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‘Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.’

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About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, minutes, and consultations cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay. These political letters appear in IOR/F/4/2174/105546. It is the second in a series of forty-five items on the Persian Gulf. The main correspondents are the Government of Bombay and Major Samuel Hennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf.

The item concerns the capture by Shaik Abdoolah bin Ahmed [Shaikh ‘Abdullāh bin Aḥmad Āl Khalīfah], the former Ruler of Bahrein [Bahrain], of a ship belonging to a merchant from Bahrein, and his subsequent arrival in Koweit [Kuwait], where he has been given asylum by the Ruler, Shaik Jabir ul Subah [Shaikh Jābir I bin ‘Abdullāh Āl Šabāh]. Hennell is concerned about the implications of this for Shaik Abdoolah’s dispute with Shaik Mahomed bin Khaleefa [Shaikh Muḥammad bin Khalīfah Āl Khalīfah], the current ruler of Bahrein, and seeks to intervene to manage the situation. The item includes translations of letters from Hennell to Shaik Jabir, Shaik Abdoolah, and Shaik Mahomed, as well as translations of replies from Shaik Jabir and Shaik Abdoolah.

The item contains a table of contents (f 277), and the title page (f 276) contains the following references: ‘P C [Previous Communication] 5507, Coll. 7, Vol. 2’, ‘D/t 197/47’, ‘Collection No. 1 of No. 20’ and ‘Examiner’s Office’.

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [276r]
(1/24)

Coll. ^{PB5307} 105547
Vol. 2

Dt 197/47
Collection N^o 1 of N^o 20

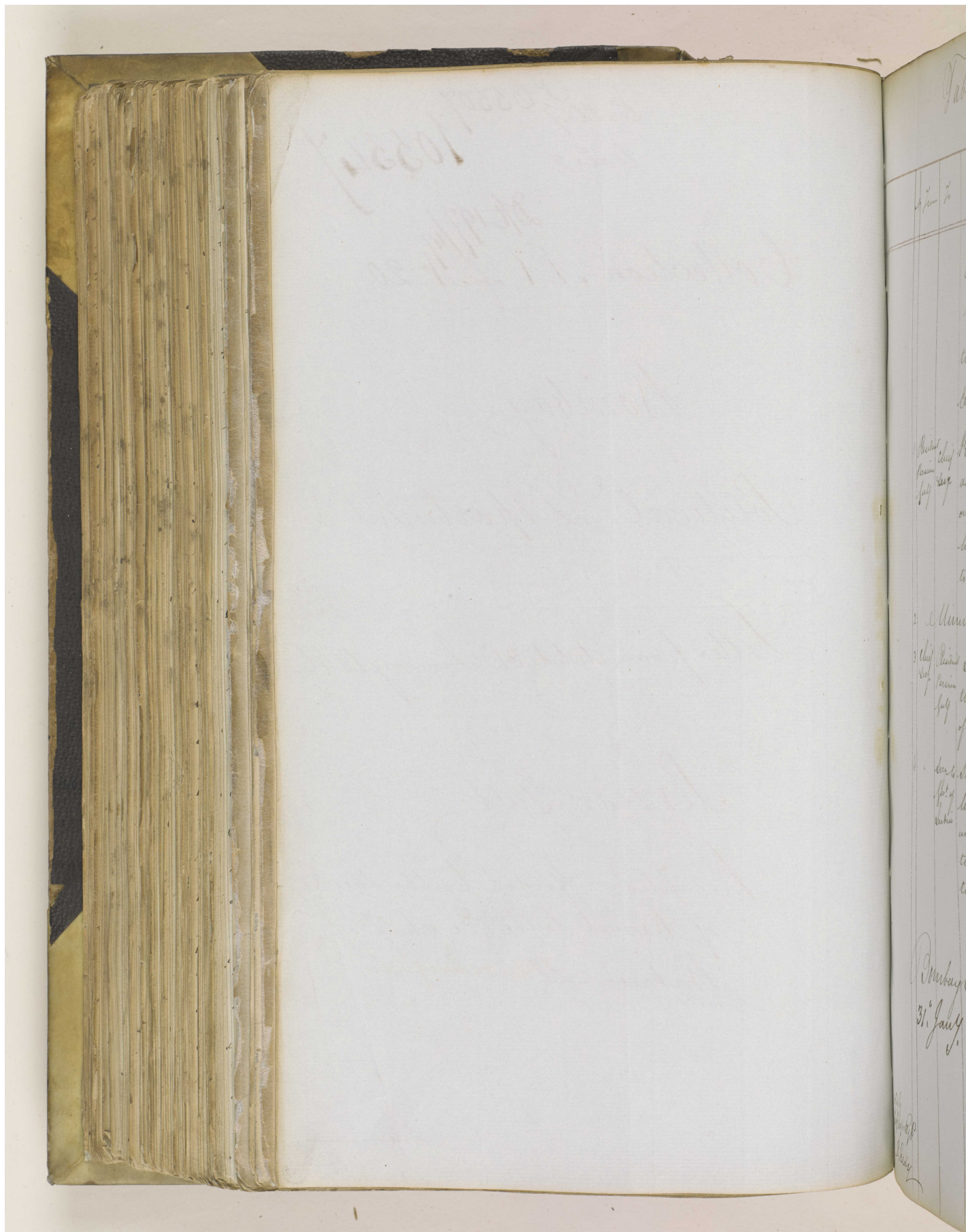
Bombay
Political Department

Letter from, dated 31st January 1846.

Persian Gulf
Reception afforded by the Sheikh
of Koweit to the Ex-chief of
Bahrein.

Examiner's
Office (276)

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [276v]
(2/24)



'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [277r]
(3/24)

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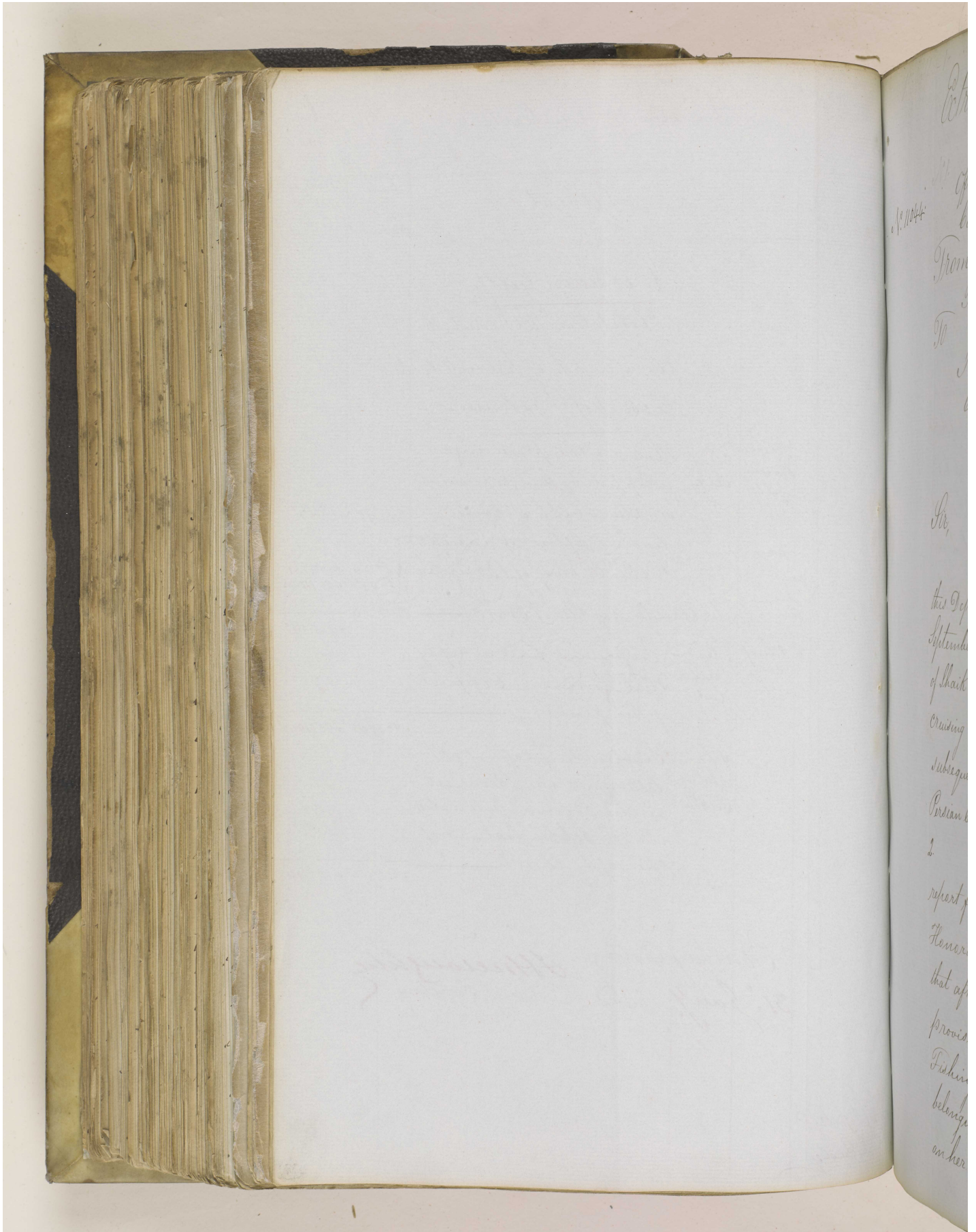
No.	From	To	Subject	Date & No. of Document	Date and No. of Cont.
			<u>Persian Gulf</u> Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein -		
1	President Persian Gulf	Chief Secy	Reports the proceedings - adopted by him, consequent on the Sheikh of Koweit, " having afforded a reception to the Ex-chief of Bahrein -	1845 Oct. 20. No. 435	1845 Dec. 31 No. 11044
2			Minute by the Board -	Dec. 16.	" No. 11045
3	Chief Secy	President Persian Gulf	Informing him in reply, that Government approves of his proceedings -	" 27. No. 5715	" No. 11046
4	"	Secy Govt of India	Submitting copy of the letter from the President in the Persian Gulf dated the 20 th October last and of the reply thereto -	No. 5716	" No. 11047

Bombay Castle
31st Jan'y. 1845

W. H. P. M. S. S.
Chief Secretary

copy by
M. H. P. M. S. S.
E. R. Eady

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [277v]
(4/24)



Extract Bombay Political
Consultation 31st December 1845
Office N^o 435 of 1845
Cons. N^o 555 of 1845
From Major Hemmell
Resident in the Persian Gulf
To
J. P. Willoughby Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Bombay
Dated 20th October 1845

Sir,

In my despatch N^o 99 in
this Department, under date the 1st
September last, I reported the proceedings
of Shaik Abdullah bin Ahmed, while
cruising in the neighbourhood of Bahrein
subsequently to his departure from the
Persian coast.

2. I have now the honor to
report for the information of the
Honorable the Governors in Council,
that after taking some men, stores, and
provisions, from several Bahrain
Fishing Boats, and capturing a Ghooncha
belonging to a Merchant of that Island
on her way from Bushire, the Ex-chief
sought

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sought an asylum at Koweit. It is correctly believed, that previously to his taking this step, he ran over to the Persian Coast, and landed near Tehre, such portions of his Drows, as were natives of that Country.
3^d On the receipt of information that Shaikh Abdoolah was actually in Koweit, I considered it advisable that I should be made aware of the nature of the footing upon which the Chief of that place had permitted him to take up his Residence within his Territories. Accordingly on the 7th Instant addressed the letters to Shaikh Jabir and the Ex Chief, of which the accompanying are translations, and despatched them to Koweit by the Honorable Company's Schooner "Constance". My object in addressing the latter, was to take advantage of his late proceedings, to put an effectual bar to his return to the Persian Coast.
4th On the 17th Instant the "Constance" returned to Bushire, bringing replies to both of the Communications, above referred to, and of which I do myself the honor to forward translations for the information of the Honorable the

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [279r]
(7/24)

3
the Governor in Council. The answer
of the Koweit Chief is sufficiently
explicit upon the main point of restrain-
ing Shaikh Abdoolah from aggressions
upon the Trade and Subjects of Bahrein
while residing at Koweit. The allusion
made in the latter part of his letter to
grounds of complaint against the present
rulers of Bahrein, is less intelligible. My
own impression is that it is merely meant
as an excuse for having received Sheikh
Abdoolah, without intending the exhibi-
tion of enmity against the rivals of his
guest.

5th The reply of the Ex Chief is
of a more evasive Character: but as he
reiterates his promise not to return
to reside on the Persian Coast, one prin-
cipal object will be gained:-

6th How Shaikh Mahomed bin
Ishakeefa and his dependants may
be disposed to view the reception given
to their Enemy by the Shaikh of Koweit
is somewhat uncertain. It is so clearly
not their interest to come to an open
rupture with that powerful Chief, that
I am not without hopes they may
allow matters to remain in statu
quo (27)

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [279v]
(8/24)

quo This desirable end would almost, certainly be attained, if Shaikh Jabir insists, as his letter states he intends doing, upon the Ex Chief giving up the Captured - Ghencha and her Cargo, but rather than consent to this, my belief is, that Shaikh Abdoolah would prefer leaving Koweit. Taking all the circumstances, connected with the position of both parties into consideration, it has appeared to me that after the losses inflicted upon Bahrein by the Ex Chief, the present rulers of that Island are quite justified in the adoption of any measures, however stringent, which may hold out a prospect of putting an end to these aggressions on the part of their Enemy. I have accordingly addressed a letter to them in which I have intimated that the British Government will offer no opposition to their prosecuting hostilities against Shaikh Abdoolah, at the same time referring to the pacific disposition manifested towards them by the Shaikh of Koweit, I have suggested the prudence of their allowing the Ex Chief to remain quietly there, as long as he is restrained by his Host from carrying on aggressions against his former Island and Subjects. I have the honor

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [280r]
(9/24)

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honor to enclose a Copy of the communication
above referred to, for the information of the
Honorable the Governor in Council and to be
Sir

Your most Obedient Servant.

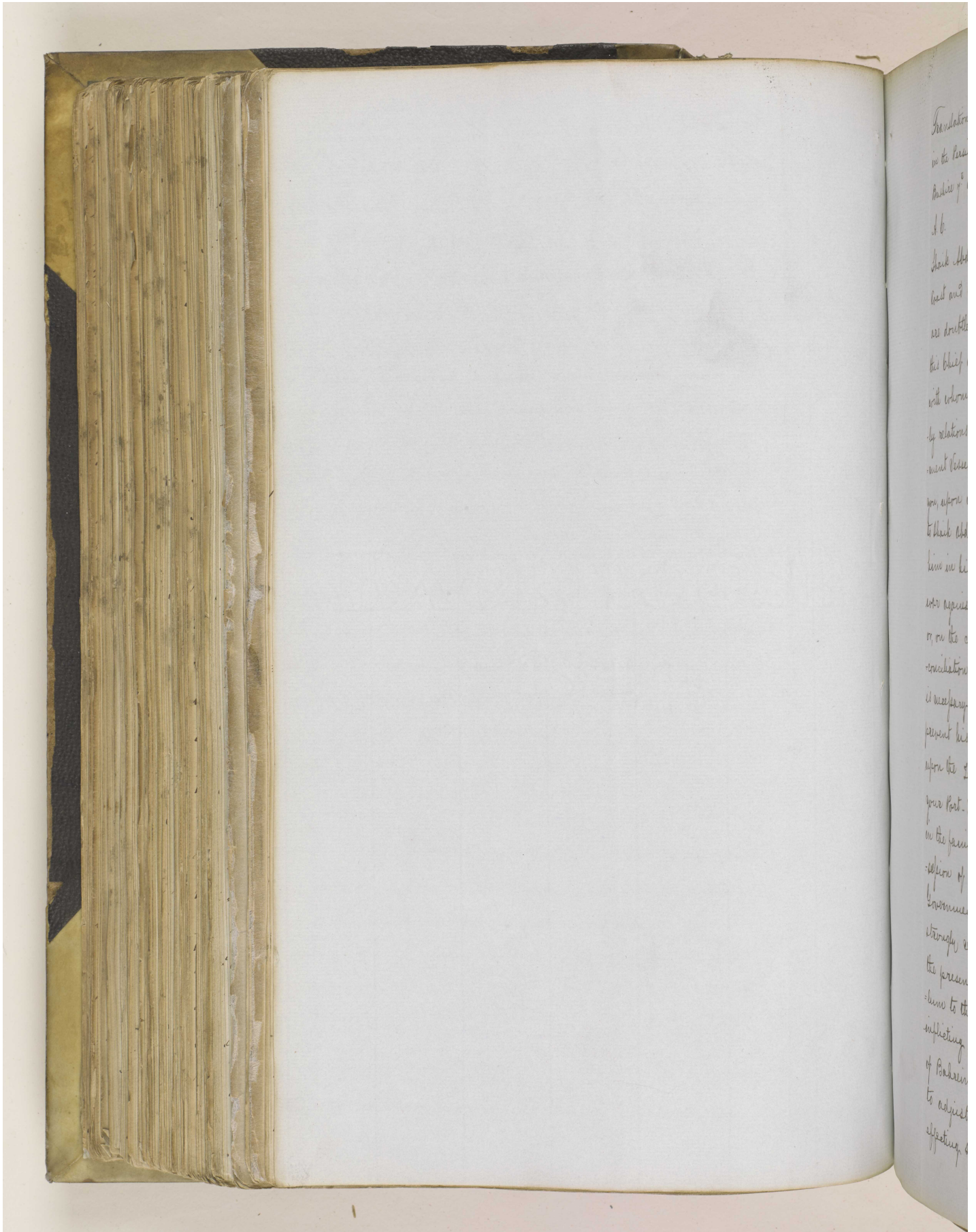
Residency in the Persian Gulf
Bushire 20th October 1845.

Signed S. Hennell
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Copy Remains

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'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [280v]
(10/24)



'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [281r]
(11/24)

Translation of a letter from Major Kennell, Resident
in the Persian Gulf to Shaik Jaber of Koweit, dated -
Bushire 7th October 1845.

A. G. I have lately received intelligence that
Shaik Abdoolah bin Ahmed has left the Persian
Coast and taken up his residence at Koweit, you
are doubtless aware of the Enmity existing between
this Chief and Shaik Mahomed bin Khalifa, -
with whom you have hitherto maintained friend-
ly relations. I have therefore despatched a Govern-
ment Vessel for the purpose of ascertaining from
you, upon what terms you have given an asylum
to Shaik Abdoolah: whether you intend to support
him in his quarrel with Bahrein, by declaring
war against the present rulers of that Island;
or, on the contrary, exert yourself to effect a re-
conciliation between them. In the latter case, it
is necessary that you should pledge yourself to
prevent his committing any further aggressions
upon the Trade of Bahrein, while residing at
your Port. The neutrality hitherto observed by you
in the family disputes connected with the pos-
session of that Island, has afforded the British
Government great satisfaction, I would therefore
strongly recommend you not to interfere in
the present occasion beyond affording an asy-
lum to the Ex-Chief so long as he refrains from
inflicting injury upon the Vessels and Trade
of Bahrein, and using your best endeavours
to adjust his quarrel with his relations. In
effecting so desirable an arrangement, it ap-
-pears

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [281v]
(12/24)

appears to me, that the restitution of the Ghoo-
cha seized by the Ex-chief (having Persian pro-
perty on board and said to be drawn up at
Koweit) would afford an excellent occasion for
opening negotiations.-

(True Translation)
(Signed) J. Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf

(True Copy)
(Signed) A. B. Kennell,
Assist. Resident, Persian Gulf

Translation of a letter from Major Hennell,
Resident in the Persian Gulf to Shaik Abdvallah
bin Ahmed, dated 7th October 1845.-

A. B. I have lately received intelli-
gence, that after having captured several ves-
sels belonging to Bahrein you have proceeded
to Koweit, and taken up your residence there.
I have accordingly considered it necessary to
despatch a Government Vessel, in order to in-
timate to you, that if, after this you return
to the Persian Coast, you will be considered to
have forfeited your pledge. In this case the
immediate restitution of all that you ^{have} seized
will be required at your hands, and you will
moreover incur the risk of being treated as
an enemy of the British Government, if found
at sea in armed vessels. You will therefore
now see the imperative necessity of your
remaining on the Arabie side of the restric-
tive line, while you are at war with Bahrein;
and

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [282r]
(13/24)

9
and if after this warning, you transgress the
limit in question, you will have yourself alone
to blame for the consequences.-

(True Translation)

(Signed) J. Hennell,

Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(True copy)

(Signed) A. B. Kennhall,

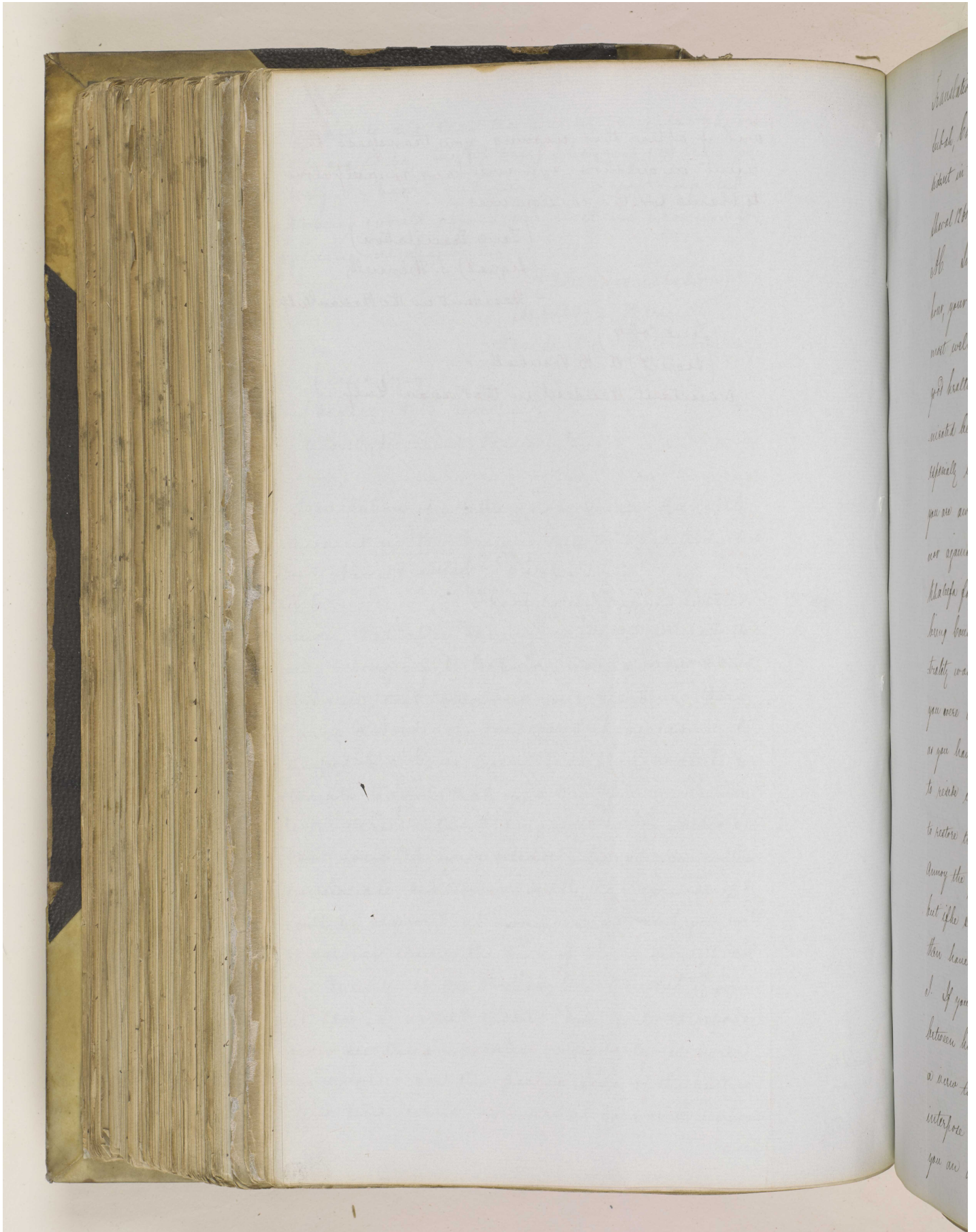
Assistant Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Copied by
Hardiner

Ed. J. M. L.

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'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [282v]
(14/24)



'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [283r]
(15/24)

Translation of a letter from Sheikh Jaber ul
Subah, Chief of Koweit, to Major Fennell, Re-
sident in the Persian Gulf, dated 13th for 12th
Shawal 1261 or 15th October, 1845. —

AL. In a fortunate time and auspicious
hour, your honored letter reached me, and was
most welcome, since it informed me of your
good health and welfare; all that you commu-
nicated became known to your humble friend,
especially with reference to Sheikh Abdoolah,
you are aware that I of old interfered neither for
nor against him, and so also neither for the
Khalifa family nor against them, he and they
being cousins; but the motive for my neu-
trality was to give you satisfaction, that as
you were in this matter, so should I be. according
as you have intimated to me, if he desire
to reside with me, it is requisite for him
to restore the Jhoansha and her cargo and not
annoy the people of Bahrein and their territory,
but if he settle in another country not mine
then have you more power over him than
I. If you meditate, as you wrote interposing
between him and the sons of his brother with
a view to reconciliation, then should I aid you
interpose to that end. He has himself written
you an answer, Please God, you will make
yourself

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Kewit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [283v]
(16/24)

yourself acquainted with it; but I must re-
proach you in the same manner that you
have reproached me, that, in the past year, a
quantity of property was plundered from me,
and my men injured and wounded, I reported
this to you, and you did not leave me at liberty
(to adopt my own measures) in the case,
nor redress me. In elucidation of the facts I have
written this friendly letter. Continue your corres-
pondence &c.

True Translation

/Signed/ A. B. Kimball

assist. Resident, Persian Gulf

True Copy

/Signed/ A. B. Kimball

Assistant Resident in the Persian Gulf

Translation of a letter from Sheikh Abdullah
ben Ahmed, Ex. Chief of Bahrein Kowait dated 12th
Shawal 1261 or 15th October 1845.

A. B. Your letter dated 11th Shawal / 14th October /
has reached, I have learnt its contents, which have
been understood by your friends, I beg to inform
you, that when I received your former letter by
my man Abdul Rahman I perceived your
mind that it did not approve of my settlement
on the Persian shores, and that on the
Arabian

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Keweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [284r]
(17/24)

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arabian Coast I was at liberty to reside, and
within the limits prescribed, as pointed out to
me by you. I conformed to whatever you com-
manded, and no irregularity will, Please God,
arise itself, on my part opposed to your Com-
mands; and, Please God, I shall not return to
reside in Persian Territory, and I, please God, am
in (true to) the understanding between me
and you which will not, Please God, be sub-
verted, neither in the beginning nor in the
end.

True translation

Signed A. B. Kemball
Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf.

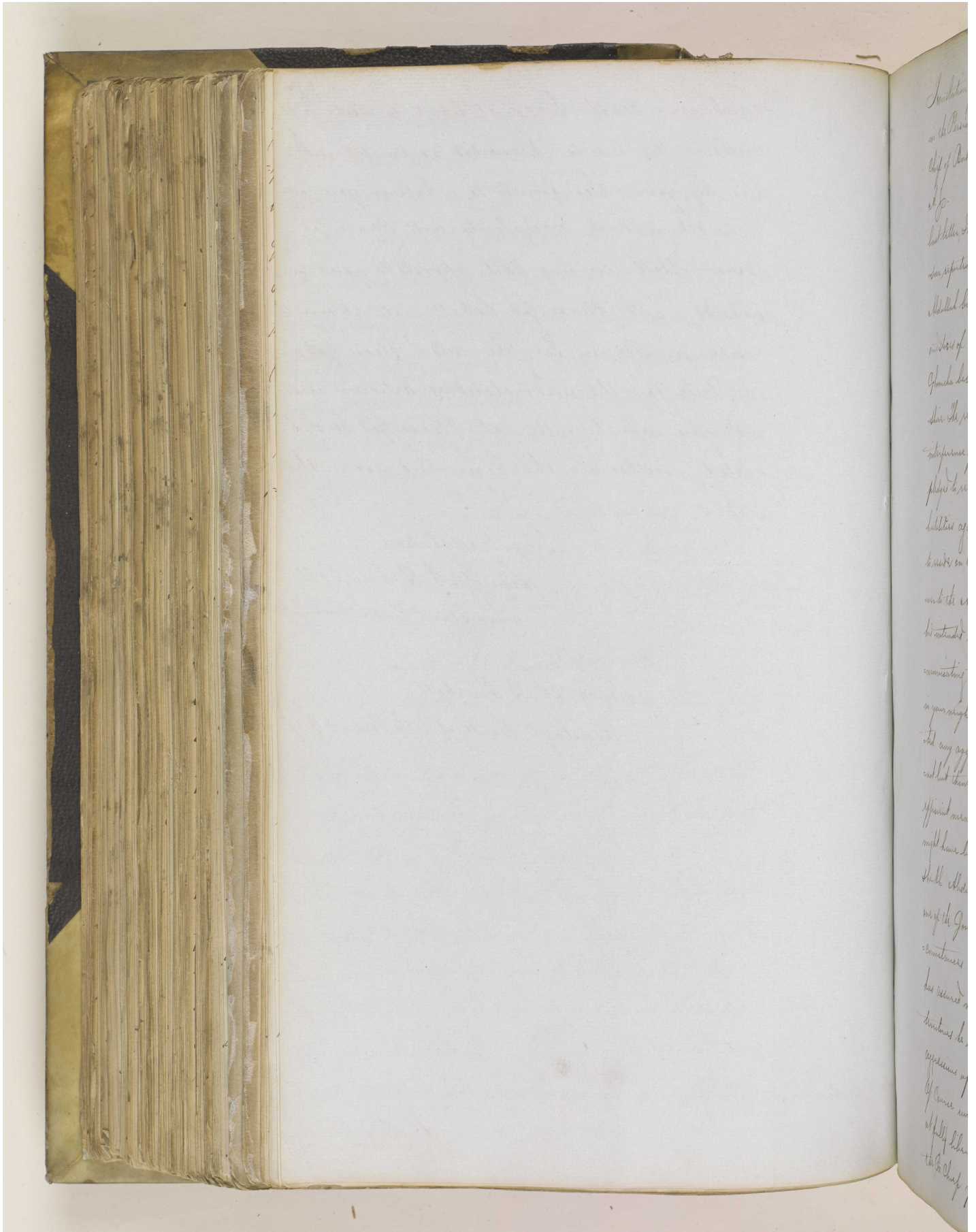
(True copy)

Signed A. B. Kemball.
Assistant Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Signed by M. Perera
Compared
E. Miller

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'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [284v]
(18/24)



'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Kewit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [285r]
(19/24)

15
Translation of a letter from Major Kennell Resident
in the Persian Gulf to Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa,
Chief of Bahrein, dated 20th October 1845.
A. J. Agreeably to my promise to you in my
last letter, I have made enquiries into the cases of aggress-
sion reported by you as having been committed by Sheikh
Abdullah bin Ahmed in forcibly taking the provisions
and stores of certain Fishing Boats, and capturing a
Ghoocha belonging to Bahrein on her way from Bu-
shier. The result is that there are no grounds for the
interference of the British Government which was only
pledged to restrain the Ex-Chief from prosecuting
hostilities against Bahrein, so long as he continued
to reside on the Persian Coast. Before proceeding
over to the Arabian shores he gave me due notice of
his intended movement, which, I bet no time in com-
municating to you. You were fully aware of his being
in your neighbourhood for some time before he commit-
ted any aggressions upon your people, and I can-
not but think, that had you taken prompt and
efficient measures, the losses complained of by you
might have been prevented. So soon as I heard that
Sheikh Abdullah had gone to Kewit - I sent over
one of the Government Vessels to enquire into the cir-
cumstances. In reply to my letter Sheikh Dalir
has assured me that as long as he resides in his
territories he will not permit him to commit any
aggressions upon the Trade or subjects of Bahrein.
Of course under present circumstances you are
at fully liberty to take any measures against
the Ex-Chief you may consider necessary for your own
protection.

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Kewit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [285v]
(20/24)

protection, or to prevent a repetition of his late proceed-
ings. You are aware that so long as hostilities are
confined to the Arabian side of the restrictive line
the British Government will not interfere. Consider-
ing however the promise of Sheikh Isah that Sheikh
Abdullah shall not injure your Commerce and pro-
ple, while he remains in Kuwait; it appears to me
you would best consult your own interests by allow-
ing him to remain quietly there. Of this however
you must be the best judge. - Sheikh Isah is
friendly inclined towards both parties, and is well
disposed to afford his good offices in bringing about
a settlement of the quarrel between you and
your Grand Uncle Sheikh Abdullah. I now send
over a Government vessel to learn your views upon
this point, and if you are inclined to a peaceful
termination of your dispute, and will let me know
upon what terms you will consent to such an ar-
rangement. I shall be happy to become the medi-
um of communication. Although of course, as
I have already informed you, I cannot guaran-
tee the conditions on the part of the British
Government which as far as possible abstains
from interfering in the local quarrels of the
Arabian Chiefs -

True translation,

Signed S. Kemball

Resident in the Persian Gulf

True Copy,

Signed A. B. Kemball

Assistant, Resident in the Persian Gulf

Signed by Charles
Crestbrook
Stewart & Pears

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [286r]
(21/24)

N^o 11045. N^o 11045 of 1845.
Minute by the Honorable the Governor
concurred in by the Honorable Board dated the
10th December 1845.

The proceedings of the Resident
may I think be approved.

Copy to be sent to the Right
Honorable the Governor General and Honorable
Court of Directors.

Signed/ G. Arthur
" J. McMahon.
" J. H. Crawford.
" L. R. Field.
10th December 1845.

N^o 11046. N^o 5715 of 1845.
From, The Chief Secretary to the Government of
Bombay.

To, Major L. Stennell.
Resident in the Persian Gulf.
Political Department.
Dated 27th December 1845.

I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter dated the 20th October last
N^o 435, and to inform you the Honorable the
Governor in Council approves of the proceedings
adopted by you consequent on the Sketch of
Koweit having afforded a reception to the Sheikh
Abdulla

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [286v]
(22/24)

Abdulla bin Ahmed the Ex-Chief of Bahrein.
I have the honor to be,
signed J. T. Mittonghby,
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle -
27th December 1845

N^o 91 of 1845.

From,
The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay. N^o 11047

To,
F. Currie Esquire
Secretary to the Government of India.
with the Governor General - Political Department
Dated the 27th December 1845.

Sir,

With reference to the 4th para.
of my letter dated the 13th October last N^o 26. 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
communication from the Resident in the Persian
Gulf dated the 20th idem N^o 435, reporting the
proceedings adopted by him, consequent on the
Sheikh of Koweit having afforded a reception to the Ex-Chief
of Bahrein, and to state for the information of
His Excellency that these proceedings have been
approved of by this Government.

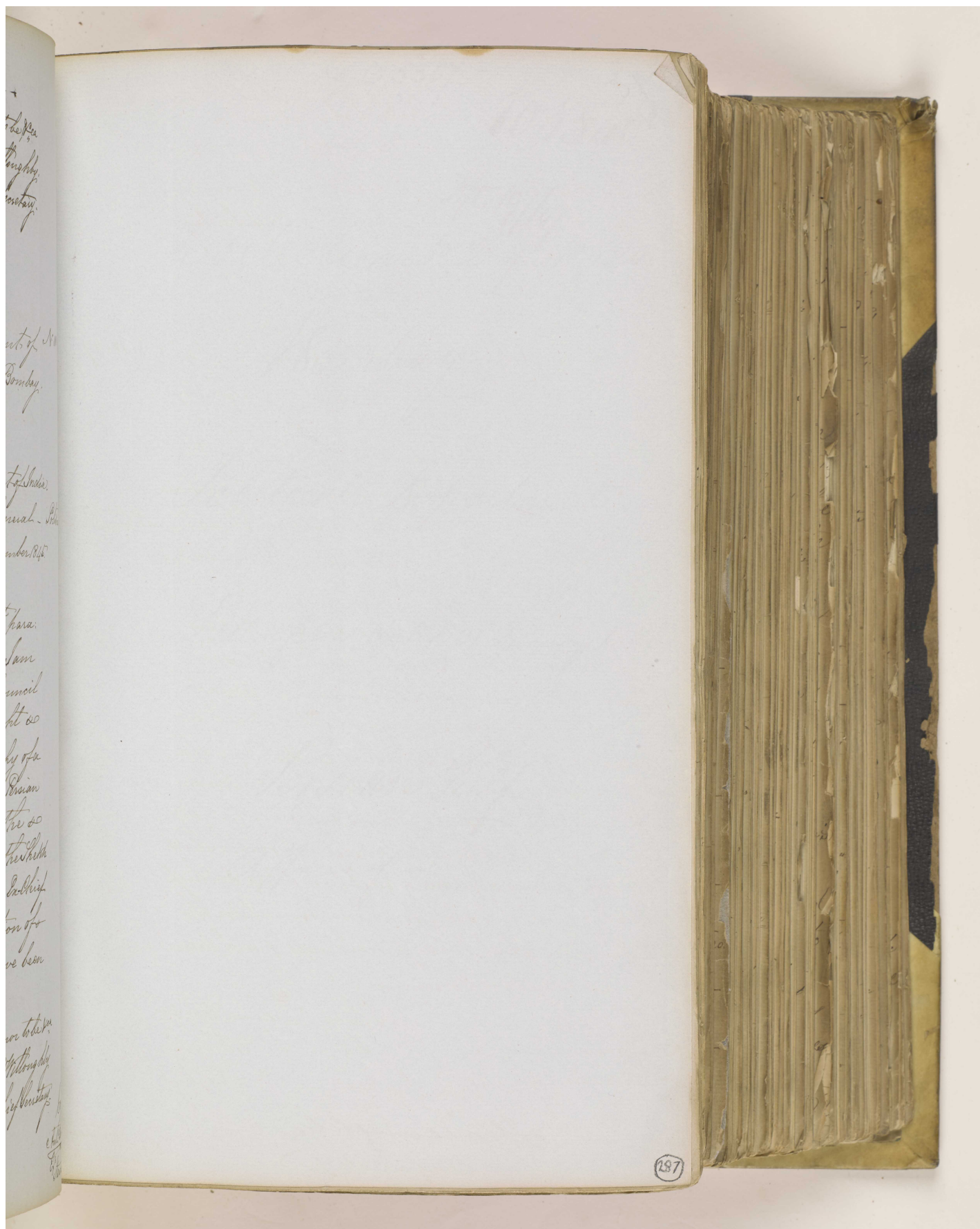
I have the honor to be,
signed J. T. Mittonghby,
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle -
27th December 1845

True Extract.
J. T. Mittonghby
Chief Secretary.

Copied by
J. T. Mittonghby
J. T. Mittonghby

'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [287r]
(23/24)



'Reception afforded by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Ex-chief of Bahrein.' [287v]
(24/24)

