

# LOOSHIAIS AND MURNIPOOREES

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Relations Between Looshais  
And Munnipoorees  
( Foreign Department : Political—A, 1870 )

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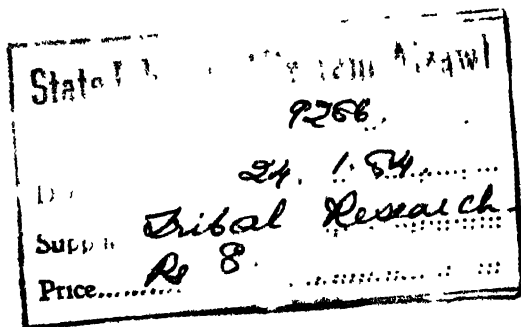
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### A Note

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Tribal Research Institute  
Aizawl, Mizoram

Dr. (Mrs) N. Chatterjee  
Senior Research Officer



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**1870**  
**FOREIGN DEPARTMENT**  
**POLITICAL—A**

**Proceedings July 1870, Nos. 271/277**  
**Pages, with Notes**

**Subject**  
**Relations between Looshais and Munnipoorees,**  
**Munnipore Raja instructed how to act.**

**K. W. - No. 1**  
**F. & P.D. 24**

**FOR REFERENCES TO FORMER AND LATER**  
**CASES SEE WITHIN THE COVER**



REFERENCES TO FORMER CASES.

Poltl., A. Dec. 1869. Nos. 216-292  
" Feb. 1870. „ 127-135.

GOVT. OF  
INDIA. }

1870

{ FOREIGN  
DEPT.

POLITICAL—A

July.

Nos. 271-277.

REFERENCES TO LATER CASES.

From Polt. A. Munnipore dt. Augt.  
20/68. See Re. Dec. 189-72/77

*Relations between Loosais and Mun-  
nipoorees. Munnipore Raja  
instructed how to act.*

LIST OF PAPERS.

No. 271.—From Polt. Agent, Mun-  
nipore, No. 119 of 6th  
Dec. 1869—Reports arri-  
val at Munnipore of a  
deputation of 9 Loosais  
from the Chiefs Vonolail  
and Poiboi bringing with  
them a Naga woman who  
had been taken prisoner  
and some arms. They  
have returned for the re-  
mainder of the captives,  
guns, &c., leaving five  
hostages behind.

No. 272.—From Polt. Agent, Mun-  
nipore, No. 37 of 1st  
April 1870—Communi-  
cates the intelligence  
brought by certain Mun-  
nipore messengers who  
were sent into the Loosai  
country to enquire about  
the raid committed on  
Munnipore territory in  
Dec. last. The Loosais

TAKEDS

DATED

KEEP-WITHS.

1 Note, Nos. 271-275.

refuse to return the guns  
and prisoners and threaten to invade Munnipore.

Nos. 273 & 274.—From Bengal Govt., No. 2077 of 29th April 1870—With reference to No. 195P. of 28th Jan. last, relative to Mr. Edgar's efforts to establish friendly relations with the Loosais, suggests that the Munnipore Raja and his subjects may be prohibited from committing aggressions on those tribes.

Enclo, in above.

No. 275.—To Poltl. Agent, Munnipore. No, 1127P. of 30th June 1870—With reference to No. 37 of 1st April last, forwards, with other papers, a copy of a letter addressed to the Bengal Govt. sanctioning certain measures for the improvement of British relations with the Loosai tribes ; and directs that the Raja may be asked to adopt similar measure to establish friendly relations with the Loosais.

Copy to Bengal Govt. under docket No. 1128P. of 30th June 1870.

No. 276.—To Secy. of State, No. 133 of 15th July 1870—  
Transmitting a copy of above papers.

No. 277.—Abstract of Contents.

From Munnipoor dt. 6th December  
1869 No. '19 (See slip D)  
From Bengal dt. 29 April 1870,  
No. 2077 (See slip G)

**The dealings of Munnipoor  
with the Looshais.**

In March 1869 the Munnipoor Raja sent 110 friendly Khonjai Kookies into the Looshai country "to find out what they were doing, and if possible, to harass them." They surprised a party of Looshais April /69 (Slip A) asleep, killed 40 of them, and carried off a lot of arms, 17 muskets, many of them with the tower-mark.

This made such an impression on Vonolel and Poiboi (who may be styled roughly the Eastern Chiefs, the deceased Vonpillal and Soobpillal being the Western Chiefs of the Looshais) that they sent 3 Looshais to feel the way to a reconciliation, promising to restore all the prisoners and guns (30) and plunder in their hands, collected during the raids on Munnipoor in February. Dr. Brown recommended the Raja "to make no promises whatever, but to say to the messengers that on the delivery of the captives, guns &c., the Munnipoor Govt. would then hear what they had to say, regarding keeping the peace for the future, and said that the messengers had also been informed in addition that when they have returned every thing in their hands and are desirous of making peace, their Chiefs and headmen must attend, as it is only with them that any negotiations will be carried on."

Government in reply said, "The Viceroy and Governor-General-in-Council is prepared entirely to approve of the establishment of a permanent peace between

To Dr. Brown, dt. the state of Munnipoor and the Loossai tribe.  
20 Augt./69

No. 1170 Slip C. Every security that is likely to prevent a repetition of the late disturbances should be taken from this tribe, and every effort should be made to obtain, further, the submission of the other tribes, who should be required to give guarantees that no further raids will be committed either in British or in Munnipoor territory."

On the 26th Nov. 9 Looshais deputed by Vonolel and Poiboi, arrived in Munnipoor bringing with them a captive woman From Dr. Brown, and a few plundered articles, and expressing dt. 6th Dec./69 "themselves anxious for forgiveness, but as they No. 119, Slip D

have not acted upto the promises they formerly made as reported in Dr. Brown's letter, No. 77 dt. 17th July 1869, to give up all the arms and prisoners in their hands, as a preliminary to any arrangement being made with them," Dr. Brown advised the Raja to make no promises whatever until they do so ; and said, "in consequence of this, and as it would appear that the Loosais are really anxious for forgiveness, five of the above messengers have voluntarily remained behind as hostages, and the other four have gone back to bring the remainder of the captives, guns &c. in their hands."

The Looshais were at this time very apprehensive of an Dr. Brown's letter. attack from Cachar, and were "ready for No. 4, dt. 13 July/ flight should the troops enter the country." 70 Slip E In the end of December some Looshais committed another raid on Munnipoor territory.

A deputation therefore of 3 Munnipoorees, 3 friendly Kookies, and 2 of the abovementioned 5 Looshais went off to find out who committed the last raid, and to \*Vide letter from Pol. Agent Munnipoore dt. 1st april/ take a letter to Mr. Edgar. They found\* the tone of Poiboi and Vonolel now much altered, 70.No. 37 Slip F their apprehensions of a retaliatory expedition

having by this time vanished. They cast the blame of the last raid on the Pooees, the tribe of which Mr. Edgar wrote,

\*para-3, Enc. of Bengal sr. No. 2840 dt. 24 April /69. Slip E  
\*\*Note A Looshai deputation made a representation to this effect in 1850 (Mackenzie's Memo, page\*44)

\*page 36 of G2

(3rd. April\* 1869), that they had for years\*\* been pressing on the South-East of the Looshais. But they did not conceal their intention of taking vengeance for raid of the Munniporee Kookees in March 1869, and said :-

"Mr. Edgar has agreed to make up matters with us. A bridge has been made over the bodies of the slain ; he has From Dr. Brown not asked us to give up any thing from dt. 1st April/70, Cachar, and has given us presents. Why No. 37 Slip F should the Munnipore Raja want more ?"

They also said that Narindrojeet, a former Munnipooree raider and pretender, who was transported by the British in Do—Do—Do 1857, or 1858, had arrived amongst them, Slip F was now in Vonolel's village, and would accompany them when they attacked Munnipore.

I sent for the papers regarding this man from Calcutta. They do not clearly shew what was eventually done to him, See File F 2 or what was the precise crime for which he was tried. Bengal may be asked for full information on this point.

Lastly ( and this is the point of importance ) they denied that they had ever promised to return either guns or prisoners Vide letter from taken from the Munnipoorees as a preliminary Dr. Brown dt. to an arrangement for peace. This, Dr. Brown 1st April/70 No. 57 Slip F remarks, is a barefaced falsehood, as the proposition to give up guns &c. came originally from them.

Dr. Brown thereupon remarks :—

"Under the circumstances I still feel it my duty to.

recommend the Raja to adhere to his former determination of making the surrender of all prisoners and guns in the hands of the Loosais a preliminary to any arrangement for peace with them : this is the course which met with the approval of Government, as conveyed in para. 2 of letter No. 1170 of date 20th August 1869, in reply to mine No. 77 of date 17th July 1869 as follows :—“Every security that is likely to

prevent a repetition of the late disturbances should be taken from this tribe, and every effort should be made to obtain further the submission of the other tribes, who should also be required to give guarantees that no further raids will be committed either in British or in Munnipore territory.”

Under Slip B & C Mr. Edgars' aspect of the relations between Munnipoor and the Eastern Chiefs may now be read ( letter dated 6th April 1870 ).

The Lt. Governor in forwarding that letter would suggest that the Political Agent at Munnipore may be instructed to impress on the Raja, in the most emphatic manner possible, that no aggression on his part can be permitted, and that he must take effective steps to make his subject Kookies understand this, and to punish rigorously any disobedience of these instructions.

There is in Mr. Mackenzie's Memorandum on the tribes of the N. E. Frontier a passage (page\* 14) which bears very much on the point. In order to deal with the Angami Nagas, whose raids were found to be troublesome, [ 1835 and the following years,] the Munnipoor State was encouraged to check them by retaliatory raids :—“The Pony Cavalry of that state were only too ready to execute brilliant little sallies into the hills, and cut up villages here and there, but unfortunately the more the Munnipoorees worried the Nagas, the more the Nagas worried North Cachar.”

\*Vide page 16 of G2



\*No. 77 dt. 17th July/69 Slip B I observe that Dr. Brown in his earlier letter\* referred to already, remarked—

“So far as Munnipore is concerned, I do not see any difficulty in the way of making peace, as the damage done on either side has been pretty equal, and should the captives, guns, &c., be given up, the balance will decidedly be in favour of Munnipore—of course, some security must be given by the Looshais against a repetition of disturbances ”

Perhaps therefore he may be desired to impress on the Raja the wisdom of letting bygones be bygones, and to proceed himself next cold weather into their country and try to deal with the Eastern in the same way that Mr. Edgar has dealt with the Western Chiefs. The best chance of success would be if Dr. Brown were to go with Mr. Edgar into their territories, and if the two were to strike out some plan for providing for the quiet of the Munnipoor as of the Cachar frontier. The Looshais would at all events understand that an attack on Munnipoor was a breach of their new friendly relations with the British Government.

Sd/- Illegible  
18/5

I think the Political Agent at Munnipoor should at once be addressed in the sense suggested by the Lt. Governor of Bengal. Any discretion to attack Looshais or to assume a hostile attitude towards them is to do more than repel actual attacks on his own territories is sure to be abused and to undo everything that Mr. Edgar has effected.

Dr. Brown's views diverge too much from Mr. Edgar's policy to admit of his being associated with that officer. He has also shown himself too credulous and impulsive to have much hope of his being the man to effect much with these tribes.

Sd/- Illegible  
20. 5. 70

I agree generally, As Mr. Edgar is now here, Mr. ... would do well to confer with him before reply ..up again.

Sd/- Illegible

20. 5. 70

I have had a long interview with Mr. Edgar. He quite agrees that the Political Agent should be written to as proposed, but he also strongly urges that the Political Agent ...these Looshais in the cold weather and by friendly intercourse and explanation endeavour to bring about a good understanding. Most of the mischief is caused by the agents employed in communicating with the tribes. Mr. Edgar would prohibit the Rajah of Munnipoor from adopting any measures towards them without first consulting the Agent, would empower the Agent to supervise the relations between Munnipoor and the Looshais and would require him to cultivate to the utmost of his power direct intercourse with them and visit them from time to time.

Sd/- Illegible

4. 6. 70

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\* We could not decipher the hand written portion —EDITOR.

**No. 119, dated 6th December 1869.**

**From—Dr. R. Brown, Political Agent, Munnipore.**

**To—C. U. Aitchison, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.**

I have the honor to inform you that a deputation of nine Loosais from the Chiefs Vonolail and Poyboy arrived in Munnipore on the 26th of last month.

2. The Loosai messengers have brought with them one Naga woman, who was carried off in the raid by Vonpilal on a village in Munnipore hill territory in October 1868; a percussion gun, a sword handle, and the skull of the Soobedar killed on the taking of the Kala Naga stockade in February last. These messengers express themselves anxious for forgiveness; but as they have not acted up to the promises they formerly made, as reported in my letter No. 77, of 17th July 1869, to give up all the arms and prisoners in their hands as a preliminary to any arrangement being made with them, I have advised the Raja to make no promises whatever until they do so.

3. In consequence of this, and as it would appear that the Loosais are really anxious for forgiveness, five of the above messengers have voluntarily remained behind as hostages, and the other four have gone back to bring the remainder of the captives, guns, &c., in their hands.

4. The woman returned by the Loosais has very little to communicate. She was well treated; she states that the Loosais appear to anticipate a force entering their country this cold season either from Munnipore or Cachar, and that all the villagers are greatly frightened and ready for flight should troops enter the country.

5. Since my letter on the subject of the Loosais, No. 109, of date 1st November 1869, a force of 300 Munnipories has established itself in a good position commanding the roads

leading to the Loosai country, about two days' march south from the Kowpoom valley. On the road to this place, named Chubong, one day from the Government road, the force came on traces of the Loosais, and they were followed up, though not overtaken, by a portion of the troops, for a considerable distance in the direction of the Loosai country. From the paucity of the numbers supposed to have been present, it is conjectured that the Loosais were there simply as spies and to give notice of any force in the direction of their country.

**No. 272**

No. 37, dated 1st April 1870

From—Dr. R. Brown, Political Agent, Munnipore.

To—C. U. Aitchison, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I have the honor to address you on the subject of the Loosai tribe of Kookies, important information having been recently brought from their country by some Munniporie and Khom Kookie messengers sent for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, who committed the raid on Munnipore territory reported in my letter to your address No. 4, of date 13th January 1870.

2. The following is the statement of Amoo Soobedar, the Munniporie in charge of the above party, which consisted of three Munnipories, two Khom Kookies, and two of the five Loosais who remained behind in Munnipore from a deputation which came to treat with the Munnipories in November last, as reported in my letter No. 119, of date 6th December 1869. I have taken the Soobedar's statement *verbatim*. He says:—  
“I with the others left Munnipore in January last with orders to ascertain, if possible, who committed the raid of December last, and to inform the Loosais that Mr. Edgar proposed visiting them; I also had with me a letter from the Raja to Mr. Edgar. We first proceeded to the Loosai village of Boomhang, containing about 300 houses, and six days' journey from Munnipore valley. The Chief of the village is named

Boomhang. The villagers were apparently unfriendly, but did not molest us. The Chief asked us on what business we came. I replied, we want to know who committed the raid on the village near Moirang ; we also wish to deliver this letter to Mr. Edgar. The Chief stated that the raid was committed by the Pooe tribe, and that they would not deliver the letter to Mr. Edgar or allow the Munnipories to do so, giving as a reason that they and Mr. Edgar being now on friendly terms, there was no occasion to deliver it. (The letter in question was finally left in the hands of the Loosais belonging to the village of a Chief named Lalboom.) From Boomhang we went to the village of the Chief Lalboom, two days further on. Lalboom sent to the head Chief, Vonolail, to inform him of the arrival of the messengers. Vonolail, five days afterwards, sent five of his head-men to Lalboom's village. The following Chiefs also came or sent their head-men. The Chiefs who came were Poiboi, accompanied by his mother, Lairee, Boomhang, Surot, Kongnoong, Lawsaw, Lalboom. Lenkum and Vonolail sent their headmen. When all were assembled we were asked why we had come, and we replied as we had, to go to Boomhang. They said the raid was committed by the Pooe tribe, but when I proposed to go on to the Pooe country to make enquiries, they said we will not allow you, but will ourselves enquire. They also said, why have you not brought back the three Loosais now in Munnipore ? Send them back at once. I replied—These men remained voluntarily in Munnipore, and are not detained either by the orders of the Raja or the Political Agent. The two Loosais who accompanied us then said—Apparently we were at liberty, but the Munnipories would not have allowed us to go if we had wished. The Chiefs then said, until the three Loosais return from Munnipore we will neither deliver Mr. Edgar's letter ourselves or allow you to do so ; they also said, we have offered presents to the Raja and desire peace, but we will not give up any prisoners or guns taken from the Munnipories.

Mr. Edgar has agreed to make up matters with us. "A bridge has been made over the bodies of the slain;" he has not asked us to give up anything taken from Cachar, and has given us presents. Why should the Munnipore Raja want more? If you do not agree to this, we will take possession of the Cachar road, and not allow any one to pass between it and Munnipore. We will utterly destroy the Khongjai tribe of Kookies; we will invade the Munnipore valley, make coolies of the Munnipories, and eat all their ponies and cattle.

"I replied that they (the Loosais) had commenced disturbances and had committed the fault; but if they desired to renew hostilities, they might do so, as we were not afraid of them; also that the orders we had were not to make matters up with them until the muskets and prisoners taken from Munnipore were given up. The Loosais then said, if you do not agree to this, we will kill you. I replied, if it is your will, do so; we must obey the orders we have received. They then said, Norindrojeet (or Choecahoom, a former Munnipore raider and pretender, who was transported by the British in 1857 or 1858) has arrived amongst us, and is now in Vonolail's village; he will accompany us when we attack Munnipore."

"After this a communication was made to the Chief Vonolail, who agreed with the others. I agreed to send back the three Loosais on returning to Munnipore; we were then told to go back to Munnipore, which we did."

3. A few questions were put to the Soobedar, and other matters mentioned by him independently of the above narrative. The Loosais during the above conference denied that they had ever promised to return either guns or prisoners, taken from the Munnipories as a preliminary to an arrangement for peace. This is a barefaced falsehood, as the proposition to give up guns, &c., came originally from them. When the letter to Mr. Edgar was tendered to the Loosais,

they said in a sneering manner—"Your Raja has become very great lately, and has joined the Feringhee Sahibs. Look, the Sahibs have paid us tribute" (alluding to a number of presents which they say were given to them by Mr. Edgar). The Soobedar was closely questioned as to the "tribute" part of the above, and he states that the word used by the Loosais, whose language he understands, was "I loo nay," which he says means tribute ; he also says I understood from what the Loosais said that they were under the impression that the presents given by the two "Feringhee Sahibs," as they called Mr. Edgar and Major Macdonald, were given on account of their (the Sahibs) being afraid of them. The Soobedar from what he saw of the Loosais, considers that they are ripe for disturbances ; he also thinks that the Loosais, and not the Poe or Shendoo tribe, committed the raid in Munnipore in December last.

The villages he saw were full of men, and they had many muskets.

The promised attack on Munnipore, the Loosais said, would come off next full moon (about the 14th of April).

4. With reference to the statement of the Loosais that the men who remained behind in Munnipore had been detained, I am satisfied that it is quite untrue. As, however, there is no object to be gained by allowing the three Loosais now here to remain any longer, and as their return was promised as above mentioned, I have requested the Munnipore authorities to convey them safely back to their own country at once. It is unnecessary to make any comment on the above information, as its importance entirely depends upon whether it is true or not. I can only say that all my previous information obtained in like manner has been proved to be very correct. The above Soobedar brought with him a letter addressed to Mr. Edgar, Cachar, which had been detained in Vonolail's village : this letter had been opened, and was from Chittagong. I have sent it on to Mr. McWilliam, the Officiating Deputy

Commissioner, Cachar, together with an abstract of the information contained in this letter.

5. The last communication on the subject of the Loosais received from Mr. Edgar was a letter dated the 15th December last previous to his setting out for the Loosai country, in which he stated that he would communicate with the station (Cachar) regularly, and that he had desired Mr. McWilliam, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, to communicate to me all the information he might receive from him from time to time. Since then I have heard occasionally and briefly from Mr. McWilliam, but no particulars relating to any negotiations with the Lobsai Chiefs, or with whom made, have been furnished me.

6. Under the circumstances I still feel it my duty to recommend the Raja to adhere to his former determination of making the surrender of all prisoners and guns in the hands of the Loosais a preliminary to any arrangement for peace with them : this is the course which met with the approval of Government, as conveyed in paragraph 2 of letter No 1170, of date 20th August 1869, in reply to mine, No. 77, of date 17th July 1869, as follows—"Every security that is likely to prevent a repetition of the late disturbances should be taken from this tribe, and every effort should be made to obtain further the submission of the other tribes, who should also be required to give guarantees that no further raids will be committed either in British or in Munnipore territory." I am inclined to think that the threat of invasion is not likely to be carried out, but precautions will be taken to meet such a contingency. The Chief Vonolail's having given in his adhesion to the views of the other Chiefs looks ominous, as hitherto he has remained neutral, if not friendly.





**1870**  
**FOREIGN DEPARTMENT**

**POLITICAL—A**

*From*  
**The Political Agent at Munnipore**

*Dated* 1st April 1870.

*Recd.* 19th April 1870.

**No. 37.**

**Political A, February, 1870, Nos. 127-135.**

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**Submits, for information, the intelligence brought from the Loosai country by Munnipore messengers. The Loosais appear unfriendly, refuse now to return the guns and prisoners, and threaten to invade Munnipore.**



**No. 273**

No. 2077, dated 29th April 1870.

From—A. MACKENZIE Esq., Officiating Junior Secretary  
to Government of Bengal.

To—C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India,  
Foreign Dept., with G.-G.

WITH reference to the memorandum from your Office No 195P., of the 28th January last, and the previous correspondence, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a communication\* from the Commissioner of Dacca, with its enclosures, relative to a statement as to the relations between the Loosais and the subjects of Munnipore, made by one of a party of Loosais now at Cachar, and I am to say that it will be a matter of great regret if the success of Mr. Edgar's efforts to bring about an amicable understanding with the Loosais is endangered by intrigue or outrage on the part of the subjects of the Munnipore Raja. The Lieutenant-Governor would suggest that the Political Agent at Munnipore may be instructed to impress on the Raja, in the most emphatic manner possible, that no aggression on his part can be permitted, and that he must take effective steps to make his subject Kookies understand this, and to punish rigorously any disobedience of these instructions.

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**No. 274.**

Memo. No. 12, dated 20th April 1870.

From—F. B. SIMSON, Esq., Commissioner of Dacca Division.

SUBMITTED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal for any orders that may be fitting. I am of opinion that to the east of our occupied territories all along the Moonipore boundaries, raids and blood feuds will probably be continually going on, and that we cannot easily influence the Loosais in those parts, nor control the action of border villages not subject to Cachar.

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No. 270, dated 6th April 1870.

From—J. W. EDGAR, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Cachar.

To—F. B. SIMSON, Esq., Commissioner of Dacca.

I HAVE the honor to send you copy of a statement made by one of a party of Loosais of the Kholel village who are now in Cachar. Another copy will be sent to-day to Dr. Brown, the Political Agent at Munnipore.

2. The information is important, as it tallies in some respects with the stories taken into Munnipore by the messengers of the Raja alluded to by Dharpoong, but it is likely that the eastern Chiefs will eventually take the advice of those to the west and offer to come to terms with the Raja.

3. There are, however, two points in the statements of Dharpoong which require notice. The dissatisfaction of the Loosais with the messengers sent by the Raja, and the story that Munnipore Khados (Khongjais) have killed seven Loosais this year. In my intercourse with the Loosais, no subject came up oftener than the mischief that had been done in time past by the people through whom communication was kept up with the Loosais. I have noticed one or two instances of this in my reports, but have not mentioned the greater number. The Loosais on the east seem to think that the messengers lately sent to them by the Raja have been playing false and trying to prevent amicable arrangements. I heard something of this while at Lusai Hat, and the men with me now go so far as to say that they do not believe that the Munnipoorees wish to be friends with them.

4. A still more important point is the charge against the Khados or Khongjais. I fear that there is too much probability in this. You may remember how last year a party of Khongjais surprised and killed some sleeping Loosais. The Khados are all very proud of this feat, and people of my villages frequently have asked me to allow them to imitate it; of course, I have told them that I should punish them severely if they did anything of the kind. They have sometimes asked

me why should Khados living in Munnipore be allowed to kill any Loosai they could get at, and Khados or Thlangums living in Cachar be prevented from doing so.

Dharpoong was questioned very closely about the story, and both Mr. McWilliam and I are convinced that he believes it to be true. On the other hand, the Raja's Munnipoorees here deny all knowledge of the affair, and if any complaint of such a nature had been made to the Raja, they would probably have heard of it.

5. I am, however, strongly inclined to suspect from the way in which they talk of the relations between Munnipore and the Loosais, that the efforts on the part of Munnipore to conciliate the hill-men were more apparent than real, and it is to be feared that the Munnipoorees are inclined to think that if they let things drift on, we shall be eventually compelled to help them to subdue the Loosais and take possession of their villages. I have more than once stated that this might have been our best policy if adopted before. But now, as a different line has been taken up, the Munnipore authorities ought to be asked to make an earnest attempt to co-operate with us in carrying it out.

---

DHARPOONG, of Kholei village.

While Mr. Edgar was on the way from Lusai Bazar to Sukpila's Bazar, Poiboi sent a messenger to Impenu, saying that he and Leakum and Lalhoor and Lalram, and six others from the south, whose names I do not know, had agreed to attack Munnipore. He asked whether we had made an alliance with the Sahib of Cachar, and on our telling him so, the messenger said : "Very well, you had better remain on good terms with the Sahib, who made friendly offers to you ; as for us, we are going to attack Munnipore." Impenu and Lalhi sent a messenger to Poiboi, advising him not to do anything of the kind, and to be patient, and by degrees to come to terms

with the Sahib. I think they will take their advice. There was a meeting of the above-named Chiefs in Poiboi's village. They have not told us when they intend to attack Munnipore, but we suppose it will be in Kartick, that is, if they attack it at all, which is not likely, as we think they will listen to our Chief's advice.

Before this, while Mr. Edgar was at Lusai Bazar, four Munnipoorees and a Khado, named Pacoop, went to Poiboi from Munnipore. They asked Poiboi to make friends with the Raja. Poiboi said that if the Raja really meant to be friendly and sent a good messenger to them, he will agree to do so. Then Poiboi sent back some Loosais to the Raja with the Munnipore messengers. The Munnipore Raja said he would send a montry to make arrangements in Kartick, and that for the present matters would remain as they were. Then the Loosais returned to Poiboi. The real reason why Poiboi is so enraged with Munnipore is, that some of the Munnipore Khados cut up some of Poiboi's Loosais—three who were making salt and four who were montries—at a place called Chibuk, a few moons ago, after the village was burned in Munnipore.

Deonte and Bootu refused to help the confederates, because their montries were received by Mr. Edgar at Lusai Bazar. Next year they are going to send nuzzurs and montries to Silchar.

Chibuk is three days from the Munnipore Raja's village, and two days from Poiboi's village. It is near the river Tepai, to the north-east of the Tepai. Chibuk used to be in the elaka of Munnipore, but Poiboi annexed it last year after the war.

Of all the Chiefs with whom Mr. Edgar held meetings personally or by their montries, none of them have given, or will give, the least assistance to the attack on Munnipore.

(Sd.) O. G. R. McWilliam.

**No. 275**

No. 1127P., dated 30th June 1870.

From—C' U. AITCHISON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India,  
Foreign Dept., with G. G.

To—DR. R. BROWN, Political Agent at Munnipore.

With reference to your letter No. 37, dated 1st April last, I am directed by the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to forward a copy of Mr. Edgar's diary and report of the results of his negotiations with the Loosai Chiefs, together with a copy of a letter this day addressed to the Government of Bengal containing the orders of His Excellency in Council on the several proposals made by that officer for the improvement of our relations with the Loosai tribes.

2. For the success of the measures which His Excellency in Council has now authorized, it is éssential that similar measures for the establishment of friendly relations with the Loosais should be adopted from the side of Munnipore, and that the Raja and his subjects should be restrained from committing aggressions on these tribes. I am therefere to request that you will impress on the Raja, in the most emphatic manner possible, that while he should take all necessary measures for the protection of his frontier, no unprovoked aggression on his part can be permitted, and that he must take effective steps to make his subject Kookies understand this, and to punish rigorously any disobedience of these instructions.

3. It is the wish of His Excellency in Council that you should meet Mr. Edgar at Cachar in the ensuing cold season and receive from that officer, who has been in personal communication with the Viceroy, full particulars as to the policy which the Government of India have determined to adopt on this frontier, and which should regulate the counsel to be from henceforth given by yourself to the Raja of Munnipore.

No. 1128P.

Copy of the above letter forwarded to the Government of Bengal for information, with reference to Mr. Mackenzie's letter No. 2077, dated 29th April 1870.

No. 276

No. 133, dated 15th July 1870

From—Government of India,

To—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K. T.,  
Secretary of State for India.

In a letter from the Political Agent at Munnipore, which formed No. 44 of the Abstract of Contents annexed to our despatch to your Grace's address, No. 367, dated 23rd November 1869, mention was made of a successful enterprise in which certain Kookies of the Khonjai tribe, deputed by the Raja of Munnipore into the Loosai country, surprised a party of Loosais asleep, killed 40 of them, and carried off a quantity of arms. The Eastern Loosai Chiefs, Vonolail and Poibi, in No 50 of Abstract of Contents alarm sent three Loosais to feel the way to a tract of Contents reconciliation, promising to restore all the prisoners, guns and plunder in their hands, collected during the raids in Munnipore in the preceding February. Dr. Brown, the Political Agent, recommended the Raja "to make no promises whatever, but to say to the messengers that on the delivery of the captives, guns, &c., the Munnipore Government would then hear what they had to say regarding keeping the peace for the future."

2. From the two further letters (Nos. 3 and 4 of the annexed Abstract of Contents) received from Dr. Brown, it will be seen that, so far from leading ultimately to a pacification of his part of the border, the retaliatory raid from Munnipore has, in the end, led to threats of revenge from the tribes who were attacked, now that their immediate terror has abated. They have, moreover, denied their first promise to restore the remainder of the captured guns and prisoners



in their possession ; and till this promise is fulfilled, it is not in Dr. Brown's opinion, advisable that the Raja should be required to make peace with them.

3. But, as the success of Mr. Edgar's efforts to bring about an amicable understanding with the Loosais (the subject of our separate despatch No. 129 of this date) is likely to be impeded by intrigue or outrage on the part of the subjects of the Munnipore Raja, we have instructed Dr. Brown to impress on the Raja of Munnipore, in the most emphatic manner, that, while he should take all necessary measures for the protection of his frontier, no unprovoked aggression on his part can be permitted, and that he must take effective steps to restrain his subject Kookies from any aggression beyond his own territory. For the protection of this, as of the Cachar border, we place more reliance on measures of conciliation and on personal communication with the leading Chiefs, than on endeavours to keep the tribes in awe by punitive expeditions.

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**No. 277. Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 133, dated 15th July 1870**

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 133, dated 15th July 1870

No. 2. —————

No. 3.—From the Political Agent at Munnipore.

*6th December 1859, No. 119.*

Forwards a copy of the undermentioned papers :—

Abstract of Contents.

Reports that a deputation of nine Loosais from the Chiefs, Vonolail and Poiboi, arrived at Munnipore on the 26th November, bringing with them a Naga woman, who had been taken prisoner, and some arms. They have returned for the remainder of the

**No. 4.—From the Political Agent at Munnipore.**

*1st April 1870, No. 37*

**No. 5—From the Government of Bengal.**

*29th April 1870, No. 2077.*

**No. 6.—To the Political Agent at Munnipore.**

*30th June 1870, No. 1127P.*

captives, guns, &c., leaving five hostages behind.

Communicates the intelligence brought by certain Munnipore messengers who were sent into the Loosai country to enquire about the raid committed on Munnipore territory in December last. The Loosais appear unfriendly and threaten to invade Munnipore.

With reference to Mr. Edgar's efforts to establish friendly relations with the Loosais, suggests the desirability of preventing the Raja of Munnipore and his subjects from committing aggressions on those tribes.

Forwards, with other papers, a copy of a letter addressed to the Bengal Government, sanctioning certain measures for the improvement of our relations with the Loosai tribes, and directs him to point out to the Raja that it is essential that similar measures for the establishment of friendly relations with the Loosais should be adopted from the side of Munnipore.

(Copy forwarded to the Government of Bengal.)

