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‘Relative to the Occupation of the Island of Kishm vol 1’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/762/20693
Date(s)	17 May 1819-6 Feb 1823 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (93 folios)
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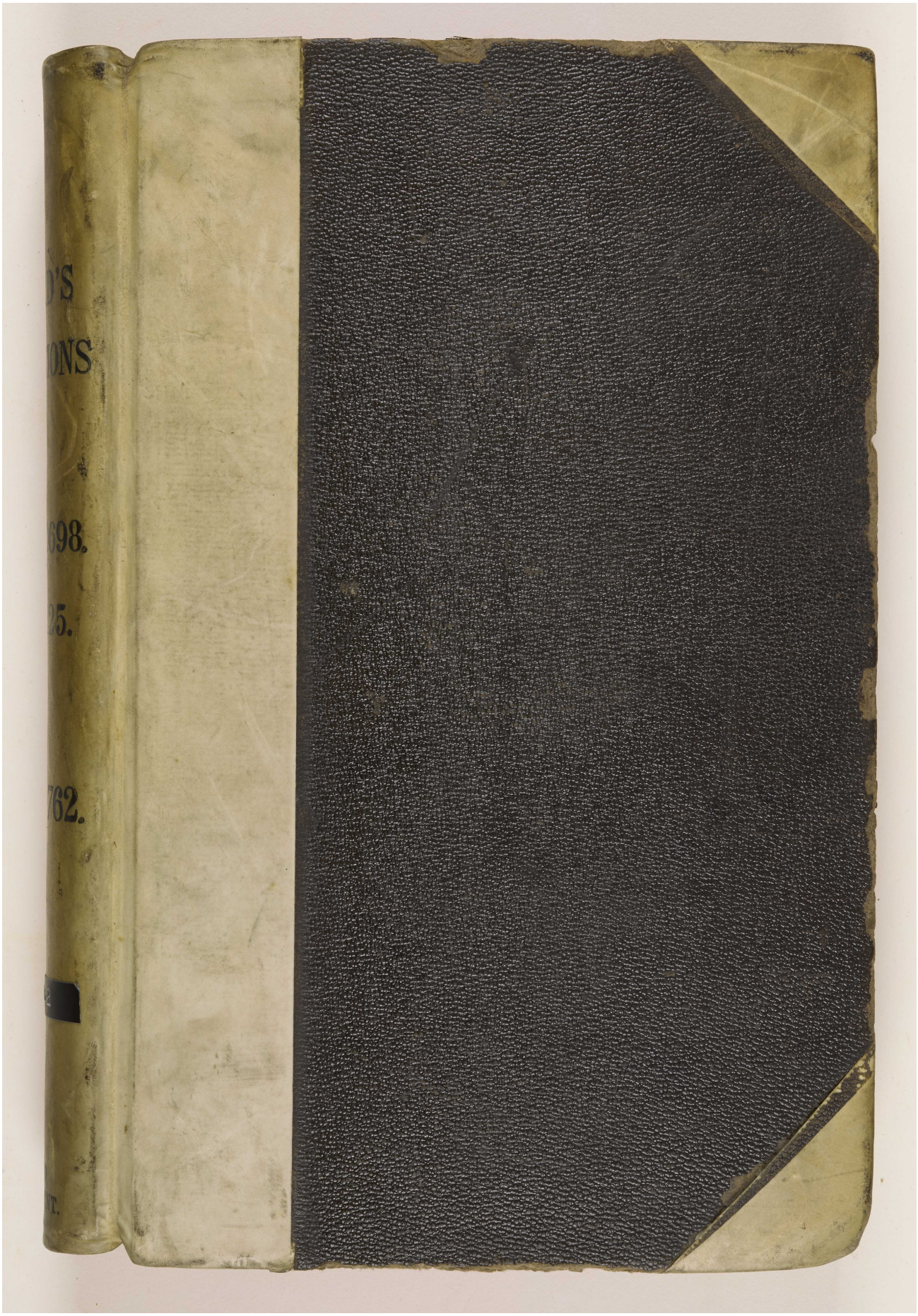
About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, minutes, and consultations, cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay. It is the first in a series of two items about the island of Kishm [Qeshm] (the other is IOR/F/4/762/20694). The principal correspondents are the Government of Bombay and Henry Willock, HM Chargé d'Affaires to Persia.

The item discusses:

- The occupation of the island of Kishm by British troops, with a list of the troops present on the island (f 74)
- The claims of Persia and Muscat to sovereignty over the island
- The fears of Persia over the occupation of Kishm and Andrew Jukes’s mission to Governor of Fars [Prince-Governor of Fārs, Ḥusayn ‘Alī Mirzā Farmānfarmā]
- A proposed expedition against the Joasmees [al-Qawāsim]
- The conduct of William Bruce, Resident at Bushire [Būshehr]
- Relations between Persia and Bahrein [Bahrain], and between Muscat and Bahrein.

The item includes a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: ‘Bombay Political No. 855, Draft 106, P.C. 200, [Season] 24/5’ and ‘Examiner’s Office 1823’.



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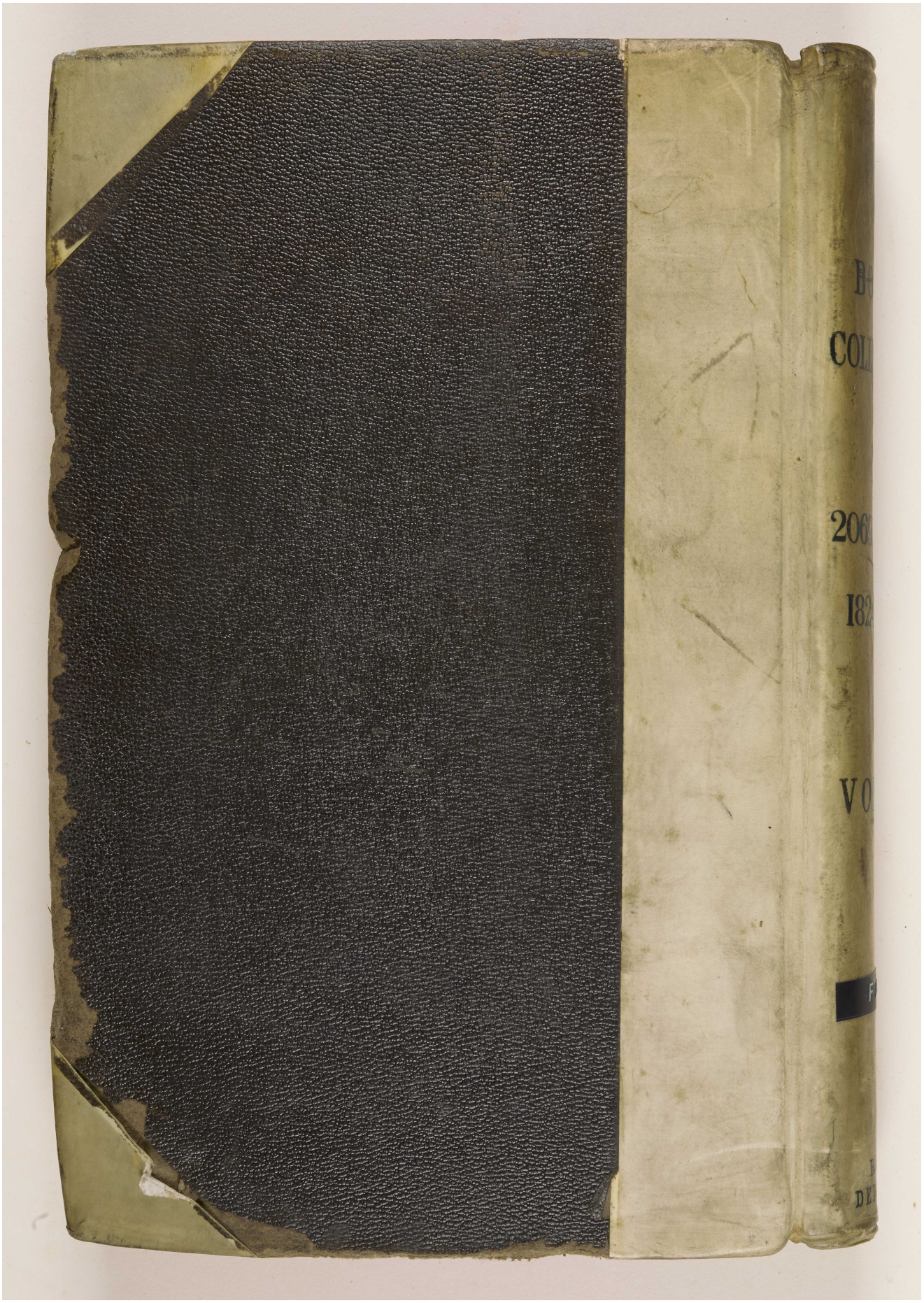

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‘Relative to the Occupation of the Island of Kishm vol 1’ [tail] (6/194)



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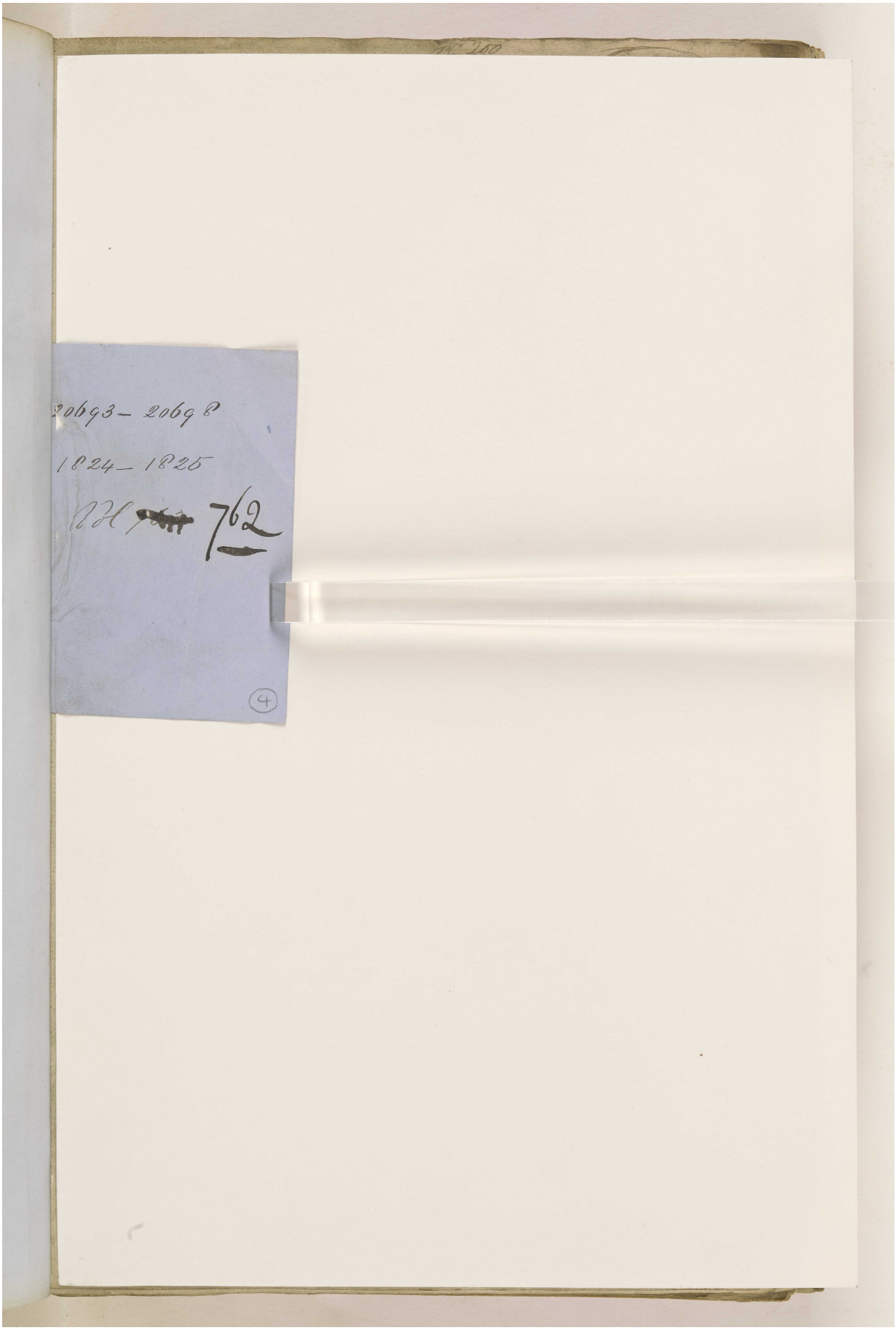

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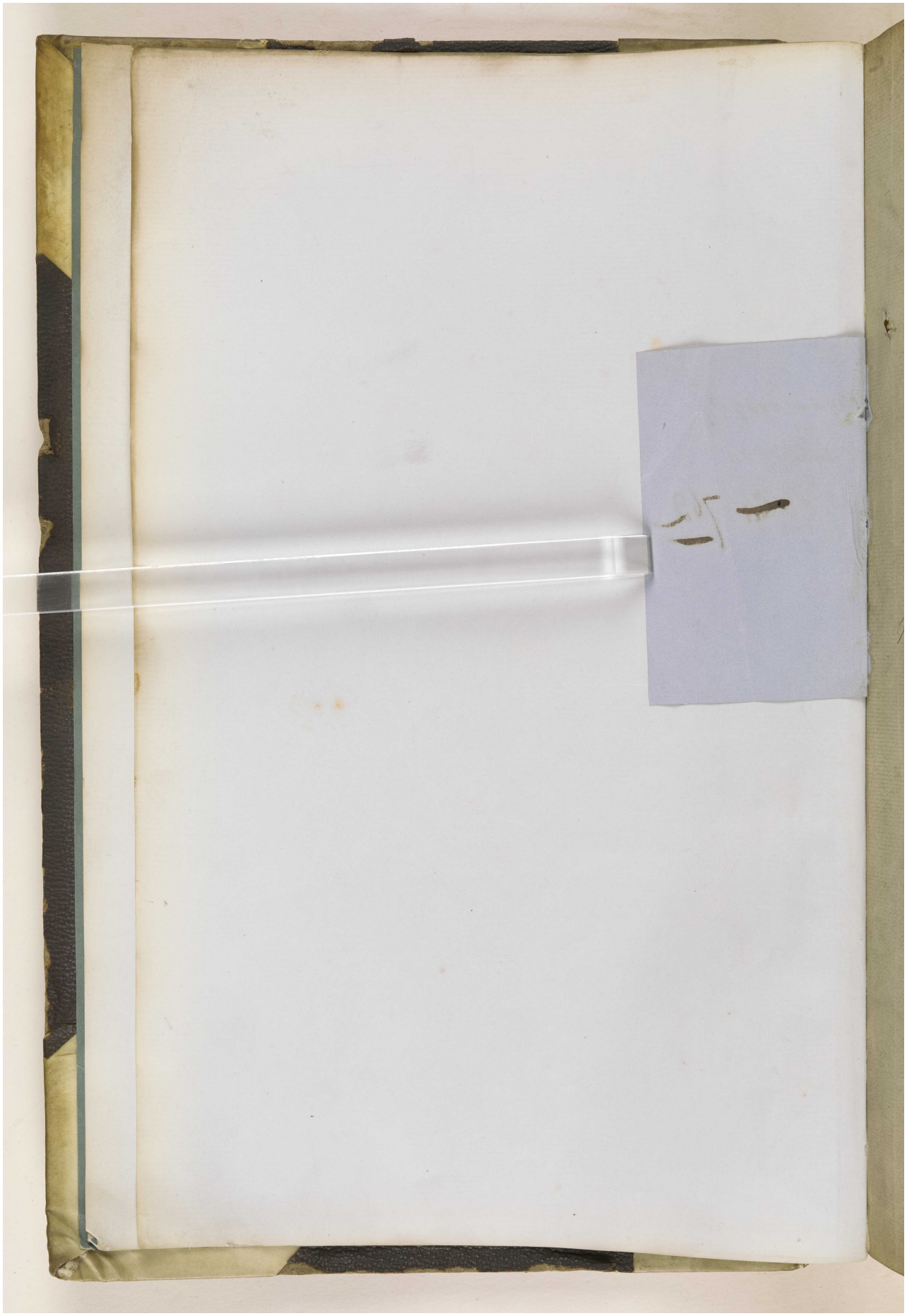

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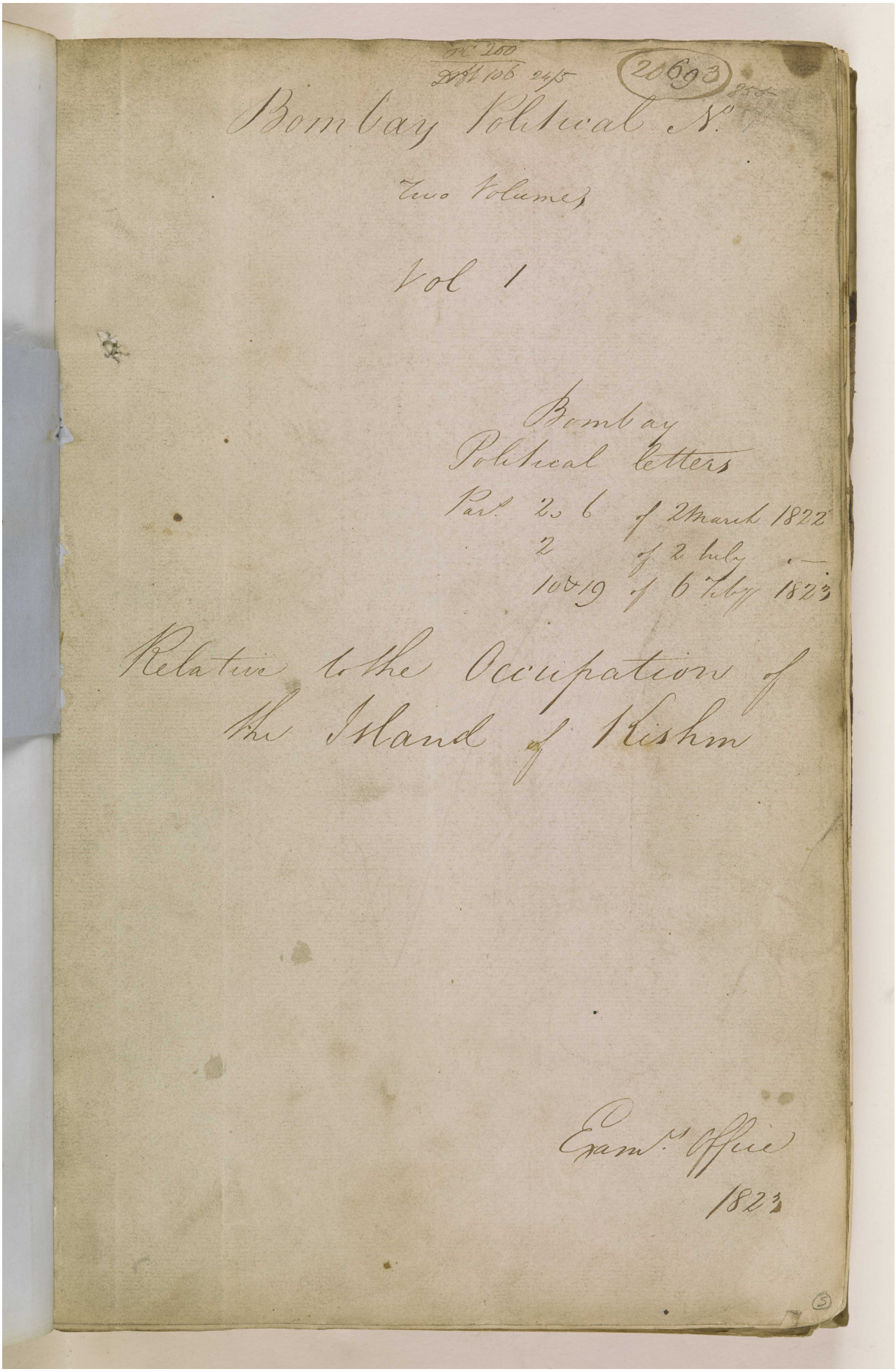

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Bombay Political No.

Two Volumes

Vol 1

Bombay
Political letters
Pars. 2 & 6 of 2 March 1822
2 of 2 July —
10 & 19 of 6 July 1823

Relative to the Occupation of the Island of Kishm

Examrs. Office
1823

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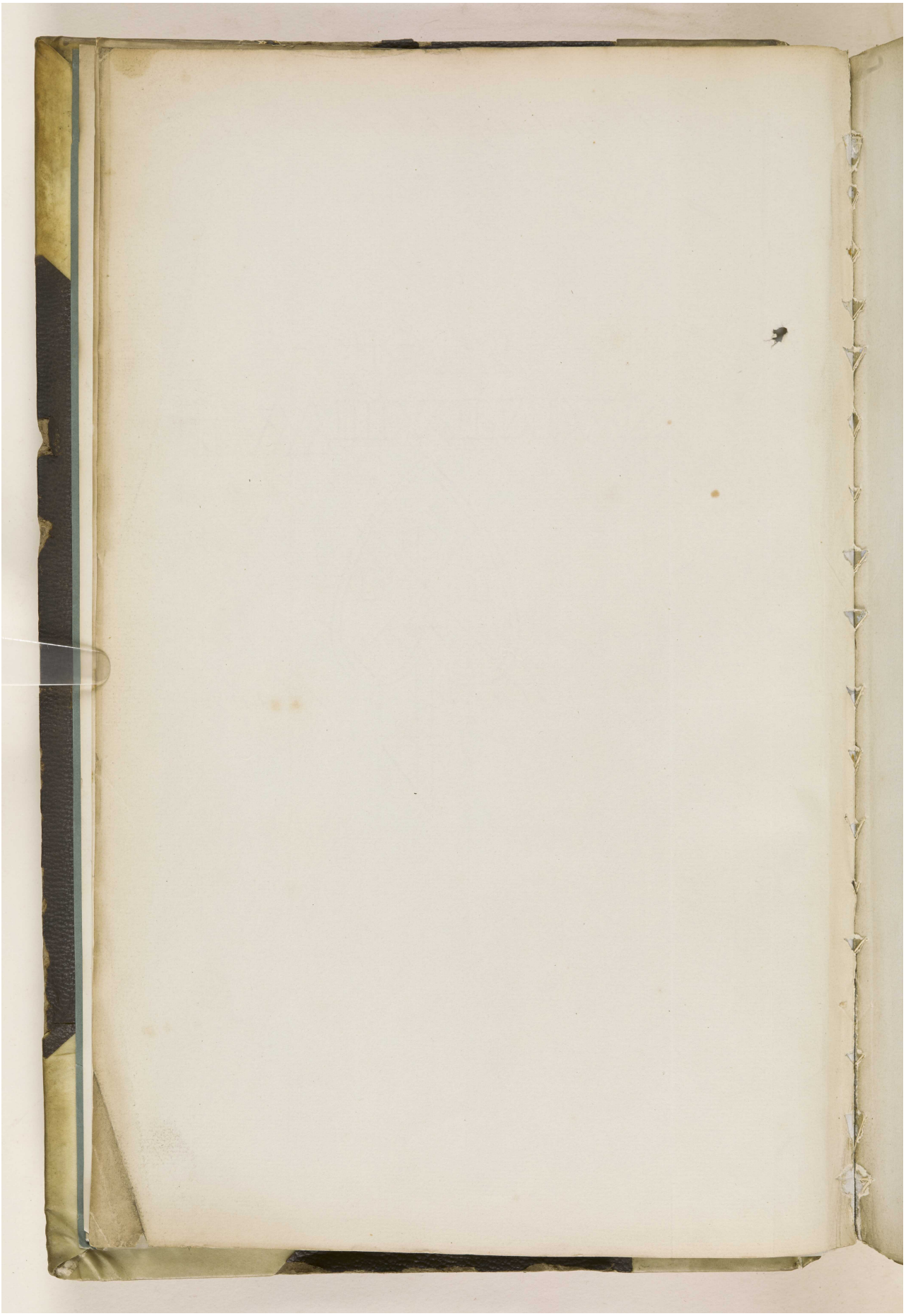

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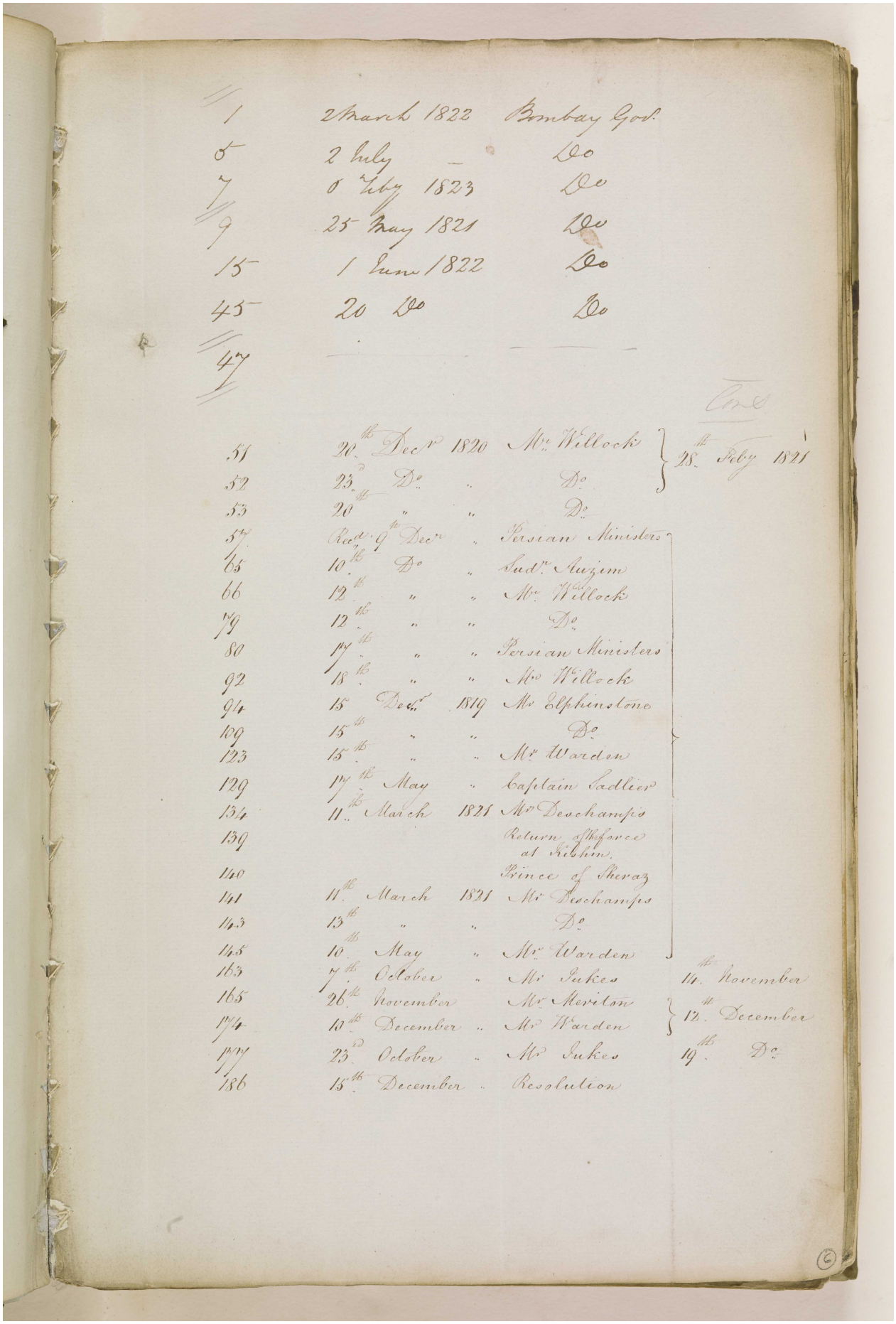
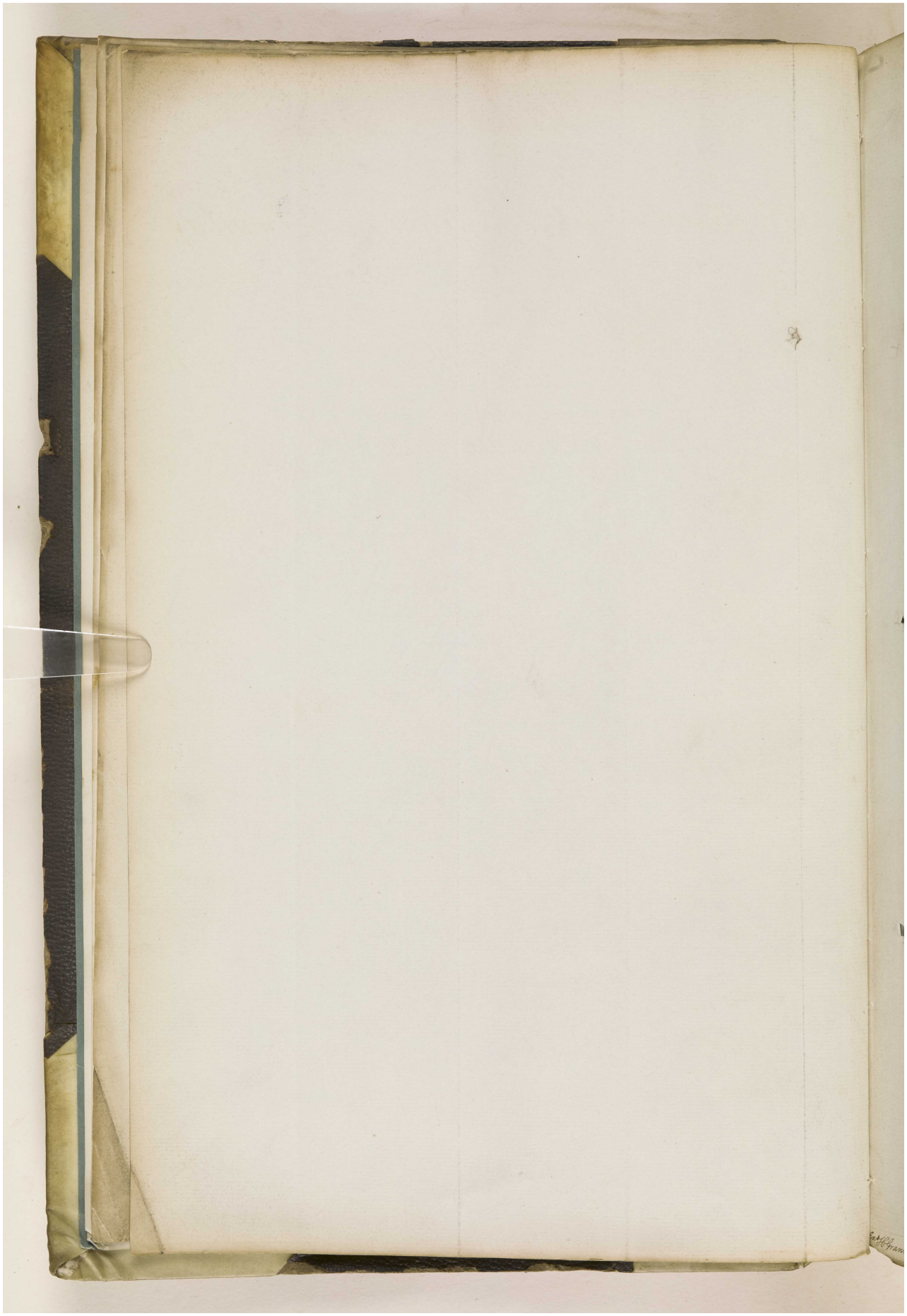


1	2 March	1822	Bombay Govt.		
5	2 July		Do		
7	6 Feby	1823	Do		
9	25 May	1821	Do		
15	1 June	1822	Do		
45	20 Do		Do		
47					
51	20th Decr	1820	Mr Willock	28th Feby	1821
52	23d Do	"	Do		
53	20th "	"	Do		
57	Recd 9th Decr	"	Persian Ministers		
65	10th Do	"	Sud. Auzim		
66	12th "	"	Mr Willock		
79	12th "	"	Do		
80	17th "	"	Persian Ministers		
92	18th "	"	Mr Willock		
94	15 Decr	1819	Mr Elphinstone		
109	15th "	"	Do		
123	15th "	"	Mr Warden		
129	17th May	"	Captain Sadlier		
134	11th March	1821	Mr Deschamps		
139			Return of the force at Kishm.		
140			Prince of Sheraz		
141	11th March	1821	Mr Deschamps		
143	15th "	"	Do		
145	10th May	"	Mr Warden		
163	7th October	"	Mr Sukes	14th November	
165	26th November		Mr Meriton	12th December	
174	10th December	"	Mr Warden		
177	23d October	"	Mr Sukes	19th Do	
186	15th December	"	Resolution		



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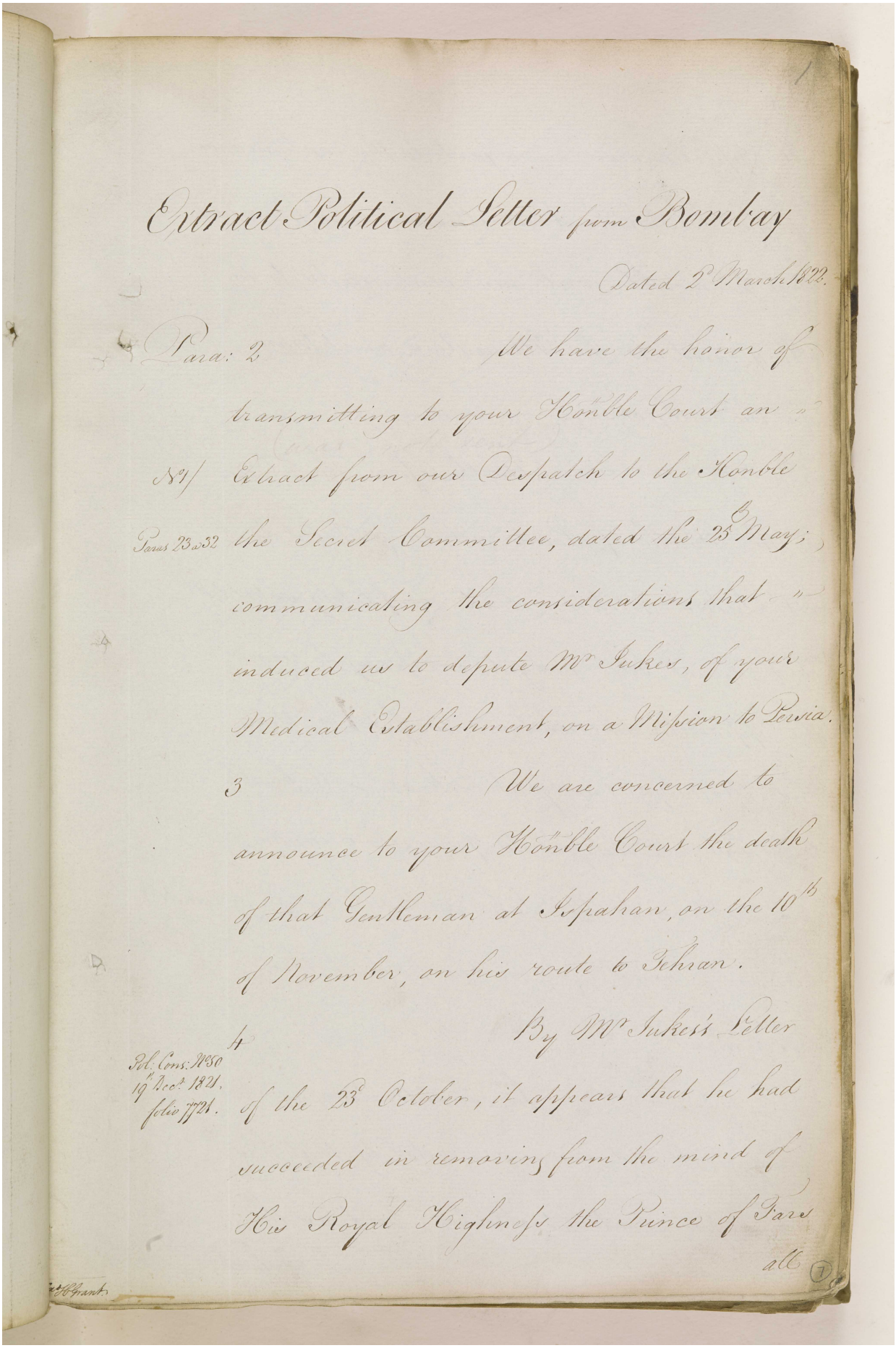


Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 2d March 1822.

Para: 2 We have the honor of transmitting to your Honble Court an Extract from our Despatch to the Honble the Secret Committee, dated the 25th May; communicating the considerations that induced us to depute Mr Jukes, of your Medical Establishment, on a Mission to Persia.

(was not sent)

No 1/

Paras 23 & 32

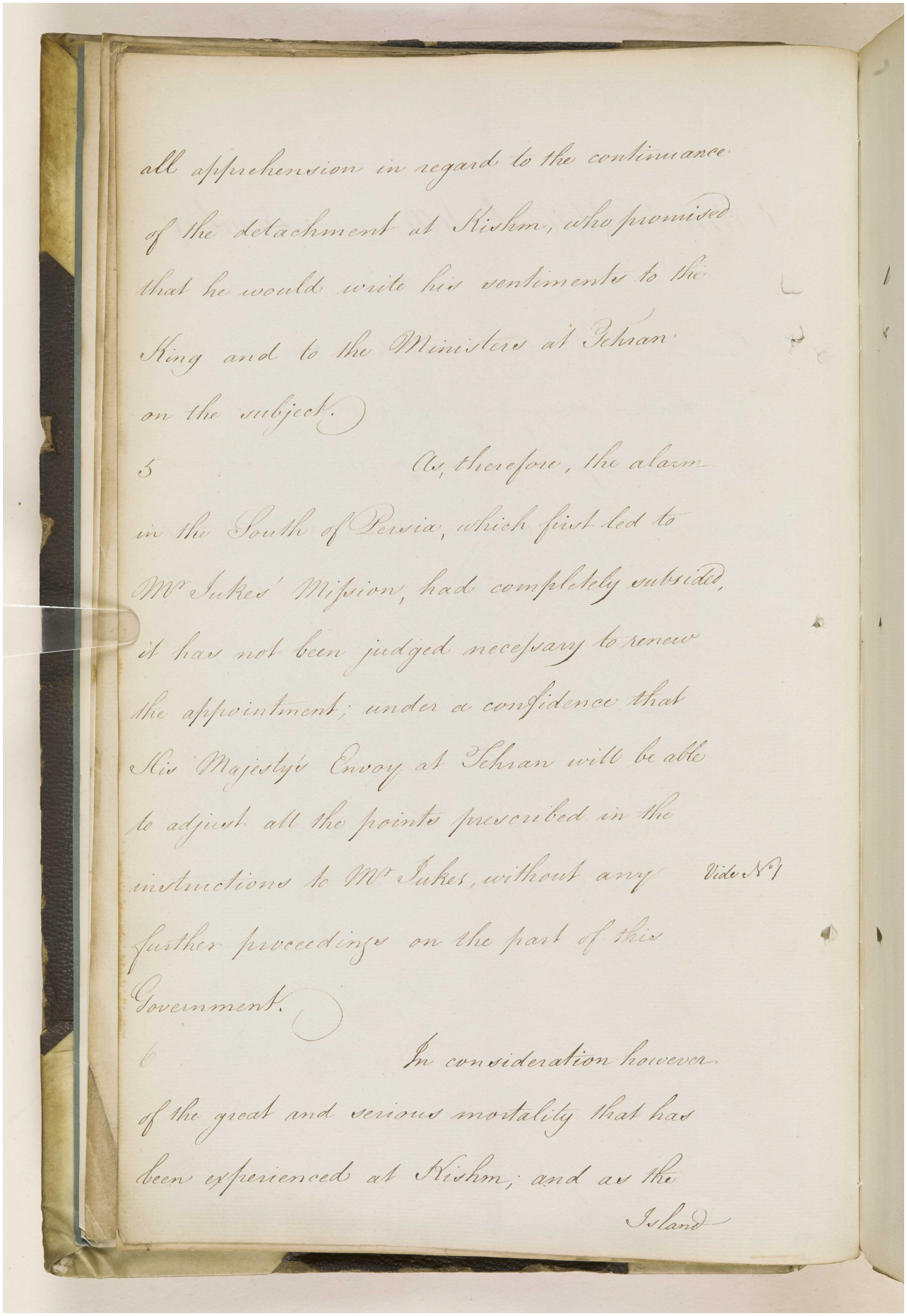
3 We are concerned to announce to your Honble Court the death of that Gentleman at Ispahan, on the 10th of November, on his route to Tehran.

4 By Mr Jukes's Letter of the 23d October, it appears that he had succeeded in removing from the mind of His Royal Highness the Prince of Fars all

Pol: Cons: No 50
19th Decr 1821.
folio 7721.

Ca^d H Grant.

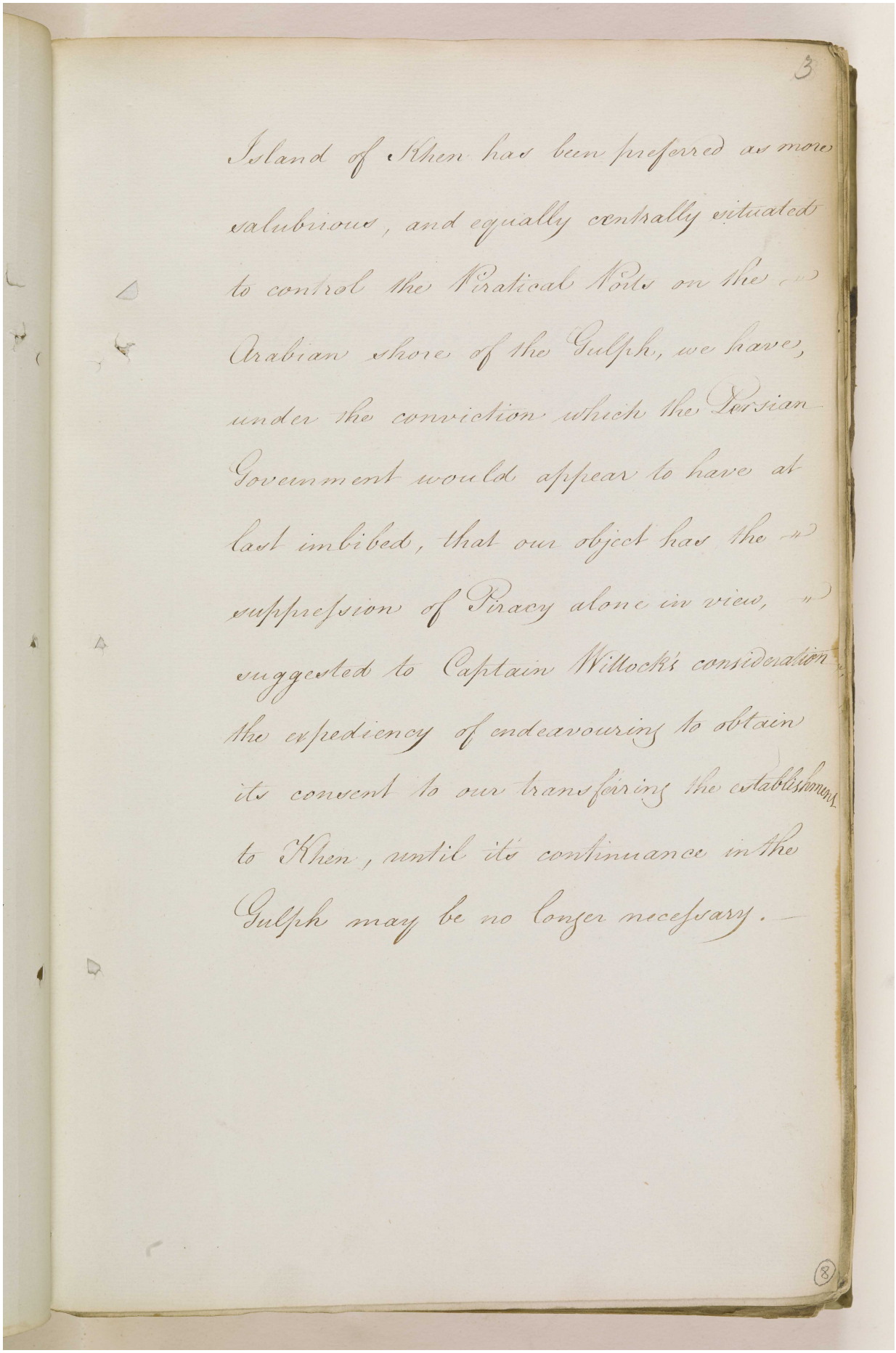
7



all apprehension in regard to the continuance of the detachment at Kishm, who promised that he would write his sentiments to the King and to the Ministers at Tehran on the subject.

5 As, therefore, the alarm in the South of Persia, which first led to Mr Jukes' Mission, had completely subsided, it has not been judged necessary to renew the appointment; under a confidence that His Majesty's Envoy at Tehran will be able to adjust all the points prescribed in the instructions to Mr Jukes, without any further proceedings on the part of this Government. Vide No 7

6 In consideration however of the great and serious mortality that has been experienced at Kishm; and as the Island



3

Island of Khem has been preferred as more
salubrious, and equally centrally situated
to control the Piratical Ports on the
Arabian shore of the Gulph, we have,
under the conviction which the Persian
Government would appear to have at
last imbibed, that our object has the
suppression of Piracy alone in view,
suggested to Captain Willocks consideration
the expediency of endeavouring to obtain
its consent to our transferring the establishment
to Khem, until its continuance in the
Gulph may be no longer necessary.—

(8)

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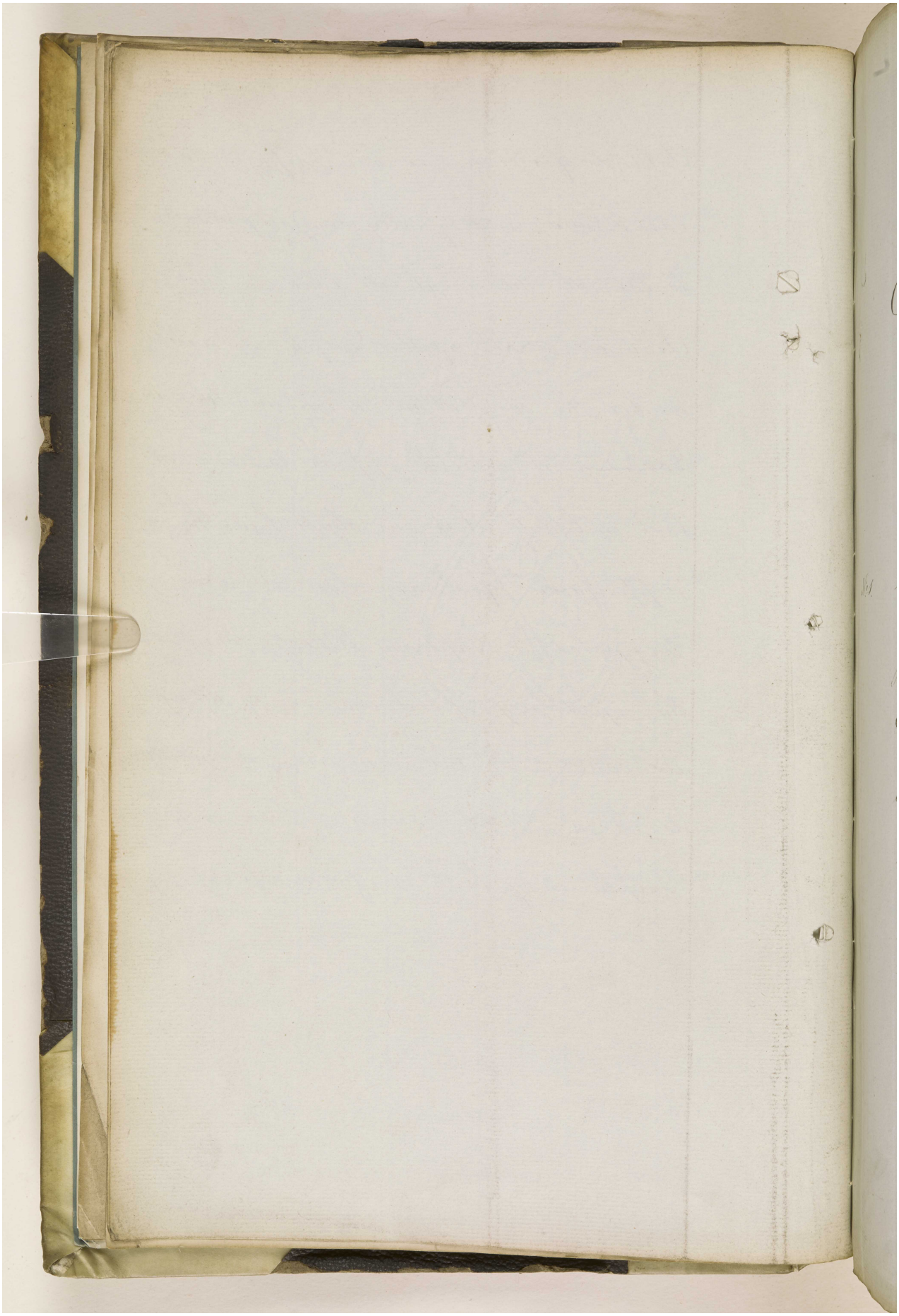

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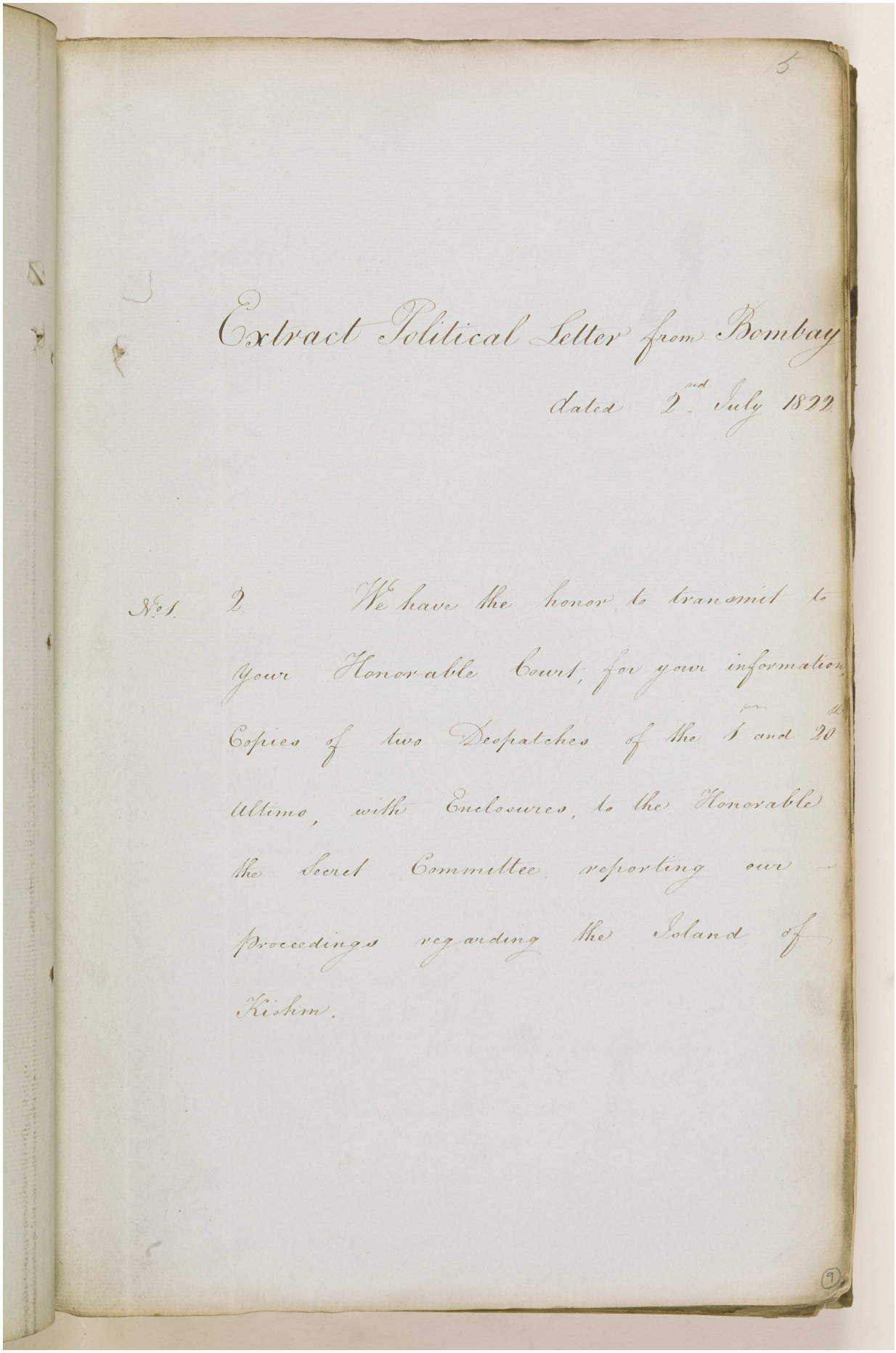

5

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

dated 2nd July 1822

No. 2 We have the honor to transmit to Your Honorable Court, for your information, Copies of two Despatches of the 1st and 20th Ultimo, with Enclosures, to the Honorable the Secret Committee reporting our proceedings regarding the Island of Kishm.

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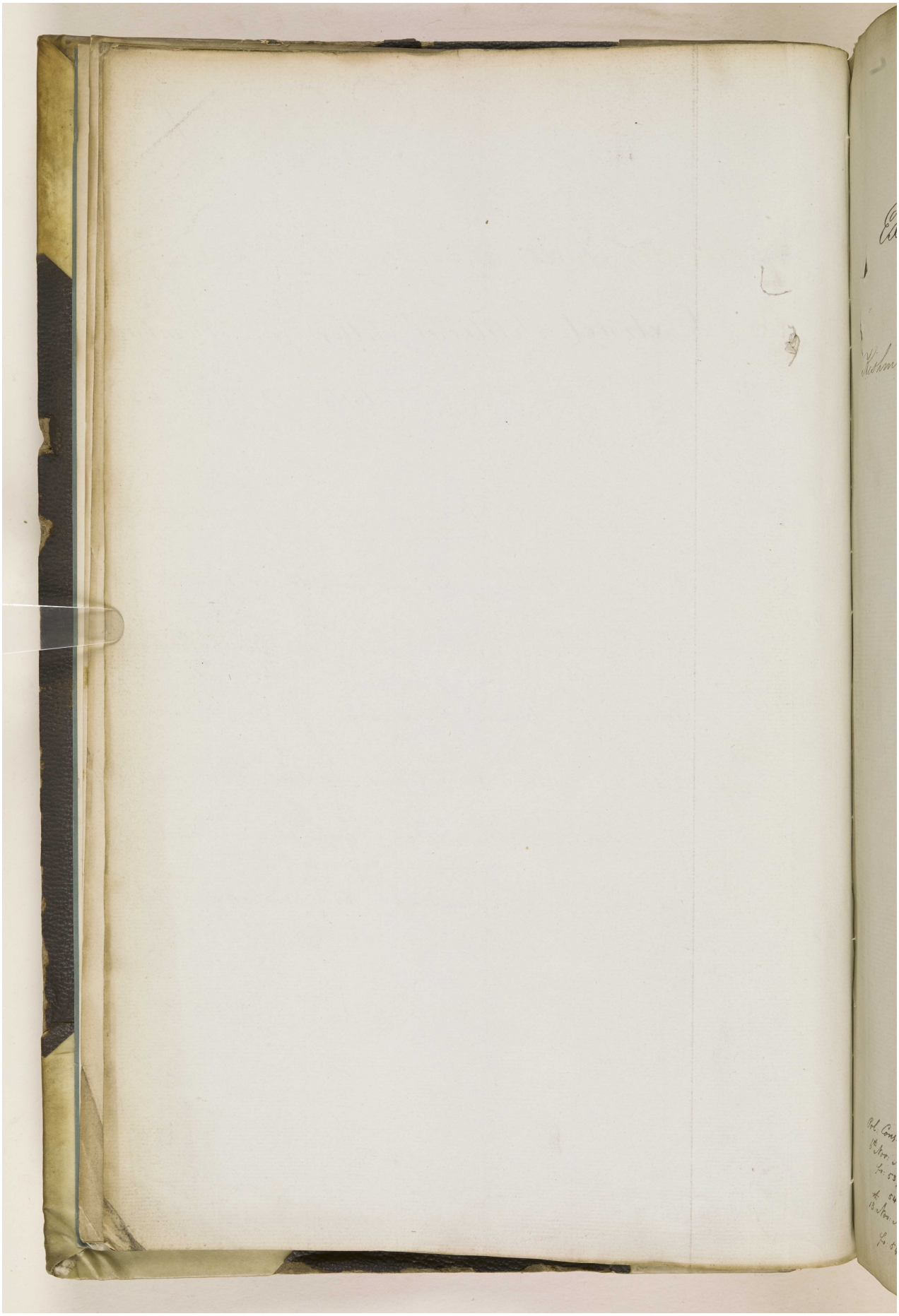

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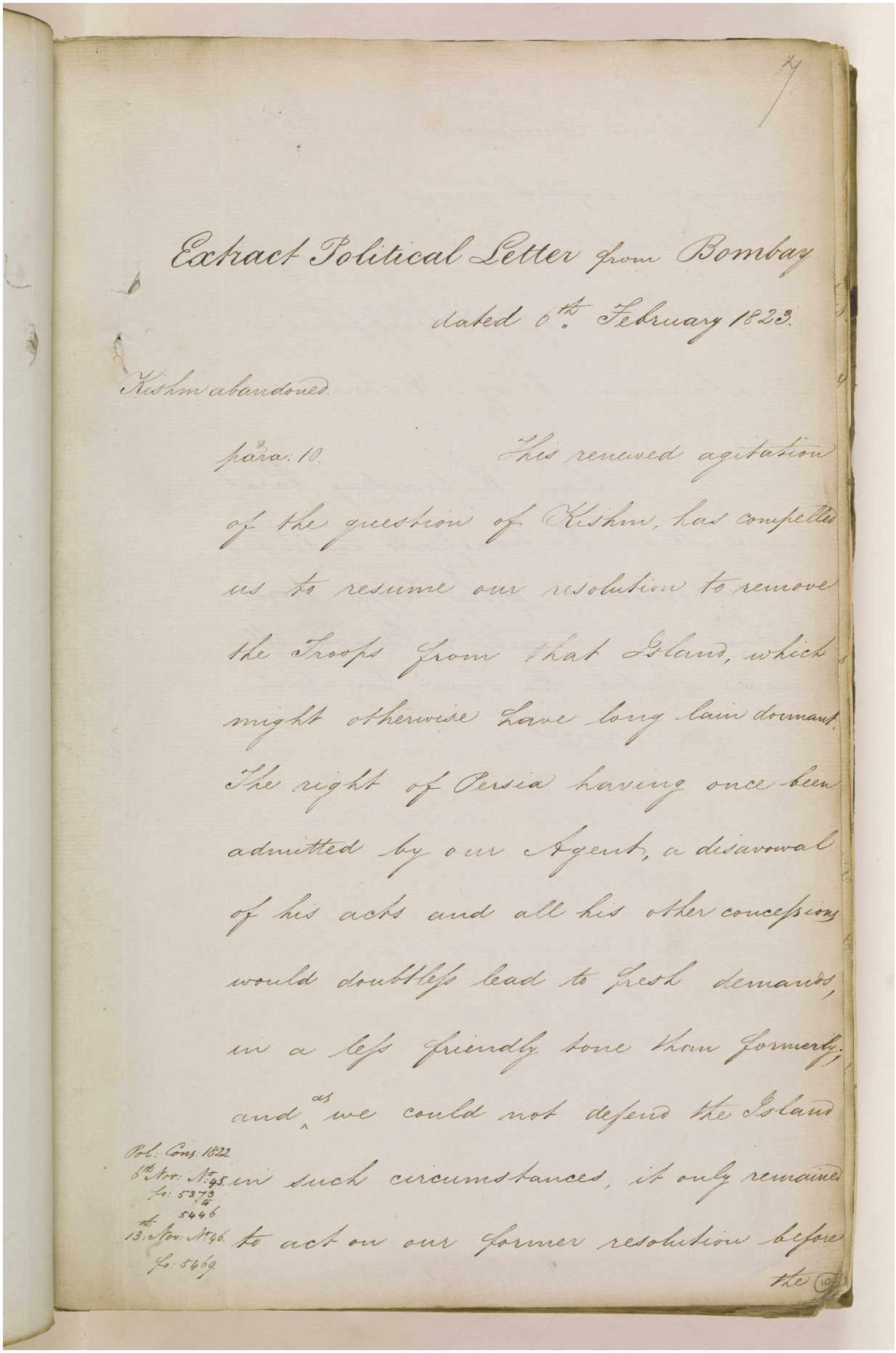

Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 6th. February 1823.

Kishm abandoned.

para: 10. This renewed agitation of the question of Kishm, has compelled us to resume our resolution to remove the Troops from that Island, which might otherwise have long lain dormant. The right of Persia having once been admitted by our Agent, a disavowal of his acts and all his other concessions would doubtless lead to fresh demands, in a less friendly tone than formerly; and as we could not defend the Island in such circumstances, it only remained to act on our former resolution before the

Pol. Cons. 1822
6th Nov: No. 45
Fo: 5373 to 5446
13. Nov: No. 46
Fo: 5469

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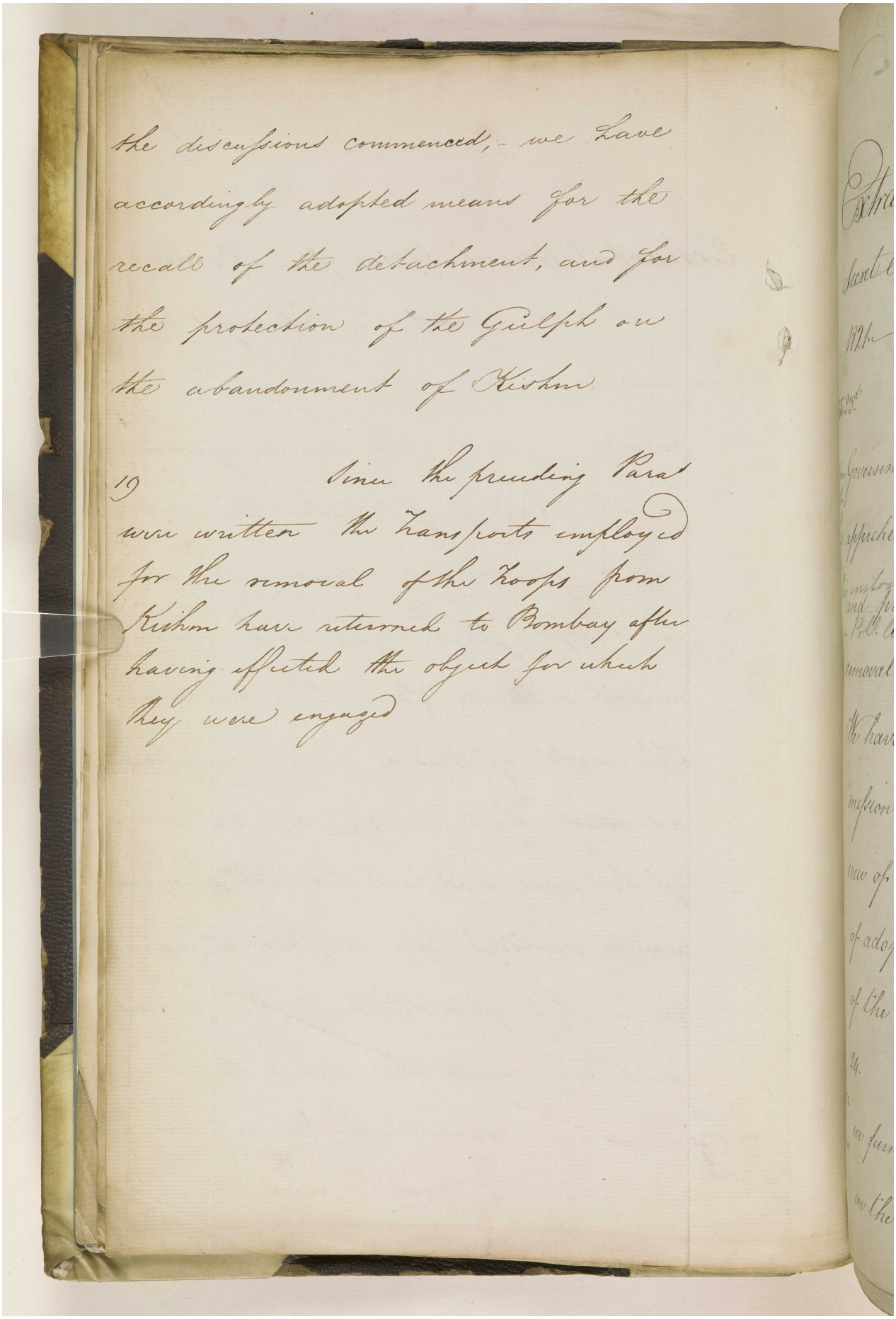

the discussions commenced, - we have accordingly adopted means for the recall of the detachment, and for the protection of the Gulph on the abandonment of Kishm.

19 Since the preceding Para was written the Transports employed for the removal of the troops from Kishm have returned to Bombay after having effected the object for which they were engaged

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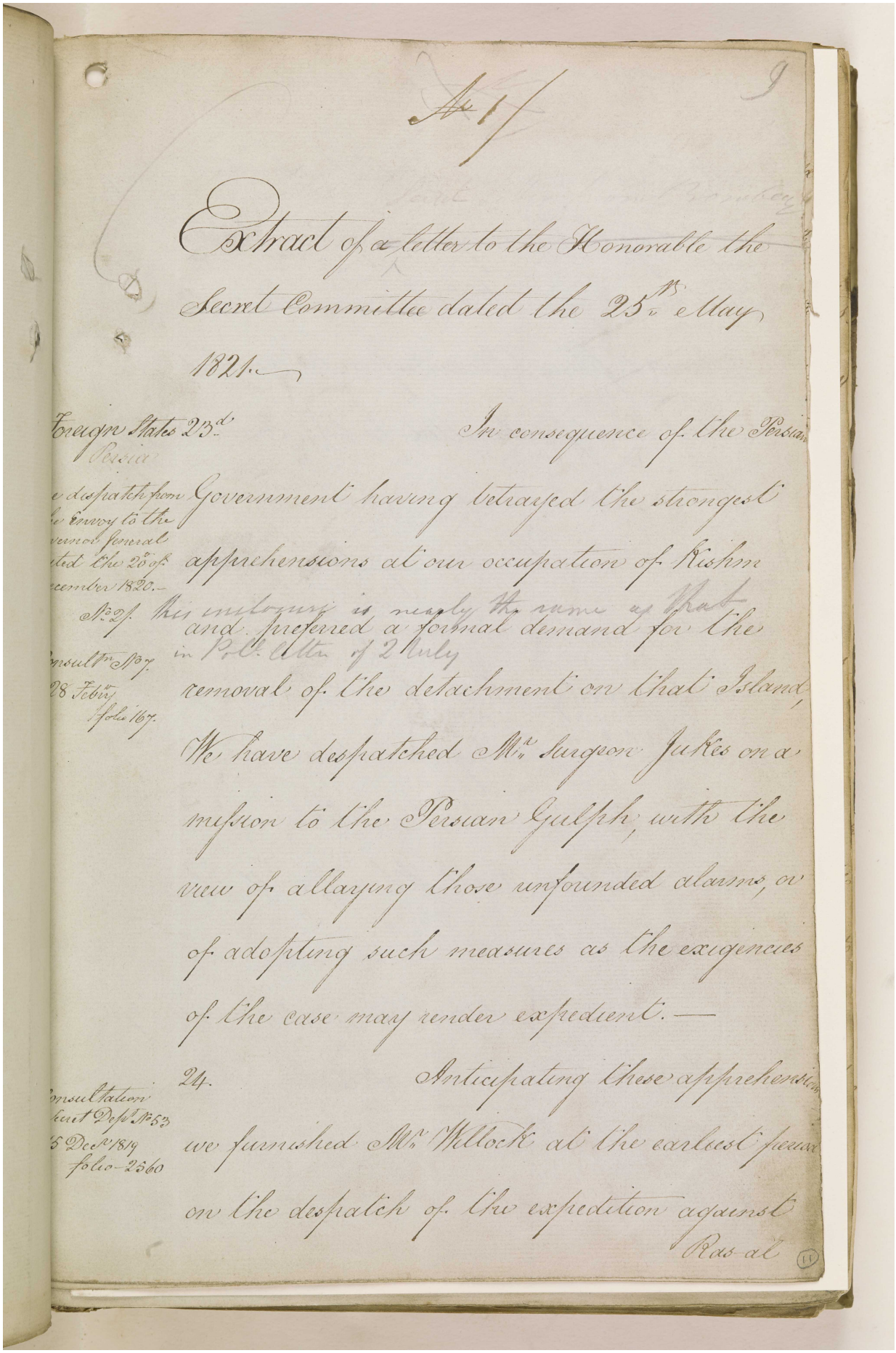


No 1

Extract of a letter to the Honorable the Secret Committee dated the 25th May 1821.—

Foreign States Persia

23d. 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 despatched Mr. Surgeon 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.—

this enclosure is nearly the same as that in Pol. letter of 2 July

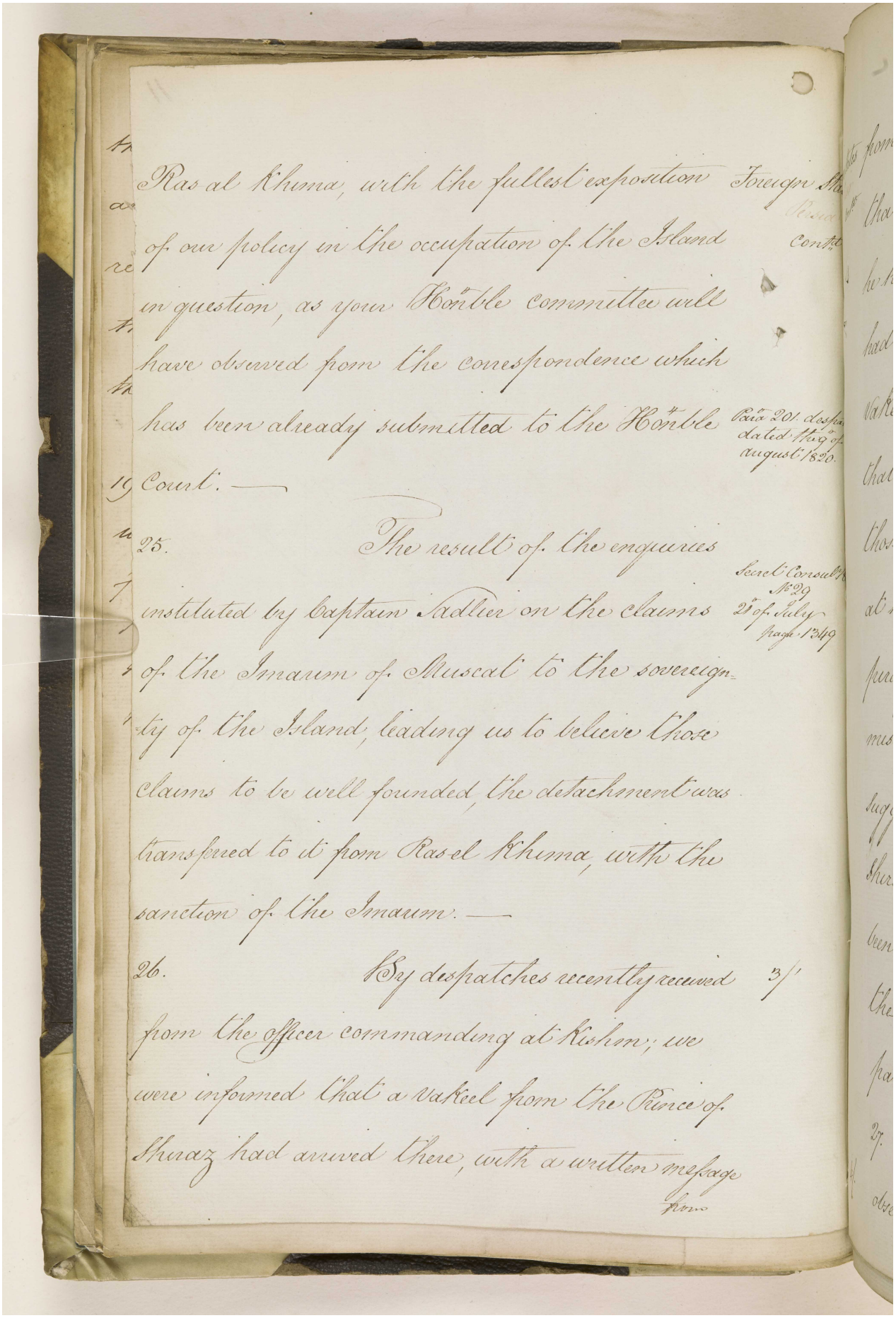
...e despatch from ...e Envoy to the ...vernor General ...ted the 20th of ...ecember 1820.— No. 2.

...onsultn. No. 7. 28 Febry. folio 167.

24. Anticipating these apprehensions we furnished Mr. Willock at the earliest period on the despatch of the expedition against Ras-al

...onsultation ...ecret Dept. No. 53 ...5 Decr. 1819 folio 2560

(11)



Ras al Khima, with the fullest exposition of our policy in the occupation of the Island in question, as your Honble committee will have observed from the correspondence which has been already submitted to the Honble Court. —

Foreign Sta[illegible] Persia Cont^d

Para 201. despa[illegible] dated the 9th of August 1820.

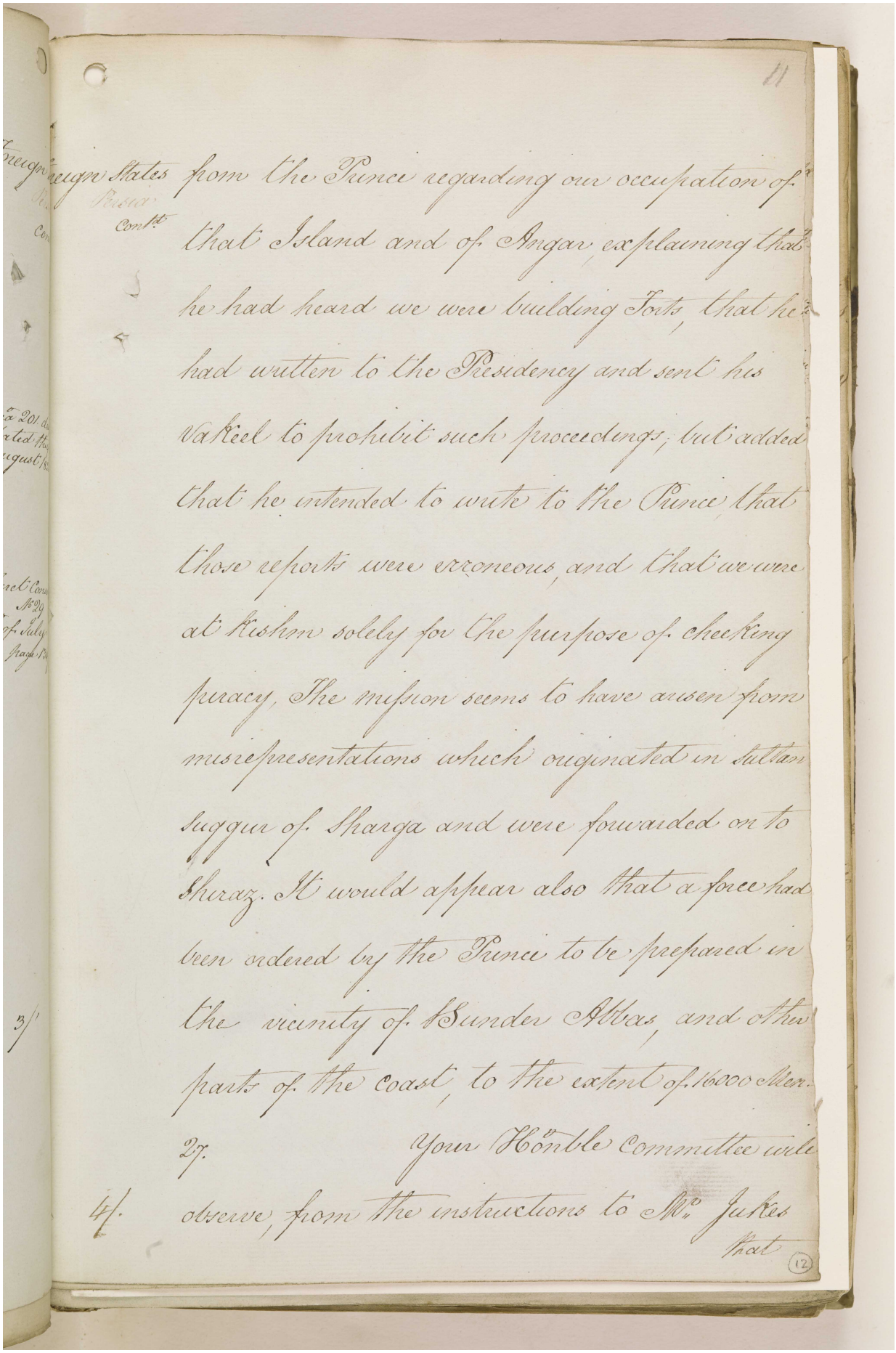
25. The result of the enquiries instituted by Captain Sadlier on the claims of the Imaum of Muscat to the sovereignty of the Island, leading us to believe those claims to be well founded, the detachment was transferred to it from Ras el Khima, with the sanction of the Imaum. —

Secret Consul^n No 29 21st of July page 1349

26. By despatches recently received from the officer commanding at Kishm; we were informed that a Vakeel from the Prince of Shiraz had arrived there, with a written message

3/'

from



Foreign States from the Prince regarding our occupation of
Persia
Cont.
that Island and of Angar, 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 added
that he intended to write to the Prince, that
those reports were erroneous, and that we were
at Kishm solely for the purpose of checking
piracy, The mission seems to have arisen from
misrepresentations which originated in Sultan
Suggun of Shanga and were forwarded on to
Shiraz. It would appear also that a force had
been ordered by the Prince to be prepared in
the vicinity of Bunder Abbas, and other
parts of the coast, to the extent of 1600 Men.
27. Your Honble Committee will
observe, from the instructions to Mr. Jukes
that

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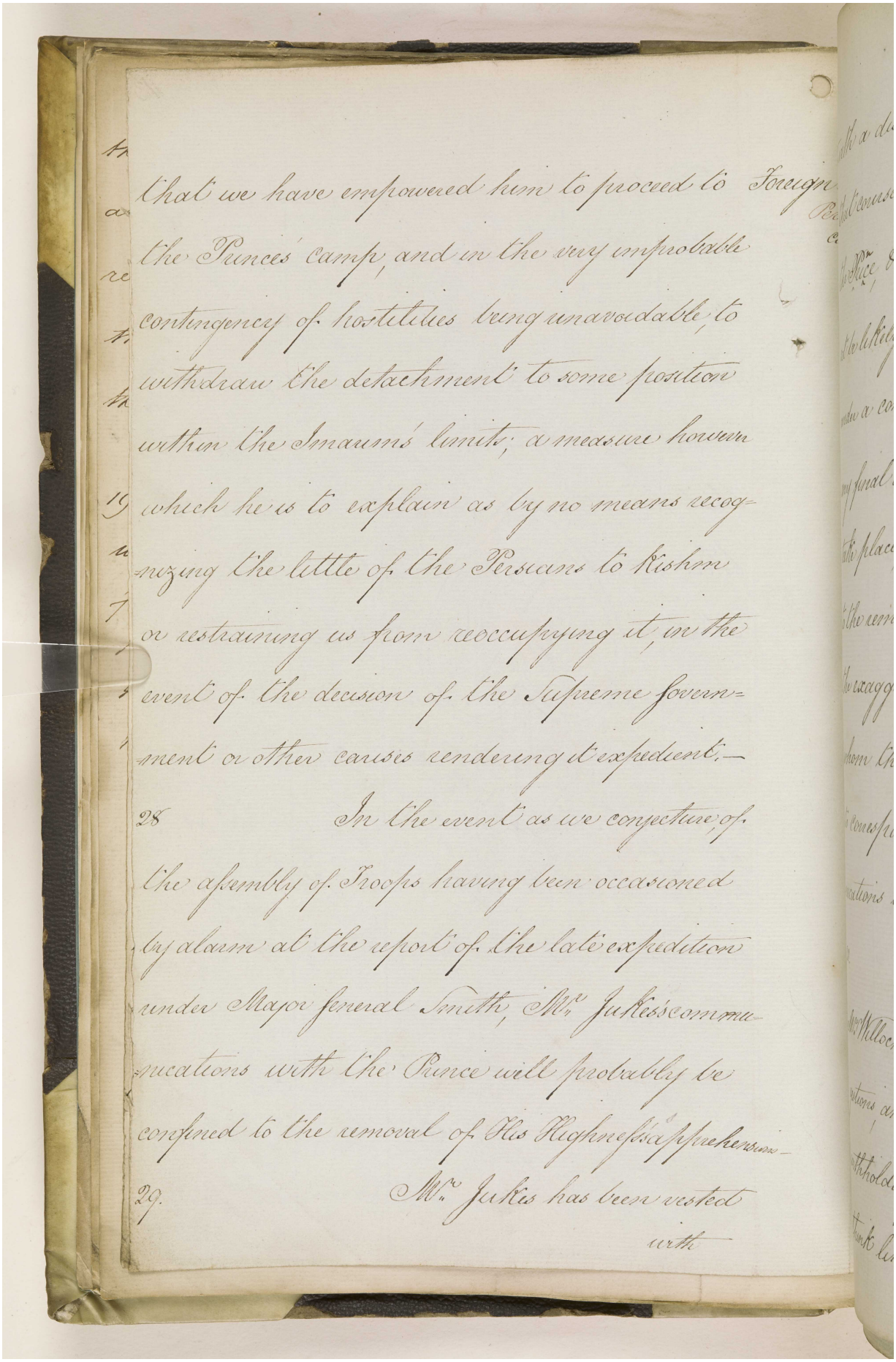
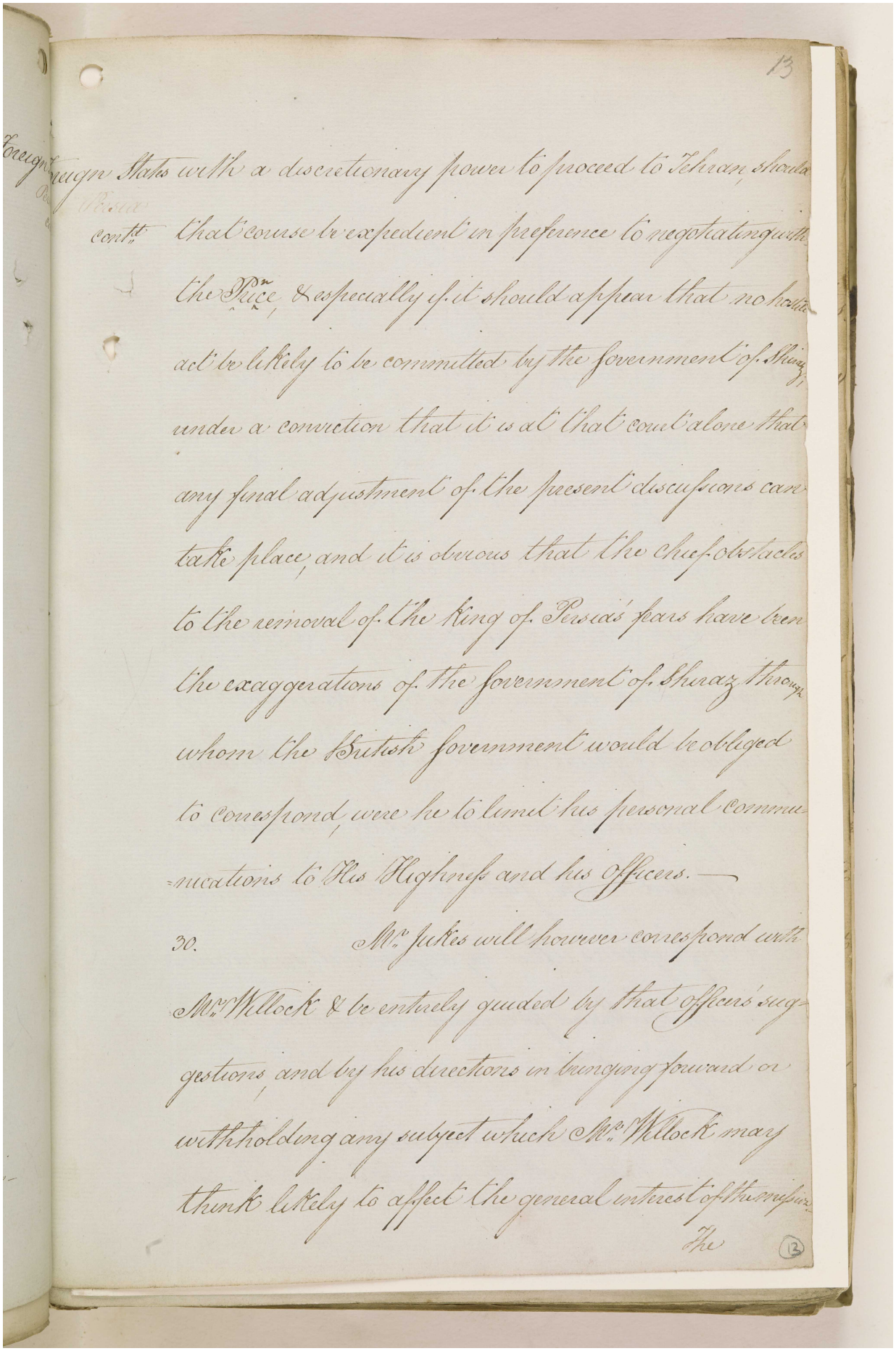


that we have empowered him to proceed to the Princes camp, and in the very improbable contingency of hostilities being unavoidable, to withdraw the detachment to some position within the Imaum's limits, a measure however which he is to explain as by no means recognizing the title of the Persians to Kishm or restraining us from reoccupying it, in the event of the decision of the Supreme government or other causes rendering it expedient.—

28 In the event as we conjecture, of the assembly of Troops having been occasioned by alarm at the report of the late expedition under Major general Smith, Mr. Jukes's communications with the Prince will probably be confined to the removal of His Highness's apprehensions—

29. Mr. Jukes has been vested with



Foreign States with a discretionary power to proceed to Tehran, should
Persia cont.d that course be expedient in preference to negotiating with
the Prince, & especially if it should appear that no hostile
act be likely to be committed by the Government of Shiraz,
under a conviction that it is at that court alone that
any final adjustment of the present discussions can
take place, and it is obvious that the chief obstacles
to the removal of the King of Persia's fears have been
the exaggerations of the Government of Shiraz through
whom the British Government would be obliged
to correspond, were he to limit his personal commu-
-nications to His Highness and his Officers.—

30. Mr. Jukes will however correspond with
Mr. Willock & be entirely guided by that Officer's sug-
gestions, and by his directions in bringing forward or
withholding any subject which Mr. Willock may
think likely to affect the general interest of the mission.

The

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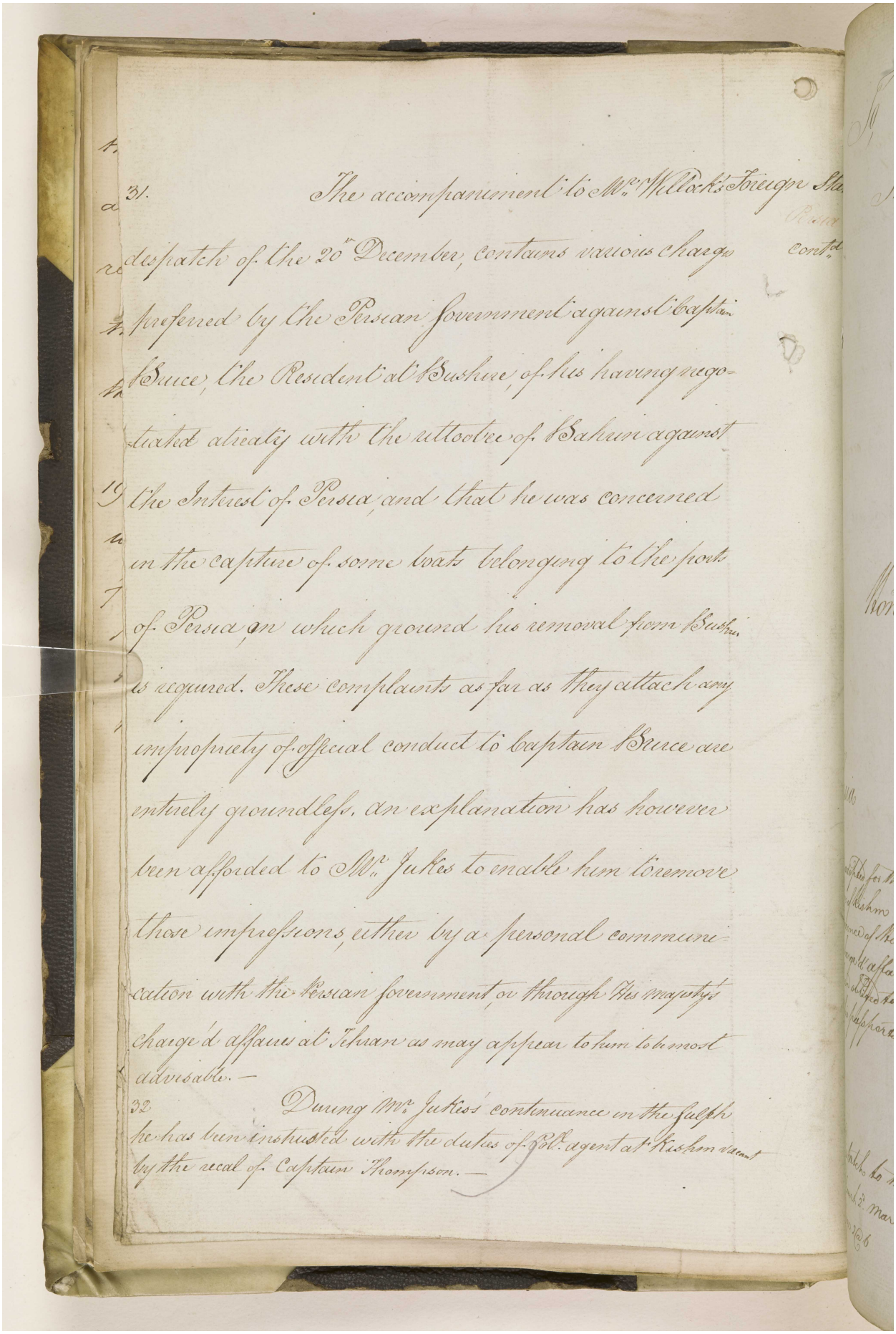
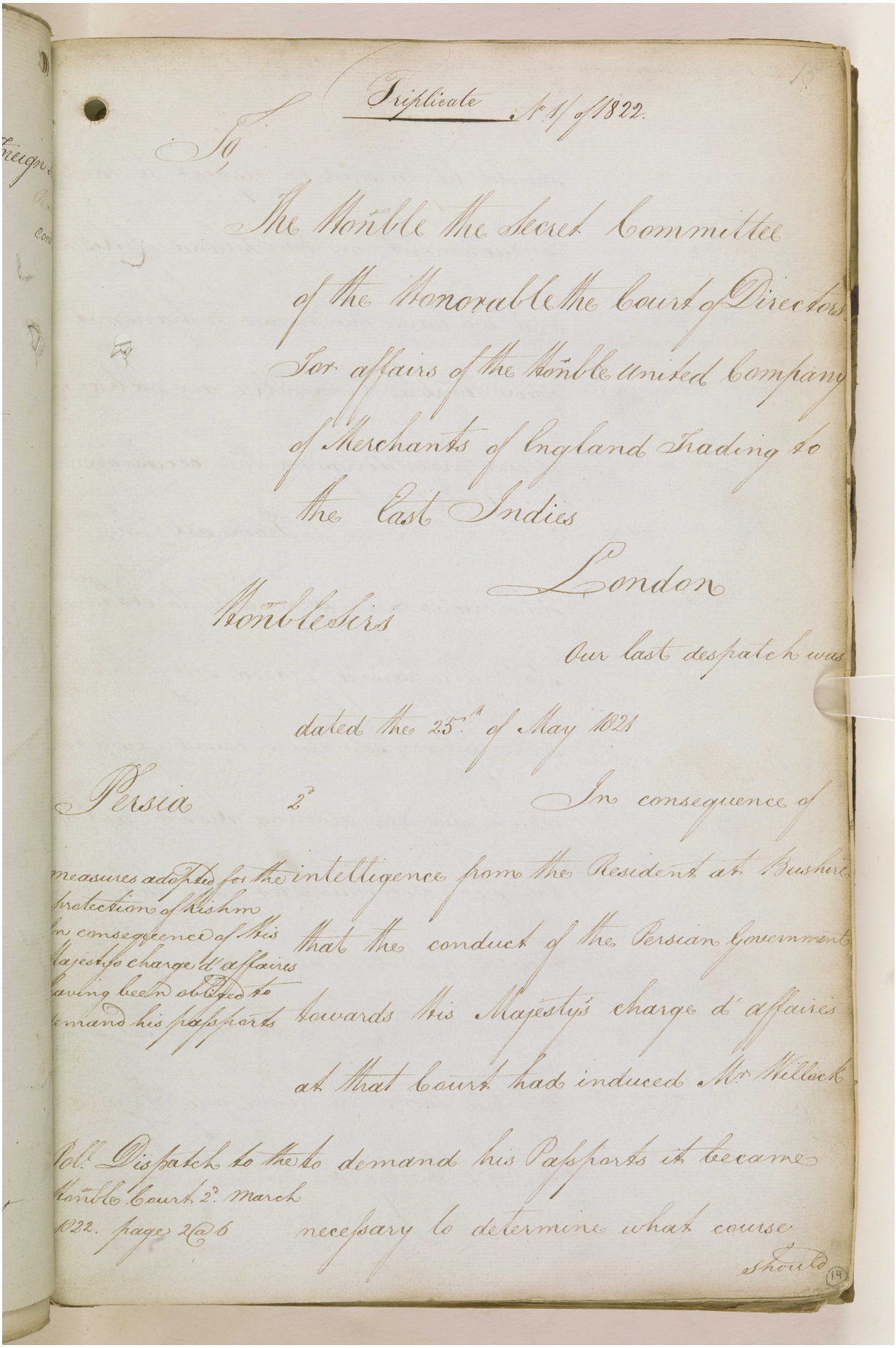


31. The accompaniment to Mr. Willock's Foreign Sta[illegible] despatch of the 20th December, contains various charges preferred by the Persian Government against Captain Bruce, the Resident at Bushire, of his having negotiated a treaty with the rittoobee of Bahrein against the Interest of Persia, and that he was concerned in the capture of some boats belonging to the ports of Persia, on which ground his removal from Bushire is required. These complaints as far as they attach any impropriety of official conduct to Captain Bruce are entirely groundless. an explanation has however been afforded to Mr. Jukes to enable him to remove those impressions, either by a personal communication with the Persian Government, or through His Majesty's charge'd affaires at Tehran as may appear to him to be most advisable. —

32 During Mr. Jukes's continuance in the Gulph he has been instructed with the duties of Pol. agent at Kishm vacant by the recal of Captain Thompson. —



Triplicate No 1/ of 1822.

To,

The Honble the Secret Committee
of the Honorable 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 despatch was
dated the 25th of May 1821

Persia

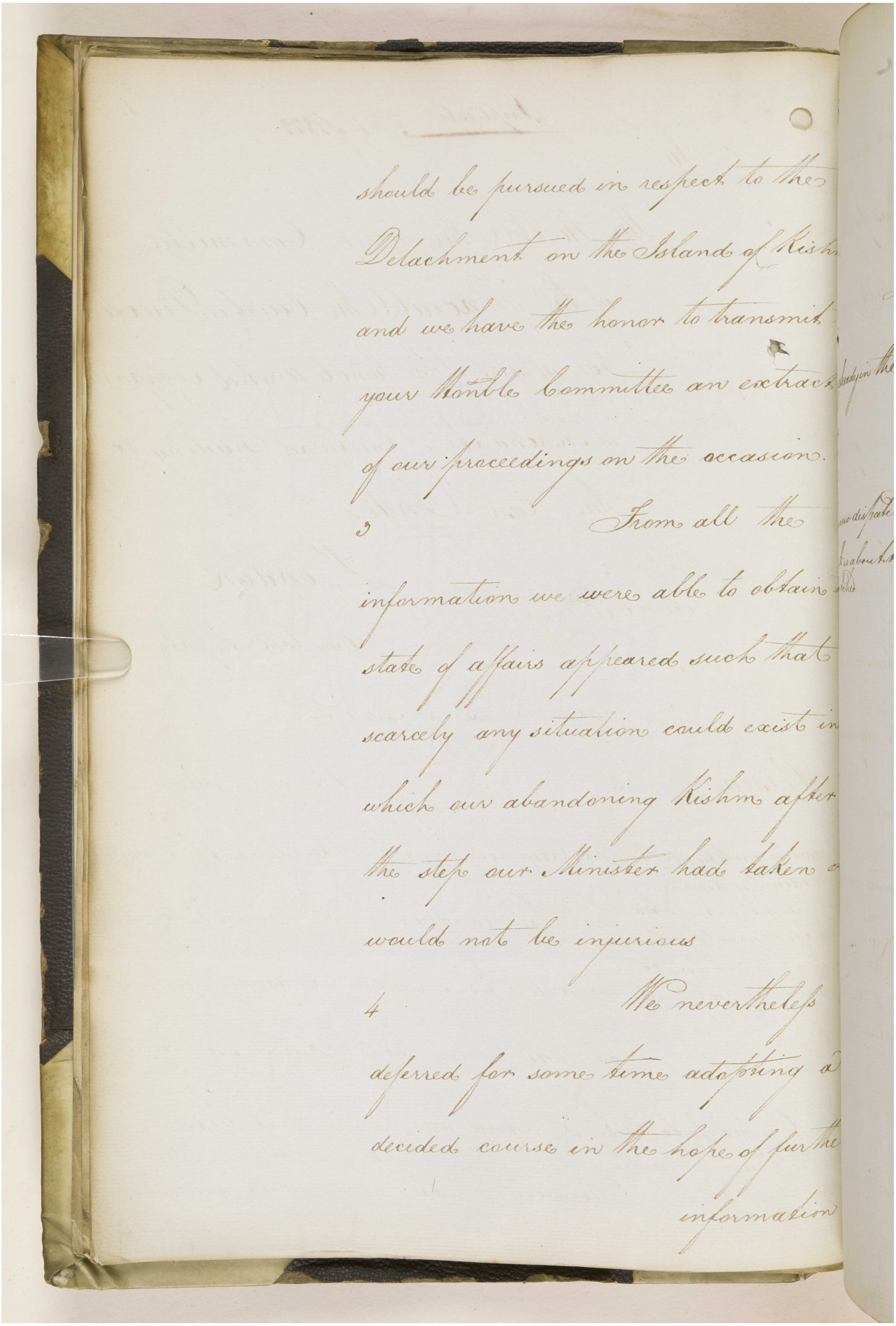
2d

In consequence of
intelligence from the Resident at Bushire
that the conduct of the Persian Government
towards His Majesty's charge d'affaires
at that Court had induced Mr Willock
to demand his Passports it became
necessary to determine what course
should

measures adopted for the protection of Kishm In consequence of His Majesty's charge d'affaires having been obliged to demand his passports

Pol. Dispatch to the Honble Court 2d March 1822. page 2 @ 6

(14)



should be pursued in respect to the
Detachment on the Island of Kish
and we have the honor to transmit
your Honble Committee an extract
of our proceedings on the occasion.

3 From all the
information we were able to obtain
state of affairs appeared such that
scarcely any situation could exist in
which our abandoning Kishm after
the step our Minister had taken
would not be injurious

4 We nevertheless
deferred for some time adopting
decided course in the hope of fur
information

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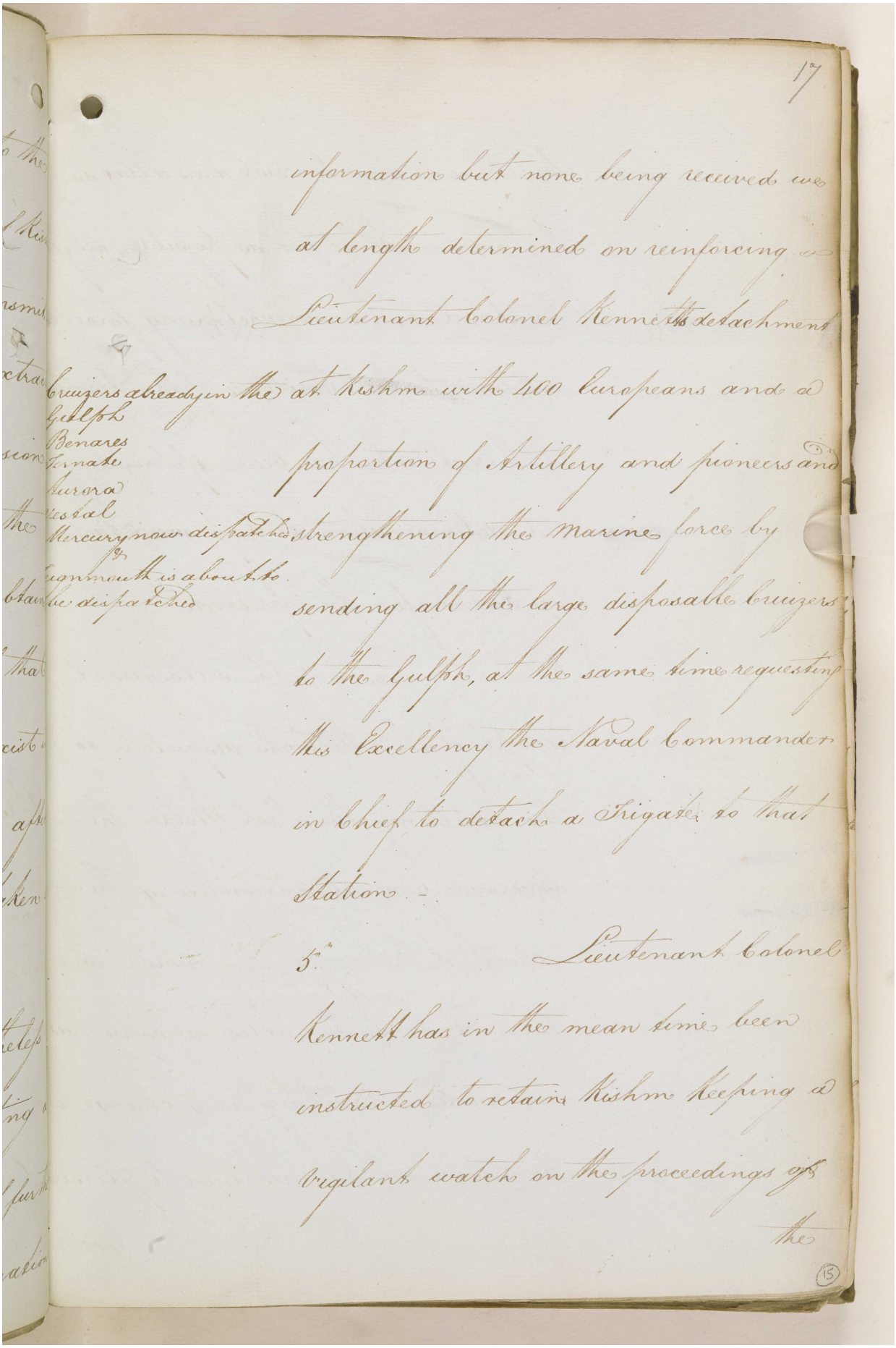

information but none being received we at length determined on reinforcing Lieutenant Colonel Kennetts detachment at Kishm with 400 Europeans and a proportion of Artillery and pioneers and strengthening the Marine force by sending all the large disposable Cruizers to the Gulph, at the same time requesting His Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief to detach a Frigate to that Station -

Cruizers already in the Gulph
Benares
Ternate
Aurora
Vestal
Mercury now dispatched
&
Lignmouth is about to be dispatched

5th Lieutenant Colonel Kennett has in the mean time been instructed to retain Kishm keeping a vigilant watch on the proceedings of the

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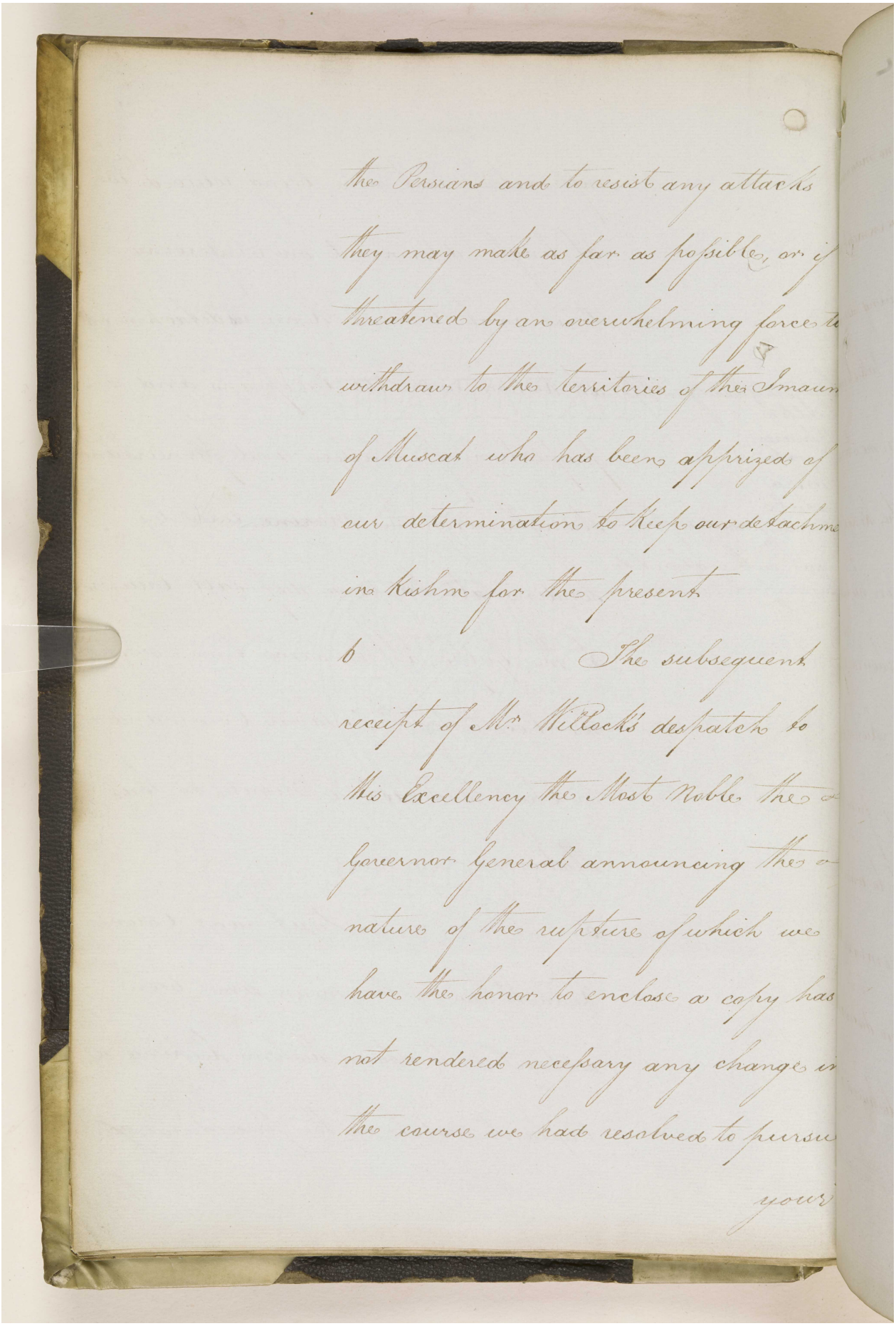
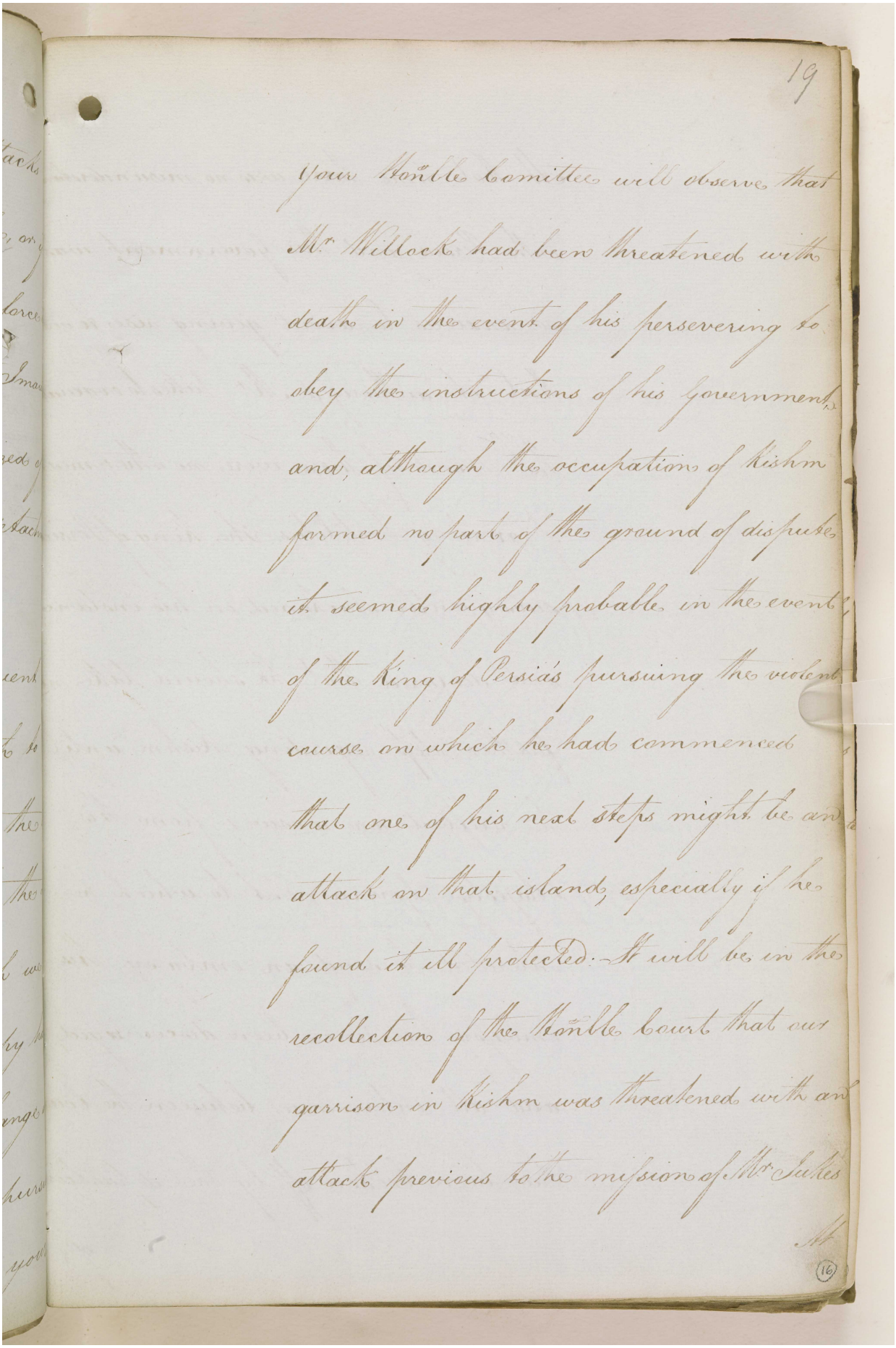


the Persians and to resist any attacks
they may make as far as possible, or if
threatened by an overwhelming force to
withdraw to the territories of the Imaum
of Muscat who has been apprized of
our determination to keep our detachme
in Kishm for the present
6 The subsequent
receipt of Mr Willocks despatch to
His Excellency the Most Noble the
Governor General announcing the
nature of the rupture of which we
have the honor to enclose a copy has
not rendered necessary any change in
the course we had resolved to pursue
your



19

Your Honble Committee will observe that
Mr. Willock had been threatened with
death in the event of his persevering to
obey the instructions of his Government,
and, although the occupation of Kishm
formed no part of the ground of dispute
it seemed highly probable in the event
of the King of Persia's pursuing the violent
course on which he had commenced
that one of his next steps might be an
attack on that island, especially if he
found it ill protected. It will be in the
recollection of the Honble Court that our
garrison in Kishm was threatened with an
attack previous to the mission of Mr. Jukes

(16)

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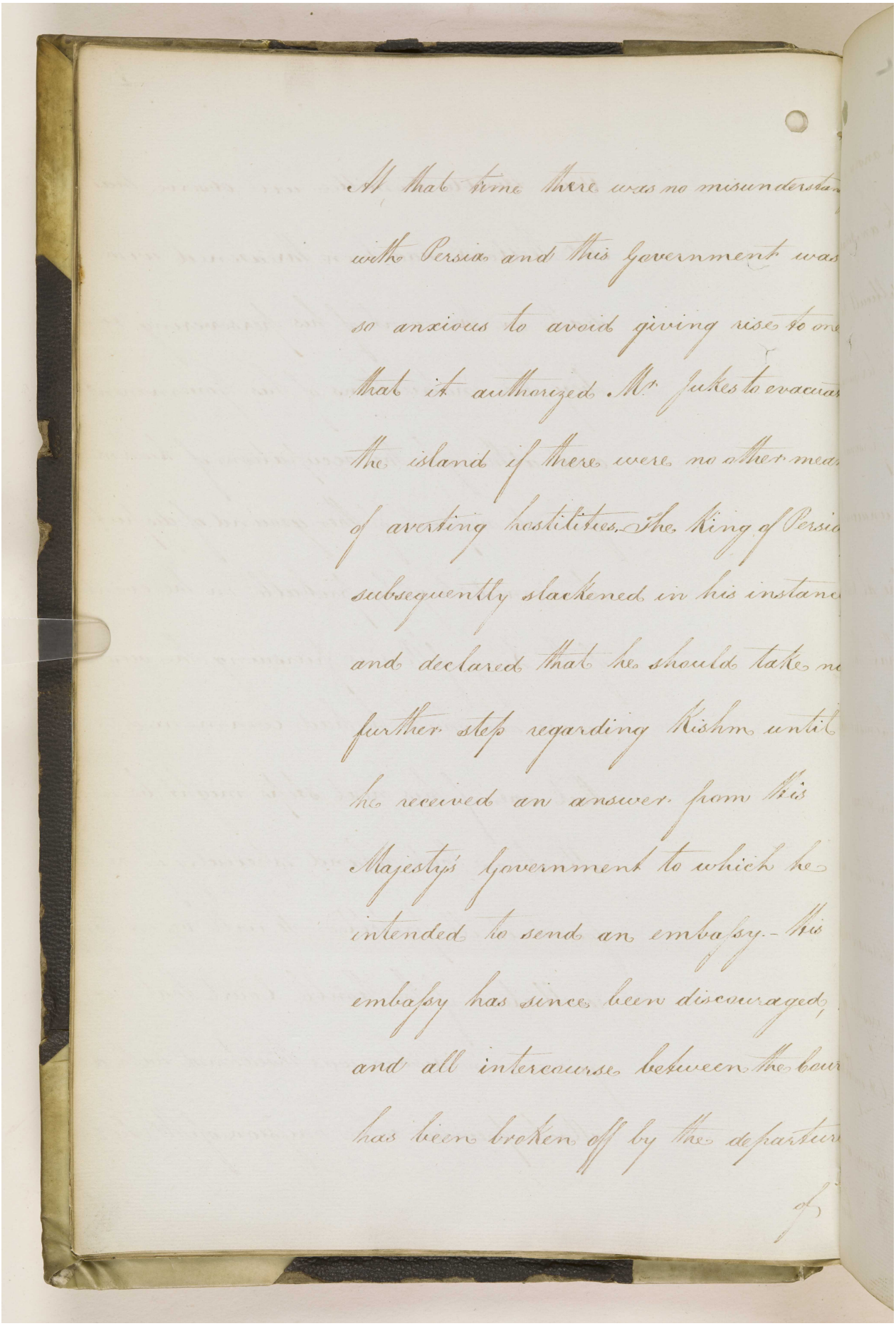

At that time there was no misunderstan
with Persia and this Government was
so anxious to avoid giving rise to one
that it authorized Mr Jukes to evacuat
the island if there were no other mean
of averting hostilities. The King of Persia
subsequently slackened in his instance
and declared that he should take no
further step regarding Kishm until
he received an answer from His
Majesty's Government to which he
intended to send an embassy. - His
embassy has since been discouraged,
and all intercourse between the two
has been broken off by the departure
of

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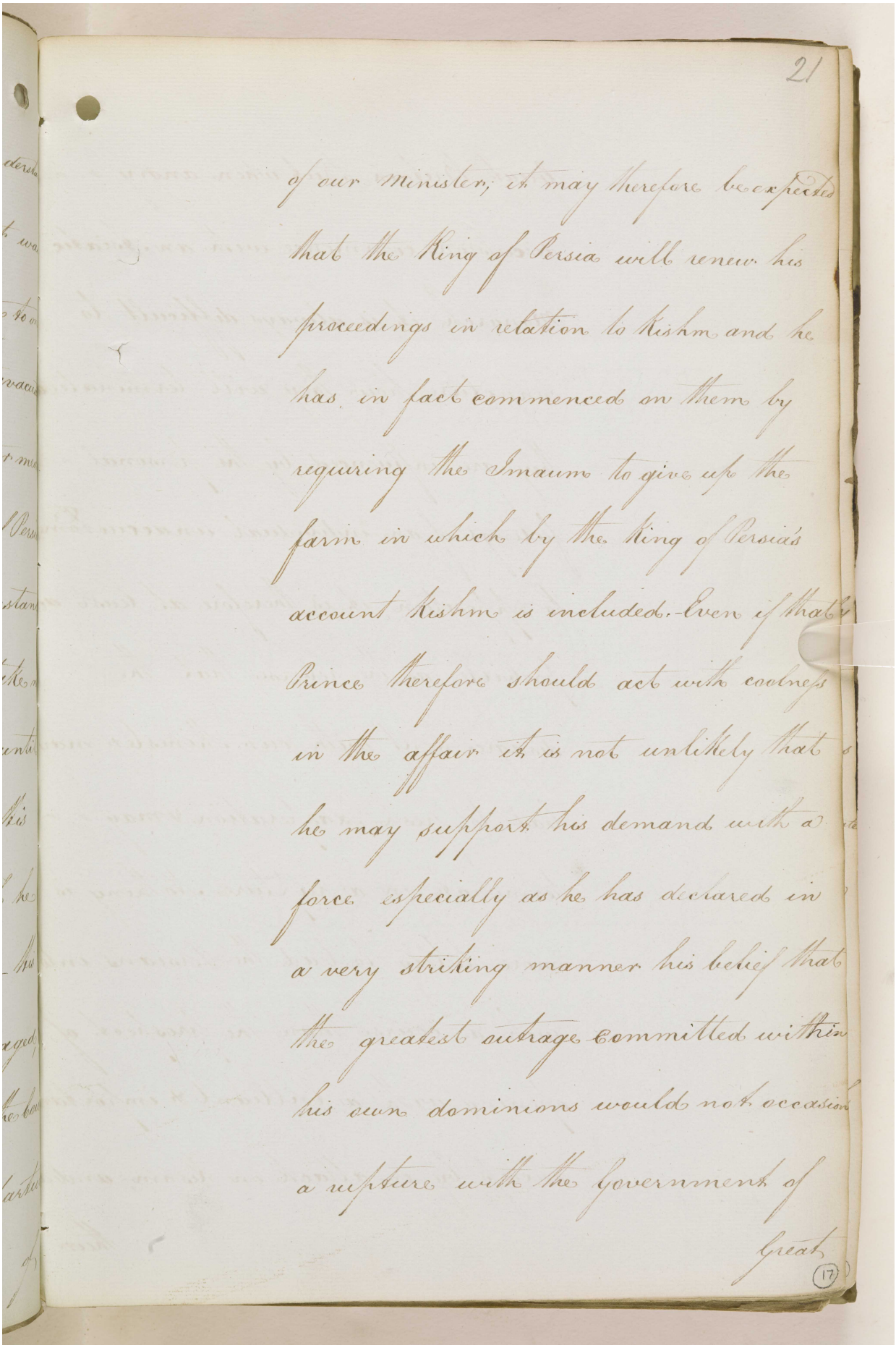

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of our Minister; it may therefore be expected
that the King of Persia will renew his
proceedings in relation to Kishm and he
has, in fact commenced on them by
requiring the Imaum to give up the
farm in which by the King of Persia's
account Kishm is included.-Even if that
Prince therefore should act with coolness
in the affair it is not unlikely that
he may support his demand with a
force especially as he has declared in
a very striking manner his belief that
the greatest outrage committed within
his own dominions would not occasion
a rupture with the Government of
Great

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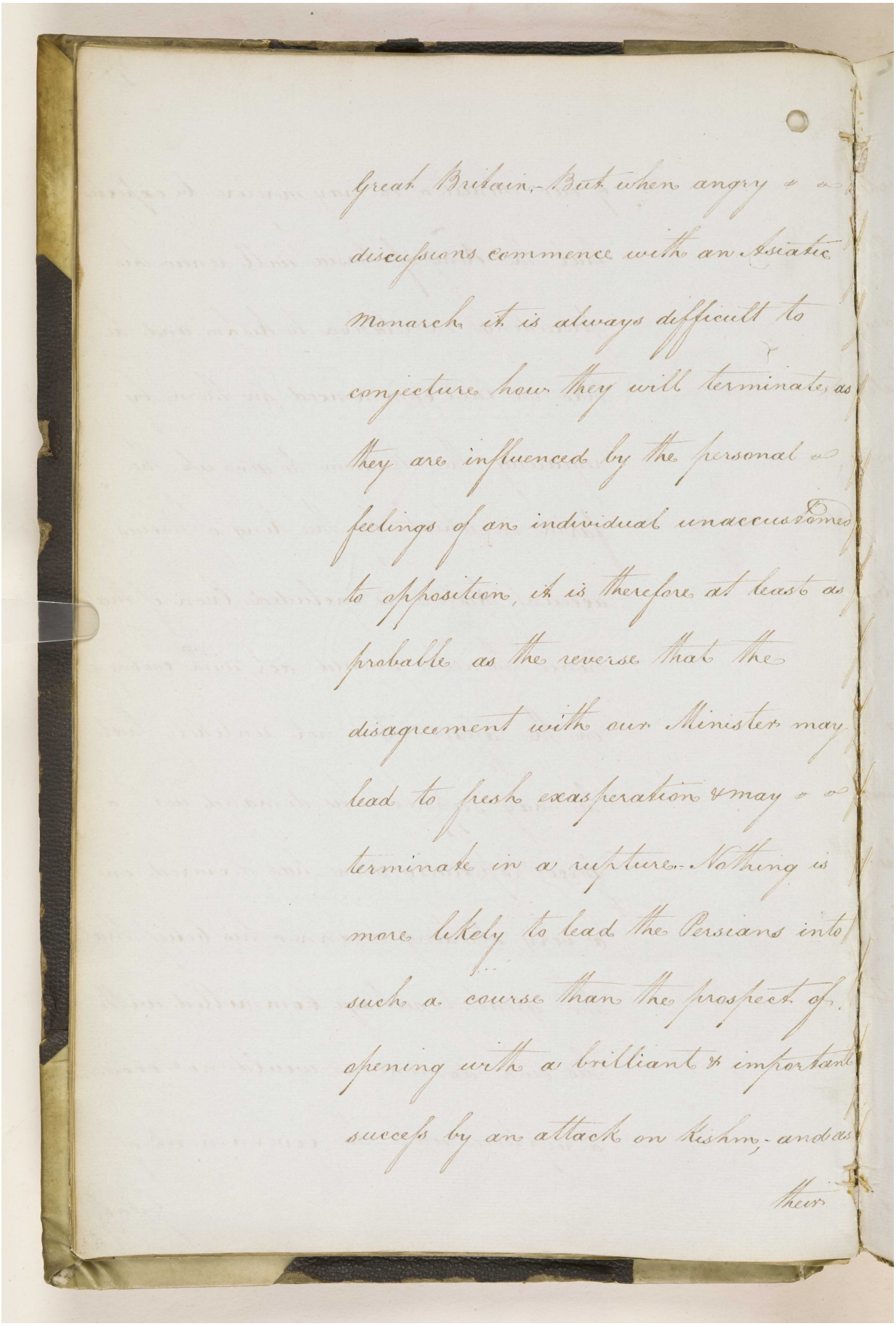
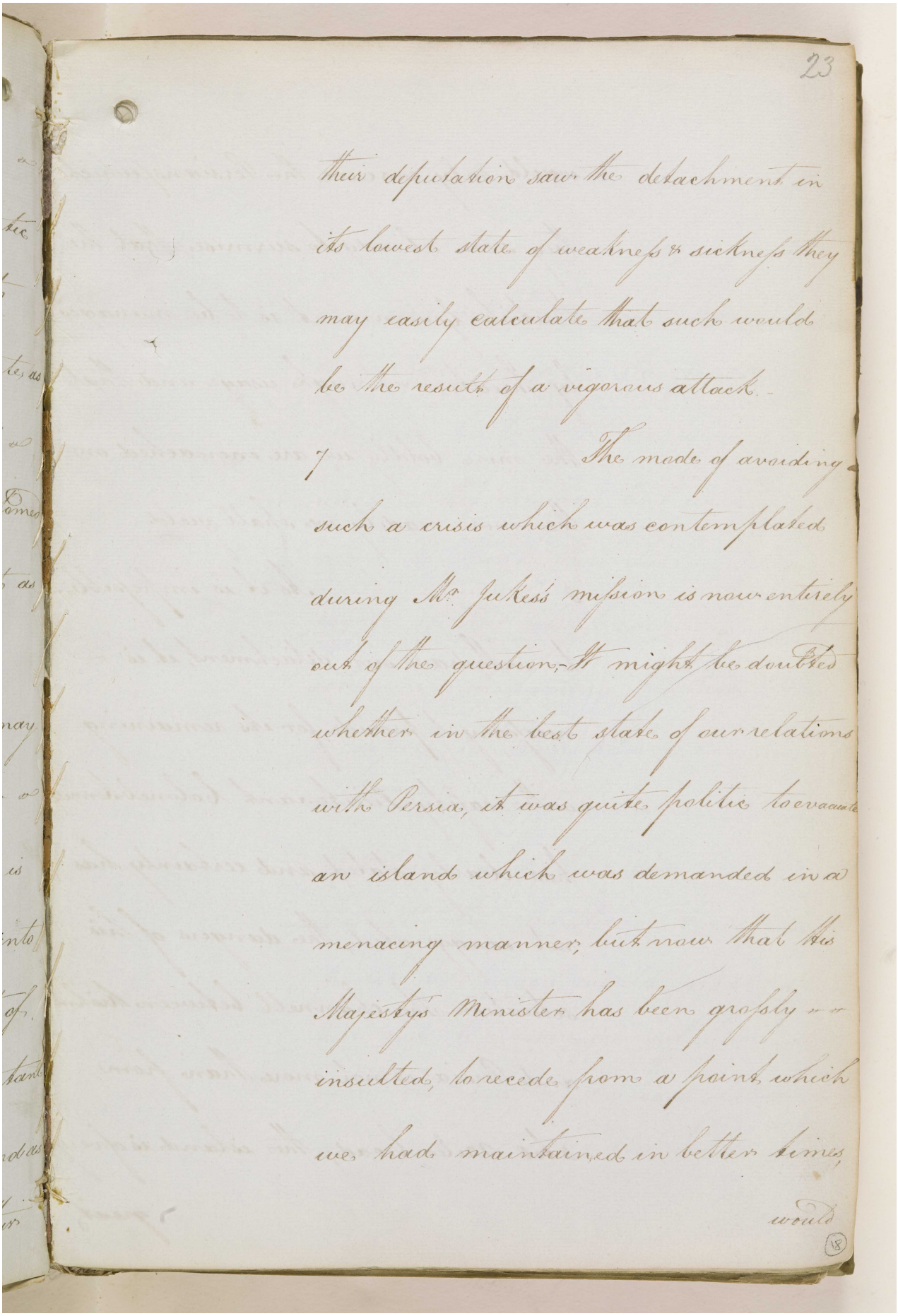


great Britain.- But when angry &
discussions commence with an Asiatic
Monarch it is always difficult to
conjecture how they will terminate, as
they are influenced by the personal
feelings of an individual unaccustomed
to opposition, it is therefore at least as
probable as the reverse that the
disagreement with our Minister may
lead to fresh exasperation & may
terminate in a rupture.- Nothing is
more likely to lead the Persians into
such a course than the prospect of
opening with a brilliant & important
success by an attack on Kishm.- and as
their



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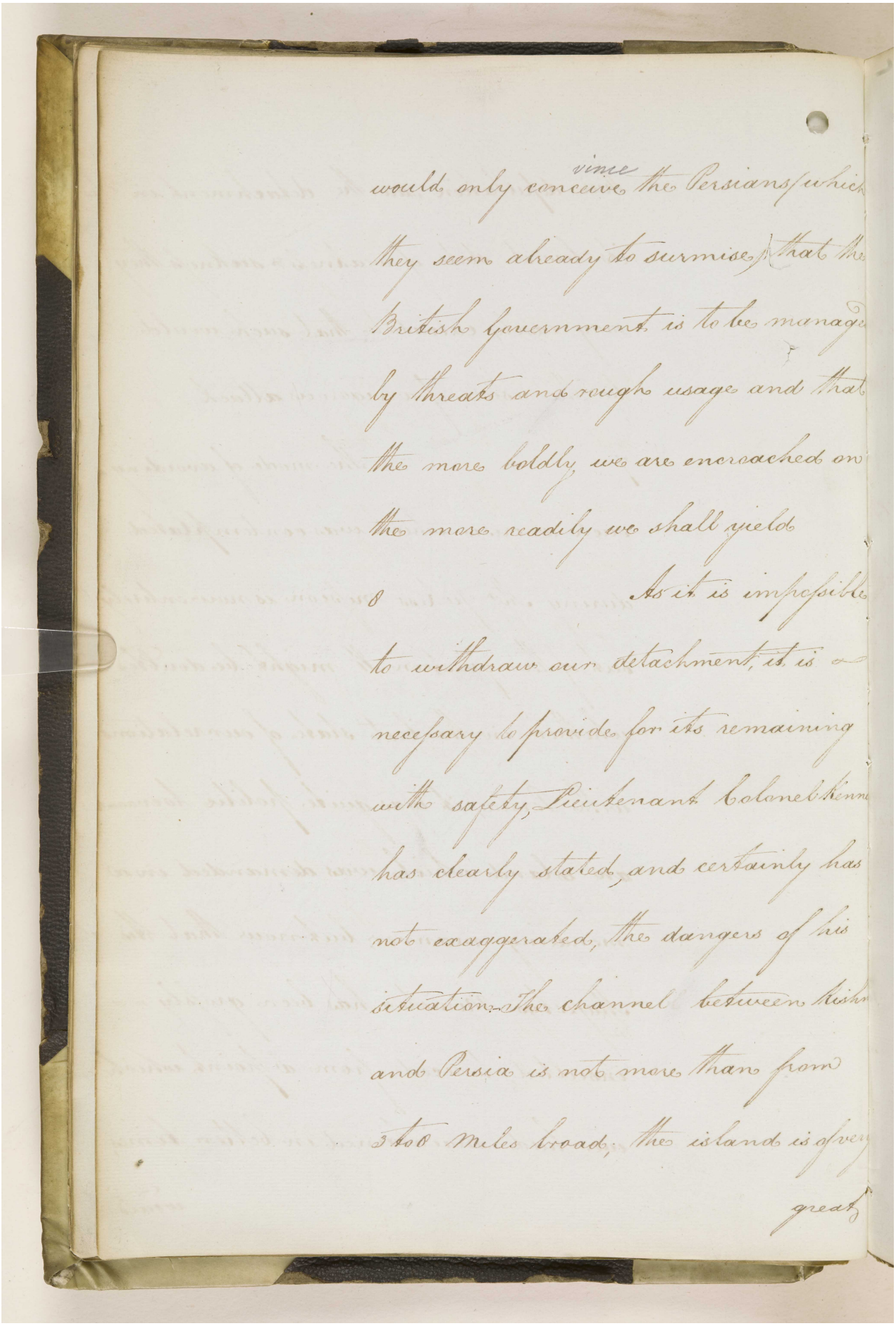
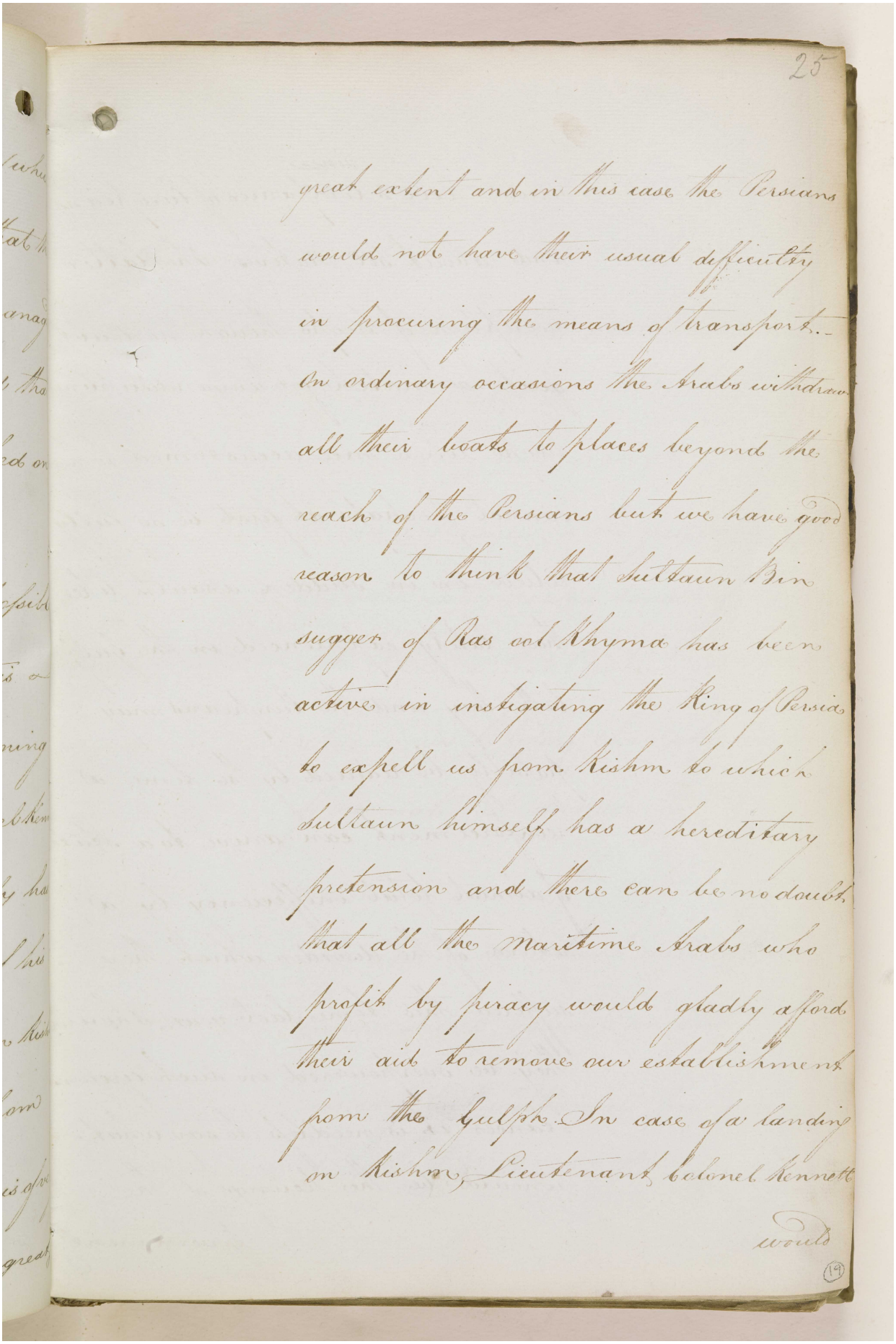
their deputation saw the detachment in
its lowest state of weakness & sickness they
may easily calculate that such would
be the results of a vigorous attack.

The mode of avoiding
such a crisis which was contemplated
during Mr. Jukes's mission is now entirely
out of the question. It might be doubted
whether in the best state of our relations
with Persia, it was quite politic to evacuate
an island which was demanded in a
menacing manner, but now that his
Majesty's Minister has been grossly
insulted, to recede from a point which
we had maintained in better times,
would



would only conceive since the Persians which
they seem already to surmise that the
British Government is to be manage
by threats and rough usage and that
the more boldly we are encroached on
the more readily we shall yield
8 As it is impossible
to withdraw our detachment, it is
necessary to provide for its remaining
with safety, Lieutenant Colonel Kenn
has clearly stated, and certainly has
not exaggerated, the dangers of his
situation. The channel between Kishm
and Persia is not more than from
3 to 6 Miles broad, the island is of very
great



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great extent and in this case the Persians
would not have their usual difficulty
in procuring the means of transport.—
On ordinary occasions the Arabs withdraw
all their boats to places beyond the
reach of the Persians but we have good
reason to think that Sultaun Bin
sugger of Ras ool Khyma has been
active in instigating the King of Persia
to expell us from Kishm to which
Sultaun himself has a hereditary
pretension and there can be no doubt
that all the maritime Arabs who
profit by piracy would gladly afford
their aid to remove our establishment
from the Gulph. In case of a landing
on Kishm, Lieutenant Colonel Kennett

would

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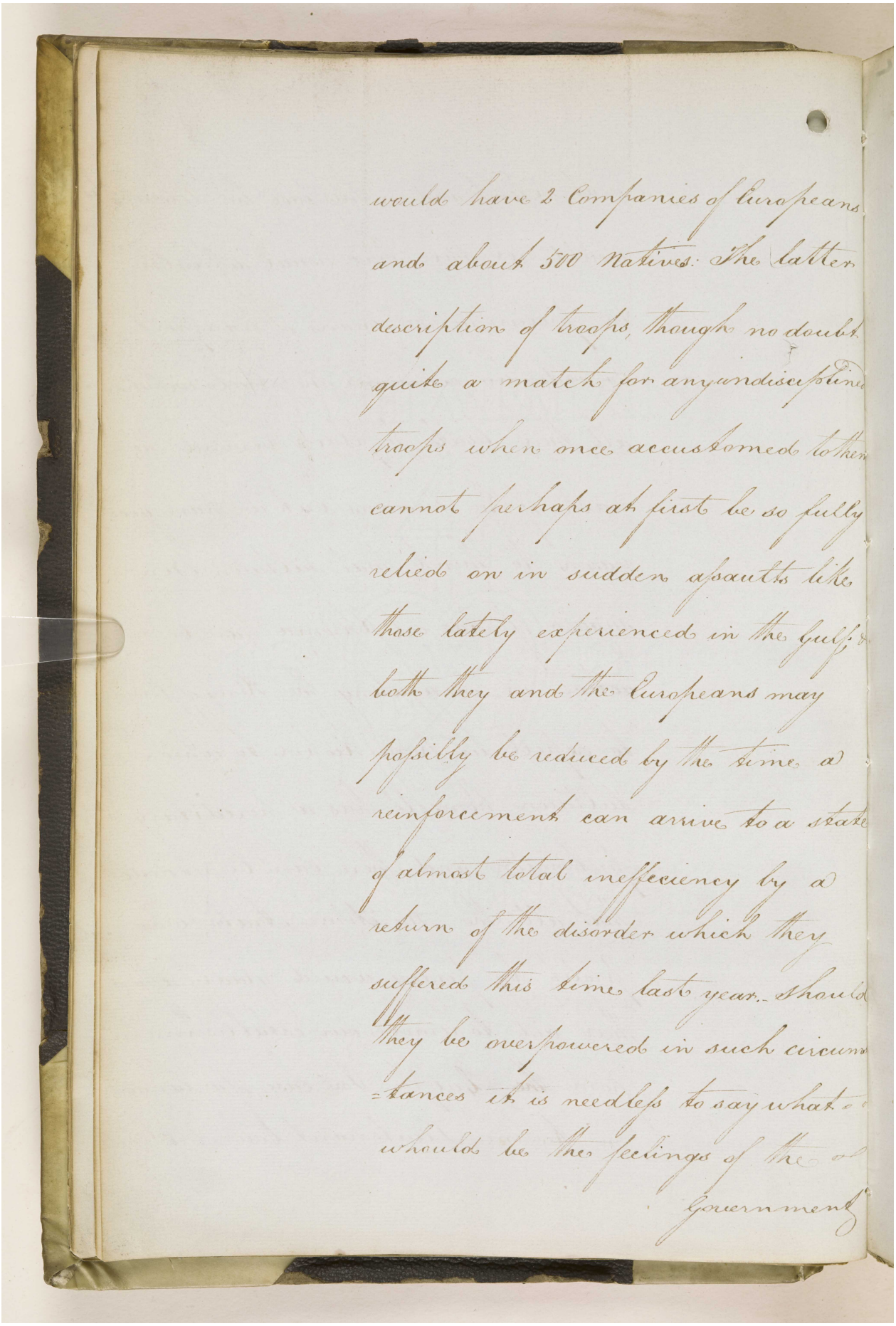
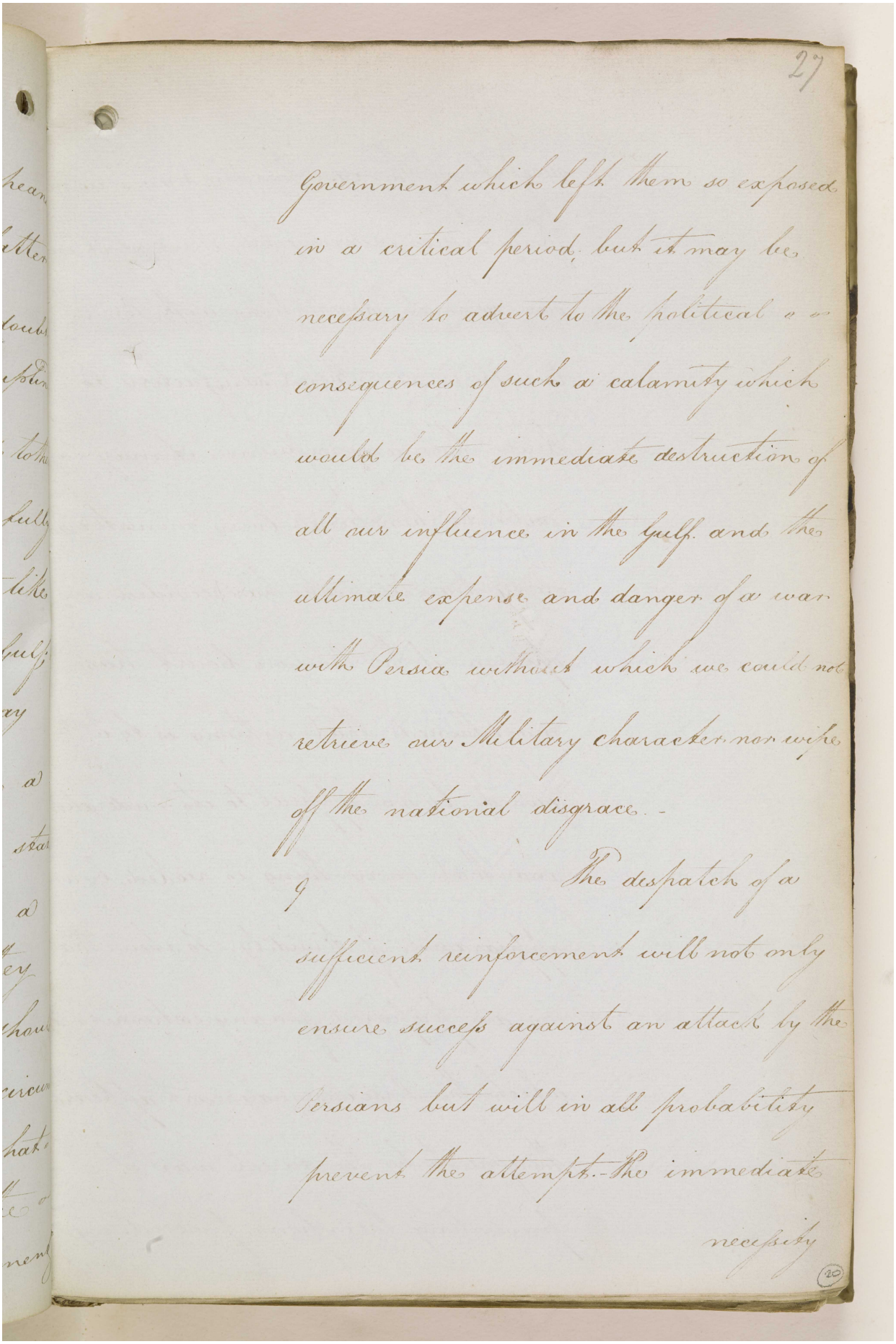


would have 2 Companies of Europeans
and about 500 Natives. The latter
description of troops, though no doubt
quite a match for any undisciplined
troops when once accustomed to them
cannot perhaps at first be so fully
relied on in sudden assaults like
those lately experienced in the Gulf &
both they and the Europeans may
possibly be reduced by the time a
reinforcement can arrive to a state
of almost total ineffeciency by a
return of the disorder which they
suffered this time last year. Should
they be overpowered in such circum-
-stances it is needless to say what
whould be the feelings of the
Government



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Government which left them so exposed
in a critical period, but it may be
necessary to advert to the political
consequences of such a calamity which
would be the immediate destruction of
all our influence in the Gulf and the
ultimate expense and danger of a war
with Persia without which we could not
retrieve our Military character nor wipe
off the national disgrace. -

The despatch of a
sufficient reinforcement will not only
ensure success against an attack by the
Persians but will in all probability
prevent the attempt. The immediate

necessity

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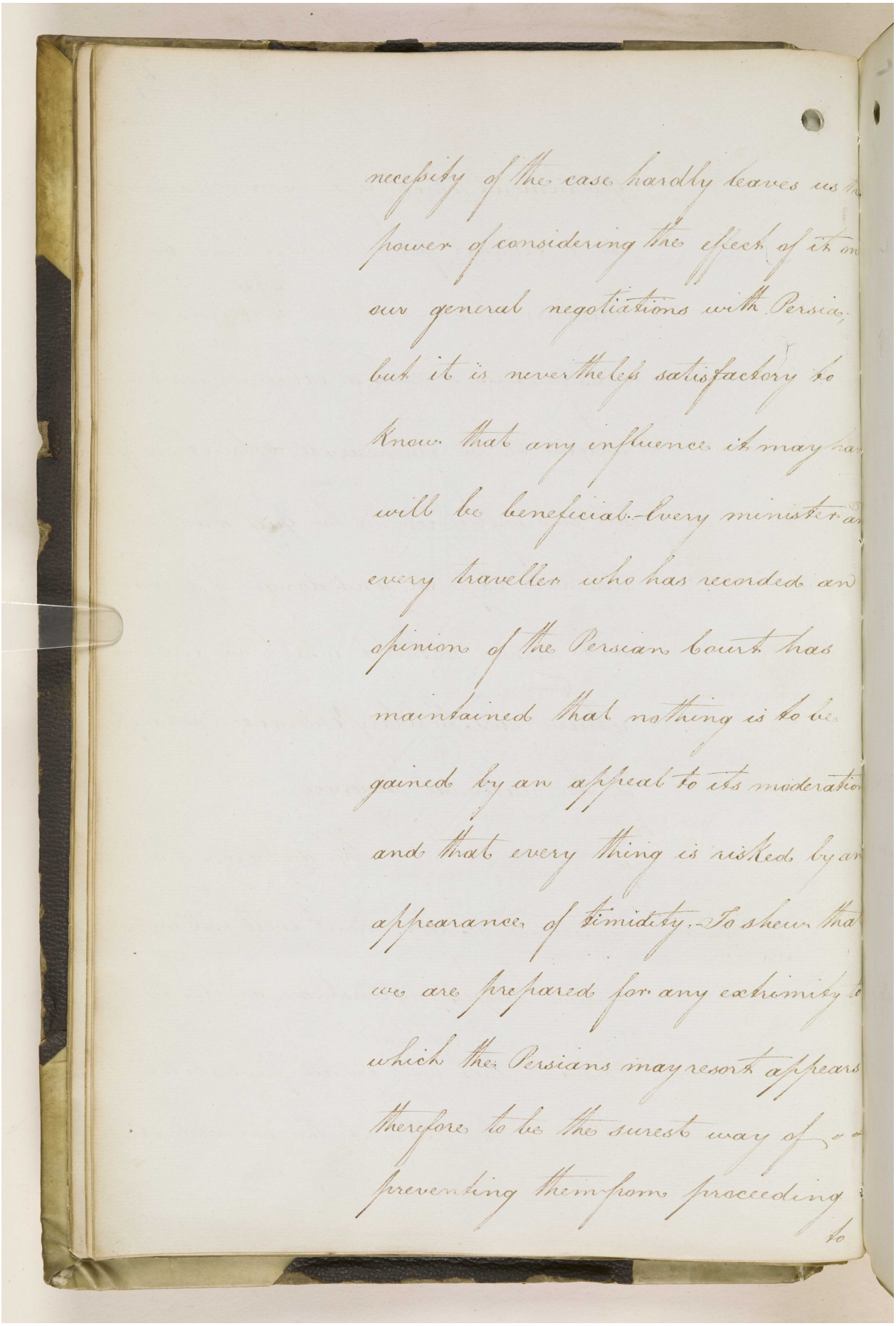

necessity of the case hardly leaves us the
power of considering the effect of it on
our general negotiations with Persia;
but it is nevertheless satisfactory to
know that any influence it may have
will be beneficial. Every minister and
every traveller who has recorded an
opinion of the Persian Court has
maintained that nothing is to be
gained by an appeal to its moderation
and that every thing is risked by an
appearance of timidity. To shew that
we are prepared for any extremity to
which the Persians may resort appears
therefore to be the surest way of
preventing them from proceeding
to

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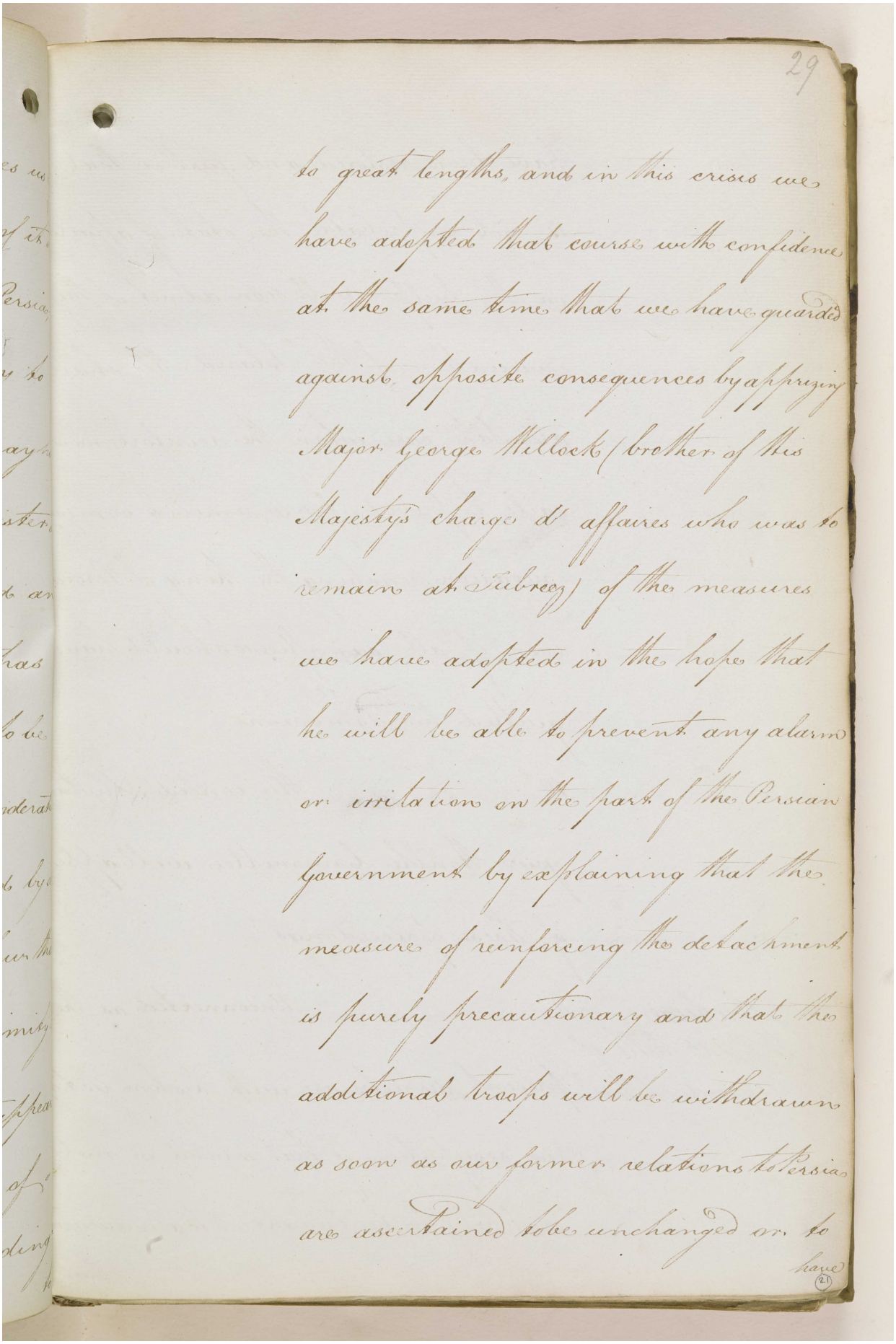

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to great lengths, and in this crisis we
have adopted that course with confidence
at the same time that we have guarded
against opposite consequences by appriz-
Major George Willock / brother of this
Majestys charge d affaires who was to
remain at Tubreez / of the measures
we have adopted in the hope that
he will be able to prevent any alarm
or irritation on the part of the Persian
Government by explaining that the
measure of reinforcing the detachment
is purely precautionary and that the
additional troops will be withdrawn
as soon as our former relations to Persia
are ascertained to be unchanged or to
have

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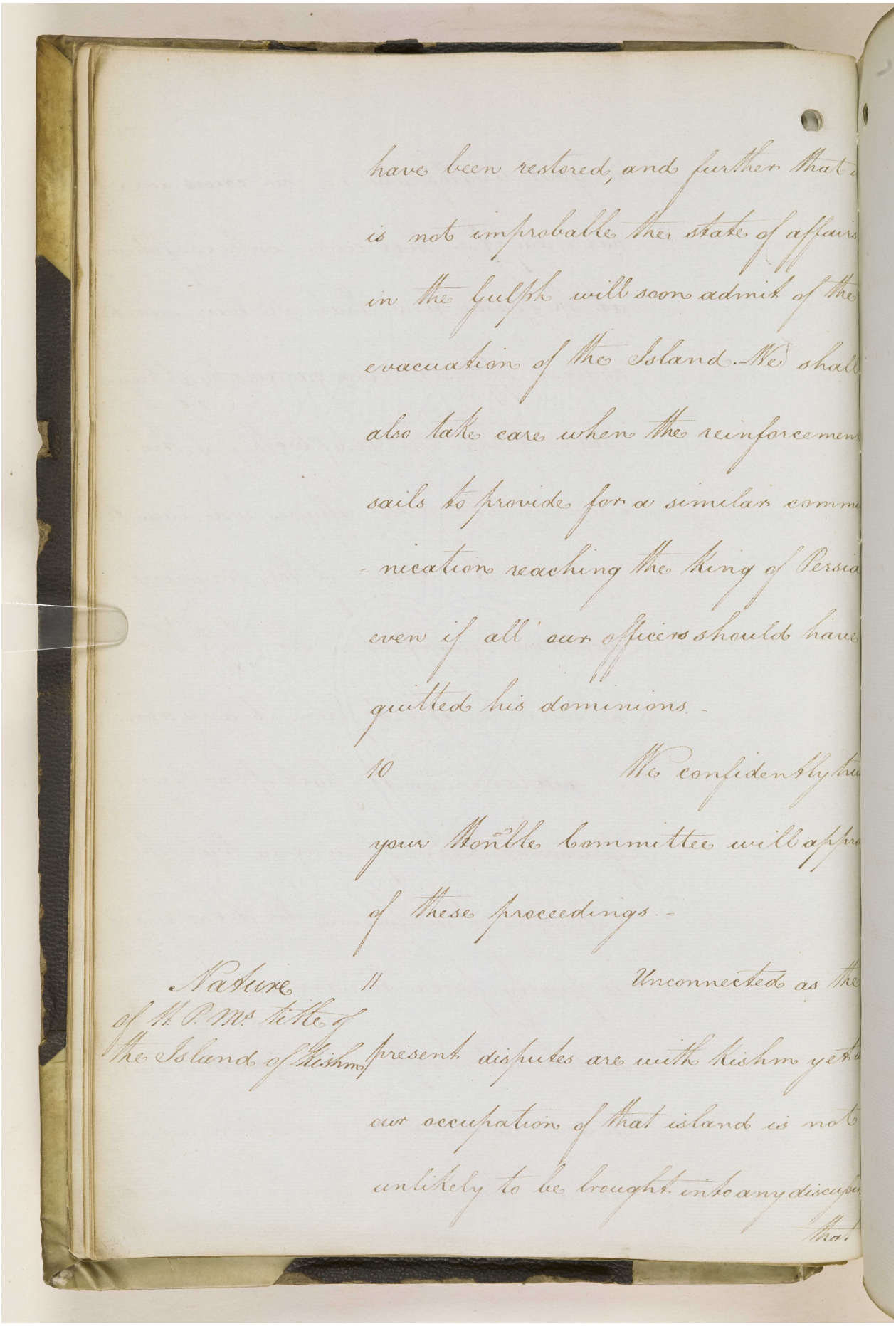
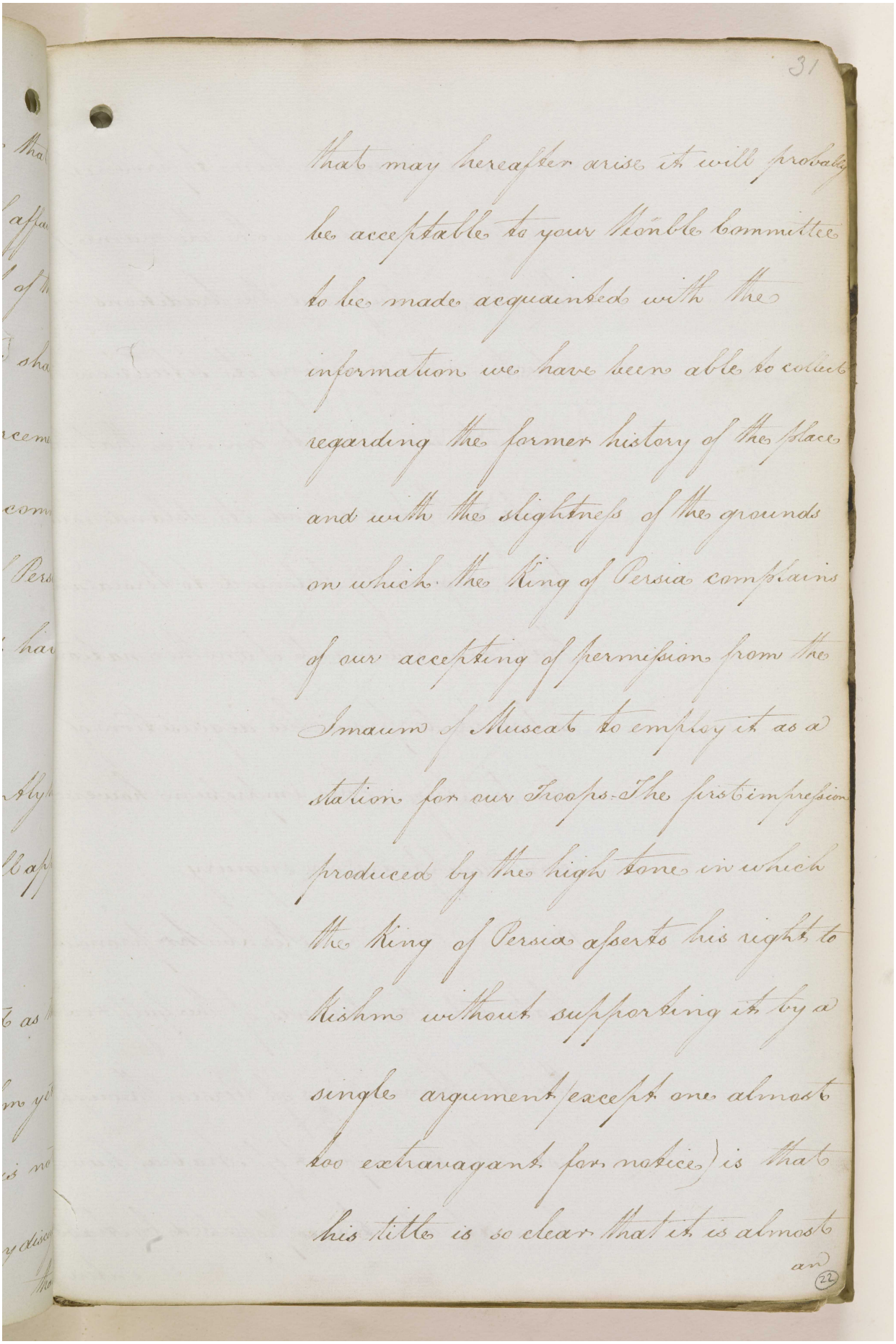


have been restored, and further that
is not improbable the state of affairs
in the Gulph will soon admit of the
evacuation of the Island. We shall
also take care when the reinforcemen
sails to provide for a similar comm
-nication reaching the King of Persia
even if all our officers should have
quitted his dominions.

10 We confidently hu
your Honble Committee will appro
of these proceedings.

Nature of H. C. Ms title to the Island of Kishm

11 Unconnected as the
present disputes are with Kishm yet
our occupation of that island is not
unlikely to be brought into any discuss
that



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that may hereafter arise it will probably
be acceptable to your Honble Committee
to be made acquainted with the
information we have been able to collect
regarding the former history of the place
and with the slightness of the grounds
on which the King of Persia complains
of our accepting of permission from the
Imaum of Muscat to employ it as a
station for our Troops. The first impression
produced by the high tone in which
the King of Persia asserts his right to
Kishm without supporting it by a
single argument (except one almost
too extravagant for notice) is that
his title is so clear that it is almost
an

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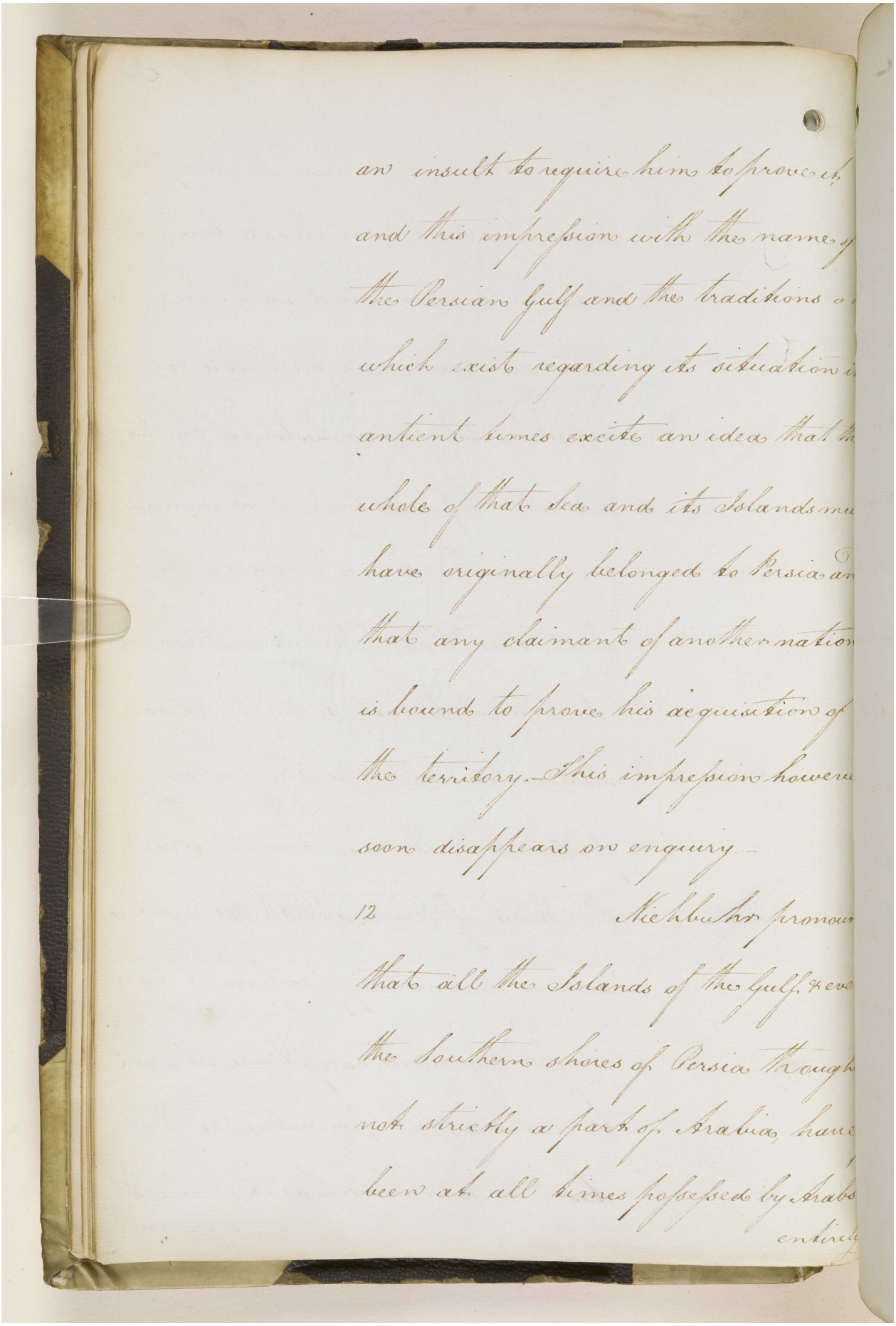
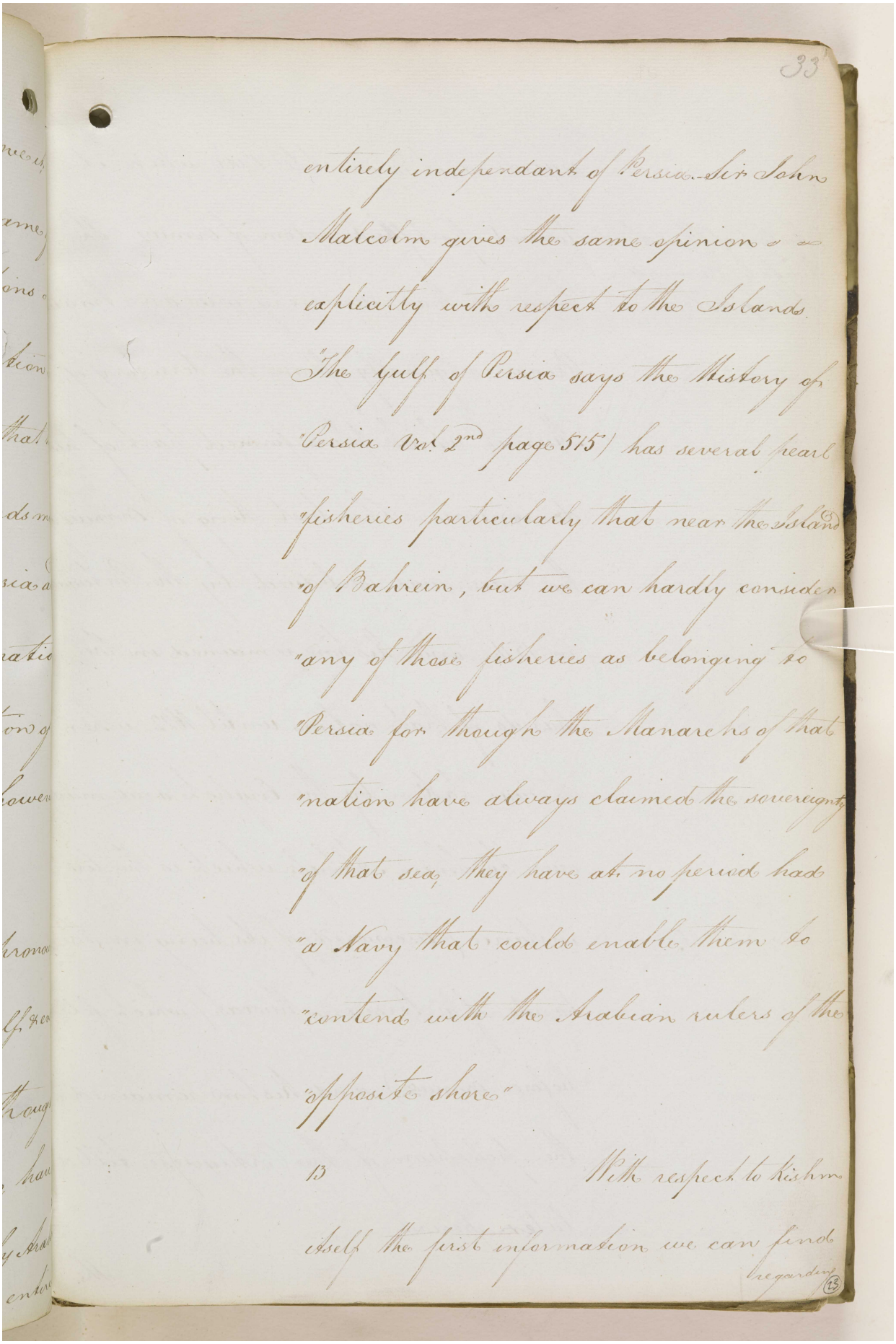


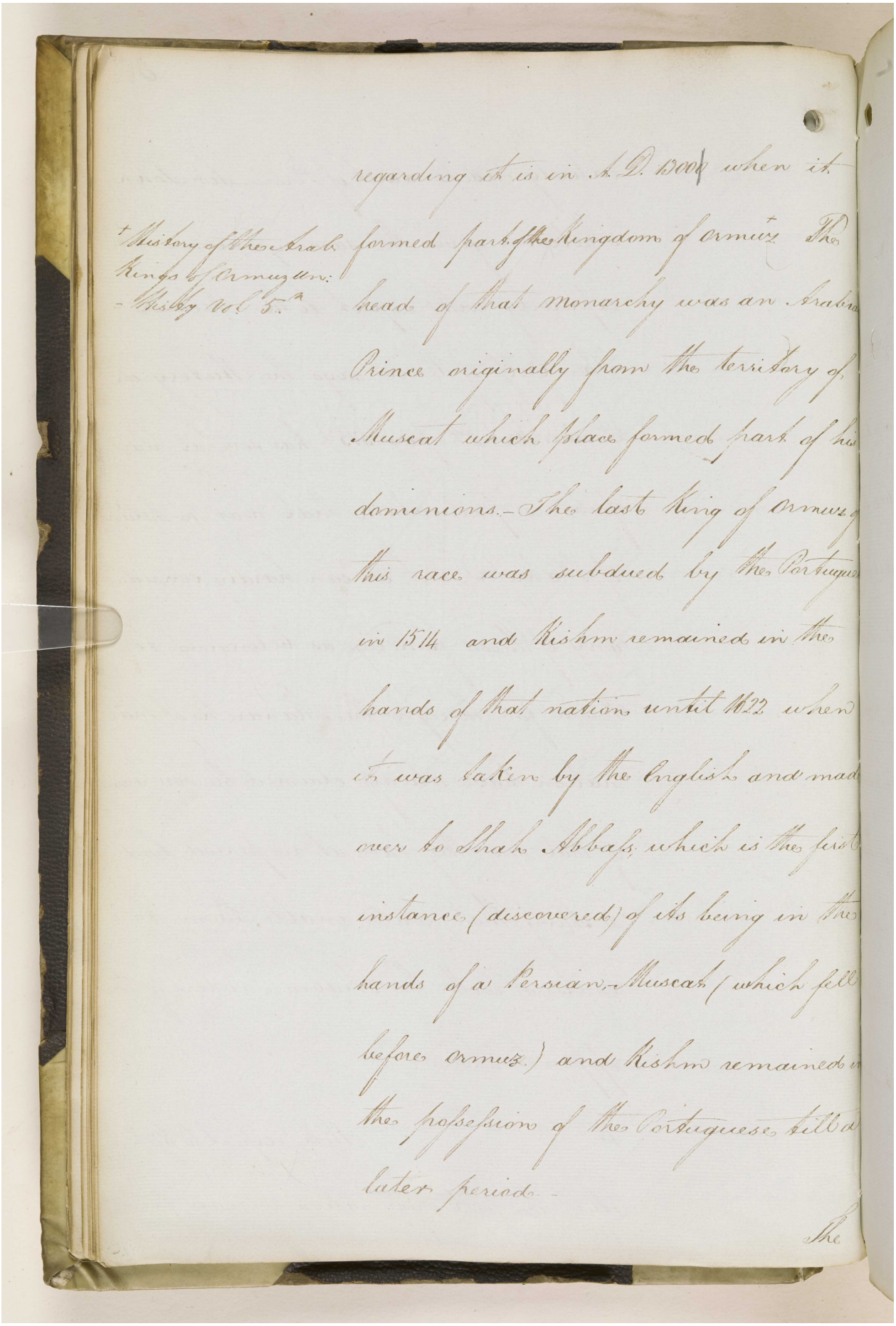
an insult to require him to prove it,
and this impression with the names of
the Persian Gulf and the traditions o
which exist regarding its situation in
antient times excite an idea that th
whole of that Sea and its Islands mu
have originally belonged to Persia an
that any claimant of another nation
is bound to prove his acquisition of
the territory. This impression however
soon disappears on enquiry.

12 Niebuhr pronou
that all the Islands of the Gulf, & eve
the Southern shores of Persia though
not strictly a part of Arabia, have
been at all times possessed by Arabs
entirely



entirely independant of Persia. Sir John
Malcolm gives the same opinion &
explicitly with respect to the Islands.
"The Gulf of Persia says the History of
"Persia Vol. 2nd page 515) has several pearl
"fisheries particularly that near the Island
"of Bahrein, but we can hardly consider
"any of those fisheries as belonging to
"Persia for though the Manarchs of that
"nation have always claimed the sovereignty
"of that sea, they have at no period had
"a Navy that could enable them to
"contend with the Arabian rulers of the
"opposite shore"

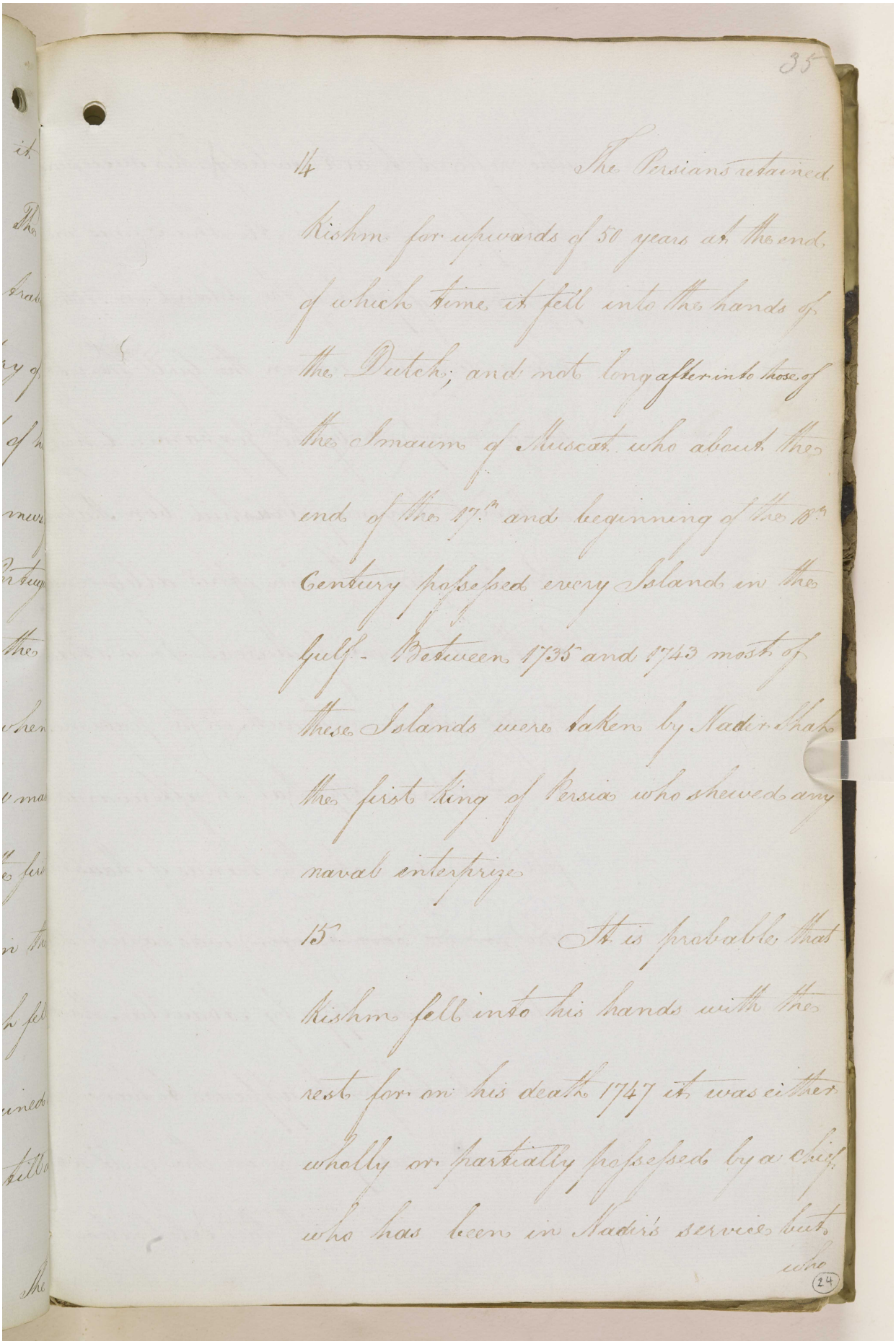
13 With respect to Kishm
itself the first information we can find
regarding



regarding it is in A.D. 1300 when it formed part of the Kingdom of Ormuz+ The head of that monarchy was an Arabian Prince originally from the territory of Muscat which place formed part of his dominions.- The last King of Ormuz of this race was subdued by the Portuguese in 1514 and Kishm remained in the hands of that nation until 1622 when it was taken by the English and made over to Shah Abbass, which is the first instance (discovered) of its being in the hands of a Persian,- Muscat (which fell before Ormuz.) and Kishm remained in the possession of the Portuguese till a later period.-

+ History of the Arab Kings of Ormuz Un:- History vol 5th

The



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14 The Persians retained Kishm for upwards of 50 years at the end of which time it fell into the hands of the Dutch; and not long after into those of the Imaum of Muscat who about the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th Century possessed every Island in the Gulf - Between 1735 and 1743 most of these Islands were taken by Nadir Shah the first king of Persia who shewed any naval enterprize

15 It is probable that Kishm fell into his hands with the rest for on his death 1747 it was either wholly or partially possessed by a Chief who has been in Nadirs service but who

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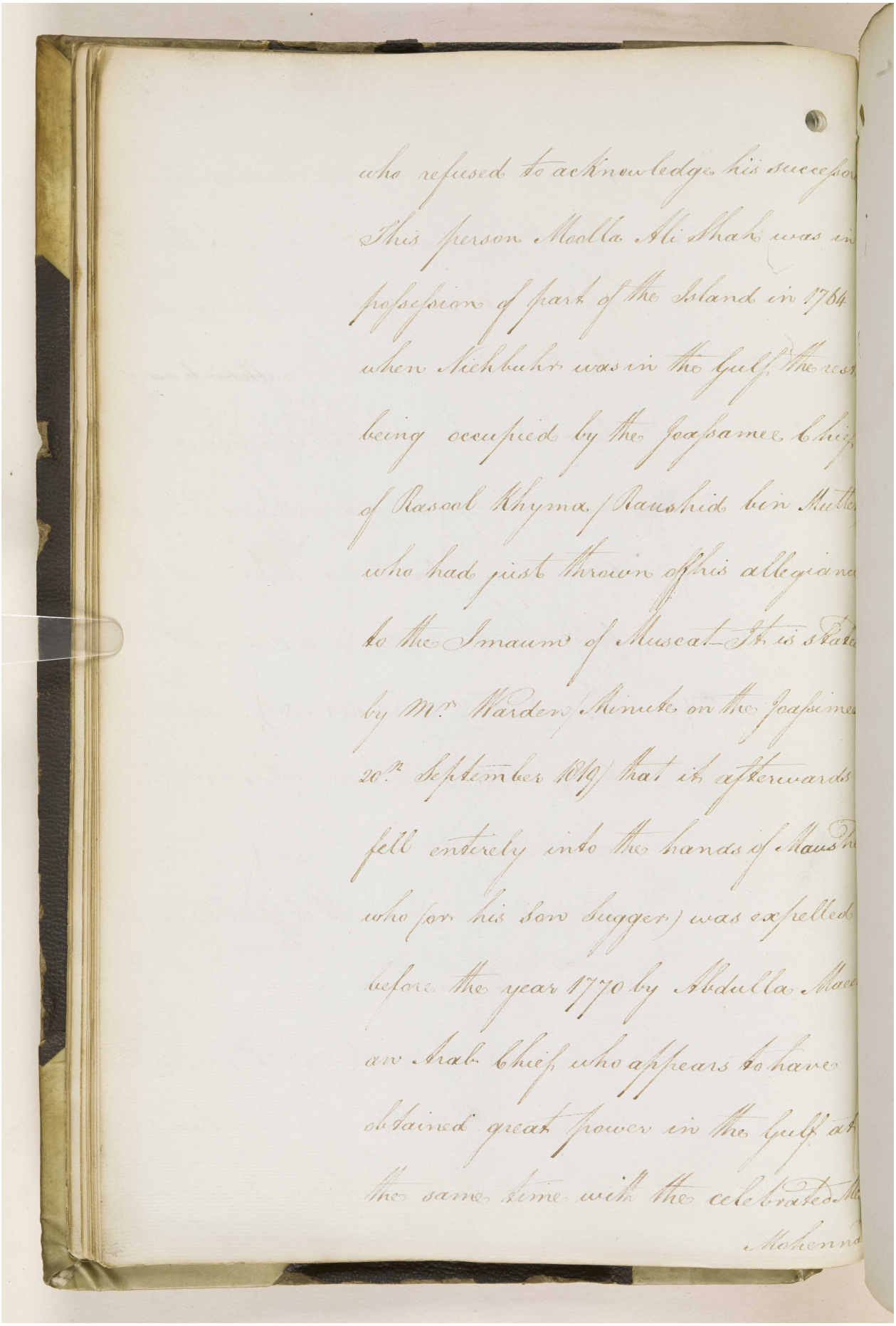
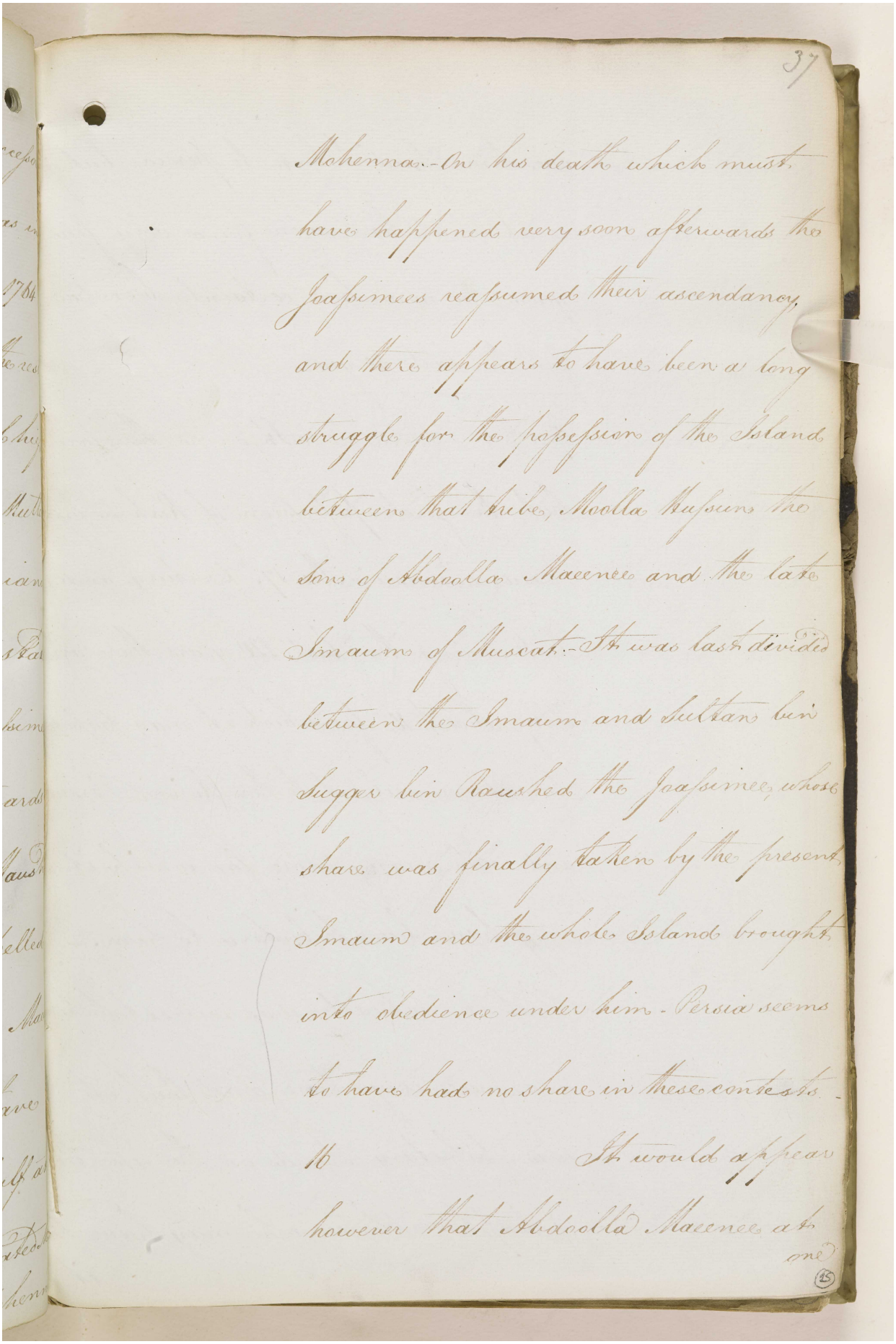


who refused to acknowledge his successor
This person Moolla Ali Shah was in
possession of part of the Island in 1764
when Niehbuhr was in the Gulf, the rest
being occupied by the Joassamee Chief
of Rasool Khyma (Raushid bin Mutter)
who had just thrown off his allegiance
to the Imaum of Muscat. It is stated
by Mr. Warden (Minute on the Joassimee
20th September 1819) that it afterwards
fell entirely into the hands of Maushe
who (or his son Sugger) was expelled
before the year 1770 by Abdulla Maee
an Arab Chief who appears to have
obtained great power in the Gulf at
the same time with the celebrated Me
Mohenna



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Mohenna.- On his death which must have happened very soon afterwards the Joasimees reassumed their ascendancy, and there appears to have been a long struggle for the possession of the Island between that tribe, Moolla Hussun the Son of Abdoolla Maeenee and the late Imaum of Muscat.- It was last divided between the Imaum and Sultan bin Sugger bin Raushed the Joasimee, whose share was finally taken by the present Imaum and the whole Island brought into obedience under him.- Persia seems to have had no share in these contests.-

16 It would appear however that Abdoolla Maeenee at one

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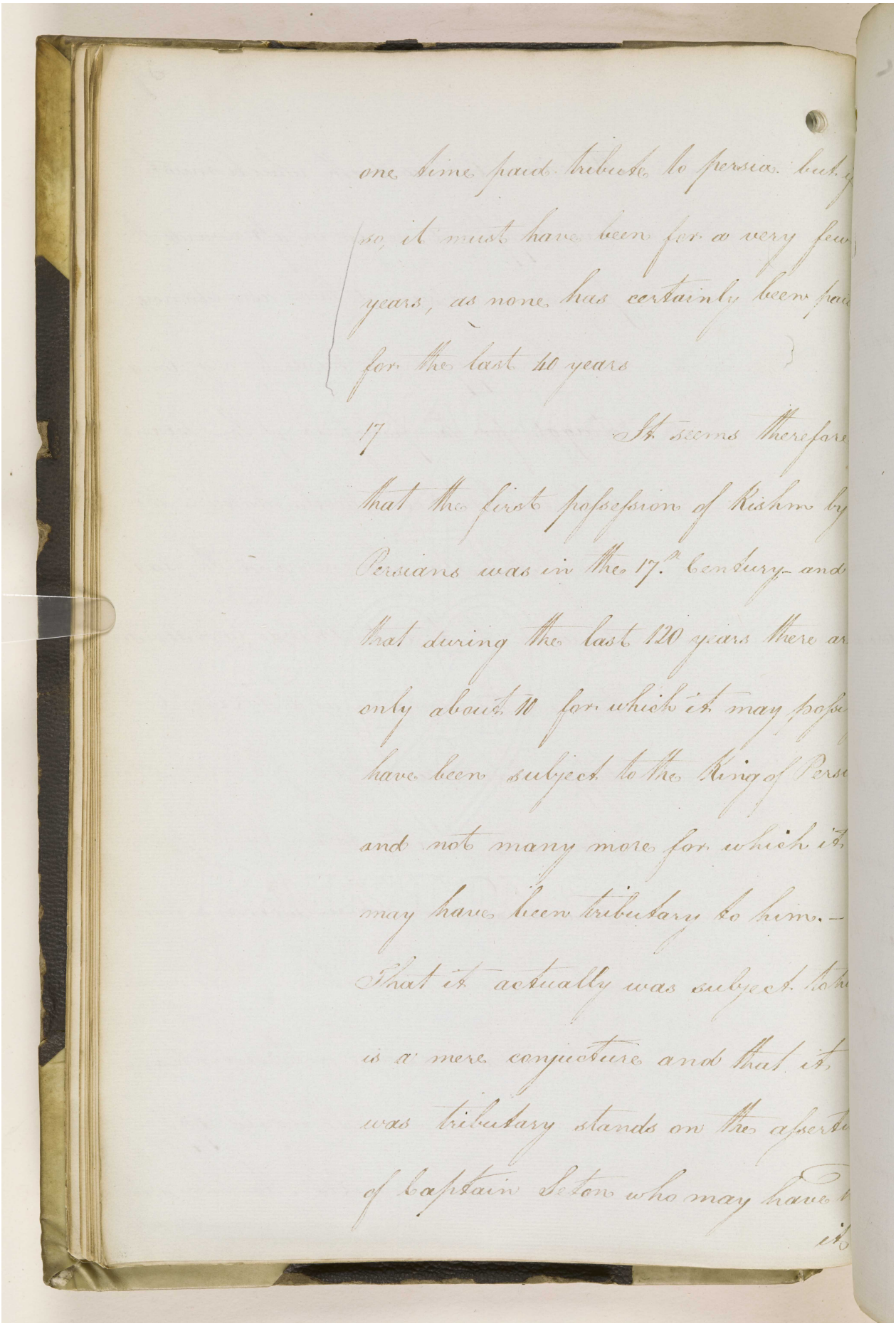
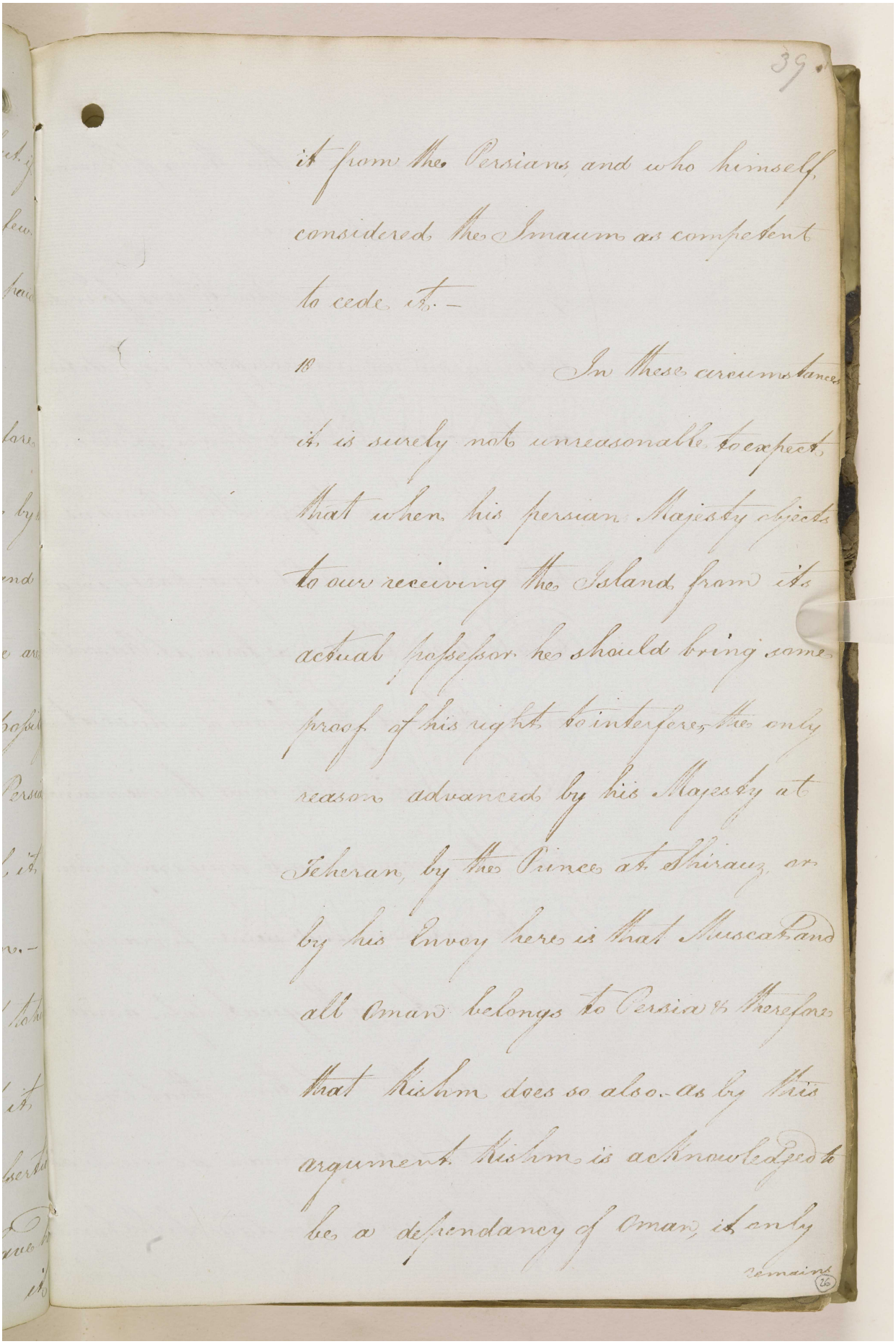


one time paid tribute to persia. but
so, it must have been for a very few
years, as none has certainly been paid
for the last 40 years

17 It seems therefore
that the first possession of Kishm by
Persians was in the 17th Century- and
that during the last 120 years there ar
only about 40 for which it may poss
have been subject to the King of Pers
and not many more for which it
may have been tributary to him.—
That it actually was subject to him
is a mere conjecture and that it
was tributary stands on the asserti
of Captain Seton who may have



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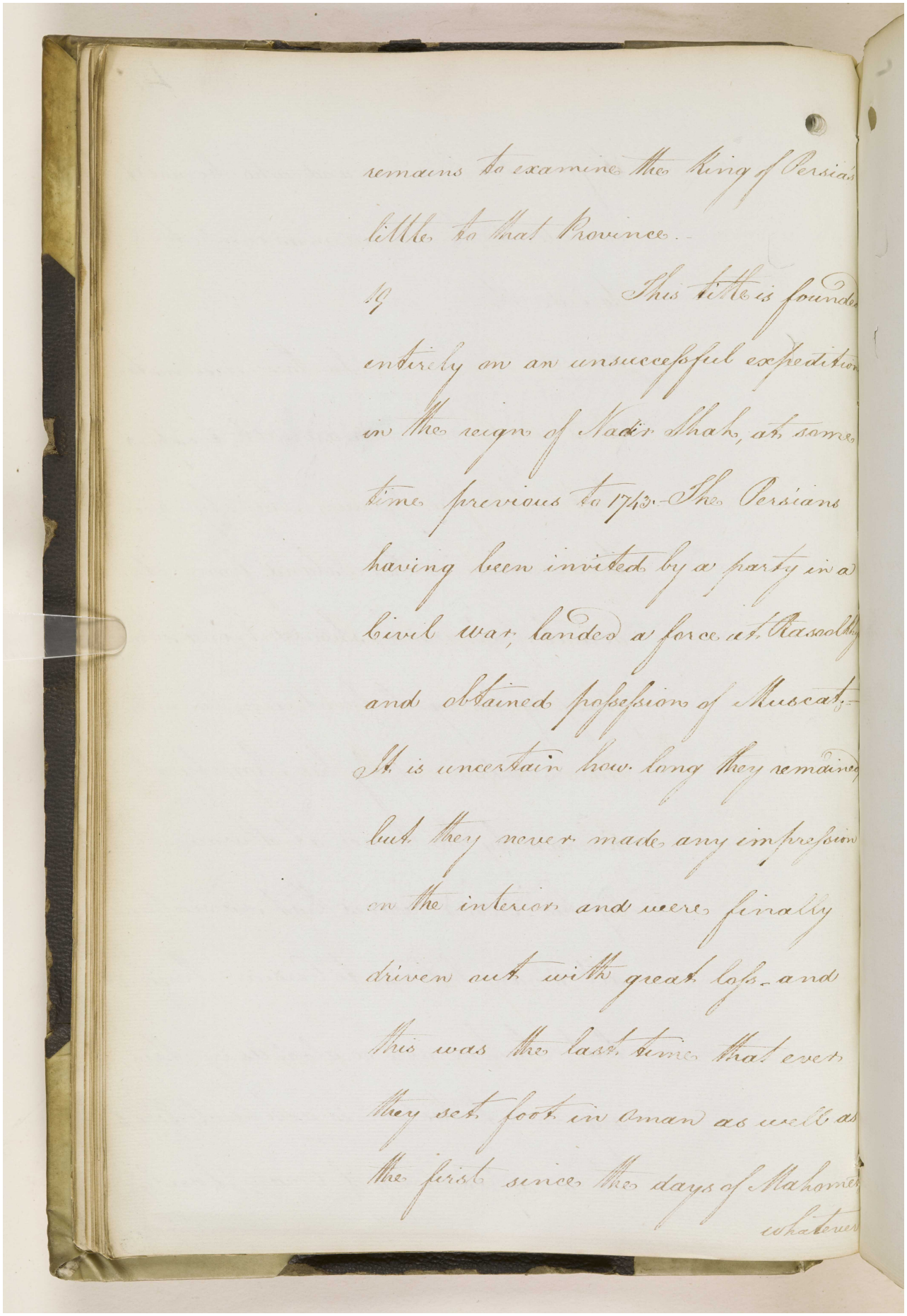
it from the Persians and who himself considered the Imaum as competent to cede it.—

10 In these circumstances it is surely not unreasonable to expect that when his persian Majesty objects to our receiving the Island from its actual possessor he should bring some proof of his right to interfere, the only reason advanced by his Majesty at Teheran, by the Prince at Shirauz, or by his Envoy here is that Muscat and all Oman belongs to Persia & therefore that Kishm does so also. as by this argument Kishm is acknowledged to be a dependancy of Oman it only

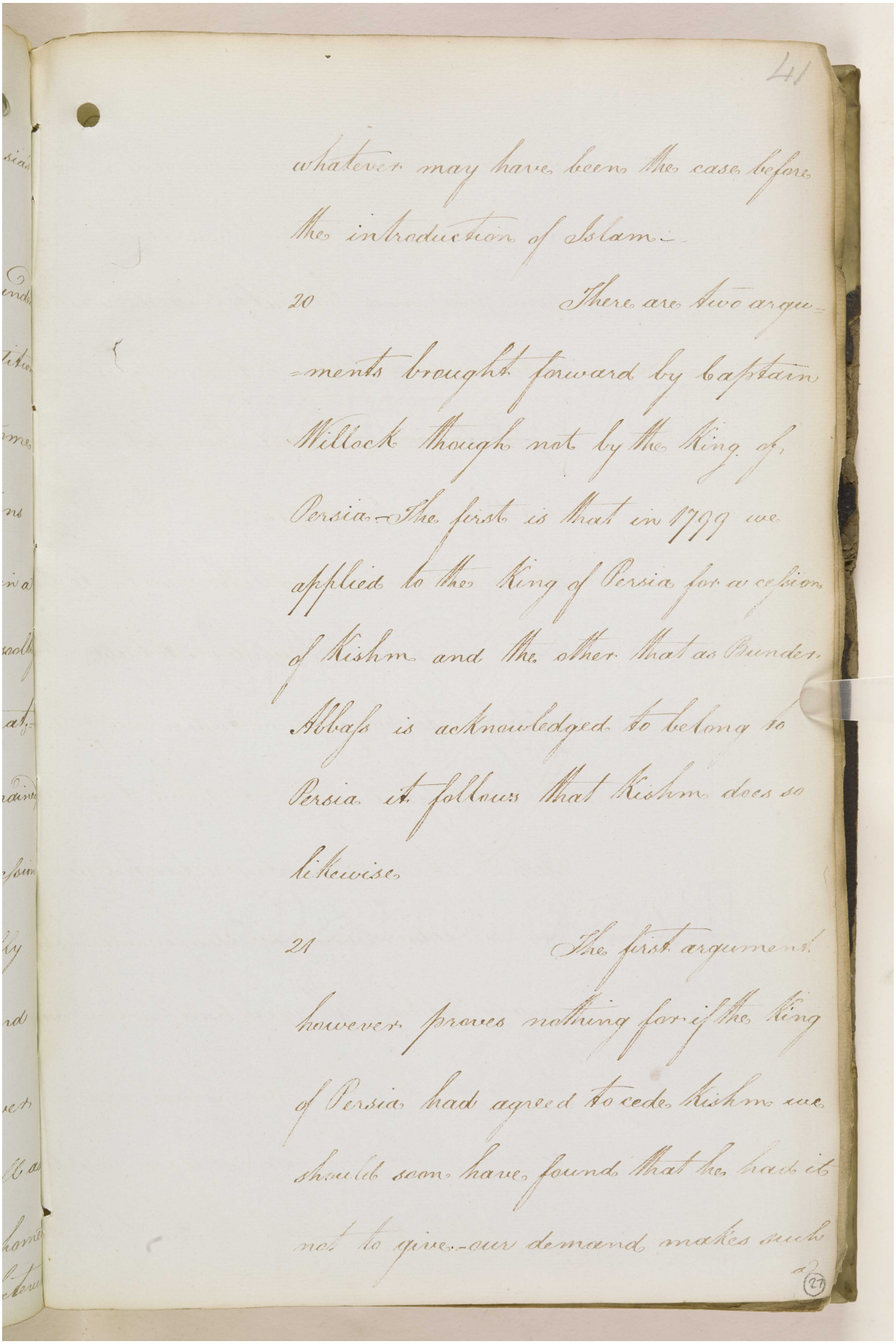
remains



remains to examine the King of Persia's little to that Province.-

19 This title is founded entirely on an unsuccessful expedition in the reign of Nadir Shah, at some time previous to 1743.- The Persians having been invited by a party in a Civil war, landed a force at Rasoolkhy and obtained possession of Muscat.- It is uncertain how long they remained but they never made any impression on the interior and were finally driven out with great loss- and this was the last time that ever they set foot in Oman as well as the first since the days of Mahomet

whatever



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whatever may have been the case before the introduction of Islam.—

20 There are two argu=ments brought forward by Captain Willock though not by the King of Persia.—The first is that in 1799 we applied to the King of Persia for a cession of Kishm and the other that as Bunder Abbas is acknowledged to belong to Persia it follows that Kishm does so likewise.

21 The first argument however proves nothing for if the King of Persia had agreed to cede Kishm we should soon have found that he had it not to give.—our demand makes such

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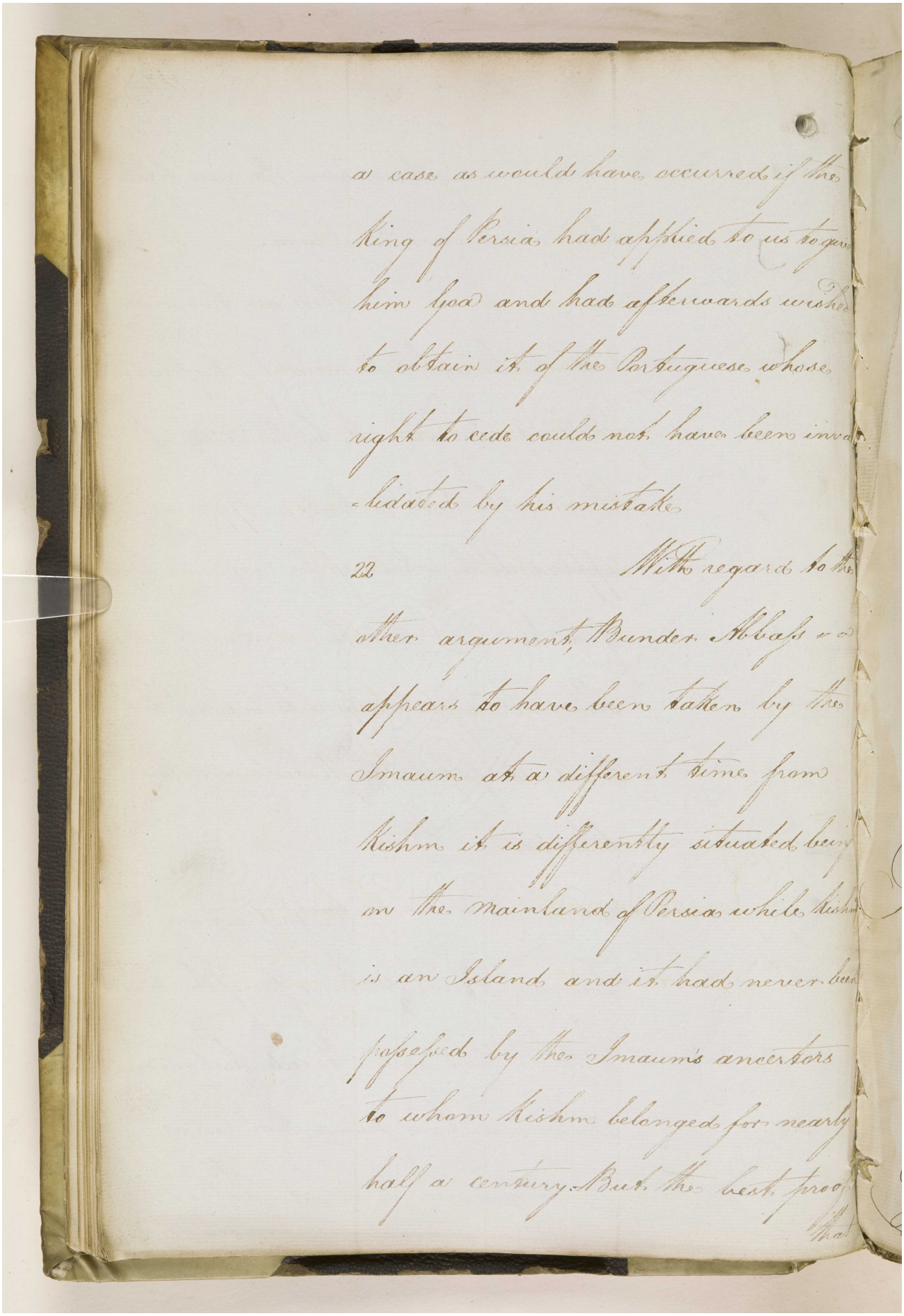
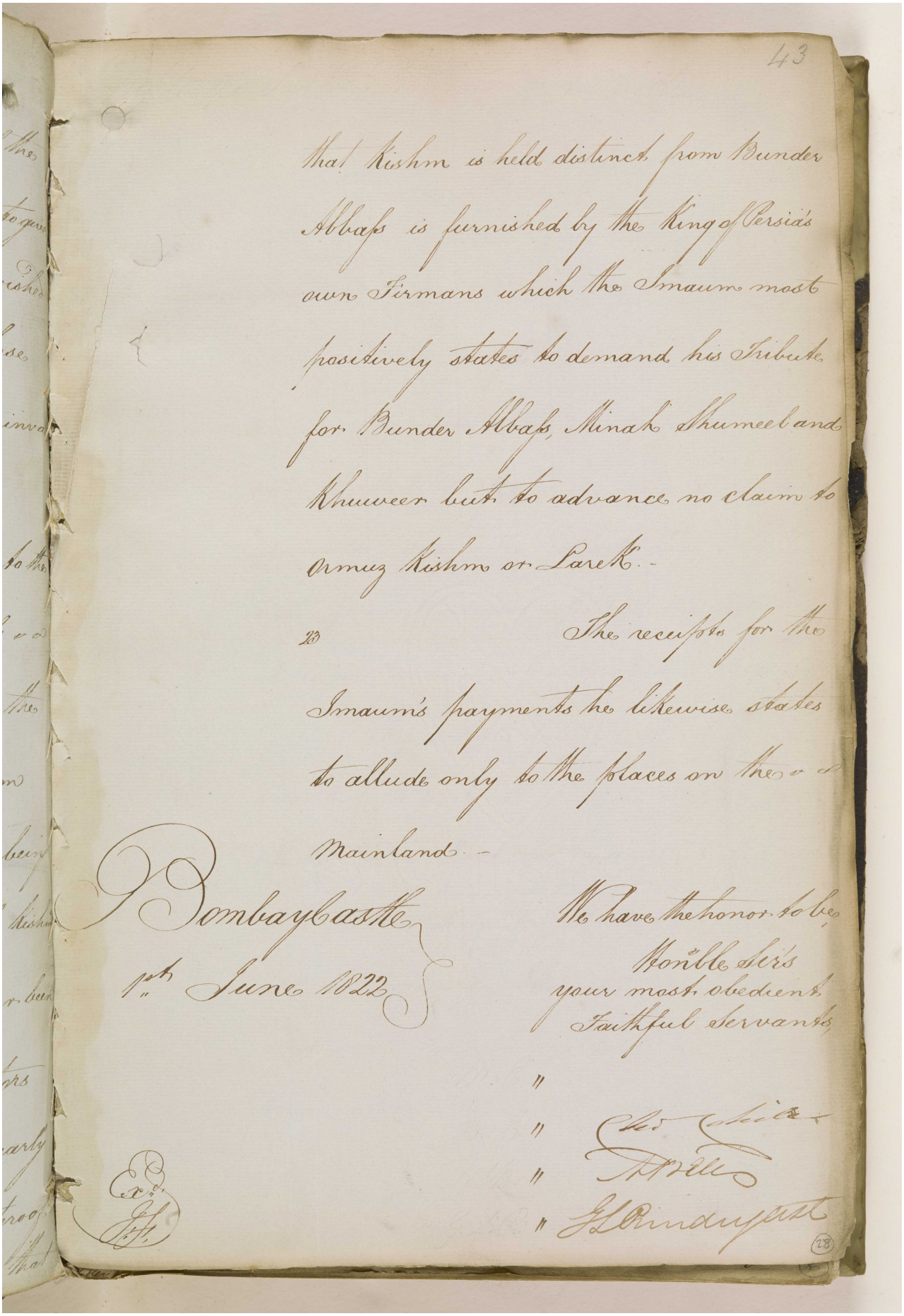


a case as would have occurred if the
King of Persia had applied to us to give
him Ijaa and had afterwards wished
to obtain it of the Portuguese whose
right to cede could not have been invo-
lidated by his mistake

22 With regard to the
other arguments Bunder Abbas
appears to have been taken by the
Imaum at a different time from
Kishm it is differently situated being
on the Mainland of Persia while Kishm
is an Island and it had never been
possessed by the Imaum's ancestors
to whom Kishm belonged for nearly
half a century But the best proof



43

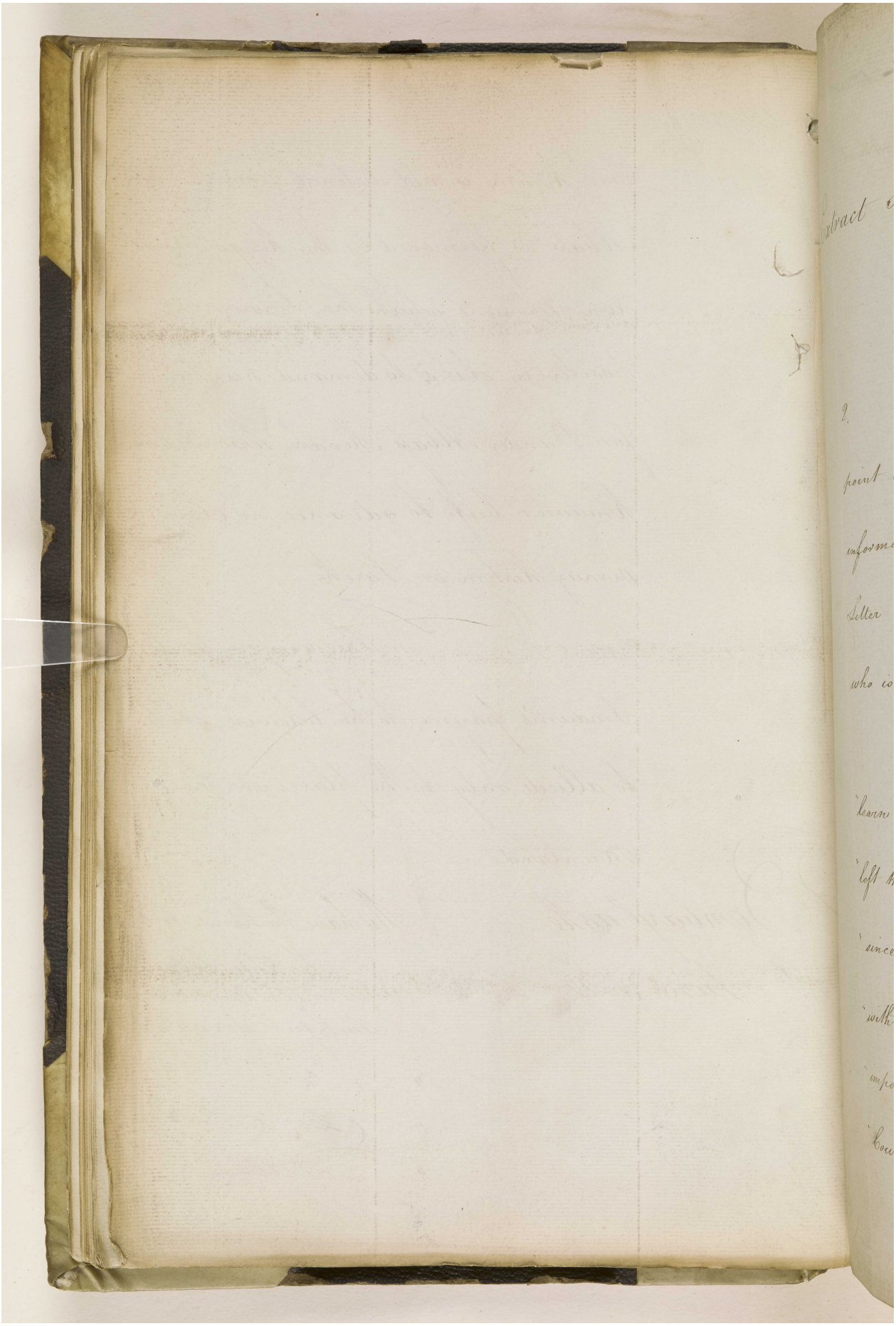
that Kishm is held distinct from Bunder Abbas is furnished by the King of Persia's own Firmans which the Imaum most positively states to demand his Tribute for Bunder Abbas, Minah Shumeel and Khuveer but to advance no claim to Ormuz Kishm or Larek.-

23 The receipts for the Imaum's payments he likewise states to allude only to the places on the Mainland.-

Bombay Castle
9th June 1822

We have the honor to be,
Honble Sirs
your most obedient
Faithful servants

(28)



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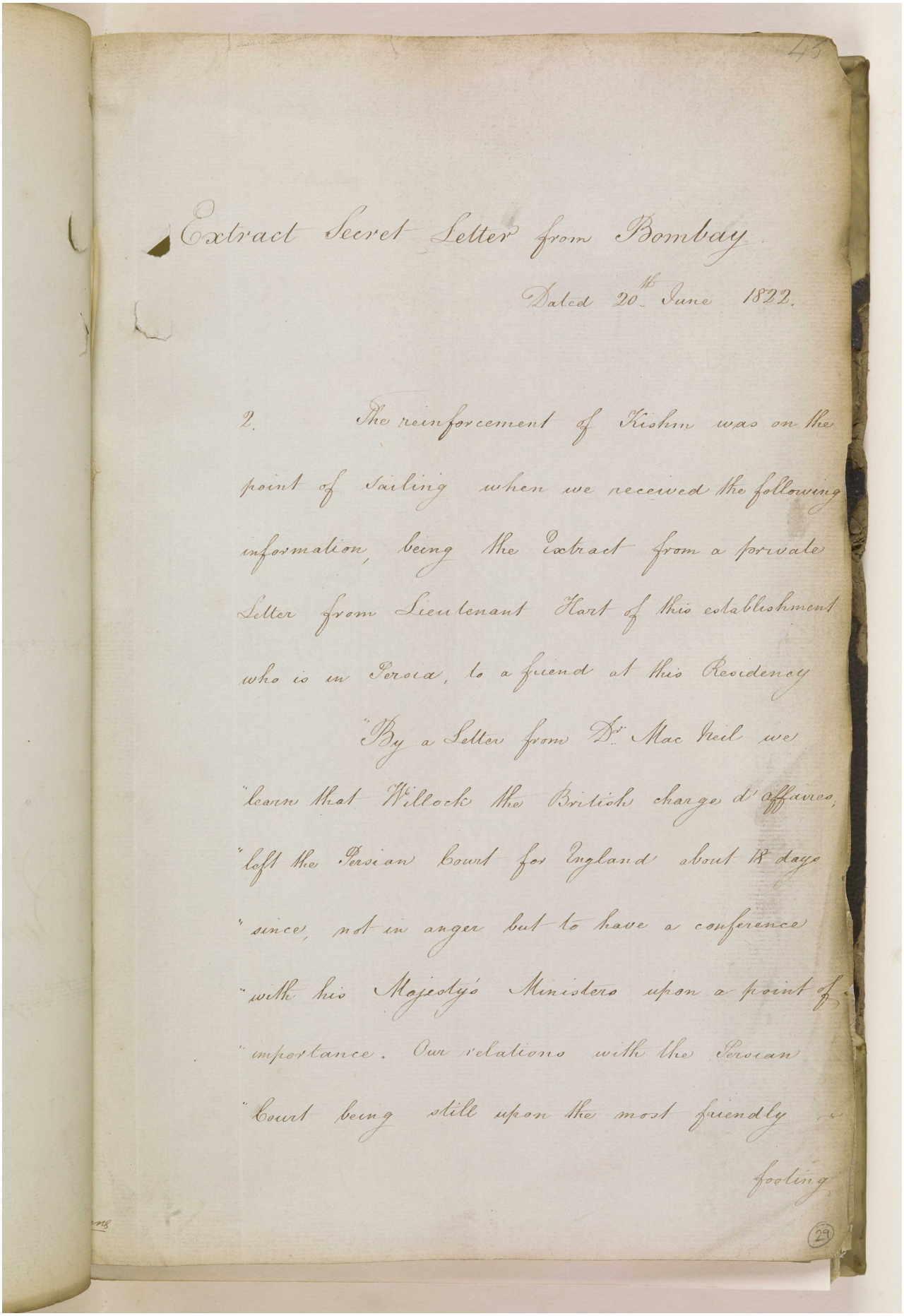
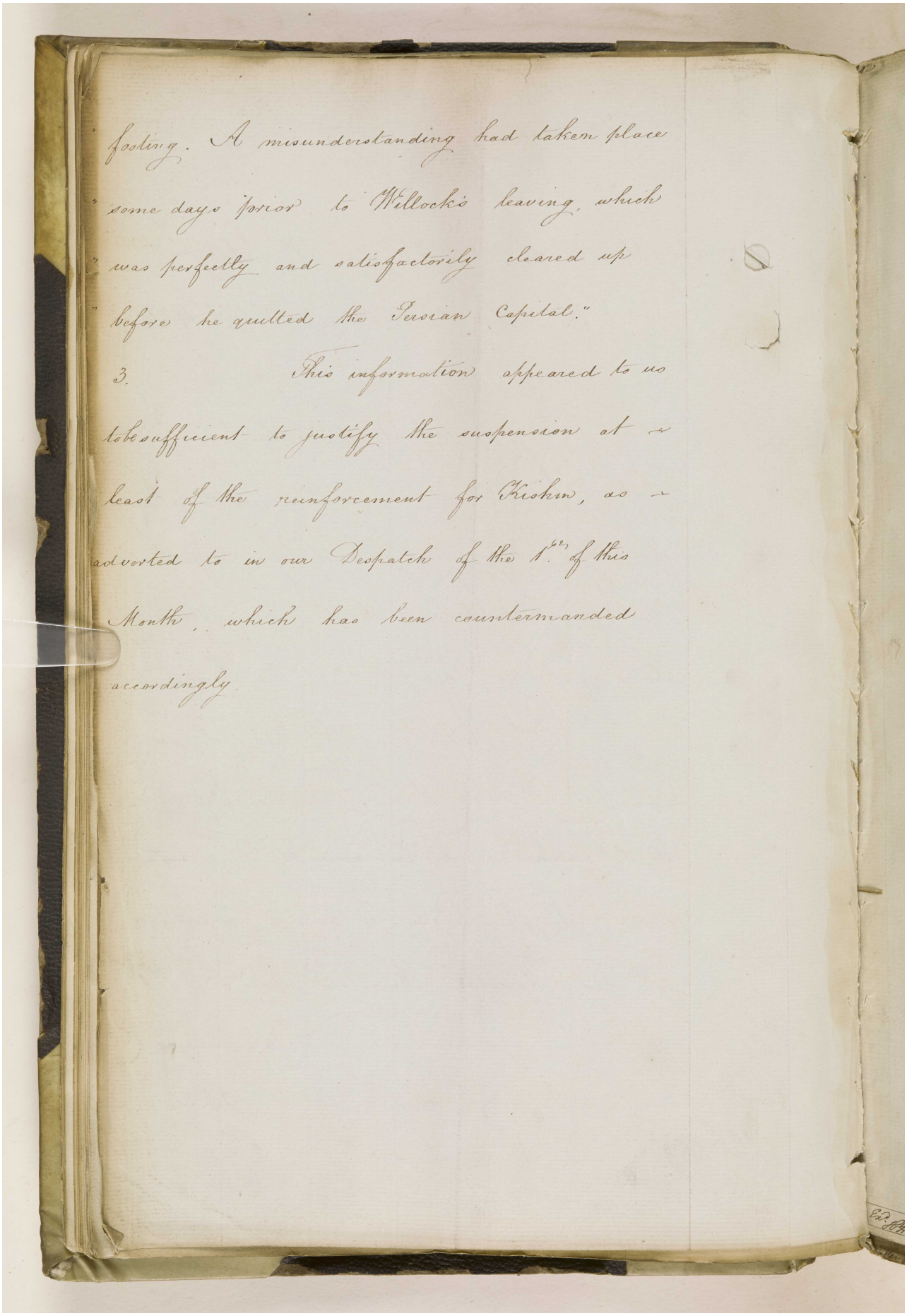


Extract Secret Letter from Bombay.

Dated 20th June 1822.

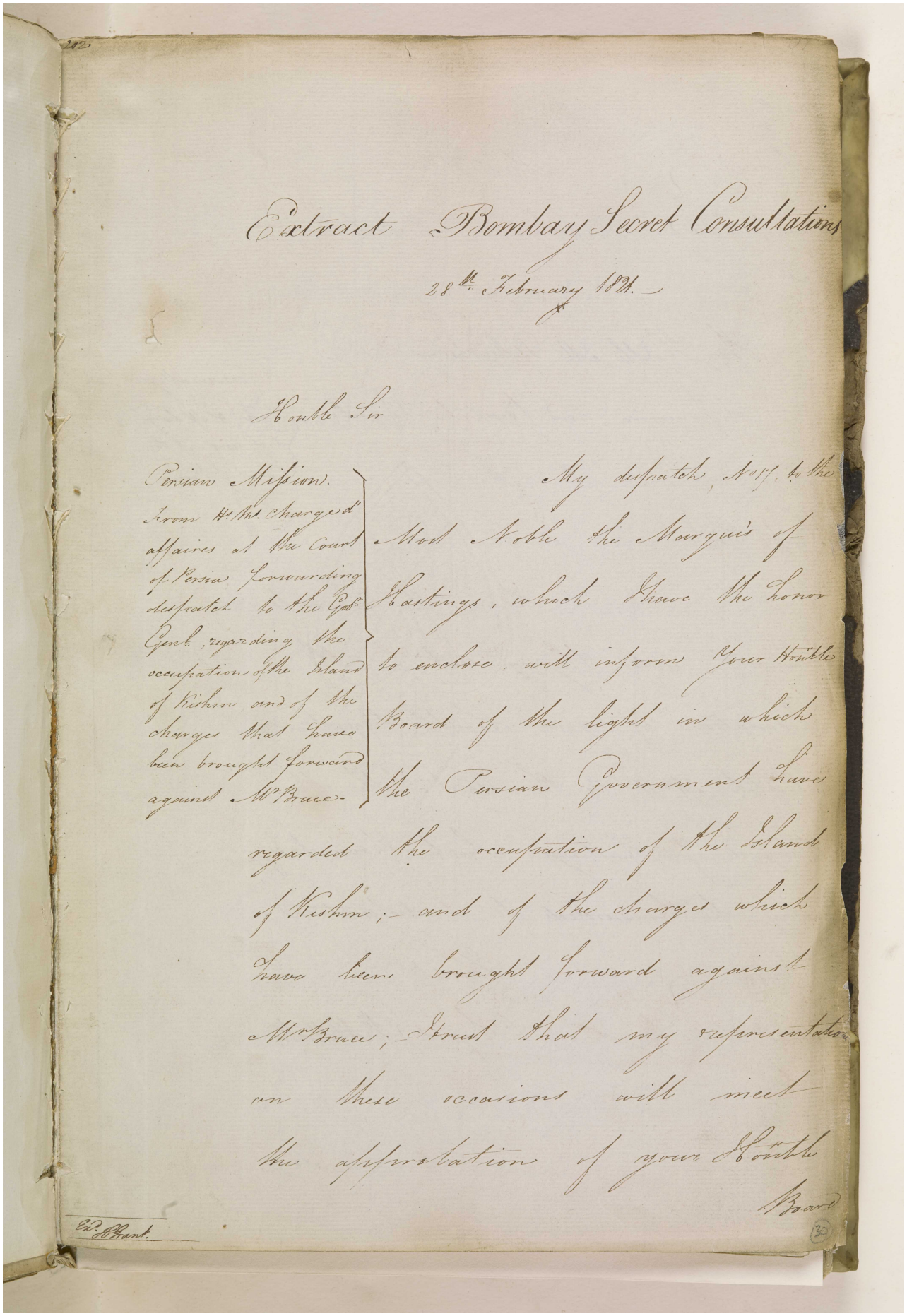
2. The reinforcement of Kishm was on the point of sailing when we received the following information, being the Extract from a private Letter from Lieutenant Hart of this establishment who is in Persia, to a friend at this Residency

"By a Letter from Dr. Mac Neil we "learn that Willock the British charge d'affaires, "left the Persian Court for England about 18 days "since, not in anger but to have a conference "with his Majesty's Ministers upon a point of "importance. Our relations with the Persian "Court being still upon the most friendly footing.



footing. A misunderstanding had taken place
some days prior to Willock's leaving, which
was perfectly and satisfactorily cleared up
before he quitted the Persian Capital."

3. This information appeared to us
to be sufficient to justify the suspension at
least of the reinforcement for Kishm, as
adverted to in our Despatch of the 1st. of this
Month, which has been countermanded
accordingly.



Extract Bombay Secret Consultations

28th February 1821.

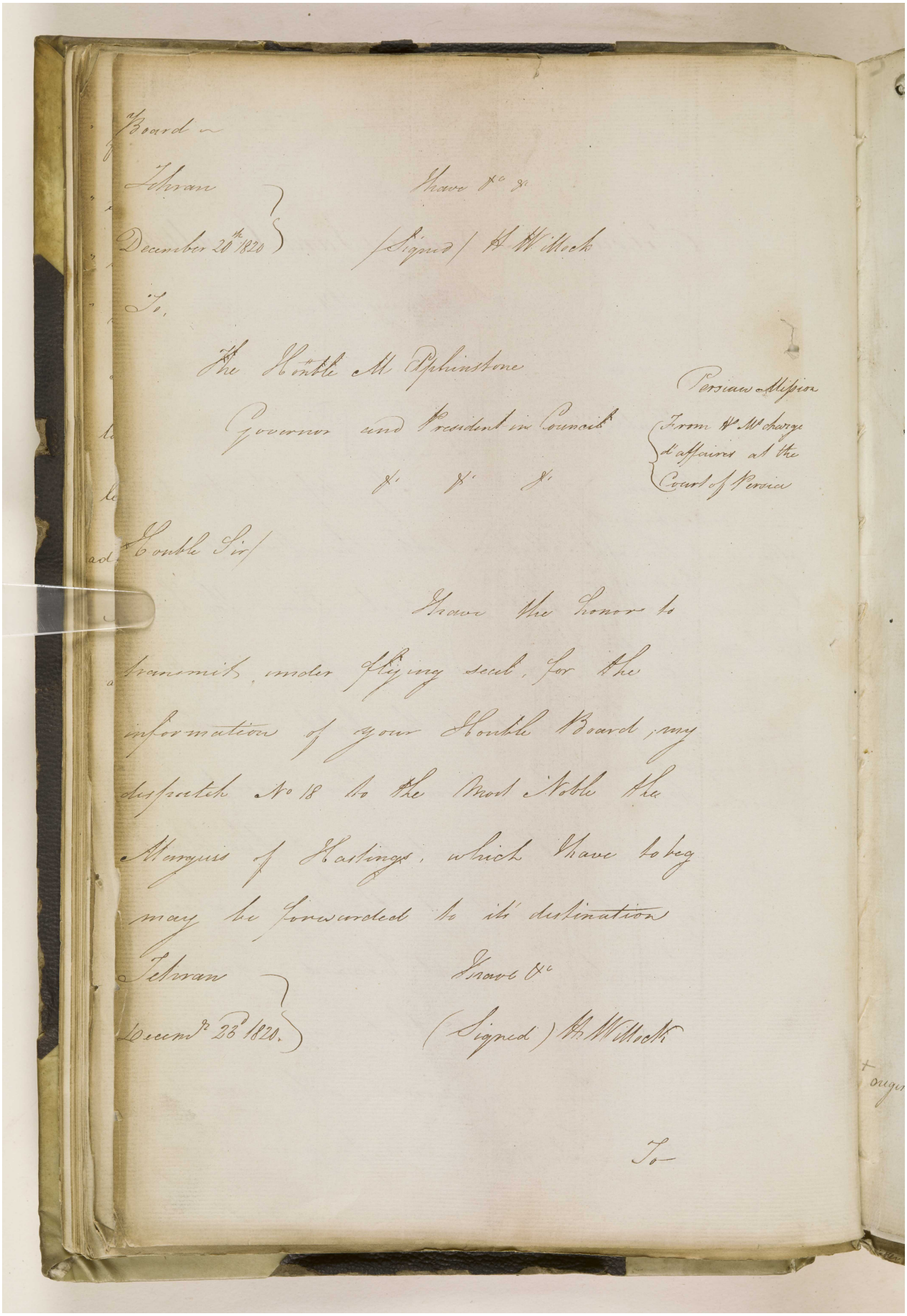
Hon'ble Sir

Persian Mission.
From H. M. Charge d'affaires at the Court of Persia forwarding despatch to the Govr. Genl., regarding the occupation of the Island of Kishm and of the charges that have been brought forward against Mr Bruce.

My despatch, No 17, to the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings, which I have the honor to enclose, will inform Your Hon'ble Board of the light in which the Persian Government have regarded the occupation of the Island of Kishm; and of the charges which have been brought forward against Mr Bruce; I trust that my representation on these occasions will meet the approbation of your Hon'ble Board

Ex. H. Grant.

(30)



Board ~

Tehran
December 20th 1820

I have &c &c
(Signed) H. Willock

To,

The Honble M. Elphinstone
Governor and President in Council
&c &c &c

Persian Mission
From H. M. Charge
d'affaires at the
Court of Persia

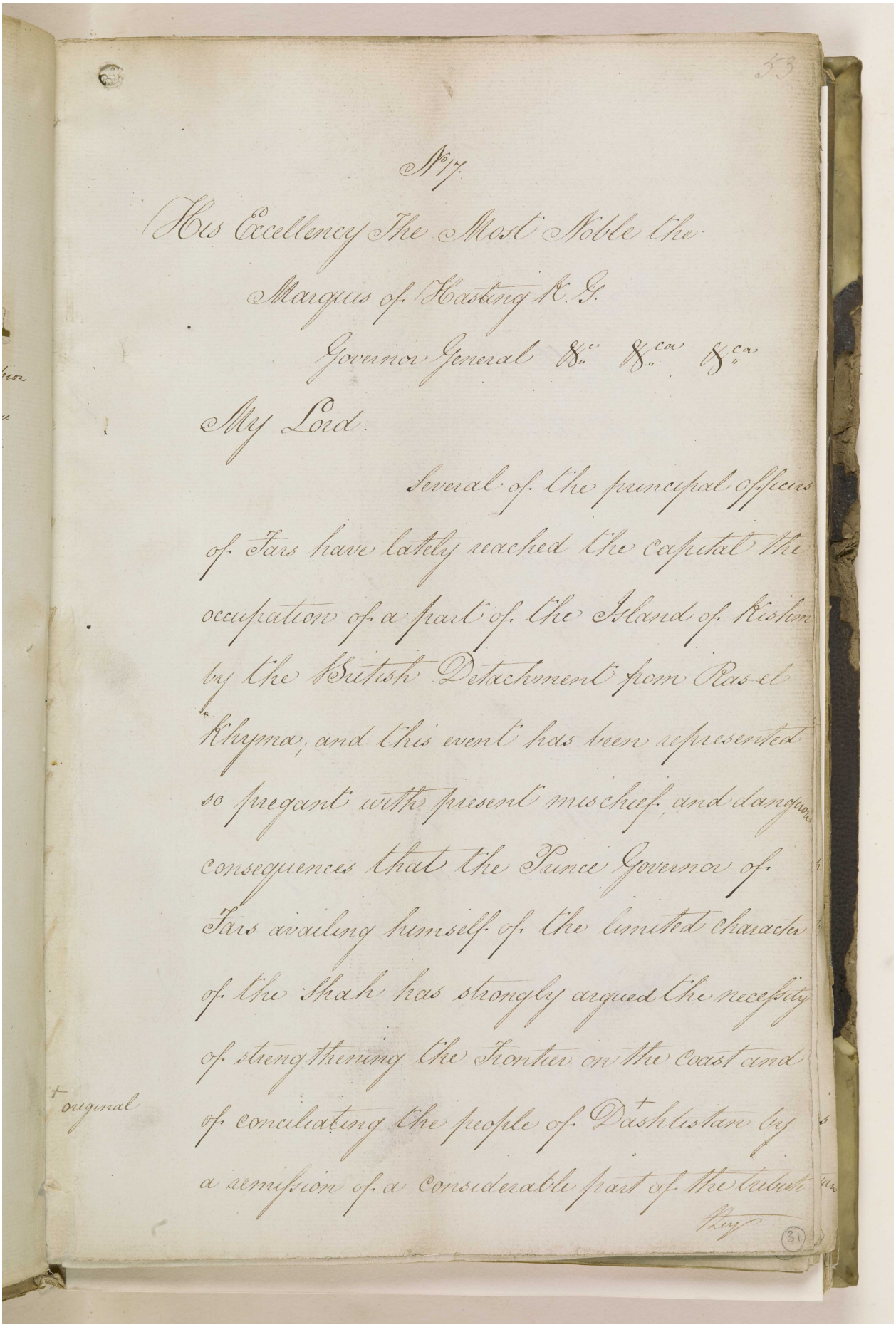
Honble Sir/

I have the honor to
transmit, under flying seal, for the
information of your Honble Board, my
despatch No 18 to the Most Noble the
Marquis of Hastings, which I have to beg
may be forwarded to its destination

Tehran
Decemr 23d 1820.

I have &c
(Signed) H. Willock

To



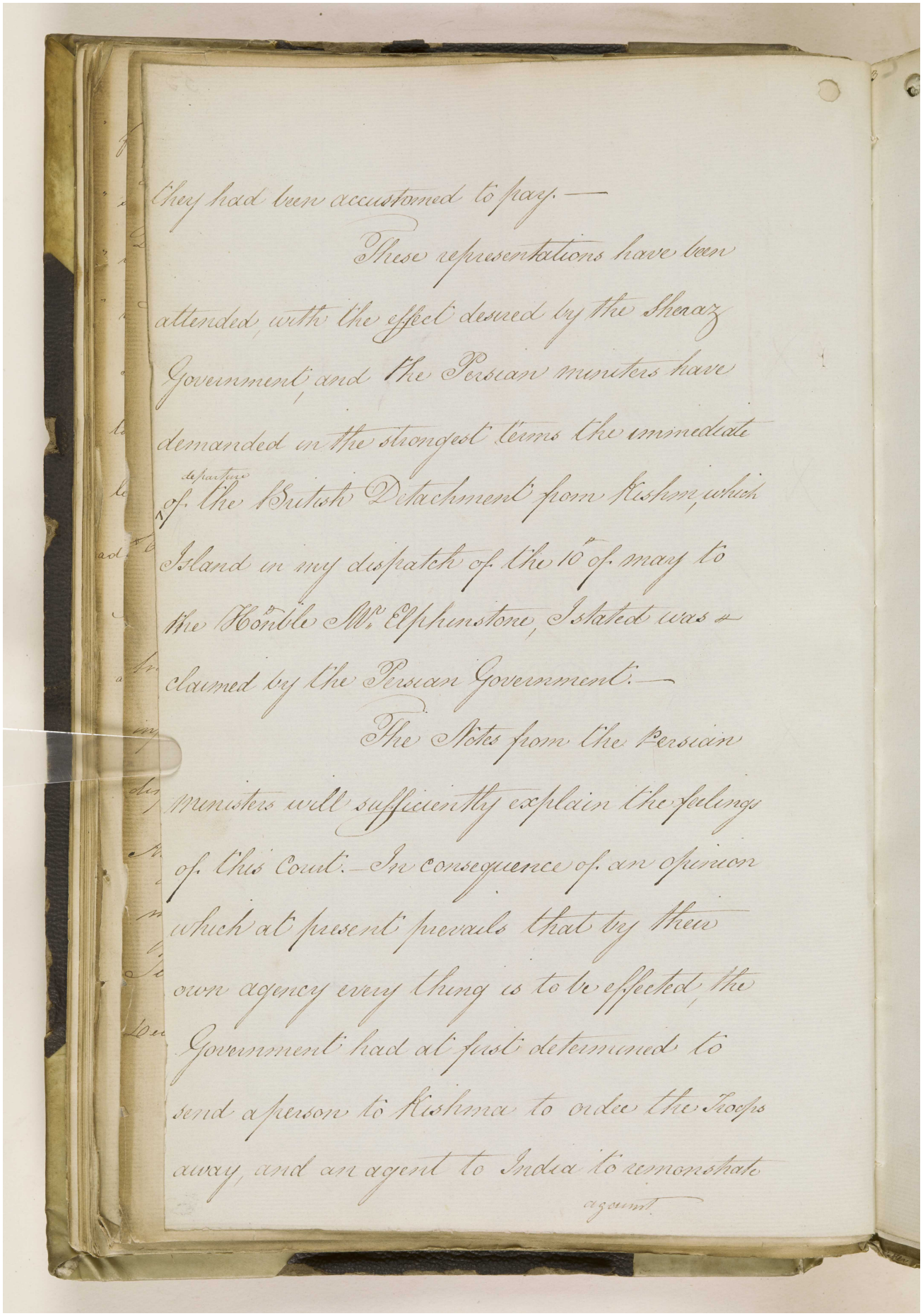
No 17.

His Excellency The Most Noble the
Marquis of Hastings K.G.
Governor General &c. &c. &c.

My Lord

Several of the principal officers of Fars have lately reached the capital the occupation of a part of the Island of Kishm by the British Detachment from Ras el Khyma, and this event has been represented so pregant with present mischief, and dangerous consequences that the Prince Governor of Fars availing himself of the limited character of the Shah has strongly argued the necessity of strengthening the Frontier on the Coast and of conciliating the people of Dashtistan by a remission of a considerable part of the tribute

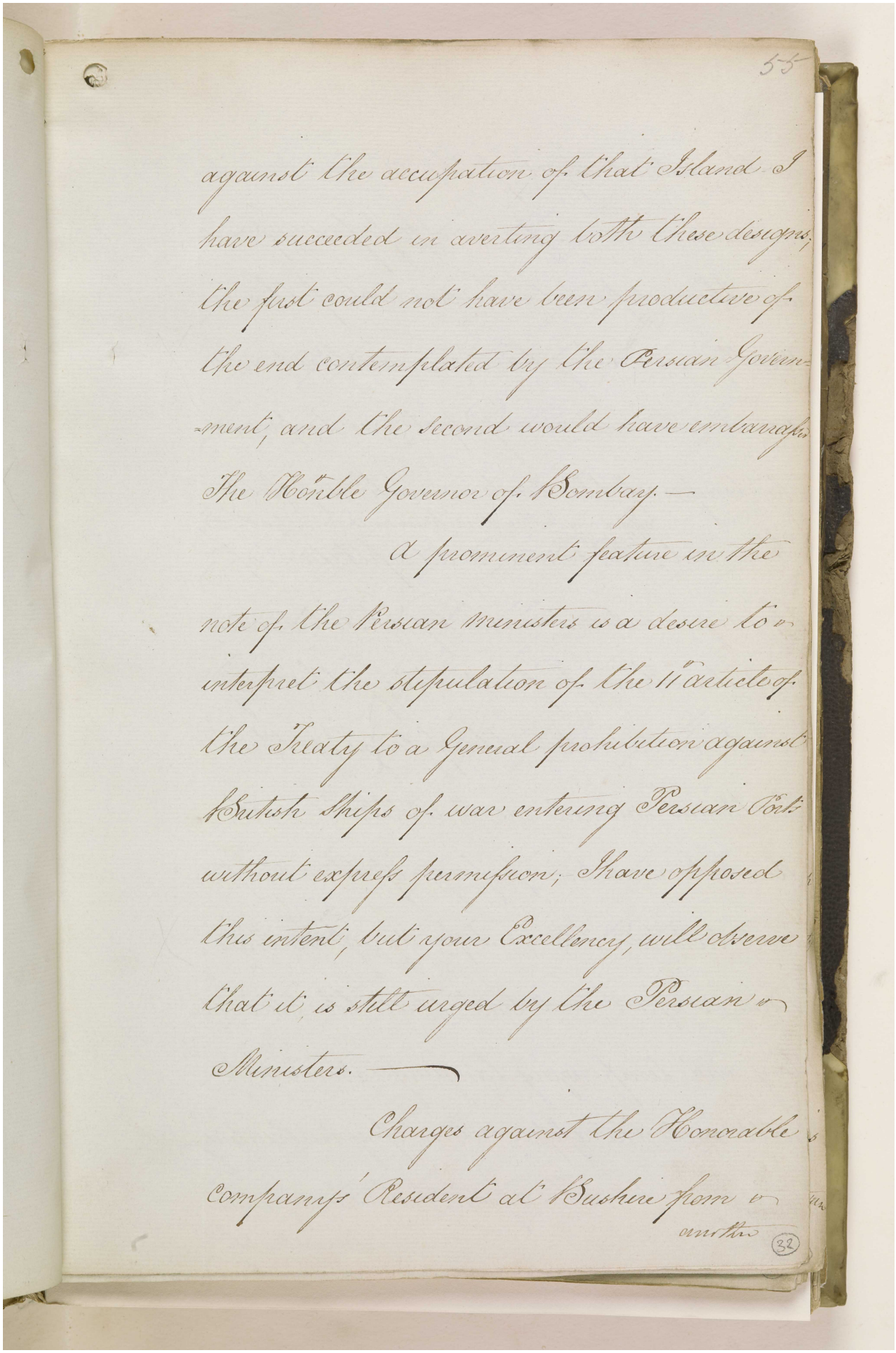
† original



they had been accustomed to pay. —

These representations have been attended with the effect desired by the Shiraz Government, and the Persian ministers have demanded in the strongest terms the immediate departure of the British Detachment from Kishm, which Island in my dispatch of the 10th of may to the Honble Mr Elphinstone, I stated was claimed by the Persian Government. —

The Notes from the Persian ministers will sufficiently explain the feelings of this Court. — In consequence of an opinion which at present prevails that by their own agency every thing is to be effected, the Government had at first determined to send a person to Kishma to order the Troops away, and an agent to India to remonstrate against



55

against the occupation of that Island I have succeeded in averting both these designs, the first could not have been productive of the end contemplated by the Persian Govern-ment; and the second would have embarrass-The Honble Governor of Bombay. —

A prominent feature in the note of the Persian Ministers is a desire to interpret the stipulation of the 11th article of the Treaty to a General prohibition against British Ships of war entering Persian Gulf without express permission; I have opposed this intent, but your Excellency will observe that it is still urged by the Persian Ministers. ——

Charges against the Honorable Company's Resident at Bushire from

(32)

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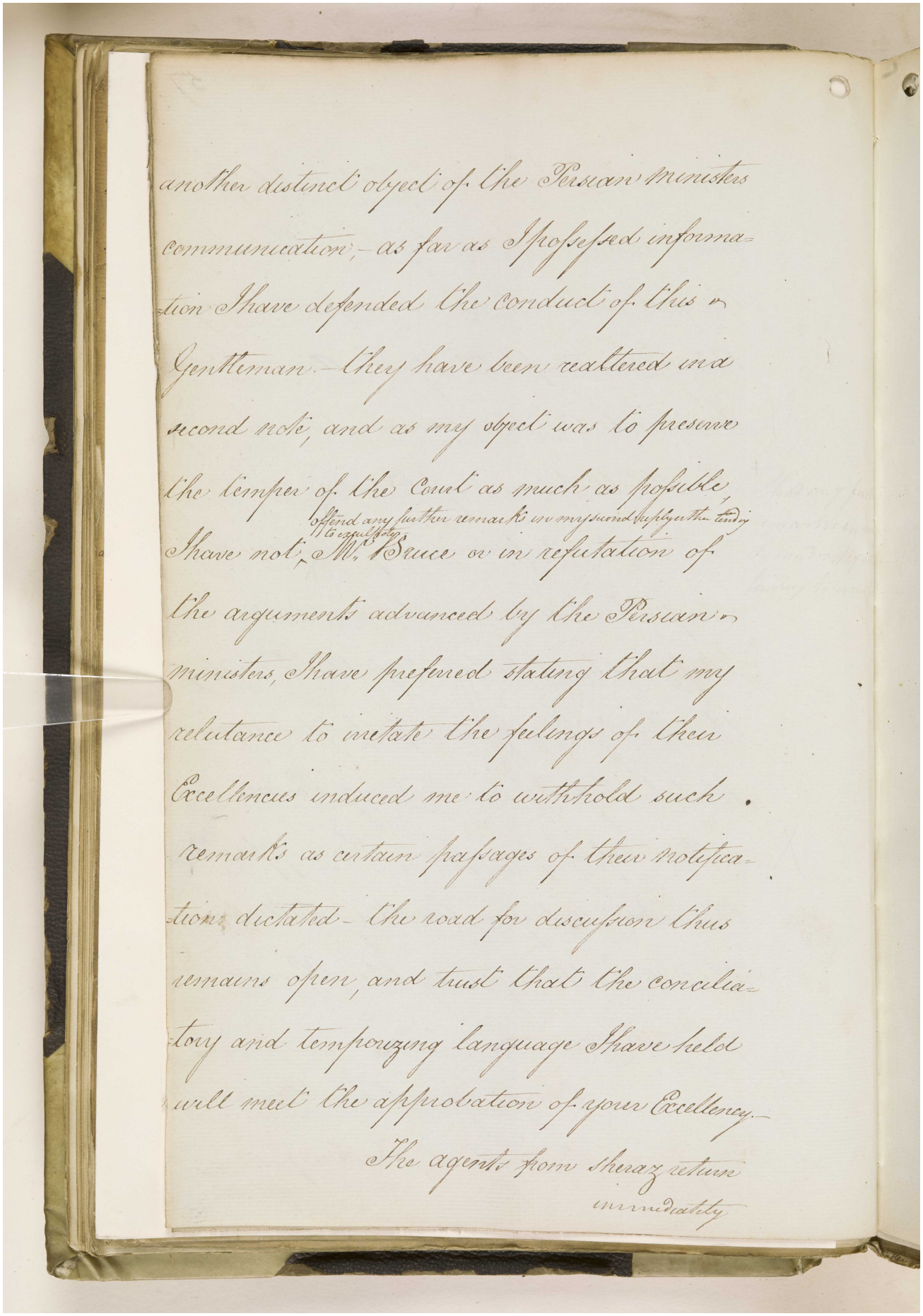
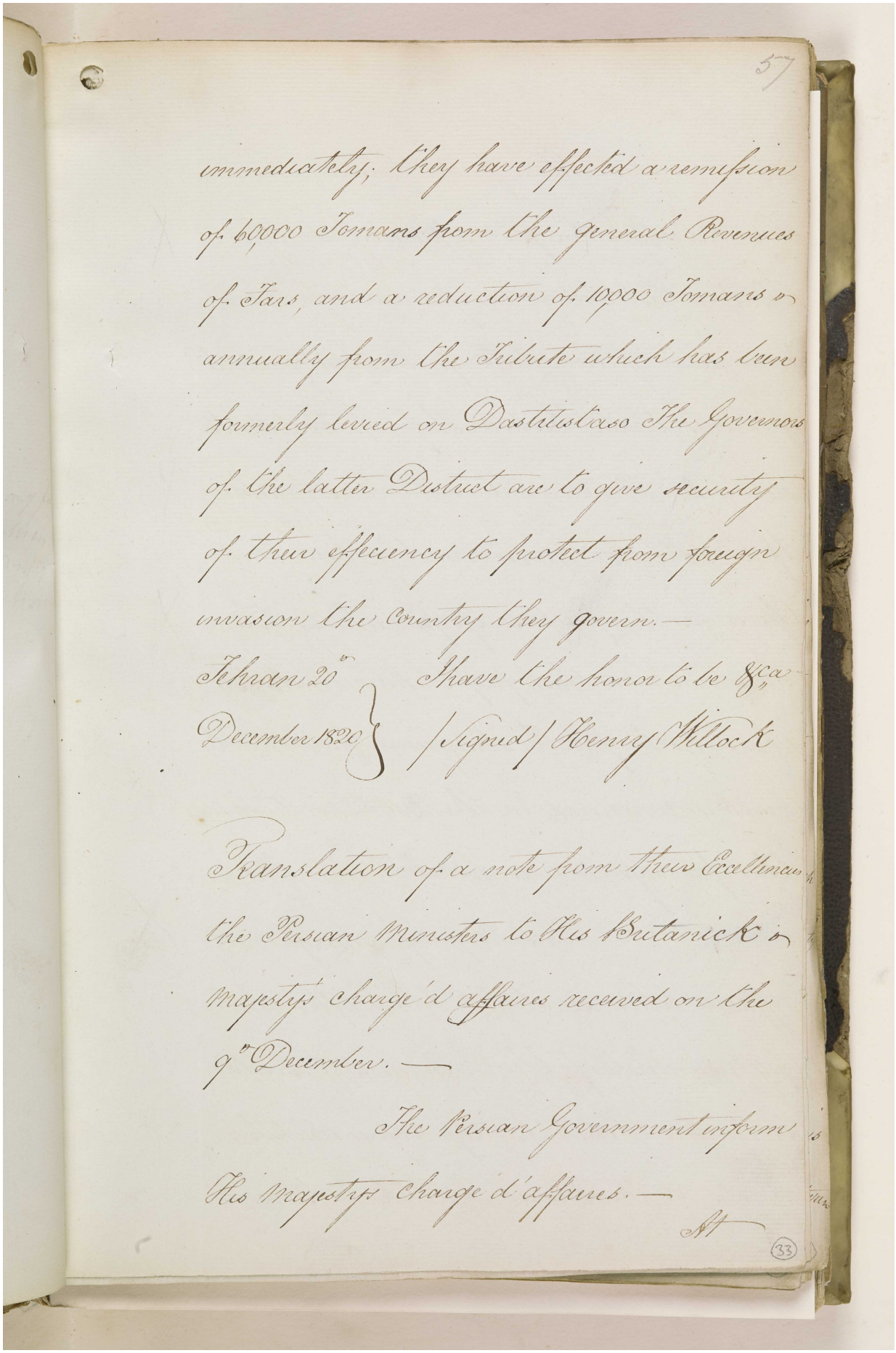


another distinct object of the Persian ministers communication, — as far as I possessed information I have defended the conduct of this Gentleman — they have been realtered in a second note, and as my object was to preserve the temper of the Court as much as possible, I have not offend any further remarks in my second reply either tending to exculpate Mr. Bruce or in refutation of the arguments advanced by the Persian ministers, I have preferred stating that my relutance to irritate the feelings of their Excellencies induced me to withhold such remarks as certain passages of their notification dictated — the road for discussion thus remains open, and trust that the conciliatory and temporizing language I have held will meet the approbation of your Excellency —

The agents from Sheraz return immediately



57

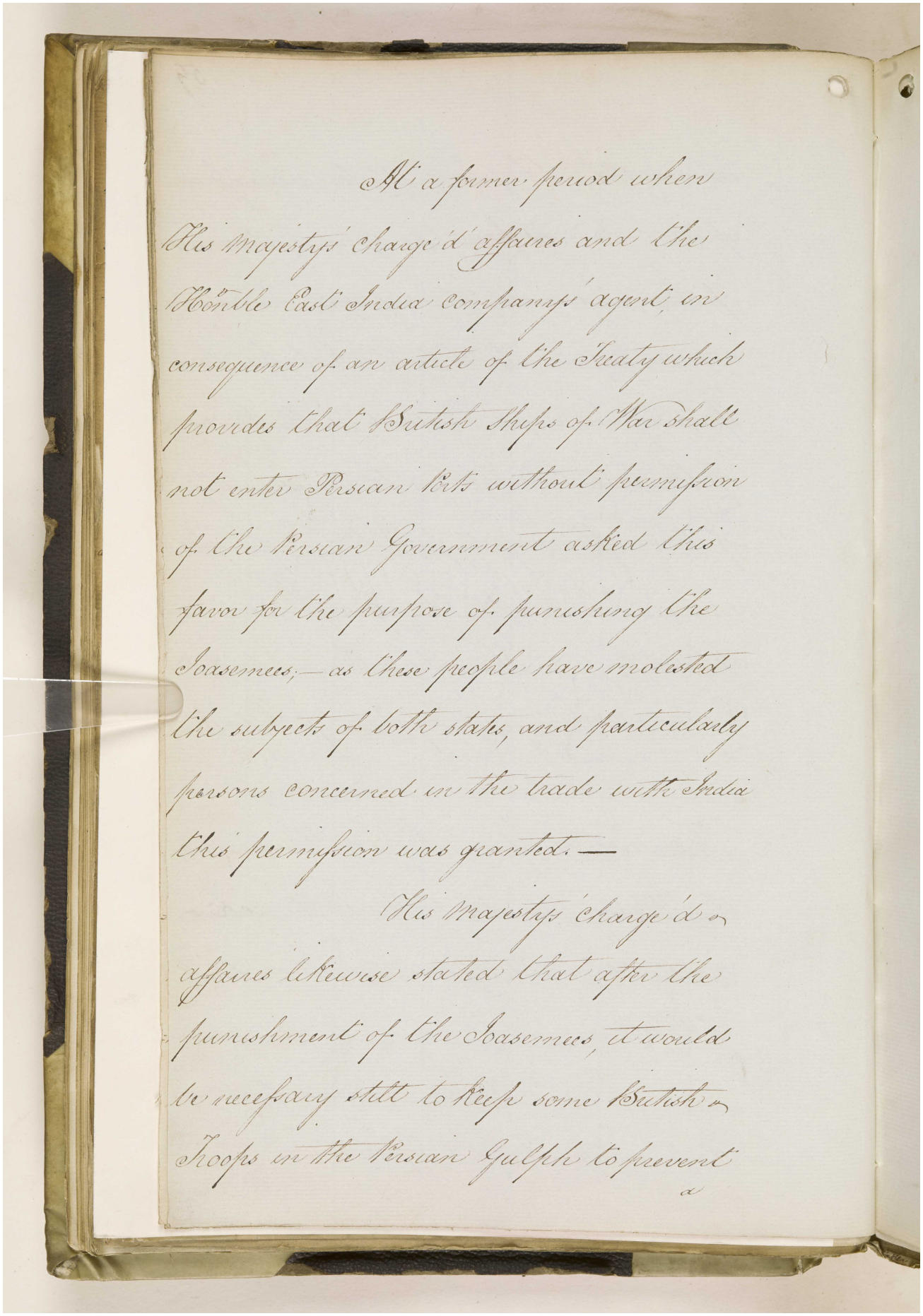
immediately. They have effected a remission of 60000 Tomans from the general Revenues of Fars, and a reduction of 10000 Tomans annually from the Tribute which has been formerly levied on Dashtistaan. The Governors of the latter District are to give security of their efficiency to protect from foreign invasion the Country they govern.—

Tehran 20th December 1820 } I have the honor to be &c.a
/Signed/ Henry Willock

Translation of a note from their Excellencies the Persian Ministers to His Britanick Majestys Chargé d'affaires received on the 9th December.—

The Persian Government inform His Majestys Chargé d'affaires.—

(33)



At a former period when
His Majestys Charge d affaires and the
Honble East India companys agent, in
consequence of an article of the Treaty which
provides that British Ships of War shall
not enter Persian Ports without permission
of the Persian Government asked this
favor for the purpose of punishing the
Joasemees,— as these people have molested
the subjects of both states, and particularly
persons concerned in the trade with India
this permission was granted.—

His Majestys Charge d
affaires likewise stated that after the
punishment of the Joasemees, it would
be necessary still to keep some British
Troops in the Persian Gulph to prevent
a

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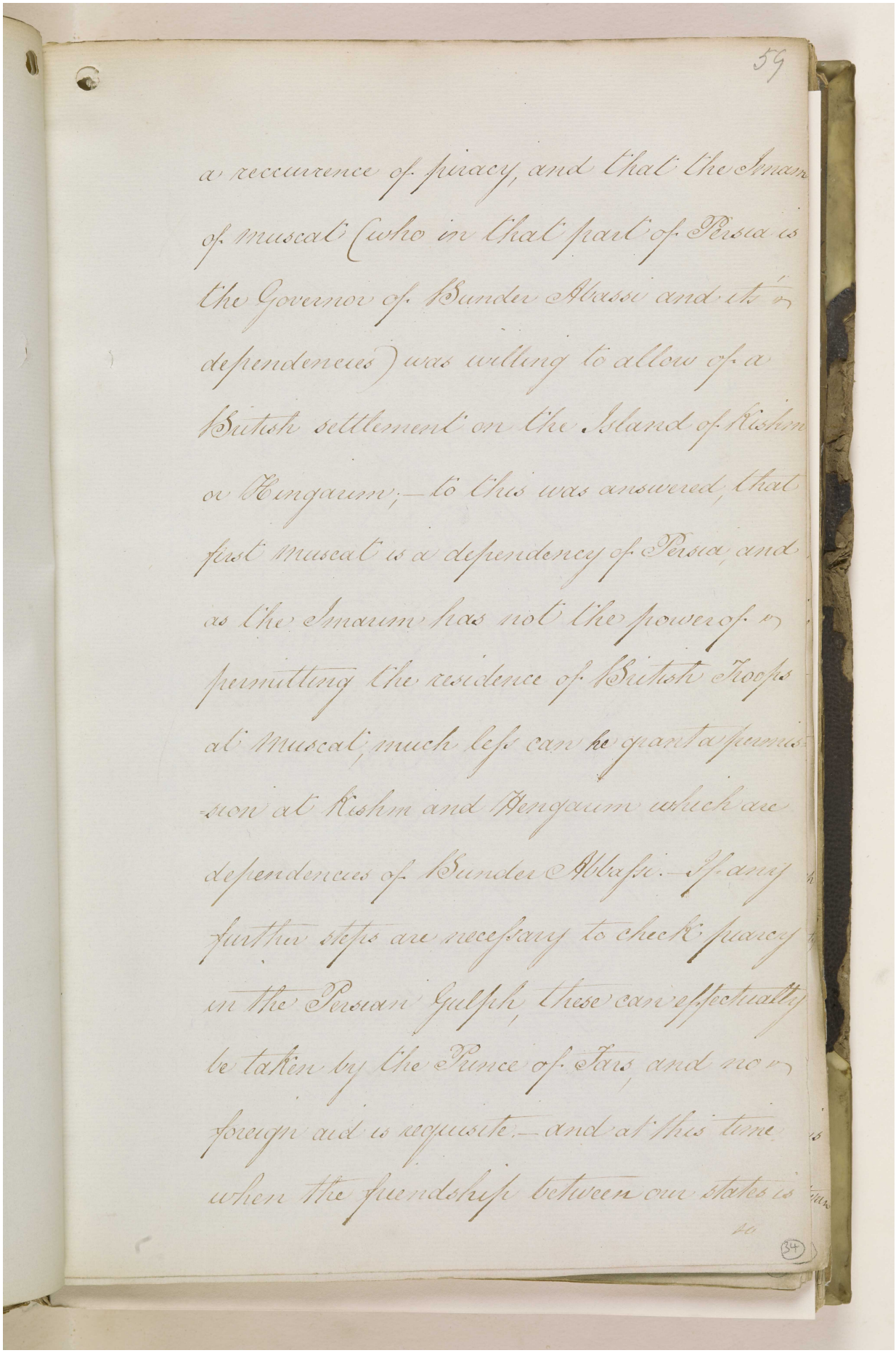

59

a reccurrence of piracy, and that the Imam of muscat (who in that part of Persia is the Governor of Bunder Abassi and its dependences) was willing to allow of a British settlement on the Island of Kishm or Bingaum;— to this was answered, that first muscat is a dependency of Persia, and as the Imaum has not the power of permitting the residence of British Troops at muscat, much less can he grant a permission at Kishm and Bengaum which are dependences of Bunder Abbassi.— If any further steps are necessary to check piracy in the Persian Gulph, these can effectually be taken by the Prince of Fars, and no foreign aid is requisite.— and at this time when the friendship between our states is

(34)

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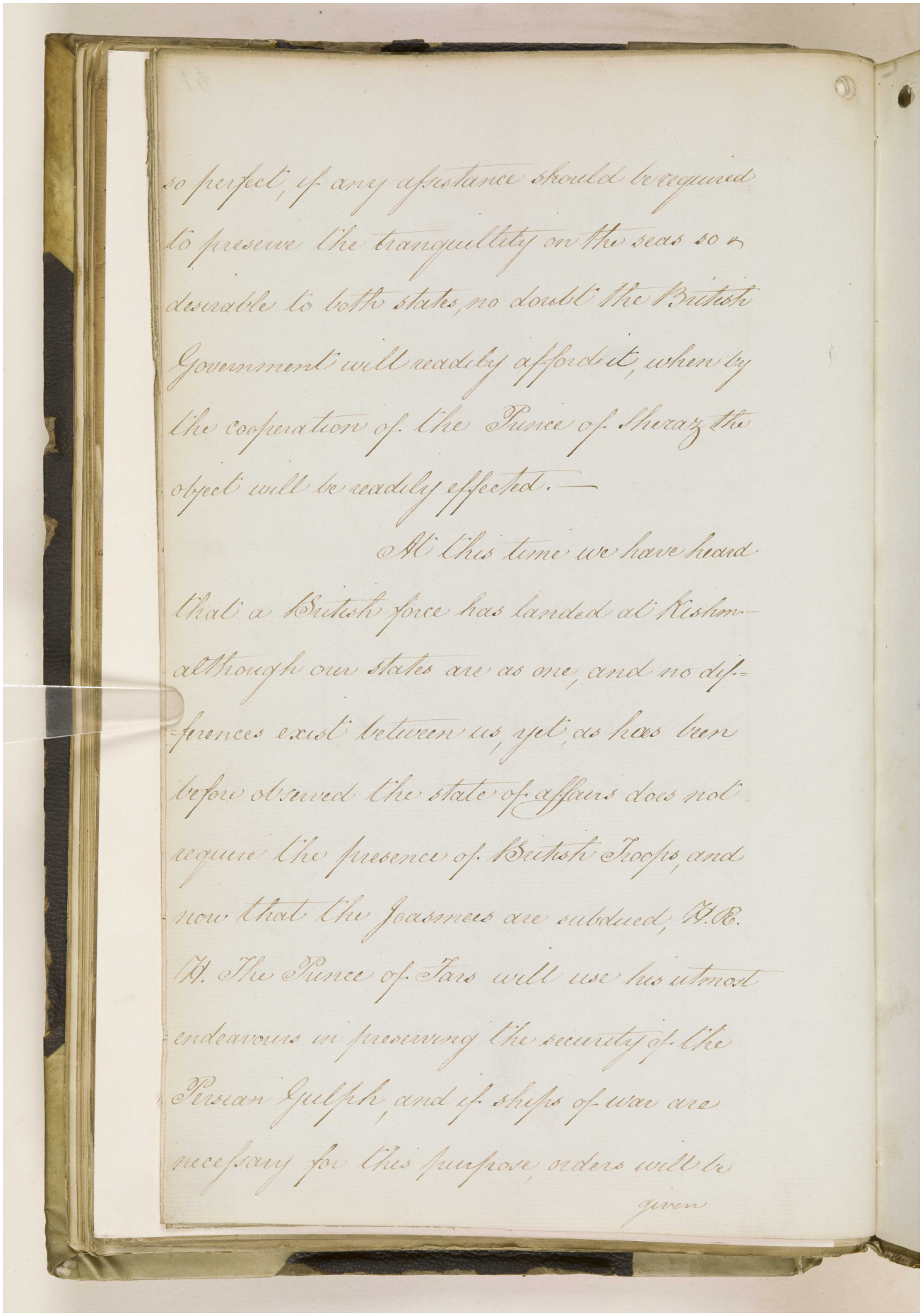
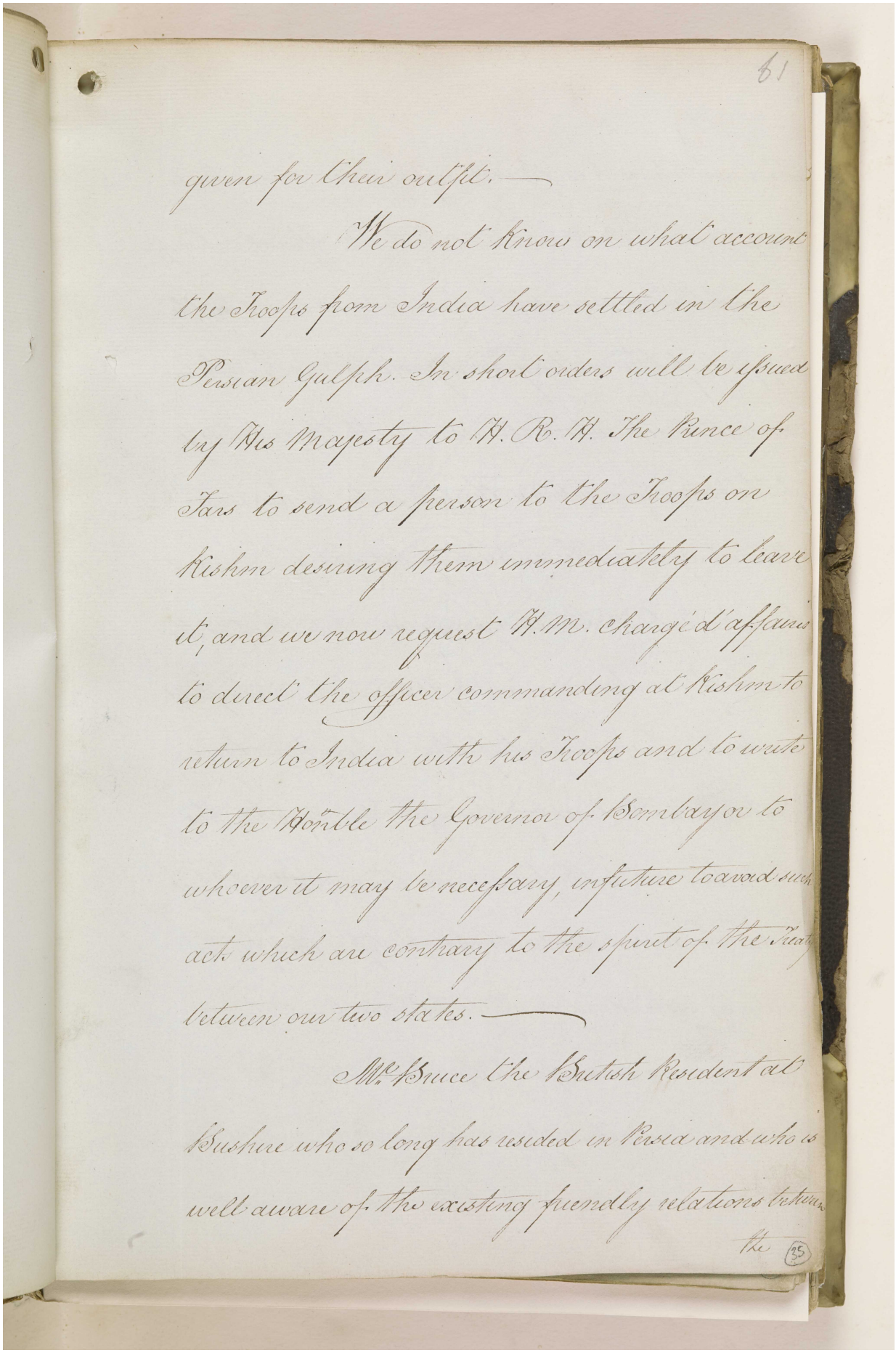


so perfect, if any assistance should be required to preserve the tranquillity on the seas so desirable to both states, no doubt the British Government will readily afford it, when by the cooperation of the Prince of Shiraz the object will be readily effected. —

At this time we have heard that a British force has landed at Kishm — although our states are as one, and no differences exist between us, yet, as has been before observed the state of affairs does not require the presence of British Troops, and now that the Joasmees are subdued, &c. &c. The Prince of Fars will use his utmost endeavours in preserving the security of the Persian Gulph, and if ships of war are necessary for this purpose, orders will be given



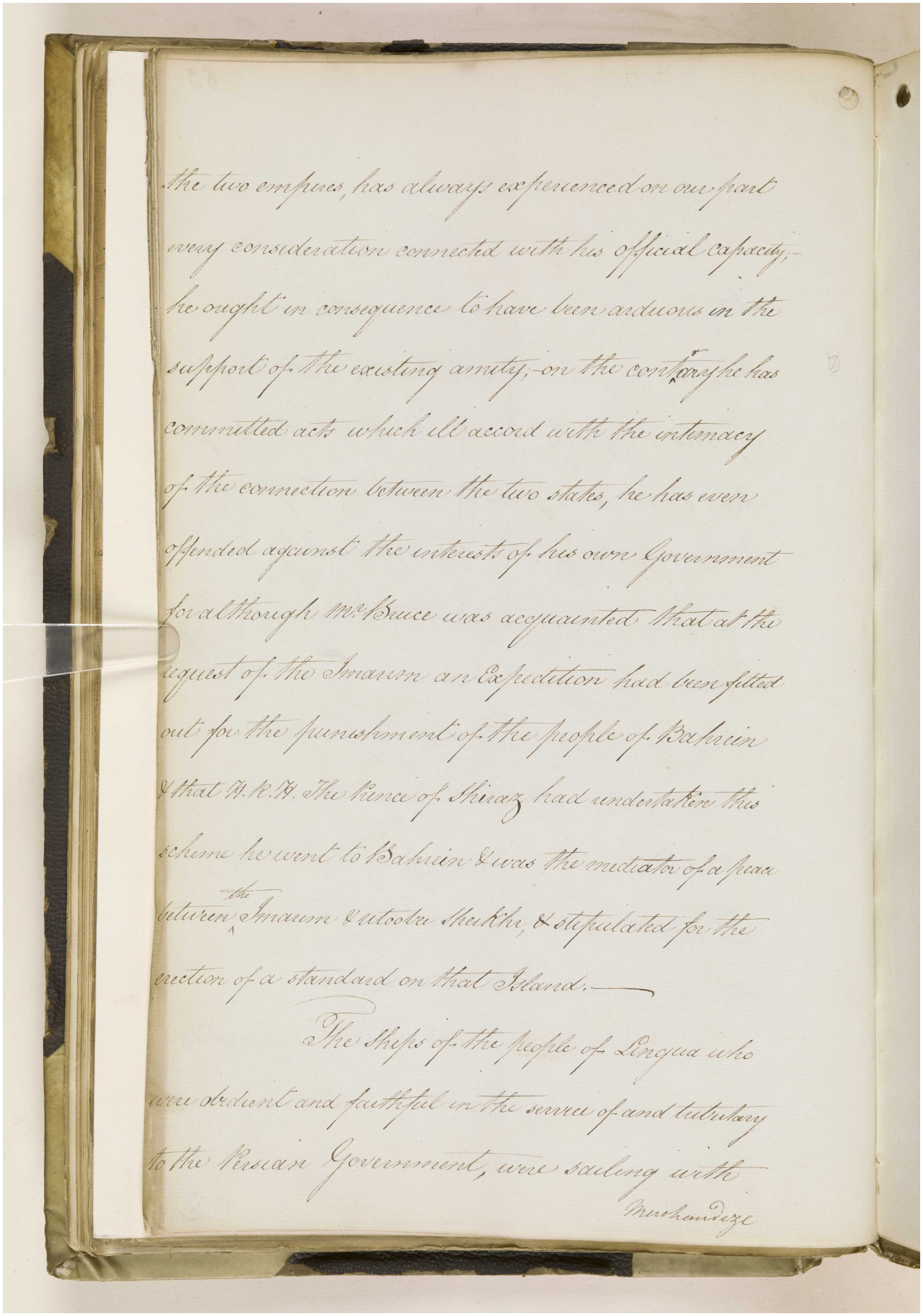
61

given for their outfit.—

We do not know on what account the Troops from India have settled in the Persian Gulph. In short orders will be issued by His Majesty to H. R. H. The Prince of Fars to send a person to the Troops on Kishm desiring them immediately to leave it, and we now request H.M. chargé d'affaires to direct the officer commanding at Kishm to return to India with his Troops and to write to the Honble the Governor of Bombay or to whoever it may be necessary, in future to avoid such acts which are contrary to the spirit of the Treaty between our two states.—

Mr. Bruce the British Resident at Bushire who so long has resided in Persia and who is well aware of the existing friendly relations between

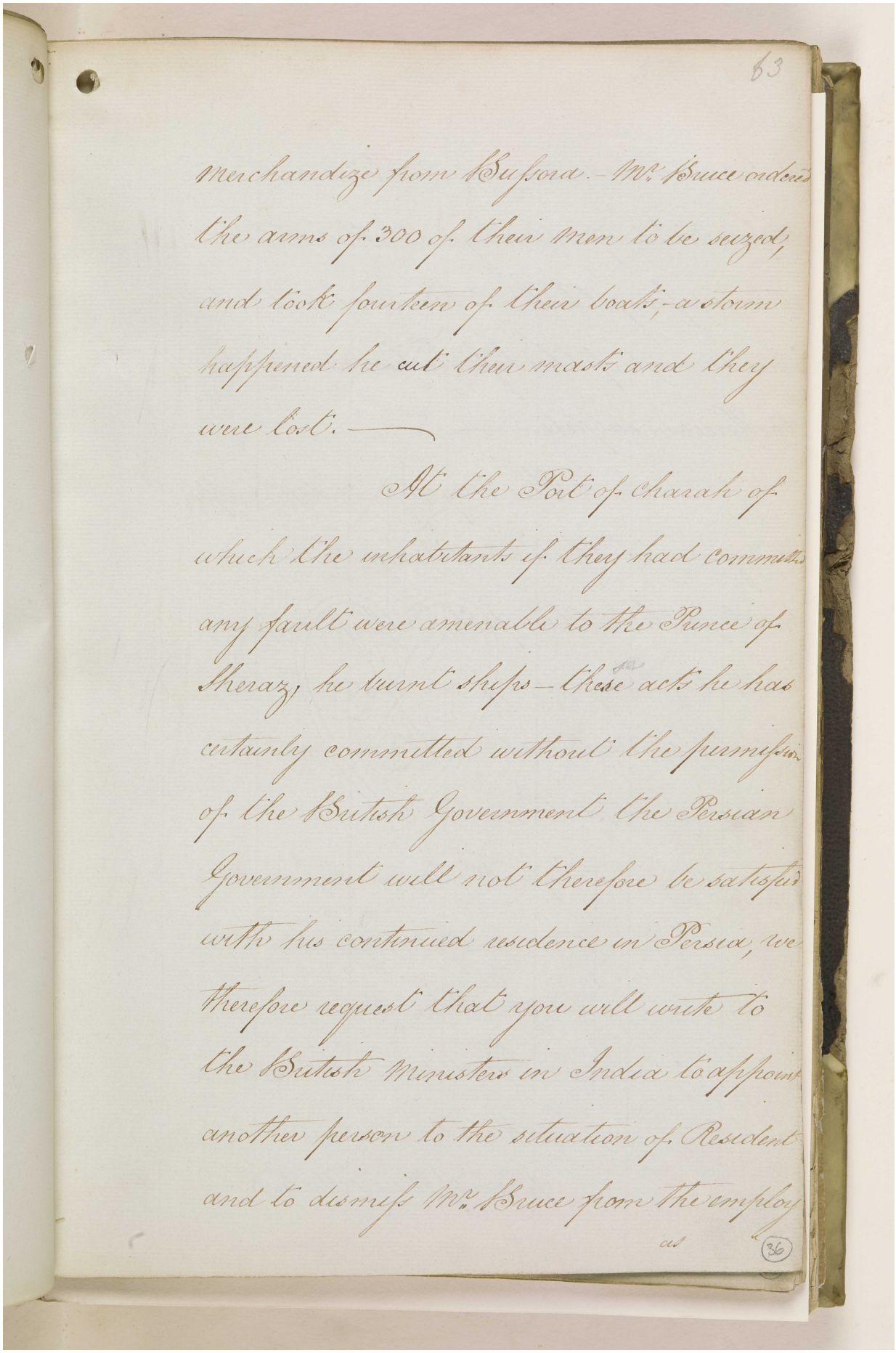
the (35)



the two empires, has always experienced on our part every consideration connected with his official capacity;- he ought in consequence to have been arduous in the support of the existing amity;- on the contrary he has committed acts which ill accord with the intimacy of the connection between the two states, he has even offended against the interests of his own Government for although Mr. Bruce was acquainted that at the request of the Imaum an Expedition had been fitted out for the punishment of the people of Bahrein & that H.R.H. The Prince of Shiraz had undertaken this scheme he went to Bahrein & was the mediator of a peace between the Imaum & Utoobee Sheikhr, & stipulated for the erection of a standard on that Island.—

The Ships of the people of Lingua who were obedient and faithful in the service of and tributary to the Persian Government, were sailing with

Merchandize



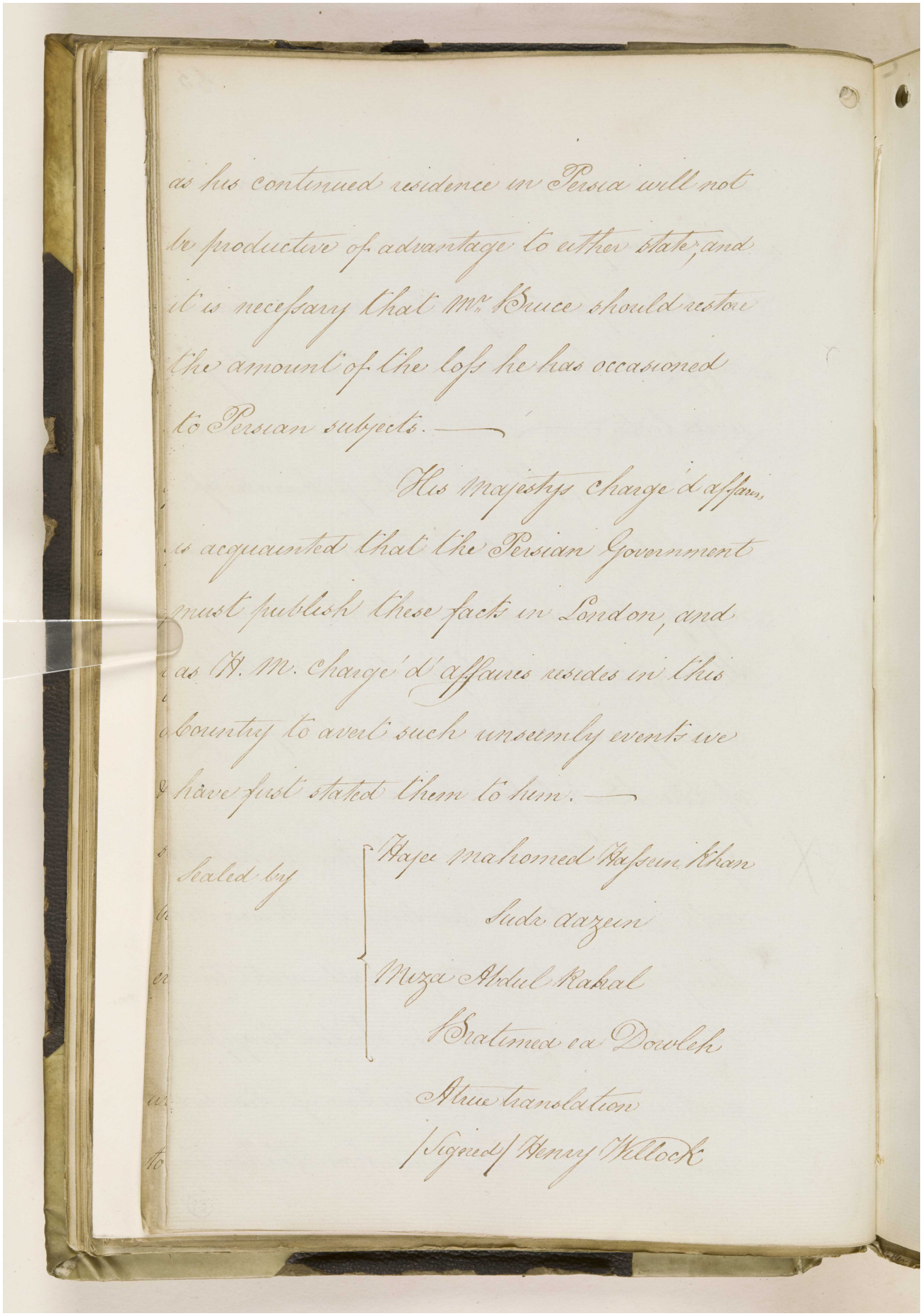
63

merchandize from Bussora. – Mr. Bruce ordered the arms of 300 of their men to be seized, and took fourteen of their boats; a storm happened he cut their masts and they were lost. ——

At the Port of Chanah of which the inhabitants if they had committed any fault were amenable to the Prince of Sheraz, he burnt ships – these acts he has certainly committed without the permission of the British Government the Persian Government will not therefore be satisfied with his continued residence in Persia, we therefore request that you will write to the British Ministers in India to appoint another person to the situation of Resident and to dismiss Mr. Bruce from the employ

as

(36)

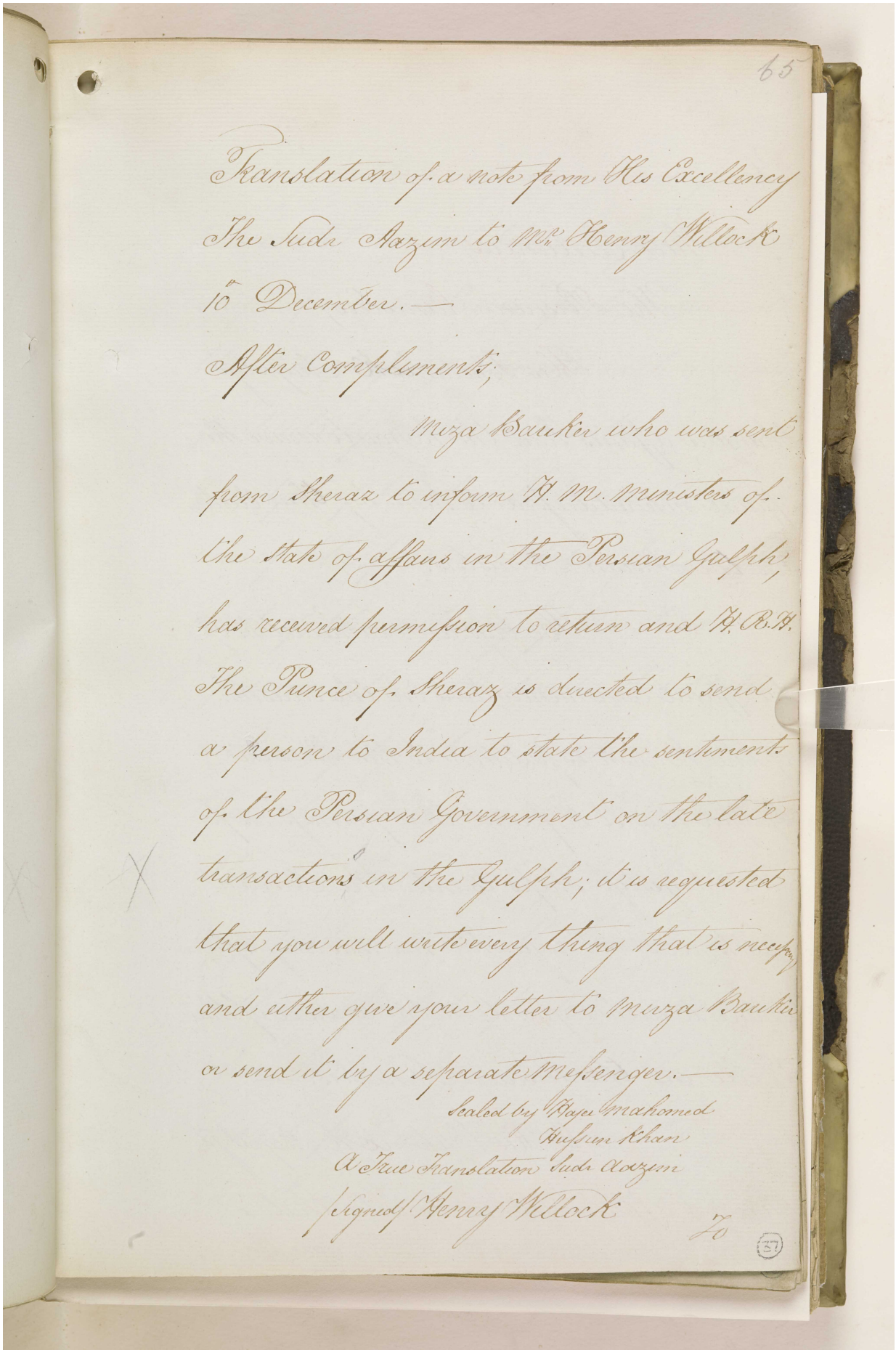


as his continued residence in Persia will not be productive of advantage to either state; and it is necessary that Mr. Bruce should restore the amount of the loss he has occasioned to Persian subjects. —

His Majestys charge'd affairs is acquainted that the Persian Government must publish these facts in London, and as H. M. charge'd affaires resides in this Country to avert such unseemly events we have first stated them to him. —

Sealed by
Hajee mahomed Hassein Khan
Sudr aazein
Miza Abdul Rahal
Bratimed ea Dowleh

A true translation
(Signed) Henry Willock



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Translation of a note from His Excellency
The Sudr Aazum to Mr. Henry Willock
15th December.—

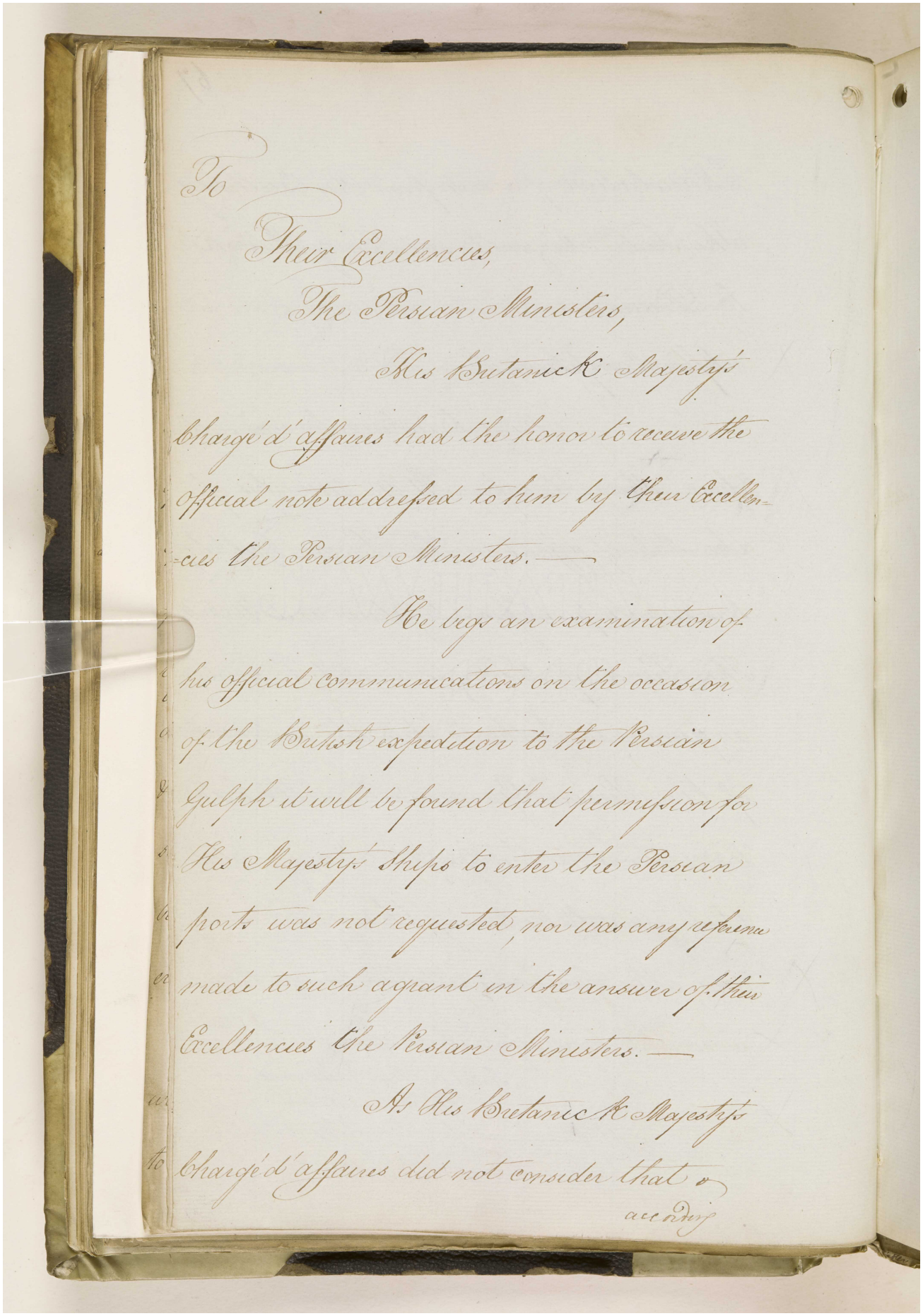
After Compliments;

Muza Bauker who was sent
from Sheraz to inform H. M. Ministers of
the State of affairs in the Persian Gulph,
has received permission to return and H. B. H.
The Prince of Sheraz is directed to send
a person to India to state the sentiments
of the Persian Government on the late
transactions in the Gulph; it is requested
that you will write every thing that is necessary
and either give your letter to Muza Bauker
or send it by a separate Messenger.—

Sealed by Hajee Mahomed
Hoosein Khan

A True Translation Sudr Aazum
Signed Henry Willock

76



To

Their Excellencies,

The Persian Ministers,

His Britannick Majesty's

Chargé d'affaires had the honor to receive the

official note addressed to him by their Excellen-

-cies the Persian Ministers. —

He begs an examination of

his official communications on the occasion

of the British expedition to the Persian

Gulph it will be found that permission for

His Majesty's Ships to enter the Persian

ports was not requested, nor was any reference

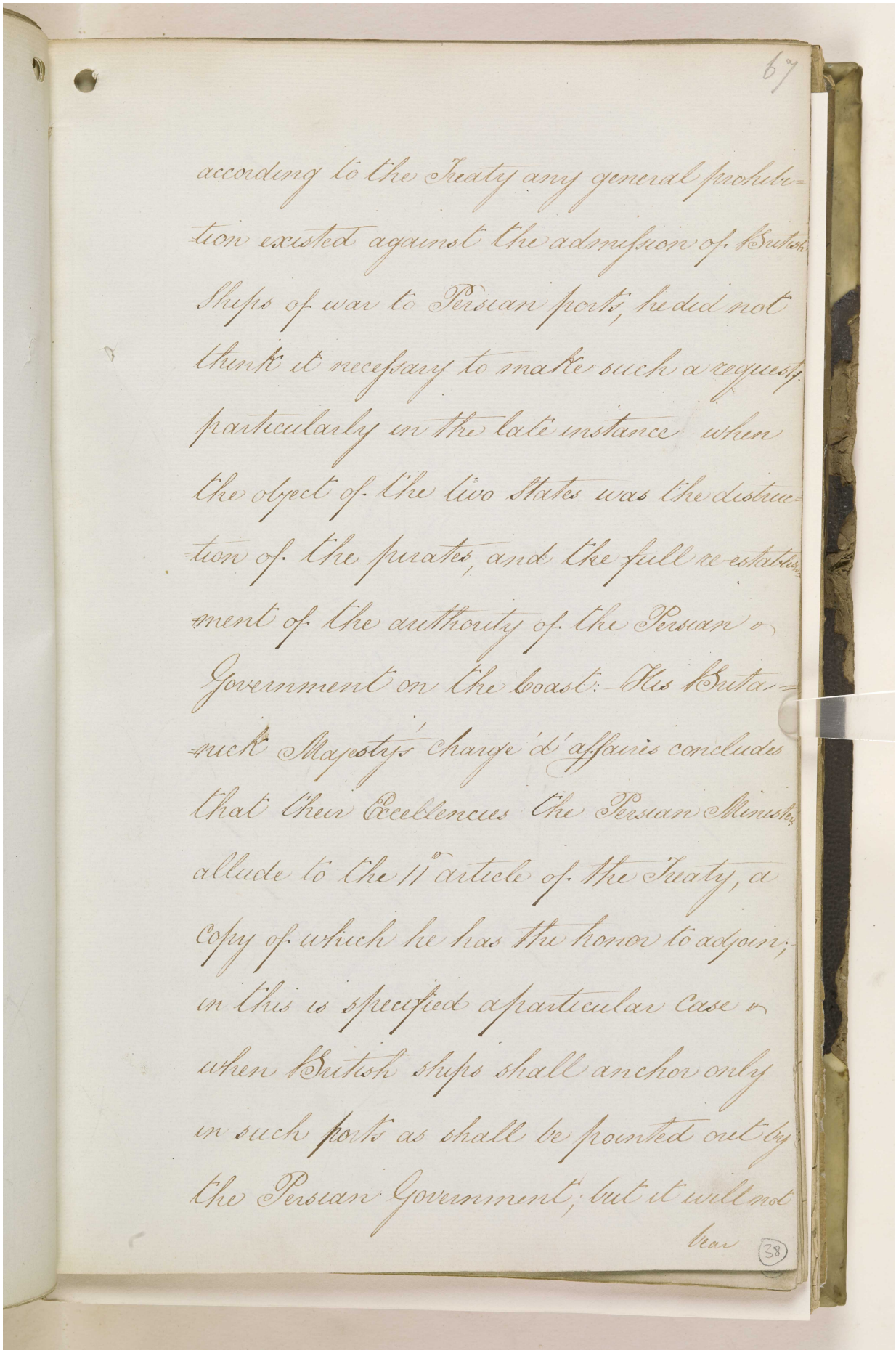
made to such a grant in the answer of their

Excellencies the Persian Ministers. —

As His Britannick Majesty's

Chargé d'affaires did not consider that a

according



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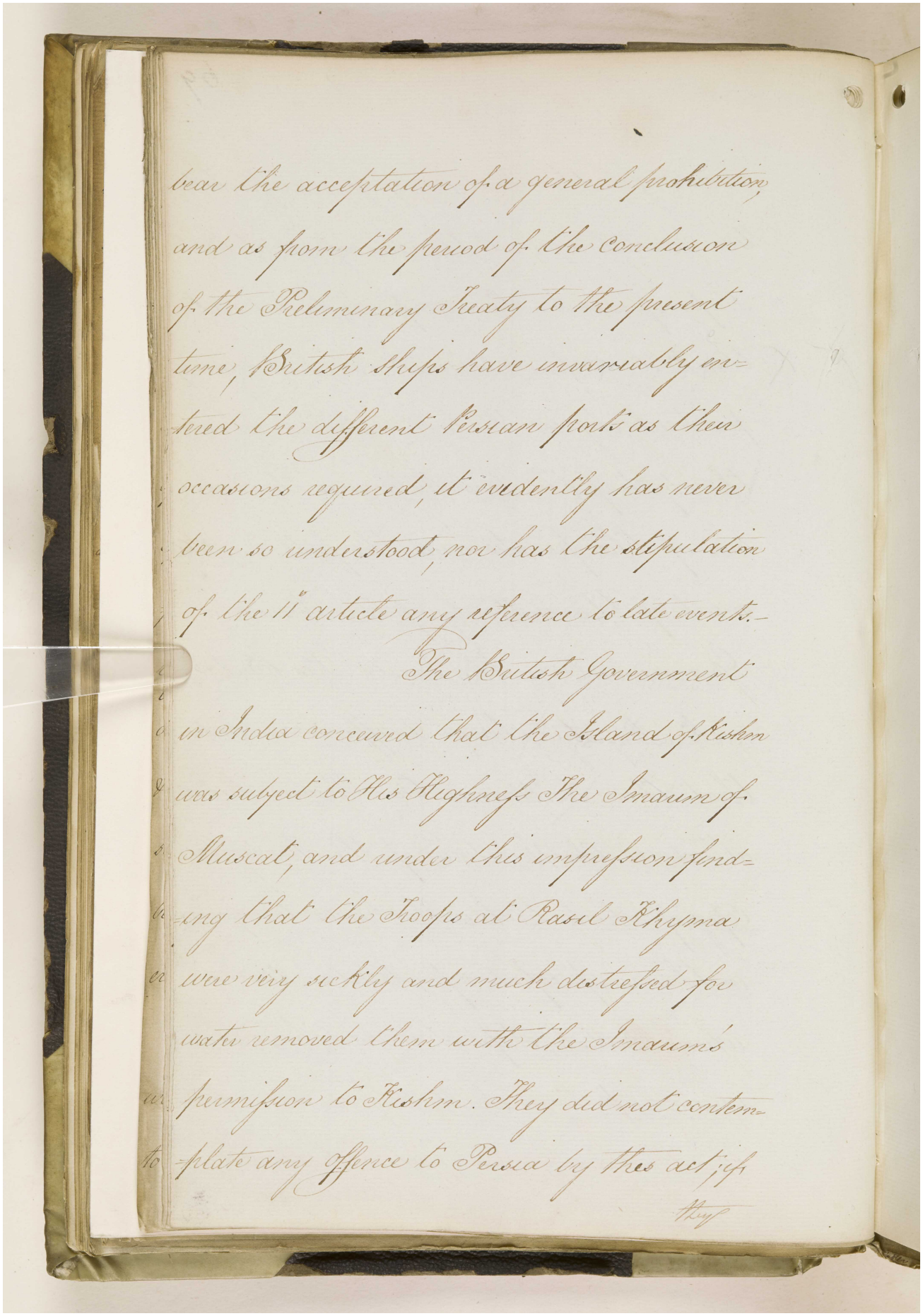
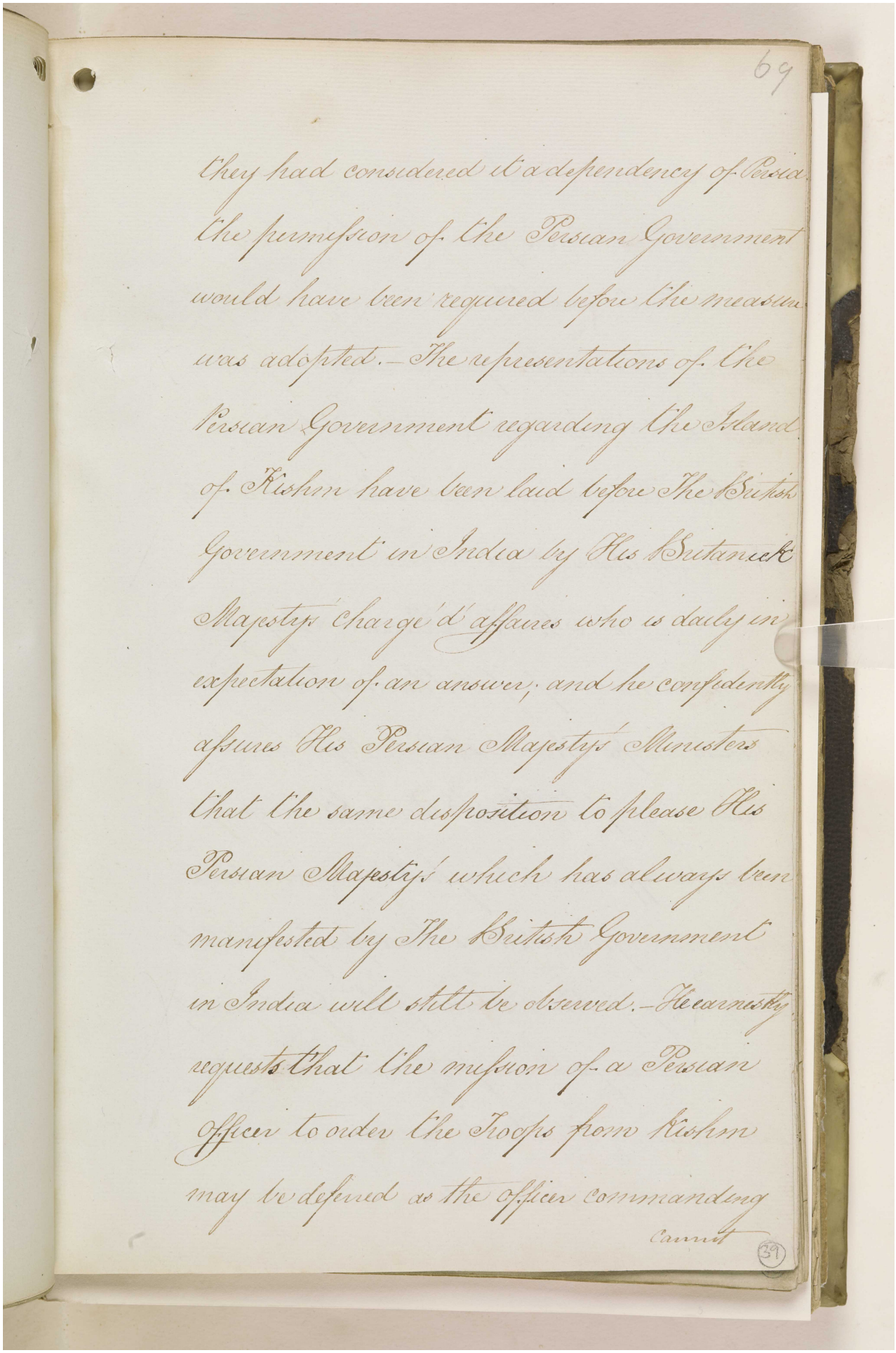
according to the Treaty any general prohibi-
tion existed against the admission of British
Ships of war to Persian ports, he did not
think it necessary to make such a request,
particularly in the late instance when
the object of the two States was the destruc-
tion of the pirates, and the full re-establish-
ment of the authority of the Persian
Government on the coast: His Britan-
nick Majesty's Chargé d'affaires concludes
that their Excellencies the Persian Ministers
allude to the 11th article of the Treaty, a
Copy of which he has the honor to adjoin,
in this is specified a particular case
when British ships shall anchor only
in such ports as shall be pointed out by
the Persian Government, but it will not
bear

38



bear the acceptation of a general prohibition,
and as from the period of the conclusion
of the Preliminary Treaty to the present
time, British Ships have invariably en-
tered the different Persian ports as their
occasions required, it evidently has never
been so understood, nor has the stipulation
of the 11th article any reference to late events.—
The British Government
in India conceived that the Island of Kishm
was subject to His Highness The Imaum of
Muscat, and under this impression find-
ing that the Troops at Rasul Khyma
were very sickly and much distressed for
water removed them with the Imaum's
permission to Kishm. They did not contem-
plate any offence to Persia by this act; it

they



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they had considered it a dependency of Persia
the permission of the Persian Government
would have been required before the measure
was adopted.— The representations of the
Persian Government regarding the Island
of Kishm have been laid before the British
Government in India by His Britannick
Majesty's Charge d'affaires who is daily in
expectation of an answer, and he confidently
assures His Persian Majesty's Ministers
that the same disposition to please His
Persian Majesty's which has always been
manifested by the British Government
in India will still be observed.— He earnestly
requests that the mission of a Persian
Officer to order the Troops from Kishm
may be defered as the Officer commanding
cannot

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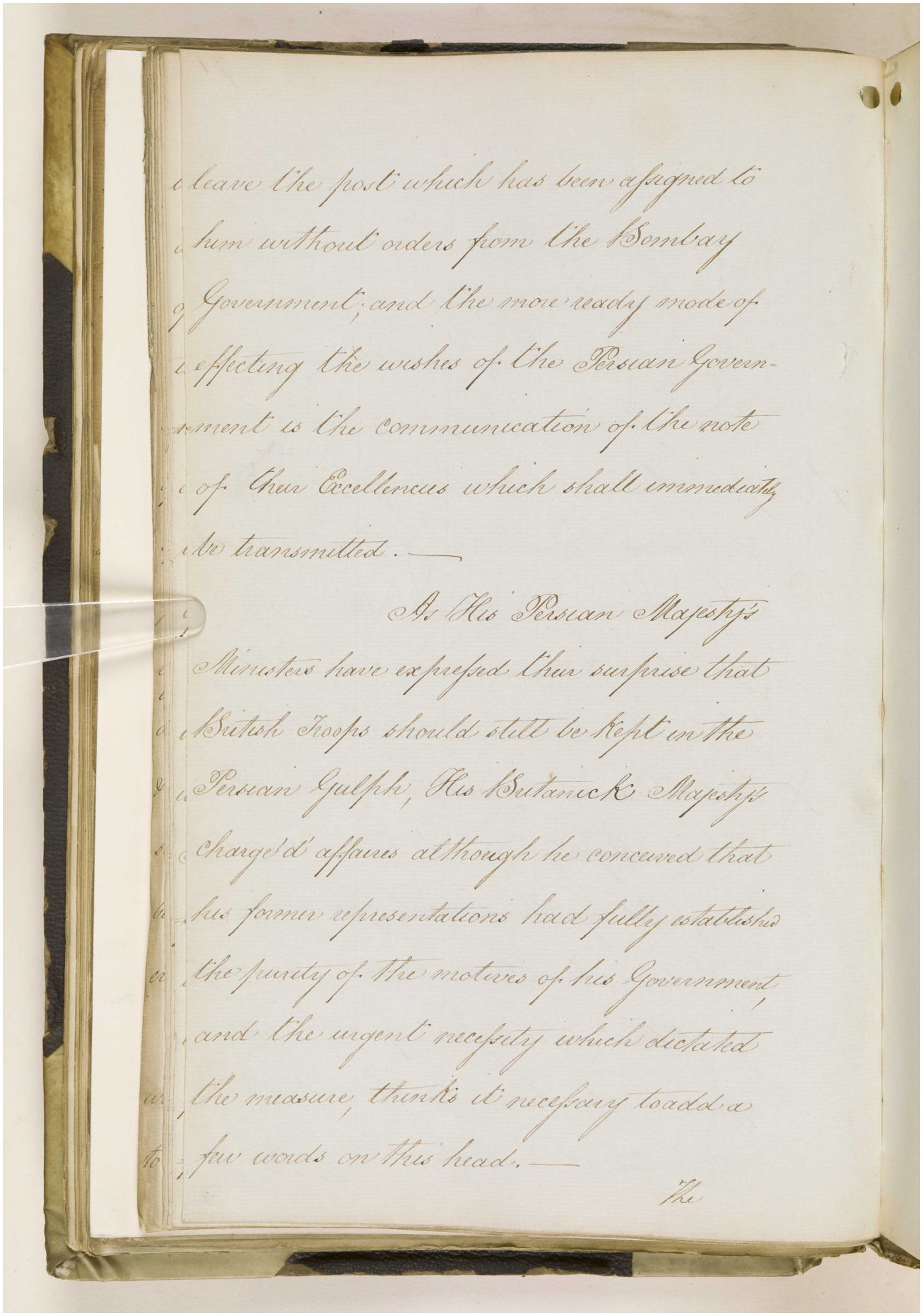
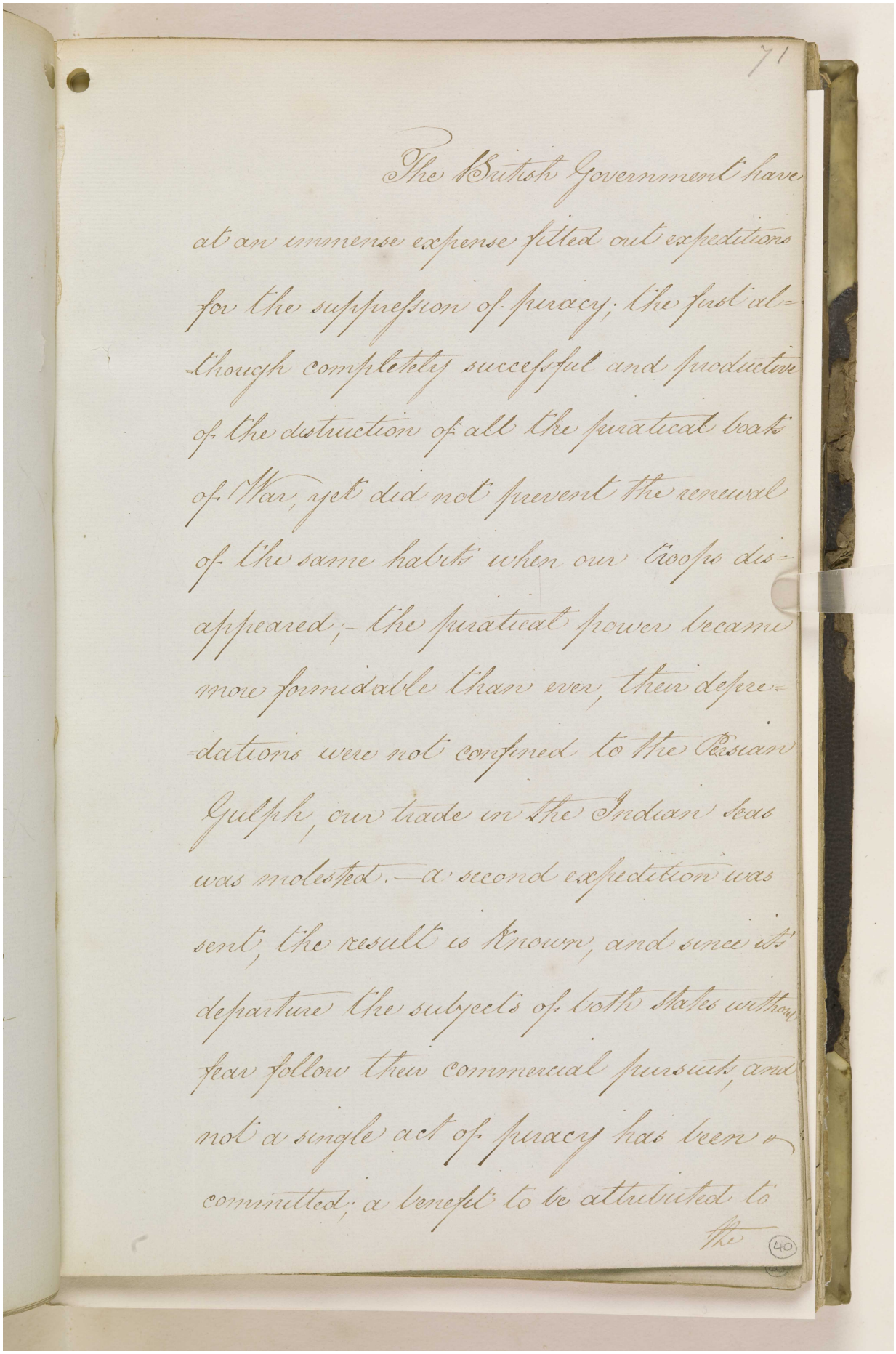


leave the post which has been assigned to
him without orders from the Bombay
Government; and the more ready mode of
effecting the wishes of the Persian Govern-
ment is the communication of the note
of their Excellencies which shall immediately
be transmitted. —

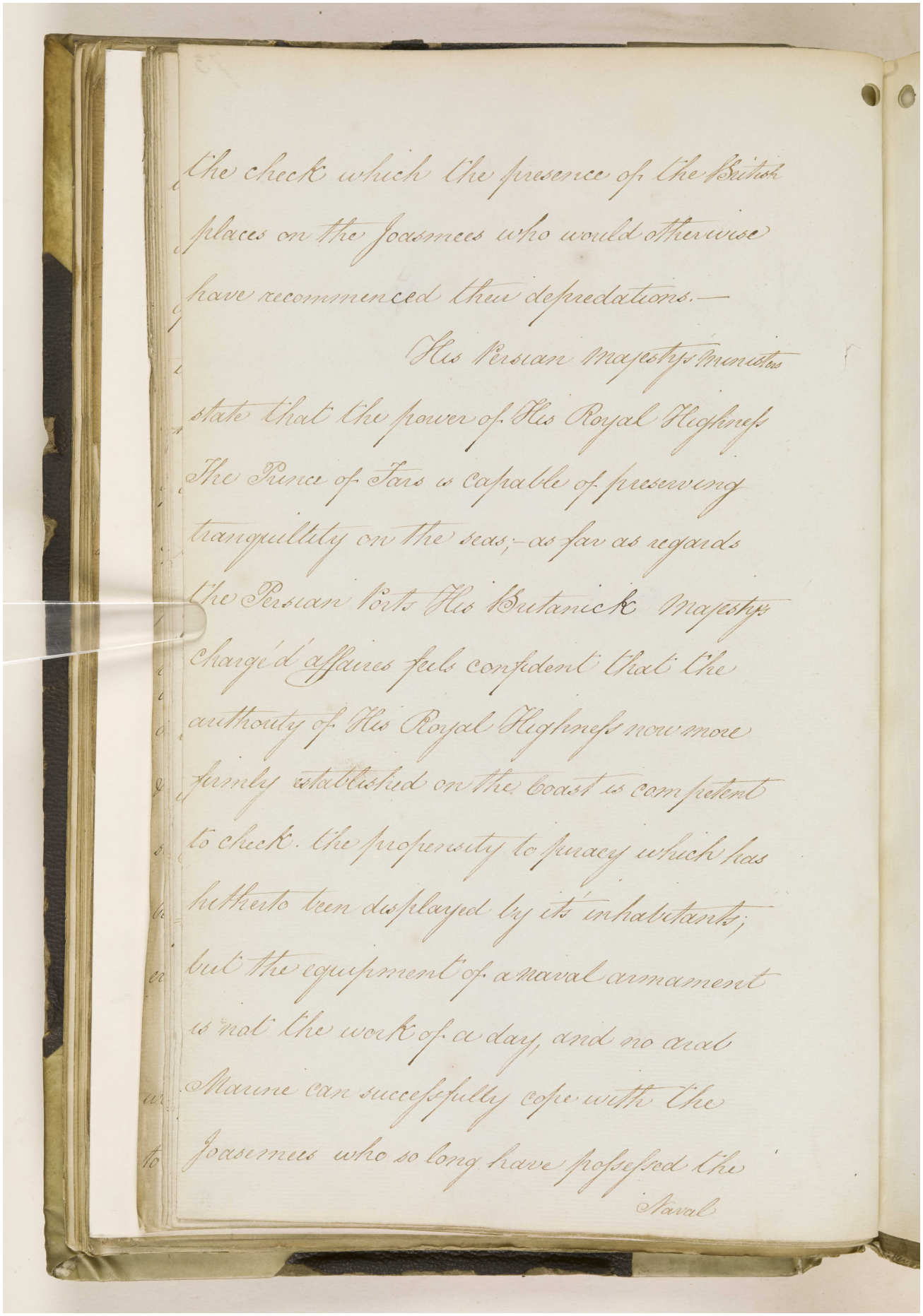
As His Persian Majesty's
Ministers have expressed their surprise that
British Troops should still be kept in the
Persian Gulph, His Britannick Majesty's
Chargé d'affaires although he conceived that
his former representations had fully established
the purity of the motives of his Government,
and the urgent necessity which dictated
the measure, thinks it necessary to add a
few words on this head. —

The



71

The British Government have
at an immense expense fitted out expeditions
for the suppression of piracy; the first al-
though completely successful and productive
of the destruction of all the piratical boats
of War, yet did not prevent the renewal
of the same habits when our troops dis-
appeared;— the piratical power became
more formidable than ever, their depre-
dations were not confined to the Persian
Gulph, our trade in the Indian seas
was molested.— a second expedition was
sent, the result is known, and since its
departure the subjects of both States without
fear follow their commercial pursuits, and
not a single act of piracy has been
committed, a benefit to be attributed to
the (40)



the check which the presence of the British
places on the Joasmees who would otherwise
have recommenced their depredations.—

His Persian Majesty's Ministers
state that the power of His Royal Highness
The Prince of Fars is capable of preserving
tranquillity on the seas,—as far as regards
the Persian Ports His Britannick Majesty's
Chargé d'affaires feels confident that the
authority of His Royal Highness now more
firmly established on the Coast is competent
to check the propensity to piracy which has
hitherto been displayed by its inhabitants;
but the equipment of a naval armament
is not the work of a day, and no naval
Marine can successfully cope with the
Joasmees who so long have possessed the
Naval

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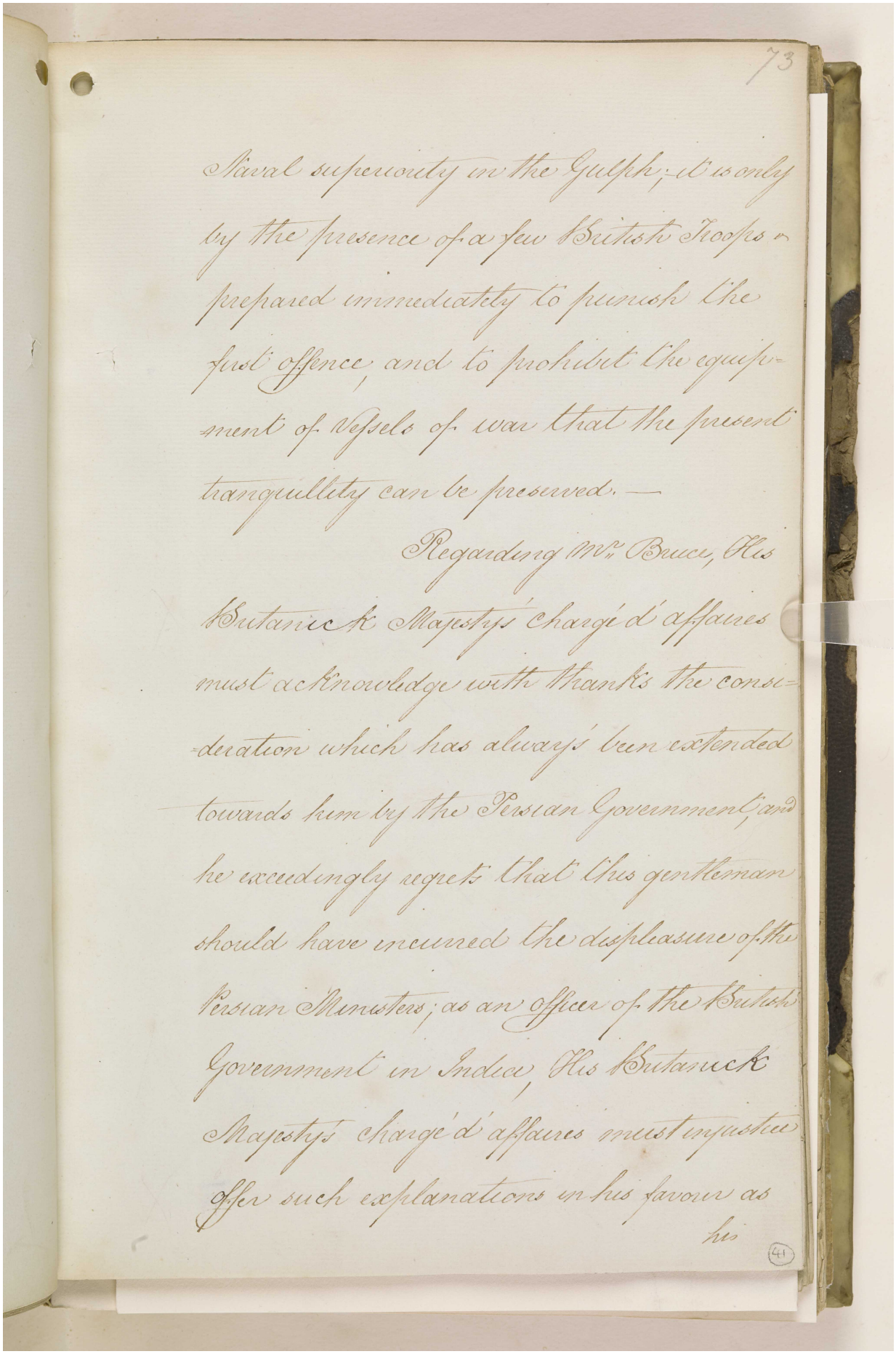

73

Naval superiority in the Gulph, & only by the presence of a few British Troops prepared immediately to punish the first offence, and to prohibit the equipment of Vessels of war that the present tranquillity can be preserved. —

Regarding Mr. Bruce, His Britannick Majesty's chargé d'affaires must acknowledge with thanks the consideration which has always been extended towards him by the Persian Government, and he exceedingly regrets that this gentleman should have incurred the displeasure of the Persian Ministers; as an officer of the British Government in India, His Britannick Majesty's chargé d'affaires must unjustly offer such explanations in his favour as his

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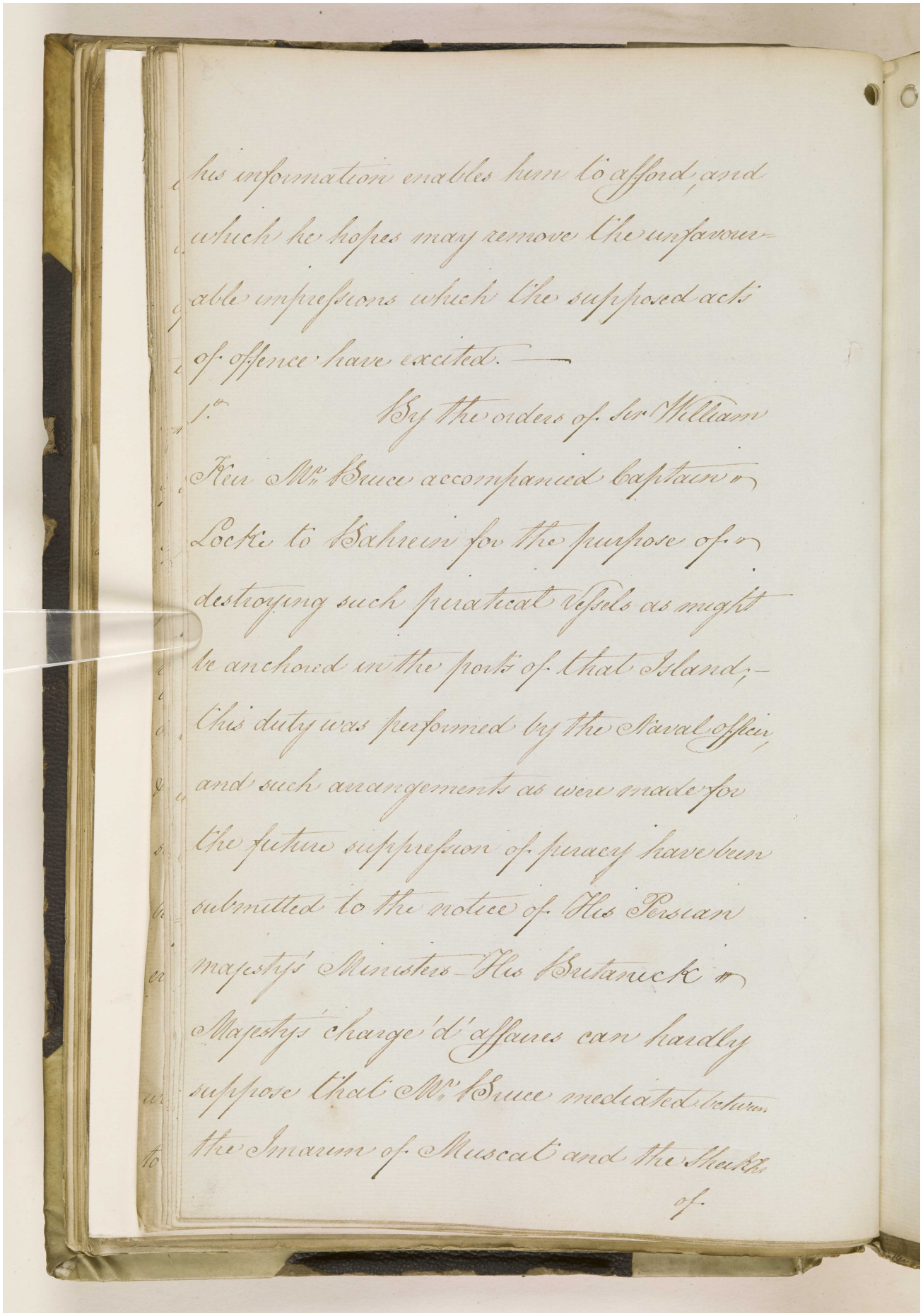
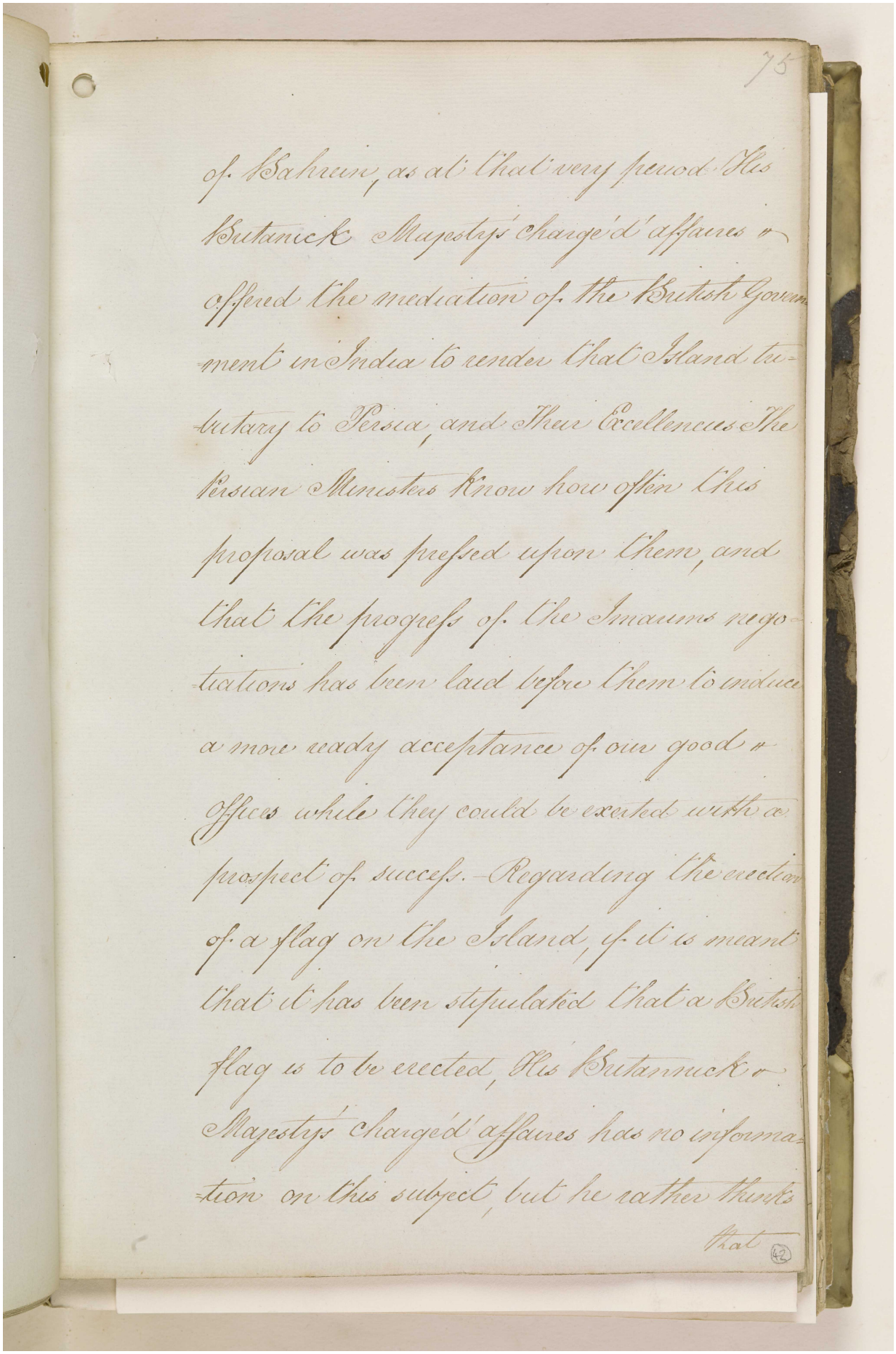


his information enables him to afford, and
which he hopes may remove the unfavour-
able impressions which the supposed acts
of offence have excited. —

1st. By the orders of Sir William
Ken Mr Bruce accompanied Captain
Locke to Bahreen for the purpose of
destroying such piratical Vessels as might
be anchored in the ports of that Island; —
this duty was performed by the Naval offic
and such arangements as were made for
the future suppression of piracy have been
submitted to the notice of His Persian
majesty's Ministers — His Britannick
Majesty's Chargé d'affaires can hardly
suppose that Mr Bruce mediated betwn
the Imaum of Muscat and the Shaikh
of



75

of Bahrein, as at that very period His Britannick Majesty's Charge d'affaires offered the mediation of the British Government in India to render that Island tributary to Persia, and Their Excellencies The Persian Ministers know how often this proposal was pressed upon them, and that the progress of the Imaums negotiations has been laid before them to induce a more ready acceptance of our good offices while they could be exerted with a prospect of success. — Regarding the erection of a flag on the Island, if it is meant that it has been stipulated that a British flag is to be erected, His Britannick Majesty's Charge d'affaires has no information on this subject, but he rather thinks that

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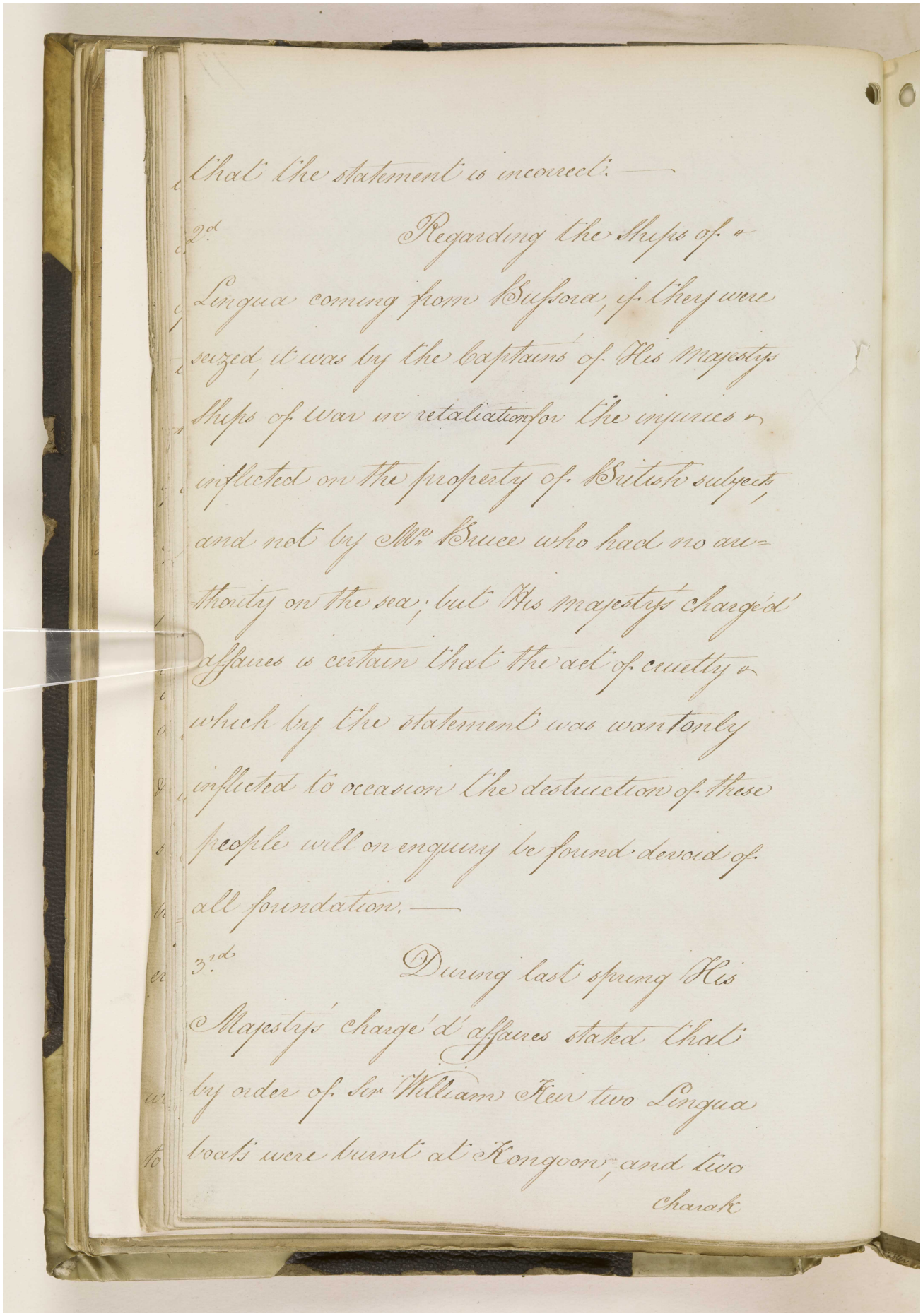

that the statement is incorrect. —

2d Regarding the Ships of the Lingua coming from Bussora, if they were seized, it was by the Captains of His Majestys Ships of War in retaliation for the injuries inflicted on the property of British subjects and not by Mr Bruce who had no authority on the sea; but His majestys Chargé d'affaires is certain that the act of cruelty which by the statement was wantonly inflicted to occasion the destruction of those people will on enquiry be found devoid of all foundation. —

3d During last spring His Majestys Chargé d'affaires stated that by order of Sir William Kerr two Lingua boats were burnt at Kongoon, and two

Charak

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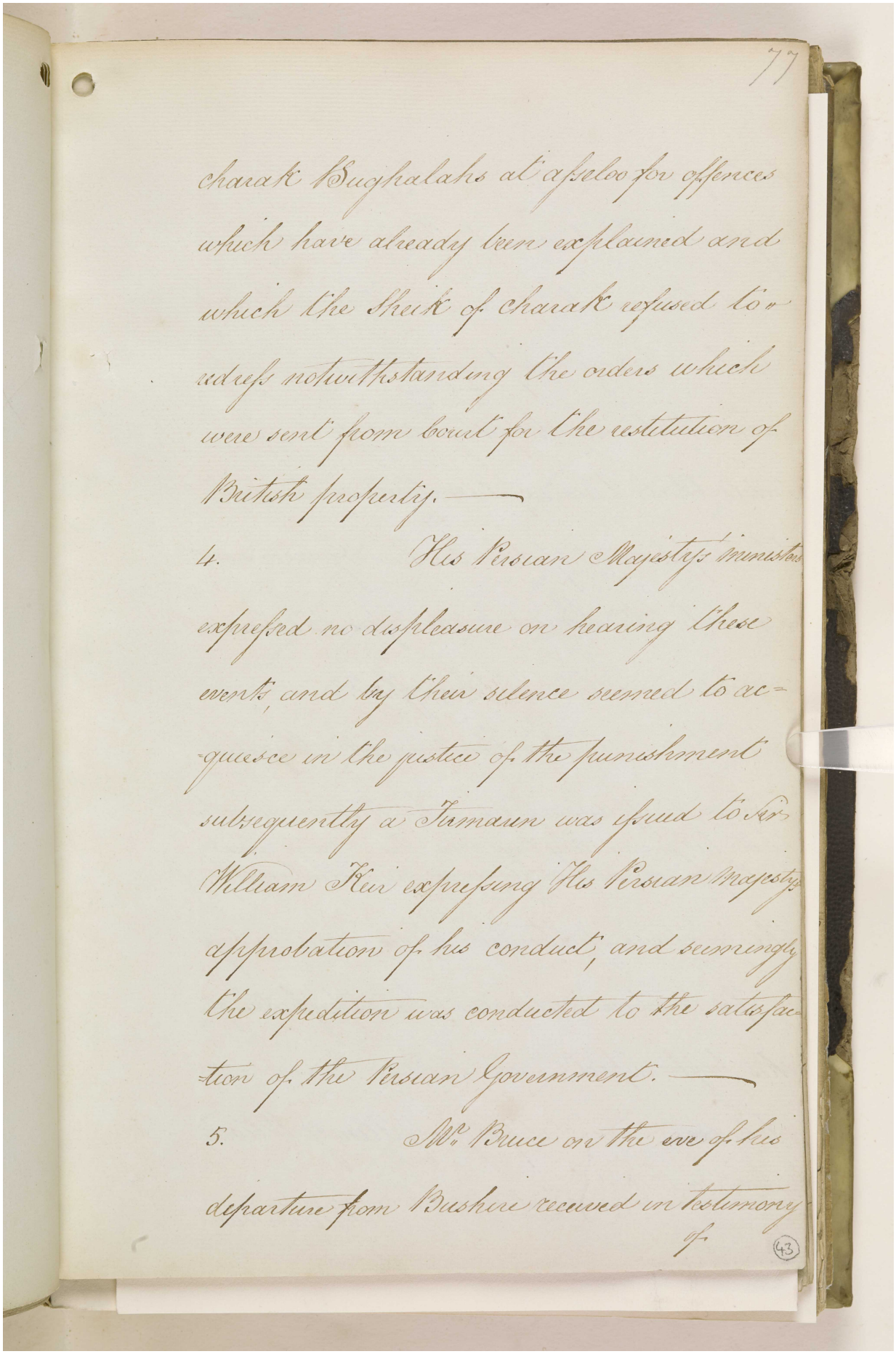

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Charak Bughalahs at Aseloo for offences which have already been explained and which the Sheik of Charak refused to redress notwithstanding the orders which were sent from Court for the restitution of British property. ——

4. His Persian Majestys ministers expressed no displeasure on hearing these events, and by their silence seemed to acquiesce in the justice of the punishment subsequently a Furmaun was issued to Sir William Ker expressing His Persian Majestys approbation of his conduct, and seemingly the expedition was conducted to the satisfaction of the Persian Government. ——

5. Mr. Bruce on the eve of his departure from Bushire received an testimony of

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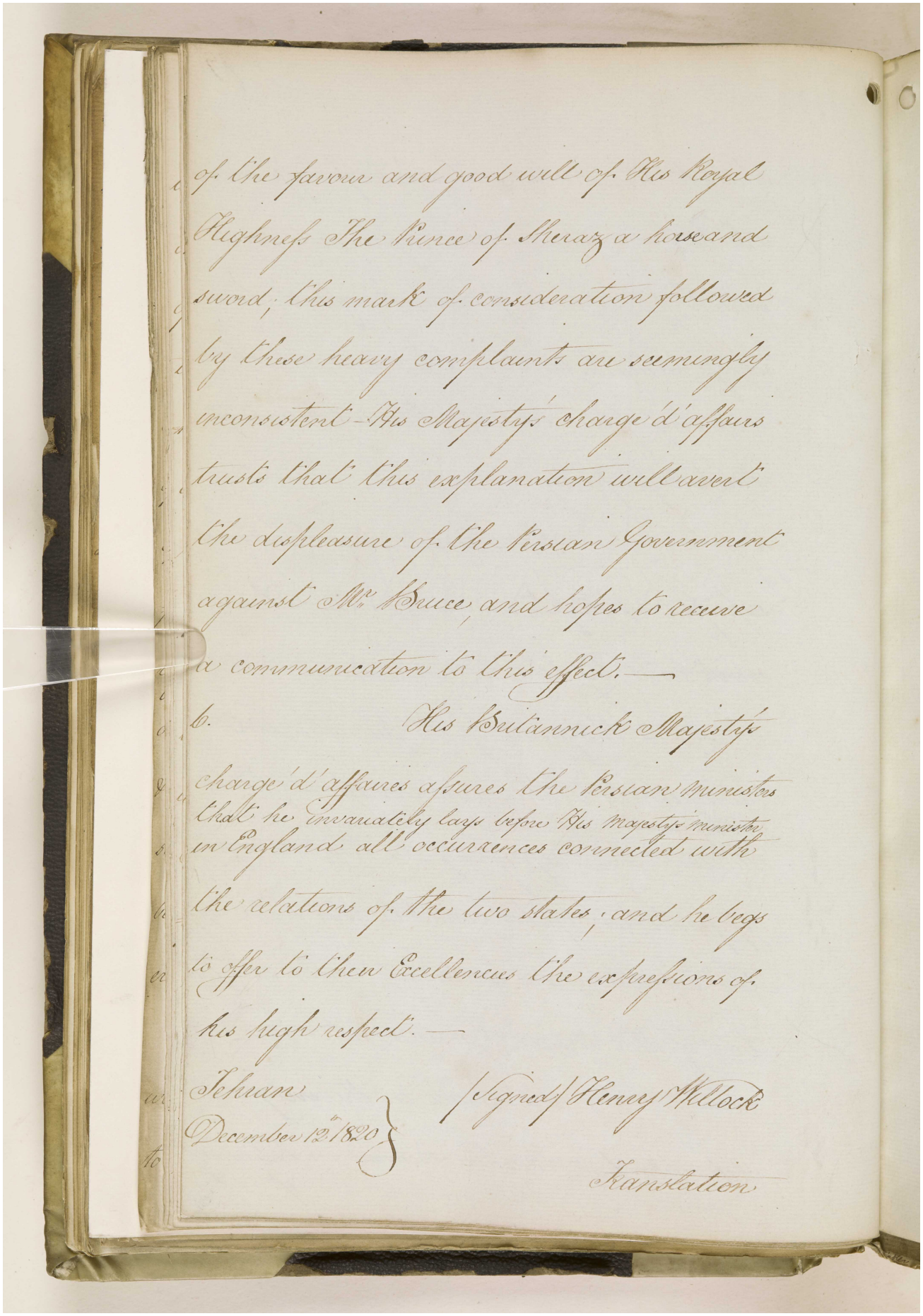

of the favour and good will of His Royal Highness The Prince of Sheraz a horse and sword, this mark of consideration followed by these heavy complaints are seemingly inconsistent - His Majesty's Chargé d'affaires trusts that this explanation will avert the displeasure of the Persian Government against Mr. Bruce, and hopes to receive a communication to this effect. —

to. His Britannick Majesty's

Chargé d'affaires assures the Persian Ministers that he invariably lays before His Majesty's ministers in England all occurrences connected with the relations of the two states, and he begs to offer to their Excellencies the expressions of his high respect. —

Tehran
December 12th 1820

Signed Henry Willock

Translation

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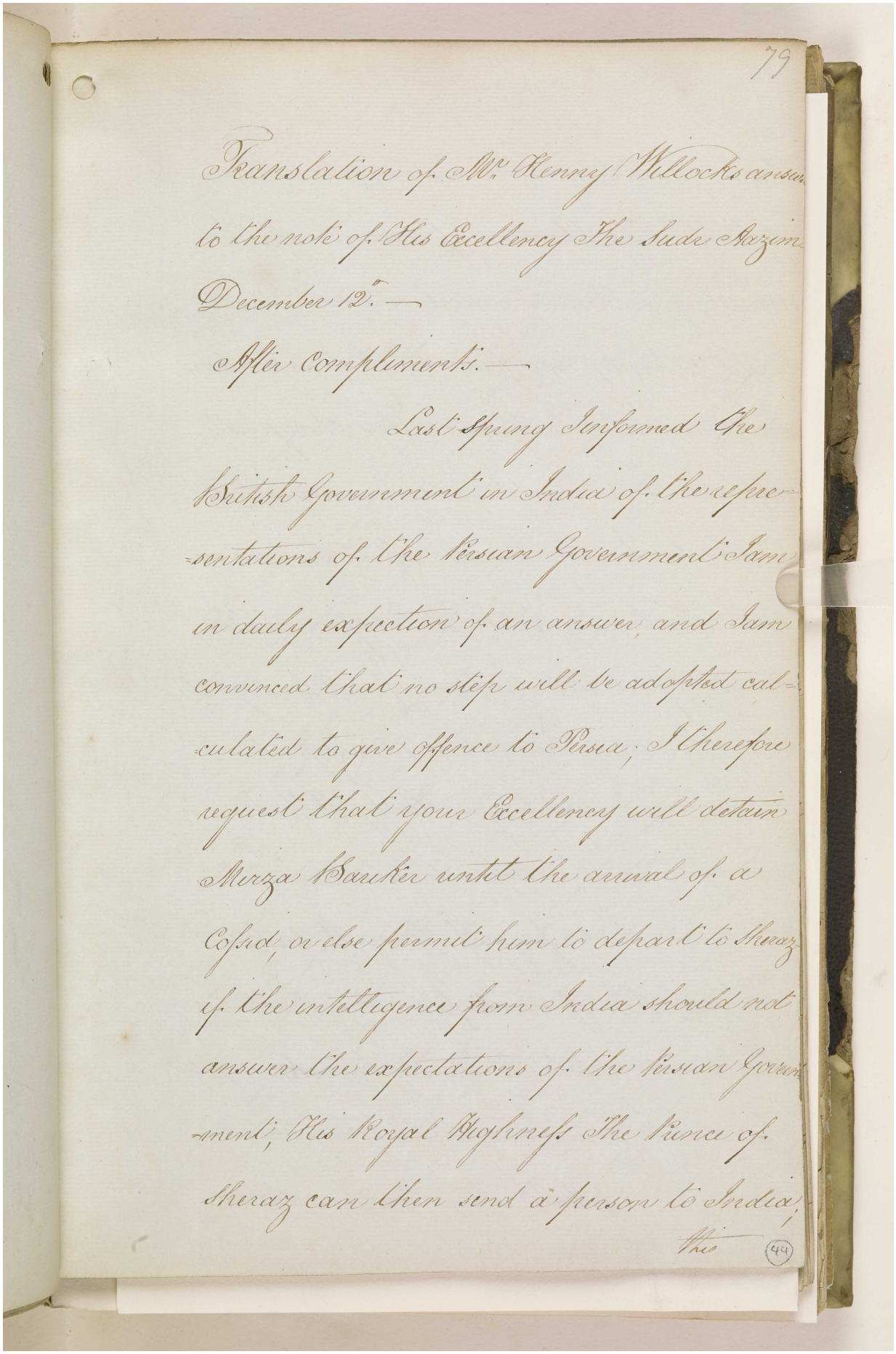

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Translation of Mr. Henry Willocks answer to the note of His Excellency The Sudr Azim December 12th. —

After Compliments. —

Last Spring Informed the British Government in India of the representations of the Persian Government I am in daily expection of an answer, and I am convinced that no step will be adopted calculated to give offence to Persia; I therefore request that your Excellency will detain Mirza Bauker until the arrival of a Cosid, or else permit him to depart to Shiraz if the intelligence from India should not answer the expectations of the Persian Government; His Royal Highness The Prince of Sheraz can then send a person to India;

this

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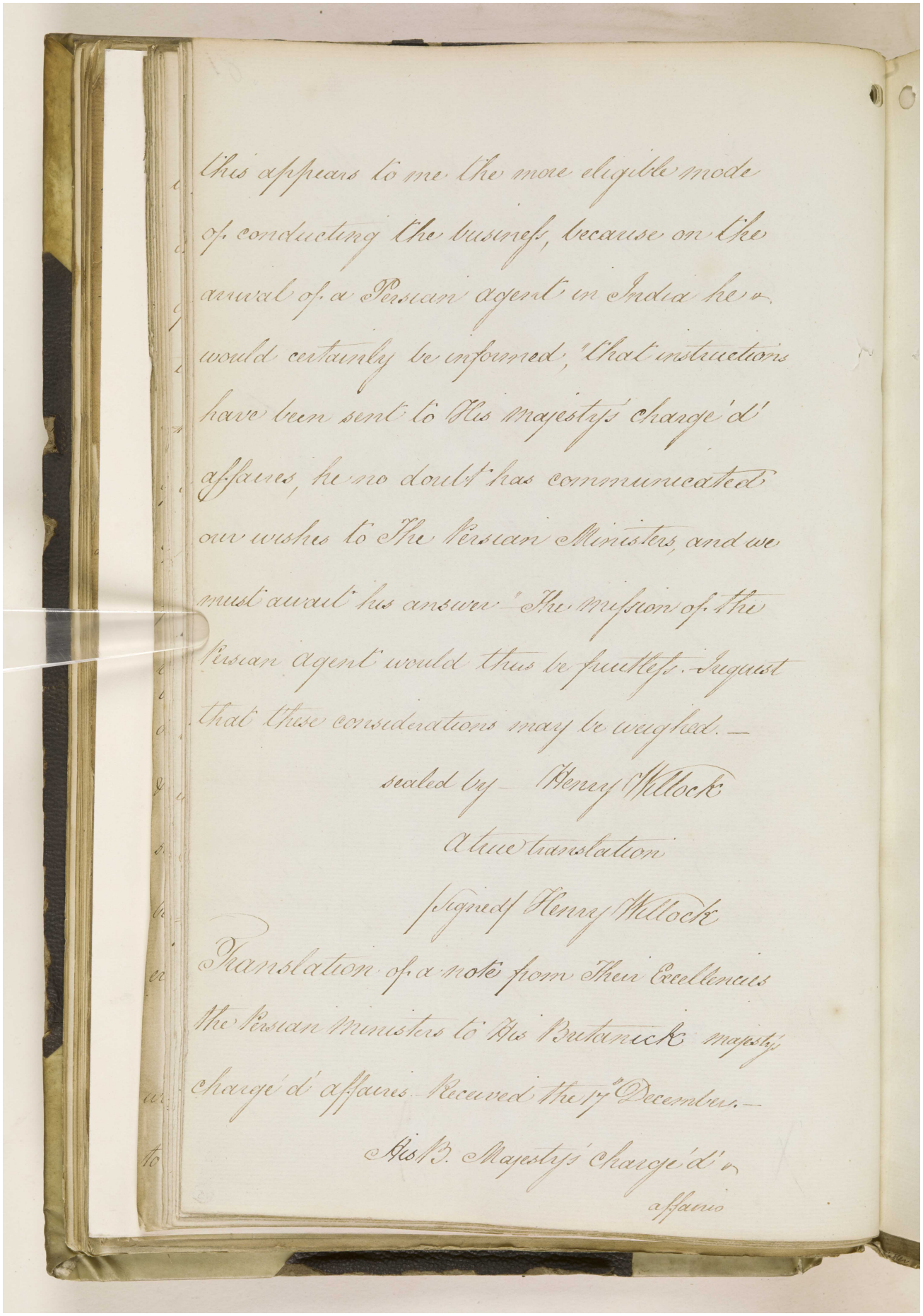


this appears to me the more eligible mode of conducting the busines, because on the arrival of a Persian agent in India he would certainly be informed, "that instructions have been sent to His majestys' chargé d' affaires, he no doubt has communicated our wishes to the Persian Ministers, and we must await his answer" The mission of the Persian agent would thus be fruitless. I request that these considerations may be weighed. —

sealed by — Henry Willock

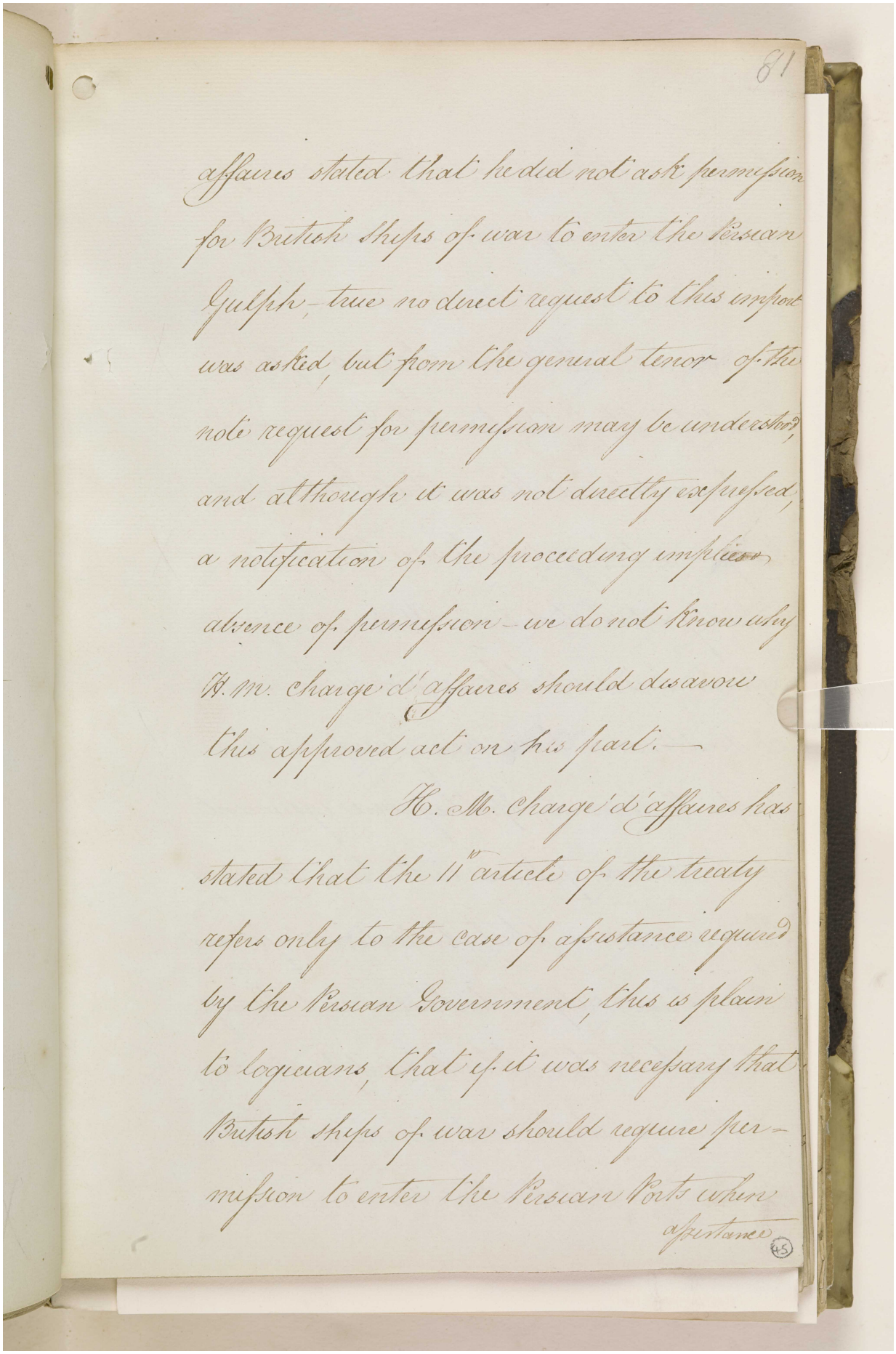
A true translation

Signed Henry Willock

Translation of a note from Their Excellencies the Persian Ministers to His Britannick majesty chargé d' affaires. Received the 17th December. —

His B. Majestys' chargé d'

affairs



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affairs stated that he did not ask permission
for British ships of war to enter the Persian
Gulph, true no direct request to this import
was asked, but from the general tenor of the
note request for permission may be understood,
and although it was not directly expressed,
a notification of the proceeding implies
absence of permission – we do not know why
H. M. charge d'affaires should disavow
this approved act on his part. –

H. M. charge d'affaires has
stated that the 11th article of the treaty
refers only to the case of assistance required
by the Persian Government, this is plain
to logicians, that if it was necessary that
British ships of war should require per-
mission to enter the Persian Ports when
assistance

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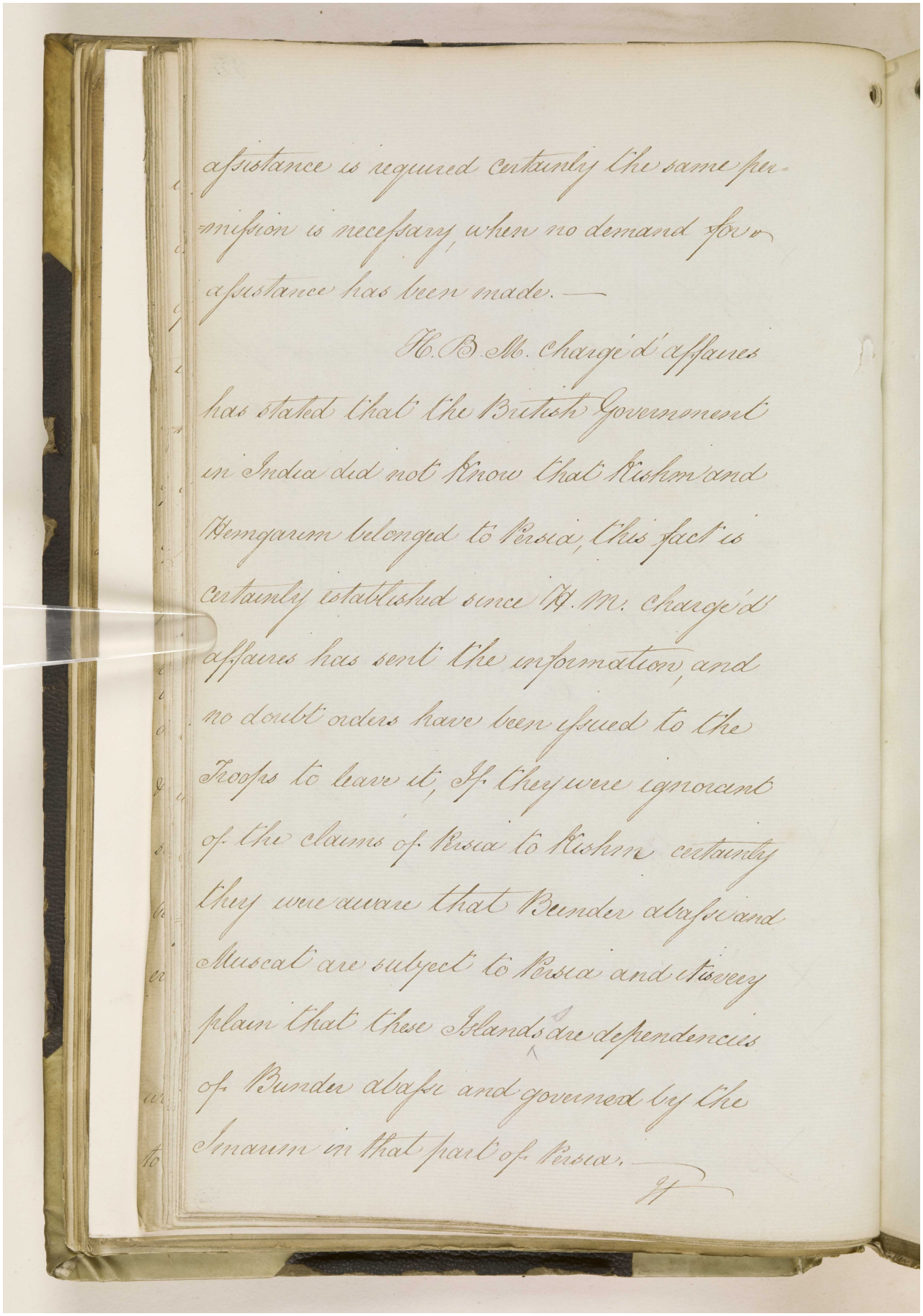

assistance is required certainly the same permission is necessary when no demand for assistance has been made. —

H. B. M. Charge d'affaires has stated that the British Government in India did not know that Kishm and Hengaram belonged to Persia, this fact is certainly established since H. M. Charge d'affaires has sent the information, and no doubt orders have been issued to the Troops to leave it, If they were ignorant of the claims of Persia to Kishm certainly they were aware that Bunder abassi and Muscat are subject to Persia and it is very plain that these Islands are dependencies of Bunder abassi and governed by the Imaum in that part of Persia. —

If

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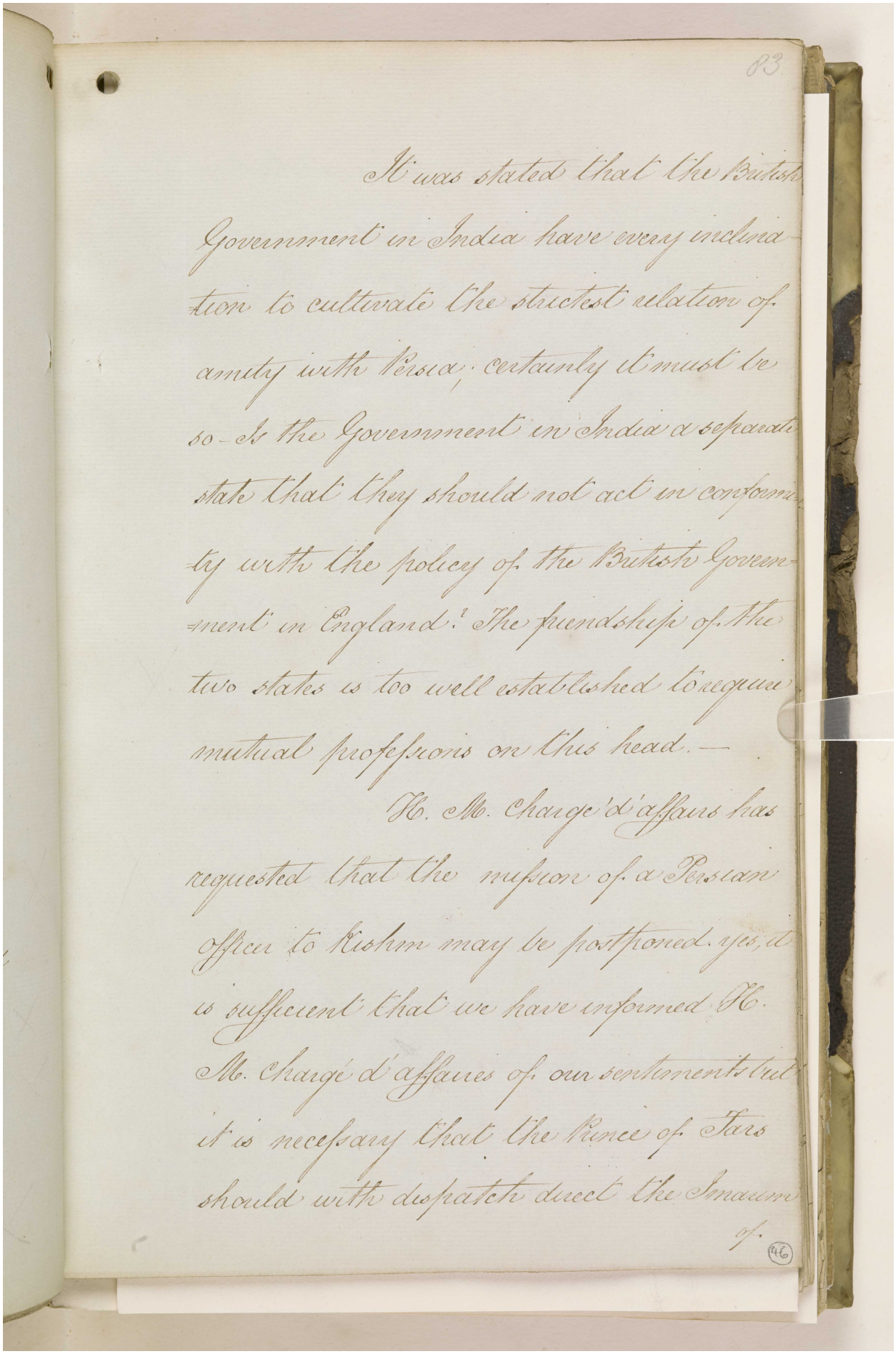
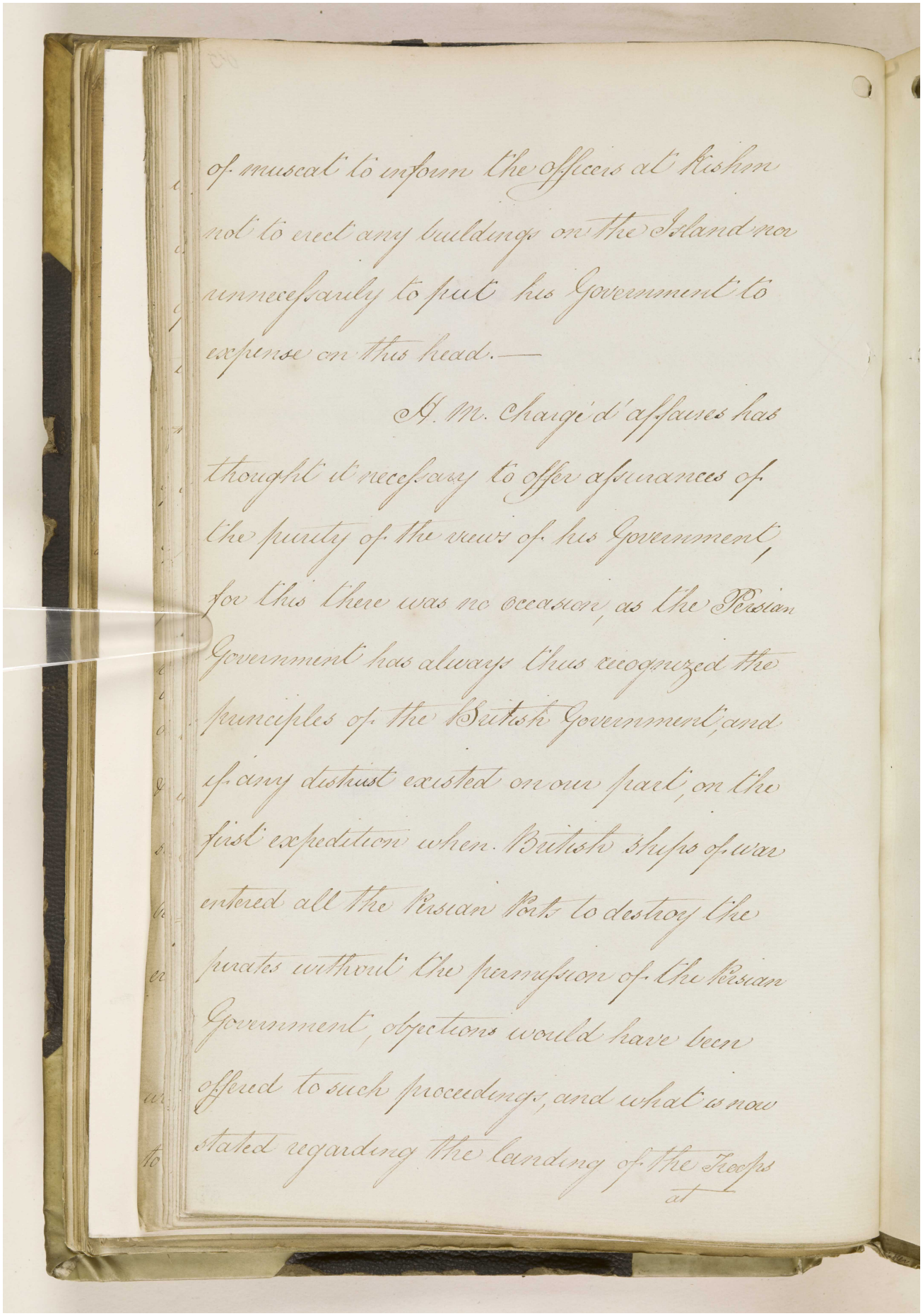


83.

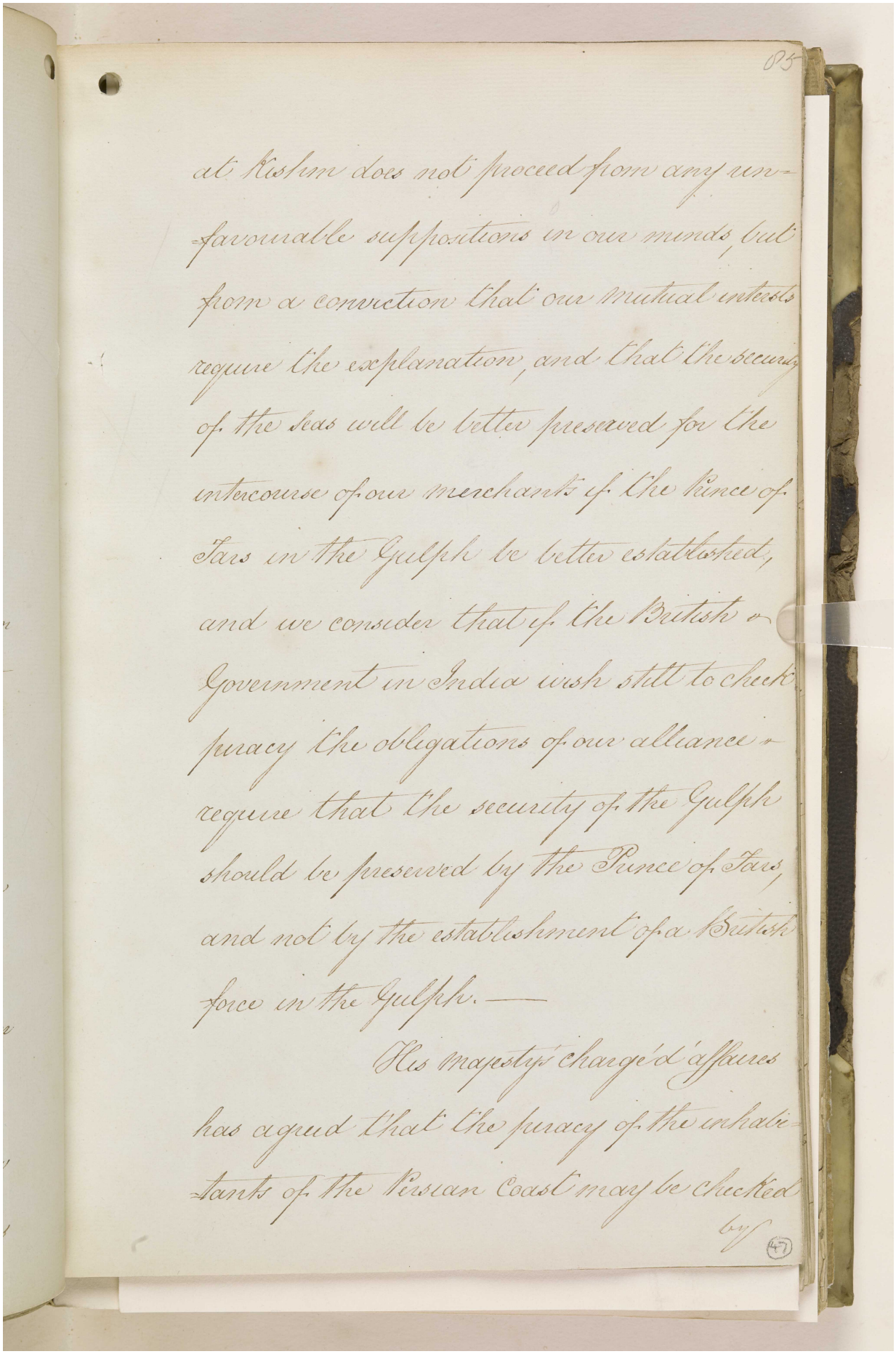
It was stated that the British Government in India have every inclination to cultivate the strictest relation of amity with Persia; certainly it must be so - Is the Government in India a separate state that they should not act in conformity with the policy of the British Government in England? The friendship of the two states is too well established to require mutual professions on this head. —

H. M. Chargé d'affaires has requested that the mission of a Persian officer to Kishm may be postponed. yes, it is sufficient that we have informed H. M. Chargé d'affaires of our sentiments but it is necessary that the Prince of Fars should with dispatch direct the Imaum of.



of muscat to inform the officers at Kishm
not to erect any buildings on the Island nor
unnecessarily to put his Government to
expense on this head.—

H. M. Chargé d'affaires has
thought it necessary to offer assurances of
the purity of the views of his Government,
for this there was no occasion, as the Persian
Government has always thus recognized the
principles of the British Government, and
if any distrust existed on our part, on the
first expedition when British ships of war
entered all the Persian Ports to destroy the
pirates without the permission of the Persian
Government, objections would have been
offered to such proceedings, and what is now
stated regarding the landing of the Troops
at



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at Kishm does not proceed from any unfavourable suppositions in our minds, but from a conviction that our mutual interests require the explanation, and that the security of the Seas will be better preserved for the intercourse of our merchants if the Prince of Fars in the Gulph be better established, and we consider that if the British Government in India wish still to check piracy the obligations of our alliance require that the security of the Gulph should be preserved by the Prince of Fars, and not by the establishment of a British force in the Gulph. ——

His majesty's chargé d'affaires has agued that the piracy of the inhabitants of the Persian Coast may be checked by

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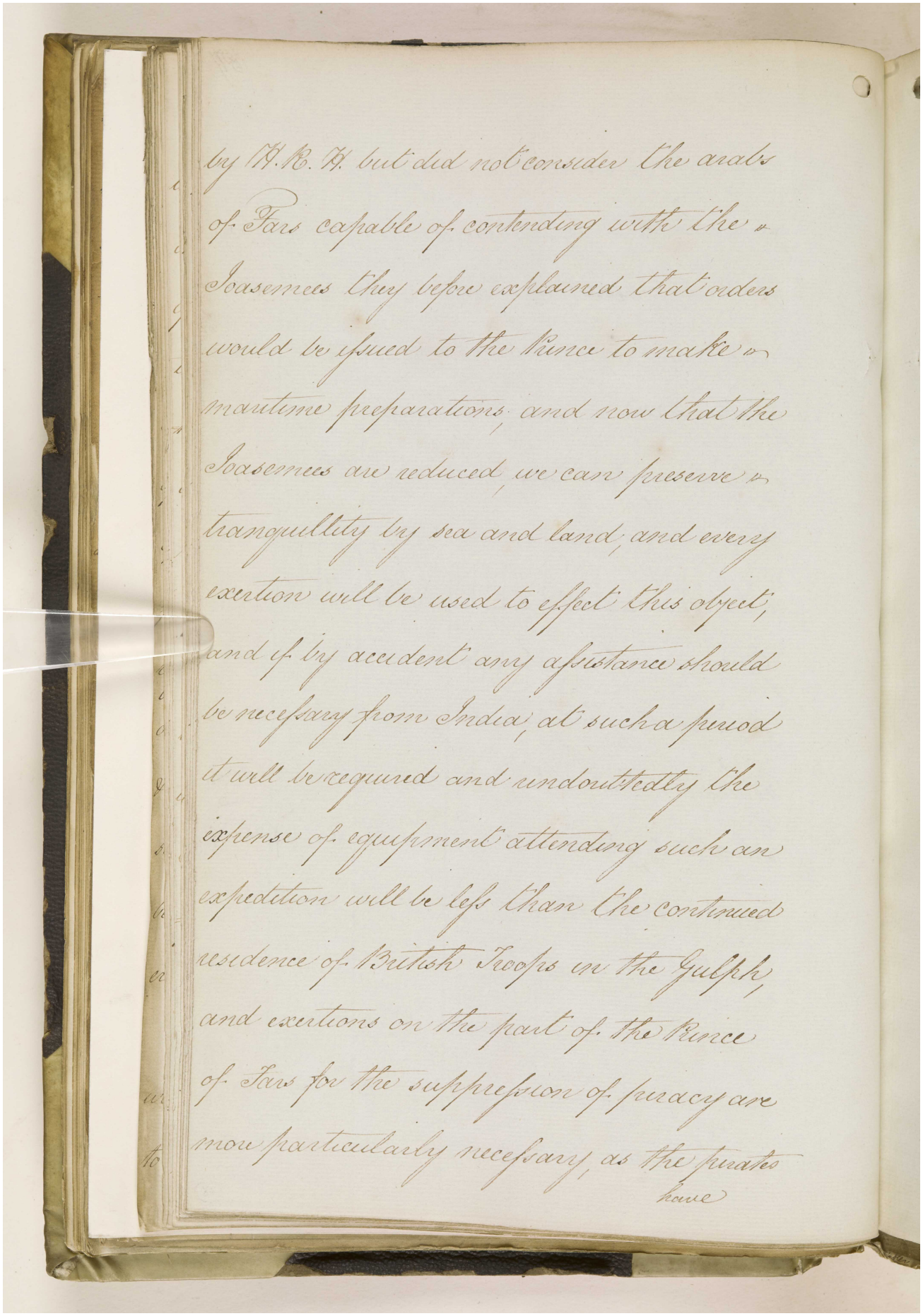

by H. R. H. but did not consider the arabs of Fars capable of contending with the Joasemees they before explained that orders would be issued to the Prince to make maritime preparations; and now that the Joasemees are reduced, we can preserve tranquillity by sea and land, and every exertion will be used to effect this object; and if by accident any assistance should be necessary from India, at such a period it will be required and undoubtedly the expense of equipment attending such an expedition will be less than the continued residence of British Troops in the Gulph, and exertions on the part of the Prince of Fars for the suppression of piracy are more particularly necessary, as the pirates

have

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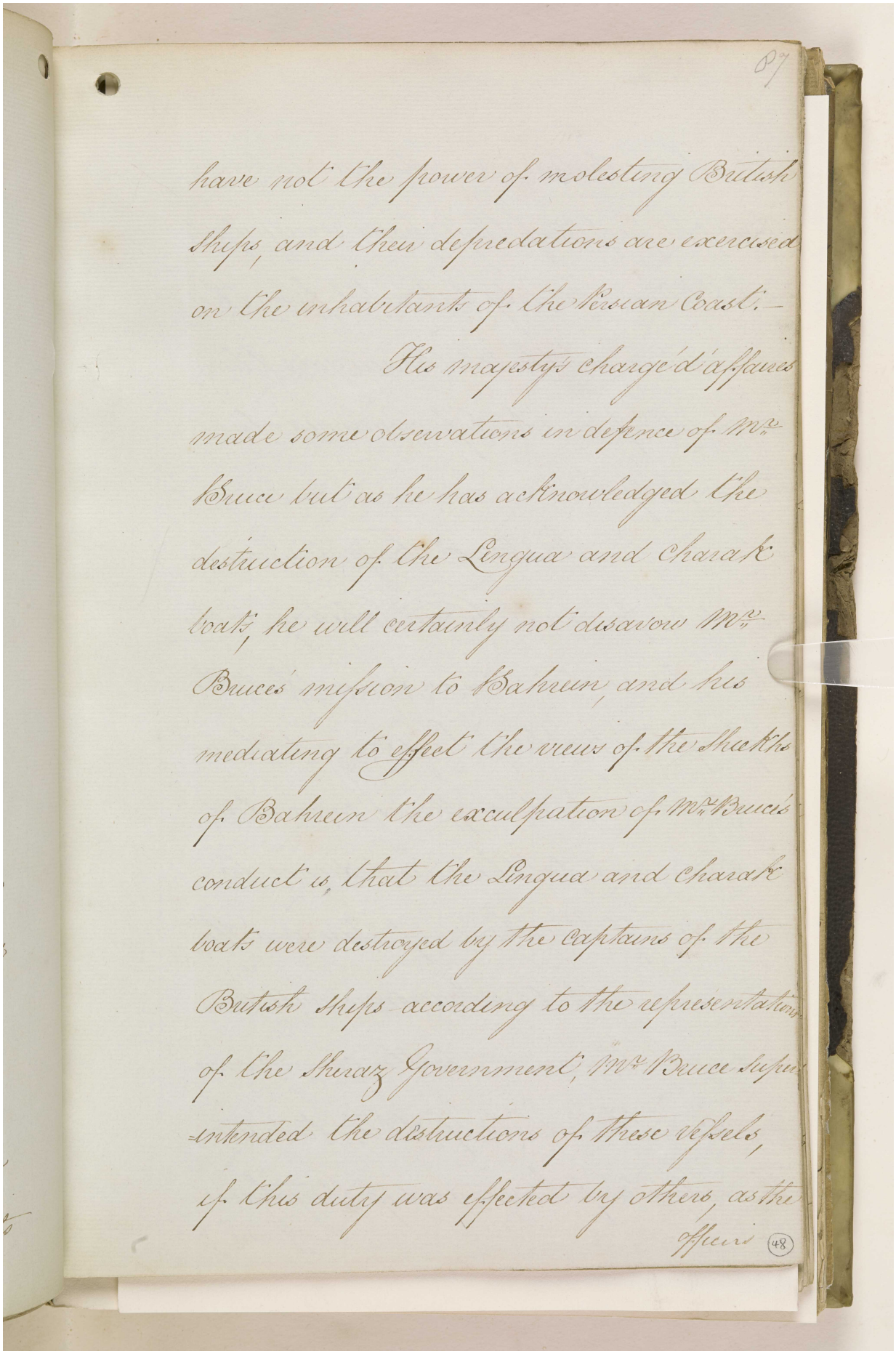

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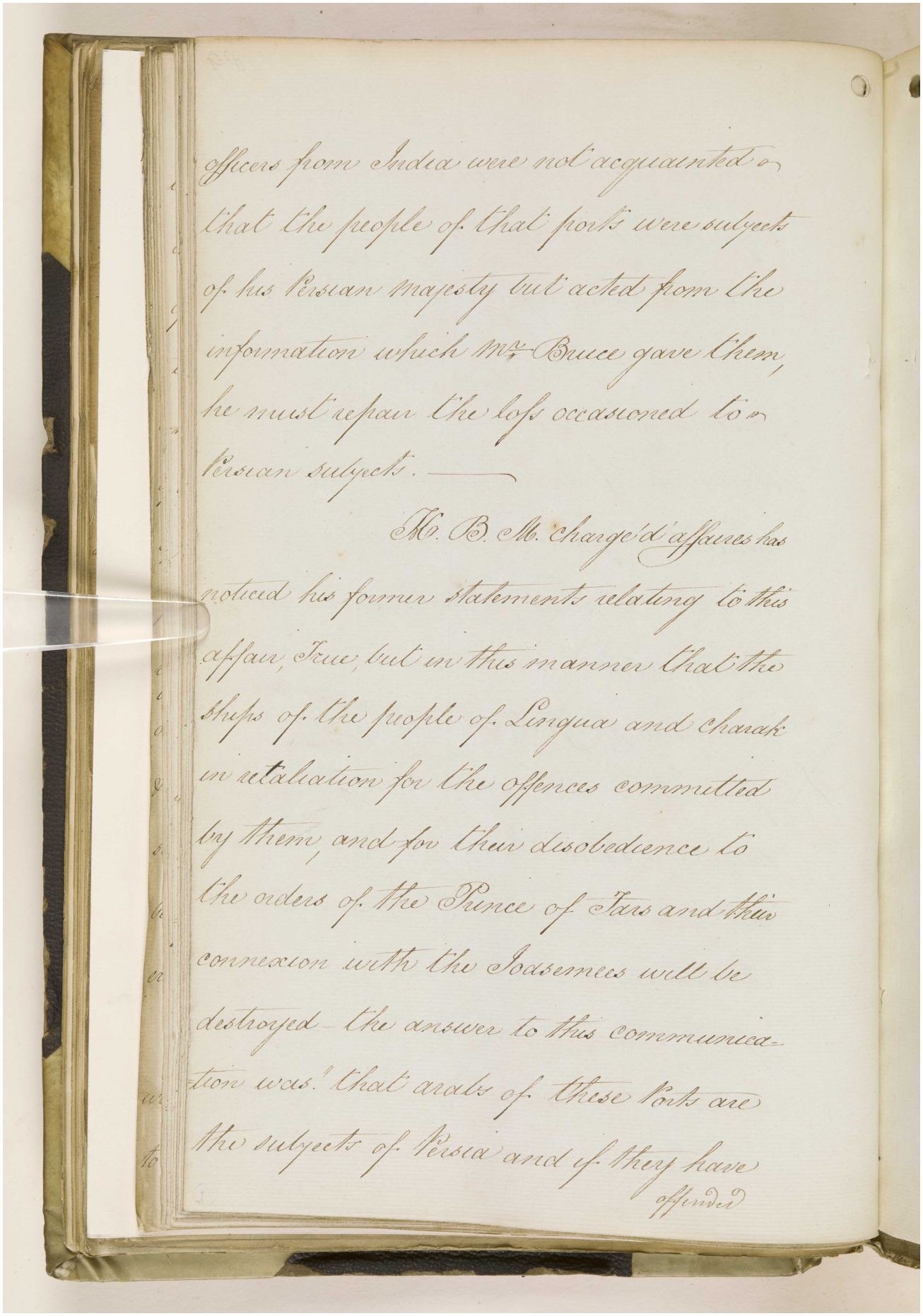
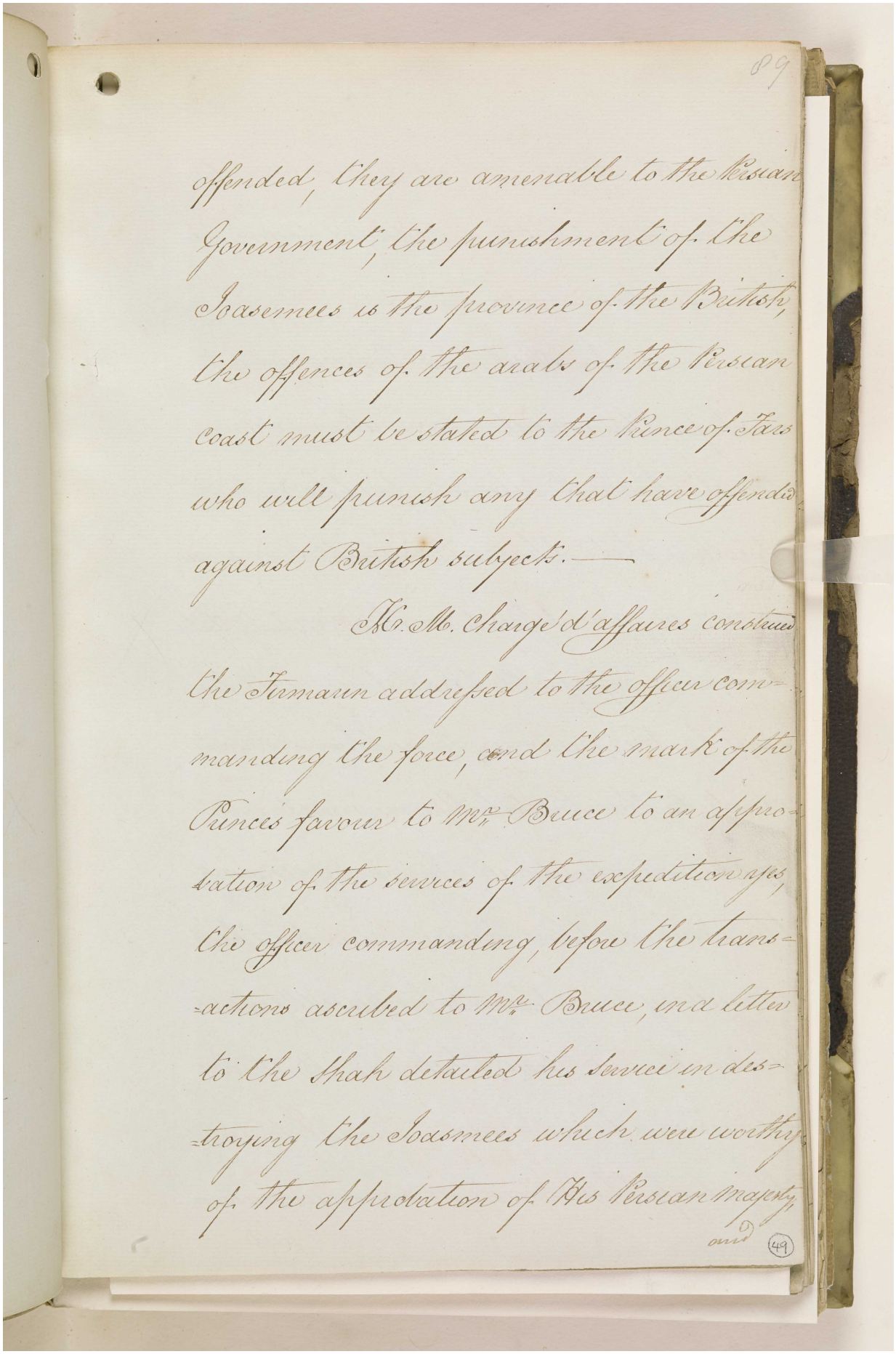
have not the power of molesting British
Ships, and their depredations are exercised
on the inhabitants of the Persian Coast.—

His majesty's Chargé d'affaires
made some observations in defence of Mr.
Bruce but as he has acknowledged the
destruction of the Lingua and Charak
boats, he will certainly not disavow Mr.
Bruce's mission to Bahreun, and his
mediating to effect the views of the Shaikhs
of Bahreun the exculpation of Mr. Bruce's
conduct is, that the Lingua and Charak
boats were destroyed by the Captains of the
British Ships according to the representations
of the Shiraz Government, Mr. Bruce supposed
intended the destructions of these vessels,
if this duty was effected by others, as the
Affair (48)



officers from India were not acquainted that the people of that ports were subjects of his Persian majesty but acted from the information which Mr. Bruce gave them, he must repair the loss occasioned to Persian subjects. ——

H. B. M. charge d'affaires has noticed his former statements relating to this affair, True, but in this manner that the ships of the people of Lingua and Charak in retaliation for the offences committed by them, and for their disobedience to the orders of the Prince of Fars and their connexion with the Joasemees will be destroyed — the answer to this communication was." that arabs of these ports are the subjects of Persia and if they have offended



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offended, they are amenable to the Persian Government, the punishment of the Joasemees is the province of the British, the offences of the arabs of the Persian coast must be stated to the Prince of Fars who will punish any that have offended against British subjects.—

H. M. Chargé d'affaires construed the Firmarin addressed to the officer commanding the force, and the mark of the Prince's favour to Mr. Bruce to an approbation of the services of the expedition yes, the officer commanding, before the transactions ascribed to Mr. Bruce, in a letter to the Shah detailed his service in destroying the Joasmees which were worthy of the approbation of His Persian majesty,

and

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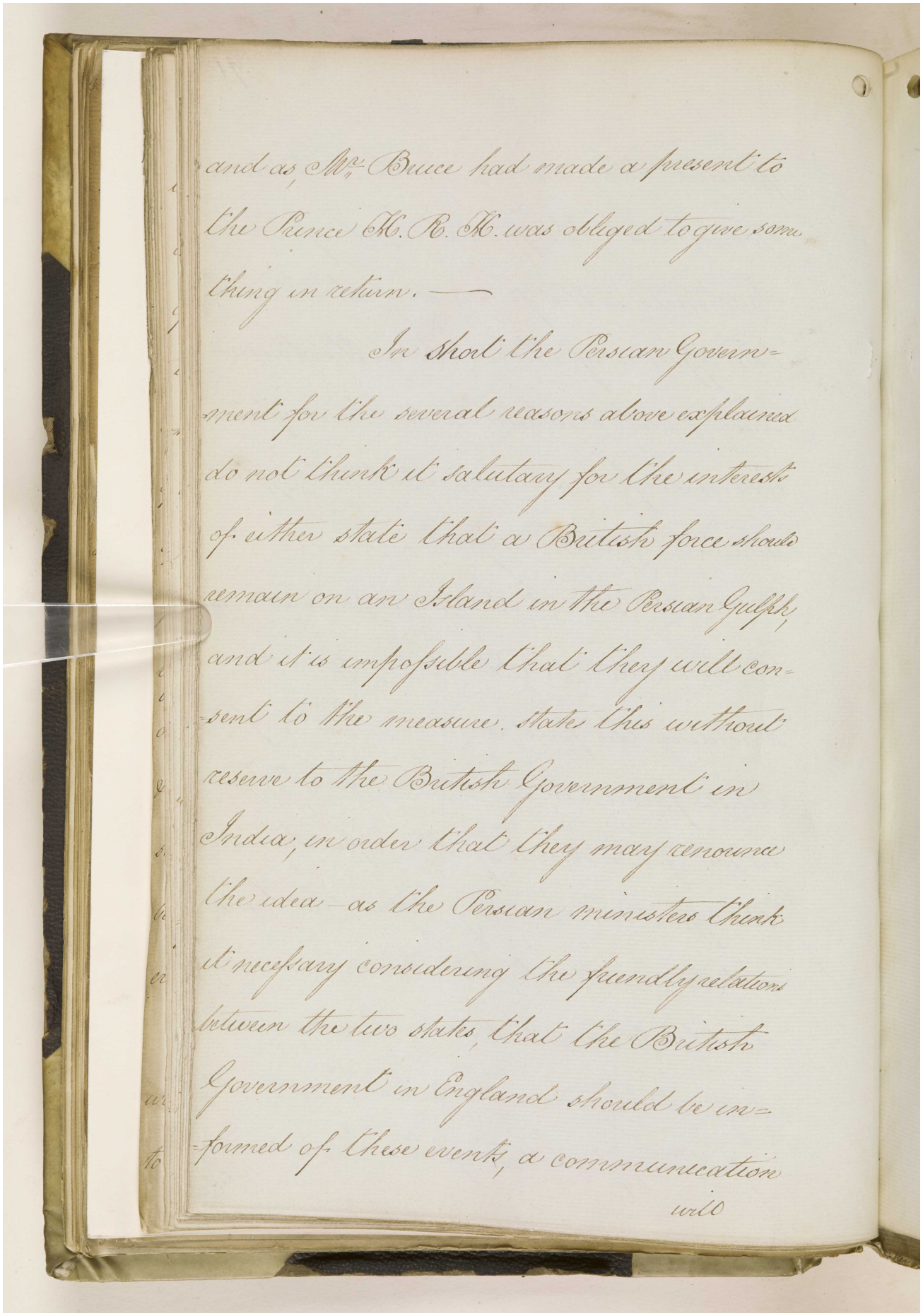
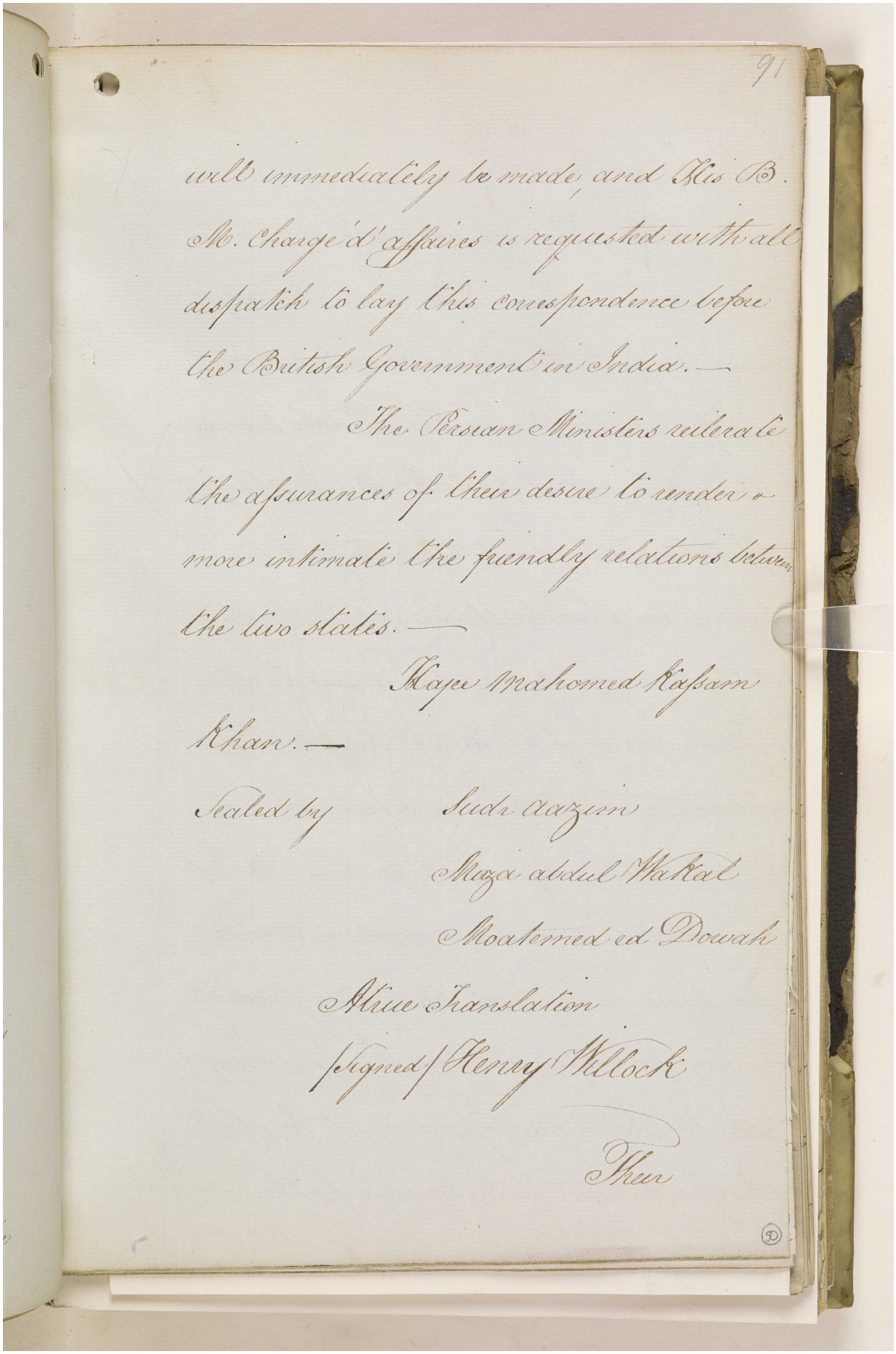


and as Mr. Bruce had made a present to the Prince H. R. H. was obliged to give some thing in return. —

In short the Persian Govern- ment for the several reasons above explained do not think it salutary for the interests of either state that a British force should remain on an Island in the Persian Gulph, and it is impossible that they will con- sent to the measure. State this without reserve to the British Government in India, in order that they may renounce the idea — as the Persian ministers think it necessary considering the friendly relations between the two states, that the British Government in England should be in- formed of these events, a communication

will



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will immediately be made, and His B. M. Charge'd' affaires is requested with all dispatch to lay this correspondence before the British Government in India.—

The Persian Ministers reiterate the assurances of their desire to render more intimate the friendly relations between the two states.—

Hajee Mahomed Kassam Khan.—

Sealed by Sudr Aazim
Mirza abdul Wakal
Moatemed ed Dowah

A true Translation
(Signed) Henry Willock

Their

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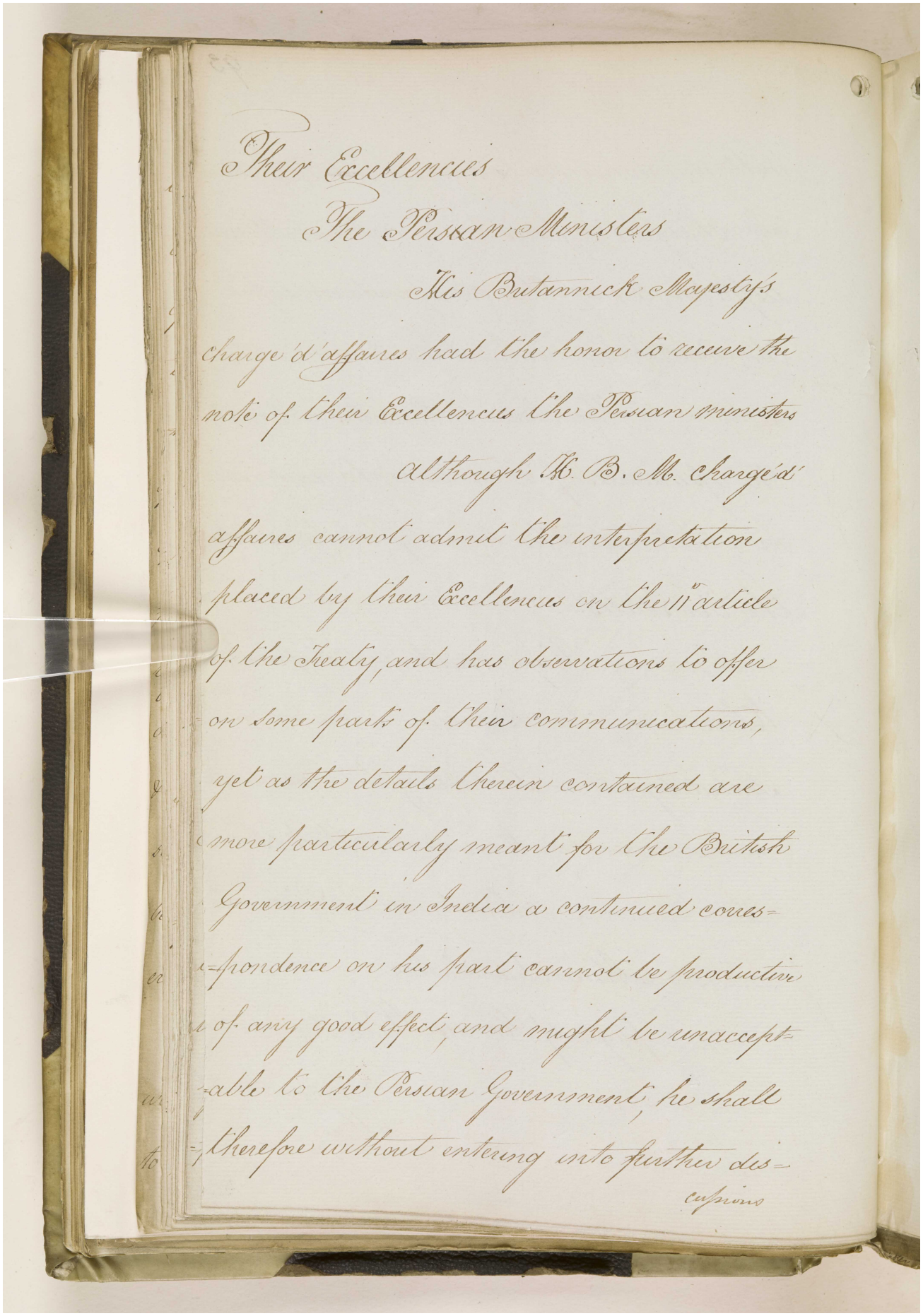

Their Excellencies
The Persian Ministers
His Britannick Majesty's
charge d'affaires had the honor to receive the
note of their Excellencies the Persian ministers
although H. B. M. charge d'
affaires cannot admit the interpretation
placed by their Excellencies on the 11th article
of the Treaty, and has observations to offer
on some parts of their communications,
yet as the details therein contained are
more particularly meant for the British
Government in India a continued corres-
-pondence on his part cannot be productive
of any good effect, and might be unaccept-
-able to the Persian Government, he shall
therefore without entering into further dis-
cussions

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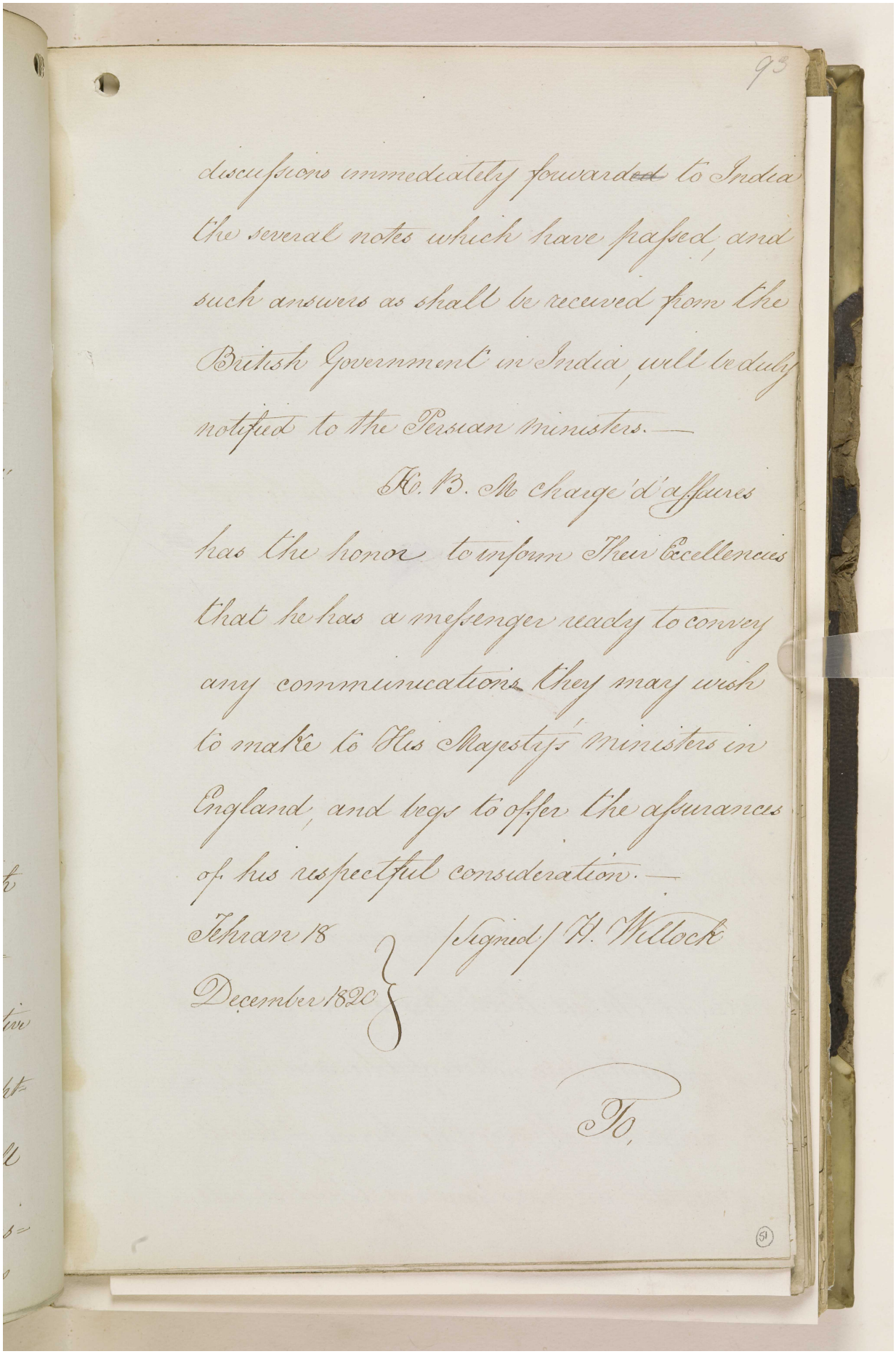

discussions immediately forwarded to India the several notes which have passed, and such answers as shall be received from the British Government in India, will be duly notified to the Persian ministers.—

H. B. M charge d'affaires has the honor to inform Their Excellencies that he has a messenger ready to convey any communications they may wish to make to His Majesty's ministers in England, and begs to offer the assurances of his respectful consideration.—

Tehran 18 December 1820 } (Signed) H. Willock

To,

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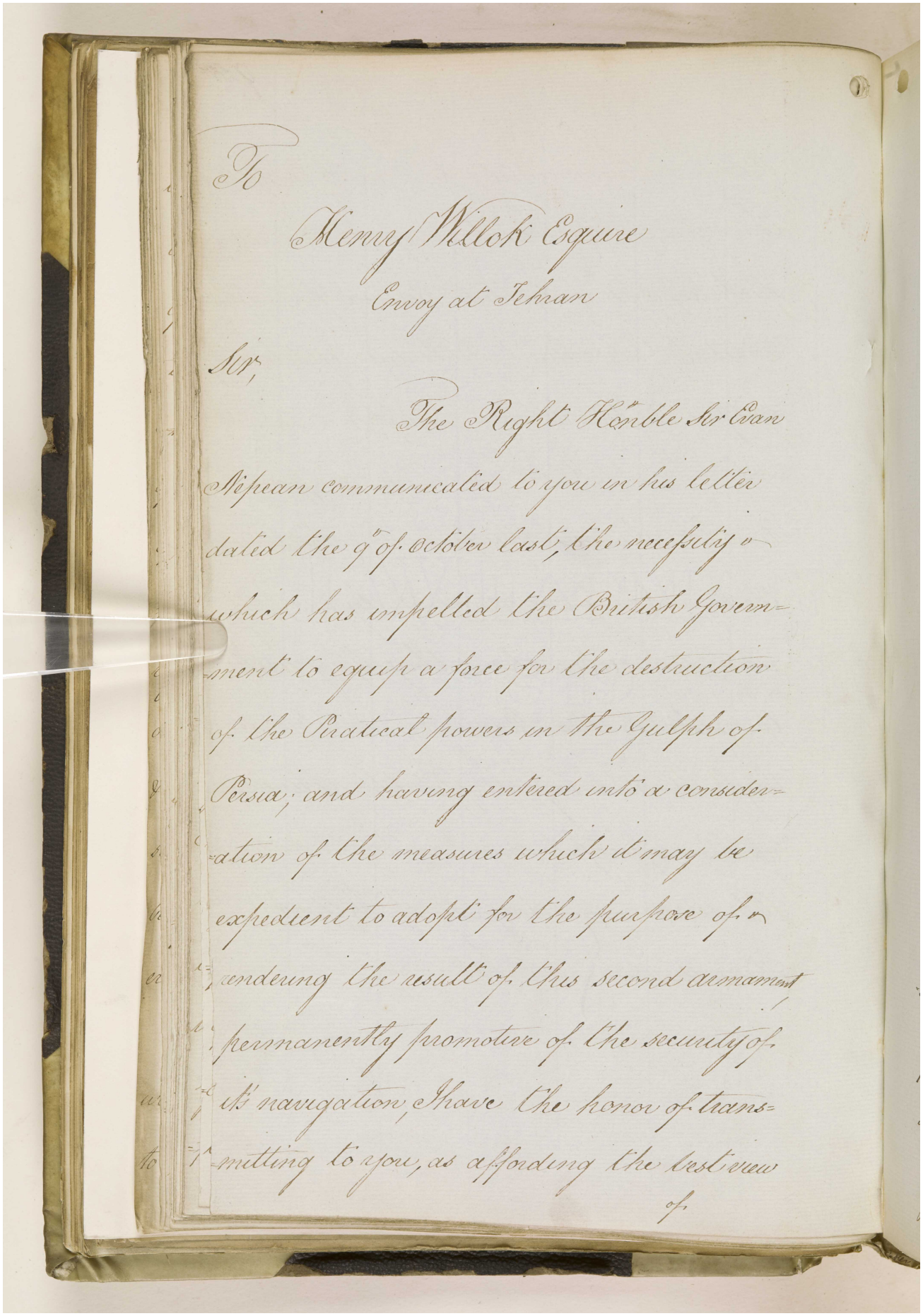

To

Henry Willock Esquire

Envoy at Tehran

Sir,

The Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean communicated to you in his letter dated the 9th of October last, the necessity which has impelled the British Government to equip a force for the destruction of the Piratical powers in the Gulph of Persia; and having entered into a consideration of the measures which it may be expedient to adopt for the purpose of rendering the result of this second armament permanently promotive of the security of its navigation, I have the honor of transmitting to you, as affording the best view of

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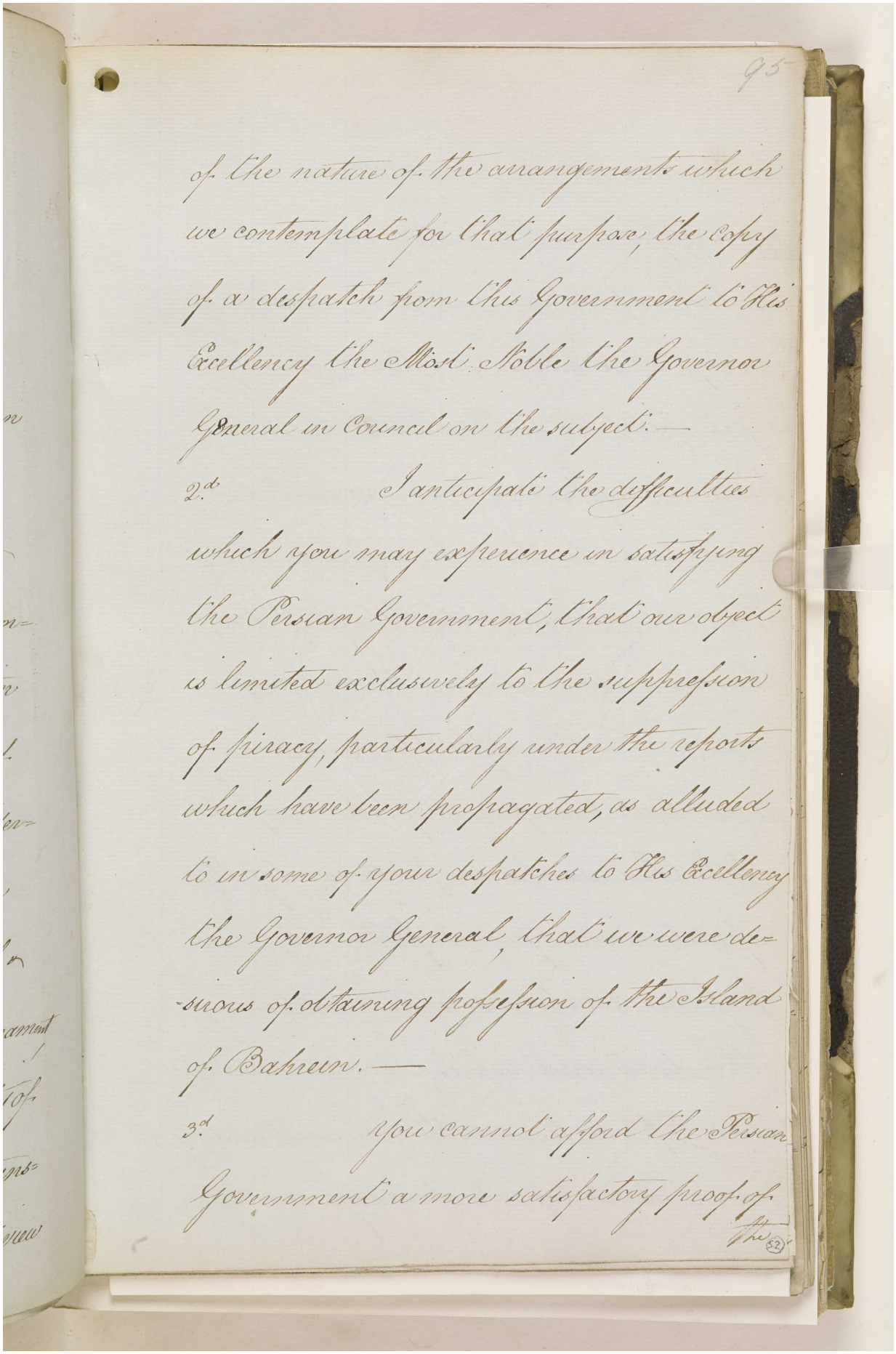

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of the nature of the arrangements which we contemplate for that purpose, the copy of a despatch from this Government to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council on the subject.—

2d I anticipate the difficulties which you may experience in satisfying the Persian Government, that our object is limited exclusively to the suppression of piracy, particularly under the reports which have been propagated, as alluded to in some of your despatches to His Excellency the Governor General, that we were desirous of obtaining possession of the Island of Bahrein.—

3d you cannot afford the Persian Government a more satisfactory proof of

the (52)

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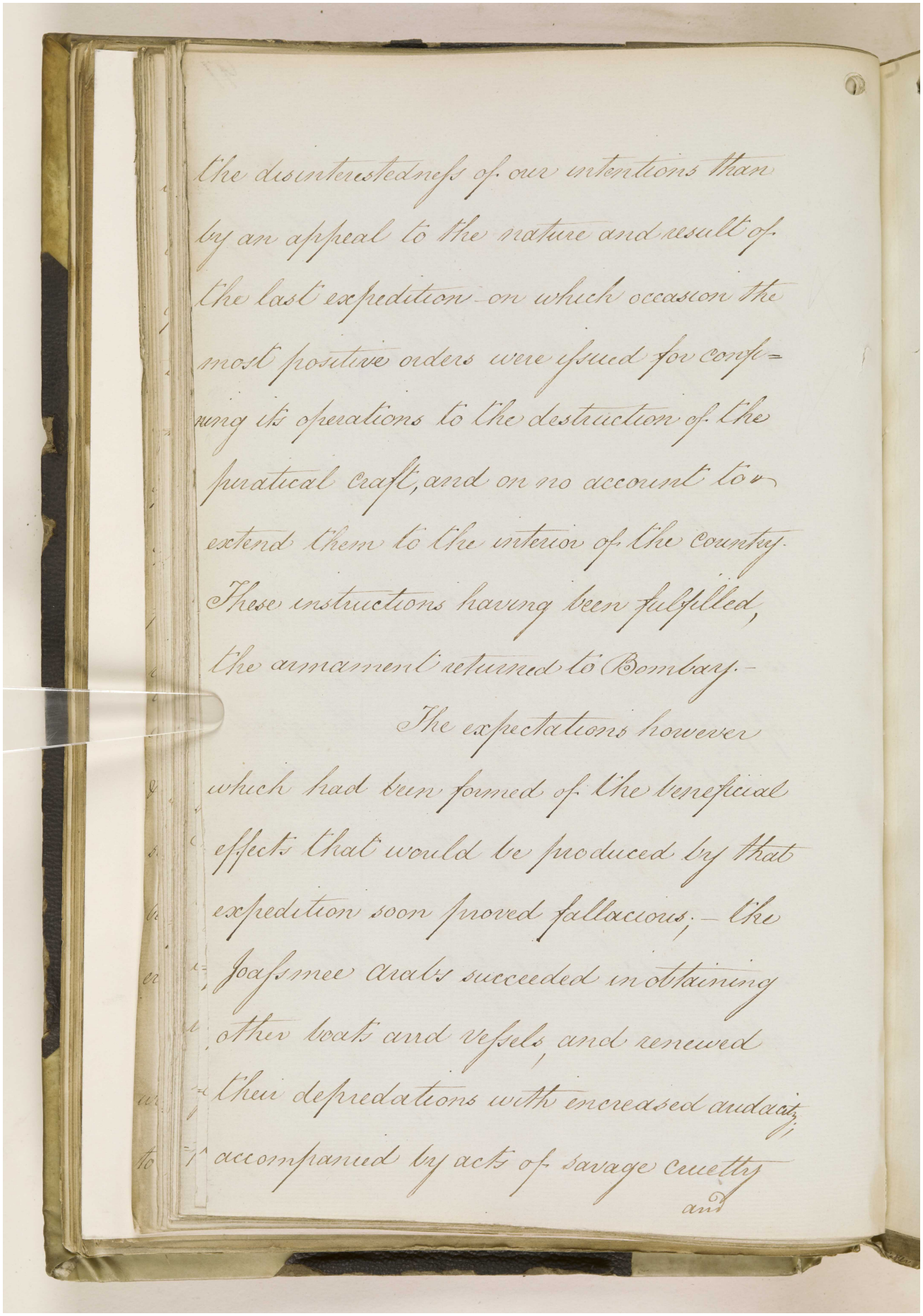

the disinterestedness of our intentions than by an appeal to the nature and result of the last expedition - on which occasion the most positive orders were issued for confining its operations to the destruction of the piratical craft, and on no account to extend them to the interior of the country. These instructions having been fulfilled, the armament returned to Bombay. -

The expectations however which had been formed of the beneficial effects that would be produced by that expedition soon proved fallacious. - The Joasmee Arabs succeeded in obtaining other boats and vessels, and renewed their depredations with increased audacity, accompanied by acts of savage cruelty

and

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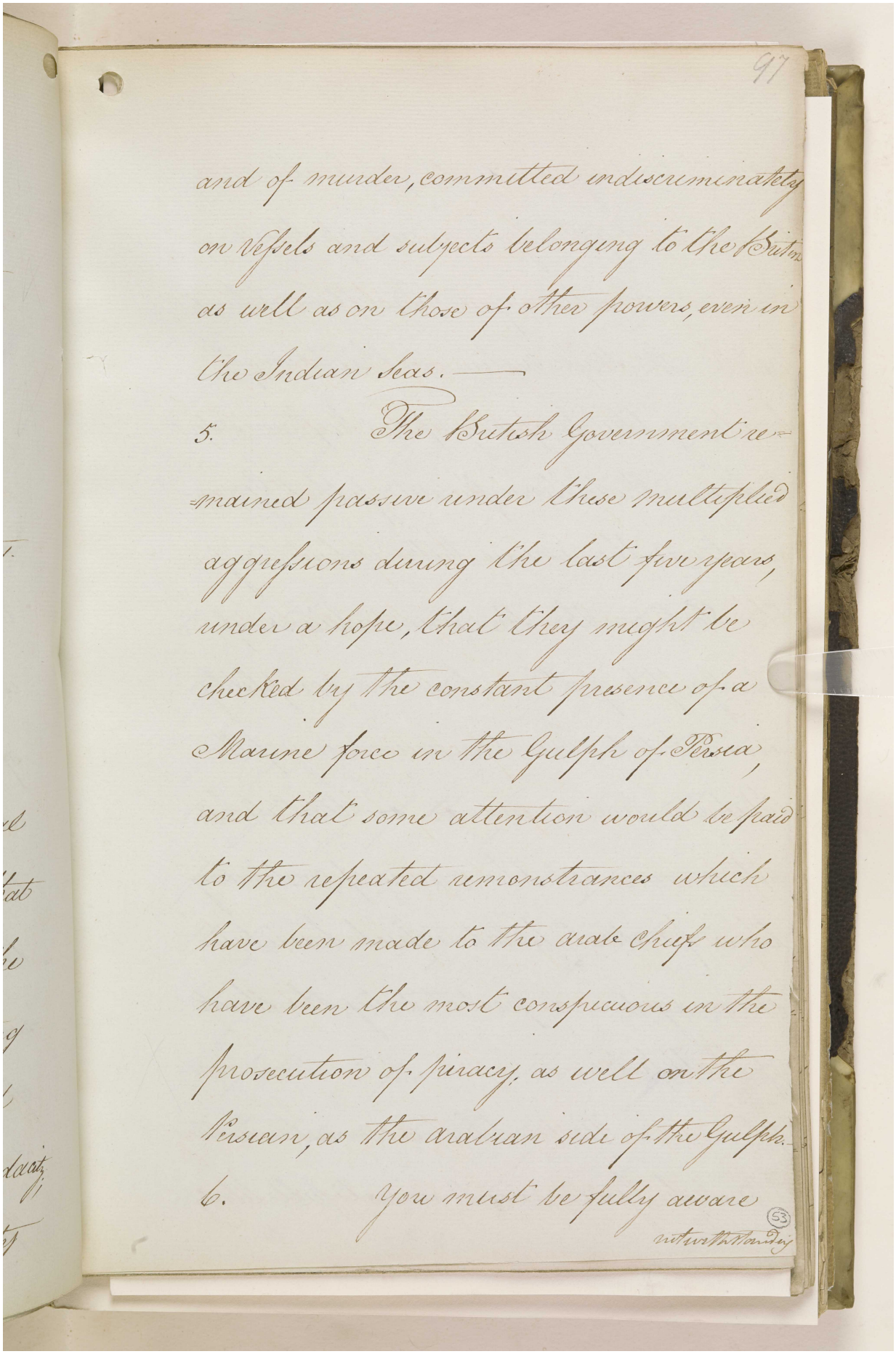

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and of murder, committed indiscriminately on Vessels and subjects belonging to the Sultan as well as on those of other powers, even in the Indian Seas. —

5. The British Government remained passive under these multiplied aggressions during the last five years, under a hope, that they might be checked by the constant presence of a Marine force in the Gulph of Persia, and that some attention would be paid to the repeated remonstrances which have been made to the Arab Chiefs who have been the most conspicuous in the prosecution of piracy, as well on the Persian, as the Arabian side of the Gulph.

6. You must be fully aware

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with the Ministry

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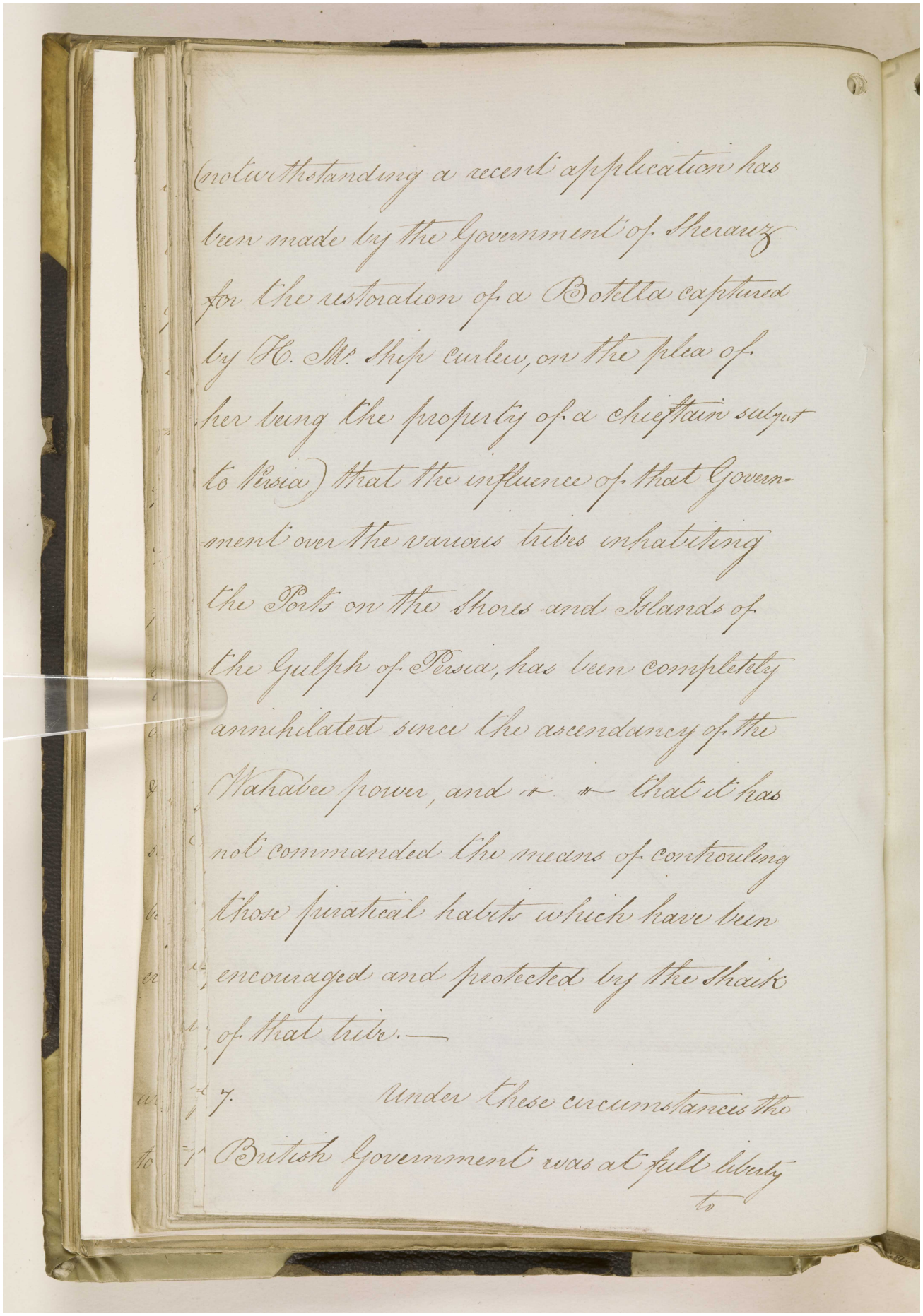

(notwithstanding a recent application has been made by the Government of Sheraz for the restoration of a Botella captured by H. Mc. Ship Curlew, on the plea of her being the property of a chieftain subject to Persia) that the influence of that Government over the various tribes inhabiting the Ports on the Shores and Islands of the Gulph of Persia, has been completely annihilated since the ascendancy of the Wahabee power, and + + that it has not commanded the means of controuling those piratical habits which have been encouraged and protected by the Shaik of that tribe.—

7. Under these circumstances the British Government was at full liberty

to

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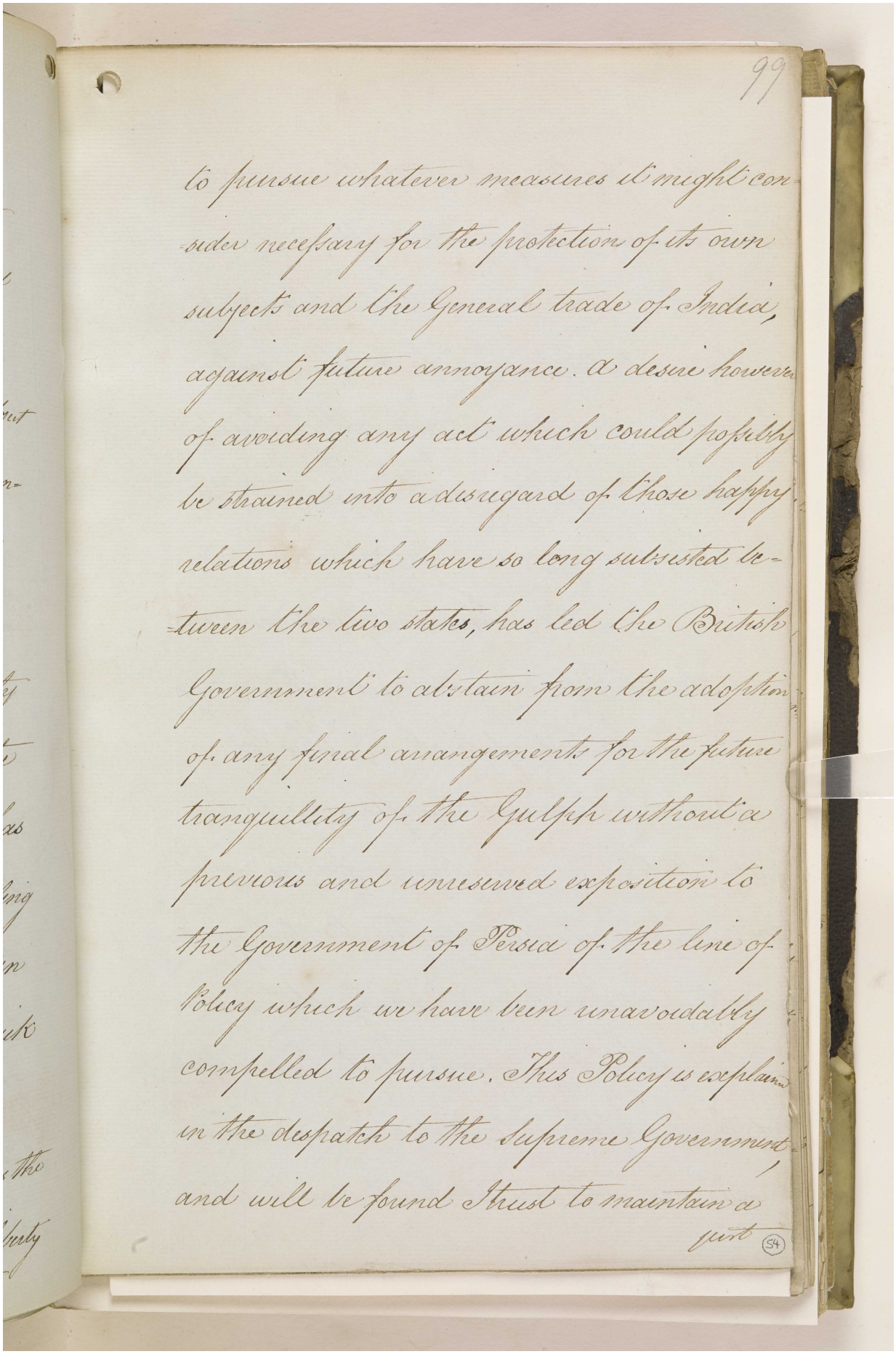

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to pursue whatever measures it might consider necessary for the protection of its own subjects and the General trade of India, against future annoyance. A desire however of avoiding any act which could possibly be strained into a disregard of those happy relations which have so long subsisted between the two states, has led the British Government to abstain from the adoption of any final arrangements for the future tranquillity of the Gulph without a previous and unreserved exposition to the Government of Persia of the line of Policy which we have been unavoidably compelled to pursue. This Policy is explained in the despatch to the Supreme Government and will be found I trust to maintain a just

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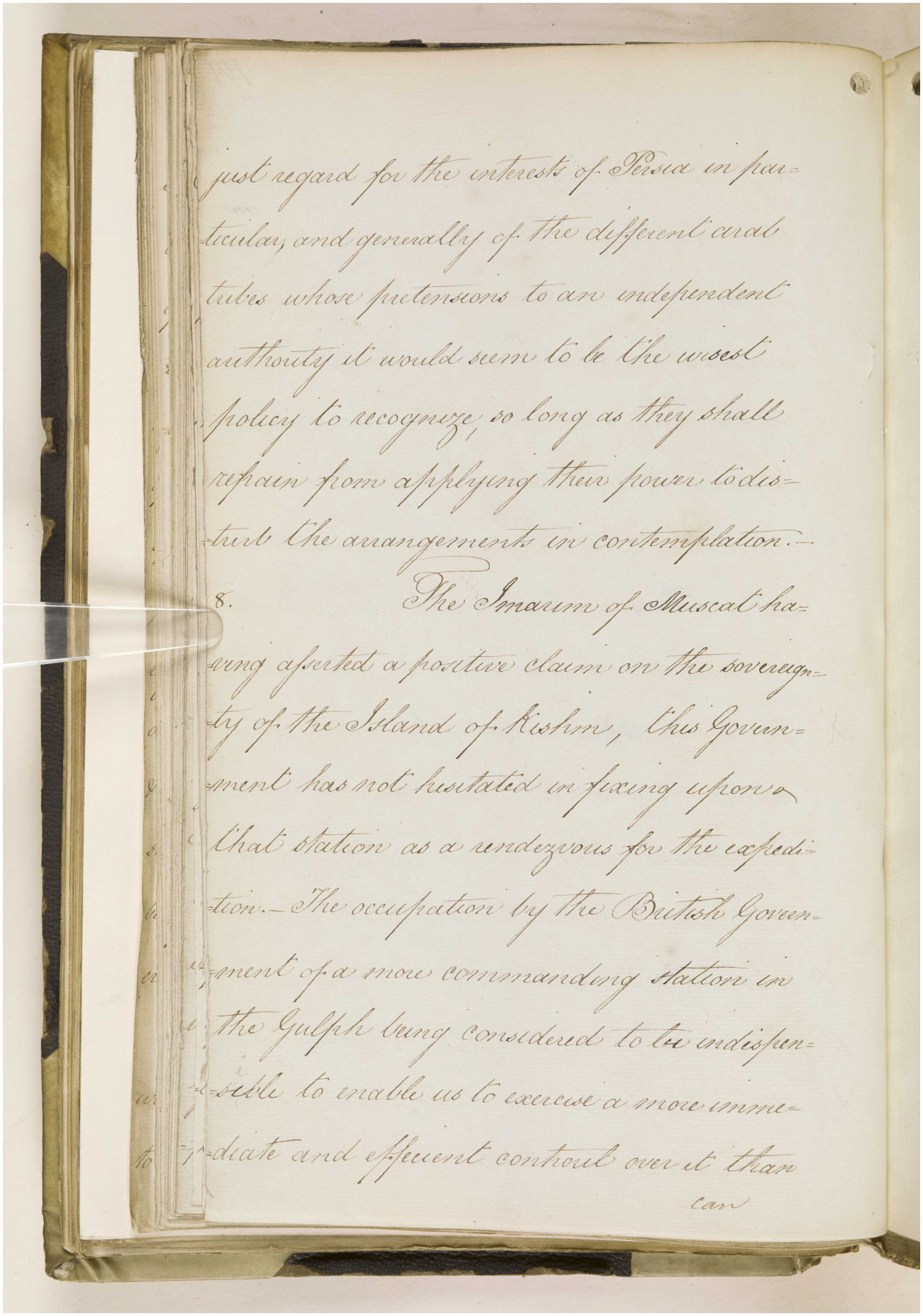

just regard for the interests of Persia in par=
ticular, and generally of the different and
tribes whose pretensions to an independent
authority it would seem to be the wisest
policy to recognize, so long as they shall
refrain from applying their power to dis=
turb the arrangements in contemplation.—

8. The Imaum of Muscat ha=
ving asserted a positive claim on the sovereign=
ty of the Island of Kishm, this Govern=
ment has not hesitated in fixing upon a
that station as a rendezvous for the expedi=
tion.— The occupation by the British Govern=
ment of a more commanding station in
the Gulph being considered to be indispen=
sable to enable us to exercise a more imme=
diate and efficient control over it than
can

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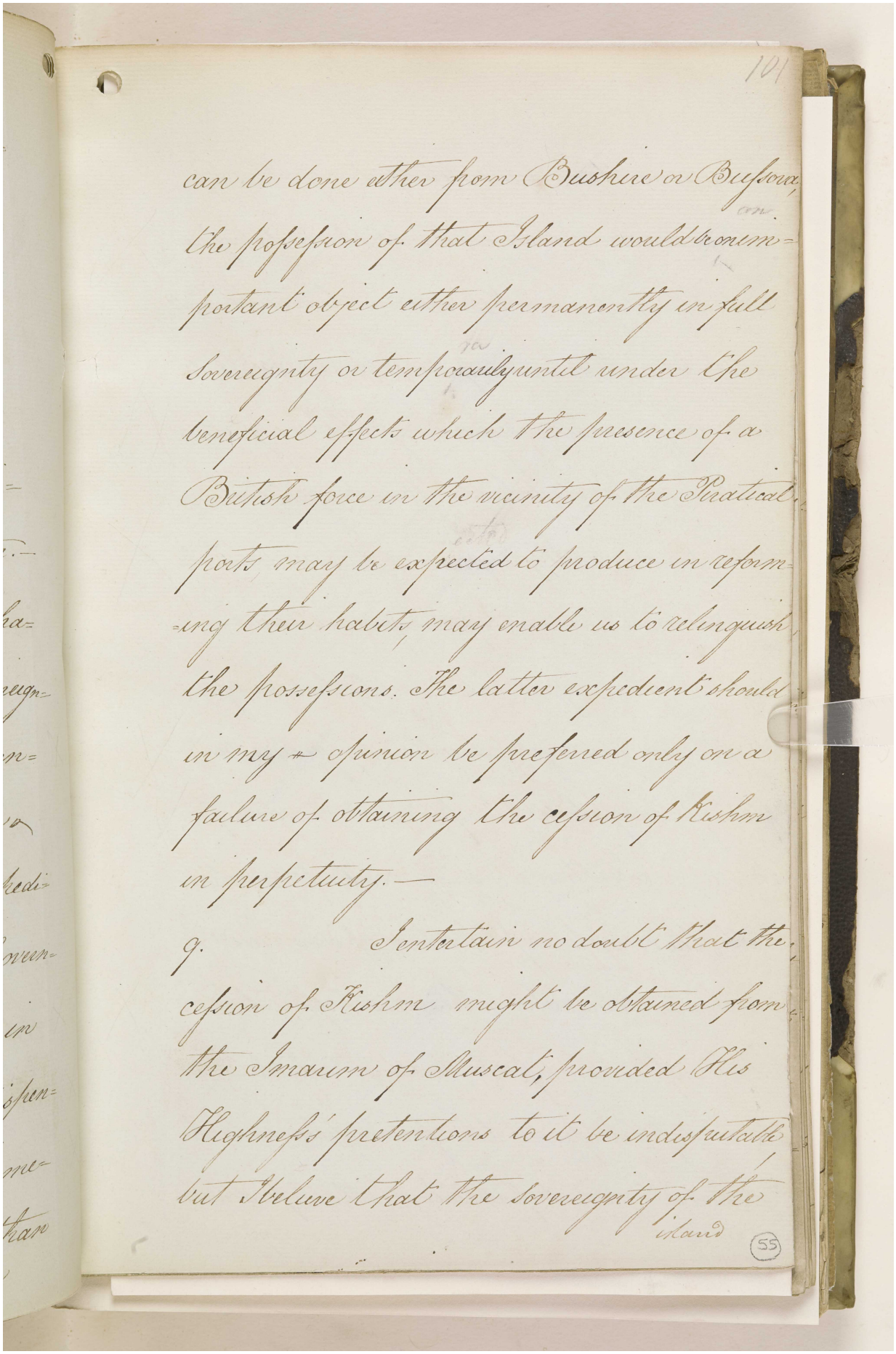

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can be done either from Bushire or Bussora, the possession of that Island would be an important object either permanently in full Sovereignty or temporarily until under the beneficial effects which the presence of a British force in the vicinity of the Piratical ports may be expected to produce in reforming their habits, may enable us to relinquish the possessions. The latter expedient should in my opinion be preferred only on a failure of obtaining the cession of Kishm in perpetuity. —

9. I entertain no doubt that the cession of Kishm might be obtained from the Imaum of Muscat, provided His Highness's pretentions to it be indisputable but I believe that the Sovereignty of the island

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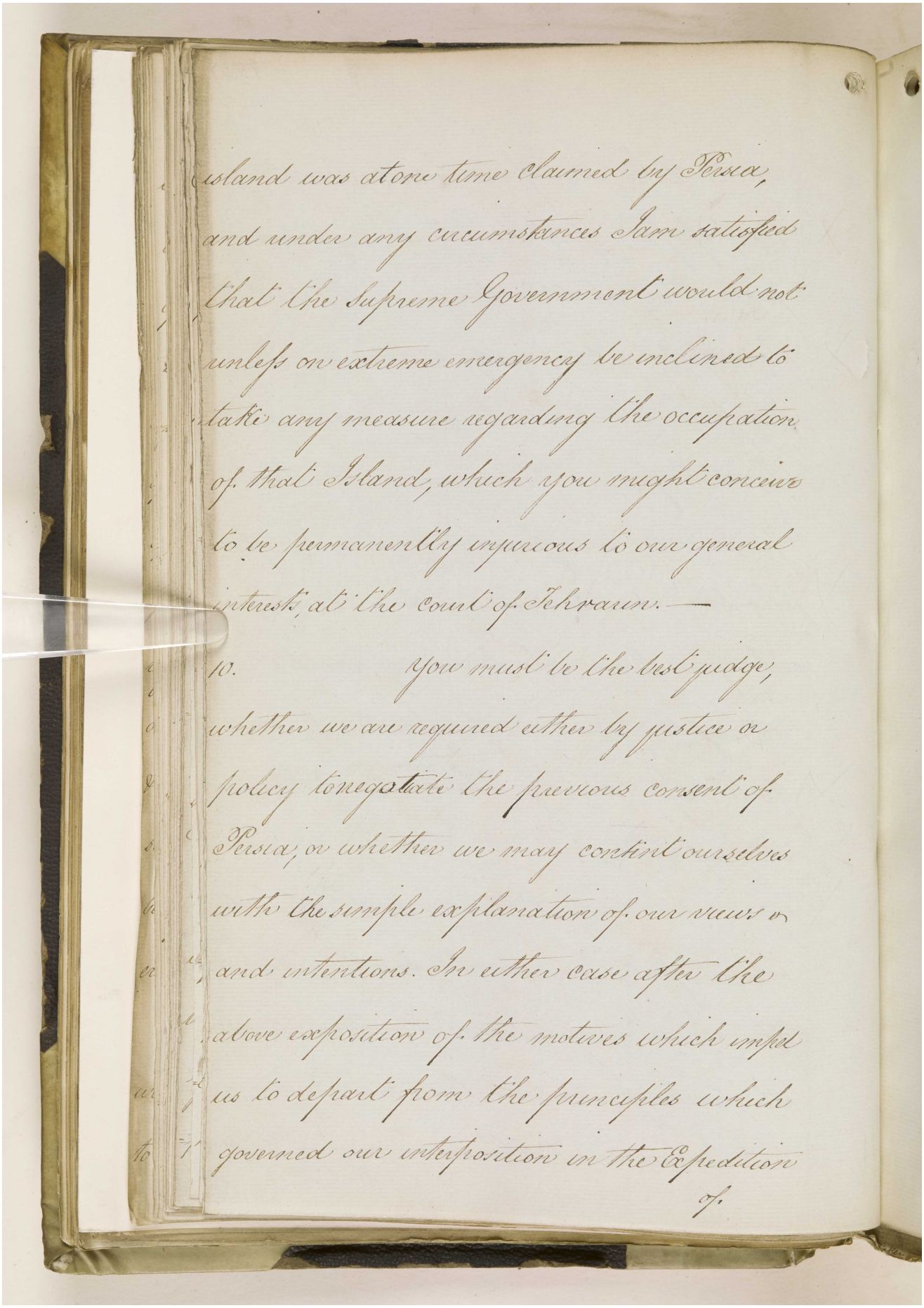

island was at one time claimed by Persia,
and under any circumstances I am satisfied
that the Supreme Government would not
unless on extreme emergency be inclined to
take any measure regarding the occupation
of that Island, which you might conceive
to be permanently injurious to our general
interests at the court of Tehraun. —

10. You must be the best judge,
whether we are required either by justice or
policy to negotiate the previous consent of
Persia, or whether we may content ourselves
with the simple explanation of our views
and intentions. In either case after the
above exposition of the motives which impel
us to depart from the principles which
governed our interposition in the Expedition
of

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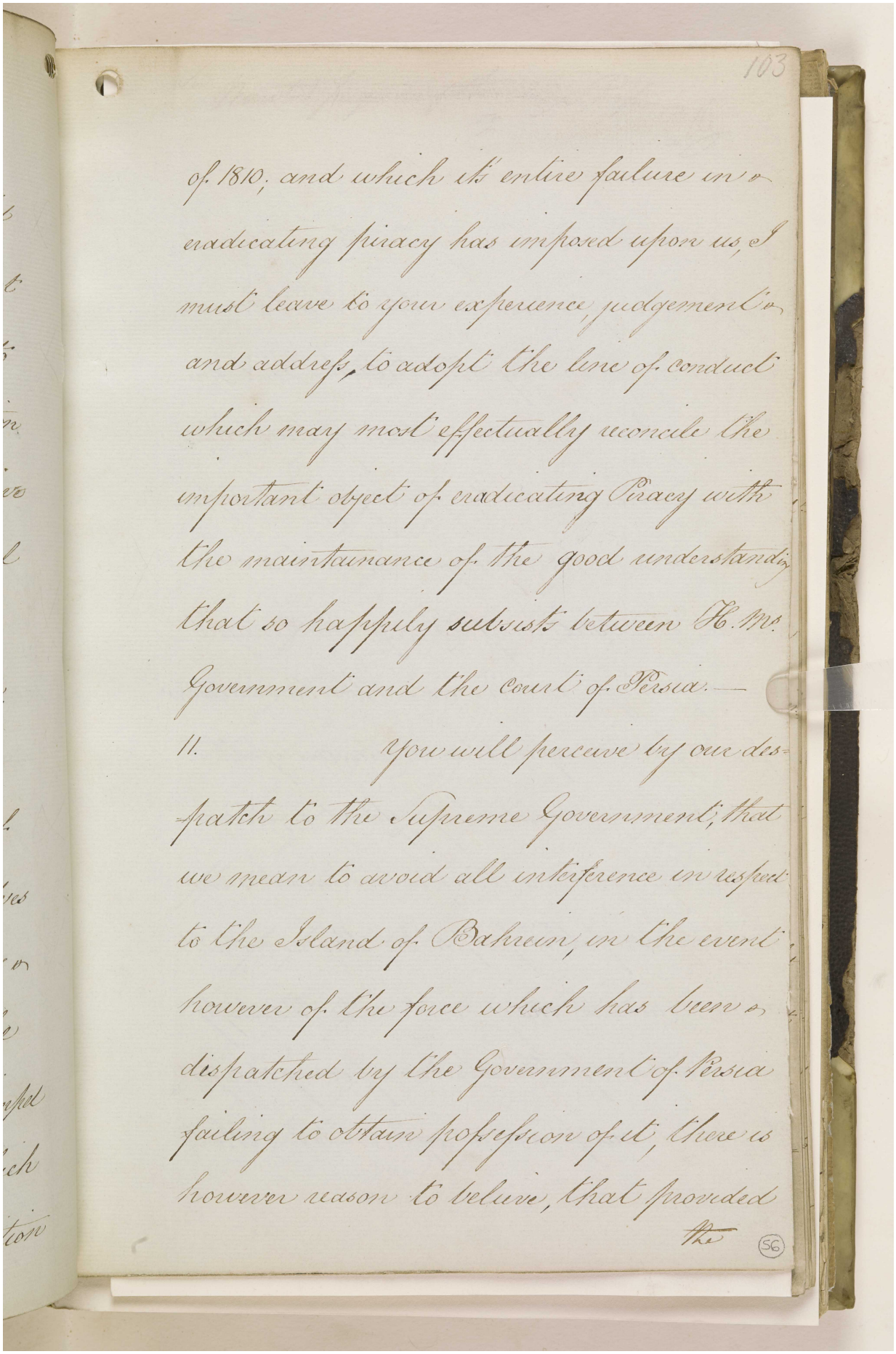

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of 1810, and which its entire failure in
eradicating piracy has imposed upon us, I
must leave to your experience, judgement &
and address, to adopt the line of conduct
which may most effectually reconcile the
important object of eradicating Piracy with
the maintainance of the good understandi
that so happily subsists between H.M.
Government and the court of Persia.—

11. You will perceive by our des-
patch to the Supreme Government, that
we mean to avoid all interference in respect
to the Island of Bahreun, in the event
however of the force which has been
dispatched by the Government of Persia
failing to obtain possession of it, there is
however reason to believe, that provided

the

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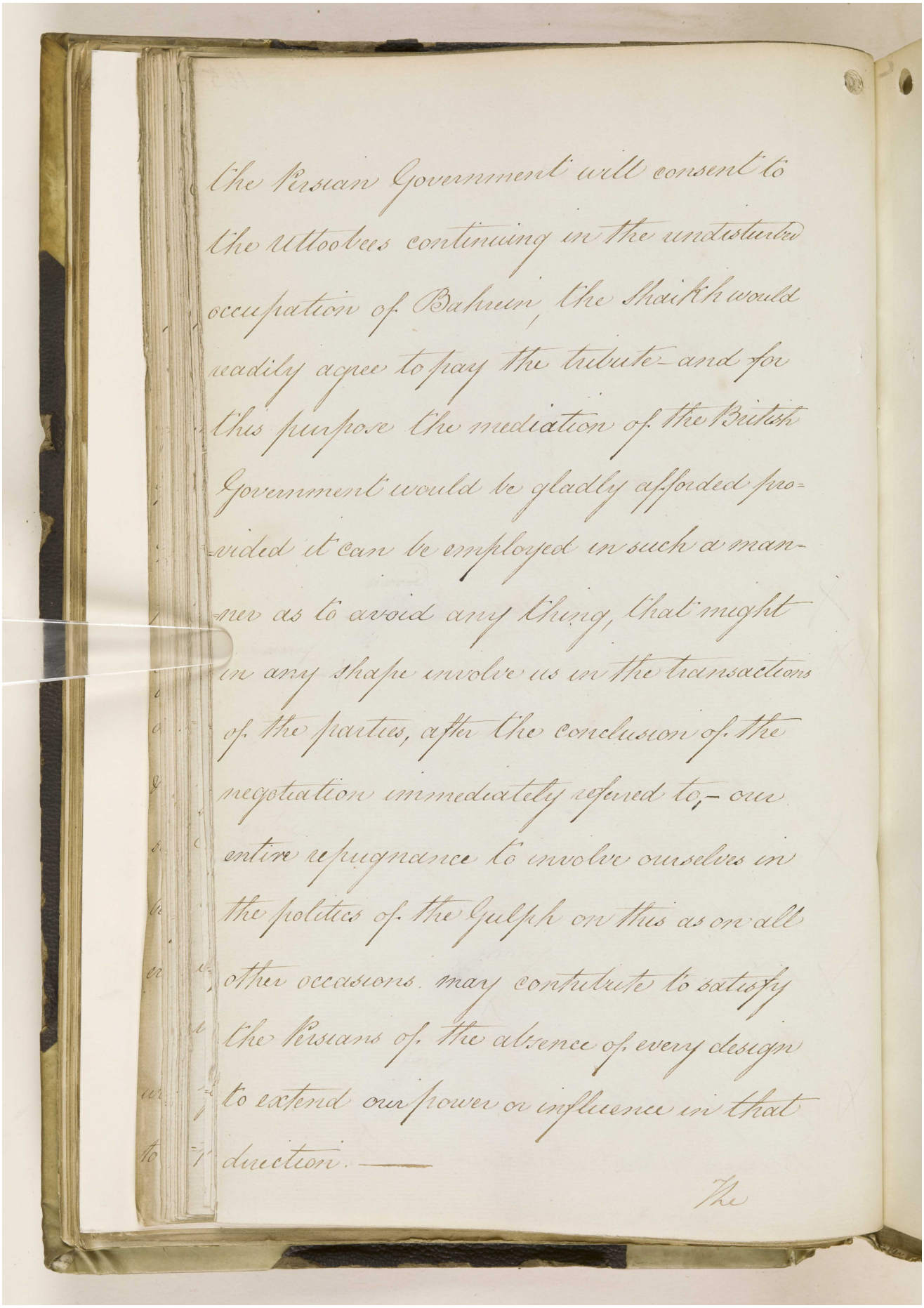

the Persian Government will consent to the Uttoobees continuing in the undisturbed occupation of Bahrein, the Shaikh would readily agree to pay the tribute – and for this purpose the mediation of the British Government would be gladly afforded provided it can be employed in such a manner as to avoid any thing, that might in any shape involve us in the transactions of the parties, after the conclusion of the negotiation immediately referred to, – our entire repugnance to involve ourselves in the politics of the Gulph on this as on all other occasions may contribute to satisfy the Persians of the absence of every design to extend our power or influence in that direction. ——

The

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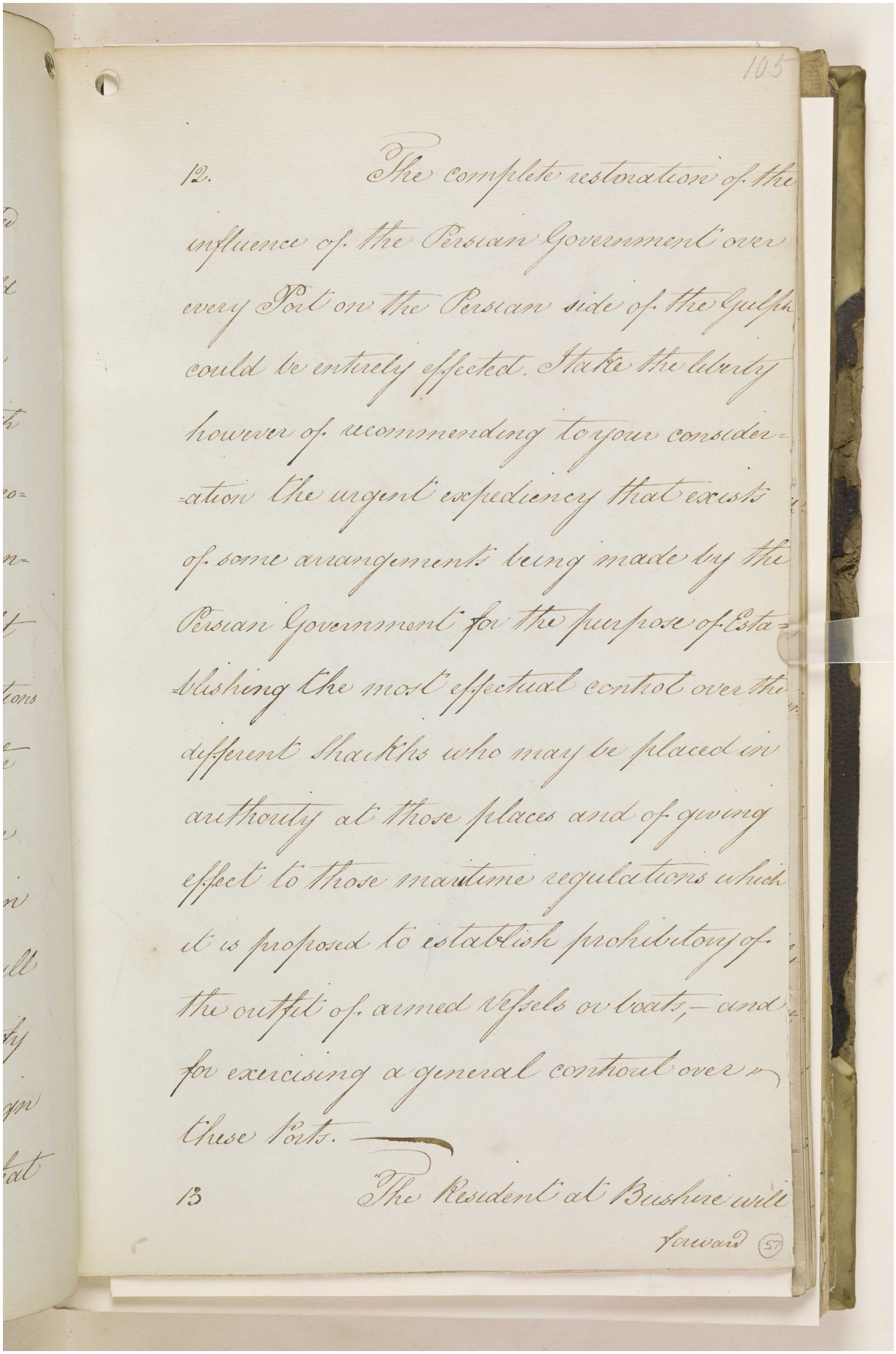

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12. The complete restoration of the influence of the Persian Government over every Port on the Persian side of the Gulph could be entirely effected. I take the liberty however of recommending to your consideration the urgent expediency that exists of some arrangements being made by the Persian Government for the purpose of Establishing the most effectual control over the different Shaikhs who may be placed in authority at those places and of giving effect to those maritime regulations which it is proposed to establish prohibitory of the outfit of armed Vessels or boats,— and for exercising a general control over these Ports.

13 The Resident at Bushire will

forward (57)

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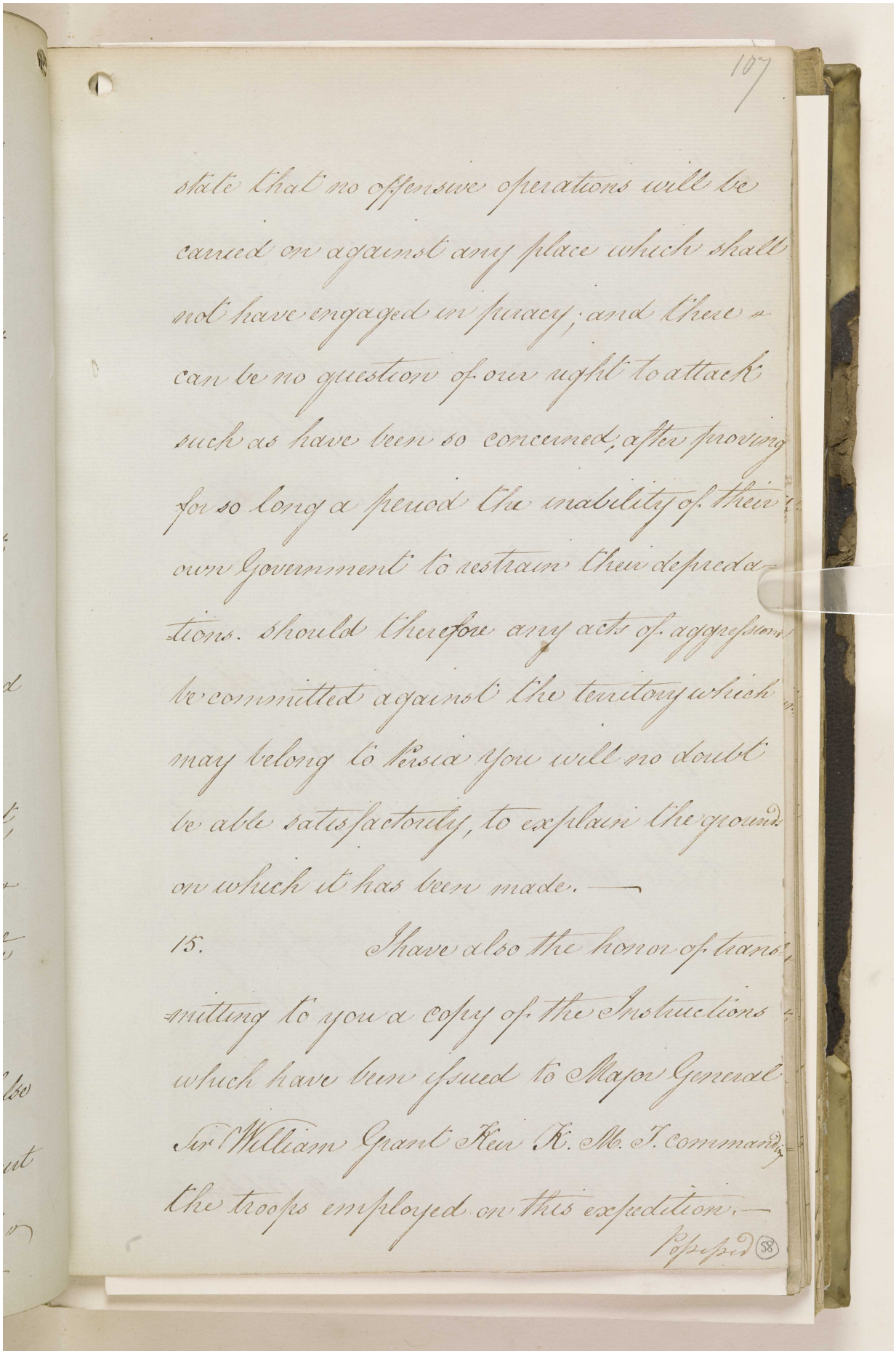
forward to you a report of the contumacious conduct of the Shaik of Canack, and containing the most decisive evidence of his having engaged in acts of piracy. I make no doubt that you will be able to obtain the orders for the removal of the Chieftain of that Island, which if the Persian Government should prove incapable of effecting, the force now in the Gulph may be employed in reducing him to subjection. —

14. It is not improbable that the officers commanding the Expedition may attack some Island or Port in the main, which may acknowledge allegiance to the Persian Government, and that false reports of our motives may reach the Court of Tehraun. It is scarcely necessary to state



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state that no offensive operations will be
carried on against any place which shall
not have engaged in piracy; and there
can be no question of our right to attack
such as have been so concerned, after proving
for so long a period the inability of their
own Government to restrain their depreda-
tions. Should therefore any acts of aggression
be committed against the territory which
may belong to Persia You will no doubt
be able satisfactorily, to explain the grounds
on which it has been made. —

15. I have also the honor of trans-
mitting to you a copy of the Instructions
which have been issued to Major General
Sir William Grant Keir K. M. T. commanding
the troops employed on this expedition. —

Postpaid (58)

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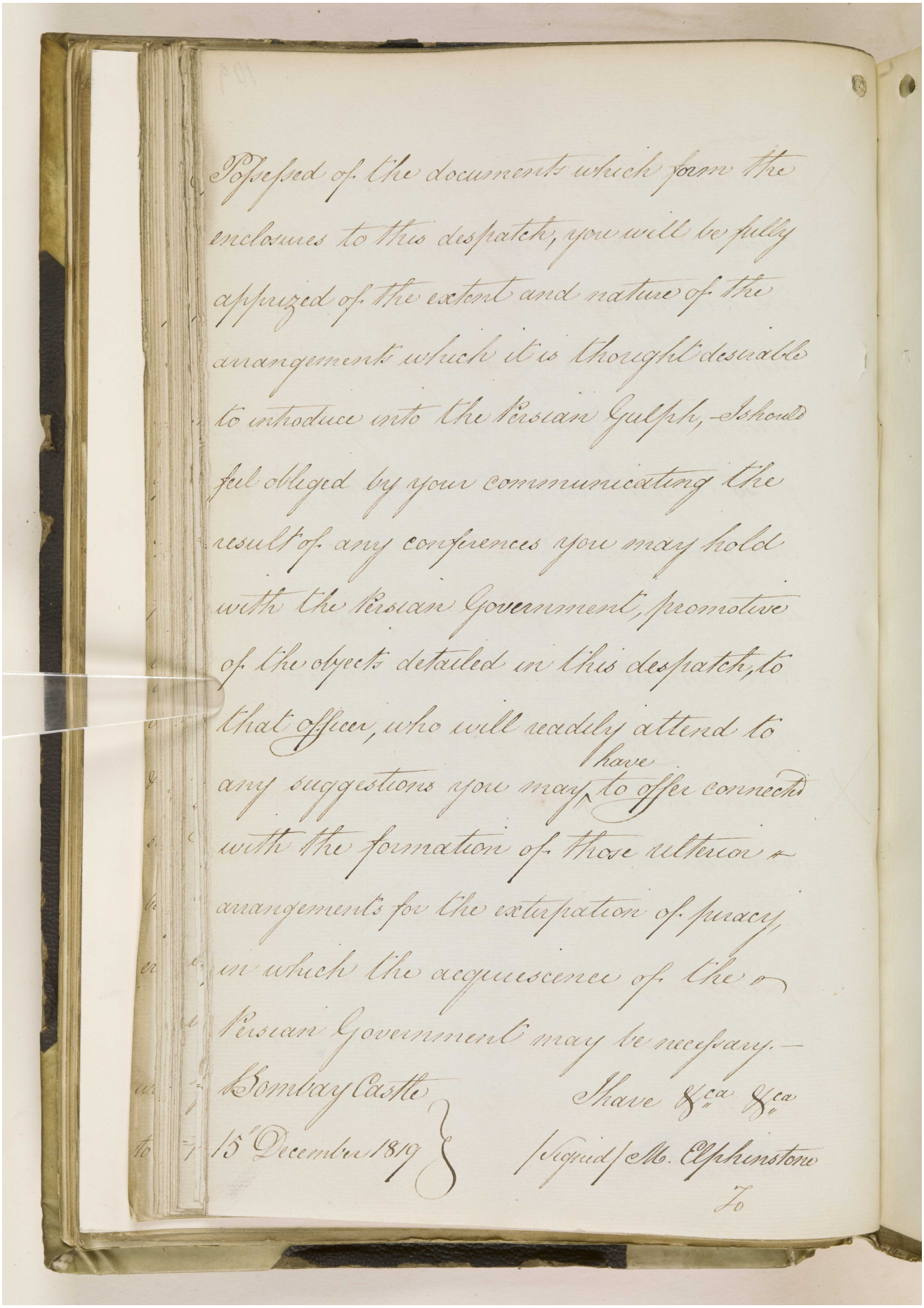

Possessed of the documents which form the
enclosures to this despatch, you will be fully
apprized of the extent and nature of the
arrangements which it is thought desirable
to introduce into the Persian Gulph, – I should
feel obliged by your communicating the
result of any conferences you may hold
with the Persian Government, promotive
of the objects detailed in this despatch, to
that Officer, who will readily attend to
any suggestions you may have to offer connected
with the formation of those ulterior
arrangements for the extirpation of piracy,
in which the acquiescence of the
Persian Government may be necessary. –

Bombay Castle
15th December 1819

I have &c.a &c.a
(Signed) M. Elphinstone

To

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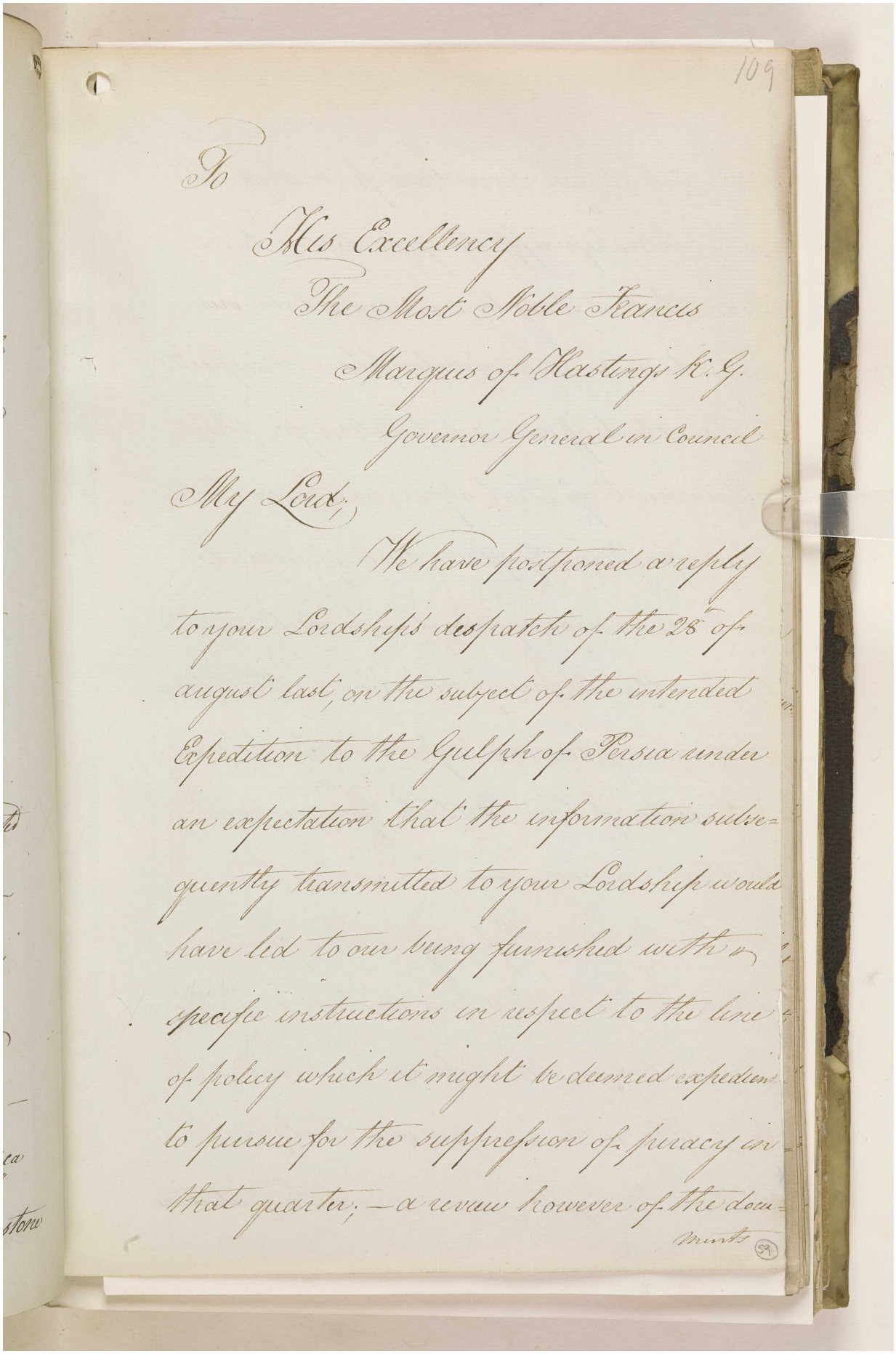

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To

His Excellency
The Most Noble Francis
Marquis of Hastings K. G.
Governor General in Council

My Lord,

We have postponed a reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of August last, on the subject of the intended Expedition to the Gulph of Persia under an expectation that the information subsequently transmitted to your Lordship would have led to our being furnished with specific instructions in respect to the line of policy which it might be deemed expedient to pursue for the suppression of piracy on that quarter; — a review however of the documents

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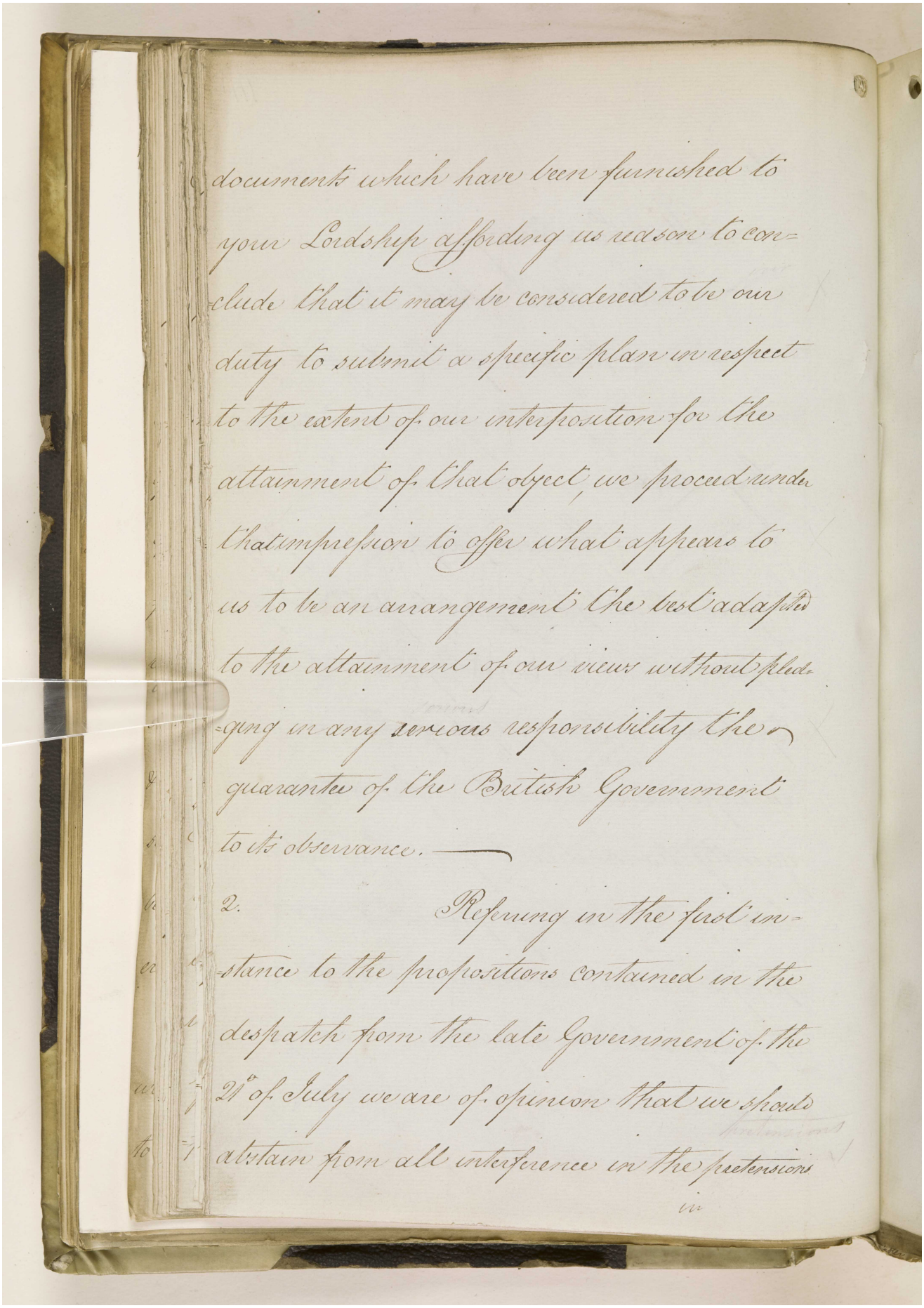

documents which have been furnished to
your Lordship affording us reason to con-
clude that it may be considered to be our
duty to submit a specific plan in respect
to the extent of our interposition for the
attainment of that object, we proceed under
that impression to offer what appears to
us to be an arrangement the best adapted
to the attainment of our view without plea-
ging in any serious responsibility the
guarantee of the British Government
to its observance. ——

2. Referring in the first in-
stance to the propositions contained in the
despatch from the late Government of the
21st of July we are of opinion that we should
abstain from all interference in the pretensions

in

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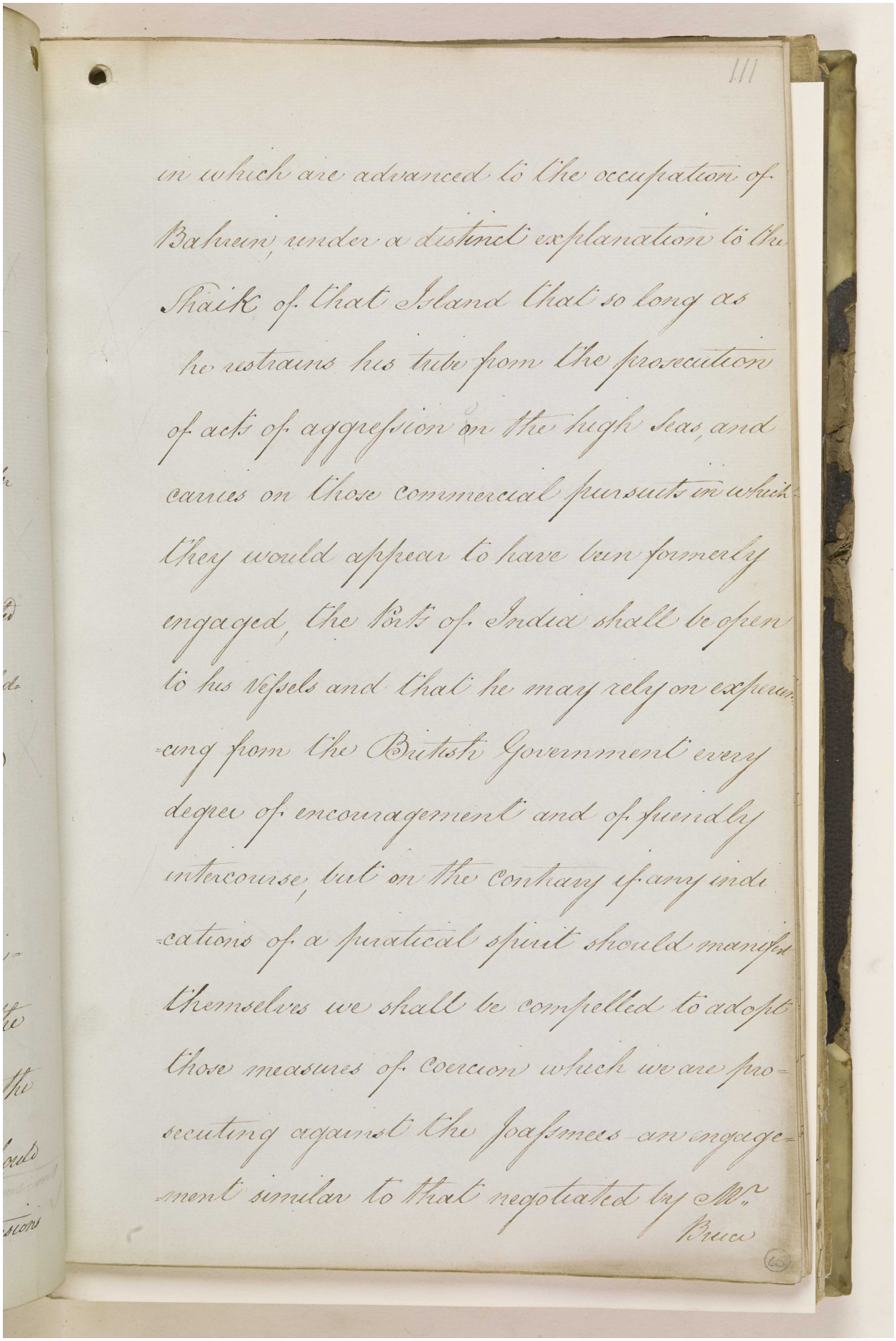

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in which are advanced to the occupation of
Bahrein, under a distinct explanation to the
Shaik of that Island that so long as
he restrains his tribe from the prosecution
of acts of aggression on the high Seas, and
carries on those commercial pursuits in which
they would appear to have been formerly
engaged, the Ports of India shall be open
to his Vessels and that he may rely on experi-
-encing from the British Government every
degree of encouragement and of friendly
intercourse, but on the contrary if any indi-
-cations of a piratical spirit should manifest
themselves we shall be compelled to adopt
those measures of coercion which we are pro-
-secuting against the Joasmees an engage-
-ment similar to that negotiated by Mr.
Bruce

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Bruce in the year 1816, would probably tend to
convince the attitude and of the integrity
of our intentions. —

3d. The transference then of the
Island of Bahreun to the Imaum of muscat
being abandoned, the proposition with which
it was coupled of His Highness's subsidizing
a British force should be relinquished as
under any circumstances impolitic and objec-
tionable. —

4th. With respect to the possession,
reduction of the Port of Rasul Khima, and
those contiguous to it from Rams to Abboo
Kayle, and the annihilation of that influence
under which it would appear to have en-
gaged in so extensive a degree in piratical
pursuits, will operate no doubt as an
immediate

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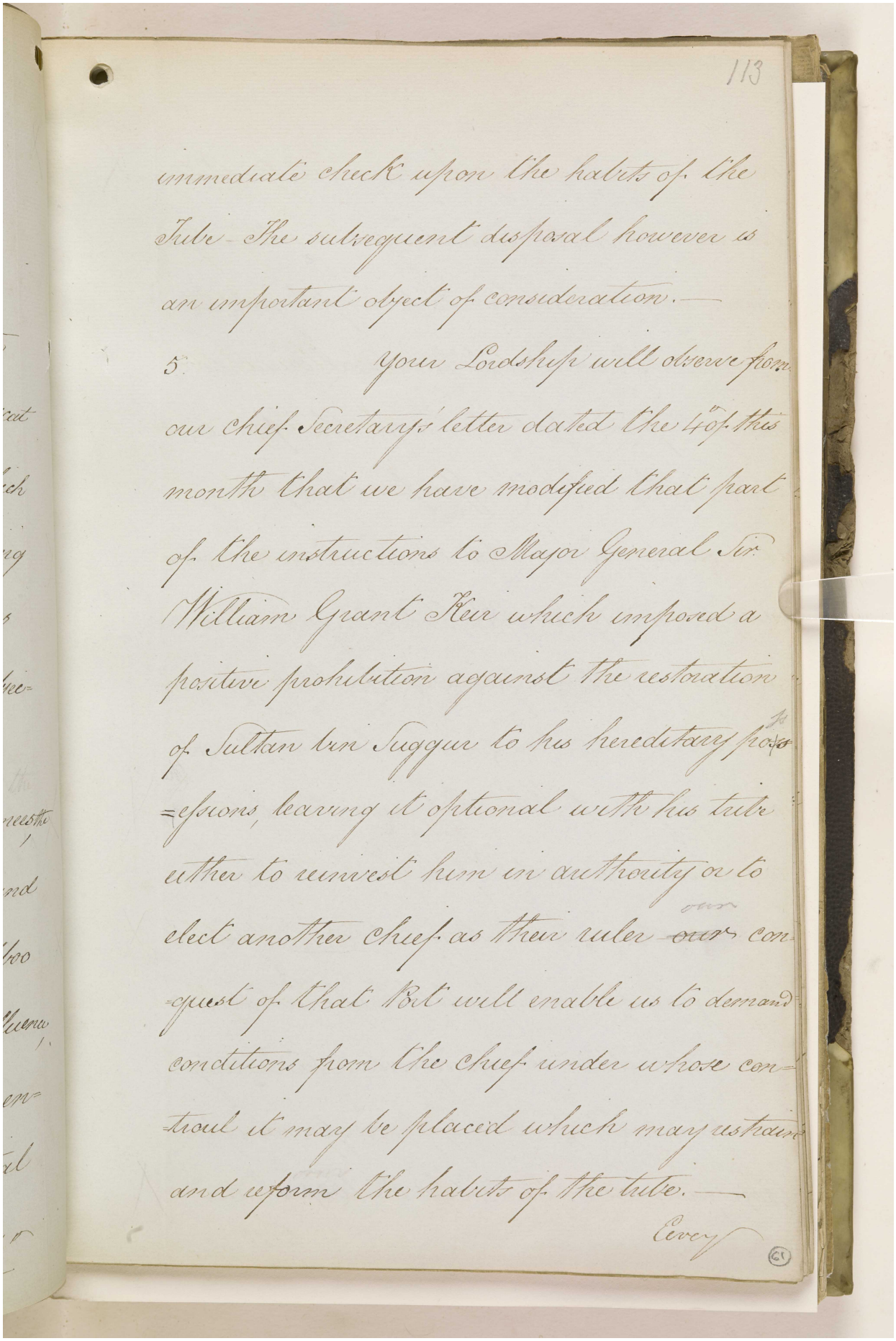

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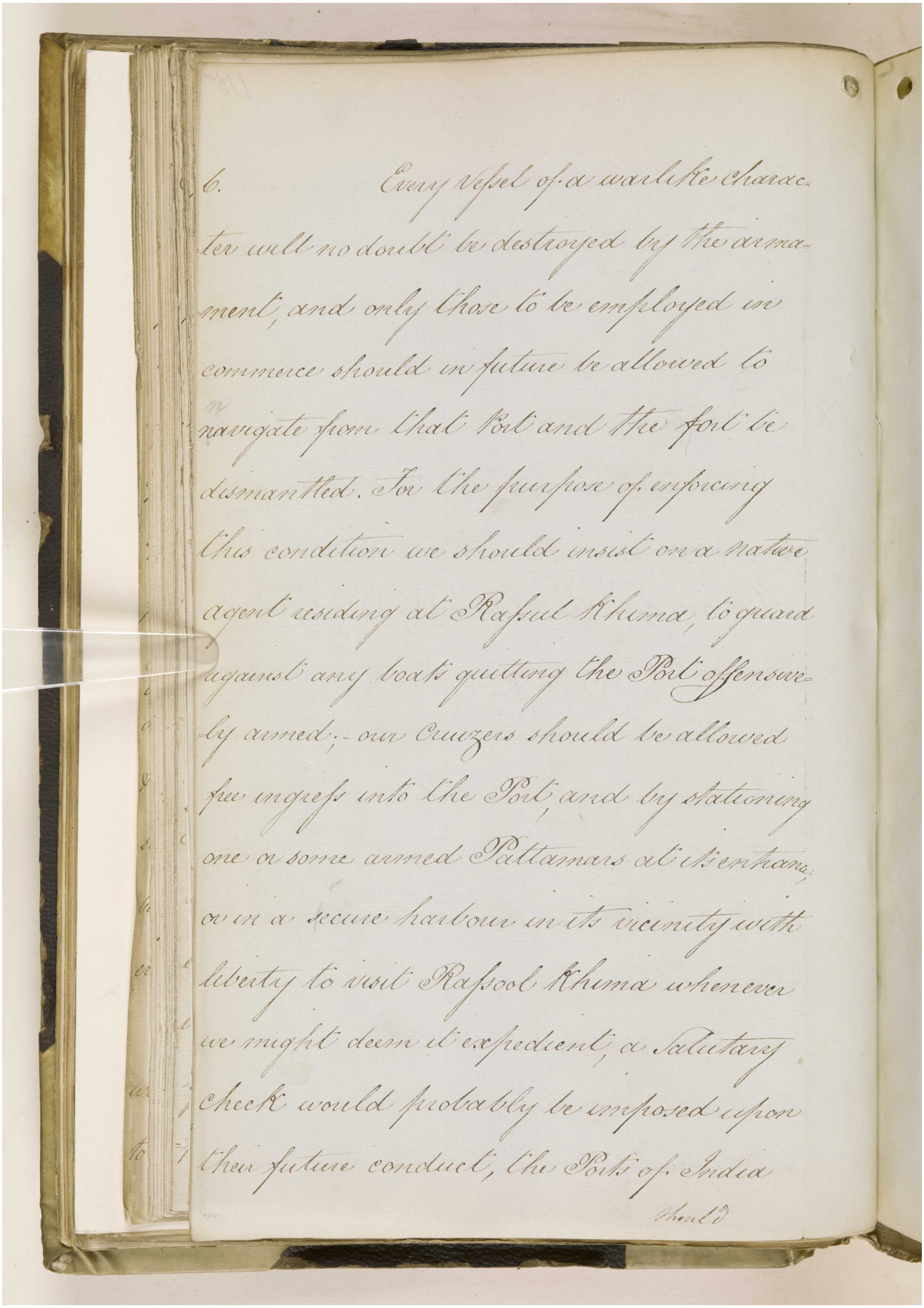
immediate check upon the habits of the Tribe - The subsequent disposal however is an important object of consideration. —

5. You Lordship will observe from our Chief Secretary's letter dated the 4th of this month that we have modified that part of the instructions to Major General Sir William Grant Keir which imposed a positive prohibition against the restoration of Sultan bin Suggur to his hereditary pos= =sessions, leaving it optional with his tribe either to reinvest him in authority or to elect another Chief as their ruler over con= =quest of that Port will enable us to demand conditions from the Chief under whose con= =trol it may be placed which may restrain and reform the habits of the tribe. —

Every



6. Every vessel of a warlike character will no doubt be destroyed by the armament, and only those to be employed in commerce should in future be allowed to navigate from that Port and the fort be dismantled. For the purpose of enforcing this condition we should insist on a native agent residing at Rasul Khima, to guard against any boats quitting the Port offensively armed; - our Cruizers should be allowed free ingress into the Port, and by stationing one or some armed Pattamars at Ibsenthana, or in a secure harbour in its vicinity with liberty to visit Rasool Khima whenever we might deem it expedient, a salutary check would probably be imposed upon their future conduct, the Ports of India

should

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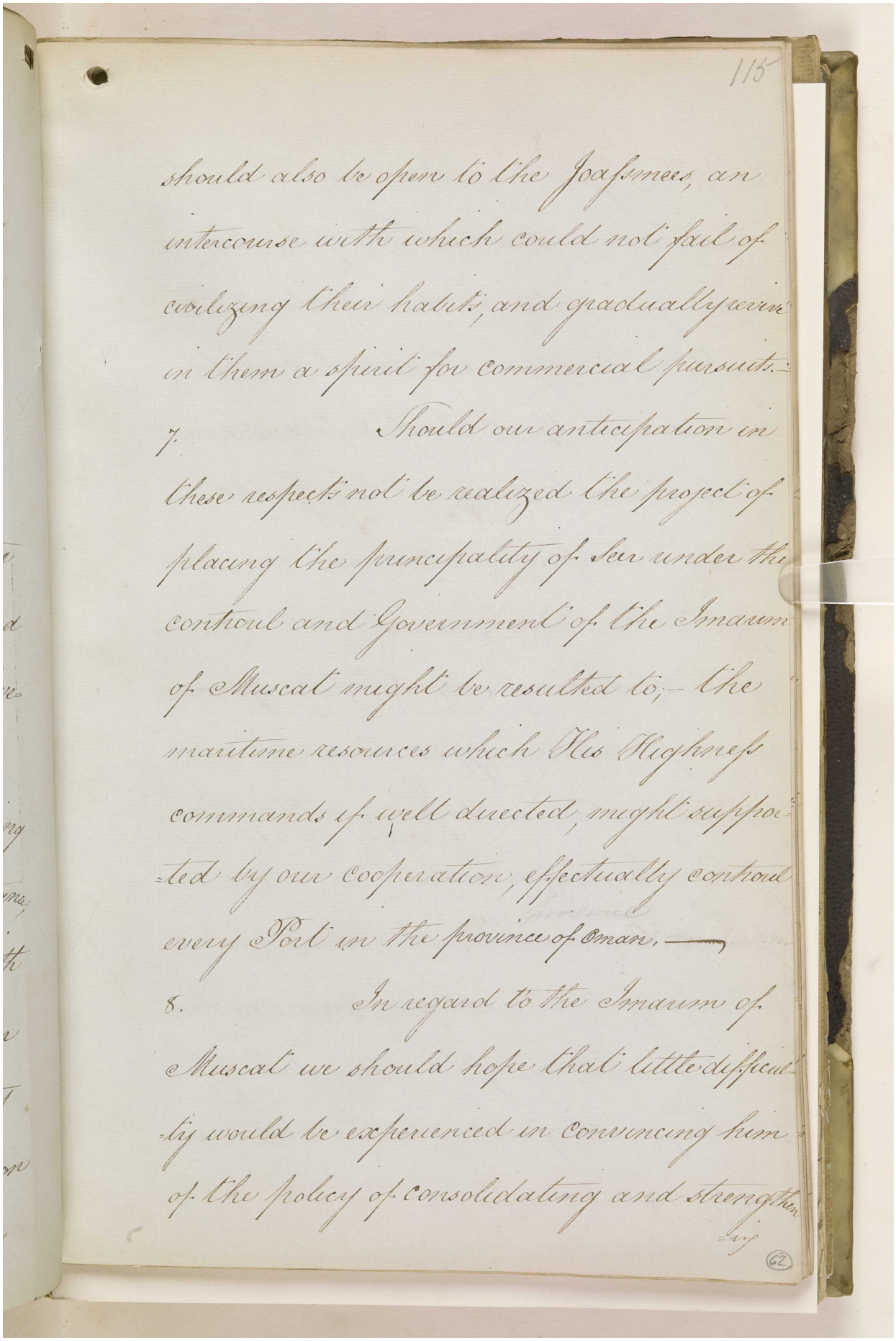

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should also be open to the Joasmees, an intercourse with which could not fail of civilizing their habits, and gradually create in them a spirit for commercial pursuits.

7. Should our anticipation in these respects not be realized the project of placing the principality of Seer under the control and Government of the Imaum of Muscat might be resulted to,— the maritime resources which His Highness commands if well directed, might supported by our cooperation, effectually control every Port in the province of Oman.

8. In regard to the Imaum of Muscat we should hope that little difficulty would be experienced in convincing him of the policy of consolidating and strengthening

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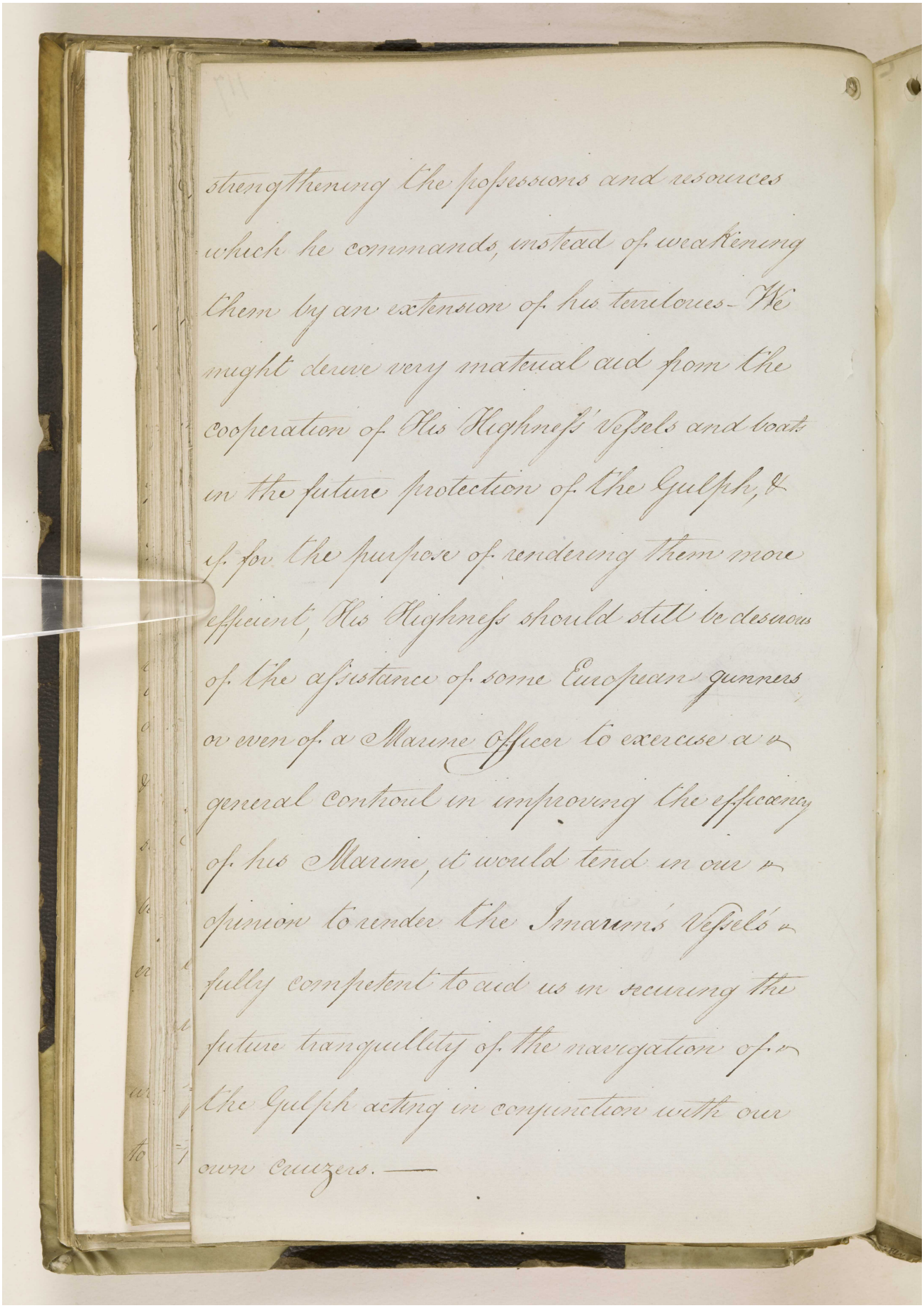
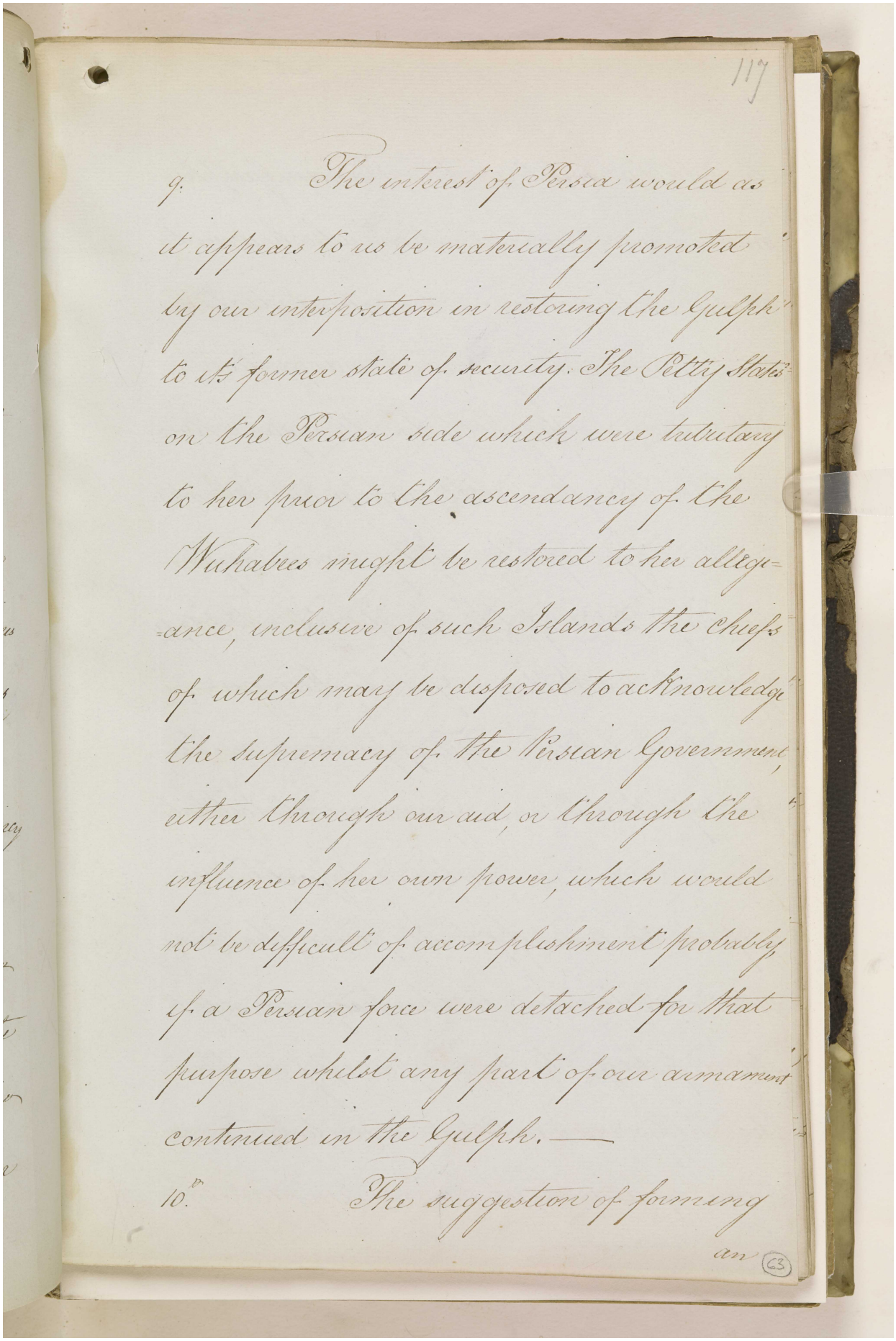


strengthening the possessions and resources which he commands, instead of weakening them by an extension of his territories. We might derive very material aid from the cooperation of His Highness' Vessels and boats in the future protection of the Gulph, & if for the purpose of rendering them more effient, His Highness should still be desirous of the assistance of some European gunners or even of a Marine Officer to exercise a general controul in improving the efficacy of his Marine, it would tend in our opinion to render the Imaum's Vessels fully competent to aid us in securing the future tranquility of the navigation of the Gulph acting in conjunction with our own Cruizers. —



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9. The interest of Persia would as it appears to us be materially promoted by our interposition in restoring the Gulph to its former state of security. The Petty States on the Persian side which were tributary to her prior to the ascendancy of the Wahabees might be restored to her allegiance, inclusive of such Islands the chiefs of which may be disposed to acknowledge the supremacy of the Persian Government either through our aid, or through the influence of her own power, which would not be difficult of accomplishment probably if a Persian force were detached for that purpose whilst any part of our armament continued in the Gulph. —

10th The suggestion of forming

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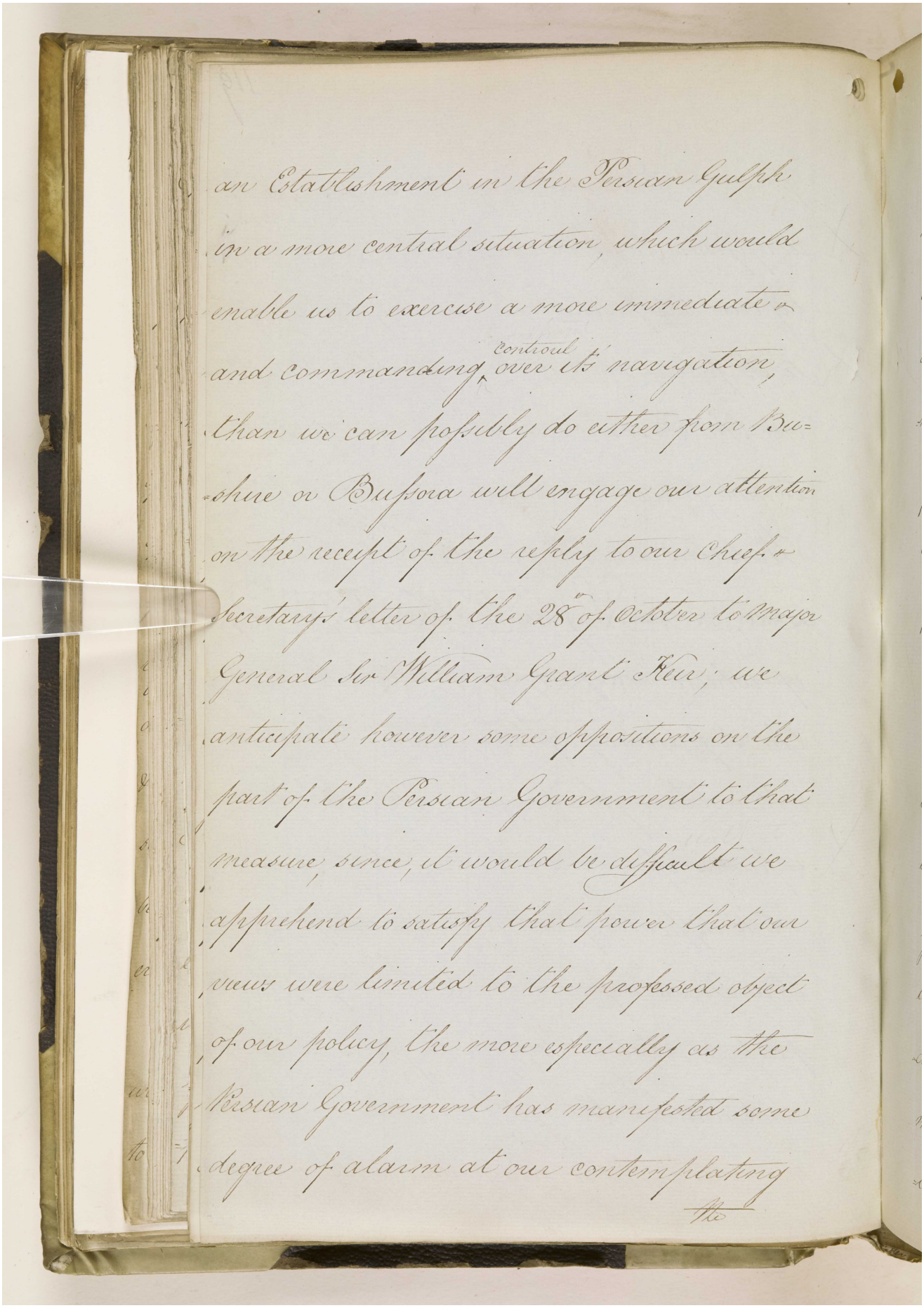

an Establishment in the Persian Gulph
in a more central situation, which would
enable us to exercise a more immediate &
and commanding controul over its navigation,
than we can possibly do either from Bu=
shire or Bussora will engage our attention
on the receipt of the reply to our Chief &
Secretary's letter of the 28th of October to Major
General Sir William Grant Keir; we
anticipate however some opposition on the
part of the Persian Government to that
measure, since, it would be difficult we
apprehend to satisfy that power that our
views were limited to the professed object
of our policy, the more especially as the
Persian Government has manifested some
degree of alarm at our contemplating
the

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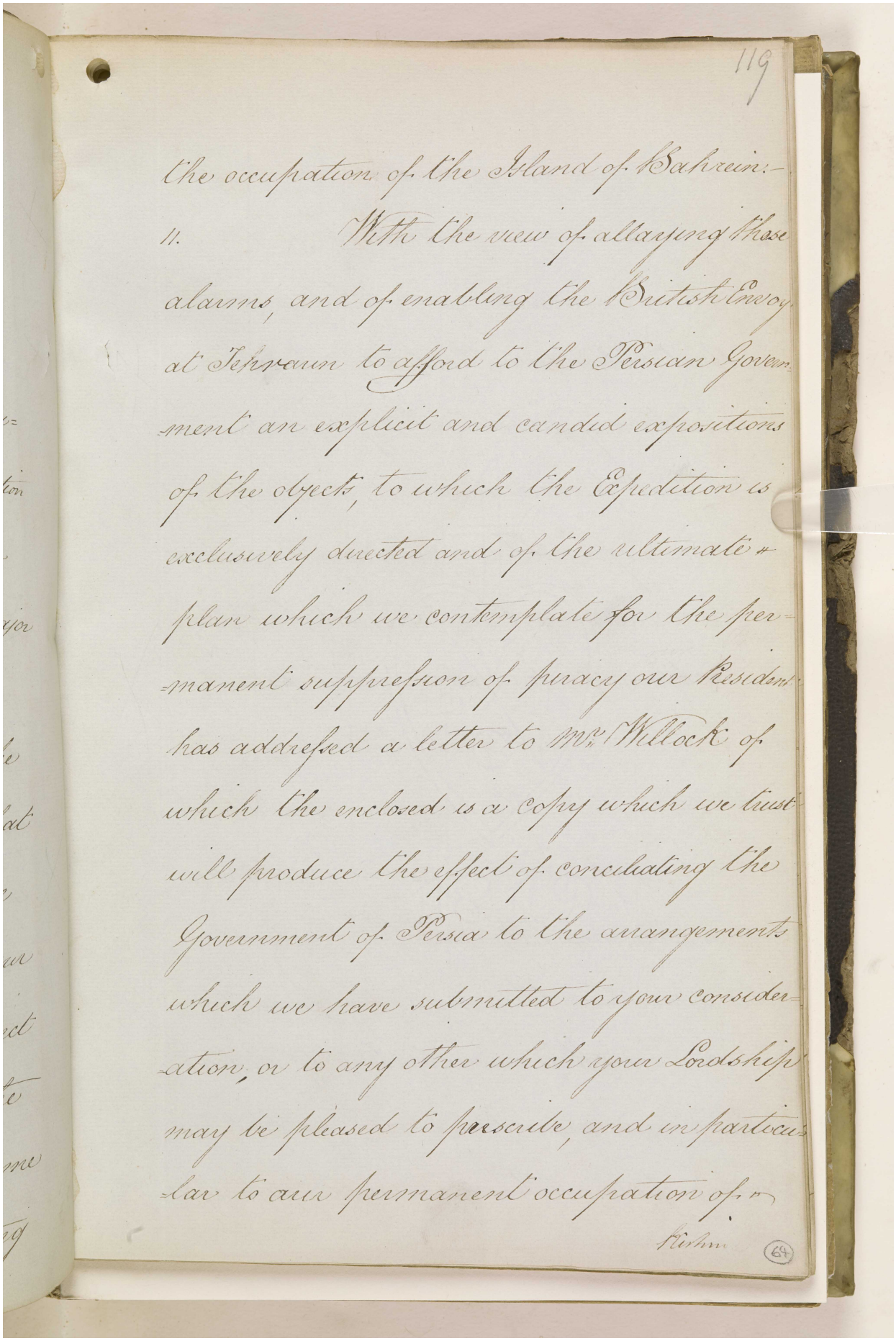

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the occupation of the Island of Bahrein:-

11. With the view of allaying those alarms, and of enabling the British Envoy at Tehraun to afford to the Persian Government an explicit and candid exposition of the objects, to which the Expedition is exclusively directed and of the ultimate plan which we contemplate for the permanent suppression of piracy our Resident has addressed a letter to Mr. Willock of which the enclosed is a copy which we trust will produce the effect of conciliating the Government of Persia to the arrangements which we have submitted to your consideration, or to any other which your Lordship may be pleased to prescribe, and in particular to our permanent occupation of Kishm

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Kishm, it would be premature in us to offer any opinion on the prospect of our being capable of maintaining an Establishment on that Island without exposing the public to any additional expense beyond what is at present incurred in the Gulph, whatever expense however may be incurred on the occasion will, we should hope, be made than compensated by the security, which the valuable trade to that quarter will derive from the measure, and which will admit of reduction as our influence becomes consolidated and the Piratical tribes abandon their predatory pursuits.—

12th It is our intention to station as large a Marine force in the Gulph as we can spare with some armed boats for the

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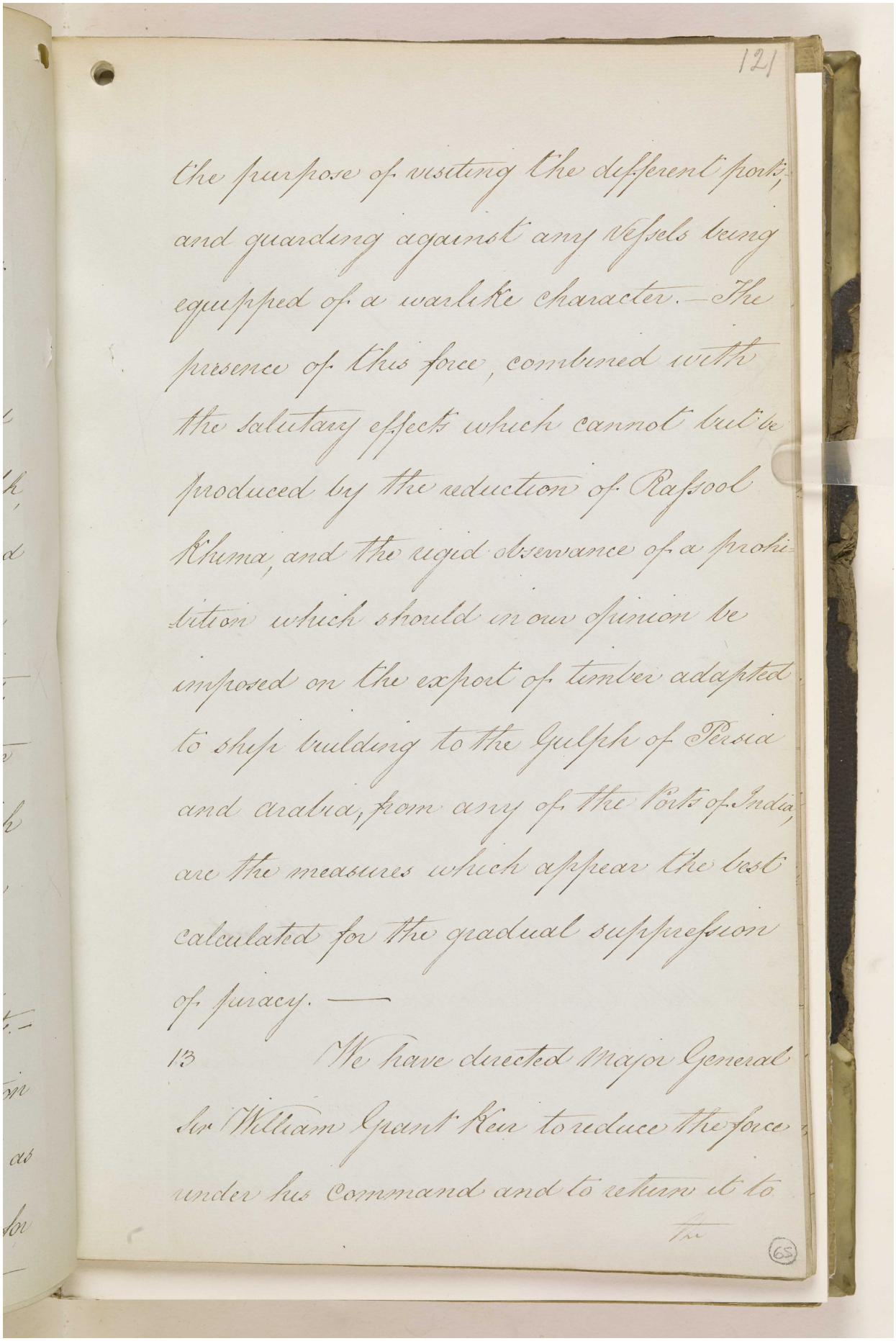

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the purpose of visiting the different ports, and guarding against any Vessels being equipped of a warlike character.—The presence of this force, combined with the salutary effects which cannot but be produced by the reduction of Rasool Khima, and the rigid observance of a prohibition which should in our opinion be imposed on the export of timber adapted to ship building to the Gulph of Persia and Arabia, from any of the Ports of India, are the measures which appear the best calculated for the gradual suppression of piracy.—

13 We have directed Major General Sir William Grant Kcb to reduce the force under his Command and to return it to

the

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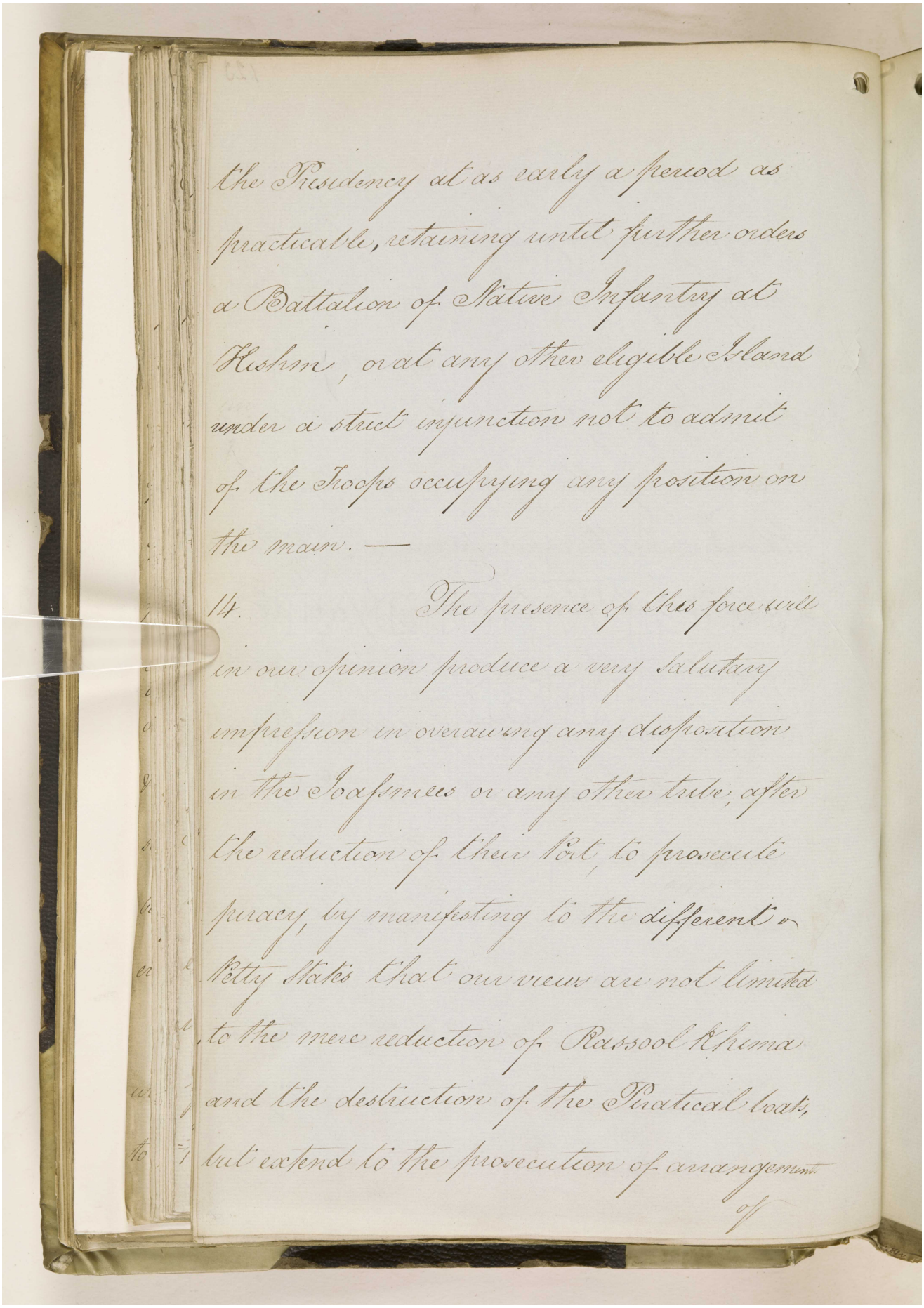
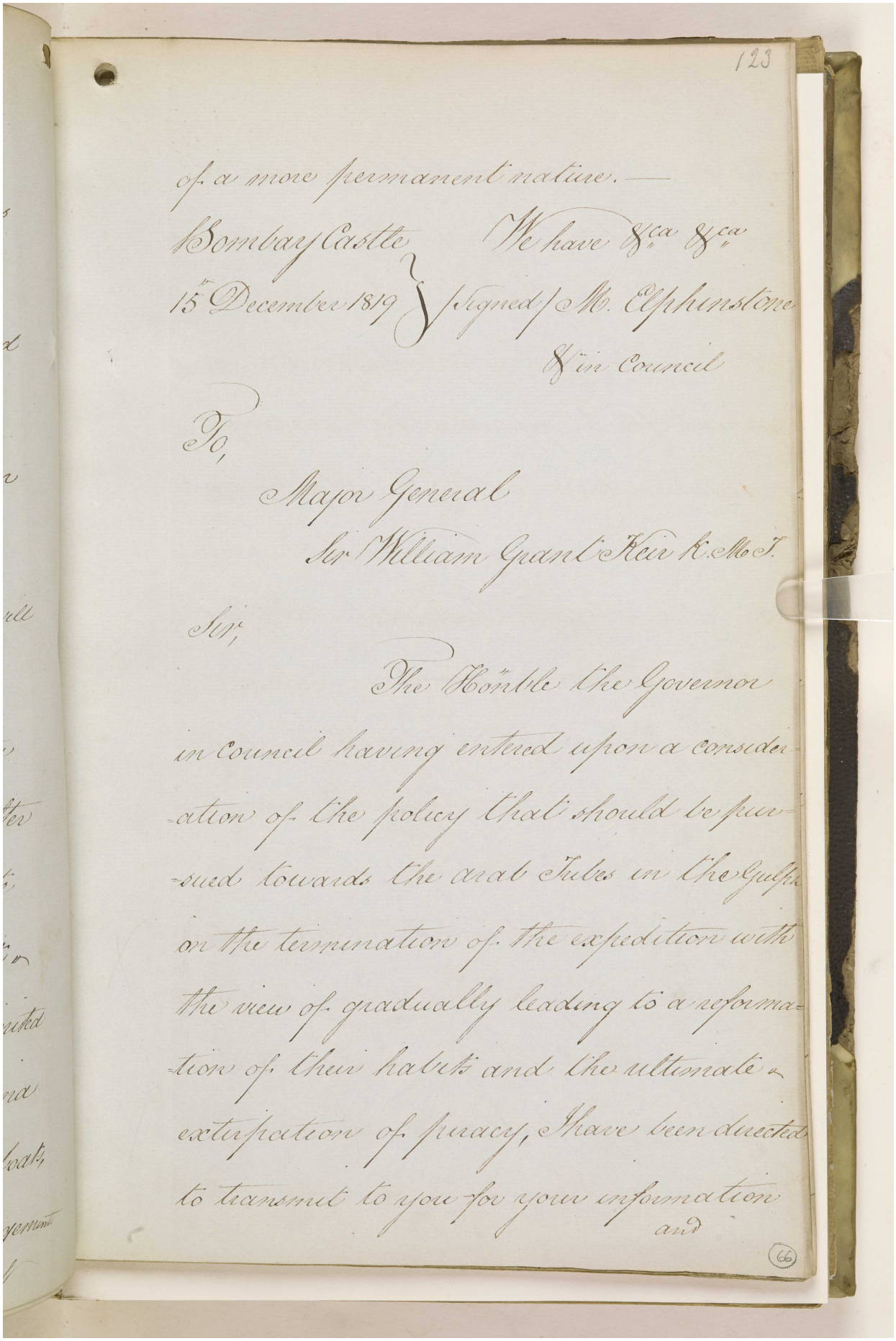


the Presidency at as early a period as
practicable, retaining until further orders
a Battalion of Native Infantry at
Kishm, or at any other eligible Island
under a strict injunction not to admit
of the Troops occupying any position on
the main. —

14. The presence of this force will
in our opinion produce a very salutary
impression in overawing any disposition
in the Joasmees or any other tribe, after
the reduction of their Port, to prosecute
piracy, by manifesting to the different or
petty States that our views are not limited
to the mere reduction of Rassool Khima
and the destruction of the Piratical boats,
but extend to the prosecution of arrangement
of



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of a more permanent nature. —

Bombay Castle
15th December 1819

We have &c.a &c.a
Signed/ M. Elphinstone
& in Council

To,

Major General
Sir William Grant Keir K.M.T.

Sir,

The Honble the Governor in Council having entered upon a consideration of the policy that should be pursued towards the Arab Tribes in the Gulph on the termination of the expedition with the view of gradually leading to a reformation of their habits and the ultimate extirpation of piracy, I have been directed to transmit to you for your information and

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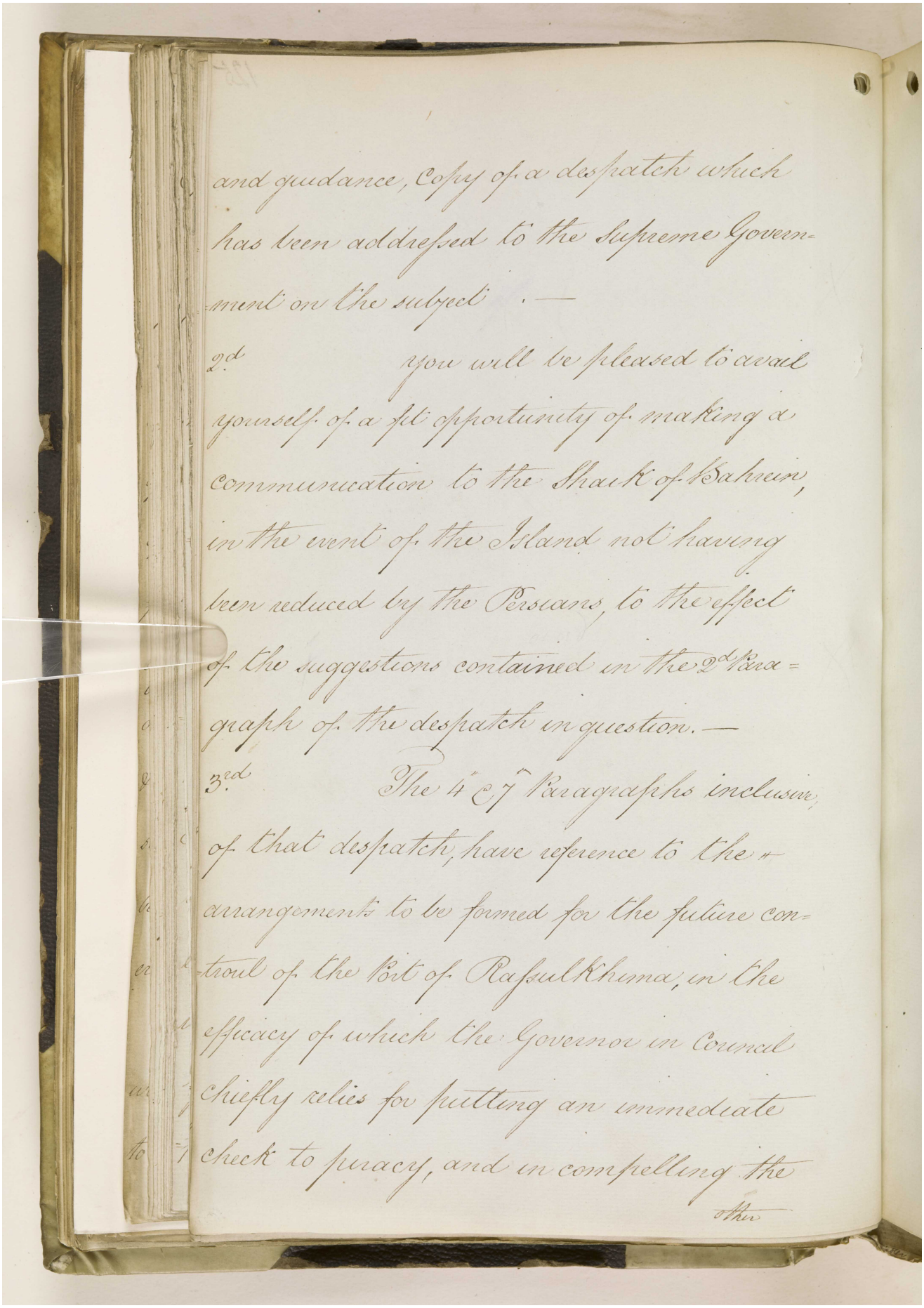

and guidance, Copy of a despatch which has been addressed to the Supreme Government on the subject. —

2d You will be pleased to avail yourself of a fit opportunity of making a communication to the Shaik of Bahrein, in the event of the Island not having been reduced by the Persians, to the effect of the suggestions contained in the 2d Paragraph of the despatch in question. —

3rd The 4th & 7th Paragraphs inclusive of that despatch, have reference to the arrangements to be formed for the future control of the Port of Rasulkhima, in the efficacy of which the Governor in Council chiefly relies for putting an immediate check to piracy, and in compelling the

other

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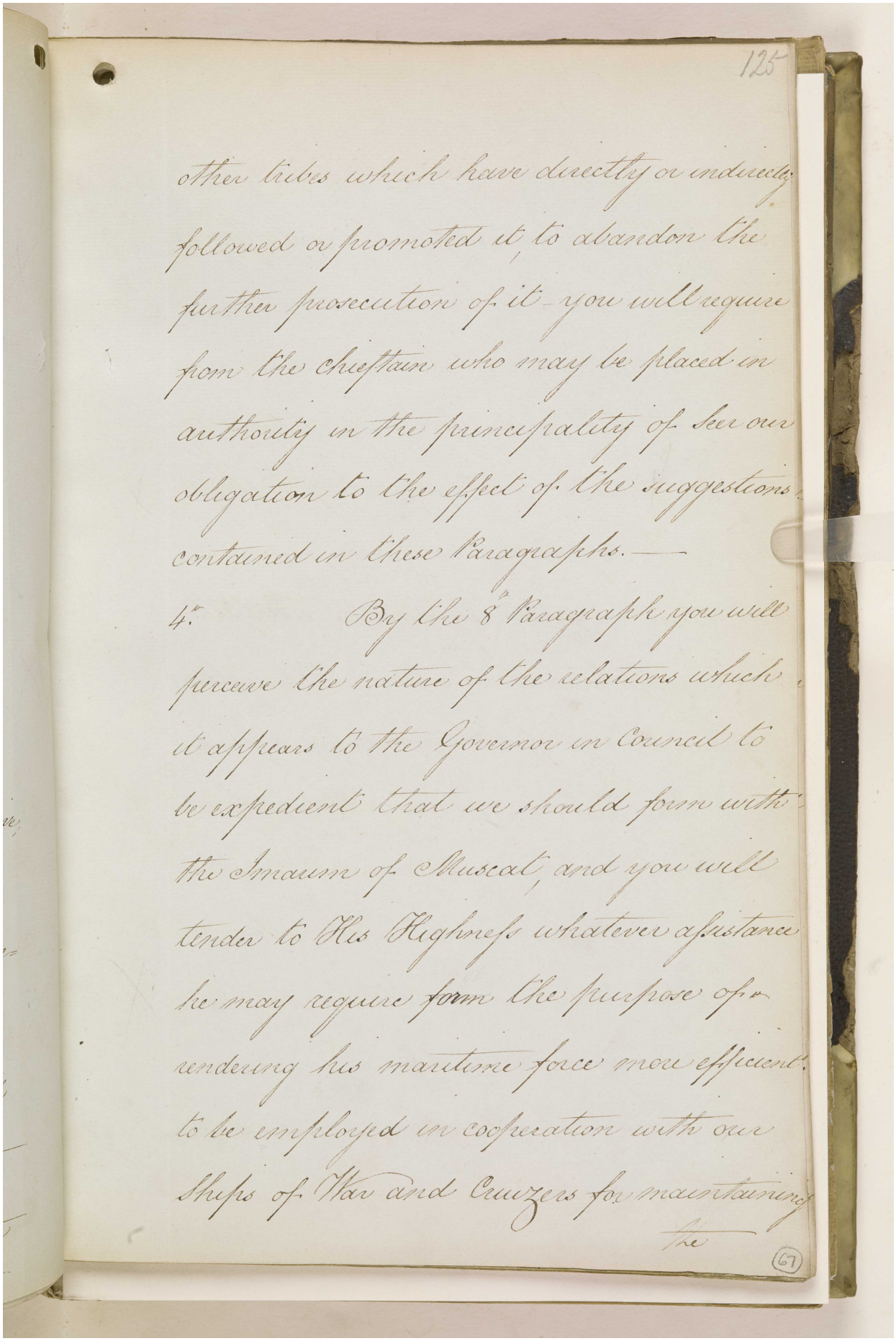

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other tribes which have directly or indirectly followed or promoted it, to abandon the further prosecution of it - you will require from the Chieftain who may be placed in authority in the principality of Seer our obligation to the effect of the suggestions contained in these Paragraphs. —

4th By the 8th Paragraph you will perceive the nature of the relations which it appears to the Governor in Council to be expedient that we should form with the Imaum of Muscat, and you will tender to His Highness whatever assistance he may require from the purpose of rendering his maritime force more efficient to be employed in cooperation with our Ships of War and Cruizers for maintaining

the

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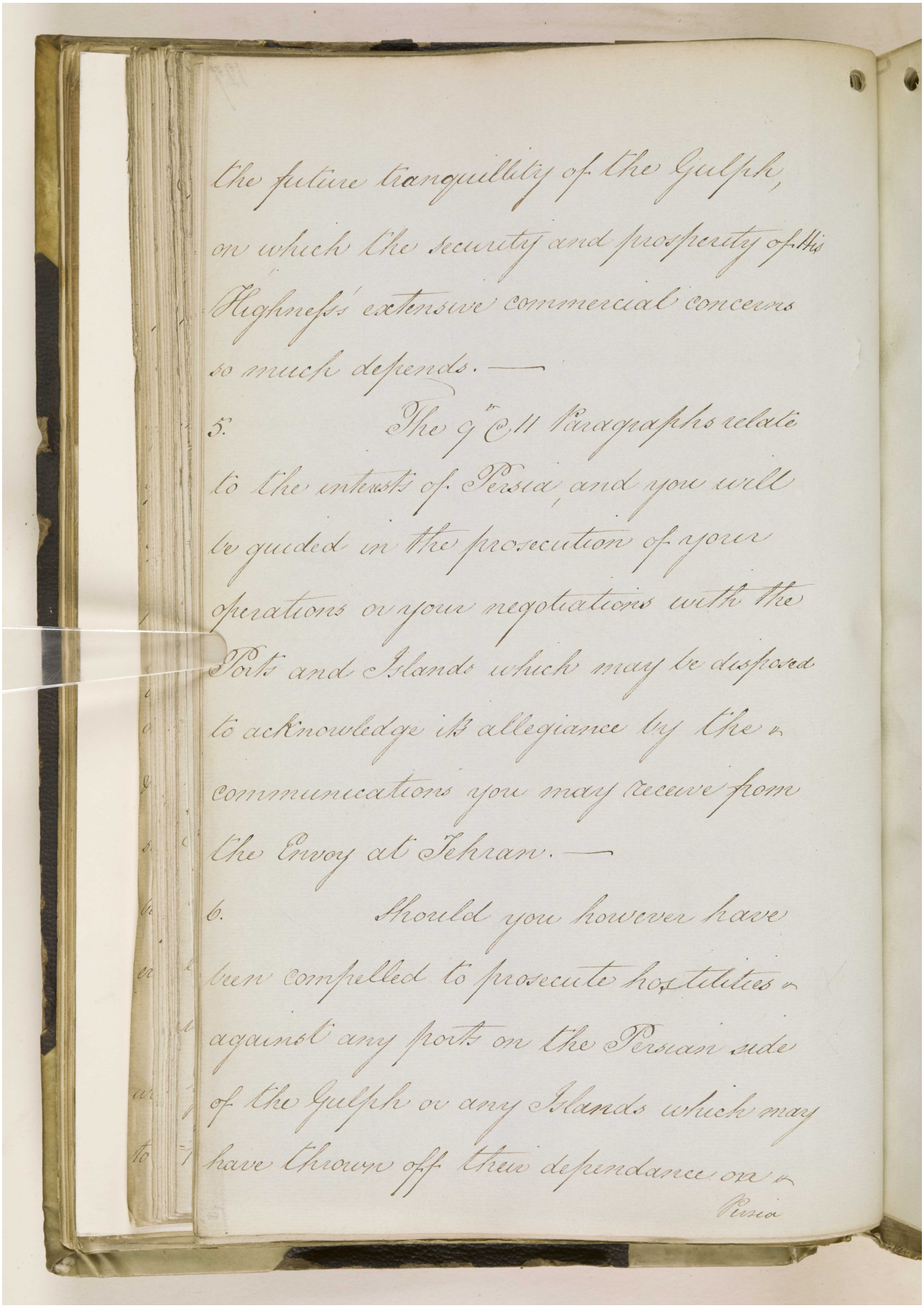

the future tranquillity of the Gulph, on which the security and prosperity of His Highness's extensive commercial concerns so much depends. —

5. The 9th & 11 Paragraphs relate to the interests of Persia, and you will be guided in the prosecution of your operations or your negotiations with the Ports and Islands which may be disposed to acknowledge its allegiance by the communications you may receive from the Envoy at Tehran. —

6. Should you however have been compelled to prosecute hostilities against any ports on the Persian side of the Gulph or any Islands which may have thrown off their dependance on

Persia

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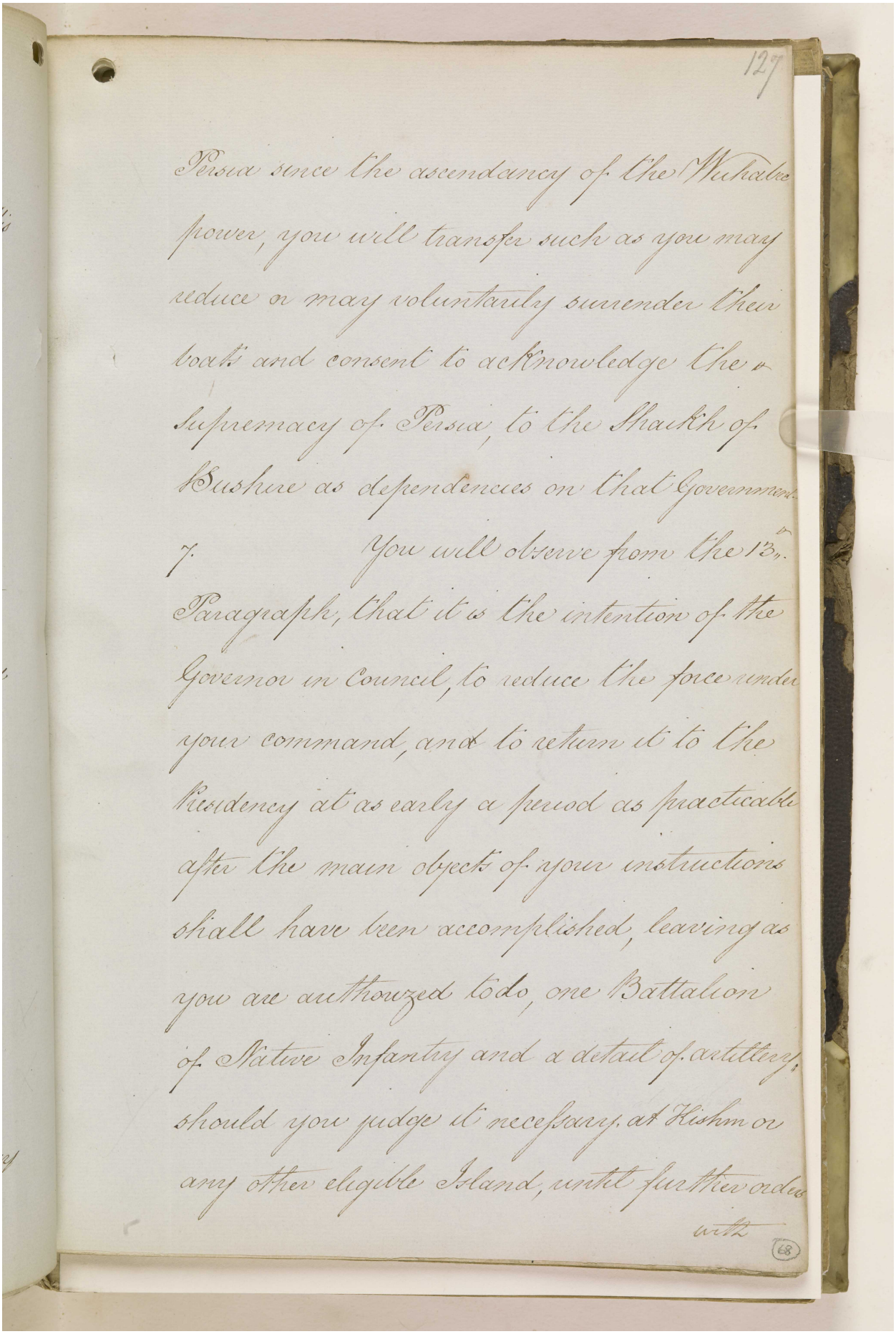

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Persia since the ascendancy of the Wuhabee
power, you will transfer such as you may
reduce or may voluntarily surrender their
oath and consent to acknowledge the
supremacy of Persia, to the Shaikh of
Bushire as dependencies on that Government.

7. You will observe from the 13th.
Paragraph, that it is the intention of the
Governor in Council, to reduce the force under
your command, and to return it to the
Residency at as early a period as practicable
after the main objects of your instructions
shall have been accomplished, leaving as
you are authorized to do, one Battalion
of Native Infantry and a detail of artillery,
should you judge it necessary, at Kishm or
any other eligible Island, until further orders

with

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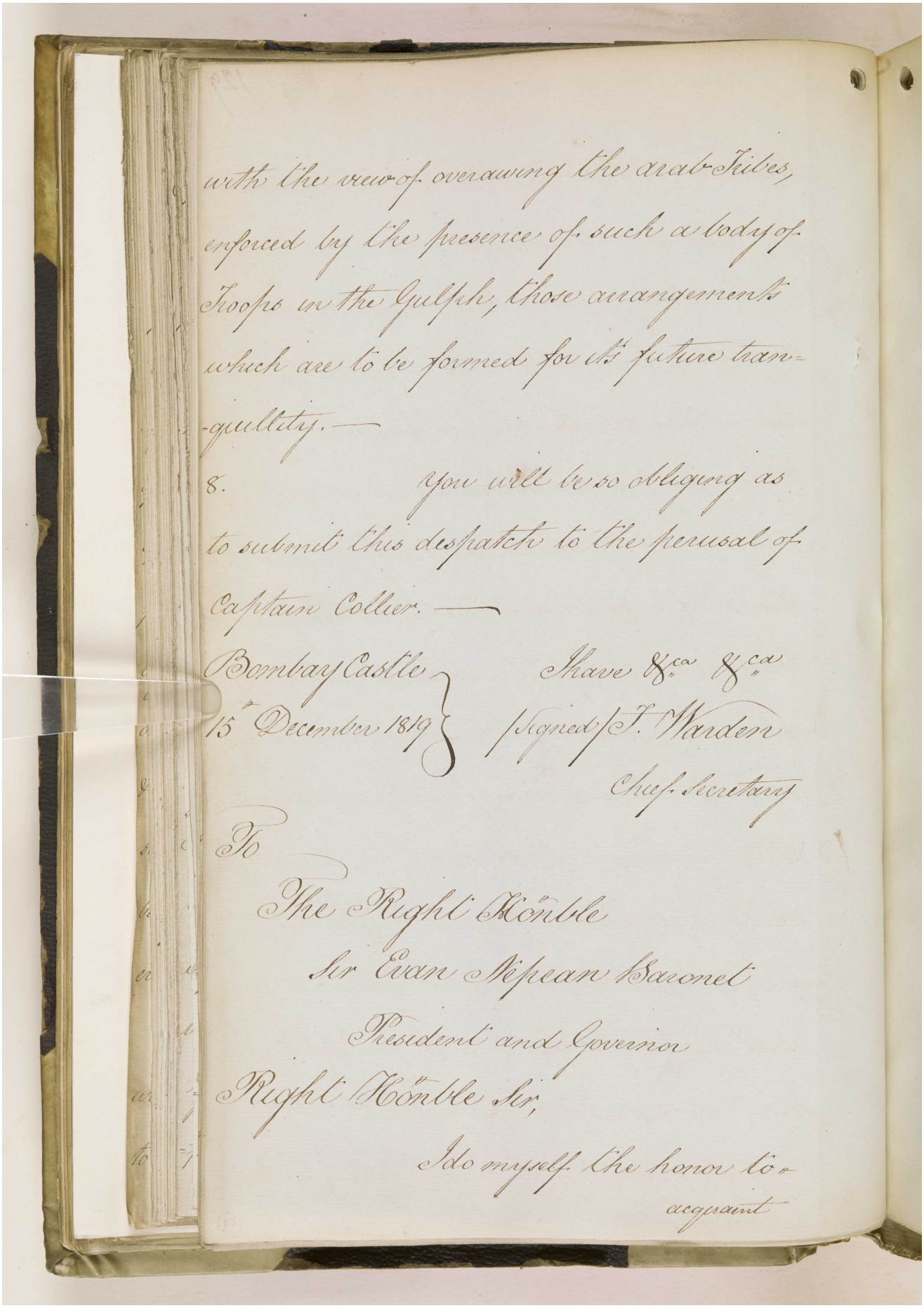

with the view of overawing the Arab Tribes, enforced by the presence of such a body of Troops in the Gulph, those arrangements which are to be formed for its future tranquility. —

8. You will be so obliging as to submit this despatch to the perusal of Captain Collier. —

Bombay Castle
15th December 1819

I have &c.a &c.a
(Signed) T. Warden
Chief Secretary

To
The Right Honble
Sir Evan Nepean Baronet
President and Governor

Right Honble Sir,

I do myself the honor to
acquaint

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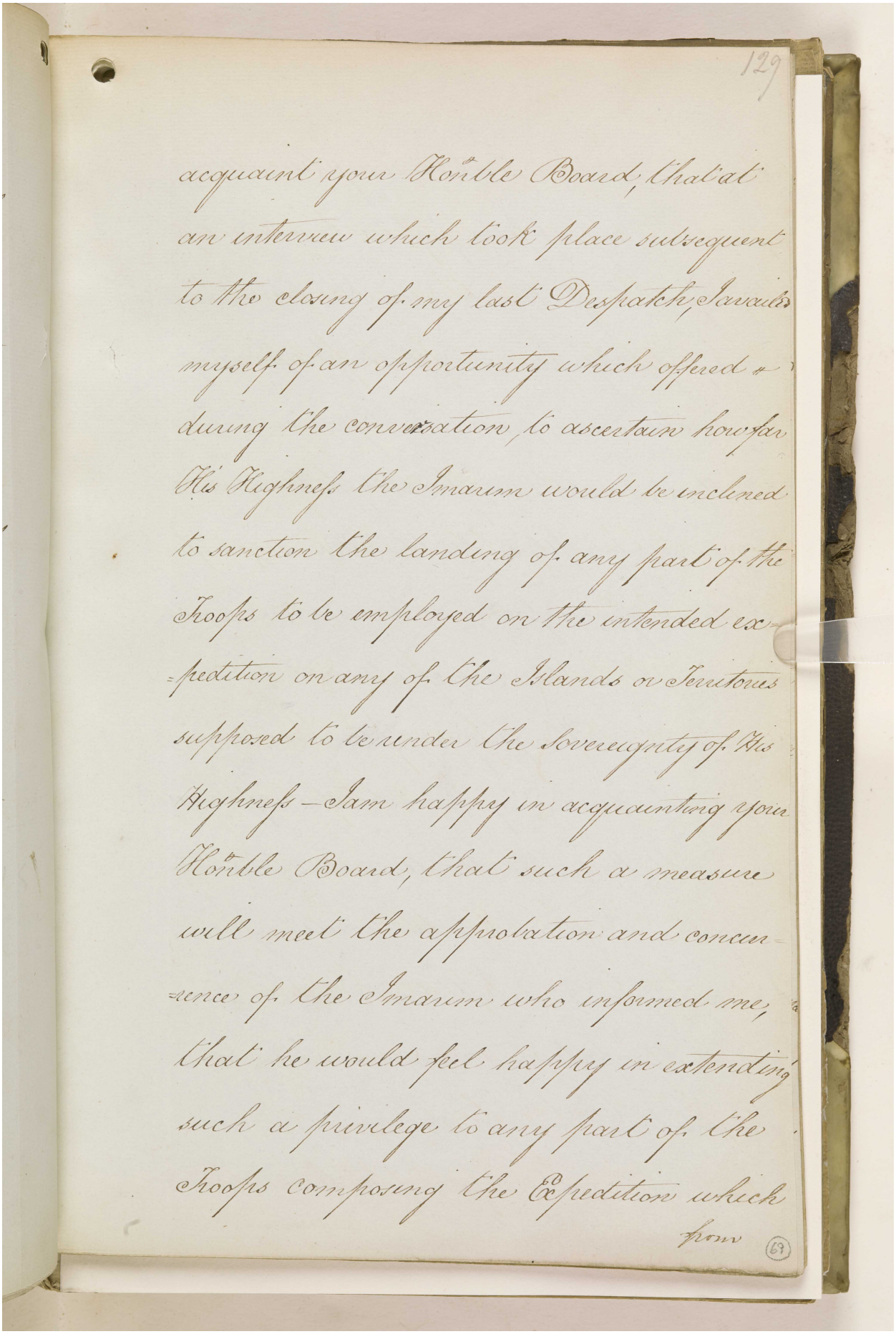

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acquaint your Honble Board, that at
an interview which took place subsequent
to the closing of my last Despatch, I availed
myself of an opportunity which offered
during the conversation, to ascertain how far
His Highness the Imaum would be inclined
to sanction the landing of any part of the
Troops to be employed on the intended ex-
-pedition on any of the Islands or Territories
supposed to be under the Sovereignty of His
Highness — I am happy in acquainting your
Honble Board, that such a measure
will meet the approbation and concur-
-rence of the Imaum who informed me,
that he would feel happy in extending
such a privilege to any part of the
Troops composing the Expedition which

from

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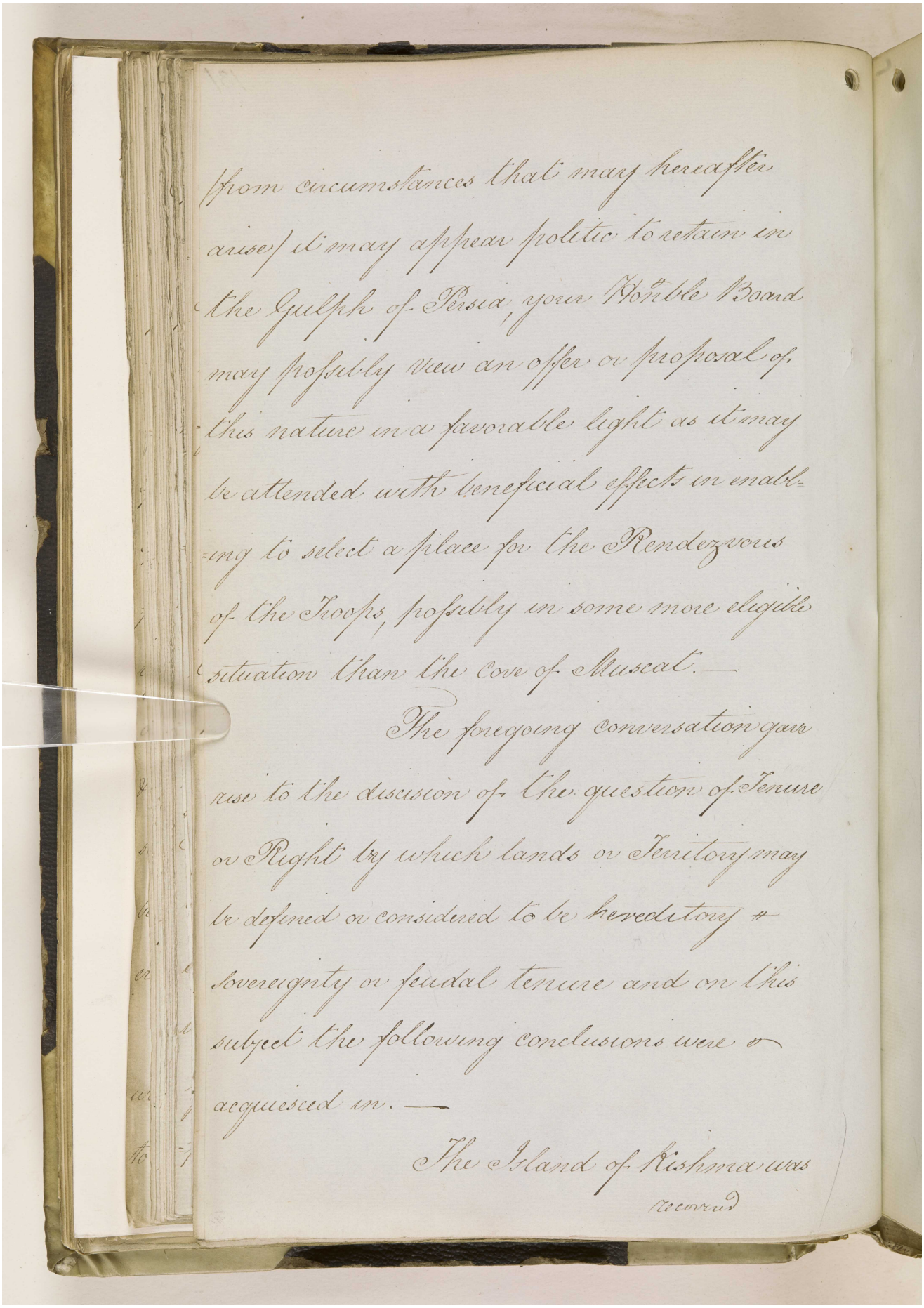
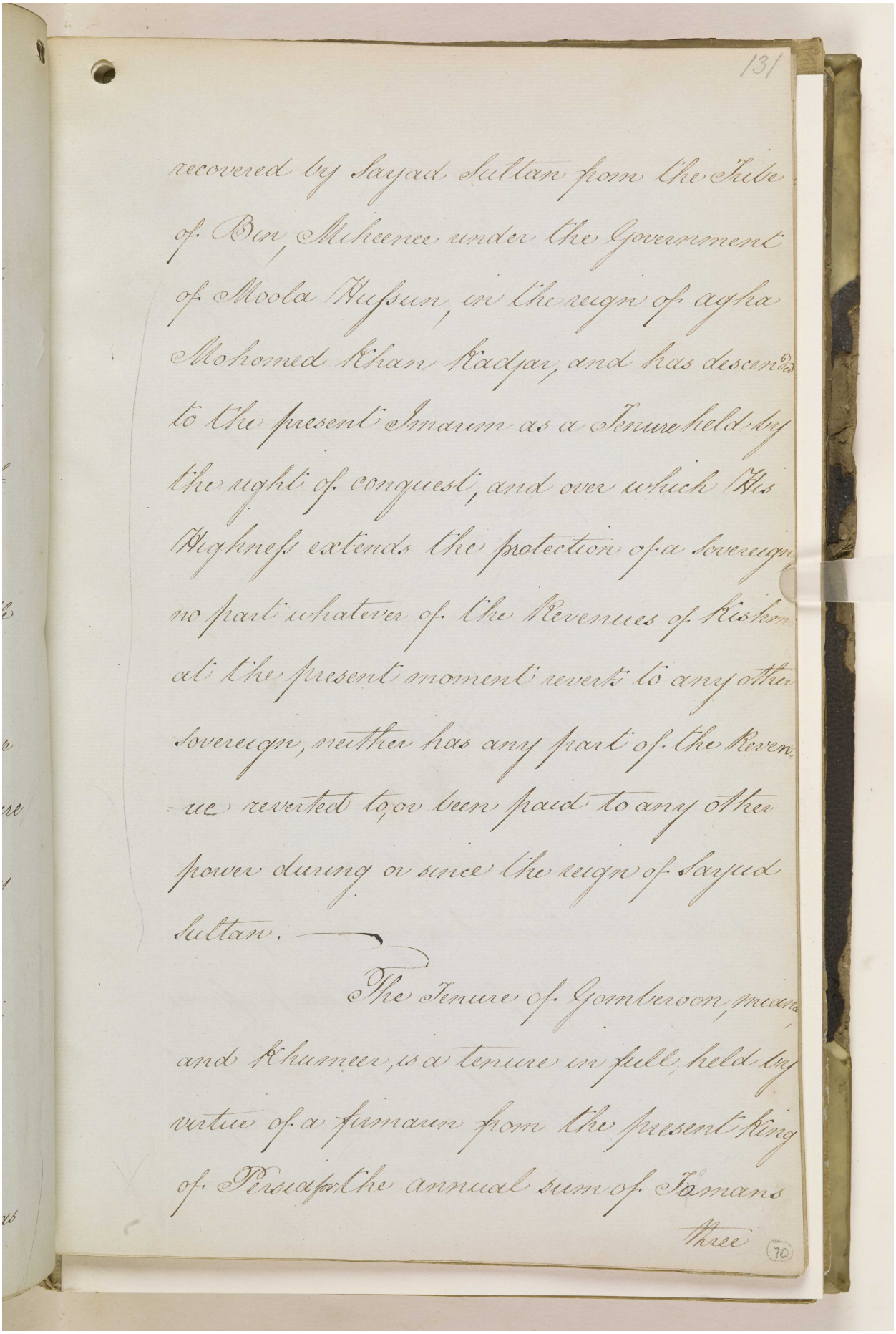


from circumstances that may hereafter
arise) it may appear politic to retain in
the Gulph of Persia, your Honble Board
may possibly view an offer or proposal of
this nature in a favorable light as it may
be attended with beneficial effects on enabl-
-ing to select a place for the Rendezvous
of the Troops, possibly in some more eligible
situation than the Cove of Muscat.—

The foregoing conversation gave
rise to the discussion of the question of Tenure
or Right by which lands or Territory may
be defined or considered to be hereditary +
Sovereignty or feudal tenure and on this
subject the following conclusions were a-
acquiesced in.—

The Island of Kishma was
recovered



recovered by Sayad Sultan from the Tribe of Bin, Miheenee under the Government of Moola Hussun, in the reign of agha Mohomed Khan Kadjar, and has descended to the present Imaum as a Tenure held by the right of conquest, and over which His Highness extends the protection of a Sovereign no part whatever of the Revenues of Kishm at the present moment reverts to any other Sovereign, neither has any part of the Revenue reverted to, or been paid to any other power during or since the reign of Sayud Sultan.

The Tenure of Gomberoon, miana and Khumeer, is a tenure in full, held by virtue of a firmaun from the present King of Persia for the annual sum of Tomans

three

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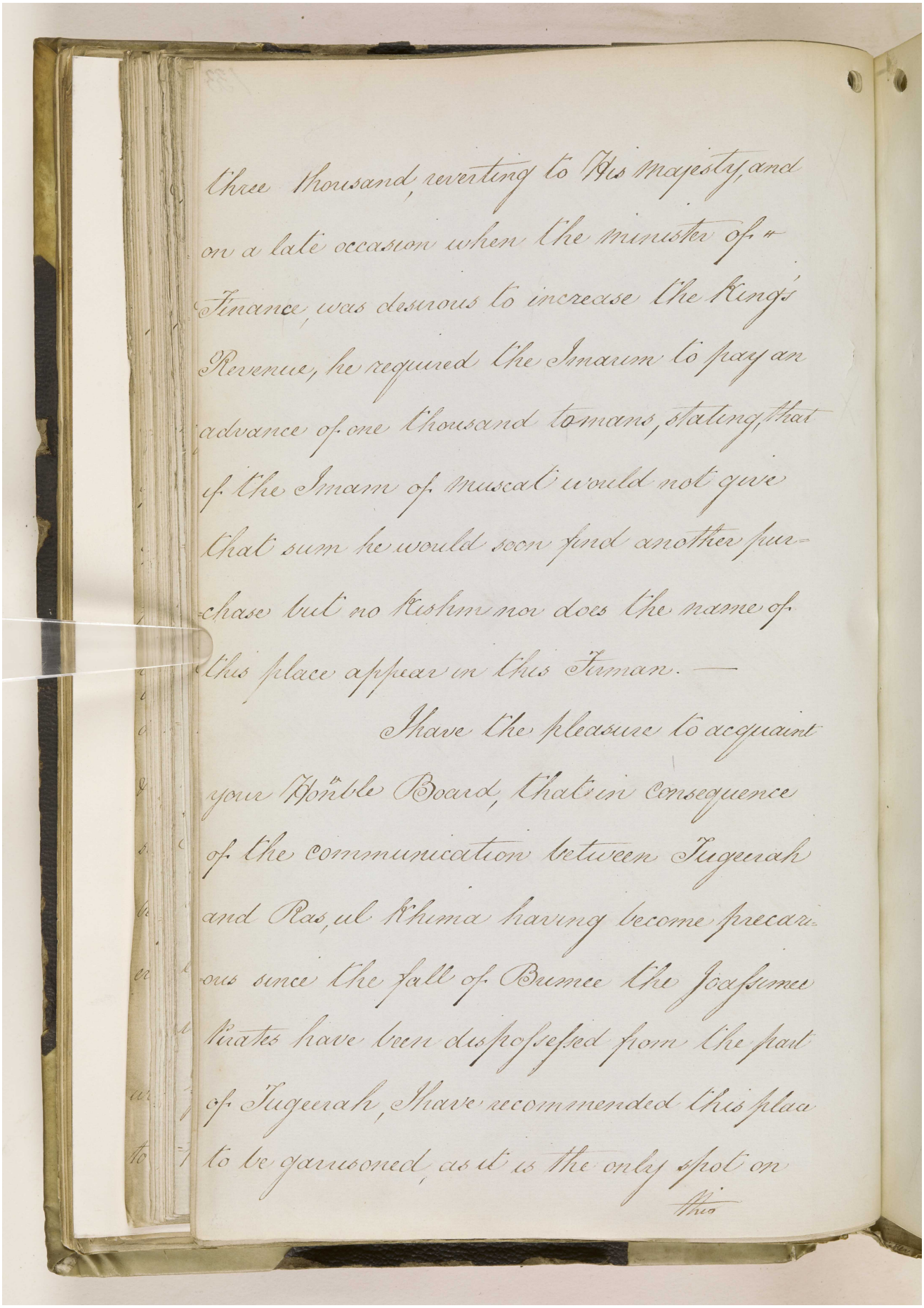
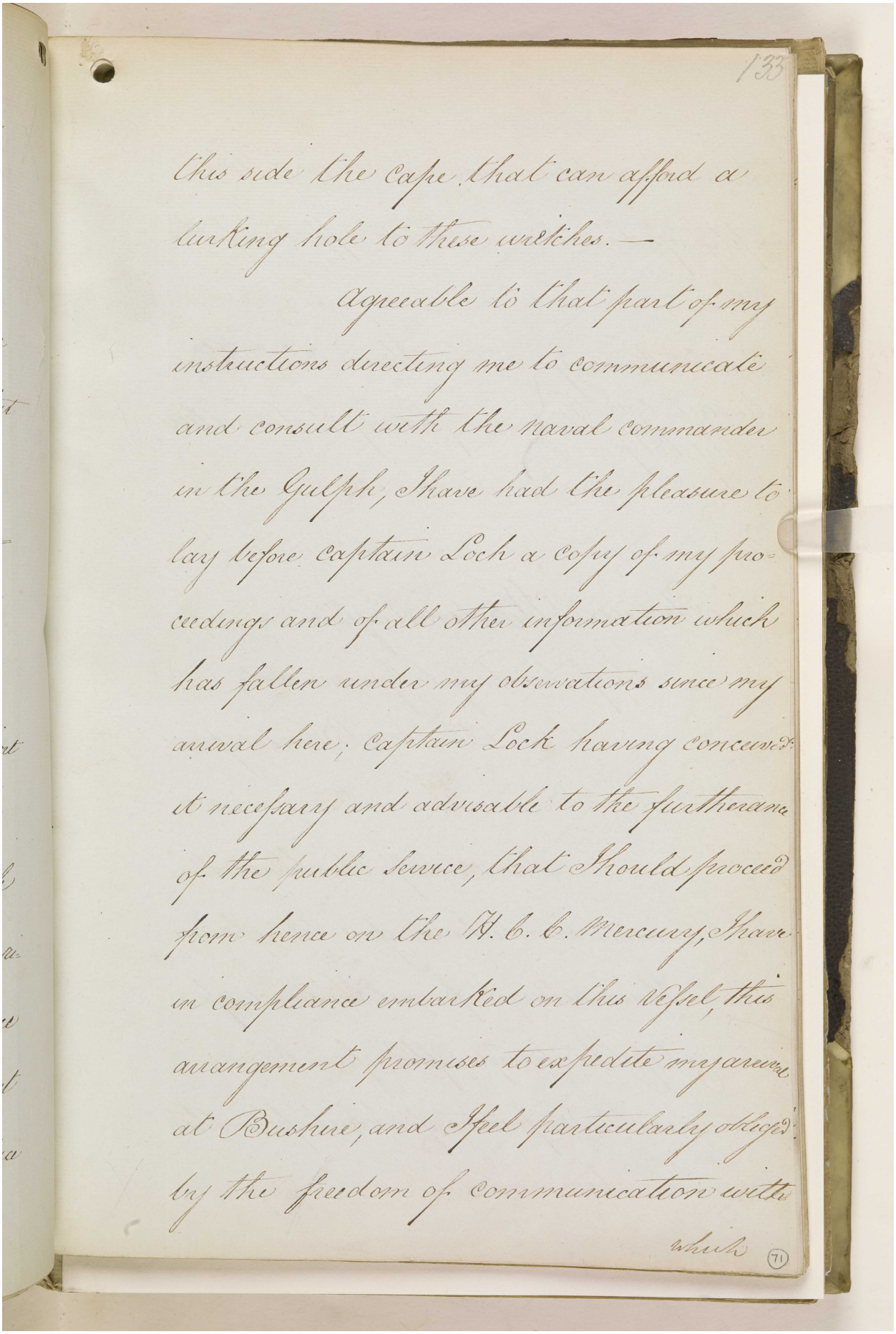


three thousand, reverting to His Majesty, and on a late occasion when the minister of the Finance, was desirous to increase the King's Revenue, he required the Imaum to pay an advance of one thousand tomans, stating, that if the Imam of Muscat would not give that sum he would soon find another purchase but no Kishm nor does the name of this place appear in this Firman. —

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Honble Board, that in consequence of the communication between Jugenah and Ras ul Khima having become precarious since the fall of Bumee the Joasmee Pirates have been dispossessed from the part of Jugenah, I have recommended this place to be garrisoned, as it is the only spot on this



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this side the Cape that can afford a
lurking hole to these wretches. —

Agreeable to that part of my
instructions directing me to communicate
and consult with the Naval Commander
in the Gulph, I have had the pleasure to
lay before Captain Lock a copy of my pro-
ceedings and of all other information which
has fallen under my observations since my
arrival here; Captain Lock having conceived
it necessary and advisable to the furtherance
of the public Service, that I should proceed
from hence on the H. C. S. Mercury, I have
in compliance embarked on this Vessel, this
arrangement promises to expedite my arrival
at Bushire, and I feel particularly obliged
by the freedom of communication with

which

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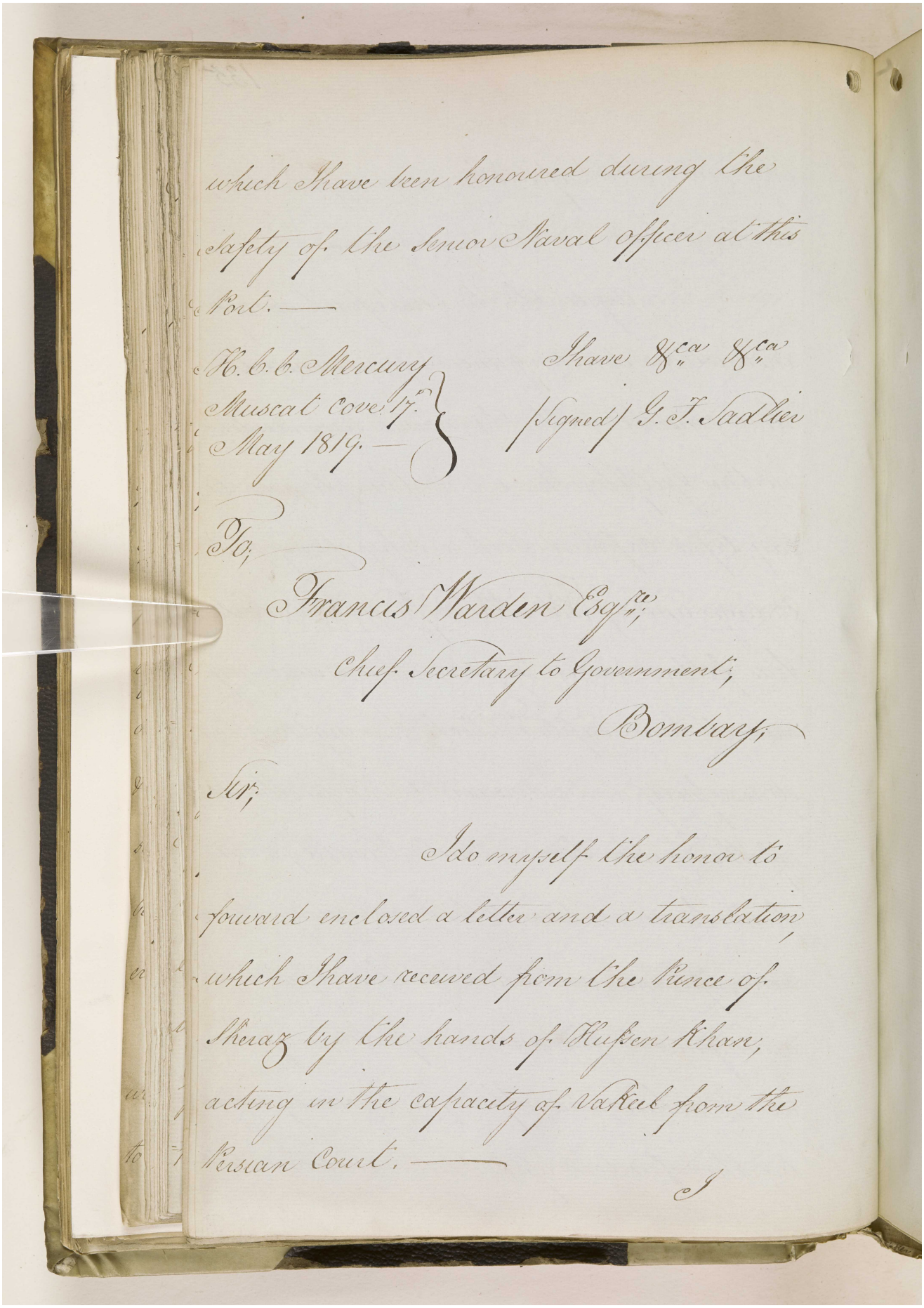


which I have been honoured during the
safety of the Senior Naval Officer at this
Port. —

H. C. S. Mercury
Muscat Cove 17th
May 1819. —

I have &c.a &c.a
Signed / G. F. Sadlier

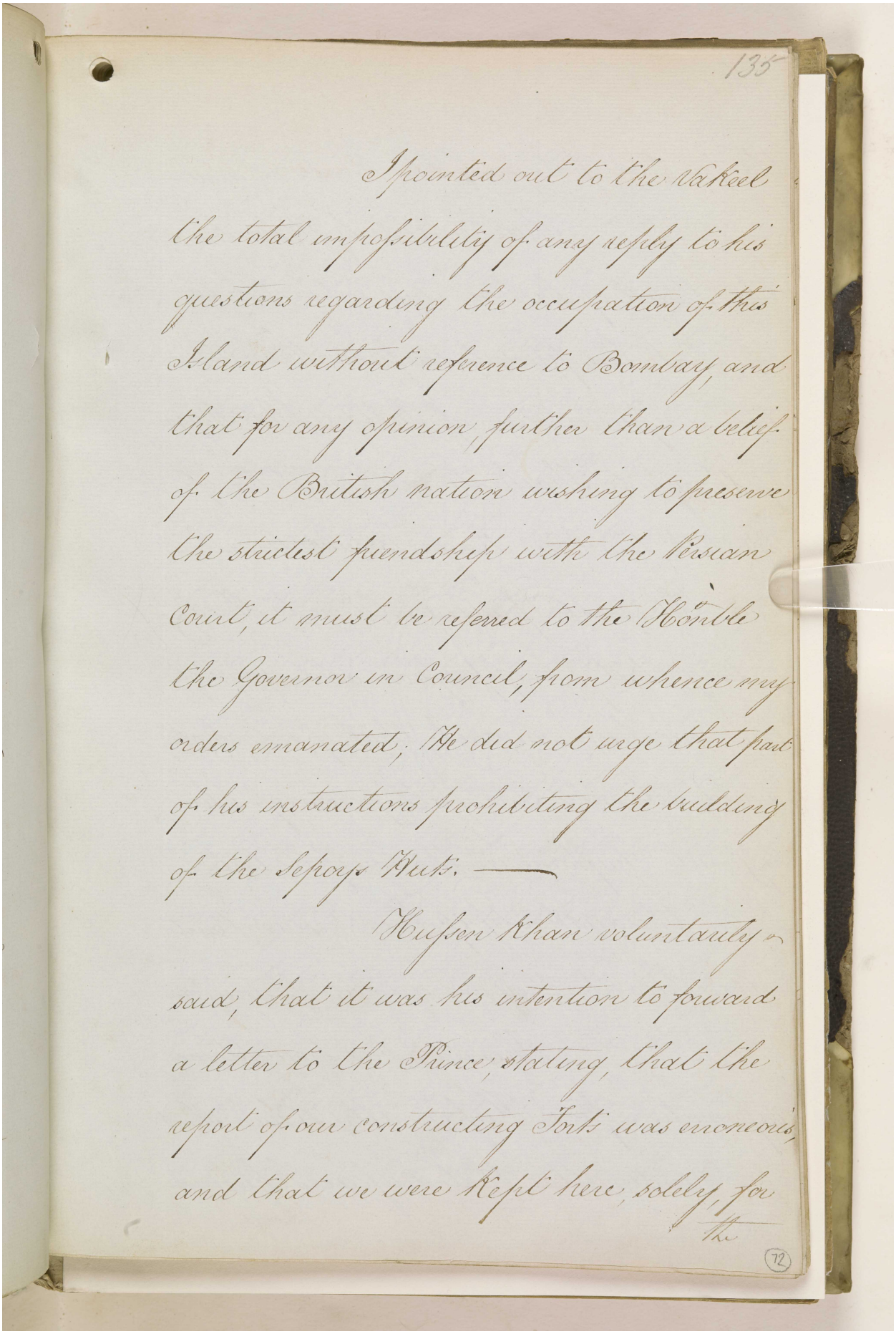
To,

Francis Warden Esq.re,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay,

Sir,

I do myself the honor to
forward enclosed a letter and a translation,
which I have received from the Prince of
Shiraz by the hands of Hussen Khan,
acting in the capacity of Vakeel from the
Persian Court. —

I



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I pointed out to the Vakeel the total impossibility of any reply to his questions regarding the occupation of this Island without reference to Bombay, and that for any opinion further than a belief of the British nation wishing to preserve the strictest friendship with the Persian Court, it must be referred to the Honble the Governor in Council, from whence my orders emanated; He did not urge that part of his instructions prohibiting the building of the Sepoys Huts. ——

Hussun Khan voluntarily said, that it was his intention to forward a letter to the Prince, stating, that the report of our constructing Forts was erroneous, and that we were kept here, solely, for

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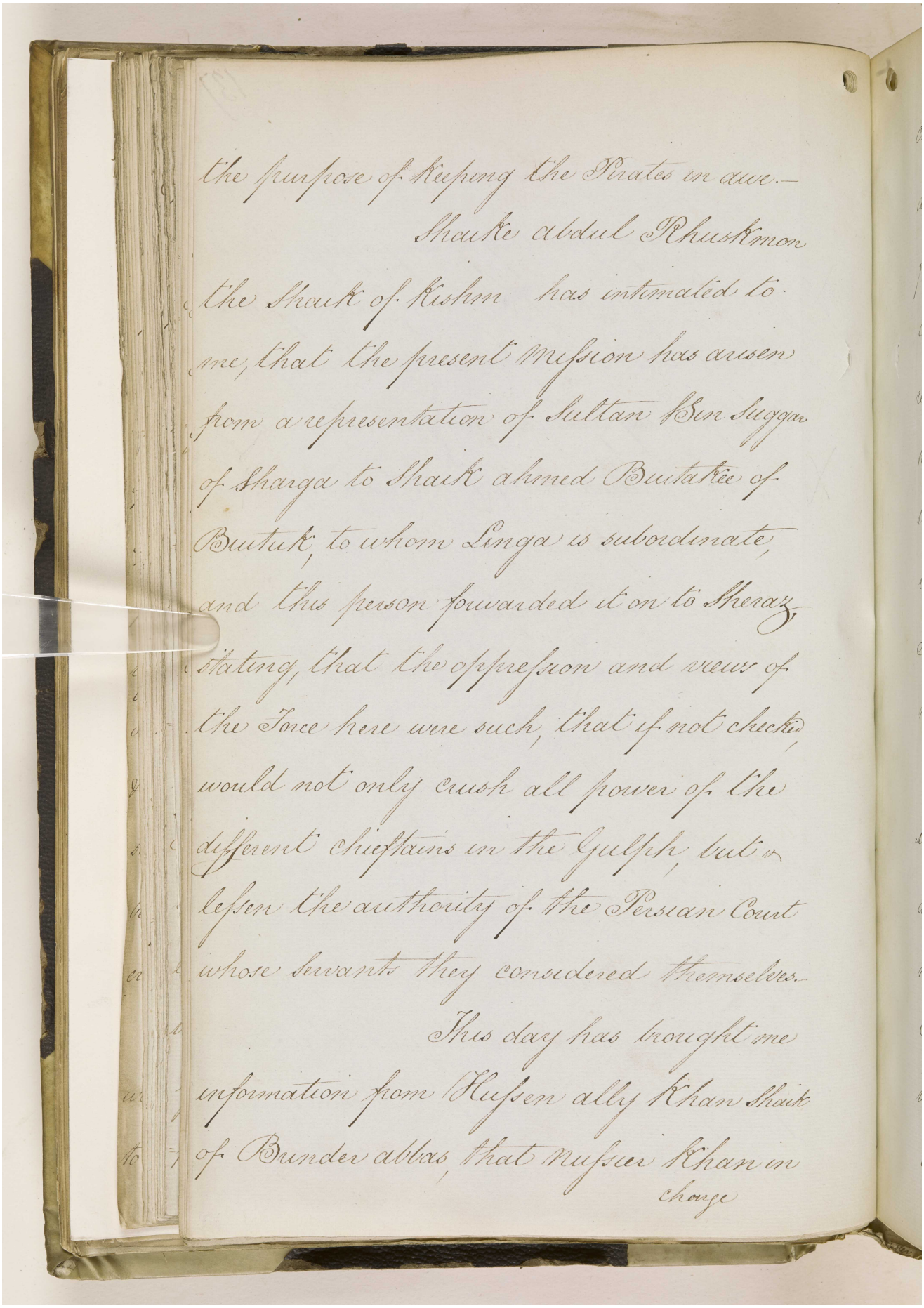

the purpose of keeping the Pirates in awe.—

Shaike abdul Rhustmon the Shaik of Kishm has intimated to me, that the present mission has arisen from a representation of Sultan Bin Sugga of Shanga to Shaik ahmed Bustakee of Bushuk, to whom Linga is subordinate, and this person forwarded it on to Sheraz stating, that the oppression and views of the Force here were such, that if not check'd would not only crush all power of the different chieftains in the Gulph, but lessen the authority of the Persian Court whose servants they considered themselves.—

This day has brought me information from Hussen ally Khan Shaik of Bunder abbas, that Nusseer Khan in

charge

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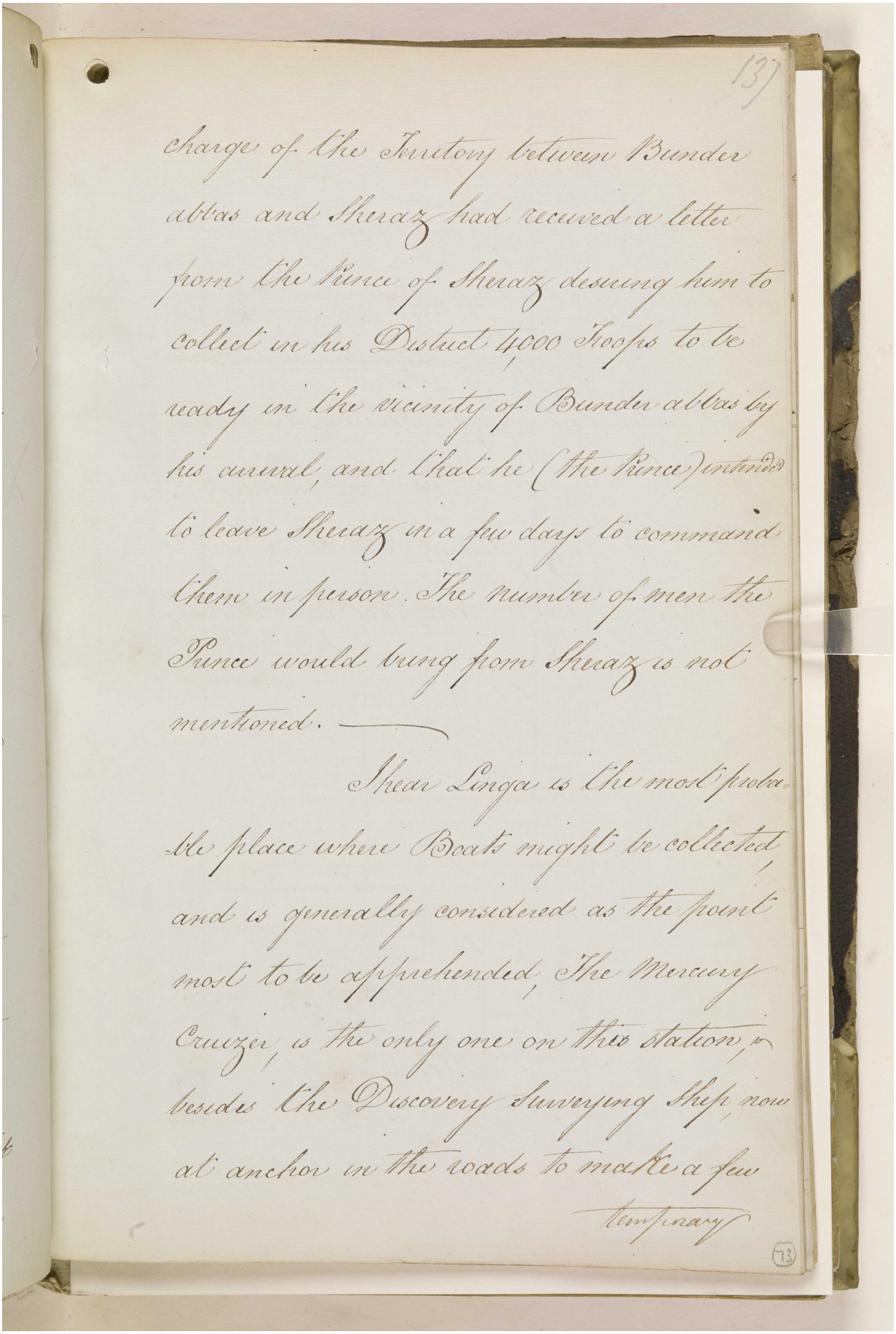

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charge of the Territory between Bunder abbas and Shiraz had received a letter from the Prince of Shiraz desiring him to collect in his District 4,000 Troops to be ready in the vicinity of Bunder abbas by his arrival, and that he (the Prince) intended to leave Shiraz in a few days to command them in person. The number of men the Prince would bring from Shiraz is not mentioned. ——

Shear Linga is the most probable place where Boats might be collected, and is generally considered as the point most to be apprehended. The Mercury Cruizer, is the only one on this station, besides the Discovery Surveying Ship, now at anchor in the roads to make a few

temporary

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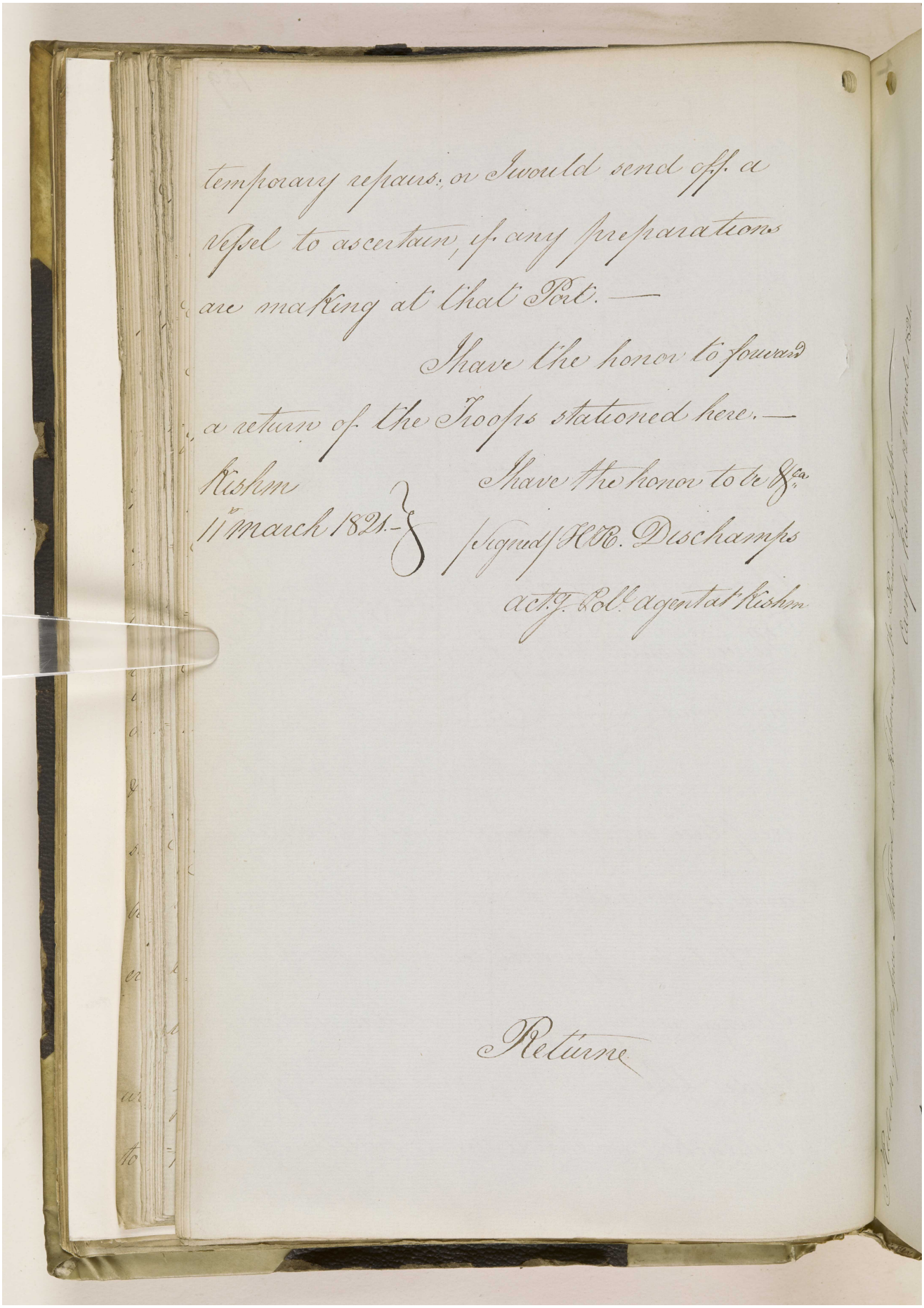

temporary repairs; or I would send off a
Vessel to ascertain, if any preparations
are making at that Port. —

I have the honor to forward
a return of the Troops stationed here. —

I have the honor to be &c.
Signed H.B. Dischamps
act.g. Pol.l Agent at Kishm

Kishm
11th March 1821.

Returns

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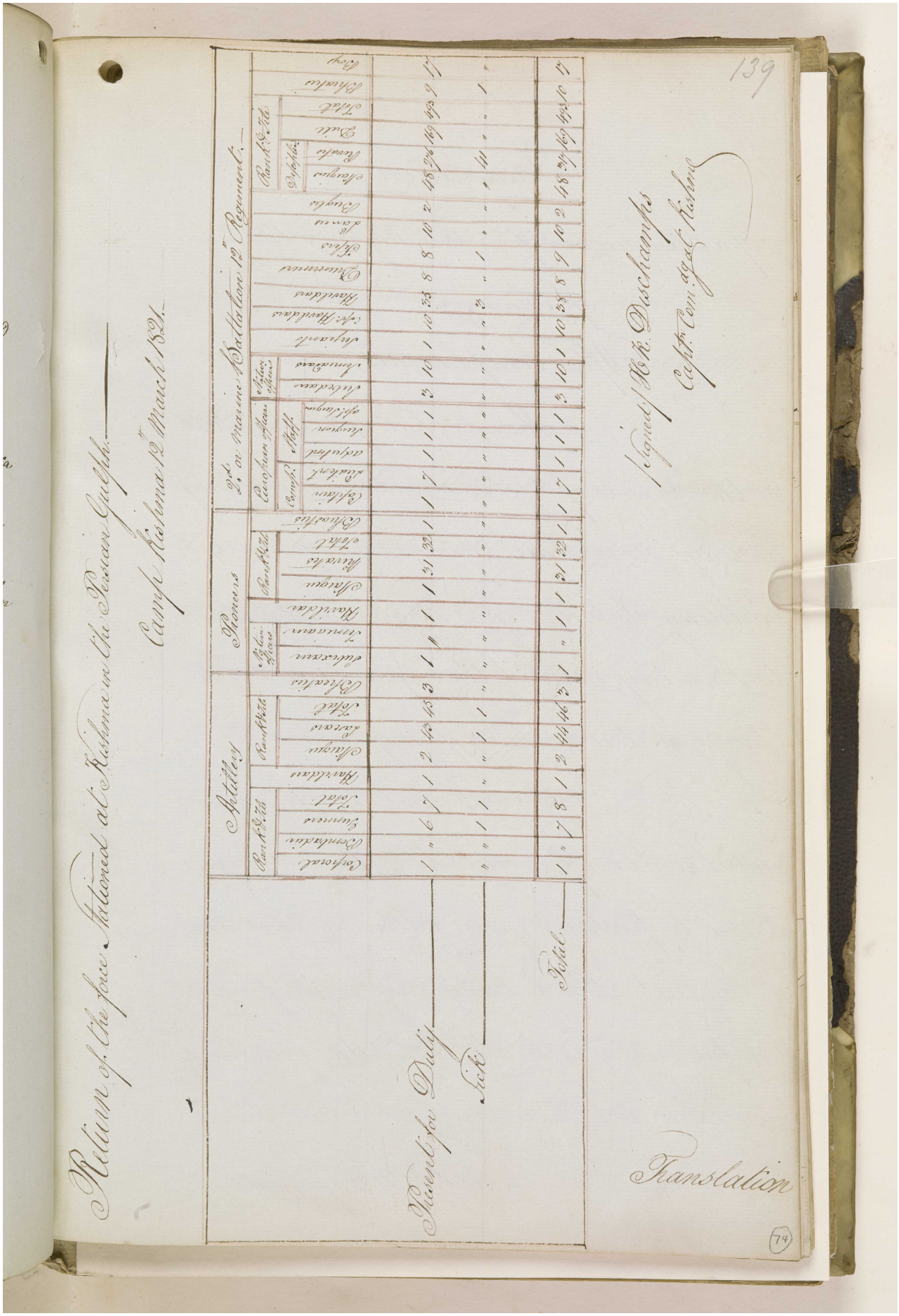

Return of the force Stationed at Kishma in the Persian Gulph.

Camp Kishma 12th March 1821.

	Artillery									Pioneers							2d or marine Battalion 12th Regiment.																			
	Rank & File					Rank & File				Native officers			Rank & File				European officers					Native officers									Rank & File					
																	Comp.		Staff												Disciplines					
	Corporal	Bombadier	Gunners	Total	Havildars	Naiques	Lanars	Total	Bheaties	Sudaxars	Jemadars	Havildar	Naiques	Kevats	Total	Bheaties	Captain	Lieutent.	adjutant	Surgeon	Apt. Surgeon	Sudaars	Jemadars	Serjants	Cpl. Havildars	Havildars	Drummers	Fifers	Lanars	Buglers	Naiques	Kevats	Drill	Total	Bheaties	Boys
Present for Duty	1	"	6	7	1	2	43	45	3	1	"	1	1	31	32	1	1	7	1	1	1	3	10	1	10	35	8	8	10	2	48	276	169	493	9	17
Sick	"	"	1	1	"	"	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	1	"	"	"	41	"	"	1	"
Total	1	"	7	8	1	2	44	46	3	1	"	1	1	31	32	1	1	7	1	1	1	3	10	1	10	38	8	9	10	2	48	317	169	493	10	17

(Signed) H.K. Dischamps
Captn. Comdg. at Kishma

Translation

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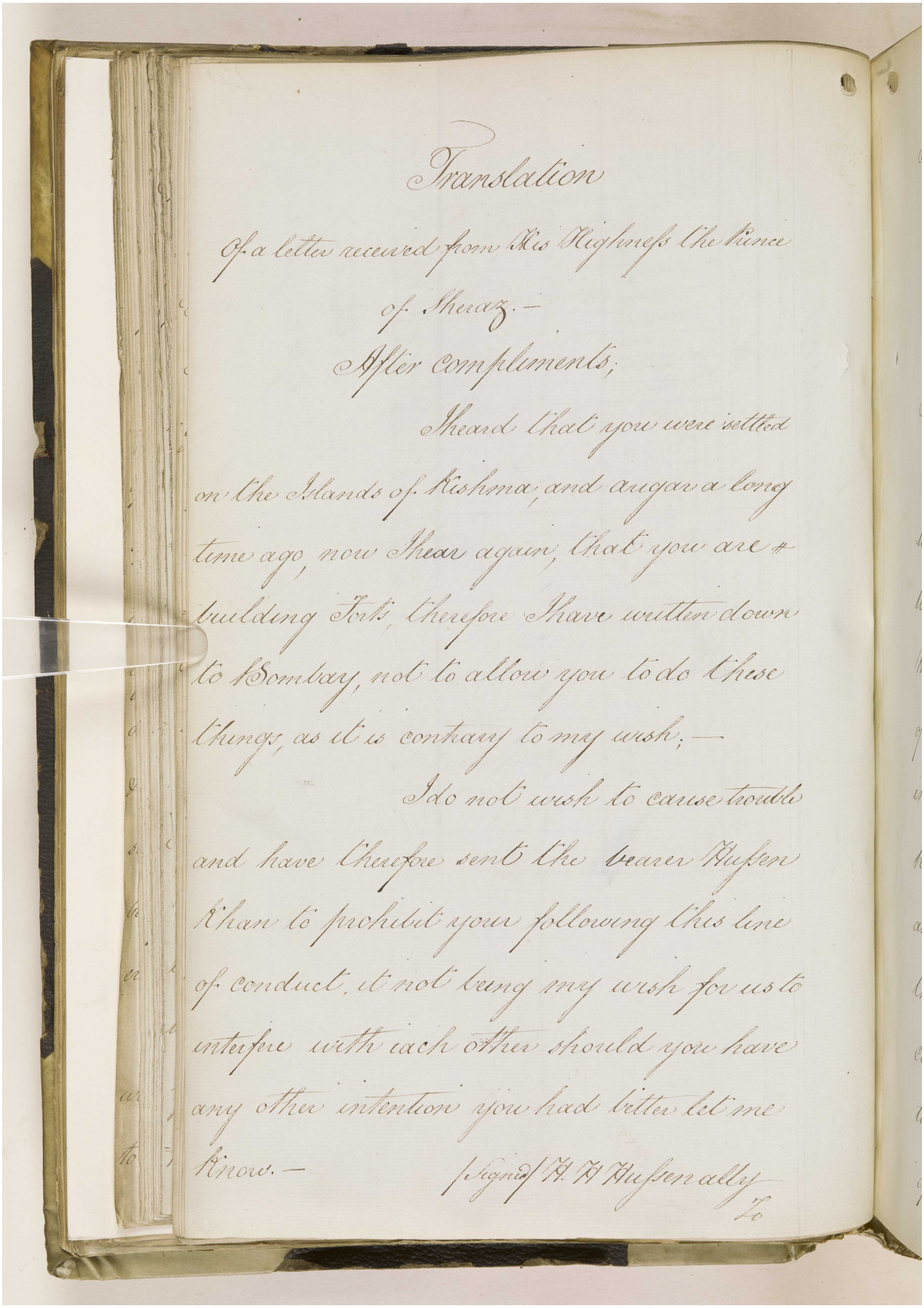


Translation

Of a letter received from His Highness the Prince of Sheraz.—

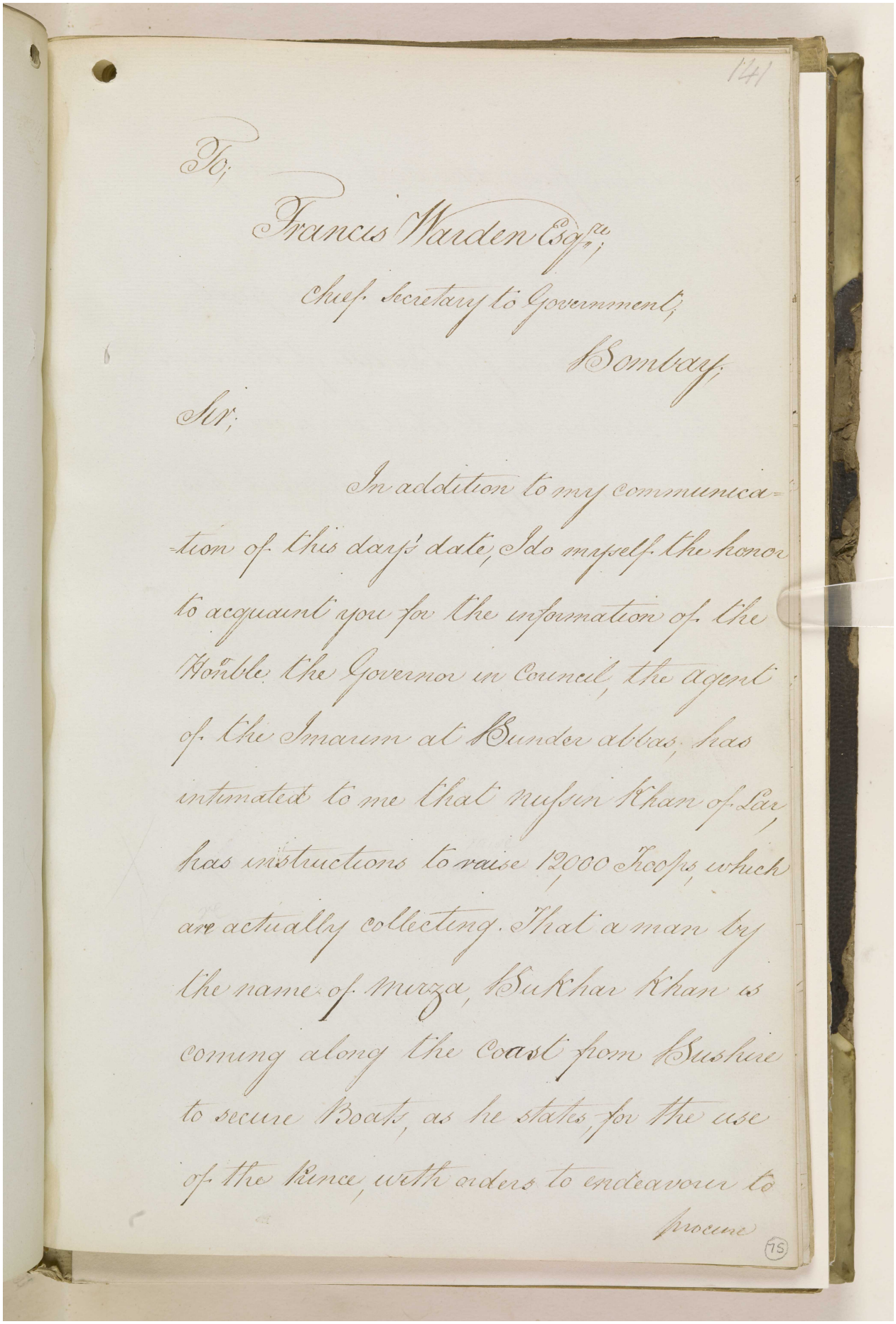
After compliments;

I heard that you were settled on the Islands of Kishma, and augar a long time ago, now I hear again, that you are building Forts, therefore I have written down to Bombay, not to allow you to do these things, as it is contrary to my wish;—

I do not wish to cause trouble and have therefore sent the bearer Hussen Khan to prohibit your following this line of conduct, it not being my wish for us to interfere with each other should you have any other intention you had better let me know.—

(Signed) H. H. Hussen ally

To



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To;

Francis Warden Esqre;

Chief Secretary to Government;

Bombay.

Sir;

In addition to my communica=
tion of this days date, I do myself the honor
to acquaint you for the information of the
Honble the Governor in Council, the agent
of the Imaum at Bunder abbas, has
intimated to me that Nusun Khan of Lar,
has instructions to raise 12000 Troops, which
are actually collecting. That a man by
the name of Mirza, Bukhar Khan is
coming along the Coast from Bushire
to secure Boats, as he states, for the use
of the Prince, with orders to endeavour to
procure

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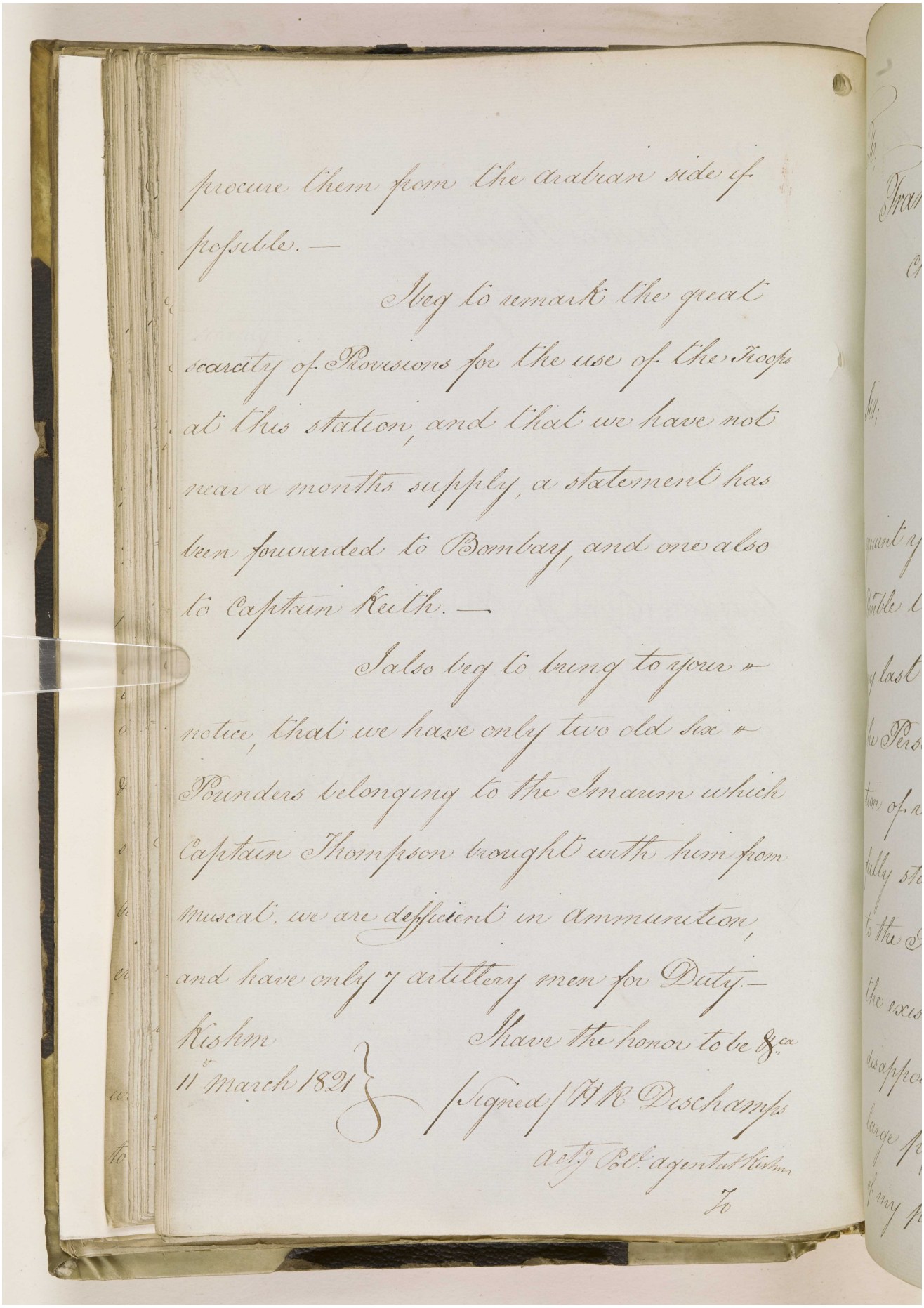

procure them from the Arabian side if
possible. —

I beg to remark the great
scarcity of Provisions for the use of the Troops
at this station, and that we have not
near a months supply, a statement has
been forwarded to Bombay, and one also
to Captain Keith. —

I also beg to bring to your
notice, that we have only two old Six
Pounders belonging to the Imaum which
Captain Thompson brought with him from
Muscat, we are deficient in ammunition,
and have only 7 artillery men for Duty. —

I have the honor to be &c.

Kishm
11th March 1821

Signed/ W.K. Dischamps
Actg Pol. Agent at Kishm

To

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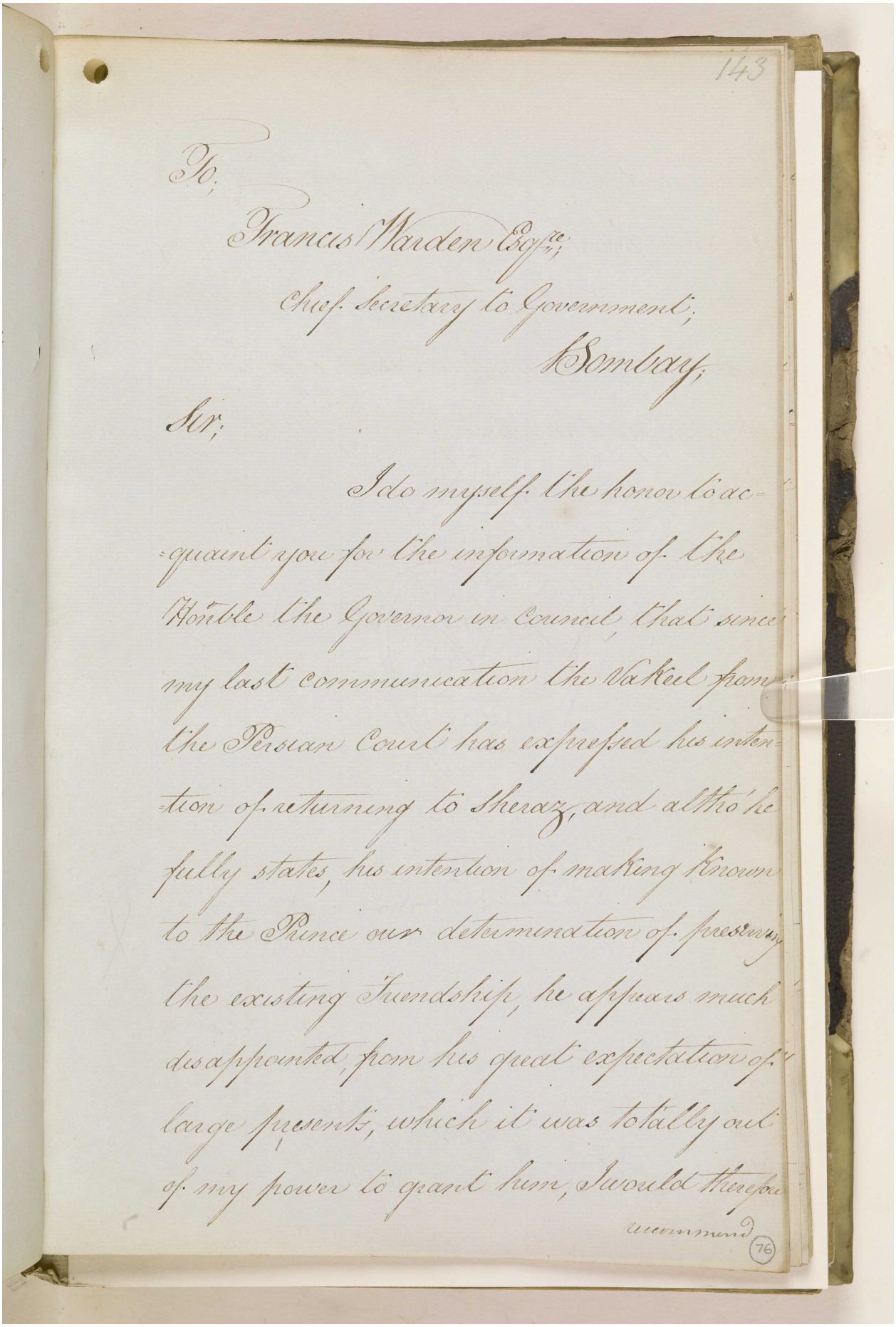

143

To,

Francis Warden Esqre,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Bombay,

Sir,

I do myself the honor to ac-
-quaint you for the information of the
Honble the Governor in Council, that since
my last communication the Vakeel from
the Persian Court has expressed his inten-
-tion of returning to Sheraz, and altho' he
fully states, his intention of making known
to the Prince our determination of preserv-
the existing Friendship, he appears much
disappointed, from his great expectation of
large presents, which it was totally out
of my power to grant him, I would therefore
recommend

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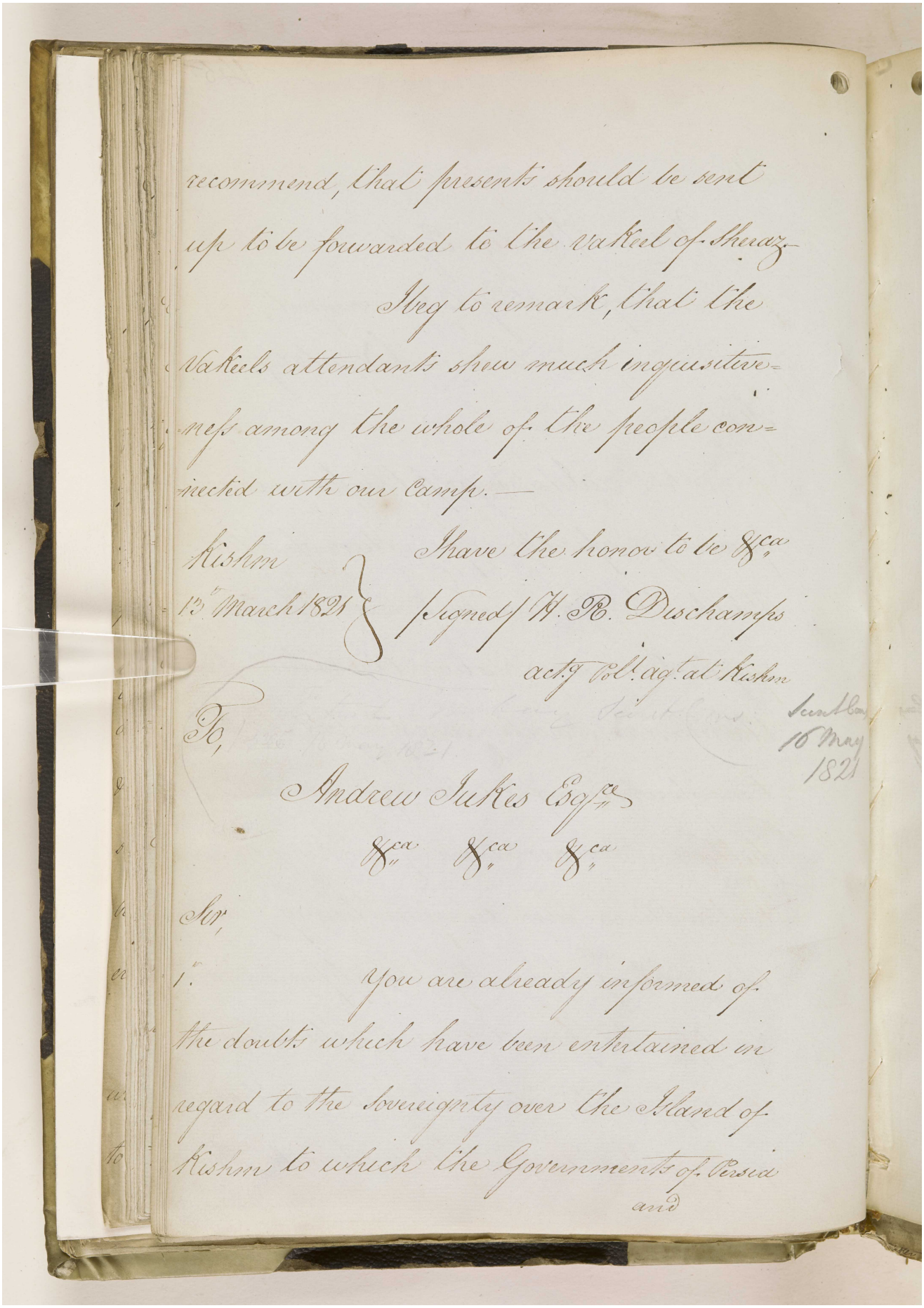


recommend, that presents should be sent up to be forwarded to the vakeel of Sheraz.

I beg to remark, that the vakeels attendants shew much inquisitiveness among the whole of the people connected with our Camp.—

Kishm
13th March 1821

I have the honor to be &ca
(Signed) H. R. Dischamps
actg Polt. agt. at Kishm

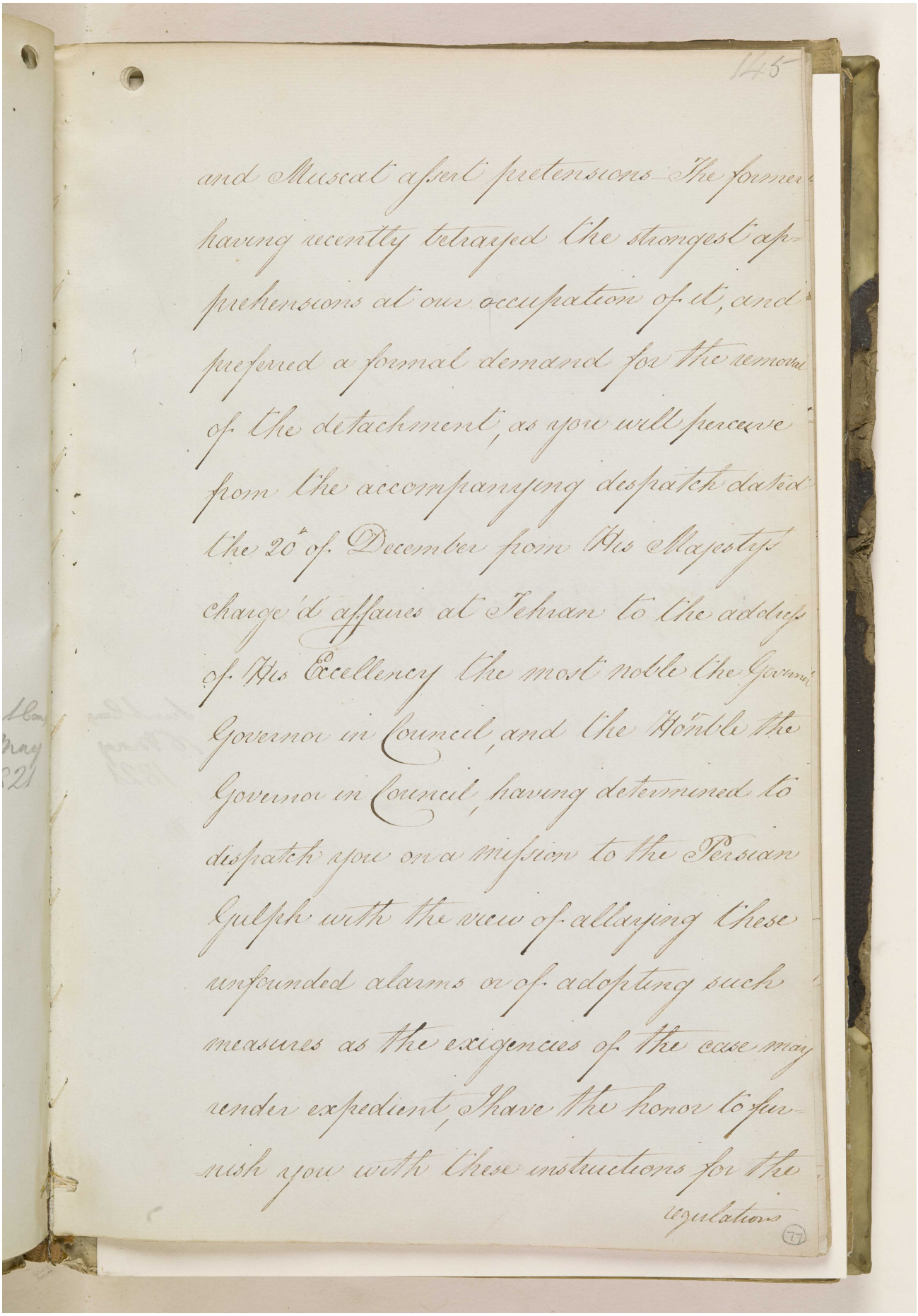
Sent Cons
16 May
1821

To,

Andrew Jukes Esqre
&ca &ca &ca

Sir,

1st. You are already informed of the doubts which have been entertained in regard to the Sovereignty over the Island of Kishm to which the Governments of Persia and



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and Muscat assert pretensions The former
having recently betrayed the strongest ap-
prehensions at our occupation of it, and
preferred a formal demand for the removal
of the detachment, as you will perceive
from the accompanying despatch dated
the 20th of December from His Majestys
Chargé d'affaires at Tehran to the address
of His Excellency the most noble the Governor
Governor in Council, and the Honble the
Governor in Council, having determined to
dispatch you on a mission to the Persian
Gulph with the view of allaying these
unfounded alarms or of adopting such
measures as the exigencies of the case may
render expedient, I have the honor to fur-
nish you with these instructions for the
regulation

(77)

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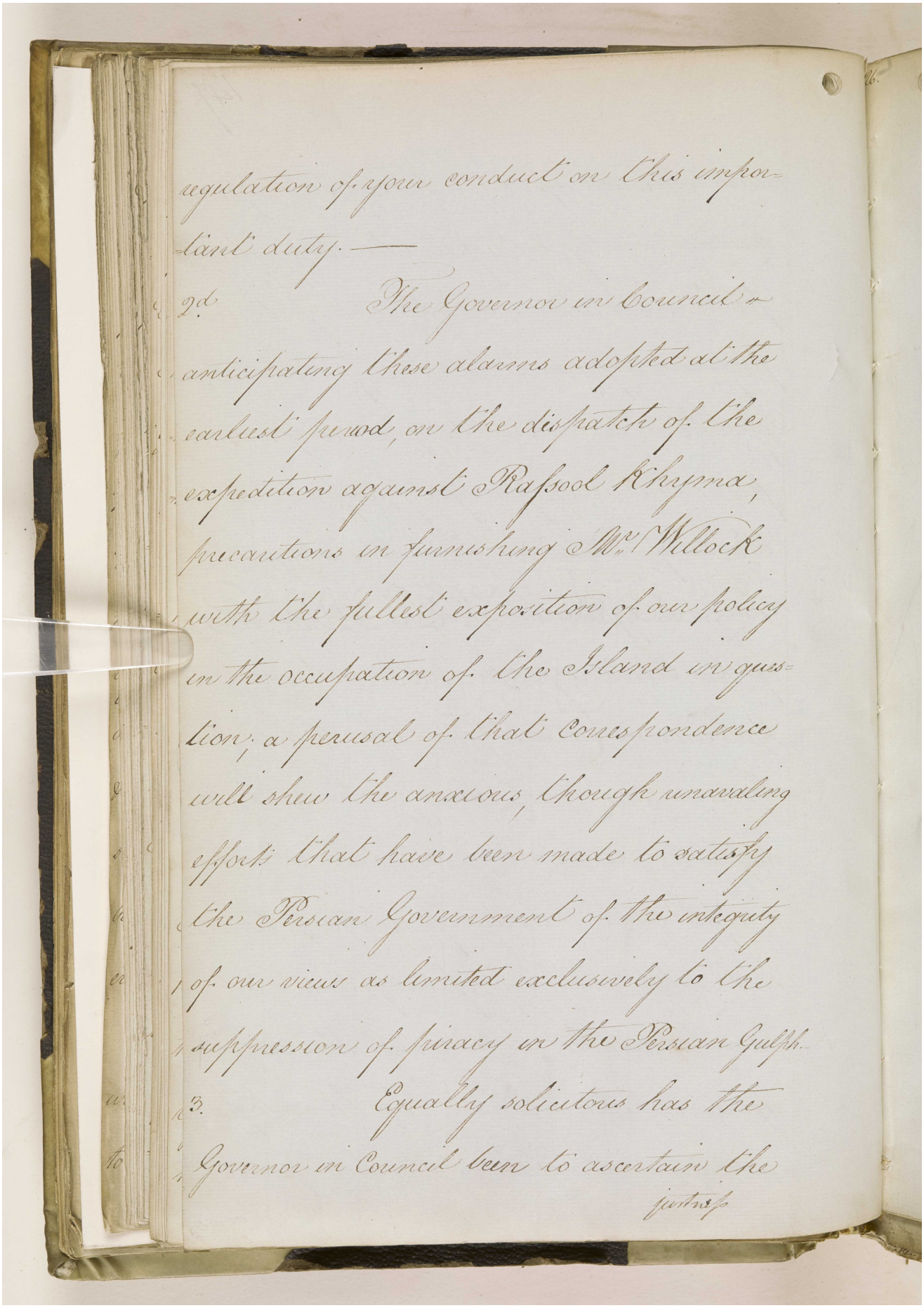

regulation of your conduct on this impor-
tant duty. —

2d The Governor in Council
anticipating these alarms adopted at the
earliest period, on the dispatch of the
expedition against Rasool Khyma,
precautions in furnishing Mr. Willock
with the fullest exposition of our policy
in the occupation of the Island in ques-
tion; a perusal of that Correspondence
will shew the anxious, though unavailing
efforts that have been made to satisfy
the Persian Government of the integrity
of our views as limited exclusively to the
suppression of piracy in the Persian Gulph.

3. Equally solicitous has the
Governor in Council been to ascertain the
justness

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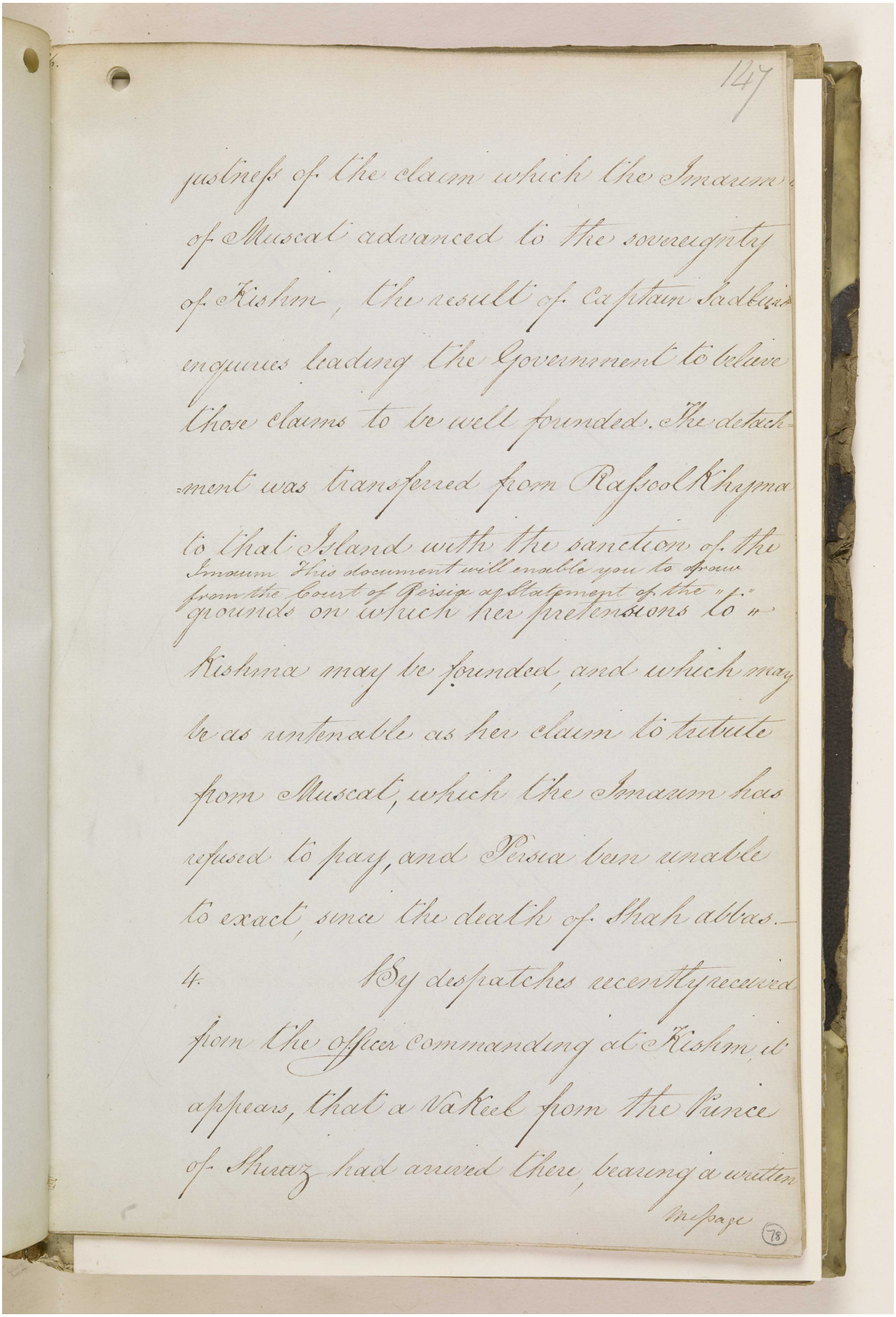

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justness of the claim which the Imaum
of Muscat advanced to the sovereignty
of Kishm, the result of Captain Sadlier's
enquiries leading the Government to believe
those claims to be well founded. The detach-
ment was transferred from Rasscol Khyma
to that Island with the sanction of the
Imaum This document will enable you to draw
from the Court of Persia a Statement of the "f."
grounds on which her pretensions to
Kishma may be founded, and which may
be as untenable as her claim to tribute
from Muscat, which the Imaum has
refused to pay, and Persia been unable
to exact, since the death of Shah abbas.

4. By despatches recently received
from the Officer commanding at Kishm, it
appears, that a Vakeel from the Prince
of Shiraz had arrived there, bearing a written
message

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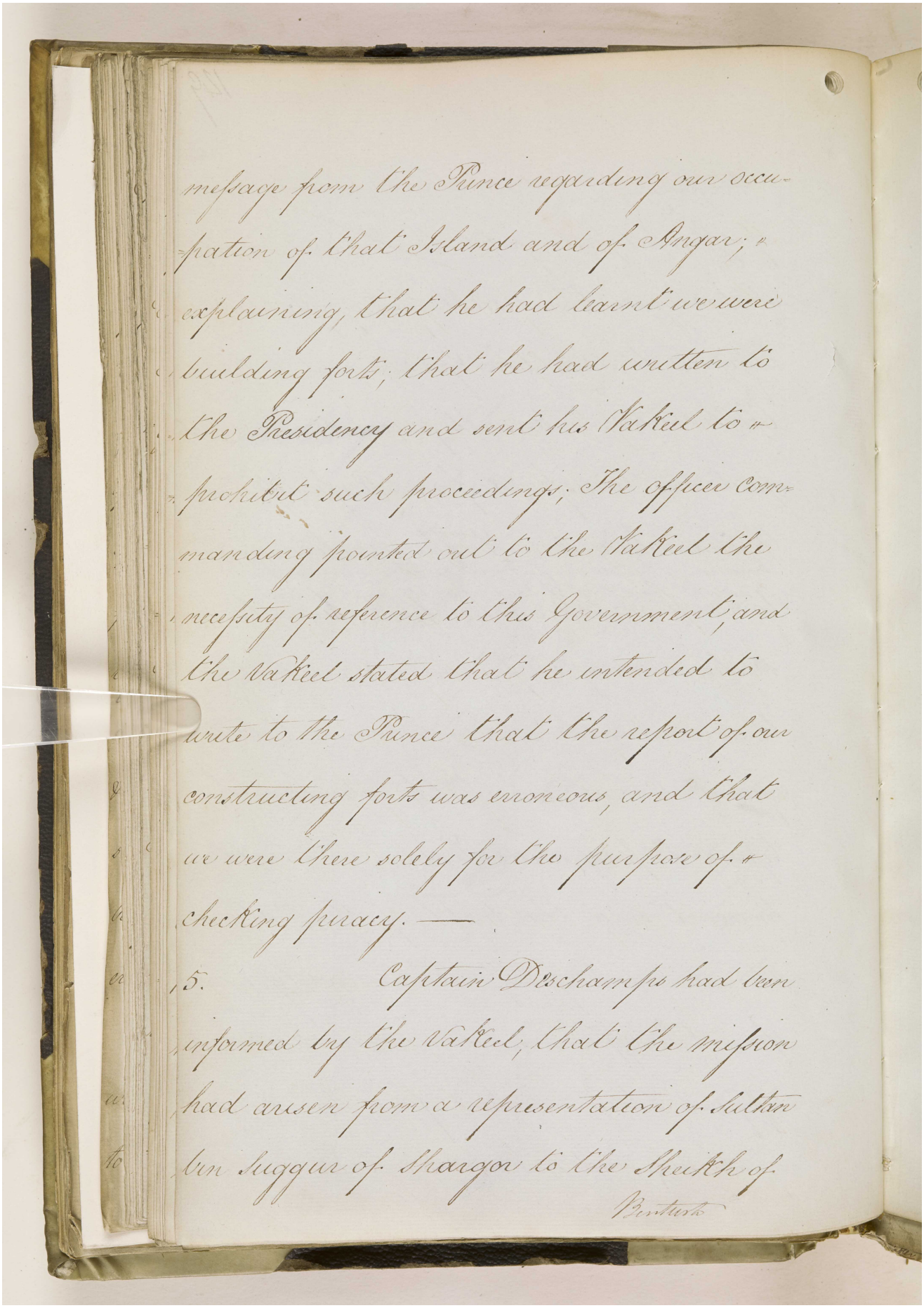

message from the Prince regarding our occupation of that Island and of Angar; & explaining, that he had learnt we were building forts; that he had written to the Presidency and sent his Vakeel to prohibit such proceedings; The officer commanding pointed out to the Vakeel the necessity of reference to this Government; and the Vakeel stated that he intended to write to the Prince that the report of our constructing forts was erroneous, and that we were there solely for the purpose of checking piracy. —

5. Captain Deschamps had been informed by the Vakeel, that the mission had arisen from a representation of Sultan bin Suggur of Shargor to the Sheikh of

Bentuth

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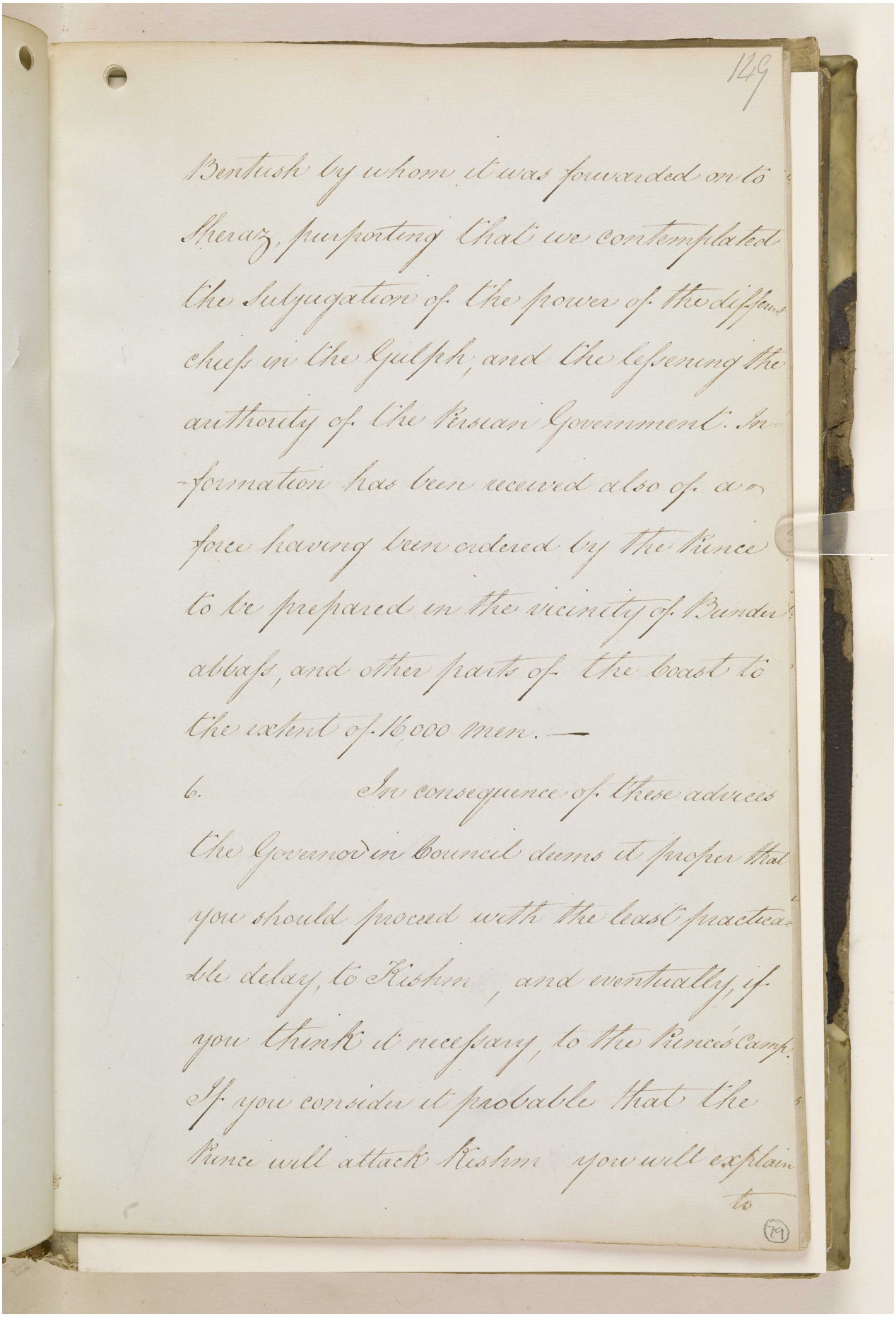

Bentush by whom it was forwarded on to Shiraz, purporting that we contemplated the Subjugation of the power of the different chiefs in the Gulph, and the lessening the authority of the Persian Government. Information has been received also of a force having been ordered by the Prince to be prepared in the vicinity of Bunder abbas, and other parts of the coast to the extent of 16,000 men. —

6. In consequence of these advices the Governor in Council deems it proper that you should proceed with the least practicable delay, to Kishm, and eventually, if you think it necessary, to the Princes Camp. If you consider it probable that the Prince will attack Kishm you will explain to

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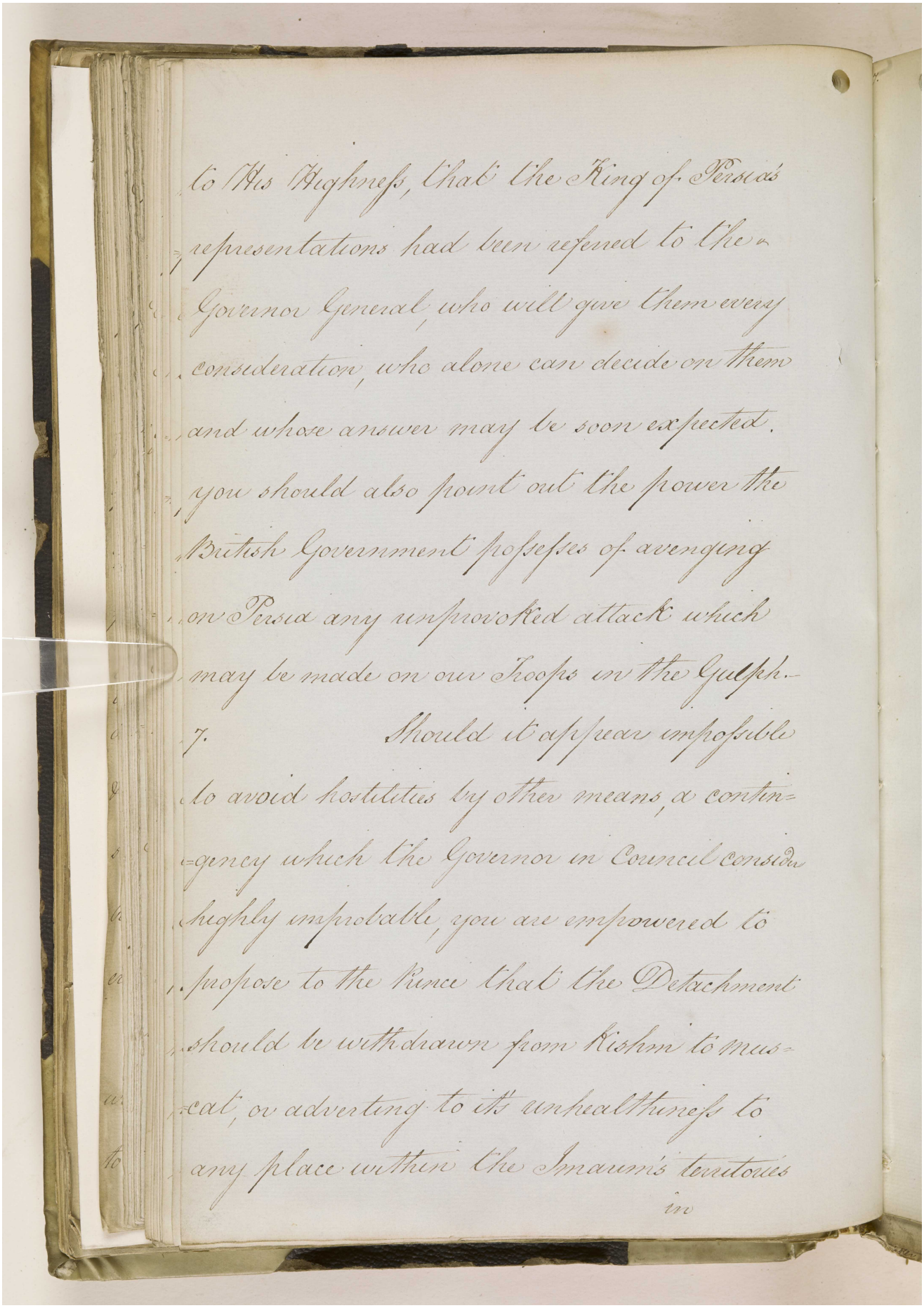

to His Highness, that the King of Persia's
representations had been referred to the
Governor General, who will give them every
consideration, who alone can decide on them
and whose answer may be soon expected.
You should also point out the power the
British Government possesses of avenging
on Persia any unprovoked attack which
may be made on our troops in the Gulph.
7. Should it appear impossible
to avoid hostilities by other means, a contin-
gency which the Governor in Council consid-
highly improbable, you are empowered to
propose to the Prince that the Detachment
should be withdrawn from Kishm to Mus-
cat, or adverting to its unhealthiness to
any place within the Imaum's territories
in

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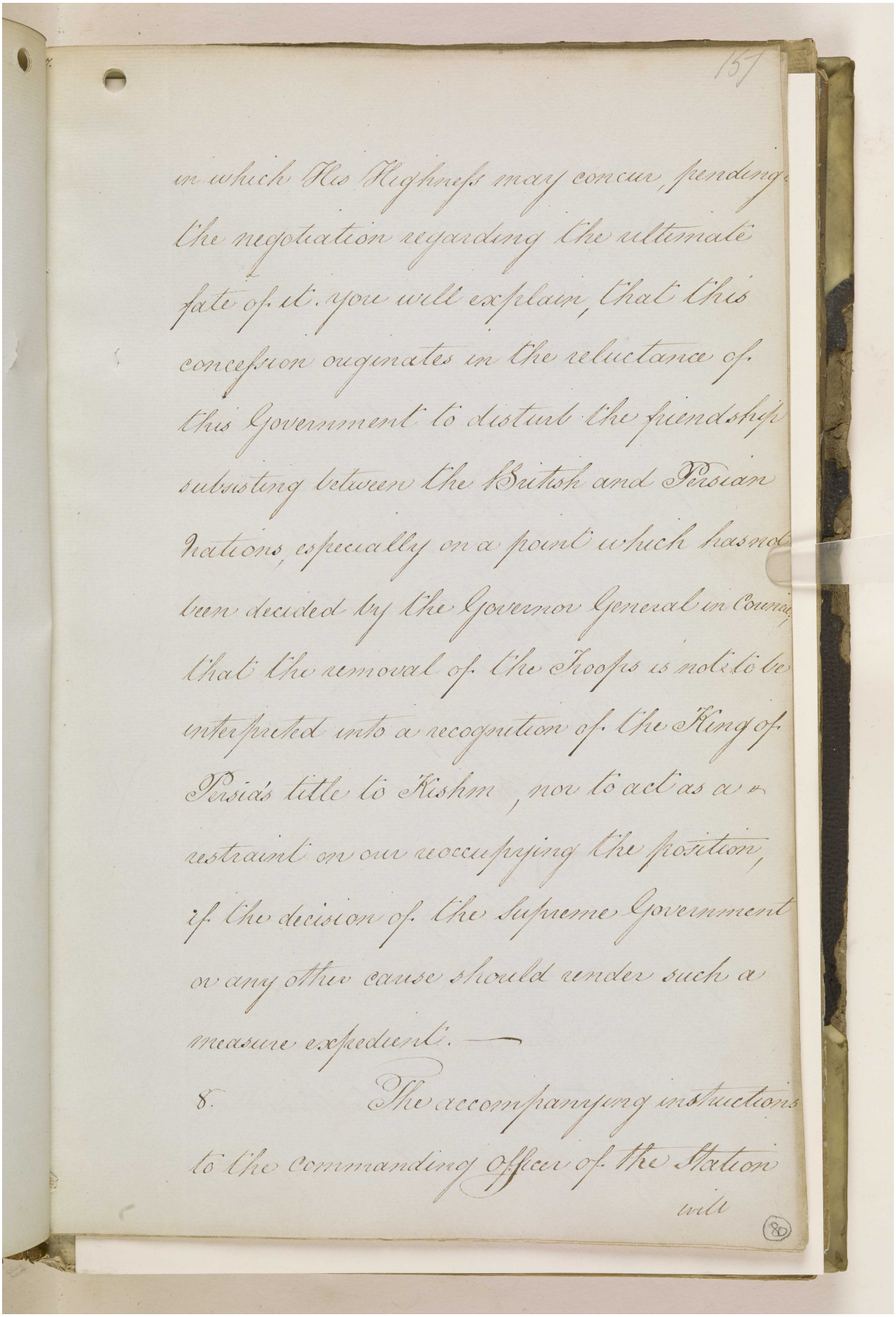

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in which His Highness may concur, pending the negotiation regarding the ultimate fate of it. You will explain, that this concession originates in the reluctance of this Government to disturb the friendship subsisting between the British and Persian Nations, especially on a point which has not been decided by the Governor General in Council that the removal of the Troops is not to be interpreted into a recognition of the King of Persia's title to Kishm, nor to act as a restraint on our reoccupying the position, if the decision of the Supreme Government or any other cause should render such a measure expedient. —

8. The accompanying instructions to the commanding Officer of the Station will

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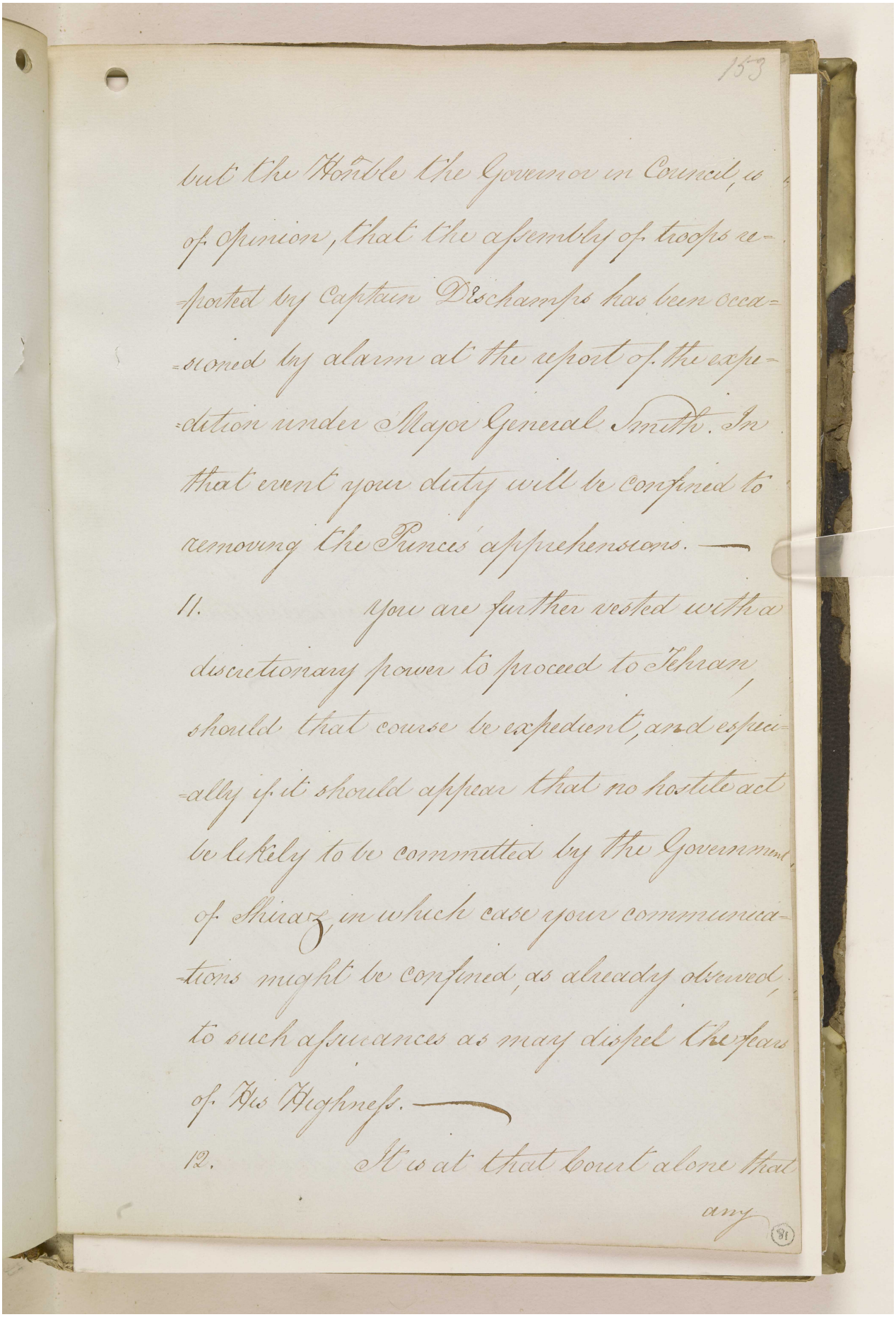
will enable you to carry this measure into
effect.—But it is left to your discretion to
deliver or withhold the letter according to
circumstances. You will of course be careful
to conceal from the Persians the Knowledge
of the powers you possess. your caution
throughout must be to commit the Govern-
ment as little as possible, until instructions
be received from Bengal.——

9. The necessity of observing the
strictest secrecy on this point is obvious, since
should any rumour of it reach Persia it will
doubtless produce the very evils it is the
wish of Government to avoid.——

10. These instructions are given
that the British Officers in the Persian
Gulph, may be prepared for all exigencies
but



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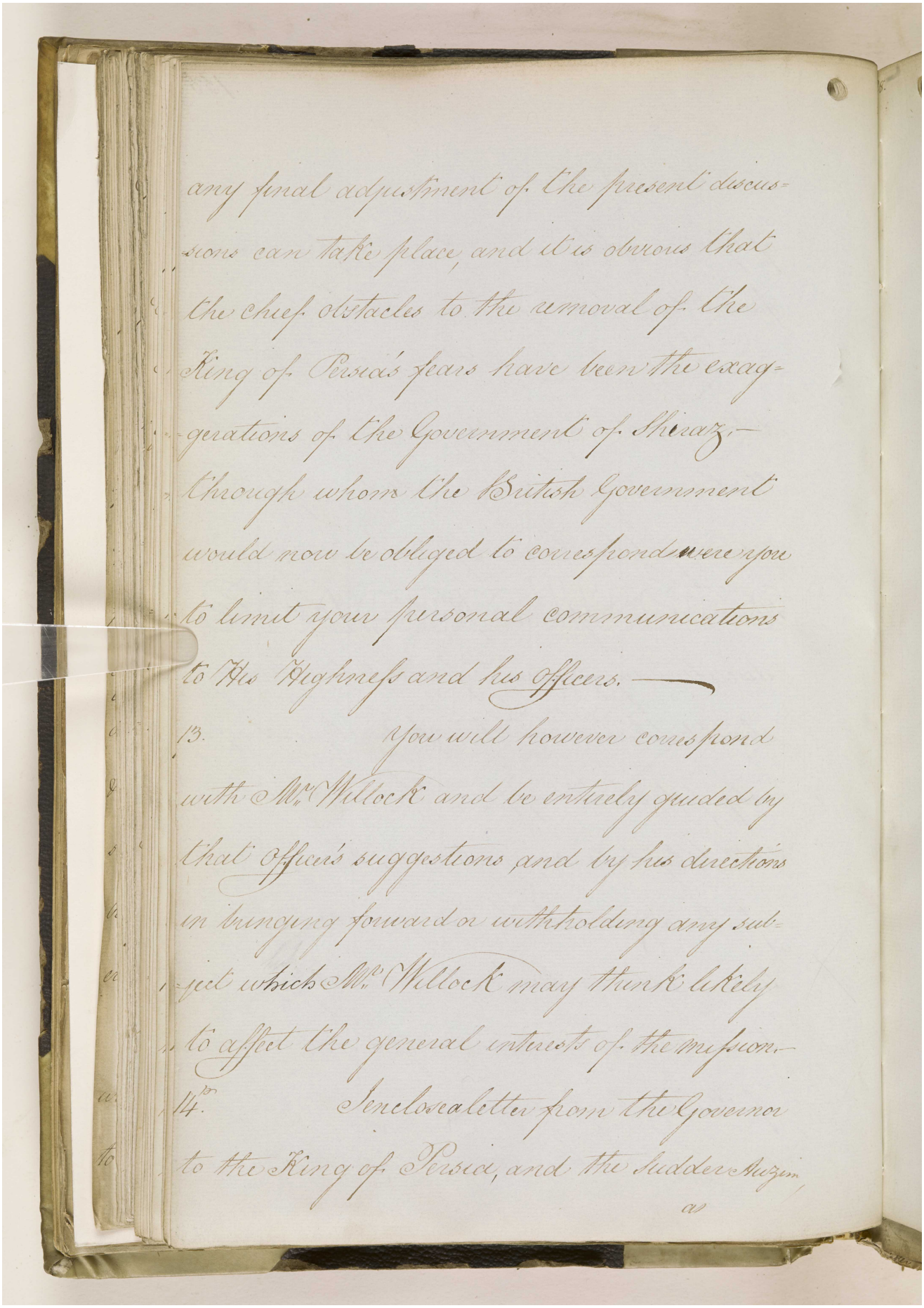
but the Honble the Governor in Council, is of opinion, that the assembly of troops reported by Captain Dschamps has been occasioned by alarm at the report of the expedition under Major General Smith. In that event your duty will be confined to removing the Princes apprehensions. —

11. You are further vested with a discretionary power to proceed to Tehran, should that course be expedient, and especially if it should appear that no hostile act be likely to be committed by the Government of Shiraz in which case your communications might be confined, as already observed, to such assurances as may dispel the fears of His Highness. —

12. It is at that Court alone that any

81



any final adjustment of the present discus-
sions can take place, and it is obvious that
the chief obstacles to the removal of the
King of Persia's fears have been the exag-
gerations of the Government of Shiraz—
through whom the British Government
would now be obliged to correspond were you
to limit your personal communications
to His Highness and his Officers.

13. You will however correspond
with Mr Willock and be entirely guided by
that Officer's suggestions and by his directions
in bringing forward or withholding any sub-
ject which Mr Willock may think likely
to affect the general interests of the Mission.

14th I enclose a letter from the Governor
to the King of Persia, and the Sudder Nizm

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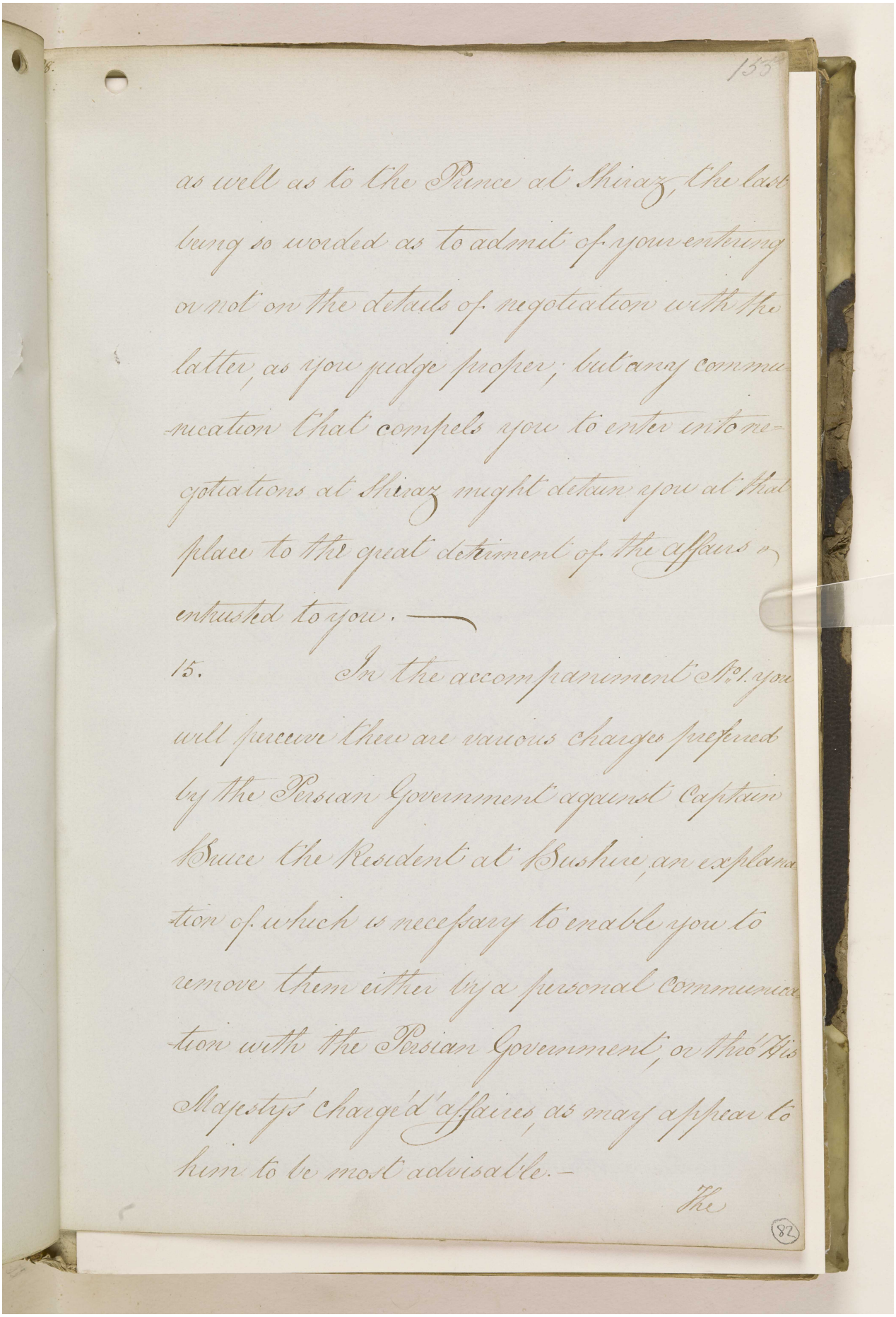

as well as to the Prince at Shiraz, the last being so worded as to admit of your entering or not on the details of negotiation with the latter, as you judge proper; but any communication that compels you to enter into negotiations at Shiraz might detain you at that place to the great detriment of the affairs entrusted to you. —

15. In the accompaniment No. 1 you will perceive there are various charges preferred by the Persian Government against Captain Bruce the Resident at Bushire, an explanation of which is necessary to enable you to remove them either by a personal communication with the Persian Government, or thro' His Majesty's Chargé d'affaires, as may appear to him to be most advisable. —

The

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16. The object of the British Government in th' operations in the Gulph having in view the preserving of th' tranquillity as it was owing to the Wars among the Powers who inhabit th' shores that the growth of piracy was encouraged, it applied th' whole attention to bring about a reconciliation between the Imaum of Muscat and the ettoobees - at the same time that it offered it's mediation to prevent hostilities against Bahrein on the part of the King of Persia, and even to procure the latter a tribute rather than allow of War.

17. These proceedings were so far from inconsistent with each other that they sprung naturally from the same source, a desire to preserve the peace of the Gulph; At all events the mediation between the Imâum and the ettoobees

was

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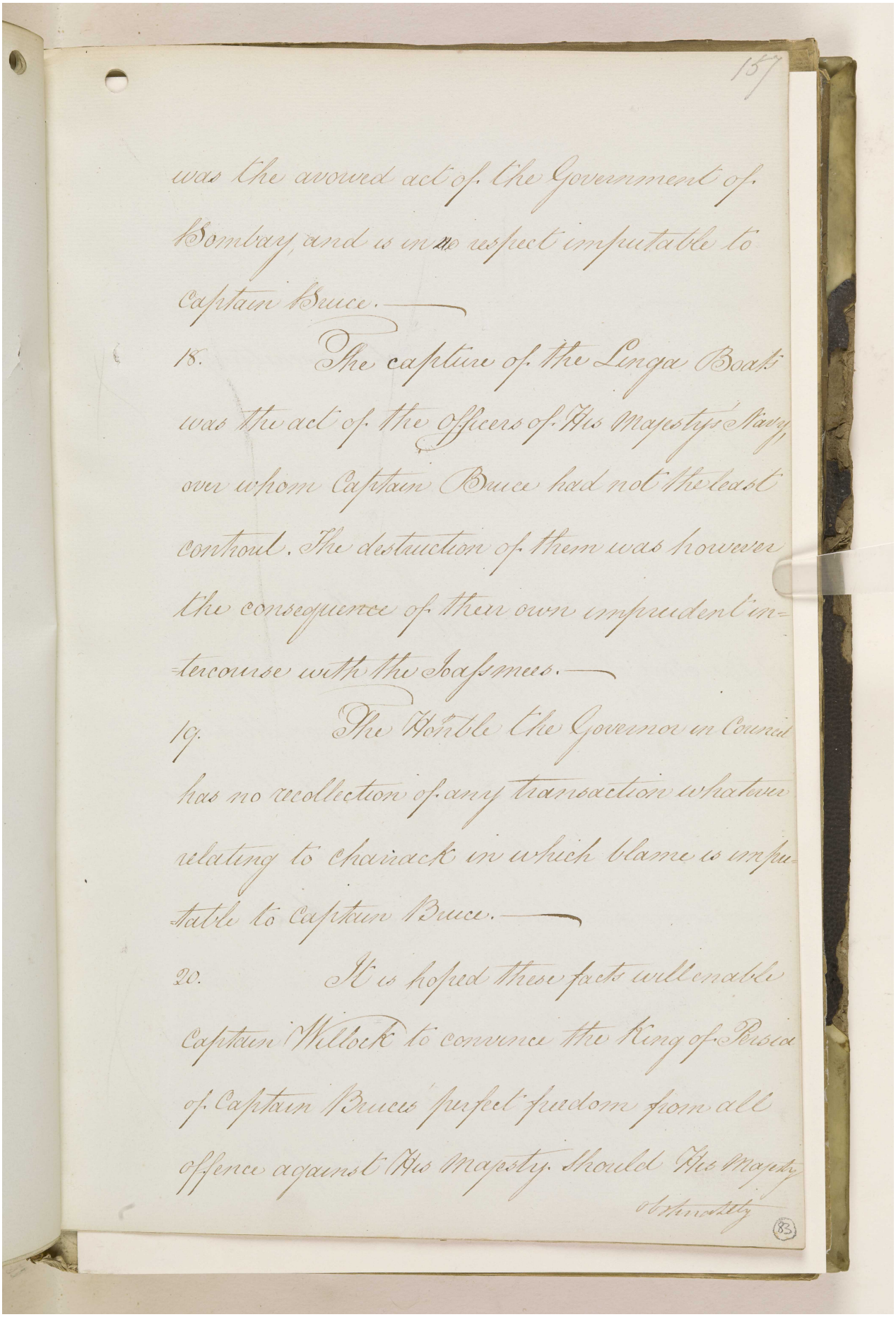

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was the avowed act of the Government of Bombay, and is in no respect imputable to Captain Bruce.—

18. The capture of the Lingja Boats was the act of the Officers of His Majestys Navy over whom Captain Bruce had not the least controul. The destruction of them was however the consequence of their own imprudent intercourse with the Seapoys.—

19. The Honble the Governor in Council has no recollection of any transaction whatever relating to Chainack in which blame is imputable to Captain Bruce.—

20. It is hoped these facts will enable Captain Wilcock to convince the King of Persia of Captain Bruces perfect freedom from all offence against His Majesty. Should His Majesty

obstinately insist on his removal Captain Willock will inform this Government and await a further reply.—

21. I have the honor of transmitting to you for your information and guidance copy of a despatch from Major General Smith respecting the advantages of Kishm and the means of rendering it the most effectually promotive of the object of checking piracy; and the Governor in Council cannot too forcibly urge on the local authorities the strictest observance of the instructions issued by the Major General to the officer commanding at that Station and the senior officer of the Marine.—

22 I have also the honor of furnishing you with the copy of a correspondence between this Government and the Honble Court of Directors on

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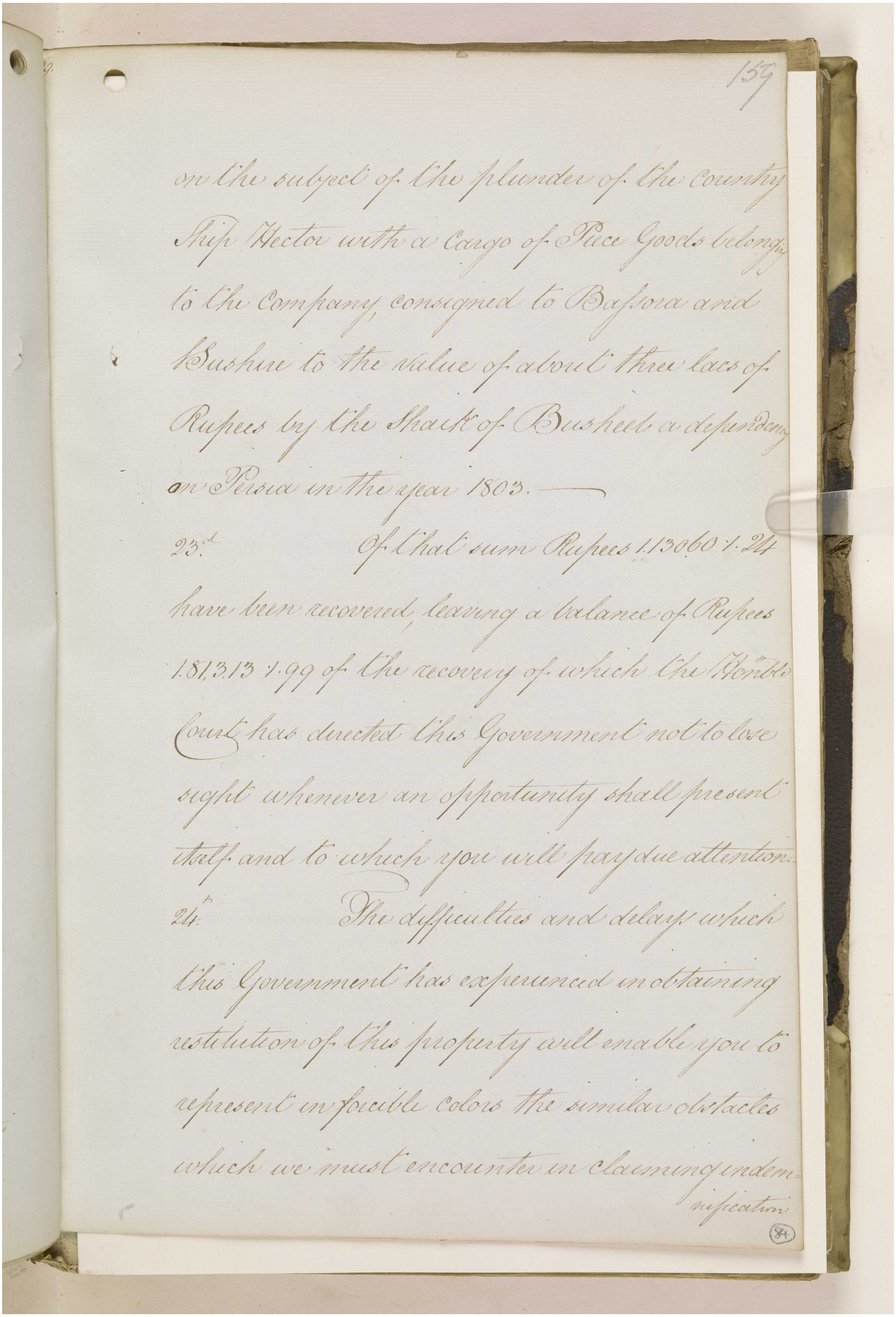

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on the subject of the plunder of the Country Ship Hector with a Cargo of Piece Goods belonging to the Company, consigned to Bassora and Bushire to the value of about three lacs of Rupees by the Shaick of Busheer a depending on Persia in the year 1803.

23d. Of that sum Rupees 1.13060 1.24 have been recovered, leaving a balance of Rupees 1.81,313 1.99 of the recovery of which the Bombay Court has directed this Government not to lose sight whenever an opportunity shall present itself and to which you will pay due attention.

24th. The difficulties and delays which this Government has experienced in obtaining restitution of this property will enable you to represent in forcible colors the similar obstacles which we must encounter in claiming indemnification

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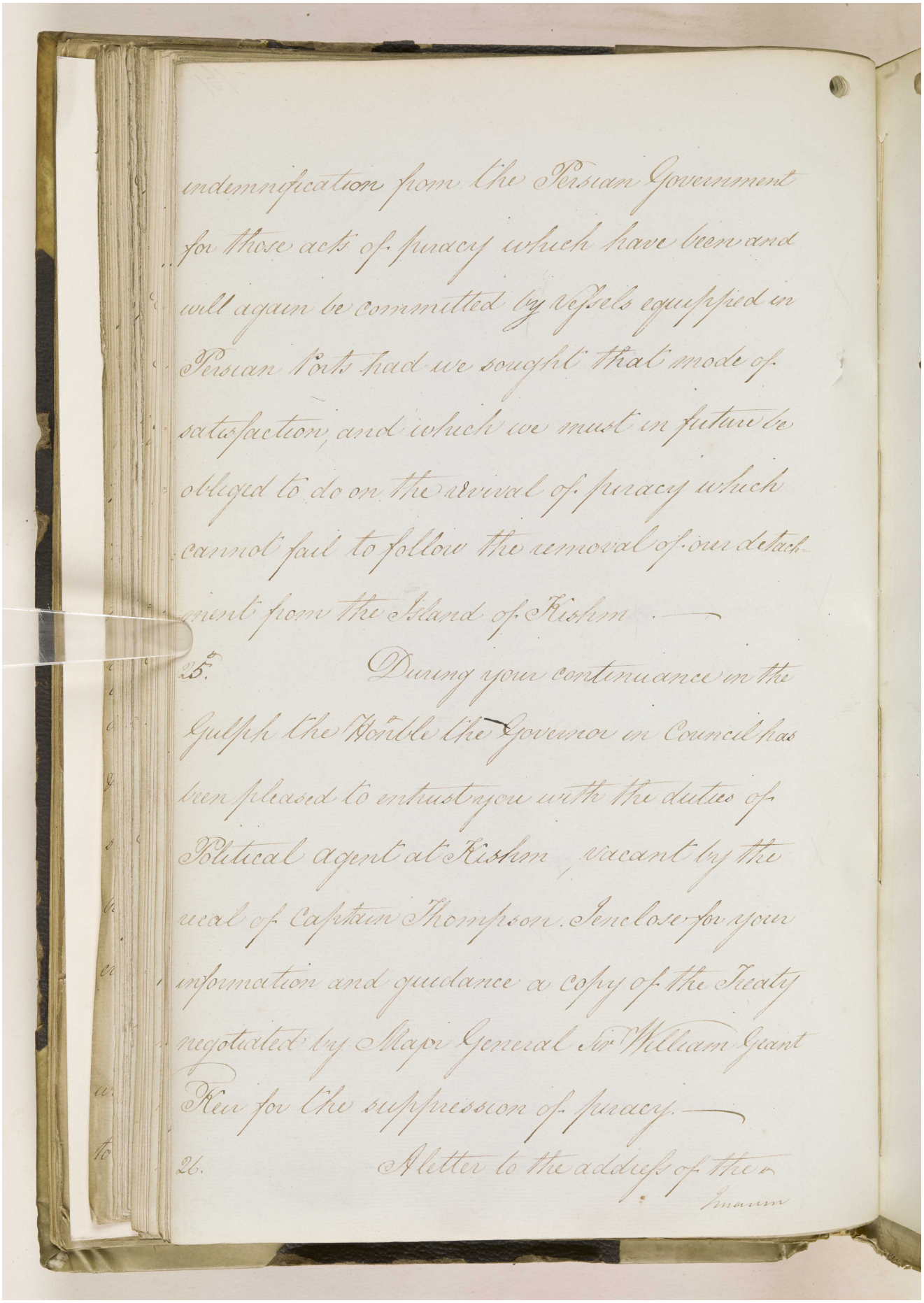

indemnification from the Persian Government for those acts of Piracy which have been and will again be committed by Vessels equipped in Persian Ports had we sought that mode of satisfaction, and which we must in future be obliged to do on the revival of Piracy which cannot fail to follow the removal of our detachment from the Island of Kishm.

25. During your continuance in the Gulph the Honble the Governor in Council has been pleased to entrust you with the duties of Political agent at Kishm, vacant by the recal of Captain Thompson. I enclose for your information and guidance a copy of the Treaty negotiated by Major General Sir William Grant Keir for the suppression of Piracy.

26. A letter to the address of the Imaum

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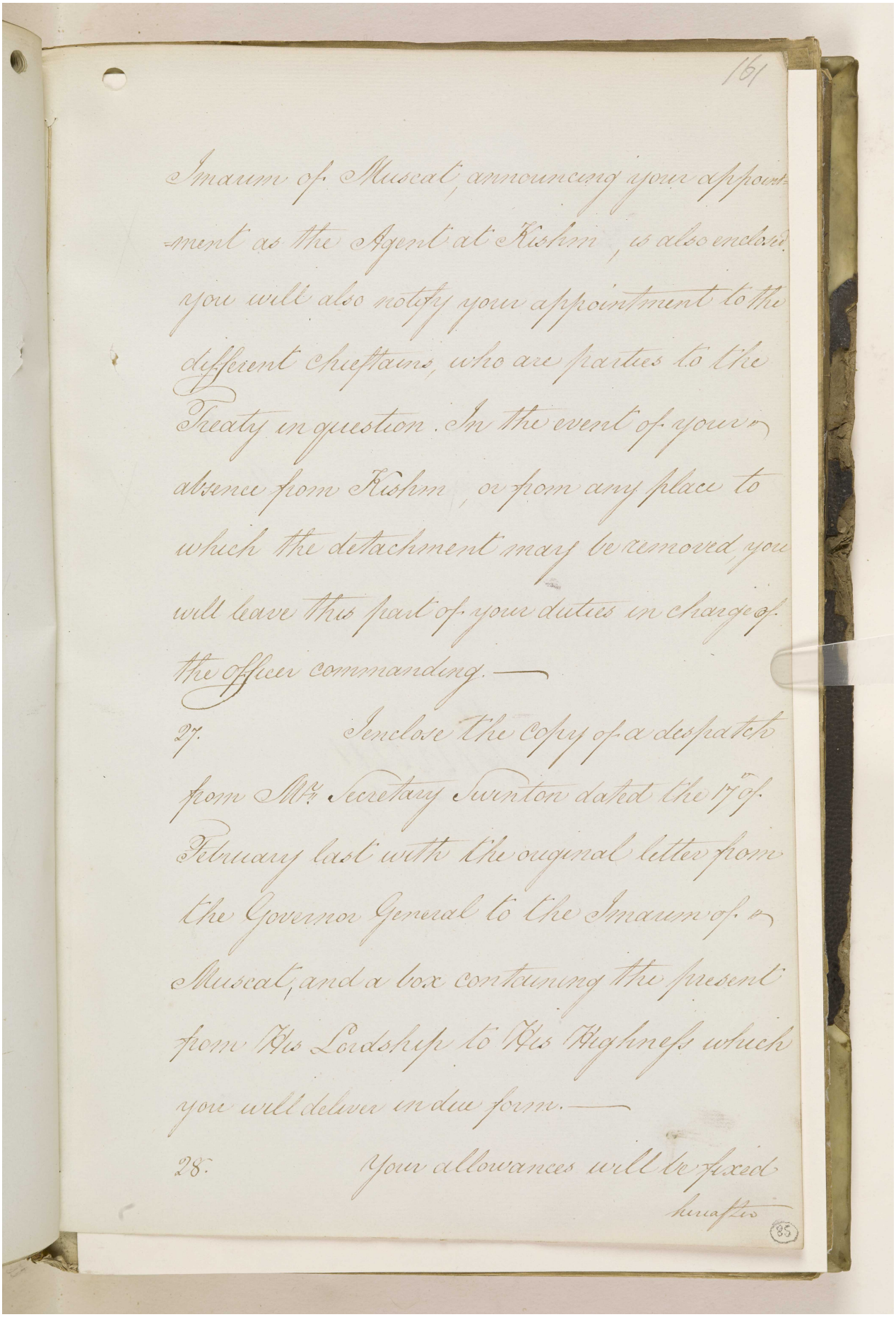

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Imaum of Muscat, announcing your appoint-
ment as the Agent at Kishm, is also enclos'd
you will also notify your appointment to the
different Chieftains, who are parties to the
Treaty in question. In the event of your
absence from Kishm, or from any place to
which the detachment may be removed you
will leave this part of your duties in charge of
the Officer commanding. —

27. I enclose the Copy of a despatch
from Mr. Secretary Swinton dated the 17th of
February last with the original letter from
the Governor General to the Imaum of
Muscat, and a box containing the present
from His Lordship to His Highness which
you will deliver in due form. —

28. Your allowances will be fixed
hereafter

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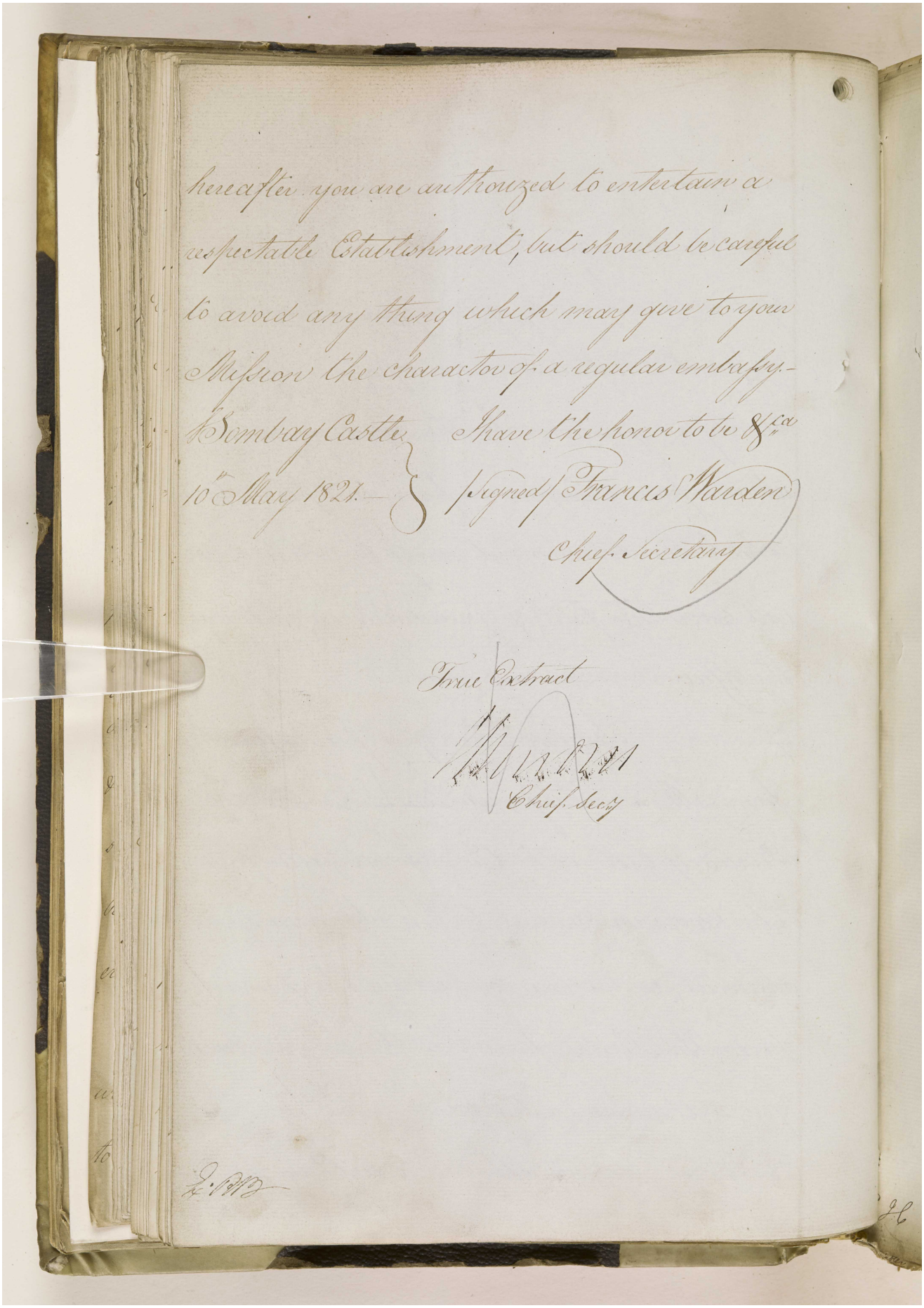
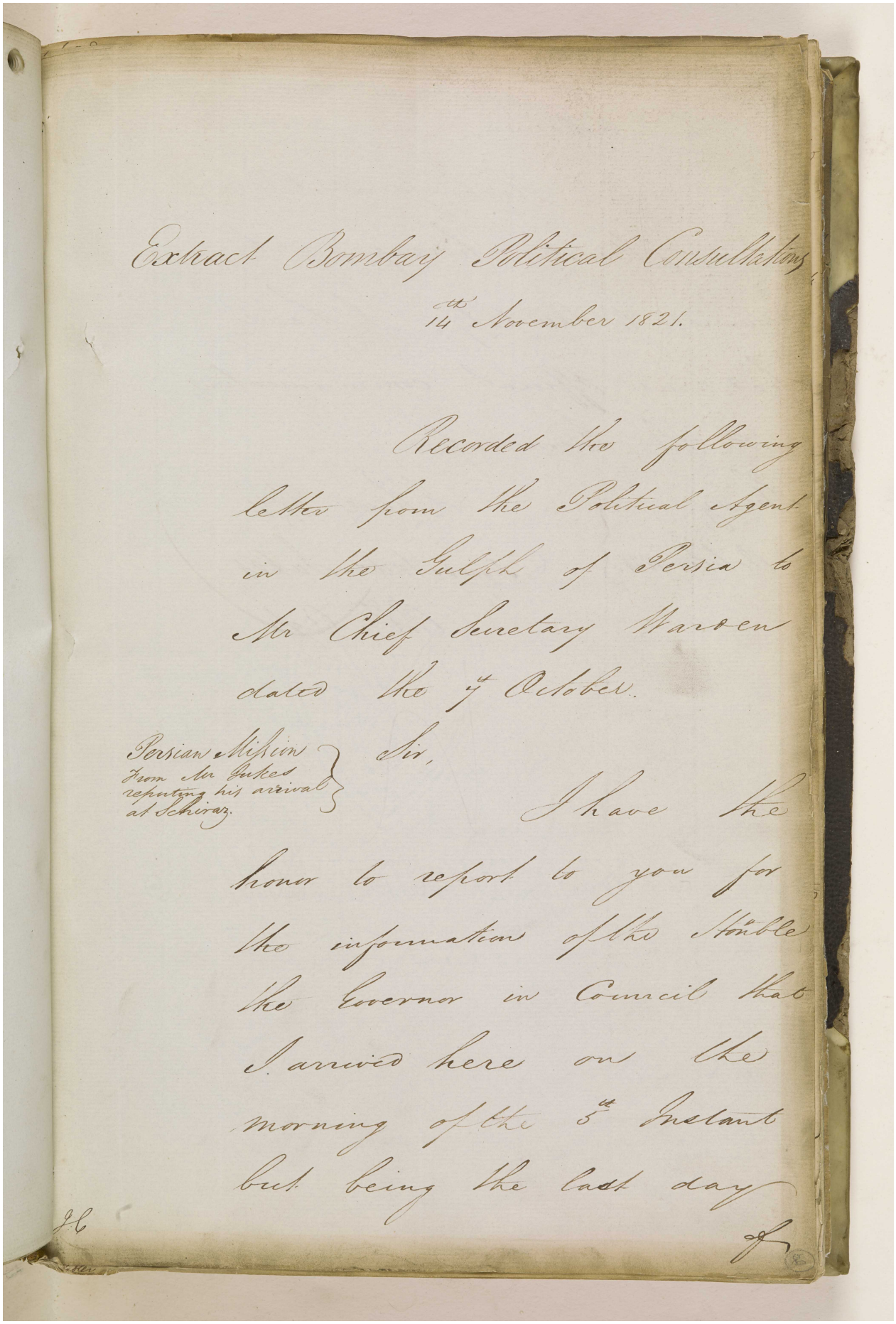


hereafter you are authorized to entertain a respectable Establishment, but should be careful to avoid any thing which may give to your Mission the character of a regular embassy.—

Bombay Castle 10th May 1821.—

I have the honor to be &c.
(signed) Francis Warden
Chief Secretary

True Extract
(signed)
Chief Secy



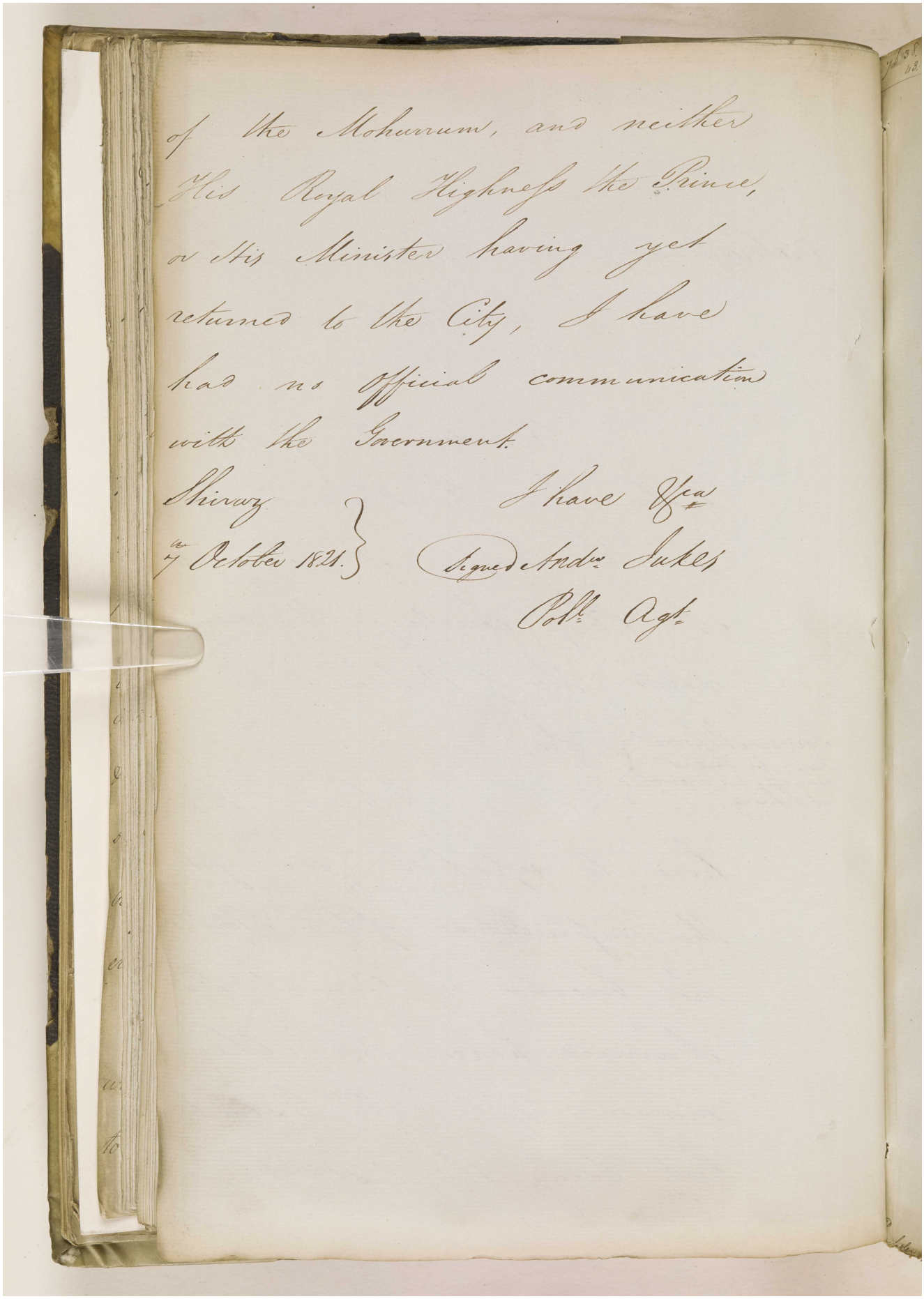
Extract Bombay Political Consultations
14th November 1821.

Recorded the following
letter from the Political Agent
in the Gulph of Persia to
Mr Chief Secretary Warden
dated the 7th October.

Persian Mission
from Mr Fraser
reporting his arrival
at Schiraz.

Sir,

I have the
honor to report to you for
the information of the Honble
the Governor in Council that
I arrived here on the
morning of the 5th Instant
but being the last day



of the Mohurrum, and neither
His Royal Highness the Prince,
or His Minister having yet
returned to the City, I have
had no Official communication
with the Government.

Shiraz
7th October 1821.

I have &c.
(Signed) Andw Jukes
Polt Agt.

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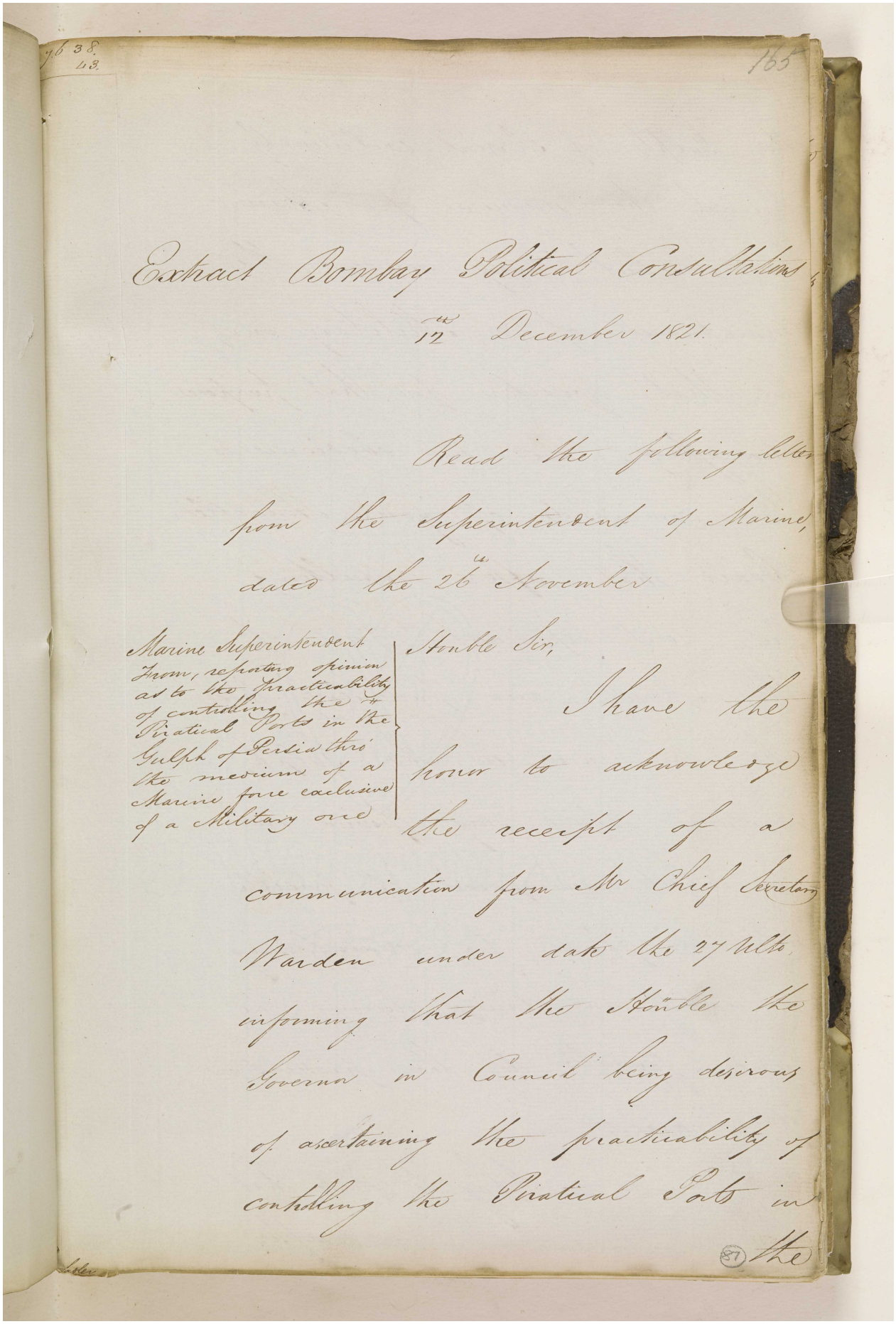

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Extract Bombay Political Consultations
17th December 1821.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Marine, dated the 26th November

Marine Superintendent
From, reporting opinion as to the practicability of controlling the Piratical Ports in the Gulph of Persia thro' the medium of a Marine force exclusive of a Military one

Honble Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Mr Chief Secretary Warden under date the 27th Ult. informing that the Honble the Governor in Council being desirous of ascertaining the practicability of controlling the Piratical Ports in the

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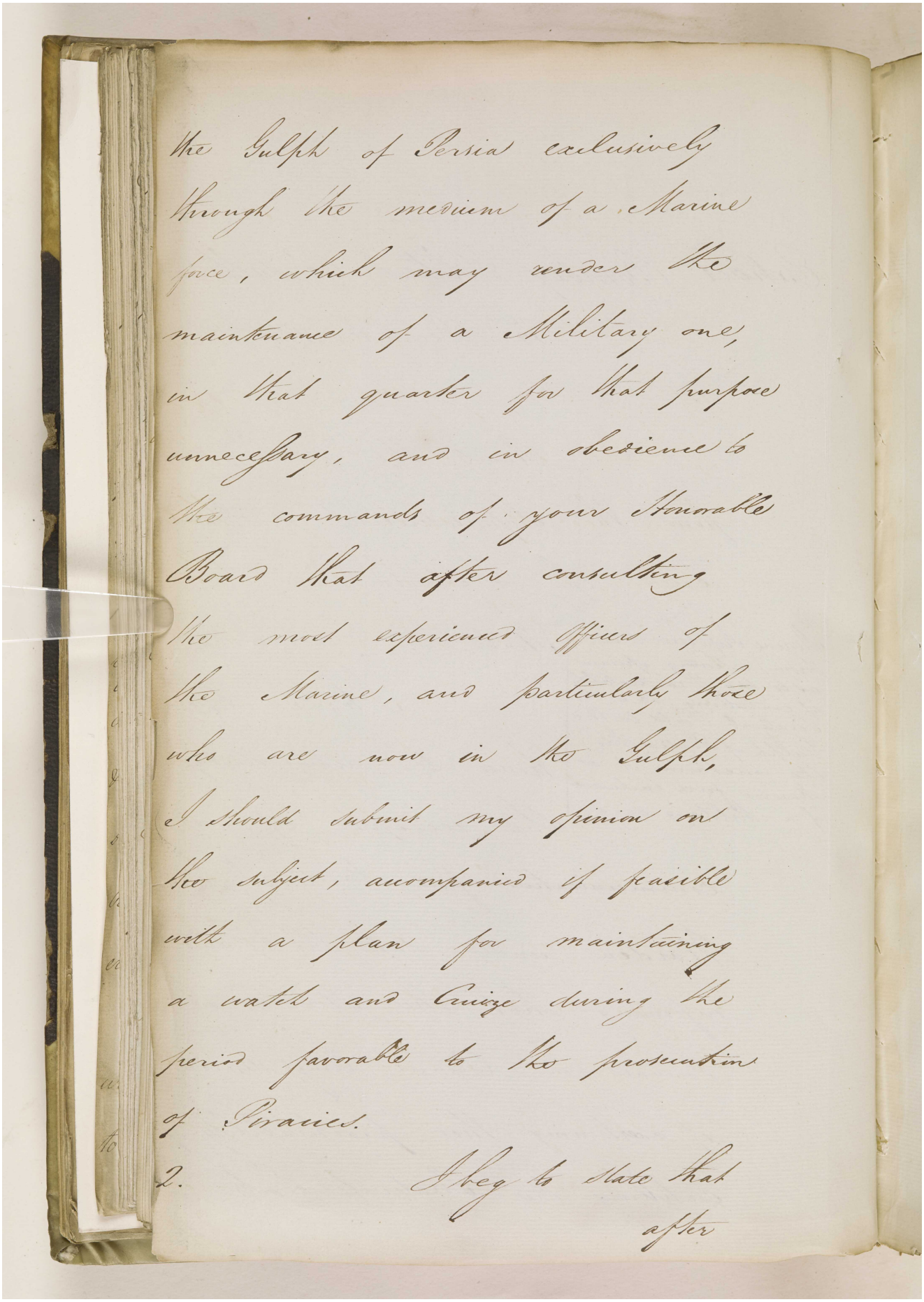

the Gulph of Persia exclusively through the medium of a Marine force, which may render the maintenance of a Military one, in that quarter for that purpose unnecessary, and in obedience to the commands of your Honorable Board that after consulting the most experienced Officers of the Marine, and particularly those who are now in the Gulph, I should submit my opinion on the subject, accompanied if feasible with a plan for maintaining a watch and Cruize during the period favorable to the prosecution of Piracies.

2. I beg to state that after

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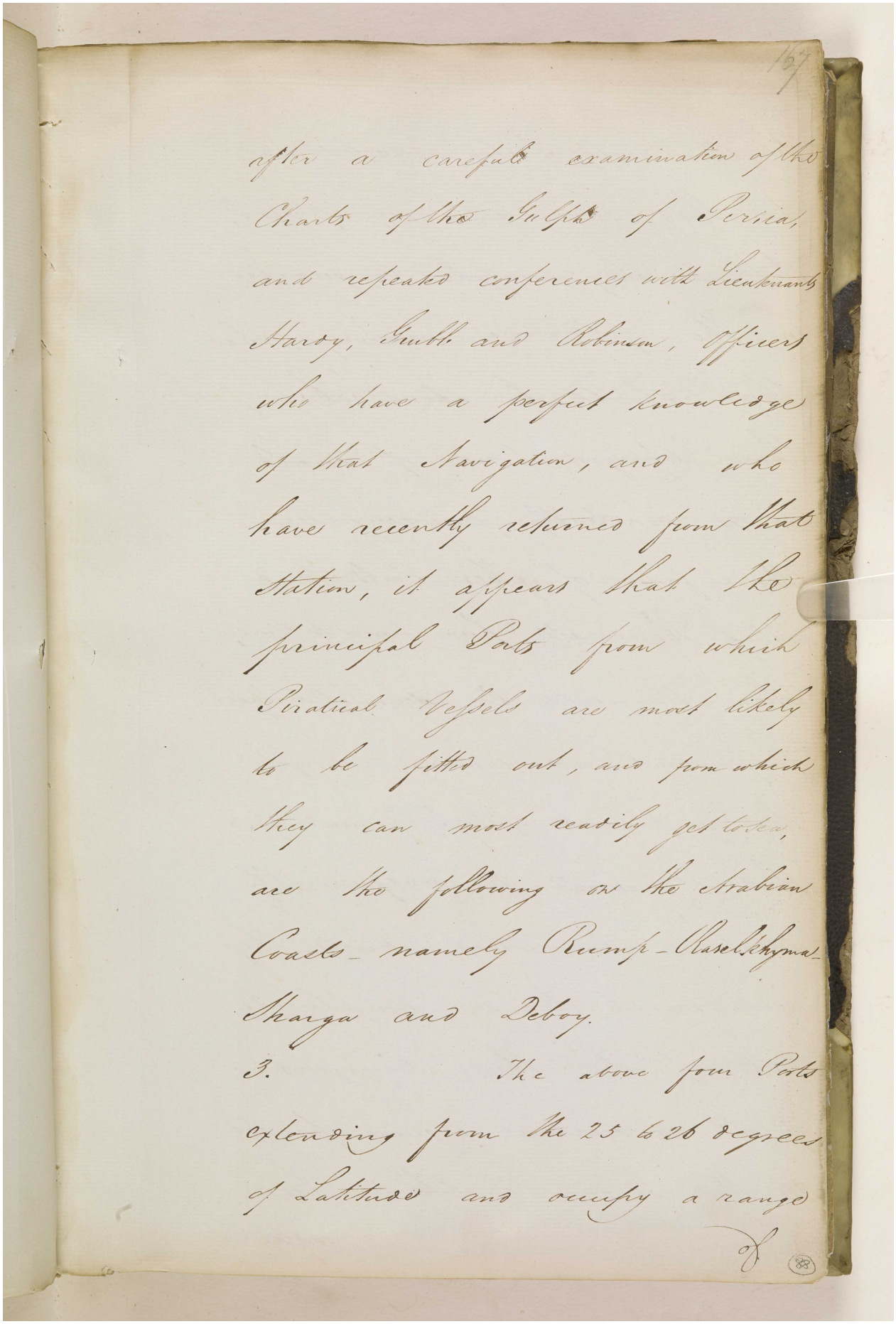

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after a careful examination of the Charts of the Gulph of Persia, and repeated conferences with Lieutenants Hardy, Guthrie and Robinson, Officers who have a perfect knowledge of that Navigation, and who have recently returned from that Station, it appears that the principal Ports from which Piratical Vessels are most likely to be fitted out, and from which they can most readily get to sea, are the following on the Arabian Coasts – namely Rump – Ras el Khyma – Shanga and Debay.

3. The above four Ports extending from the 25 to 26 degrees of Latitude and occupy a range

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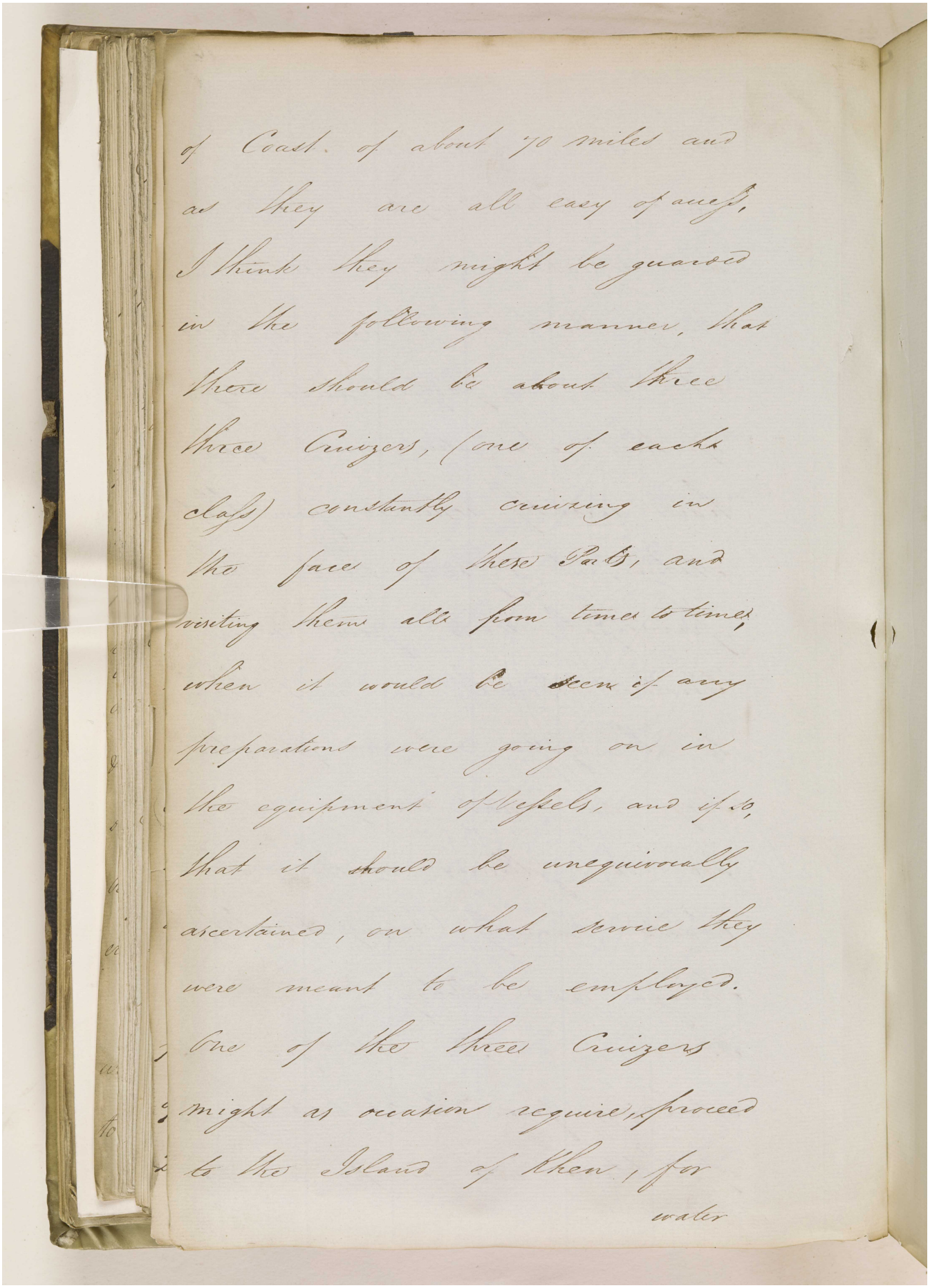

of Coast of about 70 miles and as they are all easy of ascent, I think they might be guarded in the following manner, that there should be about three three Cruizers, (one of each class) constantly cruizing in the face of these Ports, and visiting them all from time to time, when it would be seen if any preparations were going on in the equipment of Vessels, and if so, that it should be unequivocally ascertained, on what service they were meant to be employed. One of the three Cruizers might as occasion require, proceed to the Island of Khem, for

water

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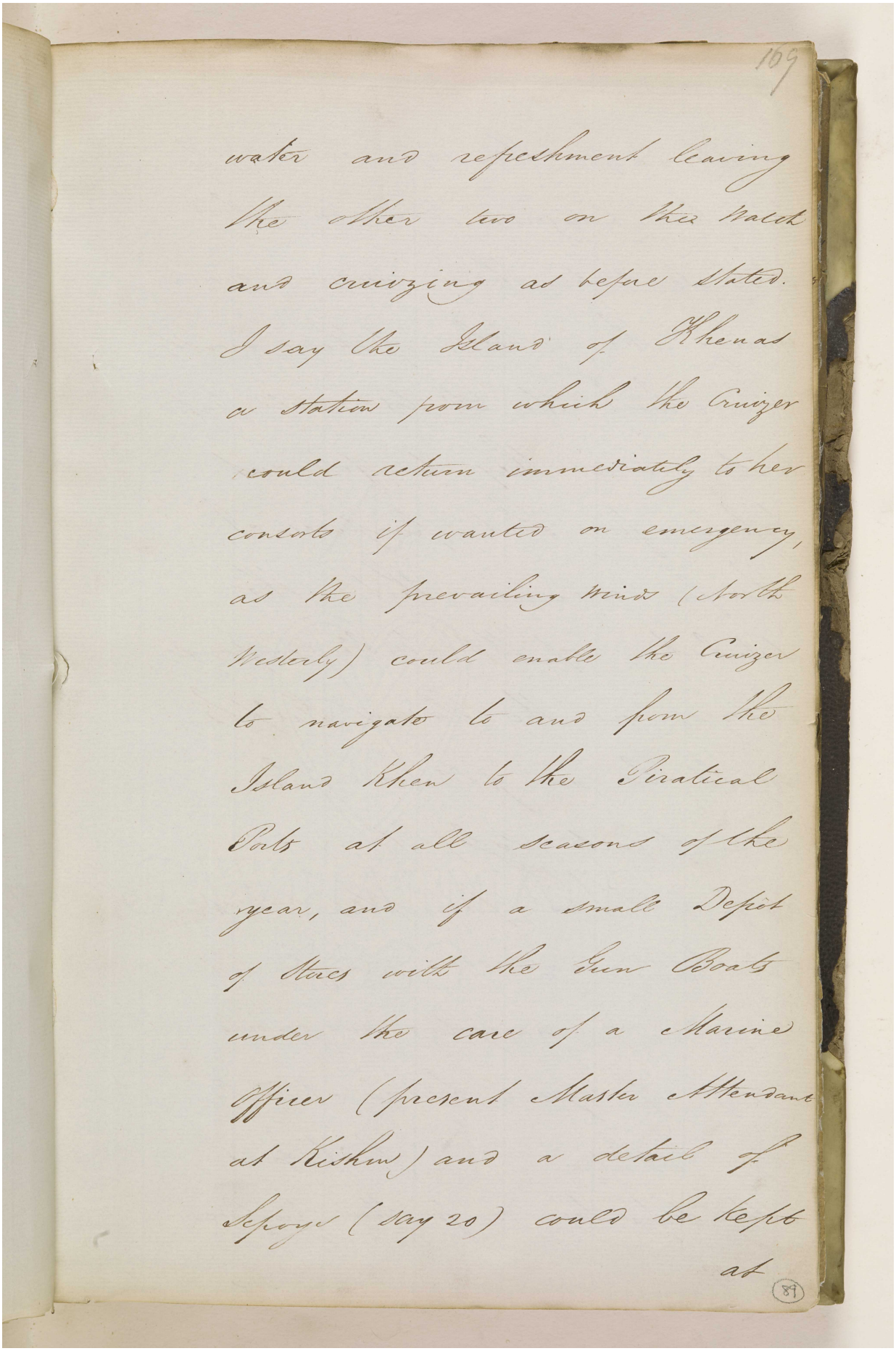

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water and refreshment leaving
the other two on the watch
and cruizing as before stated.
I say the Island of Khenas
a station from which the Cruizer
could return immediately to her
consorts if wanted on emergency,
as the prevailing wind (North
Westerly) could enable the Cruizer
to navigate to and from the
Island Khen to the Piratical
Ports at all seasons of the
year, and if a small Depôt
of Stores with the Gun Boats
under the care of a Marine
Officer (present Master Attendant
at Kishm) and a detail of
Sepoys (say 20) could be kept
at

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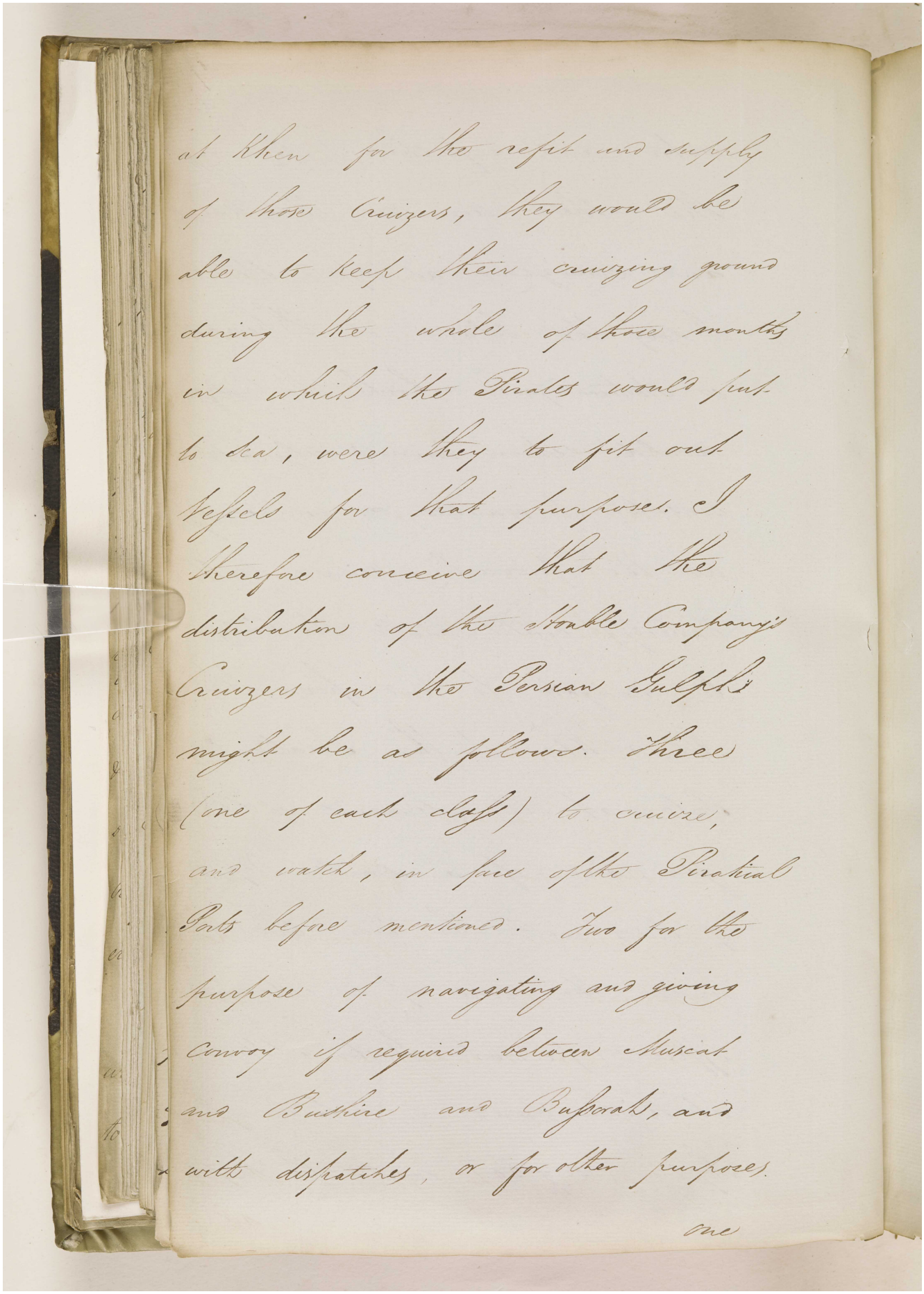

at Kheis for the refit and supply of those Cruizers, they would be able to keep their cruizing ground during the whole of those months in which the Pirates would put to sea, were they to fit out Vessels for that purpose. I therefore conceive that the distribution of the Honble Company's Cruizers in the Persian Gulph might be as follows. Three (one of each class) to cruize, and watch, in sight of the Piratical Ports before mentioned. Two for the purpose of navigating and giving Convoy if required between Muscat and Bushire and Bussorah, and with dispatches, or for other purposes.

one

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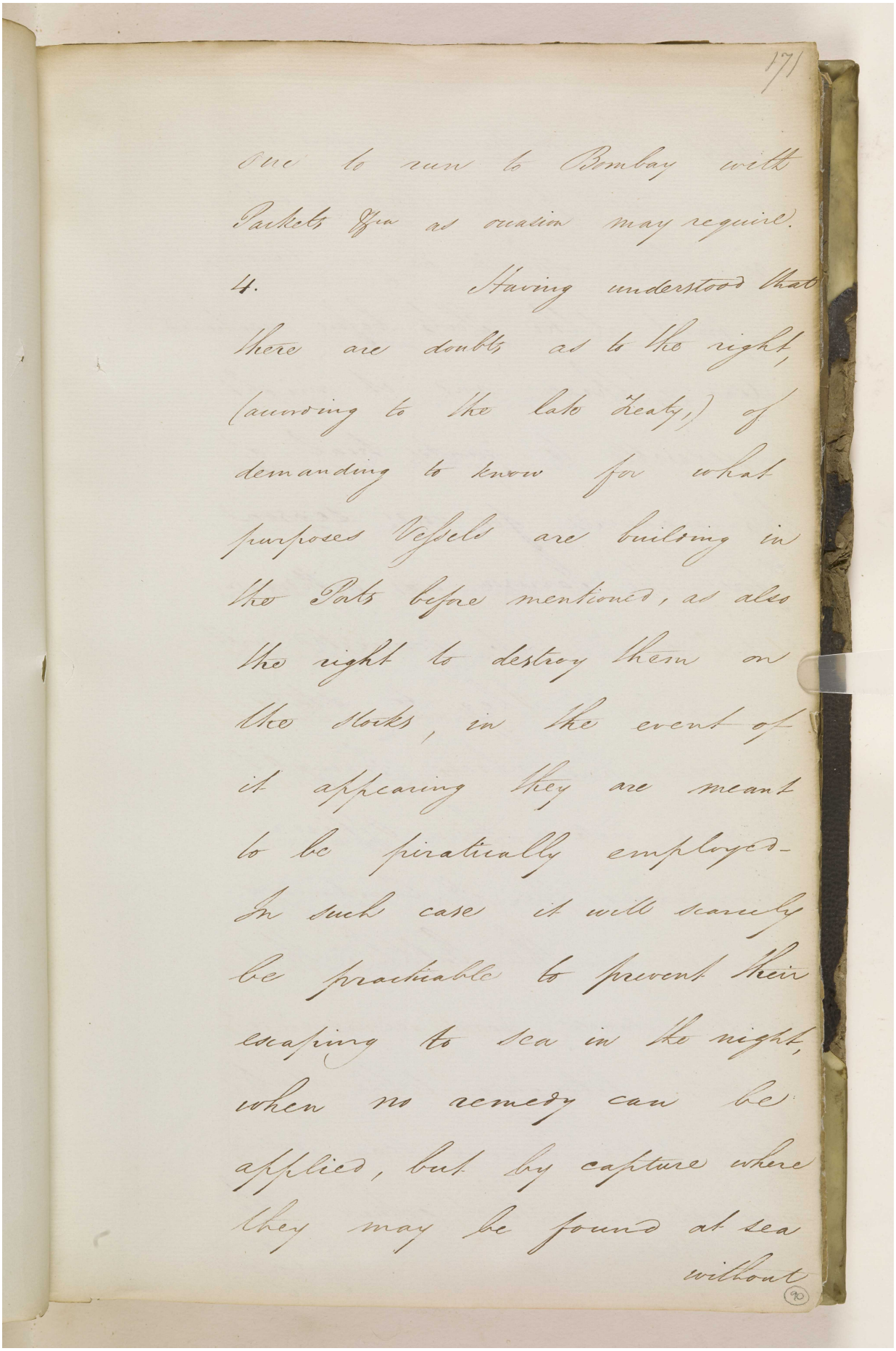

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one to run to Bombay with Packets &c as occasion may require.

4. Having understood that there are doubts as to the right, (according to the late Treaty,) of demanding to know for what purposes Vessels are building in the Ports before mentioned, as also the right to destroy them on the Stocks, in the event of it appearing they are meant to be piratically employed- In such case it will scarcely be practicable to prevent their escaping to sea in the night, when no remedy can be applied, but by capture where they may be found at sea without

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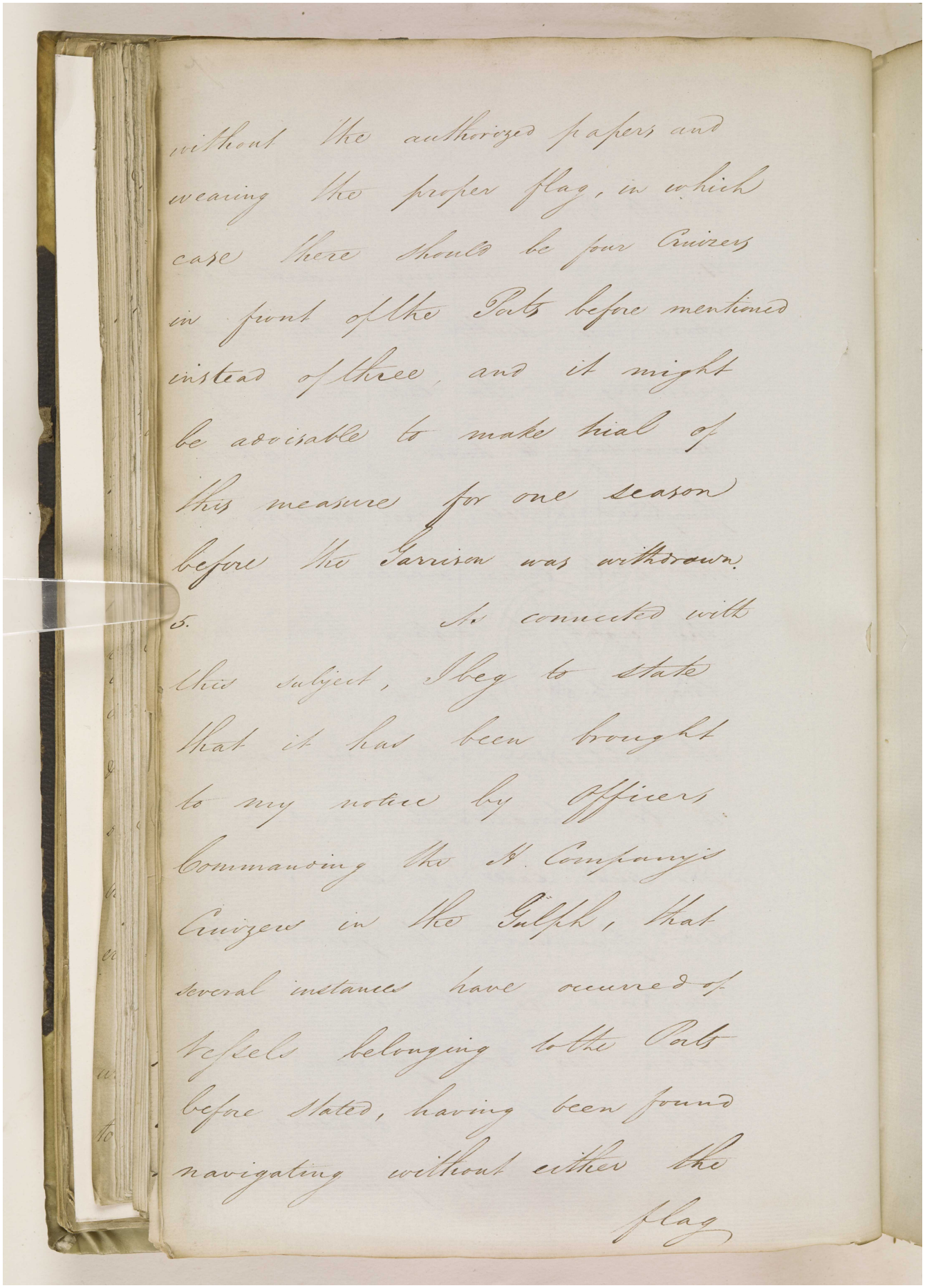
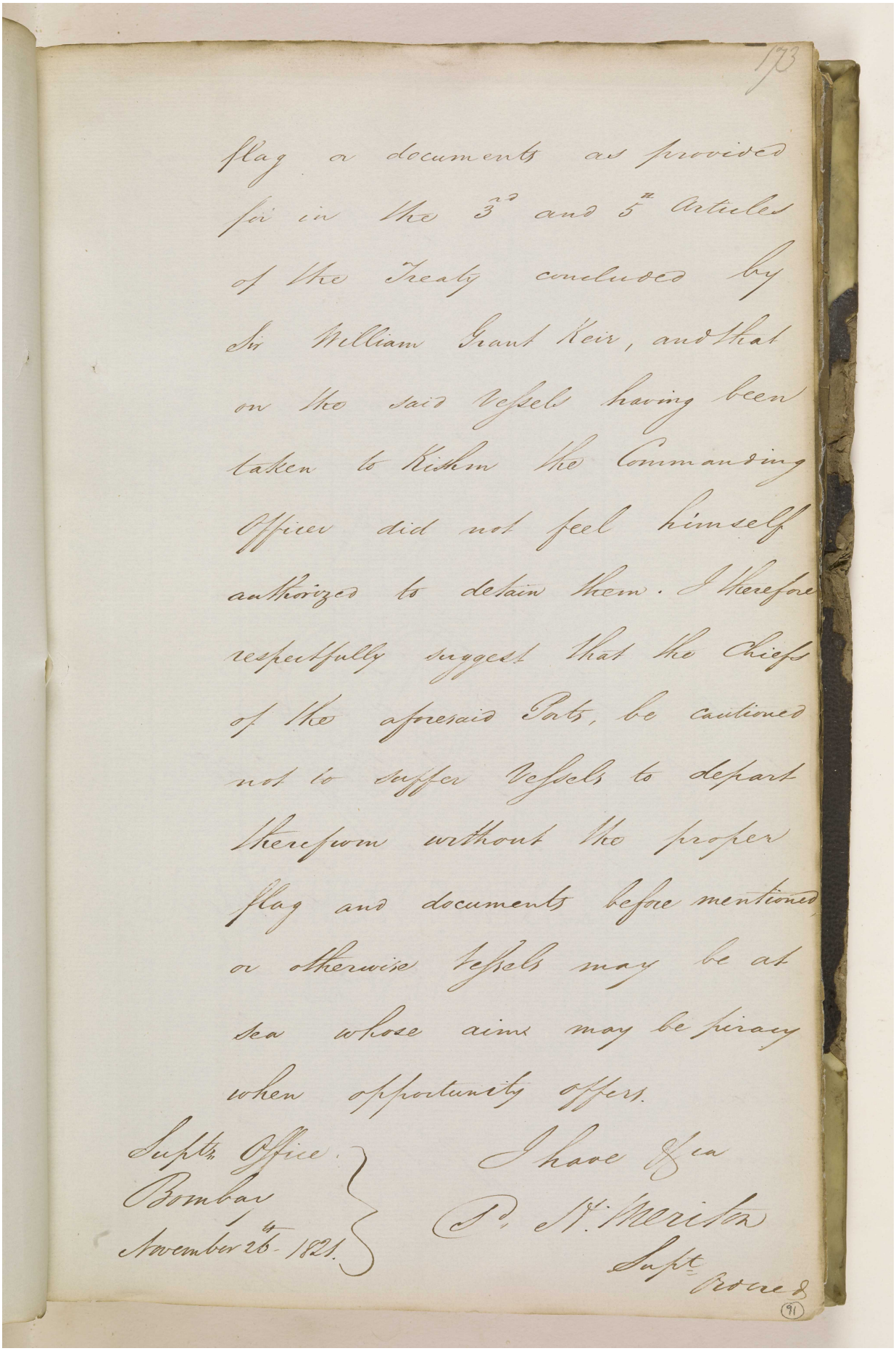


without the authorized papers and
wearing the proper flag, in which
case there should be four Cruizers
in front of the Ports before mentioned
instead of three, and it might
be advisable to make trial of
this measure for one season
before the Garrison was withdrawn.

5. In connected with
this subject, I beg to state
that it has been brought
to my notice by Officers
Commanding the H. Company's
Cruizers in the Gulph, that
several instances have occured of
Vessels belonging to the Ports
before stated, having been found
navigating without either the
flag



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flag or documents as provided for in the 3rd and 5th Articles of the Treaty concluded by Sir William Grant Keir, and that on the said Vessels having been taken to Kishm the Commanding Officer did not feel himself authorized to detain them. I therefore respectfully suggest that the Chiefs of the aforesaid Ports, be cautioned not to suffer Vessels to depart therefrom without the proper flag and documents before mentioned, or otherwise Vessels may be at sea whose aim may be piracy when opportunity offers.

Supt's Office
Bombay
November 26th 1821.

I have &ca
P. H. Meriton
Supt
Ordered

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Ordered that the following reply be returned by the Chief Secretary

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of last month, respecting your opinion as to the practicability of controlling the Piratical Ports in the Persian Gulph through the medium of a Marine force.

2. I convey the directions of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council that you will be pleased to give the necessary orders to give effect to the arrangements suggested in that letter.

The

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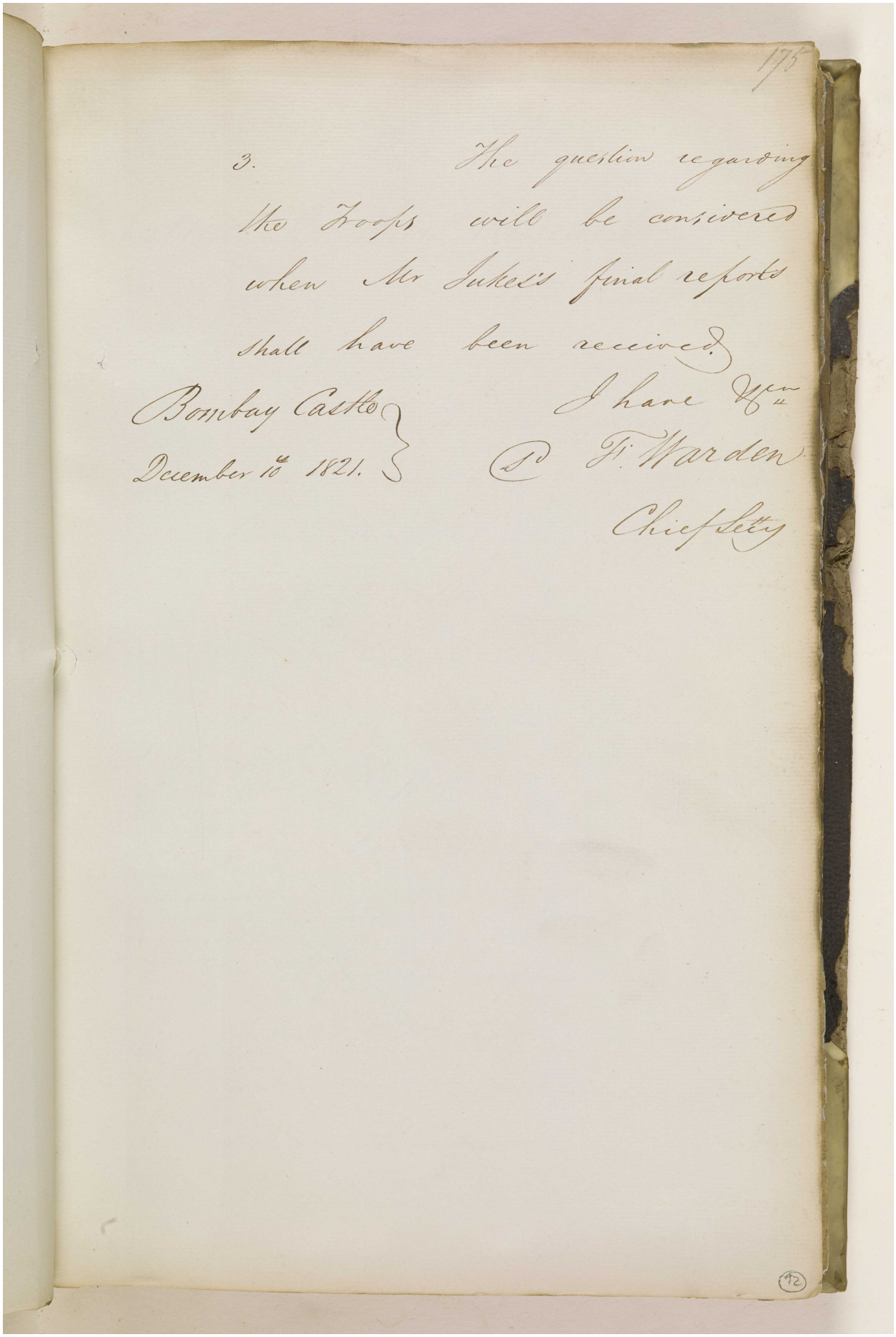

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3. The question regarding the Troops will be considered when Mr Jukes's final reports shall have been received.

Bombay Castle
December 10th 1821.

I have &c.
(Sd) F. Warden
Chief Secy

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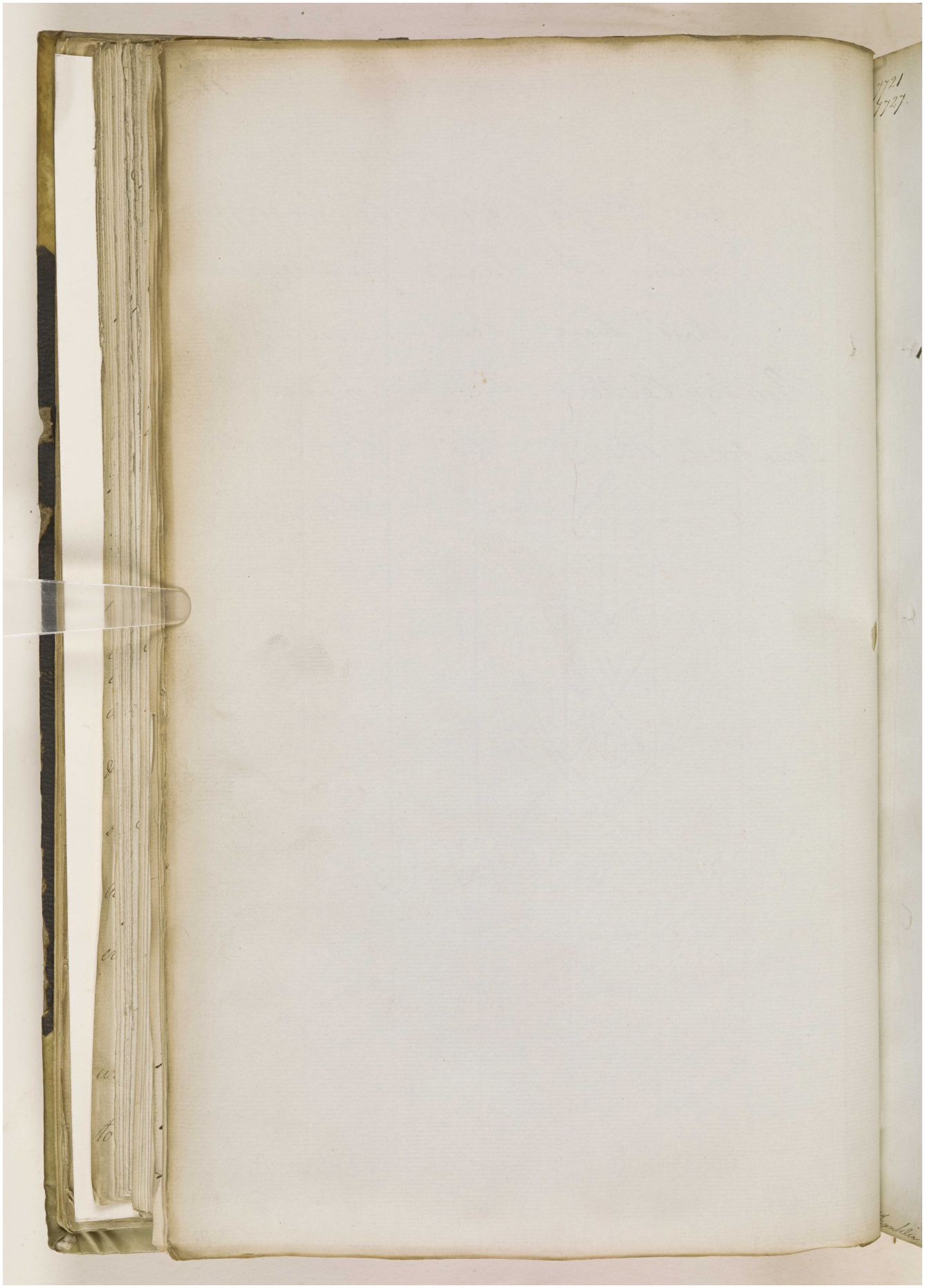

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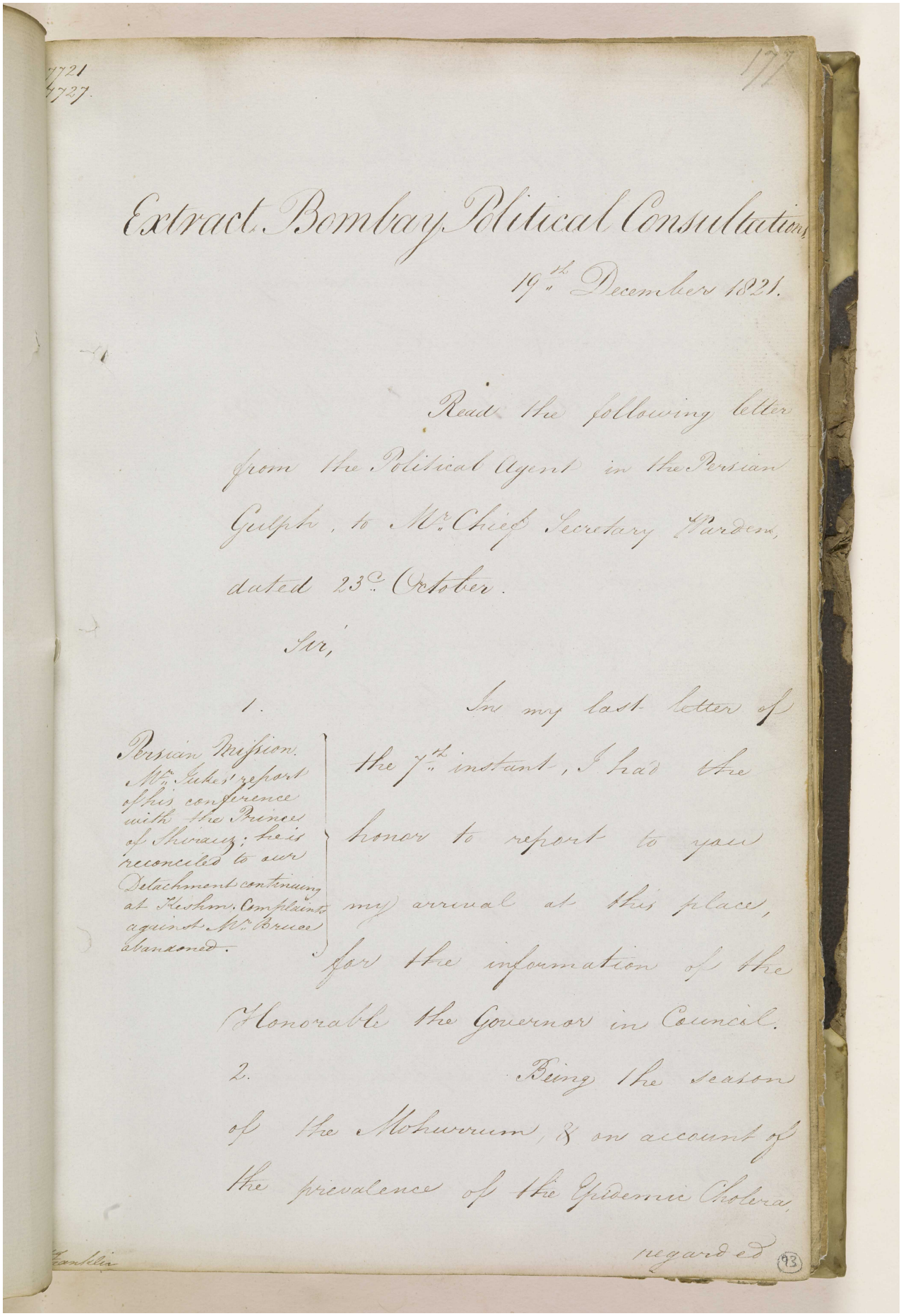

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Extract Bombay Political Consultation
19th December 1821.

Read the following letter from the Political Agent in the Persian Gulph, to Mr. Chief Secretary Pardew, dated 23d. October.

Sir,

1. In my last letter of the 7th instant, I had the honor to report to you my arrival at this place, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

Persian Mission. Mr. Lake's report of his conference with the Prince of Shiraz; he is reconciled to our Detachments continuing at Keshm. Complaints against Mr. Bruce abandoned.

2. Being the season of the Mohurrum, & on account of the prevalence of the Epidemic Cholera, regarded

Franklin

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regarded with peculiar reverence, I did not see any of the Members of Government till that ceremony was concluded. On the 10th, Aga Baba Khan, the present controlling authority of the City, with Shuker Oolla Khan (Nephew of the Minister) & Alee Akbar Khan (Kolar Akassy) came out to pay me a visit at the Garden of the Jehan Numa, which had been appropriated for my accommodation. This visit was entirely complimentary, & I returned it as such the following day.

3. As a letter I received from the Minister before leaving Kazeroon, informed me His Highness the Prince would return to the

City

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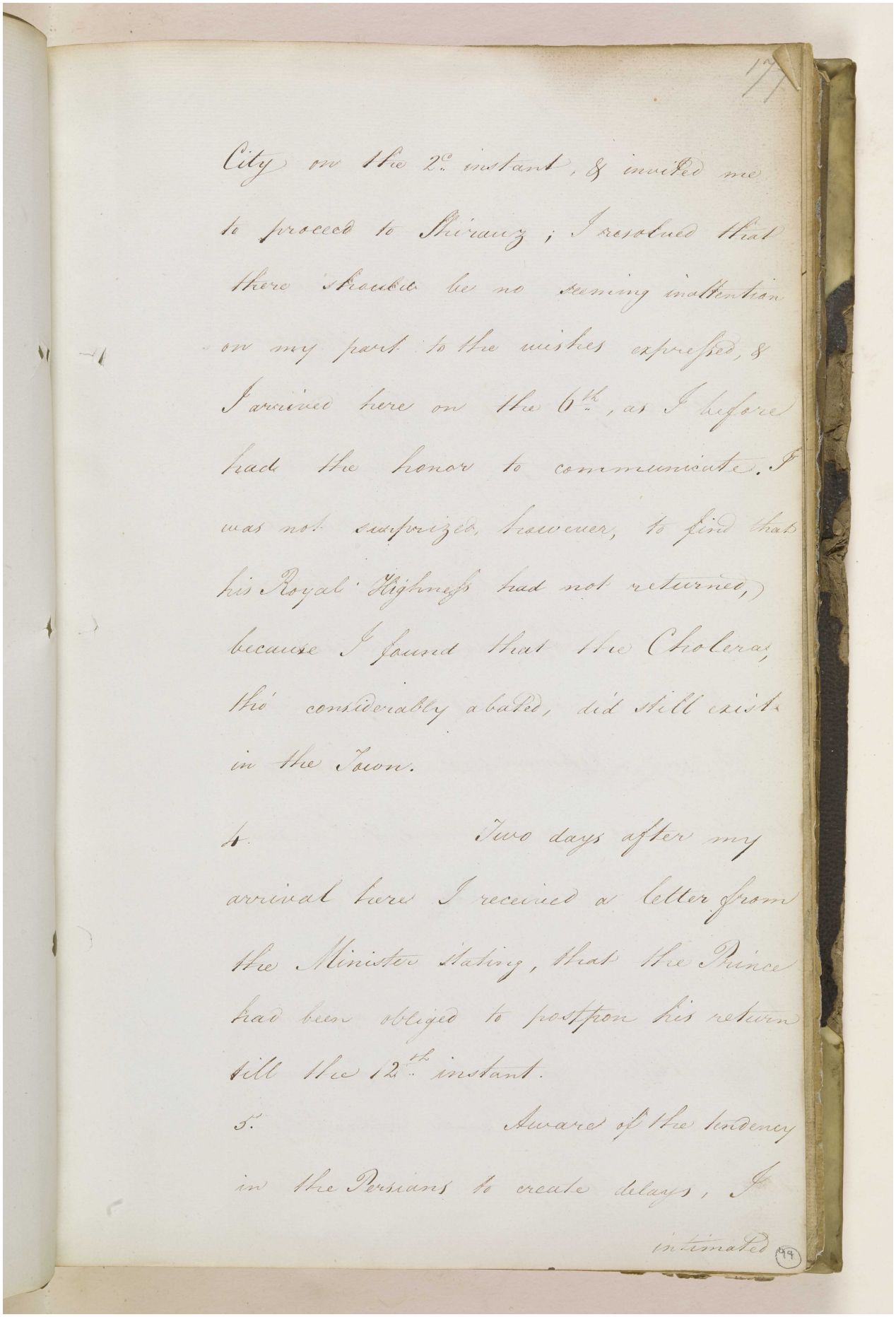

City on the 2d. instant, & invited me to proceed to Shiraz; I resolved that there should be no seeming inattention on my part to the wishes expressed, & I arrived here on the 6th., as I before had the honor to communicate. I was not surprized, however, to find that his Royal Highness had not returned, because I found that the Cholera, tho' considerably abated, did still exist in the Town.

4. Two days after my arrival here I received a letter from the Minister stating, that the Prince had been obliged to postpon his return till the 12th. instant.

5. Aware of the tendency in the Persians to create delays, I

intimated

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intimated to Aga Baba Khan & the Members of the Government, when they called upon me, that however anxious I was to have the honour of waiting upon H. R. H., if his return was likely to be deferred till after the 12th instant, I should reluctantly be compelled to proceed on towards Tehraun, in the execution of the duties committed to my charge. I told my Mehmandar in more direct terms my intentions, & I know that they were communicated to the Minister.

6. On the day appointed, the Minister himself came in from the Prince's Camp expressly to see me, he explained to me the reasons

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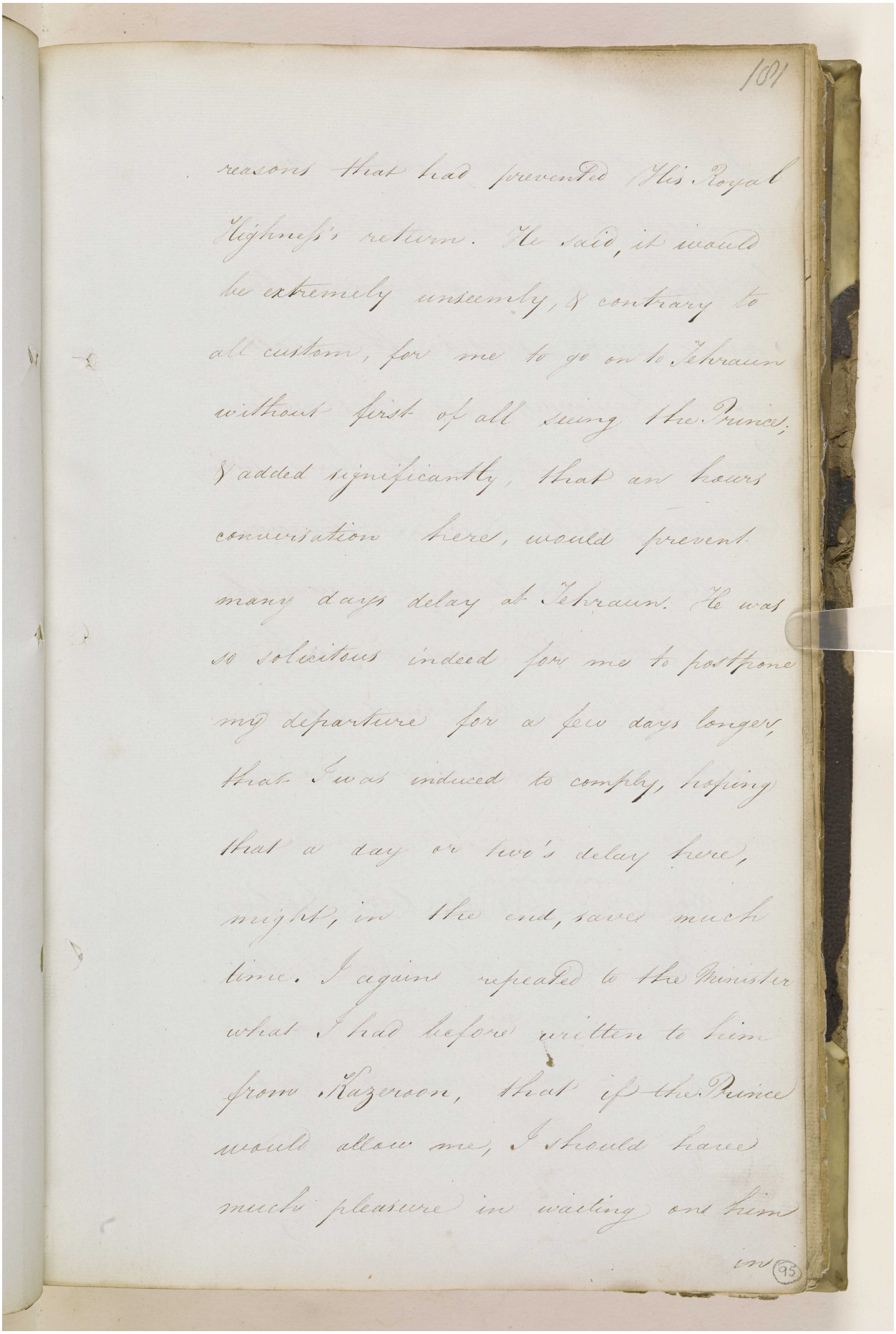

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reasons that had prevented His Royal Highness's return. He said, it would be extremely unseemly, & contrary to all custom, for me to go on to Tehraun without first of all seeing the Prince; & added significantly, that an hours conversation here, would prevent many days delay at Tehraun. He was so solicitous indeed for me to postpone my departure for a few days longer, that I was induced to comply, hoping that a day or two's delay here, might, in the end, save much time. I again repeated to the Minister what I had before written to him from Kazeroon, that if the Prince would allow me, I should have much pleasure in waiting on him

on

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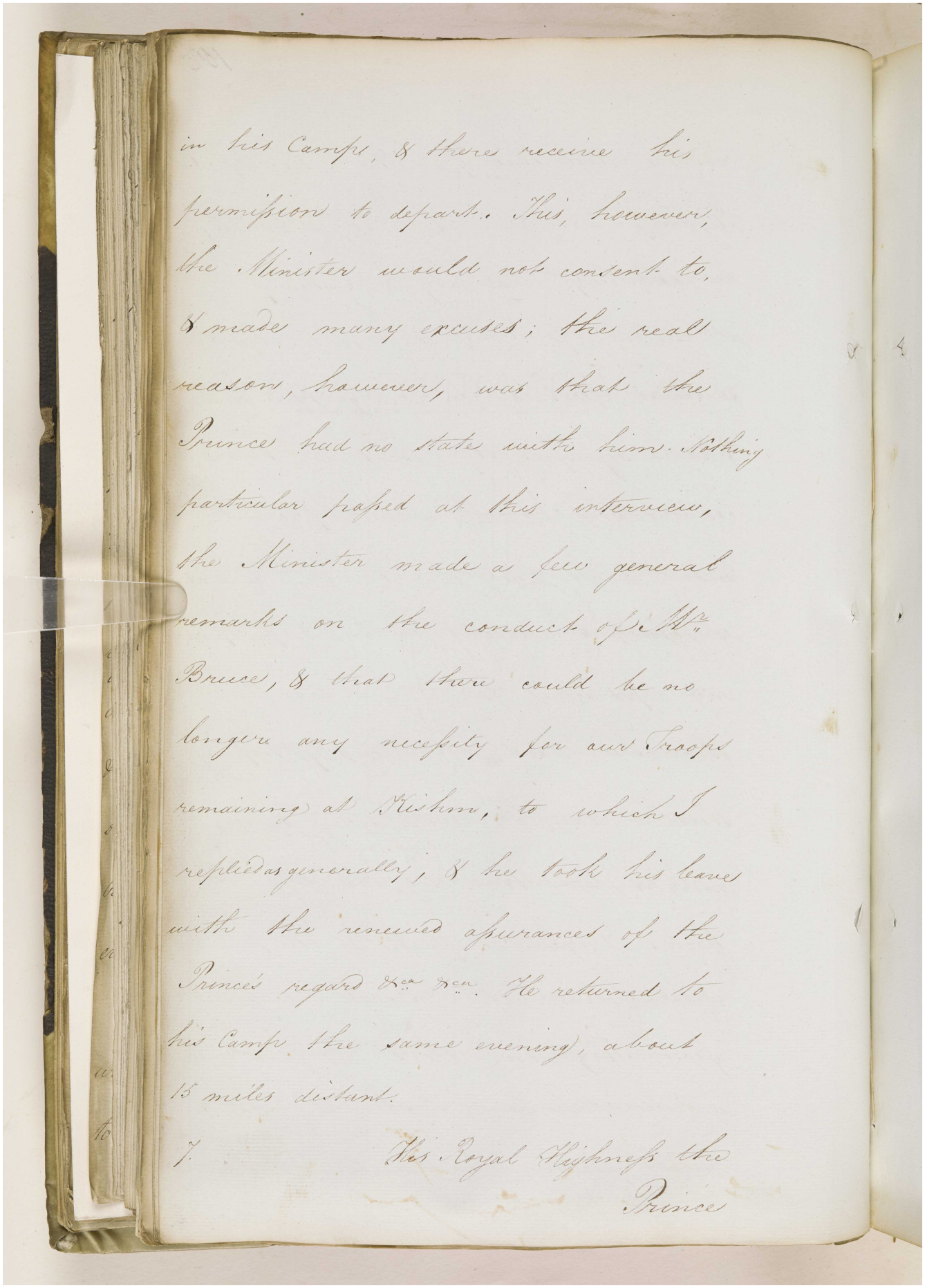

in his Camp, & there receive his permission to depart. This, however, the Minister would not consent to, & made many excuses; the real reason, however, was that the Prince had no state with him. Nothing particular passed at this interview, the Minister made a few general remarks on the conduct of Mr. Bruce, & that there could be no longer any necessity for our Troops remaining at Kishm, to which I replied as generally, & he took his leave with the renewed assurances of the Prince's regard &c. &c. He returned to his Camp the same evening, about 15 miles distant.

7. His Royal Highness the Prince

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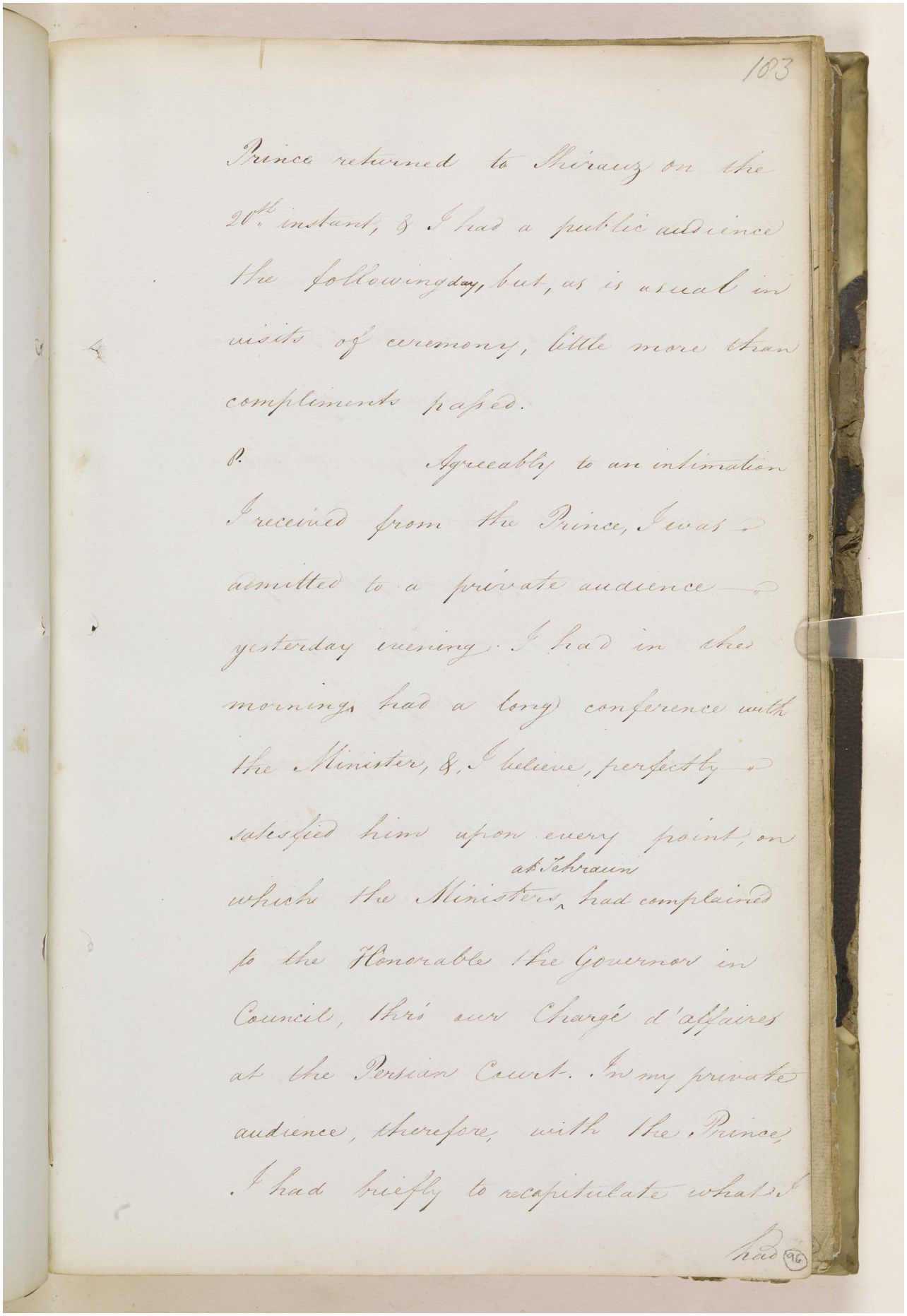

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Prince returned to Shiraz on the
20th. instant, & I had a public audience
the following day, but, as is usual in
visits of ceremony, little more than
compliments passed.

8. Agreeably to an intimation
I received from the Prince, I was
admitted to a private audience
yesterday evening. I had in the
morning had a long conference with
the Minister, & I believe, perfectly
satisfied him upon every point, on
which the Ministers at Tehraun had complained
to the Honorable the Governor in
Council, this our Chargé d'affaires
at the Persian Court. In my private
audience, therefore, with the Prince,
I had briefly to recapitulate what I

had (96)

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had before explained to the Minister.
His Royal Highness made some
observations respecting the Island
of Kishm being one of the Dependencies
of Fars, & that the Imaum of
Muscat was only a Subject of his,
but that as the British Detachment
at present there, appeared, from my
explanations, to have only the peace
& tranquillity of the Gulf for its
object, so far as he himself was
concerned, he had not the least
objection to their continuing there,
and that he would write his
sentiments to the King & to the
Ministers at Tehraun, which I
should take along with me; he
in fact dictated the letters to his
Chief

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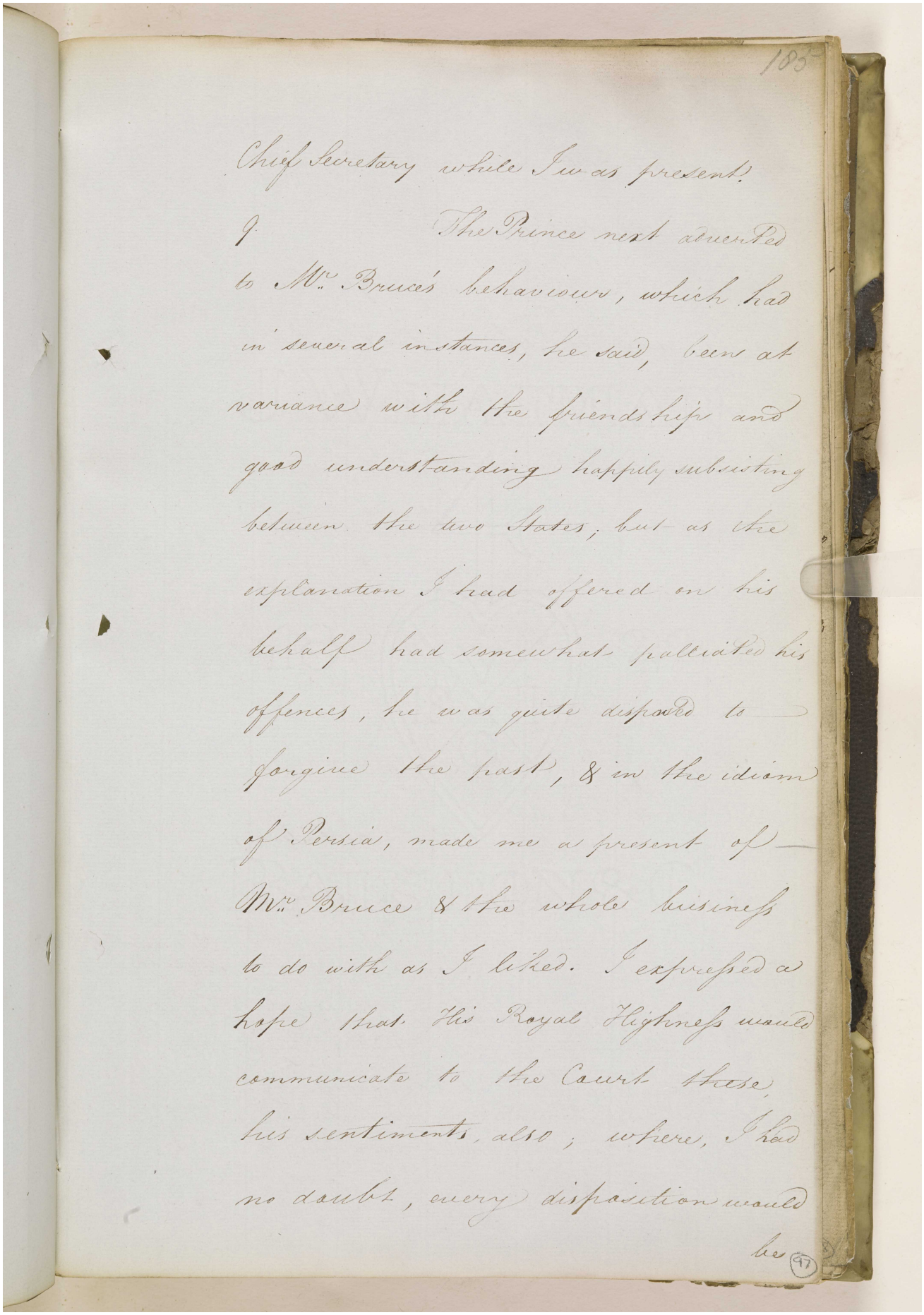

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Chief Secretary while I was present.

9 The Prince next adverted to Mr. Bruce's behaviour, which had in several instances, he said, been at variance with the friendship and good understanding happily subsisting between the two States, but as the explanation I had offered on his behalf had somewhat palliated his offences, he was quite disposed to forgive the past, & in the idiom of Persia, made me a present of Mr. Bruce & the whole business to do with as I liked. I expressed a hope that His Royal Highness would communicate to the Court these his sentiments also; where, I had no doubt, every disposition would be

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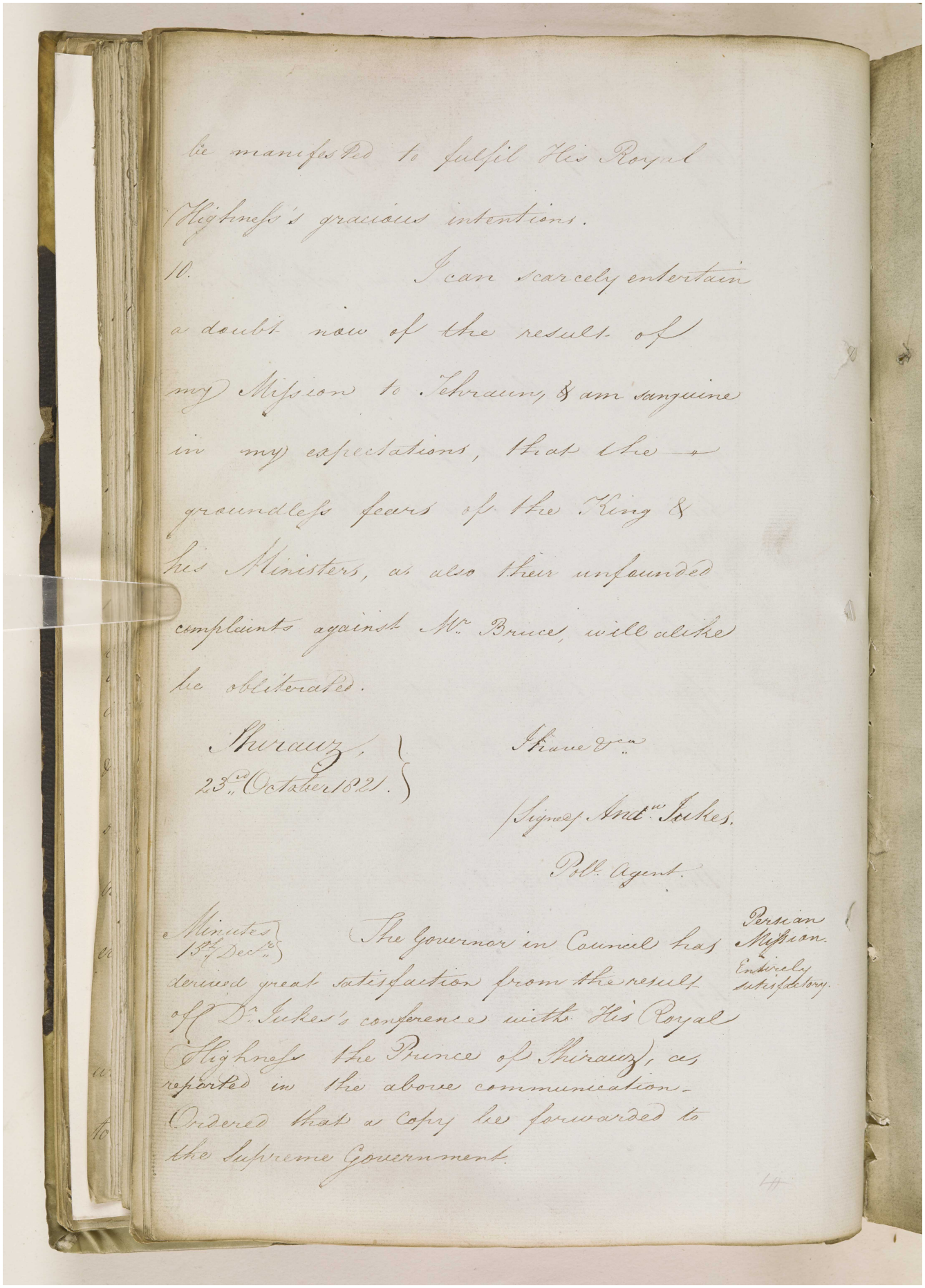

be manifested to fulfil His Royal Highness's gracious intentions.

10. I can scarcely entertain a doubt now of the result of my Mission to Tehraun, & am sanguine in my expectations, that the groundless fears of the King & his Ministers, as also their unfounded complaints against Mr. Bruce, will alike be obliterated.

Shirauz, 23rd October 1821.

I have &ca.

(Signed) Andw. Jukes.

Poll. Agent.

Minutes 15th Decr.

The Governor in Council has derived great satisfaction from the result of Dr. Jukes's conference with His Royal Highness the Prince of Shirauz, as reported in the above communication. Ordered that a copy be forwarded to the Supreme Government.

Persian Mission. Entirely satisfactory.