

Received in Eng  
land, July 3, 1843.

No. 118.

*Meer Yar Mahomed Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

May 11, 1843.

MAY Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the possessor of pomp and grandeur, the selected of the world, the phoenix of the age, be preserved. Let it be known that we, the sincere friends, lived in the fort of Hyderabad, receiving 4,000 rupees from Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, whom we looked upon as our father. We were not concerned, in any way whatever, either in the political or revenue affairs of the country, but we always thought that, through the interference and assistance of the Government of the English Company Bahadoor, we might one day be raised from our humble station to a higher one. At the time when the dignified General Sir Charles Napier arrived at Hyderabad, and when the excitement took place among the Beloochees, and the union of the Sindians gave way, we, owing to our misfortune, remained in the cage of the fort of Hyderabad in a deposed state. Although our circumstances were well known to the said General Sahib, and other British officers, still arms of various kinds, which were given to us when we were seven or eight years old, by our father, the late Meer Moorad Ali Khan, were stolen, together with our other property. Believing that God does whatever he wills, we did not allow ourselves to be irritated and grieved at the severity of the age, and the hardships of the occurrences. Having resigned ourselves to the will of God, we submitted to all the oppression, observing the inconstancy of fortune, until the fort, together with the treasure, and other property, was taken possession of by the British. Having been seized after the other Ameers, we have been brought to Bombay. While we were in Hyderabad, there was no guard over us; and we do not know why we have been seized, and brought here from our native land. Thank God! we have arrived here under the shadow of the kindness of the dignified. We trust that, after making himself acquainted with our circumstances, the dignified will fix allowances for us, so that we may go to Sinde, our native country, and be ready in the service of the British Government. Our weddings, which were postponed on account of the war, are now to be performed, and we hope to procure the articles necessary for the occasion from the money of the British Government, and to live under the obligations of the kindness of the dignified. Let the days be propitious.

Dated 10th Rubissanee, 1259 (May 11, 1843).

(Sealed and signed by Meer Yar Mahomed Khan.)

No. 119.

*Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

May 13, 1843.

MAY Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the possessor of pomp and grandeur, the selected of the world, the phoenix of the age, be preserved. On the day on which this sincere friend was taken prisoner by the dignified Sir Charles Napier, Sahib Bahadoor, my servant, Akhoond Buchal, was also, without any fault, imprisoned in the fort of Hyderabad, in order that he might point out the treasure which was not under his charge. He is still in confinement. As the said Akhoond has from the first been appointed to attend at the door of my seraglio, it is requested that a letter may be written to the dignified General Sahib for his enlargement. I shall forward the letter through my servant, who is about to leave this, with the permission of the dignified, in order to inquire after the ladies. On his arrival there, he will, according to the orders of the dignified, procure the release of the said Akhoond, station him at the door of the seraglio, and having inquired after the

ies, will, under the kindness and orders of the dignified, return to this sin- Received in Eng-  
 are friend. Let the days be propitious. land, July 3, 1843  
 Dated 12th Rubissanee, 1259 (May 13, 1843).

## No. 120.

*Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

May 13, 1843.

MAY Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the possessor of pomp and grandeur, the selected of the world, the phoenix of the age, be preserved. When in 1254 (1838—1839) the dignified Lord General Sir John Keane, Sahib Bahadoor, was proceeding to Cabool, a large quantity of provision was, through the dignified Colonel Sir Alexander Burnes, purchased from this sincere friend in the vicinity of Subzulkote, at the bazaar rate. A great portion of the amount was paid to me at that time, and there remained a balance of 8,000 rupees, due to me. As I could not for some time find the acknowledgment of this balance, bearing the seal of the said dignified Colonel Sahib, the dignified Captain John Leckie delayed the payment of the same. When I found the receipt, the dignified John Leckie was satisfied on looking at it, and sent me 4,000 rupees, and, with regard to the remaining 4,000 rupees, sent me word that he had no money to meet the expenses of the Government, and that he would pay the balance after a little while. In reply, this sincere friend stated, that he would not demand payment from the dignified when he (John Leckie) was in great need of money, and returned the 4,000 rupees, saying, that he would take 8,000 rupees at once, on another occasion. Oh, dignified! this sum is still due to me, and, if it be paid now, it will be of very great use to me when I am in great want of means for my expenses. Let the days be propitious.

Dated 12th Rubissanee, 1259 (May 13, 1843).

## No. 121.

*Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, Meer Mahomed Khan, Meer Sobdar Khan, and Meer Hoossein Ali Khan, to the Governor of Bombay.*

May 13, 1843.

MAY Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the possessor of pomp and grandeur, the selected of the world, the phoenix of the age, be preserved. We have been imprisoned for no offence, and have been brought here. The dignified is acquainted with the particulars of our circumstances. We have left our native land, and our ladies, and have come to this distant country, where we have received no accounts of them (the ladies), until the dignified shows kindness to us. We trust to the kindness of the dignified, that positive instructions may be issued to the officer in charge of the post-office at Hyderabad, to receive daily accounts of the good health of the ladies, and to transmit them to us through the post-office at Bombay, either by sea or land. Orders may also be issued to the postmaster here, to receive daily accounts of the good health, and forward them to the ladies at Hyderabad, in order that they may be at ease. This act will be a piece of great kindness. Let the days be propitious.

Dated 12th Rubissanee, 1259 (May 13, 1843).



Received in Eng-  
land, July 3, 1848.

No. 122.

*Meer Roostum Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

IT is represented to Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the possessor of pomp and dignity, the selected of the world, the phoenix of the age, may he be preserved! that the dignified Colonel Henry Pottinger, Sahib Bahadoor, having come to me in order to obtain the opening of that part of the River Indus which belonged to Khyrpore, gave me, in writing, certain articles of agreement, and took a similar writing from me. Afterwards, the dignified Colonel Alexander Burnes came to Khyrpore, and negotiated another treaty, by which neither I, nor my country, was bound to any obligations. The Treaty was concluded solely with the object of promoting friendship between the two Governments, and of its being maintained firmly by future generations. After this, the dignified Lord Sahib, and the dignified Colonel Alexander Burnes, having come, informed me that the British army was to march to subjugate Khorassan, and requested that I would place the fort of Bukkur in their possession until the conclusion of the Khorassan business. Agreeably to the wishes of the British officers, this supplicant made over to them the fort for the gratification of the most dignified Sovereign of England, and of the Government of the English Company Bahadoor. I possess documents in which the expression "on loan" is used, and I also possess other treaties subjecting my country to no obligation. From the first up to the present time there has been nothing wanting in rendering service to the British Government. I was ready, in the service of the British Government, at all times, and under all circumstances, until Ross Bell Sahib the dignified came and stationed himself at Sukkur. Afterwards, at the instigation of my brother Meer Ali Moorad Khan, he forcibly seized five places belonging to my nephew Meer Nusseer Khan, and gave them over to Meer Ali Moorad Khan. The greater was my remonstrance, the less it was attended to. When the dignified Major James Outram came to Sukkur, intimation was made to him of what had taken place. In reply, he said that after his return from the port of Bombay, he would settle the matter at Sukkur; subsequently, the dignified General Sir Charles Napier, Sahib Bahadoor, having arrived in Sind, framed a new Treaty, contrary to those formerly concluded, and sent it under the charge of Captain Brown Sahib. It declared that the country from Lahore to Subzulkote should be given to Mahomed Bhawul Khan Daoodpootree, the sincere friend of the British Government. Although it was very difficult for me to submit to this imposition, still for the gratification of the Sovereign of England and the Government of the English Company Bahadoor, I agreed to it, and returned the Treaty, after having affixed my seal to it. Notwithstanding this, after two or three days, the British army, having left Sukkur and crossed the Indus, encamped in Putrun, about five or six coss distant from Khyrpore; a letter was sent to me, through my brother Meer Ali Moorad Khan, stating that the city of Khyrpore would be plundered the next day; that, when the army should arrive, there would be great difficulty in securing from the plundering army the palace of the ladies, which was inclosed with walls on four sides; that it was necessary that I should leave Khyrpore, and take myself out of the way, as all my houses, &c., would be demolished, and that I ought to act according to the advice of Meer Ali Moorad Khan. As I dared not deviate from what the said dignified had written to me, I and my family went to the fort of Dejee, in conformity with his advice. As soon as we arrived there, the said Meer placed guards over us, and, having seized all my confidential and respectable servants, imprisoned them. He forcibly made me execute a writing making over to him the right of inheritance to the country, and affixed to certain forged papers our seals, which he took from our imprisoned servants. Afterwards he went to Khyrpore, and sent a message through his servant, to the effect that we were at liberty to go out of the fort of Dejee; and that if we did not leave the fort, the army of General Napier Sahib Bahadoor would march there and imprison us. On the receipt of this message, we did not know what to do; and, having no remedy left to us, we



out of the fort, exposing ourselves to cold and rain, and arrived at the of Saceda. Meanwhile, the dignified James Outram Sahib Bahadoor to Sukkur, and sent a letter encouraging and consoling us with hopes. ere or six days afterwards, he himself came to us, and announced that the General Sahib Bahadoor was about to destroy the fort of Emaum Ghur, which was in the possession of my nephew Meer Mahomed Khan, and desired me to surrender the fort to the General Sahib. My nephew, in consequence of what I wrote to him, abandoned the fort, and the General, after accomplishing it, went to the fort of Dejee. Major Outram Sahib came and told me that I must go to Khyrpore, where my affairs would be concluded, but that I must give up the idea of governing the country; that the Government belonged to Meer Ali Moorad Khan, and that I must be content with what he would give me. I could not bear this conversation; as I had governed the country eighty-five years, and as I was put to the necessity of living at the mercy of my younger brother, whom I had brought up from his infancy. I went to Kohra in exile, and remained there. Subsequently, the General Sahib Bahadoor sent a letter to me from Nowshera, directing me to repair to Hyderabad, where the Major Sahib, after his arrival, would settle my affairs; I therefore came down to Hyderabad. Meanwhile I heard that the General Sahib had seized Hyat Khan Murree on the road, and had imprisoned him. Being to these circumstances, the Beloochees were excited beyond bounds, and I was obliged to join them. Three days after the arrival of the General Sahib in the camp, after the battle, I went to him of my own accord, and without being called, and had an interview with him, who, by the way of kindness, encouraged me with hopes, and told me that my affairs would be settled in the course of twenty-five days, and that I should be at ease until that time. I was placed over me like a prisoner. Three months have elapsed since I have been placed under the hardship of imprisonment. The ladies wander about in one country, and this supplicant is here in confinement. Oh, dignified! no one has, heretofore, experienced such oppression from the British Government. I trust that, in conformity with the laws of Jesus Christ, and of the equity of the British Government, my affairs will be settled. I trust that my circumstances may be brought to the notice of the most dignified Government of England, and of Lord Governor-General Sahib Bahadoor of India, in order that they may be merciful to me, who am oppressed at the age of eighty-five years, and grant me redress. Let the days be propitious.

Received in England, July 8, 1843.

No. 123.

*Meer Roostum Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

MAY Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the terror of pomp and grandeur, the selected of the world, the phoenix of the world, be preserved. The dignified is well informed of my various distressing circumstances. Observe that, at the age of eighty-five years, when I am not able to mount a horse, or to sail in a vessel, I have come here on account of the necessity of my brother, and of the moonshees. I was subject to much hardship in coming down to this place. The dignified is a sensible person, and he will take into consideration the services rendered by me to the British Government. Having discontinued my friendship with the chiefs on all sides, I have placed myself under the protection of the British Government. Perhaps it is the will of God that I should do so. The dignified is now at the head of the Government, and it becomes him to assist this supplicant, and send him to his native land with his objects accomplished. This will redound to the fame of the British Government. Otherwise, this slave of the threshold will put an end to his life at the door of the dignified, and the charge of my death will lie behind me as made over to his charge. If kindness be shewn, I shall be redressed, and the British Government will obtain renown. Further, I trust you to understand that we are to be sent to Poona. Oh dignified! I have never experienced such oppression in the eighty-five years that I have lived.



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Received in Eng-  
land, July 3, 1843.

Oh, dignified! view me with mercy, that I may live under the flag of the most dignified English Company Bahadoor. This will tend to the renown of the days be propitious. "There is nothing surprising in kings caressing the poor." Let the

No. 124.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

(Extract.)

May 16, 1843.

Received in Eng-  
land, Aug. 2, 1843.

AN infamous article appeared in the "Bombay Times" of the 6th instant. The whole is one lie, from beginning to end. The officers of this army are extremely indignant. The article is headed, "The Ladies of the Ameers' Zenana."

My chief reason for troubling your Lordship on the subject is, that you might have thought some outrage had been committed, and the case amplified. My Lord, there has not been a single irregularity, nor is there a woman, much less one of the ladies of the Zenana, in any officer's quarters, nor do I believe any one of these ladies has ever been seen by an officer of this army.

No. 125.

*Meer Roostum Khan, inhabitant of Khayrpore, in Sukkur, Bukkur, in Sinde, Town called Roree, to the Governor of Bombay in Council.*

Most respectfully sheweth,

May 17, 1843.

Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.

THAT your humble petitioner begs to lay this case before your Honorable: that the General and Mr. Outram told me from Roree town till Subzul town to give to the Company; so I did, and made no row with him; and I gave to him, with my own wishes, to the Company, and accepted of the town; and I gave him a writing for the same, that I have nothing to do with that town, and also he has given me one; and afterwards, Mr. Outram told me to come with him to Hyderabad, and he will settle there, that I may receive ten annas from one rupee; and the rest six annas Company will take it. So I agree to that point; and when I reached Hyderabad, I stopped in the house of Nusseer Khan; and, after few days, row commenced with the Company, and Nusseer Khan was seized with the Ameers of that country, and my son Mahomed Hoossein came with 12,000 people to fight with the Company. I told him, you go back to your own country, that I have settled with the Company, so he went away; and, afterwards, quarrel took place with Hyderabad's people, and in that row seized me, my young son, and my brother's son, with the Ameers, and brought to Bombay, without any fault; and now I beg to lay this case before your Honorable, that I, and my son, and my brother's son, and thirteen servants, is placed in a miserable condition to maintain upon, and heard that your Honorable Board wants to send me and my people to Poona. I have done no wrong to the Company, and begs that your Honorable Board will take this case into consideration, and grant me some kind of monthly salary, and let me stop in Bombay, or else send me to my native country that I may stop there, and receive whatever is in the agreement which has been made between me and Mr. Outram, and this charity will be never forgotten.

And your poor petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The X mark of Meer Roostum Khan, inhabitant of Khayrpore in Sukkur, Bukkur, in Sinde, town of Roree.



No. 126.

*Meer Sobdar Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

Received in England, Oct 23, 1843.

May 19, 1843.

MAY Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, the august and elevated, the possessor of pomp and grandeur, the selected of the world, and the phoenix of the age, be preserved. The treaties and certificates which were given to this sincere friend by the dignified Governor-General Sahib Bahadoor and other British officers, after affixing their seal to them, and were in the tosha khana, have been plundered, along with my other property, by the British officers. As the said treaties and certificates will be useful to this sincere friend, since they are clear documents, and afford strong arguments [in my favour], it is hoped that a letter may be written to the dignified General Sir C. Napier to send them here, and that they may be given to me; meanwhile, copies of those treaties and certificates which are on the Government records may be furnished to me. This will be an act of great kindness. May the days be propitious to you. Dated 18th Rubissanee, 1259. (19th May, 1843.)

No. 127.

*Sir C. Napier to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.*

Hyderabad, May 24, 1843.

Sir,  
IN reply to your letter dated 13th May, transmitting to me a copy of a correspondence regarding two of the followers of Meer Shahdad Khan, named Ahmed Fakeer and Abdool Guffoor, who are desirous of returning to Sind, I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Governor in Council, that I have no objection to these persons returning to this country.

2. With reference to the two lists of the followers of the ex-Ameers, likewise transmitted to me, I have the honor to inform you that I do not object to any of those persons returning to Sind, whenever they wish to do so; nor do I see the necessity of their being kept in any degree of restraint while at the Presidency of Bombay.

I have, &c.,  
C. NAPIER.

No. 128.

*The Governor-General to Sir C. Napier.*

Agra, May 27, 1843.

Received in England, Aug 2, 1843.

I RECEIVED to-day your letter of the 9th, in which you express your desire to have instructions as to the course to be pursued with respect to the women of the Ameers, who all refused to accompany them.

The separation of the women from the Ameers appears so extraordinary and unnatural, that I can hardly think the women will persist in their refusal; however, if they should do so, it is essential to our character, that they should be treated with all respect and honor, according to the feelings and prejudices of the East; and I shall be prepared to sanction any arrangement they may think it expedient to make for their maintenance, and for their defence.

I have, &c.,  
ELLENBOROUGH.



Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.

No. 129.

*Meer Shahdad Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

May 31, 1843.

God is holy and most powerful.

MAY the most high God preserve Nawab Governor Sahib Bahadoor, of high dignity, of lofty station, of elevated rank, the excellent. After making many supplications, it is represented to the mind adorned with bounty, that this supplicant has laid hold of the skirt [of the garment] of Lord Governor-General, the excellent, and the possessor of high titles, and of your Excellency, that during his life he has never acted contrary to the wishes of the paramount British Government; that he did, and does still, look upon himself as a subject of the Empress having the sun for her diadem, the Balkis [name of the Queen of Sheba] of the age, the Queen of the world, the Queen of England (may her territories be everlasting!); that he did not allow anything to be wanting in his services to the most powerful British Government; that he steadily observed the former Treaty of Fourteen Articles; that he discontinued all correspondence with other chiefs; and that he was the first among the Ameers to submit to the orders of Government. There was nothing wanting on my part in amending the new Treaty; but, alas! by the decree of God, all my services have proved vain. I did, and do still, look upon Major James Outram, Sahib Bahadoor, the dignified, the elevated, the possessor of pomp and grandeur, as my uncle, for my father (may God show mercy to him!) had declared the said dignified to be his real brother. The said Sahib is truly the selected of the age in point of disposition, high qualifications, and the talents for government. If the said dignified had not left Sindh for Bombay, on the first occasion, he would have settled the new agreement, and forwarded it to Government, and there would have been no disturbance and bloodshed. If the said dignified, when he went to Sindh from Bombay a second time, had repaired to Hyderabad, and, after settling the new articles of agreement, had gone to Sukkur, every thing would have turned out well. But the said dignified, in obedience to the orders of Government, proceeded to Sukkur, and remained there on account of some negotiations with Meer Roostum Khan, whose sons and nephew had gone to some places belonging to the Beloochees, and raised excitement among them. While great excitement was prevailing among the Beloochees, in consequence of the arrival of the above Meer at Hyderabad, in conformity to the instructions of the dignified General Sahib Bahadoor, the said dignified Major came to Hyderabad, and we then affixed our seals to the new Treaty, and delivered it to him. But there was such excitement among the Beloochees that night, that, if our confidential servants and officers had not accompanied the said Sahib, the Beloochees would have done him some injury. Meer Sahib Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, and my brother Meer Hoossein Ali Khan, mounted their horses, and accompanied the Beloochees; but, as I never intended to make war, I remained in the fort of Hyderabad. Some of my officers threw off their allegiance to me, and joined other Beloochees and chiefs, agreeably to their ancient custom of assisting each other; but, if I had had an opportunity, I would have punished them when they joined the Beloochees, and accompanied Meer Sahib Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan. I, in my sincerity to the British Government, informed the said dignified, and offered, if he ordered me, to present myself to him. In reply, the said dignified wrote to me, that if any of my servants were found to be concerned in the disturbance, I should be held responsible to the British Government. He did not consider it advisable for me to be with him. Having thus no remedy left to me, I remained where I was. The following morning, while I was sitting in my house, Moonshee Mhetaram, formerly my servant, and now in the service of Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, and perhaps in attendance with him, came running to me, and represented that the troops encamped outside the fort of Hyderabad, were advancing against the said dignified. Previous to this I had no knowledge whatever of the advance of the Beloochees against the said dignified Sahib. I was not aware of it. An inquiry may be made of the said moonshee, whether I was aware of it. Afterwards, I went to Meer Sahib Meer Meer Sobdar Khan, and told him that the Beloochees must be restrained. I informed Meer Mahomed Khan



of these circumstances. Subsequently, I returned to my place, and dispatched a servant to Nawab Ahmed Khan with a message, directing him not to allow the Beloochees, nor to allow the servants under him to do so, and, if possible, to restrain the Beloochees. But, before this message could reach him, he had already accompanied the Beloochees. Apprehending that I should be responsible for Ahmed Khan's having accompanied the Beloochees, and no remedy left to me, I mounted my horse, and, taking a Koran with me, went out for the purpose of causing Ahmed Khan to return, and of restraining the Beloochees. I halted on the road, and dispatched Gholam Mahomed Kehkura, an honest and confidential officer, to restrain them. On his way, he told me that the Beloochees paid no attention to what he said. I therefore went myself; but before I reached the spot, the said dignified Sahib had left the camp, and embarked on board a steamer. The property [in the vicinity] also had been plundered before my going there. I went to Ahmed Khan, who was sitting on the bank of the river, and made him get up. I explained as much as I could the Beloochees, who were firing on the steamer. They were not my subjects. The steamer sailed, and before sunset I had every one removed from the camp. Subsequently, I went and joined Meer Mahomed Khan, with the hope of concluding peace. Oh! dignified, I neither restrained the Beloochees, nor attacked the said Sahib. The troops were not with me, obedient to my orders; all the servants and officers belonged to the other Ameer. I did not go to the camp when the said Sahib was besieged, but I went three hours afterwards. The guns which had been directed against the said Sahib did not belong to me alone, but to all the Ameers. One-eighth of the number was mine, and the remaining seven-eighths belonged to the other Ameer. These guns were not divided and taken separately by us until that time. Let Moossa and John Howell, who are now prisoners with Sir Charles Napier, Sahib Bahadoor, the dignified, the elevated, the possessor of pomp and power, the appreciator of generosity and greatness of mind, be asked by his orders the guns were brought against the said Sahib, and whether the Beloochees did not forcibly bring them. Let it be inquired of Meer Mahomed Khan and Meer Hoossein Ali Khan, how the Beloochees who attacked the said Sahib, came out from the camp of the said Ameer, and where I was at the time. It may be asked whether the officers and Beloochees went of their own accord, or whether I took them with me. Let Meer Mahomed Khan and Meer Sobdar be asked whether I was, or was not, in the fort of Hyderabad, whether I did, or did not, go out after three hours, to cause Ahmed Khan to return. It is just and equitable that an inquiry should be made of the Ameer in my presence.

With regard to the murder of Captain Ennis, I beg to state, that I had nothing to do with it; he was killed neither by my servants, nor with my orders, nor in my territory. The Ameers could not exercise any authority in each other's territories. I heard that the said Sahib was killed in a place called Khatm in the territories of Meer Sobdar Khan. Agreeably to the instructions of Sir Charles Napier, Sahib Bahadoor, the dignified and the powerful, received through Moonshee Ali Akbar, Meer Sahib Meer Mahomed Khan sent his servant, Syud Chumon Shah, for the murderers, who were cultivators of that place, and imprisoned them in the garden. None of the inhabitants of that place were in my service. I never in my lifetime saw the murderers, nor did I know them by name; I saw them only when Meer Mahomed Nussur Khan surrendered them to the dignified General. Some of ill-will, has raised this charge against me, and informed the dignified Sahib Bahadoor, that the said Captain was murdered by my servants. The dignified General Sahib Bahadoor, at an interview, addressed himself to me on these terms on this point; but, as I was ignorant of the matter, I was astonished at it. I made inquiries of Meer Mahomed Nussur Khan on the subject, and he delivered the murderers to the servants of the dignified Sahib Bahadoor. An inquiry may be made of Meer Sahib Meer Nussur Khan, who is acquainted with all the circumstances; an inquiry may be taken also of the other Ameers, and of respectable persons, on which I departed for Bombay, I requested the dignified Brown Sahib Bahadoor, that I was in no way connected with this matter. Oh! dignified, I have laid hold of the skirt [of the] of the paramount Government of the English Company Bahadoor



Eng-843. and of the Governor-General of high distinction, and of your Excellency. I look upon myself to be a subject of the Queen of England, the Empress, having the sun for her diadem, the sovereign of the world, the Balkis of the age (may God perpetuate her dominion). After the battle which took place by divine will, I, in my sincerity, surrendered myself voluntarily, and presented myself before the British Government. I have been entertaining hopes of prosperity and welfare from the sovereign British Government. If the boundless kindness of the Supreme British Government be shown to me, I, in my sincerity, shall render great services to the Government. As I never acted contrary to the wishes of the British Government, and as it is a custom of the Government to console the distressed, to protect their subjects, and to forgive faults, I willingly appeared before the dignified General Napier Sahib Bahadur, hoping to meet with kindness from the Governor-General, the possessor of high distinctions, and from your Excellency; and I lived in the camp with the said dignified, suffering great distress. Afterwards, agreeably to the orders of Government, we came to Bombay, and thought that we should live comfortably under the high protection of your Excellency. All the Ameers went to Malabar Point, while I, agreeably to the orders of Government, remained in Fort George. From thence I wrote to your Excellency, from time to time, requesting to be removed to the same place as the other Ameers and my brother, or to have my brother kept with me; but, instead of receiving any reply, I was ordered to proceed to Surat. Although my separation from my relation, and my brother was worse than death, still I obeyed the orders of the Government, and sailed for Surat. Oh! dignified, Government exercises authority every where, and every place belongs to Government; wherever I am, I am not beyond the reach of the orders of Government; I trust that your Excellency will be pleased to bring me into the company of my brother and relations. Owing to my separation from my relations and my brother, a day passes like a year with me. The families of the other Ameers will certainly come to this country, as it is difficult for the Ameers to live in this foreign land, separated from them. Let not your kindness be withheld from me, but let me be kept with the other Ameers, and relieved from my present state of solitude, in order that I may live in comfort under the high shadow of your Excellency. I shall hereafter submit my other circumstances to your Excellency in Council. Favour me with replies to the representations which I have already forwarded to Government; be convinced that I have not committed a greater offence than the other Ameers, and that I am on a footing of equality with them in every respect. May the day be propitious. Dated. Surat, Tuesday, 1st Jumma-ul-awul, 1259 (May 31, 1843).

No. 130.

*Meer Shahdad Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

*Without date.*

AS it is usual with the British Government to comfort the distressed, to protect their subjects, and to afford justice, I have taken refuge with Government for my own good. I have regarded, and do still regard, myself as a dependant of Government. My territory and treasure have come into the hands of Government. I have not, as yet, represented the oppression which I have experienced. I trust in the kindness of Government to have my objects accomplished. I have been separated from my native land, but I hope I shall not be separated from my relations. God knows what I suffer in consequence of my separation from my relations. I beg that your Excellency will be pleased to remove me to my relations at Sassoor. I assure your Excellency that, if allowed to live with the other Ameers, I shall do nothing contrary to the wishes of Government. I expect many things from Government; but I beg that, until my case is settled, I may be placed with the other Ameers. We lived together while we were with Sir Charles Napier, and we also came together to Bombay; I beg, therefore, that I may now be allowed to live with them. My sufferings, consequent on my separation from



My troubles are aggravated by the disagreeable climate of Surat. A day  
 I have not as yet received replies to my former  
 I trust that your Excellency will favour me with answers as  
 soon as possible.

No. 131.

*Meer Hossain Ali Khan to the Court of Directors.*

*Sussoor, June 7, 1843.*

Received in Eng-  
 land, Oct. 9, 1843.

I HAVE to write a short statement of my history, for your information, and to every principle and rule of justice. In the first place, when Sir Henry Pottinger brought a letter from the Governor-General full of friendly overtures to my late father Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, relying on its contents, we began a course of friendly services to your Government. Some months when the expedition to Cabool was settling out, Colonel Pottinger sent to my father to obtain a passage for the army through Sindh, also for carriages, and boats. Although in complying with these requests, my father secured the enmity of the Afghans and Beloochees, yet, preferring the policy of the English before everything else, he collected boats, carriage, camels, and proclaimed to the different tribes who owed him allegiance, that if they were dissatisfied with his alliance with the British, and took to robbing the property of the army, he would punish them. In conformity with this wish, every individual kept at home, no one daring to disobey his orders. When the army under Sir John Keane arrived at Jerruck, about 12 miles from Hyderabad, he sent Captain Eastwick with a treaty, in which it was made on the Ameers for 21 lacs of rupees, to be paid at the end of this sum my father was to pay 7 lacs, and 14 lacs were to be paid by Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Meer Mahomed Khan; it was also ordered that the three Ameers above mentioned should pay a lac of rupees each to the British Government. This was the first fruit of their friendship, but my father, but the British army having arrived at Jerruck (through his exertions), unopposed, all former professions of friendship were dissolved, and my father, with the other Ameers, was compelled to submit to the English. We felt that they were arbitrary and unjust; but, being overruled and at his (Sir J. Keane's) mercy, we complied with them. Subsequently a treaty of twelve articles was concluded with Sir Henry Pottinger, and it was declared, that thereafter no demand should be made upon us, and that the English ever look upon our country to covet it. The English continued its march to Cabool; and, from the time Major James Outram was appointed Resident in Sindh, my father was guided entirely by his advice. When my father was on his death-bed, he took my hand and placed in it a list of Major Outram's, consigning me to his care and protection; after he breathed his last. After this Major Outram treated me as if I were free, and I lived happy and contented until Sir Charles Napier arrived in Sindh, and sent Mr. Stanley with a new treaty, contravening all former treaties and containing many terms hard to digest; still I had no resource; I submitted to them all. Afterwards, when Meer Roostum Khan of Khyrpore came to Hyderabad, and when, in consequence of his expulsion from his country, and the seizure of a Murree chief by Sir Charles Napier, the Beloochees threatened hostilities, all the Ameers excited themselves in vain to frustrate his designs. Meer Nusseer Khan, after holding a consultation, decided to attempt the recall of the Beloochees, thinking that his peaceful overtures might induce them to listen to reason; he requested me to accompany him, as the Belooch tribes of Nizamane and Lughareo were subject to my father, and would, he (Meer Nusseer) thought, be going amongst them, be induced to lay down their arms. I thereupon accompanied Meer Nusseer to the Beloochees, and entreated them to return to their allegiance. Meer Nusseer then would send a trustworthy person to the General to ask for peace. On the morning we received intelligence that the General had attacked



Recd. Oct 9, 1843. As he advanced past the Beloochees, and we heard the report of cannon; and before we could mount our horses, the battle had begun, and the matter was beyond our control; many Beloochees were killed, and others fled. I was looking on from a distance, and confounded at what had befallen. I fled to Hyderabad, as I felt well assured that my sincerity would be unimpeachable, should I go to meet the General, of my own accord, and would redound to my credit. I went, in company with Meer Nusseer Khan and my brother Shadad Khan, to the General, to whom Major Outram, who was present at the time, said, "there is no charge against this boy" (meaning me), and the General, praising me dismissed me, on which I went and resided in the fort. When the Major left for Bombay, the General sent some officers into the fort, who took away all the treasure, and gold, and other property, including even the ornaments of our females, our horses, mules, camels, and whatever else we possessed, not leaving us as much as would purchase one day's food; at length I was sent to Bombay, and thence I am to be sent to Poona. I am a boy, and guiltless; just reason with yourselves, and say what crime I could have committed against the British Government to merit this punishment. Major Outram, who is now in England, will verify the above statement, and I hope that, after a due inquiry into my case, you will dismiss me with honor to my country, in a manner that will reflect credit on your generosity. In addition to what I have above stated, I may mention that my marriage was at hand when I was tyrannically sent to Bombay, and the whole of the things prepared for the occasion were seized on, and plundered by the English. When I was about to leave Sinde, the General came on board the steamer, and gave me 500 rupees for my expenses, and, with great kindness on his part, we parted. Your petitioner is separated from his country and relations, particularly from his mother, who, worn out with years, cannot have long to live, and the few remaining years of her life will be shortened by separation from me; my betrothed too, and her parents, will grieve for me, and I therefore hope that, with accustomed kindness and justice, you will, on duly considering my case, restore me with honor and dignity to my country and relations, that I may once more see my aged mother. In return for which kindness I will obey and serve the British Government as long as I live, and the fame of your justice will bring you infinite renown. May your days be propitious.

No. 132.

*Meer Nusseer Khan of Hyderabad to the Court of Directors.*

THE fame of your equity and justice extends all over the world, and in hope that you will do me justice, I beg to lay before you a brief statement of my history.

During the life-time of the late Meer Gholam Ali Khan, Meerza Muzhur was deputed to Calcutta and brought back a treaty bearing the seal of the then Governor-General, which treaty was respected as long as that Ameer lived. Subsequently, in the time of the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan, and my father, Meer Moorad Ali Khan, Meerza Ismael Shah was sent on a mission to Governor Elphinstone, and concluded with him a treaty, which was observed until the death of the Ameers above mentioned. In the time of my father, Meer Moorad Ali Khan, Colonel Sir Alexander Burnes being desirous to proceed through Sinde by the River Indus, on a visit to Runjeet Sing, arrived at Kurachee, whence he wrote several letters, requesting permission to advance by that route. But, as this had not been stipulated for in any former treaty, my father refused to comply; on which I wrote to him (Sir Alexander Burnes), and told him to leave the property in his charge at Kurachee, and to come himself to Hyderabad, whence he should be allowed to pass up the river. He came accordingly, and my father told him he would not be permitted to proceed up the river, and that he had written to him to that effect at Kurachee, asking him, moreover, why he had come to Hyderabad without his (my father's) permission. Sir Alexander Burnes replied that he had come



Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 9, 1843.

Hyderabad as desired by his son, Meer Nusseer Khan, who had written to me that he would permit him to pass up the river. My father was greatly displeased at this, and asked me why I had consented to what it was impossible for him to grant. I replied that I wrote to him for our advantage, and that I should certainly allow him to proceed up the river; and, through my representations, my father acceded to his request. A full account of this is given in Sir Alexander Burnes's Travels, and also in the Government records; so that I am the individual who first opened the Indus to the English. After this, Colonel Henry Pottinger applied for permission for foreign merchants to pass up and down the Indus, duty free, and concluded a treaty of several articles, which was to be binding on the contracting parties to the latest posterity; a copy of which Treaty, bearing the seal of the Governor-General, was given to my father, who made it over to me, and said he had made it, to ensure the stability of my affairs. On the death of my father, the said Colonel Pottinger sent for a friendly letter from the Governor-General, and gave it to me; in it there was no mention made of oppressing us, or our country. With pure intention I applied for a British Resident to be appointed at Hyderabad; and, on the British army advancing to Cabool, I incurred the ill-will of the Beloochee tribes, and the enmity of the Affghans, by having, through my friendship for the English, allowed their army to pass through Sinde; yet I preferred the friendship of the English to every other consideration. I have read in books, that the Christian religion commands to cherish, and not to alienate, your friends,—friendship being a tree which produces good actions; relying on this, I was indifferent about the displeasure of the Beloochees, and the hostility of the Affghans. My late brother, Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, and myself, undertook to provide boats, camels, provisions, wood, and every other kind of supplies for the army, and issued orders to all the Beloochee tribes, telling them that should any of them be dissatisfied with our alliance with the British, and take to plundering the property of the army, they would incur our displeasure, and be severely punished. None of them dared to disobey my orders. When Sir John Keane arrived with his army at Jerruck, he deputed Mr. Eastwick with a memorandum, stating that he required twenty-one lacs of rupees; of this sum I was immediately to pay seven lacs, and the other fourteen lacs were to be paid by the late Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, and Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, equally. We were also called upon to pay three lacs of rupees annually to the British Government; this was the result of my faithful services to the English; and Sir John Keane, having arrived unopposed at Jerruck, about twelve coss from Hyderabad, in violation of treaties, began to oppress us, and to assume a hostile attitude. As I was helpless, I paid the money, knowing well, however, that it was taken from me unjustly, by order of the Governor-General. In the Treaty concluded with Sir Henry Pottinger, and bearing the seal of the Governor, it was affirmed that our friendship would last to the latest posterity, and that no oppression should be exercised on us or on our country. In defiance of which, why were we required to pay twenty-one lacs of rupees at one time, and the sum of three lacs annually? If you say that it was on account of Shah Shooja, I reply that the said Shah had written on a Koran, which he presented to me, that he would never act so as to inflict detriment on us, or on our country, which writing Colonel Pottinger had seen. I answer again that, during Shah Shooja's sojourn of several years at Loodiana, nothing was demanded from me on his account; but, setting this aside, when Shah Shooja, finding that he was powerful at Cabool, threw off his alliance with the English, inform me on what account, and for what purpose, the tribute was exacted from me? If you exacted it on your own account, you did so in breach of the articles of the Treaty. You are discriminating and just; examine, and judge for yourselves, whether our treatment has been just or unjust. When Sir John Keane's army advanced towards Cabool, Colonel Pottinger framed, and concluded, a treaty of twelve articles, which he said would be permanent as the wall of Alexander, and would last for ever. Thank God that, from the first Treaty to the last, I have not infringed even one of these articles; copies of these treaties must be in the Government records, and a reference to them will satisfy you whether I state falsehood, or tell the truth.

When Major Outram was appointed Resident in Sinde, I acted agreeably to his wishes; and, as long as he remained at Hyderabad, everything was



managed satisfactorily, until Sir Charles Napier, having arrived in Sind, sent, on the 5th Zilkhat (December), by Mr. Stanley, a treaty contravening all former treaties, which astonished me; and I sent Akhoond Buxhal and Syud Saad Ali to Sukkur, as vakeels, to General Sir Charles Napier. After their departure, I deputed, at the request of Sir Charles Napier, two individuals, (Meerza Khoosroo Beg, and Mahomed Yussoof,) with full powers to treat, and carrying with them my seals. When they arrived at Nowahera, the General declined having my seals affixed to the Treaty; but delivered a letter for me to the vakeels, in which he ordered me to send for Meer Roostum Khan (of Khayrpore) to Hyderabad, as Major Outram would soon arrive there to settle the affairs of the said Ameer, and would have the seals affixed to the Treaty in his presence. According to his desire, Meer Roostum, and the vakeels, came to Hyderabad; and Major Outram having also arrived there, paid me a visit, in order to arrange the affairs of Meer Roostum, and to obtain the seals to the Treaty, by which the fort of Subzul was to be made over by us, without an equivalent, to Mahomed Bhawul Khan Daoodpootree. The revenues of Kurachee were divided into four shares; three of which belonged to myself, Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, and Meer Shaddad Khan, and valued at 25,000 rupees a-year each share, giving a total of 75,000 rupees, which sum was to be taken in lieu of tribute to that amount, and the port of Kurachee made over to the English. Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, Meer Shaddad Khan, and myself, were also to pay to Meer Sobdar Khan, for his share (one quarter) of the revenues of Kurachee, 50,000 rupees a-year. I replied, that it was stipulated in former treaties, that the English would protect the country of the Ameers, instead of ~~which you are assigning it to another~~; and, as regards Kurachee, since you estimate the other three shares belonging to Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, Meer Shaddad Khan, and myself, at 25,000 rupees each? Helpless, I affixed my seal to the Treaty, and gave it to him (Major Outram). I also remarked, that he might take the tract of country belonging to Meer Roostum Khan, which lay between Subzul and Roree, leaving to him the remainder of his dominions; to which Major Outram replied, that it rested with Sir Charles Napier. I intreated him vehemently on this subject; and, seizing the skirt of his garment, implored him not to suffer Meer Roostum, who was an old man of eighty-five years, to become a homeless wanderer; but to permit him to retain the remainder of his dominions, if only to prevent disturbances. The Major again replied, that it was not in his power; but he would mention it to the General. When the Beloochees threatened to rise in arms, in consequence of the ejection of Meer Roostum Khan, intelligence arrived that Sir Charles Napier had imprisoned a Murree chief, named Hyat Khan, without any apparent cause; on which, some of the Beloochees who were at Hyderabad, assembled, and took a solemn oath, resolving to attack Major Outram on his return from the fort to the Residency. I was informed of their intention; it was then twilight. As the Major was a friend, who was dear to me as my own life, I sent, in consequence of the ferment among the Beloochees, Meer Jan Khan, Hajee Gholam Mahomed, and ten or twelve others, to accompany him; and they, after escorting him to the Residency, returned, and told me that they had seen parties of Beloochees ready for mischief at two or three places, and had sent them away. On hearing this, I sent a verbal message by Moonshee Mhadajee to Major Outram, and also wrote to him that the Beloochees were in arms, by reason of the expulsion from his territory of Meer Roostum Khan, and the seizure of Hyat Khan Murree, and that much blood would be shed. I was averse to Meer Roostum Khan's coming to Hyderabad; because I dreaded a commotion (on his account, and the seizure of Hyat Khan) amongst the Beloochees, who, on hearing of these events, came and urged me to place myself at their head, otherwise they would select another in my stead. I told them, that I had just signed a treaty, and could not fight, as Sir Charles Napier had informed us that he would hold us personally responsible, should any of our followers join Meer Roostum Khan. I reflected, that if the Beloochees went without me, I would, in the eyes of Sir Charles Napier, be equally guilty as if I accompanied them. I was in a dilemma, not knowing how to act; at last I concluded it was not advisable to fight the British, when intelligence was brought to me that the General had arrived, with the whole of his force, at Lala Kundee, fourteen coss from Hyderabad, and was advancing without delay. On hearing this, I said the



General had promised not to advance beyond Nowshera; why is he coming on with his force? The Beloochees left Hyderabad, and encamped on the banks of the Fulaillee. I highly disapproved of their excitement, and thought it would be better for me to go to the Beloochees, and endeavour to dissuade them from their hostile intentions. With this design, I mounted my horse, and went to their encampment, where I waited, threatening and expostulating till midnight, when I prevailed on them to return. I intended to send in the morning an experienced vakeel to the General, and make peace. Next morning, when I was in the act of appointing a vakeel, intelligence was brought to me that the General had attacked the advanced posts of the Beloochees, and I heard the report of firing. I had hardly time to mount before the action became general, and took matters beyond my power of control, and the door of negotiation was closed. By the will of God, many of the Beloochees were killed, and others fled. I remained, with twenty horsemen, at length in amazement at the power of destiny. I returned to Hyderabad, where, before morning, a fresh force of 10,000 or 12,000 Beloochees had assembled, also some of the fugitives; but as I felt assured that, after dispersing them, the General would approve my sincerity, I went to him, of my own accord, next morning, and taking off my sword, delivered it into his hands. He kindly returned it to me, and buckled it round my waist, using many consoling expressions, and telling me that in twenty-five days my affairs would be satisfactorily settled, and that I should be placed in Hyderabad as formerly. Major Outram was present at the time. Next morning I rode with the General to the camp, and presented to him the guns, which were under the charge of Moossa, the Feringhee, when General Napier was at Khyrpore and Dejee-ka-kote. I wrote to him to say that it would be better if he came to Hyderabad with a few men, to gratify me with a meeting, and spend a few days with me in shooting game, and that then I should comply with his demands; but that I was afraid, if he came with an army, the Beloochees, who were furious on account of Meer Roostum Khan's ejection, would excite a commotion, which would bring ruin on themselves and others; my advice was not attended to.

If the General says he conquered Sinde, I reply, that, as we were tributaries and subjects of the English for many years, he can hardly claim a victory over your own subjects. Truly, this slaughter of the people of Sinde, plundering their property, was at the expense of the Queen of England. The day after I arrived in camp with Sir Charles Napier, Moonshee Ali Akbar was sent to me with a message that the General wanted some of my people to be stationed, with a few of his own men, in Hyderabad, so that the town's people might be protected from all injury. As long as Major Outram remained there, all was tranquil; but in a few days he left for Bombay. The day after his departure, Moonshee Ali Akbar came with a message from the General, who wished to go and inspect the fort of Hyderabad, and required a few trustworthy people along with him; accordingly, I sent Akhoond Buchal Bahadoor, Khidmutgar, and Moonshee Mhetaram. Again, Moonshee Ali Akbar returned, and asked for the keys of the Tosha Khana [depository wherein valuables are kept], in order to obtain all the treasure and property. I told him to do as he pleased; but that if he took them according to the catalogue, they would get everything, otherwise others would rush in and take whatever they could lay their hands on; my counsel was not listened to. At last Mr. Fallon, and Colonel Pattle, and Major Reid, and several other officers, with two regiments, cavalry and infantry, entered the fort, and seized on all treasures, gold, silver, swords, matchlocks, knives, daggers, shields, and other property, such as jewels, and what else belonged to our establishments, costly fabrics, Korans and books, horses, camels, saddles of gold and silver, utensils of copper and silver, everything, in fact, of the value of a needle. So complete was the plunder, that precious stones were falling from the bosoms of the sepoys, and they were selling gold, jewels, and other valuables in the city: the work of plunder continued for seven days. The first day they rushed into the seraglio of the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan; and the occupants of the seraglio, for fear of their lives, and shame, lest they should be exposed to the gaze of intruders, abandoning their houses, fled on foot from the fort. Afterwards, the seraglios of the other Meers were entered by the British troops; and the occupants, who had never before crossed the threshold of the seraglio, fled on foot. The sepoys, who were at the gates, on seeing a woman with ornaments on her

Received  
land, Oct.



Received in Eng-  
land, Oct 9, 1843.

person, immediately stripped them off, so that those who would avoid exposure, threw their jewels away, nose-rings and ear-rings, taking with them only the clothes on their backs. The officers carried off even our cots and bedding, leaving us nothing but dirt. I had taken to the seraglio the books and clothes they (the officers) had given me the day they entered the fort, all of which were again taken from me the day I left; also the swords of my sons, Meer Hoossein Ali, and Meer Abbas Ali; depriving us also of our bedding. The horses and saddles of gold, on which my sons came to me, were also taken away, notwithstanding remonstrances to Captain Brown and Ali Akbar, and at this date they are without swords: although my swords and matchlocks are of iron, and of little value, yet having descended to me from my ancestors, they are to me prized as my life. Besides that, the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan, and Meer Moorad Ali Khan treated Meerza Khoosroo as a son. He was imprisoned with us. One day he was taken to the fort, and charged with having misdirected them to the spot where was the treasure of the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan, for which they had him disgraced, and flogged until he fainted. On his recovering he was tied up for two hours in the fort, and afterwards brought back to the place where I was imprisoned. Besides this, when Meer Shere Mahomed was about to fight Sir Charles Napier's army, although he was my bitter enemy, (as is well known to Major Outram, Captains Leckie, Whitelock, and Mylne,) who never let slip an opportunity of destroying my property, yet was I removed from my spacious abode in camp, on board the confined accommodation of a steamer; nine days after, I was taken back, and imprisoned in my former abode. When I was being conveyed on board the steamer I asked Captain Brown to retain my two sons and my cousin Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, and to take me with him, as I knew that on seeing me all the troops with Meer Shere Mahomed, would abandon him, and come over to me, and said Meer would either be obliged to fly, or surrender, or to permit me to go and fight with him. But my suggestions were not attended to. In former times I was in the habit of sending an experienced person on board every steamer passing up or down the river to procure for them fuel and other necessaries, and was equally careful of the convenience of travellers on my land, remunerating them in full for whatever was stolen from them, and could not be recovered, to our great detriment, which, however, we considered a gain, in consequence of our friendship with the English. Besides the above, I have performed many other services to the English, in the hope that it would tend to my advantage, instead of conducting to a prison. It will be notorious all over these countries, that this is the reward of a person who has served the British faithfully through life. I have read that Christianity is opposed to oppression of every kind, but, from the time the British first arrived in India, to the present date, no such tyranny was ever practised on us. Had a shot been fired from the walls of Hyderabad the British army might have lawfully plundered it, but the fort was given up on a pretence that it was merely to be inspected, and after a pledge of security was given, peace declared, and assurances made that we should be restored to power; after this to plunder the treasury, and to disgrace the rulers of the country, is not allowed by any law; and I had heard from experienced persons, that it was not the custom of the English to punish a man before he was proved guilty, nor to disgrace him on the hearsay of others. I, therefore, hope that you will first investigate my case, and then determine by the laws of Christianity whether or not we are suffering from injustice. I look to you for justice, and to be sent back with my former honor and dignity to my country, where I pledge myself to be bound by the kindness of the English, as long as I live to serve and obey them, and this will exalt the renown of the English all over the world. Restore me, therefore, to my plundered country.

May your days be propitious.



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No. 133.

*The Governor-General to Sir C. Napier.*Received in  
land, Aug. 2, 1843.

(Extract.)

I HAD the satisfaction of receiving to-day your letter of the 16th ultimo, relative to the falsehoods circulated against the officers of your army, with respect to the ladies of the Zenana.

Allahabad, June 8, 1843.

I never believed that there was one word of truth in the charges brought against the officers of your army upon that subject.

I cannot be surprised at the indignation which the officers have manifested.

No. 134.

*Sir Charles Napier to the Governor-General.*

(Extract.)

Hyderabad, June 13, 1843.

I SEND your Lordship three complaints\* against us, with the replies of the accused. I think it is my duty to make no answer (except to your Lordship) to accusations which I know to be concocted by a hostile party at Bombay. There are several other complaints, each of several sheets of foolscap, and gross impudent falsehoods all. I have not answered them, but when I have a little leisure I shall send them with the necessary remarks. After your Lordship has seen my defence, I will burn it, if your Lordship pleases, or re-word it, for the facts are as I state. Your Lordship will, I am sure, make some allowance for a man absolutely wearied out with their incessant unblushing downright falsehoods: as to going minutely into a disproof of all their gross assertions, I could easily do it, but I must give up my command, and request a permanent establishment; for every disproof of their assertions would be immediately followed by another volume of lies.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

*Statement of Major Mc Pherson, Prize-Agent.*

Hyderabad, May 16, 1843.

WITH respect to the assertion of the three Ameers, that I entered the fort of Hyderabad with the view of seeing it, it is erroneous on their part; I accompanied the troops that marched in to take possession of it, and to see the British standard hoisted on its tower, which was done on the 21st March, 1843. No outrage was committed, no Zenana approached, and sentries were placed to prevent any one approaching them. Notice was given when the men would mount the tower, that the ladies might retire, and not be overlooked; and people were only admitted for a certain time to be on the tower, lest the ladies should be annoyed. During that day, as prize-agent, I collected treasure to a considerable amount, principally in gold. No Zenana was ever entered by me, or any British officer, during the time they were inhabited by the ladies; but I have taken treasure from those vacated. No female of any description was ever suffered to be ill-used at any time. As for taking the ladies' jewels from them, I positively deny it; in many instances they were sent out for me to take, but I, as well as my colleagues, invariably returned them again, as being their personal property. I have never heard of any of

\* From Meer Sobdar Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan, April 28th, and Meer Mahomed Khan, April 29.



Received in Eng-  
land, Aug. 2, 1843.

the ladies in the Zenanas ever having been ill-used, or even seen; and I can safely assert, the complaint made is a gross falsehood on the part of the Ameers. That we, the prize-agents, took money, jewels, swords, &c., &c., from the empty houses, is certainly the case. To do so was the duty of the prize-agents.

P. Mc PHERSON.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 134.

*Statement of Captain Blenkins, Prize-Agent.*

Hyderabad, May 16, 1843.

AFTER the perusal of three letters respectively from Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Sobdar Khan, and Meer Mahomed, I beg to state that the whole therein contained, as far as I have any knowledge, or which relate to myself, or any of the other prize-agents, is entirely without any foundation. They, the Ameers, never experienced anything but the greatest kindness and consideration from us. They were repeatedly told that we did not wish the ornaments of their women to be given, or any other property which belonged to them; and, in several instances, when so proffered, I have myself sent them back to their owners; so did the other prize-agents; we had no idea of intruding on the ladies, nor did we ever intrude on their Zenanas; and we had strict orders from the Major-General to keep perfectly aloof from the dwellings of the women.

W. BLENKINS.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 134.

*Statement of Captain Bazett, Prize-Agent.*

Hyderabad, May 16, 1843.

THE three letters of Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Sobdar Khan, and Meer Mahomed, having been submitted to me as one of the prize-agents, to answer such points as may refer to the property taken, I can safely state, as far as I was concerned, I strictly conformed to the order of Major-General Sir C. Napier, to take as prize-booty such treasure and arms as the Ameers themselves, or by their servants, made over to us; that the treasure (with one exception, when Meer Sobdar sent Colonel Pattie, with a message to me, then waiting outside his Zenana gate, to go in to him, and see that he sent out all his treasure, and when he produced only about a lac of rupees) was received by me outside the Zenana gates, generally in presence of one or more of the junior Meers: and I refer to Meer Hoossein Ali, from whom I received by far the greatest sum—I think nearly twenty-six lacs of rupees—to confirm this fact; that on several occasions when the jewels of the females were brought out, I, after looking at some of them to see that they were such as might be in common use, returned them into the Zenanas; but that the jewels found with other State property in the tosha khans, these being entirely detached from the Zenanas, were considered as State jewels, and, as such, retained by me, as also the jewelled swords and matchlocks found in them; further, I never entered any Zenana in which the women were living, except in the presence of one or more of the Ameers, with their full consent, or rather at their request, the women having been previously removed to another part of the Zenana; and I further state, that I have not, to this hour, seen any of the females of any of the Zenanas (excepting the slaves, &c., who went about the fort at all times), nor have I ever heard of violence being offered to any female, save on one occa-



son, when I was told a sepoy had forced a nose-ring off a woman passing through the fort, but, on inquiring, the man could not be pointed out, or any clue to him found, if the statement were correct, which I doubted.

Received in England, Aug. 2, 1843.

CHAS. BAZETT.

#### Inclosure 4 in No. 134.

*Remarks by Lieutenant Brown, Commissioner in Sindh.*

##### MEER Sobdar Khan's complaint.

Hyderabad, May 16, 1843.

On the 21st of February, by order of Major-General Sir C. Napier, I accompanied Lieutenant-Colonel Pattle, sent to take charge of the fortress of Hyderabad, and property of the Ameers therein. I had, previous to starting from camp, made the Ameers, then in confinement, acquainted with our intention, and obtained from them men well acquainted with the position of the private apartments in the fort, who would point them out to Colonel Pattle, and thus prevent our troops from even accidentally entering them. On reaching Hyderabad, in company of Colonel Pattle, I visited Meer Sobdar Khan, then at large, in open durbar; and, at my request, his Highness also nominated moonshees to point out where our troops could best be accommodated with quarters, with least annoyance to his Highness and the different families. Three days afterwards, it appearing from records shown by the other Ameers, that 5,000 soldiers, under the orders of Meer Sobdar Khan, had been present in the fight at Meeanee, he was placed under restraint, and was conveyed in his palkee, and accompanied by Captain Whitlie, from the fort to the garden near the river. With reference to the very strong charges adduced by the Ameer, which I now hear of for the first time, of our soldiery rushing into the seraglio, and the ladies of his family being driven, from ill-treatment, bare-footed, out of the fort, I can only say, that, as I visited the Ameer twice on the afternoon we took possession of Hyderabad, upon which day the outrage would appear to have been committed, and frequently visited him afterwards, it appears strange that, when mentioning his different grievances to me, many of which were most trivial, it should have escaped his memory to have brought to my notice these, such very grave ones. His sons, who had been at large in the fort, joined the Ameers in the garden on the evening previous to their departure from Hyderabad, and I certainly heard of no request that one should remain behind.

##### Meer Nusseer Khan's complaint.

My remarks above, relative to the treatment of the families, apply similarly to this complaint, with one exception, viz., that a few evenings before the Ameers' departure, Meer Nusseer Khan complained to me, that the prize-agents and others had entered one of the rooms of the Zenana, and his ladies had been driven to fly from it, &c. This one complaint, and the only one ever made, on inquiry, proved to be an exaggeration; but the Major-General directed me at once to proceed to the Ameer, which I did, to assure him that most strict orders had, from the first, been given to all, on no account to approach the private apartments; and that, if he was not satisfied of this, all the Ameers might return, and live with their families in the fort, pending the arrival of orders from the Governor-General of India. This, however, was declined.

I was present at the interview between the Ameers and Major-General Napier.



Received in England,  
Aug. 2, 1843.

Highness to be without any foundation; as, previous to our party leaving camp, his Highness had been good enough to send to me, at my request, confidential agents to point out his treasury and toshā khana, so as to prevent the possibility of the prize-agents approaching the Zenanas. Akhoond Buchal was placed in confinement for having arms found in his house, after all had been ordered to be given up. Moonshēe Mhēteram and Moolram were similarly treated for being found in correspondence with the enemy, but were released immediately after the fight with Meer Shere Mahomed. Meerza Khoosroo attempted to seize Major McPherson, without provocation, by the throat.

Similar remarks to the above apply to the complaint of Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, of the 29th April, 1843, who from the time of his being first confined, to that of quitting Hyderabad, never once mentioned to me a word of these extraordinary charges now advanced, relative to the ill-treatment of the ladies of his family.

E. J. BROWN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 134.

*Major Reid, commanding 12th Regiment Native Infantry, to  
Major Mc Pherson.*

Sir,

Hyderabad, May 18, 1843.

IN reply to your letter of this day's date, forwarding translations of letters and petitions from some of the Ameers of Sind to the Governor of Bombay, I have the honor to state in reply,—

1st. That I accompanied the detachment which took possession of the fortress of Hyderabad, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Pattle; my regiment (the 12th Native Infantry) being part of the said detachment; that, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Pattle, guards were placed at the gate, and other places considered necessary for the protection and security of the inhabitants of the fortress; immediately after this, the prize-agents proceeded to collect treasure, jewels, arms, and every description of valuable property; that, by desire of Colonel Pattle, I furnished the prize-agents with such guards and escorts as they applied for, for the purpose of guarding the said property, and that I continued the same practice when I was in command of the fortress. Where the property was brought from I do not know, as I never once accompanied the prize-agents while searching for it; nor was I ever inside the inclosures of a treasury, or toshā khana, or seraglio, until the Ameers and their families had quitted the fort, and the places were empty of what ever they had contained. The guard at the gate was furnished by the 12th Regiment; and the officers and men there assisted the prize-agents in detecting any one found going out of the fort with property considered to belong to Government. When Colonel Pattle left, I became commandant of the garrison, and all property so discovered, was, by the officer commanding the guard, handed over to the prize-agent residing in the fort, who passed a receipt for the same. I never heard of any one rushing into the seragios, and in any way offering insult to the families of the Ameers, or their followers. Had this been the case, I am certain I should have known it, as I was in the habit of seeing daily Meer Hoossein Ali and the sons of the other Ameers who were residing within the fort. With respect to the other subjects contained in these petitions, I am quite ignorant, and consequently say nothing regarding them.

I have, &c.,

A. S. REID.



Inclosure 6 in No. 134.

Received in Eng-  
land, Aug. 2, 1843.*Observations by Sir C. Napier on the Memorials of the Ameers of Sind.*

Hyderabad, June 12, 1843.

(Abstract.)  
THE complaints of the Ameers form a tissue of falsehoods. I will answer them seriatim, meeting assertion by assertion, for to send documentary proofs would take up a volume.

## 1. Complaint of Meer Mahomed Khan.

The Ameer may have, and did, acquiesce in, and, I believe, signed, all the treaties with the English; and, in common with the other Ameers, violated their provisions. The Ameers formed one Government, and must be responsible collectively. The proofs of their violations of treaties are in the hands of the Governor-General, signed by Major Outram.

The Ameer says, that he submitted to the draft Treaty. This is exposed by the answers to three plain questions:—

First Question. Who solemnly signed the new Treaty in full Durbar?

Answer. Meer Mahomed Khan.

Second Question. Who attacked the residence of my commissioner (sent to the sacred character of diplomatist), with the intention to massacre the said diplomatist and all that were with him?

Answer. Meer Mahomed Khan.

Third Question. Who, in full Durbar, insultingly tore the signed Treaty to atoms, the Treaty to which the traitor had affixed his name and seal, for the purpose of blinding the diplomatist, and securing his destruction?

Answer. Meer Mahomed Khan.

"None of the Ameer's servants went by his orders to fight," but they did fight, and our comrades were slain by those servants. I utterly disbelieve the fact that he did not order his servants to fight, but he was bound to prevent his troops from fighting against his ally; as he did not do this he must take the consequence.

The falsehoods stated against Lieutenant Brown and Major McPherson, are answered by those officers with the truth and simplicity becoming English gentlemen. Colonel Pattle is away.

Does the Ameer suppose that, when he, and his compeers, had received their just punishment by force of arms, the lost lives of our soldiers, and the cost of the war, were to be cast out of sight, as matters of no value, and their traitorous Highnesses be allowed to keep all their forfeited treasures? Assuredly not!

The Ameer proceeds, "I have spent my life in serving the Government." I deny the assertion. I refer to Major Outram's letter to Sir John Keane; I refer to Major Outram's book; I refer to a mass of documents against the Ameers, that I forwarded to Lord Ellenborough, which were delivered to me as authentic by Major Outram, and verified by that officer's signature.

## 2. Meer Sobdar's complaint.

I always thought that Meer Sobdar was a faithful ally. He was greatly favoured by the new draft Treaty, and his position among the Ameers greatly raised by the increased revenue he would have received; but the cloven foot of duplicity and cowardice was soon displayed. His Highness' vakeel, named Outrai, met me on the march to the south; he assured me of his master's good wishes; that he would send 5,000 men into battle with the other Ameers, and, on a signal, turn and traitorously fall upon those troops, while I was so to arrange it, that my soldiers were not to attack those of his Highness. The wretched duplicity of such conduct was disgusting. Had the force that I commanded been worsted in battle, Sobdar's 5,000 men would have been fresh, unattacked and untouched during the combat, and they would mercifully have cut the British up, to clear themselves from the charge of treason.



Received in England, Aug. 2, 1843.

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to their friends, if secrets should transpire. If, on the other hand, we were victorious, no doubt the troops of Meer Sobdar would have fulfilled his engagements by the merciless slaughter of his flying countrymen. My answer to this insidious and abominable proposition, was, "Tell your master that my army has no fear of the Beloochees, and does not need the aid of traitors. I consider his Highness as our good ally, and, as a friend, advise him to keep his soldiers in Hyderabad, for if I should meet his 5,000 men in the field of battle, I would assuredly fall upon them." His Highness sent 4,800 men into the field at Meeanee, where they fought us manfully.

The Ameer Sobdar says, "No sepoy in my service fought in the recent battle by my orders." This hypocritical quibbling is of a piece with that of the Ameer Mahomed. The answer is, "Your chiefs lie dead at Meeanee, by the side of our men, whom they slew; and for this your Highness must become a farce, and a bye-word among men."

Had Meer Sobdar been found in this fortress at the head of his 5,000 soldiers, and that none of them had fought at Meeanee, I should have respected him as an ally. In proof of this, I offer the respect which I paid to Meer Shere Mahomed, whose dislike to us has been inveterate from first to last. I well knew he was our enemy. I knew that he had arrived within six miles of Meeanee, with 10,000 men, when the defeat of the Talpoors made him rapidly retrace his steps; and he wrote to me a letter, assuring me that he had never passed his frontier (which was a falsehood), and requesting me to say how he was to be treated. Major Outram, who was with me at the time this letter arrived, assured me that this Ameer would be quiet, if I would only shut my eyes upon his premeditated aggression.

By my desire, Major Outram wrote to the Ameer, and I consented not to notice his misconduct. I thought Major Outram's knowledge of the man would give a tone to his letter, and insure the best chance in my power of making peace; but my hopes were vain. Major Outram was deceived in the intentions of Meer Shere Mahomed, and the battle of Hyderabad was the result.

On arriving at Hyderabad, I discovered that Sobdar's men had been in the battle of Meeanee, and I saw no good reason why his hypocrisy should shelter him from the fate which attended the more manly delinquency of Nusseer Khan; that hypocrisy had not sheltered us from his matchlocks at Meeanee.

Meer Sobdar states, that he signed the Treaty offered by Lord Ellenborough, and that he has it still. Yes; but Meer Sobdar signed a duplicate treaty, which was put in possession of Major Outram, according to the rules of diplomacy. Meer Sobdar, in dark council with the other Ameers, had resolved to massacre Major Outram, and above a hundred British officers and soldiers that were with him. The Ameers made an ostentatious pretence of protecting him in the evening, knowing that he was to be slain the next morning. They had bribed the moonshee of Major Outram to steal and deliver to them the Treaty signed in full Durbar, and in full Durbar they tore it in pieces. Was this an action to restrain, or to encourage, their Beloochee chiefs? How absurd then was their assertion to Major Outram, the evening before, that they could not protect him. But suppose this assertion of theirs to have been true, what does it prove? Why, that princes who cannot protect accredited agents (invited by themselves to their capital) from being massacred by their troops, are mere chiefs of brigand bands, and must be put down by any civilized Government that has the power.

The Ameer says, "that from the time the English became masters of India, never was such disgrace, oppression, and tyranny offered to any sincere friend of Government." The answer to this is easy; sincere friends of Government don't send 4,800 men to cut British soldiers' throats. Moreover, no disgrace was put upon him, except that of being defeated in battle, in which it was disgraceful to him that his troops should have joined; no oppression and tyranny except being made prisoner, the natural result of such battle; and, as to being plundered, nothing was taken beyond what is the usual prize of the victorious Government, nothing was pillaged, everything is in the hands of the regular prize-agents, and ready to be accounted for to Her Majesty.

### 3. Complaint of Meer Nusseer Khan.

If friendship be taken into consideration, I beg to say that, from the begin-



Received in Eng-  
land, Aug. 2, 1843

up to the day of the battle of Meanee, every thing was wanting on Meer Khan's part; and my first act, on arriving at Hyderabad, in the month of September, hearing from Lieutenants Gordon and Mylne, then Political Agents, that the petty insults and breaches of treaty were frequent, was to determine to put a stop to them, and I wrote a distinct letter to the Ameers to that effect. Had they guided themselves by my letter, they would have been, unfortunately for humanity and the Sindian people, still on their thrones at Hyderabad; but they continued to break certain articles of the Treaty, and I reported them to the Governor-General, as I told them I would do.

The Ameer says that no attention was paid to his questions relative to shares in the port of Kurachee. The decision of these minor details was entrusted by me to Major Outram; but, instead of meeting Major Outram to enter into the discussion of them, the Ameers endeavoured to cut that officer's throat. It was therefore very natural that no attention was paid to their questions.

The Ameer says, "Meer Roostum Khan was sent to Hyderabad without asking us, or our agents." Meer Roostum Khan had promised to meet Major Outram at Khyrpore. Major Outram mounted his camel and went to Khyrpore, and the Ameer mounted his camel, and went off the other way to Hyderabad;—an insult to my Commissioner, and through him to me, that I am convinced was concocted by the other Ameers, in whose power Meer Roostum was from first to last. The Beloochees of the Murree tribe were seized on the road. "These two things," says the Ameer, "exasperated the Beloochees, and the consequence was slaughter and bloodshed." The last was quite true: twenty-five Murree chiefs were arrested passing near my camp, into which they were brought fully armed; they imagined that I was to be the dupe of a got-up story, that they were going to demand payment of wages due by the Ameers. They were all chiefs of the Murree tribe, and I took the liberty of examining their persons, as well as of taking away their arms. The chief of the Murrees, named Hyat Khan, was one of them. In his pocket I found a letter from the Ameers, summoning the clan to arms; every male that could muster sword, or shield, or spear, or matchlock. They were to meet the Ameers at Meanee on the 9th of February; it was, therefore, very natural that I should seize the Murree chiefs; and I have now given orders to my outposts if such parties present themselves, immediately to cut them down. The Ameers are much mistaken if they fancy English officers are so easily duped; and nothing but my determination not to shed a drop of blood before a declaration of war, prevented my ordering these twenty-five Murrees to be cut to pieces, for they gave sufficient provocation to have been charged by Jacob's Horse; but that officer, having my orders, saved them.

The Ameer says he fixed his seal to the new Treaty; yes, he did so in the evening of the 14th, and in the morning of the 15th tore it with contumely in open Durbar. The Ameer says he sent a guard of favourite nobles to protect Major Outram. It is very evident that there was no occasion to murder Major Outram in the evening, when they intended to destroy him, and all who were with him, next morning. They knew that by murdering him in the evening, his party would immediately retreat to the steamers and get away, and they would have lost the pleasure of murdering upwards of 100 Englishmen by the premature assassination of one.

But the Ameer at last determined to fight, "having become indifferent about life; and he went forth to battle." It seems, however, that when he heard the British guns, his love of life returned, and, instead of rallying his troops, he ran away.

The Ameer proceeds to say that he had not more than 7,000 horse and foot in the battle; whom they belonged to I don't know, but I have the sealed and verified returns in my possession of 25,862 fighting men on the field of Meanee. The words attributed by the Ameer to me, when I returned him his sword on the field of battle, are utterly false. The Ameer proceeds to say, "as long as Major Outram was there, everything went on well;" as if Major Outram had the power in any way to interfere with his treatment. Major Outram had no power whatever in Sind, or over the Ameers, and I had given the charge of the Ameers to Lieutenant Brown, the accusation against whom, together with Lieutenant-Colonel Pattle and Major McPherson, which immediately follows this sentence, has already been answered by those gentlemen.



Meerza Khoosroo Beg was not beaten, nor was anybody else; but, being in a passion, he seized Major Mc Pherson (who had neither said nor done anything to him) by the throat, and was, of course, instantly made a prisoner.

The following falsehoods are again stated by the Ameer:—1st, he says the fortress was plundered. It was not plundered, it was completely protected from plunder. The treasure it contained was regularly taken possession of, for the Government, by the prize-agents. The Ameer is right when he says the fort was neither besieged nor taken by storm; but it would have been both had not the terrors of the battle frightened its owners into an unconditional surrender. It was not visited under pretence of seeing. It was taken possession of by right of conquest, and it was done gradually and carefully, in order to prevent the ladies of the Zenana being alarmed, or seen by the troops; but for this delicacy I would have entered the fortress at the head of the troops.

The Ameer again says, "after granting quarter, making peace, promising satisfaction, and agreeing to restore the fort," &c. That we granted quarter is true, nobody was either injured, or even insulted, after the fight was over; but the "making peace" is a falsehood, "promising satisfaction" another, and "agreeing to restore the fort" a third: what remains of the complaint is an accumulation of falsehoods.

C. J. NAPIER.

No. 135.

*The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.*

(Extract.)

*Allahabad (No. 48) June 13, 1843.*

THESE notes\* I never read until I saw them to-day.

I know absolutely nothing of what may have passed between Major Outram and the Ameers, while he was acting as commissioner under Sir Charles Napier, for the settlement of the details of the Treaty, to which the Ameers had generally given their assent.

No. 136.

*Meer Mahomed and Meer Yar Mahomed to the Court of Directors.*

*June 14, 1843.*

BE it known that we were servants of Meer Nusseer Khan, from whom we received a salary of 4,000 rupees a-month, and lived in the fort of Hyderabad, never interfering with the politics of the country, but hoping that, through the aid of the English, we should be raised from our humble state to consideration. We were in this expectation when Sir Charles Napier arrived at Hyderabad, and Beloochees began to excite commotions, and the assemblage of the people of Sind was dispersed. We, owing to the slowness of fortune, like birds without feathers, remained in the fort, doing nothing. Although our circumstances were well known to General Napier and the other English officers, yet some of the arms given to us by our father, Meer Moorad Ali Khan, were taken from us by them, also our horses, bedding, and wedding ornaments. Resigning ourselves to fate, we tacitly submitted to this act of injustice and injury, and continued there, contemplating the caprices of fortune, when the British troops took possession of the fort of Hyderabad. They put no guard over us, as we were harmless individuals. We were sent to Bombay on board the "Coote," after the other Ameers; and we thank God that we are under the protection of the British, and hope that, having considered our former powerless and unoffending condition, you will settle upon us a monthly salary.

\* Major Outram's Notes of the Conferences.



and send us back to our country, that we may complete our marriage, which was postponed in consequence of the occurrences in Sind; and we shall be always ready to serve the British, living under the protection of the Queen of England.

May your days be propitious.

Received in  
land, Oct. 23.

No. 137.

*Meer Sobdur Khan to the Court of Directors.*

June 16, 1843.

BE it known that my good faith and friendship to the English had ever been considered so steadfast, that I was excused from paying tribute in consequence, and had repeated favours conferred on me by the Governor-General. I never failed in my service and obedience; and, from the time Major Outram was appointed Resident in Sind, I acted conformably to his wishes. In the late disturbances of the Beloochees I did not interfere, except to order that none of my followers should join them. Being a friend to the English, I remained quietly at home; and Major Outram, who is now at home, will, if asked, tell you that what I write is true. I affixed my seal to the Treaty sent by Sir C. Napier, as did Major Outram also (the Commissioner), and gave it to me; it is now in my possession, and I forward a copy of it with this petition. The Governor of Bombay has seen it. It is stated therein that, in lieu of my share of the revenues of Kurachee, a tract of land, of the yearly value of 50,000 rupees, should be made over to me by the English. When General Napier returned to camp, after his victory, and Major Outram had proceeded to Bombay, the General sent a message to me to turn out the Beloochees from the fort and town of Hyderabad; I accordingly did so; and, strong in the purity of my intentions, was ever obedient. Next day Colonel Pattle and some other officers came into the fort with troops, and plundered all the treasures, gold, and silver, and the articles in the tosha khana [a repository in which valuables are kept], and establishments, carpets, swords, and matchlocks, and knives, daggers, saddles of gold, and silver; and copper and silver utensils, horses, and mules, and everything else; costly fabrics, and articles of scarcely a needle's value, together with the wedding ornaments of my sons, Meer Futteh Ali Khan, and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, who are now here with me. The plunder was so complete, that they left us neither clothes, nor cloth to make them; they broke into the seraglios, and seized whatever they could lay their hands on. The soldiers and sepoys, who were on guard at the gates, seized the women who had ornaments on, and took them off the ladies who had never left the seraglio from fear of their lives, and, ashamed lest they should be seen, ran off, and, throwing away their ornaments, fled from the fort, taking with them only the clothes they had on. I was confined in the camp with other Ameers, and my sons in the fort. Since I commenced my friendship with the English, I have regularly supplied their steam-boats with fuel, and assisted them whenever I properly could. When Mr. Mylne, assistant to Major Outram, insisted on my permitting boats to pass up and down the river from the fort of Subzul to the sea, without paying toll, although it was an evident loss to me, and Mr. Mylne had no force at hand to intimidate me, yet, in consideration of my friendship with the British, I complied in all sincerity. Notwithstanding my honesty and forbearance, I know not how the English approved such tyranny and oppression as has been perpetrated on me. I have heard from sage travellers that it is contrary to the usages of the English to punish a man without giving him and proving his guilt; what kind of justice then is that which has sent me, who am innocent, away from my country, stripped me of my property, and driven me into exile, apart from my family? It will be spread all over these countries, that such has been the reward of a person who through life has served the English faithfully. I, therefore, trust that you will take my case into your consideration, its injustice and oppression, and afford me redress, according to the dictates of Christianity, restoring to me all my property which has been plundered, and, through your kindness, send me back to my country, where I shall continue grateful to you as long as I live.



Recd.  
1843.

No. 138.

*Lieutenant Gordon, in charge of the ex-Ameers of Sind, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.*

Sir,

*Sassoor, June 23, 1843.*

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, requiring me to state, for the consideration of Government, my opinion as to what allowance should be made to the ex-Ameers of Sind, I respectfully beg to submit the following estimate of their monthly expenses, viz.:—

Provisioning ex-Ameers and attendants*	Rupees 8,000
Monthly wages to servants	3,000
Clothing for Ameers and servants	1,500
Establishment of carriages, horses, &c.	2,500

Total, Rupees 15,000

2. I beg respectfully to submit, that the above sum, which, in my opinion, is not more than sufficient to maintain the ex-Ameers respectably, and in comfort, after they shall have been provided with carriages, horses, and a few other articles of outfit by Government, should be distributed amongst them as follows:—

Meer Nusseer Khan of Hyderabad	Rupees 2,800
Meer Roostum Khan of Khyrpore	2,500
Meer Sobdar Khan	2,500
Meer Meer Mahomed Khan	2,000
Meer Hoossein Ali (son of the late Meer Meer Mahomed)	1,400
Meer Mahomed Khan	600
Meer Yar Mahomed	400
Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore	700
Meer Hoossein Ali (first son of Meer Nusseer Khan of Hyderabad)	500
Meer Abbas Ali (second son of ditto)	300
Meer Futteh Ali (first son of Meer Sobdar)	500
Meer Mahomed Ali (second son of Meer Sobdar)	300
Meer Ali Buksh (son of Meer Roostum)	500

Total, Rupees 15,000

3. The above is an estimate of the allowance I conceive to be necessary for the expenses of the ex-Ameers of Sind with their present establishment, which, however, may be considerably increased after the rains, by the arrival here of the ladies of the seraglios, and their attendants, numbering I believe, by the lowest computation, not fewer than 400 individuals in all, and for whom, I presume, an additional maintenance will be granted by Government, on their arrival at Sassoor.

4. In assigning to each of the sons of the ex-Ameers a small portion of the allowance, which I should otherwise have recommended being added to their fathers' monthly salaries, I am guided by the consideration that, as all the sons are not treated with equal kindness by their fathers, it would enhance their respectability and comfort, to be made in some degree independent of their fathers' bounty, which is dealt out to them less liberally than to some of the more favoured servants.

5. Should the sum assigned as wages to servants, appear to be unreasonably large, I respectfully beg to explain that amongst them are several servants (it would perhaps be more correct to designate them companions) of the ex-Ameers, who, at Hyderabad, were in the receipt of, from 100 rupees to 400 rupees per mensem.

I have, &c.,

M. F. GORDON.



Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 9, 1843

No. 139.

*The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.*

Allahabad (No. 50), June 23, 1843.

(Extract.)

I HAVE considered Major Outram's notes of his conferences with the Ameer of Upper and Lower Sind, from the 8th to the 13th of February.

Inasmuch as Meer Ali Moorad was the only one of the Ameer who remained faithful to his engagements with the British Government, everything said by the other Ameer against him must be received with much caution and suspicion; but, if everything charged against Meer Ali Moorad by the Khyrpore Ameer at those conferences were true, it would not justify them in their subsequent hostility to us.

They were told by Major Outram, "that he was confident that the General would give the most favourable consideration in his power to the representation of their case, and that he hoped good to them would result from the investigation which he was sure would be instituted, as to the truth of what they had advanced; but that it was not in his power to pledge what would be the result, where he himself had not the power to decide."

They were likewise told by Major Outram, "that any attack upon Ali Moorad would be a breach of the Treaty, and treated as an act of hostility to the British."

The 5th Article of the Treaty with Meer Roostum, his heirs and successors, concluded in 1839, is in these words:—"The Ameer and his heirs and successors will not commit aggressions on any one. If by accident any dispute arise with any one, the settlement of it shall be submitted to the arbitration and award of the British Government."

Major Outram promised, all he could promise under the Treaty,—that their complaints would be investigated. They demanded from an officer having only a special limited authority (that of arranging the details of cessions and exchanges of land to be made under the new Treaty), that he should at once pledge himself that the question between Ali Moorad and them should be decided in their favour; and war was their alternative, if this pledge were not given.

To what extent lands are attached to the Turban, and what lands are so attached, we do not know.

The charge against Ali Moorad would seem to be, that he had forced Meer Roostum to cede to him lands not so attached, or that he had, without any such cession, taken possession of the lands of other chiefs, whose interest in such lands was not dependent on the Turban.

These were matters to be inquired into by the British Government, and upon which, after full inquiry, decision would have been given, as it had been in other cases of disputed land.

Sir Charles Napier sanctioned the cession, by Meer Roostum, of the Turban, with its accustomed rights; but his sanction went no further.

With whatever passed between Ali Moorad and Meer Roostum, on the occasion of the cession of the Turban, Sir Charles Napier had nothing to do. On the 20th of December, 1842, Sir C. Napier wrote, "I had a secret message from Meer Roostum; the bearer had an open letter, in the usual unmeaning style of the Durbar; but the messenger privately informed Lieutenant Brown, that Roostum could do nothing, and would escape to my camp. I did not like this, as it would have embarrassed me very much how to act; but the idea struck me at once, that he might go to Ali Moorad, who might induce him (as a family arrangement) to resign the Turban to him (Ali Moorad), especially as Roostum has long been desirous of getting rid of this charge of the Talpoors. I, therefore, secretly wrote to Roostum and Ali Moorad, and about one o'clock this morning, I had an express from Ali Moorad, to say, that his brother is safe with him, &c. Ali Moorad is now virtually chief, for if Meer Roostum does not bestow the Turban upon him, he will, at all events, be guided by Ali, into whose hands he has voluntarily thrown himself."

On the 29th of December, Sir C. Napier wrote, "Meer Roostum had



Received in England,  
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resigned the Turban to his brother Ali, in the most formal manner, writing his resignation in the Koran, before all the religious men collected to witness the resignation at Dejee. Ali sent the Koran to me to see it. I said that these family arrangements were their own, but that your Lordship would support the head of their family, whoever it might be, according to the spirit of the Treaty; that I, personally, thought it better for Roostum to keep the Turban, and let Ali Moorad act for him, but that he was free to do as he pleased; it was a family arrangement, with which your Lordship would not interfere.

"Now it strikes me that Ali Moorad may have frightened the old man into the foolish step he has taken, on purpose to make his possession of the Turban more decisive; that to do this he told him I intended to make him (Roostum) a prisoner; Ali pretending to be his friend, and only waiting for his opportunity to betray us. Such are my own conjectures," &c.

On the 7th of January, 1843, Sir C. Napier wrote from Doom, in the Desert:—"We yesterday came so close upon the traces of Meer Roostum, that, hearing that Major Outram was with me, (to whom he is personally known, and who joined me just as I set off on this exploring expedition), he sent a messenger to him, to say he was perfectly submissive. Major Outram asked my leave to go to him, as we were both convinced that Ali Moorad had frightened him. I told the Major, however, that I only agreed to his (the Ameer's) being made easy as to his personal safety; but that no concession or submission could reinstate him in the Turban, which he has resigned, and upon which I consider the tranquillity of Sind to depend.

"The Major returned with the son of Roostum, to whom I explained that his father is perfectly safe in person, that he will hold his lands according to your Lordship's draft of the Treaty; but must lose what is attached to the Turban; and that I would march to Emaum Ghur and place a killadar of Ali Moorad's in that fortress; that the old man (who it seemed had been persuaded by Ali Moorad that I meant to imprison him for life, and who was perfectly exhausted by his flight) might return to Khyrpore, or live any where he pleased as a simple Ameer. The son seemed satisfied with all this."

It is not to be believed that, if Meer Roostum had been induced to cede land not attached to the Turban, this son, who must have been most affected by such cession, should not have brought it prominently forward on this occasion; but he does not appear to have done so.

The result is this: that the British Government had no knowledge of any force put upon Meer Roostum to induce him to resign the Turban, or to induce him to fly from Ali Moorad's camp, after his resignation, or to induce him to cede other lands than such as were customarily attached to the Turban, if, indeed, such cession were ever made; that all these things, if done at all, were done by Meer Ali Moorad, *suo mero motu*; that they were all matters which might have been brought before the British Government to be investigated, and settled under Article V. of the Treaty; and that they cannot, by any reasonable construction, be deemed to justify hostilities against the British Government on the part of the Ameers, by whom these grievances are said to have been sustained.

Gul Hayat Institute

No. 140.

*The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.*

(Extract.)

Allahabad (No. 52), June 26, 1843.

ON the withdrawal of the British armies from Cabool to the Sutledj, I had to decide what course I should pursue with respect to the Lower Indus. I had to decide whether the Lower Indus should be altogether evacuated; and our armies everywhere resume the positions they occupied before the Affghan war; or whether, while the old positions were re-occupied upon the Sutledj, certain points should still be held upon the Lower Indus, which would ensure the strict performance of commercial treaties, and give us the military command of that river.



The withdrawal to the Sutledj, and the withdrawal from the Lower Indus, appeared to me to be very different questions. The withdrawal to the Sutledj was dictated by the clearest views of military and political prudence. I shall not recapitulate the reasons for that measure, as they have been placed on record in what has been called my Proclamation of the 1st of October, 1842.

Received in England, Oct. 9, 1842.

I have adopted every measure which could have the effect of giving the appearance of triumph to the return of the armies from Cabool; but still it was a retirement from an advanced position, and it was the first retirement ever rendered necessary to a British army.

I was deeply sensible of the impression which the reverses at Cabool had produced upon the minds of native princes, of the native population, and of our own troops. I knew that all that had taken place since, and all I had said and done, although it must have much diminished, could not have obliterated, that impression, and restored to our Government, and to our army, the place they had before held in the opinion of India.

To have added to retirement to the Sutledj, retirement from the Lower Indus; to have abandoned every part of the advanced position we had taken up in 1839; to have withdrawn from Kurachee and from Sukkur amidst the insults, and exposed, as we should have been, to the attacks of the Beloochees upon our rear guard; to have practically abandoned, as we should thereby have done, all the benefits which we might expect ultimately to derive from the commercial treaties concluded in 1839 (for it was idle to imagine after what had passed, that, without the presence of force, those treaties would be observed); to have abandoned also all the great prospective advantages which maybe expected to be derived from substituting the Indus for the Ganges, as the line of military communication between England and the north-west provinces, and to have left open to the ambition of the Sikhs, or of an European Power, that route of which we had demonstrated the practicability and the importance; to have done all these things, without positive instructions from you, or without some overpowering necessity, would have been, in my opinion, contrary to my duty, because inconsistent with our national interest and the national honor.

Such a measure would have confirmed the most exaggerated accounts which had been circulated of our disasters. It would have been humiliating to the army.

There was no overpowering necessity for retirement. There is no difficulty in holding the positions of Kurachee and Sukkur. The first is, during the largest portion of the year, accessible in a few days from Bombay; the latter is, during the whole year, accessible in less than three weeks from Ferozepore. We can besides command the river by our steam-vessels, if we have a sufficient number of them well adapted to the navigation.

The misinterpretations placed upon some provisions of the Commercial Treaty, and the various violations of its letter, and of its spirit, even while our armies were in force in Sind, satisfied me that, unless some penalty were imposed upon the Ameers for such infractions of their engagements, there could be no security whatever for their future observance.

I saw troops collected by the Ameers, contrary to their usage, and without legitimate cause; but such collection of troops in the presence of a British army is, in itself, an offence, and an indication of hostility not to be misunderstood or overlooked.

With respect to the authenticity of certain letters of hostile character, ascribed to the Ameers, or to their agents, you will have observed how strongly I impressed upon Sir Charles Napier the necessity of caution in coming to a decision on that point. I had, however, the fullest reliance upon the sense of justice: and with this reliance I felt that he, on the spot, with every opportunity of personal communication with those conversant with such matters, was infinitely more competent to form a correct conclusion than I could be, at Simla. To him, therefore, I confidently remitted the question.

I am satisfied with the grounds upon which he decided that the letters were authentic.

Major Outram's doubt as to the authenticity of the letter of Meer Roostum Khan to the Maharajah Shere Sing, appears to have rested upon the circumstance of the party whose information led to the seizure of the letter, being hostile to Meer Roostum Khan; but, assuredly, information tending to criminate



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Meer Roostum could not be expected from one of his friends. Lieutenant Mr. Clerk, as to the use which might be made of the letter, could hardly have been given, had he entertained a serious doubt of its authenticity. Mr. Clerk never had the opportunity of elucidating, in a personal conference with the Maharajah, in which he thought it could best be done, the doubts to which this letter, and the intercepted letter to Dewan Sawun Mull, gave rise; doubts which in his mind must have had reference more to his belief in the loyalty of the Maharajah, to whom the letter was addressed by Meer Roostum Khan, than to his confidence in that of Meer Roostum, who was unknown to him. Mr. Clerk truly observes, that "he does not think the question could, at any time, be well judged of here," that is, at Simla. I thought so too, and, therefore, referred the question altogether to Sir C. Napier, and the officers employed in Sind.

It appears, by Sir Charles Napier's letter of the 17th November, that Major Outram had doubts whether Meer Roostum was privy to the writing of the letter; but that the letter had his seal, and was written by his confidential Minister, there was no doubt. Lieutenant Brown assured Sir C. Napier that there could not be the slightest doubt of the authenticity of the letter. There has been no officer employed in Sind, upon whose opinion I would more confidently proceed than on that of Lieutenant Brown. Everything that has come to my knowledge, with regard to that officer, has tended to make me entertain a feeling of great respect for his ability and his character.

But while doubts have thus been thrown upon the letter of Meer Roostum to the Maharajah, none have been entertained with respect to the proposed agreement between Meer Roostum and Meer Nusseer Khan, "binding them to act together in every affair, whether for good or evil, peace or war;" which proposed agreement, to the best of the judgment and belief of Major Outram, is in the handwriting of Meer Roostum himself. When that proposed agreement is considered, in connection with Meer Nusseer's conduct, and with the collection of troops, before any intimation was given to the Ameers of any intention of proposing any modification of the Treaty, it is impossible to view it in any other light than as an act of hostility.

That the letter of Meer Nusseer Khan to Beebruck Boogie bore his seal, there can now be no doubt. The seal upon that letter, by all before believed to be that of Meer Nusseer, was found to correspond exactly with the seal upon a letter of that Ameer, which bore also the handwriting of his confidential moonshee.

Much care appears to have been taken to investigate all the circumstances attending the escape of Mahomed Shurreef. It seems impossible to doubt the participation of Meer Roostum's Minister in that escape of an enemy to the British Government, proceeding to act hostilely against us.

I cannot admit the convenient doctrine that a Chief is not to be responsible for the act of his Minister. That Minister, known to be so hostile to the British Government, remained with Meer Roostum to the last.

I have endeavoured to judge my own conduct as I would that of another; and I cannot think, in reviewing it, that in the circumstances in which I stood, I was unjustified in requiring from the Ameers the specific modifications of their engagements which I instructed Sir Charles Napier to propose to them.

These modifications of the existing Treaty involved on our part the abandonment of a considerable revenue, payable to us every year by the Ameers, under the name of tribute. They involved, undoubtedly, the sacrifice, on their part, of lands of more than equivalent value; but the penalty imposed did not seem disproportioned to the offence I had reason to believe they had committed.

You have been long in possession of the reason which induced me to think that the abolition of tribute was in itself a good. You have also long been aware of the grounds on which I deemed it politic to make a gift to the Nawab of Bhawalpore, of territory which formerly belonged to his State. Had you disapproved of the general principles upon which the new Treaty proposed to the Ameers was founded, still more had you disapproved of the intention I had announced of holding military possession of certain points upon the Lower Indus, after the evacuation of Afghanistan, I presume that you would have



presented me with that opinion; in the absence of any intimation to that effect, I had reason to suppose that a new Treaty, based upon those principles, would not be unacceptable to you. Received in England, Oct. 9, 1843.

Had the Ameers seen fit to reject the Treaty proposed to them, and to support that rejection openly by arms, they would have pursued a legitimate course, and their defeat in fair fight would have admitted of subsequent arrangements on the basis of their retaining a portion of their territory, and the exercise of sovereign authority; but, from the first, while they of course admitted the correctness of the charges made against them, they professed their willingness to submit to the penalty imposed; still, they collected more troops. At last, having drawn the British General into the vicinity of Hyderabad; having then actually signed the Draft of the Treaty, they, with a portion of their troops, made a treacherous attack upon the residence of the British Commissioner, and, with all their forces united, they opposed the further advance of our army at Meeanee.

It would be to take an incorrect view of the treachery of the Ameers were we to regard them, from their first acquiescence in the proposed Treaty, the first week of December, to the attack on the Residency on the 15th of February, as proceeding upon any other principle than that of collecting all their forces to surround and destroy our army, while they endeavoured to deceive the General by professing their readiness to submit.

When Sir Charles Napier gained the battle of Meeanee he had 22,000 men in his front; but he had also had for some days 10,000 men in his rear, who had crossed the Indus to attack him.

Such large assemblages of armed men cannot take place in any country without much previous preparation. It was in this case a levy *en masse* of the ruling tribe from every part of Sind.

Our first duty is to our own army; and it is due to that army that we should not forgive, or leave without the most exemplary and deterring punishment, the far-seeing and long-designing treachery by which its destruction was to be effected.

The example of the Affghans at Cabool was to be followed by the Beloochees at Hyderabad; but the spirit in which they were met was different from that which at Cabool led to the destruction of a British army.

It was my duty to mark such conduct by an extent of punishment which should be a warning to every chief and people in India, which should give future security to the persons of British Ministers, and protect British troops from treacherous aggression.

The battle of Meeanee entirely changed the position in which the British Government stood with respect to the Ameers of Sind.

To have placed confidence in them thereafter would have been impossible,

To have only exacted from them large cessions of territory would have been to give them what remained as the means of levying war for the purpose of regaining what was ceded.

Foreigners in Sind, they had only held their power by the sword, and by the sword they have lost it.

Their position was widely different from that of a native Prince succeeding a long line of ancestors, the object of the hereditary affection and obedience of his subjects.

They had no claim to consideration on the ground of ancient possession, or of national prejudice. Certainly they had none arising out of the goodness of their Government. To take advantage of the crime they had committed to overthrow their power was a duty to the people they had so long misgoverned.

It was essential to the settlement of the country, that I should take at once a decided course with respect to the Ameers; and, having no doubt that I was justified in dethroning them, I determined on at once adopting and announcing that decision.

Their removal from the country with which they were no longer to be connected as Sovereigns was a measure of obvious expediency. It has apparently had the beneficial effect I anticipated from it. The willing acquiescence of the people in our rule; and the adhesion of many of the chiefs to our Government; are already the just rewards of an unhesitating and decisive



Received in  
Ind. Oct. 2, 1843.

policy, which, in taking away every hope from the Ameers, has given confidence to their late oppressed subjects.

Some resistance on the part of the Ameers, I regarded as not an impossible event, and I considered that, having once felt our strength, they might thereafter be more strict observers of their engagements. Treachery, such as that we experienced, had not come within my calculations. A victory, decisive as that at Meeanee, and gained under such circumstances, was to me a wholly unexpected event. As I have said, it entirely changed our position, and I was compelled at once to decide what policy should be adopted in the new state of things. I could not, for the reasons I have given, reinstate the Ameers. Any other arrangement than I have made, would have imposed upon us all the burthen of protecting a Government, without affording us the means of benefiting the people or ourselves. Any half measure would have failed. Adopting the decisive measure of taking the province into our hands, I determined to adapt the means to the end, and not to omit any step by which security could be given to the new possession.

The Ameers were removed beyond sea. All arrears of revenue due to them on the day of the battle of Meeanee were remitted; the transit duties were abolished; the neighbouring States of Joudpore and Jessulmere were, as well as Bhawalpore, interested in the overthrow of the Beloochees, by the intimation that their ancient possessions would be restored. The inhabitants of Sind were assured by proclamation, that the property of all who laid down their arms would be respected. As far as possible, the former officers of the Government were employed, and everywhere as little change as possible has been made, beyond that essential change of substituting justice for injustice in the administration. The police has already attained some degree of efficiency. The most able engineers will be employed for the purpose of surveying, and of restoring, if it can be done, the ancient water-courses whereby the country was fertilized, and especially that, first closed by the vindictive and destructive policy of the rulers of Sind, which once gave prosperity to the dominions of our ally the Rao of Cutch.

The vast tracts which the Ameers have converted into shikargahs will also be surveyed. Such of the woods as it may be necessary to retain will be carefully preserved; and extensive portions of land, having the richest soil, lately reserved for hunting-grounds by the Ameers, will be restored to cultivation.

Some of these measures have originated with myself; in others I have been anticipated by the Governor of Sind; in all, I know I shall have his most cordial co-operation.

One of the measures which, in the first instance, I adopted,—that for the abolition of slavery,—has produced an extent of relief far beyond what I had expected. I was by no means aware of the degree to which that dreadful scourge of mankind had added to the misfortunes of the people of Sind.

It is impossible to calculate the extent to which, by opening ancient courses to the waters of the Indus, and by extending the means of irrigation, we may improve the productiveness of the soil. As little can we calculate the extent to which the assurance of protection given to the people may increase their industry, and thus finally promote their prosperity. You may be assured that no exertion of mine shall be wanting to make the conquest of Sind by the British arms no less the source of happiness to the inhabitants of that country, than of advantage to our own.

No. 141.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

My Lord,

Hyderabad, June 27, 1843.

THE ladies of the Zenana have, at length, consented to take a monthly allowance of four thousand five hundred rupees (4500) for their maintenance.



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At my request, an influential Beloochee chief, who lately came in, became mediator between the ladies and the Government.

I have, &c.,

C. J. NAPIER.

Received in England, Oct. 9, 1843.

No. 142.

*Sir C. Napier to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.*

Sir, I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 13th of June. July 2, 1843.

Received in England, Nov. 6, 1843.

You will be pleased to state, for the information of the Governor in Council, that, as the Ameers carry on a correspondence with their families, both by letters and messengers, probably unknown to the Bombay Government, I can have no difficulty in allowing any letters to pass, such as your letter to me (under reply) incloses. In this unsettled country it is impossible, at present, to prevent this, and I do not very clearly see how the Bombay Government can prevent it; I question much whether it is of any importance. The Sindian population detest the Ameers; the Hindoo population rejoice in their overthrow; and the Beloochees are perfectly indifferent to their late chiefs. Shere Mahomed's troops completely plundered him the other day, and then ran away,—at least so we hear; and, as Captain Jacob lost no men, it is probably true.

I have, &c.,

C. J. NAPIER.

No. 143.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

(Extract.)

Hyderabad, July 3, 1843.

A PRIVATE letter from Bombay informs me that a letter received from \_\_\_\_\_, says he "considered the destruction of Emaum Ghur as a more flagitious act than the attack upon the Residency." Received in England, Oct. 9, 1843.

"As nothing would give me more pain than having done anything which might expose your Lordship to attack, it is necessary for me to furnish proofs that I have not done so.

1. Emaum Ghur, with all other fortresses in Upper Sinde, belonged to the Turban, or "Rais."

2. His Highness Ali Moorad was Rais by the law of Sinde, and Meer Mahomed was in rebellion against him.

3. His Highness accompanied me to Emaum Ghur. On our arrival, he proposed to destroy the fortress, but afterwards seemed doubtful whether he would do so or not. I wrote\* to his Highness to convince him of the necessity of that measure.

4. He consented, and I inclose to your Lordship his Highness' reply†, authorizing me to destroy Emaum Ghur.

5. His Highness himself fired some of the guns, and once or twice threw shells into the fort, so that I was fully borne out in what I did by the owner of the fortress. I could legally have done the same thing under like sanction, in the middle of England, and this without adverting to the breaches of treaty, and preparations for war everywhere carrying on by the Ameers against us.

Another charge against me I find to be, that my "continued march upon Hyderabad, in despite of the advice of Major Outram, was that which forced the Ameers to war." I certainly did reject Major Outram's advice, because I soon saw that he was grossly deceived by the Ameers. I had several proofs of this, one or two of which I now feel it right to state to your Lordship.

1. Major Outram, being at Hyderabad, sent me two (or three my journal says, but I can find but two) dispatches by express, on the 12th, to assure me

\* January 12, 1843, No. 18, page 8.

† January 12, 1843, No. 19, page 8.



Received in  
Eng-  
land, Oct. 9, 1843.

that the Ameers had not any armed men except their usual personal attendants, and that these were not more numerous than Indian princes of their rank would move with in time of profound peace. At that moment the army of the Ameers was assembled at Meeanee, only six miles from Hyderabad, and were preparing their position. At the moment he was writing these dispatches to me, his house was surrounded by 8,000 Beloochees (who had eight pieces of cannon), preparing for their attack on him the 15th February.

2. Major Outram wrote to ask me to go to Hyderabad alone to meet the Ameers.

3. He proposed my sending my troops to Meerpore.

Had I allowed myself to be guided by Major Outram, my own throat and his, and the throats of all with us, would probably have been cut, and the army left without a leader at Meerpore, forty miles from the river, which formed our line of communication by steamers with Sukkur and Bombay, and with the friendly territory of his Highness Ali Moorad, which extended south as far as Nowshera; when thus isolated, the army would have been attacked by 60,000 men, pushed back upon the Desert, and there have miserably perished.

As Major Outram had lived many years at the Court of Hyderabad, and every one spoke of his "great local knowledge of the Ameers and of this country," while I was a perfect stranger to both, I might well have been excused (supposing anything can excuse a general officer for losing an army) had I allowed myself to have been guided by Major Outram; and his advice was pressed upon me with all the zeal inspired by honesty of purpose, added to an ardent disposition. But my spies brought me intelligence that 30,000 men were in my front; some said 40,000. I concluded that these spies exaggerated numbers, but it was clear to my mind that the Beloochees were above 20,000 men, and in sufficient numbers to make them believe that their victory would be certain. Therefore I argued that Major Outram's report was wrong, that he was deceived, and ignorant of what was passing about him. His proposal to march the troops to Meerpore made me think that he understood very little of war; I therefore paid no attention to his suggestions. I put all my sick and treasure on board a steamer, and resolved to attack the enemy. If we were beaten we had plenty of provisions, and with our backs to the river, (for retreat would have been disastrous) and the steamers, I could have entrenched myself till reinforcements arrived. I had full confidence in the troops, and little feared an undisciplined multitude; but still the game was not an easy one; and I have shown that, had I taken Outram's advice, as I was reproached for not having done, a second Cabool massacre would probably have taken place.

One would have imagined that the attack on the Residency would have, at least, opened Outram's eyes to the treachery of the characters he had to deal with. Not a bit; he joined me on the 16th, at Muttaree, and still wanted me to delay my attack for a day! Yet, six hours delay would have added 24,000 men to the forces of the Ameers at Meeanee. It is true that I had no positive information of this at the moment; but I was sure of it from the letter I found on the Murree chief, Hyat Khan, whom I had seized. In this letter the Ameers pressed the Murrees to join on the 9th. Now, I knew that these barbarians would not leave their villages while the feast of the Moharrem lasted. It was to finish on the 11th; therefore I guessed how fast they would gather after that day, and I resolved not to lose an hour. If my conduct be attacked in the House of Commons, I think the foregoing statement will be a sufficient defence. I am not conscious of having erred in rejecting Major Outram's advice.

Outram's answer will be, "There would not have been war." The Ameers answered this on the 15th; but suppose not; was I to place the army at their mercy, to spare, or destroy, as they pleased? Their mercy! I have it in proof, that about the time Major Outram kept assuring me of their pacific feelings and disposition towards us, they had sent orders along both banks of the Indus to their people "to kill every English man, woman, and child, they could lay their hands upon." We should have received the tender mercies of the Afghans in the Tezreen Pass,—the mercy which Outram would have received himself, but for my forebodings, and sending him the light company of the 22nd Regiment.



Received in  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.

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No. 144.

*The Commissioner in Sinde to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.**Hyderabad, July 6, 1843.*

BY direction of the Governor of Sinde, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th ultimo, which only reached Hyderabad yesterday. It contained a petition from the ex-Ameer Sobdar Khan. I am instructed to request that you will be good enough to submit to the Governor in Council the said petition, and that you will request that this, and all other petitions from the ex-Ameers, may be forwarded direct to the Governor-General of India; and his Excellency further begs that his Lordship's attention, and that of the Governor in Council may be drawn to the insulting expressions used in the ex-Ameer's petition, and which expressions\* his Excellency has underlined, as he cannot submit to have the officers under his command insulted by the unprincipled ex-Ameer.

I have, &amp;c.,

E. J. BROWN.

No. 145.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.**Hyderabad, July 11, 1843.*

(Extract.)

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter, dated 7th ultimo, which arrived here yesterday, inclosing some notes of conversations held by Major Outram with the Ameers, and with their vakeels, between the 8th and 13th February last.

The notes of the meeting with the Ameers, on the 12th of February, were probably sent to me, but I did not receive them.

The notes of the meeting on the 8th of February, I received on the 11th. I could not forward to your Lordship, because, after the 13th, our communications were intercepted; but the inclosed copy of a letter† to Major Outram shows that I intended to do so, although I did not think it necessary as we were on the eve of a battle, which I knew could not take place, if the Ameers were honest, and spoke the truth. After the action, the Ameer placed my small force in so much danger, by their intrigues with Meer Sher Mahomed, that I never thought more of Outram's "minutes," till I receive your Lordship's present letter.

Recurring to that period, and as it seems that Major Outram has sent a statement to the Government, it is incumbent on me to show what weight was due to his judgment on that occasion, and what weight also was due to the assertions of the Ameers, that they wanted to keep the peace with us; for on their sincerity depends any value which may be supposed to attach to their conversations with Outram.

I shall, for the present, confine my remarks to the period between the 8th and 12th of February.

Major Outram had been deceived by the Ameers. On the 10th and 11th February, he sent two letters to me, following each other, by express; these letters contained three important things:—

1. A request that I should halt the troops.
2. A request that I should go in person to Hyderabad.
3. The information that the Ameers had dispersed all their troops.

Now, my Lord, it so happened, that the moment when Major Outram wrote the above, 25,862 fighting men were—a portion of them strengthening their position at Meeance, about six miles off, and the others were round Major Outram's house, preparing to attack it.

Ten thousand men of the Chandia tribe had crossed the river, and were

\* "The treaties and certificates have been plundered along with my other property by the British officers." No. 126.

† February 11, 1843, No. 57, page 32.



Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 9, 1843.

coming down the left bank of the Indus, in my rear; 7000 of Meer Roostum's men were within thirty miles, and in rear of my left flank at Kohera, and marching from Meerpore; and, in the mountains on the right bank of the Indus, thousands more were preparing to come; so that I had, as my spies correctly stated, 25,000 men in my front, and 25,000 more marching upon me in all directions, and these without reference to the tribes gathering in the hills, and all these, as the Ameers affirmed to Major Outram, perfectly beyond their controul. Yet Major Outram sent me two letters in one day, to assure me that the Ameers had dismissed all their troops, and asked me to let him give them a pledge that I would not march. Thus, in a most perilous position, would the Major's advice have completely shackled my movements, and placed my small army beyond the power of being saved, except by a miracle.

In examining the foregoing facts, let me draw your Lordship's attention to two very important points:—

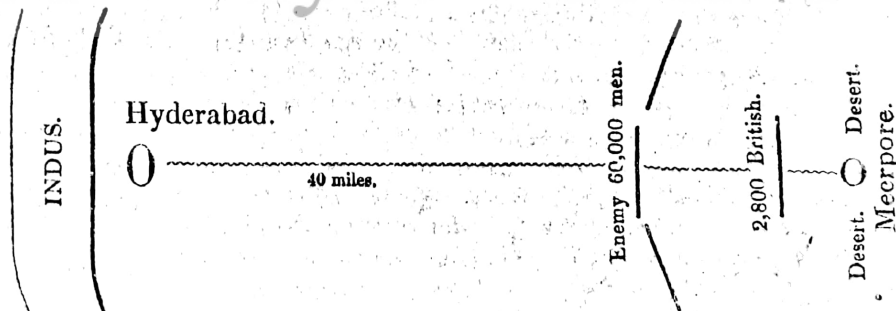
1. That the Ameers did not want to have peace, that they were confident of victory, and had accurately calculated the day I should arrive at Meeanee, namely the 17th February; and they knew that they could not assemble their full force of 50,000 men till the night of the 17th, or the morning of the 18th, of February. Therefore all their diplomacy of dissimulation, procrastination, and protestation, was put in force to deceive Major Outram, and obtain a pledge that I should halt, if only for a day. I think he would have so pledged himself, had I not positively forbidden him to give any pledge without my consent.

That this was the real motive of the anxiety exhibited by the Ameers to suspend my march, if only for a day, is made more apparent by the fact, that there was no advantage to be gained by delaying the signature of the draft Treaty. On the contrary, to sign this draft would enable the Ameers at once to discuss and formally to protest against any, and every, part of it, while it would relieve them at once from the presence of our troops; but they were confident of victory, and wanted to fight. There were 25,000 men to be obtained by one day's delay in my arrival at Meeanee; and, if the Ameers could have gained a week, it would have brought us into the hot season, which they thought would paralyze my movements, and finally destroy the troops. They were in a great measure right.

2. Had I been persuaded to believe in the jesuitical protestations of the Ameers, I should have sacrificed the troops, and another great catastrophe would have befallen the British arms.

Now, my Lord, when I considered these matters, I saw that I could place no faith in the truth of the Ameers. Their "conversations" appeared to me to be so much waste-paper.

But this was not all. Outram had asked me seriously to go to Hyderabad alone, and recommended me to send my troops to Meerpore. My throat would have been cut, of course; and the troops having lost their General, and having been removed forty miles from their line of communication, viz., the Indus, would have been placed as follows:—



From this position they would very quickly have been pushed into the Desert, and there every soul must have perished; even victory could not have saved them. They could never have regained the river, harassed by a repulsed,



Received in England, Oct. 23, 1843.

hourly increasing, force, for forty miles, a force more than twenty times our own numbers before the battle.

As Major Outram seems to have forwarded his notes, I think he ought to have forwarded my denial of Meer Roostum's assertions.

This does not appear to have been done, so I take the liberty of sending with a copy of my letter\*; being, indeed, the same letter in which I acknowledged the receipt of the conversation with the Ameers on the 8th February.

Though much harassed by the unavoidable labour which attaches to the command of a young and inexperienced force suddenly assembled, I am not aware that I left anything unreported to your Lordship that I considered of importance; but, in case of accidents, I have all my letters to the Ameers, as well as my proclamations, together with any letters to Major Outram which bear on the subject; indeed, I believe, all I have do so. These will enable your Lordship to show the English Government that I did all but sacrifice the honor of our arms, to maintain the peace, for which I believe that your Lordship and myself were as anxious as Major Outram or any other person.

No. 146.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

Hyderabad, July 13, 1843.

(Extract.) I WAS much vexed at myself for not having sent Major Outram's notes this interview with the Ameers, because I received them on the 11th of February, and the post was open to the 13th, as I find by a long letter written to your Lordship on that day.

We were all hard-worked at that time, and I recollect thinking that, as a battle would take place, or peace be made in a few days (if Major Outram's assertions were correct), the face of affairs would change.

I therefore delayed sending this paper, till I heard of the Ameers having signed the draft Treaty.

I had, however, made preparations for sending the notes of Outram's letter to your Lordship, for I have just found among my papers a copy of a paper prepared for transmission to your Lordship, and with it I find my notes made on reading it. I had by that time discovered that there was a party resolved to support the Ameers through thick-and-thin.

I received Outram's notes on the 11th: I must have made these notes in the evening. The copy (occupied as every one was) could hardly have been made before the evening of the 12th. I required much time, each of those days, to be alone in uninterrupted reflection upon the conflicting information given by Major Outram, and the reports of my spies. It was impossible to come to conclusions."

Major Outram's character and local experience gave weight to his assertions, yet they were diametrically opposed to the statements of the scouts. The fate of the force, perhaps, much more, depended upon the decision; few men could go through more anxiety than I did during those days, lest disgrace should fall on the British arms through my agency.

The papers found on the Murree chiefs, and their arrest, had occupied all the time, nearly, and decided my opinion. There remained but little doubt of the truth in which Outram had been duped. I thought it essential that copies of the letters found on the Murree chief, Hyat Khan, should be sent to your Lordship, in case of any misfortune befalling the troops. I still hoped for the signed treaty, and must have intended to send that, and the notes on the subject together.

On the 14th, all communication was at an end, and my time occupied by preparations for meeting the enemy, endeavouring to find out where he was, what were his intentions, our proper direction of march, and for our guides were either treacherous, or frightened to death. The march upon an enemy of such force was alone so engrossing.



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ing, that really, if I had thought these papers important (which I neither did, nor do now), I could not have attended to them. If they produce annoyance, or throw difficulties in your Lordship's way, very deeply shall I regret that I forgot to send them after the battle.

I herewith send a translation\* of Meer Roostum's resignation of the Turban.

*(Translation of Meer Roostum's resignation of the Turban)*

No. 147.

*The Governor-General to Sir C. Napier.*

(Extract.)

*Barrackpore, July 13, 1843.*

Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 9, 1843.

I RECEIVED here yesterday, in your Excellency's letter of the 13th ultimo, copies of the charges made against your Excellency, and your officers, and troops, by certain of the ex-Ameers of Sinde; and also copies of the observations made upon those charges by your Excellency, and by your officers who were implicated therein.

I am satisfied that neither your Excellency, nor any one of your officers, can have apprehended, for an instant, that I should attach any weight to accusations, monstrous in themselves, under any circumstances, as directed against soldiers of honor, and certainly not deriving any peculiar and unusual value from the character of the persons from whom they were made to proceed.

My confidence in the honor, as well as in the courage, of the Army of Sinde has never been, for an instant, impaired.

No. 148.

*Meer Shahdad Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

*14th Jummod-is-sanee, 1259. (July 13, 1843.)*

Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.

I DEEM it necessary to make a brief representation of the circumstances which I have not as yet brought to the notice of Government, and trust that, after taking it into consideration, proper arrangements will be made. As I have not acted contrary to the wishes of the British Government, of the Governor-General, or of your Excellency, as I have never shown disobedience, as I have always lived in peace and comfort under the protection of the British Government, as I have not allowed anything to be wanting in my services to the Government, of which, and of the Queen of England, I have reckoned myself a dependent and a subject, I have been, and am still persuaded, that Government will ever regard me with kindness. As I have always conformed to the wishes of the British Government, and as my conduct has been unexceptionable to the minutest particular, I expected that, agreeably to the everlasting treaty with the British Government, I, during my lifetime, and my posterity after me, should be allowed to rule over my native country with honour and dignity. I never violated the Treaty of Fourteen Articles, entered into with Lord Auckland, through Sir Henry Pottinger. General Sir Charles Napier wrote to me, that, as I had conformed to the Treaty with the British Government, he would bring my sincerity to the notice of the Governor-General. After a few months, General Napier, without any offence on my part, sent a new Treaty to me, through Mr. Stanley; and although I had committed no offence which would call for any modification of the former Articles of Agreements, still I consented to the new Treaty. As some of the Articles of this Treaty were ambiguous, I deputed my agents several times to General Napier at Sukkur, in order that they might obtain an explanation. They stopped there for several months, but did not get an opportunity of even paying their respects to the General. The proceedings of Meer



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Moostum Khan had caused excitement among the Beloochees, and yet the said Ameer was dispatched to Hyderabad, without any intimation having been made to the agents, who had gone a second time to Sukkur at the request of General Napier, and, in consequence, the excitement was considerably increased at Hyderabad. During the height of this excitement, Major James Outram came to Hyderabad, and explained the ambiguities in the new Treaty, in which a deduction of 50,000 Kuldar rupees, from the payment of the Chownee allowance, was allowed to Meer Sobdar Khan, on account of his fourth share of the port of Kurachee, while I and the other Ameer were allowed a deduction of only 25,000 rupees each. Although this was a great piece of injustice, I, in my sincerity and friendship towards the British Government, affixed my seal to the Treaty, and delivered it to Major Outram. Moonshee Mahdoo was an eye-witness of what took place on the night when the Beloochees showed manifestations of tumult in Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan's bungalow. The following day, Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, and my brother Meer Mahomed Hoossein Ali Khan, having no alternative, left them, mounted their horses, and accompanied the Beloochees. As I entertained no hostile intention, I remained in the fort of Hyderabad. The paper to which all the Sirdars had affixed their seals, was in the possession of Jan Mahomed Khan Talpoor, who originated the disturbance, and who was killed in the battle of Meeanee. If this document is obtained from his brothers, Government will see who are innocent and who are guilty. Two days after Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Hoossein Ali Khan had accompanied the Beloochees, I went to the latter with the object of concluding peace, and I wished to depute agents to negotiate with General Napier. But, before this could be done, the General marched against us with hostile intentions, and, before we mounted our horses, the fight had commenced, and the report of guns heard. Being without any remedy, we went to Fulaillee, and remained there. The battle was furious. Of the Beloochee Sirdars who had caused the excitement, some were killed, and others fled. As I throughout my life had been obedient to the British Government, I wished to present myself immediately before General Napier, but, owing to the fury of the fight, I could not do so, and therefore remained in Hyderabad during the night. Next morning, having dismissed the 10,000 Beloochees who had assembled, and having put a stop to the fight, I, Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, and Meer Mahomed Hoossein Ali Khan, went of our own accord to the General, and having unbuckled our swords, placed them before him. He was pleased to return them to us. He told us to be at ease in every respect; that an answer would be received from the Governor-General in the course of twenty-five days; that he would represent all the circumstances to the Governor-General with a recommendation in our favour; that, if it pleased God, the case would be satisfactorily settled; and that we should remain with him until the receipt of a reply from the Governor-General. In conformity to the wishes of Major Outram, Meer Hoossein Ali Khan was allowed to go away, and we remained with the General in great hope. We went with him to the British camp. As long as Major Outram was in Sind we were treated with respect; after his departure, Moonshee Ali Akbar came and told us that the British officers wished to see the fort of Hyderabad; we therefore sent our confidential servants with those officers. Afterwards, Moonshee Ali Akbar brought a message from General Napier, to the effect that all our property was to be made over to the British officers; that it would be held as a deposit; and that, on the receipt of orders from the Governor-General, it would be restored to us. I, therefore, in order to preserve my dignity, and to please the General, sent Meorza Mahomed Bakur Georgian (a respectable man, although a khidmutgar), Hajee Abdool Guffoor, Hajee Umber Hubshee, and Mhetaram Hindoo (who was formerly my servant, and is now with Meer Nusseer Khan, at Sassoor), with Moonshee Ali Akbar, in order that they might accompany the British officers. The whole of my treasure, consisting of gold and silver coins, swords, muskets, daggers, shields, valuable saddles set with jewels, all the articles in the juwarhi khana, books, Korans, cloths, clothes, and ornaments of my ladies, were, after placing guards at the door of my seraglio, taken possession of in a disgraceful manner. It is our custom not to enter the seraglio of even a brother, but some of the British officers rushed into my seraglio, and carried away the trifling property which



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remained. They also took possession of my household furniture, consisting of tents, Persian carpets, Cambay carpets, gold, silver, and copper vessels, China ware, horses, camels, and mules. The loss I thus suffered amounts to thirty lacs of rupees. Whatever I possessed has fallen into the hands of the British officers. The sepoys who were stationed at the gate of the fort of Hyderabad deprived every woman they saw of her ornaments. The women of my house had not gone out for the last sixty or seventy years, but some of them, throwing away the ornaments from their ears and noses, went out of the fort of Hyderabad, being in fear of their lives, and of being seen by strangers. Since the first conquest in Hindostan, even an enemy had not experienced such tyranny, and it was not proper that we, who have been sincere and obedient friends and dependents of the British Government, should have been so tyrannized. Had a shot been fired from the fort of Hyderabad, or had an armed sepoy appeared on the fort, the tyranny and plunder would have been justifiable. How can the plunder of Hyderabad be justified, when neither was there a shot fired from the fort, nor did an armed sepoy appear on its walls? Besides, the proceeds of my portion of Sinde, including jagheers which amount to six lacs per annum, have been taken possession of. Government is well aware of the friendship and amity which Meer Moorad Ali Khan formed with Government, by allowing to the British a passage through the river; as also of the manner in which my father, Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, promoted the friendship, rendering every service to Lord Keane, in his expedition to Khorasan, in the way of supplying him with provisions. For the satisfaction of the British Government, he, at his own expense, furnished Lord Keane with the camels, worth twenty-one lacs of rupees, which were to have been supplied by Meer Mahomed Khan. Nor did I, in any respect, fail in my services to the British Government. I served every British officer who came to Sinde. All these things were not done, that I might fall into my present condition, but for benefit. Even in my present condition there is nothing wanting in my sincerity. I therefore trust that, from a regard to British justice and equity, the oppression I experience may be removed, and that my affairs may be restored to their former footing. I have come before the gates of Government, with great hopes of obtaining redress. I beg your Excellency will bring these circumstances to the knowledge of the Queen of England, the Honorable Company, and the Governor-General of India, in order that, through your Excellency's kindness, my affairs may be satisfactorily settled.

No. 149.

*Minute by the Governor of Bombay, subscribed by the Board.*

*Without date, but inclosed in a letter dated July 15, 1843.*

Received in Eng-  
land, Nov. 6, 1843.

1 DEEM it proper to record, that I have lately visited Sassoor, in order to satisfy myself, by personal observation, that the ex-Ameers of Sinde are as comfortable as circumstances permit.

2. I was happy to find that they are, in all respects, well provided for. The accommodation at Sassoor is ample and commodious, and all the Ameers admitted they had nothing to complain of; though Nusseer Khan, the chief Ameer, observed, "the shelter of a tree in one's own wutun [country], was preferable to a palace in a foreign country."

3. I had an interview of about an hour with the Ameers, at which each separately reiterated, with some additions, the complaints they have formerly submitted to Government in writing. I informed them, in reply, that all their representations had been submitted for the consideration of the Governor-General of India, and that they would hereafter be forwarded to the Home Authorities.

4. I also informed them that it was the desire of Government that every arrangement should be made for their comfort and convenience, and that every reasonable request with this view would meet with proper attention.



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They seemed much pleased when I informed them that orders had been issued to provide carriages for the use of the elder, and horses for the younger Ameers.

Received in England, Nov. 6, 1843.

G ARTHUR.  
G W. ANDERSON.  
J. H. CRAWFORD.

No. 150.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

(Extract.)

Hyderabad, July 18, 1843.

I SEND all my public letters, and all my proclamations.

Received in England, Oct. 23, 1843.

No. 151.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

(Extract.)

Hyderabad, July 24, 1843.

I SEND the will of Meer Sohrab Khan Talpoor.

Received in England, Nov. 6, 1843.

No. 152.

*Will of Meer Sohrab Khan Talpoor.*

I WRITE this to let it be known that I have divided my country among my sons, and I have given each a certificate shewing what his share is, and I have divided the whole between my three sons, Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Moobarick Khan, and Meer Ali Moorad. I have divided the country, with whatever may be its annual produce, into four shares, two shares to Meer Roostum, as specified below.

The district of Nowshera, Kundeara, Suddagagan, Boordika, Roopa, Obara, Bhoong Bhara, part of Subzulkote, Fort of Bukkur, and some few scattered places,—the revenue of half of these, with the Sur Shumaree, Ijara, Zakat, Mehrburee, of all the country, is for the expense of the Turban, and to belong to whomsoever holds it; the other share to belong to Meer Roostum, as one of the three brothers.

The third share, consisting of Gotkee, Syndpore, Mahissra, Jamsyra, with its dependent villages, Mahateyla, Meerpore, and Meehukee, Mooglee, and sundry other places, to Meer Moobarick Khan.

The fourth share, consisting of Gazree, Khumbyla, Fort of Ahmedabad, City of Khyrpore with its dependent villages, Nara, and sundry other places, to Meer Ali Moorad.

I have put each in possession of his district, and have written this will to prevent any quarrelling, and for the peace and quiet of my family, and that the other Ameers, rulers, and Beloochees, may know that the country is to remain in the possession of my posterity, according to this, my will. If any one deviates from this it will be unlawful. I, being of sound mind and body, have written this will to prevent any further quarrelling.

Dated 14th Zekiad, 1244 Hejira.

(Sealed)

SOHRAB TALPOOR.



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Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.

No. 153.

*The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.*

Sir,

*Fort William, August 5, 1843.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated 15th July, regarding the monthly allowance to be assigned to the ex-Ameers of Sind, and, in reply, to state, that the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to sanction the scale of allowances proposed by Lieutenant Gordon for the maintenance of the ex-Ameers, as a temporary arrangement, open to future consideration.

I have, &c.,  
J. THOMASON.

No. 154.

*The Governor-General in Council to Sir C. Napier.*

(Extract.)

*Calcutta, August 7, 1843.*

WE have all read with the greatest interest your Excellency's letter of the 11th ultimo, communicating certain explanations with respect to your correspondence with Major Outram immediately before the battle of Meeanee, and with respect to the position of your army at that period.

We cannot but feel that it is to your penetration and decision that your army owes its safety.

Major Outram's confidential letter to you of the 11th of February, he had intended to send by a servant of Meer Roostum, who was then betraying him by a false statement of his force at Kohera; yet that letter contained a suggestion, which, if communicated to Meer Ali Moorad, might have added him to the confederacy against us.

On the 15th of February, Major Outram observed, that his dispatches of the last few days would have led you to expect that his earnest endeavours to effect an amicable arrangement with the Ameers of Sind would fail; yet, on the previous day, the Ameers had affixed their seals to the Treaty, a proceeding usually viewed in the light of an amicable arrangement, or at least an arrangement intended to preclude hostilities, not immediately, as in this case, to precede them.

No. 155.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

(Extract.)

*Hyderabad, August 10, 1843.*

I WROTE the inclosed paper, which I think it proper to place in your Lordship's hands.

Inclosure in No. 155.

*Recollections of Conversations and Circumstances.*

(Extract.)

I SCARCELY knew Major Outram; but his public character and position gave me a right to confide in his opinion. I therefore assumed, upon his authority, that Ali Moorad was the man to look to, and Futteh Mahomed Ghoree the man to be watched, in any transactions that I might have with the Ameers; and it is curious that, within a month or six weeks of this time, Ali Moorad, being then Rais, and Futteh Mahomed Ghoree a prisoner, there was no term of abuse too strong, in Major Outram's opinion, for Ali Moorad; and the Major asked me to let Futteh Mahomed Ghoree loose, having himself told me that this man ruled Meer Roostum; that he was the



the enemy of the British; the most intriguing and dangerous man to interests in all Sindh; and this man he would have had me let loose at the most critical juncture of affairs that ever existed between us and the Ameer, that is to say, at the moment of my return from Emaum Ghur, when he summoned a general meeting of the Ameer of Upper and Lower Sindh, usually, or by their vakeels, to discuss the new Treaty. The question of peace and war hung in the balance. Futeh Mahomed ruled the majority of Ameer of Khyrpore, and yet Major Outram wanted me to let this man do as he pleased. If Major Outram wanted to secure our having war, such a step was likely to accomplish it. I positively refused to agree to it, and was in utter contempt at Outram being so short-sighted as to propose it, which he did on the request of Meer Roostum.

Now let us consider how the elevation of Meer Roostum to the Turban took place. First, I will give two extracts from Major Outram's letter to the Government of India, dated the 21st of April, 1842.

*1st Extract.*

"Even were not right so clearly in Ali Moorad's favour, I would have been loath to advise the attempt to dispossess him, in favour of any other party, of what he now holds; for it could only be done at the risk of considerable disturbance. Meer Ali Moorad being by far the most powerful, influential, and able, of all the Upper Sindh Ameer; on which account, far from wishing to weaken his power, I would consider it politic to strengthen him (at least by our countenance and guarantee), to such a degree as will insure his assuming the chieftainship in Upper Sindh, without opposition, on the demise of Roostum Khan."

*2nd Extract.*

"My opinion is, that it would be both just and politic to support Meer Ali Moorad, the public recognition of whom, and investiture with the Turban, by the British representative, when Meer Roostum dies, most probably would at once put an end to the intrigues of other parties for that distinction; and, at a late rate, Meer Ali Moorad would not be likely to require further support than merely the countenance of the British Government; whereas, as he would not, under any circumstances, relinquish what he deems his right, and is powerful enough to maintain his own cause against the power of the other party, we should have to support the latter with troops, did we espouse their cause."

*Observation.*

Major Outram here speaks of the death of Meer Roostum; but his designation of the Turban, whether to Ali Moorad, or to his son Hoossein Ali, is the same thing. It was the cessation of Meer Roostum to wear the Turban himself,—his political death; and the real heir became lawful owner. My mind being imbued with the substance of this letter, and Major Outram's conversations, made me accept, with pleasure, an invitation from his Highness to meet me at Roree. After some time had passed in general conversation in the Durbar, his Highness invited me to retire with him and his son into a private apartment in the tent. Lieutenant Brown was with me; the following conversation took place —

Ali Moorad. "My brother, Meer Roostum, is about to give the Turban to his son, Meer Mahomed Hoossein. By the laws of Sindh, if he dies, I have the Turban. If he abdicates, he can only legally do so in my favour; he has no right to pass over me, and place the Turban on the head of my nephew. I am willing to obey him, but I will not allow him to give the Turban to any one else. What I want to know from you, General, is, if we quarrel, you mean to assist Meer Roostum or not? I am determined to assert my right. I have force enough to do so if you will be neuter; but, at any rate, I am determined to maintain my rights by force of arms, whether you agree to it or not."

In answer to this question, I replied, "I will certainly give you assistance to take the Turban from your nephew, but not from your brother. By treaty, we are bound to support the Ameer in their respective rights, one against the other."



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My duty here is to maintain the treaties, and you may be sure of my doing so in your case in all lawful rights."

*Ali Moorad.* "That is all I want; I wish my brother to keep the Turban, and I will obey him, but I will not allow him to give it to any one else."

*Another Conversation with Ali Moorad.*

"I have great affection for my elder brother; I am ready at all times to obey him, and I always have obeyed him; but he has become so weak and vacillating, that if you go into his room, and make any arrangement with him, however important it may be, he will change it all, if the next person who goes in thinks fit to propose another scheme. Now, as Futteh Mahomed Ghoree is always with him, and always making war upon me, I am obliged to defend myself, not against my brother, but against Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, who controls him in everything. Now, I am perfectly determined not to let Futteh Mahomed Ghoree virtually wear the Turban, and I will not obey his orders. I am much stronger than my brother's family. I beat them the other day in battle. Everybody knows that I can take the Turban, if I choose, by force, but I don't want; I wish my brother to remain chief."

Imbued by Major Outram with a good opinion of Ali Moorad,—of whom all the English with whom I conversed at Sukkur held the same opinion,—I gave credit to what he said, because I knew the mischievous character of Futteh Mahomed Ghoree; and the imbecility of Meer Roostum was proverbial. Soon after, a message arriving from Meer Roostum, claiming my protection against the intrigues of his own family, offered an opportunity of having one man to deal with instead of a faction, with whom it was impossible for a civilized Government to deal, and into whose intrigues I considered it undignified for a powerful Government to enter, and from the first I determined not to enter into them. I was determined that, when there was a breach of treaty, whether great or small, I would hold all the Ameers responsible, and would not be played off like a shuttlecock; and told, this was done by one Ameer, and that by another, and have a week's inquiry to find out whom I was to hold responsible for aggression; for I at once saw, on arriving in Sinde, that this hide-and-seek shifting responsibility was the game which the Ameers had been playing. The proposal of Meer Roostum to come into my camp offered me an easy remedy for this evil; and, having adopted the high opinion which Major Outram entertained of Ali Moorad, I had no hesitation in recommending his brother to seek his protection, and be advised by him; but I beg the reader to bear in mind,—for it is a matter of first-rate importance, and one upon which the whole gist of the matter depends,—that, while advising Meer Roostum to be guided by his brother, yet having suspicions, in despite of the high character given to me by Major Outram of that brother, that some intrigue must be going on, I gave Meer Roostum the option and invitation of coming to my camp, and putting himself under my protection. I repeat the word "must," because it is utterly impossible for me to believe that any Eastern Divan can act without intrigue. By my advice to Meer Roostum, which, let the reader observe, was not given till it was asked, I secured to Meer Roostum the honorable and powerful protection of the British Government. This he did not choose to accept;—he went to his brother, and then he fled from that brother with his usual vacillating imbecility (an imbecility which I believe to have been produced by his long habits of drunkenness, for he is said never to be sober after mid-day). That this flight was caused by Ali Moorad, as Major Outram affirms, I do not now believe, though I did at the time. I have neither seen nor heard anything to make me believe it. He deceived Major Outram twice in the same manner, if not oftener; and at one of these times, viz., when he promised to meet Major Outram at Khyrpore next morning, but walked off to the south with a large armed force, and his treasure,—this time, I say, it could not have been Ali Moorad, who, at the time, was far off, along with me in the desert. He also played me the same trick, on my arrival at Sukkur, long before there was any question of a new treaty, and when Ali Moorad could have no interest whatever in preventing our meeting.

Another thing I have to observe,—it is, that when I heard that he had



assigned the Turban to Ali Moorad, I disapproved of it; and Mr. Brown will collect my sending Ali Moorad's vakeel back to him with this message. I then recommended him to return the Turban, and merely act as his brother's lieutenant. His answer was, that the deed had been executed in due form before all the mollahs or priests, and that it was impossible to alter it. I, of course, had nothing to say; I had no business to interfere with the private arrangements of the Ameers. I was authorized to give advice when asked; I was obliged, by existing treaty, to give protection to any Ameer whose rights were invaded by another; but I was not called upon to originate a complaint, when none was made to me, and especially in a case which, whether originating or not in family intrigues, had a result so favourable to my own Government, and useful to that of the Ameers. I therefore did not interfere between Ali Moorad and his brother; the proofs that he was voluntarily elected by his brother were laid before me. I sought to have the acknowledgment that it was a voluntary act, from that brother's own lips; but he pertinaciously avoided meeting me; nor was Major Outram able to bring a meeting about afterwards. I believe that it was his own family that prevented his meeting me: they were afraid that he should confess that he had voluntarily given up the Turban; and evidences of their complete power over him, from beginning to end, are not wanting in every transaction that I have had with him since I have been in Sinde.

Received in England, Nov. 6, 1843.

With regard to Ali Moorad's conduct, I do not believe that Major Outram can give proof of anything he alleges against him. All his allegations are general,—there is nothing specific. If not joining with his family in their breaches of treaty against the English be betraying his family, it is clear that he has betrayed them; but I know of no other act of treason against them. Ali Moorad may be anything that Major Outram chooses to accuse him of, but there must be something specific, and accompanied by proof. I have heard of nothing. We will even suppose—which I do not admit (though I suspected at the time)—that Ali Moorad bullied his brother into making over to him the Turban and his estates; he, Ali Moorad, guaranteeing a due and dignified maintenance to Roostum. We will even suppose this, and change the position of the individuals. Suppose then Roostum an English gentleman possessed of a large fortune, eighty-five years of age, perfectly imbecile, and incapable of managing his estates; suppose Ali Moorad his legal heir; those who are not the heirs try to deprive him of his inheritance; what would the law of England do? I imagine it would give him the guardianship of the estate and of the old idiot, under certain restrictions. Well, what the law of England would have done for him, Ali Moorad did for himself, and by his own power.

However, upon these matters, Major Outram, or Major Anybody, may form their own opinions,—they are indifferent to me; but Major Outram had a right to say that I had given power and riches to Ali Moorad, and that that caused the war, because there is no foundation for such an erroneous assertion; and, by giving his notes of a conversation with Meer Roostum and the other Ameers at Hyderabad, in which I am represented, and certainly, by application, made, to have forced Meer Roostum into his brother's power, and the surrender of the Turban and all his territory, without accompanying such notes by my denial of the circumstance, I do consider Major Outram to have acted very unjustly towards me, if Major Outram did so, of which I have no proof, except hearing of these notes being in the hands of high and influential authorities without any notice being taken of my contradiction. At this I am determined shall be cleared up.

With regard to returning Sinde to the Ameers, I consider it would be a match for the imbecility of old Roostum. With regard to the depriving Ali Moorad of his territory, I think the more we take into our own hands the better for the Sinde people, and for humanity; but, as Aristides said to the proposal of Themistocles, "It would be advantageous, but not just." I do not see how it is possible to deprive a man of his territory, who has not committed a single breach of treaty, or even been suspected of having done so, and who has always been ready to be a mediator between the English and his family. I have now stated facts, from which every one who reads them can form his own opinion. My own are formed and immovable.

C. J. NAPIER.



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Despatch to Eng-  
land, Nov. 6, 1843.

No. 156.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

My Lord,

*Hyderabad, August 10, 1843.*

THE inclosed letter has just been returned to me opened. This is a curious circumstance, and I think it right to send the letter to your Lordship; because its having been formally demanded by a vakeel purposely deputed from Hyderabad, and having then been opened and never taken to its destination, but brought back from Khyrpore to Hyderabad, are indications of the tricks played by the Ameers in their negotiations with me. This is not an isolated case; it was the same false play in all they said and did.

I have, &amp;c.,

C. J. NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 156.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General.*

My Lord,

*Camp, near Khyrpore, January 1, 1843.*

MEER NUSSEER KHAN of Hyderabad has sent a vakeel to me, who asks me, in his master's name, for leave to proceed to Ferozepore, there to wait upon your Lordship; which of course I have given to him.

I have no idea what his object is, but believe it is to verify the fact of the draft of the new Treaty being authentic.

I have, &amp;c.,

C. J. NAPIER.

No. 157.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General in Council.*

(Extract.)

*Hyderabad, August 12, 1843.*

I ASSUREDLY did not press the abdication of the Turban by Meer Roostum, nor did I even advise it; on the contrary, my letters will show that I recommended that he should not. Major Outram had no power from your Lordship; he was my commissioner (in virtue of the authority which your Lordship gave me) for arranging the mere details, after the Treaty was accepted. He, therefore, had no higher authority than my permission to be at Hyderabad, where I allowed him to go, because I well knew how desirous your Lordship was to maintain peace; and my own exertions to obtain that desirable object were certainly equal to, if not greater than, those of Major Outram. But Major Outram had for many years lived on terms of personal acquaintance with the Ameers, and I vainly imagined he had some influence with them,—an influence which it was my duty to call into play, in the hopes of preventing war. I therefore allowed the Major to go to Hyderabad, in a sort of demi-official character, as he was of opinion that his going would be advantageous. In short, I agreed to every suggestion of Major Outram's that might give us a chance of peace, till I saw that the Ameers were making use of him to ensure the destruction of the force under my command.



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No. 158.

*The Governor-General in Council to the Secret Committee.*

Received in England, Oct. 23, 1843.

(Extract.)

Fort William (No. 31), Aug. 14, 1843.  
SIR C. NAPIER has entered, at some length, into justification of his proceedings previous to the battle of Meeanee. In doing this, he has placed upon our records a mass of most curious and interesting matter, which we regret that it was not in our power to lay before you at an earlier period. We strongly feel that it was to Major-General Sir C. Napier's penetration and decision that our army owed its safety; and we are astonished at the extent to which Major Outram suffered himself to be deluded by the Ameers.

We transmit, for your consideration, certain memorials which the Ameers have addressed to us from Sind; but we consider it unnecessary to make any observations upon them. Sir Charles Napier's indignant refutation of the calumnious charges brought against himself, and the gallant troops whom he commands, will be sufficient to satisfy you that the Ameers are without truth.

The ladies of the Zenana in Sind have consented to receive a monthly allowance of 4,500 rupees for their maintenance, and we have temporarily fixed the allowance of the ex-Ameers at Sassoor at 15,000 rupees per mensem, subject to future revision.

No. 159.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General in Council.*

(Extract.)

Hyderabad, August 16, 1843.

Received in England, Nov. 6, 1843.

BY reference to my letters and proclamations it will be seen, that I promised to preserve to all the Ameers, their rights. If Roostum had legally bestowed upon his brother (Ali Moorad) all his, Roostum's, lands, I should have held myself pledged to support that gift in the discussion of the details of the Treaty. If Meer Roostum had not done so, then would his Highness in that discussion have rejected the claims of Ali Moorad, and I should have felt bound to support his Highness Meer Roostum. I more than once repeated to their Highnesses Ali Moorad and Roostum, that all should be supported in their rights and possessions. My letters and proclamations to this effect are before your Lordship in Council; but I never attended to the details of private transactions, the time for which had not arrived.

In one of the letters to Major Outram, I proposed, even after insult had been offered to me by the Ameer Roostum, to receive him with every honor and attention, whenever he pleased to come to my camp. From first to last, I sought a meeting with Meer Roostum; I made every attempt to succeed. Once I sent Major Outram into the Ameer's camp; it was close to mine; he persuaded Outram that he was tired, and could not come. This was all trick, as I well knew at the time. I was always baffled by the Ameer himself, not by the intrigues of Ali Moorad, as Major Outram believes, but, as I assert, by the Ameer himself, which finally changed the opinion I originally entertained, that Roostum's flight from Dejee was caused by his brother. I became satisfied that his flight was a voluntary act of the old Ameer's own concocting. He is full of duplicity. This, subsequent events have proved. He fled in like manner from Outram.

By the above, your Lordship in Council will perceive three important things:—

*First.* That I made every attempt to ascertain from the Ameer himself, whether or not he had voluntarily made over the Turban to his brother, and I was invariably foiled by the Ameer himself.

*Secondly.* That I considered the lands given over (exclusive of those belonging to the Turban), as a mere private transaction, with which my Government had then no concern; that it was an affair for after-consideration, in discussing the details of the Treaty.



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*Received in Eng-  
land, Nov. 6, 1843.*

*Thirdly.* That I was, without a choice, obliged by treaty to acknowledge Meer Ali Moorad. It was the Ameer Roostum, not I, that had given him the Turban. But I was very glad that it was so, for it was evident that the Ameer Roostum's conduct made it almost impossible to negotiate with him. I could not trust him; and Major Outram, who was his personal friend, was duped by him.

It may be worth remarking, that before Meer Roostum made over his Turban and lands to Meer Ali Moorad at Dejee, he had placed all those lands and the forts in the hands of his son, and out of his own power (see his letter\*, a translation of which I inclose). He shows that he was casting discord among his relations, for it is evident that he had virtually made his son the Rais, as Ali Moorad averred, and said he would not submit to this. All this shows the duplicity of this Prince.

No. 160.

*Statement made by Moyadeen Naib Moonshee, relative to a message brought by him to Sir C. Napier, in December, 1842, from Meer Roostum Khan.*

August 16, 1843.

*Forwarded in Sir C.  
Napier's Letter to  
the Governor-Gen-  
eral, Aug. 16, 1843.  
Received in Eng-  
land, Nov. 6.*

IN the month of December last I accompanied Captain French to visit Meer Roostum Khan; on leaving, the Ameer gave the following messages to mention to the General. Whatever of them I remember well, I will now detail. Meer Roostum Khan said, "From the first day that the British entered this country I have been obedient to their will, and their orders have always been attended to by me: that my friendship with their Government might increase, to strengthen our friendship, I have delivered over my fort Bukkur; and afterwards I agreed to the Treaty, that my friendship with the British might be eternal, and I am in every way obedient to the British Government; but many of my family do not allow me to continue friendly [here Meer Roostum Khan gave me the names of some of his family alluded to, which I do not recollect]; therefore, I wish, if it is the General's pleasure, to go and remain in the British camp." To this extent I recollect, and on the same day I mentioned the case to the General, through the head moonshee.

MAHOMED MOYADEEN NAIB MOONSHEE.

I well remember that Moonshee Mahomed Moyadeen brought the above message from Meer Roostum Khan.

MEERZA ALI AKBAR.

The truth of this statement is sworn by Moyadeen Naib Moonshee in our presence.

E. J. BROWN.  
H. STANLEY.

I remember well Moyadeen's bringing the message detailed in this, from Meer Roostum Khan.

E. J. BROWN.

No. 161.

*The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India.*

*Sir,  
Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.*

August 19, 1843.

WITH reference to the documents noted in the margin, copies of which were forwarded to you under date the 7th June last, I am directed by the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Governor-General of India in Council, a copy of a letter from the



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Commissioner in Sind, dated the 6th ultimo, returning the translation of the petition from Meer Sobdar Khan, which was forwarded to Sir Charles Napier, with my letter dated the 7th June last, accompanied by the request of his Excellency that this, and all future petitions from the ex-Ameers of Sind may be sent direct to his Lordship in Council.

Received in Eng-  
land, Oct. 23, 1843.

2. In forwarding this communication, I am desired to state that the literal translation of the words in the Meer's petition, on which the Governor of Sind animadverted, is "with all my property, goods, and precious things, came into the plunder of the English sahibs;" the Persian words made use of being, "ba jauranmee mal wa umwal wa nufaees fa gharat Sahiban Ingraiz dur Amudih."

I have, &c.,

L. R. REID.

No. 162.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General in Council.*

Hyderabad, August 26, 1843.

Received in Eng-  
land, Nov. 6, 1843.

My Lord,  
IN obedience to the orders contained in your Lordship's letter, dated the 20th of July, I have the honor to forward the various documents therein called for.

I have, &c.,

C. NAPIER.

No. 163.

*The Governor-General to Sir C. Napier.*

August 31, 1843.

(Extract.)

I HAVE now the satisfaction of transmitting to you a note of the foreign secretary, accompanying the replies of the Mahomedan Law Officers, to the questions addressed to them with respect to the legal effect of the transactions between Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Moorad.

No. 164.

*Note by the Secretary to the Government of India.*

August 30, 1843.

(Extract.)

SIR C. NAPIER adverts to the legal bearing of the deed under which Meer Roostum abdicated in favour of Meer Ali Moorad.

It had been represented to Sir C. Napier, that every chief is master of his own property, none of which can be entailed; that the will of the possessor decides who is to have the land; that if he gives it to his children, he may, in virtue of his paternal power, revoke that gift; but that if he gives it to a chief who is his equal, and over whom he has no paternal power, the deed is final.

It is quite correct that every person is master of his own property, and that there can be no entail;—he may give it to whom he chooses. The gift, when possession has been obtained by the donee, is complete. It can, however, be cancelled under certain circumstances; but one of the barriers to cancelling a gift, is relationship within the prohibited degrees. A gift, therefore, to a person, cannot be cancelled any more than to a brother\*. If made to a person who is a husband or wife, nor within the prohibited degrees, it may, in certain cases, be cancelled.

Sovereign power is not, however, considered property according to the Mahomedan law, nor is it regulated by the laws which govern the transfer of property, whether real or personal, for there is no distinction between the two. The legal title to sovereign power amongst the orthodox Mahomedans of the Soonee sect, rests upon the election of the chiefs or people; but, as

\* Vide Macnaghten's "Principles of Mahomedan Law," chap. v., par. 13, p. 51; Hamilton's "Laws," vol. iii., p. 302.



there are few Sovereigns who could bear to have their titles subjected to this test, much ingenuity has been exercised by lawyers, to accommodate their system to modern usage. The accompanying opinions by the doctors of the Mahomedan college of Calcutta, are a fair specimen of the kind of arguments which can be brought forward. There is no reason to suppose the opinions to be otherwise than sound and correct. It is customary to refer to the law officers of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, when a legal opinion is wanted, but there is only one such officer now entertained in the court, and the post happens at the present time to be vacant. By referring to the college, the unanimous opinion of ten doctors has been obtained: some of them are very able men, and all of them are well informed on the subject.

It will be seen that the opinions given lead to the same result as was represented to Sir C. Napier, though there is no ground for the possible distinctions which were supposed to exist. The abdication of Meer Roostum is complete and irrevocable; the assumption of the power by Meer Ali Moorad is also complete, and recognized by law.

J. THOMASON.

No. 165.

*Questions and Answers respecting the legal effect of the transactions between Meer Roostum and Ali Moorad.*

*Questions.*

1. THE ruler of a country died and left his country and forts to his sons. They divided the country and forts amongst them, and each obtained full possession of his own portion. After a time, one of the sons gave, and made over to his brother, his country, forts, and power. In this case, can the donor recall his gift of country, forts, and power?

2. What proof do you adduce that the ruler of a country cannot legally retract his gift to his brother, of his forts and country, and that he becomes thenceforward one of the subjects of the Government?

*Answers.*

1. THE donor cannot recall his gift, because, when he has once removed the country, and power, and forts, from his own control, and made them over to his brother, he is necessarily divested of all authority, and becomes one of the subjects of the State. Thus no option of recalling his gift remains. Such is ruled in the books, but God knows what is right.

2. There are two foundations of all authority and kingly power,—

1st. The consent of the nobles and chiefs to the supremacy of any one.

2nd. Obedience to his orders, in consequence of the establishment of his power and his supremacy. It is thus laid down in the Buhur-oor-rayik,

in the chapter on Judicial Decrees, and in the Kazee Khan, in the chapter on Apostacy: "A king obtains his power by two means:—first, by consent to his accession, and this consent must be on the part of the nobles and chiefs of the nation; and, secondly, by the obedience of the people to his orders, from fear of his power and superiority. But, if men consent to his accession, and yet no obedience is paid to his orders, from his inability to enforce them, he does not become a king. If, on the other hand, he become king by common consent, and then turn oppressor, still, if his power and author-

J THOMASON.



ity be confirmed, he cannot be deposed, for, if sentence of deposition were passed, he would yet remain king by his power and strength, and the sentence would be ineffectual; but, if he have no power and authority, then he will be deposed." Now since, in these troublous times, discord is the common practice, and union is seldom procured, therefore the learned men of later times have agreed upon this, that, in the present day, power and supremacy is the test of kingly authority. It is thus laid down in the Fatawa-i-Alumgiri and the Khuza nutool-Mooftiem, in the chapter on Judicial Decrees, "and, in our time, authority depends on superiority; and we do not inquire whether kings be just or unjust, because all of them seek after temporal power."

Received in Eng-  
land, Nov. 6, 1843.

It is gathered from the drift of the question, that the ruler in question was actually possessed of power and supremacy; and whereas he gave over to his brother his country and power and forts, and divested himself of his supremacy and dignity, with all their attendant circumstances and pomp, and made these over to the donee, it follows that this gift and transfer could not have been made, without the deposition of himself. Thus necessarily the donor becomes completely deposed, and this may be gathered from a remark of Hunavee upon a passage in the Ushbah. The passage in the Ushbah is to the following effect: "A king died, and the people consented to the succession of his minor son. It is necessary that the affairs of the administration be made over to a regent, and that this regent consider himself a dependent on the son of the king, on account of the superior rank of the latter. Now, the son is the king ostensibly, but the regent is king in reality." Upon this passage Hunavee has remarked, "The object of this arrangement is to meet the necessity for a renewal of the administration after his coming of age, for this cannot (legally) take place, except when the ruler has effected his own deposition, because a king cannot (legally) be deposed, except by his own act."

The ruler who makes the transfer, and is thus deposed, becomes one of the subjects of the realm: and this is established by a passage in the Hedaya, on the resignation of a judge, — "On account of the resignation, the



power reverts to the people, and therefore he no longer retains the option of recalling his resignation."

MOOHUMMED WUJEEB,  
First Professor, Mahomedan College.  
MOHUMMUD BUSHIRUDDIN,  
Second Professor, Mahomedan College.  
NOOROOLLUCK,  
Third Professor, Mahomedan College.  
MAHUMMUD IBRAHIM,  
Fourth Professor, Mahomedan College.  
ABDOORUHREM,  
Professor of Indian Law and Regulations.  
GHOOLAM HOOSSEIN,  
First Assistant.  
MAHUMMUD MUZHEER,  
Second Assistant.  
HUBEEB-OOL-NUBBEE,  
Third Assistant.  
UJEEB AHMUD,  
Moulvie of the Law Examination Committee.  
HUMUD KUBEER,  
Secretary to the College Committee.

No. 166.

The Governor-General to Sir C. Napier.

General,

Fort William, September 4, 1843.

IN Major Outram's letter to your Excellency, dated the 24th of January (inclosed in one of your letters of the 12th of August, received yesterday), occurs the following passage:—

"You are bound, I believe, to make good to Ali Moorad his share of the ceded country, which he claims to the value of 1,50,000 for territory which was ceded to him, it appears, by a late treaty, and which, in addition to his original territory of 2,95,000, gives him rupees 4,45,000," &c., &c.

Of this treaty we have no knowledge. If there be any such treaty, conveying to Meer Ali Moorad lands between the frontier of Bhawalpore and Roree, of the value of 1,50,000 rupees, it is scarcely credible that lands of that value should have been ceded to him, otherwise than in exchange of other lands before possessed by him; and if this were the case, the whole of the 1,50,000 rupees, or a large portion of that sum, would probably be found to be deducted from the 2,95,000 rupees,—the estimated value of his own hereditary property in Upper Sind. The alleged value of the lands said to have been ceded to Meer Ali Moorad by a late treaty, is apparently too considerable to make it possible that the arrangement can have been a money transaction.

As the schedule showing the value of Meer Ali Moorad's lands to be 2,95,000 rupees was prepared by the late Mr. Bell, it is strange that, if a transaction of so much importance as the transfer of 1,50,000 rupees more in value to Meer Ali Moorad, should have subsequently taken place, it should not have become known to, and been reported by, Mr. Bell's successor.

It is not now mentioned by what Amcer the lands were ceded.

If Meer Ali Moorad should really claim lands of the value of 1,50,000 by virtue of any recent transaction, your Excellency will have the goodness to direct an inquiry into that alleged transaction, with the view of ascertaining what degree of credit is to be attached to it.

I have, &c.,  
ELLENBOROUGH.



No. 167.

Received in Eng-  
land, Jan. 5. 1844.*Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore to the Court of  
Directors.**Sassoor, September 18, 1843.*

FORMERLY I represented to you some of my circumstances and condition, with which you are, ere this, acquainted, and again I beg to bring to your notice, that when Sir Alexander Burnes, en route to Lahore, arrived at Khyrpore, I supplied him with boats and every other necessary, as a proof of my friendship to the British, and forwarded him on his journey. After that, Colonel Pottinger came to Khyrpore, to arrange regarding the navigation of the Indus. I treated him as a friend, and concluded with him a treaty which opened the river to all. In this treaty it was expressly stipulated, that in conceding this, neither my country nor property should sustain any injury. Afterwards Sir A. Burnes and Sir W. Macnaghten arrived from Ferozepore at Roree; the former came to me at Khyrpore, and requested me to lend, for the use of the English, the fortress of Bukkur, until the conclusion of the Afghan war, and the settlement of the Western Provinces; he also informed me, that, because of the long existing friendship between the two Governments, nothing else would be required of me, nor should any thing ever happen to my detriment. Accordingly I made over to him the fort. When Mr. Ross Bell arrived, as Resident at Sukkur, which then belonged to me, my brother, Meer Ali Moorad Khan, began hostilities against my nephew, Meer Nusseer Khan, and took from him, with Mr. Bell's assistance, four or five prosperous tracts of country, viz.: Mahomedabagh, Shahbeila, Nussfuaru bhurree, &c. &c., which formerly belonged to, and had been made over by me to my nephew. A bribe from Ali Moorad to Mr. R. Bell's moonshee secured his services in influencing his master (Mr. Bell) to befriend Ali Moorad; and, aided by him, these places were usurped. Major Outram succeeded Mr. Bell at Sukkur, and I informed him of the circumstances; he replied, "I must first of all settle the affairs of Cutchee, and when I return here I will inquire into, and arrange your affairs;" but on his return he proceeded in haste to Bombay. Meanwhile Sir C. Napier arrived in Sind, and, through the instrumentality of Captain Brown and Moonshee Ali Akbar, his partiality to Meer Ali Moorad soon became apparent. Disregarding the articles of the former treaty, he sent Captains French and Napier, who informed me that he would take from me all the Northern Territory, from Roree to Subzulkote, and give it to Mahomed Bhawul Khan, Daoodpootree, because my servant, Futteh Mahomed, had, they alleged, instigated Shureef Khan (formerly Naib of Cutchee), then a prisoner in the hands of the English, to run away, and provided him with the means of escape. I was amazed at this message, and said to myself, "Well, this is the visible consequence of my long services." About eight days after (on the 12th Zilkat, 1258), Captain Brown came to Khyrpore, and told me to affix my seal to this agreement; if so, he said, well and good; but if not, the British force which is encamped at Putueen (five coss from Khyrpore), will come to-morrow and plunder Khyrpore; by these threats I was compelled to affix my seal to this treaty. Captain Brown also told me to be guided in all my actions by Meer Ali Moorad, as it would be to my advantage. By this treaty I gave over the country, from Roree to Subzul, to Mahomed Bhawul Khan. At Captain Brown's desire I went to Meer Ali Moorad Khan at Khanpore, and consulted him; he immediately produced and handed me a letter to my address, and bearing the seal of Sir C. Napier; by this I was desired to move out of Khyrpore, or, if not, the English army would immediately attack it, and he would not be able to protect my seraglio. In this extremity I brought off all my family from Khyrpore to Dejee, on entering which I was made a prisoner by Ali Moorad; my servants were confined outside the fort, and the Beloochees with me were dismissed; he drew out an agreement, making over the sovereignty of my country to himself, and having forcibly taken my seal from the seal-bearer, whom he had confined, he affixed it to the document, thereby completing his treachery against me. After this, he told me he was going to the General, and that he would return after arranging my affairs; afterwards, he sent me a message by a servant to leave the place, or the General



ra would confine me in it. The season was cold and rainy, and I was old and weak; but, helpless, I set out for the desert, and pitched my tents on the banks of the Nara, where Major Outram and Captain Brown came and informed me, that the General desired the possession of the fort of Emam Gurr (which occupies only two begahs), and that I should write to my nephew Meer Mahomed Khan, to evacuate the place. I immediately sent a letter to him by a camel-rider (shootur suwar), and he acted according to my orders. Shortly after General Napier razed it to the ground; and thence proceeded to Dejee. Major Outram came, and desired me to come to Khyrpore; I asked him what arrangement could I effect by going there? he answered, "every thing rests with the General; it is better you should take whatever Ali Moorad gives you, if only a piece of bread;" I then removed to Koohera, and told Major Outram that I had ruled in Khyrpore for eighty years, and how could I now deign to accept a piece of bread from the hands of a younger brother. A letter from the General reached me at Koohera, desiring me to proceed to Hyderabad, with the two vakeels of the Hyderabad Ameers, and that Major Outram would, on arriving there, arrange every thing with me. I accordingly went to Hyderabad, where the same thing was repeated; and again I affixed my seal to a copy of the same treaty I had previously signed, when threatened by Captain Brown, and gave it to Major Outram, remarking, that I had made over for ever the country between Roree and Subzul, but let me possess what remains. Major Outram would not agree to this. At length, in my presence, Meer Nusseer Khan (Hyderabad) entreated Major Outram, and said to him, "I have now had the Kuboolayut Nama signed and delivered to you; kindly send an officer to Sir C. Napier, to request him not to advance with his army;" he accordingly dispatched an officer to the General, and afterwards wrote a letter himself, and sent it to Sir C. Napier by a shootur suwar [camel-rider] of Meer Nusseer Khan. The General, however, did not halt, but came on by easy stages. When the Beloochees near Hyderabad perceived that the General would pay no sort of attention to peaceful proposals, and saw me, an old man of eighty-five years, expelled from my country, separated from my family, and deprived of my possessions, which they knew had been given to my younger brother, Meer Ali Moorad, and when they heard moreover of the seizure of Hyat Khan, a Murree chief, by Sir C. Napier, in despair, "they washed their hands of their lives," and marched out of the fort; I accompanied them. Had I determined on fighting, I had 15,000 Beloochees at my back at Khyrpore, and I would have fought then; but at last, seeing there was no remedy, we were driven to desperation.

(Seals of Meer Roostum Khan, and  
Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore.)

No. 168.

*Meer Mahomed Khan and Meer Yar Mahomed Khan to the Court of Directors.*

*Sassoor, September 18, 1843.*

BE it known that we two brothers received monthly pay from Meer Nusseer Khan at Hyderabad, where we lived happily: we never interfered with the external or internal politics of the country, or in any of its public affairs. Meanwhile, Sir C. Napier arrived in Sind, and soon the Beloochees rose in insurrection: we remained quietly in our retirement. Although our circumstances and condition were known to all the officers who had been in Sind, yet some arms and two jagheers (Badah and Dooabah) which our late father Meer Moorad Ali Khan had bestowed upon us in our childhood, were taken from us by the English; also the female ornaments prepared for my (Mahomed Khan's) marriage, which, at the time Hyderabad was plundered, were deposited in the house of Meer Noor Mahomed Khan. Afterwards, when the other Ameers embarked for Bombay, we were permitted to remain at Hyderabad at liberty, through the kindness of Sir C. Napier; but, shortly after, we were also sent to Bombay, and then to this place. It is now five months since we were forced to leave our country and family. We are innocent, yet we are suffering all the privations of imprisonment in a strange country. We are not real brothers of Meer Nusseer Khan, that we should be punished, as if we had been rulers, or in



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power in Sinde. We trust that, becoming acquainted with our circumstances, you will allow us a suitable pension; and send us back with honor and respect to Sinde, to live there your faithful and obedient subjects.

Received in England, Jan. 5, 1844.

No. 169.

*Meer Sobdar Khan to the Governor of Bombay in Council.*

*Sassoor, September 19, 1843.*

I RECEIVED frequent letters from the ladies of my family at Hyderabad, complaining that the sum of 550 rupees a-month, which Sir C. Napier allows for their expenses, is not sufficient for them, and a hundred servants, besides the expense of keeping up an establishment of seven or eight horses, which they are obliged to maintain for every-day purposes; they are consequently living in great distress, and suffering many privations. I, therefore, hope that you will kindly obtain for them some alleviation of their circumstances. The hardships and misfortunes I suffer are the reward of my fidelity to the British, for I have committed no crime to merit punishment.

No. 170.

*Meer Nusseer Khan of Hyderabad to the Court of Directors.*

*Sassoor, September 22, 1843.*

I FORMERLY sent you a short account of my history, which has probably reached you, and acquainted you with most of what has befallen me. I write again, to inform you that in the time of the late Meer Gholam Ali Khan, Meerza Nusseer was deputed to Calcutta, and brought back a treaty bearing a seal of the then Governor-General, which treaty was respected as long as that Ameer lived. Subsequently, in the time of the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan, and my father, Meer Moorad Ali Khan, Meerza Ismael Shah was sent on a mission to Governor Elphinstone, and concluded with him a treaty which was observed until the death of the Ameers above mentioned. In the time of my father, Meer Moorad Ali Khan, Colonel Alexander Burnes being desirous to proceed through Sinde, by the River Indus, on a visit to Runjeet Sing, arrived at Kurachee, whence he wrote several letters requesting permission to advance by that route, but as this had not been stipulated for in any former treaty, my father refused to comply, on which I wrote to him (Sir A. Burnes) and told him to leave the property in his charge at Kurachee, and to come himself to Hyderabad, whence he should be allowed to pass up the river; he came accordingly; but my father told him he could not be permitted to proceed up the river, and that he had written to him to that effect at Kurachee, asking him, moreover, why he had come to Hyderabad, without his (my father's) permission? Sir A. Burnes replied, that he had come to Hyderabad, as desired by his son Meer Nusseer Khan, who had written to say he would permit him to pass up the river. My father was greatly displeased at this, and asked me why I had consented to what it was impossible for him to grant. I replied, that I wrote to him for our advantage, and that I should certainly allow him to proceed up the river; and, through my representations, my father acceded to his request. A full account of this is given in Sir A. Burnes' travels, and also in the Government records, so that I am the individual who first opened the Indus to the English. After this, Colonel Pottinger arrived at Hyderabad, and concluded a treaty which opened the river to the merchants of neighbouring countries, and allowed their boats and merchandize to pass and repass duty free: it was stipulated that this Treaty should bind the contracting parties for ever. A copy of it, bearing the seal of the then Governor-General, was given to my father, who made it over to me and said I had made it to ensure the stability of my affairs. On the death of my



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and Am. 3, 1844.

father, the said Colonel Pottinger sent for a friendly letter from the Governor General, and gave it to me; in it there was no mention made of oppressing us, or our own country. With pure intentions, I applied for a British Resident to be appointed at Hyderabad, and on the English army advancing to Cabool, I incurred the ill-will of the Beloochee tribes, and the enmity of the Afghans, by having, through my friendship for the English, allowed their army to pass through Sinde; yet I preferred the friendship of the English to every other consideration. I have read in books that the Christian religion commands you to cherish, and not alienate, your friends,—friendship being a tree which produces good actions: relying on this, I was indifferent about the displeasure of the Beloochees, and the hostility of the Afghans. My late brother Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, and myself, undertook to provide boats, camels, provisions, wood, and every other kind of supplies for the army, and proclaimed to all the Beloochee tribes, that should any of them be dissatisfied with our alliance with the British, and take to plundering the property of the army, they should incur our displeasure and be severely punished: none of them dared to disobey our orders. When Sir J. Keane arrived with his army at Jerruck, he deputed Mr. Eastwick with a memorandum, stating that he required twenty-one lacs of rupees; of this sum I was required immediately to pay seven lacs, and the other fourteen lacs were to be paid by the late Meer Noor Mahomed Khan and Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, equally: we were also called upon to pay three lacs of rupees annually to the British Government: this was the immediate result of my faithful services to the English; and Sir J. Keane, having arrived unopposed at Jerruck, about twelve coss from Hyderabad, began, in violation of treaties, to oppress us, and to assume a hostile attitude: as I was helpless, I paid the money, knowing well, however, that it was taken from me unjustly, by order of the Governor-General. In the treaty concluded with Sir Henry Pottinger, and bearing the seal of the Governor-General, it was affirmed that our friendship would last to the latest posterity, and that no oppression should be exercised on us, or on our country: in defiance of this, why were we required to pay twenty-one lacs of rupees at one time, and the sum of three lacs annually? If you say that it was on account of Shah Shooja, I reply, that the said Shah had written on a Koran, which he presented to me, that he would never act to the detriment of us, or our country. I answer again, that during Shah Shooja's sojourn of several years at Loodiana, nothing was demanded from us on his account; but, setting this aside, when Shah Shooja, finding that he was powerful at Cabool, threw off his allegiance to the English, inform me on what account, and for what purpose, the tribute was exacted from me? If you exacted it on your own account, you did so in breach of the Articles of the Treaty. You are discriminating and just: examine and judge for yourselves, whether our treatment has been just or unjust. When Sir John Keane's army advanced towards Cabool, Colonel Pottinger framed and concluded with us a Treaty of twelve Articles, which he said would be permanent as the wall of Alexander, and would last for ever. Thank God that, from the first Treaty to the last, I have not infringed even one of their Articles; copies of these Treaties must be in the Government records, and a reference to them will satisfy you whether I state falsehoods or tell the truth.

When Major Outram was appointed Resident in Sinde, I acted agreeably to his wishes, and, as long as he remained at Hyderabad, everything proceeded satisfactorily, until he was succeeded by Sir Charles Napier, who, after an interview with me at Hyderabad, proceeded to Sukkur. Shortly after, the Assistant (Mr. Mylne) who was stationed at Hyderabad, sent off all the property from the Residency, and prepared to leave. I sent my moonshee to him, and inquired the reason of his leaving; his reply was, that the Ameers found the presence of a British Resident disagreeable, and that Major Outram was superseded by Sir Charles Napier. I remarked that, without a Resident, our affairs would be suspended. Mr. Mylne replied, that I should write and explain this to the General. When he went away, no person succeeded him. I appointed people to take care of the Residency, and had the trees, flowers, &c., in its garden, watered at my own expense, until a soldier came there to take charge of them. On the 5th Zilkat, Mr. Stanley arrived at Hyderabad with a treaty from the General, contravening all former treaties, which perfectly confounded me, and I said to Mr. Stanley that this Treaty meant not



more or less than a desire to usurp our country. On what account does the General wish to inflict upon me so heavy a loss? He replied, "You wrote a letter to Dewan Sawun Mull of Mooltan, and another to the chief of the Beebruck tribe, expressive of your enmity to the British Government." I answered, "I did not write a letter to Sawun Mull to that effect, but I may have written to him about some timber I required for building, and even that letter was shewn by me to the British Resident, or his Assistant. I have never sent a letter without informing the Resident, to whom I also showed the reply I received. This is agreeable to treaty; and, as regards the chief of the tribe of Beebruck, I have never, to this time, had the slightest correspondence with him; who and what is he, and where lies his country with reference to mine, that I should hold any correspondence with him." Mr. Stanley replied, that he would give me a steamer to convey vakeels from me to the General at Sukkur, to arrange with him. I accordingly deputed Akhoond Buchal and Syud Saad Ali, and sent them by land to Sukkur, in order to prove to Sir Charles Napier that my statement to Mr. Stanley was true. After their departure, agreeably to the General's angry writing, I sent Meerza Khoosroo Beg and Mahomed Yusoof, with full powers to treat, and our seals. They met the General at Nowshera; but he, not deeming it fit to have our seals affixed to the treaty at that place, wrote and delivered to them letters desiring us to bring Meer Roostum Khan to Hyderabad, as Major Outram would soon be there to settle his (Meer Roostum's) affairs, when he would also have our seals affixed to the Treaty, and that [Major Outram] was invested with full powers on the part of Government to treat with us. Meer Roostum and the vakeels accordingly came to Hyderabad, and Major Outram also arriving there on the 8th of Moharrem (8th February), sent me, that very day, a memorandum relative to the proposed treaty. I immediately sent Meerza Khoosroo Beg and Mahomed Khan with my seal to Major Outram; and, in his presence, they affixed it to the Kuboolyatnama [a document in which the Ameers agreed to sign the Treaty when presented to them], and returned it. I sent also a message to Major Outram, that, as I had signed the Kuboolyatnama without delay, he would kindly contrive so that the General should return with his army from the place he was now encamped at. The Major replied, "that this was the reason he wished me to agree to the Kuboolyatnama, as of course the Treaty would cause some delay; and as you have now signed the former, I am quite satisfied. If you will send me a shootur suwar, I will dispatch an officer to the General, to inform him that you have agreed to the Treaty, and of the manner in which affairs are proceeding at Hyderabad, so that the army may not advance further." I accordingly sent a camel to the Major; and about 8 P.M. he sent to my house an officer. As it was in the first ten days of Moharrem, I was engaged in the offices prescribed by my religion for that period, when a servant came and informed me that a gentleman was at my house. I immediately went to him, and learned from him that he had come for a swifter camel than the one I had previously sent him, as he said he must reach the General speedily. I gave him a better camel, and sent with him four or five Beloochees to point out the road, and to escort him. Next day (9th February) Major Outram visited me, and said that he had sent an officer to the General, whose arrival there would stop the advance of the army. The 10th was the day of Ashoorā (anniversary of Hoossein's death), and consequently no business was transacted, nor had I any intercourse with Major Outram on that day. On the 11th, the camel man who accompanied the officer returned and told us that he had left him in the General's camp at Sukkurund; and that, immediately after the officer arrived there, although there was no previous preparation for a march, the General set out with his army, and marched to Kootul Synda, where he halted. On the evening of the 12th, Major Outram came to me, and I mentioned to him what the camel-rider had told me. The Major desired me to affix my seal to the Treaty which he had brought with him, and to get ready a camel-rider to take a letter from him to the General, who would halt, and fall back with the army, on hearing that the Treaty was signed. The seals were immediately affixed to the Treaty. It was stated in that Treaty, that the fort and territory of Subzul was disjoined from my dominions. The revenues of Kurachee were divided into four shares, three of which belonged to myself, Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, and Meer Shahdad Khan, and were valued at 25,000 rupees a-year, each share giving a total of

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75,000 rupees; which sum was to be taken in lieu of tribute to that amount; and the port of Kurachee made over to the English. Meer Meer Mahomed Sobdar Khan, for his share (one-fourth of the revenues of Kurachee) land valued at 50,000 rupees a-year. I replied, that "It was stipulated in former treaties, that the English would protect the country of the Ameers; instead of which, you are assigning it to another; and, as regards Kurachee, as you value one share of its revenues at 50,000 rupees, how does it happen that you estimate the other three shares belonging to Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, Meer Shahdad Khan, and myself, at 25,000 rupees each; what justice is there in this?" Helpless, I affixed my seal to the Treaty, and gave it him (Major Outram). I afterwards remarked that he might take the tract of country belonging to Meer Roostum Khan, which lies between Subzul and Roree, leaving to him the remainder of his dominions; to which Major Outram replied, that it rested with Sir C. Napier. I entreated him vehemently on this subject; and, seizing the skirt of his garment, implored him not to suffer Meer Roostum, who was an old man of eighty-five years, to become a homeless wanderer, but to permit him to retain the remainder of his dominions, if only to prevent disturbances. The Major again replied that it was not in his power, but he would mention it to the General. When the Beloochees threatened to rise in arms, in consequence of the ejection of Meer Roostum Khan, intelligence arrived that Sir C. Napier had imprisoned a Murree chief, named Hyat Khan, without any apparent cause; on which, some of the Beloochees, who were at Hyderabad, assembled, and took a solemn oath, resolving to attack Major Outram on his return from the fort to the Residency. I was informed of their intentions; it was then twilight. As the Major was a friend who was dear to me as my own life, I sent, in consequence of the ferment amongst the Beloochees, Meer Jan Khan, Hajee Gholam Mahomed, and ten or twelve other nobles of my court, to accompany him; and they, after escorting him to the Residency, returned and told me that they had seen parties of Beloochees ready for mischief, at two or three places on the road, and had sent them away. On hearing this, I sent to Major Outram a verbal message by Moon-shee Mhadajee, and also wrote to him informing him of it, as Major Outram had promised me to write to the General, to request him not to advance, and to send the letter by one of my camel-riders. He did so that night. On the 13th, I endeavoured to restrain, by counsel, by force, and by reproaches, the Beloochees, and urged them not to excite disturbances, as I had signed the Treaty, and the Major had written to the General to beg he would not advance, and that this request would be attended to. I asked them what it would take out of their pockets, my having agreed to the Treaty? On the morning of the 14th, the camel-rider who conveyed the Major's letter to the General, returned, and brought intelligence that the General, on receiving Major Outram's letter, prepared to advance. My moonshee, Moolram, who was in Sir C. Napier's camp, sent me a letter to the same purport as the camel-rider had stated. On hearing this news, the Beloochees marched out of the town, and encamped on the banks of the Fulaillee, and many of the chiefs came to me, and requested me to join them; I told them I had signed the Treaty, and how then could I fight? As Sir C. Napier had proclaimed, that if any of our followers joined Meer Roostum Khan, we should be held responsible, and considered equally guilty as if we joined him, I reflected, that even if the Beloochees went without me, the blame would fall upon me, as declared by the General; I was at a loss how to act; I saw that it was perfectly hopeless to attempt to fight with the English, and I knew that the General, notwithstanding I had agreed to the Treaty, was fast approaching; I was averse to the Beloochees setting out from the town, and to their excitement from the first; but, on reflection, I thought it best to join them on the Fulaillee, and to endeavour to allay their excitement, hoping that my presence would gratify them, and that they might thereby be induced to desist from their hostile intentions. With this expectation, I went to the Belooch encampment, and stayed there day and night, counselling and advising them until I gained them over; next morning, I intended to depute an experienced vakeel to the General, to entreat him not to have recourse to force, but to settle everything in a friendly manner. I was about to appoint a vakeel, when word was brought to me, that the General, with his army, had reached the village of Dost Mahomed Khidmutgar, at



having taken it, was coming on. He immediately after attacked the Belooch posts, and I heard the noise of cannon. I had hardly time to mount, before the action became general. Before this two British officers rode up to reconnoitre; I would not allow the Beloochees to fire at them, as I hoped every thing would be arranged without fighting; but I soon discovered my mistake. Amidst showers of balls, by the will of God, many of the Beloochees were killed, and others fled. I remained with twenty horsemen; at length, in amazement at the power of death, I returned to Hyderabad, where, before evening, a fresh force of 10 or 12,000 Beloochees had assembled, also some of the fugitives; but as I felt assured that, after dispersing them, the General would approve my sincerity, I went to my family, as I was confident of being recompensed for my fidelity; and, taking off my sword, delivered it into his hands. He kindly returned it to me, and buckled it round my waist, using many consoling expressions, and telling me, that in twenty-five days my affairs would be satisfactorily settled, and that I should be placed in Hyderabad as formerly; Major Outram was present at the time. Next morning I rode with the General to the camp, and presented to him the guns which were under the charge of Moossa, the Feringhee. The commotion amongst the Beloochees was occasioned by the arrival of Meer Roostum at Hyderabad, and the seizure of Hyat Khan, the Murree chief, and the cause of all the bloodshed. From the first I was opposed to Meer Roostum Khan visiting Hyderabad, as I believed it would cause the disturbance which the seizure of Hyat Khan heightened; and his coming there was at the sole desire of the General. When General Napier was at Khyrpore and Dejee-ka-kote, I wrote to him to say that it would be better if he came to Hyderabad with a few men, to gratify me with a meeting, and spend a few days with me in a shooting game, and that then I should comply with his demands; but that I was afraid if he came with an army, the Beloochees, who were furious on account of Meer Roostum Khan's ejection, would excite a commotion which would bring ruin on themselves and others. My advice was not attended to. If the General says he conquered Sinde, I reply, that as we were tributaries and subjects of the English for many years, he can hardly claim a victory over your own subjects. Truly his slaughter of the people of Sinde, and plundering their property, was at the expense of the Queen of England.

The day after I arrived in camp with Sir C. Napier, Moonshee Ali Akbar was sent to me with a message that the General wanted some of my people to be stationed, with a few of his own men, in Hyderabad, so that the town's people might be protected from all injury. As long as Major Outram remained there, all was tranquil, but in a few days he left for Bombay. The day after his departure, Moonshee Ali Akbar came with a message from the General, who wished to go and inspect the Fort of Hyderabad, and required a few trustworthy people along with him. Accordingly I sent Akhoond Buchal Bahadoor Khidmutgar and Moonshee Mhetaram; again Moonshee Ali Akbar returned, and asked for the keys of the tosha khana [a depository wherein valuables are kept], in order to obtain all the treasure and property. I told him to do as he pleased, but if he took them according to the catalogue they would get every thing, otherwise others would rush in, and take whatever they could lay their hands on. My counsel was not listened to; at last Mr. Falton, and Colonel Pattle, and Major Reid, and several other officers, with two regiments of cavalry and infantry, entered the fort, and seized on all the treasure, gold, silver, swords, matchlocks, knives, daggers, shields, and other property, such as jewels, and what else belonged to our establishment, costly fabrics, korans and books, horses, and camels, and mules, saddles of gold and silver, utensils of copper and silver, every thing in fact of the value of a needle; so complete was the plunder that precious stones were falling out of the bosoms of the sepoys, and they were selling gold, jewels, and other valuables, in the city. The work of plunder was continued for seven days; the first day they rushed into the seraglio of the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan; and the occupants of the seraglio, for fear of their lives, and shame lest they should be exposed to the gaze of intruders, abandoning their houses, fled on foot from the fort. Afterwards the seraglios of the other Ameers were entered by the British troops; and their inmates, who had never before crossed the threshold of the seraglio, fled on foot from the fort; the Sepoys who were at the gates, on seeing a woman with ornaments on her person, immediately stripped them off, so that those who

Received in  
land, Jan. 19,



would avoid exposure, throw away their jewels, taking with them only the clothes on their backs. The officers carried off even our cots and bedding, leaving us nothing but dirt. I had taken to the seraglio the books and clothes they (the officers) had given me the day they entered the fort, all of which were again taken from me the day I left; also the swords of my sons, Meer Hoossein Ali, and Meer Abbas Ali: depriving us also of our bedding. The horses, and saddles of gold, on which my sons came to me were also taken away, notwithstanding my remonstrances to Captain Brown and Ali Akbar; and at this date they are without swords. Although my swords and matchlocks are of iron, and of little value, yet, having descended to me from my ancestors, they are by me prized as my life. Besides that, the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan and Meer Moorad Ali Khan treated Meerza Khoosroo as a son; he was imprisoned with us: one day he was taken to the fort, and charged with having misdirected them to the spot where was the treasure of the late Meer Kurum Ali Khan, for which they had him disgraced and flogged, until he fainted; on his recovery, he was tied up for two hours in the fort, and afterwards brought back to the place where I was imprisoned. Besides this, when Meer Shere Mahomed was about to fight Sir C. Napier's army, although he was my bitter enemy, as is well known to Major Outram, Captains Leckie, Whitelock, and Mylne, and who never let slip an opportunity of destroying my property and injuring me, yet was I removed, from my spacious abode in camp, on board the confined accommodation of a steamer; nine days after, I was taken back and imprisoned in my former abode. When I was being conveyed on board the steamer, I asked Captain Brown to detain my two sons and my cousin Meer Mahomed Khan, and to take me with him to battle, as I knew that, on seeing me, all the troops with Meer Shere Mahomed would abandon him, and come over to me; and the said Meer would either be obliged to fly, or to surrender himself, or to permit me to go and fight with him; but my suggestions were not attended to. In former times, I was in the habit of sending an experienced person on board every steamer passing up and down the river, to procure for them fuel and other necessaries; and was equally careful of the convenience of travellers by land; remunerating them in full for whatever was stolen from them, and could not be recovered. In the time of Meer Noor Mahomed, these losses were shared between us, but, after his death, I employed servants on board the steamers, and if British officers, or those in their service, lost property of any kind in Sinde, one part of it was paid for by Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, and the remainder by me, to our great detriment; which, however, we considered a gain, in consequence of our friendship with the English. Besides the above, I have performed many other services to the English, in the hope that it would tend to my advantage, instead of conducting me to a prison. It will be notorious all over these countries, that this is the reward of a person who has served the British faithfully through life. I formerly sent you a brief account of my circumstances, which I write a second time more in detail, that you may know all that has passed. I have read that Christianity is opposed to oppression of every kind; but, from the time the British first arrived in India to the present date, no such tyranny was ever practised as on us. Had a shot been fired from the walls of Hyderabad, the British army might have lawfully plundered it; but, after promising security and making peace, to console us with a promise to restore us to power, and afterwards, to plunder the treasury, and to disgrace the rulers of the country, is not allowed by any law; and I have heard from experienced persons, that it is not the custom of the English to punish a man before he is proved guilty, nor to degrade him on the hearsay evidence of others. I therefore hope that you will first investigate my case, and then determine, by the laws of Christianity, whether, or not, we are suffering from injustice. I look to you for justice, and to be sent back, with my former honor and dignity, to my country, where I pledge myself to be bound by the kindness of the English, as long as I live, to serve and obey them; and this will exalt the renown of the English all over the world. Restore me, therefore, to my plundered country.



*Meer Sobdar Khan to the Court of Directors.**Sassoor, September 23, 1843.*

I FORMERLY sent you a short account of my history, which will have acquainted you with what has befallen me. I again write it, more in detail, and inform you, that, from first to last, I have been so faithful a friend of the English, that, in return for it, I was exempted from paying tribute; besides this, I always experienced the favor of the government; in performing my duty to it I was never remiss. During the three years Major Outram was resident in Sind, I was governed entirely by his advice. When Captain Stanley, in charge of the new Treaty, arrived at Hyderabad, he sent the steamer which brought him there to Tatta, and I provided him with camels and guides, who, in two days and a half, conducted him back in safety to Sukkur; afterwards I sent my Moonshee Sulamutrai, with assurances of my continued good faith and friendship for the British Government, to Sir C. Napier, at Sukkur; he delivered the message, and returned with Major Outram to Hyderabad on the 8th of Moharem (8th February). Next day the Major visited me, and I told him that I was perfectly ready to do whatever he desired me, in return for the kindness I had always experienced from Government; to which he replied, that my long and faithful services were well known to Government, and it was unnecessary to dwell upon them; telling me to be perfectly at my ease. On the 12th, the Major again visited me, when I affixed my seal to the Treaty, and gave it to him; he also signed a copy of the same Treaty, and gave it to me, and it is now in my possession. It is mentioned in it, that, in exchange for my fourth share of the revenues of Kurachee, a tract of land, of the value of 50,000 rupees a-year, would be given to me; whereas, the other Ameers were only to receive 25,000 rupees each for their respective shares. The Governor of Bombay has himself seen a copy of this treaty. When the disturbance arose among the Beloochees, I asked Major Outram, as all the Ameers had affixed their seals to the new Treaty, whether Sir C. Napier would advance, or return to Sukkur? He replied, that he would not come to Hyderabad, but immediately fall back on Sukkur. After this, he rose, and set out on his return to the Residency. In consequence of the tumult amongst the Beloochees, I sent along with him Khan Mahomed Tora, Peer Budroodeen, and my own moonshee, with a body of Beloochees, to escort him to the Residency; they did so, and returned. Afterwards, my khidmutgar Mewa, whom I had sent to the General at Koolyat Syada, for the purpose of supplying provisions, and other necessities for the army, sent me a letter, mentioning that General Napier was advancing with his army on Hyderabad. It immediately occurred to me to set out and join Sir C. Napier on the road. The Beloochees who were at Hyderabad, on hearing of the arrival of the messenger, consulted among themselves; and some of them came to me and said, "You are a friend of Sir C. Napier, whom you have sent for with his army: if God prospers our cause, and we are victorious, we will take your country from you, and put you to death. On this account I was afraid to leave the fort; moreover, I felt assured that the General, on his arrival at Hyderabad, would, on hearing of the threats of the Beloochees and my fidelity, confer on me even more favours than I had formerly received. I solemnly declare, that none of the Beloochees in my service were present, with my consent, at the battle of Meeanee; if any nameless outcasts went there in defiance of my injunctions, I know nothing of it. In proof of my fidelity, I may here mention, that, as the Beloochees were desirous to carry off all the guns, I had them distributed among the Ameers, and did not permit the Beloochees to remove those which were allotted to myself from their usual ground, where Sir C. Napier saw them the day after the battle. In short, after the defeat of the Beloochees, I sent my moonshee to congratulate the General, who desired me, through the moonshee, to remain perfectly at my ease, and to take care of the Fort and Town of Hyderabad. On this assurance I remained confidently in my house. After this, the General arrived at the Residency, and on the third day sent me a letter, and verbal message,



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desiring me to turn out the Beloochees, who were our enemies, from the fort. I accordingly did so. On the following day the General sent some troops under their officers to the fort; I was totally free from apprehension, and admitted them; I was the true friend of the English, and considered our interests identical, until Colonel Pattle and other officers, with two regiments, entered the fort, and carried off all the treasure of gold and silver, the contents of the tosha khana [a repository in which the Ameers kept valuables], swords, matchlocks, knives, daggers, shields, saddles, and vessels of gold and silver, and other things of great value, horses, mules, and everything of the value of a needle; they carried off also the clothes and jewels which I had prepared for the marriages of my sons, Meer Futteh Ali Khan and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, who are now with me; in short, so complete was the plunder, that they did not even leave us our clothes, and rushing into our seraglios, they carried off all the property of value; the sepoys, who were stationed at the doors of the fort, were in the habit of seizing every woman with ornaments on, and stripping them off. The ladies, who had never before left the seraglio, ran off, through fear for their lives, and shame of being seen, and throwing away their ornaments, fled from the fort, taking with them only the clothes they had on. I was confined in camp with the other Ameers; my sons were confined within the fort. From first to last I continued the friend of the English. What offence did I commit during the four days succeeding the battle of Meeanee, to have had my property plundered and myself disgraced? I regularly supplied your steamers with fuel, and provided British officers travelling in Sind with camels, provisions, boats, guides, and whatever else they required. When Mr. Mylne, assistant to Major Outram, insisted on my permitting boats to pass up and down the river, from the fort of Subzul to the sea, without paying toll, although it was an evident loss to me, and Mr. Mylne had no force at hand to intimidate me, yet, in consideration of my friendship with the British, I willingly complied. Notwithstanding my honesty and forbearance, I know not how the English approved such tyranny and oppression as have been perpetrated on me. I have heard from sage travellers, that this is contrary to the usage of the English Government to punish a man without trying him, and proving his guilt. What kind of justice then is that which has sent me and my sons, guiltless as we are, away from our country; stripped us of our property, and driven us into exile, apart from our family. It will be spread all over these countries, that such has been the reward of a person who, through life, has served the English faithfully. I therefore trust that you will take my case into your consideration, its injustice and oppression, and afford me redress according to the dictates of Christianity, restoring to me all my property, which has been plundered; and, through your kindness, send me back to my country, where I shall continue grateful to you as long as I live.

No. 172.

*Meer Meer Mahomed Khan of Hyderabad to the Court of Directors.*

*Sassoor, September 24, 1843.*

I FORMERLY sent you a short narrative of my circumstances, with which you are already acquainted. I again write them more in detail. From the time Meerza Muzhur was sent to Calcutta, in the time of my father, Meer Gholam Ali Khan, and brought from thence a Treaty he concluded on our part with the Governor-General, until the Treaty we concluded with Colonel Pottinger, when Sir John Keane was en route to Cabool, and under every other treaty, I never failed to fulfil their conditions, which I observed, although greatly to my detriment. When Colonel Pottinger and Sir John Keane, in violation of former treaties, extorted from me seven lacs of rupees as my share of twenty-one lacs; and also imposed on me a yearly tribute of one lac of rupees, I knew it was unjust; but, as I had no other resource, I paid the money. Besides this, I supplied Sir John Keane, on his expedition to Cabool, with boats, camels, provisions and fuel, preferring, by so doing, the friendship of the English to every other consideration, and incurring the displeasure of the Beloochees, and the hostility of the Affghans. The result of all these



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services was to extort money from me, and to oblige me to pay tribute. Shortly after Sir Charles Napier arrived in Sind, he sent Lieutenant Stanley with a new Treaty from Sukkur; and, as to resist would have been useless, I helplessly agreed to it. Major Outram arrived at Hyderabad in the 8th Moharem (8th February), and next day paid me a first visit. I said to him, "I have disobeyed no order of the British Government. I sent my seal in charge of Mahomed Yusoof (my servant) to Khyrpore, and he met the General at Nowshera; but he, not thinking it proper to have my seal affixed to the Treaty at that time, postponed it until you should arrive here. I am willing to obey your orders: whatever you recommend I shall deem it my duty to perform." The Major, perceiving that I was staunch in my fidelity, told me to be of good cheer. He sent off an officer the same night, with an account of my fidelity, and of my having agreed to the Treaty, to the General. On the day of Ashoora (the anniversary of the death of Imam Hoossein) no business was transacted, nor had I any communication with Major Outram. On the evening of the 12th, he visited me, and I then affixed my seal to the new Treaty, notwithstanding that a grievous injury was inflicted on me, by the clause which obliged me to relinquish my share (one-fourth) of the revenues of Kurachee for 25,000 rupees, to be deducted from the tribute I paid of one lac of rupees annually; and the taking from me of land for the remaining 75,000 rupees. I agreed to all these losses, as the British Government desired me to incur them. The Major was still sitting beside me when I was informed of the tumult amongst the Beloochees, and I sent with him as an escort, Yusoof and Ahmed Ali, with a body of Beloochees, who, on seeing him safely back in camp, returned. Two days after, intelligence was received that the General with his army was approaching Hyderabad. I knew that I was a true friend of the British, and therefore felt no concern at the news; but determined, when the General came near, to leave the fort and join him; the Beloochees, however, made this impossible by their disturbances, and, considering me a well-wisher of the British, were enraged with me, and said, "since you will not come with us and fight, we will punish you after we have gained the victory." The General arrived, and a battle was fought, in which the Beloochees were defeated. I believed that the General, on hearing of my fidelity, and the threats of the Beloochees, would show me great favor. As a proof of my fidelity, I mention, that none of my servants were, with my consent, present in the battle; and, although I had not distributed the guns with the other Ameers, yet I prevented the Beloochees taking with them about a-fourth of the number which they were desirous to remove. My fidelity was so well known, that I was considered to have remained in the fort, on account of my friendship to the English. When the General arrived at the Residency, on the 19th, he wrote to me regarding the security of Hyderabad, and the ejection of the Beloochees from the city. I obeyed his orders, and had them all sent out of the fort, &c. Major Outram sailed for Bombay two days after, and the General sent me a message that some officers would come and examine the fort. I had no suspicion in my mind; and, without hesitation, I had the gates of the fort thrown open, and admitted them. On the following day, the general sent some troops, under their officers, to the fort: I was totally free from apprehension, and admitted them. I was the true friend of the English, and considered our interests identical, until Colonel Pattle and other officers, with two regiments, entered the fort, and carried off all the treasure of gold and silver, the contents of the tosha khana [a repository in which the Ameers kept valuables], swords, matchlocks, knives, daggers, shields, saddles, and vessels of gold and silver, and other things of great value; horses, mules, and every thing of the value of a needle; they carried off also the clothes and jewels; in short, so complete was the plunder, that they did not even leave us our wearing-apparel: they rushed into our seraglios, and carried off all the property of value. The Sepoys who were stationed at the doors of the fort were in the habit of seizing every woman with ornaments on, and stripping them off. The ladies, who had never before left the seraglios, ran off, through fear for their lives, and shame of being seen; and, throwing away their ornaments, fled from the fort, taking with them only the clothes they had on. Major Outram, Lieutenants Leckie and Mylne, are well acquainted with my disposition and qualities, and know that, when the other Ameers used occasionally to quarrel among themselves about their territories, I always mediated between them, and never disputed with



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them myself; this being the case, how could I think of entering on a contest with the English, who rule the whole world? In short, I was confined in the fort for two days. On the third day, Colonel Pattie came and informed me, that the General wished to see me; and, forcibly putting me on an elephant, without a howdah, obliged me to ride, on the pad, to the place where Meer Nusseer Khan was confined. I begged him to take me to the General, but he would not comply. Major Outram was resident in Sindh for three years, during the whole of which time I faithfully obeyed him in every thing; supplied fuel for the steamers, and camels and every other necessary for travellers. Major Outram is now in England, and will bear witness that all I have herein stated is true. He is acquainted with my honesty, and will satisfy you on this point. I have heard from sage travellers, that this is contrary to the usage of the English Government, to punish a man without trying him, and proving his guilt: what kind of justice then is that which has sent me, guiltless as I am, away from my country, stripped me of my property, and driven me into exile, apart from my family. It will be spread all over these countries, that such has been the reward of a person who, through life, has served the English faithfully. I therefore trust that you will take my case into your consideration, its injustice and oppression, and afford me redress according to the dictates of Christianity, restoring to me all my property which has been plundered; and, through your kindness, send me back to my country, where I shall continue grateful to you as long as I live.

No. 173.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General of India in Council.*

(Extract.)

*Kurachee, September 29, 1843.*

Received in Eng-  
land, Dec. 5, 1843.

IN reply to your Lordship's letter of the 4th instant, I am again obliged to dissect Major Outram's letter. The sentence to which your Lordship refers, is contained in the Major's letter of the 24th of January. I shall take certain sentences and examine them.

*Major Outram.*—"Assigning to Meer Ali Moorad what has been pledged to him, viz., one-fourth of the remaining territory of Upper Sindh, as his perquisite as Rais, besides one-fourth as co-heir of the former Sovereign, Meer Sohrab."

What has been pledged to Meer Ali Moorad? By law, Meer Ali Moorad became Rais. By law certain revenues are attached to the Turban. The laws of his family and country are pledged to him, and he is pledged to them, to perform the duties of the chieftainship. I know of no other pledges.

When his Highness Meer Ali Moorad told me that he would never interfere with his brother's chieftainship, he added, that he would not allow him to place the Turban on the head of his (Roostum's) son. "It is," said he, "either my brother's, during his life; or mine, if he chooses to resign it; but it cannot by law be placed on the head of my nephew. This shall not be, for I have force sufficient to prevent it; what I want to know is whether you will interfere with me or not?" This is the substance of his conversation. My answer to the Ameer was distinct. It admitted of no equivocation: it entered into no treaty: it gave no pledge. The substance was, "By the existing Treaty of 1839, the British Government is bound to support the Ameers in their rights. You have a right to the Turban; the existing Treaty obliges me to support you, and I will support you."

Your Lordship will perceive that I merely assured his Highness that I would support the Treaty; and this assurance was in a casual conversation.

But Major Outram's words evidently imply that some Treaty had been entered into by me with his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, and, as I know nothing beyond what I have stated above, I must leave it to Major Outram to explain his own meaning.

*Major Outram.*—"And as you are bound I understand to make good to Ali Moorad his share."

I know not what Major Outram understood, or did not understand, but I was bound to nothing, neither to Ali Moorad nor any other Ameer.



With regard to the claim of Meer Ali Moorad to any part of the territory ceded to Bhawalpore all that passed between me and his Highness here follows:—

Conversing on the march to Emam Ghur, the Ameer told me that he possessed one or two small villages in the midst of the territory ceded to Bhawalpore, but he added, throwing up his head, "they are trifling things, and the Governor-General is welcome to them."

I replied, "If your Highness has any possessions in that territory, the Governor-General has not been aware of it, and when the details are arranged, any loss of this kind will be made good to you. The new draft treaty does not contemplate depriving your Highness of any part of your possessions."

This is all that passed, and, as nearly as I recollect, the interpretation was nearly in the above words. It is not impossible that a similar conversation may have passed more than once between Sheik Ali Hoossein and myself; indeed I am sure this must have been the case, for I find a pencil memorandum on Outram's letter, saying that the Moonshee Ali Akbar informed me that the village or pergunna in question was in value from 40 to 50,000 rupees; and the Secretary to Government, Mr. Brown, informs me that he thinks the value does not amount to more than 30,000 rupees at the utmost.

Major Outram.—"By a late Treaty."

What "Treaty" Major Outram alludes to I know not. I have already said, that *Treaty, Pledge, or Promise*, entered into by me, *there has been none*.

I know that, before I arrived in Sind, Meer Ali Moorad and his family were at war; a battle had been fought, in which he defeated his brother Roostum, and the rest of the family. Roostum, I believe, gave himself up to Ali Moorad on the field of battle. The general opinion that I heard at the time I arrived, was that Meer Roostum and his family had behaved ill to Ali Moorad. However, the latter made it up with his brother on the field of battle, and some family compact may then have been entered into; but that such was the case, I do not know; nor did I ever hear that any such compact had taken place. I have been driven to the conjecture in my endeavour to account for Major Outram's expression, "By a late Treaty."

Finally, my Lord, I never gave, or promised, a farthing of money, or an inch of land, to his Highness Ali Moorad, although Major Outram seems to think, from his letters, and what I have since heard of his conversations at Bombay, that I piled riches and power upon the Ameer! I made the Ameer one present. It was of an elephant; your Lordship confirmed the gift; and, to show your Lordship how very cautious I have ever been in giving what is not my own property, I took a pledge from his Highness Ali Moorad, that if your Lordship disapproved of my giving the elephant, he was to pay for it, for as I take no presents, I am too poor to make them myself.

Ali Moorad's conduct appears to have been loyal from first to last; both to his family and to the British Government. It is obvious that this was his interest, but with his motives we have nothing to do. The fact has been as I state, and, had the Talpoors been ruled by the advice of his Highness, they would now have been in the full enjoyment of their sovereignty

Gul Hayat Institute

No. 174.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Fort William, October 7, 1843.

THE Governor-General in Council thinks it desirable to take advantage of the season which has opened the intercourse by sea with the mouths of the Indus, to convey to Bombay the ladies of the households of the ex-Ameers, and his Lordship in Council requests that the Governor in Council of Bombay will put himself in communication with his Excellency the Governor of Sind, for the purpose of effecting this object with the least possible delay.

I have, &c.,

J. THOMASON.



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Jan. 6, 1844.

No. 175.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General in Council.*

October 24, 1843.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honor to inclose a letter which I received from Meer Ali Moorad.

No. 176.

*Meer Ali Moorad to Sir C. Napier.*

October 9, 1843.

(Extract.)

MEER ROOSTUM KHAN, a week before he granted me the Turban and territory, importuned me to accept them, saying, that none of his sons appeared qualified to possess the Turban and rule the country; and that I should, therefore, take possession of the Turban and territory from him. He deputed to me at Kote Dehuj his eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hoosseïn, Meer Nusseer Khan, Futteh Mahomed Ghorree, Peer Ali Gohur, and certain other confidential persons, to solicit me earnestly to accept the Turban and territory. At last he came in person, bound the Turban with his own hands, and of his own accord, around my head, made the entry in the Koran of his having granted me the whole of his country, sealed it and ratified it with his seal and signature, and thus distinctly made over his country to me.

How is it possible, then, that I should have used coercive measures to obtain possession of the country, since I had not even preferred a request to obtain it?

No. 177.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General in Council.*

Kurachee, October 24, 1843.

(Extract.)

I LOSE no time in sending such information as I could at once get, relative to the conduct of Shahdad Khan. I shall soon have more evidence.

No. 178.

*Evidence given by Peer Budroodeen, Moosahib or Confidential Servant of the Ex-Ameer Sobdar Khan of Hyderabad.*

QUESTION. On what date did the army of the Ameers leave Hyderabad, and where did it encamp?

Answer. On the 6th of February, 1843, the troop under the command of Gholam Mahomed Komriewalla, and Meer Khan Mahomed Talpoor (Khananie), went out, and encamped in the Babool jungle, near Meer Futteh Ali Kebah\*. The two chiefs then returned to Hyderabad, and told Meer Nusseer to get all in readiness for battle. Afterwards the force collected there, and chiefs, as they arrived, remained there. On the evening of the 14th February, 1843, Meer Nusseer Khan moved out, and joined this force.

Question. Do you know what strength the force was?

Answer. I did not count them, but it was well known that it amounted to 30,000 strong.

Question. This was on the 14th February. What did this force do next day?

\* About half way to Mecanee, I believe.—C. J. N.



- Answer. In the morning, an order was issued to plunder Major Outram's dwelling.
- Question. Who gave this order?
- Answer. I know not.
- Question. What number of men went to the Agency for that purpose?
- Answer. Nine or ten thousand men.
- Question. Who commanded this party, and what chiefs accompanied it?
- Answer. Meer Shahdad commanded the party, and by him was given the order to plunder the Agency; and Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore, Meer Jehan Mahomed, Meer Khan Mahomed, Gholam Mahomed Komriewalla, a Nizamance chief, whose name I forget, Ahmed Khan Lugharee, Meer Bakur, and other inferior chiefs, accompanied him.
- Question. When this party reached the Agency, who commanded it, and what orders were given by him?
- Answer. Meer Shahdad Khan commanded, and he gave orders that "If the troops [British] fight, kill them, but if they run away, never mind."
- Question. When Major Outram quitted the Agency, what did the troops [Sinde] do?
- Answer. They plundered all the property left, and burnt all the buildings. They then joined Meer Nusseer Khan at the garden, and Meer Shahdad Khan, and the afore-mentioned chiefs said: "We have gained a victory; Major Outram has fled, and we have plundered his property. Our party have behaved most bravely." Meer Shahdad sent a man, whose name I forget, to give the news of his victory to Meer Sobdar Khan in the fort, and to inform him that Major Outram had fled. Meer Sobdar, on hearing this, answered, "You have done ill. If with 8,000 men you have been unable to destroy 100 men, what will you be able to do in front of the General's army?"
- Question. This was on the 15th of February. What then occurred?
- Answer. On the evening of the 15th of February, Meer Nusseer Khan moved from his garden; and took up a position at Noonar, half a coss from it; and, on the evening of the 16th, he reached Meeanee; next morning the battle took place.
- Question. In the battle of Meeanee, what was the strength of the Ameers' force?
- Answer. Some say 40,000, and some 35,000.
- Question. How many of Meer Sobdar's men were in the battle?
- Answer. With Iktyar Lugharee 2000, with Mahomed Khan Tora 300, and with other chiefs subject to Meer Sobdar Khan there were 5000 men.
- Question. How many men of Meer Mahomed Khan were in the battle?
- Answer. I know not, but every soul he could collect was there.
- Question. Was Meer Sobdar in the battle, and what other Ameers were there?
- Answer. Meers Sobdar and Mahomed Khan were not in the battle. Except these two, all Ameers of Upper and Lower Sinde were there.
- Question. Such was the strength of the Ameers' force on the 17th of February: had the battle been delayed for two or three days more, to what extent would it have been reinforced?
- Answer. It would have increased to 50,000 or 60,000 men.
- Question. Did Meer Sobdar Khan send information to the General that troops were collecting at Hyderabad?
- Answer. On the night of the day on which the General reached Sakkurund\*, Meer Sobdar called me, and said, "Take two days' food and drink, and proceed by the jungle to the General's camp; and tell him, if he comes quickly, it is well; but if he delays, the force here will very greatly increase." Jemada Couza said, "Budroodeen is a great man. If he goes, it will be well known, and you will get a bad name; it will be better if some one else is sent." I afterwards heard that orders were given to Syud Abbas Ali Shah and a Cazee to proceed to the General's camp, and to beg of him to come on quickly†.
- Question. At this time, the 10th February, 1843, Meer Sobdar was the friend of the British, when did he become hostile?
- Answer. I do not know.

\* 10th February. C. J. N.

† These men never came to me.—C. J. N.



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Question. When did the Ameers commence collecting troops?

Answer. When Meerza Khoosroo returned from the General, they commenced doing so. Meerza Khoosroo wrote from Nowshera to the Ameers, "The General is bent upon war, so get ready." When the Meerza returned to Hyderabad, the order for collecting troops was given.

Question. Had this collection commenced before Major Outram reached Hyderabad?

Answer. The collection of troops had commenced before Major Outram reached Hyderabad.

Question. Had the Ameers gained the victory, what would have been the fate of the British force?

Answer. Every soul would have been massacred.

Budroodeen having read over his evidence, declares it to be correctly recorded, and applies his seal to it, 22nd October, 1843.

Mahomed Moyadeen is witness that Budroodeen gave this evidence, and that he declares it to be correct.

Evidence given in my presence this 22nd day of October, 1843.

E. J. BROWN.

No. 179.

*Meer Shahdad Khan to the Governor of Bombay.*

October 27, 1843.

YOUR Excellency is well aware that my late father did not allow anything to be wanting in rendering service to the British Government, and in discharging the duties of friendship. I also did not fail to serve Government. Six months have now elapsed since my arrival at Surat, after leaving Sindh, my native country, and visiting Bombay. During this period, I have written several letters to your Excellency on the subject of the treatment which I have experienced, my innocence, the plunder of my property, treasure, &c., the attachment of my country, and my desire to be removed to the society of the Ameers at Sassoor, but I have not yet received a reply to any of my letters. I hope the British Government will be pleased to send all of us in great state to Sindh, our native country. In my letters to your Excellency, I requested that my representations might be communicated to the Governor-General and Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain. I am confident that, since I have placed myself under your Excellency's protection, your Excellency will not fail to promote my good. The object of this letter is to request that your Excellency will permit me to proceed to England, that I may present myself to Her Majesty the Queen, and the Government Sirkar, and represent my circumstances. I beg your Excellency will allow me to embark on any steamer which may be going to England. I pray your Excellency will honor me with an early reply to this.

No. 180.

*Meer Hoossein Ali Khan, Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Sobdar Khan, and Meer Roostum Khan, to the Governor of Bombay in Council.*

Sassoor, November 9, 1843.

WE are told by the English officers, that Meer Shah Mahomed was taken in battle; he is also imprisoned with us at Sassoor. Meer Shahdad Khan, of his own accord, surrendered to General Sir Charles Napier, and delivered to him his sword. It is well known that the late Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, and all of us, performed a great many services to the British Government, for which we



ther is grieved, and much afflicted. It would lessen her grief and sorrow if both her sons were confined in the same place, till they are released by the favours of the Queen, on whom we rely for justice. The distress of the brothers, too, would be lessened by sympathizing with each other in the same place.

Received in England, Jan. 5, 1844.

No. 181.

*Sir C. Napier to the Governor-General in Council.*

(Extract.)

*Kurachee, October 27, 1843.*

I HAVE the honor to inclose to your Lordship some more information relative to the conduct of the ex-Ameers. I hope it may not prove unsatisfactory, because the further inquiry is pushed the more will the treachery of the Ameers become apparent. I could have sent this information last February or March, had I chosen to spend my time in the employment suited to a chief of police receiving depositions. But, at the period in question, I had not the power of drawing up above 1500 men in order of battle;—no reinforcements had yet arrived;—20,000 men under Shere Mahomed were within a march of my camp;—we were in the midst of an insurgent population, warlike, and well armed;—I had the magazines, and hospitals full of wounded men, to guard on the banks of the Indus;—I had six sovereign princes in my camp, intriguing as hard as they could to arrange an attack upon my camp, by overwhelming multitudes;—I had a large fortress to guard; this fortress was three miles from my camp;—I had an immense treasure to guard;—I was obliged to respect the Zenana in the fortress, to the hazard of the regiment in the fortress (which regiment had suffered greatly in the battle, and could not muster above 400 men), for in these Zenanas were about 800 powerful Beloochees well armed, and the Zenanas full of arms. I well knew the treachery of the Ameers, or I should not have been so unjust as to use the terms I applied to them in my dispatch after the battle of Meeanee.

No. 182.

*Memorandum of a Conversation between Meer Gholam Shah, Meer Fuzzil Ali, Meer Bijjur, and Lieutenant Rathborne, relative to the part taken by Meer Shahdad, in the attack on the Residency on the 15th February, 1843.*

YESTERDAY evening, about half-past five o'clock, I called on Meer Gholam Shah, at Gholam Hoossein Ka Tanda. He and his brother, Fuzzil Ali received me. I mentioned to them that I wished to have some conversation in their presence, with Meer Bijjur, their cousin, whose house adjoins theirs. The Meers Gholam Shah and Fuzzil Ali are nephews of the ex-Ameer Meer Mahomed, their mother having been his sister; and Meer Bijjur is brother-in-law of the Ex-Ameer Meer Shahdad, his sister being Meer Shahdad's wife.

When Meer Bijjur arrived, which was within a few minutes, I requested that we might be private, and then a conversation took place nearly word for word as follows; the parties present being the above-mentioned Meers, my moonshee, Meerza Jan, and myself.

*Myself.* Meer Bijjur, you joined in the attack on the Residency; by whose order, or at whose instigation, did you do this?

*Meer Bijjur.* I joined that attack by order of Meer Shahdad.

*Myself.* Have you any objection to stating how that business commenced, and what part Meer Shahdad acted in it?

*Meer Bijjur.* I will tell you willingly. The way of it was this; but, first, I must explain how we three Meers, now conversing with you, stood. I was in the service of Meer Shahdad, Meer Gholam Shah was in the service of Meer



*Eng-  
Jan 3, 1844.* Sobdar, and Meer Fuzzil Ali was in the service of Meer Mahomed. Well, as you know, for some days before the attack on the Residency, there had been a great deal of unpleasant discussion between the Ameers and Major Outram; but at last, on the evening before the attack, Meer Nusseer Khan moved out with his forces to Meer Futteh Ali's garden, on the road to Meeanee. He moved in the evening, the other Ameers remaining in the fort. The night he moved out, a large assemblage of Belooch Sirdars took place at his Durbar, but what was done I do not know, as I was not there. The next morning, as I was going, as usual, to make my salaam to Meer Shahdad, I saw great crowds of Beloochees, and heard they were going to attack the Residency. I went on to Meer Shahdad's. On going into the Durbar, Mutakum Moonshee also came in, and said the Beloochees were ready to start and attack the Residency, when Meer Shahdad, who was all prepared for battle, jumped up and said he would go forthwith, and head them. He desired me to go with him. I had my sword with me as usual, but no shield or matchlock, and was quite unprepared for fighting, but, of course, I obeyed. I then learnt that Ahmed Khan Lugharee had been detached with seven or eight thousand men to attack the Residency; by orders given him the night before by Meer Nusseer Khan.

*Myself.* What! by order of Meer Nusseer Khan?

*Meer Bijjur.* I understood it was by his order given over-night, at the garden; but I cannot speak positively, as I was not there. However, there were the men ready to start. Meer Shahdad was proceeding to put himself at their head: he ordered me to accompany him, and I did so. I had very few men with me, and sent a messenger to Meer Gholam Shah, who was with Meer Mahomed Khan, to tell him what was going on, and beg him to persuade Meer Shahdad to desist. Meer Gholam Shah spoke to Meer Mahomed, and he sent a confidential servant, who came to Meer Shahdad, and told him that the business he was engaged in was a mad one, and prayed him, over and over again, to desist.

*Meer Gholam Shah.* Yes. I was not in Meer Shahdad's service, but, living, as I did, near the Residency, I had had much intercourse with the gentlemen there: I had seen enough of the English to be pretty sure that they would beat us first or last, if we went to war with them, and I knew, when they did beat us, they would deeply revenge the murder of their envoy; besides, I thought it disgraceful to murder defenceless people. I therefore begged Meer Mahomed to send an order to stop Meer Shahdad, whose hot-headed proceedings would bring eventual destruction on us all; a confidential person was then sent to Meer Shahdad; but the latter replied, he had sworn to do the business, and would go on with it. He added, that the affair was all arranged; that Ahmed Khan Lugharee was going with his followers; that he had sworn to act through thick-and-thin, with Ahmed Khan Lugharee, and would place himself at the head of the force.

*Meer Bijjur.* Well, after this, there was an end of remonstrance, and Meer Shahdad, with myself, and the rest of the party, started for the Residency, and, when we arrived there, Ahmed Khan Lugharee led forward the people to the attack, while Meer Shahdad, with myself, and other attendants, remained on horse-back under a clump of trees, out of reach of the fire, till all was over: we then returned, and joined Meer Nusseer Khan, at Meeanee. That is all I know of the matter; the truth is, that though I was Meer Shahdad's brother-in-law, I was never consulted by him,—his power was lodged in the hands of servants and others.

*Meer Gholam Shah.* Meer Bijjur has given a true statement of the transaction.

*Meer Fuzzil Ali.* Yes, that is all true.

*Meer Gholam Shah.* May I ask why these inquiries are now made? Meer Bijjur has made his salaam; and we hope the past, as then promised, is forgiven.

*Myself.* I can have no difficulty in telling you, Meer Bijjur has made his salaam, and has been forgiven; and there is not the slightest intention of molesting him for what is past. The cause of my questioning him is this—Meer Shahdad now states that he never headed the party that attacked the Residency at all; that it was the Belooch Sirdars who insisted on attacking it; and that the purpose for which he went was to remonstrate with them, and save the garrison.



*Meer Bijjur.* Why this is notoriously untrue: every one who was with the party knows it to be so. What influence the boasting of Beloochees may have had on first procuring the order for the attack, I know not; I dare say, it may have had a good deal, for they talked loudly of what they could do; but *Meer Shahdad* headed the party, as I have said, voluntarily, against the remonstrances and the orders of *Meer Mahomed*; attended throughout the fight; and, after driving out the English, rode with us over to *Mecanee*, went up to *Meer Nusseer Khan*, and, saluting him, said, "Good fortune attend you, I have gained the day."

Received in England,  
Jan. 5, 1844.

*Myself.* What! said this to *Meer Nusseer Khan*?  
*Meer Gholam Shah.* *Meer Bijjur* speaks truth. *Meer Shahdad* on his return from the Residency, rode up, as *Meer Bijjur* says, to *Nusseer Khan's* tent, and entering it said, "Meer Sahib Moobarick Meer Futteh Khia."

*Myself.* I thank you for this explanation.  
*Meer Gholam Shah.* We have stated all we know, and this truly. I have never spoken an ill word of the Ameer to you, because they were our sovereigns and relations, but, as you now questioned us, we have spoken the truth.  
*Myself.* I have also, as you know, always avoided a topic which I thought must be painful to you; but it was my duty to make this inquiry, and I thank you for the readiness with which you have answered me.

A. B. RATHBORNE,  
Collector and Magistrate, Hyderabad.

Hyderabad, October 22, 1843.

October 24, 1843.

N.B.—The above conversation took place on the 21st instant. I made the original memorandum of it on the 22nd; but, on reading it over to the moonshee, he differed as to one point; this was whether it had been said, that *Meer Mahomed* sent a man to *Shahdad*, to call him, and himself remonstrated with him, or whether the man merely conveyed the remonstrance, as now stated. I sent the moonshee to *Meer Gholam Shah* to ascertain which was the correct version, and, in his interview, he elicited from *Meer Gholam Shah* the following important additional admission.

*Meer Gholam Shah*, on the morning of the attack, also waited on *Meer Sobdar*, who desired him to join in the attack also. *Meer Gholam Shah* replied, that he was not going to put himself under the orders of an inexperienced child like *Shahdad*, especially as he thought the business a bad one; but, if *Meer Sobdar* chose to go himself, he would, as in duty bound, accompany him; *Meer Sobdar* then laughed, and said that would never do.

This morning *Meer Gholam Shah* and *Fuzzil Ali* called upon me, and I took the opportunity of reading over to them the above conversation, taken down on the 22nd instant, which they said was quite correct; on this occasion the moonshee was not present, and on both his aid was not required.

A. B. RATHBORNE,  
Collector and Magistrate, Hyderabad.