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**‘Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] –
Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn
Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the
British Government’**

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/785/21163
Date(s)	9 Jul 1802-13 Jun 1825 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (52 folios)
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About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, statements, and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay. The principal correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Imaum of Muscat [Imam of Muscat, Sayyid Saʿīd bin Sulṭān Āl Bū Saʿīd], Captain William Fitzwilliam Owen; the Governor of Mauritius, Sir Lowry Cole; the Chieftain of Bombassa, Sooleman Ibn Ali Muzroee [Sultan of Mombasa, Sulayman ibn ʿAlī al-Mazruʿī].

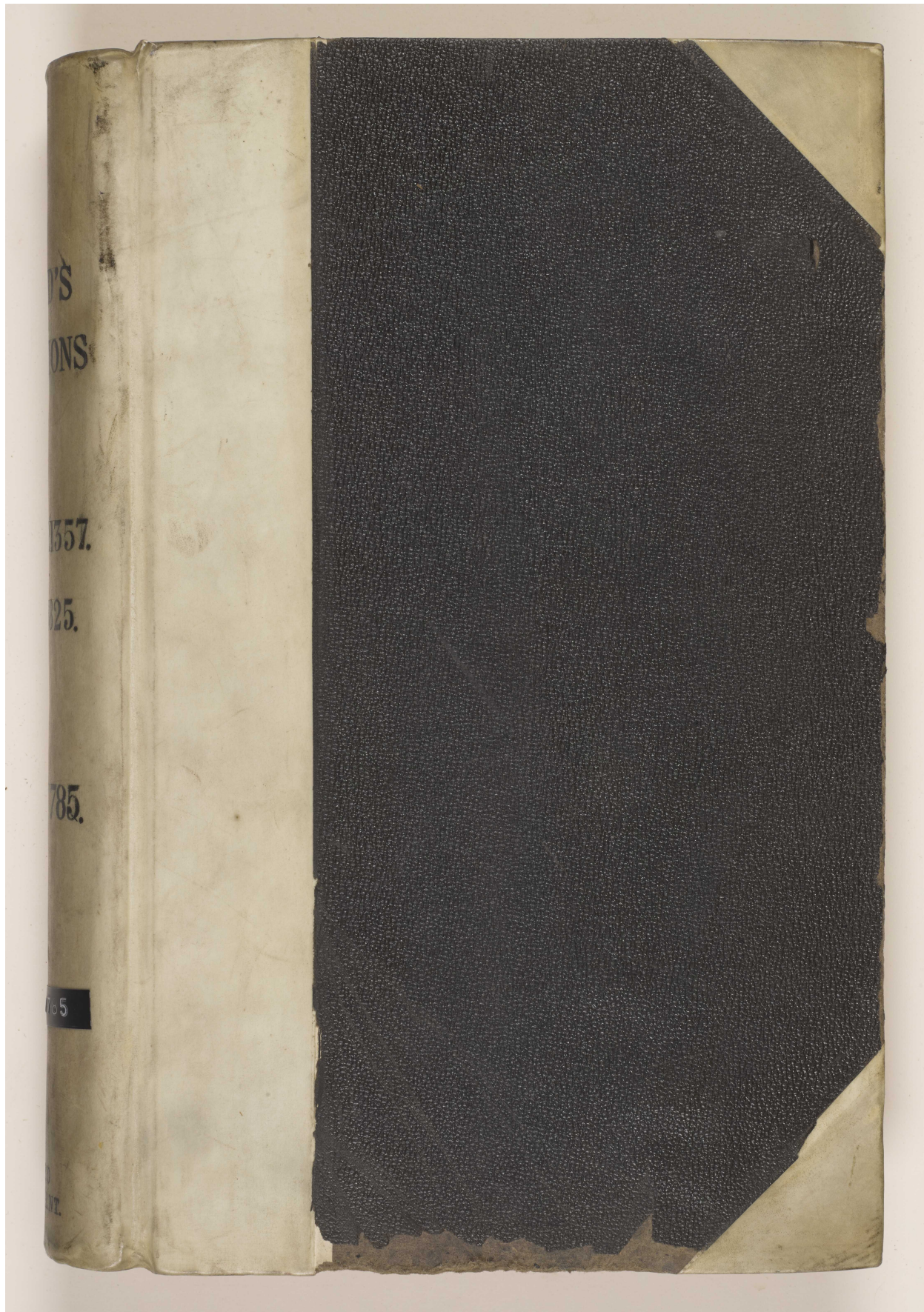
The item concerns the actions of Captain Owen of HMS *Leven*. While surveying the east coast of Africa, he accepted the cession of Bombassa [Mombasa]. The Chieftain of Bombassa wanted British protection against the Imaum of Muscat, offering half his revenues in return. The item consists of:

- The Imaum’s complaints that Bombassa is part of his territory and Owen prevented him from attacking it
- The Imaum’s complaints that ships belonging to his subjects carrying slaves were intercepted by the British

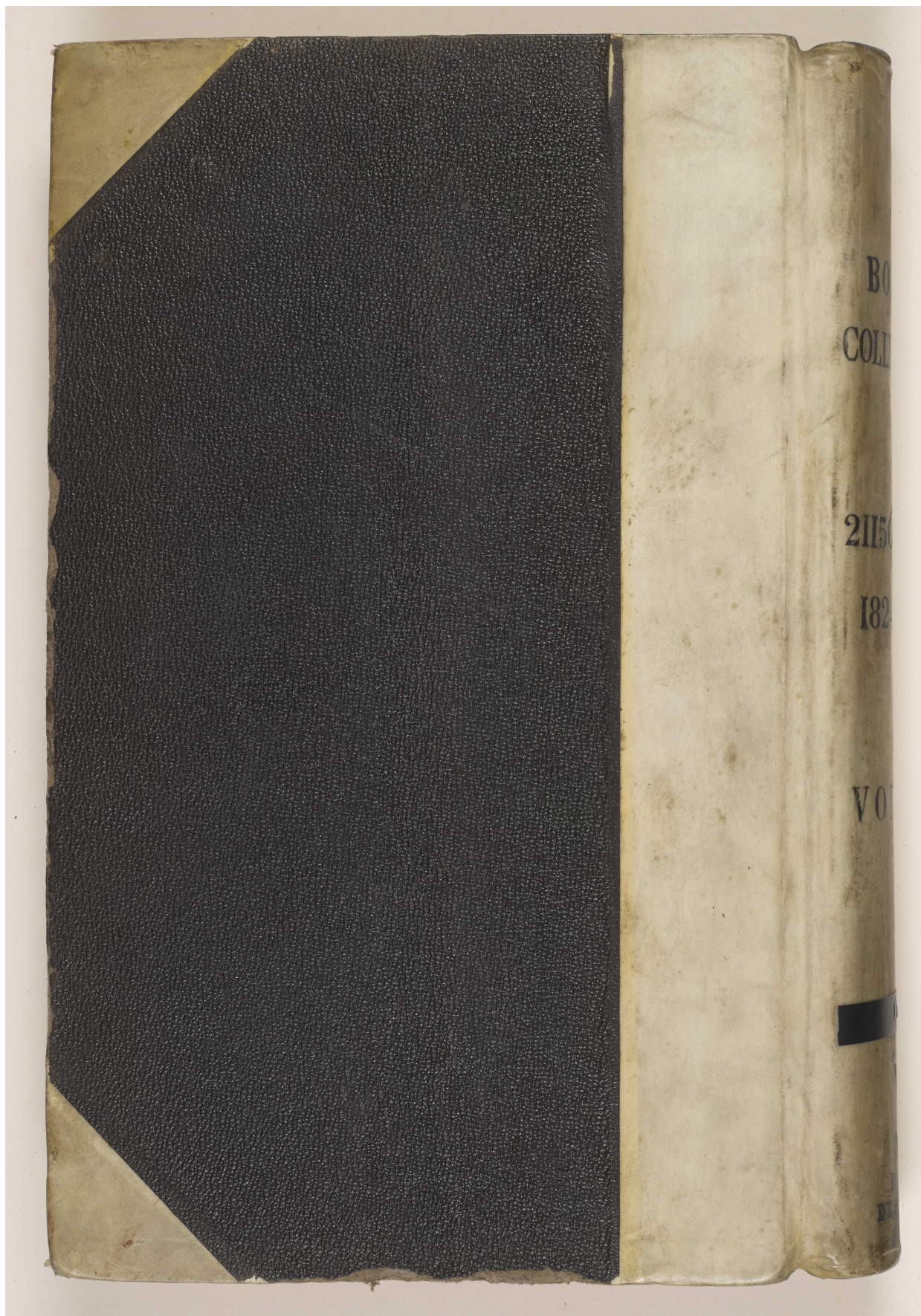
- The evidence that the British collected about the Imaum's claim to sovereignty over Bombassa
- The decision whether to accept Bombassa as a British Protectorate or not. The Board of Control ruled that it should be left alone.

The item includes a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: 'Political No. 870, Draft 392, P.C. 276, Examiner's Office March 1823'.

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [front] (1/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [back] (2/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [spine] (3/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [edge] (4/110)



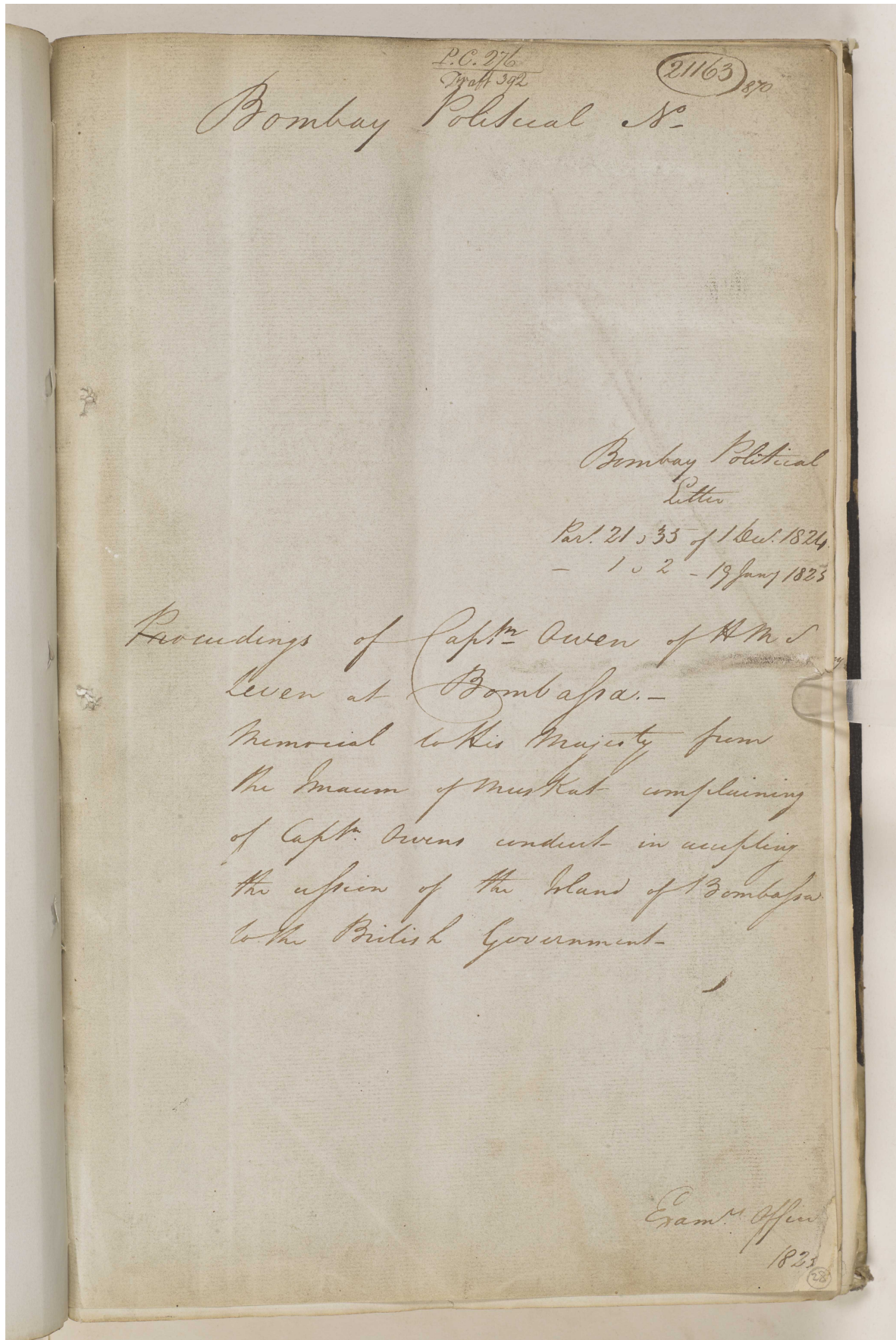
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [head] (5/110)



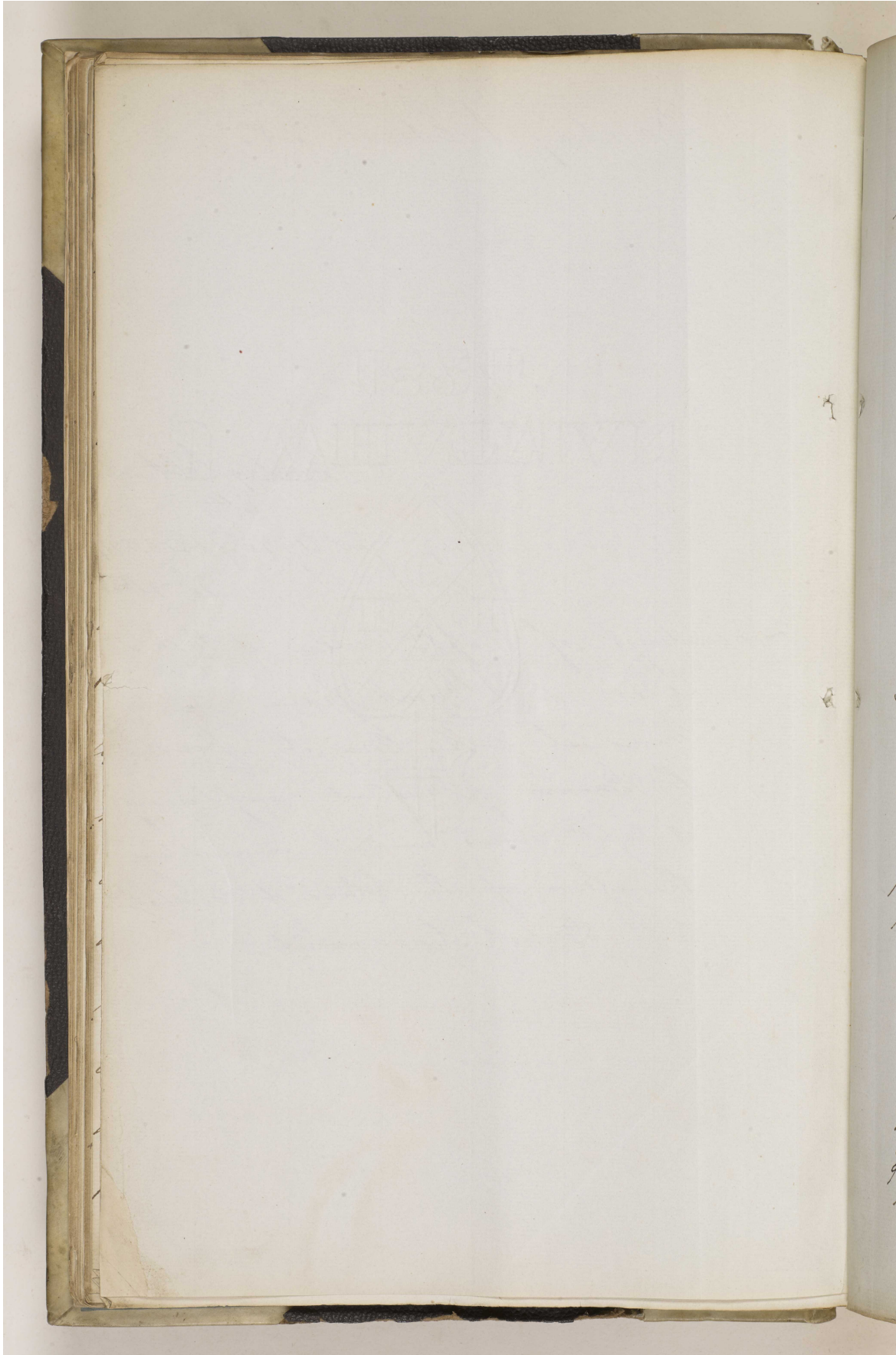
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [tail] (6/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [28r] (7/110)



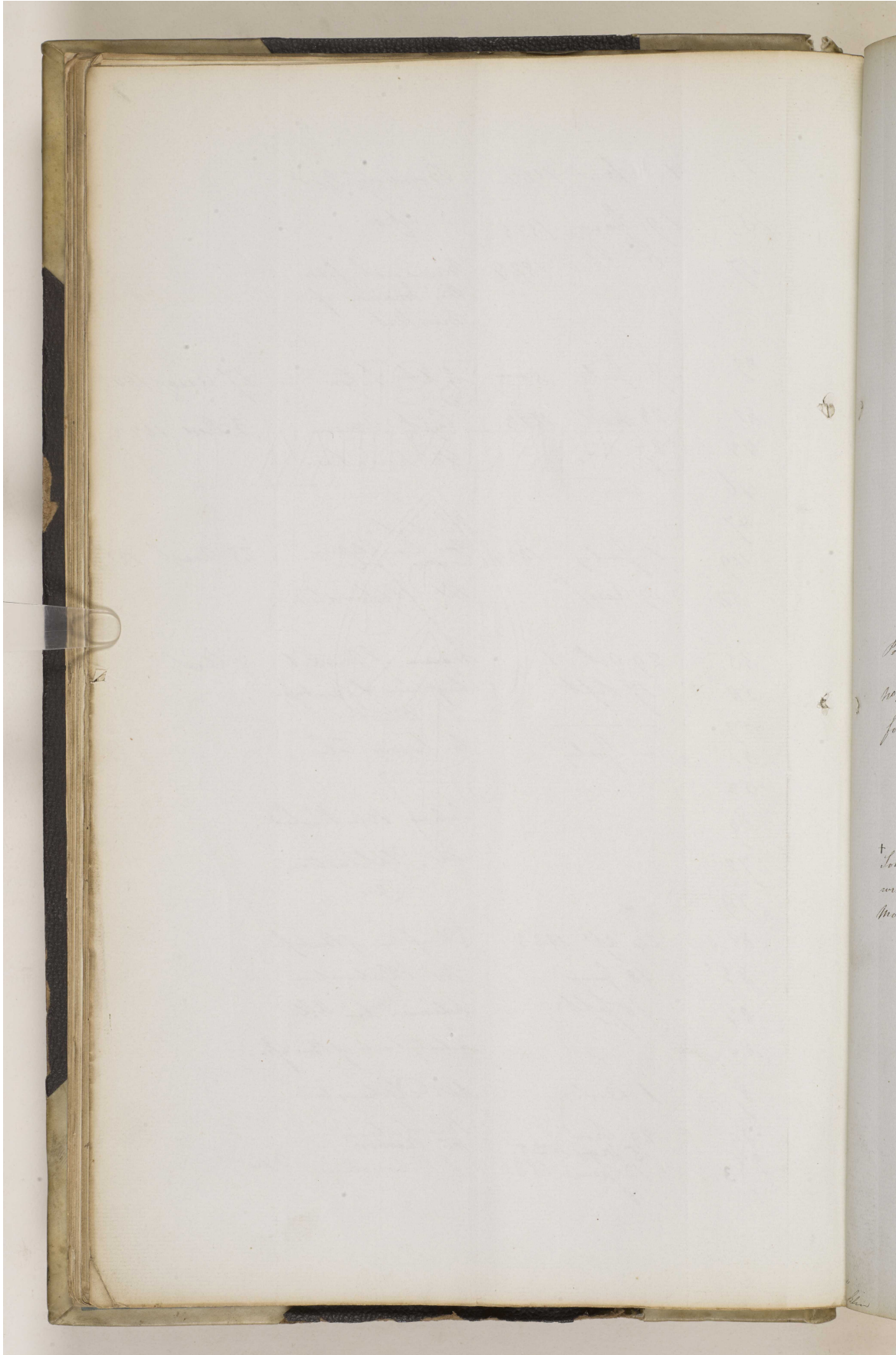
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [28v] (8/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [29r] (9/110)

1	1 Dec. 1824	Bombay Gov.	
15	19 Jan. 1825	do	
17	6 Dec. 1824	Memorial from the Imaum of Muskat	
29	9 July 1802	Capt Ligon	27 Aug. 1802
31	23 Nov. 1823	Capt Owen	3 Dec. 1823
43	27 Nov.	Mr. W. W. W.	
46	do	do	
47		Resolution	25 Aug. 1824
49	1 July 1824	Mr. Eschschmayer Loring Cole	
52	19 Aug.	W. Alphonston	
55	29 Oct. 1	Imaum of Muskat	1 Dec.
58	17 Sept.	Chiefman of Bombassa	
59			
61	- July -	Mr. Loring Cole	
63			
69		Salim Bin Rashid	
72		Mr. Alphonston	
79		do	
81	24 Apr. 1823	Chiefman of Bombassa	
83	18 June	Mr. Alphonston	
84	18 Sept.	Saliman bin Alla	
85		Inhabitants of Bombassa	
87	1 Dec.	Mr. Alphonston	
89	29 Nov.	Resolution	
91	15 May 1825	Mr. Aubin	
93	13 June 1825	Mr. P. Courtenay	do

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [29v] (10/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [30r] (11/110)

Extract Political Letter from Bombay

Dated 1st December 1824.

21 In our Proceedings of
the 25th August, your Honourable Court
will find a letter from His Excellency

Pl. Cons.
1824 the Governor of the Mauritius,
No 21, 25th Augt.
fo: 3749
3751 informing us that Captain Owen of

His Majesty's Ship Leven, when at

[†] Sometimes Bombassa[†] early in the present year
^{settled at}
Mombassa

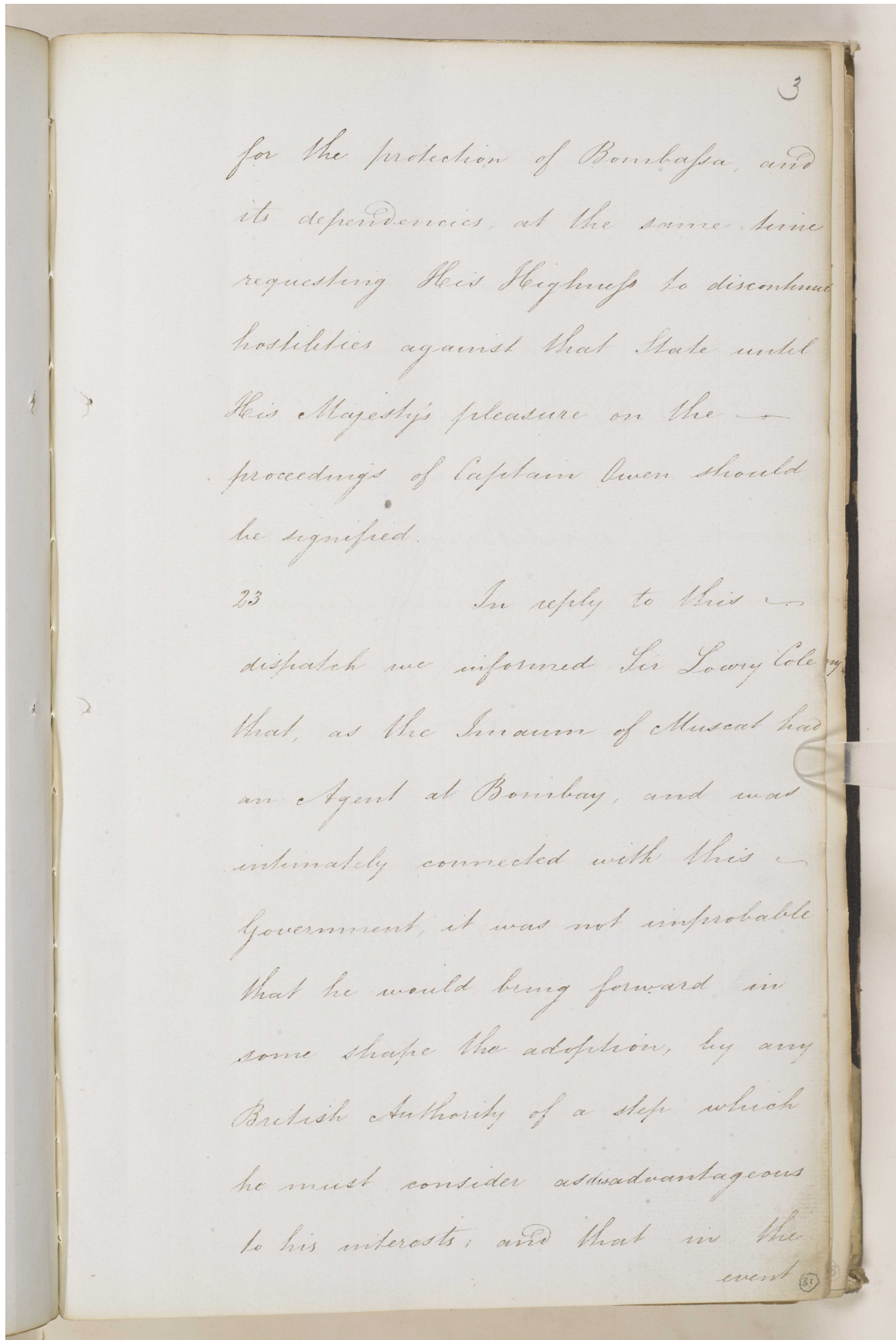
had accepted from the King and
Chiefs the cession of that Island, and
its dependencies to the British Government,
subject to the approbation of His
Majesty, and left an Officer with a
few men there, in the Fort, as a
protection.

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [30v] (12/110)

protection; that Captain Owen who
had transmitted to the Lords of the
Admiralty, detailed reports of his
proceedings, had lately arrived at the
Mauritius, having on Board an
Embassy from Bombassa to that
Government, which, under the circumstances
above related, His Excellency had
considered himself obliged to receive,
and had been induced from the
same considerations, to acquiesce in
the measures taken by Captain Owen,
until His Majesty's pleasure shall
be known.

22 His Excellency
observed he had also acquainted the
Imaum of Muscat, with the
arrangements that had been made
for

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [31r] (13/110)

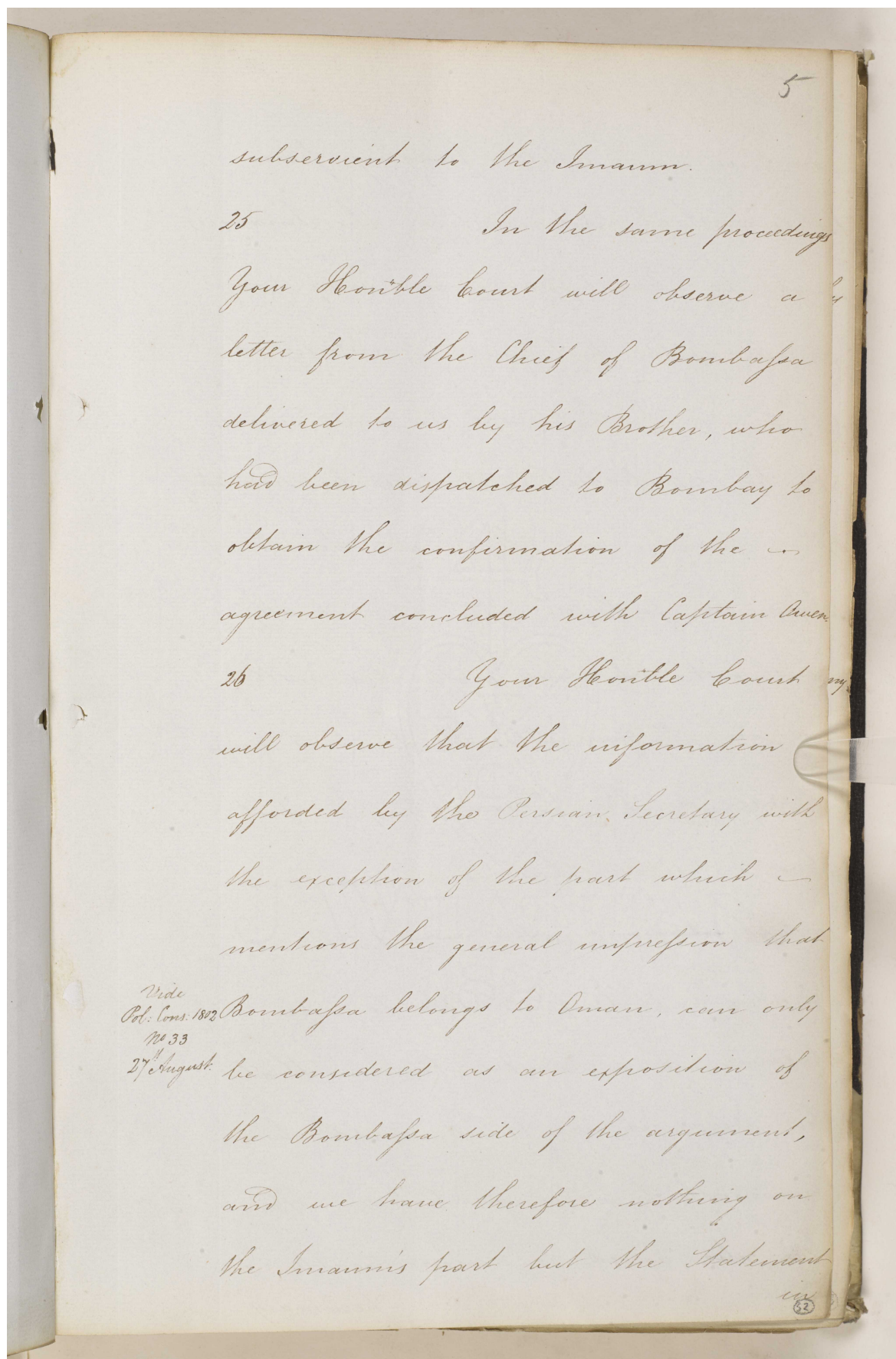


'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [31v] (14/110)

event of such a representation, the knowledge of the facts, of which His Excellency had put this Government in possession, could not fail to be of great utility.

24 We have since —
received the expected communication from the Imaum remonstrating against Captain Owen's proceedings at Bombassa. To this Letter, and to our Proceedings thereon, we beg to solicit Your Honourable Courts attention, including a Statement drawn up by the Persian Secretary, who had been particularly directed to obtain the fullest information regarding the real state of that Colony, and the degree in which it was to be considered
subservient

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [32r] (15/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [32v] (16/110)

in his own letter. Judging from
this partial information, the Imaum's
right to Bombassa seems very
questionable; but even admitting it
to be so, he appears to have reason
to be dissatisfied with our Government.

27. She has always
been our faithful and cordial ally,
and not only has cooperated with
us in all our attempts to put down
piracy in the Persian Gulf, but
has on more than one occasion
refrained from enterprises, that
promised to be profitable to him,
because we represented to him that
his engaging in them would be
inconsistent with our policy. She
has also agreed to a considerable
pecuniary

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [33r] (17/110)

7
pecuniary sacrifice, first, at the request of this Government, by forbidding the purchase of Slaves by Europeans in his Dominions, and afterwards by placing still narrower limits to that traffic in his agreement with Captain Moresby.

28 In return for his friendly conduct he has received many assurances of good will from our Government both in India and at home.

29 It must therefore have occasioned much surprise to him to find us appear in a point so remote from our own possessions and connections, for the purpose of undertaking the protection of a people (33)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [33v] (18/110)

people with whom he had for some
time been engaged in open war,
and over whom he pretended to the
rights of Sovereignty

30 The Imaum's surprise
must have been increased from
the measure being the result of a *Pl. Com. 1823*
visit from some of our Vessels *Nº 50*
3º Decr
feby 2
which had been recommended to
him by this Government as
employed on the duty of surveying
and to the operations of which
he had been requested to afford
every assistance

31 It may, however, be
considered as inexpedient to recede
from the engagement entered into
by Captain Owen, unless the Imaum's
right

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [34r] (19/110)

9
right to the Sovereignty, which has
been offered to His Majesty, could
be proved. If his right is not
proved, it would also be advisable
to consider how far the possession
of Bombassa could be made
instrumental to the abolition of
the Slave Trade on the Eastern
Coast of Africa; but if Bombassa
is retained, from whatever motive,
it seems both just and politic
to offer some indemnity to the
Imaum, to whose interests we
have certainly not shewn that
attention which he is entitled to
claim from us. We should have
endeavoured to ascertain in what
manner compensation might be
made (34)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [34v] (20/110)

made to him; but for the
purpose of submitting it to your
consideration we were prevented by
the fear of raising expectations
which it would be highly
unpolitical to encourage.

132 In the mean time
we have directed copies of this
correspondence and the substance
of the preceding remarks to be
communicated to Colonel Gannet,
the Resident in the Persian
Gulph, with a request, that, in
endeavouring to remove any bad
impression that may have been
made on the Imaum, he will
be careful to say nothing that
may embarrass us or compromise
His

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [35r] (21/110)

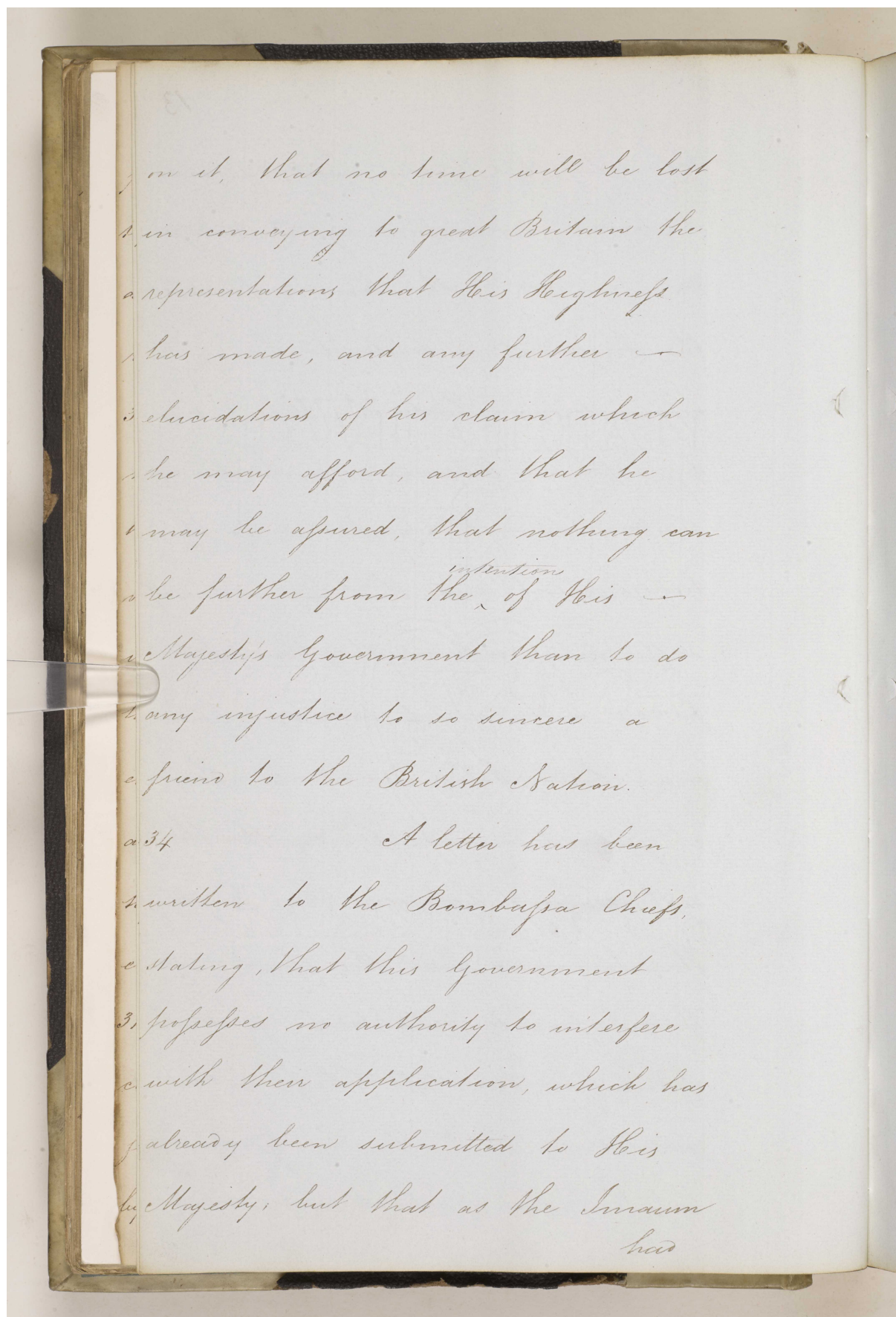
11

His Majesty's Government, should
it decide on retaining Bombassa.

33 We have informed
the Imaum in reply to his
remonstrance that the step taken
by Captain Owen was entirely
unknown and unexpected to this
Government, and that we are not
sufficiently informed either of the
powers with which Captain Owen
may have been vested by His
Majesty's Government, or with the
real relations between His Highness
the Imaum and the Chiefs of
Bombassa, to be able to give any
opinion on the steps likely to be
adopted by His Majesty's Government,
but that His Highness may depend
on

(35)

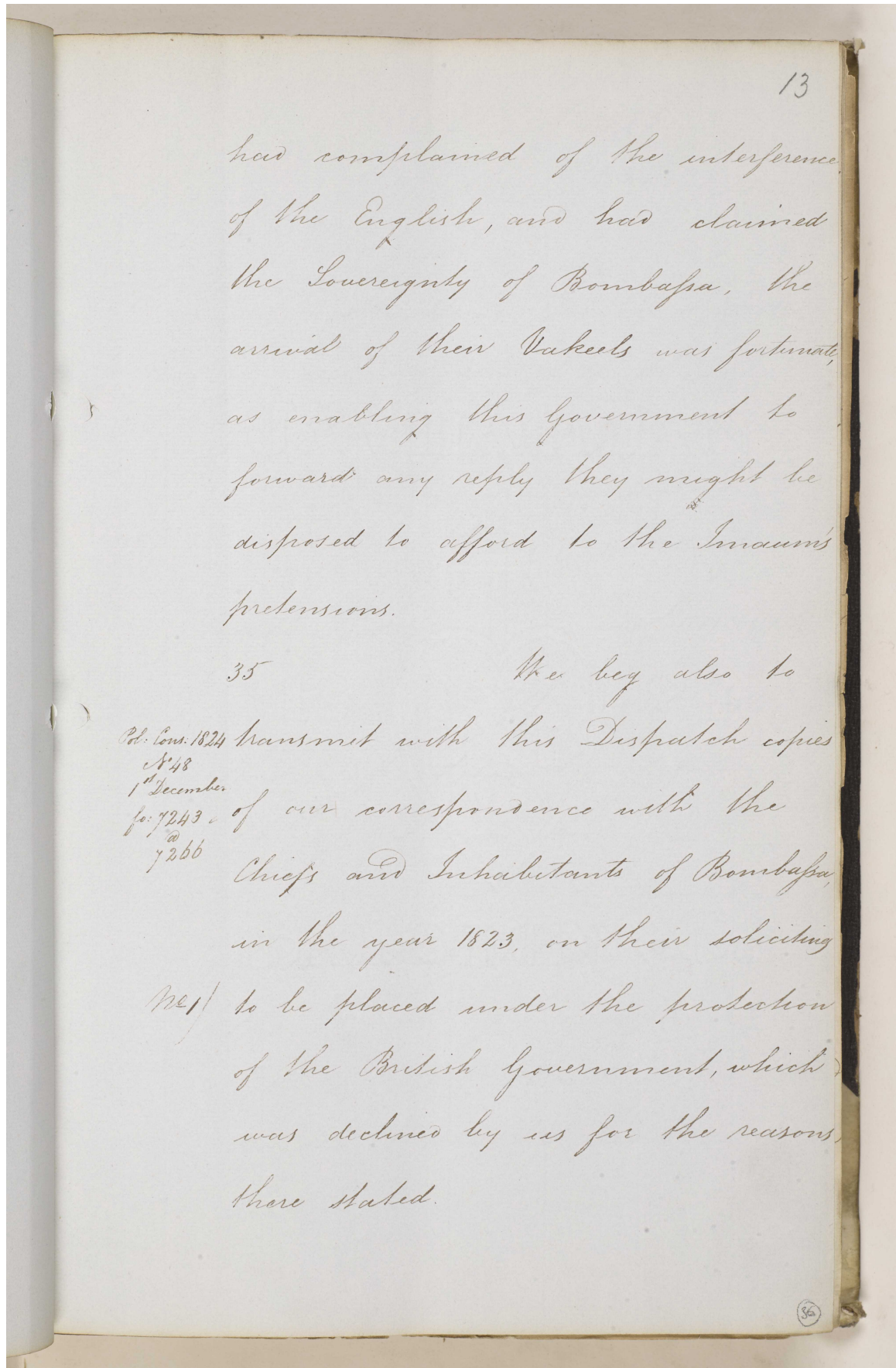
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [35v] (22/110)



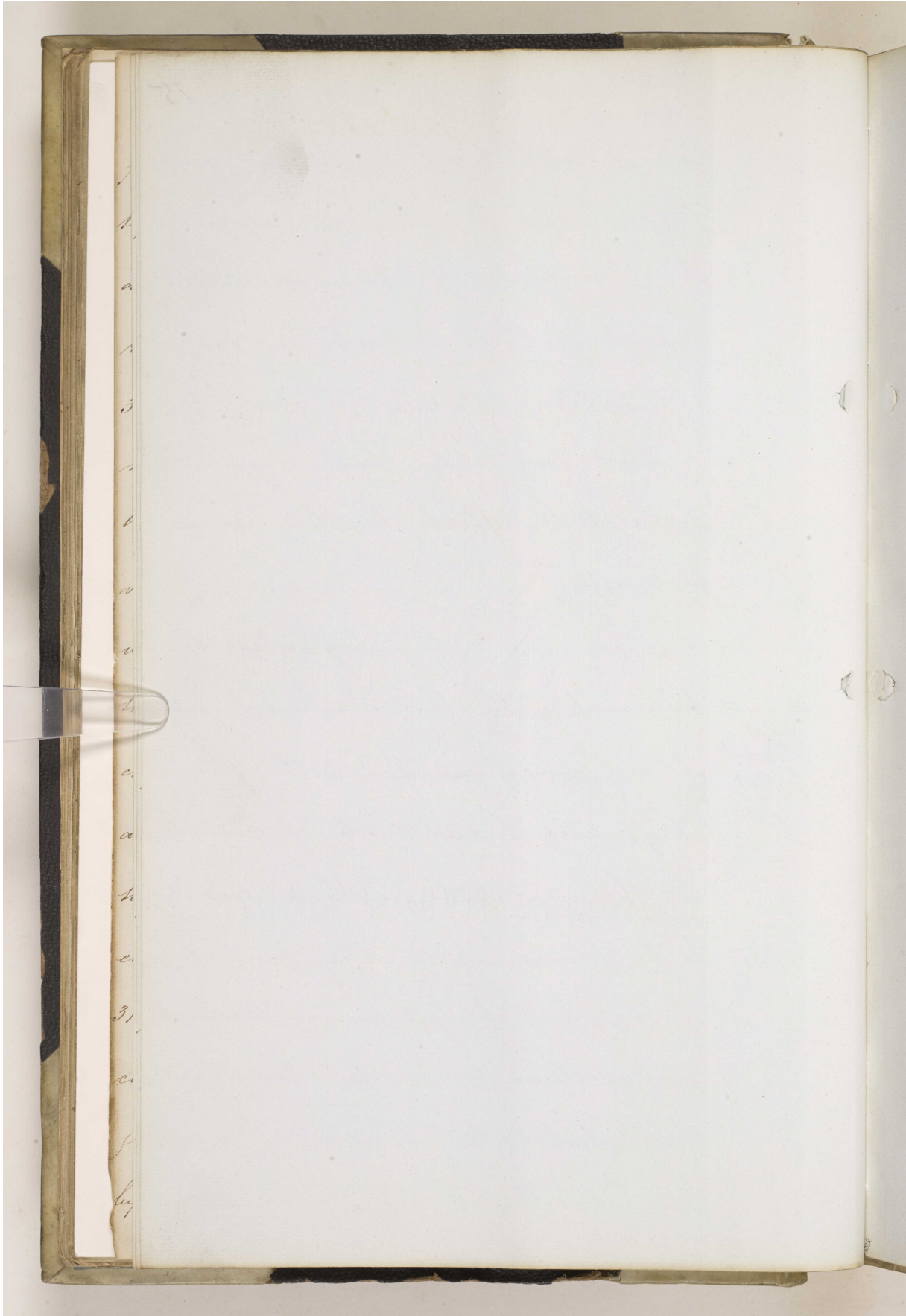
on it, that no time will be lost
in conveying to great Britain the
representations that His Highness
has made, and any further
elucidations of his claim which
he may afford, and that he
may be assured, that nothing can
be further from the ^{intention} of His
Majesty's Government than to do
any injustice to so sincere a
friend to the British Nation.

34 A letter has been
written to the Bombassa Chiefs,
stating, that this Government
possesses no authority to interfere
with their application, which has
already been submitted to His
Majesty, but that as the Imaum
has

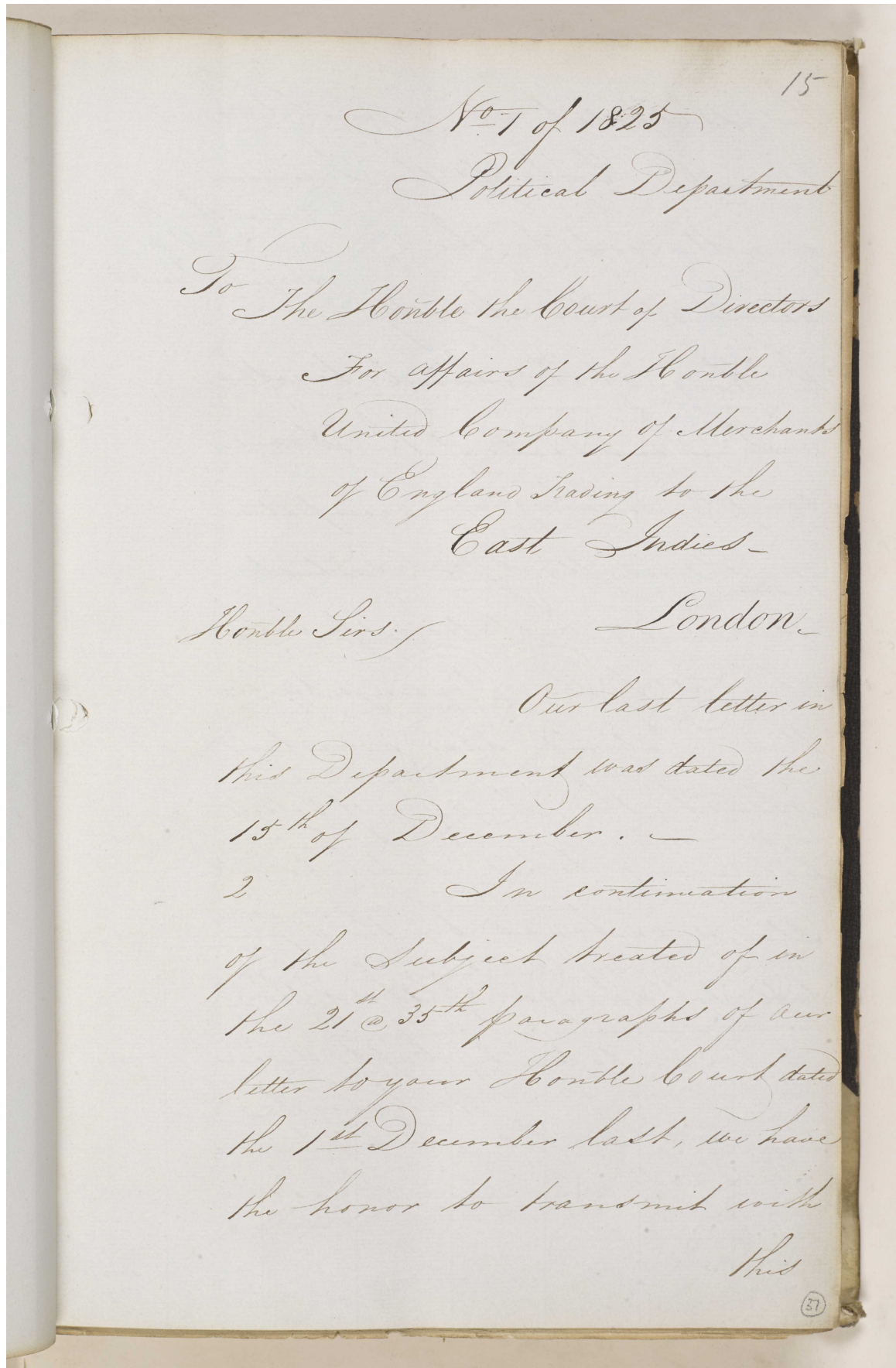
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [36r] (23/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [36v] (24/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [37r] (25/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muscat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [37v] (26/110)

This Dispatch an original letter
 from His Highness the Imaum
 of Muscat to the ^{+ sent thro' the}
 address of His Majesty ^{Board to His}
^{Majesty 2 June 1825}
 the King of England, together
 with Translate of the Same,
 complaining of the occupation
 of Bombassa by a British
 Force, in Violation of his
 claims to the Sovereignty over
 that Island, and availing
 also to the Seizure of Vessels
 belonging to his Subjects with
 Slaves on board by the officer
 left in charge of the Island
 of Bombassa by Captn Owen.
 We have to
 Sir M. Elphinstone
 Bombay Castle }
 19 January 1825 } R. J. Gordon

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [38r] (27/110)

¹⁷
Substance of an address to his
Majesty the King of England
from His Highness the Imaum
of Muskat dated 14th Rube'asaneh
1240 of the Hijree or December 1824
A.C.

The Sun is not more
manifest than is my long
and constant attachment to
your Majestys Government,
and to that branch especially
which rules over Hindoostan
in whose confidence and good
will I increase daily, so that
my Enemies have become envious

The representation
which I now submit to your
Majesty relates to certain
pages

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [38v] (28/110)

passages between me, and Captain
 Owen commanding one of your
 Majesty's Ship. An account
 of this Officers unfriendly
 conduct, and of the infractions
 of the solemn Engagements
 concluded between the two States
 in respect to the people of
 Bombassa, has been transmitted
 by me to the Honble Governor
 of Bombay for his information.
 A letter from the Governor
 of Mauritius dated 22 June 1824
 A.D. reaches me in the
 month of Rebevolane 1240
 Hijou (November 1824 A.D.)
 in this letter it was written
 concerning the acts of the
 said

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19
Captain that for what he
had done he was responsible
to your Majesty, that an
Answer would in time be
received from England signifying
your Royal pleasure in the
matter, but that in the
mean while he must request
that I should abstain from
all hostile operations against
Bombassa and that the
Inhabitants might be in
no way molested by me
the place being for the present
under the protection of your
Majesty's flag. To these
propositions from the Governor
of Mauritius I acceded out
of

(39)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [39v] (30/110)

of my respect for the relations
of amity which have been so
long and so firmly established
between the two States, and
I was well pleased that
the question had been referred
for the decision of your Majesty.
it had then become my duty
to represent to your Majesty
the state of the case which
is as follows. In the year
1108 Hijree (A.D. 1696) the
Island of Bombassa was
in the possession of the
Portuguese from whom in
the year 1109 Hijree (A.D. 1697)
it was captured by the then
Viceroy of Oman by force of
arms,

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [40r] (31/110)

21

Arms and from the date
of the capture the "Wallce"
(Governor) has been invariably
appointed by the Rulers of
Oman from generation to generation
without any change or exception
and the Inhabitants have
continued in Subjection and
obedience to Oman until the
year 1235 Hijree (AD 1819) at
which period they became
high minded and disobedient
and seeing that they were
in the enjoyment of peace
and quiet, unsexed by coercion
their dispositions and tempers
became changed, and they
declared themselves of another
tribe

(40)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [40v] (32/110)

trike; and they grew bold
on the presumption that the
Government of Oman wanted
the power to reduce them
to obedience, and to their
former condition of subjects,
and they collected their people
together, & proceeded to destroy
my towns and to annoy
my people: after the manner
of Lamook and Putta and
Suzarut at Kuzra and the
Men of those parts when
their acts and conduct towards
my subjects were reported to
me. I found myself compelled
to send Vessels and People
to reduce them to obedience
and

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [41r] (33/110)

and to chastise them for the
excesses they have practised
among my sword and my
Subjects - Matters have gone
thus far when Captain Owen
arrived at Muskat bringing
with him a letter from the
Honble the Governor of Bombay
recommending him to me for
civilities and attention:
mentioning also that the object
of his visit was to make
Marine Surveys. I informed
him of what has passed
and that I had sent Vessels
and Men against Bombassa
The Captain made me no
reply nor did he communicate
to

41

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [41v] (34/110)

to me what were his intentions
he remained with me some
days at Muskat, and then
sailed in the direction of
Bombassa; at the moment
of his arrival at Bombassa
my vessel had invested the
place, and reduced the inhabitants
to such extremity ^{that} they
were on the point of submitting
to my authority - but his
appearance made them alter
their design of submitting
to me. he took part with
them immediately, and gave
them to expect his assistance
as well in the Bombassa
affair as in the capture
of

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [42r] (35/110)

23
of certain other towns belonging
to me. He also made my
Vessels and people desist
from hostilities and depart
after some days he took
some of the Bombassa
people along with him in
his own Ship, & sailed to
my Island Sururul at Kurra
with intent to take possession
of it. On his arrival he
communicated with my Officers
there Stationed, and in the
conference used expressions
which it is not becoming
to repeat - My Officers
expressed their willingness to
give up the Island if he
had

(42)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [42v] (36/110)

had an order to that effect
from me, but that on no
other condition could they
attend to his requisitions.
On receiving this answer from
my people the Captain
departed, and before he left
Bombassa Stationed Mr Reates
there to execute his orders in
his absence. In the month
of April Mr Reates seized
a Vessel with every person
and thing on board belonging
to Subjects of mine, bound
from Zanzibar to Muscat
and wrote to Suedhen Mahomed
ib. Akhuree, my "Wala" at
Zanzibar, that he was instructed
by

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [43r] (37/110)

25
by Captain Owen to seize
every Vessel belonging to me
having Negroes on board
bound to Moslem Countries
This is contrary to the
agreement concluded between
me, and Captain Mousby
on the part of your Majesty's
Government: what I agreed
to with Captain Mousby
was that Negroes should
neither be transported, nor
sold to Christian Countries,
nor to any Christian whatever
but this prohibition does
not extend to Muselmans
I have heard that the agent
deputy (Mr Reates) has seized
other
43

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [43v] (38/110)

Other two Ships belonging
to my Subjects. I have
hitherto abstained, out of the
Sincere attachment and
good will I bear to your
Majestys Government, to
make any representation on
my own affairs. and I have
allowed Captain Owen to
act as he pleased towards
my Subjects until I could
appeal to the justice of
your Majesty. I have now
therefore to entreat your
Majestys deliberate attention
to what has been stated
and to beg that I may
be

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [44r] (39/110)

27
be honored with your
Majestys sentiments and
decision I have transmitted
this representation enclosed
in a letter to the Honorable
Governor of Bombay, with
a request that it may
be transmitted to your Majesty,
and I pray that your
Majestys answer may be
communicated to me either
through the Honble the said
Governor, or through the Supreme
Government of India. -
Sige / Wm Simson
Act. Pres. Subj. to Govt
Note
(44)

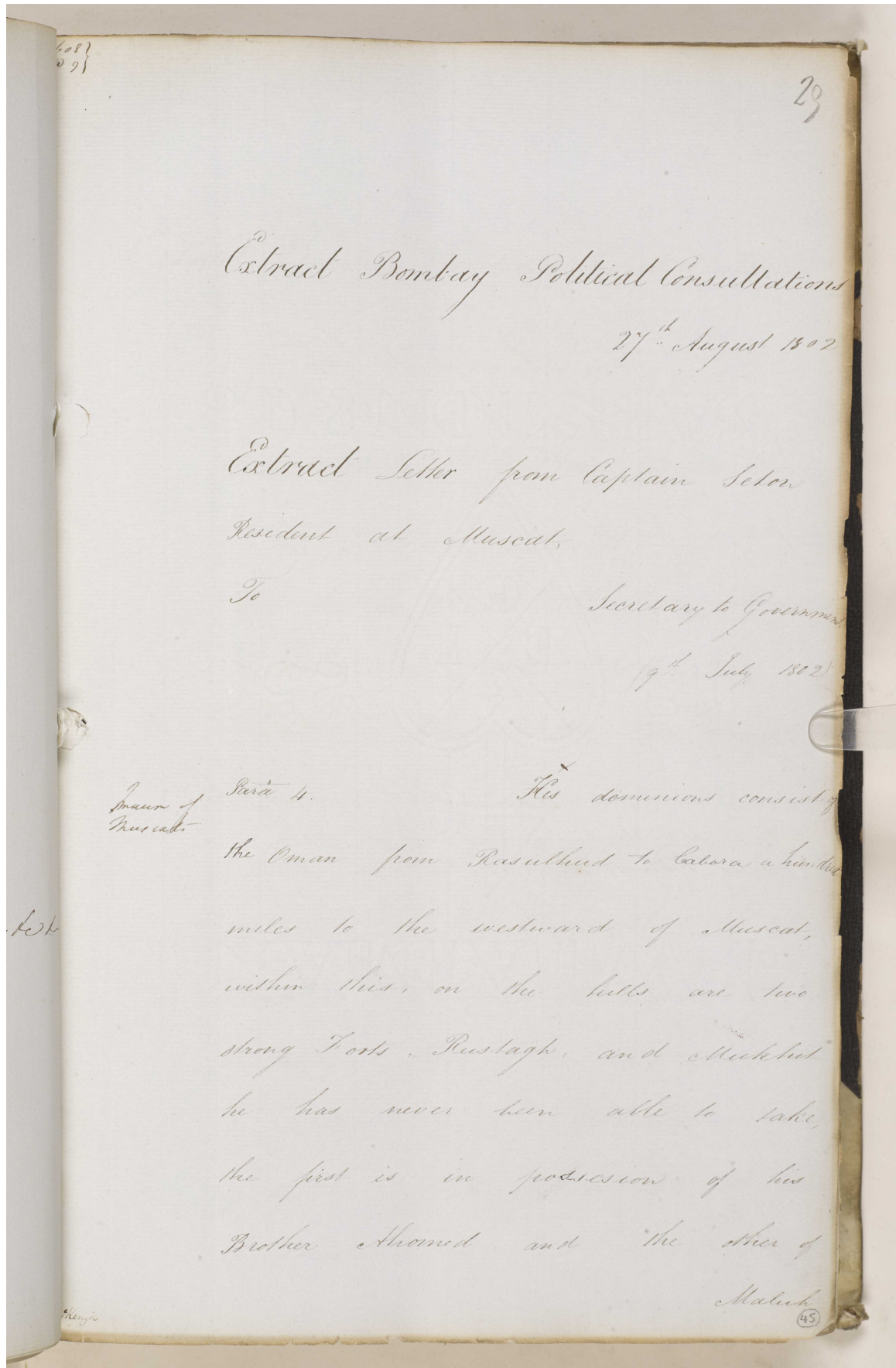
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [44v] (40/110)

Note -

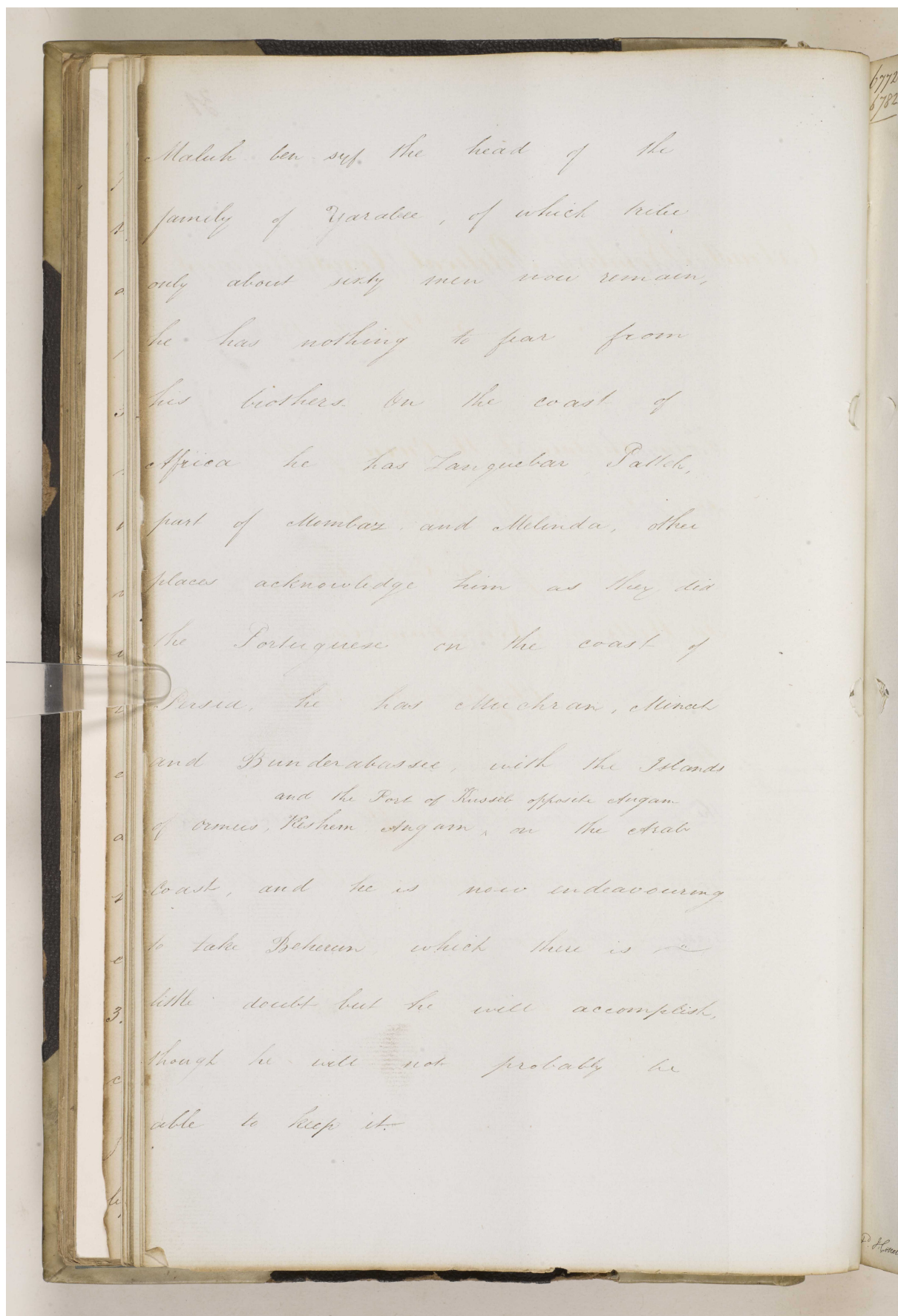
The address was sent by His Highness the Imaum to his Agent here with instructions to ascertain before delivering it to the Honble the Governor, whether or not it was advisable that it should be forwarded to His Majesty; and in the latter case, to withhold it; in the translation I have omitted as superfluous about a page of little invocations &c

Sigs. J. W. Simson

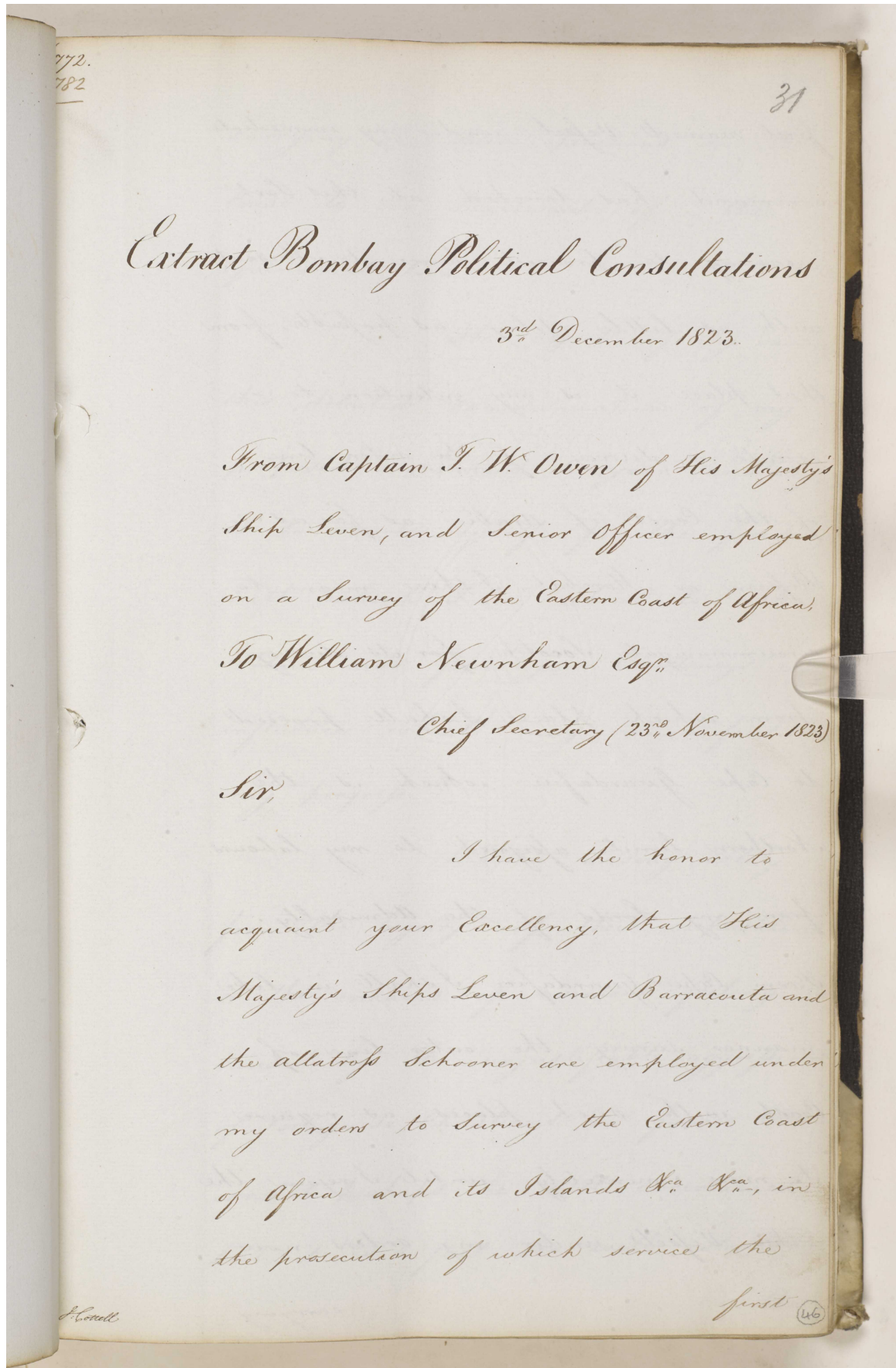
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [45r] (41/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [45v] (42/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [46r] (43/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [46v] (44/110)

first named Vessel under my immediate
command has touched at this Port,
meaning to proceed hence to Muscat
with as little delay as possible, from
that place it is my intention to ex-
ecute a Survey of the outer line
of the Coast of Arabia as far as
Kispeen or Morebat. I then mean to
circumnavigate Socotra for its Survey,
from which place I shall proceed
to Cape Guardafui which is the
Northern limit assigned to my labours
from my Lords of the Admiralty.
From Cape Guardafui I shall in like
manner survey the outer line of
Coast with such places as require
it more minutely until I rejoin the
other Vessels under my orders now
carrying

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [47r] (45/110)

33

carrying on their operations on the
Coast to the Southward of the
Equinoctial line--

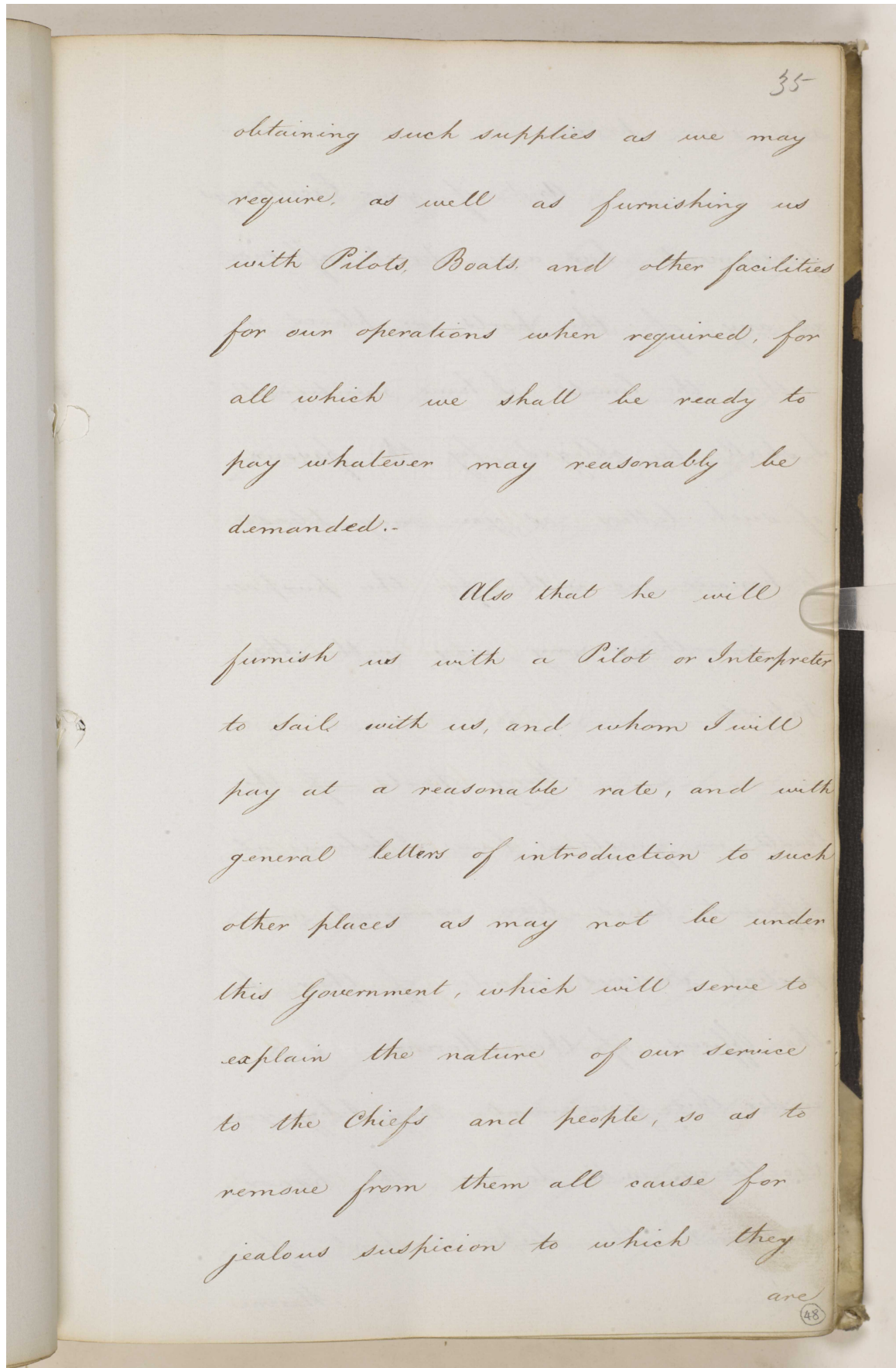
The object of my making
this detailed communication of my
proposed movements to your Excellency,
is to excuse myself for the freedom
with which I am about to ask
certain aids from your Excellency's
influence which may much facilitate
my progress.

Whether arising solely
from the bigotry of their superstition
or the remains of inimical feeling
caused by the unjustifiable aggressions
of Portuguese Christians in former times
cannot perhaps be well ascertained;
but it is a fact too well established
that

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [47v] (46/110)

that the Native Inhabitants of all
the Coasts I have named, with very
few exceptions, are particularly
unfriendly and often decidedly
inimical to Europeans. To provide a
remedy for this evil in some
measure, I have the honor to solicit
from your Excellency letters to the
Imaum of Muscat particularly (as
many of the places I am about
to visit are under his immediate
Government, and his power and
influence known in all) explaining
to him the nature of our Voyage,
and to obtain from him letters
to all his Subordinate Officers on
the different points of the Coast to
insure their friendly Offices for the
obtaining

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [48r] (47/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [48v] (48/110)

are ever prone.

And if your Excellency's Government has any direct influence at any of the ports or places within the limits I have mentioned, I shall be obliged by the favour of such letters as you may please to honour me with, for the purpose of smoothing my way with the Natives.

Many parts of the Coasts in question have I believe at different times been examined and partial surveys made of them by the Officers of the Marine under this Government. May I beg your Excellency will do me the honor to direct the Superintendent of Marine

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [49r] (49/110)

37
Marine or such other as may have
the charge of them, to permit me
to inspect whatever his office may
contain within the limits in question,
and to permit me to make Copies
of such as I may esteem useful to
the Service I am employed on.

There is another subject
which I am proud to boast not
only animates the Government of
our Nation but every British Subject,
I mean the extinction of that Hell
born traffick in Slaves which still
so infamously and miserably affects
a part of the Coasts I have named.
On this subject I have learnt that
by the influence of your Excellency's
Government the Imaum of Muscat has
engaged

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [49v] (50/110)

engaged by treaty not to permit
the trade for Slaves to be carried
on by, or for, or with Europeans, in
any of his Ports, and that he
had instructed the Shaheem of
Zanzibar to that effect - Although I am
not instructed to interfere with this
trade at all, which indeed I could
not well do without deranging my
operations of Survey, yet I feel it
my duty to mention to you, that
these good intentions on your part
and perhaps on the part of the
Imaum of Muscat himself, are
in effect frustrated. Whilst at
Mozambique last Month, one small
Coasting Vessel arrived there from
Zuiloa laden with Slaves, the Master
(an

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [50r] (51/110)

39

(an Arab from Zanzibar I understood)
was particularly anxious to advise
me, and desired that his name
should not be told me, fearing
he would be punished at Zanzibar
by my influence. Three or four others
were hourly expected at the time of
my departure, and I had information
that three French Vessels were then
lying at Quiloa getting cargoes of
Slaves.

These facts will
perhaps excuse me with your Excellency
for suggesting a strong Emendation of
your treaty with the Imaum, which
I am led to believe might be done
by the influence of your Excellency's
Government. This is, that the Imaum
declares

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [50v] (52/110)

declare by a public deed that
any European Vessel found within
five Leagues of the Coasts of his
dominions either trafficking for Slaves,
having Slaves on board, or being fitted
and equipped for such traffic, so as
to leave no doubt of her intentions,
the Master and Crew of such Vessel
shall be considered and treated
as Pirates, the Vessel confiscated to
the Captors, and the Slaves, if any
on board set free.

That all other Vessels
not being navigated by Europeans
nor subject to European powers being
found with Slaves on board, or
having been employed in their
transport to the Southward of Cape
Delgado,

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [51r] (53/110)

41
Delgado, where the Portuguese Authority
commences, shall also be considered
Pirates; their Vessels confiscated to the
Captors and Crews punished legally.

That the Vessels of all
Nations be by the said deed
invited and empowered to seize
all such Vessels so piratically
engaged, and to carry them if
possible into a Port subject to the
Imaums Authority, there to be
adjudged.

If such a strong
measure as this can be carried by
your Excellency's influence, you will
have done more in the cause of
humanity than I can utter, and
the traffic in Slaves will soon
end

51

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [51v] (54/110)

end in that part of Africa North
of Cape Delgado, for the parts
South of it the time and means
are now in the hands of the
British Government, which no
doubt will use them for the
consummation of so noble a work.

Considering the Imaum
as an independent Prince his right
to publish and to enforce such
a law cannot be doubted, and if
its terms be so general, no Nation
however jealous, can complain of
partiality.

I have the honor to be Sir

His Majesty's Ship
Leven at Bombay,
23rd November 1823.

(Signed) W. F. W. Owen

Captain and Senior Officer

Employed on a Survey of the
Eastern Coast of Africa.

Reply

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [52r] (55/110)

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Reply to.

From William Newnham Esq. Chief Secretary.
To Captain J. W. Owen of His Majesty's
Ship Leven, and Senior Officer employed
on a Survey of the Eastern Coast of Africa
(27th November 1823.)

Sir,

The Governor in Council
has been honored with the receipt
of your letter bearing date the 23rd
Instant, and has directed me to
assure you of the satisfaction he
will have in affording you every
assistance in his power in the
prosecution of the interesting object
of your mission to the African Coast.

2. Letters will be
immediately prepared to the Imaum

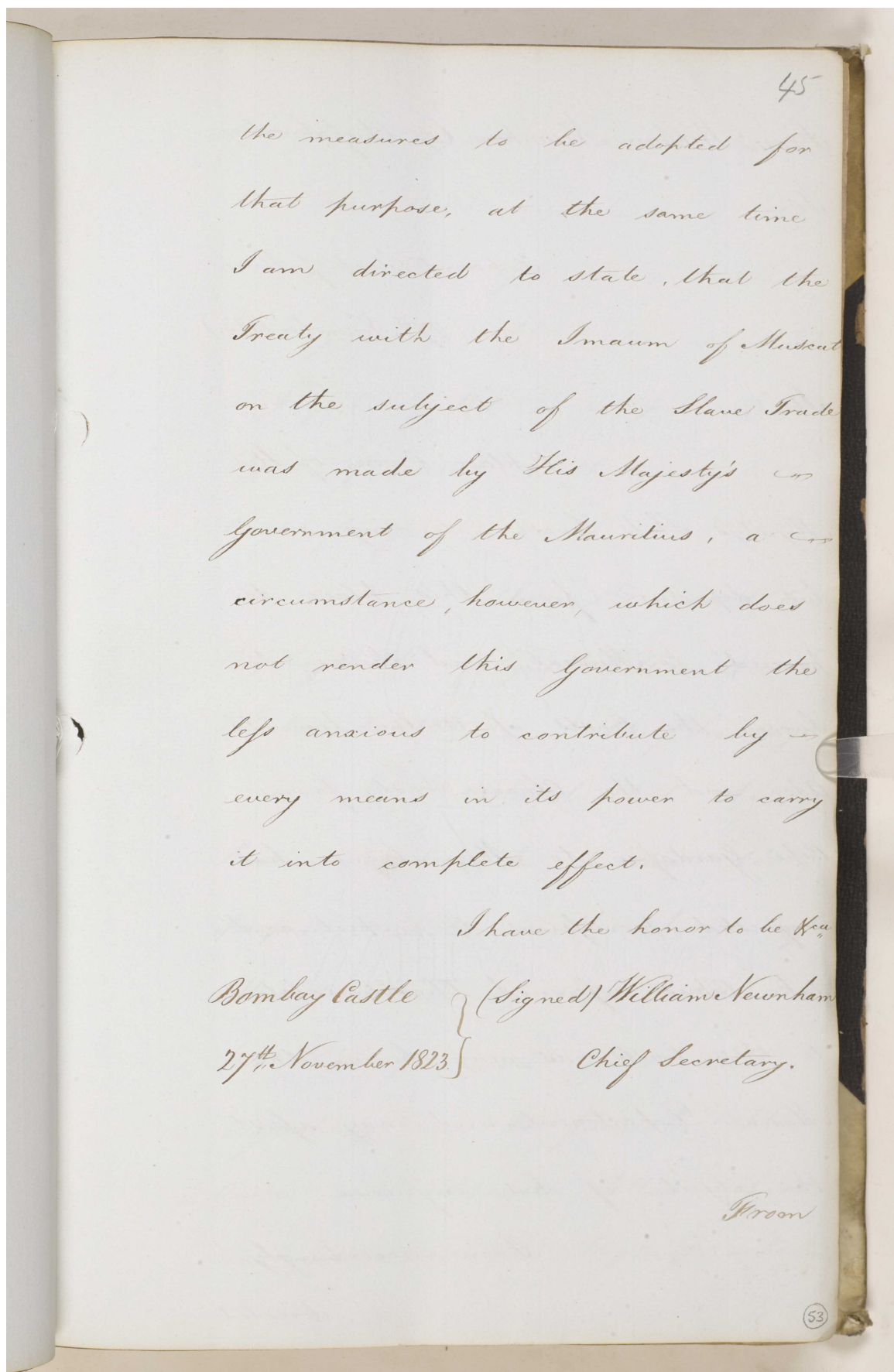
of (52)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [52v] (56/110)

of Muscat and the other Chieftains
in the Arabian Coast in Correspondence
with the Government to assist
you in the prosecution of your
Survey, and all Charts relating
to these Coasts will be immediately
collected and communicated to you.

3. I am directed to offer
you the acknowledgments of the
Governor in Council for the
information conveyed in your letter
on the subject of the Slave
Trade, and for your suggestions
regarding the means of securing the
more effectual abolition of that
detestable traffic, and to acquaint
you that the Governor in Council
will take into immediate consideration
the

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [53r] (57/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [53v] (58/110)

From William Newnham Esq^r Chief Secretary.

To,

Superintendent of Marine

(27th November 1823.)

Sir,

Captain Owen, of His

Majesty's Ship Leven, intending on
his departure from this place, to
proceed to Muscat, and thence to
Survey the Coasts of Arabia towards
Aden and the African Coast, from
Cape Gardafiu to Mozambique, has
requested permission to inspect and
take Copies of such Charts relative
to these Coasts as may be in the
Marine Department, and may assist
the object of his enquiries.

I am accordingly

directed

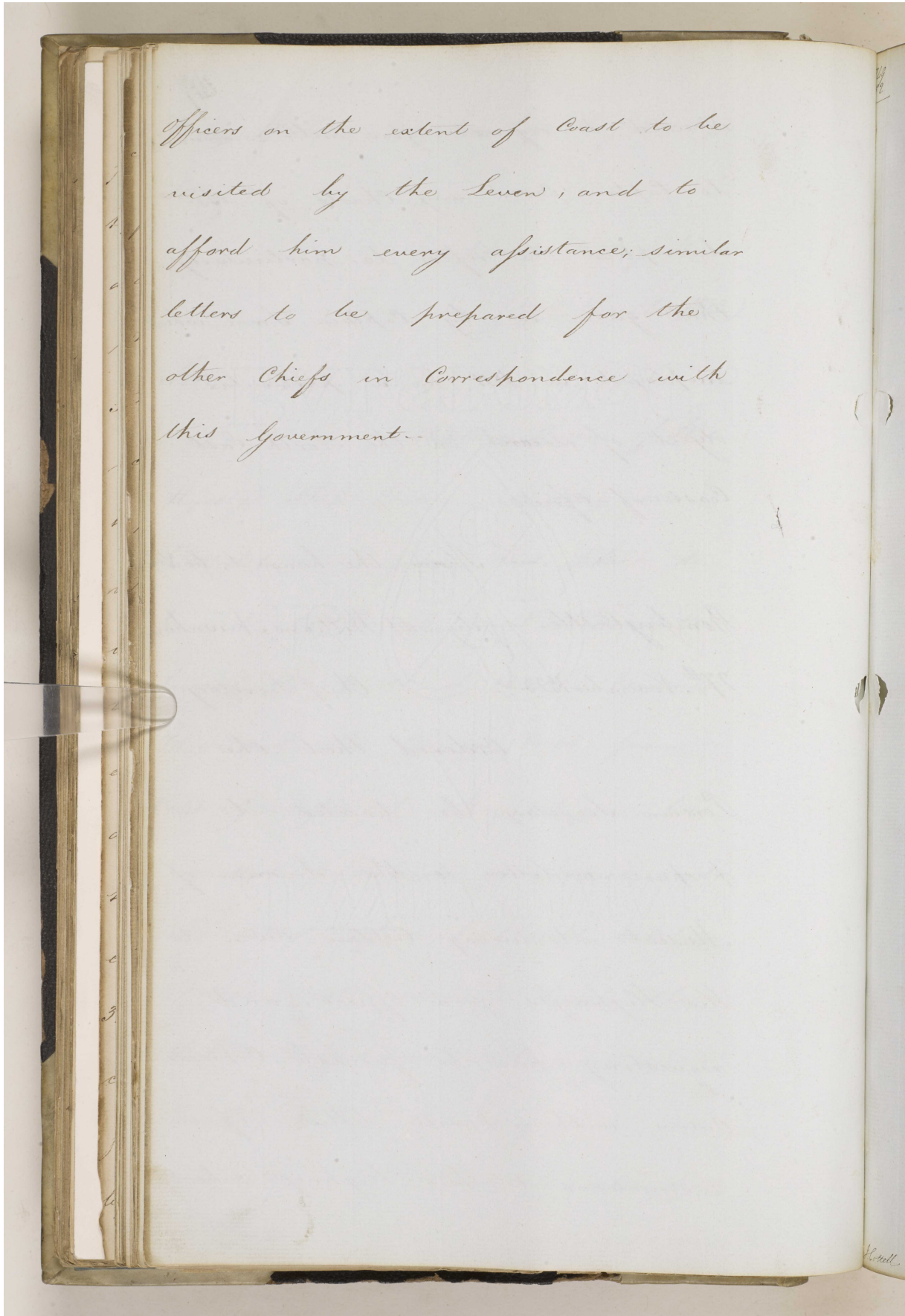
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [54r] (59/110)

47
directed to request you will communicate
to Captain Owen any Charts of the
description he refers to, particularly
that given in by Captain Smeeth when
employed in 1811 on a particular
object of research on the North East
Coast of Africa.

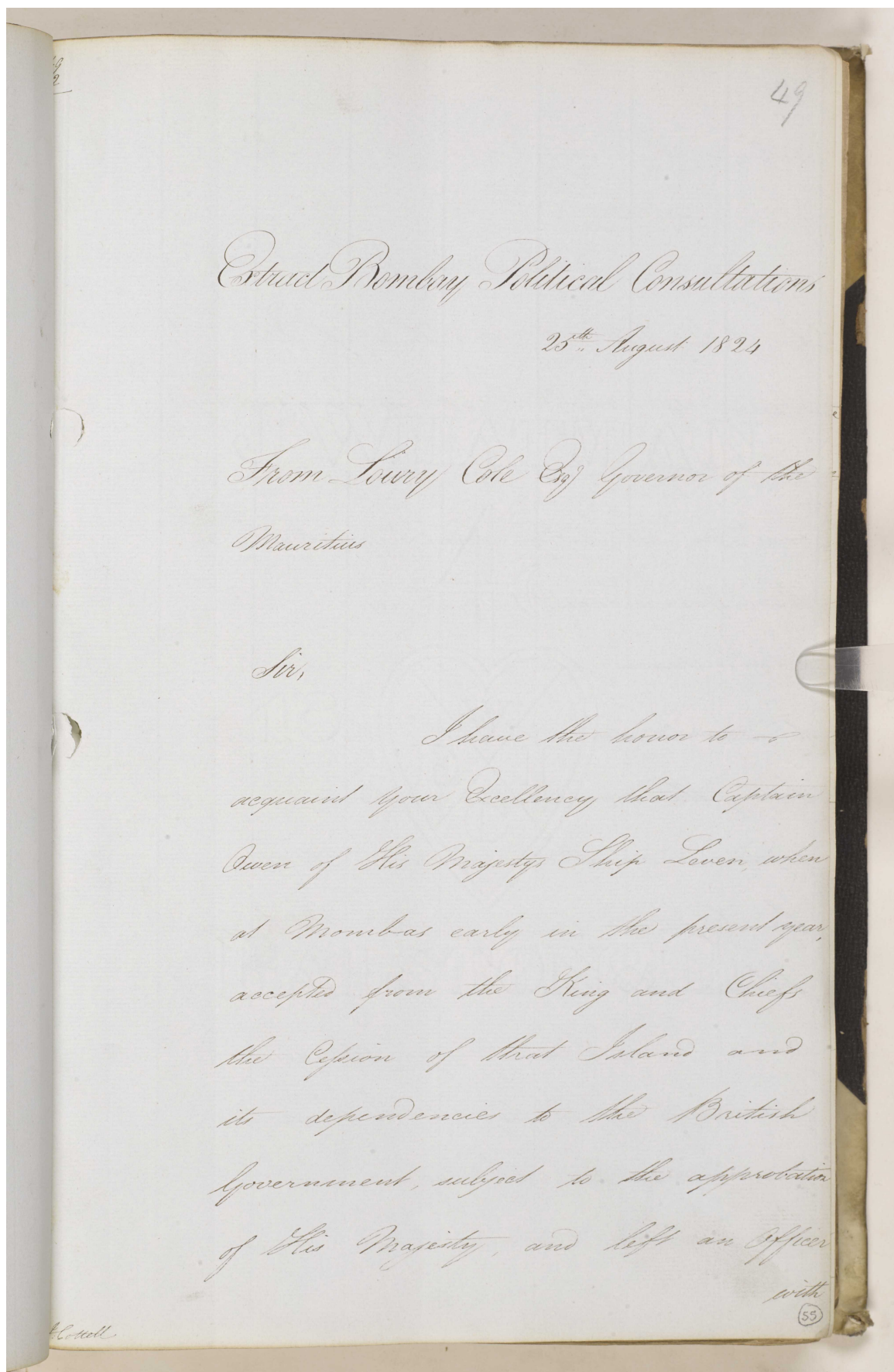
I have the honor to be Sir
Bombay Castle } (Signed) William Kevenham
27th November 1823. } Chief Secretary.

Ordered that the
Persian Secretary be directed to
prepare a letter to the Imaum of
Muskat introducing Captain Owen to
His Highness's good offices, and
requesting him to furnish Captain
Owen with separate letters of
instructions to His Highness's subordinate
officers

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [54v] (60/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [55r] (61/110)



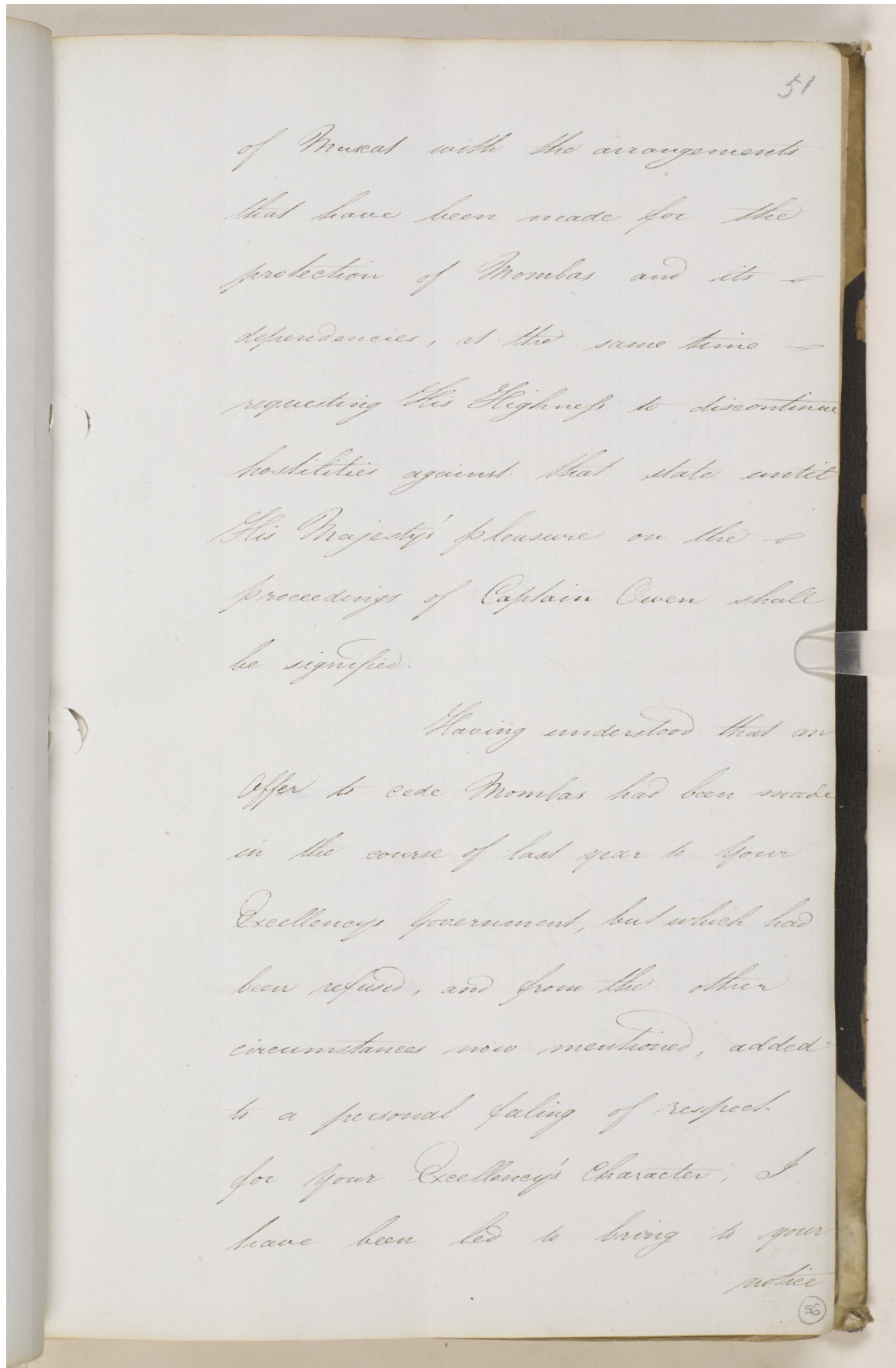
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [55v] (62/110)

with a few men there, in the Fort
as a protection.

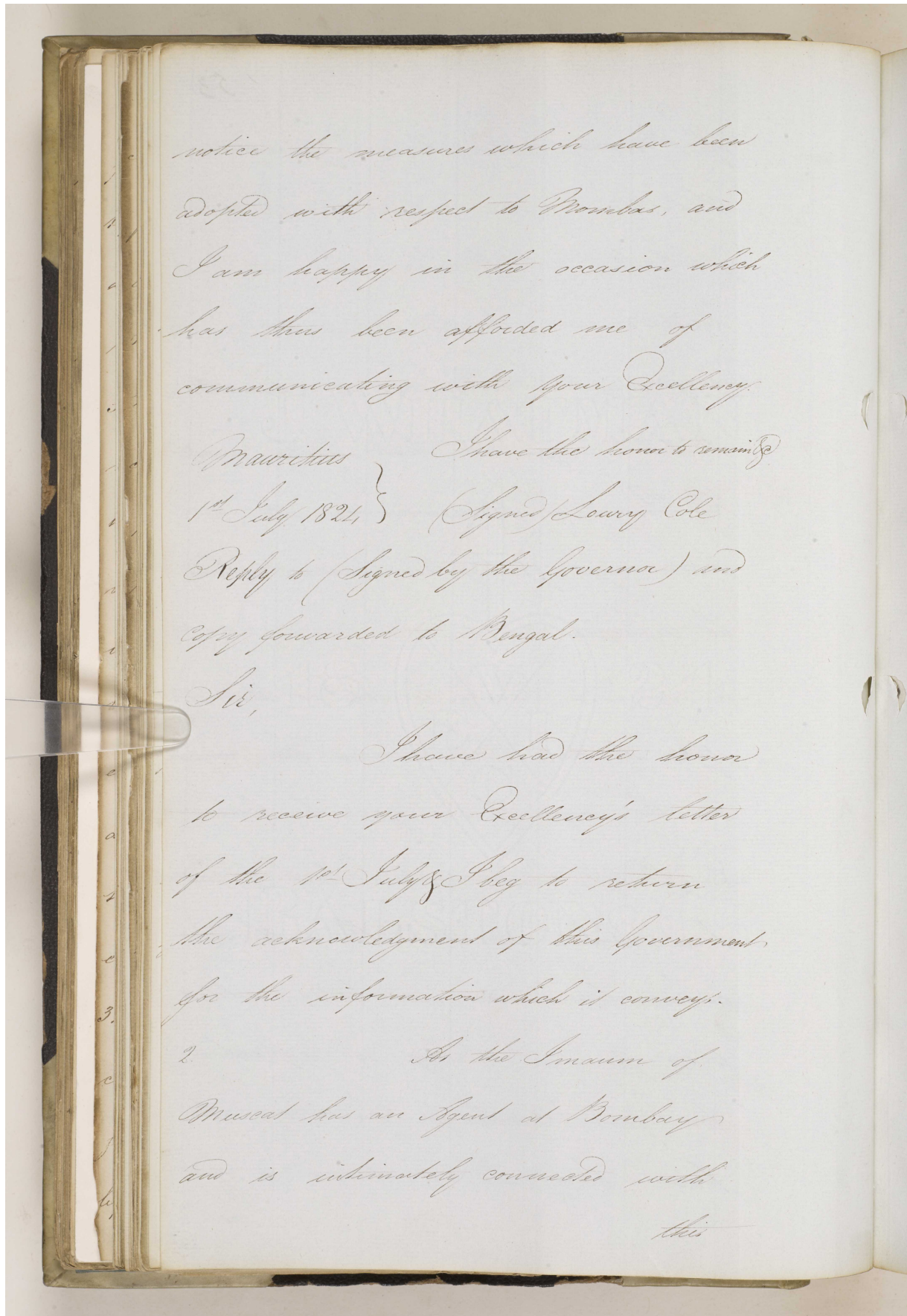
Captain Owen who
has transmitted to the Lords of the
Admiralty detailed reports of his proceedings
has lately arrived here, having on
board an Embassy from Mombasa to
this Government, which under the
circumstances just related I was obliged
to receive, and I have been induced
from the same considerations to
acquiesce in the measures taken
by Captain Owen, until His Majesty's
pleasure shall be known.

I have taken the first
opportunity of writing to His Majesty's
Government on the subject, and I
have also acquainted the Imaum
of

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [56r] (63/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [56v] (64/110)



notice the measures which have been
adopted with respect to Bombas, and
I am happy in the occasion which
has thus been afforded me of
communicating with your Excellency.

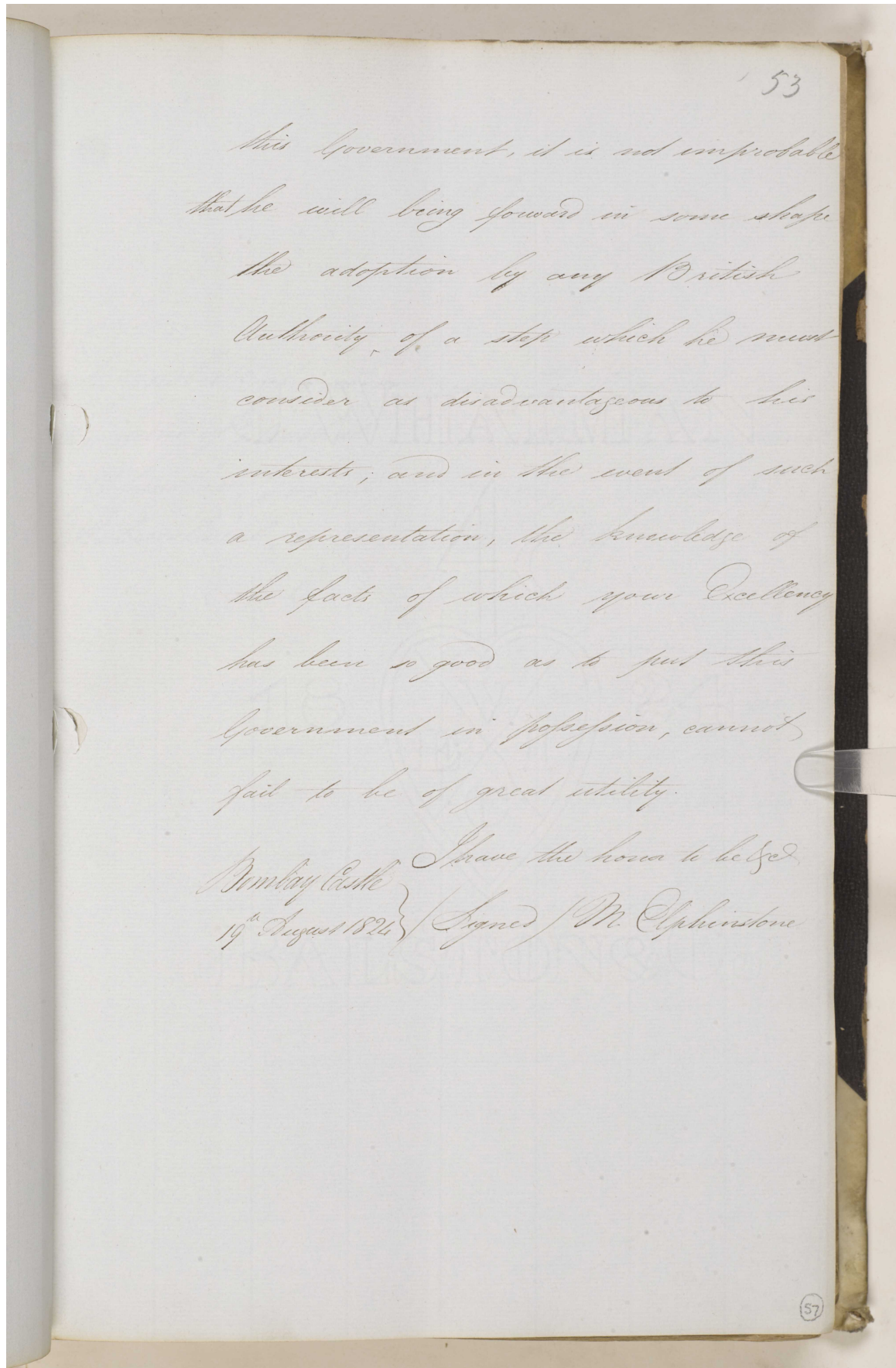
Mauritius } I have the honor to remain
1st July 1824 } (Signed) Lowry Cole
Reply to (Signed by the Governor) and
copy forwarded to Bengal.

Sir,

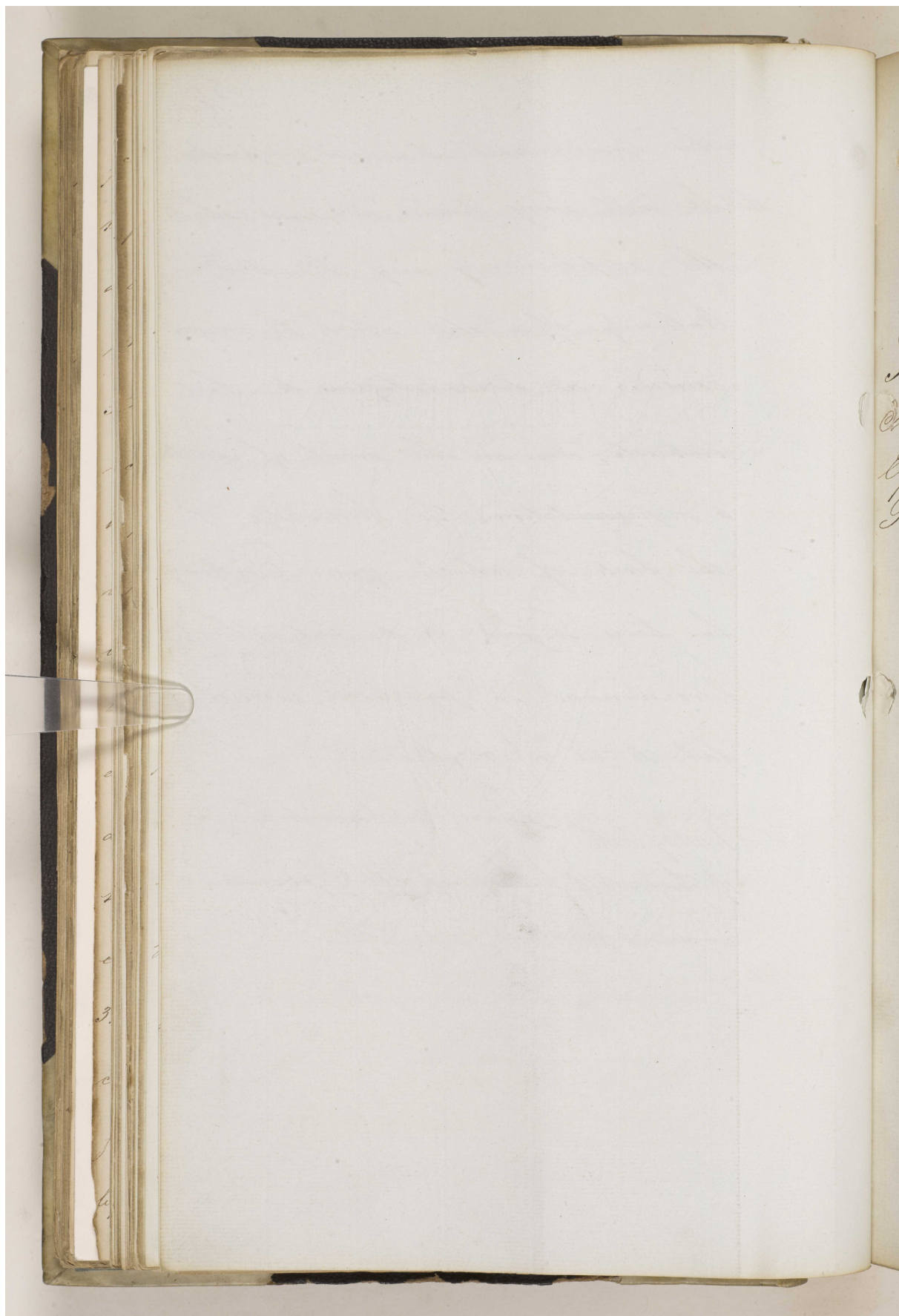
I have had the honor
to receive your Excellency's letter
of the 1st July & beg to return
the acknowledgments of this Government
for the information which it conveys.

As the Imaum of
Muskat has an Agent at Bombay
and is intimately connected with
this

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [57r] (65/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [57v] (66/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [58r] (67/110)

N^o 1.

Translate of a Letter from His Highness the
Imaum of Muskat, to the Honble Mauntstuart
Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay - Dated 6th
Rabeeoolawul, or 29th October 1824.

A. C.

Be it known to you
that the "Captain of the Royal Frigate"
engaged in surveying, and in whose
behalf you addressed letters to me, arrived
here and remained at Muskat for some
while - he disclosed nothing to me -
previous to the arrival of this officer I had
sent Rebels to occupy Bombasa (you
are aware how matters stand between me
and the Bombasa people, and you know
also what excesses they have committed
upon my territories) the Captain on
his arrival at Bombasa did not permit

my 58

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [58v] (68/110)

my people to profess themselves of the place - but joined with Bombasa, and expressed his desire to take possession of "Suzera-ul-Huzra" from my vessels, and for that purpose conveyed a number of the Bombasa people in his own ship to the Island, and demanded of my people that they should deliver it up to those of Bombasa. He also made use of threatening and unbecoming language - My men said that if he had a written order from me for the delivery of the Island they would give it up to him, but they were only servants and could not act on their own authority. Despairing of obtaining the Island, the Captain made several proposals to my people, to which they acceded, until they could communicate with me on the subject, and learn my pleasure. The Captain then departed for Zanzibar, taking with him some of the Bombasa people. there, also, he expressed,

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [59r] (69/110)

57

expressed himself in a very unbecoming manner, saying that he had found friends in the men of Bombassa, but that I had not behaved to him as a friend - it is commonly notorious that the people of Bombassa are dependants of Oman, and that their "Walee" derives his office from Oman - but for some time past we have winked at their acts, and thus they ascribe to weakness on our part - You have been made acquainted with the perverse conduct of these people, especially their violence at "Putra" a territory of mine - and the destruction of "Juzera-ul-Kuxra" last year, and their subsequent reconciliation with my people - It is now for you to say what is to be done - I am ready to subscribe to any proposal that shall come from you - another thing - The Commander of the aforementioned Frigate requested of Saïed Bin Mohammed

Walee

Not also "Pemba"

(59)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [59v] (70/110)

Walee of Zanzibar, that he might have
a flag erected at the house assigned for
his residence - if this was done by direc-
tion of the Sirkar, there is no objection;
the country and place is yours, and every
thing that I have is at the service of
the Sirkar - If the Captain acted on
his own authority I have only to beg
that you will be good enough to make
answer to him -

a true translation
(signed) Wm. Simson
Wm. Simson, to Capt.

Substance of a letter from Coleman
Ali Ali, the chieftain of Bombassa,
to the Honble Mountstuart Elphinstone,
Governor of Bombay, Dated 23rd Mo-
hammadum 1240 or 17th September 1824.
A.C.

I have received your letter
favored by Captain Owen, and have
comprehended

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [60r] (71/110)

alluding to the defec-
tion of the island
mentioned in the
letter - M.S.

a real brother

59
comprehends its contents. I beg to offer you
my acknowledgments. I have made over
to him half of my Revenues as I had
promised; but my territories are not in
my own possession altho' they are held
by my own people. You are now acquainted
with my condition, the conclusion of the
matter rests with you. For the sake of
God determine something on this business
and neglect not my cause. For further
particulars I beg to refer you to the
communication of my brother Salim bin
Rashid - suffer me not to be ruined,
and brought to naught by my Enemies.
I am in obedience to the King of England.
The Gentlemen at Bombassa
send his respect to you.

Signed / Wm. Linnson
Actg. Secy to Govt.

Substance of a letter from Solomon Ben
Ali Mizrahi, the chieftain of Bombassa, to
the (60)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [60v] (72/110)

The Honble Mountstuart Elphinstone,
Governor of Bombay.
A. C.

Affairs go on peaceably
in these parts, nor is there any news
worth communicating. I have had the
honour to receive your letter, delivered
to me by Captain Owen and Ahmed
Bin Mahomed. I conferred with Captain
Owen and offered him half my revenue
he left one of his own officers with me
for the collection of the same, which is
of no great amount. Captain Owen
desired me to send some one with him
to "Jugera" that he might take pos-
session of it. I accordingly sent with
him one of my people. On their arrival
at the Jugera some discussion passed
between them, and Nafir ben Solomon,
they returned back to Bombassa, without
taking possession of the place. On their
return Captain Owen desired me to send
one

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [61r] (73/110)

61
one of my sons along with him to
Mauritius; I accordingly dispatched
Moobaruck bin Ahmed with him, to
that island, where however nothing
further was done than had been
already concluded with Captain Owen.
They returned and reported to me that
Commodore Mourse would himself
visit Bombassa; and that gentleman
did come, and I made enquiry of him
as to the points in question; He replied
that he could say nothing more on the
subject than had been already com-
municated to me by Captain Owen.

Enclose copy of a letter
addressed to me by General Sir Lawrence
Coll Governor of Mauritius

signed / M^r. Lanson

Actg Secy to Govt.

Substance of a letter from General Sir Lawrence
Coll Governor of Mauritius, to the address of
Coolman

'Proceedings of Capt'n Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Capt'n Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [61v] (74/110)

Soliman Ben Ali Ben Osman
Muzroee. Dated Hilkaada 1237 -
or July 1824.
A. C.

I have received your letter
transmitted to me by your son Al-Mu-
ruch Ben Ahmed, who arrived here on
board Captain Owen's ship - with
respect to Bombassa I have to tell you
that I consent to accept your country
on the terms you have proposed, and
I have informed His Britannick
Majesty accordingly; but I can neither
give you a final answer on the subject
nor send you any Troops, until I receive
instructions from His Majesty's Govern-
ment -

Commodore Mause, a
man of distinguished rank will visit
you, and his communications will be
in the same tone as those made to you
by Captain Owen, until the arrival
of

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [62r] (75/110)

63
of advice from England -

I have apprized Saïed bin Sultan that the whole of the Bombassa country is now under the authority of His Britannick Majesty, and I have reported to His Majesty the whole of the communications made to me by elloobarnuck bin Shmud. On the return of the Ship Laura it is hoped that I shall be enabled to give you a satisfactory reply on the subject of your Country -

Signed / Wm. Simson

Actg. As. Secy. to Govt.

I have found none of the Imaum's people able to afford any particular or certain information on the right of Oman to the allegiance of Bombassa, and the Arab merchants whom I have consulted appear to recollect little.

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [62v] (76/110)

little beyond the events of the last few years; both one and the other, however, profess a general impression that Bombassa is accounted part of the Oman territory and that the Governor is appointed from Muskat. It is probably true, as mentioned by Salim in the annexed statement, that Bombassa was captured from the Portuguese by Sultan bin Seif, and the people may have yielded willing submission to him while he lived; but the family of the present Imaum were of another tribe, not related at all to Sultan bin Seif, and obtained the dominion of Oman, as I am informed, by their own influence, and power in expelling the Persians from Muskat on the death of Nadir Shah. Imaum Ahmed, grandfather of the present Imaum, was the first of the Humawree family that exercised the sole authority in Muskat and it does

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [63r] (77/110)

63
does not appear that Bombassa was ever
subjected to the Persians, or that it
formed an appendage to Muscat at
the time in which the authority of
Imaum Ahmed was established there.
It is not probable that Bombassa has
ever been for a long period in the undis-
turbed possession of Muscat, for I am
informed by a person of good credit,
who visited the east coast of Africa
twenty years ago, that at that time
Bombassa was an independent prin-
-cipality, governed by a chief of its own
style, styling himself "Soltan", and paying
no tribute whatever to Muscat. The
present chief of Bombassa is of the
Muxree tribe (the tribe stationed there
by Sey bin Soltan when he captured
the place) and succeeded to his dignity
by inheritance, on the death of his
uncle Abdolla, which event was reported
to this Government some time last year.
after (63)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [63v] (78/110)

After the death of Sultan bin Saif
the sword appears the only tenure by
which the Chiefs of Oman have held
Bombassa, and it may be doubted
whether they have ever fairly obtained
possession, even by violent means, since
that time. The accounts I have received
of the Bombassa people shew them to
be of warlike habits, impatient of
oppression, and their opposition to the
Imaum and the excuses of which his
Highness complains prove that their
strength and courage are far from con-
-templable.

The affairs of Putta
and the damage done at Jussorut-ul-
Kuzra, noticed in the Imaum's letter
began in a blockade of Putta and
Lamsah by the Bombassa boats,
where when they were compelled to retreat
by the forces of the Imaum (from whom
aid had been solicited by the people of
Putta

'Proceedings of Capt'n Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Capt'n Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [64r] (79/110)

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Putta) did not retire in peace, but on their way back fell upon Inzerut-ul-Kuzra, plundered the island, killed several of the Imams people, and even held possession of the place till driven out by fresh forces from Muscat. This attack upon Inzerut-ul-Kuzra it was which induced the Imam to send a strong equipment to reduce Bombassa itself, and his Highness' rebels had actually invested the port when Captain Owen arrived and prevented the progress of farther operations. The "subsequent reconciliation", also noticed in the Imams letter, is supposed to allude to an offer of submission said to have been made by deputies from Bombassa to the Imam at the moment in which Captain Owens presence relieved them from immediate danger. The Bombassa people left Bombay so soon that I had no means of enquiring about this
alleged (64)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [64v] (80/110)

alleged offer of submission, but Bombassa appears to have been in a condition to make terms, and it is as fair to suppose in the absence of impartial information, that the offer, if made at all, was one of accommodation, as of submission - Salim promised that the letter from the Imaum to the Bombassa Chief, mentioned in his statement as containing proposals of accommodation, should be forwarded to Bombay without loss of time; the style of this letter will probably show the actual relation of Bombassa to Muscat at the time it was written, and assist towards a just estimation of the Imaum's complaint against Captain Owen and of His Highness's right to the allegiance of Bombassa.

Signed / Wm. Simson
Acty Person Secy,
to Government
Statement

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imam of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [65r] (81/110)

69
Statement of Salim Bin Rushid, Muxrooce
of Bombassa.

Towards the middle of
the last century, Seif Bin Sooltan
Shafree, Chief of Oman, captured
Bombassa from the Portuguese (who had
been in possession of the place for a long
while before) and established there the
Arab tribe of Muxrooce, this tribe
continued in obedience to Seif Bin Sooltan
so long as he lived. Seif Bin Sooltan
was succeeded by Imamu Ahmed
Boo Quedee Kumaar, Grandfather
of the present Imamu, but the tribe
of Muxrooce did not acknowledge him
as sovereign of Bombassa, nor have the
people of Bombassa ever submitted to
any Chief of Oman, save only Seif
Bin Sooltan, before whose time
Bombassa had no connection at all
with Oman.

About 12 years ago, the
people

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [65v] (82/110)

people of Lamooch rose against Putta
(a separate principality of which Lamooch
was at that time a dependancy) and
the Putta Chief solicited aid from the
then Hakim of Bombassa, Abdoolah
bin Ahmed Muxrooce; Abdoolah sent
troops to Putta, more with the view
of restoring union than of making a
conquest, matters however were not
brought to an accommodation; and
during these contentions the people of
Lamooch sent proposal to Seid Suced,
the present Imaum of Muscat, offering
to deliver the island of Putta to him
if he would assist them against Bombassa
Seid Suced accordingly occupied Lamooch
with his own troops and then sent to
Putta demanding its surrender - Putta
was at that time held by Abdoolah
Muxrooce Chief of Bombassa, who refused
to deliver up the island to Seid Suced
and in the conflicts that ensued many
of the

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [66r] (83/110)

71
of the Bombassa boats were destroyed
by the Imaum's fleet. At length
the Imaum sent a letter to Abdolla
stating that Lamooch was already in
his hands, and that if he would
give up Putta to him also, he the
Imaum would desist from all
operations against Bombassa. His
letter to Abdolla, containing the
Imaum's proposal of relinquishing
his designs upon Bombassa on condition
of Putta being given up to him, is
now to be seen at Bombassa, with
the Imaum's own seal and signature
to it. Abdolla trusting to the good
faith of Seid Sued withdrew the
Bombassa troops from Putta which
then fell easily to the Imaum. The
Bombassa force had no sooner retired
from Putta than the Imaum sent
vessels and suddenly took possession of
"Juxerut-ul-Kuxra" then a part of the
Bombassa

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [66v] (84/110)

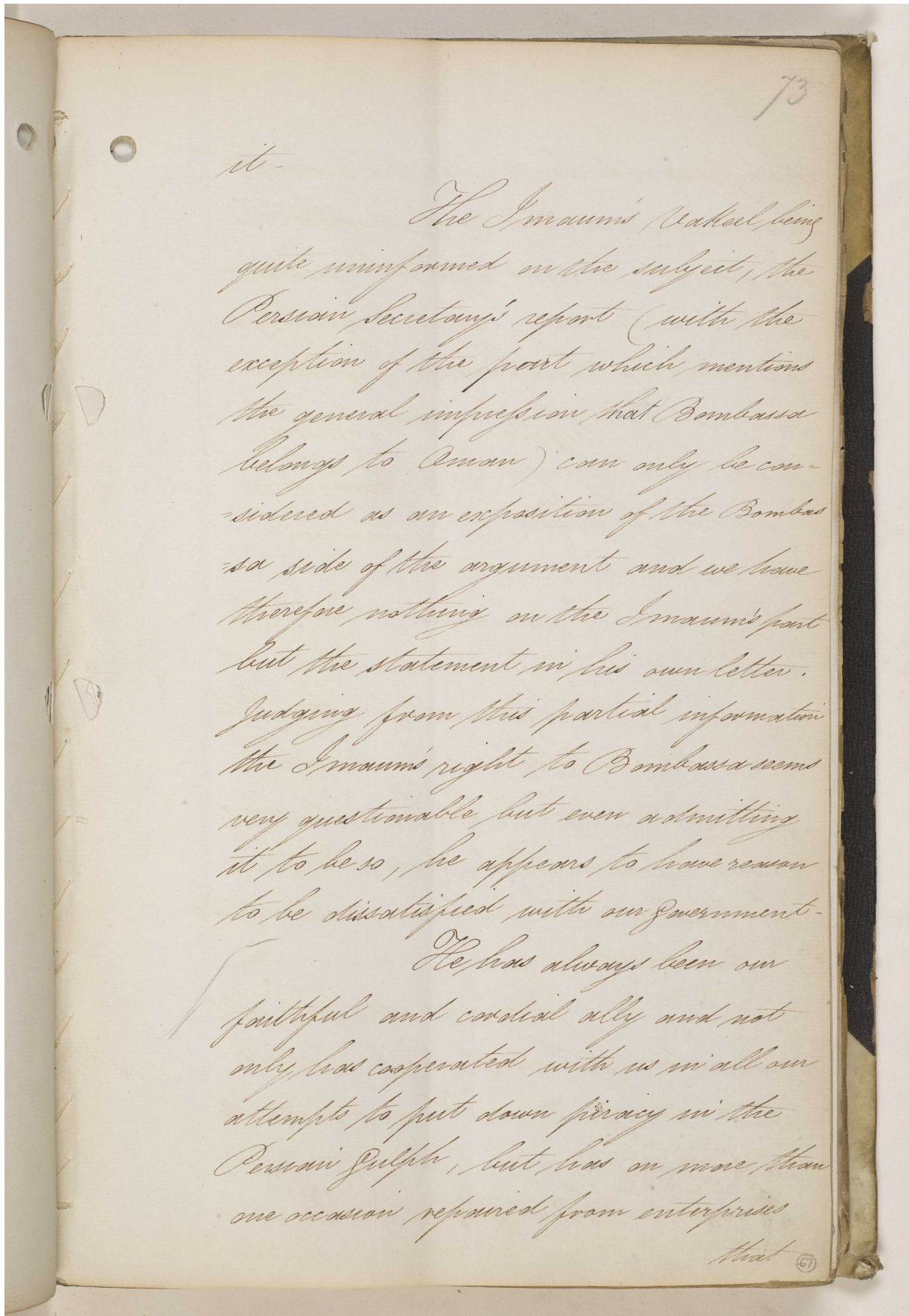
*Bombassa territory - On this instance
of treachery the people of Bombassa
determined to break off all connexion
with the Imaum, and to apply for
protection to the King of England.*

*[signed] Wm. Larrison,
Actg Persian Secy,
to Government.*

*It is desirable that the
Imaum's complaints should be for-
warded speedily to allow of its being
considered, before His Majesty's Govern-
ment comes to a decision on the subject
of Bombassa.*

*I was desirous that full
information regarding the real state
of that colony should accompany the
Imaum's letter and regret that we
have been so unsuccessful in procuring
it*

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [67r] (85/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [67v] (86/110)

that promised to be profitable to him because we represented to him that his engaging in them would be inconsistent with our policy, he has also agreed to a considerable pecuniary sacrifice first at the request of this Government by forbidding the purchase of slaves by Europeans in his dominions, and afterwards by placing still narrower limits to that traffic in his agreement with Captain Moresby.

In return for his friendly conduct he has received many assurances of good will from our Government both in India and at home.

It must therefore have occasioned much surprise to him to find us appear in a point so remote from our own possessions and connections for the purpose of undertaking the protection

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [68r] (87/110)

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protection of a people with whom he had for some time been engaged in open war and over whom he pretended to the rights of sovereignty.

The Imaum's surprise must have been increased from the measure being the result of a visit from some of our rebels which had been recommended to him by this Government as employed on the duty of surveying and to the operations of which he had been requested to afford every assistance.

It may however be considered as inexpedient to recede from the engagement entered into by Captain Owen unless the Imaum's right to the sovereignty which has been offered to His Majesty could be proved. If his right is not proved it would also be advisable to consider how far the possession of Bombassa could be made instrumental to the abolition

of (68)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [68v] (88/110)

of the slave trade on the eastern coast of Africa, but if Bombassa is retained from whatever motive, it seems both just and politic to offer some indemnity to the Imaum to whose interests we have certainly not shown that attention which he is entitled to claim from us. I would endeavour to ascertain in what manner compensation might be made to him, but I am prevented by the fear of raising expectations which it would be highly impolitic to encourage.

In the mean time copies of this correspondence and the whole substance of the resolution of Government should be communicated to Colonel Stammers with a request that in endeavouring to remove any bad impression that may have been made on the Imaum he will be careful to say nothing that may embarrass us.

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [69r] (89/110)

11
or compromise His Majesty's Government
should it decide on retaining Bombassa.

An answer should be
written to the Imaum stating that the
step taken by Captain Owen was
entirely unknown and unexpected to
this Government and that the Governor
in Council is not sufficiently informed
either of the powers with which Captain
Owen may have been vested by His
Majesty's Government or with the real
relations between His Highness the Imaum
and the Chiefs of Bombassa to be able
to give any opinion on the steps likely to
be adopted by His Majesty's Government
but that His Highness may depend on
it that no time will be lost in conveying
to Great Britain the representations that
His Highness has made and any further
elucidations of his claim which he may
afford and that he may be assured
that nothing can be further from the
intention

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [69v] (90/110)

intention of His Majesty's Government
never to do any injustice to so sincere
a friend of the British Nation.

A letter to the Bom-
bassa Chiefs should be written nearly
to the effect of a verbal communication
which I made to them that this
Government possesses no authority to
interfere with their application which
has already been submitted to His
Majesty; but that as the Imaum had
complained of the interference of the
English and had claimed the sovereign-
ty of Bombassa, the arrival of their
Vahels was fortunate as enabling this
Government to forward any reply they
might be disposed to afford to the
Imaums pretensions. The letter should
otherwise be written with the usual
friendly expressions.

Copies of these letters
should be sent to Colonel Stammers and
of

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [70r] (91/110)

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of the whole to Bengal -

signed / Mr. Elphinstone

Draft of a Letter from the Honble Mr. Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay, to His Highness the Imaum of Muskat. -

A. C.

I have first to express my hopes that your Highness enjoys health and prosperity, and next to inform you that this letter will be conveyed to you in His Majesty's ship Leven, now repairing from Bombay to Muskat, and destined from thence to proceed southward along the coast of Africa. Captain Owen ^{Esq.} ^{Esq.} the officer in command of the Leven has been selected by the English Government for his extensive knowledge and research, to complete a regular survey of the African coast, from which great benefits are expected to geography and science in general (70)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [70v] (92/110)

general and I have to beg, that Captain Owen may experience all kindness and attention from your Highness, while he may remain at Muscat; and also that when Captain Owen shall proceed southward your Highness will furnish him with separate letters to all your subordinate officers on the coast and on the parts adjacent directing them to supply him with such aids as he may have occasion for, in way of pilots, boats, and provisions. Nor will your Highness take it amiss should Captain Owen insist, on paying for any assistance of this sort which he may require.

I beg your Highness will accept my best wishes. *Yours* *Yours* *Yours*

Substance

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [71r] (93/110)

81
Substance of a letter from Abdool bin Ahmed
Muxrosee Chieftain of Bombassa to the Honble
Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay -
Dated 12th Shaban, or 24th April, 1823.

A. C.

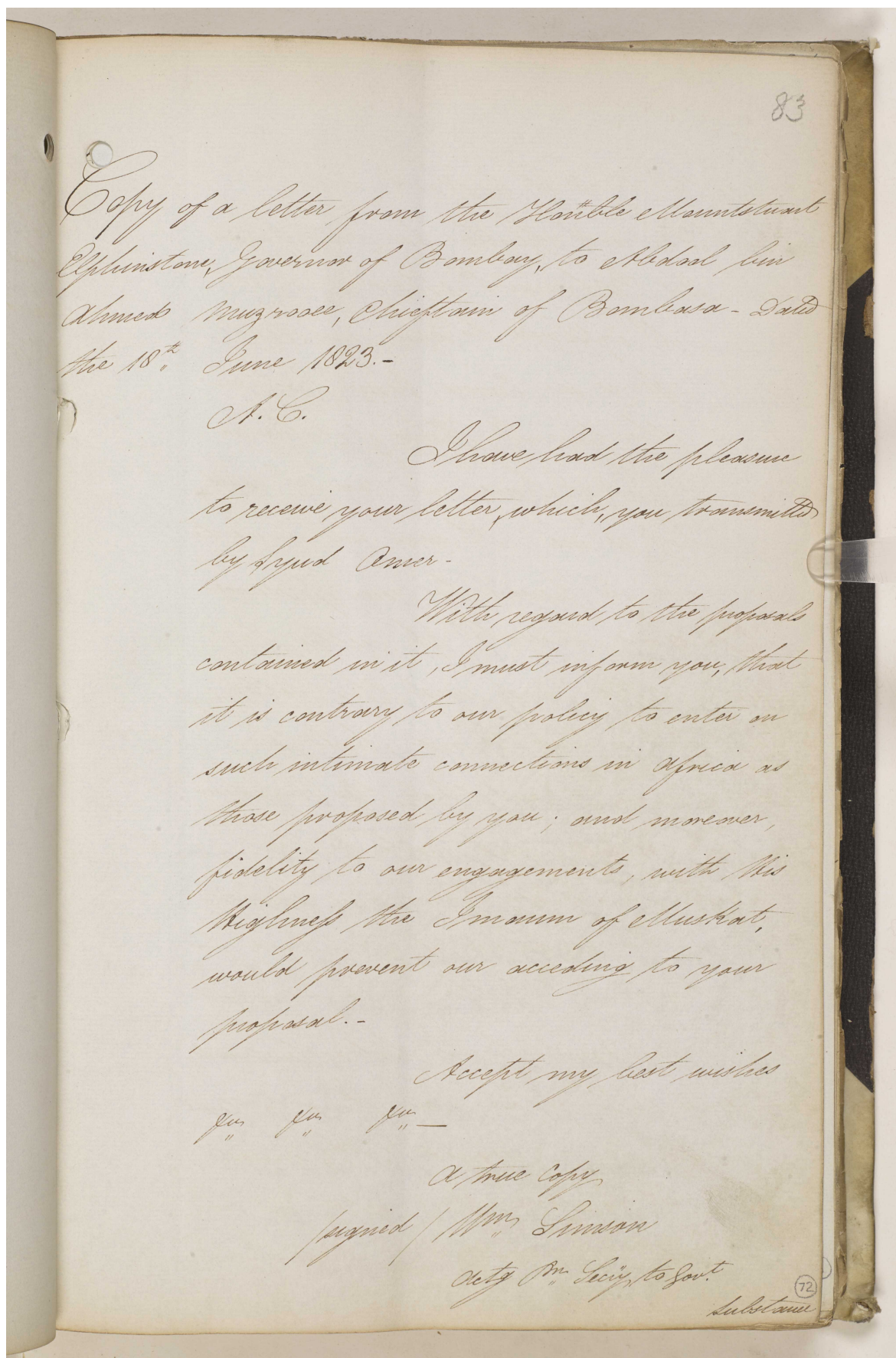
I have nothing new to
communicate to you. I continue well
and happy - a short while since I
transmitted to you, thro' Salim bin
Rashed, a letter with a trifling present
of two Elephants' teeth - I have yet
received no answer to that letter.

Said Amur, son of Said
aboo Buter and nephew to Sultan
Abdolla (late) King of Johanna,
has lately arrived here - and will
deliver to you certain proposals from me -
In the present year the Imaum of
Muskat sent troops to make war upon
me, for what offence of mine I am
ignorant, his object is to get possession of
my country, to him I will not give it,
but 71

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [71v] (94/110)

Cut to the King of England; and I
 request you will procure for me a flag
 from His Britannick Majesty - Said
 Amur will explain to you my real
 wishes - He is an Envoy from Sultan
 Above, the present King of Johanna,
 and he and I have one counsel, and
 our policy is one - It was my desire to
 have come in person to your presence
 but I have thought it better to
 wait a little, and send this letter;
 Dispatch a flag to me, that the
 nations may know that the Kingdom
 is (held) of you - and write to the
 Imaum to abstain from any aggres-
 sion on the Kingdom of Bombassa, for
 that it is subject to the King of England.
 A letter can comprehend but a few words.
 Said Amur will explain every thing to you -
 True copy signed / Wm. Simson
 signed / Wm. Simson Actg. Secy. Genl.
 Actg. Secy. Genl. to Govt. to Government
 Copy

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [72r] (95/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [72v] (96/110)

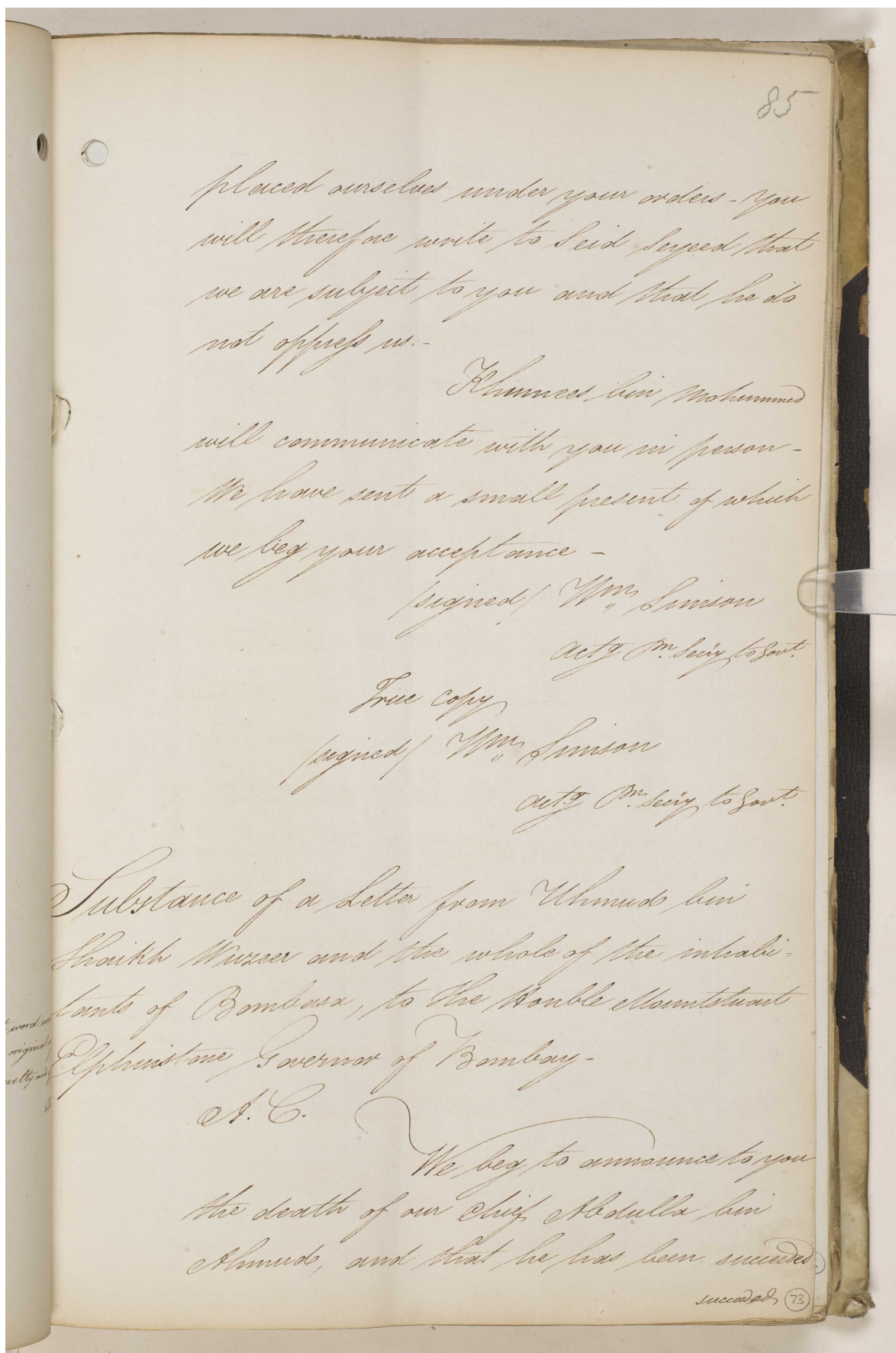
Substance of a letter from Suliman
ben alie Hakim. Mombasa, and
Humud ben Mussod Murosee, to the
Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone,
Governor of Bombay. Dated 12th
Mohurrum 1239 or 18th September 1823 -
A.C.

It is proper, that we
inform you of the death of Abdulla
ben Ahmed, and we have sent Khums
ben Mohammed, to learn what reply
has been given to the letter that was
sent to you from Abdulla ben Ahmed
by the hands of Said Amar son of
the Sultan of Johanna -

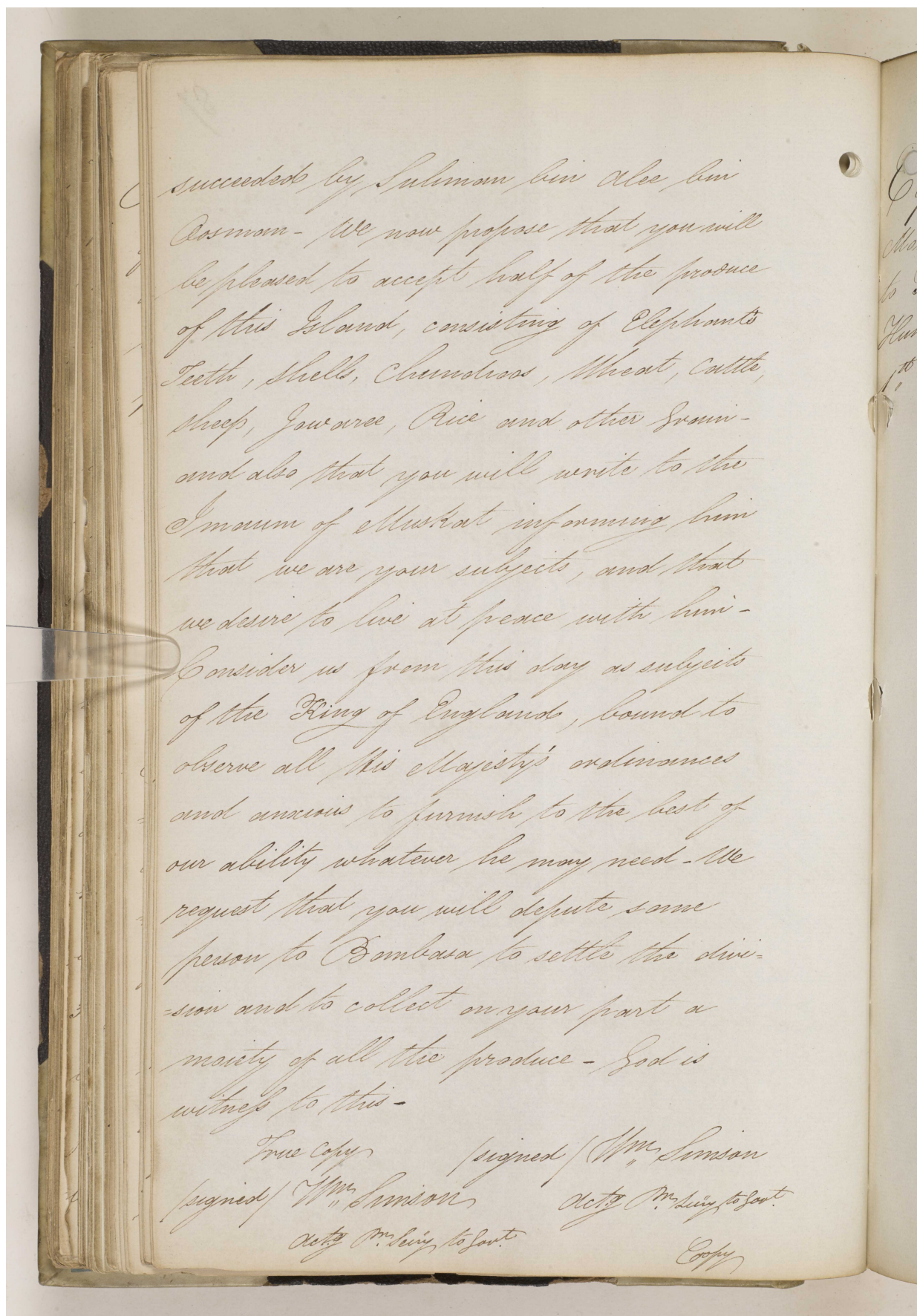
We now request, that
you will relieve us from the rule of
Said Sayed, and receive from us in gift
half our revenue - and that you will
dispatch one of your officers to us along
with Khums ben Mohammed - we have
placed

+ the word used to denote
the original sign
cruelty and oppression
411

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [73r] (97/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [73v] (98/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [74r] (99/110)

87
Copy of a Letter from the Honourable
Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay,
to Suliman bin Ali Hakim - Bombasa, and
Humud bin Mussod Muzrowee - Dated the
1st December 1823 -
A. C.

Your letter dated 18th
Mohumum has been conveyed to me
by Khumis Bin Mahomed, and I
have learned with regret the death of
your Father Abdolla Bin Ahmed:
it is, at the same time, a source of
satisfaction to know that his place
is supplied by his son, and I beg to
offer you my congratulations on your
succession to the Government of
Bombasa - I am perfectly convinced
of your friendly disposition towards us,
and would willingly make you some
return for the flattering proof of
confidence conveyed in your offer to place
your country under our protection, but

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [74v] (100/110)

I must inform you that our policy will not allow us to take any share in the concern of so remote a country; and that moreover we can do nothing inconsistent with our alliance with Syed Lived - For further particulars I beg to refer you to Khumis bin Mathomed, to whom I have fully explained the motives by which I am led to decline acceding to the proposal of your letter - Syed Amer is still here, but will proceed in a few days to his own lands -

Accept my best

wishes Sir, &c

Note
Enclosed with
necessary alterations
to the inhabitants
of Bombassa -

W. S.

a true copy,

(signed) Wm. Linsan,

Actg. Secy,

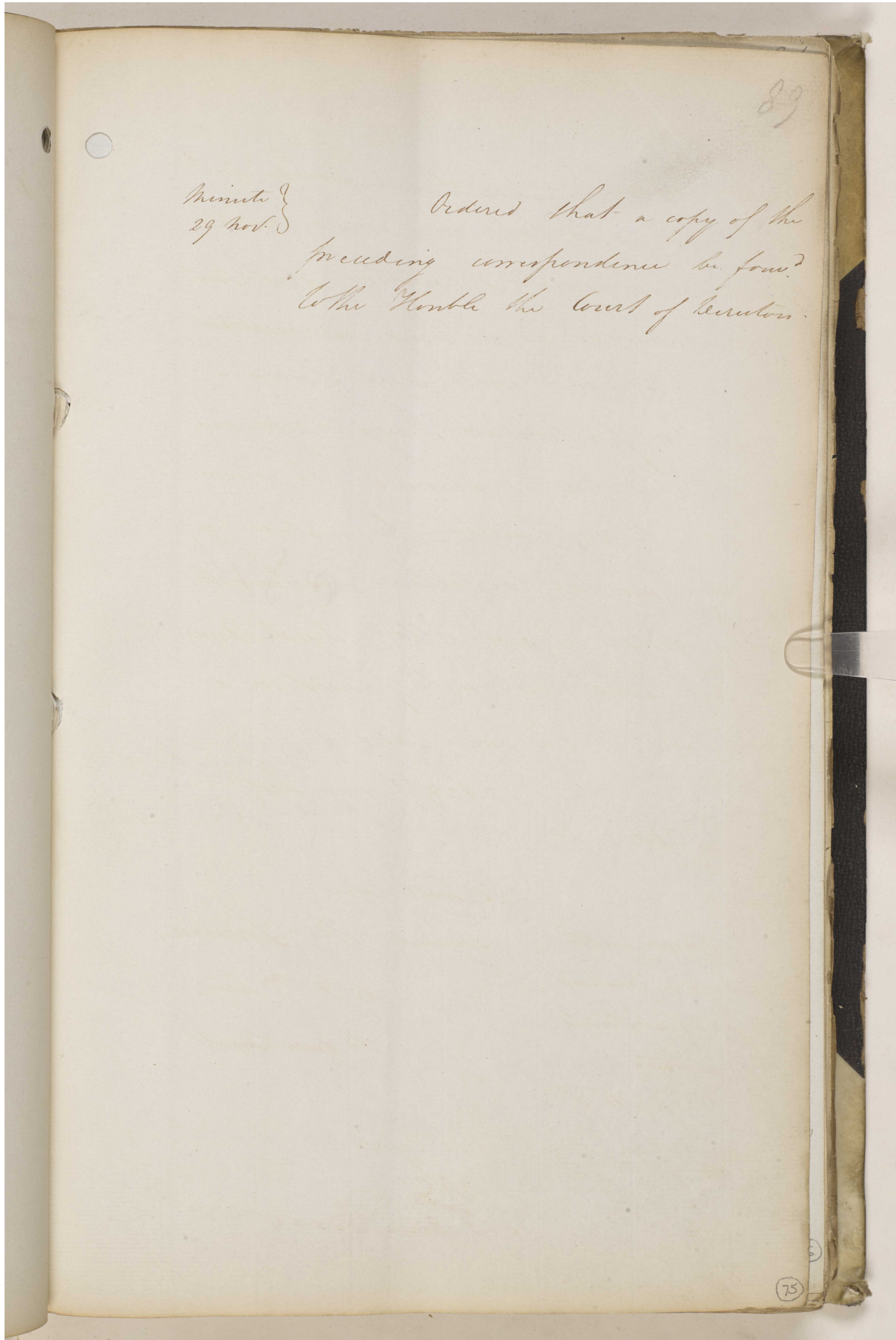
to Government

True Copies

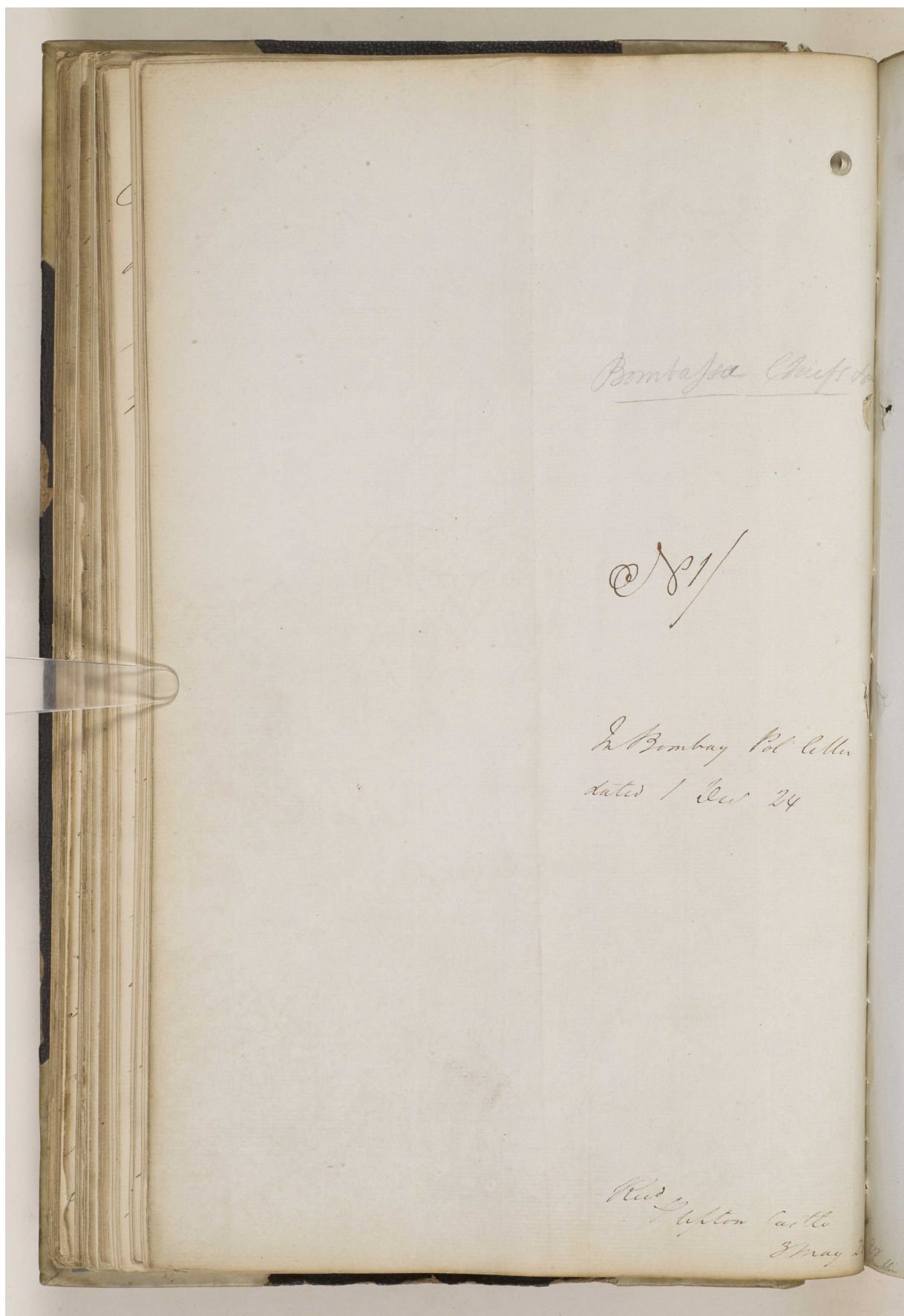
"Wm. Linsan
chiefly,

Compared
H. M. L.

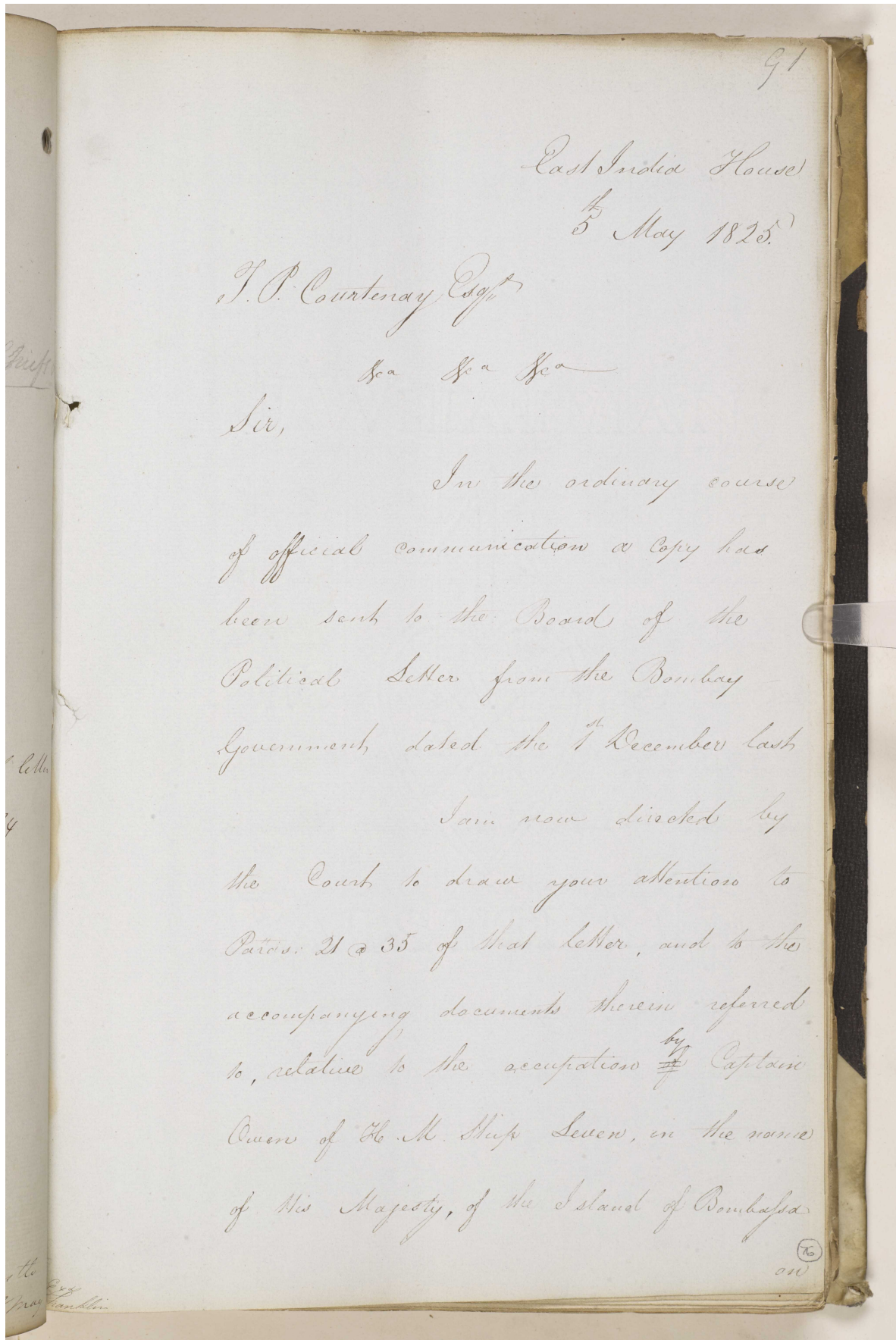
'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [75r] (101/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [75v] (102/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [76r] (103/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muscat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [76v] (104/110)

on the Eastern Coast of Africa. you
will observe that this proceeding has
occasioned a remonstrance from the
Imaum of Muscat to the Bombay Government
and as it is one on which the Court
of Directors are precluded by the
circumstances of the case from issuing
instructions, I am to request that you
will have the goodness to communicate
to the Board the wish of the Court
to be informed whether any, and
what orders have been issued thereon
by His Majesty's Government in reply
to the communication from the Government
of the Mauritius reporting the proceeding.

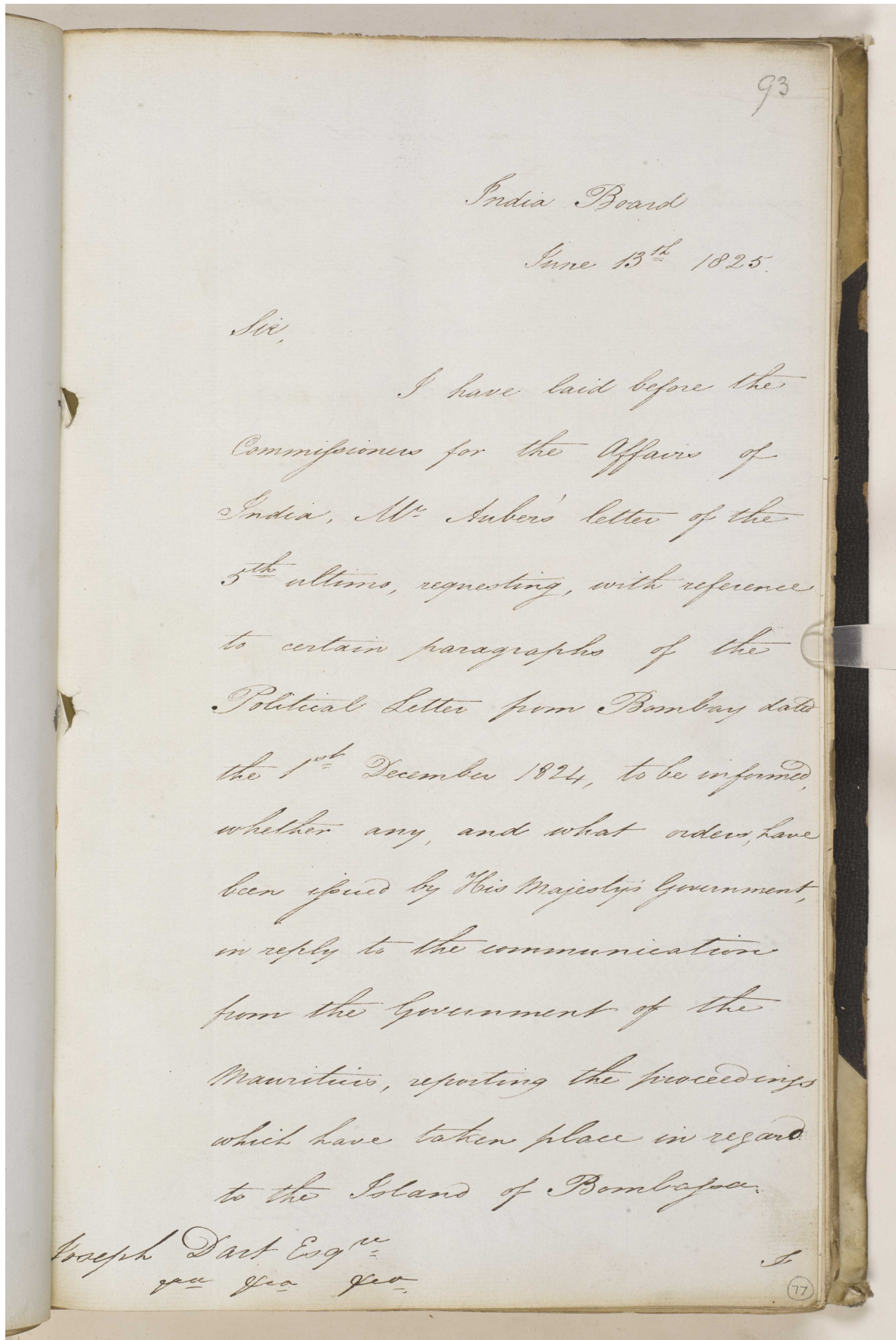
I have the honor

Sir, &c &c

(Signed) P. Huber

Asst. Secretary

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [77r] (105/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [77v] (106/110)

I am now directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Court of Directors, that upon the receipt of a despatch from Sir Lowry Cole, reporting the arrival at the Mauritius of certain persons from Bombassa, the object of whose mission was stated to be to effect the cession of that Island and its Dependencies to His Majesty;— Sir Lowry Cole was informed, that whatever measures His Majesty's Government might have commanded to be adopted in the event of the Inhabitants of Bombassa unequivocally desiring to place themselves under the protection of Great Britain,

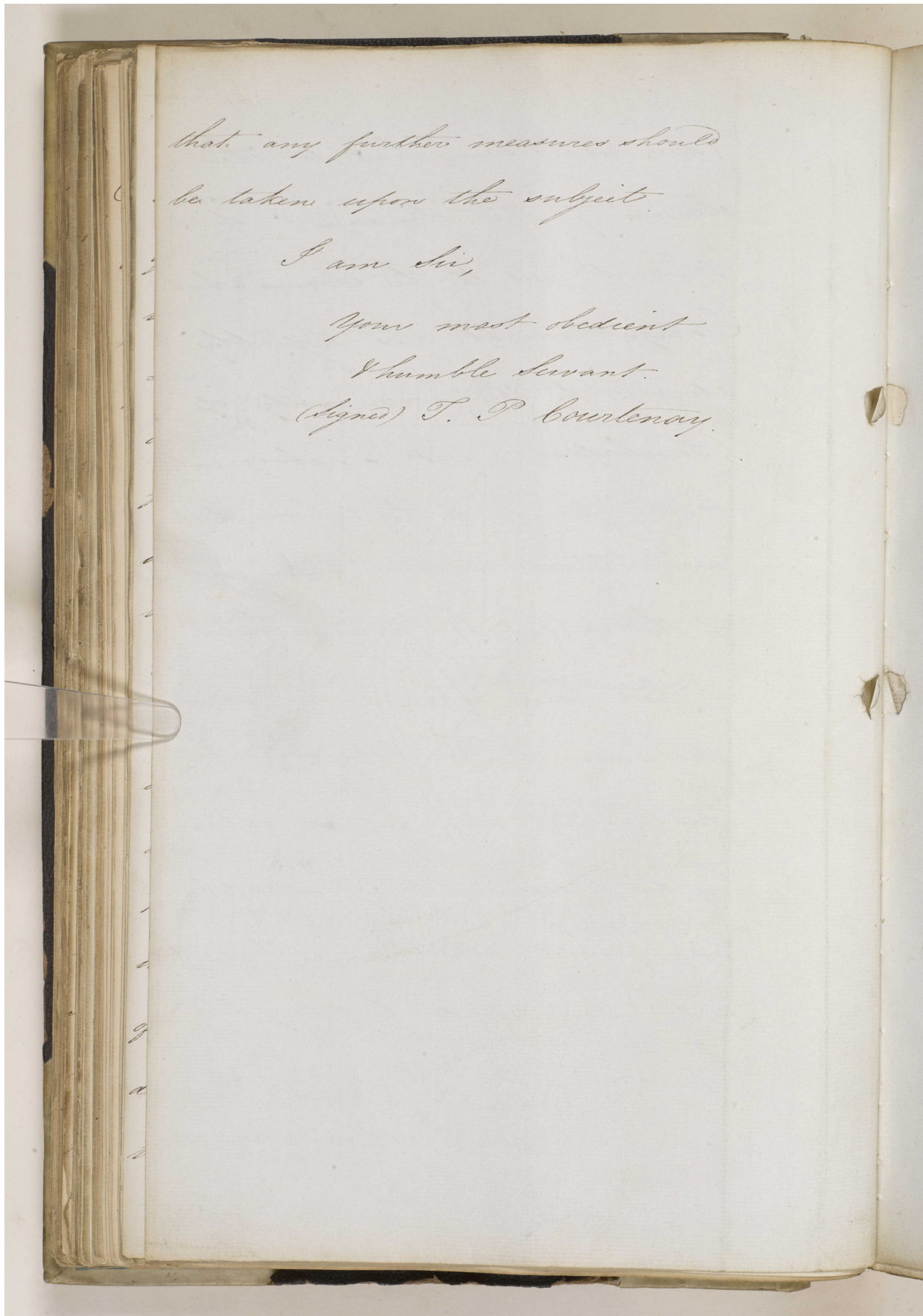
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'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [78r] (107/110)

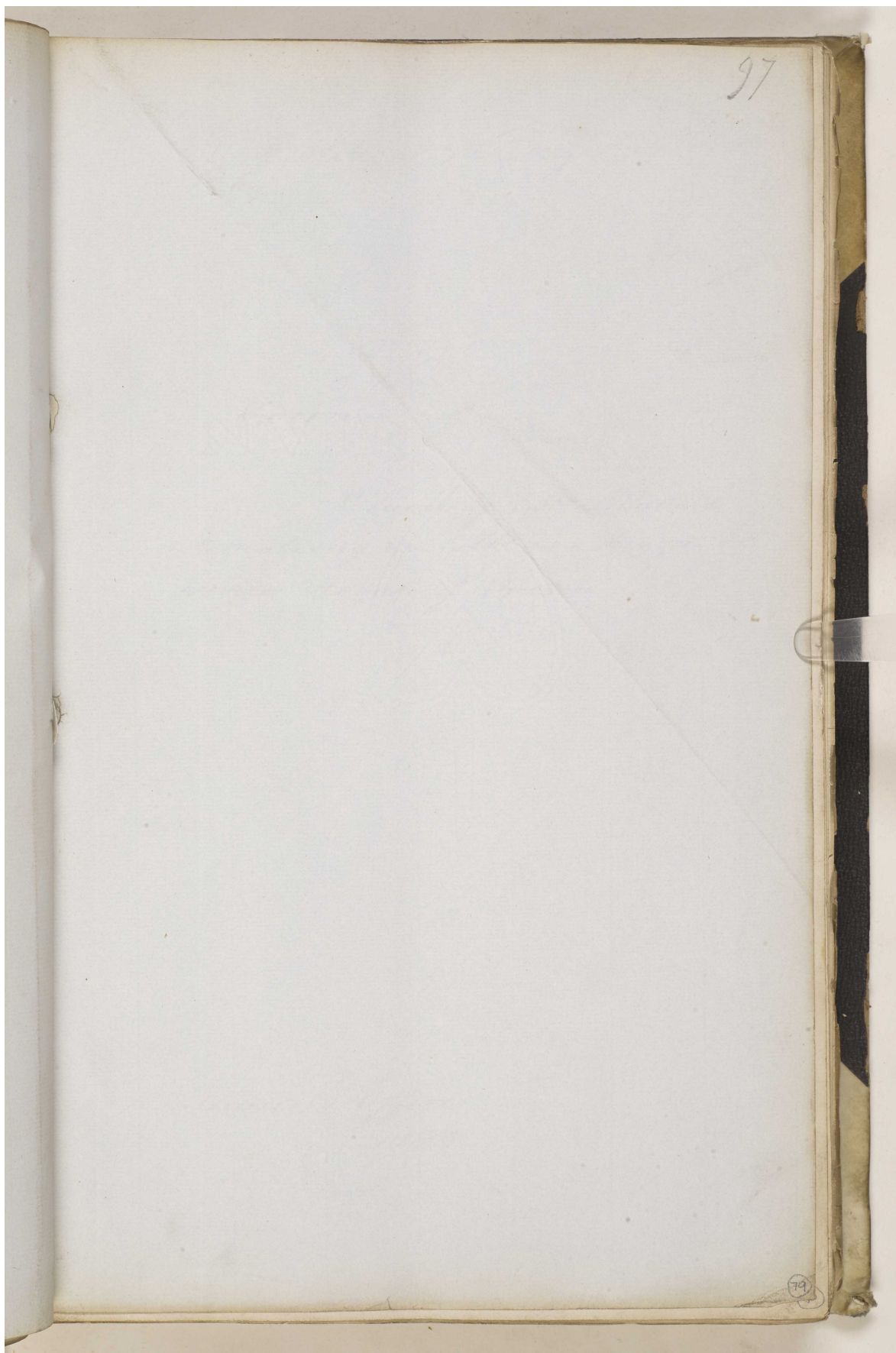
95
(due regard being had to the claims of the Imaum of Muscat, and to the claims which Portugal might also possibly advance to the sovereignty of Bombassa;) yet as subsequently to the period of the cession which was alleged to have been made of the Island to Captain Owen, it had been reported by Captain Mooroom of His Majesty Ship *Amadine*, that there did not appear, on his proceeding to Bombassa any general disposition on the part of the Inhabitants to belong to Great Britain; His Majesty did not consider it expedient that

(78)

'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [78v] (108/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [79r] (109/110)



'Proceedings of Captn Owen of HMS Leven at Bombassa [Mombasa] – Memorial to His Majesty from the Imaum of Muskat complaining of Captn Owens conduct in accepting the cession of the Island of Bombassa to the British Government' [79v] (110/110)

