



in the consternation and extremities to which this place is reduced, upon which matter your Excellency is pleased to write me that such assistance does absolutely not depend on you to give, notwithstanding your friendly disposition to favour and assist our nation, which expressions I hold for true and sincere, as I know the particular regard and consideration you have always shown to it. But seeing this place cannot absolutely preserve itself without succours from abroad, and that I can obtain them nowhere but from your Excellency, as well by reason of the mutual union betwixt our two nations as of the interest your island has in our preservation, considering the great and dangerous consequences that may result from our ruin, as your Excellency clearly and distinctly comprehends, I must again importune your Excellency in the hopes that your generosity and good disposition will be against the losing this place, and the capital of this province, whilst it lies so near a nation which in Europe maintains a strict friendship with us, and who do want for means to prevent a ruin of a place of such importance.

Your Excellency is not unapprized that in your island there are several vassals of this State, who have taken refuge thither from several parts with effects to a considerable amount, and have resided under your Government with what they had thus brought away, though the greatest part of it did not belong to them. Upon which matter the Senate of this city has been convened with the prelates of our religious orders and private persons. Your Excellency's letter was laid before them, with the want of necessaries to defend the place. Upon which it was unanimously agreed then that recourse should be had to these refugees, and that extraordinary and even forcible means should be used with them: and that in the meantime whilst these effects should be thus withheld by persons taking refuge under other jurisdictions, application should be made to those Governments, with request of their favour and assistance in getting a loan to the royal treasury, as your Excellency will see by copy enclosed of an Act of Council in the said Senate, as it is agreeable to our rights and laws that vassals shall be obliged to furnish such assistance to their King and his officers that have lawful authority to oblige them to it.

I am certainly informed, that on your island the persons named in the accompanying list are with considerable effects, of which they are subject to render account as well, because they do not belong to them, as by reason of their vassalage. And as this benefit to us cannot be obtained without your Excellency's favour and protection intervening to that effect, knowing your particular desire to assist and favour our nation, I request that your Excellency will be pleased to permit or give leave for search to be made in the houses of the persons named in the said list, giving order for all assistance and favour to the officers I send on this employment, or, that our end may be happily and with more ease obtained as well as with less noise, that your Excellency will be pleased to send for them before you, and order them to give a faithful account of what they have in their possession, that on discovery of the amount, which must not be inconsiderable, it may be used as a pledge for payment of the ammunitions which the place is in want of, and which your Excellency tells me are ready on our paying the value or giving security for it.

In this city, on our using extraordinary measures in virtue of the above-mentioned Act of Council, we have discovered a small parcel of plate, which I likewise am determined to apply to the payment for ammunitions and warlike stores that your Excellency may grant me. But as the plate belongs to the churches, and that a considerable loss will arise on breaking it down, I would fain know of your Excellency if the Company would allow such a benefit to our State as the taking it in pawn for a debt to the amount of its intrinsic value without interest, or whether it is necessary that it should be sold, that I may remit it weighed with exactness, trusting that your Excellency will in this matter, as in all others, act for the best in favour of the urgent necessities this place is at present reduced to.



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SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHA'S

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But however, in case that all this is not sufficient to engage an assistance in our present extreme distress, so that the Company may have security for what was furnished to this place, I offer your Excellency some pieces of brass ordnance of large calibres, either in payment or pawn for the debt. Having this consideration, that it is most becoming my nation that it should be known to the world how, for the preservation of their King's city, it was stripped of its artillery (the principal instruments of its defence), whilst they put their trust more in their personal valour, in their constant fidelity and zeal than in the extraordinary force or hardness of metal; so that if your Excellency will please to accept of the pledge, on advice from your Excellency I will send the pieces of ordnance that may be necessary to pay the debt incurred. But if to all these proposed measures your Excellency or your Council shall object to, as inconvenient, I have no others, nor any recourse besides for the preservation of this place. I hope that your Excellency, considering the reasons above declared and the fatal ruin we must otherwise undergo, will consent, at least for the service of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal, to succour us with some ammunition to enable us to persist in the defence of this place, for the payment of which His Majesty will be bound by his agent, and all his vassals, as I have written your Excellency in my last letter, if they have not lost all credit and respect with your nation, which they are so careful to preserve.

By reason of the great want of people for the defence and service of this place, through the dispersion of a number of our vassals in different parts, I came to a resolution of publishing a proclamation recalling them all with their effects within the term of fifteen days, under penalties in case of contravention: and as several persons have represented to me their apprehension of trouble in obeying this order for fear of their creditors, considering it as my duty to consult in these conjunctures what may be most useful to the King's service, I have ordered another proclamation to be published of indemnity in such cases, as your Excellency may see by copies enclosed of such proclamations; and that they may meet with due observance, I request of your Excellency the allowance of free leave for all vassals of this State to return to this place without impediment or molestation to their persons and effects that they may bring with them, permitting likewise that these proclamations may be published on your island to remove any pretext of ignorance, considering that great advantage may accrue from this expedient to the King's service and towards the preservation of the place, the enemy's approaches to which and method of attack may appear more clearly to your Excellency by our officers' delineation and report which are now sent for your Excellency's observation.

I am, &c.,

Bassein, the 6th May 1739.

CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 7th May 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

- | | |
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| The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor. | |
| W. CHARLES RIGBY. | THOMAS STONESTREET. |
| JOHN GEEKIE. | JOHN MORLEY. |
| WILLIAM SEDGWICKE. | |

The President acquaints the Board that yesterday he received the melancholy news of the capitulations being signed the $\frac{5}{16}$ instant for the surrender of the city of Bassein to Chinnaji, the Marátha General, in the term of one week,—that is to say, on the $\frac{13}{16}$ instant,—occasioned, as the President is well informed from different parts, by the success of the mines which the Maráthás sprung on the cortines and bastions to the number of twelve or thirteen. It is observable that the place is so situated and surrounded with water that only three out of the eleven bastions were subject to be attacked, and the mines made such breaches in two of them as rendered the storming



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very practicable, which the Maráthás attempted with the utmost fury and resolution, being repulsed several times and as often returned to the attack, and at length gained lodgments on the bastions. The Portuguese being tired and harassed with so warm an action, which first and last held two days, having several of their officers and many people killed and their ammunition nearly exhausted, and observing the place was no longer tenable against such numbers, hoisted a white flag, and sent one of their officers to treat of a surrender with Chimnaji, who allowed them the space of a week to evacuate the town on most honourable conditions as may appear by a translate of the capitulations which follows this consultation for the notice and observation of our honourable masters.

The Commandant of the North, Caetano d'Souza Pereira, having made application to the President for assistance from this Government of boats and vessels to bring away the inhabitants and their effects according to the terms of their capitulations, orders had been given immediately to prepare what numbers of boats could be procured to be sent to Bassein to assist them in this distressful conjuncture, and the "Prince of Wales" and three gallivats were appointed to convey them safe from any attempts on the sea, which this Board unanimously approve of.

Resolved likewise that as the Commandant of the North is obliged to seek harbour here with his people till the rainy season is over, the most honourable reception be given him and a lodging be prepared for him suitable to his station, and also accommodations as can be got for lodging his people—a treatment we think due to a nation in friendship with ours, especially in their present distressed and deplorable condition.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
W. SEDGWICK.

Translate of the Capitulations on the part of Caetano d'Souza Pereira, Commandant of the city and fort of Bassein, for the surrender of the place to Chimnaji Appa, General-in-Chief of the Sháhu Rája's army, now before the town, under the following clauses and conditions:—

1. The said Chimnaji Appa shall permit free passage out of the town to all troops, as well regular as auxiliaries, with their arms in order, drums beating and colours flying, also with four pieces of cannon and two mortars.

2. He shall likewise grant free passage out to all the noble families that are now in the town, with all their moveables and effects, as also to all the Christians, Gentoos and Moors who do not choose to remain in the place, and that with all their goods and effects.

3. He shall permit free and unmolested passage out of the port of this place to all vessels of war now in it, with their artillery, and provided at all points for defence, as well as to all other embarkations, gallivats, &c., whose owners do not choose to remain in the place.

4. He shall furnish all the vessels that may be wanted (charges paid) to convey away to Bombay, Chaul or Daman as well the noble families as the common people, with all in general that choose to leave the place, with their goods and effects, which they shall carry with them; and shall engage that Angria shall not rob or strip them of what they carry, upon the sea, until they have arrived at their destined port.

5. He shall likewise grant free passage to all in religious orders, and to the priests in general (who do not choose to remain in the place), with leave to carry off their goods and effects such as they may not sell beforehand.

6. He shall permit the shipping off and carrying out of the place all victualling stores and munitions of war in the town, belonging to the inhabitants and defenders; and in general all



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treasure in gold or silver, with every one's provisions and moveables, as likewise every thing belonging to the churches of whatever sort or value.

7. That the Christians who remain voluntarily in the place shall enjoy the liberty of worshipping God in the faith they profess, as likewise all over the district belonging to that jurisdiction, without being robbed or stripped of what they have got. The same is to be observed in every respect with the Gentoos and Moors that shall choose to stay behind, each according to his law.

8. The said Chinnáji shall forthwith release all the prisoners in his power, that they may have the benefit of coming away in my company. And I will restore all that I have got, for him to dispose of as he thinks proper, in return for those of our side.

9. On the day appointed for the garrison's evacuating the place, which is the 23rd of May (N.S.), his army shall retreat to Madrápur (Mánikpur ?) that I may with my troops go over the walls and embark free of any fear of molestation from his army.

10. Chinnáji Appa himself shall engage not to enter the town with his troops till I am safely embarked with mine and all the people that go with me, and got out of the reach of the artillery of the place.

11. Chinnáji Appa shall purchase whatever provisions, moveables, or effects the inhabitants or others in the place may have and want to sell, by the means of persons of credit or trust, and to that end shall send into the town thirty such persons, or Banyans, to agree the price, paying the value to the proprietors, and receiving the things so purchased.

12. That whilst Chinnáji Appa shall be in possession of this city, he shall for ever maintain the privilege of three churches within it—one in the town, one in the district, and one on the island of Salsette—for the Christians that shall remain in the said city or places stipulated for, where they may freely exercise all the acts of their religion, and the said churches shall with their curates be subject to the most Illustrious and Reverend Primate of India, for him to settle their proper jurisdiction for the cultivation of the said Christianity. And whatever images that I may leave behind, of such as I cannot carry with me, shall be suffered to remain in the said churches with the most necessary ornaments for adorning them.

And for the security of the performance of all the above articles of capitulations the said Chinnáji Appa shall sign the same according to his custom, and shall likewise confirm and ratify them with his own seal and that of Bájiráv, General of all the troops of the Sháhu Rája, which being executed, the said Chinnáji Appa shall send one of his principal commanders, to my satisfaction, to remain as an hostage on board a vessel of war in the channel of the bar of this place, out of the reach of the artillery; and for the security of such an officer I will send him of mine to stay in his army till these stipulations have been performed, when I will return him his officer in exchange of mine.

And likewise as soon as he has ratified these capitulations he shall order his people to retire from the foot of the walls into their batteries and trenches, to the distance of twenty paces: evacuating also the breaches, leaving in each the number of twenty men. In the interim there shall be no innovation on either side, or any new work be carried on.

(Signed) CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bassein, 16th May 1739, N.S.

I, Chinnáji Appa, accept of the above articles of surrender, except the sixth, relating to the munitions of war which I will purchase; and the ninth, which I will not engage for; and for the ratification thereof I set my seal to them in my camp before Bassein the 16th of May 1739, N.S.



SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHA'S

Bombay Castle, 10th May 1739.

At a Consultation, present :

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

W. CHARLES RIGBY.

JOHN GEEKIE.

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then represents to the Board that the passes of the island although rendered as defensible as they can be made at present, yet in his opinion as the boats now employed in the river may easily by the means of batteries be compelled to retire, and as the extent is very open and great in many places, the enemy might on being fully determined get on the island, and on such an unfortunate circumstance happening, it is too evident that the town wall being no more than eleven feet in height, reckoning up to the cordon and the cortines no more than * *, and it seems unfit for the resistance of batteries, which is confirmed by the opinion of the Engineer, besides the cocoanut trees in great numbers as well as houses are so near the wall, that great annoyance may ensue therefrom through the shelter they would give, exclusive of there being a necessary material at hand for raising the works : and therefore he recommends to the consideration of the Board whether it may not be absolutely necessary to provide in the speediest manner for the security possible in the present situation of a most extended wall—low, thin, and crowded with the neighbourhood of trees and houses. Some of the members apprehending this motion to be of great importance desire time to consider of it, and are indulged till to-morrow to give their sentiments.

STEPHEN LAW.

JOHN GEEKIE.

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 29th June 1739.

At a Consultation, present :

The Hon'ble STEPHEN, LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

WILLIAM CHARLES RIGBY.

JOHN GEEKIE.

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then remarks to the Board that our present situation admits of no longer delays in coming to some resolution for or against the carrying on a ditch round the town wall. That the principal merchants of the place, convinced of the necessity of putting the town thereby in some state of defence, have subscribed the sum of thirty thousand rupees towards the expense

* Illegible.



SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHAS.

of this work, as may appear by their hands set to an instrument now laid before the Board, entered after this consultation, and which is as much as can be expected from the Board, considering the low declined state of trade. And whereas for the reasons set down in our consultation of the 1st May last, a resolution passed the Council for estimating the charge of this undertaking by a stated measure of ground to be opened to a certain depth and breadth by which the expense of the whole might be calculated, and no report thereon having yet been made, the failure herein is owing to the rains setting in, which would not admit of digging to a competent depth, so that there was a necessity of having recourse to another method of computation, which, admitting the ditch to have fifty feet in breadth upon fourteen in depth, will bring out the charge at about five to ninety thousand rupees. It remains, then, to consider and determine in what is most expedient for the Hon'ble Company's interest in this island.

Our present duty through the weak fortifications round the town is fully set forth in our consultation of the 1st and 10th May last, and as the same is apparent and evident to every member of this Council, the security and preservation of the island and the tranquillity and protection of the inhabitants being thus essentially reposed in this Government, and this addition of a ditch to the town wall being a method that appears necessary to strengthen our defence, the question is proposed to the Members severally for their respective assents, and is carried in the affirmative, without dissenting.

And as this resolution is of so great importance, the following recapitulation of our reasons is submitted to our hon'ble masters for their judgment and satisfaction, that we are guided entirely in this determination by our duty and a regard to their interest, and the preservation of their estate entrusted to our care and management:—

1st.—However express the Hon'ble Company's repeated injunctions may be against burying their money in expensive works on any pretext whatever, when these orders are set against and compared with their repeated assurances of grudging no expense for the immediate defence and preservation of the island itself and consequently their estates upon it, our present situation is undeniably such as will warrant this only step we can think of for the attainment of any tolerable degree of security, as no sufficient dependence can be had on any promise, treaty, or assurance from or with the Marathas; and in truth without this addition the town wall itself may be reckoned of no use or significance to its purpose of defence, and consequently a great loss to the Hon'ble Company: and for the truth of this we need only appeal to a survey of its present untenable condition, as more amply set forth in our consultation of the 16th May last.

2nd.—Our inhabitants are grown so apprehensive of the insecure posture of the place against the power of our encroaching neighbours, that it is highly necessary for the Government to procure and provide with all expedition for their security in case of an invasion, and which can be no wise so effectually done as by fortifying the town itself for the greater assurance and encouragement of the inhabitants in general, the trading part of which have voluntarily contributed the sum above declared, and no one shall be omitted to consider in future of all fitting ways and means to lighten the burden to our hon'ble masters.

the calculate now furnished as exactly taken as the nature of the subject would admit, the amount of the charge cannot but be esteemed by our hon'ble masters, a consideration of circumstance well applied towards securing so great a capital



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STEPHEN LAW.

THOMAS STONESTREET

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Bombay Castle, 6th July 1739.

At a Consultation, present :

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

W. CHARLES RIGBY.

THOMAS STONES STREET.

JOHN GEEKIE.

JOHN MORLEY.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then communicates to the Board his answer to Caetano d'Souza's letter of the 9th July, N. S., entered after last consultation, from whom he has since received a reply, which being translated is read and both ordered to follow this consultation.

Debating upon which the President remarks, that the substance thereof being to borrow money for the immediate subsistence of the Portuguese troops with a tender of the best security they had for the present to give, he had discoursed with the Agent for the King of Portugal about the sum that might be precisely necessary for this, which upon the most near calculation cannot well be less than four thousand rupees per month for the support of from seven to eight hundred men, including likewise officers of distinction, and which cannot need far longer than three or four months before an opportunity offers, and the season answers for the removal of these people to some place under the Portuguese jurisdiction. And as this Government have justified the refusal of a retreat to the subjects of an European prince, it cannot be matter of surprise, in such circumstances as they were, that they should not be matter of surprise.



SIEGE OF BASSERIN BY THE MARATHAS.

and therefore it is proposed that a sum not exceeding four thousand rupees be issued by the treasury to the order of the Portuguese Agent upon the security mentioned in the annexed certificate which is unanimously agreed to.

STEPHEN LAW

W. CHARLES RICEY.

JOHN GEEKIE.

THOMAS STONESTREET

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICK

Letter from the PORTUGUESE COMMANDANT of the Natch to the Honourable STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

In my letters of the 22nd April and 6th of May, written at Bassein, I represented to your Excellency the great perplexity and straits I was involved in through the urgent necessity that place (being the principal one of this province) stood in want of money for the half the Hon'ble troops, which was the true justified motive that obliged me to request of you a certain large sum in the name of His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty to assist us with a company of one hundred thousand rupees, being drawn from the treasury of the said Majesty, as we have no other security for the reasons your Excellency was pleased to

But this ^{very} method, and with the consent of an assembly of the Senate, prelates and nobility, gave order for a search into the convents, churches and private houses, and seizure of the gold, jewels and silver that might be found in them, which the King took by way of loan, certificate being given in order to re-payment whenever it was possible. The money this search produced has served hitherto to pay the troops and defray the other most necessary expenses for the King's service. But whereas there is now none remaining, and the Jesuits have failed of the promise they made of contributing forty thousand xeraphins, for the which amount they passed a note to be made good on this island out of the great capital there is, upon it belonging to the said Jesuits, which proceeding of theirs is the more unjustifiable, or undutiful, as they have on this score received a letter of thanks from His Excellency the Count Viceroy in the name of His Majesty. Neither can I compel them to a contribution of the said sum, as they are now within the jurisdiction of the Government of your Excellency. This difficulty joined to the pressing necessity there is of money to pay the troops and the expense which will necessarily be requisite for the fitting and preparing vessels of war, oblige me to this recourse to your Excellency in this representation; that on my retreat from Bassein I could neither pass down to Goa through the lateness of the season, nor to any other place of this province for want of victuals in them and other necessities for the support of the troops under my command, so that I sought shelter here, presuming, from many concurring reasons, to find on this island a favourable protection from your Excellency and the Hon'ble Company, and likewise expecting recovery of the above-mentioned loan as promised by the Jesuits (as your Excellency may be pleased to see by their own letter herewith enclosed), with the help of which our expenses might be defrayed for four months that remain, till some provision may be made



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SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHAS.

From Goa in this matter, in which, too, there will be no small difficulty, that Court being straitened and exhausted by the late treaty of peace, which your Excellency well knows with.

On these considerations I hope, from the good disposition of your Excellency and the justice of my reasons, you will please to apply proper measures for obliging the Jesuits to contribute, without delay, the loan which they promised of forty thousand xeraphins. vassals of the State they are in duty bound to concur with the rest in these urgent necessities. Seeing that if these troops were in any place of our jurisdiction I could oblige the merchants of it a supply of all necessaries for their subsistence, till money could be paid them, which in this island is in no sort practicable; and for this consideration your Excellency ought not to permit, that the said troops, being under the jurisdiction of the General, for want of pay should be reduced to so miserable a state as to be only a burden and other recourse, but put themselves on the terms of taking some desperate resolution, the consequences of which might be very prejudicial to His Portuguese Majesty, whilst it would give me the deepest concern to see them suffer, with the vexation of having no means to assist them, for want of money and credit upon this island to supply their wants, my reputation and credit not being a little concerned in this important matter, being obliged to give an account of them to His Excellency the Count Viceroy.

I wait for your necessary determination in this affair, and wish for many occasions to serve your Excellency.

Bombay, 1739.

I am, &c.,
CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Translation of the Jesuits' Letter above referred to.

To

THE COLONEL AND COMMISSIONER.

SIR,—Notwithstanding the little or no importance of our Society of Jesus in India, however, I, after deliberating maturely with the other Religious of this College, and with great attention to the present distress we are reduced to, and considering the great care you show in the defence of this place, the capital of all this province of the North, to avoid the great damage which threatens us, have resolved to make good in Bombay, as far as the sum of forty thousand xeraphins, for the bringing in the necessary articles with all possible despatch to this place as you shall please to order. But with all desire you will do me the honor to order, that the senate of this city passes me a certificate importing that my orders contributed the said loan when the place was reduced to the greatest straits, as likewise the Agent and Chief Alcalde or Lieutenant of the town to give me a bond in form for us to demand upon, in the time to come. I likewise desire that you will let us live in peace that we may pray to God to deliver us from our enemies, which is the part that belongs to us, and to you the care and vigilance for the defence of this place, since in your great zeal, experience and valour are centered all our hopes. I expect your answer that I may order the necessary, being,

Sir,

Your most obedient chaplain,

JOACHIM DIAS,

Superior of the College of Jesuits at Bassein.

Bassein, 6th May 1739, N S.



The PRESIDENT'S Reply to the Letter of CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA, Portuguese Commandant of the North.

SIR,—I received your favour of the 9th of July of the current year (New Series) and likewise the enclosed letter of the Jesuits directed to you which, according to your representation, is what you ground your dispute with them upon.

The whole matter has been deliberated upon in Council, with due attention, and to see if any expedient could be found to give you entire satisfaction, which my own inclination leads me to procure you in everything within my power.

However in this case I am obliged to reply to you that, according to the constitution of our laws and Government, which yourself must be acquainted with, no other ways can be used with these Jesuits who have taken refuge under the protection of our Crown but those of persuasion and advice, which failing, as in effect they have failed, the abovementioned considerations, together with the regard due to national protection, hinder me from the pursuance of this affair with the Jesuits by other means, and this I hope you will not take exception at, as you will do me the justice to believe that I shall be always desirous of serving yourself in particular, and favouring the interests of the Portuguese nation in every thing that depends upon my Government and is not out of my power as this is.

With this I return you enclosed the said letter of the Jesuits, and if they have failed in their promise or civil obligation as loyal subjects, I do not doubt but on their return under the jurisdiction of your nation, to whom only belongs to judge in this matter, justice will take its due course, as this Government has no authority to interfere in the same for the above-declared reasons.

I am, &c.,
STEPHEN LAW.

Bombay Castle, 30th June 1739, N. S.

Letter from CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA, Commandant of the North, to the PRESIDENT.

HON'BLE SIR,—I received your Excellency's most esteemed letter of the 11th instant in answer to mine of the 9th preceding, in which I observe what you are pleased to say with respect to the matters proposed in mine, upon which I am in the necessity of replying that the policy of a Government belonging to the Most Serene Crown of England (considering the friendship subsisting betwixt our two nations) as well as the respect owing to all national protections, is the most forcible reason why your Excellency and Council and the Hon'ble Company should in such extreme necessity, as the present one is, attend to the preservation and subsistence of the King's troops which are now on this island under the protection of your Excellency's Government, in want of all the means of sustenance, without the assistance of your Excellency and the Hon'ble Company, having already consumed in the payment of them the little gold and silver that remained in the churches, convents and private houses in Bassein: and the Agent of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal not having any supply left wherewith to furnish the requisite charges, all the treasure being exhausted during the close siege that place sustained for more than two years, as is notorious to your Excellency and the world, besides the plain obstacle there is to our being supplied from the Court of Goa by reason of the season.

In the above declared circumstances I have again recourse to your Excellency, hoping that by all possible ways and means you will concur to the making a loan to the State of thirty thousand rupees to serve for the subsistence of the troops, fitting of vessels and other indispensable necessary expenses, and having no better security to give for the said loan, I convened the officers of my Council and agreed by act thereof to oblige the Factor and the Padre



Administrators of Bassein to remain on this island as pledges till full repayment be made by the Court of Goa of the whole sum; and as either of these persons are bound to give account of receipts and issues to a very considerable amount, I am persuaded that the loan will be made good without delay, that they may be forthcoming at the said Court of Goa. And seeing the generous disposition of your Excellency voluntarily and liberally contributed such copious sums on charity to the poor widows who took refuge on this island after the unfortunate retreat from the city of Bassein, besides assisting all those who are in distress and have recourse to your Excellency, it does not seem just that the troops of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal should experience a less degree of patronage from your Excellency's bounty.

In case, however, that all these averred reasons are not of weight enough to gain a due effect of this recourse to your Excellency and Council and the Hon'ble Company, as I have no other for the preservation of the King's troops, I deliver them over to your Excellency and Council, as you shall be answerable to His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain for the damage and prejudice that from the ruin of these troops may result to the State and service of my Sovereign; or your Excellency will give me leave to pass with them to the island of Karanja or Salsette, seeing it will be better that I with the Portuguese officers and soldiers die in fight with the enemy of our faith and nation than expire under the terrible torment of hunger.

I am, &c.,

CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, the 15th July 1739, N. S.

Bombay Castle, 7th August 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

W. CHARLES RIGBY

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN GEEKIE.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

Read the translate of a letter from Caetano d'Souza Pereira, Commandant in the North, to the President, and by him communicated to the Board. The substance of which is to request the advancing him at one payment the amount of the loan agreed to in consultation of the 6th July last for the three months of residence here, presumed to be for August, September and October, with a further sum for the repairs of the vesseis belonging to them and necessary to carry him and troops of the shore to some place of retreat within the Portuguese jurisdiction, which he cannot otherwise effect; debating upon which it is observed that the permission and leave given the Portuguese to retreat hither, after the surrender at Bassein, was a step that could not be avoided without such a breach of all national regard as we are persuaded we could not have justified, and therefore it is to be hoped our hon'ble masters will not disapprove of it. And the admission of them proved to be attended with some ill consequences, both to the tranquillity of the place from their unruly mutineering soldiery, and by engaging us in loan of money for their immediate subsistence, for which we took however the best security their circumstances could afford, and yet we presume a reasonable one. But as their quick departure and thereby ridding the place of the load of their maintenance and other troubles depends on our advancing this sum now requested, Resolved,—that twelve thousand rupees be issued and advanced in full of the intended loan of four thousand rupees monthly for the three ensuing months, and that a sum not exceeding two thousand rupees be allowed



SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE ARABIA'S.

for the refitall of the vessels to carry them off, and such supplies of stores as may just serve for the defence of them: provided that sufficient security is given previous to the movement aforesaid for their going off the place as speedily as possible, the discretionary management of which is submitted to the President and the same security to remain as before accepted for the whole.

Ordered likewise that translate of the said letter follow this Consultation for the notice of our hon'ble masters.

Ordered that all books and papers transmitted to our hon'ble masters by this ship "Defence" be prepared with all expedition.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from the COMMANDANT of the NORTH to the PRESIDENT.

Notwithstanding all possible care taken by me to prevent the disorders committed by the troops under my command, as I am desirous by all means to procure the quiet and tranquillity of the inhabitants under your jurisdiction, I am now determined, as soon as the season allow of a transport of the said troops to some place in our province, to remove them thither. But as I cannot execute this without the assistance of your Excellency or of the Hon'ble Com- he hope y for want of the means, I am obliged to have recourse to your Excellency, in the great utility which thence you will derive from the service of His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty, and the common interest of must result both to the representation I made to your Excellency of the want of money I lay under to King's troops, your friendly disposition led you to agree in advance the necessary pay Agent of Bassein the loan of four thousand rupees towards the expenditure, which no place provision should be made from the Court of Goa for this important service. your Ex- loan in effect took place and was paid the last month. And whereas there is in September of our province any fund for the subsistence of these troops, my request is that your Ex- cellency will order to be advanced me the whole loan for the months of August, and shall be and October. I will, my Council agreeing, that the same security as before give continued.

But whereas this alone will not suffice for the execution of my said resolution, Hon'ble vessels brought from Bassein are in want of refitall, I must likewise depend on the Hon'ble Company to take in charge the expense necessary for the repairing and fitting of two troops and some machvās or fishing boats that will be wanted both for the transport of these and am- and succouring any part attacked by the enemy, being likewise in want of some ball. Council munition of war for arming the said vessels, for the entire part of which I and my have agreed to the same terms of security as for the rest.

On the abovementioned consideration I hope your Excellency will be of the great consequence that it may be of to the service of His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty, and to the preservation of the places belonging to the Crown that yet



CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, 14th August 1839. N. S.

Bombay Castle, 31st August 1789.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., Pre

W. CHARLES RIGBY.

THOMAS WATERS.

JOHN MORLEY.

Read and approved our last consultation.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President communicates to the Board a letter from Caetano d'Souza Pereira, dated the 3th September, N. S., directed to him, translate whereof is read and is ordered to follow this consultation. And debating on the answer that is fitting to give it is remarked how valuable and growing the Portuguese are in their demands and expectation from us, and that our situation or circumstances can afford or the ability of this Government extends to; agreed therefore that the President do in answer thereto only confirm the assurances of complying with our engagements in Council of the 7th instant, and to the rest of his demands a general reply that as far as is reasonable, and the state of our affairs will permit us give ready to succour and promote the interest to the utmost. The following letter, we are good effect, as it is a producible testimony in favour of our past conduct to, which this appears to be the first material acknowledgment extorted from them, of course of benefits as they have received from this Government. In such a which they have ed to such a degree as if they designally excluded a coll of thereof to answer further misrepresentation.

STEPHEN LAW.

THOMAS WATERS.

JOHN GEEKIE.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from CAETA O
 HAV
 of war I ing written a letter to
 this matt brought from Bassein
 and refiter to the said letter, o
 be supplal of two grabs and th
 that purpose with all possible co
 but I am on the point of despatching to Daman one of these grabs with the



putting down the cruisers who levied toll on the coast and gave a lecture on the advantages of free trade. He told them "that theirs was a policy that it entirely lay within their own breasts to make themselves happy and prosperous by encouraging trade, by making the duties and taxes to be imposed on it easy to the fair trader, and granting foreign merchants their protection and security at sea at an easy rate, which was the true policy of all great minds who projected themselves considerable in the world." Bájiráv's people allowed that sentiment to Sháhu Rája was a piece of good policy, but "they greatly resented your manner in it first." After considerable trouble and the exercise of great skill, the British succeeded in arranging the terms of a treaty, dated the 12th July 1739, signed at Bombay. This was the first treaty made with the Maráthás. It was of a commercial nature, and by it the Peshwa conceded to the English free trade

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A year after the conclusion of the treaty Bájiráv died. By his son, Báláji Bájiráv, more generally known by the appellation of Náná, an agreement was made to reduce the power of the pirate chief Angria, whose family was Kánoji Angria, who is said to have got his name from a village near Harnai in Ratnágiri. In 1698 he was appointed Admiral and proved himself a brave and daring commander. His ships crept up every vessel and sailing up every ford to sack every undefended town and every creek with a fort, and these fell into the hands of Kánoji, forming a piratical empire, which extended from Goa to Bombay. The fleet consisted of fast sailing vessels of small burden and rowing boats of fort with daring and desperate men. From the creek or cove in which they lay, the pirates pounced upon their prey. When they drew near their victim and fired into her rigging until they succeeded in capturing her, then closed with her, and the crew sword in hand boarded her. The merchant vessel lay completely at the mercy of the pirates, and paid a large sum annually in protecting their growing trade. The British Government determined, in alliance with the Peshwa, to attack the pirates. On the 22nd March Commodore James Packer, with a squadron, consisting of his flag-ship the *Protector*, the *Swallow*, sixteen guns, and the *Triumph* and *Viper*, bombarded the Maráthá fleet, consisting of seven grabs and sixty guns and soldiers. It was intended that the Maráthá army should attack the ships and the English fleet blockade the harbours. Commodore Packer, except a few of the train "which you may learn of the Maráthas," James, both in his letter to the Board and in his diary, writes "Suvarndurg, the golden fortress, is built on a low island, a mile from the mainland. The fortifications are completely supplemented by blocks of large red stones of near a foot square, shot split by striking against them." Opposite to Suvarndurg was Fort Gova, called by James Fort Goa, and on the other side Connoidurg. Suvarndurg, James informs us, had twenty guns each. On the 2nd April



to e.
ned th s deep enough for him to go
barnard bo... va and Suvarndurg. They fired pretty briskly upon us
and inner forts," he writes, "but by returning the compliment of the former
k, and of the latter with the upper deck guns, two or three at a time, and by that
incessant fire upon them, they became very silent in three hours and afterwards
how and then." A shell blew up the magazine and a general conflagration ensued.
ames renewed the bombardment, and "at 10 three of the forts struck their
sent Lieutenant Young on shore with English flags, which were hoisted,
ave three cheers." On landing James discovered that the Governor of Fort
his followers had escaped to Suvarndurg and "was resolved to maintain
as of receiving succour from Dábul. He therefore next day opened fire on it
shore and "landed a number of people under cover of it, who cut and
ret of the door and entered without much opposition." Thus, as Orme
James by his determination and pluck "destroyed the timorous preju-
twenty years been entertained of the impracticability of reducing any
ours." After the fall of Suvarndurg James proceeded to Bánkot, which
umons, and was handed over to the Maráthás to keep for the English.
h Commodore, according to agreement, made over Suvarndurg to the
ve took possession of Bánkot and changed its name to Fort Victoria.
d to Bombay on the 27th April 1775, but the home Board having had
nd his generals that he should assist them in reducing Ratnágiri,
send him there. In a letter to the Hon'ble Company we are
val at Ratnágiri they flung a few shells into the place, but
ne approach of the monsoon made it impracticable to direct
success, and the time being elapsed to which we had limited
southward, he returned again and imported the 18th May."
ature of Suvarndurg, took refuge in the stronghold of Gheria,
most surrounded by the ocean, and moored his ships under
the monsoon the naval and military strength of Bombay
Admiral Watson with the royal squadron, and of Colonel
nt of the King's troops from England. The troops had been
their allies in the Deccan, but the Bombay Government
d with advantage in destroying the pirate in his den.
conditions to employing the King's ships in reducing the
ndered his services. Commodore James was sent with
which was believed "to be as strong as Gibraltar, and
ssible from the sea." He however reported "that the
s it had been represented." On the 7th February 1756
l of twelve men-of-war, six of the royal and six of the
na grabs and fifty gallivats. On board this squadron
s a force of eight hundred Europeans, a company of
ps. Before the fleet sailed the chief officers met to
ded. According to the King's proclamation Clive
ptain of a ship, but Watson generously consented
as will make it equal to Rear Admiral Pocock's."
nd found the Marátha force camped against it.



SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHAS.

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Letter from CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA to the PRESIDENT.

It being time to embark the Portuguese troops that are on this island, and accordingly on my ordering last Thursday a company designed for garrison to go on board a grab that lay ready, they made great objections on account of their not being paid their arrears for one quarter or three months, and to oblige them to embark in effect I was forced to interpose my authority, and go myself on board with them. And as those that remain behind make the same clamour, and with more reason those soldiers that are married and have nothing whatever bestides to depend upon for the sustenance of their family, I convened my Council, and on enquiry of the Factor it appeared to me that there was no money left of the loan he had received of the Hon'ble Company, having disbursed it entirely in the ordinary payment of the troops; and having regard to the importance of the matter, I with my said Council waited upon your Excellency to request the loan of ten thousand rupees to supply the aforesaid demand, and provide some necessaries to go from this place to the assistance of some soldiers that are sick. But, as on the part of your Excellency certain circumstances were represented to me in opposition to the grant of the sum requested, I assembled the officers, and ordering them to lay before the soldiery the state of our affairs, and thereby reduced them to such terms that for the present they will be satisfied with the payment of a half quarteridge, for which and other necessaries the sum of seven thousand rupees is indispensably wanted, which I desire your Excellency will please to lend, considering the condition the soldiers must otherwise go in without pay to enter upon any action, and the prejudicial consequences that may from thence arise to the King's service, if they are not paid before they embark at least one-half of their quarteridge; and besides obliging my Council to the payment of the said sum, I promise your Excellency that out of the first money that comes from Goa the whole amount of what has been lent by the Hon'ble Company shall be paid, or I will give your Excellency a pledge equal to the said loan, in consideration of which I offer to your Excellency's deep comprehension the importance of this matter, hoping that you will decide it with all the despatch the time requires to tranquillize the soldiery, and that I may proceed on my voyage in order to succour the other places of this province, and carry clear off shore the troops now on this land, for the reasons your Excellency must well conceive.

I am, &c.,

CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, October 3rd, 1739, N.S.

Bombay Castle, 9th October 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.	
W. CHARLES RIGBY.	THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN GURKIE.	JOHN MORLEY.

The President then communicates to the Board the substance of two letters from the Viceroy of Goa, dated the 3th September and 5th October of the current year, N. S., containing chiefly an acknowledgment of the civilities shown and assistance afforded to those of his nation after their retreat from Bassein. And a request of the continuance of our supplies to the other places remaining in the North with a promise of punctually paying the amount of our loans as assistance by the return of the frigate or frigates which he is shortly to despatch up to the North. He waiting with impatience the arrival of their expected ships for



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SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHAS.

certain information of the measures taken by the King his Majesty, for the restoring the common interest of both nations in these parts.

Also a letter from the Commandant in the North, Caetano d'Souza Pereira, dated Chaul, the 18th October 1739, N. S., advising his safe arrival at that place and amply acknowledging the favour and protection shown to the troops and subjects of His Portuguese Majesty. That he had on his arrival in Chaul made dispositions to attack Mánaji Ángria who besieged it, and had thought proper to offer him terms of peace, which the situation of affairs and a desire of obeying His Excellency's orders for repairing to Goa with the troops under his command had obliged him to condescend to. He requests that conveyances be sent him from hence to reinforcing Daman.

Debating on this last request the Board is of opinion that our giving such a convoy as is desired, up to Daman, would alarm the jealousy of our new neighbours, and afford them matter of complaint, which ought by all means, if possible, to be avoided. Agreed therefore that a civil answer be returned expressing that the occasions of this Prædency for its vessels are such as that they cannot be spared on their service; but that on the next expedition of a fleet on the Int. expedition of a benefit of it for the safe transport of their intended succours to Daman.

Read a letter to the President and Council from Francisco Xavier, the King's Agent or Feitore, which is entered after the consultation, he being one of the securities offered and accepted for the loans advanced the Commandant of the North, as noted in consultation of the 6th of July last, wherein he acquaints us of his being recalled by his superiors at Goa, which he intimates he cannot comply with unless he has our license.

On consideration of which it is the sense of the Board that since the Viceroy has taken on himself by promise and assurance to pay the said debt, it will not only be disrespectful mark of distrust of it to stop his public officer who owes an account of his administration at Goa, but in reality answer no security so well as the Viceroy's promise, since they might not be sorry to throw the consequences of delay in payment of these securities, who seem neither of them to be uneasy at their residence here. Agreed, therefore, that the Secretary (by our order) signify to him our consent to his departure, and a full confidence that the loans (he has personal security or) will be duly discharged as they were advanced purely for the King's service in the greatest exigency.

Adjourned.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from FRANCISCO XAVIER, Agent or Feitores for the King at Bassein, to the Hon. the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL.

I am obliged to represent to your Honor and Council that I have received an order from the Council of Finances at the Court of Goa to repair thither forthwith, and as according to agreement on our borrowing money for the payment of the King's master's troops we are obliged ourselves to remain here at your order until payment thereof, I therefore make this application to know if with your good pleasure I may repair to the said Court, being otherwise bound to the contrary as aforesaid.

I am, &c
FRANCISCO XAVIER.

Bombay, the 20th October 1739, N. S.



Bombay Castle, 29th November 1739.

At Consultation, Present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

THOMAS WATERS.

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN GEEKIE.

JOHN MOELEY.

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Read and approved our last consultation.

President acquaints the Board that this meeting is summoned expressly to lay before the sum of his advices concerning the Maráthás, as likewise certain letters and proposals from the Viceroy of Goa which he has this instant received.

And on informations relating to the Maráthás being of the most immediate consequence, the President proceeds in acquainting the Board that he has repeated intelligence and from different quarters, *ya* agreeing in the main, that there is a body of about eight thousand men assembled at Marol, (a place on the continent opposite to the back of the island of Salsette, and a few hours' march from Thána,) and numbers repairing thither to complete an army which is to be under the direction of Kondaji Mánkar (the same officer who commanded in their successful expedition against Sisette). And it is confidently assured that their designs are against Bombay, towards which, he is likewise informed, that at the island of Versova there are a number of vessels got together, as also at Thána. That Mánaji Angria, who is in a state of hostility with us, and his past conduct appears to be wholly subservient to the Maráthás and in their obedience, has two grabs and twenty gallivats in readiness, which he at first apprehended were designed for his usual business of cruising, but he has now good reasons to suspect their intention is to join and act in concert with the Maráthás. That all these preparations were so well known to our inhabitants and given so warm an alarm that some of them had begun to remove the most valuable effects. That he is by these and many concurrent informations advised that these Maráthás have certainly formed a project to invade this island, and without respect of tide attempt the landing such numbers of men as shall answer their purpose upon which, after mature deliberation with officers and procuring a state of the land and marine troops, he now offers to the consideration of the Board the best and safest method occurs to him, which is to recall the bomb ketch and the Sloop "Trial" with the fleet that proceeded but yesterday to the northward in convoy to the small trade, which will strengthen the defence of our rivers, now very slenderly provided for against such a force of Maráthás may bring against us, and desires the gentlemen seriously to weigh the matter in our present situation, and give their advice in the critical conjuncture.

The matter then being debated, it is observed, that the scope of the President's representation to remedy our present situation, which is not sufficiently guarded, in case of such an invasion as we are threatened with, by applying of suitable force or such as can be procured to the situation may favour a descent, and the Board being unanimous in their opinion, that the Governor may judge and order the disposition of the forces. And Messrs. Waters, Geekie and Stonestreet proceeding to give their opinion as being desired, think that the recalling the convoy will be of the utmost consequence to the trade and welfare of the island, as it will either give up near a hundred vessels to these cruisers everywhere round us that are ready to intercept them, or on their being recalled in company prove such a disappointment to the parties concerned as will strike a general damp and discouragement into the inhabitants. They are moved chiefly against this measure for the following reasons, besides the above mentioned consequences: That we have had frequent alarms of this sort without much truth or foundation for them: That every spring there are reports forged and propagated in town of the Maráthás designs and



preparations, which it is not fair to attend to, as on every such report to put a stop to the main springs and business of our island by stopping or calling off the vessels employed in the protection of our trade the ruin of the place is inevitable. But that, admitting these reports to be well founded, there still remain means and expedients to supply the place of the vessels proposed to be recalled in an equal degree or near it as follows :—

The “*Carolina*” and the Galley “*Prince of Wales*” may guard the extent from Bassein to the mouth of our harbour inclusive. The “*Neptune’s Prize*” to be called into service to strengthen the defence in the rivers. And as the Sloop “*Emilia*” designed for the service must of consequence be detained for want of convoy, she may serve for the same use. Mr. Waters offers the Grab “*Adventure*”, a vessel of some countenance, to be stationed where necessary, and the Galley “*Robert*”, likewise detained for want of convoy to the southward, may occasionally be employed, till some certainty is obtained concerning the Marathas’ notions and designs. And as detachments will be wanted to man these vessels, a hundred men may be drawn off the passes at Sion and put on board them, as they can be easily recalled upon any emergency, on the force of the enemy being directed against the passes. And all persons not unemployed in service may be ordered on board to do duty on this emergency; all which may be esteemed a provision (supposing the worst) sufficient to prevent any attempts by sea or in the rivers, without having recourse to the recall of our northern convoy; besides which, as the “*Prince William*” and three of our best gallivats are daily expected from Goa, which they left for this place the nineteenth instant, there is still less reason for taking a step of such evident disadvantage to the place in general.

This being the opinion of Messrs Waters, Geckie and Stonestreet, the President desires it may be taken notice of and observed for his future justification in a matter of this moment and importance, that as he does not warrant the truth and certainty of the reports now communicated, though there is a great probability of them from their being concurrent and from different hands, so it would be highly imprudent and unjustifiable (after the example of our unfortunate neighbours, who had been often in the same manner deceived by false alarms which at length rendered them insensible of a true one), to omit any means of securing our power, when we have no less in trust and charge than the preservation of the place itself, our hon’ble masters’ estate upon it, and the general concerns and fortifications of the inhabitants, all which ought not to be lightly hazarded or endangered by the disbelief of this nature, although preceded by many false alarms to which our present situation subjects us. That our forces are so drained by the southern fleet, and lastly by this convoy, that we have neither men nor vessels in proportion to our need in case of an invasion as we have reason to apprehend (as may appear from abstracts now laid before the Board). That therefore although it is his opinion that so great a dependency as the safety of the island is not to be put in competition with the benefit on occasions for the northern expedition, and that the same ought to be recalled in company with the trading vessels with all expedition, to strengthen our defence by waters, yet he is equally sensible with the above gentlemen, of the objections to this step as set forth by them, but that in a dilemma where the inconveniences they mention were of one side and the safety of the island on the other, being more immediately in his charge and care, he should prefer the latter as the most momentous in all considerations. That nevertheless in the present uncertainty he should give way to their opinion, and on the best disposition to be made which our present condition would afford without reckoning the arrival of the “*Prince William*” with the gallivats which was more an uncertainty to trust in.

In which declaration of opinion Mr. Morley also concurs.



SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHAS.

The President then communicates to the Board two letters received from the Viceroy of Goa, translate whereof follow this consultation, and the substance of them being deliberated upon, it appears to this Board that the proposal therein made of the capitulations for the surrender of Chaul being left to our discretion and management, and the brass artillery to appropriate to the payment of the Portuguese debt to our hon'ble masters might have produced a very good effect, besides ensuring so large a sum in the best manner now attainable, had the Viceroy left it in our choice to treat with Bájiráv upon the cession of this important place which we know he long has had an eye upon, and must sooner or later fall into his hands, since it is evident the Portuguese are now thoroughly disabused of the hopes of any timely succours this year from Portugal. Whereas by the construction of his letter on this subject he distinguished in such a manner betwixt the Sháhú Rája and Bájiráv as might, on our undertaking to treat with the latter, give him a pretext hereafter to disavow our measures and procedure therein. We are sensible that treating with the Sháhú Rája directly, as matters are circumstanced, would be to no purpose, as Bájiráv's power is so firmly established, and such a step would give him a jealousy, that we were aiming at subverting his interest in these parts, which it is at present but prudent and politic to avoid as much as possible; and as the tender of a place of such strength and importance to be delivered to him will be the strongest proof of the reality of our assurances, that we have no ambition of extending our possession, or getting garrisons in his country, since we have now undeniably so fair an opportunity, we hope this measure may produce a further confidence and good disposition in the Maráthas towards us, or at least leave them not the least pretence for mistrust or complaint. And although the annexing a strong place by the Maráthas will greatly increase their power, it is better they should have the obligation of it to us (since it must ultimately and soon come into their hands), than letting Manáji Angria get possession of it, with whom no measures can be taken, or letting the Siddi do get possession of it, who we know is not in a condition to defend it. Agreed therefore that an express boat be instantly despatched to the Viceroy with letter from the President setting forth the necessity of treating with Bájiráv or Chinnáji for the surrender of the fortress of Chaul to them preferable to any other power, and requesting an immediate reply, as no time is now to be lost. And in the meantime the secret required in this affair will be duly kept.

STEPHEN LAW.
THOMAS WATERS.
JOHN GEEKIE.
JOHN MORLEY.

Letter from the Viceroy of Goa to the President.

I received the favour of your letter of the 23rd October, to which I have not before answered for want of an opportunity, which I now gladly embrace in that of one of your ships bound for your island.

I repeat to your Honor my due acknowledgment for the repeated favour and good service for which my nation is indebted to your Honor.

I have been greatly concerned that the Padre Rector Joachim Dias has not, as he ought, punctually paid down the sum I charged him with—forty thousand xeraphins only of what



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royal treasury of this State is indebted to your Honor, and this disappointment, being what could not expect, has greatly displeased me. I am likewise very sorry that I cannot, with an expedition I could wish, comply with my engagement in this point, concerning which rather I refer myself to another letter which I write your Honor herewith, and in which I have proposed the readiest means I have for effectuating your payment.

My officers, who retired from Bassein to your island, have behaved so in matter of their accounts, that I yet am unacquainted with the just amount of the sum your Honor is creditor of, as well as with the items and articles of which it composed; and being desirous of getting knowledge thereof, I desire your Honor will please to send me a copy of my office obligations, or an account of parcels furnished by your Honor.

I return your Honor thanks for your readiness to forward the transport of the troops designed to reinforce the garrison of Daman, and have always some motive or other that calls for my thanks.

This place is so straitened for provision, and the price is risen so high, that the merchants of your island cannot fail making a good market here of their grain, in point of which I have granted them an exemption of all duties on the import, and I beg your Honor will contribute your encouragement for their applying themselves to this commerce.

I was in hopes that the gallivats which served at Bassein for the guard of the rivers would have come down to this city in company with the troops; but I am told my officers have sold a great many upon the island which I have not yet had time to examine into, and require an account from them of this and many other of their proceedings which I doubt they can ill quit themselves of. And as I am in great want of such vessels for the defence of the rivers round these islands, I request of your Honor that if the expedient proposed in the accompanying letter for raising money for the State be sufficient to produce something more than barely paying our debt to your Honor, please to favour me with ordering six or eight gallivats to be bought with the surplus, and sent down on the same occasion as is mentioned in the letter above referred to, wherein are set down what other matters I hope from your Honor.

I am, &c.,

THE COUNT OF SANDOMIL.

Goa, 29th November 1739, N. S.

The Viceroy's Letter referred to in the preceding one.

Goa, 29th November 1739.

After having answered by this ship your Honor's letter of the 23rd October I came now to communicate to your Honor business of so great importance as your Honor will observe on my explanation of it.

The many misfortunes which this State has been subjected to, have reduced it to such extremities as your Honor cannot be unacquainted with, and by repeated strokes it is now brought to the lowest pitch, and lately by an additional unhappy accident in the island of Bârdéz, owing to great mismanagement and negligence, our condition is yet rendered worse.

That island has been in the possession of the Bhonslas (Khem Savant's people) from the month of March last to the great prejudice and incommodiousness to this island of Goa: and waiting till the arrival of the succours from Portugal and the soldiery that had vacated Bassein in order to recover the country, I with ease retook it. For as soon as my troops marched towards the walls that defend that country the enemies quitted them without making any opposition, and having rebuilt them and repaired the ruin they had made in them, I held



SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARATHAS.

that post secure, when through the great negligence of the General posited there, in not placing guards on the borders of the rivers that divide the territories of Bicholy and Alomah, the enemy's profiting by this inexcusable neglect got together a bridge of boats and rafts in the narrowest part of the river, not only without encountering any opposition, but even without the General having had notice of this movement. They immediately passed a body of three thousand men and one hundred and fifty horse, and encamped on Bardez. And the General being that night without any care of the matter, he of a sudden took a rash resolution, and ordered the enemies to be attacked by four companies of the best soldiers that came from Bassein, but so thinned of their complementary that they consisted only of one hundred and forty men, and, notwithstanding the inequality of their number to that of their enemy's, they attacked them with a valour that reached to temerity and made a great slaughter, but could not escape from so unequal a combat. A few soldiers only got off with great difficulty and much wounded. And the General, on the news of this defeat, quitted the walls immediately with the remainder of his people, leaving the country once more in the possession of the enemy, who, though victorious, were disheartened with the great loss of people they sustained in the battle.

This unforeseen misfortune happened at the same time that one sail ship of this monsoon arrived at the bar of the Agnada, having left Lisbon the 27th April last, after seven months' voyage, the 25th instant, in which they suffered a great mortality amongst her crew, and the remaining people being almost all down with severe distempers. Her arrival curing me of all hopes of increasing my small forces with the succours of this monsoon.

The reason given me from Lisbon for despatching only this single ship (besides the news of the two having lost their passage that came out in October, and staid at Rau Janos not having reached Portugal) was that those ships were expected to have arrived in time, and likewise because the last news sent from India in several letters from Bassein were full of the good successes obtained by our arms in Dongrim, Mahim, Shirgaon and Asheri, and gave to understand that the enemy would soon be out of heart for pursuing their conquest. This great prejudice resulted from the good news the authors of these letters were pleased to write. That at the court of Portugal it was supposed these small succours would be sufficient to restore the State from its past losses.

From all which your Honor will infer the great necessity I am in of people for the defence of these islands and the recovery of Bardez, as well as for the procuring the import and convoy for provisions of which there is the greatest scarcity, and will require the manning of vessels, besides which the want of money is not the least considerable point, owing to the extinction of the King's revenues, and the great increase of the excessive expenses of this war. And I having deliberated with my Council on the means of gaining some assistance in this great distress, that the ill may not grow too fast for a remedy, we are come to a resolution of withdrawing our garrisons from the forts of Chaul and Marol, which by my last advices consist of more than eight hundred men: yet this measure, which is likewise most necessary for want of a fund to maintain those places, will have so many difficulties in the execution, that did I not repose the greatest confidence in your favour and the great benevolence I have experienced in your Honor I should have little hopes of drawing from this remedy the advantage proposed, since I am actually without people to man and equip the vessels that will be wanted to transport such a number, which is of the greatest importance.

Neither is it less material to be considered with the utmost attention that I may not part with two forts of so great a consequence without setting on foot some negotiation for their value to obtain terms that may be useful to the revenues of the State, but I am reduced to such



straits, that I presume we cannot bear such a delay as would inevitably attend any treaty whatever about them, as the hopes I entertained of receiving succours from Portugal were the principal cause that I have not made any advances in this matter.

The negotiation, which I in my present circumstances would esteem the most convenient, would be to yield the said forts to the Sháhu Rája, on the condition of striking up a peace with him, which I do not doubt would be agreeable to him, because if my intelligence is true that he has conceived some displeasure at Bájiráv for not putting Bassein into his hands; and for these reasons the accession of such a seaport formed and defended by these two forts cannot but be esteemed very valuable by him, and I do not doubt on those terms he would restore me the territory of Daman, but the delay that would attend this proposal does not allow us in our present circumstances to enter into treaty about it. I am actually at present through the mediation of Narro Ram, first Councillor to Sháhu's son, treating open agreement for peace, in which I have only hitherto proposed to him a perpetual cessation of the place of Bassein and all its dependencies, on their granting me Daman with its district, from the revenue of which I have likewise offered him a considerable annual share, on his obliging himself to defend the country from any invasion whatever. But this treaty proceeds very slowly, and my hopes of its coming to any thing are yet but slenderly grounded, though I am persuaded that if I at the same time have offered him the said places of Chaul and Marol, the hopes of treaty would have been much more forwarded, and I communicated to your Honor these particulars, as I am in the hopes of great assistance through your favour in this important business to enable me to part with these forts with some utility, and desire to conform myself entirely to your opinion in the execution of the design.

If your nation had any convenience in taking possession of these forts, I would yield them up to none with greater pleasure than to your Honor, but as I understand they can be of no service to you, I am persuaded that it would be superfluous to make you the offer of them; however it is my desire that the resolution of giving them up to any other power or to abandon them should be as much as possible in your Honor's good liking.

The resulting advantages that I ought to prefer to all others in regard to our present circumstances are the immediate resort of our garrisons and munitions to these islands (of Goa), and using the produce of the fine artillery there is in those forts for the remedy in part of the great want of money this state labours under, and that I may be able to satisfy your Honor the amount it is indebted to you in. I consider, too, that our garrisons will be hardly withdrawn, and although the forts may be dismantled in a great measure by mines properly disposed, yet not enough, but that Mánáji Angria will instantly make a lodgment which will not be only prejudicial to me, but to your Honor, and therefore I should be very glad to provide another possessor. The Siddi came into my head, who would doubtless be soon that Mánáji Angria should become a nearer neighbour, but I doubt his having forces or abilities to maintain himself in the possession of those forts.

Under the perplexity of these considerations I am resolved to put this business entirely into your Honor's hands, desiring you to accept of the delegation of my powers and those of this state, or to be my procurator for disposing of these forts in the manner that shall appear best to you; taking care in the first place with all possible expedition to hold every thing in readiness to withdraw from the said forts and bring to Bombay the brass ordnance that is in them which I hope your Honor will please to receive by way of sale or pledge for the money I owe your Honor, and for what more I have occasion for, to the value of the ordnance, requesting with all that your Honor will assist me by advancing the freights of the vessels that are to transport these people and munitions, in company with a frigate that will be ready to sail from hence in eight



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or ten days, and will go directly to receive your orders, and I beg your Honor may have the whole in readiness to go with her to Chaul, and in the same frigate I shall send directions to the Commandant and officers of those forts to deliver them up to your Honor's orders, and according to your directions.

Your Honor will see by the enclosed list what ordnance there is, both brass and iron, in those forts, besides what was taken from Angria in his attacks on the Fort of Marol. I have already proposed to your Honor my expectations with regard to the brass cannon that your Honor will take them by way of sale or pledge. However I desire that the smaller sized, as far as six-pounders, may be sent down to this city, where they are wanted. As for the iron guns, if it is your Honor's choice that those forts should be abandoned to the first occupant, it would be requisite that they should be all brought away in the said frigate, and in such vessels as your Honor may furnish towards the transport, and on your pleasing to receive any in sale I should be glad the produce may likewise be applied to the payment of the frigate for those vessels. But if this does not stand with your convenience, and the vessels designed for Goa are not able to bring them down hither, they should still be transported to Bombay along with the brass ordnance.

But in case your Honor does not approve of abandoning entirely these forts, and would reserve the delivery of them to some other power, for which it may be necessary to keep the iron guns in them, your Honor may please to dispose of them on such conditions as shall appear to you the most conducive to the advantage of this State.

If it were possible that after withdrawing the brass ordnance and the greatest part of the principal garrison of those forts they could, under your Honor's protection, and if necessary under your flag (as you are at peace with Mánaji and Bájiráv), be maintained, as I suppose they might be strong enough, until by your Honor's mediation it could be brought about for the Sháhu Rája to accept of those forts, on setting a firm peace with this State, upon the above declared conditions, of a perpetual cession to be made to him of all that belongs to Bassein, he engaging to leave us Daman and its district free, receiving yearly a considerable annual acknowledgment. This would be the most advantageous negotiation for us in our present condition of the terms of cession of these forts, and if your Honor thinks it can be brought about, I earnestly request it as the great favour, that you will immediately enter upon this treaty, which being effectuated, your Honor will engage the eternal acknowledgment of our nation, for the great benefits the State will owe to you, at which I shall represent to the King my master with such efficiency as they are entitled to from me.

The number of the garrisons now actually in those places is complete eight hundred men with their officers, including one hundred and seven sepoy, and on draughting off five hundred of the best, the remainder might stay, to which the peasants and Bandáris (toddy-drawers) bearing arms might be added, which are more than two hundred men. These five hundred or more might maintain the place until this negotiation was concluded. The expense requisite to subsist them appears the greatest difficulty to get over, but the dependency on this negotiation is of so great importance that I would contribute my utmost efforts towards supporting it, and in the meantime I hope from your Honor all the necessary assistance to this end. And as in the course of this negotiation your Honor cannot avoid being at some expense on the people you will send to make the proposal and treat about it, I oblige myself and this State for the entire satisfaction and payment thereof, in the manner and on the conditions your Honor may choose.

Finally I invest your Honor as my procurator in this business with all the authority I myself am possess of, in the great confidence that I have in your discretion, honor and good



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will, and once more assure and repeat to your Honor that I will hold for good all that your Honor shall esteem most convenient and advantageous to the State, and beg of you that without waiting for any further commission your Honor will enter on the execution of that measure you shall choose as most conducive to the above purposes, not forgetting that the last mentioned expedient appears the most eligible, with a salvo always to withdrawing the brass ordnance to Bombay and five hundred of the best men of the garrison, which can on no account be dispensed with.

I do not write on this occasion to John de Souza Ferrás, nor do I choose to communicate this business to him, because I solely confide in your Honor, your Council or such persons with whom your Honor may please to confer with on this occasion, as it seems to be of great importance that the secret should be preserved till its final execution.

As my neighbours the Bhonslās are much elated with the prosperous successes they have had at times, and are not only in good harmony with your Honor, but I am told will pay a great regard to your remonstrance, I request that your Honor will without delay give them to understand that you take part in the interests of our State, and that if they continue the war, your Honor cannot help declaring against them in our favour, considering the alliance that subsists between us. Much have I requested and much do I hope from your Honor's favour, less constrained by my present distress, than persuaded of the goodwill I am indebted to your Honor for, and for which my nation is so much obliged to you. And I should be extremely glad to have occasion of manifesting my grateful sense of your goodness.

I am, &c.,

THE COUNT OF SANDOMIL.

Bombay Castle, 1st December 1739.

The President despatched the following letter to the Viceroy of Goa by express boat agreeable to the Resolution in Council of yesterday :—

" MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I received your Excellency's two letters of the same date of the 29th November 1739, N. S., and was extremely concerned at the disagreeable news they contained, both in respect to your most unfortunate disappointment of succours expected from Portugal and the loss such a number of your men overpowered by the enemy in their desperate attack at Bârdéz as your Excellency advises.

It is not now a time to enter upon compliments or expressions of sentiments, or I should not omit acknowledging at large your Excellency's goodness which leads you to exaggerate my little merit to your nation.

On full consideration of the importance of your proposals of delegating your Excellency's powers in the disposal of the fortresses of Chaul and Marol, I have laid them before my Council, with injunction of the secrecy required, and I have now the honor to communicate to your Excellency the result of our deliberation.

First it was observed with a general concern how great and imminent your straits must be, that oblige your Excellency to part with two forts of so great importance, and we acknowledge with a due sense the confidence your Excellency reposes in us, and your regard shown for the interest of our nation in the offer your Excellency makes us of committing them to our hands for our greater convenience, and leaving to our election the form and advantages of disposing of them at our discretion.



Our good inclination to assist and advance the interests of your nation in all that depends on us, would of itself be a sufficient motive for us to act in this conjuncture to the utmost of our power to answer your Excellency's expectations, and agreeably to this disposition we should have come into your Excellency's project, and employed ourselves with all diligence to further the execution of it in the best manner, for promoting your gaining the helps expected from it and so necessary in your present emergency.

We should form no objection to the choice of that proposal of your Excellency for us to begin a negotiation with the Sháhu Rájá for the delivery of those two forts to him, and in the meantime to keep possession of them, until some treaty should be concluded upon by us, as mediators for the peace and preservation of the remains of your territories, on the conditions prescribed by your Excellency, or better if procurable. But our situation is now so dangerous as lays us under a necessity to keep measures with these our new neighbours, who would immediately be alarmed with jealousies (as we before experienced on another occasion) on our application to the Sháhu Rájá's Court, besides which we have another reason to presume that no negotiation would come to any satisfactory conclusion that any ways traversed Bájiráv's interest, who though being out of the Sháhu Rájá's favour has still a very prevalent faction in that Court, so that such a separate proposal would encounter invincible difficulties and delays.

Your Excellency has no doubt determined prudently that the suffering two forts so important and strong by their situation to fall into Mánáji's hands would only increase the force of that treacherous pickaroon; and the Siddi is brought too low to be able to undertake the defence of them. So that there remains no choice but the Maráthas, whose effects are already so powerful, that the reduction of the whole coast to their obedience seems infallible, and sooner or later (if your dominions are not reconquered) they cannot fail getting possession of these forts. So that, if your Excellency is of opinion that the least disadvantageous composition may be made with this enemy, I will readily follow the plan of capitulations laid down by your Excellency. Conforming myself to such measure the most utility may be reaped from in the present conjunction, and upon this I desire your Excellency's determinate answer with all possible expedition. As I cannot for the above reasons set on any negotiation with Bájiráv for the cessation of these forts, neither, as your Excellency is well advised, can we undertake the possession and maintenance of them for our nation.

The absence of our fleet and several other reasons have hitherto prevented my taking any precise resolution about a provisional maintenance of those forts, in case of withdrawing the artillery and the best part of the garrisons for the reinforcement of Goa. But before the arrival of the frigate with your Excellency's order for effectuating this evacuation I hope I shall be able to take the proper measures with respect also to the forwarding and completing the project of withdrawing the garrison, and upon which your Excellency depends in your present exigency.

As to the purchase of the gallivats for the guard of your rivers, I shall immediately talk about it to Senhor John de Souza Ferras and give him all the encouragement and assistance in it that lies in my power. But I doubt of his being able to procure vessels fit for this service.

All our merchants have free and ample liberty to transport to Goa all sorts of provisions, and from me they shall receive all suitable encouragement for that purpose.

As to what relates to the latter, your Excellency esteems might be of service to your affairs in their present situation, on my writing such a one to the Bhonslás as you intimate, your Excellency may be disabused of such hopes, on my assurance that we have no such opinion of any of these Indian powers as that they would respect to our interposition in a point where



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their interest was against it, nor have we any trust or confidence in their friendship beyond their conveniency being served in it. I shall, however, in compliance with your Excellency's request, notify to them what you desire, but without flattering myself with the hopes of any success.

The accounts and vouchers your Excellency requires for the debt due from your state to the Hon'ble Company will be ready to be sent to your Excellency by the first occasion.

I am, &c.

STEPHEN LAW.

The 1st December 1739.

Bombay Castle, 11th December 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., ~~President~~ and Governor.

THOMAS WATERS.

JOHN GEEKIE.

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that the express boat despatched to the Viceroy of Goa with a letter agreeable to our Resolution in Council of the 29th ultimo is returned with answer. Translation of which is entered after this consultation wherein the disposal of Chaul being left to us without reserve, agreed that we accept of this procurement and assignment of the brass artillery, and proceed on our first scheme of tendering it to the Maráthas and endeavouring to make a merit to them of this performance, since they will see it is evidently in our hands to keep it ourselves or choose a possessor for it. And that Captain Inchbird be appointed to treat with Bajirav or Chinnaji in this matter, carrying with him proper credentials and instructions for that purpose, and in the meantime till the negotiation is concluded we will endeavour to delay the evacuating the place.

STEPHEN LAW.

THOMAS WATERS.

JOHN GEEKIE.

THOMAS STONESTREET.

JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

LETTER from the VICEROY of GOA to the PRESIDENT.

Goa, the 4th December 1739.

I have this instant received your Honor's letter of the 12th instant, N. S., and immediately despatch you the boat back with an answer, as well because your Honor recommends it as that the importance of the matter we treat of requires it. Without wasting your time in a repetition of my grateful acknowledgments due to your good will which appears so manifestly in the expression contained in your last letter, and increases my obligations to your Honor, as well as engages the returns of my nation for the much it owes you, this is to



acquaint your Honor that I concur with your opinion for setting a treaty on foot in this matter with Bájiráv and subscribe entirely to whatever you shall dispose of; for the rest referring myself to the letter before I wrote your Honor on this subject. In which although the circumstance of admitting of a treaty with Bájiráv, in lieu of the negotiation proposed with the Sháhu Rája, was omitted, yet full powers from me were comprehended in it for your choosing and exceeding of the means that should appear to your Honor to carry the most convenience with them, and I would repeat the same, assuring your Honor that without any restriction I shall allow for good entirely whatever your Honor shall judge most useful for the conclusion of this business, so that without waiting for any further intimations from me your Honor may agree and adjust such capitulations as you shall find fitting to admit of in the present conjuncture, and determine upon every thing in regard to this matter that you may esteem most conformable to the interests of our State.

I repeat to your Honor the urgency of my want of the transport of the principal part of the garrison of Chaul to this city to be effected with the least delay possible.

The frigate is in point to proceed instantly, and, as I before advised, your Honor will make directly for your port, there to receive your orders and join such vessels as your Honor may have in readiness to send to Chaul on execution of the scheme communicated to your Honor.

Being, &c.,

THE COUNT OF SANDOMIL.

Bombay Castle, 13th December 1739.

The President signed the following instructions to Captain James Inchebird on his departure to Bájiráv and Chinnáji:—

“To

CAPTAIN JAMES INCHEBIRD.

SIR,—Herewith you will receive translation of the Viceroy's letters to me, by which you will observe that the two forts of Chaul and Marol are left entirely to my disposal, and they will likewise serve you for your guidance on the treaty which I now trust to your conduct and management to carry on in regard to the delivery of these places with the Marátha Government.

You will see by the tenor of these letters what is expected from us by the Portuguese, which you are to consult the good issue of as far as you find it practicable; at the same time you are to make all the merit you can to the Maráthas of the preference given to them over the Siddis, Mánáji, or any other nation whatever. You are to remark to them likewise that we cannot give greater proof of the sincerity of our assurances of friendship than putting into their hands so strong a hold, and so fine a seaport, which must prove that we have no views of extending our dominions, or seeking to establish new fortresses in their country, since we voluntarily and manifestly part with so fair an occasion.

As it is not unlikely that they may affect undervaluing this offer on their presumption that the place must sooner or later fall into their hands, and that they discourse upon it as their own already, and therefore will yield to no terms or make any concessions to the Portuguese or us in consideration of this cession, you will naturally reply to this that in whatever hands



those forts came they would prove by their natural strength and advantageous situation so great an accession to the power in possession, that it would cost them perhaps the expense of much blood and treasure to wrest them out of it. All which, with the hazard of the event, is now plainly saved to them by this mediation of ours, and our warranting the delivery of the fortifications to them. For which service we insist upon nothing for ourselves but the confirmation and commerce which is likewise advantageous to their own State.

I would have you, then, use your best endeavours to gain for the Portuguese the most advantageous capitulation you can, according to the tenor of their own proposals; but if the Maráthas will hearken to no terms of pacification, you must still take notice that you are to conclude for their delivery to their order on the best or any conditions you may obtain. The Siddis we know are not able to maintain possession of them, and the letting Mánáji A'ngria seize them would only increase the power of a faithless treacherous pirate, and in both cases disoblige these more powerful neighbours, to whom we should give an handle of complaint, without any benefit to ourselves, since we are determined against engaging in the maintenance of more country than what we have at present.

On the whole you have my full power to treat and ultimately conclude and ratify the treaty you shall transact with them in this matter, for as it will bear no delay or loss of time in writing backward and forward, and you are fully instructed of our interest and the circumstances of this transaction, you are to put the last hand to it without further order from hence, adjust the means of delivery, and return hitherto as soon as you have completed these affairs.

You herewith likewise receive my letters to Bájiráv and Chinnáji, which you are to take care of the delivery.

I command you to the divine protection and am,

Sir,

Your loving friend,

STEPHEN LAW.

Bombay Castle, the 13th December 1739."



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ENGLISH EMBASSY

TO THE

MARÁTHAS IN 1739.

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2nd ed. 1740
100 pp. 8vo

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ENGLISH EMBASSY TO CHIMNAJI APPA, GENERAL OF THE
MARATHAS AT BASSEIN.

To

CAPTAIN JAMES INCHBIRD.

SIR,—Chimnáji, the Marátha General, having applied very urgently for a person to be deputed to them, and you being named by him as one that would be acceptable on the occasion for the purpose of a personal conference, wherein it may be requisite to treat of several matters and dependencies of great importance to the welfare of this island, we have on mature deliberation come to a resolution of sending you, on the part of the Hon'ble Company, on this deputation. You will herewith receive my credential letter and such presents as I could judge (or were to be procured) the most fitting and adapted to the liking of these people, to whom I would have you take proper notice of my friendly disposition in gratifying this their particular request of my sending you.

You are by experience so well versed in the nature, customs, and manners of the gentoo governments round us that I need add no instructions on those heads. As to the most material points which you may want authority or directions to propose or answer, and for your general guidance in the management of your conferences with Chimnáji, or those authorized to treat with you on his or their part, you will find them contained in the following articles:—

1st.—If the Maráthás are desirous sincerely to improve a good understanding, so we are the same.

2nd.—We will not suffer the Portuguese to attack them from any part of this island; therefore it will be needless for the Maráthás to erect any work near the passes, as such can be of no other use than to give us jealousy; and they must be sensible we have no sort of intention to violate the friendship which we openly profess a desire of maintaining.

3rd.—That as the real end of our holding Bombay is to circulate a free trade round us, so we wish to have some favour showed us in the duties on the rivers, which will encourage the resort of merchants, and prove thereby of more utility to the Maráthás than can arise to them by heavy impositions.

4th.—That we on our part are desirous of fixing on some terms of agreements tending to encourage the inhabitants on each side; and if any manufacturers of goods proper for us be set about in the places subject to the Maráthás, we shall willingly be purchasers thereof, provided we can be furnished on reasonable conditions.

5th.—That our force now maintained, as well by land as sea, is merely intended for our preservation; and, therefore, on having a suitable security of a friendly disposition from the part of the Maráthás we shall in no wise molest their navigation, but contrarywise afford a becoming assistance to them therein, to which end the waters leading to their river will be kept free. But since Angria under a borrowed name may attempt passing Máhim river and aim to injure us thereby, we hope no other vessels than those employed in trade will pass that way, as those of war may easily enter between this island and Karanja; and which we desire may be observed.



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ENGLISH EMBASSY TO THE MARÁTHAS.

6th.—That such persons as have fled hither from the Marátha countries have now leave, and shall hereafter be permitted to return, and which may be depended on.

7th.—That as Chinnáji Appa may surmise we have attempted by our messenger to his master to establish matters on a footing in prejudice of him (Chinnáji), I now commit to you copy of my letter sent from hence.

8th.—Should any demands be made for loans of money as hinted to us by Bhiku Sináy, you may say that although we might in times past favour the Siddi thereof, yet we have been since ordered so peremptorily by the Company to avoid such practice as puts it out of our power to comply therewith.

9th.—Should tribute be demanded, you may reply that the trade of our island has been so reduced by the bordering troubles, and the heavy expense in supporting it with provisions, &c., brought from distant countries (when denied by the Maráthas), as renders us unable to submit to such an hardship, and which Chinnáji must be thoroughly sensible of.

10th.—If we are accused with assisting the Siddi and Portuguese heretofore in prejudice of the Maráthas, you may reply that what we did then was on a supposal that the destruction of either might tend to injure us; but on a further knowledge had of the Maráthas, considering the welfare of our dominions will be always consulted by them, and we consequently on good footing with them, we have for some time observed a becoming neutrality.

11th.—If we should be required to assist in reducing Mánáji, Sambháji and the Siddis, you may reply that Mánáji being at present in good terms with us, we cannot justify the entering into any measures against him, nor would it become us to molest the Siddis, as they are the immediate subjects of the Mogal, through whom we enjoy, at our several settlements, very advantageous privileges. But Sambháji, whilst he continues an enemy to us, will be annoyed as much as possible by the fleet we have for a long time been obliged to maintain in the protection of our trade against his attempts.

The above several points you will speak to and enforce, as occasion offers, being what at present occurs most material to caution you upon. But should there be any other matters wherein you are not furnished with replies, apply hither with all speed for our giving suitable directions.

I commend you to the divine protection, and

I am, &c.,
STEPHEN LAW.

Bombay Castle, the 8th June 1739.

FROM

CAPTAIN INCHBIRD,

TO

THE PRESIDENT.

HON'BLE SIR,—I have, since my last, had a conference with Chinnáji Appa and his Council, when he freely and openly declared the occasion of his sending. His indisposition incapacitated him to go through so many points; he therefore appointed his Council to handle the several points he wanted to be cleared up to him in regard to our future friendship, whereupon we withdrew to a place prepared for that purpose.

After some discourse foreign to our business, they asked me what number of men we had at Underi, and why they were there? Raghunath was the spokesman. From this first question I suspected they were bringing a demand of money upon the anvil, which suspicion induced me to give them the following answer to prevent any such request. I told them, that this was one of the chief points which occasioned the Company's ill-treatment to the late Governor for lending that Government the Company's money, and induced the Company to tie up their Governors so as to put it absolutely out of their power to lend any money to any person or persons in all time coming. From this answer they gave the whisper one to another, from all which, and my management from the beginning with every one they sent to sound me, I apprehend stood off their modest request of a loan of money, which point, the night before, ~~they~~ apartments, Kondaji Mankar carried to such a height with me that, after observing I could be free with him, I plainly told him that the Company would sooner see the island of Bombay sunk under water than they could or would comply with any such request. They next proceeded upon matters of friendship, and made a long discourse of the assistance we gave the Siddi when at the same time they had infested their country; observing, also, that we had been the occasion of putting them to the expense of many lakhs of rupees to no purpose. I told them, that in what I should now relate as to that affair, they should hear from me nothing but the truth. That our Government took compassion upon their case, and the miseries and misfortunes they brought upon themselves by their murdering blood-thirsty servants, and that at the same time Bajirav showed great compassion and pity towards Siddi Abdul Rayman, their lawful master, whom they had shut out of their fort; and that if Bajirav had not taken it in hand, the Governor of himself would not have been able to reinstate him in his father's Government. After this and many other reasons that I urged, they seemed pretty well seemingly satisfied as to that particular. After this, they resumed and summed up the whole of our management with the aid and assistance given by us from time to time to the Portuguese, all which measures of ours with them had rendered many of their efforts ineffectual and put them to a vast charge and expense; and the late and last supplies we gave them (the Portuguese) had cost them much blood and treasure. To all this I briefly replied, that what they had now affirmed was undeniable, and that all this was done by us to and owing to our friends, and that as they now were in the same capacity, they might expect and experience the same friendship from us upon occasion; and now since it had pleased God to crown their arms with success, we were induced to have another way of thinking, and endeavoured, as much as I could, to clear up our conduct with regard to the Portuguese, in the whole relating but what was fact. They then observed, since what was done and past could not be recalled, and since, notwithstanding all we could do, it had pleased Heaven thus to favour their arms in regard to that they had long wished for, and that as now they were our near neighbours, they expected the same sincere friendship as others had already experienced; and then they run through many articles, as warlike and naval stores, guns, powder, ball, and all else they could think on, and insisted upon having those supplies for their money, telling me that with God's blessing they hoped to conquer Daman and Chaul, and to have a strong fleet at sea to chastise their enemies. From which they foresaw the necessity there was we must have some dependence upon them, or at least to have a dependence upon each other; observing, also, that they were formerly friends, but then at a greater distance. But now as they were established nearer, and hoped they would soon have as much power by sea as they have by land, that it highly concerned us both, for our mutual utility, to have articles drawn and agreed to for the preservation and direction of our future friendship, and talked of high terms in regard to a free navigation for merchants. Upon which I observed to them the hardships merchants now underwent, in regard to the coasts being pestered with so many cruisers imposing their passes and such hardships upon the fair dealer, that there was almost a stagnation of trade; and that if it was not



maturely taken into consideration, to the end that merchants may have a free navigation and commerce upon this coast, this country must in course be deprived of so many blessings and benefits it received from trade, and might daily be augmented by proper measures. To which they replied, that it was much in the Company's power to assist and advise them as to the means and measures to be pursued for the restoring and reviving trade. Then I told them my best notions; and that theirs was a good country, and that it entirely lay in their own breasts to make themselves happy and considerable in it, by encouraging trade, by making the duties and taxes to be imposed upon it light and easy to the fair trader, and granting foreign merchants their protection and free navigation at sea at an easy rate, which was the true policy of all great minds who proposed to render themselves considerable in the world; and that they might assure themselves of your Honor's sincere and hearty concurrence to promote so laudable a purpose for the public good, and consequently the parties immediately concerned; and that I was very ready to give them my notion and opinion with regard to any points or articles they expected to be concluded if they would once come to particulars. But as your Honor did not know Chinnáji Appa's particular business with me, I had not a full commission to draw out articles; but at the same time did not doubt but that your Honor would concur to any reasonable proposals consistent with the honor and credit of our nation, and the mutual interest of both parties; and as Chinnáji Appa was urgent for entering into articles for the preservation of our friendship and the conduct of the Governors and officers in his absence, I thought the speediest way of doing of it was for them to draw out their notions, in which I promised my assistance, which would most conduce to the establishing our mutual friendship; and so soon as this was done and agreed upon I would undertake to lay it before your Honor and Council, and not doubt to obtain your Honor's immediate concurrence, commission, and instructions for finally concluding our agreement to our mutual satisfaction.

Although they allow your Honor's compliment to the Sháhu Rája to be a piece of good policy, they greatly resent your not consulting them in it first; and though I have been at much pains to persuade them to the contrary, yet they still persist, as they were our neighbours we ought first of all to have made our application to them, when they would not only have given us a safe conduct, but, also, sent a proper person along with us to introduce us to the Sháhu Rája. They harp so much upon this step, that in case Captain Gordon has any instructions to create a jealousy in Sháhu Rája of Bájiráv's greatness, you may depend upon it they have it.

After this they entered upon particulars. The first article was, that all merchants that take their pass should only have a free navigation. At last with much difficulty and many arguments agreed to the exception of the Company's vessels, and all merchants under their protection belonging to their several Settlements and Factories. They observed that Surat was a great mart, and that many merchants perhaps would apply to us for our pass and colours, but if we underhand granted any such, they would deem such grant a breach of this treaty of peace. My return to this was that, in case your Honors accepted of it, we were above these mean practices; which they said they were willing to believe, and would easily discover a contrary practice, either with regard to this or any other dependency where our commerce extended. The next article was that as they were determined (through the blessing of God) to take Daman and Chaul at all hazards, they therefore expected to be supplied with guns, powder, shot, shells, lead, iron, steel and all other naval stores for their money. To this I answered, that as to guns, powder, ball, and shells it was not in our power to supply them, but as to all other merchandise the port was free to them as to all other friends. They then retorted our supplying the Portuguese, and that they should expect the same. I told them they might as soon as any other of our friends rely upon what stores we could spare; but if the four former articles be stipulated in the treaty, they might make such demands as even to take the guns out of our fort, or upon



refusal to call it a breach of the articles, which ended upon my telling them they need not doubt but that we would readily for their money supply them with any thing we could well spare from our own needs, wherewith they seemed satisfied. The third article was a free passage, not only of their merchants, but also war vessels, through Mahim river, which I told them would be only granted to their trading vessels. Because they well knew we had neighbours, though at peace now with them we would have little dependence upon, and this would give them an opportunity of doing us an injury under a borrowed name, and such like disguises; and as we would engage ourselves that their enemies should not enter that river, nor their territories on that side attacked nor molested on any account, and as there was a free passage, and the distance not far between Bombay and Karanja, they had no reason to insist upon it and we for the above reasons could not give it up. They then insisted upon their subjects who had deserted this country being left at full liberty to return, and that no underhand practices should be used to detain them. I then told them, I was sorry they had such a mean opinion of our friendship to think us capable of such low practices, and that the sequel of our friendship would soon convince them to the contrary. They then desired I would send my writer to take down their notions of the articles of treaty, and that I would send these to Bombay for your Honor's answer, my commission, and further instructions for completing the agreement. After this I made several observations of many occurrences and accidents that were incident to navigation and merchandise, which must also be reduced into articles; and that I was very ready to give my opinion and assistance as to every particular point to hasten and facilitate a conclusion, which they seemed very anxious to be done, which they then put a good face upon, and seemed to approve, and then conducted me again to Chinnaji, with whom I talked the affair over in general terms of friendship. He observing that it was necessary that we two should become one, and deem each other's enemies ours. Whereupon I explained the neutral part of a third person between two friends, and that upon such falling out we could undertake no more, than our friendly offices, to bring their differences to an amicable conclusion. But in case their enemy happened to be also our enemy, then mutual measures might be concerted, as far as each other was interested in the enmity, for reducing the common enemy to reason.

According to my promise I sent my writer to take down their notions relating to the articles, and with him a sketch of what I thought was equally fit and necessary for both parties, and most conducive to make our future agreement lasting and desirable. But they had no regard to these, and notwithstanding I desired to be sent for, to remove any seeming difficulty they might suggest to any of the articles in my scheme, they drew out nine other articles of their own, and sent them to me, to which they said they would have no reply, until I had advised you of them, and received ample power to treat and agree upon the whole, which nine articles I now send you enclosed with the sketch of my notions; however I shall endeavour in the morning to have an hearing and to touch upon such of those articles I know your Honor can't comply with, having prepared this letter so far till I can discover more of their minds.

This morning I sent to desire a conference with regard to the nine articles, but find them fully resolved not to hear me upon any point till I previously declare my power for completing that treaty in their first article. I remarked they would oblige us not to suffer our fleet to give convoy to any foreigners that have not their passes, which I think inconsistent with the honor of our nation. The fourth article, that you shall supply them with guns, powder, ball and shells, which I think you cannot comply with for the reasons already mentioned. But they say you did it to the Portuguese, and why not to them; who, they knew, sent the copper



they took from the Surat ship, to Bombay, to purchase powder, shells and shot, and seem to be unalterable as to this article. In their fifth article they insist, you shall not assist the Portuguese any ways, with stores or succours, to their prejudice; but that at the same time they shall have a general supply of war materials. In the eighth article they lord it over you and the Sháhu Rája also, and say that you shall not apply to him upon any account without their previous advice and consent. In the ninth article they insist, that they have a right to all wrecks driven upon their shore by distress of weather, and I believe will not depart from this article, because, they say, we have the Portuguese for our example. Upon the whole I find they can say one thing and write another. However from what observations I have made, it is my sincere opinion your Honor will hardly find a more favourable opportunity than the present, to conclude a treaty with them upon better terms. I have observed in the course of all my negotiations with these people there is amongst them what they deem a lucky time, which I believe is what now offers. They say that Daman is easily to be mined, and flatter themselves by such a practice to carry that place, and promise themselves the same success in reducing Chaul, which, as the Portuguese affairs now stand, is not improbable, of which your Honor is the best judge, and whether they will not be upon more ambiguous and disadvantageous terms should you slip this opportunity. However I don't doubt but your Honor will take the whole under your wise consideration, and determine yourself to the choice of that which is best for the honor of the nation and the Company's interest, and that in the meantime your Honor and Council will lose no time in fortifying your town, as I can plainly discover these people are very jealous of your maritime power, they never will want for a pretence to make use of all advantages.

If this affair receives your Honor's approbation, I think it will not be amiss to write Chinnáji and reduce your articles as concise as possible. I do assure your Honor I have not been wanting to support, with my best arguments, my notions, with regard to the fourteen articles now enclosed, referring the whole to your Honor's better judgment. You cannot be too expeditious in your resolution and despatches to me. I conclude, with great respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Yours, &c.,

JAMES INCHBIRD.

Bassein, the 27th June 1739.



ENGLISH EMBASSY TO THE COURT OF SHA'HU RA'JA, KING OF THE MARATHA'S

The PRESIDENT'S Letter to SHA'HU RA'JA.

Begins with giving him his titles and the usual compliments.

On my entering upon the charge of the Government of this island of Bombay it became immediately and naturally my care to pay my respects to your Majesty, whose health God preserve, with increase of prosperity for many years. To this end therefore I send Captain Gordon, a person of trust, to your Majesty's presence, there to testify the great zeal and desire I have to deserve your friendship, and approve my readiness to serve your Majesty on all occasions, wishing thereby to establish a good correspondence betwixt your Majesty's subjects and those under this Government, more especially as they are become so much nearer neighbours.

It is known to the world how much benefit and advantage may result from a free traffic and commerce being maintained with the countries now belonging to your Majesty, situate as they are with respect to this place, whence it may be carried on, and I do not doubt but your Majesty will be pleased to allow this consideration just weight and attention, as the same is of so great importance; and the consequence is plain, that your territories which border upon ours will become the centre of traffic, whereby your subjects inhabitants of them will become more rich and opulent than those of your other provinces. I wish your Majesty a happy and prosperous reign, with increase of greatness, and to myself many occasions of being employed in the service of your Majesty.

The President signed his instructions to Captain William Gordon as follows :—

To

CAPTAIN WILLIAM GORDON.

SIR,—Having appointed you as a proper person to be entrusted with my letter to the Sháhu Rája and the management of such concerns as you will find by the following instructions committed to your care and discretion, on receipt of this you are to set out with all convenient expedition for Sátára in the Deccan, or whatever place you shall learn that prince for the time present resides in, having in your charge the said letter and the presents we send accompanying it, as by the list annexed.

You will likewise receive herewith some other letters addressed to his chief officers, with suitable presents, of the delivery of which you are to take care.

As you cannot be so well versed in the language and forms necessary to be used with these countries' Governments, I send with you a proper person well acquainted in those matters, having heretofore been employed by the Siddi in messages to Sháhu Rája, who may therefore be serviceable to you in the course of your negotiation. He is a gentoo, by name Bhikájipant.

On your arrival at Sháhu Rája's court you are to see the letter and presents delivered with the usual ceremonies, which you are beforehand to get yourself instructed in.



As one great inducement to the step at present taken in sending you is the view of gaining some information and insight into the Government interests and designs at that court I would have you use your best industry and management to obtain a sufficient knowledge of the state of the Sháhu Rájá's Government, and who are the principal men that direct or influence his resolutions, what are their several views or interests, and the general disposition and drift of their councils, which it may be the easier for you to come at, as they observe little or no secrecy in them, and may serve not only to guide you for the present in your application and conduct, but be useful to us in future.

As we are informed Bájiráv does not want for great and powerful enemies at that court, you will do well to enquire who they are, and how much they may be depended upon; and it will not be amiss, if you see a proper occasion and opening to instil a jealousy of his ambition and growing power, which must be much increased by the accession of these conquests from the Portuguese, and consequently it must be high time to check or put a stop to. However as we are afraid of his interest and credit being but too prevalent, I have thought proper to send him a letter on this occasion, with a present in the eastern manner, and it will be necessary you guard against making him an enemy, lest he might be excited to aim at doing us ill offices.

In the conference you may have with the Sháhu Rájá, or his ministers, you are to assure them, that on my coming to the Government my first care was to seek the means of renewing the ancient good correspondence and friendship betwixt our Governments, to which end I had pitched on this expedient of sending you as an early mark of the sincerity of our intentions.

You are at the same time most carefully to guard against their suspicions, that any fear or apprehensions of Bájiráv's arms may have a share in this resolution, letting them know that, though we prefer peace and a good harmony with our neighbours, we are determined to defend ourselves in the best manner we are able in case we are attacked.

You are to represent to them also, and which is indeed the most material matter, how much it is their interest and advantage to live upon amicable terms with us, it being notorious that our nation has never meddled with their religion, or had any views of conquest or extending our dominions in these parts, where trade is our sole business and end of residence; and which must be equally a benefit to their country, the superfluities of which we take off their hands, and import treasure and other commodities advantageous to them both in the consumption and customs,—all which you may at large explain and enforce.

By this means I would have you draw on some declaration of that prince's intentions; and if without being amused or deceived you find they are favourable to our purpose, you may intimate how agreeable it will be to me, that some treaty or negotiation be set on foot, as they are now become our neighbours, for the establishing and settling a firm friendship, on the terms to be mutually agreed upon, concerning which I shall willingly hearken to any just and reasonable proposal.

And as their new conquered territories lie at present contiguous to or so near our island, you may insist much on the benefit, the preserving a free and uninterrupted trade will naturally be of to them, and serve to render them the most flourishing and rich part of their dominions.

If any overtures are made to you that you judge may be depended upon and require a conclusion, advise me fully, that I may give you suitable instructions; otherwise you are to come away when you have done your business, keeping a diary of your procedure and transactions until you return.

I commit you to the divine protection and

Bombay Castle, the 10th May 1739.

Am, &c.,
STEPHEN LAW.