

S U P P L E M E N T.

SINCE writing the above, we have been informed, that the Vizier has defrayed a part of the extra expenses of the troops sent to his assistance this year, and is to give orders on his different Zemindars for the remainder. But as the mode of payment is not finally settled, we defer enlarging upon this subject, until we have taken it more attentively into consideration. We also learn that the Marattas, upon the intelligence of the approach of the English Forces and the Vizir's Army, had sent off their heavy baggage towards Calpee, and were retreating to Pattara, in the neighbourhood of Furruckabad, the rendezvous of their army. The General proceeds on his march towards Ramgaut, to observe the of the Rohillas.

Fort-William,
1st April, 1773.

WARREN HASTINGS,
W. ALDERSEY,
JOHN REED,
P. M. DACRES.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. N.

Extract of a Letter from the Secret Department, dated Fort-William, the 16th August, 1773; received in London the 26th of March, 1774.

HONORABLE SIRS,

2. OUR letters of last season were full and particular as to the motions and supposed designs of the Marattas, the part we had determined to take on the occasion in support of our Ally the Vizier, and the instructions we had for this purpose given the General, when he proceeded to join the first Brigade in Sujah Dowlah's dominions. According to the conjectures we then formed, the Marattas avoided a general action, and dispersed on the approach of the Vizier with our troops.

3. We at the same time informed you, that we had directed General Barker to receive possession of the provinces of Corah and Allahabad from Munneer ul Dowla, Naib of the King, who had expressed his desire to put these districts under our protection, as the King his master, when defeated last year by the Marattas, had been compelled, whilst a prisoner in their hands, to grant Sagnuds for the surrender thereof to them; but as the indispensable occupations of the General called him to a distance, and engaged too much of his time to allow the attention requisite to so material an object, the nature of which demanded the immediate superintendence of a person well-skilled in the business of the revenues, we thought it essentially expedient, as well for preserving the Company's influence and participation in the affairs of those Provinces, as for establishing a right to the future disposal of them in the most advantageous manner, whenever it might become a subject of negotiation, to depute a member of our Board to receive charge of the provinces of Corah and Allahabad from the General, and Mr. Lawrell was accordingly invested with the execution of this trust, and instructions given him nearly similar to those of the General, which you have been furnished with in our proceedings of the 17th February; adding, that although we took possession of the country as Allies of the King, yet he was not to deliver it over to any power whatever, not even to the King himself, without our express orders; for we judged that surrendering it to him in his present helpless state, would be in fact giving it up to the Marattas.

4. The Vizier Sujah ul Dowla about this time in his letters expressed the greatest desire to have an interview with the Governor, and as that circumstance concurred with our wishes for having many points of the greatest consequence adjusted, which could not well be effected without a personal conference, we acquiesced in opinion with the Select Committee, whose proceedings on this subject were laid before us, that such an interview at this period might be attended with very beneficial consequences to the Company's affairs.

5. The President received his instructions from us the 23d June, which we deemed of a nature to require the utmost secrecy; and as it was to be apprehended that their being revealed, might obstruct if not entirely frustrate the chief objects of his visit, we have not yet recorded them in the public proceedings, but think it our duty to transmit a copy thereof with this address for your particular information.

6. Mr. Hastings left us on the 25th June for Benares, where the Congress is to be held; we have heard of his arrival at Patna, and as soon as he shall make known to us the progress and probable event of his negotiations, we shall not fail to send you advices thereof by the Mercury Packet, having detained her expressly for that purpose.

7. We concurred with a request of the President, that Mr. Vansittart might be permitted to proceed with and assist him in his negotiations, and a like permission was also granted to Mr. Lambert, whose ill state of health obliging him to retire from Calcutta during the hot months, he was solicitous of rendering such assistance to the public service, as under these circumstances might be in his power.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. O.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, the 4th of October 1773.

Instructions given to the Governor before his departure for Benares, which the Board at that time thought proper to seal up and deposit in the custody of Mr. Aldersey, are now opened and recorded as follows, with the Letters written in consequence. The Governor's Instructions given 23d June.

To the Honorable Warren Hastings, Esq; President and Governor of Fort-William, &c. &c.

HONORABLE SIR,

AT our consultation of the 19th April, we expressed our approbation of the resolution of the Select Committee, for your obtaining a personal interview with the Vizier; and as, in consequence of the Vizier's repeated desire, you have now determined on proceeding for that purpose to Benares, we shall beg leave to lay before you such points in the political interests of the Company, as from the orders of the Court of Directors, and the present state of affairs in this Government, are the more immediate objects of our wishes. At the same time, the circumstances of our situation and connexions with the King and the Vizier are liable to so many variations, that we find it difficult to mark out any precise line for your conduct; nor indeed do we judge it necessary, as we repose an entire confidence in your experience and abilities, to improve to the utmost for the Company's benefit the different events which may occur.

It is evident that the treaties which at present subsist between the Company and the Vizier are settled upon an unequal footing. We are called on every occasion to his assistance, without any immediate advantage to our Employers, or even any regular and adequate adjustment of the stipulation in the treaty for the payment of our expenses; while on his part the aid which he is bound to afford us is left loose and undefined, and in all probability, from the nature and constitution of his army, in case of real danger, would prove use-

less and ineffectual. It is therefore advisable to effect an alliance with him on grounds of reciprocal advantage and support.

Of such an alliance, one of the most essential articles will be to secure the regular payment of sufficient subsidies, for the charge of such bodies of our troops as may march at the requisition of the Vizier; and although in our former treaty the stipulation is made only for our extraordinary expenses, yet when we consider that whilst removed at such a distance from our territories, they are in effect lost to our own service, we think it reasonable that the whole expense should be borne by him, but this can only be effected by your address and judicious management, as the engagements now subsisting between us, from which we do not mean to depart, do not entitle us to claim it as a right.

While the King continues at Delhi, whither he proceeded in opposition to our most strenuous remonstrances, we shall certainly consider the engagements between him and the Company as dissolved by his alienation from them and their interests. The province of Corah in this case will revert to them as to the original proprietors, by his inability to hold it on the terms and for the purposes to which it was ceded to him. As the possession of so remote a country can never be expected to yield any profit to the Company, and the defence of it must require a perpetual aid of their forces, and prove a source of much jealousy to the neighbouring powers, it must be our earnest wish to be freed from so inconvenient a possession on the best terms which can be obtained for the disposal of it. If the King's Pretensions are removed, the claim of the Vizier to this district will come next in preference, both on account of our alliance with him, its contiguity and relation to his dominions, and this preference being consonant to the Company's Orders. In that case, it would undoubtedly be our first wish to obtain from him the districts of Chunar and Gawzepore in exchange for it. The Honorable Company have earnestly enjoined us to endeavour to effect this, for the sole purpose of placing the King in the possession of a territory situated so near to our borders, and would no doubt be well pleased with the acquisition of it to their own possessions; yet we are aware of the repugnance of the Vizier to part with so valuable and important a territory, and as we cannot either in justice or in obedience to the commands of our Superiors, which recommend the strictest delicacy in our negotiations with their Ally, use any peremptory requisition with him to engage his acquiescence in such an accommodation, we content ourselves with intimating the utmost extent of our desires on this head, leaving the accomplishment of them to your management and discretion, in such a mode and to such a degree as your shall find yourself enabled to effect it.

If however, as is most probable, the King should make overtures to renew his former connexions, we are of opinion, that his right to reclaim the districts of Corah and Illahabad cannot with propriety be disputed, and we authorize you to restore them to him, on the condition of his granting to the Company a solemn renunciation of the tribute which has been allowed him from the provinces of Bengal and Bahar, both of the arrears which may be due, and of all future payments for ever. While we require this as a just retribution for the service afforded him, in maintaining the possession of these districts against the Marattas, to whom his weakness had abandoned them, we are justified by the stronger plea of absolute necessity in insisting upon it, as our revenues are utterly unable to support any longer so ruinous an expense.

It is probable, that the severe proof which he has recently experienced of his utter inability to support his pretensions to the power and dominions of his ancestors, and the disgraceful treatment which he has received from his false protectors, will exempt him from the hazard of the like delusion hereafter, and induce him to remain contented with his former residence, in a state more suited to the moderate compass of his genius, and the reduced influence of his family. In that case, it will be his best policy to connect himself again with the Vizier, and to intrust him with the administration of his affairs, as we do not see how it is possible for him to subsist by his own strength, and the state of our finances rendering it inconvenient to us to burthen ourselves with so unprofitable a charge. The pride of the Vizier may be gratified with such a connexion, and his authority may derive some degree of support from the veneration which is yet paid to the Royal Name. This point therefore we heartily recommend to your attention. The power of the King and the Vizier being thus united, and the object for which the presence of the King near the borders of Bahar was desired by the Company being removed by the renunciation of the tribute, it will then become an immaterial consideration in what part of the territories of the Vizier he shall hereafter reside.

We refer to you to adjust the claim of the Vizier on the Company for the Tuncaw granted him by the King on the treasury of Moorshedabad, and herewith furnish you with the extracts from our consultation of 13th May, containing the only information which we have hitherto received concerning that transaction, and you will no doubt be furnished with the rest from the Select Committee.

We empower you to renew, in behalf of Rajah Cheyt Sing, the stipulation which was formerly made with the Vizier in favour of his father Rajah Bulwand Sing, in consideration of his services to the Company, in the year 1764.

In a treaty of firm alliance with the Vizier, a free intercourse of commerce with his dominions ought to form an article; and as you are acquainted with the earnest wishes of the Company on this head, you will, no doubt, pay the greatest regard to them. The regulation of this commerce, with respect to the mode of carrying it on, and the duties to be paid, will be an object of your attention, and we rely on your care and judgment for adjusting these to the satisfaction of our Employers. A similar regulation to that which we have lately adopted, with respect to the duties on our own territories, would be the most desirable, if the Vizier's Consent can be obtained.

Mr. Lawrell will have our orders to meet you at Benares, and furnish you with such informations as he may have collected, regarding the districts of Corah and Ilahabad. He will also be directed to conform to any measure or stipulation which you may engage in for the cession of those districts.

We have found it necessary this season, for the more effectual protection of the Vizier's Dominions, to extend our operations to the country of the Rohillas on the North of the Ganges. We approve of your concerting with the Vizier any plan which may be necessary for his future security on that side, consistently with the spirit of the Company's Orders.

In consequence of the measures you may adopt, it will rest with you to determine, whether or not any troops shall be stationed in the Vizier's Dominions; if there should, we recommend, that the second Brigade do relieve the first, and take it's tour of that duty.

We have already observed, that we mean rather to intimate our wishes than lay down any absolute rules for your conduct on this occasion. For your more particular guidance, we furnish you with copies of the public treaties, and the Company's Orders, extracted from their several Letters, since the first treaty that was entered into with the Vizier.

Should you be able to afford any leisure to inspect into the state of our affairs in the province of Bahar, and to regulate the expenses of the revenues and factory at Patna, and the Dinapore Cantoments, we desire your assistance in these essential points, and shall send the proper instructions to the Chief and Council at Patna, to conform to any regulations you may think it proper to give them.

We are, with regard,

Fort-William,
23d June, 1773.

Honorable Sir, &c. &c.

Signed,

WARREN HASTINGS,
WILLIAM ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES,
THOMAS LANE,
RICHARD BARWELL,
H. GOODWIN,
J. GRAHAM,
W. LAMBERT,
G. VANSITTART,

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. P.

Letter from Warren Hastings Esq. to the Secret Committee of the Honorable the Court of Directors, for the Affairs of the Honorable United East-India Company, dated Benaras, 10th September, 1773; received in London 26th March, 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

1. **I**N consequence of the powers which I received from the Council of Fort-William, I have concluded a treaty with the Vizier, dated the 7th instant, by which the districts of Corah and Illahabad are ceded to him for the sum of fifty Lacks of Rupees, of which twenty are to be paid in ready-money, fifteen at the expiration of one year, and fifteen at the expiration of two years, from the date above-mentioned; and the payment of the charges of the forces, which may hereafter be employed for his assistance, is fixed at the rate of two lacks ten thousand rupees per month for one Brigade.

2. I have also obtained from the Vizier a confirmation of the Zemindary of Gazypoor, &c. in the name of Rajah Cheyt Sing and his posterity, on the same tenure and conditions on which they were held by the late Rajah Bulwan Sing, his father.

3. Mr. Lambert, a Member of your Council, who accompanied me to Benares, is gone with the Vizier to Fyzabad, to receive the first payment of twenty lacks, which the Vizier has solemnly promised to make immediately on his arrival there.

4. I have ordered the first Brigade, which was cantoned in the province of Oude, to return without delay to Bengal.

5. I arrived at this place on the 19th August; I shall make a short stay of a week or ten days at Patna; and if no business which I do not foresee shall occur to detain me at the City of Moorshedabad, I expect to be in Calcutta again by the 5th of October. It is a pleasure to me to add, that by the diligence and assiduous attention of the other Members of your Administration, your affairs will suffer no inconvenience from my short absence.

6. The particulars of my proceedings in the execution of the present commission, and of the motives and probable consequences of the engagements which have been formed, shall be duly transmitted to you by the Mercury immediately after my return to the Presidency. In the mean time I think it expedient to give you in brief my opinion of the advantages which are likely to accrue from the treaty. These are, a very serviceable supply of ready-money; an addition to the current specie of your provinces; an increase of the Vizier's Dependence on the Company's Protection, by the acquisition of the ceded districts; a relief from the burthen of maintaining so remote a territory, which you could not have held in property, without a vast expense and numberless inconveniences; which he was incapable of preserving by himself, and had actually abandoned by a formal cession of them to the Marattas; and which the Vizier laid claim to as his own, and would have possessed himself of, had we not prevented him; finally, a considerable saving of your military expenses, and a greater security to your own possessions.

7. The Maratta Armies, which have ravaged the countries contiguous to the dominions of the Vizier for these four years past, have actually repassed the Nerbudda, and it is not improbable that they will have sufficient employment nearer home, to prevent their attempting the renewal of such distant enterprizes the ensuing season.

8. Persuaded of the importance of these informations, and of the seasonable relief which every pecuniary acquisition or saving must afford to the general exigencies of your affairs, I have

I have thought it my duty to communicate them to you by the most expeditious means. I have therefore dispatched this letter in duplicate over land to your Presidency at Bombay, with a request that they will forward it from thence by the usual route to England.

I have the honor to be, with respect,

Gentlemen,

Your faithful humble servant,

WARREN HASTINGS.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. Q.

Extract of Secret Letter from Fort-William, dated 12th October, 1773,
received in London, 26th March, 1774.

HONORABLE SIRS,

2. **A** BOUT a week ago our President returned from the interview with the Vizier at Benares, and brought with him the original of a new treaty concluded between them at that city. This he laid before us immediately after his arrival, with a report in full of all his proceedings from his departure hence 'till his return. The matters which were negotiated in this interview, and the treaty which he concluded, appeared to us of so great importance in the affairs of the Honorable Company, that we judged it expedient to dispatch your packet, the Mercury, without delay, to carry you the most early advices of this transaction; and for your complete information, we transmit you herewith copies of our Instructions to the President; his report on his return; with all the papers referred to in it, together with the Consultations, Minutes, &c. at large, which have passed upon it, these are so full, and appear to us to contain so clear a state of the transactions, with the motives and reasonings, that to expatiate upon them here would be superfluous, and indeed, could only prove a transcript of the proceedings themselves; nevertheless, we think it necessary, for the convenience of an immediate reference, to state in brief the heads of what has been concluded upon.

3. The Provinces of Corah and Allahabad are ceded to the Vizier, on condition of his paying fifty Lacks of Rupees to the Company, twenty of which in ready-money, and the remainder in equal payments, at the expiration of one and two years.

4. The equivalent which the Vizier is to pay for the charge of our troops when sent to his assistance at his requisition, is stipulated and fixed at two Lacks ten thousand Rupees per month, instead of the payments of thirty thousand fixed by General Smith in the year 1767, and augmented in the two last campaigns to one lack fifteen thousand.

5. We have obtained from the Vizier a renewal of the sunnuds, in favour of Rajah Cheit Sing and his posterity, on the same footing as it was granted to his Father Bulwan Sing, excepting only the increase of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lacks to his annual tribute, which the Rajah had agreed to at his accession in 1770.

6. A free trade is obtained for the Company's Imports as far as Mirzapoor, which is the great mart for the higher India, and the Emporium for all the manufacturers and produce of those parts.

7. These are the principal heads of the matters transacted by the President; but he further took occasion in this journey to settle the affair of the King's Tuncaws with the Vizier, and some matters recommended to his attention at Patna, as will appear at large in his Report. We have only now to observe, that the acquisition of twenty lacks, immediately to be paid into the treasury, together with what will come in from the same source for this and the ensuing year, will greatly serve to relieve us from embarrassment, in fulfilling the orders of your Honorable Court for ample investments, and together with the savings which

Extracts of Letters from Bengal on Political Affairs. Appendix, No. XVIII. R.

which we have endeavoured to effect, in both the Civil and Military Departments, will enable us effectually to assist the Company in their present distress, than which nothing is more earnestly desired by us.

8. Mr. Lambert, who, as we formerly advised, accompanied the President in his journey, was deputed by him to repair to Fyzabad, for the purpose of receiving from the Vizier the first payment, and we expect him down here with the cash in a few weeks.

9. The stipulation for a free trade to Mirzapoor we also regard as a point of consequence gained for the Company, as it cannot fail to enhance the value of their imports and increase their consumption.

10. Although the measures of the President obtained the unanimous approbation of the Board at the time when he reported them to us, yet you will observe, on the General's Arrival at the Presidency, that he judged it necessary to enter his dissent to them, which being very full, and taken upon various grounds, the President thought it also necessary to record his reply. Both papers, with a minute of the Board on that occasion, and a reply from the General, are transmitted in the consultations, which go a number in this packet.

We are, with respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble Servants,

Fort-William, the 12th
October, 1773.

WARREN HASTINGS,
ROB. BARKER,
W. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES,
H. GOODWIN,
J. GRAHAM,
GEORGE VANSITTART.

APPENDIX, No. XVIII. R.

Extract of Select Letter from Bengal, dated 11th October, 1773; received in London, 26th March, 1774.

HONORABLE SIRS,

2. **I**N our former advices we acquainted you, that the Marattas having extorted from Shaw Allum a grant of the Provinces of Corah and Currah, were advancing to take possession; that your Administration, considering the right of the Company to that country, when relinquished by the King, as well as the danger that would arise to your territories, and those of Sujah Dowla, were the Marattas to obtain so near a footing, determined, in concert with the Vizier, to oppose their designs, and to cover the frontier from an invasion.

3. In consequence of this resolution, a Brigade was ordered to march and join the Vizier's Army. They proceeded to Ramgaut in the Rohilla Country, where the General having put himself at their head, they encamped on the banks of the Ganges. As we confined ourselves to that defensive plan which you have been pleased to prescribe, the General was ordered not to commence hostilities, but to remain on the Northern Side of the Ganges; and the Marattas not daring to attack your forces, the armies continued nearly in this situation for two months without coming to an engagement. On the rapid approach of our Army, a considerable party of the Marattas, who were then in the Rohilla Country, fled with precipitation, and recrossing the Ganges joined their main body. At

one time they ventured to canonade our encampment from the opposite bank of the river, but being presently silenced by a discharge from our artillery, they afterwards confined their operations to laying waste the neighbouring country, and at last, either recalled by their own government, or apprehensive of remaining so near our army during the rains, (when in case of an attack, they would have been unable to secure a retreat, which was open to them at every other season) they retired to the Decan towards the beginning of May.

4. The Campaign has fully answered our intentions; and we entertain hopes that the Marattas, observing the concord which subsists between the Company and the Vizier, and the steady system on which they act, will desist in future from alarming the frontiers with threatened invasions. The little success that has this year attended their arms, and the internal dissensions which subsist among themselves, give some probable grounds for this expectation.

5. The scene of the Marattas Operations, lay principally in the Rohilla Country, which from it's situation, and the weakness and jealousy of it's Chiefs, was particularly exposed to their incursions. One of the leaders of this nation, Hafez Rhamut, whose territories lie contiguous to those of Sujah Dowla, and to the Province of Corah, had formerly entered into a treaty with the Vizier, in which he agreed to pay him forty lacks of Rupees for his protection and assistance; the half of which sum the Vizier promised to pay to the Company, in consideration of the superior part they took in these transactions. Hafez Rhamut having for some time acted a very double part, at last joined the army, and continued his promises of fulfilling the treaty; but protracted the time until the Marattas had retired and the troops were in consequence recalled. Being then relieved from the apprehension of present danger, he declined paying up the stipulated sum, on pretences of inability, and that it was necessary first to consult the other Rohilla Chiefs. The Vizier highly exasperated at this conduct of the Rohillah, proposed immediately to compel him to a compliance with his engagements, by marching into his country; or in case of his refusal, to reduce it and unite it to his own. For this purpose he applied to your Administration for their aid and concurrence, but before we could come to any resolution, many points of delicate nature were previously to be examined and settled.

6. The alarm of an invasion of the Marattas had for three successive seasons occasioned the march of one of the Brigades at the requisition and for the assistance of the Vizier. But the sum stipulated as an indemnification for this extraordinary expense being not only greatly inadequate to the actual amount, but often irregularly paid, the Company was subjected to a heavy charge, their military strength greatly weakened, and the wealth of the Country was exported in the pay of the troops. Under such circumstances the friendship of Sujah Dowla grew to be a burthen to the Company; and it was evident, that an union subsisting on terms so unequal could neither be cordial nor lasting. It became therefore necessary to provide some remedy for this defect in our alliance with the Vizier.

7. The actual possession of the Corah Province was another point that required particular attention, and opened a prospect of advantage to the Company; but from it's remote situation, and our ignorance of the real state of the country, we thought proper to recommend to the Council to depute one of the Members to proceed thither, and to prepare such materials, as might enable us to determine upon the manner of disposing of it most beneficial to the Company.

8. While these important matters were under our consideration, the Vizier frequently expressed an earnest desire of a personal interview with our President; and this measure appearing the most effectual means of bringing them to a conclusion, and of strengthening that friendship in which the Company are united with the Vizier, we recommended it to the Council, and it was carried into execution; but as you will be informed by the Board of the success which has attended the President's Negotiations, we beg leave to refer you on this subject to the letter from that Department.

9. We

9. We have the honor to transmit the broken sett of our proceedings, and to subscribe ourselves,

Honorable Sirs,

Fort-William,
the 11th October, 1773.

your faithful and most

obedient humble servants,

WARREN HASTINGS,
R. BARKER,
W. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. S.

Extract of General letter from Fort-William, dated 10th November, 1773,
received in London, 5th May, 1774.

5. **N**othing can be more flattering to us than the satisfaction you are pleased to express in our zeal for your service, and in your approbation of our measures. We feel ourselves impressed with sentiments of gratitude for these testimonies of your favour, and with the most ardent wishes to merit, by our future conduct, the assurances which you have given us of your support and protection.

6. When we reflect on the distance through which our advices must pass before we can communicate to you our intentions, or receive your orders upon them; the little time which we can spare from our multiplied duties to explain every doubtful measure, to obviate every possible imputation, or to furnish you with so comprehensive a detail of our transactions, as may enable you to pass a decisive judgment upon them; and when we consider at the same time the popular odium to which your servants have been recently exposed, and the avidity with which every anonymous tale has been received, which flattered the prejudices of the public, we feel the necessity of such assurances, to encourage and empower us to prosecute the laborious work of reducing the vast materials of your state into a consistent and regular system, and of restoring the credit and prosperity of your affairs. You may rely on the continuance of our endeavours for that end; and we beg leave to assure you with the greatest sincerity, that we were happy to unite with Mr. Hastings in every measure for the public good, as well those which are in the common line of Government, as in those which you thought necessary confidentially to commit to his immediate conduct.

7. We wait with becoming attention for those remarks on our proceedings, and the ulterior commands which you are pleased to signify it is your intention to send us at you leisure; and we beg leave on this occasion to express our unfeigned concern at the late distresses and embarrassments of the Company, and their consequences, which we are sensible must have loaded your Honorable Court with an unusual degree of trouble and solicitude.

8. We are in hopes that every thing has by this time been so arranged as to permit the Company to carry on their affairs with success, and in ease and tranquillity for the future; and we even flatter ourselves, that the regulations in Bengal, of which we have fully advised you by the Lapwing, if they meet your approbation, may in some degree have contributed to so desirable an end.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. T.

Extract of Secret Letter from Fort-William, dated 10th November, 1773,
received in London, 5th May, 1774.

9. **T**HE Marattas have not appeared again, either on the frontiers of Corah or of the Vizier's Dominions, since their retreat before the rains. You will doubtless be advised from Bombay of the revolution in the Government at Poonah. However it may be proper to acquaint you, that Mr. Mostyn writes us from that City, that on the 30th of August last, Narrin Row was assassinated in his palace by his own guards, and Ragobah placed in the Musnud in his stead. Mr. Mostyn tells us he cannot yet foresee what alteration this may make in their politics, but that he imagines a considerable change will take place.

17. The President informs us that he learns by letters from Mr. Lambert, that he has received from the Vizier the whole of the twenty Lacks, the first payment for the cession of the above Provinces, and he tells him, that he expects to receive the balance due for the expenses of the Brigade in a few Days.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. U.

Extract of Letter from Warren Hastings, Esquire, to the Court of Directors,
dated at Fort-William, 11th November, 1773, received in London 5th
May, 1774.

8.—**T**HESE well-known infirmities in our constitution, were frequently alluded to by the Vizier in the late conferences, which I had with him at Benares. He lamented the perpetual hazard to which he was exposed of losing the English Friendship, by the continual changes of their Chiefs, who were no sooner known to him, and a confidence established with them, than they were recalled, and others substituted in their stead, whose tempers he was to study, and whose affections he was to conciliate anew, and then to lose them as he had lost their predecessors, and have the same fruitless labour to repeat for ever. He once asked me in plain terms, what assurances I could give him that new conditions would not be required of him, or that those for which I should have pledged the faith of the Company should not be eluded by a new Act of Government, if six members of the Council should at any time propose an infraction of the treaty, and four only join me in opposing it.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. V.

Extract of Secret Letter from Fort-William, dated 30th December, 1773,
received in London, 2d June, 1774.

HONORABLE SIRS,

1. **W**E had the honor to address you from this department by the Latham, duplicate of the letter now waits upon you.

2. Soon after the departure of that ship, we received in reference from the Select Committee, accompanied by an explanatory minute by the President, a proposal and requisition of the Vizier's, for our assistance in an attack which he meditated on the Doab, or the Country lying between the Jumna and the Ganges, beyond the Province of Corah, and also on that of the Rohillas to the North of the Ganges.

3. We determined without the smallest hesitation against his first proposition; but the second involving many questions respecting the political interest of the Company in those parts, we thought it deserving a more deliberate discussion. The President stated very fully and clearly both his opinions and his doubts on the subject; and † after a serious examination of them, and ample discussion of every point, we determined, that in the present juncture, it would be advisable to shun entering with the Vizier into such an undertaking as the conquest of the Rohilla Provinces to the North of the Ganges, as far as we could consistently with our engagements, and the friendships and close connexion which we wish to preserve with him. In this view, we agreed on such a reply to the Vizier, as under the appearance of compliance must either induce him to relinquish the project, or bind him to such conditions in the acceptance of our assistance, as must turn altogether to the Company's Benefit; but indeed we deem him too wise to his own interests not to decline our aid on these terms, which is the effect we confidently expect from this reply. The subject appears in full in the consultations.

† Cons. 26th
November.

4. The General, who concurred with the rest of the Board in approving the letter which the President proposed to be written to the Vizier, thought it however necessary to record his separate reasons against the measure of attacking the Rohillas, founded chiefly on his opinion, with regard to the cession of Corah and Alahabad, to which as we formerly advised he had entered a minute of objection.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. W.

Extract of Select Letter from Bengal, dated 31st December, 1773; received in London, 4th June, 1774.

HONORABLE SIRS,

2. **U**PON the retreat of the Marattas to the Deccan, the territories which they had occupied naturally attracted the attention of the neighbouring powers; and the Vizier among others turned his views towards this object. He communicated his designs of invading that country to the President, and expressed at the same time a desire of being assisted by your forces; but while this was in agitation, he suddenly changed his resolution, and seemed determined to carry his arms against the Rohillas. The Vizier had long entertained designs against this Tribe, whose country lies contiguous to his own, and whose Chief, Hafez Rhamut, had refused to perform the conditions upon which he had obtained protection from the ravages of the Marattas during the last Campaign. He had mentioned his intentions on this subject to the President while he was at Benares, offering to pay forty Lacks of Rupees to the Company for the assistance of the Troops on the reduction of the Rohilla Country, besides the monthly stipulation for the expenses of the Army. The President at that time encouraged this proposal; but the execution of it was afterwards, at the desire of the Vizier himself, suspended for a more favourable opportunity, when he might run less hazard of opposition, and be more at liberty to act with vigor. This opportunity seemed now to present itself. The late revolution among the Marattas afforded little probability of interruption from that quarter, and the Vizier having acquitted himself of his first engagement to the Company, by a payment made to Mr. Lambert, felt himself relieved from anxiety on that account, and more at liberty to enter into any new undertaking; at the same time that the treachery of the Rohillas furnished him with a pretence for proceeding to extremities with them. He accordingly renewed the proposition, and applied for the assistance of your forces on the same conditions as before.

3. From the engagement which subsisted between the Vizier and the Company, and the assurances given him by the President at Benares, on the first projection of this enterprize, we thought ourselves not at liberty to reject it. We resolved accordingly to comply with his request, and having obtained the concurrence of the Board at large, and taken every precaution to bind the Vizier to the performance of his part of the agreement, in case the measure should be adopted, we sent orders for the march of the Brigade at Dinapore to the Chief of Patna, in whose hands they are to remain till the Vizier shall require the Brigade to join him. He has since, however, entered the Doaub, or the lands which lie between the rivers Jumna and Ganges, and is engaged in the reduction of the forts of the Country, which are in the possession of the Marattas. We shall be well pleased to find, that he does not make use of the liberty we were under the necessity of granting him; for although we consider every accession of strength to Sujah Dowla as beneficial to the interests of our Employers, yet we adopt with diffidence any measure of such consequence, until we shall have received the orders and sentiments of the Company.

4. And here we must beg leave to repeat our earnest desire, that you will be pleased to furnish us with your explicit commands for our conduct, with respect to the countries situated beyond the limits of these provinces, and those of your Ally; whether our future operations are to be invariably circumscribed by those bounds, or in what cases you will approve and authorize our proceeding beyond them. You are well acquainted with the state of the neighbouring powers; of these the Marattas only are formidable to your possessions; the rest are weak, and (the Vizier alone excepted) every way inconsiderable; nor should we regard the Marattas themselves in a light of much more importance, were the force and connexions of your three Presidencies united under one active control, which we do not hesitate to foretell, will, whenever such a plan shall take place, render you the sovereign arbiters of Indostan.

7. Upon the whole, whether it be your pleasure that we should implicitly adhere to the defensive line hitherto prescribed to us, or extend our views to bounds more remote, we earnestly entreat, that we may be furnished with such clear and full instructions from you as your wisdom shall judge expedient, to enable us to act with confidence and with vigor, in the execution of every measure which may be presented to us, for the advancement of your interests, and in strict conformity to your intentions.

Fort-William,
December 31, 1773.

(Signed).

WARREN HASTINGS.
CHARLES CHAPMAN,
W. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACKES,

S U P P L E M E N T .

We have just received advice, that the Vizier has taken Ettawah, the principal place held by the Marattas in the Duab.

APPENDIX,

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. X.

Extract of Secret Letter from Fort-William, dated 17th January, 1774;
received in London, 21st July, 1774.

HONORABLE SIRS,

2. OUR letter from the Public Department will explain the cause of the delay in the Egmont's Dispatch: this delay has afforded us the opportunity of acquainting you with the result of the Vizier's Proposition, and our offer of assistance in his expedition against the Rohillas, on the terms and limitations of which we advised you.

3. It was with pleasure we found the plan we had adopted answer so completely to our intentions. The Vizier, on receipt of the President's Letter, written agreeable to the resolution of the Board, returned an immediate answer, declining our assistance in his distant expeditions, on the conditions we required; but at the same time desiring the Brigade might be held in readiness, to march whenever he shall find it necessary to call on it for the defence of his own dominions.

4. This affair being happily terminated in the manner we wished, we shall now remain spectators only of the operations of the different powers in those distant parts, preserving however a watchful eye over the course of events, that we may be prepared to interpose whenever the interests of the Honorable Company are likely to be affected by them. In this view we shall, in compliance with the Vizier's Request, hold one Brigade in readiness to march to his assistance within his own territories, including the Provinces of Corah and Allahabad; and we acknowledge we shall not be sorry to find, that he calls for them on this footing, as we shall then be eased of so considerable a part of the military expense, and have the discipline of our troops preserved in an actual service, at so little distance from our frontiers.

5. The President, on his return from Benares, as will appear from our Consultations, proposed to us the appointment of a Resident at the Court of the Vizier, for the more immediate communication with him in ordinary business, and such other matters as the President should think fit to confide to his management; and this appearing to us a measure of great convenience and advantage in the correspondence of this Government with the Vizier, we approved of the proposal, and left the nomination to the President. He accordingly made choice of Mr. Nathaniel Middleton for that employment, which met with our entire approbation. In consideration of the great distance of the place of his residence from Calcutta, whence he must draw the chief necessaries for his table, we have allotted him one thousand Rupees per month for his ordinary expenses.

7. In this situation of affairs in that quarter, we think we have little to apprehend from the Marattas on the side of Bengal; and there seems at present the fairest prospect of tranquillity for some time to come.

We are, with respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Fort-William,
the 17th January, 1774.

Your most faithful

humble servants,

WARREN HASTINGS,
W. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES,
JAMES LAWRELL,
H. GOODWIN,
J. GRAHAM,
W. LAMBERT,
GEORGE VANSITTART.

APPENDIX, No. XVIII. Y.

Extract of Secret Letter from Bengal, dated 15th March, 1774; received in London, 26th November, 1774.

1. **O**UR last Letter from this Department was sent by the Egmont, Captain Mears, a duplicate of it now waits upon you.

2. Soon after the dispatch of that ship, the Vizier availed himself of the discretionary orders we left with the Chief of Patna, to send the second Brigade to his assistance, as soon as he should make a formal requisition for that purpose.

3. You will observe in our last, that at the same time we advised you of the Vizier's having declined our former offer, we informed you, that we should keep the Brigade in readiness to march to his assistance whenever he should require it; and declared, we should not be sorry he took this step, as it would ease us of a considerable part of our military expense, and preserve our troops from inaction and relaxation of discipline.

4. We therefore immediately confirmed the order for the marching of the Brigade, and directed Colonel Champion, Commander in Chief, to join them as soon as possible to assume the command.

5. The declared intention of the Vizier in this requisition is still the conquest of the Rohilla Country, and we afford our present assistance under the same conditions and restrictions which were formerly tendered to him. Our troops are to be employed only in his own country, or in that of the Rohillas lying between the Ganges and the mountains; and he is to pay the forty Lacks of Rupees in ready-money whenever the service against the Rohillas (if it is undertaken) shall be concluded, as well as the monthly subsidy of two Lacks, ten thousand Rupees for the extra expenses of the Brigade, as stipulated with the President at Benares. His Letter, recorded in the Consultations, † expresses, in a very clear and precise manner, his acceptance of these Conditions, being a transcript, with little variation, of the draught sent to him by the President, as recorded in our proceedings. To our former full advice and proceedings on this subject transmitted to you, we have only to add at present, that we deem the express object of this expedition, viz. the conquest of the Rohilla Country, above described, as a point of no great difficulty were it to be undertaken; neither is it likely to involve us in any troubles with the other powers. The lateness of the season, and the other designs in which the Vizier seems to be deeply engaged, as particularized in our Instructions to the Commander in Chief, leave little probability of any attempt being made in the prosecution of this undertaking during the present year.

† Cons. 3d
Feb. 1774.

6. The Instructions ‡ we have given to the Commander in Chief are peremptory as to his keeping within the limits of the Vizier's Dominions, except in the case of attacking the Rohillas; as above defined, and we have charged him to act on the defensive only with regard to every other Power.

‡ Cons. 14th
Feb. 1774.

7. On the Vizier's urgent application communicated to us by the President, for a supply of ten thousand muskets from the Company's Stores, for completing his Seapoys with Arms, we took the proposition into consideration, and determined to grant him two thousand stands, acquainting him, that the supplies we received from Europe were solely to answer our own demands, and therefore we could not comply with his request in its full extent; but to evince to the world the friendship and confidence we entertained for him, we had agreed to spare him the above quantity from our own stores.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. Z.

Secret Consultations, 14th February, 1774.

Instructions to COLONEL CHAMPION.

To Colonel Alexander Champion, Commander in Chief of the Forces under the Presidency.

S I R,

1. **H**AVING thought proper, at the requisition of the Vizier, to grant him the assistance of one Brigade of the Honorable Company's Forces, and the Troops being already on their march towards his Dominions, you will please to repair, with all convenient speed to take upon you their immediate command; and although you are acquainted, as a Member of the Administration, with the motives and intentions of this expedition, we judge it necessary for your more particular guidance in the general line of your operations, to give you the following Instructions, trusting the particular conduct in the field to your military skill and capacity.

2. The express purpose for which the Vizier at this time demanded our aid, being the reduction of the Rohilla Country lying between the Ganges and the mountains, you are immediately, on your arrival in his country, to acquaint him, that you are ready to proceed on that service, and require his further Instructions. For the general stipulations in the case of his requiring the assistance of our forces, we refer you to the accompanying copy of a treaty, executed between our President and the Vizier at Benares in August last; and for the particular conditions on which we afford him our assistance in this expedition, to the translation of an address from the latter, on his making the requisition of a Brigade.

3. As the Vizier appears completely occupied at present in his expedition into the Doab for the recovery (in behalf of the King Shaw Allum) of the territory seized by the Marattas, we imagine he will hardly find time this season to attempt any thing towards the conquest he meditates of the Rohilla Country before described. We think it however necessary to suppose the possibility of such a service taking place, in describing the line of your operations, which is to be as follows.

4. You are not to pass the boundary which divides the Province of Oude from the Rohilla Country, except at the express requisition of the Vizier; and in that case you are to confine all your operations to that Country, as above described, and to the dominions of the Vizier. You are in no case, nor on any account whatever, to permit the Troops, or any part of them, to pass the River Ganges from the Rohilla Country, nor the boundaries of the Vizier's Dominions, comprehending his ancient possessions of Oude and the new acquisition of Corah and Allahabad. At any rate, whatever be the particular service which you are required to proceed upon within the line of these Instructions, you will use the necessary precaution, to receive this requisition from the Vizier in writing, to obviate future doubts or disputes which may arise upon them.

5. If upon your arrival with the army, you shall find that the Vizier has not returned from his expedition into the Doab, or concerted his plan for immediately executing his intentions on the Rohilla Country, we think it will be necessary that you should, as soon as possible, have an interview with him, as well for the purpose of concerting the operations in which our Troops are to be employed for his aid, as to give you a proper introduction to him in the station which you now fill of our Commander in Chief; but as such interview taking place within the limits of the possessions which were formerly conquered by the Marattas, and have been lately regained by the Vizier in behalf of the King, may be liable to future misrepresentation, and be construed an act of hostility against that Power on the immediate part of this Government, a consequence which we wish studiously to avoid, we would recommend, that you advise him

of your approach, appoint a place for meeting him, and proceed thither without any other military force than a retinue suitable to your station, and a guard sufficient for your security. You will publicly declare, that you go only to meet the Vizier, and with no intention of joining in any operations against the territories of which the Marattas had possessed themselves; and as soon as you have settled with the Vizier the necessary plan for your operations, you will immediately return to the Army.

6. The military conduct of the expedition is entirely left with you; but as the regular payment of the Troops is an essential point, and will depend altogether upon the exactness of the Vizier, you will be particularly attentive to make proper applications to him, for this purpose; but should he neglect or evade to furnish the monthly subsidy, you will, in conjunction with the Resident at his Court, set before him in the strongest terms the impropriety of his conduct.

7. If such instances should, contrary to our expectations, prove ineffectual, and one month shall have elapsed beyond the period in which the payment should have been made, we authorise and enjoin you to suspend your operations, and to return to Benares, there to wait our further orders; declaring to the Vizier, in the name of the Board, that you consider this failure in his engagements as equivalent to a dismissal of the Troops, and that you shall halt at Benares until the balance due, both of the subsidy and for such other conditions as shall have been performed conformably to the tenor of his letter in Consultation 3d February, shall have been fully discharged.

8. You will perceive that the Vizier's Payments are not to become due 'till the Brigade shall have passed the borders of his Dominions. It will be necessary therefore to advise us of this date, in order to ascertain the demand. In the mean time, we have sent instructions to the Chief and Council at Patna, to supply the Pay-master with a sum sufficient for the pay and charges of the Brigade to the end of this month, trusting to the punctuality of the Vizier for the future supplies. Nevertheless, to guard against every possibility of distress which may attend the troops from the want of money, we herewith deliver to you a Letter of Credit upon the Chief and Council at Patna for 250,000 Rupees, to be used in case of your having left the Vizier, and being then reduced to extreme necessity for employing it.

9. Whenever the Vizier shall think it expedient to dismiss the Troops, you are to require such dismissal in writing, and to proceed immediately to the frontiers of our provinces with all convenient expedition, according to the stipulation of the agreement; but if he shall not have discharged the balance due for the charges and other conditions of this expedition, you are to halt at Benares until the same shall be fully discharged, as we have above directed, or until you shall be furnished with our orders for your further conduct.

10. We recommend in the strongest manner that you cultivate a good understanding with the Vizier, and that you pay the strictest attention to the behaviour and discipline of the Troops, that no subject of complaint may arise on that head, either from himself, or from any people of the Countries with whom we are not in a state of hostilities.

11. For the more convenient execution of military law and justice, we furnish you with a regular warrant for assembling Courts Martial, according to Act of Parliament.

12. You will correspond regularly with the Honorable the President and Select Committee, and receive their orders, both as to your political and military operations.

Fort-William,
the 14th February, 1774.

We are, with esteem, &c.

APPENDIX;

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 1.

Extract of Select Letter from Bengal, dated 17th March, 1774; received in London, 26th November, 1774.

1. **W**E had the honor to address you by the ship Latham, duplicate of which was transmitted by the ship Egmont.
2. We therein acquainted you, that the Vizier had resolved to take advantage of the absence of the Marattas, in order to reduce and annex to his dominions the countries lately occupied by them between the rivers Ganges and Jumna. In the prosecution of this plan, his first attack was made upon Ettayah, which, being guarded only by a small party of Marattas, surrendered at discretion almost as soon as his troops appeared before it; and having treated the garrison with great moderation, he gave orders for the fortifications being entirely demolished.
3. The Vizier's Success on this occasion, and the large and apparently formidable army which he commanded, impressed the neighbouring powers with an high idea of his strength; they hastened from all quarters to pay their respects to him, and the Marattas, upon retiring to the Deccan, having left a force sufficient only to collect the revenues, there remained no power in a situation to oppose him; so that he marched through an enemy's country with almost as little interruption as if he had been on a progress through his own dominions.
4. In the mean time, Nujiff Cawn, the King's General, who supported by his personal abilities the remains of the Royal Authority, having defeated the Jauts in a pitched battle, and being recovered from the wounds which he then received, had marched to invest Agra, the capital City belonging to that tribe. The Vizier, who, though little attached to the interest of the King, carried on his operations under that sanction, could not upon this occasion decline to contribute his aid; and either forward to make a shew of his services, or jealous of the undivided reputation, which his personal rival was likely to gain by the capture of Agra, he dispatched a part of his Army with some guns to assist in carrying on the siege. Nujiff Cawn's Army alone consisted of above 40,000 men; yet being mutinous, ill appointed, and in want of the artillery proper for such an undertaking, the siege was protracted longer than could have been expected from the indifferent state of the fortifications and the little defence made by the besieged. The garrison at last capitulated on the 15th of February, having obtained more honorable terms than their behaviour or situation seemed to entitle them to; and Nujiff Cawn took possession of the fortress in the King's Name.
5. This event, added to their former ill fortune, threatens to complete the ruin of the Jauts, who are now stripped of all their extensive dominions, and reduced to a few inconsiderable forts with the petty territories which surround them; while the minority of their present Chiefs, and the discord and treachery which reigns among the leading men, cuts off every prospect of their being able to retrieve their affairs.
9. In consequence of the Vizier's Requisition, the second Brigade has lately marched into his dominions on the terms mentioned in our former address; they will probably be employed only in protecting his country, while he is carrying on his operations against the Maratta Districts, as he is likely, in the present posture of affairs, to meet with little interruption; and we shall studiously avoid taking an active part against the Marattas, until we are favoured with your commands.
10. The King has lately renewed his applications for the arrears of the Bengal Tribute, or for any aid which could be sent to him. To these letters we have not yet replied; but it is our intentions to abide by the declarations already made him by the President, and to withhold all further remittances to him, until we shall receive your commands. Indeed were his pretensions as just, as in our opinion they are groundless, the exigencies of this Government would not admit of our complying with his demands, until the heavy Bond Debt of the Company should be cleared off, the expenses of this Government retrenched, and your finances put upon a more economical footing.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. · A. A. 2.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 4th October, 1773.

Extract of the Governor's Report.

IN the course of my journey to Benares, I repeatedly addressed the King, advising him to send some person of confidence to meet me there, with full powers to treat upon his affairs. He did not comply with my advice, but contented himself with writing to the Vizier and to Munneer-ul-Dowla to demand the balance of the tribute of Bengal, the regular payment of it in future, and the restitution of Corah and Illahabad, to Munneer-ul-Dowla on his behalf, but without empowering them to deviate from those demands. Under such circumstances, your instructions directed me to treat for the cession of those countries with the Vizier. I proposed to him the exchange of the territory of Rajah Cheyt Sing for them, but I found him inflexibly averse to it. He replied, that if I insisted upon it, he had not the power to dispute it, and must of necessity submit, but that he would never willingly consent to part with a span of his territory; that his principal inducement to wish for the districts of Corah and Illahabad was, that he might have the credit of repossessing all the territory which he before enjoyed, and had inherited from his father; that an exchange would defeat his purpose; that he could have no reason to give up a valuable part of his country, with a certain revenue, for a district which, even in time of peace, would not yield him near so large nett revenue as was paid him by Rajah Cheyt Sing, and in war, or even the alarm of war, nothing, besides being continually exposed to the invasions of the Marattas. These arguments were certainly just, and as my view was to confirm and strengthen the alliance between him and the Company, and this proposal, if insisted upon, would have been productive of a contrary effect, I thought it advisable to drop it. Indeed I mentioned it but slightly, knowing his repugnance to it; and I flatter myself that the sum of fifty Lacks of Rupees, and the stipulation of 210,000 rupees per month for the payment of an incomplete Brigade, whenever required for his service, will appear to you, Gentlemen, and to our Honorable Masters, a very advantageous compensation for a territory, which perhaps ought in policy to have been given to him, even though no return had been made for it.

To have kept it ourselves would have been inconsistent with the repeated and peremptory commands of the Company. The 7th, 8th, and 10th Paragraphs of their General Letter, dated the 11th May, 1769, are so directly in point, and mark so forcibly their sentiments concerning the impropriety of holding territories beyond the boundary of their own Provinces, and separated from them, that this Administration would have been culpable in the highest degree in retaining possession of Corah and Illahabad, for any other purpose than that of making an advantage by the disposal of them. It would have imposed on us the necessity of sending our Troops continually out of the Provinces of Bengal, not at the requisition of the Vizier, and at his charge, but at our own expense, and for the protection of the distant acquisitions. And as the Marattas must unavoidably pass either through these districts or near them to invade the Vizier, this would furnish him with a perpetual excuse for refusing to bear his proportion of the expense of the Forces which should be employed in his protection; nor indeed would it ever be necessary for him to call for their aid, since the presence of our Army for the protection of the lands lying on his Frontier would make them a secure barrier to him, and thus leave us the whole burthen and immediate hazard of the war, although he would be the greatest, and in the end would probably appear the only gainer by it; nor is their contiguity less exceptionable, on account of the tendency which our possession of them would have, to destroy the harmony and good understanding which our Honorable Masters so earnestly enjoin us to maintain with the Vizier their Ally, since, as he himself observed to me upon it, they do not form a compact and detached space, which would admit of an easy defence from one central station, with its bounds clearly defined but consist in a narrow line, without breadth, extending along the Western Frontier of his dominions, and so intermixed with them (many parts lying on the Eastern Banks of the River) that his Armies and ours would be for ever engaged

in mutual quarrels, which could not fail to weaken the friendship between him and the Company, as it would be impossible to examine on which side the right lay at so great a distance from our observation; nor (to use the words of our Honorable Masters) "Could we send a man or a gun for the defence of these new acquisitions, without passing through his country, which would be a perpetual source of dispute and complaint."

Had we restored these districts to the King, who so lately abandoned them, and who is confessedly enabled by his own strength to maintain them, we should still have been burthened with the care of their defence, or we should have given them only nominally to the King, but in reality to the Marattas; the evil consequences of which it is needless to enumerate.

By ceding them to the Vizier, we strengthen our alliance with them; we make him more dependent upon us, as he is more exposed to the hostilities of the Marattas; we render a junction between him and them, (which has been sometimes apprehended) morally impossible, since their pretensions to Corah will be a constant source of animosity between them; we free ourselves from the expense and all the dangers attending either a remote property or a remote connexion; we adhere literally to the limited system laid down by the Honorable Court of Directors; we are no longer under the necessity of exhausting the wealth of our own Provinces, in the pay and disbursements of our Brigades employed at a distance beyond them; but by fixing the sum to be paid by the Vizier for their services at their whole expense, and by removing every possible cause for their passing our own borders, but at his requisition and for his defence, we provide effectually for the protection of our Frontier, and reduce the expenses of our Army even in employing it; and lastly, we acquire a nett sum of fifty Lacks of Rupees, most seasonably obtained for the relief of the Company's Necessities, and the deficient circulation of the currency of the Provinces.

General Sir Robert Barker favoured me, at my request, with the calculation on which the sum was fixed at 210,000 Rupees for the pay, batta and extra charges of a Brigade employed without the Provinces, and I herewith enclose it, No. 2.

The Vizier was at first very desirous of the assistance of an English Force to put him in possession of the Rohilla Country, lying North of his Dominions, and East of the Ganges. This has long been a favourite object of his wishes, and you will recollect that the first occasion of my late visit was furnished by a proposal of this kind. He had certainly just grounds of resentment against the Chiefs of this Nation, who had not only failed in their engagements to pay him forty Lacks of Rupees for his protection against the Marattas, but had actually supplied them with money when they appeared in arms against him. He offered to make the Company a consideration for this service of forty Lacks of Rupees, besides the stipulated sum for the expenses of our Troops, but he afterwards laid aside this design, fearing that it would disable him from fulfilling his engagements for Corah and Illahabad. I enclose for your observation No. 10, the Original agreement of the Rohilla Chiefs, witnessed by General Barker; No. 11, a translation of the same; No. 12, a translation of a letter which I received from Hafez Rhamut Cawn, in whose name the agreement was ratified; and No. 13, a translation of a narrative delivered to me by the Vizier in reply to it. The measures to be pursued for his security on that quarter must therefore be determined by future occurrences. I was pleased that he urged the scheme of this expedition no further, as it would have led our Troops to a distance from our own borders, which I would wish ever to avoid, although there are powerful arguments to recommend it.

The Vizier having no occasion for the services of the first Brigade, I have directed it to return within the Provinces, and I have ordered Lieutenant Colonel Muir with a Battalion of Seapoys from the second Brigade to relieve Lieutenant Colonel Wilding in the Fort of Chunar.

In consequence of the cession of Illahabad and Corah, Mr. Lawrell will return to the Presidency. On my arrival at Benares, he made a report to me of his proceedings, and delivered me accounts and estimates of the collections and revenues of those districts, copies of which he has also transmitted to you. These appear to have been collected with great industry, and were very useful to me in my negotiations.

The Vizier insisted very strongly on his right to the balance of the King's Tuncaws on the Treasury of Moorshedabad; he said, that he advanced the money for which they were

were granted to him on the faith of Lord Clive's agreements at Illahabad, before there was the smallest intimation, that the tribute would be discontinued; and that Mr. Cartier had both promised him payment and accepted his assignments on them. As these arguments appear to be well grounded, and the amount of the Tuncaws was actually due to the King before he separated himself from our protection, I thought our credit required that this demand should be complied with, and I accordingly agreed to it.

I had much conversation with the Vizier concerning a free intercourse of commerce with his dominions, and recommended to him an establishment of customs similar to that which we have lately adopted in Bengal, of which I gave him a plan and explanation in writing, but I found it impossible to convince him of the utility of either. He seemed confirmed in the persuasion, that the current specie of his country would be drained by a free trade with ours; that if the English Gomastahs were authorized to reside there, they would exercise an authority prejudicial to his revenue, notwithstanding any regulations or restrictions of our Government, and involve him in disputes which perhaps might end in the ruin of his connexions with the Company. I promised that no English Gentleman should reside in his Country, and that I would never interfere in any disputes between English Gomastahs and his people, which I left to be decided by his Officers, who might exercise the same authority over them as over his own subjects. As I found it impossible to overcome his objections, and I learnt that Myrzapoor was the Mart from which not only his Dominions, but all the interior parts of Indostan were supplied with goods from Bengal, I judged it improper to press him any further to agree to innovations so much against his will, when I could effect the same purposes by an agreement with Rajah Cheyt Sing, to whom the town of Myrzapoor belongs, as well as all the intermediate country from the borders of Bahar. I informed him of my intention, to which he said he had no objection; I accordingly settled with Rajah Cheyt Sing, that the articles of broad cloth, copper and lead, bought at the Company's Sales, should pass duty free through his territories at Myrzapoor; and that on all other goods he should collect an equal rate of duties from all Merchants, European or Native, or others indiscriminately. No. 16 is the Rajah's Agreement with the rates of duties; and No. 17 a translation of it. These rates are in general a medium between what was before charged to the English Merchants and that paid by the Natives; the former was only half of the latter. The establishment of the duties on an equal footing will be a benefit to the fair Trader, and of course a general encouragement to the exportation of goods from Bengal. The exemption allowed on the articles above-mentioned, will be particularly serviceable in promoting the Company's Sales of the productions of England, which is the purpose to which, in their Letter to the Select Committee, dated the 1766, they expressly direct, that the 8th Article of the treaty of Illahabad should be confined. Rajah Cheyt Sing having desired that the general residence of Europeans in this Country might be prohibited, and that any particular person to whom an indulgence might be granted should be restricted to Benares, and having at the same time informed me, that Messrs. Fowke, Motte, and Scott, had conducted themselves so entirely to his satisfaction, that he had no objection to their remaining; I gave notice to all others to quit his territories by the end of December, and told him, that after that time they would be no longer under the Company's protection, and if they proved refractory he might seize and send them away by force. I did not hesitate to comply with his request in this particular, because it is literally conformable to the Company's Orders.

The Vizier left Benares the 10th of last month, on which day I also departed; Mr. Lambert accompanied him to Fyzabad, to receive the twenty Lacks promised in the first payment for the cession of Corah and Illahabad, and the balance of the extra charges of the Brigade being Rupees 129,834 13 3, both which sums he has assured me shall be instantly paid on his arrival.

In the course of our conversation the Vizier frequently expressed the satisfaction which he had received from our meeting, and from the friendly and confidential intercourse which had taken place between us. Though such professions are not always to be received in their literal sense, I took occasion from them, to ask him whether it would be agreeable to him, that a person in whom I confide should be appointed by me to reside near his person, for the sake of perpetuating and strengthening the good understanding so happily begun, as well for the transaction of such ordinary affairs, as might not suit the formality of a correspondence by letter, but which in their amount are always found to be propulsive of important effects. That I desired it myself, but unless it was equally his wish, I would neither propose nor consent to it, as it would not in such a case be productive of the good effects which I meant to derive from

from it. He declared to me, that it would be entirely pleasing to him; I told him, that I would again address him after my return to Calcutta on the same subject, when I should have made choice of a person duly qualified for so important a trust. It now rests with you, Gentlemen, to determine on the propriety of this appointment. I will offer it frankly as my opinion, that if you shall think it proper to intrust with me the sole nomination of such a Resident, and the power of recalling him whenever I shall judge his presence to be no longer necessary, it may be attended with good effects. In any other mode, I fear the appointment would exclude me from being any longer the channel of connexion between this Government and the Vizier, and prevent me from availing myself of that influence with him, which I have taken much pains to establish, and I hope not altogether unsuccessfully.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to conclude my letter with my acknowledgements for your indulgence, in permitting Mr. Vansittart to accompany me on this service; it is a justice which I owe both to him and to Messrs. Lawrell and Lambert, the other Gentlemen of the Board, who were with me at Benares, to declare, that the cordial assistance which I received from them was of the most effectual service to me in my proceedings.

I have the honor to be,

with an unfeigned esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

[Signed] WARREN HASTINGS.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A.A. 3.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 4th October, 1773.

(Treaty with Sujah-ul-Dowla, †)

THE Vizier of the Empire Asuph-jah Shujah-ul-Mulk, the Nabob Sujah-ul-Dowla, Aboo-ul-Munsoor Cawn Behader, Sifdar Jung Sippah Salah on the one part, and Warren Hastings, Esquire, President of the Council, Governor of Fort-William, and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the English Company in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orrissa, for and in the name of the English Company on the other part, do agree on the following Articles.

1st. Whereas in the treaty concluded at Allahabad the 16th August, 1765, between the Vizier and the Company, it is expressed that the districts of Corah and Allahabad were given to his Majesty for his expenses; and whereas His Majesty has abandoned the possession of the aforesaid districts, and even given a Sunnud for Corah and Currah to the Marattas, to the great prejudice of the interests both of the Vizier and of the English Company, and contrary to the meaning of the said treaty; and hath thereby forfeited his right to the said districts which has reverted to the Company, from whom he received it: It is therefore agreed, that the aforesaid districts shall be put into the possession of the Vizier on the following conditions; and that in the same manner as the Province of Oude and the other Dominions of the Vizier are possessed by him, so shall he possess Corah and Currah and Allahabad for ever. He shall by no means, and under no pretence be liable to any obstructions in the aforesaid Countries from the Company and English Chiefs; and exclusive of the money now stipulated, no mention or requisition shall by any means be

be made to him for any thing else on this account. This Agreement shall be observed by all the English Chiefs, Gentlemen of the Council, and by the Company, nor shall it ever be broke or deviated from.

Conditions, viz.

He shall pay to the Company fifty Lacks (5,000,000) of Sicca Rupees, according to the currency of the Province of Oude, as follows, viz.

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| In ready-money | | 2,000,000 |
| In two years after the date hereof, viz. | | |
| The 1st year | 1,500,000 | |
| The 2d year | 1,500,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Sicca Rupees | | 5,000,000 |

2d. To prevent any dispute arising concerning the payments which shall be made by the Vizier for the expenses of the Company's Troops that may march to his assistance, it is agreed, that the expense of a Brigade shall be computed at two Lacks ten thousand (210,000) Sicca Rupees per month, according to the currency of the Province of Oude. By a Brigade is meant as follows, viz.

- 2 Battalions of Europeans,
- 6 Battalions of Sepoys,
- 1 Company of Artillery.

The expense of the said Troops shall be defrayed by the Vizier, from the time that they shall have passed the Borders of his Dominions, till they return within the borders of the Province of Bahar; and, exclusive of the above-mentioned sum, no more shall on any account be demanded from him. Should the Company and the English Chiefs have occasion to send for the Troops of the Vizier, the Company and the English Chiefs shall also pay their expenses in the like manner.

Signed, Sealed, and solemnly sworn to, by the contracting parties at Benares this 7th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy three, in the presence of us,

JOHN STEWART.
WM. REDFEARN.

Estimate

Estimate of the monthly Expenses of a Brigade employed without the Provinces.†

| | | |
|---|-----------|--------|
| A Company of Artillery | - - - - - | 5,072 |
| A Regiment (two Battalions) of Infantry | - - - - - | 48,271 |
| Six Battalions of Sepoys | - - - - - | 76,923 |
| Staff Allowances | - - - - - | 4,500 |
| Lascars Pay and Batta | - - - - - | 5,920 |
| Artificers and Coolies ditto | - - - - - | 12,988 |

Contractors Charges.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Victualling | - - - - - | 12,600 |
| Carriage and Camp Equipage, &c. | - - - - - | 15,706 |
| | | <u>28,306</u> |

Hospital Charges.

| | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| Cost of Camp equipage for a twelve- month, including 50 per Cent. for the charges of transportation, — | - - - - - | 72,945 |
| Deduct, supposed not to be expended in a twelvemonth, one third, — | - - - - - | 24,315 |
| | | <u>48,630</u> ½th is 4052 |
| Cost of stores for a twelvemonth, including 50 per Cent. for the charge of transportation, — | - - - - - | 174,314 |
| Deduct, supposed not to be expended in a twelvemonth, one half, — | - - - - - | 87,157 |
| | | <u>87,157</u> ½th is 7,263 |
| Contingencies of Paymasters, Quarter- Masters, &c. agreeably to the list delivered by the General, — | - - - - - | 8,757 |
| | | <u>205,052</u> |
| Sundry Contingencies, which cannot be particularly specified, estimated — | - - - - - | 4,948 |
| | | <u>Total 210,000 †</u> |

† Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 2.

† This Total is wrong added, but it is conformable to the Original.

Translation of the New Cowlnama, or Agreement given by the Nabob Sujah-ul-Dowla to Rajah Cheyt Sing. †

The Affairs of the Zemindarry and Tahud of the Sircar of Benares, and Sircar Chunarah, and of the Mehalls of Juanpoor, Bejeypoor, Buddohy, Suknefegurrah, Mulboos Khans, Sircar Gazeypoor, Likinderpoor, Khereed Shadeyabad, and Toppeh Serineh, &c. which were under the charge of Rajah Bulwand Sing deceased, I do hereby grant and confirm unto you upon their former footing. It is necessary that, after deducting the Nankar and half of the Jaghier of Buddohy, you monthly and annually pay into the treasury of the Sircar the established and stated payments. By the favour of God whatever is promotive of your honor shall be performed, and, exclusive of the Jumma specified in the Cabooleat of the present Fussully Year 1178, no increase shall ever hereafter be demanded; and if you remain firm and steady in your obedience, and in the payment of your rents, no harm shall by any means happen to your Ryots or Country. By the Word of God, and the holy Khoran, and of the blessed Imaunis, this Agreement is made between me and my Heirs and you and your Heirs, and it shall never be deviated from. Dated this 18th day of the Moon Jemmady ul-santi, in the year 1177, Hegiree, answering to the 6th September, 1773, English style.

A true Translation,

[Signed]

WILLIAM REDFEARN,

Persian Translator.

Translation of the Pottah given by the Nabob Sujah-ul-Dowla to Rajah Cheyt Sing. ‡

The Sircar of Benares and Chunarah, and the Mehalls of the Sircar of Juanpoor, &c. including Land Rents and Syer Duties, and Havelly Mahomedabad Benares, Mulboos Khans, Pergunnah Booder, &c. Talook of Sikinra Mow, in the dependencies of the Pergunnah Khaundah, Pergunnah Buddohy, Luknefegur, Bejeypoor, Sircar Gazeypoor, Pergunnah Sekinderpoor, Khereed Shadeyabad and Toppeh Serineh, &c. Land Rents and Syer Duties included, after deducting the Duffoor Dewanny, Nankar, half of the Jaghier of Buddohy, and the other exempted Jaghiers, and whatever has formerly been allowed as deductions, I do now fully grant and make over to you in the terms of your Cabooleat, from the first of Khareef 1178, in consideration of the sum of Benares Cum-funna Rupees 2,248,449, Affel and Ezafa, as specified underneath, clear of all expenses of Sehbundy. It is necessary that you pay the above sum to the Sircar according to the stated and established Kists year by year; and by the favour of God there shall never be any deviation from this Agreement.

† Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 4.

‡ Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 6.

Particulars

P A R T I C U L A R S, viz.

Paid by Rajah Bulwant Sing as follows;

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Benares | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,200,607 |
| Buddohy | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 130,000 |
| Sukneefgur | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 16,000 |
| Bejeypoor | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 200,000 |
| Gazeypoor | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 500,000 |
| Shadeyabad | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | <hr/> 2,086,607 |
| Deduct Nankar, half of the Jaghier of Buddohy and Altemgah, &c. | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 88,158 |
| | | | | | | | | | <hr/> |
| Nett Revenue paid by Rajah Bulwant Sing | - | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,998,449 |
| Increase settled with Rajah Cheyt Sing | ₹ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 250,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | <hr/> |
| Nett Revenue to be paid by Rajah Cheyt Sing | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Rs. 2,248,449 |

Dated the 27th of Rejub, in the year of the Hegiree 1184.

A true Translation,

Signed,

W. REDFEARN,

Persian Translator.

From the Governor to Rajah Cheyt Sing. †

At this time the Vizier of the Empire having given you an Agreement under his hand and seal, which I have countersigned, and also affixed my seal to, it is necessary, that conformably thereto, and according to the treaty concluded at Allahabad by Lord Clive and the Vizier respecting Rajah Bulwant Sing, your deceased father, you with the greatest cheerfulness pay to the Vizier the rents thereby established; in which case the Company will always attend to your welfare, and afford you their care and protection; and in the Agreements afore-mentioned there shall never be any breach or deviation.

A true Translation,

Signed,

W. REDFEARN,

Persian Translator.

† Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 7.

From

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From the King to the Governor, received 9th September, 1773.*

WE are informed by our loyal Servant, Munneer-ul-Dowla, that you, the Strength of our Empire, have sent your own Aumils into the Districts of Allahabad and Corah. My chosen Servant, it is now two years since we have received any money from Bengal, Allahabad, or Corah, and our distress for money is in the greatest degree. The English Chiefs are bound by a Treaty of Allegiance to our Sacred Person, to pay our Tribute from Bengal, and at what place soever we may reside; to let Corah and Allahabad remain in the hands of our own Servants; from this Treaty we are assured there will be no deviation. Considering the loyalty and rectitude of you, our loyal Servant, we have full confidence that you will remit to our Presence the balance of our Tribute from Bengal, and continue the monthly payments in future; and that you will deliver up Corah and Allahabad into the hands of Munneer-ul-Dowla, and at the same time enforce payment of our revenue from thence regularly month by month. Do you, our loyal Servant, in concert with our Brother, as dear as life, the Vizier of the Empire, come to our Royal Presence. Should it happen that you cannot yourself come, let General Barker be sent, and after their arrival we shall assent to whatever they may propose. We had intentions of sending to you our noble Kinsman, Mujad-ul-Dowla, to communicate to you our commands, and to reconcile you to our Royal Person, of which we informed you in a former Shuka. Afterwards this counsel occurred to our enlightened mind, that if we were informed that you had intentions of settling the affairs of our Empire, we would then send our noble Kinsman to you, that after learning from him our royal commands, you might dispatch the General with the Vizier to our Presence; and we could then be assured, that when we had two such supports with us as the Vizier and the General, your emulation would not suffer you to permit the usurpers and disturbers of the peace of our Empire, such as the Jauts and the Rohillas, to hold possessions so near our Capital. As for the rest, know that our royal favour attends you. Remit our Tribute from Bengal, and give up Corah and Allahabad, which will give the utmost satisfaction to our Sacred Person.

Postscript in the King's own Hand.

Do you, our loyal Servants, come with cheerfulness to our Presence. After settling affairs here we shall give our Royal Assent to whatever you may represent.

A true Translation,

Signed,

WILLIAM REDFEARN,

Persian Translator;

From the Governor to His Majesty Shaw-Allum, written 13th September, 1773.†

I Have had the honor to receive your Majesty's Commands by the hands of Mahomed Yacoob Cawn, which I have thoroughly understood.

Long before my arrival at Benares, I repeatedly addressed your Majesty with a request, that some person of confidence, and empowered to treat upon your Majesty's Affairs, might be appointed to meet me at that place; and I was happy when you intimated to me your pleasure

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* Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 8. † Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 9.

pleasure that Mugid-ul-Dowla was deputed for this business, because I had no doubt, that with the assistance of so capable a person, every thing would be adjusted to your Majesty's Satisfaction; as I represented in the addresses which I sent on this subject. But upon my arrival at Benares, I understood that the orders for his departure were repealed, and that your Majesty's Attention was engaged in other affairs. In this case I was remediless. The Vizier having afforded me a meeting at the above-mentioned place, after many conferences, I judged it most expedient, for the security of the peace and tranquillity of these parts, and even for the benefit of your Majesty's Affairs, that the Chuklahs of Corah and Allahabad should be restored to his possession, and I have accordingly assigned them to him. I think it incumbent upon me to explain to your Majesty fully my motives for this transaction. While the union between yourself and the Company subsisted, your Majesty is witness, and all the World have seen, that postponing the consideration of every other concern, the Wealth and Forces of the English Company were continually employed in promoting your prosperity, and in the care of your safety. The same desire and attachment still prevail, but the necessity of the times requires other measures and other counsels. When your Majesty separated yourself from the English and the Vizier, and gave your preference to, and conferred your royal favours on others, whose views have ever been hostile to your former Friends and Allies, whatever power your Majesty possessed instantly became their's; and presuming upon it, they opposed their faces to the Vizier and the Forces of the English Company, and even proceeded to acts of violence against both, which we forbore to repel from respect to your Person, which authorized their proceedings. What return of loyalty and services your Majesty received for the grace which you thus bestowed upon them your Majesty best knows.

In addition to your other bounties, you are pleased to grant them Sunnuds for the Districts of Corah and Currah, which in effect would have also given them the command of Allahabad. By whatever means the Sunnuds were obtained, it is evident that your Majesty either wanted power to retain these Districts, or that you abandoned them of your own free-will to Strangers, whose designs and interests were ever contrary to the designs and interests of the Company. As these Districts were originally assigned by the Company for the purpose of paying your expenses, when they ceased to be your property, by the universal principles of justice they reverted to the Company, from whom you first received them. And I accordingly caused possession to be taken of them in the name of the Company, both for the security of their rights, and to prevent an enemy from usurping them; and I have given them to the Vizier for these reasons; first, because, as his interests and the Company's were the same, and this Country lay contiguous to his, the defence of it would be more easy, and our mutual alliance become stronger, by this addition to his Dominions; secondly, because the Vizier being your first Servant, and the only Representative of your Person, it would enable him hereafter more effectually to serve your Majesty, and to retrieve your affairs. It was certainly my intention to have put these Districts again into your hands, and it was with this view that I so repeatedly intreated your Majesty to send a person of your confidence, to settle with me the means of effecting this and the other arrangements dependent on the Company; but as no one came, and being informed that no body would come, and I knew, that, without some well concerted plan of defence, to restore them to your hands, would in effect be to give them up to the Marattas, and prove a certain means of arming their hands against us, I was therefore compelled to change my first design, and act as the necessity of the season advised.

Upon the Affairs of Bengal I have before in my letters represented the distressed condition of the people, and the poverty of the Country, which are solely owing to the heavy draughts which have been made of it's current specie for your Majesty's Remittances. As it is the will of God, and agreeable to the commands of the English Company, my Masters, that I am intrusted with the care and protection of the people of these Provinces, and as their condition, which is at this time on the edge of misery, would be ruined past remedy by draining the Country of the little wealth which remains in it, I must plainly declare, that, until the safety and welfare of these Provinces will admit of it, I cannot consent that a single Rupee be sent out of them which it is in my power to retain. This declaration I make from the integrity of my heart, and a real attachment to your Majesty, which will not suffer me to deceive you by doubtful promises, while I am certain that they can have but one effect. For the rest, I pray the Almighty for a more favorable season to enable me to shew my zeal for your Majesty's Service, and shall continually communicate
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with the Vizier, on the means of exerting our endeavours in conjunction for this purpose, which, God willing, may be speedily and happily accomplished.

A true Translation,

Signed,

WILLIAM REDFEARN,

Persian Translator.

Translation of the Agreement given by Hafez Rahmut Cawn to the Vizier. †

As the Vizier of the Empire, the Nabob Sujah-ul-Dowla, will put the Rohilla Sardars in full possession of their Country, it is at his own option to effect it either by peace or war. Should the Marattas at this time, without coming to an engagement, or peace being established, cross the river and retreat, owing to the rainy season, and, after that is elapsed, commit disturbances in the Country of the Rohillas, the quelling of these disturbances shall belong to the Vizier. The Rohilla Sardars, after the aforesaid business, do agree to pay the Vizier the sum of forty Lacks of Rupees on the following terms, viz. As the Marattas are now committing disorders in the Country of the Rohillas, the Vizier shall march from Shahabad to such place as may be thought proper to arrive at, in order that the Rohilla Dependants may come out of the Jungles and arrive at their own homes; the sum of ten Lacks of Rupees shall then be paid in ready money in part of the Stipulation, and thirty Lacks of Rupees shall be discharged in three years, beginning from the Full Year 1180. This Agreement is sealed in the presence of General Sir Robert Barker.

From Hafez Rahmut Cawn, ‡ Chief of the Rohillas. ||

After the usual compliments, and expressing his desire of an interview, he proceeds; "The Bonds of friendship and affection, and the mutual intercourse which have long subsisted and taken root between me and the English Sardars, may not be unknown to you. Having heard of your fame, I wish that a perfect harmony and concord should be established and confirmed between us, and I hope that you will have the same inclination on your part. It is from these motives, as well as in consideration of there being no difference or disagreement between us, that I represent to you the following few circumstances, that you may have them in your memory at the time of discussion."

Last year, when His Majesty and the Maratta Sardars were at variance with the Nabob Zabita Cawn, and when, after confusion was thrown into that Nabob's Affairs, His Majesty and the Marattas crossed the Ganges to come into these parts, the Rohilla Sardars, for the protection of their Women, fled to the skirts of the Jungles. At this time the Vizier of the Empire and General Barker arrived at Shahabad, and sent Captain Harper to me with a message to come and join them, in which they persisted with great perseverance. As our interests were equal, I therefore went and had an interview with the Gentlemen, when an Agreement was concluded between us, in which I agreed to pay 40 Lacks of Rupees on account of Peshcush to the King and the Maratta Sardars; and the Gentlemen, on their part, engaged to effect my security, by establishing peace between me and the King and the Maratta Sardars, declaring, that they would in a day or two after that march from Shahabad to fall upon and come to extremities with the Marattas, and to put an end to their operations. Notwithstanding this, the Gentlemen never came to any negotiation with the Marattas, so as to put an end to their operations, nor ventured to attack them; but finally returned towards Fyzabad, leaving their engagements unfulfilled. When the rainy season commenced, the Marattas of themselves crossed the Ganges, and encamped in the Daube, threatening me still with hostilities. During the rains I repeatedly called on the Nabob, the General, and Captain Harper, to conclude these affairs with His Majesty and the Marattas, but they came to no determination on the subject, nor took any measures for effecting my security. When the rainy season was drawing to an end, and the Marattas had approached near the Banks of the Ganges, they then demanded of me sums of money, which, after much temporizing, I was at last obliged to pay them. Afterwards they went

† Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 10.

‡ Addressed to the Governor.

|| Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 12.

to the Presence, and procured a Sunnud for Corah and Allahabad, with which they returned to the Banks of the Ganges, and made preparations of bridges for crossing it; and at the same time sent a person of their confidence to demand payment of the money which had been stipulated, saying, it belonged to them and the King; and also with many inducements requested that I would let them pass through my Territories, assuring me that they would commit no depredation or ravages on the Ryots, and they would pass through with expedition towards the Soubah of Oude, or whithersoever they thought proper. They also engaged to remit to me a large sum on account of the Stipulation, and to do whatever was agreeable and would give satisfaction to the Rohilla Sardars. At this juncture, the Nabob and the General being arrived near, they sent to me Syed Shaw Muddun and Mahomed Mukrim Cawn, desiring that I would enter into no terms with the Marattas, and they would give me back my Engagement for forty Lacks of Rupees, and do every thing both for my present and future security. Having therefore in view the long friendship which had subsisted between the Nabob Vizier, the English Gentlemen and myself, I declined all offers made me by the Marattas, and came over to them; in revenge for which, it is well known, that the Marattas recrossed the Ganges, and plundered Maradabad and Sumbril. The Gentlemen promised that they would cross and canton on the other side of the Ganges during the rains, and would not return to Fyzabad or Calcutta until they had entirely driven away the Marattas, and fully satisfied themselves both with respect to their own and my security. But at length they left every thing unfinished, and, after temporizing for a long time with the Marattas, returned to their own homes, leaving me still a prey to the Marattas. You are no doubt acquainted with all these proceedings; it is a point which requires justice and consideration. As a friendship has long been established between us, I doubt not but you will at all times and on all occasions wish to preserve it. Other particulars the Major will inform you of.

The Vizier's Narrative of the Behaviour of the Rohillas.†

The Case of the Rohillas is as follows. That from the beginning to this time I have treated them with friendship and attention, and on their part, I have met with nothing but ill treatment, treachery, and a breach of faith. Accordingly, when the Marattas marched with a large Army against Nijib-ul-Dowla and the Rohilla Sardars, and besieged Nijib-ul-Dowla in Sukkertaul, and Hafez Rahmut Doondoe Cawn and the rest at Jellabad, where they reduced them to the greatest streights and difficulties, if I had not assisted them, they would all have been ruined, and deprived of their Women, Country, and Government; but, by the favour of God, I afforded them at that time such assistance, that the Marattas were put to flight, and took their route to the Decan, and the Territory, Property, and Women of the Rohillas remained in security. Again, the year before last, when the Marattas advanced their Troops against the Rohillas, Zabita Cawn received a total defeat, and Hafez Rahmut and the others being unable to oppose them, took shelter with their Women at the foot of the hills, where, if I had made ten days delay, they would all have perished by the bad water and unsalutary air. By the favour of the Almighty I went with the English Troops to Shahabad, and stopped the approach of the Marattas; and sometimes using authority and menaces, and sometimes friendly mediation, and temporizing according to circumstances, I caused them to pass the Ganges; and releasing from confinement, delivered to Zabita Cawn the Daughter of Ally Mahomed Cawn, a principal Chief of the Rohillas, and nine of the Women and Daughters of Nijib-ul-Dowla, and the Wife and Son of Zabita Cawn, together with four hundred Women the Marattas had taken prisoners. I also called to me Hafez Rahmut Cawn and the others who had taken protection under the hills, and replated them on their former footing in the possession of their Country. My Friend, General Barker, is well acquainted with these circumstances, in whose presence they entered into an Engagement for the payment of forty Lacks of Rupees, and pledged their faith and religion for its performance. In the sequel they did not remain steady to this Agreement, but in the height of the rains, antecedent to every other person, Zabita Cawn first went and connected himself with the Marattas, and Hafez Rahmut Cawn sent the Holy Coran, which contains the Religion of the Mussulmen, to the Marattas, as a token of his friendship. He also gave them five Lacks of Rupees, and established a friendship and good understanding with them. The whole world are well acquainted, that Envoys from Hafez Rahmut were with the Marattas, and treated with them in the above manner. Myself continuing firm and steady to my engagements, I proceeded, in concert with the English Troops, from Fyzabad to the assistance of the Rohillas, and arrived by successive marches at Ramgaut. I previously acquainted Hafez Rahmut Cawn, that he should make preparations, and that I should

† Enclosure in the Governor's Report, No. 13.

should shortly arrive and act in conjunction with him. As Hafez Rahmut Cawn had entered into intrigues with the Marattas, notwithstanding I was near him, and the Marattas at a considerable distance, he nevertheless, under various pretensions and evasions, drew near the Maratta Army to such a degree, that the morning when I arrived with the English Forces and came upon the Marattas, Hafez Rahmut was within seven or eight cols of them, when from necessity only he came and waited on me. I am certain, that if I had been four guries later with the English Forces, he would have joined the Marattas and fallen upon me; and that only from my near approach he was compelled to come to me. Afterwards, when the Marattas could not face the English Forces, and myself, and set out for the Decan, Hafez Rahmut Cawn did not pay me a single Daam on account of the Agreement executed in presence of the General as afore-mentioned; nor did he treat me with that respect, or present me with the customary presents which are used amongst mankind as marks of friendship and hospitality. The heavy burthen of increased expense which I have sustained, both on account of my own Troops and those of the English, are as evident as the Sun at noon day. I made no use of menaces concerning taking the money by force, otherwise, had I been so inclined, I could have taken it in the space of a day. I passed the matter over, and took no notice of it, and they, on their parts, pleaded excuses, evasions, and delays; they even encamped at three or four cols distance from mine and the English Army, with an intention to come to a battle, should I insist on the payment of the money. Of the truth of this every Gentleman that was with me can witness; my mentioning it is unnecessary. In short, the Rohillas have been guilty of treachery, baseness, and a breach of faith, and have paid no regard either to their Oaths or Agreements. I have notwithstanding hitherto put up with this behaviour; but can do it no longer; to oblige them to make reparation is expedient and just.

A true Translation,

Signed,

W. REDFEARN,

Persian Translator.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 4.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 4th October, 1773.

I N consequence of the Governor's Proposition to appoint a person to reside at the Court of Sujah-ul-Dowla, for transacting such matters of correspondence and communication with the Vizier as he shall think proper to entrust to his management;

Agreed, that we do delegate to the Governor the power of nominating such an Agent whenever he judges it requisite, acquainting the Board of the person he chooses to nominate for their approbation; and the further power of recalling him at his pleasure, informing the Board of his having done so.

The Governor to nominate a person to reside with Sujah-Dowla when necessary.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 5.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 7th October, 1773.

GENERAL BARKER'S DISSENT.

GENERAL Barker not being present at the Consultation of the 4th October, when the President laid before them the result of his negotiations with the Vizier at Banares, and the Board having recorded their entire approbation of the measures adopted by him

General Barker's Dissent to the Board's Approbation

in his Congress, and particularly of the Treaty concluded on between the Vizier and the Company; the General having had reason to differ in opinion with the rest of the Board, as a Member of the Administration thinks it his duty to dissent to the measures adopted by the President, as well as the afore-mentioned Treaty, and to lay before the Board his reasons for so doing.

The arguments made use of by the President for possessing ourselves of the Provinces of Allahabad and Corah, and afterwards ceding them to the Vizier for fifty Lacks of Rupees, do not appear to the General to be sufficient, and consequently, he deems this measure repugnant to the articles of the Treaty of Allahabad, between the Right Honorable Lord Clive and His Majesty's Shah Allum, in the year 1765, by which Treaty the Provinces of Allahabad and Corah were absolutely and positively ceded to the King without any reservation; and in consequence, and by virtue of this Cession, the Company were to hold the Dewannee of the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, in perpetuity. The General forms this opinion from the right which he conceives the King undoubtedly had of doing what he judged proper with those Provinces, without any reference to the English; nor does there appear in the Treaty of 1765 any expression from which an idea can be formed, to indicate that those Provinces were to revert to the English under any circumstances whatsoever; nor can he agree that His Majesty, having repaired to his Capital, after the repeated invitations and solicitations he has made to the English Company to attend him there, can be given as a sufficient motive for our taking from him these Provinces, and ceding them to another, since it does not appear that any such restrictions were laid upon the King by the Treaty of 1765, but on the contrary, that it was a free and voluntary gift in consequence of the aforesaid Grant of the Dewannee to the Company.

The General agrees with the President, that to have kept these Provinces, allowing them to have reverted to the Company upon His Majesty's removing his place of residence, would not only have been inconsistent with the repeated commands of the Court of Directors, but would also have been impolitical for the reasons he assigns; nevertheless, the General judges a more advantageous Agreement might have been made for the Company, than the Sale of them for fifty Lacks of Rupees only. It is certain that these two Provinces can produce twenty-five Lacks of Rupees per annum; if this is the case, which is too generally known to admit of a doubt, the Vizier has purchased them for two years revenue; a purchase by much too cheap, in the General's opinion, for two such Provinces, considering the heavy expenses which has accrued to the Company, over and above the extra-allowance made by the Vizier for the charge of the Troops to put us in possession, and to afford us a plea for the Sale of them.

The General is of opinion, that more solid advantages might have arisen to the Company by an exchange of Country, in putting the Company in possession of all those Lands lying South of the Ganges in the Zemindarry of Gauzypore, including that important Fortress of Chunargur. And however averse the Vizier might have appeared to such a proposal, the importance of the two Provinces of Corah and Allahabad, the possession of which it is well known he has been aiming at with indefatigable perseverance for more than seven years, would, it is probable, prevail over any other objection, had the President persevered in this demand, which he informs the Board he only slightly proposed. The Vizier was certainly in the right, when he acknowledged that such an exchange would have defeated his purpose, which undoubtedly is to accumulate as much Power, Wealth and Country, as he possibly can, and render himself a still more formidable and dangerous Neighbour than he has hitherto been. At any rate the General is of opinion, that besides the immediate advance of a sum of money, a continuation of half the revenues arising from those Provinces should have been obtained for the Company for a limited number of years, to answer for the heavy expenses attending the Garrison of Chunargur, with its Magazine of Stores, so ready at all times for the security of those Provinces, instead of the Agreement for the extra-expenses, which are only to be paid when our Troops are absolutely in the field; and we are equally bound by the Treaty of 1765 to defend these Provinces with the rest of his Dominions, since they are included by their becoming a part of them.

But the General has already declared he deems the Cession of Allahabad and Corah to the Vizier a measure repugnant to the Treaty of 1765 with the King Shah Allum; and he further conceives, that equal advantages might have arisen to the Company without any infringement of that Treaty, since His Majesty would readily have agreed

to give up his Stipend of twenty-six Lacks *per annum* from the Company (already withheld from him) for the reinstatement of those Provinces, and have conferred the actual Sunnuds, or Grants, for the Soubah of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá to the Company for ever, which Sunnuds, it is now more than probable, we shall soon see in the hands of other Nations.

As it may appear extraordinary to the Board, that the General, after having been desired by them to meet the President at Benares, in order to assist at the negotiations, he should dissent so very materially to the present Treaty, the General thinks it incumbent upon him to declare to the Board, that he did, in consequence of their letter, repair to Benares and met the President; but that so far from assisting, or being required to assist, he never was present at any of the Conferences held between the President and the Vizier on the subject of the Commission, excepting the last day, when every thing had been concluded on, he was desired to attend to see the Treaty executed between the President and the Vizier. The General cannot help regretting that he was called from the Army for such a purpose only, since the Natives of Hindostan, who judge of things from their appearances without reflecting on causes, must view his consequence in a lesser degree than any of his predecessors, whom they have been taught to look on with reverence and respect.

The General did expect, considering his situation in the Service at the head of the Army, and a Member of the Board, together with the share he has had in the political transaction of affairs; to have been included in the Commission for negotiating with the Vizier on these matters; but he never suspected his attendance at Benares should be required for no other visible purpose than to lessen him in the eyes of the natives.

When Lord Clive was deputed to treat with the King and the Vizier, General Carnac attended, and assisted at all conferences between his Lordship and those Powers; and so much did his Lordship think it compatible with the good of the Service to raise a respect in the Natives for the character of the General, with whom the military transactions were to be intrusted, that he not only consulted with him in the presence of them, but joined also the General's Signature as a principal to the then Treaties concluded on. When they have seen General Smith included in a Deputation with two other Members of the Board, it cannot be wondered, at that they should (which the Vizier did in the presence of the General) express his astonishment at his being entirely excluded from every concern in the present negotiations.

The General will not presume to account for the motives which induced the Board to place so remarkable a share of confidence and trust in the President, as to appoint him their sole Agent for negotiating such important matters, when the Commander in Chief of their Forces and three other Members of the Board were present; but considering, however, that all the preceding Commanders of the Army have been included in transactions of this sort, the General hopes the Board will not esteem it a presumption in him to request, that if there has been any part of his conduct which has given occasion for so pointed an exclusion, that they will be candid enough to inform him, in order that he may have an opportunity of vindicating his conduct, he flatters himself to the satisfaction of the Board. At the same time, he cannot help declaring, that he has already had an opportunity of the effects of the slight which has been shewn to his Station in the Service, inasmuch that he is convinced the influence and importance, which it is necessary every British Commander should be possessed of, who may be intrusted with military operations in this Country connected with the Company's Allies, is destroyed in him by this act; and however he might assume a dignity in him to support a Character apparently in no esteem with the Government, it can only tend to create apprehension from the Person detrimental to the interest of the Service, without raising any respect for the Character.

The General will dwell no longer on the subject in this place, or fill the Consultation with remarks which cannot now contribute to remove what is past; but he has judged it highly necessary that his sentiments on the treatment he has received should appear on the records of your Consultation.

(Signed)

R. BARKER.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 6.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 12th October, 1773.

The Governor's Remarks on General Barker's Dissent.

Governor's
Reply to the
General's
Dissent.

THE President desires to enter the following Minute in reply to those recorded by the General in the last proceedings.

Remarks on the General's Dissent to the President's Measures at Benares.

The Objections made by the General to the Article of the Treaty which respects the Cession of Corah and Allahabad to the Vizier are these.

- 1st. That they are repugnant to the Treaty of Allahabad.
- 2d. That the Conditions of the Cession were much below it's worth, and what might have been obtained for them.
- 3d. That an Exchange might have been obtained for them of the Lands of Chunar, and that part of the Zemindarry of Gauzypoor which lies on the south side of the Ganges.
- 4th. That it has contributed to the Vizier's Purpose of accumulating as much Power, Wealth, and Country as he possibly can, and rendering himself a still more formidable and dangerous Neighbour than he has hitherto been.
- 5th. That besides an advance of a sum of money, a continuation of half the revenues arising from those Provinces should have been obtained for the Company for a number of years.
- 6th. That equal advantages might have been obtained from the King for his reinstatement in those Provinces, viz. the renunciation of his Stipend of twenty-six Lacks per annum, and Sunnuds, or Grants, for the Soubahs of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia to the Company ever.

To these I shall reply in their order.

1st. The 4th Article of the Treaty of Allahabad runs in these words.

"The King Shaw Allum shall remain in full possession of Corah and such part of the Province of Allahabad as he now possesses, which are ceded to His Majesty as a Royal Demesne for the support of his dignity and expenses."

The General affirms, that "In consequence, and by virtue of this Cession, the Company were to hold the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia in perpetuity." No such declaration is made in the above or in any subsequent Treaty, nor is the Cession of Corah and Allahabad either mentioned or alluded to in any other. Although no conclusion is drawn from this affirmation, I have thought it of consequence to remove it; because it seemed to imply, that the possession of Corah and Allahabad, and that of the Dewannee of Bengal, &c. stood upon the same tenure; and that if the former were lost to the King, the right of the Company to the latter ceased with it.

The true state of the Case, as I conceive it, is this.

This Government bestowed the Districts of Corah and Allahabad upon the King Shaw Allum of it's own free will, "For the support of his dignity and expenses." He first abandoned, and afterwards, by a solemn Grant, he gave them away to the Marattas. We disapproved of the Grant, because it frustrated the purpose for which these Lands were bestowed on the King, and because we saw danger in admitting so powerful a Neighbour on the borders of our Ally. It was therefore resolved to resume the possession of those Lands, not from the King, whose property and right were annulled by his own alienation of them, but from the Marattas, their new proprietors.

If it was repugnant to the Treaty "To possess ourselves of the Provinces of Corah and Allahabad, and to cede them to the Vizier, because the King had an undoubted right of doing what he judged proper with those Provinces without reference to the English," it was also repugnant to the Treaty to oppose the Marattas to whom he had assigned them, and to prevent them from taking possession according to the intention of his Grant; yet this measure was resolved on after having been very maturely debated both in the Select Committee and at the Board, with the presence, concurrence, and advice of the General in both. What was the opinion of the Board at that time on the subject, will best appear from the following Extract of the Consultation of the 1st of February, at which the General was present.

"The Board are entirely of opinion with the Select Committee, that they have the justest grounds to contest this point with the Marattas." The Province of Corah was a Grant of the Company to the King, and declared to have been made for the support of his dignity and expenses. By it's being made an Article of their Treaty with the Vizier, they must be considered as the Guarantees of it. The present Transfer is unquestionably an act of violence, and as such, can be repelled by none with so good a plea of right as by those from whom it was originally held. Were it even a voluntary Cession, the equity of it might well admit of a dispute, and the Company might justly reclaim the possession of it, both because the Conditions of their original Grant to the King were defeated by his assigning it to another Power, and their interests are likely to be endangered by it."

"Resolved, that measures be immediately taken for the defence of the Provinces of Corah and Currall against the Marattas; that the President be desired to communicate this our intention to the Vizier; that Colonel Champion be directed to consult with him on the proper means of effecting it, and, if adviseable, to cross the River at Allahabad, either with the whole, or such a part of the Brigade as he shall judge adviseable for this service, &c."

2. Mr. Lawrell has given his opinion, founded on the testimony of the most authentic records, that the nett revenue of the Provinces of Corah and Allahabad, after deducting all charges, may amount to 2, 209, 416 Rupees, "If the Country remains in peace, and is affected by no unusual calamity." This is a condition in which we have no right to expect them to continue long; and in War, or even on the threatening of a War, it may be questioned, whether the Collections would be sufficient to defray the charges of the Forces which would be required at once to guard the Country against an enemy, and to curb the mutinous spirit of the people. I beg leave to quote an expression which I have heard attributed to Nudjiff Cawn, and which strongly marks the troublesome and precarious tenure of these Districts, "That the Ryots never pay their Rents but with the dagger held to their throats." In effect, we find, that on the bare expectation of an invasion of the Marattas the last year, notwithstanding their distance, and the speedy approach of our Forces, the Zemindars and Farmers had withheld their Rents, and some of the Rajahs had actually risen up in rebellion; which circumstances are mentioned by Mr. Lawrell to have rendered the state of the Collections so precarious, that he was glad to accept of an Agreement from Munneer-ul-Dowla to rent the whole Country for the nett sum of sixteen Lacks.

To the refractory spirit of the people let it be added, that the nearest point of Allahabad lies at the distance of 180 miles, measured in a strait line from our Cantonments at Dinapoor; the length of Corah and Allahabad, with the same measure, is 150 miles, and their breadth, which is in every part nearly the same, but 20; that they are

annually exposed to the attacks of the Marattas, who have an ancient claim to the possession of Corah, which they are not likely to forego; and then let a Calculation be formed of the probable amount which these Lands would yield to us, on a medium of ten years, with the probable amount of their expenses.

Upon the whole, whatever may be the General's opinion, I am convinced that the terms which I obtained from the Vizier were fully adequate to the real worth of the Lands, all circumstances considered. I will not pretend to say whether more might or might not have been extorted from him. It was not without much pains and persuasion that I brought him to these terms; besides, I beg it may be remembered, that the Vizier was as well acquainted with the obvious difficulties, which would have attended our retaining possession of this Territory on behalf of the Company, as I was with his motives for wishing to acquire it.

3. I cannot avoid complaining of a want of candor in the assertion, that had I persevered in the demand of the Gauzypoor Lands, it is probable I might have obtained an equivalent in them for the exchange of Corah and Allahabad. The General may well remember, that he himself informed me of the extreme reluctance which the Vizier had to yield up the smallest part of that Country. But I will plainly declare, that Territory was not my aim. My attention was wholly fixed on the means of relieving the distresses of the Company by an acquisition of ready money, rather than of embarrassing them by an extension of possession, which, in the case supposed by the General, would not have been an equivalent, since the whole Zemindarry pays to the Vizier no more than $22\frac{1}{2}$ Lacks under our guarantee, and that part of it which the General refers to composes but about one third of it, from which we could in justice claim no more than the proportional rent, that is seven or eight Lacks.

4. I have already declared my opinion, with my reasons for it, that the acquisition of Corah and Allahabad will increase the Vizier's dependence on the Company. I have often heard of the treacherous designs of the Vizier, and the danger of allowing him to possess either wealth or power, but I never heard this opinion well supported; on the contrary, I conceive, that he would be a much more useful Ally if he had a greater degree of both; but while the policy prevails of curbing him in every improvement, we not only deprive ourselves of every benefit of his alliance, and make him a burthen to us, but we alienate his affections, and teach him to abhor the hand which is held out to oppress instead of relieving him. The additional revenue and security which the Vizier would have acquired by the reduction of the Rohillas had, I own, a considerable share in the reasons which induced me to consent to that Proposition, although the Stipulations which were proposed for the Company were undoubtedly the first consideration. I presume that the General himself, when he first communicated the Proposal, was aware, that the reduction of the Rohillas would have been an accumulation of Wealth, Power, and Country to the Vizier, and a far more important one than the possession of Corah and Allahabad.

In the above sentiments, respecting the treatment of the Vizier, I am supported by the Opinion of the Honorable Court of Directors, which is strongly implied in many of their commands, and pointedly expressed in the following paragraph of their Letter of 30th June, 1769, which, though alluding to a different subject, evidently marks both their opinion, and that of the General at another period, of the little danger which we have to apprehend from the Power of the Vizier.

"The number of Sujah Dowla's Forces not being limited by any Treaty, your demand upon that subject can only be justified upon the principal of self defence, where considerations of justice must sometimes give place to necessity; but we do not see, in the present instance, any such danger impending. Colonel Barker, in his Letter of the 23d of March, 1768, gives an opinion, that a single Brigade would be an over-match for all Sujah Dowla's Army. This opinion stands uncontroverted, and indeed it is founded upon the uniform experience of our former success. We do not therefore see the necessity of coming to a resolution so very disgusting and humiliating, without some overt act committed on his part manifestly shewing his hostile intentions against us; whenever that happened you were able enough to reduce him, and we could not have been charged with being the Aggressors; whereas, if a War should break out in consequence of this and other aggravating circumstances attending the Deputation, the breach of friendship will be imputed to the Company."

5. This being a mere speculative opinion, unsupported by reasons, I shall decline answering it; observing only, that a stipulation for the continued payment of one half of the Revenue (if the Vizier had agreed to it, which I am morally certain he would not) would have made it necessary to join our own Officers with the Vizier's in the management of the Collections; and besides, continual contests would have entailed upon us all the bad consequences, but in a greater degree, of an unconnected possession.

6. The renunciation of the Tribute, which we cannot pay, and the Grant of the Sunnuds for Bengal, which we do not want, cannot, in propriety, be termed equal advantages with a positive payment of fifty Lacks in money, and the Vizier's Engagement to bear the whole expense of our Troops when they shall be employed by him. Besides, I know not by what right the King could give, or the Company take from the Nabob, the little share which he possesses of the Soubahship, and which he holds by Treaty. But the General adds, that "It is now more than probable we shall soon see these Sunnuds in the hands of other Nations!" And what will they avail them? It was not the want of the Sunnuds of Shah Allum which defeated the long concerted projects of the Duc de Choiseul, nor will the possession of them quicken the designs of the Marattas against us. The Sword, which gave us the dominion of Bengal, must be the instrument of it's preservation; and if (which God forbid) it shall ever cease to be our's, the next proprietor will derive his right and possession from the same natural Charter.

Opinions of what might have been done always have an advantage in the comparison with what has been done. Any conjectures may be hazarded of the probable consequences of the former; no events can refute them. The latter are fixed to certain and unavoidable proofs. I feel the force of this inequality in the present argument with the General. I can only oppose my own opinions to his conjectures, which cannot overthrow them. The measures which I have adopted can at this time admit of no amendment or variation, nor can any reasoning avert the effects which must follow them; although it will always be easy to infer every disappointment, and every ill consequence, as the necessary deductions from them.

The remainder of the General's Letter consists in a charge which respects the Board more immediately than myself; I shall beg leave however to reply to it. He complains that he was not included in the Commission which the Board thought proper to intrust to my sole management; that he was never present at any one of the conferences held between the Vizier and myself, excepting the last day, when every thing had been concluded; and that the Natives of Indoltan, influenced by these appearances, must view his consequence in a lesser degree than any of his predecessors, whom they have been taught to look on with reverence and respect. This latter charge he afterwards repeats in terms, which too strongly imply, that his attendance at Benares was required for that purpose only.

The charges are severe; but how far they are merited may best appear from a plain state of my conduct in the points to which they refer.

Immediately on my arrival at Benares, I acquainted the General very circumstantially with the subject and design of my Commission; I shewed him my Instructions, which he read with attention, and, to the best of my remembrance, expressed an approbation of every part, excepting that he mentioned a regret that some more notice had not been taken in it of himself. I expressed to him my wish to have the benefit of his assistance, and that he might know with what degree of cordiality he might in reason bestow it, I very frankly informed him, that as it appeared evident to me that the Vizier was hitherto very little acquainted with the regular powers of our Constitution, and had placed no dependence on the Government itself, but made all his applications to the Commander of the Army, it was my intention to convince the Vizier, that in his concerns with the Company his immediate dependence was on the Governor alone, and to establish a direct communication between him and myself without any intervention. At the same time, I assured the General, that I considered the second place as due to him, and that it should be my study to add as much as was in my power to his importance within that limitation. In other points my views were no other than such as were contained in the substance of my Instructions.

I can

I can truly declare, that my whole subsequent conduct was consistent with this declaration. I can indeed offer but one proof of it, to which the General himself will bear evidence, in the information which he received from the Vizier of my desire, as I had before expressed it to him, that the General might be prevailed on to take the command of the Army, in case the projected Expedition against the Rohillas should take place.

With respect to his not participating in the conferences with the Vizier, a thousand obvious causes forbid it. The very purpose to which I have just alluded, would have made the presence of the Military Commander a circumstance equally of restraint and delicacy. The Commission which I had undertaken required speedy dispatch; the very essence of it was the power of instant decision. Both these purposes would have been frustrated by the General's intervention. The conversation must have been broken by the interpretation of every word that was said on both sides for the General's information; his opinion must have been consulted on every new point that arose out of the debate, and arguments discussed on both sides 'till we should concur in the same determination; while the Vizier was to sit patiently, and wait the issue of our discussions, or catch the difference of our sentiments, and apply it, as he easily might, to his own advantage. Who too should be the interpreter between us? I could not; a fourth person therefore must have been admitted to the conference to act in that capacity. The other Members of the Board must of course have been called in, or they would have had real cause to be offended; and if the Nabob had thought it necessary to support his part of the Negotiation with an equal weight of numbers, our business would have been determined by a Diet instead of a conference, and most probably concluded with nothing decided, or by compulsion, instead of a free and amicable accommodation.

The instances quoted by the General were not applicable to the circumstances of my Commission. There might have been no impropriety in the junction of General Carnac with Lord Clive; they stood in a different predicament together, their views, their way of thinking, their objects were the same. Each equally stood in need of an interpreter; nor did the case then subsist of a difference of interest between the Government and the military authority. General Smith was joined in the Deputation of 1768 because his rank entitled him to it. Their business was simple; to be effected by command, and not by persuasion; and might (I will presume to affirm) have been concluded still as well by the General alone as by the joint powers of a Committee. In a word, the Board, in the two Commissions above-mentioned, thought proper to compose them of more than one person; the Board chose to delegate the trust reposed in me to myself singly. I have every reason to be convinced that the effect was answerable to their intention; and so well assured was I of the necessity of this mode before I accepted of the charge, that I would not have undertaken it on other conditions.

It will be recollected, that the various points referred to my management were none of them fixed to any specific terms, but the undefined ideas and wishes of the Board, and the political principles of the Court of Directors, given me at large for my guidance. The spirit of these last is strongly repugnant to the imperious manner in which the Vizier has been too often treated by our Government, and enjoins a style of persuasion in the place of command. Every circumstance of the Negotiation required that it should be managed by that familiar and confidential intercourse, which can take place only between two persons unembarrassed by interruption, and unchecked by the reserve which always attends a conversation held between strangers, and before many witnesses. Fortunately too the habit which I had acquired of speaking the Indostan Language, though imperfect, yet aided on the part of the Vizier by a very clear and easy elocution, and an uncommonly quick apprehension, greatly facilitated this mode of communication, and not only forwarded the conclusion of our debates, but I am persuaded left him much better pleased with what had passed, than if it had been conveyed to him through the doubtful channel of an interpreter.

I will only add my regret, that the General should have suffered his feelings on this occasion to hurry him into expressions of too personal resentment, which I think his natural moderation would have led him to avoid, had he allowed himself time for cool and deliberate reflection.

Signed,

WARREN HASTINGS,

APPENDIX,

APPENDIX, No. XVIII. A. A. 7.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 12th October, 1773.

The BOARD'S MINUTE.

IN answer to the demand made by the General, regarding the powers granted to the President solely to negotiate with the Vizier at Benares, the Board now declare, that they judged the investing him with such exclusive powers strictly proper and absolutely necessary. It was proper, because conformable to the Orders of the Company, which positively direct the conduct and execution of the Country Correspondence to be the particular province of the President; nor do the Board think they could with consistency have bestowed on the General a participation of that power, in the business of a distant Negotiation, which they would not have reserved to themselves, even at the Seat of the Government; for supposing that the conferences with the Vizier had been held at the Presidency, the discussion and execution of the resolves of the Board would of course have been left to the President. It was necessary, because the essential requisites in the business to be transacted were dispatch and immediate decision. The duties of the Government would not admit of a tedious absence of our President; and he has in his own Minute, which has now been read, elucidated in strong and just colours the indecision, controversy, and delay, in which every point to be treated on might have been involved, if liable to be checked by discussion, and impeded by the different ideas of a plurality of Negotiators. The Board consider it further incumbent on them to add in this place, that they also esteemed it necessary, in order to impress the Vizier with a proper idea and knowledge of the Station of their President, which seems of late years to have been totally eclipsed in these parts by the superior influence of the Commanding Officer, who will always derive sufficient consequence from the command of the Army, without being admitted to interfere in the peculiar province of the President, by appearing the principal Agent in the Political Government. The Board having thus fully explained the motives, which induced them to vest in the President exclusive powers for negotiating with the Vizier, it would be superfluous to subjoin, that no personal reflection was or could be intended towards the General, or towards the other Members of the Board who were present at Benares.

They have already assigned their reasons for stopping the payment of the King's Tribute; they do not judge it necessary to repeat them, but shall make only a few observations on the General's Objections. It is true there was no declared War between us and the Marattas at the time when the King put himself under their protection; but they have been regarded as our natural enemies ever since the acquisition of the Dewannee, both by the Administration here, and by the Court of Directors, who have repeatedly instructed us to encourage the other Tribes in Hindostan to oppose them; and by no one has the necessity of treating them even as avowed enemies been more warmly urged than by the General in his letters.

Allowing that the King's Cession of Corah, &c. to the Marattas, that his marching with them at a time when their intentions appeared so hostile, that it was found necessary for our Troops and the Vizier's to advance to oppose them, and that his advising them to sow dissensions between us and the Vizier before they attacked us, which facts stand established on our records, proceeded all from compulsion, they will serve only to prove him under the absolute bondage of the Marattas; and although the Allahabad Treaty does not expressly stipulate that he should remain in that neighbourhood, yet it certainly implies, that he should continue his connexion with us, and could never be intended to oblige us to pay a Tribute to our Enemies. If the Company have forfeited the Dewannee by stopping the payment of the Tribute, they would not have prevented the forfeiture by paying a part, as the General proposes, for their security was for the regular payment of the whole, and the King has repeatedly demanded it. To have paid a part, therefore, would be useless, by adding to the Company's distress; and as to advancing as much as they could, it appears from their accumulated Debts in Bengal, and the heavy Loan they have been obliged

to borrow in Europe, that their advances have in fact already exceeded their own means.— The acknowledgment of Shaw Allum as King in the Village of Dondnagur by the Troops composing the Army with which he had invaded the Bahar Province, hardly deserves to be dignified by the expression of raising him to the Musnud. The Board believes he was first formally proclaimed at Patna by the authority of this Government; and if, by acknowledgement, a payment of Tribute is implied, he has never been acknowledged by any but the English, not even by the Vizier, his first Servant.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 8.

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort-William, 12th October, 1773.

The General's Reply.

THE General having declined being present at this Consultation, as the matter in debate is in some respects personal to himself, the above Minutes were communicated to him; and he sends in the following Reply, requesting that it may be recorded in the same Proceedings, which is ordered accordingly as follows.

General Barker begs leave to observe, in support of the declaration contained in his Minute of Dissent to the late Treaty of Benares, that although it is not expressly the tenor of the 4th Article of the Treaty of Allahabad with the Vizier, yet the Administration of that period must have viewed it in that light; and he therefore quotes the 20th Paragraph of their General Letter on this subject, under date the 30th of September, 1765, viz. "With respect to the other Articles of the Treaty, you will observe, that a sufficient provision is secured for the support of the King's honor and dignity, without danger of his becoming a future incumbrance; and that twenty-six lacks yearly are granted to him on the Revenues of Bengal, a Revenue far more considerable than he ever before enjoyed. In gratitude for this instance of our attention to his interest, His Majesty has been pleased to bestow on the Company the most important Grants ever yet obtained by any European State from the Mogul Court. Besides confirming to the Company all their former Possessions, and securing to them in perpetuity the reversion of Lord Clive's Jaghire, he has conferred on them the Dewannee of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, and ratified, in the strongest terms, an Agreement we proposed concluding with the Nabob, if the King's Consent could be procured; subjects which it will be necessary to explain in a separate Paragraph;" and that the 4th Article of the Treaty with the Vizier was merely a confirmation of this Grant to his Majesty, of which he was in absolute possession.

The General, in his communication of the Vizier's Proposal for the reduction of the Rohillas, by no means wished to possess him of so large a tract of Country; he had many other proposals for the consideration of the Board, had this measure been adopted at the time, which would effectually have secured the necessary balance of power; and, if he mistakes not, the President is in possession of some remarks of the General's upon this subject.

Relative to the Quotation which has been taken up by the President from the General's Letter of the 23d of March, 1768, he begs leave to observe, that since that time the Vizier has made considerable improvements, both in the discipline of his Troops and knowledge of Arms, and that an increase of wealth must indubitably enable him to be a still greater proficient in the Military Science; although he is by no means of opinion, that his Excellency's present Force should give the Company the least cause for apprehension.

(Signed)

Rt. BARKER.

A P P E N D I X, No. XXIII. A. A. 9.

Letter from the Select Committee to the Court of Directors, dated 14th May, 1774; received Over-Land the 14th January, 1775.

HONORABLE SIRs,

THE daily expectation of an approaching crisis in the operations of your Army in the Rohilla War, has induced us to delay from time to time the dispatch of our accompanying Advices, in the hopes of being able to transmit more complete information. This is now in our power. By a Letter from Colonel Champion to the President, dated the 2d instant, we learn, that the Vizier had formally declared to him, that he had no further occasion for the services of the Troops in the field before the rains. That he was accordingly preparing to canton them at Birelly, the Capital of the newly acquired Dominions. That the whole of the Country lately possessed by Hafez Rhamet, with Ouly and Bissouly, belonging to the Son of Doondy Cawn, is already in the possession of the Vizier; and the only part of the Rohilla Dominions unoccupied by his Troops is the Territory of Zabita Cawn, who is in the Vizier's Camp in his custody, and unable, were he at liberty, to oppose him; so that we think we may without presumption congratulate you on the happy accomplishment of the Undertaking, begun and decided almost in the same instant of time, and the right which you have unquestionably acquired to the sum stipulated for the Service.

We have the honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful and most

obedient humble Servants,

Fort-William,
the 14th May, 1774.

WARREN HASTINGS,
W. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 10.

Letter from the Select Committee to the Court of Directors, dated 24th August, 1774; received in London 24th June, 1775.

HONORABLE SIRs,

OUR last Address, of which a duplicate goes enclosed, was written in cypher, and was dispatched to the President and Council at Bombay to be forwarded over-land.

You were therein informed, that the Brigade employed under the command of Colonel Champion, in the service against the Rohillas, was preparing to canton at Birelly for the rains. Soon after, on the requisition and urgent solicitation of the Vizier, this destination was changed, and the Brigade marched forwards to the City of Bissouly, which is near the center of the Rohilla Country on that side of the Ganges, and immediately entered

tered into Quarters, with the intention of passing the whole season of the rains there. But on the news of an accommodation among the Maratta Chiefs, and on the appearance of some hostile acts on the part of the King, fearing to be interrupted in the course of his operations if they were delayed, the Vizier has since importuned the Commander in Chief to take the field again, and to march against the remainder of the Rohilla Forces, who were assembled under the command of Fyzoolla Cawn at Pattergur, in the northernmost division of that Country; hoping, that by their dispersion, which would at this time be with less difficulty effected, any designs which may have been formed by the King, or the Marattas, to be executed after the rains, will be anticipated and rendered abortive. To this request Colonel Champion, though with reluctance, and having first objected to it on account of the dangers to which the Troops (the Europeans especially) would be subjected from sickness, by being exposed to the inclemency of the present season, assented. We own the force of the Colonel's Objections, and think they outweigh the arguments urged by the Vizier to prove the necessity of present service; as we are persuaded that our Forces in that quarter, joined to those of the Vizier, and aided by our other resources, are superior to any opposition which we can foresee in any probable event of things; but it may accelerate the issue of the War, and discourage foreign attempts; and our Advices from the Commander in Chief and from the Resident mention, that the Season was, and had been for some time, uncommonly favourable for such a design.

By a Letter from Colonel Champion to the Committee, dated 5th August, he was then advanced with the Army twenty-four Cofs beyond Bissouly; we know not how near this may have carried him to Pattergur.

The King has lately taken into his service Sumroo, the notorious Assassin of the unfortunate Prisoners at Patna; it is also said, that he has invited Gazeo dun Cawn and Meer Cossim to his Court; and that he has written Letters to the Abdallee and to the Maratta Chiefs, soliciting their return to that quarter, and to Fyzoolla Cawn, encouraging him to persevere, and flattering him with hopes of succour. These indications of His Majesty's indisposition towards us, for which many obvious causes may be assigned, are not likely to affect your interest, at least, not materially; since his solicitations will have little weight with the Powers to whom they are made, and who know that he has neither Wealth, Territory, or Personal Command to give them credit. The Abdallee is too remote to become an object of our apprehension. The Marattas are not to be despised, although they must have suffered extremely from their late intestine disturbances. The Faction excited by the Ministers of that State against Ragonaut Row has prevailed, the Infant Son of Narrain Row acknowledged Peshwah in his stead, and Ragonaut himself a Prisoner in their hands; as we are informed by our last Advices.

It is very probable that they will attempt to recover the Duawb from the Vizier the next Season, if they have leisure and means to send their Forces so far; but we have reason to believe, that they will not venture to act openly against our Army, nor to invade the Vizier's own Dominions; and we venture to promise, that whilst the Orders under which we now act continue in force, we shall not permit the Army, or any part of it, to pass the line to which its present operations are restricted, either to prevent or repel any attempts of the Marattas, while they leave us unmolested within it.

This conduct the Vizier will probably expect, from the repeated declarations made to him by the President when he first engaged in that Enterprize; and it is not improbable that such an expectation may be the ground of his present eagerness to bring the War to a conclusion, that his own Forces may be wholly at liberty to defend his new acquisitions in the Duawb against future attacks of the Marattas.

As to Meer Cossim and Gazeo dun Cawn they are mere names, and can be of no weight into whatever scale they are thrown, but as they mark the temper and inclinations of those who befriend them.

The payments of the monthly Subsidy for the extra-charge of the Brigade have been made with great punctuality, so far as our Advices mention them. The Vizier has given the Resident an Assignment on his Treasury at Fyzabad for the fifteen Lacks due by the

Treaty

Treaty for the second payment on account of the Cession of Corah and Allahabad, and we hope that it is by this time on the way to Calcutta.

We are,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful obedient

humble Servants,

Fort-William,
the 24th August, 1774.

WARREN HASTINGS;
WM. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. II.

Extract of Letter from the Governor and Council at Fort-William, in their Secret Department, to the Court of Directors, dated 17th October, 1774; received in London 24th June, 1775.

HONORABLE SIRS,

1. **T**HE same reasons which induce us to address you from the other Department on the close of our Administration, make it also expedient that we should write you from this, with an account of our proceedings since our last Advices; the whole will be left under the care of the new Government, to be forwarded to you by the first Ship.

2. Enclosed are duplicates of our Letters by the Resolution and Swallow, and triplicate of that over-land of the 25th of April last.

3. By the first of these you were informed of the march of the Brigade, under Colonel Champion, to the assistance of the Vizier in his Expedition against the Rohilla Country, lying betwixt the Ganges and the Mountains, on the terms and conditions which we so amply specified in that and the preceding Advices. In our Letter over-land we briefly noted, that we had received accounts of a complete Victory gained over these People at the Fields of St. George, in which their Chief, Hafez Rhamut Khan, was killed; the particulars stand in the Consultation referred to in the margin. †

4. For a regular connected account of the operations of the Army during the Campaign, we must beg leave to refer you to the Select Committee, with whom Colonel Champion carried on his chief correspondence, according to the directions of the Board; and shall in this Department confine ourselves to such points as came to us in reference from them, or such as we thought proper to interfere in directly ourselves.

5. Soon after, and in consequence of the above-mentioned Victory, our Troops took and put the Vizier in possession of Peelebut, Birelly, Owla, and Bissouly, the Places of chief note in the Country, by which we thought that we had completely acquired a right to the forty Lacks stipulated for our aid in this Enterprize, and therefore directed the Commander in Chief to apply to the Vizier, in conjunction with the Resident at his Court, for payment; but as we foresaw that it might be impossible for the Vizier, in the middle of the Campaign, and at a distance from his Capital, to pay down the whole immediately, we instructed those Gentlemen to relax so far in their demands, as not to insist absolutely on the whole in ready money, but to accept of such as he could give in part, and leave the rest to be settled by a Negotiation between him and the Resident, in which, however, the primary and essential article was to be, an Acknowledgment of our Right to the whole.

† Consultation, 9th May.

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6. What has occurred since in consequence of these instructions has not come under our notice in this Department, as Colonel Champion, in obedience to our directions, at that time corresponded afterwards solely with the Select Committee upon the subject, and they will doubtless advise you fully relating to it.

7. That Committee thought proper, in the course of their correspondence with the Commander in Chief, to make reference to us on a point in which they thought they stood in need of our advice and concurrence.† This was on information from him, that he had received intelligence of Nudjiff Cawn's being on his march with a considerable Body of Troops, to claim in behalf of the King one half of the Country lately conquered from the Rohillas, in virtue, as he alleged, of a Treaty formerly concluded between the King and the Vizier, but by which Agreement the Commander in Chief suspected he was not now willing to abide; and therefore he craved the special directions of the Board, as to the manner in which he should act, should they, the Vizier and Nudjiff Cawn, come to an open rupture about it.

8. We did not hesitate, in reply to this, to direct him, that as we had no knowledge of such a Treaty of Participation, if the Vizier denied it, he, the Commander in Chief, was not to suppose it's existence, but continue to support and assist the Vizier in the conquest of that Country against Nudjiff Cawn and all other Opponents.

9.‡ They also referred to us the Case of the Vizier's having made an Offer of seven Lacks of Rupees as a Present to the Army, and actually consigned into the hands of Colonel Champion an Obligation payable in seven months to that amount. Whatever might have been our sentiments with regard to the pretensions of the Troops, from their merits and services, to such a favour from the Vizier, we should not have thought ourselves warranted to consent to such a Present without your special commands being first had on the subject. But what precluded us from any consideration on the matter was, that the receipt of this Present must have fallen within the Penalty of the Act of Parliament, which took place from the 1st of August last; we therefore thought it sufficient to transmit to the Commander in Chief, to be made known to the principal Officers of the Army, the Clause in the said Act which prohibited it.

10.§ The Vizier having represented to the President, through the Resident at his Court, a strong desire to obtain an English Officer in his service, for the command of a regular Battalion, which he proposes to raise, discipline, and pay after the European Manner, and to employ chiefly in the protection of his Person, and to be a check upon the mutinous disposition of his own Troops, which he had too often experienced since the recall of Captain Harper's Battalion; and we taking this request into consideration, consented to it, and permitted Mr. Lane, a Lieutenant in your Service, on the recommendation of the President, to be employed in that station, and further left with the Governor the nomination of such other Officers as might be necessary for completing the Battalion in the manner the Vizier proposed.

23. Having thus stated minutely for your information the whole occurrences in this Department since our last Advices, and as, in the close of this Letter, we have undoubted, although not regular intelligence, of the Rohilla War being actually ended by a Treaty between the Vizier and Fyzoolla Cawn, of which no doubt you will be more accurately informed by the subsequent Dispatches by the British King, we think it proper to recapitulate the causes on which this War was founded, and the advantages which have resulted from it.

24. You were informed by our Advices of 1772 and 3, of the necessity which induced us to carry our Arms beyond the prescribed line of your Instructions into the Rohilla Country for it's defence against the Marattas, whose rapid progress and unbounded ambition at that time threatened all Indostan, and who had actually reduced the greater part of that Country, through which the access was open to the Vizier by the only quarter of his Dominions wanting a defensible Barrier.

25. Our Records, at the time when this subject was debated, will sufficiently manifest the extreme diffidence and reluctance with which we at last resolved to pass the line of the Vizier's Dominions with our Forces. The actual Orders of the Company confined us within the limits of our own and his Possessions; yet they had promised to furnish us with

† Consultation, 23d May. ‡ Consultation, 29th August. § Consultation, 23d July.

Instructions, wherein a greater latitude of action, on particular occasions, would be allowed and recommended. These very promises certainly implied the possibility of cases happening, wherein more extensive measures were thought adviseable and necessary. But the unsettled State of the Company's Affairs at home has, we suppose, prevented us from receiving the promised directions for our conduct, and left us without a guide at a very critical conjuncture, which seemed to call for extraordinary measures, and an immediate exertion of our strength, to give a timely check to the accumulating progress of the Maratta Power. Such were the circumstances and the occasion which first dictated to us the measure of passing the prescribed bounds.

26. On this occasion, as declaredly on all others, we acted as if ignorant of the Reports and Advices received from Europe, which informed us, that the Company was precluded from resolving on any clear line of action, that Supervisors were appointed to supercede the actual Government of Bengal, that a new Administration was to be formed, and that the right of the Company and the Nation to the Territorial Possessions was still in debate. We considered ourselves as acting for the national benefit, and assumed an extraordinary but a dangerous degree of responsibility, for the sake of promoting the attainment of that object. It was therefore resolved to expel the Marattas from the Rohilla Country.

27. The Vizier, whose aid had been solicited by the Rohillas, undertook their defence against the Marattas. An Agreement was entered into for this purpose, and a Solemn Treaty ratified between the Vizier and Hafez Rhamut Khan, in behalf and with the express authority of all the other Rohilla Chiefs, in the presence of General Sir Robert Barker, the Commander in Chief of our Forces, by whom it was attested; wherein, upon this Service being effected, the Rohilla Chiefs bound themselves to pay to the Vizier the sum of forty Lacks of Rupees. The Vizier accordingly took the field, joined by one of our Brigades, and fulfilled his Engagement by expelling the Marattas from the Rohilla Possessions. Notwithstanding which Hafez Rhamut and the rest of the Rohillas pre-emptorily refused to acquit themselves of their part of the Agreement; and they not only thus infringed the Treaty, by with-holding the Stipulation agreed upon, but treacherously assisted the Marattas against the Vizier with supplies of money, while he was actually engaged, by virtue of the Treaty, in repelling them from the Rohilla Country. This laid the foundation of the present War against the Rohillas, and was the first motive which induced us to join our aid to the Vizier in chastising them for their perfidy and breach of faith.

28. The Agreement for entering with the Vizier upon this new measure, appeared to us a fit occasion for establishing the Company's Alliance with him upon a footing of more adequate advantage to them. Hitherto they had held the labouring Oar. The heavy burthen of an enormous military expense, under which they were ready to sink, they had constantly supported; while the Vizier, by the tenor of the Treaty then existing, without contributing to ease the Company of this weight, experienced the principal and the only immediate advantages resulting from it; those acquired by the Company being remote, and consisting merely in the safety of his Country, which was a Barrier to their's. Although we still continued without the lights which had been promised by the Court of Directors for the guidance of our conduct, yet, in their Letter of the 28th August, 1771, they expressed, in stronger terms than ever they had done before, their intention in certain cases of authorizing our departure from the defensive principles hitherto recommended and enjoined. These Considerations determined us to avail ourselves of the present opportunity of aiding the Vizier against the Rohillas, as the means of obtaining the proposed advantages to the Company.

29. With this view the President was deputed to give the Vizier a meeting at Benares, and to conclude a new Form of Alliance, in which he was authorized to comprehend the Rohilla Enterprize, on such adequate and permanent terms, as should indemnify the Company for the expenses at all times incurred in the Vizier's assistance, and on such other more immediate conditions as were suitable to this extraordinary Service. A Treaty was accordingly concluded, which in the original Draught included both these Objects, namely, the Agreement for the fixed monthly Subsidy of two Lacks, ten thousand Rupees, for the expenses of our Troops when employed in his service, and the payment of forty Lacks of Rupees for the projected Reduction of the Rohillas. But the Rohilla Expedition was at that

that time set aside from the irrefolution of the Vizier, while the Subsidy, which had been conceded in consideration of our assent to this Proposal, still remained an Article of the new Treaty. The Vizier afterwards renewed his Proposition to attack the Rohillas, and it was again debated in several successive meetings of the Board, as recorded in our Proceedings of the 26th November, 1773, with the reasons at large which determined us ultimately to resolve on a compliance with the Vizier's Requisition. A Brigade was accordingly ordered into his Country for that purpose.

30. Every circumstance that could possibly favour this Enterprize, by an uncommon combination of political considerations and fortuitous events, operated in support of the Measure.

1. Justice to the Vizier for the aggravated breach of treaty in the Rohilla Chiefs.
2. The Honor of the Company pledged implicitly by General Barker's Attestation for the accomplishment of this Treaty, and which, added to their Alliance with the Vizier, engaged us to see redress obtained for the perfidy of the Rohillas.
3. The completion of the Line of Defence of the Vizier's Dominions, by extending his Boundary to the natural Barrier formed by the northern chain of hills and the Ganges, and their junction.
4. The acquisition of forty Lacks of Rupees to the Company, and of so much Specie added to the exhausted currency of these Provinces.
5. The Subsidy of two Lacks ten thousand Rupees *per* month, for defraying the Charges of one third of our Army employed with the Vizier.
6. The urgent and recent Orders of the Company for rescinding Charges, and procuring the means to discharge the heavy Debt at interest, heightened by the Advices of their great Distresses at home.
7. The absence of the Marattas from Indostan, which left an open field for carrying the proposed Plan into execution.
8. And, lastly, the intestine divisions and dissensions in their State, which, by engaging them fully at home, would prevent interruptions from their incursions, and leave a moral certainty of success to the Enterprize.

31. These were the inducements which determined us to adopt this new plan of conduct, in opposition to which one powerful objection, and only one, occurred; namely, the personal hazard we ran in undertaking so uncommon a Measure, without positive instructions, at our own risk, with the eyes of the whole Nation on the Affairs of the Company, and the passions and prejudices of almost every man in England inflamed against the conduct of the Company and the Characters of their Servants. Notwithstanding which we yielded to the strong necessity impressed upon us by the inducements above-mentioned, in spite of the suggestions and the checks of self-interest, which set continually before our eyes the dread of forfeiting the favour of our Employers, and becoming the Objects of popular invectives, and made us involuntarily rejoice at every change in the Vizier's Advices which protracted the execution of the Measure. At length, however, his resolution coinciding with our opinions, the Enterprize was undertaken, and, if our intelligence be confirmed, it is now finally closed with that success which we had foreseen from the beginning. We shall then again return to the state of peace from which we emerged when we first engaged in the Rohilla Expedition, with the actual possession, or acknowledged right (which the Power of this Government can amply and effectually assert) of

near seventy Lacks of Rupees, acquired by the monthly Subsidy and the Stipulation, and it rests with you to pass the ultimate judgment on our Conduct.

We are,

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful and most

Fort-William,
the 17th October, 1774.

obedient humble Servants,

WARREN HASTINGS,
WM. ALDERSEY,
P. M. DACRES,
JAMES LAWRELL,
J. GRAHAM,
CHA. BENTLEY.

A P P E N D I X, No. XVIII. A. A. 12.

To Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON,

Fort-William, 28th January, 1774.

S I R,

HAVING appointed you my Agent at the Court of the Nabob Sujah Dowla, for the transaction of all affairs between him and myself, I give you the following instructions for your guidance in the execution of that trust.

1. Herewith I send you Copies and Translations of the Treaties subsisting between the Company and the Vizier, and have ordered the Persian Translator to send you Copies of the Letters which have passed between the Vizier and myself since my return to the Presidency.

These will be of use to you as occasional references, and give you a competent idea both of the nature of our general engagements, and of the particulars depending with him.

2d. Enclosed I also transmit you the Copies of four Accounts between the Vizier and this Government, and of my Letter to him of this date explaining them.

If these are not adjusted before your arrival, I desire you will urge him to settle them, and endeavour to explain them to him as well as you are able. I can give you no better explanation of them than that which the Letter contains. I own I am anxious to clear off these intricacies, which are rendered more difficult to unravel by having subsisted some years, and under successive Governments. Your Brother will be best able to explain the difference in the account of the Tuncaw, which is a transaction wholly unknown but to the Vizier, General Sir Robert Barker, and, I believe, himself.

3d. By the last Treaty concluded at Benares, there will be a further sum due from the Vizier of fifteen Lacks of Rupees by the 7th of September next, which you will remember to claim in time, and to remind him of it before it becomes due, that there may be no delay in the payment.

4th. By the 4th Article of the Treaty of Allahabad, and by the Perwannah granted to Rajah Cheyt Sing in my presence at Benares, the Copy of which goes enclosed, the Vizier is bound to refrain from all claims on him except his stipulated revenue; and this

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Government

Government stands pledged to the Rajah for his security against all other exactions; nevertheless it has been represented to me, that the Vizier has lately taken forcible possession of some Lands of the Rajah's in Juanpoor, the particulars of which you will learn from the enclosed Copy of a Letter which I received from him on the subject. I have written upon it to the Vizier, but if he should not have relinquished the Lands, or satisfactorily explained this matter before your arrival, you will repeat my demand to him, and enforce it with such arguments as will be most likely to induce his compliance.

5th. Enclosed is a Table of Rates recommended by me to the Rajah for Duties on all Goods passing through his Dominions. At the same time I gave him assurance of protection against all the Dependents of the Company, who could endeavour to elude or refuse the payment of them. I promised that no Europeans should have my leave to reside in his Country, or even to pass the borders of it, on their private account, excepting only Mess. Fowke, Motte, and Scot, and these Gentlemen were restricted to the Town of Benares. Mr. Osborn who was at Gauzepoor by permission, and Mr. Oliver, who was on his way to Mirzapoor with a Cargo before the restriction was made, were permitted to remain for a short period, the former to collect his Concerns, and the latter to dispose of his Goods; and they still remain with that licence continued.

As it is my intention to adhere rigidly to the promises which I have made to Rajah Cheyt Sing, I expect that he will, on his part, take care to prevent his Officers from frustrating the effects by partiality or undue exactions, or, which I fear has been the case, by timidly suffering individuals to exercise authority, and to refuse payment of his Duties with impunity. I desire you will visit the Rajah on your arrival at Benares, and inform him of my intentions and expectations on this subject; and communicate to me whatever he may represent on his own behalf. Make your stay at Benares as short as possible, and visit him but once, avoiding the appearance of business with him.

6th. You will reside constantly near the Vizier and accompany him in the field. You will desire to see him of course when you have business to impart to him; but in visits of mere ceremony or respect you will conform to his inclinations. I wish you to study his temper and endeavour to acquire his confidence, shunning every appearance of mystery and intrigue, and by a cautious observance of the forms of civility; but address him in plain terms, and with firmness, upon every subject of business which may require it.

7th. If any Europeans, or others, pretending to be Dependents of the English, shall either appear at the Vizier's Court, or in any part of his Dominions, without my licence, I desire you will inform the Vizier, that such a practice is entirely contrary to my inclination, and that I shall be obliged to him if he will make use of his authority to put a stop to it; that he will refuse them access to his Person, and compel them by forcible means, if his commands prove ineffectual, to retire from his Dominions. If he should desire you, on such occasions, to signify his intentions to them, you are to do it in writing, but avoid all correspondence and all communication with them.

If any Servant of the Company, of whatever rank, and whether civil or military, shall find his way thither without my authority, you are to command him, in my name, to depart immediately, and inform me of every such instance which shall happen within your knowledge; as I am resolved to put an effectual check to the unbecoming intrusion which I have reason to believe has been frequently practised on the Vizier, and even in his hours of retirement.

Whenever a Military Force shall be sent into that quarter, I will give you separate instructions for your conduct on that occasion.

8th. I send you Letters of Introduction to the Vizier and Rajah Cheyt Sing. The latter I have referred to you for my sentiments upon his affairs, and desired him to explain confidentially to you whatever he may wish to make known to me.

9th. The Vizier having sent me a Turban, as a token of his friendship, by Mr. Lambert, I desire you will take charge of a Hat which I have requested him to accept in return as a like pledge of mine, and deliver it to him on your arrival.

10th. Your Allowances are fixed by the Board at 1000 Rupees per month, and for your charges in the field Captain's Batta, which is twelve Rupees per day beyond the Provinces. These are to be in lieu of all Pay, Charges, and Emoluments whatever, except the Salary due to your rank in the Service. In forming these appointments no account has been made of the expense usually incident to parade, because I judge it unnecessary; and shall be better pleased that you acquire a confidence from your Employment, and your conduct in the execution of it, than from external show.

As to the other advantages which might be drawn from your situation, I chuse to be explicit, and therefore must declare, that I expect and require you to abstain from all engagements or undertakings of trade whatsoever, either on your own account, or that of any other person; not only because I look upon such undertakings as inconsistent with the character and independence I wish you to maintain, but also as I am confident the public business which I intrust to your care will afford you complete occupation. I do not mean however by this to restrain you from accepting any private Commission from the Vizier for Goods, or whatever else he may want from Calcutta; but in such case I expressly require, that you acquaint me with the subject and particulars of each Commission, and that you receive the money for it in advance, that I may not be drawn into altercation in the adjustment of Accounts between you, having had already too much trouble in prior transactions of this kind, which I think unbecoming my correspondence with the Vizier.

You will inform me from time to time of every material occurrence which shall come to your knowledge. This you will make the subject of a separate correspondence.

To these I have added the Translations of two Letters which passed between the Vizier and myself at Benares, which will explain the footing on which the first Treaty at Benares subsists.

Fort-William, 30th January, 1774.

TO MR. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

DEAR SIR,

LAST night I dispatched your Instructions, with such papers appertaining to them as were copied; I now send you the remainder.

I learn from Major Polier, that the Vizier has taken into his service a wretched Fellow, of the name of Maddox, or Maddoc, formerly a Defter from the French to us, and since from us to the Country Service, and treated him with great marks of distinction. I cannot take notice of this by Letter lest it should hurt Major Polier; but if you find this Fellow there upon your arrival, I desire you will inform the Vizier, that you had it in strict injunction from me, to remonstrate against every instance of such encouragement given, and to declare to him, that while he betrays that attachment, I consider my engagements to assist him as suspended.

You must require, therefore, that he dismiss both Maddoc and Gentil, and inform me of his Answer. If Maddoc is not with him you may take no notice of Gentil, whom I do not consider as meriting further notice.

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I shall be sorry to engage you on your first meeting with the Vizier in a subject of dispute, but it will be his fault if he makes it one, as this is a point I neither can nor will allow, if it is in my power, as I think it is, to prevent it.

Be assured of my entire confidence, esteem, and regard.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

Fort-William, 31st March, 1774.
Duplicate dispatched 1st April, 1774.

To Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

IN addition to the Instructions which you have already received, the following are to serve for your general guidance in such matters as respect the Army, while it is engaged on the service of the Vizier.

You will act between the Vizier and the Commander in Chief in any matters which either shall intrust to your charge.—I have informed Colonel Champion, that you should receive my Instructions to afford him your assistance on every occasion in which he should require it, but that he was at liberty to employ any agent he pleased for the management of the concerns with which he was immediately intrusted, and for the execution of which he was responsible. I have made it my particular request, that he will not suffer any Officer, of what rank soever, to go to the Vizier, but when expressly sent by him on Service. It is my desire that you will also attend to this restriction; and if any person belonging to our Camp, not authorized by the Commander in Chief, shall intrude himself into the presence of the Vizier, that you will acquaint the Commander in Chief therewith, representing it to be contrary to my pleasure, and desiring him in my name to forbid it. This is not however to affect Major Polier, who being appointed to remain at the Vizier's Court for his express service, must of course attend him to receive his orders.

For the rest I have only to refer you to my former Instructions, and to caution you to avoid all subjects of argument or personal discussion with any one.

Whatever you shall judge necessary to represent respecting the Army must be communicated in writing to the Commander in Chief, or to the Officer who may succeed him in the command, and to no other.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

Fort-

Fort-William, 19th April, 1774.
Duplicate dispatched the 20th ditto, 1774.

TO Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

YOUR several Letters from the 15th of February to the 3d instant I have duly received.

Although it will be needless for me to declare the opinion I entertain of your integrity and abilities, yet I cannot pass by your Letter of the 15th of February, without expressing the satisfaction I feel, in having been able to place you in a situation, which I am persuaded will afford you an ample field for the discovery of them to the Public, and add to your future consequence.

In settling accounts with the Vizier for the stipulated payments of the Brigade, you will correspond with the Commander in Chief, and act in consequence of the Advices and Instructions he may furnish you with respecting them; it is therefore unnecessary to give you further information on this subject, than that the first payment commences from the 24th of February, the time the Brigade crossed the Carumnassa; and I am already informed that the first payment has been made by an Order on Rajah Cheyt Sing for that amount.

I am extremely pleased with the delicacy you have maintained in your general conduct to the Vizier.

On the subject of Maddoc and Gentil I intend a particular Reply, and shall address the Vizier and yourself shortly upon it.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

Fort-William, 22d April, 1774.

TO Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

I SEND you a Letter for the Vizier, with an English Copy of it for your perusal, upon the subject of Maddoc and Gentil. My instructions upon it are short.—You will tell him that I expect his compliance with the counsel I have given him; and should he demur, that he must choose whether he will have the English Nation for his Friends, or whether

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whether he will abandon the advantages arising from their friendship for the sake of a few wretched individuals.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

Fort-William, 28th April, 1774.

To Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

IF Rajah Cheyt Sing's Vakeel is at the Court of the Vizier, you will have an opportunity of being acquainted if his Excellency has relinquished the nineteen Villages of Juanpoor. If he is still in possession of them, it is my direction that you inform his Excellency, such a conduct being contrary to his promise, and the Agreement in the Treaty subsisting between us, that it is my desire he will order Seedy Mahomed Bupeer to deliver them over to the Rajah, and not, by a delay in this business, furnish a fresh occasion to remind him of the necessity of his adhering to his word.

Respecting the Pergunnah of Kerragurrah, the Vizier must act as he thinks fit, I will not interfere in it.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H.

Fort-William, 22d May, 1774.
Duplicate dispatched 23d ditto, ditto.

To Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

I Have received your Letters of the 23d, 24th, and 29th ultimo.

I am much alarmed at the repeated complaints with which the Letters of Colonel Champion are filled against the Vizier, whose conduct in many instances appears exceedingly culpable, although I find it difficult in any one of them to reconcile it to the dictates of self-interest, supposing it to be the effect of a fixed and concerted design.

Your silence on these subjects, with which I cannot suppose you to be unacquainted, confirms my embarrassment on this occasion, as I have only my own conjectures to oppose to the Letter of the Informations received from the Commander in Chief. I rely implicitly on these as far as they respect facts, but I fear the influence of prejudice in his constructions upon them; yet my judgment must be decisive upon the references made to me,

me, and may be wrong for want of more perfect materials to form it upon. I can account for the reserve which the delicacy of your situation may naturally suggest to you, and approve the bias which you have suffered to guide you, while it does not restrain you from communicating to me the informations necessary to enable me to take the measures, which the interest of the Service may stand essentially in need of. You are the only channel of authentic communication between me and the Vizier, and from you I expect a minute Report of every circumstance relating to the effects of our operations with the Vizier, and of every transaction which may affect the Service, or our Engagements with him, especially such as are likely to come in appeal before myself, or the Administration at large.

I rely on you also for reconciling any differences which may arise between the Vizier and the Commander in Chief; and I hope you are not precluded by any other influence from affording your mediation with effect in any case which may require it.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

Fort-William, 27th May, 1774.
Duplicate, 30th ditto, ditto.

To Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

I Have received your Letter of the 7th Instant, with the Vizier's enclosed; my Answer to the latter, with an English Copy of it, I send herewith, which I hope will satisfy his Excellency, and prevent a repetition of the complaints hereafter. I have pronounced decisively upon the claim laid by Colonel Champion to any plunder which may be found in the places taken by our united operations. Should Colonel Champion think it necessary to appeal this matter to the Board, their decision upon it must necessarily supersede mine, but my orders will effectually prevent a resumption of such a claim; in the mean time be pleased to explain this to the Vizier. I do not think it likely that the Colonel will carry this matter further, nor that he can support the pretensions of the Army by any argument or precedent of weight.

It has been thought proper to allow the Commander in Chief a right to decline a compliance with any requisition of the Vizier, which shall evidently expose the Army to sickness, or other unnecessary danger; and in particular he is authorized to quit the Station allotted for their Cantonments at Berelly, if they shall prove hurtful to the health of their Troops, or cut off their communication with the Countries from which they can be supplied with provisions. These orders were the necessary consequence of his representations; but I should not have approved of his changing the Quarters of the Army if I had received your explanation of the Vizier's Motives earlier. I really think such a situation preferable to one less remote, if there is the slightest chance of the Enemy collecting in the Province; and if the Vizier himself remains in the same spot, every objection to it on our part loses its principal force. Should the Colonel make use of the discretion allowed him, either in this particular instance, or any other occasion, I must insist on your informing yourself of every circumstance that may affect either the reasons alleged in support of such a measure, or the Vizier's Arguments in opposition to it.

Colonel Champion complains of the conduct of the Vizier in suffering, and even in ordering his Troops to ravage the Country, and in his cruel treatment of the Family of Hafez Rahmut. This is a subject on which I cannot write to the Vizier; it might widen the breach between him and the Commander in Chief, and possibly influence the Nabob

to some private revenge on the unhappy remains of Hafez Rahmut's Family. I desire, therefore, that you will take an immediate occasion to remonstrate to him against every act of cruelty or wanton violence. The Country is his, and the People his Subjects; they claim, by that relation, his tenderest regard and unremitted protection.

The Family of Hafez have never injured him, but have claim to his protection in default of that of which he has deprived them. Tell him that the English Manners are abhorrent of every species of inhumanity and oppression, and enjoin the gentlest treatment of a vanquished Enemy. Require and entreat his observance of this principle towards the Family of Hafez. Tell him my Instructions to you generally but urgently enforce the same maxim; and that there is no part of his conduct will operate so powerfully in winning the affections of the English, as instances of benevolence and feeling for others. If these arguments do not prevail, you may inform him directly, that you have my orders to insist on a proper treatment of the Family of Hafez Rahmut; since, in our Alliance with him, the reputation of our national character is involved in every act which subjects his own to reproach; that I shall publicly exculpate this Government from the imputation of assenting to such a procedure, and shall reserve it as an objection to any future engagements with him when the present Service shall have been accomplished.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

Fort-William, 31st May, 1774.

TO MR. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

S I R,

OR D E R S have been sent by the Board to Colonel Champion, to demand in form payment of the forty Lacks stipulated by the Vizier for the performance of the present Service. After the first notification thus made by the Commander in Chief, you will take up the subject, and urge the Vizier to fulfil this Engagement, either by an immediate discharge of the amount, or by fixed periods of payments. At all events, you must require from him an immediate acknowledgment of the right acquired by the Company to this Stipulation, according to the strict tenor of his Agreement, in the Letter written to me on the Requisition made by him for the assistance of the Brigade on this service. A Copy of the Instructions sent to Colonel Champion on this subject I send you enclosed; these will be also your guide.

Not having heard, either from the Colonel or you, of any delay in the supplies of the monthly Subsidy, I conclude that they have been regularly made. It is however of consequence that I should be informed of it, not only for my own satisfaction and that of the Board, but that I may consider on the means to be taken in cases of delay, for preventing an accumulation of the Vizier's Debt, which already amounts (exclusive of the Subsidy) to fifty-five Lacks, due in the course of this Year.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

TO Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

Fort-William, 31st May, 1774.

S I R,

SINCE closing my Letter to you of the present date, I have received intelligence from Colonel Champion, that the treasure and valuable effects, acquired by the Vizier in the plunder of the Rohilla Country, are so considerable, that he cannot but be sufficiently enabled to make good all his pecuniary engagements to the Company.

If this prove to be the case, of which you will be the most competent judge, I desire that you will make your demand for instant payment of the stipulation, nor admit of any excuse for delaying it. On this subject you will consult the Commander in Chief, and take no step without his concurrence.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

TO Mr. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

Fort-William, 4th June, 1774.

S I R,

I HAVE received your Letter of the 19th ultimo.

I cannot but approve of the Vizier's proposal of returning to Fyzabad, as he must be the best judge of the means most likely to enable him to discharge his engagements to the Company, and is doubtless the master of his own actions. To this effect I have likewise written in my reply to the Vizier and to Colonel Champion, as he desired. Enclosed are copies of my Letters to the Vizier and Colonel Champion, with the original of the former.

I have however to recommend to you the utmost exertion of your endeavours, to prevail on him to return to the field in full time to commence the operations of the next Campaign.

From the acquiescence expressed in your Letter in the reason assigned by the Vizier for his intended excursions to Fyzabad, I am led to suppose, that you are persuaded of his inability to raise the money without it, and that the informations which have been given to Colonel Champion, of the amount of plunder acquired by the Vizier in the late Campaign, have either not come to your knowledge, or not sufficiently vouched to gain credit with you. He rates the actual plunder in the Vizier's possession at fifty Lacks, and the wealth of Fyzoolla Cawn, of which his Troops and Nudjiff Cawn's are in pursuit, at seventy-five Lacks in ready-money. These estimates appear to me to exceed all probability; nevertheless, I wish to be ascertained by your enquiries of the foundation which there may be for them, of the more probable amount of wealth which he may have gained, and of the annual income of the different divisions of the Country. Whenever your leisure will permit you to extend your enquiries to points of mere curiosity,

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curiosity, I shall be pleased to learn such other particulars of the conquered Country, (respecting its Currency, Productions, Trade, and Connexions) as you may judge worthy of credit and remark.

My immediate motive for desiring these informations is, that I may have some satisfactory authority, by which I may judge of the Vizier's Conduct in those points wherein he may be liable to censure. It must be likewise your part to employ your mediation for the removal of every misunderstanding between them. I know I cannot impose on you an office more suitable to your natural character, or more agreeable to it. I hope you will find no obstacle in Colonel Champion's want of confidence.

I fear means have been used to inflame the Colonel's Mind against the Vizier.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H.

TO MR. NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

Fort-William, 16th July, 1774.

S I R,

ENCLOSED you will receive a Letter which I have written to the Vizier on the subject of the forty Lacks due by agreement for the service of the Brigade against the Rohillas, and a Translation of it for your information. I also sent you a Copy of the Vizier's Letter which contains the conditions of this payment. By the latter you will perceive, that whenever he should be in possession of the whole of the Rohilla Country, or of the half of it, or should dismiss the Brigade, in either of the three cases, thus clearly stated, the payment became immediately due in ready-money. The whole of the Rohilla Country is in his possession; at least so I understand it, both from your Letters and Colonel Champion's, and from universal report. The Countries of Hafez Rahmut and Doode Cawn are actually in his possession; that of Zabita Cawn has acknowledged his authority, at least so I must conclude from his having had the Person of Zabita Cawn himself in his hands, and delivered him over to Nudjiff Cawn, in consequence of the supposed alliance subsisting between His Excellency and Nudjiff Cawn, or of his Treaty with the King. I speak with great uncertainty concerning this transaction, of which little is come officially to my knowledge. You, who are upon the spot, will be best able to ascertain how far the property of the Vizier has extended in that District; I can only assert generally, that if his authority there has been acknowledged, if by the surrender of Zabita Cawn, or his entire discharge, the Vizier meant either to transfer his right of possession, or, retaining it, to invest Zabita Cawn himself with the exercise of that right in trust for him, the possession of that Country is as absolutely defined in either case as that of Bisioulee or Berelly. I do not know of any Enemy the Vizier has left to dispute his conquest with him but Fyzoolla Cawn, a man of no note, of no power, and a vagabond among the hills, where he cannot be deemed a Competitor for the Districts actually held by the Vizier's Forces. In a word, the whole Country of the Rohillas, lying within the Boundaries which originally formed the compass of our operations, is, according to my conception, wholly and entirely his. It is beyond the possibility of a dispute that one half of the Country is his, and that is sufficient to establish the Company's Right to the immediate payment of the sum in question. You will be pleased to advert to the line which marks the Country of the Rohillas that we engaged to conquer for him; any Lands lying on the West of the Ganges are totally excluded from it; therefore when the whole or half of the Rohilla Country is mentioned, it means only that part which lies between the Ganges and the Mountains.