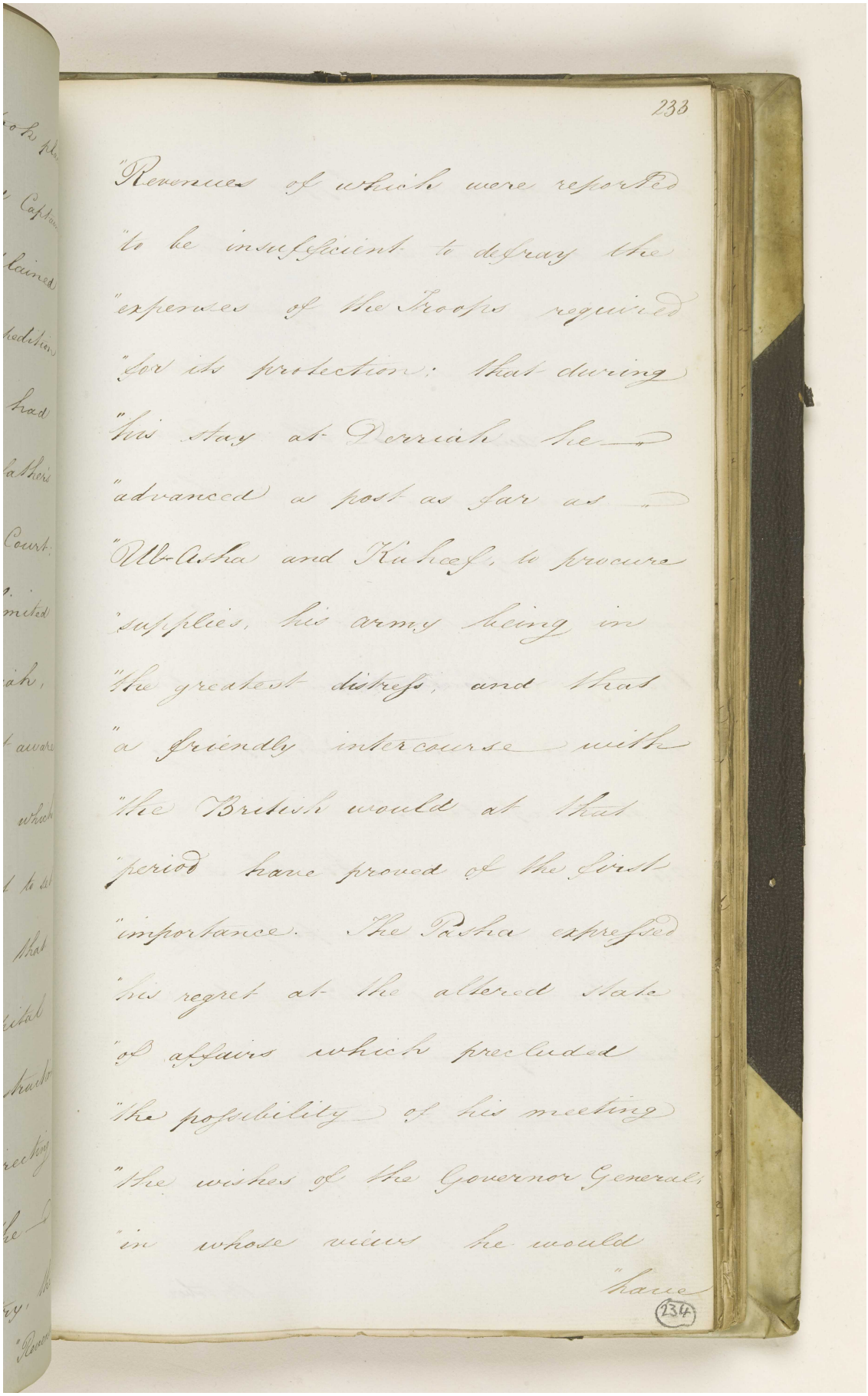

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"Revenues of which were reported
"to be insufficient to defray the
"expenses of the Troops required
"for its protection: that during
"his stay at Derreah he
"advanced a post as far as
"Ul-Aisha and Kuheef, to procure
"supplies, his army being in
"the greatest distress, and that
"a friendly intercourse with
"the British would at that
"period have proved of the first
"importance. The Pasha expressed
"his regret at the altered State
"of affairs which precluded
"the possibility of his meeting
"the wishes of the Governor General,
"in whose views he would
"have

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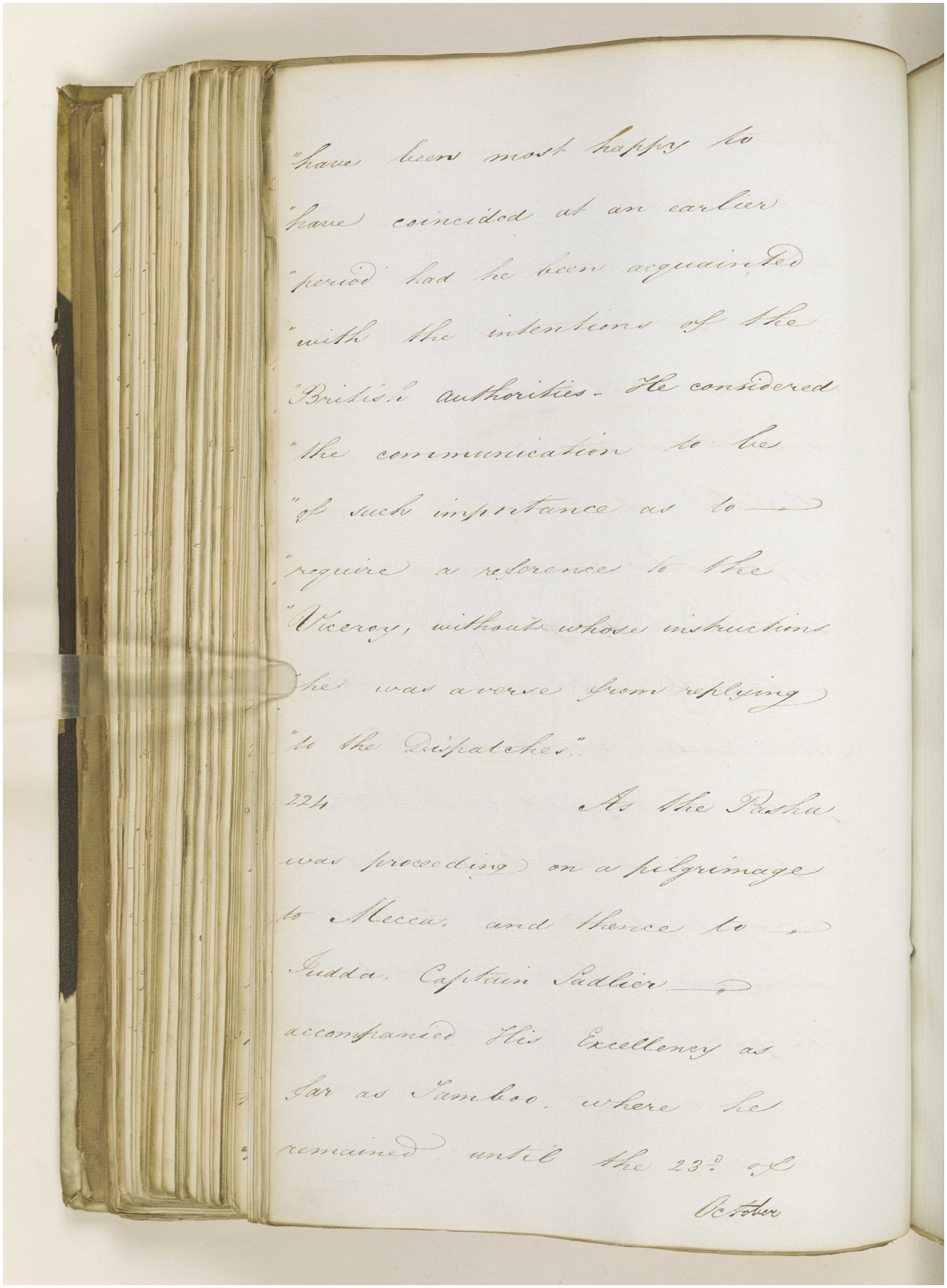
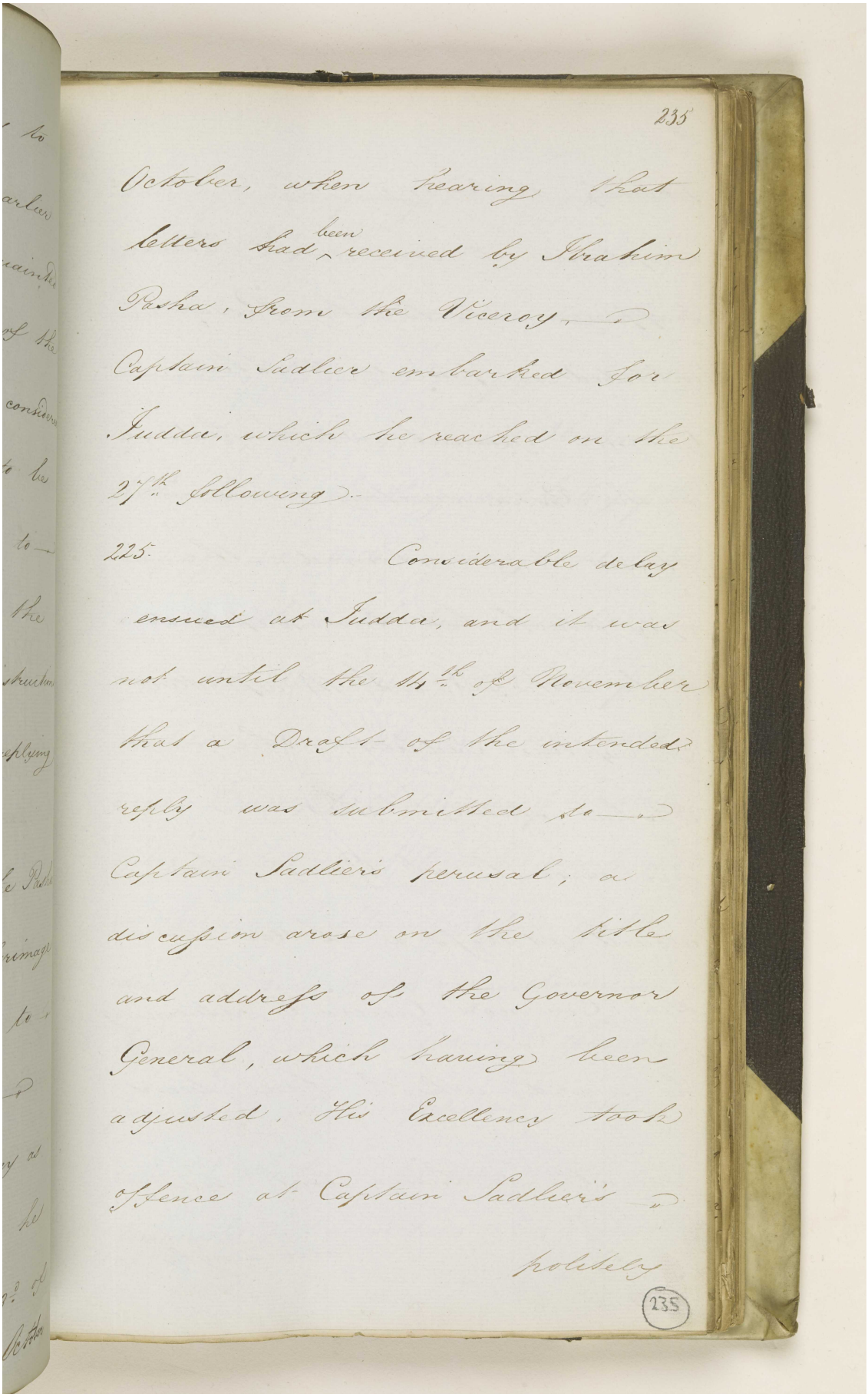


"have been most happy to
"have coincided at an earlier
"period had he been acquainted
"with the intentions of the
"British authorities - He considered
"the communication to be
"of such importance as to —
"require a reference to the
"Viceroy, without whose instructions
"he was averse from replying
"to the Dispatches."

224 As the Pasha
was proceeding on a pilgrimage
to Mecca, and thence to —
Judda, Captain Sadlier —
accompanied His Excellency as
far as Yambo, where he
remained until the 23d of
October



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October, when hearing that
letters had been received by Ibrahim
Pasha, from the Viceroy, —
Captain Sadlier embarked for
Judda, which he reached on the
27th following.

225. Considerable delay
ensued at Judda, and it was
not until the 11th of November
that a Draft of the intended
reply was submitted to —
Captain Sadlier's perusal; a
discussion arose on the title
and address of the Governor
General, which having been
adjusted, His Excellency took
offence at Captain Sadlier's —
politely

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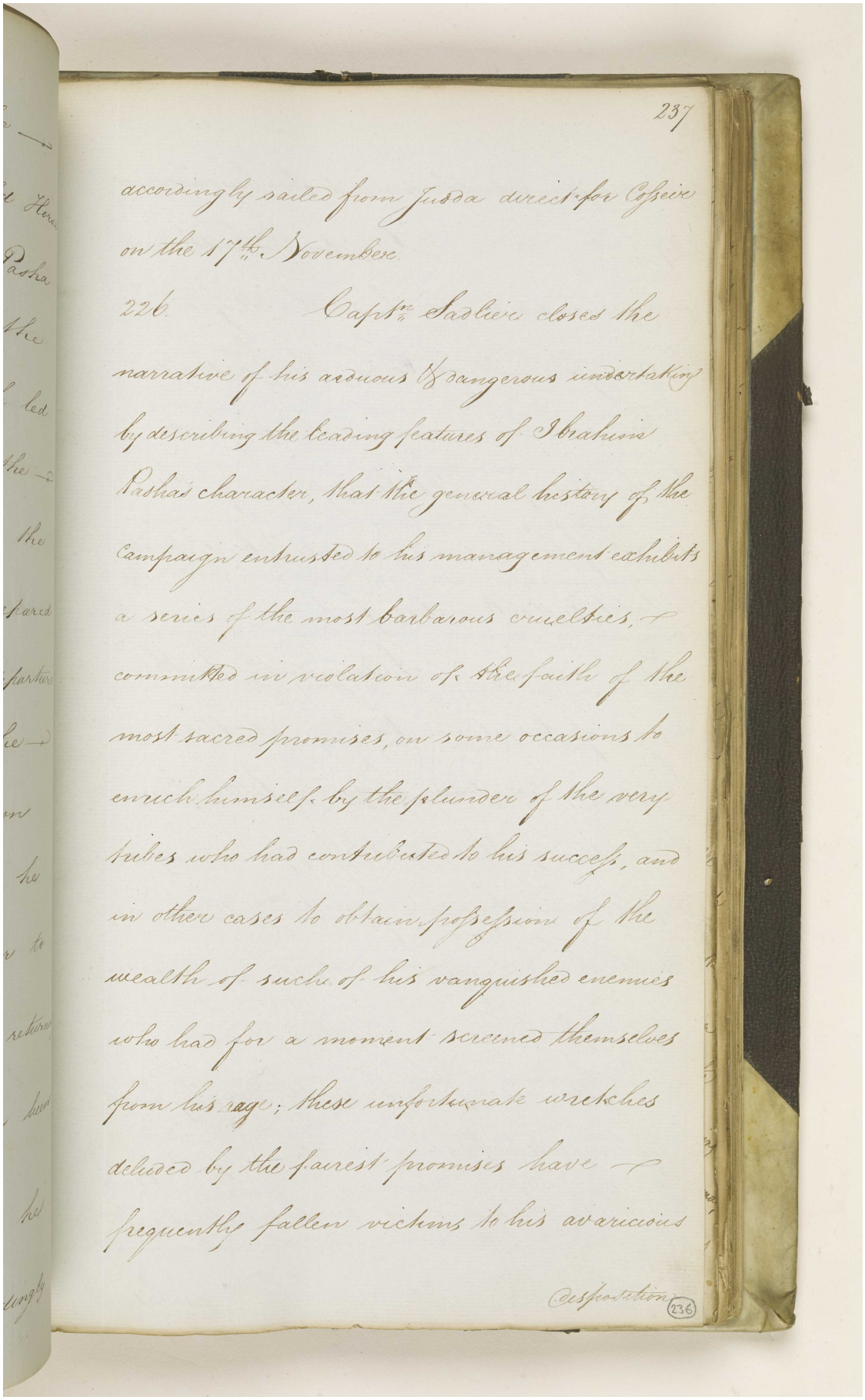
politely declining the —
acceptance of some old Horse
trappings which the Pasha
intended as presents to the
Governor General which led
to the Pasha directing the —
Horses to be returned, the
reply which had been prepared
to be destroyed, and the departure
of Captain Saddler; the —
Pasha stating that on
his arrival at Cairo he
would address a Letter to
the Governor General, returning
the sword which had been
presented to him, and he
accordingly



accordingly sailed from Jusda direct for Cosseir on the 17th November.

226. Captn Sadlier closes the narrative of his arduous & dangerous undertaking by describing the leading features of Ibrahim Pasha's character, that the general history of the campaign entrusted to his management exhibits a series of the most barbarous cruelties, committed in violation of the faith of the most sacred promises, on some occasions to enrich himself by the plunder of the very tribes who had contributed to his success, and in other cases to obtain possession of the wealth of such of his vanquished enemies who had for a moment screened themselves from his rage; these unfortunate wretches deluded by the fairest promises have frequently fallen victims to his avaricious

disposition

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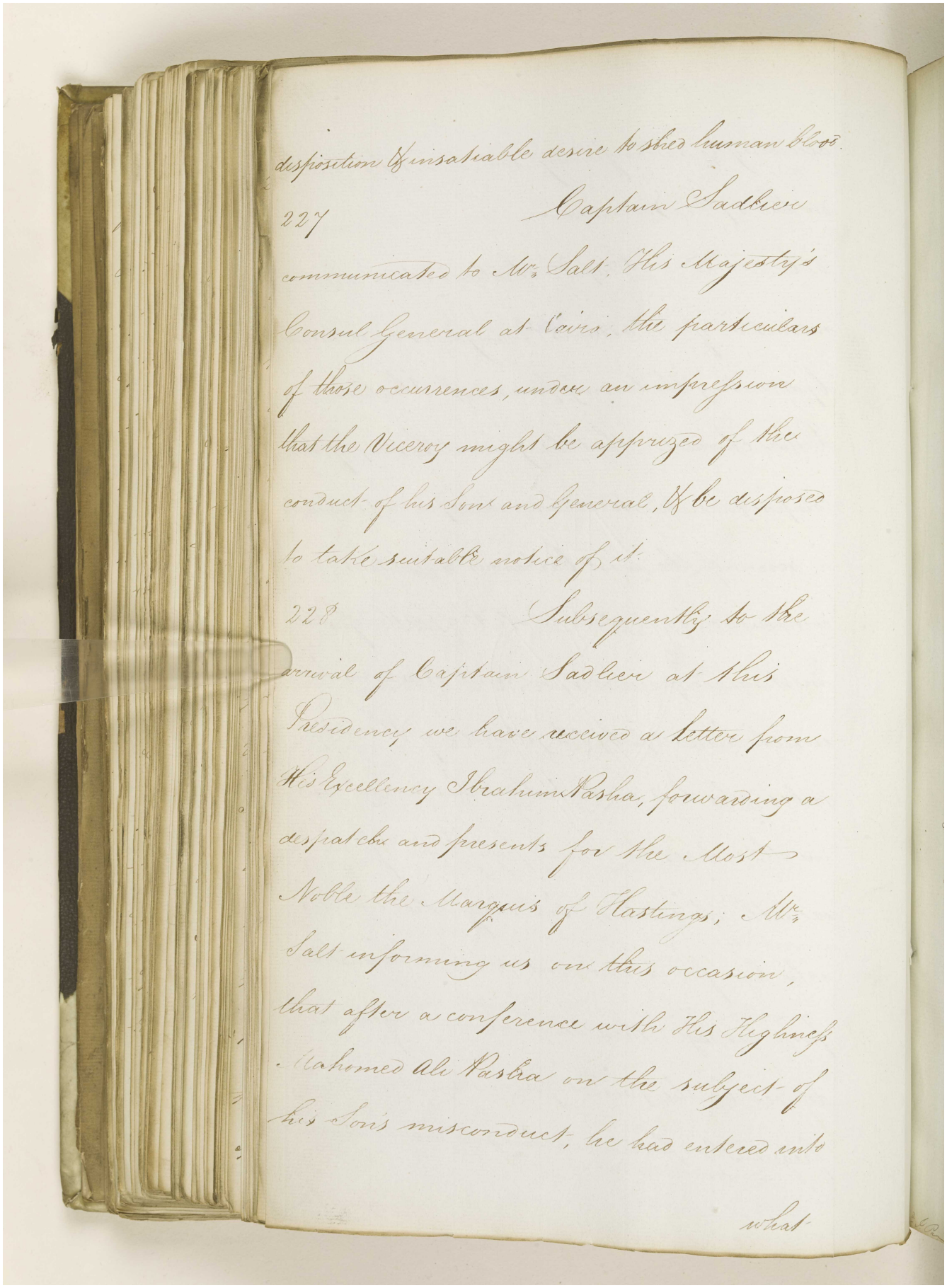
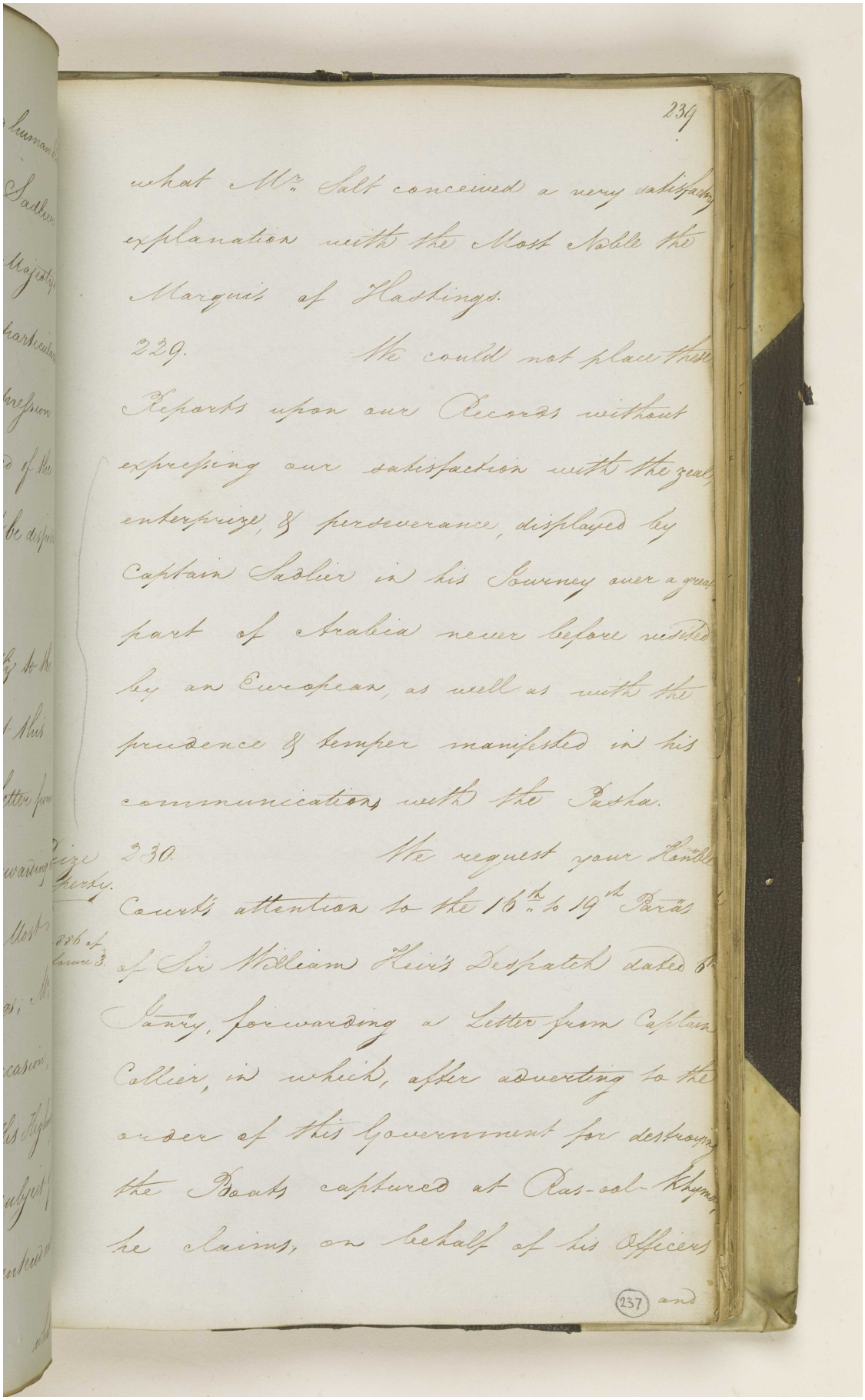


disposition & insatiable desire to shed human blood.

227 Captain Sadlier communicated to Mr. Salt, His Majesty's Consul General at Cairo, the particulars of those occurrences, under an impression that the Viceroy might be apprized of the conduct of his Son and General, & be disposed to take suitable notice of it.

228 Subsequently to the arrival of Captain Sadlier at this Presidency we have received a Letter from His Excellency Ibrahim Pasha, forwarding a despatch and presents for the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings; Mr. Salt informing us on this occasion, that after a conference with His Highness Mahomed Ali Pasha on the subject of his Son's misconduct, he had entered into

what



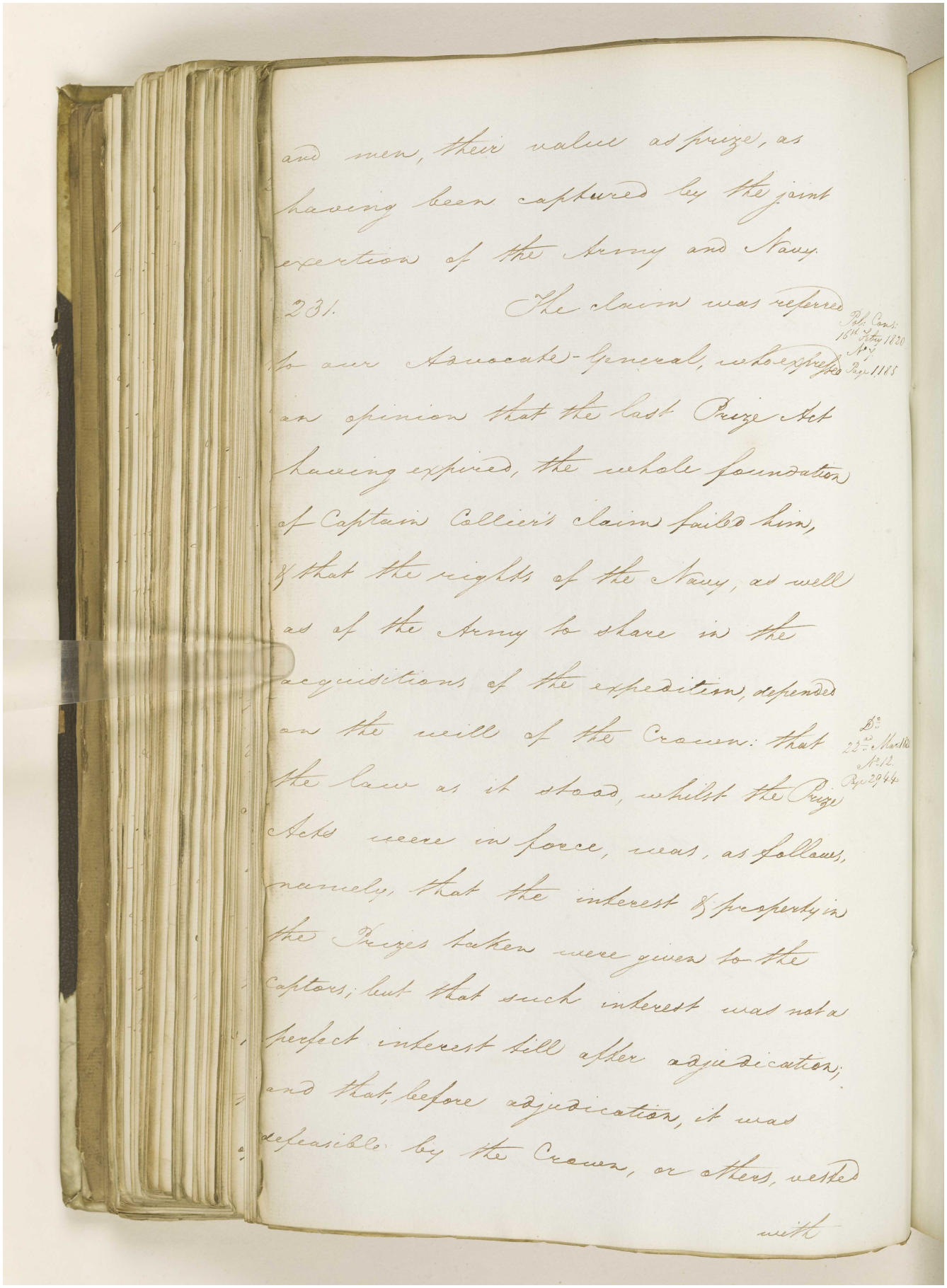
239

what Mr. Salt conceived a very satisfactory explanation with the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings.

229. We could not place these Reports upon our Records without expressing our satisfaction with the zeal, enterprize, & perseverance, displayed by Captain Sadlier in his Journey over a great part of Arabia never before visited by an European, as well as with the prudence & temper manifested in his communications with the Pasha.

230. We request your Lordships Courts attention to the 16th to 19th Paras of Sir William Keir's Despatch dated 6th Janry, forwarding a Letter from Captain Collier, in which, after adverting to the order of this Government for destroying the Boats captured at Ras-ool-Khyma he claims, on behalf of his Officers

237 and



and men, their value as prize, as having been captured by the joint exertion of the Army and Navy.

231. The claim was referred to our Advocate-General, who expressed an opinion that the last Prize Act having expired, the whole foundation of Captain Collier's claim failed him, & that the rights of the Navy, as well as of the Army to share in the acquisitions of the expedition, depended on the will of the Crown: that the law as it stood, whilst the Prize Acts were in force, was, as follows, namely, that the interest & property in the Prizes taken were given to the Captors; but that such interest was not a perfect interest till after adjudication; and that, before adjudication, it was defeasible by the Crown, or others, vested

Pol: Cons: 16th Feby 1820 No 7 Page 1185

Do 22nd Mar 1820 No 12 Page 2944

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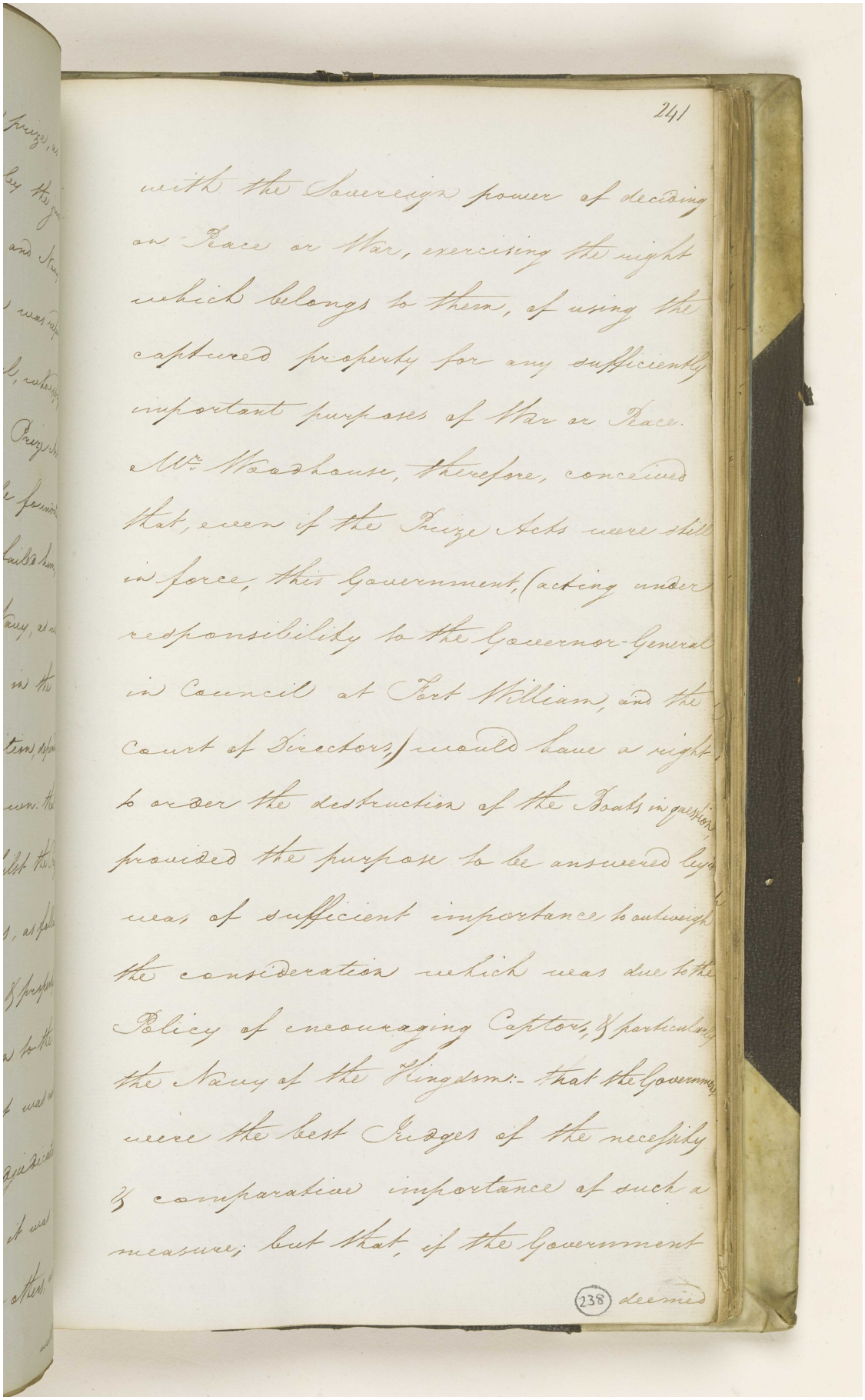

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with the Sovereign power of deciding on Peace or War, exercising the right which belongs to them, of using the captured property for any sufficiently important purposes of War or Peace. Mr. Woodhouse, therefore, conceives that, even if the Prize Acts were still in force, this Government, (acting under responsibility to the Governor-General in Council at Fort William, and the Court of Directors,) would have a right to order the destruction of the Boats in question, provided the purpose to be answered by it was of sufficient importance to outweigh the consideration which was due to the Policy of encouraging Captors, & particularly the Navy of the Kingdom:- that the Government were the best Judges of the necessity & comparative importance of such a measure; but that, if the Government

(238) deemed

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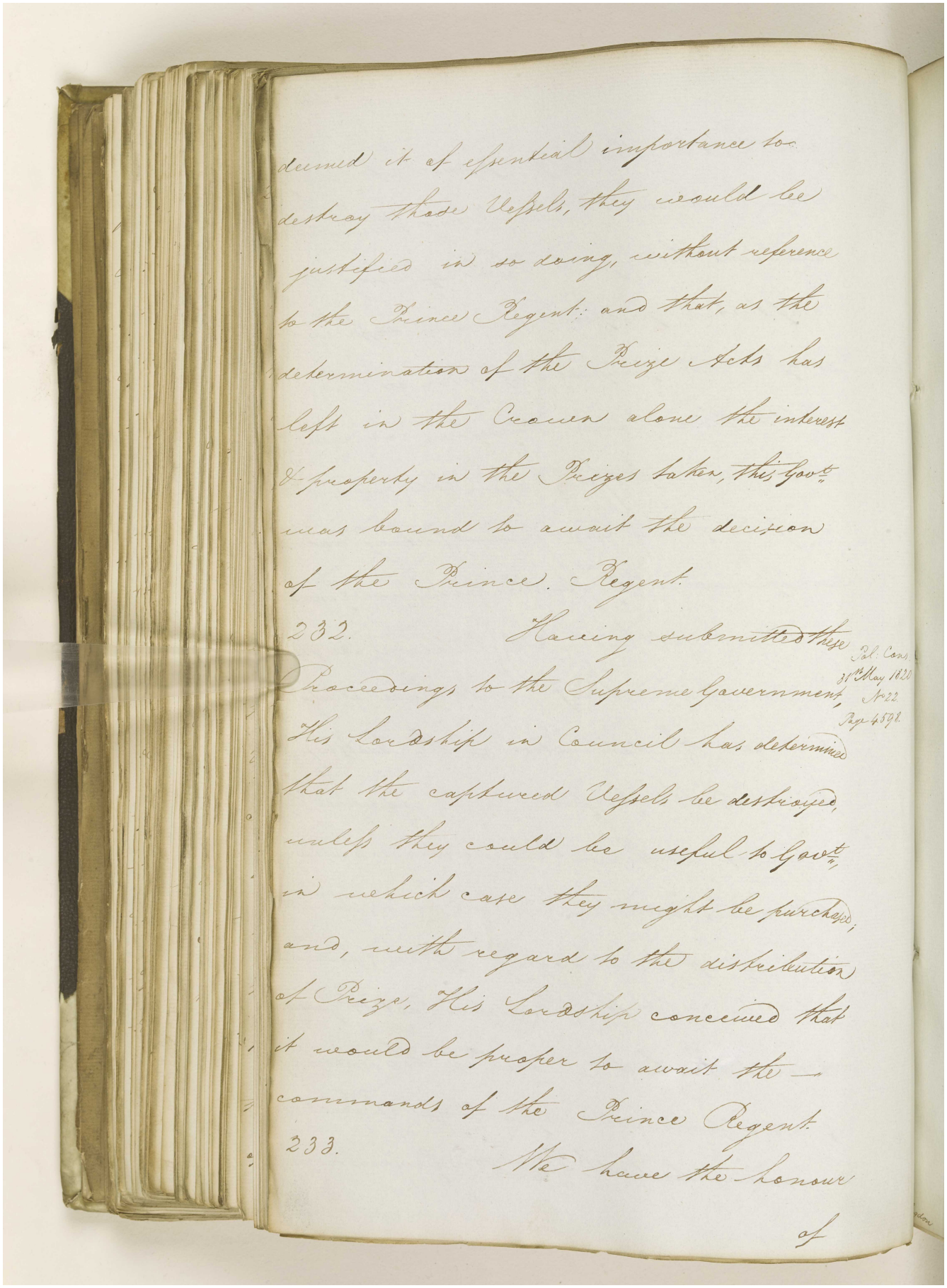

deemed it of essential importance to destroy those Vessels, they would be justified in so doing, without reference to the Prince Regent: and that, as the determination of the Prize Acts has left in the Crown alone the interest & property in the Prizes taken, this Govt. was bound to await the decision of the Prince Regent.

232. Having submitted these Proceedings to the Supreme Government, His Lordship in Council has determined that the captured Vessels be destroyed, unless they could be useful to Govt., in which case they might be purchased; and, with regard to the distribution of Prize, His Lordship conceived that it would be proper to await the commands of the Prince Regent.

Pol: Cons. 31st May 1820 No. 22. Page 4598.

233. We have the honour of

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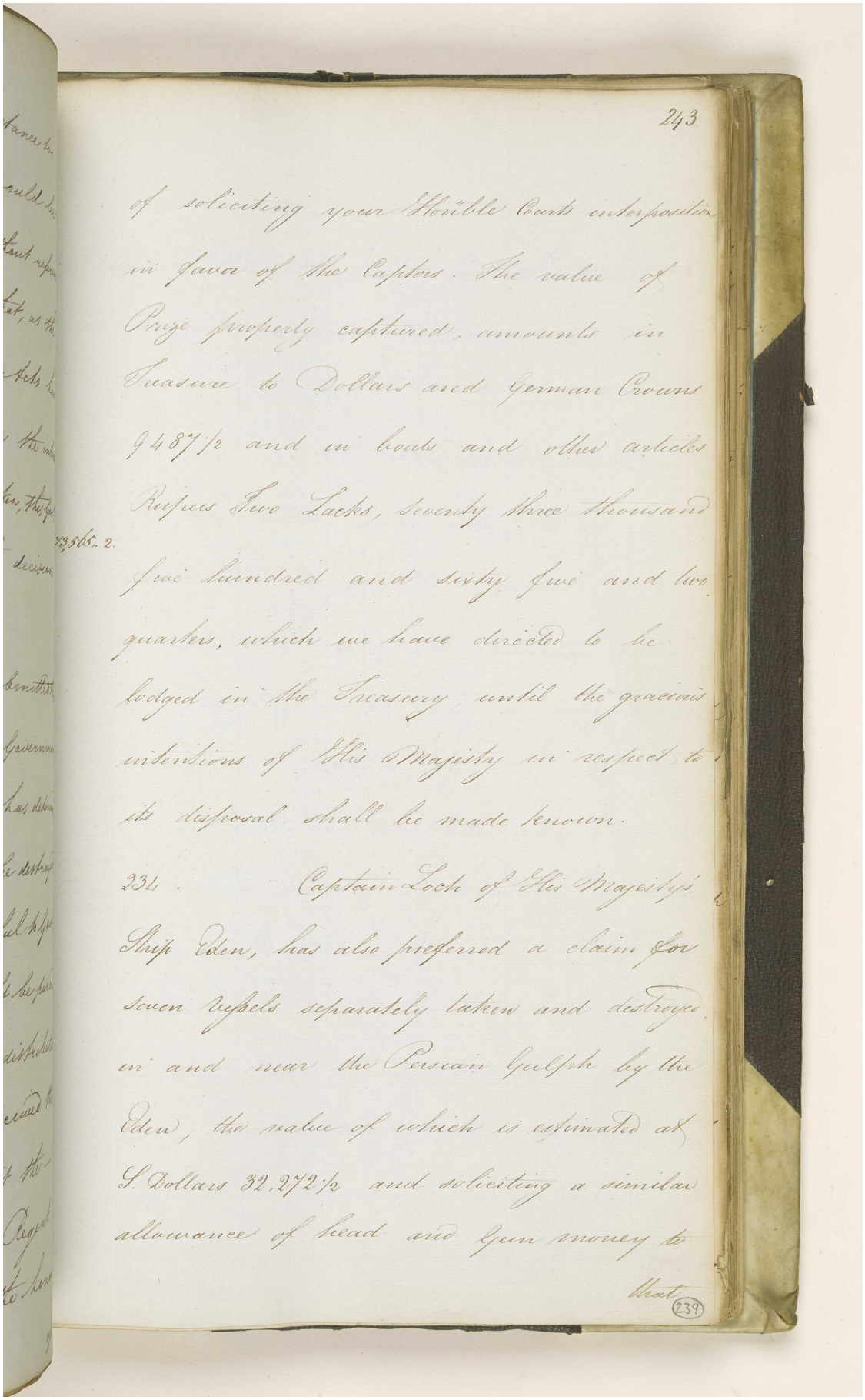

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of soliciting your Honble Courts interposition
in favor of the Captors. The value of
Prize property captured, amounts in
Treasure to Dollars and German Crowns
9487/12 and in boats and other articles
Rupees Two Lacks, Seventy three thousand
five hundred and sixty five and two
quarters, which we have directed to be
lodged in the Treasury until the gracious
intentions of His Majesty in respect to
its disposal shall be made known.

23d. Captain Loch of His Majesty's
Ship Eden, has also preferred a claim for
seven Vessels separately taken and destroyed
in and near the Persian Gulph by the
Eden, the value of which is estimated at
S. Dollars 32,272/12 and soliciting a similar
allowance of head and Gun money to

that

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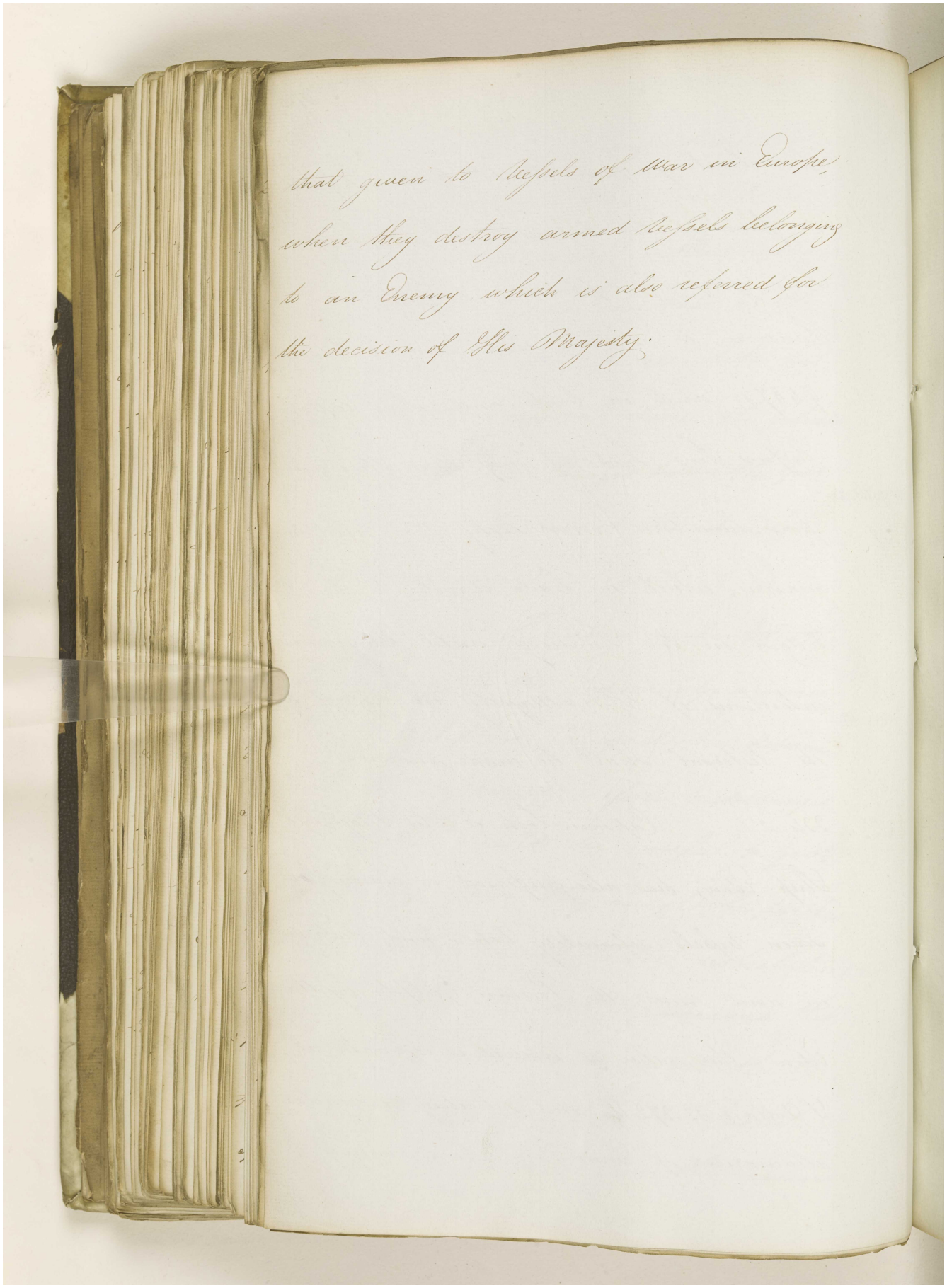

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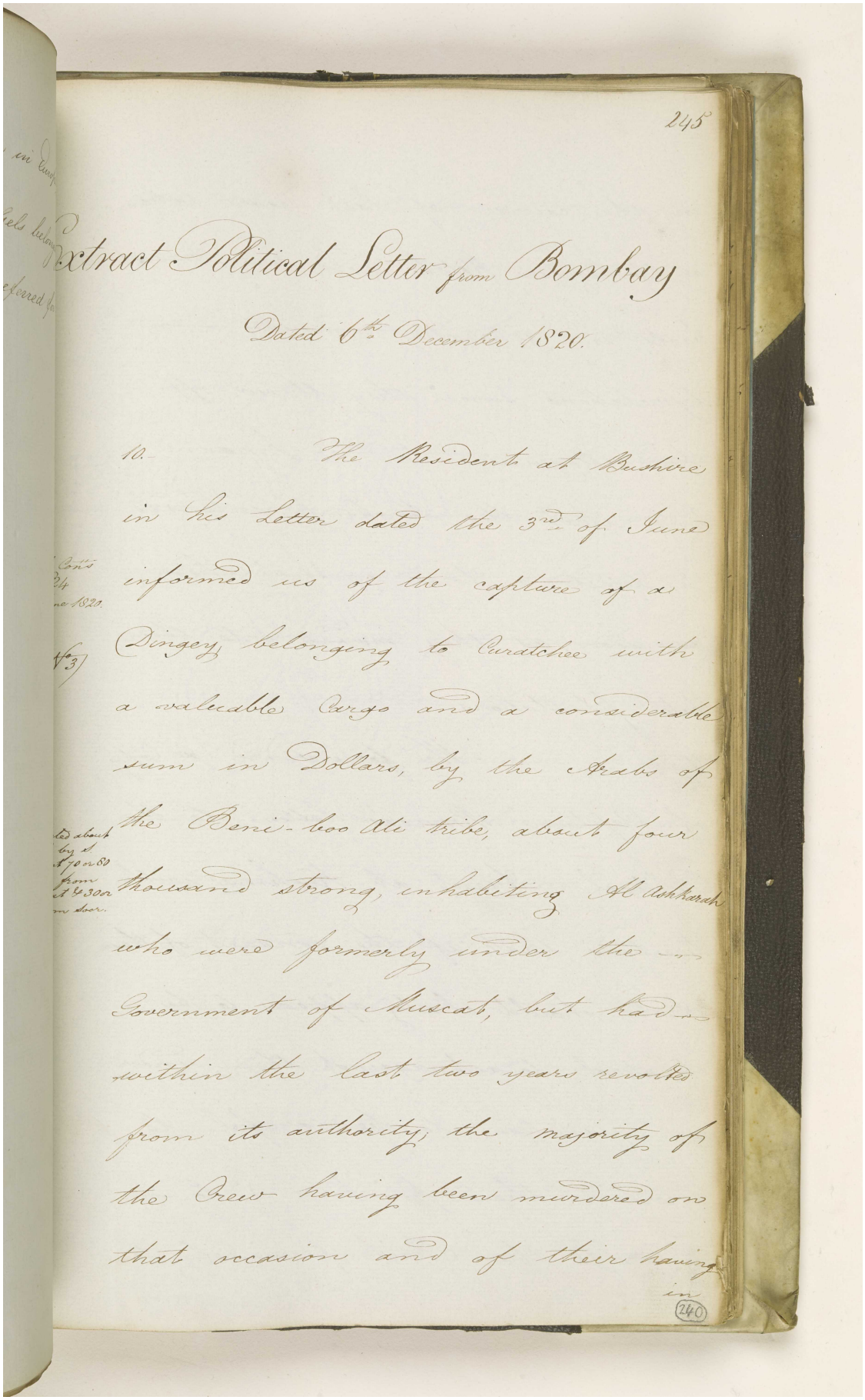

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Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 6th December 1820.

10. The Resident at Bushire in his Letter dated the 3rd of June informed us of the capture of a Dingey, belonging to Curatchee with a valuable Cargo and a considerable sum in Dollars, by the Arabs of the Beni-boo Ali tribe, about four thousand strong, inhabiting Al Ashkarah who were formerly under the Government of Muscat, but had within the last two years revolted from its authority, the majority of the Crew having been murdered on that occasion and of their having

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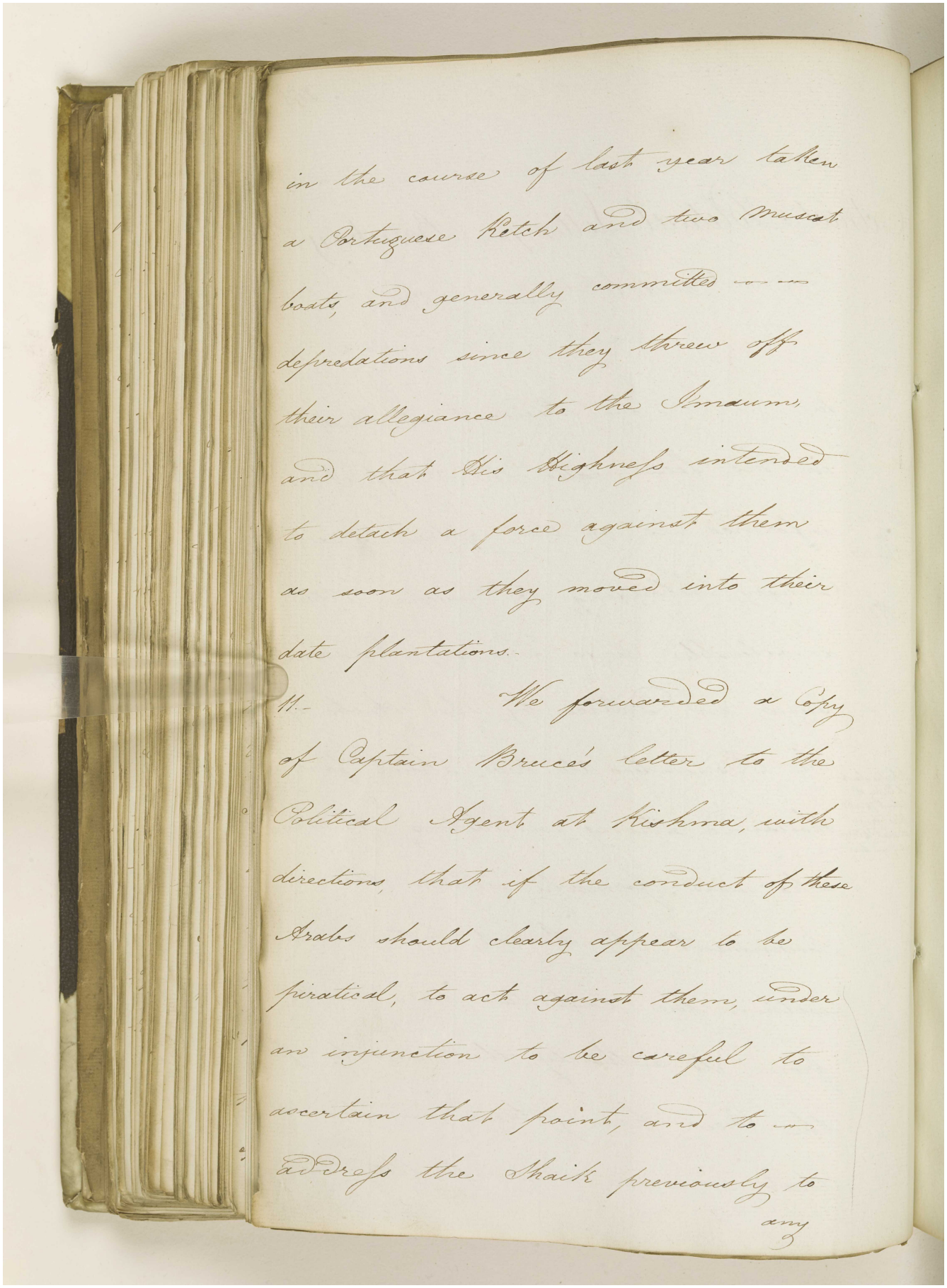

in the course of last year taken a Portuguese Batch and two Muscat boats, and generally committed depredations since they threw off their allegiance to the Imaum, and that His Highness intended to detach a force against them as soon as they moved into their date plantations.

11.- We forwarded a Copy of Captain Bruce's letter to the Political Agent at Kishma, with directions, that if the conduct of these Arabs should clearly appear to be piratical, to act against them, under an injunction to be careful to ascertain that point, and to address the Shaik previously to any

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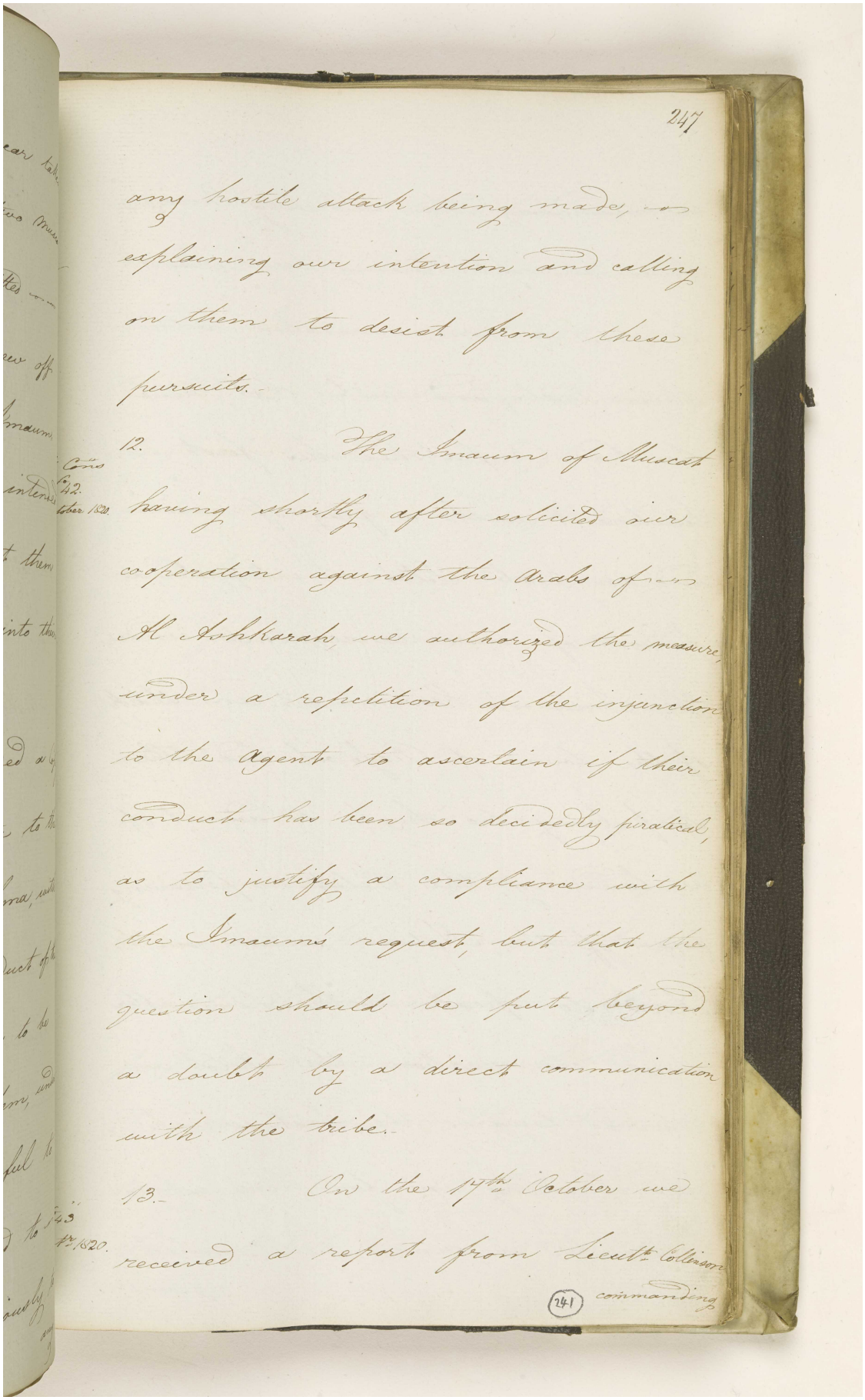

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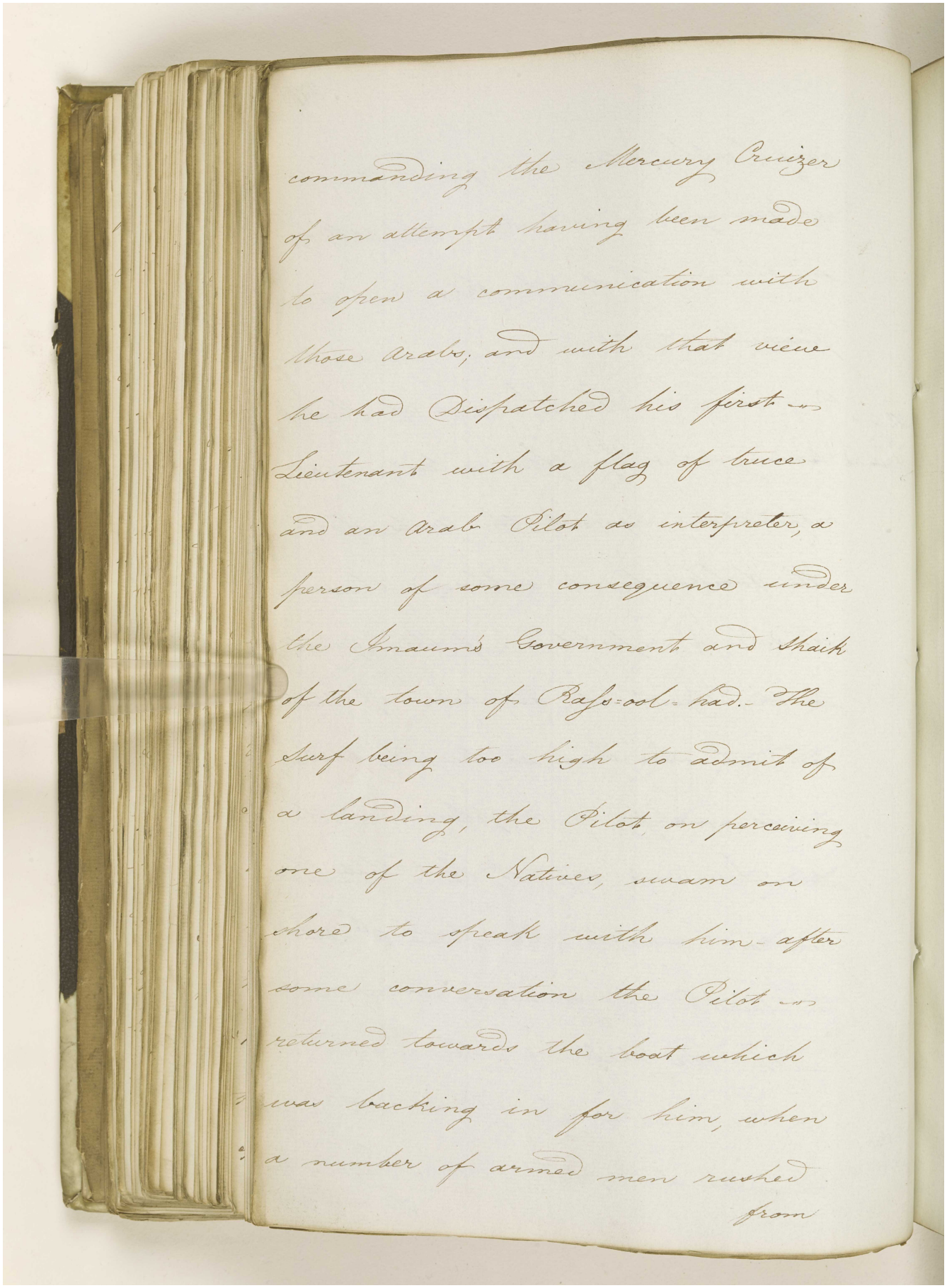
any hostile attack being made, —
explaining our intention and calling
on them to desist from these
pursuits.

12. The Imaum of Muscat
having shortly after solicited our
cooperation against the Arabs of —
Al Ashkarah we authorized the measure,
under a repetition of the injunction
to the Agent to ascertain if their
conduct has been so decidedly piratical,
as to justify a compliance with
the Imaum's request, but that the
question should be put beyond
a doubt by a direct communication
with the tribe.

13. On the 17th October we
received a report from Lieut.t Collinson
commanding



commanding the Mercury Cruizer
of an attempt having been made
to open a communication with
those Arabs, and with that view
he had Dispatched his first
Lieutenant with a flag of truce
and an Arab Pilot as interpreter, a
person of some consequence under
the Imaum's Government and Shaik
of the town of Ras-ool-had.- The
Surf being too high to admit of
a landing, the Pilot on perceiving
one of the Natives, swam on
shore to speak with him- after
some conversation the Pilot
returned towards the boat which
was backing in for him, when
a number of armed men rushed
from

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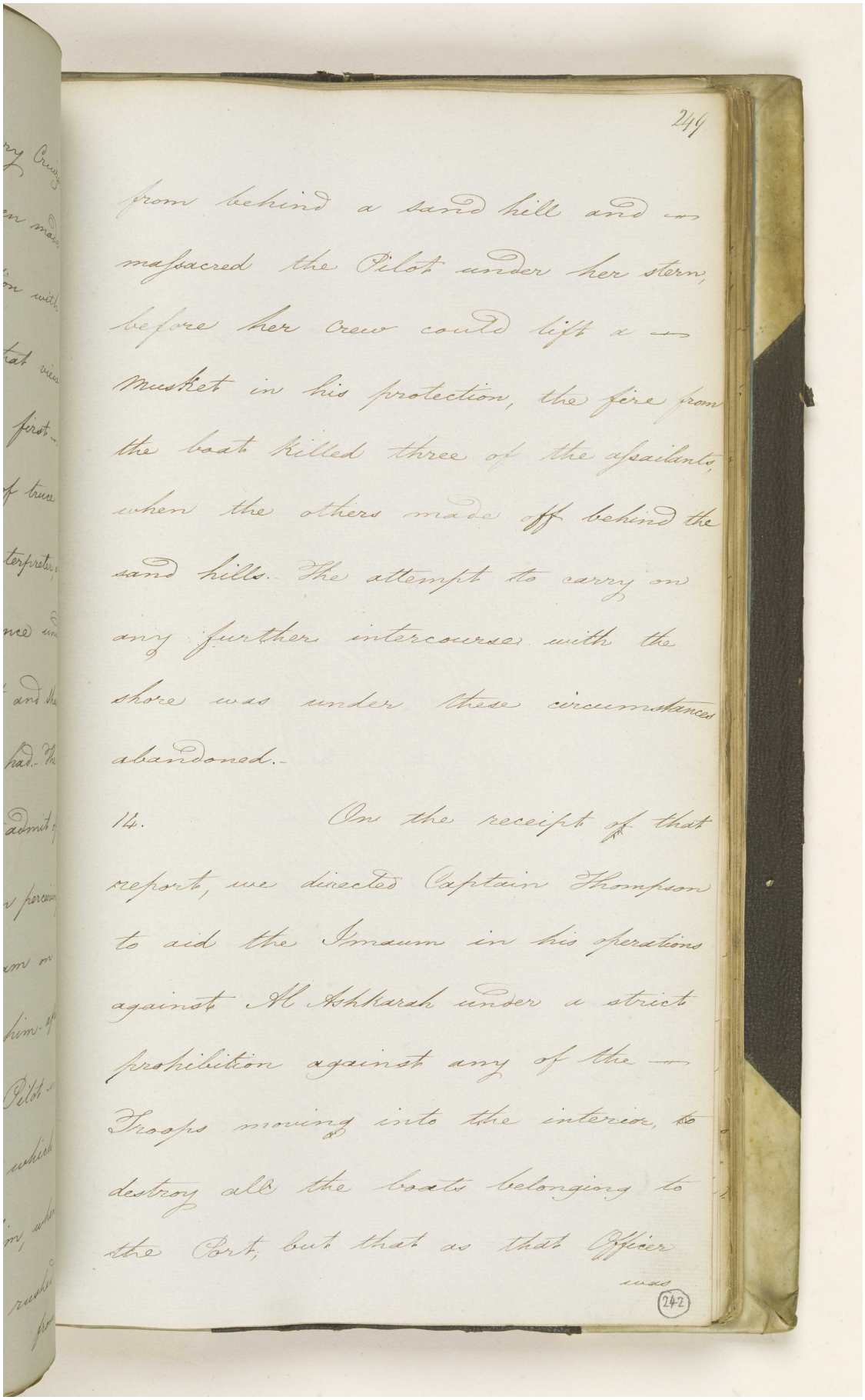

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from behind a sand hill and massacred the Pilot under her stern, before her Crew could lift a Musket in his protection, the fire from the boat killed three of the assailants, when the others made off behind the sand hills. The attempt to carry on any further intercourse with the shore was under these circumstances abandoned.-

14. On the receipt of that report, we directed Captain Thompson to aid the Imaum in his operations against Al Ashkarah under a strict prohibition against any of the Troops moving into the interior, to destroy all the boats belonging to the Port, but that as that Officer was

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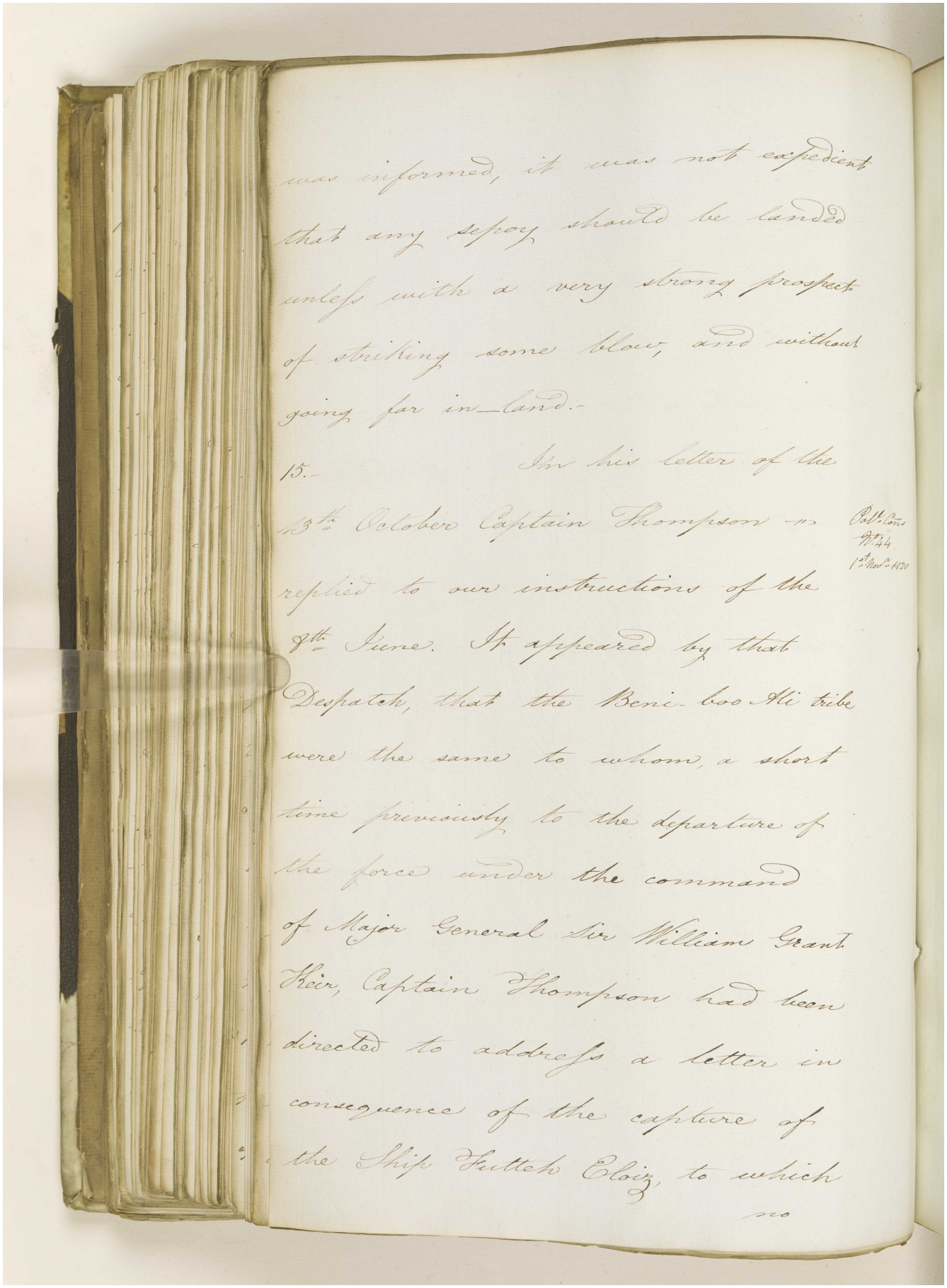

was informed, it was not expedient that any sepoy should be landed unless with a very strong prospect of striking some blow, and without going far in-land.-

15.- In his letter of the 13th October Captain Thompson -- replied to our instructions of the 8th June. It appeared by that Despatch, that the Beni-boo Ali tribe were the same to whom, a short time previously to the departure of the force under the command of Major General Sir William Grant Keir, Captain Thompson had been directed to address a letter in consequence of the capture of the Ship Futteh Eloiz, to which no

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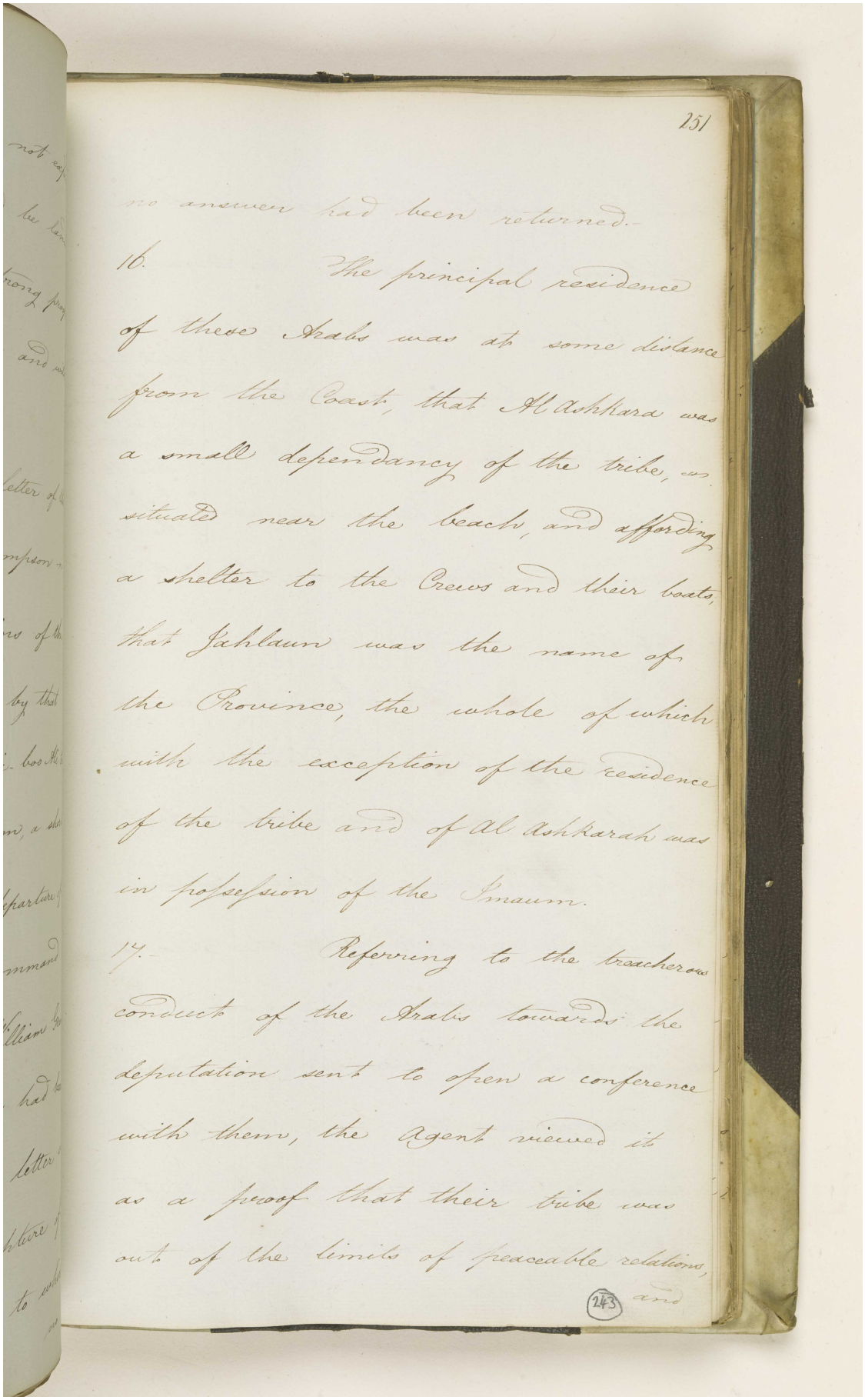

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no answer had been returned.-

16. The principal residence of these Arabs was at some distance from the Coast, that Al Ashkara was a small dependancy of the tribe, as situated near the beach, and affording a shelter to the Crews and their boats, that Jahlaun was the name of the Province, the whole of which with the exception of the residence of the tribe and of Al Ashkarah was in possession of the Imaum.

17.- Referring to the treacherous conduct of the Arabs towards the deputation sent to open a conference with them, the Agent viewed it as a proof that their tribe was out of the limits of peaceable relations, and

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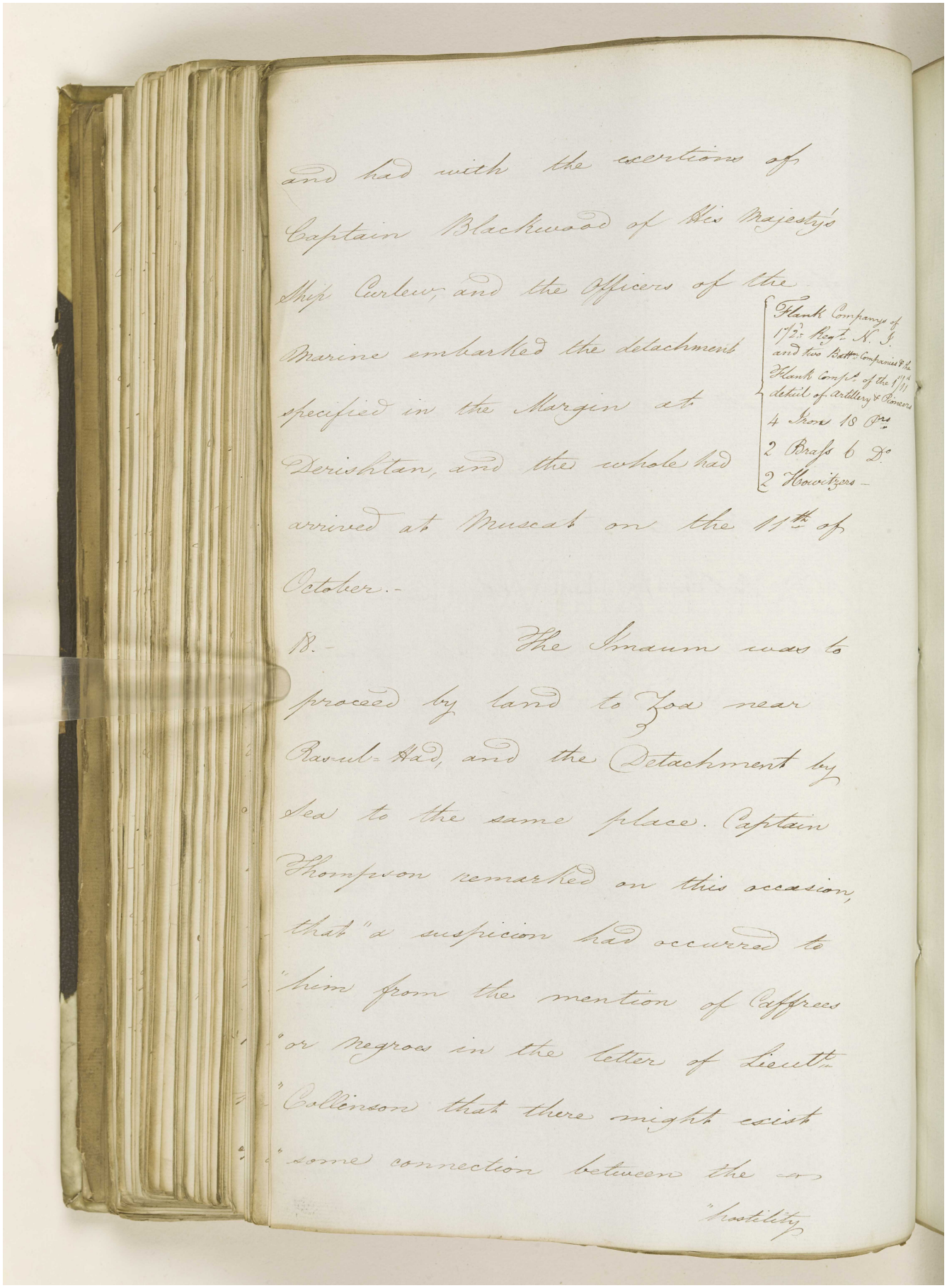
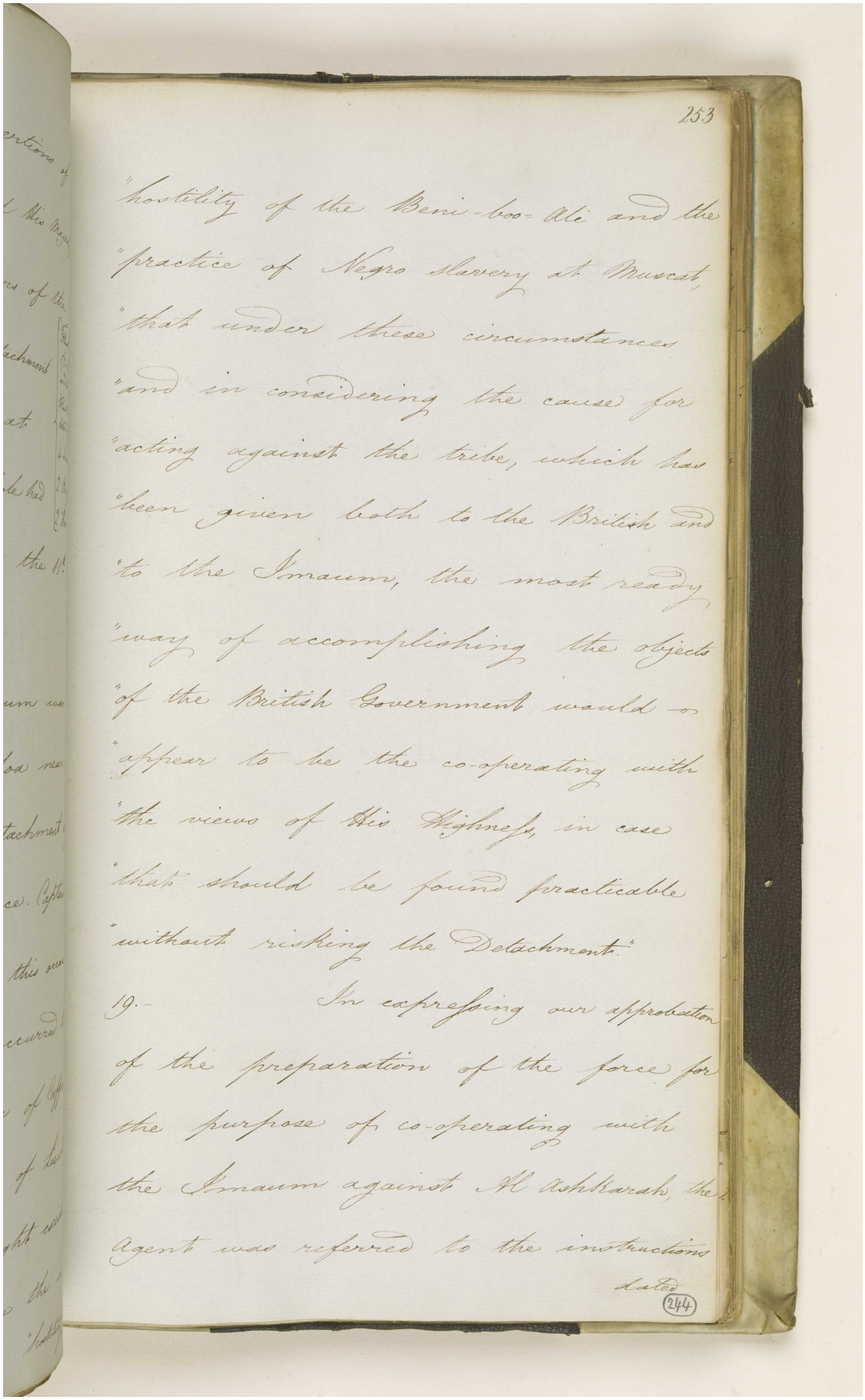


and had with the exertions of Captain Blackwood of His Majesty's Ship Curlew, and the Officers of the Marine embarked the detachment specified in the Margin at Derishtan, and the whole had arrived at Muscat on the 11th of October.-

Flank Companys of 1/2d Regt N. I. and two Battn Companies & the Flank Comps of the 1/11th detail of Artillery & Pioneers
4 Iron 18 Prs
2 Brass 6 Do
2 Howitzers -

18.- The Imaum was to proceed by land to Zoa near Ras-ul-Had, and the Detachment by Sea to the same place. Captain Thompson remarked on this occasion, that "a suspicion had occurred to "him from the mention of Caffrees "or Negroes in the letter of Lieutt "Collinson that there might exist "some connection between the "hostility



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"hostility of the Beni-boo-Ale and the
"practice of Negro Slavery at Muscat,
"that under these circumstances
"and in considering the cause for
"acting against the tribe, which has
"been given both to the British and
"to the Imaum, the most ready
"way of accomplishing the objects
"of the British Government would
"appear to be the co-operating with
"the views of His Highness, in case
"that should be found practicable
"without risking the Detachment."

19.- In expressing our approbation
of the preparation of the force for
the purpose of co-operating with
the Imaum against Al Ashkarah, the
Agent was referred to the instructions
dated

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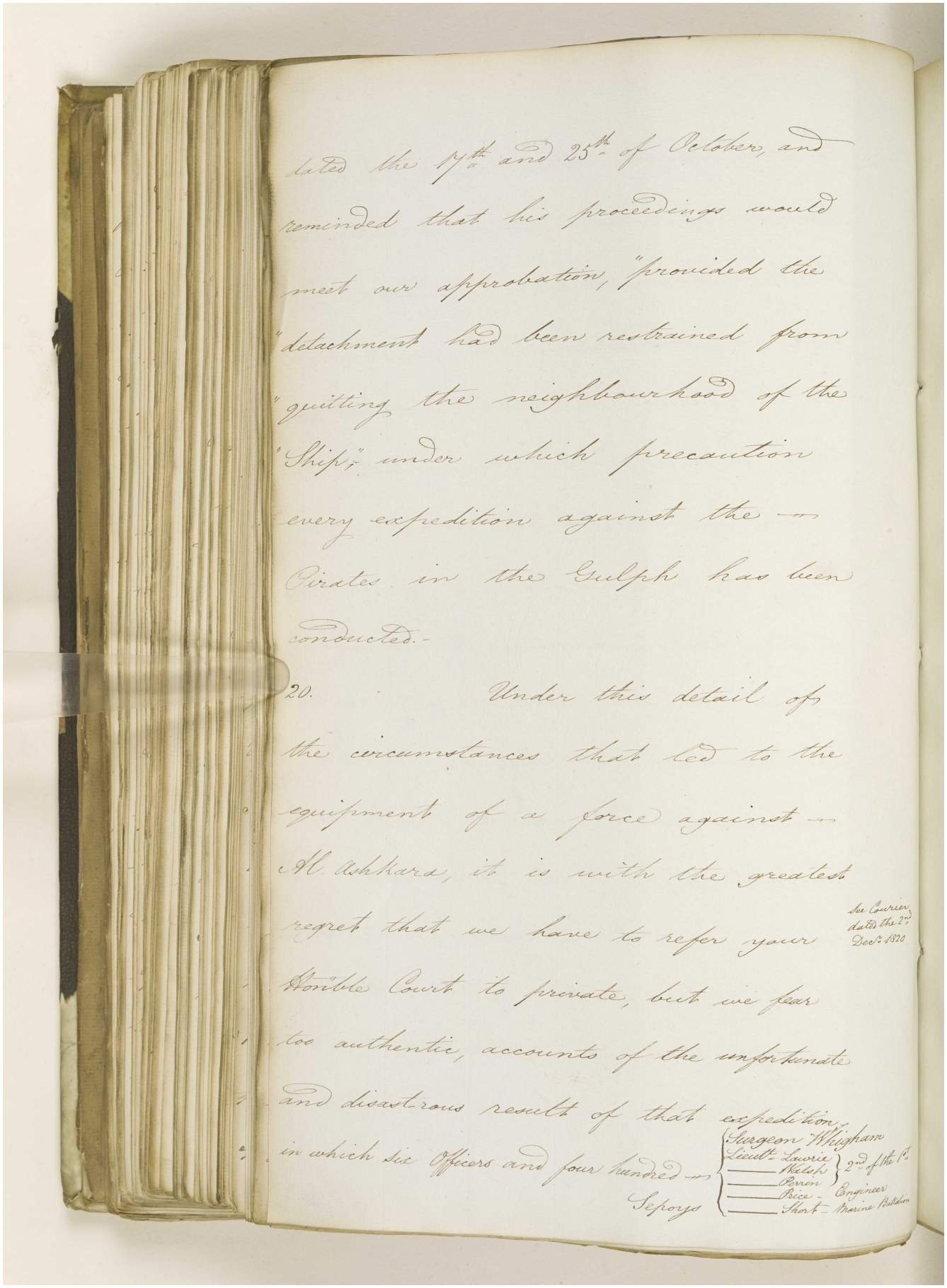

dated the 17th and 25th of October, and reminded that his proceedings would meet our approbation, "provided the "detachment had been restrained from "quitting the neighbourhood of the "Ship;" under which precaution every expedition against the Pirates in the Gulph has been conducted.-

20. Under this detail of the circumstances that led to the equipment of a force against Al Ashkara, it is with the greatest regret that we have to refer your Hon'ble Court to private, but we fear too authentic, accounts of the unfortunate and disastrous result of that expedition in which six Officers and four hundred Sepoys

See Courier dated the 2nd Decr 1820

Surgeon Whigham
Lieut. Lawrie } 2nd of the 1st
——— Walsh }
——— Perrin }
——— Price - Engineer
——— Short - Marine Battalion

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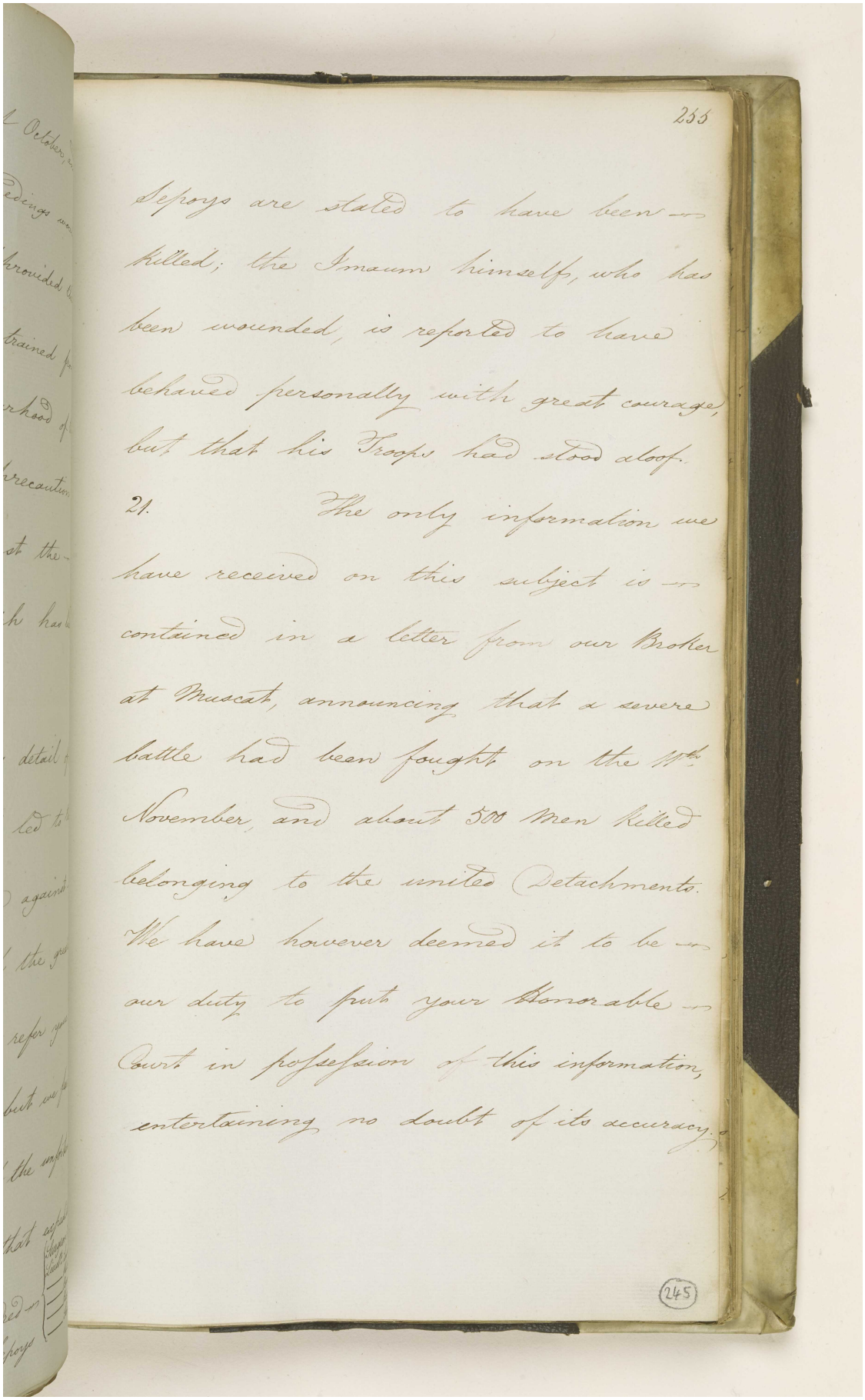

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Sepoys are stated to have been killed; the Imaum himself, who has been wounded, is reported to have behaved personally with great courage, but that his Troops had stood aloof.

21. The only information we have received on this subject is contained in a letter from our Broker at Muscat, announcing that a severe battle had been fought on the 17th November, and about 500 Men Killed belonging to the united Detachments. We have however deemed it to be our duty to put your Honorable Court in possession of this information, entertaining no doubt of its accuracy.

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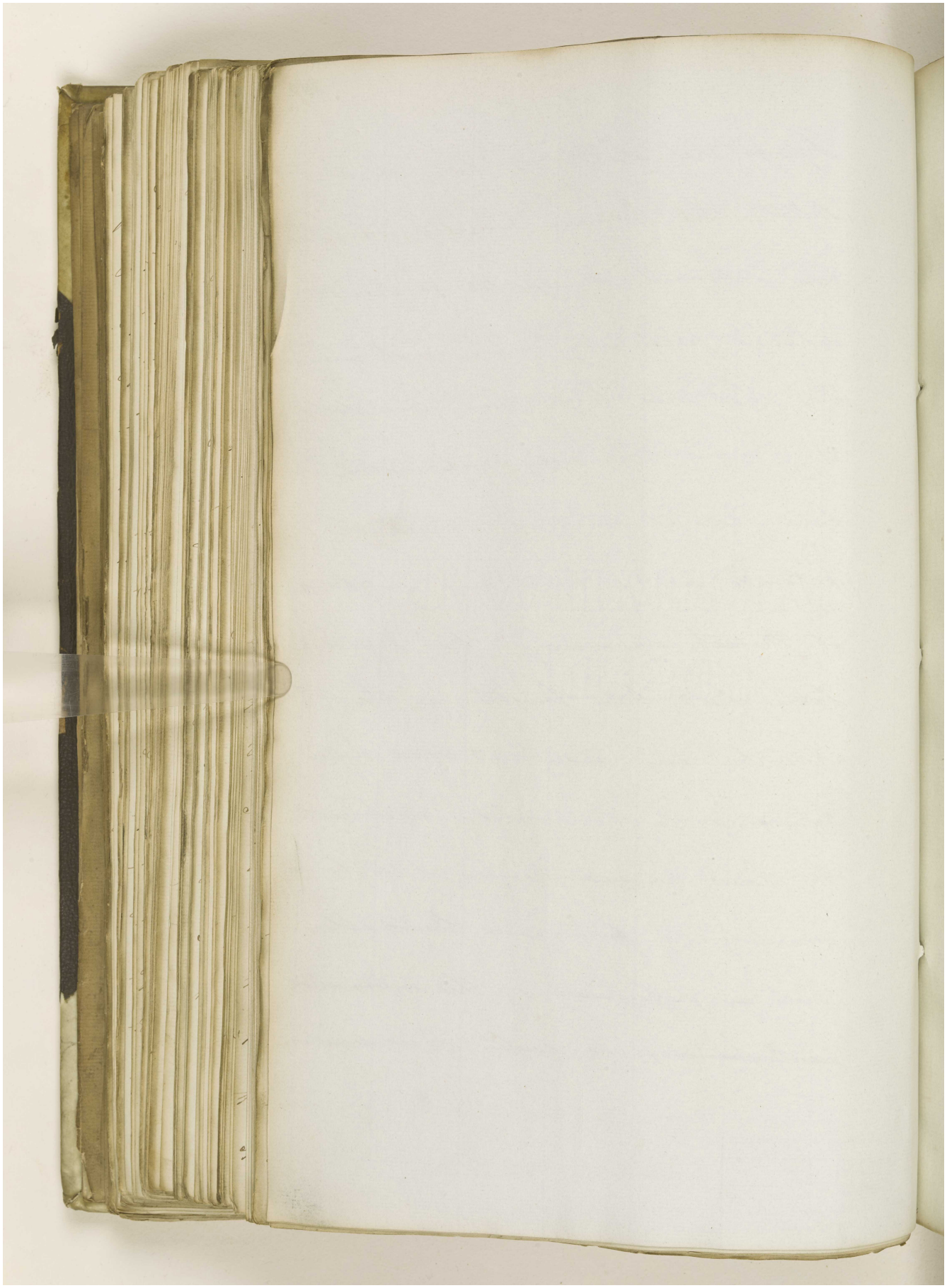

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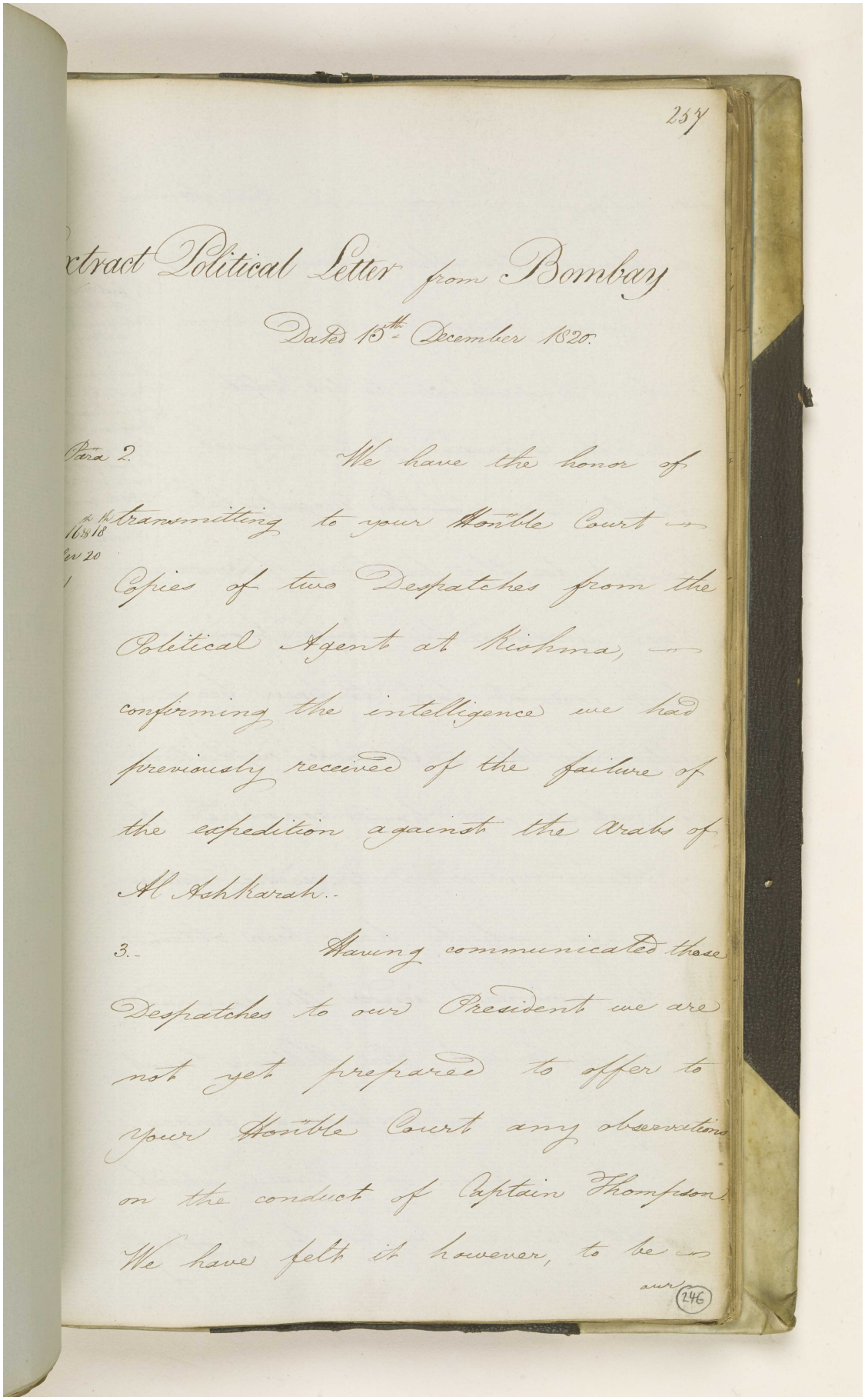

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Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 15th December 1820.

Para 2. We have the honor of transmitting to your Honble Court Copies of two Despatches from the Political Agent at Kishma, confirming the intelligence we had previously received of the failure of the expedition against the Arabs of Al Ashkarah.

3. Having communicated these Despatches to our President we are not yet prepared to offer to your Honble Court any observations on the conduct of Captain Thompson. We have felt it however, to be our

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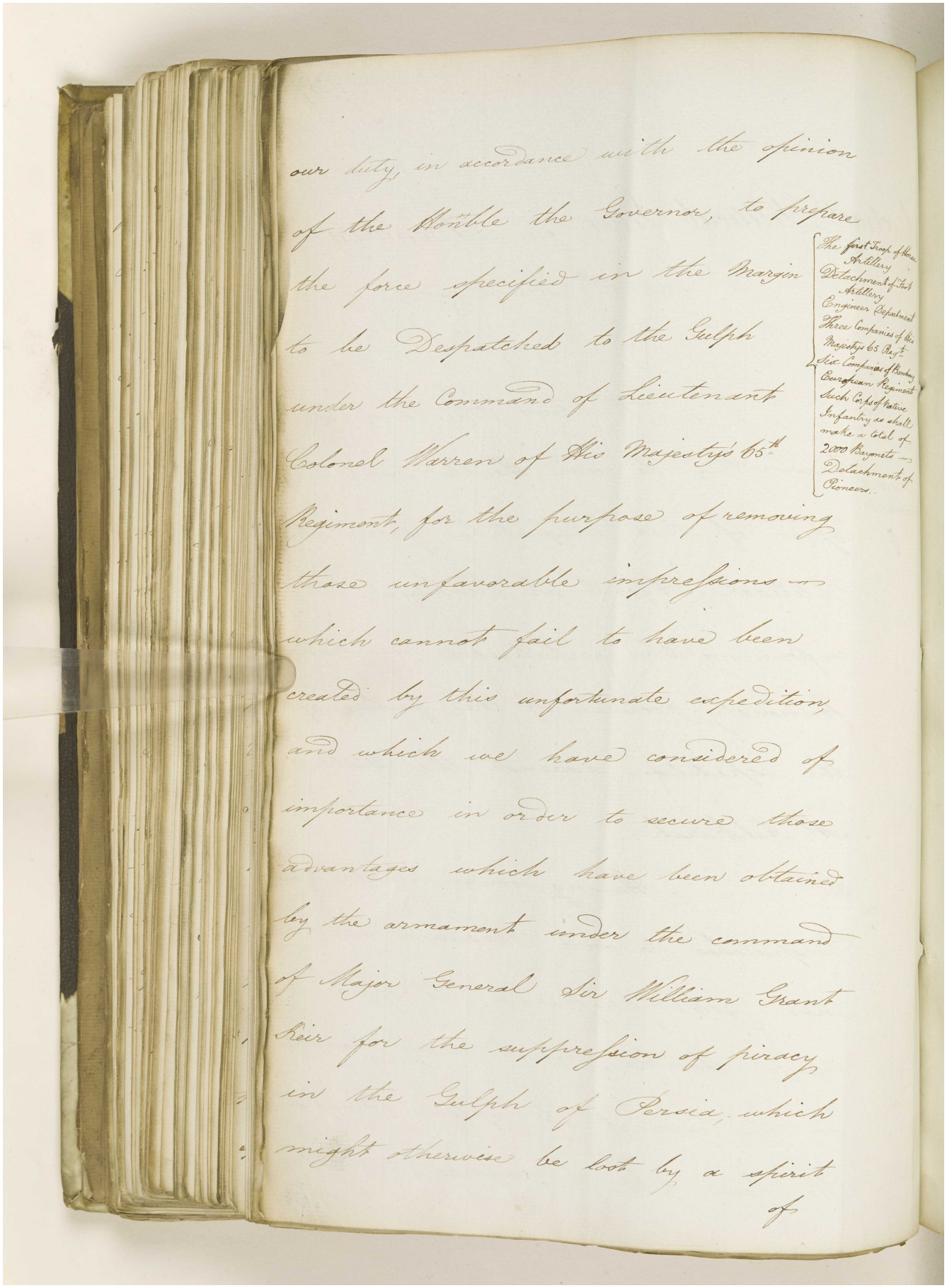

our duty, in accordance with the opinion
of the Honble the Governor, to prepare
the force specified in the Margin
to be Despatched to the Gulph
under the Command of Lieutenant
Colonel Warren of His Majestys 65th
Regiment, for the purpose of removing
those unfavorable impressions
which cannot fail to have been
created by this unfortunate expedition,
and which we have considered of
importance in order to secure those
advantages which have been obtained
by the armament under the command
of Major General Sir William Grant
Keir for the suppression of piracy
in the Gulph of Persia, which
might otherwise be lost by a spirit
of

The first Troop of Horse Artillery
Detachment of Foot Artillery
Engineer Department
Three Companies of His Majesty's 65 Regt.
Six Companies of Bombay European Regiment
Such Corps of Native Infantry as shall make a total of 2000 Bayonets
Detachment of Pioneers.

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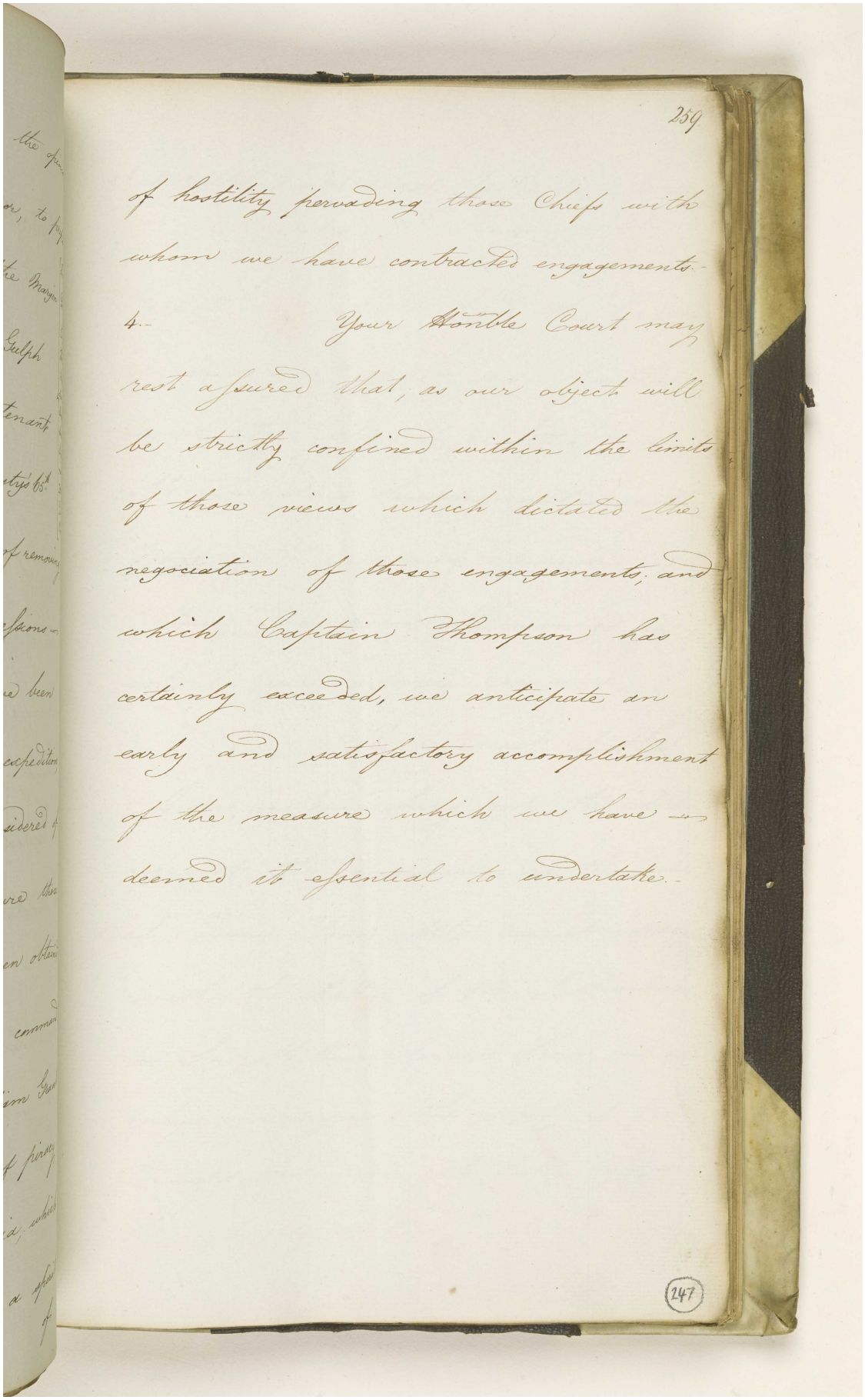

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of hostility pervading those Chiefs with whom we have contracted engagements.

4.- Your Honble Court may rest assured that, as our objects will be strictly confined within the limits of those views which dictated the negociation of those engagements, and which Captain Thompson has certainly exceeded, we anticipate an early and satisfactory accomplishment of the measure which we have deemed it essential to undertake.-

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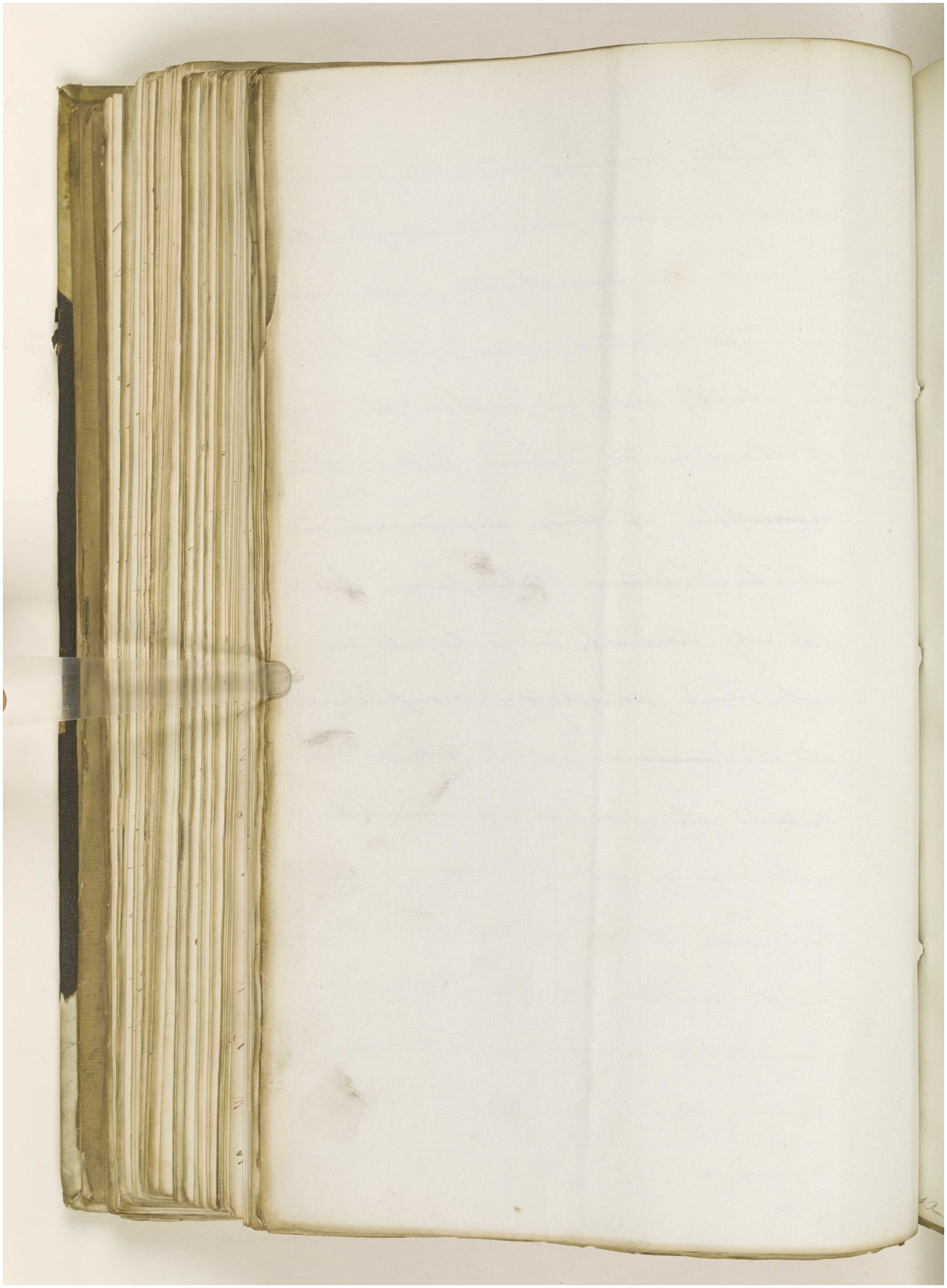

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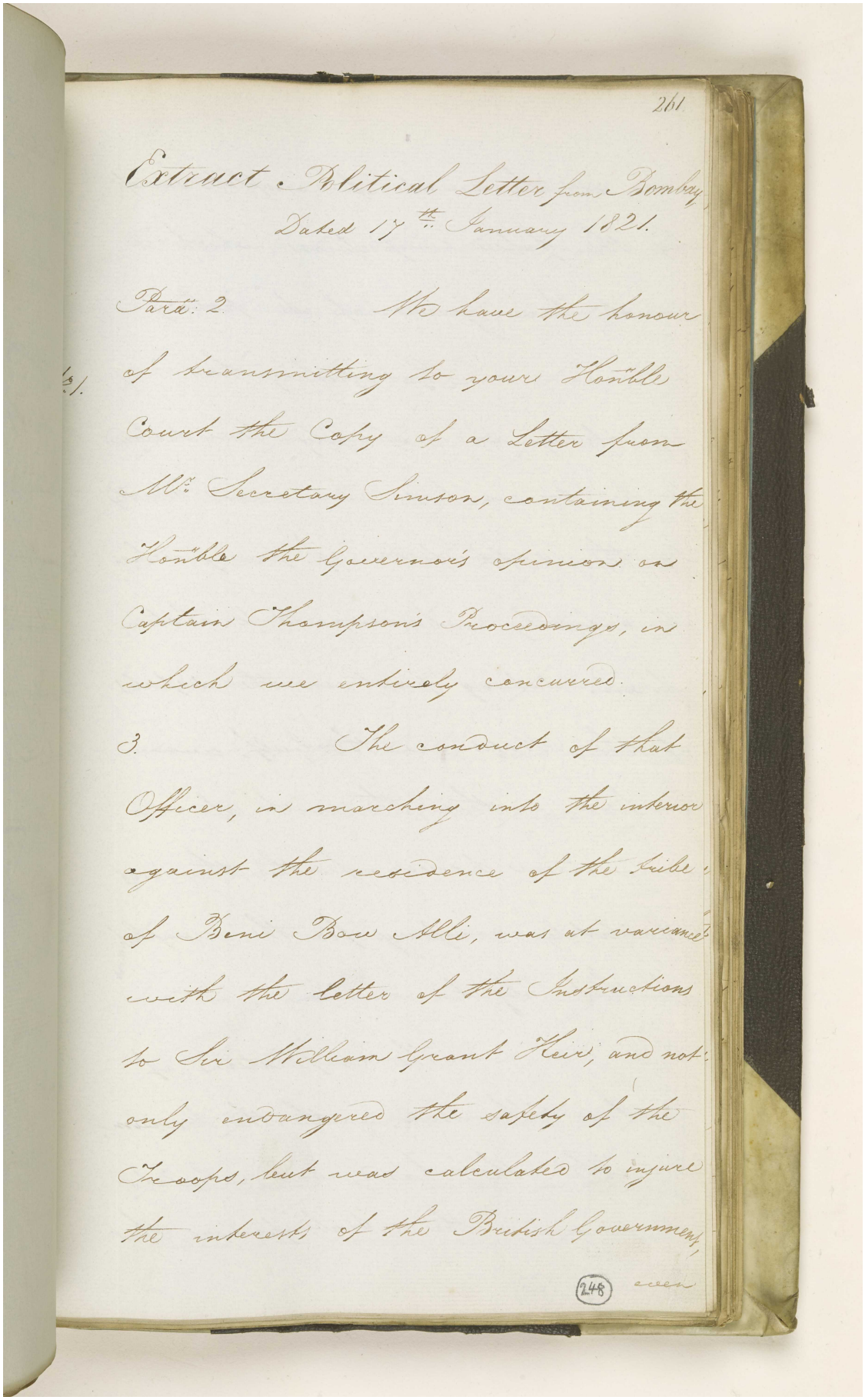

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Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 17th January 1821.

Para: 2 We have the honour of transmitting to your Honble Court the Copy of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Simson, containing the Honble the Governor's opinion on Captain Thompson's Proceedings, in which we entirely concurred.

3 The conduct of that Officer, in marching into the interior against the residence of the Tribe of Beni Bow Alli, was at variance with the letter of the Instructions to Sir William Grant Keir, and not only endangered the safety of the Troops, but was calculated to injure the interests of the British Government,

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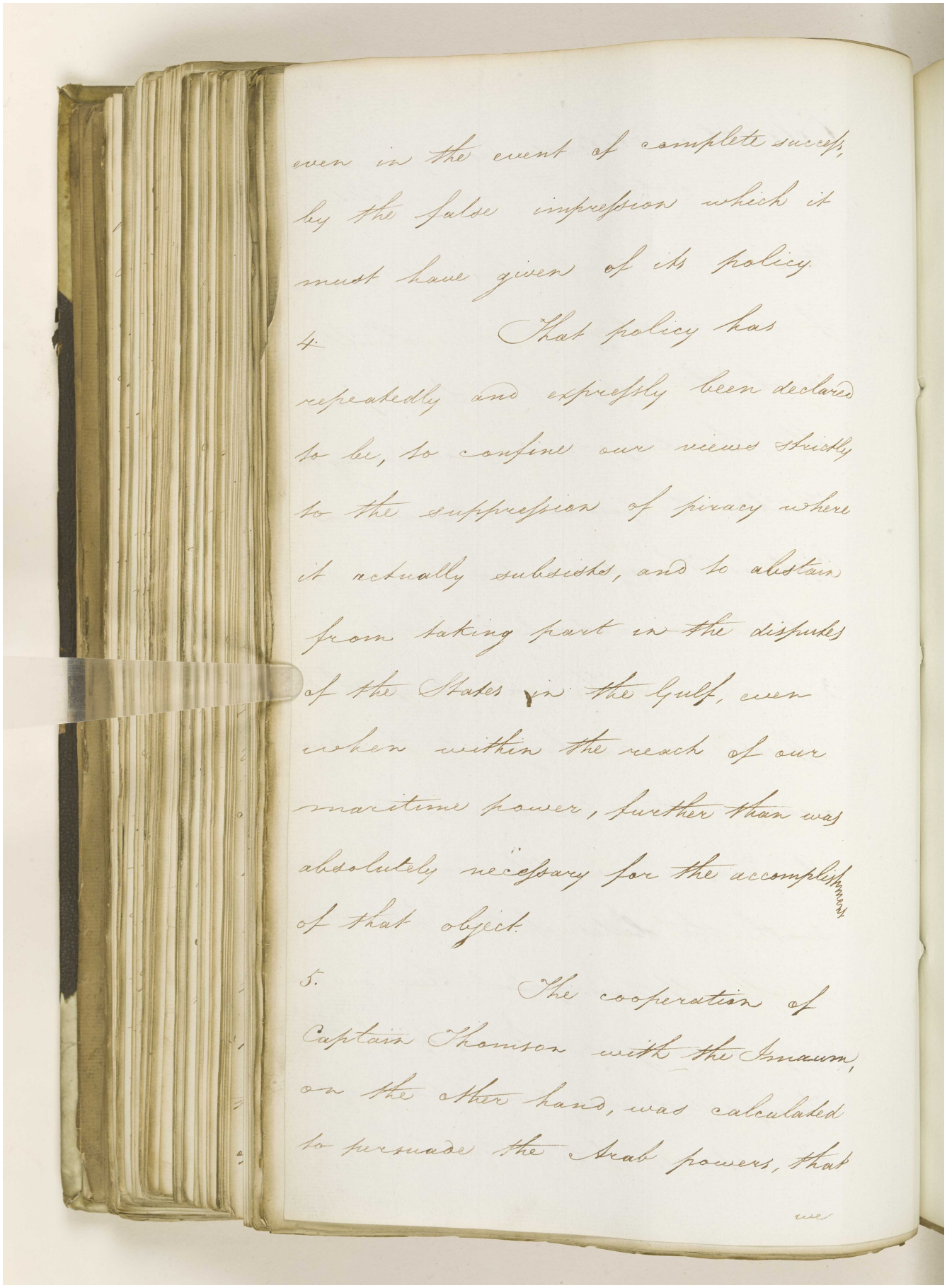
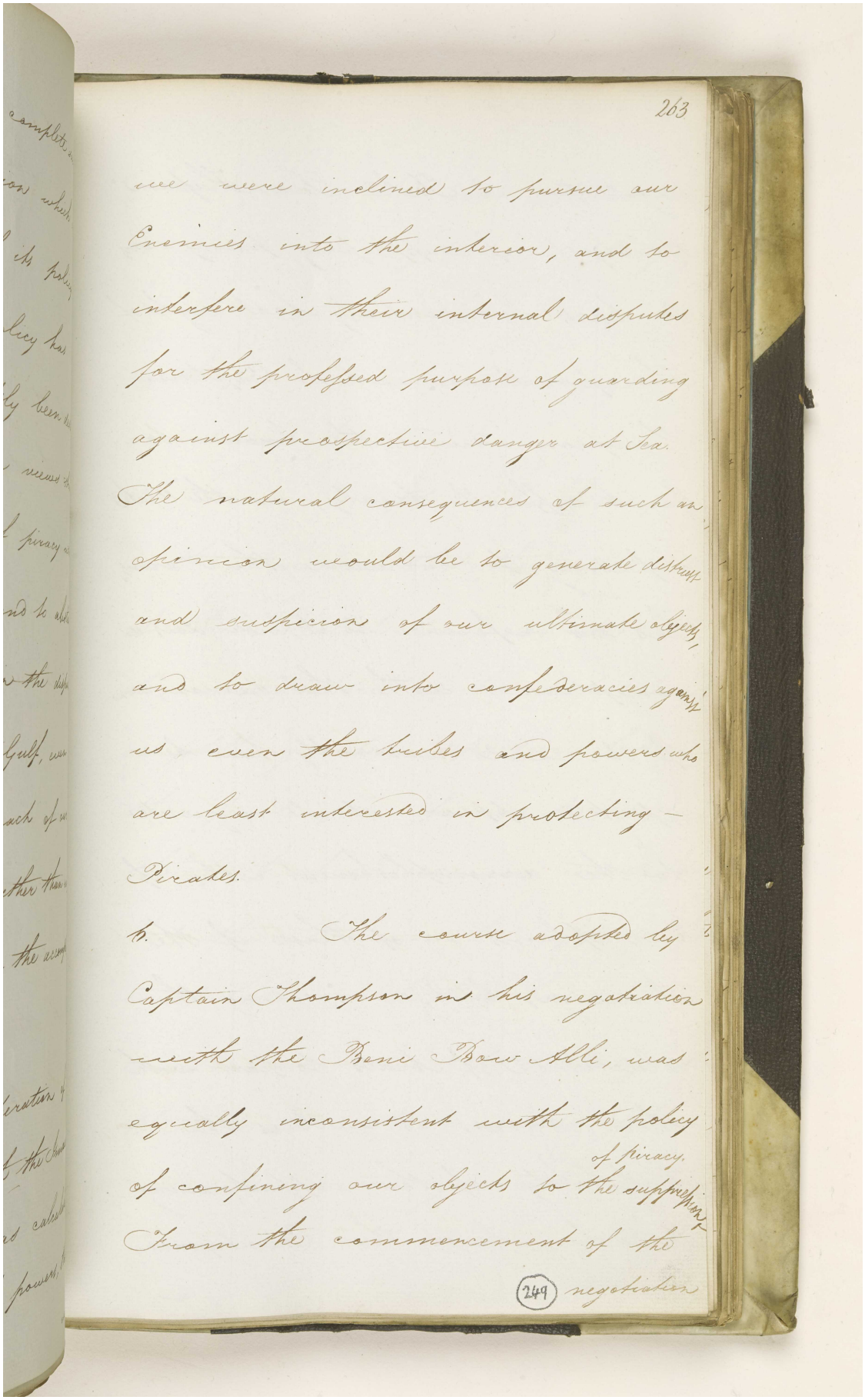


even in the event of complete success, by the false impression which it must have given of its policy

4. That policy has repeatedly and expressly been declared to be, to confine our views strictly to the suppression of piracy where it actually subsists, and to abstain from taking part in the disputes of the States in the Gulf, even when within the reach of our maritime power, further than was absolutely necessary for the accomplishment of that object

5. The cooperation of Captain Thomson with the Imaum, on the other hand, was calculated to persuade the Arab powers, that

we



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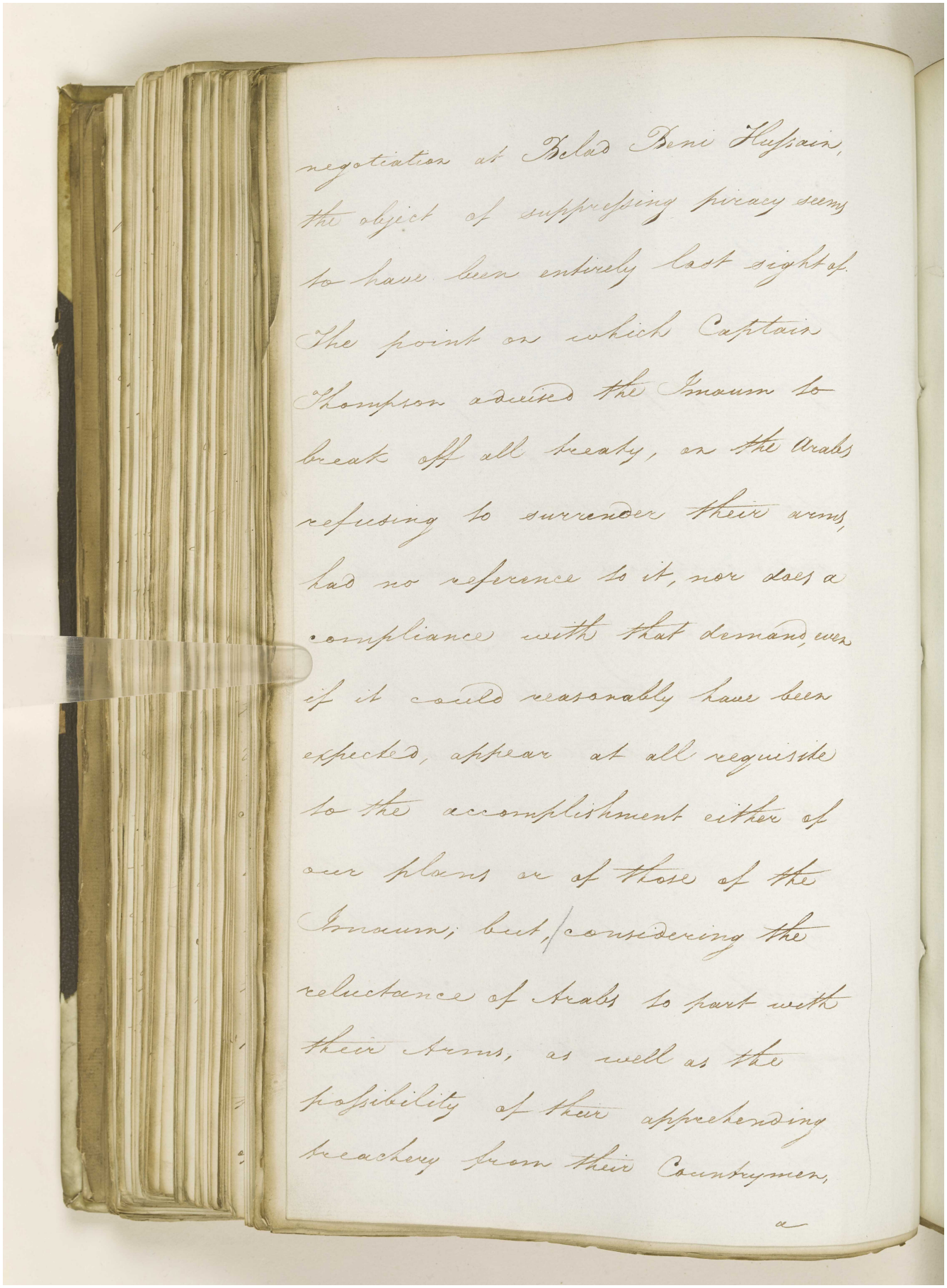
we were inclined to pursue our
Enemies into the interior, and to
interfere in their internal disputes
for the professed purpose of guarding
against prospective danger at Sea.
The natural consequences of such an
opinion would be to generate distrust
and suspicion of our ultimate objects,
and to draw into confederacies against
us even the tribes and powers who
are least interested in protecting —
Pirates.

6. The course adopted by
Captain Thompson in his negotiation
with the Beni Bow Alli, was
equally inconsistent with the policy
of confining our objects to the suppression of piracy.
From the commencement of the
(249) negotiation



negotiation at Belad Beni Hussain,
the object of suppressing piracy seems
to have been entirely lost sight of.
The point on which Captain
Thompson advises the Imaum to
break off all treaty, on the Arabs
refusing to surrender their arms,
had no reference to it, nor does a
compliance with that demand, even
if it could reasonably have been
expected, appear at all requisite
to the accomplishment either of
our plans or of those of the
Imaum; but, considering the
reluctance of Arabs to part with
their Arms, as well as the
possibility of their apprehending
treachery from their Countrymen,
a

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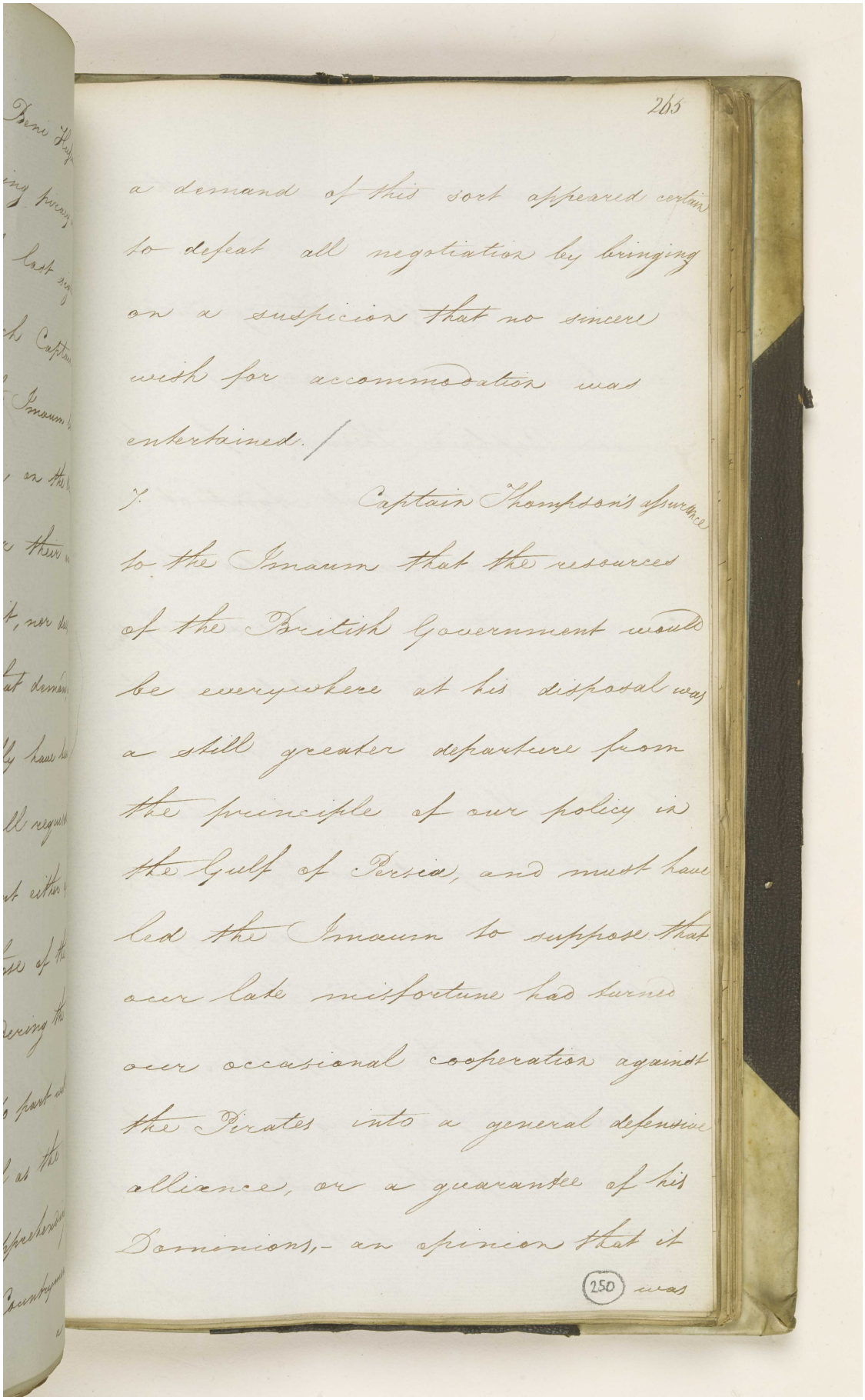

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a demand of this sort appeared certain to defeat all negotiation by bringing on a suspicion that no sincere wish for accommodation was entertained. /

7. Captain Thompson's assurance to the Imaum that the resources of the British Government would be everywhere at his disposal was a still greater departure from the principle of our policy in the Gulf of Persia, and must have led the Imaum to suppose that our late misfortune had turned our occasional cooperation against the Pirates into a general defensive alliance, or a guarantee of his Dominions,- an opinion that it

250 was

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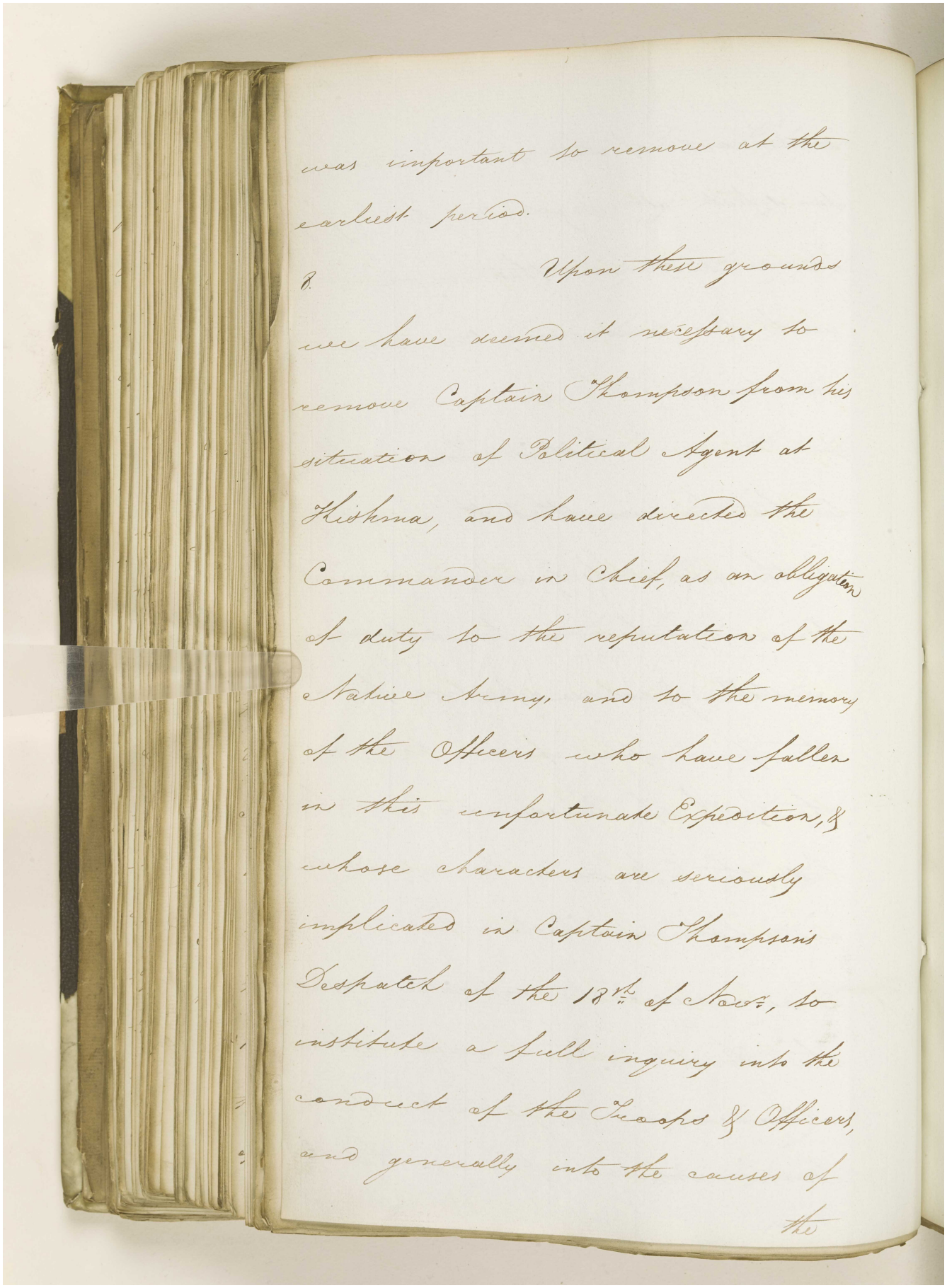
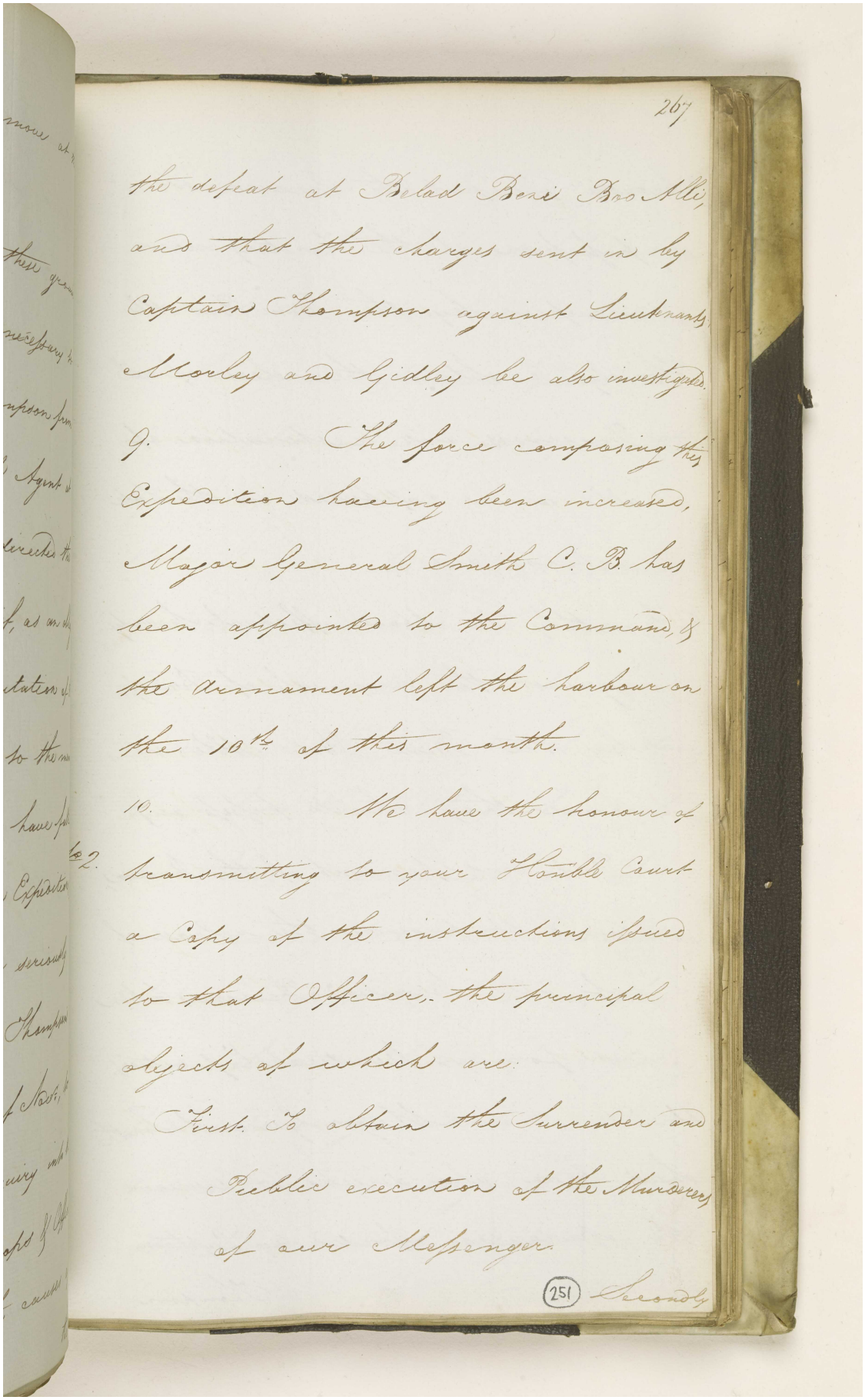


was important to remove at the earliest period.

8. Upon these grounds we have deemed it necessary to remove Captain Thompson from his situation of Political Agent at Kishma, and have directed the Commander in Chief, as an obligation & duty to the reputation of the Native Army, and to the memory of the Officers who have fallen in this unfortunate Expedition, & whose characters are seriously implicated in Captain Thompson's Despatch of the 18th. of Nov., to institute a full inquiry into the conduct of the Troops & Officers, and generally into the causes of

the



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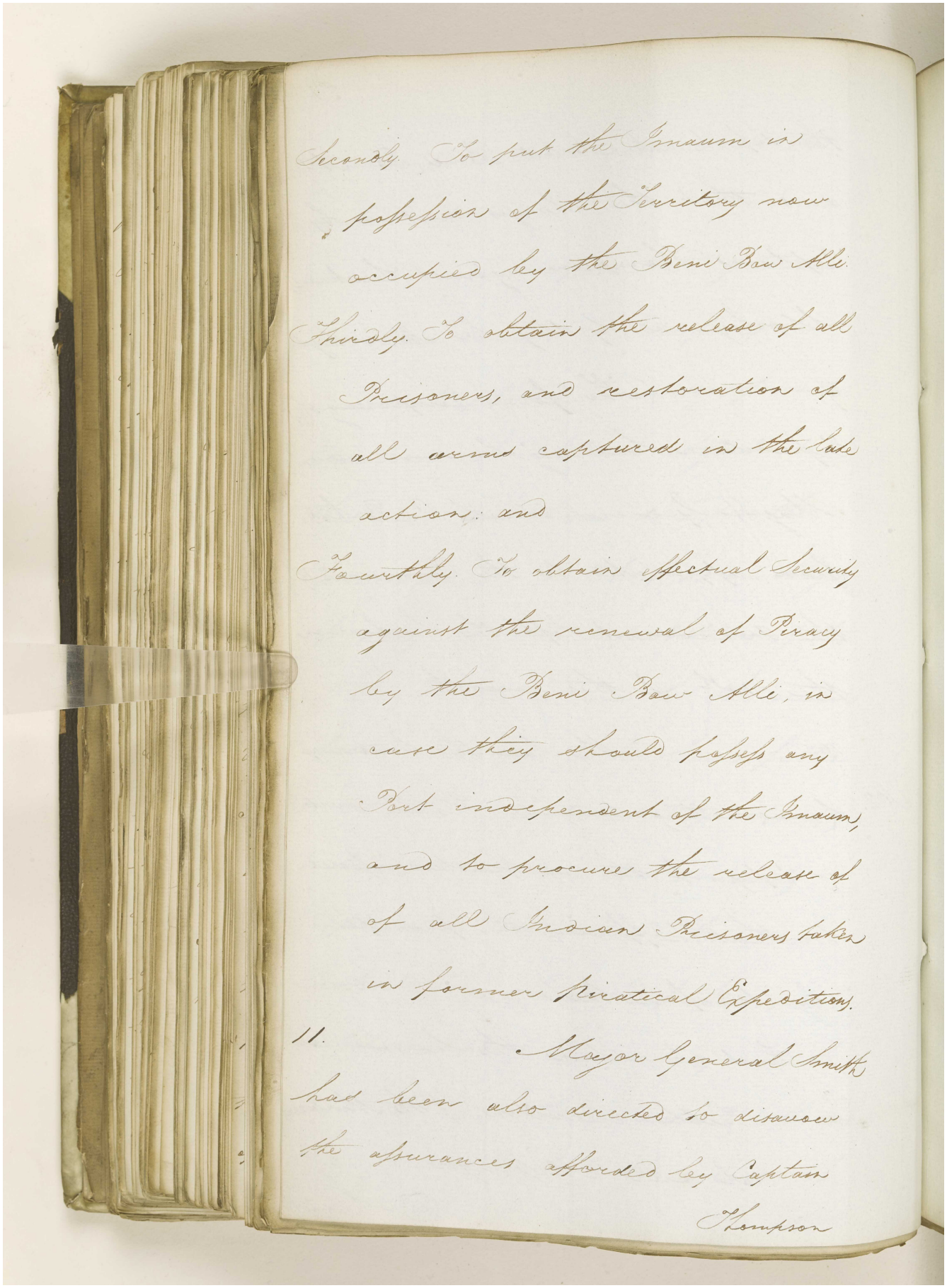
the defeat at Belad Beni Bou Ali,
and that the charges sent in by
Captain Thompson against Lieutenants
Morley and Gidley be also investigated.

9. The force composing this
Expedition having been increased,
Major General Smith C. B. has
been appointed to the Command, &
the armament left the harbour on
the 10th of this month.

10. We have the honour of
transmitting to your Honble Court
a Copy of the instructions issued
to that Officer, the principal
objects of which are:

First. To obtain the Surrender and
Public execution of the Murderers
of our Messenger.

(251) Secondly



Secondly. To put the Imaum in
possession of the Territory now
occupied by the Beni Bow Alle.
Thirdly. To obtain the release of all
Prisoners, and restoration of
all arms captured in the late
action: and
Fourthly. To obtain effectual Security
against the renewal of Piracy
by the Beni Bow Alle, in
case they should possess any
Port independent of the Imaum,
and to procure the release
of all Indian Prisoners taken
in former Piratical Expeditions.

11. Major General Smith
had been also directed to disavow
the assurances afforded by Captain
Thompson

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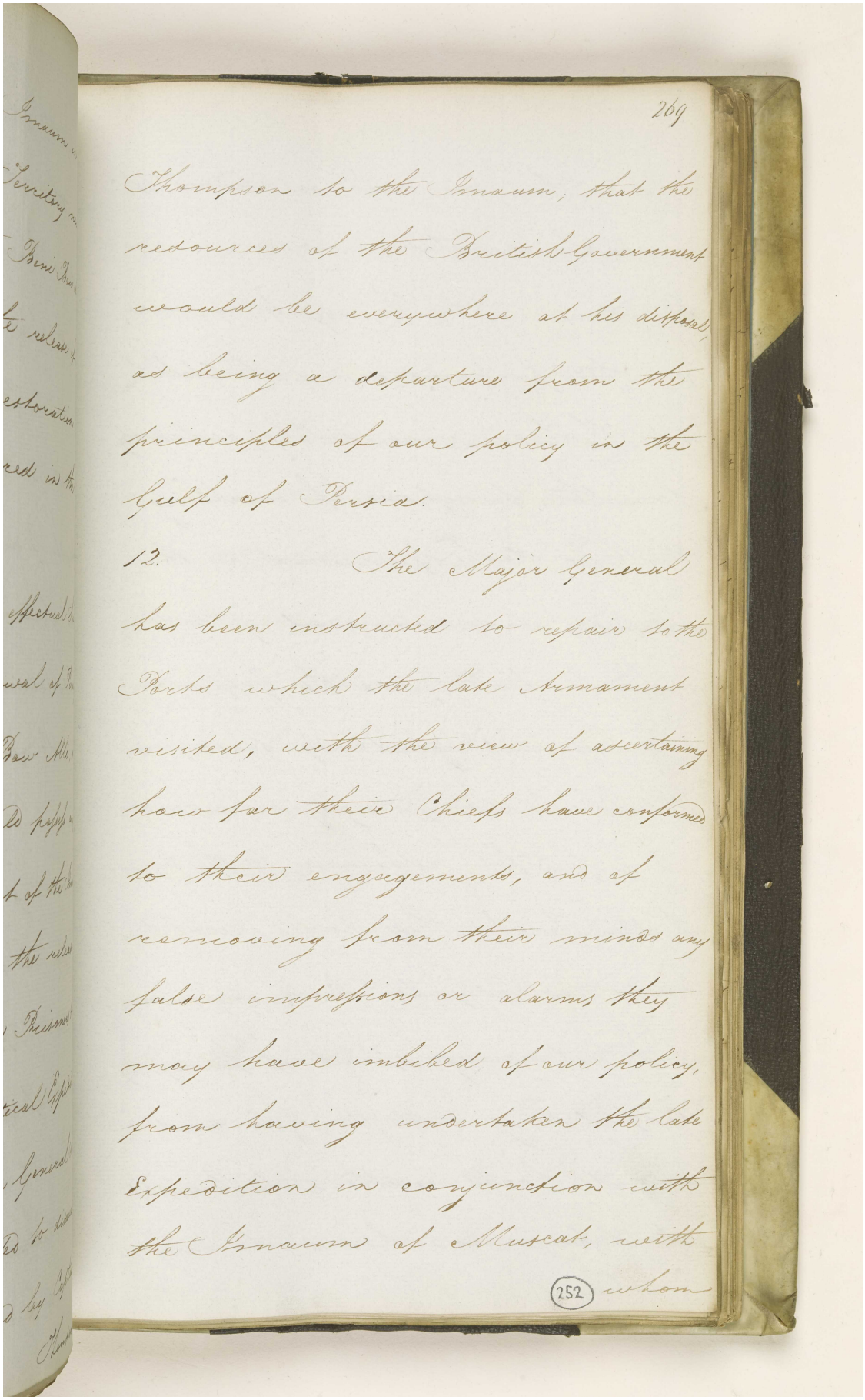

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Thompson to the Imaum, that the
resources of the British Government
would be everywhere at his disposal,
as being a departure from the
principles of our policy in the
Gulf of Persia.

12. The Major General
has been instructed to repair to the
Ports which the late Armament
visited, with the view of ascertaining
how far their Chiefs have conformed
to their engagements, and of
removing from their minds any
false impressions or alarms they
may have imbibed of our policy,
from having undertaken the late
Expedition in conjunction with
the Imaum of Muscat, with

(252)

whom

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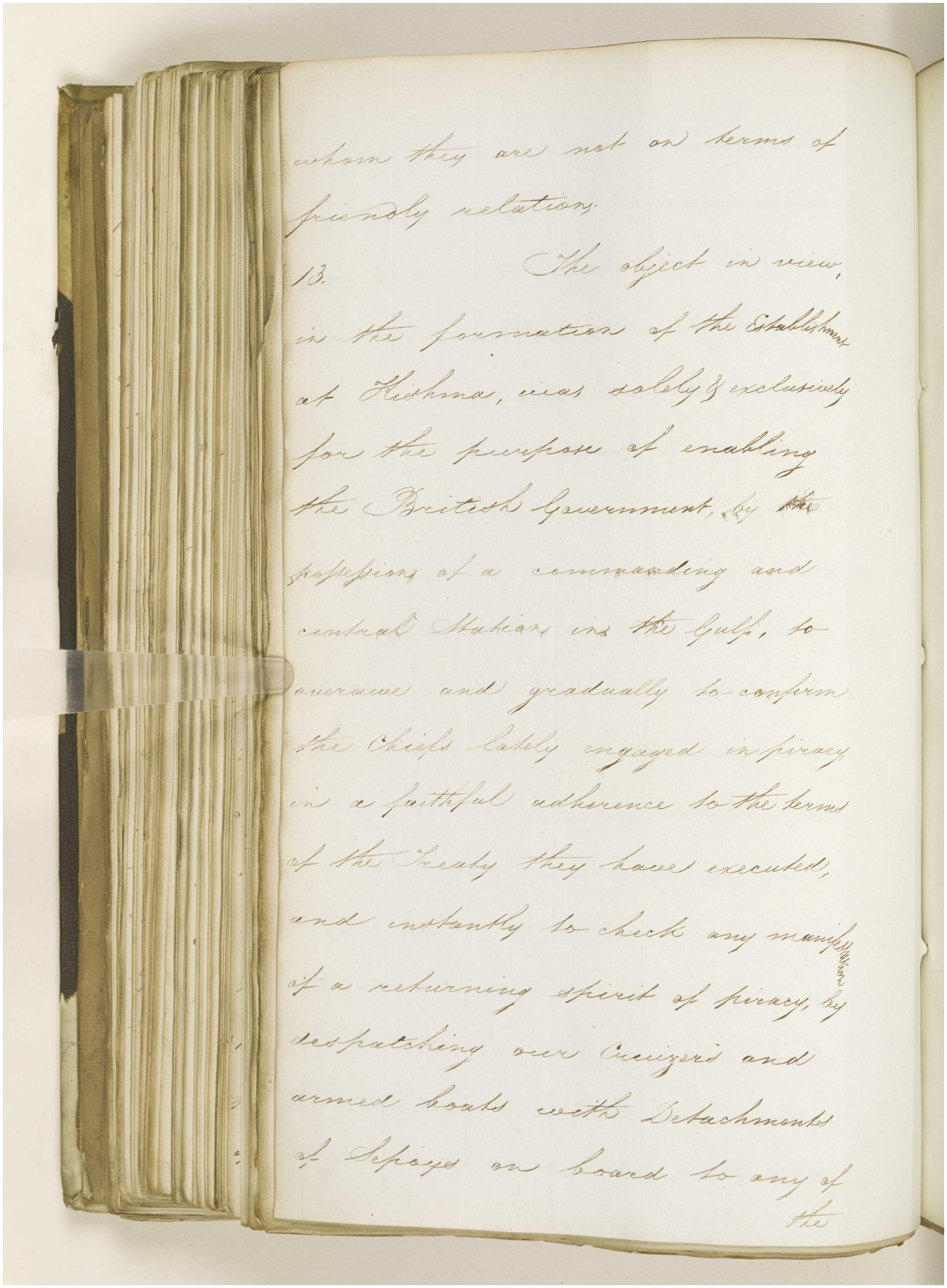
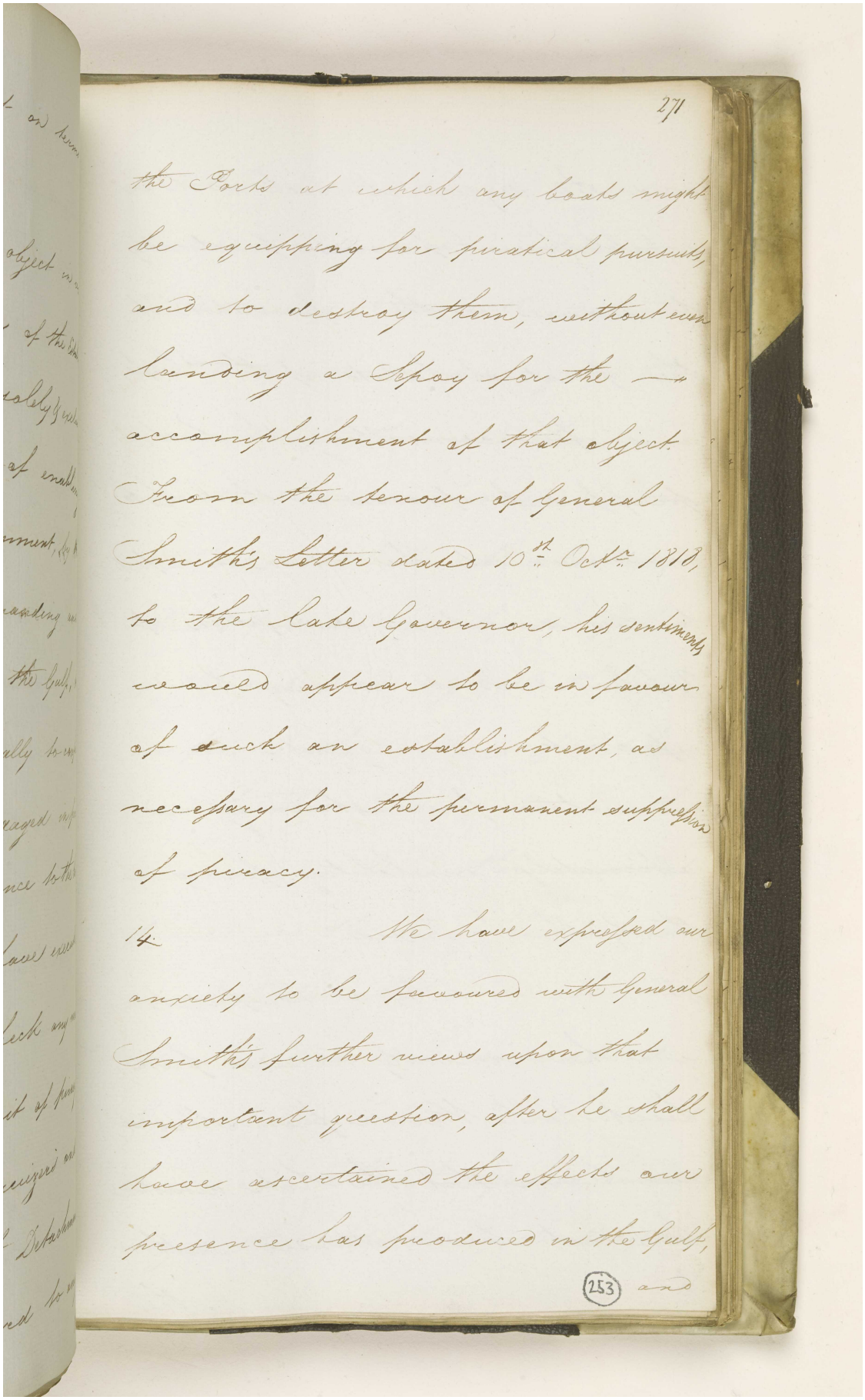


whom they are not on terms of
friendly relation.

13. The object in view,
in the formation of the Establishment
at Kishma, was solely & exclusively
for the purpose of enabling
the British Government, by the
possession of a commanding and
central Station in the Gulf, to
overawe and gradually to confirm
the Chiefs lately engaged in piracy
in a faithful adherence to the terms
of the Treaty they have executed,
and instantly to check any manifestation
of a returning spirit of piracy, by
despatching our Cruizers and
armed boats with Detachments
of Sepoys on board to any of
the



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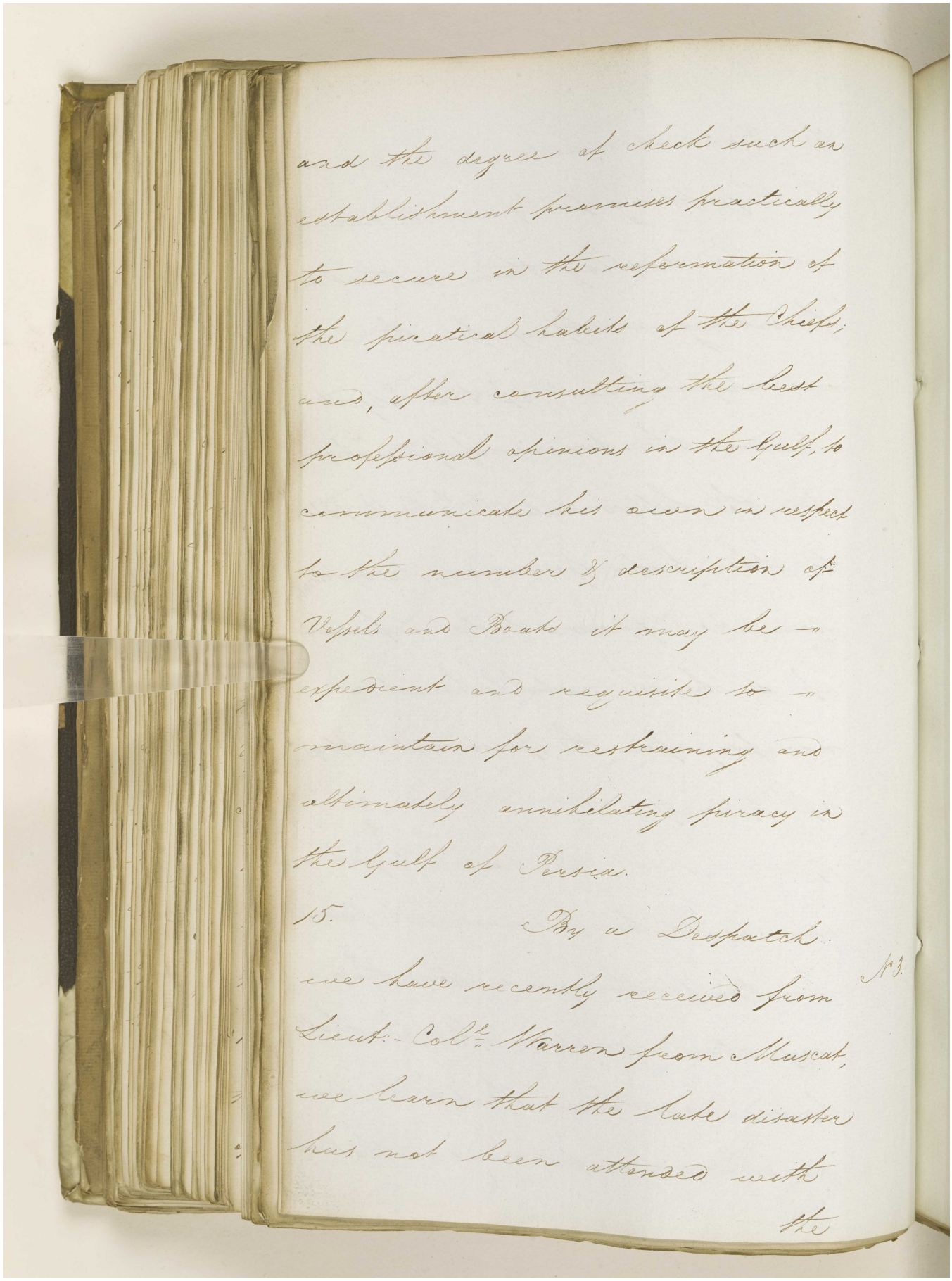
the Ports at which any boats might be equipping for piratical pursuits, and to destroy them, without even landing a Sepoy for the accomplishment of that object. From the tenour of General Smith's Letter dated 10th Octr. 1818, to the late Governor, his sentiments would appear to be in favour of such an establishment, as necessary for the permanent suppression of piracy.

14 We have expressed our anxiety to be favoured with General Smith's further views upon that important question, after he shall have ascertained the effects our presence has produced in the Gulf,

253 and

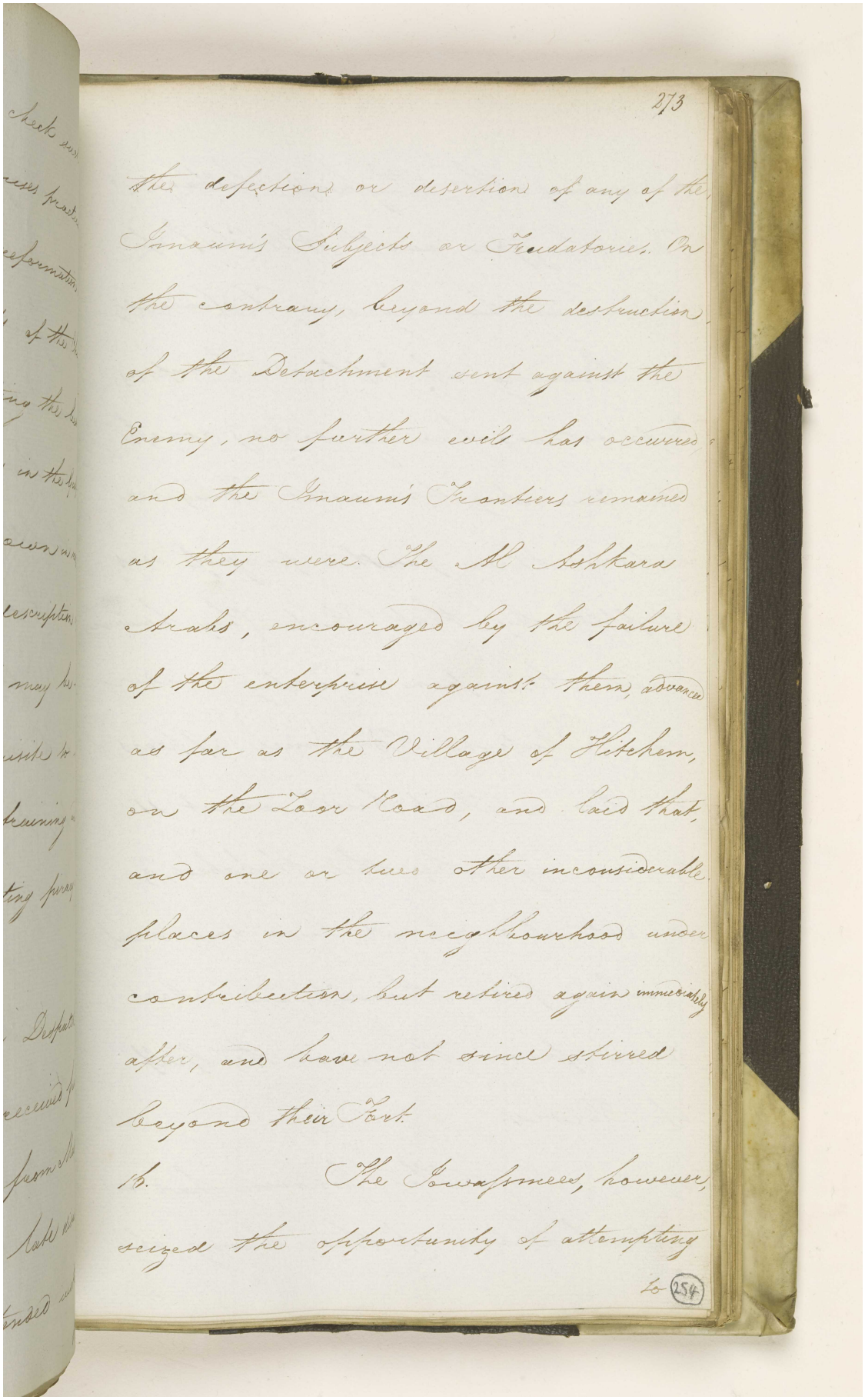


and the degree of check such an establishment promises practically to secure in the reformation of the piratical habits of the Chiefs; and, after consulting the best professional opinions in the Gulf, to communicate his own in respect to the number & description of Vessels and Boats it may be expedient and requisite to maintain for restraining and ultimately annihilating piracy in the Gulf of Persia.

15. By a Despatch we have recently received from Lieut.-Colº Warren from Muscat, we learn that the late disaster has not been attended with

No 3.

the



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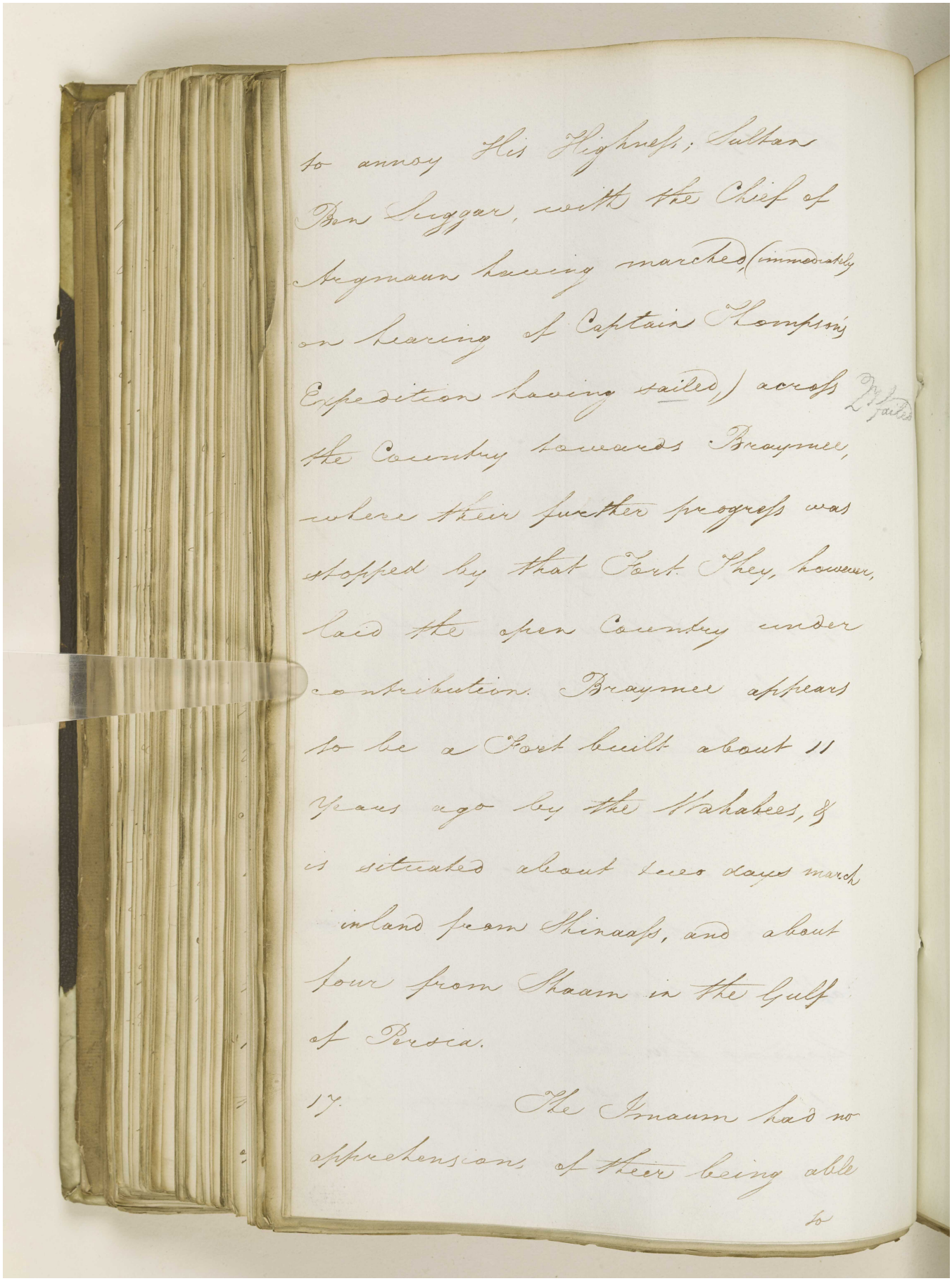
the defection or desertion of any of the Imaum's Subjects or Feudatories. On the contrary, beyond the destruction of the Detachment sent against the Enemy, no further evil has occurred and the Imaum's Frontiers remained as they were. The Al Sohkara Arabs, encouraged by the failure of the enterprize against them, advanced as far as the Village of Hitchem, on the Zoar Road, and laid that, and one or two other inconsiderable places in the neighbourhood under contribution, but retired again immediately after, and have not since stirred beyond their Fort.

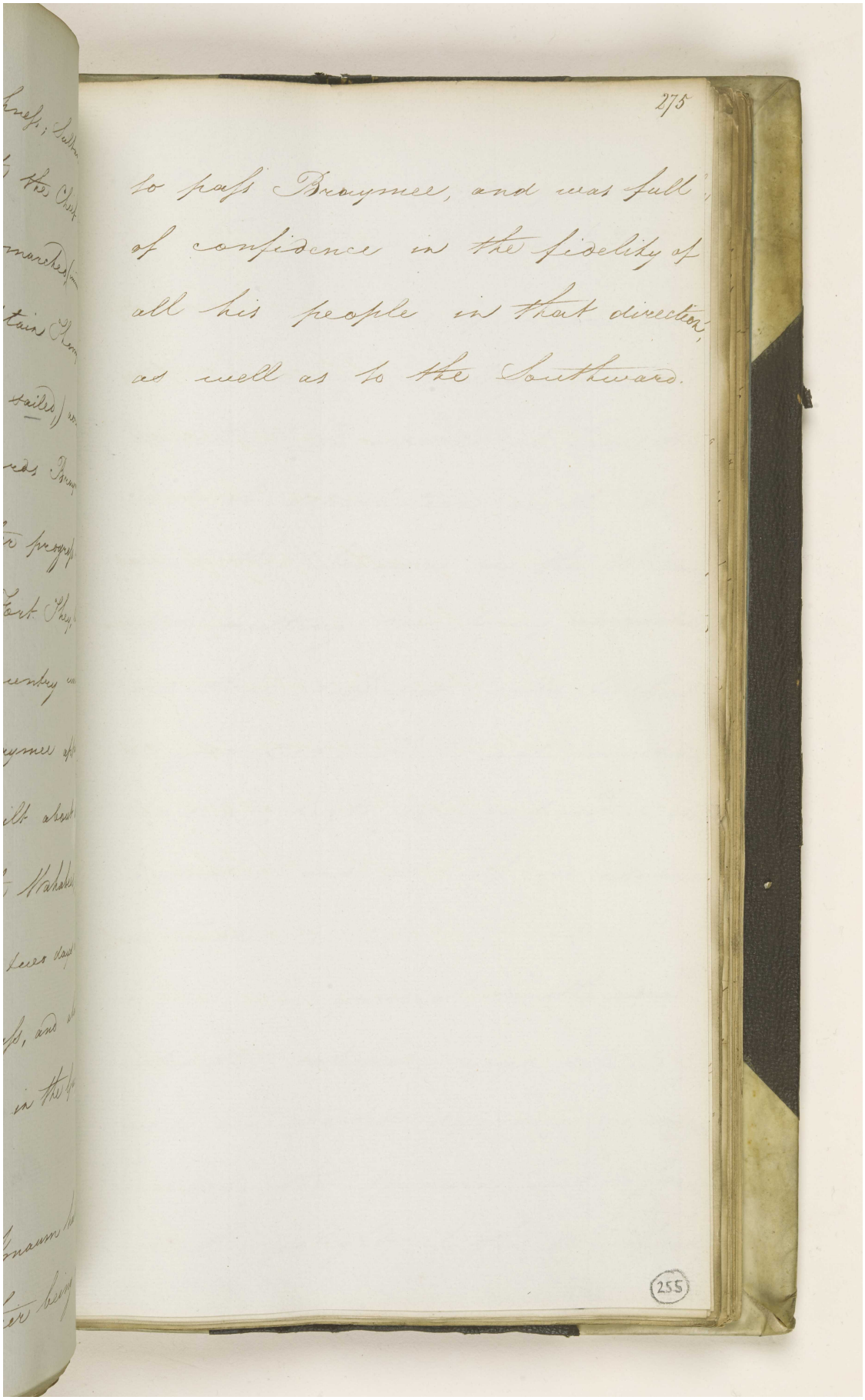
6. The Joasmees, however, seized the opportunity of attempting

to (254)



to annoy His Highness Sultan Bin Suggar, with the Chief of Aegmaun having marched (immediately on hearing of Captain Thompson's Expedition having sailed) across the Country towards Braymee, where their further progress was stopped by that Fort. They, however, laid the open Country under contribution. Braymee appears to be a Fort built about 11 Years ago by the Wahabees, & is situated about two days march inland from Shinaas, and about four from Shaam in the Gulf of Persia.

17. The Imaum had no apprehensions of their being able to



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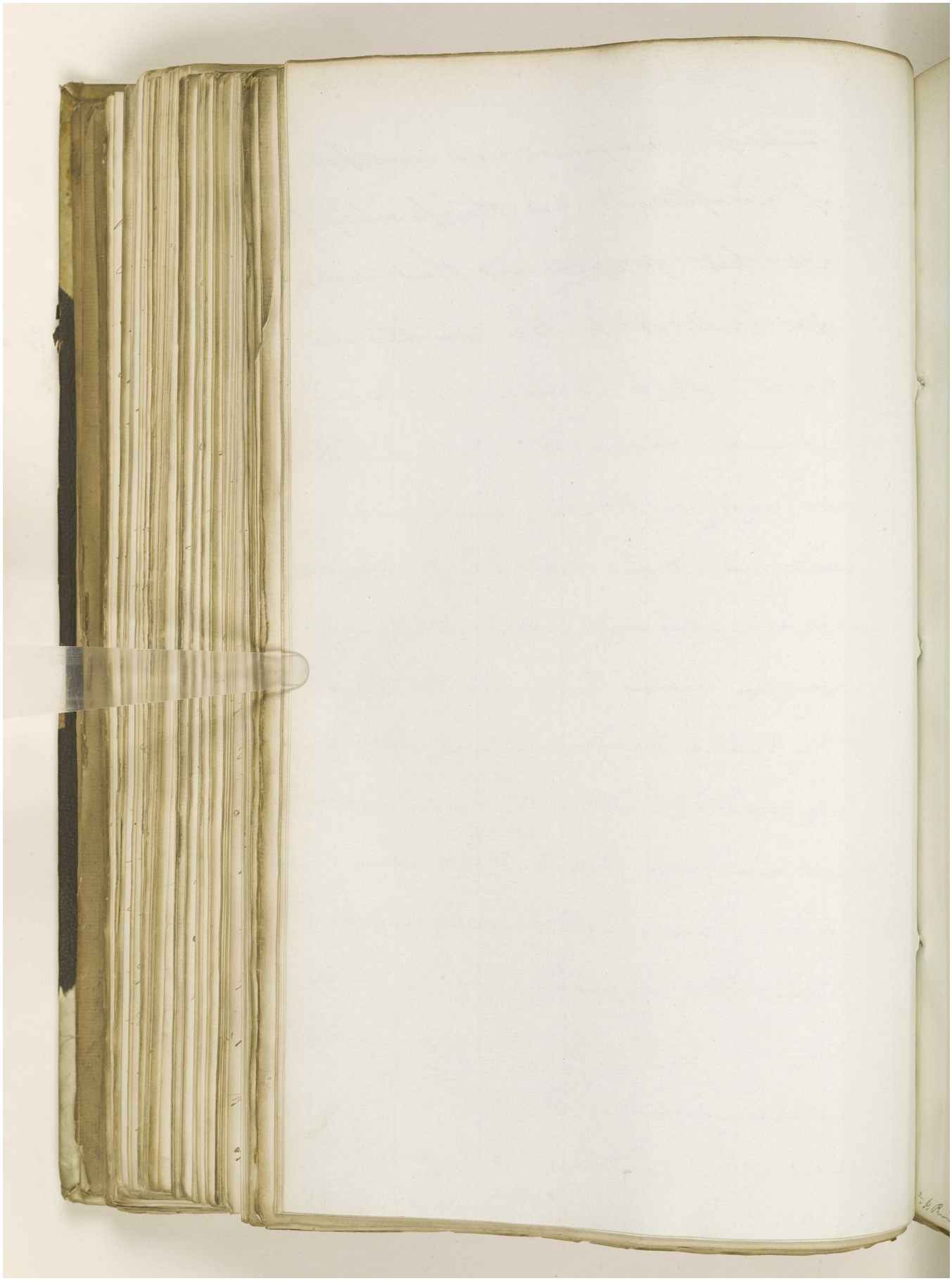
to pass Bruymee, and was full
of confidence in the fidelity of
all his people in that direction,
as well as to the Southward.

255



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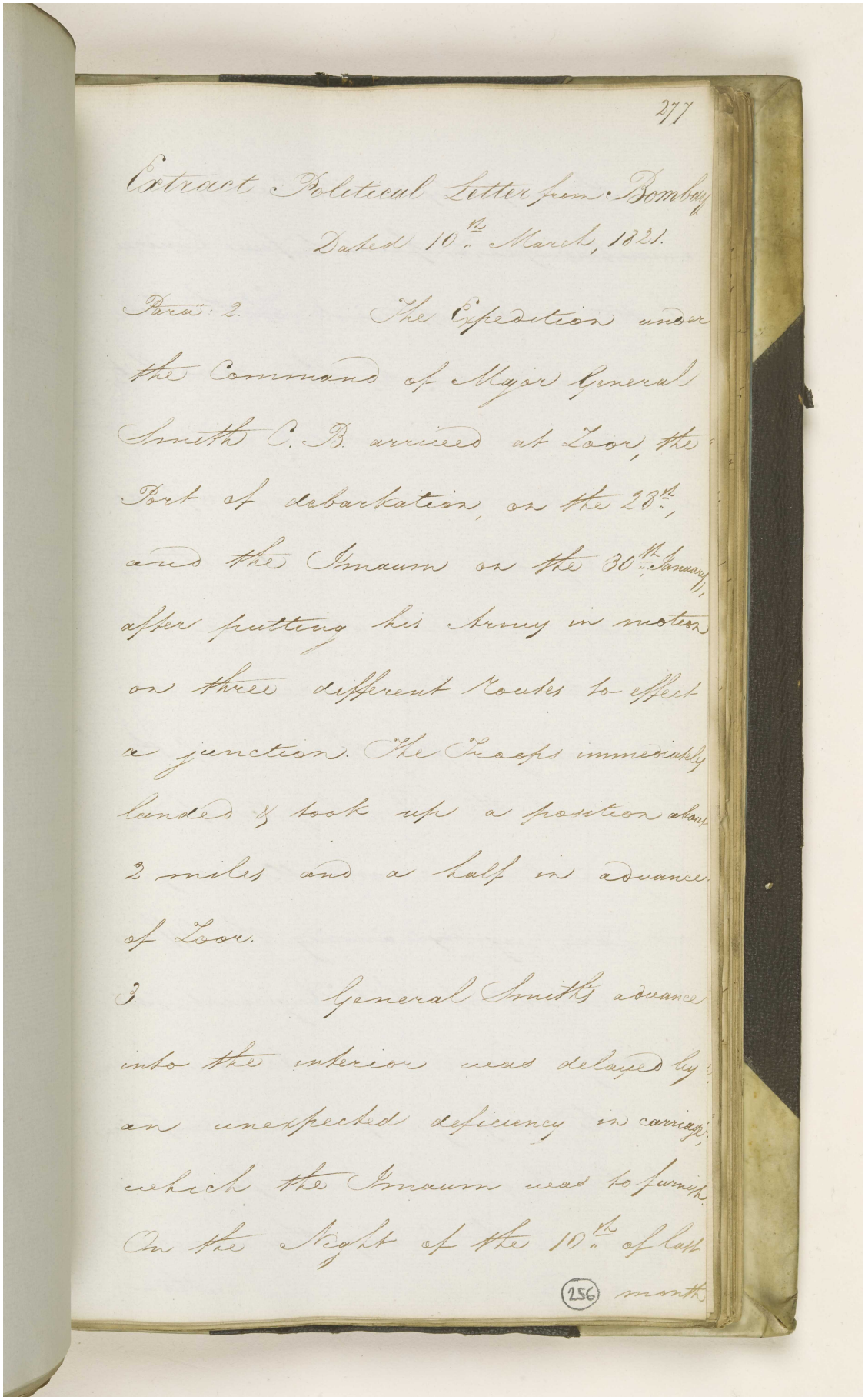

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Extract Political Letter from Bombay
Dated 10th March, 1821.

Para. 2. The Expedition under the Command of Major General Smith C. B. arrived at Loor, the Port of debarkation, on the 28th, and the Imaum on the 30th January, after putting his Army in motion on three different Routes to effect a junction. The Troops immediately landed & took up a position about 2 miles and a half in advance of Loor.

3. General Smith's advance into the interior was delayed by an unexpected deficiency in carriage, which the Imaum was to furnish. On the Night of the 10th of last

(256) month

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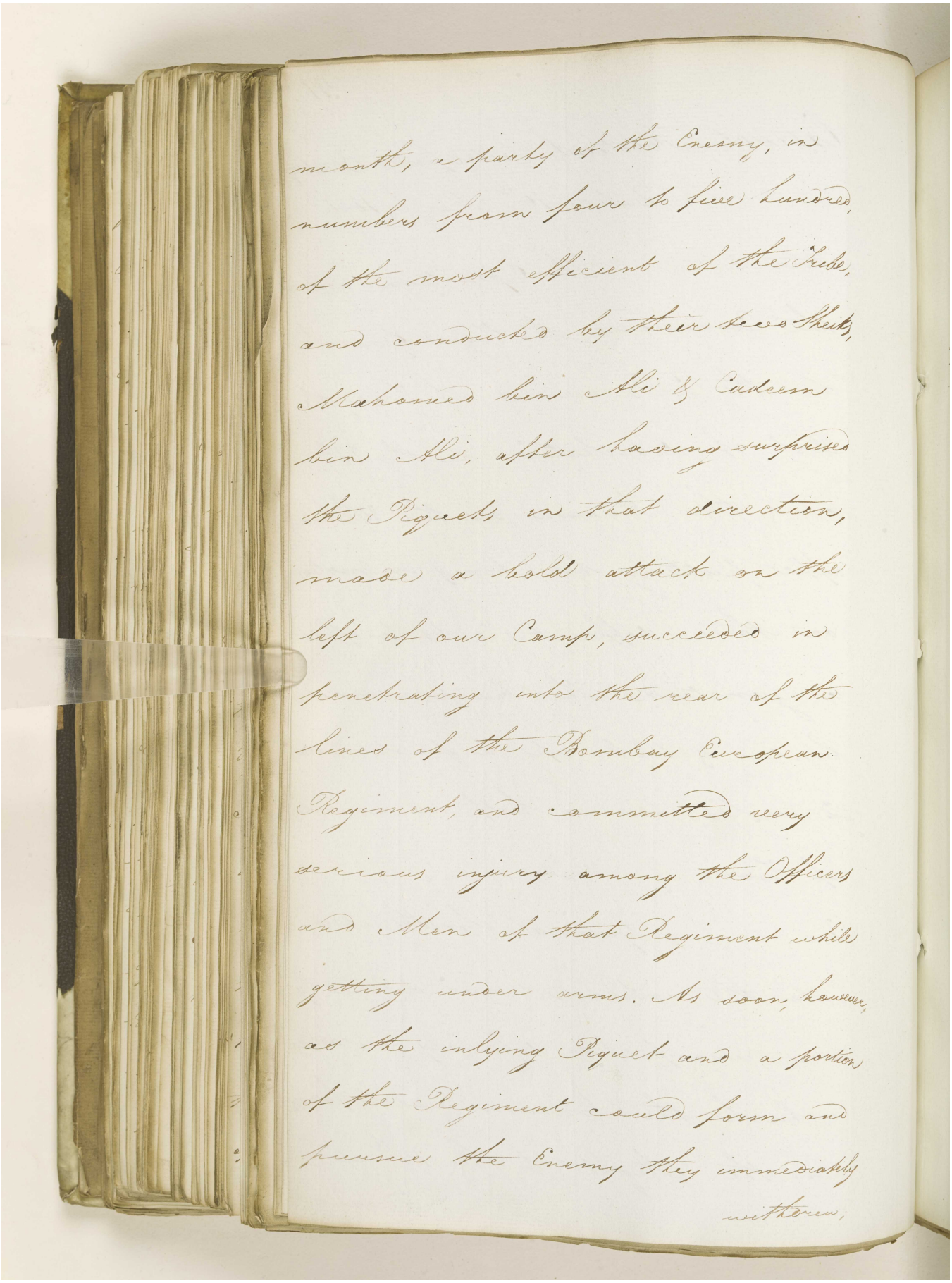

month, a party of the Enemy, in
numbers from four to five hundred,
of the most efficient of the Tribe,
and conducted by their two Sheiks,
Mahomed bin Ali & Cadeem
bin Ali, after having surprised
the Piquets in that direction,
made a bold attack on the
left of our Camp, succeeded in
penetrating into the rear of the
lines of the Bombay European
Regiment, and committed very
serious injury among the Officers
and Men of that Regiment while
getting under arms. As soon however,
as the inlying Piquet and a portion
of the Regiment could form and
pursue the Enemy they immediately
withdrew,

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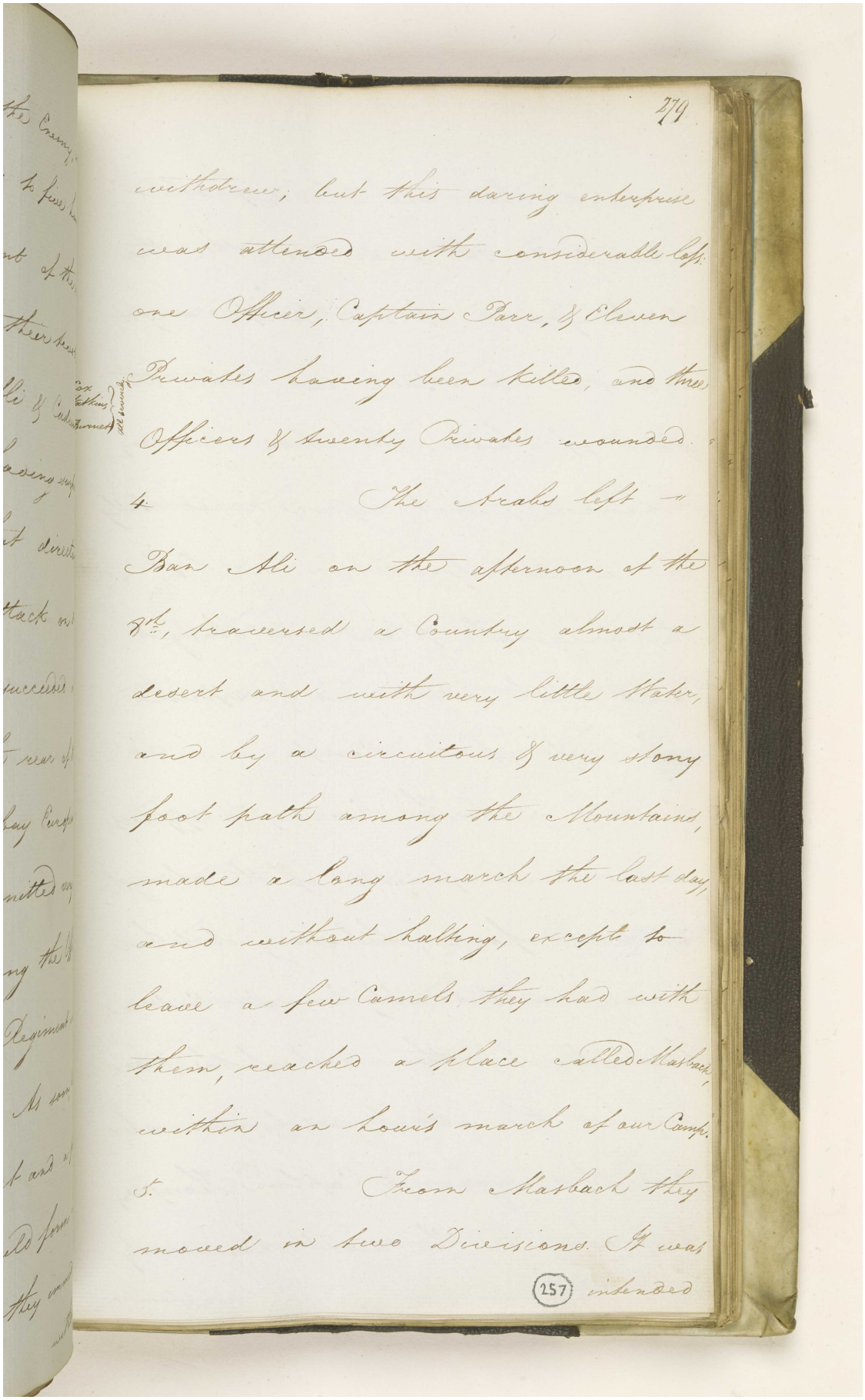

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withdrew; but this daring enterprise was attended with considerable loss. one Officer, Captain Parr, & Eleven Privates having been killed, and three Officers & twenty Privates wounded.

4. The Arabs left Bun Ali on the afternoon of the 8th, traversed a Country almost a desert and with very little Water, and by a circuitous & very stony foot path among the Mountains, made a long march the last day, and without halting, except to leave a few Camels they had with them, reached a place called Masbach, within an hour's march of our Camp.

5. From Masbach they moved in two Divisions. It was

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intended

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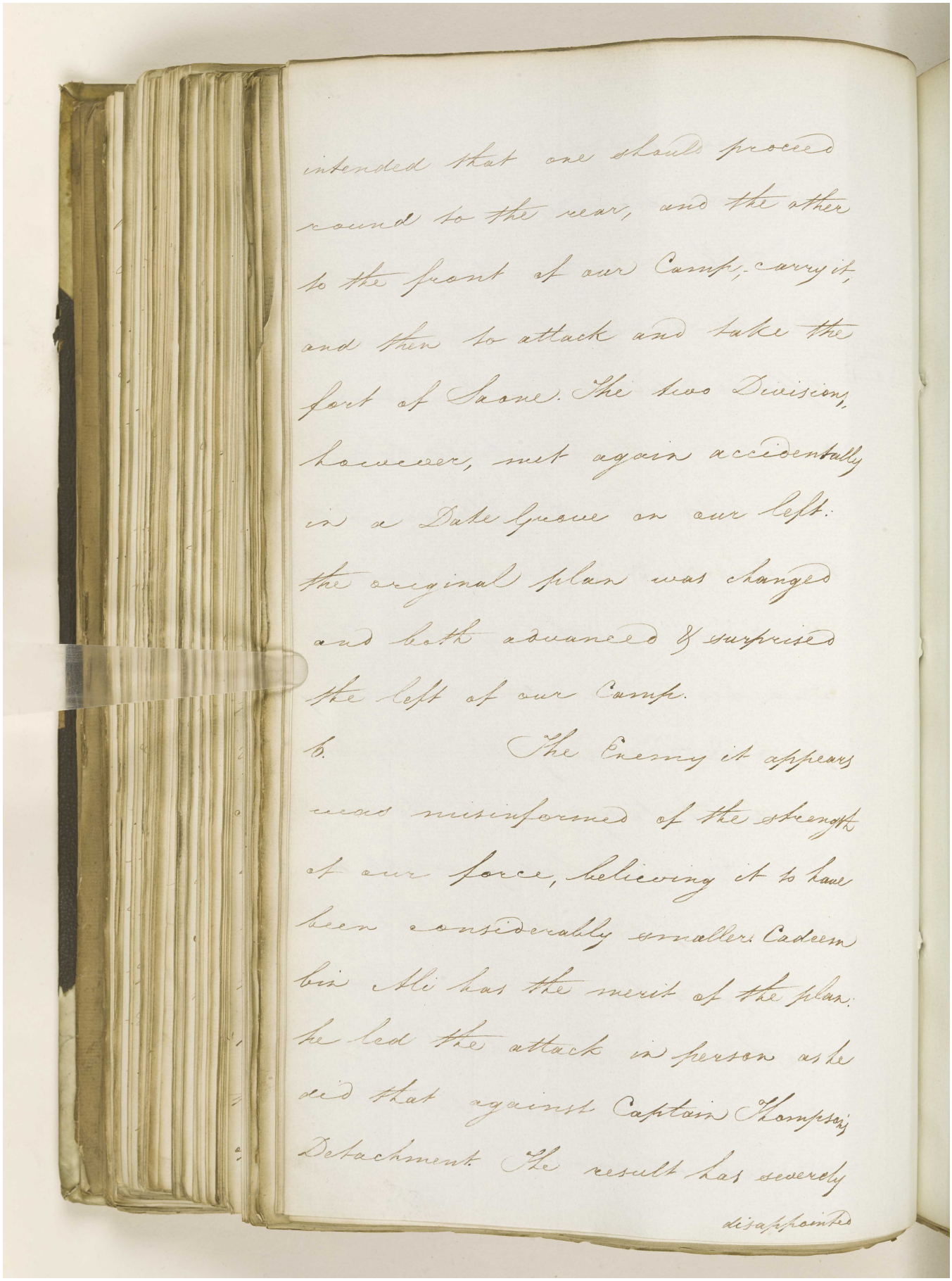

intended that one should proceed
round to the rear, and the other
to the front of our Camp, carry it,
and then to attack and take the
fort of Lasne. The two Divisions,
however, met again accidentally
in a Date Grove on our left.
the original plan was changed
and both advanced & surprised
the left of our Camp.

6. The Enemy it appears
was misinformed of the strength
of our force, believing it to have
been considerably smaller. Cadeem
bin Ali has the merit of the plan.
he led the attack in person as he
did that against Captain Thompson's
Detachment. The result has severely
disappointed

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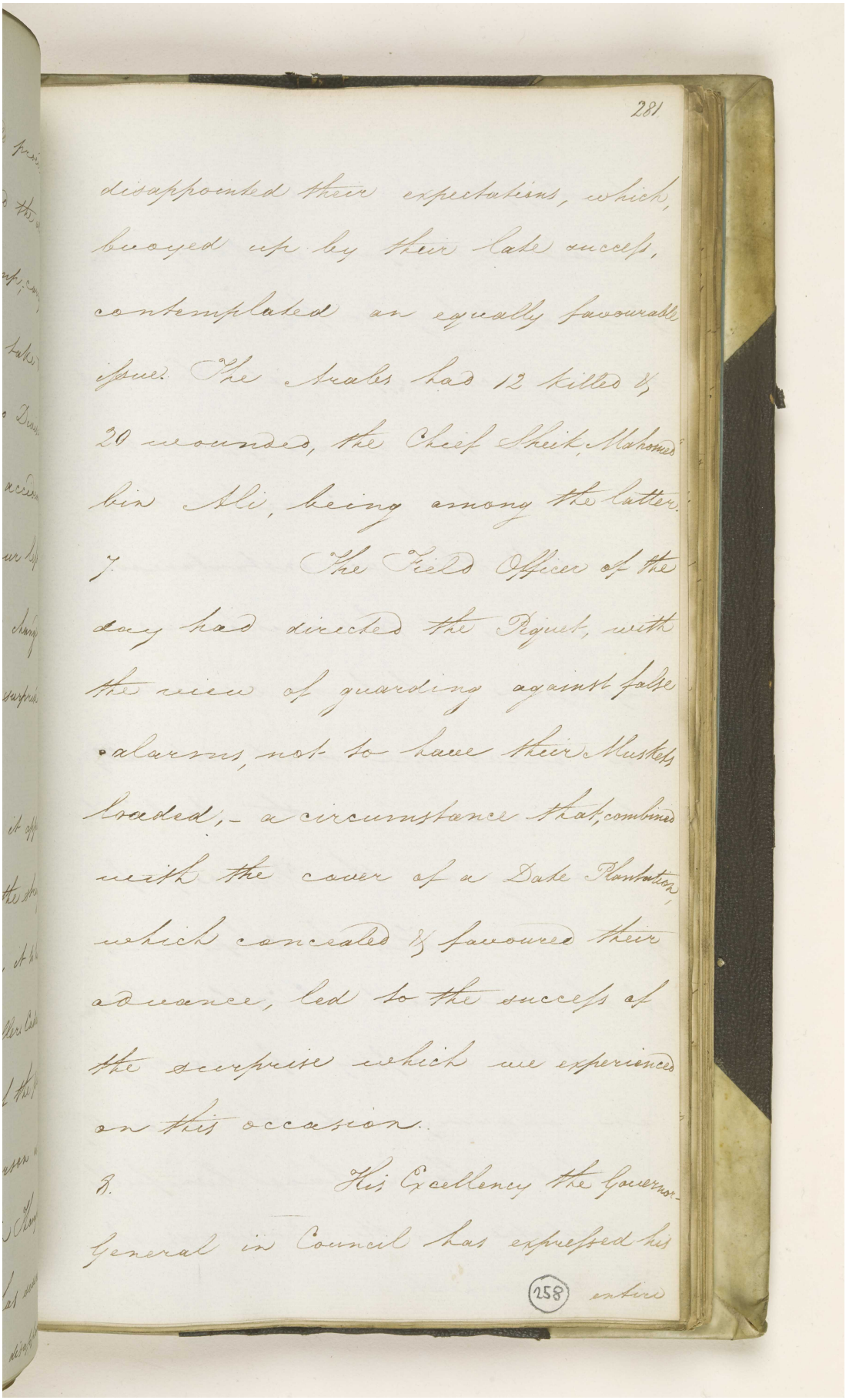

disappointed their expectations, which, buoyed up by their late success, contemplated an equally favourable issue. The Arabs had 12 killed & 20 wounded, the Chief Sheik Mahomed bin Ali, being among the latter.

7. The Field Officer of the day had directed the Rejmt, with the view of guarding against false alarms, not to have their Muskets loaded; - a circumstance that, combined with the cover of a Date Plantation, which concealed & favoured their advance, led to the success of the surprise which we experienced on this occasion.

8. His Excellency the Governor General in Council has expressed his

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entire

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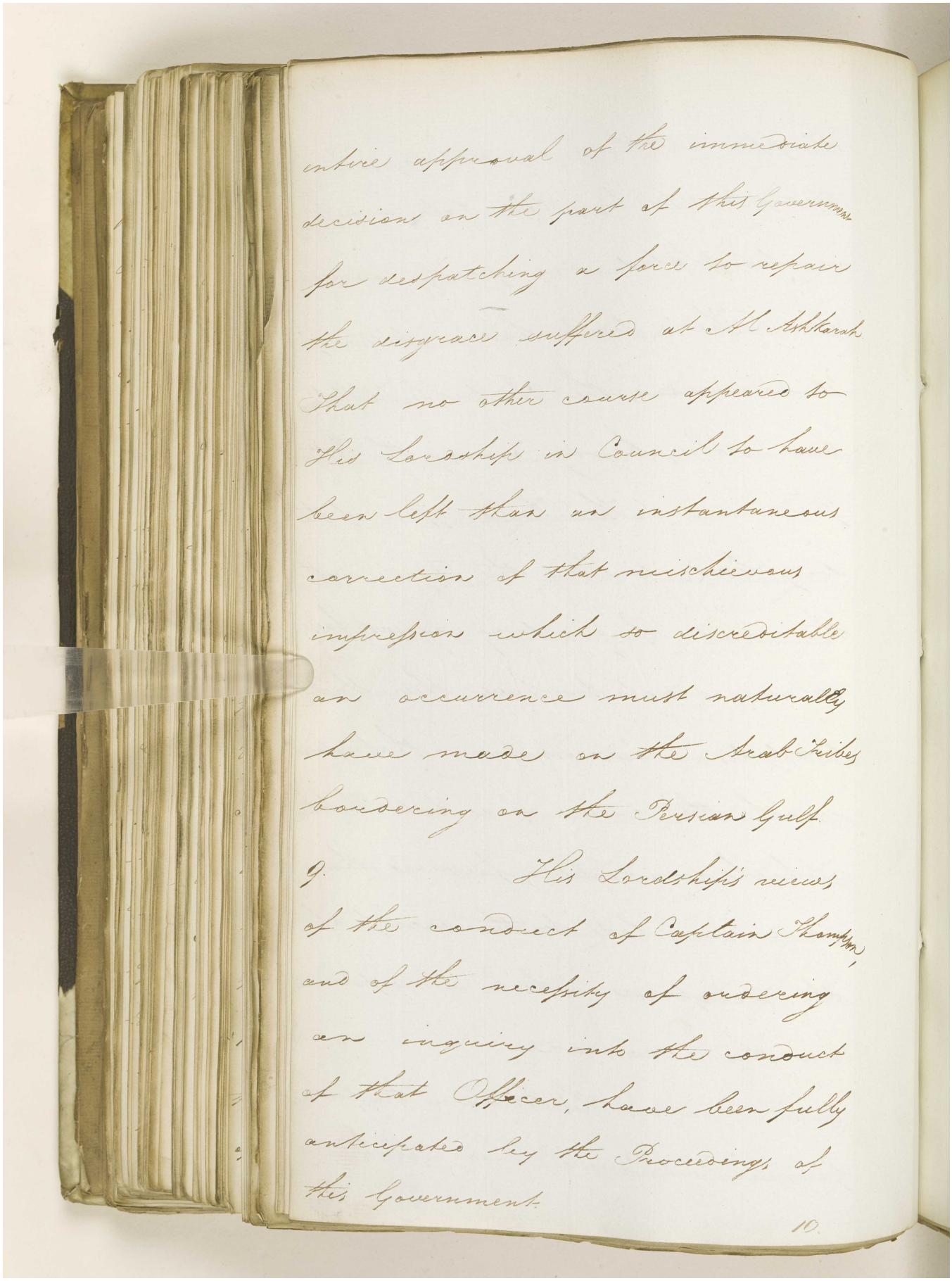

entire approval of the immediate
decision on the part of this Government
for despatching a force to repair
the disgrace suffered at Al Ashkarah
That no other course appeared to
His Lordship in Council to have
been left than an instantaneous
correction of that mischievous
impression which so discreditable
an occurrence must naturally
have made on the Arab Tribes
bordering on the Persian Gulph

9. His Lordship's views
of the conduct of Captain Thompson,
and of the necessity of ordering
an inquiry into the conduct
of that Officer, have been fully
anticipated by the Proceedings of
this Government.

10

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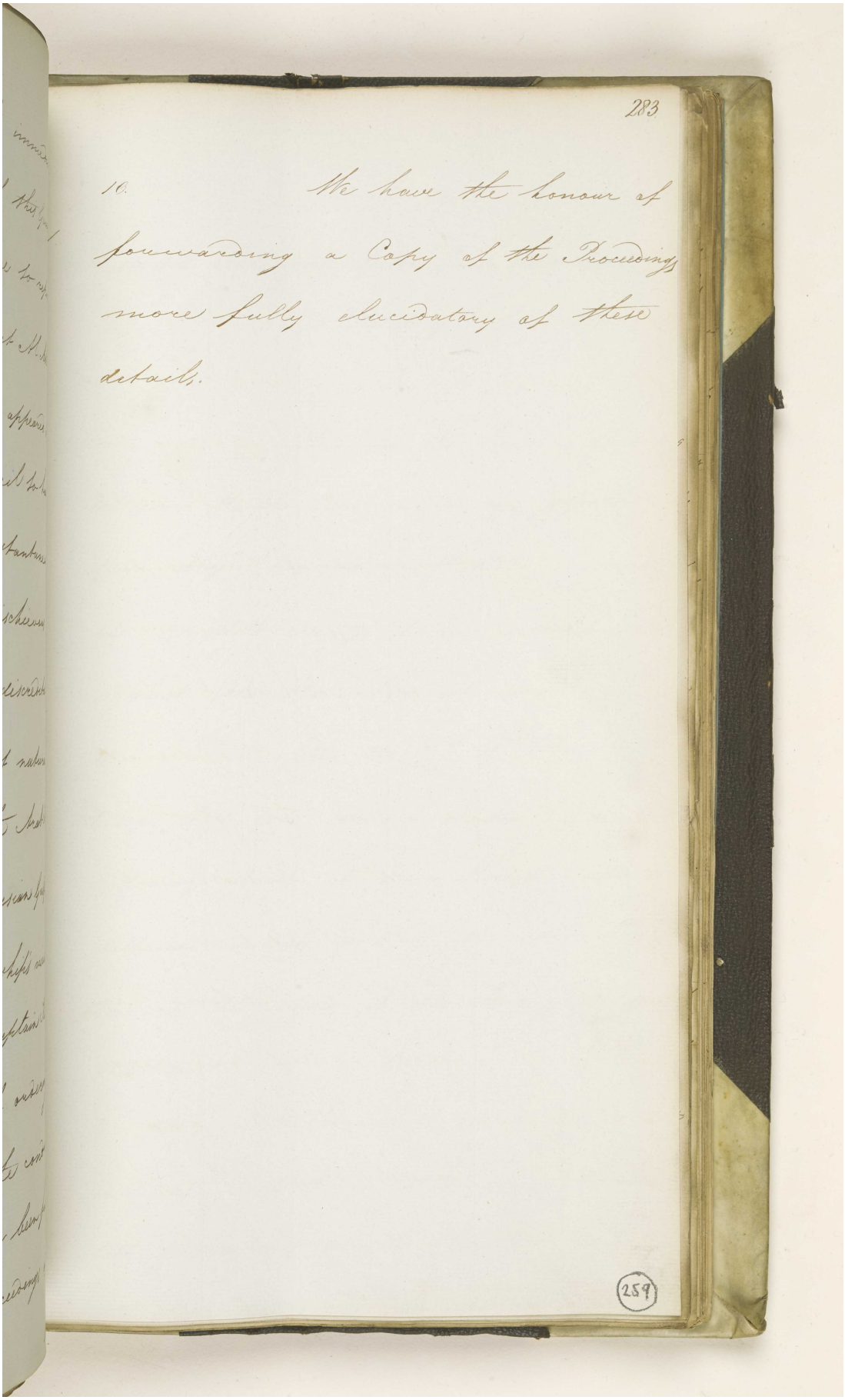

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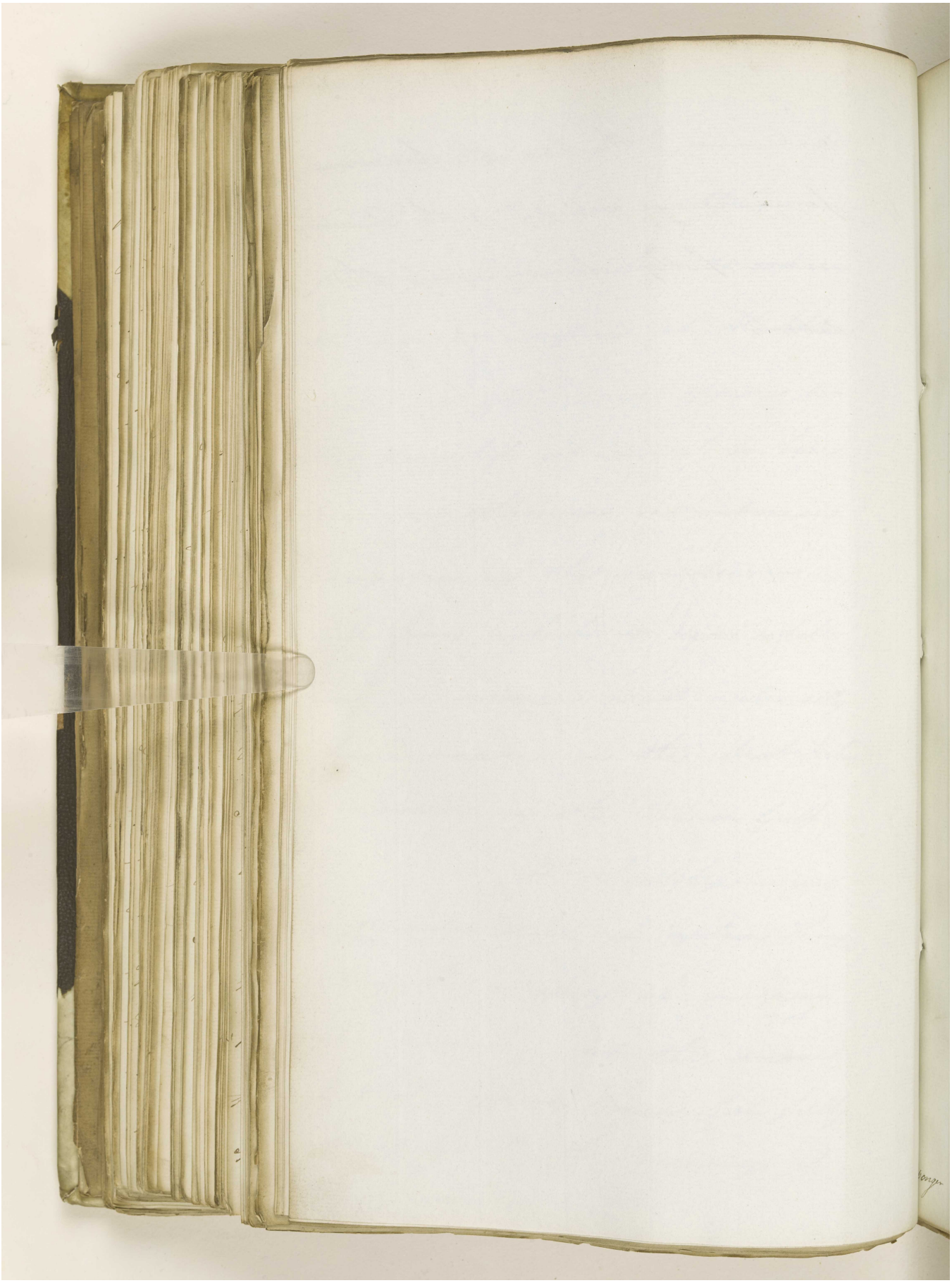

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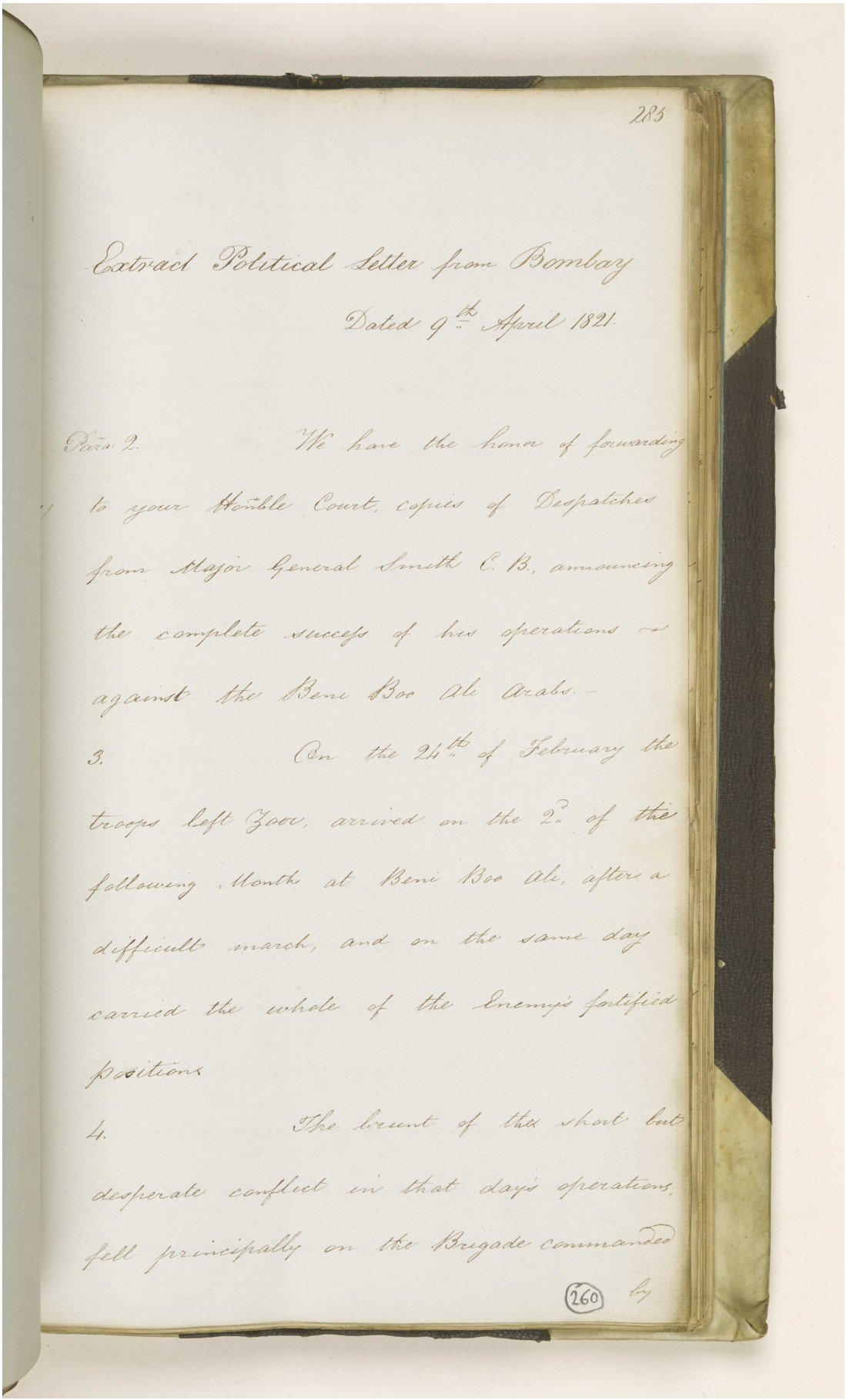

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Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 9th April 1821.

Para 2. We have the honor of forwarding to your Honble Court, copies of Despatches from Major General Smith C. B. announcing the complete success of his operations against the Beni Boo Ali Arabs.

3. On the 24th of February the troops left Zoor, arrived on the 2d of the following Month at Beni Boo Ali, after a difficult march, and on the same day carried the whole of the Enemy's fortified positions

4. The brunt of the short but desperate conflict in that days operations, fell principally on the Brigade commanded

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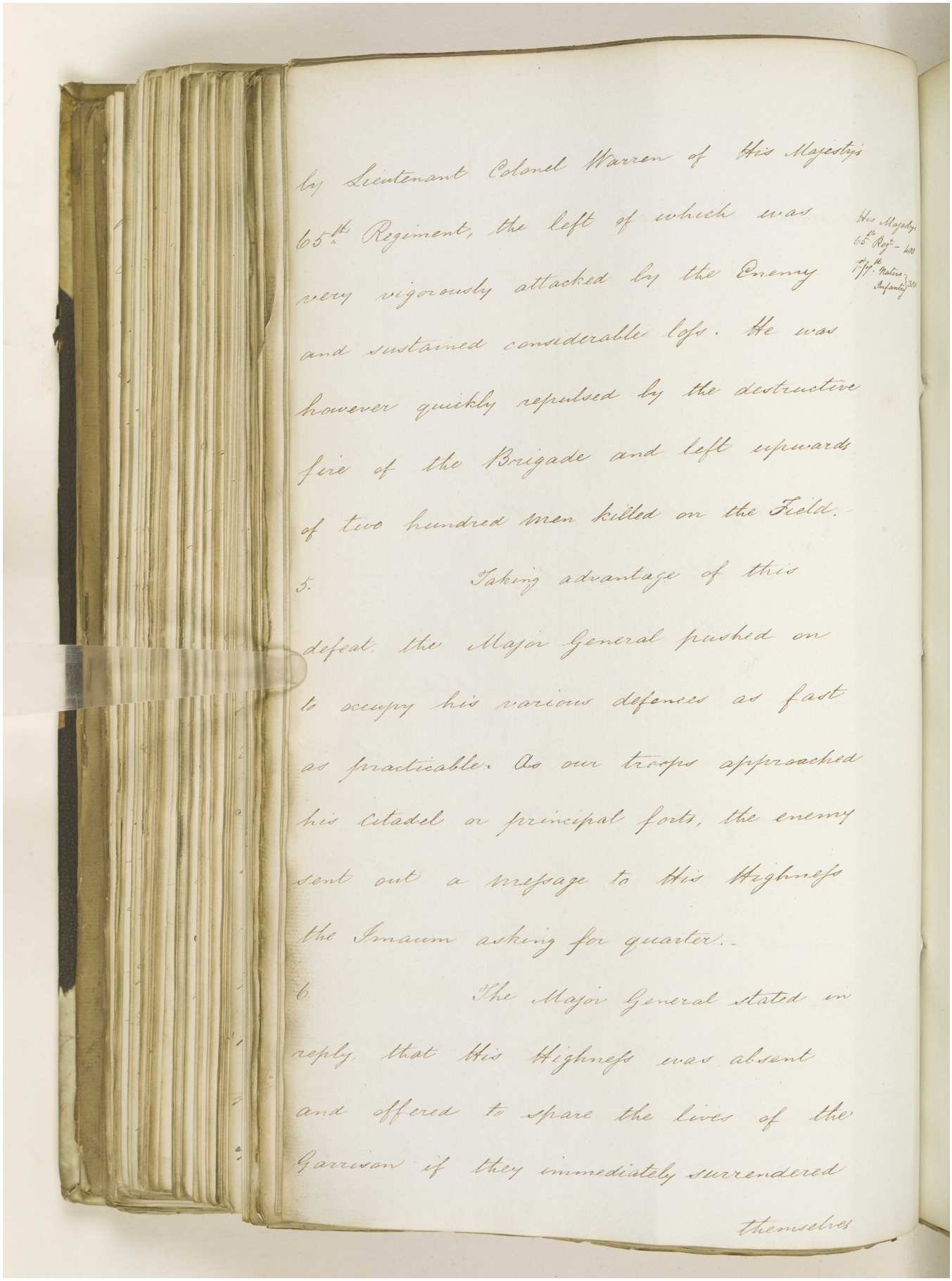
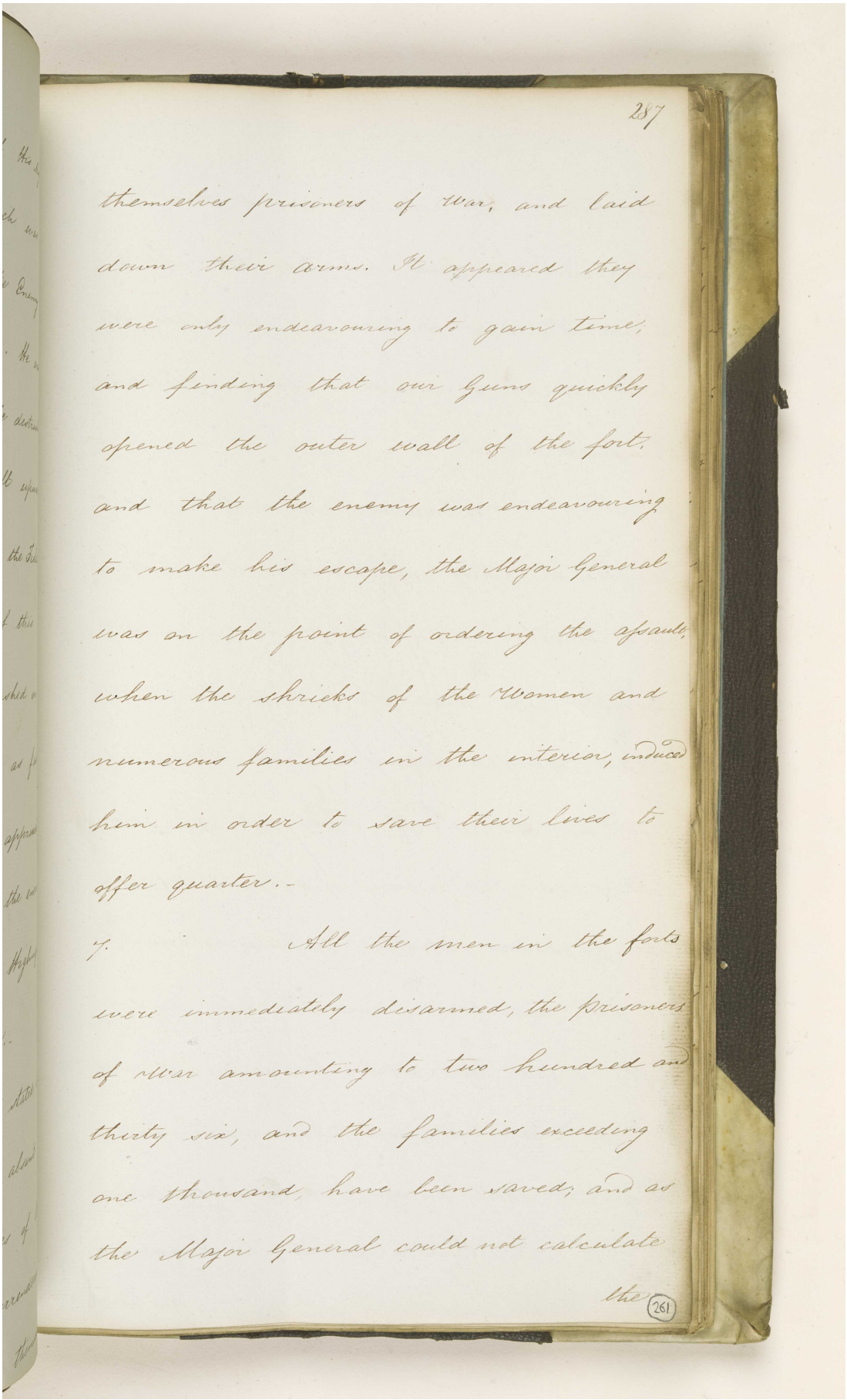


by Lieutenant Colonel Warren of His Majesty's 65th Regiment, the left of which was very vigorously attacked by the Enemy and sustained considerable loss. He was however quickly repulsed by the destructive fire of the Brigade and left upwards of two hundred men killed on the Field.

His Majesty's 65th Regt. – 400
1st & 7th Native Infantry 300

5. Taking advantage of this defeat, the Major General pushed on to occupy his various defences as fast as practicable. As our troops approached his citadel or principal forts, the enemy sent out a message to His Highness the Imaum asking for quarter.

6. The Major General stated in reply, that His Highness was absent and offered to spare the lives of the Garrison if they immediately surrendered themselves



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themselves prisoners of War, and laid down their arms. It appeared they were only endeavouring to gain time, and finding that our Guns quickly opened the outer wall of the fort, and that the enemy was endeavouring to make his escape, the Major General was on the point of ordering the Assault, when the shrieks of the Women and numerous families in the interior, induced him in order to save their lives to offer quarter.-

7. All the men in the forts were immediately disarmed, the prisoners of War amounting to two hundred and thirty six, and the families exceeding one thousand, have been saved; and as the Major General could not calculate the

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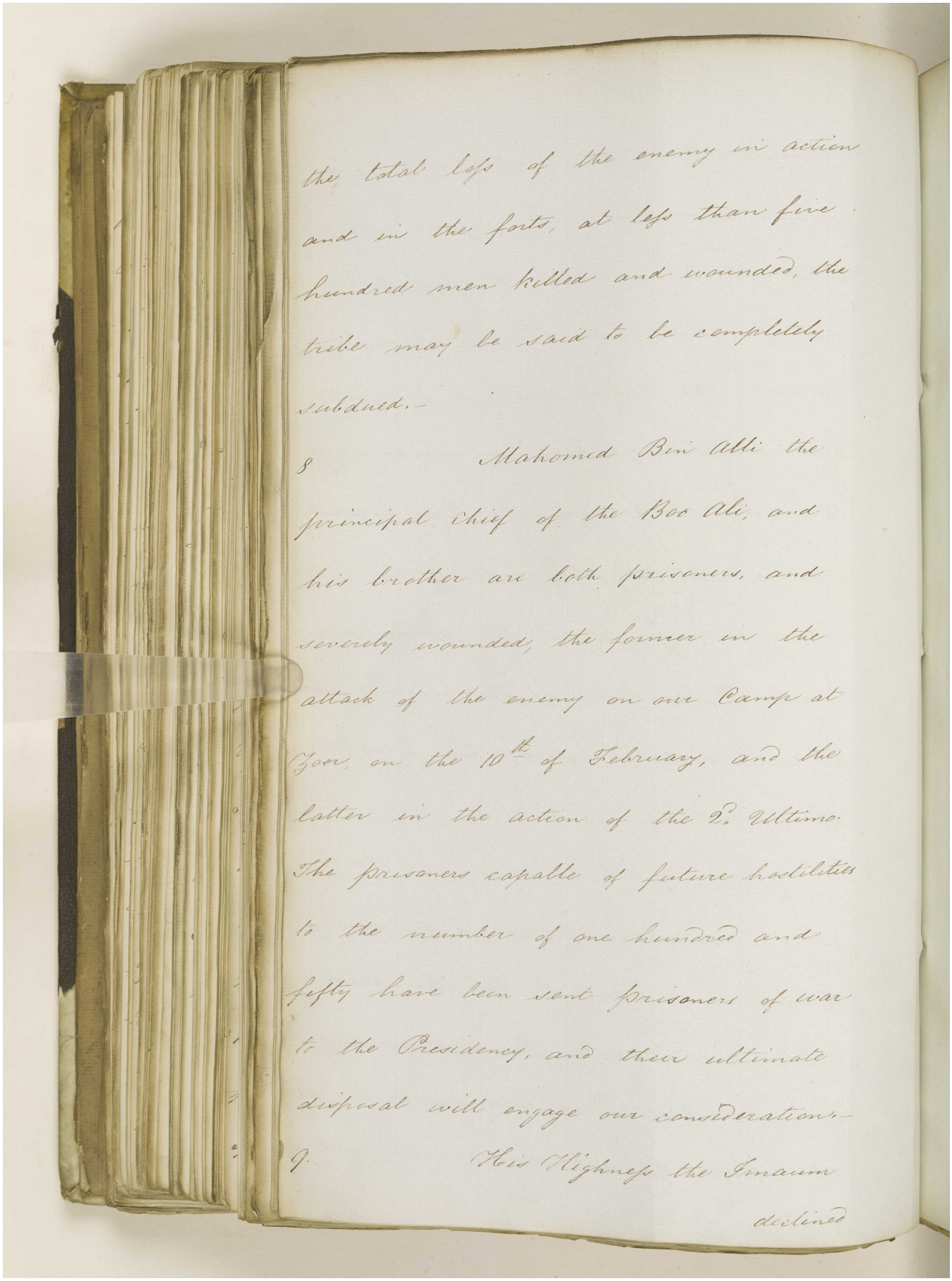

the total loss of the enemy in action and in the forts, at less than five hundred men killed and wounded, the tribe may be said to be completely subdued.–

8 Mahomed Bin Alli the principal chief of the Boo Ali, and his brother are both prisoners, and severely wounded, the former in the attack of the enemy on our Camp at Goor, on the 10th of February, and the latter in the action of the 2d. Ultimo. The prisoners capable of future hostilities to the number of one hundred and fifty have been sent prisoners of war to the Presidency, and their ultimate disposal will engage our considerations.–

9. His Highness the Imaum declined

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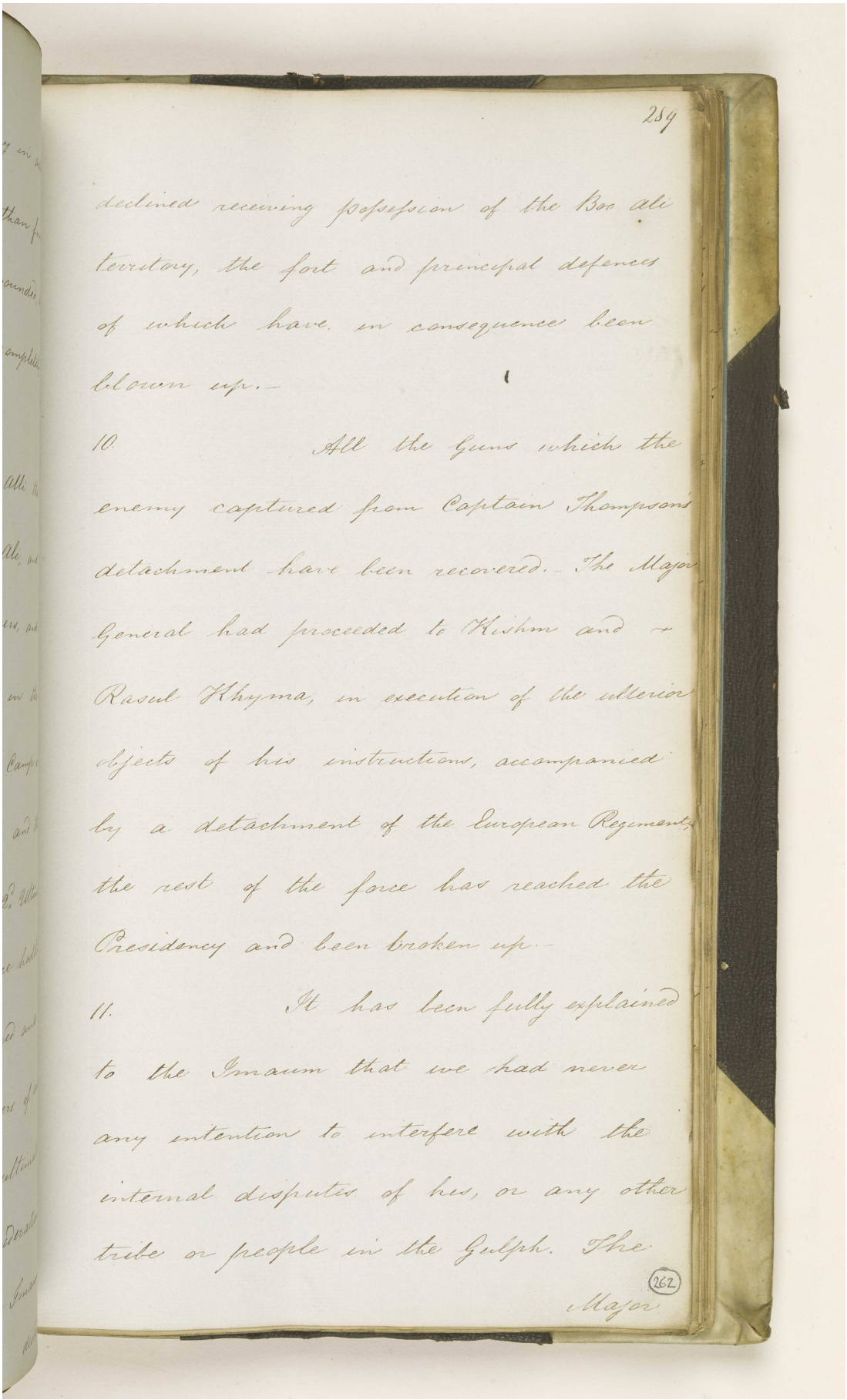

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declined receiving possession of the Boo Ali territory, the fort and principal defences of which have, in consequence been blown up.—

10. All the Guns which the enemy captured from Captain Thompson's detachment have been recovered.— The Major General had proceeded to Kishm and Rasul Khyma, in execution of the ulterior objects of his instructions, accompanied by a detachment of the European Regiment, the rest of the force has reached the Presidency and been broken up.—

11. It has been fully explained to the Imaum that we had never any intention to interfere with the internal disputes of his, or any other tribe or people in the Gulph. The

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Major

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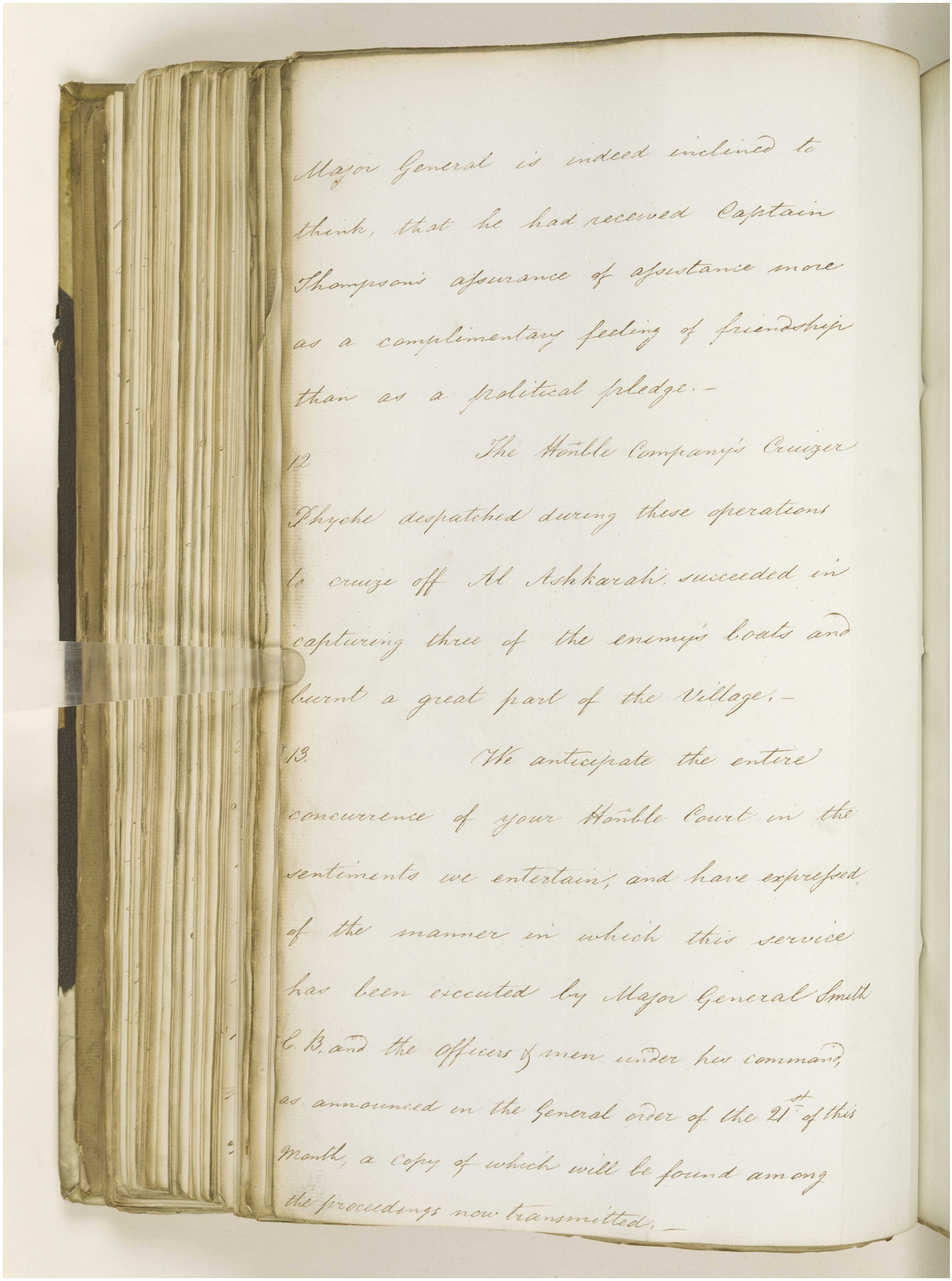
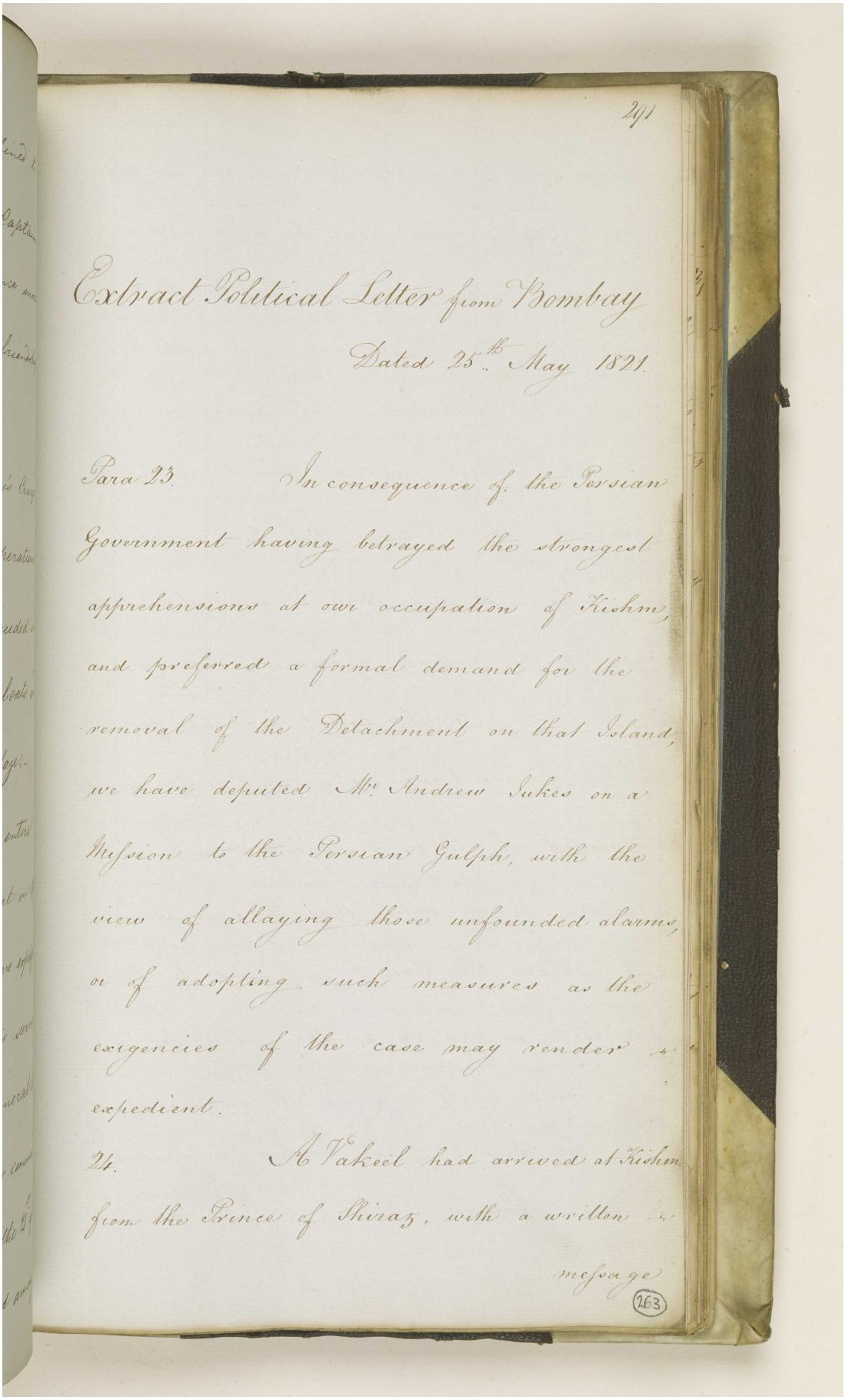


Major General is indeed inclined to
think, that he had received Captain
Thompson's assurance of assistance more
as a complimentary feeling of friendship
than as a political pledge.—

12 The Honble Company's Cruizer
Phyche despatched during these operations
to cruize off Al Ashkarah succeeded in
capturing three of the enemy's boats and
burnt a great part of the Village.—

13. We anticipate the entire
concurrence of your Honble Court in the
sentiments we entertain, and have expressed,
of the manner in which this service
has been executed by Major General Smith
C. B. and the Officers & men under his command,
as announced in the General Order of the 21st of this
Month, a copy of which will be found among
the proceedings now transmitted.—



291

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 25th May 1821.

Para 23. In consequence of the Persian Government having betrayed the strongest apprehensions at our occupation of Kishm, and preferred a formal demand for the removal of the Detachment on that Island, we have deputed Mr. Andrew Jukes on a Mission to the Persian Gulph, with the view of allaying those unfounded alarms, or of adopting such measures as the exigencies of the case may render expedient.

24. A Vakeel had arrived at Kishm from the Prince of Shiraz, with a written message

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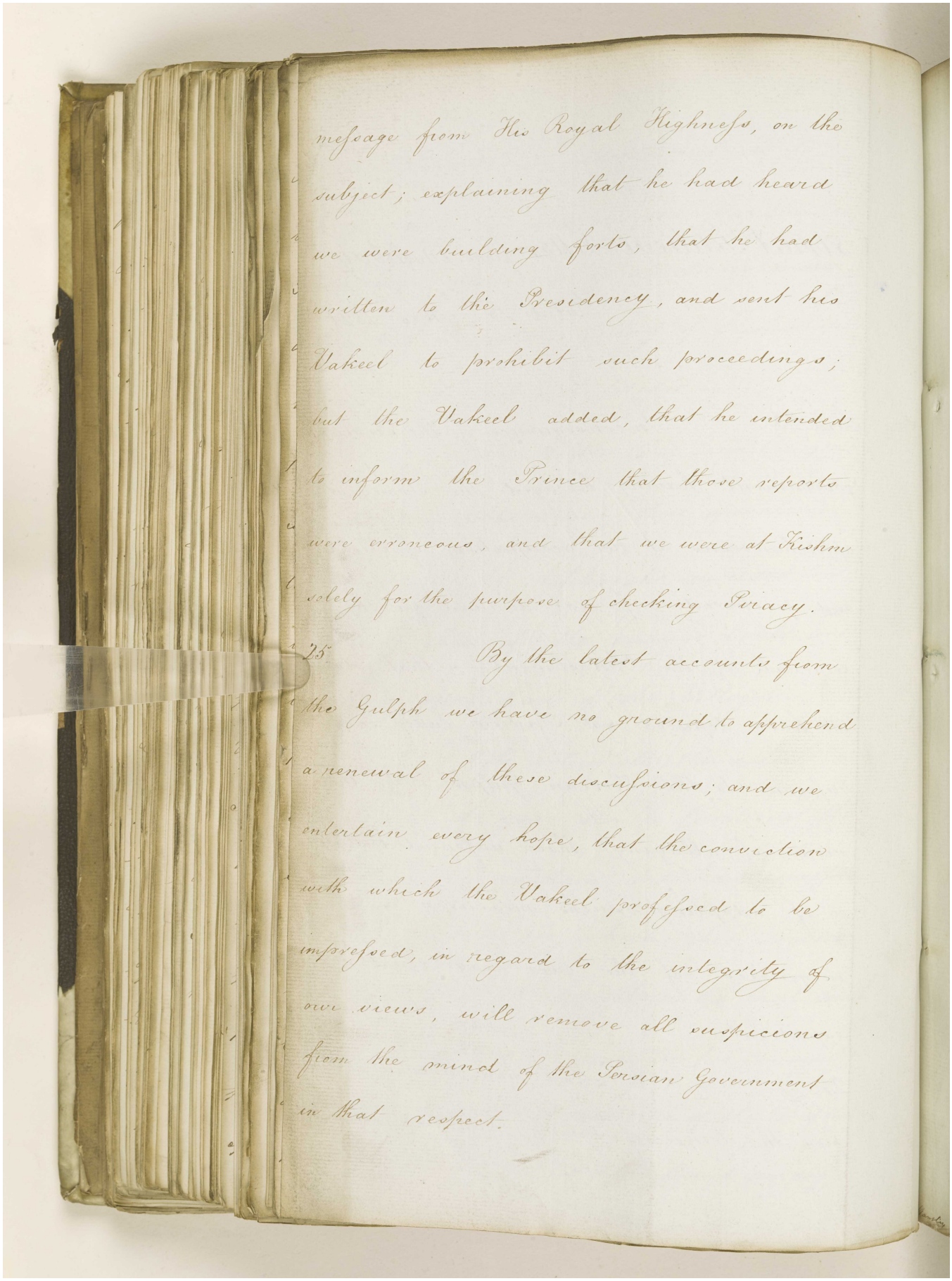
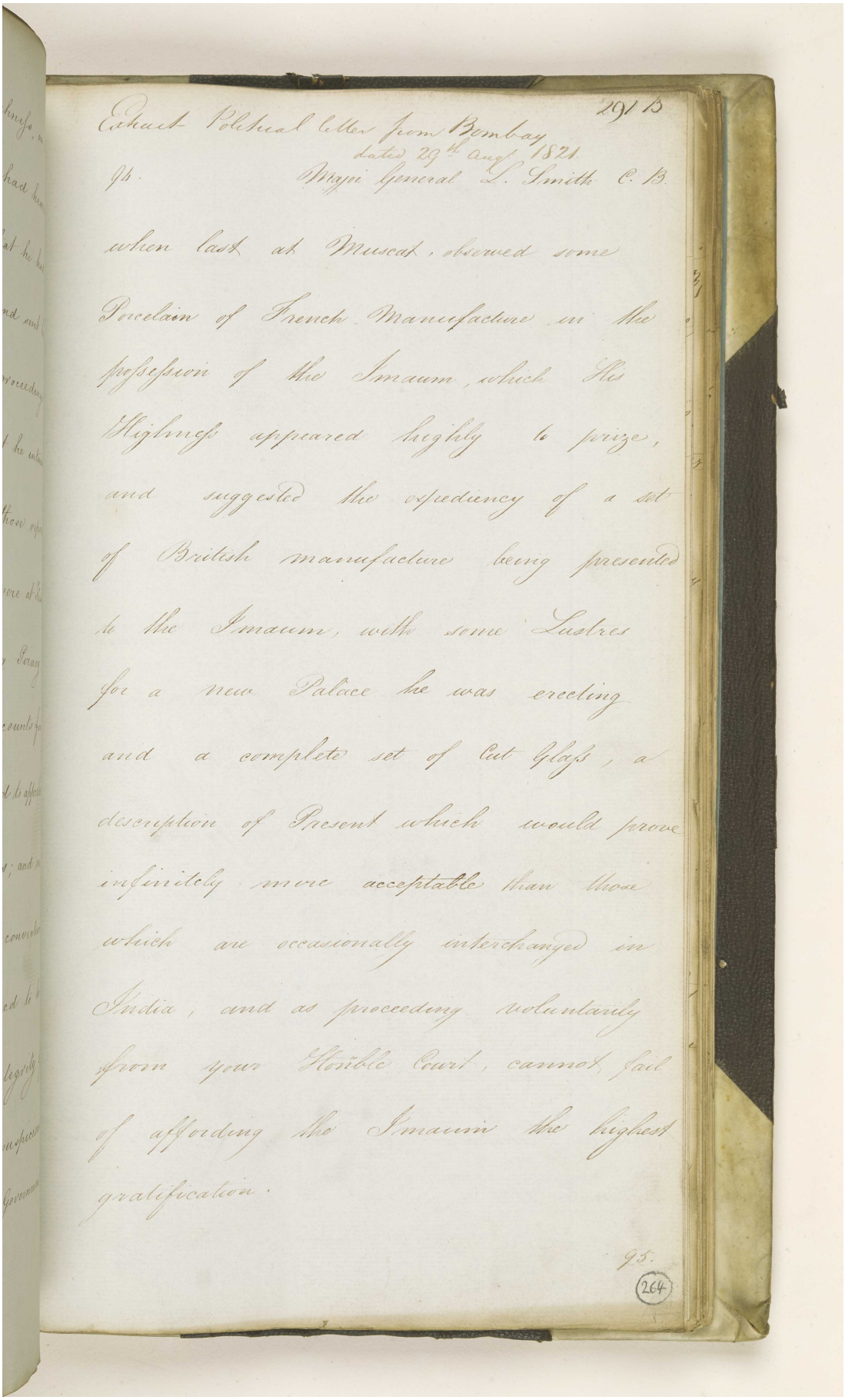


message from His Royal Highness, on the
subject; explaining that he had heard
we were building forts, that he had
written to the Presidency, and sent his
Vakeel to prohibit such proceedings;
but the Vakeel added, that he intended
to inform the Prince that those reports
were erroneous, and that we were at Kishm
solely for the purpose of checking Piracy.

25 By the latest accounts from
the Gulph we have no ground to apprehend
a renewal of these discussions; and we
entertain every hope, that the conviction
with which the Vakeel professed to be
impressed, in regard to the integrity of
our views, will remove all suspicions
from the mind of the Persian Government
in that respect.

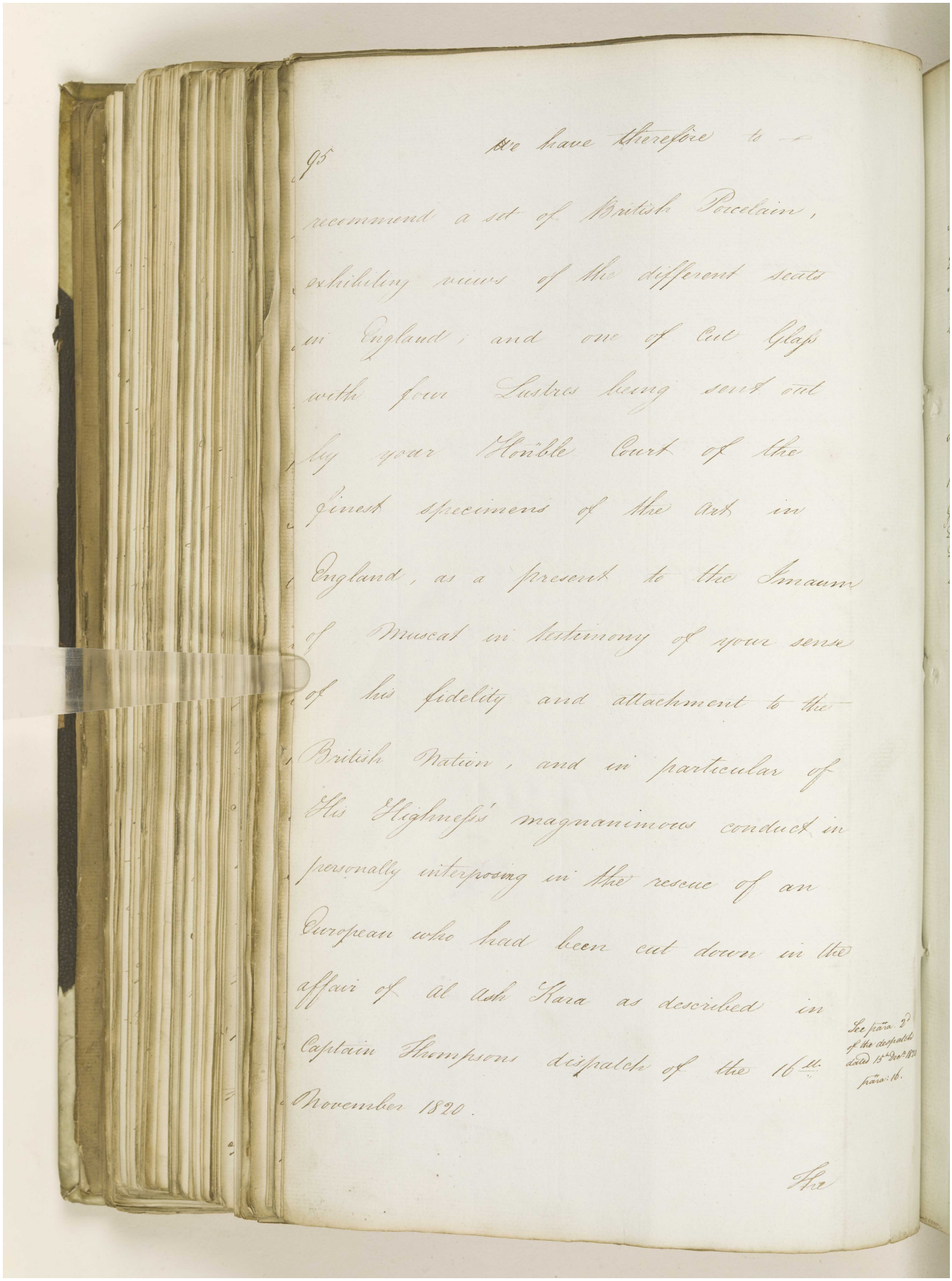


Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 29th Augt 1821.
95. Major General L. Smith C. B.

when last at Muscat, observed some Porcelain of French Manufacture in the possession of the Imaum, which His Highness appeared highly to prize, and suggested the expediency of a set of British manufacture being presented to the Imaum, with some Lustres for a new Palace he was erecting and a complete set of cut Glass, a description of Present which would prove infinitely more acceptable than those which are occasionally interchanged in India, and as proceeding voluntarily from your Honble Court, cannot fail of affording the Imaum the highest gratification.

95.

(264)

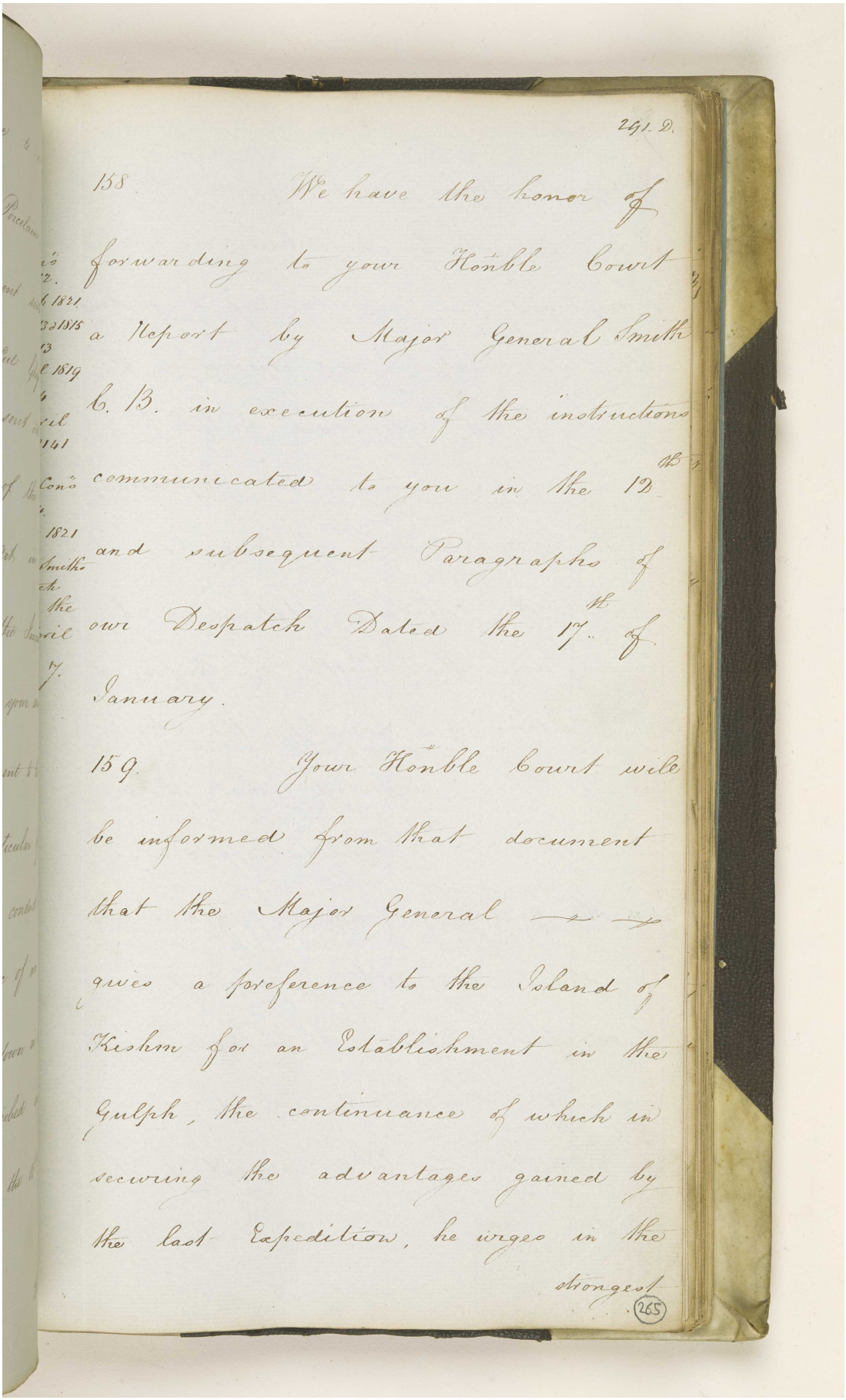


95

We have therefore to recommend a set of British Porcelain, exhibiting views of the different seats in England; and one of Cut Glass with four Lustres being sent out by your Honble Court of the finest specimens of the Art in England, as a present to the Imaum of Muscat in testimony of your sense of his fidelity and attachment to the British Nation, and in particular of His Highness's magnaminous conduct in personally interposing in the rescue of an European who had been cut down in the affair of al ash Kara as described in Captain Thompsons dispatch of the 16th November 1820.

See para. 2d of the despatch dated 15th Dec. 1820 para: 16.

The



291. D.

158 We have the honor of forwarding to your Honble Court a Report by Major General Smith C. B. in execution of the instructions communicated to you in the 12th and subsequent Paragraphs of our Despatch Dated the 17th of January.

159 Your Honble Court will be informed from that document that the Major General — — gives a preference to the Island of Kishm for an Establishment in the Gulph, the continuance of which in securing the advantages gained by the last Expedition, he urges in the strongest

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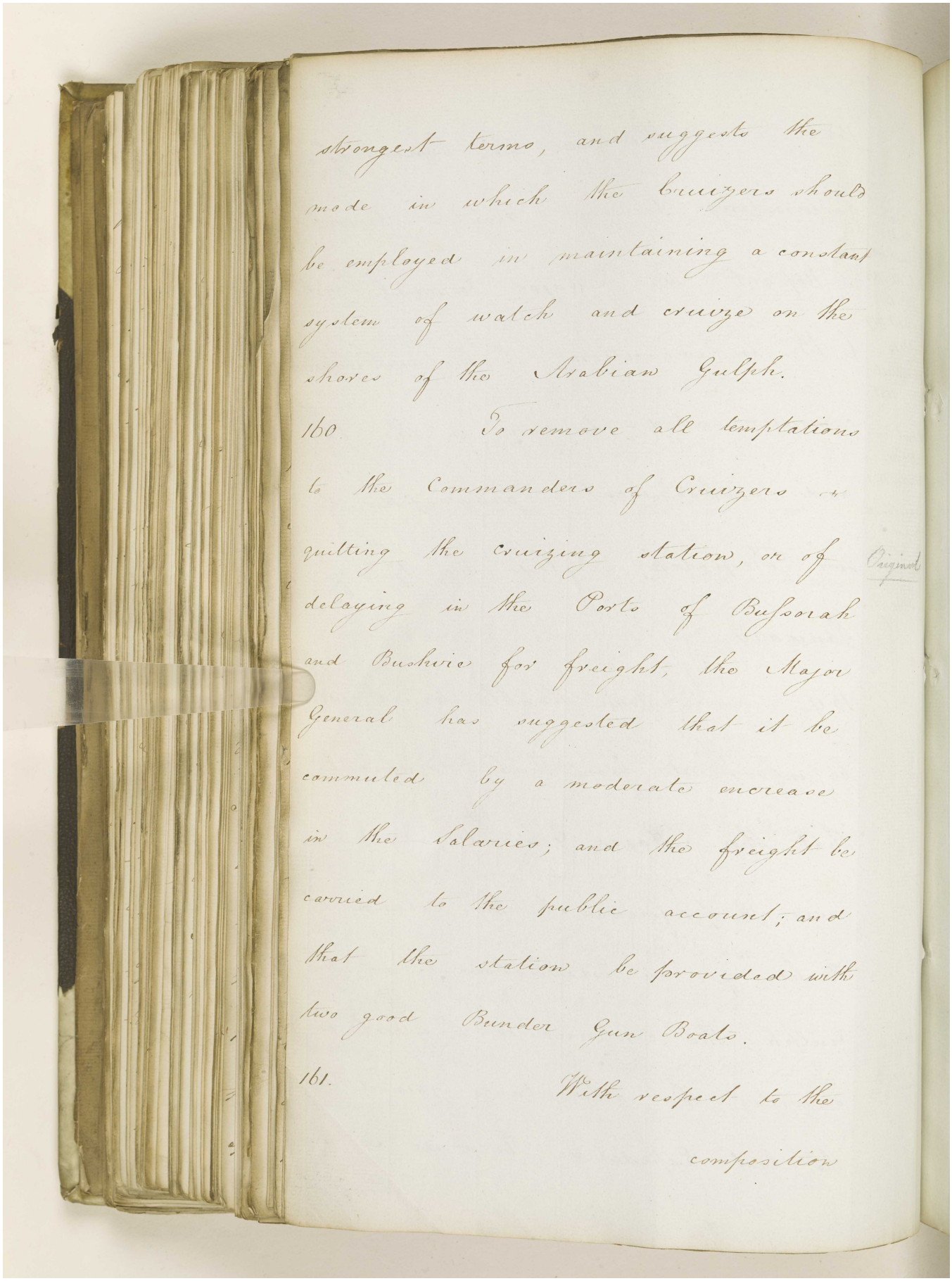
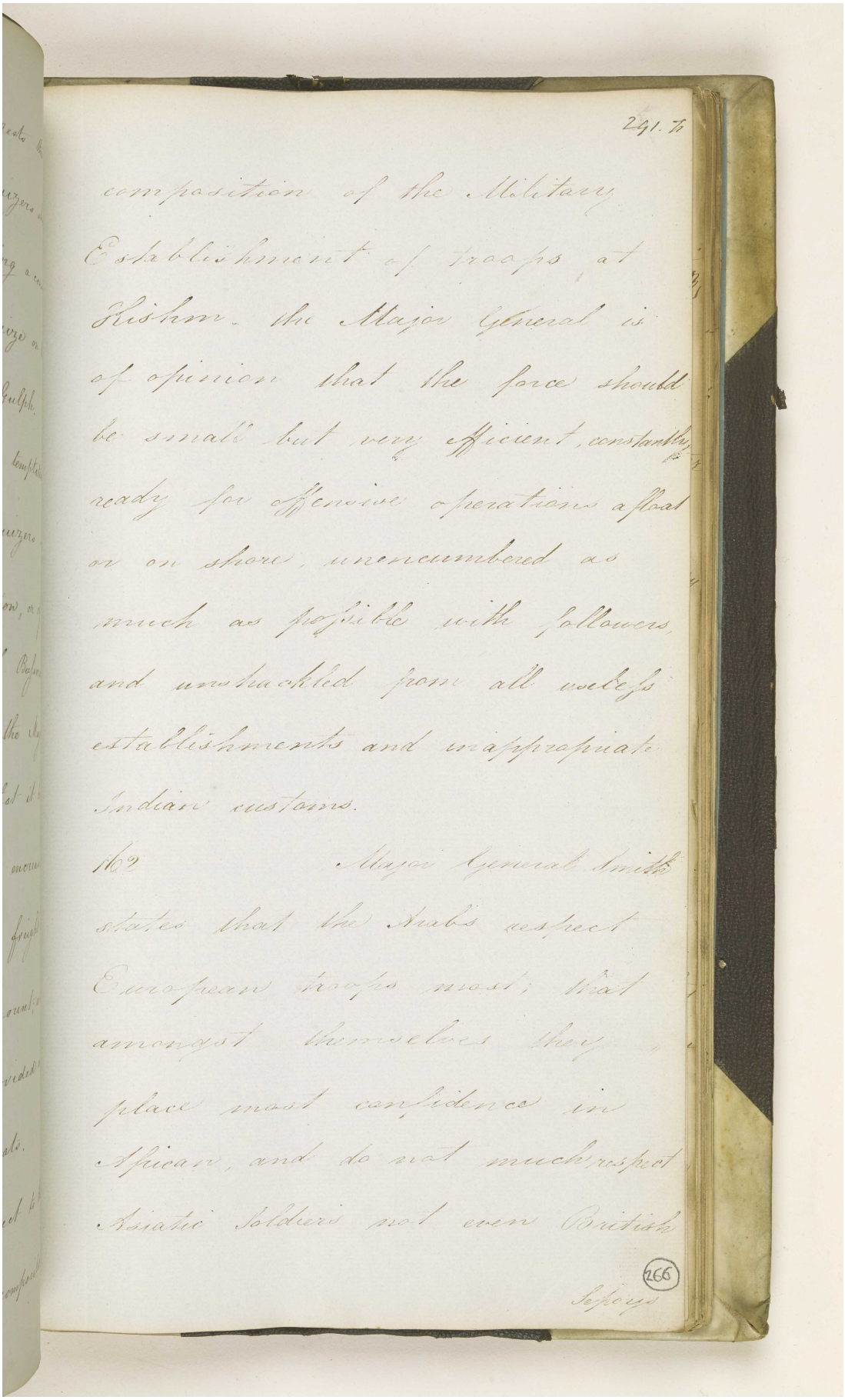


strongest terms, and suggests the mode in which the Cruizers should be employed in maintaining a constant system of watch and cruize on the shores of the Arabian Gulph.

160 To remove all temptations to the Commanders of Cruizers of quitting the cruizing station, or of delaying in the Ports of Bussorah and Bushire for freight, the Major General has suggested that it be commuted by a moderate increase in the Salaries; and the freight be carried to the public account; and that the station be provided with two good Bunder Gun Boats.

161. With respect to the composition

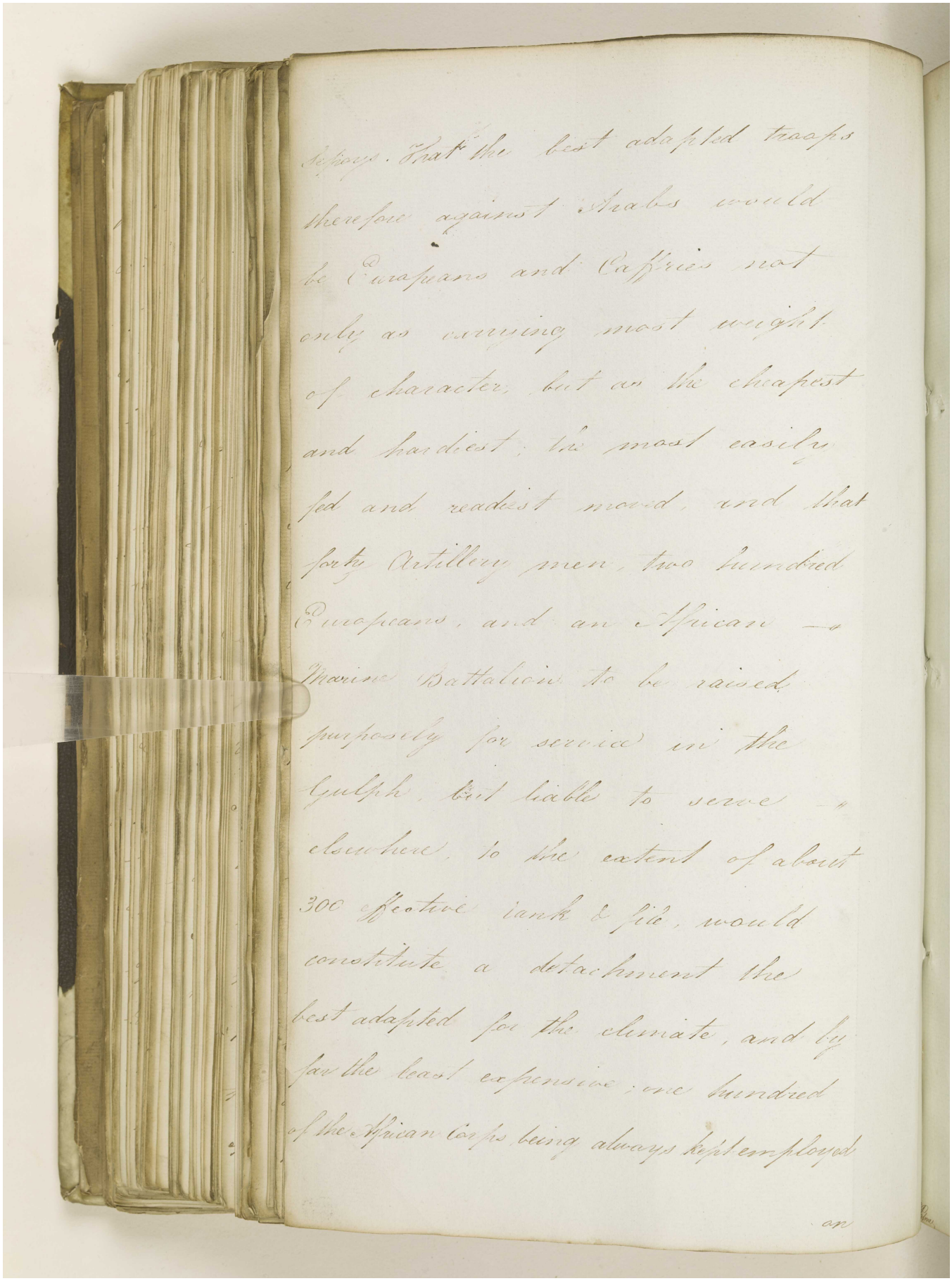


291. 76

compassion of the Military
Establishment of troops at
Kishm. the Major General is
of opinion that the force should
be small but very efficient, constantly
ready for offensive operations afloat
or on shore, unencumbered as
much as possible with followers,
and unshackled from all useless
establishments and inappropriate
Indian customs.

No 2 Major General Smith
states that the Arabs respect
European troops most; that
amongst themselves they
place most confidence in
African, and do not much respect
Asiatic Soldiers not even British
Sepoys

266



Seapoys. That the best adapted troops therefore against Arabs would be Europeans and Caffries not only as carrying most weight of character, but as the cheapest and hardiest, the most easily fed and readiest moved, and that forty Artillery men, two hundred Europeans, and an African — Marine Battalion to be raised purposely for service in the Gulph, but liable to serve — elsewhere, to the extent of about 300 effective rank & file, would constitute a detachment the best adapted for the climate, and by far the least expensive; one hundred of the African corps being always kept employed

an

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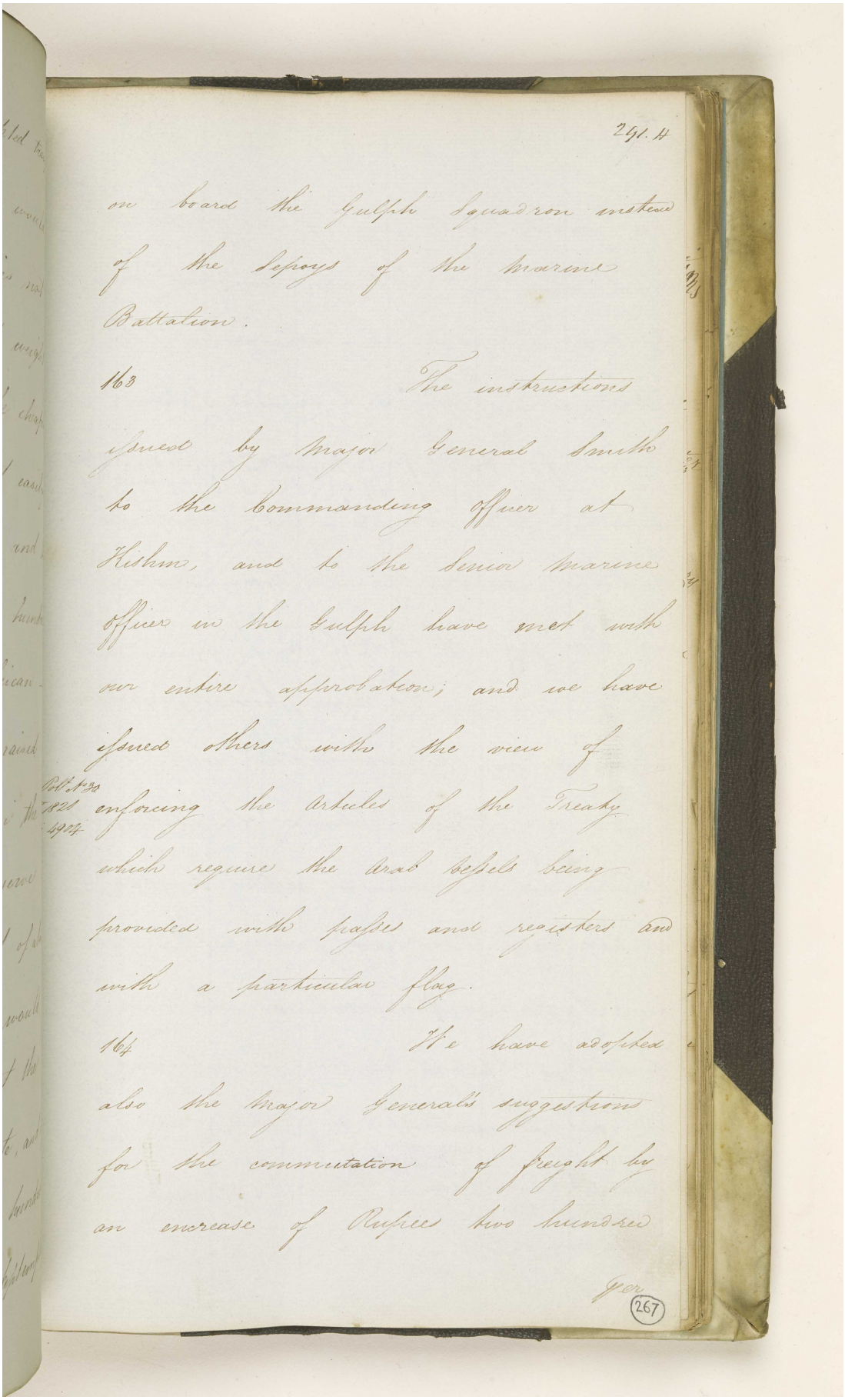

291. H

on board the Gulph Squadron instead
of the Sepoys of the Marine
Battalion.

163 The instructions
issued by Major General Smith
to the Commanding Officer at
Kishm, and to the Senior Marine
Officer in the Gulph have met with
our entire approbation; and we have
issued others with the view of
enforcing the Articles of the Treaty
which require the Arab Vessels being
provided with passes and registers and
with a particular flag.

164 We have adopted
also the Major Generals suggestions
for the commutation of freight by
an increase of Rupees two hundred

per

267

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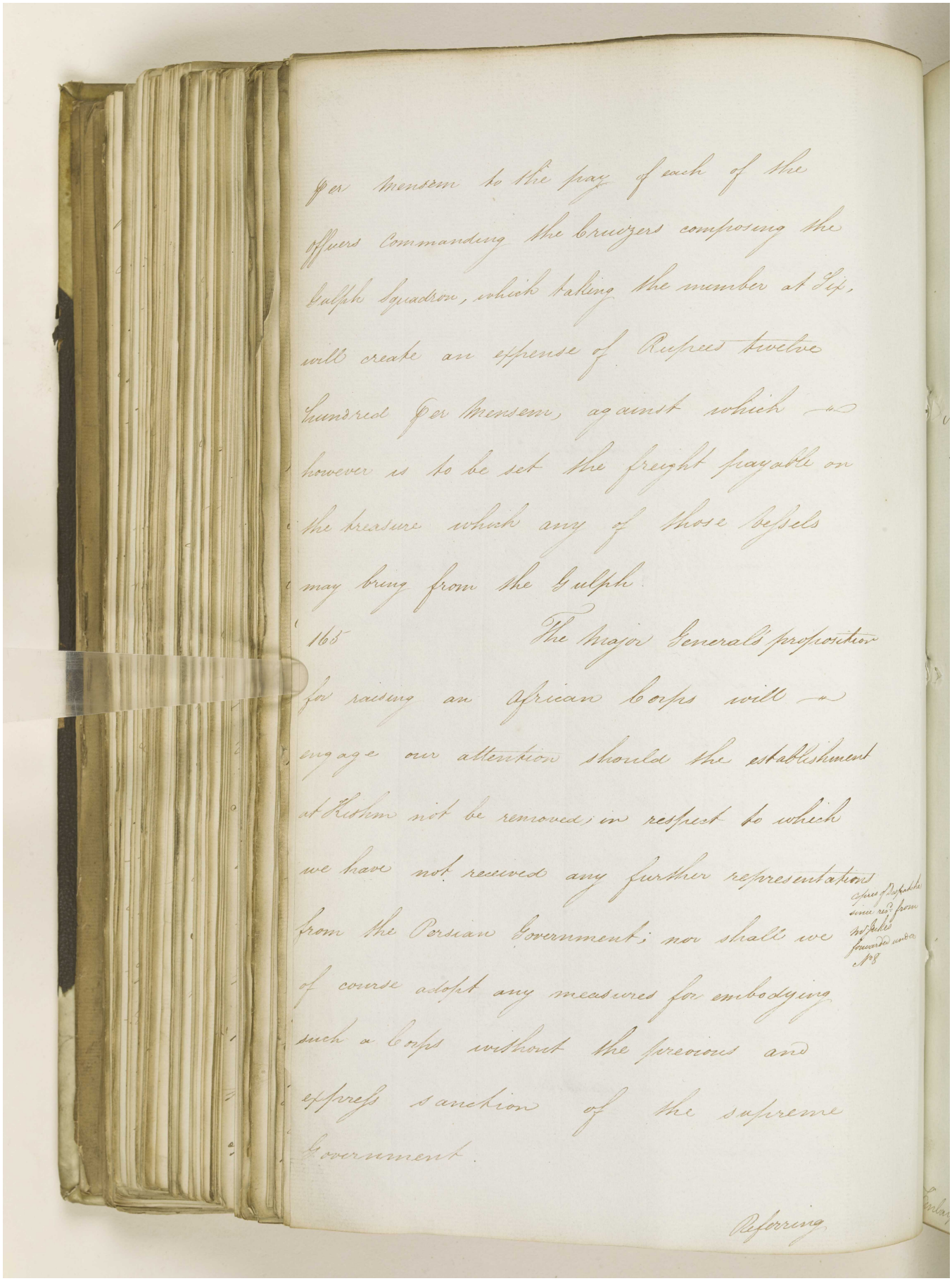
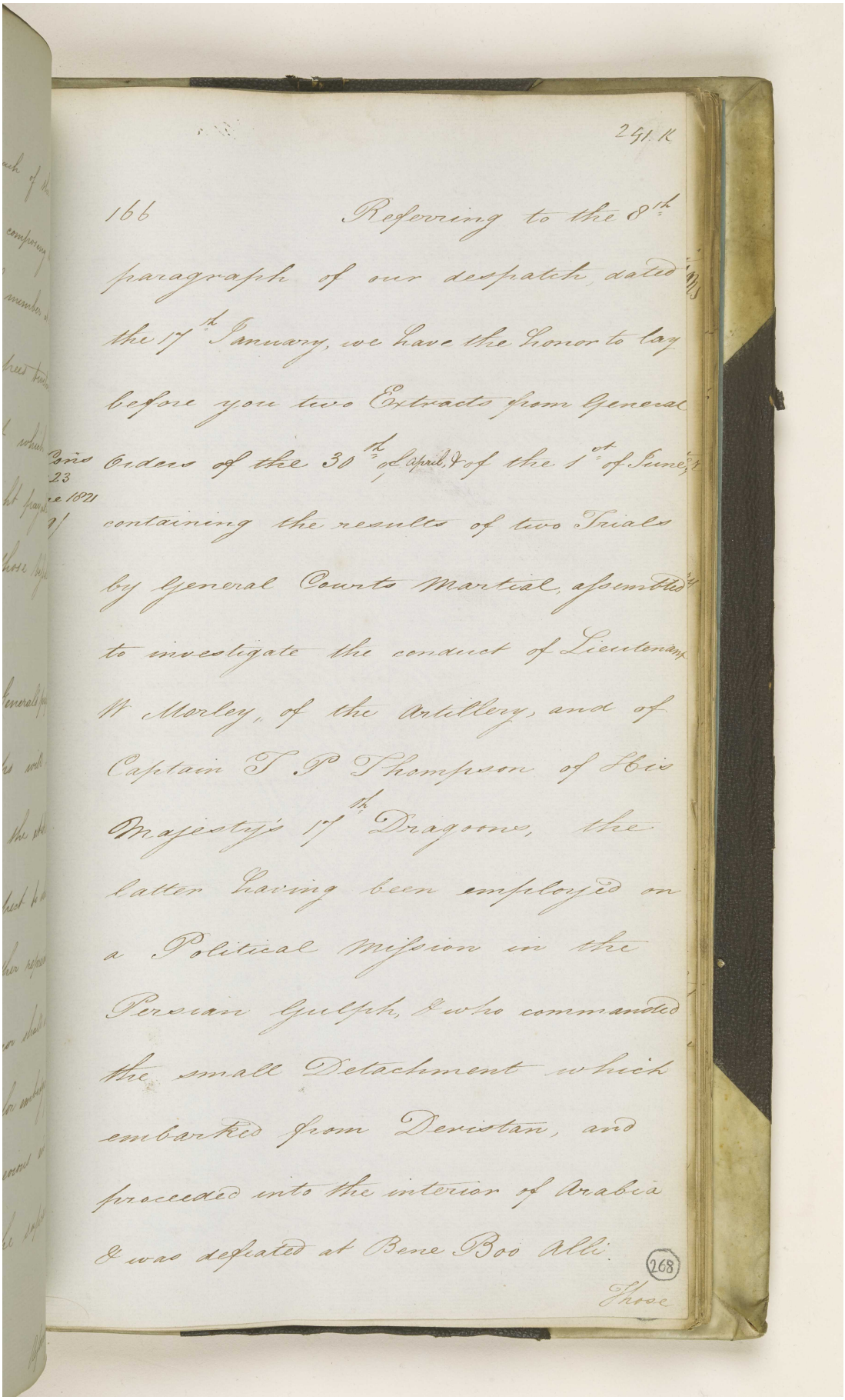


per Mensem to the pay of each of the
Officers Commanding the Cruizers composing the
Gulph Squadron, which taking the number at Six,
will create an expense of Rupees twelve
hundred per Mensem, against which —
however is to be set the freight payable on
the treasure which any of those Vessels
may bring from the Gulph.

165 The Major Generals proposition
for raising an African Corps will —
engage our attention should the establishment
at Kishm not be removed; in respect to which
we have not received any further representations
from the Persian Government; nor shall we
of course adopt any measures for embodying
such a Corps without the previous and
express sanction of the supreme
Government.

Copies of Despatches since rec.d from Mr Pelly forwarded under No 8

Referring

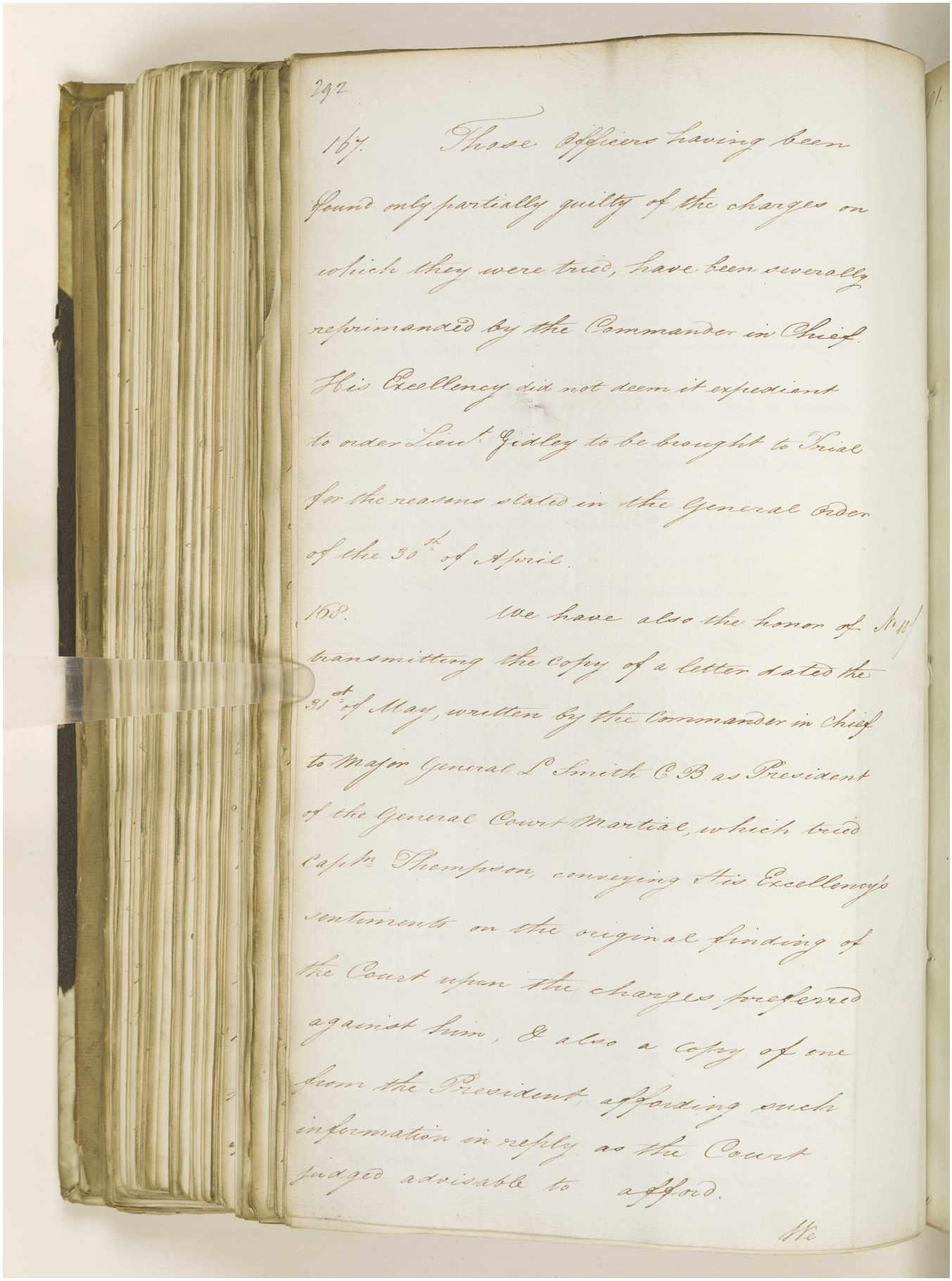


291. K

166 Referring to the 8th paragraph of our despatch dated the 17th January, we have the honor to lay before you two Extracts from General Orders of the 30th April & of the 1st of June, containing the results of two Trials by General Courts Martial, assembled to investigate the conduct of Lieutenant W Morley, of the Artillery, and of Captain T. P Thompson of His Majesty's 17th Dragoons, the latter having been employed on a Political Mission in the Persian Gulph, & who commanded the small Detachment which embarked from Dersitan, and proceeded into the interior of Arabia & was defeated at Bene Boo Alli.

268

Three

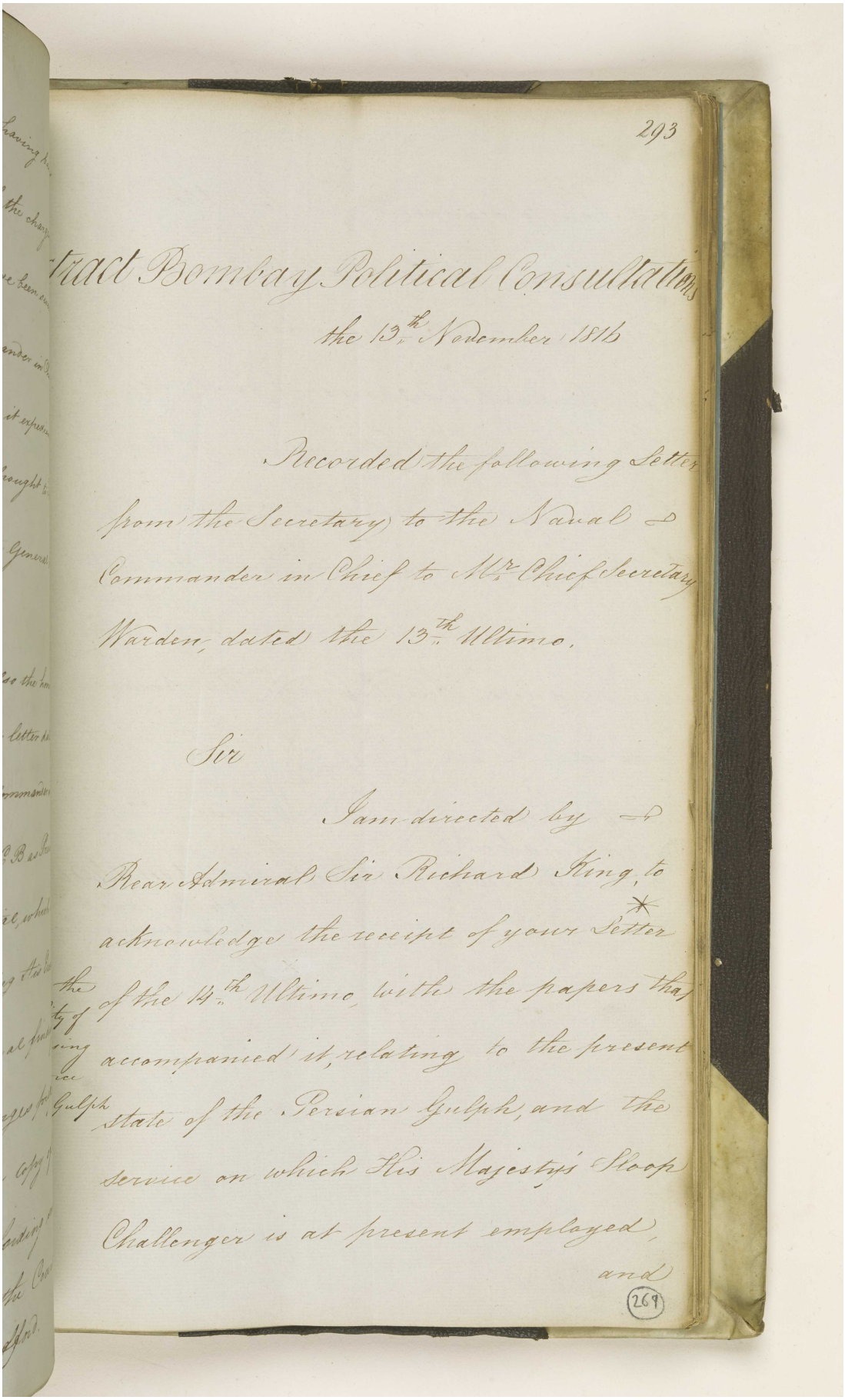


292

167. Those Officers having been found only partially guilty of the charges on which they were tried, have been severally reprimanded by the Commander in Chief. His Excellency did not deem it expedient to order Lieut. Gidley to be brought to Trial for the reasons stated in the General Order of the 30th of April.

168. We have also the honor of transmitting the copy of a letter dated the 31st of May, written by the Commander in Chief to Major General L. Smith C.B. as President of the General Court Martial, which tried Capt. Thompson, conveying His Excellency's sentiments on the original finding of the Court upon the charges preferred against him, & also a copy of one from the President, affording such information in reply as the Court judged advisable to afford.

We



293

Mad Bombay Political Consultations
the 13th November 1815

Recorded the following Letter from the Secretary to the Naval Commander in Chief to Mr. Chief Secretary Warden, dated the 13th Ultimo.

Sir

I am directed by Rear Admiral Sir Richard King, to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 13th Ultimo, with the papers that accompanied it, relating to the present state of the Persian Gulph, and the service on which His Majesty's Sloop Challenger is at present employed, and

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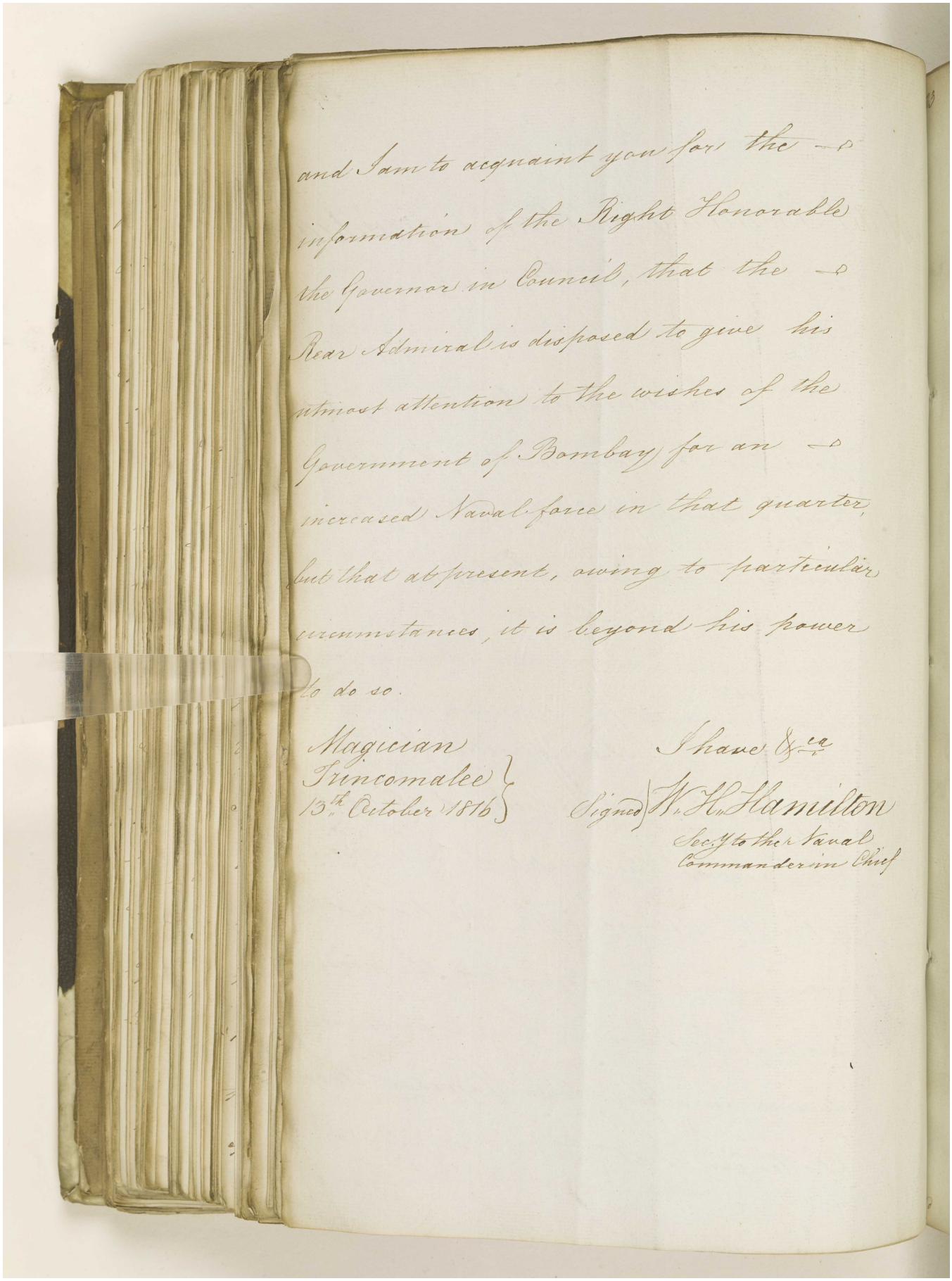
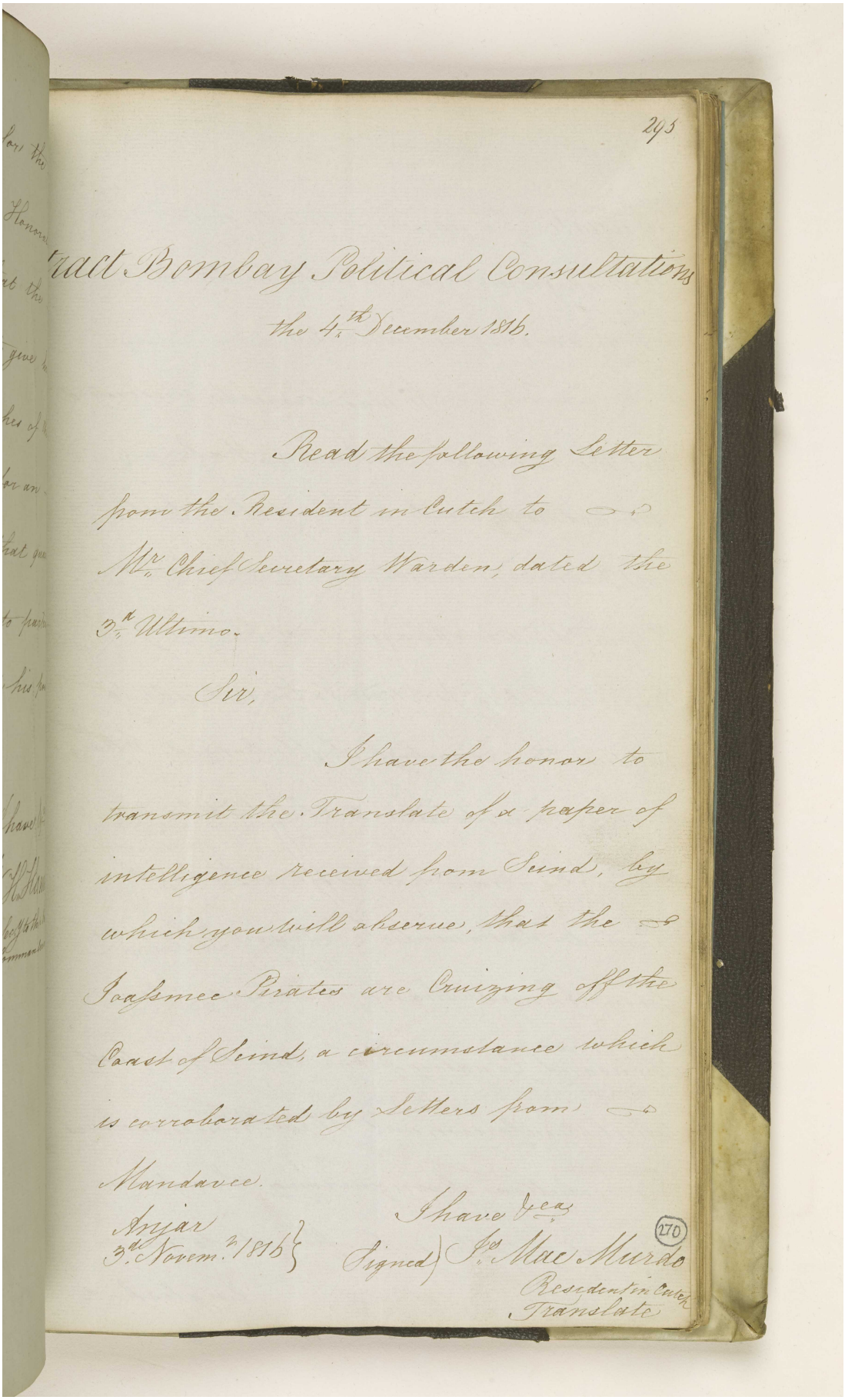


and I am to acquaint you for the —
information of the Right Honorable
the Governor in Council, that the —
Rear Admiral is disposed to give his
utmost attention to the wishes of the
Government of Bombay for an —
increased Naval force in that quarter,
but that at present, owing to particular
circumstances, it is beyond his power
to do so.

Magician
Trincomalee
13th October 1816

I have &c.
Signed W. H. Hamilton
Secy to the Naval
Commander in Chief



295

Bombay Political Consultations
the 4th December 1816.

Read the following Letter from the Resident in Cutch to Mr. Chief Secretary Warden, dated the 3d Ultimo.

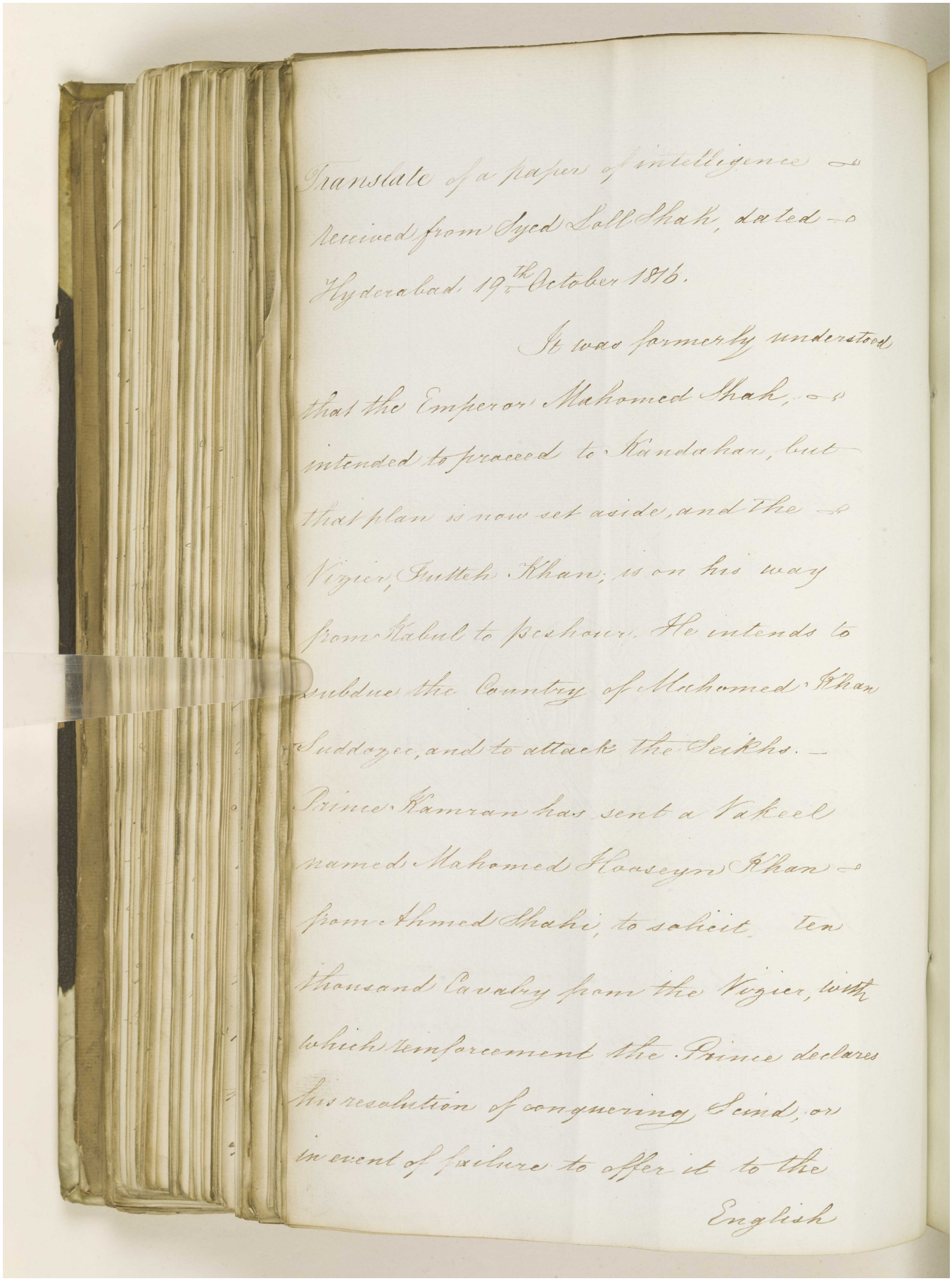
Sir,

I have the honor to transmit the Translate of a paper of intelligence received from Sind, by which you will observe, that the Joasmee Pirates are Cruizing off the Coast of Sind, a circumstance which is corroborated by Letters from Mandavee.

Anjar
3d Novem.r 1816

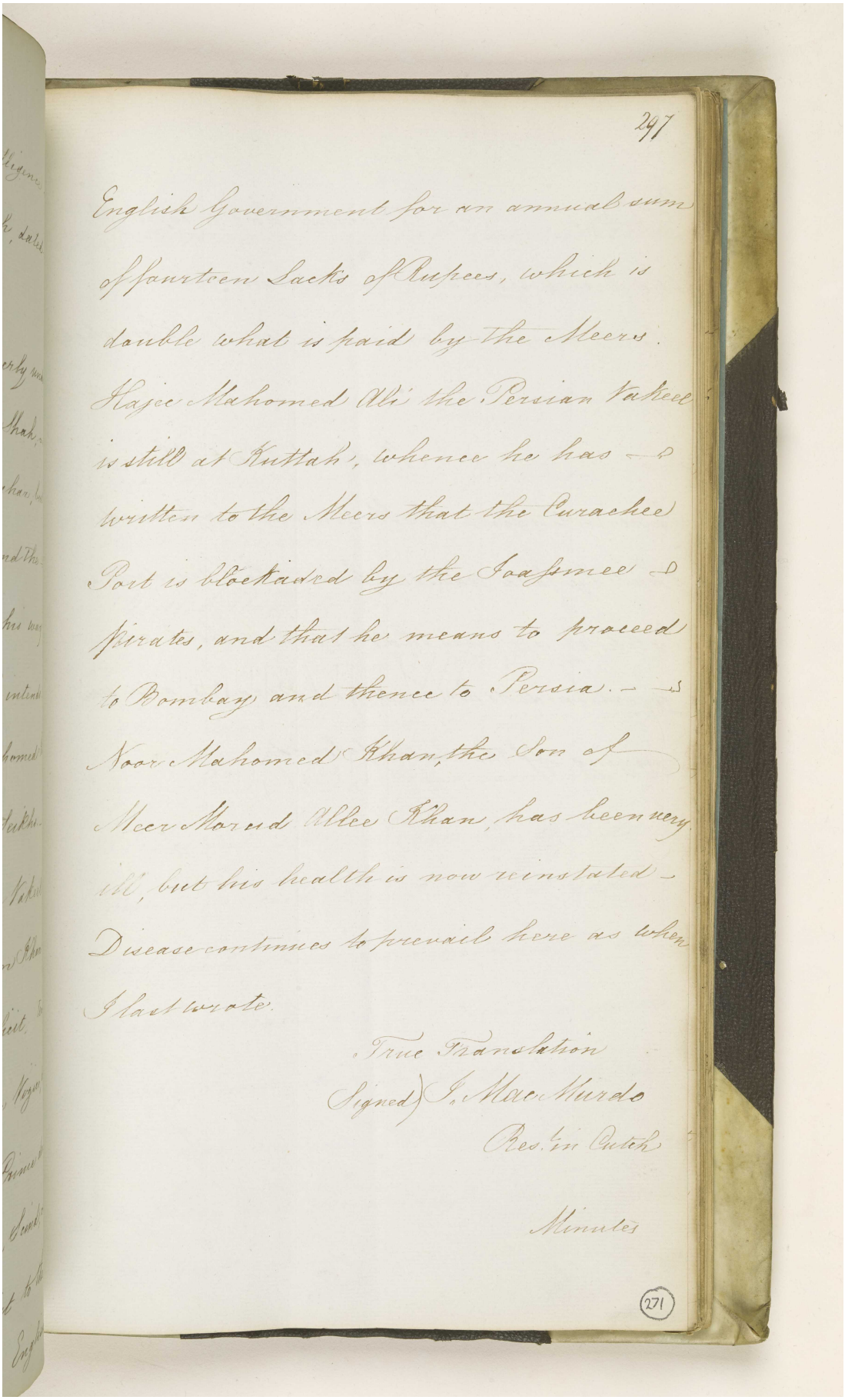
I have &c.
Signed) Jno Mac Murdo
Resident in Cutch
Translate

270



Translate of a paper of intelligence
Received from Syed Lall Shah, dated
Hyderabad 19th October 1816.

It was formerly understood
that the Emperor Mahomed Shah,
intended to proceed to Kandahar, but
that plan is now set aside, and the
Vizier, Futteh Khan, is on his way
from Kabul to Peshaur. He intends to
subdue the Country of Mahomed Khan
Suddazee, and to attack the Seikhs.
Prince Kamran has sent a Vakeel
named Mahomed Hasseyn Khan
from Ahmed Shahi, to solicit ten
thousand Cavalry from the Vizier, with
which reinforcement the Prince declares
his resolution of conquering Scind, or
in event of failure to offer it to the
English



297

English Government for an annual sum
of fourteen Lacks of Rupees, which is
double what is paid by the Meers.
Hajee Mahomed Ali the Persian Vakeel
is still at Kuttah, whence he has
written to the Meers that the Curachee
Port is blockaded by the Joasmee
pirates, and that he means to proceed
to Bombay and thence to Persia. —
Noor Mahomed Khan, the Son of
Meer Moraud Alee Khan, has been very
ill, but his health is now reinstated —
Disease continues to prevail here as when
I last wrote.

True Translation
Signed) J. Mac Murdo
Res. in Gutch

Minutes

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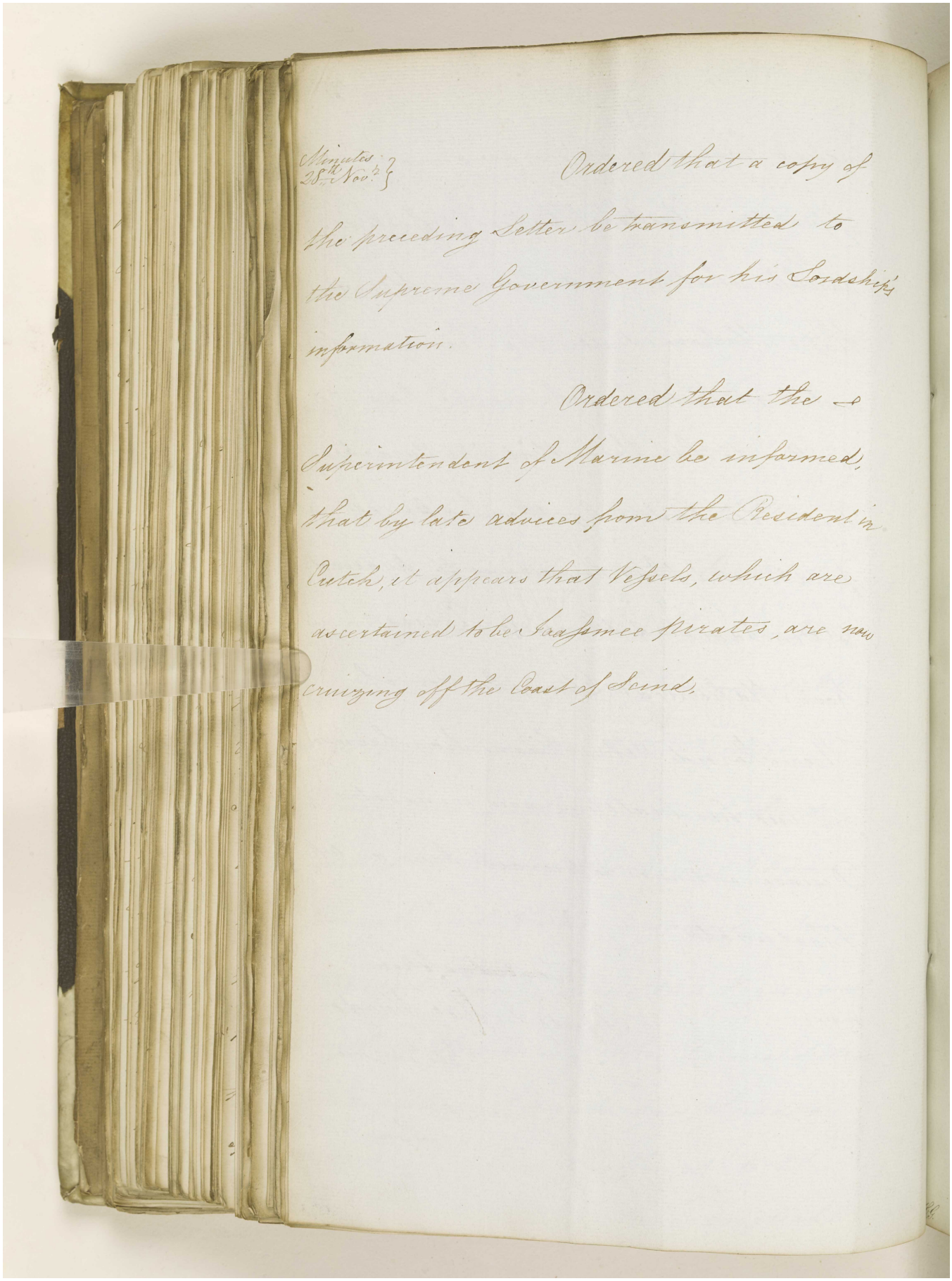

Minutes
28th Nov.

Ordered that a copy of the preceding Letter be transmitted to the Supreme Government for his Lordship's information.

Ordered that the Superintendent of Marine be informed, that by late advices from the Resident in Cutch, it appears that Vessels, which are ascertained to be Joasmee pirates, are now cruizing off the Coast of Scind.

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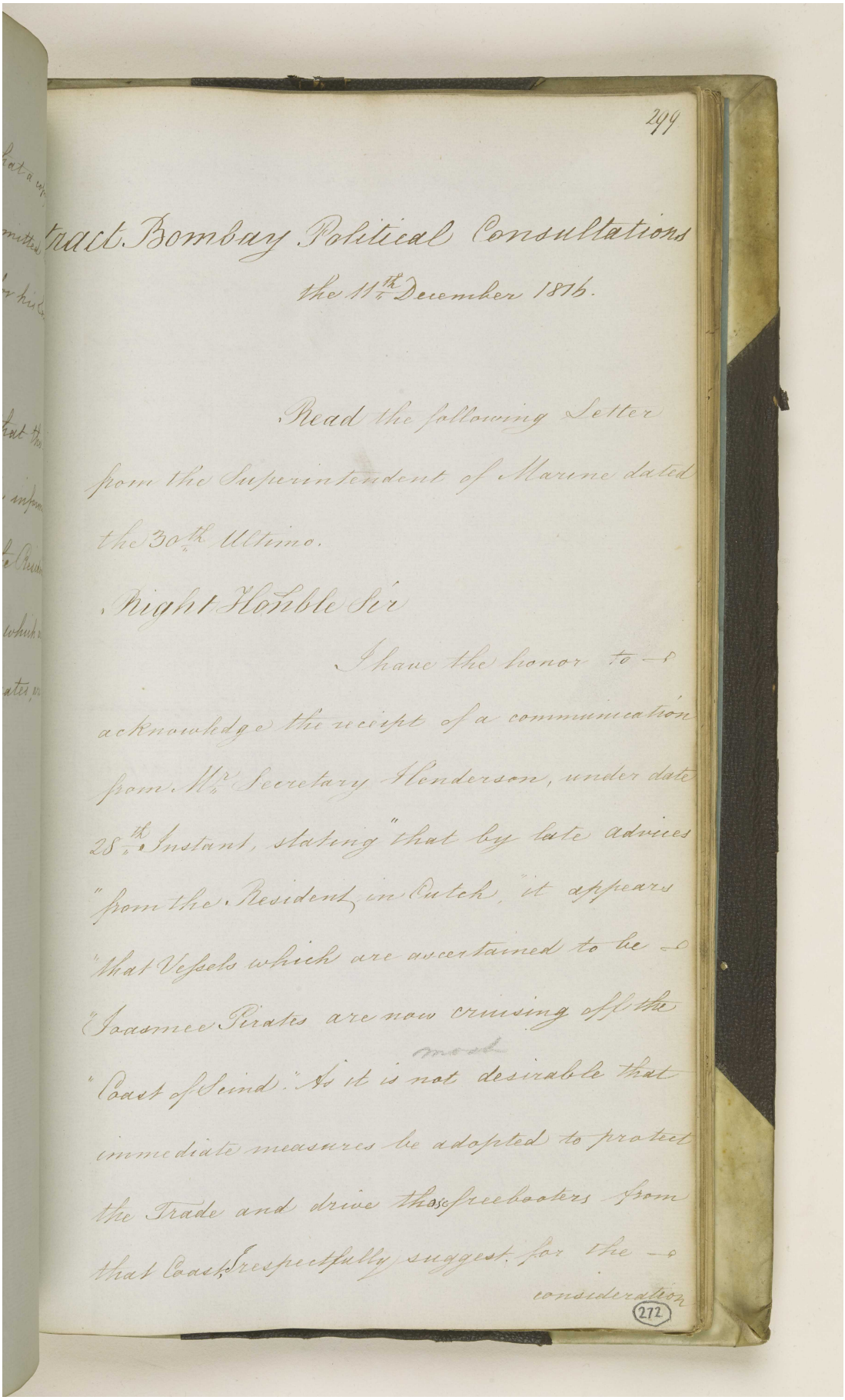

294

Extract Bombay Political Consultations
the 11th December 1816.

Read the following Letter
from the Superintendent of Marine dated
the 30th Ultimo.

Right Honble Sir

I have the honor to —
acknowledge the receipt of a communication
from Mr Secretary Henderson, under date
28th Instant, stating "that by late advices
"from the Resident in Cutch, it appears
"that Vessels which are ascertained to be —
"Joasmee Pirates are now cruising off the
"Coast of Scind." As it is most desirable that
immediate measures be adopted to protect
the Trade and drive those freebooters from
that Coast, I respectfully suggest for the —
consideration

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consideration of the Right Honble the Governor in Council, that the Honble Company's Cruizers Phyche and Sylph be forthwith despatched to the Coast of Scind, for the purpose above stated, calling on their way at Poorbunder where probably they may obtain intelligence of the movements of the Pirates, and as they most likely will consist of small Vessels and of light draught of water, it might be advantageous to the public Service were the Furrarow and Deria Dowlut Pattamar (now cruizing under the orders of the Resident at Porebunder) directed to accompany the Psyche and Sylph, while dispersing these lawless freebooters.

Supt.ts Office
Bombay
30th Novr. 1816

I have &ca.
Signed) Henry Meriton
Supt.

Minutes

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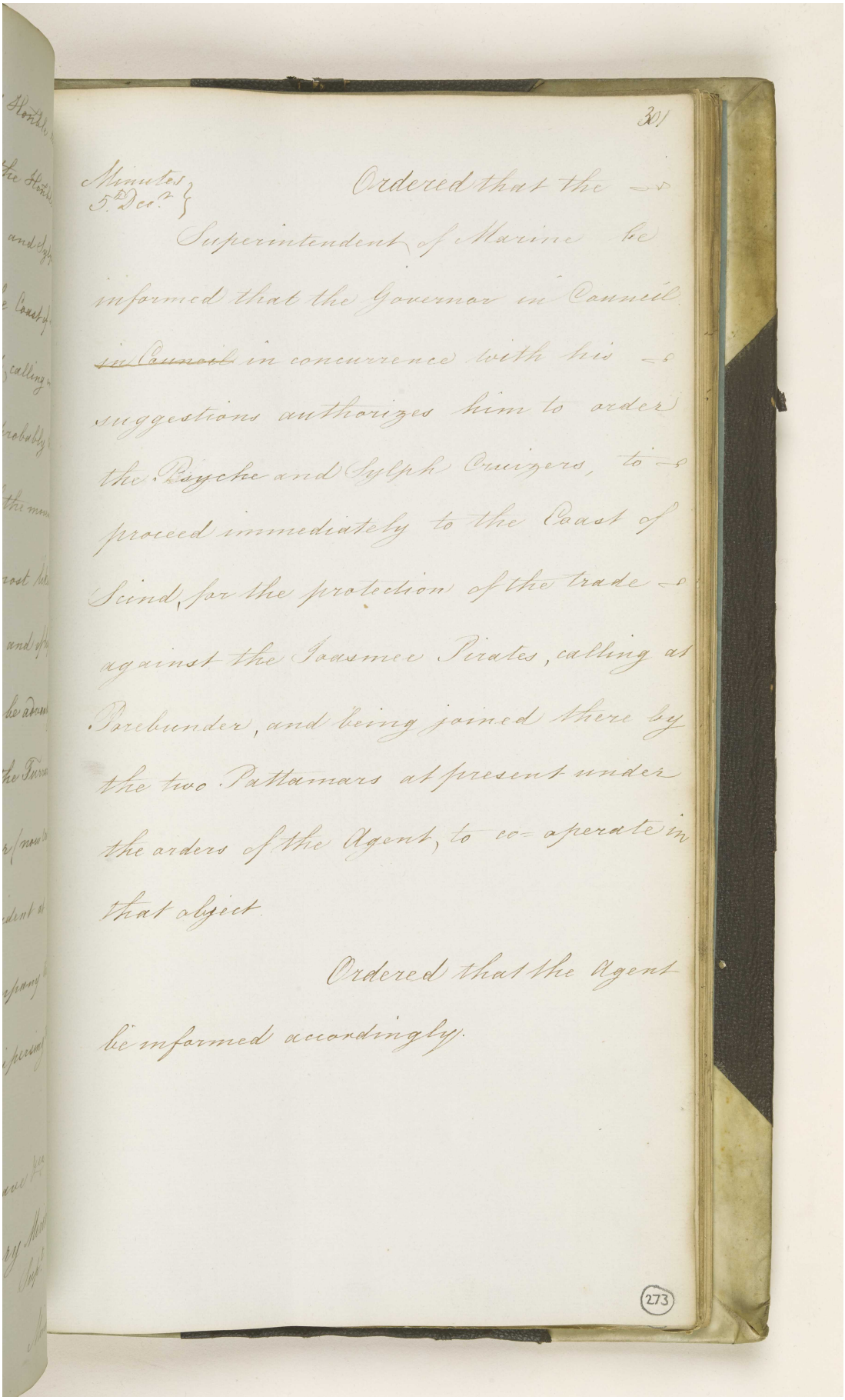

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Minutes 5th Dec.r

Ordered that the Superintendent of Marine be informed that the Governor in Council ~~in Council~~ in concurrence with his suggestions authorizes him to order the Psyche and Sylph Cruizers, to proceed immediately to the Coast of Scind, for the protection of the trade against the Joasmee Pirates, calling at Porebunder, and being joined there by the two Pattamars at present under the orders of the Agent, to co-operate in that object.

Ordered that the Agent be informed accordingly.

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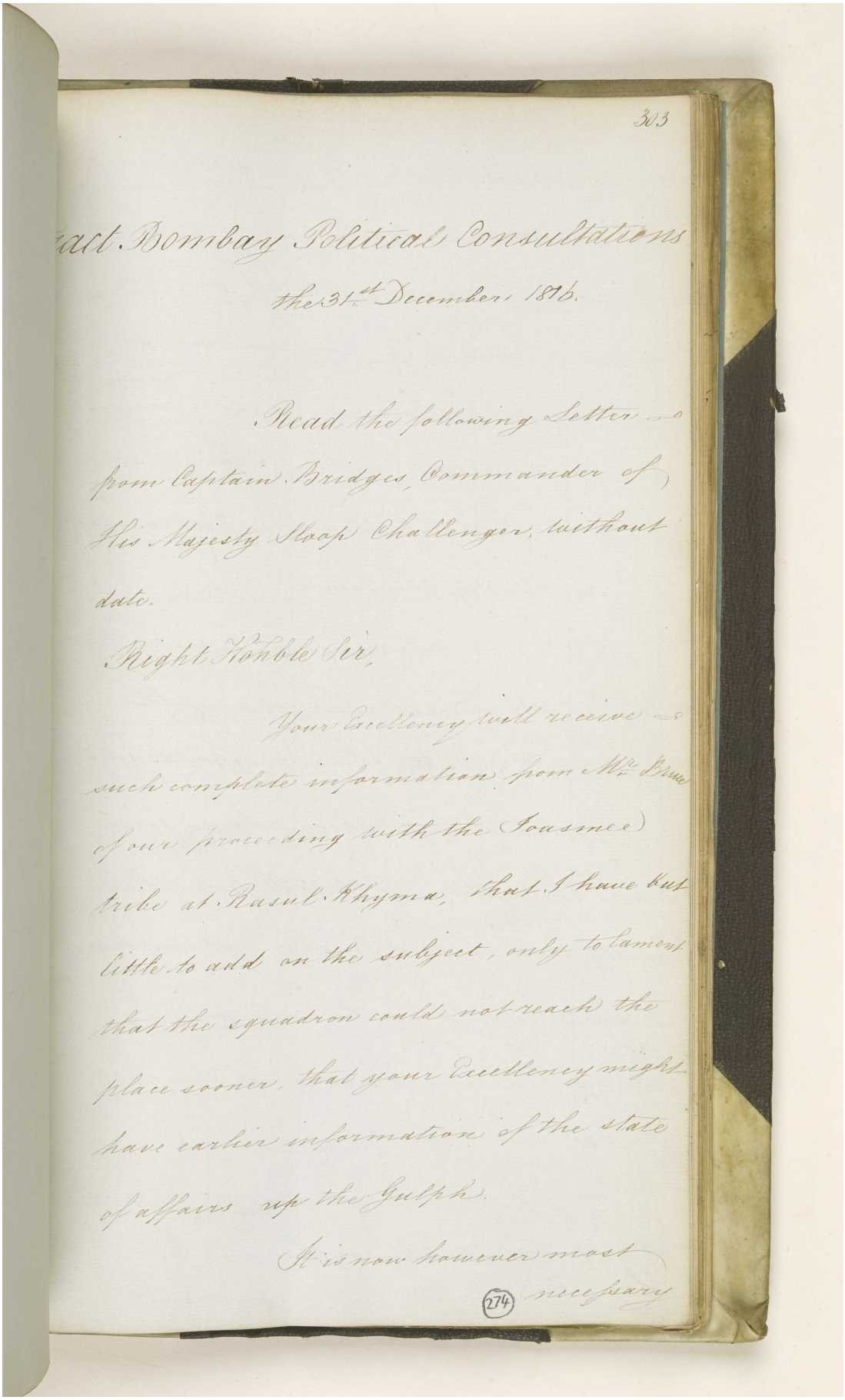

303

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 31st December 1816.

Read the following Letter from Captain Bridges, Commander of His Majesty Sloop Challenger without date.

Right Honble Sir,

Your Excellency will receive such complete information from Mr Bruce of our proceeding with the Joasmee tribe at Rasul Khyma, that I have but little to add on the subject, only to lament that the squadron could not reach the place sooner, that your Excellency might have earlier information of the state of affairs up the Gulph.

It is now however most

(274) necessary

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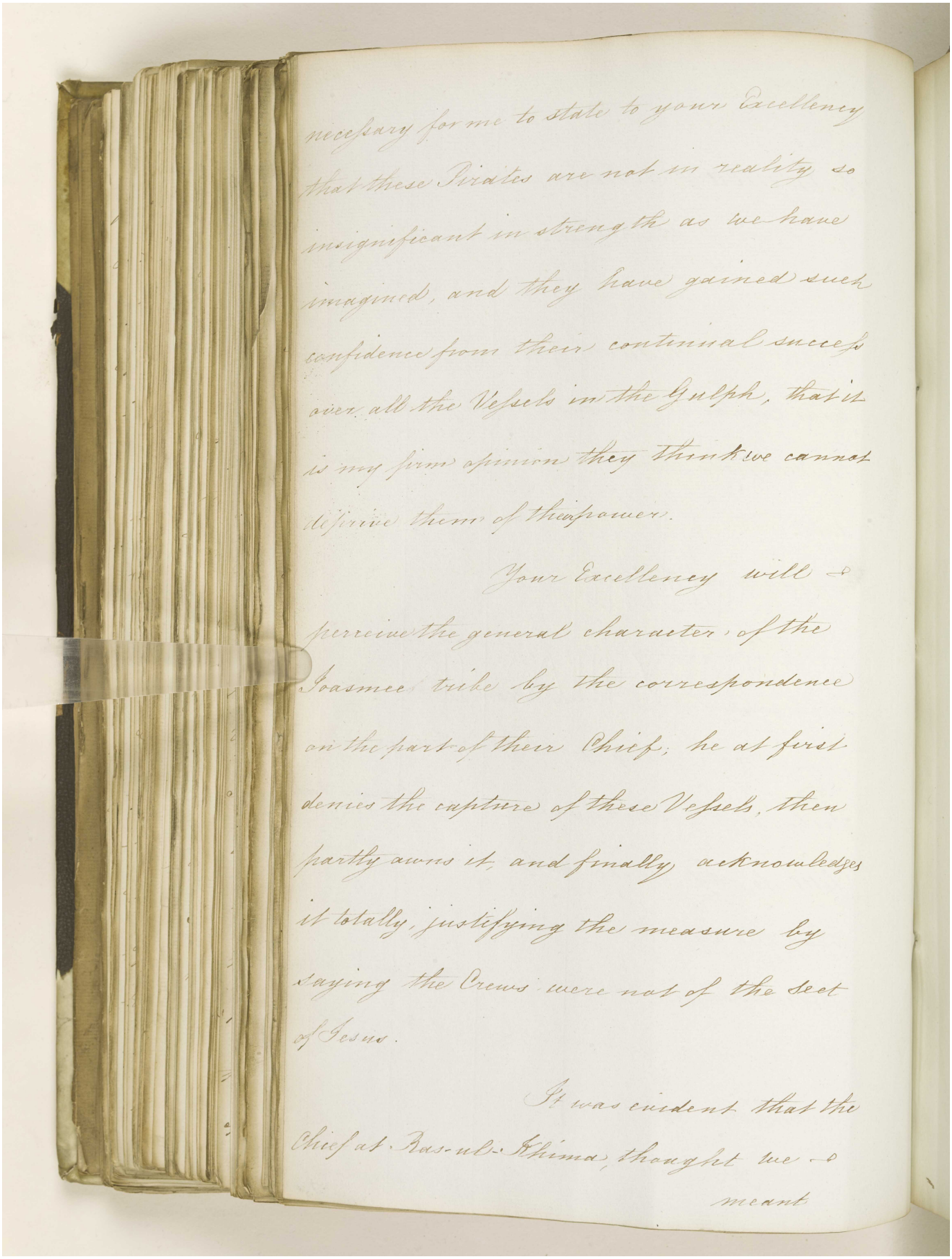

necessary for me to state to your Excellency that these Pirates are not in reality so insignificant in strength as we have imagined, and they have gained such confidence from their continual success over all the Vessels in the Gulph, that it is my firm opinion they think we cannot deprive them of their power.

Your Excellency will perceive the general character of the Joasmee tribe by the correspondence on the part of their Chief, he at first denies the capture of these Vessels, then partly owns it, and finally acknowledges it totally, justifying the measure by saying the Crews were not of the sect of Jesus.

It was evident that the Chief at Ras-ul-Khima, thought we meant

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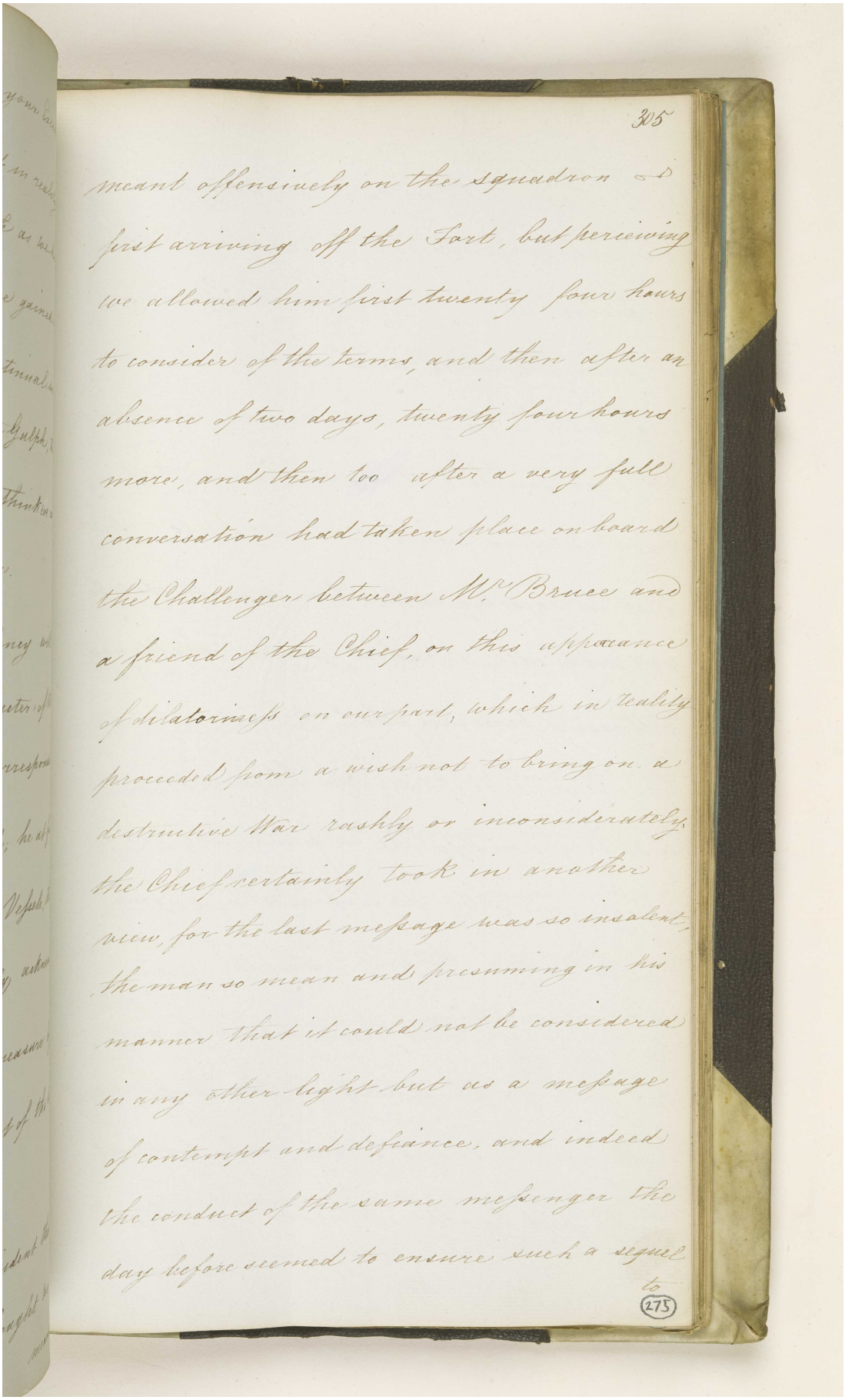

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meant offensively on the squadron
first arriving off the Fort, but perceiving
we allowed him first twenty four hours
to consider of the terms, and then after an
absence of two days, twenty four hours
more, and then too after a very full
conversation had taken place on board
the Challenger between Mr. Bruce and
a friend of the Chief, on this appearance
of dilatoriness on our part, which in reality
proceeded from a wish not to bring on a
destructive War rashly or inconsiderately,
the Chief certainly took in another
view, for the last message was so insolent,
the man so mean and presuming in his
manner that it could not be considered
in any other light but as a message
of contempt and defiance, and indeed
the conduct of the same messenger the
day before seemed to ensure such a sequel

to

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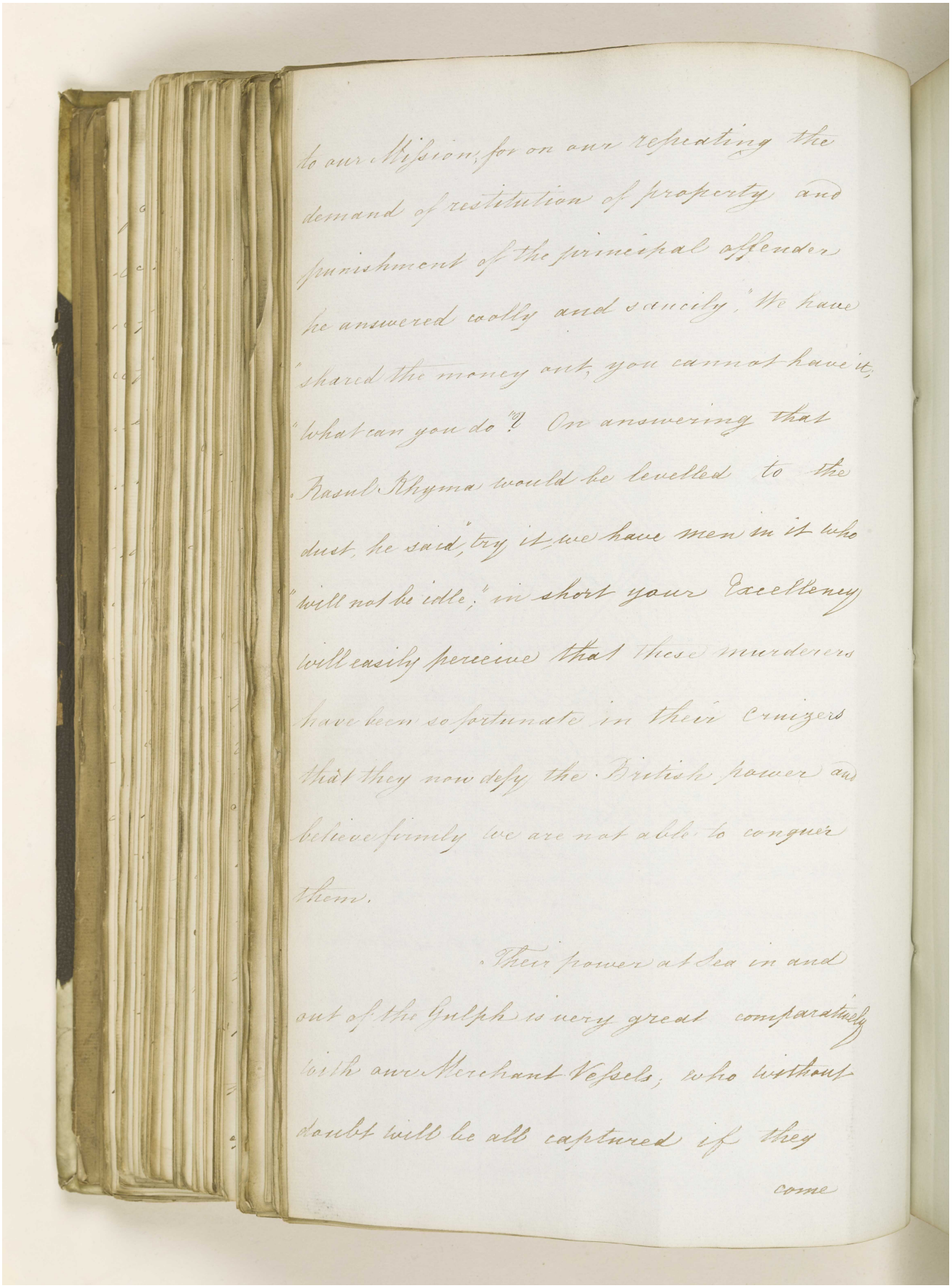

to our Mission, for on our repeating the demand of restitution of property and punishment of the principal offenders he answered coolly and sarcily, "We have shared the money out, you cannot have it, what can you do"? On answering that Rasul Khyma would be levelled to the dust, he said, "try it, we have men in it who will not be idle;" in short your Excellency will easily perceive that these murderers have been so fortunate in their Cruizers that they now defy the British power and believe firmly we are not able to conquer them.

Their power at Sea in and out of the Gulph is very great comparatively with our Merchant Vessels, who without doubt will be all captured if they come

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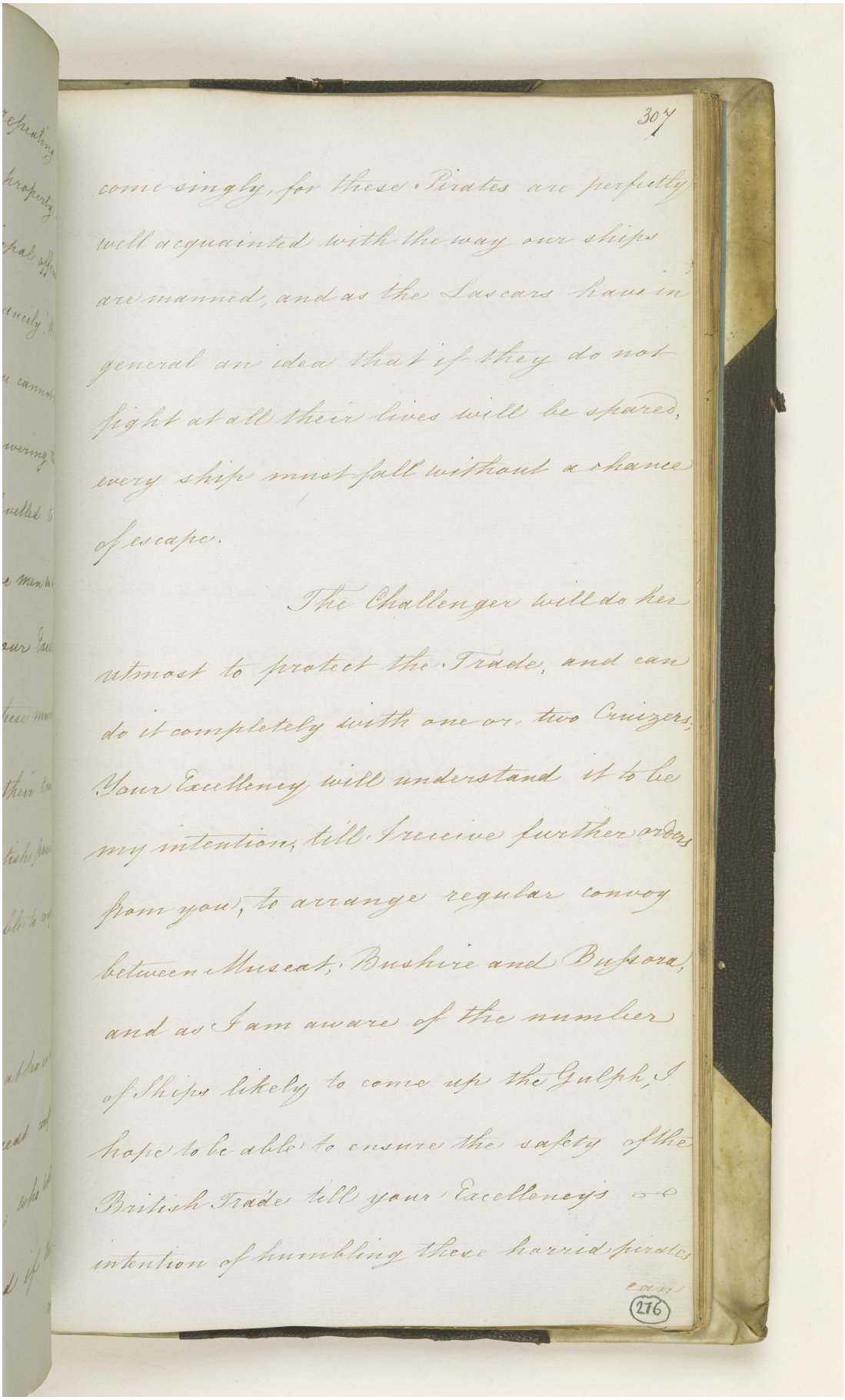

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come singly, for these Pirates are perfectly well acquainted with the way our ships are manned, and as the Lascars have in general an idea that if they do not fight at all their lives will be spared, every ship must fall without a chance of escape.

The Challenger will do her utmost to protect the Trade, and can do it completely with one or two Cruizers, Your Excellency will understand it to be my intention, till I receive further orders from you, to arrange regular convoy between Muscat, Bushire and Bussora, and as I am aware of the number of Ships likely to come up the Gulph, I hope to be able to ensure the safety of the British Trade till your Excellency's intention of humbling these horrid pirates can

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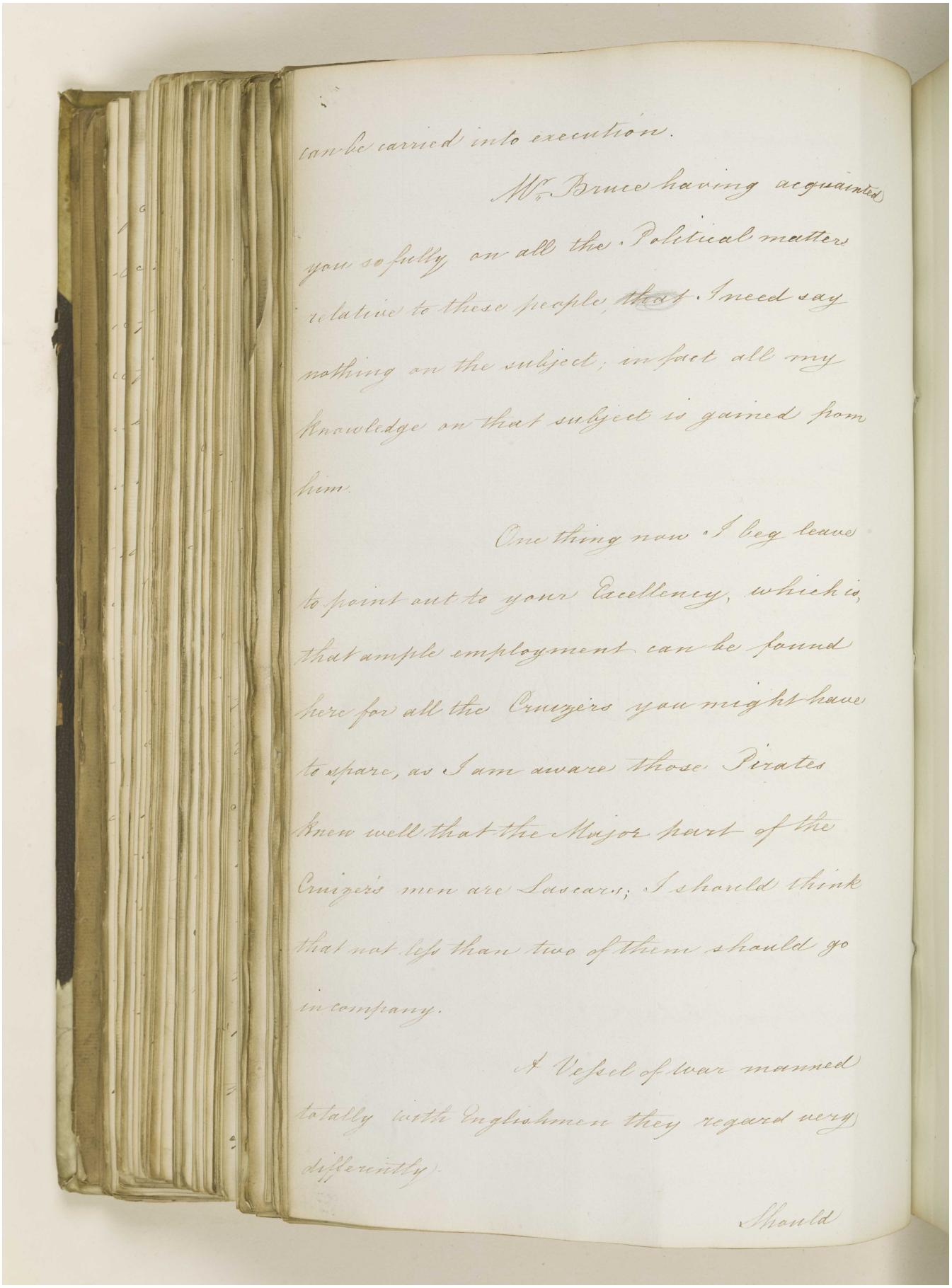


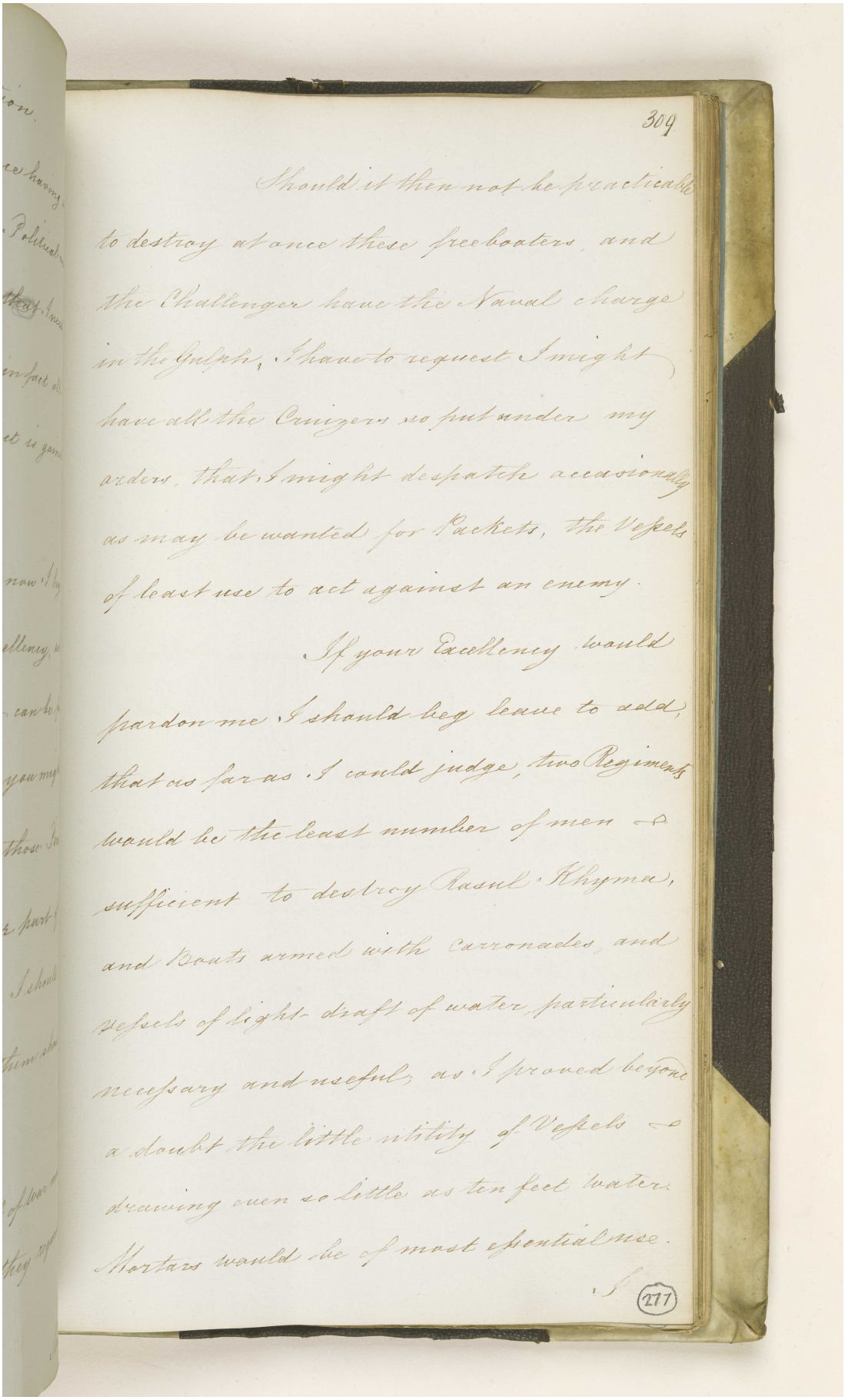
can be carried into execution.

Mr. Bruce having acquainted you so fully on all the Political matters relative to these people, that I need say nothing on the subject, in fact all my knowledge on that subject is gained from him.

One thing now I beg leave to point out to your Excellency, which is, that ample employment can be found here for all the Cruizers you might have to spare, as I am aware those Pirates know well that the Major part of the Cruizers men are Sawcars; I should think that not less than two of them should go in company.

A Vessel of war manned totally with Englishmen they regard very differently.

Should



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Should it then not be practicable to destroy at once these freebooters, and the Challenger have the Naval charge in the Gulphs, I have to request I might have all the Cruizers so put under my orders, that I might despatch occasionally as may be wanted for Packets, the Vessels of least use to act against an enemy.

If your Excellency would pardon me, I should beg leave to add, that as far as I could judge, two Regiments would be the least number of men sufficient to destroy Rasul Khyma, and Boats armed with carronades, and vessels of light draft of water, particularly necessary and useful, as I proved beyond a doubt the little utility of Vessels drawing even so little as ten feet water. Mortars would be of most essential use.

I

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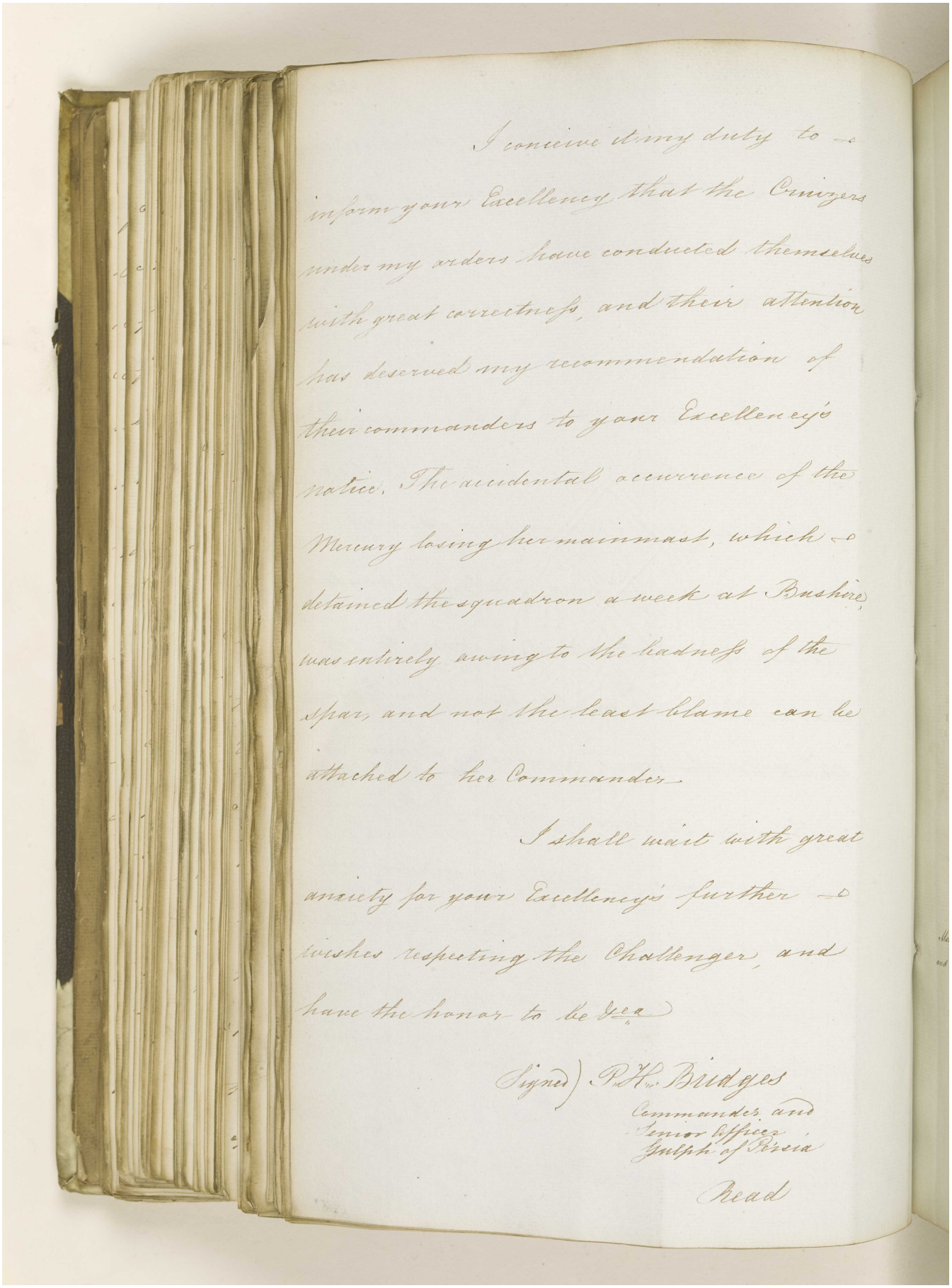
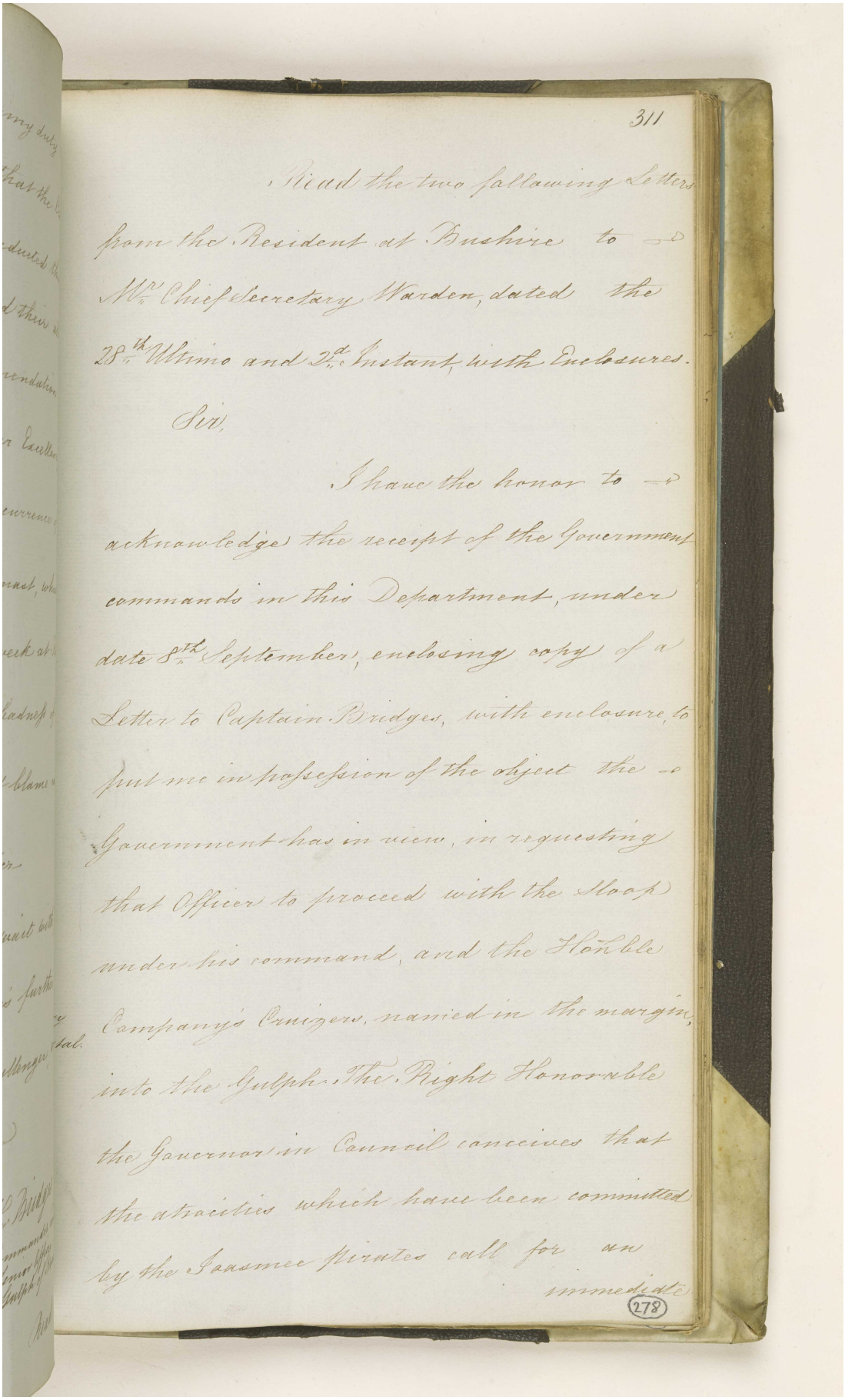


I conceive it my duty to
inform your Excellency that the Officers
under my orders have conducted themselves
with great correctness, and their attention
has deserved my recommendation of
their commanders to your Excellency's
notice. The accidental occurrence of the
Mercury losing her mainmast, which
detained the squadron a week at Bushire,
was entirely owing to the badness of the
spar, and not the least blame can be
attached to her Commander.

I shall wait with great
anxiety for your Excellency's further
wishes respecting the Challenger, and
have the honor to be &c.

Signed) P.H. Bridges
Commander and
Senior Officer
Gulph of Persia

Read



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I Read the two following Letters from the Resident at Bushire to the Chief Secretary Warden, dated the 28th Ultimo and 2d Instant, with Enclosures.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Government commands in this Department, under date 8th September, enclosing copy of a Letter to Captain Bridges, with enclosure, to put me in possession of the object the Government has in view, in requesting that Officer to proceed with the Sloop under his command, and the Honble Company's Cruizers, named in the margin, into the Gulph. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council conceives that the atrocities which have been committed by the Joasmee Pirates call for an immediate

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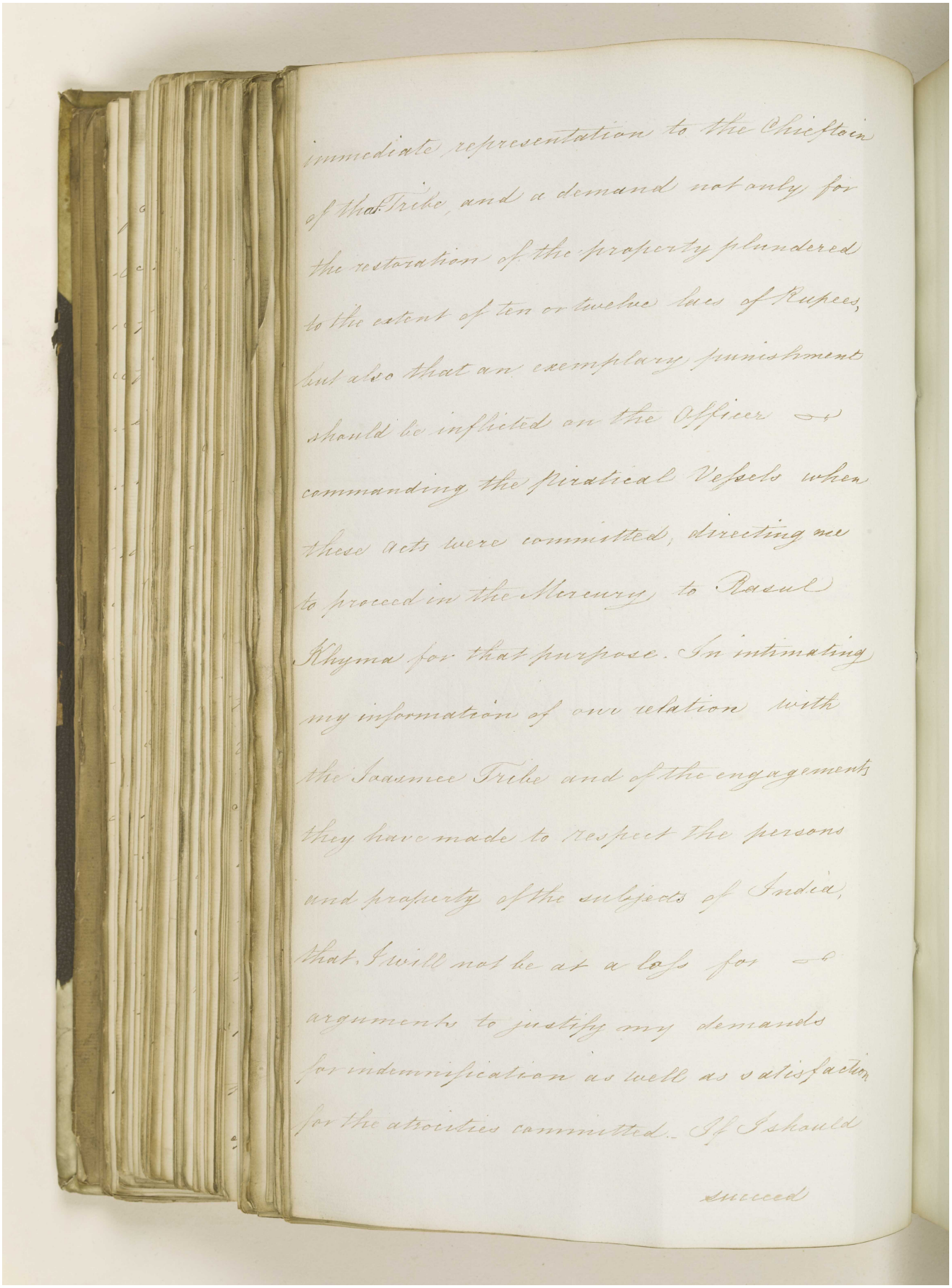

immediate representation to the Chieftain
of that Tribe, and a demand not only for
the restoration of the property plundered
to the extent of ten or twelve lacs of Rupees,
but also that an exemplary punishment
should be inflicted on the Officer —
commanding the Piratical Vessels when
these acts were committed, directing me
to proceed in the Mercury to Rasul
Khyma for that purpose. In intimating
my information of our relation with
the Joasmee Tribe and of the engagements
they have made to respect the persons
and property of the subjects of India,
that I will not be at a loss for —
arguments to justify my demands
for indemnification as well as satisfaction
for the atrocities committed. If I should

succeed

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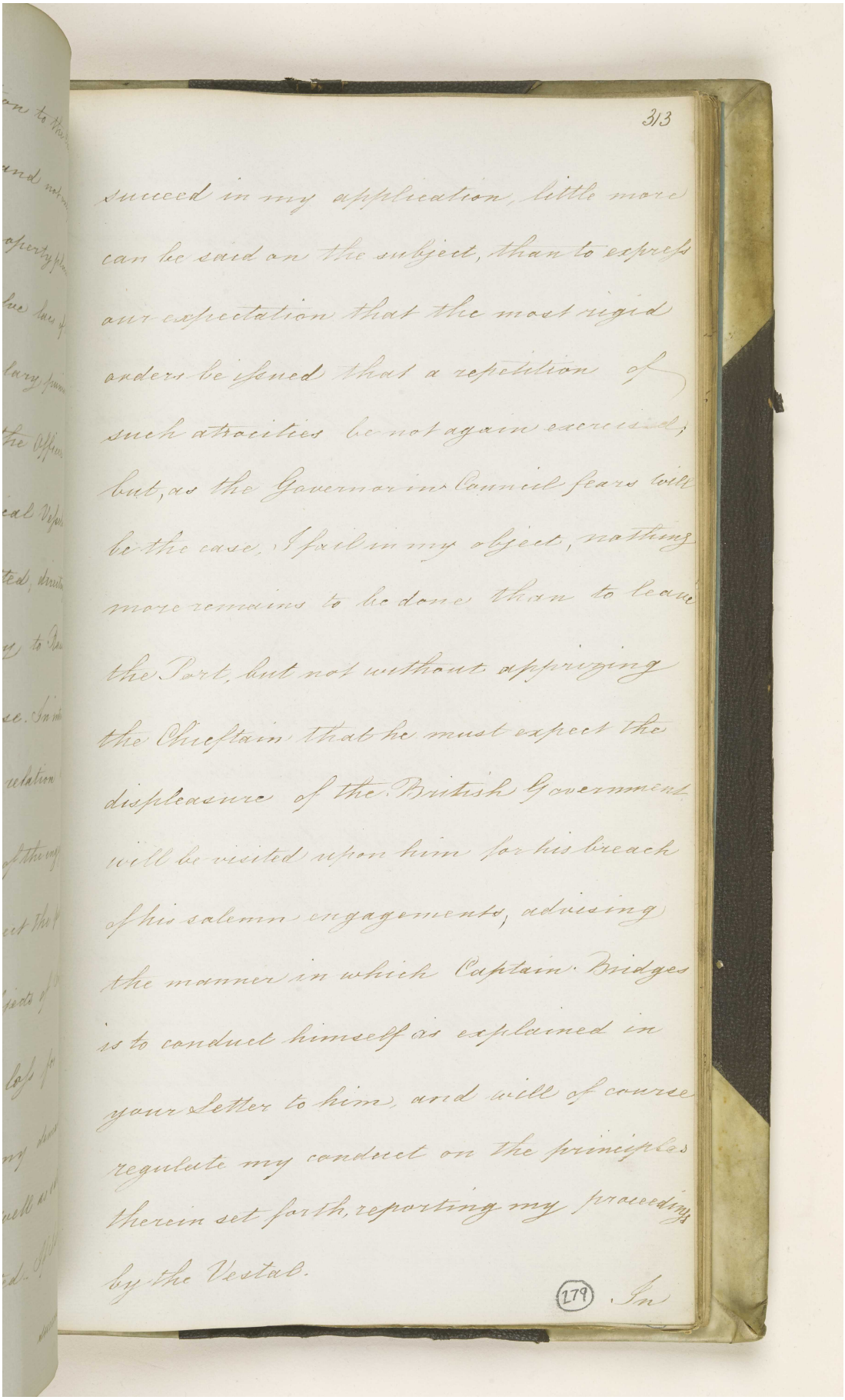

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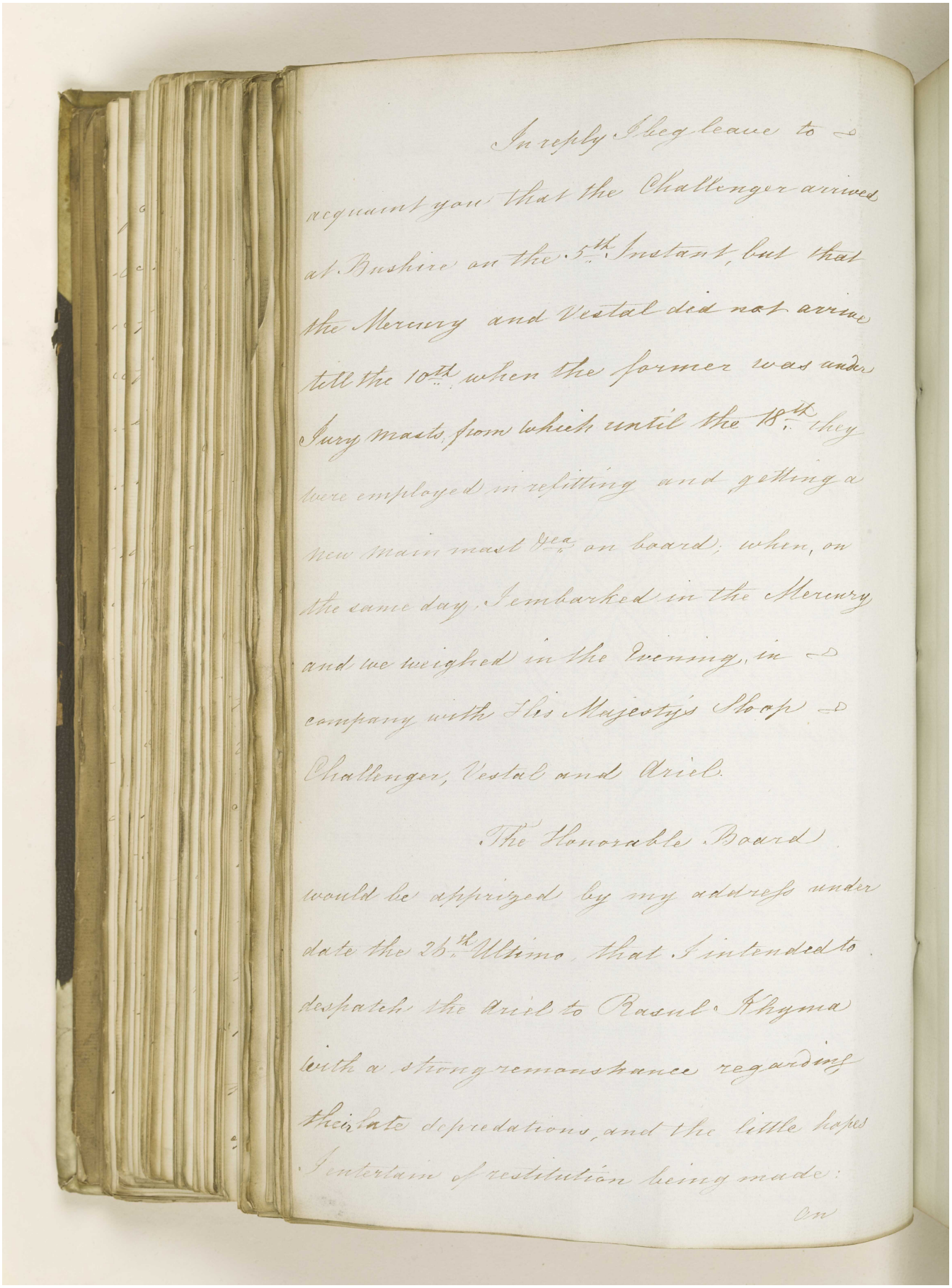
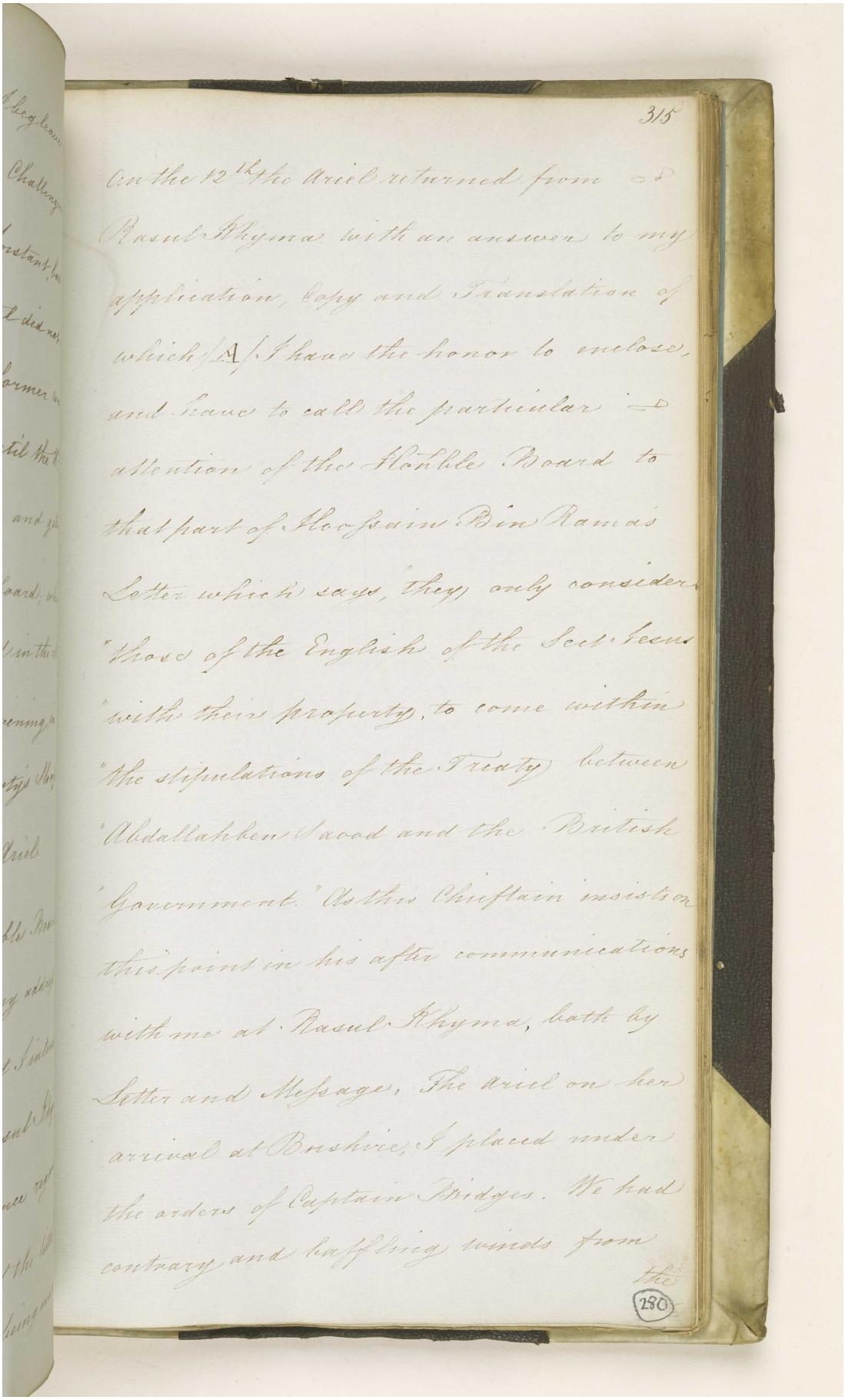
succeed in my application, little more
can be said on the subject, than to express
our expectation that the most rigid
orders be issued that a repetition of
such atrocities be not again exercised;
but, as the Governor in Council fears will
be the case, I fix in my object, nothing
more remains to be done than to leave
the Port, but not without apprizing
the Chieftain that he must expect the
displeasure of the British Government
will be visited upon him for his breach
of his solemn engagements, advising
the manner in which Captain Bridges
is to conduct himself as explained in
your letter to him, and will of course
regulate my conduct on the principles
therein set forth, reporting my proceedings
by the Vestal.

(279) In



In reply I beg leave to
acquaint you that the Challenger arrived
at Bushire on the 5th Instant, but that
the Mercury and Vestal did not arrive
till the 10th when the former was under
Jury masts, from which until the 18th they
were employed in refitting and getting a
new main mast &c. on board, when, on
the same day, I embarked in the Mercury
and we weighed in the Evening, in
company with His Majesty's Sloop
Challenger, Vestal and Ariel.

The Honorable Board
would be apprized by my address under
date the 26th Ultimo, that I intended to
despatch the Ariel to Rasul Khyma
with a strong remonstrance regarding
their late depredations, and the little hope
I entertain of restitution being made:
On



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On the 12th the Ariel returned from
Rasul Khyma with an answer to my
application, Copy and Translation of
which [A] I have the honor to enclose,
and leave to call the particular
attention of the Honble Board to
that part of Hoossain Bin Ramas
Letter which says, they only consider
"those of the English & the Seid Jeens
"with their property, to come within
"the stipulations of the Treaty between
"Abdallah bin Saood and the British
"Government." As this Chieftain insists on
this point in his after communications
with me at Rasul Khyma, both by
Letter and Message, The Ariel on her
arrival at Bushire, I placed under
the orders of Captain Bridges. We had
contrary and baffling winds from
the

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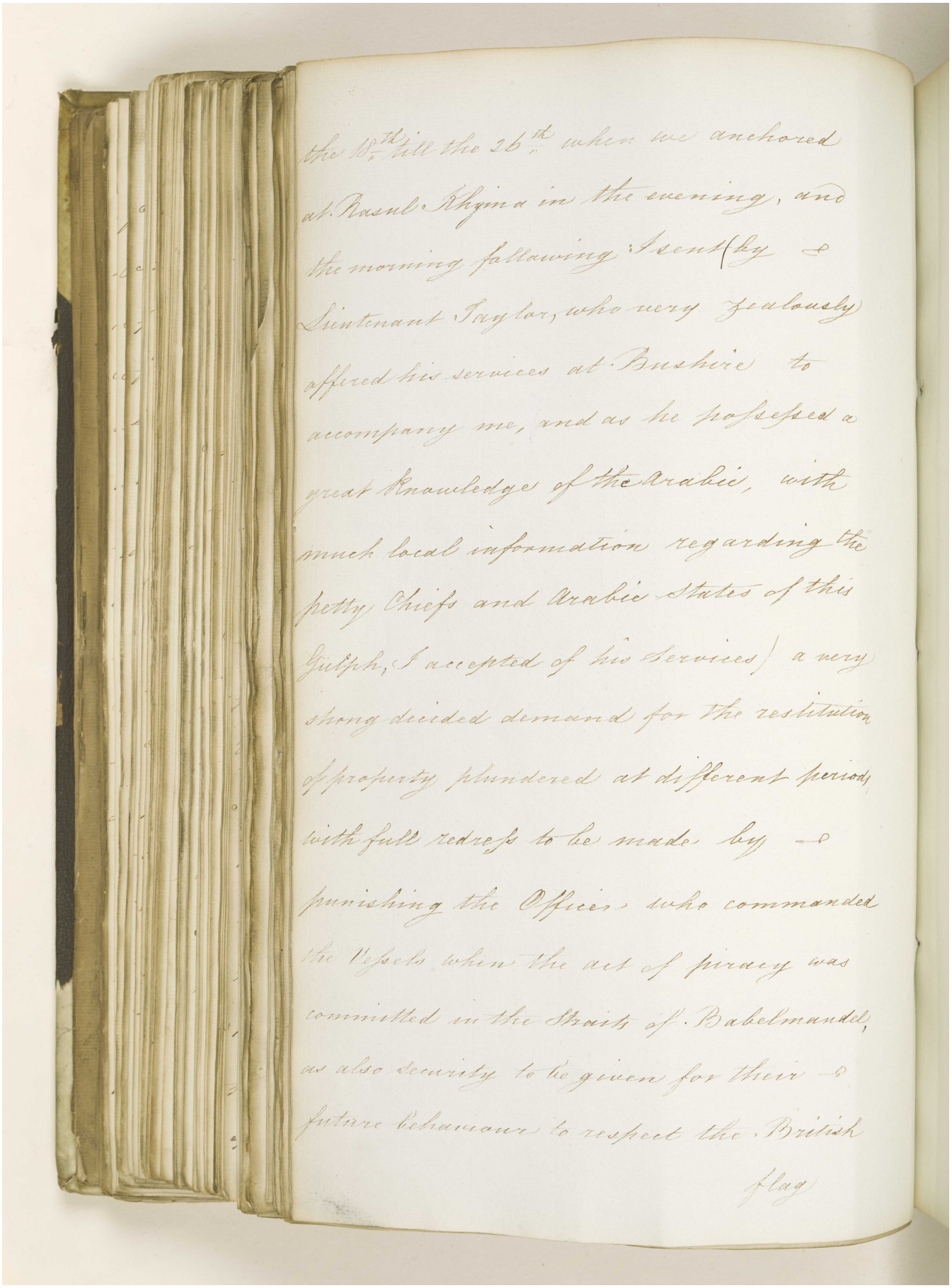
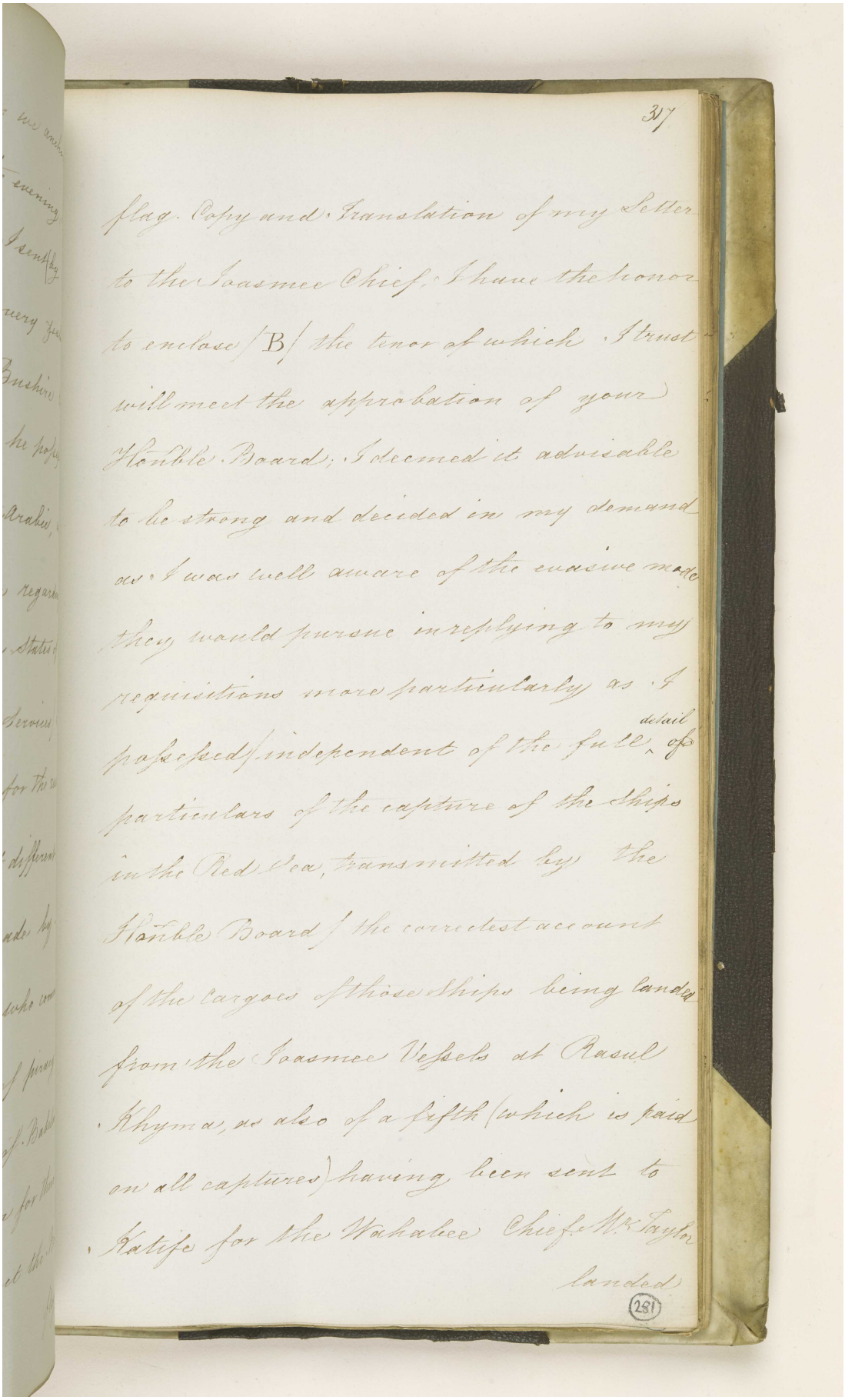


the 8th till the 26th when we anchored
at Rasul Khyma in the evening, and
the morning following I sent by —
Lieutenant Taylor, who very Zealously
offered his services at Bushire to
accompany me, and as he possessed a
great knowledge of the Arabic, with
much local information regarding the
petty Chiefs and Arabic States of this
Gulph, I accepted of his Services) a very
strong decided demand for the restitution
of property plundered at different periods
with full redress to be made by —
punishing the Officers who commanded
the Vessels when the act of piracy was
committed in the Straits of Babelmandel,
as also security to be given for their —
future behaviour to respect the British
flag



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flag. Copy and Translation of my Letter
to the Joasmee Chief. I have the honor
to enclose /B/ the tenor of which I trust
will meet the approbation of your
Honble Board; I deemed it advisable
to be strong and decided in my demand
as I was well aware of the evasive mode
they would pursue in replying to my
requisitions more particularly as I
possessed independent of the full detail of
particulars of the capture of the Ships
in the Red Sea, transmitted by the
Honble Board / the correctest account
of the cargoes of those Ships being landed
from the Joasmee Vessels at Rasul
Khyma, as also of a fifth (which is paid
on all captures) having been sent to
Katife for the Wahabee Chief Mr Taylor
landed

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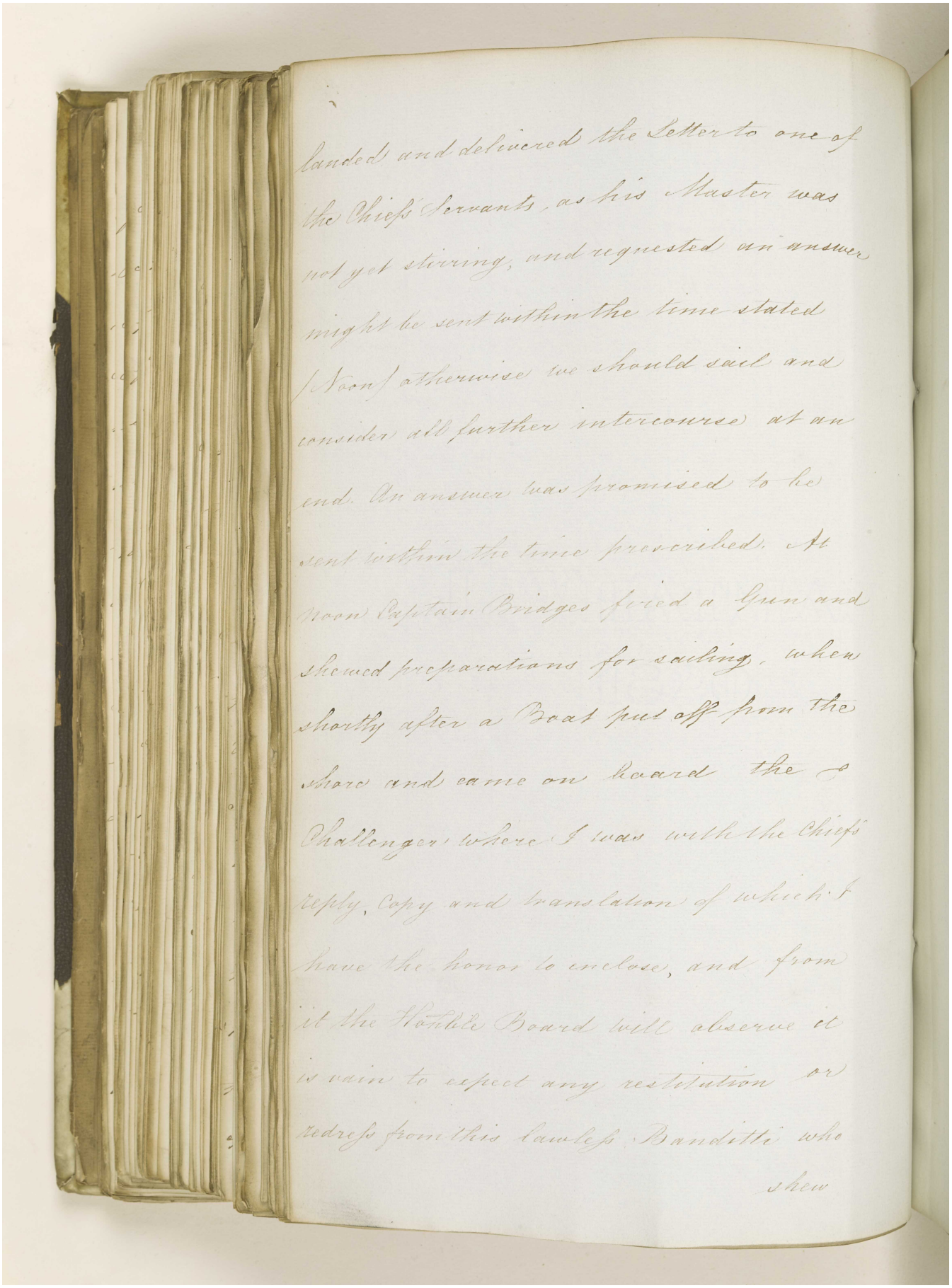

landed and delivered the Letter to one of the Chiefs Servants, as his Master was not yet stirring, and requested an answer might be sent within the time stated / Soon / otherwise we should sail and consider all further intercourse at an end. An answer was promised to be sent within the time prescribed. At noon Captain Bridges fired a Gun and shewed preparations for sailing, when shortly after a Boat put off from the shore and came on board the / Challenger, where I was with the Chiefs reply, Copy and translation of which I have the honor to enclose, and from it the Hon'ble Board will observe it is vain to expect any restitution or redress from this lawless Banditti who shew

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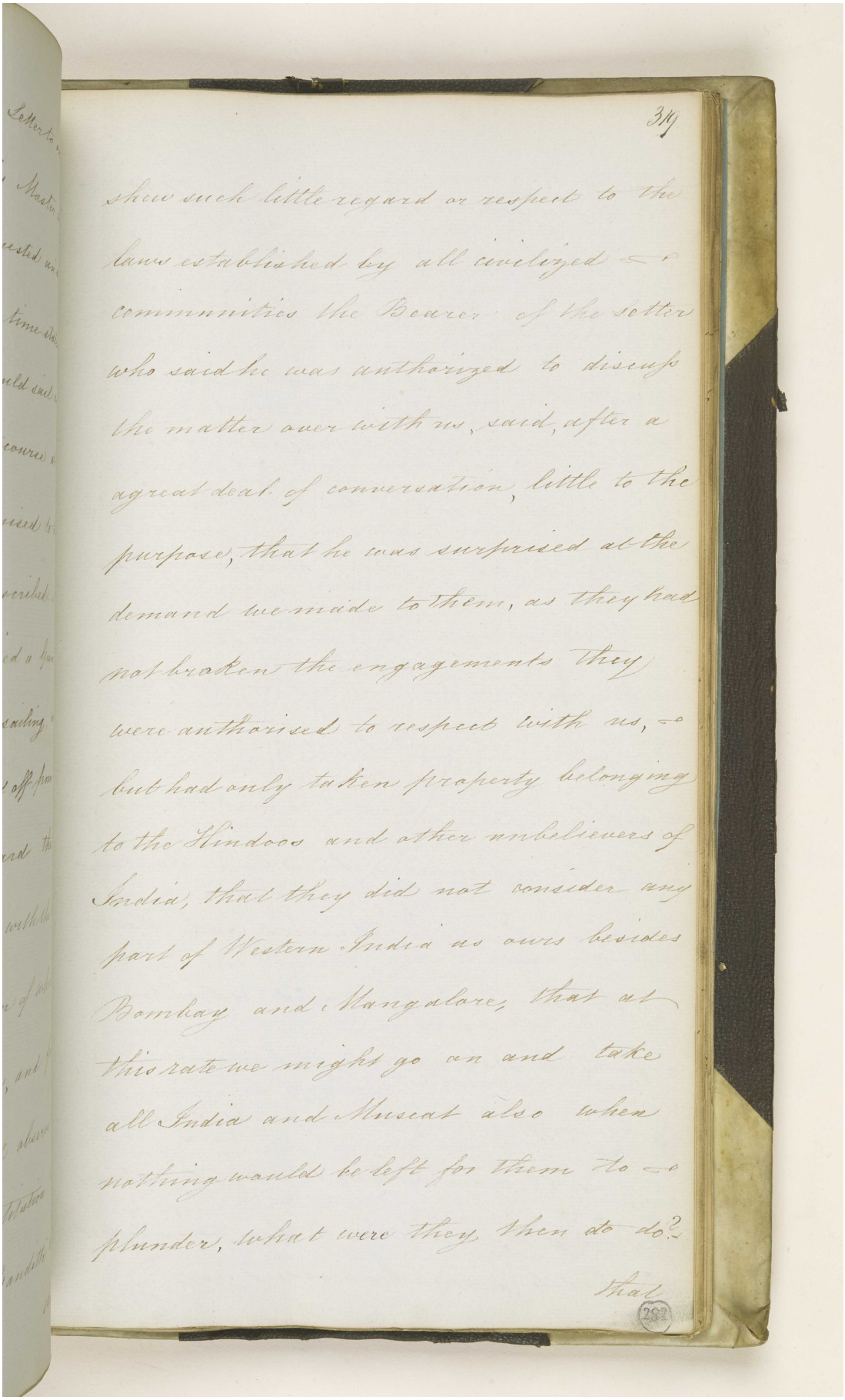

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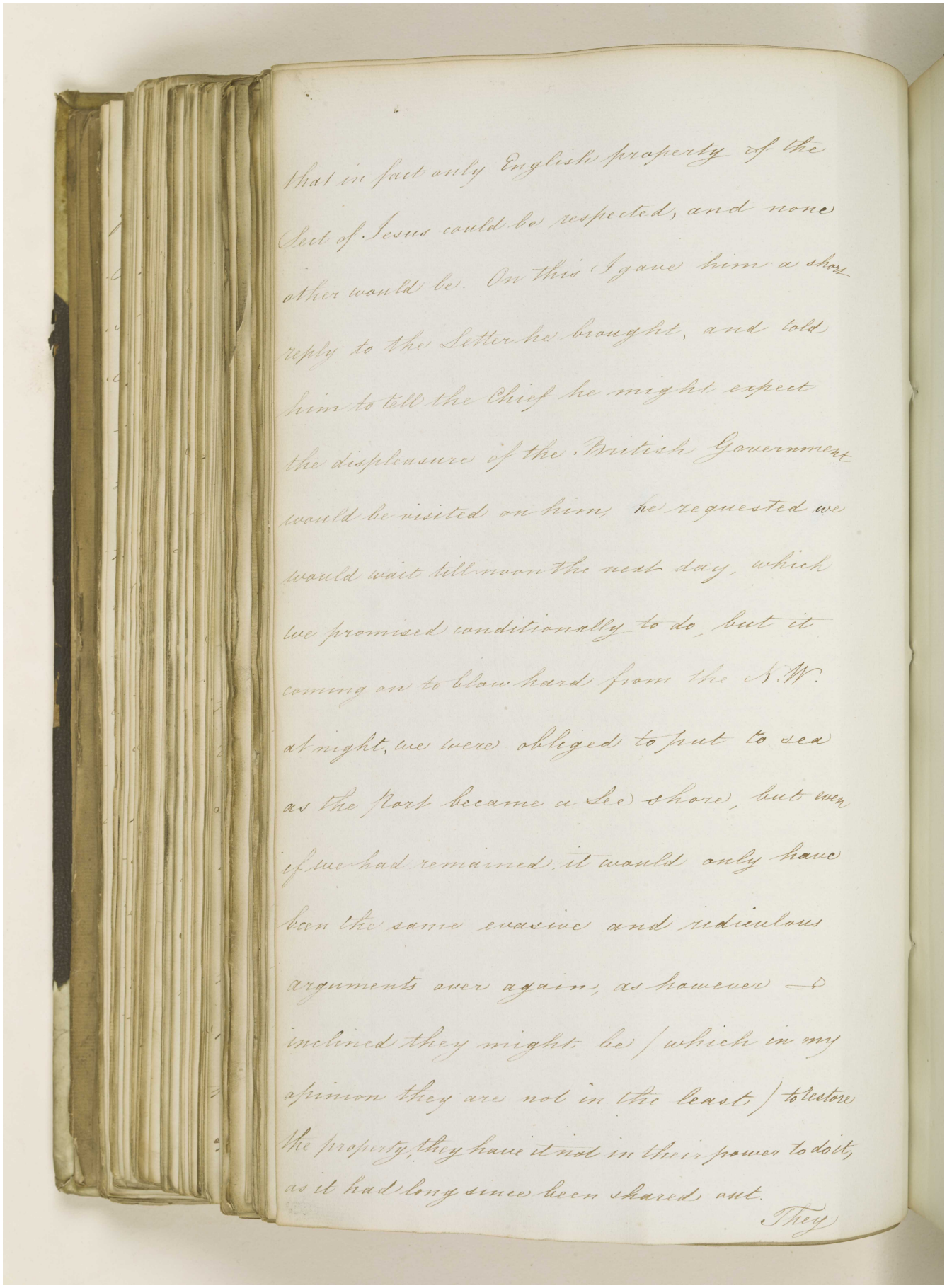
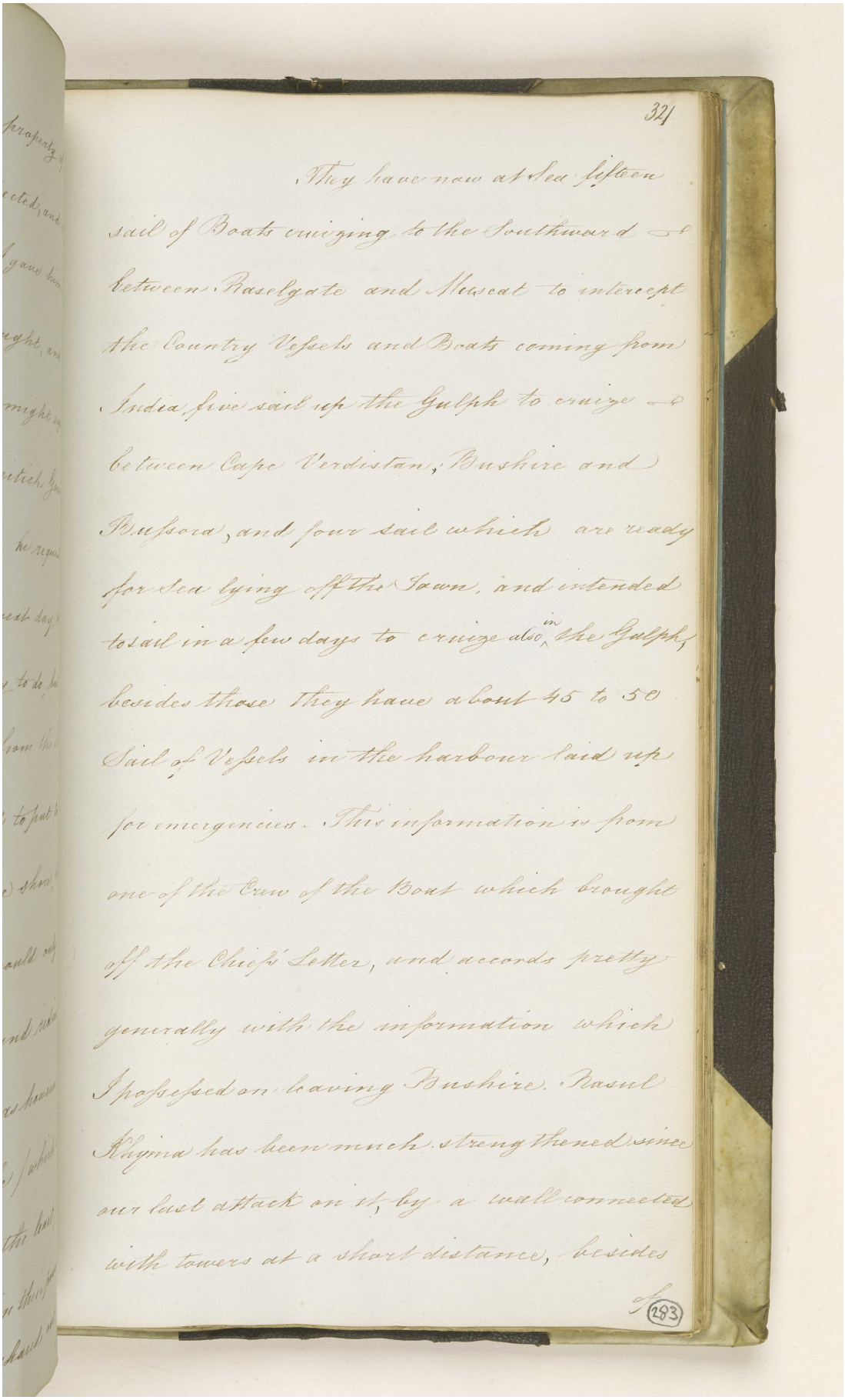
show such little regard or respect to the laws established by all civilized communities the Bearer of the letter who said he was authorized to discuss the matter over with us, said, after a great deal of conversation, little to the purpose, that he was surprised at the demand we made to them, as they had not broaken the engagements they were authorised to respect with us, but had only taken property belonging to the Hindoos and other unbelievers of India, that they did not consider any part of Western India as ours besides Bombay and Mangalore, that at this rate we might go on and take all India and Muscat also when nothing would be left for them to plunder, what were they then to do?

that



that in fact any English property of the
Sect of Jesus could be respected, and none
other would be. On this I gave him a short
reply to the Letter he brought, and told
him to tell the Chief he might expect
the displeasure of the British Government
would be visited on him, he requested we
would wait till noon the next day, which
we promised conditionally to do, but it
coming on to blow hard from the N.W.
at night, we were obliged to put to sea
as the Boat became a See shore, but even
if we had remained, it would only have
been the same evasive and ridiculous
arguments over again, as however
inclined they might be / which in my
opinion they are not in the least / to restore
the property, they have it not in their power to do it,
as it had long since been shared out.

They



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They have now at Sea fifteen
Sail of Boats cruizing to the Southward
between Rasulgate and Muscat to intercept
the Country Vessels and Boats coming from
India, five sail up the Gulph to cruize
between Cape Verdistan, Bushire and
Bussora, and four sail which are ready
for Sea lying off the Town, and intended
to sail in a few days to cruize also in the Gulph,
besides those they have about 45 to 50
Sail of Vessels in the harbour laid up
for emergencies. This information is from
one of the Crew of the Boat which brought
off the Chiefs Letter, and accords pretty
generally with the information which
I possessed on leaving Bushire. Rasul
Khyma has been much strengthened since
our last attack on it, by a wall connected
with towers at a short distance, besides

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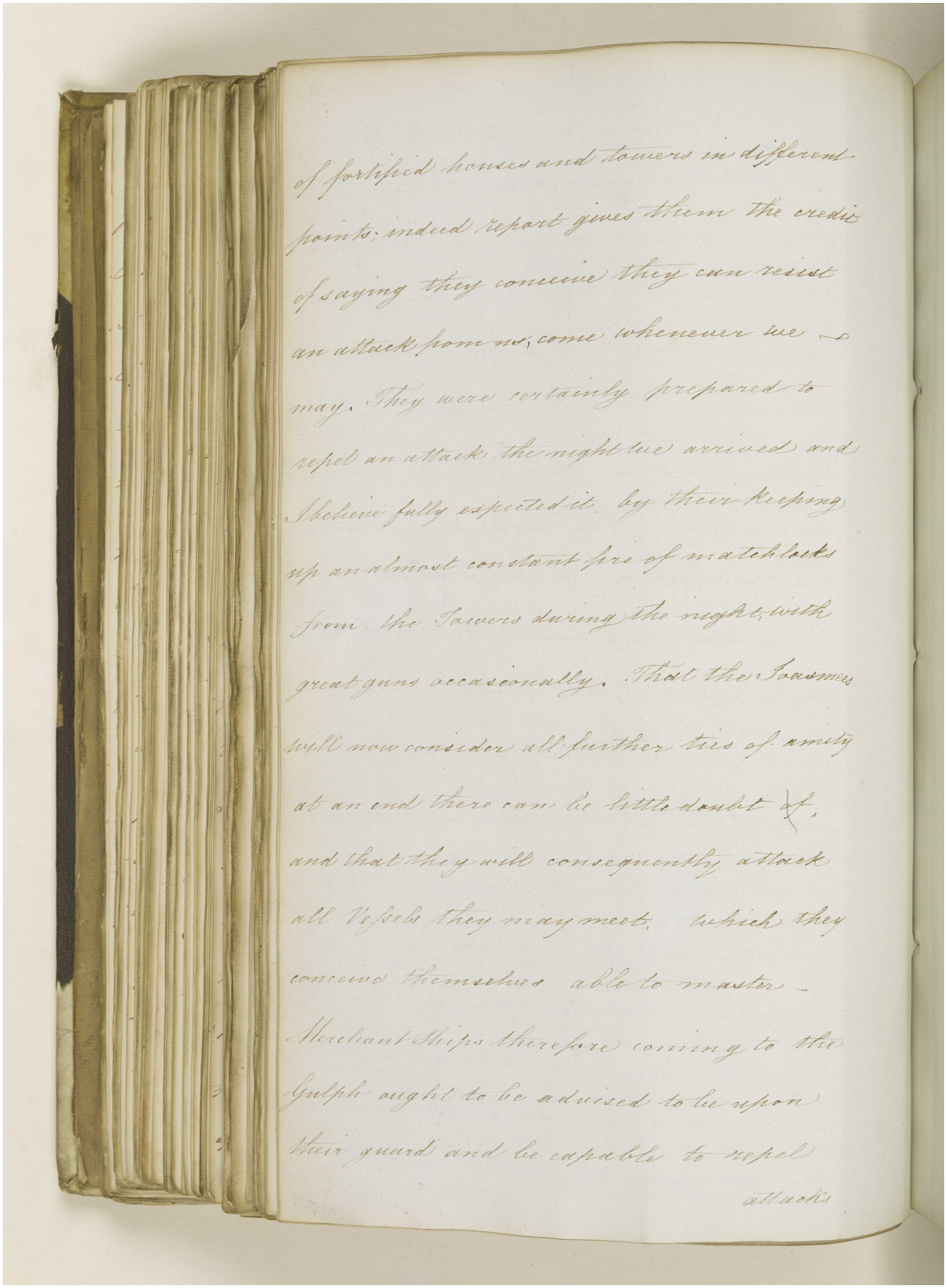
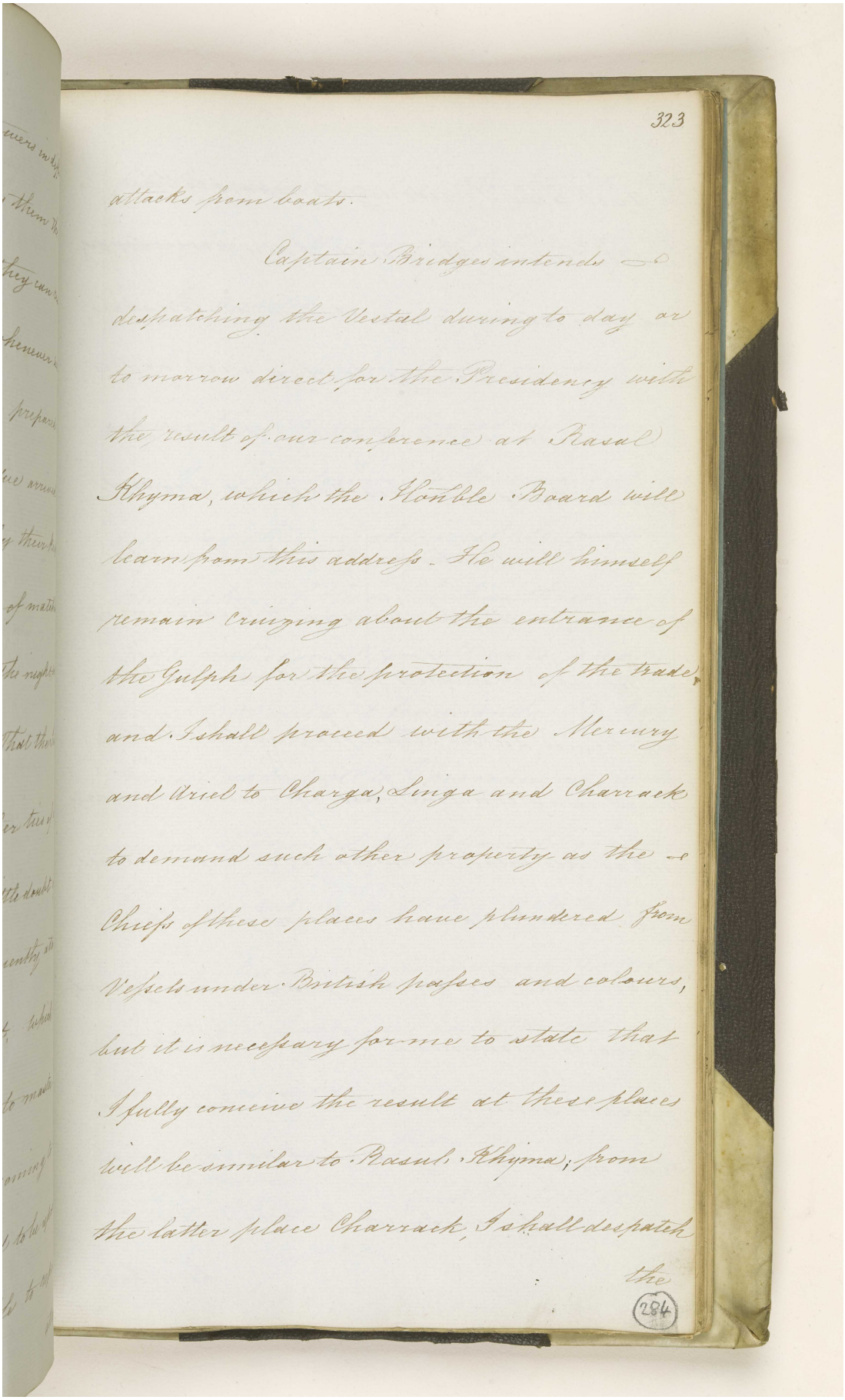


of fortified houses and towers in different
points; indeed report gives them the credit
of saying they conceive they can resist
an attack from us, come whenever we
may. They were certainly prepared to
repel an attack the night we arrived and
I believe fully expected it, by their keeping
up an almost constant fire of matchlocks
from the Towers during the night, with
great guns occasionally. That the Joasmees
will now consider all further ties of amity
at an end there can be little doubt of,
and that they will consequently attack
all Vessels they may meet, which they
conceive themselves able to master.
Merchant Ships therefore coming to the
Gulph ought to be advised to be upon
their guard and be capable to repel
attacks



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attacks from boats.

Captain Bridges intends dispatching the Vestal during to day or to morrow direct for the Presidency with the result of our conference at Rasal Khyma, which the Honble Board will learn from this address. He will himself remain cruizing about the entrance of the Gulph for the protection of the trade, and I shall proceed with the Mercury and Ariel to Charga, Linga and Charrack to demand such other property as the Chiefs of these places have plundered from Vessels under British passes and colours, but it is necessary for me to state that I fully conceive the result at these places will be similar to Rasul Khyma; from the latter place Charrack, I shall despatch the

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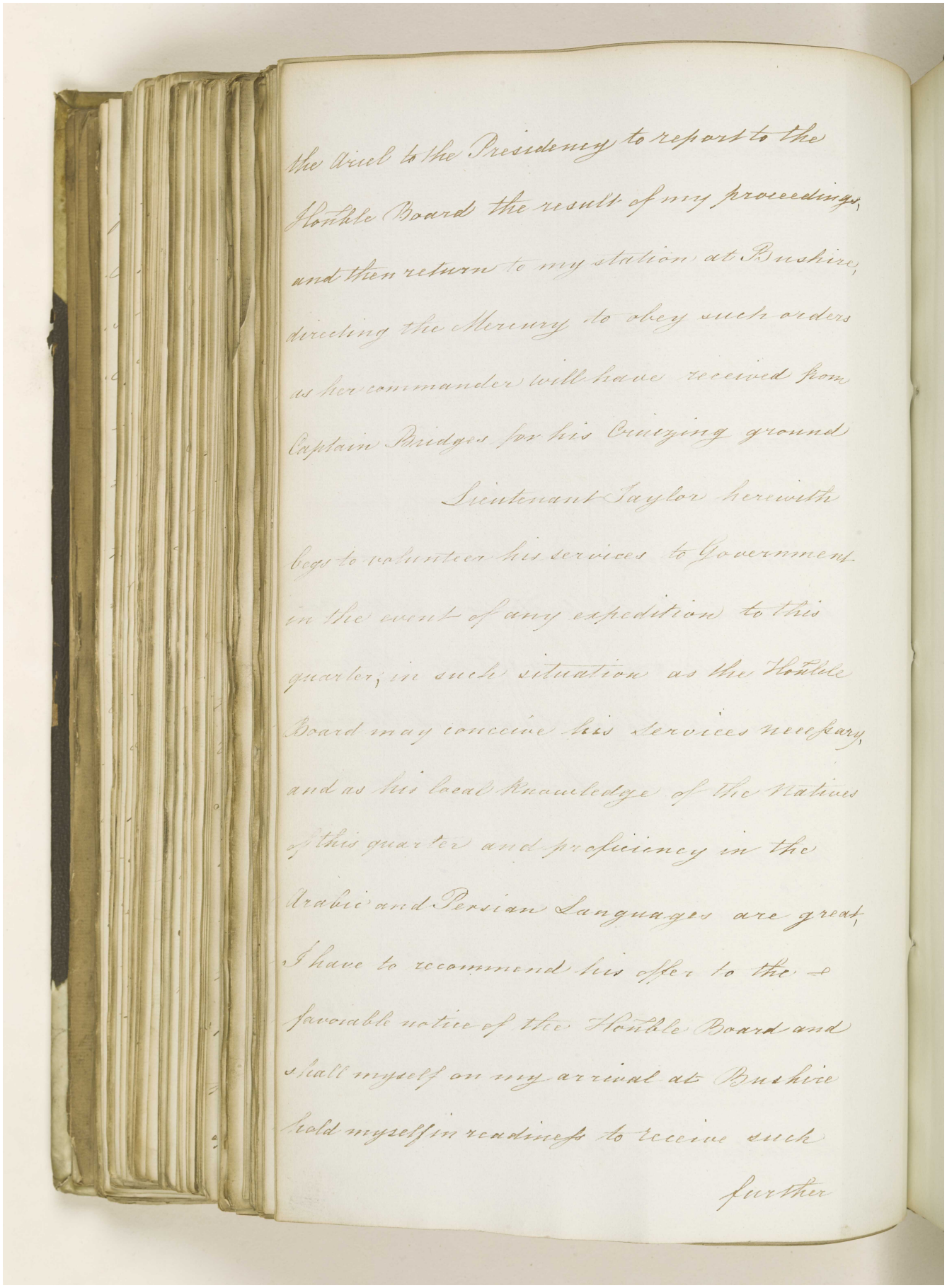
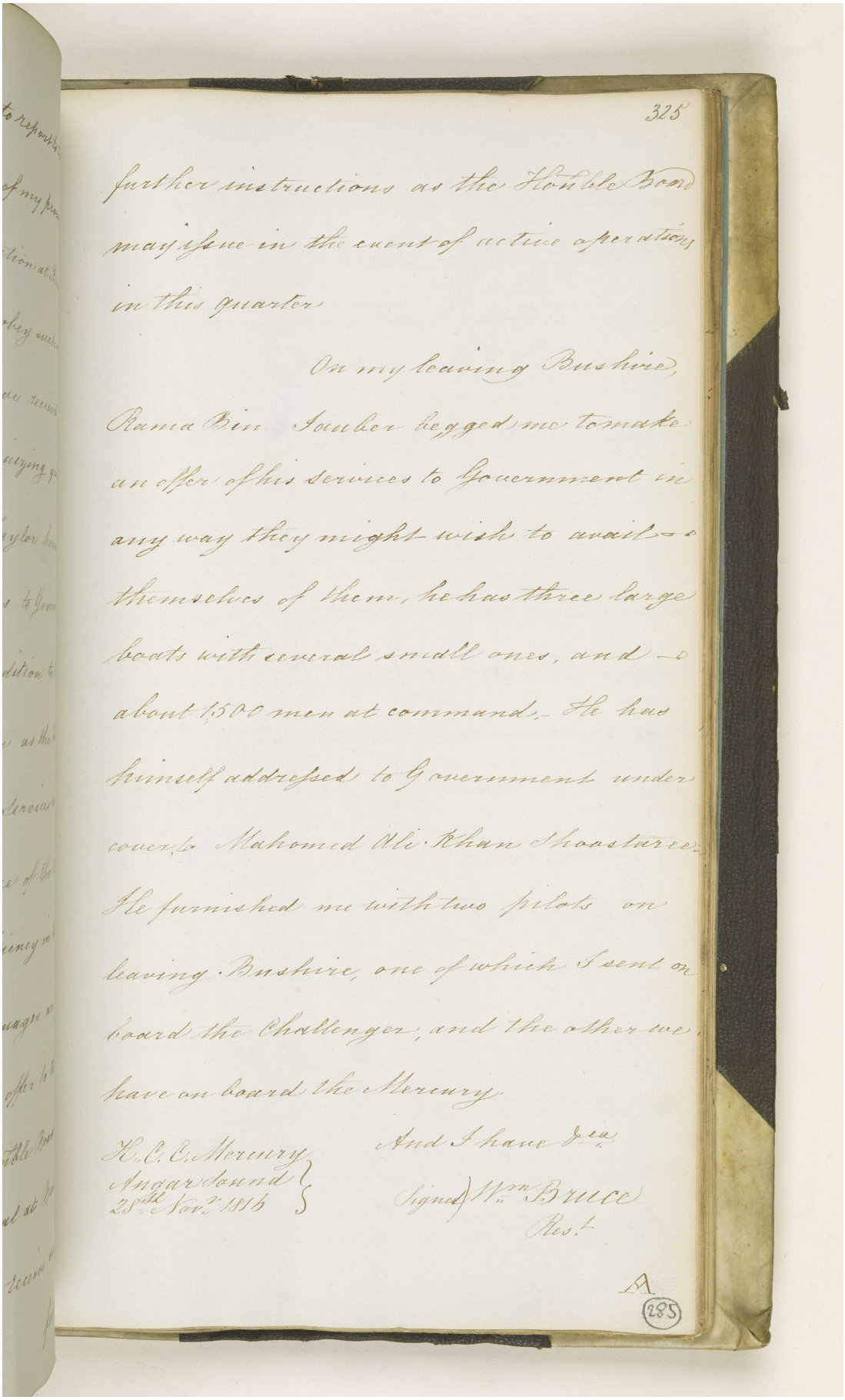


the Arab to the Presidency to report to the Honble Board the result of my proceedings, and then return to my station at Bushire, directing the Mercury to obey such orders as her commander will have received from Captain Bridges for his Cruizing ground

Lieutenant Taylor herewith begs to volunteer his services to Government in the event of any expedition to this quarter; in such situation as the Honble Board may conceive his services necessary, and as his local knowledge of the Natives of this quarter and proficiency in the Arabic and Persian Languages are great, I have to recommend his offer to the favorable notice of the Honble Board and shall myself on my arrival at Bushire hold myself in readiness to receive such

further



further instructions as the Honble Board may issue in the event of active operations in this quarter

On my leaving Bushire, Rama Bin Jauber begged me to make an offer of his services to Government in any way they might wish to avail themselves of them, he has three large boats with several small ones, and about 1,500 men at command. He has himself addressed to Government under cover to Mahomed Ali Khan Shoostaree. He furnished me with two pilots on leaving Bushire, one of which I sent on board the Challenger, and the other we have on board the Mercury.

H. C. C. Mercury
Angar Sound
28th Novr 1816

And I have &ca

Signed) Wm Bruce
Resr

A

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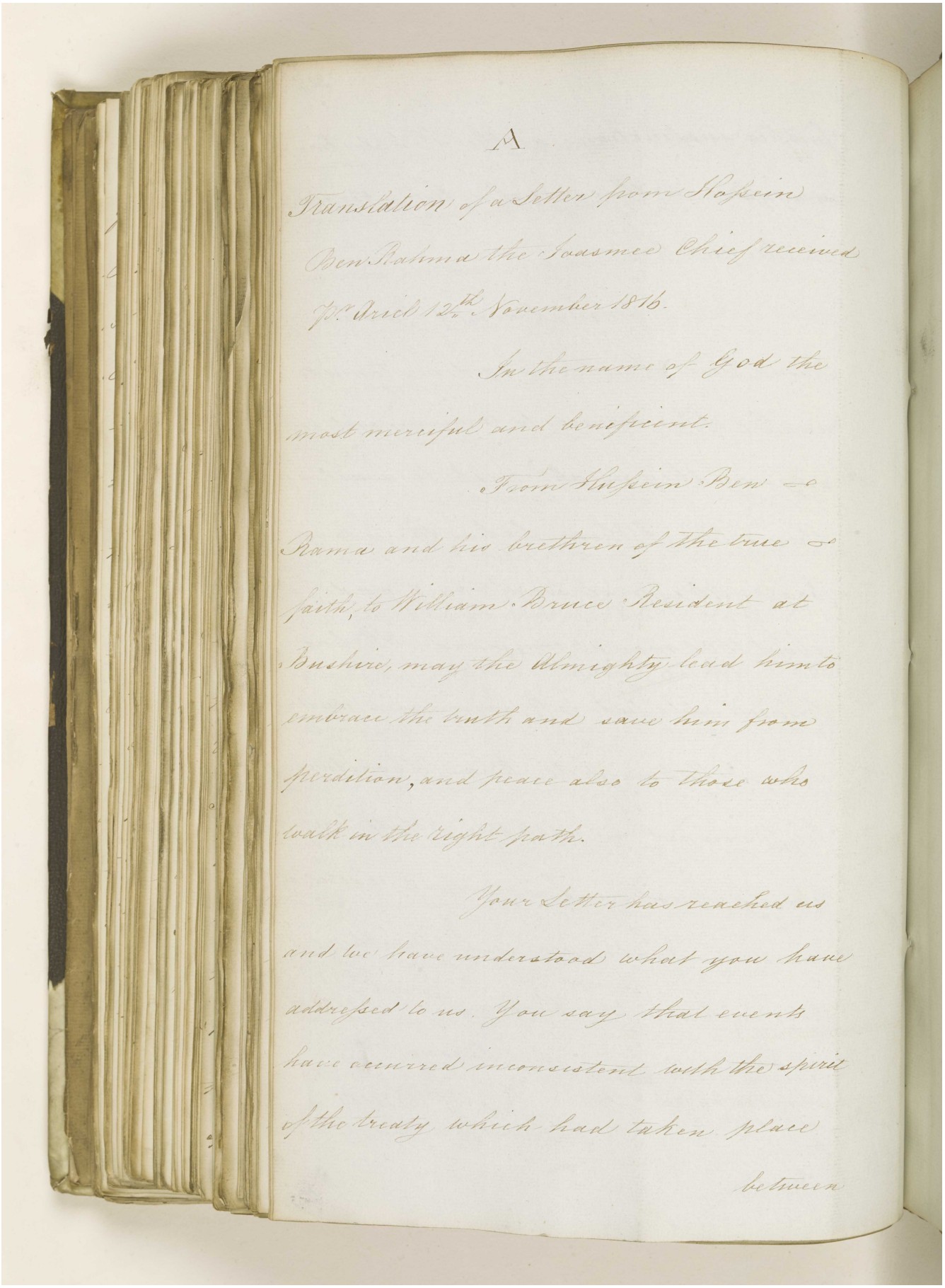

A

Translation of a Letter from Hossein Ben Rahma the Joasmee Chief received Pr. Ariel 12th November 1816.

In the name of God the most merciful and benificent.

From Hussein Ben Rama and his brethren of the true faith, to William Bruce Resident at Bushire, may the Almighty lead him to embrace the truth and save him from perdition, and peace also to those who walk in the right path.

Your Letter has reached us and we have understood what you have addressed to us. You say that events have occurred inconsistent with the spirit of the treaty which had taken place

between

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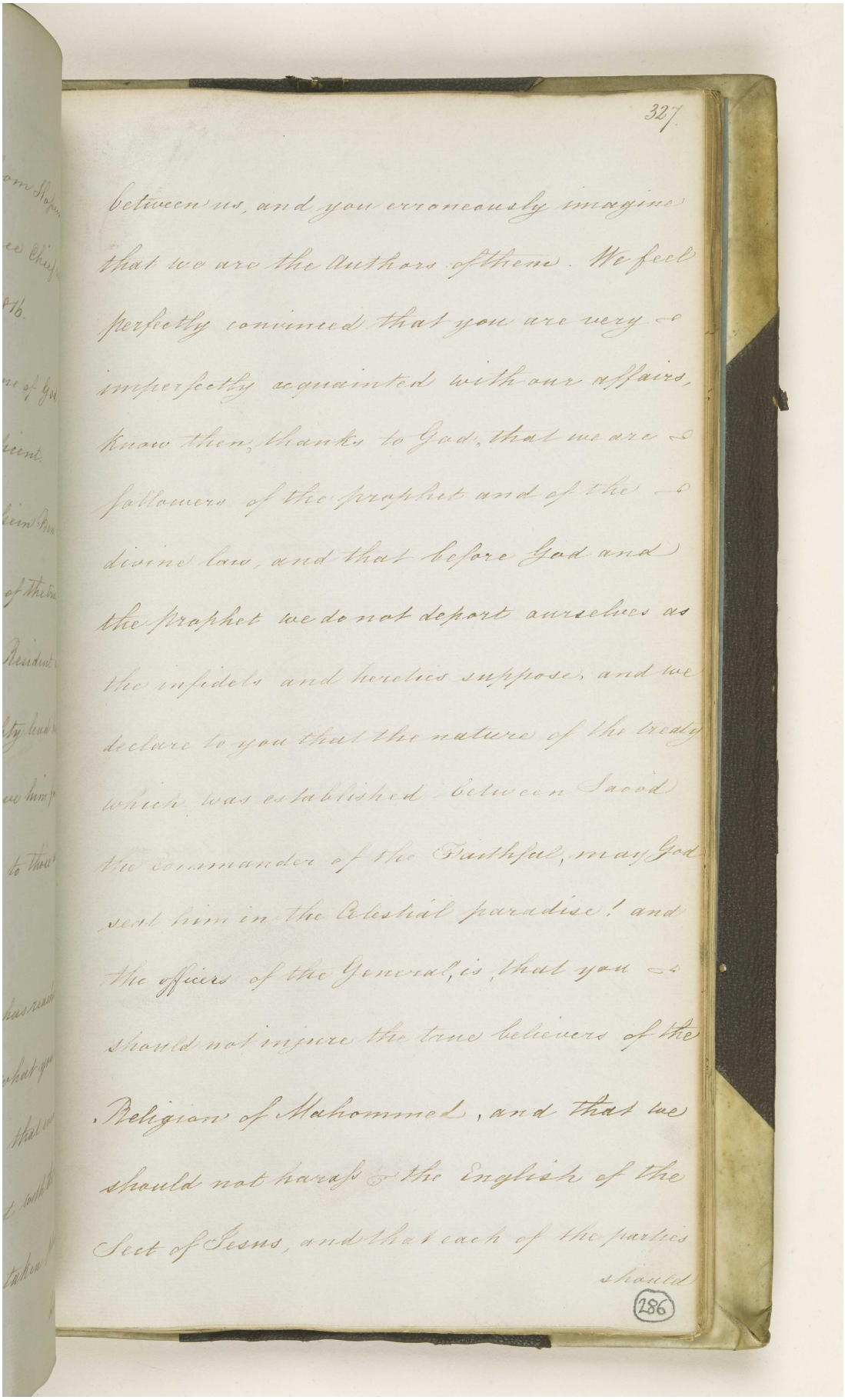

327.

between us, and you erroneously imagine
that we are the Authors of them. We feel
perfectly convinced that you are very
imperfectly acquainted with our affairs,
know then, thanks to God, that we are
followers of the prophet and of the
divine law, and that before God and
the Prophet we do not depart ourselves as
the infidels and heretics suppose, and we
declare to you that the nature of the treaty
which was established between Saeid
the Commander of the Faithful, may God
rest him in the Celestial paradise! and
the officers of the General is, that you
should not injure the true believers of the
Religion of Mahommed, and that we
should not harass the English of the
Sect of Jesus, and that each of the parties
shall

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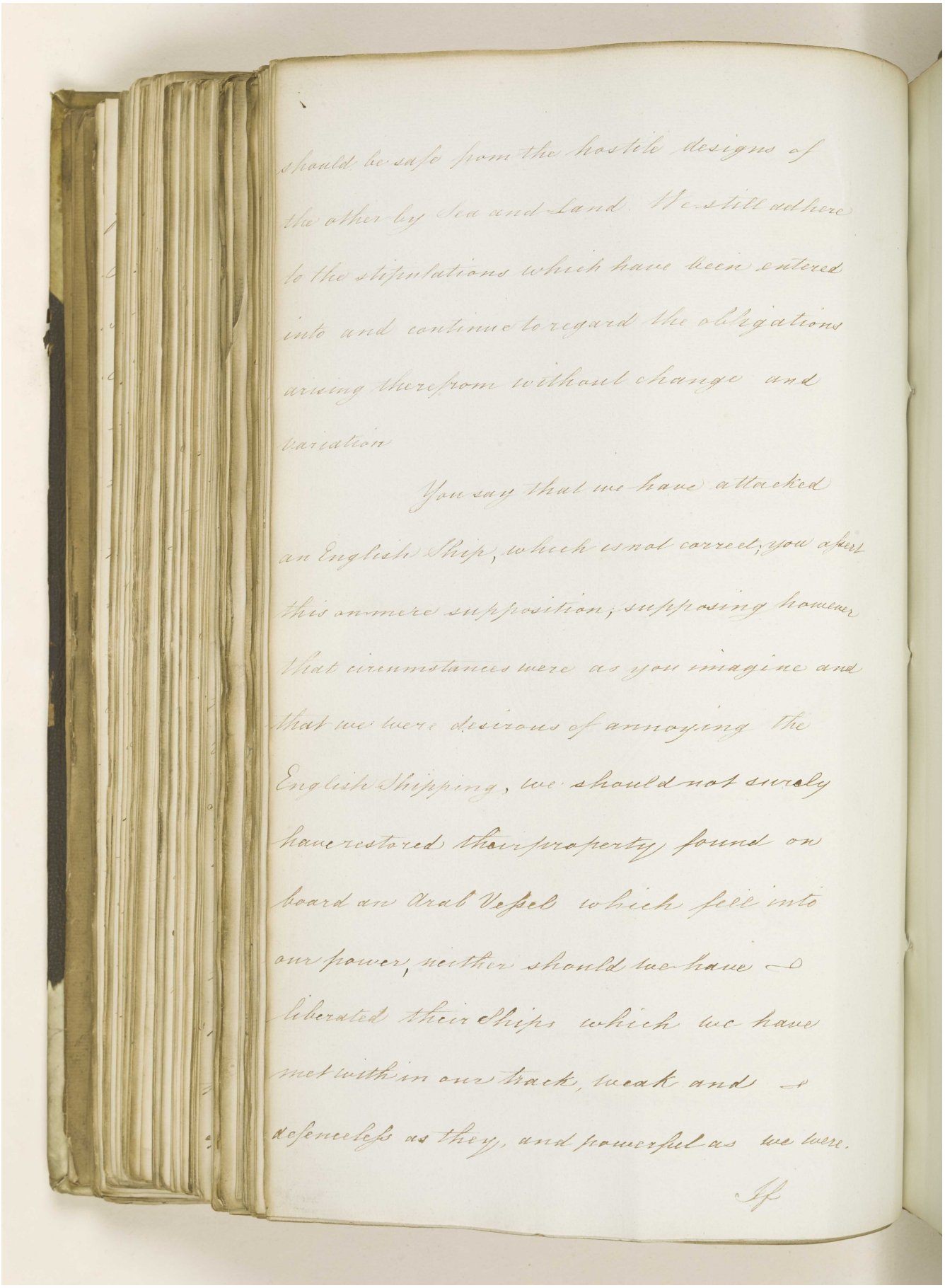

should be safe from the hostile designs of
the other by Sea and Land. We still adhere
to the stipulations which have been entered
into and continue to regard the obligations
arising therefrom without change and
variation

You say that we have attacked
an English Ship, which is not correct, you after
this an mere supposition, supposing however
that circumstances were as you imagine and
that we were desirous of annoying the
English Shipping, we should not surely
have restored their property found on
board an Arab Vessel which fell into
our power, neither should we have
liberated their Ships which we have
met with in our track, weak and
defenceless as they, and powerful as we were.

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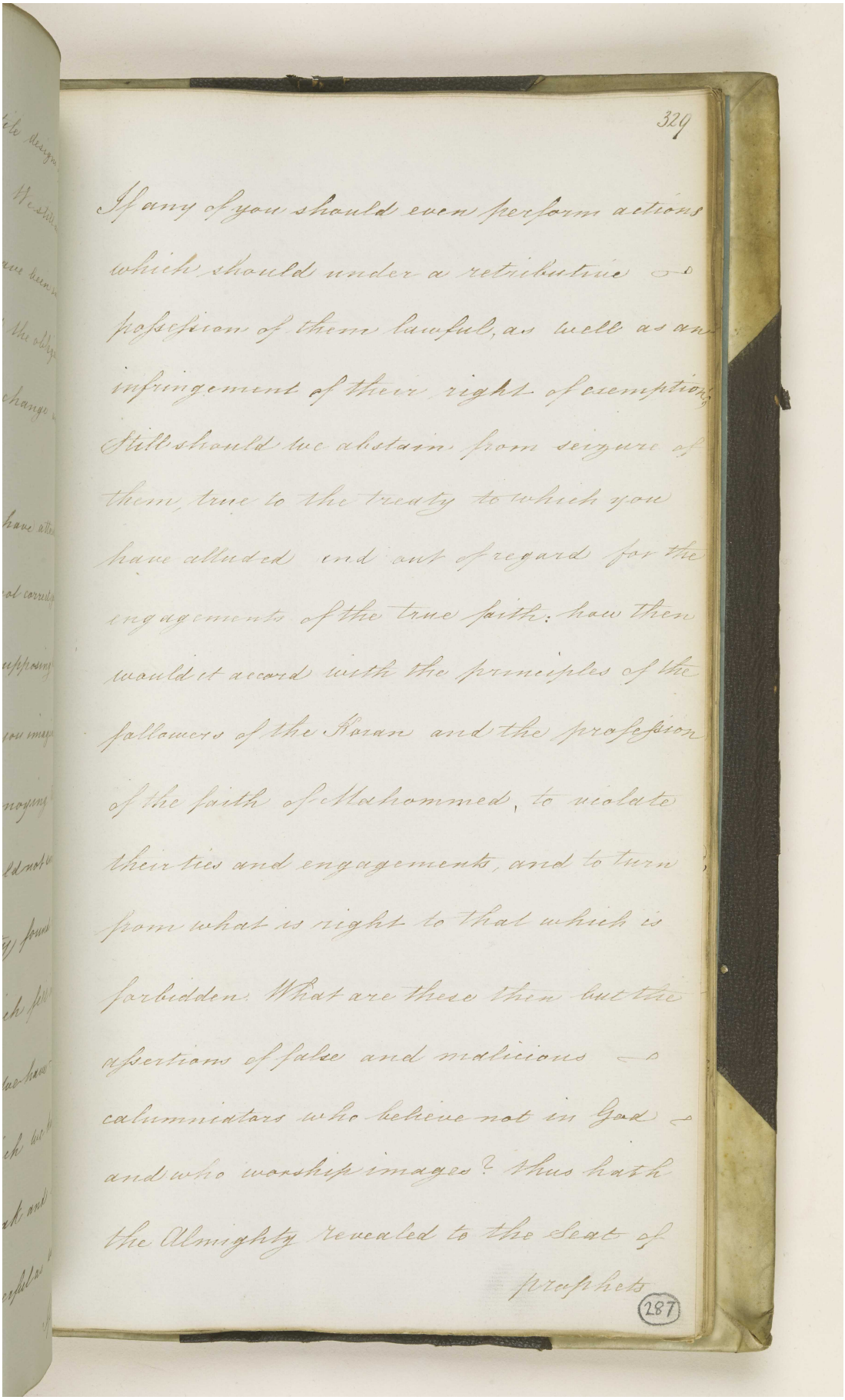

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If any of you should even perform actions which should under a retributive — profession of them lawful, as well as an infringement of their right of exemption; Still should we abstain from seizure of them, true to the treaty to which you have alluded and out of regard for the engagements of the true faith: how then would it accord with the principles of the followers of the Koran and the profession of the faith of Mahommed, to violate their ties and engagements, and to turn from what is right to that which is forbidden. What are these then but the assertions of false and malicious — calumniators who believe not in God — and who worship images? Thus hath the Almighty revealed to the seat of prophets

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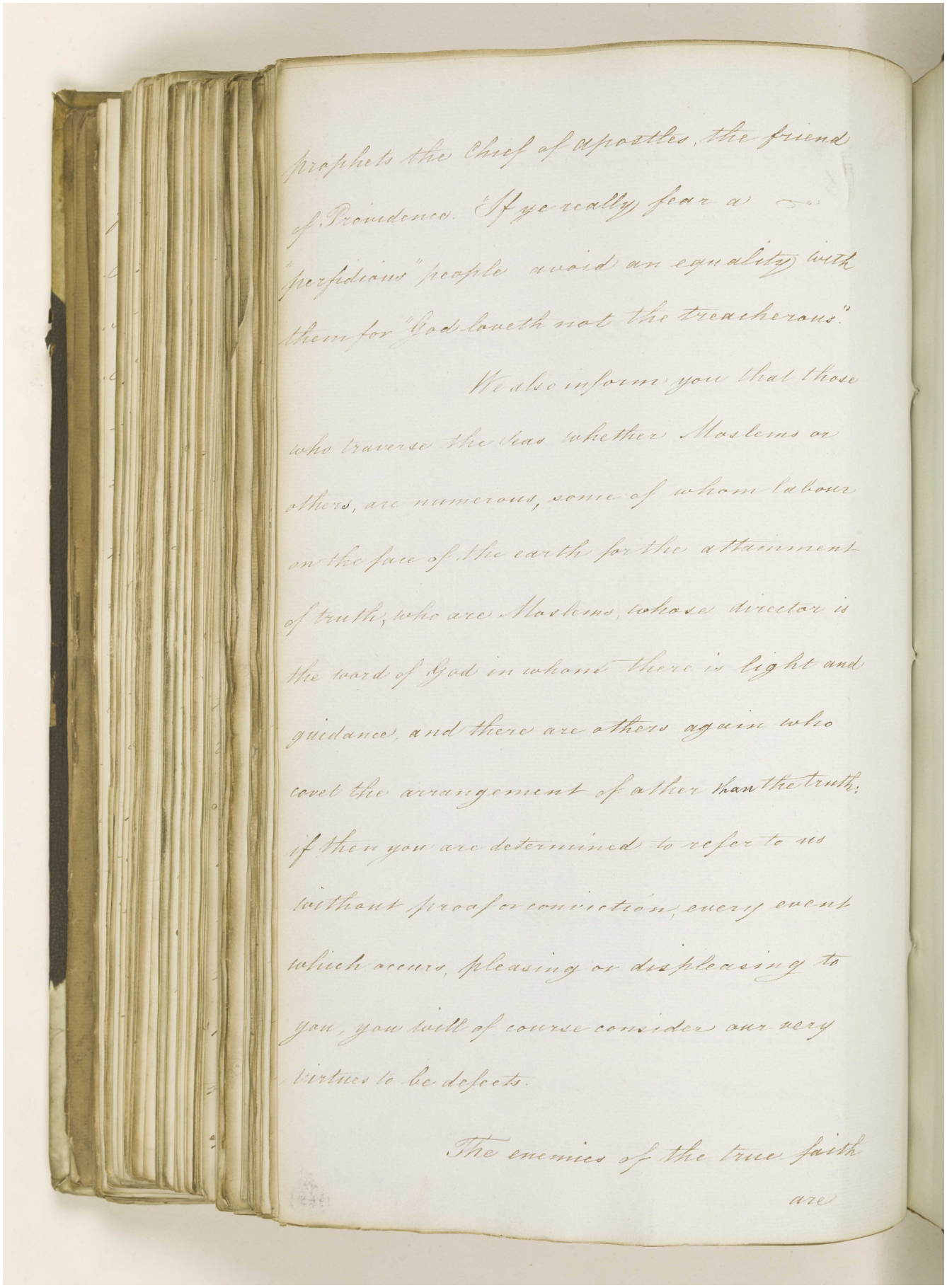

prophets the Chief of apostles, the friend
of Providence. "If ye really fear a ~~~
"perfidious" people avoid an equality with
them for "God loveth not the treacherous."

We also inform you that those
who traverse the seas whether Moslems or
others, are numerous, some of whom labour
on the face of the earth for the attainment
of truth; who are Moslems, whose director is
the word of God in whom there is light and
guidance, and there are others again who
covet the arrangement of other than the truth:
if then you are determined to refer to us
without proof or conviction, every event
which occurs, pleasing or displeasing to
you, you will of course consider our very
virtues to be defects.

The enemies of the true faith
are

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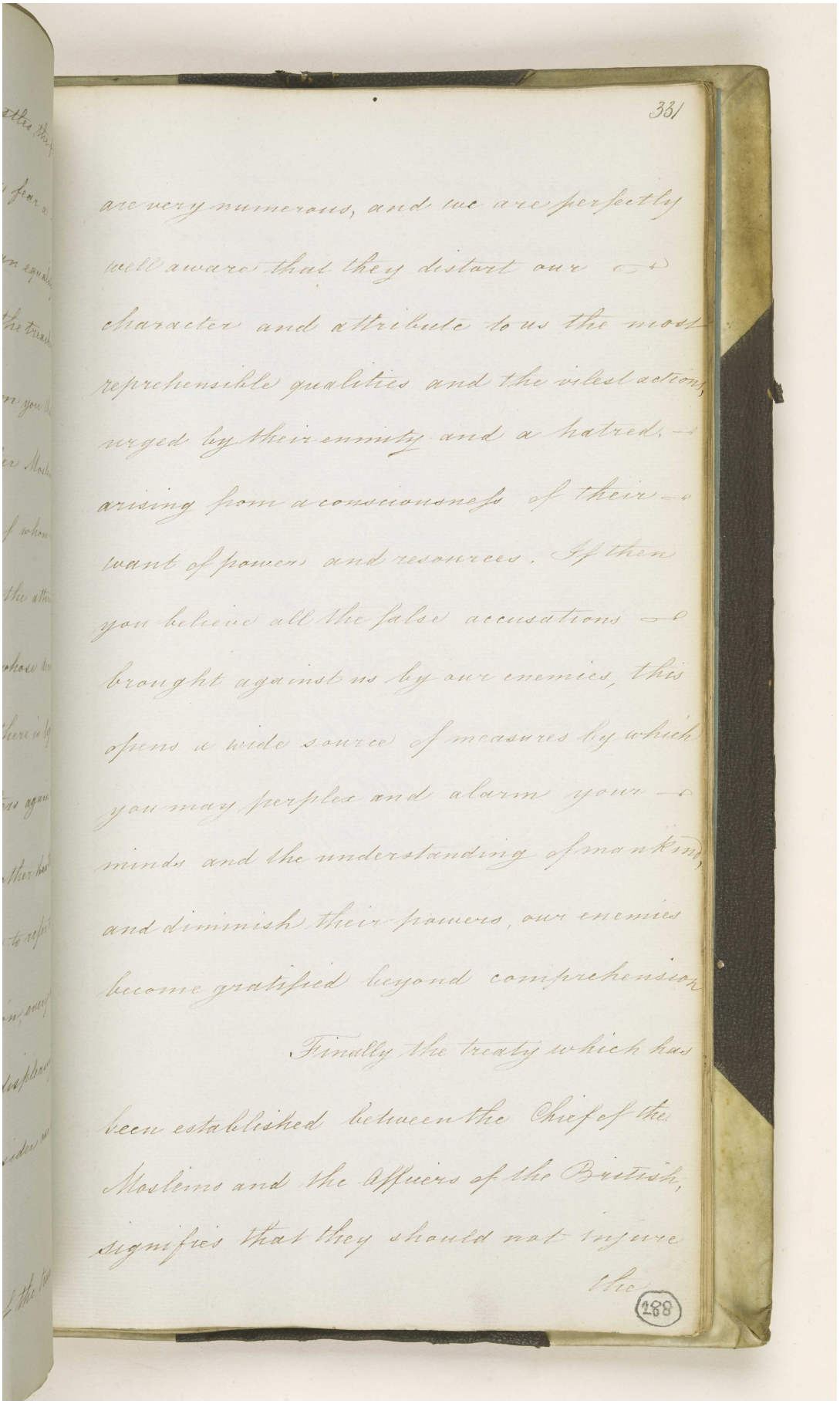

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are very numerous, and we are perfectly
well aware that they distort our
character and attribute to us the most
reprehensible qualities and the vilest actions,
urged by their enmity and a hatred
arising from a consciousness of their
want of powers and resources. If then
you believe all the false accusations
brought against us by our enemies, this
opens a wide source of measures by which
you may perplex and alarm your
minds and the understanding of mankind,
and diminish their powers, our enemies
become gratified beyond comprehension.

Finally the treaty which has
been established between the Chief of the
Moslems and the Officers of the British,
signifies that they should not injure
the

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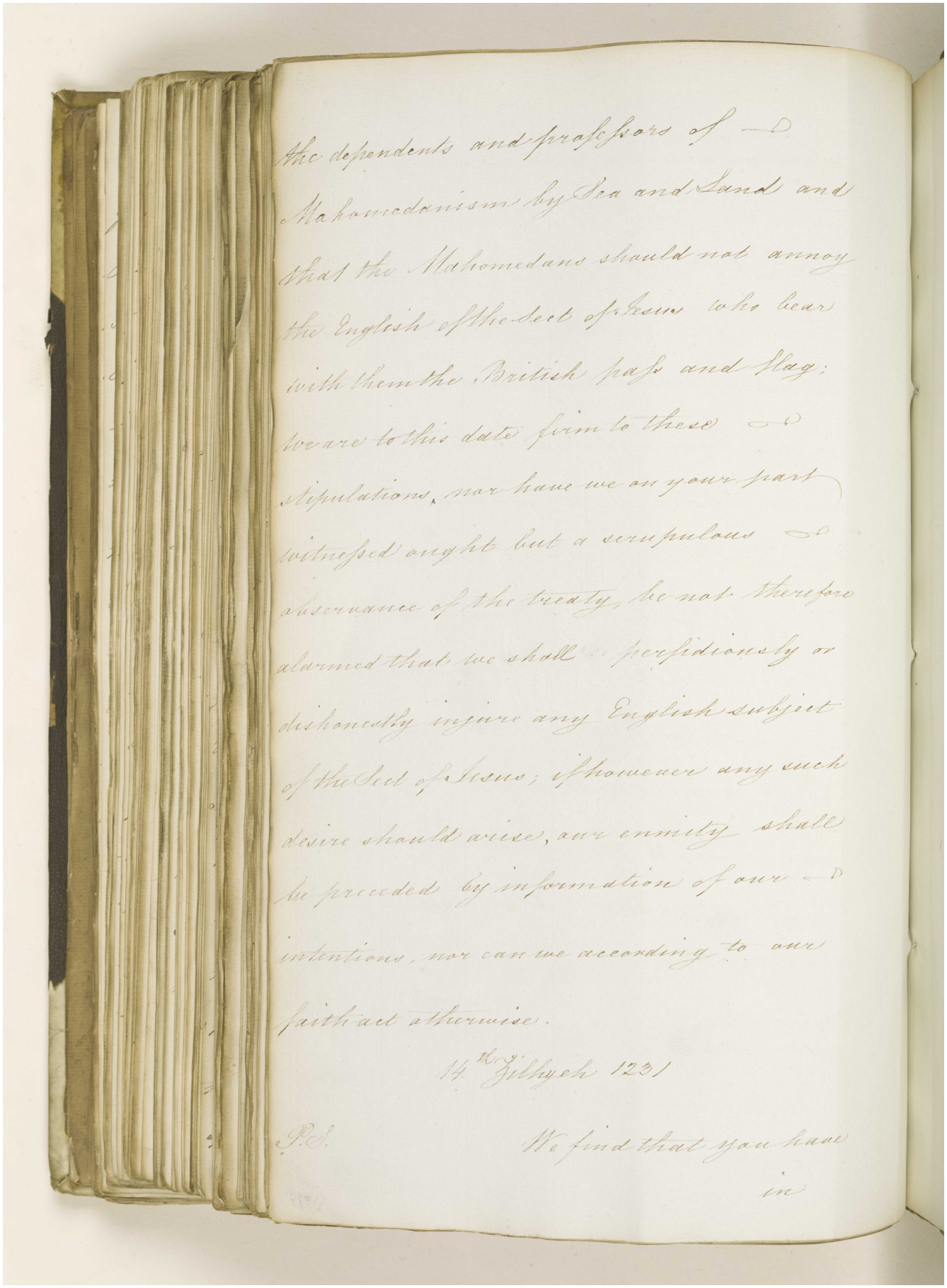
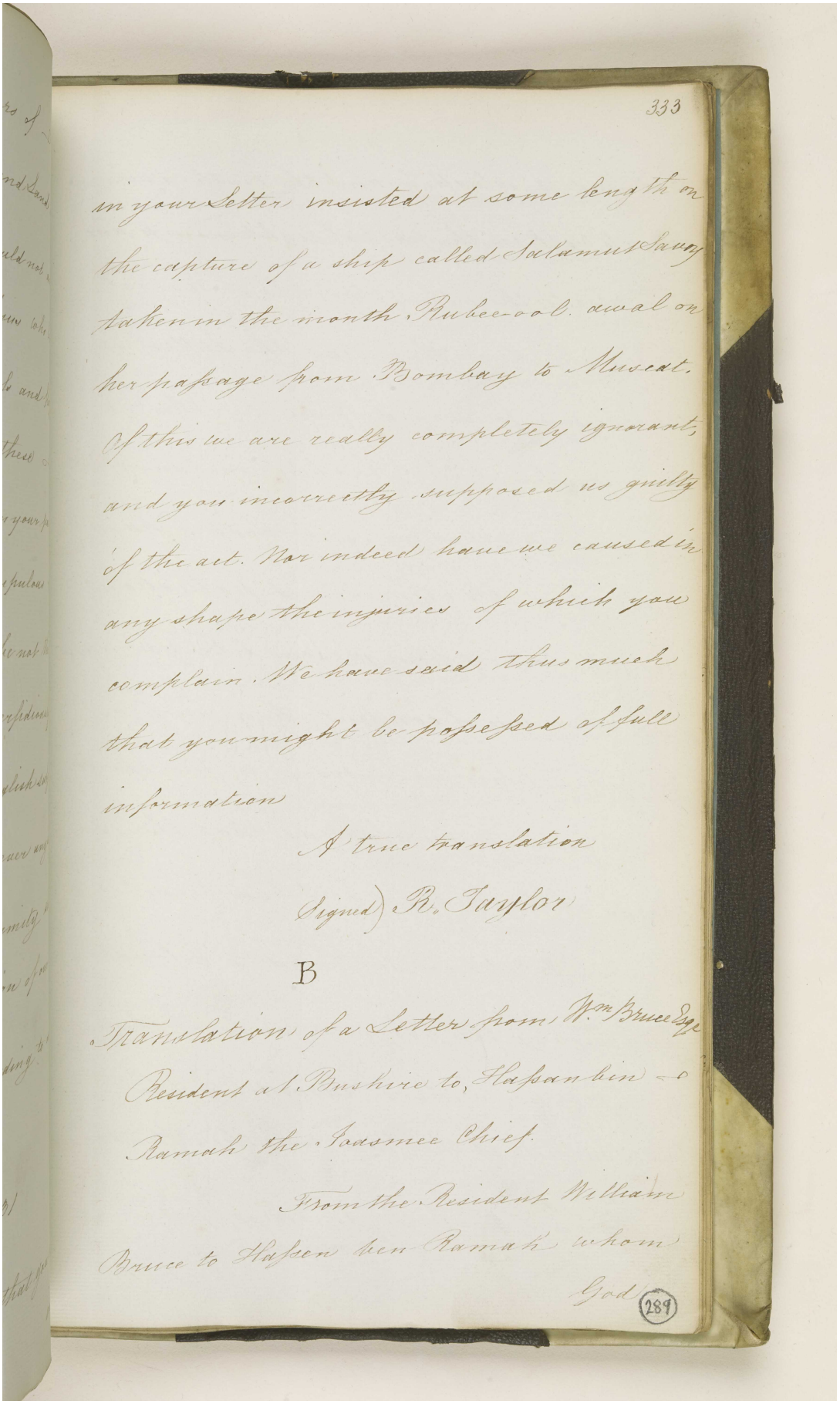


the dependents and professors of
Mahomedanism by Sea and Land and
that the Mahomedans should not annoy
the English of the Sect of Jesus who bear
with them the British pass and flag;
we are to this date firm to these
stipulations, nor have we on your part
witnessed aught but a scrupulous
observance of the treaty, be not therefore
alarmed that we shall perfidiously or
dishonestly injure any English subject
of the Sect of Jesus; if however any such
desire should arise, our enmity shall
be preceded by information of our
intentions, nor can we according to our
faith act otherwise.

14th Zilhyeh 1231

P.S. We find that you have
in



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in your Letter insisted at some length on
the capture of a ship called Salamut Sawy
taken in the month Rubeea-ool awal on
her passage from Bombay to Muscat.
Of this we are really completely ignorant,
and you incorrectly supposed us guilty
of the act. Nor indeed have we caused in
any shape the injuries of which you
complain. We have said thus much
that you might be possessed of full
information

A true translation

(Signed) R. Taylor

B

Translation of a Letter from Wm Bruce Esq
Resident at Bushire to Hafsan bin
Ramah the Joasmee Chief.

From the Resident William
Bruce to Hafsen ben Ramah whom
God

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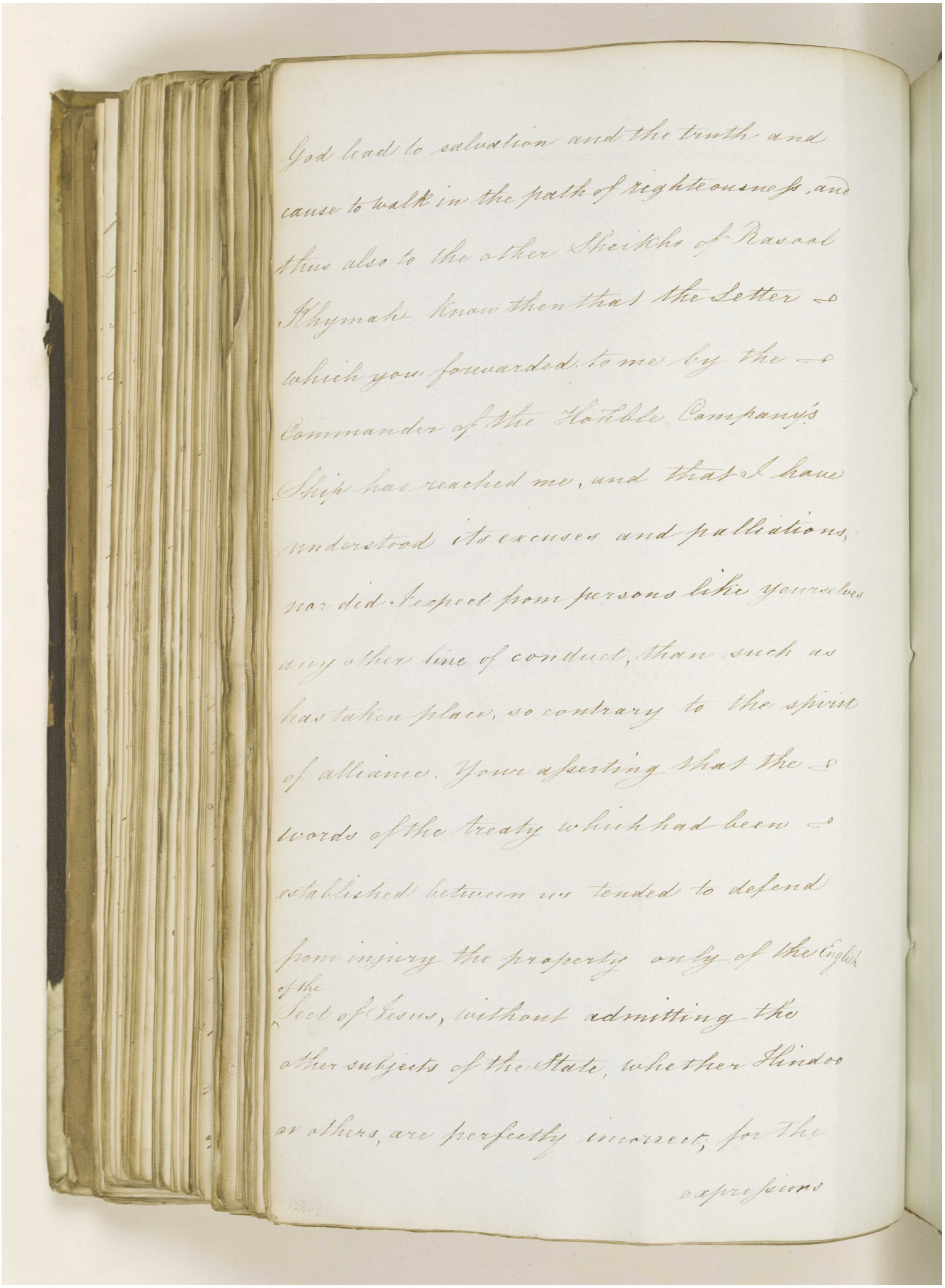

God lead to salvation and the truth and
cause to walk in the path of righteousness, and
thus also to the other Sheikhs of Ravaal
Khymah know then that the Letter &
which you forwarded to me by the &
Commander of the Honble Company's
Ship has reached me, and that I have
understood its excuses and palliations,
nor did I expect from persons like yourselves
any other line of conduct, than such as
has taken place, so contrary to the spirit
of alliance. You're asserting that the &
words of the treaty which had been &
established between us tended to defend
from injury the property only of the English
of the
Sect of Jesus, without admitting the
other subjects of the State, whether Hindoo
or others, are perfectly incorrect, for the
expressions

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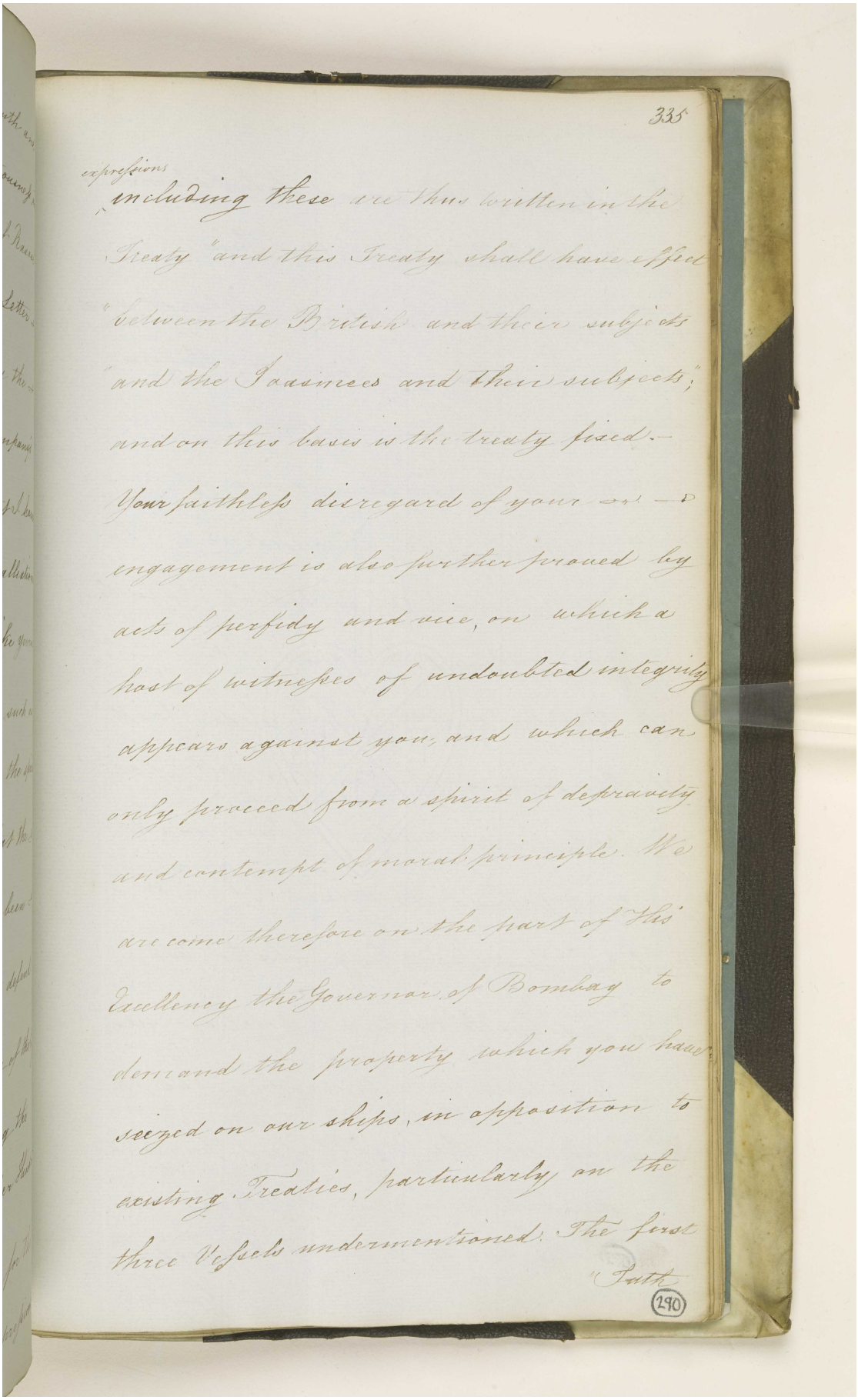

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expressions
including these are thus written in the
Treaty "and this Treaty shall have effect
"between the British and their subjects
"and the Joasmees and their subjects";
and on this basis is the treaty fixed.—
Your faithless disregard of your —
engagement is also further proved by
acts of perfidy and vice, on which a
host of witnesses of undoubted integrity
appears against you, and which can
only proceed from a spirit of depravity
and contempt of moral principle. We
are come therefore on the part of His
Excellency the Governor of Bombay to
demand the property which you have
seized on our ships, in opposition to
existing Treaties, particularly on the
three Vessels undermentioned. The first
"Truth

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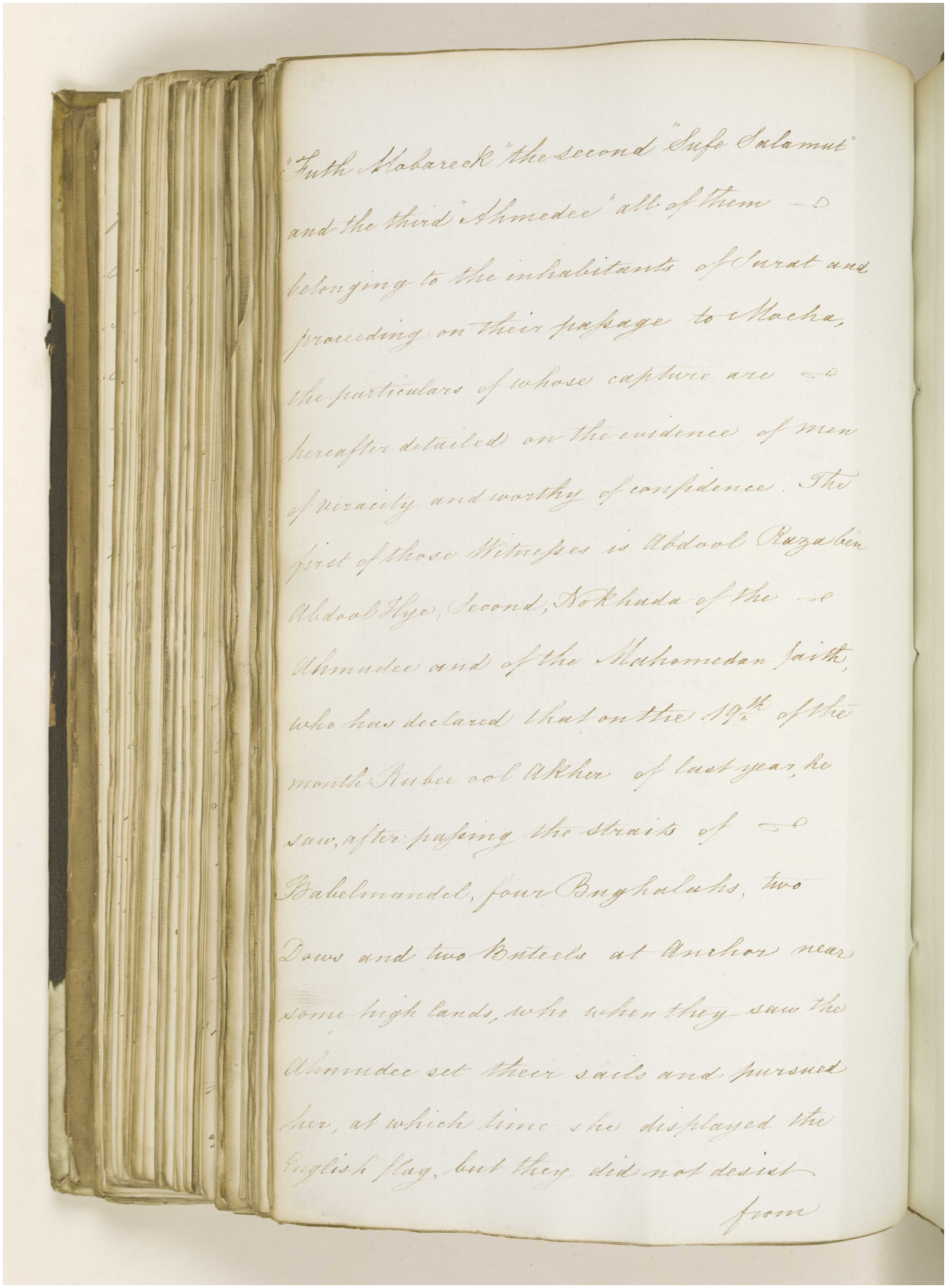
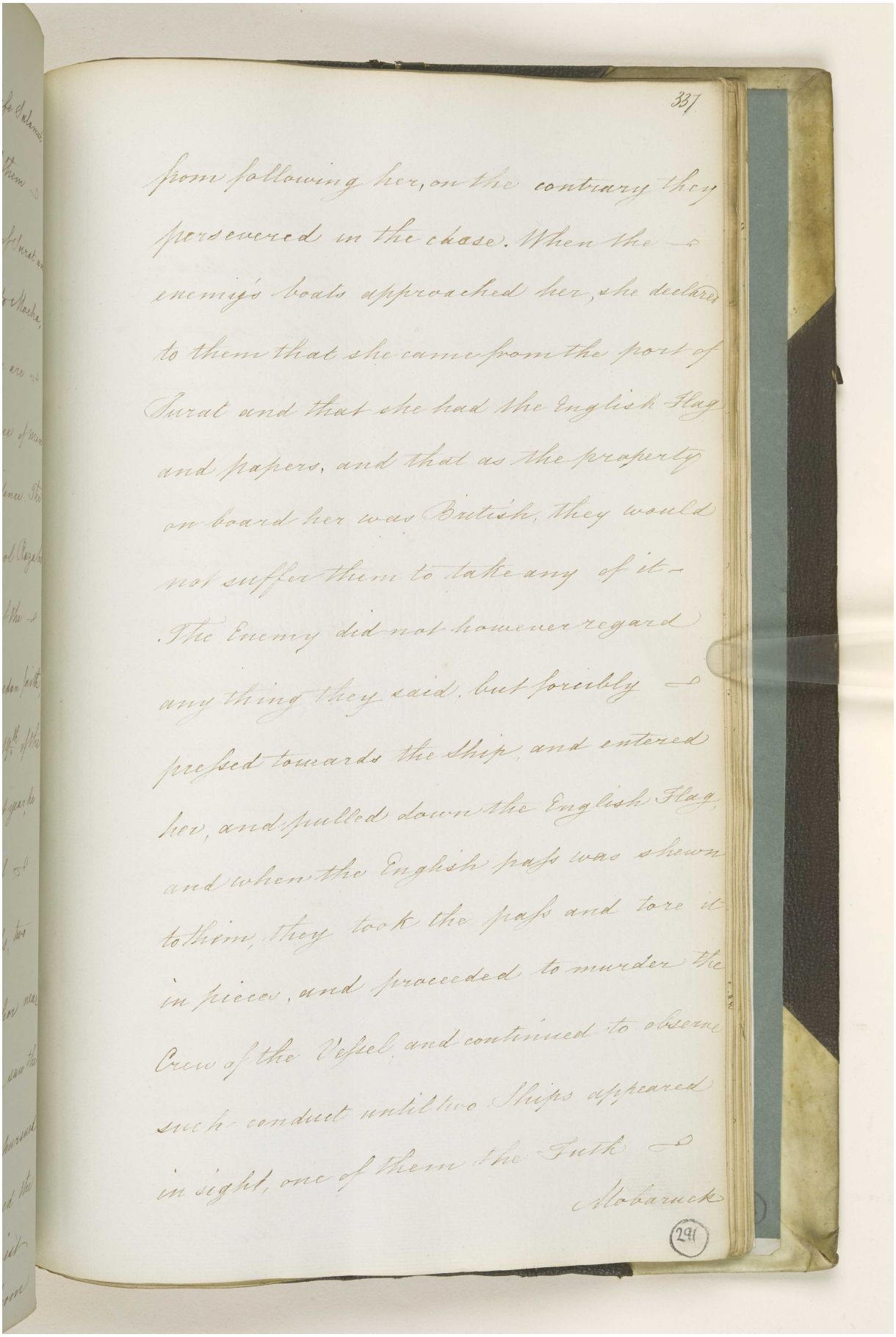


"Futh Mobareck" the second "Sufe Salamut"
and the third "Ahmedee" all of them —
belonging to the inhabitants of Surat and
proceeding on their passage to Mocha,
the particulars of whose capture are —
hereafter detailed on the evidence of men
of veracity and worthy of confidence. The
first of those Witnesses is Abdool Razaken
Abdool Hye, Second, Sokhada of the —
Ahmedee and of the Mahomedan faith,
who has declared that on the 19th of the
month Rubee ool Akher of last year, he
saw, after passing the Straits of —
Babelmandel, four Bughalahs, two
Dows and two Buteels at Anchor near
some high lands, who when they saw the
Ahmedee set their sails and pursued
her, at which time she displayed the
English flag, but they did not desist —
from



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from following her, on the contrary they
persevered in the chase. When the
enemy's boats approached her, she declared
to them that she came from the port of
Surat and that she had the English Flag
and papers, and that as the property
on board her was British, they would
not suffer them to take any of it —
. The Enemy did not however regard
any thing they said, but forcibly —
prefsed towards the Ship, and entered
her, and pulled down the English Flag,
and when the English pass was shewn
to them, they took the pass and tore it
in pieces, and proceeded to murder the
Crew of the Vefsel, and continued to observe
such conduct until two Ships appeared
in sight, one of them the Fath —
Mobaruck

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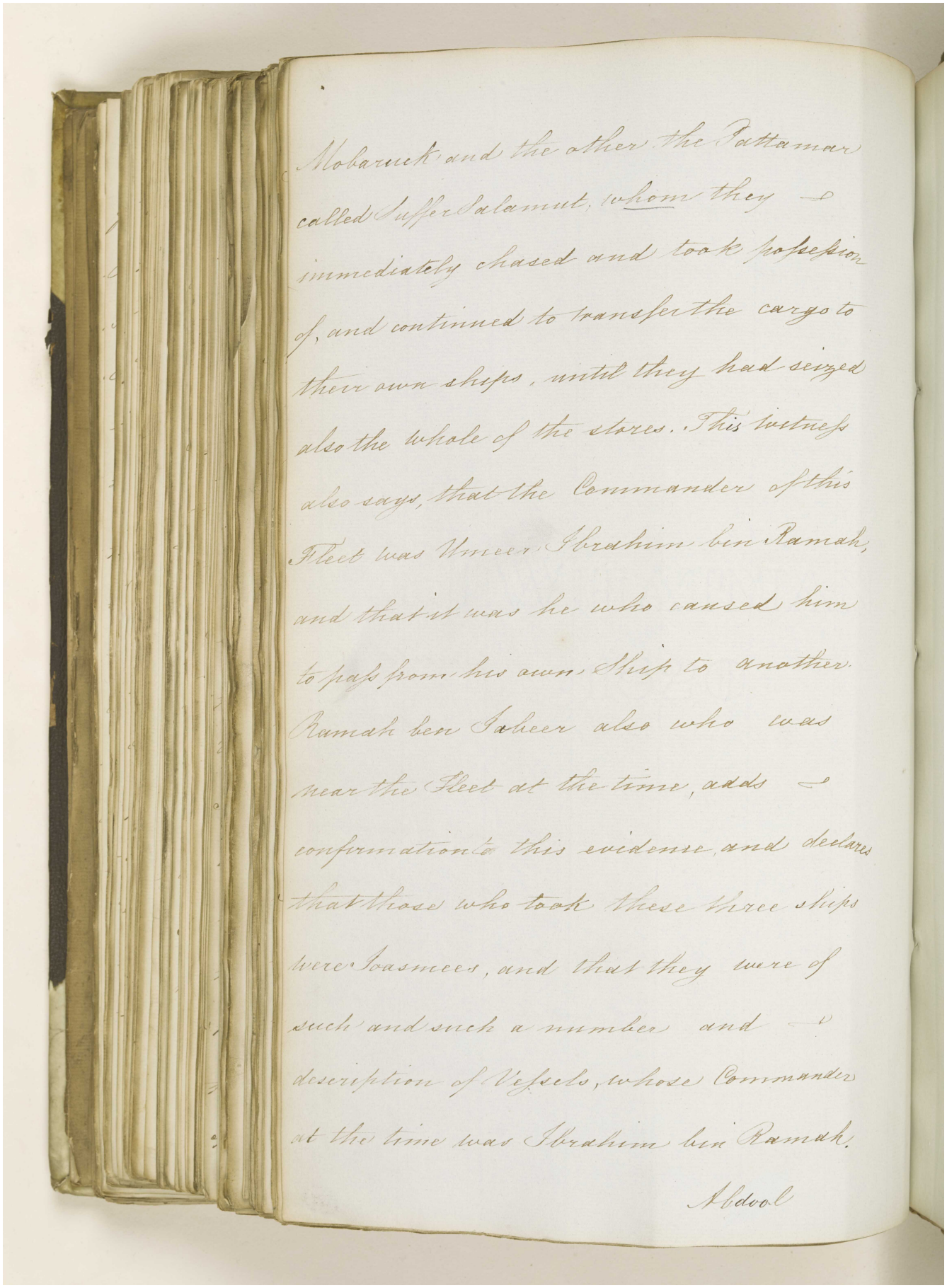

Mobarack and the other the Pattamar
called Sufferdalamut, whom they —
immediately chased and took possession
of, and continued to transfer the cargo to
their own ships, until they had seized
also the whole of the stores. This witness
also says, that the Commander of this
Fleet was Umeer Ibrahim bin Ramah,
and that it was he who caused him
to pass from his own Ship to another.
Ramah ben Saheer also who was
near the Fleet at the time, adds —
confirmation to this evidence, and declares
that those who took these three Ships
were Joasmees, and that they were of
such and such a number and —
description of Vessels, whose Commander
at the time was Ibrahim bin Ramah.

Abdool

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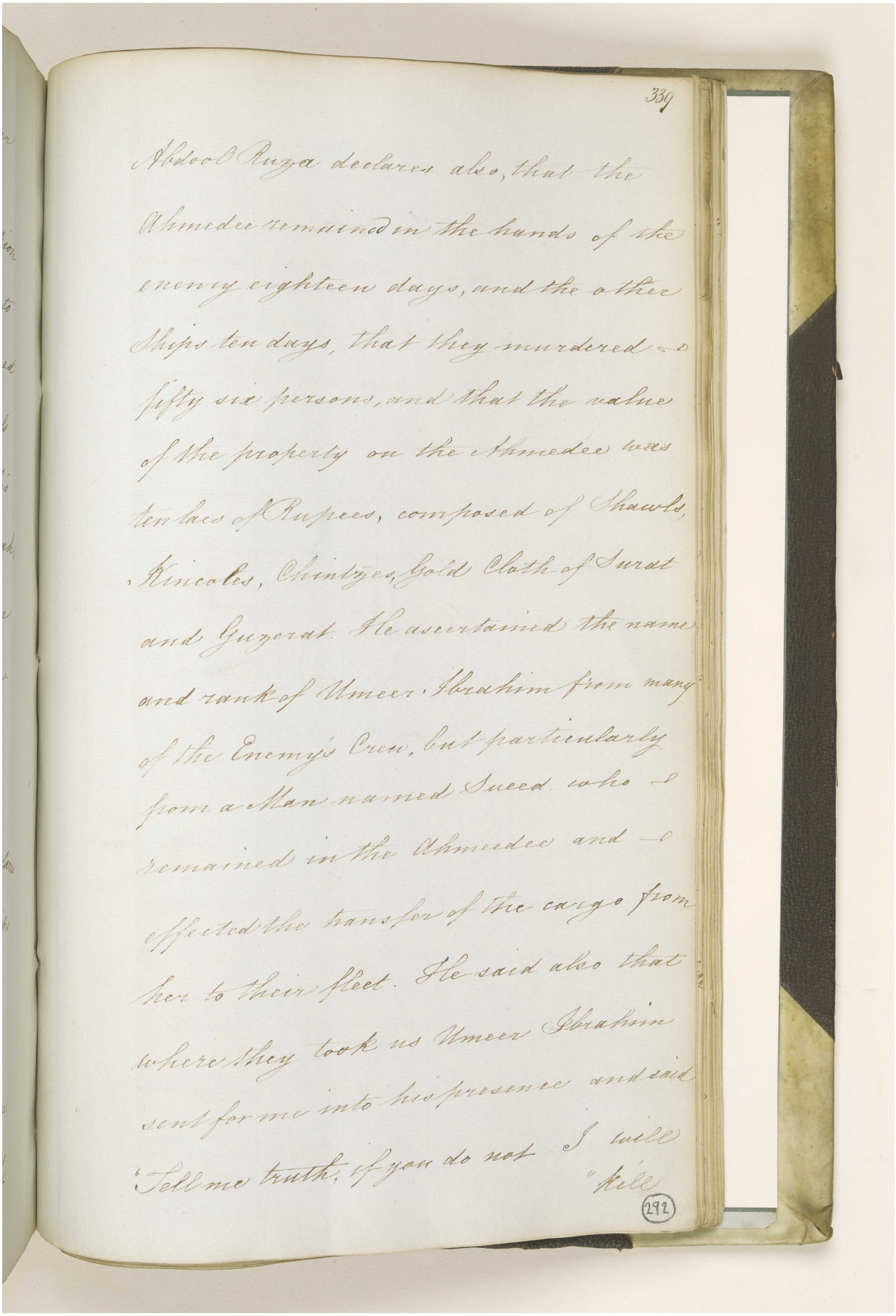

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Abdool Ruza declares also, that the Ahmedee remained in the hands of the enemy eighteen days, and the other Ships ten days, that they murdered fifty six persons, and that the value of the property on the Ahmedee was ten lacs of Rupees, composed of Shawls, Kincobs, Chintzes, Gold Cloth of Surat and Guzerat. He ascertained the name and rank of Umeer Ibrahim from many of the Enemy's Crew, but particularly from a Man named Saeed who remained in the Ahmedee and effected the transfer of the cargo from her to their fleet. He said also that where they took us Umeer Ibrahim sent for me into his presence and said "Tell me truth, if you do not I will "kill

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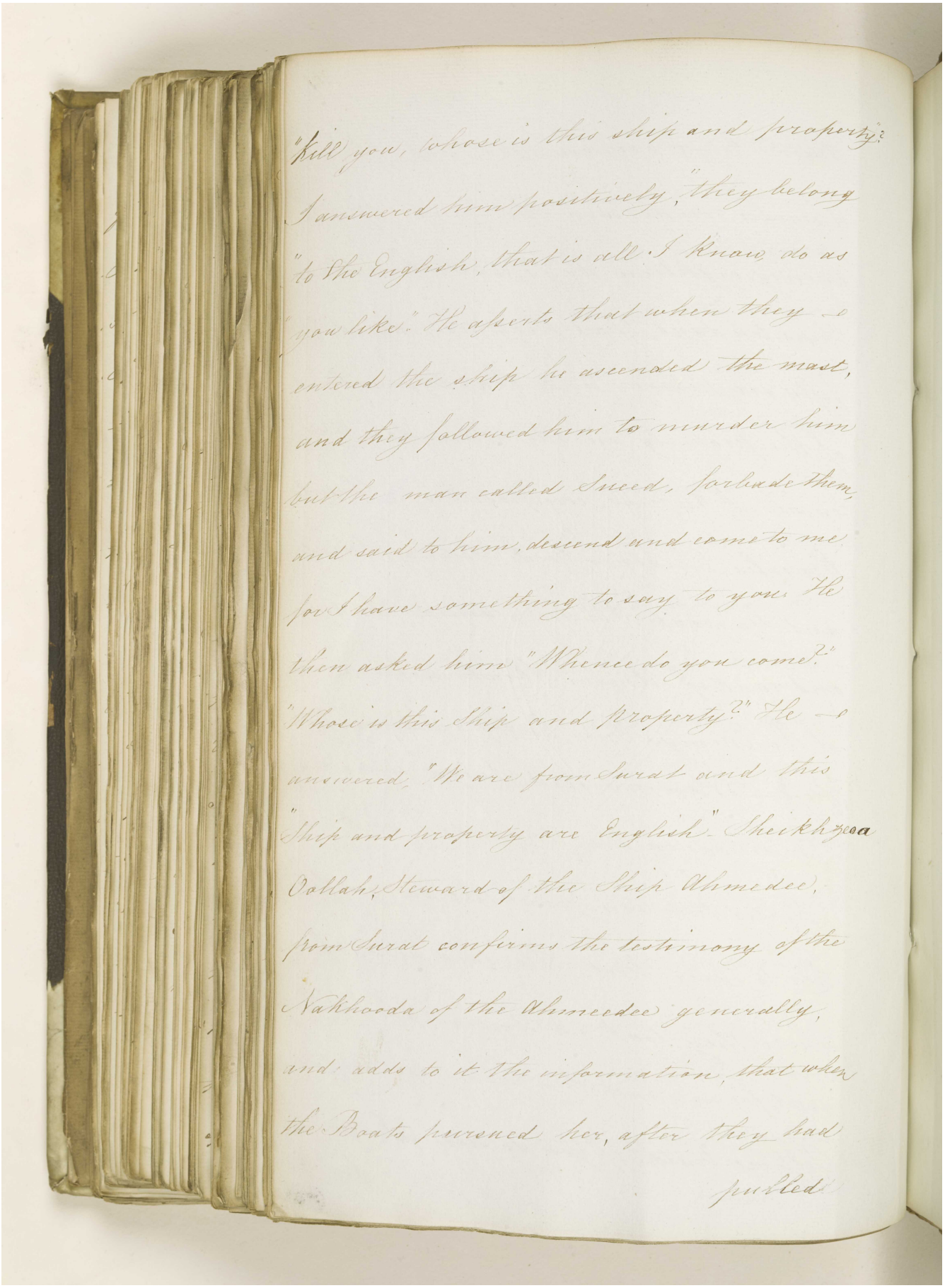

"Kill you, whose is this ship and property?"
I answered him positively, "they belong
"to the English, that is all I know do as
you like." He asserts that when they
entered the ship he ascended the mast,
and they followed him to murder him
but the man called Sueed, forbade them,
and said to him, descend and come to me
for I have something to say to you. He
then asked him "Whence do you come?"
"Whose is this Ship and property?" He
answered, "We are from Surat and this
"Ship and property are English." Sheikh Yeea
Ballah, Steward of the Ship Ahmedee,
from Surat confirms the testimony of the
Nakhooda of the Ahmeedee generally,
and adds to it the information, that when
the Boats pursued her, after they had
pursued

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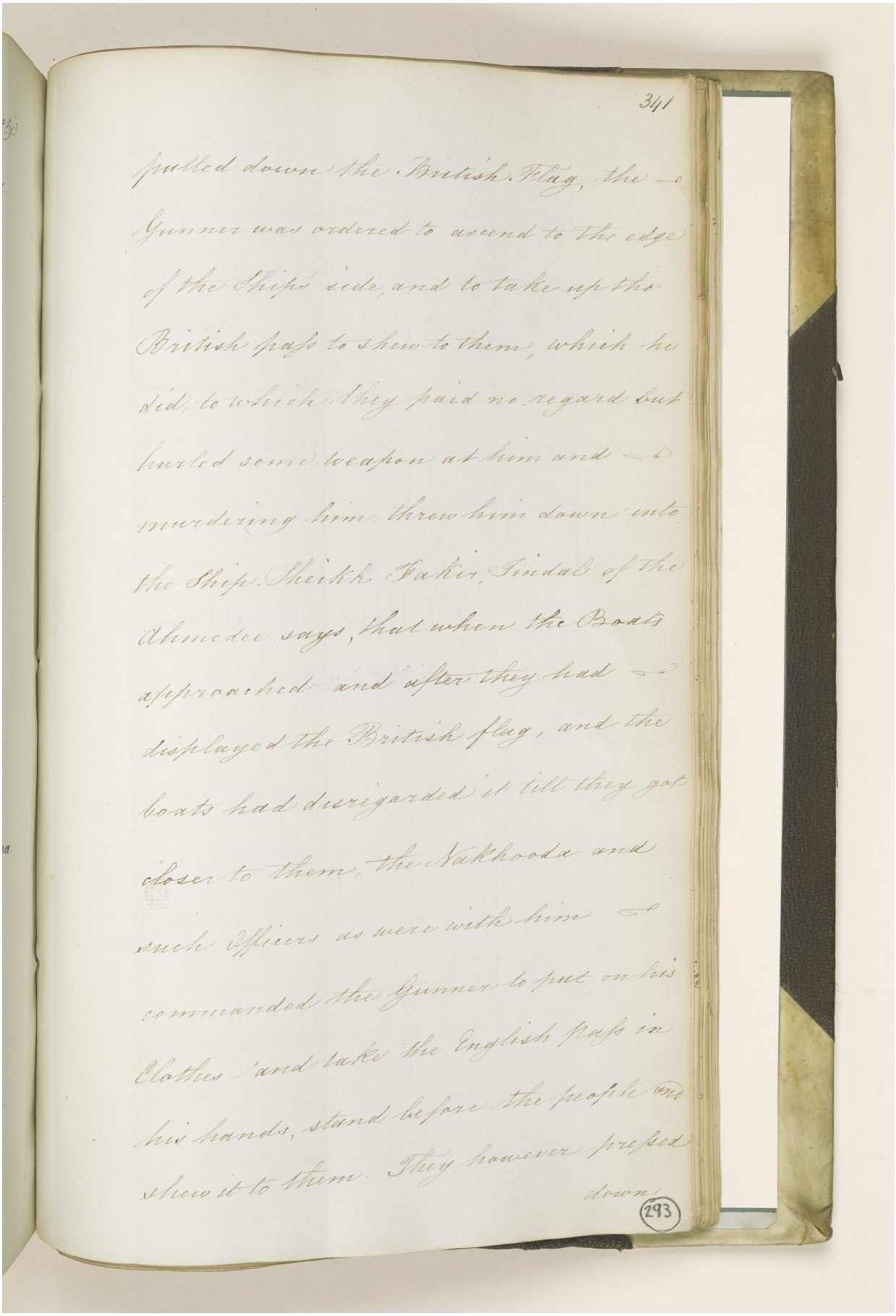

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pulled down the British Flag, the
Gunner was ordered to ascend to the edge
of the Ships side, and to take up the
British pass to shew to them, which he
did, to which they paid no regard but
hurled some weapon at him and
murdering him threw him down into
the Ship. Sheikh Yakir, Tindal of the
Ahmedee says, that when the Boats
approached and after they had
displayed the British flag, and the
boats had disregarded it till they got
closer to them, the Nakhooda and
such Officers as were with him
commanded the Gunner to put on his
Clothes and take the English pass in
his hands, stand before the people and
shew it to them. They however pressed
down

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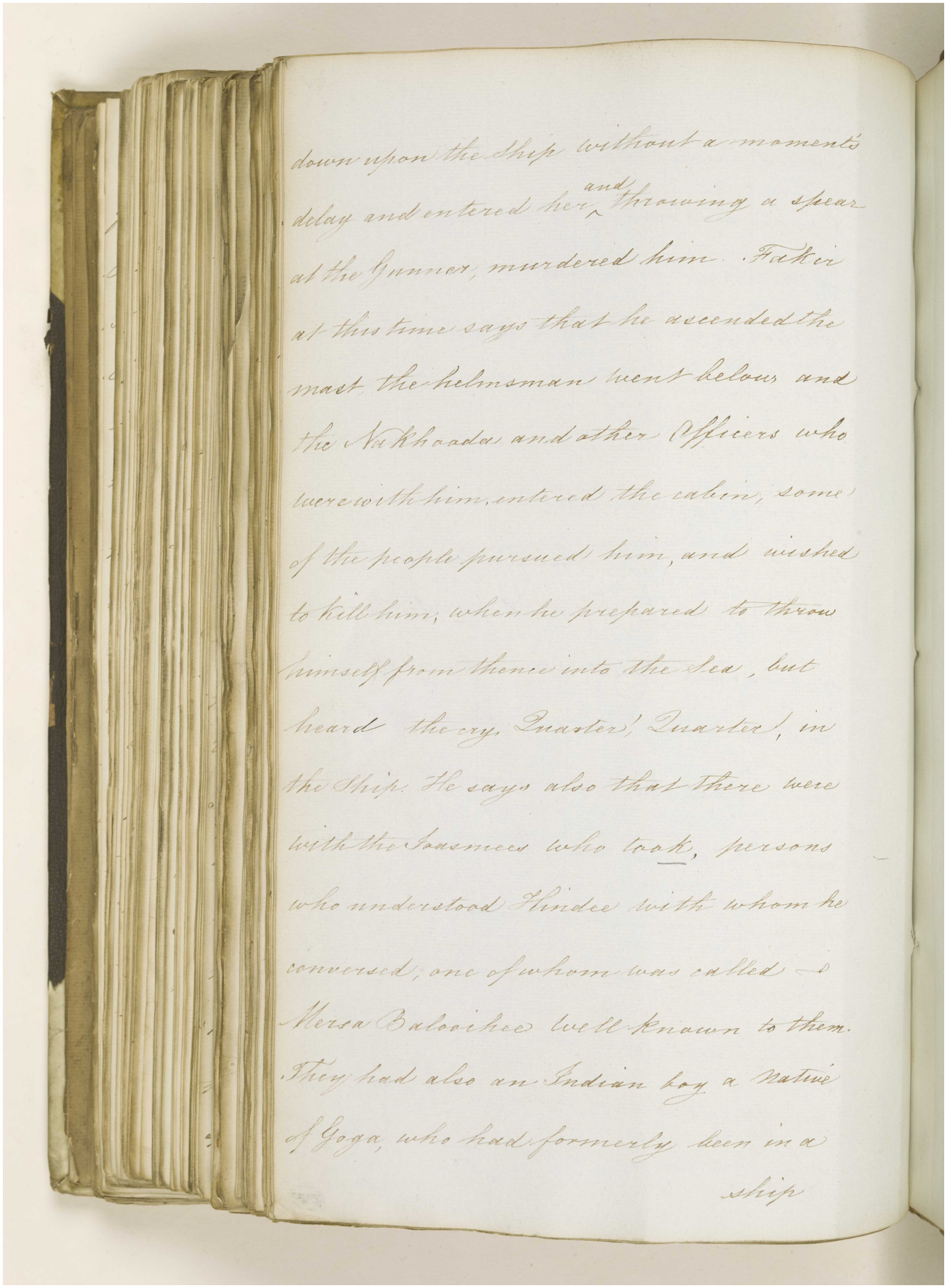
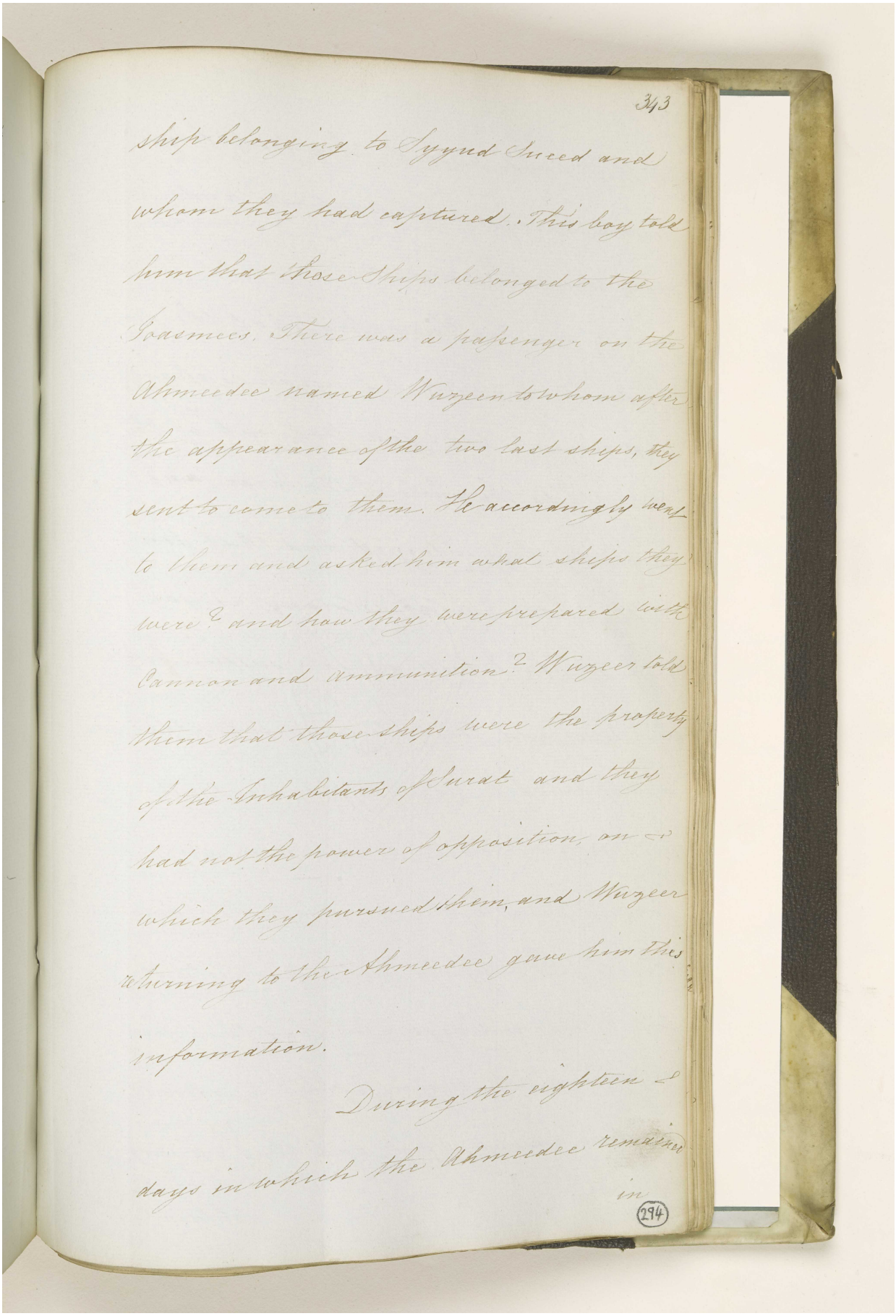


down upon the Ship without a moments
delay and entered her, and throwing a spear
at the Gunner, murdered him. Fakir
at this time says that he ascended the
mast the helmsman went below and
the Nakhoada and other Officers who
were with him, entered the cabin, some
of the people pursued him, and wished
to kill him, when he prepared to throw
himself from thence into the Sea, but
heard the cry, Quarter! Quarter!, in
the Ship. He says also that there were
with the Joasmees who took, persons
who understood Hindee with whom he
conversed, one of whom was called
Mersa Baloochee well known to them.
They had also an Indian boy a Native
of Goga, who had formerly been in a
ship



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ship belonging to Syyud Saeed and
whom they had captured. This boy told
him that those Ships belonged to the
Joasmees. There was a passenger on the
Ahmeedee named Wuzeen to whom after
the appearance of the two last ships, they
sent to come to them. He accordingly went
to them and asked him what ships they
were? and how they were prepared with
Cannon and ammunition? Wuzeer told
them that those ships were the property
of the Inhabitants of Surat and they
had not the power of opposition, on
which they pursued them, and Wuzeer
returning to the Ahmeedee gave him this
information.

During the eighteen
days in which the Ahmeedee remained
in

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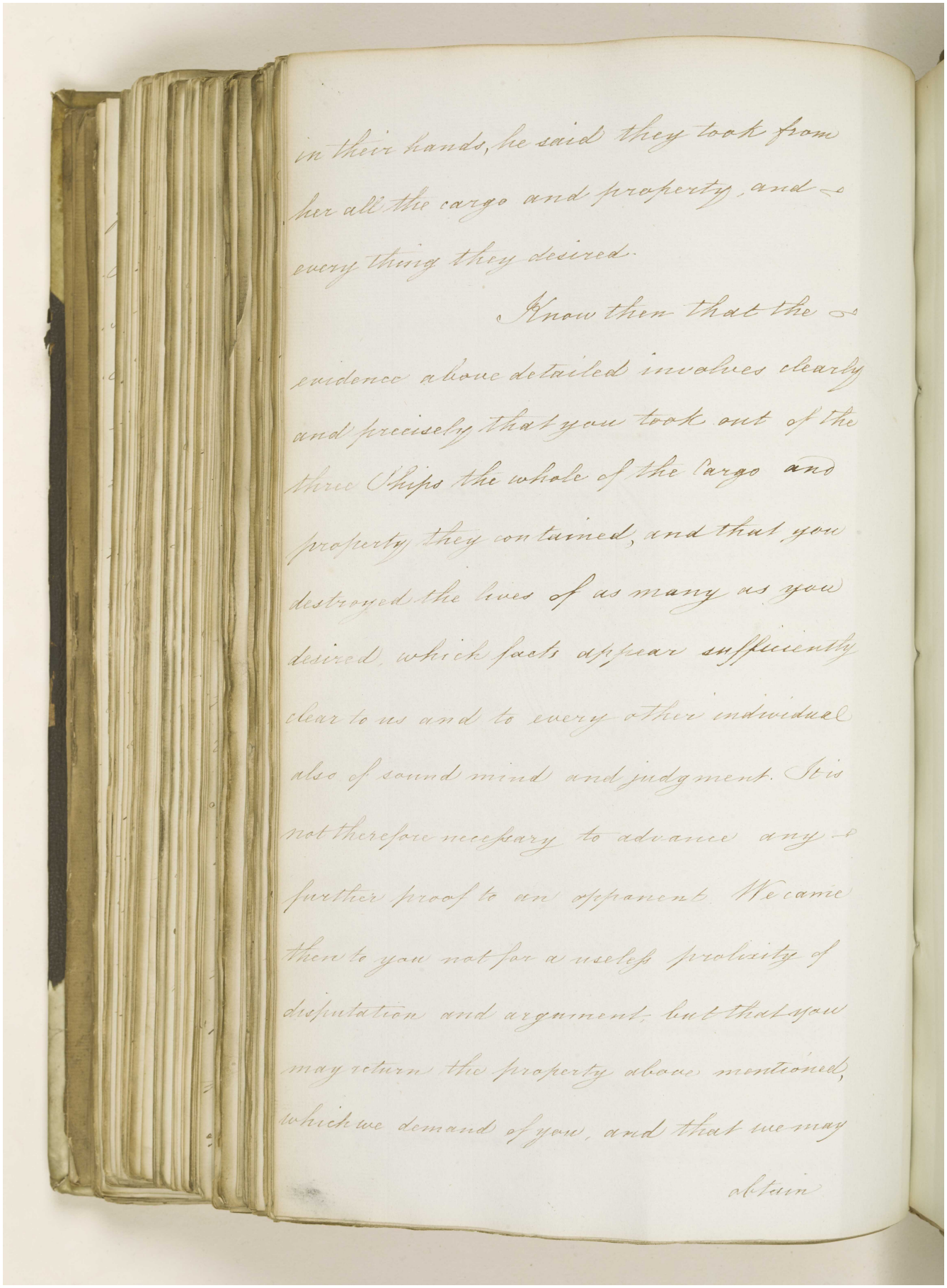

in their hands, he said they took from
her all the cargo and property, and
every thing they desired.

Know then that the
evidence above detailed invalues clearly
and precisely that you took out of the
three Ships the whole of the Cargo and
property they contained, and that you
destroyed the lives of as many as you
desired, which facts appear sufficiently
clear to us and to every other individual
also of sound mind and judgment. It is
not therefore necessary to advance any
further proof to an opponent. We came
then to you not for a useless prolixity of
disputation and argument, but that you
may return the property above mentioned,
which we demand of you, and that we may

obtain

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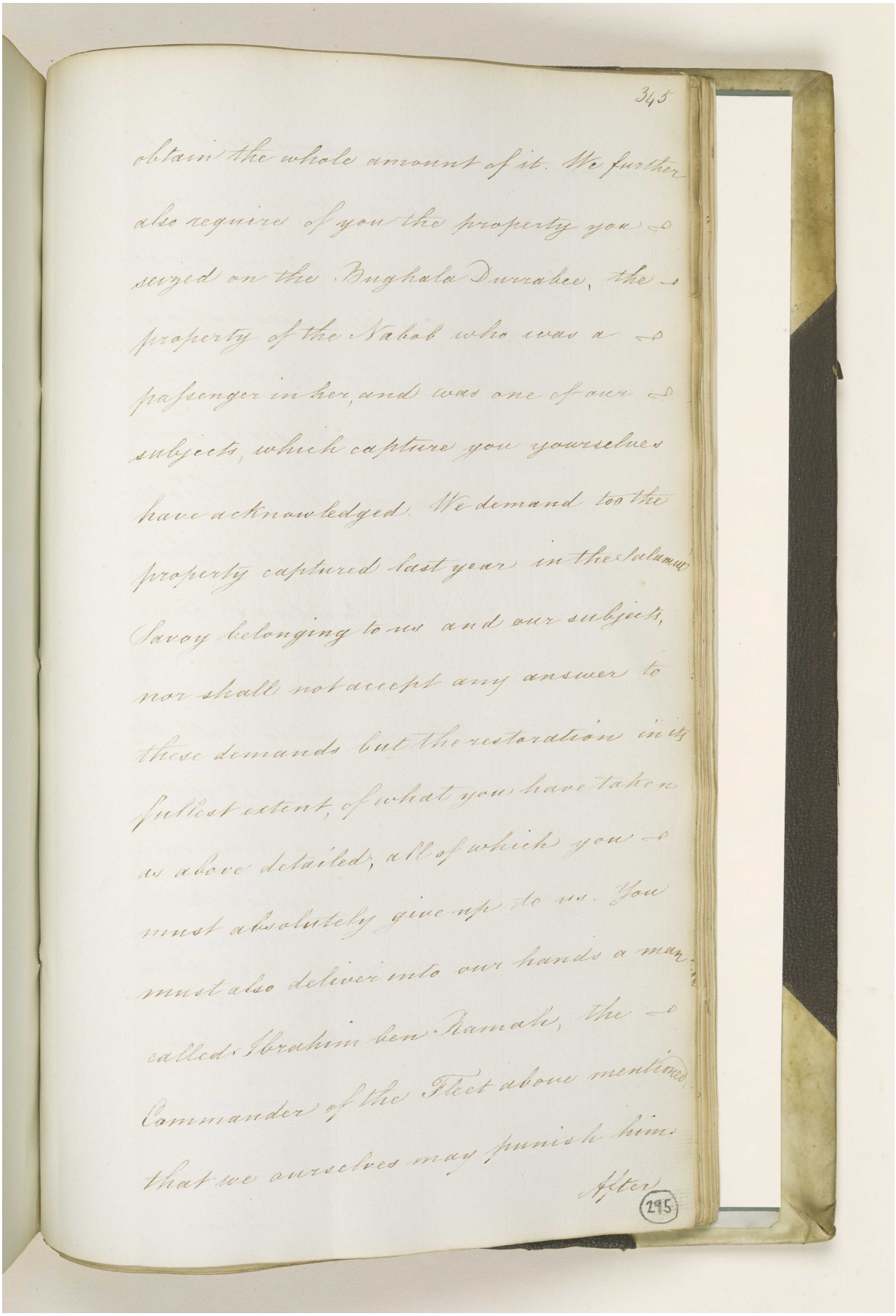

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obtain the whole amount of it. We further also require of you the property you seized on the Bughala Durrahee, the property of the Nabab who was a passenger in her, and was one of our subjects, which capture you yourselves have acknowledged. We demand for the property captured last year in the Salamy Savoy belonging to us and our subjects, nor shall not accept any answer to these demands but the restoration in its fullest extent, of what you have taken as above detailed; all of which you must absolutely give up to us. You must also deliver into our hands a man called Ibrahim ben Ramah, the Commander of the Fleet above mentioned, that we ourselves may punish him.

After

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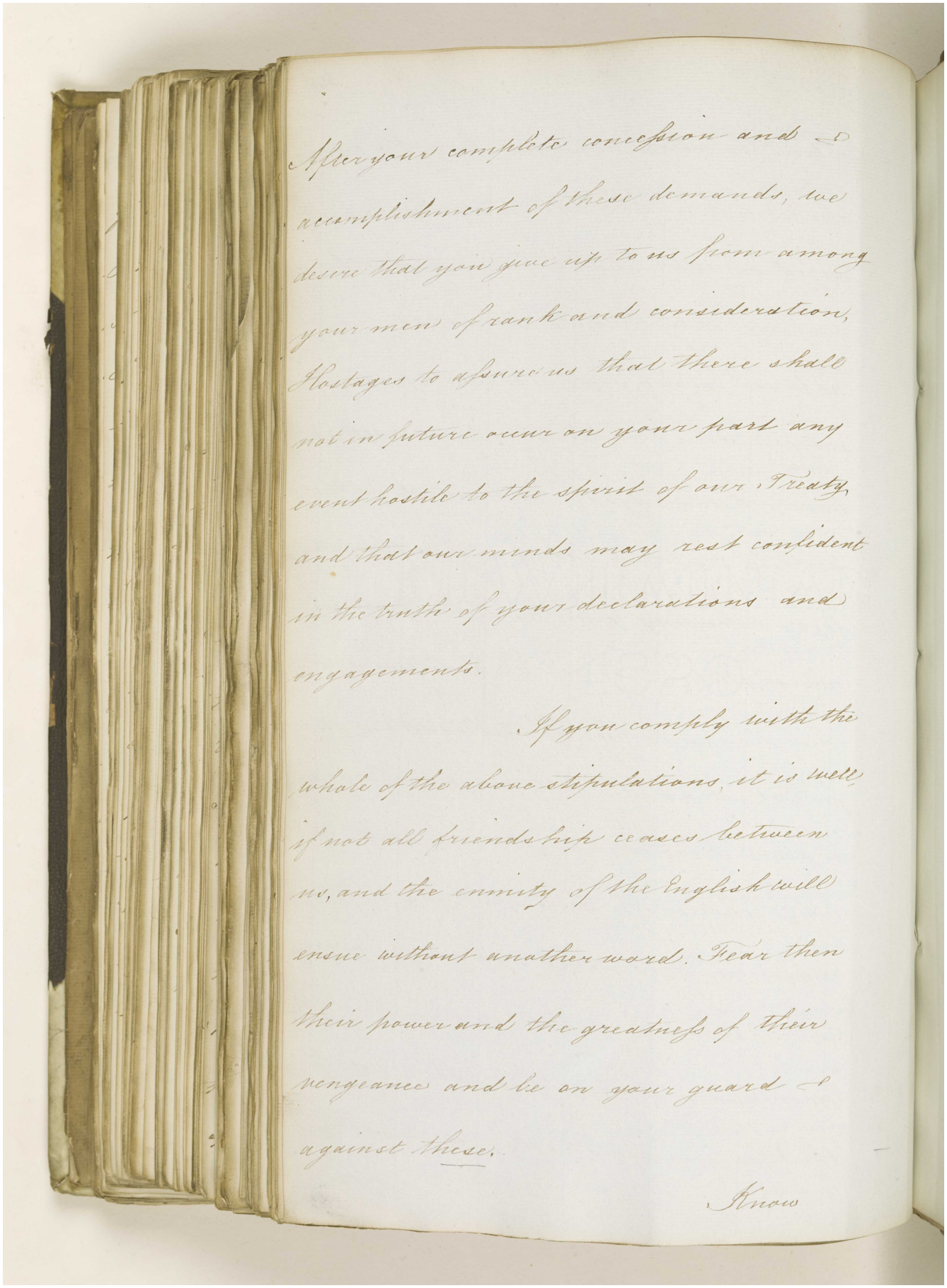

After your complete conception and accomplishment of these demands, we desire that you give up to us from among your men of rank and consideration, Hostages to assure us that there shall not in future occur on your part any event hostile to the spirit of our Treaty, and that our minds may rest confident in the truth of your declarations and engagements.

If you comply with the whole of the above stipulations, it is well, if not all friendship ceases between us, and the enmity of the English will ensue without another word. Fear then their power and the greatness of their vengeance and be on your guard against these.

Know

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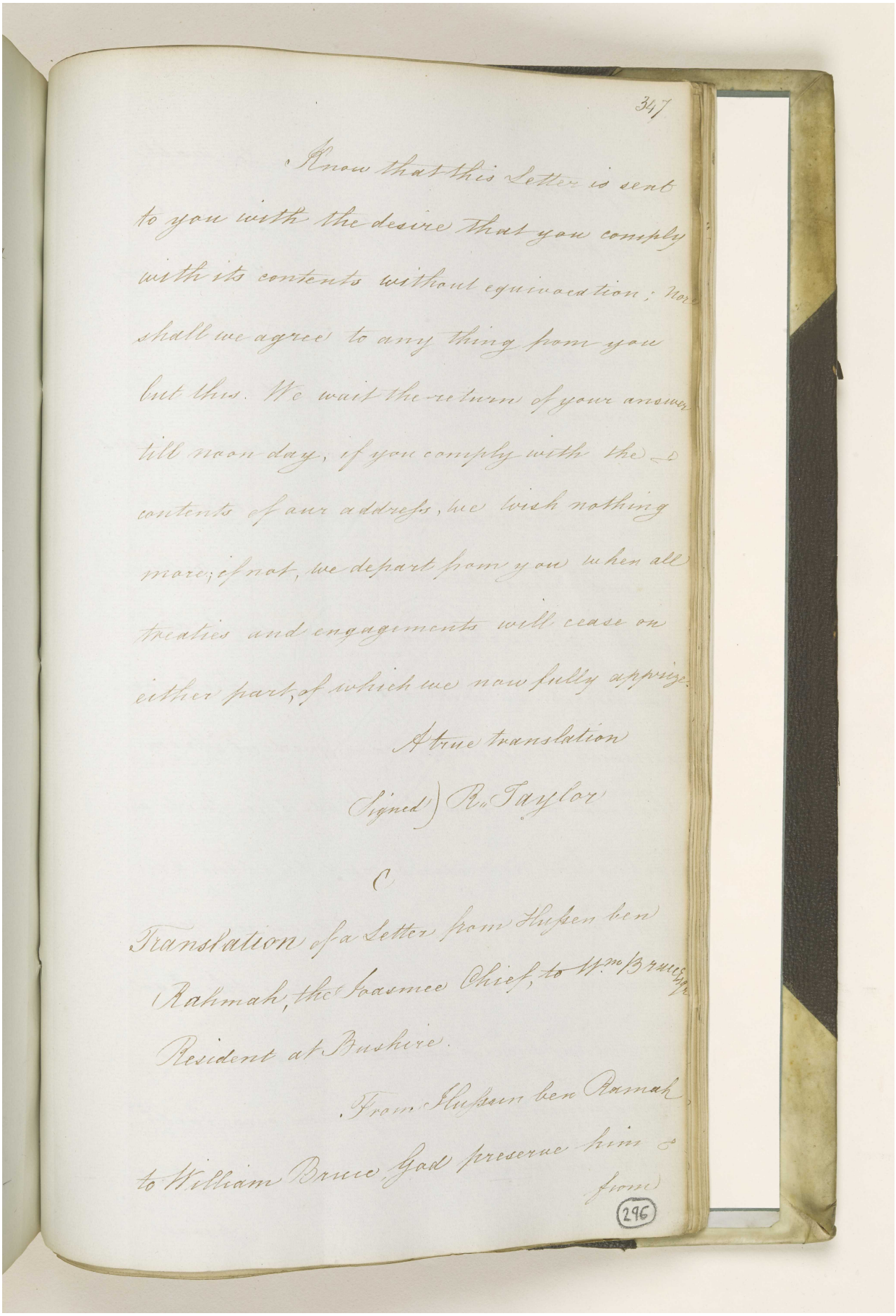

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Know that this Letter is sent to you with the desire that you comply with its contents without equivocation; Nor shall we agree to any thing from you but this. We wait the return of your answer till noon day, if you comply with the contents of our address, we wish nothing more; if not, we depart from you when all treaties and engagements will cease on either part, of which we now fully apprize.

A true translation

Signed) R. Taylor

C

Translation of a Letter from Hujeen ben Rahmah, the Joasmee Chief, to Wm. Bruce Esq. Resident at Bushire.

From Hujeen ben Ramah,

to William Bruce God preserve him &

from

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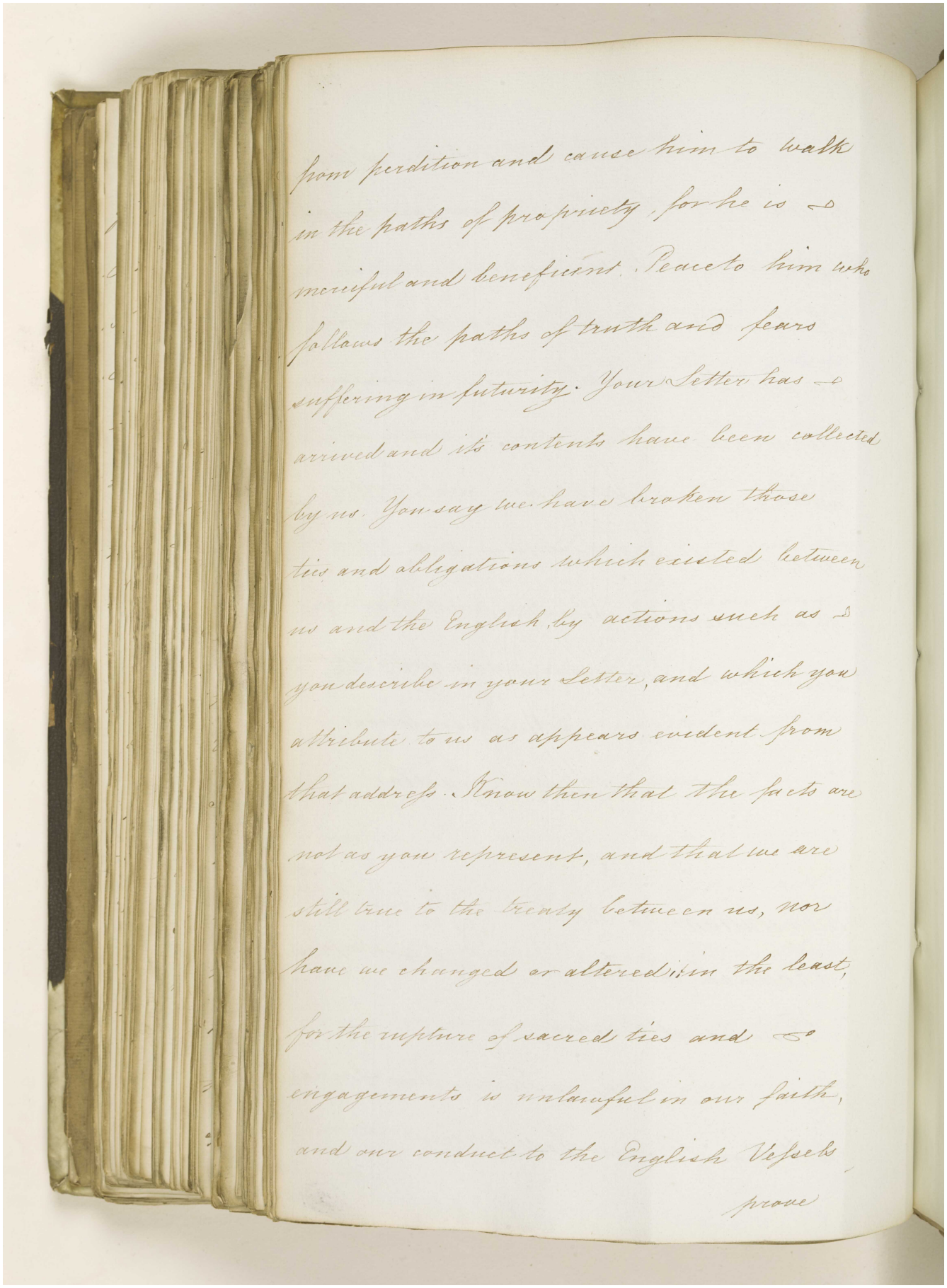
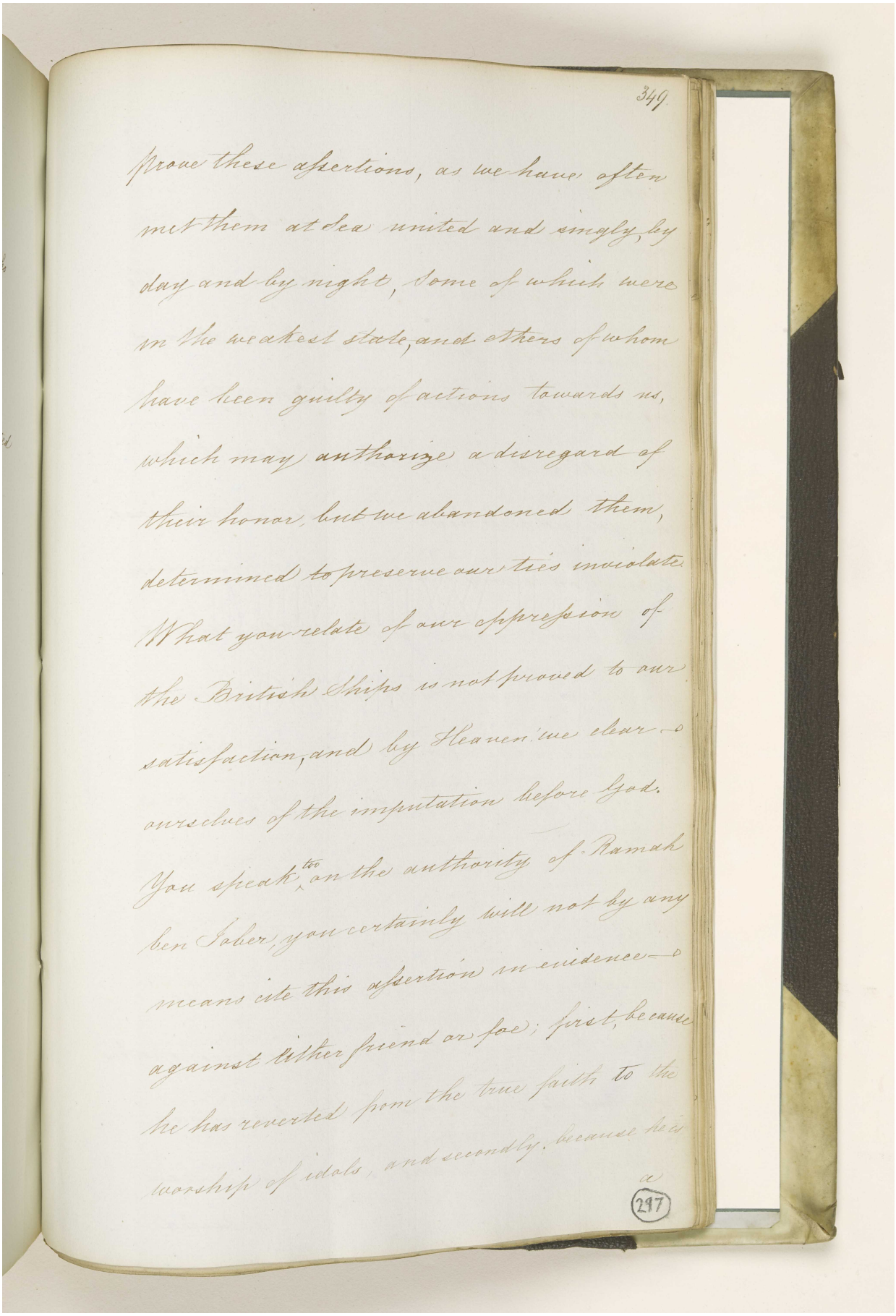


from perdition and cause him to walk
in the paths of propriety, for he is
merciful and beneficent. Peace to him who
follows the paths of truth and fears
suffering in futurity. Your Letter has
arrived and its contents have been collected
by us. You say we have broken those
ties and obligations which existed between
us and the English by actions such as
you describe in your Letter, and which you
attribute to us as appears evident from
that address. Know then that the facts are
not as you represent, and that we are
still true to the treaty between us, nor
have we changed or altered it in the least,
for the rupture of sacred ties and
engagements is unlawful in our faith,
and our conduct to the English Vessels
prove



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prove these assertions, as we have often
met them at sea united and singly, by
day and by night, some of which were
in the weakest state, and others of whom
have been guilty of actions towards us,
which may authorize a disregard of
their honar, but we abandoned them,
determined to preserve our ties inviolate
What you relate of our oppression of
the British Ships is not proved to our
satisfaction, and by Heaven we clear —
ourselves of the imputation before God.
You speak, too, on the authority of Ramah
ben Saber, you certainly will not by any
means cite this assertion in evidence —
against either friend or foe; first, because
he has reverted from the true faith to the
worship of idols, and secondly, because his

a

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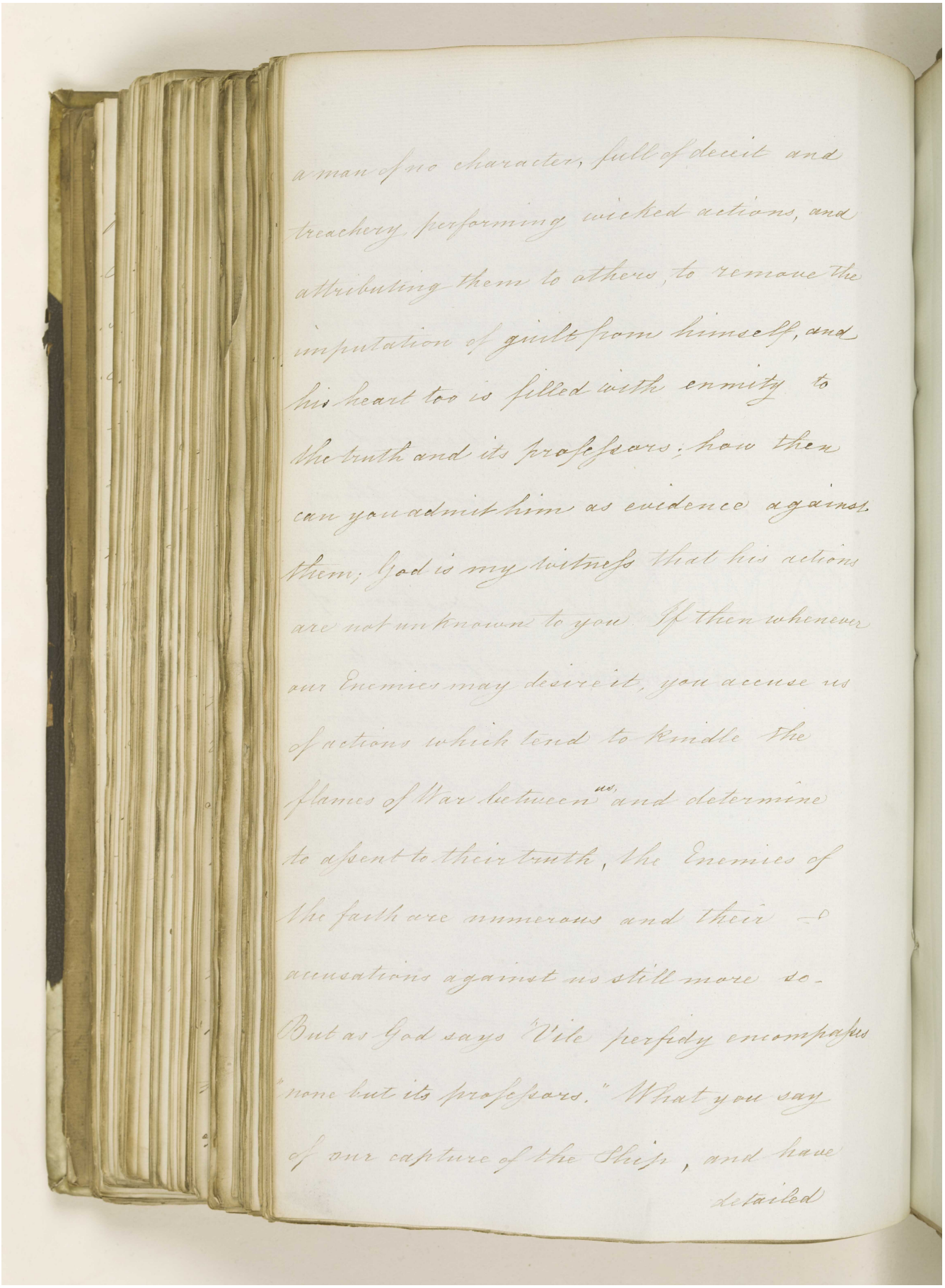
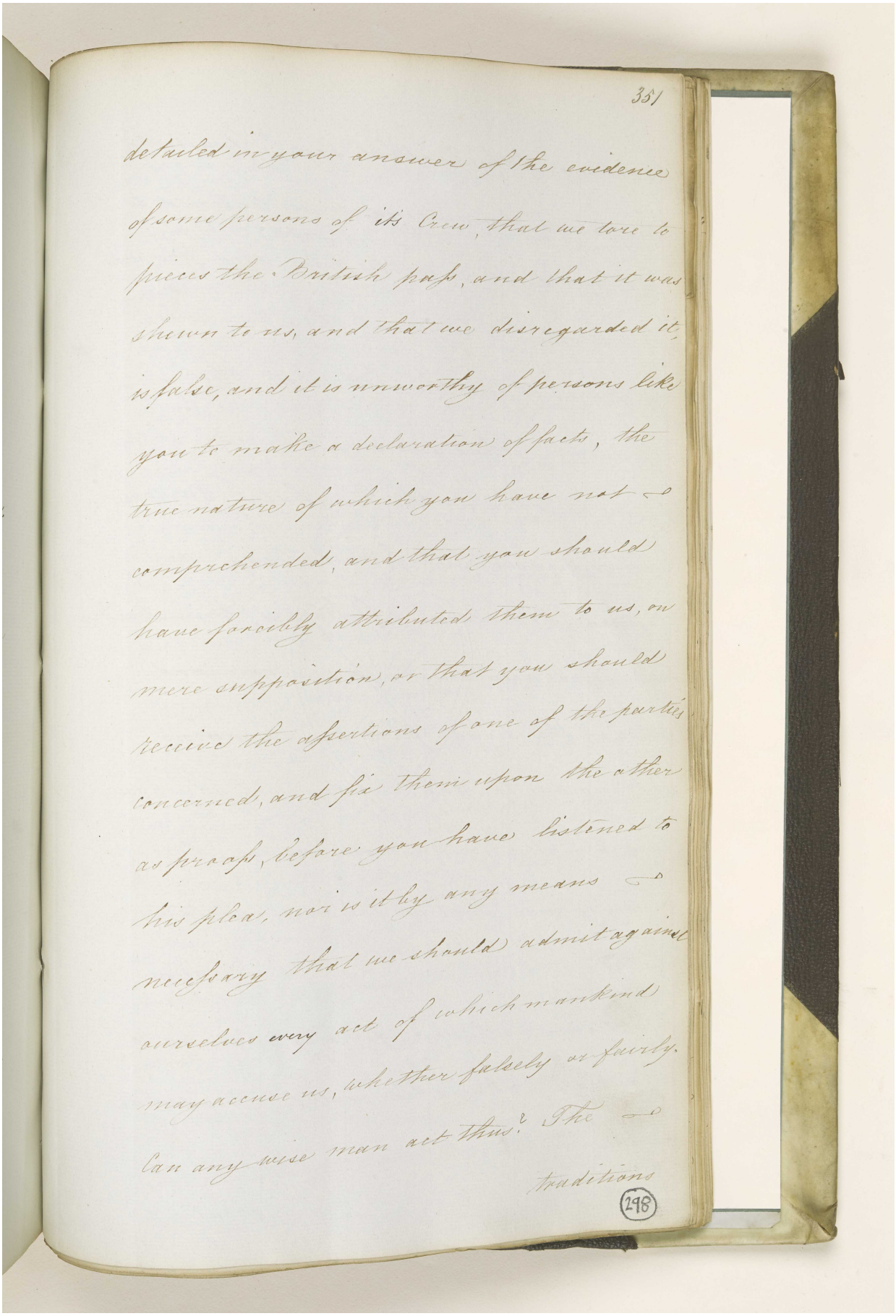


a man of no character, full of deceit and treachery performing wicked actions, and attributing them to others, to remove the imputation of guilt from himself, and his heart too is filled with enmity to the truth and its professors; how then can you admit him as evidence against them; God is my witness that his actions are not unknown to you If then whenever our Enemies may desire it, you accuse us of actions which tend to Kindle the flames of War between us, and determine to assent to their truth, the Enemies of the faith are numerous and their accusations against us still more so. But as God says "Vile perfidy encompasses none but its professors." What you say of our capture of the Ships, and have detailed



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detailed in your answer of the evidence
of some persons of its Crew, that we tore to
pieces the British flags, and that it was
shewn to us, and that we disregarded it,
is false, and it is unworthy of persons like
you to make a declaration of facts, the
true nature of which you have not
comprehended, and that you should
have forcibly attributed them to us, on
mere supposition, or that you should
receive the assertions of one of the parties
concerned, and fix them upon the other
as proofs, before you have listened to
his pleas, nor is it by any means
necessary that we should admit against
ourselves every act of which mankind
may accuse us, whether falsely or fairly.
Can any wise man act thus? The
traditions

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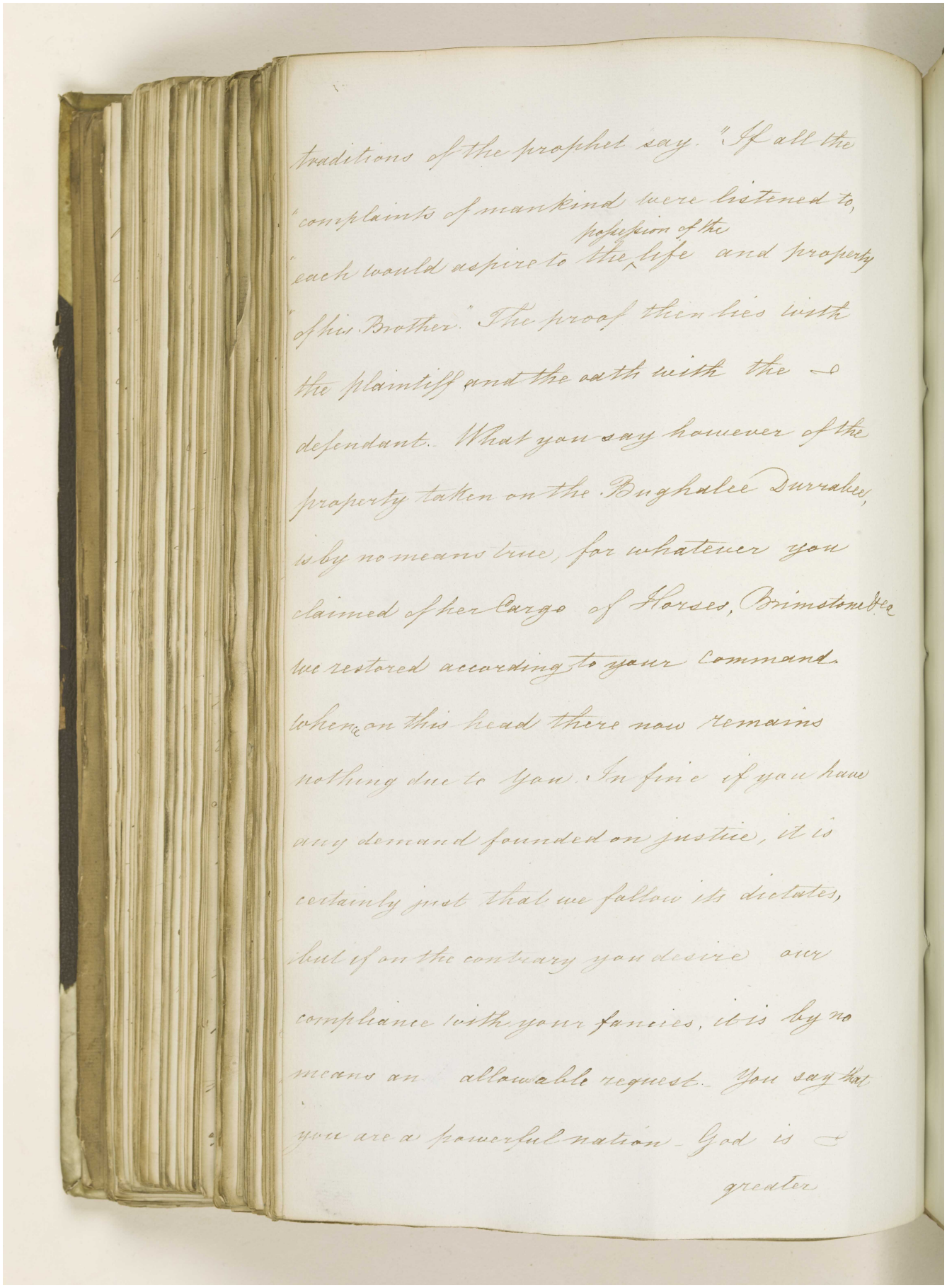

traditions of the prophet say. "If all the
complaints of mankind were listened to,
each would aspire to the possession of the
life and property
of his Brother." The proof therefore lies with
the plaintiff and the oath with the
defendant. What you say however of the
property taken on the Bughalee Durraha,
is by no means true, for whatever you
claimed of her Cargo of Horses, Bimstondee
we restored according to your command.
whereon this head there now remains
nothing due to you. In fine if you have
any demand founded on justice, it is
certainly just that we follow its dictates,
but if on the contrary you desire our
compliance with your fancies, it is by no
means an allowable request. You say that
you are a powerful nation. God is
greater

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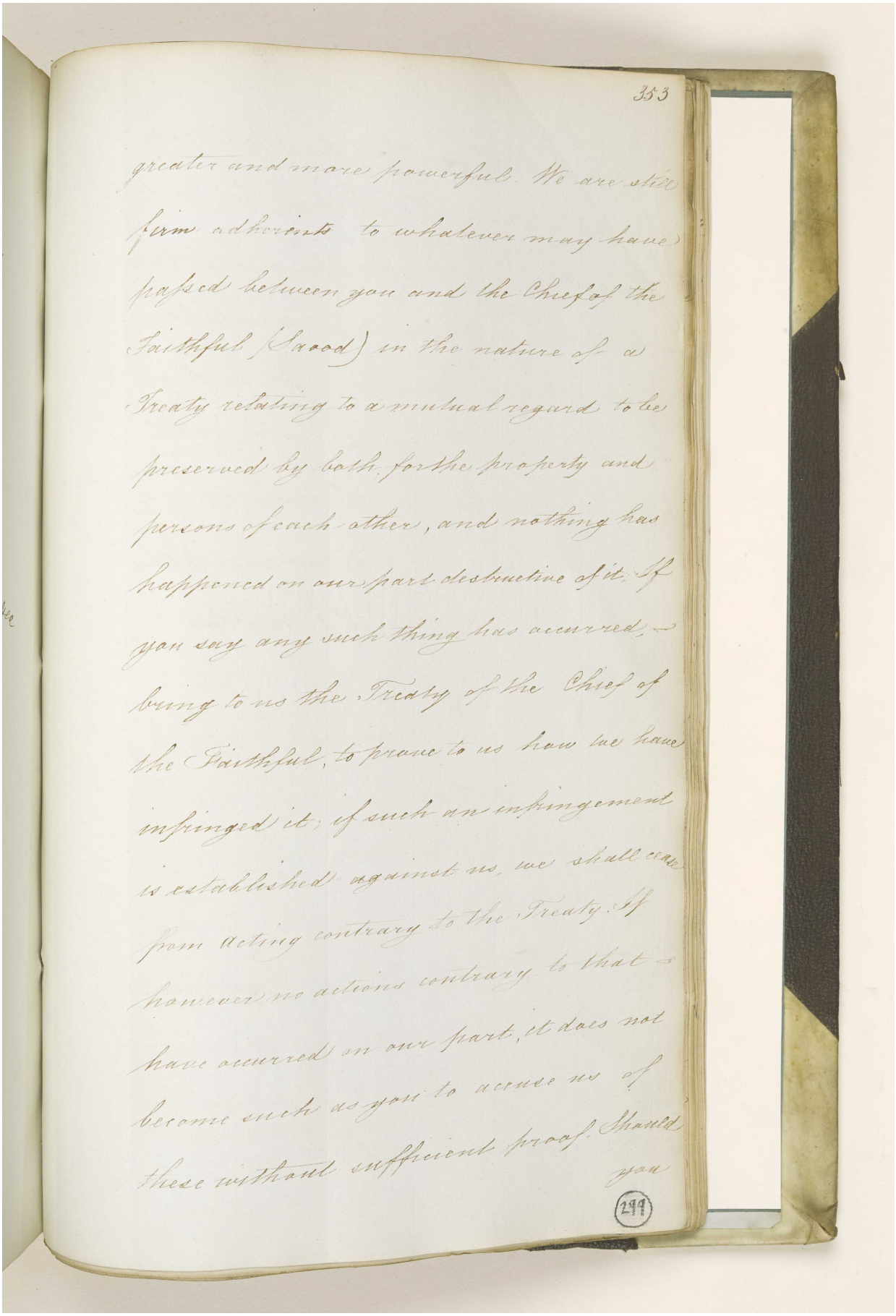

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greater and more powerful. We are still
firm adherents to whatever may have
passed between you and the Chief of the
Faithful (Saood) in the nature of a
Treaty relating to a mutual regard to be
preserved by both for the property and
persons of each other, and nothing has
happened on our part destructive of it. If
you say any such thing has occurred, —
bring to us the Treaty of the Chief of
the Faithful, to prove to us how we have
infringed it; if such an infringement
is established against us, we shall cease
from acting contrary to the Treaty. If
however no actions contrary to that —
have occurred on our part, it does not
become such as you to accuse us of
these without sufficient proof. Should
you

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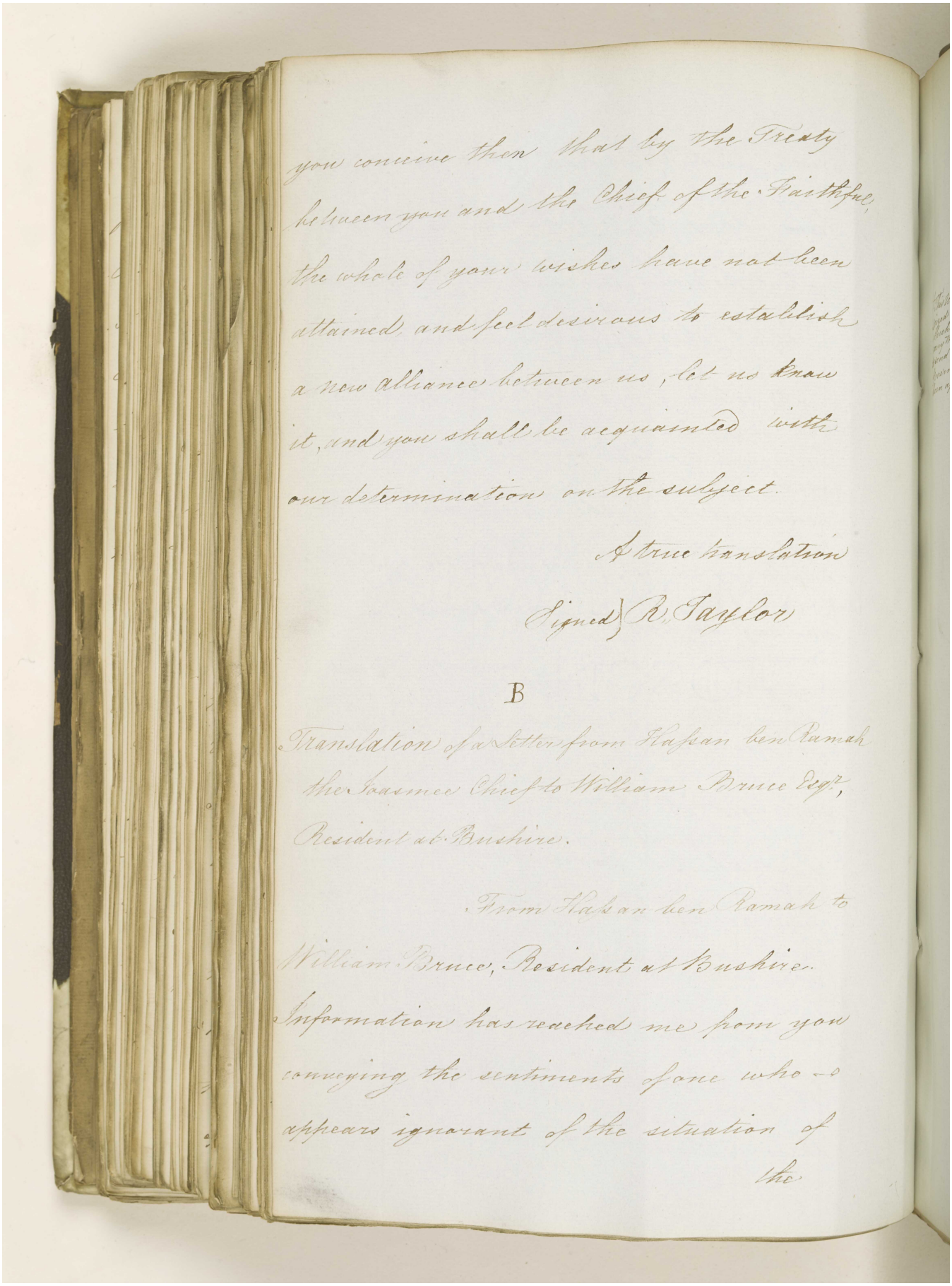


you conceive then that by the Treaty
between you and the Chief of the Faithful
the whole of your wishes have not been
attained, and feel desirous to establish
a new alliance between us, let us know
it, and you shall be acquainted with
our determination on the subject.

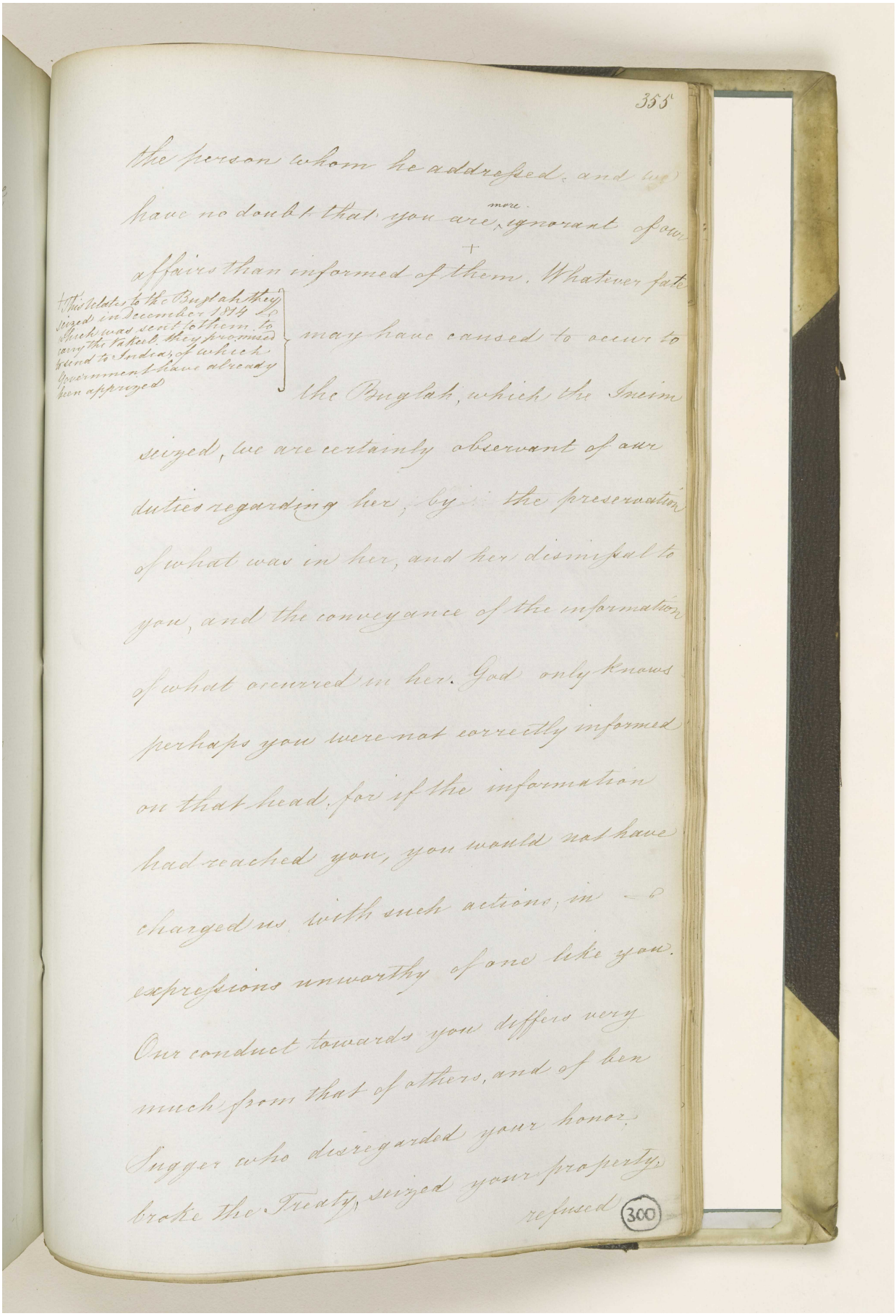
A true translation
Signed) R. Taylor

B

Translation of a Letter from Hajsan ben Ramah
the Joasmee Chief to William Bruce Esqr.
Resident at Bushire.

From Hajsan ben Ramah to
William Bruce, Resident at Bushire.

Information has reached me from you
conveying the sentiments of one who
appears ignorant of the situation of
the



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the person whom he addressed, and we
have no doubt that you are more ignorant of our
affairs than informed of them. Whatever fate
+ This relates to the Buglah they seized in December 1814 & which was sent to them to carry the Vakeel they promised to send to India, of which Government have already been apprized
may have caused to occur to
the Buglah, which the Imeim
seized, we are certainly observant of our
duties regarding her, by the preservation
of what was in her, and her dismissal to
you, and the conveyance of the information
of what occurred in her. God only knows
perhaps you were not correctly informed
on that head, for if the information
had reached you, you would not have
charged us with such actions, in
expressions unworthy of one like you.
Our conduct towards you differs very
much from that of others, and of him
Sugger who disregarded your honor,
broke the Treaty, seized your property,
refused

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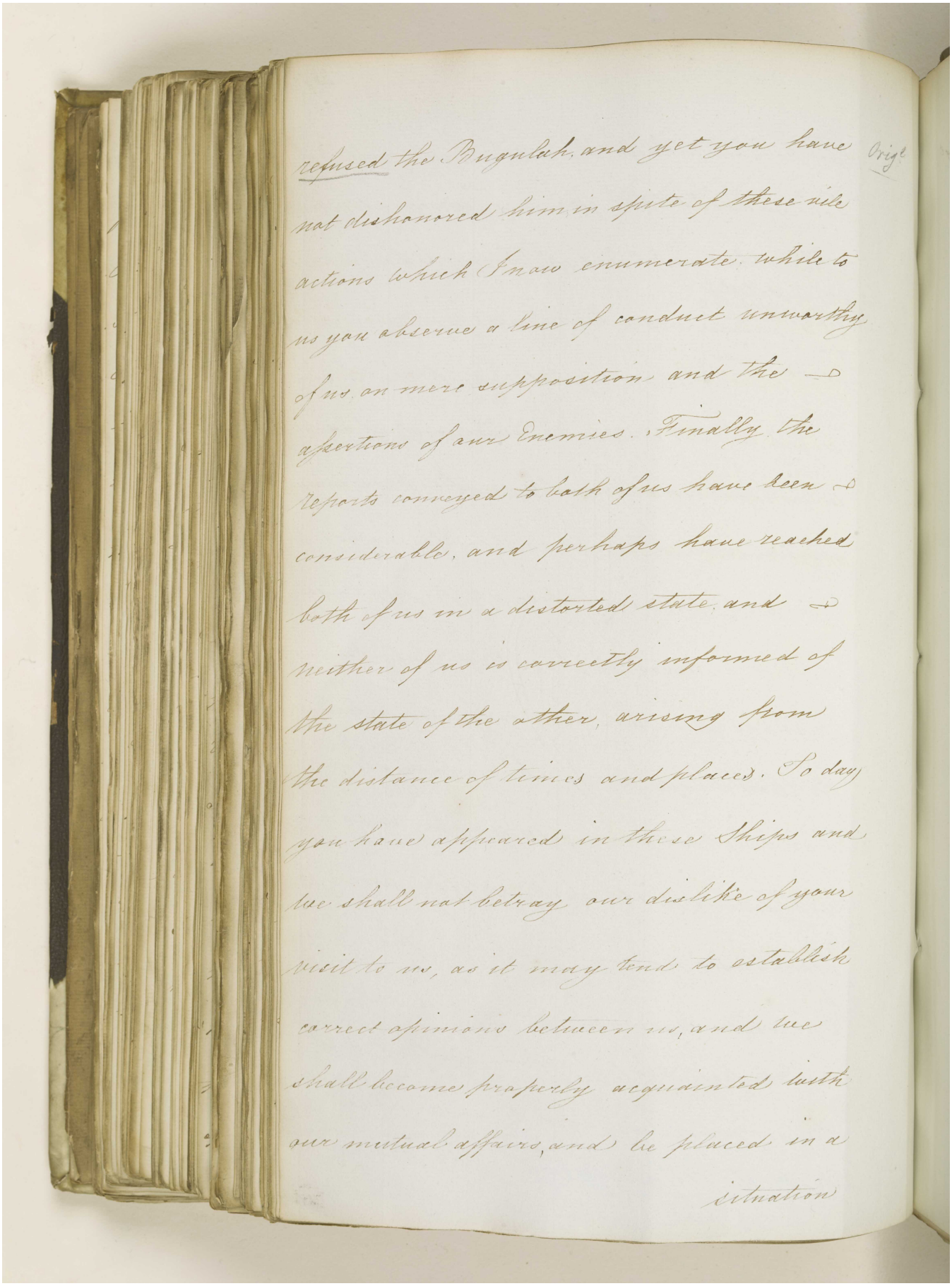
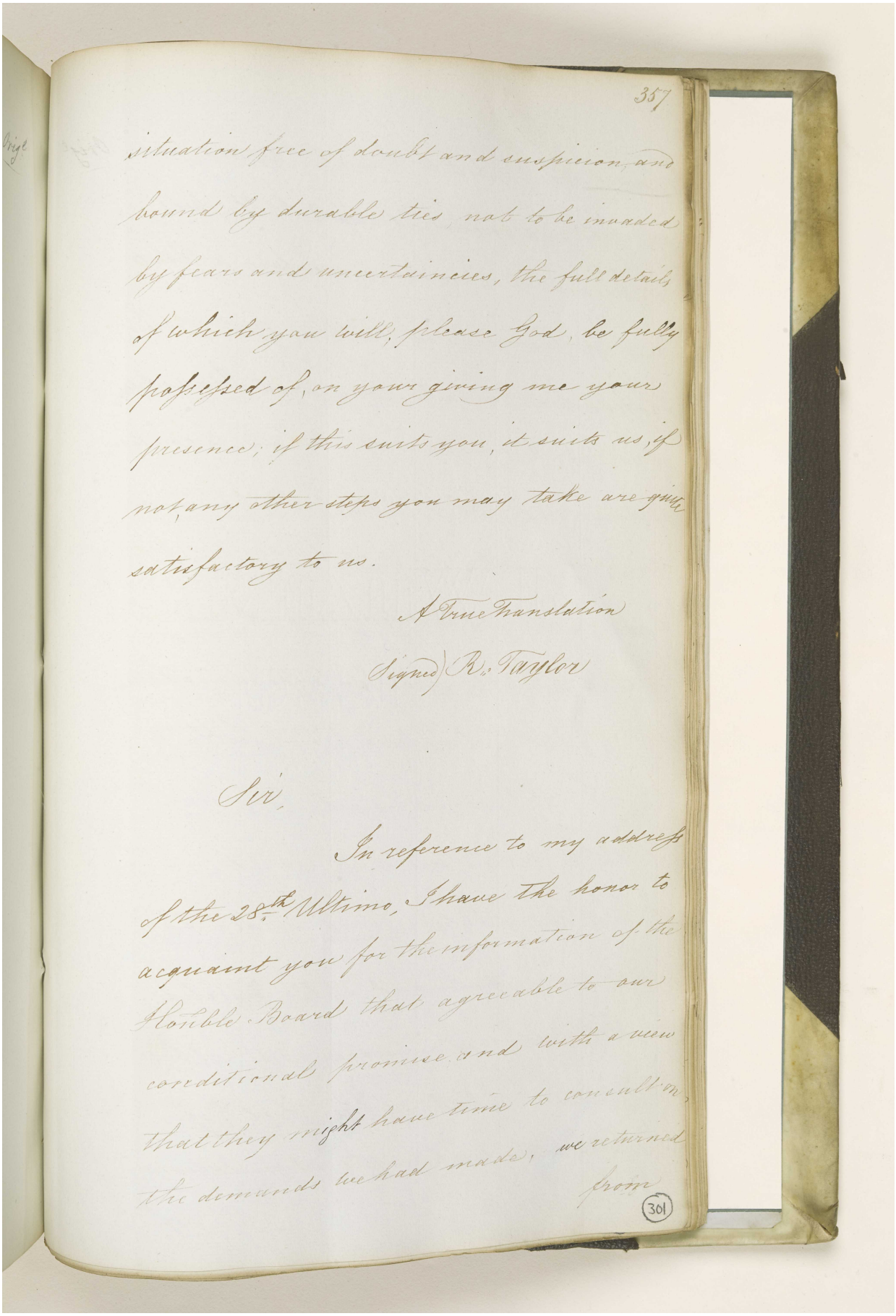


refused the Bugulah and yet you have Origl
not dishonored him in spite of these vile
actions which I now enumerate. while to
us you observe a line of conduct unworthy
of us on mere supposition and the —
assertions of our Enemies. Finally the
reports conveyed to both of us have been —
considerable, and perhaps have reached
both of us in a distorted state and —
neither of us is correctly informed of
the state of the other, arising from
the distance of times and places. So day
you have appeared in these Ships and
we shall not betray our dislike of your
visit to us, as it may tend to establish
correct opinions between us, and we
shall become properly acquainted with
our mutual affairs, and be placed in a
situation



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situation free of doubt and suspicion, and
bound by durable ties, not to be invaded
by fears and uncertainties, the full details
of which you will, please God, be fully
possessed of, on your giving me your
presence; if this suits you, it suits us, if
not, any other steps you may take are give
satisfactory to us.

A True Translation
Signed) R. Taylor

Sir,

In reference to my address
of the 28th Ultimo, I have the honor to
acquaint you for the information of the
Honble Board that agreeable to our
conditional promise and with a view
that they might have time to consult on
the demands we had made, we returned
from

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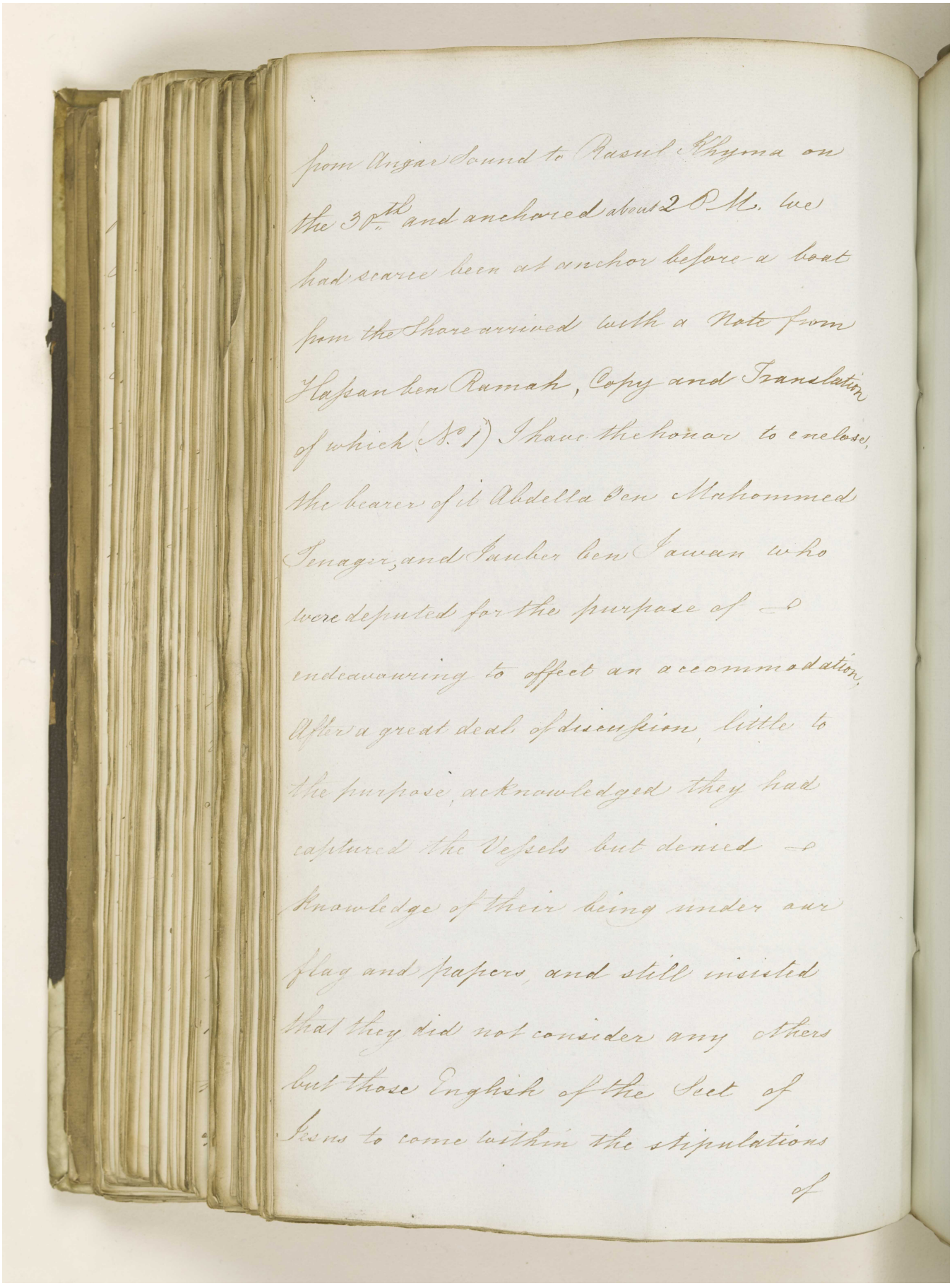

from Angar Sound to Rasul Khyma on
the 30th and anchored about 2 P.M. we
had scarce been at anchor before a boat
from the Shore arrived with a Note from
Hajan ben Ramah, Copy and Translation
of which (No. 1) I have the honor to enclose,
the bearer of it Abdella ben Mahommed
Senagar, and Sauber ben Sawan who
were deputed for the purpose of —
endeavouring to effect an accommodation,
After a great deal of discussion, little to
the purpose, acknowledged they had
captured the Vessels but denied —
knowledge of their being under our
flag and papers, and still insisted
that they did not consider any others
but those English of the Sect of
Jews to come within the stipulations
of

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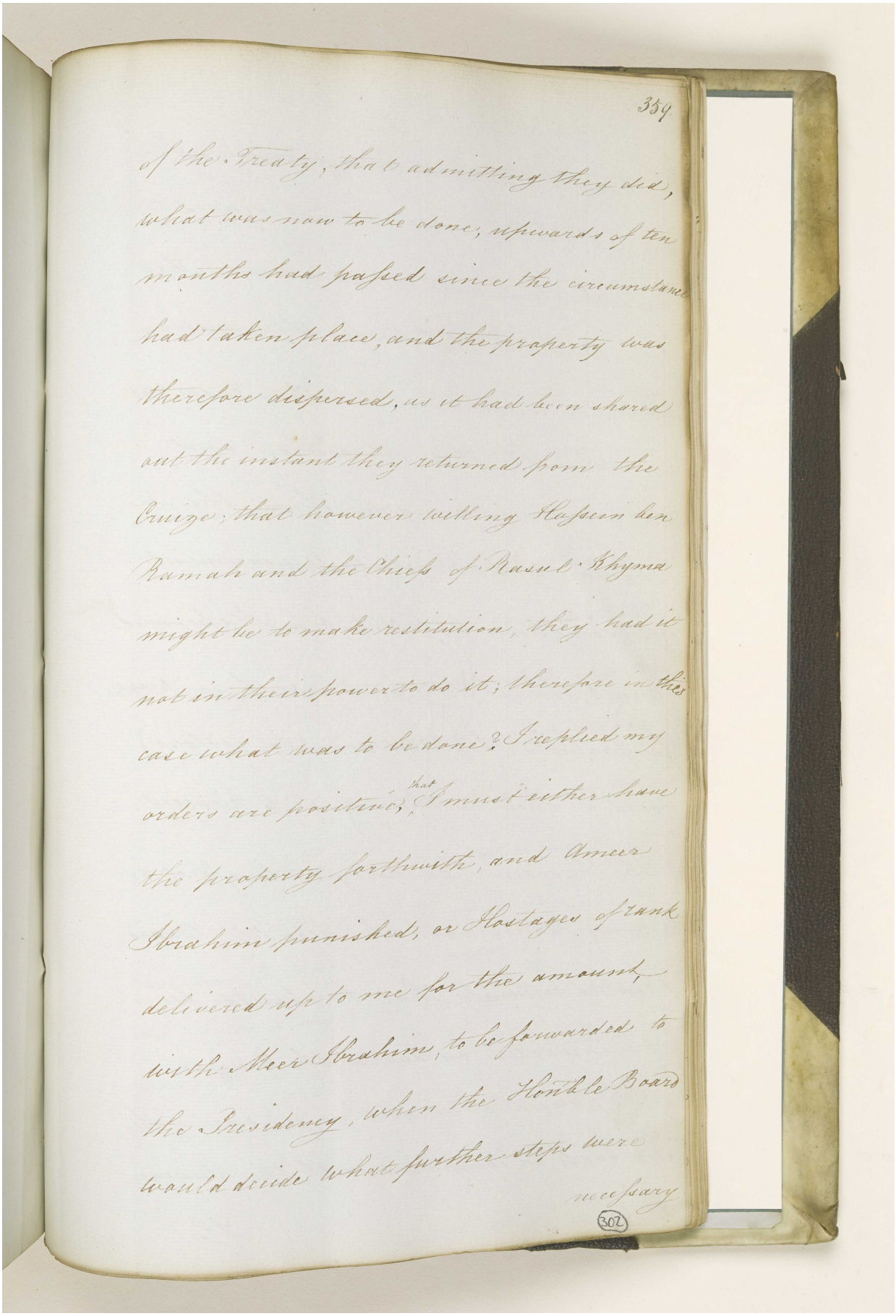

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of the Treaty, that admitting they did, what was now to be done, upwards of ten months had passed since the circumstance had taken place, and the property was therefore dispersed, as it had been shared out the instant they returned from the Cruize; that however willing Hajeem bin Ramah and the Chiefs of Rasul Khyma might be to make restitution, they had it not in their power to do it; therefore in this case what was to be done? I replied my orders are positive, that I must either have the property forthwith, and Ameer Ibrahim punished, or Hostages of rank delivered up to me for the amount, with Meer Ibrahim, to be forwarded to the Presidency, when the Honble Board would decide what further steps were necessary

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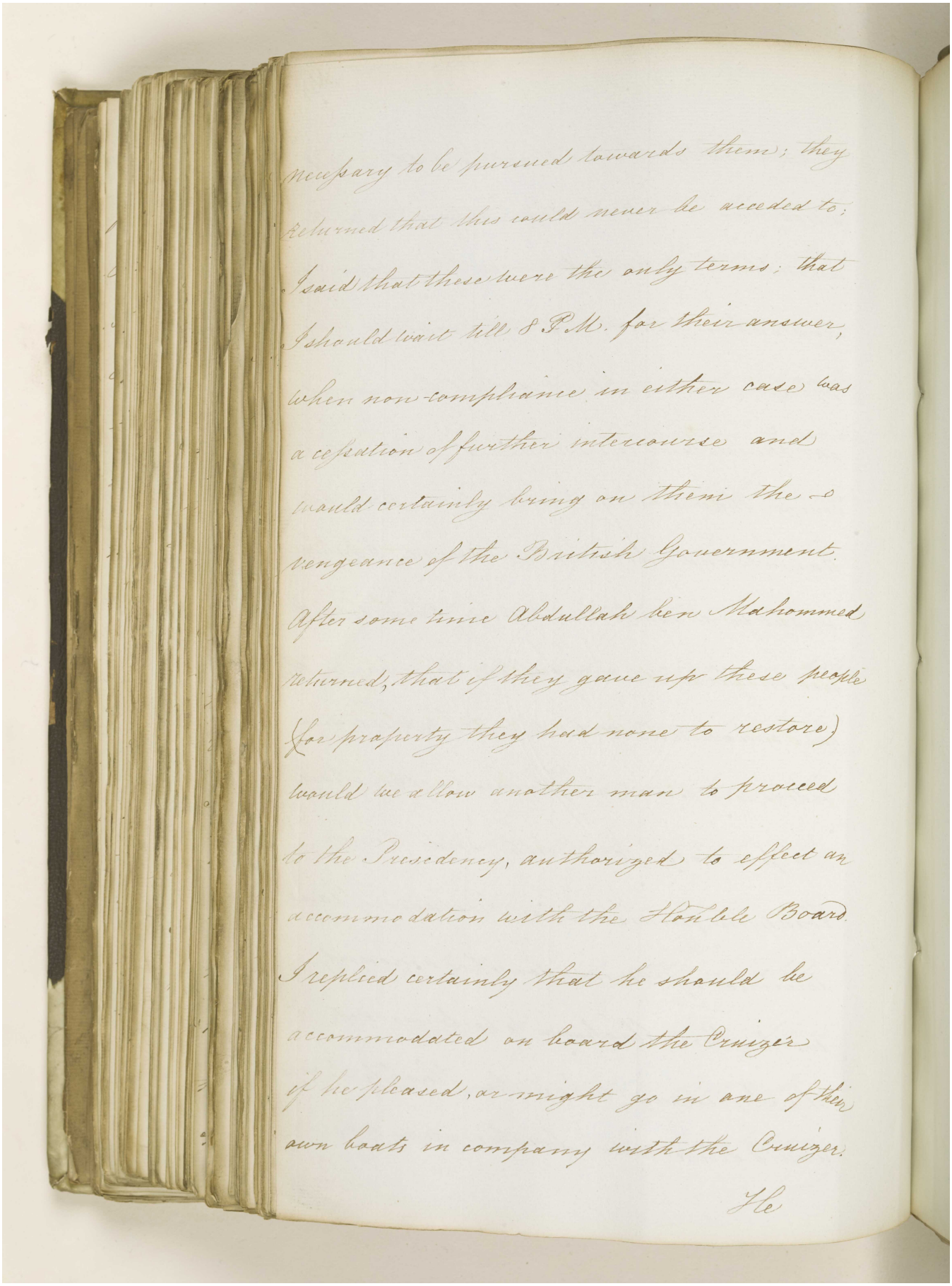
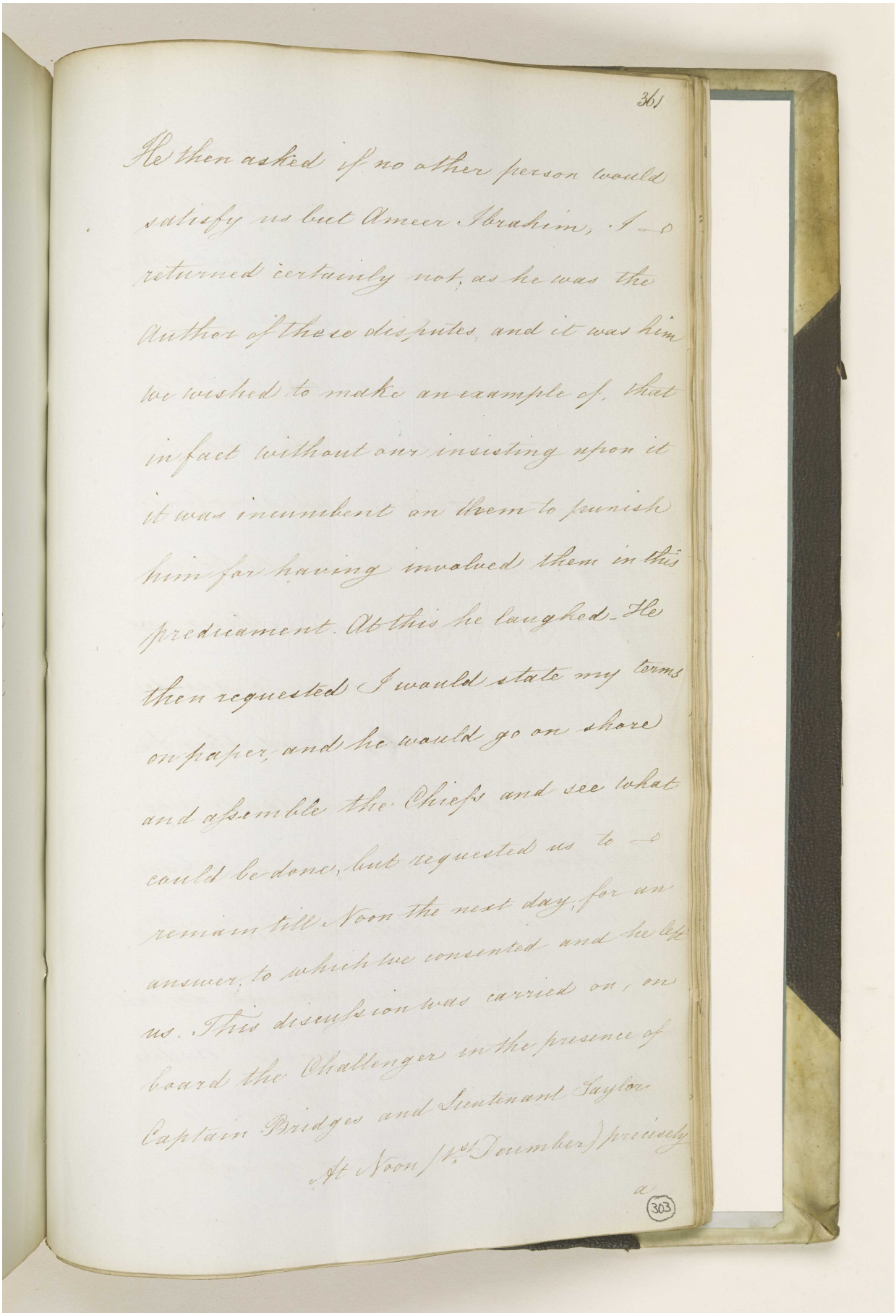


necessary to be pursued towards them; they returned that this could never be acceded to; I said that these were the only terms: that I should wait till 8 P.M. for their answer, when non-compliance in either case was a cessation of further intercourse and would certainly bring on them the vengeance of the British Government. After some time Abdullah ben Mahommed returned, that if they gave up these people (for property they had none to restore) would we allow another man to proceed to the Presidency, authorized to effect an accommodation with the Honble Board. I replied certainly that he should be accommodated on board the Cruizer if he pleased, or might go in one of their own boats in company with the Cruizer.

He



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He then asked if no other person would satisfy us but Ameer Ibrahim, I — returned certainly not, as he was the Author of these disputes, and it was him we wished to make an example of, that in fact without our insisting upon it it was incumbent on them to punish him for having involved them in this predicament. At this he laughed. He then requested I would state my terms on paper, and he would go on shore and assemble the Chiefs and see what could be done, but requested us to — remain till Noon the next day for an answer, to which we consented and he left us. This discussion was carried on, on board the Challenger in the presence of Captain Bridges and Lieutenant Taylor

At Noon 14th December) previously

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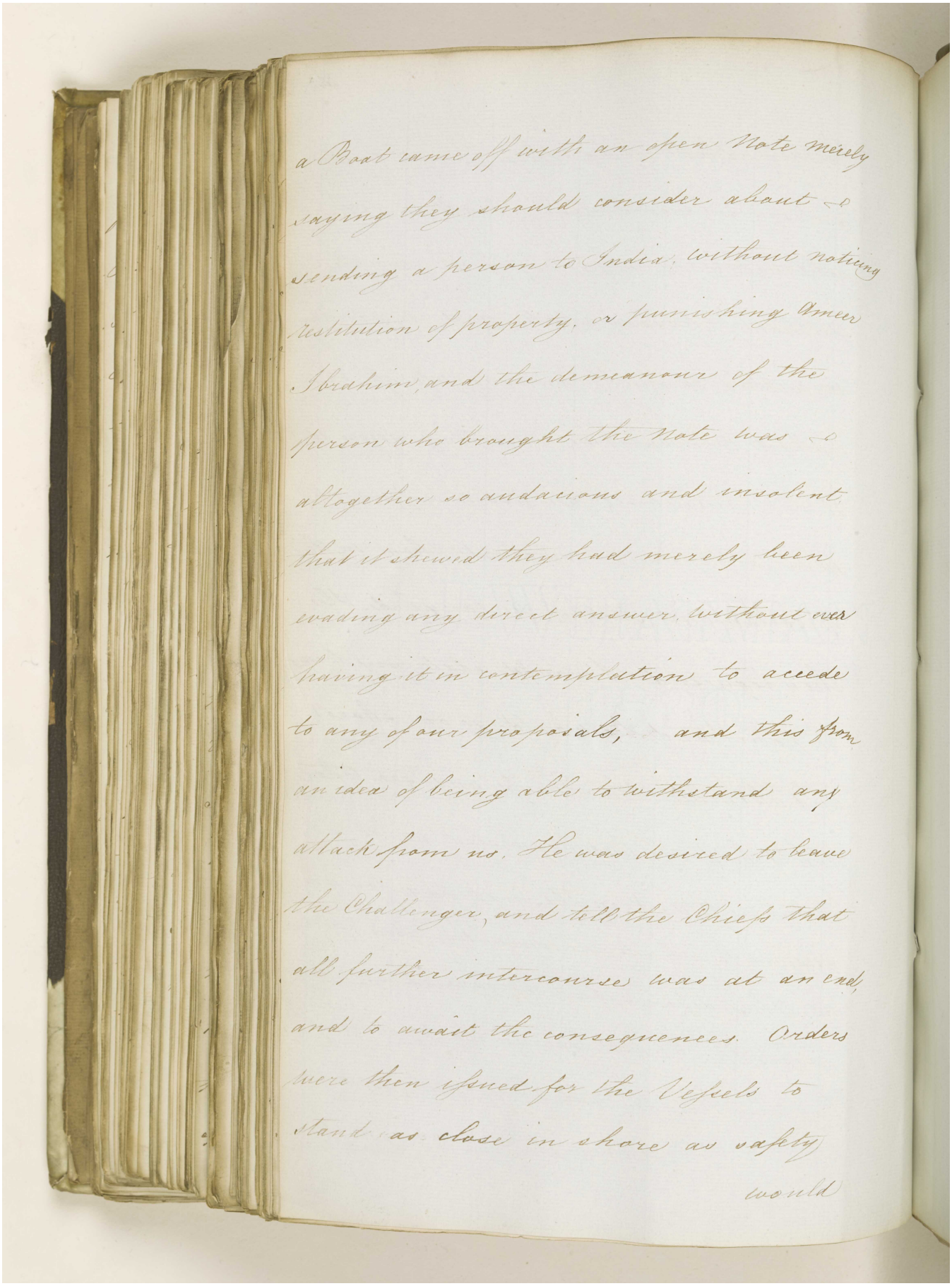

a Boat came off with an open Note merely saying they should consider about — sending a person to India, without noticing restitution of property, or punishing Ameer Ibrahim, and the demeanour of the person who brought the Note was altogether so audacious and insolent that it shewed they had merely been evading any direct answer, without ever having it in contemplation to accede to any of our proposals, and this from an idea of being able to withstand any attack from us. He was desired to leave the Challenger, and tell the Chiefs that all further intercourse was at an end, and to await the consequences. Orders were then issued for the Vessels to stand as close in shore as safety would

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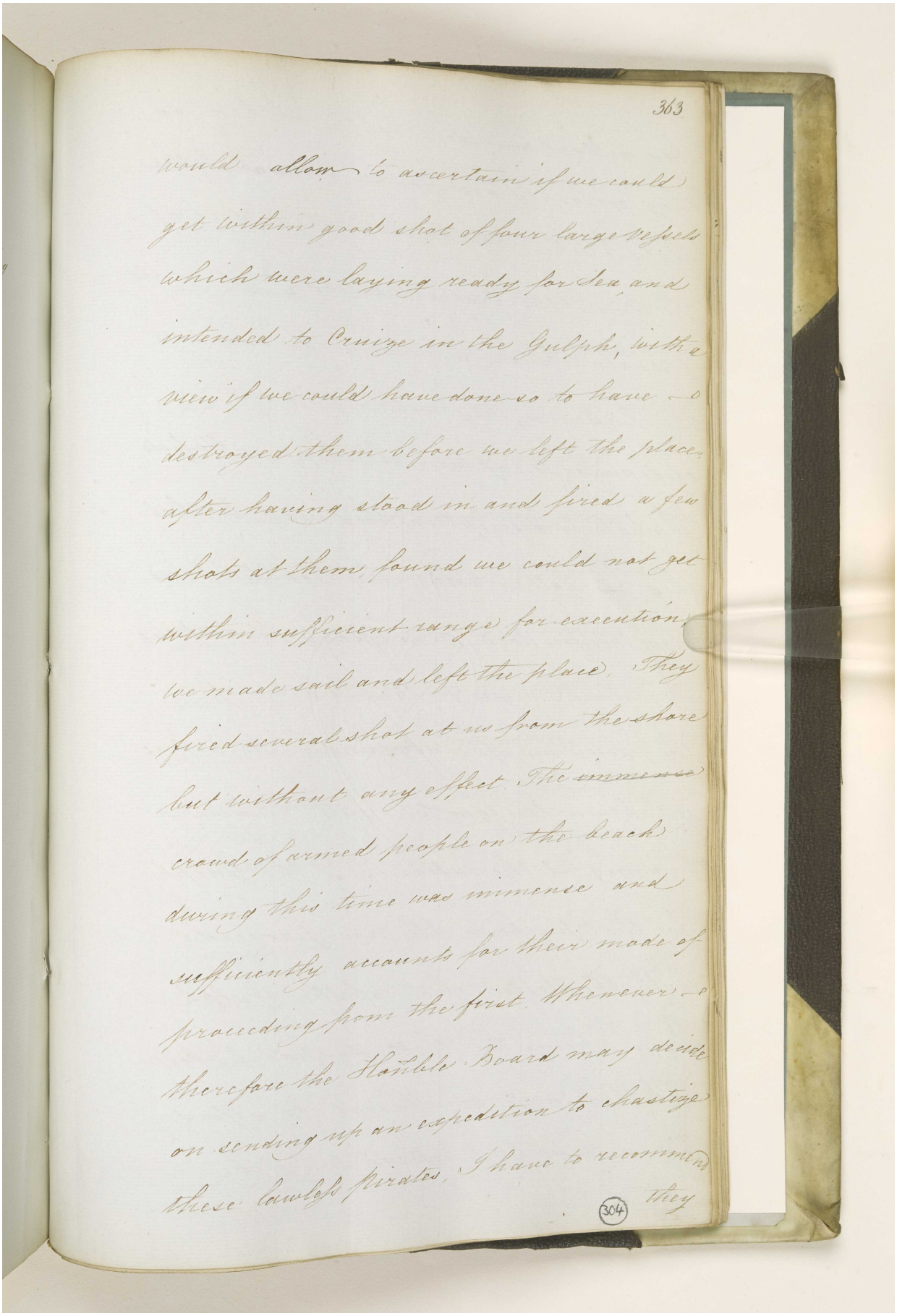

would allow to ascertain if we could
get within good shot of four large vessels
which were laying ready for Sea, and
intended to Cruize in the Gulph, with a
view if we could have done so to have
destroyed them before we left the place.
after having stood in and fired a few
shots at them, found we could not get
within sufficient range for execution,
we made sail and left the place. They
fired several shot at us from the shore
but without any effect. The immense
crowd of armed people on the beach
during this time was imminent and
sufficiently accounts for their mode of
proceeding from the first. Whenever
therefore the Honble Board may decide
on sending up an expedition to chastize
these lawless pirates, I have to recommend
they

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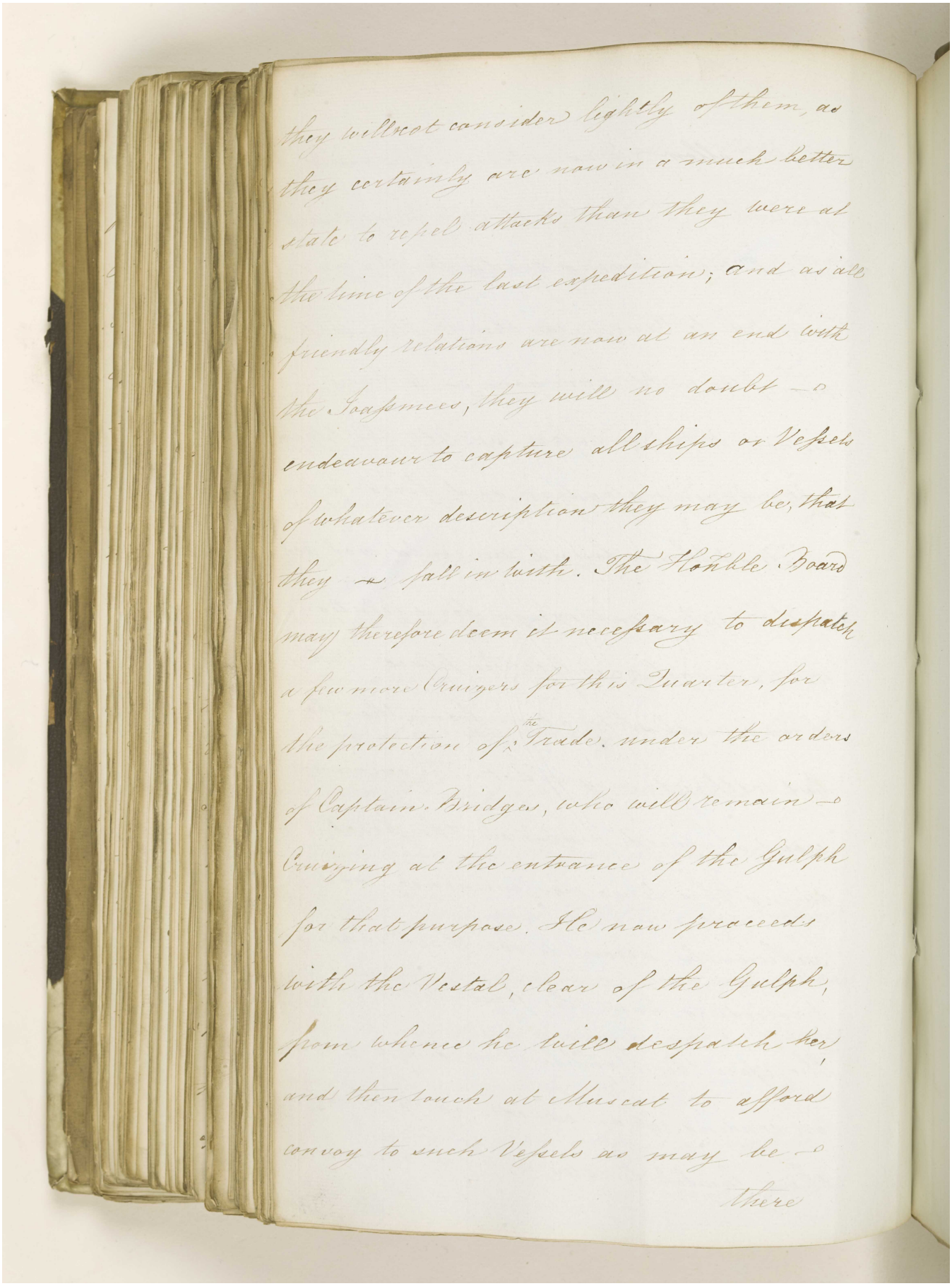
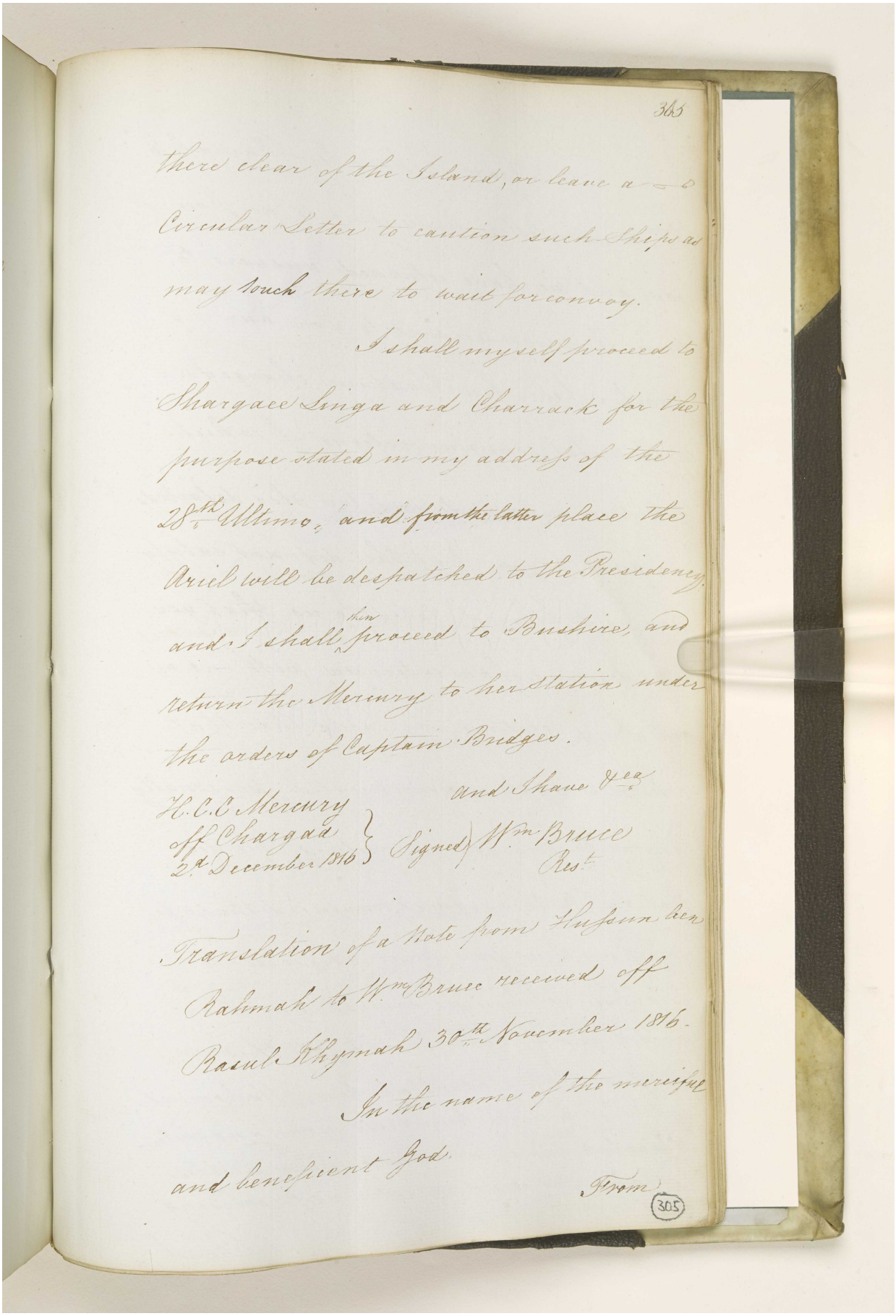


they will not consider lightly of them, as they certainly are now in a much better state to repel attacks than they were at the time of the last expedition; and as all friendly relations are now at an end with the Joasmees, they will no doubt — endeavour to capture all ships or Vessels of whatever description they may be, that they fall in with. The Honble Board may therefore deem it necessary to despatch a few more Cruizers for this Quarter, for the protection of the Trade, under the orders of Captain Bridges, who will remain — Cruizing at the entrance of the Gulph for that purpose. He now proceeds with the Vestal, clear of the Gulph, from whence he will despatch her, and then touch at Muscat to afford convoy to such Vessels as may be —

there



there clear of the Island, or leave a Circular Letter to caution such Ships as may touch there to wait for convoy.

I shall myself proceed to Shargaee Linga and Charrack for the purpose stated in my address of the 28th Ultimo, and from the latter place the Ariel will be despatched to the Presidency and I shall then proceed to Bushire, and return the Mercury to her station under the orders of Captain Bridges.

H.C.C. Mercury
off Chargaa
2d December 1816

and I have &ca
Signed Wm Bruce
Rest

Translation of a Note from Hussun ben Rahmah to Wm Bruce received off Rasul Khymah 30th November 1816.

In the name of the merciful and beneficent God.

From

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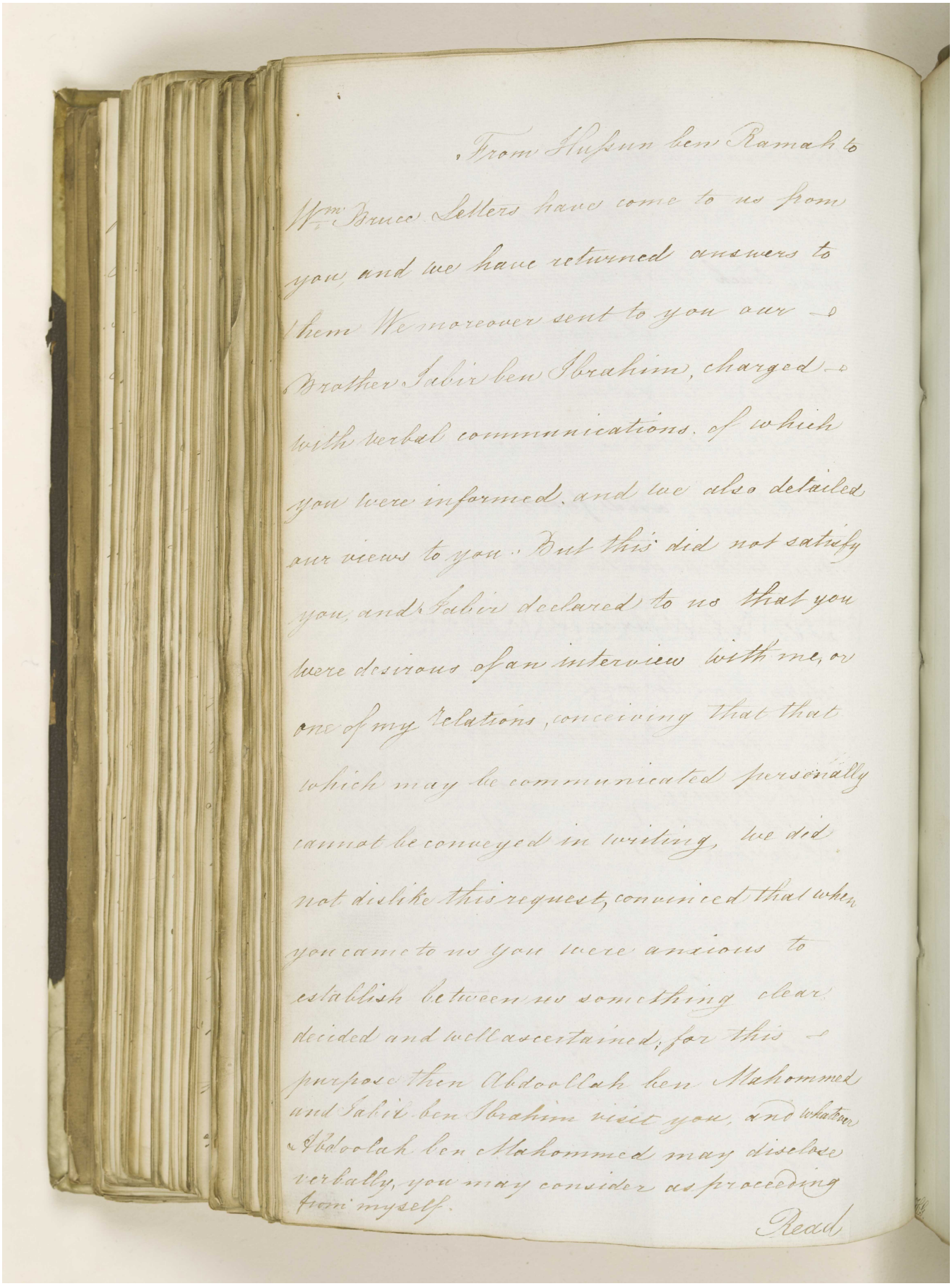

From Hussun ben Ramah to
Wm. Bruce. Letters have come to us from
you, and we have returned answers to
them We moreover sent to you our
Brother Sabir ben Ibrahim, charged
with verbal communications of which
you were informed, and we also detailed
our views to you. But this did not satisfy
you, and Sabir declared to us that you
were desirous of an interview with me, or
one of my relations, conceiving that that
which may be communicated personally
cannot be conveyed in writing, we did
not dislike this request, convinced that when
you came to us you were anxious to
establish between us something clear
decided and well ascertained; for this
purpose then Abdoollah ben Mahommed
and Sabir ben Ibrahim visit you, and whatever
Abdoolah ben Mahommed may disclose
verbally, you may consider as proceeding
from myself.

Read.

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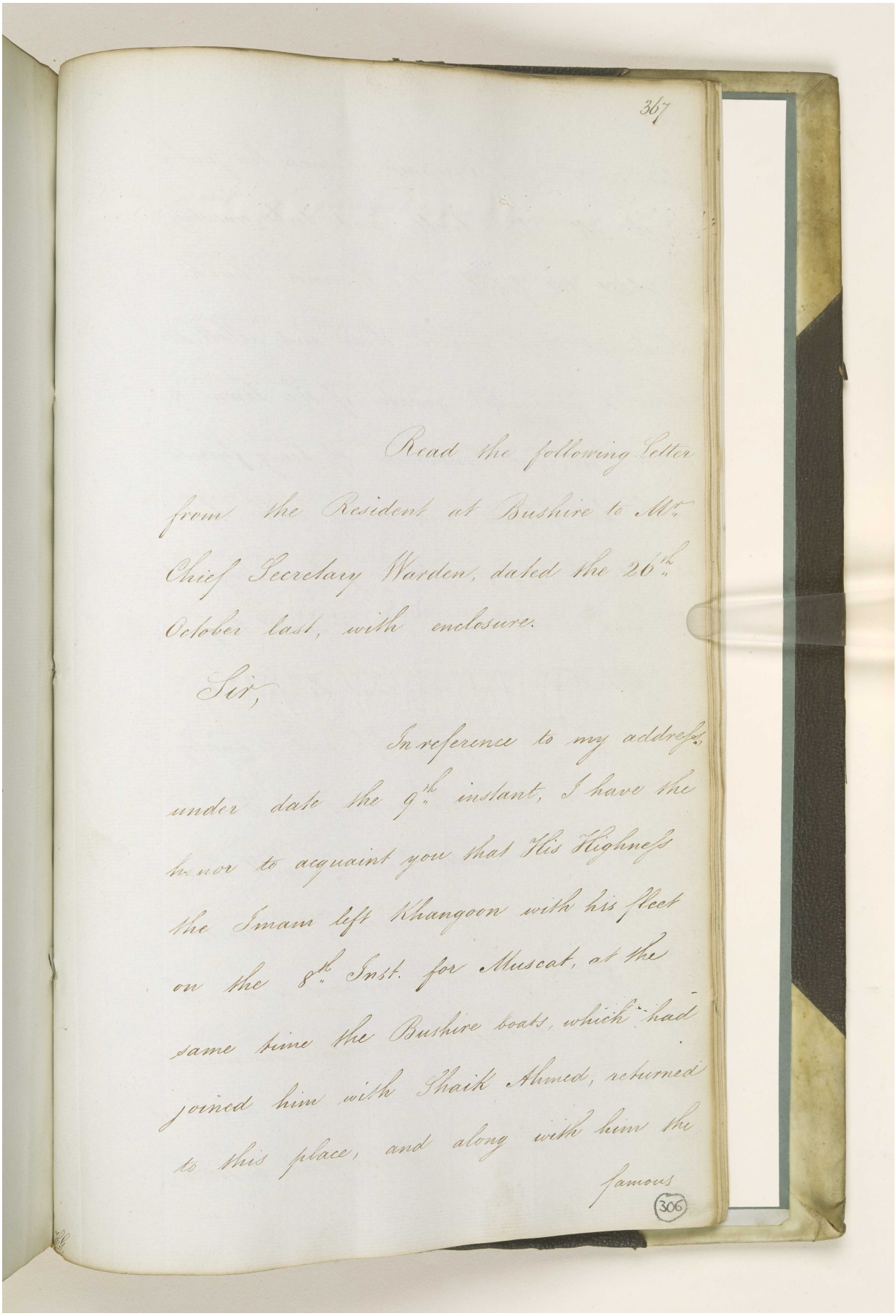

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Read the following Letter from the Resident at Bushire to Mr. Chief Secretary Warden, dated the 26th. October last, with enclosure.

Sir,

In reference to my address under date the 9th. instant, I have the honor to acquaint you that His Highness the Imam left Khangoon with his fleet on the 8th. Inst. for Muscat, at the same time the Bushire boats, which had joined him with Shaik Ahmed, returned to this place, and along with him the famous

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famous Piratical Chieftain Rahma bin Jauber with all his boats, and tribe, consisting of about 500 families, the Governor Shaik Mahomed has received them and allotted them a particular quarter of the Town to reside in, on condition of being friends with his friends, and enemy with his enemies, he possesses two very large Bugalahs, a large Batille, and several small Bugarahs, at present he gives out that he intends leaving off his predatory life, and to employ his boats on mercantile concerns; at all events, as long as he resides here he will be on peaceable terms with most of the ports of the Gulph, as the Government is so with them. His Highness the Imam was anxious for him to have accompanied him to Muscat, and offered him any of his ports to settle in

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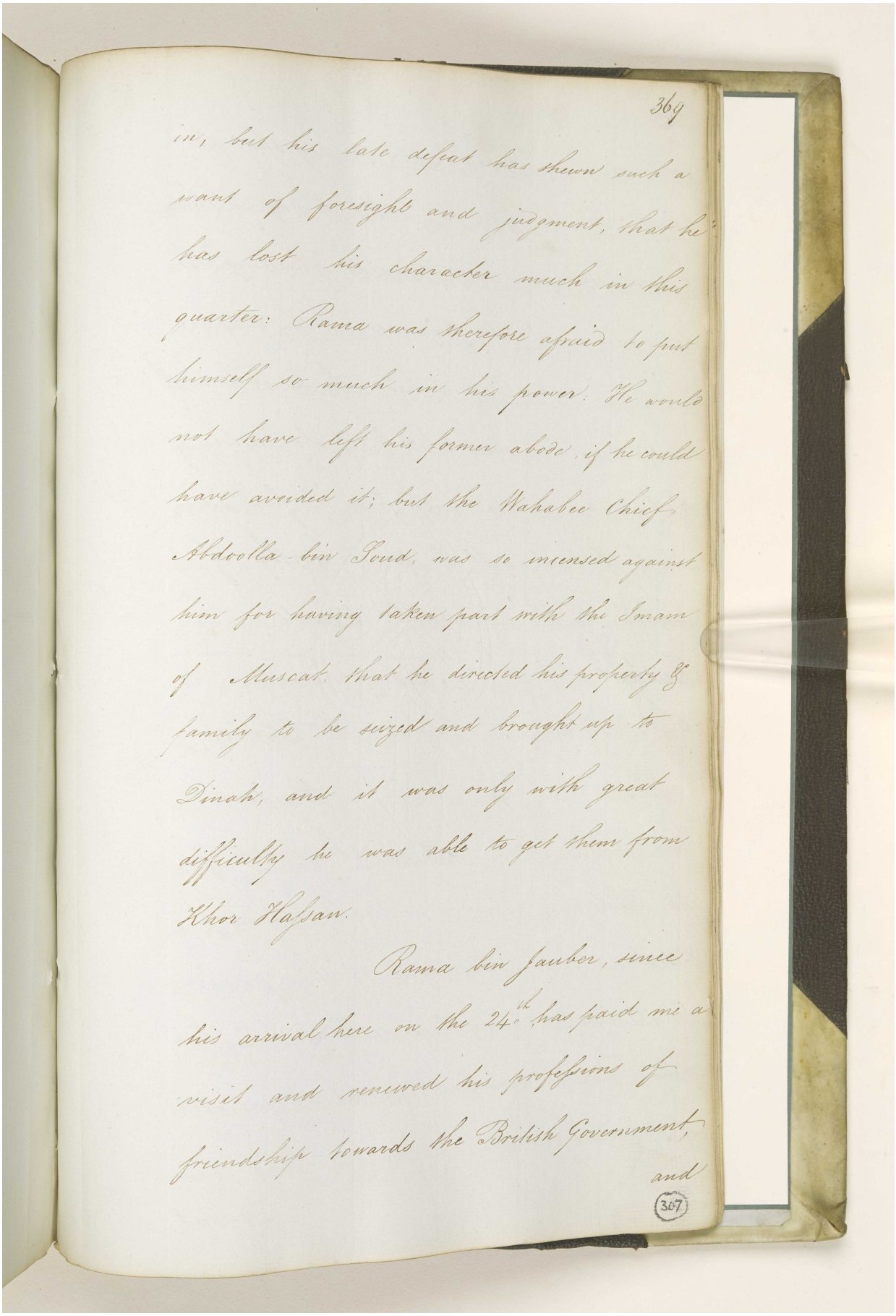

in, but his late defeat has shewn such a want of foresight and judgment, that he has lost his character much in this quarter: Rama was therefore afraid to put himself so much in his power. He would not have left his former abode, if he could have avoided it; but the Wahabee Chief Abdoolla-bin Soud, was so incensed against him for having taken part with the Imam of Muscat, that he directed his property & family to be seized and brought up to Dinah, and it was only with great difficulty he was able to get them from Khor Hafsan.

Rama bin Jauber, since his arrival here on the 24th has paid me a visit and renewed his professions of friendship towards the British Government, and

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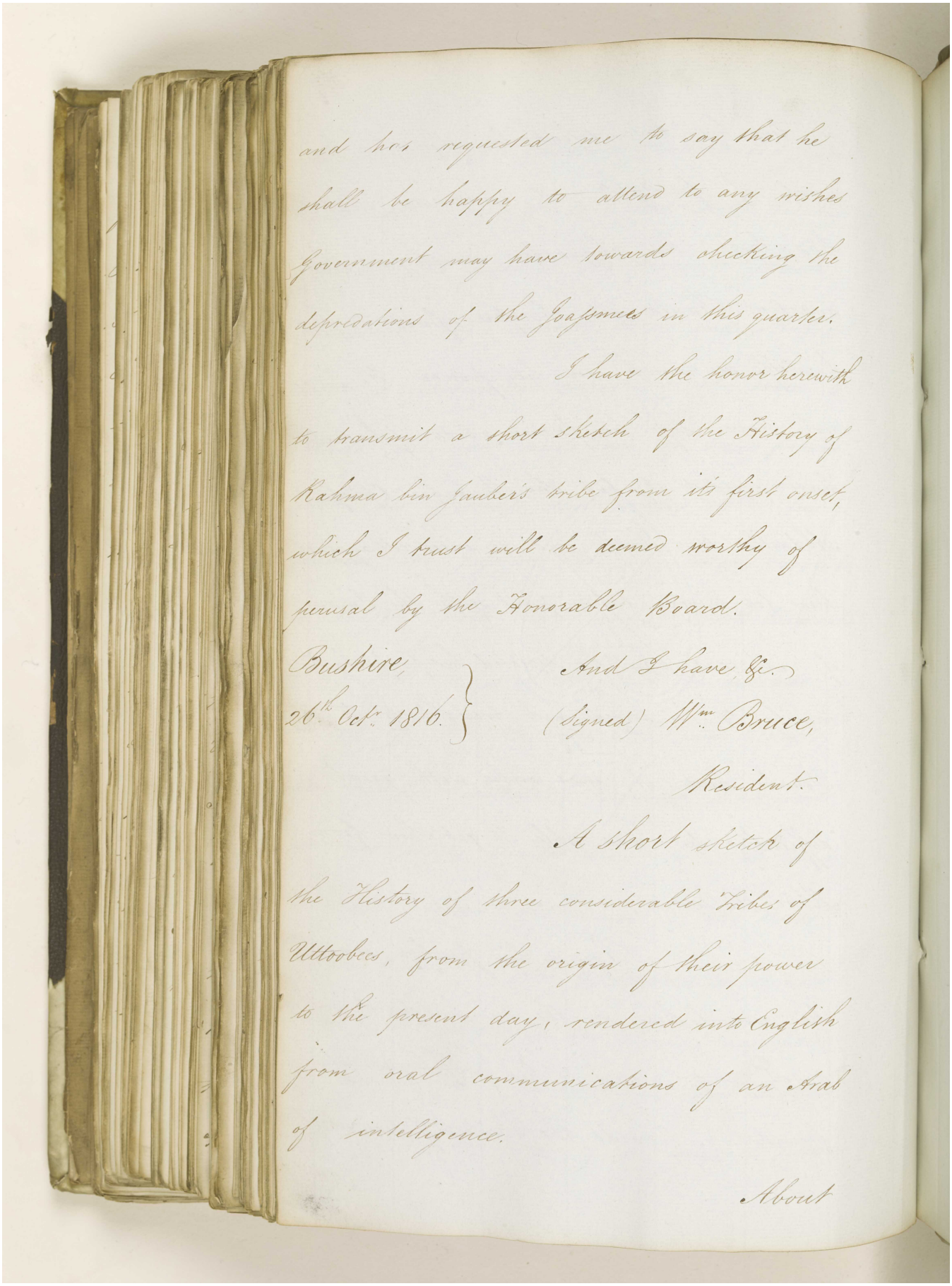

and has requested me to say that he shall be happy to attend to any wishes Government may have towards checking the depredations of the Joasmees in this quarter.

I have the honor herewith to transmit a short sketch of the History of Rahma bin Jaaber's tribe from its first onset, which I trust will be deemed worthy of perusal by the Honorable Board.

Bushire, 26th Oct. 1816. } And I have &c.
(Signed) Wm. Bruce,
Resident.

A short sketch of the History of three considerable Tribes of Uttoobees, from the origin of their power to the present day, rendered into English from oral communications of an Arab of intelligence.

About

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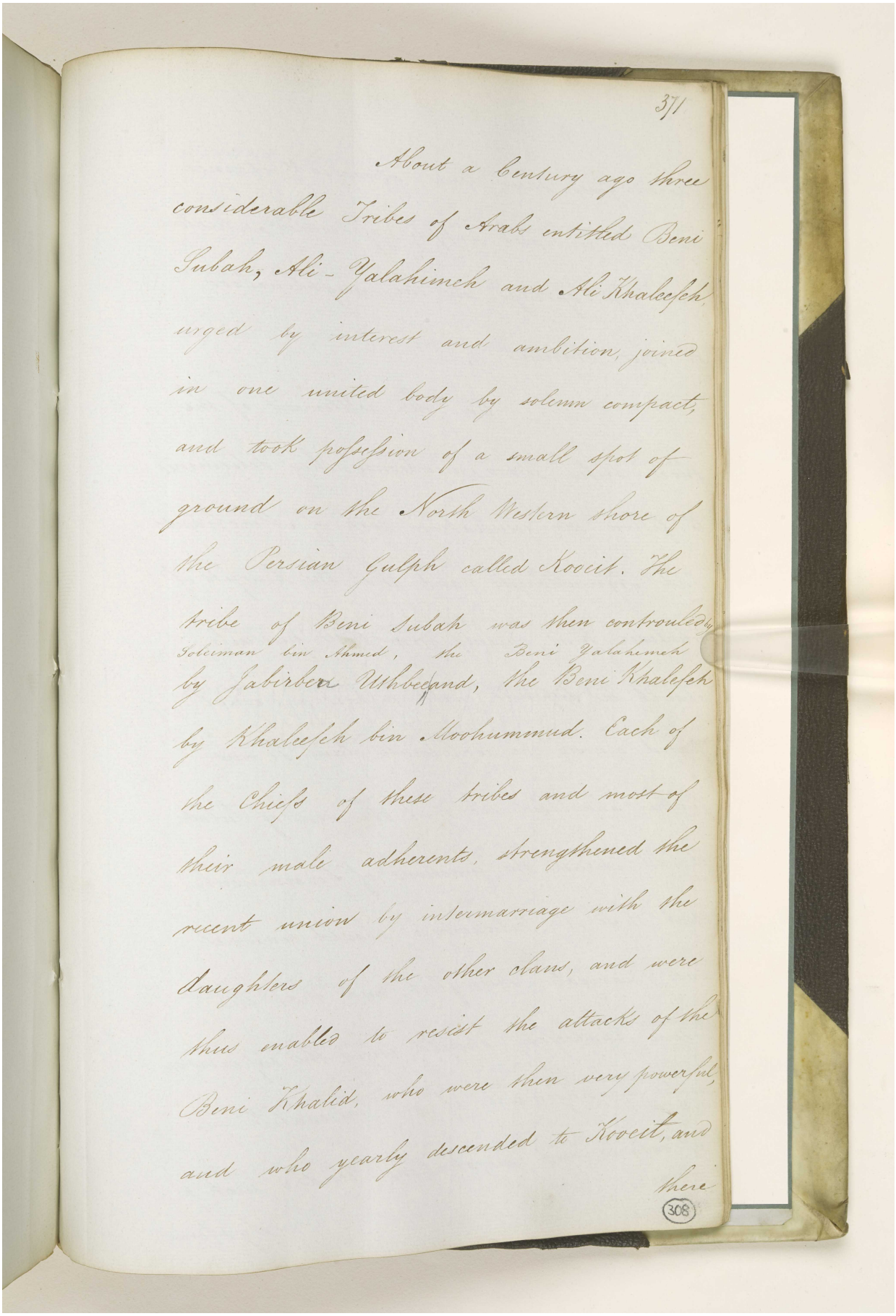

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About a Century ago three considerable Tribes of Arabs entitled Beni Subah, Ali-Yalahimeh and Ali Khaleefeh urged by interest and ambition, joined in one united body by solemn compact, and took possession of a small spot of ground on the North Western shore of the Persian Gulph called Koocit. The tribe of Beni Subah was then controuled by Soleiman bin Ahmed, the Beni Yalahimeh by Jabirbeen Uthbeeand, the Beni Khaleefeh by Khaleefeh bin Moohummud. Each of the Chiefs of these tribes and most of their male adherents, strengthened the recent union by intermarriage with the daughters of the other clans, and were thus enabled to resist the attacks of the Beni Khalid, who were then very powerful, and who yearly descended to Koocit, and there

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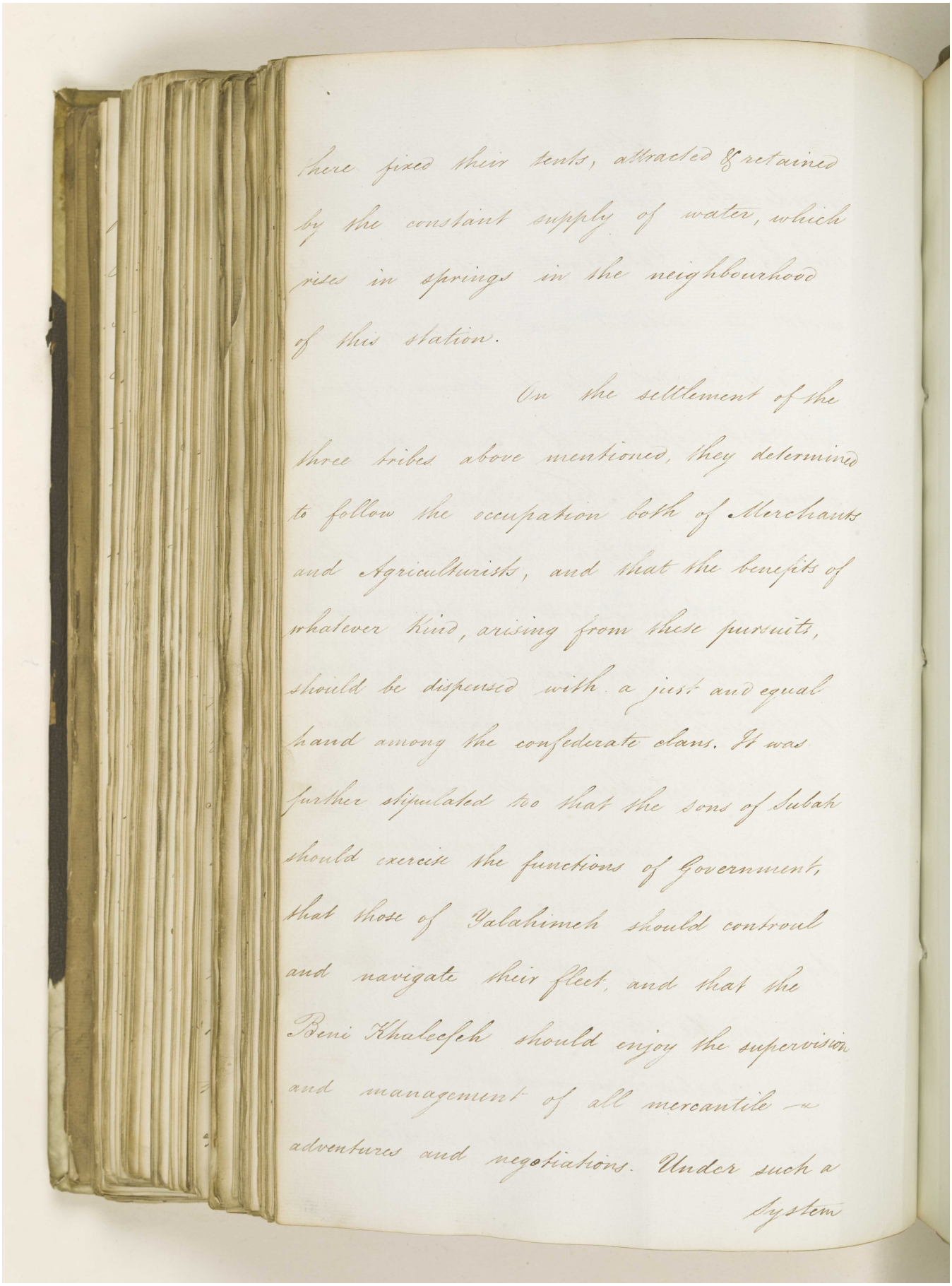

there fixed their tents, attracted & retained by the constant supply of water, which rises in springs in the neighbourhood of this station.

On the settlement of the three tribes above mentioned, they determined to follow the occupation both of Merchants and Agriculturists, and that the benefits of whatever kind, arising from these pursuits, should be dispensed with a just and equal hand among the confederate clans. It was further stipulated too that the sons of Subah should exercise the functions of Government, that those of Yalahimeh should controul and navigate their fleet, and that the Beni Khaleefeh should enjoy the supervision and management of all mercantile adventures and negotiations. Under such a

System

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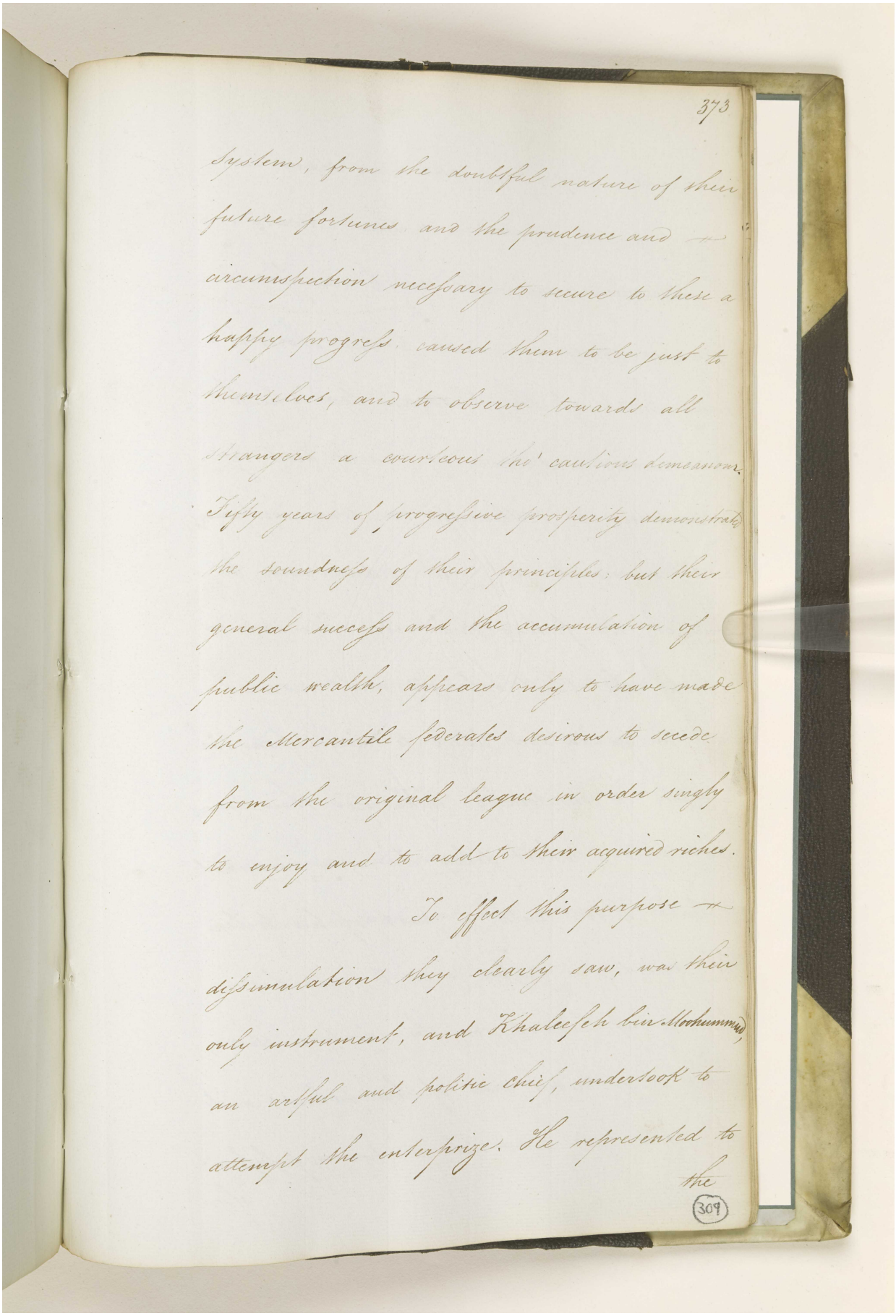

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System, from the doubtful nature of their future fortunes and the prudence and circumspection necessary to secure to these a happy progress caused them to be just to themselves, and to observe towards all strangers a courteous tho' cautious demeanour. Fifty years of progressive prosperity demonstrate the soundness of their principles: but their general success and the accumulation of public wealth, appears only to have made the Mercantile federates desirous to secede from the original league in order singly to enjoy and to add to their acquired riches.

To effect this purpose dissimulation they clearly saw, was their only instrument, and Khaleefeh bin Mohummud, an artful and politic chief, undertook to attempt the enterprize. He represented to the

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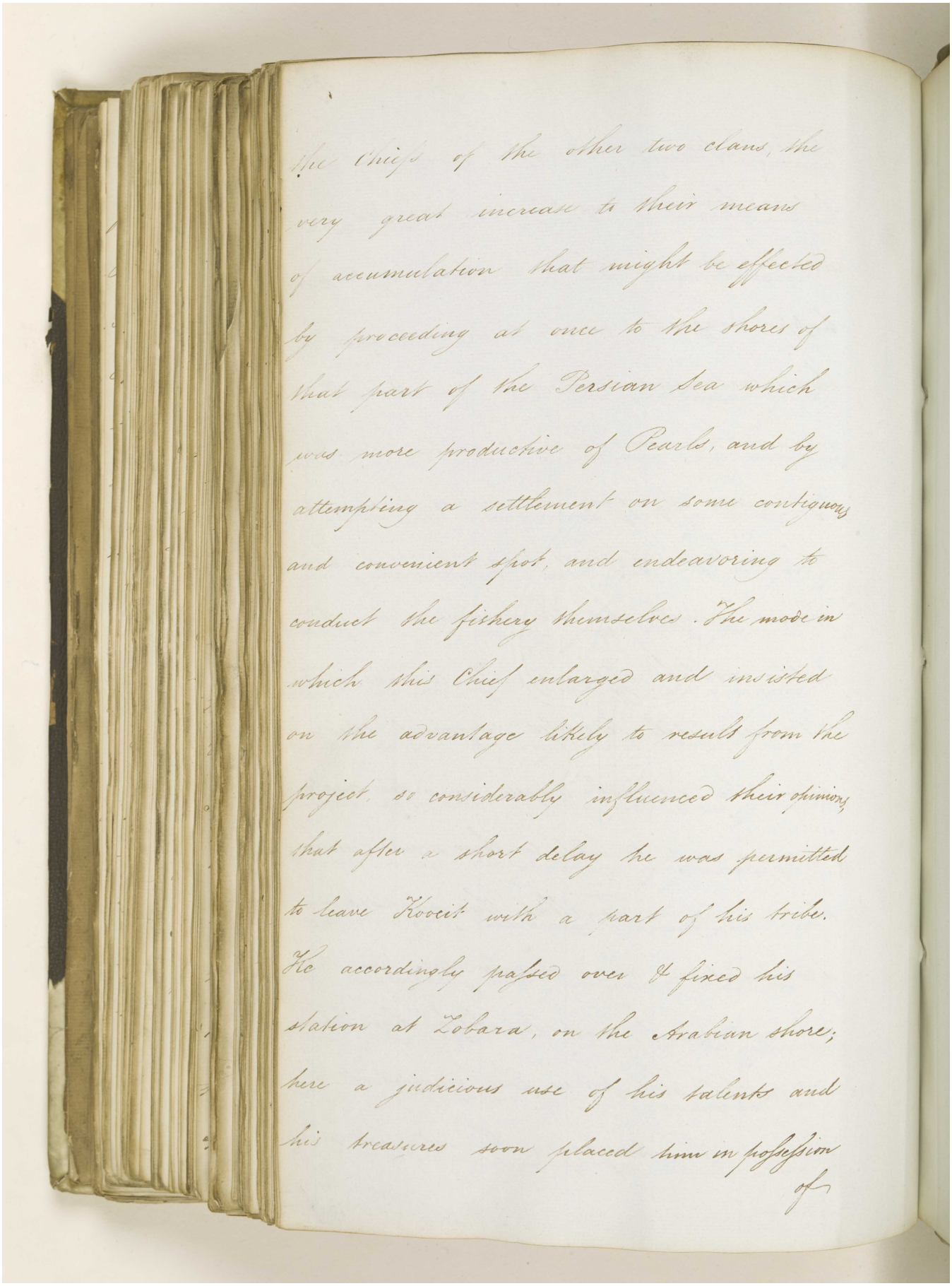

the Chiefs of the other two clans, the very great increase to their means of accumulation that might be effected by proceeding at once to the shores of that part of the Persian Sea which was more productive of Pearls, and by attempting a settlement on some contiguous and convenient spot, and endeavoring to conduct the fishery themselves. The mode in which this Chief enlarged and insisted on the advantage likely to result from the project so considerably influenced their opinions that after a short delay he was permitted to leave Koweit with a part of his tribe. He accordingly passed over & fixed his station at Zobara, on the Arabian shore; here a judicious use of his talents and his treasures soon placed him in possession of

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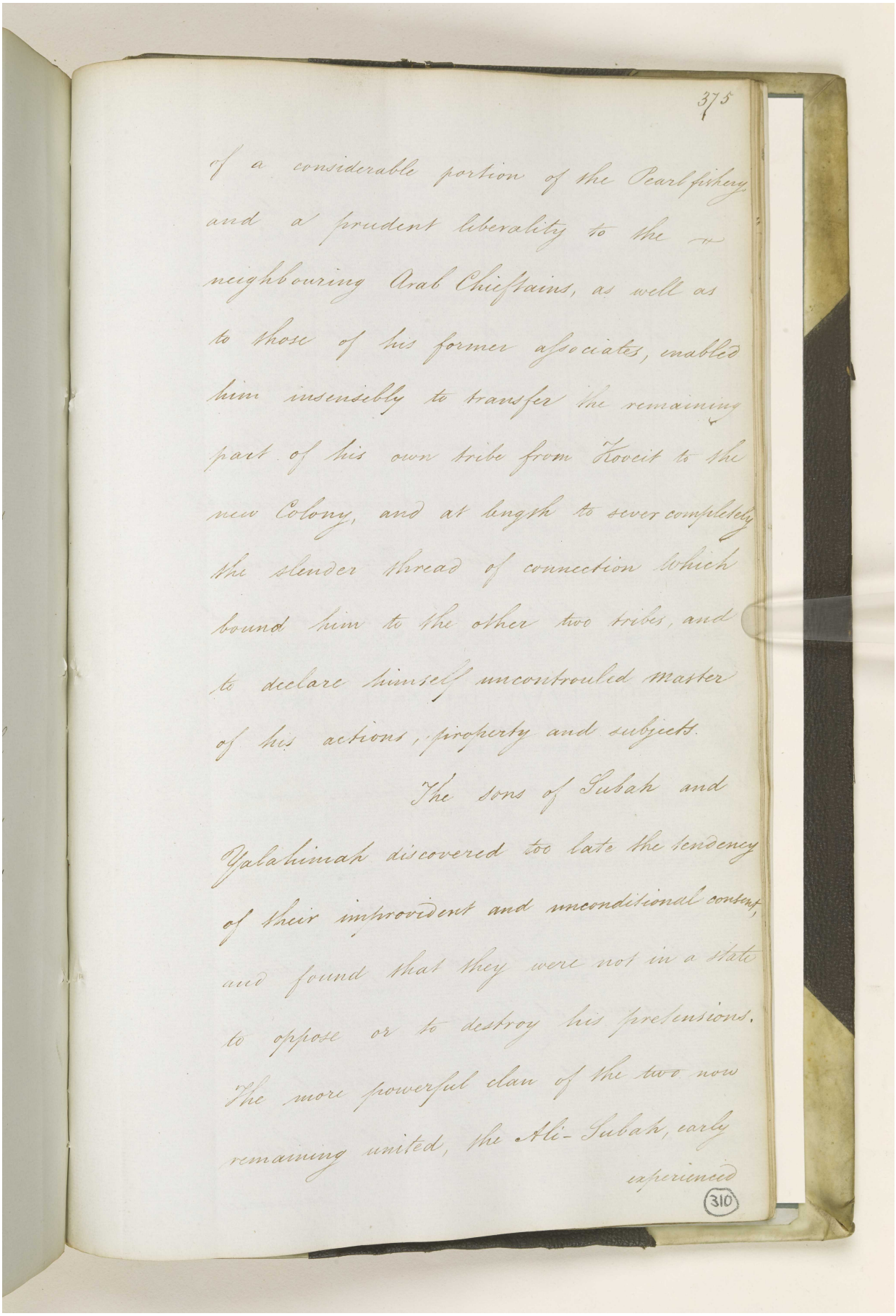

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of a considerable portion of the Pearl fishery and a prudent liberality to the neighbouring Arab Chieftains, as well as to those of his former associates, enabled him insensibly to transfer the remaining part of his own tribe from Kooeit to the new Colony, and at length to sever completely the slender thread of connection which bound him to the other two tribes, and to declare himself uncontrouled master of his actions, property and subjects.

The sons of Subah and Jalahimah discovered too late the tendency of their improvident and unconditional contest, and found that they were not in a state to oppose or to destroy his pretensions. The more powerful clan of the two now remaining united, the Ali-Subah, early experienced

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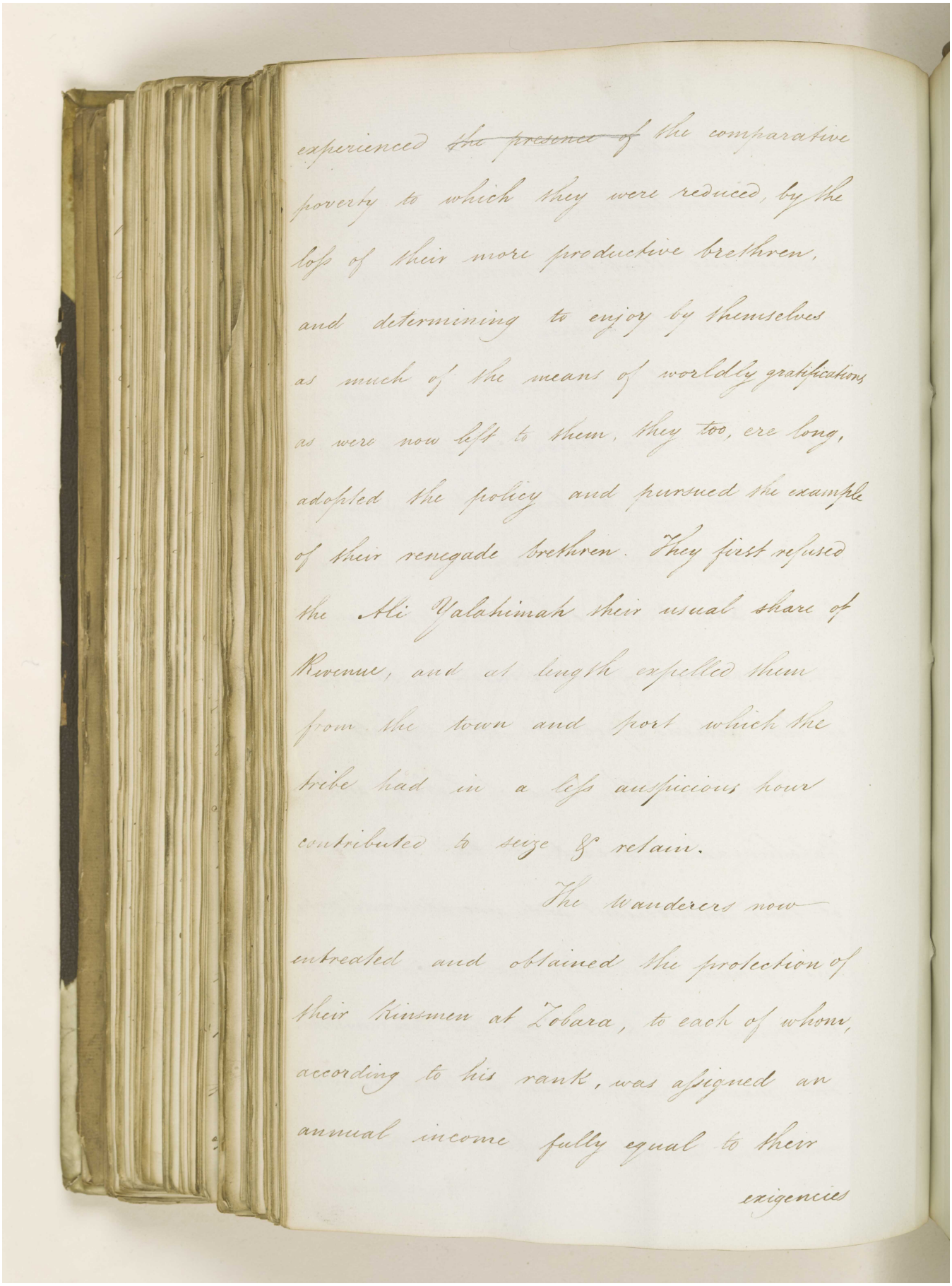

experienced ~~the presence of~~ the comparative
poverty to which they were reduced, by the
loss of their more productive brethren,
and determining to enjoy by themselves
as much of the means of worldly gratifications
as were now left to them, they too, ere long,
adopted the policy and pursued the example
of their renegade brethren. They first refused
the Ali Yalahimah their usual share of
Revenue, and at length expelled them
from the town and port which the
tribe had in a less auspicious hour
contributed to seize & retain.

The Wanderers now
entreated and obtained the protection of
their kinsmen at Zobara, to each of whom,
according to his rank, was assigned an
annual income fully equal to their
exigencies

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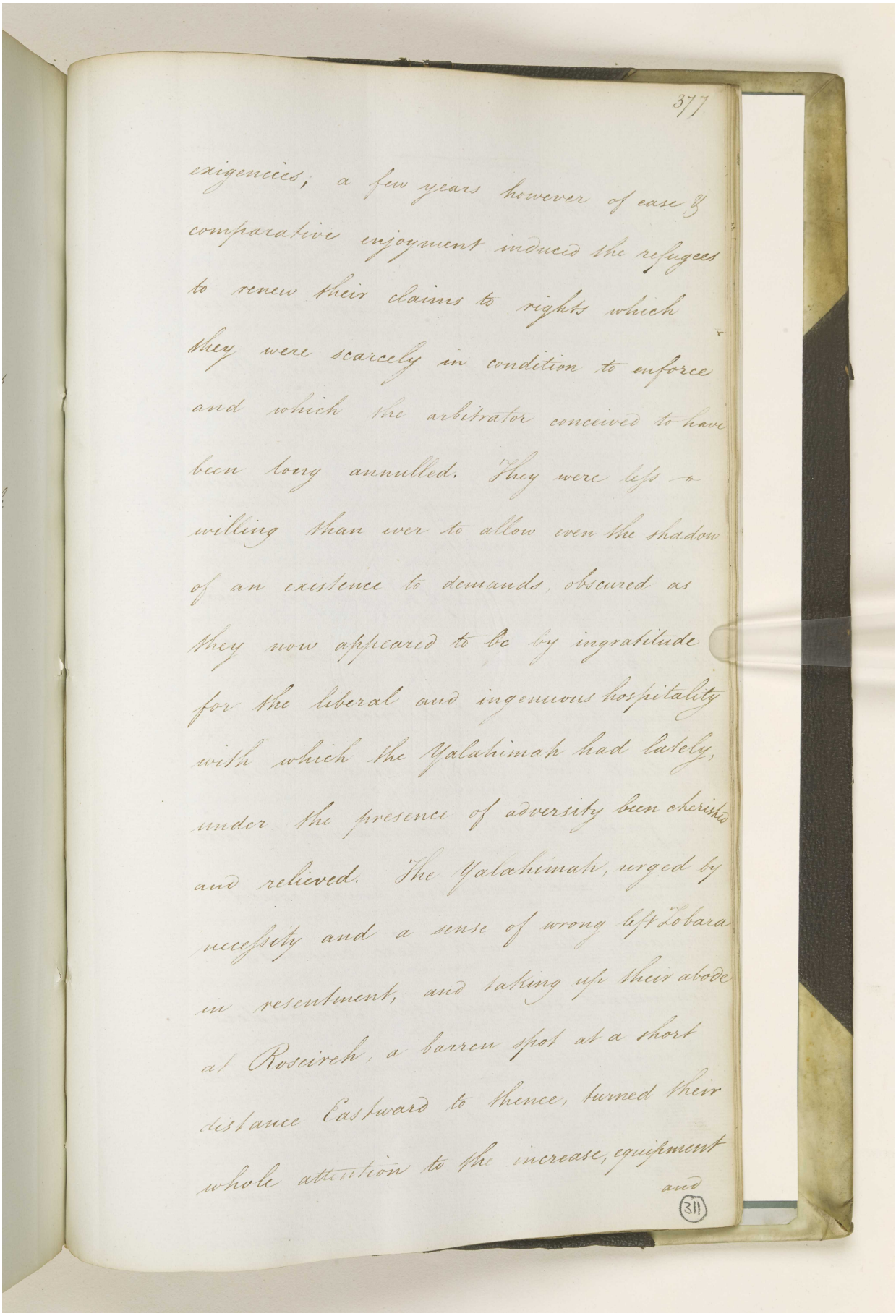

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exigencies; a few years however of ease &
comparative enjoyment induced the refugees
to renew their claims to rights which
they were scarcely in condition to enforce
and which the arbitrator conceived to have
been long annulled. They were less
willing than ever to allow even the shadow
of an existence to demands, obscured as
they now appeared to be by ingratitude
for the liberal and ingenuous hospitality
with which the Yalahimah had lately,
under the pressure of adversity been cherished
and relieved. The Yalahimah, urged by
necessity and a sense of wrong left Zobara
in resentment, and taking up their abode
at Roseireh, a barren spot at a short
distance Eastward to thence, turned their
whole attention to the increase, equipment
and

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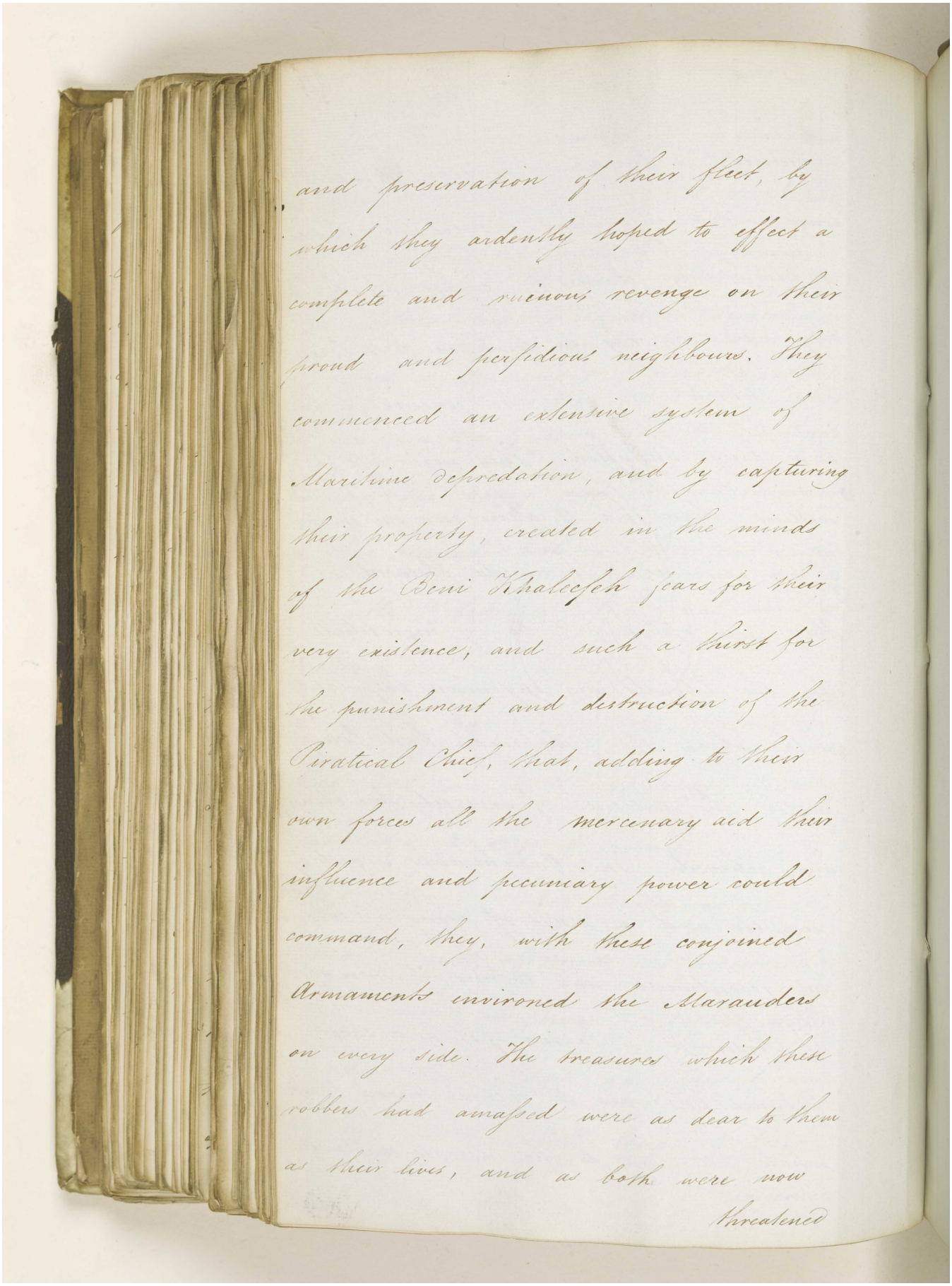

and preservation of their fleet, by which they ardently hoped to effect a complete and ruinous revenge on their proud and perfidious neighbours. They commenced an extensive system of Maritime depredation, and by capturing their property, created in the minds of the Beni Khaleefeh fears for their very existence, and such a thirst for the punishment and destruction of the Piratical Chief, that, adding to their own forces all the mercenary aid their influence and pecuniary power could command, they, with these conjoined Armaments environed the Marauders on every side. The treasures which these robbers had amassed were as dear to them as their lives, and as both were now

threatened

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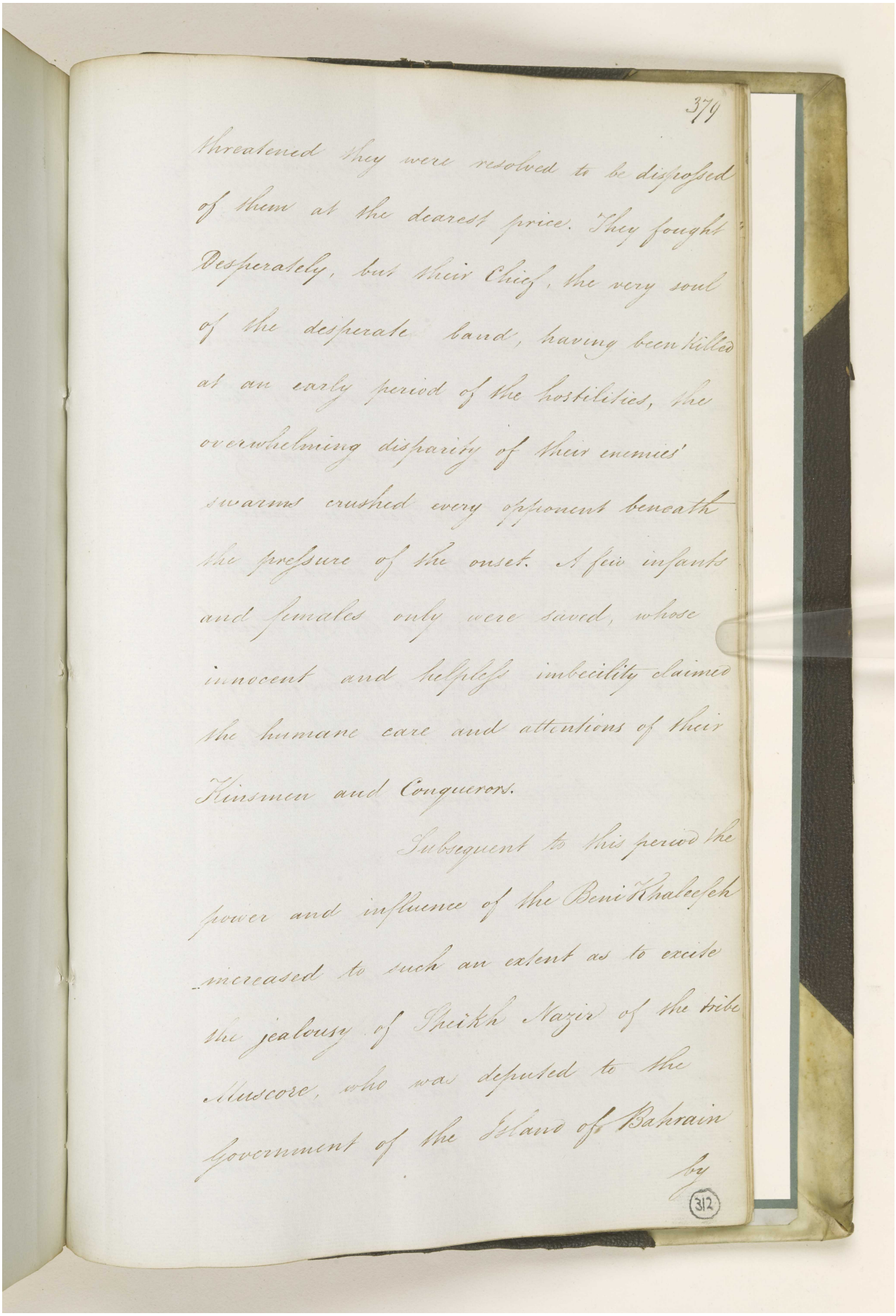

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threatened they were resolved to be disposed of them at the dearest price. They fought Desperately, but their Chief, the very soul of the desperate band, having been killed at an early period of the hostilities, the overwhelming disparity of their enemies' swarms crushed every opponent beneath the pressure of the onset. A few infants and females only were saved, whose innocent and helpless imbecility claimed the humane care and attentions of their Kinsmen and Conquerors.

Subsequent to this period the power and influence of the Beni Khaleefeh increased to such an extent as to excite the jealousy of Sheikh Nazir of the tribe Muscore, who was deputed to the Government of the Island of Bahrain by

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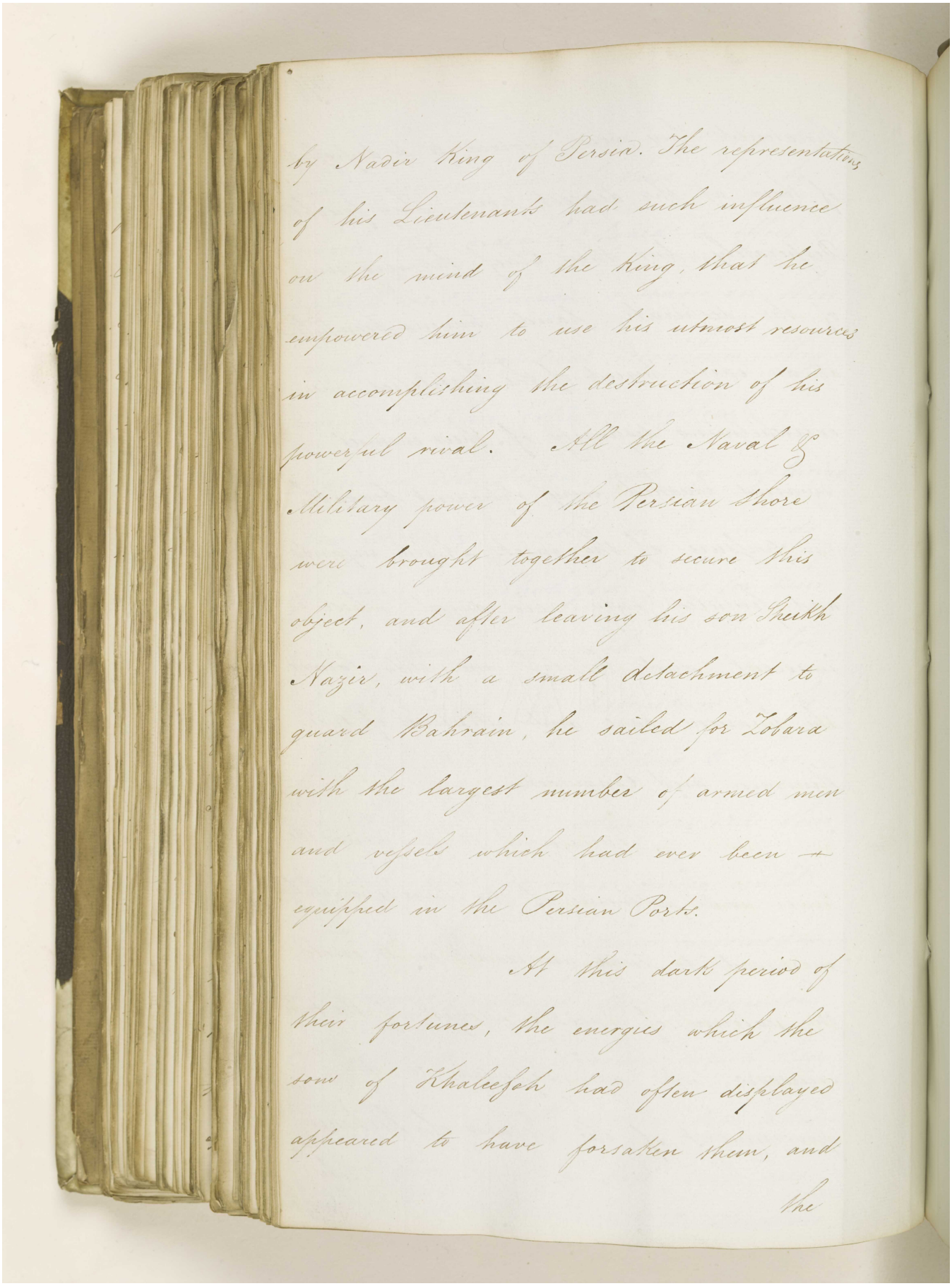

by Nadir King of Persia. The representations of his Lieutenants had such influence on the mind of the King, that he empowered him to use his utmost resources in accomplishing the destruction of his powerful rival. All the Naval & Military power of the Persian Shore were brought together to secure this object, and after leaving his son Sheikh Nazir, with a small detachment to guard Bahrain, he sailed for Zobara with the largest number of armed men and vessels which had ever been equipped in the Persian Ports.

At this dark period of their fortunes, the energies which the sons of Khaleefah had often displayed appeared to have forsaken them, and the

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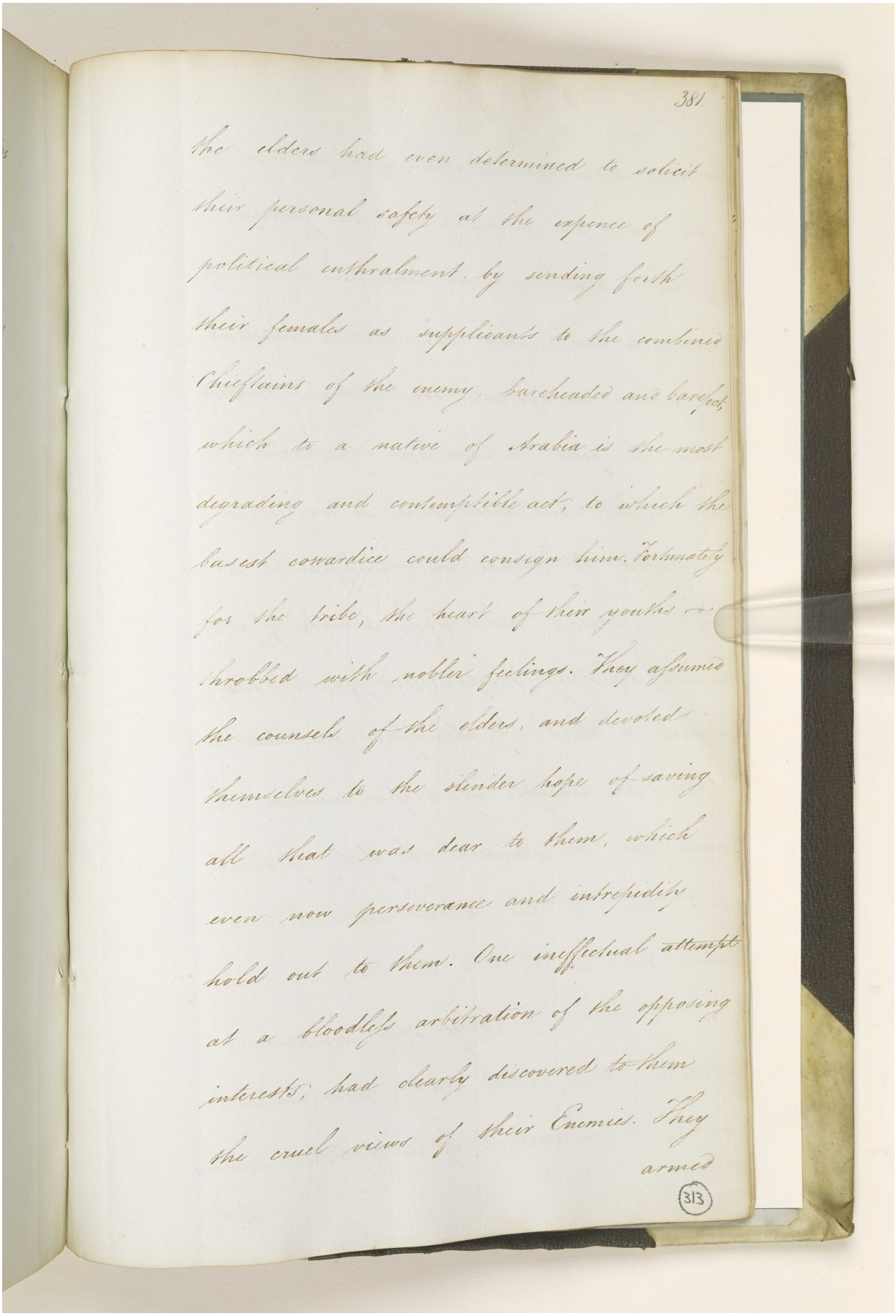

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the elders had even determined to solicit their personal safety at the expence of political enthralment by sending forth their females as supplicants to the combined Chieftains of the enemy, bareheaded and barefoot, which to a native of Arabia is the most degrading and contemptible act, to which the basest cowardice could consign him. Fortunately for the tribe, the heart of their youths throbbed with nobler feelings. They assumed the counsels of the elders, and devoted themselves to the slender hope of saving all that was dear to them, which even now perseverance and intrepidity hold out to them. One ineffectual attempt at a bloodless arbitration of the opposing interests, had clearly discovered to them the cruel views of their Enemies. They armed

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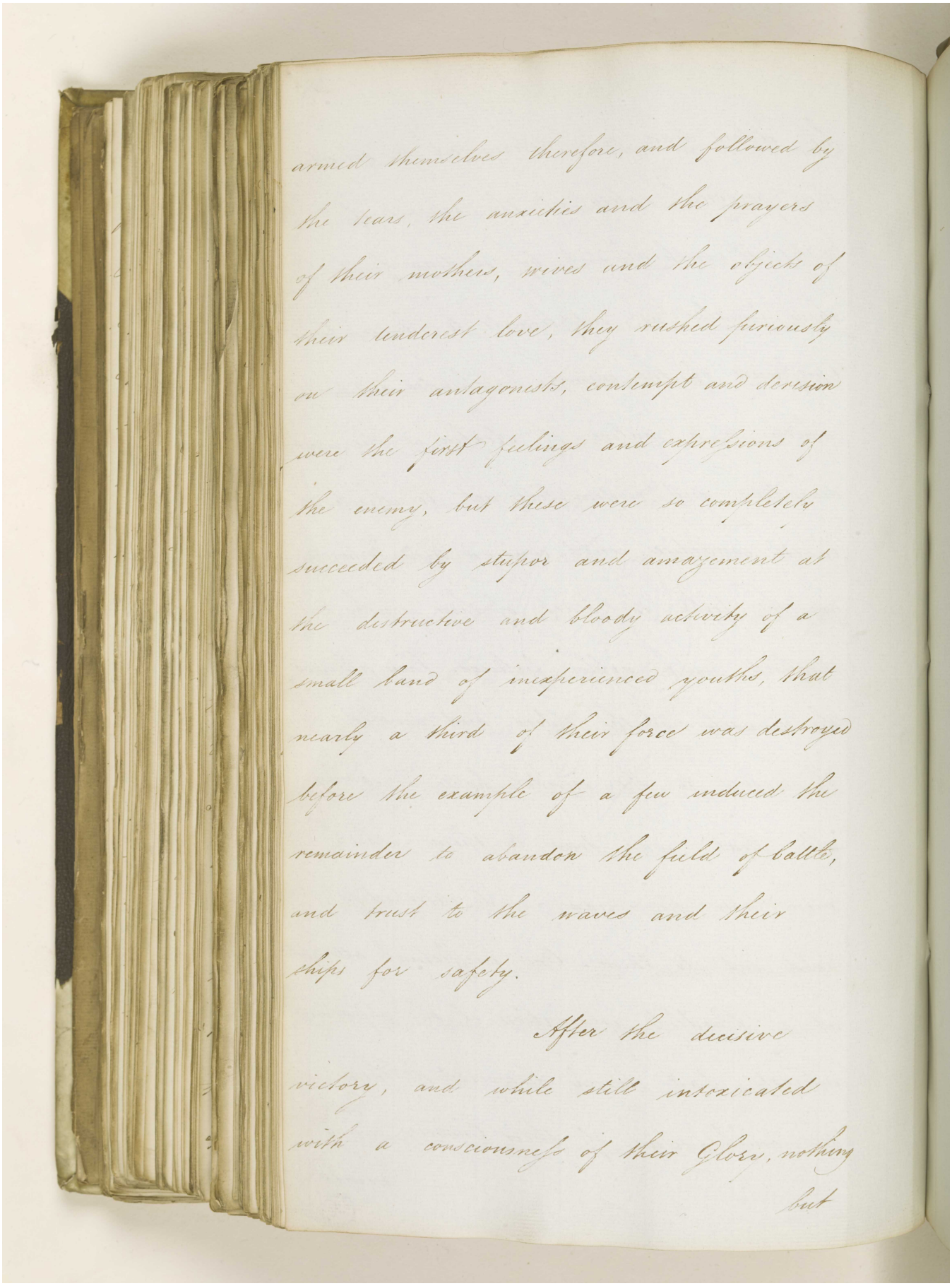
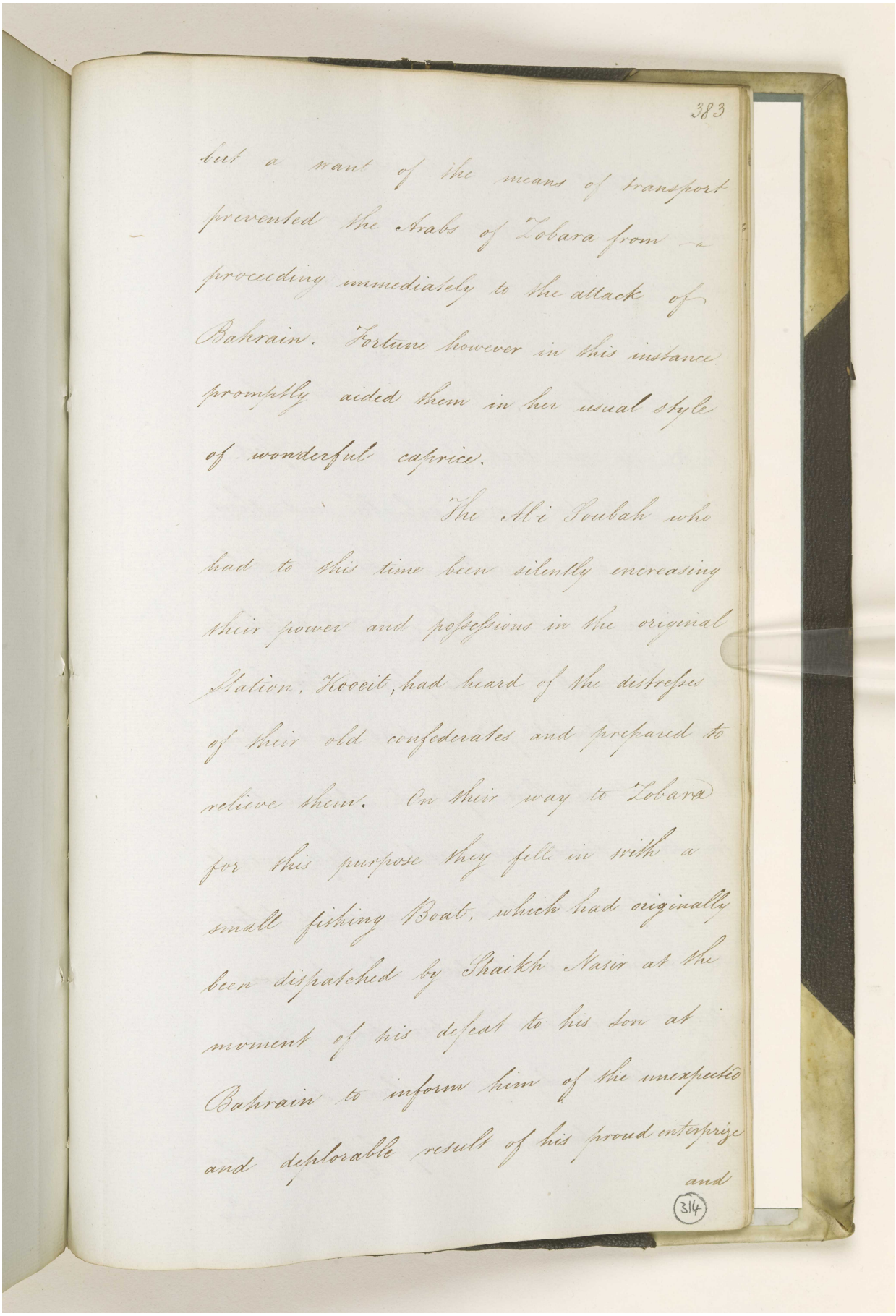


armed themselves therefore, and followed by
the tears, the anxieties and the prayers
of their mothers, wives and the objects of
their tenderest love, they rushed furiously
on their antagonists, contempt and derision
were the first feelings and expressions of
the enemy, but these were so completely
succeeded by stupor and amazement at
the destructive and bloody activity of a
small band of inexperienced youths, that
nearly a third of their force was destroyed
before the example of a few induced the
remainder to abandon the field of battle,
and trust to the waves and their
ships for safety.

After the decisive
victory, and while still intoxicated
with a consciousness of their Glory, nothing
but



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but a want of the means of transport prevented the Arabs of Zobara from proceeding immediately to the attack of Bahrain. Fortune however in this instance promptly aided them in her usual style of wonderful caprice.

The Ali Soubah who had to this time been silently encreasing their power and possessions in the original Station, Koweit, had heard of the distresses of their old confederates and prepared to relieve them. On their way to Zobara for this purpose they fell in with a small fishing Boat, which had originally been dispatched by Shaikh Nasir at the moment of his defeat to his son at Bahrain to inform him of the unexpected and deplorable result of his proud enterprize

and

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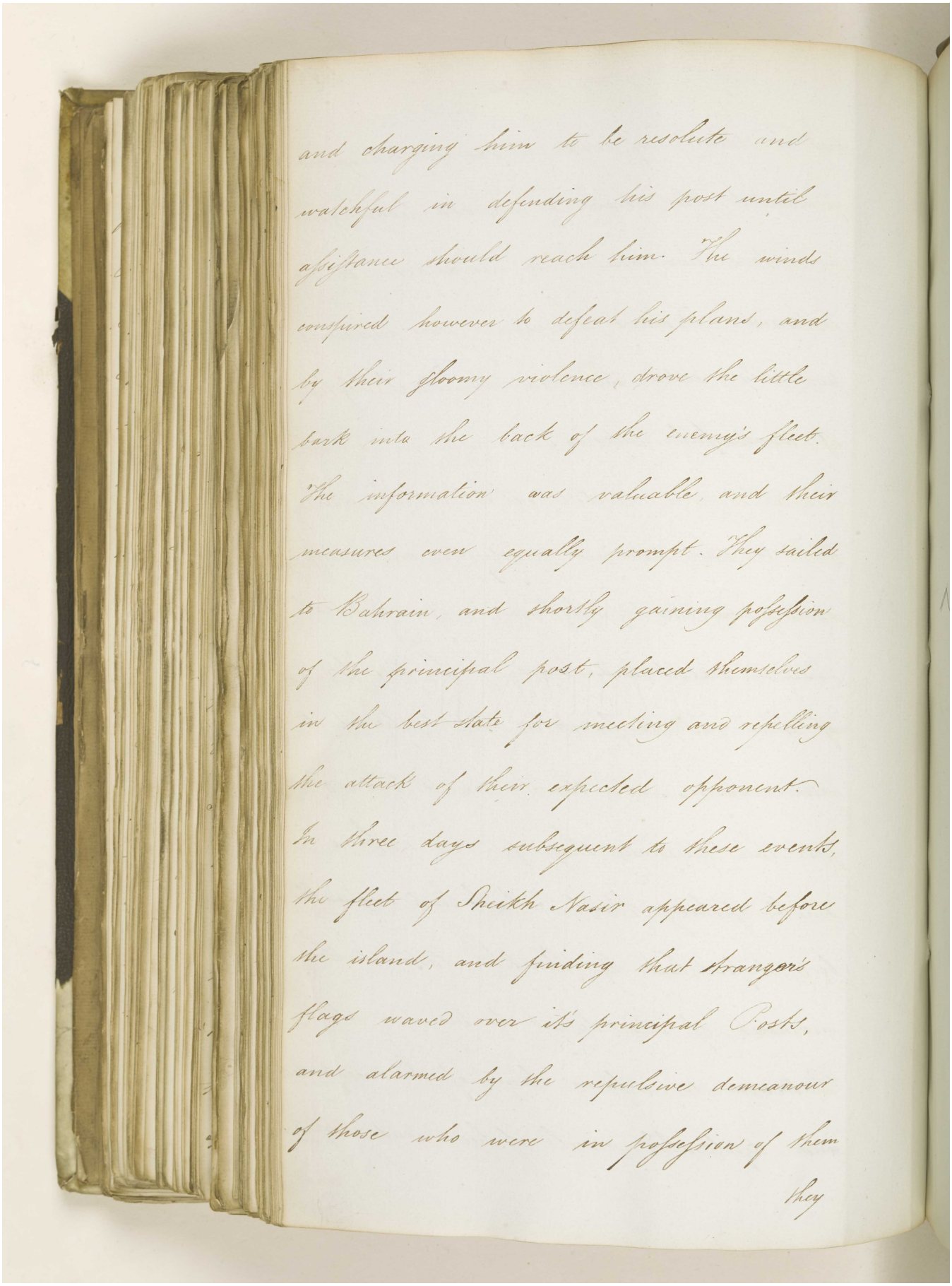

and charging him to be resolute and
watchful in defending his post until
assistance should reach him. The winds
conspired however to defeat his plans, and
by their gloomy violence, drove the little
bark into the back of the enemy's fleet.
The information was valuable, and their
measures ever equally prompt. They sailed
to Bahrain, and shortly gaining possession
of the principal post, placed themselves
in the best state for meeting and repelling
the attack of their expected opponent.
In three days subsequent to these events,
the fleet of Sheikh Nasir appeared before
the island, and finding that Strangers
flags waved over its principal Posts,
and alarmed by the repulsive demeanour
of those who were in possession of them
they

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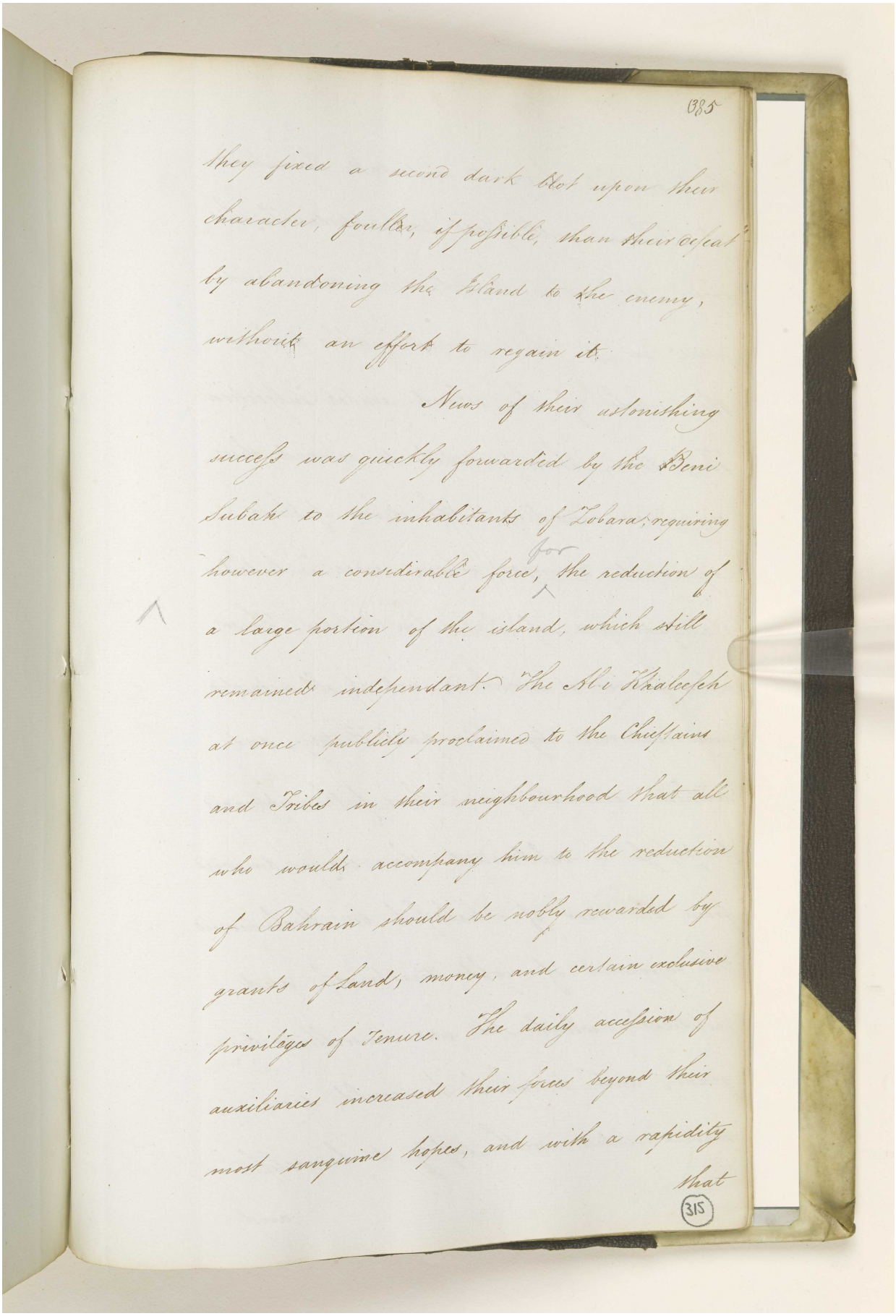

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they fixed a second dark blot upon their character, fouller, if possible, than their defeat by abandoning the Island to the enemy, without an effort to regain it.

News of their astonishing success was quickly forwarded by the Beni Subah to the inhabitants of Zobara, requiring however a considerable force, the reduction of a large portion of the island, which still remained independant. The Sh. Khaleefeh at once publicly proclaimed to the Chieftains and Tribes in their neighbourhood that all who would accompany him to the reduction of Bahrain should be nobly rewarded by grants of land, money, and certain exclusive privileges of Tenure. The daily accession of auxiliaries increased their forces beyond their most sanguine hopes, and with a rapidity that

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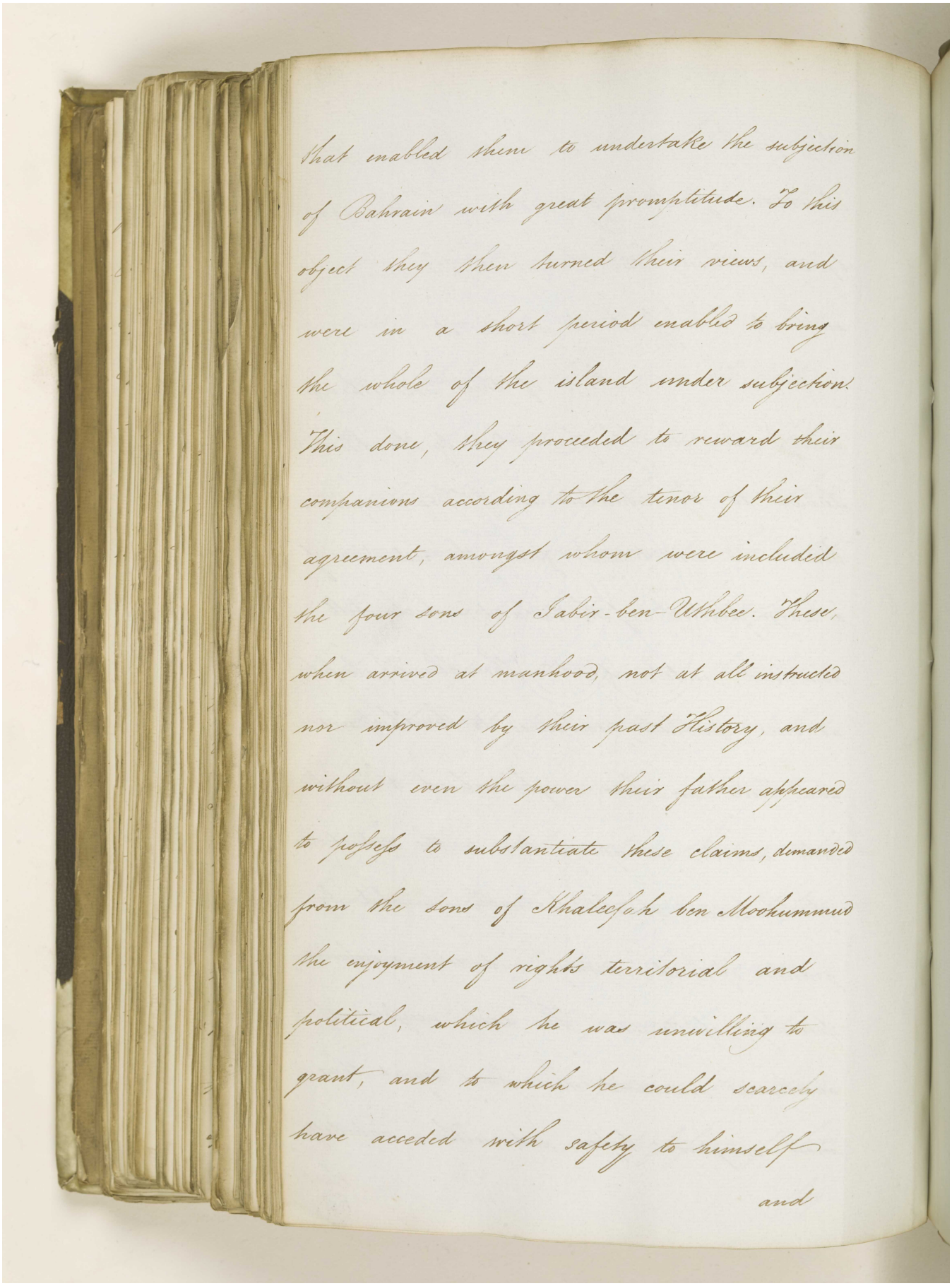
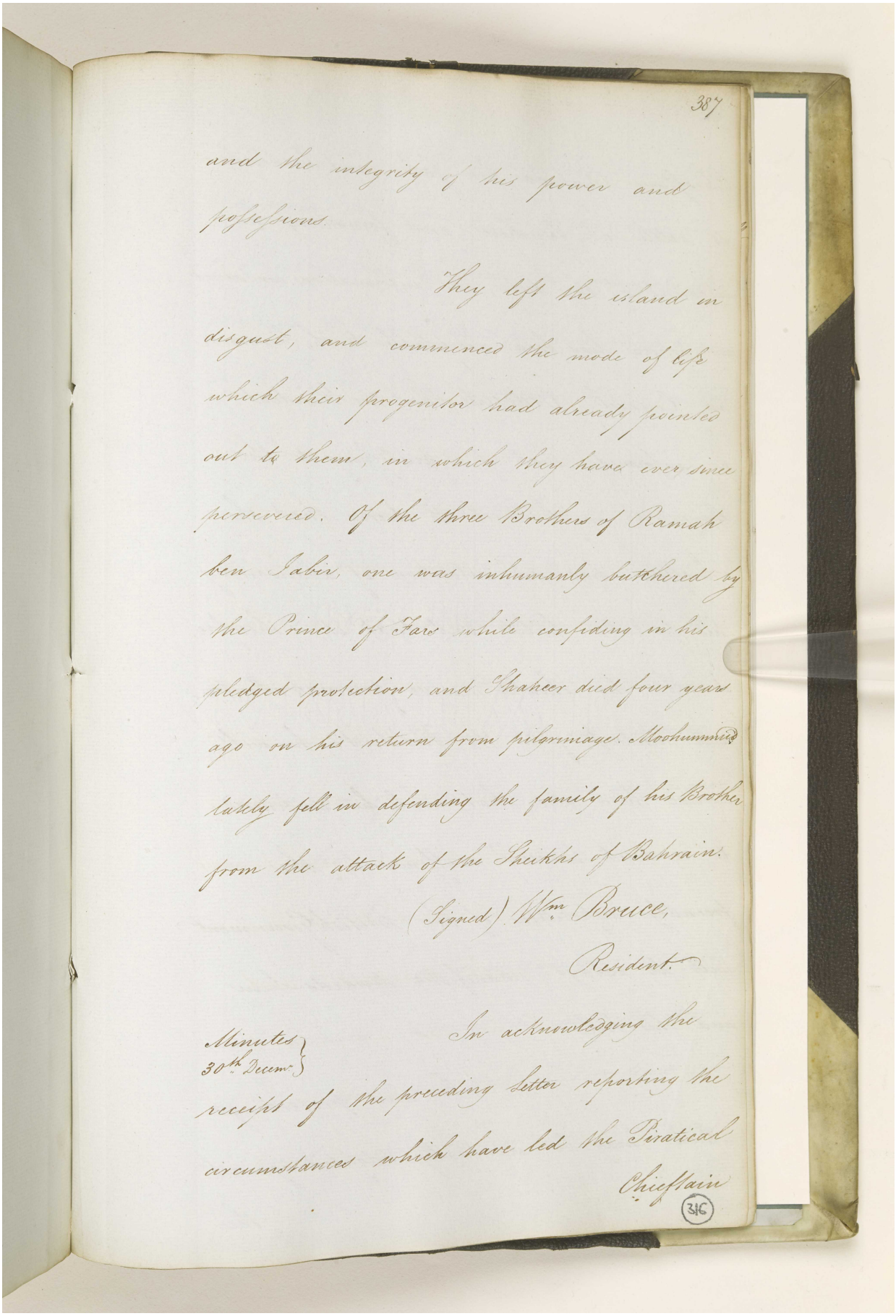


that enabled them to undertake the subjection of Bahrain with great promptitude. To this object they then turned their views, and were in a short period enabled to bring the whole of the island under subjection. This done, they proceeded to reward their companions according to the tenor of their agreement, amongst whom were included the four sons of Jabir-ben-Uthbee. These, when arrived at manhood, not at all instructed nor improved by their past History, and without even the power their father appeared to possess to substantiate these claims, demanded from the sons of Khaleefah ben Mohummud the enjoyment of rights territorial and political, which he was unwilling to grant, and to which he could scarcely have acceded with safety to himself

and



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and the integrity of his power and
possessions.

They left the island in
disgust, and commenced the mode of life
which their progenitor had already pointed
out to them, in which they have ever since
persevered. Of the three Brothers of Ramah
ben Jabir, one was inhumanly butchered by
the Prince of Fars while confiding in his
pledged protection, and Shaheer died four years
ago on his return from pilgrimage. Moohummud
lately fell in defending the family of his Brother
from the attack of the Sheikhs of Bahrain.

(Signed) Wm. Bruce,
Resident.

Minutes
30th Decem.

In acknowledging the
receipt of the preceding Letter reporting the
circumstances which have led the Piratical
Chieftain

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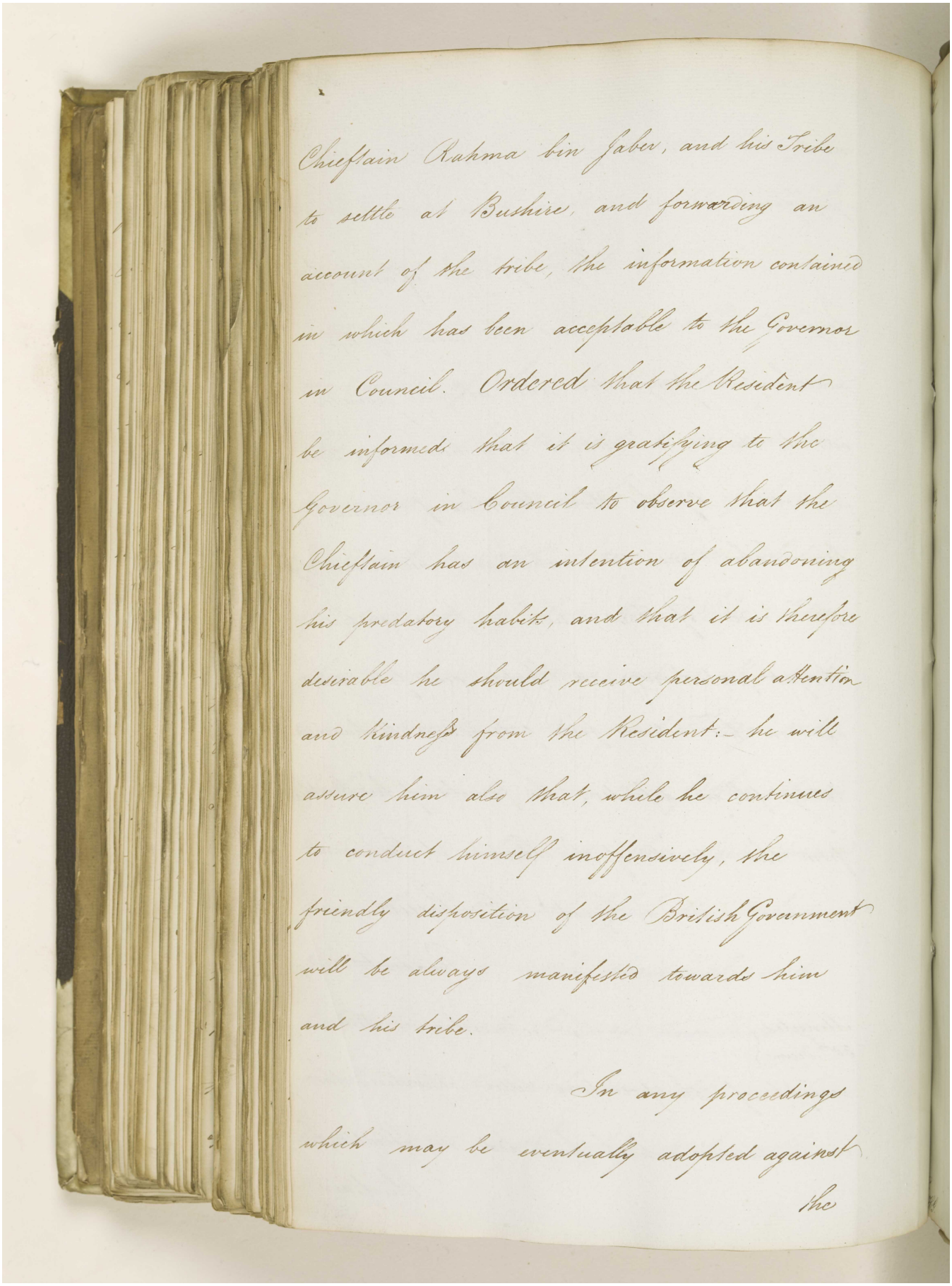
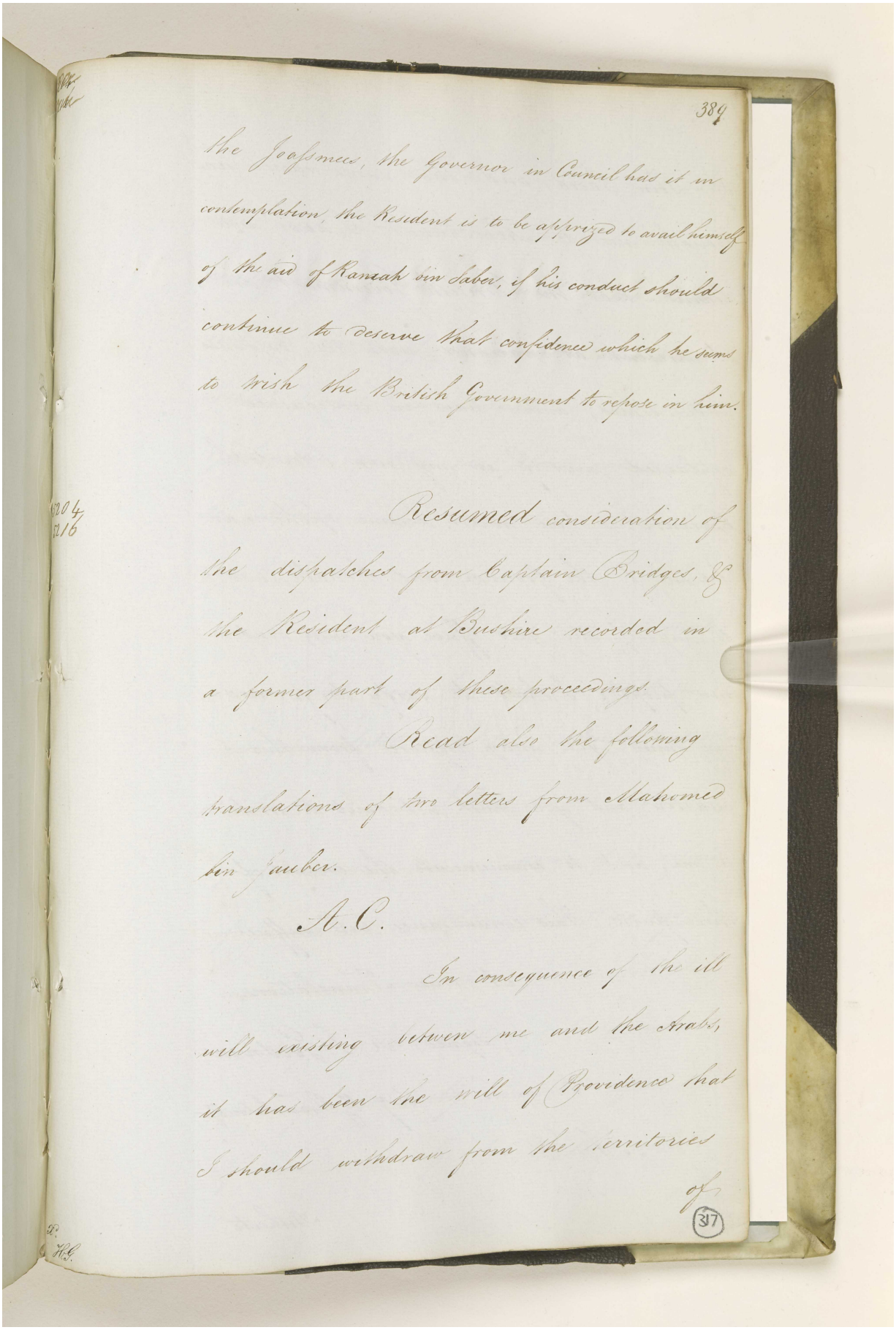


Chieftain Rahma bin Jaber, and his Tribe
to settle at Bushire, and forwarding an
account of the tribe, the information contained
in which has been acceptable to the Governor
in Council. Ordered that the Resident
be informed that it is gratifying to the
Governor in Council to observe that the
Chieftain has an intention of abandoning
his predatory habits, and that it is therefore
desirable he should receive personal attention
and kindness from the Resident:- he will
assure him also that, while he continues
to conduct himself inoffensively, the
friendly disposition of the British Government
will be always manifested towards him
and his tribe.

In any proceedings
which may be eventually adopted against
the



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the Joasmees, the Governor in Council has it in contemplation, the Resident is to be apprized to avail himself of the aid of Ramzah bin Saber, if his conduct should continue to deserve that confidence which he seems to wish the British Government to repose in him.

Resumed consideration of the dispatches from Captain Bridges, & the Resident at Bushire recorded in a former part of these proceedings.

Read also the following translations of two letters from Mahomed bin Jauber.

A. C.

In consequence of the ill will existing between me and the Arabs, it has been the will of Providence that I should withdraw from the territories of

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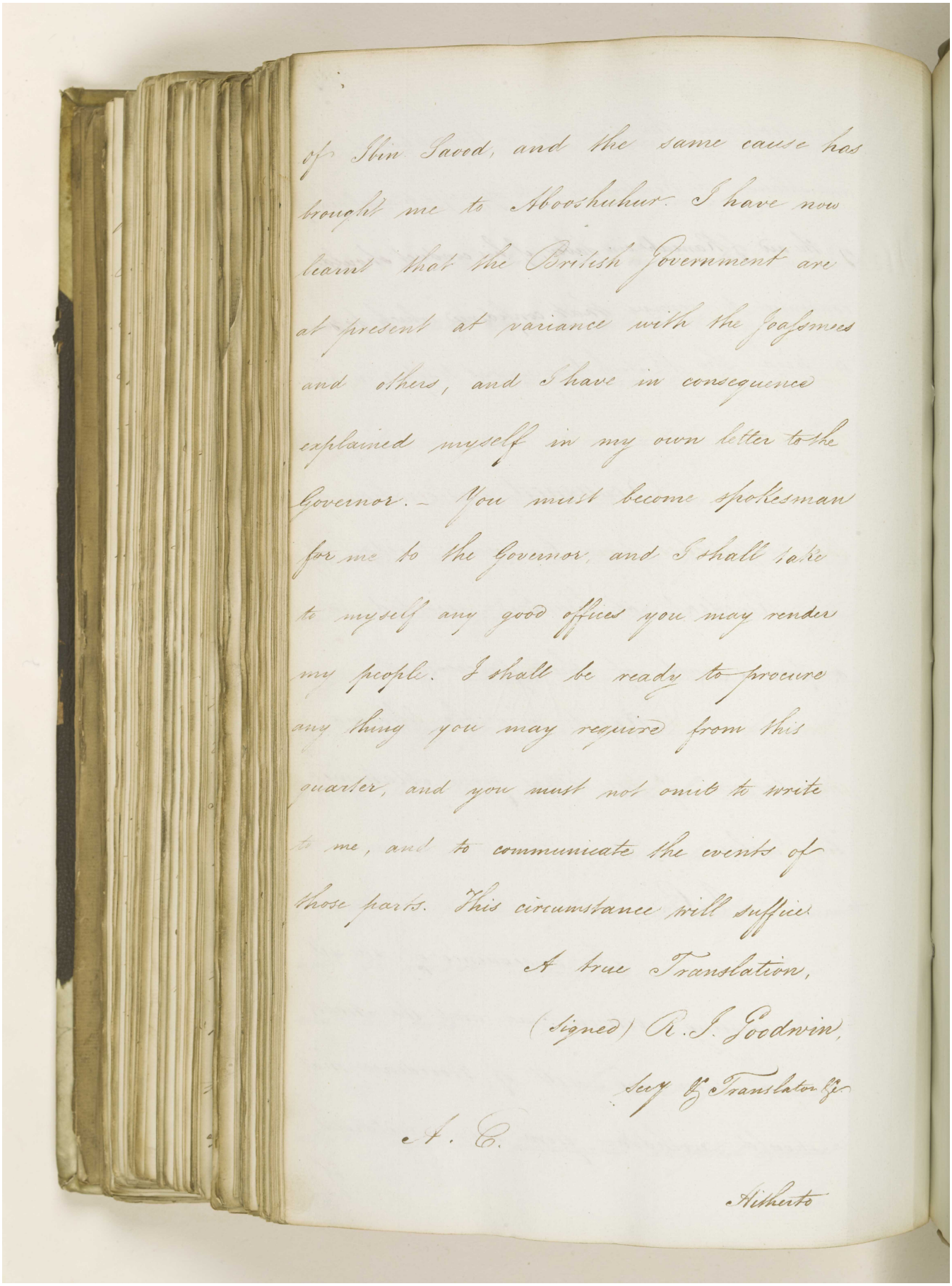


of Ibn Saood, and the same cause has brought me to Aboosheher. I have now learnt that the British Government are at present at variance with the Joasmees and others, and I have in consequence explained myself in my own letter to the Governor. – You must become spokesman for me to the Governor, and I shall take to myself any good offices you may render my people. I shall be ready to procure any thing you may require from this quarter, and you must not omit to write to me, and to communicate the events of those parts. This circumstance will suffice

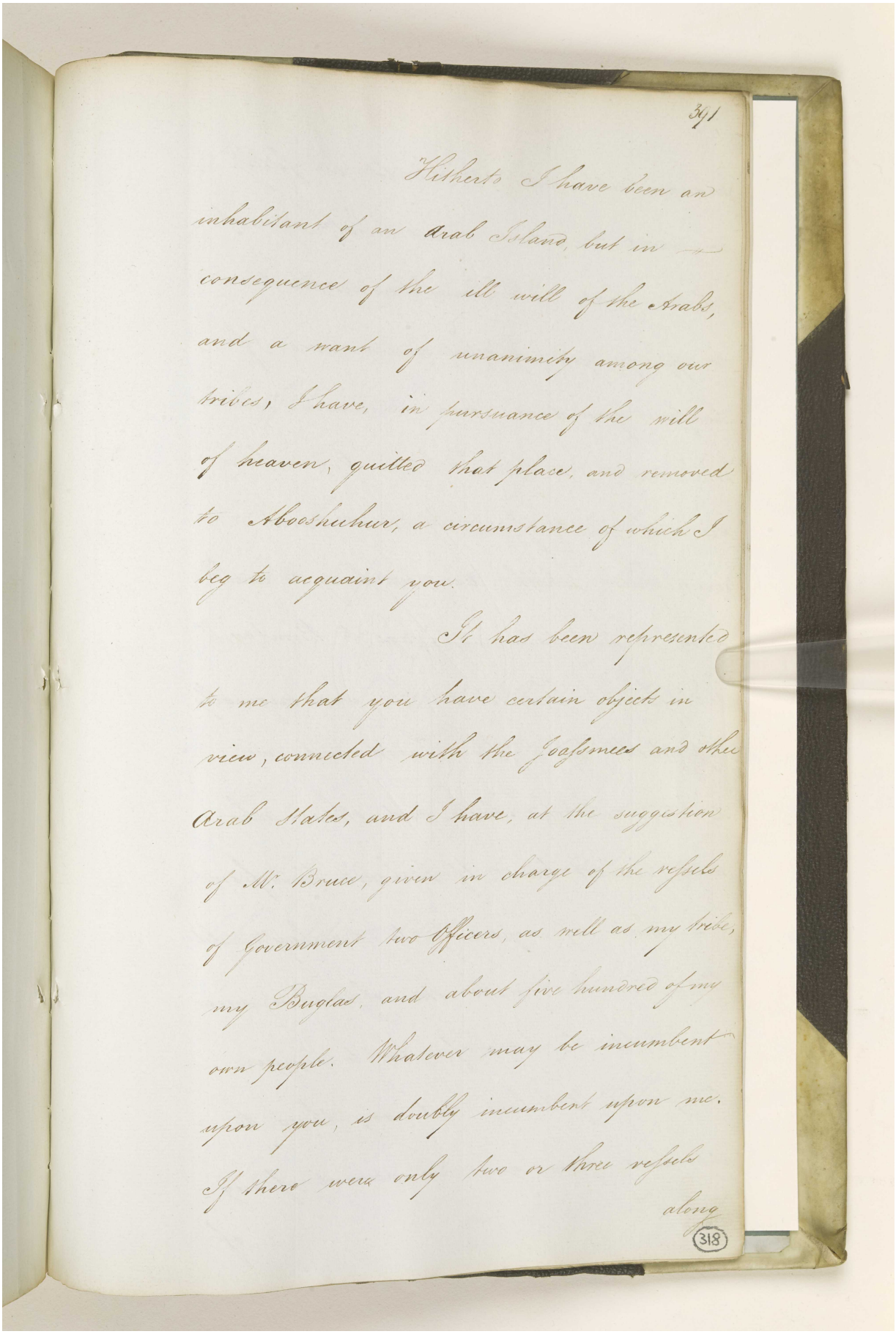
A true Translation,

(Signed) R. I. Goodwin,

Secy & Translator &c

J. C.

Hitherto



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Hitherto I have been an inhabitant of an Arab Island, but in consequence of the ill will of the Arabs, and a want of unanimity among our tribes, I have, in pursuance of the will of heaven, quitted that place, and removed to Abooshuhur, a circumstance of which I beg to acquaint you.

It has been represented to me that you have certain objects in view, connected with the Joasmees and other Arab States, and I have, at the suggestion of Mr. Bruce, given in charge of the vessels of Government two Officers, as well as my tribe, my Buglas, and about five hundred of my own people. Whatever may be incumbent upon you, is doubly incumbent upon me. If there were only two or three vessels

along

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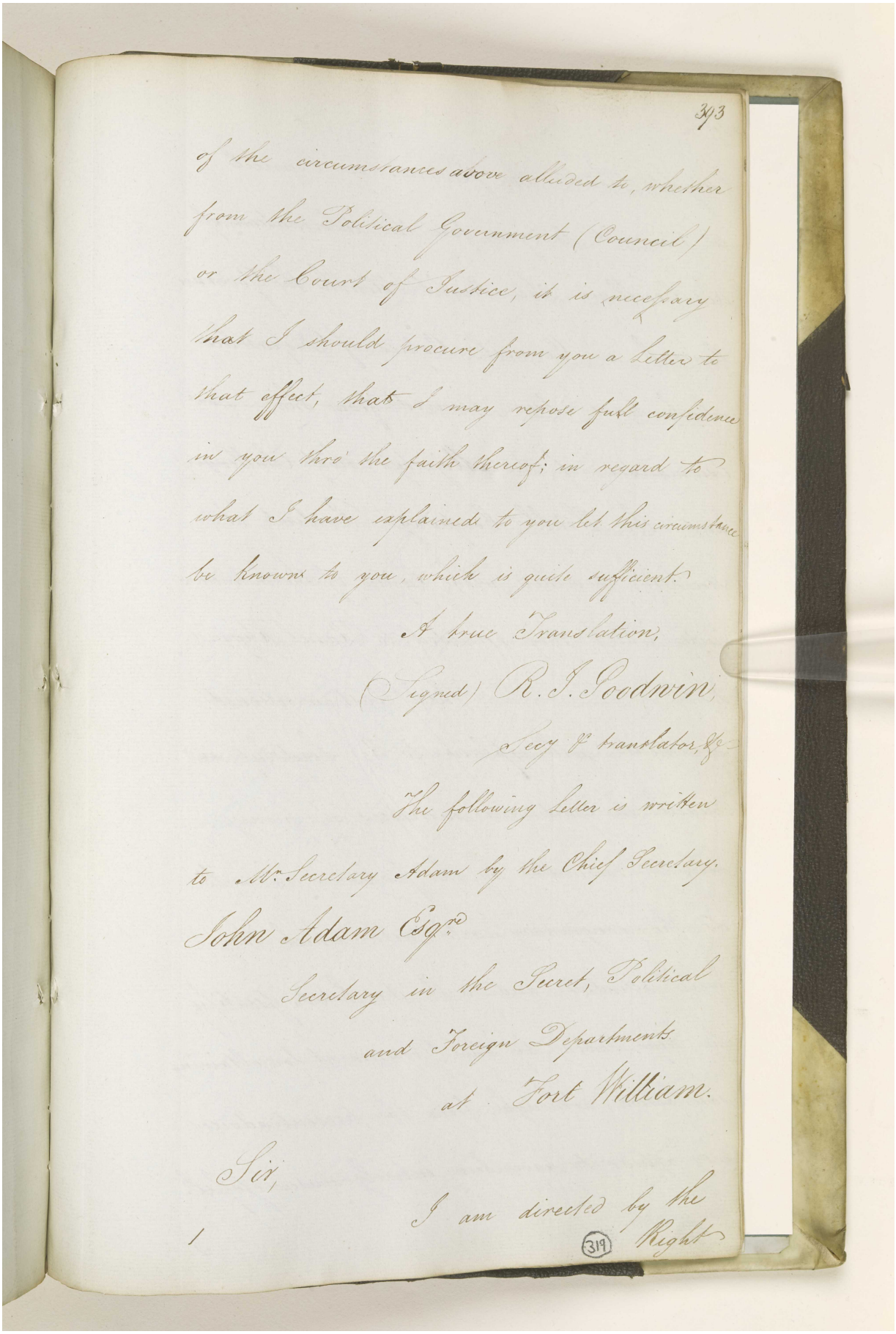
along with me I should be fully
competent to act on your behalf against
all the Arabs. Mr. Bruce has written to me
to apprize you of this circumstance. If
therefore you deem such a measure expedient,
communicate the same to me. Our vessels
are in want of some stores and
equipments which are necessary to enable
them to undertake a voyage to Bombay, &
the British Territories. We were originally
dependents upon Sheikh Saood, and we
destroyed all the Arabs and others who
were against him. If I should find from
you that my repairing to Bombay would
be inconsistent with the objects in view,
it would be better for me to remain
here; and if I have not any thing to
apprehend from you on account of any
of



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of the circumstances above alluded to, whether from the Political Government (Council) or the Court of Justice, it is necessary that I should procure from you a letter to that effect, that I may repose full confidence in you thro' the faith thereof; in regard to what I have explained to you let this circumstance be known to you, which is quite sufficient.

A true Translation,

(Signd) R. J. Goodwin,

Secy & translator, &c

The following letter is written to Mr. Secretary Adam by the Chief Secretary.

John Adam Esqr.

Secretary in the Secret, Political and Foreign Departments at Fort William.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right

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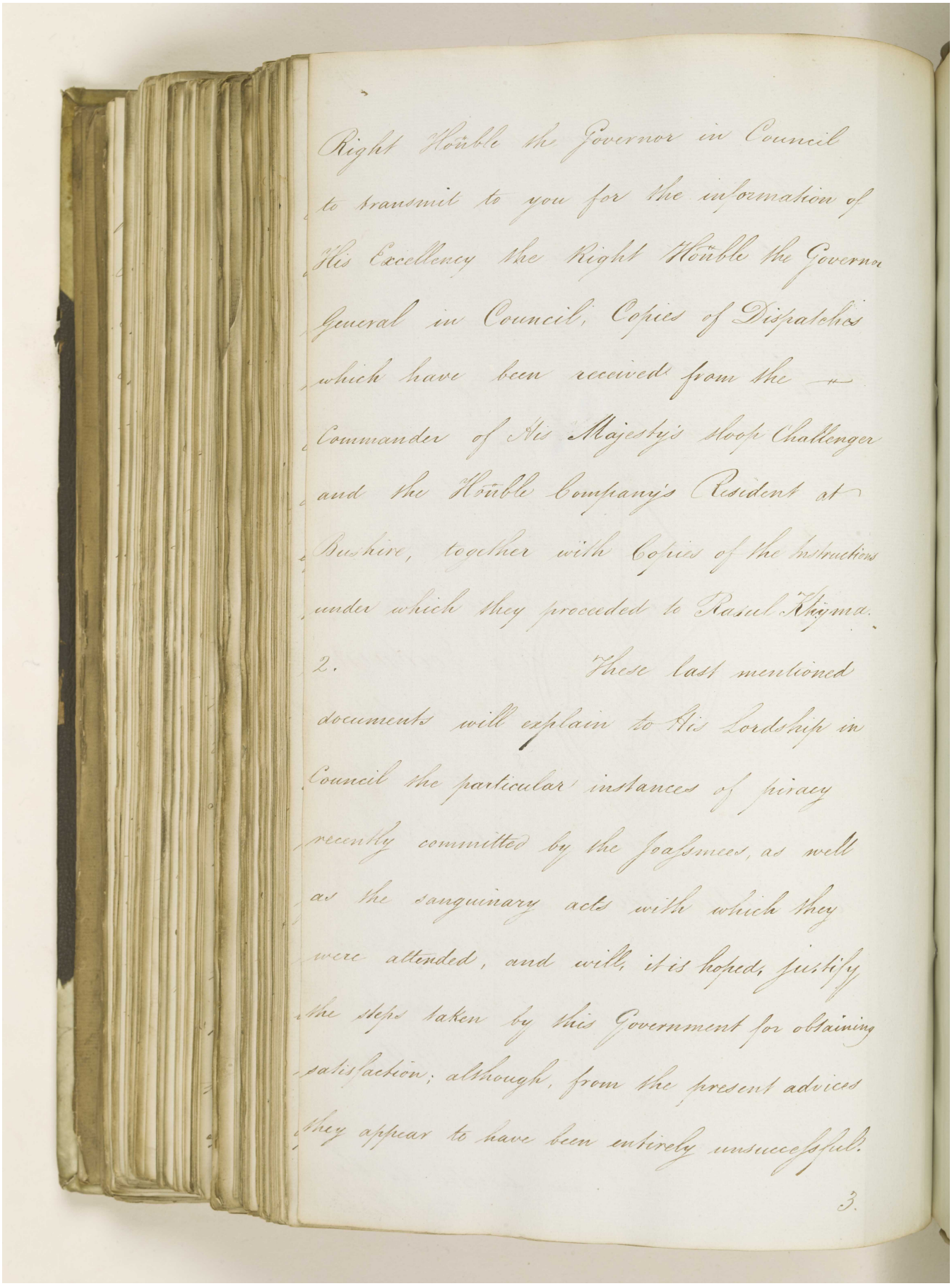

Right Honble the Governor in Council
to transmit to you for the information of
His Excellency the Right Honble the Governor
General in Council, Copies of Dispatches
which have been received from the
Commander of His Majesty's Sloop Challenger
and the Honble Company's Resident at
Bushire, together with Copies of the Instructions
under which they proceeded to Rasul Khyma.

2. These last mentioned
documents will explain to His Lordship in
Council the particular instances of piracy
recently committed by the Joasmees, as well
as the sanguinary acts with which they
were attended, and will, it is hoped, justify
the steps taken by this Government for obtaining
satisfaction; although, from the present advices
they appear to have been entirely unsuccessful.

3.

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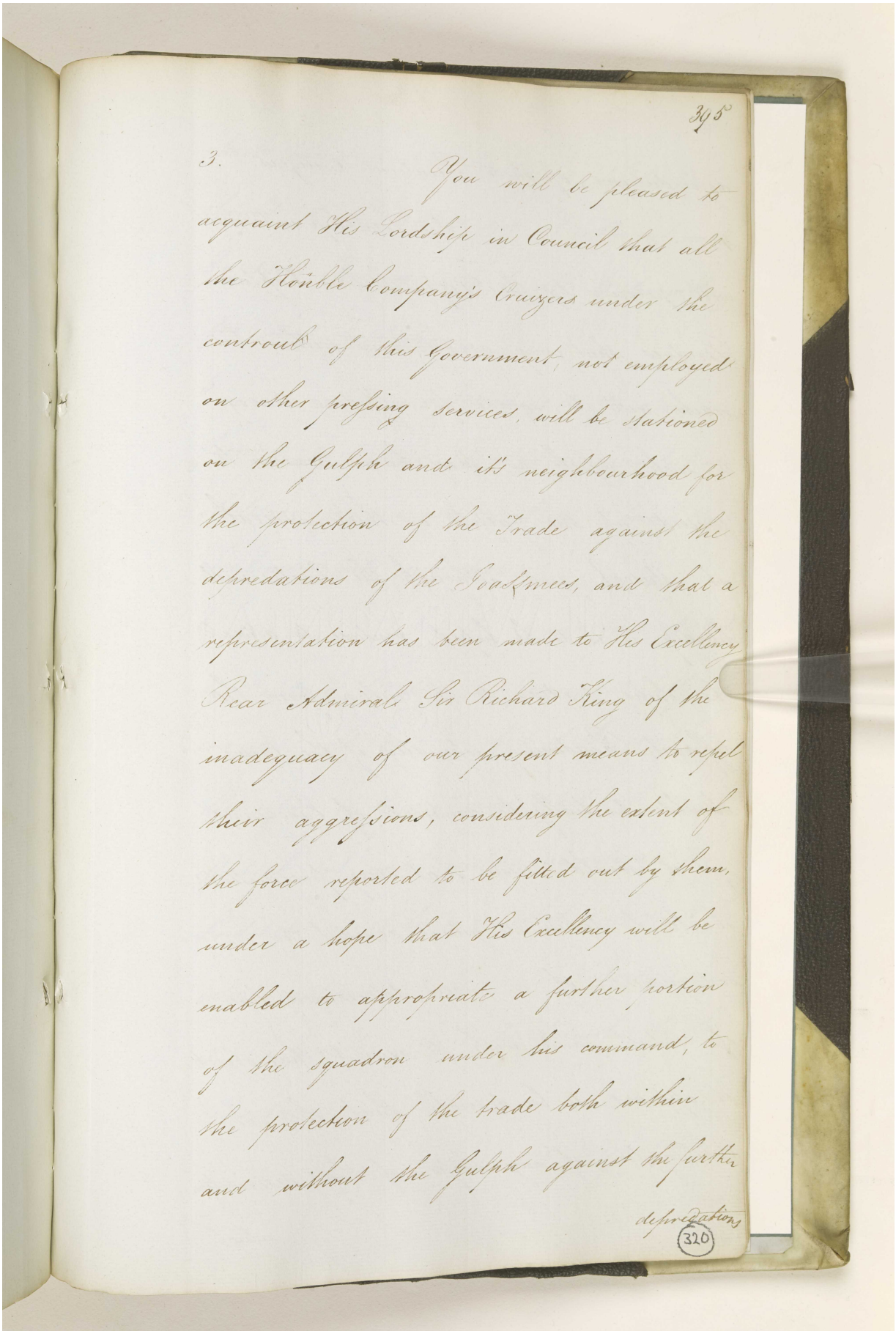

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3. You will be pleased to acquaint His Lordship in Council that all the Honble Company's Cruizers under the controul of this Government, not employed on other pressing services, will be stationed on the Gulph and its neighbourhood for the protection of the Trade against the depredations of the Joasmees, and that a representation has been made to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Richard King of the inadequacy of our present means to repel their aggressions, considering the extent of the force reported to be fitted out by them, under a hope that His Excellency will be enabled to appropriate a further portion of the squadron under his command, to the protection of the trade both within and without the Gulph against the further depredations

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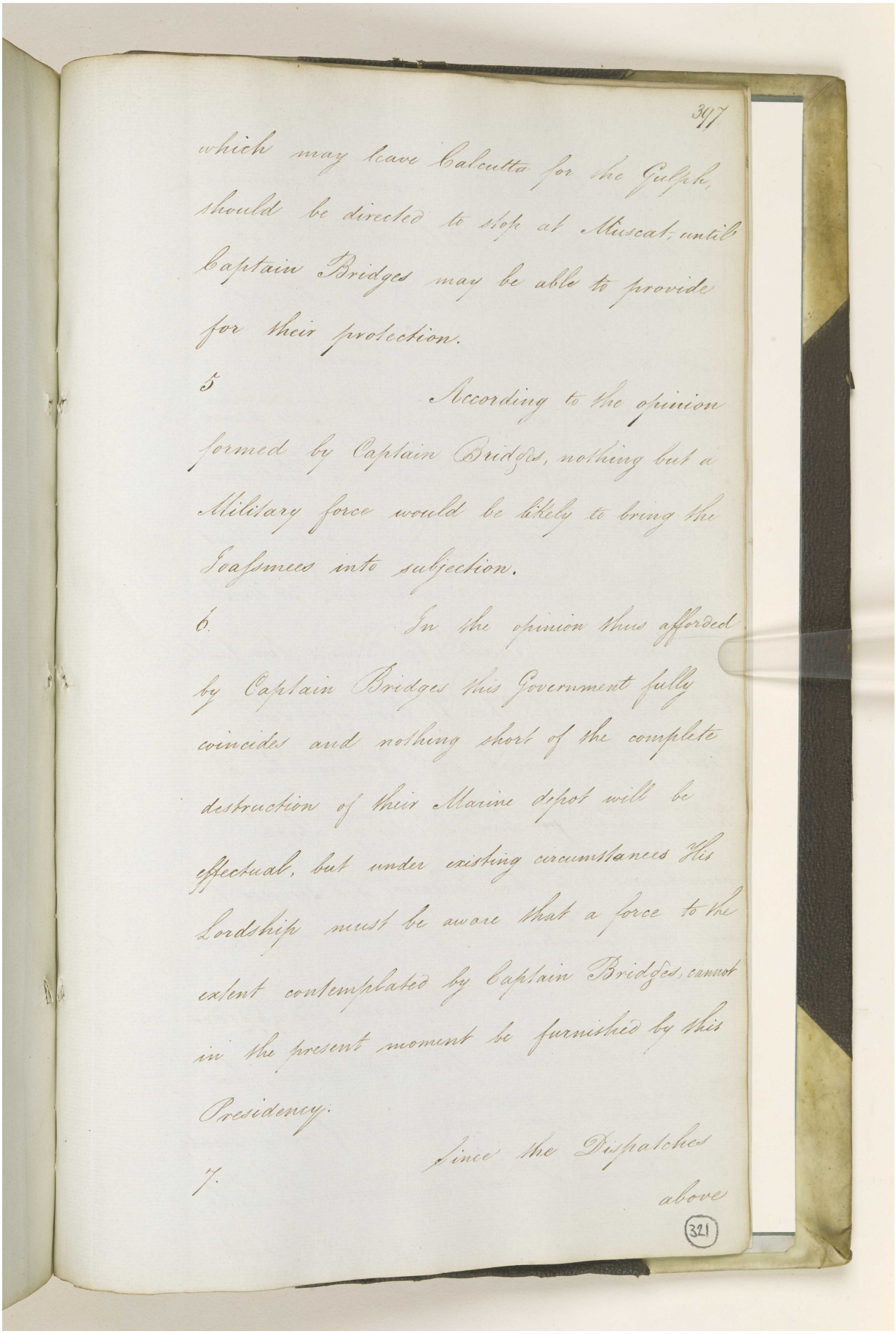
depredations of these Piratical Cruizers.

4. His Lordship in Council will perceive by the Dispatch from Captain Bridges that every arrangement within his reach will be made for affording convoy to such vessels as may have occasion to proceed up the Gulph on their arrival at Muscat, and although the Pirates will hardly, it is to be hoped, venture to attack the ships trading to the Gulph from the different Presidencies, especially if the Crews should partially be composed of Europeans, yet it would seem that every precaution should be taken to guard against the consequences of a more determined line of conduct, and with a view to that object, it appears to be desirable that the Commanders of any ships of that description which



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which may leave Calcutta for the Gulph, should be directed to stop at Muscat, until Captain Bridges may be able to provide for their protection.

5 According to the opinion formed by Captain Bridges, nothing but a Military force would be likely to bring the Joasmees into subjection.

6 In the opinion thus afforded by Captain Bridges this Government fully coincides and nothing short of the complete destruction of their Marine depot will be effectual, but under existing circumstances His Lordship must be aware that a force to the extent contemplated by Captain Bridges, cannot in the present moment be furnished by this Presidency.

7 Since the Dispatches above

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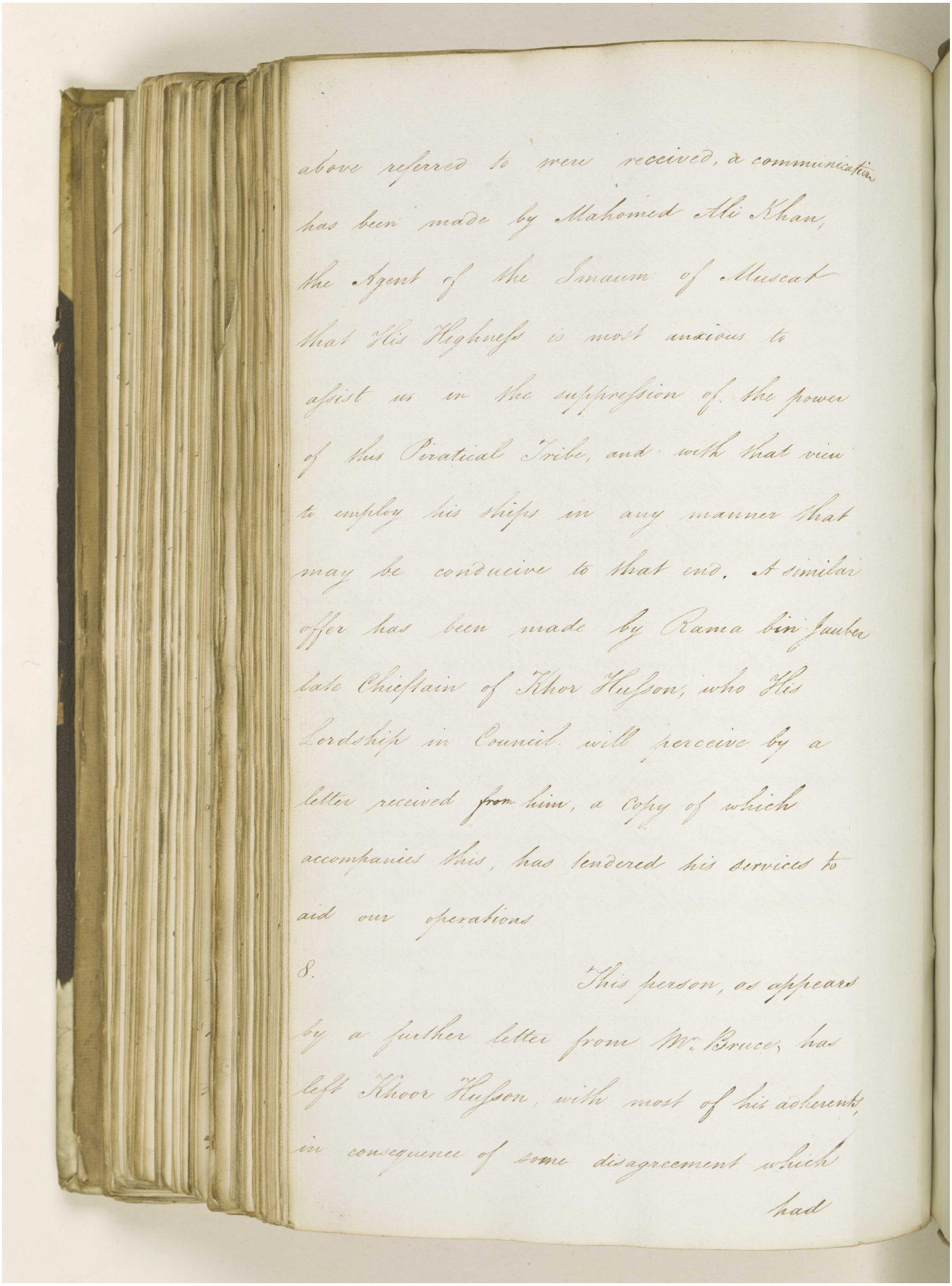
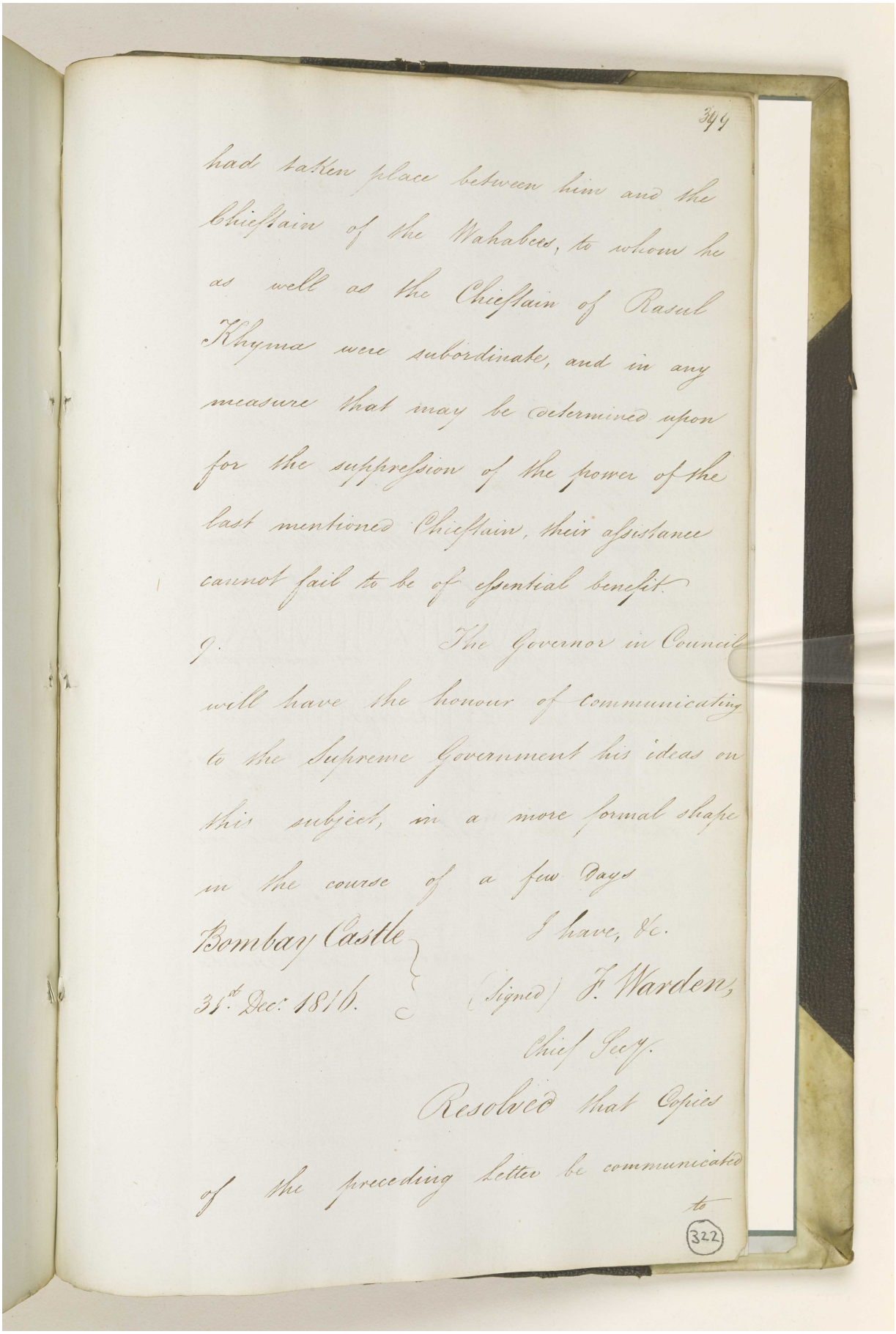


above referred to were received, a communication has been made by Mahomed Ali Khan, the Agent of the Imaum of Muscat that His Highness is most anxious to assist us in the suppression of the power of this Piratical Tribe, and with that view to employ his ships in any manner that may be conducive to that end. A similar offer has been made by Rama bin Jauber late Chieftain of Khor Hulson, who His Lordship in Council will perceive by a letter received from him, a Copy of which accompanies this, has tendered his services to aid our operations

8. This person, as appears by a further letter from Mr. Bruce, has left Khoor Hulson, with most of his adherents, in consequence of some disagreement which had



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had taken place between him and the
Chieftain of the Wahabees, to whom he
as well as the Chieftain of Rasul
Khyma were subordinate, and in any
measure that may be determined upon
for the suppression of the power of the
last mentioned Chieftain, their assistance
cannot fail to be of essential benefit.

9. The Governor in Council
will have the honour of communicating
to the Supreme Government his ideas on
this subject, in a more formal shape
in the course of a few Days

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle
31st Dec: 1816.

(Signed) J. Warden,
Chief Secy.

Resolved that Copies
of the preceding Letter be communicated
to

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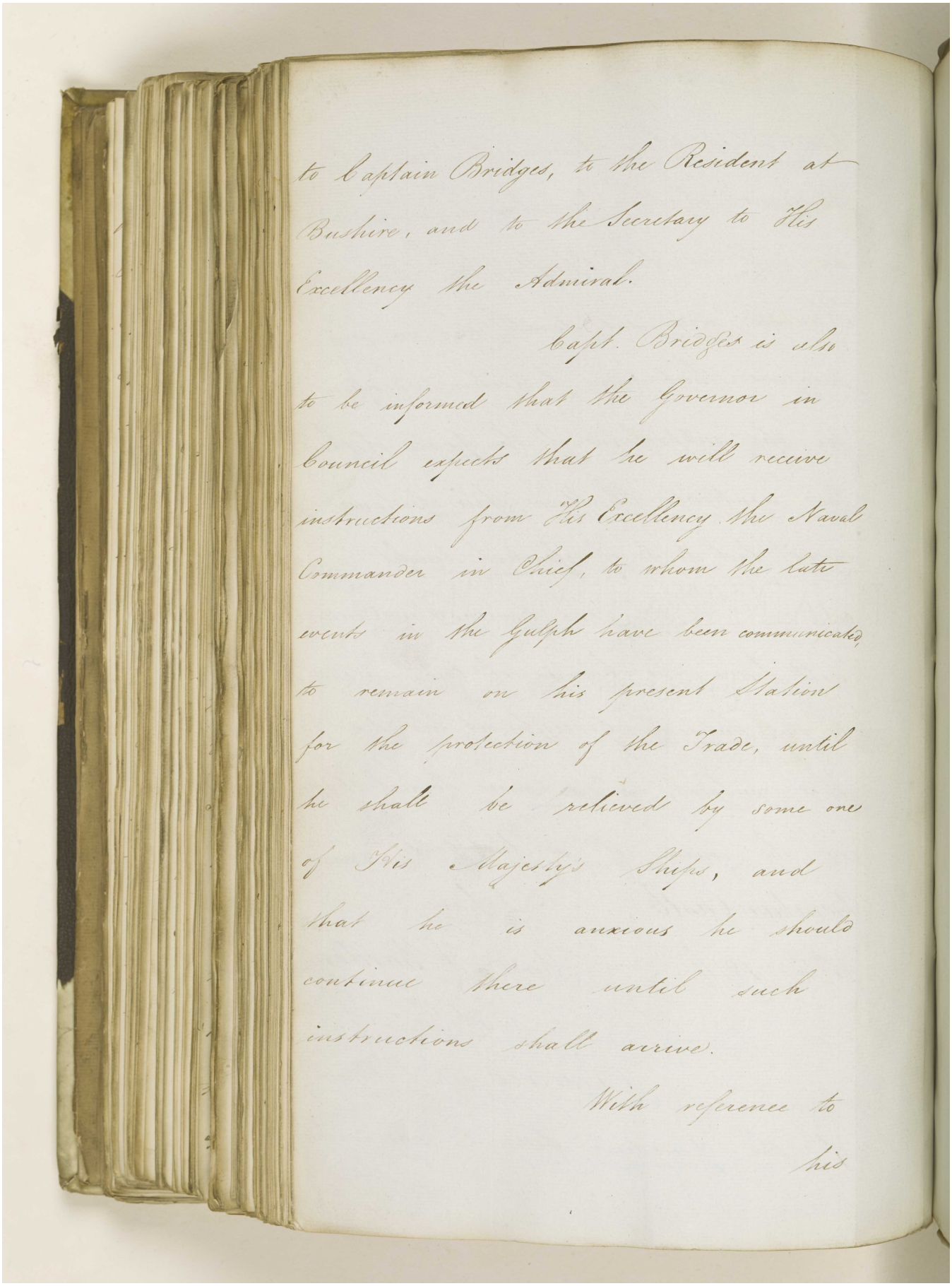
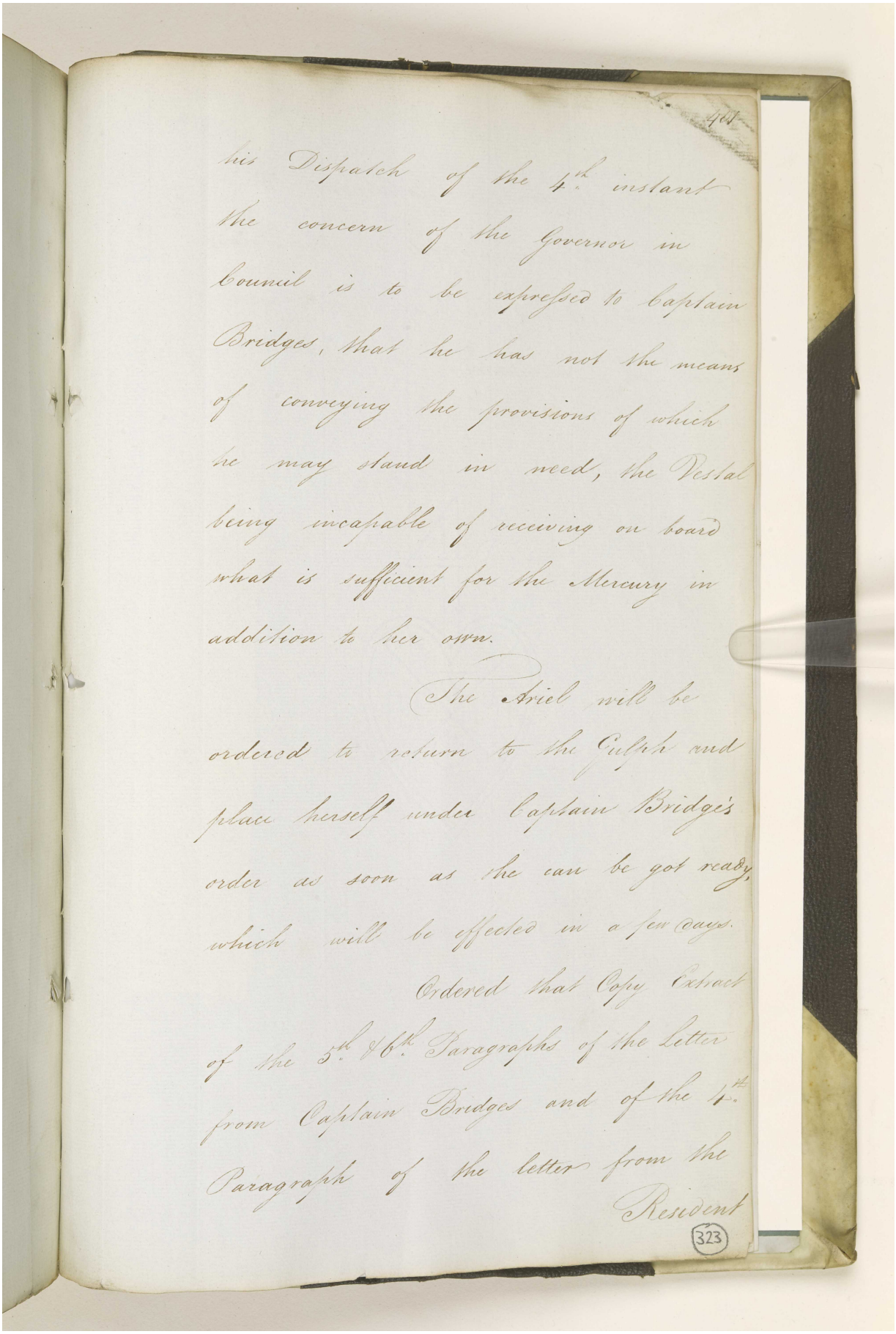


to Captain Bridges, to the Resident at Bushire, and to the Secretary to His Excellency the Admiral.

Capt. Bridges is also to be informed that the Governor in Council expects that he will receive instructions from His Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief, to whom the late events in the Gulph have been communicated, to remain on his present Station for the protection of the Trade, until he shall be relieved by some one of His Majesty's Ships, and that he is anxious he should continue there until such instructions shall arrive.

With reference to his



his Dispatch of the 4th. instant the concern of the Governor in Council is to be expressed to Captain Bridges, that he has not the means of conveying the provisions of which he may stand in need, the Vestal being incapable of receiving on board what is sufficient for the Mercury in addition to her own.

The Ariel will be ordered to return to the Gulph and place herself under Captain Bridge's order as soon as she can be got ready, which will be effected in a few days.

Ordered that Copy Extract of the 5th & 6th Paragraphs of the Letter from Captain Bridges and of the 4th. Paragraph of the letter from the Resident

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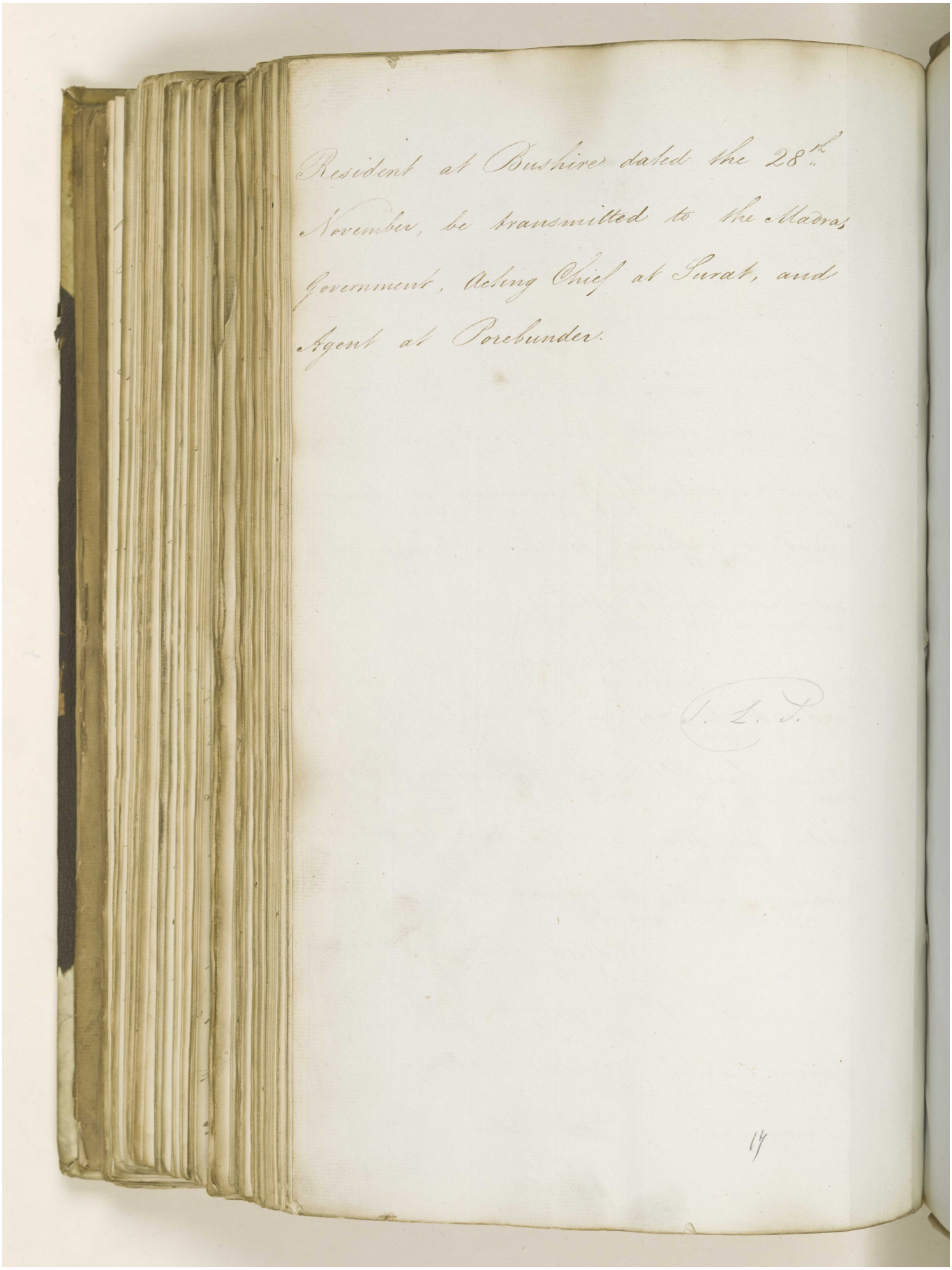
Resident at Bushire dated the 28th.
November, be transmitted to the Madras
Government, Acting Chief at Surat, and
Agent at Porebunder.

I. L. L.

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