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**‘Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency.
Vol: 7’**

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/1767/72467
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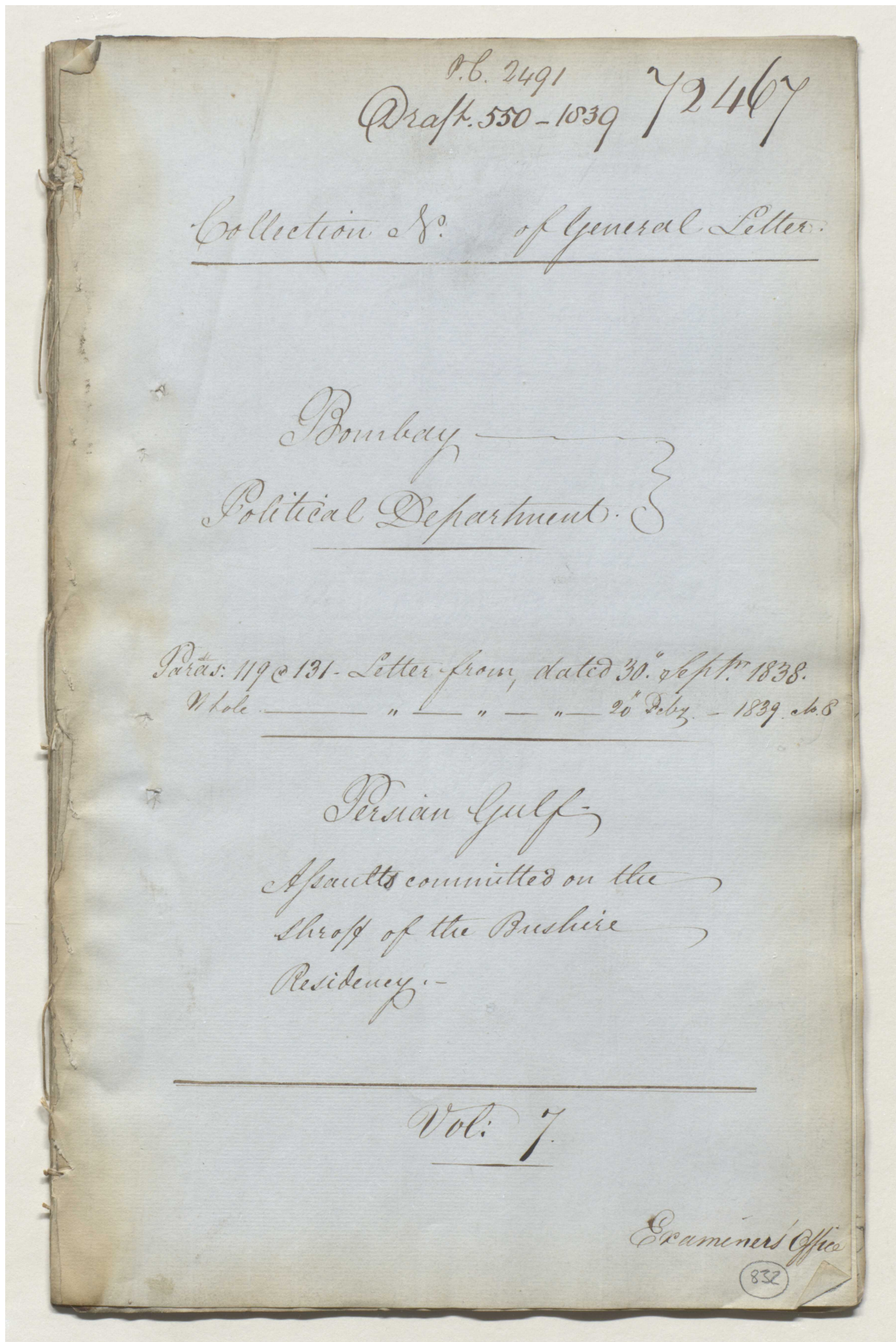
About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, consultations, memoranda, resolutions, and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai]. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; Captain Samuel Hennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf; the Government of India; Thomas MacKenzie, Acting Assistant in Charge of the Residency, Bushire [Bushehr]; and Sheik Nassir [Shaikh Nasir Al Mazkur II], Governor of Bushire. It is the seventh in a series of ten items on the Persian Gulf (the others are IOR/F/4/1767/72461, IOR/F/4/1767/72462, IOR/F/4/1767/72463, IOR/F/4/1767/72464, IOR/F/4/1767/72465, IOR/F/4/1767/72466, IOR/F/4/1767/72468, IOR/F/4/1767/72469, and IOR/F/4/1767/72470).

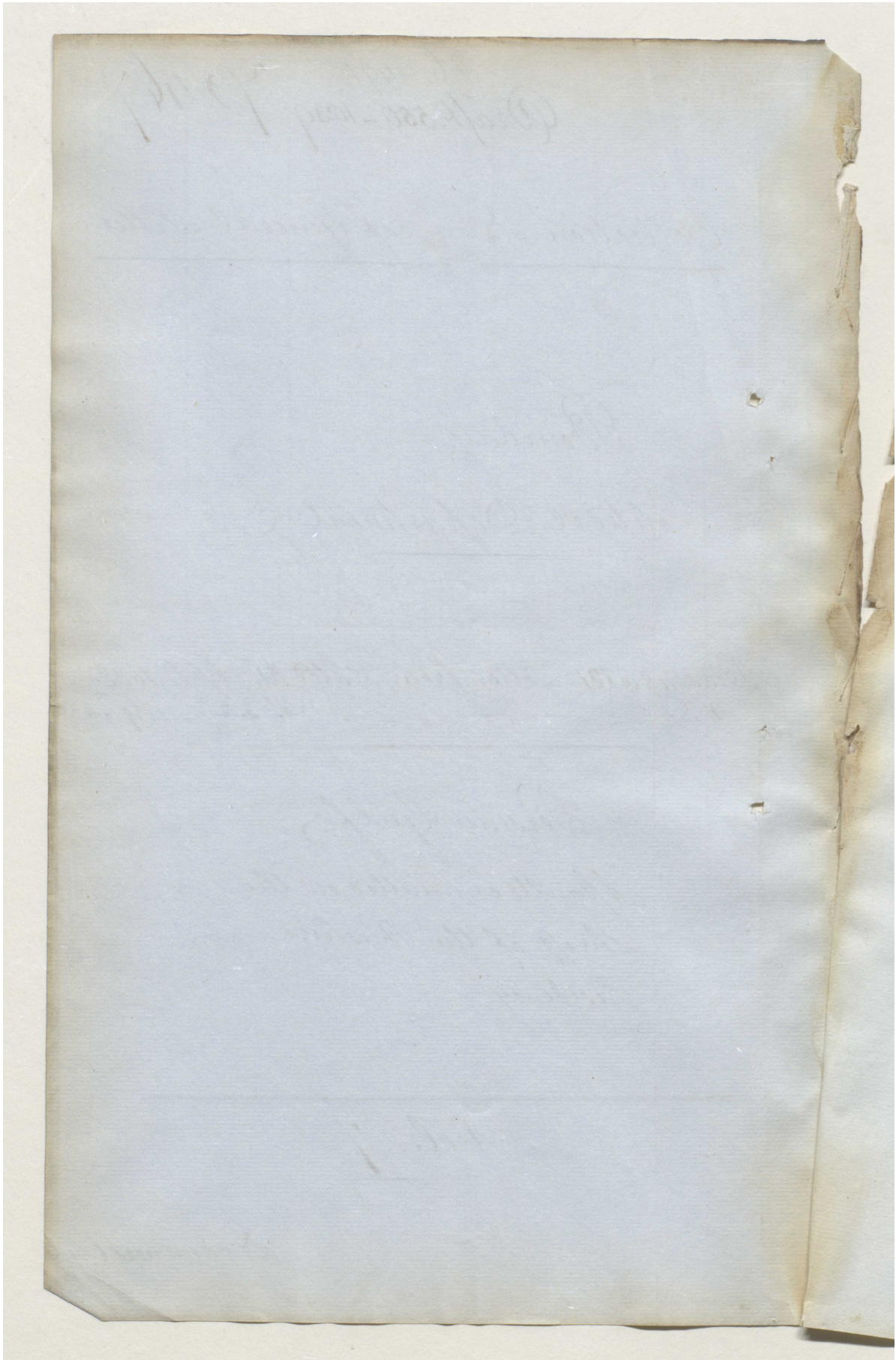
The item concerns the persistent ill-treatment of the shroff [banker] at the Bushire Residency by the residents of Bushire, and the measures taken by the Resident to compel Sheik Nassir to punish the offenders.

The item contains a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: ‘Draft 550, 1839, P.C. [Previous Communication] 2491’.

'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [832r] (1/34)



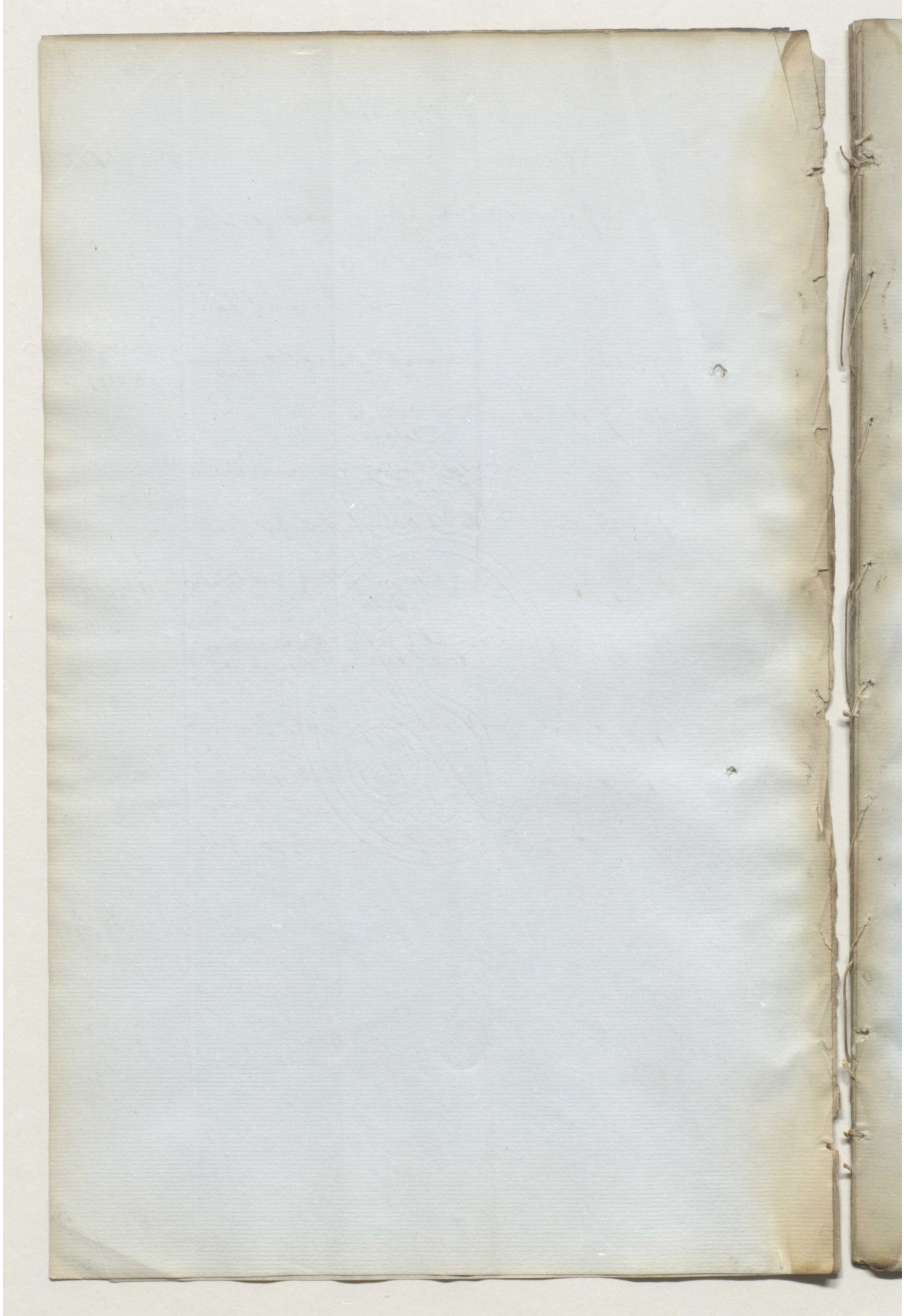
'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [832v] (2/34)

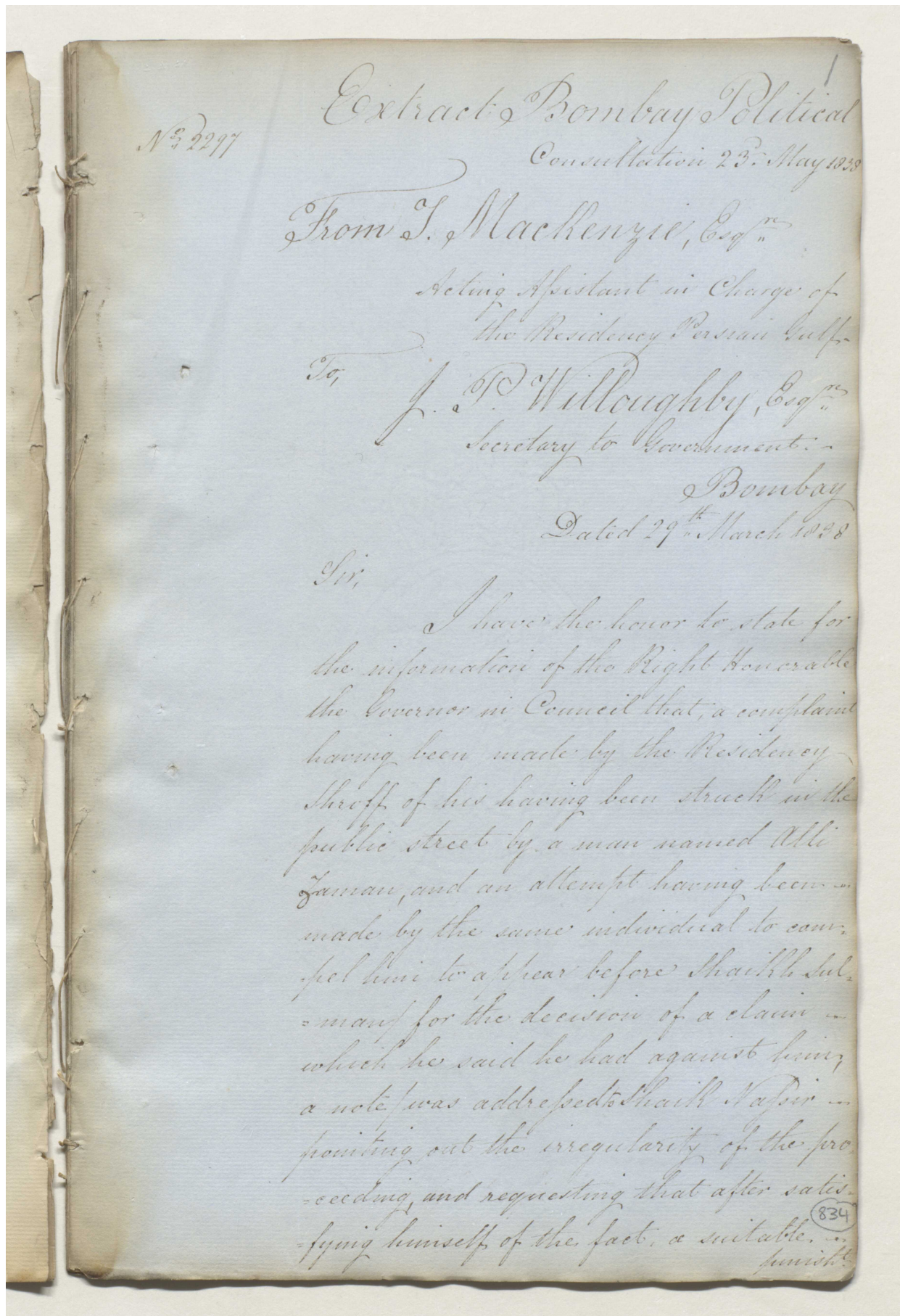


'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [833r] (3/34)

Page	Date of Document	From	To	Date of Cons
1	29 March 1838	Acting Secy in charge of Residency Persian Gulf	Mr Secy, Willoughby	
8	23 " "	Governor of Bushire		
9	28 " "	Governor of Bushire	Act. Resid. Persian Gulf	23 May 1838 No 2297.98
10	7 March	Ex th H. M. Minister Tehran		
"	28 " "	Act. Residency Persian Gulf	Governor of Bushire	
12	22 May	Mr Secy, Willoughby	Secy, Govt. Genl.	
15	7 June	Depty, Secy, Govt of India	Secy, Govt. Bombay	11 July 1838 No 3207.18
16	7 July	Acting Secy, Resid. Bombay	Offs. Residents in Persian Gulf	
19	44 Nov	Residents Persian Gulf	Secy to Govts.	
21	21 Nov	H. M. Minister Court of Persia		Proclamation in Letter 20 Feb, (18) 1839
27	16 Feb, 1839	Mr Secy, Willoughby	Secy, Govt. Genl.	

**'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [833v] (4/34)**





punishment might be inflicted.
2^d Next day a message was received from Shaikh Nasser admitting the fact of the assault, but endeavouring to excuse the offender on the plea of insanity or very great folly, and assigning as a reason for the aggression, that he had a claim against the Shroff on account of money that had been entrusted to his father many years ago. In reply it was intimated to the Shaikh that the claim preferred appeared very questionable, for notwithstanding both parties had been in Bushire during the last five years, nothing had hitherto been said regarding it, and at all events the irregular way in which it was attempted to recover it could not be allowed. That an offence had been committed and that if the offender was really insane, he ought to be placed under restraint, but if his madness was feigned, punishment would be a fitting remedy.
3^d Receiving from the above message from Shaikh Nasser a disposition

disposition to avoid the perhaps un-
palatable proceeding of punishing
a Mahomedan when only a Jew had
suffered, and consequently of grant-
ing the redress required, I felt some-
what at a loss how to act. a reference
to Tehran under the existing state of
affairs in that quarter appeared very
ineligible, for although every support
and protection that could possibly be
rendered has on every occasion been
granted by the Ambassador, a delay
must necessarily occur tending to in-
strengthen an impression which I
feared had already begun to prevail
that the people of the Residency might
be insulted without punishment cer-
tainly following: an impression which
it appeared most desirable, indeed
almost necessary to remove, or at
least convince those unfavourably
disposed towards the Residency, that
they could not, either at Shah R. Sul-
man's instigation, or trusting to the
support they might receive from him,
to satisfy their own inclinations, mal-

(835)

the end

maltreat those connected with it...
with entire impunity.

4. On the following day a note
was received from Shaikh Nader,
and as was ^{expected} effected not at all satis-
factory. It appeared doubtful whe-
ther any punishment had been in-
flicted and certainly it was not such
as was considered necessary for the at-
tainment of the object in view the
determing of others from committing si-
milar outrages. But in the mean-
time a letter was received from H.B.M.
Minister at the Court of Persia intimat-
ing that he had informed the Persian
Government that he could not be res-
ponsible for any disturbance that in-
might occur at Bushire, and in the
event of violence being offered force
would be repelled with force. From
this I concluded that the Residency
was permitted to protect itself, or at
all events that the means available
might be exercised to uphold its cha-
racter and protect those connected
with it without danger of His Excellency
being

5
being thereby involved or embarrassed.
5. There was now no difficulty
in deciding as to the course which
appeared most advisable to pursue
for the means available for the pro-
tection of the Residency and effect-
ually guarding it from insult in
any way seemed ample. a note was
therefore addressed to Shaikh Na-
sir acquainting him that the ne-
cessary redress had not yet been
given, and that if punishment ade-
quate to the offence was not inflic-
ed, I should consider it necessary
to remove from the place and en-
deavour to enforce compliance by
blockading the port.
6. This remonstrance produced
the desired effect. The man was im-
mediately imprisoned, and this
morning he was sent to the Residen-
cy to be dealt with in whatever way
might be deemed proper.
7. Although I conceived the
punishment inflicted by the Shaikh
Nasir to tend to encourage rather
than

than prevent acts similar to the one
complained of the circumstances
of the affair had become generally
known, and the principal object
was now attained of convincing
both him and the people of the Town
that the Residency and those connect-
ed with it, could and would be pro-
tected. the man was therefore in
consideration of his age, excused
from further punishment.

8 In the threat to blockade
the port the bounds of propriety may
appear to have been overstepped,
and to have carried it into effect as
consistency would require should
satisfaction have been refused, in
while there is an Ambassador from
the British Government at the
Court of the sovereign to whose au-
thority it is subject, might excite
surprise: but it was the most obvi-
ous way in which the violence offer-
ed could be resented without risk
of failure, and I conceive that it was
following the course indicated by
His

7
His Excellency ^{the} Ambassador, whose
judgment I presume not to ques-
tion. The menace was severe, but
would on that account be the more
impressive, and so far it was the
more eligible as the conviction on
the mind of those to whom it was
held out, that what was threaten-
ed would also be executed would
it was believed almost to a certain-
ty, insure the non-necessity of
coercive measures being at all re-
sorted to, while one in its conse-
quences left to be dreaded might
have failed in its object, and in the
sequel proved embarrassing. It may
therefore, I humbly think, be view-
ed as an act rendered expedient
by the peculiar circumstances of
the case, and dictated by policy,
not altogether indefensible.

9 No apprehension is enter-
tained of the affair being made
the subject of complaint to the
Persian Government, sufficient ad-
vantage being derived by Shakh
Nasir (837)

'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [837v] (12/34)

Nasir from his pretended influ-
ence with the British Government
through the Residency to render him
more anxious to conceal than di-
sculge such an occurrence.

Residency Per. } I have the honor to be
Persian Gulf Bu. } signed J. Mackenzie
shure March } Actg. Asst. in Charge of
29th 1838 } the Residency Per. Gulf

P.S. I beg leave to state, that a copy
of this letter as well as of that under
date 21st March in this department
will be forwarded H.B. Mr. Minister
at the Court of Persia.

Signed J. Mackenzie,
N^o 1

Draft of a Note from the Acting Assistant in
Charge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf to
Sheikh Nasir Governor of Bushire. Dated 23rd
March 1838.

A complaint having been
made to me by the Residency Shroff
of his having been struck without
reason, by a man named Ali Dza-
man, I must take the liberty of
bringg.

9
bringing the circumstance to your no-
tice - and I need hardly remark
to you that such conduct is very im-
proper and that it cannot be permit-
ted. It is therefore expected that an
enquiry will be made into the affair,
and should it be ascertained that
the complaint is well founded, as I
believe to be the case, that the offen-
der will be punished.

Signed for J. Mackenzie,
Actg. Asst. In Charge
N.E.

Translation of a Note from Shaikh Nassir
Governor of Bushire to the Acting Assistant In
Charge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf.
Dated 28th March 1838.

Relative to the affair of
Alli Hama Hajie Ahmed having
stated the circumstances I sent and
brought him I called him to account
and punished him - but being an
old man, people interceded for him,
and he was allowed to go away - But
he complains that he has claims
against the Residency Shroff. It was

decided
(83)

decided that the Bill should be brought
to me, that having ascertained the truth
I may put an end to his complaints.

True Translation
Signed J. Mackenzie
Actg. Asst. In Charge &c
N.B.

Extract of a Letter from A.B. Mir Minister
plenipotentiary and Envoy extraordinary at the
Court of Tehran Dated 7th March 1838.
Private and Confidential

I have written to the Per-
sian Government detailing the affair
of the Legat, and stating that I cannot
be responsible for any disturbance that
may occur at Bushire in consequence
of any attempt to offer violence to the
British Resident or his people; and
that if violence is attempted he will
repell force with force.

N.B.

Draft of a Note from the Acting Assistant In-
Charge of the Residency in the Persian Gulf
to Shakh Nasser Government of Bushire.
Dated 28th March 1838.

Your Note relative to Ali
Zaman

11
Zaman has been received. You state,
that you called him to account and
punished him. but being an old
man people interceded and was al-
lowed to go away. This I do not
understand. I am persuaded no pun-
ishment adequate to his offence
has been inflicted on him. for if he
was called to account and punished
because of my intimation to you
relative to his conduct towards the
Residency Shroff he could only have
been allowed to go away by my for-
giving the offence committed by him
from punishment. It is not my
intention that he should be punish-
ed beyond what he can bear. but it
is necessary that he be punished, or
if not, I shall consider it necessa-
ry to remove from this place and
adopt measures for enforcing compli-
ance with my wishes, by blockading
the port. Should you think proper
to punish the individual in question
in the way that it ought to be done,
I shall send an Officer to see it in-
flicted
(839)

inflicted and judge of its extent. As
to the Claims which he says he has
against the Shroff, this is a separate
affair.

Signed J. MacKenzie,
Actg. Asst. in Charge &c.
True Copies

Signed J. MacKenzie
Acting Assistant in Charge
of the Residency in the Persian
Gulf.

From J. P. Wiltoughby, Esq.
Secretary to Government

N^o 2298

Bombay
To The Secretary with the Right
Honble. the Governor General of India
Camp

Dated 22 May 1838-

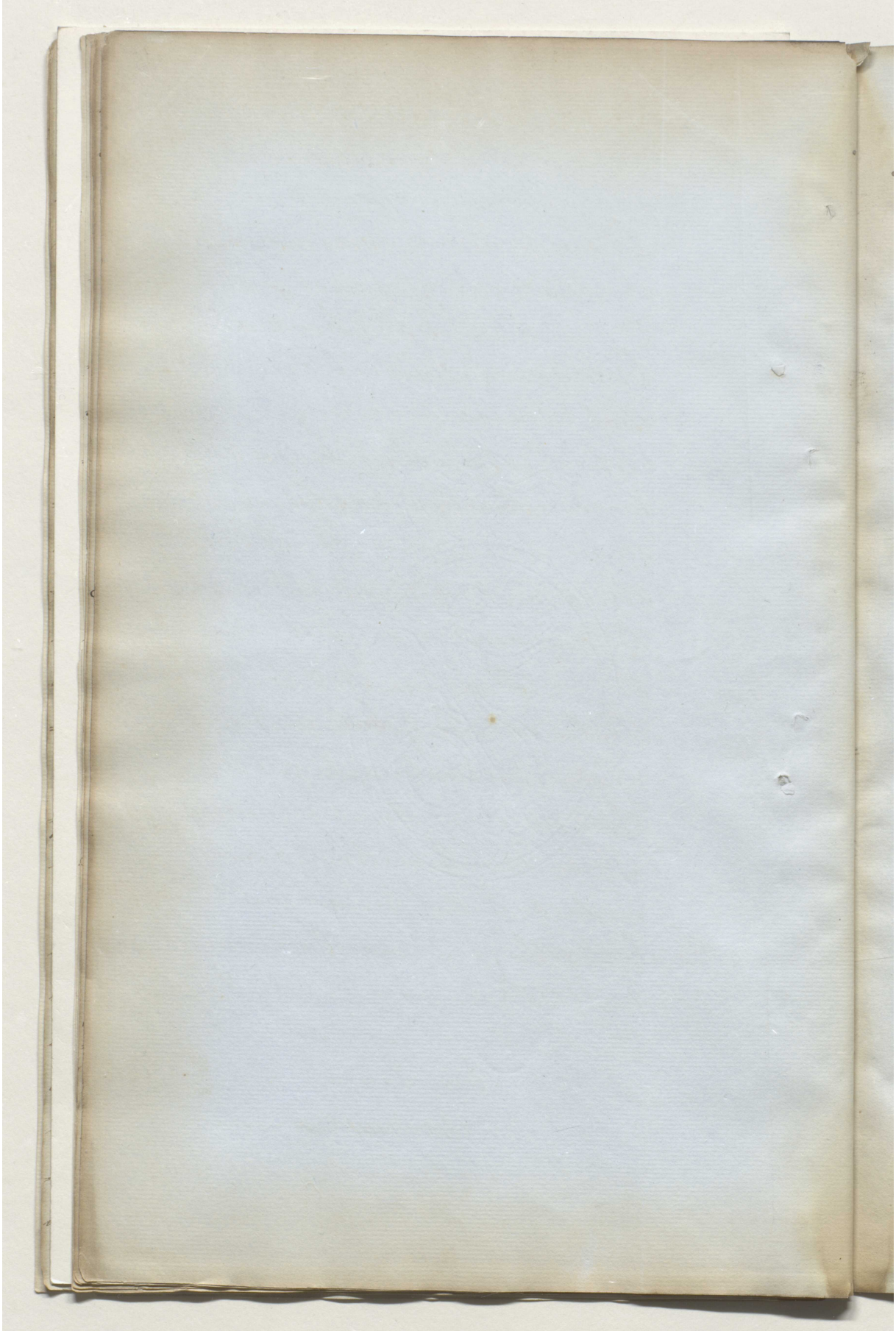
Sir,

I am directed to transmit to
you the accompanying copy of a des-
patch from the Acting Assistant Res-
ident in the Persian Gulf, dated the
29th March last, reporting that an act
of personal violence was committed
on the Residency Shroff, by a man
named

13
named Ali Jaman; and that re-
dress for the offence, was obtained
only after that officer had threaten-
ed the Governor of Bushire with
the blockading of that port.
2. The Right Honorable the
Governor in Council does not think
that Doctor MacKenzie was jus-
tified in resorting to the extreme
measure he did, except with the pri-
vious concurrence of the Envoy in
Persia, and with ample means at
his disposal to carry it into effect.
3. It is true that the threat had
the desired effect, but had redress been
refused, Doctor MacKenzie would in
the opinion of this Government have
placed both himself and Government
in an awkward predicament.
Bombay Castle, } I have the honor to be, &c
22. May 1838 } Signed J. P. Willoughby
Secy to Gov.
True Extract
J. P. Willoughby
Secy to Gov.
Campbell
J. P.

(840)

**'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [840v] (18/34)**



15
Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 11th July 1838
N^o 3214
From H. Torrens, Esq.
Deputy Secretary to the Govern-
ment of India with the Govern-
or General
To,
J. P. Willoughby Esq.
Secretary to Government
Bombay
Dated 7th June 1838
Sir,
I am directed to acknow-
ledge the receipt of your letter with
enclosures under date 22nd Ultimo,
respecting the threat recently held
out by the officiating Assistant Res-
ident in the Persian Gulf on the
occasion of an act of violence com-
mitted upon a person attached to
the Residency.
2^d The Governor General con-
curs with the Right Honorable the
Governor in Council in thinking
that Doctor MacKenzie took a dan-
gerous

dangerous step, and has thereby
laid himself open to censure in
threatening, on his individual respon-
sibility, a blockade of the port of
Bushire.

3rd His Lordship observes with
satisfaction, that no evil consequence
has however resulted from the mea-
sure.

Similar, the } I have the honor to be &c
7th June 1838 } Signed H. Torrens
Depy Secy to the Gov^t of India
with the Gov^t Genl

From L. R. Reid, Esq^r
Acting Chief Secretary to Gov^t

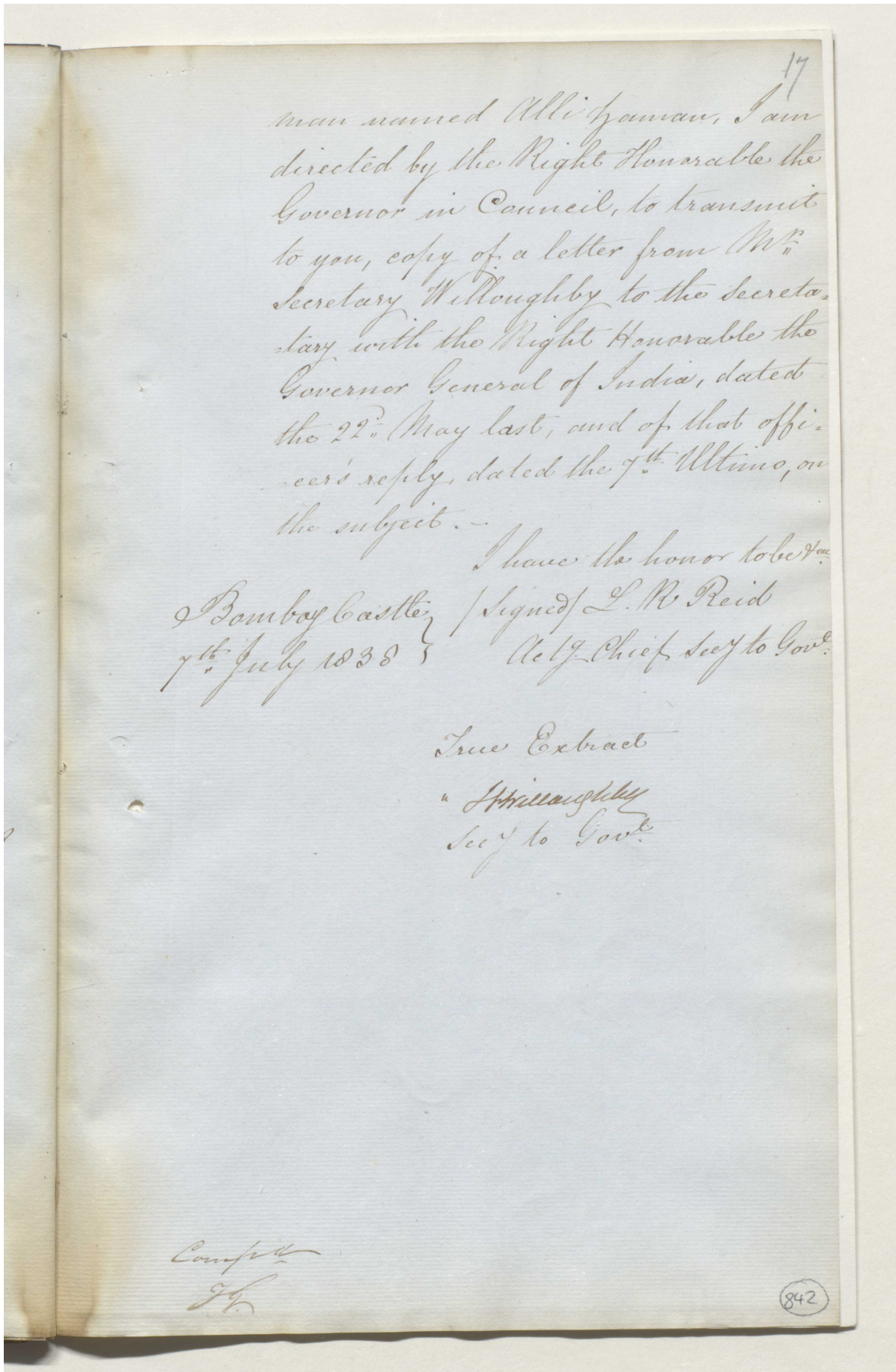
Bombay No 3218
To The Officiating Resident in
the Persian Gulf.

Dated 7th July 1838.

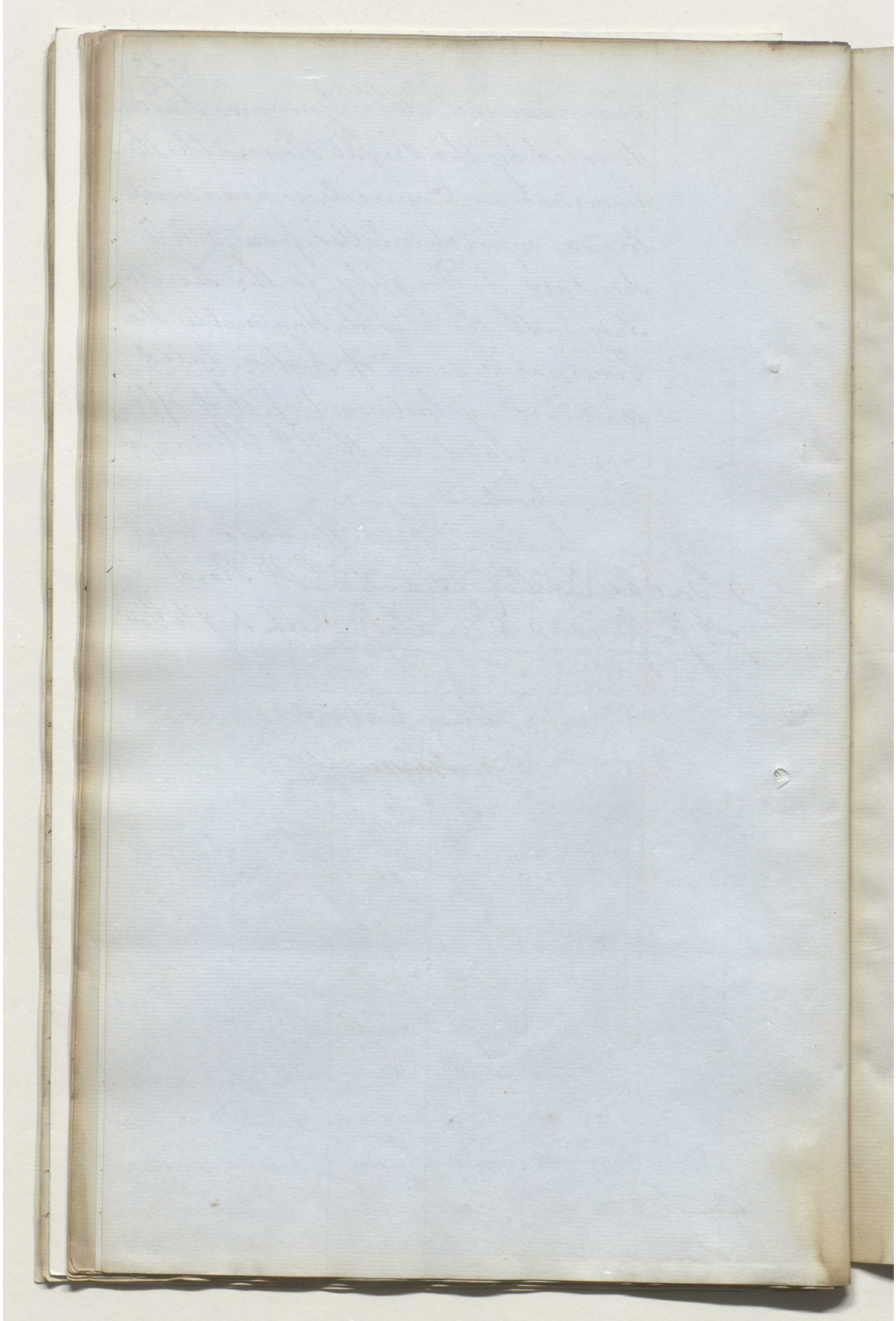
Sir,

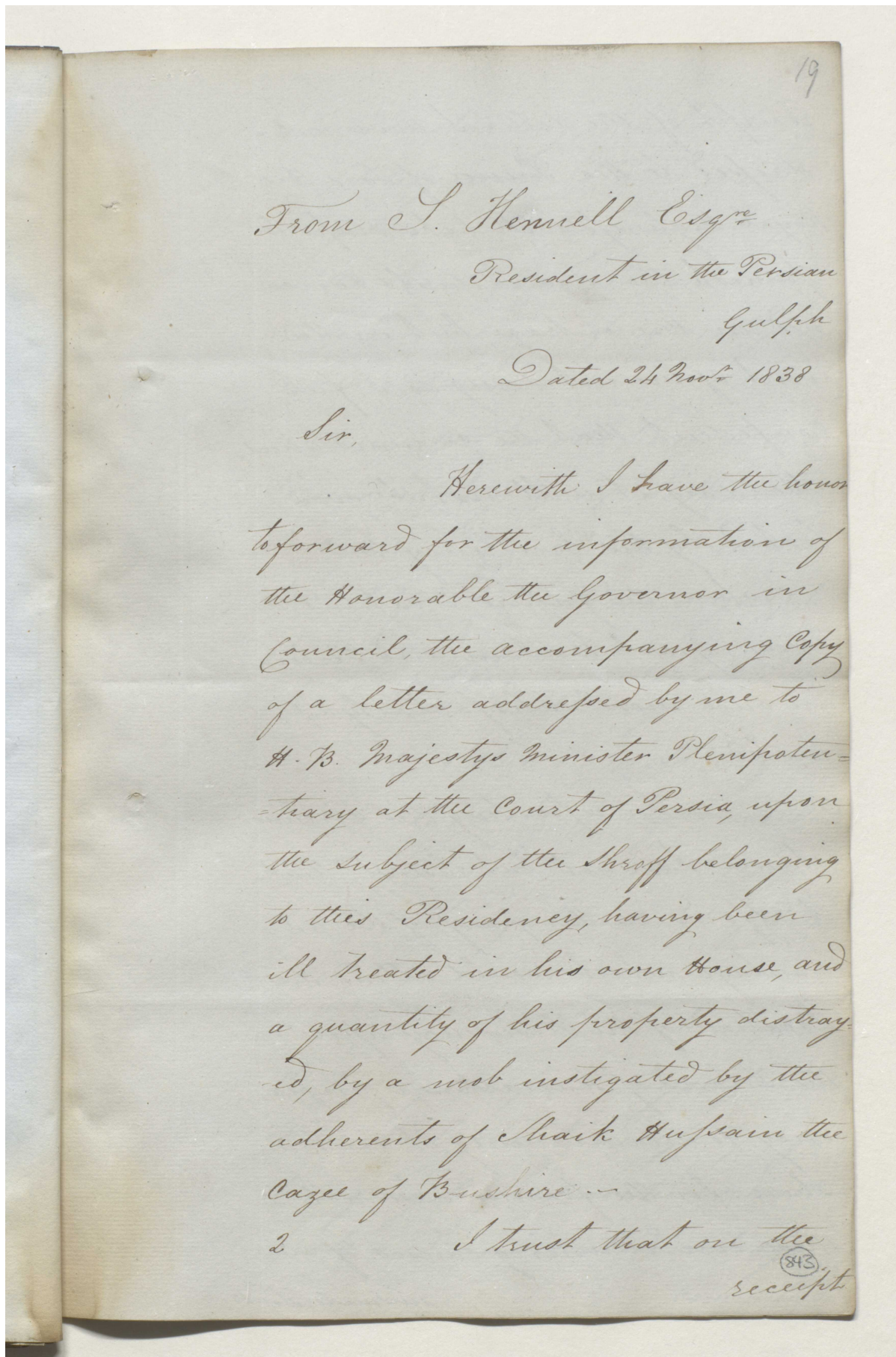
With reference to Mr Mac-
Kenzie's letter of the 29th March
last, reporting an act of personal
violence said to have been commit-
ted on the Residency Shroff, by a
man

'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [842r] (21/34)



**'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [842v] (22/34)**





receipt of the letter I have ad-
- dressed to the Prince of Lars, His
Royal Highness will take steps to
furnish the individuals concer-
- ned in this outrage, but in the
event of his not doing so I feel
confident, that the circumstances
attending it will not be over-
- looked by His Excellency Mr.
when the future relations be-
- tween Great Britain and Persian
are once more satisfactorily ad-
- justed.

3 In reporting this circum-
- stance, I cannot but observe, that
it affords another proof of the ad-
- vantage which would attend the
location of the Residency upon
the Island of Karrack, in prefer-
- ence to maintaining it in Bu-
- shire. In the former case, all
these ever recurring causes of
misunderstands.

21

misunderstanding, would be
completely removed, and we should
altogether avoid being mixed up
in the local quarrels and distur-
bances which so frequently occur
in this Town.

Residency in the Persian Gulf } I have the honor to be &c
Bushire 24th } Signed S. Hennell
November 1838 } Resident in the
Persian Gulf

To

His Excellency
John Murrell Esq^r
H. B. M. Envoy Extraordinary
and Minister Plenipotentiary
at the Court of Persia.

Sir,

It is with much regret
that I again find myself under
the unpleasant necessity of
bringing to your notice, another
gross and unprovoked outrage
committed

committed at the instigation
of Sheik Hussein the Lazee of
this Town, upon the person and
property of the Shroff belonging
to the British Residency. -

2^d In consequence of
a dispute between the merchants
of Bushire, and Mirza Abbas the
Governor, (regarding the settle-
ment of certain duties which
they alleged had already been
paid to Sheik Nasir while in
power) the Bazaars were closed
on the morning of the 17th &
Instant, Mirza Abbas sent
his Farrashes to compel &
the inhabitants to open their
shops. upon this Sheik Hussein
directed them to refuse compli-
-ance and to assemble in arms
round his house upon the fire.

-tence

23

-tence of one of the Mirzas Farrashes be-
 -ing intoxicated, an order was given
 by the Sheik, that all the wine found
 under the roofs of the Jews should
 be destroyed. upon this, the rabble
 led by the Cazei's slaves, and a "
 certain suedally (whose name as
 being concerned in a former out-
 -rage has already been brought "
 to your Excellency's notice) pro-
 -ceeded to the Jews Mahallah, and
 having among others, forcibly ef-
 -fected an entrance into the "
 house of the Residency Shroff they
 destroyed wine and spirits pack-
 -ed for exportation, to the value
 of 40 or 50 Tomans, and at the
 same time so beat and ill treat-
 -ed the owner himself, as to com-
 -pel him to take refuge in the
 Residency under fear of his life
 upon the occurrence of this outrage

I sent my Meerza to the Governor
to know what steps he intended
to take in consequence. His reply
was to the effect, that the turbulent
rabble of the Town, instigated by
the Caze and the Merchants, had
not only wholly thrown off his
authority, but were endeavour-
ing to expel him from the place.
He further entreated, that I
would make an early repre-
sentation to the Prince of Shiraz
(who was then at Caseroon) of
the real state of affairs here.

2
3^d Adverting to the
gratifying prospect of a satis-
factory adjustment of our
relations with Persia, and the
hope expressed by your Excellency
in your private letter of the
9th October, that I had been
permitted

25

permitted to persevere in the course
adopted to avoid all hostile col-
-lision with the Persians, I felt
unwilling notwithstanding &
the ample means now at my
disposal, to take upon myself
the punishment of the authors
of this unprovoked aggression &
upon a Dependent of the & o
British Residency I have how-
-ever laid the circumstances of
the affair before the Prince of & o
Shiraz, with an intimation
of my earnest expectation that
full redress will be afforded. I
-confess however that I have but
little hope of any thing satisfac-
-tory being done by His Royal & o
Highness, and I therefore trust that
it may consist with your Excel-
-lency's views, to demand the & o
removal (846)

removal of Sheik Hussain, Sheik
Sulman and their Dependents
from Bushire, and the punish-
ment both in person and " "
property of the individuals who
rendered themselves conspicuous
on this occasion I venture to
think that some such serious
notice should be taken of
the outrage now reporting, as
I fear that both our character
and influence will be lowered
in this Quarter if these repeated
insults on the part of the Lazes
be allowed to pass without the
exaction of ample and fitting
satisfaction. -

4 " In doing myself
the honor to intimate to
your Excellency that I shall
take an early opportunity of
informing

27

informing you what steps, if any
are taken by His Royal Highness
the Prince of Fars consequent
upon my representation...
Residency in } I have the honor to be
the Persian Gulf } Signed S. Hennell
Bushire 25th } Resident &c
November 1838 }

True Copy/
Signed S. Hennell
Resident in the Persian
Gulph

From J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Secretary to Government

To
The Secretary in Attendance
in the Right Honorable the
Governor General of India

Sir,

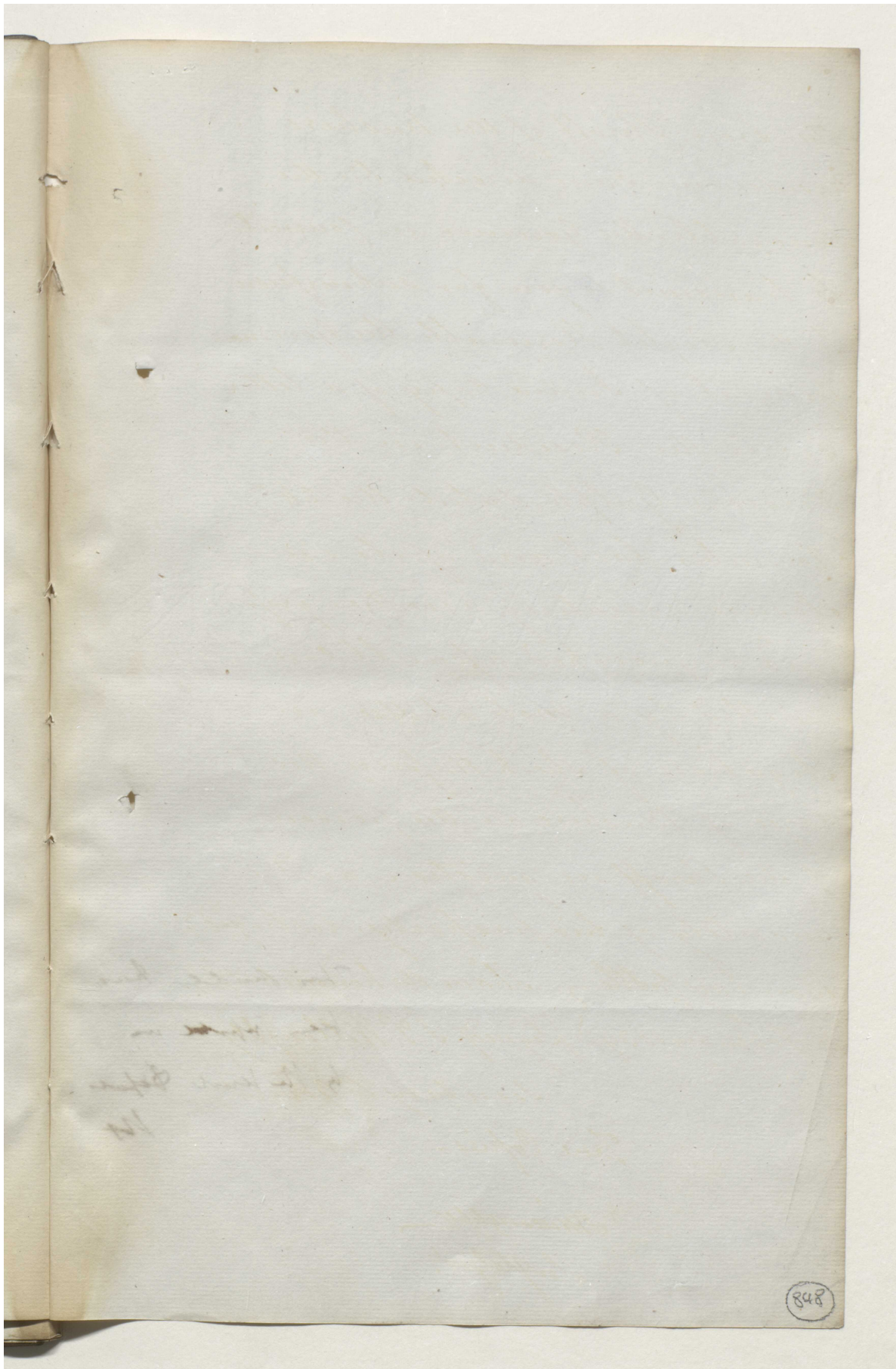
With reference to former
correspondence on the subject of
the maltreatment experienced by
the (847)

the Iron Shroff of the Bushire
Residency - I am directed by the
Honorable the Governor in Council
to transmit to you for submission
to the Right Honorable the Governor
General of India Copy of a letter
from the Resident in the
Persian Gulph dated the 24th
November last and of its en-
closure regarding another gross
and unprovoked assault com-
mitted by a Mob at the in-
stigation of Sheikh Hussein the
Cazie of Bushire on the person
of the Shroff in question and a
quantity of his property destroyed.
Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be &c
16 February 1839 } Signed J. P. Willoughby
Secretary to Government.

True Copies -

J. P. Willoughby
Secy to Govt.

'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [848r] (33/34)



'Persian Gulf. Assaults committed on the Shroff of the Bushire Residency. Vol:
7' [848v] (34/34)

