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‘Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/1516/59849
Date(s)	[Sep 1832]-10 Dec 1834 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (39 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



About this record

The item consists of copies and extracts of correspondence, minutes and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai].

The item contains copies of research papers compiled by Lieutenant William Henry Wybard (also written 'J. W.' and 'Wyburd') during his exploration of the Province of Nedjd [Najd] between 1831 and 1833, the purpose of which was to find out more about the Wahabees [Wahabi] and their country. The research papers include:

- 'Journal' (ff 61-69) which documents Wybard's journey from Bushire [Būshehr], via Bahrein [Bahrain] and Katiff [Al-Qatif], into Nedjd where he visited Ajeer [Al 'Uqayr?] and the town of Elreasa (also written 'Elriasa' and 'Elhasa') [Al Hufūf]
- 'Elreasa' (ff 70-71) which includes a description of the town, its defences and buildings
- 'The Island of Bahrein' (ff 71-72) which contains a description of the island's: size; geography; city of Manama; town of Moharraq [Al Muharraq]; and the relationship between the Bahrein Sheikhs [Shaikhs] and the Imaum [Imam] of Muscat.

After being pressed for more information which he had originally promised, Wybard provides copies of his researches on the history and current status of:

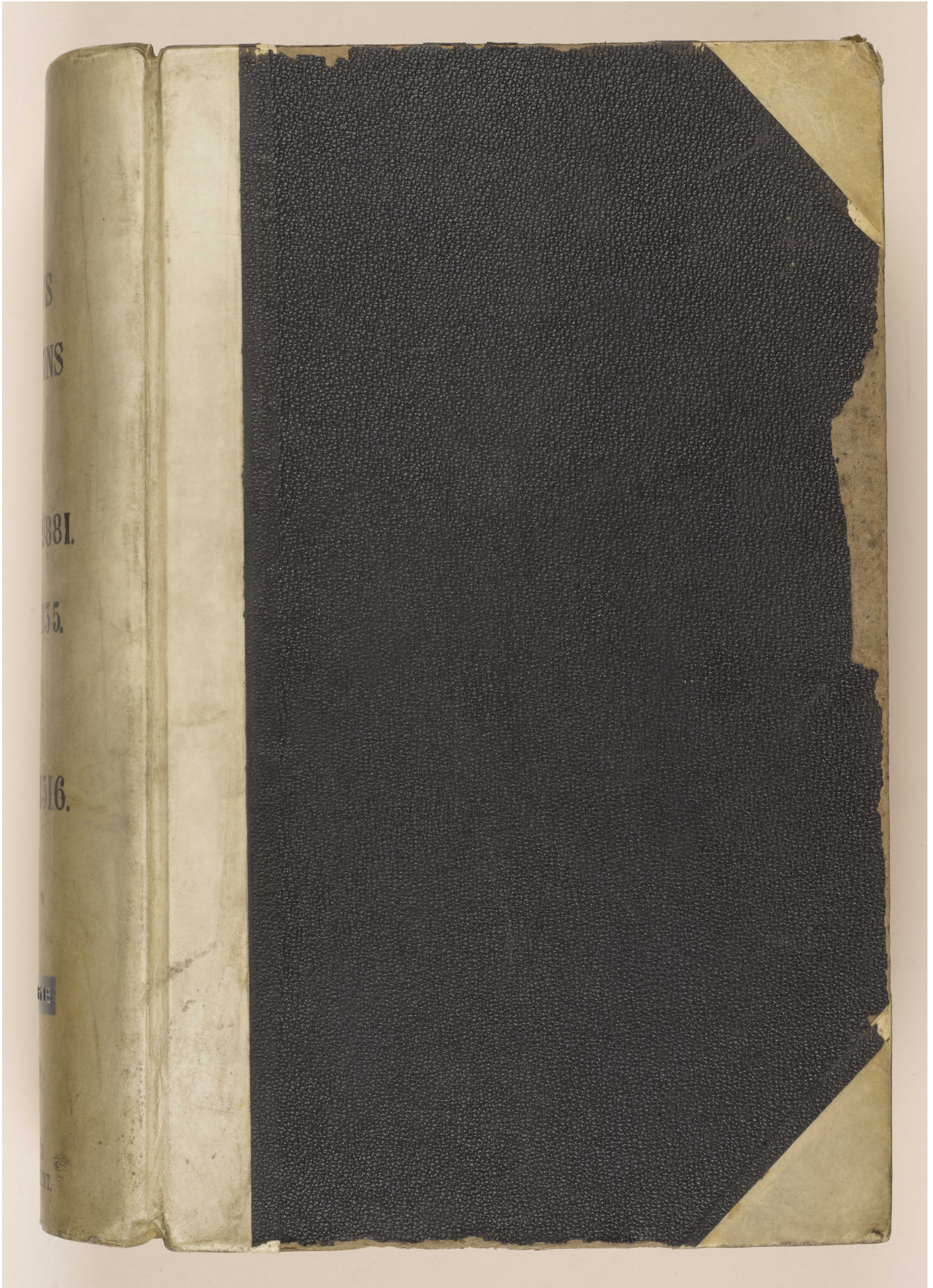
- 'Kaab commonly called Chaub' (ff 78-86), the Chaub [Banū Ka'ab] tribes
- 'Bussora' (ff 86-88), the city of Bussora [Basra]
- 'Bedowins of the Benee Laum' (ff 88-90), the 'Benee Laum or Lakhem' [Banu Lakhm] tribe
- 'Bedouins of the Montifick' (ff 90-91), the Montifick [Muntafiq] tribe
- 'Bedouins of the Shumer' (ff 91-92), the Shumer [Shammar] tribe.

The item also mentions the advances provided for Wybard by the Government of Bombay and the discontinuation of his research due to ill health.

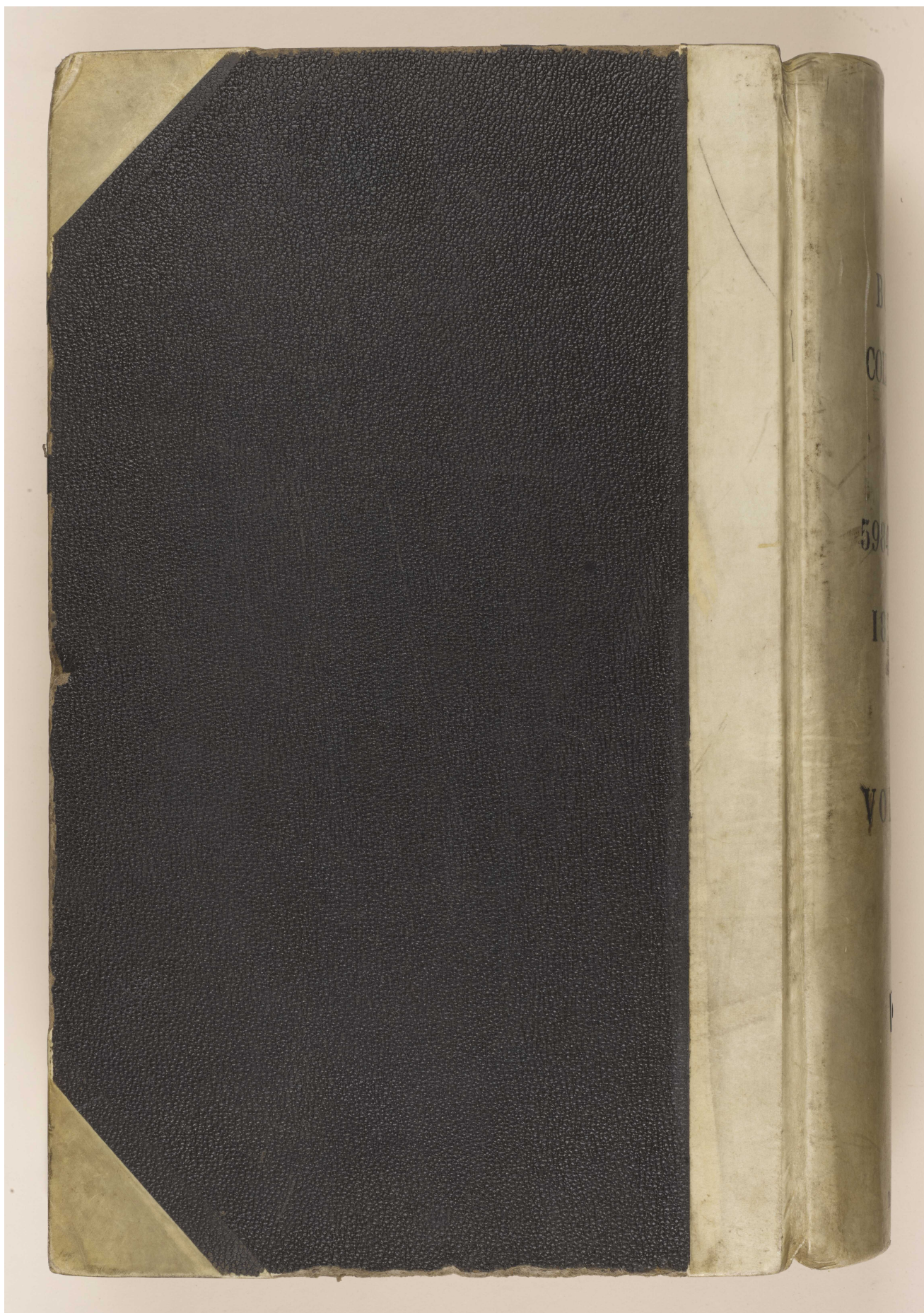
The correspondents of the item are: Wybard; the Government of Bombay; David Anderson Blane, Resident in the Persian Gulf; J Crawford, Officiating Superintendent of the Indian Navy; and R Cogan, Assistant Superintendent of the Indian Navy. The item includes an extract from an unsigned letter at folio 59, which is most likely from the East India Company Court of Directors.

The title page of the item contains the following references: 'Collection N. 1', 'Bombay Political Department', 'P.C. [Previous Communication] 1592, Draft 644, 1835' and 'Rec[eived] *Duncan Gibb* 15th Aug[ust] 1834'.

'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [front] (1/84)



'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [back] (2/84)





'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [edge] (4/84)

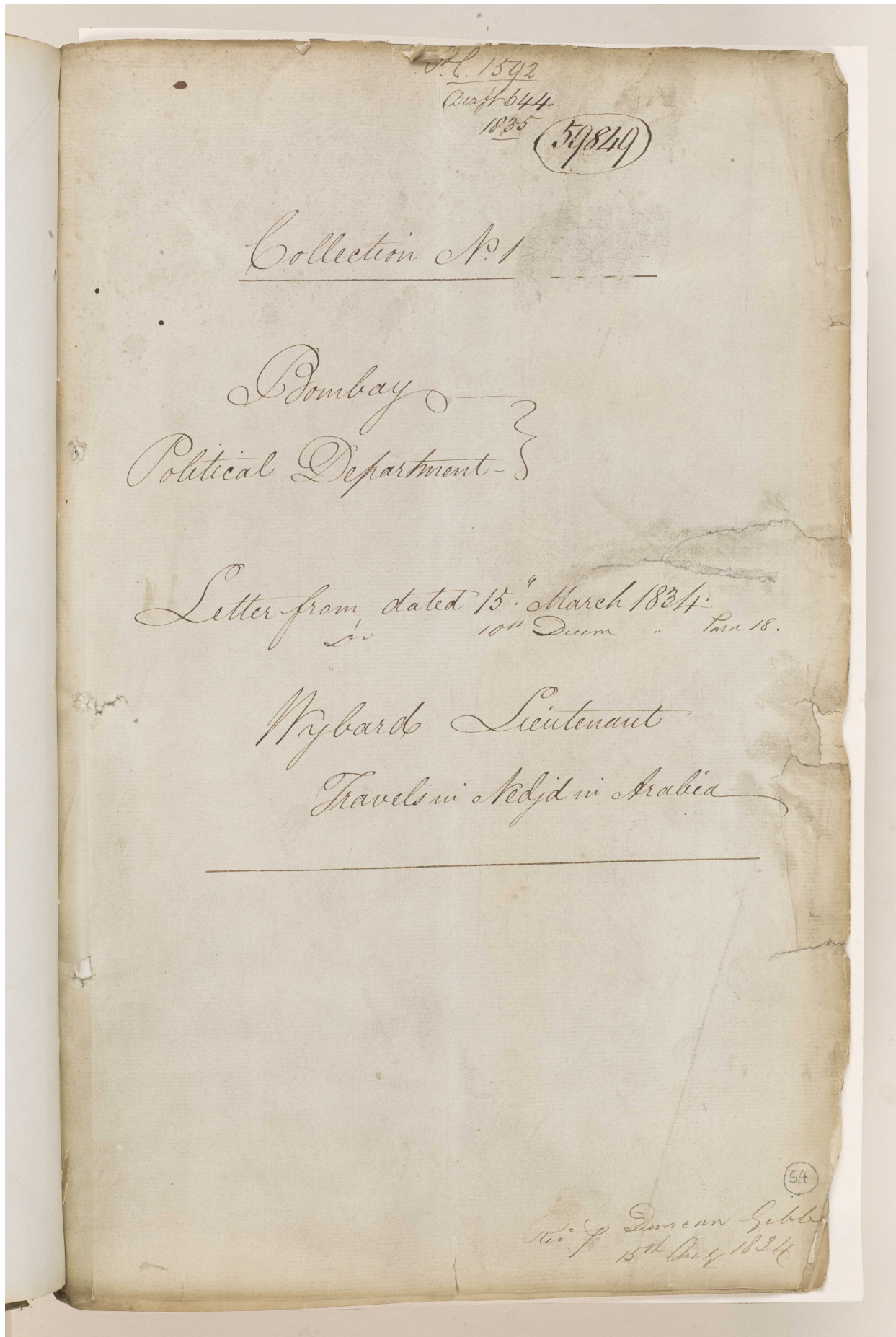


'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [head] (5/84)

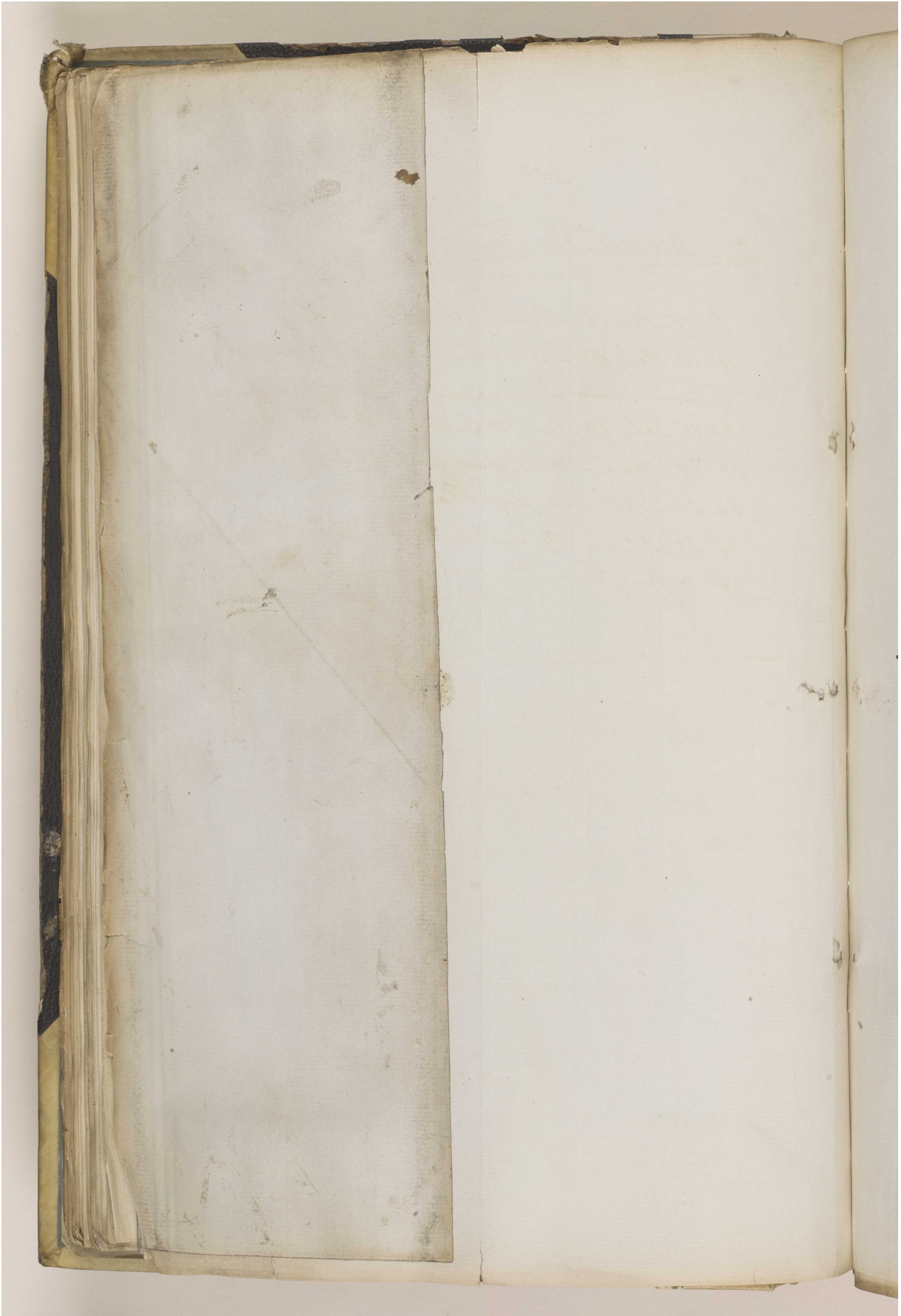


'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [tail] (6/84)





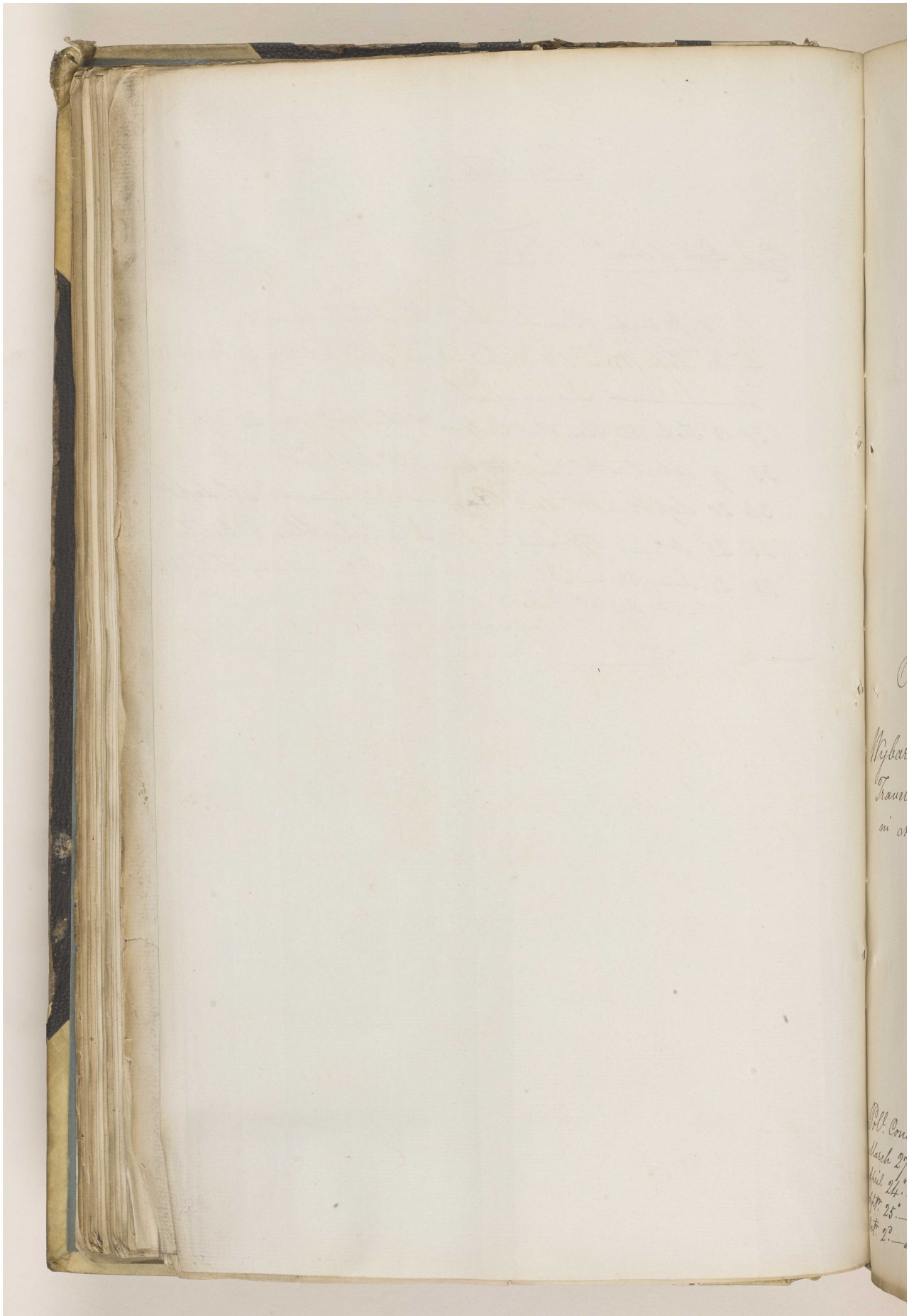
'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [54v] (8/84)



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3B	16 th Apr. 1834	Lt. J. W. Wybard	Chief Secy Mr Harris	27 March 1833
4	10 Febry 1833			
6		Journal		
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'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [55v] (10/84)



Triplicate.

N. 6. of 1834.

Political Department.

*To, The Honble the Court of Directors
For affairs of the Honble United
Company of Merchants of England
Trading to the East Indies.*

London.

Honble Sirs,

*Wybard Lieut; 1.
Travels in Nedjd
in Arabia.*

*In our letter dated
the 2.^d January 1833 N. 1, we reported
the postponement of Lieutenant
Wybard's original project to explore the
Province of Nedjd in Arabia, until
some more favorable opportunity.*

2.

That Officer has

*Pol. Consul: 1833.
March 27.^e N. 1077/794.
April 24.^e — 1394/795.
Sept. 25.^e — 27/5.
Oct. 2.^e — 27/58.*

*since transmitted to us, a Journal of
his route after leaving Dushire in*

September

(56)

September 1832, together with a Map
of the Oasis of El Hasa, Copies of
which accompany this dispatch, we
have also the honor to forward copies
of the remaining portion of Lieutenant
Wybards researches, being sundry papers
touching on the histories of the various
tribes inhabiting the banks of the
Euphrates and Tigris.

P.O. Consul: 1834
Feb 26. N. 549/50

3. We regret to state that
Lieutenant Wybard having been seized
by indisposition, and finding his funds
inadequate to meet his travelling ex-
penses, has relinquished the researches
he had undertaken.

4. Lieutenant Wybard
was employed in his Travels from
the 1st October 1831 to the 31st January

1833,

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1833, and no expence has been incurred
on this account, beyond his pay as
a Lieutenant in the Indian Navy.

We have the honor

to be, with the greatest respect,

Honble Sir,

Your most faithful & obedient

humble servants,

Bombay Castle,
15th March 1834.

Wm.

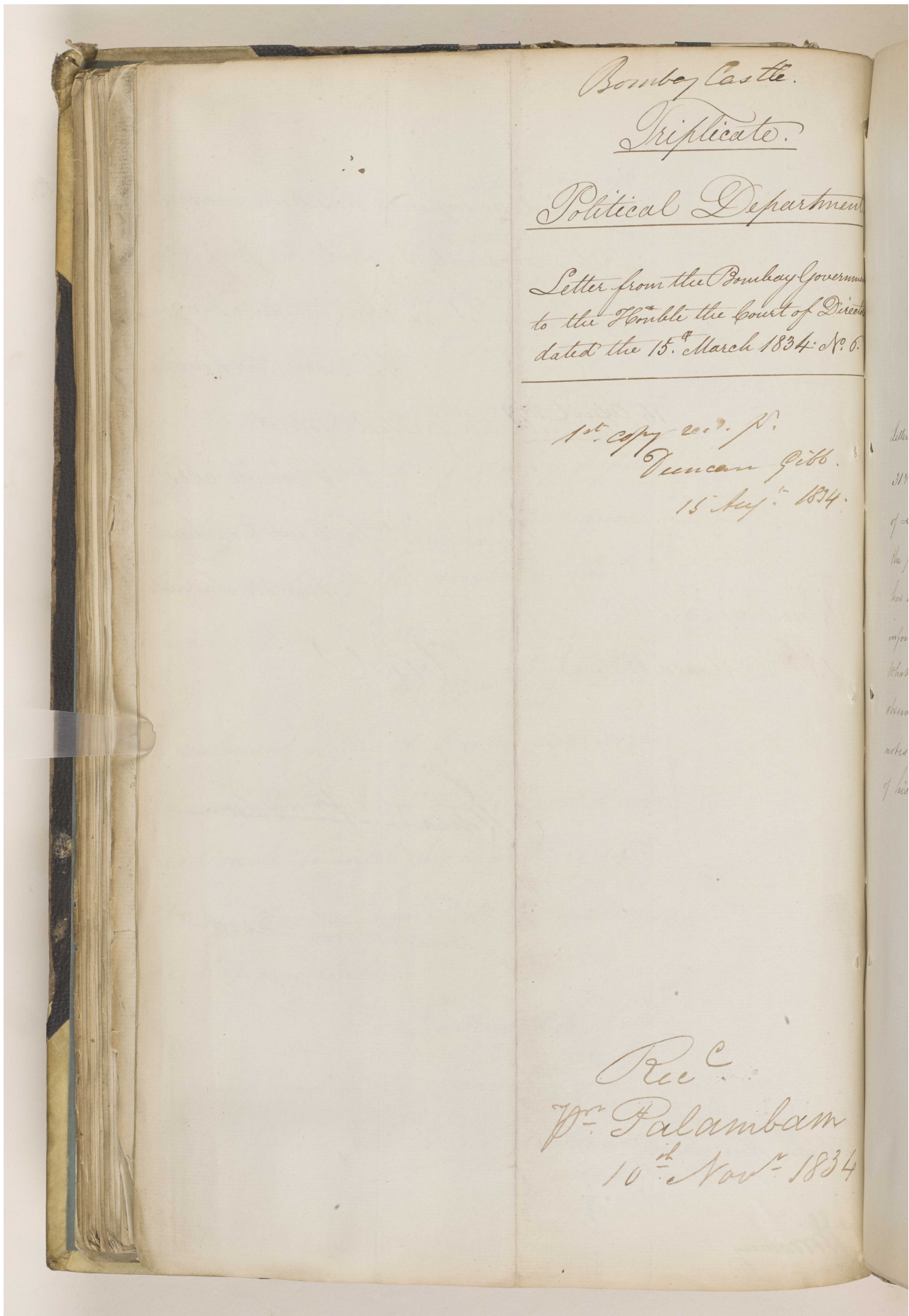
William Munro

James Munro

C. P.
J. P. H. Murray

E. H. Murray.

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3A

Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 10th December (11th 1238) 1834

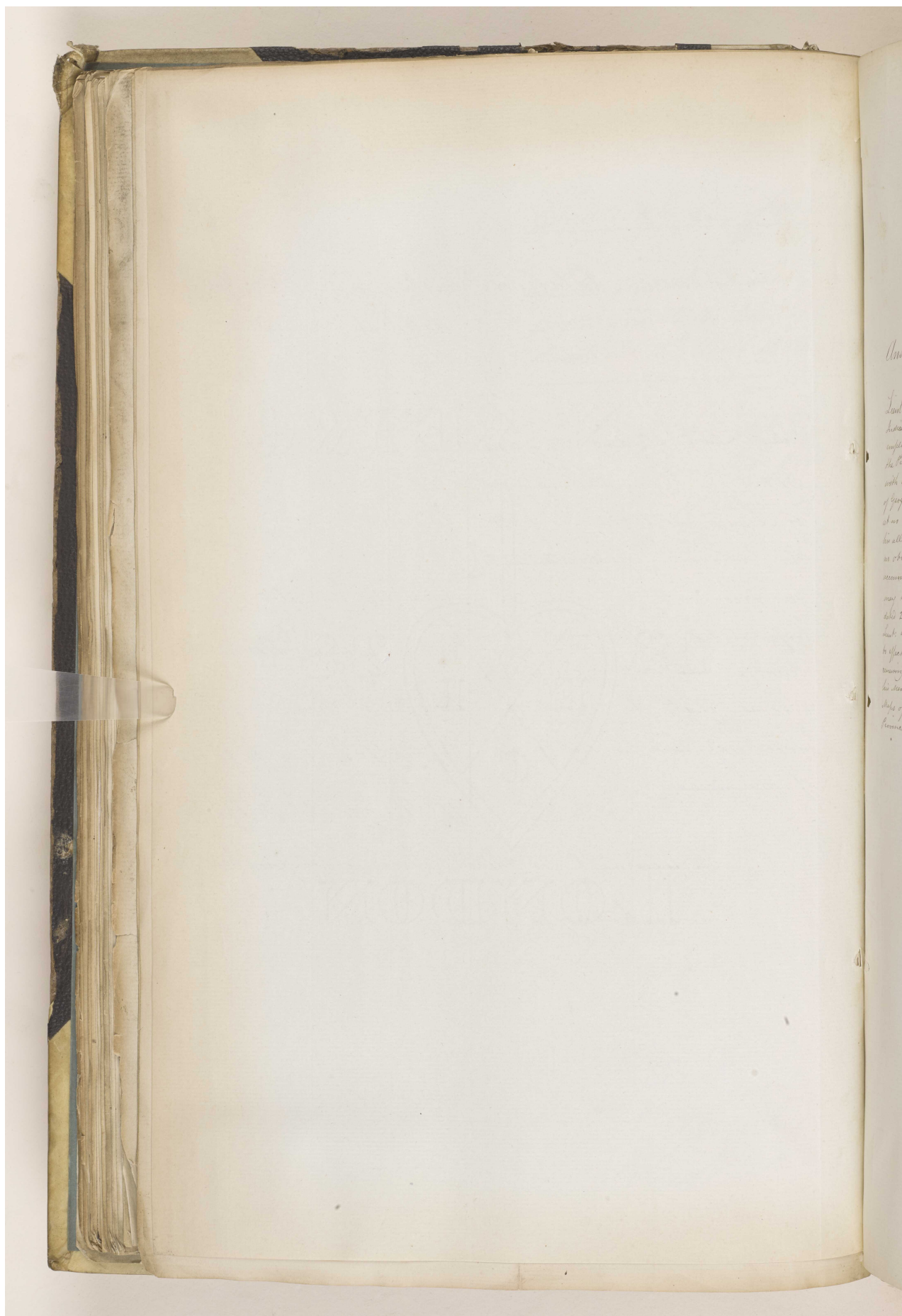
16 April 1834
Letter to dated 4th Sept^r (11th 1234) 1834
31 & 32. Approved the employment
of Lieutenant Wybard to explore
the province of Nedjer; hope he
has been able to procure
information respecting the
whatees and their Country,
observe that the loss of his
notes accounts for the brevity
of his memoir.

Para 18. We beg to
refer your Honorable
Court to our dispatch
dated 15th March 1834

N^o 44, reporting that
Lieutenant Wybard had relinquished his
undertaking.

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'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [58v] (16/84)



3B

Extract Political Letter to Bombay

dated 16th April (1107) 1834

Answer to Political Letter dated 7th Sept^r (11029) 1831

Lieut. W. S. Wybard of the Indian Navy, permitted to employ himself in exploring the Province of Nedjd in Arabia, with a view to the furtherance of Geography, Government being at no expense in addition to his allowances and being under no obligation to interfere on account of any treatment he may meet with; also letter dated 2nd January (1101) 1833. Lieut. Wybard has been unable to effect his purpose, but intends renewing the attempt. Copies of his Memoirs of Itinerary and Maps of his route through the Province of Suvaiana transmitted.

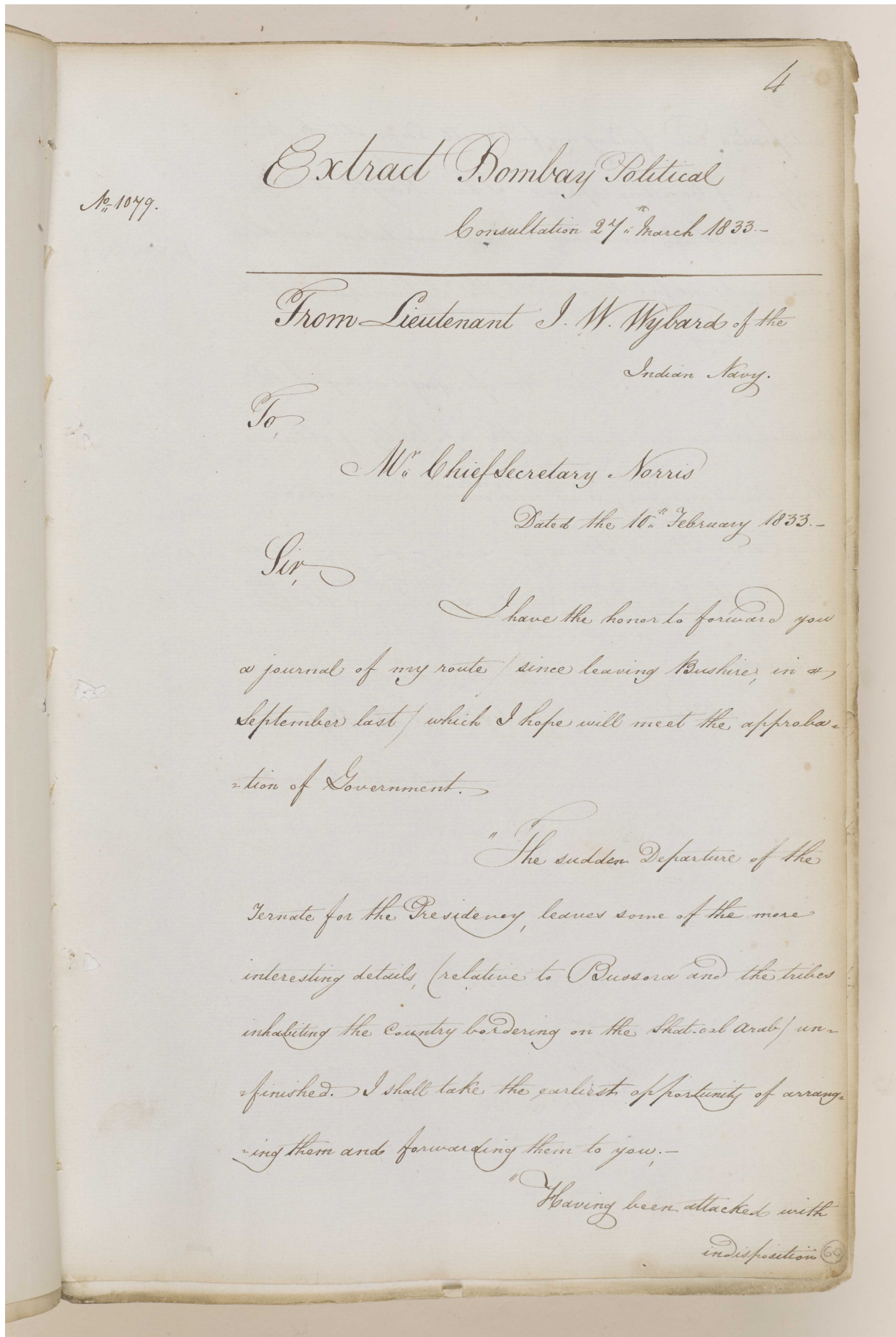
31 Lieutenant Wybard's acquirements and qualifications appear to have fitted him in an unusual degree for this undertaking, and we the more readily approve

of your having accepted his proposal, as you state that "it is understood" that the particular constitution of Lieutenant Wybard renders his services at present on board ship of little use.

32. The principal obstacle to his proceeding into Nedjd appearing to have been the prevalence of Plague

in 59

in the intermediate country, and the
disease being understood to have abated,
we hope that he may have been
able to prosecute his original design,
and to procure interesting and valuable
information respecting the Whabees and
their country. The loss of Lieutenant
Wybard's Notes in passing the NerKhah
river, accounts for the brevity of the
memoir, which with the accompanying
Maps, has been received.



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indisposition, and finding my funds ill Dequate to the
support of travelling expenses - I have thought it better
to relinquish the researches I had undertaken, and have
accordingly notified the same to the Superintendent - of the
Indian Navy.

"Accompanying is a map of the
Bases of Elhusa, which owing to the impossibility of obtaining
the materials necessary to its construction is in rather a
rough state, It will, I trust, however, give some
Idea of the face of the Country surrounding that City.

Rafadore
10th February 1833

I have the honor to be Sir
/ Signed / J. W. Wybards.

Lieutenant Indian Navy.

Journal

N^o 1079 A

Journal.

On the 3^d of September 1832. Left Bushire for Basora in the William the 4th intending to proceed by the Route of Zobeir into Nedjd. We stopped at Kharak to take in a Pilot for the River, where we had an opportunity of visiting Sheikh Nasser the Son of ^{the} Lidevant Governor of Bushire (who had lately been murdered, it is supposed, at the instigation of one of the wives of the Prince of Fars.) he had anchored his small fleet at Kharak, preparatory to his intended descent on Bushire, of the success of which he seemed to entertain little doubt, as he had been promised assistance by the Chiefs of the Fars since Port, to whom the plunder of Bushire has long been an object of desire.

From Kharak we were 17 days in reaching Basora, during which time I had numerous opportunities of remarking the incapacity of the Pilot we had taken on board at Kharak, he grounded us on every bank in the River. On our way up we passed the Basora fleet, which

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was Blockading the Mouth of Ufar hostilities at that
time existing between that place and Chaut, a greater Bar-
logue no Navy I ever beheld, three of the ketches forming it,
were walled from the Stern to the fore beam, with Brick and
Chunam presenting the very "fac Simile," of what Seamen term
a Fore Castle.

At Bussora I assumed the Chefia
and Agha of the Desert Arabs.

Finding it impossible to procure
guides or companions to accompany me by the desert of Coomseer
into Nedjd. I came to the determination of proceeding by sea,
to either Bahrein or Katiff. I therefore left Bussora for
Bahrein. I had received intelligence of a Brig being on the point
of leaving for Bahrein, and pur-
suing my way, I found the Sahrood intended leaving that evening,
I therefore engaged a passage in her, representing myself as a native
of Larja. From this, I shall give a daily journal of my progress,
(October 13th 1832). On the evening of this day we dropped down
the River to Misrin, a small Village and fort, situated fourteen
Miles from the entrance of the Katool Arab, we were here joined
by

Solt. The Chefia is a red and yellow striped handkerchief worn as a head dress,
this was imposed on the Arabs, by Shapur Zoolaklaf, as a badge of submission,
has ever since continued in vogue with them.

The Agha is a camel's hair fillet bound round the Crown of the head,
and marks the Bahrein Arab.

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by five Arabs of the *Thafsa* tribe who had been into Chah,
for the purpose of purchasing Wool. I soon formed an acquaintance
with them, and found them very entertaining and very dirty, they
gave me glowing descriptions of the beauty of their women &
the valour and extent of their tribe, they seemed surprised at
my ignorance of the prices of Wool and dates, and showed me
some specimens of the former, recommending me to buy a
stock which they told me I should sell to advantage in Kijid.
I excused myself under the plea of having no funds, telling them
I had been born a soldier, bred a soldier, & God willing intend dying one.
14th October.

I went on shore this Morning at
Miamir this Village consists of 70 houses protected by a mud
Fort, it lays on the NW. side of Shateel Arab, and is under
the jurisdiction of the Chahse, it is said, anterior to the
Plague to have supplied the Revenue with 10000 Bags of
dates. The whole of its present population consists of a
decrepid old man and his two sons, and the date plantations
have been partially destroyed by the *Nusara* Bedouins. I entered
several of the deserted habitations, and found human skeletons
in many.

15th Oct. Contrary winds prevailing and seeing
no preparations for moving on the part of the Boat men,

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I persuaded the Bedouins (under the pretext of shooting) to accompany me into the desert, intending to visit the *El Lo Copas*, a canal cut by the Alexander the Great from the vicinity of Hilla, to Koor Abdulla. We fell in with it about seven miles from the Banks of the River, it is about 150 Yards wide, and the banks in many places appear to have been supported by Masonry though partially filled with the sand of the desert, sufficient remains to show the magnitude of the undertaking. We passed some tents of the *Benu Whahd*, and stopped for the night at an encampment of the *Kusara* Bedouins, where we were treated with camel's flesh, boiled rice, and butter milk.

October 16th 1832. We returned to the *Bughlah*. We were detained at *Miami* until the 25th by S. E. gales. 26th

On rising this morning I was agreeably surprised by finding the Arabs in the act of weighing their anchor, the wind having changed during the night to North West. We stood out of the river, and anchored in the evening under the lee of *Aray*, an extensive sand bank 20 miles from the Mouth of the River. I had given the Bedouins a Sheep I had purchased which they finished in the course of the day, including the entrails which they

10

they eat unwashed.

October 27th Weighed in the morning, and nearly ran on shore on a coral reef through the stupidity of the Sahla but were saved, as the Arabs told me by the Mercy of God, and the assistance of the prophet. We came to in the evening at Moshauk.

28th Oct. It blowing rather fresh the Arabs unwilling to tempt providence after their escape of yesterday, were determined not to weigh till after the North West had subsided; we were here joined by five Boats from Kuwait, of grain - from one of these Vessels a young Arab of the name of Shawanah took his passage with us. he described himself as an Arab of the Monaseer tribe, attached to Larkie Ben Sahand, he seemed anxious to insinuate himself into my confidence, but thinking his designs sinister. I avoided him as much as possible, his manners, however, were so plausible that I could hardly avoid being pleased with him.

29th Oct. Weighed with a light Northerly breeze, in the afternoon it became cloudy and blew at intervals in strong Gusts from all quarters of the compass, the Arabs frightened held a Consultation, in which the Majority were for putting back for Moshauk, while the rest were for turning

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turning their head to seaward, to avoid the coral reefs, which
abound between Mos hashk and Elkatiff, the affair was settled
by the elements throwing us on shore on a coral bank ^{3^d}. fortu-
nately there was little sea, and we floated off with the night
flood; the bottom was so much damaged, that we with difficulty
made Katiff, where they hauled her up on the beach.

30th Oct. Finding the repairs required by the
boat, would occupy more time, than I chose to waste, I determined
on proceeding by land to Ajeer, and persuaded the Bedouins
to accompany me, we hired camels at Katiff, and set out
in the morning; we stopped at about 7 in the evening, at
a well of Brackish water, the country through which we
had passed during the day was generally a sandy desert, excepting
in the immediate vicinity of Elkatiff, which abounds in
gardens and springs.

31st Oct. Reached Ajeer about noon, the country
with little variation the same as yesterday. We here found a
boat on the point of sailing to Bahrein. Having changed
all my money into gold at Busora, I thought it advisable
to go to Bahrein thinking it unsafe to change it in the
interior.

Note, This ridge was between Mos allec & Mos Senora

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interior; I therefore took leave of my friendly Bedouins (who left for their Native Village of Gishik.) and embarked in her. Showance the Arab, who joined us at Muscat, did the same, and seemed to be determined to attach himself to me, which though unwilling I could hardly avoid.

11 Nov. 1832. We anchored in the afternoon in Bahrein Roads, and I acted the part of Gunner to an old Six Pounder which thanks to the badness of the Powder, did not burst. Showance and myself went on shore in the evening and took up our quarters for the night in one of the Mosques.

20 Nov 1832. Having changed as many arcantians or Sechins (into Dollars) as I thought would be sufficient to carry me across the Peninsula, I consented to accompany Showance to Musc. he pretending to have business with Khaleefa Ben Sulaiman the Sheikh of Bahrein. We rode out on hired asses, and on our arrival took up our residence in Moodheef or Guest house. a breakfast was sent us by the Sheikh consisting of half ripe dates bread and butter Milk. The Sheikh himself made his appearance in the afternoon and I then became acquainted with who Showance really was, it appears that on ^a vague report of the generosity of Khaleefa Ben Sulaiman, he had

Nov 5th left

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left his tribe, the Montefick, under the expectation of receiving a present; at our interview with the Sheikh he represented himself as a relation of Usman Ben Munood, the present Chief of the Montefick, who had been obliged to leave in consequence of the feud which exists between Faras, the son of Ajid and that Chief. The reception Shawanee met with from the Sheikh was not one at all calculated to inspire a hope of his expectations being fulfilled, he, however continued sanguine; after staying at Kufa until the 6th during which time we were treated with every hospitality and attention. I left for Chamaana Shawanee still pertinaciously adhering to his determination of extracting something from the generosity of the Chief; while at Kufa I had an opportunity of remarking the enmity which exists between the Bahwan Chiefs and the Imam of Muscat, an entertainer Minstrel arrived with a budget of scurrilous verses lampooning the above personages; these gave great delight to the Sheikh and his followers, and the poet reaped a Golden harvest of 1000. I was joined today by Shawanee, who cursed the want of liberality evinced by the Sheikh in not having given him anything and swore that their men

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men could neither give or their women refuse; I laughed at him and asked what grounds he had for expecting a reward from a man he had never before seen, and to whom he had never rendered the slightest service, he replied that the mere fact of his being a stranger and a follower of a chieftain like Liaison Ben Ghamood was quite a sufficient title to reward, and that a Northern Chief would be ashamed to allow a stranger Beduin an opportunity of scandalizing his name before assembled tribes. I took leave of Shawane this evening intending to leave for Ajeez in the morning. On returning to his tribe, he made him a present of a Persian sabre for the amusement he had afforded me.

8th Nov^r. I left Bahrein for Ajeez this morning we had scarcely rounded the North West end of the Island when the wind veered to the Southward and we were obliged to take shelter in the port of Agaria, a small Village on the South West side of the Island of Bahrein about 12 Miles from Manama.

9th 10th Nov^r. Still detained, the Arabs never thinking of starting, but with a fair Wind.

11th. The Wind blowing from the Northward we weighed and stood for Ajeez which bears South-east about

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about 32 Miles from Agaria; at four in the afternoon we anchored in Ajis' sound.

Ajis may properly be termed the port of Nedjd, all Merchandize from the interior is exported from this place; it consists merely of a small stone Fort with a Wharfe adjoining, and is garrisoned by Bedouins of the tribe of Monasser, headed by a Wahabee a follower of Ben Afisar, the Governor of Elriasa; on landing I was surrounded by Bedouins, men, women, & childrens clamorous in their offers of Camels. I hired one from a Bedouin, Matron, who with her daughter (a very pretty Bedouin Girl,) and husband immediately set out with me; it being late and not wishing to travel in the dark we bivouaced for the night, at about a Mile distant from the Fort.

November 12. 1832. We started in the morning for Elriasa; The Arab and his wife were mounted, leaving the aforesaid pretty daughter to travel as she might on foot, but feelings of gallantry and admiration to the sex, whether directed to the simple Bedouin maid, or the proud British fair one (the Goddess of the Bull) would not allow of this, and I immediately mounted her behind me, this piece of attention, gained me the favour of the Bedouins and it

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it is most probable, that had I acted according to their advice, I should not have been exposed to the difficulties. I subsequently was, after eight hours travelling, we stopped for the night, at some wells; tolerable water is procured in this part of the desert, by digging a few feet below the surface.

The general face of the Country, we had passed over was that of an immense Ocean of sand, thrown up into enormous waves, by the North Easterly Winds, which occasionally blow here with great violence, the summits of these waves are in most instances covered with the Camel thorn, & a species of the *Artemisia*; travelling in this pathless desert is rendered extremely tedious by the many deviations & zigzags to be made from the straight line to keep in the trough, or valley of these waves, the ridges from the extreme loose nature of the sand giving way under the feet of the camels.

November 13. 1832. We mounted in the morning and pursued our journey in nearly the same direction as yesterday (allowing for the frequent deviations) the country having much the same appearance. About noon we entered on a level plain 8 miles in extent covered with Nitron, and other saline particles; at its termination we came in sight of a low range of hills or properly speaking undulations, which

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which the Bedouin described as immediately overlooking the town of Uriasa. In the evening we put up for the night at Gishch a small walled town on the border of the oases of Uriasa.

Nov 4th

Left Gishch after morning prayers, at 2 hours passed a large extent of Marshy ground, to the left, and entered on a good made road, bounded on each side by rivulets of fresh water, and date plantations, at 3 hours we passed the town of Soffa, built of stone and containing (for the Arabs) a well flanked & strong citadel from this place to Uriasa, is one extended garden, well watered by streams of beautifully clear water, rising from springs, situated among the low hills near Uriasa. The road at every hundred yards is commanded by a Martello tower. About noon we entered the town I took up my abode for the night with the Bedouin who brought me from Ajer, he owning a small hut in the suburbs.

15th

Not wishing to be a burden to the Bedouin who behaved very kindly, and Thelien had an idea that I intended proposing for his daughter, I sallied forth into the town in search of a habitation, after wandering about for some time I was directed to a

man

18

man, who had a room to let, his name was Salem, a Native of
Hedide in Yemen from which Province he was brought in a
raid made by Abdoolazeez about the year 1790, having obtained
his freedom, he married, and settled at Ehrisa and is a man
who makes a great noise in Arabia being beater of Tom Tom,
[a kind of Kettledrums] at marriage ceremonies, having hired
his room, I went with him to visit the market, which is
held outside the Western Gate of Ehrisa, and called by the
Arabs the Sook el Khamees, or market of the fifth day of the
Week and answering to our Thursday. numerous Camels were
offered for sale, but I saw no horses. For seventeen Dollars
I purchased a small Dhellool, or running Dromedary, pre-
paratory to my leaving for Neadth, which I intended doing
the first opportunity.

16th Nov^r Being the Yome'i Joomia, or Friday,
I went with Salem to see the Bedouin fair held at Mahboon,
a small village 2 Miles West of Ehrisa. There met and
conversed with three Bedouins of the Ajman tribe, who offered
to take me to Neadth. I was strongly recommended by
Salem not to trust them, the current of destiny however
prevailing, I engaged them, and they promised to bring
their Camels to town in the Morning.

The

(67)

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The Bedouins brought their
Camels this morning and I purchased provisions for the
journey.

18th

Left Khirsa in the morning,
stoppt at Mahbooreez untill afternoon prayers, when we
again commenced our journey our course was N.W. at 3 hours
we entered the desert, a low range of hills, extending on our right.
At 6 hours we stoppt at a well, for the night. I had some
words with the Bedouins, who talked of deviating from the
direct route to visit their tribe, this looking suspicious I
determined to be on my guard. I had little fear from open
violence, being in point of equipment far superior to them, &
their Camels of the heavy draught kind could not compete in
speed with the light Promedray Arabs.

19th

Started in the morning after prayers,
the course nearly the same as yesterday, the sand being very
loose, rendered our rate of travelling but slow. We stoppt at
Noun the Bedouin Camels appearing fatigued. While
pretending to sleep, I overheard a conversation, in which one
of the Bedouins, by name Sarsan, was attempting to persuade
his Comrades to join in plan for robbing ~~for robbing~~ me
and leaving me on the desert, to this they generally assented,
but

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but differed in opinion as to the manner the robbery was to be perpetrated, one of them said it would be quite impossible owing to the Pistols which I carried, and which made me more than a match for them; they at last came to the determination of taking me to their tribe, which they described as lying a few hours to the Southward of the Road we were pursuing.

20th

On mounting this morning the Course was changed to South, on my enquiring the reason they told me it was absolutely necessary we should call at their encampment, owing to the Skins in which they carried water having become bad; to this I replied that it was not my intention to deviate from the Road, and that I should either proceed on the journey or return to Elriasa, finding me resolute in my determination not to accompany them, after a great deal of whispering two of them undertook to ride to the encampment, for the purpose of fetching water Skins (of course intending to bring a reinforcement) to this I consented thinking it better to have to deal with one than three they therefore set out, I having promised to await their return, leaving Eiscan (the most determined of them) with me; as soon as they were out of sight, I went up to him and taxed him with his Willing, telling him that it was only the disinclination

68

21

I had to shedding human blood that prevented me from shooting ^{him} on the spot, giving him to understand that I intended returning to Elriasa immediately, and if he stirred while I remained in sight I would come back & shoot him; he did not appear at all abashed at this, but attempted to draw his sword, but while in the act, I gave him a blow in the mouth with the hilt of mine which brought him to the ground. I then mounted and rode off at full speed, the weather being calm the tracks we had left still remained, and I had little difficulty in finding my way; at dusk I stopped to breathe my Dromedary, and wait till the rising moon should enable me to continue my journey.

21"

I arrived this morning at Elriasa, finding the impossibility of getting redress, I determined to keep my adventure secret, took my residence with Salem my former host to whom I excused myself for returning so soon, by telling him that I ~~had~~ changed my mind about going to Meath, and had therefore only gone as far as Mchboorey.

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I went this morning to visit Abdulla Ben Amer, as I had before given myself out, as a Mamluke of Daud Pasha, and had frequently in that

22

that character paid my respects to the Sheikh, I was rather surprised when, on entering the assembly I was much pointed at. The enigma was soon explained by the Sheikh, who was very particular in his enquiries relative to the position of Ibrahim Pasha. I told him that I had no correct intelligence from that quarter, but had heard while to the Northward, that he had taken Galeb and Aka. We have heard, replied the Sheikh, that he and the Major part of his Army have fallen victims to the Plague. Do you think it true? I said no. He then rejoined, how long is it since you were with Ibrahim Pasha, for we know who you are, that man (pointing to a Bedouin who sat opposite me) says he saw you with the Pasha last year. I told him that he must be mistaken, never having been in Syria in my life. The Bedouin told the Sheikh he was convinced I was the same, whom he had seen, commanding a body of Amavots at the taking of Iskenderia. I attempted to negative what this man asserted, but found the current of belief too strong against me. The Sheikh then wished to know my intention in coming into Nedjd. I told him my real motive was a desire to visit the holy City. The Sheikh said it might be the case, but that I was too soon, by two months, if you really are what you represent yourself. (69)

23

yourself to be, why do you not marry and settle here, I declined this under the plea that I already had two wives at Baghdad. Will replied the Chief there is one piece of advice I would give you, the Brother of the Mekhoshereef leaves this in a few days for the purpose of collecting the Persian Nadj, you had much better accompany him on his tour and return with him, having predetermined not to leave Shiraz but with the Nadovar, or Nadj Caravan, I thought it best to acquiesce in this.

24th Left for Uger with the Sherief.

25th Arrived at Bahrain on the second day after my arrival. I was seized with fever, which very nearly carried me off, however, by the assistance of a good constitution, and a large dose of opium I recovered.

30th Sailed for Bushire, in a Bughlah belonging to Alee Ben, Kaver, the Sherief in Company.

24

Arasa

The town of Arasa, situated at the South-west extremity of the Oasis, is about 3 Miles in circumference, and is surrounded by a low stone wall, plastered by Mud. At its South West angle is situated the citadel called by the Arabs the Kootz, this is a strong fort built of stone flanked at every 15 Yards with round towers and circumscribed by a dug ditch, it has a Glacis which takes up a considerable portion of the town. In the towers are mounted pieces of cannon, of all calibres, and from their appearance I should judge more likely to damage those who fired, than those fired at. In the centre of this citadel is situated another square fort, styled the Kesar, or Palace, and in this resides Amer Ben Afis, the Wahabee Governor.

"The Majority of the houses in Arasa are built of stone, plastered with mud, but from the insubordination of their architecture present a very mean appearance. The Mosques, which in most Eastern countries are the buildings on which art is exhausted or wealth displayed are here difficult to be distinguished from the other houses, the strict tenets of the Wahabee faith forbidding all ornament

(70)

25

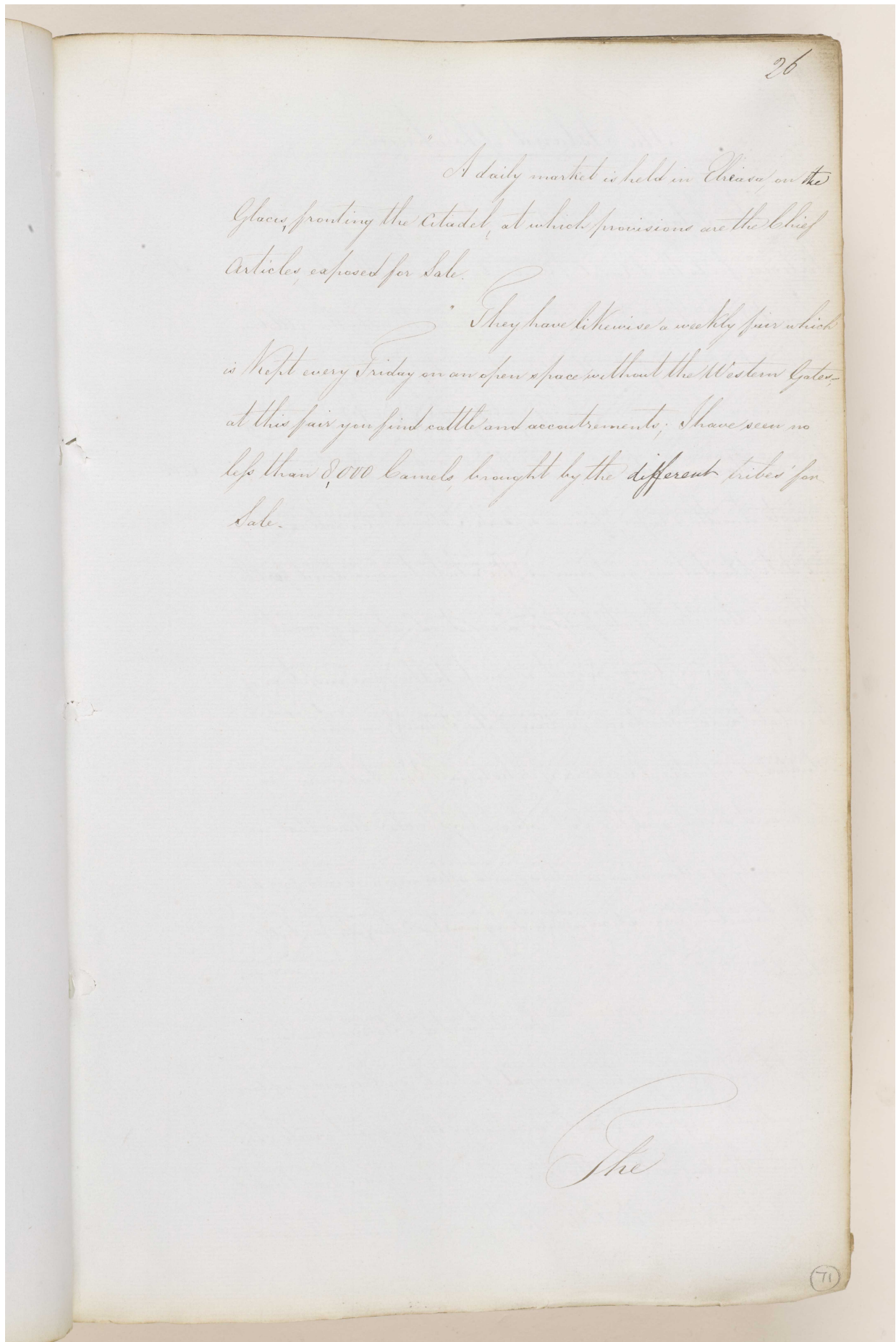
in their places of worship.)

Owing to the great influx and reflux of the Bedouins, it would be difficult to form a just estimate of the number of inhabitants contained in the area. However, believe it to be not less than 50,000, the Major of these though openly professing Wahabism, are secretly inclined to the Hanefia sect of the Suni; the real Wahabese being confined chiefly to the retainers of the Sheikh.

The area appears to be the Grand Mart of Nedjd and the Dawsen*, and the Bedouins of these districts congregate here, about September and hold a fair which lasts forty days, and is called the Mawsem, or season, the articles they bring for sale consist in cattle of all descriptions, Ghazal, ostrich feathers, & Gold. It is at this time only that horses are to be procured at any thing like a reasonable price.

a
Notes. * The Dawsen are those plains extending between Nedjd & the Yemen District and inhabited by the Beni Khalid, Shafiq, and Nasara Bedouins.

† Gold. This most probably finds its way to the Dawsen by the Many rabbin or Moorrara Nady, & from thence is brought into Nedjd by the Bedouins (who visit the Mawsem of Meadth) from the deserts surrounding that city, it is chiefly brought in dust



27

The Island of Bahrein.

This Island is about 28 Miles in length from the Portuguese for to the Rasid (Bun) by 9 in breadth; it originally belonged to the Persians, and was taken from them by the Utbee Arabs who landed from the opposite Coast of Cutwar;

The part of the Island (on which the town of Manama stands, would, but for a narrow Isthmus, which connects it with Rifa, form a separate Island.) abounds in springs and date plantations, and may on the whole be considered fertile, although the extent of its fertility does not admit a sufficient quantity of grain being raised adequate to the consumption of its inhabitants. The larger portion of the Island (on which is situated Rifa, the Residence of Khalefa Ben Sulman) is sterile and desert, and the soil which lays higher than that in the Vicinity of Manama, is stoney and often running into low hills of the primitive formation abounding in the Ggazelle or hill antelope.

" The Island of Bahrein contains several towns & Villages the principal of which is Manama, a place of considerable size, and population, though the frequent visits of the Cholera Morbus, within the last five or six years, has tended greatly to decrease the latter, its commerce is notwithstanding

28

in a flourishing condition, and its Bazaars are well supplied with the Commodities of India and Persia. I was informed, that 36 Vessels out of Manama visited India annually, 20 of which were Baghlahs of from 100 to 200 Tons burthen.

The principal source to which the Arabs attribute the flourishing state of Bahrein, is the productiveness of the annual Pearl fishery, which is said to yield 30,000 Dollars; the Pearls are principally purchased by the Hindos and Baghdad Merchants, and according to their Shape, Size, & Color, are either sent to India or Asia Minor. The Ratio of increase in the prices of these ornaments, is immense, commencing from the best Pearl rising to that Weighing a Drachma and a half, which is highest weight, that pearls have been known to attain, in a conversation with some of the Divers they told me that the average gain, in a prosperous season was about 20 Tomanes each Diver.

Moharrag, a small Island and town contiguous to Manama, the town nearly equals Manama in size, but does not possess its commercial advantages, at the northern extremity of this Island is situated (and a large Village surrounded by date plantations, It is the patrimony of Abdulla Ben Ahmed, Cousin to Khalifa Ben Sulman, the Chief of Bahrein.

The jealousy with which the Bahrein
Sheikhs

(72)

29

Shikh's view the Imam of Muscat since his alliance by marriage, with the Court of Sheeraz has induced them to enter into a treaty with the head of the Wahabee confederacy, to whom they pay an annual tribute or *ghout*.

The Majority of the land holders in Bahrein are of Persian extraction, and of the Shi'ah persuasion, but are held in great surveillance by the Utubees, who are Unfein Sources.

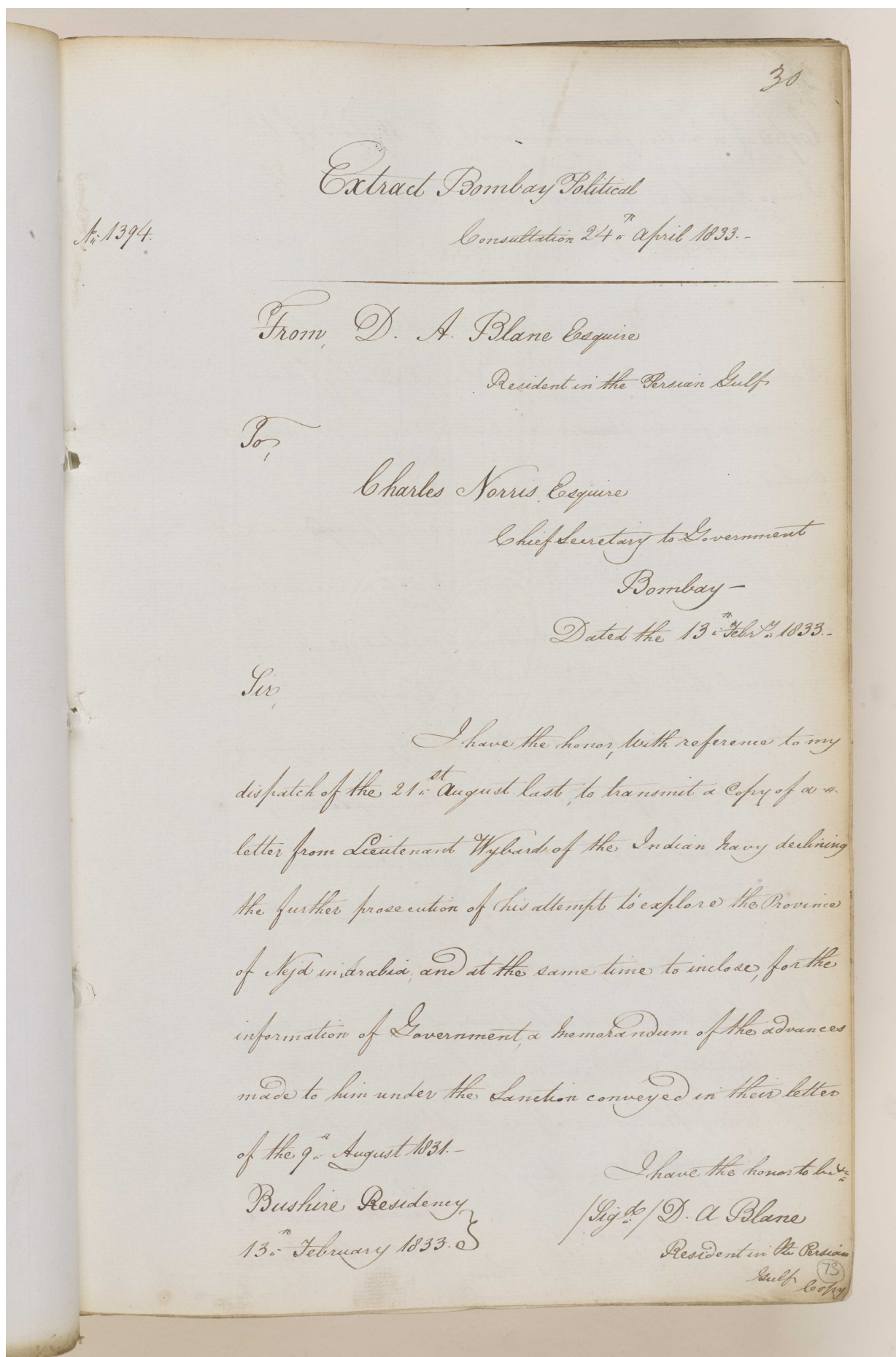
The general residence of the Shikh of Bahrein is at Rifa, and the administration of justice is left in the hands of Negro Slaves which is of course at a low ebb. —

True Extract

C. Mm

Chief Secretary

Compd



31

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant W. Wybard of the
Indian Navy to D. A. Blane Esquire Resident in the
Persian Gulf Dated 1st February 1833.

Sir,

Having determined on proceeding to
Bassadore by the Ternate, I take this opportunity of stating
my reasons for discontinuing my proposed researchs in Arabia.

Circumstances over which I possess no control,
having obliged me to quit Nedjd and return to Bahrein, I was
there seized by Fever and on that account visited Bushire, since
my arrival here I have been visited by occasional indis-
position, therefore not thinking the advantages to be gained
adequate to the difficulties attending the completion of
the undertaking, I beg leave to relinquish it.

The result of the observation I was
enabled to make, during my short journey into the interior
I shall take the earliest opportunity of forwarding to Govt.
From Bassadore I shall eventually proceed to Bombay, for
the purpose of placing myself under the orders of the
Superintendent of the Indian Navy.

True Copy
Signed
D. A. Blane,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honor to be
Signed
W. Wybard
Indian Navy

32

A. Memorandum of Advances made to Lieutenant W. Wybard of the Indian Army under the Sanction conveyed in Government Letter of the 9th August 1831.

1831.	17 th November	Advanced to him at Shiraz 3 Months Salary by a Bill sent from this in favor of Mirza ally Akbar Agent at Shiraz	360. " "
1832.	13 th July	Advanced from the Bushire Treasury	360. " "
	24 th August	Ditto Ditto Ditto	360. " "
	24 th December	Ditto Ditto Ditto	240. " "
1833.	28 th January	Ditto Ditto Ditto	400. " "
Total Bombay Rs. 1720. " "			
By amount due to him on account of his Salary from 1st Oct^r 1831. up to 31st January 1833, being 16. months @ 120. Bombay Rs. per month 1920. Deduct The amount of the above advances } 1720. " " Balance due to him Bombay Rs. Two hundred 200. " "			
Bushire Residency		/ Sig ^d / D. A. Blane	
13 th February 1833		Resident in the Persian Gulf -	
		From	

(74)

33

From Mr Chief Secretary Norris

No 1395

To

The officiating Superintendent of the
Indian Navy

Dated 19th April 1833.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit for your
information and guidance, the accompanying copy of a
Memorandum of advances made to Lieutenant Wybard
of the Indian Navy, by the Resident in the Persian
Gulf.

Bombay Castle
19th April 1833....

I have the honor to be &c

/ Sig^o / C. Norris

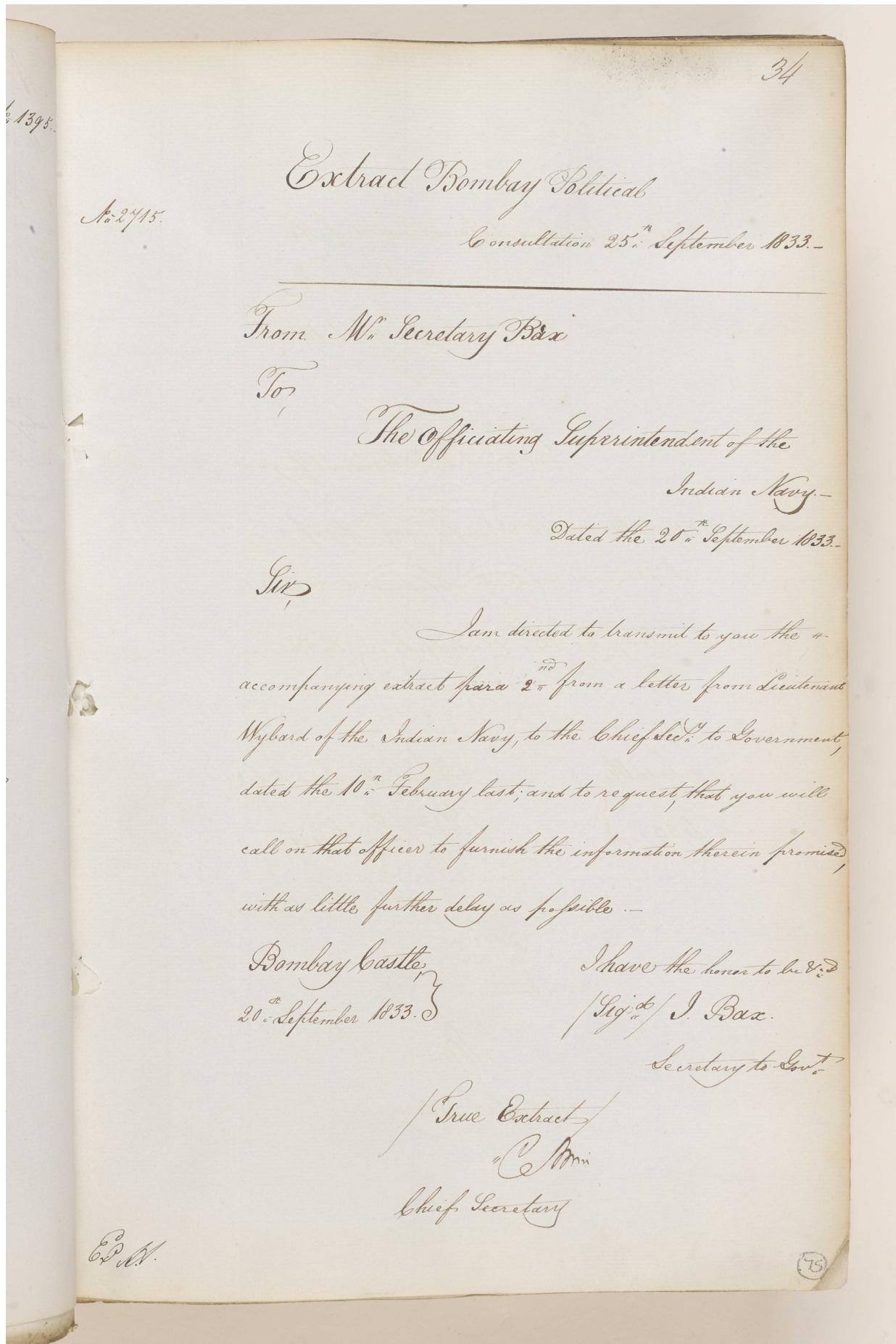
Chief Secretary

True Extract

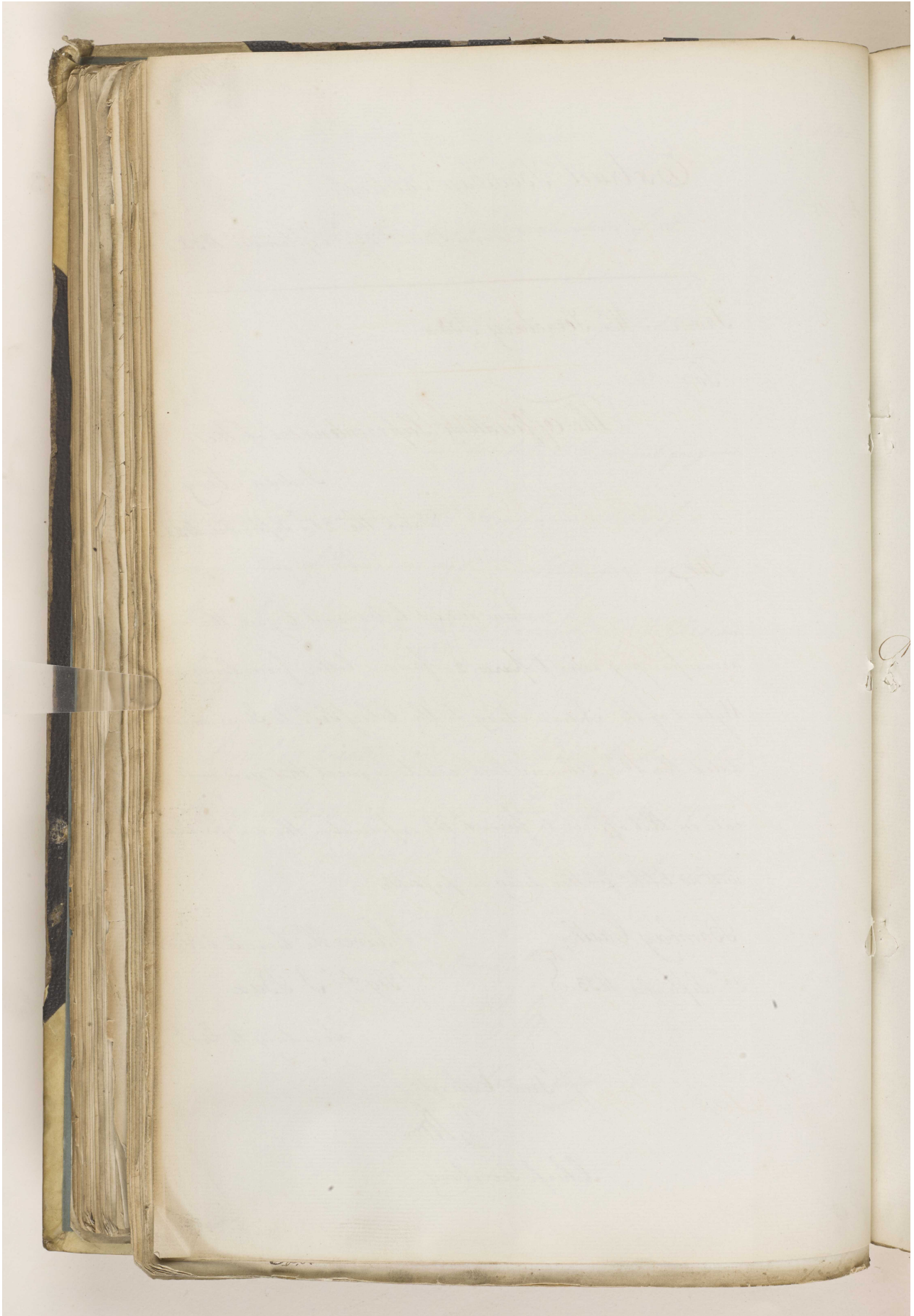
" C. Norris

Chief Secretary

Campbell



'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [75v] (50/84)



35

Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 2, October 1833.

From The Officiating Superintendent of
the Indian Army
To The Right Honble John Earl of Clare
President and Governor in Council
Dated 23^d September 1833.

N^o 2758. My Lords,

With reference to Mr Secretary
Bas's letter of the 20th Instant, I have the honor to
forward, for the information of your Lordship
in Council, the accompanying letter from
Lieutenant Wybard, and beg to observe, that
I have no doubt but that Officer will furnish
the required information, on his arrival at
Bassadore.

Sup^t's Office...
Bombay —
23^d September 1833.

I have the honor to be
Signed J. Crawford
Officiating Sup^t's I. of.
From

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From W. A. Wybard Lieutenant I. A.
To, Commr. De Cogan Assistant Superintendent
Indian Army.

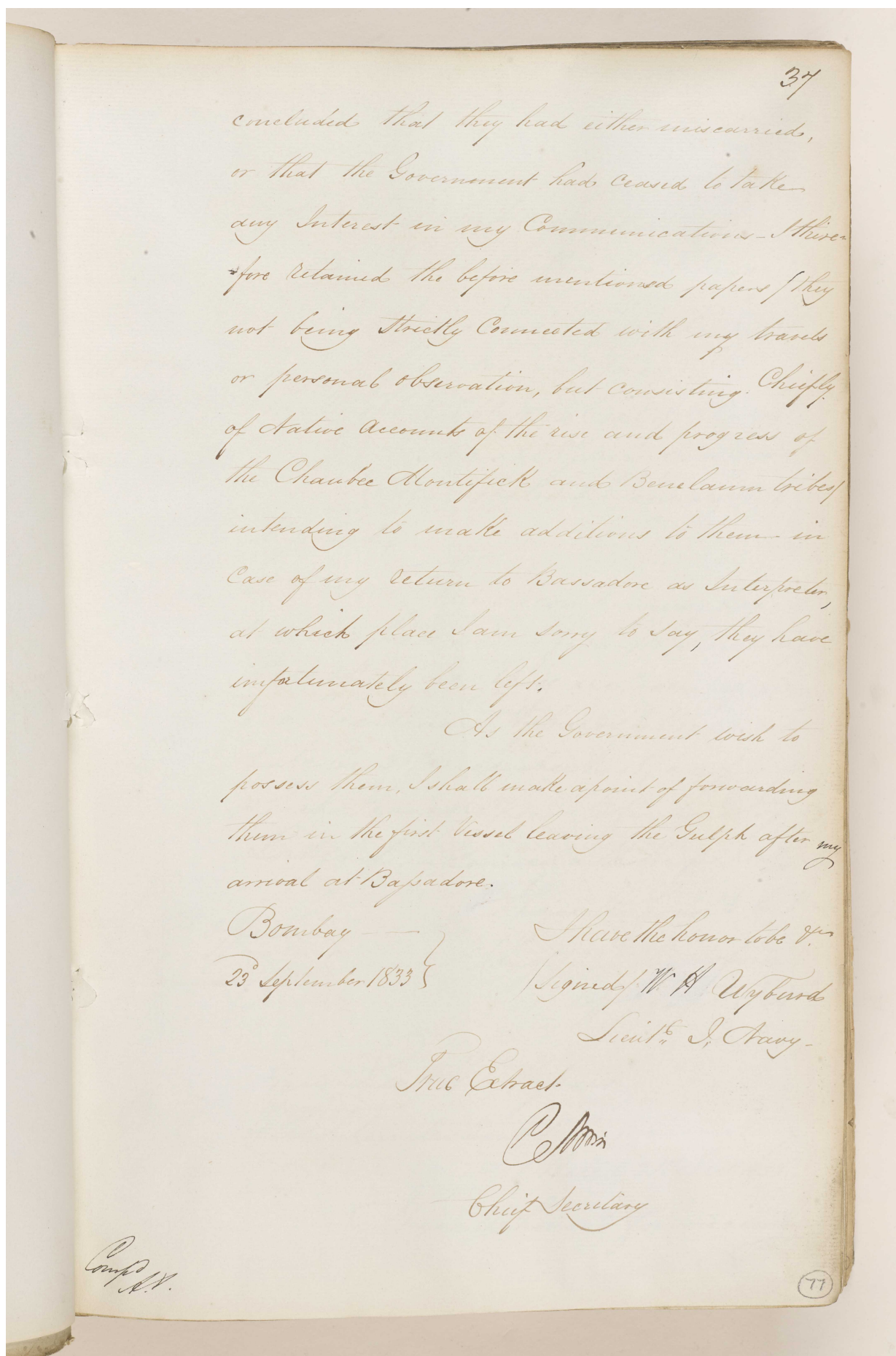
Dated 23 September 1833-

Sir,

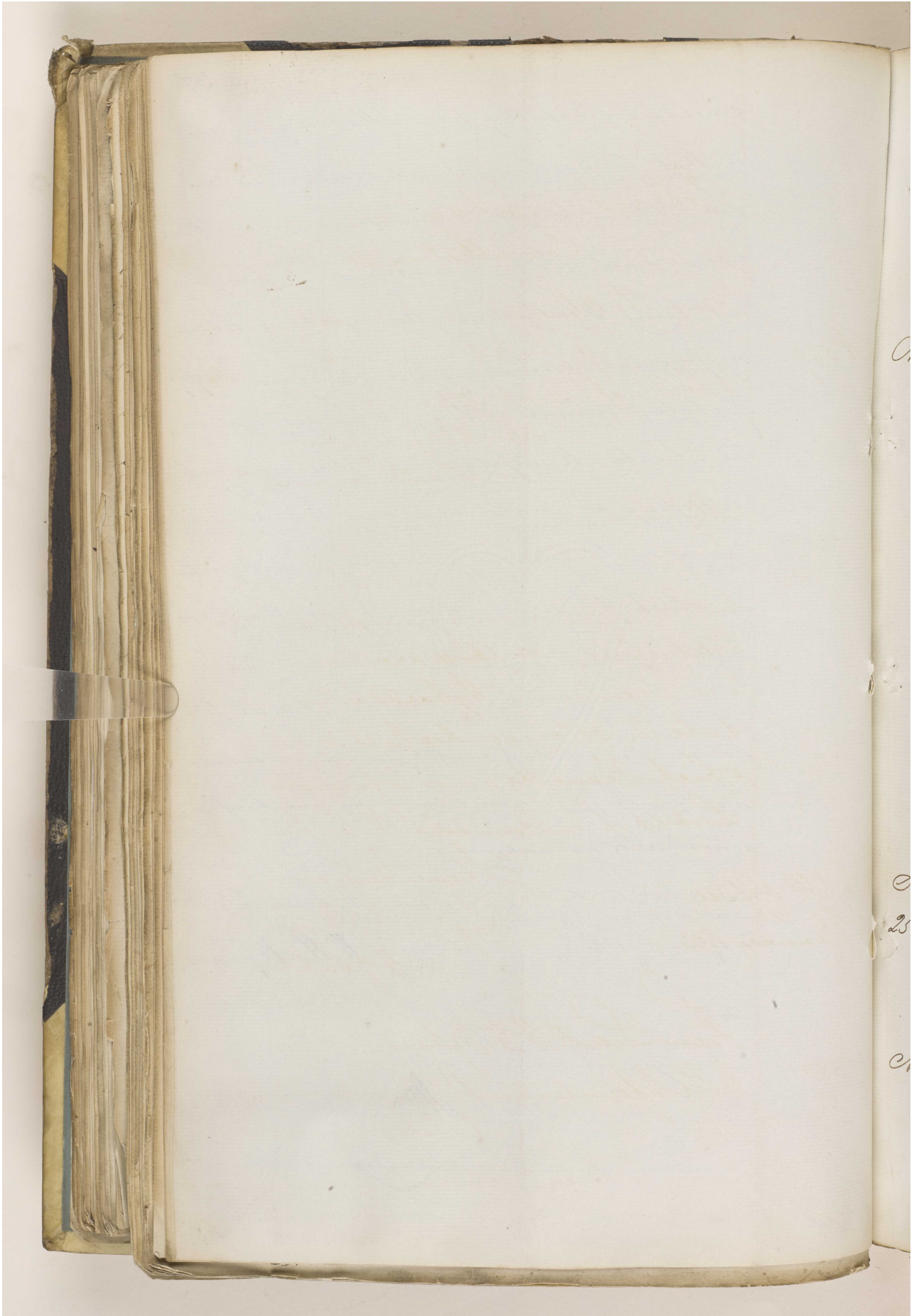
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st Instant, and, in reply, beg leave to lay before the Superintendent, my reasons for having kept back the Paper, adverted to in the Chief Secretary's letter.

Accompanying my letter to the Chief Secretary, under date 12th February, in which I mentioned these papers, was a Journal of Route, and draught of the Oasis of Elhasa, on the return of the Hon^{ble} Company's Ship of War Ternate to Bassadore, in which Vessel, the Journal and draught had been forwarded, I certainly expected that I should have received some intimation of their having arrived at the point of their destination, but finding that no notice had been taken of them, I naturally -

Concluded



'Wybard Lieutenant Travels in Nedjd in Arabia' [77v] (54/84)



38

N^o 549. Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 26th February 1834
From the Officiating Superintendent
of the Indian Navy
To The Right Honble John Earl of Clare
President & Governor in Council
Dated 25th January 1834.

My Lord,

The accompanying papers
received this morning from Mr. Secretary
Baird's Office, I suppose are those referred
to in Lieutenant Wybard's letter under
date the 31st December last, a copy of
which I have the honor to forward to your
Lordship in Council with the papers. -

Have the honor to be Dear

(Sig^d) J. Crawford.

Offg Supt. S. & N.

Supt^{ts} Office }
25th January 1834.

N^o 550/ From Lieut. W. H. Wybard
To the Superintendent of the Indian Navy
Dated 31st Dec^r 1833.
Sir Have the honor to forward according

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to my promise, sundry papers touching
on the histories of the various tribes inhabiting
the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris. I have
directed them to the Secretary to Government,
but they are of course at your disposal.
Since my arrival at Bassadore having
been engaged on the duties of my appoint-
ment, I have sent them down as they
were originally written down in Note. —

Bassadore { I have the honor to be Dear
31st Decr. 1833. } Lieut. W. H. Wybard

(True Copy)
Lieut. J. Crawford
offg. Supt.

Kaab commonly called Chaab.

The natives nominate these
tribes as a branch of the Juba who inhabited
a part of the Jezera in the vicinity of
Bagdad, and were obliged in consequence
of their adherence to the Schism of the
Sheahs to separate from the body of their
tribe, and descending the river became
pendantaries to the Bassora Government
for

40

for the district of Noorun Kistan. This tract was at that time occupied by the Tribe of Boweyah or Bedawee, a nomade tribe, whom these adventurers soon succeeded in driving to the plains of Rasm Hormuzd. -

(The district of Chaubis bounded on the N. E. by the plains of Ahway, and the Karoon River to the Southward and Westward by the Shatool Arab and Persian Gulf). -

"These men who in their own Country had lived in fixed habitations & subsisted by agricultural pursuits soon perceived the extraordinary fertility of the Soil they had wandered to; and the discernment of their Chief (Soleyman) led him to avail himself of those local advantages, which had been overlooked by the sapience of the Bassora Government, or the Pastoral barbarity of the Boweyah. He turned their attention to agriculture, and that Country which a short time before had only afforded pasturage

(71)

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"pasturage (though a luxuriant one) to the
"wandering Beddoo, became in a few years
"the granary of Frank". -

[Salamann] Soalymann finding
the necessity of establishing a local attach-
ment by fixing his followers in settled
habitations built a large Town called
Solymann which was situated about
fourteen miles E. N. E. of the Hafar
(the canal which joins the Kawraon
with the Shatool Arab) He at the same
time for the double purpose of increasing
the inland Navigation and draining
a large marsh, Cut a Canal from the
Seraher River to the Bamasheer, or Pass
Tygris of the ancients from about Eight
Miles above the ancient Town of Doonak.
He also built another Fort and Town called
Rooh e Saleh but at the present time,
excepting a few Maccads nothing remains
of either. -

It was during the Sheik-
ship that the extensive date planta-
tions which cover the district, were first
transplanted from Elhalmee near
Bussora. -

Between

42

Between the death of this Sheikh and 1755 a number of Chiefs held sway over the Chaub district but never of sufficient note to have been worthy of mention by Native Historians until the accession of Solymaun the second. -

Solymaun the 2^d succeeded Saleh New Alec, and built Salakhia, the present Capital of Chaub on the site of the ancient Moorank; it was during the life time of this Chief, that Saduc Khan the brother of Kurreem Khan the Vakeel of Fars overran Chaub, when by breaking down the Dyke of the Serahes and retiring with their property to the Islands formed by Bamhasheer, and Shatool Arab, they completely eluded the Persians, who on account of the scarcity of Grain were soon glad to come to an accommodation, by which they were left in quiet possession of their Territory. -

It was shortly after this event that Busra was taken by Saduc Khan, and in the confusion which ensued the Chaubese were enabled to throw off the Turkish Yoke and they have since

(80)

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Since that period maintained their indepen-
-dence of that power -

Shaik Soolymoun after a long
and prosperous administration died, and
was succeeded by Meer Abdulla - This
man was of the Playfel-Gutiva, an Arab
tribe inhabiting the plains below Baba-
-haun, on the Saub River and was con-
-nected with the Chaub Chiefs by the
ties of marriage - he had strengthened
his party by an union with the daughter
of Mahomed el Burder, Shaik of the
Baweyah tribe who had risen into
importance by a junction with part of the
Feglee, a Saak tribe, who on the accession
of Aga Mahomed Kham the Kujee
were obliged to retire into Saak and were
willing to join any party that afforded
them an opportunity of indulging their
darling propensity to plunder. -

Abdulla was a weak Prince &
so much intimidated by the fierceness
of his Baweyah relations that he became
a mere puppet in their hands - after
having enjoyed the shadow of authority
for

44
for three years, he was found murdered
in his Anderoon - the perpetrators of this
deed are supposed to have been ^{two} Arabian
slaves who guarded the Harem and to
whom for some trifling fault he had pro-
-mised the discipline of the balah or
Bastinado. - + + + + +

They however took the opportunity, while
he slept, of putting it out of his power to
carry his threat into Execution - on the
discovery of the murder suspicion glanced
at Gashtham his son, as being the in-
-stigator of it in conjunction with his
brother & father in law, who being of
high Chaub Extraction were displeased
with the favor lavished by Abdallah
on his Baueyah spouse and her relations.
However this might have been it never
transpired and the slaves were sacrificed
to the ^{names} of the murdered Chief matters
little to the present history. -

Gashtham was immediately
elected he was a young man of astern
and vigorous temperment, and being
of Chaub Extraction had viewed with
great dissatisfaction the insolence of
the

45

the Baweyah during the life time of his Father. After his Election he ordered the Chief of that Tribe quit Sulahia, and on his threatening him with the vengeance of the yaf, he marched with five thousand men against their principal encampment which was pitched between Ahwey and Khouzam where he gave them a signal over throw killing seven hundred and taking Shaik Mahomed and Meer allee the Chief Prisoners. —

He at the same time dispatched Meer Alwan his father in law against Said Ibrahim the Governor of Heudiaun (a Port on the Saub River) who had promised his assistance to the Baweyah; this place after a slight resistance was annexed to the Chaub Territory. —

Gudthbaun having thus triumphed over his Enemies turned his thoughts to the internal regulation of his district; he built a Fort and Town called Koot. e. — Thummar on the South bank of the Hofar opposite the Bursooranean Town of Moohamra. —

He likewise cut a large canal from the Zarabee, to the Bawasheer about
thirty

46

thirty miles above the ~~mouth~~ mouth of the
River for the purpose of facilitating the
communications between Salabia and
Shoostee, this he called the Shakhane
Khann from the circumstance of his
having defeated Kuln Allee Khann of
the Taylee tribe near it.

During the theft ship, it is said
that a European vessel entered the Bama
Sheer and landing her crew, with several
field pieces, committed great ravages
in the surrounding country (I have
myself seen the field pieces taken at
Salabia, they appeared to me to be either
Dutch or French construction) but after
many skirmishes between them and
the Chahese, the Europeans were sur-
rounded and the greater part slain.
The Arabs gave the leader of this party
the name of the abou Shakhane from
his having worn a golden collar.

Ludthann was at last
slain in an attack he made on Meer
Solmann of Shehe Moolah, a walled
town on the banks of the Jarabee between
Kendiyon

(82)

47.

Kendigou and Salakia - he left two sons, Moobander and Thamer, and was succeeded by his brother Mahomed who was of Baweyah extraction, and had been kept in a state of slavery during the life time of Gudthbaun - under his administration the Baweyah were again admitted into favor - his reign was but a short one - I believe only eleven months when he was poisoned by one of his women.

Between the sons of Gudthbaun Moodar & Thammur, a jealousy had long existed and they had in consequence been separated by their discerning parents - Thammur was placed in charge of the Fort and Town of Koothee Larmer while Moobander the eldest was kept at Salakia under the immediate eye of his father who dreaded his enterprising disposition.

As soon as the death of his Uncle was made public Moobander seized on Salakia and the adjacent villages and declared himself heir of Chaab. Thammur in the meantime raised his dependents and entered into

48

a Treaty with Allse Ben Zahir a Busnawie,
(and again ago, the Motesellim of Bassora
the articles of which ^{are} that in case Thamer
became Sheik of Chaub by their assis-
tance, he was to cede Kowthe Thummer
to the Bassora Government. -

The parties met at about ten
Miles below Salakhia, and after many
vicissitudes of Fortune Moobander was
victorious, he destroyed all the Bassorans
who were taken but pardoned his brother
whom he reinstated in his charge
of Khowthe Thamer. -

Being determined to revenge
himself on Bassora, he immediately
marched to Mohamra which he took
and peopled with Chaubeks placing
Shaikh Saajee Yusoof (whose daughter
he had married) in charge of it and
for the encouragement of Commerce
(which he wished to draw to this place
S.D. from Bassora he ^{is} three years
Customs. -

He then entered into a negocia-
tion with Ajeel the Montefek Chief

who
(83)

49

who was then at Feud with Alse Ben Zahur
of Bupora for a mutual attack on that
place - this took place in 1839 - the Montifi-
sch investing it from the land side
and the Chaubese from the River.

On the twentieth day after the
siege had been commenced Moobander
led a party of Escalade to the Gobing gate -
this party consisted of two hundred Chaubese
and two hundred and fifty of the Saweyah
whom he foolishly trusted. Moobander
gallantly led the storm, and succeeded in
descending the outer wall, and carrying
the inner - but was at the crisis deserted by
the whole of the Saweyah who retreated
to their Boats.

He carried everything before
him till he arrived at the Bazar Bridge
(Lookel Zek) when the Bupora Troops
perceiving the comparatively small
number of the attacking party,
rallied, and Moobander was obliged to
retreat, forcing one of the gates he reached
his boats, his ally the Montifisch
Chief had also made an attempt
on the opposite side, which proved abortive
in consequence of his Troops having
dispersed.

50

dispersed in quest of plunder - immediately after having dismounted the walls and the Town's people rising drove them out - Ajeel hearing that a force was on its way from Bagdad headed by his Cousin Humood for the purpose of relieving Bassora, he drew off his forces into the Desert. -

Moobander finding he had to sustain the war by himself raised the siege and returned to Chab with the determination of annoying the enemy by blockading the River below the Dubek. He erected a number of Langer or Mud Stockades on each side of the Hafar in which he mounted cannon, and running a fleet of Boats across the narrow Channel of the Dubek effectually stopped the trade of Bassora, at the same time issuing an edict that no grain was to be supplied from Chab, either directly or indirectly to the Bassoreans under pain of death, this caused such scarcity at Bassora that wheat was selling at sixteen Kroosh the Chaur (sixteen Ain Peastres) till the Blockade of the River was broken by Shaikh Jabi of Roowait an old ally of Bassora who passed up with twenty boats loaded with grain. -

OKe

(84)

57

He now (Moobander) prepared to punish the treachery of the Boweyah who after their desertion at Buspora, had crossed the river and rejoined their tribe. -

Falling in with one of their encampments he killed two hundred and took one of their Chiefs Prisoner, whom he kept at Salabia with the intention of putting him to death, but was diverted from this intention by the submission of the rest of the tribe who have since that time remained steady allies of ^{the} Chaubese. -

In 1831 a change took place in the Political affairs of Buspora consequent to the taking of Baghead by Alect Pasha and his deputing Lieut. Moohammed as Mootasellim of Buspora with injunctions to seize Agair Aga as a partisan of Dawes, the Circassian Babha of Baghead - Agair Aga on receiving the intelligence, absconded with all the property he could collect and threw himself on the generosity of his old enemy the Shaikh of Chaub, nor was his confidence misplaced. He was received with great attention by ^{Moobander} who assigned him a residence at Moohumra. -

On

52

On Seid Mahomed's taking charge
of the Motesellim ship of Bussora, there
seemed to be some chance of the Existing
difference between that Place and Chaub
being adjusted Alce Pasha having forward-
ed a Khlaunt by Seid Mahomed with articles
of reconciliation but as the first of these
was the delivering up of Oogair Aga, they
were not acceded to by Broohander. —

He afterwards embarked his
troops in Boats and seized on Howaseer
(an extensive tract of late Plantations
situated on the western bank of the
Shatool Arab about twelve miles
below Mohamra) and which had belonged
to Bussora. On the 1st of Bussora Fleet
was dispatched for the purpose of res-
-cuing it, and in passing the mouth
of the Kafar one of the Vessels was sunk
by the Fire of the Chaub Stockades — after
a considerable Expenditure of Powder-
Ball and Braggadocio they were obliged
to leave without having effected their
object, and passing the Kafar under the
veil of darkness — anchored at Goba on
the upper end of the Dubeh, where they
Continued

(85)

53

continued until the breaking out of the
Plague. —

Chaub had, since the taking
of Salakhia by Sadue Khan, been retained
on the staff of the Minister at Shiraz,
as Tributary to Fars) and had in fact made
remissions in the shape of Presents to
the Prince (now feeling its own importance
showed an inclination towards its omission
when the usual Mohauzel was sent. The
Wally of the Babahann by the directions
of the Shiraz Court incited Shait
Mooslehad, the Chief of a tribe of Arabs,
living in and about the town of Naumy
the ancient Nam Hormuz, to make a
descent into the Chaub plains — this offer
was seized on with avidity by Mooslehad
who knew that he could depend on the
assistance of the Wally — he advanced
his forces into Chaub driving every
thing before him as far as the ^{the Buveya and obliging} ~~Brund~~
of the Jerahee at Kuzain, after plundering
them to cross the Nawroon and seek shelter
in the plains of Vaveyah he pitched
his encampment near Ahway with the
intention of stopping the trade between
Shoostree, and Chaub — Mooslehad who
at

54

at this period, had to deal with Bussora from
whence reinforcement to the Fleet under
Absool Ager Ben Gabin was daily expected
Knew not what to do, he was on the point of making
a large remittance, and imploring the assistance
of the Sheraz Government who were themselves
the instigators of the whole, when a Mission
arrived from Kermanshah on the part of
Mahommed Noossein Meerza between whom
and the walys of Babahann, a jealousy
existed (these divisions the promotion of
which has always been the Policy of the
present Sovereign have had ruinous effects
on the country, offering him the assistance
of his forces. Noobander vacillated between
the acceptance of this offer or returning
to the protection of the Sheraz Court till
the Plague commenced its ravages, and he
became the first victim to its virulence -
Shameer was the only individual of the
family who escaped, and in consequence
removed from Moohamra to Salakhia
to take charge of the Sheikhship - he found
the country in a very impoverished state
the advances of the Plague had been so
rapid that the villages on the western
bank of the Farabee were entirely
depopulated.

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depopulated. —

This is a singular fact that the Plague raged with great violence at the Town of Jellahumra, but did not during the time of its continuance cross to Koothee Thamer on the opposite side of the Kafar, there was no sanitary laws Established at this place, and I suppose a constant communication was kept up. —

The last time I was at Mohumra it had become repopulated and bids fair to usurp the whole of the Trade of Bassora. Thamer was then at war with Bassora, on the old score of Dowaser, but it has I believe been since accommodated. —

This short history, will perhaps give some insight into a Country but little known I believe by Europeans it is in great measure from Native accounts collected at Salabia, partly from personal observation. —

Bassora.

This City was founded by Alaba Gudthbaun in the year ten of the Egra; it must formerly have extended nearly
to

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to the small Town of Zabeir built by Ibn
Zabeir who in conjunction with Anjesha
the relict of the Prophet, Conquered the
Army which went against the Khaliff
Alee Ibn Abos Taleb. It is situated on
the Shatool Arab 70 miles above its con-
fluence with the Persian Gulf and fifty
below the ancient Appa Mia built by
Seleucus, and now called Goosna. The
length of Sufoora from Moogaum Alee
on the River to the Zabeir Gate at the Western
Wall is about 6 miles and its breadth
from wall to wall on the River, about
three; the walls are double built of
Sunburnt brick & defended by large
Bastions, the spaces between the outer &
inner wall is chiefly occupied by plan-
tations. A Creek from Moogaum Alee
runs through the Town (City) which it
supplies with water. The distance from
the River to the Bazar Mosque is three
miles & one half which is the commence-
ment of the actually inhabited part.

The Bazars of Sufoora are
extensive and like the generality of
Eastern Markets are covered in, they are
well

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well supplied with the Commodities of India and Turkey - these Bazaars are divided into Quarters, which take their name from the particular article accused in them. -

The Souk el Jedeed or new market is about eight hundred & twenty yards in length, is built of burnt brick & roofed in the Arabesque style - this Bazaar would be disgrace to any Civilized Nation in Europe - it is capable of accommodating two hundred Shopkeepers who rent their shops from the Grotesellim. -

It contains a very handsome Mosque ornamented in Mosaic, as likewise an elegant & commodious Khan; the Bazaar has a gate at each extremity which is closed every Evening - after the first call to prayer, and owing to the greater security & property is only frequented by the better sort of Merchants - it was built by Rassi Aga one of the former Governors of Bassora. -

The Coffee Houses & Baths are numerous & well attended. -

The Serai or Palace a wretched one is situated in the out Maidan or Cavalry square - opposite is the Park of Artillery in which you find some nice light metal

The Turks have, what they term, a Navy at

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at Bussora, but it is a complete Burlesque on the name, when not in use, the Bessels composing it are hauled up at Menanee and Serai. it is related by the Chowbese that one of these, in firing a salute a few years back, sunk in the middle of the Stream, -

The Troops of Bussora consist chiefly of Annacots, but they have a species of Militia raised from among the lower class of Shopkeepers who serve for a trifle on account of the exemptions it affords them from extortion, -

Bussora has withstood many attacks made on it by the Persians, it was besieged and taken by Sadue Khan, the Brother of Kerree Khan in 1777, but was recovered to the Porte during the struggles which ensued the death of that Prince with the Siebe of Keger, -

The Governor of this place is nominated by the Pacha of Bagdad, and like all Towns - and like all sway of the Turks, from the frequency of Change, the inhabitants are subjected to ruinous Extortions, - Since 1831, to the present time, it has received three Governors successively, -

The present Motesullim is Derrish
aga

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 a respectable old Turk, who is, I believe, liked
 by the generality of the inhabitants. The executive
 part of the Government appears to be more in
 the hands of the Zahair family, than in that of the
 Turkish deputy. - This family, which originally came
 from Medaya, and settled at Zobeir, having by success-
 ful Commercial enterprise amassed great wealth
 employed it at the Court of Bagdad to the augmenta-
 tion of their personal influence at Bussora, and before
 the death of Alee Zahair, the Turkish Governor was a
 mere puppet in their hands. They have been in a
 great measure the cause of all the disturbances that
 have taken place between Bussora and the Arab
 Tribes of Chaub and Montefisk. Aisar and Sheikh
 Bunder have sworn their total annihilation in case
 they were successful in their intended attack on the
 Town. I have since heard that the Montefisk had taken
 Bussora but of the fate of Ben Zahair, I am
 ignorant.

Bedouins of the Bence Lamm.

The Bence Lamm or Lakhem are
 supposed to be a tribe who entered Lusiana before
 the Era of Mahomedanism, and became the allies
 of

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of the Persians their leader is stated to have been
Khilwan, who founded Navila. they were greatly har-
rased by the Mahomedan generals, Khaleel Shar-
waleh and Omar Lassen during the many conflicts
which took place before the final overthrow of the
Persian Monarchy under Jeydejed. after that event
embracing Islamism they retired to the plains of
Cered where they remained till the 20th of the Hegrie
when they joined the army of alie at Kufa, and on
its defeat by Abu Jekier they took up their abode in
their former residence where they have ever since con-
tinued to follow a nomade life,

It would be difficult to trace the
historical career of a tribe among whom oral tradition
is substituted for written document. The Grand-
father of the present Chief built Koothool Hamara
and was successful in many expeditions against
the Lac and other tribes inhabiting the mountains
above the plains of Cered; but after his death
the mounteik under the father of Ajeeb crossed
the river, and taking Koothool Hamara pursued
the tribe into their Native Walls, where he defea-
ted them with great slaughter,

The

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The principal Chiefs at present among the Beni Saam are Looki's Abdalla and Moonth Koor, his brother, the former is an old and hospitable man, but the latter for his military qualifications is more liked by the younger part of the tribe.

This tribe is in continual warfare with the Lac inhabiting the range of mountains running parallel with the Tigris (The ancient mount Jagers) during the time I was staying with them they had attacked a Chief by name Abdool Khoun, and succeeded in capturing a large quantity of Cattle.

The amusement of the Nomada Tribes inhabiting the Districts of Kheigistoun chiefly consist of military exercises and hunting, they are exceedingly fond of heroic poetry and I have frequently been surprized to hear whole pages recited from the best Arabian Authors, who could only be traditionally known to them. as few, if any, possess the slightest knowledge of letters, to the women is left all the labor of their encampments, the men leading a very indolent life.

when

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when not engaged in any Military excursion; they have, generally speaking fine features, with large black eyes and in point of symmetry are not inferior to the women of any part of the Globe. their dresses consist of striped silk shirts, made with wide sleeves and gathered in at the waist by a zone of leather ornamented with silver on the Head - they wear a black silk handkerchief, twisted in the shape of a Turban, one corner of which is allowed to hang down over the shoulders, and is decorated with variegated fringe. From the Crown of this Turban a triple silver chain descends by the back of the neck, and passing under the arm is fastened to the zone at the waist - they wear long spiral locks to the chanknecks of which they are very attentive, and their dress on the whole is a very romantic one.

The dress of the males consists in the hair shirts, or frocks manufactured in the tribe, on the head they wear a handkerchief composed of silk and cotton and called a Chaffa. This is folded triangularly, a corner being allowed to hang down on each side of

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of the face, this is fastened on the head by a
Camels hair fillet called an Agaul and is both
in Nedjd and on the rivers the mark of the
Bedouin;

The arms used by these Arabs
are confined to the spear and Sabre, in the use
of the former they are very expert, it is never placed
in rest but grasped by the middle at arms length
over the head - they are fond of throwing it, and
before its delivery, a moderate degree of vibration
is given it - I have seen some who at thirty or
forty yards would make certain of transfixing
a man. -

Bedouins of the Montifyk.

The Montifyk, was originally a small tribe,
which came either from Nedjd, ^{or} El Arad and
settled in and about the Seirat in 850 of the
Hejra - having formed connections with the various
Bedouin tribes about Busora and the Banks
of the Euphrates, they were at last consolidated
into a tribe which in extent surpasses any found
on the river. -

They derive the title of Montifyk
from

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from the name of the leader who brought them from Nedjd, or El Arad (نعمان) they call him the father of the tribe. -

They at one time became so formidable to the Bagdad Government, that an expedition was sent against them, which after many encounters succeeded finally in reducing them to obedience. -

The families composing the tribe differ much in manners, according to their proximity to Bassora or Bagdad, those settled on the Shat-el-Hi and about Basra, are wild in the extreme, while those in the vicinity of Look el Shik, and Bagdad partake more of the manners of their Turkish masters. -

Under their popular leader Apil the Tribe had attained its meridian of prosperity, but by the intrigues of Daxod Pacha the then Governor of Bagdad, Humid the Cousin of Apil was induced to rise against him, and after a war of extermination had been carried on by the rival parties for some time. the latter lost his life in a skirmish, his horse stumbled, and before he could recover himself he was speared

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spearred by (himself), and the Total Defeat of
his party ensued;

The tribe has been much thinned
by the Plague, but it is still sufficiently large
to be formidable (as an enemy) to the feeble
Governments of Basra and Bagdad. - The present
Chiefs are Humid, Asse, and Bunder, they are
now planning an attack on Basra in
concert with the Chaudese being determined to
reduce the power of the Ben Zahir family. -

It was supposed, they leaned to
Wahbeism and it is the generally received
opinion they assisted in the plunder of
Musjed Alee Samran & co. & co.

They are much better armed than
most Bedouins, few being without fire-arms
of some description, in the use of which they are
very expert. -

Bedouins of the Shumer

The Shumer derive their name
from the country, from whence they came, Bullidel
Shumer situated between Frank Arabia and
Arabia Petria - They were a tribe who joined Me
before

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before his assassination at Kerbela, and after that event. they crossed the Jezira, and settled in Khuzistan, where they have since remained; they are the most noted robbers on the banks of the river, and levy contributions on all who pass either up or down the River.

They are generally encamped near the Confluence of the reade Stream with the Tigris, half way between Kuthood Hamara, and the Dula River; in manners, they do not differ from the other Bedouin tribes, inhabiting Lusiana, they do not possess any numerical strength, and are poor in cattle which may be some excuse for their predatory propensities.

True Extract

C. Mms

Chief Secretary

Comptd
B. L.

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