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Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto, Governor-General of Bengal

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/67/123
Date(s)	24 Apr 1809 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
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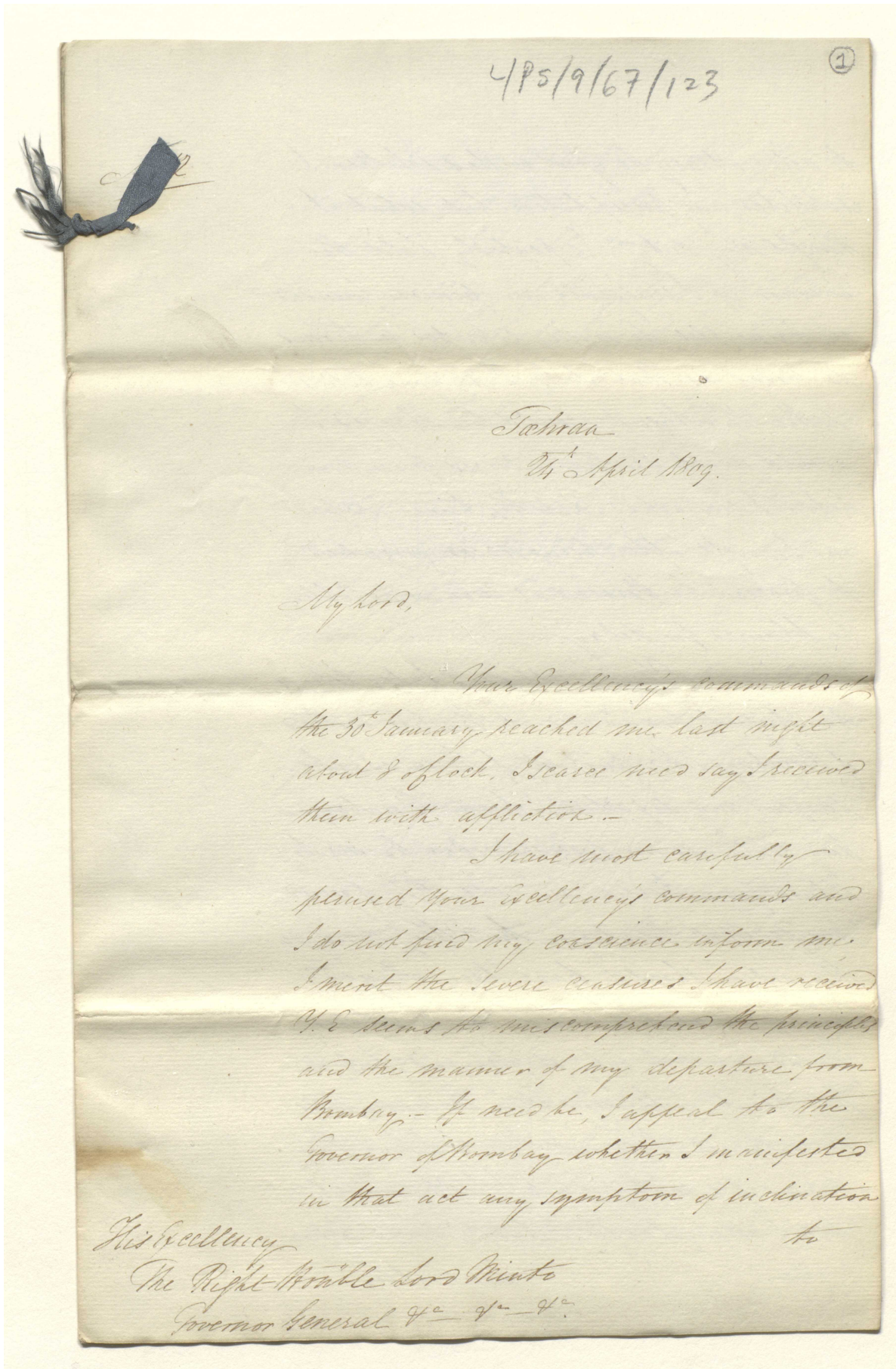


About this record

A copy of a letter from to Sir Harford Jones, British Envoy Extraordinary to Persia [Iran], to Lord Minto, Governor-General of Bengal, sent from Tehran and dated 24 April 1809. Jones responds to Minto's censure of his conduct in his letter dated 30 January, and reports his plans to leave Persia.

The letter was enclosed in Jones's letter No. 8 to Sir Robert Dundas, President of the Board of Control, dated 1809.

Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [1r] (1/8)



Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [1v] (2/8)

to act contrary to your wishes whether I
exhibited any precipitation but what I
thought my duty. I repeatedly told the
Governor if I imagined an opinion founded
on principles so sound, expressed in terms
so strong as that of G. E. in your letter
of the 15th August, could be changed I
would wait further advice from you
before I embarked, but the time pressed,
and I might after being recommended
to proceed to Persia as soon as possible,
be blamed for delay.

Your Excellency's later letters
in August found me at Bushire instead
of Bombay - the purport of them was to
suspend my departure from Bombay -
they contained no precise order to me to
return from Persia, in case they found
me in that Country. - Had they done so
the order should have been obeyed -
Your Excellency's letter of the 3rd October
found me not only at Schyras, but on
the point of leaving it - The commands
it contained, I do not think I had the
power of executing, but I beg to repeat
had I attempted it, I should have been
answerable.

Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [2r] (3/8)

②

unwilling to my country for the loss of an
opportunity of destroying the French influence
in Persia - I humbly conceive my letter
to your Excellency of the 7th Sept, mentioning
the day on which I purposed leaving
Bombay, reached your Excellency's hands
about the 25th following - after the receipt
of that letter it would have been
fortunate for me had your Excellency
previously to the 31st October (a lapse
of 36 days) sent me specific orders to
retire from Persia. -

Your Excellency attributes to
me thoughts and sentiments which the
great Searcher of all hearts, knows I
never entertained, and I cannot but
perceive your Excellency's ear (which I
must think hard) has been open to
private Reports, and those incorrect
ones from Persia. -

If I have ever understood
the objects of England in Persia - one of
them was the expulsion of the French -
it has been done and in such manner
as I venture yet to believe your Excellency
will think creditable to us - a second
was

Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [2v] (4/8)

was Peace - it has been maintained - another
of them was alliance - this has been
effected - and if (as God knows I may
have done) I have committed any errors
or blunders in the terms of it, they may
be rectified in the definitive Treaty.

Comparing the situation in
which I stood at the moment of receiving
your Excellency's Commands with that in
which G. E. conceived me to stand, my
humble opinion was I should be more
culpable towards my country in obeying
than disobeying your orders - and so not
wish to conceal that if G. E. had not
taken from me every means of continuing
my services here with effect, I should
have taken the responsibility of with-
holding from this Government the
communication of the Instructions I
received.

However I have now to
inform Your Excellency that I lost no time
yesterday in verbally communicating to
the Persian Ministry, the orders I have
received from you instantly to suspend
the

Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [3r] (5/8)

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the functions of British Minister at this Court and to leave Persia - Today I deliver to them an official note on the same subject accompanied by such extracts of G. E. Letter to me as seem most likely to effect my dismissal. -

To give greater effect to this note, and unequivocally to prove to the Persians, the authority of G. E., I have informed the Ministry there is a letter from G. E. to the King in the hands of Doctor Suket; and I now direct Doctor Suket to send that letter to Mirza Shefqa without delay.

Your Excellency must be aware, I cannot move hence without the King's permission, and the assistance of the Government - the moment I receive them I will commence my journey towards England, by way of Rogerum and Constantinople; but if in consequence of what has happened the French and their influence are reestablished in Persia, I hope I shall be held free of blame -

I have the honor to enclose for your Excellency's information the
copy

Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [3v] (6/8)

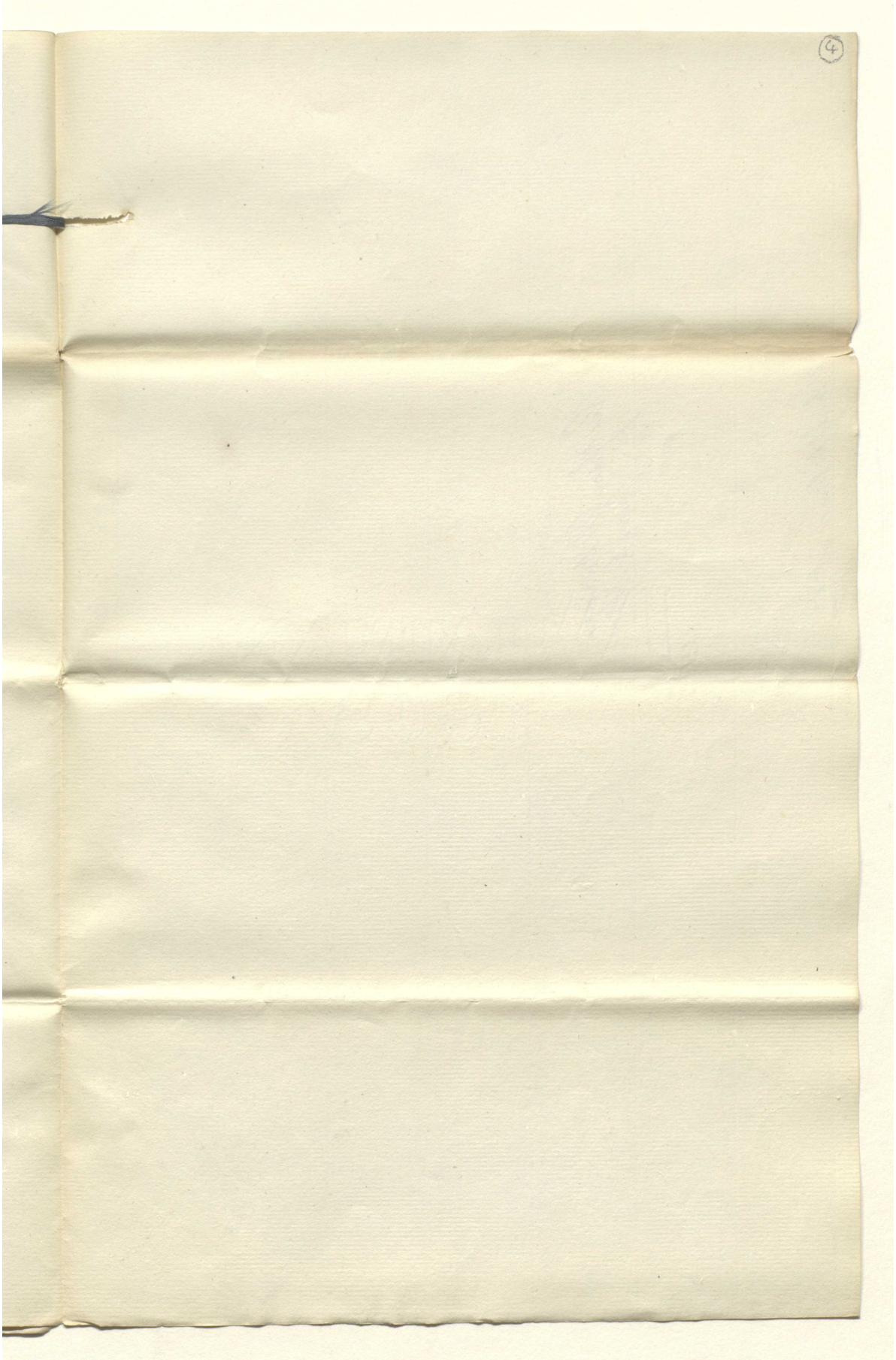
copy of a note and some Papers received
from A. E. Meerza Shepfa since the date
of my last Letter No. 11, and I take this
opportunity solemnly to repeat before
God and Man that I never designed to
treat M. E. and the Indian Government
with disrespect nor to offend you or
them.

I now most respectfully
take my leave, by assuring Your Excellency
I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient
humble servant.

Sign Harford Jones

a True copy
Sign - Harford Jones

Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [4r] (7/8)



Copy of a Letter from Sir Harford Jones, Envoy to Persia, to Lord Minto,
Governor-General of Bengal [4v] (8/8)

