



## MARATHA AFFAIRS.

All business is at a stand at the Darbár; the usual guards in town increased; and no one admitted into the presence of the Peshwa, but three or four of the principal Brahmans, two or three native doctors, and a few attendants. Bābā Fadkia, the second son of the late Hurry Pandit, is constantly with the Peshwa.

(True Extract.)

J. UHTHOFF,  
Assistant.

“HON'BLE SIR,—I lose not a moment in acquainting you that the Peshwa is dead.

I have the honor to be,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

J. UHTHOFF,  
Assistant.

Poona, 27th October 1795, 10 P.M.”

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Bombay Castle, 6th November 1795.

At a Council, present :

The Hon'ble JOHN GRIFFITH, President and Governor, and  
DANIEL SETON.

Read and approved our proceedings of the 30th ultimo.

Read the following letter and enclosures from the Assistant to the Resident at Poona :—

“HON'BLE SIR,—I have the honor to enclose, for your information, extract of my letter of this date to the Governor General, and to be very respectfully, &c.,

J. UHTHOFF,  
Assistant.

Poona, 29th October 1795, midnight.”

*Extract of a letter from the ASSISTANT to the RESIDENT at Poona to the GOVERNOR GENERAL, dated 29th October 1795, regarding Bājirāv's succession to the office of Peshwa.*

“At 10 P.M., the 27th instant, I sent off an express, acquainting you with the death of the Peshwa, which happened that evening about 6 o'clock. The corpse was burnt in the course of the night at one of the places in town on the banks of the river, where the funeral obsequies of the Brahmans are usually performed.

Early the next morning I requested Bahiru Pandit to fix a time for Sir Charles Malet's Munshi to wait upon him with a message from me. To which he replied, that he would send me an answer after consulting the Minister Nana Fadanavis on the subject.

Nothing further passed in the course of the 28th, but early the next morning Bahiru Pandit desired the Munshi to call upon him, which he accordingly did, and delivered a message from me to the following purport, in the mode and terms of which I endeavoured to blend frankness





and sincerity with delicacy towards Nána, influenced thereto by a consideration of the liberal spirit of our institution, the treaties and long and close friendship between the Company and the Maráthás, and the peculiar and important situation that Nána has held for so many years past in this Government:—

‘That ever since the unfortunate accident had happened to the Peshwa I had, in the most unreserved and sincere manner, made a tender of every service in my power, both political and medical, as well on the part of my Government as of Sir Charles Malet and myself; and though the Minister had not been pleased to avail himself thereof, it made not any difference; that I could now assure him that even the death of the Peshwa, which had subsequently happened, would not affect the treaties and friendship that had so long and so happily for both Governments subsisted between the Company and the Marátha State, and in which he (the Minister) had borne so conspicuous a part; that from the state of the connection between the two Governments I trusted he (the Minister) would unreservedly advise me, for the information of my superiors, of the measures that might be now adopted here, in particular, with regard to the succession; that I also begged to be informed of the ceremonies of mourning and condolence that were usual and proper on such occasions as the present, that I might conform myself thereto; that as in the present critical state of affairs Sir Charles Malet might probably be anxious to resume his situation here as soon as possible, it was my wish and intention to post four horses for him in the road between this and Bombay to promote and facilitate the expedition of his journey hither.’

Bahiru Pandit merely observed that he would consult the Minister on the above. To which he added, in reply to my personal enquiries to himself, that the succession was not yet settled; that Parashurám Bhau was expected here every hour; and that he believed Raghoji Bhonsla and Davlatráv Sindia were also summoned and would be here soon.

Bájráv’s claims to the succession will be found in the enclosed copy of my letter of yesterday to Major Roberts, as well as in some of my late addresses to you, Hon’ble Sir, to which it seems to me, from present appearances may be added, that his cause is popular on the Marátha Empire. There is, however, an idea very prevalent here that Nána (whose influence on the state is too well known to render it necessary for me to dwell upon it) is disinclined to his succession and that he would wish to supplant him by some infant of the family. I have all along been aware that such a thing was possible, nay probable, from the aversion that Nána must have towards Bájráv and all his connections, and adherents, and the apprehensions that he may very reasonably entertain of the diminution of his influence in the state, if not of its total annihilation, and even for his personal freedom and life by the office of Peshwa being held by Bájráv. This idea is now strongly corroborated by the following circumstances: In the common course of things Bájráv would have been proclaimed Peshwa (as Raghunáthráv was on the death of Náráyanráv) within a few hours after the office became vacated, yet, to the present hour, the succession is confessedly not settled. Bájráv is so near to Poona that he might have been here ere now had his presence been required.

From present appearances I am inclined to think that, if Nána can obtain the sanction of Raghoji Bhonsla, Davlatráv Sindia, Parashurám Bhau, Tukoji Holkar and Ráste, he will set aside Bájráv. It is doubtful whether or not Raghoji Bhonsla and Sindia will come hither, and there is some reason to think that they and Holkar will not acquiesce in Bájráv’s being set aside; while Parashurám Bhau and Ráste will probably be with Nána on the opposite side of the question. Mádhavráv Ráste is arrived here, and his elder brother, Anandráv, is expected hourly.



I trust that Sir Charles Malet will resume his situation here before it is necessary for us to take either side of the question, or, at least, that I shall have the benefit of his orders and advice for the regulation of my conduct on the occasion.

My intercourse with town has been a good deal obstructed by the guards posted there, and at the avenues and environs, but in other respects I have not experienced the least molestation; and Nána has this morning issued orders that all people connected with this Residency shall have free ingress and egress. Every thing is hitherto quiet here; all the shops in town are shut.

There seems great reason to suppose that Nána's principal arguments against Bájiráv's succession, particularly with the great Marátha chieftains at the Grand National Council, will be drawn from the connection between that branch of the family and us. My messages since the accident of the morning of the 25th instant will probably, if he submits them to the Council, tend in some degree to baffle those arguments; and if he withholds them from their knowledge, I shall perhaps take some means of bringing them forward again.

I have not yet received any answer from Bahiru Pandit, nor have I any information of the arrival of Bájiráv, Raghoji Bhonsla, Davlatráv Sindia, or Parashurám Bháu. Chinnáji Appa, Bájiráv's only brother, is talked of for the succession. There is a report that both Bájiráv and Davlatráv are sick; but I do not believe it.

(True Extract.)

J. UHTHOFF,

Assistant."

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*Bombay Castle, 10th November 1795.*

At a Council, present:—

The Hon'ble JOHN GRIFFITH, President and Governor, and  
DANIEL SETON.

Read and approved our proceedings of the 6th instant.

Read the following letter and enclosure from the Resident at Poona:—

HON'BLE SIR,—This serves purposely to cover copy of a translation of Nána Fadanavis answer to my memorial, which, I think it of consequence, should reach the Chairman with my address of yesterday, and shall therefore be happy if it arrives with you in time to be enclosed with a copy of this in the packet.

I see no greater prospect of settlement to-day than yesterday, and have the honor to be respectfully, &c.,

C. W. MALET.

*Poona, 6th November 1795."*





*Translation of a communication made by P. JAHIRU PANDIT from a written paper to Sir CHARLES WARRE MALET'S MUNSHI, and taken by him in writing, Friday, 6th November 1795.*

Conformable to friendship you came here on learning the melancholy event of the Peshwa's death, and agreeable to cordiality you have declared the permanence of friendship and subsisting treaties. This was proper and right.

You observe, that you are desirous of the happy settlement of this State. This is proper, and becoming friends. And you observe, that you are apprehensive lest in this interval of the absence of a head, any error of conduct should escape you, in prevention of which, you request a line of conduct may be furnished you thereby to regulate your intercourse. The widow (late Peshwa's) is head (Khavand) and the absolute Minister, also the mighty Chiefs of this State through whom, and by whose signature, the treaties were executed. The strength of friendship and of treaties is current.

Therefore there appears no occasion to admit any apprehension in your breast. The friendship and covenants that subsist between the two States are firm and permanent. You should on no account admit any doubts in your breast.

Whatever shall be resolved on by my counsels and the mighty chieftains, shall with friendly cordiality be communicated by this State.

The Governor General will, according to friendship, be anxious; therefore, writing him this communication, set him at ease.

That you may be relieved from anxiety, you shall be informed of what is resolved on, and you will write it to the Governor General.

That at such a time, disregarding all attention to indisposition and other inconveniences, you should have returned here, the time allows not to particularize my satisfaction, with which my heart is filled. But the friendship of friends, which is from the heart, is from this evident to my eyes and my heart, how can it be written, or spoken! This is becoming friends.

(True Translation.)

J. UHTHOFF,

Assistant.

*Bombay Castle, 5th December 1796.*

At a Council, present:

The Hon'ble JONATHAN DUNCAN, Esq., President and Governor.

STEPHEN WHITEHILL and JOHN SPENCER.

Read and approved our proceedings of the 30th ultimo.





## MARÁTHA AFFAIRS.

Read the two following letters from the Assistant at Poona:—

“To

THE HON'BLE JONATHAN DUNCAN, ESQUIRE.,  
Governor of Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR,—On the 26th instant Bájiráv had a meeting with all the Chiefs in this quarter; and at a visit which I paid to Nána Fadanavis on the 27th he assured me in person, in the most solemn manner, that Bájiráv was to be Peshwa.

I have the honor to be respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

J. UETHOFF.

Assistant.

“Poona 29th November 1796.”

*Extract of a letter from the ASSISTANT to the RESIDENT at Poona to the GOVERNOR GENERAL, dated 5th December 1796, regarding the investiture of Bájiráv as Peshwa.*

“On the 3rd instant Nána Fadanavis paid a visit to Tukoji, and in the morning of the 4th Davlatráv Sindia visited Nána, who at noon proceeded to Bájiráv's camp (which moved that morning three or four miles to Hurrupseer, though not nearer to Poona than before), and after eating with the three Princes retired to Appa Balvant's tent. In the afternoon Abbe Selokar arrived from Sátára with the insignia of Peshwaship from the Rája, with which Bájiráv was invested about midnight.

Chimna Appa, Amrutráv, Nána Fadanavis, Bába Fadkia, and many of the immediate civil officers and servants of the Government were present at the ceremony, but neither Rághoji Bhonsla, Davlatráv Sindia, Azim-ul-Omra, Holkar, nor the Mánkaris. It was expected that these Chiefs will pay their respects in person to Bájiráv. In the course of this day or tomorrow, I am informed, but cannot yet vouch for it, that Chimna Appa is to hold the office of Diván to the Peshwa, and Amrutráv that of Bakshi, and that Nána is to be Naib to the former, and Bába Fadkia to the latter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. UETHOFF,

Assistant.”

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# THE SECOND MARATHA WAR.





## THE SECOND MARATHA WAR.

*Bombay Castle, 12th November 1802.*

At a Council, present:

The Hon'ble JONATHAN DUNCAN, President and Governor.

JOHN HECTOR CHERRY, AND THOMAS LECHMERE.

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Read and approved our proceedings of the 5th instant.

In order to convey to the Hon'ble Court of Directors the fullest information in the power of this Government respecting the threatened revolution at Poona, which may be productive of consequences very material to the future interests of the Hon'ble Company, the Governor here records a series of letters he has since the 18th ultimo received on this subject from the Resident at Poona, which although written in the form of private communications, are entirely on public business, and as such cannot be better disposed of than by being committed to the secret records of this Government:—

"HON'BLE SIR,—I have this moment received your obliging note conveying the late news from Europe. Yashvantráv Holkar and Fattesing Máné have formed a junction at a spot about 15 kos from hence near to the Hyderabad road, and some of their stragglers have lately stopped and plundered a few of my dák runners, but without taking their packets.

As the Hyderabad route may be thus infested for some time, I would recommend that all your despatches for Bengal by this route, should be forwarded in duplicate; the latter copy to be sent by Cannanore; and Madras boats at this season I suppose make an easy passage to the southward.

The Peshwa's troops appear to be passive since Máné defeated Nána Purandhare. Yashvantráv Holkar is likely to be joined by the Ráste and Bháu families, who have long been on enmity with the Peshwa, and are now in some strength. Sadáshiv Bháu's army is at present moving in this direction from Koregaon, meaning to take up a position a few kos from hence so as to be placed between Holkar's force and the city. The contending armies are now very numerous, and it is impossible to say how long these war fires may last. The Peshwa is endeavouring to raise contributions in the city, but as many of its inhabitants have already disappeared, his collections will probably not be considerable.

His Excellency, I find, has lately written to Sindia, I suppose relative to the movements and apparent intentions of Nágo Pant.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,

Colonel.

*Poona, 18th October 1802."*

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*Letter from the RESIDENT at Poona to the GOVERNOR and PRESIDENT, Bombay.*

HON'BLE SIR,—From the situation of things here I must request that the whole of my correspondence may be kept entirely secret.

The enclosed copy of my letter of to-day to His Excellency will explain to you the result of the action between Holkar's and Sindia's armies; the present situation and apparent intentions of the Peshwa; and the conduct I mean to pursue consistently with those intentions. To speculate at this period on what is likely to happen affecting the Poona State would be only loss of time.



THE SECOND MARÁTHA WAR.

Holkar's views are possibly large. The Peshwa is always unsteady and, it is to be feared, that at present he is not much master of his will. At all events the blow that Holkar has given to Sindia's interests and influence in the Deccan may have a favourable effect in directing the attention of Nágo Pant from Gujarát—a circumstance that will leave you much at ease to pursue the arrangements that must still be effected to secure the Gáikawár state.

Have the goodness to give a perusal of this packet to Major Malcolm and tell him that we have accounts of Mr. Lovitts having reached Koorkun, 20 kos from hence, and that I trust we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing him.

If Captain Young has not left Bombay, it is proper that he should defer his visit to us.

I have, &c.,  
B. CLOSE,  
Colonel.

Poona, 20th October 1802.

*Letter from the RESIDENT at Poona to His Excellency the Most Noble Marquis WELLINGTON, K.P.,  
Governor General at Fort William.*

MY LORD,—The action of yesterday, between Holkar's army and that under Sadáshiv Bháu, commenced with a warm cannonade about half-past nine, and lasted with great vigour till twelve, when the cavalry of the former chieftain having made a general charge repelled the cavalry of the enemy, and cutting in upon the line of infantry obtained a complete victory. Holkar became master of the whole of Sindia's baggage, guns, and stores; and of the four European officers who served with Sindia's infantry three are taken wounded, the fourth appears to be missing. The senior European officer of Holkar's infantry was killed by a cannon shot towards the close of the action.

Sadáshiv Bháu is supposed to have escaped with a part of his horse, but what direction he has taken is not known. Báláji Kunjar, Nimbáji Bháskar, Sindia's Vakil, and a few other Sardárs who were in the action have joined the Peshwa. At about 4 o'clock a part of Holkar's horse pursuing the enemy, came within cannon shot of the city, but soon retired, and by 6 o'clock his troops having reassembled encamped a little beyond the field of action. About noon I sent a letter to him requesting that he would not permit his troops to molest any person belonging to the Residency, and although his Pendhárís approached our dwellings frequently in the course of the evening, they showed no disposition to be irregular or troublesome; and I have since learnt that on receiving my letter Holkar gave directions to some of his horse to watch the Residency and permit no person to disturb it.

At the close of the action the Peshwa retired toward Sinhgad, situated south-east of the city, and since then he has continued to correspond with Raghunáthráv, who remains with me. By a letter received from His Highness this morning, dated last night, he was near Sinhgad, having it in mind to pursue his march to the Konkan. By his own account he is attended by the principal persons of his Government, and about 7,000 horse, a few infantry and five guns. I have recommended to him not to tarry, but to hasten his march, and seizing the Gháts above Mahád secure his communication with the sea. He seemed anxious about my situation and desirous that I should retire to Bombay. On this point I have satisfied him, adding that I should lose no time in opening a communication with him in the low country. This plan, if executed, will doubtless, answer well; but by intelligence received this morning from the city it would appear that the party of cavalry with His Highness is but small, and that Holkar has detached different bodies of horse to intercept his march.





The city has suffered less than might have been expected. It is in charge of Aba Kália, a commandant of infantry belonging to the Peshwa. A few of Holkar's Pendhâris made their way into some of the streets yesterday evening, but they were soon recalled by that chieftain, who has assured Kália, that it is not his intention to disturb the city, but to save it from being molested.

Under this moderate plan of proceeding it is difficult to ascertain what system or measures Holkar means to pursue. He has carried his first object in the destruction of Sindia's army, and being now without an opponent on this side of the Narbada, he might proceed immediately on the intention which has long been ascribed to him, that of placing Amrutráv's son upon the masnad and making the father Diván. It is said that he has sent messages to the Peshwa soliciting him to return to his capital; and whatever intentions he may harbour respecting Amrutráv, nothing seems to indicate that the latter has made any arrangement for approaching in this direction. Much must, no doubt, turn upon the resolution and movements of the Peshwa, of which I shall endeavour to keep your Lordship regularly informed. The principal characters near his person, it is to be apprehended, are still averse to his improving his connection with the Company, and this circumstance may seriously obstruct his inclinations. I have informed Holkar of my intention to return to Bombay conformable to the instructions of my superiors; and requested of him to enjoin his troops to continue to behave in a friendly manner to me on the march.

I have, &c.,  
B. CLOSE,  
Colonel.

Poona, 26th October 1802.

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Bombay Castle, 12th November 1802.

Two agents on the part of His Highness the Peshwa, by name Náro Pant and Bápujiráv, having arrived at this Presidency on the 4th instant, charged, as they stated on their landing, with a letter from His Highness to the Governor, and an opportunity having thereon been afforded to them of presenting the said letter, these agents accordingly delivered to the President, that, of which a translation is annexed, bearing date the 30th ultimo, at which period His Highness was said by those persons to be at a place called Barwári, distant about 9 kos from Mahád, attended by about 10,000 horse, besides infantry that joined him daily from Poona:—

*Translation of a letter from Shrimant BAJIRÁV RAGHUNÁTH Pant Pradhán to the Hon'ble JONATHAN DUNCAN, Esquire, President and Governor of Bombay, dated 2nd Rujab, or 30th October 1802, and received the 4th November 1802.*

“ After most respectful compliments.

My servants, by name Holkar and Company, appear to have entered upon the carrying on of intrigues and misconduct portending the worst confusions, the consideration of which has prevailed on me to repair to Mahád where perhaps those disobedient servants may cause their troops to descend and prosecute base conduct towards me, the apprehension of which much alarms me. I have therefore resolved to seek an asylum with your Honor, on condition that should any of those rebels demand my person from your Honor it be positively denied, nor must your Honor tell me to go; and should these propositions meet with your Honor's approbation, provisions are to be made by you for my expenses, and at any time when my inclination may lead me to quit your place, no hindrance is to be put to my doing so.



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In the event of my receiving your Honor's letter agreeing to these terms, under your seal and signature, and that in the meantime the subsisting contest should not have been amicably adjusted, I will then proceed into your Government, where on our meeting, your Honor will judge of my case.

The circumstances of my late father Dáda Sáheb having gone to Bombay and Surat are well known to your Honor; in memory of which ties of friendship, be pleased to send me as soon as possible your Honor's letter.

To avoid the difficulty of procuring sea conveyance at such a critical juncture, be pleased to furnish large armed vessels, well equipped with warlike stores, &c., and order them to be ready in the harbour of Mahád, together with an English gentleman of a courteous disposition, courageous in his nature, and who will act conformably to my pleasure. For further particulars on this head I refer your Honor to the bearer of this, Náro Govind Anvetty, with whom the fighting ships are to be forwarded, that I may avail myself of the means they will afford, to bring me to you in safety whenever events may render it necessary.

What can I write more?"

The Peshwa's Vakil at the same time produced the original of the paper, of which the annexed is a translation, and it is accordingly entered as a proper accompaniment to His Highness's letter to the Governor:—

*Translation of a note to the Shrimant BAJIRAV RAGHUNATH from Colonel Close, Resident at Poona, and produced at Bombay 4th November 1802.*

"After compliments.

You will cross the Ghát and pursue the best of your way to the sea-shore.

Be on your guard in passing through the Ghát and I will proceed myself conformable to the orders of my superiors, and will act afterwards accordingly.

Be watchful always against evil.

B. CLOSE,  
Colonel."

To assist Government in judging of the measures which it might be advisable to pursue in consequence of the receipt of the letter above recorded, the Governor availed himself of the presence here of Major Malcolm, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General, to address to that officer the following letter, to which his answer having been received, is likewise thereafter recorded:—

*Letter from the GOVERNOR in COUNCIL, Bombay, to Major MALCOLM.*

"MY DEAR SIR,—In consequence of the receipt of the accompanying letter from His Highness the Peshwa followed by that from the Resident at Poona, together with its enclosure and several persons' communications on the same subject, I request that, in consideration to the fuller degree in which from your situation you must be apprised of all the views of His Excellency in respect to the subjects therein treated of, you will be so good as to favour me with your detailed sentiments, on the conduct that ought to be pursued by the administration of this Presidency in the promotion of the objects of the Supreme Government relative to the several delicate and important points which we are thus called upon to take part in without there being time for a further reference to his Lordship for his sentiments.

*Bombay, 5th November 1802.*

I am, &c.,  
J. DUNCAN."





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*Letter from Major MALCOLM to the GOVERNOR in COUNCIL, Bombay.*

HON'BLE SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, with the accompanying papers: I am too sensible of the nature of the circumstances under which you are placed, to hesitate one moment in giving the opinion which you have required; and I shall be most happy if that opinion is such as to assist you in forming your judgment on the conduct to be pursued upon this critical emergency.

This present Peshwa has, ever since the year 1798, acted more like an enemy than a friend of the Company's Government; his conduct during the war with the late Sultán was not even equivocal: he was, upon that occasion, false to his engagements with the English nation, and had policy dictated justice would have warranted the severest punishment of his perfidy.

Lord Wellesley has, since the Mysore war, more than once renewed negotiations at Poona in the hopes of establishing a subsidiary treaty which would not only ensure the tranquillity of the territories of the Peshwa, but free those of the English Government, and its allies from those alarms, and consequent expensive equipments to which they must ever be subject while the Marátha Empire in the Deccan continues (as it has been for these last eight years) the theatre of contention, not only for its own armies, but for those of Hindustán.

The Peshwa has during this period pursued a weak, irresolute and jealous policy. He has constantly endeavoured, with the view of alarming the other Marátha States, to keep the negotiations with the English Government alive, and at the same time contrived, by the means of delay, intrigue and evasion, to avoid the conclusion of any positive engagement with that nation. The effect of this crooked and unmanly policy has been to reduce his power to the lowest ebb, nor can he with confidence call upon any one power in India to relieve him from his difficulties; far less can he depend on the allegiance of the great jaghírdárs of his own empire. These have lately held his authority in contempt, and most of them have taken advantage of his unsupported state to withhold from his treasury the revenues of their respective provinces, while some have even withdrawn from attendance upon his person.

In the very reduced state which he has been during this year, and from which he well knew no power but the English Government could efficiently relieve him, he has continued, until the last moment, to evade a compliance with the moderate and equitable propositions which the Governor General has offered for his acceptance; and during the period of actual negotiation upon these propositions he invited an army of Davlatráv Sindia to enter the Deccan for his support, though past experience must have made him fully aware of the incalculable evils which were likely to result to him and to his country from the adoption of so imprudent, and dangerous a measure. This recent step of the Peshwa, combined with the consideration of his unvaried policy since his accession to the masnad, convinces me that he will never enter into subsidiary engagements with the English until he is reduced to a state in which he dreads either the loss of his life or of his liberty, and cannot indulge a hope of being extricated by any other powers; in such a situation he appears at this moment, and the consequences have been his offering his seal to a general engagement with Colonel Close, and his writing the letter which you have received.

It will be necessary, before I offer my opinion on the measures, which it appears most politic to pursue on the present emergency, to advert to the urgency which there appears at this moment for concluding a subsidiary alliance with the Peshwa; as by that urgency must be determined the degree of risk which it is politic to encounter in pursuit of that subject.

It would be superfluous to state to you, who are so familiar with the subject, the original causes which made Lord Wellesley so anxious to form a subsidiary treaty with the Court of





Poona. The increase of strength and stability, which that measure when accomplished would obviously give to the English in India, would enable that State to command the peace of the Peninsula; which under their paramount influence and power would be no longer subject to those evils which spring from the rapacious habits, the irregular ambition and the unsteady tyranny of its present ruler.

The original causes which led Lord Wellesley to seek this alliance exist, as far as I am able to judge, in as full force as they have been at any period since the commencement of the negotiation; and there appears to me at the present moment to be two strong additional reasons for increasing our endeavours to bring this desirable arrangement to a speedy conclusion. The first of these is, the late peace in Europe, which opens a scene for intrigues in India, against which it is the duty of the English Government to take early precautions. The second is, the recent events at Poona, which in my opinion cannot fail of bringing Sindia across the Narbada, and covering the Marátha provinces in the Deccan with hordes of banditti who must soon exhaust that already desolate country, and be forced by necessity, if not invited by policy, to invade either the territory of the English Government or that of its allies.

From what has been stated, we may certainly infer, that the forming a subsidiary alliance is at this moment an object of sufficient magnitude to justify a considerable risk being incurred for its attainment.

The Peshwa's general agreement given to Colonel Close appears from that officer's private letter to you, under date the 2nd instant, to be in reference to the Governor General; it is therefore unnecessary to remark farther upon that document, than to observe that his affixing his seal to such a paper is a much greater advance towards the conclusion of a treaty than he has yet made; and proves that he left Poona in a more favourable disposition to cultivate the alliance of the English than he has ever evinced since his accession to the masnad. This circumstance is fully confirmed by the tenor of Colonel Close's letter, and by the note in the Marátha language which Colonel Close wrote to the Peshwa after that Prince left Poona; and which has been since forwarded to you by the Peshwa, for the purpose no doubt of proving, that he was on the best of terms with the British Resident at the time of his departure from his capital. From Colonel Close's letters to the Governor General, under date the 26th ultimo, he evidently expects that the result of the Peshwa's difficulties may be favourable to the English; and he appears convinced, from his letter to the Governor General of the 30th, that the Peshwa will never trust himself in the power of Holkar; and he expresses an opinion in a memorandum, under date the 1st instant, that the latter Chief, if he fails in his first object, that of obtaining possession of the person of the Peshwa, may show himself willing to accommodate with the Peshwa on terms not inconsistent with that Prince's interests, nor with those of the Hon'ble Company.

This opinion of Colonel Close's rests upon two grounds; *first*, the despair of that Chief from the backwardness of Amrutráv and other causes to effect a revolution favourable to his views at Poona; and *second*, the necessity which he will probably be under of leaving that city at an early date to counteract the operations of Sindia, who, it cannot be supposed, will resign, without a struggle, his power in the Deccan, and whose defeated troops are already reassembling in the hopes of his arrival.

Your answer to the Peshwa's letter should, in my opinion, be given with a reference to all the considerations I have stated; and the measures you adopt should be taken, as far as I can judge, more with a view to forward the accomplishment of the pending negotiation than to those ancient ties of friendship to which His Highness alludes in his last letter, but to which his past conduct gives him little right to appeal.





His Highness in his letter first declares his intention to seek an asylum in the Company's territories should Holkar send a force to the place where he has taken refuge. He requests as the next condition, that he may not be given up to his enemies if he is reduced to take such an asylum. He wishes also that a provision should be made for his expenses; and that he be promised permission to quit the Company's territories whenever he wishes it. After having received your seal and signature to these conditions, it is, he declares, his intention, should the existing contest (between him and his servants) not be amicably adjusted, to seek protection from the English Government; and he desires that armed vessels may be sent to the port of Mahád with a view of obviating the difficulties which may be expected to prevent his obtaining sea conveyance at a moment of emergency.

The Peshwa in writing this letter had probably two objects in contemplation; first, that of obtaining such a marked proof of intended support from the English Government as would alarm Holkar into a favourable settlement, and perhaps induce that Chief to agree to leave Poona; secondly, the securing, under the worst possible event which could occur, a safe retreat for himself and family to Bombay, under circumstances which would leave him at liberty to retrieve his fortunes if ever opportunity occurred.

If the Peshwa had not signed an agreement with Colonel Close the present case would admit of little consideration, for although the humanity and magnanimity of the British nation might forbid an asylum being denied to an unfortunate Prince, little attention could be paid to a string of conditions which were framed for the exclusive benefit of the refugee, and held out no advantage whatever to balance the risk incurred by the State which granted him protection.

It was supposed that the Peshwa would have been forced by Sindia in the year 1798 to a situation of equal distress as that he is now in; and the Governor General in his letter, under date the 9th of August 1798, to the Resident at Poona, authorizes him, should the Peshwa have acceded to the propositions contained in his Lordship's letter of 8th of July 1798, to offer that Prince an asylum at Bombay, with every assurance of efficient protection; but the very terms in which that letter is expressed imply that the protection offered was to be considered as the rewards of the Peshwa's conduct in assenting to propositions calculated to promote the interests of the English nation.

Had the Peshwa consented to the propositions made to him by the Governor General through Colonel Close the circumstances would have been so similar to those which were provided for in 1798, that this Government would, in my opinion, have been fully warranted in acting on the spirit of the instructions which they received in that year; but as in the present instance it appears, that he has only affixed his seal to a general preliminary agreement, of which no details are yet adjusted, the case is certainly very distinct, and though this act entitles him to some consideration, it might be wrong, without farther information from Colonel Close, to anticipate the approbation of the Governor General to the agreement offered, so far as to take measures, which would tend to extricate the Peshwa from his difficulties, as on his continuance in them, his assent to the propositions of Lord Wellesley may probably depend.

Under these circumstances, the line to be pursued by this Government would appear extremely delicate; it should combine, as far as I can judge, such an attention, to the Peshwa as could give him no possible cause to complain of boldness or want of cordiality, with as much reserve, both in words and actions, as can be used consistent with the observation of the laws of friendship upon this urgent occasion.

This line appears only necessary to be pursued until advices are received from Colonel Close, to whom the Peshwa's letter, and your answer should be forwarded by express; and that





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## THE SECOND MARÁTHA WAR.

officer will no doubt from his better knowledge of the sentiments of the Governor General, to all of whose instructions relating to the subject he can have immediate reference; from his information respecting the real temper of the Peshwa and of Holkar, and of all the circumstances which attended the recent engagement given by the Peshwa, be able to give an opinion which will regulate your conduct in all future measures connected with this important point. As delaying, however, to notice a letter upon so exigent a subject as that which the Peshwa has written upon, would be liable to much misconstruction, I would recommend an answer to be sent immediately to the following substance:—

To inform him, in the first instance, that all political arrangements rested (as he must know) with the Governor General; that you had not power unless under His Excellency's special instructions to conclude any conditions of a political nature whatever; that all power to negotiate with the Peshwa vested in Colonel Close, the accredited agent of the Governor General at the Court of Poona; that the Government of Bombay would always have a pleasure in treating with respect and attention a Prince of his exalted rank who was in alliance with the British nation; that a vessel was sent to the river of Bánkot which should be at His Highness's service if required; that others would be sent if it appeared necessary, but that God forbid His Highness should be reduced to the extreme to which he alluded in his letter. The commanding officer at Bánkot, he might be informed, would be directed to receive such commands as His Highness chose to give, and to forward such communications as he desired to make to Bombay.

A letter couched in terms similar to the above would, I should conceive, be productive of no bad consequences; and a vessel of some strength, under secret orders, should proceed immediately, while at least one more should be prepared, but not sail until an answer is received from Colonel Close. The arrival of a vessel at Bánkot would be to the Peshwa a conclusive proof of the friendship of the English Government. It will, in the event of extremities, present the only means of saving that Prince from falling into the hands of his enemies, as there does not appear from the information I have received to be any garrison or defences at Bánkot which could ensure that asylum (if the Peshwa fled to it) being respected for a moment; and his person being seized within the English territories would assuredly be felt as an insult by that nation.

This measure, as it evidently secured the Peshwa's retreat, might also have a favourable operation in inducing Holkar to negotiate, as Colonel Close has expressed his opinion, that it was not unlikely, that Chief when he despaired of getting possession of His Highness's person, would come to an accommodation neither inconsistent with the interests of the Peshwa nor those of the Company. Colonel Close has in one of his letters expressed his opinion that the Peshwa should retain his present position as long as possible, and no doubt this opinion is founded on considerations intimately connected with the pending negotiations with that Prince, and any measure would be unadvisable which could tend to defeat the objects which we may suppose the Colonel to have in view from the expression of this wish; but I cannot imagine that these objects are likely to be counteracted in the smallest degree by the sending of a vessel to Bánkot under such circumstances as those which I have stated.

The letter I have proposed to be written to the Peshwa, though of a friendly, is not of an encouraging nature, and that Prince will never fly to Bombay on the authority of such a document, unless he imagines his life or his liberty to be in immediate and imminent danger; and there is ample reason to conclude from the general tenor of Colonel Close's late letters that he is most solicitous about the person of the Peshwa being preserved from either restraint or injury.





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The only evil that I can think likely to arise from the adoption of this measure is the relief which it may bring to the Peshwa, and the advantage which it may give him in treating for the restoration of his authority before he has conceded those points which may be required by the English Government as the price of their support; but this consideration of a possible event should not, I think, for one moment prevent this step being taken, if it appears eligible upon the grounds I have already stated.

A copy of the Peswa's letter to you and of your answer should, I think, be sent to the Commanding Officer at Bānkot; and he should be instructed not to refuse an asylum in the Company's territories to the Peshwa if it was solicited, and to give him a conveyance to Bombay if such was required, but not to make any offer of that nature, and not even to mention, unless expressly questioned, that he had any such orders, and until he received further instructions to avoid all communications that were not general with the Peshwa and his adherents; observing, however, to treat the former in any communications he might have with respect, and the latter, as he had been previously directed, with kindness and attention.

Should the Peshwa actually repair to Bombay, which I cannot but think very improbable, his rank will demand his being received with every honor and attention. The mode in which he is hereafter to be considered, will remain to be decided by the Governor General, who, I should suppose, would be able to derive very considerable political advantages from the occurrence of these events under such circumstances.

I have stated, as fully as the few hours I have had to answer your letter would admit, my sentiments upon this important subject; and I shall be sincerely happy if I have been able to throw any lights upon the point in question which can tend to guide your judgment on so important an occasion.

I have, &c.,  
J. MALCOLM.

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*Bombay Casile, 12th November 1802.*

After full and mature consideration of the whole of the above papers the following answer was written by the President, with the concurrence of the Board, to His Highness the Peshwa:—

*Letter from the GOVERNOR of BOMBAY to PESHWA.*

“I have had the honor of receiving your Highness's letter, under date the 2nd Rujub, stating that your servants by name Holkar, &c., appear to have entered on intrigues portending the worst confusions, the consideration of which has prevailed in you to repair to Mahād, where perhaps those disobedient servants may cause the troops to descend and prosecute base conduct towards you, the apprehension of which much alarming you, you have therefore resolved to seek an asylum at this place, with other particulars which I have fully understood.

It is well known to your Highness that all political arrangements are conducted by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General from Bengal, and that otherwise than under his instructions, or subject to his approbation, no conditions under my seal and signature would be binding on the British nation in India; besides which there is the less occasion for such forms in the present instance, as His Excellency has his own immediate representative at Poona in the person of Colonel Close, from whom your Highness has no doubt become acquainted with His Excellency's sentiments. The Government of Bombay will, however, have a pleasure



on all occasions in treating your Highness with the respect and attention due to a Prince of the exalted rank of your Highness, who is also an ally of the British nation, in consideration to which a large vessel of strength will be sent as required by your Highness, and others will follow if necessary. This vessel and her commander, who is a good and discreet man, are placed under the orders of Captain Kennedy, who is in charge of the Company's villages, and in command of the troops under the division of Bámkot which adjoins the Mahád. He will receive any commands or communications which your Highness may think fit to make to him. What more can I say, but by expressing my wish that your Highness may consult your real interest by sedulously cultivating and seeking to improve alliance with your true friends the English.—Dated the 5th November 1802."

The following instructions were at the same time written and despatched by express to the Resident at Bámkot, whilst copies of the whole of these proceedings were in like manner forwarded on the same evening by the President to the Resident at Poona with the following letter; the Board thereon determining to despatch the Hon'ble Company's extra ship "Herculean" to Bámkot for the purpose indicated in those papers as soon as that vessel could be prepared for sea, having then only just imported with troops from Surat:—

*Letter from the SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, Bombay, to Captain M. KENNEDY, Acting Resident at Fort Victoria.*

"SIR,—I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant and thus confidentially to transmit to you the enclosed copy of the translation of a letter received last night from His Highness the Peshwa, and one of the answer to it of this date; in pursuance of the communications contained in the latter of which you are to be implicitly guided.

2. The Hon'ble Company's extra ship "Herculean", Captain Butler, will accordingly be despatched to Bámkot with secret orders to her Commander to consider himself as under your immediate guidance and orders; and should His Highness the Peshwa therein seek an asylum at Bámkot, or desire to embark on that ship, you are to afford to him the protection of the Company by observing all suitable attention to His Highness and by facilitating his embarkation should he express a wish to that effect, for the purpose of being conveyed to Bombay.

3. You are not to inform His Highness of your having received any such orders as those now transmitted unless he desires to be conveyed to Bombay; and you will take care, though respectful in your communications to the Peshwa and attentive, as before directed, to his adherents, not to go beyond general assurances of friendship till you receive further orders, which may probably be sent to you in a few days; but this general caution is not of course to affect that part of the preceding instructions requiring you to afford an asylum to the Peshwa either by land or by sea in the event of his desiring to have recourse to either; at the same time that it is the opinion of this Government that he should maintain his present position to the latest possible moment.

4. You have been already advised the amount of treasure ordered to be consigned to you by the Military Pay Master General from the Presidency for your bullock purchases, in addition to which the Governor in Council authorizes you to raise, on the Company's account, the five or six thousand rupees mentioned in your letter of the 1st instant as procurable at Bámkot at the rate of interest therein also specified.

I am, &c.,

J. A. GRANT,

Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 5th November 1802."*





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*Letter from Captain KENNEDY to the GOVERNOR in COUNCIL, regarding the Peshwa's movements.*

"HON'BLE SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I have just received a letter from Dásgaon mentioning that the Peshwa, his brother Chinnáji Appa, and Báláji Kunjar arrived at Mahád yesterday evening. The Killedár of Suverndurg would not, I hear, receive their families into the fort, as from the unsettled state of the empire he did not know who was to be at the head of it; so that they will, it is supposed, return to Mahád. It is likewise reported that the Killedárs of Sinhgad and Raigad have refused to admit the Peshwa into their forts from the same cause; and as it is not unlikely that Holkar will make an attempt on the latter place to liberate the widow of Mádhavráv, I would not be at all surprised if the Peshwa and his friends are finally obliged to throw themselves on our protection.

In the event of such a circumstance taking place, may I beg, hon'ble Sir, your instructions on so delicate and unfortunate an occurrence.

I have hitherto been detained from going to Dásgaon on the business of the cattle, preparing the different accounts for this month, civil and military, for the several public officers at Bombay; but I hope to set off to-night, or very early to-morrow. I understand I could get five or six thousand rupees here on the Company's account at the rate of nine per cent.; but without your orders I cannot of course take up a rupee upon any condition whatever. May I beg, hon'ble Sir, that the sum I mentioned, or any part of it you think proper, be sent down immediately in silver if possible.

I have, &c.,  
M. KENNEDY.

*Fort Victoria, 1st November 1802, 9 A.M."*

*Bombay Castle, 8th November 1802.*

The Governor delivered on the forenoon of the 7th to the Peshwa's Agents his letter in reply to that from their master, intending that they should take their passage on a boat that was already engaged to carry some treasure to Bántot. On receiving their *Kharita* they pointedly asked whether the Governor had specifically replied to the Peshwa's several propositions, to which a general answer was given, that the Peshwa would, after duly considering the terms of the answer that had been delivered to them, act thereon as to His Highness should seem meet; and this they appeared to view as placing the matter on a proper footing; and took their leave after receiving a single line of introduction to Captain Kennedy, that he might know them to be the persons alluded to.

Recorded, also, the following further minute by the Governor:—

*President's Minute.*

"As in conversing with the Peshwa's Vakils this evening they appeared rather impatient, under the length of time they had staid here, I intimated to them that the delay was occasioned by my waiting to hear further from Colonel Close, the British Resident at Poona, who, thinking with the Peshwa, that His Highness ought not to leave his present position and still less his country, if he could possibly maintain his footing in it, was using his endeavours through Raghunáthráv whom the Colonel had first secretly removed from Poona to Mahád, and such other means as he could pursue at Poona to promote this object, wherefore this Government wished to learn (as I hoped it might in all) to-morrow the result of the operations thus in progress before it despatches any vessel; but that otherwise my own and Colonel Close's views were altogether for the Peshwa's advantage, citing as some proof thereof the orders this day issued on the application from the Subhedár of Bassein; and upon the whole the Vakils expecting

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to get their answer to-morrow and to be despatched the day after, took their leave, sufficiently impressed to all appearances with our having no other objects but what were entirely consistent with our professions as the allies and real friends of their master.

J. DUNCAN."

*Bambay Castle, 12th November 1802.*

Recorded the following letter received on the afternoon of 9th instant, from the Resident at Poona:—

"To

THE HON'BLE JONATHAN DUNCAN, ESQUIRE,  
Governor, &c., &c.,  
Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR,—I have received your packet of the 5th instant and intimated its receipt with a short abstract of its contents to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General.

I had formerly the honor to mention that Holkar had it apparently in view to effect a revolution in the Poona State in favour of Amrutráv. This person is this moment arrived from Junnar, being received by Holkar with great honors. Of their future proceedings I shall endeavour to keep you regularly informed.

I am happy to hear of the steps you have taken, in compliance with the Peshwa's request, as in every event the safety of His Highness's person should be carefully attended to; but I continue of opinion that it may be most convenient for the public interests if His Highness can manage without running too great hazard to remain in his own territory till instructions shall be received from the Most Noble the Governor General.

I beg to repeat, that in the event of a revolution being attempted here, care should be taken to secure Gujarát and the Peshwa's interests in that quarter.

I have, &c.,  
B. CLOSE,  
Resident at Poona.

*Poona, 7th November 1802."*

Recorded the two following letters from the Resident at Poona:—

"DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure of writing to you yesterday, by express, that the Peshwa has certainly fled to Mahád or Raigad and Holkar rules here; he has desired me not to move from here, and in consequence the situation of the Residency is become delicate. I wrote to the Governor General to-day explaining matters fully. When you write to me let your letter be in cipher.

*Poona, 29th October 1802.*

I remain, &c.,  
B. CLOSE.





## THE SECOND MARÁTHA WAR.

*Letter from Colonel CLOSE to His Excellency the Most Noble Marquess WELLESLEY, K.P., Governor  
General in Council at Fort William.*

MY LORD,—Amrutráv arriving here on the 7th instant took up his residence at the Toph Khanah on the skirt of the city. He was received with great honors by Holkar, who did him obeisance as his lord; and the Berár and Hyderabad Vakils paid him the compliment of advancing some distance as he approached. On alighting near the Toph Khanah, a despatch was delivered to him from the Peshwa, to which it is said he has forwarded a reply. The adherents of the late Nána collect round him every hour. Moroba Fadanavis and Bába Fadkia seem to be most in his confidence. He corresponds with the Killedár of Loghad, and it is probable that he will soon be joined by Chuckardey who formerly acted as Nána's principal Gumásta. He was, yesterday, visited by Yashvantráv Holkar, and there is reason to believe that their view is, if possible, to get possession of the Peshwa's person, place him in confinement, and then establish such arrangements as that the civil business of the State shall be conducted by Amrutráv and the command of the forces held by Holkar on this place. It would appear Holkar has summoned the principal Jágírdárs under the Poona Government to repair to his camp, and employed emissaries to corrupt the Peshwa's garrisons in the different forts and the troops near His Highness's person and the individuals principally in his confidence; the garrison of Raigad in the Konkan has already proved treacherous, and in consequence the widow of Savái Mádhavráv and one of the Rástia family are likely to be liberated from confinement in that fort. In this case if the Peshwa eludes the means used to entrap him, Holkar will probably pursue the scheme of giving Amrutráv's son in adoption to the widow, place the boy on the masnad, and make his father Diván.

But whatever measures he may pursue for completing a revolution, he must be subject to a severe pressure at present from want of cash, and be aware that Sindia will soon make an effort to assist the Peshwa and retrieve the expectation of his arms. From the first difficulty he may possibly be relieved by supplies of cash from some of Nana's adherents, and to enable him to meet the opposition of Sindia he will probably look to the co-operation of the Rája of Berár.

The situation and movements of the Peshwa, will, henceforward, be best communicated to your Lordship by the hon'ble the Governor of Bombay. It is still imagined here that His Highness is wholly guided by Sindia's Vakils, who give him promises of support, and that should he be induced to embark, it will be with the intention of proceeding to Surat, from whence to join Sindia, and indeed this idea is supported in some degree by the tenor of his letter to Mr. Duncan, in which he takes no notice of his proceedings with me. If His Highness should be obliged to embark at this time, the forts in the Konkan will fall into the hands of his opponents with the exception of a few which may be held by the respective Killedárs till they shall have the means of judging how the present contest is likely to terminate.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter which I forward by this conveyance to Major Kirkpatrick.

I have not received any intimation from Amrutráv since his arrival.

I have, &c.,  
B. CLOSE.

Poona, 9th November 1802.

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*Letter from Colonel CLOSE to the GOVERNOR in COUNCIL, Bombay.*

HON'BLE SIR,—I do myself the pleasure to enclose a copy of a letter which I have just received from Yashvantráv Holkar together with my reply, from which you will perceive





that I have now the prospect of seeing you soon at Bombay. Could you communicate this circumstance to His Highness the Peshwa without loss of time?

I remain, &c.,  
B. CLOSE.

*Poona, 10th November 1802.*

P. S.—I have just seen a letter of late date from Raghunáthráv; the Peshwa may possibly apply to you for some assistance of cash to pay the troops that are near his person, it is possible perhaps to assist him with a loan on the strength of what is due to him from the Gaikawár state. It is now of more importance than ever that the Peshwa hold his present position and not embark.

B. CLOSE.

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*Letter of 10th November 1802, from YASHVANTRÁV HOLKAR Bahadur, to Colonel BARRY CLOSE, Resident at Poona.*

I have been informed of your intention to leave this place for Bombay in the course of a few days.

Under the circumstances of sincere and thorough good understanding that subsists between us, you will not surely adopt this step without consulting me.

You must be aware of the danger that threatens you from the licentious practices of the Pindáráś and other irregular camp followers in the neighbourhood of great armies.

Should any consideration of real exigency however urge your return, permit me to suggest the propriety of our consulting, in person, upon the best modes of effecting this object, and the necessity in particular of a respectable escort which I propose to send with you.

This is what strikes me upon the occasion; at the same time you are your own master, and will best estimate the sincerity of my motives in suggesting this plan for your security and accommodation.

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*Colonel Cross's reply to the above of the same date.*

I am favoured with your kind letter of this day's date.

The fact is as you have stated. There exists a real necessity for my immediate return to Bombay. My departure however would be attended with regret were I not once more to have the satisfaction of seeing you.

Permit me therefore to request that you will name the time on which I am to experience this pleasure and that you will add to the favour by fixing on the British Residency for that purpose.

I shall feel duly sensible of this honor, and shall proceed immediately after you have so far gratified me to concert measures for my return that you will no doubt approve of. The offer of the escort I receive in the same friendly spirit that prompted it.

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*Bombay Castle, 12th November 1802.*

Ordered,—That the Secretary instruct Captain Kennedy by an express boat to be immediately despatched to cause it to be intimated to the Peshwa, with as little loss of time as possible, that Colonel Close may be daily expected at this settlement from Poona, which place he was by his advices of the 10th about to leave, Yashvantráv Holkar having assented to his departure.





In this communication from the Secretary to Captain Kennedy it is to be signifi. that, in the opinion of Colonel Close, it is now of more importance than ever, that His Hig. ness should maintain his present position as long as may be consistent with his personal safety, and that in conformity to the purport and spirit of a recommendation made to us by Colonel Clo. we have shipped on board of the Hon'ble Company's cruiser "Antelope", to the amount of tw. 00 lákhs of rupees in gold, there being no silver procurable here, and consigned the same to him, Captain Kennedy, to enable him to meet, if he judge essentially conducive for the important purpose above stated, any pressing demand which the Peshwa may make in consequence of the urgent calls of His Highness's troops on him for pay, or to prevent the defection of any of His Highness's Killedárs who may refer Captain Kennedy for a loan from the Company; in which event Captain Kennedy may advance to His Highness the whole or such part of the treasure thus despatched as may, to his own conviction, be advantageously applied by the Peshwa for either or both of the purposes above specified, upon His Highness's bond pledging the revenue accruing to him in Gujarát for the repayment of principal and interest, the latter to be fixed at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, being what the Company pay for their own loans; but, in the event of Captain Kennedy's perceiving no necessity or utility in making this advance, he is carefully to conceal all knowledge of the treasure being on board, and of course not to land it till the loan be determined on; and should the Peshwa's exigencies in view to the enabling him to resist his enemies and maintain his position where he is, require a further advance than the two lákhs now sent, Captain Kennedy is to report as speedily as possible, what further amount may be necessary and what terms or security the Peshwa may be able and willing to propose towards inducing us to a further extension of the Company's pecuniary means in His Highness's support.

In the event of the money now sent down not being wanted, the "Antelope" is to return with it at the same time with the "Herculean" and to remain in the meantime, in like manner with that vessel, under Captain Kennedy's orders, being to sail from the harbour under secret instructions to the same effect as were issued to Captain Butler.

*Letter from Colonel CLOSE to the GOVERNOR in COUNCIL, Bombay.*

HON'BLE SIR,—I had the pleasure of writing to you yesterday. I have not yet heard from Holkar. I wrote to him in reply on the 10th. Amrutráv receives regular and minute information from Bombay and the Peshwa's Darbár, and there is reason to believe that every individual near the Peshwa's person, Raghunáthráv and the two agents whom he sent to you are strongly averse to any alliance being formed between His Highness and the Hon'ble Company. Both Holkar and Amrutráv are now doubtful whether they should comply with my wish to return to Bombay; to detain me they think may bring on the most serious consequences, and to allow me to depart they apprehend may only help to facilitate the alliance which they conjecture between the Peshwa and us, and thus perplexed they seem to fluctuate in their proceedings. In this state of things you will perceive that our present course is the best that could be pursued. The Peshwa must continue to keep his ground in his own territory to the last extremity, when he may even embark for Bassein rather than for Bombay, should His Excellency's instructions not have previously arrived. The first step His Excellency will take, will, probably, be to demand of the two chieftains here permission for me to return, and should they be rash enough to detain me, one result only can be expected from such conduct. I think you are perfectly right in attending at this juncture to our interest in Gujarát.

I remain, &c.,

B. CLOSE.

Poona, 13th November 1802.



*Bombay Castle, 23rd November 1802.*

At a Council, present :

The Hon'ble JONATHAN DUNCAN, President and Governor.

JOHN HECTOR CHERY, Esq., and THOMAS LECHMERE, Esq., Members of Council.

Read and approved our proceedings of the 19th instant.

Recorded the two following letters with enclosures from the Resident at Poona as received on the evening of the 19th instant :—

“HON'BLE SIR,—I have the honor to forward for your information a copy of my public address of yesterday's date to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General, and to be &c, &c.

B. CLOSE,

Resident at Poona.

*Poona, 17th November 1802.*

“To

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE MOST NOBLE MARQUIS WELLESLEY, K.P.

Governor General, &amp;c., &amp;c.

Fort William.

MY LORD,—By this conveyance I forward to the Persian Secretary to the Government for your Lordship's notice copies of my Persian correspondence with Yashvantráv Holkar and Amrutráv.

2nd. Finding that Holkar declined answering my letter, in reply to his, wherein he assented to my return to Bombay attended by an escort from his army, and proposed to pay me a visit previous to my departure, I, on the evening of the 14th instant, sent him a few lines noticing his silence, for which I could not account, and remarking, that I was guided in all things by the orders of my superiors, who allowed no matters to pass unobserved. He sent me a reply the same night, wherein your Lordship will perceive that he avoids adverting to the proposed interview and the circumstance of my intended departure, and talks of sending for me shortly with the view to converse with me on his desire to form a written agreement of friendship with the Hon'ble Company.

3rd. Apprehending that he might have formed an idea that the mode in which I had signified my wish to receive a visit from him was not sufficiently formal, I yesterday morning sent him a note, intimating that a gentleman from the Residency should wait on him to explain my wishes on a particular point. I accordingly deputed Mr. Strachey to him in the forenoon with a message of compliment concerning the troublesome state of his wounds, and repeating my wish to have the pleasure of a visit from him as before arranged. Mr. Strachey's report of what passed on the occasion I have the honor to enclose.

4th.—In the afternoon Bápu Chitnavis waited upon me and delivered a message from Amrutráv requesting me to do him the pleasure of a visit this evening. I accepted the invitation, and Bápu Chitnavis told me that Amrutráv would take the occasion of the meeting to reply to the letter which I had sent him two days before; adding that Yashvantráv Holkar would be present at the interview.

5th.—Amrutráv is completely in charge of the city, and is regulating the different departments of the Government; every person who remained belonging to the Peshwa is removed from Office, and many of his principal servants are in confinement. A safeguard furnished by





Holkar for the protection of our dwellings was yesterday withdrawn and its place is supplied by a karkún from Amrutráv, whose troops are encamped close to the Residency.

6th.—The troops of Mirkhán and Sháhámútkhán were so troublesome two days since from want of pay that those chieftains struck their tents and began to march. Holkar, however, by promises of aid of cash persuaded them to return to their ground; but such is the want of money in his camp that disturbances amongst his troops may be daily expected: he urges Sháhámútkhán to proceed for subsistence to the Konkan, but this commander is averse to ascend the Gháts, the low country being unfavourable for cavalry.

7th.—Amrutráv still holds out that the Peshwa will be induced to return to his capital, and recommends that nothing should be done at present towards effecting a revolution. The Peshwa still corresponds with him and probably favours the above hope; but what His Highness's real intentions are it may be still difficult to determine: he must be informed of the preparations making at Ujjein and it is not impossible but he may soon explain himself to the Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay.

8th.—Amidst the confusion that reigns here, appearances vary so constantly that it may be difficult to say what event may suddenly arise. I judge it prudent, therefore, to preserve as few papers as possible relative to recent proceedings in connection with the Peshwa's Government.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,

Resident.

Poona, 16th November 1802.

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*Letter from the RESIDENT enclosing a copy of a private Despatch to his Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL.*

HON'BLE SIR,—I do myself the pleasure to enclose for your information a copy of a private despatch which I last night addressed to his Excellency the Governor General.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,

Resident.

Poona, 17th November 1802.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE MOST NOBLE MARQUIS WELLESLEY, K.P.,

Governor General, &c.,

Fort William.

MY LORD,—I judge it proper to submit to your Lordship the enclosed copy of a letter just received from an European officer in Holkar's camp. The boy of Tipu's family which it alludes to is no doubt, Karim Saheb's son who escaped from Seringapatam about sixteen months ago, and has appeared at different times in the southern provinces of the Peshwa's territory. Some parts of the intimation appear to be highly extravagant; but Holkar is capable of forming extravagant designs, and there can be no doubt but his numerous army is in circumstances of great want, and at present without the prospect of procuring relief except by invasion and plunder.





I shall send copies of the enclosure to Mr. Webbe for the information of Lord Clive; also one to the Resident at Hyderabad, and one to Mr. Duncan. It may possibly appear advisable to your Lordship that some troops should be collected in Mysore as an army of observation at least till Sindia's exertions against Holkar shall be ascertained, and till the Poona State shall be restored to some degree of tranquillity and order.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,  
Resident.

*Poona, 16th November 1802."*

MY DEAR SIR,—I am informed in profound confidence that some strange arrangements are about taking place here as soon as money can be raised for satisfying the troops. This comes from a native of my acquaintance chiefly about the person of Yashvantráv Holkar and who has an opportunity of hearing a good deal of his private sentiments, particularly when intoxicated, to which he is much addicted. There is still a pretended son or lawful branch of the late Tipu's in existence, and this Government have a claim of a very old standing, amounting to several crores of rupees, on that country, which they intended now demanding from the English by way of forming a ground for hostilities; and their determined resolution promises them a hope of being able to extirpate the whole of the English power from the Mysore and place this pretended heir on Tipu's throne, who, in return, engages to pay off all old scores and a continuance of the usual tribute whenever this arduous and enterprising task can be accomplished. The situation of these people at this moment seems to me a most desperate one, and the predicament Amrut-ráv stands in from being at the head and tail of all the mischief that has happened, appears to be the most embarrassed of any, and on the whole some violent measures must be adopted in some quarter for realizing cash to satisfy this immense army. I give you these hints to make use of in any manner that may be conducive to the interests of certain friend of yours.

N.B.—It is firmly thought that a very strong force will also be sent to Gujarát for taking possession of the whole of that country. Either during your stay here or after your departure it will afford me infinite pleasure to communicate the same with Páttankar near Kolhápur. This son of Tipu pitched his tent in our camp, remained several days, and seemed to be much distressed in circumstances. Although he kept up a large service, they were most shabbily equipped. Where he directed his route afterwards, I am unacquainted with.

(A True Copy.)

E. STRACHEY,  
Secretary.

*Bombay Castle, 23rd November 1802.*

Recorded the following letter from the officer in charge of the Residency at Bámkot with enclosure from Khanderáv Nílkant:—

"HON'BLE SIR,—I have had the honor of receiving your favour at Dásgaon on the 14th instant as I was preparing to set off for Mahád to wait on His Highness agreeable to his desire, and of which I have done myself the honor to acquaint Mr. Secretary Grant for your honor's information. In addition to what I have mentioned in my letter of the 15th instant I must beg leave to observe to your honor that I am strongly of opinion there are some disaffected people



about His Highness's person who, from either delicacy or policy, or, very likely, from inability, he does not at present feel it convenient to remove; for in a discourse respecting the necessity of supporting himself as long as he possibly could, without danger, in his present position, the way to which I pointed out to Raghunáthráv for His Highness's information, he asked if I would go to see the place I mentioned, desiring at the same time that the word Ghát should not be made use of, as there were some persons present who might understand the word, and who he did not wish should know anything of the business.

He appeared much dejected and asked, should he wish to go to any part of his own dominions on the sea-side, if the ship sent down was to attend him, and able to protect him from the black people, meaning Siddi Jumrool. I told him that your honor had sent the ship down solely for his use in the event of his being under the necessity of leaving Mahád, either for his accommodation, or if he preferred to go on board one of his own vessels, to convoy him to any part of his own dominions that His Highness might think proper to go, or even to Bombay if he pleased, and that I would answer with my life for his safety, and begged His Highness to be under no kind of apprehension on that score.

When I informed His Highness of the arrival of the grab vessels and boats with nearly four thousand troops on board he appeared quite surprised, and said he knew nothing of them. I told him I had given positive orders that none should pass until His Highness was perfectly satisfied that they were people upon whose fidelity he could rely; at which he was so much pleased that he asked me what was best to be done. I proposed writing to know who commanded the troops, and when His Highness was acquainted who he was, to direct him to his presence, if necessary, attended only by ten or twelve men, and that after examination His Highness might give such orders respecting him and the troops as he thought proper. This was agreed to, and he desired me to conduct the business. I accordingly wrote as soon as I arrived at Dásgaon, and on my coming down from that place (which I left on the 15th at night) yesterday, I received the letter which I have the honor of sending enclosed. On my arrival, I wrote, to Khanderáv Rástia (who commands) requesting to see him as I had a message to deliver him from His Highness, and I have just now been informed that he left Kelshi (where are the grabs, four in number now, and boats put in as I would not allow them to remain here) this morning with an immense *aswary* (retinue) and is gone to Mahád. I have received a note from Raghunáthráv, saying His Highness desired the commander might be sent up alone, or, at most, not allowed to take more than from ten to fifteen men with him; and in consequence I sent off a man express to acquaint His Highness that the Commander Khanderáv Rástia had left Kelshi, this morning, with upwards of three hundred attendants.

I have to beg, Hon'ble Sir, you will please cause me to be instructed whether those people are to be permitted to pass up, should His Highness require them at Mahád.

As His Highness did not mention any thing to me respecting his pecuniary wants or make any such proposal as is stated in Mr. Secretary Grant's letter of the 12th instant, I did not deem it prudent from the intent and spirit thereof to say any thing to him on the subject, so that unless I perceive very precisely an urgent occasion the treasure shall not be landed.

I should wish, however, that a copy of a bond, similar to what is mentioned, should be sent me down in the event of his making proposals for the loan; I have no person here who I could depend on to draw it out.

I have, &c.,  
M. KENNEDY.

For & Victoria, 17th November 1802."



*Bombay Castle, 23rd November 1803.*

Recorded the following further letter from the officer in charge of the Residency at Bámkot:—

“To

J. A. GRANT, ESQUIRE,

Secretary to Government,

Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council, that I arrived here on the morning of the 13th instant at 2 A.M., and that in consequence of a note I received from Raghunáthráv, stating that His Highness wished me to come to Dásgaon, as he had something which he required to send through me to Bombay, I immediately sent off his cassid, whom I brought up in the boat with me, with an answer informing him of my arrival, and readiness to receive His Highness's commands.

This Raghunáthráv, who understands and writes English, and who, he informs me, is always the medium of communication between His Highness and Colonel Close, called here yesterday. He said His Highness was made happy by the receipt of the Hon'ble the Governor's letter, by which he was informed that a large ship would be sent down for his use, and that the Vakils had told him she had arrived at Bámkot, but as they might be mistaken he requested I would let him know if it was so. I said it was, and that I got instructions by her from the Hon'ble the Governor to receive any commands or communication from His Highness that he might think proper to send me. He said they understood so. He stayed about two hours, talking of indifferent matters; the want of money, however, by His Highness was the general topic of his discourse which I carefully avoided entering upon, further than regretting the scarcity of cash everywhere just now.

I had written thus far, when I received a note from Raghunáthráv mentioning that His Highness desired to see me and I must be at Mahád by 4 o'clock. I got ready accordingly, and as I was about to leave this, I was honored with your commands under date the 12th instant, so that I had the satisfaction of personally acquainting His Highness that I had received a letter as I was leaving Dásgaon, from the Hon'ble the Governor directing me to intimate to His Highness with as little loss of time as possible that Colonel Close was daily expected at the Presidency, as from his advices of the 10th he was about to leave Poona, Yashvantráv Holkar having assented to his departure.

I also did myself the honor of signifying to him that it was Colonel Close's opinion that it was now of more importance than ever that His Highness should maintain his present position at Mahád to the latest moment with reserve to his personal safety. He required me to give him or let him see the letter in question. I told him I should send him a copy as soon as I returned to Dásgaon, which I have accordingly done, concluding at the words personal safety.

During the time I had the honor to stay with him he did not signify to me any want of cash or make such proposal as is mentioned for a loan to me, and therefore nothing was, of course, hinted at by me on the subject of the remaining part of your favor; but should he send Raghunáthráv now to me to treat for a loan from the Hon'ble Company, I beg to acquaint you for the Hon'ble the Governor's information, that I shall be in this instance as I have been in every other that has been conferred to me, entirely guided by your instructions, and the treasure shall not be landed unless such a negotiation takes place.





As I had also a report previous to my waiting on His Highness that five boats with troops on board had arrived at Bánkot from Bassein, and that two grab vessels and twenty boats more were hourly expected from the same quarter with four thousand men on board, I took occasion to mention this circumstance to him, and begged to know if it was by his commands they were come, as I had given positive orders that none of them should pass, having no kind of intelligence from Government of such a force coming into the river. He told me I acted perfectly right; that he was much pleased at the orders I had given respecting them, and desired me to send to know who commands the troops, and to direct to report himself through me to His Highness, after which he would receive instructions whether to go back or come up. I have accordingly written to that effect and ordered that they shall neither pass land until every thing respecting them is perfectly known, and that I have also orders from Government to allow them to join His Highness or not.

I have now received a letter from Captain Tucker, of the Hon'ble Company's brig "Antelope", reporting his arrival at Bánkot, and as it is necessary for me to be present at that place until I know whether those people are to be admitted to pass or not, I mean leaving this place at 4 o'clock this afternoon, by which time I expect an answer from His Highness to a letter I wrote him this morning intimating that I was going down to Bánkot, he having through Raghunáthráv desired that I might not leave the neighbourhood of Mahád without acquainting him.

I have, &c.,  
M. KENNEDY.

*Dásgaon, 15th November 1802."*

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*Letter from the RESIDENT at Poona to the GOVERNOR in COUNCIL, Bombay.*

HON'BLE SIR,—I do myself the honor to forward for your information a copy of my last addresses, No. 51, to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General.

I have, &c.,  
B. CLOSE,  
Resident.

*Poona, 19th November 1802.*

To

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE MOST NOBLE MARQUESS WELLESLEY, K.P.,

Governor General,

Fort William.

MY LORD,—Yesterday evening I visited Amrutráv agreeably to his invitation. I was accompanied by the gentlemen of the Residency, and Yashvantrávé Holkar with his principal officers was present.

2. Amrutráv received me with great politeness. After conversing for some time on topics of compliment he proposed that we should withdraw to an adjoining tent with Yeshvantrávé Holkar. We accordingly repaired thither, Mr. Strachey and Khársetji, my Pársi Accountant, also being of the party.





3. He now alluded to his ancient connection with the Hon'ble Company, detailed the names of the English gentlemen in General Goddard's time with whom he had been intimately acquainted, and expressed his hopes that a friendship of such long-standing would continue without interruption and improve. He afterwards adverted to the present situation of the Peshwa who, he said, had retired from Poona owing to the thoughtlessness of youth; that Yashvant-ráv Holkar had requested of him to adjust some claims which he had on Sindia by requiring this chieftain to deliver up young Holkar and restore to the family their jághir lands; that this request had not met with attention from the Peshwa who continued in the low country, and though urged to return, declined compliance. In such a state of things Amrutráv said he would be happy to be assisted with my advice, having great expectation from my friendship. I replied that, under the circumstances of the conjunction I had but one part to act; that I was under orders to return to Bombay, and that he and Holkar being in power here I had accordingly notified the circumstance to them, not doubting of obtaining their assent to my departure, and that I still waited for that assent that I might proceed agreeably to my instructions. Then Amrutráv addressed a few words to Yashvantráv Holkar, and afterwards turning to me observed, that the most amicable footing subsisted between them (meaning himself and party) and the Hon'ble Company, and that it would be very pleasing to him if I would remain at Poona, acquainting your Lordship that I did so at his particular solicitations. Then I referred him to his own knowledge of the strict subordination which ever holds under the British Government, and assured him that I could in no instance depart from the orders of my superiors; that were it possible for me to do so on the present occasion, it could not possibly benefit his affairs; that by his assenting cordially to my returning to Bombay your Lordship's mind would be satisfied of his amicable inclinations and be disposed to receive any communications from him with attention; but that should I be detained here any longer your Lordship would have cause of dissatisfaction, and might be led to remonstrate on the subject. Then I begged of him to reflect on the nature of such a result and the circumstances that would naturally connect with it; that proceeding to Bombay I should be particular in explaining to your Lordship the conduct he should observe in assenting cordially to my departure, and should have no objection, under so fair a course of things, to lay before your Lordship any points he might wish to represent, or any despatches he might be desirous to forward to your Lordship's address.

At this place he again adverted to the situation of the Peshwa, with whom he said he continued to communicate, and urged me with great earnestness, to omit no opportunity that might offer to use my influence with His Highness to induce him to return. In reply I observed, that your Lordship was informed of His Highness's situation and that in matters connected with His Highness's affairs, I could act only by your Lordship's instructions, but that returning to Bombay I should have no objection to convey to your Lordship his wishes on this point or any other he might be desirous to submit. He then expressed a wish to know why your Lordship had directed me to return to Bombay; to which I replied that it certainly was not for me to ascertain your Lordship's motives, and that adverting to what I had explained, I could not see any cause why he should feel any solicitude at my departure. Turning to Holkar he again conversed with him for a short time, and then said that I should have permission to return. Holkar spoke two or three times during the conversation, but not on any very material points. After Amrutráv had said that I should be permitted to return, he (Holkar) showed some anxiety to know whether all the gentlemen of the Residency were to proceed with me. I observed that they were; but that an establishment of native servants would remain at the Sangam to take care of the place and attend to the public dák.



4. A short, desultory conversation succeeded, and we returned to the large tent. Here I and the gentlemen of the Residency were treated with the customary marks of attention, on which we withdrew.

5. While I conversed with Amrutráv, Bápu Chitnavis made some extravagant proposals to Kharsetjee in a low voice, which the latter person plainly rejected. They want to draw from me assurances that the English would not assist the Peshwa under any circumstances.

6. Through the whole of the interview Amrutráv's manner was peculiarly civil, mild and pleasing. In general his countenance was cheerful, but occasionally it showed strong marks of care. Of late it is said that his hopes of being able to persuade the Peshwa to return have increased, but the uncertainty which still attaches to this point, the apprehension that His Highness may yet be led to embark, and the wants of Holkar must give him extreme uneasiness. He is so far decided in his conduct, however, that he is taking possession of the Poona Government to the utmost extent that circumstances will permit. The different ports and strongholds continue under the Peshwa's authority, and the Killedárs will probably adhere to his interests so long as he preserves the *Jerry Patka* and remains in his own territory.

7. Notwithstanding Holkar's wants his troops increase, a new brigade is in forwardness, and idlers and soldiers of fortune continue to resort to his standard, which favours the idea that he holds out to his troops and followers some rich harvest of plunder. Besides the four divisions here under Holkar, Fátte Sing Máne, Mirkhán and Sháhámuthkán, Jiváji Yashvant Bawun Pageh, is at the head of a corps to the northward that is said to be numerous.

In all his deliberations Holkar shows much indifference about the Peshwa and adheres to the necessity of Amrutráv's son being placed on the masnad.

8. Amrutráv opposes the elevation of his son, and discourages extreme measures for the present, and as his views must still be very unsettled, I shall not be surprised if he makes some secret communication to me of a nature not according with the course which he outwardly pursues in concert with Holkar.

9. It is my intention to pursue my plan of retiring to Bombay, and under the present uncertainty relative to the real inclinations and designs of certain individuals, the amount of force Sindia may be able to exert for recovering his credit and influence, and the time that may elapse before he be enabled to act, and the course that Holkar's numerous and increasing army may be obliged to take to procure subsistence, it shall be my aim to keep the field of adjustment or accommodation as open as possible in order that in giving your attention to the existing state of Marátha affairs, your Lordship may be enabled to avail yourself of as many combinations as possible towards effecting your views of giving order and permanency to the Poona State, and thus laying the foundation of general tranquillity in India.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,  
Resident.

Poona, 17th November 1802.

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Bombay Castle, 28th November 1802.

Letter from the RESIDENT at Poona to the Marquess WELLESLEY, Governor General, Calcutta.

MY LORD.—Amrutráv returned my visit on the 18th instant and was received by me with suitable marks of civility. In the course of the meeting I took occasion to acquaint him that I had





communicated to your Lordship the substance of what had passed at our former interview. That I wished not to defer returning to Bombay, and that I should be glad if he would send me the necessary passport and escort for the journey as soon as convenient. He told me in a civil manner that he regretted my departure extremely, but as I resolved to proceed I should be furnished with the passport and escort so as to allow of my departure after receiving the visit proposed to be paid me by Yashvantrav Holkar.

2. Yesterday Amrutrav sent me the desired passport bearing his seal; and I think it probable that Holkar will return my visit to-morrow. It would appear, however, that he is not yet entirely reconciled to my departure.

3. I learn from Mr. Duncan, that in consequence of a suggestion from me, that the Peshwa might be much in want of cash to pay the troops near his person, he has taken means to assist His Highness with a loan of two lakhs of rupees, which may tend to give security to His Highness's person, and prevent disaffection among the troops in the principal forts in the Konkan. It is believed here that His Highness has deputed Raghunathrav to Bombay, but for what purpose I have not been able to learn. The harkarás who come in occasionally from the Peshwa to Amrutrav report that His Highness has received the most encouraging letters from Sindia, who assures him that he will ere long be at Poona with a large force; that His Highness is in consequence augmenting the troops near his person; that he has about 2,000 men stationed at present in the pass, and that he is joined by all the principal persons who attended his Darbar here; that Ballaji Kunjar and Nimbaji Bhaskar are with the troops at the head of the pass and visit His Highness occasionally at Mahad; that His Highness's plan is to adhere to Sindia and depend on him solely for support and, accordingly, to hold his present position if possible till that chieftain shall come to his relief, but that in the event of being dislodged from his present position by Holkar he will seek an asylum in Bombay or with A'ngria at Kolaba.

4. If Raghunathrav has proceeded to Bombay, the correspondence of the Hon'ble the Governor may tend to assist your Lordship in forming a judgment of the authenticity of the foregoing intelligence, which from a variety of circumstances, I am induced wholly to credit.

5. Holkar by different means has procured some assistance of cash, but still experiences great want. Of Sindia's preparations he receives intelligence daily, and he will probably detach a corps to the northward as soon as he shall be able to satisfy his troops by discharging a portion of their arrears. A detachment of about 2,000 men marched yesterday for Chandore in order to escort his family from hence to camp.

6. His intention to attempt a revolution is less talked of than heretofore; he meets with no encouragement from the Mankaris or Jaghirdars, and Amrutrav still recommends moderate measures, reminding him of the approaching opposition of Sindia.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,

Resident.

Poona, 22nd November 1802.

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*Letter from the RESIDENT at Poona, to MARQUESS WELLESLEY, Governor General, Fort William.*

MY LORD,—On the 23rd instant, Yashvantrav Holkar showed a disposition to return my visit, and apparently with this view sent me a list by his Karkun Apaji Pant of the persons who were to attend him on the occasion, in which were included the names of the European officers commanding his brigades. Struck with surprise, I asked Apaji Pant if he was certain that those





names had been inserted by order of Holkar, to which he gave me an affirmative reply, adding that Holkar had been led to include them in consequence of communications which had passed between him and some of the European officers in question. I now resisted the proposal with great warmth, maintained that European officers in the service of native powers were never admitted on occasions of interview with the British Residents; that to include the names alluded to, therefore, was an innovation which I should oppose to the last extreme at the hazard of all consequences. Apáji Pant did not oppose the statement of the innovation, but observed that Holkar would scarcely be prevailed on to leave the Colonels (as he called them) behind in camp, and particularly after the communications which had taken place.

2. Bápu Chitnavis happened to be going past at the time to Holkar's camp. I sent a message to him requesting him to come in. On his arrival I mentioned what had passed with great earnestness of manner. He agreed with me as to the innovation, but insinuated that it might be difficult to touch Holkar on the subject. I then resolved to refer the point to Amrutráv, and accordingly deputed Mr. Strachey to him, whose report on the occasion I have the honor to enclose.

3. Late at night I received a civil note from Holkar acquainting me that he had learned from Amrutráv and Apáji Pant that I was unwilling that he be attended by the Colonels of his camps; that he was perfectly disposed to act agreeably to the Ráv's sentiments; that what had passed was well, and that Apáji Pant would wait on me and explain matters verbally to my satisfaction.

4. Conceiving on the 24th that Holkar was still using pretences for deferring his visit with the view to protract my departure, I forwarded a message to Amrutráv signifying my wish to see Bápu Chitnavis. The messenger found this person prepared to visit me. On his arrival I remonstrated with him on the subject of my detention, begged that he would acquaint Amrutráv from me that further delay in my departure might be productive of the most serious effects; that the Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay was already aware of the causes of my detention, and that your Lordship might soon be induced to take up the subject in the style of remonstrance, and that then it would be with Amrutráv, to whom my case wholly referred, to satisfy your Lordship. That in a case of such delicacy I thought it but justice to Amrutráv to speak out in an unreserved manner, and that accordingly should discussions occur at a future period respecting my detention, or disagreeable consequences result therefrom, I should stand acquitted in the eyes of all.

5. Bápu Chitnavis said, he hoped it would never appear that Amrutráv had any disinclination to comply with my wishes; that he knew personally that the Ráv had the greatest respect for my character, and entertained the most serious desire to preserve the friendship which had so long subsisted between his family and the Hon'ble Company. I replied rather hastily that the present case did not apply to me personally, but to the British Government in India, that as such I had always represented it, and as such it would necessarily be felt by Amrutráv.

6. Bápu Chitnavis said a few words on the purity of Amrutráv's intentions, and then called in one of his attendants who held two or three Kharitás in his hand, and told me that Amrutráv had prepared these addresses for your Lordship, and begged I would receive and forward them. Here I recapitulated what had passed at my visit to Amrutráv, and said in a positive tone that I could not take charge of any letter for your Lordship till my application for permission to return to Bombay should be complied with. He now appeared to be a little confused; after a pause he made a motion with his hand, and the letters were taken back.

7. I then enquired whether Holkar had abandoned the point respecting the European officers, as in a note which I had received from him the preceding night, he had said that





Apáji Pant would wait on me and explain matters to my satisfaction. In reply he assured me, that Holkar on being made acquainted with the established practice on such occasions had readily desired the names of the European officers to be erased from the list; that he thought the difficulty had been completely removed, and that it was only necessary now to fix the time of meeting.

8. Bápu Chitnavis withdrew, and shortly I received a visit from Apáji Pant. I informed him of the contents of Holkar's note. He said he had not received any instructions to communicate with me on the subject, but that he knew positively that the difficulty about the European officers had been done away. If such was the case I said it was only necessary that I should receive a correct list. He then produced the old one from which the names of the officers he said might be erased. I refused to accept it even thus altered, recommended him to call on Bápu Chitnavis and in company with him to prepare a new list and bring it to me in the course of the evening. On this he departed.

9. By this time I had learned through two secret channels that the party in power, namely, Holkar, Amrutráv, Moroba Fadanavis and Bába Fadkia, had resolved not to allow me to leave Poona till after the result of Mirkhán's march against the Peshwa should be ascertained; the Khán had made his way through the Ghát and was advancing to Mahád.

10. In the evening Bápu Chitnavis and Apáji Pant returned to me and gave me the list I required.

11. On the 25th it was settled that Holkar should return my visit on the ensuing day, and in the course of the evening I received a Dastak from Holkar with intimation that he would send a party of cavalry to attend me to the Ghát.

12. On the 26th Holkar approached at about 2 o'clock, meaning to call on Amrutráv before he came to my tent. While he sat in council with the Ráv, I learned that intelligence had just come in that the Peshwa finding Mirkhán approaching in force had retired in a southern direction and halted at a small fort called Kurnee on the sea-side near Suverndurg; that as His Highness could escape to sea at any time from that position, or take refuge in Suverndurg, the party in power considered the expedition as having entirely failed and were in consequence much disconcerted.

13. I received Holkar's visit at 4 o'clock; his manner was extremely cordial and unaffected. In the course of the interview I took occasion to acquaint him that I was prepared to move, and that it only remained that I should take my leave of him; that ceremony, he said, might take place soon, but that as Shrimant Amrutráv had the direction of all things, I would probably be induced to consult his inclinations on the occasion. After the customary formalities had passed, he returned to camp.

14. Bápu Chitnavis, who had been present during the interview, continued with me after it had closed; and watching an occasion took my Pársi accountant aside and conversed with him on the subject of the intelligence before noticed, which he mentioned as of a very unfavourable kind; Mirkhán, he said, had lost upwards of 300 men and entirely failed in the enterprise, the object of which was to secure the Peshwa's person by exciting disaffection and treachery amongst the troops that guarded him. Seeing me approach he separated from the Pársi, and after he had sat down I told him I should send off my baggage early in the morning to a short distance, and that in the course of the forenoon I might take leave of Amrutráv and afterwards proceed on my journey. Without paying attention to what I had said he adverted to the result of Mirkhán's expedition, said that as the Peshwa had retired to the sea-coast it was clear beyond all doubt that His Highness had finally determined not to return to Poona or accept the amicable proposition which had been made to him through such a variety of channels; that under these circumstances Amrutráv was desirous of having the benefit of my advice, and





also of having my opinion as to the manner in which the British Government would regard the events which had lately taken place affecting the Poona State. I replied that it excited my surprise to find this subject renewed, after what I had so often stated to show that I could take no concern in the present differences; and that if Amrutráv was desirous of obtaining your Lordship's sentiments on the merits of his cause, his only means of succeeding was to address a letter to your Lordship for the purpose; that my wish was that he should acquaint Amrutráv that I should be prepared to visit him on the morrow in the course of forenoon for the purpose of taking leave, and that I should hope to be favoured with an answer. He then withdrew.

15. Late at night I received a message from Bápu Chitnavis that Amrutráv would be happy to see me on the ensuing day at 10 o'clock, and I learned it at the same time that a little party of Amrutráv's cavalry had arrived to attend me on my journey.

16. On the 27th I waited on Amrutráv. At the time appointed we retired to a private tent. He was attended by Moroba Fadanavis, Bába Fadkia and Bápu Chitnavis. Mr. Strachey and my Pársi accountant accompanied me. After conversing with Bába Fadkia for some time in a low voice Amrutráv said that the Peshwa having declined to communicate with Mirkhán had retired to Suverndurg, and as it was now clear that he would not be prevailed on to return to Poona, means would be accordingly taken to settle the Government. He then spoke as he had done before of the friendships so long subsisting between the British Government and the Poona State, expressed his hope that it would never diminish, and added, "that, as it would be very pleasing to him if I would remain at Poona, so he trusted that I would use my endeavours to return as soon as possible. To this I made a civil reply. Bába Fadkia then adverted to the treaty of Sálbái, which he said united the Hon'ble Company in friendship with the Poona State, and used some expressions tending to draw an assurance from me that the British Government would be punctual in adhering to that treaty. I replied with some earnestness that I could add nothing to what I had repeatedly explained on such points both to Amrutráv personally and to Bápu Chitnavis for his information; that all such considerations referred solely to your Lordship; and that, did they wish to explain their views to your Lordship, or obtain your Lordship's sentiments on particular subjects, I should not object to forward their despatches for the purpose. Here Bába Fadkia seemed to propose something to Amrutráv in a low voice, which the latter apparently rejected. Three despatches for your Lordship were then produced: one from Amrutráv, one from Moroba Fadanavis, and one from Bába Fadkia. They were examined and presented to me by Amrutráv; and on taking charge of them I observed that custom required that I should be furnished with copies of them, which I said might be sent to me in the course of the evening. Amrutráv replied that what was usual in such cases should be attended to, and that the Munshi should be instructed accordingly. He afterwards proposed that I should visit Holkar before I departed, to which I assented. We now returned to the outward tent, from whence I took my leave.

17. Apáji Pant had waited on me in the morning to say that Holkar would expect to receive the pleasure of a visit from me before my departure; and it was agreed that I should pay the visit at three in the afternoon. After my return from Amrutráv's, however, Apáji Pant brought me another message, intimating that if I did not find it absolutely necessary to move on the following morning, Holkar would be happy if I would defer my visit for one day more. In answer I requested him to acquaint Holkar that I had sent off my baggage and arranged completely for moving early in the morning, and that in the present state of my health it would be very convenient to me to reach the first stage before the sun should be high, and that I was accordingly very desirous to pay the visit at the hour which had been agreed on. Apáji Pant replied in terms which gave me reason to believe that Holkar





would receive me at the time I wished and I told him I should give notice of my approach by a camel harkára.

18. As the appointed hour approached, I sent off the harkára, and was myself prepared to set out, when Bápu Chitnavis arrived in some haste from Amrutráv to acquaint me that Holkar's Diván had just sent him a note to say that Holkar could not receive any visit till the following day. I observed only that I had sent a harkára to camp and should wait his return.

19. I took this occasion however to remind Bápu Chitnavis that I had not been furnished with copies of the despatches for your Lordship. He apologized for the delay, which he said was owing to the neglect of the Munshi, and despatched one of his attendants apparently to remind the Munshi of the delay.

20. The camel harkára now returned from camp and acquainted me that Holkar was prepared to receive me; Bápu Chitvanis expressed much satisfaction that the proposed delay had been avoided, and said he would accompany us.

21. At this interview Holkar treated us with peculiar attention. In a separate apartment where Mr. Strachey was present he spoke of his wish to accommodate with the Peshwa, who, he said, obstinately slighted him and countenanced Sindia although his house was as old as Sindia's and at least of equal rank. He said repeatedly that he wished to have me as his friend, and consulted whether I could not be useful to him in bringing about an accommodation between him and the Peshwa. I told him that I thought it would be mutually for their interests to accommodate, but that unless both parties were to agree to refer their differences to me it would not be possible for me to be of any use to either. He then asked me whether if the Peshwa was to agree that I should arbitrate between them I would return to Poona for the purpose? I said I certainly could not return to Poona, but under your Lordship's instructions; but that should such an occurrence arise, I should address your Lordship and take your sentiments on the subject. But should I fail (he said) to adjust with the Peshwa, what is to happen then? I replied smiling that I did not imagine he was at any time very solicitous about future events, which he apparently took as a compliment. He afterwards conversed with great cheerfulness, told me repeatedly that he was happy in my acquaintance, and on rising to return to the public room, whispered to me that Amrutráv wished him to defer the interview, but that he was resolved it should take place at the time I appointed.

22. Nothing now remained to retard my departure. I left Poona early this morning and reached this place in a few hours. I shall move by successive marches to Panvel if nothing intervenes to interrupt my progress.

23. Whilst writing I have received a message from Bápu Chitnavis that Amrutráv had consulted the Darbár Munshi who has declared that it has never been customary to give copies to the Resident of addresses sent through him to any of the Hon'ble Company's Governments. I have given no reply to this intimation, but shall forward the despatches to the Persian Secretary to the Government.

24. I have had no conversation with either Moroba Fadanavis or Bába Fadkia; and Mr. Strachey has been present at all my conversations with Amrutráv.

25. Natives for the management of the Dák Department are left at Poona, and the despatches will probably travel with as much speed and security as heretofore.

I have, &c.,

B. CLOSE,  
Resident.

Poona, 23th November 1802.





## THE SECOND MARÁTHA WAR.

CSL

*Bombay, the 10th December 1802.*

### *PRESIDENT'S Minute.*

Raghunáthráv having arrived on the evening before yesterday on the "Antelope" informed Colonel Close on his arrival, and again in a full conference held yesterday with the Colonel and me, that His Highness the Peshwa continues firm in his adherence to the terms projected with the Colonel, and is ready to embark for Bassein, and there to live under the protection of a corps of British troops until the means to be applied by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General shall enable him to return to his capital.

2. Yesterday forenoon I had also another interview with Rámchandra, the Agent of Amrutráv, who began by adverting to the manner of his master's joining Yashvantráv, explaining that from Sinhgad, Bájrív had written to him a letter to join him, which he was preparing to do when he was forced to yield to the more urgent injunctions of Yashvantráv, who sent to him for that purpose Sháhámútkhán and Mirkhán, by whom a letter from Bájrív to him was also intercepted.

3. Rámchandra next repeated the grievances of Yashvantráv Holkar and said that on the Peshwa's restoring to the family their estates and giving up to him Khanderáv, the son of the late Malhárráv, and surrendering also, or at least dismissing from his presence and Councils, Báláji Kunjar, he (Holkar) would wait on His Highness with all submission to his authority; but this Vakil at the same time added, or at least intimated, that as there was no prospect of this, and as Bájrív had deserted his gádi or throne and betaken himself to the jungles, it was in meditation to give themselves and the Marátha Empire another master.

4. In answer I observed, that Bájrív having left Poona would not probably appear to the other States of India as amounting to an abdication of his authority, and that there appeared to me no better mode for all parties than to conciliate their differences; which he readily admitted, but said that all their own repeated endeavours to that effect had failed. Upon which in view to the anxiety expressed by His Excellency the Governor General to avoid if possible entering on hostilities with Holkar, I added that in case of differences between parties, whether in public or private life, they were most easily accommodated by the intervention of a third party, or common friend, which the Vakil likewise concurred in, but said that there was no such one to interpose unless it were the Nágpur Rája (who had already uselessly exhausted all his influence with Bájrív), or the Nizám or the Hon'ble Company; and on my taking occasion to notice that the Nizám and the Company were one, he said, "well then if the Company will undertake to adjust our differences, to me it appears a very advisable course to be pursued, and although I speak thus far only my private opinion, yet I am ready and will strive on my return, to impress it on Amrutráv, who may in that case do the like towards Holkar."

5. Rámchandra appears anxious to return, and I have promised to let him have my answer without delay.

J. DUNCAN.

*Bombay Castle, 24th December 1802.*

*Letter from the RESIDENT at Poona to His Highness the PESHWA.*

Raghunáthráv has arrived and made known to the Hon'ble the Governor and me the rectitude of your Highness's intentions and your firm adherence to the principles of good faith—a communication which cannot fail to be pleasing to the Company's Government. Raghunáthráv has also signified your Highness's desire to be furnished with two native battalions, to which the Hon'ble the Governor has been pleased to assent and the troops will be held in readiness accordingly.





Your Highness will therefore embark, and proceeding along shore, approach by the passage of Sálsette to the vicinity of Thána, when Raghunáthráv and I with the troops will attend to join you.

The particulars which passed between your Highness and me at Poona hold good in relation to both sides. In reply to the paper alluded to, a satisfactory letter has been received from His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General, on which subject and other matters I shall explain myself more fully when I shall have the honor of meeting your Highness.

B. CLOSE.

Bombay, 10th December 1802.

*Letter from the GOVERNOR GENERAL, Calcutta, to the GOVERNOR, Bombay.*

29th October.

3rd

6th

8th, 2 letters,

} November.

HON'BLE SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your several despatches of the dates specified in the margin.

2. By the enclosed copy of instructions issued under my authority to the Resident at Poona you will be apprised of my sentiments and of my intentions with regard to the course of policy to be pursued in the present crisis of the affairs of the Marátha Empire. It is my desire that your conduct on this important occasion should be regulated by those instructions to the extent in which they may be applicable to your situation, and to the circumstances in which you may eventually be required to act.

3. Although it is probable that before you can receive this letter the Peshwa will actually have retired to Bombay or Bassein, or will be in a situation which would render either of those measures impracticable or inexpedient, I think it is advisable to communicate to you my sentiments and instructions with a view of the possible case of the Peshwa's continuance in the situation described by the latest accounts from Poona and Bombay.

4. You will infer from the tenor of the enclosed instructions to Colonel Close that it is not my wish to require the Peshwa's consent to any definitive conditions previously to his actual arrival at Bombay.

5. The concessions which the Peshwa has demanded from the British Government in the event of his retiring for immediate protection to Bombay are not repugnant to the terms which I am solicitous to obtain from the Peshwa,—a treaty of defensive alliance,—I am therefore determined to comply with those demands to their full extent.

6. The amount of the stipend to be assigned to the Peshwa during his continuance at Bombay must be regulated by the circumstances of his situation and by a due regard to his rank and dignity, adverting also to rational principles of economy.

7. No restraint must be imposed on the Peshwa's person, no guard is to be assigned to him, without his own desire or of a nature merely honorary to be withdrawn at his pleasure and subjected to his order; if the Peshwa should at any time manifest a sign to relinquish the protection of the British Government he must not be opposed in any other manner than by respectful representative advice.

8. If Colonel Close should be prevented by any contingency or by consideration of expediency from joining the Peshwa, or if Colonel Close's situation should be such as to preclude a free communication with the Peshwa empowered with the advice and concurrence of Colonel Close to conduct the negotiation at present committed to his charge, and in the event of your





having occasion to act under this authority, Colonel Close shall be prepared to furnish you with all the requisite information and documents in his possession.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

WELLESLEY.

Fort William, 29th November 1802.

*Letter from the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL to Lieutenant-Colonel Close, Resident at Poona.*

2nd  
5th  
7th, 2 letters, } November.  
9th

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the dates noted in the margin.

2. His Excellency concludes that the principle which you have assumed of discouraging the Peshwa's retirement to Bombay in the present crisis of his affairs has originated in your doubt of the extent to which His Excellency might think proper to support the Peshwa's cause. Under the determination, which His Excellency has adopted, of employing every effort for the re-establishment of the Peshwa's authority, and in the actual situation of the Peshwa's affairs, it appears to His Excellency to be extremely desirable that the Peshwa should immediately place himself under the protection of the British power by retiring to Bombay. This measure would preclude the hazard of precipitating hostilities with Holkar by the advance of the British troops for the protection of the Peshwa's person; and would enable the English Government to open a negotiation with Holkar for the re-establishment of the Peshwa on the masnad of Poona under every circumstance of advantage; and to combine with that measure a negotiation with Sindia for the conclusion of defensive arrangements with every prospect of success. This measure would also afford the most favourable opportunity for the adjustment of the terms of the defensive alliance with the Peshwa on the basis of His Excellency's original propositions, and such stipulation as may appear to be desirable for the consolidation of the British power and influence in Gujara't, and may be expedient with reference to the present crisis of affairs.

3. The objection stated in His Excellency's instructions of the 22nd instant to an immediate manifestation of an intention to support the Peshwa's cause while he should remain within the limits of his own territory do not appear to His Excellency to apply in an equal degree to the case now under discussion. The mere reception of the Peshwa at a British settlement would not necessarily imply a resolution to restore him to the exercise of his authority. The actual advance of the British troops into the Marátha territory would be a decisive measure. If, however, the Peshwa should remain within his own territory, the advance of our troops must in all probability precede any negotiation for an amicable adjustment of affairs at Poona.

4. His Excellency judges that on your receipt of his late instructions you will not hesitate to afford to the Peshwa every encouragement to seek an asylum at Bombay; and His Excellency directs me to communicate to you the following observations and instructions for your guidance with reference to that desirable event.

5. It is possible in this event (although certainly not probable) that with a view to the exclusion of the British influence and power in the Marátha Empire, Sindia and Holkar may be induced to compromise their differences, to place upon the masnad a Peshwa of their own nomination, and to unite their power for the support of that arrangement—a plan in which they may obtain the co-operation of the Rája of Berár. In such an event either the British





Government will be compelled to have recourse to arms for the subversion of that arrangement, for the re-establishment of Bájiráv's authority, or by remaining neutral would abandon all prospect of concluding with any of the Marátha States, those defensive engagements which are so essential to the complete consolidation of the British Empire in India and to the future tranquillity of Hindustán. With respect to the justice of supporting the cause of Bájiráv under the engagement which has already been contracted with him no question can arise. In such state of circumstances, therefore, His Excellency would not hesitate to employ every effort of the British power in the reinstatement of Bájiráv in the masnad of Poona.

6. It is possible also that if the contest between Sindia and Holkar be decided by force of arms, the successful party may offer the Peshwa terms of accommodation which the Peshwa may be disposed to accept rather than be indebted to the influence or the exertions of the British power for the re-establishment of his authority. The same offer may possibly be made by the Peshwa the circumstance of a combination among the Marátha chieftains. Adverting to the characteristic jealousy, instability and treachery of the Peshwa's disposition, it is not improbable that he would accept such offers even after the engagements between the British Government and him should have been reduced to the form of a definitive treaty. In such an event it would be useless to adopt measures to compel the Peshwa to adhere to his engagements. It is not the intention of His Excellency that any restraint should be imposed on the Peshwa; if he cannot be induced to rely upon the aid of the British power on just and reasonable terms, it would be impracticable to secure with him the advantages of a defensive alliance, which necessarily supposes the concurrence of the contracting parties in the arrangement.

7. With a view, however, to preclude any of the events above supposed, or any other contingency which might tend to frustrate the accomplishment of His Excellency's objects, it will be proper that on the arrival of the Peshwa at Bombay a negotiation should be immediately opened for the conclusion of a definitive treaty of alliance and defence with the Peshwa on terms adapted to the actual crisis of affairs, as well as calculated for the accomplishment of His Excellency's original views.

8. It is possible, however, that notwithstanding the embarrassed situation of the Peshwa's affairs, and the dependant condition which he is reduced to, he may be insuperably averse to those additional concessions which under the present state of circumstances His Excellency deems it expedient to require from him, and may declare his resolution to throw himself into the power of Sindia or Holkar rather than acquiesce in the terms which may be proposed to him, particularly those which regard the arbitration of his claims on the Nizám, on the basis of the treaty of Mahád, and the Nizám's total exemption from the payment of Chauth. His Excellency therefore thinks it proper to apprise you that it is not his intention to insist on the Peshwa's acquiescence in all the proposed concessions as an indispensable condition of our assistance in the re-establishment of his authority. Accordingly if you should find it impracticable to obtain the Peshwa's consent to those additional concessions, which, however, it must be your earnest and assiduous endeavour to secure, His Excellency authorizes you to relax in your demand, even to conclude a treaty with the Peshwa on the terms to which he has already assented, provided that it contains no stipulation which can preclude the British Government's eventual conclusion of defensive engagements with Davlatráv Sindia. The conclusion of the treaty should be immediately followed by a communication to Sindia and Holkar of the general nature of the engagements contracted with the Peshwa, by a negotiation with those chieftains for the restoration of the Peshwa to the due exercise of his authority under the stipulations of the defensive alliance, and this communication should be accompanied by a declaration to Holkar that the Peshwa is disposed to an amicable adjustment of existing differences under the arbitration and guarantee of the British Government.